



Autumn 2025
Frontlist Rights Guide

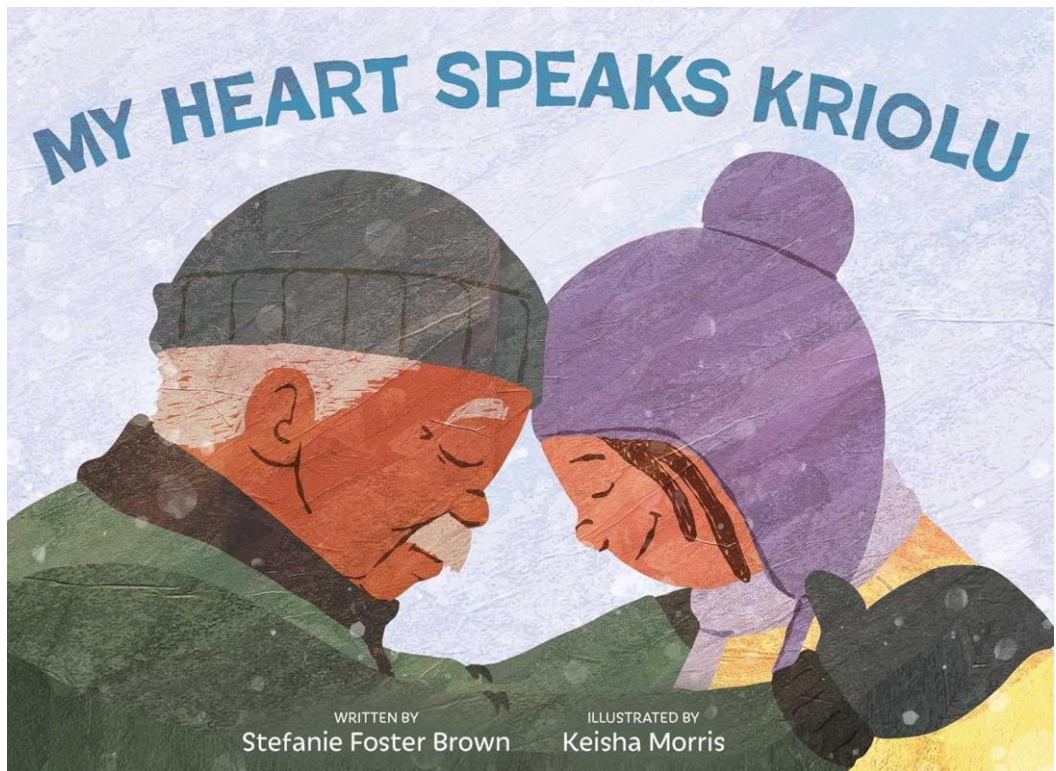
Children's books

Greenburger.com

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**Stefanie Foster
Brown (author)
with Keisha
Morris
(illustrator)
MY HEART
SPEAKS
KRIOLU**

Simon & Schuster,
November 4, 2025 |
World English
40 pages, manuscript
available
**TEXT ONLY VIA
SJGA**
Illustrations via S&S



On Saturday walks with her grandfather, a young girl connects with her Cabo Verdean heritage while learning about the true meaning of home in this moving debut picture book.

Papa always speaks of someday bringing his granddaughter Stefanie back home to Cabo Verde. But Stefanie hasn't yet set foot on their ancestral island's faraway shores. And each time Papa urges her to speak Kriolu, the Portuguese creole native to the West African country, Stefanie's tongue betrays her, and she stumbles over her own words. If she can't even get the language right, can grandfather's home ever truly be hers, too?

But each Saturday afternoon that she helps guide her sight-impaired grandfather through their close-knit Massachusetts community, Stefanie swears she can smell, hear, *feel* Kriolu. And each Saturday she comes closer to discovering where home truly lies.

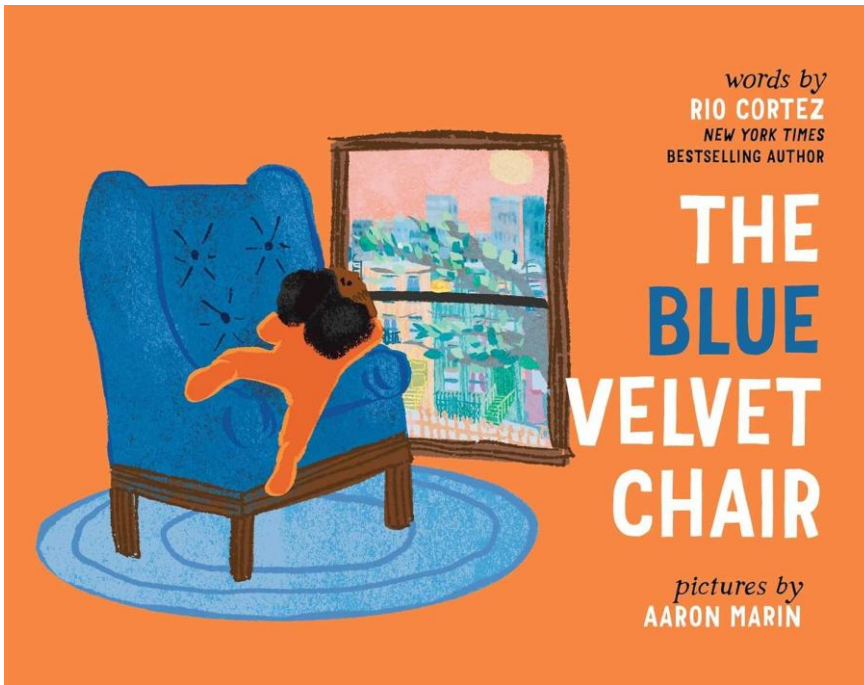


Stefanie Foster Brown is a fourth-generation Cabo Verdean American whose grandparents were the last in her family to speak Kriolu. A former school psychologist, Stefanie spent part of her professional training researching the relationship between language, culture, and identity. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, Eli, their three kids, a dog, and one noisy parakeet. *My Heart Speaks Kriolu*, inspired by Stefanie's memories of taking walks with her Papa in New Bedford, Massachusetts, is her debut book. Visit Stefanie at SteffosterBrown.com or on social media [@SteffosterBrown](https://www.instagram.com/SteffosterBrown).



Keisha Morris is an illustrator living and working in Maryland. What she loves about her illustration process most is creating characters whose personalities jump off the page. She earned her BFA in illustration at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and mentored with illustrators such as Sean Qualls, Selina Alko, and Dan Santat. When she is not drawing, she loves spending time with her wife, daughter, and two wild cats Elphie and Ollie.

Picture Book



**Rio Cortez (author) with
Aaron Marin (illustrator)
THE BLUE VELVET
CHAIR**

Simon & Schuster Children's Books,
August 19, 2025 | World English
40 pages, manuscript June 2025
TEXT ONLY VIA SJGA
Illustrations via S&S

A young girl contemplates the passing of time and changing of seasons as she looks out on the world from her favorite chair in this heartwarming picture book by award-winning poet and *New York Times* bestselling author Rio Cortez.

In the morning, a young child opens her eyes, and, after one biiiiig streeeeetch, heads straight for her favorite place in the house: the blue velvet chair. Perched from the chair set by the living room window, the child daydreams about each season of the year and the changes that come with them. A now-snowy roof was once pelted by the slick rain of spring showers. Icy windows will once again transform into conveyors of sunshine and warmth against her skin.

And just as the seasons change, the child will continue to change too. But one thing will always remain the same: the coziness of the blue velvet chair.



Rio Cortez is the *New York Times* bestselling author of picture book *The ABCs of Black History* and adult poetry collection *Golden Ax*, which was longlisted for the 2022 National Book Award in poetry and the PEN Open Book Award. Born and raised in Salt Lake City, she now lives, writes, and works in Harlem, New York. <https://www.riocortez.com/>

Aaron Marin has worn many hats in the past, holding positions as an officer in the Navy, a classically trained chef, and a summer camp baker. More recently, he returned to his childhood passion of illustration and now works as an illustrator and editorial artist in upstate New York. When not doodling new ideas, he likes to read a good book in a big comfy chair. See more of his work at Aaron-Marin.com.



Rio Cortez

THE RIVER IS MY OCEAN

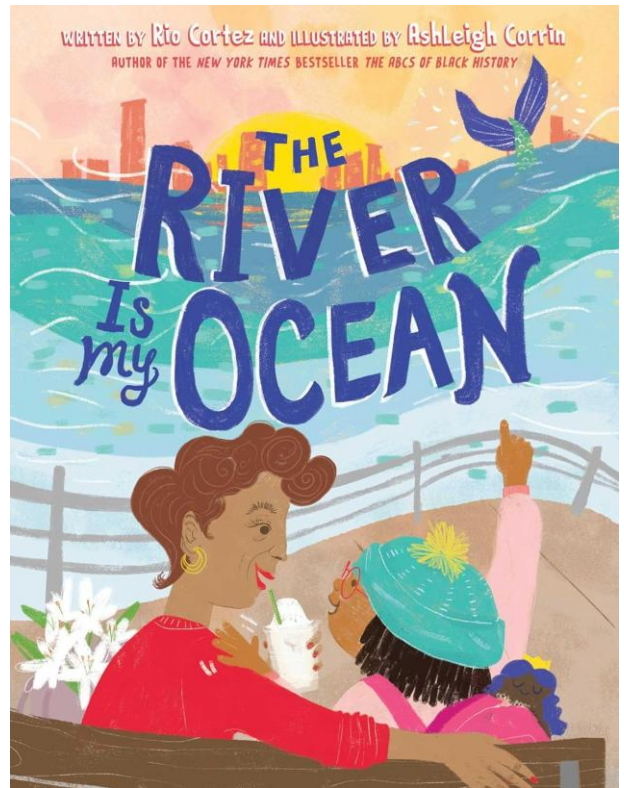
Simon & Schuster BYR, August 27, 2024 | World English and Spanish

32 pages, final material available

A grandmother and granddaughter share a magical trip to the Hudson River affirming intergenerational love and the power of water in this heart-song of a picture book.

Every day, Abuela misses the ocean in Puerto Rico. But on Saturdays, when the sun is high, Abuela takes her granddaughter on a walk down the hill in Harlem to Twelfth Avenue, to a place that is just as magical: the Hudson River.

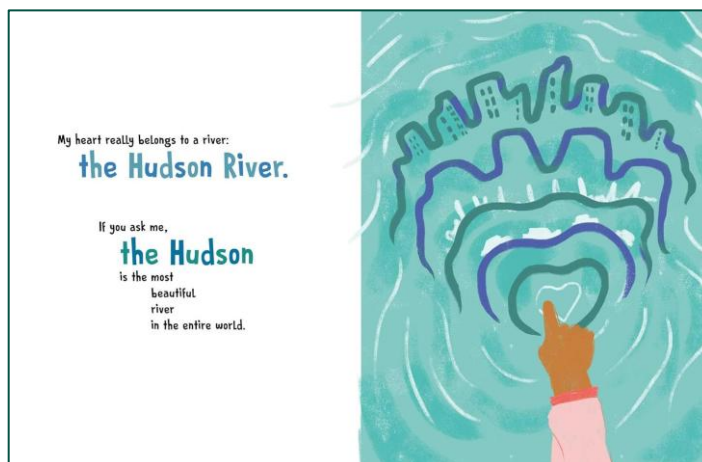
There, they admire the iconic waterway that brought millions of new Americans to its shores, make offerings to Yemaya, the goddess portrayed as a mermaid in ancient religions, and celebrate familial love passed down through the generations, showing the vastness of expansive intergenerational love, memory and the childlike curiosity they each inspire.



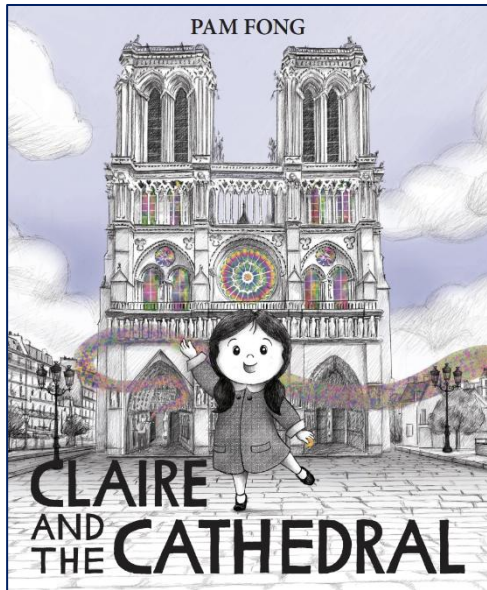
"VERDICT For fans of Last Stop on Market Street, this book is sure to delight younger readers and is nice addition to library shelves that lends itself to further discussion of gods and goddesses in mythology." -- *School Library Journal* — 7/1/24

"Sweet, simple prose brimming with emotion celebrates cultural heritage and the connection between generations, while vivid, childlike illustrations capture the warmth of family moments... a heartfelt narrative steeped in love and tradition." -- *Kirkus Reviews* — 6/15/24

"Hand this book to kids who live life vividly or are especially grateful for a dose of magic in the everyday." - *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* — 9/1/24



Picture Book



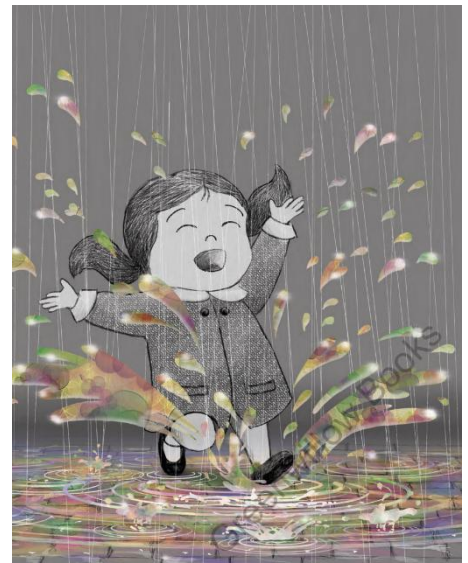
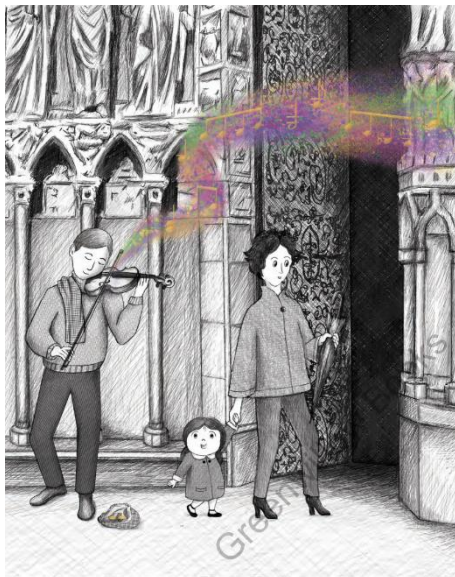
Pam Fong CLAIRE AND THE CATHEDRAL

Greenwillow, Winter 2026 | World English
40 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Abigail Frank

In this showstopping masterpiece from author-artist Pam Fong, a young girl finds unexpected beauty in a rainy day, demonstrating the power of giving thanks and giving back. Wordless and illustrated in striking black-and-white artwork with pops of rainbow color, this is for fans of *Wolf in the Snow*, *Journey*, and *Home in a Lunchbox*.

When Claire’s mother takes her to the cathedral to pass the time on a rainy day, poor Claire could not be more bored. Soaring architecture, beautiful sculptures, historical significance—blah! Then a momentary ray of light shines through the famed Rose Window and brings color back into Claire’s world. Soon she realizes there are rainbows all around her, if she looks closely.

This wordless picture book celebrates the power of observation, gratitude, optimism, generosity, and the arts. Pam Fong makes a splash with her astonishing, intricately detailed black-and-white illustrations—light and music are the only elements shown in full-color glory. *Claire and the Cathedral* is ideal for readers who love books by David Wiesner, Barbara Lehman, Aaron Becker, and David Macauley.

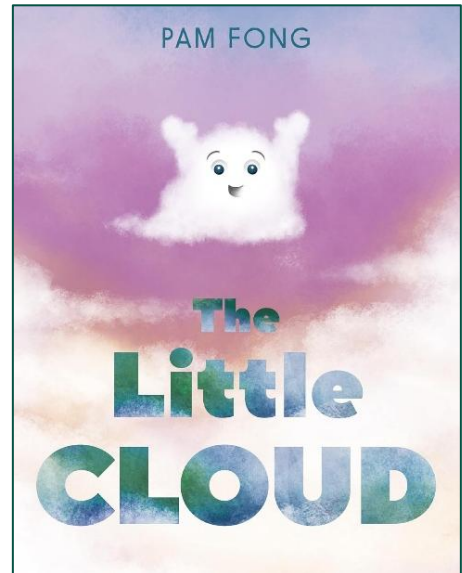


Pam Fong earned a degree in Visual Arts and Art History from the University of California, San Diego, and a Masters of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University. She is the creator of picture books including *ROU AND THE GREAT RACE* (Reycraft Books 2020), *ONCE UPON A FOREST* (Random House Studio, Spring 2022), *A SPARK IN THE DARK* (Greenwillow, Fall 2022), and *HEDGEHOG AND THE LOG* (Union Square Books: January, 2024). <https://pamfong.com/>

Picture Book

THE LITTLE CLOUD

Greenwillow March 4, 2025 | World English
40 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Abigail Frank



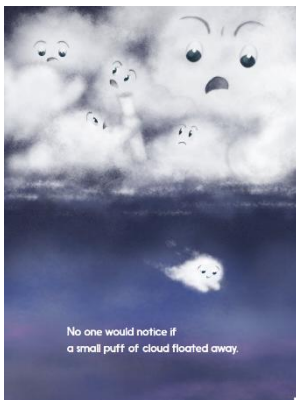
A beautiful day is dawning—but everyone except Little Cloud is too busy to notice. A lush and emotional picture book about curiosity, exploration, and being present.

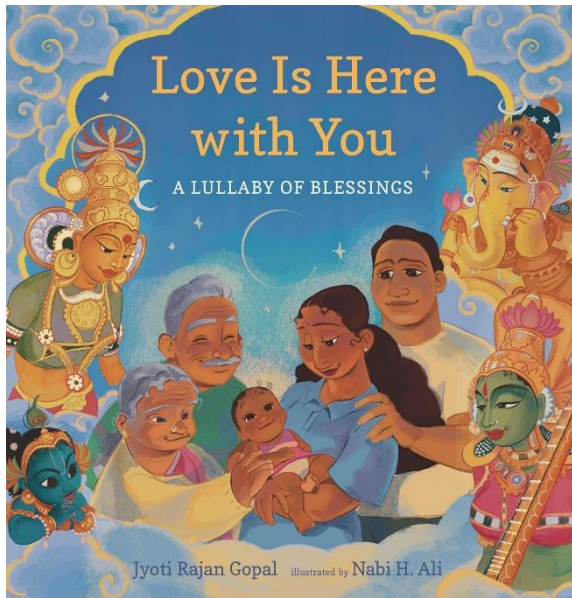
A cloud’s job is to make storms. And that is what they love to do. All except one, that is. Little Cloud would much rather take a moment to enjoy the view of the world below. The farmer is whistling, the piglets are having a snack, the bees are buzzing, ducks waddling, and stream babbling. But NONSENSE, thunders Big Gray Cloud. There’s no time for that. Big Gray Cloud and the others are so busy getting ready to storm that they never notice the sun coming out until it scatters them.

With expressive characters and lush scenery, Pam Fong delivers a beautiful picture book with compelling social and emotional hooks. *The Little Cloud* encourages us to stay curious and be present, find delight in what others may overlook, and make the most out of each day.

“Many readers will relate; this is a simple but effective read-aloud that makes lovely use of visual storytelling. A ray of sunshine for those youngsters who, like our protagonist, know what truly matters.” — **Kirkus Reviews**

“An iconoclastic little cloud breaks away from the cloud formation that is massing for a tremendous thunderstorm in this comically thought-provoking story. . . . An absorbing tale, bolstered by subtle messages about following your own path and being alive to beauty.” — **Booklist**





Jyoti Rajan Gopal
LOVE IS HERE WITH YOU: A Lullaby of Blessings
 illustrated by **Nabi H. Ali**

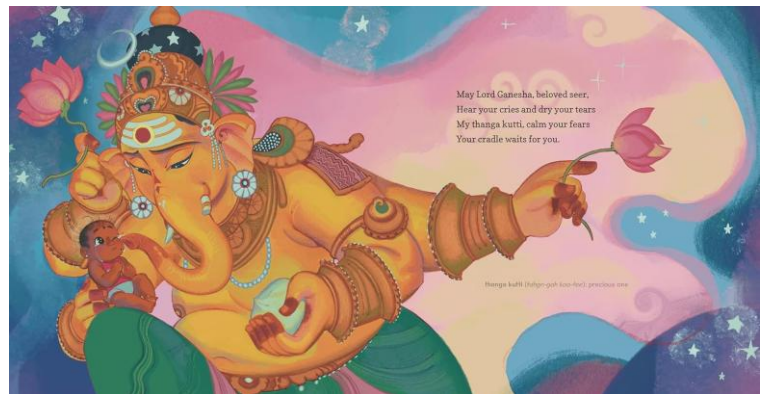
Candlewick, December 3, 2024 | World English
 32 pages, final material available
 Text c/o SJGA, Illustrations handled by Candlewick

In this original lullaby, rich cultural traditions combine with a family’s hopes for their baby to create a soothing ritual sure to be a favorite bedtime read and baby shower gift.

*May mighty Durga, fierce and true,
 guard your slumbers all night through.
 My little angel, my honeyden,
 your cradle waits for you.*

As a family sings their baby to sleep, deities from the Hindu pantheon act as guardians of sweet slumber, from wise Ganesha, remover of obstacles, to joyful Krishna, prince of music, to powerful Durga, goddess of strength and protection. Richly illustrated by artist Nabi H. Ali, this gentle, reassuring text by author Jyoti Rajan Gopal wraps reader and listener in a message of love and comfort.

“This calming story weaves a gentle circle of love. Tamil endearments intertwine with the elders’ hopes, blessings, and prayers for the newest member of the family. Bold images in rich blues, sunset yellows, and dusky oranges showcase the Hindu gods in their regalia. . . . A lullaby that radiates feelings of protection and hope.”—*Kirkus Reviews*



“[A] culturally rich bedtime picture book. . . . Lushly rendered, dreamlike illustrations from Ali, in blues, golds, greens, and pinks, seem to evoke the iconography of South Indian Hindu temples, while spot illustrations throughout highlight lore and traditions. Lilted rhymes from Rajan Gopal (*The Desert Queen*) drive this tender familial lullaby with devotional cadences.”—*Publishers Weekly* ★

“Family, tradition and religion all come together with glowing illustrations to say, “Love is here with you.””
 —*The Virginian Pilot*

Jyoti Rajan Gopal is a kindergarten teacher and the author of *American Desi*, illustrated by Supriya Kelkar, *My Paati’s Saris*, illustrated by Art Twink and *Desert Queen*, illustrated by Svabhu Kohli, named a Stonewall Honor book from the ALA awards and best of 2023 by *Booklist*, *BookPage*, *Kirkus*, and *BCCB*.



She was born in India but grew up all over the world, from Thailand to Indonesia to Myanmar to China. More than twenty-five years ago, she moved to New York City with her husband and raised her two daughters in Yonkers in a very old house with an amazing porch, where she still lives.

Picture Book

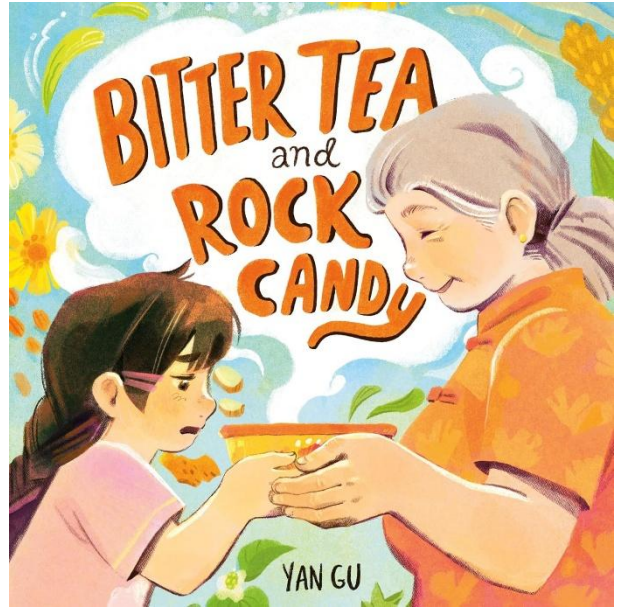
Yan Gu

BITTER TEA AND ROCK CANDY

Henry Holt BYR, September 9, 2025 | World English
Final art available

A humorous and heartfelt tale about the bitterness of liangcha, a popular tea from traditional Chinese medicine, and the sweetness of a Waipo (grandmother)

This tender and warm picture book is a touching ode to grandparents and family traditions—even picky eating.



"A great story for libraries looking for representation of Chinese culture, of intergenerational relationships, and of trying new things; it's also something of an ode to the fact that grandmothers were once young"—*School Library Journal*

"Warm peachy and yellow tones cast a cozy glow over this multigenerational exchange of a culturally specific family tradition...A stirring addition to the rapidly expanding collection of diverse food stories."—*Booklist*

"The depiction of affection between a grandparent and grandchild and the importance of empathy . . . are universal. A heartwarming tribute to intergenerational connection."—*Kirkus*

Mimi's Waipo loves liangcha, but Mimi thinks her grandmother's favorite tea is just too bitter.

It burns her lips, it tastes sour on her tongue, and it smells like her grandfather's socks—yuck!

Mimi secretly feeds her liangcha to the fish, and hides it in a plant, and pours it down the sink—anything to avoid drinking it again. But Waipo has an idea. One morning, she makes a new batch of liangcha for them to share. Will Waipo's secret ingredient be enough to win Mimi over?



This book is about two different flavors of love. Other marketing points: a little knowledge about TCM (traditional Chinese medicine), and intergenerational love between a grandmother and granddaughter. Not to mention: gorgeous illustrations.



Yan Gu is an illustrator from Shanghai. She graduated from RISD in 2022. In her free time, she loves plein-air painting. *A BOWL OF BITTER TEA AND A PIECE OF ROCK CANDY* is her first picture book.

Picture Book



Baljinder Kaur LOST AND FOUND AT THE GURDWARA

Katherine Tegen Books, Winter 2026 |
World English
Manuscript expected October 2025

In this search-and-find picture book, help Darshan and her friends and family at the Gurdwara locate missing things as they all prepare for the big celebration!

Today is Darshan's favorite day -- the Nagar Kirtan, a colorful procession through the streets to celebrate equality and community. Bibi, Baba, and Darshan must first go to the Gurdwara to help with the preparation, but everyone at the Gurdwara needs some help! In the Diwan Hall, Shindo Auntie can't find her purple purse. In kirtan class, Professor Ji can't find their talcum powder, which is important for the tabla. In the langar hall for cooking, Sodhi Uncle can't find his rolling pin, and Jaswant Auntie can't find the tub of turmeric and the bag of onions! When it's finally time for the big procession, Darshan even loses Bibi and Baba, until she gets completely lost herself.

In these gorgeous illustrations, the reader gets to delight in the meditative act of searching and finding, while learning a little bit more about the Sikh faith and traditions at the Gurdwara and beyond, especially and including the Nagar Kirtan.

The author writes:

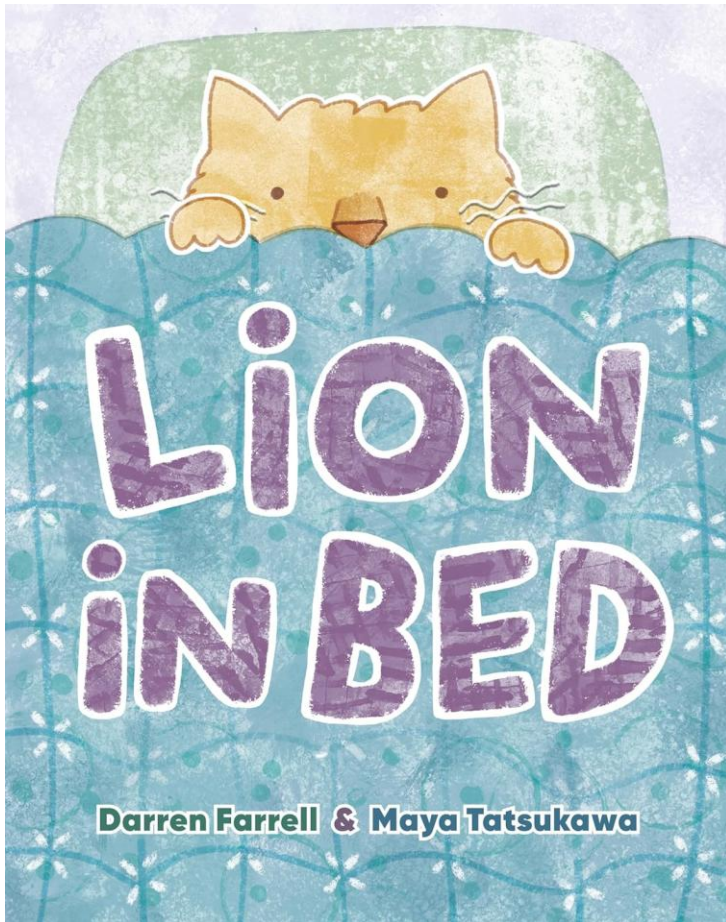
I have many fond memories of attending Nagar Kirtans as a child. Nagar means town and Kirtan means singing praises. A Nagar Kirtan is when Sikhs gather in the form of procession to sing the praises of God, throughout the streets of their local community. It is a communal celebration of devotion.

My mother always encouraged us to connect with Sikh tradition by cultivating our relationship with the Gurdwara. She planted seeds that would soon blossom into my own love for Sikhi. However, this path has not felt linear. I stumble and lose my way often, only to find and forget myself, again and again. The Nagar Kirtan is a sweet reminder of how I do not walk this path alone. We all stride side by side, helping each other along.



Baljinder Kaur graduated with distinction from Cambridge School of Art with a Masters degree in Children's Book Illustration. Among her published work is *FAUJA SINGH KEEPS GOING* written by Dr. Simran Jeet Singh (Penguin/Kokila, 2020), *KAMAL'S KES* (Saffron Press 2021). The yet-to-be-published *NOOR* (Chronicle, 2025) and *THIS LAND* (Viking, 2025) both sold at auction. In the UK, she also has a book called *THE SLEEPER TRAIN* by Mick Jackson (Walker UK, 2025). She lives in the Wolverhampton, UK with her husband and cat, Chandan.

Picture Book



**Maya Tatsukawa (illustrations) and
Darren Farrell (text)
LION IN BED**

Dial Books for Young Readers, October 21, 2025
| North America

40 pages, manuscript available

SJGA represents illustrations only;
text represented by Sara Crowe Literary

**A gentle but silly picture book about mental
health and the power of a good cuddle**

Papa Lion just can't convince Little Lion to get out of bed this morning! They have so much to do, so Papa Lion decides to bring all the activities to him in bed, no matter how big and wild they are. From a full-diner breakfast to a soccer game and surprise party for Grandma, can anything convince Little Lion to finally get up?

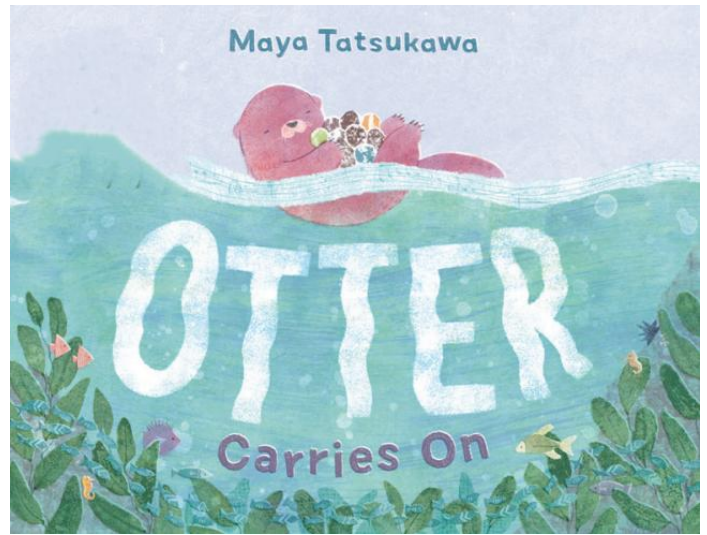
Award-winning author and illustrator duo Darren Farrell and Maya Tatsukawa have created a sweet story about a persistent Papa and his tuckered-out cub, with a reminder that sometimes it's the simplest things that bring the most happiness.



Maya Tatsukawa
OTTER CARRIES ON

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,
February 4, 2025 | World English
40 pages, final material available
Rights sold: Korea (Greatbooks)

From the Theodore Seuss Geisel Award-winning author of **THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY**, the second in a two-book, six-figure deal (with **MOLE IS NOT ALONE**) that finds a headstrong otter learning a valuable lesson about trying to do it all.



Otter loves floating and collecting pretty, heavy rocks all by themselves. When a storm comes, Otter has so many rocks that they can't swim home—and soon, they're lost at sea. But when a few rocks accidentally slip away, Otter feels...lighter. And with the help of a new friend, Otter realizes that maybe they don't need to carry everything alone.

With gorgeous undersea illustrations, cozy storytelling, and a group of lovable characters, this sweet and beautiful picture book shows readers that it's okay to ask for help from a friend.

"An ocean of tiny details, depicted in a soft palette of grays, blues, and greens . . . visually immersive." —*Kirkus*

"The graceful movement of waves and water, speech balloons that present the story in dialogue, and the low fear factor . . . all enliven this buoyant story about accepting the advice of others versus finding out for oneself." —*Publishers Weekly*

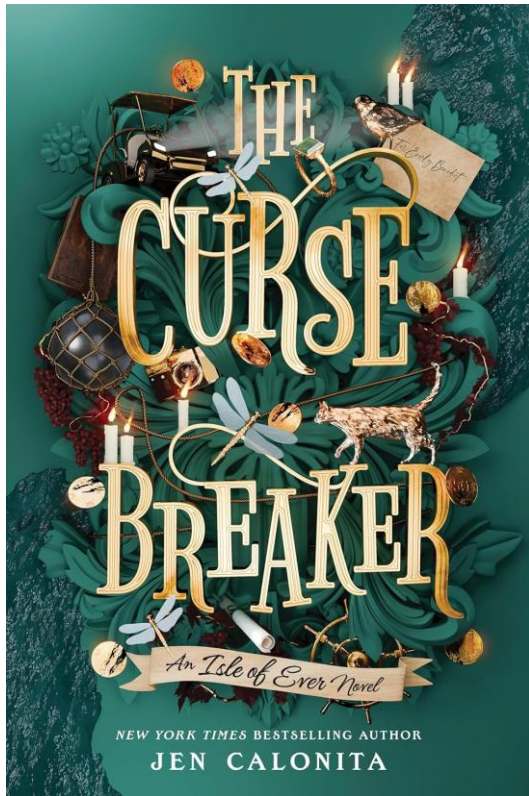
"Important lessons gently delivered with animals and serene artwork is Tatsukawa's forte, and she has excelled at it once more via this absurdly cute otter protagonist."—*BCCB*

By day,



Maya Tatsukawa is a book designer at Walker/Candlewick. By night, she bakes beautiful desserts and illustrates children's books. She is the author/illustrator of Geisel Honor winner **THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY** (Dial 2020), **SUNDAY PANCAKES** (Dial 2022), and **MOLE IS NOT ALONE** (Holt 2023). She sometimes teams up with writer Darren Farrell and together they've created **DANDELION MAGIC** (Dial 2021), **GIVE THIS BOOK AWAY** (Knopf 2022), and the forthcoming **LION IN BED** (Dial 2025). Today, she lives outside of Boston with her cat/studio manager Mosami. <https://petitemayat.com/>

Picture Book



Jen Calonita THE CURSE BREAKER

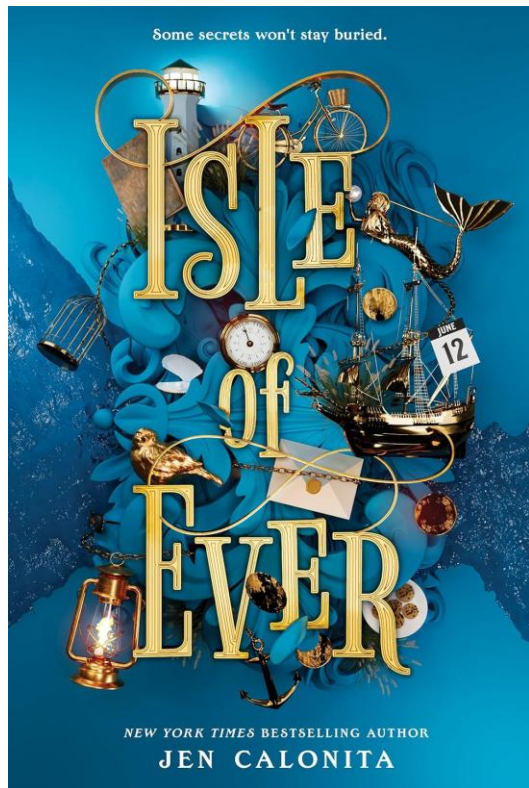
Sourcebooks March 10, 2026 | NA
320 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel

The game is far from over. In fact, it's only just begun.

Having finally reached the Isle of Ever, Everly "Benny" Benedict thinks she's won the game of clues her ancestor Evelyn Terry set out for her in her will. Only she can't prove it yet—not until her new friends are safe from the curse that has kept them trapped for centuries!

And now there's a new game. It turns out that Evelyn has more secrets in her diary and another task for Benny: to find the lost piece of pirate treasure needed to break the curse once and for all. It won't be easy. One of her best friends has betrayed her; the kids from the island are just discovering twenty-first-century life, and a mysterious stranger mentioned in Evelyn's diary has somehow turned up in present-day Greenport.

Benny has to figure it all out in just a few days. If time runs out, someone else can claim the inheritance, and the Isle of Ever will disappear again for another two hundred years!



THE ISLE OF EVER

Sourcebooks, March 2025 | NA
320 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel
Rights sold: UK (DK Books)

New York Times bestseller, debuted at #5!

**Bestselling
and
beloved
author Jen
Calonita**

A best kids book of March for Barnes & Noble
A middle grade pick of the month for April at
Amazon

delivers the first in a brand new series featuring a girl who will inherit a mysterious fortune if she can break a centuries-old curse!

Days after her twelfth birthday, Everly "Benny" Benedict learns she's the heir to a fortune! But to collect the inheritance, she first has to play—and win—a game. Following clues that her ancestor left, Benny must locate a small island that vanished long ago, according to legend.

She has only two weeks to play the game and find the island. If she's successful, she'll break a two-hundred-year-old curse. If she fails, the fortune will be forfeited. And if she's not careful, she'll cross paths with someone else who is after the island's secrets, and who will stop at nothing to get them. Because, as it turns out, there's far more than a fortune at stake.

Middle Grade Novel



ISLE OF EVER and THE CURSE BREAKER are the first two of a three book deal with Sourcebooks. The third book is anticipated to be delivered in late 2026 for a 2027 publication

Jen Calonita has interviewed everyone from Reese Witherspoon to Justin Timberlake, but the only person she's ever wanted to trade places with is Disney's Cinderella. She's the award-winning author of the Royal Academy Rebels and Fairy Tale Reform School series. Jen lives in Merrick, New York with her husband, two sons, and their two Chihuahuas, Captain Jack Sparrow and Ben Kenobi. Visit www.jencalonitaonline.com

Praise for ISLE OF EVER

"The pacing is excellent, the character development enticing, and the finale positively nail-biting." *School Library Journal* ★

"[An] atmospheric fantasy ride." — *Publishers Weekly*★

"An engaging, puzzle-centered page-turner." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"A nail-biter of a novel for readers who like their mysteries with a touch of magic." — *Booklist*

"An entertaining, genre-blending story that incorporates politics, climate crises, history, pirates, and magic and introduces a tenacious and thoughtful heroine. Readers will be in Benny's corner from the very beginning of the book, and will have fun trying to solve the mystery right alongside her and her new friends." — *Youth Services Book Review*

"[An] intriguing mystery...Calonita places red herrings and subtle clues throughout, deftly connecting past with present." — *Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books*

"Calonita leaves us breathless as Benny races to save the day and her family. Young readers will love it!" — **James Ponti**, *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *City Spies*

"Buckle up for an adventure-mystery that will keep you guessing till the last page, then begging for a sequel immediately! Calonita's *Isle of Ever* cleverly follows a spunky present day 12-year-old heroine and an equally bold 12-year-old ancestor two hundred years in the past. Using diary entries, articles, and other fun devices, she weaves a story that allows the reader to solve the mystery along with the books' characters. Throw in a cursed treasure, a pirate, and an atmospheric magical island and you're bound to find readers up well past their bedtime."—**Melissa de la Cruz**, #1 *New York Times* Bestselling author of *The Isle of the Lost*

"*The Isle of Ever* is a gripping game and grand adventure. A treasure hunt filled with riddles, clues, an ancient curse, and a main character you'll be cheering for all the way to the final page. I loved it!" — **Chris Grabenstein**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Lemoncello* series.

"This book has everything: An engaging young protagonist, mystery, adventure, danger, a strange inheritance, a treasure hunt, pirates, a two-hundred year old curse and a lost island. What an incredibly fun read. I couldn't put it down!" —**Stuart Gibbs**, *NYT* bestselling author of *The Spy School* series and *The Charlie Thorne* series

"An absorbing adventure story for readers ages 10 to 13 that blends fantasy with classic mystery tropes." — *Wall Street Journal*

Lina Høj Høstrup

WILDERNESS ADVENTURE CLUB

Andrews McMeel | World English

Del final ms January 2026

Agent: Alexander Slater

Meet **Frida**: raised by her genius grandmother among the most incredible plants and extraordinary potions, she couldn't care less about the marvelous surroundings of their extraordinary Plant Pharmacy.

Here's **Bastian**: a nerdy bookworm who opens Frida's eyes to the wonderful world of botany. Together, this unlikely duo discovers worlds of adventure, and dark secrets, within their quiet, fantastical village. I am thrilled to bring your attention to this outstanding new graphic novel series by Line Høj Høstrup.

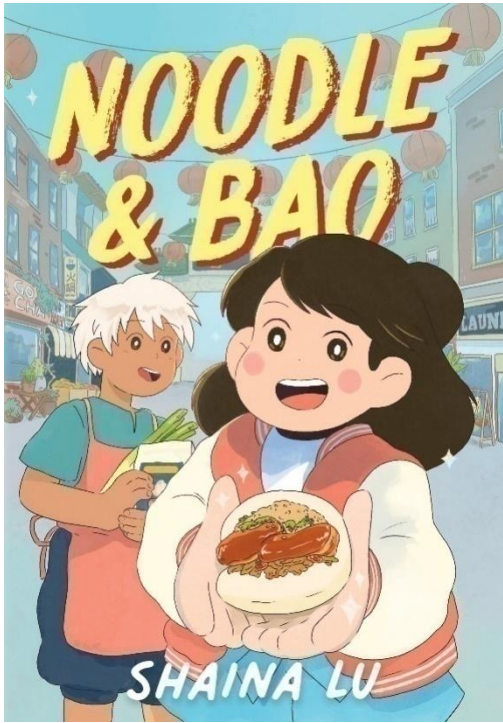


Frida is NOT interested in her Grandma Neri's amazing Plant Pharmacy, so when she gets the chance to follow the pompous Count Humberg and his nerdy squire Bastian on a quest, she doesn't hesitate. As Frida and Bastian discover a shared love of comic books, they form the "Wilderness Adventure Club," and become best friends.

Along the way, they learn that their sleepy town of Greenleaf used to be a hide-out for the legendary pirate Caliban the Barbarian. A treasure map, and a run in with the ghost of the infamous pirate himself, lead the duo to the treasure, but Bastian accidentally unleashes a mysterious curse. It's up to Frida to save the day, maybe actually learn a little about botany, and prove to her grandmother that she is more than just a daydreaming goofball.



Line Høj Høstrup graduated from The Animation Workshop in 2017. Her first comic book, "Det Rette Element," won the Pingprisen Comics Award and the Claus Deleuran Award as debut of the year. She has written and illustrated easy-read books for children in Danish and has never been published outside Denmark. Find her online at <https://papertwinillustration.com/>.



Shaina Lu
NOODLE & BAO

HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books, October 15, 2024 | World English
222 pages, final art available

Perfect for fans of *Animal Crossing* and *Measuring Up*, this whimsical and empowering middle grade graphic novel follows a girl who helps her friend’s humble food cart stand its ground against the gentrification of their Chinatown neighborhood. Sold at auction in a two-book deal, *NOODLE & BAO* is an ode to Chinatowns everywhere.

“Rich, layered and bursting with charm. *Noodle & Bao* is a tasteful ode to the importance of community. Shaina Lu leaves us craving for more!”
— **Laura Gao**, creator of *Messy Roots* and *Kirby's Lessons for Falling (In Love)*

“An empowering combination of food, humor, and advocacy.”
— **Kirkus**

“Lu not only takes on the big topic of gentrification but also expertly dives into the personal intricacies that come along with it. Lu’s dynamic characters navigate a quickly changing town and the internal complexities of belonging, all in beautifully drawn art with a mouth-watering menu!” — **Liz Montague**, cartoonist and author/illustrator of *Maybe an Artist* and *Brooklyn School of Magic*

“Timely and engaging, the book’s adorable characters and heartwarming approach to a serious issue will have broad appeal.” — **School Library Journal**

Momo has lived in Town 99 her entire life. She knows all its quirks and rhythms: the best places to buy fruit, practice tai-chi in the park, and, most of all, get the best meal: Noodle & Bao, run by Momo’s best friend, Bao, and their amah, Noodle.

But Town 99 is changing. Rent is becoming unaffordable for Momo and her parents, and even Noodle & Bao has been edged out of its storefront, which was just recently bought out by a new business venture—Fancé Cafe. Fancé is run by the ambitious Ms. Jujube and her henchmen, who claim they’re only beautifying Town 99 with good business.



Momo knows that’s not true, and knows that if she doesn’t do something, she’ll lose everything she loves about her neighborhood. From undercover recon to a cook-off proposal, protest signs to petitions, Momo and Bao are on a mission to protect Town 99. Will they succeed before it’s too late?

Shaina Lu 呂明穎 (she/her) is a queer Taiwanese-American community artist and educator interested in the intersection of art, education, and activism. She graduated from Wellesley College and Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she studied Arts in Education. She lives with her wife and cat on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Massachusett and Pawtucket people. <http://shainadoesart.com/>

Middle Grade Graphic Novel

Wendy Lu

CASTING APRIL

Knopf, Spring 2026 | North America

Manuscript anticipated October 2025

Agent: Alexander Slater

THE CHANCE TO FLY meets **STAND UP, YUMI CHUNG!** in this debut contemporary middle grade novel.

Featuring a talented disabled girl who loves all things Broadway and will do anything for a chance at the spotlight, even if it means stretching the truth, **CASTING APRIL** is a story about friendship, identity, and the importance of chasing dreams no matter how big.



Sixth grader April Xue lives and breathes all things Broadway. When she builds up the courage to audition for the lead role in the school play, she's led to believe that she has knocked it out of the park — until she finds out that she's been assigned as a techie and stage crew. Devastated, April vows to give up her dreams of being an actor. A day later, April overhears that the theater director, Ms. Rooney, ultimately decided not to cast her because she's disabled. With the help of her best friend, a sneaky student reporter, and her spirited cast members, April learns to confront her own insecurities as a performer and proves to everyone (including Ms. Rooney) that she deserves a fair shot — all in time for opening night.

Wendy Lu is an award-winning journalist, a middle-grade fiction writer, and a global speaker on disability representation in the media. Named as one of [Forbes's 30 Under 30 in the Media division for 2022](#) and recognized as one of 30 global disability leaders on Diversability's D-30 Disability Impact List, Lu was also selected as a Knight Visiting Nieman Fellow. She is on the board for the National Center on Disability & Journalism and has judged the Katherine Schneider Journalism Award for Excellence in Disability Reporting. In 2022, she received a [Disability Futures Fellowship](#), provided by the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the United States Artists. She speaks publicly for a wide range of audiences and institutions including Harvard, Lincoln Center, New York University Abu Dhabi, Princeton, Press Pass NYC, The Texas Tribune, Asian American International Film Festival and more.

Lu describes herself as “a proud disabled woman.” Since birth, she has worn a tracheostomy (trach) tube that helps her breathe. Her disability fuels her passion for telling important stories and reporting on historically marginalized communities. She grew up in Boston and eastern North Carolina, and spent summers off from school in Shanghai, where her family is from. She lives in New York City with her husband and in her spare time enjoys bullet journaling, pampering her turtle and her plant family, and trying new restaurants. <https://wendylu.wpengine.com/>

Middle Grade novel



Janae Marks
A SPLIT SECOND

HarperCollins, October 1, 2024 | NA
256 Pages, Final Manuscript Available
Agent: Alexander Slater

***New York Times* bestselling author Janae Marks delivers a stunningly crafted and twisty mystery about the tests of friendships that examines what matters most when everything can change in a split second—perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead and Anne Ursu.**

That clock can't be right. When Elise wakes up the morning after her birthday celebration, she's surprised to find herself in her bedroom. Last she can remember, she had fallen asleep next to her best friends at her slumber party in her basement, and it was October. But now she's alone, and her phone says it's April 8. Elise doesn't understand. How could she have woken up six months later?

No one else is acting like anything strange has happened, yet Elise can't remember the last half year. To make matters worse, her friends refuse to talk to her and Elise doesn't know why. She also has no idea how she got signed up for photography club or why her former

best friend, Cora, is talking to her again. Is it a memory problem? Could it be magic? Every day that passes takes Elise further from the world she knew. Thankfully, Elise has Cora to lean on in this new reality, and the two come together to investigate why Elise woke up in the future—and, more important, how to get her back to her past and away from this nightmare.

"A beautiful story about being brave and finding your people." — *Booklist* ★

"A nuanced look at middle school friendships...thoughtfully delves into the consequences of the social isolation many young people experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Janae Marks writes characters you can't help but love and plots you can't help but devour. I couldn't put this book down." — **Tae Keller**, author of *Newbery Medalist* and *New York Times* bestselling *When You Trap a Tiger*

"A smart and sweet magical mystery, bursting with hope and heart." — **Sarah Mlynowski**, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Whatever After* series

"A fun and twisty story—*A Split Second* shines with charm and intrigue." — **Jasmine Warga**, *Newbery Honor-winning* author of *Other Words for Home*

Janae Marks is the *New York Times* bestselling author of middle grade novels *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*, *On Air with Zoe Washington* and *A Soft Place to Land*. She has an MFA in Writing for Children from The New School, and lives in Connecticut with her husband, daughter and miniature schnauzer named Cookie. Visit her at <https://www.janaemarks.com/>.

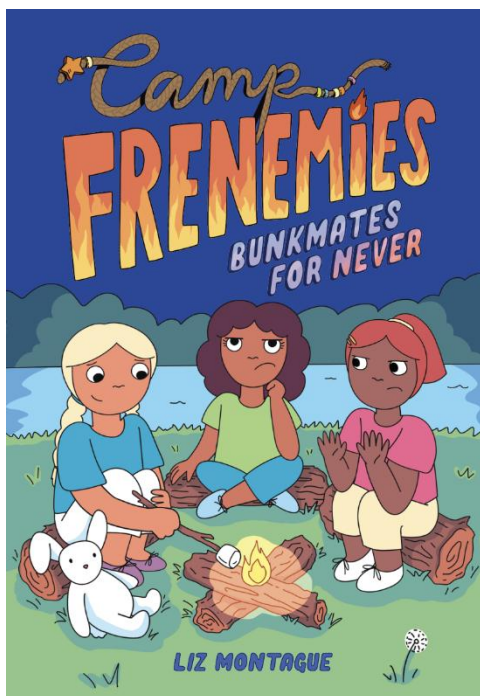
Middle Grade novel

Liz Montague

CAMP FRENEMIES: Bunkmates for Never

Book #2

Random House Studio, May 2026 | World English
270 pages, manuscript anticipated November 2025



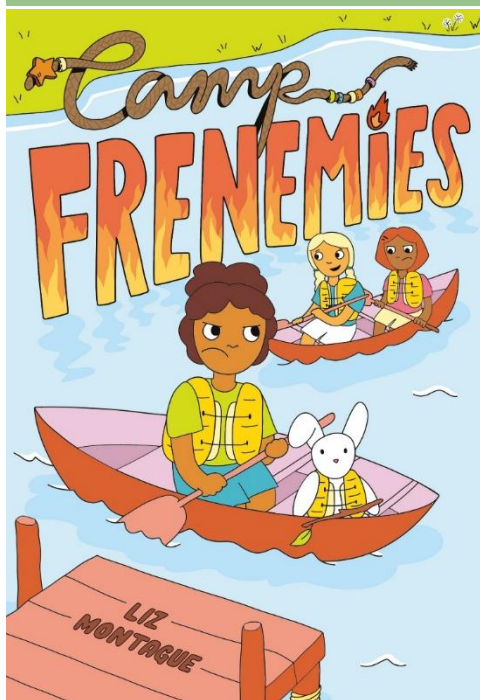
A frenemies-to-friends graphic novel series about the trials and tribulations of three tween girls and cabinmates at sleepaway camp. Perfect for fans of *Guts* and *Real Friends*!

It's the final day of seventh grade, and Beatrice has changed a lot since last year. True, she's wearing mascara and doing her hair differently, but it's more than that—Roger, her stuffed bunny, hardly ever leaves her bedroom anymore. Last year, Roger went with her everywhere. Everywhere. When Bea returns to camp and reunites with Virginia and Roxy, they're shocked by how much she's changed—especially Virginia, who can't seem to let it go. (But wasn't Virginia the one always telling her to grow up?!) To make matters worse, they're the oldest kids at camp, and maybe they should've known better than to even come back. Can these tadpoles froglings make up by the end of the week, or will frenemies become enemies once and for all? With its pitch-perfect voice and accessible cartoons, here is the heartwarming second book in the Camp Frenemies graphic novel series.

CAMP FRENEMIES

Random House Studio, May 13, 2025 | World English
272 Pages, manuscript available

A Summer 2025 Indie Rep Pick



Beatrice, Roxy, and Virginia have conquered 6th grade and now they're ready for the next big milestone: their first week at sleepaway camp. But Beatrice prefers stuffed animals over people. Roxy is just excited to get some peace and quiet. And Virginia is excited to spend the time with her soccer mates.... but then she doesn't make the team.

Further complicating things is the fact that Virginia and Bea do not get along—which makes being cabinmates tricky. Will they stay enemies?

After all, it's only one week of camp and then never again... right?

"An emotionally intelligent preteen summer camp adventure." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A well-developed friendship story with strong middle grade appeal and a lot of heart." —*School Library Journal*

"[A] witty, well-paced graphic novel." —*Publishers Weekly*

"[An] endearing comic....A natural choice for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Shannon Hale." —*Booklist*

Middle Grade Novel

Liz Montague

SCHOOL FOR UNUSUAL MAGIC: The Winter Frost

Book #2

Scholastic, November 12, 2024 | World English
240 Pages, final manuscript available

Perfect for fans of *Witchlings* and *The Wizards of Waverly Place*, three friends discover magic and mayhem around every corner of their school in the second of this illustrated series from *New Yorker* cartoonist and NAACP Image Award nominee Liz Montague.

After a chaotic semester of Elementary Magic, Rose, Amethyst, and Lav have found themselves with new magical skills up their sleeves which will come in handy when they begin Middle Magic next year. But school is the last thing on their minds over winter break. Tensions are high between the Land Walkers and the Merfolk's mysterious leader Frost. Worse, Amethyst's mom has gone missing with an extremely illegal wand, and everyone--their classmates, Principal Ivy, the Committee--thinks she's somehow involved in the disappearance of Rose's cousin Heather. But Amethyst is determined to find her mother and set everything right. Her mom just has to be innocent!

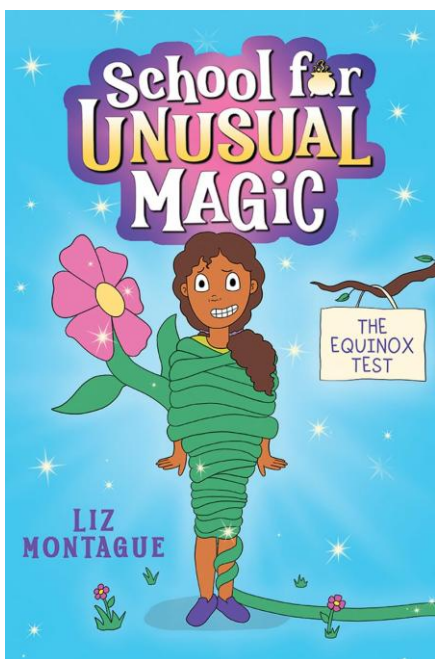
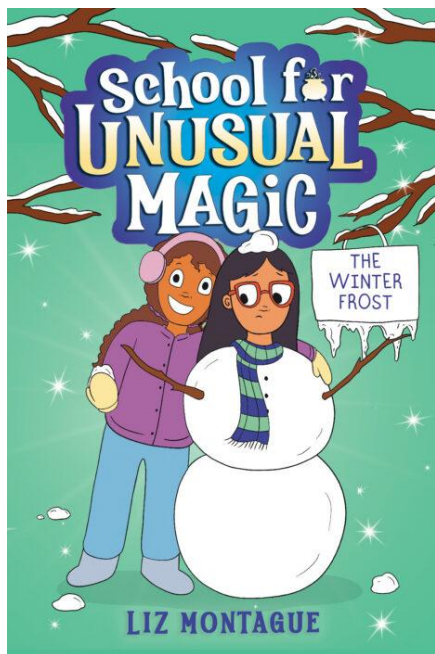
When a secret about Amethyst's identity is revealed, her whole world comes crashing down. She doesn't understand how her mom could keep something so important from her. Is her mom actually the villain or is something even darker at work here? She'll have to trust that Rose and Lav can keep the peace above ground while she ventures underwater for answers...

SCHOOL FOR UNUSUAL MAGIC:

The Equinox Test Book #1

Scholastic, April 2, 2024 | World English
240 pages, B&W illustrations
Final manuscript available

Welcome to the Brooklyn School of Magic, where seeds of enchantment are planted and magic sprouts in every corner. And where each fall, fifth years must pass the Equinox Test if they want to move up to Middle Magic.



If Rose doesn't pass with flying colors, Principal Ivy says she may have to transfer to a boring, non-magical school. Amethyst knows she's got the skills to ace the test. But she's got her eye on the school's top prize. Lavender just wants to fit in.

But with best friend battles, a cheating scandal, and trouble brewing in the magical community, the Equinox Test may not even be the biggest challenge our Magic Bearers will face this year...

Liz Montague began as a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* in 2019. She is the author-illustrator of the graphic novel *Maybe an Artist*, which was nominated for an NAACP Image Award, the picture book *Jackie Ormes Draws the Future*, and the nationally bestselling middle grade series *School for Unusual Magic*. Liz is passionate about nature and emotional literacy. She lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with her husband Pat.

<https://lizatlarge.org/about-3/>



Middle Grade Illustrated

J.W. Ocker

WELCOME TO THE GHOST SHOW

HarperCollins, August 26, 2025 | World English

224 pages, Manuscript available

Agent: Alex Slater

The Ghost Show is coming . . . are you ready? Three friends must face their deepest fears in this spine-tingling horror novel by USA Today bestselling author J.W. Ocker that's perfect for fans of R.L. Stine and Mary Downing Hahn.

“A deliciously spooky read.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

When mysterious ads for the Ghost Show appear around town, nobody can tell what it is. A band? A movie? A game? But that magic word—ghost—excites Hazel Gold, or Zel to her friends. As founder of her school’s Creepy Club (three members strong!), she’s always looking for paranormal activity.

Turns out the Ghost Show is a black, five-story skull that appears on the edge of town as a supernatural attraction. Stepping inside, the Creepy Club is greeted by the eccentric Amadeus Everest Mancer, a self-proclaimed ghost catcher who guides them through an aquarium full of vaporous floaty things—sheets that cover gobs of dripping red goo.

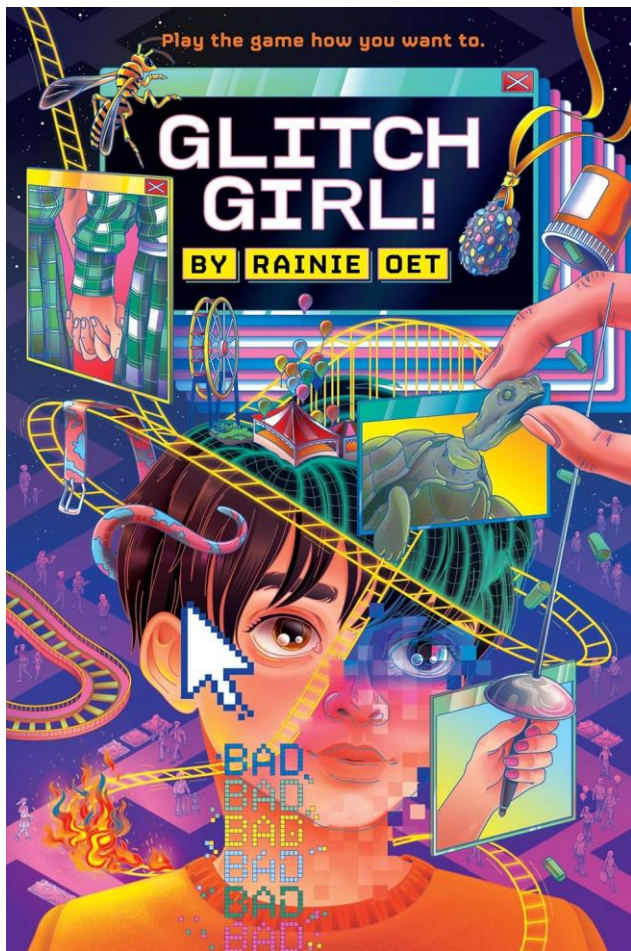
Then Mancer offers Zel what she’s always wanted: the chance to see a real ghost. But it turns out to be more than she bargained for. To stop him, the Creepy Club must fight a massive ghost infestation and free the trapped souls within, culminating in chilling battle that blurs the line between reality and the supernatural.



J. W. Ocker is the Edgar Award-winning author of *Poe-Land: The Hallowed Haunts of Edgar Allan Poe*, *A Season with the Witch*, and *Death and Douglas*. His work has appeared in *The Guardian*, the *Boston Globe*, *CNN*, the *Atlantic*, and other places people stick writing. He's from Maryland but has lived in New Hampshire for more than a decade.

He is also the creator of OTIS: Odd Things I've Seen (Oddthingsiveseen.com), where he writes about his visits to oddities of nature, history, art, and culture.

Middle Grade Novel



Rainie Oet **GLITCH GIRL!**

Kokila, March 11, 2025 | World English
Final Manuscript available
Agent: Abigail Frank

Sold at auction

The first middle grade novel in verse from poet and children’s book author Rainie Oet, **GLITCH GIRL!** is about a young trans girl who uses a video game to process an ADHD diagnosis, isolation, and her relationship to gender.

“J—’s life is consumed by the roller coaster video game Coaster Boss, and by the power she exerts over the pixelated theme park attendees. Her life outside the game, however, is less controllable.

Me. I’m such a big space. I break the universe, a glitch.

She’s navigating ADHD, the loneliness of middle school, and an overwhelming crush on a girl named Junie. J— is convinced that Junie sees her as who she really is, a person who isn’t “bad” just because she doesn’t stay quiet and sit still in class. As a person who is realizing that the name

she’s been given doesn’t really fit her. And that maybe “boy” doesn’t either.

Glitch Girl! follows J— from fifth to seventh grade, from the beginning to the end of her obsession with Coaster Boss, and to the start of a new friendship. When J— meets Sam, a nonbinary classmate, she begins to realize that it’s okay to not fit into neat, pixelated boxes.”

Rainie Oet (she/her) is a trans woman who writes fiction and poetry for adults and young readers including *Robin’s Worlds* (Astra), and *Monster Seek* (Astra). She received her MFA in Poetry from Syracuse University, where she was awarded the Shirley Jackson Prize in Fiction. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her cat, Skipper. Her website is www.rainieoet.com.

Middle Grade novel in verse

Praise for Rainie Oet

"Rainie Oet brings a **fresh and affecting** poetic voice to this **tender** tale of neuro-spiciness and gender quest. Her depiction of gaming's power for good in today's young lives is keenly observed and quirkily imagined. **This is an original and necessary book.**" —**Lisa Bunker**, author of *Felix XY* and *Zenobia July*.

"A turbulent, emotionally wrenching coming-of-age story." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Each poem is as **raw** as it is **beautiful**." —**Alex Gino**, author of ALA Stonewall Award-winning novel *Melissa*

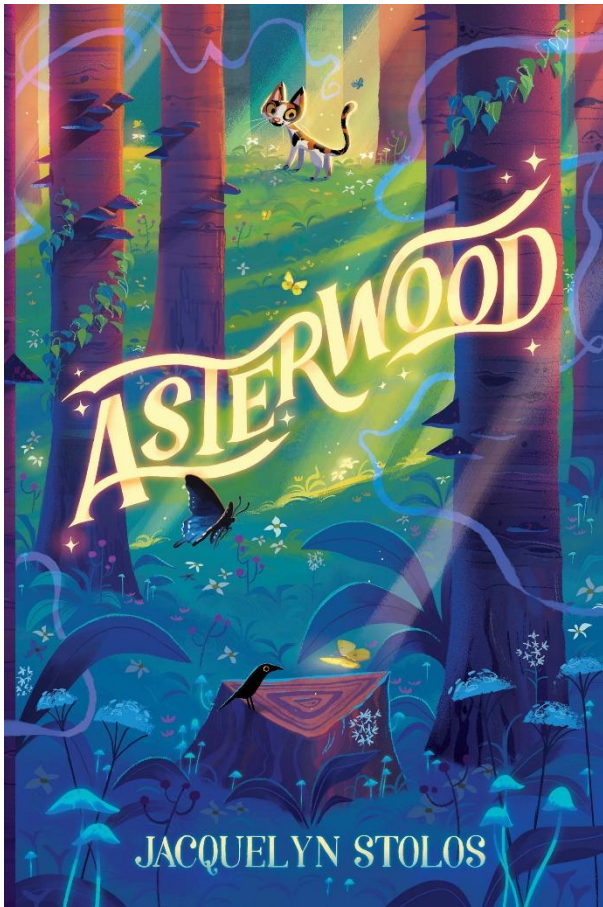
"Explore[s] the intensity and isolation of adolescence. Rainie's writing is a **gift to young readers**." —**Mary Karr**, Whiting Award winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Liar's Club*

"**Poignant**, illuminating. ...**accessible**, immersive." —*Booklist*

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah called Rainie "a brilliant new writer with the power to make you see things you've never seen before with stunning clarity."

George Saunders called her work "complex, mysterious, finely wrought, and formally daring," and said that she is "a young writer to watch."

Mary Karr said, "Rainie Oet has it all," and called her second book of poetry "an extraordinary display of poetic power, and [2020]'s must-read new voice."



Jacquelyn Stolos ASTERWOOD

Delacorte, December 30, 2025 | NA
Manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater

A middle grade version of *The Hazel Wood* by way of Kelly Barnhill, a mysterious new friend introduces a motherless girl to a fantastical yet ominous world, where she discovers not only a secret world and a group of kids that are relying on her, but also that her family has secrets of its own.

Now, the tree wavered back and forth, its base engulfed in flames. “And what kind of mother would I have been if I had found you? You don’t think I love you? You don’t think I want you to live a life untouched by badness or hurt? Untouched by me? You are my greatest love and greatest agony.”

Twelve-year-old Madelyn Delios doesn’t quite fit in her small New Hampshire town, but she’d never let her father, Ezra, know how much it hurts. Life in their lopsided old farmhouse overflows with great books, cozy meals, and father-daughter adventures in the surrounding woods. What more could a good daughter ask for? After all, it’s not Ezra’s fault that Madelyn doesn’t have a mother.

But, when a mysterious new friend appears in the woods behind her house and invites her down a forbidden trail to another world, Madelyn is forced to reckon with yearnings she’s long suppressed and uncomfortable truths she’s always suspected. *ASTERWOOD* is a story of what we inherit, of magic and mothers, and of how one society’s insatiable desire brings their enchanted ecosystem to the brink of collapse. Beware of cannibals, complacency, raging rivers, and the shock of seeing your parents as human for the very first time.

Jacquelyn Stolos is a writer living and teaching in Los Angeles. She holds an MFA in fiction from New York University where she was a Writers in the Public Schools Fellow. Jacquelyn has won fellowships to attend the New York State Summer Writers Institute and the Community of Writers. Her short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Bodega Magazine*, *No Tokens*, *Joyland* and more. Find her online at <http://www.jacquelynstolos.com/>.



Middle Grade novel

Claire Swinarski

EACH AND EVERY SPARK

Quill Tree Books, Feb. 17, 2026 | North America
288 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater

From the Edgar Award nominated author of *What Happened to Rachel Riley?* comes an engrossing, timely, and propulsive story of two girls in Paris—one living under Nazi rule in the 1940s; the other in present day—and the mysterious painting that unites them. Perfect for fans of *The Bletchley Riddle* and *When We Flew Away*.



"*Each and Every Spark* is an enthralling story of resistance, and a timely reminder: that beauty and truth are worth fighting for, and that the courage to do so transcends generations." — **Kate Albus**, award winning author of *A Place to Hang the Moon*

"I was caught up in the interconnected lives of Penny and Marie, two brave and passionate girls living in Paris at two very different times, and the reminder of the role art plays as a messenger of hope and beauty in their world — and ours." — **Caroline Starr Rose**, author of *May B.* and *The Burning Season*

Paris, present day. Penny Marks has never felt so alone. Forced to move to France for some fancy job her mom couldn't turn down, she's now miles away from her old life. If she hadn't quit art after all that drama went down last year, she'd at least have *something* to keep her mind off the fact that life back home is moving on without her.

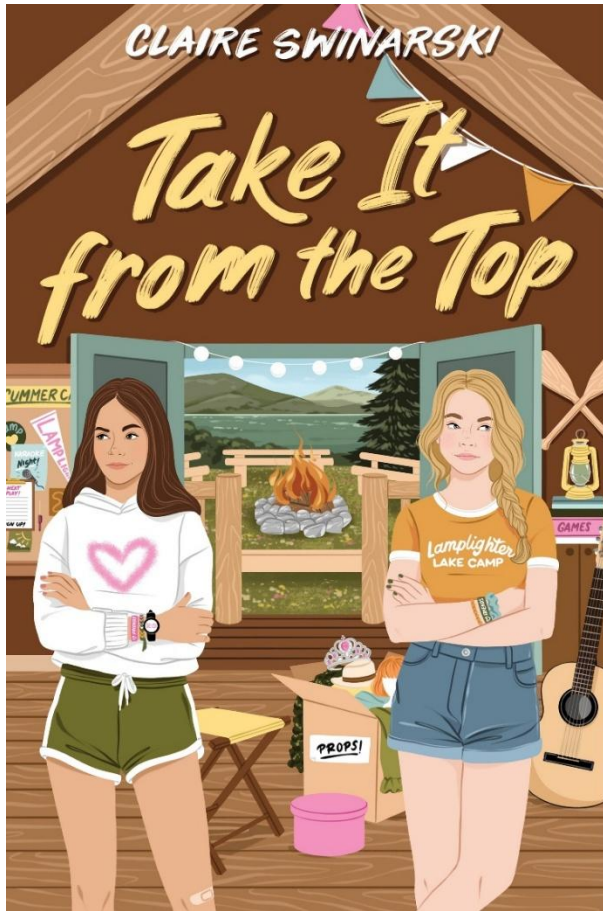
Paris, 1943. Marie Bonnet has never felt so afraid. When the German army seized power over France, she and her sister Heloise watched their father get taken away, leaving them on their own. Then Marie finds evidence that Heloise has secretly been working for the French Resistance—a group of rebels determined to take the Nazis down—and while it has danger written all over it, she's desperate to join. Any small act of uprising could help their country...but it could also cost them their lives.

Penny and Marie's worlds collide when an old painting resurfaces in present-day Paris after decades of being hidden. Along with it is a note whose message may lead Penny to Marie...and the fate that awaited her.



Claire Swinarski is the author of four middle-grade books and two adult novels. Her writing has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Seventeen*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, and many other publications. She lives in small town Wisconsin with her husband and three kids, where she writes books, wears babies, and wrangles bread dough. <http://www.claireswinarski.com/>

Middle Grade novel



Claire Swinarski
TAKE IT FROM THE TOP
Quill, November 19, 2024 | North America
256 pages, Manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater

Set at a camp over the course of six summers, this novel dives into the falling-out of two girls from different backgrounds who thought they'd be friends forever...until a production of *Wicked* brings all their buried issues to the surface. Privilege, perspective, and the power of friendship inhabit this page-turning puzzle that readers will devour.

Eowyn Becker has waited all year to attend her sixth summer at Lamplighter Lake Summer Camp. Here, the pain of her mom's death can't reach her, and she gets to reunite with her best friend, Jules Marrigan—the only person in the world who understands her. This year will be their year--*Wicked*, the girls' favorite musical, has been chosen for the camp's end-of-year production. If anyone can be Glinda to Eowyn's Elphaba, it's Jules!

But when Eowyn arrives at camp, everything seems wrong. The best-friend reunion Eowyn had been dreaming of doesn't go as planned. Jules will barely even *look* at Eowyn, let alone talk to her, and Eowyn has no idea why.

Well, maybe she does...

There are two sides to every story, and if you want to understand this one, you'll need to hear both. Told in a series of alternating chapters that dip back to past summers, the girls' story will soon reveal how Eowyn and Jules went from being best friends to fierce foils. Can they mend ways before the curtains close on what was supposed to be the best summer of their lives.

Select Reviews for TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

"[A] masterful exploration of friendship gone wrong. Evocative worldbuilding brings Lamplighter to life for the intimately developed, well-intentioned characters who often struggle to see other points of view. The well-paced interweaving of multiple summers' experiences builds tension and shines light on how the past reverberates into the present. Brilliantly executed: a gem that's a love letter to theater and summer camp." — *Kirkus Reviews* ★

The vibrant and exceptionally rendered setting makes for a compelling backdrop against which layered character building unravels. Swinarski intersperses Eowyn's conversational narration with sympathetic third person chapters that cover the events of previous summers, offering context and history to the girls' relationship." — *Publishers Weekly* ★

Middle Grade Novel

Alex Thayer

BAD CHEERLEADER

Aladdin, November 11, 2025 | World English

288 pages, manuscript available April 2025

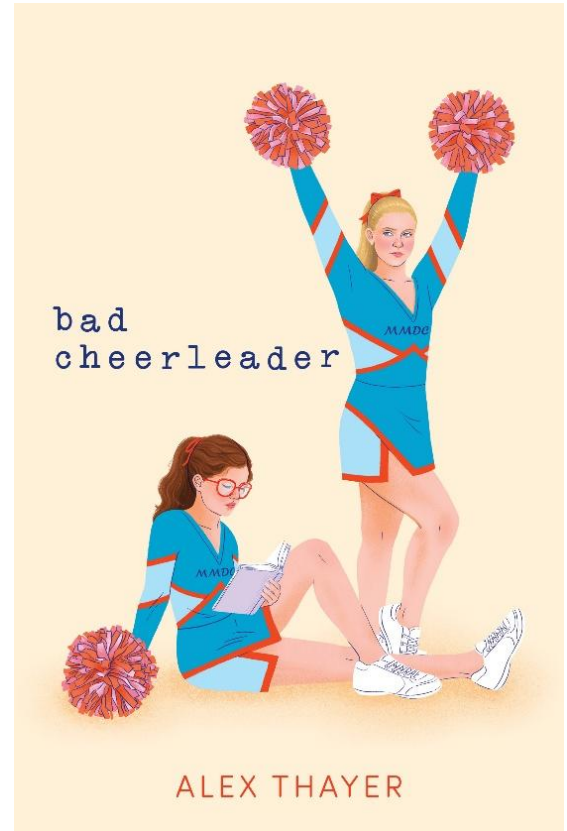
Agent: Alexander Slater

A dyslexic bookworm joins her school's cheerleading squad to investigate her sister's strange behavior in this insightful and sharp middle grade novel about the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood.

Seventh grader Bag loves to read. It doesn't come easy to her, thanks to her dyslexia, but she's determined, and she spends every afternoon after school at the library. It's a ritual she refuses to miss.

Then a new career opportunity for her mother means Bag will no longer have a ride to her cherished library. Instead, Bag will have to wait for a ride at school. With her sister, Minerva. At cheerleading practice.

Bag is uncoordinated and completely uninterested in school spirit. But she *is* curious about what her sister has been hiding. Minerva has been acting stranger than usual, and Bag has been noticing. So while cheerleading practice may be the last place Bag wants to be, she's going to use her time wisely and get to the bottom of Minerva's secrets.



Alexandra Thayer is a former film and television actress and elementary school teacher. She lives in New England with her two sons and can be found on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/alexandra_thayer/

Middle Grade novel

Alex Thayer

HAPPY & SAD & EVERYTHING TRUE

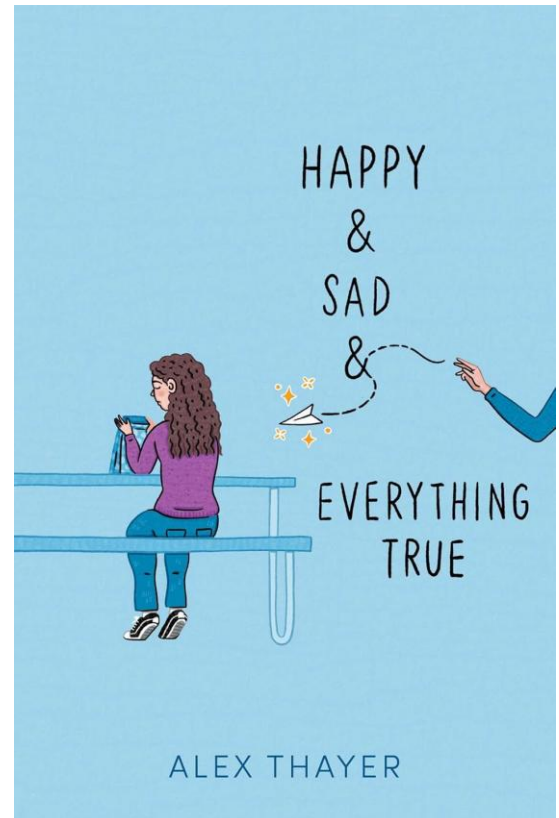
(formerly BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING)
Aladdin, November 12, 2024 | World English
272 pages, Manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater

Sold in a two-book pre-empt!

With charm and sincerity reminiscent of Judy Blume and Rebecca Stead, this debut middle grade novel is a heartfelt, hopeful story about a girl finding herself through secretly giving out advice to classmates.

Back when Dee and Juniper were still friends, Dee never hid in the bathroom. Now, at the beginning of sixth grade, Dee finds herself there often. The dripping faucet is annoying, and there are other places she'd rather be—like at home and in her room with her cat, Norman. But at least Dee is safe from overenthusiastic teachers and having to see Juniper walking through the halls with her new friends. Dee would rather be alone than witness that.

But it turns out Dee isn't the only one hiding from something. There are kids all over the school worrying in secret and needing someone to talk to. After Dee helps a second grader with spelling advice, more students begin coming to Dee with their problems. It turns out she's a good listener, and she likes helping people. And when she starts receiving mysterious notes, it seems someone out there wants to be her friend—if only they would reveal themselves.



“A compassionate window into the awkward and isolating stages of growing up.” –*Kirkus Reviews*

“*Happy & Sad & Everything True* has a sincere earnestness that brings you right back to the halls of middle school. Kids will absolutely love this sweet-yet-strong story.” –**Claire Swinarski, author of *What Happened to Rachel Riley?***

“Any kid who’s ever hidden in the bathroom will wish they had a Dee to whisper with.” -- **BCCB**

“Thayer’s debut novel brings readers to an authentic view of junior high, with its daily drama and moments of discovery... A solid purchase for libraries with a following for authors like Kate DiCamillo and Rebecca Stead.”-- **Booklist**

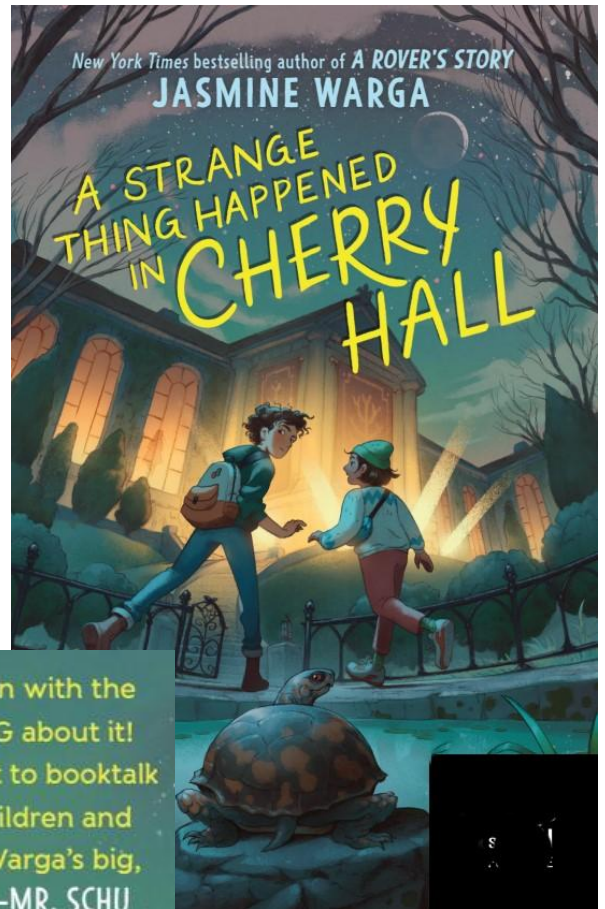
“Alex Thayer’s delightful debut could not be more perfectly named. I experienced all the feels watching Dee navigate mean-girl cliques, lose her best friend, handle her eccentric single mother (who is maybe dating her PE teacher) all the while staying open to new possibilities. A charming, entertaining, and true book that gently illustrates how so many of life’s problems can be improved by a large dollop of generosity. I would follow Dee’s advice any time.” -- **Gayle Forman, author of *Frankie & Bug* and *Not Nothing***

Middle Grade novel

Jasmine Warga
**A STRANGE THING HAPPENED IN
CHERRY HALL**

Balzer & Bray, September 10, 2024 | World English
224 Pages, manuscript available
Rights sold: Korea, Proomi Books

From the award-winning, **New York Times** bestselling author of *A Rover's Story* and *Other Words for Home* comes an extraordinary story about two friends, a ghost, a missing painting, and a turtle named Agatha. The perfect next read for fans of *The Swifts*, *Kate DiCamillo*, and *Erin Entrada Kelly*.



“A *Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall* reeled me in with the opening sentence and didn’t let go. I love EVERYTHING about it! The characters! The setting! The suspense! I cannot wait to booktalk it during school visit presentations. I’m going to tell children and educators around the world that I could feel Jasmine Warga’s big, kind heart on every page! What a gift she’s given us!”—MR. SCHU

A painting has been stolen...!

When Rami sees a floating girl in the museum, he knows he has seen her somewhere before. Then he realizes: She looks just like the girl in the painting that has gone missing. But how does her appearance connect to the theft?

Agatha the turtle knows—she has been watching from the garden. But she can’t exactly tell anyone...can she?

Will Rami, with the help of his classmate, Veda, be able to solve the mystery? The clues are all around them, but they’ll have to be brave enough to really look.

This is a whimsical, moving story about the universal desire to be seen and understood and how art can help us find connection, even when we are at our loneliest.

Jasmine Warga is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of middle grade novels *Other Words For Home*, *The Shape of Thunder*, and *A Rover's Story*. *Other Words For Home* earned multiple awards, including a John Newbery Honor, a Walter Honor for Young Readers, and a Charlotte Huck Honor. *The Shape of Thunder* was a *School Library Journal* and Bank Street best book of the year, a finalist for the Barnes & Noble Children's and YA Book Award, and has been named to several state award reading lists. *A Rover's Story* was an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a Indie Next List and a Junior Library Guild selection, and was named a best book of the year by *Publishers Weekly* and *The Washington Post*. She is also the author of young adult novel, *My Heart and Other Black Holes*, which has been translated into over twenty different languages. Originally from Cincinnati, she now lives in the Chicago-area with her family in a house filled with books.
<https://jasminewarga.com/>



Middle Grade novel

Praise for *A STRANGE THING HAPPENED IN CHERRY HALL*

"Jasmine Warga has written a modern classic. Smart, charming, and wholly unique--this book about stolen art will steal your heart." — **Tae Keller, Winner of the Newbery Medal for *When You Trap a Tiger***

"Intrigue! Ghosts! A turtle named Agatha! This book has everything you could want in a mystery. Jasmine Warga is a wonder!" — **Karina Yan Glaser, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Vanderbeekers Series***

"Jasmine Warga has crafted a clever mystery that unfolds in unexpected ways and answers the question not only of "Whodunnit?" but more importantly the greater mystery of "Who am I?" It is powered by good friends, true fears, and the importance of taking time to notice things that are easily overlooked. Like one of its characters says of art, *A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall* is filled with surprise gifts and secrets for you to discover. It is a winner in every way!" — **James Ponti, *New York Times* bestselling author of *City Spies***

"The mystery drives this exquisitely paced story that readers will quickly consume. The characters are the beating heart of this tender, quiet tale —each drawn with texture, depth, and warmth. A slowly unfurling delight." — ***Kirkus Reviews* ★**

"The meticulously fleshed-out museum backdrop evokes impeccable ambiance for a mystery in this cozy tale. Grayscale illustrations by Rockefeller depict the museum and cast through vivid portraiture." — ***Publishers Weekly***

"Warga's spare prose, sweet characters, and gentle narration offer early middle-graders an accessible, even poetic read. This is a story with a sense of wonder. The budding relationship between reserved Rami and upbeat Veda illustrates the power of affirming friendship in an uncertain period of life. A treat for bighearted, bookish sleuths."
— ***Booklist***

"Focalization shifts among various characters adding a contemplative note about art, loss, ambition, and the different ways we find home. Warga has a knack for creating characters deeply relatable, with struggles and insecurities that will no doubt resonate with young readers." — ***Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books***

"Warga employs a fantastic writing style. Every character, tortoise included, is perfectly developed. Readers will discover a beautifully relatable story about the importance of finding the people who see the world the same way you do. A delightful mystery sure to captivate all readers." — ***School Library Journal* ★**

Charlotte Woo

CROW GIRL and CROW GIRL #2

Razorbill (World English)

Book #1 Spring 2027 (delivery early 2026))

Book #2 Summer 2028

Agent: Alexander Slater

Born with black feathers on her face, Crow is an outcast, thought to be cursed, and someone best to stay far away from. In truth, Crow is very lonely and desperate for friends, other than the animals that she’s able to communicate with.

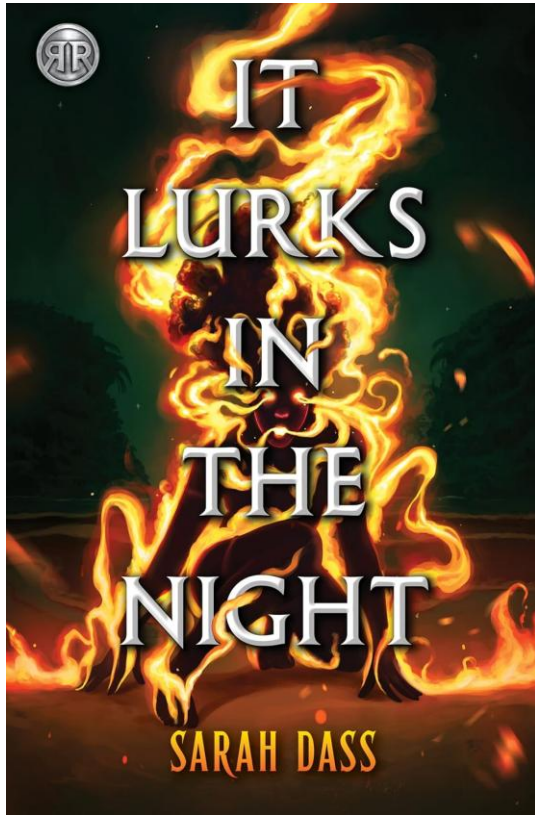
After suffering one last cruelty at the hands of the other local children, she decides to go on the road to find a way to reverse her “curse.” Along the journey, she’ll meet a prince, a giant, and will learn the things that only the best quests have always taught us.



The timelessness of CROW GIRL will remind readers of Studio Ghibli, and the classic feel of these characters will stay with audiences for years to come.

Charlotte Woo is a Chinese artist, relocating to Canada soon. Find her online at <https://www.charlottewoo.com/> CROW GIRL is her first novel.





Sarah Dass

IT LURKS IN THE NIGHT

Disney Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents, November 4, 2025 |
World English
400 pages, final manuscript available

From the author of *It Waits in the Forest* comes a new stand-alone supernatural YA thriller steeped in Caribbean folklore—a lush and evocative tale of the rot that grows at the heart of even the most beautiful places.

"IT LURKS IN THE NIGHT is a gripping story full of complicated characters with secrets as deep as the ocean itself. Between the palpable paranoia, supernatural superstition and viscerally tense friendship drama, this chilling thriller is guaranteed to pull you in and under." —Jade Adia, award-winning author of *There Goes the Neighborhood*

"Both a riveting supernatural thriller and a touching exploration of friendship and family. *It Lurks in the Night* draws on Caribbean folklore for its sinister creature while simultaneously diving into the sort of horror that is

uniquely human—and no less terrifying. I was in awe not only of the many-layered mystery but also of the deep connections between characters and discussions of how to find yourself when you've spent your life being defined by the lives of others. With a setting so vivid it feels real, characters who could be your best friends or worst enemies, and a monster that will keep you up at night, this book is a must-read!" —Liselle Sambury, author of *Delicious Monsters* and *Blood like Magic*

All Maya Woods wants is to reunite her three best friends, Pearl, Erica, and Lystra, for one last epic boat trip to the islands around their Caribbean home before they all graduate from high school. But the girls are forced to make an emergency landing on Annatto—an island avoided by locals and tourists alike because of the rumors of monsters and shadows that lurk in its depths—and their yearly tradition descends into darkness as Erica turns up dead. The girls have no choice but to leave her body behind.

As their tight-knit community spirals into grief and suspicion, Maya and her friends struggle to understand what happened on the island. Was it simply an accident, or is there truth to the rumors about Annatto?

A week later, everyone rejoices when Erica mysteriously returns alive and well, but Maya can't seem to let go of her questions. What did they see that night? And who—or what—is Erica now? As old arguments and new betrayals rise to the surface, Maya and her friends can feel the shadows closing in on them. Something is lurking in the night, and they must be ready to face it.



Sarah Dass was born in Trinidad but has lived in Tobago since she was two years old. A graduate of the University of the West Indies and University College London, she is a full-time author, crafting stories inspired by growing up in the Caribbean. When she's not writing, she's reading or taking walks with her dachshund. Sarah is also the author of *Where the Rhythm Takes You* (Balzer + Bray, 2021), *When the Vibe is Right* (Balzer + Bray 2023) and *It Waits in the Forest* (Rick Riordan Presents, 2024). You can learn more about the author at www.sarahdass.com

Young Adult

Sarah Dass

IT WAITS IN THE FOREST

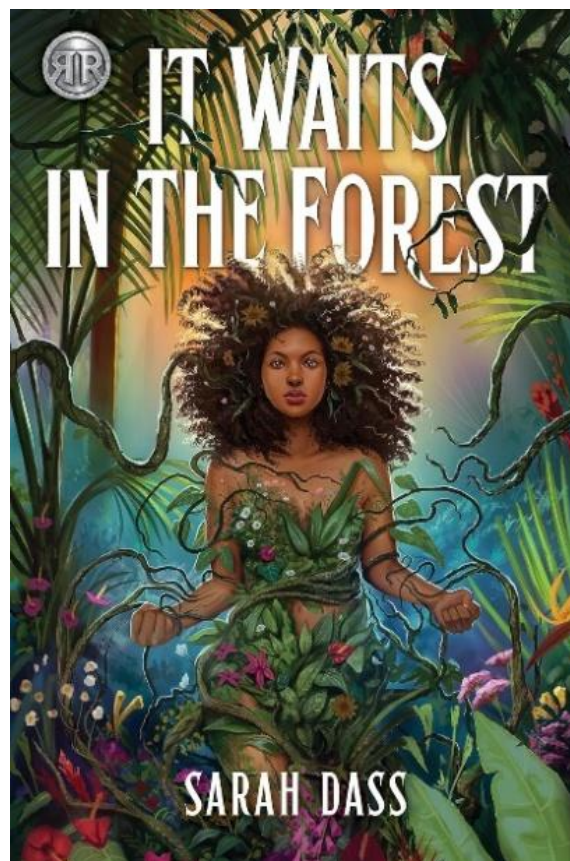
Disney Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents May 14, 2024 /
paperback April 8, 2025 | World English
320 pages, manuscript available

The very first thriller from *Rick Riordan Presents!* Drawing from the darkest corners of Caribbean mythology, acclaimed author Sarah Dass crafts a chilling tale of magic, murder, and how far we'll go to protect what's ours—perfect for fans of Angeline Boulley and Tiffany D. Jackson.

Unlike the other residents of the small Caribbean Island of St. Virgil, Selina DaSilva does not believe in magic. With a logical mind and a knack for botany, Selina used to dream of leaving the island to study Pharmacology—until a vicious, unsolved attack left her father dead and her mother in a coma.

Now her guilt over her mother's condition keeps her tethered to the island, relegated to conning gullible tourists with useless talismans and phony protection rituals. But when one of those tourists ends up at the center of a string of strange murders, the truth that Selina has been denying can no longer be avoided: there is evil lurking in the forests that surround St. Virgil. Another thing that can't be avoided? Selina's ex-boyfriend Gabriel, newly employed at the local newspaper and eager to put his investigative skills to use.

Desperate to put an end to the killings and claim justice for Selina's family, these two former lovers race to find answers. But evil bides its time. And as long-buried feelings and long-hidden secrets about Selina's family's past begin to reveal themselves, only one answer remains—and it waits in the forest.



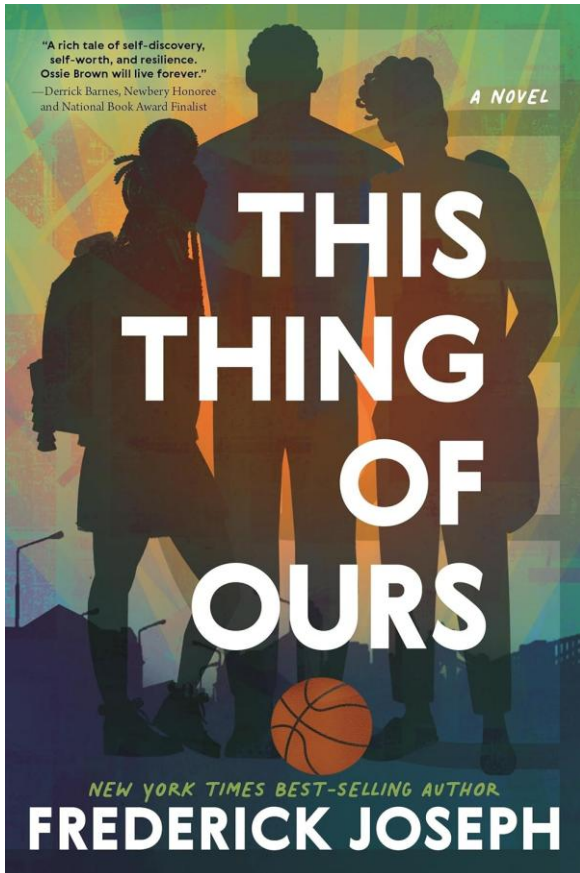
“A wickedly delectable thriller that will have you looking over your shoulder to make sure nothing followed you out of the forest.” – **Roseanne A. Brown**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *A Song of Wraiths and Ruin*

“A dark, tantalizing tale that will keep you on your toes as much as it will knock you back on your seat.” – **Vincent Tirado**, *Pura Belpré* Award-winning author of *Burn Down, Rise Up*

“I was glued to these pages from beginning to end!” – **Lauren Blackwood**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Within These Wicked Walls*

“Beggars the question of how far you would go to reclaim what you've lost and what you risk sacrificing to get it. Compelling, creepy, and complex, this story will haunt you long after you've finished reading.” – **Liselle Sambury**, author of *Blood Like Magic* and *Delicious Monsters*

Young Adult



Frederick Joseph **THIS THING OF OURS**

Candlewick, May 6, 2025 | World English
384 pages, Manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater

From the two-time *New York Times* bestselling author of **THE BLACK FRIEND (2020)** and **PATRIARCHY BLUES (2022)**, and the author of **BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT (2022)**, a powerful and timely YA debut that is a deeply heartfelt story—and a rallying cry against book banning.

In an instant, Ossie Brown’s entire future is in jeopardy when a torn ACL ends his promising basketball career. Now that basketball is no longer a major part of his identity, Ossie—a Black teen who doesn’t come from wealth and privilege—must navigate his new place in the social and academic ecosystems of his affluent, predominantly white school.

When a Black teacher encourages him to join her highly regarded writing program, Ossie begins to find a new purpose, buoyed by not only the rich works of literature by marginalized authors he’s now reading, but also by new friends who see him

as something more than an asset to the sports program. Everything changes when some students’ viral “anti-woke” video puts the teacher’s job, the writing program, and even Ossie’s friends’ safety at risk—and Ossie must find his true voice.

This unflinching novel confronts critical issues like racism and classism, the treatment of student athletes, homophobia, and book banning while weaving together a moving testament to family, romance, friendship, and the power of words.

Frederick Joseph is an author, activist, philanthropist, and marketing professional. Two of his nonfiction titles, *The Black Friend* and *Patriarchy Blues*, were instant *New York Times* bestsellers. He is the coauthor, with Porsche Joseph, of *Better Than We Found It* and the author of the picture book *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever: The Courage to Dream*, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith. A recipient of both the Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award and the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Vanguard Award, Frederick Joseph was named to the 2019 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list and was selected for the 2018 Root 100, an annual list of the most influential African Americans. He lives in New York City with his wife, Porsche, and their dog, Stokely.



Young Adult

Praise for THIS THING OF OURS

“Both heartening and heartbreaking, this richly layered, sensitive YA fiction debut from Joseph (Better Than We Found It) unflinchingly confronts systemic racism, classism, and homophobia via a powerful story of self-discovery and social justice that aims, shoots, and scores.” — ***Publishers Weekly*** ★

“A thought-provoking exploration of storytelling dynamics in a social media–driven society.” — ***Kirkus Reviews***

“This Thing of Ours is a heartbreakingly topical novel that lays bare the systemic inequities permeating the world of young people today. This coming-of-age story illuminates the full humanity of young people as well as their capacity to lead the revolution. In Joseph we have an author who delivers a gripping, urgent plot with characters readers will rally to and embrace. Joseph more than just trusts young people to grapple with the challenges and complexities of the issues impacting their lives; his faith in their ability to find the inspiration, courage, and commitment to call out injustice and work toward the future they deserve is unshakeable.” —**Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul, educator and coauthor of *Stamped (for Kids)***

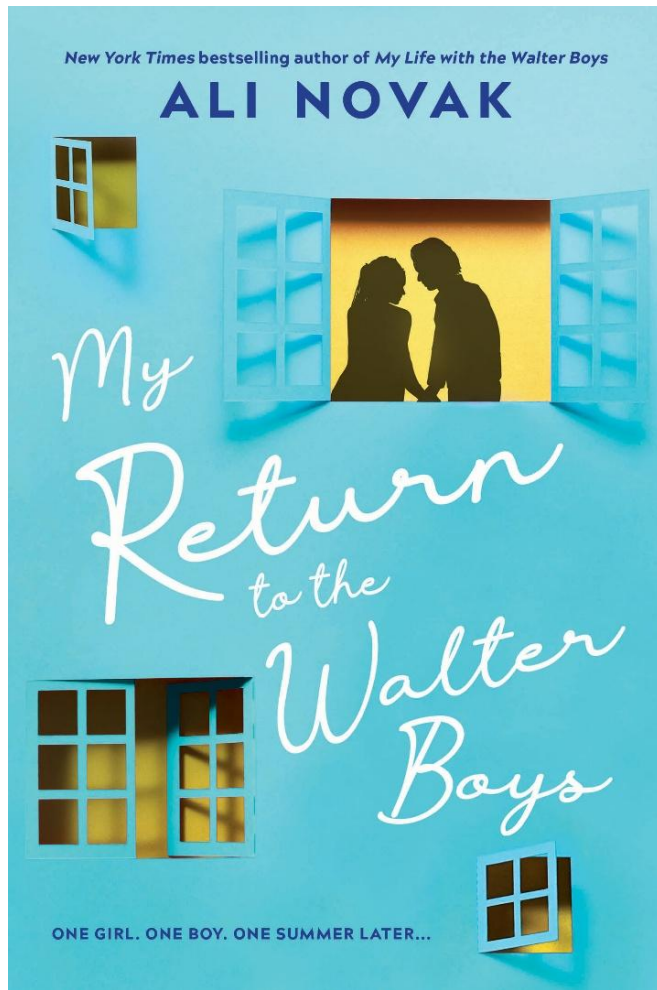
“In a moment where ‘wokeness’ is weaponized, This Thing of Ours is the light that can guide us through the darkness. I laughed, I cried, I felt everything was broken . . . and then, that it could be fixed. This book is so unflinching, so heartfelt, so authentic, so damn of-the-now, it’s bound to be banned. I loved every page.” —**Damon Lindelof, Emmy Award–winning writer and producer of *Watchmen***

“A triumphant exaltation of the redemptive power of family, friendship, and community, This Thing of Ours is a fast-paced, emotionally rich attestation to the fight for the dignity and humanity of all Americans. It should be celebrated in classrooms across this country. With an ear for lyrical beauty as much as an eye for social critique, Joseph reminds us why caring about the truth matters and that the time to stand up for it is now.” —**Brendan Kiely, *New York Times* best-selling coauthor of *All American Boys***

“With a cast of naturally diverse characters you will root for, This Thing of Ours beautifully explores the awkward, anxiety-inducing, beautiful reality of growing up. All while reminding us that nothing is worth doing alone—not sports, not grief, not standing up and fighting for your people, and, most importantly, not life. This Thing of Ours is a must-read!” —**Keah Brown, author of *The Secret Summer Promise***

“Once again, regardless of genre, Frederick Joseph puts his heart, soul, passion, and unapologetic voice into every paragraph, sentence, and syllable. This rich tale of self-discovery, self-worth, and resilience will land protagonist Ossie Brown in the pantheon of legendary young adult characters that will live forever.”
—**Derrick Barnes, two-time Kirkus Prize winner, Newbery Honoree, and National Book Award Finalist**

“This Thing of Ours weaves the timeless magic of the YA novel (the friendship, love, family, and coming-of-age that readers have always adored) with present-day realities that need a firmer place in the genre, in a way that is both narratively rich and urgently necessary. Frederick Joseph does with this story what he does with all of his writing: he speaks truth with the authority of an educator and the passion of an artist. This book is truly for everyone—for those who feel directly represented by its characters and those with whom its author is sharing a generous heap of insight, education, and relentless hope.” —**Cree, actress and storyteller**



Ali Novak
**MY RETURN TO
THE WALTER BOYS**

Sourcebooks, April 2025 | World English

Manuscript available

Agent: Alex Slater

Rights sold: Brazil (V&R), Czech (Albatros Media),
France (Hachette), Germany (cbj), Italy (Newton
Compton), Poland (Helion), Spanish (PRH)

***New York Times* Bestseller!**

***USA Today* Bestseller!**

The highly anticipated sequel to *My Life with the Walter Boys*, the internationally bestselling novel that inspired the Netflix series!

#1 globally on Netflix in its first week out, with a 57% increase over season 1's debut!

Jackie Howard returns to the Walter ranch after a summer in New York. She needed space—and got it. But she doesn't know where things stand with her and Cole Walter after that goodbye kiss. Over the summer, she stopped texting him. She never stopped thinking about him.

Still, with Cole living off in town to work at Tony's garage before he heads off to college, Jackie thinks it'll be easy to avoid him—only to find that when she sees him face to face at last, it's, well... impossible to resist him. Things are getting complicated: he's the boy she can't get off her mind, and the Walters have become the family she loves and needs. How can Jackie move forward when she's afraid of taking the next step?

Born and raised in Wisconsin, [Ali Novak](#) is an awarding-winning author of contemporary young adult novels. She started writing her debut book, *My Life with the Walter Boys*, when she was only fifteen. Since then, her work has received more than 150 million reads online. When she isn't writing, Novak enjoys traveling with her husband, Jared; binding fan fiction; and reading any type of fantasy novel she can get her hands on. You can follow her on Wattpad, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram [@authoralinovak](#).



XiXi Tian

ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN

Balzer & Bray, September 30, 2025 |

World English

336 pages, Manuscript available

Rights sold for THIS PLACE IS STILL BEAUTIFUL:
Brazil: Rocco, France: Slalom, Germany: Carlsen

From the acclaimed author of THIS PLACE IS STILL BEAUTIFUL comes an evocative, achingly romantic road trip story about grief, diasporic identities, and the deep-buried secrets that haunt us, perfect for fans of *Past Lives* and *The Farewell*.

Stella Chen’s life ground to a halt when her brother unexpectedly passed away a year ago. Raised together by their grandmother for years in the Chinese countryside before rejoining their parents in the United States, his absence destroys the connective tissue in her family. With another jarring move her senior year, from rural Illinois to unfamiliar surroundings in San Diego, she is left alone and adrift in her family’s suffocating silence and the void of unanswered questions her brother left behind.



So when Stella’s parents force her to join her estranged childhood friend Alan Zhao for a college tour all over California, Stella dreads it. Alan is a reminder of everything Stella wishes she could be—popular, gregarious, unburdened—and a reminder of how lost she is.

As this road trip takes Stella and Alan down beautiful coastlines and through fraught family dynamics, Stella can’t help but feel the spark of why she and Alan were once so close. Before long, they find themselves pulled into each other’s orbits, forcing unspoken feelings and long-hidden truths into the light.

From rising star XiXi Tian comes an evocative, achingly romantic tale of grief, healing, and enduring bond of family across oceans and beyond the grave.

XiXi Tian was born in China and immigrated to the United States when she was a year old. She grew up in central Illinois, graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in history and then attended Harvard Law School. She is a writer, lawyer, avid reader, and lifelong Midwesterner no matter where she lives. Her debut novel, *This Place Is Still Beautiful*, won the 2024 Kalbacher Klapperschlange award, was an Indies Introduce and Indies Next pick and received five starred reviews. She lives outside of New York City. You can visit her online at www.xixiwrites.com.



Praise for ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN:

"Raw and honest, XiXi Tian's sophomore novel is a must-read for anyone who has lost someone they love and is trying to move forward. Exquisitely written and buttressed by a slow-burn enemies-to-lovers romance, *ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN* is exactly that: a beam of bright, beautiful light." —**E. L. Shen, author of *The Queens of New York***

"A stunning journey into the ways grief and longing shape us. I was left profoundly moved as Stella found her way back to her childhood love, her family, and ultimately, herself." —**Jas Hammonds, award-winning author of *We Deserve Monuments***

"With hauntingly beautiful prose, XiXi Tian captures all the complexities of growing up and finding your place in the world." —**Ann Liang, New York Times bestselling author of *I Hope This Doesn't Find You***

"Beautifully moving; it'll break your heart and stitch it back together. An expertly crafted story about the things we tell—and don't tell—our families, our friends, and ourselves." —**Ann Zhao, author of *Dear Wendy***

"Readers will be moved by Stella and Alan's courageous honesty as their heart-wrenching conversations gradually rebuild their relationship into something more and help them reflect on past mistakes and guilt by using their voices to pave their own paths in life." -- **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books ★**

K. Wroten

EVERYONE SUX BUT YOU

Holt, May 20, 2025 | North America

368 pages, manuscript available

A bold young adult graphic novel about the highs and lows of growing up, queer love, and learning to accept yourself for who you are, perfect for fans of *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me*, *Daria* and *Ladybird*.

"*Everyone Sux But You* is a book you can lose time inside . . . Wroten perfectly captures the agony of first love embedded in a deep and complicated friendship, as well as the ambition of bright misfits dreaming of elsewhere in "flyover country". A new generation's *Perks of Being a Wallflower*." —**Mary Shyne**, author of *You and Me on Repeat*

"A complex and emotionally raw story of young love and learning to prioritize oneself." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"An honest exploration of first love and the strength it takes to leave an abusive relationship." —**School Library Journal**

"Laden with references to alternative music and the 2000s emo scene, *Everyone Sux but You* provides insight into the mutable nature of teenage relationships through an emotionally resonant queer lens." —**Booklist**

High school senior Carson Flynn doesn't give a damn—about you, about school, or about her future. The only thing she cares about is jumping into mosh pits at concerts with her best friend Ash.

But when Ash and Carson's friendship becomes something more, a lot of complicated feelings enter the pit swinging: the unresolved grief they share over the loss of Carson's mother, the realities of growing up queer in small-town America, and the biggest bruiser of all: what does it mean to love and be loved?

As Carson discovers new corners of her heart, she sees that her too-cool approach to life may have been keeping her closed off from her potential. Maybe there is something greater out there, a bright future full of promise . . . if only she could convince Ash to see it too.

EVERYONE SUX BUT YOU, the first young adult graphic novel from award-winning comics creator K. Wroten, defines what being a teen feels like while redefining what a graphic novel for teens can be.

K. Wroten is an award-winning comics author and illustrator. They are originally from the Midwest and currently live in Brooklyn, NY with their pet snake, Jules.

