



Spring 2026
Frontlist Rights Guide

Adult and Children's books

Greenburger.com



CHILDREN'S BOOKS - PICTURE BOOKS



**Stefanie Foster
Brown (author)
with Keisha Morris
(illustrator)**

**MY HEART
SPEAKS KRIOLU**

Simon & Schuster,
November 4, 2025 |
World English

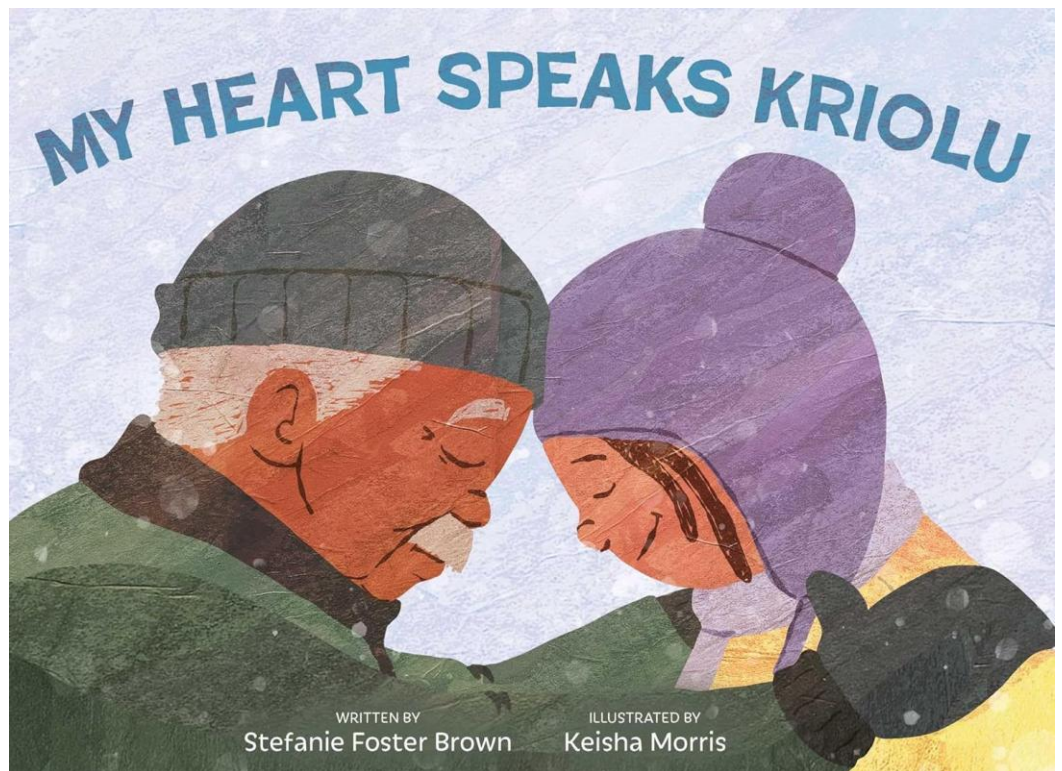
40 pages, manuscript
available

SJGA WORKS WITH
TEXT ONLY.

Illustrations via S&S

On Saturday walks with

**ILA Notable Book for
a Global Society**



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.

"Readers... will be deeply moved by Foster Brown's delicate words and Morris' enchanting art; those curious about this unique West African culture will be gratified by the author's note, in which Foster Brown shares memories of her own grandfather, who, like Papa, had issues with his vision. A worthy, emotionally charged reflection on home and heritage." – **Kirkus Reviews**

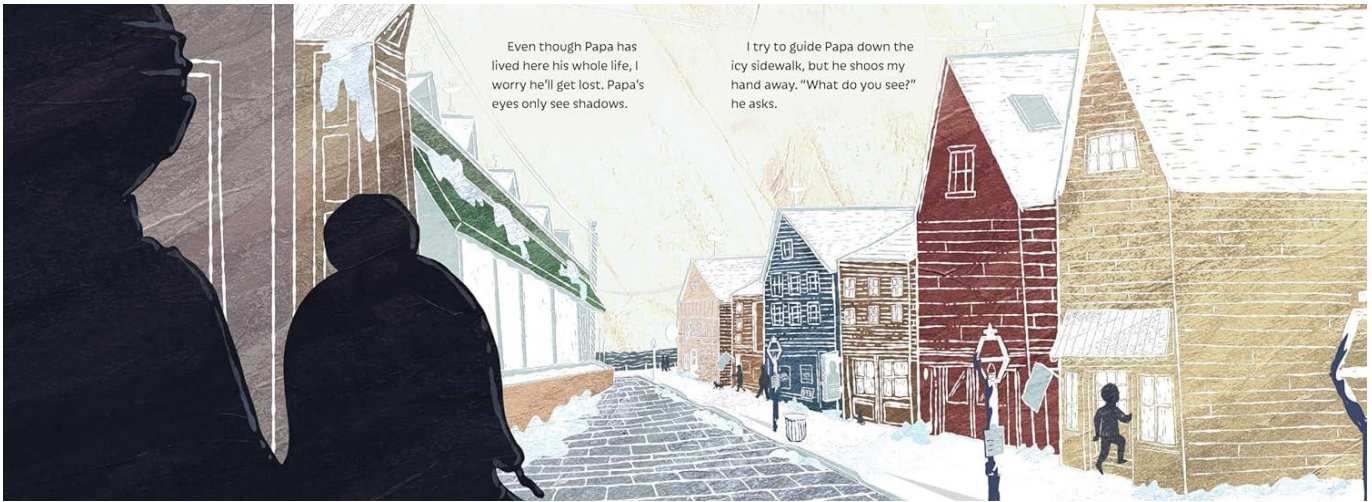


Stefanie Foster Brown is a fourth-generation Cabo Verdean American whose grandparents were the last in her family to speak Kriolu. A former school psychologist, Stefanie spent part of her professional training researching the relationship between language, culture, and identity. She lives in Connecticut 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).



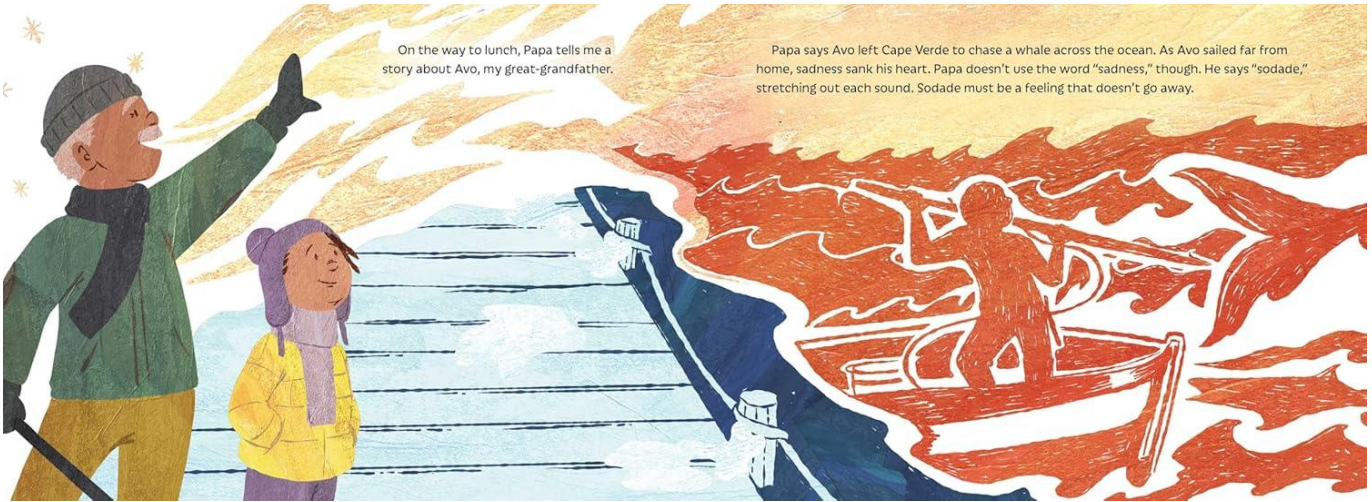
Keisha Morris is an illustrator living and working in Maryland. What she loves about her illustration process most is creating characters whose personalities jump off the page. She earned her BFA in illustration at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and mentored with illustrators such as 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



Even though Papa has lived here his whole life, I worry he'll get lost. Papa's eyes only see shadows.

I try to guide Papa down the icy sidewalk, but he shoos my hand away. "What do you see?" he asks.



On the way to lunch, Papa tells me a story about Avo, my great-grandfather.

Papa says Avo left Cape Verde to chase a whale across the ocean. As Avo sailed far from home, sadness sank his heart. Papa doesn't use the word "sadness," though. He says "sodade," stretching out each sound. Sodade must be a feeling that doesn't go away.

Papa says someday he'll take me home to see Cape Verde.



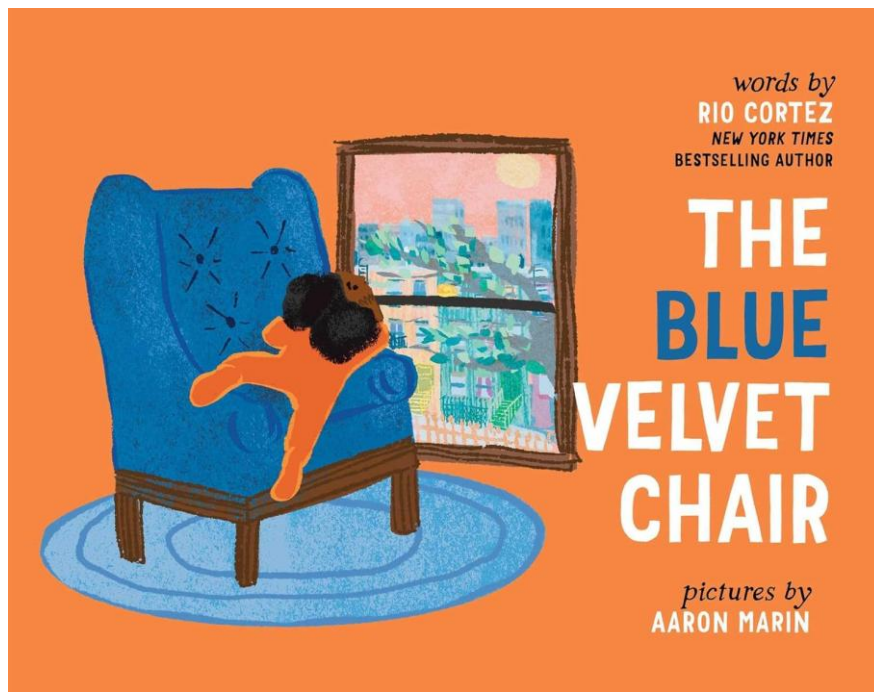
Home? I wonder. He forgets I've never been.



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

Simon & Schuster Children's Books,
August 19, 2025 | World English
40 pages, manuscript available
SJGA REPRESENTS TEXT ONLY
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.



“Cortez and Marin deftly marry potent visuals (the window framing the world outside) with tactile sensations such as the warmth of the window glass in summer.... A quiet meditation on the sweet delight of simply observing the changing world” – *Kirkus Reviews* ★

"The Blue Velvet Chair offers an excellent excuse to snuggle up with a loved one for storytime or some world-watching. Discover: The Blue Velvet Chair offers a poetic rumination on the world outside a child's window, from the familiar comfort of a favorite chair." -- *Shelf Awareness*

"The book hits the perfect note of familiarity and wonder... Viewers will delight in the little girl's perspective and pointing out what they see, making for a perfect lapsit in a comfy chair with their own grown-up." -- *BCCB*

"A gentle look at constant change narrated from a comfortingly anchored place." -- *Publishers Weekly*

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.

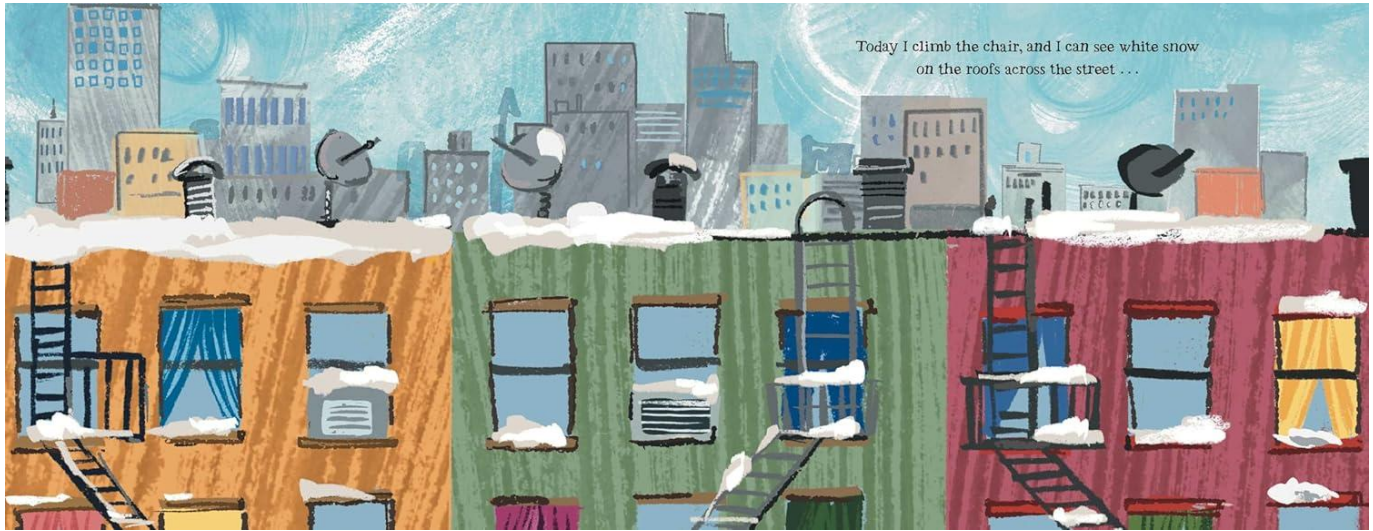
And just as the seasons change, the child will continue to change too. But one thing will always remain the same: the coziness of the blue velvet chair.



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/>

Picture book

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.



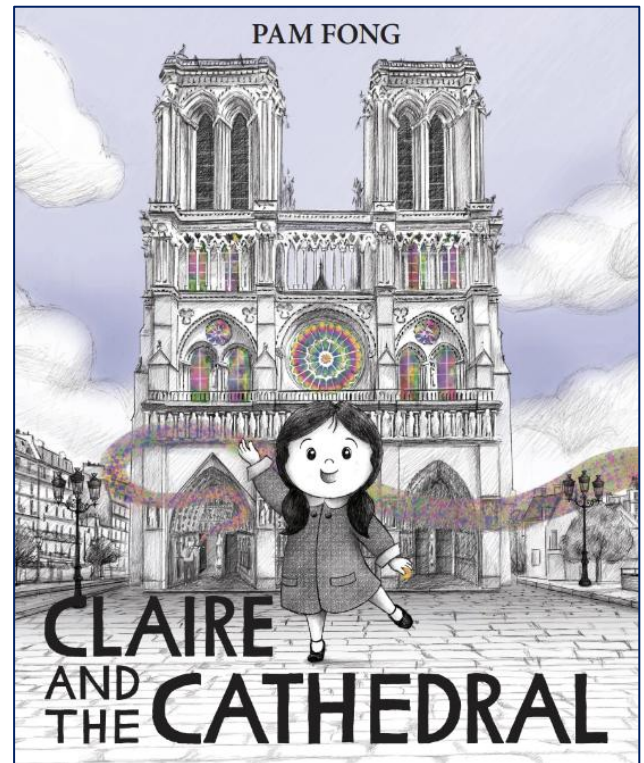
Pam Fong

CLAIRE AND THE CATHEDRAL

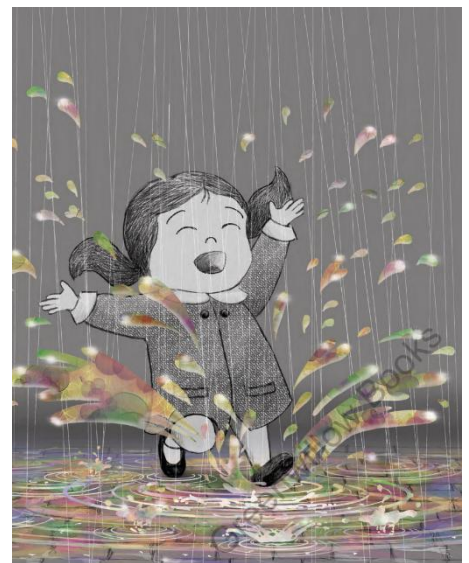
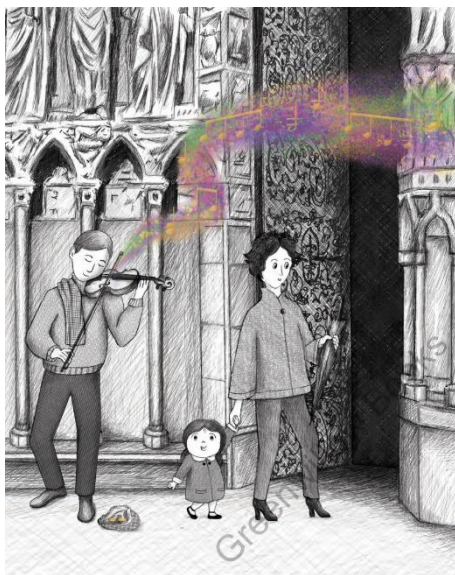
Greenwillow, April 21, 2026 | World English
40 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Abigail Frank

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.



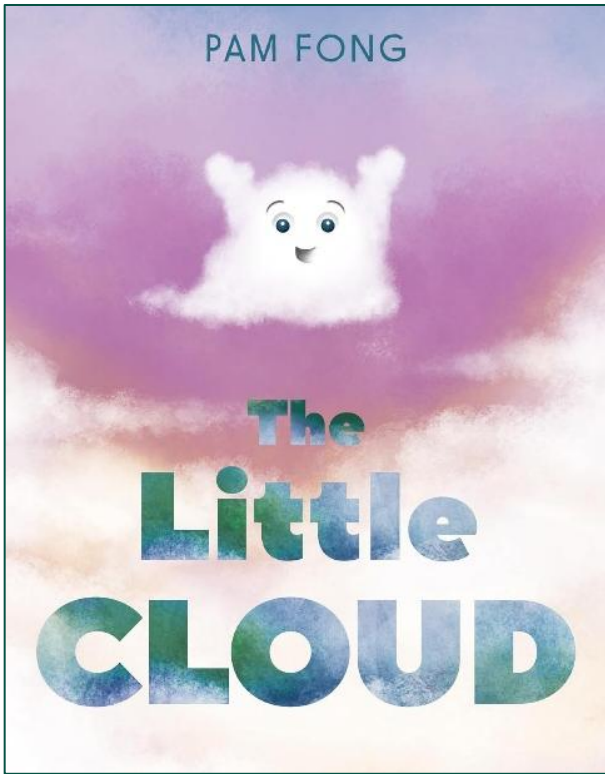
This wordless picture book celebrates the power of observation, gratitude, optimism, generosity, and the arts. Pam Fong makes a splash with her astonishing, intricately detailed black-and-white illustrations—light and music are the only elements shown in full-color glory. *Claire and the Cathedral* is 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**



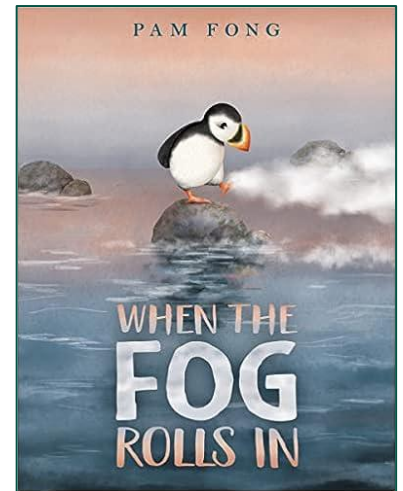
Picture book

WHEN THE FOG ROLLS IN

Greenwillow October 10, 2023 | World English

32 pages, final text and art available

When a thick fog rolls in, an irresistible little puffin is lost in unfamiliar territory. When the Fog Rolls In is an exceptional picture book about navigating uncertainty, opening your mind, and finding your way back to your flock.



“Robert Frost’s famous quote perfectly applies to Fong’s story: “The best way out is always through.” ...Arresting artwork in muted watercolors....The youngest listeners will empathize with the lost bird trying to find its way home, while older readers, perhaps through discussion with an adult, may better understand Fong’s symbolic message”—*Booklist*

“...young readers will ... be able to empathize with the puffin’s vulnerable condition. Given the foggy setting, the palette is necessarily muted, but despite the general haziness, there are still discoveries to be made for shrewd viewers, like realizing that what looks like a menacing creature is actually a harmless tree. Though the idea of fog as a metaphor for life’s uncertainties might go over the heads of younger readers, the book provides an effective jumping-off point for discussions about fear, anxiety, and obstacles. A simple but poignant tale about navigating difficulties with courage and patience.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

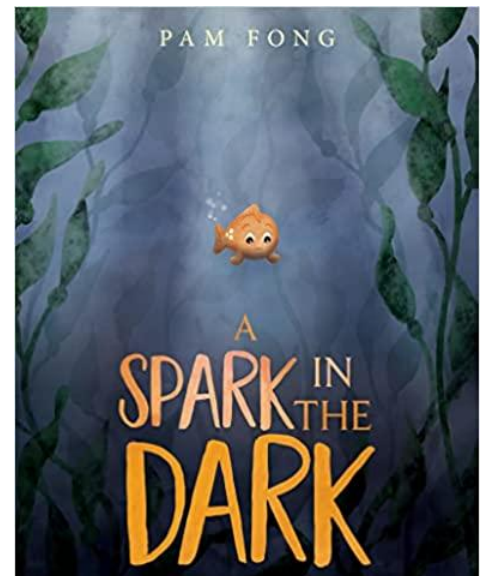
A SPARK IN THE DARK

Greenwillow Books / HarperCollins November 1, 2022

Whether you are mad, sad, scared, or lost in the dark, there’s always hope—a spark in the dark to lead you back home. A SPARK IN THE DARK is a book to read aloud, a book to share, and a book to return to whenever you need it.

Author-artist Pam Fong’s gentle text and luminous artwork guide readers through the dangers and marvels of the deep sea with an expressive little fish who must find its way home. A lush and moving picture book that gives young readers—and their parents—a way to think about and talk about the wide ocean of emotions that everyone feels.

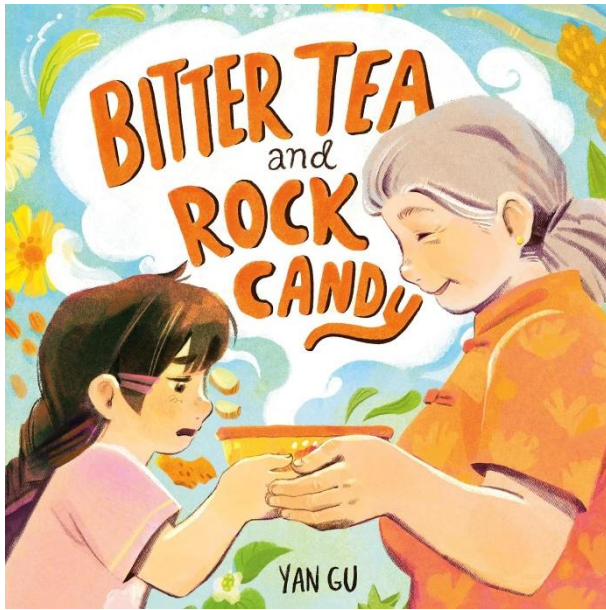
A SPARK IN THE DARK is an exceptional choice for social and emotional learning that belongs on shelves beside Cori Doerrel’s *The Rabbit Listened*, Dan Santat’s *After the Fall*, and Aliki’s *Feelings*.



“A tiny fish, utterly lost in the deep, dark sea . . . delivers a profound lesson for children and adults alike. . . . The dark ocean closes around the fish, leaving it with a swirl of emotions: fear, anger, confusion, and sadness. The full-color artwork, done in watercolors, powerfully conveys the blue-black isolation of the ocean, punctuated by sparks of light . . . But the text reminds us, these lights can go off and may lead in the wrong direction, advising us to keep searching, and assuring that eventually a ‘spark’ will show us the way back.” — ★ *Booklist*

“An exploration of light and darkness featuring a little orange fish. . . . The text—often white against the deep blues of the ocean—reassuringly notes that the darkness can make us feel frightened, lost, or angry, and many children will enjoy the comical expressions on the fish’s face. Art, layout, and text create a soothing and often humorous mood.” — *Kirkus*

“On one level, this is the story of a little orange fish who swims too far down into the inky blackness of the ocean, becomes lost and disoriented but perseveres, and eventually makes it back up to the ‘warm and welcoming’ sunlight zone. Below the surface, though . . . [this] is a comforting meditation on coping with adversity and not giving in to despair. . . . The immensely satisfying ending comes full circle, back above the water under a star-filled sky.” — *Horn Book Magazine*



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

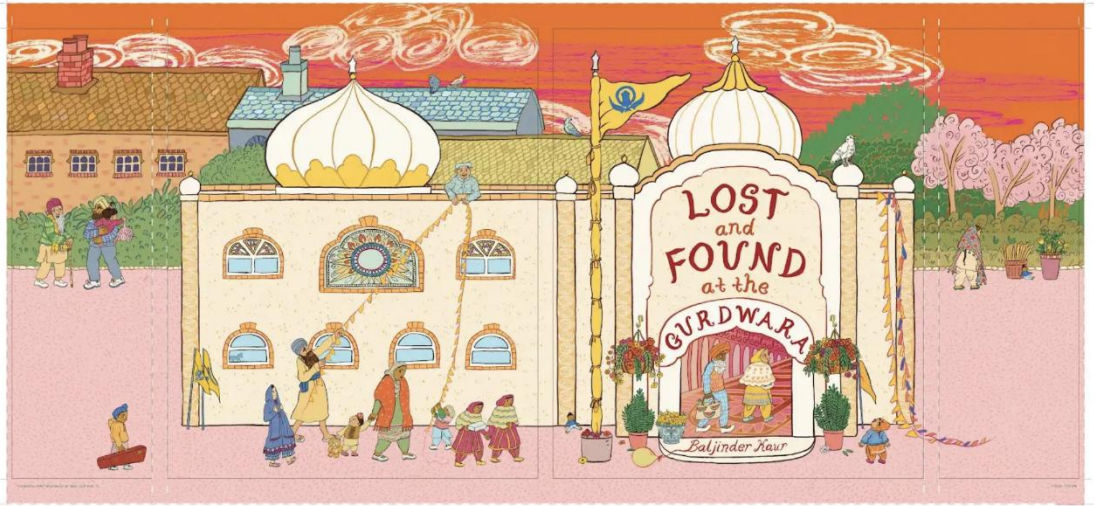
Katherine Tegen Books, October 13, 2026 | World English

40 pages; Manuscript expected Spring 2026

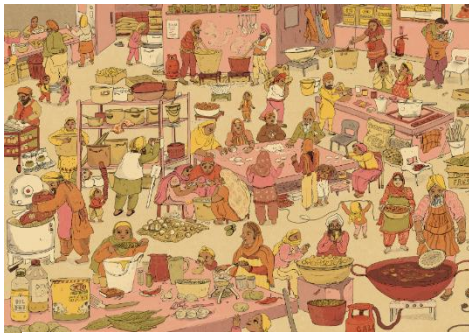
In this search-and-find picture book, help Darshan and her friends and family at the Gurdwara locate missing things as they all prepare for the big celebration!

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:

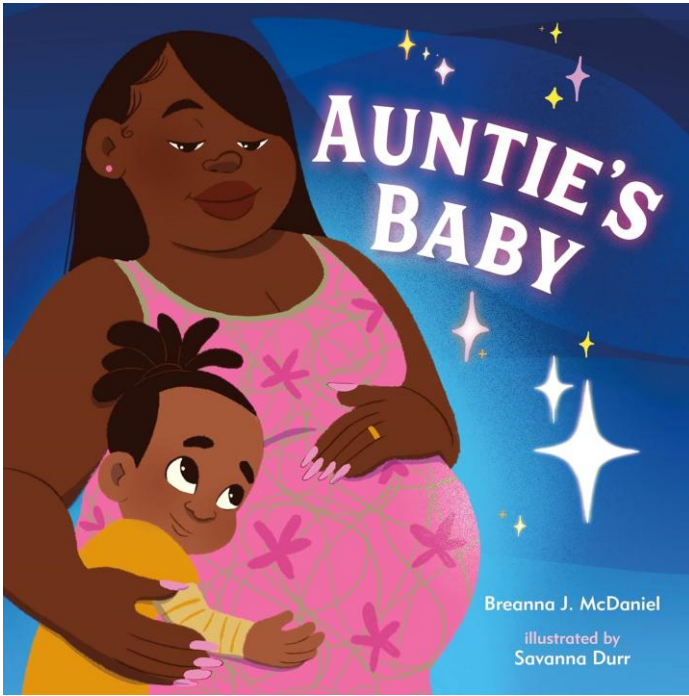
I have many fond memories of attending Nagar Kirtans as a child. Nagar means town and Kirtan means singing praises. A Nagar Kirtan is when Sikhs gather in the form of procession to sing the praises of God, throughout the streets of their local community. It is a communal celebration of devotion.

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



Breanna J. McDaniel

AUNTIE'S BABY

Holt Books for Young Readers, April 7, 2026 |

World English

32 pages, final manuscript available

In this heartwarming celebration of familial love, Auntie's favorite nephew has to navigate the growing pains of becoming a big cousin.

“McDaniel’s dialogue and narration are both chock-full of sweetness and verve. Characters present Black and vary in skin tone. ...A loving family story, with gentle and wise guidance for little ones welcoming newcomers into the fold.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

Auntie’s baby boy knows he’s the king of her heart—until the day she brings home someone new. Suddenly, his blankie is shared, his snuggle spot is different, and his big feelings are hard to handle. How can Auntie’s love stretch far enough for them both?

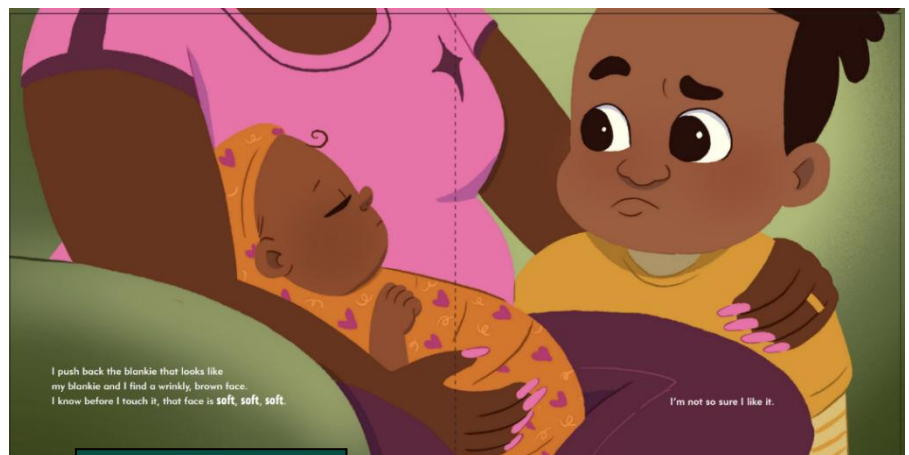
But just when it seems like baby cousin is totally taking over, one sweet smile changes everything.

Bursting with heart and humor, *Auntie's Baby* is a tender reminder that love doesn’t get smaller when families grow—it only gets bigger.



Breanna J. McDaniel is the author of picture books, *Hands Up!*, *Impossible Moon*, and most recently the 2025 Ezra Jack Keats Writer Award winning *Go Forth and Tell*. A proud alumna of Emory University and Simmons University, she holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, where she focused her research on surveillance and respectability politics in representations of Black children as food in contemporary picture books. She lives in Atlanta. <https://www.breannajmcdaniel.com/>

Savanna Durr is an illustrator based in Richmond, VA. She has always had a love for art and has spent her life being inspired by animated movies, cartoons, and children’s books. She focuses on creating representation within her work in the hope that others can look at her art and see themselves.

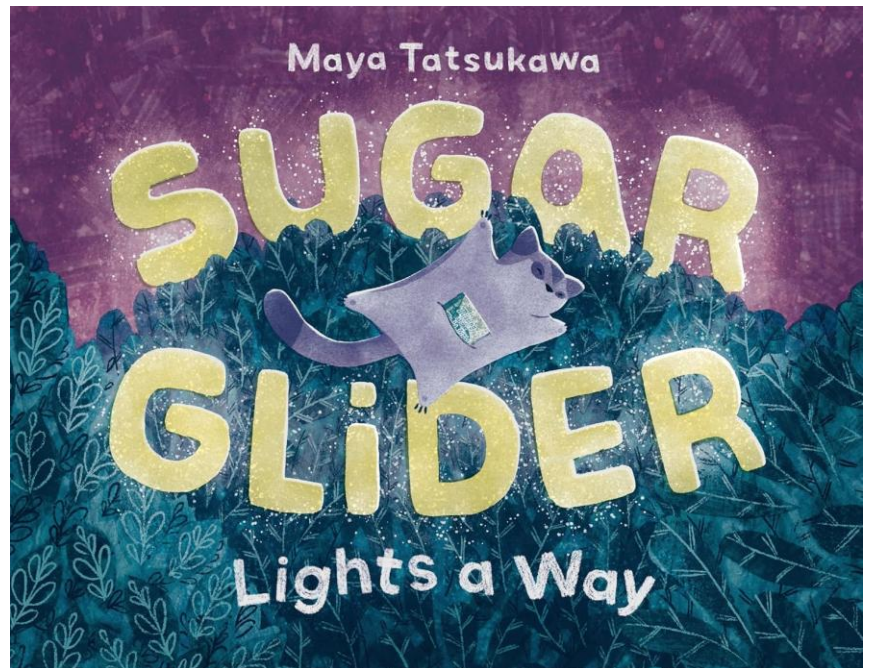


Picture book

Maya Tatsukawa
SUGAR GLIDER LIGHTS
A WAY

Holt Books for Young Readers, August 25, 2026 | World English
40 pages, manuscript imminent

From the award-winning author of **OTTER CARRIES ON** and **MOLE IS NOT ALONE** comes the charming story of a determined flying forest creature looking for light and discovering the glow of its bioluminescent neighbors.



On reading nights, Sugar Glider always curls up under the moon. But tonight, Moon is nowhere to be found!

As they chase Moon through the trees and behind the clouds, it seems the forest is full of other bright things—just not the moonlight Sugar Glider loves...

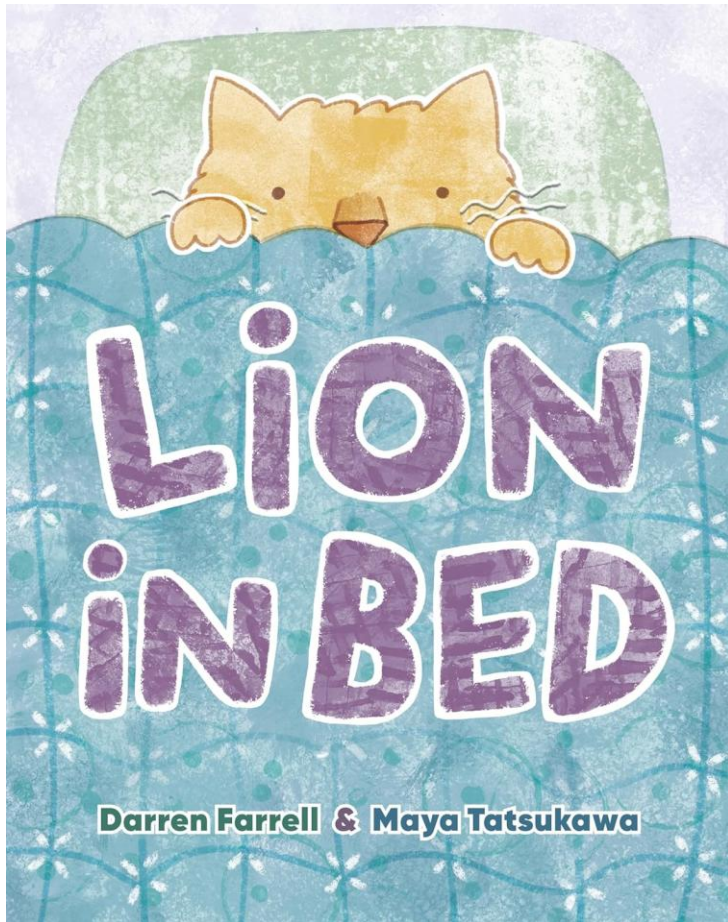
Will Sugar Glider find a way to read their book tonight?

Filled with beautiful, twinkling illustrations this cozy picture book is a story about creative problem solving and finding a solution with the resources in front of you. Perfect for independent little ones and those curious about the forest's nightlife.



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



**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.



Darren Farrell is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. His book *Thank You, Octopus* was an NPR and *HuffPost* best book of the year. The *New York Times* called *Stop Following Me, Moon!* "a perfect introduction to the wonders of the universe." He is the author of *Dandelion Magic* and *Give This Book Away*, illustrated by Maya Tatsukawa. He has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, on NPR, and in *HuffPost* and is creating his first original series with Audible.

Maya Tatsukawa is a children's book illustrator and designer residing just out of Boston with her cat/studio manager. When she's not designing, illustrating, or thinking about children's books, you can find her baking cream puffs, eating ice cream, or searching for the perfect scene. She is the author and illustrator of *Sunday Pancakes* and *The Bear in My Family* and the illustrator of Darren Farrell's *Dandelion Magic* and *Give This Book Away*.

Maya Tatsukawa

OTTER CARRIES ON

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,

February 4, 2025 | World English

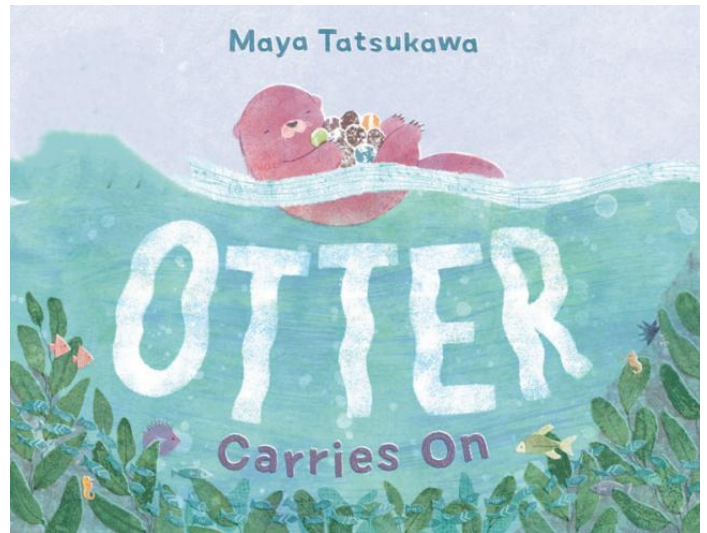
40 pages, final material available

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 himself. 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*

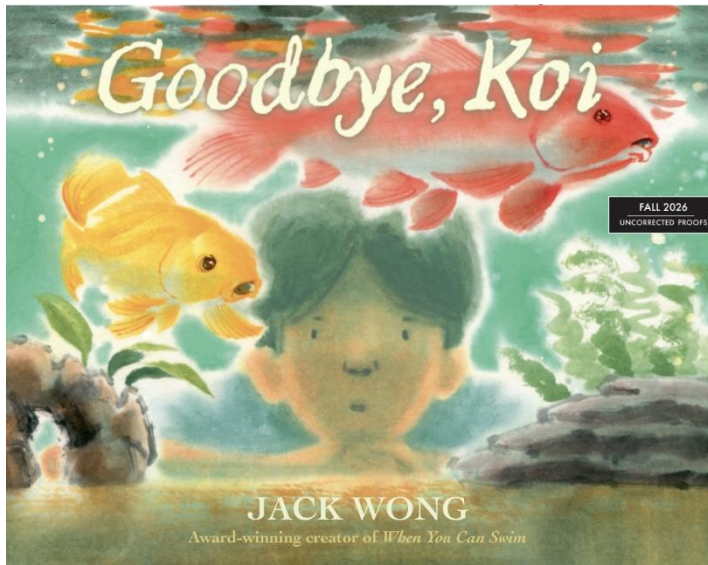
"The graceful movement of waves and water, speech balloons that present the story in dialogue, and the low fear factor . . . all enliven this buoyant story about accepting the advice of others versus finding out for oneself." —*Publishers Weekly*

"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,



Picture Book



Jack Wong GOODBYE, KOI

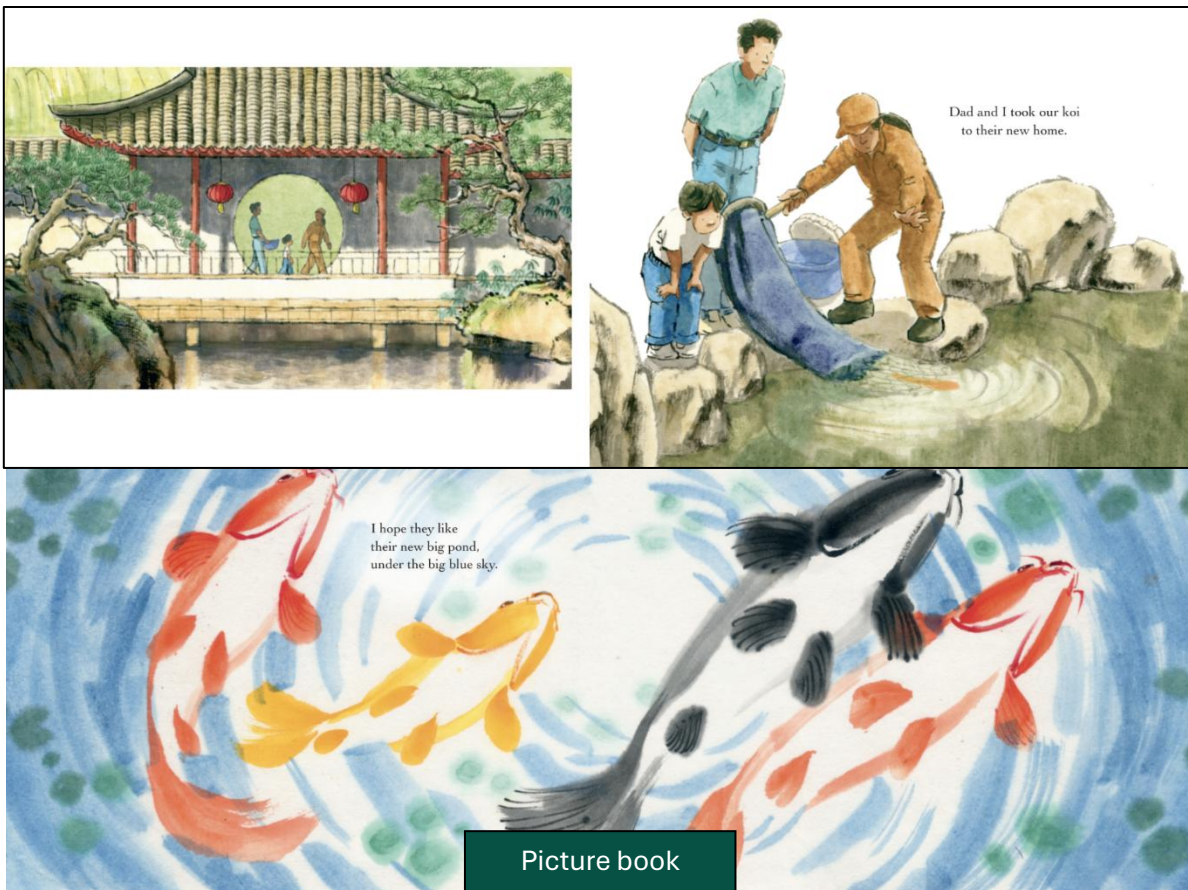
Orchard Books, September 2026 | World English
48 pages, final art anticipated May 2026

From the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award-winning author/illustrator of *WHEN YOU CAN SWIM* comes a heartwarming tale of one young person's journey through a big life change.

Illuminated with gorgeous illustrations in the tradition of Chinese watercolor, *GOODBYE, KOI* finds a child struggling with having to rehome his beloved koi fish as he and his family set off to move across the world. Will they like their new home? Will they make new fish friends and not be too lonely? Will they miss him?

Big changes bring big feelings, and it is with a father's gentle guidance that moving on becomes moving forward.

Jack Wong (黃雋喬) was born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver. In 2010, he left behind a life as a bridge engineer to pursue his Bachelor of Fine Arts at NSCAD University in Kijikuktuk / Halifax, Nova Scotia; he has called the east coast of Canada home ever since. Working as a children's author/illustrator, Jack seeks to share his winding journey with young readers so that they may embrace the unique amalgams of experiences that make up their own lives. His debut picture book, *When You Can Swim*, received a Boston Globe–Horn Book Award, a Governor General's Literary Award, the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, and was a finalist for the Ezra Jack Keats Award. His second picture book, *The Words We Share*, received an Atlantic Book Award and was shortlisted for the Ontario Library Association's Blue Spruce Award. His other titles include *All That Grows* and *The Music Inside Us: Yo-Yo Ma & His Gifts to the World* (written by James Howe).





MIDDLE GRADE



Jen Calonita

THE CURSE BREAKER

Book #2 Isle of Ever

Sourcebooks March 10, 2026 | North America

320 pages, manuscript available

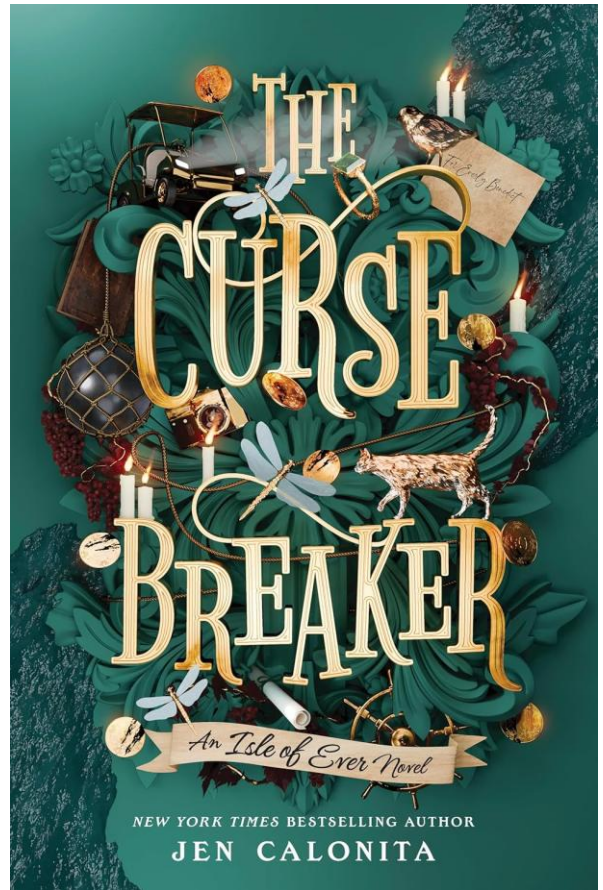
Agent: Dan Mandel

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!



"A fast-paced blend of politics, history, pirates, and magic with an intriguing cast of characters from the past and the present." — *Youth Services Book Review*

"Benny remains a compelling protagonist, facing betrayal, forming new alliances, and uncovering long-buried family secrets. The mysterious pirate Grace adds a dynamic layer of conflict as she pursues the treasure, becoming both a threat and a catalyst for intense confrontations. Fast-paced and full of peril, this sequel offers answers while opening the door to new mysteries....Thrilling and filled with twists; will leave readers eager for the next adventure." — *Kirkus*

Reviews



[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

Middle Grade Novel



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

New York Times bestseller, hardcover debuted at #5!
 Paperback reappeared at #4!

A best kids book of March '25 for Barnes & Noble

A middle grade pick of the month for April '25 at Amazon

A *Good Housekeeping* 2025 Kids' Book Awards winner

Barnes & Noble Young Reader Book for January '26

Bestselling and beloved author Jen Calonita 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.

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

Select 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*

Charlotte Chen

CROW GIRL and CROW GIRL #2

Razorbill (World English)
Book #1 Spring 2027 (delivery late 2026))
Book #2 Summer 2028
Agent: Bailey Tamayo

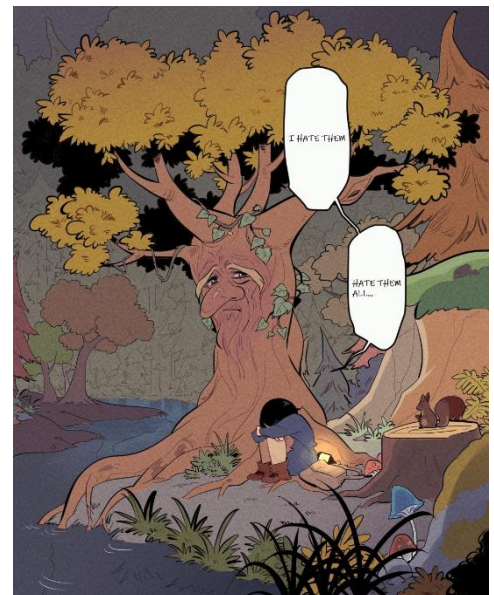
Born with black feathers on her face, Crow is an outcast, thought to be cursed, and someone best to stay far away from. In truth, Crow is very lonely and desperate for friends, other than the animals that she's able to communicate with.

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 Chen is a comic book author from China. She has published her works <Secret Garden> and <Summer of Lies> on Chinese comic platforms. Also, China and Taiwan have also published her comic books about MBTI. Now she's working on a graphic novel *Crow Girl* with Penguin Random House. Her graphic style is varied, mainly drawing stories for MG and YA, from children's illustrations to adventure themes. Find her online at <https://www.instagram.com/charlottewoo.art/> CROW GIRL is her first novel.



Middle Grade Graphic Novel



Lina Høj Høstrup WILDERNESS ADVENTURE CLUB

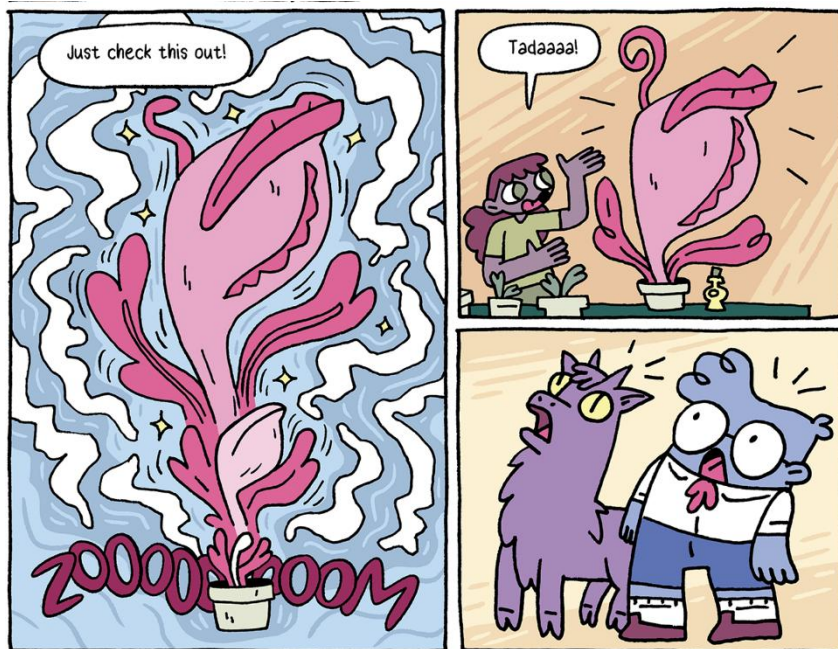
Andrews McMeel, Spring 2027 | World English
Del final ms May2026
Agent: Bailey Tamayo

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/>.



Middle Grade Graphic Novel

Wendy Lu CASTING APRIL

Knopf, June 16, 2026 | North America
288 pages; final Manuscript available
Agent: Abigail Frank

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

Twelve-year-old April is a talented performer who is determined to land the starring role in the school play, but no one believes she can do it because of her tracheostomy tube. A heartwarming story of friendship, identity, and the importance of chasing your dreams.

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 thinks she's knocked it out of the park — until she finds out that she's been assigned to the stage crew. April is devastated—it seems like the curtain is closing on her dream of being an actor.

A day later, April overhears that the theater director, Ms. Rooney, decided not to cast her because she's disabled. With the help of her best friend, a sneaky student reporter, and her spirited castmates, 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



Janae Marks STARTING NOW

Quill Tree Books, October 13, 2026 | World English
256 pages, manuscript TBA
Agent: Dan Mandel

From *New York Times*-bestselling author Janae Marks comes a heartfelt middle-grade novel about a tween who uncovers a deep family secret after she moves into her estranged half-brother's guardianship following their mother's accident.

Addy Thompson's life is untangling: Her mom is in a coma following a car accident, and now she's in the custody of her estranged half-brother—although Julian feels more connected by DNA than real family. On top of that, her two best friends, Thea and Luz, are fighting, and she's not sure she's ready for her first ever swim meet. Addy feels helpless in the middle of everything.

As Addy gets to know Julian better, more questions arise. Why haven't they spent time together before now? And why won't he visit their mom in the hospital? When Addy discovers an old journal in her mom's closet, it sends her on a journey to uncover the truth.

But revealing the past comes with big feelings and bigger secrets, and when Addy gets Thea and Luz involved in her scheme, the ties of their friendship stretch to their limit. Even worse, Julian refuses to talk about their mom, and Addy's search for the truth threatens their growing relationship.

All Addy wants is to knit the people she loves back together. But what if she's the one tearing them apart?



Janae Marks is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Zoe Washington series, *A Soft Place to Land*, and *A Split Second*. She has an MFA in Writing for Children from The New School, and lives in Connecticut with her family. Learn more at janaemarks.com.

Middle grade

Liz Montague

CAMP FRENEMIES: Bunkmates for Never (book #2)

Random House Studio, May 12, 2026 | World English
224 pages, manuscript available

What happens when you return to summer camp only to find that everything has changed—including yourself? From a rising star cartoonist and bestselling author comes the second book in the Camp Frenemies series, perfect for fans of *Guts* and *Real Friends*.

It's the last day of seventh grade and Beatrice is different than she'd been a year ago. True, she's wearing mascara and doing her hair differently, but it's more than that—she doesn't seem to need her stuffed bunny, Roger, as much. And last year, he went everywhere with her. *Everywhere*.

When Bea gets to camp and reunites with Virginia and Roxy, they can't believe how much she's changed—especially Virginia, who won't let it go. Can't a girl grow up a little?! As tensions rise, and friends become frenemies once more, Bea decides that maybe camp isn't for her. After all, they are the oldest campers—and maybe they shouldn't have even come back. Will they make up by the end of camp, or will frenemies become enemies?

With a pitch-perfect voice and accessible cartoons, don't miss this second installment in the Camp Frenemies graphic novel series from uber talented creator Liz Montague.

CAMP FRENEMIES

Random House Studio, May 13, 2025 | World English
272 Pages, manuscript available3

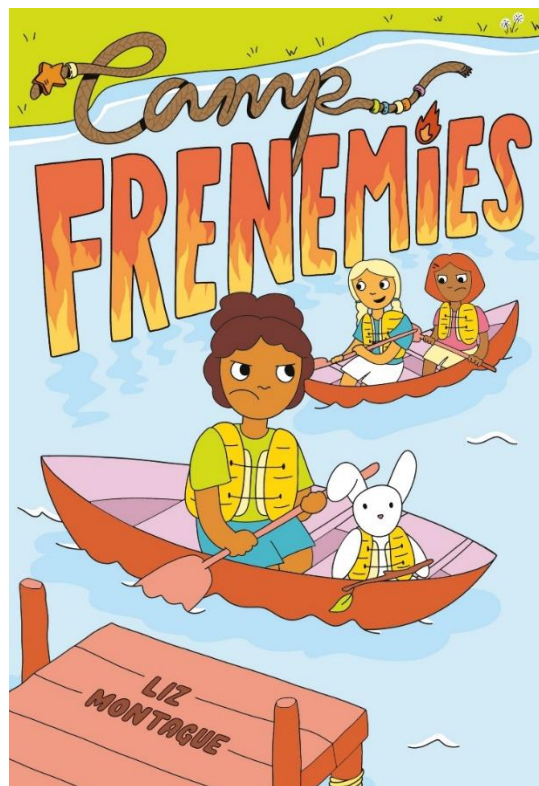
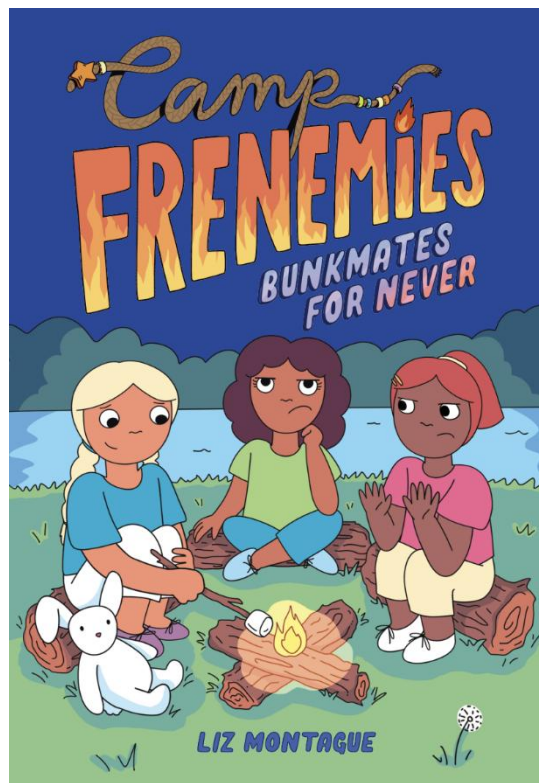
A Summer 2025 Indie Rep Pick

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

Beatrice isn't happy about this. After all, she prefers stuffed animals over people. Roxy doesn't think camp is so bad.

Honestly, she's just excited to get some peace and quiet—she hasn't had enough of that at home lately. And Virginia is the most excited for camp out of everyone since ALL the middle school soccer girls are going... but then Virginia doesn't make the soccer 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?



Reviews for CAMP FRENEMIES:

"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*



[Liz Montague](https://lizatlarge.org/about-3/) 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/>

J.W. Ocker

WELCOME TO THE GHOST SHOW

HarperCollins, August 26, 2025 | World English

224 pages, Manuscript available

Agent: Hannah Strouth

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

Rainie Oet GLITCH GIRL!

Kokila, March 11, 2025 | World English
Paperback March 10, 2026
448 pages, Final Manuscript available
Agent: Abigail Frank

An American Library Association (ALA)
2026 Rainbow Book List (Top Ten Title)
Best Children's Fiction (2025),
Transfeminine Review's Readers Choice
Awards

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. 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*

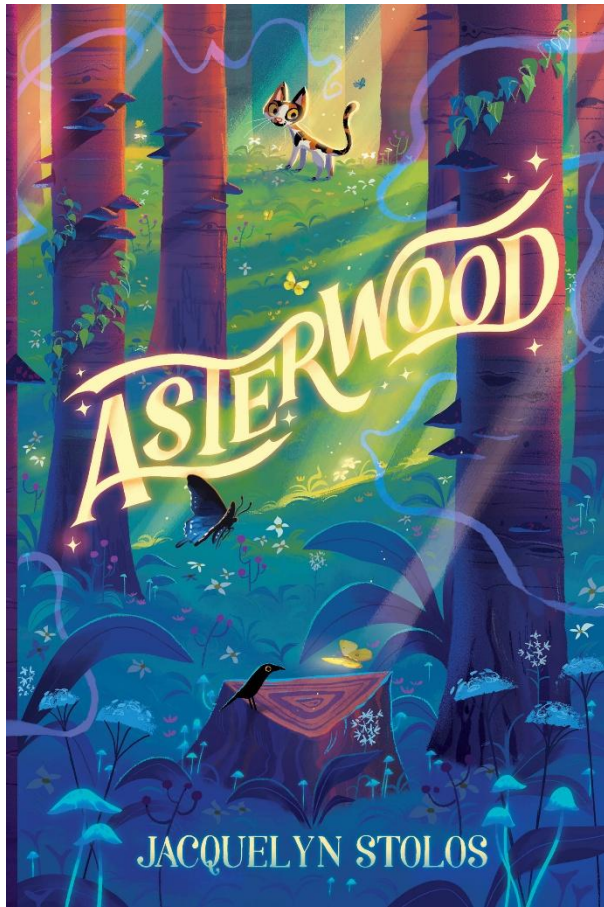
"**Poignant**, illuminating. ...**accessible**, immersive." —*Booklist*

"Authentic, heartrending.... This stunning, metaphor-rich middle-grade novel-in-verse chronicles a neurodivergent nonbinary girl's exploration of self through gaming and a powerful crush." — *Shelf Awareness*

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: Bailey Tamayo

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.

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.

"A dark and creative fantasy that explores themes of love, betrayal, and the environment." —*Kirkus*

"A meandering narrative focused on family, home, and natural harmony proves heartening." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Underneath its ethereal cover, Stolos' debut children's novel is **unapologetic** in its darkness and imaginative in its lighter moments." —*Booklist*



Jacquelyn Stolos grew up in Derry, New Hampshire. She loves tromping through the forest and reading good books. *Asterwood* is her first novel for children. She holds an MFA in fiction from NYU, where she was a Writers in the Public School Fellow. Her short fiction has appeared in *Joyland* and *No Tokens*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and daughter. Find her online at <http://www.jacquelynstolos.com/>.

Claire Swinarski

EACH AND EVERY SPARK

Quill Tree Books, Feb. 17, 2026 | North America

288 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Sarah Phair

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*.

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/>

Praise for EACH AND EVERY SPARK

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*

Educational, empathetic, and emotional prose expertly weaves together alternating story lines in a timely and resonant read that offers accessible insight into the impact of war and the importance of art and its ability to sustain people through dark times. - **Publishers Weekly** ★

"Well-paced and engaging. A moving story showing that even the smallest sparks of resistance can ignite change." – **Kirkus**

“High stakes elements are balanced with sympathetic adolescent concerns.” - **Horn Book Magazine**



YOUNG ADULT



Sarah Dass

IT LURKS IN THE NIGHT

Disney Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents, January 27, 2026 | 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.

Perfect for fans of Angeline Boulley and Tiffany D. Jackson!

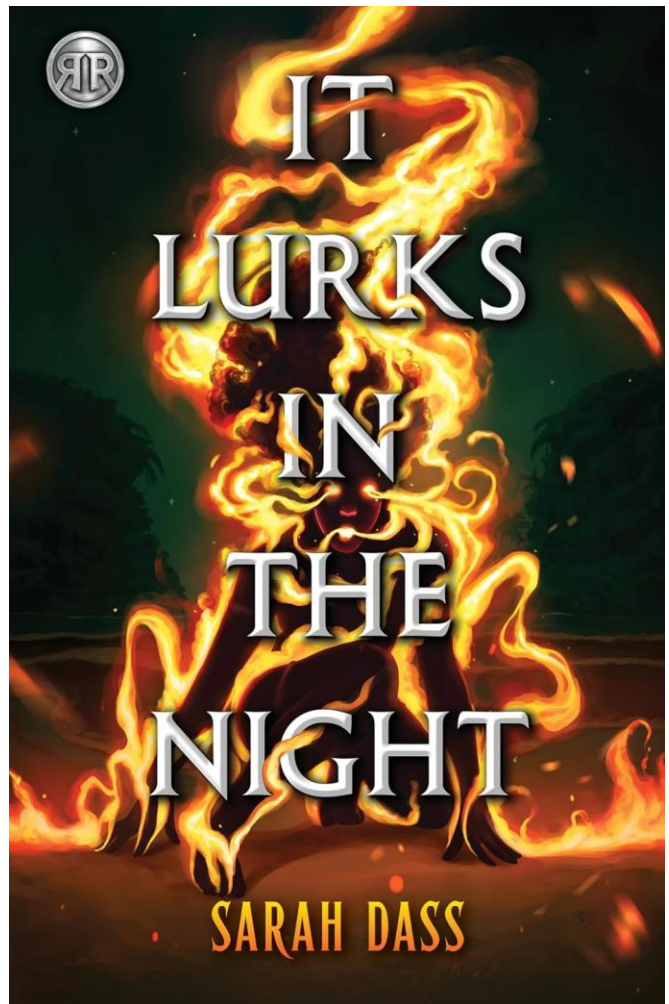
All Maya Woods wants is to reunite her three best friends, Pearl, Erica, and Lystra, for one last epic boat trip to the islands around their Caribbean home before they all graduate from high school. But the girls are forced to make an emergency landing on Annatto—an island avoided by locals and tourists 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

Praise for *IT LURKS IN THE NIGHT*

"*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*

"Dass' masterful tale of friendship and self-discovery takes readers on an emotional roller coaster that's steeped in Caribbean folklore. The strong pacing and well-developed relationships among the protagonists will keep the pages turning even as secrets and dangers come to light. . . . A gripping, heart-wrenching story about friendship, family, fear, and the monsters we carry with us." — **Kirkus Reviews** ★

"An excellent choice for readers of vampire myths and folklore looking for a creative and new take that centers Black Caribbean teen girls." —**School Library Journal**

"It Lurks in the Night sinks its razor-sharp fangs into your imagination and endures long after you've turned the final page. Sarah Dass has crafted a stunning story that haunts you in the best way possible." —**Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite**, authors of *The Summer I Ate the Rich*

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

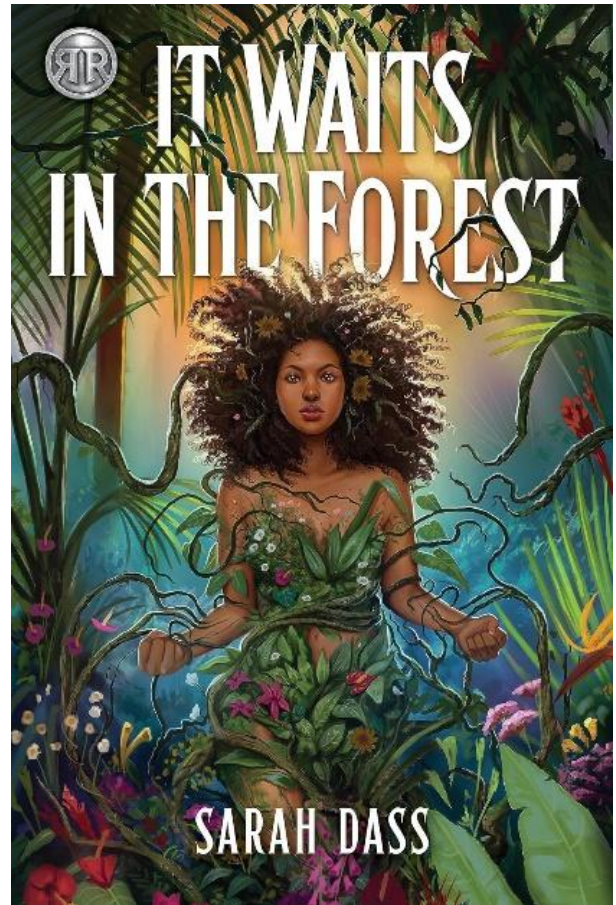
With an introduction by Rick Riordan

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*

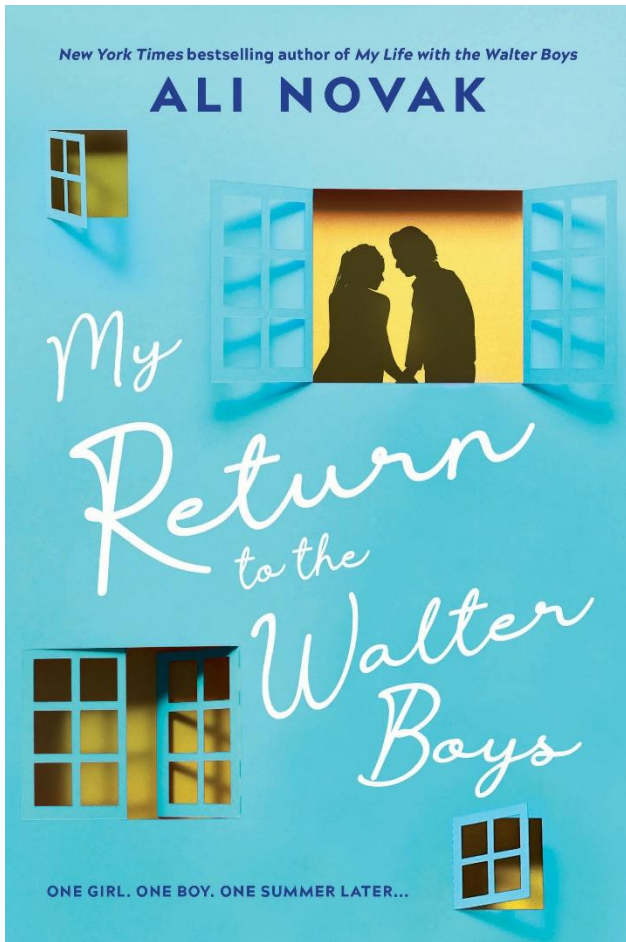
“I was glued to these pages from beginning to end!” – **Lauren Blackwood**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Within These Wicked Walls*

“Begg 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*



Sarah Dass was born in Trinidad but has lived in Tobago since she was two years old. A graduate of University College London, she works as an office administrator by day and writes stories about the Caribbean by night. You can learn more about the author at www.sarahdass.com.

Young Adult



Ali Novak
**MY FOREVER WITH
THE WALTER BOYS**
(Book #3)

Sourcebooks, 2027 | World English
Manuscript anticipated Autumn 2026
Agent: Dan Mandel

**MY RETURN TO
THE WALTER BOYS**
(Book #2)

Sourcebooks, April 2025 | World English
Manuscript available
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](#).



Young Adult

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*.



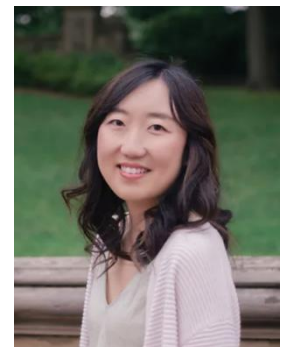
Stella Chen’s life ground to a halt when her brother unexpectedly passed away a year ago. Raised together by their grandmother for years in the Chinese countryside before rejoining their parents in the United States, his absence destroys the connective tissue in her family. With another jarring move 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.



Young Adult

Praise for ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN:

"Tian smartly builds countless layers into this road trip narrative, delving deeply into the complexities of the immigrant experience, the painful pursuit of academic success, and the heaviness grief and guilt can carry." - ***Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*** ★

"Tian crafts an evocative story following a high school senior who must navigate the aftermath of a devastating loss and its ripple effects. Through Stella, Tian attentively considers immigrant diasporic struggles in the U.S. and finding connection while grappling with grief and guilt. Fans of *Past Lives* and *The Farewell* will resonate with this emotionally charged road trip novel."
- ***Publishers Weekly***

"A stirring emotional journey. Stella's intimate narrative is a deeply moving story of secrets, grief, belonging, and family bonds." - ***Kirkus Reviews***

"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*** ★

Brian Lee Young
SHARDS OF SILENCE

Heartdrum (HC), May 5, 2026 | World English
336 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel

In his first YA novel, award-winning author Brian Lee Young (Diné) bridges the generational divide between a Navajo teen at an elite prep school and his great-grandmother's experience at a federal boarding school for Indigenous students. The book is an eye-opening call for community healing and a profound coming-of-age story.

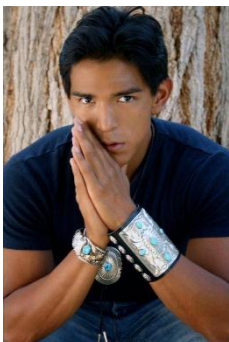
"A superlative, culturally relevant coming-of-age story."
- *Kirkus Reviews* ★

Even if it hurts to leave behind his friends and family in Navajo, New Mexico—especially his great-grandmother, Mildred—Derrick knows his scholarship to an elite East Coast boarding school is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

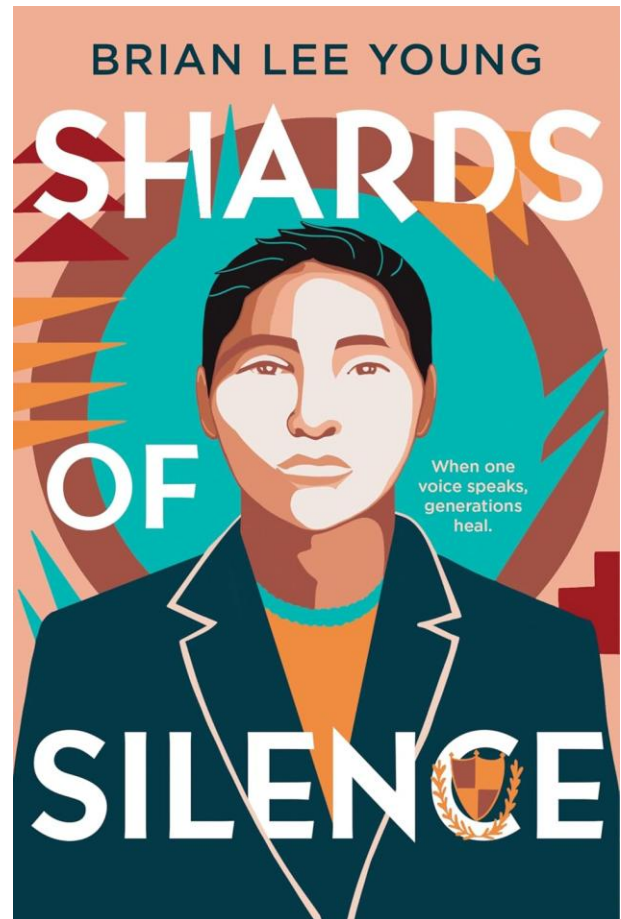
Sagefield Academy is totally different from life on the rez: His new classmates vacation in Europe and take study drugs. Derrick wants to stick to caffeine, but handling sports, school, and a twenty-page term paper, all while dodging comments about his hair and heritage, feels straight-up impossible.

Back home, Másání Mildred's health is fading quickly. On the phone, she begs Derrick to leave Sagefield. When he realizes her fear comes from her time in federal Native boarding schools, he knows he's finally found the term paper theme he believes in: carrying her voice into the future.

Derrick will need to shatter a steadfast generational silence to untangle his great-grandmother's memories--though her story might change him, and his family, forever.



Author and filmmaker **Brian Lee Young** is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. He grew up on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. Brian earned his BA in film studies at Yale University and his MFA in creative writing at Columbia University. His debut middle grade novels, *Healer of the Water Monster* and *Heroes of the Water Monster*, were American Indian Youth Literature Award winner and honor books respectively. Brian currently lives in Brooklyn, New York. <https://brianleeyoung.com/>



Young Adult