

Jill Grinberg Literary Management  
**RIGHTS CATALOG**

*Spring 2024*

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# YOUNG ADULT



JILL GRINBERG  
LITERARY MANAGEMENT



# HERE LIES A VENGEFUL BITCH

Codie Crowley

- ❖ A knife-sharp, fiercely feminist YA horror
- ❖ For fans of Jesse Q. Sutanto's *The Obsession* and Hannah Capin's *Foul Is Fair*

## Praise for *Here Lies a Vengeful Bitch*

"A wholly original exploration of what it means to be a modern female, and the depth of rage echoes into the afterlife." — Mindy McGinnis, Edgar Award-winning author of *Female of the Species*

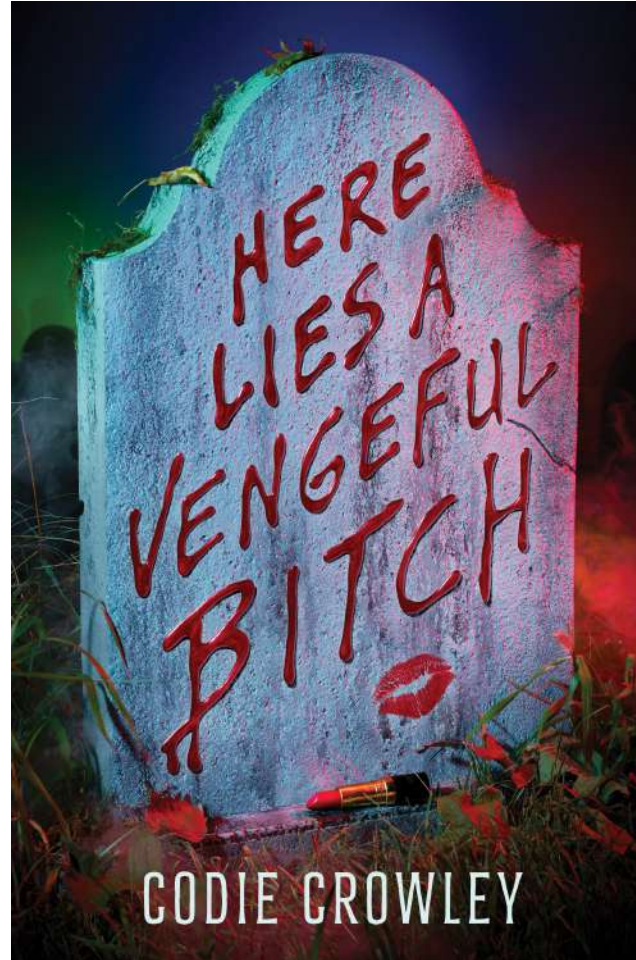
Codie Crowley told a scary story at a childhood slumber party that caused a mass hysteria, and she's been chasing that high ever since. When she isn't writing chilling fiction, she's probably out looking for ghosts in Salem, Massachusetts, where she lives with her husband, their cat, and a collection of creepy dolls. Her debut YA novel, *Here Lies a Vengeful Bitch*, will be published by Disney-Hyperion in August 2024.

US: Disney-Hyperion, August 2024

Ages: 14+

Page Count: 304

Translation rights sold: Polish (Muza)



Between a mother who considers her a lost cause, classmates who see her as either a vulgar, crass monstrosity or a hot hookup, school authorities who anticipate her failure with perverse glee, and local men whose misogyny barely hides the fact that they *would* if they *could*, sharp-tongued seventeen-year-old Annie Lane has been left to fall through the cracks for most of her life. But she's never been left for dead before—until she wakes up in the woods, disoriented and terrified, only to soon learn that her body has been dumped on a mountain with a legendary reputation for raising the dead.

Dead, but dead set against disappearing, Annie returns to her backwoods hometown, furious and hellbent on vengeance. Sure, there are some complications: she can't stop puking up ectoplasm, she's being hunted by hellhounds who want to drag her back where she belongs, and she might have a crush on this beatnik bad boy psychopomp who gives off more mixed signals than a retro radio.

But the biggest problem of all? She can't remember *who* killed her. It could've been her ex and his creep posse—or maybe it was her much-too-friendly boss at the diner. Hell, it might've even been her best friend, who apparently skipped town after Annie's murder. All she has to go on are her tequila-fogged memories and her bloodstained leather jacket, but Annie can't stop until she uncovers the truth. Because girls like her don't get answers unless they go hunting for them themselves.

Someone knows the truth. Someone is to blame. Someone has to pay for what happened to Annie Lane.

# BITE ME, ROYCE TASLIM

Lauren Ho

- ❖ A vibrant exploration of the world of comedy, a sizzling enemies-to-lovers romance, and a moving story about family, identity, and self-discovery
- ❖ The YA debut from critically acclaimed author Lauren Ho
- ❖ *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* meets *Loveboat*, *Taipei*

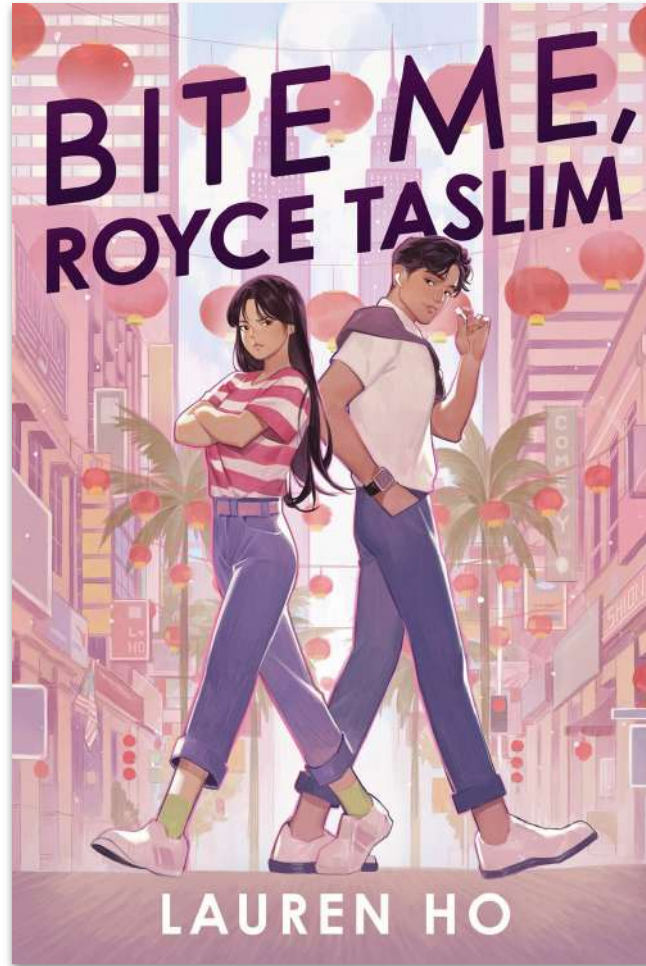
## Praise for *Bite Me, Royce Taslim*

"*Bite Me, Royce Taslim* is in the elite class of romcoms that will actually have you laughing and sighing contentedly out loud. This is a very fun book to read." – Jeff Zentner, award-winning author of *In the Wild Light*

"Lauren Ho knows how to hit your funny bone and your heart! With an arsenal of witty one-liners, *Bite Me, Royce Taslim* proves that when life gives you lemons, sometimes the best thing to do is just shove them aside and laugh!" – Jason June, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Out of the Blue*

## Praise for *Lucie Yi Is Not a Romantic*

"Funny, sharp, and uniquely voicy, *Lucie Yi Is Not A Romantic* is what happens when an uber talented writer tackles important subjects with humor and charm!...I am simply in awe of the way Lauren Ho blends women's fiction and romance."  
–Ali Hazelwood, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Love Hypothesis*



Agnes Chan never expected to be the punchline of her own life . . .

But how else do you explain getting accidentally run over and seeing a lifetime of careful preparation, endless training, and all your hopes of a track scholarship to college destroyed in a split second? Not to mention the only witness to your humiliation being your #1 archnemesi, Royce Taslim.

So, when Agnes finds a new answer to her scholarship predicament in the form of an international stand-up comedy contest for teens, the last person she expects to be up against is also the last person she wants: Royce. Because for years Royce has represented everything Agnes hates: extreme privilege, popularity, and physical perfection (ok maybe she doesn't hate that part so much).

Behind the scenes, though, Royce's flawless façade fades away, revealing someone Agnes never expected—someone who shows her that perhaps the best parts of life are the ones you aren't prepared for—and as the competition heats up, so do things between these two rivals. But will the pressure to win be too much for them to handle—or will Agnes (and Royce) get the last laugh?

**Lauren Ho** is a reformed legal counsel who writes ownvoices stories. She is the author of adult novels *Last Tang Standing* and *Lucie Yi Is Not A Romantic*, both from Putnam. Hailing from Malaysia, she lived in the United Kingdom, France, and Luxembourg before moving with her family to Singapore.

US: Disney-Hyperion, May 2024  
Ages 12 Up  
Page Count: 320

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# GUARDIANS OF DAWN: AMI

S. Jae-Jones

- ❖ *Sailor Moon* meets *Beauty and the Beast* in this richly imagined fantasy series
- ❖ Highly anticipated follow up to *Zhara*

## Praise for *Guardians of Dawn: Zhara*

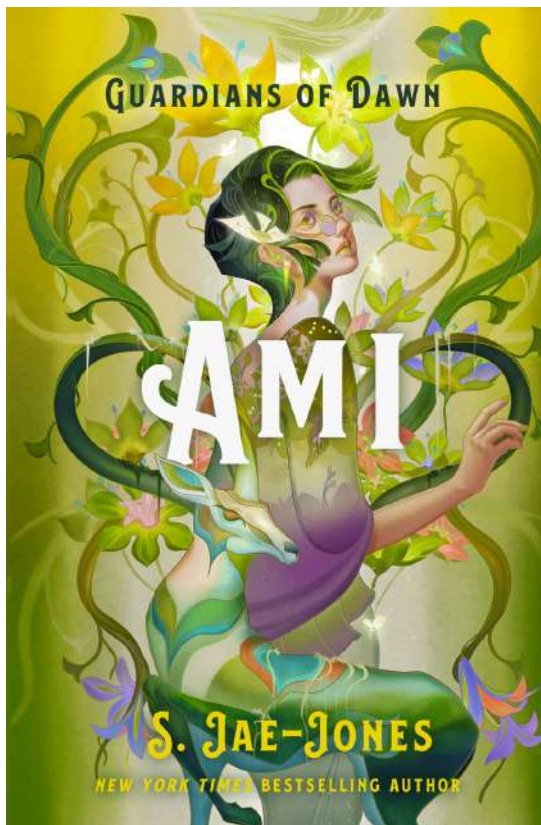
"A treasure of a book that combines spellbinding fantasy with wit, charm, and a heartwarming romance. Nods to beloved fairy tales and fandoms blend seamlessly with demon possession and dark magic, creating a read that is both joyful and riveting. I can't wait to see what other surprises this series has in store!" —Marissa Meyer, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lunar Chronicles*

"Jae-Jones takes on Cinderella with magic and style, breathing new life into all the best parts of the story. An outstanding spin on a well-loved classic." — E.K. Johnston #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Star Wars: Queen's Shadow*

"S. Jae-Jones has successfully captured the magic that infused the animes of my childhood with life and depth and breathed it into this gorgeous Young Adult Fantasy! Both Han and Zhara jump off the page to grip at your heart. In a world so complexly built that one could visit, if only they dared. A beautifully crafted story that will set your soul soaring and heart racing!" —Kat Cho, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Once Upon a K-Prom*

"*Guardians of Dawn: Zhara* is the kind of fantasy that first made me a reader. Tender and bewitching, joyous and thoroughly transporting. Zhara and Han are not just protagonists you root for, but characters you feel you've known your whole life. S. Jae-Jones weaves a spell on every page." —Roshani Chokshi, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Gilded Wolves* and *Aru Shah*

Translation rights sold for *Zhara*: French (Bayard), German (ARS Editions), Russian (AST), Spanish (Urano), Ukrainian (Vivat)



US: Macmillan/Wednesday, August 2024

UK: Titan, August 2024

Book 2 of 4

Ages 12 Up

Pages: 368

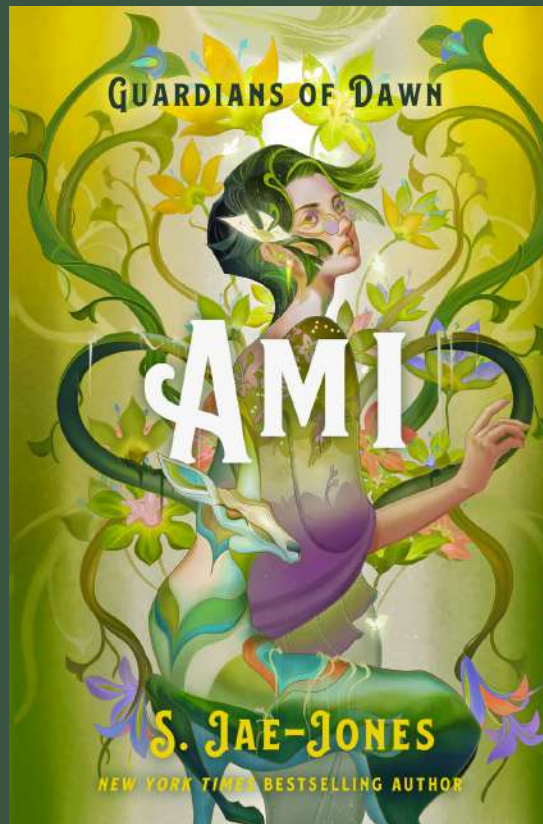
Li Ami was always on the outside—outside of family, outside of friendships, outside of ordinary magic. The odd and eccentric daughter of a former imperial magician, she has devoted her life to books because she finds them easier to read than people. Exiled to the outermost west of the Morning Realms, Ami has become the sole caretaker of her mentally ill father, whose rantings and ravings may be more than mere ramblings; they may be part of a dire prophecy. When her father is arrested for trespassing and stealing a branch from the sacred tree of the local monastery, Ami offers herself to the mysterious Beast in the castle, who is in need of someone who can translate a forbidden magical text and find a cure for the mysterious blight that is affecting the harvest of the land.

Meanwhile, as signs of magical corruption arise throughout the Morning Realms, Jin Zhara begins to realize that she might be out of her element. She may have defeated a demon lord and uncovered her identity as the Guardian of Fire, but she'll be more than outmatched in the coming elemental battle against the Mother of Ten Thousand Demons...unless she can find the other Guardians of Dawn. Her magic is no match for the growing tide of undead, and she needs the Guardian of Wood with power over life and death in order to defeat the revenants razing the countryside.

The threat of the Mother of Ten Thousand Demons looms larger by the day, and the tenuous peace holding the Morning Realms together is beginning to unravel. Ami and Zhara must journey to the Root of the World in order to seal the demon portal that may have opened there and restore balance to an increasingly chaotic world.

**S. Jae-Jones** is an artist and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wintersong* and *Shadowsong*, which have been published in ten foreign territories. She was previously an editor at St. Martin's Press in New York, and was also a contributor to the *Pub(lishing) Crawl* blog and co-host of their podcast.

# JOIN THE GUARDIANS OF DAWN



“Perfect for fans of Marissa Meyer’s ‘The Lunar Chronicles,’ this heartwarming, heartbreaking start to a series will leave readers aching for more.” – *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“With strong East Asian influences and themes in the worldbuilding, this magic-filled story will hook readers with its endearing lead; they will finish this volume and beg for the sequel.” – *Kirkus*

“[The] languorous pacing of the narrative, which unfolds via Zhara and Han’s alternating perspectives, allows for expansive worldbuilding in this East Asian-inspired historical fantasy adventure.” – *Publishers Weekly*

“While this volume serves as Zhara’s origin story, there is no shortage of well-rounded friendships and world-ending disasters to keep readers on the hook for future installments.” – *Booklist*



# LIAR'S TEST

*Ambelin Kwaymullina*

- ❖ A young woman must win the Queen's Test in order to destroy the kingdom that colonized her homeland in this thrilling Aboriginal YA Fantasy
- ❖ A thoughtful examination of the violent legacy of colonialism, and the ways in which colonized peoples continue to resist
- ❖ Sold in a five-way auction in Australia and in an exclusive submission in the US
- ❖ *The Things She's Seen*, co-written with Ezekiel Kwaymullina and published as *Catching Teller Crow* in Australia, won the Aurealis Award and the Victorian Premier's Literary Prize and was shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Award

## Praise for *Liar's Test*

"Intriguing and layered worldbuilding that draws on the author's Australian Indigenous culture steals the show in this serpentine fantasy adventure." – *Publishers Weekly*

## Praise for *The Things She's Seen*

"An #ownvoices story that empowers its female heroines, giving them pride in their lineage and power in remembering." – *Kirkus*, starred review

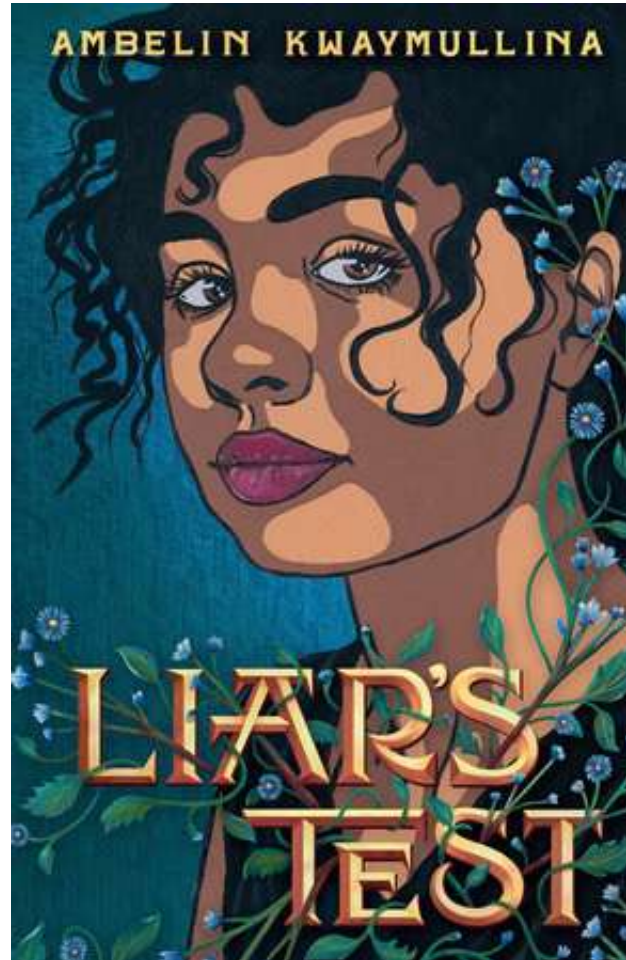
"Sibling authors Ambelin and Ezekiel Kwaymullina pack an astonishing amount of storytelling and intensity in their relatively short young adult novel. Devastatingly beautiful." – *Booklist*

US: Random House/Knopf, Spring 2024

ANZ: Text, Spring 2024

Ages 12 Up

Pages: 272



*Win the crown. Destroy the kingdom.*

Bell Silverleaf is a liar. It's how she survived being held prisoner by the sun-priests—by keeping her head down, by telling them what they wanted to hear. But now she's out and she's got a shot at the crown. She is the only Treesinger in the Queen's Test, and no one expects her to win.

But Bell has spent the last seven years learning how to stay alive in the Risen's world, and she has a plan to lie her way into becoming Queen of the Risen. But the Test doesn't go as planned, and as Bell faces rigged challenges and merciless saboteurs who'd like to see her gone, she uncovers that there is more to the Queen's Test—and to the queendom herself—than she thought.

For it's not only humans who have a stake in the Test, but the so-called gods—the very beings who colonized Bell's world and shaped it for the Risen. Now, if Bell wants to be the victor—wants to help free her people—not only is she going to have to lie, but she's going to have to trust...in her friends, her ancestors, and her own destiny.

And then she's going to come for the Risen's world the way they once came for hers.

**Ambelin Kwaymullina** is an Aboriginal author and illustrator who belongs to the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. She works across a wide range of forms including poetry, art, and both fiction and non-fiction. Ambelin is a multi-award winning writer whose work has been published across the world including in Europe, the United States, China and South Korea. Her latest novel, *The Things She's Seen* (published as *Catching Teller Crow* in Australia), cowritten with her brother Ezekiel Kwaymullina, received rave reviews and won multiple awards, including the Victorian Premier's Literary Prize for Young Adult Fiction and the Aurealis Award for Best Young Adult Novel.

# BLOOD MOON

*Britney Lewis*

- ❖ A YA paranormal romance for readers of *Crave* and *Legendborn*—and fans of *Twilight*'s Jacob Black
- ❖ A fresh take on werewolves for a new generation of paranormal romance readers

## Praise for *The Undead Truth of Us*

"Deeply healing and impossible to put down, *The Undead Truth of Us*, is an affecting portrait of grief's many shades, and an affirming reminder to live." – J. Elle, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wings of Ebony*

"The perfect blend of emotion, sweet romance, and creepy imagery, *The Undead Truth of Us* is a journey you won't soon forget." – Lauren Blackwood, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Within These Wicked Walls*

"A terrifyingly grounded accounting of the monsters that haunt us." – *Kirkus*

**Britney S. Lewis** is an author of two young adult novels: *The Undead Truth of Us* (2022) and *The Dark Place* (2023), both published by Disney Books. Her next novel, *Blood Moon*, a paranormal romance, will be published by Page Street in 2025. She has a B.A. in corporate communications with an emphasis in business and art. She strongly supports We Need Diverse Books, and she's an avid follower of #DVPit and #BVM. When Britney isn't daydreaming about new stories, she can be found binge-watching TV shows with her husband and her pup or practicing West Coast Swing. She lives in Kansas City.



Mirabella "Mira" Owens grew up in Timber Plains, Kansas hearing all about the local legend—that werewolves had, many years ago, traveled to their small town to protect humans from the vampires. Just a story, of course, one Mira had stopped believing in years ago. She'd stopped believing in a lot of things, after her mom up and left without a trace when she was only thirteen.

Mira is grown up now, starting freshman year at the nearby Lakeland University. College feels normal, exactly the thing she's been craving most... except for one particular classmate: Julian Santos, a mysterious boy with long hair, golden eyes, and a coldness that seems directed exclusively at Mira for reasons she can't understand and he won't explain.

But while all is mostly well at Lakeland, a series of frightening events in Timber Plains—including a college student's eyewitness account of something scarier than a bear killing her boyfriend—has everyone on edge. It forces Mira's police chief dad to reopen a similar case from years ago that went unsolved, a case that might be linked to her mom's disappearance. A connection that feels even more likely when Mira receives an unaddressed letter from her mom out of the blue—with a warning for Mira that the world isn't as it seems. Mira suspects her mom might be telling the truth when she soon stumbles across strange animal tracks on a hiking trail, and when she's miraculously saved from a twenty-foot drop by the one and only... Julian Santos. The problem? Julian would've had to jump the length of the cliff to catch her, making him both fast and strong beyond belief.

When Julian takes Mira deeper into the woods and reveals his true shapeshifting wolf form, Mira isn't as scared, or as shocked, as she would have expected. Instead, she finds herself feeling even more drawn to Julian. Even though there's still so much he can't say—and *won't* say—about why he's been so standoffish. Including the secrets he might know about Mira's mom.

But when a Blood Moon rises, Mira soon finds herself caught in the middle of a long-standing battle, with Julian on the other side of the line. She discovers there's much more truth to the old town legends than she could ever have anticipated—and her family's historic role in it will change her world forever.

US: Page Street, Winter 2025  
Ages 12 Up  
Pages: TK

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# HEIR, APPARENTLY

Kara McDowell

- ❖ **An American teen learns she may have accidentally married the King of England, only to end up stranded on a tropical island with him in this highly-anticipated sequel to *The Prince & The Apocalypse*.**

Praise for *The Prince & the Apocalypse*

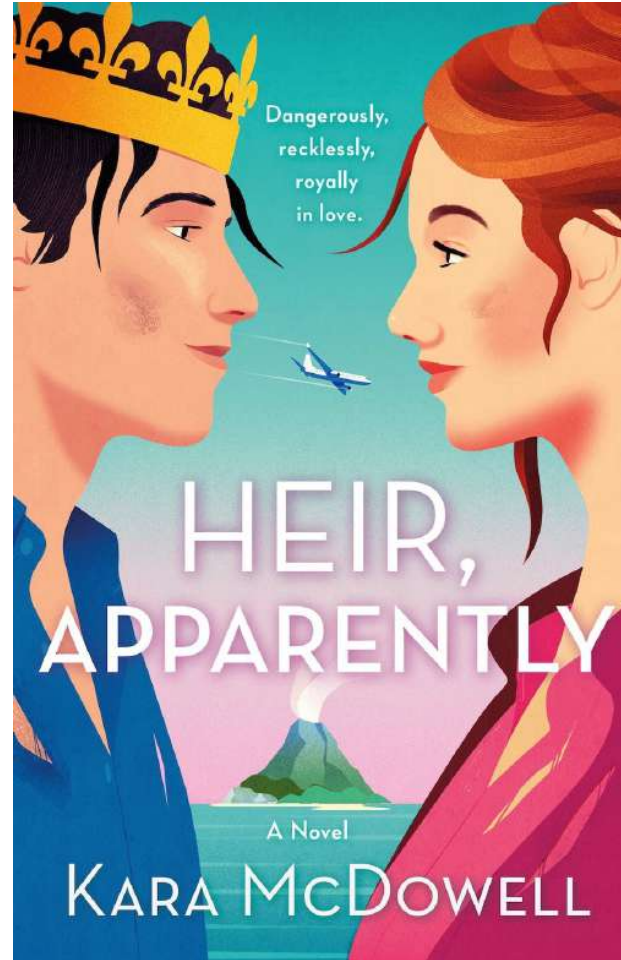
"This book is just pure *fun*, romance and action swirled together in one wild, adrenaline-fueled package. Kara McDowell excels at crafting comedic moments, lovable characters, and life-or-death tension. A royally perfect romp!" – Rachel Lynn Solomon, *NYT* bestselling author of *See You Yesterday* and *Today, Tonight, Tomorrow*

"*The Prince & the Apocalypse* is a page-turning rom-com utterly unlike any other, full of heart, humor and huge surprises. This wonderfully whimsical, genre-mashing royal romance is the ride of a lifetime." – Emily Wibberley & Austin Siegemund-Broka, bestselling authors of *The Roughest Draft*

"Kara McDowell is—hands down—my favorite rom-com author of all time. *The Prince & the Apocalypse* is an absolutely perfect blend of romance, humor, and adventure—Wren and Theo are going to live rent-free in my heart forever!" – Kass Morgan, bestselling author of *The 100*

US: Macmillan/Wednesday, July 2024  
Ages 12 Up  
Book 2 of 2  
Page Count: 320

Translation rights sold: Greek (Psychogios), Romanian (Trei)



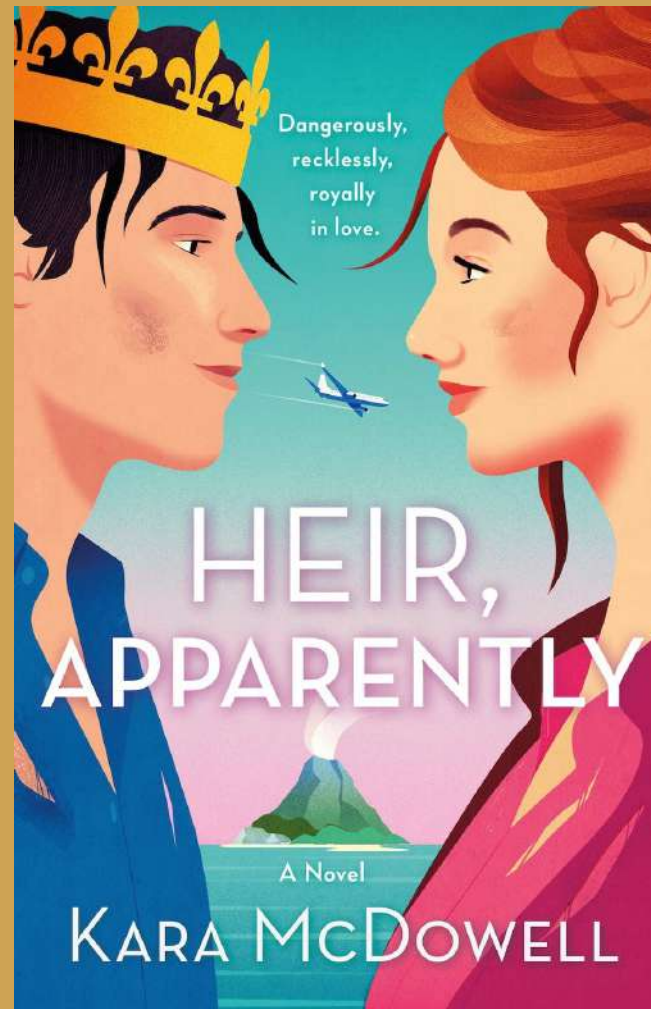
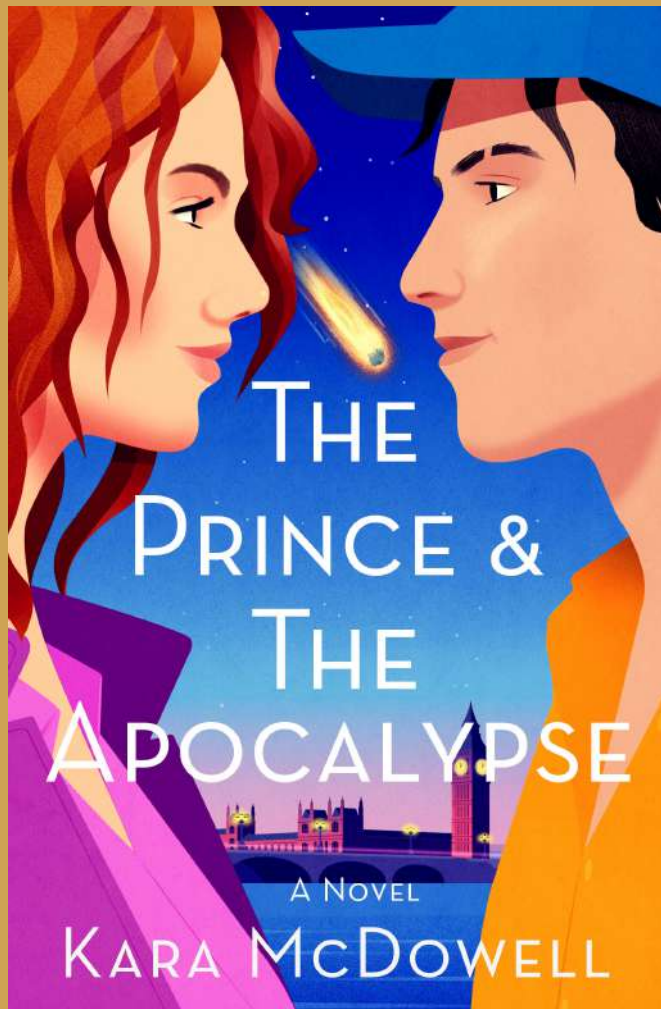
Freshman year is stressful enough without accidentally being married to the King of England. Of course, Wren Wheeler can't tell her Northwestern classmates about that; after surviving a narrowly-averted apocalypse over the summer, everyone's had enough excitement for one lifetime. Wren knows she needs to move on from Theo, but she can't forget the look in his eyes when he left her on that island in Greece—and also, he took her dog.

When an ill-fated attempt to rescue Comet the Apocalypse Dog turns into a chemistry-fueled reunion with Theo that's caught by the paparazzi, Wren finds herself under the royal spotlight. Suddenly, she's a problem for "the firm" to solve, and in order to be protected from the rabid press, she'll have to fly back to London with Theo. Along for the ride are her best friend and sister, Naomi and Brooke, as well as Theo's siblings, including Henry, the brother he's spent his life being compared to. But because the universe can't let these two maybe-newlyweds have one conversation in peace, their plane goes down over the Atlantic, crashing on a tropical island in the middle of nowhere.

Stranded with no sign of rescue, the group will have to band together against poisonous animals, catastrophic injuries, a brotherly rivalry, and an ill-timed volcano if they're going to make it out alive. And, scariest of all, Wren and Theo will have to face their feelings for one another and decide what they want their futures to look like—and if that future will be heartbreak, or happily ever after.

**Kara McDowell** is the author of YA novels *Just for Clicks*, *One Way or Another*, *This Might Get Awkward*, and *The Prince & The Apocalypse*. She lives with her husband and three sons in Arizona.

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“A charming escapist romance.” – *Kirkus*

“A treat for fans of rollicking, romantic road trip novels or rom-coms in which independent-minded young women fall for intelligent, good-looking princes.” – *Booklist*

“The duo’s magnetic chemistry and wry banter work levity into a would-be dire situation, culminating in a cavorting, globe-trotting jaunt.” – *Publishers Weekly*

“Readers who like a dose of adventure with their romance will devour this page-turner (and hope for a sequel). Recommended for YA collections.” – *School Library Journal*



# INSTANT KARMA

Marissa Meyer

- ❖ A brand new rom com from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lunar Chronicles*, the *Renegades* series, and *Heartless*
- ❖ Marissa brings her signature swoony romances to an idyllic seaside town with just a touch of magic!
- ❖ Marissa Meyer has written 12 *New York Times* bestsellers and her books have sold over five million copies around the world
- ❖ *The Lunar Chronicles* have been translated in over 35 languages

Praise for *Instant Karma*

An Instant *New York Times* Bestseller

“The story’s heart makes it a romantic tale well worth reading, and the inclusion of marine life rescue centers is an added bonus...This seems fated to be another bestseller for Meyer.” – *Booklist*

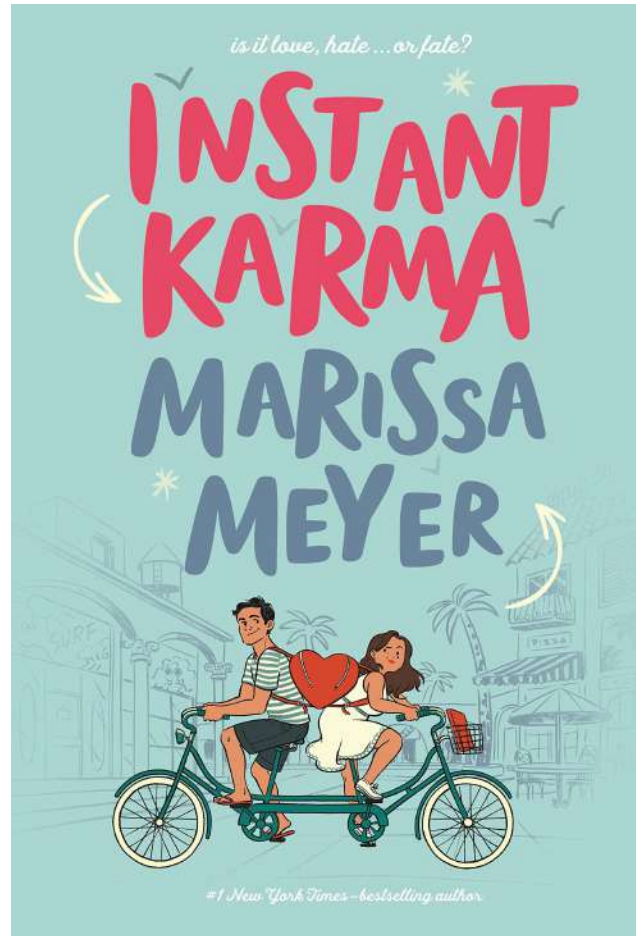
US: Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends, November 2020

ANZ: Pan Macmillan

Ages 12 Up

Page Count: 512

Translation Rights Sold: Czech (Albatros), French (Pocket Jeunesse), German (Carlsen), Hungarian (Konyvmolykepzo), Italian (Mondadori), Spanish – Latin America (V&R), Polish (Publicat), Portuguese – Brazil (Rocco), Russian (AST), Romanian (Storia), Spanish – Spain (Hidra), Turkish (Artemis), Vietnamese (Hoa Hoc Tro)



In this young adult contemporary romance, a girl is suddenly gifted the ability to cast instant karma on those around her—both good and bad.

Chronic overachiever Prudence Daniels is quick to cast judgment on the lazy, rude, and arrogant residents of her coastal town. Her dreams of karmic justice are fulfilled when, during a night out with her friends, she slips on a spilled drink and hits her head, only to wake up with the sudden ability to cast instant karma on those around her.

Pru giddily makes use of her power, punishing everyone from public vandals to karaoke hecklers, but there is one person on whom her powers constantly backfire: Quint Erickson, her slacker of a lab partner and all-around mortal enemy.

Over the course of a summer, Pru begins to uncover truths about Quint, her peers, and even herself that reveal how thin the line is between virtue and vanity, generosity and greed—and love and hate.

**Marissa Meyer** is the #1 *New York Times*–bestselling author of *The Lunar Chronicles* series, *Heartless*, the *Renegades* trilogy, *Instant Karma*, the *Gilded* duology, and *With a Little Luck*. She also edited the anthology *Serendipity: Ten Romantic Tropes, Transformed*. Her debut middle grade novel, *Let It Glow*, co-written with Joanne Levy, will be published in October 2024. She created and hosts [The Happy Writer](#) podcast, where she interviews authors on how to overcome various obstacles and bring more joy to the writing process; she will publish her first non-fiction title, a tie-in to the podcast, in January 2025. Her books have sold over five million copies worldwide and have been published in 37 foreign territories. She lives in Tacoma, Washington, with her husband and their two daughters.

# WITH A LITTLE LUCK

Marissa Meyer

- ❖ A delightful rom-com about a boy who realizes his "beginner's luck" may actually be a curse
- ❖ An instant *New York Times* and Indie Bestseller
- ❖ Marissa Meyer has written 13 *New York Times* bestsellers and her books have sold over five million copies around the world
- ❖ The *Lunar Chronicles* have been translated in over 35 languages

## Praise for *Instant Karma*

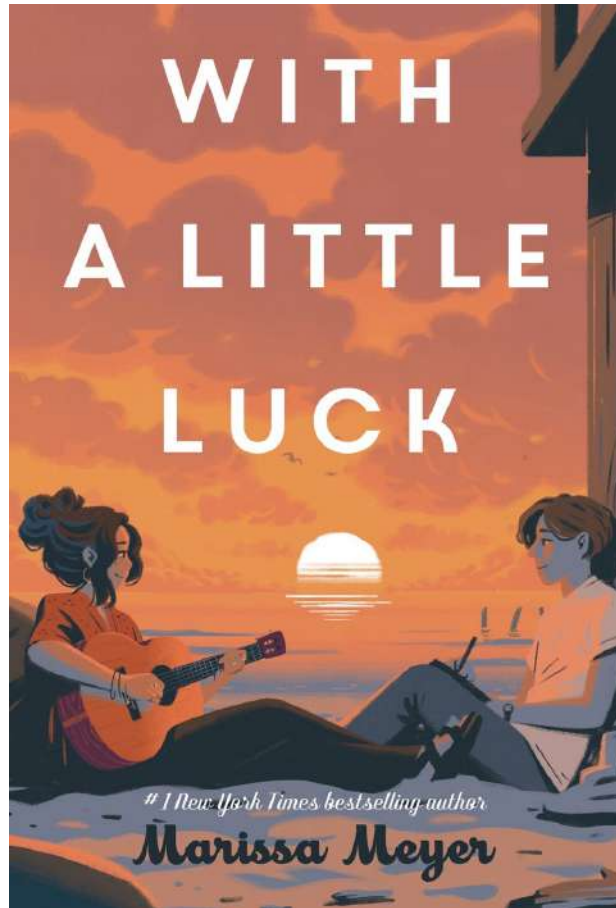
An Instant *New York Times* Bestseller

"The story's heart makes it a romantic tale well worth reading, and the inclusion of marine life rescue centers is an added bonus... This seems fated to be another bestseller for Meyer." –  
*Booklist*

"Ultimately, Marissa Meyer's *Instant Karma* is a **delightful** book that will have you longing for the beach... Quint and Pru's relationship is a **fun, quirky enemies-to-love story** that definitely leaves the reader satisfied." —*National Public Radio (NPR)*

US: Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends, February 2024  
Ages 12 Up  
Page Count: 368

Translation Rights Sold for *Instant Karma*: Czech (Albatros), French (Pocket Jeunesse), German (Carlsen), Hungarian (Konyvmolykepzo), Italian (Mondadori), Spanish – Latin America (V&R), Polish (Publicat), Portuguese – Brazil (Rocco), Russian (AST), Romanian (Storia), Spanish – Spain (Hidra), Turkish (Artemis), Vietnamese (Hoa Hoc Tro)



After being magically gifted with incredible luck, a boy discovers this gift just may be a curse when it comes to love, in this YA novel by #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author Marissa Meyer.

Jude and Ari are working at a record store, when during open mic night Jude gets up to sing a song about luck. After that he is magically gifted incredible luck. Not long after, he wins tickets to a concert and asks out Maya, whom he has had a crush on for ages. They start dating, but it isn't long before Jude starts to realize that Maya isn't The One for him after all. In fact, he thinks might be in love with Ari! Unfortunately, it turns out his "gift" is actually Beginner's Luck, and any attempts he makes to woo Ari (after he and Maya break up) end in disaster. Can he break the curse, or is he destined to be unlucky in love forever?

Fans of *Instant Karma*, *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, and *Love & Gelato* will be drawn to this clean teen romance, seasoned with Marissa Meyer's special brand of magic.

**Marissa Meyer** is the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of the *Lunar Chronicles* series, *Heartless*, the *Renegades* trilogy, *Instant Karma*, the *Gilded* duology, and *With a Little Luck*. She also edited the anthology *Serendipity: Ten Romantic Tropes, Transformed*. Her debut middle grade novel, *Let It Glow*, co-written with Joanne Levy, will be published in October 2024. She created and hosts [The Happy Writer](#) podcast, where she interviews authors on how to overcome various obstacles and bring more joy to the writing process; she will publish her first non-fiction title, a tie-in to the podcast, in January 2025. Her books have sold over five million copies worldwide and have been published in 37 foreign territories. She lives in Tacoma, Washington, with her husband and their two daughters.



# THE HAPPY WRITER

Marissa Meyer

- ❖ *New York Times* bestselling author Marissa Meyer's very first work of non-fiction—a warm, winning, practical guide for finding and nurturing the joy in writing
- ❖ Based on the podcast of the same name, which reaches 10,000 monthly listeners

## Praise for Marissa Meyer

"A mash-up of fairy tales and science fiction...a cross between Cinderella, Terminator, and Star Wars." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"Prince Charming among the cyborgs." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"Terrific." —*Los Angeles Times*

"Marissa Meyer rocks the fractured fairy tale genre." —*The Seattle Times*

"Epic awesome." —*Bustle*

"A binge-reading treat." —*MTV*

"Takes the classic to a whole new level." —*NPR*

US: Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends, January 2025  
Ages 14 Up  
Page Count: 256

Translation Rights Sold for *Gilded*: Arabic (Jarir), Czech (Albatros), Dutch (Blossom Books), French (De Saxus), German (arsEdition), Hebrew (Keter), Hungarian (Konyvmolykepzo), Italian (Mondadori), Persian (Houpaa), Polish (Helion), Romanian (Storia), Russian (AST), Spanish – Lat Am (V&R), Spanish – Spain (Hidra), Turkish (Ephesus), Ukrainian (Ranok)



*New York Times* bestselling author Marissa Meyer's very first work of nonfiction—an inspiring and energizing guide for teen and adult writers alike, about finding joy in the process of writing. The book works in tandem with Marissa's popular podcast of the same name, which reaches more than 10,000 monthly listeners and has included superstar guests such as Leigh Bardugo, Victoria Aveyard, Mary E. Pearson, Susan Dennard, Jennifer Lynn Barnes, Karen M. McManus, Erin Entrada Kelly, Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera, Soman Chainani, Rachel Smythe, Marie Lu, and many more. While it's not necessary to be a listener to enjoy the book, the podcast brings a built-in writerly audience—in addition, of course, to Marissa's legions of fans.

As a writing guide, *The Happy Writer* is not a book about craft (although Marissa certainly slips in some advice here and there), but one about nurturing the joy of writing, which in turn leads to increased creativity and productivity. Drawing from her many years of experience, as well as the science of positive psychology and the conversations she has conducted on her podcast, she offers 101 practical ways to make writing fun and enjoyable so that writers of all ages can keep working toward the things that are important to them.

**Marissa Meyer** is the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Lunar Chronicles* series, *Heartless*, the *Renegades* trilogy, *Instant Karma*, the *Gilded* duology, and *With a Little Luck*. She also edited the anthology *Serendipity: Ten Romantic Tropes, Transformed*. Her debut middle grade novel, *Let It Glow*, co-written with Joanne Levy, will be published in October 2024. She created and hosts The Happy Writer podcast, where she interviews authors on how to overcome various obstacles and bring more joy to the writing process; she will publish her first non-fiction title, a tie-in to the podcast, in January 2025. Her books have sold over five million copies worldwide and have been published in 37 foreign territories. She lives in Tacoma, Washington, with her husband and their two daughters.

# SINNER'S ISLE

Angela Montoya

- ❖ The high-stakes adventure of *Pirates of the Caribbean* meets the dazzling romance of *Serpent & Dove*
- ❖ An enthralling celebration of Latinx femininity, strength, and healing, as well as a searing indictment of the culture of machismo
- ❖ A girl with magical abilities must make a bargain with a stranded pirate in order to escape the dangerous island they're both trapped on
- ❖ Sold at auction in a two-book deal to Nicola and David Yoon's new imprint, Joy Revolution

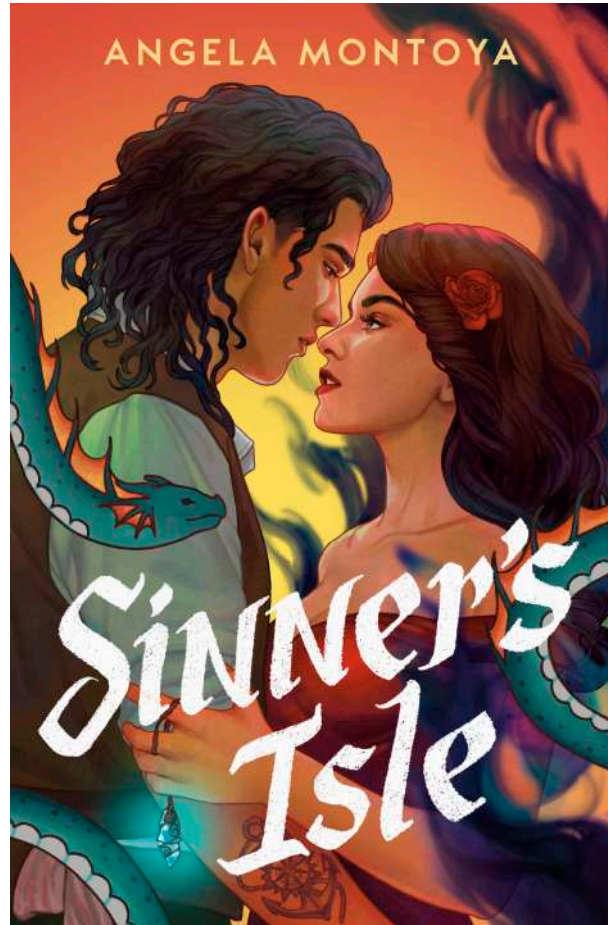
## Praise for *Sinner's Isle*

"Montoya's debut is a stunning addition to its genre, offering a world infused with Mexican folklore, a charming cast, a bewitching romance, and a fast, yet evenly paced, adventure...A swashbuckling, swoonworthy standout." – *Kirkus*, **starred review**

"Debut author Montoya skillfully steeps this meticulously built mythical world in Latin American folklore and amorous atmosphere, making for a hopeful and deeply romantic adventure following one courageous girl's fight to choose her own path." – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"...an intriguing tale that will make willing captives of its audience." – *Booklist*, **starred review**

US: Random House/Joy Revolution, October 2023  
Ages 12 Up  
Page Count: 304



A spellbinding romantic fantasy about a powerful witch who will do anything to escape the remote island she's being held captive on, including blackmail a notorious, charming pirate who washes up on shore, from debut author Angela Montoya.

Rosalinda is trapped on Sinner's Isle, an island filled with young women like her—Majestics, beautiful witches loathed by society for their dangerous magic yet revered by powerful men who want to use them.

For years, she has been kept under the watchful, calculating eye of Doña Lucia. Now eighteen, Rosa will be the prized commodity at this year's Offering, a fiesta for the wealthy to engage in drink, damsels, and debauchery. That is why she must flee—before someone forces the vicious phantoms within her to destroy everything she touches.

Handsome, swashbuckling Mariano has long sailed the high seas as the Prince of Pirates. Then the king's fleet attacks his father's infamous ship, leaving him marooned on Sinner's Isle with only an enchanted chain meant to lead him to his heart's desire. Instead, he falls into the hands of a brazen (although) bewitching headache—Rosa.

Together they must outwit each other and their enemies before the Offering ends and it's too late to escape the perils of Sinner's Isle.

**Angela Montoya** is a young adult author whose debut novel, *Sinner's Isle*, was published by Joy Revolution Books in 2023. She was named a *Publishers Weekly* Fall 2023 Flying Start, and has participated as a Round 5 Author-Mentor Match mentee and was selected to be a mentee in Pitch Wars 2020. She is the co-host of the podcast *Of the Publishing Persuasion* and lives in Northern California with her family.

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212-620-5883 | sam@jillgrinbergliterary.com

Translation rights sold: Italian (Harper Italia), Spanish (V&R)



# A CRUEL THIRST

Angela Montoya

- ❖ A fast-paced, romantic fantasy that's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* meets *The Legend of Zorro*
- ❖ A newly-turned vampire teams up with the daughter of vampire hunters to try to find a way to end vampirism

## Praise for *Sinner's Isle*

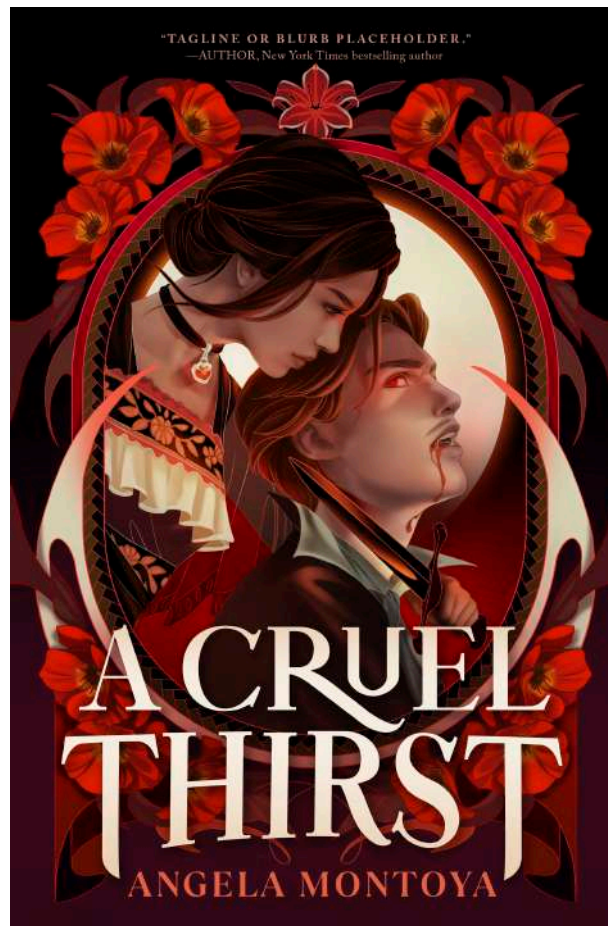
"Montoya's debut is a stunning addition to its genre, offering a world infused with Mexican folklore, a charming cast, a bewitching romance, and a fast, yet evenly paced, adventure...A swashbuckling, swoonworthy standout." – *Kirkus*, **starred review**

"Debut author Montoya skillfully steps this meticulously built mythical world in Latin American folklore and amorous atmosphere, making for a hopeful and deeply romantic adventure following one courageous girl's fight to choose her own path." – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"...an intriguing tale that will make willing captives of its audience." – *Booklist*, **starred review**

US: Random House/Joy Revolution, December 2024  
Ages 12 Up  
Page Count: TK

Translation rights sold for *Sinner's Isle*: Italian (Harper Italia),  
Spanish (V&R)



Carolina Fuentes wants to join her family in hunting the bloodthirsty vampiros that plague her pueblo. Her father, however, wishes to marry her off to a husband of his choosing, someone who'll take her away from danger. Determined to prove she'd make a better slayer than wife, Carolina vows to take down a monster herself. But when she runs into un vampiro that is somehow extremely attractive *and* kind, her plan crumbles.

Lalo Villalobos was content leading a perfectly dull life until un vampiro turned him. Now forced to flee his city, he heads to the pueblo where he believes the first vampiro was made. Surely its residents must know how to reverse this dreadful curse.

Instead of finding salvation, Lalo collides with a beautiful young woman who'd gladly drive a dagger through his heart.

Fortunately, Lalo and Carolina share a common enemy. They can wipe out this evil. Together. If his fangs and her fists can stay focused, they might just triumph and discover what it feels like to take a bite out of love.

**Angela Montoya** is a young adult author whose debut novel, *Sinner's Isle*, was published by Joy Revolution Books in 2023. She was named a *Publishers Weekly* Fall 2023 Flying Start, and has participated as a Round 5 Author-Mentor Match mentee and was selected to be a mentee in Pitch Wars 2020. She is the co-host of the podcast *Of the Publishing Persuasion* and lives in Northern California with her family.

# THE LEFT-HANDED BOOKSELLERS OF LONDON

Garth Nix

- ❖ An international bestseller!
- ❖ A young woman teams up with a secret society of magicians to find her missing father and stop an ancient entity from unleashing chaos on London
- ❖ With over six million books in print, Garth Nix is one of the biggest players in YA Fantasy, and his books have been translated into over 42 languages
- ❖ The second book, *The Sinister Booksellers of Bath*, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller

Praise for *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London*

“This is my favorite kind of tale, one where magic and the real nest together like pages in a book. A delightful read.” – V.E. Schwab, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Shades of Magic* series

“A warm, whimsical delight—*The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* is a witty, clever adventure in an exquisitely detailed world you will love escaping into.” – Veronica Roth, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Divergent* series

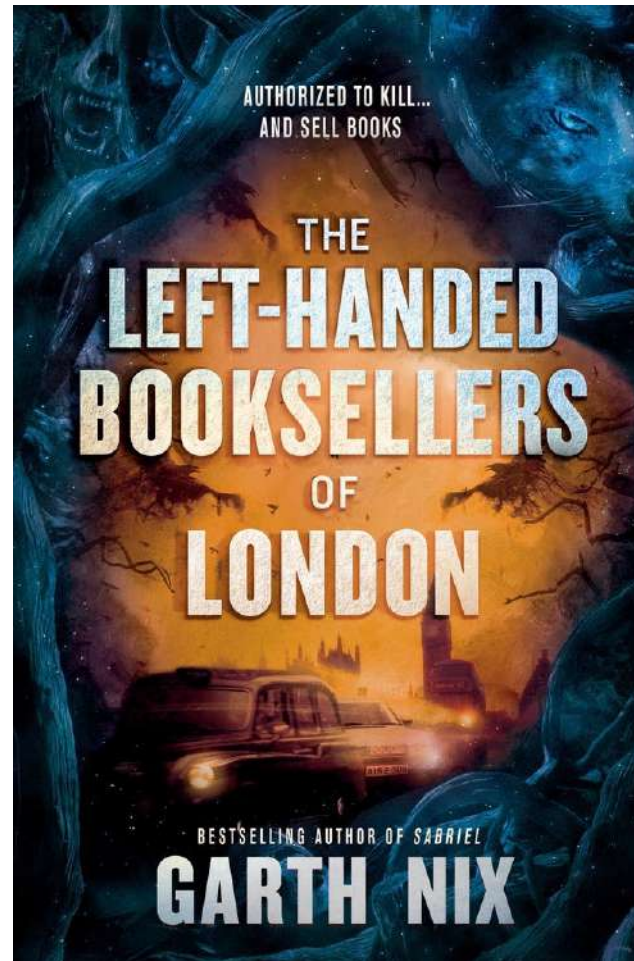
“Readers will beg for more adventures in this London.” – *Kirkus*

“A fantasy that genre fans, teen or adult, won’t want to miss.”  
– *Publishers Weekly*

“A thrilling, suspenseful romp with lots of humor and romantic tension.” – *Horn Book*

Translation rights sold: French (Leha), German (Random House), Hebrew (Utz), Romanian (Litera), Russian (Azbooka-Atticus), Spanish (Roca), Turkish (Penguin Kitap)

*Old Kingdom* translation rights sold in 30 languages: Please contact Sam Farkas for full list.



A girl’s quest to find her father leads her to an extended family of magical fighting booksellers who police the mythical Old World of England when it intrudes on the modern world. From the bestselling master of fantasy, Garth Nix.

In a slightly alternate London in 1983, Susan Arkshaw is looking for her father, a man she has never met. Crime boss Frank Thringley might be able to help her, but Susan doesn’t get time to ask Frank any questions before he is turned to dust by the prick of a silver hatpin in the hands of the outrageously attractive Merlin.

Merlin is a young left-handed bookseller (one of the fighting ones), who with the right-handed booksellers (the intellectual ones), are an extended family of magical beings who police the mythic and legendary Old World when it intrudes on the modern world, in addition to running several bookshops.

Merlin has a quest of his own: to find the Old World entity who used ordinary criminals to kill his mother. As he and his sister, the right-handed bookseller Vivien, tread in the path of a botched or covered-up police investigation from years past, they find this quest strangely overlaps with Susan’s. Who or what was her father? Susan, Merlin, and Vivien must find out, as the Old World erupts dangerously into the New.

Garth Nix is a *New York Times* bestselling novelist and has been a full-time writer since 2001, but he has also worked as a literary agent, marketing consultant, book editor, book publicist, book sales representative, bookseller, and as a part-time soldier in the Australian Army Reserve.

US: HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen Books, September 2020

UK: Gollancz, September 2020

ANZ: Allen & Unwin, September 2020

Page Count: 416

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# THE SINISTER BOOKSELLERS OF BATH

Garth Nix

- ❖ Instant *New York Times* bestseller!
- ❖ A wintry return to the somewhat alternate 1980s England of *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London*
- ❖ With over six million books in print, Garth Nix is one of the biggest players in YA Fantasy, and his books have been translated into over 42 languages

Praise for *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London*

“This is my favorite kind of tale, one where magic and the real nest together like pages in a book. A delightful read.” – V.E. Schwab, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Shades of Magic* series

“A warm, whimsical delight—*The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* is a witty, clever adventure in an exquisitely detailed world you will love escaping into.” – Veronica Roth, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Divergent* series

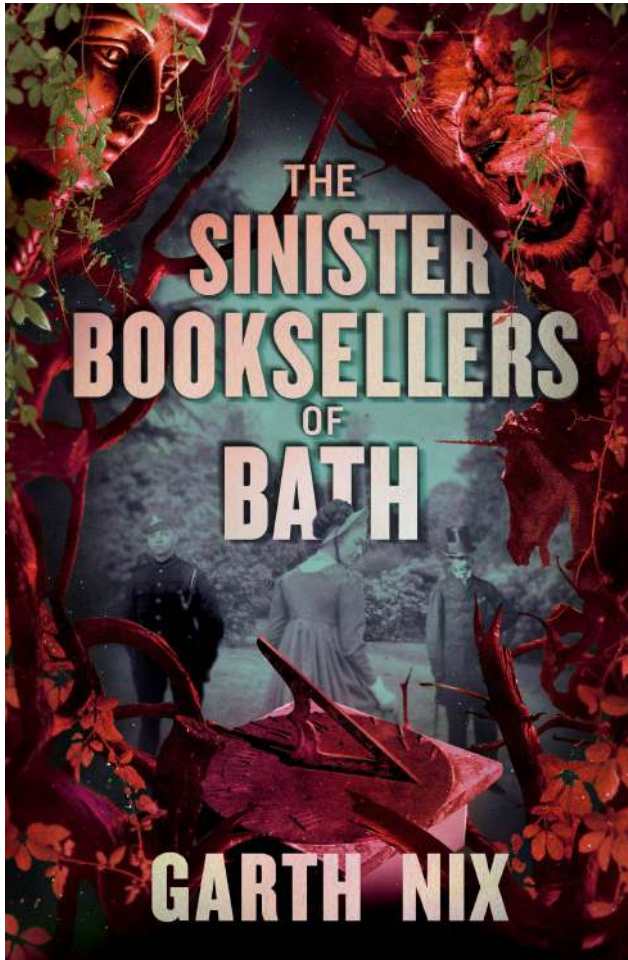
“Readers will beg for more adventures in this London.” –  
*Kirkus*

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There is often trouble of a mythical sort in Bath. The booksellers who police the Old World keep a careful watch there, particularly on the entity who inhabits the ancient hot spring. Yet this time it is not from Sulis Minerva that trouble starts. It comes from the discovery of a sorcerous map, leading left-handed bookseller Merlin into great danger. A desperate rescue is attempted by his sister the right-handed bookseller Vivian and their friend, art student Susan Arkshaw, who is still struggling to deal with her own recently discovered magical heritage.

The map takes the trio to a place separated from this world, maintained by deadly sorcery performed by an Ancient Sovereign and guarded by monstrous living statues of Portland Stone. But this is only the beginning, as the booksellers investigate centuries of disappearances and deaths and try to unravel the secrets of the murderous Lady of Stone, a serial killer of awesome powers.

If they do not stoop her, she will soon kill again. And this time, her target is not an ordinary mortal.

Garth Nix is a *New York Times* bestselling novelist and has been a full-time writer since 2001, but he has also worked as a literary agent, marketing consultant, book editor, book publicist, book sales representative, bookseller, and as a part-time soldier in the Australian Army Reserve.

US: HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen Books, March 2023

UK: Gollancz, March 2023

ANZ: Allen & Unwin, March 2023

Page Count: 416

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# A DROP OF VENOM

*Sajni Patel*

- ❖ A fresh, imaginative, and fiercely feminist retelling of the Medusa legend enriched with Indian folklore
- ❖ A dual PoV fantasy adventure
- ❖ A celebration of sisterhood and friendship, with a touch of romance

## Praise for *A Drop of Venom*

"*A Drop of Venom* is, for me, perhaps one of the most important, because it deals with issues that so many young readers will face in one way or another during their lives: fighting societal expectations, speaking truth to power, finding your authentic self, surviving trauma, claiming agency. Most of all, it asks the questions: If you had the power, would you be better than those who use power against you? What makes a monster, and what makes a hero?" – Rick Riordan

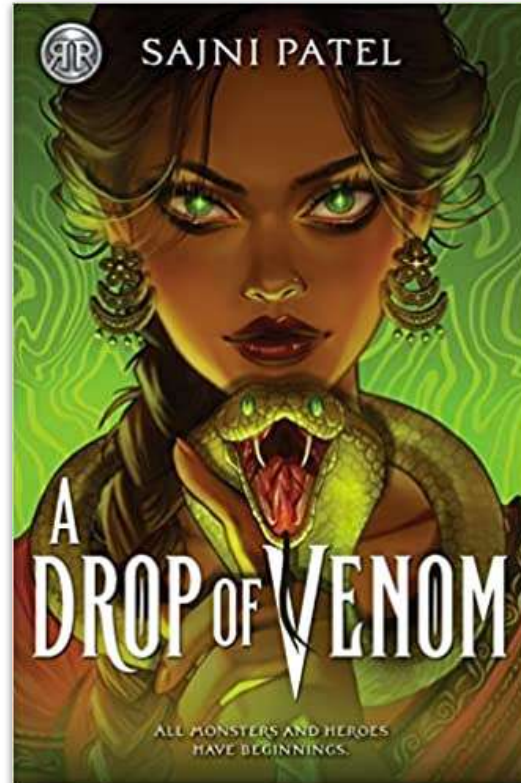
"One of the most terrifying - and misunderstood - villains in mythology is finally given her due in this vivid fantasy laced with forbidden romance, unspeakable horrors, and the ever-alluring gray area between heroes and monsters." - Marissa Meyer, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Lunar Chronicles*

"A vivid tale of myths and legends, Sajni Patel's *A DROP OF VENOM* is a story of tragedy and retribution, and I drank it down." - Kendare Blake #1 NYT Bestselling author of *Three Dark Crowns*

"*A Drop of Venom* is visceral, unflinching, and completely captivating. In blending Indian mythology with the tale of Medusa, Sajni Patel has created something powerful, furious, and truly magical. I couldn't look away." —Sarah Underwood, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Lies We Sing to the Sea*

US: Disney/Rick Riordan Presents, January 2024

Book 1 of 2  
Ages 14 Up  
Page Count: 416



Sixteen-year-old Manisha is no stranger to monsters—she's been running from them for years, from beasts who roam the jungle to the King's army, who forced her people, the naga, to scatter to the ends of the earth. You might think that the kingdom's famed holy temples atop the floating mountains, where Manisha is now a priestess, would be safe—but you would be wrong.

Seventeen-year-old Pratyush is a famed slayer of monsters, one of the King's most prized warriors and a frequent visitor to the floating temples. For every monster the slayer kills, years are added to his life. You might think such a powerful warrior could do whatever he wants, but true power lies with the King. Tired after years of fighting, Pratyush wants nothing more than a peaceful, respectable life.

When Pratyush and Manisha meet, each sees in the other the possibility to chart a new path. Unfortunately, the kingdom's powerful have other plans. A temple visitor sexually assaults Manisha and pushes her off the mountain into a pit of vipers. A month later, the King sends Pratyush off to kill one last monster (a powerful nagin who has been turning men to stone) before he'll consider granting the slayer his freedom.

Except Manisha doesn't die, despite the hundreds of snake bites covering her body and the venom running through her veins. She rises from the pit more powerful than ever before, with heightened senses, armor-like skin, and blood that can turn people to stone. And Pratyush doesn't know it, but the "monster" he's been sent to kill is none other than the girl he wants to marry.

**Sajni Patel** is the author of the adult contemporary romances, *The Trouble With Hating You* (Hachette/Forever), *First Love, Take Two* (Hachette/Forever), and *Isha, Unscripted* (Penguin/Berkley). Her YA novels include *The Knockout*, *My Sister's Big Fat Indian Wedding*, *Sleepless in Dubai*, and *A Drop of Venom*. Prior to her writing career, she worked in aerospace research with the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Born in India, she currently lives in Hawaii with her family.



# A TOUCH OF BLOOD

*Sajni Patel*

- ❖ The Persephone myth is told like never before in this companion to *A Drop of Venom* by Sajni Patel, where Greek mythology meets Indian lore.

## Praise for *A Drop of Venom*

"*A Drop of Venom* is, for me, perhaps one of the most important, because it deals with issues that so many young readers will face in one way or another during their lives: fighting societal expectations, speaking truth to power, finding your authentic self, surviving trauma, claiming agency. Most of all, it asks the questions: If you had the power, would you be better than those who use power against you? What makes a monster, and what makes a hero?" – Rick Riordan

"One of the most terrifying - and misunderstood - villains in mythology is finally given her due in this vivid fantasy laced with forbidden romance, unspeakable horrors, and the ever-alluring gray area between heroes and monsters." - Marissa Meyer, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Lunar Chronicles*

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"*A Drop of Venom* is visceral, unflinching, and completely captivating. In blending Indian mythology with the tale of Medusa, Sajni Patel has created something powerful, furious, and truly magical. I couldn't look away." —Sarah Underwood, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Lies We Sing to the Sea*



*Gods are made, not born.*

Before Manisha, the youngest of three sisters, was sent to hide on the floating mountain, her eldest sister, Eshani, made a deal with the shades. In order to save her people in the midst of a tragic war, she exchanged her life for theirs. Now, years later, the shades claim their due, dragging Eshani into the Nightmare Realm where she must find the Gatekeeper to fulfill her end of the bargain.

Nothing is as it seems in a land filled with ravenous monsters, ghoulish residents, and a river full of the dead. But most terrifying of all is the Shadow King, who intends to use Eshani to obtain immortality. As it turns out, Eshani—nicknamed “little goddess of spring”—is the key to fulfilling the Nightmare Realm’s prophecy. There’s only one person who can help Eshani escape, and he has his own problems.

Hiran has spent most of his life hiding, but destiny beckons, and he can no longer resist the call of the realm. But how can a stowaway, long thought to be dead, save an entire world?

Nothing will stop the Nightmare Realm from getting what it wants. Except maybe a king in the making and a goddess rising.

**Sajni Patel** is the author of the adult contemporary romances, *The Trouble With Hating You* (Hachette/Forever), *First Love, Take Two* (Hachette/Forever), and *Isha, Unscripted* (Penguin/Berkley). Her YA novels include *The Knockout*, *My Sister's Big Fat Indian Wedding*, *Sleepless in Dubai*, and *A Drop of Venom*. Prior to her writing career, she worked in aerospace research with the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Born in India, she currently lives in Hawaii with her family.

US: Disney/Rick Riordan Presents, Winter 2025

Book 2 of 2  
Ages 14 Up  
Page Count: TK

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# THE WORST PERFECT MOMENT

Shivaun Plozza

- ❖ *The Good Place* meets *A Christmas Carol* in this moving, often delightfully funny, YA novel
- ❖ A teenage girl wakes up in the afterlife to find it has taken the form of her “best” memory—except that what the afterlife thinks is her best memory is actually her worst

Praise for *The Worst Perfect Moment*

“A fresh take on a possible afterlife, this narrative is filled with depth and wit, despite its dark tone. Its realistic depiction of a girl’s reservoir of coping mechanisms for dealing with those who have let her down is exceptionally well written...A worthy read about a short life brimming with possibility.” – *Kirkus*, **starred review**

“Plozza strikes an expert balance between poignancy and irreverence, tackling topics such as death, parental abandonment, and self-worth in this queer romantic comedy that’s as tender as a bruise.” – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

**Shivaun Plozza** is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults. Her YA novels include *Frankie*, a CBCA Notable Book and winner of the Davitt Awards and a commendation from the Victorian Premier’s Literary Award; *Tin Heart*, recipient of two starred reviews, and *The Worst Perfect Moment*, forthcoming from Holiday House in 2024. She is also the author of several middle-grade novels, including *The Boy, the Wolf, and the Stars* and *A Reluctant Witch’s Guide to Magic*, published by Clarion Books, and *Meet Me at the Moon Tree*, published by University of Queensland Press. She is a frequent contributor to anthologies, and her short work has also appeared in *Above Water*, *Vivid*, and *The Victorian Writer*. She lives in Melbourne.

US: Holiday House, May 2024

ANZ: Walker, May 2024

Ages 12 Up

Page Count: 320



Tegan Masters is dead. And she’s standing in the parking lot of the Marybelle Motor Lodge, the most depressing motel in all of Wildwood, New Jersey. She doesn’t know what to hate more: being dead, or being dragged back to the scene of the worst weekend of her life.

In the motel’s front office, she meets Zelda—a teenaged angel who’s as sarcastic as she is annoyingly cute. Tegan is, according to Zelda, officially in heaven. Every person inhabits a replica of the moment of purest happiness from their life on Earth, their own personal heaven. For all eternity. And for Tegan, that eternity is the Marybelle Motor Lodge.

Tegan has a few complaints about this. Namely that the weekend she spent holed up in the Marybelle with her dad and her little sister was, for many reasons, pure emotional torture. Zelda insists there’s no way she got it wrong—the system is based on an in-depth mathematical analysis—but Tegan refuses to accept the Marybelle is a happy place, let alone *the* happiest. So she asks to speak to The Manager.

The Manager sees merit in her complaint and gives Zelda one month to convince Tegan that the Marybelle memory really does include her moment of greatest happiness. But the stakes are higher than anticipated; Zelda and Tegan will *both* be assessed during the month-long challenge. If Zelda’s calculations prove correct, then Tegan faces a long, *long* trip to purgatory. But if Zelda *did* make an error, the angel will be *obliterated*.

With the clock officially ticking, Zelda sweeps Tegan away on a whirlwind tour of her memories, challenging Tegan to piece together the truth of her past—her fears, desires, anxieties—to uncover why the weekend at the Marybelle was more than meets the eye. But Tegan also learns there’s much more to Zelda than her snarky shell. And soon she desperately wants to be convinced she was wrong about the Marybelle memory, so she can save the angel she’s falling for—and avoid centuries of identity-erasing bootcamp in purgatory.

But how can she possibly see that weekend—the weekend her mother abandoned her family and her father had a breakdown—as the happiest memory of her life? How can she prove that to the heavenly powers that be? And most importantly... how can she prove it to *herself*?



# WRATH BECOMES HER

Aden Polydoros

- ❖ A golem joins a group of Jewish partisans to fight back against the Nazis in 1943 Lithuania
- ❖ Recipient of the Sydney Taylor Award Honor
- ❖ Aden Polydoros has won the Sydney Taylor Book Award, and was a finalist for the Lambda Award, the National Jewish Book Award, and the World Fantasy Award
- ❖ A Junior Library Guild selection and Indie Next Pick

Praise for *Wrath Becomes Her*

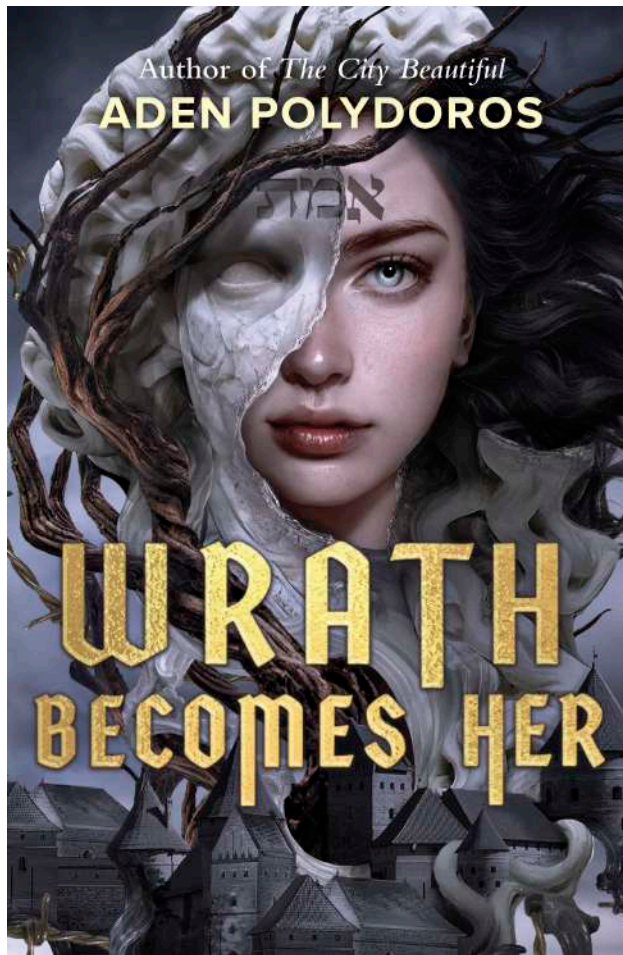
“Polydoros’ historical horror fantasy, informed by Jewish mythology, is a terrifying, thought-provoking book that will linger in the reader’s mind for a long time.” – *Booklist*

“The perfect book for those who know the fight for truth will always be a brutal one. Haunting, exhilarating, and a howl of vengeance.” – Andrew Joseph White, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hell Followed With Us*

“Intoxicating and visionary, a rare book that peels apart the idea of what personhood is, what our obligations are to those who made us how we are, and our obligations to the living and to the dead.” – Katherine Locke, author of *This Rebel Heart*

“A haunting and thoughtful World War II tale with a dark, magical bent.” – *Kirkus*

“Without sacrificing emotional impact or contemporary resonance, Polydoros implements frequently explored Jewish lore surrounding golems with a fresh and inventive angle. Relentlessly disconcerting ambiance adds to the novel’s eerie feel, making for an engrossing alternate history adventure.” – *Publishers Weekly*



**Vera was made for vengeance.**

Lithuania, 1943. The Nazis have killed Ezra’s daughter. He can’t bring Chaya back from the dead, but he can craft something in her image—a golem, infused with pointed rage, to avenge Chaya’s death. A Nazi killer made with kishuf, an ancient and profane magic.

When Vera awakens, she can feel her violent purpose—her reason for existing—thrumming within her. But she can feel other things, too: glimpses of a human life lived, of stolen kisses amid the tragedy, and of a grisly death. And when she meets Akiva, she recognizes the boy with soft lips that gave warm kisses. But these memories aren’t hers, and Vera doesn’t know if she gets to have a life beyond what she was made for. If she *deserves* one.

Vera’s strength feels limitless—until she learns that there are others who would use kishuf for means far less noble than avenging a daughter’s death. As she confronts the very basest of humanity, Vera will need more than what her creator gave her: not just a reason to fight, but a reason to live.

**Aden Polydoros** is an author of YA dark fantasy and gothic horror novels. In addition to receiving starred reviews from *School Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Bookpage*, and *Booklist*, his novel *The City Beautiful* won the Sydney Taylor Book Award and was a finalist for the Lambda Award, the National Jewish Book Award, and the 2022 World Fantasy Award.

US: HarperCollins/Inkyard, October 2023  
Ages 13 Up  
Page Count: 336

# SHE IS A HAUNTING

Trang Thanh Tran

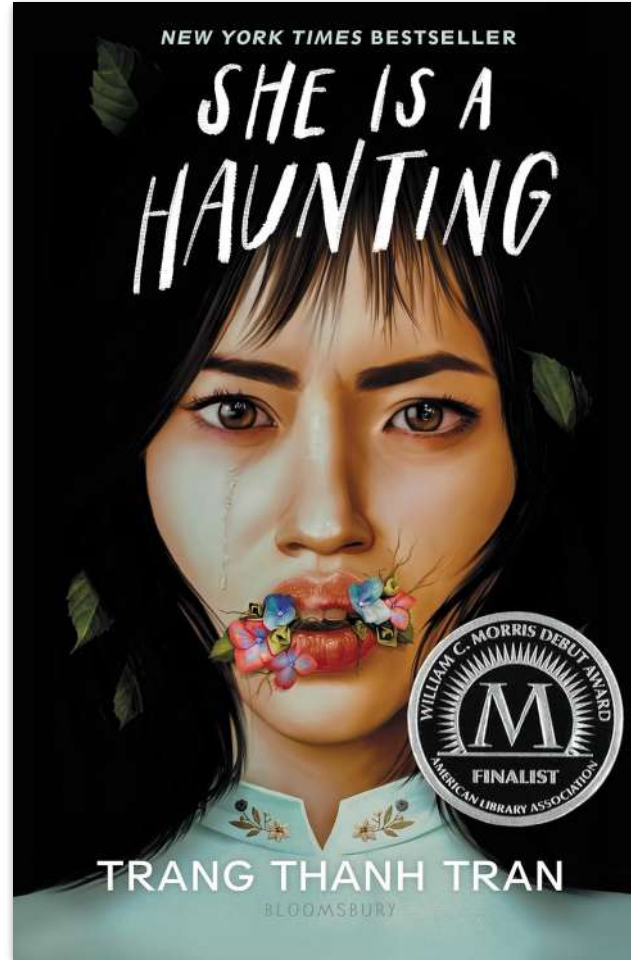
- ❖ A Vietnamese-American girl must escape a house haunted by its colonial past when she spends a summer in Vietnam
- ❖ A *New York Times* bestseller
- ❖ Finalist for the William C. Morris Award
- ❖ A rich exploration of place, history, family, and what it means to belong

## Praise for *She Is A Haunting*

"*She Is A Haunting* is exactly the kind of book I love—gorgeous prose, a deliciously terrifying atmosphere, incisive thematic resonance, and a gloriously complex heroine. Jade is an unforgettable character, all tender longings and sharp edges, and readers everywhere will root for her just as hard as I did. Put it on your shelf next to *Rebecca* and *The Haunting of Hill House*. An incredible, riveting debut." – Claire Legrand, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Furyborn* and *Sawkill Girls*

"This exquisitely disturbing tale of identity and colonialism and intergenerational trauma will eat its way under your skin and live there forever. Read this one with the lights on. I'm ready to be haunted by whatever Trang Thanh Tran writes next." – Emily X.R. Pan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Astonishing Color of After*

**Trang Thanh Tran** is a queer Vietnamese American writer telling all stories scary, otherworldly, and emotional for young adults and adults. They are an alum of the Writing Barn's Rainbow Weekend 2020 and Tin House's YA Fiction Workshop in 2021. They currently live in the South with their family and two mischievous cats.



Jade Nguyen has always lied to fit in. She's straight enough, Vietnamese enough, and American enough—at least for this one last summer in Vietnam at Nhà Hoa, the French colonial house her estranged father is fixing up as a vacation rental. One summer of being a good and obedient daughter, then college money—and freedom—are hers.

At first, Jade is determined to keep her head down and ignore the quietly decaying house. But mist and monstrous hydrangeas lurk outside the walls, and within, dead bugs gather on her windowsill daily. Jade begins waking up paralyzed every morning, certain that something has clawed down her throat while she slept. Something that may be living *inside* of her. It's a fear that only seems to be confirmed when the ghost of a beautiful Vietnamese bride, murdered in the house a hundred years ago, visits Jade with a cryptic warning: *Don't eat*.

When Jade's father and little sister refuse to believe that their dream house is haunted, Jade recruits Florence, the daughter of her father's business associate, to help her investigate Nhà Hoa's past—an to stage some haunting events of their own in the hopes of scaring her family into leaving. Florence, a motorcycle riding computer genius, born in Vietnam and schooled in America, is a complication that Jade didn't plan on meeting this summer. A very charming, irresistible complication.

Displeased by Jade's efforts to scare people away, Nhà Hoa and its colonial ghosts plot to make her family into its own—to fill its walls with devoted caretakers, ensuring the home is never abandoned, never forgotten again. The house, after all, is only as powerful as those who breathe new life into its bones.

In order to break away from Nhà Hoa's intoxicating grip, Jade must face her own dark fears and confront the meaning of home and belonging—or risk losing herself and her family to the hungry, insatiable house forever.

US: Bloomsbury, February 2023

Age: 14 Up

Page Count: 384

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Translation rights sold: Czech (Euromedia), French (Edicions Akata), Polish (Kobiece), Portuguese – Brazil (Astral), Romanian (Popovici)



# DEEP IS THE FEN

*Lili Wilkinson*

- ❖ An immersive fantasy teeming with dark ritual, secret societies, and a delightful rivals-to-lovers romance
- ❖ Lili Wilkinson won the 2024 Victorian Premier's Prize for Writing for Young Adults for *A Hunger of Thorns*

## Praise for *Deep is the Fen*

"Wilkinson employs beguiling imagery to craft a thought-provoking love letter to fierce and tenderhearted friendship." –  
*Publishers Weekly*

"An entertaining, well-characterized foray into a world of magical secrets." –*Kirkus*

"*Deep is the Fen* is an enchanting adventure. Wilkinson weaves a sinister fairy tale as glittering as it is grim, where a slimy cult battles cunning witches, and where love runs deep as blood and bone." – Ann Fraistat, author of *What We Harvest*

"*Deep is the Fen* was a delight *and* a horror—this whimsical world of hot buttered scones, prize hens, and country cottages were enough to charm and disarm me, but sinister secrets kept me entrapped, too afraid to look away. Witches, toads, a touch of romance, and a heroine to root for—I loved it!" – Amanda Linsmeier, author of *Starlings*



Merry doesn't need a happily-ever-after. Her life in the charming, idyllic town of Candlecott is perfect just the way it is, with her doting father and her best friend, Teddy, to keep her company. But it's her and Teddy's last summer together, and despite Merry's best efforts, change is creeping in.

Teddy has joined the Toadmen—a men's only society best known for their backwards thinking and odd traditions, though Merry is certain that the Toadmen are dabbling in magic. Dangerous, forbidden magic, the kind that spells curses. The kind that killed her mother.

Determined to save Teddy, Merry teams up with the person she hates most: her nemesis, Caraway Boswell, a snobby know-it-all who refuses to let anyone see his true self, and a fellow Toadman. Only Caraway needs Merry's help, too—though for what, he won't say.

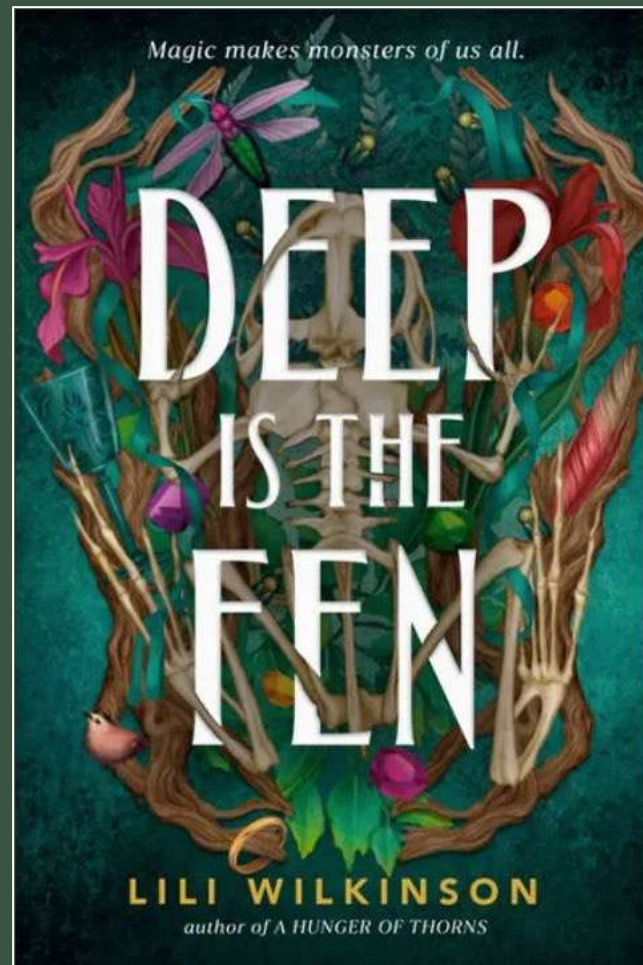
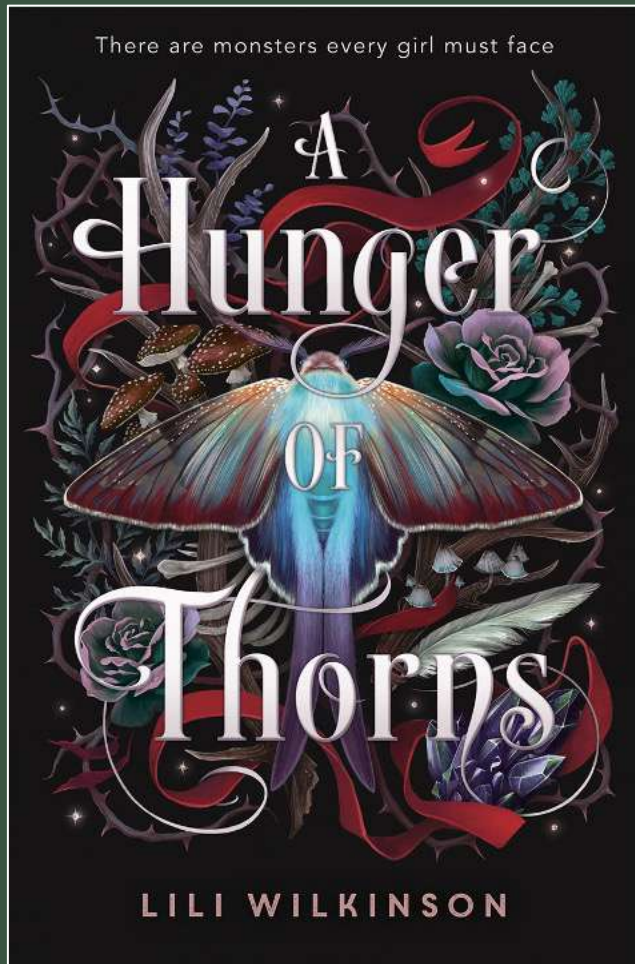
All he will tell Merry is that the clock is ticking. An ancient Toad ritual is being held in the bogs of Deeping Fen, and if Merry doesn't get Teddy out before it's finished, he will be lost to her forever. But the Toadmen have been keeping secrets, and the further Merry travels into Deeping Fen's foul waters, the more she wonders if she's truly come to rescue him...or if she's walking straight into a trap.

**Lili Wilkinson** is the author of of nineteen books for children and young adults, including the YA novels *The Boundless Sublime*, *After the Lights Go Out*, and *The Erasure Initiative*, which won the 2020 Aurealis Award for Best Young Adult Novel. She received her PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Melbourne, and lives in Melbourne with her husband and son.

US: Random House/Delacorte, April 2024  
ANZ: Allen & Unwin, April 2024  
Ages 12 Up  
Page Count: 416

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## *A Hunger of Thorns*

Maude is the daughter of witches. She spent her childhood running wild with her best friend Odette, weaving stories of girls who slayed dragons and saved princes. Then Maude grew up and lost it all—her power and her best friend.

These days, magic is toothless—glamour patches and psychic energy drinks found in supermarkets and shopping malls. Odette, though—she always hungered for forbidden, dangerous magic, and two weeks ago she went searching for it. Now she's missing, and everyone says she's dead. Everyone except Maude.

Storytelling has always been Maude's gift, so she knows all about girls who get lost in the woods. She's sure she can find Odette inside the ruins of Sicklehurst, an abandoned power plant built over an ancient magical forest—a place nobody else seems to remember is there...

Award-winning author Lili Wilkinson weaves a spellbinding tale of female friendship, and the monsters every girl must face.

# AN OUTBREAK OF WITCHCRAFT

written by Deborah Noyes; illustrated by M. Duffy

- ❖ A gripping tale of paranoia at its worst, this bewitching narrative nonfiction graphic novel visually imagines the haunting details behind the Salem witch trials.

Praise for *An Outbreak of Witchcraft*

“Duffy’s illustrations are often stunning and moving, showing haunting eyes peering through darkness, as well as depicting Gallows Hill, with five innocent bodies hanging from a tree as day turns to dusk and then becomes the dead of night. Noyes discusses the roles of racism, patriarchy, and economic turmoil, all of which set the stage for the witch hunt. Overall, this work provides fascinating insights for those already interested in this episode in history as well as those who know little about it. A haunting representation of a true American tragedy.” – *Kirkus*

Praise for *Ten Days a Madwoman*

“Noyes makes history accessible and irresistible in this thrilling account of women’s lives, flagrant abuse, scandal, courage, and tenacity. . . Excellent.” – *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

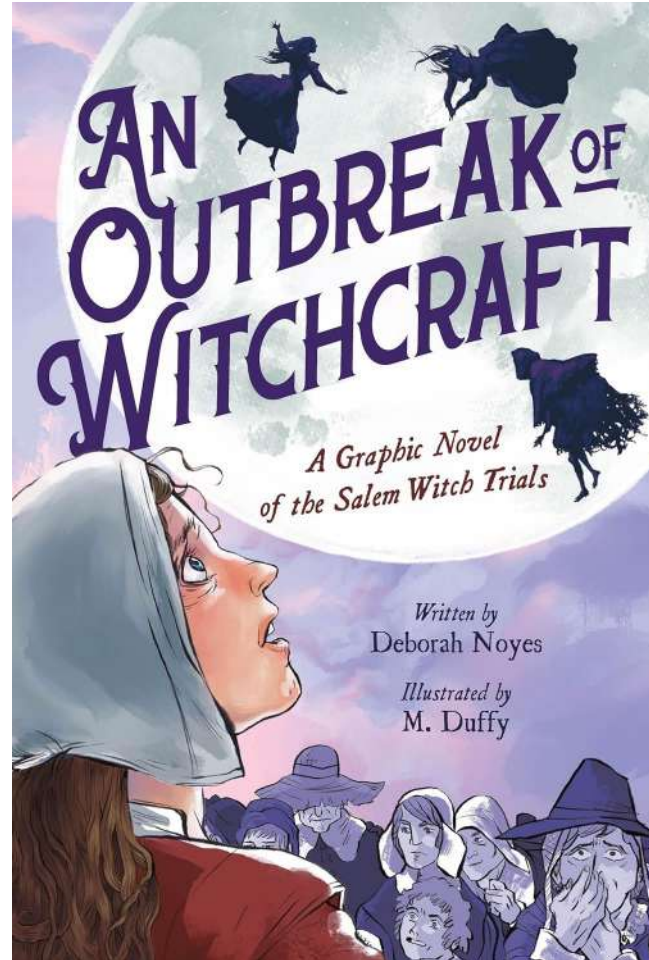
US: Hachette/Little, Brown Ink, June 2024

Ages 12 Up

Page Count: 256

Please note that UK and translation rights are handled by Hachette

Please note that M. Duffy is represented by Victoria Sanders & Associates.



From 1692 to 1693, fear reigned in the small village of Salem, Massachusetts. The night Abigail Williams and Betty Paris first accused their servant of witchcraft was only the beginning.

Several more accusations would follow suit, sparking a widespread panic that consumed Salem in one of the longest cases of witch trials in America, where more than twenty innocent lives were lost, and mistrust ran amok.

The community was in ruins, from the afflicted who fanned the flames of superstition to the judges who used their power unjustly and the accused who were falsely charged and hanged in consequence. In the absence of due process and with hysteria abounding, no one in Salem was safe.

**Deborah Noyes** is an editor, photographer, and author of numerous books for children and adults. She has edited several well-received collections of short fiction, including *The Restless Dead*, *Gothic!*, and *Sideshow*, and is the author of four novels: *Angel and Apostle* and *Captivity* for adults, and *The Ghosts of Kerfol* and *Plague in the Mirror* for young adults. She also writes nonfiction for young readers, including *Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original “Girl” Reporter, Nellie Bly* (shortlisted for the New York Historical Society Children’s History Prize), *The Magician and the Spirits: Harry Houdini and the Curious Pastime of Communicating with the Dead, Tooth & Claw: The Dinosaur Wars*, *A Hopeful Heart: Louisa May Alcott Before Little Women*, and *Lady Icarus: Balloonomania and the Brief, Bold Life of Sophie Blanchard*. She is also the author the short fiction collection *We Are All His Creatures: Tales of P.T. Barnum, The Greatest Showman*. She lives in Maine.

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# MIDDLE GRADE



JILL GRINBERG  
LITERARY MANAGEMENT



# UNSTUCK

Barbara Dee

- ❖ Award-winning author Barbara Dee returns with a gorgeous novel about creativity, friendship, family—and how to find the words you need most.
- ❖ A seventh grader learns that writing a novel is not as easy as imagining one!

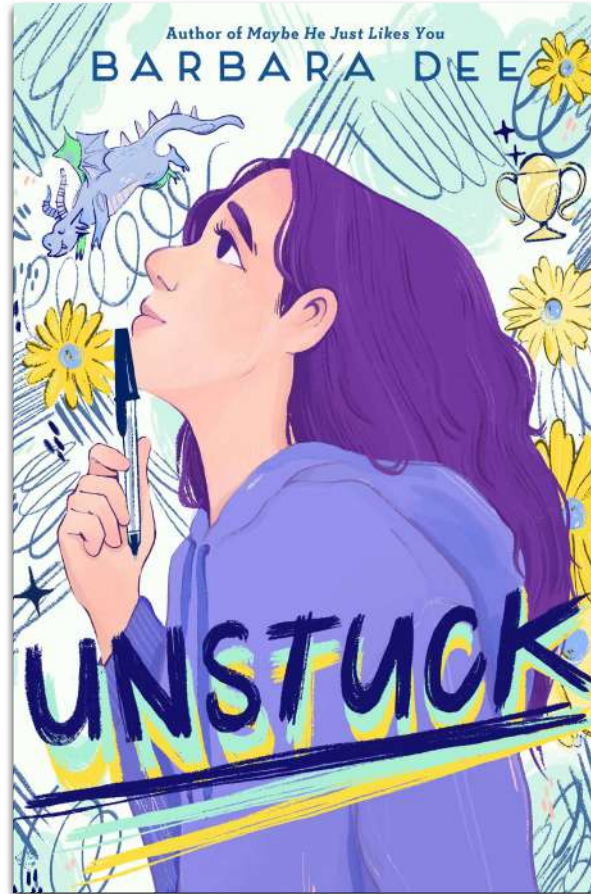
## Praise for *Unstuck*

"A wonderful, heartfelt and honest story about trying to write a novel and survive middle school, *UNSTUCK* is this generation's DEAR MR. HENSHAW." - Kirby Larson, author of Newbery Honor Book *Hattie Big Sky*

"Lyla is a character to root for! Her battle with writer's block and her journey to overcome it are both relatable and inspiring. With family and friendship relationships weaved in, *Unstuck* is an entertaining and heartfelt read." - Janae Marks, author of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*

"A portrait of a writer as a seventh grader! Humorous, heart-warming, and oh-so-real, *Unstuck* shows us how surviving middle school is a lot like the craft of writing. We must accept that it isn't easy, it helps to have friends, and, above all, we have to stay true to ourselves. Word lovers and budding novelists will love this book -- but so will anyone who is, will soon be, or once was an adolescent." - Jennifer Ziegler, author of *Worser*

"UNSTUCK joyfully celebrates the complex writing process and empowers young readers with the knowledge that creativity is a personal journey and sometimes strength is found in unexpected places." Veera Hiranandani, author of Newbery Honor-winning *The Night Diary* and *How To Find What You're Not Looking For*



Lyla is thrilled when her seventh grade class begins a daily creative writing project. For the past year she's been writing a brilliant fantasy novel in her head, and here's her chance to get it on paper! The plot is super complicated, with battle scenes and witches and a mysterious one-toed-beast, although basically it's a semi-autobiographical story about an overlooked girl who has to rescue her beautiful, highly accomplished older sister.

But writing a fantasy novel turns out to be harder than simply imagining one, and pretty soon Lyla finds herself stuck, experiencing the sort of panic that she realizes is writer's block. Part of the problem is that she's trying to impress certain people—like Rania, her best friend who's definitely pulling away, and Ms. Bowman, the coolest teacher at school. Plus, there's the pressure of meeting the deadline for the town writing contest. A few years ago, Lyla's superstar sister Dahlia came in second, and this time Lyla is determined to win first prize.

Finally Lyla confides about her writing problems to Dahlia, who is dealing with her own academic stress as she applies to college. That's when she learns Dahlia's secret, which is causing a very different type of writer's block. Can Lyla rescue her surprisingly vulnerable big sister, both on the page and in real life?

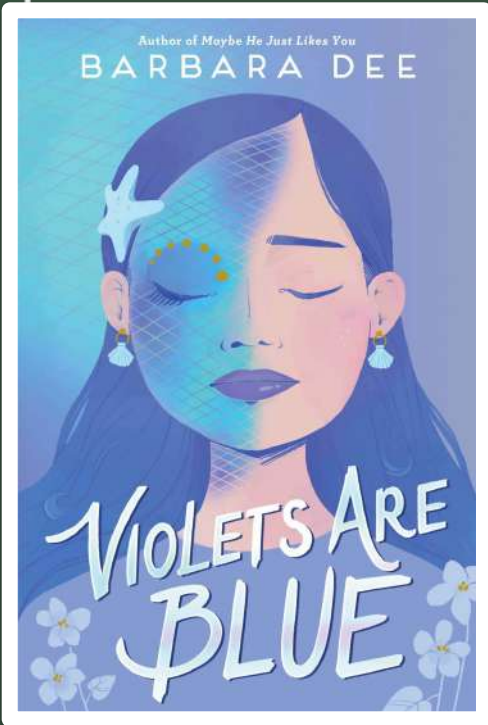
**Barbara Dee** is the author of over a dozen highly acclaimed middle grade novels. Her books frequently appear on "best of" lists and have received numerous starred reviews. She has authored viral blog posts about inclusivity in children's book publishing, and frequently appears at schools, conferences, and in media outlets to discuss her work and the handling of sensitive topics in middle grade fiction.

US: Aladdin, Winter 2024

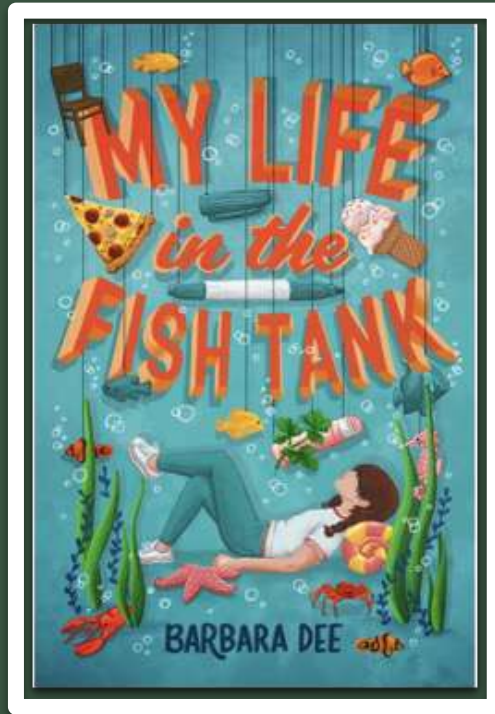
Ages 9-13

Page Count: 320

# Discover Barbara Dee



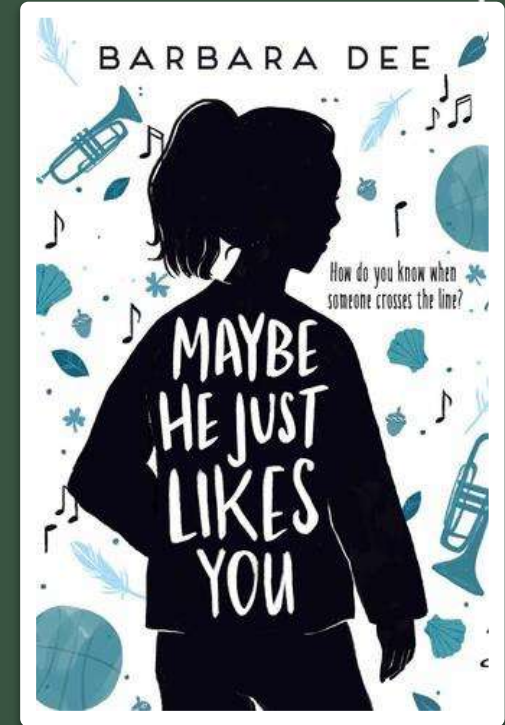
When make-up loving Wren moves to a new town with her mom, she starts to realize that her mom has a serious problem...one that can't be wiped away or covered up. A powerful story about addiction.



When Zinny's older brother is diagnosed with bipolar disorder, her family's world is turned upside down. A powerful story of learning how to grow, change, and survive.



A young girl channels her anxiety about the climate crisis into rallying her community to save a local river.



After an unwanted hug—and smirks and comments—Mila realizes she is the target of the boys' harassment. A powerful exploration of #MeToo for a younger audience.

US: Aladdin, Available Now. Ages 9-13

Translation rights have sold in multiple territories. Please contact Sam Farkas for a full list.



# GUT REACTION

*Kirby Larson and Quinn Wyatt*

- ❖ Critically acclaimed, bestselling author and Newbery Honor-winner, Kirby Larson, and her daughter, debut author Quinn Wyatt, pen this gorgeously moving and often funny story that explores what living with a chronic illness is like.
- ❖ Inspired by Quinn’s own personal journey, *Gut Reaction* is full of heart and humor and highlights the importance of asking for help when it comes to mental and physical health alike.

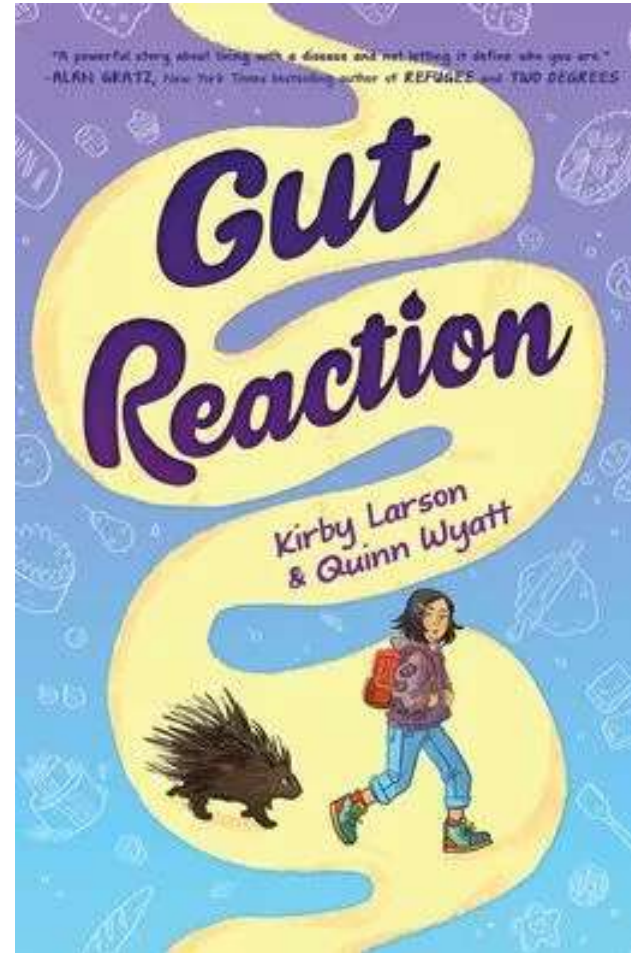
## Praise for *Gut Reaction*

“A powerful story about living with a disease and not letting it define who you are.” – Alan Gratz, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Refugee*

“A much-needed and important book for everyone: those suffering with Crohn’s disease, their family and friends who want to help them, and for all the rest who need to understand.” – Barbara O’Connor, author of *How to Steal a Dog* and *Wish*

“Kirby Larson and Quinn Wyatt have cooked up a rich, warm story about Crohn’s disease, courage, and cookies. I recommend it highly.” – Karen Cushman, Newbery Award-winning author of *The Midwife’s Apprentice*

**Quinn Wyatt** lives in Kenmore, Washington, with her two wonderful daughters, fabulous husband, and so-so dog. She loves to grow things in her garden, learn new crafting techniques, volunteer at her kids’ school, and bake yummy things (especially with chocolate). She has lived with Crohn’s for most of her life and is encouraged by all the progress that has been made over the years in the treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.



Tess Medina is still dealing with the loss of her father when she starts at a new school. One way she is still able to feel close to him is by doing what she does best: baking. He taught her everything she knows. But when tasting her creations causes a deep stabbing pain in her abdomen, she tries to power through and be strong in the same way she powers through her emotional pain. She doesn’t mind too much—she’s okay with sharing her baked goods at school in the hopes of making new friends.

Lucky for Tess, her baking skills attract the right kind of attention, and she assembles a ragtag team to help her taste her new and classic creations in preparation for the Jubilee Flour Junior Baker West Coast competition. This is a chance to prove that she’s a star baker. Above all, Tess is desperate to win first place and make her dad proud.

But leading up to the competition, Tess’s pain gets worse and worse, and soon she finds that she’s avoiding so many foods that she’s barely eating. When the physical pain becomes too great, Tess will be forced to confront everything she has been trying so desperately to hide.

From Newbery Honor author Kirby Larson and her daughter, debut author Quinn Wyatt, comes a poignant, sometimes silly, and always moving story of coming to grips with grief and finding the sweet filling inside every treat.

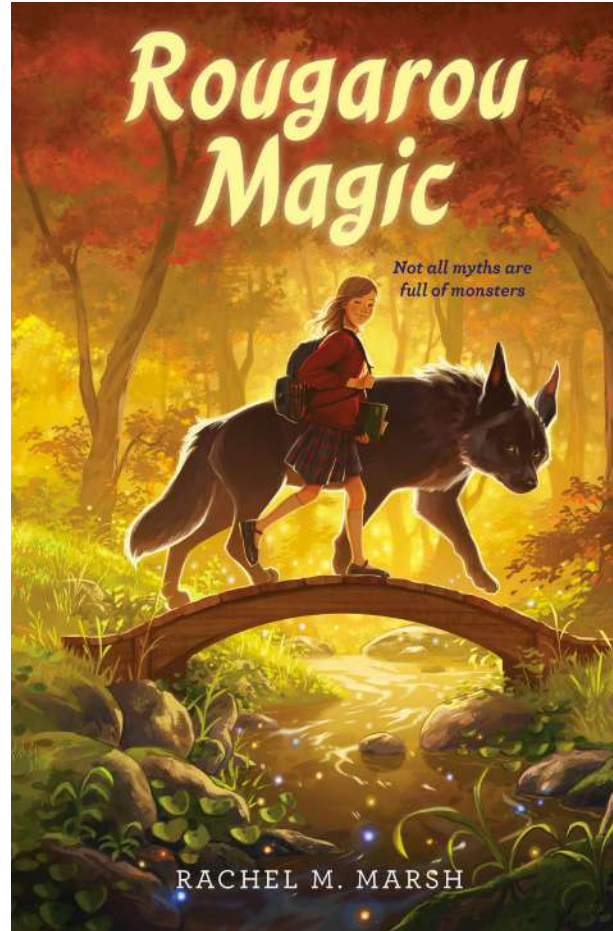
**Kirby Larson** is the acclaimed author of the 2007 Newbery Honor Book *Hattie Big Sky*; its sequel, *Hattie Ever After*; *Duke*; *Dash*, winner of the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction; *Liberty*; *Code Word Courage*; *Audacity Jones to the Rescue*; its sequel *Audacity Jones Steals the Show*; and *Dear America: The Fences Between Us*. She has also cowritten the award-winning picture books *Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina*, *Friendship*, and *Survival* and *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle*. She lives in Washington state with her husband and Winston the Wonder Dog.



# ROUGAROU MAGIC

Rachel M. Marsh

- ❖ A girl is gifted a magical companion to help her at her new school
- ❖ For fans of Tracey Baptiste's *The Jumbies* and Katherine Applegate's *Crenshaw*
- ❖ Rachel M. Marsh's debut novel explores themes of friendship, family, self-identity, and change



- Twelve-year-old Feliciano Fruge does not like Boston. If given the chance, she would gladly move herself and her mom from the freezing city right back to Grandma's house in Louisiana. Feliciano dreams of escaping her stepfather's corny jokes and bland food and the relentless bullying at school for "being poor" and having a Southern accent.

So, when she transfers to a new school and has the chance to start fresh, Feliciano plans to be as un-Cajun as possible in order to blend in. But then Grandma sends Feliciano a mischievous and magical monster from Cajun folklore—Roux the rougarou. While Grandma might have meant for rambunctious Roux to keep Feliciano company, now Feliciano must juggle making new friends, outsmarting a bully, creating her best art to qualify for an upcoming competition—and hiding her mysterious, magical canine companion from everyone.

*Rougarou Magic* is a magic-laced, tenderly drawn love letter to Cajun folklore, the bittersweetness of starting over when you least expect it, and the unlikely friends you make along the way.

**Rachel M. Marsh** earned her MFA in Creative Writing for Children from Simmons University in Boston. Her debut novel, *Rougarou Magic*, will be published by Greenwillow in 2024. She now lives in New Orleans where she and her husband eat the world's best food and renovate their almost-hundred-year-old house.

# LET IT GLOW

Marissa Meyer and Joanne Levy

- ❖ A sweet, entertaining, festive novel about two identical twins, separated at birth, who swap families for the holidays
- ❖ The debut middle grade novel from mega-bestselling author Marissa Meyer, co-written with award winner Joanne Levy
- ❖ Marissa Meyer has written 12 *New York Times* bestsellers and her books have sold over five million copies around the world
- ❖ The Lunar Chronicles have been translated in over 35 languages

**Joanne Levy** is the acclaimed author of numerous novels for middle grade readers. Most recently, *Sorry For Your Loss* was a Sydney Taylor Book Award Notable 2022 and a finalist for the prestigious Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature. It won the Canadian Jewish Literary Award and has been nominated for the Red Maple Award, the Red Cedar Award and the Rocky Mountain Book Award. Joanne lives in Ontario with her husband and kids of the furred and feathered variety.



When Aviva Davis and Holly Martin meet at the holiday pageant tryouts for their local senior's center, they think they must be seeing double. While they both knew they were adopted, they had no idea they had a biological sibling, let alone an identical twin! The similarities are only skin deep, though, because while Aviva has a big personality and even bigger Broadway plans, Holly is more the quiet dreamer type who longs to become a famous author like her grandfather.

One thing the girls do have in common is their curiosity about how the other celebrates the holidays. What better way to discover the magic of the holidays than to experience them firsthand? The girls secretly trade lives, planning to stage a dramatic reveal to their families at the pageant. Two virtual strangers swapping homes, holidays, and age-old traditions—what could possibly go wrong?

**Marissa Meyer** is the #1 *New York Times*–bestselling author of The Lunar Chronicles series, *Heartless*, the Renegades trilogy, *Instant Karma*, the Gilded duology, and *With a Little Luck*. She also edited the anthology *Serendipity: Ten Romantic Tropes, Transformed*. Her debut middle grade novel, *Let It Glow*, co-written with Joanne Levy, will be published in October 2024. She created and hosts [The Happy Writer](#) podcast, where she interviews authors on how to overcome various obstacles and bring more joy to the writing process; she will publish her first non-fiction title, a tie-in to the podcast, in January 2025. Her books have sold over five million copies worldwide and have been published in 37 foreign territories. She lives in Tacoma, Washington, with her husband and their two daughters.

US: Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends, October 2024

Ages 8-12 Up  
Page Count: 256

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# WE DO NOT WELCOME OUR TEN-YEAR-OLD OVERLORD

Garth Nix

❖ From master storyteller Garth Nix, the chilling story of a strange object that falls into the wrong hands and has the potential to destroy the world.

❖ For fans of *The Last Kids on Earth* and *Stranger Things*

Praise for *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London*

“This is my favorite kind of tale, one where magic and the real nest together like pages in a book. A delightful read.” – V.E. Schwab, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Shades of Magic* series

“A warm, whimsical delight—*The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* is a witty, clever adventure in an exquisitely detailed world you will love escaping into.” – Veronica Roth, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Divergent* series

“Readers will beg for more adventures in this London.” – *Kirkus*

“A fantasy that genre fans, teen or adult, won’t want to miss.”  
– *Publishers Weekly*

“A thrilling, suspenseful romp with lots of humor and romantic tension.” – *Horn Book*



It’s not fair. Kim’s always lived in the shadow of his younger sister, Eila— which is not how it’s supposed to be. Everyone talks about how smart Eila is...but, in Kim’s eyes, she can still make mistakes. Big mistakes.

One day Kim and Eila find an otherworldly object in a lake. Kim thinks it’s bad news...especially when it communicates with Eila and she decides to take it home. Soon she is calling it her friend, and in return it is giving her awesome powers over insects, animals, the weather, and more.

These are powers no one should have— particularly not a ten-year-old girl who thinks she’s always right. What can Kim and his group of gamer friends do against someone like that? And should they even try? Maybe Eila is right, and the mysterious entity is a friend.

But what if it isn’t?

**Garth Nix** is a *New York Times* bestselling novelist and has been a full-time writer since 2001, but he has also worked as a literary agent, marketing consultant, book editor, book publicist, book sales representative, bookseller, and as a part-time soldier in the Australian Army Reserve.

US: Scholastic, October 2024  
ANZ: Allen & Unwin, October 2024  
Ages 8-12  
Page Count: 240

# SUMMER OF SHIPWRECKS

Shivaun Plozza

- ❖ A funny, moving middle grade novel about change and friendship from the author of *Meet Me at the Moon Tree*
- ❖ Shivaun Plozza is an award-winning author whose past works include *Frankie* and *The Boy, the Wolf and the Stars*

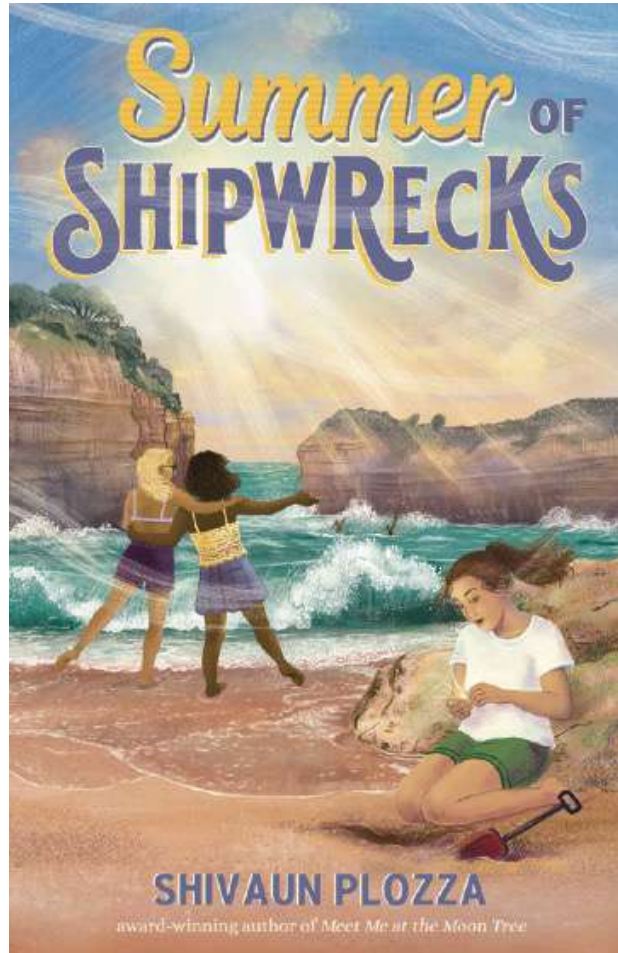
## Praise for *Meet Me at the Moon Tree*

“Heartfelt, moving, and woven with forest magic, *Meet Me at the Moon Tree* explores how friendship, family and the natural world can reshape life after devastating loss.” – Rebecca Lim, award-winning author of *Tiger Daughter*

“A tender, whimsical journey of hope, humming with science and magic.” – Fiona Wood, award-winning author of *How to Spell Catastrophe*

“Set during a summer of change, this is a powerful, touching story of grief, family, friendship and the healing power of the natural world.” – Jane Godwin, bestselling author of *A Walk In The Dark*

“Magical! This book will make you believe moon trees are everywhere, but it is also deeply grounded and full of real heart. I loved it.” – Shirley Marr, award-winning author of *A Glasshouse of Stars*



\* cover not final \*

A funny, moving middle-grade novel about change and friendship from the author of *Meet Me at the Moon Tree*.

When Sid sets off on her annual summer holiday to the Shipwreck Coast, she's desperate for some familiarity after a year of unwanted change. Two weeks with best friend Lou, who she only gets to see when they go camping every year, is exactly what Sid needs. Mostly, she can't wait to continue their search for the millions of dollars' worth of riches that disappeared in a tragic shipwreck over a hundred years ago.

But Lou has brought along popular new school friend Hailey, who's more interested in boys than treasure hunting. So while Lou is busy chasing Hailey's approval, Sid is left scrambling to catch up, wondering when everything changed. Can Sid protect her heart from getting shipwrecked too?

**Shivaun Plozza** is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults. Her YA novels include *Frankie*, a CBCA Notable Book and winner of the Davitt Awards and a commendation from the Victorian Premier's Literary Award; *Tin Heart*, recipient of two starred reviews, and *The Worst Perfect Moment*, forthcoming from Holiday House in 2024. She is also the author of several middle-grade novels, including *The Boy, the Wolf, and the Stars* and *A Reluctant Witch's Guide to Magic*, published by Clarion Books, and *Meet Me at the Moon Tree*, published by University of Queensland Press. She is a frequent contributor to anthologies, and her short work has also appeared in *Above Water*, *Vivid*, and *The Victorian Writer*. She lives in Melbourne.

ANZ: UQP, September 2024

Ages 8-12

Page Count: TK

Sam Farkas | Foreign Rights Associate | Jill Grinberg Literary Management  
212-620-5883 | sam@jillgrinbergliterary.com



# NIGHTMARES IN PARADISE

*Aden Polydoros*

- ❖ The exciting follow-up to *Ring of Solomon*, in which Zach and his friends find themselves fighting monsters in the Garden of Eden
- ❖ For fans of *Percy Jackson*, *Tristan Strong*, and *Aru Shah*

## Praise for *Ring of Solomon*

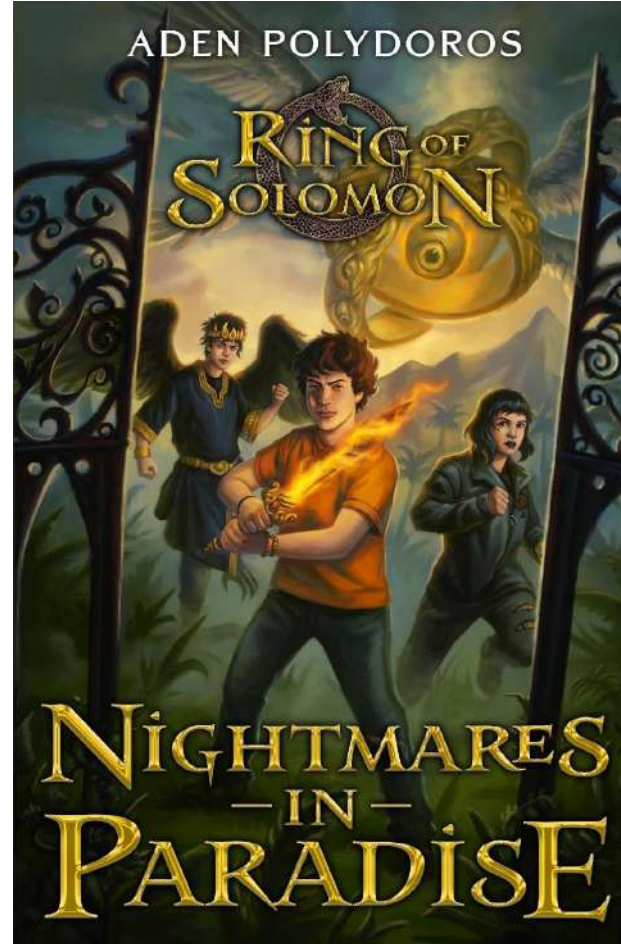
"Jam-packed with action and humor, *Ring of Solomon* is a rip-roaring good read. Buoyed by the fast pace and excitement of this Jewish mythology-inspired adventure, I plowed right through until there was no more left. I already miss Zach and the endearing cast of characters. Please, I need more!"  
—Graci Kim, author of *The Last Fallen Star*

"This exploration of a boy's self is full of fun, humor, and Jewish mythology that I never knew could be so cool."  
—Rex Ogle, author of *Free Lunch* and *The Supernatural Society*

"A fun, wildly imaginative, and wholly original tale that will keep you on the edge of your seat and grinning until the last page!"  
—Greg Howard, author of *The Whispers* and *The Visitors*

"

US: HarperCollins/Inkyard, April 2024  
Ages 8-12  
Page Count: 256



Zach Darlington saved the world from total apocalypse and all he got was grounded. He's not even allowed to watch his favorite horror movies anymore, and now his parents want to ship him off to boarding school.

But before Zach can talk some sense into his parents, his little sister, Naomi, lands in an unexplainable coma. Zach's friend Ash (yep, Zach and the King of Demons are friends now) knows this was the work of Ash's eternal nemesis, the Archangel Uriel. And the only way to revive Naomi is with the fruit from the Tree of Life. Yeah, that tree. Like, from the actual Garden of Eden.

Zach and his friend will have to face terrifying angels, monsters, and a serpent to get to the tree and save Naomi's life. He just hopes he won't be grounded till the end of time if they ever make it back.

**Aden Polydoros** is an author of YA dark fantasy and gothic horror novels. In addition to receiving starred reviews from *School Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Bookpage*, and *Booklist*, his novel *The City Beautiful* won the Sydney Taylor Book Award and was a finalist for the Lambda Award, the National Jewish Book Award, and the 2022 World Fantasy Award. His most recent fantasy novel, *Bone Weaver* came out in September 2022 from Inkyard Press/HarperCollins.

# THE GRIMSBANE FAMILY WITCH HUNTERS

Joan Reardon

- ❖ A bewitchingly spooky middle grade debut about a girl who must save her brother from cryptids
- ❖ For fans of Claribel Ortega's *Ghost Squad* and Lindsay Currie's *Scratch Scratch*
- ❖ Encourages readers to question history and those who hold the power to rewrite it



Ever since the most powerful witch in the Midwest cursed the Grimsbane men to die untimely and unusual deaths, generation after generation of Grimsbane women have been hunting The Watcher—and every other monster that threatens their town—in hopes of breaking the curse.

Hunter-in-training and frequent troublemaker Anna Grimsbane wishes her family would let her join the hunt before she and her twin brother turn thirteen, the day Billy's curse begins. She gets her wish sooner than expected, though, when Billy runs away to go after The Watcher himself. With just hours until the curse turns Billy into an accident-prone walking disaster, it's up to Anna and her friends, Suvi and Rosario, to find him.

But the Watcher's woods are crawling with cryptids, most of whom hate humans, and all of whom hate the Grimsbanes in particular. And the deeper Anna and her friends get into the forest, the more it becomes evident that, despite her efforts to prepare, Anna knows much less about the world of witches and monsters than she'd thought. As the clock ticks toward midnight, she'll have to learn fast, or her brother won't be the only Grimsbane facing a grisly demise.

**Joan Reardon** is an author and attorney from Youngstown, Ohio. Her love for Midwestern history and folklore inspired her debut novel *The Grimsbane Family Witch Hunters*, which will be published by Simon & Schuster in Summer 2024. Joan holds a BA in history from The Ohio State University and earned her law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. When she's not writing, Joan enjoys going on adventures with her wonderful husband, Ben, and spending time with her incredibly large, incredibly loving family.

US: Simon & Schuster/Aladdin, August 2024

Ages 8-12  
Page Count: 352

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# NO FILTER

*Kelley Skovron*

- ❖ A spooky middle grade novel about a girl who sees a ghost in her photographs
- ❖ Perfect for fans of *Goosebumps*

Praise for Kelley Skovron

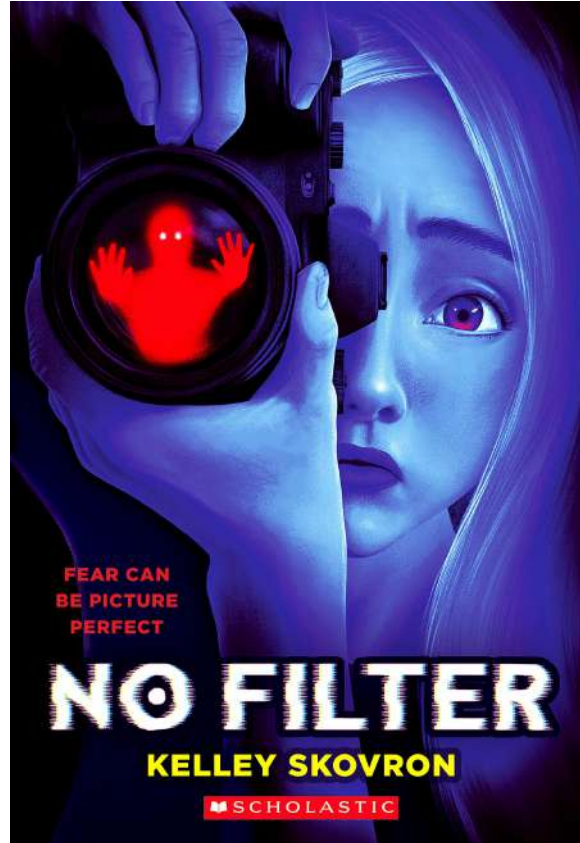
“Skovron’s spy thriller reads at a breakneck pace, imbued with tech know-how, covert ops, and heart-pounding action scenes.”  
–*Kirkus*, on *The Hacker’s Key*

“Skovron weaves all things creepy and strange into a tale that is heartwarming, hilarious, and full of memorable characters.”  
– John Corey Whaley, winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for *Where Things Come Back*, on *Man Made Boy*

“Skovron has mastered the beauty, tragedy, and hilarity of the fine line between monsters and men. Read this book and marvel at his creation.” – Andrea Cremer, bestselling author of the *Nightshade* series, on *Man Made Boy*

US: Scholastic, February 2024  
Ages 8-12  
Page Count: 304

Foreign rights sold for *The Hacker’s Key*: French (Bayard), German (Harper)



From the author of *The Ghost of Drowned Meadow* comes another haunted tale that's as touching as it terrifying.

Janessa "Jinx" McCormick loves photography because it's like real life, except she can make it perfect. She never takes selfies because she doesn't want to be in her own pictures. Her pictures are perfect. She is anything but. But one night as she's touching up a new photo before posting it, Jinx sees...something sitting on the floor in the background of the image. Something she's certain that it was not in the frame when she took the shot. The figure is too dark and hazy to see exactly what it is. It looks roughly human-shaped, but only roughly. And soon Jinx notices something even more unsettling. With each new shot she takes, the figure is always there. And it's moving closer to the camera.

**Kelley Skovron** is the author of *Hacker's Key* and *The Ghost of Drowned Meadow*, as well as books for teens and adults. As J.S. Kelley, she is the author of *Gutter Mage*. She and her cat currently live in a bread factory in Ohio.

# THE MONSTROUS ADVENTURES OF MUMMY MAN & WAFFLES

written by Steve Behling; illustrated by Robb Mommaerts

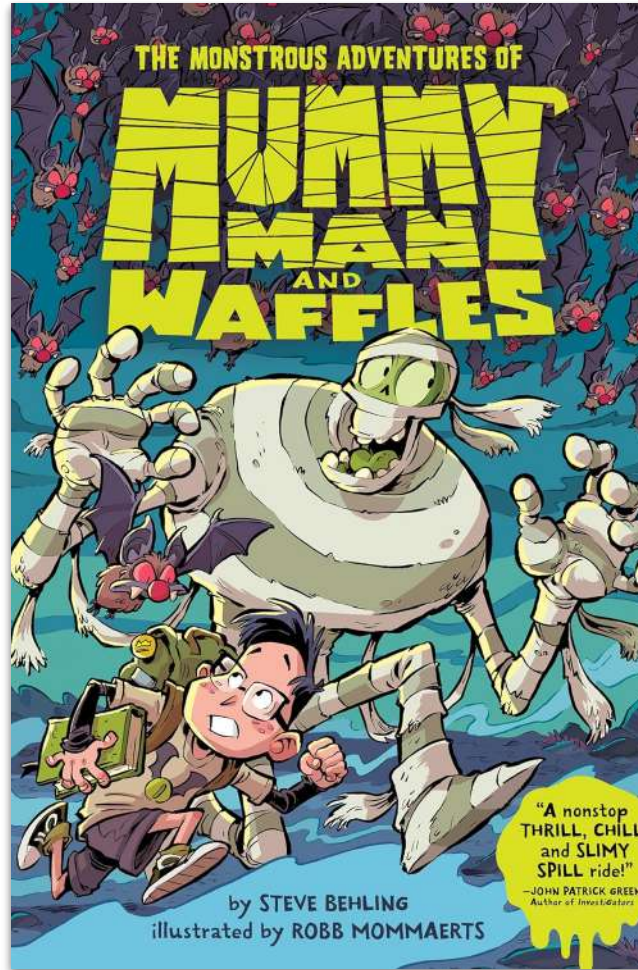
- ❖ A hilarious ode to old horror movies about a kid who accidentally brings monster props to life
- ❖ Playful two-color illustrations throughout
- ❖ The first book in a brand new duology

## Praise for *The Monstrous Adventures of Mummy Man and Waffles*

"*Mummy Man and Waffles* is a nonstop thrill, chill, and slimy spill ride full of creepy crawlers and ludicrous laughs!" —John Patrick Green, *New York Times* bestselling author of the InvestiGators series

**Robb Mommaerts** is a cartoonist and illustrator who always hoped that his hobby of doodling bizarre creatures in school notebooks would eventually turn into a career. From his basement dungeon, he's been hopping between the realms of children's book illustration, comic books, game art, and character design. He's recently had the opportunity to illustrate the KLAUDE: Evil Alien Warlord Cat series, written by Johnny Marciano and Emily Chenoweth. Before that he has completed eight picture book titles and provided artwork for several top-selling table-top game projects. He lives in Wisconsin with his wife, two kids and a dog.

US: HarperCollins, August 2024  
Book 1 of 2  
Ages 8-12  
Page Count: 304



Get ready for some spooky fun in the first installment of this all-new middle grade series, feature side-splitting illustrations throughout!

Wen Wyler (aka Waffles) is 11 years old and is forced to spend the summer in Maine with his grandpa, a former Hollywood make-up and special effects artist for classic horror films. Ever seen *THE BEAST WITH A THOUSAND TOES*, *GLAARG!* Or its sequel *GLAARG! AGAIN!?* If so, then you might be familiar with his work.

Wen, a horror movie aficionado, is persuaded to go when he finds out that part of the summer will be spent helping his Grandpa sort through and organize his basement filled with props. Grandpa's young neighbor, Tanya, has already been corralled into helping and together they dig in until Wen accidentally brings one of the props to life.

Mummy Man is a good guy, but the other creatures AREN'T so good. It's up to Wen, Tanya, and Mummy Man (and his pet turtle, Frank) to stop the creatures from turning the town into the nexus for an all-out monster invasion.

**Steve Behling** has been obsessed with comic books and old horror movies since he was a kid. Some of his works include the original middle grade novel *Agent Stitch: A Study in Slime*, the *Marvel Monsters Unleashed* chapter book series, and many others. Steve lives in a top-secret subterranean lair with his wife, two human children, and an awesome shelter dog Loomis.

Please note that Steve Behling is represented by the Kathryn Green Literary Agency



## CHAPTER EIGHT

I nearly fell over when I saw him.

THE MUMMY!

A 100 percent real, honest-to-goodness mummy! Wrapped from head to toe in moldy old bandages!

The creature stood inside the closet, holding my bike helmet. The mummy took a look at me and offered the helmet. Then he saw Tanya in her cyclops helmet and gave her a thumbs-up.

At first, I thought maybe it might be Grandpa dressed up like a mummy. “Grandpa?” I said, taking a big step back just in case it wasn’t Grandpa. “Is that you? You tryin’ to scare us or somethin’? ‘Cause if you were, it totally didn’t work.”

The mummy’s eyes blinked a few times, and he





# SUNNY MAKES HER CASE

written by Jennifer L. Holm; illustrated by Matthew Holm

- ❖ The New York Times bestselling SUNNY series continues as Sunny finds herself in the spotlight in a competition unlike any other...
- ❖ The Sunny series has sold more than 1.6 million copies

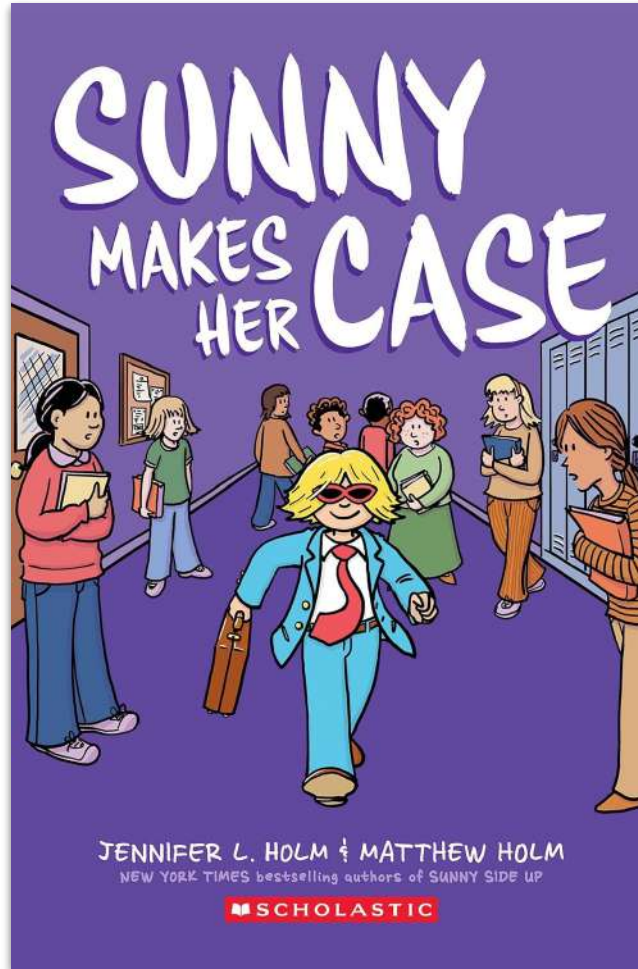
## Praise for the Sunny series

“A humorous yet emotional story with a memorable protagonist and detailed full-color art that make this a perfect choice for fans of Raina Telgemeier.” – *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“The Holms tell this poignant, multi-threaded story with great warmth and humor, and exquisite comic timing.” – *Shelf Awareness*, **starred review**

“Poignant and hilarious in turn and emotionally rich throughout. Another radiant outing.” – *Kirkus*, **starred review**

US: Scholastic, February 2024  
Book 5 of TK  
Ages 8-12  
Page Count: 224



Sunny is starting to understand the ins and outs of middle school... but she still feels more out than in. It's about classes or homework, really. No, it's the fact that most kids have a thing they do outside of class. Like football or track or cheerleading. Sunny isn't quarterback material, and her cheer attempts are... not the best. So what can she do?

When Sunny's friend Arun says he wants to start a debate club, she's not really sure what he means. Isn't debate just... arguing? Sunny's never had a problem with arguing. Arun and the advisor show her there's more to it than that -- there's also teamwork, and research, and being able to speak up in front of judges. Some of the debates are fun ones—which is the best candy? Is peanut butter a force for evil or a force for good? But when the debate club starts to be a success, Sunny realizes she won't just be able to talk her way into winning... she'll have to make her case!

**Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm** are a *New York Times* bestselling sister-and-brother team. They are the creators behind the Babymouse, Squish, and My First Comics series. The Eisner Award-winning Babymouse books have introduced millions of children to graphic novels. Jennifer is also the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Fourteenth Goldfish* and several other highly acclaimed novels, including three Newbery Honor winners—*Our Only May Amelia*, *Penny from Heaven*, and *Turtle in Paradise*. Her latest project is *Turtle in Paradise: The Graphic Novel*. Matthew is also the author of *Marvin and the Moths* with Jonathan Follett.

\*UK and translation rights handled by Scholastic



# The Bestselling Sunny Series

SUNNY  
SIDE UP



JENNIFER L. HOLM + MATTHEW HOLM

SWING IT,  
SUNNY



JENNIFER L. HOLM + MATTHEW HOLM

NEW YORK TIMES bestselling authors of SUNNY SIDE UP

SUNNY  
ROLLS  
THE DICE



JENNIFER L. HOLM + MATTHEW HOLM

NEW YORK TIMES bestselling authors of SUNNY SIDE UP

SUNNY  
MAKES A SPLASH



JENNIFER L. HOLM + MATTHEW HOLM

NEW YORK TIMES bestselling authors of SUNNY SIDE UP

SCHOLASTIC

Over 1.6 million copies sold

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# SHERMY & SHAKE, THE NOT-SO-NEW KID

written by Kirby Larson; illustrated by Shinji Fujioka

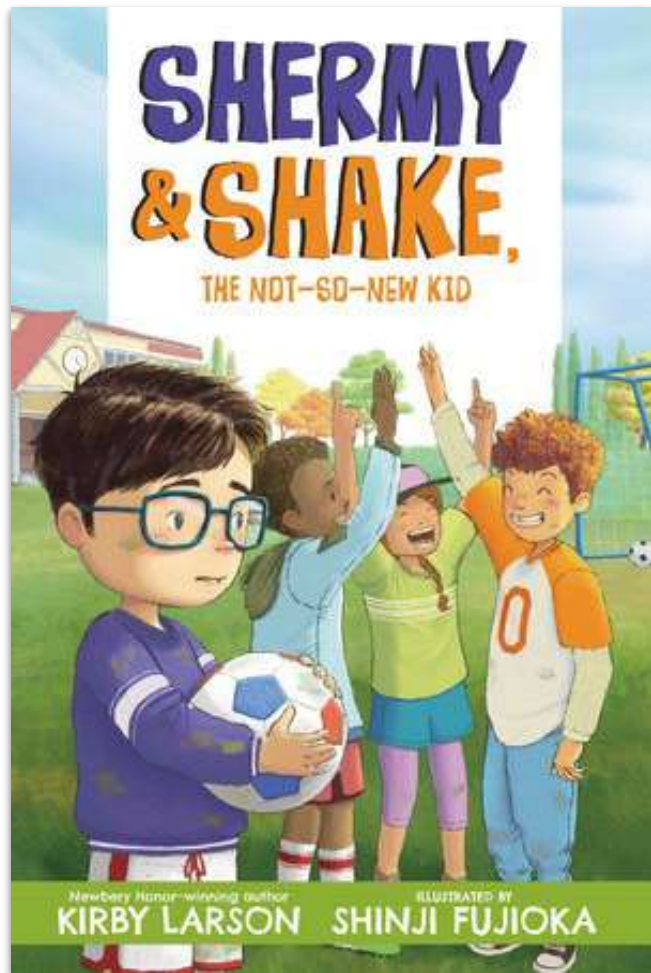
- ❖ Shermmy is excited to learn the new kid in school is none other than his pal Shake, but what if the other kids like Shake better?
- ❖ A nuanced story about friendship that shines with authentic humor and understanding, from Newbery Honoree Kirby Larson and illustrator Shinji Fujioka.

## Praise for *Shermy and Shake, the Not-So-Nice Neighbor*

“Children new to chapter books will appreciate the book’s wide-spaced lines and its many attractive black-and-white illustrations. Larson, whose *Hattie Big Sky* (2006) was a Newbery Honor Book, builds a strong foundation for the Shermmy and Shake series in this appealing early chapter book.” – *Booklist*

“Those looking to transition into longer chapter books will find this one accessible, and the storyline will resonate—readers will be eager to read more in this series....A relatable scenario sets up future books for more summer fun.” – *Kirkus*

“An improbable friendship develops over summer vacation in this understated slice-of-life story from Larson (the Audacity Jones books)....Earnestly told, low-conflict vignettes affirm the compassion and understanding that friendship can require to bloom.” – *Publishers Weekly*



Being a second grader is even cooler than Shermmy imagined. He loves reading new stories (and filling out charts about them!), helping his teacher get organized, and being a good classroom leader. So when the teacher asks Shermmy to be a school buddy for the new kid, Shermmy says, “Sure!” Imagine his surprise when the new kid turns out to be Shake—Shermmy’s summer friend from out of town. This is amazing news! Or is it? Meticulous Shermmy and boisterous Shake couldn’t be more different, and soon the other kids are all looking at Shake like he’s a super rare Magic Monster card—and not looking at Shermmy at all. Can Shermmy and Shake stay buddies now that school is in session?

**Kirby Larson** is the award-winning and bestselling author of numerous books for young readers. Her debut novel *Hattie Big Sky* won the Newbery Honor and was a *New York Times* bestseller. With Mary Nethery, she is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling picture book *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle* (with Major Brian Dennis) and *Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival*. She has gone on to write the acclaimed *Dogs of World War II* series — *Duke, Dash* (winner of the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction), *Liberty*, and *Code Word Courage*; and the Audacity Jones series, which received an Edgar nomination. Her forthcoming titles include *Shermy and Shake, the Not So Nice Neighbor* (Candlewick, May 2023), the first in a new series of illustrated chapter books and *Gut Reaction* (Scholastic, Spring 2024), her debut contemporary middle grade novel, co-written with her daughter Quinn Wyatt.

US: Candlewick, June 2024

Ages 6-9

Page Count: 112

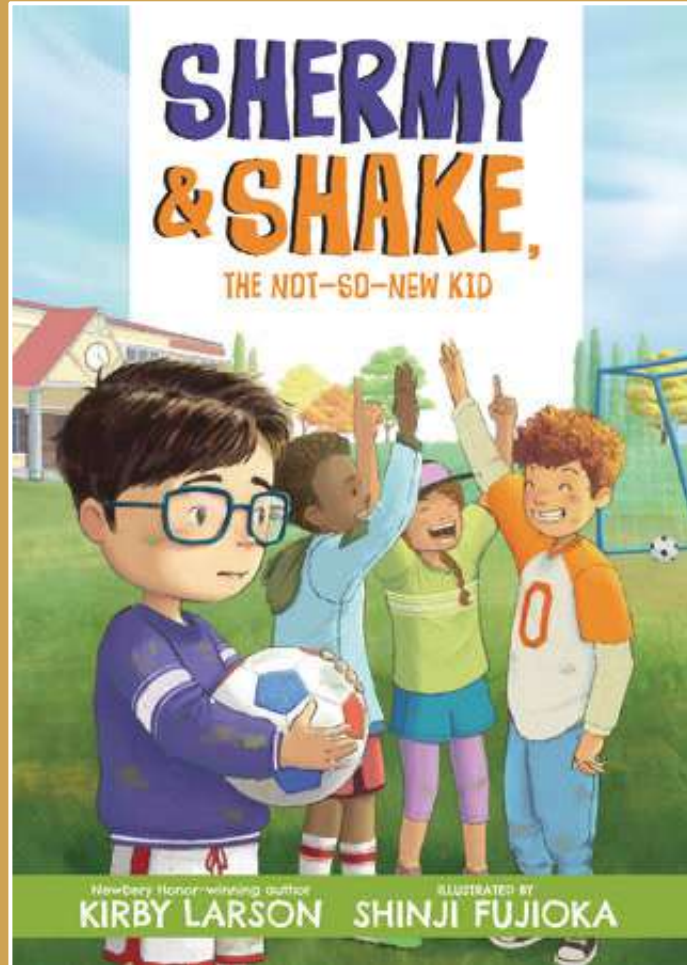
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212-620-5883 | sam@jillgrinbergliterary.com

Please note that Shinji Fujioka is represented by LK Literary



# Meet SHERMY & SHAKE



## *Shermy & Shake, the Not-So-Nice Neighbor*

When a new kid comes to stay with his grandmother at the house next door, Shermy's plans for a quiet, relaxing summer are completely upended. That's because Shake is *nothing* like Shermy. And Shermy is *nothing* like Shake. Shermy likes to read quietly in the shade of a tree. He knows the proper way to do a puzzle. He collects treasures in the pouch he wears around his neck, and the books on his shelves are alphabetized by author. Shake likes to play street hockey or space explorers. He gobbles up rocket ice pops and Toaster Tarts. He shows up unannounced and plays board games by his own rules. As the two boys are forced to spend more and more time together, will they learn how to get along? Or will it be one long countdown until Shake goes home? Newbery Honor recipient Kirby Larson teams up with debut illustrator Shinji Fujioka to create a humorous and heartfelt ode to summer—and to unexpected friendships

# THE 66<sup>th</sup> REBIRTH OF FRANKIE CARIDI

*Johnny Marciano*

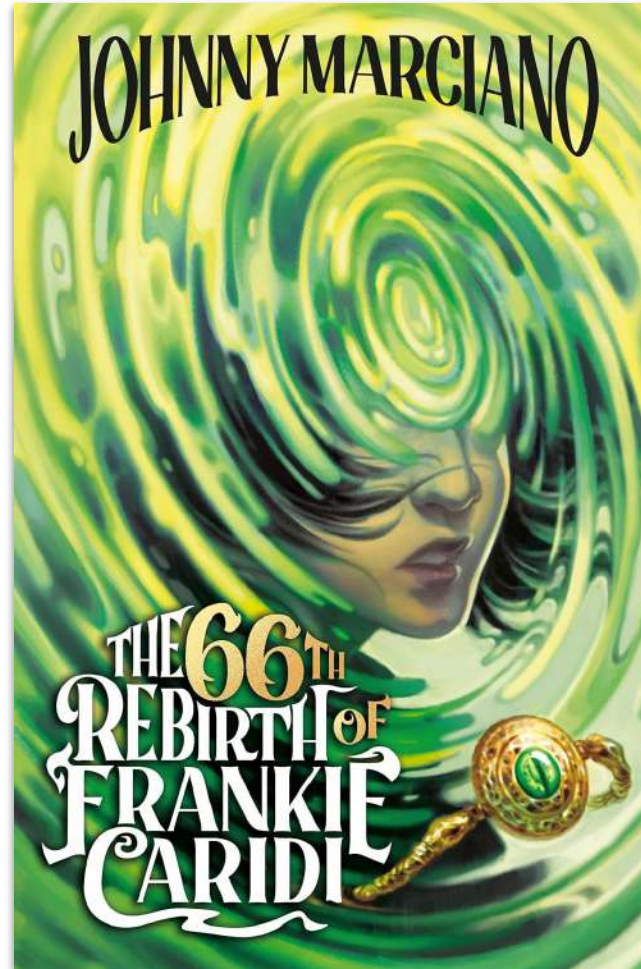
- ❖ Normally "back to school" means gathering supplies and buying new clothes, but Frankie Caridi has never known normal. So when her "back to school" consists of learning how to use crystals to power her mind and trapping marauding spirits, she adapts. But the secrets of magic are nothing compared to the secrets she learns about her own past.
- ❖ Funny, cool, wonderfully strange Dark Academia for fans of Tim Burton's *Wednesday*

## Praise the Klawde Series

"Applaud for KLAUDE. Two paws up!" – Dav Pilkey, creator of the Dog Man series

"Funny, savage, and brilliant, Klawde is the pet I wish I had." – Max Brallier, author of the *New York Times* Bestseller *The Last Kids on Earth*

US: Penguin/Workshop, July 2024  
Ages 10 Up  
Page Count: 240



Frankie is used to living in her younger brother's shadow. Lucie is outgoing, smart, kind, and has horns. Yes, horns. Frankie's life has always revolved around Lucie, so when she's told she must attend a new boarding school because Lucie has been given a full scholarship, she knows she has no other choice. But something about The Pythagorean Institute is off. The building looks like a prison, half of the students have horns like her brother, and the headmaster acts more like a cult leader than a principal. Even weirder, however, are the dreams Frankie has been having since she moved into her dorm. Dreams that sometimes seem more like... *memories*.

**Johnny Marciano** is a *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator. He is the co-author of the Klawde series of illustrated chapter books with Emily Chenoweth. With Sophie Blackall, he is the co-creator of the *Witches of Benevento* series. He has published several standalone middle-grade novels, including *The Nine Lives of Alexander Baddenfield* and *The No-Good Nine*, and three books of nonfiction for adults: *Anonymity: The Forgotten People Behind Everyday Words*, *Toponymity: An Atlas of Words*, and *Whatever Happened to the Metric System?: How America Kept Its Feet*. His picture book *How Did Humans Go Extinct?*, illustrated by Paul Hoppe, was published by Black Sheep / Akashic. His forthcoming projects include *The 66th Rebirth of Frankie Caridi*, the first installment in a new middle grade series, to be released in 2024. As John Bemelmans Marciano, he has also authored and illustrated five *Madeline* books, continuing the series created by his grandfather, Ludwig Bemelmans. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and daughter.

Translation rights rights handled by Penguin Young Readers

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# HOW TO SPOT A FAIRY

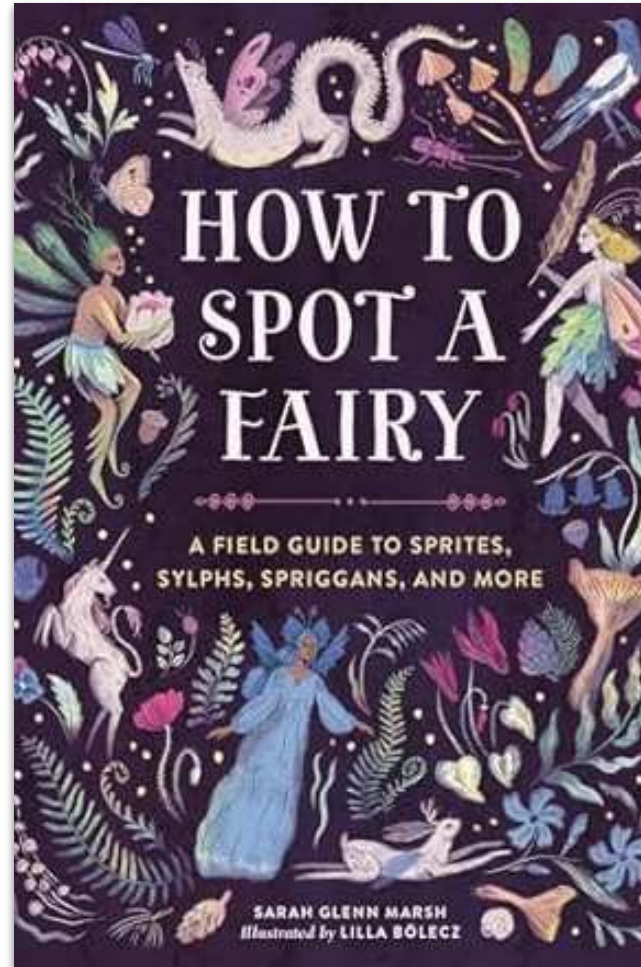
written by Sarah Glenn Marsh; illustrated by Lilla Bölec

- ❖ A magical guide for finding fairies in the wild
- ❖ Includes fun interactive elements like quizzes, crafts, and recipes
- ❖ Sarah Glenn Marsh is the author of *Your Birthstone Book*, a guide to gemstones that gives readers insight into the powers assigned different birthstones

Lilla Bölec is an artist and folklore lover who specializes in graphic art, book illustration, dollmaking, and pattern design. Her passion is to create peculiar, thought-provoking, mystical scenes and characters. Her work is mostly inspired by mysticism, legends, spiritual experiences, mythology, and literature. Lilla uses both digital and traditional media, including ink, gouache, clay, and acrylics. She is always looking for meaningful connections, and to bring to life the unconventional and unique.

US: Hachette/Running Press Kids, October 2024  
Ages 8-12  
Page Count: 144

Translation rights rights handled by Hachette



An enchanting illustrated field guide to finding fairies (and their familiars) in the wild! This stunning compendium explores the history and mythology of fairies and offers information on how / where to find these magical beings.

From boggarts and pixies to weeping women, water nymphs, moon maids, and more, this book organizes fairies by habitat and offers tips on how to seek out the mystical beings in our midst. Complete with interactive elements like quizzes (“Which Type of Fairy Are You?”), crafts (“Build Your Own Fairy Garden” and “Make Your Own Fairy Potion”), and recipes (“Brew Your Own Fairy Tea”), there’s endless fun to be had while on the search for fairy folk.

Sarah Glenn Marsh is an author of several young adult novels and picture books. Her young adult titles include *Fear the Drowning Deep*, *Dread the Harvest Moon*, the *Reign of the Fallen* series, and *The Girls Are Never Gone*. Her picture book titles include *Selfie Sebastian*, *Ninita’s Big World: The True Story of a Deaf Pygmy Marmoset*, *The Bug Girl: Maria Merian’s Scientific Vision*, *Ellie’s Crayon Adventure* and *The Mystery of the Love List*. She has also authored a nonfiction middle grade title, *Your Birthstone Book*, published by Running Press Kids. Her forthcoming books include *Bigfoot’s Big Heart* and *How to Spot a Fairy*. She lives with her family in Richmond, Virginia.

# ONCE THERE WAS

## *Kiyash Monsef*

- ❖ *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* meets Neil Gaiman in this thrilling novel about an Iranian American girl who discovers that her father was secretly a veterinarian to magical creatures—and that she must take up his mantle, despite the many dangers
- ❖ Instant *New York Times* bestseller and finalist for the William C. Morris Award
- ❖ Sequel to follow in 2025
- ❖ Sold to Simon & Schuster for seven figures
- ❖ Film in development with Imagine Entertainment

### Praise for *Once There Was*

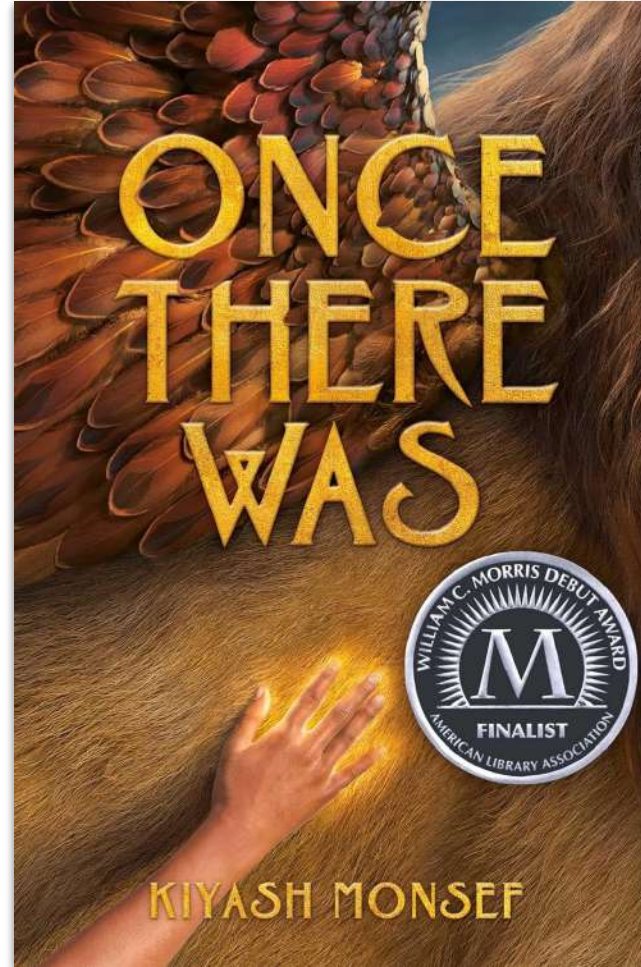
"A striking and heartfelt debut." – *Kirkus*

"A hard-to-put-down book with great appeal to fantasy and mythology fans." – *Horn Book*

US and UK: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, April 2023  
Book 1 of 2  
Ages 10 Up  
Page Count: 416

Translation rights sold\*: Chinese – Simplified (Beijing Double Spiral), Czech (Euromedia), Finnish (WSOY), French (De Saxus), German (Loewe), Italian (Salani), Russian (MIF), Spanish (Oceano), Ukrainian (Family Leisure)

\*UK and translation rights handled by Simon & Schuster



*Once was, once wasn't.*

So began the stories Marjan's father told her as a little girl—fables like the story of the girl who sprung a unicorn from a hunter's snare, or the nomad boy who rescued a baby shirdal. Tales of mythical beasts that filled her with curiosity and wonder.

But Marjan's not a little girl anymore. In the wake of her father's sudden death, she is trying to hold it all together: her schoolwork, friendships, and keeping her dad's shoestring veterinary practice from going under. Then, one day, she receives a visitor who reveals something stunning: Marjan's father was no ordinary veterinarian. The creatures out of the stories he told her were real—and he traveled the world to care for them. And now that he's gone, she must take his place.

Marjan steps into a secret world hidden in plain sight, where magical creatures are bought and sold, treasured and trapped. She finds friends she never knew she needed—a charming British boy who grew up with a griffon, a runaway witch seeking magic and home—while trying to hide her double life from her old friends and classmates.

The deeper Marjan gets into treating these animals, the closer she comes to finding who killed her father—and to a shocking truth that will reawaken her sense of wonder and put humans and beasts in the gravest of danger.

**Kiyash Monsef** is an Emmy Award-nominated producer and director; a writer of short stories, videos, comic books, and games; and a designer of innovative conversational and voice interface experiences. *Once There Was* is his first novel.

Sam Farkas | Foreign Rights Associate | Jill Grinberg Literary Management  
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# THE THINGS WE MISS

Leah Stecher

- ❖ A heartwarming middle grade debut with just a touch of magic, perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead's *When You Reach Me*
- ❖ Tackles issues like body image and depression in a way that is both sophisticated and accessible to young readers

## Praise for *The Things We Miss*

"Stecher's speculative, heartrending debut eloquently portrays the joys and sorrows of being in seventh grade—and the importance of remaining present." – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"Debut author Stecher's characters feel natural, lovable, and whole...A powerful story about the joy and pain of growing up."  
– *Kirkus*

"Magical and heartbreaking! You will read this book in one gulp."  
– Jennifer L. Holm, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Fourteenth Goldfish*

"An emotionally resonant story that deftly blends fantasy and reality. Readers will see themselves in the smart, likable protagonist as she learns to embrace all experiences, even the most challenging." – Barbara Dee, author of *Maybe He Just Likes You* and *Unstuck*

"Leah Stecher's debut novel is a poignant excavation of grief, love, and the messy complications of friendship. Beautifully written and masterfully told, *The Things We Miss* reminds us that avoiding life comes with a cost, while daring to live with integrity always pays off. No one should miss this gem of a book." – Megan E. Freeman, author of *Alone*

US and UK: Bloomsbury, May 2024  
Ages 10 Up  
Page Count: 288



J.P. Green has always felt out of step. She doesn't wear the right clothes, she doesn't say the right things, and her body...well, she'd rather not talk about it. And 7<sup>th</sup> grade is shaping up to be the worst year ever: notorious bully Miranda O'Donnell won't stop offering unsolicited diet advice, her mom keeps trying to turn J.P. into someone she's not, and her Pop Pop's lung cancer is back. J.P. wishes she could borrow a gadget from her favorite galactic superhero, Admiral K, and just open a portal and escape for a little while.

So when she discovers that the painted door inside her neighbor's treehouse actually opens, she doesn't hesitate before walking through. The door sends her three days forward in time.

At first, it seems like the magic door is exactly the escape hatch J.P. was looking for. She can skip all the worst parts of 7<sup>th</sup> grade and the only consequence is needing to catch up on some homework. But there's just *so much* that J.P. would rather not deal with. Fitness tests in P.E., oral book reports, awkward conversations with her mom...it's easier to skip them. Even after the magic door leads to an explosive fight with her best friend Kevin, the emotional fallout becomes just one more thing to avoid.

But when things spiral and she starts skipping things she can't miss, J.P. just decide whether the highs in life are worth the lows, and figure out what it means to show up for the people you love—and for yourself.

**Leah Stecher** is a writer whose debut middle grade novel, *The Things We Miss*, will be published by Bloomsbury in 2024. She works as a Policy Publications Editor for the NRDC, and previously was an editor at Basic Books. Leah lives in Maine, where she spends her time reading and eating cookie dough.

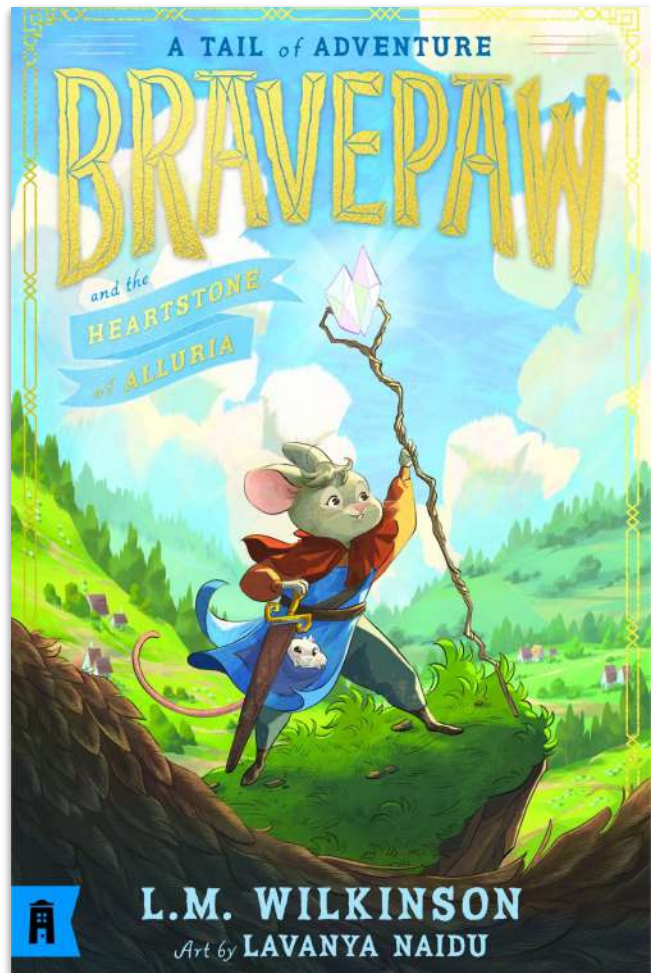
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Translation rights rights handled by Bloomsbury

# BRAVEPAW

*written by Lili Wilkinson; illustrated by Lavanya Naidu*

- ❖ An epic Tail of Adventure! Can one gallant mouse find the Heartstone and save her homeland from destruction?
- ❖ A fully illustrated and brilliantly readable adventure full of magic and prophecy, quests, heroism, and loyal friendship
- ❖ Perfect for fans of *Redwall*



*When the sky fills with shadows  
And all is turned to grey  
Bravepaw will come*

*When hope turns to ashes  
And all have lost their way  
Bravepaw will come*

*The heart will light the dark  
Night will turn to day  
When Bravepaw comes*

Brought up on tales of the gallant mouse hero Bravepaw, Titch has always dreamed of adventure, but she never thought it would actually happen to *her*. After all, she is nobody special. She is the smallest mouse in her family, living in a peaceful little village where nothing exciting ever happens.

When dire trouble comes to the Plateau, Titch and her best-friend Huckleberry must set out on a dangerous quest to take the Heartstone to the heart of Alluria, and repair the crack in the sky before the whole world breaks apart. Can Titch ever hope to live up to the legend of Bravepaw?

**Lavanya Naidu** is a children's book illustrator and animator, born and raised in Kolkata, India. Over the last decade she has worked on numerous kids' books, animation projects and animation production. She now lives in Melbourne and recently completed her role as the head of design and episode director on the animated kids series *The Strange Chores* (season 2). In her spare time Lavanya enjoys collecting dinosaur models and tending to her ever-growing collection of plants!

**Lili Wilkinson** is the author of of nineteen books for children and young adults, including the YA novels *The Boundless Sublime*, *After the Lights Go Out*, and *The Erasure Initiative*, which won the 2020 Aurealis Award for Best Young Adult Novel. She received her PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Melbourne, and lives in Melbourne with her husband and son.

ANZ: Allen & Unwin, September 2024  
Ages 10 Up  
Page Count: 204

Translation rights rights handled by Allen & Unwin

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# PICTURE BOOKS



JILL GRINBERG  
LITERARY MANAGEMENT

# ALEXANDER VON-BISCUIT AND THE PERFECT HUG

Written by Oren Lavie; illustrated by Anke Kuhl

- ❖ Nominated for the 2023 German Youth Literature Award in the Picture Book category
- ❖ Sold in seven languages and counting!

**Anke Kuhl** writes and draws for the Frankfurt-based author's cooperative. Her awards include the Troisdorfer Picture Book Grant and the Eulenspiegel Picture Book Award.

US: Enchanted Lion, TK  
Ages 3-7  
Page Count: 40

First published in German by Fischer Verlag,  
July 2022

Translation\* rights sold: Catalan (Takatuka),  
Chinese – Simplified (Gingko), German  
(Fischer), Hebrew (Kinneret), Italian (Terre di  
Mezzo), Spanish (Takatuka)

\*Fischer handles translation rights for Dutch,  
Scandinavian, Eastern European, and Asian;  
JGLM handles all other languages



One day, Alexander Von-Biscuit wakes up and exclaims: “I had a dream of the perfect hug!” He goes looking for it immediately. But alas, none of his friends seems to be able to provide it: the giraffe’s neck is too long; when hugging her, he always slides all the way down. With the goldfish, the hug is too wet. He tries hugging many other animals. But some hugs are too soft, others too hard, too tight, and others he can hardly escape from ...

At the end of the day, Alexander is discouraged. With an ad in the newspaper, he calls for everyone to come a spectacular event in the city park. Will he find the perfect hug there?

The highly amusing quest of a special character who’s looking for perfection and finds it in an unexpected place.

**Oren Lavie** is a musician, director, playwright, and author of children’s books. He has released a number of critically acclaimed albums, including *The Opposite Side of the Sea*. The music video for “Her Morning Elegance” was nominated for a Grammy, and received over 30 million views on YouTube and his song “A Dance ‘round The Memory Tree” was featured on the soundtrack for Disney’s *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*. His picture books *The Bear Who Wasn’t There: And the Fabulous Forest* and *Alexander Von-Biscuit and the Perfect Hug* have been published in a number of foreign languages. He lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.





It seemed like hugging was contagious because pretty soon everybody in the park began to hug; Parents hugged their children, friends hugged their friends, even complete strangers hugged their complete strangers.

But as the sun began to set Alexander Toad was starting to feel gloomier and gloomier.



# WE COULD FLY

written by Rhiannon Giddens; illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu

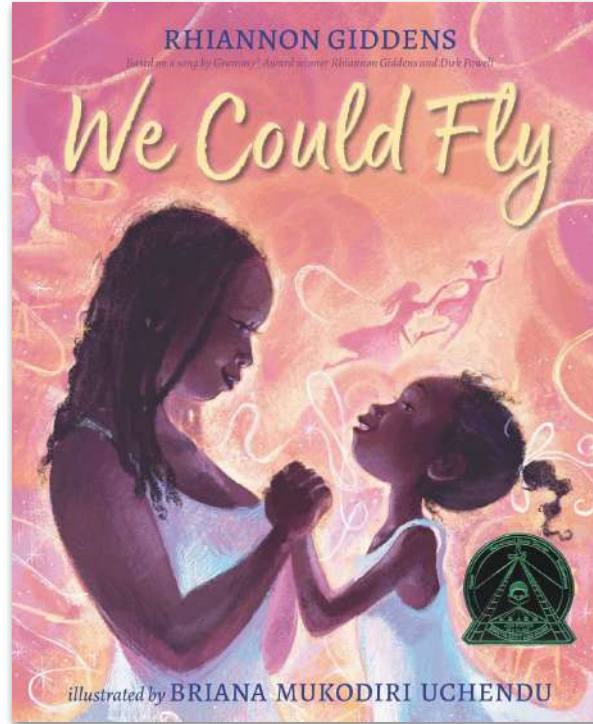
- ❖ A Coretta Scott King–John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award Winner
- ❖ A lyrical picture book based on the song from the Grammy Award-winning musician
- ❖ A celebration of resilience and freedom
- ❖ Lead title for Candlewick
- ❖ Rhiannon Giddens tours internationally and will be promoting the book on tour
- ❖ Author Rhiannon Giddens won the Pulitzer Prize for Music

## Praise for *We Could Fly*

“Perfect for bedtime, naptime, storytime, or sharing in schools, this magical picture book will have readers entranced. Sublime.”

– *Kirkus*, **starred review**

**Rhiannon Giddens** cofounded the Grammy Award-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops and the Black female supergroup Our Native Daughters. She is the recipient of a 2022 Grammy Award for Best Folk Album for her collaboration with Francesco Turrisi on *They're Calling Me Home*, and she has been nominated for additional Grammys as a soloist and collaborator. A musician, singer, songwriter, actor, librettist, and MacArthur Fellow, her many roles and honors include serving as artistic director at Silkroad and performing for the Obamas at the White House. The author of *Build a House*, illustrated by Monica Mikai, Rhiannon Giddens lives in Ireland.



US: Candlewick, November 2023

UK: Walker Books, November 2023

Ages 6-9

Page Count: 40

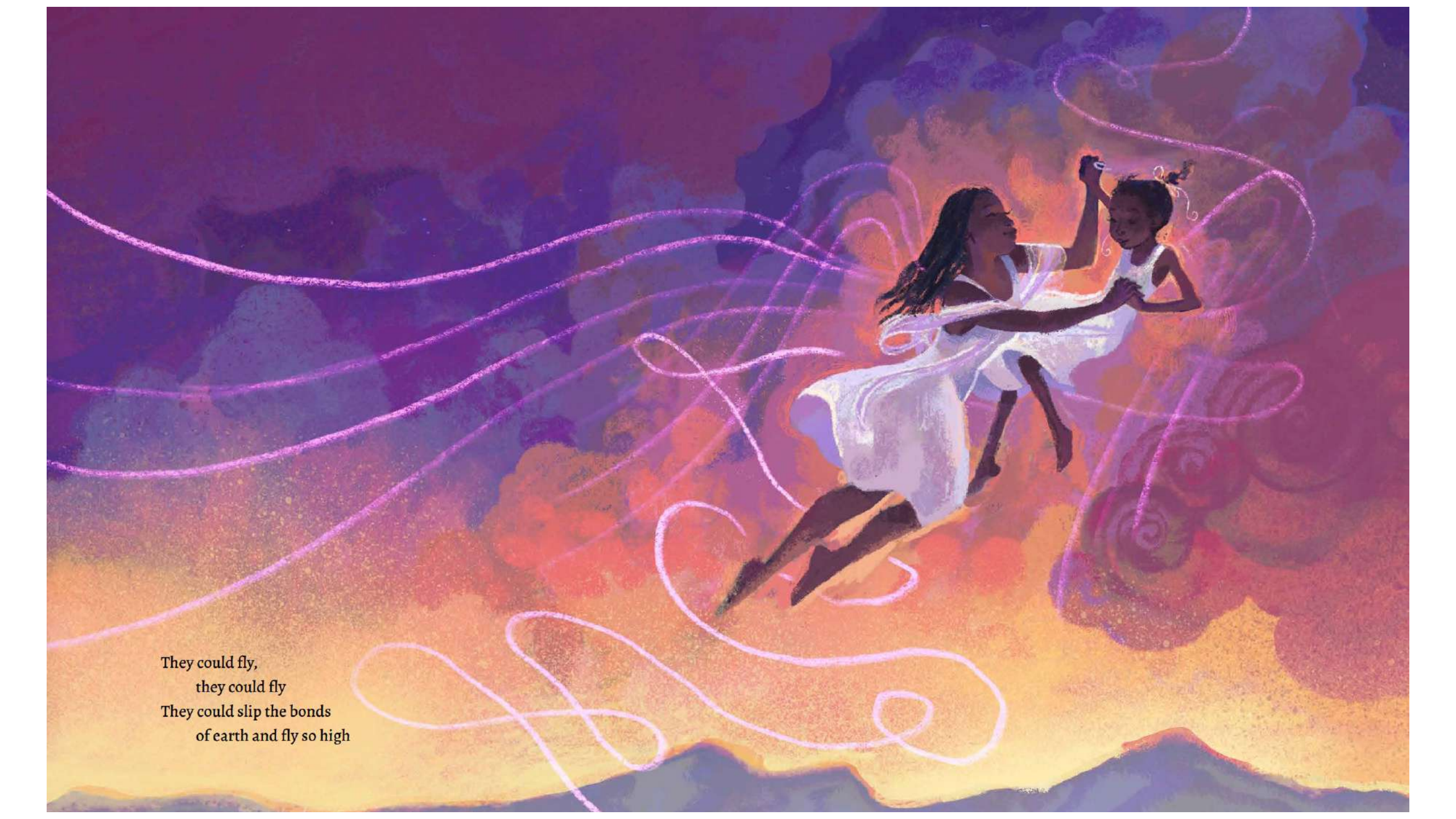
UK and translation rights handled by Candlewick  
Please note that Rhiannon Giddens is represented by Aevitas  
Creative Management

Rhiannon Giddens—Grammy Award winner and cofounder of the Carolina Chocolate Drops—gives wing to a moving tale of grace and transcendence, with acclaimed artist Briana Mukodiri Uchendu.

At a sparrow’s urging, a young girl feels a mysterious trembling in her arms, a lightness in her feet, a longing to be free. Her mother tells her that her Granny Liza experienced the same, as did many of their people before her. Perhaps it’s time, Mama says, to slip the bonds of earth and join the journey started long ago? To hold each other tight and rise? Drawing on song lyrics, which in turn draw on a heritage of African folklore, this incantatory dialogue between a mother and daughter paired with startlingly beautiful illustrations celebrates love, resilience, and the spiritual power of the “old-time ways”—tradition and shared cultural memory—to sustain and uplift.

**Briana Mukodiri Uchendu** is an illustrator, visual development artist, and a first-generation Nigerian-American. In her illustration debut, her work for *The Talk* by Newbery Honor-winner Alicia D. Williams (Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, October 2022) was juried into The Original Art 2022 by the Society of Illustrators and was awarded the Silver Medal. Her projects include *We Could Fly* by Rhiannon Giddens and Dirk Powell (Candlewick, October 2023), for which she won the Coretta Scott King Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award; *Soul Step* by *New York Times*-bestseller Jewell Parker Rhodes and Kelly McWilliams (Little Brown, Summer 2024); and *Night Market* by Seina Wedlick (Random House Studio, Fall 2024).





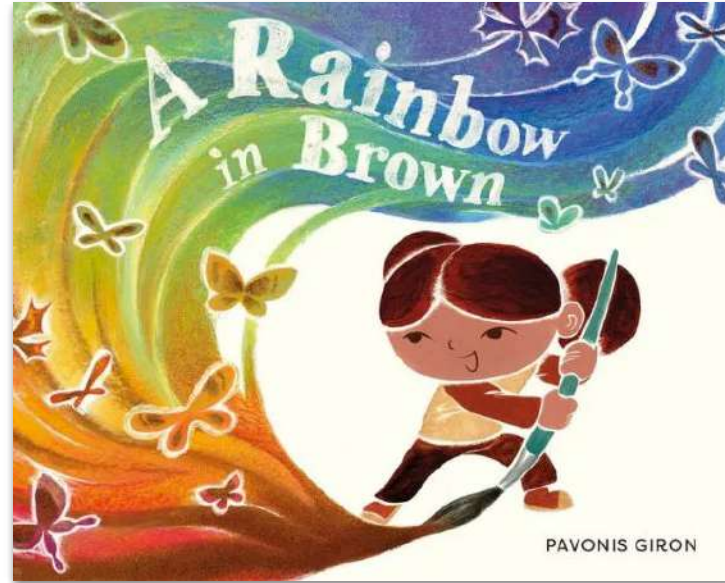
They could fly,  
they could fly  
They could slip the bonds  
of earth and fly so high



# A RAINBOW IN BROWN

*Pavonis Giron*

- ❖ A delightful debut picture book that celebrates self-love and the natural world
- ❖ Introduces color-mixing concepts while celebrating a beautiful, complex hue often left out of color books altogether: brown!
- ❖ Perfect for readers of *Magnificent Homespun Brown* and *Brown Is Warm, Black Is Bright*
- ❖ Acquired by Macmillan/Holt in a three-book deal



Jo wants to paint all the wonderful things she loves. With a palette of red, yellow, and blue, Jo knows she can mix any colors together to create new ones. Her imagination takes flight as he explores painting with primary and by mixing her own secondary colors, each picture as beautiful as the last. But through her exploration of the colors of the rainbow, Jo finds that her favorite is a combination of them all: brown.

With stunning artistry from debut author/illustrator Pavonis Giron comes an illuminating story of self-love through color theory.

US: Macmillan/Holt, March 2024  
Ages 4-8  
Page Count: 40

UK and translation rights handled by Macmillan

**Pavonis Giron** is an author and illustrator of children's literature who creates with bold colors and a taste for exploration, whether that be in the great outdoors or between city blocks. The sun-bleached rocks and endless skyscrapes of their childhood in the Mojave Desert continue to inspire their work. They are now currently based in Milwaukee with their partner and pets. *A Rainbow in Brown* is their debut picture book.





Red and green,  
yellow and purple,  
blue and orange.  
Jo mixed them ALL together.

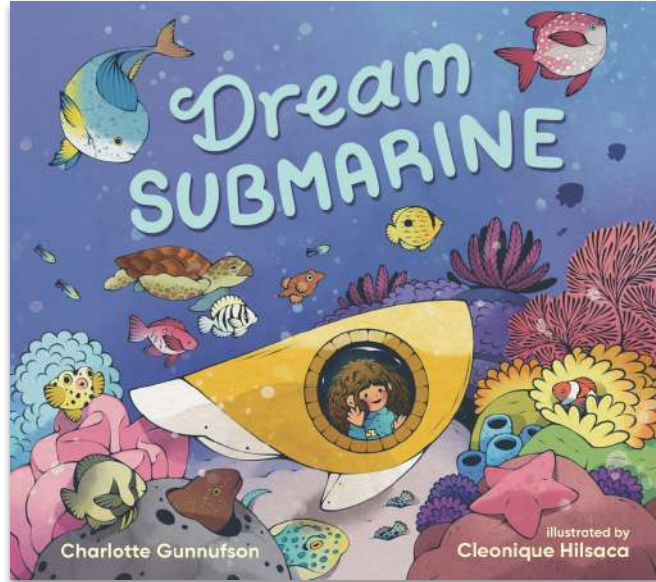
She now had a rainbow of favorites  
contained in a single color—**brown!**

She painted a dazzling  
kaleidoscope of butterfly wings.

# DREAM SUBMARINE

*written by Charlotte Gunnufson; illustrated by Cleonique Hilsaca*

- ❖ Climb aboard the Dream Submarine and set your course for an eventide lullaby in this illustrated, illuminating journey of maritime enchantment.
- ❖ Depicts the nighttime routines of various sea creatures
- ❖ Informative backmatter allows for further exploration



Glide through the ocean with a young child in her cozy little submarine. See how marine animals brush their teeth, put on pajamas (by shifting colors to better blend in), and tuck themselves into sponge beds. Dive between towers of slumbering whales and see bioluminescent creatures paint galaxies in the abyss, then make a wish upon a sea star and let the Dream Submarine whisk you away. Author Charlotte Gunnufson gently guides readers to sleep as she introduces them to a host of mesmerizing sea creatures, while Cleonique Hilsaca's colorful illustrations transform underwater environs into an imaginative dreamscape. Back matter features a map of the Dream Submarine's journey, a deeper dive into the ocean's zones and animals, and resources for further exploration.

**Cleonique Hilsaca** is an illustrator from Honduras based in St. Louis, MO. Her professional work can be found in picture books, newspapers, magazines, board games and galleries. Though her work is primarily digital, she can be found painting watercolors in the wild.

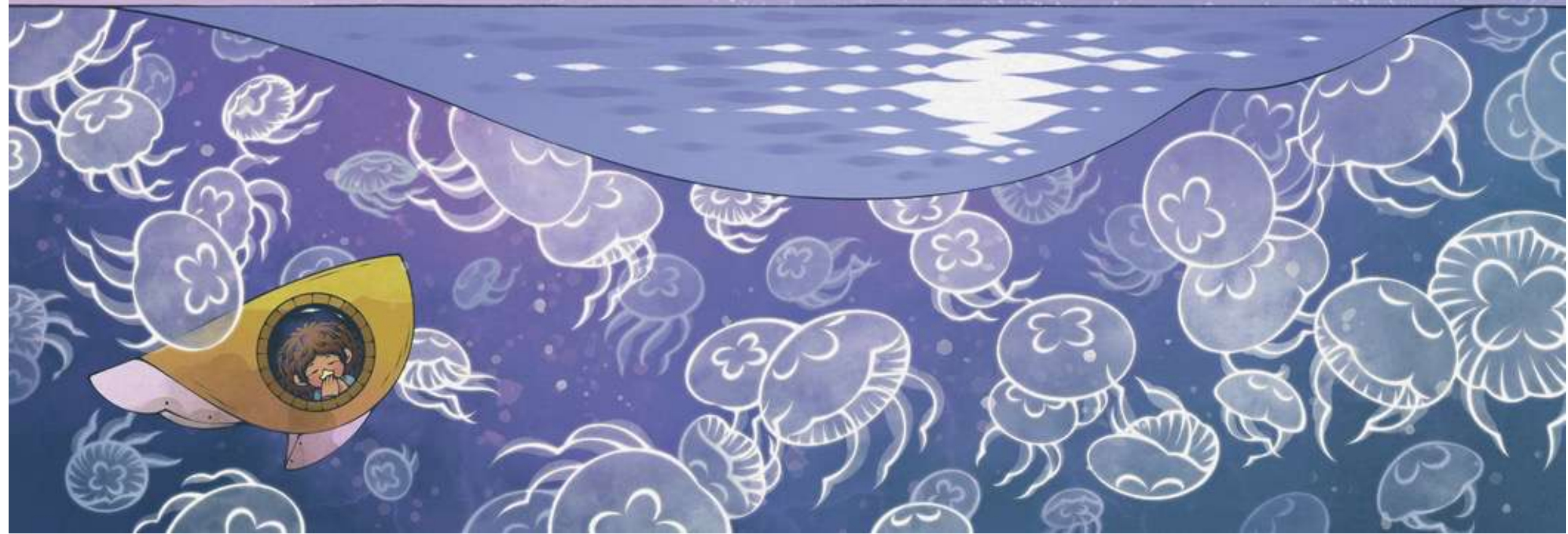
US: Candlewick, June 2024  
Ages 3-7  
Page Count: 40

UK and translation rights handled by Candlewick  
Please note that Cleonique Hilsaca is represented by T2  
Agency

**Charlotte Gunnufson** is the author of *Halloween Hustle* (Two Lions) and *Prince and Pirate* (Putnam), which Kirkus called "a godsend to pirate-themed storytimes" in its starred review. Her lyrical bedtime book *Dream Submarine* is forthcoming from Candlewick in Spring 2024, and *School Spirits* is coming from Simon & Schuster / Atheneum in Summer 2025. Two more unannounced picture books will follow.



Pick a wish from your pocket—quick!—  
before the Dream Submarine drifts, lifts,  
into a jumble of jellyfish.



# MY FATHER'S HOUSE

written by Mina Javaherbin; illustrated by Lindsey Yankey

- ❖ In a warm, vibrantly illustrated story drawn from the author's childhood memories, the team behind *My Grandma and Me* follow a girl and her father as they explore the wondrous city of Isfahan, Iran
- ❖ Showcases a strong community made up of people of any different faiths living together in harmony
- ❖ Lindsey Yankey's illustrations have been exhibited at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, featured in *American Illustration*, and awarded Gold in *3x3 Magazine's International Picture Book Show*

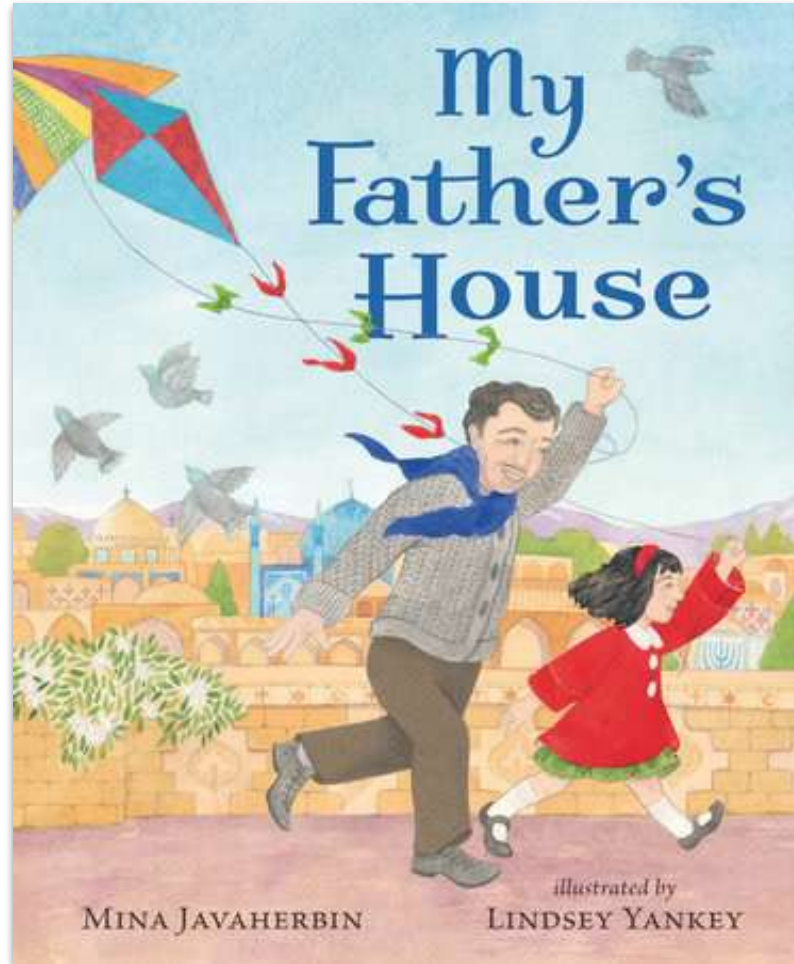
Lindsey Yankey is a children's book illustrator and author. Her book *My Grandma and Me* (written by Mina Javaherbin) was nominated for the 2020 Kate Greenaway Medal and received four starred reviews; *Bluebird* and *Sun and Moon*, both written and illustrated by Lindsey, each won Kansas Notable Book and received starred reviews from *Booklist*. Her forthcoming titles include *My Father's House* (Candlewick, November 2024) and *The Dinosaur Seed* (Beaming Books, Summer 2025). Lindsey enjoys using traditional media including watercolor, oil paint, cut paper, pencil, and linoleum cut. She teaches at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where she lives with her family.

US: Candlewick, November 2024

Ages 4-8

Page Count: 32

UK and translation rights handled by Candlewick

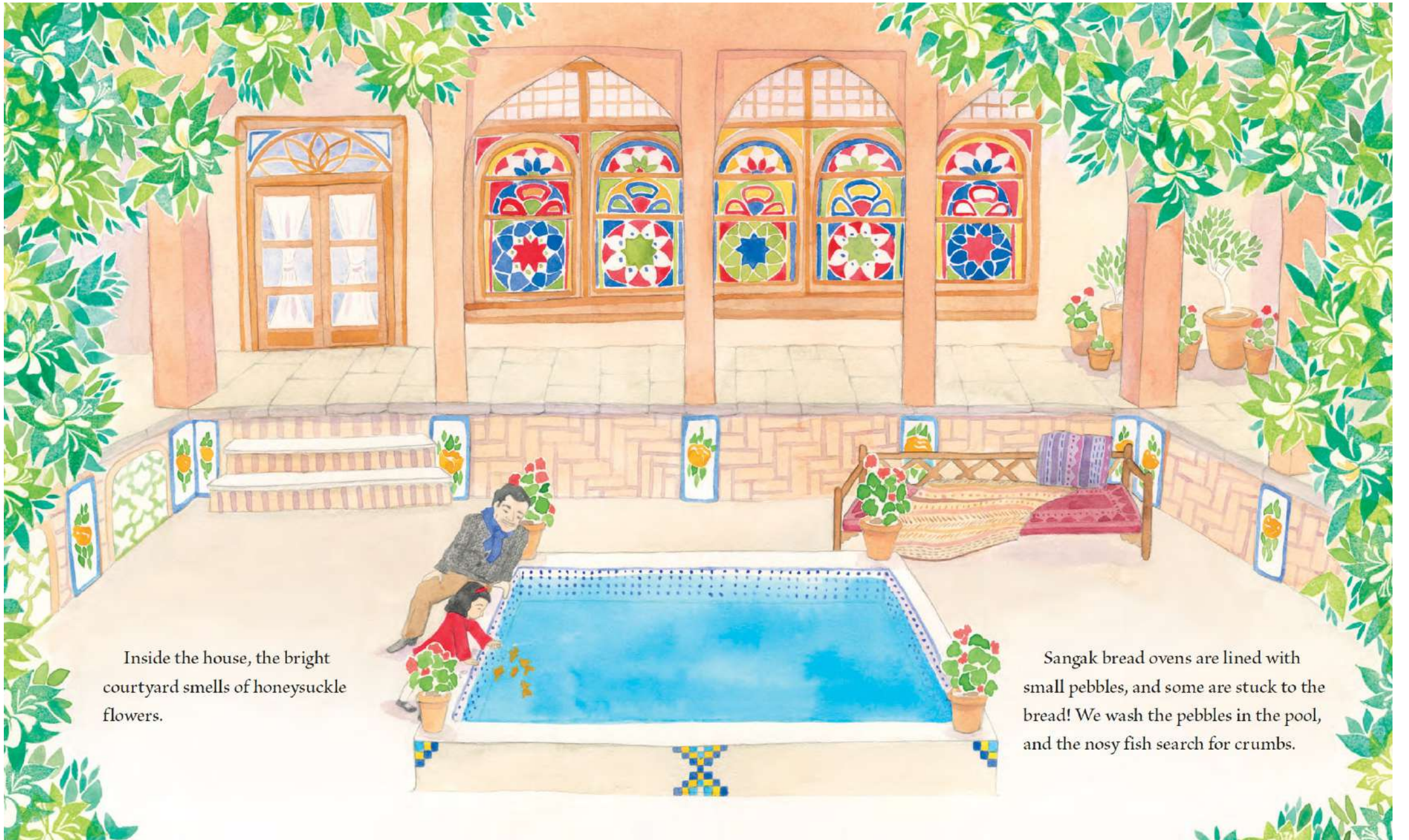


*My father and I are explorers . . . He teaches me that there is no end to learning and the world is mine to explore.*

With the first rays of the sun, Mina and her father begin a joyful day exploring the city streets of Isfahan, Iran, where Islam and Judaism intertwine and a community thrives. Mina imagines the ancient sites coming to life as her father points out the fascinating history and architecture of the churches, synagogues, and mosques they pass by. The two of them picnic with friends near Si-o-se Pol bridge, then finish the day at Mina's father's beautiful childhood home, savoring a dinner specially prepared by Grandma. In a love letter to a location she can no longer visit, Mina Javaherbin's autobiographical story is a gorgeous, wistful celebration of culture, home, and family, glowing with Lindsey Yankey's soft, intricate illustrations full of pattern and color. Back matter includes a glossary and a note from the author relaying more about Isfahan's history and her personal ties.

Mina Javaherbin has written several award-winning picture books, including *Soccer Star*, illustrated by Renato Alarcão, and *Goal!*, illustrated by A. G. Ford. She lives in Southern California.





Inside the house, the bright courtyard smells of honeysuckle flowers.

Sangak bread ovens are lined with small pebbles, and some are stuck to the bread! We wash the pebbles in the pool, and the nosy fish search for crumbs.



# BIGFOOT'S BIG HEART

written by Sarah Glenn Marsh; illustrated by Isha Lobo

- ❖ An adorable tale about the value of friends, both new and old.

## Praise for *The Mystery of the Love List*

"Charming illustrations include several visual clues (such as Mitzi reading the same book Pippa loves) and the text includes a few silly puns (a game of "Deer, Deer, Moose" rather than "Duck, Duck Goose") that are perfect for young readers...A fine addition to holiday story collections for young readers." – *School Library Journal*

**Isha Lobo** is a British Indian illustrator based in London specializing in children's books. Her work is often inspired by nature, colorful interiors, and snippets of everyday life.

US: Penguin/Viking, December 2024

Ages 4-8

Page Count: 40

UK and translation rights handled by Penguin Young Readers

Please note that Isha Lobo is represented by Andrea Brown Literary



It's lonely being a monster.

But having other mythical pen pals helps. When Bigfoot loses the Valentine's Day cards he so tenderly made for his friends around the world, a troop of scouts offers to help. But they will have to get creative to find every mythical creature in time!

Sarah Glenn Marsh and Isha Lobo team up again for a sweet Valentine's Day tale about the value of friends, both new and old.

**Sarah Glenn Marsh** is an author of several young adult novels and picture books. Her young adult titles include *Fear the Drowning Deep*, *Dread the Harvest Moon*, the *Reign of the Fallen* series, and *The Girls Are Never Gone*. Her picture book titles include *Selfie Sebastian*, *Ninita's Big World: The True Story of a Deaf Pygmy Marmoset*, *The Bug Girl: Maria Merian's Scientific Vision*, *Ellie's Crayon Adventure* and *The Mystery of the Love List*. She has also authored a nonfiction middle grade title, *Your Birthstone Book*, published by Running Press Kids. Her forthcoming books include *Bigfoot's Big Heart* and *How to Spot a Fairy*. She lives with her family in Richmond, Virginia.

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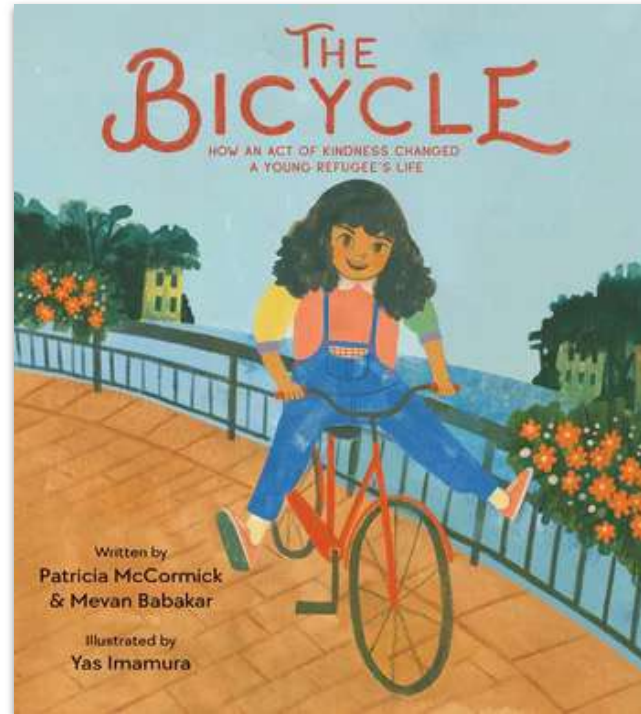
# THE BICYCLE

written by Patricia McCormick and Mevan Babakar; illustrated by Yas Imamura

- ❖ The true story of how a simple act of kindness changed a young refugee's life—from award-winning author Patricia McCormick with Mevan Babakar.

**Mevan Babakar** is a social entrepreneur, writer, and poet. She was born in Kurdistan and is a former child refugee. Mevan serves as trustee for the UK for UNHCR, the UK arm of the UN refugee agency, and was selected as a 2023 European Obama Leader for her work in protecting democracy. Learn more about her at [mevanbabakar.com](http://mevanbabakar.com).

**Yas Imamura** is the acclaimed artist of picture books such as *Love in the Library* by Maggie Tokuda-Hall, *Winged Wonders* by Meeg Pincus, and *The Very Oldest Pear Tree* by Nancy I. Sanders. She currently lives and works in Portland, Oregon. You can visit her at [yasimamura.com](http://yasimamura.com).



US: HarperCollins/Balzer & Bray, May 2024  
Ages 4-8

Page Count: 40

UK and translation rights handled by HarperCollins  
Please note that Mevan Babakar is represented by Greene & Heaton

Please note that Yas Imamura is represented by The Bright Agency

For generations, Mevan and her family lived in their beloved Kurdistan. But when they are forced to flee by the Iraqi government, Mevan must leave everything behind. Her family travels from country to country in search of safety; and with each stop, Mevan feels more and more alone.

Until a stranger's gift changes everything.

Based on Mevan Babakar's own childhood, this is a moving reminder of how powerful just one act of kindness can be.

**Patricia McCormick** is a two-time National Book Award finalist, is the author of several critically acclaimed novels and picture books, including *Cut, Never Fall Down*, *The Plot to Kill Hitler*, *Sgt. Reckless*, *the True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero* and *Sold*, which was adapted into a feature film in 2016. She is also the co-author of *I am Malala*. Her next picture book, *The Bicycle*, will be published by Balzer + Bray in May 2024. Her books have been named to the *New York Times* Notable Books list, *Publishers Weekly* Best Books list, NPR's Best Books list and iTunes Best Books lists. She has received the New York Foundation on the Arts fellowship, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts fellowship, and a MacDowell Center fellowship. She attended Rosemont College, the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and has an MFA from the New School. She lives in New York



# THE HEART NEVER FORGETS

written by Ana Ot; illustrated by Hayden Goodman

- ❖ A beautiful blend of culture, family, celebration, and loss
- ❖ Effortlessly engaging writing that pairs perfectly with vibrant paintings
- ❖ Poignantly explores the very universal experience of losing a loved one through the very specific experience of a West African masquerade

## Praise for *The Heart Never Forgets*

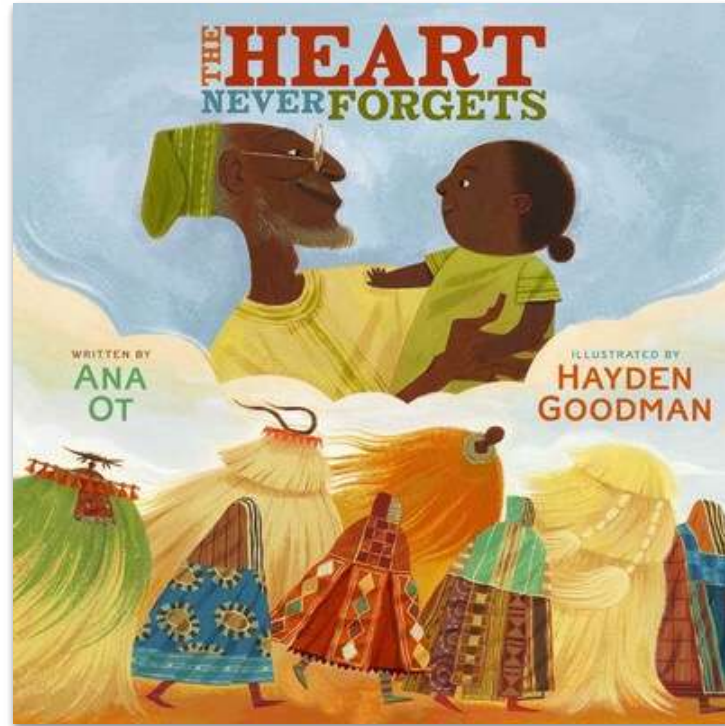
“Via painterly illustrations of dancers in traditional West African outfits and masquerade performers in patterned costumes, Goodman expresses liveliness and warmth, carrying the day—and story—forward to a profound and poetic conclusion. In this tenderly written debut, Ot deftly conveys that love is at the core of the grieving process, and that memories and celebration of loved ones keep them near when they have gone.”

– *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

## Praise for *The Green Piano* (illustrated by Hayden Goodman)

“A moving testimonial to the effects of instilling a love of live music in childhood.” – *Kirkus*, **starred review**

**Ana Ot** grew up reading, which led to her love for writing. When she’s not doing either, she’s dreaming up new stories filled with heart and whimsy. *The Heart Never Forgets* is her first picture book.



US: Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, April 2024

Ages 4-8

Page Count: 40

Translation rights handled by Simon & Schuster  
Please note that Ana Ot is represented by Upstart Crow  
Literary

*DUM! DUM! DUM! DUM!*

*The talking drums thump a sweet beat...*

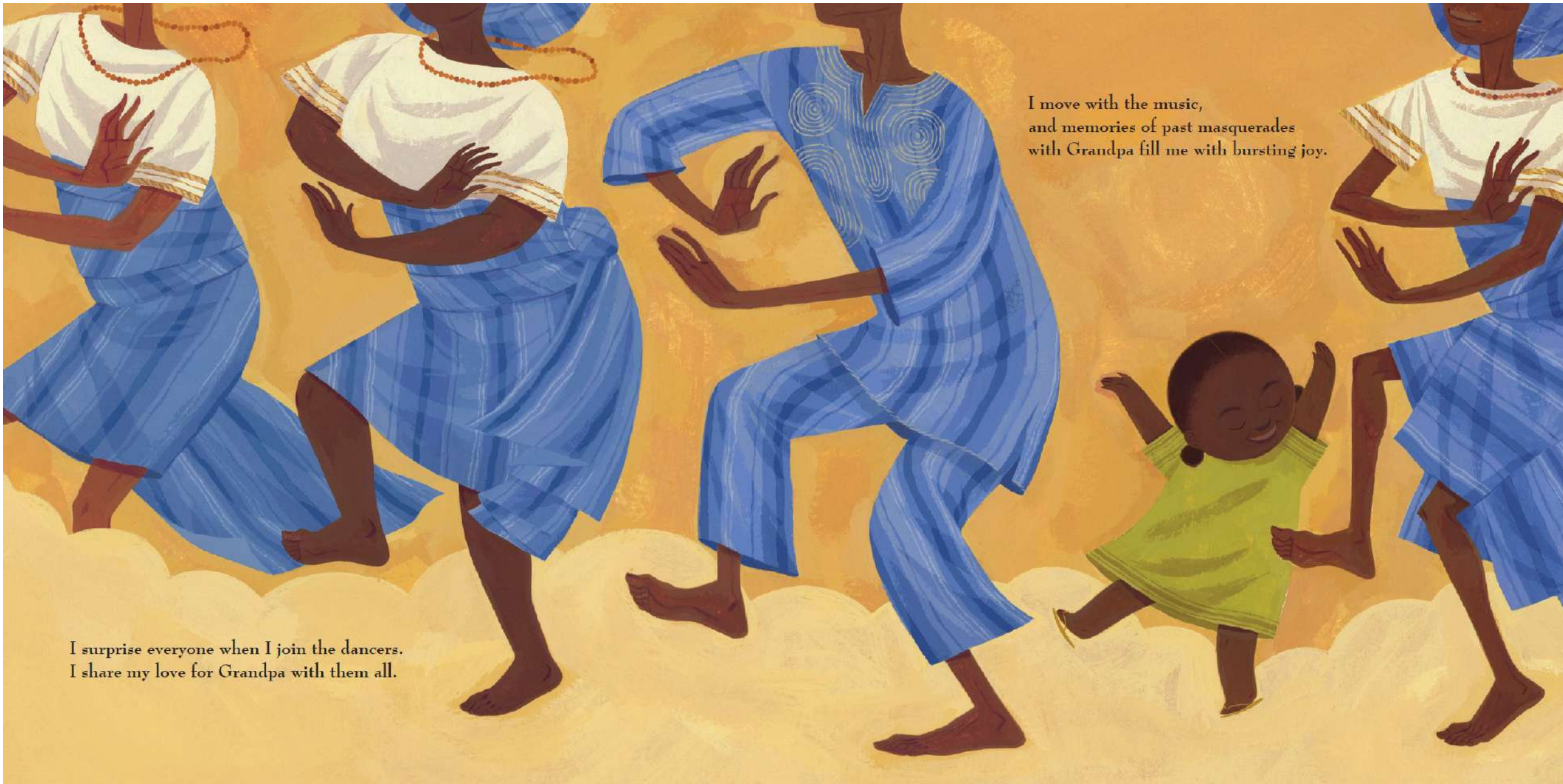
*The masquerade has begun.*

As villagers gather to hear masked musicians beating drums, savor fried plantains, and watch the joyful dancers, a young girl joins the celebration with her family. But this year, everything feels different; it's the first masquerade without Grandpa.

Each member of the family carries something that honors Grandpa—his clanking beads, soft velvet hat, and carved walking stick. But the young girl doesn't have any of Grandpa's items. Instead, she brings a special memory shared only between the two of them. Will she be able to share it with the world?

**Hayden Goodman** is an African-American painter, illustrator, and character artist born and raised in the wilderness of Western Massachusetts. She holds a degree in Illustration from The School of Visual Arts and previously worked in animation. Her forthcoming illustration projects include *The Heart Never Forgets* by Ana Ot (Atheneum, Fall 2023), *The Night Before Christmas* (Holt, Fall 2025) and *Fangs, Feathers, and Folklore*, a middle grade field guide to mythological African beasts, written by B. Sharise Moore.





I move with the music,  
and memories of past masquerades  
with Grandpa fill me with bursting joy.

I surprise everyone when I join the dancers.  
I share my love for Grandpa with them all.



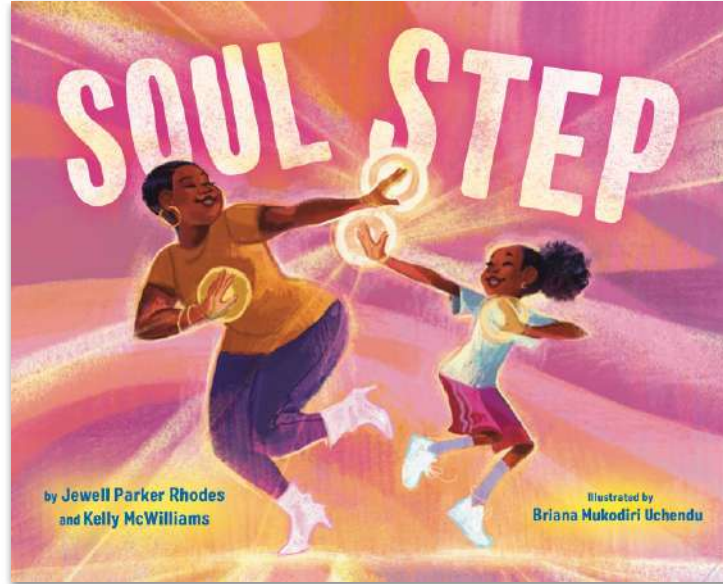
# SOUL STEP

written by Jewell Parker Rhodes and Kelly McWilliams; illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu

- ❖ A dynamic read-aloud that celebrates how dance creates cultural and community connections – and can help soothe feelings like anger and frustration.
- ❖ A catchy refrain that will have readers dancing along with the characters
- ❖ Gorgeous art from Coretta Scott King Steptoe New Illustrator Award Winner Briana Mukodiri Uchendu captures the movement and power of step dancing

**Jewell Parker Rhodes** is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author and educator for both youth and adults. She is the author of seven books for children including *the New York Times* bestsellers *Ghost Boys* and *Black Brother, Black Brother*, both named Amazon's Best Children's Books of the Year. Her other books include *Paradise on Fire*, *Towers Falling*, and the *Louisiana Girls Trilogy: Ninth Ward, Sugar, and Bayou Magic*.

**Kelly McWilliams** is a mixed-race writer. She's the author of *Doomat*, *Agnes at the End of the World*, and *Mirror Girls*. Her writing has appeared in *TIME*, *Romper*, and *Bustle*, among other outlets. She lives in Seattle with her family.

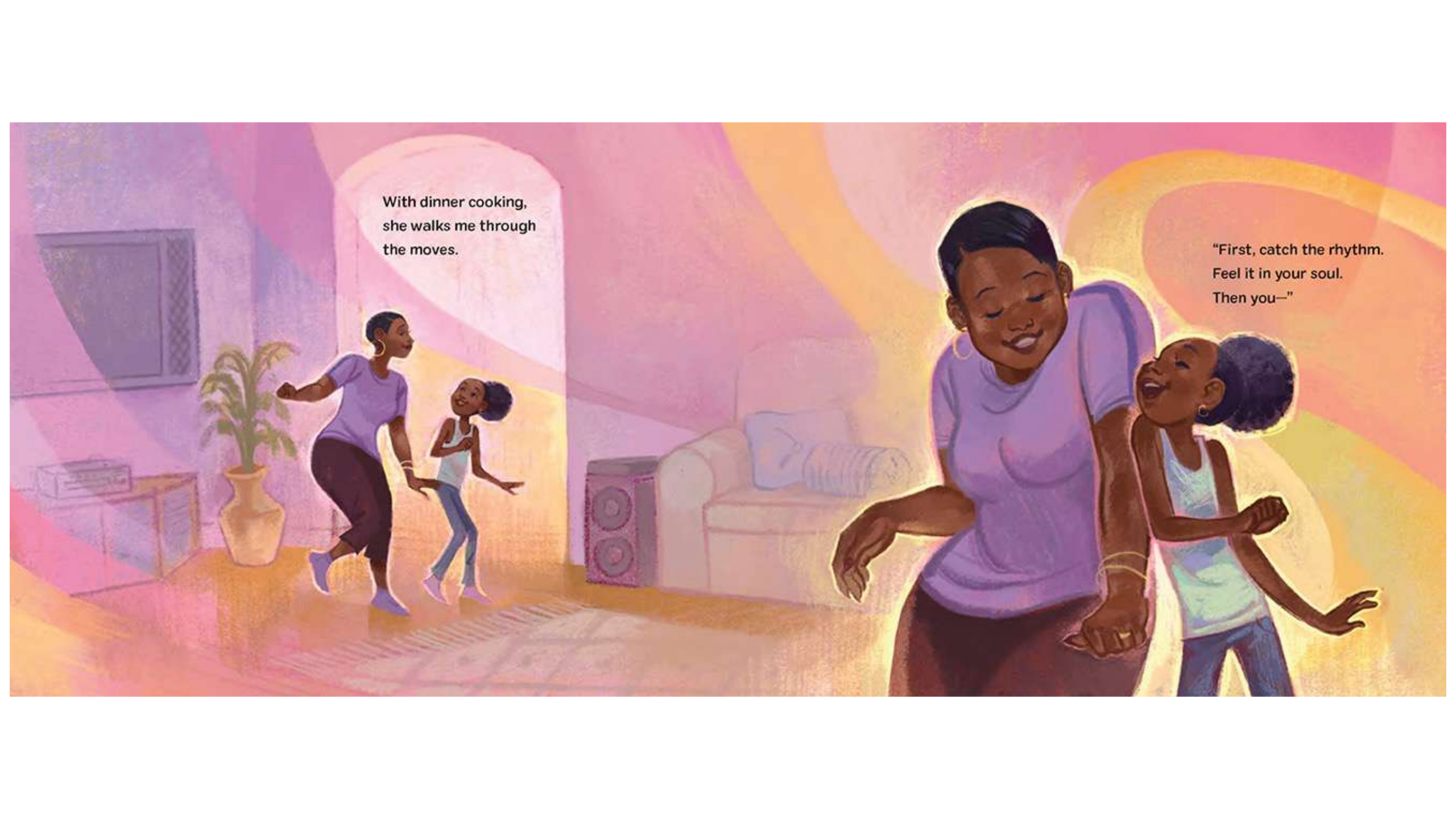


US: Hachette/Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Spring 2024  
Ages 4-8  
Page Count: 40

UK and translation rights handled by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
Please note that Jewell Parker Rhodes and Kelly McWilliams are represented by Dystel, Goderich & Bourret

When the police stop Mama twice in one day, or a white woman asks to touch her hair, she puts on her dancing boots and gets to what she calls "steppin'". *Stomp, clap, flip, flap, go hard, snap back!* Her daughter wonders, what's up with that? Mama's best friends have answers: Dr. J says step is upholding generations of tradition. Aunt Sharifa says step is a sisterhood that lifts you up in good and bad times. Miss Mae says step is a megaphone for Black pride. And Mama says, "I'll show you." Written by the award-winning mother-daughter duo, Jewell Parker Rhodes and Kelly McWilliams, and gorgeously illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu, *Soul Step* is a loving ode to sisterhood and the tradition of dance that lets women and girls, and people of all backgrounds, be loud and proud.

**Briana Mukodiri Uchendu** is an illustrator, visual development artist, and a first-generation Nigerian-American. In her illustration debut, her work for *The Talk* by Newbery Honor-winner Alicia D. Williams (Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, October 2022) was juried into The Original Art 2022 by the Society of Illustrators and was awarded the Silver Medal. Her projects include *We Could Fly* by Rhiannon Giddens and Dirk Powell (Candlewick, October 2023), for which she won the Coretta Scott King Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award; *Soul Step* by *New York Times*-bestseller Jewell Parker Rhodes and Kelly McWilliams (Little Brown, Summer 2024); and *Night Market* by Seina Wedlick (Random House Studio, Fall 2024).

An illustration of a woman in a purple t-shirt and dark pants teaching a young girl in a white tank top and blue jeans to dance in a living room. The woman is holding the girl's hand, and they are both smiling. The room has a pinkish-purple wall, a white sofa, a large speaker, a potted plant, and a window with a lattice pattern. The scene is lit with warm, golden light.

With dinner cooking,  
she walks me through  
the moves.

"First, catch the rhythm.  
Feel it in your soul.  
Then you—"



# P IS FOR PASTRAMI

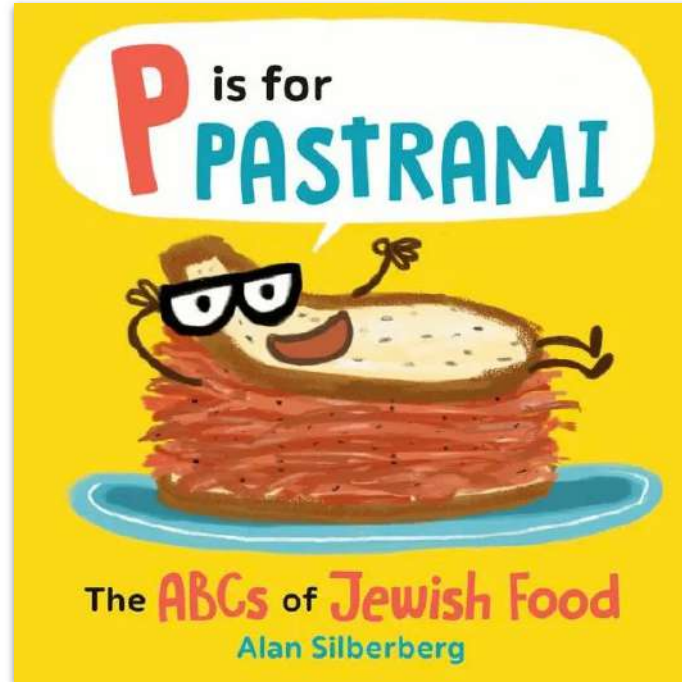
*Alan Silberberg*

- ❖ A funny board book to introduce the youngest readers to the ABCs of Jewish food

Praise for *Meet the Latkes*

“Readers who like their humor broad and goofy will lap this up” – *Publishers Weekly*

“A fully-blown kooky comedy unpacking an ancient Talmudic tale.” – *The New York Times Book Review*



**Eat the alphabet with all of these delicious Jewish foods!**

From apples and honey all the way to zhug, Alan Silberberg brings his signature wacky humor to this alphabet of Jewish food. It's perfect for board book readers with a funny bone, and anyone who wants to celebrate the wide range of delicious bites Jews eat all over the world.

**Alan Silberberg** is an award-winning author, cartoonist and children's TV creator who has worked with Nickelodeon and Disney. He's the author and illustrator of three previous middle grade novels including *Milo: Sticky Notes & Brain Freeze*, which won the Sid Fleishman Humor Award.

US: Penguin/Viking, February 2024  
Ages 0-3  
Page Count: 16

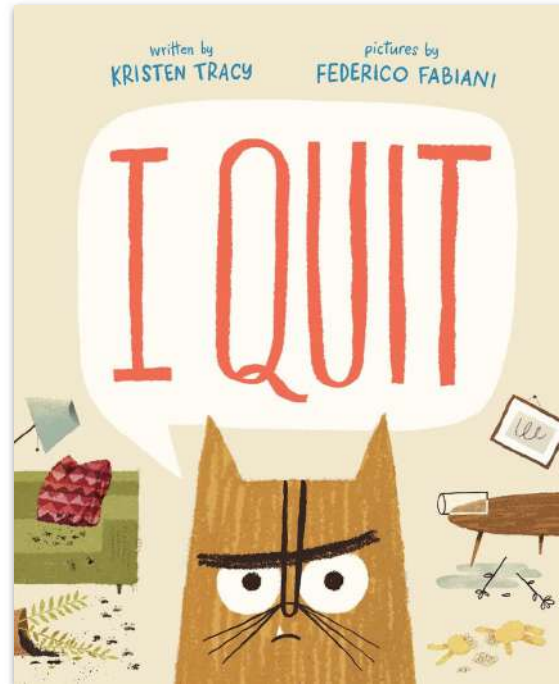
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Young Readers

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# I QUIT

written by Kristen Tracy; illustrated by Federico Fabiani

- ❖ An oh-so-relatable story about a misbehaving kitty who's had just about enough... only to find out she's had what she needed all along.
- ❖ Sold in a competitive three-way auction
- ❖ Sequel forthcoming in Winter 2026



When kitty first got adopted, everything was purr-fect.

Then came the rules. NO eating the bread! NO chasing the baby! BAD KITTY! Excuse me? She's not a bad kitty. Left with no choice, she says goodbye to everything she loves (even her favorite crinkled-up receipt) and quits!

But kitty's adventure in the great outdoors doesn't go as planned, and she realizes that she may have made a few mistakes. She knows she can do better, but how can she get home? Would her family even want her back?

A laugh-out-loud picture book perfect for anyone who has ever had that "I quit!" feeling.

**Kristen Tracy** is a former teacher, a poet, a winner of the Emily Dickinson First Book Award from the Poetry Foundation, and an author of numerous books for children including *I Am Picky: Confessions of a Fussy Eater*, *I Am Friendly: Confessions of a Helpful Bear*, and the middle-grade novel *Don't Trust the Cat*. She lives in Santa Clarita with her family

**Federico Fabiani** is the illustrator of *Tallulah the Tooth Fairy CEO*, written by Dr. Tamara Pizzoli (FSG, July 2019) and *I Quit!* (FSG, October 2024), written by Kristen Tracy. Before fully dedicating himself to his lifelong passion of illustration, he studied architecture and worked in the creative business for 15 years. He lives in Rome with his family and senior howling cat.

US: Macmillan/FSG, October 2024  
Ages 3-6  
Page Count: 40

UK and translation rights handled by  
Macmillan

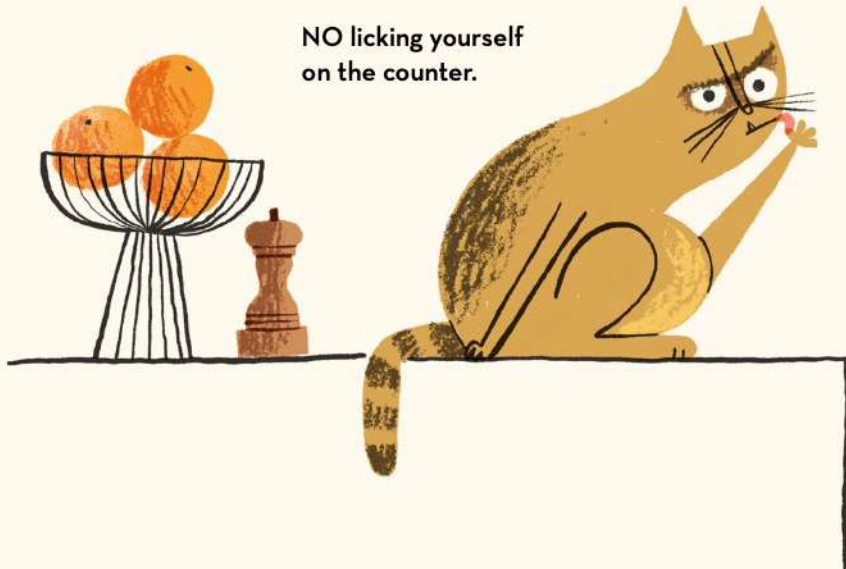
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NO scratching  
the window screens.



NO licking yourself  
on the counter.



NO eating the bread.



NO chasing the baby.



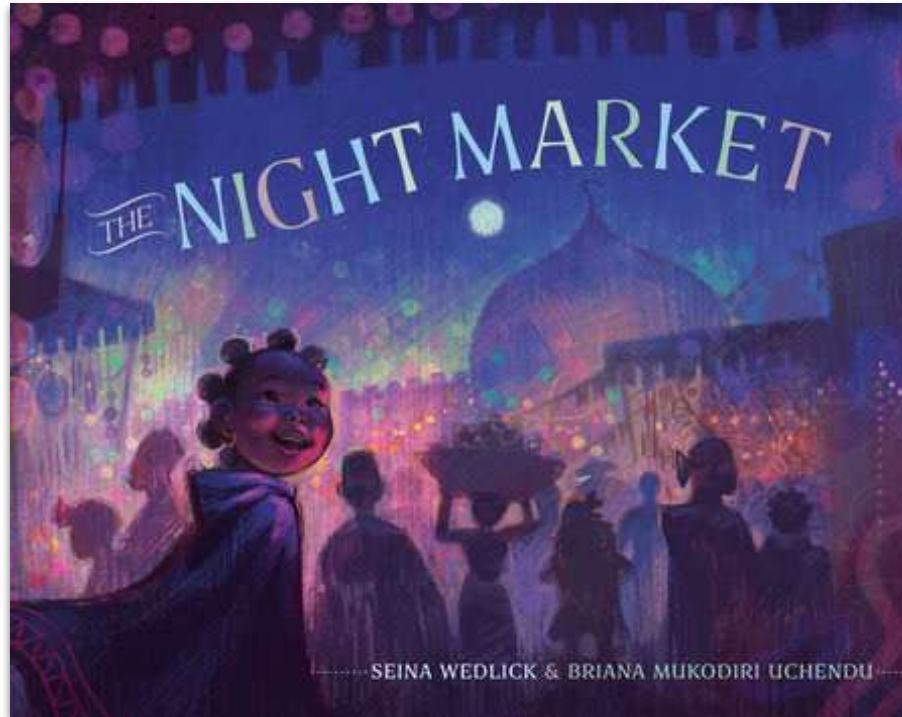
**BAD KITTY!**

# THE NIGHT MARKET

written by Seina Wedlick; illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu

- ❖ Journey with a young girl as she explores the mesmerizing wonders of a Nigerian night market, where each stall is an adventure waiting to be discovered!
- ❖ Filled with vibrant illustrations, this captivating picture book invites young readers into a world of magic, mystery, and the joy of finding treasures in unexpected places.

Seina Wedlick enjoys reading to the sound of pouring rain and considers herself an expert at pairing books with delicious snacks. When she's not writing or working on special projects, Seina can be found exploring or spending time on the beach with her family. She also enjoys visiting bookstores and collecting postcards. Her debut picture book, *Naming Ceremony*, which sold at auction, published with Abrams in Spring 2023, and two more picture books, *The Night Market* and *Space for Everyone*, are forthcoming from Random House Studio.



The Night Market is here again, and all one girl needs is a bag of gold coins to enter. The market is alive with the sound of hawkers and traders. “A taste of tangy sweetness!” hollers a man behind a towering fountain of lemonade. “I’ll trade you a joke for a coin,” a little boy calls. “Home grown spices!” shouts a granny at a counter. What should the girl buy? But, wait! Do you hear that? It’s the sound of an old African drum. Have a turn, then learn to make cards disappear when you shout *Abracadabra!* When the sun starts to rise and the night market winds down, the girl has one gold coin left—just enough to buy a return ticket to the night market.

**Briana Mukodiri Uchendu** is an illustrator, visual development artist, and a first-generation Nigerian-American. Her work is inspired by her interests in folklore, film, and animation and her passion to highlight voices that usually go unheard. Briana is a graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design where she majored in Illustration. In her illustration debut, her work for *The Talk* by Newbery Honor-winner Alicia D. Williams was juried into The Original Art 2022 by the Society of Illustrators and was awarded the Silver Medal. The book was also named a Coretta Scott King (Author) Honor Book and an Amazon Best Book of the Year, among many other honors. She received the Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award for New Talent (Illustrator) for *We Could Fly* by Rhiannon Giddens and Dirk Powell. Her forthcoming books include *Soul Step* by *New York Times*-bestseller Jewell Parker Rhodes and Kelly McWilliams (Little Brown, June 2024), and *Night Market* by Seina Wedlick (Random House Studio, September 2024). She currently lives in her hometown of Houston, Texas.

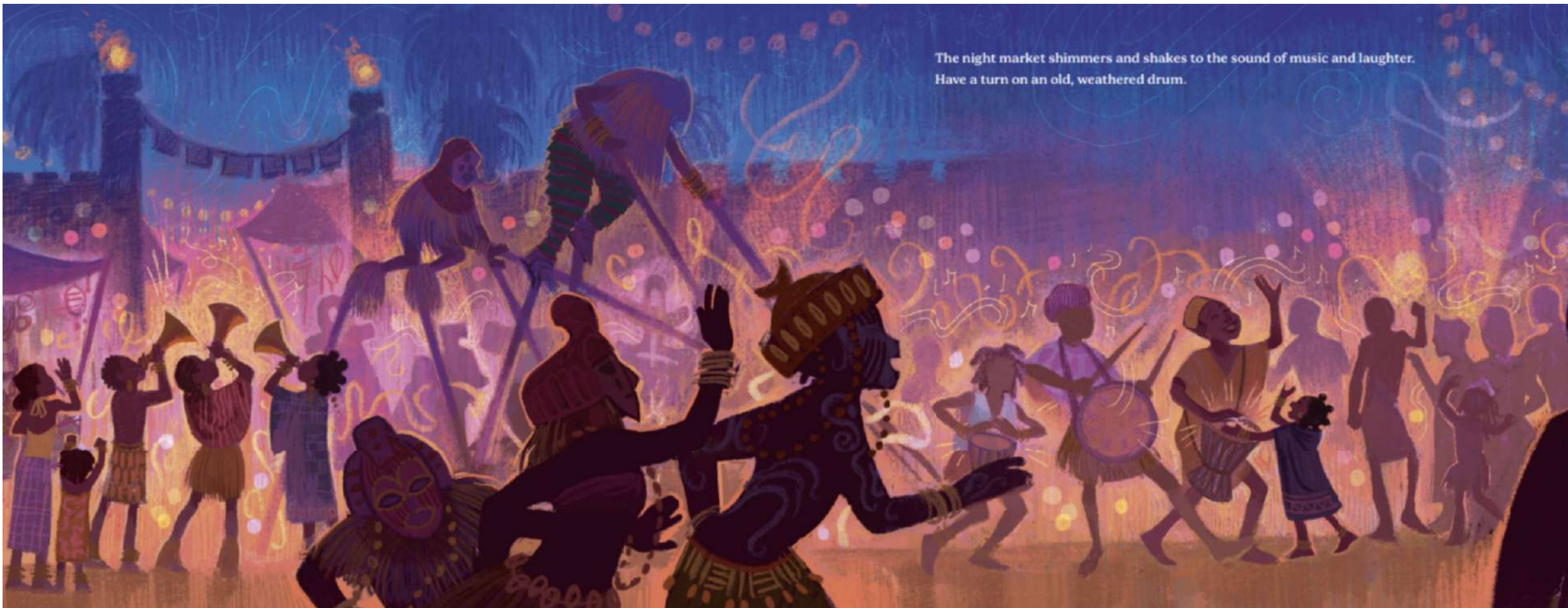
US: Random House Studio, September 2024  
Ages 4-8  
Page Count: 40

UK and translation rights handled by Random House  
Children’s Books  
Please note that Seina Wedlick is represented by The Joy  
Harris Literary Agency

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The night market shimmers and shakes to the sound of music and laughter.  
Have a turn on an old, weathered drum.





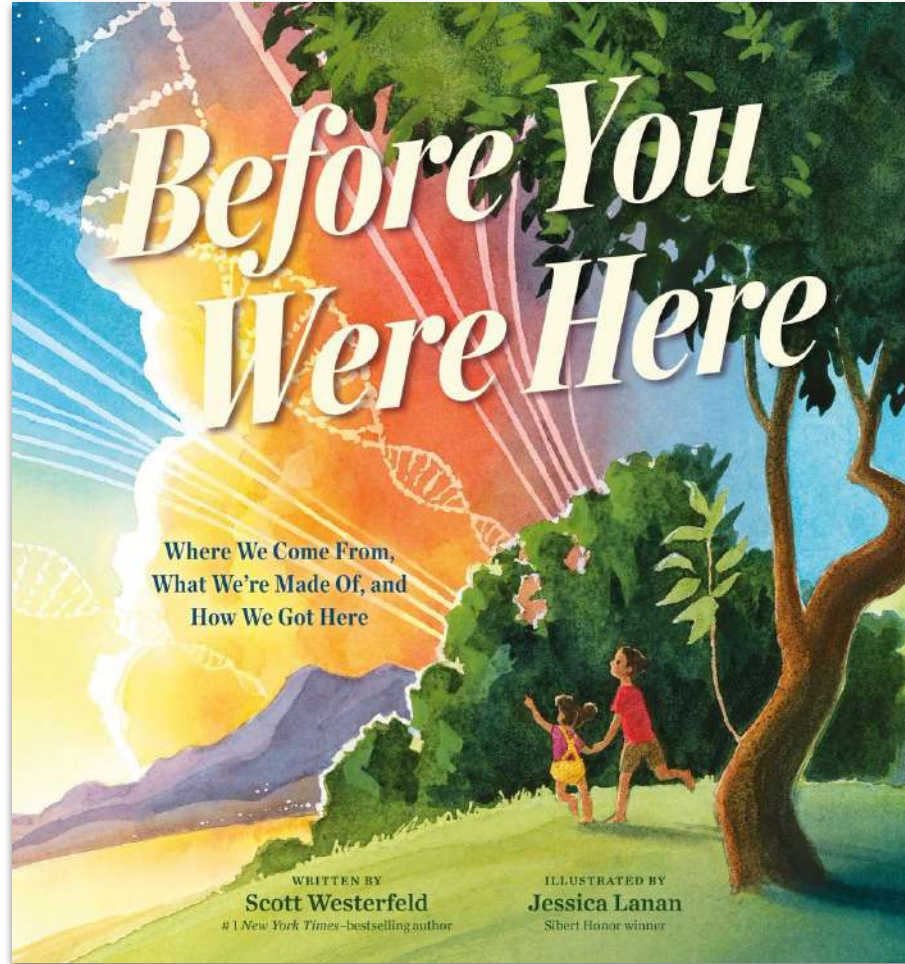
# BEFORE YOU WERE HERE

WHERE WE COME FROM, WHAT WE'RE MADE OF, and HOW WE GOT HERE

written by Scott Westerfeld; illustrated by Jessica Lanan

*Before you were here, you were everywhere...*

- ❖ The debut picture book from Scott Westerfeld, the mega-bestselling author of the *Uglies* series



You were once the sunshine when it struck the trees. You were water, powerful enough to wear away mountains. You were soil deep beneath the earth.

Now that you're here, the world waits for you.

Everywhere.

Follow a young boy as he explores the world around him and begins to understand that he is connected to all things. Blending a beautiful tale of new life with the science of the universe, this incredible picture book is a sweeping ode to a parent's love for their child, budding life, and the Earth that we live on, perfect for fans of Matt de la Peña and Loren Long's *Love* and Jason Chin's *The Universe In You*.

**Scott Westerfeld** is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of over 20 books for adults and young readers, including the *Uglies* and *Impostors* series, the *Leviathan* trilogy, the *Midnighters* trilogy, the *New York* trilogy, the *Zeroes* series (with Margo Lanagan and Deborah Biancotti), the *Spill Zone* graphic novel duology, the novel *Afterworlds*, and the first book in the *Horizon* series for young readers. His books have sold over five million copies worldwide, and his work has been translated into over 32 languages. He has won and been nominated for numerous awards, including the Locus, the Nebula, and the Aurealis. He and his wife, author Justine Larbalestier, split their time between Sydney, Australia and New York City.

**Jessica Lanan** is the author and illustrator of *Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider* and *The Fisherman and the Whale*, a Colorado Book Award finalist and winner of the Bull-Bransom Award for wildlife art. She has illustrated many other books including *The Lost Package* by Richard Ho, *Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet* by Curtis Manley and *Thank You Moon* by Melissa Stewart.

US: Macmillan/Roaring Brook, September 2024

Ages 3-8

Page Count: 32

UK and translation rights handled by Macmillan  
Please note that Jessica Lanan is represented by Folio  
Literary Management

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**ADULT**



JILL GRINBERG  
LITERARY MANAGEMENT

# EDEN'S END

## TJ Alexander

- ❖ A celebration of trans joy that is as necessary and relevant in historical romance as it is in contemporary
- ❖ A regency romance that's *A Lady for a Duke* meets *The Secret Lives of Country Gentlemen*

### Praise for *Chef's Kiss*

"Alexander accomplishes a masterful juggling act: the banter is snappy, the chemistry between Simone and Ray sings, the commentary on social media fame is poignant without ever verging on precious, and the exploration of Ray's nonbinary identity within the structure of a romantic comedy hits exactly right...one of the most intricate and satisfying queer romances in years. Fans of Casey McQuiston will be wowed." – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"[D]elicious... Alexander whips up a delectable couple with Ray and Simone; they are each on their own journeys for self-awareness and self-confidence, which they gratifyingly achieve on an individual level...Baked to perfection." – *Kirkus*

**TJ Alexander** is an amateur baker and author who writes about queer joy. They are the author of *Chef's Kiss* (named one of the Best Books of 2022 by *TIME*), *Chef's Choice* (a June 2023 Indie Next Pick and *Library Journal* Best Book of 2023), *Second Chances in New Port Stephen* (a December 2023 Indie Next Pick and *Library Journal* Romance Pick for November 2023), *Triple Sec*, and *Eden's End*. Originally from South Florida, they received their MA in Writing & Publishing from Emerson College in Boston. They live in New York City with their wife.



The notoriously eccentric, comically stubborn Lord Christopher Eden is a “man of unusual make” and even more unusual habits: he wears pastels year round, prefers to live as far from the prying eyes and ears of the ton as possible, and wholeheartedly prefers the comfortable company of his childhood cook and aged butler, Plinkton, to any swarm of servants that would normally befit a man of his station.

His penchant for privacy makes for a pleasant, if occasionally lonely life—one that threatens to be upended entirely when Christopher receives word from his lawyers that, according to his late father's will, he must find a wife in London by the end of the Season if he intends to maintain his status as the only living heir to the Eden's End estate. While most men his age and status would leap at the chance to marry, he cannot imagine a worse fate.

After all, as a “man of unusual make” who also doesn't happen to be attracted to women, his chances of making a wife happy are about on par with his future wife's chances of staying silent about their arrangement.

Enter the handsome—if stoic—James Harding, the new valet Christopher very reluctantly hires after Cook and Plinkton remind him that if he's to stay in London, he must keep up appearances befitting that of a wealthy, eligible bachelor. After a rocky start to their relationship (wherein Harding simply does not understand why Christopher won't let him dress him, wait on him, or fulfill any other typical valet duties, for that matter), the two strike up a fragile friendship amid the throes of the London Season—a friendship that threatens to shatter completely as Christopher's deadline to find a wife looms, and Harding reveals that he's been harboring a rather consequential secret of his own.

Fiction

US: Random House/Vintage, Winter 2025

UK: To be announced

Page Count: TK

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# PLENTIFUL COUNTRY

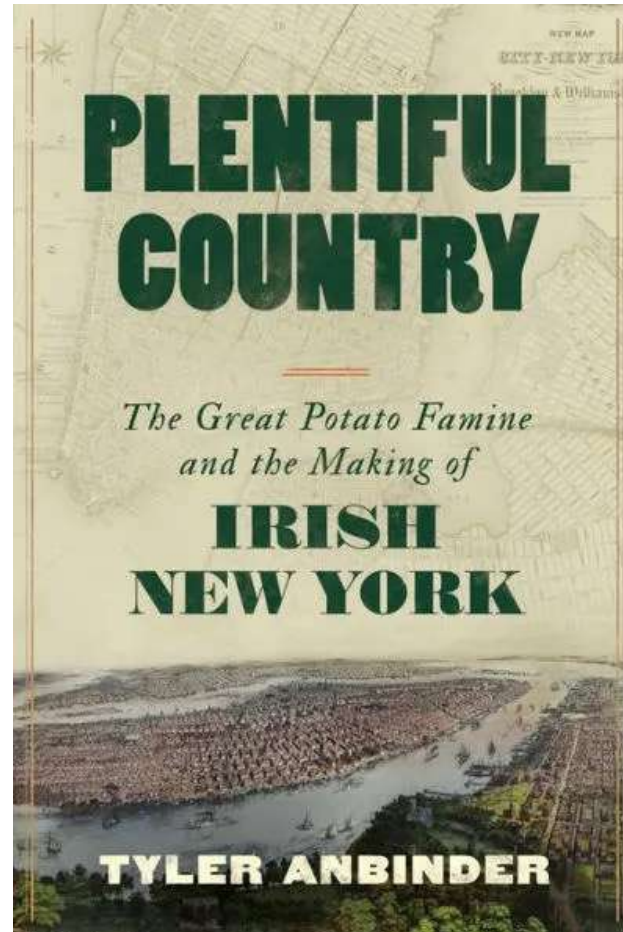
Tyler Anbinder

- ❖ A breathtaking new history of the first generation of Irish immigrants to arrive in the United States after the Great Potato Famine, showing how their strivings in and beyond New York exemplify the astonishing tenacity and improbable triumph of Irish America
- ❖ From the award-winning author of *Five Points* and *City of Dreams*

## Praise for *Plentiful Country*

*“Plentiful Country* is a masterpiece of research and writing. Tyler Anbinder has outdone himself by weaving the lives of individual immigrants into a sweeping history of the Irish in New York. From their struggles in Ireland before the famine to the crammed-full ships that carried them over, from their lives as servants, laborers, and artisans to their fanatical savings, ingenious enterprises, and movements across the United States, this book vividly captures the rich history of a complex people.” – TJ Stiles, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *The First Tycoon* and *Custer’s Trials*

*“On a recent visit to Ireland, I saw one of the docks where, it was said, desperate, starving women once held up their children, beseeching strangers to take them to a new life in America. In Tyler Anbinder’s moving, expertly told narrative, I learned what happened to that generation of immigrants and their descendants. This is a hugely important and too little-known part of the American story.” – Adam Hochschild, New York Times bestselling author of *Spain in Our Hearts* and *American Midnight**



In 1845, a fungus began to eradicate Ireland’s potato crop, triggering a famine that would result in the deaths of one million Irish men, women, and children—and paving the way for one million more to flee for America. Ten years later, the United States had been transformed by this stupendous Atlantic port; by 1855, roughly one quarter of all adults living in Manhattan were immigrants who had escaped the hunger in Ireland. These so-called “Famine Irish” were the forebears of four U.S. presidents (including Joe Biden) yet at the time they were consigned to the lowest-paying jobs and subjected to the acrimony and ridicule of their new countrymen; even today, the popular perception of them is one of destitution, helplessness, and despair. But the Famine Irish themselves told a different story.

In this magisterial work of storytelling and scholarship, acclaimed historian Tyler Anbinder presents for the first time this generation’s individual and collective tales of struggle, perseverance, and triumph. Drawing on untapped documents and an astonishing ten-year, NEH-backed research initiative, Anbinder reclaims the narratives of the cohort of refugees who entered New York City in the 1850s on their way to reshaping the nation. *Plentiful Country* is a tour de force—a book that rescues the Famine immigrants from the margins of history and restores them to their rightful place at the center of the American story.

**Tyler Anbinder** is an emeritus professor of history at George Washington University, where he taught courses on the history of American immigration and the American Civil War era. He is the author of three award-winning books and of numerous articles. He is the rare American historian to have published articles in both the discipline’s two top journals, *The Journal of American History* and the *American Historical Review*. Additionally, Anbinder has held the Fulbright Commission’s Thomas Jefferson Distinguished Chair in American History at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, and has won three prestigious research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Non-Fiction

US: Hachette/Little, Brown, March 2024

UK: Bonnier/Eriu, March 2024

Page Count: 512

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# ROOM SWEEP HOME

*Remica Bingham-Risher*

- ❖ A gorgeous and powerful collection of poetry that explores race, lineage, faith, mental health, women's rights, and more

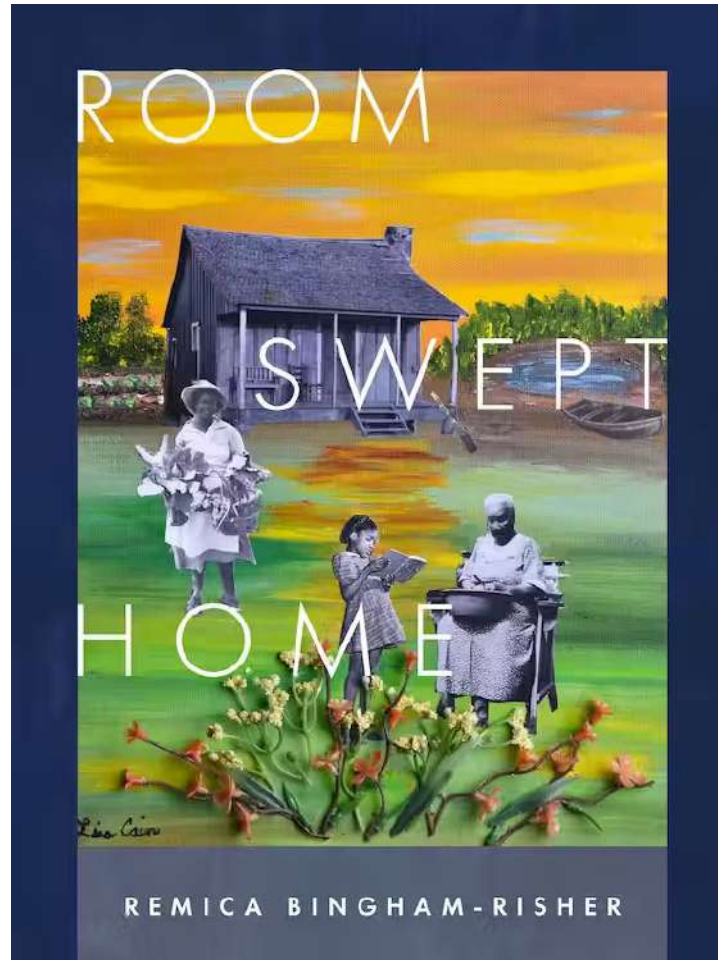
## Praise for *Soul Culture*

"A powerful celebration of poets who 'paint life with all its many spirals and errors.' Lit lovers will be dazzled." – *Publishers Weekly*

"Cover-to-cover, *Soul Culture* will start a discourse about Black poets and writers and Black books, and it is highly recommended for those who love poetry and Black literature, especially readers striving to become creative writers and hone their poetry-writing skills." – *Booklist*

"Cohesive and sharply rendered . . . Bingham-Risher asks questions of poetry, community, and responsibility that will inspire both seasoned and aspiring poets and educators." – *Kirkus Reviews*

**Remica Bingham-Risher** is a poet, interviewer and essayist, a Cave Canem fellow and Afrilachian Poet. Her book, *Soul Culture*, was published by Beacon Press in September 2022. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Callaloo*, *Essence*, and a host of other outlets. She is the author of *Conversion*, winner of the Diode Editions Book Award and a finalist for the Library of Virginia Book Award. She is the Director of Quality Enhancement Plan Initiatives, which help faculty integrate writing into the classroom, at Old Dominion University. She resides in Norfolk, Virginia, with her husband and children.



*Room Swept Home* serves as a gloriously rendered magnifying glass into all that is held in the line between the private and public, the investigative and generative, the self and those who came before us.

In a strange twist of kismet, two of Bingham-Risher's ancestors intersect in Petersburg, Virginia. Her paternal great-great-great grandmother, Minnie Lee Fowlkes, is interviewed for the Works Progress Administration Slave Narratives in Petersburg in 1937, and her maternal grandmother, Mary Knight, is sent to Petersburg in 1941, diagnosed with "water on the brain"—postpartum depression being an ongoing mystery—nine days after birthing her first child.

Marrying meticulous archival research with Womanist scholarship and her hallmark lyrical precision, Bingham-Risher's latest collection treads the murky waters of race, lineage, faith, mental health, women's rights, and the violent reckoning that inhabits the discrepancy between lived versus textbook history. What do we inherit when trauma is at the core of our fractured living?

Poetry  
US: Wesleyan University Press, February 2024  
Page Count: 140



- ❖ A riveting narrative non-fiction title from a bold new talent, delving into the untold stories of Europe's greatest queens
- ❖ Longlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction
- ❖ LA Times Book Prize Finalist
- ❖ Included on *Book Riot's* Best New Biographies of 2023 list and the *New Yorker's* Best Books of 2023

#### Praise for *Young Queens*

"A delightful historical study of women coming to the forefront in a world dominated by men." – *Kirkus*, starred review

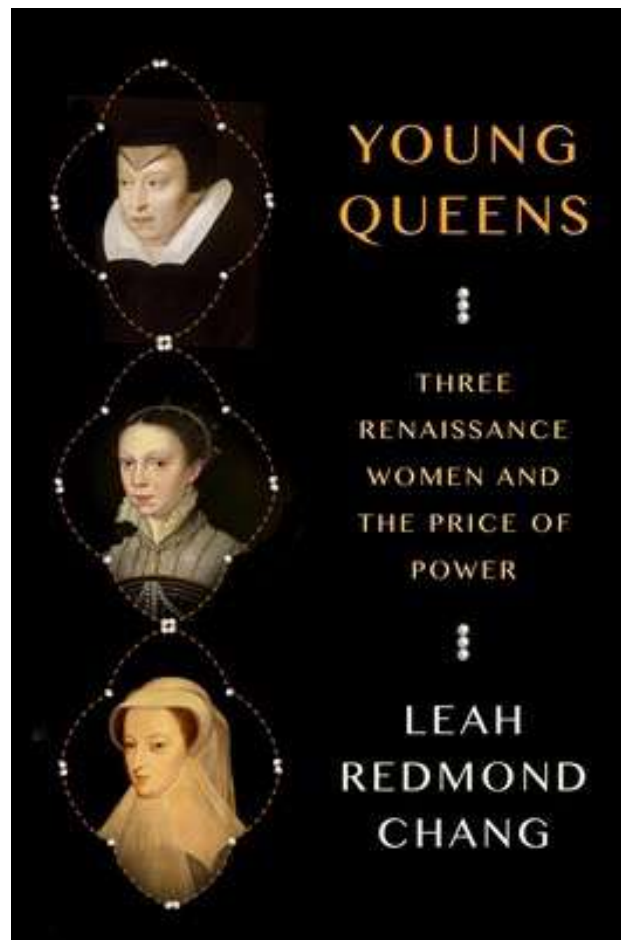
"Sheds valuable light on interpersonal feelings and familial relations often missed in more traditional accounts of political power." – *Publishers Weekly*

"Well-written, detailed . . . [*Young Queens*] brings these women to life with insight and empathy, skillfully revealing 'patterns about women and power' . . . By centering these queens' reigns and their relationships with one another, Chang gives readers new insight into their lives and legacies." – *Booklist*

**Leah Redmond Chang** works in four linguistic traditions—Italian, Spanish, French and English—and is an internationally recognized expert in her field. She is the author of *Portraits of the Queen Mother* (ACMRS Publications, 2014). Her love of literature and history comes from the stories told by her Chinese-American grandmother and her Irish-American grandfather. With her husband and three children, Leah Redmond Chang divides her time between Washington D.C. and London.

# YOUNG QUEENS

## *Leah Redmond Chang*



From French literature and culture scholar Leah Redmond Chang, *Young Queens: Three Renaissance Women and the Price of Power* is the riveting intertwined story of three sovereigns as they exercise power in a world dominated by men.

Orphaned from infancy, Catherine de' Medici endured a tumultuous childhood. Married to the French king, she was widowed by forty, only to become the power behind the French throne during a period of intense civil strife. In 1546, Catherine gave birth to a daughter, Elisabeth de Valois, who would become Queen of Spain. Two years later, Catherine welcomed to her nursery the beguiling young Mary, Queen of Scots, who would later become her daughter-in-law.

Together, Catherine, Elisabeth, and Mary lived through the sea-changes that rocked sixteenth-century Europe: a time of expanding empires, religious discord, and populist revolt, as concepts of nationhood began to emerge and ideas of sovereignty inched closer to absolutism. They would learn that to rule as a queen was to wage a constant war against the deeply entrenched misogyny of their time. A royal crown could exalt a young woman—equally, it could destroy her.

Following the three women from girlhood through young adulthood, and drawing from understudied archival materials, *Young Queens* illuminates the fierce bonds, rivalries, hopes, and desires that shaped their lives and changed the course of history. Their intertwined stories paint a larger picture of a world in which a woman could wield power at the highest level yet remain at the mercy of the state, her body serving as the currency of empire and dynasty, sacrificed to the will of husband, family, kingdom.

Non-Fiction

US: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, August 2023

UK: Bloomsbury, May 2023

Page Count: 512

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Translation rights sold: Chinese – Simplified (United Sky), German (Goldmann), Hungarian (IPC Konyvek), Italian (Mondadori), Russian (Azbooka Atticus)

# THE SWEET BLUE DISTANCE

Sara Donati

- ❖ In 1857 a young midwife braves the perilous journey west from New York City to Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory in this captivating epic from Sara Donati, the international bestselling author of *The Gilded Hour*

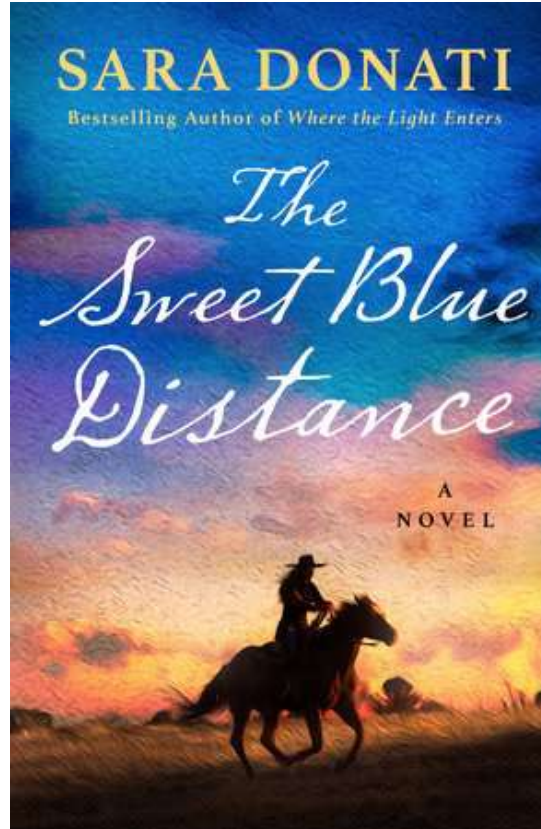
## Praise for *The Sweet Blue Distance*

“A stunning tour de force.” – *Booklist*, starred review

## Praise for *The Gilded Hour*

“This is an outstanding first novel in a new series, and with it comes all the best feelings evoked by good writing: empathy, concern, drive, despair, and ecstasy. It’s the beginning of the best of journeys in historical fiction.” –*Historical Novel Society*

“Lushly written...Exemplary historical fiction, boasting a heroine with a real and tangible presence.” –*Kirkus*



Carrie Ballentyne’s life was upended in 1845 when she had to leave the only home she’d ever known in the mountains of upstate New York. With her are her widowed mother and younger brother Nathan, but the separation from Bonner, Ballentyne, and Savard relatives weighs heavily. In time Carrie finds footing as a midwife and nurse, but she never feels at ease in the city. So when, a decade later, she receives an invitation from a doctor in Santa Fe to join him at his practice, she readily accepts.

The trip across the country is long and often dangerous, but she travels the last leg on horseback with men who have been hired to see her safely through the Native nations fighting the westward flood of colonizers. On that journey she makes friends who will be with her for all her Eva, a young widow; and Eli, an experienced surveyor. Once Carrie is established in Santa Fe, it becomes clear that her employer is not everything she was led to believe, and she is forced to face far more challenges and responsibilities than she anticipated. But she dedicates herself to the work and the women, providing health care, delivering babies, and earning the trust of her patients.

In the course of that first summer in New Mexico, determined to make a life for herself in a new kind of wilderness far beyond her imagination, Carrie finds friendship, support, and even love where she least expected.

**Sara Donati** is the author of the Wilderness series of novels, which has over a million copies in print. The series comprises six novels—*Into the Wilderness*, *Dawn on a Distant Shore*, *Lake in the Clouds*, *Fire Along the Sky*, *Queen of Swords*, and *The Endless Forest*—and most recently, two additional books—*The Gilded Hour* and *Where the Light Enters*—set in the same historical fiction universe. She lives on Puget Sound with her family.

Fiction  
US: Penguin/Berkley, April 2024  
ANZ: Penguin Random House, April 2024  
Page Count: 672

Translation rights sold for *The Gilded Hour*:  
Polish (Illuminatio), Spanish (Roca)



# A HARVEST OF HEARTS

*Andrea Eames*

- ❖ After having her heart stolen for use in magic spells, a butcher's daughter approaches the sorcerer responsible to demand that he give it back—only to get swept up in romance and intrigue
- ❖ In the vein of modern classics such as *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Uprooted*
- ❖ Sold at auction
- ❖ A masterful voice, unforgettable heroine, and a romance best described as “destined for fan art”
- ❖ Whimsical, lush, and often very, very funny



In the beloved tradition of *Howl's Moving Castle*, a whimsical and unforgettable story of fantastic adventure, common sense, and the power of love to overcome the greatest of obstacles . . .

Before Foss Butcher was Snagged, she thought no more of the magic-users than did anyone else in her tiny village. Sometimes gorgeous women in impossible carriages rolled into town and took bits of people's hearts. Everyone knew hearts fueled their magic. But Foss, plain, clumsy, and practical as a boot, never expected anyone would want hers.

True enough, when the only sorcerer in the kingdom stepped from his glossy carriage, he didn't intend to hook Foss. Sylvester's riot of black curls and perfectly etched cheekbones caught her eye a moment too long, that was all. Still, Foss finds herself stomping toward the grand City to keep his enchanted House, where her only friend is a talking cat and the walls themselves have moods.

But as Foss learns the ways of magic, she realizes she's far from its only unwilling captive. Even Sylvester is hemmed in by spells and threats. It's said this sorcery protects king, country, and order for thousands. If Foss wants to free herself—and, perhaps, Sylvester—she'll have to confront it all...and uncover the blight nestled in the heart of the kingdom itself.

**Andrea Eames** is an English poet and novelist now based in Texas after eight years in New Zealand and seventeen years in Zimbabwe. Her first two novels, published by Penguin Random House UK, were set in Zimbabwe, where she grew up: *The Cry of the Go-Away Bird* (2011) and *The White Shadow* (2012), which was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize in 2012. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing, and works part-time as a fairy at the Renaissance Faire. Andrea lives in the country with her husband, baby daughter, and five very ungrateful cats.

Fiction

US: Erewhon, Spring/Summer 2025

UK: Harper Voyager, Spring/Summer 2025

Page Count: TK

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# THE LAST PHI HUNTER

Salinee Goldenberg

- ❖ **Phi Hunter Ex finds his road to glory interrupted when a heavily pregnant runaway enlists his help to escape through the ghost-infested forest.**
- ❖ **A mythic dark fantasy, equal parts smart, exhilarating, and delightfully fun**
- ❖ **Set in a richly imagined Thai-inspired world**

## Praise for *The Last Phi Hunter*

“Goldenberg fills her protagonists’ journey with twists, gory fight scenes, and lighthearted romance. There’s plenty to enjoy in this inventive dark fantasy.” – *Publishers Weekly*

“Rich with Thai culture, Buddhism, and martial arts, *The Last Phi Hunter* is a seamlessly woven fantasy debut that examines one’s race, personal identity, and of course, love. This is for readers who want a dark Asian fantasy infused with Thai culture and mythology! If you’ve been craving a different blend of SFF, you’ll get a kick out of this one.” ~ R.R. Virdi, USA Today Bestselling author of *The First Binding*

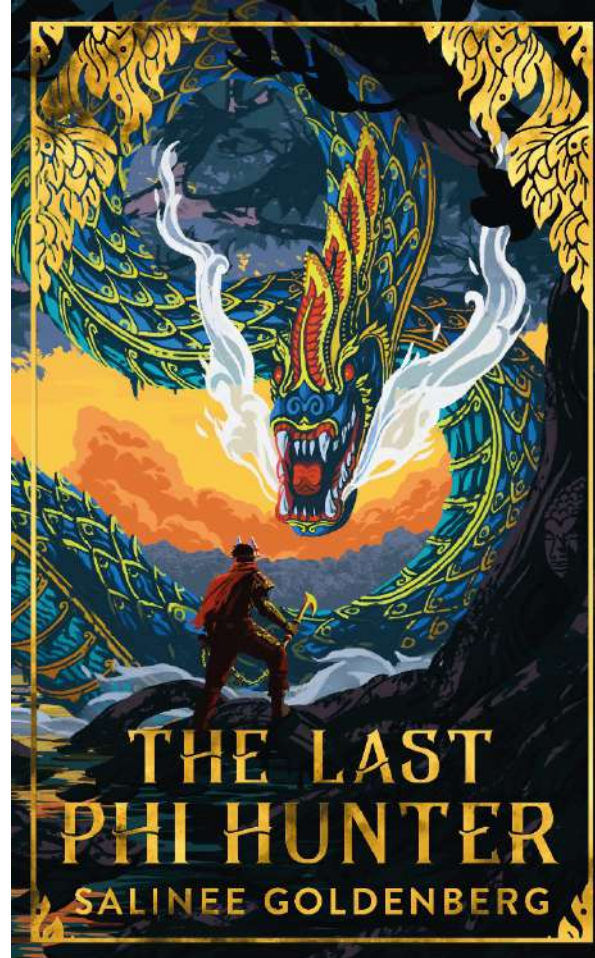
**Salinee Goldenberg** is a speculative fiction writer and multimedia artist who lives in Washington, DC, and is drawn to outsider perspectives. A biracial, bisexual diaspora writer, Sal often explores themes of identity, obsession, and alienation in her work. Previously, she worked at Bethesda Softworks creating narrative trailers for games such as *Skyrim*, *Fallout 4* and *Dishonored*, and now produces videos for *Minecraft*. When not writing, she likes to paint, listen to records, and play in punk bands.

Fiction

US and UK: Angry Robot, April 2024

Page Count: 400

Translation rights sold: Russian (Eksmo)



Ex, the youngest member of the Phi Hunters Orders, has spent his life slaying the ghosts and demons of the Suyoram Kingdom. While he takes great pride in his mystical trade, collecting dwindling bounties and peddling spirit organs lacks the glory and respect he so desperately craves. For ever since his parents rebelled against the crown, Ex has been marked, often ridiculed for his traitorous bloodline, and so he is determined to prove himself worthy of the Hunters, who have become his family, and worthy of the Kingdom.

To that end, he dreams of hunting down the most legendary demon, Shar-Ala. A demon of nightmares, of madness—one that has eluded even Ex’s masters, and hasn’t been seen for decades.

After getting ripped off by another stingy client, Ex finds himself on the wrong side of a bar fight when Arinya, a charming muay boran boxing champion, saves him from an ass-kicking, despite being nine months pregnant. In return, she asks him to escort her through the dangerous, spirit-filled forest, where ghosts salivate over the scent of the unborn.

But Arinya has her secrets. When they’re attacked by agents of the crown, Arinya confesses that she’s the prized consort of the crown prince, and the new queen is seeking to kill her—and her unborn child—to eliminate all potential usurpers. While Ex isn’t thrilled about this turn of events, a promise is a promise, and he vowed to get her home. Besides, he can’t deny the simmering attraction between them. A messy attraction, for while Arinya may not return the prince’s affection, she is completely off-limits to a poor phi hunter like Ex.

But as more of Arinya’s secrets emerge and they get closer to the elusive demon Shar-Ala, Ex must face dangers from both men and monsters, or lose not only the respect of the Phi Hunters, but the Hunters themselves, along with the woman he’s falling in love with.



# THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF ILL-MANNERED LADIES

Alison Goodman

- ❖ Two spinster sisters, with the help of a dashing highwayman, fight injustices in this smart and rollicking Regency romp
- ❖ Preempted in a two-book deal
- ❖ The adult debut from a *New York Times* bestselling author

Praise for *The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies*

“If you love Georgette Heyer, you’ll love *The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies*. Smart and sassy and featuring heroines of a certain age, this is the Regency I’ve been waiting for. Adventure! Mystery! A touch of romance! This delightful novel has it all!” – Jenn McKinlay, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Paris is Always a Good Idea*

“Fresh and fearless, Alison Goodman’s exquisitely written, impeccably-researched genre-blending novel shines a light in the darkest corners of Regency England. The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies is part heart-racing adventure, part gothic mystery, part tantalizing romance, and wholly wonderful. I can’t wait for the next installment!” – Joanna Lowell, author of *The Duke Undone*

US: Penguin/Berkley, Summer 2023

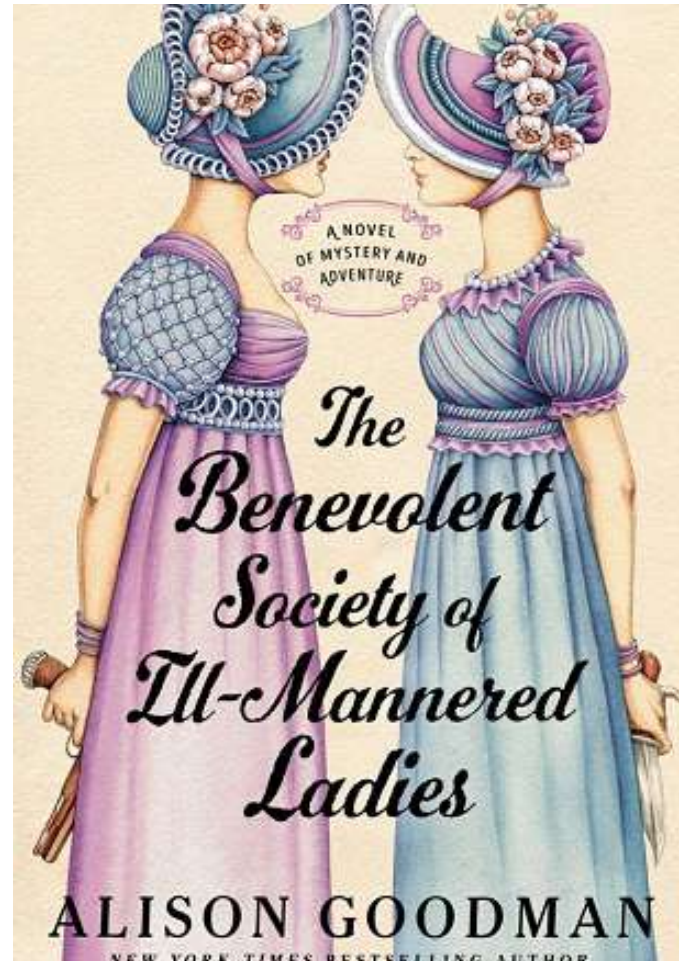
UK: Piatkus, Summer 2023

ANZ: HarperCollins, Summer 2023

Book 1 of 2

Page Count: 336

Translation rights sold: French (Albin Michel), Hungarian (Nouvion), Russian (Ripol), Spanish (PRH Grupo)



Lady Augusta (aka Gus) is doggedly unmarried and tired of being dismissed as an old maid (at 42). Worried about her twin sister Julia who is grieving for her dead betrothed, Gus decides they need a distraction, and one soon presents itself: to rescue their friend’s goddaughter, Caroline, from her violent husband.

The sisters set out with a plan, however their carriage is accosted by a highwayman who Gus accidentally shoots in the scuffle, and who turns out to be a disgraced passing acquaintance—Lord Evan Belford. Lord Evan was charged with murder and exiled to Australia twenty years ago; how is it that he is back and holding ladies at gunpoint?

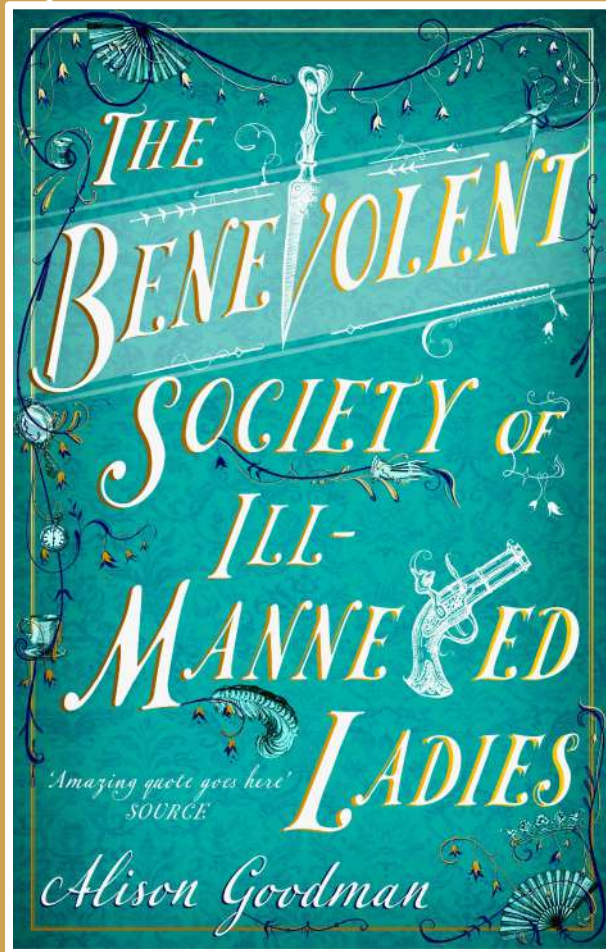
With him bleeding and insensible by the side of the road and Caroline in grave danger, they have no choice but to take Lord Evan with them on their rescue mission. Through clever improvisation, near misses, and Lord Evan regaining consciousness in time to lend a gentlemanly hand, Caroline’s life is saved, and a connection sealed between Gus and Evan before the two must part ways.

Back in London, Gus can’t stop thinking about her intriguing comrade and his fall from grace. A bit of digging convinces her he was falsely accused, and she wants to help him overturn his murder charge, but how? The answer lies in the very problems that propelled Gus into irritated action; the singular invisibility of old age and spinsterhood. And so starts the secret life of the Colebrook twins: unnoticed old maids to most, but unseen champions to those in need—society be damned.

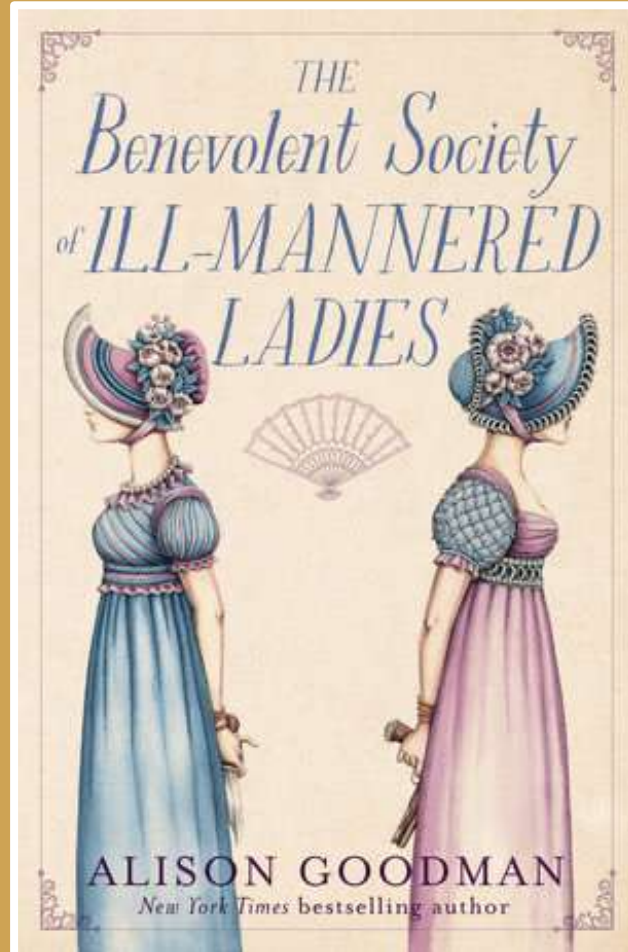
**Alison Goodman** is the acclaimed author of numerous books of young adult fantasy, including *Singing the Dogstar Blues* and the *New York Times* bestselling duology *Eon* and *Eona*. She is also the author of *A New Kind of Death*, an adult thriller. Her most recent titles are the multi-award winning Lady Helen trilogy. She lives with her husband in Australia, where she is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Queensland.

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# Praise for THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF ILL-MANNERED LADIES



UK cover by  
Little  
Brown/Piatkus



ANZ cover by  
HarperCollins  
Australia

"Fans of Georgette Heyer's Regency novels will savor this mystery from "Dark Days Club" series author Goodman. Well-developed characters, a touch of romance, and cases involving social issues of the period enhance the experience." – *Library Journal*, starred review

"Fierce, funny, and often dark, this is an eye-opening portrait of a colorful yet misogynistic period in English history. Readers will be eager to return for the duo's next adventure." – *Publishers Weekly*

"All three adventures are marked by successively mounting complications that fans of either the Regency period or take-no-prisoners feminism will cheer....Think of the *Bridgerton* novels with the steamy sex replaced by female-forward action sequences." – *Kirkus*

"A vibrant tale of two plucky women of a certain age who craved more from life than merely attending tea parties and balls, *The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies* is a truly delightful romp through the Regency period. Alison Goodman has crafted a feminist adventure story that will have you cheering on the unconventional Colebrook sisters in all their exploits." –Stephanie Marie Thornton, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Her Lost Words*

"A joyous romp through Regency England that is equally entertaining, revealing, feminist, heartbreaking and humorous ... *The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies* is an unexpected delight that blends historical romance with adventure, crime-solving and a bold feminist undertone. This book would be loved by anyone looking for a historical adventure that breaks the bounds of convention to feature women "past their prime" taking matters into their own hands." – *Books+Publishing*

"It's a rollicking feminist romp – think Jane Austen meets James Bond – that breaks the shackles of period genre fiction and liberates women from the forces arrayed against them." –*Sydney Morning Herald*



# MIND YOUR MANNERS

Sara Jane Ho

A guide to social fluency from etiquette guru and Netflix star Sara Jane Ho.

Sara Jane as author and guide (cheerfully) sticks a fork into the idea that etiquette is about which fork to use. In Sara Jane's brilliant hands etiquette becomes fresh, dynamic, and situation-specific, rather than strict and unforgiving. It is about inclusion, and a balm for the legions of Millennials and Gen Zers on up who have felt their social ties and social ease unraveling through the shadow epidemic of deep loneliness that has underpinned the global COVID crisis.

Sara Jane is an expert cultural navigator, socially fluent in any situation, from dinner with an ambassador to attending a pool party with a bunch of Aussie frat boys (she was 36), and is opening up her bag of tricks to equip readers with the tools to gain that fluency for themselves. Her techniques draw inspiration from her life-long study of human behavior as a "micro-anthropologist", as well as diverse cultures, including her Chinese roots, and can empower anyone from social butterflies to wallflowers to expertly navigate their social lives with ease \*and\* fun. What Sara Jane has learned through navigating many cultures since early childhood is that we all move among many "microcultures" every day, even when we never leave home: Friendship and Social Life, Family Ties, Career-ing, Dating & Relationships, and Food & Travel are all different microcultures, and constitute the five divisions of the book. Each section thoughtfully addresses specific aspects of microcultural etiquette, interspersed with specific fixes (FAQ's) in which Sara Jane provides no-nonsense solutions to common questions and dilemmas, salted with wit and candor and often a cross-cultural twist.

With Sara Jane, no question is off limits, and no situation too sticky; she entertains and empowers anyone looking for how to politely handle the not-so-polite situations that can cause social shutdown. Sara Jane's mission is to help every reader jump everyday relationship hurdles to experience the joy and transformation of social fluency—the deep contentment that comes from winning friends... and keeping them.



- ❖ A fresh, dynamic, and inclusive way for readers to thrive in any situation and transform their lives
- ❖ A perfect guidebook for those looking to refresh their social skills (especially timely after three years of the pandemic)
- ❖ Sarah Jane Ho is the star of Netflix's *Mind Your Manners*
- ❖ Polished and unpretentious etiquette guru and life coach Sara Jane brilliantly redefines etiquette for modern life

**Sara Jane Ho** is a global etiquette leader for modern women in China and around the world. A Hong Kong native and graduate of Harvard Business School, Sara is the founder of Institute Sarita, China's first etiquette school — named one of the World's 50 Most Innovative Companies by Fast Company. She was named to *Forbes'* Women to Watch in Asia 2013 and BBC's 100 Women 2015. She is also the author of the bestselling Chinese-language book *Finishing Touch: Good Manners for the Debutante* and the host of *The Sara Show* on Beijing Television, Tencent Video, and YouTube. She is the star of Netflix's *Mind Your Manners*, which debuted in November 2022, and author of the forthcoming book of the same name, to be published by Hachette Go.

Non-Fiction

US: Hachette Go, April 2024

UK: Macmillan/Bluebird, April 2024

Page Count: 304

Translation rights sold: Russian (Alpina)

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# HOW TO GET A LIFE IN TEN DATES

Jenny L. Howe

- ❖ A young woman who's fed up with dating challenges her family and friends to set her up on ten dates, but gets more than she bargained for when her best friend adds himself to the roster.

## Praise for *On the Plus Side*

"Timely, humorous, and heartfelt, this exceptional tale of self-acceptance deserves a place on every romance lover's shelf."

– *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"Featuring a curvy heroine finding confidence while falling in love...Recommended for fans of *Spoiler Alert* by Olivia Dade and *The Charm Offensive* by Alison Cochrun." – *Library Journal*

"Folks standing up for what's right always makes for a good story, and the friendship-to-love relationship between Everly and Logan is fun and fulfilling." – *Booklist*

## Praise for *The Make-Up Test*

"Original, clever, sizzling...I'll read anything Jenny Howe writes!"  
– Ali Hazelwood, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Love Hypothesis*

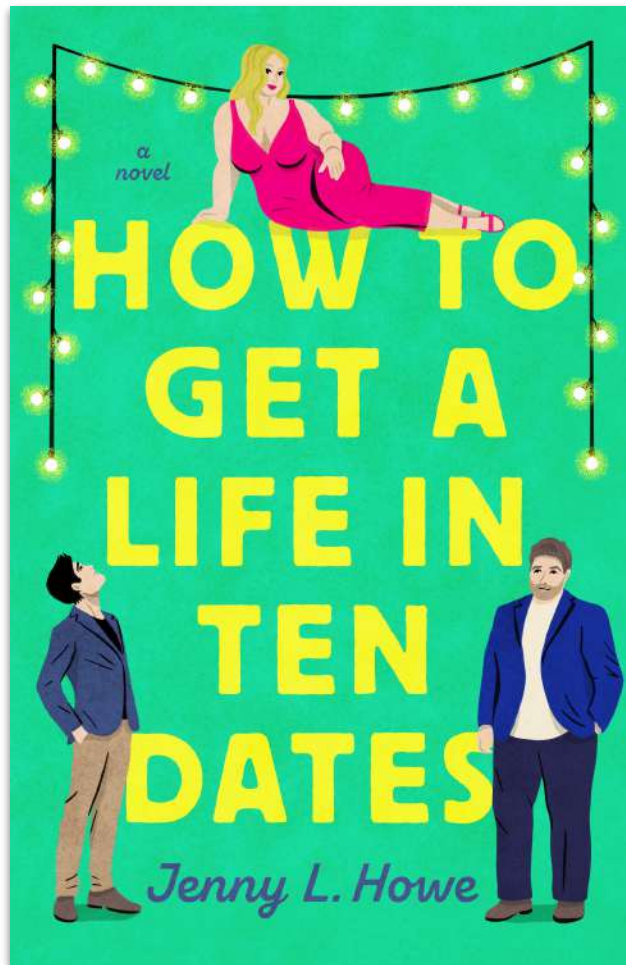
"With clever writing that makes her grad school rivals simmer and spark on the page, Jenny Howe has crafted a love story that feels not just swoony and heart-stirring, but achingly, breathtakingly *real*."  
– Rachel Lynn Solomon, author of *The Ex-Talk* and *Weather Girl*

Fiction

US: Macmillan/St. Martin's, December 2024

Page Count: TK

Translation rights sold for *The Make-Up Test*: Dutch (Hamley), German (Aufbau), Russian (MTS), Spanish (Urano)



Dating as a plus-size woman has been exhausting for Haleigh Berkshire. Sure, she's only twenty-five, but she's been doing it for a decade, and she's beginning to think it's time for a sabbatical. It doesn't help that she's been madly in love with her best friend, Jack, for years--but one disastrous weekend in college taught her the hard way that they'll never be more than friends.

With her sister's engagement party fast approaching, and her friends and family nagging her about a plus-one, Haleigh and Jack do what they do best: scheme. Haleigh agrees to let her friends and family set her up with ten men or women--and she's sure that, once none of them prove to be good matches, her loved ones will finally let her fade into romantic retirement in peace.

To her surprise, some of Haleigh's dates go better than expected, and for the first time in forever, she's actually having fun. Until Jack starts breaking all the rules they'd made to mend their friendship in college. He produces a laundry list of flaws for everyone she likes, crashes some of her nights out, and finally shocks her by throwing himself into the mix. Dating Jack has always been the dream, but Haleigh is afraid of the reality. Is it worth risking her best friend for something that may have never been meant to be?

**Jenny Howe** is a professor writing and literature at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, where she teaches courses that focus on the representation of bodies and identities in children's media.. Her debut romantic comedy, *The Make-Up Test*, was published by St. Martin's Press in September 2022, and *On the Plus Side* published in December 2023. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two rescue dogs, Tucker and Dale.

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# THE CROW'S SONG

Amy S. Kaufman

- ❖ A breathtaking reimagining of the Robin Hood ballads, following a female spy who gets swept up in the famed vigilante's schemes
- ❖ Sweeping, romantic, and utterly unforgettable
- ❖ A medieval studies scholar, Amy S. Kaufman draws from her expertise to craft a powerful novel that honors the original ballads while being totally fresh



**Amy S. Kaufman** is a medieval studies scholar whose work has appeared in a number of academic journals, as well as in *The Washington Post* and on *The Public Medievalist*. She is co-author of *The Devil's Historians: How Modern Extremists Abuse the Medieval Past*, published by the University of Toronto Press in June 2020. *The Crow's Song*, a Robin Hood retelling based on the original medieval tales, is her debut novel and will be published by Penguin. She lives in Vancouver with her spouse, a very spoiled cat, and way too many plants for her apartment.

Jane Crow is used to being overlooked. A simple girl, with a simple life, she spends her days selling conserves at market and trying to keep her family afloat. It's not much, but then again, Jane doesn't expect much, and she's content to take her pleasure where she can: namely, with her lover Bran, who is humble, kind, and most importantly, *safe*.

At least, she thought so—until Bran reveals himself to be one of the outlaws who reports to Robin Hood, the infamous Lord of the Greenwood. At Robin's request, Bran brings Jane into the forest to meet him, and while no one else has ever seen Jane for much of...well, *anything*, Robin sees her quiet, unassuming nature for all its potential. He needs a spy in the King's Houses, and with Jane's mother running off and leaving the family home to rot, Jane needs a job.

At first, her work for Robin seems straightforward enough: observe and report on the various nobles who make their way through the King's Houses, including the new Sheriff and Prioress Ibota, both of whom would like to see Robin Hood's head on a spike. But the more she's drawn into Robin's world, the more she's drawn to Robin himself: a man as charismatic as he is cunning, capable of plucking at her heart as easily as he notches an arrow. Bran may be familiar, yes, but Robin *understands* her.

And yet, as his schemes get increasingly complex—and shockingly violent—Jane starts to suspect that Robin's good deeds have a darker edge, that he may care more about cementing his own legacy than he cares about the common people. And that, despite his declarations of affection, she might be just another game to him. Just an object to be stolen.

When Jane is caught spying and forced to serve as a double agent for the Sheriff and Prioress Ibota, she must decide: is she a prize to be won, a pawn to be used and discarded—or is she an equal player in the game between nobles and thieves?

Fiction

US: Penguin, February 2025

Page Count: TK

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# A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Mary McMyne

- ❖ From the author of *The Book of Gothel* comes the lush, magical story behind Shakespeare's sonnets, as told by one of his most famous subjects—the incendiary and mysterious Dark Lady

## Praise for *The Book of Gothel*

"McMyne's shimmering debut gives a fresh, exciting backstory to one of the most famous villains in fairy tale lore: the witch who put Rapunzel in her tower... Fans of *Circe* and *The Wolf and the Woodsman* will devour this taut, empowering fairy tale." – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"McMyne's debut is a reinvention of the Rapunzel fairy tale, a luscious origin story from the witch's point of view." –*Booklist*, **starred review**

"Smart, swift, sure-footed and fleet-winged, *The Book of Gothel* launches its magic from a most reliable source: the troubled heart. Mary McMyne is a magician. Her take on the Rapunzel tale glows like a cloisonné gem set against a fist of dark soapstone." – Gregory Maguire, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wicked*

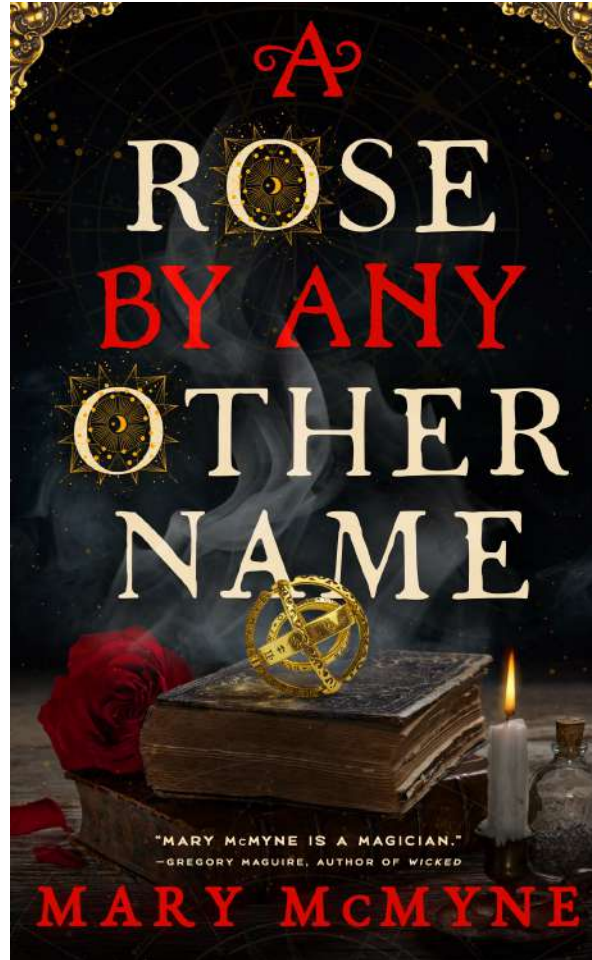
"Both gently and fiercely told, *The Book of Gothel* is a sweeping, sharp story of how history twists into fairytale and back again." – Hannah F. Whitten, *New York Times* bestselling author of *For the Wolf*

Fiction

US and UK: Hachette/Redhook, July 2024

Page Count: 368

Translation rights sold for *The Book of Gothel*: Russian (Eksmo), Spanish (Urano)



**England, 1591.** Rose Rushe's passion for life runs deep—she loves mead and music, meddles with astrology, and laughs at her mother's warnings to guard her reputation. When Rose's father dies and a noble accuses her and her dear friend Cecely of witchcraft, they flee to the household of respected alchemists in London. But as their bond deepens, their sanctuary begins to feel more like a cage. To escape, they turn to the occult, secretly casting charms and selling astrological advice in the hopes of building a life together. This thriving underground business leads Rose to fair young noble Henry and playwright Will Shakespeare, and so begins a brief, tempestuous, and powerful romance—one filled with secret longings and deep betrayals.

In this world of dazzling masques and decadent feasts, where the stars decide futures, Rose will write her own fate instead.

**Mary McMyne** is the author of *The Book of Gothel* (2022) and *A Rose by Any Other Name* (2024), published by Redhook and Orbit UK. She has published short stories, poems, and essays in venues such as *Gulf Coast*, *Redivider*, *Strange Horizons*, *Apex Magazine*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, and *Southern Humanities Review*. She is the recipient of the Faulkner-Wisdom Prize for a Novel-in-Progress, a grant from the Sustainable Arts Foundation, and a National Endowment for the Arts Parent Fellowship to Vermont Studio Center, among other honors. Her debut poetry chapbook, *Wolf Skin* (Dancing Girl Press, 2014), won the Elgin Chapbook Award. A graduate of the New York University MFA Program, she is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Lake Superior State University.



- ❖ **A thoughtful collection of essays about a variety of approaches to writing and literature**

### Praise for Brenda Miller

“Five stars for *Tell It Slant* ... An enlightening, comprehensive, and very satisfying text on writing and shaping creative nonfiction.” – Sheila Bender, editor and publisher of [writingitreal.com](http://writingitreal.com) and author of *Writing and Publishing Personal Essays*, on *Tell It Slant*

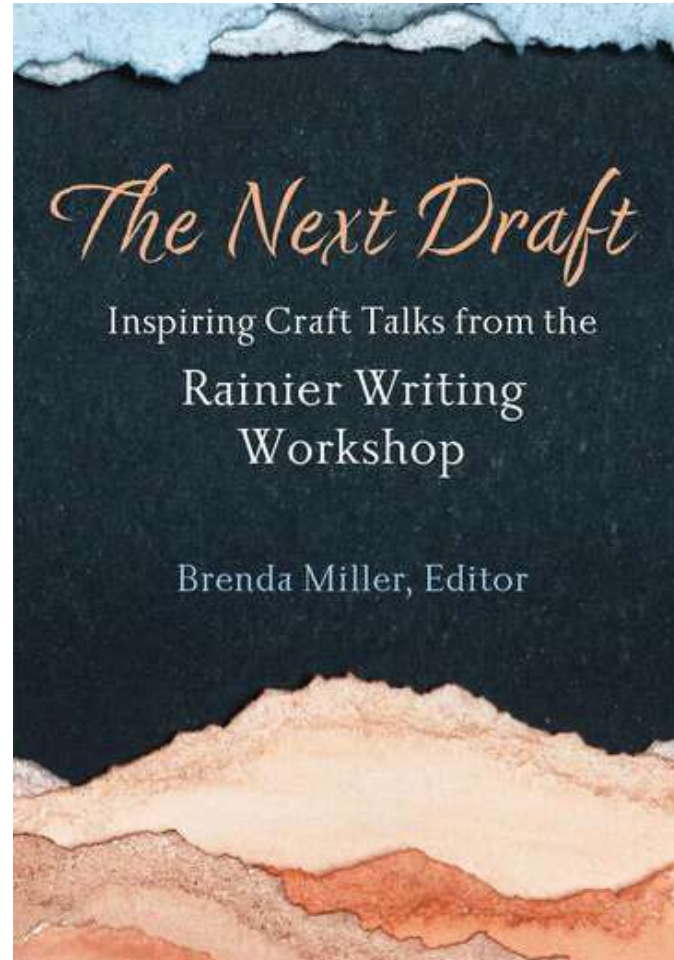
“Miller soars when she captures such personal, vivid details...solid and practical...aspiring writers will find some sound advice.” – *Publishers Weekly*, on *A Braided Heart*

“Brenda Miller’s *A Braided Heart* is a thoughtful exploration of not only why and how we write, but also why we pursue the artist’s life. What a pleasure to spend time immersed in the intimate workings of such a generous, gentle, and brilliant creative mind. The perfect book for any writer, at every stage.” –Dinty W. Moore, author of *The Mindful Writer*, on *A Braided Heart*

“Brenda Miller’s collection of essays on writing and form gives us necessary and illuminating glimpses into the writing life and the life of writing. Who better than one of our most insightful and prized writers to guide us along the pathways, whether secret or well-trod, of the lyric essay?” – Marcia Aldrich, author of *Companion to an Untold Story*, on *A Braided Heart*

# THE NEXT DRAFT

Brenda Miller



*The Next Draft: Inspiring Craft Talks from the Rainier Writing Workshop* brings together a selection of the “morning talks” delivered by the renowned authors who teach at the prestigious Rainier Writing Workshop MFA program. These morning talks are a highlight of the residencies at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, featuring inspiring, innovative approaches to writing and literature across genres.

For this collection, Brenda Miller has selected essays that feature diverse and illustrious writers such as Geoffrey Davis, Marjorie Sandor, Barrie Jean Borich, Jenny Johnson, Oliver de la Paz, Lia Purpura, Kent Myers, Rebecca McClanahan, and others. Ranging from reading and writing in the Jewish tradition of midrash to the role of the writer as cultural critic in the 21st century, *The Next Draft* brings to life the kind of intellectual and creative excitement that underlies the intensive MFA experience at Pacific Lutheran University. Not only do these talks show innovative approaches to writing and literature across genres, they inspire the reader to think about how to read differently and thus bring their own work to a new level.

**Brenda Miller** is Professor of Creative Writing at Western Washington University and associate faculty at the Rainier Writing Workshop. Her other books include *A Braided Heart: Essays on Writing and Form* (University of Michigan Press, 2021).

# THE DESIGN OF US

Sajni Patel

- ❖ One impulsive lie leads to a weeklong adventure of fake dating for two bickering coworkers in this swoony destination wedding rom-com
- ❖ From the author of *The Trouble With Hating You* and *First Love, Take Two*

## Praise for *The Design of Us*

“The perfectly designed romcom.” – Ali Hazelwood #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Love, Theoretically*

## Praise for *The Trouble With Hating You*

“Readers will root for Liya as she struggles against community gossip and the weight of disappointing the people who should love her unconditionally. The enemies-to-lovers arc is classic, but the cultural specificity Patel brings makes this rom-com feel fun and fresh.” –*Publishers Weekly*

“Patel’s vivid comedy of conflict and love within an upscale, urban Indian American enclave features endearing protagonists within a circle of friends who all act with integrity and strength.” –*Booklist*

**Sajni Patel** is the author of the adult contemporary romances, *The Trouble With Hating You* (Hachette/Forever), *First Love, Take Two* (Hachette/Forever), and *Isha, Unscripted* (Penguin/Berkley). Her YA novels include *The Knockout*, *My Sister’s Big Fat Indian Wedding*, *Sleepless in Dubai*, and *A Drop of Venom*. Prior to her writing career, she worked in aerospace research with the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Born in India, she currently lives in Hawaii with her family.



Sunshine incarnate Bhanu brings big UX energy to whatever she does, including going for the promotion where her only serious competition is her work nemesis, AKA Sunny, the grump with the Denzel voice. She expected to get a reprieve from him while visiting her family in Hawai‘i, but the universe has other plans. When Bhanu runs into Sunny at the hotel and witnesses his ex criticizing him about being single, Bhanu does the first thing that comes to she impetuously claims to be Sunny’s girlfriend just to get some peace and quiet. Except Sunny is on island for a friend’s wedding and his ex has already texted the entire wedding party about this mysterious girlfriend.

Bhanu truly is the bane of Sunny’s existence. But the last thing he wants to do is cause tension during his friend’s wedding festivities, much less be the object of their pity. He has no choice except to play along, if only he and Bhanu can put aside their quarreling and act like a real couple.

Between Bhanu’s hilariously meddling family and Sunny’s ecstatic friends, the two are pushed closer together, even as stress mounts over the impending promotion.

They say what happens on island, stays on island. But as Sunny and Bhanu let their guards down, will either of them be able to resist this romantic getaway without crossing the line?

Fiction

US: Berkley, July 2024

Page Count: 368

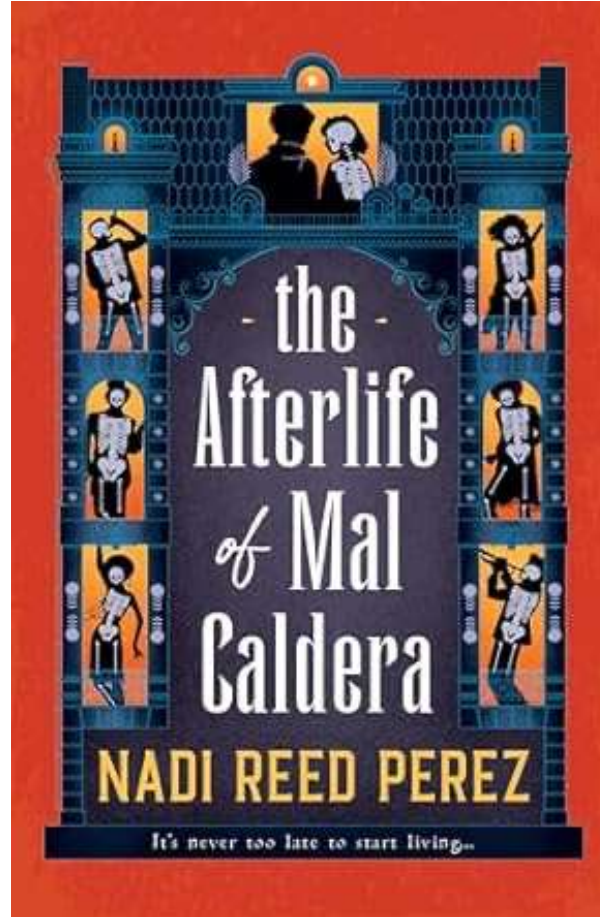
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# THE AFTERLIFE OF MAL CALDERA

*Nadi Reed Perez*

- ❖ After dying, a young woman desperately tries to communicate with her grief-stricken sister
- ❖ A poignant exploration of mental illness and postmortem redemption
- ❖ For fans of *The Good Place* and *The Midnight Library*



Nadi Reed Perez is an author whose debut novel, *The Afterlife of Mal Caldera*, will be published in 2024 by Titan Books. They were a 2020 Pitch Wars mentee and write for *The Call of the Flame*, a high fantasy audio drama. They live near Denver with their two cats and a few probable ghosts.

Mal Caldera is dead. That's fine with her, or so she thinks; after all, she'd always joked that she was destined for the 27 Club. But when she witnesses her sister Cris arriving at her old apartment in search of a suicide note or anything that will give her answers, sharp-tongued yet soft-hearted Mal is suddenly struck with overwhelming guilt. She never meant for Cris to suffer alone—or in the company of their manipulative, holier-than-thou mother.

Dwelling on the past is dangerous on the other side, though, as ghosts who remain alone with their regrets turn into poltergeists, forced to relive their worst memories for eternity. When Mal is discovered by Alastair, a dangerously attractive psychopomp with a flair for seduction, he warns her that the best way to avoid going geist is to move on—in other words, to join him and a group of local spirits at the Haunt, an abandoned mansion where the dead dance, drink, and debauch their way through the afterlife.

Despite the all-too-tempting offer to fall back into her old ways, Mal refuses to cut loose when she has so much unfinished business. Convinced she has nothing left to lose, she's quite literally hellbent on finding a way to communicate to her sister across the veil that she didn't *mean* to take her own life—it just kind of happened.

But between Alastair's stubborn presence, a budding romance with a living medium who's getting a little too used to helping the dead, and the shy hopefulness of a squad of young spirits, Mal starts realizing that maybe there *is* a way to make the most of her afterlife, even if it's not the same as living. Even if she doesn't have the best track record for sticking around for her friends or family. Even if it means holding herself accountable for what she's done for the first time ever.

If she wants a second chance at life in death, Mal must forgive herself for her past mistakes and learn to be a better friend, lover, and sister, or be doomed to repeat her past forever.

Fiction

US and UK: Titan, June 2024

Page Count: 464

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# THE TOWNSEND FAMILY RECIPE FOR DISASTER

Shauna Robinson

❖ A big-hearted novel about a biracial woman looking to reconnect with her Black family

❖ Sweet, funny, charming, and guaranteed to make you hungry!

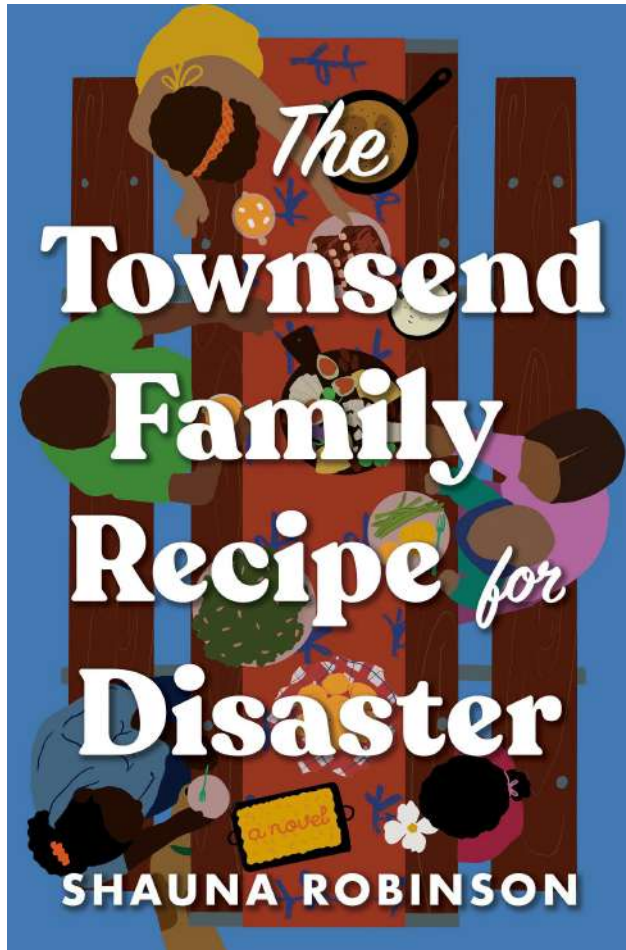
## Praise for *Must Love Books*

"*Must Love Books* is a heartfelt and exciting debut. With a relatable protagonist in Nora, frank discussions of the Millennial experience, and pitch-perfect sweetness, Shauna Robinson puts forth a wise and honest story of how it feels to be a young woman in search of yourself." – Taylor Jenkins Reid, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* and *Malibu Rising*

"A book for book lovers that takes a hard look at the predatory approach of the corporate world with a heroine who's easy to love and root for. I enjoyed all of the inside look at the publishing industry from the perspective of a young woman scraping together all of her wits just to get by. It's impossible not to root for Nora!" – Jesse Q. Sutanto, bestselling author of *Dial A for Aunties* and *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*

"Honest, relatable, and real, *Must Love Books* is a tender reflection on finding your person while you're still desperately searching for yourself rolled up in a thoughtful novel about the changing work world." – KJ Dell'Antonia, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Chicken Sisters*

"A heartfelt, relatable and thoughtfully-observed story of a young woman's journey to find happiness and fulfilment." – Lauren Ho, author of *Last Tang Standing*



Mae Townsend is getting married, but instead of the quiet courthouse wedding she always dreamed of, her in-laws have planned a lavish celebration at their winery and everyone is coming. Everyone, except for Mae's family. The Townsends.

As a biracial woman, Mae has always felt like the odd one out among her white relatives. Relatives who, despite meaning well, always treated her and her Black father differently. For that reason, she has long wished to know the other side of her family, the Townsends, but her father always kept her from them and never told her why. And now that he's gone, she can't ask him.

When her paternal grandmother Althea passes away, Mae decides to head south to attend the funeral, never mind that her wedding is three weeks away and she has a million things to do. Dress fittings, cake tastings, dancing lessons—it can wait. This is her chance. Maybe, just maybe, she'll be able to connect with the family she has always wanted, and perhaps she'll even be able to convince them to come to her wedding.

But they are *not* happy to see her, no one more so than her cousin, Sierra. But Mae persists, and when she learns that Grandma Althea's beloved mac-n-cheese recipe seems to have died with her, she sees it as the perfect excuse to linger with the Townsends a little bit longer: Mae will recreate the recipe, no matter how many times she has to try—and no matter how Sierra gripes about her attempts.

But when family secrets come to light, Mae becomes more determined than ever to bring her family together.

**Shauna Robinson** is the author of *Must Love Books*, an Indie Next Pick and Amazon Best Book of the Month for Romance for February 2022, and *The Banned Bookshop of Maggie Banks*, an Amazon Best Book of the Month for Romance for November 2022. Her next novel from Sourcebooks will be *The Townsend Family Recipe for Disaster*. She received her Bachelor's degree in English from UC Berkeley and lives in Virginia with her husband and their sleepy greyhound.

Fiction

US: Sourcebooks, July 2024

Page Count: TK

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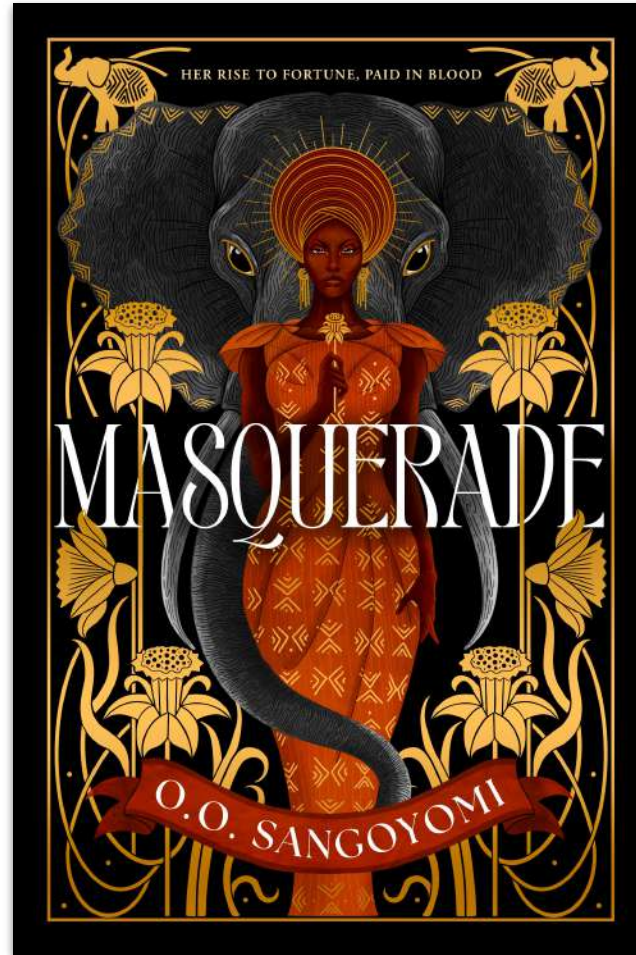
# MASQUERADE

O.O. Sangoyomi

- ❖ A journey through a reimagined, pre-colonial West Africa, amid power struggles and political intrigue that turn an entire region on its head
- ❖ A dazzling debut from an exciting new author
- ❖ Pitched as *Circe* meets *Black Panther*
- ❖ Selected for OwlCrate

O.O. Sangoyomi is a Nigerian American author with a penchant for African mythology and history. During a childhood of constantly moving around within the US, she found an anchored home in the fictional worlds of books. Sangoyomi is a recent graduate of Princeton University, where she studied English and African American Studies. Her debut novel, *Masquerade*, will be published by Macmillan/Forge in July 2024.

Fiction  
US: Macmillan/Forge, July 2024  
UK: Rebellion, July 2024  
Page Count: 352



Òdòdó's hometown of Timbuktu has been conquered by the warrior king of Yorùbáland. Already shunned as social pariahs, living conditions for Òdòdó and the other women in her blacksmith guild grow even worse under Yorùbá rule.

Then Òdòdó is abducted. She is whisked across the Sahara to the capital city of Šàngótẹ̀, where she is shocked to discover that her kidnapper is none other than the vagrant who had visited her guild just days prior. But now that he is swathed in riches rather than rags, Òdòdó realizes he is not a vagrant at all; he is the warrior king, and he has chosen her to be his wife.

In a sudden change of fortune, Òdòdó soars to the very heights of society. But after a lifetime of subjugation, the power that saturates this world of battle and political savvy becomes too enticing to resist. And as tensions with rival states reveal elaborate schemes and enemies hidden in plain sight, she must re-forge the shaky loyalties of the court to her favor, or risk losing everything—including her life.

Loosely based on the myth of Persephone, *Masquerade* is a dazzling, lyrical tale of the true cost of one woman's fight for freedom and self-discovery in a patriarchal society, and the lengths she'll go to secure her future.

# YOU WILL NEVER BE ME

Jesse Q. Sutanto

- ❖ A fascinating new suspense novel about an influencer who goes missing
- ❖ From the bestselling author of *Dial A For Aunties* and *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*

Praise *You Will Never Be Me*

"The heir apparent to Patricia Highsmith, Jesse Q. Sutanto is one of the boldest and most unapologetic, unflinching voices in crime fiction today. *YOU WILL NEVER BE ME* is an utterly unputdownable triumph, a skewering, yet somehow sympathetic peek behind the lives of momfluencer culture and the impossible expectations society heaps upon women. A standing ovation!" – May Cobb, author of *The Hunting Wives*

"Heavy is the head that wears the mom-fluencer crown, and you won't be able to turn the pages fast enough to see whose heads will roll in the deliciously twisted, *You Will Never Be Me*." – Vanessa Lillie, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Blood Sisters*

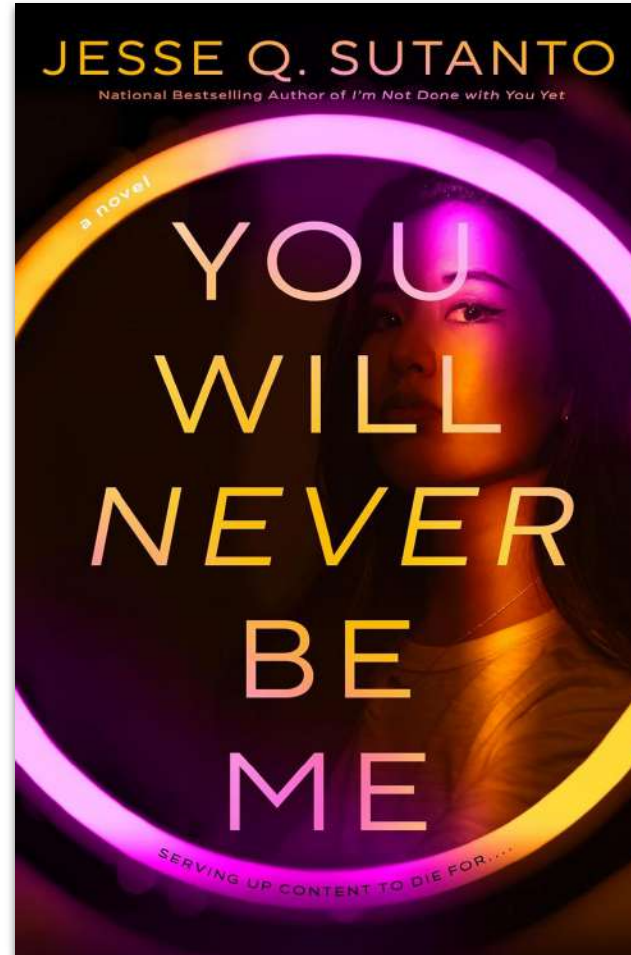
*You Will Never Be Me* is an ultra twisty, unpredictable, and devilishly fun thrill ride, exploring the dark side of influencer culture. Prepare to be shocked and wildly entertained by this gripping and addictive thriller. Jesse Sutanto is a true talent! — Jeneva Rose, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Home is Where the Bodies Are*

Fiction

US: Penguin/Berkley, August 2024

UK: HarperCollins/HQ, August 2024

Page Count: TK



Meredith didn't teach Aspen how to blossom on social media just to be ditched as soon as Aspen became big. So can anyone really blame Mer for doing a little stalking? Nothing serious. More like Stalking Lite. Then Mer gets lucky; she finds one of Aspen's kids' iPads and swipes it. Now she has access to everything. The family calendar. Aspen's social media accounts. Would anyone else be able to resist tweaking things a little here and there, showing up in Aspen's place for meetings with potential sponsors? Mer's only taking back what she deserves.

Meanwhile, Aspen doesn't understand why her perfectly filtered life is falling apart. Sponsors are dropping her, fellow influencers are ghosting her, and even her own husband seems to find her repulsive. If she doesn't find out who's behind everything, she might just lose it all. But what everyone seems to forget is that Aspen didn't become one of TikTok's biggest momfluencers by being naive. When Meredith goes missing, Aspen's world is upended, and Aspen needs to find out who's threatening her before it's too late.

**Jesse Q. Sutanto** is the author of *Dial A for Aunties*, *Four Aunties and a Wedding*, *The Obsession*, *The New Girl*, *Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit*, *Theo Tan and the Iron Fan*, *Well That Was Unexpected*, *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*, and *I'm Not Done With You Yet*. The film rights to her women's fiction, *Dial A for Aunties*, were bought by Netflix in a competitive bidding war, and the TV rights to *Vera Wong* have been bought by Warner Bros, with Oprah and Mindy Kaling attached to produce. Jesse lives in Indonesia with her husband, her two daughters, and her ridiculously large extended family.



# THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE AUNTIES

Jesse Q. Sutanto

- ❖ What should have been a family celebration of Chinese New Year descends into chaos when longtime foes crash the party in this hilariously entertaining novel by Jesse Q. Sutanto, bestselling author of *Dial A for Aunties*.
- ❖ Optioned by Netflix

Praise for *Dial A for Aunties*

“Murder is never funny, except when it is.” – *Booklist*

“Readers will die for the delightfully absurd hijinks in this dark comedy.” – *Kirkus*

“Utterly clever, deeply funny, and altogether charming.”  
– Emily Henry, bestselling author of *Beach Read*

“I LOVED it. Whip-smart, original, and so funny.” – Beth O’Leary, bestselling author of *The Switch*

“A rip-roaring treat! Dark comedy at its finest!” – Abigail Mann, author of *The Lonely Fajita*

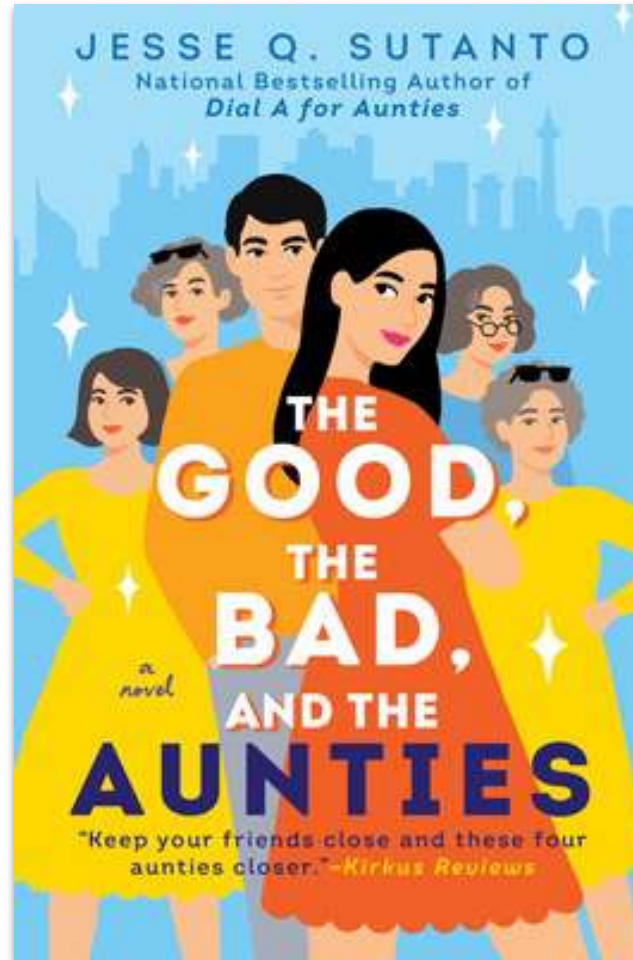
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Fiction

US: Penguin/Berkley, March 2024

UK: HarperCollins/HQ, March 2024

Page Count: 304



After an ultra-romantic honeymoon across Europe, Meddy Chan and her husband Nathan have landed in Jakarta to spend Chinese New Year with her entire extended family. Chinese New Year, already the biggest celebration of the Lunar calendar, gets even more festive when a former beau of Second Aunt’s shows up at the Chan residence bearing extravagant gifts—he’s determined to rekindle his romance with Second Aunt and the gifts are his way of announcing his courtship.

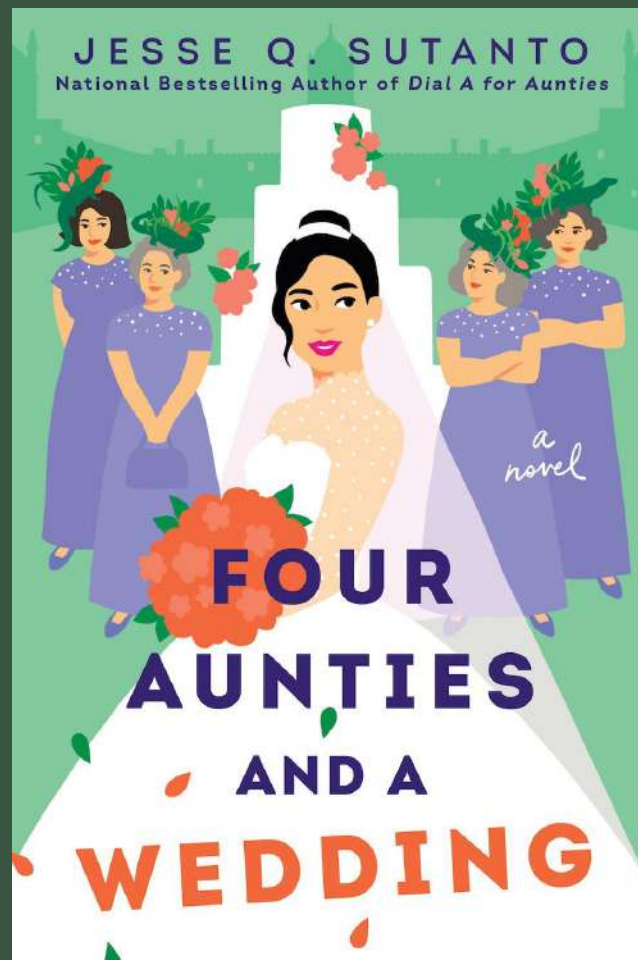
His grand gesture goes awry however, when it’s discovered that not all the gifts were meant for Second Aunt and the Chans—one particular gift was intended for a business rival to cement their alliance and included by accident. Of course the Aunties agree that it’s only right to return the gift—after all, anyone would forgive an honest mistake, right? But what should have been a simple retrieval turns disastrous and suddenly Meddy and the Aunties are helpless pawns in a decades-long war between Jakarta’s most powerful business factions. The fighting turns personal, however, when Nathan and the Aunties are endangered and it’s up to Meddy to come up with a plan to save them all. Determined to rescue her loved ones, Meddy embarks on an impossible mission—but with the Aunties by her side, nothing is truly impossible...

**Jesse Q. Sutanto** is the author of *Dial A for Aunties*, *Four Aunties and a Wedding*, *The Obsession*, *The New Girl*, *Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit*, *Theo Tan and the Iron Fan*, *Well That Was Unexpected*, *Vera Wong’s Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*, and *I’m Not Done With You Yet*. The film rights to her women’s fiction, *Dial A for Aunties*, were bought by Netflix in a competitive bidding war, and the TV rights to *Vera Wong* have been bought by Warner Bros, with Oprah and Mindy Kaling attached to produce. Jesse lives in Indonesia with her husband, her two daughters, and her ridiculously large extended family.

Translation rights sold for *Dial A For Aunties*: Czech (Jota), French (Hachette), German (Aufbau), Hungarian (Maxim), Lithuanian (Briedis), Polish (Marginesy), Portuguese – Brazil (Intrineca), Portuguese – Portugal (Club do Autor), Romanian (Corint), Russian (AST), Turkish (Ren Kitap)

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# MEET THE AUNTIES

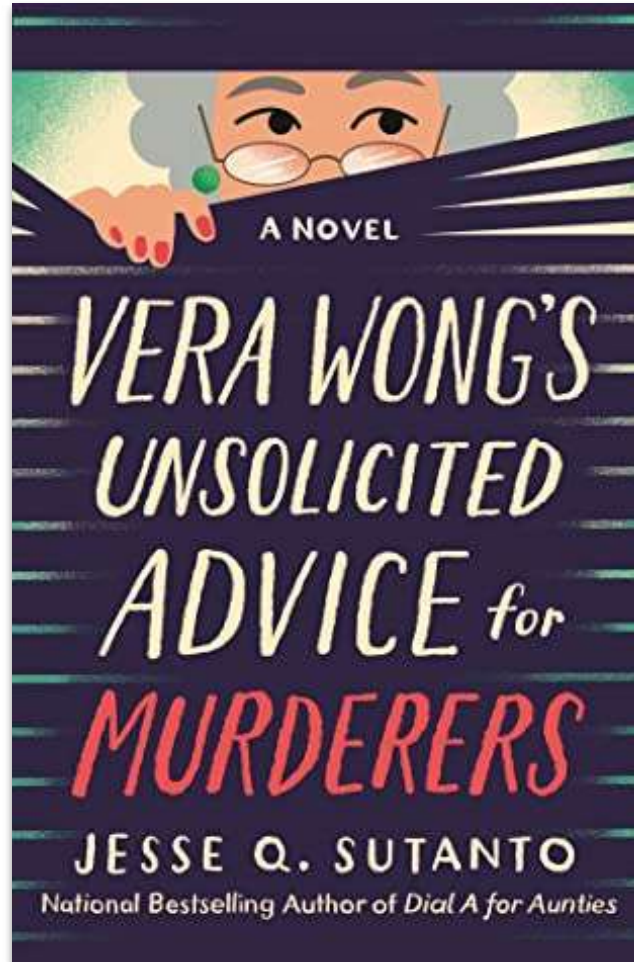




# VERA WONG'S UNSOLICITED ADVICE FOR MURDERERS

Jesse Q. Sutanto

- ❖ A lonely shopkeeper takes it upon herself to solve a murder in the most peculiar way in this captivating mystery from the bestselling author of *Dial A for Aunties*.
- ❖ A *USA Today* Bestseller
- ❖ TV rights bought by Warner Bros, with Oprah and Mindy Kaling attached to produce



## Praise for *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*

"Vera Wong is my new favorite sleuth! This book is comfort food for the soul. Every chapter is bursting with wisdom and heart." – Elle Cosimano, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Finlay Donovan Is Killing It*

"I'll promise you this: you've never met a character quite like Vera Wong, and once she gets under your skin, you'll never forget her, nor will you want to." – Laurie Elizabeth Flynn, author of *The Girls Are All So Nice Here*

"Jesse Sutanto has once again weaved her magic and gifted us with another winner. *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* is a signature Sutanto creation, a feel-good genre-defying comedic whodunnit with a superb cast of characters headed by the indomitable, chaotically funny Vera, indubitably one of the best senior protagonists I've seen in a long while. A+, no notes."—Lauren Ho, bestselling author of *Last Tang Standing* and *Lucie Yi Is Not A Romantic*

Fiction

US: Penguin/Berkley, March 2023

UK: HarperCollins/HQ, March 2023

Page Count: 384

Translation rights sold: Bulgarian (Ciela Norma), Estonian (Heu Lugu), Finnish (Kirjapaja), Hungarian (Maxim), Indonesian (Gramedia), Portuguese – Brazil (Intrinseca), Romanian (Corint), Russian (AST), Ukrainian (Old Lion)

Vera Wong is a lonely little old lady—ah, lady of a certain age—who lives above her forgotten tea shop in the middle of San Francisco's Chinatown. Despite living alone, Vera is not needy, oh no. She likes nothing more than sipping on a good cup of Wulong and doing some healthy detective work on the Internet about what her Gen-Z son is up to.

Then one morning, Vera trudges downstairs to find a curious thing—a dead man in the middle of her tea shop. In his outstretched hand, a flash drive. Vera doesn't know what comes over her, but after calling the cops like any good citizen would, she sort of...swipes the flash drive from the body and tucks it safely into the pocket of her apron. Why? Because Vera is sure she would do a better job than the police possibly could, because nobody sniffs out a wrongdoing quite like a suspicious Chinese mother with time on her hands. Vera knows the killer will be back for the flash drive; all she has to do is watch the increasing number of customers at her shop and figure out which one among them is the killer.

What Vera does not expect is to form friendships with her customers and start to care for each and every one of them. As a protective mother hen, will she end up having to give one of her newfound chicks to the police?

**Jesse Q. Sutanto** is the author of *Dial A for Aunties*, *Four Aunties and a Wedding*, *The Obsession*, *The New Girl*, *Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit*, *Theo Tan and the Iron Fan*, *Well That Was Unexpected*, *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*, and *I'm Not Done With You Yet*. The film rights to her women's fiction, *Dial A for Aunties*, were bought by Netflix in a competitive bidding war, and the TV rights to *Vera Wong* have been bought by Warner Bros, with Oprah and Mindy Kaling attached to produce. Jesse lives in Indonesia with her husband, her two daughters, and her ridiculously large extended family.

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# THE STARLETS

*Jennifer Thorne and Lee Kelly*

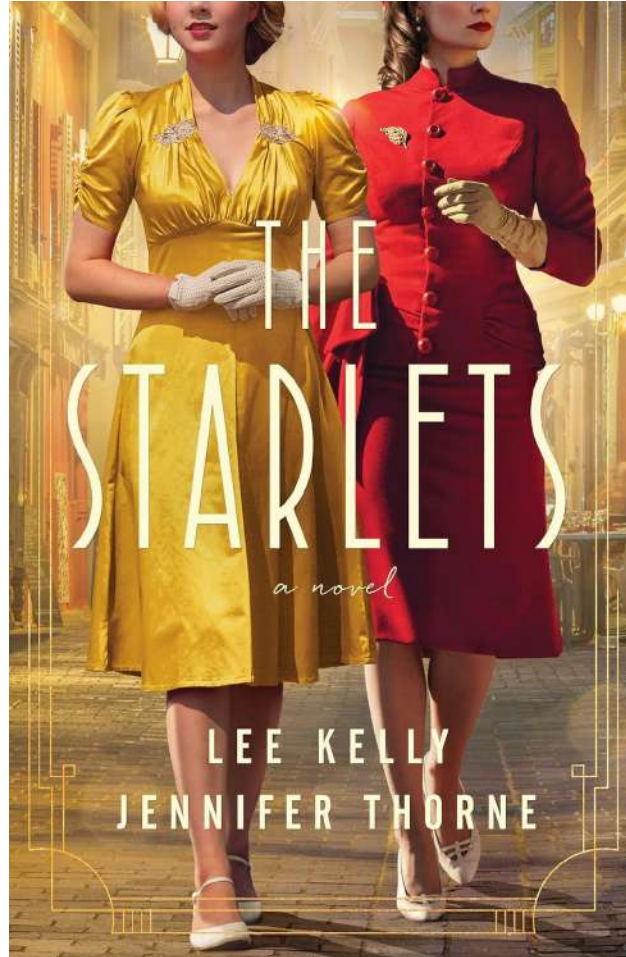
- ❖ A historical adventure from two critically acclaimed authors, perfect for fans of Kate Mosse and Kate Quinn
- ❖ Two rival Hollywood starlets find themselves on the run after uncovering a dangerous scheme on set

## Praise for *The Starlets*

"*The Starlets* is the most fun I've had inside the pages of a book in a long time. The novel flips "friends to foe" on its head, putting two competing actresses in the spotlight, transforming the starlets from adversaries to allies as they race across Europe to take down a kingpin. Shenanigans, quick thinking, and a cat-and-mouse game ensue. A propulsive, page-turning romp perfect for book clubs." - USA Today bestselling author Jenni L. Walsh

**Jennifer Thorne** is an author of books for adults and young readers. Her adult debut, *Lute*, was published by Nightfire in Fall 2022, and *Diavola* published in March 2024. As Jenn Marie Thorne, she is the author of the YA novels *The Wrong Side of Right*, *The Inside of Out*, and *Night Music*. She is also the author of the picture book *Construction Zoo*. She currently lives in Gloucestershire, England with her husband and two sons.

**Lee Kelly** is the author of *The Antiquity Affair*, co-written with Jennifer Thorne, published by Harper Muse in summer 2023, and *With Regrets*, published by Alcove Press in fall 2023. She is also the author of two novels for young adults, *City of Savages* and *A Criminal Magic*. Before becoming a writer, she was an entertainment lawyer who practiced law in Los Angeles and New York. She lives with her husband and children in New Jersey.



Real life is turning out to be stranger than a script for the silver screen.

Vivienne Rhodes thinks she's finally landed her break playing Helen in Apex Pictures' big-budget Troy epic, *A Thousand Ships*, an anticipated blockbuster meant to resurrect the failing studio. Naturally, she's devastated when she arrives on the remote Italian island of Tavalli and finds herself cast as Cassandra—while her nemesis, the fiancée-stealing Lottie Lawrence, America's supposed "sweetheart," is headlining instead.

The tension on set, though, turns deadly when the ladies discover that members of the crew are using the production as a front for something decidedly illegal—and that they are willing to kill to keep their dealings under wraps. When the two women find themselves on the run and holding key evidence, Vivienne and Lottie frantically agree to work together to deliver the proof to Interpol, hoping to protect both their lives and their careers.

Staying one step ahead of corrupt cops and looming mobsters, the arch rivals flee across the seas. Their journey leads them into Monaco's casinos, Grace Kelly's palace, on a road trip through the Alps—even onto another film set, before a final showdown on Tavalli, where the lives of the entire cast and crew hang in the balance. Vivienne and Lottie finally have the chance to be real heroines—to save the day, the film, maybe even each other—but only if they can first figure out how to share the spotlight.



# DIAVOLA

Jennifer Thorne

❖ A family vacation in Italy takes a frightening turn in this sophomore horror novel from Jennifer Thorne

## Praise for *Diavola*

"Thorne's terrifying, perfectly paced latest (after *Lute*, 2022) is a must-read for anyone who likes haunted-house stories." – *Booklist*, **starred review**

Full of emotions, humorous moments, spine-tingling scenes, and lots of tension, Thorne's newest is a modern horror story that will grab readers and not let go." – *Library Journal*, **starred review**

"A wholly unique, wicked twist on the classic haunted house story, Thorne's *Diavola* will take you on a vacation like no other. I feverishly flipped the pages of this inventive horror novel, as enthralled by the family politics as I was by the ghosts." – Lee Kelly, author of *With Regrets*

"Imagine *The Exorcist* meets *The Haunting of Hill House* in a creepy Tuscan villa with lots of atmosphere and a vein of dark humour running throughout. Brilliant!" – Gabriel Dylan, author of *Whiteout*

"Jennifer Thorne scorches the petals right off *The White Lotus* with this supernatural downward spiral of gut-wrenching, teeth-baring terror. If you thought vacationing with your family was a living hell, look no further than *Diavola* as a *primo esempio* that there are deeper, darker levels to descent that would make even Dante blush. This isn't your mama's Italian gothic, this is a literary garrote strapped right at your throat, and my God, does it ever squeeze." - Clay McLeod Chapman, author of *Ghost Eaters*

Fiction

US: Macmillan/Nightfire, March 2024

UK: Titan, March 2024

Page Count: 304

Translation rights sold: Russian (Everbook)



Anna has only two rules for the annual Pace family destination vacations: *Tread lightly, and survive.*

It isn't easy, when she's the only one in the family who doesn't quite seem to fit. Her twin brother Bennie goes with the flow so much he's practically dissolved, and her older sister Nicole is so used to everyone—including her blandly docile husband and two kids—falling in line that Anna often ends up in trouble for simply asking a question. Mom is baffled in general by her life choices (why get all those art degrees only to work in an ad agency?), and Dad, well—he just wants a little peace and quiet.

The gorgeous villa in the tiny, remote Italian town seems like a perfect place to endure so much family time—not to mention Bennie's demanding new boyfriend (it's Christopher, *not* Chris). That is, until things start going off the rails—the strange noises at night, the unsettling warnings from the local villagers, and oh, and the dark, violent past of the villa itself.

Jennifer Thorne skewers all-too-familiar family dynamics in this sly, wickedly funny, vacation-Gothic. Beautifully unhinged and deeply satisfying, *Diavola* is a sharp twist on the classic haunted house story, exploring loneliness, belonging, and the seemingly inescapable bonds of family mythology.

**Jennifer Thorne** is an author of books for adults and young readers. Her adult debut, *Lute*, was published by Nightfire in Fall 2022. As Jenn Marie Thorne, she is the author of the YA novels *The Wrong Side of Right*, *The Inside of Out*, and *Night Music*. She is also the author of the picture book *Construction Zoo*. She currently lives in Gloucestershire, England with her husband and two sons.

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# LAVASH AT FIRST SIGHT

Taleen Voskuni

❖ Sparks fly between two women pitted against each other in this delectable new romantic comedy by Taleen Voskuni, author of *Sorry, Bro*.

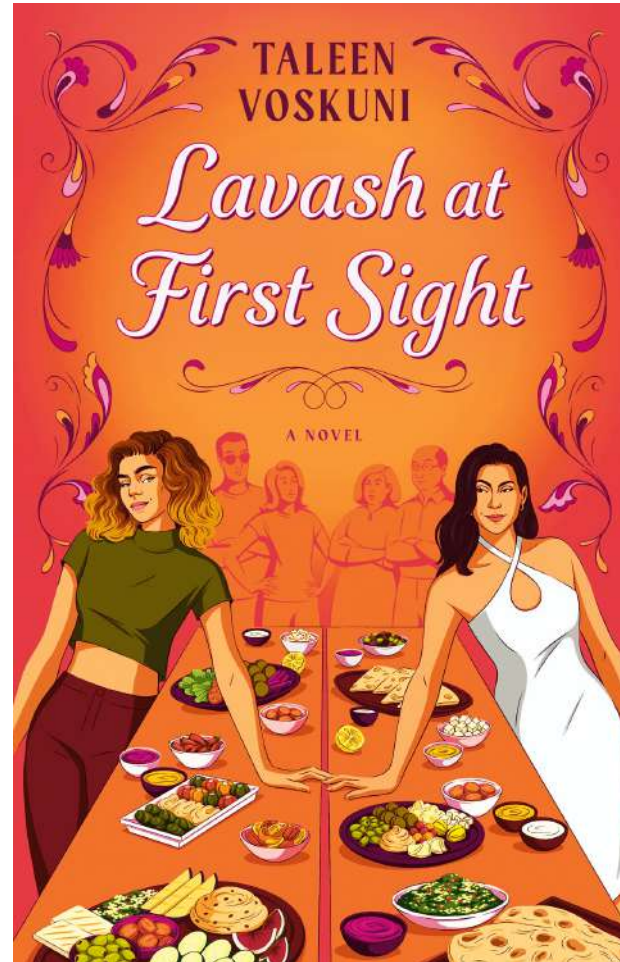
## Praise for *Lavash at First Sight*

"A beautiful story rife with food and family rivalry, *Lavash at First Sight* is smart and sexy, inspiring readers to go after their heart's desire. A dazzling romance."—Ashley Herring Blake, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Iris Kelly Doesn't Date*

"A joyous celebration of Armenian Lebanese culture and cuisine set against a Chicago backdrop, *Lavash at First Sight* is a dazzling and transportive delight! Amidst family rivalry, clever competitions, and dreamy first dates, Taleen Voskuni expertly crafts a gorgeous love story that sizzles with heat. I fell so hard for Nazeli and Vanya that I could not put this book down!"  
– Courtney Kae, author of *In the Event of Love*

"*Lavash at First Sight* is a hilarious and heartwarming romance about finding your authentic self while celebrating where you came from. The chemistry between Ellie and Vanya sparked and sizzled—they were an absolute joy to read. Filled with forbidden love, family rivalry, and cooking competition shenanigans that will leave you with serious food cravings, I adored this deliciously sweet sapphic romance!" – Tori Anne Martin, *USA Today* bestselling author of *This Spells Disaster*

"*Lavash at First Sight* is a heartfelt and dazzling love story that's good enough to eat."— Sarah Hawley, author of *A Witch's Guide to Fake Dating A Demon*



Twenty-seven-year-old Nazeli “Ellie” Gregorian enjoys the prestige of her tech marketing job but hates the condescending Patagonia-clad tech bros, her micromanaging boss, and her ex-boyfriend, who she’s forced to work with every day. When Ellie’s lovingly overbearing parents ask her to attend PakCon—a food packaging conference in Chicago—to help promote their company and vie to win an ad slot in the Superbowl (no big deal), she’s eager for a brief change and a delicious distraction.

At the conference, she meets witty, devil-may-care Vanya Simonian. Ellie can’t believe how easy it is to talk to Vanya and how much they have in common—both Armenian! From the Bay Area! Whose families are into food! Their meet-cute is cut short, however, when Ellie’s parents recognize Vanya as the daughter of the owners of their greatest rival, whose mission (according to Ellie’s mother) is to whitewash and package Armenian food for the American health-food crowd.

Sworn as enemies, Ellie and Vanya must compete against each other under their suspicious parents’ scrutiny, all while their feelings for each other heat to sizzling temperatures.

**Taleen Voskuni** is the author of *Sorry, Bro*, published by Berkley in January 2023. Her work has appeared in *Cleaver Magazine*, *The Bold Italic*, *Mic*, and *Cal Literature & Arts Magazine*. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in English and lives in San Francisco, running a research company by day, parenting a spirited toddler by night, and writing when she can.

Fiction

US: Penguin/Berkley, May 2024

UK: Pan Macmillan, May 2024

Page Count: 304

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- ❖ A jaded bartender is wooed by a charmingly quirky couple in this fresh and sizzling polyamorous rom-com, set in the exclusive world of high-end cocktail bars—from the acclaimed author of *Chef's Choice*.

### Praise for *Triple Sec*

“Putting polyamory front and center, *Triple Sec* is like nothing else I’ve ever read, in the best possible way. It’s sweet! It’s sexy! It’s a completely charming celebration of queer romance, where every person is loved and cared for in the exact way they deserve. I adored it.” – Bridget Morrissey, author of *That Summer Feeling*

“I read the whole book with a smile on my face. A delightful, joyful romance with tempting cocktails and three unique, lovable characters.” – Jackie Law, author of *Love, Lies, and Cherry Pie*

“Saying we need more books like this sounds trite, but it’s true. It’s true because TJ Alexander is a queer author writing queer characters with depth, authenticity, and skill. It’s true because polyamory in the genre is woefully underrepresented. But it’s also true because this book is hilarious and hot as hell, with characters you can’t get enough of.” – Meryl Wilsner, bestselling author of *Cleat Cute*

“A perfectly balanced cocktail of sharp humor, complex characters, and sweet romance spiked with delicious heat.” – Rachel Reid, *USA Today* best-selling author of *Heated Rivalry*

Fiction

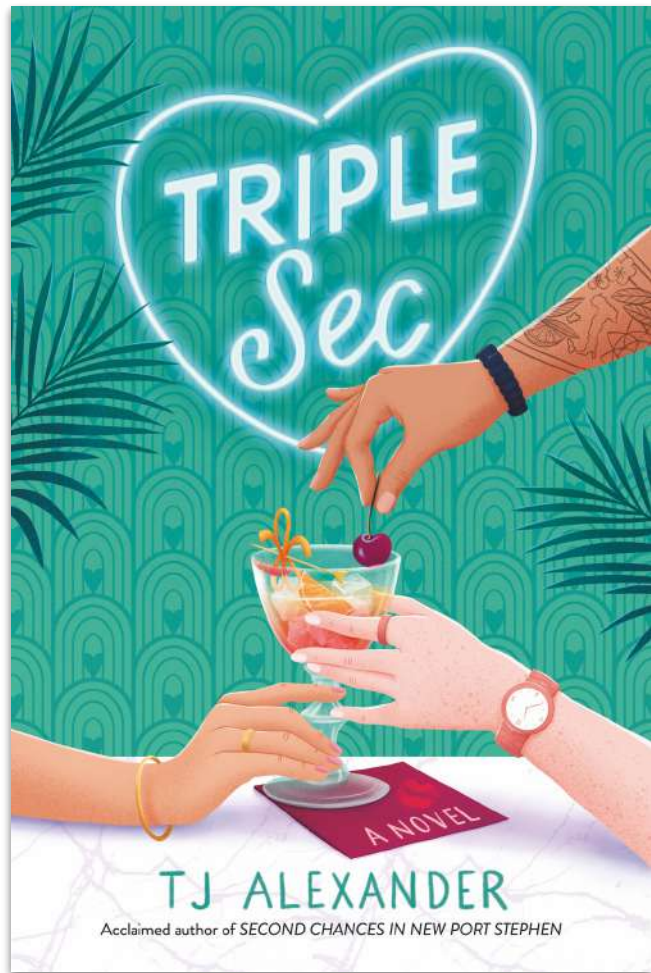
US and UK: Simon & Schuster/Emily Bestler Books, June 2024

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# TRIPLE SEC

## TJ Alexander



As a bartender at Terror & Virtue, a swanky New York City cocktail bar known for its romantic atmosphere and Insta-worthy drinks, Mel has witnessed plenty of disastrous dates. That, coupled with her own romantic life being in shambles, has Mel convinced that love doesn’t exist.

But when Bebe walks into the bar, she’s beautiful, funny, knows her whiskeys—and is happily married to her partner, Kade. Just as Mel’s resigned to forget the whole thing, Bebe makes her a unique offer: since she and Kade are in an open relationship, she’s interested in taking Mel on a date.

What starts as a fun romp turns into a burgeoning relationship, and soon Mel is trying all sorts of things she’d been avoiding, from grand romantic gestures to steamy exploits. Mel even gets the self-confidence to enter a cocktail competition that would make her dream of opening her own bar a reality. When the chaotic whirl of all these new experiences leads Mel to realize there might be a spark between her and Kade, too, the three of them explore their connections—and Mel begins to realize that real love might be more expansive than she ever thought possible.

**TJ Alexander** is an amateur baker and author who writes about queer joy. Originally from South Florida, they received their MA in Writing & Publishing from Emerson College in Boston. They live in New York City with their wife.

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# SECOND CHANCES IN NEW PORT STEPHEN

TJ Alexander

❖ A trans man returns to his Florida hometown for Christmas after his career goes up in flames, only to cross paths with his high school ex in this charming rom-com about family and second chances from the author of the “delectable” *(Time) Chef’s Kiss*.

## Praise for *Second Chances in New Port Stephen*

"In a world that feels increasingly dark, this book is a light. *Second Chances in New Port Stephen* is sexy, hilarious, heartwarming, and gloriously queer." – Camille Kellogg, author of *JUST AS YOU ARE*

"From start to finish, this hilarious and tender rom-com stole our hearts! It’s joyfully queer, laugh-out-loud funny, and scratches every small town and holiday romance itch possible. (And did we mention the hot single dad???) Five second chance stars!" – Julie Murphy and Sierra Simone, authors of *A Merry Little Meet Cute*

"A small-town romance with a great big heart. You’ll rooting for Nick and Eli as they find the courage to change, to seize second chances, and to love each other." – Jenny Holiday, *USA Today* bestselling author of *So This Is Christmas*

"A uniquely charming and unapologetically queer holiday romance...With an authentic voice and a dash of steam, Alexander captures the timely complexities of returning to a home you've outgrown while also rediscovering a love you've never let go of. An absolute gift to readers!"

– Timothy Janovsky, author of *You’re A Mean One, Matthew Prince*

Fiction

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A trans man returns to his Florida hometown for Christmas after his career goes up in flames, only to cross paths with his high school ex in this charming rom-com about family and second chances from the author of the “delectable” *(Time) Chef’s Kiss*.

Eli Ward hasn’t been back to his suffocating hometown of New Port Stephen, Florida, in ages. Post-transition and sober, he’s a completely different person from the one who left years ago. But when a scandal threatens his career as a TV writer and comedian, he has no choice but to return home for the holidays. He can only hope he’ll survive his boisterous, loving, but often misguided family and hide the fact that his dream of comedy success has become a nightmare.

Just when he thinks this trip couldn’t get any worse, Eli bumps into his high school ex, Nick Wu, who’s somehow hotter than ever. Divorced and in his forties, Nick’s world revolves around his father, his daughter, and his job. But even a busy life can’t keep him from being intrigued by the reappearance of Eli.

Against the backdrop of one weird Floridian Christmas, the two must decide whether to leave the past in the past...or move on together.

**TJ Alexander** is an amateur baker and author who writes about queer joy. Originally from South Florida, they received their MA in Writing & Publishing from Emerson College in Boston. They live in New York City with their wife.

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# THE ASSASSIN OF VENICE

Alyssa Palombo

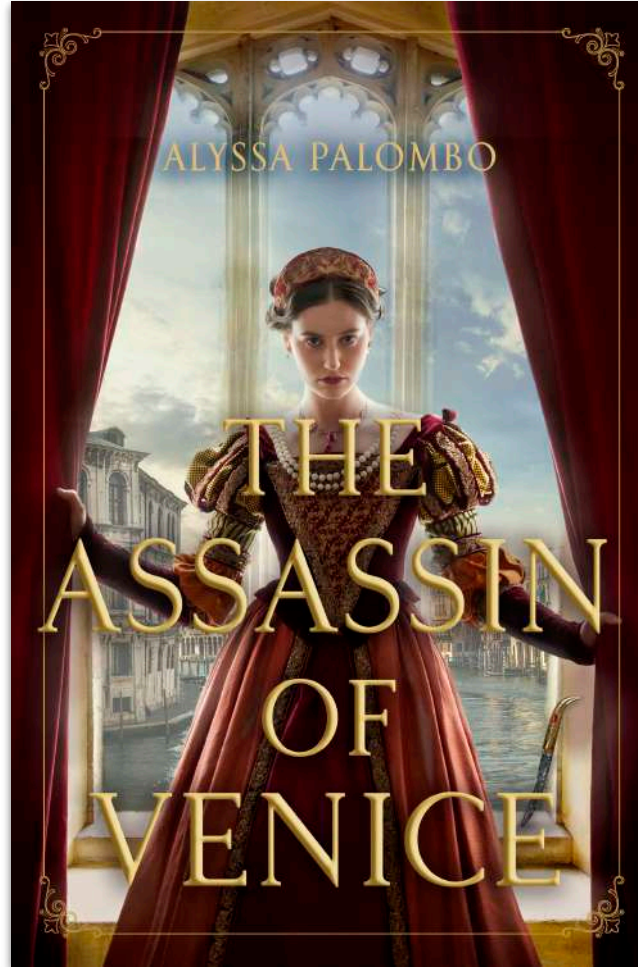
- ❖ A captivating, sensual, high stakes read that brings sixteenth-century Venice to life
- ❖ Inspired by the fascinating real history of both Venetian cortigiane oneste—"honest courtesans"—and Renaissance Venice's sprawling intelligence service

## Praise for *The Assassin of Venice*

"Alyssa Palombo brings the Renaissance to life in this mesmerizing story of a courtesan turned assassin. The beautiful but deadly Valentina entertains powerful men by day and moonlights for the shadowy Council of Ten by night, removing Venice's enemies by poison or blade as required—but when the latest directive demands she eliminate the only man she has ever loved, Valentina is thrown into a desperate quandary. *The Assassin of Venice* is a lush, sumptuous tale to savor." – Kate Quinn, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Diamond Eye*

"Surprising, sexy, and sharp as a dagger's blade, *The Assassin of Venice* plunges deep into the shadows of Venice's Council of Ten and imagines a blood-drenched world where professional courtesans did its bidding—but only on their own terms. Valentina's fearsome cleverness took my breath away." – Allison Epstein, author of *Let the Dead Bury the Dead*

**Alyssa Palombo** is the author of four historical novels, which have been published in multiple countries: *The Violinist of Venice*, *The Most Beautiful Woman in Florence*, *The Spellbook of Katrina Van Tassel*, and *The Borgia Confessions*. An avid reader, she is also a classically trained musician with a love of heavy metal and rock music. When not traveling as much as she can, she lives and writes in Buffalo, NY.



Valentina Riccardi is many things: beautiful, cultured, *deadly*. Her position as one of Venice's famous courtesans makes her perfectly positioned to seduce powerful men, get them alone...and assassinate them. Spies. Traitors. Who they are doesn't matter, only that they have made an enemy of the Council of Ten, the shadowy and seemingly omniscient subset of the Venetian senate from which Valentina takes her orders without question, without hesitation.

For Venice is her home, and after losing everything to an invading army, she will do anything to ensure that the war and bloodshed that destroyed her life never find their way to the Most Serene Republic. There is nothing she won't do to protect her city, for there is nothing she loves more.

*Almost nothing.*

Despite vowing that she would never fall in love again, Valentina can't help but give her heart to Bastiano Bragadin, the youngest son of a senator and a fellow assassin in the employ of the Council of Ten. On the rare occasions when Valentina imagines leaving her extravagant and bloody life behind, it is a life with Bastiano that she dreams of. But when Bastiano starts asking questions and runs afoul of Ambrogio Malatesta, a powerful member of the Council of Ten, Valentina receives a new assignment: to kill Bastiano, whom Malatesta claims is a traitor to the Venetian state.

Yet the more Valentina learns about Malatesta, the more she wonders if he is truly acting in the interest of the Venetian state, or using her for his own dark ambitions. If Valentina is to save Bastiano, she must untangle Malatesta's conspiracy—with the help of her fellow courtesans—before it's too late.

Fiction

US: Crooked Lane, June 2024

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# THE ROAD TRIP REWIND

*Kate and Danny Tamberelli*

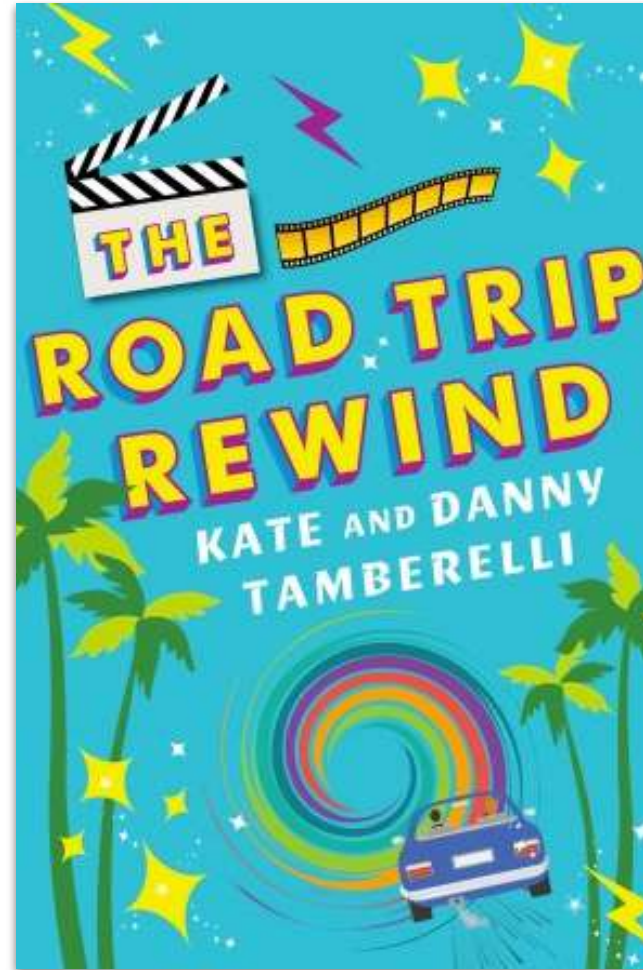
❖ *Back to the Future* meets *10 Things I Hate About You* as the past, the present, and two hearts with unfinished business collide in the most epic, hilarious, and downright poignant way . . .

## Praise for *The Road Trip Rewind*

"This is a book about confronting your past mistakes but also about making peace with who you are in the present, and I loved going on this journey with the characters in two different timelines. The Tamberellis write such special romances — there's nothing else quite like them!" - Alicia Thompson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Love in the Time of Serial Killers*

"Kate and Danny Tamberelli pair their top-notch humor and heart in this more-than-worthy sophomore romance. This is a writing duo with a magical spark and zero limitations. Readers won't be able to get enough." - Courtney Kae, author of *In the Event of Love*

**Kate and Danny Tamberelli** are the authors of *The First Date Prophecy*, a debut adult romcom published in 2023 from Kensington. Kate—as **Katelyn Detweiler**—is a literary agent and the author of the YA novels *Immaculate*, *Transcendent*, *The Undoing of Thistle Tate*, and *The People We Choose*. Danny is an actor, musician, and comedian who rose to fame on Nickelodeon as the star of TV shows like *The Adventures of Pete & Pete*, *All That*, and *Figure It Out*. He currently hosts *The Adventures of Danny & Mike*, a podcast with his *Pete & Pete* co-star Mike Maronna, the live comedy show *Nostalgia Personified*, and is the bassist for the band Jounce. Kate and Danny live in Brooklyn with their children.



Up-and-coming screenwriter Beatrix Noel's dream project is finally a reality—her 90s-era script is in production. Less dreamy is the A-list actor in the starring role—none other than Rocco Riziero, who jilted Beatrix on New Year's Eve back in 1999. Without his celebrity status, the project would likely still be withering on her hard drive, but that doesn't mean Beatrix won't shame him at every opportunity on-set—especially when it becomes painfully obvious he doesn't even remember her . . .

Boxed-in as a Hollywood pretty-boy, Rocco is thrilled to tackle a genuinely dramatic role. But he's perplexed about why the screenwriter treats him like a maggot. And awkward becomes irksome when their bickering results in a car crash right outside the famed Roxy Theatre on Sunset Boulevard—site of the New Year's Eve party where everything went wrong . . .

Shockingly, Beatrix, Rocco, and the car, are uninjured. The twist? They're clearly, truly, somehow, still in December, still on Sunset—but in 1999. Their mission? They'll have to work together to correct their old mistakes—which just might bring them closer than either expects . . .

But can they change the past without altering their future selves—and hold on to what they've found together? Only time-travel will tell . . .

Fiction  
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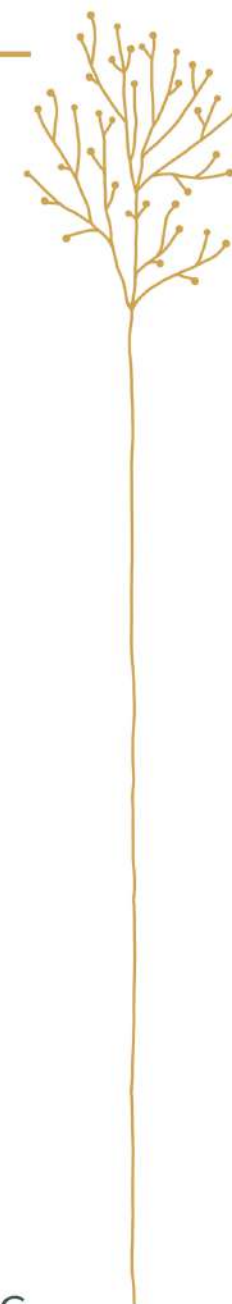
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