



10-24 October 2023

Dear reader,

*Yellowface* could not be more different from my previous work. Since wrapping up the *The Poppy War* Trilogy I've enjoyed playing around with vastly different genres and writing styles.

*Babel* was my big ponderous Dickensian bildungsroman; *Yellowface*, on the other hand, is a zippy, ridiculous thriller meant to imitate the roiling schadenfreude of watching a Twitter meltdown. *Babel* is a slow read; *Yellowface* is meant to be devoured in a single sitting.

I've tried to imitate the breathless, gossipy voice of tabloids and viral threads (you know, the ones with flagrant disregard for truth). You're supposed to feel sick to your stomach, and sick of everyone involved, and unsure of what to believe except that you still can't look away. If reading it feels a bit like watching a train crash in slow motion, then I'll have done my job.

I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

REBECCA F. KUANG