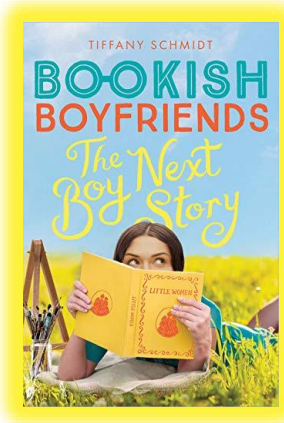


Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - Romance



The Boy Next Story: A Bookish Boyfriends Novel.

Schmidt, Tiffany (author).

May 2019. 448p. Abrams/Amulet, paper, \$9.99 ([9781419734366](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0768434366)).

Grades 7-10.

[REVIEW](#). First published March 1, 2019 (*Booklist*).

Freshman Aurora “Rory” Campbell is a talented artist with uninspiring grades and an unrequited crush on Toby, the boy next door. She’s

convinced he doesn’t notice her because he’s mooning over her sister Merrilee, the sophomore dynamo from *Bookish Boyfriends: A Date with Darcy* (2018). Though Toby’s nice to her, Rory ultimately feels ignored by him and her older sisters. When Rory’s lit class reads *The Great Gatsby*, she is put off by Gatsby’s overt pining for Daisy and just can’t make connections to the novel. Once again, wise Ms. Gregoire works her teacherly magic by assigning *Little Women* as extra credit, both to help Rory’s sagging grades and to assist her with indispensable introspection. Rory is a lively, relatable narrator who suffers from low self-esteem. Yet, the art that fills her soul transports her to her own creative zone. This light rom-com holds heartbreak, surprises, and significant Campbell family dynamics that will hit home with many teens. Happily, hints dropped indicate that this is not the last of the series. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *The Boy Next Story*

- *The Duke of Bannerman Prep*
- *Until We Meet Again*
- *Great*
- *Jake, Reinvented*
- *The Beginning of Everything*