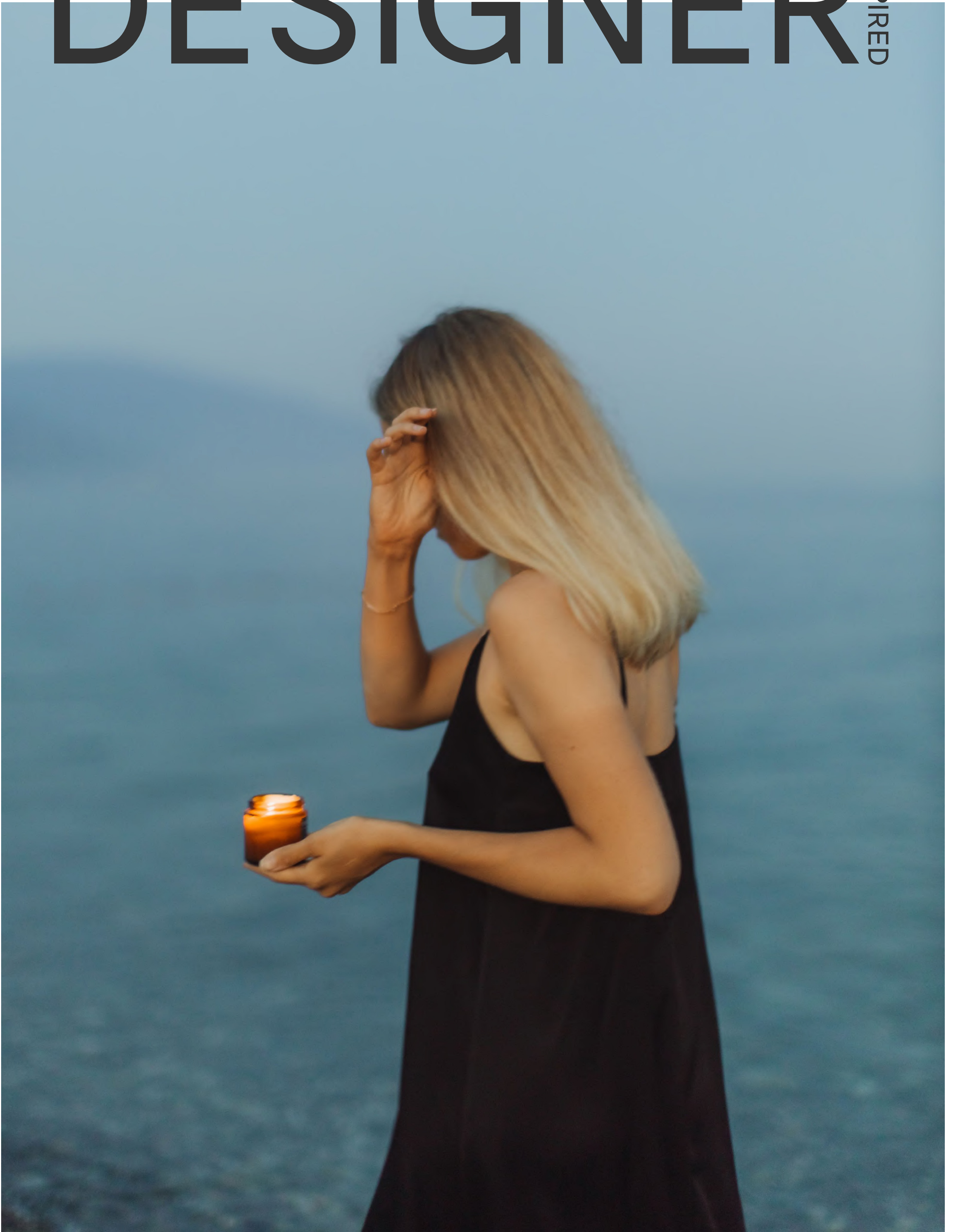


DESIGNER INSPIRED



VOLUME 2

A bite-sized magazine for today's modern woman devoted to style, home, travel & more by London-based designer Stacy Chan

New season style: Jumpers and boots
Work: Birth of a capsule candle line
Bucket list travel: The Northern Lights

DESIGNER'S NOTE



Welcome to Volume 2 of this magazine which is an extension of my interests outside of the Designer Journal blog on stacychan.com. The positive feedback from Volume 1 has been overwhelming and only underscores how much we are all looking for opportunities to connect and learn more from each other - and that means sharing parts of yourself outside of work.

In addition to the usual style guides, travel and books, I am so proud to finally share an exclusive look at my newest project. I have been working on this for some time and have approached it with the same authenticity and transparency as our existing collections. Lastly, this issue will cover my favourite time of year with a gift guide. Whether you celebrate Christmas or another holiday, I hope the coming season will fill you with joy, love and gratitude.

Thanks for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacy', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

3

STYLE

Bold, Not Boring
Jumpers

7

STYLE

These boots were
made for...

9

STYLE

Dark Nights &
Winter Whites

11

WORK

The birth of a
capsule candle line

19

GIFTING

Let's make it
personal

21

GIFTING

Spoiling the
holiday host

22

TRAVEL

The Northern Lights
in Finnish Lapland

26

BOOK CLUB

Latest
Recommendations

29

CREDITS

Lovely Photos and
Product Links

STYLE

A.

BOLD
NOT BORING
JUMPERS

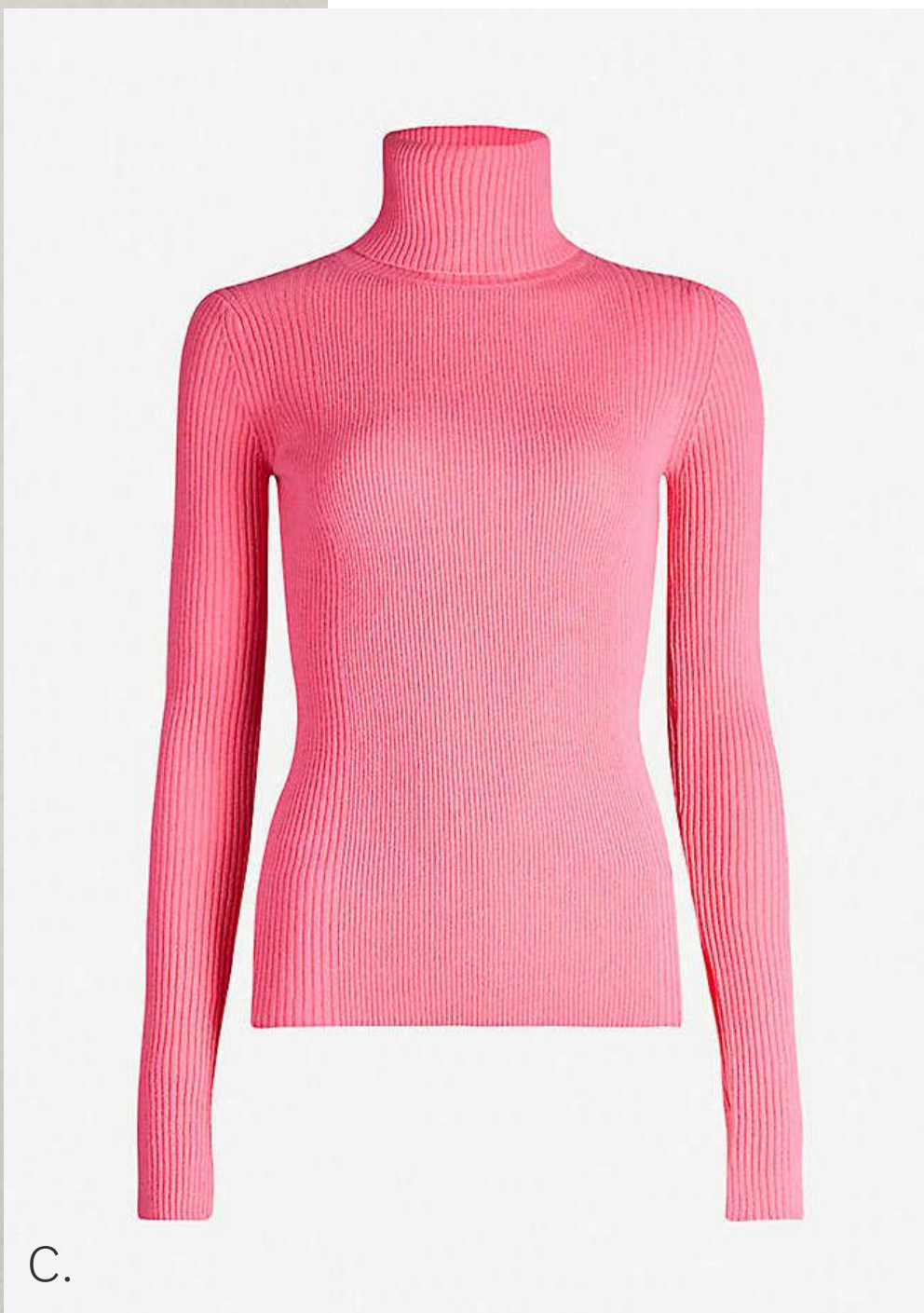
Bring on the jumpers! It is officially autumn, but cozy doesn't have to mean boring. We all know how much colour can affect your mood and what's better than pulling on a bright sweater to chase away those grey sky blues.

Whether you're working from home or heading out into the chill, here's my selection to lift your spirits from bold colours to fun stripes and slogan knits to get you through the coming season.



B.

EYE-CATCHING COLOUR



C.



D.



E.



F.

STRIPES TO MAKE YOU SMILE



G.



H.



I.



J.

SAY SOMETHING SWEATERS



K.



L.



THESE (CHELSEA) BOOTS WERE

Chelsea boots are having a moment lately and why not? They're easy to throw on, comfortable to walk in and look great. There is always the classic black on black option if you're looking for a chic staple, but I found these beautiful alternative styles that will have everyone asking where you got your new walking boots, especially the colourful Barker boots above.



B.



A.

E MADE FOR...WELL, YOU KNOW



C.



D.



E.

A. Barker, £250 B. Cheaney, £355 C. Russell & Bromley, £345 D. Aeyde, £225 E. Hudson, £110

DARK NIGHTS

ALWAYS CHIC BLACK



A.



B.



C.



D.

A. Stacy Chan, £295 B. 'S Max Mara. £795 C. Reiss, £225 D. Stacy Chan Belt. £65

WINTER WHITES

THE MODERN CLASSIC



E.



F.



H.



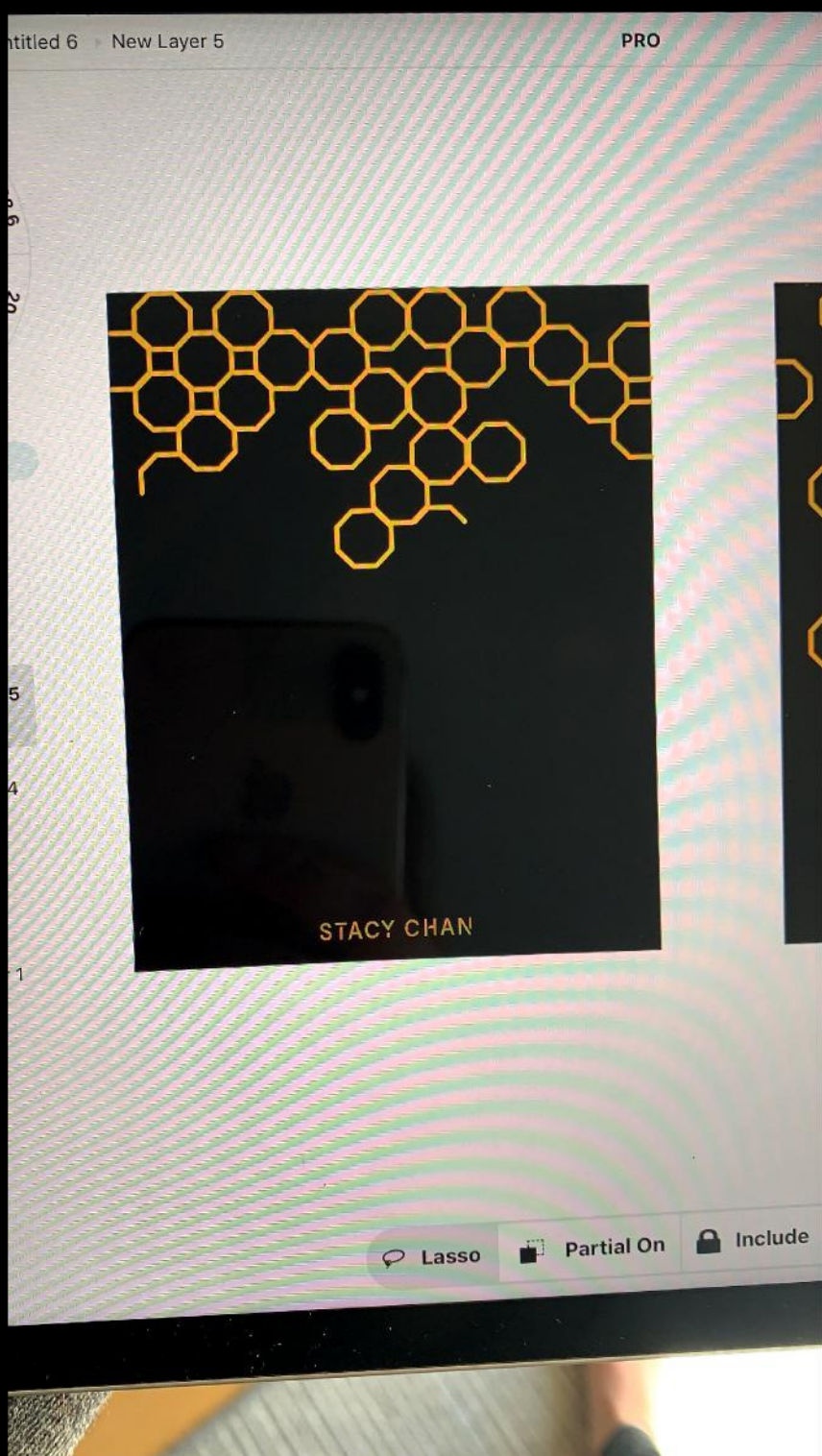
G.

E. Theory, £575 F. Stacy Chan, £395 G. Stacy Chan, From £45 H. Samsøe Samsøe, £120

WORK



THE BIRTH OF A CAPSULE CANDLE LINE



WHY CANDLES AND WHY NOW?

I remember in my early teens, as I was about to start my homework in the evenings, I would lay out all my books and assignments. I would sharpen my pencils and find my coloured highlighters. But the best part of my preparation would be getting to light a candle on my desk. It was as though that small flame somehow focused all my energy in this small space that I could claim as my own, if only for a short period of time.

Over the years, the candles got larger and nicer, but this small act of lighting a candle continues to conjure up feelings of escape from the outside world. I scatter flickering tea lights around a bath laced with aromatherapy oils, or light a luxurious scented candle while nursing a glass of wine, engrossed in a book. I love that such a small object can hold the power to instil warmth and calm.

So I starting thinking about making candles years ago at a time when our London pop-up

“I love that such a small object can hold the power to instil warmth and calm.”



shops were starting to gain traction. In between customer conversations and managing the store, I would try to sit down and work on this project, but there was never enough time to devote. During the months when the store was not open, I was focused on our main handbag collections, developing new colours and styles. Unfortunately, the candle project fell by the wayside as I fell into the rhythm of our stores and building our accessories collections.

And then 2020...this year has proved to be challenging for all of us in so many different ways. Despite these setbacks, I

am grateful that in addition to the health of my family and friends, it has also given me the time to slow down and therefore find the creative space to work on and develop my love of candles. And there couldn't be a better time, as I know we need a bit of comfort and escape now.

WHERE TO START?

I wanted to create unisex candles that were unique, personal and, staying true to my brand ideals, the highest quality. So as it is with all my projects, I decided the most important place to start was with education.



I enrolled in a fine fragrance creation course which first trained my nose to learn a host of scents both familiar and unfamiliar to me over the span of several weeks. Then I learned to write my own fragrance briefs and use this to create, mix and refine my own formulas. The whole course was a wonderful 2-month journey of discovery, and when it was finished, I was excited to apply my new knowledge.

Although my handbags are all made in Italy, I wanted to produce my candles closer to home. I spoke with a number of UK candle makers and at first, I looked for an existing fragrance that would fit into the briefs that I had developed. However, my search proved in vain, as nothing was quite right. I decided to take my learnings and develop my own formulas to create fragrances that are more personal.

I felt as though I was back in chemistry class weighing, measuring and tweaking my scent formulas, but it has been such a rewarding endeavour. I then found a perfect partner in a small East London candle-maker who was extremely honest, knowledgeable and dedicated to making a premium quality product.

“I decided to take my learnings and develop my own formulas to create fragrances that are more personal.”

some lower-end candles may contain a lower percentage of fragrance and only focus on one or two ingredients like vanilla or peach.

Our hand-poured candles are made from 100% vegan wax, which is a natural blend of rapeseed and coconut waxes, and use a cotton wick to ensure a clean burn. Additionally, we contain a higher percentage of our fragrance to ensure a strong, lasting scent throw. Each of the formulas I have developed is a combination of 10 to 15 different scents that I hope will take you on a journey.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION?

With our accessories collections, most of my inspiration comes from shapes and colours that I see, whether on buildings or in nature. However, my candle inspirations came not from something that I saw, but from feelings and memories. I am an avid traveller and I love how a smell can conjure up so many things and transport us to another place. The first places I wanted to bring to life are the two places in the world I have been lucky enough to call home.

I am so proud of the capsule candle line that I have created. Our two unisex fragrances feature luxury, minimalist packaging and an insert with a summary of inspirations for each candle. I hope you will love them and that you will allow them to transport you to another place, another feeling...

WHAT GOES INTO MAKING A PREMIUM CANDLE?

Many commercial candles are made from paraffin wax as it allows them use less fragrance to achieve a good “scent throw”. The downside is that you are burning a derivative of petroleum oil, which can give off harmful fumes in your home. In addition,



WEST VILLAGE

a quiet evening amidst the bustle of NYC

Born and raised in New York, I also worked a few years in investment banking in Manhattan before moving to London. Although I was working 85 hours a week, I had a thirst for life that the city was only too happy to quench with restaurants, theatre, bars and so much more – all open until the early hours of the morning. To this day, I'm not sure how I got by on so little sleep during those years, and I would not trade those experiences for anything. However, the New York that stays with me are not those late nights with colleagues in the office, the thumping music of some new club or the amazing restaurants that have now long been replaced.

The New York I love is this - at the end of a long night out with friends, when everyone is tired, but also not ready to say goodbye. "Just one more drink." you say as you head to your favourite place, hidden away in the West Village. You step into the quiet oasis, leaving behind the noise of the city.

Distressed brick walls and worn wooden tables. Low lights and candles dotted around the intimate space. Easy banter and shared secrets as you nurse those last drinks into the late hours.



WEST VILLAGE

a quiet evening amidst the bustle of NYC



STACY CHAN

100% VEGAN WAX | HAND POURED IN LONDON



PRIMROSE HILL

a fresh walk overlooking the London skyline

I have lived in London for over 14 years now and for 12 of those years, I have had my amazing Labrador Charlie by my side. She was the embodiment of joy and love, bringing smiles to everyone she met. Those of you who have been long-time supporters will know that I said goodbye to Charlie in April this year. Almost every morning, we walked together on Primrose Hill where she would happily bound after tennis balls and offer them to strangers.

A few years ago, Charlie had surgery to remove a brain tumour, and following her successful operation, I made a conscious effort to not take for granted the moments we had together. From then on, I walked with her so many mornings, rain or shine, inhaling the fresh air, and feeling grateful as I saw her smiling face, knowing that each day we shared was a gift.

You breathe deep and feel the green grass underfoot, small flowers just beginning to appear as you climb to the top of Primrose Hill. Drops of dew clinging to leaves while the sun begins to warm the air and light up the skyline stretching out before you.

In memory of Charlie, 15% of the net proceeds of our Primrose Hill candle will go to the Royal Veterinary College's Animal Care Trust which has been improving animal health and care for over 30 years. This is where Charlie received her life-saving brain surgery. You can read more about the ACT and Charlie by [clicking here](#).



PRIMROSE HILL
a fresh walk overlooking the London skyline



STACY CHAN
100% VEGAN WAX | HAND Poured IN LONDON



Let's Make It Personal!

Looking for a thoughtful gift for someone special? Here are some lovely options to let them know you're thinking of them.



Choose from 12 colours and 3 sizes for your hand-painted Italian leather pouches and handbags done by yours truly, Stacy Chan from £45.



These simple cotton pajamas from Look & Cover come in different colours and you can choose to monogram the shirt, shorts or pajama bottoms. From £45.





This Engraved Oak Company allows you to personalise cutting/cheese boards,, bath trays, charging stations and even wellie racks. This platter is £139.50.



Personalised chocolate? Put your own words, photos and colours on m&m's - need I say more? From £32.



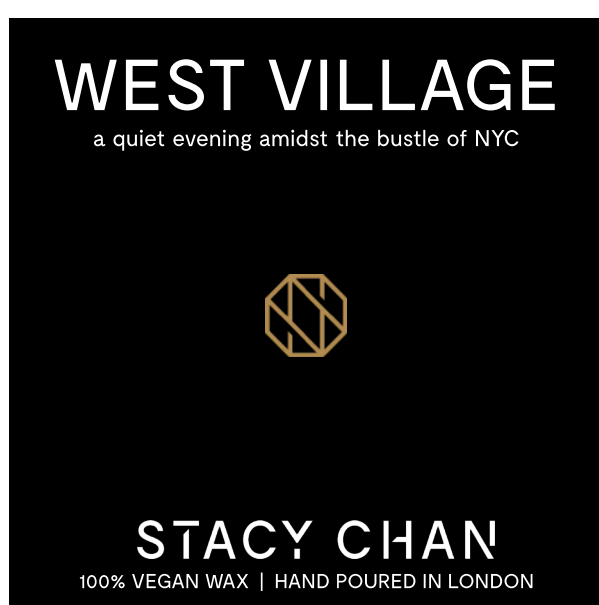
Customise these Papier planners and notebooks with names and initials. Take your pick from so many designs ranging from opulent prints to minimalist block colours. £20.

Spoiling the Holiday Host

Need a great gift for the host/hostess who has everything? Or maybe just something to make your own place feel extra special this year. These stylish finds will always be welcome in any home.



Why have one bottle, when you can have 24? This Laithwaite's advent calendar is perfect for the wine lover in your life. Pre-Order £59.99.



Our new vegan wax candles are a lovely gift. Hand poured in London, they will be available for pre-order in early November. £35.



Laura Elizabeth's handblown glass vases are inspired by the waters of Bermuda – no two are alike. From £120.



Spoil someone with the unmistakable elegance of a handblown Riddell decanter. Sale £396.



This walnut cake platter resting on a gold tray is almost too beautiful to put cake on. Almost. £192.

TRAVEL

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS & FINNISH LAPLAND

I opened my eyes and all I could see was white. I didn't feel any pain, which meant nothing was broken and my initial panic subsided. Luckily, I had completely forgotten the safety instructions about what to do if our snowmobile overturned. If I had remembered, my left leg would probably have been trapped between the vehicle and the hidden tree trunk that derailed us.

We were on the first full day of our trip in Finnish Lapland and halfway through our snowmobile safari when my partner managed to get our tracks caught on a hidden fallen tree, causing us to veer 10 metres off the path before flipping us on our side. As our guide circled back to check both us and the snowmobile for damages, he was shocked that we all emerged



unscathed. Luckily, this was the only danger we encountered on our adventure in the Arctic Circle.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

As soon as I saw the stunning photos of the glass igloos under the Aurora Borealis in an article about the Kakslauttenen Resort, it was immediately added to my travel bucket list. What could be more

picturesque than drifting to sleep with the Northern Lights dancing overhead. After months of planning and anticipation, we finally arrived at the resort. We took an early flight from London to Helsinki and another short flight up to Ivalo before spending a chilly hour in a van. It was well into the evening when we arrived cold and exhausted, and we were more than ready to fall into bed.

However, as we made our way through the snow to our glass igloo, the night sky was glowing with two long green waves of light moving almost imperceptibly. We passed many visitors excitedly taking selfies and others with professional camera equipment to capture this phenomenon. I steered us quickly past the groups though, as I had done my research -

the coming days would see an even more impressive display of lights from increased electromagnetic disturbance in the sky. So I happily prepared for sleep after exploring our cozy glass dome and watched the private light show that I was sure would be even better the next few days. As luck would have it, this would be our only night under the glow of the Northern Lights as the remainder of our stay would be under deep cloud cover and snow.

HUSKIES!

As a dog lover, our trip to Lapland would certainly not have been complete without a husky sled safari. Each couple was assigned a sled with six beautiful and exuberant dogs. We learned about their training, how they were paired based on compatibility with each other and placed

according to their skills. The smarter dogs were placed in the front as they knew which path to follow and how to stay with the rest of the group. The next two dogs were fast and kept the pace for the pack while the ones at the back were the strongest, as they were the first to take on the weight being pulled.

It was lovely to see these beautiful animals who were all very eager to get going. They were so strong and at times, my weight on the manual brake was not enough to stop them from pulling us further along. And although it was snowing and extremely cold for us despite our gear, each time we stopped the sled, the pack of dogs would dive into the snow to cool off, with big smiles on their faces covered in fresh powder ready to run or accept cuddles.





LEAVING FOR HOME

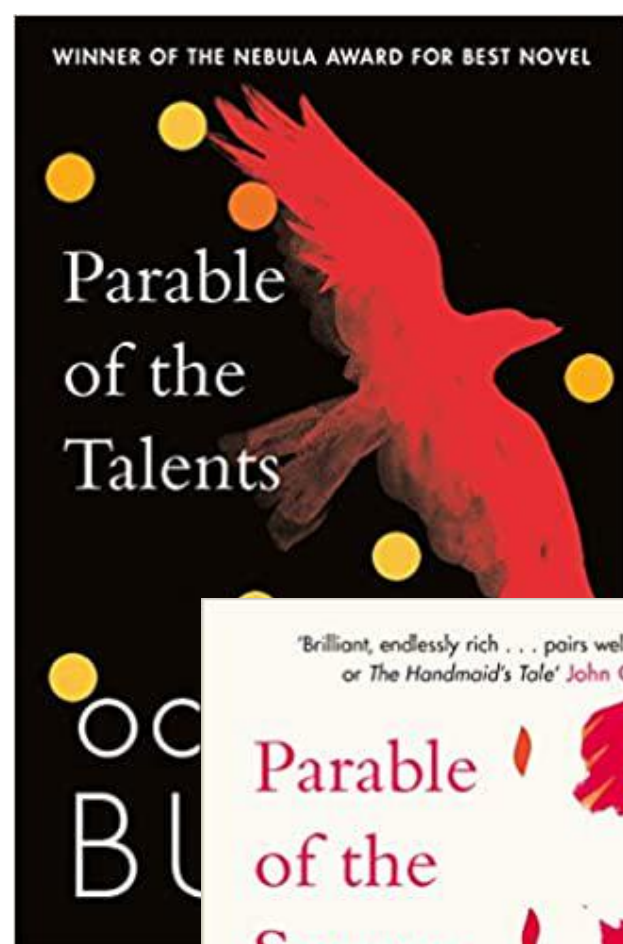
Following two nights in our glass igloo, I booked a log cabin for proper showers and beds and I was not disappointed. With a large clawfoot tub, a private sauna and exposed fireplace, we enjoyed the peace and quiet, interrupted only by the crackling of firewood.

After a few more days soaking up the picturesque scenery, we reluctantly left the serenity of this remote resort taking fresh air in our lungs and a sense of calm back to our busy everyday lives.

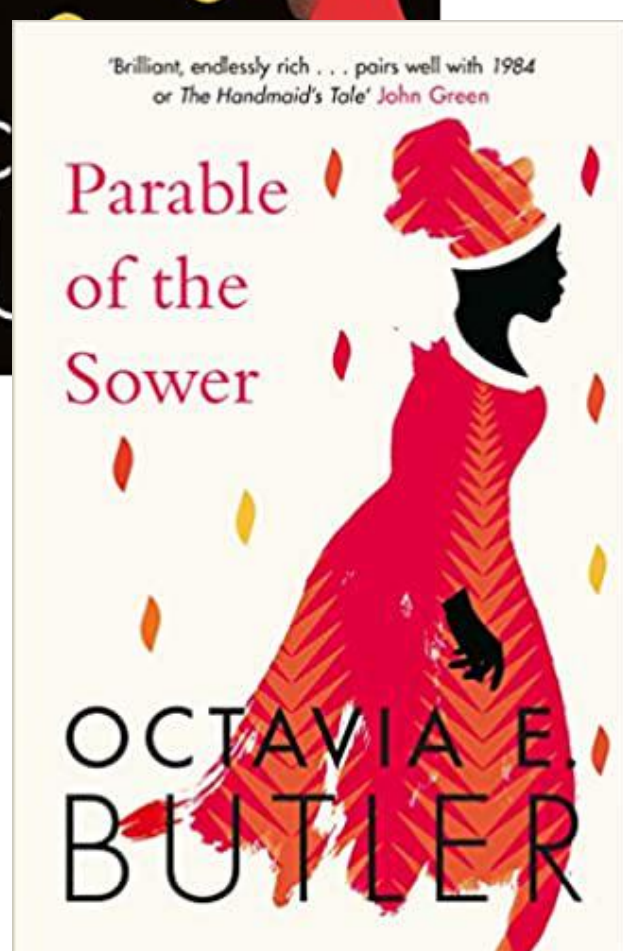




Is there a better time to snuggle up with a good book than when the weather turns? The virtual book club I set up at the beginning of the year continues to select really interesting stories that moved me, worried me and educated me. But if you're looking for something a bit more light-hearted, I've included some suggestions for that as well.



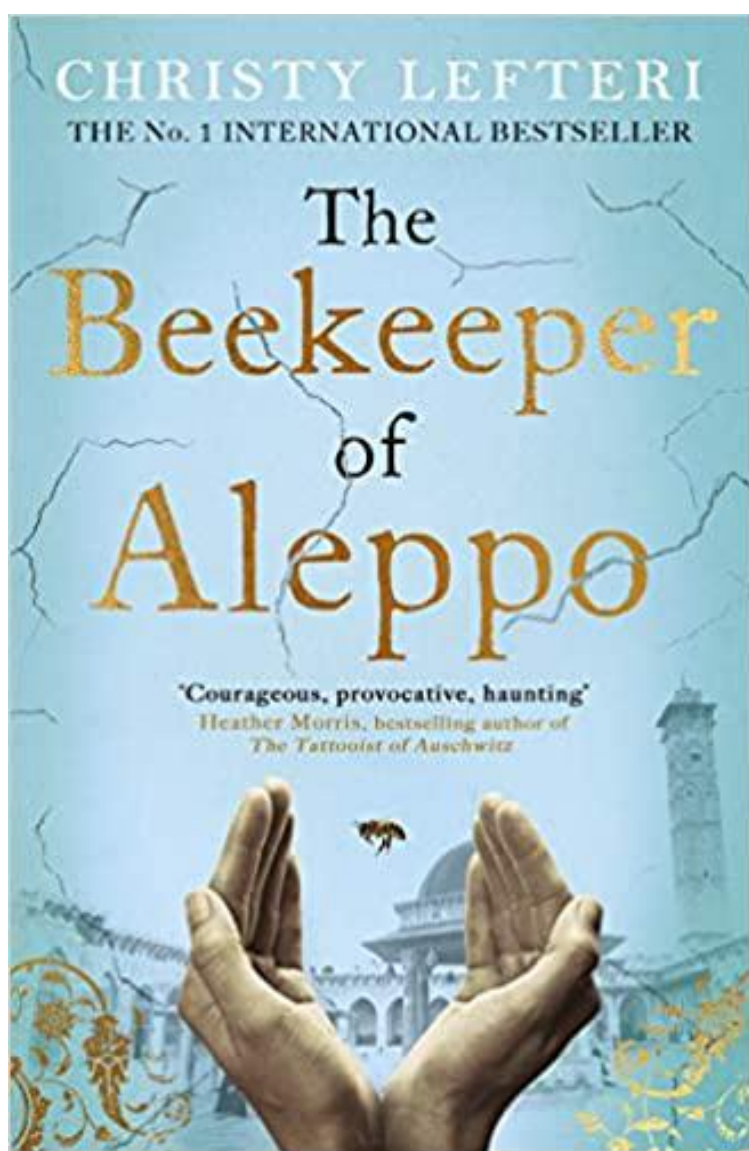
B.



A.

It is shocking to me that *Parable of the Sower* was written in the early 1990s and its sequel only a few years later. The story begins with a teenage girl in dystopian California born with "hyper-empathy" which forces her to feel the physical pain of others. While this is a key feature in the book, the main themes are a product of the harrowing breakdown of society resulting from climate change.

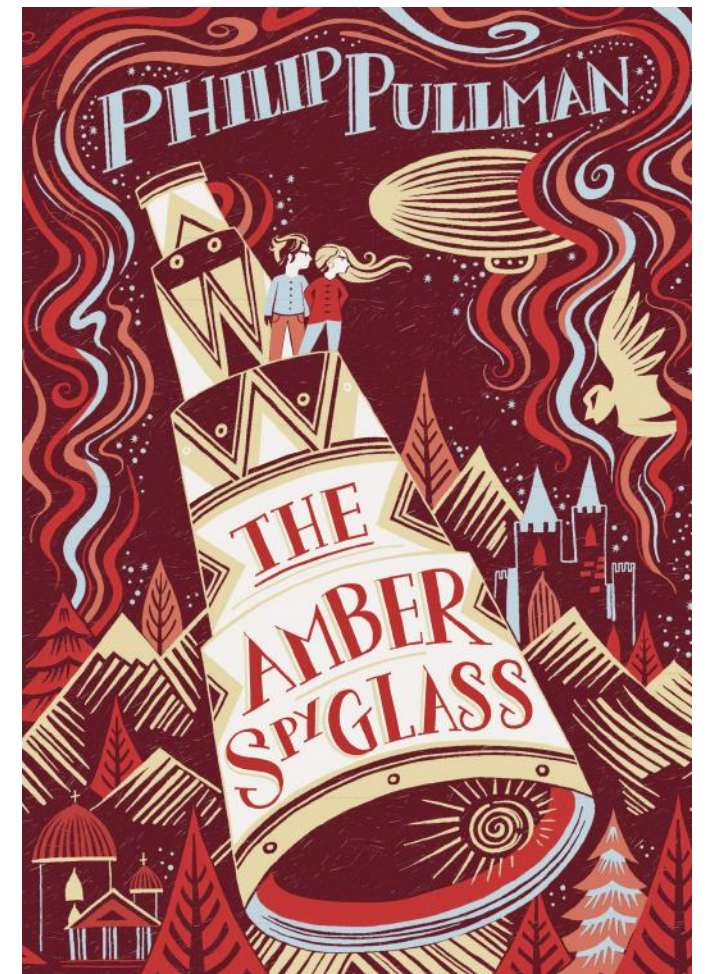
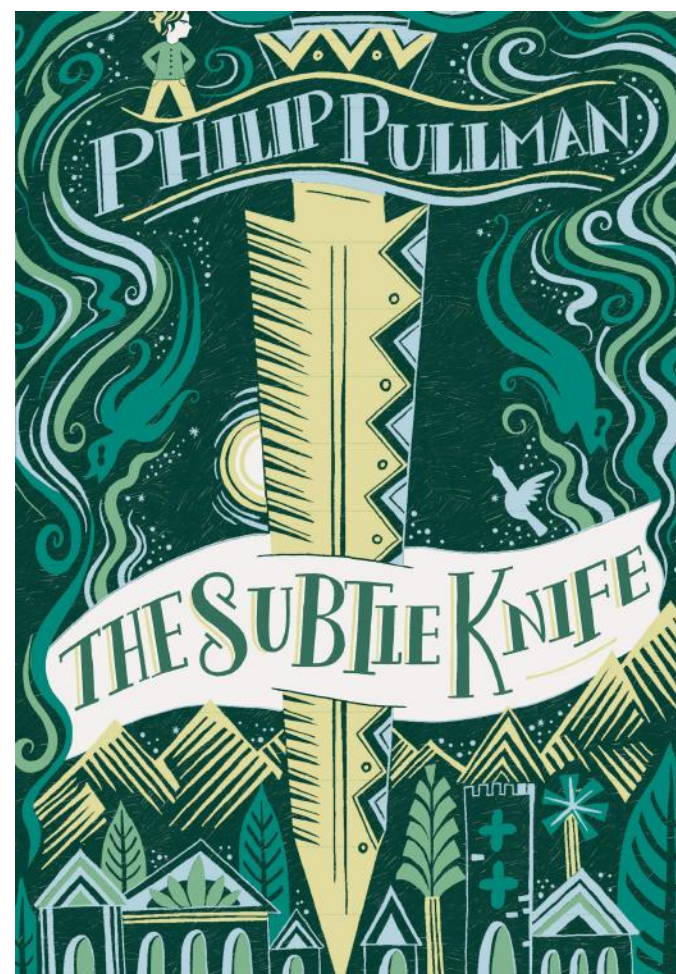
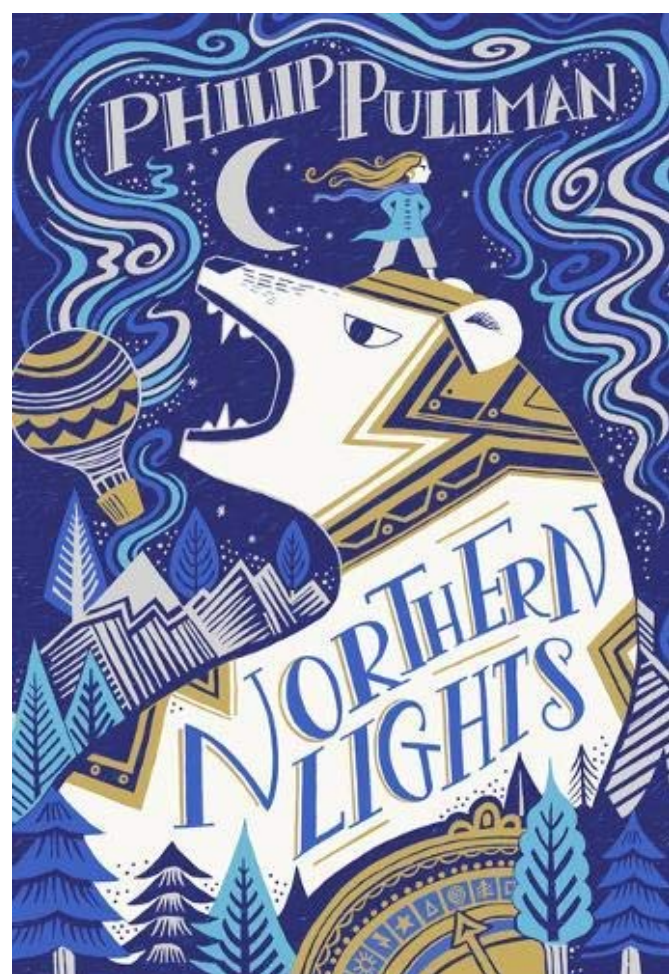
The story speaks of racism, class divisions, the horrors that people are capable of inflicting on each other and also the humanity that still remains. The first book is a difficult and emotional read, but I was drawn into the story and wanted to know what was next in store for the characters. The sequel presents even more atrocities, partly stemming from the rise of a US President who uses the slogan "make America great again." While these books are remarkably prescient, well-told stories, they are not for the faint of heart.



C.

This was my choice for book club as although I had heard a lot of positive things, I did not know much about the story. The novel is about a Syrian refugee couple recounting their traumatic journey to the UK. Christy Lefteri wrote this after spending time volunteering in a refugee camp in Athens and listening to the stories of the people she met.

Her simple, straightforward prose made this sad tale that much more heart-breaking. The first few chapters had me in tears before I became almost numb to the sorrow that the main characters experienced themselves and saw happening around them. This was an emotional story that reminds us how much we all have in common.



D.

And now for something a bit less serious. I was not so much recommended the His Dark Materials trilogy as I was shamed into it. “What?? I can’t believe you haven’t read this!!” So in between our selected book club readings, I began Philip Pullman’s adventure series and I absolutely loved it. I enjoyed the first book so much, I dared to recommend it to my 10 year old nephew (“not enough action in the first two chapters, Aunt Stacy!”), but I’m hoping he’ll come back to it when he has a little more patience.

I loved the second book even more than the first and I am part way through the final novel. The descriptive language is beautiful, going beyond what I would normally ascribe to a children’s book, and the stories show so much imagination. In general, the books are about a 12-year old heroine, Lyra, who, in the course of finding out who she is and rescuing her friends, becomes tasked with saving the many different worlds in existence - and of course she meets a cast of wonderful characters along the way.

Pullman has so expertly crafted all these worlds, I could really see the characters come to life and I can’t wait to find out what happens in the finale! For anyone who has not already been introduced to this series, no shame, but I can not recommend it enough.

Stay up to date with book club and read more in-depth reviews by clicking [here](#).



STACY CHAN

DESIGNED IN LONDON, HAND MADE IN ITALY

CREDITS

IMAGES

Cover: Photo by Anastasia Shuraeva

Designer's Notes: Stacy Chan

Pg. 3: Reiss

Pg. 7-8: Barker Shoes

Pg. 11-14: Stacy Chan

Pg. 16: Ye Waverly Inn, GoogleMaps. Candle, Elina Sazonova. Martini & wood carving, cottonbro from Pexels

Pg. 18: Wet grass, PhotoMix from Pexels. The rest, Stacy Chan

Pg. 19: Background, Annie Spratt

Pg. 22: Jack Redgate

Pg. 23-25: Stacy Chan

Pg. 26: cottonbro from Pexels

All other images are from the brands listed and I have provided links to the websites where you can find the items while the book images are linked to Amazon. With many (but not all) of the links, if you click through and purchase something, I may earn a small commission to support this publication. I have not included products because of this and I have only chosen things that I like and/or use myself from a variety of brands large and small. Rest assured, you will not be paying a different price than other customers and have absolutely no obligation to click on or buy anything. Just read and enjoy!

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