



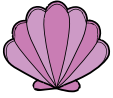
Summer Fall

2024

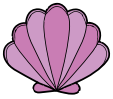
# Siren Says

a zine  
by  
Nerisiren

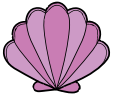
# CONTENTS



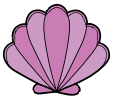
**NeriSiren Says: An Ode to Francine Pascal**



**It's Still Summer in Sweet Valley:  
an SVH book review (excerpt)**



**Book Grotto: Summerween**



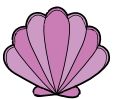
**Movie Grotto: Summerween II**



**Book Grotto 2: Summerween III**



**Siren's Playlist: Summer Daze**



**Something Random**



**Shameless Plug!**

# NeriSiren Says

Well. I didn't think I'd be writing THIS editor's letter, but . . . Francine Pascal, creator of *Sweet Valley*, has died. At 92, Pascal was a legend, an icon, a GOAT in my book, and I am grateful beyond words for her impact on tadpole NeriSiren.

*Sweet Valley* is still one of my favorite obsessions. I have such glorious memories of the hours I spent at my local library, blocking the *Sweet Valley Kids* shelf because I had to read the newest-to-me books **right there**.

Funny enough, I only really started getting into the flagship *Sweet Valley High* series during the past five years or so, when I started listening to the *Double Love* podcast (@svhpcast on Instagram/Threads) hosted by Anna Carey and Karyn Moynihan.

I HIGHLY recommend you check it out if you're a *Sweet Valley* fan, a fellow #90sKid, or even just academically curious about the golden age of the teen paperback book series. There's also a spinoff subscription podcast where Anna and Karyn review the **very** 90s TV series.

Continued...

Through them, I've found a community of fellow Sweet Valley obsessives (I mean that in the best possible way) with whom I can geek out and lovingly snark about all the unhinged Jessica schemes and sanctimonious Saint Liz shoulder pats and maniacal doppelgänger attacks and lawsuit-worthy survivalist programs and that time they basically warped back to Victorian London and busted a werewolf serial killer...

So thank you, Francine Pascal, for bringing me such gloriously sun-drenched, Spanish-tiled, silk-smothered, Gemini-powered, Pacific Ocean-tinted joy. Thank you for comforting my inner California Gurl through those brutal first few winters in Wisconsin.

And thank you for inspiring us grown-up #80s and #90sKids to quit the stuffy, overly serious Adulting gig and return to our pastel-colored, time-enbubbled hometown on the Southern California coast.

Neri Siren



IT'S STILL

SUMMER

in Sweet Valley

an edited excerpt from my blog,

Postcards from La La Land

September 26, 2019

← see back cover for deets!



## Sweet Valley High: Academic All-Star?

a Graphic Novel by Katy Rex, et al.

**Rating: 5 out of 5** charities Elizabeth is knitting scarves for while saving wetlands and rehabilitating circus horses.

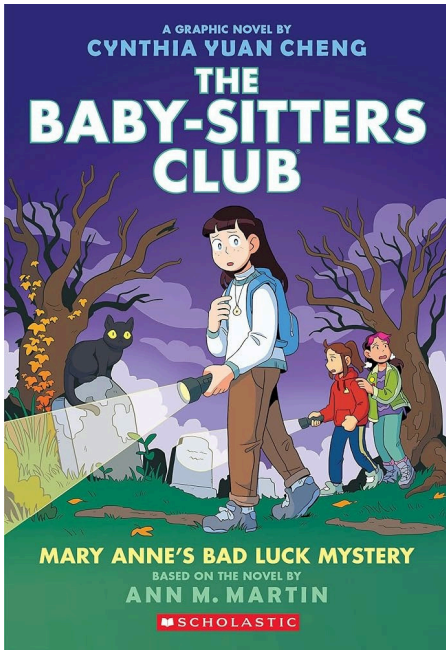
**Recommended if you like:** loving parodies, skillfully updated characters, stories set in the present day that still somehow feel nostalgic.

Liz is a **relatable** over-extended Renaissance Woman. Jess **can** tell Shakespeare from a milkshake! (\*eyes the TV show\*).

I still can't wait for the Double Love podcast to delve into this one. I just know Anna and Karyn will LOL over Todd's multiple melodramatic exits from French bistros (my alternate rating system).

# The Book Grotto

# SUMMERWEEN : #SpookyGirlClubs



Mary Anne's Bad Luck Mystery (BSC Graphix # 13), by Cynthia Yuan Cheng



Mary Anne miiiiight have accidentally cursed the whole club by not taking a chain letter seriously. But chain letters are totally fake, right? ... Right?



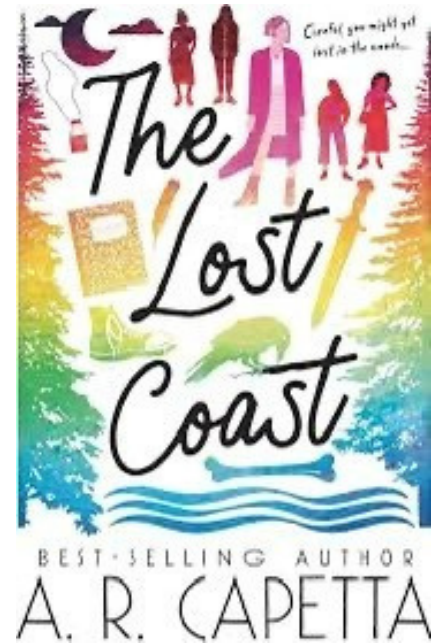
Lumberjanes: Ghost Cabin, by Mariko Tamaki



Molly's having a rough day, so Mal tries to cheer her up with a MYSTERY! The mystery being WHERE DID ALL THE SOCKS DISAPPEAR TO?

I swear, it's totally spooky & mysterious.

CURRENTLY READING



The Lost Coast, by A. R. Capetta



A queer 21st-century homage to *The Craft*, set in Northern California, with a five-girl coven in crisis after one member disappears into the redwoods.

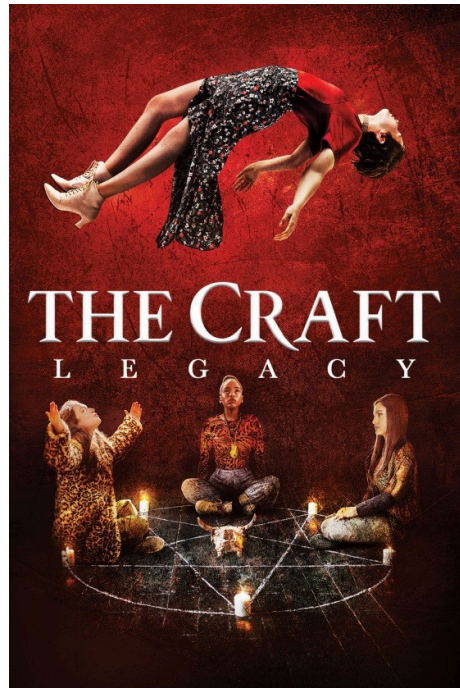
# The Movie Grotto

# SUMMERWEEN II : Monster High



## Darby and the Dead (PG-13)

Darby's after-school business is solving dead people's *unfinished* business. Which isn't weird at all until the mean-spirited head cheerleader freak-accidentally becomes a client.



## The Craft: Legacy (PG-13)

A fourth-wave feminist sequel to the 1996 teen horror classic.

Four new teen witches take on the leader of a toxic masculinity cult.



## Lisa Frankenstein (a very mature PG - thirteen)

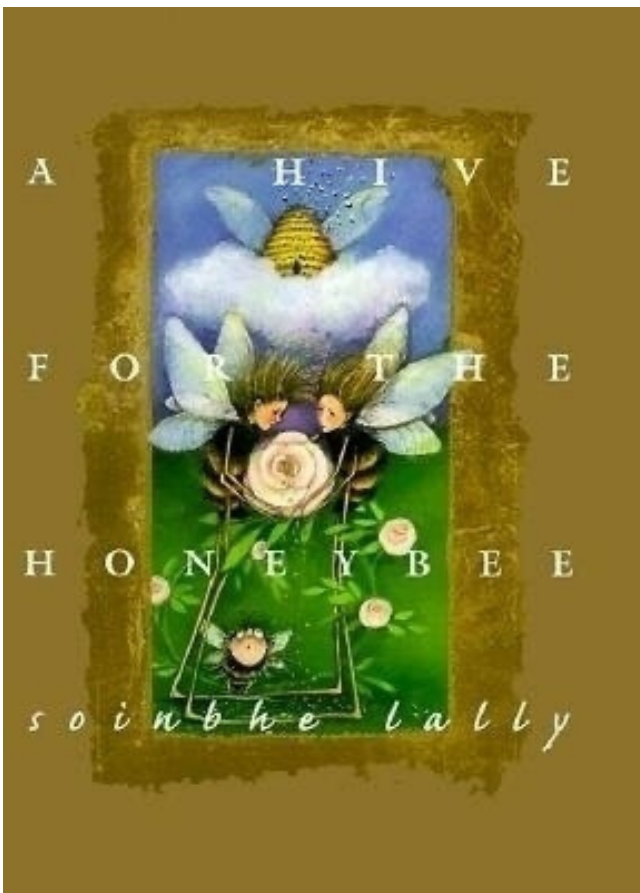
It's... like *Frankenstein* meets *Little Shop of Horrors* meets *Beetlejuice*, but even more unhinged than that.

But, like, in a super-whimsical way.

# Book Grotto 2

## SUMMERWEEN III: *Season of the Bee*

A Hive for the Honeybee,  
by Soinbhe Lally



Theeeeeey're baaaaack!

Yes, I know they're essential to our food chain and overall planetary well-being, and they make honey, but bees are also **scary**, ok??

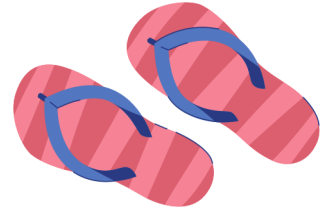
This time of year, I tend to grip my epiPen the way Buffy grips a stake (don't worry; it's more of a break-out-in-hives situation than a McCauley Culkin traumatizing all 90s kids for years one).

But I **can** appreciate a contemplative, magical-realist tale that waxes prose-poetical about the mostly-harmless critters. Especially one that also satirizes religious fanaticism (the drones form a toxic masculinity cult) and also the bees are whimsical fairy creatures and wasps are the true evil.

# SIREN'S PLAYLIST

# Summer Daze

*When you need a break  
from the thrillz and chillz.*



“Summer Breeze,” by Seals and Crofts

“Feels Like Summer,” by Childish Gambino

“Synonymonym,” by tUnE-yArDs

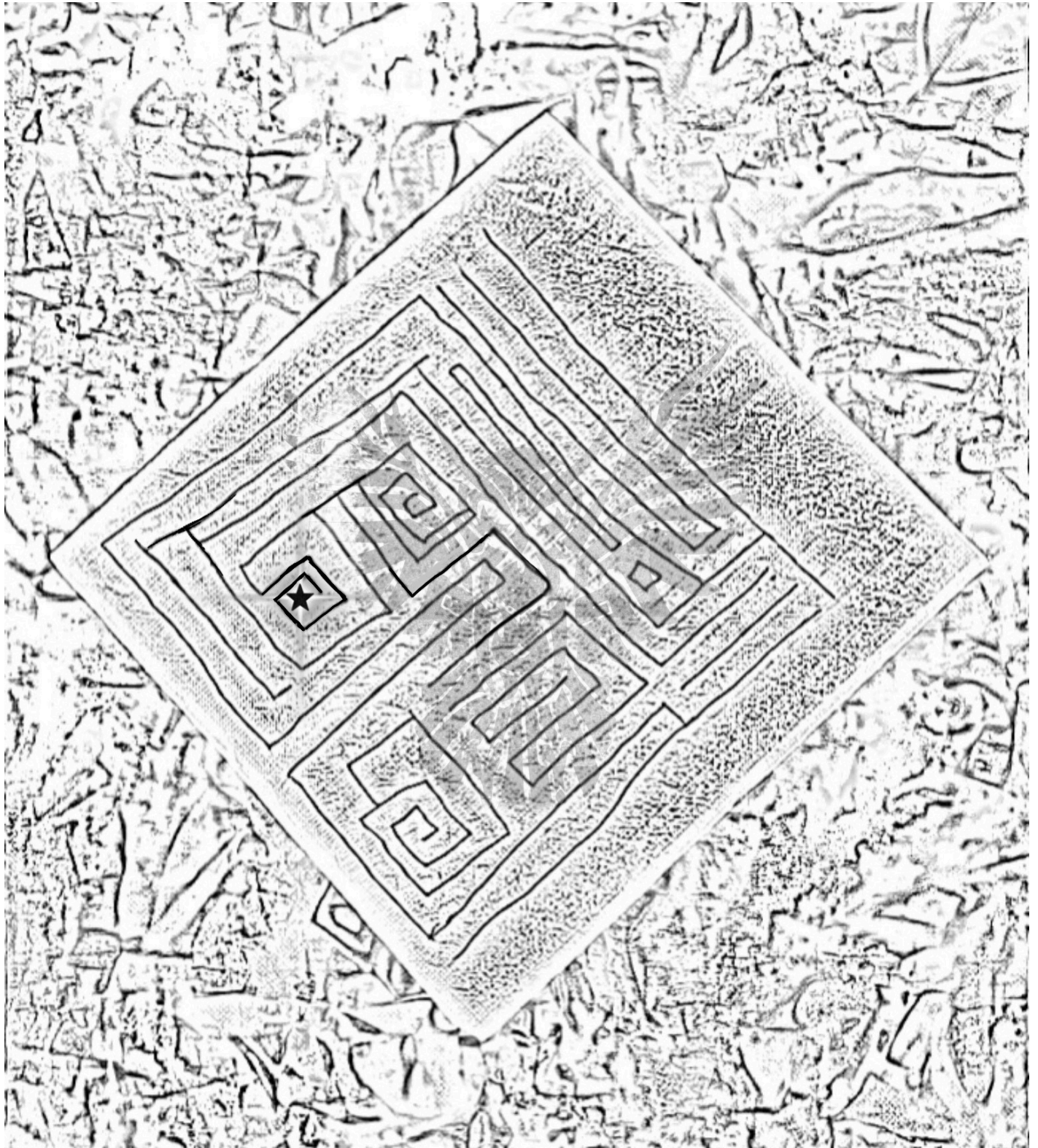
“Sailing,” by Christopher Cross

“Sidewalk Surfer,” by Sweet Valley



SOMETHING  
RANDOM

NeriSiren's  
**LABYRINTH**



# SHAMELESS PLUG!!



NeriSiren's Redbubble Grotto is now open for business!

You can find STICKERS, T-SHIRTS, MUGS, MAGNETS, TUMBLERS, POSTERS, AND MORE!!!

Themes include: MERMAIDS (duh 🧜‍♀️), SELKIES, SWEET VALLEY, OCEAN GIRL, LABYRINTH, DREAD PERSEPHONE, AND THE NCIS FRIDGE (iykyk)!!!

Curious? Dive into my shop at:

<https://www.redbubble.com/people/NeriSiren/shop>

Or search "NeriSiren" on the Redbubble homepage!



Thank you  
for reading!!

And check out the other zine I contribute to:

Sonic Chihuahua, by Angélique Jamail!

Details at [sapphostorque.com](https://sapphostorque.com)

Or @angeliquejamail on  
instagram.



<https://postcardsfromlalaland.wordpress.com>



@nerisirens\_coffee\_grotto

← @ also on  
threads!



@nerisirens\_beach\_disco



@NeriSiren

Cover art made  
w/ PicsArt