

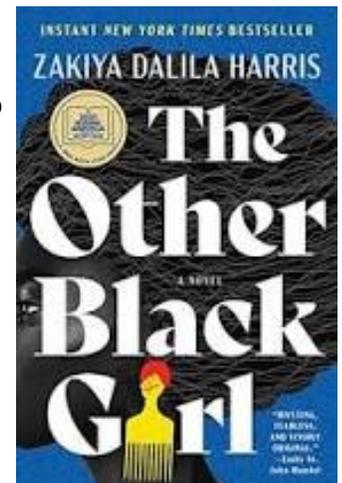


# The Other Black Girl

## Zakiya Dalila Harris

### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the author set this novel in the book publishing industry? How would the story unfold in another setting? How would it be similar or different?
2. Recalling Colin Franklin's novel, *Needles and Pins*, have you ever read a book that was problematic? What was the title, and what made it problematic? Why do you think it was able to get published? Was Nella right about confronting Colin about the stereotypes in *Needles and Pins*?
3. At what point in the story did you feel suspicious of Hazel? What made her more likable to people in the office?
4. Nella appears to be embarrassed by her inability to tie scarves, and about not making Black friends sooner or joining a Black sorority in college. Why does Nella question her Blackness? Do you think she's too hard on herself?
5. Why do you think the author wanted to highlight how Black women feel competitive toward one another in white corporate America? How do you think people feel when they are the only person of color at work? Why might people of color feel competitive in white work spaces?
6. What does this book say about code-switching and selling out? What, if anything, separates the two? What are examples of code-switching?
7. What is Richard's role in the novel? Why is he threatened by Black women? How does he benefit from "fixing" Black women?
8. What is the significance and importance of hair to Black women? Why do you think Black women take such pride in their hair?
9. Did the ending make you more optimistic or fearful? How could the Resistance stop OBGs? What could they have done differently to stop Hazel?





### About the Author

**Zakiya Dalila Harris** is a Brooklyn-based author with a passion for writing (and talking) about Blackness, books, and oldies music. She received her MFA in nonfiction creative writing from the New School and her BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was born and raised in Connecticut, where she cultivated a healthy appetite for cinnamon and fall foliage. She currently lives in Brooklyn with her husband and a growing collection of plants.

Her debut novel, *The Other Black Girl*, is available now from Atria Books in the U.S. and Bloomsbury in the U.K. It will soon be published in Brazil, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, South Korea, Spain, Italy, Japan, Hungary, Romania, and elsewhere around the globe. A TV adaptation is currently in active development with Tara Duncan, Temple Hill Entertainment, and Hulu.

**This book is available for download as an eBook. For more information, please visit [lpl.overdrive.com](http://lpl.overdrive.com) or call 519-661-4600.**

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