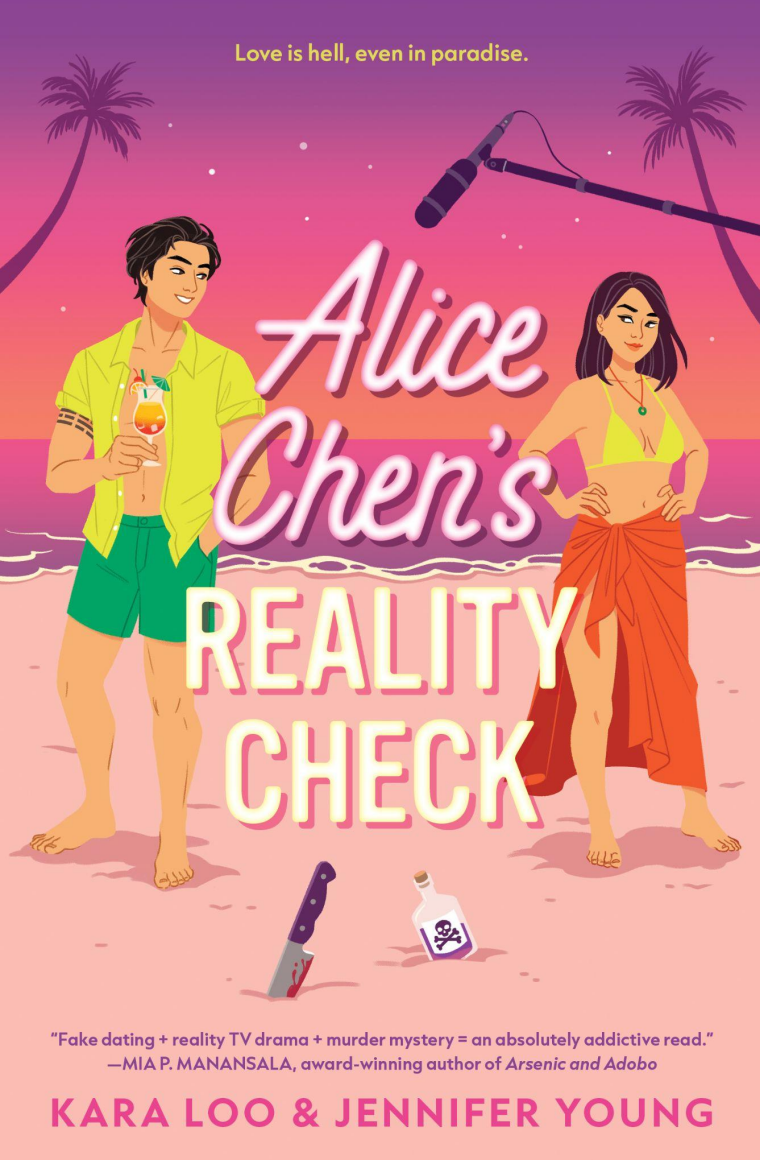Love is hell, even in paradise.

"Fake dating + reality TV drama + murder mystery = an absolutely addictive read."
—MIA P. MANANSALA, award-winning author of *Arsenic and Adobo*

KARA LOO & JENNIFER YOUNG

TR: 9781683694779
$17.99 US/$23.99 CAN
On Sale: 6/3/2025
384 Pages

Love is hell, even in paradise.

A reality show contestant must fake date her rival while solving a murder in this sizzling romcom set on a tropical island. Perfect for fans of *Dial A for Aunties* and *One to Watch*, this swoonworthy rivals-to-lovers romance with a murder mystery twist is your next must-read.

Alice Chen doesn't believe in true love, but she does believe in cold, hard cash. Buckling under the weight of student debt and her mother's medical bills, Alice will do anything to make bank—even star on *Dawn Tay's Inferno*, the hot new reality TV show designed to push couples to their breaking point.

The show is Alice's chance to sip cocktails on the beach and win a cash prize of a million dollars. Everything is going according to plan...until her jerk fiancé breaks up with her during the second week of filming. To stay in the game, Alice agrees to fake-date the other newly single contestant: her high school rival and sworn enemy, Daniel Cho. But it turns out that all's fair in love and reality TV, and Alice isn't the only one who will do whatever it takes to win. When a dead body turns up, Alice and Daniel are faced with uncovering the secrets of the cast and crew to catch the killer—all while playing the loving couple on camera. As the reality show spirals out of control, Alice must confront her true feelings and crack the case if she wants to make it off the island alive.

Starring a murder mystery twist, plenty of reality show drama, and a thrilling romance, this debut by up-and-coming Asian American writer duo Kara Loo and Jennifer Young is the ultimate beach read.

MORE ABOUT THE BOOK

- **A ROMCOM MURDER MYSTERY FOR ROMANCE FANS:** Reality dating show romance meets murder mystery in this genre-bending book perfect for contemporary romance readers, particularly fans of books such as *Dial A for Aunties* and *One to Watch*.

- **REALITY TV DRAMA WITH A TWIST:** Featuring dating reality show drama (inspired by shows like *The Bachelor* and *Love Island*), a thrilling murder mystery, and a rivals-to-lovers romance, this is the ultimate beach read.

- **THRILLING, SWOONWORTHY, AND RELATABLE:** Set on a tropical island, this makes for an entertaining, escapist read that manages to stay thought-provoking and relatable as it touches on sexism in Hollywood, a fraught mother-daughter relationship, and wealth inequality.

- **ASIAN AMERICAN ROMANCE BY ASIAN AMERICAN AUTHORS:** From *Crazy Rich Asians* to *The Kiss Quotient*, Asian American romance— supported by Asian American readers—has been having a moment. Fans of Helen Hoang, Jesse Q. Sutanto, and Jayci Lee are on the lookout for more contemporary romance, and this book is perfect for that audience.

- **UP-AND-COMING WRITER DUO:** Authors Jennifer Young and Kara Loo are game writers with a talent for writing wildly popular interactive fiction. Their writing credits include romance and murder mystery stories for the hit mobile game *Choices: Stories You Play*, which has over 50 million downloads on Google Play.

Alice Chen's Reality Check **will have a companion book club kit featuring activities, discussion starters, and more ideas for how to host the perfect bookish event!**

MEET THE AUTHORS!

Kara Loo and Jennifer Young are both game writers who have been writing together since high school, when they plotted out stories at slumber parties over mugs of hot chocolate. Their game writing credits include hit interactive fiction games *Surviving High School* from Electronic Arts, and *High School Story* (30M downloads LTD), *Hollywood U* (10M downloads, and *Choices: Stories You Play* (90M downloads LTD) from Pixelberry Studios.

Kara Loo is a reality TV fan who can be found enjoying afternoon tea whenever possible.

Jennifer Young is an avid romance reader and Dungeons & Dragons adventurer.