



Dear Reader,

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, it has often felt hard to find hope. Amid crises of racial violence and new COVID variants and burnout in the workplace, many of us have escaped into fiction for solace. In *A Snake Falls to Earth*, author Darcie Little Badger doesn't shy away from the crises that we're facing, whether it's climate change or the language loss faced by Indigenous communities under colonization. But for Darcie, hope is always somewhere to be found.

"There's this sense of almost fatalism, that the world is going to end," [she says](#). "The way I think about it is: maybe. But my responsibility is to fight for the best version of the future that I can."

The book follows Oli and Nina, two very different people in very different circumstances — Oli, a cottonmouth snake from the Reflecting World where animal people roam and Nina, a teenage Lipan Apache girl in our world. Nina and Oli have no idea the other exists. But a catastrophic event on Earth, and a strange sickness that befalls Oli's best friend, will drive their worlds together in ways they haven't been in centuries.

Darcie, who holds a PhD in oceanography and worked as a scientific editor before writing full-time, incorporates things she learned as a scientist into her work and finds hope and solace in the natural world. "It's difficult for me to even write fantasy without acknowledging the cool, interesting, and beautiful things about the world we live in," [she says](#).

We hope you enjoy Nina and Oli's story, and that it brings you some hope in this world that can feel so despondent. If you feel so moved, feel free to tag us on social media @LevineQuerido.

Cheers,

Team Levine Querido