

# Spotlight

Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

This summer at the library we are playing Book Bingo! Book Bingo is our Adult Summer Reading Challenge designed to help you read outside your comfort zone. If you always default to a good mystery, or have trouble choosing a novel over the latest non-fiction be prepared to flex your reading muscles and try out something new. Playing Book Bingo is simple. You just need to download a card from our website or stop by the library to pick one up. From there, start reading! Each square has a different type of book aimed at expanding your reading horizons. This summer, why not check out a book of poetry, spend time with a graphic novel, or read a book published the year you were born. I decided to give the card a go myself this week and check out a young adult (YA) book.

I rarely read YA despite the genre receiving many accolades in the last decade for creativity and inclusion. For my YA block on the book bingo card I chose *We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour. A coming-of-age story set in California and New York and full of mystery, heartache, and intrigue it was a great reintroduction to the genre. Marin is a teenage girl raised by her grandfather in a quiet house in southern California. Her mother, of whom she remembers little, died in a surfing accident when she was young. Marin lives in a hazy but happy world created by her grandfather but when he dies a terrible family secret is revealed leaving Marin reeling and unsure of what to believe. In panic she takes off to New York and ends all contact with her California life including a budding romance with a long time best friend.

When the best friend, Mabel, makes the trip to New York to find out what happened the book begins to reveal Marin's complicated family history alongside their young romance. *We Are Okay* is a quick paced, thoughtful, and emotionally charged book well suited for both teens and adults.

The Book Bingo adult summer reading contest closes on Sept 1. The grand prize is a signed Stajan Calgary Flames jersey or one of two great local book bundles.



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