

INVISIBLE PUBLISHING

Trade Paperback
ISBN: 9781988784717
Pages: 336

289 Main Street, Suite 1
Picton, ON K0K 2T0
www.invisiblepublishing.com
promotion@invisiblepublishing.com

Distributed to the trade by
Publishers Group Canada/Raincoast
customerservice@raincoast.com
Publishers Group West (USA)
www.pgw.com



READING GUIDE: Samantha Garner's *The Quiet Is Loud*

Hello readers,

Thank you for your interest in *The Quiet is Loud*. I hope this guide will give you some insight and topics for discussion.

Fundamentally, *The Quiet is Loud* is an examination of identity, belonging, and personal truth. Throughout the novel, Freya must discover her place in several areas—some a degree removed from our own world, others very rooted in the reality we know.

As a prophetic dreamer, Freya is paradextrous—someone with enhanced mental abilities, more commonly known by the slur term “veker.” Like every other paradextrous person, Freya lives her life afraid of what her brain can do, half believing the societal panic that someone like her can do real harm. Yet, her ability pulls at her attention. It’s part of her. The need to understand and find acceptance becomes more important than her more primal, protective desire to hide herself away. Little by little, she is forced to interrogate her own personal truths.

Freya’s search for acceptance and belonging comes with its own challenges. Even when we’ve found a group of people we can relate to, are they good for us? Can a group accurately reflect all the needs of its members? Should it be expected to? How much should we give of ourselves in order to belong? These are some of the questions I enjoyed examining as Freya got to know the members of the paradextrous support group STEP.

Underneath these more overt questions of identity and belonging is Freya’s lifelong navigation through her own racial identity. As a Canadian of mixed Filipino and Norwegian heritage, Freya finds herself “split in three but wound together, not exactly knowing where she fit[s] in.” By virtue of the fact of her biracial background, she lives in a grey area—one that often feels entirely uncharted. She must define it herself.

I think most of us have experienced shifting identity, or mutable areas of belonging. With *The Quiet is Loud*, I wanted to explore a few facets of these experiences, and encourage readers to reflect on the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves.

And of course, Freya wouldn’t be Freya without her tarot cards. As a professional tarot card reader, she is able to guide people through tricky moments in life and turn to the cards for her own personal guidance. While it sometimes happens that Freya can use her prophetic dreams to help a client find answers, the cards are merely tools of inquiry. To supplement your experience of *The Quiet is Loud*, you may find it interesting to do a quick tarot card reading for yourself. I recommend a three-card spread, with each card representing the past, the present, and the future, respectively. Hold a



READING GUIDE: Samantha Garner's *The Quiet Is Loud*

question in your mind as you shuffle the deck and as you draw the three cards. See how the cards relate to your question: What events in your past may have brought you to the present situation? What can you do to move forward? To help you interpret the meaning of the cards, I suggest some of the resources I used in researching *The Quiet is Loud* (and sometimes in my non-writing life), which include the websites Bidy Tarot and Labyrinthos, and the book *The Creative Tarot: A Modern Guide to an Inspired Life* by Jessa Crispin.

I sincerely thank you for reading *The Quiet is Loud*, and I hope it sparks interesting questions for you, as it did for me.

Warm wishes,
Samantha Garner

