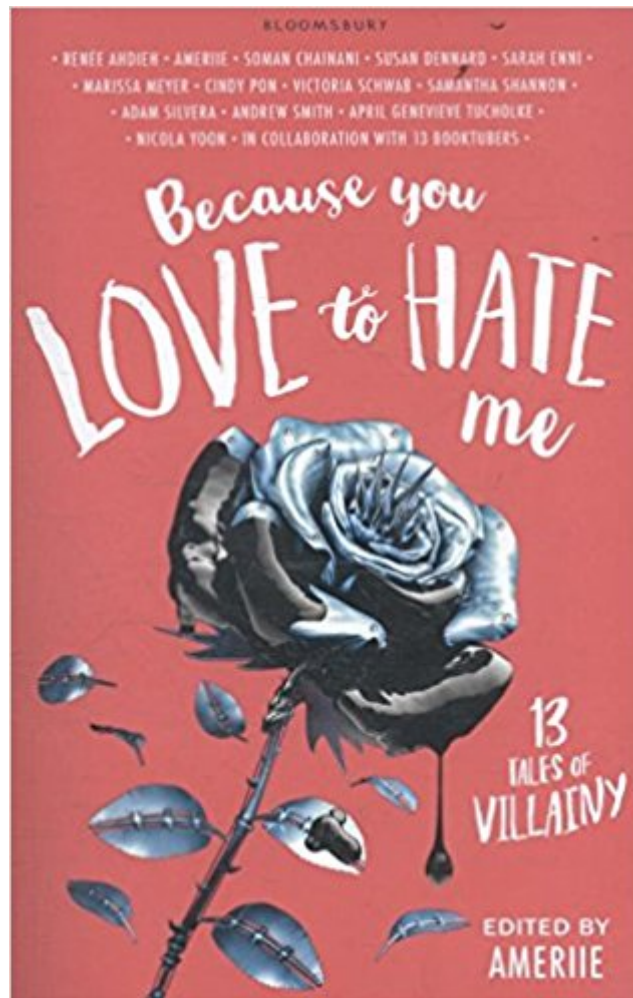




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# Because You Love To Hate Me: New York Times Bestseller



## Synopsis

Leave it to the heroes to save the world--villains just want to rule the world. In this unique YA anthology, thirteen acclaimed, bestselling authors team up with thirteen influential BookTubers to reimagine fairy tales from the oft-misunderstood villains' points of view. These fractured, unconventional spins on classics like "Medusa," Sherlock Holmes, and "Jack and the Beanstalk" provide a behind-the-curtain look at villains' acts of vengeance, defiance, and rage--and the pain, heartbreak, and sorrow that spurred them on. No fairy tale will ever seem quite the same again! Featuring writing from . . . Authors: Renee Ahdieh, Ameriie, Soman Chainani, Susan Dennard, Sarah Enni, Marissa Meyer, Cindy Pon, Victoria Schwab, Samantha Shannon, Adam Silvera, Andrew Smith, April Genevieve Tucholke, and Nicola Yoon BookTubers: Benjamin Alderson (Benjaminoftomes), Sasha Alsberg (abookutopia), Whitney Atkinson (WhittyNovels), Tina Burke (ChristinaReadsYA blog and TheLushables), Catriona Feeney (LittleBookOwl), Jesse George (JessetheReader), Zoe Herdt (readbyzoe), Samantha Lane (Thoughts on Tomes), Sophia Lee (thebookbasement), Raeleen Lemay (padfootandprongs07), Regan Perusse (PeruseProject), Christine Riccio (polandbananasBOOKS), and Steph Sinclair & Kat Kennedy (Cuddlebuggery blog and channel).

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## Customer Reviews

An explosively entertaining joy ride of villainous goodness. \* Kirkus Reviews \*

Ameriie is a Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, producer, and lifestyle bon vivant. The daughter

of a Korean artist and an American military officer, she was born in Massachusetts, raised all over the world, and graduated from Georgetown University with a bachelor's in English. She began writing at the age of seven, stories of fairies and pirates and witches and phantoms. She lives mostly in her imagination, but also on Earth with her husband, her parents and sister, and about seven billion other people. When she isn't writing or creating music, she talks books, beauty, and more on her YouTube channel Books Beauty Ameriie. Ameriie.com @Ameriie

I preordered this book. Was so excited and it was so good. A great concept. This is a must have for book lovers like me.

Some of my favorite authors with some of my favorite booktubers, I couldn't help but buy it. It is so right for a book about wrongs

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*Because You Love to Hate Me, edited by Ameriie  
Publisher: Bloomsbury  
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Rating: 4 stars  
Source: eARC from NetGalley  
Summary (from Goodreads): In this unique YA anthology, thirteen acclaimed, bestselling authors team up with thirteen influential BookTubers to reimagine fairy tales from the oft-misunderstood villains' points of view. These fractured, unconventional spins on classics like "Medusa," Sherlock Holmes, and "Jack and the Beanstalk" provide a behind-the-curtain look at villains' acts of vengeance, defiance, and rage--and the pain, heartbreak, and sorrow that spurred them on. No fairy tale will ever seem quite the same again! Featuring writing from . . . Authors: RenÅfÂ©e Ahdieh, Ameriie, Soman Chainani, Susan Dennard, Sarah Enni, Marissa Meyer, Cindy Pon, Victoria Schwab, Samantha Shannon, Adam Silvera, Andrew Smith, April Genevieve Tucholke, and Nicola Yoon  
BookTubers: Benjamin Alderson (Benjaminoftomes), Sasha Alsberg (abookutopia), Whitney Atkinson (WhittyNovels), Tina Burke (ChristinaReadsYA blog and TheLushables), Catriona Feeney (LittleBookOwl), Jesse George (JesetheReader), ZoÃfÆ'Ã Â« Herdt (readbyzoe), Samantha Lane (Thoughts on Tomes), Sophia Lee (thebookbasement), Raeleen Lemay (padfootandprongs07), Regan Perusse (PeruseProject), Christine Riccio (polandbananasBOOKS), and Steph Sinclair & Kat Kennedy (Cuddlebuggery blog and channel).  
What I Liked: I'm not usually one to read anthologies - short stories make me want more, but there is no more, because that's the point of a short story. Why bother getting worked up about it, when you can just not read short stories (or an anthology). Because when I saw this anthology, with so many of my favorite authors contributing, I threw out my usual logic regarding anthologies

and jumped at the chance to take a peek in advance. These tales of villainy are masterful and incredible. In thirty or so pages, each author has created an intriguing and captivating story that (you guessed it) left me wanting more. But at the same time, when I got to the end of each story, most of the time I was like "no waaaaaay" or "holy guacamole" or simply "OMG!". Each story tended to have a sneakily surprising ending, and the ending was always satisfying (in a twisted way). These are tales of villainy, centered around the villain, and none of the tales end in a cute happily-ever-after. Which made the stories all the more incredible! In general, every story was a fantastic short story, well-written and captivating. Some started a little slowly, but it only took a page or two for me to become hooked. These stories are twisted and strange, and I enjoyed them all. I'm going to talk about some of my favorite ones. No disrespect to the other authors/stories that I don't mention! The following ones were simply too good not to talk about.

**The Blood of Imuriv by RenÃfÂ©e Ahdieh:** honestly, half the reason why I decided to read this anthology was to read RenÃfÂ©e Ahdieh's story. This story is on the shorter side, but it is dense and the ending is shocking (sort of). It is classic Ahdieh, with rich storytelling and immersive writing.

**Jack by Ameriie:** woah, I did not see that ending coming! Though I probably should have. This story is sort of based on Jack and the Beanstalk, but it is darker than what we know of that story (the mainstream version, anyway). I was so caught up in the story unfolding that the ending really took me by surprise! In a good way.

**Gwen and Art and Lance by Soman Chainani:** on paper, I hated this story. I never really liked the story of King Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot - I mean, I hate love triangles. But this short story was fascinating. It is told entirely in texting format (which was so cool!), and it gets dramatic very quickly. Gwen wants to go to prom with Art, but Lance wants to go with her, but Gwen doesn't want to go with him, nor does she want Art (Lance's best friend) to know that she and Lance have been sleeping together... yeah, it's a mess. And I really don't like Gwen. But I was so amused by the story, and definitely by how it was written. It's an interesting retelling.

**Shirley & Jim by Susan Dennard:** this one is one of my favorite favorites! At first I was like, ewww, a young man named "Jim"?! I love how Shirley calls him James though. That was adorable. Anyway, this story is told in letter format (Shirley is writing a letter to her friend Jean), and it is so cool. I love how the story is told and how it progresses. By the time you get to the ending, you know what's coming, and yet it still surprises you a little. I loved falling in love with Shirley and James (James! Not Jim!), and I loved seeing how it ended.

**The Sea Witch by Marissa Meyer:** this story is a sort-of retelling of The Little Mermaid. Wow it was trippy. I loved it so much. Nerit wants to make a love spell to make the prince fall in love with her, but things go awry. I liked how long this story felt, despite it being only twenty-two pages in length. Meyer does an amazing job of passing time and making it feel like a full

story. Beautiful Venom by Cindy Pon: this story made me happy and then sad and then mad. I love how Pon made me go through a roller coaster of emotions. This story has everything dark and curious - seduction, betrayal, curses, death. This story is based a little on the story of Medusa. Death Knell by Victoria Schwab: of course I loved this story. I love how Schwab tells stories. Pieces are revealed bit by bit, so you are wondering what is going on but at the same time you are caught up in the story, so you're not totally anxious to know everything. Death and a girl named Grace - an unlikely pair. I liked the ending of this one! Indigo and Shade by April Genevieve Tucholke: I loved this story, because it comes very close to having a happily-ever-after. The love story within this one is beautiful, and the author does it justice. I liked the arrogant, god-like hero who knows how good-looking and good-at-everything he is. He has a good heart, for a villain. I didn't talk about every story, but I still recommend them. The Blessing of Little Wants by Sarah Enni, Marigold by Samantha Shannon, You, You, It's All About You by Adam Silvera, Julian Breaks Every Rule by Andrew Smith, and Sera by Nicola Yoon are the remaining stories and believe me, they are worth the read in addition to the ones I already discussed. No story in this anthology was boring or bad! What I Did Not Like: I really hope this doesn't come across as too offensive buuuuuut... I didn't really care for the booktubers' contributions to this anthology. I know, I know, that's part of the appeal of this anthology. Hear me out. There are thirteen short stories, written by thirteen authors. After each short story, there is a one- to two-page commentary written by a booktuber. Thirteen stories, thirteen "commentaries". Each commentary is in a different style, and some aren't specifically commentaries. Some are lists, some are in the form of Instagram posts, a forum. All good stuff. I thought this was going to be an anthology of stories written by authors AND booktubers - like, an author writes one story, a booktuber writes one story, and so on. Twenty-six stories, if you will. Or maybe one author and one booktuber co-wrote a story. That is not the case - the booktubers do not write stories. If I'm being honest, after the first booktuber contribution (Christine Riccio's signs that you're a villain - really fun list, by the way), I skipped the rest of them. I didn't read any of the other contributions. I liked Christine's just fine, and I'm sure the other ones were interesting, but I wanted to read stories, and so I moved on to each author's story when I came to the booktuber's part. The booktubers' contributions didn't seem essential to the anthology; therefore, I didn't bother. Does that make sense? I didn't feel the need to read these one- to two-page contributions, and so I didn't. The idea is neat and maybe if I reread this book, I'll read the booktubers' contributions, but I was more interested in reading the stories, and that's what I did. Would I Recommend It: In terms of the short stories, this anthology was phenomenal. I don't even like anthologies and yet I highly recommend this one. These stories were so highly creative, diverse,

engrossing, and occasionally bizarre. All of the authors really hit the mark with the theme of this anthology. I wouldn't read this anthology if you're looking for happily-ever-afters and cute romances. Most stories don't have romances and none of them have traditional HEAs. But that's part of the appeal! Rating: 4 stars. I enjoyed this anthology and I'm glad I broke out of my "no anthologies!" mindset for this one. The contributing authors are so talented and their work is quality. Don't miss out!

Because You Love to Hate Me: 13 Tales of Villainy is a short story anthology that was curated and edited by the amazing, and so very talented, Ameriie. Seriously, Ameriie is an angel and I'm so thankful that she put this anthology together. I completely believe this collection will appeal to so many readers. I mean, these stories surround villains and their often misunderstood back stories, and then throw in some amazingly talented and popular authors, and then some of the most popular Booktubers around right now, and you truly have something different that many YA readers can appreciate and get excited over. It's honestly genius and a great way to celebrate reading and the literary community in general. There is a lot of controversy about whether or not these Booktubers "deserved" to get published, and I'm not here to start a war over that, but I will say that these people put a lot of work into their videos and have been doing it long enough to get pretty substantial followings. This book is going to sell a lot of copies, and for that alone it makes sense that they "deserve" to be published. I mean, capitalism exists in the book world, too. I know many Booktubers don't read as much as the average reviewer and I know many want to write their own books. I also know many people in the book community are upset the Booktubers don't read the ARCs they are sent and I know many people dislike their paid promotions. I see these things, I truly do. But guess what? These Booktubers are human beings, who read your hurtful words, and are just accepting opportunities that the publishers are giving them. If you don't like them, unsubscribe to them. If you don't like their writing or their books then write a review saying why you don't like their writing or their books. Also, you all have free will. You don't have to pick this book up. I'm a firm believer in "speaking with your money/wallet" and no one is making you support these people. And let's be real, most the people who are complaining about this, will be complaining about people speaking up against harmful representation tomorrow. It's okay to bash on Booktubers who don't

to be published, but God forbid someone write a review on a book they've never read about how people from that culture are saying that the representation hurts their people. Lastly, most Booktubers are aware of their privilege, and some of the people on this list use their platform for good discussions that I wish the book community would actually listen to. You guys know I always give my honest opinion, and you know I will with this review, too. I'm not going to judge the Booktubers I love and subscribe to differently than the Booktuber I'm not the biggest fan of. Also, I'll even give you guys full disclosure on the Booktubers I love in my break down of each story. Overall, this was actually a pretty strong anthology and it held a lot of really good stories that I would completely recommend, especially if you are a fan of these authors. Maybe it impressed me because I had my expectations set so low, but I truly closed this book happy that I read it.

**My Favorite Story: Marigold by Samantha Shannon**

**My Favorite Prompt and Essay: The Bad Girls Guide to Villainy by Steph Sinclair and Kat Kennedy at Cuddlebugger**

With every anthology that I review I break down and rate each story individually. I just want to preface this breakdown by saying that I will be critiquing these stories and prompts and these essays. I also gushed a little bit about a couple of my personal favorite Booktubers. I'm sorry if I didn't enjoy something that your favorite Booktuber prompted or that your favorite author wrote, but I hope you still respect my opinion(s) and understand that everyone has different tastes, especially with reading. I broke down and reviewed each story individually, while also giving each story its own star rating, and I gave my personal thoughts on every prompt. Also, if you'd prefer to go into the anthology completely blind and unaware of any of the prompts, please do not continue reading any further. I won't be giving any spoilers or anything like that, but while reading this book, the prompts come after you've read the story! So, again, you should not read this break down if you want your reading experience to be a complete surprise!

**The Blood of Imuriv by Ren Ahdieh**

**Prompt and The Evil Vaccine: Keep the Darkness at Bay by Christine Riccio at PolandbananasBOOKS**

I was really disheartened that this was the start to this anthology, because I really didn't enjoy this story at all. I mean, if I could get a full length story about this world I would probably read it, but I just personally feel that it didn't make for that great of a short story. This story is about a boy, who is forced to sit by the sidelines and watch his sixteen year old sister get ready to one day rule. He obviously doesn't like that and wishes that he could change the future he is destined to only

watch from the sidelines. I'll be honest, I really disliked the prompt and I even thought her essay thing was trying way too hard to be funny and it felt so forced and ended up being really unfunny. Also, making jokes and/or light hearted fun about vaccination just kind of feels bad anyways. Ren Ahdieh's beautiful writing did shine through, and for that I gave it two stars, but I honestly did not enjoy this story what so ever. The best part was that it takes place in a matriarchal society. Also, I honestly and truthfully hate the Beatles. Jack by Ameriie's writing. Tina Burke's idea to use a real life historical figure villain with an old classic fairy tale villain was beyond wonderful and so creative! I also loved Tina's very thoughtful and informative part at the end. Her closing section was seriously one of the best in this entire book, and I loved reading it as much as I loved reading the story. This story is a never before seen take on Jack and the Beanstalk and it, too, does not disappoint. Amerrie wrote a completely captivating story that even made me laugh a few times. Gwen and Art and Lance by Soman Chainani's writing. Prompt and The Bad Girl Hall of Fame by Samantha Lane at Thoughts on Tomes You guys need to understand that I tried really hard not to be biased here, but I love Sam! Like, she is such a bright shining light in this community, and I'm not sure what the book world has done to deserve her. Plus, she's such a strong woman, whose aesthetic is beyond words, who loves video games, isn't afraid to be critical of what's popular, calls out problematic things, and is such an amazing analyst of books in general. Plus, when I think of book reviewers that love villains, I think of Sam. I knew her prompt was going to be nothing short of amazing. And her final thoughts with social media posts and comments were nothing short of brilliant. Her prompts spoke to me and my likes on every level and I am so happy for her and proud of her. Also, this story was amazing. Just know, if you like or are just familiar with Arthurian legends about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table you are going to enjoy this. And everyone knew that this would have Hades and Persephone elements because of Sam. Yet, I also would recommend this short story if you are a fan of Illuminae, because Soman Chainani has created an amazing story just in multimedia format via IMs. I know I gushed a lot about Sam, but Soman's story unique and really enjoyable to read! Also, his villain was the perfect amount of grey that I'm always looking for. Shirley & Jim by Susan Dennard's writing.

411 for Villains by Sasha Alsberg at abookutopia! also have a soft spot in my heart for Sasha. She just genuinely seems like such a little sweetheart to me, and she's one of the few Booktubers on this list that I genuinely am excited for and want to read her published work. Also, her prompt was short, simple, and perfect. This story just feels bad. Like, if Susan Dennard would have just wrote a Sherlock and Watson gender-bent love story people would have lost it and completely loved this. Instead she gender bends Sherlock and Watson so they can gush about Moriarty? Like, she could have just, you know, left Sherlock and Watson boys, and had Sherlock gush over Moriarty and people would have loved that too. Instead, we get this bad feeling, pointless gender-bend modern day version of Sherlock Holmes. It is extra sad, because this short story was pretty addicting. Also, it's beautifully written, but it just feels so bad thinking of what could have been.

The Blessings of Little Wants by Sarah Enni is a prompt and Will the Real Villain Please Stand Up? by Sophia Lee at thebookbasement This story was so good. The prompt and the story were close to perfection. This story is about two witches that are trying to save magic. Half way through, these two characters were sitting in their common room, surrounded by books, I thought I was reading a much darker version of some kind of side quest in Harry Potter. Seriously, this short story is amazing. Also, I already said Sophia's prompt was perfection, but her essay at the end was what I wish everyone's essay was like. It was informative, while making me think, and even pulled at my heartstrings a little bit. And I, too, want to know all of the things Sophia wants to know upon finishing this short story. Like, I hope they pair up again and give me at least a novella about Sigrid and the consequences of her choices.

The Sea Witch by Marissa Meyer is a prompt and Villain or Hero? You Decide! by Zoë Herdt at readbyzoe The only complaint I have about this short story is that I wish it was a full length novel. Marissa Meyer is the queen of fairy-tale retellings for a reason, and Zoë was so very smart to give her an inspiration that plays to her strength. This book is a take on the sea witch from The Little Mermaid and it was everything I could have asked for and more. This short story also talks about loneliness in the face of only wanting love, and then betrayal when you only wanted to be accepted. Perfect villain, perfect messages, perfect story. Like, if you're a fan of Marissa Meyer, this short story is a must read. Also, Zoë is so sweet. How can anyone not love her? And her essay was so amazing as well. She really talked about a side of her life that I think so many people can relate to,

even though I believe she is nothing close to a coward. I also loved her quiz, even though I ended up being a villain!

**Beautiful Venom** by Cindy Pon

Prompt and Without the Evil in the World, How Do We See the Good? by Benjamin Alderson at BenjaminoftomesTW: Rape (very minor and nothing graphic, but it is there.) This story was also perfection. I love the discussion on beauty standards and expectations, while even touching on the expectations of young girls to remain virginal. Also, this story probably has the most evil villain in this entire anthology, and the twist was so beautiful and nothing you'd expect in a Medusa remake. Also, now I want to read everything Cindy Pon has written. I also am a pretty big fan on Ben, and his prompt was exactly what I wanted and expected from this anthology. Ben broke down different elements of the story and talked about some of his favorite parts. I wish all the Booktubers did this, instead of their "creative" things, because this flowed so well and just highlighted Cindy Pon's story, while adding a great perspective.

**Death Knell** by Victoria Schwab

Prompt and Dear Death by Jesse George at JesseTheReaderI had a pretty good feeling that VE Schwab would write one of the best stories in this anthology, no matter what her prompt was, and she didn't disappoint. Her story made me so unexpectedly emotional, too. Like, I had tears on my cheeks through the entirety of this short story. I actually think this could be my favorite thing that VE Schwab has ever written. Seriously, if you're a fan of her beautiful and mesmerizing writing, read this short story. Jesse's essay ended up hitting really close to home for me, too. It was really impactful and showed a vulnerable side of him that I really appreciated, especially surrounding the topic of death. I loved both parts of this collaboration.

**Marigold** by Samantha Shannon

Prompt and Evil Revealed by Regan Perusse at PeruseProjectOkay, I know I've handed out a ton of five stars in a row, but this short story felt like it was written for me. Her prompt had to do with a folklore story about a fae queen that kidnaps young girls in nineteenth-century London. If you follow my reviews, you know that this screams "Melanie!" I couldn't not give this five stars, and Samantha Shannon weaves an amazing tale that balances whimsy and female empowerment. Like, I want an entire series surrounding this short story immediately. I love Regan (and Milly) and she, like Ben, broke down Samantha's story with her thoughts and feelings, which

made for such a wonderful transition that felt so right and cohesive. Also, I think she might be one of the few Booktubers that is not planning on writing a book, which is a damn shame, because her writing is absolutely fantastic. This was, hands down, the best written thing from any of the Booktubers, and I even enjoyed it more than some of the actual stories written by published authors in this anthology. Regan is so talented, and it shined so brightly through with her essay. Oh, and her prompt was the second best of the entire collection, too. Regan gets all the stars!

**You, You, It's All About You** by Adam Silvera

**Behind the Villain's Mask** by Catriona Feeney at LittleBookOwl

I really enjoyed this story, and it felt so much different than the rest of the anthology, in a good way. Also, teenage girl crime lord that wears a mask made from the old skin of her abusive father? Like, please, allow me to buy this full length novel. Also, the different drugs that Adam's main character dealt were so interesting. They were all so inventive and I honestly wish I knew even more. This was a really strong story and I think many people would really enjoy this one.

I didn't really care for Catriona's essay on different masks. It wasn't terrible or anything, but it, again like many of the others, made my reading experience feel disjointed after I read Adam's beautiful story.

**Julian Breaks Every Rule** by Andrew Smith

**Julian Powell: Teen Psycho Extraordinaire** by Raeleen Lemay at padfootandprongs07

I enjoyed this story well enough, and it definitely made you want to keep turning the pages to see why Julian cannot for the life of himself get in trouble for his mysterious powers of willing people to die. I almost thought the prompt was going to have to do with Death Note, but it was just a generic prompt about psychopaths in the future. I did like how this story bordered on not knowing if Julian really had these powers, or if he just thought he did. Being in an unreliable narrators mind is always a fun thing to read about, and I feel like Andrew Smith did a really good job executing that.

I'm not sure if she creates Booktube videos anymore, which, I'm not going to lie, feels pretty bad, because I know there are so many active Booktubers out there that would have loved to be a part of something like this. Obviously I didn't hold that against her prompt, but I also won't lie that I felt a little disheartened when I looked up her channel and saw she hasn't posted a "Booktube" video in five months and that she's only posted three videos in all of 2017.

**Indigo and Shade** by April Genevieve Tucholke

~ Prompt and Glamorized Recovery: Expectations vs. Reality by Whitney Atkinson at WhittyNovels Whitney is the other Booktuber (please don't quit, even though I totally understand and support you if you do) on this list that I'm a huge fan of, and if you know me at all you know that I love Whitney from WhittyNovels so freakin' much. Her and her snapchats, filled with puppers, make my day so much better, and she is such a precious little cinnamon roll that needs to be protected at all costs. She is, hands down, my favorite Booktuber from this list, and if you guys haven't checked her out before, please do yourself a favor and go do so immediately. Also, I'm pretty sure she's the reason half of Goodreads has read Shatter Me. Anyways, her prompt had to do with Beauty and the Beast and it was magnificent. I've never read anything by April Genevieve Tucholke before, but her writing was fantastic and so engrossing. I was instantly pulled into this retelling that somehow merged Bell, the Beast, and Gaston all into one. Like, I can't explain it without spoilers, but it was very well done. I love the whimsical in this, I loved the feministic undertones, and I loved the ending.

~ Sera by Nicola Yoon ~

~ Prompt and The Bad Girls' Guide to Villainy by Steph Sinclair and Kat Kennedy at Cuddlebuggery This story is a look into a child's life, and why she is "evil". The look at each time period was a little boring at first, but when I got to the present day part? Oh, boy, it was amazing and such a powerful story to end this anthology on. I really enjoyed it, and I want to know everything about Sera and where life is going to take her now. Also, the prompt was "Gender-Flipped God of War" and when I read those words I actually got Goosebumps. Plus, Steph and Kat's essay was also perfectly executed with feminism and just the glory of being a strong woman. It was also funny while also talking about some powerful and real situations in today's world. I loved it. Easily the best prompt in this entire collection. Praise and bless all three powerful women that collaborated on this story! Wonderful story and a wonderful prompt. I gave Because You Love to Hate Me: 13 Tales of Villainy 4 stars overall, because out of a possible 65 stars (5 stars possible for each of the 13 stories) this collection accumulated 50 stars (83%). I won't lie; the added essays, or whatever it is you want to call them, didn't add much to this book. Sometimes they actually felt really disjointed and sort of took me out of the groove of reading this book. I really wish they would have only done the prompts, and I think that would have made for a much more cohesive read. I went into this anthology

apprehensive and only truly buying it to support some of these Booktubers who I really love, but I came out of this really impressed and happy with my purchase. Again, I completely understand why some people have no desire to support this, but if you enjoy some of these authors then their stories are totally worth the purchase. I am wholeheartedly impressed and would completely recommend this anthology.

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