

THE VANISHING STATION

A striking contemporary fantasy about an underground magic network in San Francisco and the lengths one girl will go to protect her family—perfect for fans of V. E. Schwab and *Legendborn*

DEAR READER,

Are you ready to vanish? Across train portals that can take you anywhere in the world—if you're willing to pay the price? When I was a young adult, I read Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere* while crisscrossing Europe with a Eurail pass on my first backpacking adventure abroad. I loved his unlikely heroes and gritty underworld beneath the London subway. Then I fell for V. E. Schwab's luscious portal magic in *A Darker Shade of Magic*. Daydreaming on San Francisco's BART trains, I wondered if I, too, could write a novel—crime families ruling clandestine train portals, villains with the power to make trespassers “vanish,” and a fierce girl named Ruby Santos who is just trying to scrape by. That is, until her whole world is turned upside down. And I couldn't resist a slow-burn romance with an heir who holds the key to unlocking this new magic.

How can you dream bigger when you're always struggling for enough? My hometown of San Francisco is a glittering city of have and have-nots. I grew up in a biracial White/Filipino American family with the constant worry of staying afloat financially. Ruby's karaoke-loving father lives with his heart split across oceans in the Filipino diaspora. I've always been drawn to stories that test how much you would brave for the ones you love. And boy, did I test Ruby.

Fiction, like my train portals, can teleport you into new worlds and inside the conflicted hearts of characters. I hope my book helps young adults who are struggling with alcoholism running in families, who are stuck in that uncertainty between high school and what comes next, who don't know how to chase their dreams. Readers who are craving more.

I hope you enjoy the adventure ahead—and discover where these train tracks lead!

Happy reading,



ANA ELICKSON



“Spellbinding . . . full of fantastical feats of imagination and perilous, world-traveling magic.”

—Nova Ren Suma,
New York Times bestselling author

“Brilliant . . . hooked me from the first pages.”

—Emily J. Taylor,
New York Times bestselling
author of *Hotel Magnifique*

“Will cement Ellickson as a debut voice urgently needed.”

—Lilliam Rivera,
author of *Never Look Back*

