

BOOK CLUB in a bag

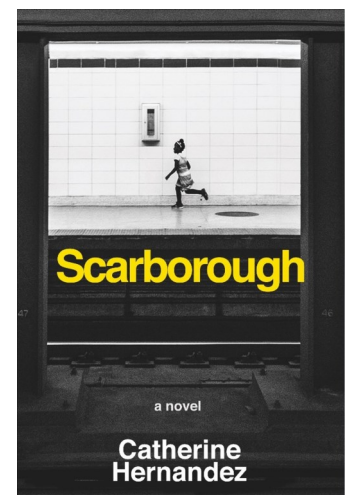


Scarborough

Catherine Hernandez

Discussion Questions

1. How does the novel demonstrate economic disparities? What does the email correspondence between Ms. Hina and her supervisor suggest about the differences between management and on-the-ground workers?
2. The novel uses multiple narrative voices, letting us hear the perspectives of children, parents, and teachers. Why do you think the author chose this approach? How did it affect you as a reader?
3. The book used different format types, such as emails and multiple perspectives. Do you think this added to the story?
4. What are some of the structural challenges that the characters face in trying to get their basic needs met? For example, what obstacles does Sylvia's family run into as they try to get medical care for her brother? Why does Ms. Hina feel the need to offer food at a program based on literacy?
5. How are Bing and Clive's stories similar and different?
6. Which character was your favourite? Who would you have liked to know more about?
7. What is the role of the community in the novel?
8. Is it possible to keep school and politics separate as Jane Fulton suggests to Ms. Hina? And, is it desirable to keep them separate? Why or why not?
9. Although there is a tragedy toward the end of the novel, many of the children and adults gain community support and strength. What are the stories of resilience and change in the novel?
10. What do you think happens next for the characters in the book?



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About the Author

Catherine Hernandez (she/her) is an award-winning author and screenwriter. She is a proud queer woman who is of Filipino, Spanish, Chinese and Indian descent and married into the Navajo Nation. Her first novel, *Scarborough*, won the Jim Wong-Chu Award for the unpublished manuscript; was shortlisted for the Toronto Book Awards, the Evergreen Forest of Reading Award, the Edmund White Award, and the Trillium Book Award; and a finalist for Canada Reads 2022. She has written the critically acclaimed plays *Singkil*, *The Femme Playlist* and *Eating with Lola* and the children's books *M Is for Mustache: A Pride ABC Book* and *I Promise*. She recently wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of *Scarborough*, produced by Compy Films and levelFILM. It was the 1st runner up for the coveted People's Choice Award at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival, won the Shawn Mendes Foundation Changemaker Award, was nominated for 11 Canadian Screen Awards and won 8, including Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay. The film won the Panavision Spirit Award for Independent Cinema at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival and was named #3 of the 20 Greatest Toronto Movies Ever Made by the Globe and Mail. She is the creator of Audible Original's audio sketch comedy series *Imminent Disaster*. Her second novel, *Crosshairs*, published simultaneously in Canada and the US and the UK, was shortlisted for the Toronto Book Award and made the CBC's Best Canadian Fiction, NOW Magazine's 10 Best Books, Indigo Best Book, Audible Best Audiobooks and NBC 20 Best LGBTQ Books list of 2020. Her third children's book, *Where Do Your Feelings Live?* which is a guide for kids living through these scary times, has been commissioned by HarperCollins Canada and will be published in winter 2022. Her third novel, *The Story of Us*, about the extraordinary friendship between a caregiver and her elderly client, will be published in winter 2023 by HarperCollins Canada. She is currently working on a few television projects and her fourth novel.

Via the author's website (<https://www.catherinehernandezcreates.com/about.html>)

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