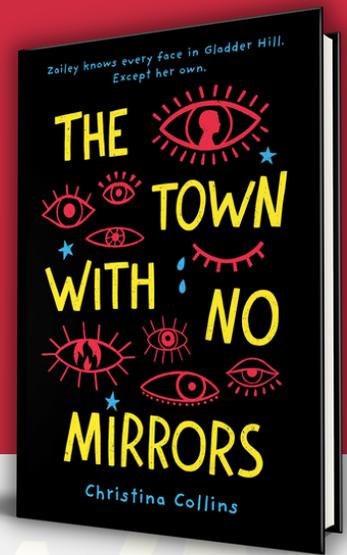


THE TOWN WITH NO MIRRORS

Discussion Guide



ABOUT THE BOOK

Zailey has never seen her own face. She's never seen her reflection, or a photo of herself, or even a drawing. Here at Gladder Hill, cameras and mirrors are banned, words like "beautiful" and "ugly" aren't in the dictionaries, and it's wrong to talk—or even think—about anyone's appearance, including one's own. People are happier at Gladder Hill—or so Zailey's been taught—so her fascination with her classmates' faces is a guilty secret. She starts to wonder about the world outside the community, the past she can't quite remember, and most of all, what she looks like. When a fateful event leads Zailey beyond the gates of Gladder Hill, she finally has a chance to have her questions answered. But is she prepared for the truth?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christina Collins grew up in Massachusetts and now lives in Northern Ireland, where she's always on the lookout for castle ruins and secret gardens. She holds a PhD from Queen's University Belfast and an MFA from George Mason University, both in creative writing. Her debut novel, *After Zero*, was a 2019 NCTE/CLA Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts. Visit her website at www.christinacollinsbooks.com.

Praise for THE TOWN WITH NO MIRRORS

"*The Giver* meets *Uglies* in this intricately crafted world where any mention of looks is considered 'superficial' and children are kept from seeing their own faces. Christina Collins delivers a fast-paced, imaginative, and thoughtful tale that is **destined to be the next beloved dystopian novel.**" — Brigit Young, author of *The Prettiest*

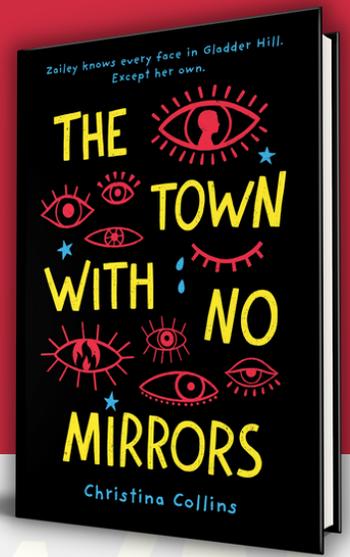
"A **captivating reflection** of how we see ourselves and others. Readers simply won't be able to look away." — Abby Cooper, author of *Sticks and Stones*

"**Immensely intriguing**... sure to spark consideration of body image, beauty concepts, and what truly defines an individual" — *Booklist*

"Collins (*After Zero*) engages in a **thoughtful psychological examination** of how people view themselves and their bodies, touching briefly on body dysmorphia and disordered eating, and succeeds in creating a chilling vibe." — *Publisher's Weekly*

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1. In Chapter 1, Beryl is fascinated that no one in Gladder Hill knows what their own face looks like, and she tells Zailey, "...it doesn't seem fair... I mean, don't you have the right to know?" Do you agree? Or do you think it's okay to try to keep people from knowing what they look like for certain reasons? Explain.
2. What are the pros and cons of living in Gladder Hill? Would you want to live there if given the chance? Why or why not?
3. If you were in charge of creating a community like Gladder Hill—a town as unconcerned with appearances as possible—would you go about it the same way as Principal Gladder does? What would you do differently, if anything? Would you add or change any rules?
4. We learn from Zailey's interactions with Beryl that certain words, such as "cute," aren't used in Gladder Hill, and Zailey also finds a list of forbidden words in Chapter 21. What other words or phrases can you think of that likely wouldn't be mentioned in Gladder Hill?
5. Noah and Grandma have different reactions when they discover Zailey's secret sketchbook or "face collection." If you lived in Gladder Hill and discovered Zailey's sketchbook, what do you think you would do?
6. In Chapter 25, Principal Gladder tells Zailey, "I thought a controlled environment could keep you from caring about appearances. But maybe it's part of human nature." What do you think?
7. The epilogue reveals whether or not Principal Gladder will try to keep the Gladder Hill community going. Do you think she made the right decision? Why or why not?
8. Who (or what) do you think is the villain of this story, if anyone? Why?
9. What would make a good alternative title for this book, instead of *The Town with No Mirrors*?
10. Adults in Gladder Hill tell tales of "the mirror demon" to scare kids so they won't want to look in mirrors. Make up your own legend or fairy tale about mirrors that might be told in Gladder Hill.