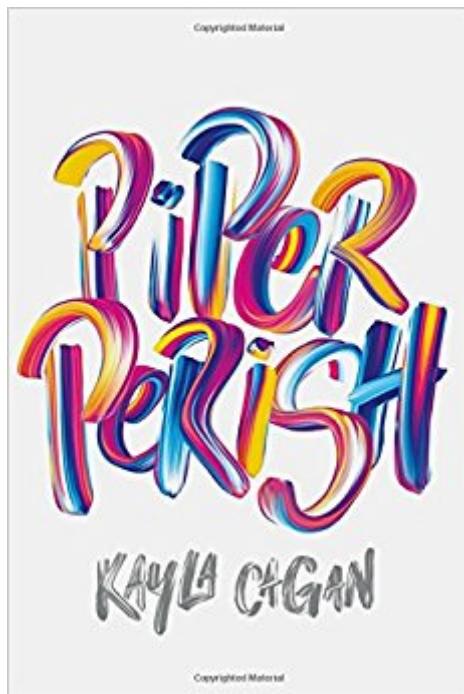


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# Piper Perish



## Synopsis

"There may not be another book published ... that is more perfect for artistic [readers] who love stability yet crave adventure." •Teen VogueDebut author Kayla Cagan breathes new life into fiction in this dynamic, authentic book. Warhol-obsessed Piper will have readers asking big questions along with her. What is love? What is friendship? What is family? What should I wear? Piper Perish inhales air and exhales art. The sooner she and her best friends can get out of Houston and get to New York City, the better. Art school has been Piper's dream forever, and now that senior year is halfway over, she's never felt more ready. But in the final months before graduation, things are weird with her friends and stressful with three different guys, and Piper's sister's tyranny thwarts every attempt at happiness for the Perish family. Piper's art just might be enough to get her out. But is she brave enough to seize that power when it means giving up so much?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Piper Perish

"A love-letter to the artistic life."

•Hope Larson, Author, graphic novelist, and two-time Eisner Award Winner.

"If a book could be my BFF, it would be this one." •Bonnie Burton, Author of Crafting with Feminism and Girls Against Girls. "It's the Cinderella story for any artsy kids" •Marika McCoola, New York Times bestselling Author of Baba Yaga. Assistant, Eisner Award Finalist. • "A story that will

break, heal, and warm your heart. — Sarah Skilton, Author of *Bruised and High & Dry*.

A note from the author — I am so excited to meet you and introduce you to Piper Perish! The character of Piper, an awkward, funny, outspoken emerging artist, came into my life when I least expected her, on New Year's Day 2013, and we've been together ever since. Who knew I would be spending the next few years figuring out what Piper was wearing, debating, and creating on a daily basis? It's been a fun, terrifying, thrilling job to be Piper's author, to guide her through her senior year of high school in Houston and to see what lays ahead for her future post graduation and possibly post-Texas. I am and have always been an avid reader of biographies of great writers and artists. In college, as a drama major, I even created a one-woman theater piece on Tennessee Williams. Writers and artists were and are my creativity teachers. How do they persevere in times of failure and success? How do they have and hold on to relationships? Often biographies focus on the crowning achievements or the very young days and skim over the young adult period, unless something particularly transformative happened during that time. I just wanted to read what was in the mind of a young Picasso or a young Warhol. I wanted to see who they were before the world had an idea of how they should act, who they were and who they should be, what they created. In particular, I wanted to see a young artist living in the now, dealing with her very real, very everyday life problems. Best friends and boyfriends, money and art, a troubled sister and a naive family, wanting to leave home and wanting to stay put. I wanted to read her diary because I wanted to accompany Piper on her unpredictable journey. I wanted to see if she could make it out from under the pressures of being an artist and a teenager at the same time. I wanted to know who Piper would be — and what her art could be — if she was truly free. My biggest heroes have always been and continue to be artists. So, I guess you could say I wanted to write Piper as my up-and-coming superhero. I wanted to give Piper an artist superhero origin story. As a writer who has kept a diary for over 30 years, it was time I wrote and read someone else's entries. I wrote the book I really wanted to read. Hopefully you and your readers will enjoy Piper's journey — and journal — as much as I do. We often see how art is made, but it's not every day we see how artists are made. Thank you for sharing Piper Perish with your young, adventurous, creative readers. My wish is that Piper is a faithful companion who accompanies readers on their own artistic journeys, too. All good things! -Kayla

"A character readers will remember."-Kirkus Reviews"Will embolden budding teen artists."-School Library Journal"There may not be another book published this year that is more perfect for artistic, complicated Cancers, who love stability yet crave adventure."--Teen Vogue"Piper Perish is smart, fresh, and utterly engaging. Infused with a love and respect for art that shines through on every page, Kayla Cagan's debut is equal parts funny and heartbreak. You won't put it down."-Brandy Colbert, author of Pointe and Little and Lion"Get ready for all the feels! Urgent, funny, and achingly real, Piper Perish will pull you into her artsy, messy, and love-rich world on the first page and hold you tight until the very end. The voice is so fresh and intimate you'll swear you've known Piper your whole life. I read this book on a tear and when I finished-breathless and teary and hopeful-I not only knew I'd discovered an amazing author, I also felt like I had a new friend. Stop what you're doing and go read Piper Perish now!" -Leila Howland, author of Hello, Sunshine"Candid and thoughtful; readers will be sad to let go of Piper but eager to see what Cagan does next."-Publishers Weekly"Cagan tells Piper's story with amazing authenticity. soulful reading for any artistic teen with a dream."-Booklist, starred review"After reading Piper Perish I want to start my own handwritten, doodle-filled journal full of creativity, dreams, and adventures. This book captured that excitement I felt when I was a young artist full of hope tackling a big city. If a book could be my BFF, it would be this one." -Bonnie Burton, author of Crafting with Feminism and Girls Against Girls"A smart, complicated, emotionally mature, coming-of-age story that leaps off the page and reminds you why you ever dared to dream. Bonus points for every Houston shout-out." -Pamela Ribon, bestselling author of Notes to Boys: And Other Things I Shouldn't Share in Public"A love-letter to the artistic life, filled with glamour, passion, hunger and heartbreak." - author, graphic novelist, and two-time Eisner Award Winner Hope Larson"A great read for creative adults or teenagers who are on the precipice of becoming who they're meant to be."--Read it Forward

Kayla Cagan is a writer and playwright. She received her BFA in Theater from Stephen F. Austin University. She lives in Los Angeles. This is her first book.

I'm not a huge YA reader, but I couldn't put this book down! It's a must read for any artsy, creative teen and a really enjoyable title for the adults who once were them. Filled with relatable perspective of teens who have aspirations for greatness, despite others trying to hold them back. Learning to grow up, trust your gut with relationships, and how that self-determination can change the comfortable dynamics of friends and family. The synopsis speaks for itself so I won't give any

spoilers, but you won't regret giving this one a read.

What a breath of fresh air! Piper Perish is such a lovely read, full of humor and art, and it captures that unique feeling of being a teenager on the brink of adulthood so well. I'm buying this for all the teenagers in my life -- I can't recommend this book highly enough! Just buy it --- you won't regret it!

I can't lie, I bought this book because it's gorgeous. Possibly one of the most beautiful jackets and covers that I've seen. I also am a sucker for a book in diary format, but....I wish I had read some reviews before I read. But I did, and many are correct. I want to like so many of the characters but I can't, and it comes off very cliche and cheesy and over the top. It was pretty mature, I think a 14-18 year old might really enjoy it, but I was bummed. I was hoping to be wowed.

this book describes the struggle of wanting to escape so well. this has all the feelings that i've had for the last few months and counting.

Okay but, i still enjoyed it.

Terrific first novel. Fully captures the joy and angst of the teenage artist.

Piper is written entirely in a very casual stream-of-consciousness diary style, which did take some getting used to at first, but quickly turned into an absolute delight to read. It reads as exactly the style I like to write ~ no planning, little punctuation and a whole lot of feeling. This format makes it extremely easy to fall into Piper's world and become invested in her messy family situation and her obsession with art, Andy Warhol, and getting the heck out of Texas and to NYC. The art focus is a joy to find in the YA market, as there just aren't that many books to hand to budding artists that this closely speak to the artist's obsessions with creation and design. I can't wait to share this with my high school students! One story line that I became especially interested in was Piper's relationship with her sister, Marli. As you will find in the book, Marli is emotionally volatile and creates much tension for the entire family, as she has her entire life. I connected with this closely as a former special education teacher. In my work with students with emotional behavioral disabilities, many of the families I worked with were at a loss as to how to deal with the emotional turmoil their children exposed their families to. While Marli in this book is not technically labeled with a disorder

or disability, the symptoms remain the same. I was heartbroken for both Piper and her parents as they struggled to absorb MarliÃ¢s wild mood swings. I was also heartbroken for Marli as she (in my opinion) needed professional help for her struggles. This part of the story was woven in throughout the book, and was probably supposed to be a backdrop for the art focus, but I didnÃ¢t read it like that. ThatÃ¢s the joy of books - we can all experience them through our own lens! I will be purchasing a copy of this book for my high school library and another to check out to our high school art classroom. CaganÃ¢s bio on her website states that she will be releasing another novel with Chronicle in 2018 - I canÃ¢t wait! I received a digital review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This book has some breathtakingly beautiful writing, characters who will get under your skin, and a complex but relatable world that will suck you in and make it impossible for you put the novel down. Piper is so real to me and you will root for her from the first page. I'd highly recommend this for teens that love the arts, teens who are motivated or inspired, and for anyone who really wants a brilliant read. Adults will enjoy this just as much as young adults (speaking as a not-so-young adult).

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