

AUTHOR MEDIA KIT

MEET THE AUTHOR

LIARA
TAMANI

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BIOGRAPHY

Liara Tamani lives in Houston, Texas. She is the author of the acclaimed young adult novels *Calling My Name*, a 2018 PEN America Literary Award Finalist and SCBWI Golden Kite Finalist, and *All the Things We Never Knew*, a 2020 Kirkus Best YA Book of the Year. Her third novel, *What She Missed*, is forthcoming June 2023. Her words have appeared in *Time Magazine*, *NPR*, and *The New York Times*. And her work has been featured by *Good Morning America*, *Buzzfeed*, *Essence Magazine*, *Teen Vogue*, and more.

Before becoming a writer, she attended Harvard Law School and worked as a marketing coordinator for the Houston Rockets & Comets, production assistant for *Girlfriends* (TV show), home accessories designer, floral designer, and yoga and dance teacher. She holds an MFA in writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts and a BA from Duke University.

Read her interview with [NPR](#).

Hear her as a guest on [On Being's This Movie Changed Me](#).

Read her article in [TIME Magazine](#).

See her as a guest on [Houston Life](#) speaking about finding her path and helping teens do the same.

Liara writes young adult novels that not only entertain but help teens heal, encourage their self-trust, and inspire them to create the lives they want for themselves.

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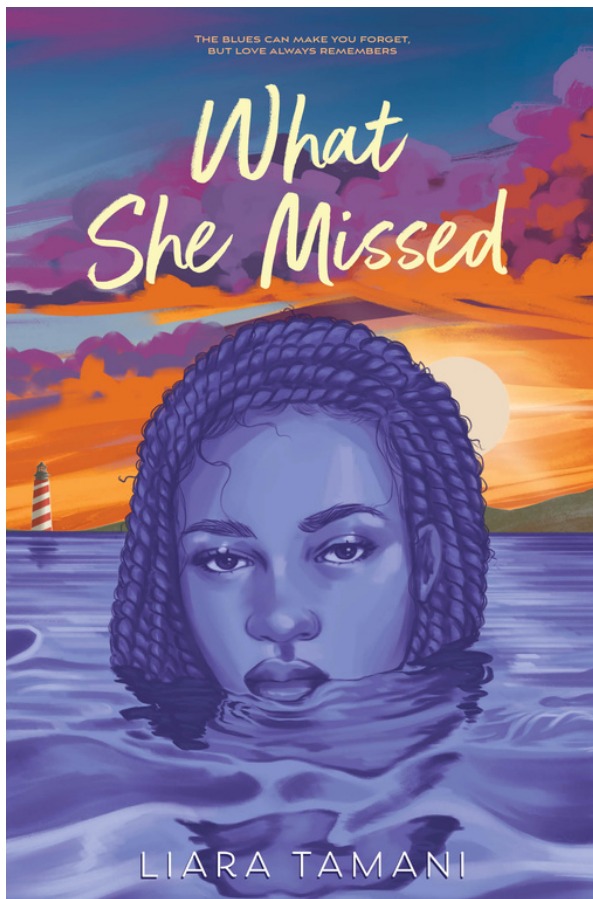
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SYNOPSIS

Sixteen-year-old Ebony Jones is devastated when both of her parents lose their jobs and her family moves from Houston to her grandmother's house in the country. There's absolutely nothing for Ebony in Alula Lake, Texas. So she thinks.

And to make matters worse, the ghost of Ebony's beloved grandmother—a strong swimmer who tragically drowned in the lake—is everywhere. Alula Lake does offer one perk: reconnecting Ebony with her childhood friend, Jalen.

But as Ebony settles into life, she finds herself drifting away from Jalen and gravitating to his older sister, Lena. Lena is chaotic, disorderly, and rebellious, yet she offers a reprieve for the anger and sadness Ebony feels about losing so much.

An ode to nature, art, friendship, history, family, and love this lyrical coming-of-age story explores one girl's summer of self-discovery as she reimagines the world and her place in it.

BOOK TITLE	WHAT SHE MISSED
PRINT LENGTH	384 pages
GENRE	Contemporary YA Fiction
PUBLISHER	Greenwillow / HarperCollins
PUBLICATION DATE	June 13, 2023
ISBN	9780063093287
PRICE	\$18.99
TERRITORIES SOLD	USA
AVAILABLE FORMATS	Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Audiobook
WHERE TO BUY	Your Local Bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, Walmart



SYNOPSIS

A glance was all it took. That kind of connection, the immediate and raw understanding of another person, just doesn't come along very often. And as rising stars on their Texas high schools' respective basketball teams, destined for bright futures in college and beyond, it seems like a match made in heaven. But Carli and Rex have secrets. As do their families.

BOOK TITLE	All The Things We Never Knew
PRINT LENGTH	351 pages
GENRE	Contemporary YA Fiction
PUBLISHER	Greenwillow /HarperCollins
PUBLICATION DATE	June 9, 2020
ISBN	9780062656919
PRICE	\$16.99
TERRITORIES SOLD	USA
AVAILABLE FORMATS	Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Audiobook
WHERE TO BUY	Your Local Bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, Walmart

ALL THE THINGS WE NEVER KNEW

FEATURED BY:

TEEN VOGUE, GOOD MORNING AMERICA, ESSENCE MAGAZINE,
NPR, ESSENCE MAGAZINE, NBC, BUZZFEED, AND MORE.



BOOKLIST (STARRED REVIEW)

"A poignant love story. Tamani's characters are well drawn, her prose is gorgeous, and the imagery she employs is lush. A masterpiece."



KIRKUS REVIEWS (STARRED REVIEW)

"Two promising Texas basketball players navigate the ups and downs of first love. Funny, smart, and unflinchingly candid. A superb, complex romance full of heart, humor, and unforgettable characters."



PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)

"Readers will be easily swept away by this tale exploring the hearts and souls of two emotionally vulnerable athletes."



RITA WILLIAMS-GARCIA NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST AND NEW YORK TIMES-BESTSELLING AUTHOR

"Tamani masterfully bounces and slams two hearts up and down a shrouded court of first love and revelations. A hard to put down backboard breaker."



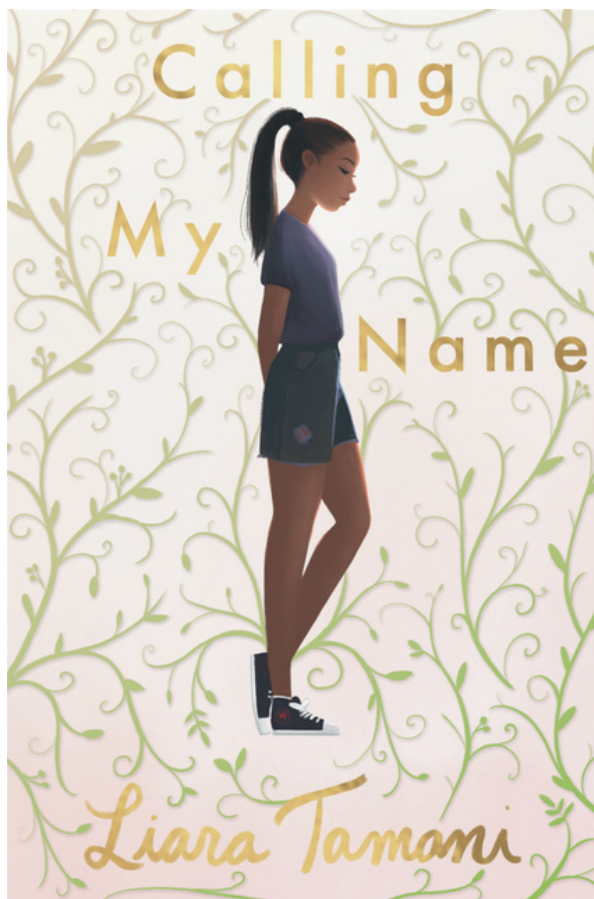
DAVID ARNOLD NEW YORK TIMES-BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF MOSQUITOLAND

"ALL THE THINGS WE NEVER KNEW is a beautifully poignant love letter: to a first love, to basketball, and to that enigmatic bunch we think we know best, only to discover we don't know at all—family. Tamani's latest is a bright shining star."



ELANA K. ARNOLD NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST AND PRINTZ HONOR WINNER

"Liana Tamani's All the Things We Never Knew is a bighearted, beautiful exploration of fate, family, and the glorious magic of love."



SYNOPSIS

This unforgettable novel tells a universal coming-of-age story about Taja Brown, a young African American girl growing up in Houston, Texas, and deftly and beautifully explores the universal struggles of growing up, battling family expectations, discovering a sense of self, and finding a unique voice and purpose.

BOOK TITLE	Calling My Name
PRINT LENGTH	320 pages
GENRE	Contemporary YA Fiction
PUBLISHER	Greenwillow / HarperCollins
PUBLICATION DATE	October 24, 2017
ISBN	0062656864
PRICE	\$17.99
TERRITORIES SOLD	USA
AVAILABLE FORMATS	Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Audiobook
WHERE TO BUY	Your Local Bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, Walmart

CALLING MY NAME

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST FALL 2017 YA NOVELS
BY BUSTLE, BUZZFEED AND PASTE MAGAZINE.

A 2018 PEN AMERICA LITERARY AWARD FINALIST AND A GOLDEN KITE AWARD FINALIST.



BOOKLIST (STARRED REVIEW)

“An excellent portrayal of African American culture, gorgeous lyrical prose, strong characters, and societal critique make Tamani’s debut a must-read.”



CHICAGO TRIBUNE

“For Taja, the narrator of Liara Tamani’s luminous episodic debut, faith in God is as much a part of her as her long legs and brown skin...a complex portrait of a young woman trying to reconcile what she’s been taught, both in church and out in the world, with what she truly believes.”



KIRKUS REVIEWS

“Taja deals with the insecurities that most young people feel regarding identity, love, and fitting in. Stylish prose brings home quiet depths.”



NIC STONE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF DEAR MARTIN

“If there’s one book I wish I could reach through time and hand to seventeen-year-old me , it’s this one. Calling My Name is a treasure.”



RENÉE WATSON NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF PIECING ME TOGETHER

“In Calling My Name we bare witness to a young girl finding her power and realizing that she alone is enough. A true gift to young readers.”



PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“Tamani’s debut novel brims with heart and soul, following its African-American protagonist, Taja Brown, as she searches for spirituality, love, and a sense of self. Absorbing.”