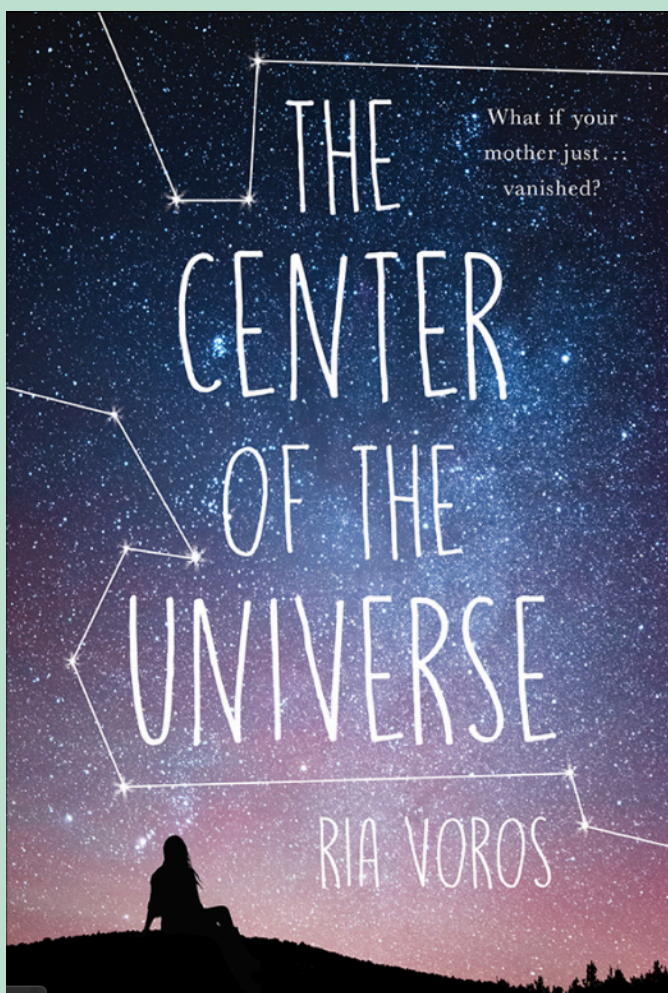


2:30 PM **Astronomy Day 2019**
Newcombe Conference Hall

Science & Storytelling

How discoveries of new worlds help tell stories of family

Ria and Elizabeth seem to be authors of a very different type: Ria is a “Young Adult” novelist, while Elizabeth writes popular science. The first part of this talk will tackle a crucial question: *why are they presenting together?* The two authors will discuss how they came to work together unexpectedly through Ria’s novel. Ria will then explain the process and research for her novel, *The Centre of the Universe* and how the use of space metaphors help explain relationships between the characters. Elizabeth will then cast a scientific eye over these same metaphors, before moving on to talk in more depth about her own research and book, *The Planet Factory*.



Ria Voros is a Young Adult author whose latest novel, *The Centre of the Universe*, explores the relationship between mothers and daughters and also explores a teen's passion for astronomy. Ria has an MFA in creative writing from UBC and her books have been nominated for several awards across the country. She writes, teaches and lives in Victoria.

Elizabeth Tasker is an astrophysicist at Japan’s national space agency, JAXA. Her research uses computer models to explore how stars and planets form. She is a keen science communicator, writing principally about planets and space missions for publications that have included *Scientific American*, *Astronomy Magazine* and *Room*, and she is a regular feature writer for the NASA NExSS ‘Many Worlds’ online column. Her popular science book, *The Planet Factory*, comes out in paperback in Canada this April.

