**Tash Hearts Tolstoy**

**By Kathryn Ormsbee**

**About the Book**

After a shout-out from one of the Internet's superstar vloggers, Natasha "Tash" Zelenka suddenly finds herself and her obscure, amateur web series, *Unhappy Families*, thrust in the limelight: She's gone viral.

Her show is a modern adaption of *Anna Karenina*--written by Tash's literary love Count Lev Nikolayevich "Leo" Tolstoy. Tash is a fan of the 40,000 new subscribers, their gushing tweets, and flashy Tumblr gifs. Not so much the pressure to deliver the best web series ever.

And when *Unhappy Families* is nominated for a Golden Tuba award, Tash's cyber-flirtation with a fellow award nominee suddenly has the potential to become something IRL--if she can figure out how to tell said crush that she's romantic asexual.

Tash wants to enjoy her newfound fame, but will she lose her friends in her rise to the top? *What would Tolstoy do*?

**About the Author**

Kathryn Ormsbee writes books & songs in Nashville, TN. Her debut YA, LUCKY FEW, published June 2016 with Simon & Schuster. Her next YA, TASH HEARTS TOLSTOY, comes out June 6, 2017.

Kathryn also writes Middle Grade fantasy novels as K.E. Ormsbee. She is the author of THE WATER AND THE WILD series and the upcoming standalone THE HOUSE IN POPLAR WOOD (Chronicle Books, 2018).

In her wild, early years, Kathryn taught English as a Foreign Language, interned with a film society, and did a lot of irresponsible road tripping. Nowadays, she teaches piano lessons, records a weekly true crime podcast with her sister, and run races she never wins. She likes clothes from the 60s, music from the 70s, and movies from the 80s. She is from the 90s.

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* *Our Own Private Universe by Robin Talley*
* *Marian by Ella Lyons*
* *The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas*
* *How to Make a Wish by Ashley Herring Blake*
* *It’s Not Like It’s a Secret by Misa Sugiura*

**Discussion Questions**

1. What did you like about the book? Dislike?
2. Talk about social media and its role in the book. Do you think Tash’s overnight success was a good thing for her?
3. Talk about Tash’s relationship with her best friend, Jack. Why do you think her and Jack got along so well, even though their personalities were wildly different?
4. Criticism, constructive and otherwise, comes up repeatedly in the book. How should Tash have handled it? How do you handle criticism?
5. Were you surprised about Tash’s asexuality? Talk about the two main reactions from other characters: Jack and Paul versus Thom.
6. Compare how Tash and her sister dealt with the news of a new sibling to how Jack and Paul handled the news of their father’s cancer.
7. Compare Thom and Paul.
8. Do you think that Tash made the right decision to go to the state school instead of Vanderbilt?
9. What’s a book you would like to see as a web series?