

*Layoverland* by Gabby Noone

**Audience:** MS/HS

**Relevant development assets:** Positive Values (Caring, Integrity, Honesty, Responsibility); Empowerment (Youth as Resources, Service to Others); Boundaries & Expectations (Positive Peer Influence, High Expectations); Social Competencies (Interpersonal Competence; Peaceful Conflict Resolution); Positive Identity (Personal Power, Sense of Purpose)

**Book's official tagline:** She's about to take the trip of her afterlife.

**For fans of:** *The Good Place*; *The Afterlife of Holly Chase* by Cynthia Hand; *The Wish List* by Eoin Colfer; *Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin

**Publisher's website:**

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/603928/layoverland-by-gabby-noone/>

[SCRIPT]

*Layoverland* by Gabby Noone.

How many of you have had a layover in an airport? It sucks, right? Well, imagine that when you die, you're stuck in an airport layover before you can catch a flight to heaven or hell. And for Bea Fox, her layover might just last forever.

This is the world of *Layoverland*.

The day she ruined the life of her little sister (and only friend), high school junior Bea Fox dies in a car crash... and wakes up on an airplane. And while, after landing, her fellow passengers are led to new boarding gates for heaven and hell, Bea is assigned to the Memory Experience Department—while she always thought her brutal honesty on earth was warranted, turns out she was actually just kind of a huge jerk. Not bad enough to go to hell, though, but not good enough to go to heaven either. So she reluctantly joins the ranks of the other purgatory staff, where every day she has to wake up and put on a 60's-era, *bright orange*, scratchy nylon flight attendant uniform, eat foods encased in Jell-O (*hot dogs* encased in Jell-O), and walk the poor saps stuck in limbo through their memories to help them move on to their real afterlife. All she needs to do is help 5,000 people and she gets into heaven. It might take a while, but maybe that brutal honesty and BS-detector that did her no favors in life will help Bea solve people's lollygagging here in *Layoverland*. And it does—until Bea is assigned to Caleb, the boy who killed her. Torn between pursuing her first real friendship, completing her 5,000 assignments as quickly as possible, and making Caleb suffer for her untimely demise, Bea is sure of one thing—she won't get out of *Layoverland* without a little help.

Or Jell-O. Have I mentioned the Jell-O? Listen to this:

“The breakfast buffet looks like it’s straight out of a page from a cookbook you’d find at a yard sale and laugh at for a second but never expect anyone to actually cook from. There are three kinds of eggs, scrambled, boiled, and even fried, all suspended in clear gel. The coffee isn’t steaming, but cold and cut into cubes to be chewed rather than sipped. Mini blueberry muffins sit inside an elaborately shaped blue mold atop a cake pedestal. All of the food looks like it’s trapped behind glass, begging to escape. The only thing that actually looks comfortable with itself inside Jell-O is the fruit salad, but even so, I don’t trust it.

But my stomach grumbles violently. I don’t have room to be picky. So I grab a plastic tray and fill it up, quietly accepting that my diet for the foreseeable future will be mainly defined as *wobbly*.” [pg 50-51]

If you like sarcastic narrators, if you like lots and lots of puns, if you like the TV show *The Good Place*, or just making fun of the band Train, this book might just be up your aisle. So buckle in for the read of your afterlife with *Layoverland* by Gabby Noone.

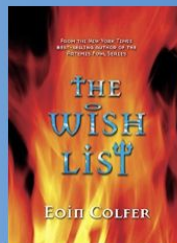
Accompanying bookmark:

AND THESE:



**The Afterlife of Holly Chase**  
by Cynthia Hand

**Congrats! You're now the  
Ghost of Christmas Past.  
How could your afterlife  
possibly get any worse?**

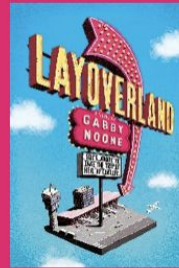


**The Wish List**  
by Eoin Colfer

**The only way out of  
purgatory is to help the  
person you died trying to  
rob before they die—but can  
Meg beat the clock?**



IF YOU LOVE:



CHECK THIS OUT...

**Elsewhere**  
by Gabrielle  
Zevin



**This afterlife ages you  
backwards until you're a  
baby again and returns  
you to Earth... But is that  
enough time to live a  
whole new life?**