

The Séance &
Tea Party
by Reimena Yee



THE SEANCE TEA PARTY (working title)

A pitch for an MG graphic novel

Premise:

A gothic suburban fairytale about a lonely 12 year old girl who finds friendship and love with the ghost who haunts her house.

Story:

12 year old Lora is just like any ordinary girl – she loves fairy floss, cryptids, and playing 'the floor is lava' game. However she struggles to keep up as one by one, her peers grow up and leave their childhood behind. But she refuses to succumb to adolescence, and accepts (with some difficulty) her new-found loneliness.

During her 12th birthday while play-pretending a séance in her attic, she discovers Alexa, a 13 year old ghost girl. Alexa has been haunting Lora's house for a while, and reveals herself as the former imaginary friend that Lora played with as a younger child. Lora is happy to see Alexa for real and resumes their old friendship, which gradually evolves into a puppy crush.

But Lora can't remain in childhood for long. She must eventually join her peers, and will have to decide if starting her life as a teenager is worth letting go of Alexa.

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As Lora begins to familiarise herself with typical teenage interests, and loses interest in play-pretend, Alexa after some thinking realises she must also move on. She's well aware that her continual existence is due to never having had a proper childhood, and she lives through the children who stayed in the house previously. Lora is also the first person she actually interacts with who is in the same age group, which now presents a novel challenge to her. Prior to this she never has to directly confront growing up.

She takes part in Lora's additional interests, and provides wisdom from what little of adolescence she experienced. She grows up with Lora too, and feels more at peace having now lived a richer (after)life. Meanwhile, Lora regains her friends once she mentally catches up with them. While she still loves Alexa, she no longer needs her as an emotional crutch. Their friendship transforms from childish play into something that is more stable and mature.

Towards the end of the story, Lora and Alexa part ways, with happiness and gratitude. Alexa appears to have moved on peacefully.

Fast forward, Lora has spent the last year enjoying her time as a preteen. As she finishes celebrating her 13th birthday with her friends, Alexa returns. Lora, overjoyed, resumes their relationship as if nothing has changed, and they catch up and play together.

Genre and style: Gothic fairytale for kids in a mundane setting. Lora is based on the cheerful, gothic girl trope in children's cartoons (mostly Lydia Deets, and Emily the Strange), and the story about her/Alexa reflects the dark whimsical feel of those cartoons.

Theme: A kind and gentle story about growing up and keeping your inner child.

Length: Approximately 100 pages.

Art style: full-colour.



Lora Zi is 12 year old Chinese girl, with a particular affinity for strange things (cryptids, superstition, weird phenomena, etc). Her favourite book is Reader's Digest Into The Unknown. She's a generally well-adjusted girl, but has trouble transitioning between childhood and adolescence. As a result, at this period of her life when the story takes place, she is alone. Until she makes friends with the ghost in her house.

Alexa

- dead since the 60's
- 13 years old convent school gal
- curious, fun.



Alexa is a teenaged ghost that's been in Lora's house for a number of decades. Alive, she was constantly ill and never got to experience childhood. Dead, she obtains the childhood she never had by playing with the tenants' kids, acting as their 'imaginary friend' until they no longer feel the desire to play-pretend. Lora is the first person she interacts with outside of this unspoken arrangement, and while she enjoys finally being friends with someone her age, it presents her with some challenges, and the reality of needing to move on.