

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

Starfish is a story about the struggle of a teenager named Kiko Himura who has to live with her selfish mother and worries. Kiko Himura is born biracial, namely half white, half Japanese. After the divorce of her parents, she lived with her mother and her two brothers. Kiko's mother is a selfish person and never cares about the feelings of her children. Kiko always has difficulty saying what she wants to her mother. Therefore, Kiko is looking for a way to leave her toxic life. Kiko enrolls her in the art school of her dreams. Kiko believes that by entering her dream art school, her life will change much better.

But then Kiko doesn't get into Prism, at the same time her abusive uncle moves back in with her family. Her uncle is the cause of Kiko experiencing anxiety whenever around her. The anxiety arose because of the negative experiences Kiko had in her past. Then she reunited with her childhood friend, Jamie. Jamie invites Kiko to leave her small town and tour art schools on the west coast, Kiko jumps at the opportunity despite the anxieties and fears that attempt to hold her back.

A lot of things happened to her after she moved to California. There Kiko became a better person than before and she started to open up a little to the world. Kiko is dating Jamie. In California, Kiko keeps herself busy with her art. Kiko also meets a famous artist and becomes her student. However, after hearing the news that her brother tried to commit suicide and was admitted to the hospital, Kiko decided to return to her city. Before that, Kiko found out the truth that the real reason for her parent's divorce was not her father who cheated on her but her mother who cheated on her father Jamie. It makes Kiko very sad and she decide to end her relationship with Jamie and went to see her brother at the hospital.

At the end of the story, Kiko receives news that she was accepted into Prism for Jamie's efforts to enroll Kiko again at her dream art school. Kiko said goodbye to everyone close to her. Kiko chose to move to California and spend a year there while working in a cafe, working on her art, and saving up for her school. So, the following year she will move to New York and attend Prism. Kiko begins to accept herself and live with her anxiety.

APPENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Akemi Dawn Bowman was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada when she was a toddler. Bowman was homeschooled for four years and she continued his education at Las Vegas Academy High School as a band major. After graduating, she served in the United States Navy for five years as an IT. She has a degree in Social Studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She currently lives in Scotland with her husband and two children. Bowman often focuses on mental health in his novels based on her own experiences growing up.

Her debut novel entitled “Starfish” became a William C. Morris Award Finalist and brought him fame. Starfish was chosen as a New York Public Library 2017 Best Book for Teens. Paste Magazine called Starfish the best debut YA novel of 2017, and later declared it one of the top 30 young adult books of the 2010s. Additionally, in 2020 it won the MeMO award for best youth novel.

Bowman's other novels have received numerous awards and nominations, such as “Summer Bird Blue”, and “Generation Misfits” were each named a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. Additionally, Bowman's debut middle-grade novel “Generation Misfits” was featured on the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books' cover for the July/August 2021 issue, and received a Big Picture honor and a starred review. “Summer Bird Blue” was chosen for the same honor in 2018. In 2021, Bowman's work “Harley in the Sky” was named a top pick for the Kansas NEA Reading Circle List High School Title. Locus Magazine included The Infinity Courts in their annual Recommended Reading List for the year 2021.