

SABRINA CARPENTER

**THE POP MEGA-STARLET STARS
IN A YA ADAPTATION UNLIKE ANY
THAT'S COME BEFORE.**

"I'm jetlagged," says Sabrina Carpenter with an effervescence that belies her alleged grogginess. It's a September morning and Carpenter has been bouncing around the Philippines, South Korea, and Australia doing shows and press, before heading to the Toronto International Film Festival to rep *The Hate U Give*, in which Carpenter plays a misguided classmate of Amandla Stenberg's protagonist Starr, a black student who code-switches at her mostly white school, but then witnesses police shoot her childhood friend in her mostly black neighborhood.

"Hailey is a good representation of someone who is ignorant because they're privileged," the 19-year-old Pennsylvania native says of the role. "It's a really interesting story, because I don't think that those conversations, if they're being had, [are] being had in media between two young people. I think my character's struggles to even understand her privilege make Starr's voice grow even more."

It's going to be a big change for Carpenter's fans who are used to seeing her in the role of the confident Maya Hart on the wholesome Disney Channel show *Girl Meets World*—a role she parlayed into a successful singing career.

"It was a departure for me to leave a show where I'm playing a character that I think was likeable, to go into a movie role that wasn't so likeable," she says. A longtime fan of the Angie Thomas best-seller, which was inspired by the killings of Trayvon Martin, Mike Brown, and Oscar Grant, Carpenter says she lobbied for the role of Haley. "At first, I was hesitant, but I love this story more than anything, so it didn't matter, as long as I was contributing to a story I believed in."

With two successful pop albums and a hard-hitting social commentary under her belt, Carpenter's career has matured faster than many of her Disney-bred predecessors'. Next she'll star in the indie road trip movie *The Short History of the Long Road* as a grieving teen, and this winter her third album, *Singular*, will pair adult themes with pop-produced bangers.

"My goal was for [audiences] to hear a different side of me," says Carpenter of the album. "A side of me that wasn't holding back; a side that was willing to experiment."