

Dear Magical Reader (hi, yes, that's you!),

I always look for signs.

Like Remy from *Our Cursed Love*, I've spent my entire life wishing on shooting stars and birthday candles and lucky coins tossed into fountains, hoping my dream of becoming a published author will come true. I've told myself countless times that there will be a sign out there, somewhere, guiding me to a perfect, clear-cut future.

But life isn't always clear-cut. It's messy and filled with false starts and hindsight bias. We don't always have rose-tinted glasses to see magic, and sometimes things get tough. Rejections happen. People tell us no; even worse, sometimes they're cruel and mean, and try to make us small. Doors close, sometimes right when we think we're about to walk in.

Life never waits for us, either. Like Remy realizes, there is no perfect timing, and sometimes waiting and waiting doesn't lead to a better chance—it sometimes just results in a missed chance. *Our Cursed Love* is a romance about two childhood best friends who you would *think* are fated for each other, but they have to take destiny into their own hands. Through this, I was reminded that if I want to write, if I want to keep going, I am in control of that destiny—even if fate is cruel, or if some days it feels I'm never going anywhere—and that when one door closes, I will search for another door that *will* open.

After all, there *are* signs, but maybe we need to interpret that cup of tea leaves for ourselves and believe in a fortune that'll give us the future we want.

And if you were wondering about all those hopes and wishes and dreams locked away in your heart: Out of all the possible books that you could have picked out, you found this book at just the right moment.

This is *your* sign.

Chase that dream, that hope. Blow out those candles, make that wish—and then make it happen.

xoxo,



Julie Abe

