

WEST 44 BOOKS™
FALL 2023 CATALOG



Cover art from *The Art of Being a Vampire*.
See page 22.



WEST 44 BOOKS™

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Friends,

Our West 44 YA verse titles have a special place in my heart. West 44 believes in amplifying the voices of authors from marginalized communities, especially BIPOC and LGBTQIA. Verse is a popular yet unique format that provides more white space and more opportunities to keep turning the page. By combining diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, I believe that our selection of books is exactly what every school and library needs for their young readers.

Our titles for Fall 2023 include:

Everything I Know, a YA verse novel featuring a physics-loving protagonist with autism who must navigate moving to a new state, away from her best friend and routine

The Surprise Party Rules, a hilarious YA verse novel that follows an 18-year-old troublemaker who unexpectedly becomes her town's mayor, which will appeal to young activists

The Art of Being a Vampire, a gripping YA verse novel about addiction and art told through a high-stakes vampire storyline

The Real Unreal, a timely YA verse novel about the dangers of disinformation and radicalization in online communities, which will speak to teens today who are navigating the internet

The Song I'm In, a YA verse novel about the difficulties of starting at a new school while dealing with crushing social anxiety, which will speak to the nearly 1 in 3 teens who experience an anxiety disorder

Letters from Bed World, an own-voices YA verse novel featuring a protagonist dealing with a chronic illness while grieving the death of her fiercest advocate—her sister

Disaster Trail, a high-stakes MG verse novel about blended families and surviving in the wilderness after a mountain biking accident

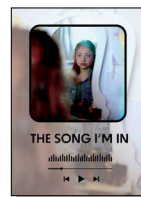
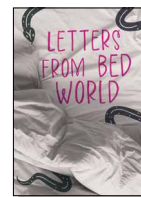
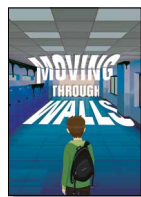
Nora Wright and the Secrets of the Knight, an MG verse novel following two new friends who must spend the night in a medieval theme restaurant and solve a mystery

Moving Through Walls, an MG horror verse novel about dark secrets, strange slime monsters, and new friends



Happy reading!

Caitie
Caitie McAneney



Free Reading Guides

Find free Reading Guides at west44books.com to inspire ways to use hi-lo novels in your school or small group setting. Created to support struggling readers, the guides feature:

- Questions for pre-reading to help students draw from their existing knowledge
- Reading comprehension questions and graphic organizers to aid students in understanding plot, characterization, and themes
- Discussion and reflection questions for large- or small-group discussions or as writing prompts
- Activities and exercises that call upon multiple learning modalities, along with a vocabulary list

READING GUIDES

Reading Guide Available

Look for this icon for available Reading Guides! All are on west44books.com for downloading.

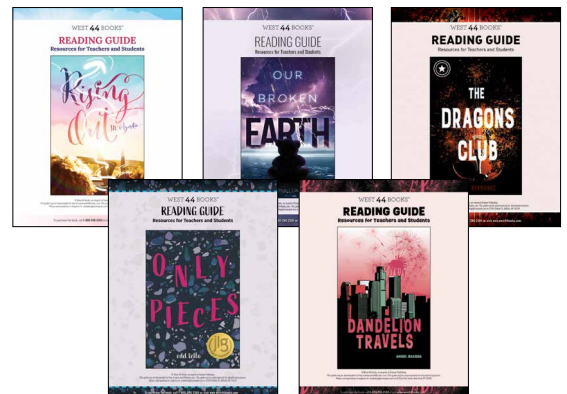


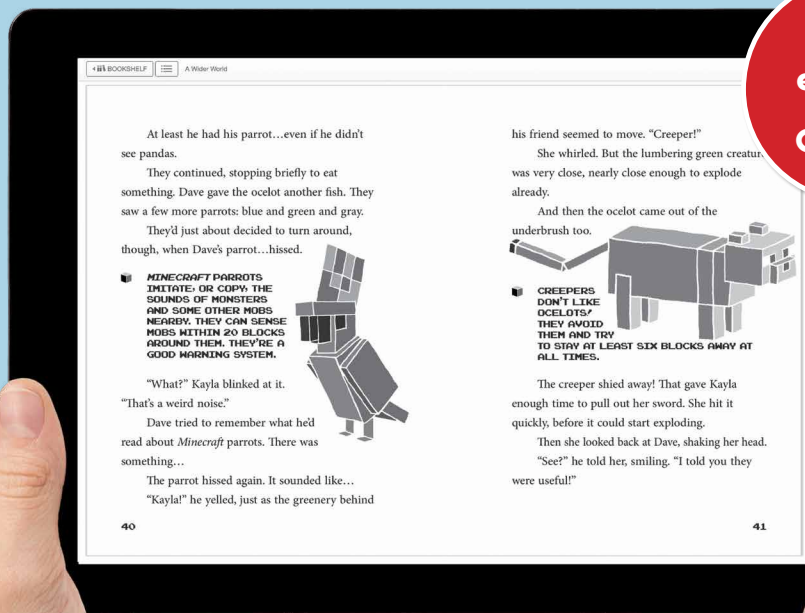
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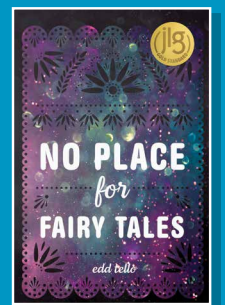
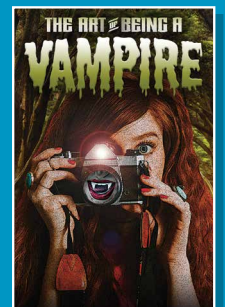
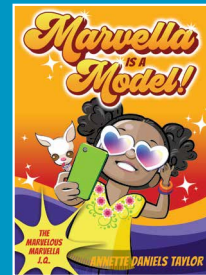


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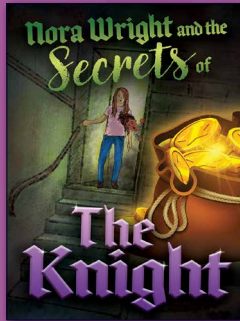
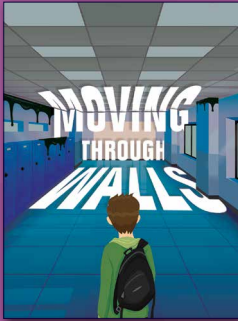
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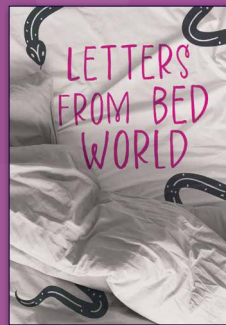
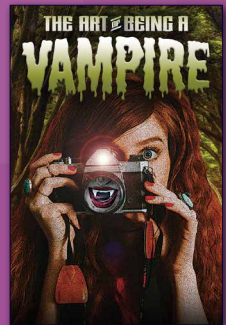
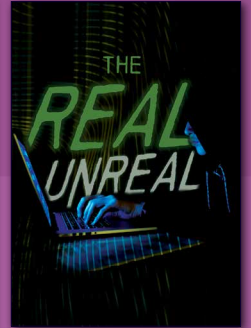
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NEW FICTION FROM WEST 44 BOOKS

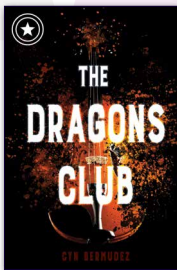
MIDDLE GRADE NOVELS IN VERSE



YOUNG ADULT NOVELS IN VERSE



KIRKUS/STARRED REVIEWS



The Dragons Club

★ "Sharp, tender, carefully crafted; highly recommended for both strong and striving readers."
—Kirkus, STARRED Review



Chiara in the Dark

★ "A sympathetic and ultimately hopeful story of strength."
—Kirkus, STARRED Review



Kiki in the Middle

"An entry point for reluctant readers to explore the personal side of social justice issues." —Kirkus



To Be Maya

"A strong voice and lyrical prose center the experiences of a Guatemalan American teen." —Kirkus



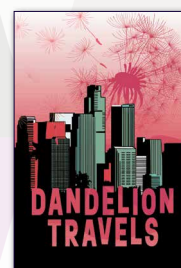
Right on Cue

"A compact, emotionally resonant tale ideal for reluctant readers."
—Kirkus



Things That Burn

"Emotional turmoil and environmental threats are skillfully handled in this accessible novel in verse."
—Kirkus



Dandelion Travels

"A strong, emotionally complex choice for reluctant readers." —Kirkus

AWARD-WINNING WEST 44 BOOKS TITLES



JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD SELECTIONS



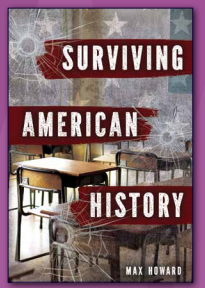
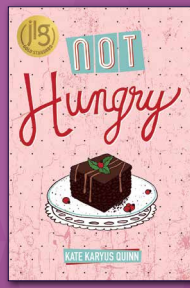
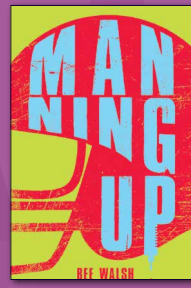
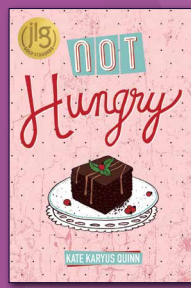
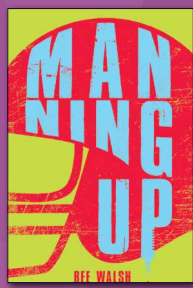
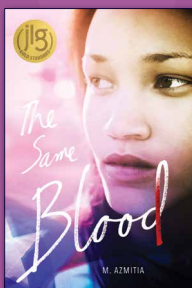
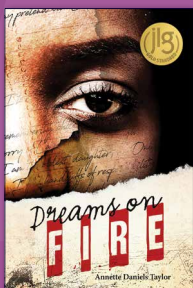
**IN THE MARGINS
BOOK AWARD WINNERS**

**2021
LONE STAR
READING LIST**

**2021
TAYSHAS
READING LIST**

**YALSA
QUICK PICKS FOR
RELUCTANT READERS**

**NORTH STAR
YA AWARD
(MAINE)**





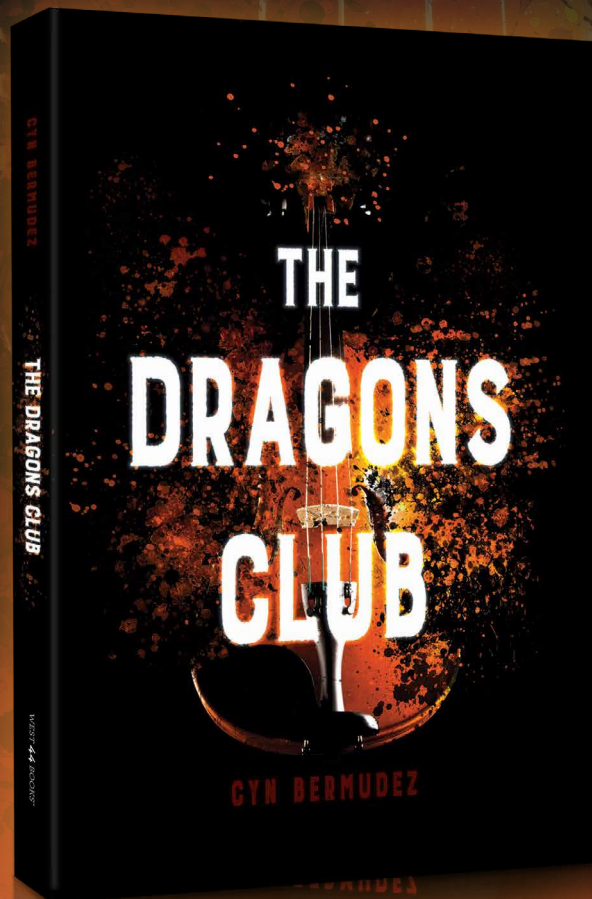
Sharp, tender, carefully crafted; highly recommended for both strong and striving readers.

–Kirkus, STARRED REVIEW

As her sister's addiction worsens, Faith learns hard lessons about boundaries while finding strength and companionship through talk therapy.

When cancer took their father, Faith and Emma Navarro's mother started working a lot more. Faith is a talented violinist attending a special arts school on a scholarship, but while she was practicing, older sister Emma was partying and is now struggling with a meth addiction. Faith tries to take care of Emma, but missing too much school lands her in the Dragons Club Teen-Speak Support Group. Participation is mandatory for her to remain enrolled. Though Emma is worsening, Faith begins to feel less alone and invisible as she develops the detachment and boundaries she needs. The sessions are therapeutic even for readers; calm, wise teacher Mr. Padilla, or Boots to the kids, threads coping mechanisms, comfort, and advice organically into the dialogue. Razor-thin verse spotlights a quick chain of moments, never landing too long in one place or lingering on the pain, though Emma's situation is portrayed realistically and with clarity. Faith's on-page struggles with anxiety are also no less powerful for their brevity. Any reader who loves a person with an addiction will feel seen, and others will gain much in terms of insight and perspective. Faith's family and Boots read Latine.

Sharp, tender, carefully crafted; highly recommended for both strong and striving readers. (Verse novel. 12–18)



See page 41 for more details.

Reading Guide Available

THE MARVELOUS MARVELLA J.Q.

By Annette Daniels Taylor

Marvella Juanita Quincy is a little girl with a big personality. She likes to collect sunglasses and spend time in the Big City. When Marvella's parents get divorced, she's forced to leave behind everything she's ever known. Then, Marvella discovers a secret power she has within her—the ability to communicate with animals—and her life is changed forever.

- *Biracial character Marvella's voice is authentic, sassy, and bold—she's sure to empower readers of all backgrounds*
- *Bold, colorful series pairs familiar issues with magical realism to engage readers ages 7 to 8*
- *Diverse characters and an authentic voice allow readers to see themselves in the stories, and learn about those who are different*

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MARVELLA FINDS HER MAGIC

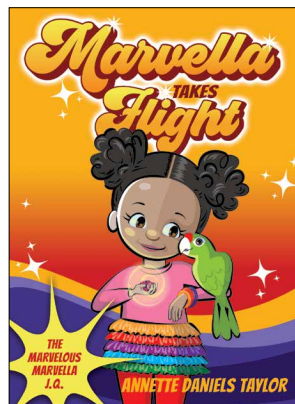
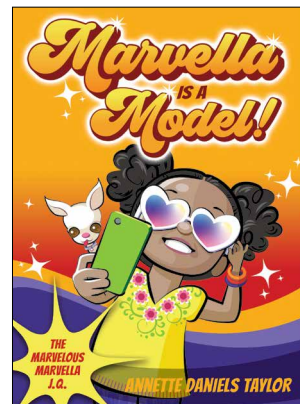
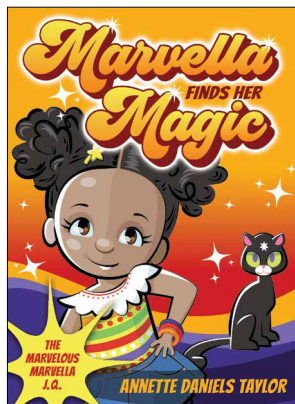
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MARVELLA IS A MODEL! NEW!

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MARVELLA TAKES FLIGHT NEW!

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"There's something bad hurting the water. The fish we depend on for food can no longer survive here."

"So now we have to move further up the river," Robby continues. "Or else we won't be able to eat."

This sounds like the pollution Park Ranger Hayley told us about earlier! "It's not just happening to us," Robby says. "It's happening to all the animals relying on the river to survive."

Rose says, "Marvella, can you help solve the problem? We don't want to move again."

"I'll sure try," I say. But I don't know what I can do! I wave to them as they fly away. And that's when the drama begins.

Kendra appears on the veranda carrying Jo-Jo under one arm like a baby. She rushes over to us, waving a piece of paper. The paper has lots of writing on it. She looks the opposite of happy right now.

"Raymond!" she yells. "They want to shut down my factory! They say I can't make fashion here! Raymond, they are ruining me!" Then all of a sudden, Kendra Adams

falls into my dad's arms and cries. Jo-Jo jumps to the ground before she gets crushed between two human grown-ups.

Jo-Jo doesn't like being on the ground. She barks at Kendra. Her bark's a bit yippy-yappy. She calls out, "Mama, mama!" But of course Kendra doesn't know that.

"Mama!" Jo-Jo yelps to Kendra. "Please, pick me up! Mama, I'm scared! Mama, big birds are up there! Mama, mama!"

Getting the doggie treats outta my bag, I offer some to Jo-Jo. I pet her. She calms down. I pick her up. She tells me, "Being outside in the open air scares me. I've lived all my life in Kendra's bag. That's why I don't really like other people. I'm scared."

"Well, I've got you now," I tell her. "And I'll keep you safe."

Jo-Jo gives me a full-face kiss lick!



Annette Daniels Taylor loves cats, butterflies, babies, dogs, books, dreaming, and plants. She has so many plants inside her Buffalo home, she stopped counting at 300! Her favorites are Rhipsalis, Peperomia, Orchids, Philodendron, Pothos, Hoya, and well, most plants that trail, hang, and just grow. Annette is from Staten Island, New York. She got married and started a family in Brooklyn. One day, after her husband got sick, they packed up and moved to his hometown of Buffalo. Like Marvella, Annette misses Brooklyn, but now Buffalo is home.

IZZY JEEN THE BIG-MOUTH QUEEN

By Wil Mara

Izzy is determined to get her way, no matter what. Nicknamed Izzy Jeen the Big-Mouth Queen by a classmate, she can't always control her words or temper, and that can lead to big trouble! Through her adventures and misadventures, Izzy learns how to fight for what's right. But can she keep her cool?

- *Hotheaded, spunky Izzy is ready to fight for what's right, and learning to control her temper along the way imparts an essential message*
- *Funny, relatable series full of mischief and adventure for readers ages 7 to 8*
- *Age-appropriate, simple text supports developing readers and proficient readers alike*

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NO ONE CLOSES MY PARK AND GETS AWAY WITH IT

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THEY BETTER LEAVE SANDRA ALONE OR ELSE

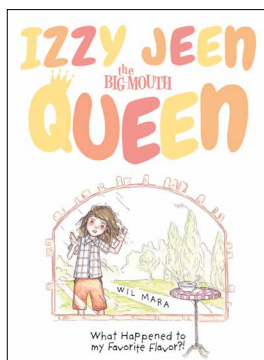
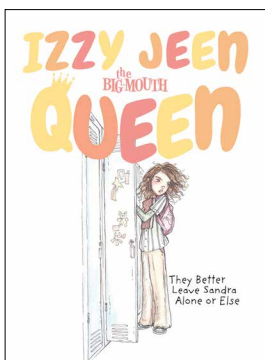
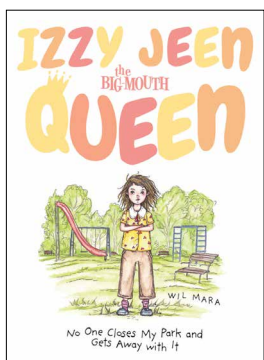
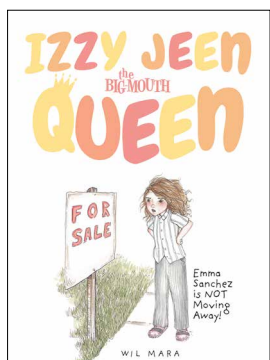
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WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FAVORITE FLAVOR?!

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WHOEVER STOLE MY BIKE IS GONNA GET IT

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Four
The Business of Business

I set my just-for-emergencies phone on my desk and put it on speaker. Then I called the number for Vogel Electronics. Somebody has to answer, even on a Saturday, right? A receptionist answered, sounding tired. "Vogel Electronics."

"I'd like to speak to Mr. Vogel, please," I said. "That's not possible—"

I did some quick thinking, and said, "I'm his niece. He's my, uh, Uncle Adam. And it's serious." The receptionist made me hold a moment and then—

"Hello?" came this voice. Even though the

speaker was small, the voice was big. I felt a little scared.

But you can't let that stop you, I reminded myself. If you do, Emma's outta here . . .

"Hello?" he asked again. He sounded a little



Wil Mara has been writing and publishing for the last 35 years. With more than 300 books to his credit, he has written fiction and nonfiction for both children and adults. He is the author of the *Twisted* series for middle grade readers, as well as two series of early chapter books—*Izzy Jeen the Big-Mouth Queen* and *Logan Lewis: Kid from Planet 27*. His work has earned him numerous awards, the most recent being the 2019 Literary Lion Award from the Library of Congress, and the 2020 Author of the Year Award from the New Jersey Association of School Librarians. You can find out more about his books at www.wilmara.com.

GRAVEYARD GRUBER

By D. J. Brandon

Grady Gruber thinks he'll never shake his laughable name. That is, until he discovers his hidden talent for ghost whispering, and earns the name Graveyard Gruber. Now, he and his friends set out to take on the ghosts of their small town—including a cranky cemetery caretaker, a 19th-century tween who haunts Cate's Creek, and the Firehouse Phantom. Graveyard Gruber is determined to right past wrongs and bring comfort to the restless spirits who seem to find him.

- Tells high-interest ghostly tales that explore both moral values and history
- Appeals to developing readers who like a mix of adventure, paranormal situations, and humor
- Grady Gruber is the quirky underdog who becomes a hero, inspiring young readers

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LOGAN LEWIS: KID FROM PLANET 27

By Wil Mara

To all Earth-dwellers, Logan Lewis might look like a normal kid. But he's actually an alien from Kepri, or Planet 27. His parents are Keprinian scientists who have been sent to Earth to study humans, and Logan is along for the ride. Logan is ready to jump headfirst into the human-kid experience, but can he keep his cover?

- Logan Lewis is just your normal alien-next-door—and his reports about Earth life will keep readers amused and engaged
- An out-of-this-world adventure series for readers ages 7 to 8
- Appeals to readers who feel like "outsiders" and promotes the idea of acceptance and tolerance

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THE FIREHOUSE PHANTOM

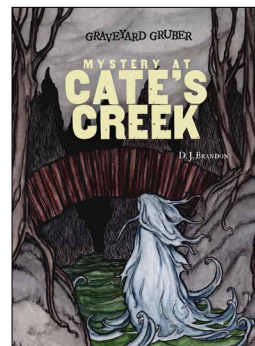
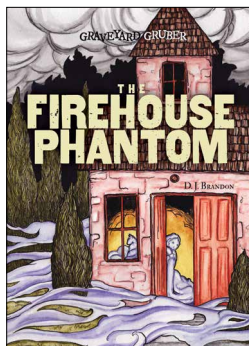
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MYSTERY AT CATE'S CREEK

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D. J. Brandon grew up in a small town in rural New York State, and has lived in four states, from the east coast to the Midwest. With a bachelor's degree from Wright State University in Ohio, she devoted most of her life to working in child and family health care while raising two children of her own. With her children grown, D. J. and her husband returned to small-town life in their home state in 2002. She credits her five grandchildren with keeping her young at heart as she nurtures a lifelong dream of writing books for kids.

THE CREEPY OLD HOUSE

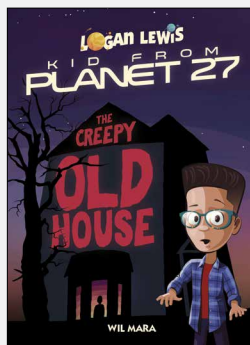
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THE GIRL WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING

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THE MEANEST BOY AROUND

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Wil Mara See bio on page 8.

MINECRAFT® EXPLORERS

By Jill Keppeler

For Matt Lopez and his friends Dave, Jaz, and Kayla, *Minecraft* was just a game, their favorite game, to be sure, but just a game. Then, Matt acquired a very special virtual reality headset and found himself in the world of *Minecraft*! These books will draw in young *Minecraft* fans with intriguing stories as the friends venture into the world, learning how to survive and create their own place with their gaming know-how. Useful fact boxes meld gameplay tips with real-life STEM knowledge related to the game, and challenges related to game survival will pull readers in.

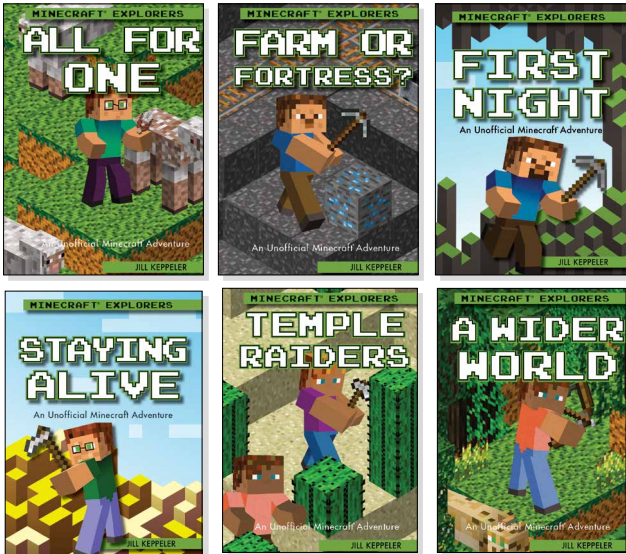
- *High-interest topic appeals to reluctant and developing readers*
- *Books integrate important STEM topics into a fantasy world*
- *Fact boxes with helpful tips for the Minecraft world will help readers better understand and master the game*

HC ed.: \$23.25 / **\$17.45**

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Jill Keppeler is a writer, editor, reader, geek, gamer, and mom with a background in newspaper journalism. She taught herself to play *Minecraft* when her then-five-year-old son became interested in the game. Now, they play together. Jill lives with her husband and two sons in Buffalo, New York, where she writes, buys too many comic books, cheers for the Sabres and Bills, writes, tries to do lots of cool stuff with her boys, crafts creative cookies, and—oh, yeah—writes.

ALL FOR ONE: AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

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FARM OR FORTRESS? AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

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FIRST NIGHT: AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

Hardcover: 9781538384183 • eBook: 9781538384077 • Paperback: 9781538384084
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MAKING IT HOME: AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

Hardcover: 9781538384176 • eBook: 9781538384060 • Paperback: 9781538384114
GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020

SETTING FORTH: AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

Hardcover: 9781538384190 • eBook: 9781538384053 • Paperback: 9781538384107
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STAYING ALIVE: AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

Hardcover: 9781538384169 • eBook: 9781538384046 • Paperback: 9781538384091
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TEMPLE RAIDERS: AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

Hardcover: 9781978595149 • eBook: 9781978595088 • Paperback: 9781978595064
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021

A WIDER WORLD: AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT® ADVENTURE

Hardcover: 9781978595156 • eBook: 9781978595118 • Paperback: 9781978595095
GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021

Matt sounded fine, she thought, rounding a corner in the dark. He sounded relieved. Well, so was she.

And there he was. He looked OK. In fact, he was holding...

"Diamonds!"

Matt held them out to her, grinning. "I wasn't looking when I was placing torches," he admitted. "And that gravel pit fell apart underneath me! I fell down into it."

He frowned briefly. "I couldn't breathe for a second...but I dug myself out. Still, I was stuck down here." He looked around. "And I didn't have many torches left."

■ A PLAYER CAN SUFFOCATE, OR DIE FROM BEING UNABLE TO BREATHE, IN MINECRAFT. THIS CAN HAPPEN FROM BEING UNDERWATER TOO LONG OR HAVING GRAVEL OR SAND DROP ON THEIR HEAD.



There was only one torch placed, right at his feet. Jaz looked down at it. "And you just happened to be stuck in a cave with diamonds?"

"Yep!" Matt sounded far too cheerful. He continued to hold them out to her. Finally, Jaz put her hands out. Matt spilled the gemstones...five, six, seven, eight!...into her hands.

"Thanks for finding me!" he told her. "Now, let's take our treasure and our obsidian and get out of here!"

August

DISASTER TRAIL

BY: KATY GRANT

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596887

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596900

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596894

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ATOS: PENDING • ©2024

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 160 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Oliver loves mountain biking on rocky, wooded trails. And he has an unlikely partner—his much older half sister Morgan. One summer evening while out with their dog Digby, Oliver tries to impress Morgan by leading her down a new trail he claims to know. They end up at the bottom of a canyon with no choice but to push their bikes up the steep trail. Then disaster strikes. Morgan slips and badly injures her ankle. With no cell service, it's up to Oliver to hike out and get help. But daylight is fading fast, and danger waits in the wilderness.

ROCKS, DIRT, SPEED

It's like flying.
Bouncing over a
rocky dirt trail.

It's like flying
but a lot bumpier.

Rise up out of
your seat.
Grip your handlebars
with your fingerless gloves.

Keep your fingertips
on your brakes ready
to squeeze.

Then point
your bike
downhill
and fly.



SPEED DEMON

Speed demon.
That's what Morgan
calls me.

Me—Oliver Weiss.
I've actually got
a cool nickname.

When we're going uphill,
Morgan goes first.
She's a lot faster and stronger.

But when we're going downhill,
she lets me go first.
She says I'm faster.
She's just being nice.

Morgan is really good at sports.
All I ever played was
soccer and T-ball way back
in elementary school.

She knows a ton
of stuff about mountain biking.
Now she's teaching me.



Katy Grant is the author of nine novels for young readers. For many years, she taught creative writing and composition courses at the college level. A native of Tennessee, she now lives in Arizona with her husband. She enjoys travel, hiking, biking, and spending time with her two adult sons.

August

MOVING THROUGH WALLS

BY: RYAN WOLF

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596917

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596931

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596924

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ATOS: PENDING • ©2024

5 1/4"x 7 1/8" • 160 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Dennis feels out of place after moving to a gloomy town where his dad accepted work at a controversial chemical plant. He struggles to fit in and soon senses something may be very wrong with his new middle school. When he finds the journal of a student who went missing decades ago, he begins exploring the haunting truth behind the disappearance. Everything points to a dark and strange reality lurking behind the walls of the school itself. Dennis must uncover a long-buried secret if he hopes to make it through the year.

WEEKEND

Wish
I had
a better grip
on life.

I spend most
of the weekend
dreading school
on Monday.

With each box
I unpack,
it's like I'm giving up
a little of
who I was.

I find
old yearbooks.
Flip through
the faces
I knew.

I can try
to keep up
with everyone
online.

But things
will never be
the same.

24

MONDAY

While
waiting
for the bus,
I see smoke
spewing
from
Gardenview Chemical.

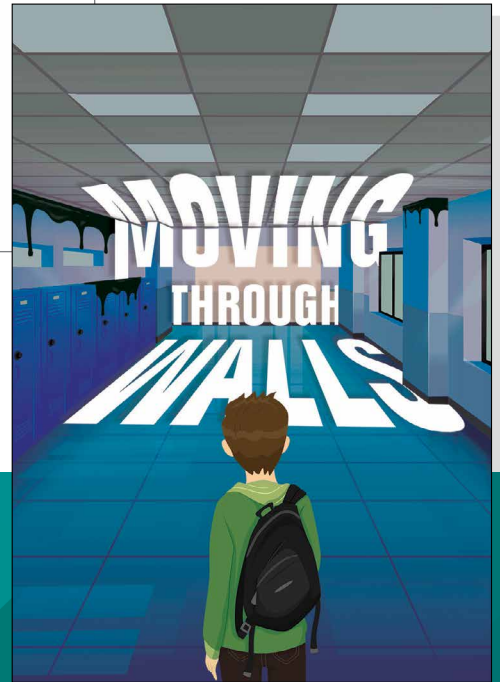
It's less than
a mile away.
Casting clouds
over this
wasteland
of a neighborhood.

I hope
my dad's job
is worth it.

Because
everything
feels
up in smoke
to me.



Ryan Wolf is the author of the young adult novels *Watches and Warnings* (2019) and *Control Room* (2020), as well as the *Creepy Critter Keepers* chapter book series for children. He has published stories, poems, essays, reviews, and journalism. Ryan holds his BA from Canisius College and his MA in the humanities from the University of Chicago. He currently resides in Buffalo, NY, with his wife and daughter.



August

NORA WRIGHT AND THE SECRETS OF THE KNIGHT

BY: MAX HOWARD

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596856

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596870

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596863

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ATOS: PENDING • ©2024

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 160 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Twelve-year-old Nora's mom manages The Knight, a medieval theme restaurant on the verge of shutting down for good. When Nora and her new friend Mavis stop by The Knight to borrow costumes for their school play, a snowstorm hits. Nora and Mavis are trapped overnight with Diane, the restaurant's eccentric cook. Nora is familiar with Diane's many tall tales, so she doesn't pay much attention to her strange theory about hidden gold. But when they find evidence that Diane might be telling the truth, Nora starts to wonder if treasure really is hidden in the crumbling castle—and if it could save the restaurant.

FICTION
NEW FALL 2023!



Last year
in sixth grade
Ms. Simmons
asked me to
help with the
school play.

I ran the spotlight.

So I really was a light maker.

This year, Ms. Simmons asked me to be
Tech Director.

It's a big step up.

Now I can borrow
keys to the
light booth. Keys to the
workshop. Keys to the
power tool
cupboard. Keys to the
costume room.

2



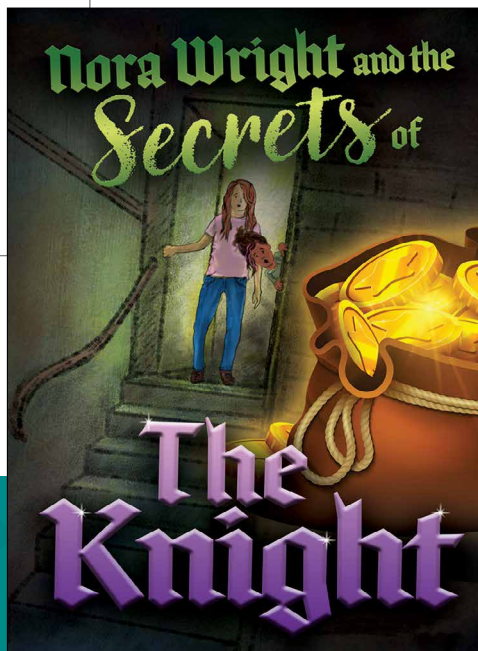
Last year
Liam Benes was the
tech director. Now he's at
Oso High.

I'm the
first seventh
grader to do this
job.

Last year my best friend
Britta did
stage crew, too.

She always forgot her cues.

But we got to throw
confetti
over the crowd.
We made it snow.



Max Howard is the author of *Everything in Its Path*, *Fifteen and Change*, *The Water Year*, and *Surviving American History*. Max's writing has received recognition from the American Library Association (YALSA), the Junior Library Guild, and the North Star YA Award committee.

CREEPY CRITTER KEEPERS

By Ryan Wolf

Bruce, Mei, Nia, and Pablo are best friends whose lives are perfectly normal—until they find an alien in their neighborhood. Can they keep it in their treehouse fort, and how can they take care of it? Soon, the friends find out they've unlocked a whole world of mischief and mayhem, as they encounter more and more creepy critters. The Creepy Critter Keepers have to use teamwork, smarts, and heart to save the day!

- *Bruce and his friends are creepy-critter wranglers and best buds—and they learn about friendship, accepting others, and taking responsibility for one's actions*
- *High-interest tales of creepy critter adventures make this series an exciting pick for readers ages 7 to 8*
- *Characters of different races reflect and promote diversity, acceptance, and tolerance*

HC ed.: \$23.25 / **\$17.45**

eBook: \$23.25 / **\$17.45**

Pbk ed.: \$13.35 / **\$11.60**

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 64 pp. • Illustrations, Meet the Characters Infographic, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section

CAN WE KEEP A BIGFOOT?

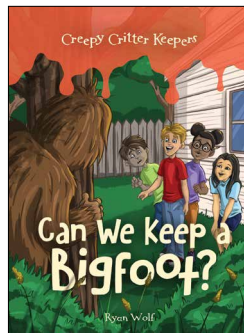
Hardcover: 9781538384558 • eBook: 9781538384572 • Paperback: 9781538384565
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022

CAN WE KEEP A WEREWOLF?

Hardcover: 9781538384589 • eBook: 9781538384602 • Paperback: 9781538384596
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022

CAN WE KEEP AN ALIEN?

Hardcover: 9781538384527 • eBook: 9781538384541 • Paperback: 9781538384534
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021



Ryan Wolf has been writing chapter books since he was in third grade. He has published stories, poems, essays, reviews, and journalism. He is the author of *Watches and Warnings*, a novel for young adults. Ryan holds his master's degree from the University of Chicago. He lives in Oak Park, Illinois with his wife, Jenna. Learn more about Ryan at www.ryanswolf.com.

Reading Level: 4 • Interest Level: 3–5

MAX BOOTH: FUTURE SLEUTH

By Cameron Macintosh, Illustrated by Dave Atze

Max Booth is on a mission. In the year 2424, this 11-year-old orphan is determined to survive his futuristic society all on his own. He's scrappy and smart, using his investigative skills to earn his keep. Everyday items from today's world are unknown in 2424, and it's Max's job to identify them. With his trusty—and sometimes neurotic—robotdog by his side, Max sets out to unlock the answers to the technological mysteries of his time. Now, he just has to outsmart some sinister and strange characters and keep important artifacts out of the wrong hands!

- *Easy-to-read sci-fi series full of surprises and suspense*
- *Features a subtle environmental theme to inspire curiosity and guide readers to consider the future of the planet*
- *Written in an engaging first-person voice, with language that developing readers will tackle with confidence*

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20**

6" x 8 1/4" • 120–144 pp. • Map, Excerpt from another book in series, Suggestions for further reading, About the Author section, Spot illustrations



CHIP BLIP

Hardcover: 9781538384763 • eBook: 9781538384787 • Paperback: 9781538384770
GRL: V • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021

FILM FLIP

Hardcover: 9781538384701 • eBook: 9781538384725 • Paperback: 9781538384718
GRL: T • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021

MAP TRAP

Hardcover: 9781538384732 • eBook: 9781538384756 • Paperback: 9781538384749
GRL: V • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021

SELFIE SEARCH

Hardcover: 9781538384640 • eBook: 9781538384664 • Paperback: 9781538384657
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STAMP SAFARI

Hardcover: 9781538384671 • eBook: 9781538384695 • Paperback: 9781538384688
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TAPE ESCAPE

Hardcover: 9781538384619 • eBook: 9781538384633 • Paperback: 9781538384626
GRL: U • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020

Cameron Macintosh was born in Melbourne and has lived there ever since. He studied Psychology and Italian at Melbourne University, and Professional Writing at RMIT. Since then, he has written more than 80 books for kids and edited hundreds more. In the few minutes per week that he isn't wrestling with words on the laptop, he loves singing, playing the guitar, and reading music biographies.

Dave Atze is a professional fun-haver and illustrator of all things cute and cuddly. Commonly found sketching up a storm with his trusty K9 by his side, Dave has worked in cartoons, comics, games, toys, advertising, and children's books. Dave has illustrated a number of children's picture books that were written by award-winning authors.

YUCKY, DISGUSTINGLY GROSS, ICKY SHORT STORIES

AT-LEVEL
SHORT
STORIES

By Susan Berran

Kids love to be grossed out! This series packs silly short stories with disgustingly descriptive language and wacky illustrations to give readers an unforgettable reading experience. The stories answer hilarious questions about body oddities, such as “Why are boogers green?” and “If you throw up, will it land on your head?” Even the most reluctant young reader will delight in this one-of-a-kind short story series full of fun facts and icky situations. The stories are sure to leave adults gagging and kids laughing out loud.

- Short stories are accessible to developing readers
- High-interest subject matter is sure to hook young readers
- Funny illustrations lend to an approachable format for reluctant readers

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20**

6" x 8 1/4" • 128–152 pp. • Illustrations, Index, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section

BARF BLAST

Hardcover: 9781978595804 • eBook: 9781978595828 • Paperback: 9781978595811
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BOOGA BLAST

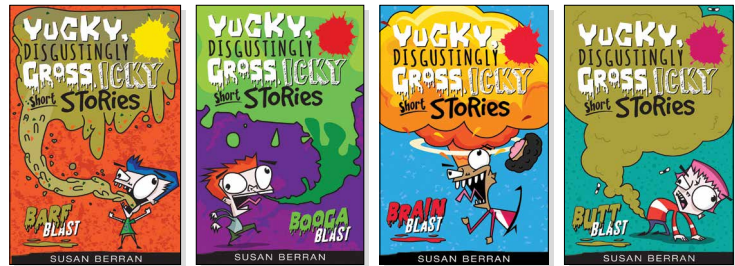
Hardcover: 9781978595774 • eBook: 9781978595798 • Paperback: 9781978595781
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BRAIN BLAST

Hardcover: 9781978595866 • eBook: 9781978595880 • Paperback: 9781978595873
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BUTT BLAST

Hardcover: 9781978595835 • eBook: 9781978595859 • Paperback: 9781978595842
GRL: P • DEWEY: [F] • ©2022



Susan Berran is a successful children’s illustrator and author who loves encouraging kids to read and write. Her books are packed with plenty of fun, action, and “gross” stuff—the perfect formula to get kids laughing and reading. She is a passionate advocate for children’s literacy and has a long association with various writing festivals and development programs.

FICTION

ALANA OAKLEY

By Poppy Inkwell

Alana Oakley is a fresh and upbeat mystery series. Gutsy and bold, teen sleuth Alana Oakley, along with her unique group of friends, deftly wrangles misdeeds, mysteries, and her slightly absurd mother. This set is fast-paced with just the right balance of comedy, crazy antics, and serious messages for readers.

- Alana isn’t your typical teenager—loyal, lippy, and level-headed, she’s the best person to have around in a crisis
- Smart, cool mystery series for readers ages 10 to 13
- Multicultural theme with characters who will empower girls and encourage them to feel good about their individuality

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20**

5" x 7 3/4" • 256–352 pp.

BLOODSUCKERS AND BLUNDERS

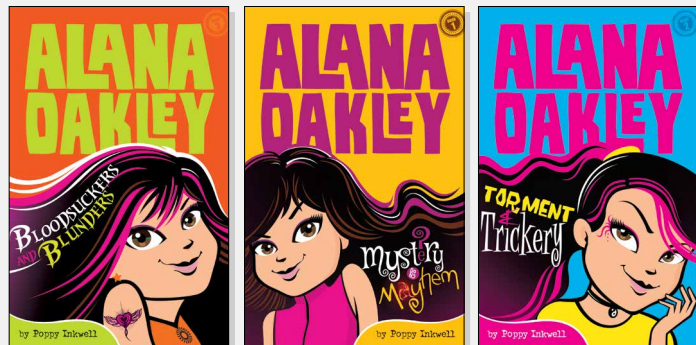
Hardcover: 9781538384855 • eBook: 9781538384879 • Paperback: 9781538384862
GRL: Y • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020

MYSTERY AND MAYHEM

Hardcover: 9781538384794 • eBook: 9781538384817 • Paperback: 9781538384800
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TORMENT AND TRICKERY

Hardcover: 9781538384824 • eBook: 9781538384848 • Paperback: 9781538384831
GRL: Y • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020



Poppy Inkwell graduated from the University of Sydney with a BA in Asian studies and has a master’s in learning innovation (early childhood). She has five children who inspire her writing, and she has skydived—once.

MIDDLE GRADE

TWISTED

By Wil Mara

Read if you dare, but prepare for the worst! This middle grade thriller series unleashes twisted tales of the paranormal. From time traps to haunted houses to out-of-this-world video games, the characters in each *Twisted* book come face-to-face with supernatural situations that will change their lives forever. Will each unlucky character be stuck in a weird world of magic and mayhem? Will they survive to tell the story? Readers are in for one twisted ride.

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40**

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20**

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 120 pp. • Suggestions for further reading, Illustrations, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content



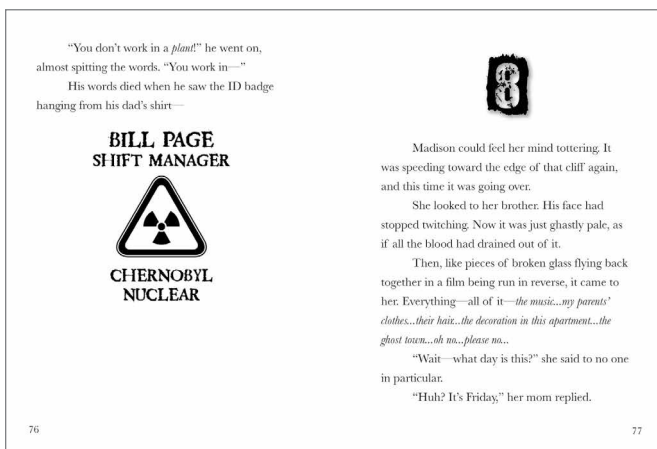
Wil Mara has been writing and publishing for the last 35 years. With more than 300 books to his credit, he has written fiction and nonfiction for both children and adults. He is the author of the *Twisted* series for middle grade readers, as well as two series of early chapter books—*Izzy Jeen the Big-Mouth Queen* and *Logan Lewis: Kid from Planet 27*. His work has earned him numerous awards, the most recent being the 2019 Literary Lion Award from the Library of Congress, and the 2020 Author of the Year Award from the New Jersey Association of School Librarians. You can find out more about his books at www.wilmara.com.

Reviews/Awards:

"Recommended for middle school collections, especially where hi-lo titles are in demand." —*School Library Journal* on *The Secret of Locker 24*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

House of a Million Rooms



THE GIRL WHO GREW NASTY THINGS

Hardcover: 9781538383612 • eBook: 9781538383568 • Paperback: 9781538383667
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020

HOUSE OF A MILLION ROOMS

Hardcover: 9781538383582 • eBook: 9781538383537 • Paperback: 9781538383636
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2019

THE OTHER

Hardcover: 9781978595309 • eBook: 9781978595323 • Paperback: 9781978595316
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A POOL OF DEATHLY BLUE

Hardcover: 9781978595279 • eBook: 9781978595293 • Paperback: 9781978595286
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THE SECRET OF LOCKER 24

Hardcover: 9781978596214 • eBook: 9781978596238 • Paperback: 9781978596221
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THE TIME TRAP

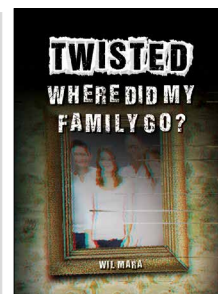
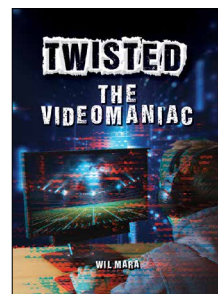
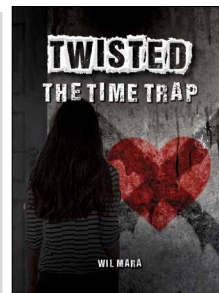
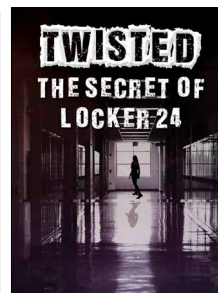
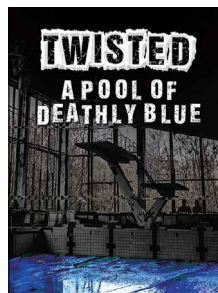
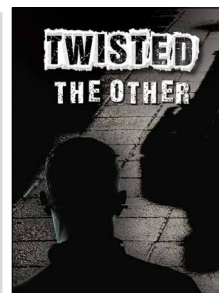
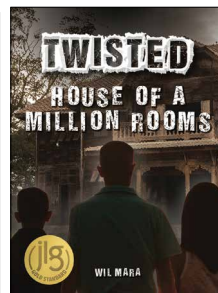
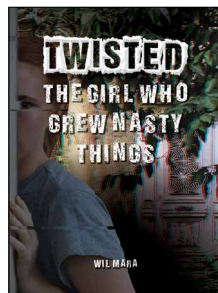
Hardcover: 9781538383599 • eBook: 9781538383544 • Paperback: 9781538383643
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2019

THE VIDEOMANIAC

Hardcover: 9781538383575 • eBook: 9781538383520 • Paperback: 9781538383629
GRL: M • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019

WHERE DID MY FAMILY GO?

Hardcover: 9781538383605 • eBook: 9781538383551 • Paperback: 9781538383650
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020



ALTON HEIGHTS ALL-STARS

By David Aro

What happens when a school cuts its basketball team? The kids who live in the Alton Heights housing complex need to come up with a plan fast. That's how the Alton Heights All-Stars team is born. They may not have matching jerseys, a coach, or even a regular court to practice on, but they make up for it with perseverance and heart. Cam, Jasmine, Brianna, Tyler, and Markus prove to everyone that they're not just playing around; they're out to be all-stars.

HC ed.: \$23.25 / **\$17.45**

eBook: \$23.25 / **\$17.45**

Pbk ed.: \$13.35 / **\$11.60**

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 64 pp. • Illustrations, Meet the Characters Infographic, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Reviews/Awards:

"Simple vocabulary and sentence structure, combined with frequent inset illustrations and short chapters, make this a classic high/low transitional chapter book for older readers."

—Booklist (On *Alton Heights All-Stars*)



David Aro is a former Collegiate All-American basketball player and conference player of the year. In college, he scored over 1,900 points, broke his school's record for the most three-pointers ever made, and also finished in the top 10 in rebounds, steals, and assists. While coaching college basketball, he earned a master's degree in executive leadership and change. Today, he coaches his kids and follows his passion of writing children's books.

BIG SHOTS

Hardcover: 9781538382202 • eBook: 9781538383100 • Paperback: 9781538382196
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022

FAST BREAK

Hardcover: 9781538382189 • eBook: 9781538383094 • Paperback: 9781538382172
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022

MEET ME ON THE COURT

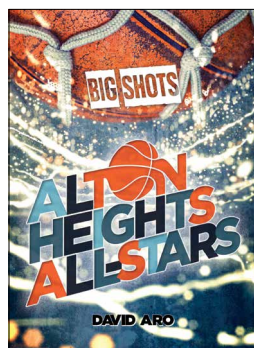
Hardcover: 9781538382127 • eBook: 9781538383063 • Paperback: 9781538382110
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019

NOTHING BUT NET

Hardcover: 9781538382141 • eBook: 9781538383070 • Paperback: 9781538382134
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ©2020

SWISH

Hardcover: 9781538382165 • eBook: 9781538383087 • Paperback: 9781538382158
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020



BROTHERS

By Cyn Bermudez

The Reyes siblings have been separated by the incarceration of their mother and are living in different foster homes. Victor and Isaac have one connection to their old life: the emails they sneak to each other, detailing the experiences they have adjusting to their new homes. Can they hold on to their family with the distance between them? Will things ever go back to normal?

HC ed.: \$24.55 / **\$18.45**

eBook: \$24.55 / **\$18.45**

Pbk ed.: \$14.85 / **\$12.90**

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 88 pp. • Further Information Section, Illustrations, Meet the Characters Infographic, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Reviews/Awards:

"The series presents a realistic yet accessible look at a family encountering stressful circumstances. VERDICT: Written at a second and third grade reading level, *Brothers* is an unflinching exploration of a family navigating foster care." —School Library Journal (On *Taken Away*)



Cyn Bermudez is a writer from Bakersfield, California. She attended college in Santa Barbara, California, where she studied physics, film, and creative writing. Her work can be found in anthologies such as *Building Red: Mission Mars*, *The Best of Vine Leaves Literary Journal* (2014), and more. Her fiction and poetry can also be found in *Middle Planet*, *Perihelion SF*, *Strangelet*, *Mirror Dance*, and *805 Literary and Art Journal*, among others.

JUST MAYBE

Hardcover: 9781538382363 • eBook: 9781538383186 • Paperback: 9781538382356
GRL: L • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022

NOT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

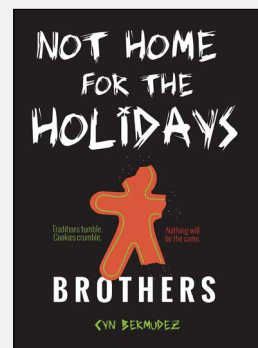
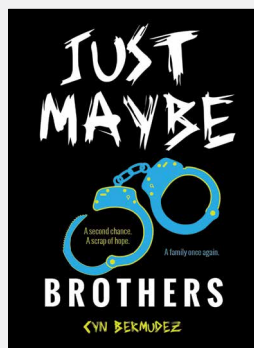
Hardcover: 9781538382349 • eBook: 9781538383179 • Paperback: 9781538382332
GRL: L • DEWEY: [E] • ©2020

TAKEN AWAY

Hardcover: 9781538382301 • eBook: 9781538383155 • Paperback: 9781538382295
GRL: L • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019

THIS PLACE IS NOT MY HOME

Hardcover: 9781538382325 • eBook: 9781538383162 • Paperback: 9781538382318
GRL: L • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019



THE BAD KIDS IN 4B

By Brynn Kelly

The kids in classroom 4B have a reputation as the “baddest” kids in school. What no one sees is that each kid has a reason for acting that way. Mila has been removed from her mom’s care and placed with her aunt, whom she doesn’t trust. Landon has trouble learning, but doesn’t want anyone to know. Jordan’s father was recently sent to jail. Jayme has been taking care of her younger siblings while her mother starts dating again. Together, the “bad kids” in 4B learn about acceptance, stepping out of their molds, and confronting life’s challenges.

HC ed.: \$24.55 / **\$18.45**

eBook: \$24.55 / **\$18.45**

Pbk ed.: \$14.85 / **\$12.90**

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 88 pp. • Further Information Section, Illustrations, Meet the Characters Infographic, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Reviews/Awards:

“One of those impressive fictional stories that is exceptionally entertaining while dealing with what is basically serious subject matter. As a result, *Welcome to 4B* is unreservedly recommended for family, school and community library fiction collections.”

—*The Midwest Book Review* (On *Welcome to 4B*)

JLG Gold Standard Selections
Things That Don't Make Sense
Welcome to 4B

CUTTING THROUGH THE NOISE

Hardcover: 9781538382288 • eBook: 9781538383148 • Paperback: 9781538382271
GRL: L • DEWEY: [Fic] • ATOS: 2.9 • ©2022

DETENTION IS A LOT LIKE JAIL

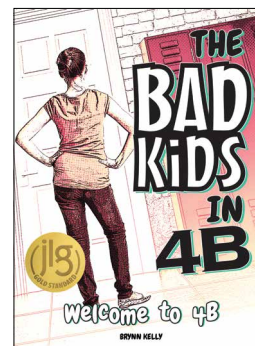
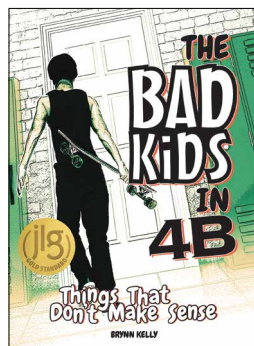
Hardcover: 9781538382264 • eBook: 9781538383131 • Paperback: 9781538382257
GRL: L • DEWEY: [E] • ATOS: 2.9 • ©2020

THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE

Hardcover: 9781538382240 • eBook: 9781538383124 • Paperback: 9781538382233
GRL: L • DEWEY: [E] • ATOS: 2.8 • ©2019

WELCOME TO 4B

Hardcover: 9781538382226 • eBook: 9781538383117 • Paperback: 9781538382219
GRL: L • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019



Brynn Kelly is a writer from Buffalo, New York, where she studied English and creative writing and received a master’s degree in social work. She is the author of three nonfiction books for children. In her free time, she enjoys doing yoga and spending time with her dog, Neno.

THE CLUB

By Elizabeth Gordon

Every day after school, kids in the Parkside neighborhood hang out at the community rec center, which they call The Club. Milo, Noah, Zoe, Javi, and Addy couldn’t be more different, but they have one thing in common, The Club. The Club has a way of pushing their comfort zones and making them try new things, from competing in the annual go-kart rally to starring in a musical. Together, they’ll learn some tough life lessons, discover their strengths, and find their true friends.

HC ed.: \$24.55 / **\$18.45**

eBook: \$24.55 / **\$18.45**

Pbk ed.: \$14.85 / **\$12.90**

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 88 pp. • Further Information Section, Illustrations, Meet the Characters Infographic, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Reviews/Awards:

“An aspiring biologist who’s bullied because of his disability finds friends when he enters a go-kart competition... The optimistic open ending implies that Milo’s growth, like the resilient oak’s, is an ongoing process that’s ‘hard, but not impossible.’ A realistic, hopeful take on meeting challenges and making friends.” —*Kirkus* (On *Milo on Wheels*)

JLG Gold Standard Selections
Addy's Big Splash, *Club Zoe*, *Javi Takes a Bow*,
Milo on Wheels, *Noah the Con Artist*

ADDY'S BIG SPLASH

Hardcover: 9781538382448 • eBook: 9781538383223 • Paperback: 9781538382431
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ATOS: 3.1 • ©2020

CLUB ZOE

Hardcover: 9781538382424 • eBook: 9781538383216 • Paperback: 9781538382417
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ATOS: 3.0 • ©2021

JAVI TAKES A BOW

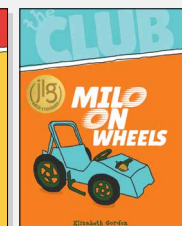
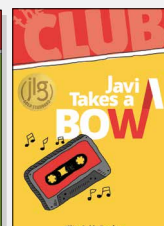
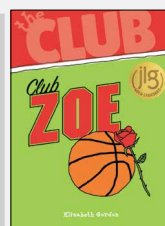
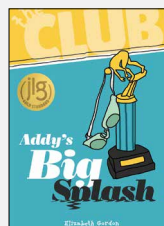
Hardcover: 9781538382462 • eBook: 9781538383230 • Paperback: 9781538382455
GRL: M • DEWEY: [E] • ATOS: 3.3 • ©2020

MILO ON WHEELS

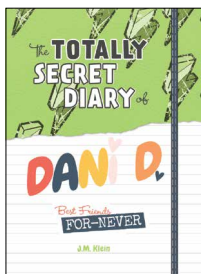
Hardcover: 9781538382387 • eBook: 9781538383193 • Paperback: 9781538382370
GRL: M • DEWEY: [E] • ATOS: 3.4 • ©2019

NOAH THE CON ARTIST

Hardcover: 9781538382400 • eBook: 9781538383209 • Paperback: 9781538382394
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ATOS: 3.4 • ©2021



Elizabeth Gordon has a master’s degree in children’s literature from Hollins University. She was a finalist for the Hunger Mountain Katherine Paterson Prize for Young Adult and Children’s Writing, the winner of the Hollins University Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Scholarship, and winner of the SCBWI Barbara Karlin Grant. She has published nine middle grade books so far, including a five-book superhero series.



THE TOTALLY SECRET DIARY OF DANI D.

By J. M. Klein

Dani D. is the new girl in school. She's determined to convince people that she is cool, talented, and worthy of being part of the popular crowd. Dani pretends she has no worries, but secretly she's dealing with her parents' separation and divorce and being forced to live with her strict grandparents. Dani's new clique isn't very understanding, and she's one misstep away from blowing her cover. Dani confides her feelings and the truth behind the lies she tells only in her diary, which is totally top secret.

HC ed.: \$23.25 / \$17.45 • eBook: \$23.25 / \$17.45
PB ed.: \$13.35 / \$11.60

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 64 pp. • Further Information Section, Illustrations, Meet the Characters Infographic, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

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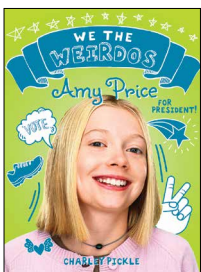
THE Z TEAM

By D. E. Daly

Chloe, Malik, and Justin are best friends, drawn together by their love of all things weird and spooky. One night, the abandoned railroad station in town becomes a portal to a supernatural world. Zombies have come to town, and the three friends form the Z Team to find the zombies and save the day. Along the way, they stumble into other supernatural situations involving ghosts, werewolves, vampires, and more. What's next on board the Eerie Express?

HC ed.: \$23.25 / \$17.45 • eBook: \$23.25 / \$17.45
PB ed.: \$13.35 / \$11.60

5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 64 pp. • Further Information Section, Illustrations, Maps, Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content



WE THE WEIRDOS

By Charley Pickle

Four kids sit together at the outcast lunch table on the first day of middle school. Amy has a stutter, but wants to be class president. Maci would rather draw than talk to people. Eli is a pastor's kid who has been labeled a "goody two-shoes." Jayden often lashes out at people and gets upset in class. The kids have almost nothing in common, except one thing: they're the class weirdos. If they want to rise above their reputations, they're going to need to do it together.

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BEST FRIENDS FOR-NEVER

Hardcover: 9781538382028 • eBook: 9781538383018 • Paperback: 9781538382011
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022

MY HOME IS A BATTLEFIELD

Hardcover: 9781538381984 • eBook: 9781538382998 • Paperback: 9781538381977
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019

NEW SCHOOL, NEW ME!

Hardcover: 9781538381960 • eBook: 9781538382981 • Paperback: 9781538381953
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019

STAR OF THE SHOW

Hardcover: 9781538382004 • eBook: 9781538383001 • Paperback: 9781538381991
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020

Reviews/Awards:

"The reading level will appeal to both younger readers and struggling older middle graders...This brief book's pat message: Be yourself."

—Kirkus (On *New School, New Me!*)

GHOST TOWN

Hardcover: 9781538381922 • eBook: 9781538382967 • Paperback: 9781538381915
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020

KIDNAPPED BY VAMPIRES

Hardcover: 9781538381908 • eBook: 9781538382950 • Paperback: 9781538381892
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019

WEREWOLVES ON THE LOOSE!

Hardcover: 9781538381946 • eBook: 9781538382974 • Paperback: 9781538381939
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021

WHEN ZOMBIES INVADE

Hardcover: 9781538381885 • eBook: 9781538382943 • Paperback: 9781538381878
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019



D. E. Daly can sometimes be found in her hometown of East Aurora, New York, a village full of haunted history and old railroad tracks. She studied writing in New Orleans and drifts back there once in a while for more of the city's magic and music. She is always chasing her next story—except for the times when the story chases her.

AMY PRICE FOR PRESIDENT!

Hardcover: 9781538382042 • eBook: 9781538383025 • Paperback: 9781538382035
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ©2019

ELI MICHAELS, RULE BREAKER

Hardcover: 9781538382103 • eBook: 9781538383445 • Paperback: 9781538382097
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022

MACI MASAKI MAKES HER MARK

Hardcover: 9781538382080 • eBook: 9781538383049 • Paperback: 9781538382073
GRL: K • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH JAYDEN JACKSON?

Hardcover: 9781538382066 • eBook: 9781538383032 • Paperback: 9781538382059
GRL: K • DEWEY: [E] • ATOS: 2.8 • ©2020

Reviews/Awards:

JLG Gold Standard Selection

What's the Matter with Jayden Jackson?

August

EVERYTHING I KNOW

BY: CLAUDIA RECINOS SELDEEN

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596764

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596788

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596771

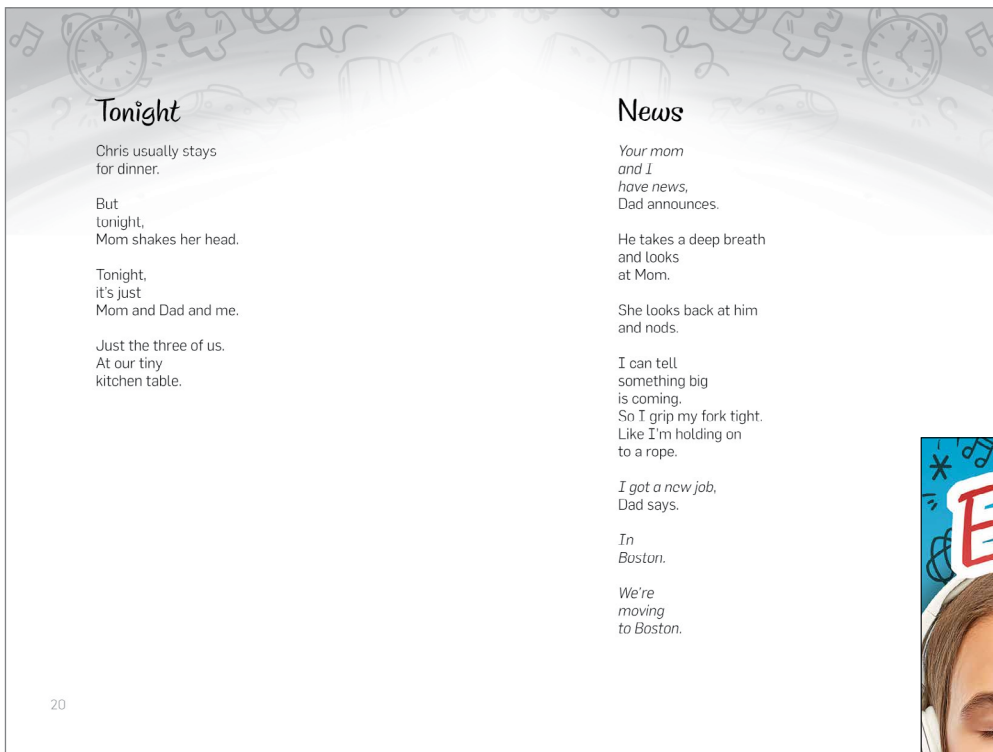
GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ©2024 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Mia's world crumbles when she finds out she has to move across the country. Mia's autism makes it hard to handle new situations. She struggles to relate to strangers and to make new friends. Everyone at Mia's old school was familiar with her autism. But life at her new school is different. Kids don't understand Mia's behaviors and needs. All her life, Mia has coped by relying on the familiar. She's made routines that get her through each day. But in this new city, her routines fall apart. How can Mia survive when she's so far away from everything she knows?

FICTION

NEW FALL 2023!



Tonight

Chris usually stays
for dinner.

But
tonight,
Mom shakes her head.

Tonight,
it's just
Mom and Dad and me.

Just the three of us.
At our tiny
kitchen table.

News

Your mom
and I
have news.
Dad announces.

He takes a deep breath
and looks
at Mom.

She looks back at him
and nods.

I can tell
something big
is coming.
So I grip my fork tight.
Like I'm holding on
to a rope.

I got a new job,
Dad says.

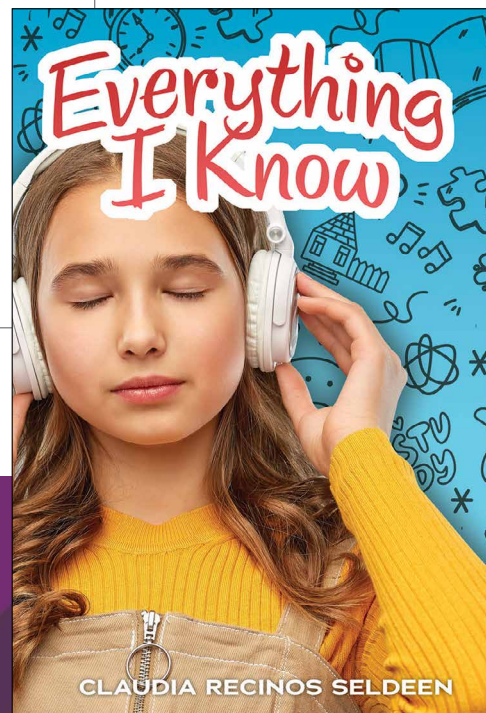
In
Boston.

We're
moving
to Boston.

20



Claudia Recinos Seldeen is a Miami native who currently resides in Western New York. She is the author of the young adult novels *To Be Maya* and *Catch Me If I Fall*. Her poetry has appeared in *The Amphibian Literary Journal* and *MONO*. Claudia is a first generation Guatemalan American. When not writing, she is either playing video games with her husband and son, or flying through the air on a trapeze. Find out more at www.recinosseldeen.com.



CLAUDIA RECINOS SELDEEN

August

LETTERS FROM BED WORLD

BY: MEL MALLORY

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596825eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596849Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596832

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ©2024 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Living with an energy-limiting chronic illness, Val spends a lot of time in her bedroom. Her older sister Lia had always found ways to make “bed world” feel just as fun as the outside world. But all that changed after Lia died in a tragic accident—an accident Val feels partially responsible for. On an online peer support forum, she meets someone she can finally open up to—a voice hearer who’s dealt with her own share of grief. Through a series of letters to her sister, Val confronts life after her sister’s death as she tries to find a way to make “bed world”—and the rest of the world—livable again.

FICTION

NEW FALL 2023!

JULY 24TH

LIA,

Today, Max brought plastic containers for meal prep.

We're going to make enough honey sesame chicken to last through the weekend.

It was Max's idea. So I won't have to eat with Mom as often.

I never knew Max liked to cook. But I guess you must have known, Lia.

I sat at the table and sliced veggies.

Max sprinkled red pepper flakes into the saucepan.

He said he ate this all the time during football season.

Do you remember when we went to one of his games last September?

You jumped up and down. Arms flying in the air.

Screaming, GO MAX!!! YOU GOT THIS!!!

While he ran faster than I ever ran in my entire life.

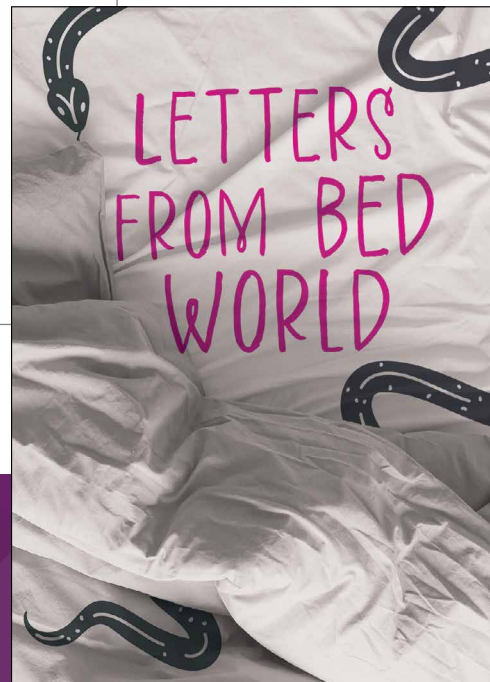
Even faster than I could run before I got sick.

Lightning on the field.

In that moment, I realized why people like sports so much.

I didn't care about our home team. But I wanted Max to win.

I wanted to see him leap in the air,



96



Mel Mallory (she/her) works at a peer-led mental health organization. Her previous verse novels include *Survive and Keep Surviving* and *The Best Part Is at the End*. She also writes for *The Squeaky Wheel*, a satire publication written by and for disabled people. You can find her at melmallory.com.

August

THE ART OF BEING A VAMPIRE

BY: KATE KARYUS QUINN

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596702

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596726

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596719

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ©2024 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

With an addict mother and deadbeat dad, Shelby truly hopes that blood does not define her. She discovers a passion for photography, hoping to make something of herself through art. But when her mother dies of an overdose, Shelby finds herself in a dark place. Taken in by her aunt, she rebels in school and turns away from everyone, except a mysterious classmate named Brandt. Shelby doesn't realize that Brandt is a vampire—until it's too late. Overwhelmed by new cravings for blood, Shelby must decide whether to abandon her values to satisfy her hunger—or fight for the life she's always wanted.

FICTION

NEW FALL 2023!

We Ran Outta Money

And so we had no choice but to start stealing more than just steaks from the grocery store.

At first, it was fun.

We'd get ourselves blooded up. Then, feeling like we were unstoppable, we broke windows to a jewelry store. Sold the goods to a pawn shop.

The money bought us gas and

blood soup from this weird Polish restaurant.

After that, we set our sights on a bigger target.

A blood drive at the local Y.

I was meant to cause a distraction while Brandt got the goods.

"Just scream and pretend you're sick or something," he'd told me.

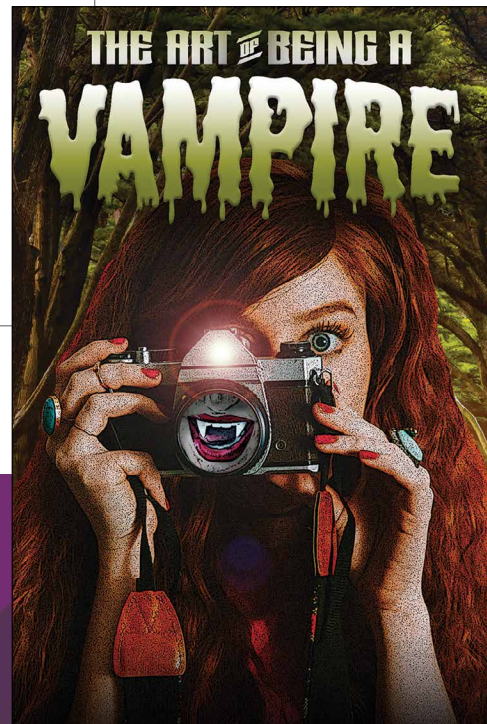
So that's what I did.

Sick wasn't hard to fake—

134



Kate Karyus Quinn is an avid reader and menthol chapstick enthusiast. After living in both California and Tennessee, she returned to her hometown of Buffalo, New York, and now lives there with her husband, three children, and one enormous dog. She is the author of young adult novels *Always June*, *Not Hungry*, *Another Little Piece*, *(Don't You) Forget About Me*, and *Down with the Shine*.



August

THE REAL UNREAL

BY: RYAN WOLF

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596672

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596696

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596689

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ©2024 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Nate Reilly is having the worst summer of his life. His parents are never home, he lost his job, and his arts program was cancelled due to a virus outbreak. When Nate comes across an online "game" that promises forbidden knowledge, he is quick to click the link. Soon, he finds himself plunged down a rabbit hole of strange theories, dark plots, and fanatical believers. As he grows alienated from his family and friends, Nate is consumed by his newfound ideas. But can he unplug from a destructive alternate reality before he takes it too far?

FICTION

NEW FALL 2023!

VIRUS

The rest of the summer
was all about
sorting out
what came before.

I was arrested
and booked.
So strange
and unreal.
Wearing handcuffs.
Sitting in the back
of a cop car.
Getting my
picture taken.
Rolling my
fingerprints.

My life was
a movie
or a TV show.
It wasn't mine.
It was someone
else's.

I told the officers
everything.

I didn't lie.

170

They searched
my phone
and later my computer.

They found
the spray paint
in my backpack.

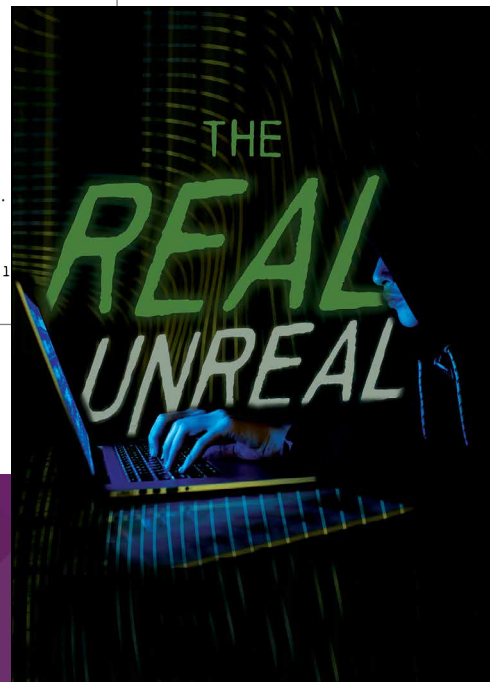
The Molotov cocktails
were still in
Jamie's van.
I heard both he and Pike
were charged for them.
Along with
a few other things.

In the end,
I was only charged
with a misdemeanor.
Criminal trespassing.

That wasn't as bad
as it could have been.

I was only in trouble
for going on
the lodge's property
at night.

For my sentence,
I was given
100 hours of community service.



Ryan Wolf is the author of the young adult novels *Watches and Warnings* (2019) and *Control Room* (2020), as well as the *Creepy Critter Keepers* chapter book series for children. He has published stories, poems, essays, reviews, and journalism. Ryan holds his BA from Canisius College and his MA in the humanities from the University of Chicago. He currently resides in Buffalo, NY, with his wife and daughter.

August

THE SONG I'M IN

BY: MAIJA BARNETT

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596795

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596818

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596801

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ©2024 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Despite crippling anxiety, Skyler Reeds has weathered her parents' divorce and, along with her twin sister Katy, has moved to her mom's boyfriend's house in Burlington, Vermont. Now Skyler has to deal with living in a new blended household and brave a new high school while dealing with worsening dermatillomania, a disorder that causes her to obsessively pick her skin. Skyler's only refuge is her singing voice, which she's silenced as her face fills with wounds and scars. But Skyler is given a chance to join the school's elite chorus—a dream come true. Skyler has tried so hard to be invisible, but this might be her one chance to shine.

FICTION

NEW FALL 2023!

ZOOM

"Hi Skyler," says Dr. Martin.

I try to smile. Then I click off my filter and wait to hear what she'll say.

I'm not wearing any makeup.

I want her to see.

"Things were going better," I whisper. "But now the concert is coming up. And I need help."

Dr. Martin nods, and mentions upping my medication.

I close my eyes.

I think about it.

Then I nod, and say, "Let's try."

170

TALKING

It's night and we're lying in our room.

The blue-black darkness like a bruise.

"Skyler," says Katy, her voice thin.

Like it's echoing from far away.

"I'm proud of what you're doing," she says.

"What?" I say. "Upping my meds?"

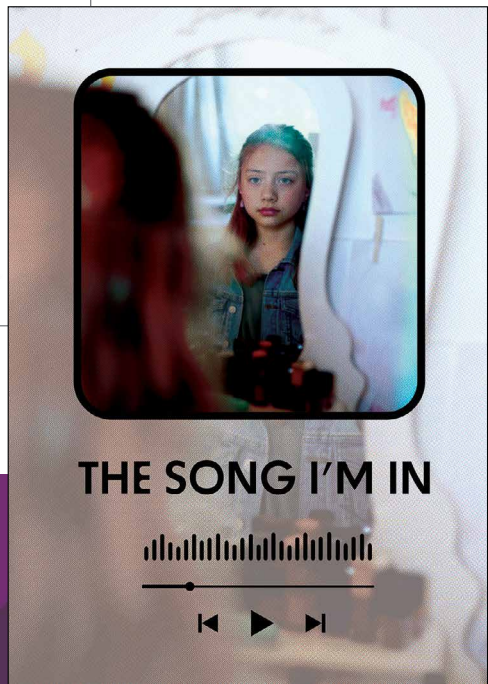
"Yeah, I guess," says my sister. "You're brave to try. But that's not why I'm proud. You quit hiding yourself from everyone. When you get on that stage at the holiday concert, you'll finally show everyone who you are."

"I'm still wearing makeup," I say.

171



Maija Barnett grew up in Central Vermont and now lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two teenage daughters. She loves nature, poetry, hiking in the woods with her dog, and finding ways to get kids excited about reading. Maija holds degrees in English and teaching and currently teaches at a school for students with learning differences. She is also the author of *Heart Like a Broken Arrow*.



August

THE SURPRISE PARTY RULES

BY: MAX HOWARD

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596733

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596757

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596740

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811 • ©2024 • 5 1/2"x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Fun-loving troublemaker Ivy Sawyer is unjustly fired from her ice cream shop job, and now she's out for revenge. The owner of the shop is running to be reelected mayor of their small town, and Ivy will do anything to keep him from winning. What she doesn't expect is being elected mayor herself as the candidate of the prankish "Surprise Party." Now Ivy has to deal with governing the town while juggling her senior year of high school and her activist friends' expectations. She has big problems to solve, from poverty to housing to flooding, and can't seem to win over the conservative city council. Knowing people's lives are on the line, Ivy sets out to govern creatively without losing who she is. But she'll have to figure out: what's the difference between a troublemaker and a leader?

FICTION

NEW FALL 2023!

GRIFFY PRINTS

Gigi's dad doesn't wear wooden shoes. He wears white socks and red Crocs. He runs Griffy Prints and hums while he makes business cards.

When Gigi complains about banning books, her dad smiles and says:

"Gigi, let your mom have her hobby." His dimple is just like Gigi's.

When Gigi's mom tries to destroy Gigi's social life, Gigi's dad smiles and says:

"Gretel, let Gigi have her friends."

NOVEMBER

Our drone hovers in the crisp fall air.

The bell rings. Kids rush out of school.

The drone drops copies of the bad parts of every book.

The drone drops stickers, too. Bright red.

They say:
Stop Reading!
These Words Are Banned!

36



Max Howard is the pen name of a poet who wound up becoming a politician. Max's writing for young adults has been recognized by the Junior Library Guild, the American Library Association, and Maine's North Star awards committee.



ALWAYS JUNE (HUNGRY, BOOK 2)

BY: KATE KARYUS QUINN

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596375

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596399

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596382

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

June's secret eating disorder has been exposed to her whole school, and she knows there's no going back to the way things were. Plus, her mom has started dating again—and it's serious. What's worse, her big sister Mae leaves for college early after a big fight. While taking refuge at the local bowling alley, June gets roped into joining the girls' bowling team. As she improves her bowling game, June finds a newfound appreciation of all her body can do, a surprising group of outcast friends, and even a new love interest. But June must find a way to deal with her eating disorder—or risk losing everything else.

FICTION

NEW SPRING 2023!

I'M ON THE TEAM

but not
IN it.

Not like the rest of them are.

The five of them
clearly share
stories,
memories,
and even nicknames.

Ricki is
DUCK!

because
of how
many times
the ball
has slipped
from her
hands
and flown
backwards.

Ammiah is
Striker—
for obvious
reasons.

Kimi is
Bam Bam

84

because of
how she
throws
the ball,
launching it
up into the air
so that it hits
the lane
with a bang
and then
bounces
and bangs
again.

Laurel is
RAWR

for the noise
she makes
as she
watches her
ball take
down the pins.

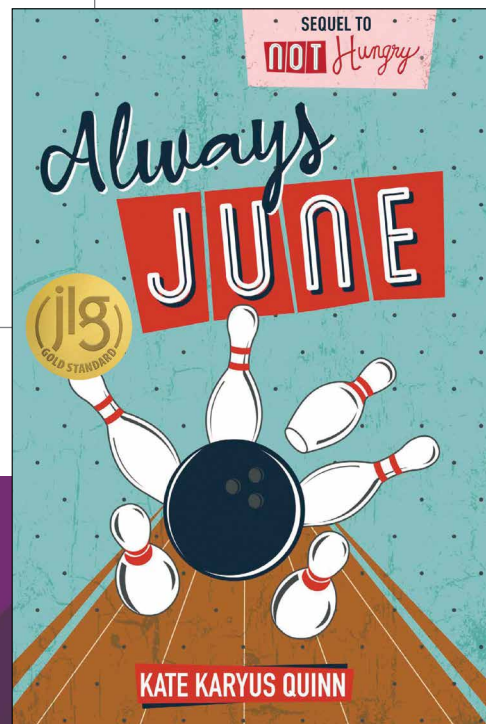
If it's a good one,
she's pumps her
fist and cheers
RAWR!

If the ball rolls
into the gutter,
then it's a sad
mournful
naaaawrr.

85



Kate Karyus Quinn is an avid reader and menthol chapstick enthusiast. She lives in the suburbs of Buffalo, New York, with her husband, three children, and two dogs. She is the author of several books, including: *Anti/Hero*, a middle grade graphic novel with DC comics, and *Not Hungry*, a book in verse that was a Junior Library Guild selection, a 2021 TAYSHAS Reading List Selection, and a 2021 YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers.



NOT HUNGRY

(HUNGRY, BOOK 1)

BY: KATE KARYUS QUINN

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781538382707

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781538383353

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781538382691

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ATOS: 3.1 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author
Section, High / Low Content



June is fat. June also has an eating disorder, but no one sees. When she doesn't eat, her friends and family think they see a fat girl on a diet, not someone starving herself. When June's secret is found out by Toby, the new boy next door, she is panicked. Then she learns he also has a secret. Everyone has their own little lies.

Reviews/Awards:

"Recommend to teens who want a lighter, shorter version of novels-in-verse by authors like Ellen Hopkins." —YALSA

"Exquisite writing allows each poem to be savored individually as readers find bits of themselves reflected in the situations and characters and cheer on the unlikely hero." —Kirkus

JLG Gold Standard Selection

YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

TAYSHAS Reading List 2021

FICTION

ONCE I DIDN'T EAT

for two whole days.

After my second night
not eating dinner
I passed out
walking up the stairs
to my room.

My mom was screaming.

*Are you sick?
We can't afford an ambulance!
What's wrong?*

So I confessed.

She went quiet.

Then finally she said,
softly,

*Wish I had
that sort of
self-control.*

Like she was...
proud of me.

Once I won
the spelling bee
at school.

I brought a trophy home.
I was so happy.

But Mom
only glanced at it
and said,

*Well, that's good
I guess,
but
don't get
too full of yourself.
You're only spelling
the words,
not inventing them.*

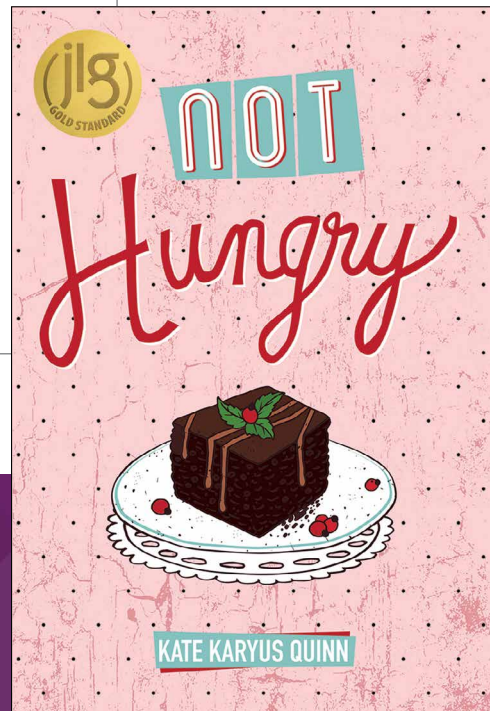
But the night I passed out
she helped me stand.
Put me on the couch.
Propped up
with a pillow.

Then she
heated
a can
of soup.

Chicken noodle
without the noodles.

8

9



Kate Karyus Quinn is an avid reader and menthol chapstick addict. After living in both California and Tennessee, she returned to her hometown of Buffalo, New York, and now lives there with her husband, three children, and one enormous dog. She is the author of young adult novels *Another Little Piece*, *(Don't You) Forget About Me*, and *Down with the Shine*.

CATCH ME IF I FALL

BY: CLAUDIA RECINOS SELDEEN

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596344

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596368

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596351

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Angela has been training on a trapeze since she was a child. She loves the dizzying heights, the acrobatics, and the way it tests her strength. But she doesn't love the way her Guatemalan mother is always pushing her to train harder because "immigrants have to try twice as hard just to shine half as bright." When Angela's best friend introduces her to boxing, she finds something that makes her genuinely happy. There's no pressure to be graceful and no expectation to be perfect. But the more Angela practices boxing, the more she realizes her pursuit of happiness might risk her reputation for perfection. And if she's not the perfect daughter, then who is she?

FICTION

NEW SPRING 2023!

A SKY FULL OF STARS

I look up and see AnnMarie
standing across the room
with Gavin.

Something twists
like a trapeze rope
in my stomach.

I watch Gavin run his fingers
through his dark hair.

And then I see him
smile.

I see his cheeks
turn pink.

I see him look at AnnMarie.
Not the same way
she looks at him.
Not like she's
a star.

But like she's
a whole sky
full
of
them.

160

LOSING

It's not that I don't want
AnnMarie to be happy.

(She's been my best friend
since we were eight.)

It's not that
I don't want her
to go out with Gavin.

(She can date
whoever she wants.)

It's the way it suddenly
feels like
there's no room
for anyone else.
Not when
the two of them
look at each other
like that.

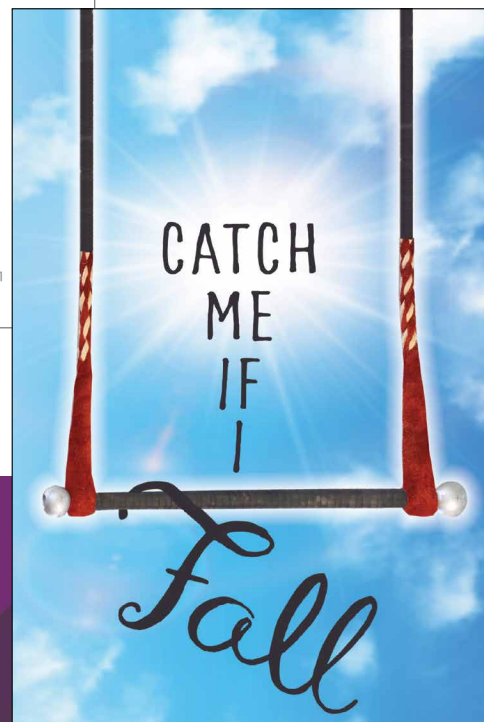
It's the way
she looks
like she's won
something.

(The way I feel
like I've lost.)

161



Claudia Recinos Seldeen is a Miami native who currently resides in Western New York. She is the author of the young adult novel *To Be Maya*. Her poetry has appeared in *The Amphibian Literary Journal* and *MONO*. Claudia is a first generation Guatemalan American. When not writing, she is either playing video games with her husband and son or flying through the air on a trapeze. Find out more at www.recinosseldeed.com.



EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH

BY: MAX HOWARD

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596405

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596429

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596412

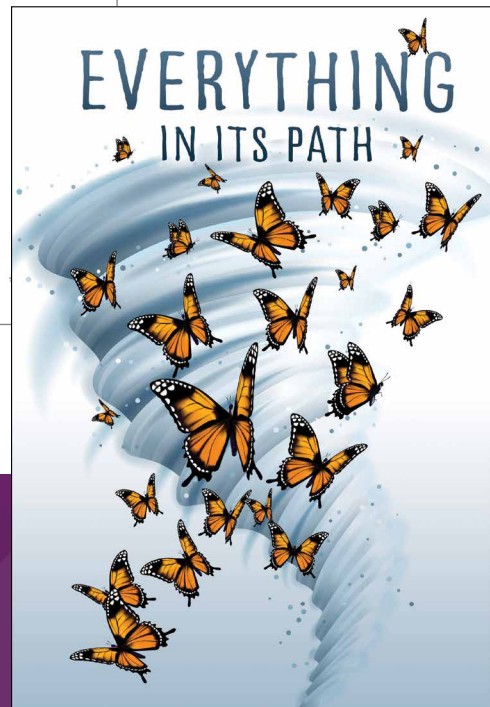
GRL: M • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2"x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Sixteen-year-old Noah loses his home in a freak tornado. He hopes the mass devastation will serve as the wake-up call society needs to really deal with climate change and worsening storms. Instead, everyone around Noah wants to “get back to normal.” Noah feels alienated from everyone except for his nerdy little brother Quinn, who is obsessed with butterflies. When Noah learns how sensitive monarch butterflies are to climate change, the two brothers take off on a journey to document their threatened migration—and hopefully make a difference in a world on the brink of disaster.

FICTION

NEW SPRING 2023!



Max Howard is the author of *Fifteen and Change*, *The Water Year*, and *Surviving American History*. Max’s writing has received recognition from the American Library Association (YALSA), the Junior Library Guild, and the North Star YA Award committee. Max loves crosswords, Wordle, and word games in general—which is why there is an animal (or animal pun) on each of these pages, inviting you to see the nonhuman world.

EVERYTHING YOU LEFT ME

BY: PAIGE CLASSEY

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596467

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596481

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596474

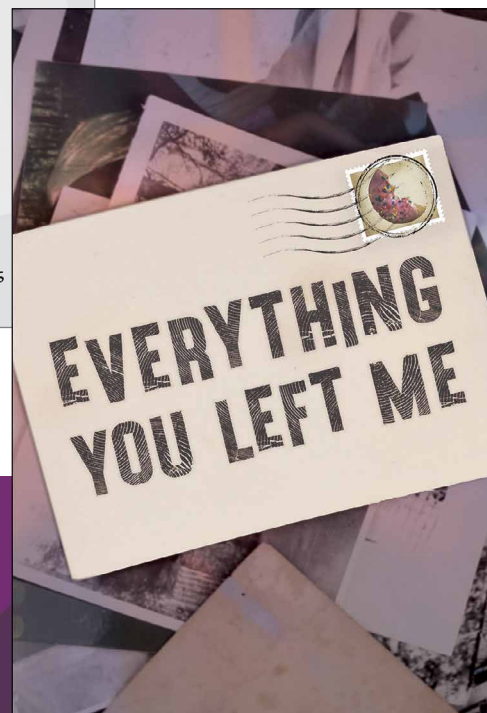
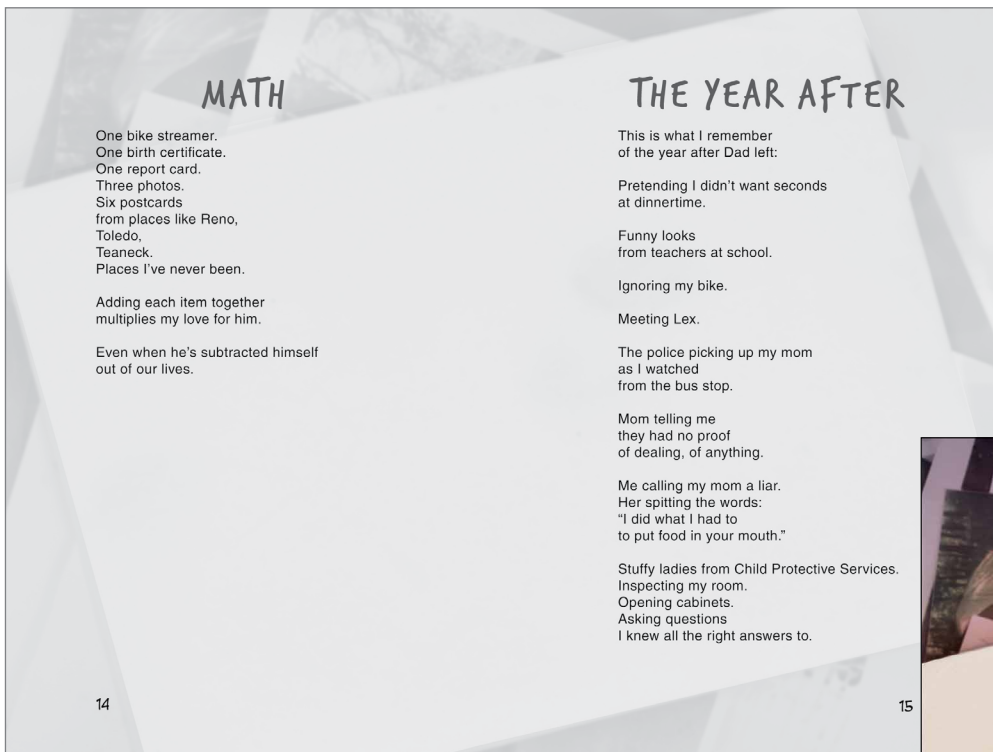
GRL: M • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

When the police come knocking at her door, Maybeth is worried her mother is caught up in their small town's drug scene again. Instead, the police are there to question Maybeth about her beloved and long-absent father. He has become the lead suspect in a string of unsolved murders across the country...and Maybeth may be the key to convicting him. Trapped between her scientific mind and her love for her father, Maybeth is forced to confront the reality of who her father really is—and what that might make her as well.

FICTION

NEW SPRING 2023!



Paige Classey is a school librarian who lives with her husband and son on the Connecticut shoreline. Her articles on libraries and education have appeared in *School Library Journal*, *TEACH Magazine*, and *Education Week*. This is her first novel.

HEART LIKE A BROKEN ARROW

BY: MAIJA BARNETT

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596498

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596511

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596504

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Seventeen-year-old Fern Blakely struggles to overcome her younger brother's death, for which she feels responsible. Fern drinks to forget. After a night of partying, she crashes her truck on an icy Vermont road, and her life is changed forever. A former runner, Fern is now paralyzed from the waist down. Her depressed mother has neither the funds nor the ability to care for her, so Fern is sent to live with Helen, her estranged father's aunt. It is with Helen that Fern overcomes her own depression and develops a love for archery. This passion sets Fern on a new path, but will she ever be able to outrun her past?

FICTION

NEW SPRING 2023!

SUPPER

"First day jitters?"
asks Helen,
passing me the rice.

"I wonder if we'll hear from
your mom?"

But we don't hear.
The phone stays silent.

And I don't get
a single
text.

I go to bed
with an ache
in my chest.

Wishing Monday would never
come.

92

LISTENING

I'm lying in bed, waiting for sleep,
when I hear Helen on the phone.

"Nathan," she says.
"Don't do this."

She's your daughter.
She needs you."

Is this a dream?
No, I'm awake.

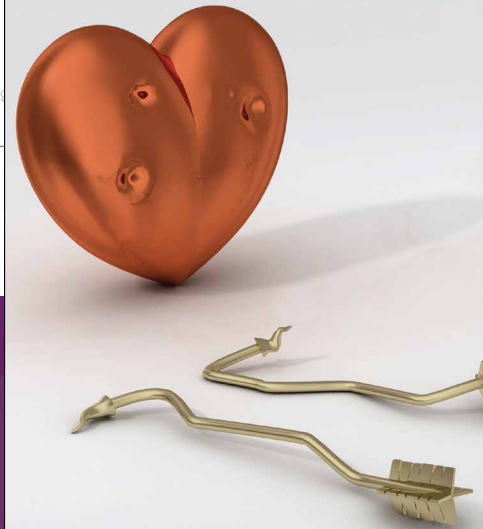
I feel Lady's nose pressing
into my arm.

As if she knows
my father's voice.

As if she can tell
I'm afraid.

HEART

Like a Broken Arrow



Maija Barnett grew up in Central Vermont and now lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two teenage daughters. She loves nature, poetry, hiking in the woods with her dog, and finding ways to get kids excited about reading. Maija holds degrees in English and teaching and currently teaches at a school for students with learning differences.

NO PLACE FOR FAIRY TALES

BY: EDD TELLO

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596313

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596337

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596320

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Yuriel's poor neighborhood in Monterrey, Mexico, isn't a place where fairy tales happen. Yuriel and his cousin Azul work each day doing laundry to help their family make a living. So when Azul, a trans teen, decides she wants to mark her transition to womanhood with a quinceañera, Yuriel is sure it's an impossible dream. They don't have the money, and besides, Azul's father would never support her transition. But as an openly gay artist in a traditional family, Yuriel sees how important this rite of passage is for Azul. As Yuriel risks everything to play fairy godmother to Azul, he realizes it's going to take a little bit of magic to pull off this once-in-a-lifetime quinceañera.

Reviews/Awards:

JLG Gold Standard Selection

Dad Was Next

Two years ago,
our art teacher,
Flor Villanueva,

liked to tell us stories
from all over the world.
Her favorites were
fairy tales.

Later,
we would create something
related to those tales.

Everyone complained
about how childish
that task was.

Not me.
I memorized every detail,
especially imagining
princess seams & crowns.

Ms. Villanueva gave me
white sheets of paper for free.

One day,
Dad saw me lying on
the old, torn-up sofa

while I traced the lines
of a blue dress—
white paper
scattered on the floor.

"Why do you only draw
those dolls?
That's gay stuff."

"They're not dolls,
they ..."

I stopped.

His sharp look
made me feel
so small.

"Because Yuriel
is gay, pá,"
Paco snapped.
"No big deal, right?"

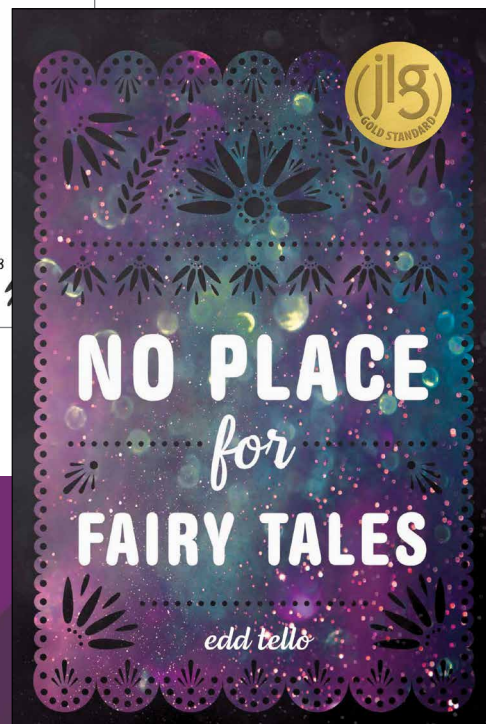
The world stopped.

Dad put the toe
of his boot on
my school supplies.

They looked like
the boots of
an enormous giant.



Edd Tello is a bilingual writer of children's literature. He is the author of *Only Pieces*. Edd holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Seville and a business certificate from the University of Washington. He's currently a high school teacher in Mexico. When he isn't reading or writing, you can find him drinking coffee or making his friends laugh with his anecdotes and jokes. You can find him online at eddtello.com and [@eddstello](https://twitter.com/eddstello) on socials.



NEW SPRING 2023! FICTION

THE BEST PART IS AT THE END

BY: MEL MALLORY

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596559

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596573

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596566

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2"x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, *Written in Verse*,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Anna loves movies. If her life were a movie and she wrote the script, she wouldn't be living with her reserved parents in rural Pennsylvania. And she wouldn't have to face her pregnant sister who just moved back home after being gone for three years. Feeling stuck, all Anna wants to do is disappear into her TV screen. But when Anna strikes up a friendship with Aiden, a cashier at one of the last remaining video stores in the state, she finds unexpected acceptance in his virtual film club. Anna knows happy endings are for the movies, but maybe she can find her own.

FICTION

NEW SPRING 2023!

SURPRISE

But her hair isn't
the biggest shock.

I look down at
her belly

and

catch
my breath.

Like a
snag on
my sweater,
my words begin
to unravel.

You're pregnant?

LOOK

Why didn't
she call to tell me?

Did my parents
even know?

I look at Mom,
who's staring
down at her feet.

I look at Dad,
who rests a
gentle hand
on her shoulder.

I look back
at Samantha:
at her belly,
at her hair.

I turn around
and walk
downstairs.

24

THE
BEST
PART IS
AT THE
END



Mel Mallory (she/her) works at a peer-led mental health organization. As a kid, she spent way too much time debating which VHS tape to rent at her local video store. She now lives in Maryland with her two guinea pigs. Her other verse novel, *Survive and Keep Surviving*, is about healing after experiencing mental distress and trauma. You can find her at melmallory.com.

THE SHINING CITY
(MALCOLM WALKER, BOOK 2)

BY: DEMITRIA LUNETTA

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596436

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596450

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596443

GRL: M • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Mal has finally completed the long, dangerous journey to safety in the Shining City. And though he started the trek with friends, he is now the only survivor. There, in the sparkling metropolis, he believes that he is protected from the dangers of the climate-ravaged world. But as a refugee, Mal must live in special housing, cannot move around freely, and faces extreme prejudice. He learns that he can earn full citizenship by working through an elaborate points system, which involves taking part in deadly jobs and games. Risking his life to become a citizen of the Shining City, Mal realizes that his dream of safety was an illusion. Soon, Mal becomes involved with a group of revolutionaries. In this dystopian sequel to *Our Broken Earth*, Mal needs to choose between supporting the oppressive system that saved his life and fighting for what's right.

NEW SPRING 2023!
FICTION

"You'll never be able to do that from my tablet," Xanthia tells us. "I don't have that kind of access."

"We can since I cloned your mother's tablet onto yours," Pin says. He reaches over her and presses an icon.

"This ... is ... impossible," she stutters. "We have the best security ..."

"Not within your own network," Pin explains.

"That's why you wanted your friends here," she says to me.

I nod. "I would never leave my family behind."

She thinks about what we've said. She looks at me for a long moment, meeting my eyes.

Maybe she sees my whole story there—losing my family as a kid, losing my friends on the road here, living as a Refugee.

Because suddenly she softens. Lets out a deep sigh.

She pushes the tablet back to Pin. "Do it," she orders.

"You'll let us?" I ask.

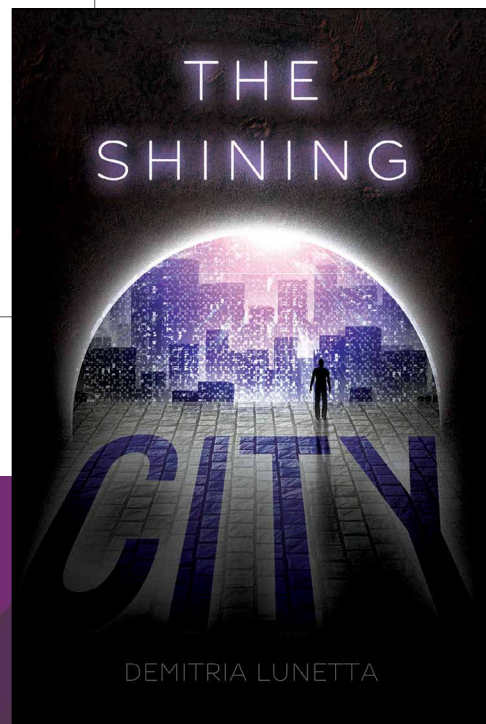
She looks at me. "It might not change anything."

"But it might change everything."

184



Demitria Lunetta is the author of many YA and MG books including: *The Fade*, *Bad Blood*, and the sci-fi duology, *In the After* and *In the End*. Her Hi-Lo books include *Our Broken Earth* and *Bitter & Sweet*. Her graphic novel, *Anti/Hero* with co-author Kate Karyus Quinn, is now available from DC. Find her at demitrialunetta.com, on Twitter @DemitriaLunetta and on Facebook at facebook.com/DemitriaLunettaAuthor.



OUR BROKEN EARTH (MALCOLM WALKER, BOOK 1)

BY: DEMITRIA LUNETTA

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595392

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595415

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978595408

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.6 • ©2022 • 5 1/2"x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Reading
Guide
Available

In the near future, the tides are rising, the weather is out of control, and the rain is poison. Mal lost his family in a storm and now lives with other young people, trying to survive the changing world. Faced with the threat of the rising water and his friend's illness, Mal and his makeshift family must travel across the country to reach a safe place. But the road is dangerous and not all will find their way safely to their new home.

FICTION

28

Jaynece pulls out a map, old and yellowing.

"We are here," she points. The Florida Panhandle.
"We must go here." Lake Michigan.

It will take months.

Her finger moves up the page.

up
up
up
up
up
up
up
up

The map makes it seem close, but it really is so very far.

32

29

"What is this?" I ask.

"That is where the land used to be
before the water swallowed it up."

"What is this?" I ask.

"That is where we are now,
on the edge of the world."

"What is this?" I ask.

"That is the path we must take
to go north."

"What is this?" I ask.

"That is where we will end up
in a city by a lake."

"What is this?" I ask.

"That is a lake of fresh water
as big as the ocean."

"What is this?" I ask.

"That is our only hope
at a real home."



Demitria Lunetta is the author of several YA books, including *Bitter and Sweet*, *The Fade*, *Bad Blood*, and the sci-fi duology, *In the After* and *In the End*. Find her at www.demitrialunetta.com, on Twitter @DemitriaLunetta, and on Facebook at facebook.com/DemitriaLunettaAuthor.



THREE SHOTS

BY: KATY GRANT

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596528

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596542

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596535

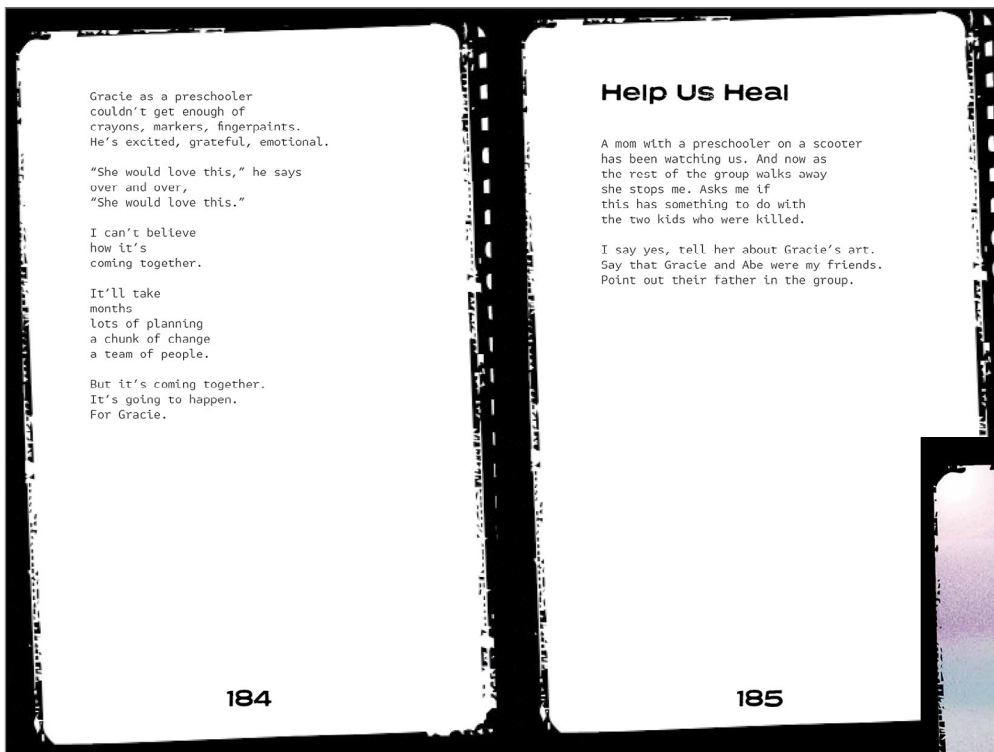
GRL: M • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

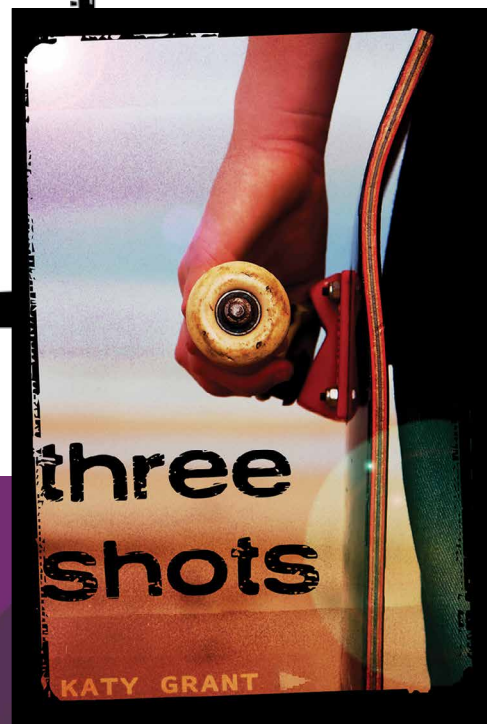
Daniel Valdez loves skateboarding with his friend, Gracie. Sometimes he even wonders if they can be more than friends. Then Gracie's mother kills her two children before turning the gun on herself. As grief counselors swoop into his high school and the whole community reels from the horrific deaths, Daniel drowns in his own pain and disbelief. What is his life without Gracie in it? As Daniel works through his grief, he'll need to find a way to move forward without leaving Gracie behind.

FICTION

NEW SPRING 2023!



Katy Grant is the author of nine novels for young readers. For many years, she taught creative writing and composition courses at the college level. A native of Tennessee, she now lives in Arizona with her husband. She enjoys travel, hiking, biking, and spending time with her two adult sons.

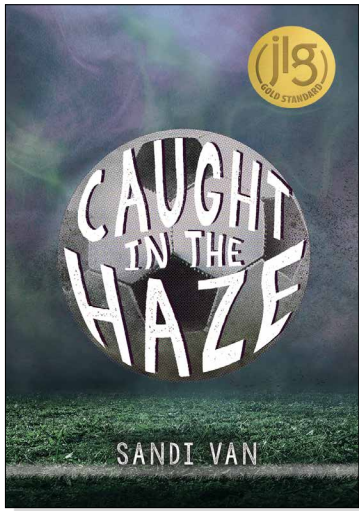


CAUGHT IN THE HAZE

BY: SANDI VAN

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595972eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595996Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978595989

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Tae has moved twice in his life. First, from South Korea to the United States when he was adopted as a baby, and then to a new town before he started high school. In Tae's new school, he's one of the youngest players, and the only person of color, trying out for the varsity soccer team—a team known for its violent hazing practices. Tae wants more than anything to be part of the team, but worries about fitting in. Then, he sees a familiar face. Luke is a soccer star on his way to scoring a role as the team captain and a full ride to college, but no one knows his secret—that he was adopted too. Tae and Luke met in an adoption group years before, and Luke's first instinct is to help Tae fit in. But tradition is tradition, and Luke might not be able to save Tae from being hurt in the hazing rituals without risking his own reputation.

Reviews/Awards:

"The terse, snappy narration from Tae's point of view is accessible and immersive... A fast-paced sports novel for reluctant readers." —*Kirkus*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

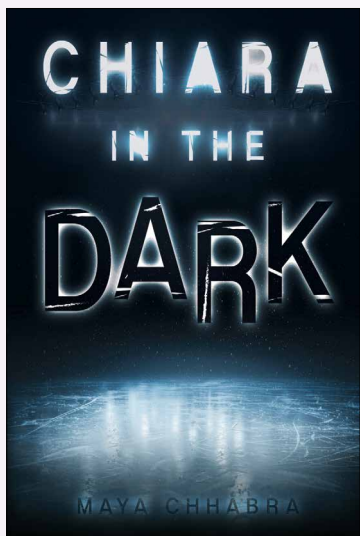
Sandi Van is a writer, counselor, and former soccer coach from Buffalo, New York. She is the author of YA verse novels *Everything It Takes*, *Listen Up*, and *Second in Command*. Mom to two boys, both adopted from South Korea, Sandi hates the term soccer mom but embraces her role as one and loves cheering from the sidelines. You can follow her on social media @sandivanwrites or visit her website at sandivan.com.

CHIARA IN THE DARK

BY: MAYA CHHABRA

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595941eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595965Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978595958

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Chiara is gliding through her senior year with ease, with a great babysitting job, a loyal best friend, a loving Indian-Italian immigrant family, and a shot at the summer ice-skating camp of her dreams. Then, out of nowhere, she starts having violent and unwanted thoughts and obsessions. The thoughts won't leave Chiara alone, making her wonder if she's a bad, violent person. Chiara decides to get help through therapy, but the idea of talking about her disturbing thoughts out loud is unthinkable. As Chiara opens up to therapy, she sees a glimmer of hope that she can have her life back. But her dark thoughts lie just beneath the surface, threatening to take it all away.

Reviews/Awards:

JLG Gold Standard Selection
"A sympathetic and ultimately hopeful story of strength." —*Kirkus*, STARRED REVIEW

"Mental health and wellness lie at the core of this novel in verse that follows high school senior Chiara as she lives an ideal life... Through verse, Chhabra weaves a complex story of the fears and stigma associated with mental health and mental illness, and though readers should be prepared to encounter trauma and violent thoughts, it is a privilege to watch Chiara grow and take control of her life." —*Booklist*



Maya Chhabra is a current student in the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program and a graduate of Georgetown University. Her first novel, *Stranger on the Home Front*, was released in 2021. Her short stories and poetry have appeared in anthologies and magazines, including *Daily Science Fiction*, *Strange Horizons*, and *PodCastle*. She lives in Brooklyn with her wife.

DANDELION TRAVELS

BY: ANGEL BARBER

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596122eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596146Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596139

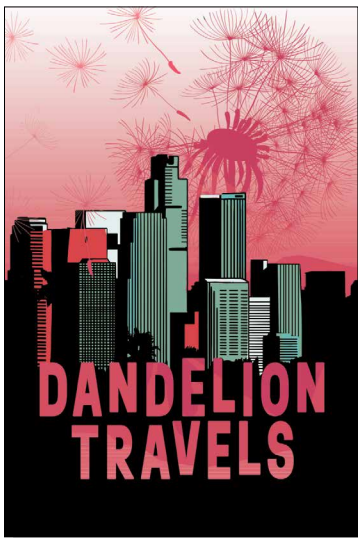
GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low ContentReading
Guide
Available

Eric Wallace is sick of secrets. As a Black queer teen, Eric's efforts to conform to fit his parents' and classmates' expectations have left him exhausted by the summer after senior year. When Eric finds out his pastor father has been cheating on his mother, his picture-perfect family crumbles. Eric rages at the double standards he's been held to. He travels to Los Angeles with his best friends to escape his home life and finally start to live on his own terms—and with his own style.

Reviews/Awards:

"A strong, emotionally complex choice for reluctant readers." —*Kirkus*



Angel Barber was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. He is a 19-year-old student at Buffalo State College studying television film arts, with interests in film, philosophy, and psychology. He has written various forms of poetry with the Just Buffalo Writing Center and plans to continue writing and strengthening his poetry and prose well into the future. This is his first novel.

KIKI IN THE MIDDLE

BY: ANN MALASPINA

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596061eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596085Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596078

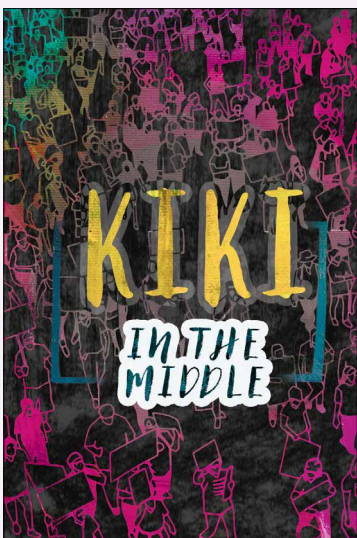
GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low ContentReading
Guide
Available

Kiki is a teen artist living with her Greek-American family in Queens. After a man with mental illness is killed by police, protests fill the streets. Kiki's into art, not activism, and would rather observe from the sidelines than participate, but she reluctantly joins her friends on a march. She is shocked when a protester lifts up a photograph of her brother, Stavros, and one word—*#Murderer*. Stavros, a police rookie in his first week on the job, says he was just defending himself. But Kiki's friends, and thousands of protesters, news reporters, and politicians, say he should be in jail. Kiki must decide who to believe, and what to do about it. Even artists can't stand on the sidelines forever.

Reviews/Awards:

"An entry point for reluctant readers to explore the personal side of social justice issues." —*Kirkus*



Ann Malaspina is an award-winning author of books for young people. She often writes about social justice and civil rights. Ann has an MFA in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. The daughter of a Greek immigrant, she lived in Queens for ten years while raising her two sons. When not writing, Ann likes to listen to spoken word poetry, visit art museums, and travel. Check out her website at www.annmalaspina.com.

ONLY PIECES

BY: EDD TELLO

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596009eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596023Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596016

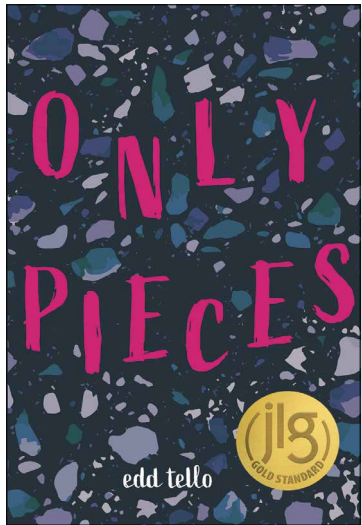
GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Edgar wants nothing more than to live his life out loud. But telling the truth about his sexuality isn't so easy in his traditional Mexican-American family, and his Amá has made it clear she won't accept who he is. Things get even harder when Edgar's macho father returns home after months away, and the house erupts into fighting and simmering tension. Edgar worries what would happen if he told his father the truth about who he is, and feels he'll never fit in anywhere. Then Edgar runs into Alex, a popular football player at school. With Alex, Edgar feels happy and free, believing he might finally pick up all the broken pieces of his heart. But falling in love is more complicated than Edgar can ever imagine—and coming out might destroy the only life he's ever known.

Reviews/Awards:

"The author infuses some lovely imagery and Mexican folklore into this overall pleasing offering. An appealing coming-of-age story that will engage reluctant readers." —*Kirkus*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

Edd Tello is a bilingual writer of children's and young adult literature. He has worked as an elementary school English teacher, and graduated from the University of Seville with a master's in creative writing. Since then, he has been writing newsletters and articles for website publications. Edd is currently a high school teacher in Mexico, and he is also the author of the YA verse novel *No Place for Fairy Tales*. When he isn't reading or writing, you can find him drinking coffee in the woods. Please visit him online at eddtello.com and [@eddstello](https://twitter.com/eddstello).

RIGHT ON CUE

BY: SABINE BRADLEY

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596153eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596177Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596160

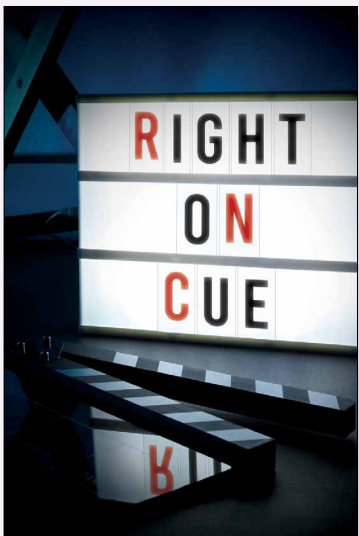
GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Things are looking up for Alex. Years after being taken away from her alcoholic mother and placed in a foster home, Alex is finally taking hold of her future and applying to film schools. But right on cue, her birth mother comes back into her life. Alex is not about to let her mother derail her life again. Then she learns her mother is very sick. She agrees to meet with her currently-sober mother, promising to guard her heart and prepare for disappointment. But closing her heart isn't as easy as stopping a reel, and Alex wonders if she should reconcile or move on before it's too late.

Reviews/Awards:

"A compact, emotionally resonant tale ideal for reluctant readers." —*Kirkus*



Sabine Bradley is a Western New York native, writer, activist, and mother. She is passionate about the ways human beings relate to each other, and studies Peace and Conflict Theory. In her spare time, she likes to hike and plans on one day walking the entire Empire Trail from Manhattan to Toronto.

SHOOT THE STORM

BY: ANNETTE DANIELS TAYLOR

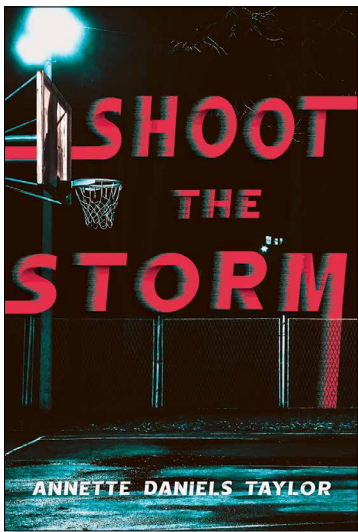
HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595675

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595590

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978595576

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content



Aaliyah is a star basketball player, thanks to her dad, Boogie-G. Then she sees her father killed on the park basketball courts and completely shuts down. Now, she's set on revenge. Aaliyah makes a deal with Land-Lord, a gang boss who promises to find her father's killer and arrange for his death in exchange for an unknown favor. Aaliyah soon realizes that getting even with her father's killer might compromise everything she's worked for in her life and on the court. She'll do anything to honor her father's legacy, but at what cost?



Annette Daniels Taylor is the award-winning author of the YA novel in verse *Dreams on Fire*. She uses multiple media disciplines, including poetry, performance, filmmaking, playwriting, and vocals, to tell her stories. A veteran teaching artist, Annette leads writing, performance, and media workshops in various learning institutions and community organizations. She is an adjunct professor at SUNY Buffalo State teaching broadcast media writing. Born and raised in Staten Island, Annette works and lives with her family, cats, and plants in Buffalo, New York.

SURVIVE AND KEEP SURVIVING

BY: MEL MALLORY

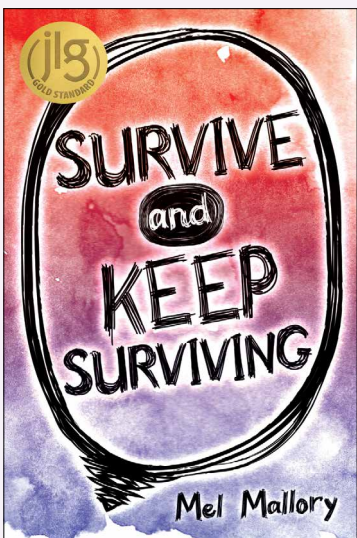
HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595910

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595934

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978595927

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content



After being sexually assaulted at a party, Mara started experiencing paranoia and delusional thoughts, which resulted in a public psychotic episode freshman year. Now a senior in high school, Mara feels like an outcast who would rather keep to herself than risk being judged. However, the only way she'll graduate is if she can pass her least favorite class: public speaking. Mara is ready to publicly reclaim her own story—but will she find acceptance this time around?

Reviews/Awards:

"This slim novel works both as a high/low pick and a selection for those seeking a realistic, emotionally intelligent read." —*Booklist*

"This brief, realistic novel is accessibly written in free verse by Mallory, who offers the firsthand perspective of a person living with psychosis. It focuses on Mara's recovery, achieved through hard work with Dr. Lewis, who helps shore up her independence and self-confidence and wisely tells her that 'Recovery is always a process.' Characters are cued as white. A novel for reluctant readers that explores a young woman's courage in finding her voice." —*Kirkus*



Mel Mallory is a writer and mental health advocate. She has a B.A. in women and gender studies and a minor in English. Her work is influenced by her own experience being disabled and living with psychosis. She currently lives in Maryland with her two guinea pigs. You can find her at melmallory.com.

THE DRAGONS CLUB

BY: CYN BERMUDEZ

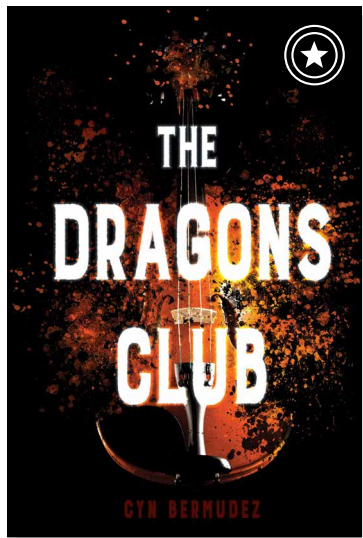
HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596030

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596054

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596047

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content



Faith Navarro has landed a scholarship to an arts high school for violin. But her struggles at home threaten to take away everything she's ever worked for. Her older sister's drug addiction has caused Faith to miss school one too many times. Her school offers her one more chance to keep her scholarship—enrollment in a teen support group called the Dragons Club. The last thing Faith wants to do is talk to other teens about her sister's addiction and how it affects her, but soon she forms a deep connection to the other members and finds herself, and her music, coming alive again. However, the teens are all in this club for a reason, and tragedies seem inevitable. As her sister's addiction escalates, Faith has to choose between her sister and the life she's built for herself.

Reviews/Awards:

★ "Sharp, tender, carefully crafted; highly recommended for both strong and striving readers."
—Kirkus, STARRED Review



Cyn Bermudez is a writer from Bakersfield, California. She attended college in Santa Barbara, California, where she studied physics, film, and creative writing. She is the author of young adult novel *And the Moon Follows* and the hi-lo middle grade series *Brothers*. Cyn loves spending time with her family, baking, painting, crafting, and do-it-yourself projects. For more information about Cyn, visit her website at www.cynbermudez.com.

THE SAME BEAT

BY: DAKOTA BRITTON-BARROWS

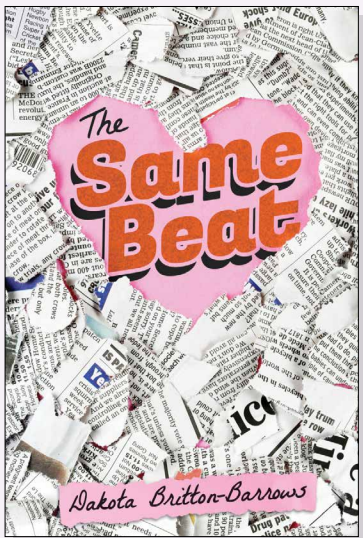
HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595682

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978595620

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978595606

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content



Words matter to Teegan. Best Friend. Forever. Future. But nothing seems clear this summer when her best friend leaves for a college road trip and her future plans after high school are nonexistent. Teegan takes an opportunity to go to New York City for journalism camp, where she is assigned to work the same beat as brilliant, complex Marcy. As Teegan starts to fall in love with Marcy, she realizes the need to discover her own voice. Can she find the right words to say how she feels, and the courage to figure out what she wants, before their summer is over?



Dakota Britton-Barrows is a poet and writer who manages a queer café in New Hampshire. Dakota is an alum of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, and served 10 months in the Southwest region of the country. They have previously published their own zine, *Term*, and have had their nonfiction published in *Crab Fat Magazine*. In their spare time, they can be found volunteering as a facilitator for the local LGBTQ Youth Group, sipping on lattes, perusing around greenhouses, and browsing the local bookstores for their next great read! They live with their wife, Danielle, and their 32 houseplants in Dover, New Hampshire.

THINGS THAT BURN

BY: A.M. ROGERS

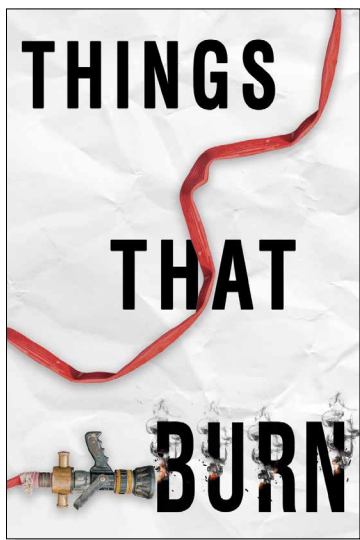
HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596092

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596115

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596108

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content



It's a hot, dry summer in Harper's hometown in Southern California. Things are heating up at home, too. Harper lives full-time with her firefighter father. But he's expecting a new baby with his new wife, and Harper feels like the odd person out. The only time Harper feels okay is when she's on stage—pretending to be anyone but herself. When a wildfire breaks out nearby, everything shuts down. Now Harper's stuck with her stepmom at home, waiting for her father to return home alive. As her world starts to burn, Harper has to decide how to act—and hope it makes a difference.

Reviews/Awards:

"Emotional turmoil and environmental threats are skillfully handled in this accessible novel in verse." —*Kirkus*



A.M. Rogers is a writer and actress who lives on the shores of Lake Erie. She is passionate about creating community through storytelling and literature, and she believes we need to do something yesterday about climate change. She loves libraries and cats—and (you guessed it) library cats.

TO BE MAYA

BY: CLAUDIA RECINOS SELDEEN

HC ed.: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596184

eBook: \$25.80 / **\$19.40** • 9781978596207

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / **\$14.20** • 9781978596191

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2023 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,
About the Author Section, High / Low Content



Maya loves her mother, but she's also embarrassed by her. Maya's mother emigrated from Guatemala years before Maya was born. Still, she clings tightly to her roots and traditions. When lacrosse star Josh Williams suddenly expresses interest in Maya, she's excited to go on a real date. But Maya's mother isn't on board. Can Maya make her mother see she's ready to grow up and have more freedom? And can she do it before Josh loses interest and moves on to someone who isn't held down by their Guatemalan heritage?

Reviews/Awards:

"A strong voice and lyrical prose center the experiences of a Guatemalan American teen." —*Kirkus*



Claudia Recinos Seldeen is a Miami native who currently resides in Western New York. Her work has appeared in *Fun 4 Kids* in Buffalo and *Woo! Jr.*, and in the online journal *Touch: The Journal of Healing*. She is a first generation Guatemalan American. When not writing, she is either playing in the snow with her husband and son, or flying through the air on a trapeze.

A PERFECT BLANK

By: Rye Duran

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382868

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383438

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382851

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Project Apogee had one mission: to create biologically engineered perfect teenagers. The teenagers were supposed to be expressions of a perfect genetic mapping of traits, an example of the New Human. But when the teens go before the project committee, they are found to be utterly normal and unremarkable, a disappointment. Then there's Alex, the lost teen who failed years ago, who might just be the most remarkable of them all.

Rye Duran is a trans writer and multidisciplinary artist from Atlanta, Georgia. Duran studied creative writing at University of Massachusetts Amherst and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Duran's fabulist hybrid-genre work has appeared in *Ninth Letter*, *Salt Hill*, and *Bat City Review*. Favorite authors include Octavia Butler and Matthew Salesses.



Reviews/Awards:

"VERDICT: For the collection looking to build its LGBT titles, this is a book that praises every life as remarkable and worthy."
—*School Library Journal*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

AND WE CALL IT LOVE



By: Amanda Vink

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382769

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383384

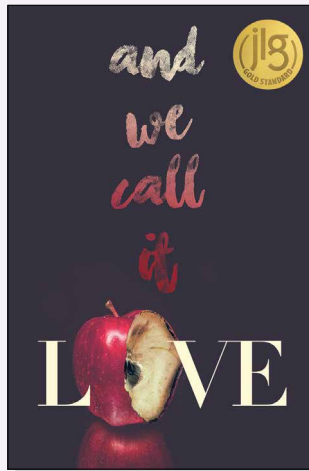
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382752

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ATOS: 3.3 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Clare and Zari are best friends. They write music together, go everywhere together, and they know everything about the other. At least they did before Zari started dating Dion. The more Zari falls for Dion, the less she has time for anything else. At first, Clare chalks it up to a new and exciting relationship, and she tries to be happy for her friend despite her loneliness. When Zari starts to show up to school with half-hidden bruises, Clare knows there's something darker about this relationship that has to be stopped.

Amanda Vink is an author and actress in Buffalo, New York. She received a bachelor's degree in English and Creative Writing from the State University of New York at Fredonia, and she has been working in publishing since 2012. Her writing has appeared in various internet locations, such as *The Rain, Party, and Disaster Society*. She has been a film and stage actress since 2013. When not writing or performing, Amanda can be found hiking, practicing the Dutch language, and traveling around the world.



Reviews/Awards:

"Best friends combat relationship strain caused by parental interference, secrets, and a new abusive boyfriend in this novel in verse...Holds strong appeal for reluctant readers, exploring different types of love, social class, and dating violence."
—*Kirkus*

—*Kirkus*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

CONTROL ROOM



By: Ryan Wolf

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385210

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385227

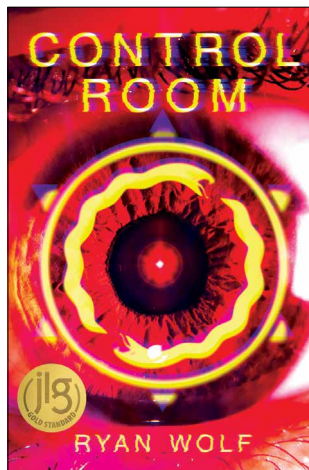
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538385203

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ATOS: 3.4 • ©2021 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Sixteen-year-old Maggie is pulled from her high school after her mother begins dating a member of a small "forward-thinking" group led by a man who proclaims secret knowledge of life and death. Maggie begins homeschooling at the group's compound, where she is educated in their cult beliefs. As the group's leader becomes progressively unhinged, and her mother becomes more connected to the cult, Maggie must rescue her mother and other cult members from a horrific fate before it is too late.

Ryan Wolf is the author of *Watches and Warnings*, a novel for young adults, as well as the *Creepy Critter Keepers* chapter book series for children. He has published stories, poems, essays, reviews, and journalism. Ryan holds a master's degree in the humanities from the University of Chicago. He lives in Oak Park, Illinois, with his wife, Jenna. Learn more about Ryan at www.ryanswolf.com.



Reviews/Awards:

JLG Gold Standard Selection

CLEAR CUT

By: **Melody Dodds**

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385159

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385166

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538385142

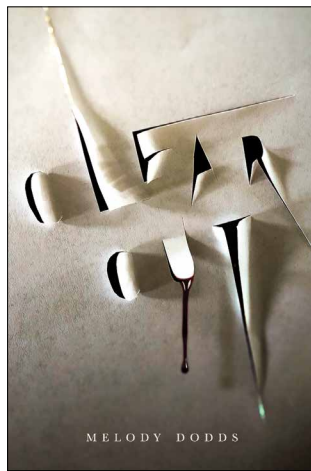
GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Heather Wright is always all right. That's what people say. But if she's always all right, then why is life so hard? Heather starts cutting as a way to deal with the difficult emotions she locks inside. But what starts out as casual cutting turns into a dangerous addiction. When Heather goes away to summer theater camp, she meets Josie. Josie is a tough, sassy diva who is more than just a cutter, but a cutting advocate online. Heather looks up to Josie until the darkness of Josie's inner world threatens to spill out over the side and drown both of them. Until she does the unthinkable.

Melody Dodds is a chemist and former substitute teacher. In addition to this book, she is the author of another verse novel, *Little Pills*. She shares her home with two cats and one husband, and is building a foil ball exclusively from candy wrappers. It is currently the size of a small pumpkin.

Reading
Guide
Available



DREAMS ON FIRE

By: **Annette Daniels Taylor**

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382486

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 978153838247

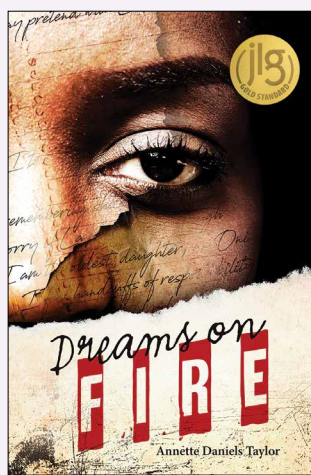
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382479

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

With an incarcerated father and an estranged, drug-addicted mother, Shanequa's dreams of higher education feel like a fantasy. When Shanequa gets the chance to attend a prestigious private prep school, she feels like her dreams might become reality. Shanequa finds it easier to lie to her new friends than tell them the truth about her family. When her lies are found out, and Shanequa strikes back in blind rage, her path changes forever.

Annette Daniels Taylor is a spoken word artist from Staten Island living in Western New York. As an Arthur A. Schomburg fellow, Annette studied media arts at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is a Pink Door Poetry alum and graduate of SUNY Empire State College. The author of *Street Pharmacist* and *Hush Now...Poems to Read Aloud*, she leads spoken word workshops with teenagers at youth detention centers modeling creative expression.



JLG Gold Standard Selection
In the Margins Book Award Winner

Reviews/Awards:

"Using realistic, raw, and powerful poetry that will reach the reluctant reader, Taylor's novel tells a difficult story entirely through the poems of its young protagonist. Effectively uses poetry to tell a story simply and with no frills, and yet ensure honesty flows through every word. A beautiful, empowering choice for a wide spectrum of readers."
—Booklist

"America's systemic race and class problems are viscerally rendered in this evocative account. A haunting and honest depiction of adversity and triumph that reveals America's continuing struggle to give equal opportunities to all."
—Kirkus

"Through first-person narration, Shanequa describes the daily difficulties she faces. Rich language around dreams and responsibilities abounds, as do opportunities to discuss or ponder telltale signs of true or false friendships and the numbing effects of drugs and alcohol. VERDICT: Battling many forces themselves, young adult readers will be rooting for Shanequa to 'lift off the ground' and find her truth. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED."
—School Library Journal

EVERY LITTLE BAD IDEA

By: **Caitie McKay**

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382660

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383339

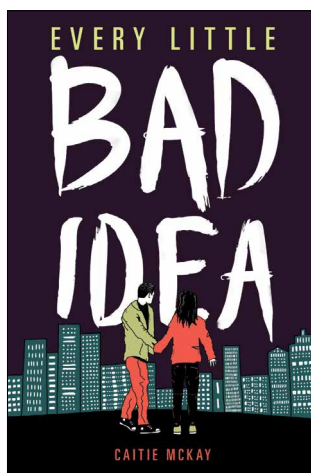
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382653

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

The women in Skyler Wise's family have a weakness for bad boys, but not Skyler. She has one thing on her mind: leaving her run-down neighborhood and going to college. When Skyler's normally strict mom starts dating again, she feels abandoned. Skyler meets Cole, a boy who makes her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her future. Even though he has a dangerous reputation, Skyler believes she knows the real Cole, the sweet, caring boyfriend who makes her feel seen for once in her life. When Cole starts to change, Skyler realizes that she'll do anything to keep him around, even if it means giving up her dream and losing the people closest to her.

Caitie McKay is a writer and children's book editor from Buffalo, New York. She graduated with a degree in creative writing from Canisius College, where she was awarded the G.E. Murray Award for Excellence in Creative Writing. She's written and edited more than 500 educational books for children.



Reviews/Awards:

"The author uses poetic verse to draw the reader into Skyler's head, creating an immediacy and intimacy that make this short novel compelling and resonant. The ensuing heartbreak is mirrored by the novel's verse, providing a clever presentation of a familiar topic. An appealing choice."
—Kirkus

"Readers will easily relate to this contemporary 'good girl meets bad boy' tale, and the struggles of adolescence and coming into one's own identity. The free verse and short stanzas will draw in reluctant readers, and the lyrical, captivating writing builds an intimate connection to the well-developed characters. VERDICT: Perfect for fans of Ellen Hopkins; with broad appeal for teens, this is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for young adult collections."
—School Library Journal

EVERYTHING IT TAKESBy: **Sandi Van**

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595668

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595569

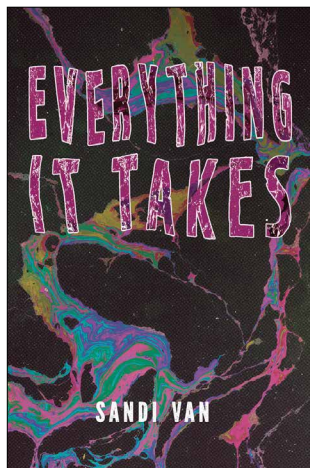
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781978595545

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.6 • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Lily Landon knows college is the ticket out of her boring small town and her first step to becoming a lawyer like the ones she watches on television. To help her applications stand out, Lily joins Green for Good, her school's environmental club, and meets Fiona, a passionate activist who will do everything it takes to protect the planet. As Lily grows closer to Fiona, she realizes "everything it takes" may mean getting arrested, and a criminal record does not look good on college applications. How can Lily save the Earth without destroying her future?

Sandi Van is a writer, counselor, and self-proclaimed tree hugger from Buffalo, New York. She is the author of young adult verse novels, *Second in Command* and *Listen Up*, and her poetry won recognition in the *Elmira Star-Gazette* and the PennWriters' In Other Words contest. She hopes her story will inspire readers to do their part to keep our planet beautiful and safe for everyone.

Reading
Guide
Available**FIFTEEN AND CHANGE**By: **Max Howard**

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382608

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383308

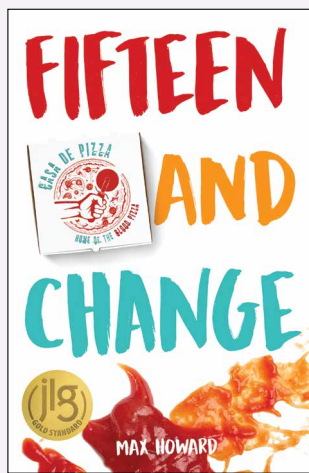
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382592

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ATOS: 3.1 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Zeke would love to be invisible. His mother is struggling to make ends meet and stuck with a no-good boyfriend. Zeke knows he and his mom will be stuck forever if he doesn't find some money fast. When Zeke starts working at a local pizza place, he meets labor activists who want to give him a voice, and the living wage he deserves for his work. Zeke has to decide between living the quiet life he's carved for himself and raising his voice for justice.

Max Howard loves woods and words and finds them both in books. Max has worked lots of day jobs, including pizza delivery driver, fashion show stagehand, and AP test scorer, but still finds the time to write for kids and adults. Max is the author of *Surviving American History*, *The Water Year*, and *Everything in Its Path*.

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader™

JLG Gold Standard Selection

Reviews/Awards:

"Page-long free-verse poems evocatively describe Zeke's experiences and quickly propel the story forward. Readers will easily sympathize with the all-too-true-to-life situations with which the characters are coping. This novel has many appealing aspects that will draw readers in." —*Kirkus*

"An exceptionally well-written novel by an author who has impressively mastered character- and narrative-driven storytelling, *Fifteen and Change* is an especially recommended addition to school and community library Contemporary General Fiction collections for young readers." —*Midwest Book Review*

"This novel in verse has a sense of urgency. Short poems provide readers with snapshots of life in poverty, loneliness in high school, and the unfair treatment of fast food employees by management." —*School Library Journal*

I AM WATERBy: **Meg Specksgoor**

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382806

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383407

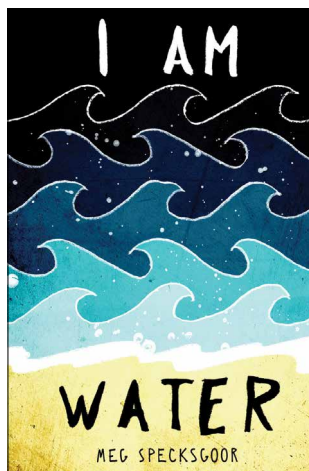
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382790

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Hannah works as the only female river-rafting guide in her closed-minded small town. Labeled a tomboy, she often struggles to reconcile the way she fits into normal gender stereotypes. Hannah meets Ezra, who blurs the lines between woman and man. They begin an exciting new relationship, but soon Ezra starts pushing Hannah's limits and her definition of love.

Meg Specksgoor is a poet and river-rafting guide in northern New Mexico. She graduated from Houghton College with a degree in English and writing with minors in art and intercultural studies. She likes campfires, breakfast, adventuring, and people who tell her interesting stories in combination with any of those activities.



KNIGHTS OF SUBURBIA

By: P. A. Kurch

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382745

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383377

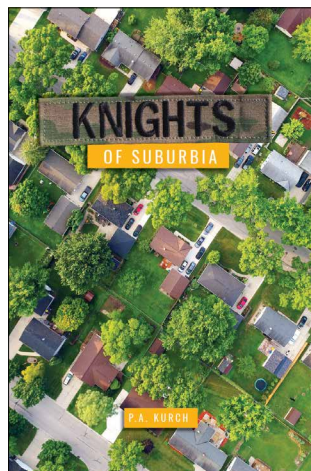
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382738

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Life was supposed to be better after the war. Seventeen-year-old Henry Knights knows different. Henry's older brother returns from overseas a changed man just as his father decides to run for public office. Within days, his brother's PTSD and his father's campaign turn life upside down, as does the arrival of a famous war reporter. Caught in chaos, Henry and his twin sister, both adopted, consider finding their birth family. Family secrets. Pranks. A whole lot of trouble. This is the story of the Knights of Suburbia.

P. A. Kurch first began *Knights of Suburbia* as a comic strip in his college newspaper that was largely based on his own experiences of his older brother's deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is excited to finally be able to share this story with readers as his first officially published work. When he is not writing or drawing, P. A. Kurch gets to be the biggest kid-at-heart every day as a teacher.



LISTEN UP

By: Sandi Van

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385289

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385272

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538385265

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2021 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Lucas wants to speak out against the injustices he sees at his school, but he's paralyzed by social anxiety. He decides to start an anonymous online video channel, disguise his face and voice, and expose the things no one dares to talk about. But when Lucas blames the student council president for harming another student, her powerful parents become involved to unmask the social crusader. Afraid to lose the ground he gained with the videos, but even more afraid to speak out in public, Lucas must find a way to keep his voice from going silent.

Sandi Van is a writer, counselor, and former special education teacher from Buffalo, New York. She is the author of the young adult verse novel, *Second in Command*, and her poetry won recognition in the *Elmira Star-Gazette* and the PennWriters' In Other Words contest. Sandi draws inspiration from former students and admires those around her with the bravery to speak up for what they believe in.

Reading
Guide
Available



Reviews/Awards:
JLG Gold Standard Selection

LITTLE PILLS

By: Melody Dodds

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382820

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383414

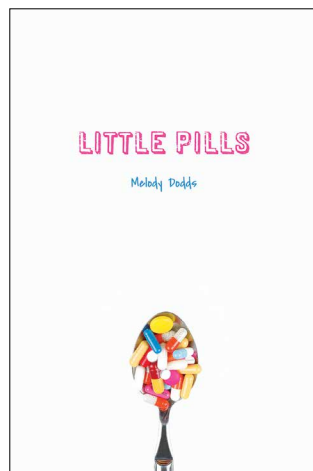
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382813

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Seventeen-year-old Charlotte Navarro never asked to be anyone's hero. If you're a hero, your sister isn't supposed to hate you. And you're definitely not supposed to get hooked on Gramma's painkillers. Even so, Charlotte's sister's friend Mia looks at her like she's some sort of hero. As Charlotte starts taking pills more and more, she has to question how it could hurt herself and others, even Mia. Is it a harmless habit or a dangerous addiction?

Melody Dodds is a chemist and former substitute teacher. In addition to this book, she is the author of another verse novel *Clear Cut*. She shares her home with two cats and one husband, and is building a foil ball exclusively from candy wrappers. It is currently the size of a small pumpkin.



Reviews/Awards:
"Dodds presents a genuine, complicated, and struggling teenage protagonist in Charlotte...An engrossing, lyrical debut with strong appeal for reluctant readers that confronts the realities of addiction through an absorbing first-person narrative." —*Kirkus*

MANNING UP

By: Bee Walsh

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382684

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383346

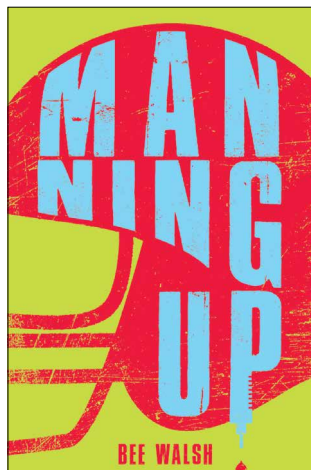
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382677

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ATOS: 4.6 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Jack is at the top of his game. He's a senior running back on the football team, dominating every opponent in his way. To everyone else, Jack is totally in control. In reality, he struggles with an eating disorder that controls every aspect of his daily life. When Jack starts using steroids, he feels invincible, but will the steroids help him win the big game, or will he lose everything he's ever worked for?

Bee Walsh is a nonbinary poet, editor, and introvert from the Bronx, NY. They attended SUNY Fredonia, where they received a degree in English language/literature as well as a degree in international studies, and they are currently attending SUNY Buffalo pursuing an MA in applied economics. Their work has appeared in *Wyvern Lit*, *Velvet Tail*, *Vagabond Lit*, *Riggwelter*, *Ghost City Press*, and *The Fem*. *Manning Up* has been chosen for the 2021 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers and 2021 Lone Star Award lists. You can find Bee at thesentientsea.net.

Reading
Guide
AvailableRENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader™**Reviews/Awards:**

"A short but impactful read about a topic teens face more often than is widely known and which is not typically seen in YA fiction." —YALSA

**YALSA Quick Picks for
Reluctant Readers**
Texas Lone Star Award List 2021

MORE THAN ANGER

By: Lexi Bruce

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382646

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383322

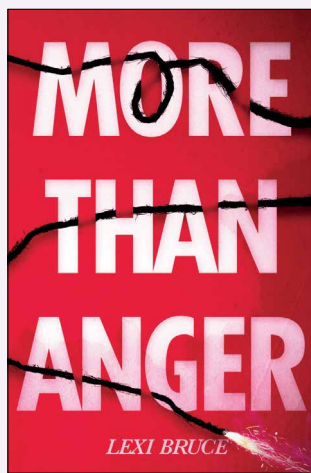
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382639

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

It is no secret that Anna's parents are going through a rough patch. When that rough patch turns positively volatile, Anna starts to wonder why her parents are staying together at all. Will their anger destroy everything Anna has ever known? Can Anna allow herself to fall in love when she sees how it can turn so easily to hate?

Lexi Bruce is from Buffalo, New York, and received a degree in English and creative writing from Canisius College. She enjoys bicycling around her city and hiking whenever she can get out of the city. Lexi knows firsthand the toll divorce can take on a family, and on a young person hoping to find a healthy relationship. She wants this book to be a sign of hope for anyone who is going through this.

**RISING OUT**

By: M. Azmitia

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595422

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595446

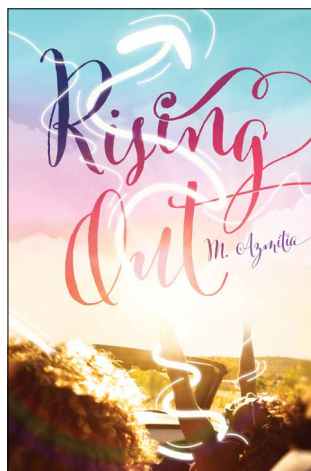
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781978595439

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.6 • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Anaya knows great things are expected of her: go to college, find a good man, and make her mother proud. But going to college means leaving behind her best friend, Eri. Eri is an Afrolatina transgender woman living in a closed-minded world and only Anaya knows her secret. The two decide to take a cross-country road trip, where Eri is finally able to open up to who she is, and Anaya finds out that she might be in love with her best friend.

M. Azmitia is a government employee by day and a poet/cat lady by night in New York City. She holds a degree in English and creative writing. Azmitia writes about identity, discovery, and acceptance in marginalized communities in the hopes of starting crucial conversations about diversity. Her first novel, *The Same Blood*, is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection about Latinidad and mental health in families of color.

Reading
Guide
Available

ONE TOO MANY LIES

By: L. A. Bowen

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382509

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383254

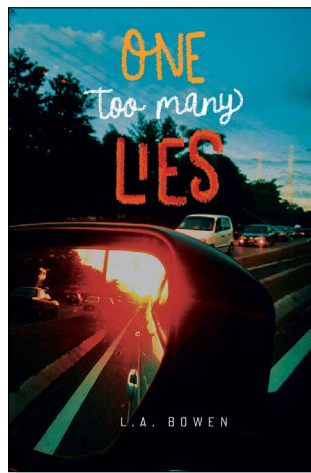
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382493

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Paige and her friends tell the subtle lies that are a part of daily life. White lies to avoid insulting friends. Fibs to escape unwanted judgment from classmates. Half-truths to evade their parents' watchful eyes. But could their lies become dangerous? What happens when the lies become a matter of life and death?

L. A. Bowen is a writer and artist, among other things. In addition to creating works of fiction, she designs children's books, plays in a rock band, and raises ostriches. One of these things is a lie. Bowen's stories are inspired by the adventures and misadventures of her teenage years. She lives with her husband and three cats in Buffalo, New York.



Reviews/Awards:

"Debut author Bowen ultimately offers a glimmer of redemption. Without judgment, she uses Paige's first-person narrative to show the dangers of alcohol and drugs by constructing a linear path of poems that will haunt the reader. Engaging novel." —*Kirkus*

"Give this coming-of-age work to fans of YA verse novels and reluctant readers."
—*School Library Journal*

SANCTUARY SOMEWHERE

By: Brenna Dimmig

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382844

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383421

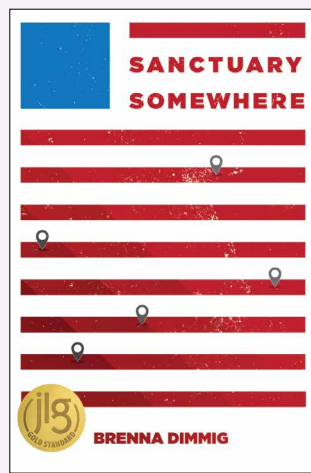
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382837

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ATOS: 4.1 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Seventeen-year-old Osmel dreams of being a meteorologist. His world is shattered when he finds out he is undocumented. Osmel fears his dreams for college and career are now impossible. Then, ICE begins raiding the orchards his family works in. Will Osmel and his family ever find safety and peace in the place they call home?

Brenna Dimmig is a writer and ENL educator. She studied journalism, creative writing, and Spanish at John Carroll University. She lived for several years in the Pacific Northwest as a Jesuit Volunteer. She worked for organizations including Catholic Family and Child Services and El Programa Hispano Católico, where she became familiar with the process of applying for DACA and U.S. Citizenship. She is passionate to share the stories of the families she came to consider her familia.



Reviews/Awards:

"Debut author Dimmig produces a deep and meaningful story in verse for reluctant readers about a young man who is shocked to discover that he is undocumented...The narrative is powerful, informative, and insightful...An undeniably moving read recommended for absolutely everyone—Dreamer or not." —*Kirkus*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

SECOND IN COMMAND

By: Sandi Van

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382622

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383315

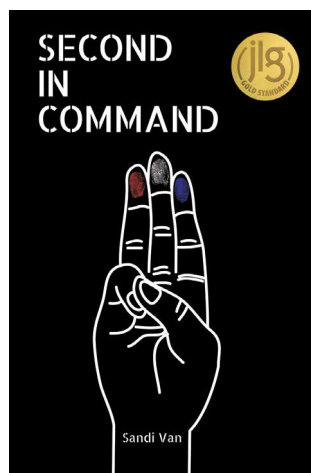
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382615

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Sixteen-year-old Leo dreams of becoming an Eagle Scout and, someday, a police officer. He makes sure to always do the right thing and be responsible. With his mom deployed and his dad constantly working, Leo is often left in charge of his two younger siblings. Then Leo's brother, Jack, gets caught up in a dangerous plot that rocks the community. Can Leo keep his promise to stand by his brother no matter what, or will he stand on the side of justice?

Sandi Van is a writer, counselor, and former special education teacher from Buffalo, New York. Her nonfiction piece "Labor and Delivery" was featured in *Adoptive Families Magazine*, and her poetry won recognition in the Elmira Star-Gazette and the PennWriters' In Other Words contest. Sandi is a Navy wife and has witnessed the struggles families face when a parent is deployed. Her book is inspired by and dedicated to those families.



Reviews/Awards:

"[A] heartfelt debut novel that explores the challenges facing military families left at home...effectively utilizes verse to impeccably convey the feelings of sadness, anger, displacement, and lack of belonging of young people on the brink of adulthood...Reluctant readers will enjoy exploring Leo's loyalty to his family and ideals, strong threads woven through the fabric of this emotional story." —*Kirkus*

"Teens overwhelmed by a parent called up for active duty will connect with this quick read that depicts young people confronting life without the benefit of a consistent parental presence. VERDICT: This novel in verse is recommended for reluctant readers, especially in areas where there is a large military population."
—*School Library Journal*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

SICK GIRL SECRETS

By: Anna Russell

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595637

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595477

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781978595453

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.6 • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Sometimes in high school, all you want is to be invisible. Being invisible might be the biggest problem of all for Natalie. She has a disability that causes chaos to her body on the inside but leaves her unmarked on the outside. She's learned to hide her pain so well that you would never guess she's not the same Natalie as she was before she got sick. But after having surgery, Natalie must return to school in a wheelchair. Now, Natalie has to decide if the painful consequences of pretending to be healthy are worth keeping the last of her sick girl secrets.

Anna Russell is a disabled and chronically ill writer from Buffalo, NY. She holds an MFA in creative writing. Her writing explores topics on chronic illnesses, mental health, and other disabilities to shine a light on these often underrepresented experiences. Her other novel in verse, *What If?*, was published in 2018.



SOME GIRLS BIND

By: Rory James

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382547

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383278

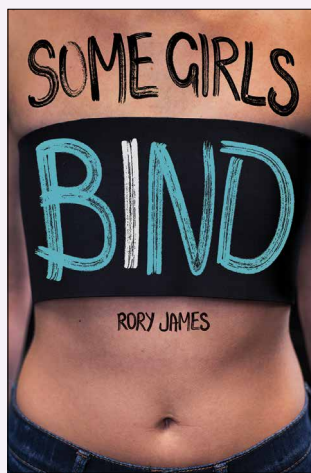
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382530

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Jamie knows that she isn't like other girls. She has a secret. She binds her chest every day to feel more like herself. Jamie questions why she is drawn to this practice and why she is afraid of telling her friends, who have their own secrets. Could she really be genderqueer?

Rory James is a writer from Cleveland, Ohio. She holds degrees in creative writing, English, and political science. Rory now teaches test prep classes to high school students. Inspired by her own experience with gender issues, Rory hopes to reach the many young people with struggles or questions of their own.



Reviews/Awards:

★ "James proves the power of the novel in verse as a vehicle to convey rich characterization, complex themes, and a reading experience that levels the field between struggling and skilled readers... Jamie's friends each have their own issues, and Jamie is a sympathetic friend as well as a teen caught in the private drama of self-awareness that makes adolescence and identity construction frightening to so many. VERDICT: Highly recommended for school and public libraries." —*School Library Journal*, Starred Review

"A genderqueer teen claims their identity and comes out to the people they love in this novel in verse for reluctant readers... A coming-out story full of love and affirmation that encourages identity exploration." —*Kirkus*

"Addresses the complex reality of being genderqueer without being overly didactic, while offering, in Jamie, a sympathetic character who realistically struggles to find her identity and share its reality." —*Booklist*

SURVIVING AMERICAN HISTORY

By: Max Howard

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595644

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595507

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781978595484

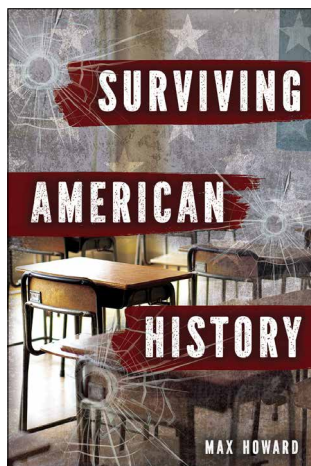
GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.6 • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Gabi is furious about her parents divorcing and moving her away from her hometown, her friends, and her school. But on the day she moves away, a shooter opens fire on Gabi's old school, killing her American History classmates. She knows she should have been in that classroom. Now, Gabi has to navigate a new school and new social circles while dealing with a looming dark cloud of grief, survivor's guilt, and fear. She meets impulsive troublemaker Lennon, who might just understand her dark side, or may pull her deeper into it.

Max Howard lives in Wisconsin and is the author of *The Water Year*, *Fifteen and Change*, and *Everything in Its Path*. Every day, Max tries to remember three things: a) the pen is mightier than the sword; b) the first step toward building a better world is having a dream of how things could be different; c) the second step is inviting other people to share in that dream.

Reading
Guide
Available



Reviews/Awards:

North Star YA Award (Maine)

THE SAME BLOOD

By: M. Azmitia

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382523

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383261

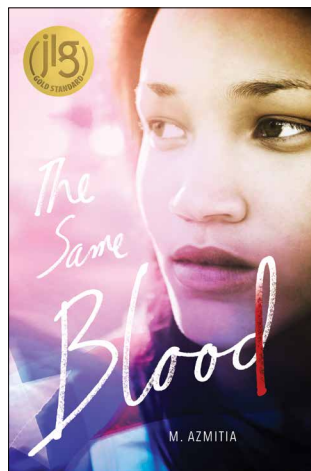
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382516

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ATOS: 4.2 • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Twin sisters Elena and Marianella couldn't be more different. Marianella goes out of her way to actively participate in their Puerto Rican culture, whereas Elena is embarrassed by their traditions. Marianella is also fighting a very private battle with mental illness, and takes her own life not long after their fifteenth birthday. As Elena mourns her sister, she tries to live her life without the limitations and rules Marianella set for her. When her life spirals out of control, Elena realizes the depth of her roots and the guilt of not helping her sister before it was too late.

M. Azmitia is a government employee by day and a poet/cat lady by night in New York City. She holds a degree in English and creative writing. Azmitia writes about Latinidad and mental health in the hopes of starting a conversation about the stigma of mental illness in communities of color.



Reviews/Awards:

"Evocative poems, all narrated from Elena's perspective, connect readers to her overwhelming guilt and shame. An examination of Latinx identity, family bonds, mental health, suicide, grief, and guilt that will hopefully spark much-needed dialogue. Necessary." —*Kirkus*

"The plot has a steady pace after the tragic beginning, and keeps readers intrigued about what will happen next. Character development is excellent; Azmitia explores both twins in depth. VERDICT: A solid addition to the novel-in-verse format. RECOMMENDED for general purchase." —*School Library Journal*

JLG Gold Standard Selection
In the Margins Book Award Winner

THE VANISHING PLACE

By: Theresa Emminizer

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385098

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385104

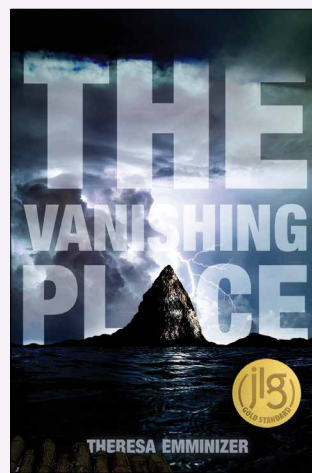
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538385081

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

When Brooke, Eva, Nate, and Jay take a nighttime sail off the Florida coast, they never imagine that their lives are about to change forever. Shipwrecked by a storm at sea, the teenagers become castaways on an island that seems designed to test their very natures. Faced with loss, trauma, and the harsh reality of day-to-day survival, will they find the strength to confront their inner demons and escape the Vanishing Place? Or are mysterious forces at work to keep them stranded for all time?

Theresa Emminizer is a writer and editor from Buffalo, New York, where she earned her degree in history and creative writing. She is the author of several educational nonfiction books, including *HMS Beagle Voyage and the Galápagos Islands*. She enjoys traveling to new places, wandering in nature, and spending time with her husband and cats. This is Theresa's first novel.



Reviews/Awards:

"An adventure story for reluctant readers driven by high winds of melodrama." —*Kirkus*

JLG Gold Standard Selection

THE WICKED EDGE

By: Nicole Elizabeth

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382561

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383285

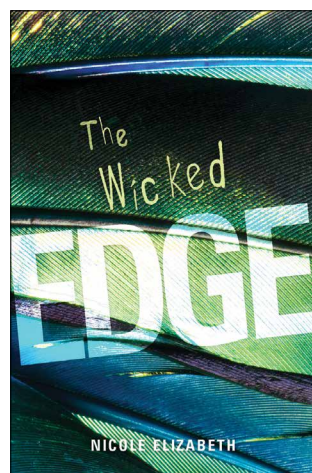
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382554

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.60 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Helen White is out of her element. She's moved with her mother from a white, middle-class neighborhood to a reservation to live with her mother's new boyfriend. Helen starts at the tribal high school, where she feels out of place and lonely. Then she meets King. Helen starts a twisted relationship with King, breaking the mold she's always known, and changing in ways she never thought possible.

Nicole Elizabeth grew up in Central New York and received a bachelor's degree in English and creative writing. She served as an AmeriCorps volunteer through Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest at Paschal Sherman Indian School in Omak, Washington, on the Colville Indian Reservation. There she fostered significant relationships with the kids, community members, and fellow volunteers while teaching and tutoring in reading.



TOUGH AS LACE

By: Lexi Bruce

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595651

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781978595538

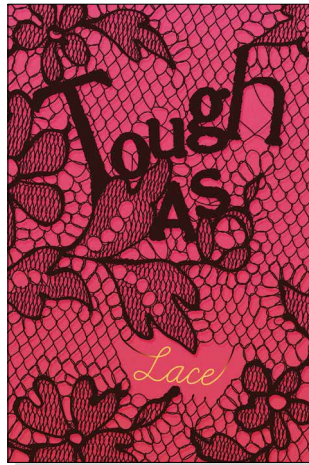
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781978595514

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811.6 • ©2022 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Lacey "Lace" Stewart knows who she is. She's the star of her high school's lacrosse team, she's confident and brash, and she doesn't seem to worry about what other people think. Lace tries hard in school, works weekends at a coffee shop, and is counting on a lacrosse scholarship for college. She's got it all figured out. At least that's what she shows everyone at school. But underneath her brave face, she's battling deep-seated anxiety, and she's one panic attack away from losing it all.

Lexi Bruce is the author of *More Than Anger*. She received a degree in English and creative writing from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. She currently resides in the U.S. Virgin Islands. As a high school student, she struggled with anxiety and wished she could be a star lacrosse player. Now she lives happily (and occasionally anxiously) as a writer/bookseller/grocer.

Reading
Guide
Available**WATCHES AND WARNINGS**

By: Ryan Wolf

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382721

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383360

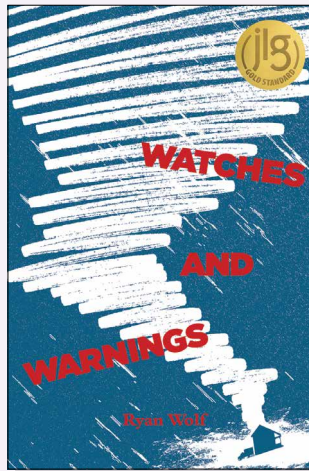
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Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Sixteen-year-old Philip is the son of two Evangelical youth pastors. He also secretly helps his older brother pay for his heroin addiction. When a massive tornado touches down in their small town, Philip's family becomes heavily involved in the post-disaster cleanup as Philip struggles with the return of his detoxing brother. With his life swept into sudden chaos, Philip grapples with questions that cut him to the core.

Ryan Wolf works as a grant writer for nonprofits in the Chicago area. He holds a master's degree in the humanities from the University of Chicago, as well as a bachelor's degree in English, communication studies, and creative writing. Ryan has previously published work in *The Buffalo News* and *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*. He lives in Oak Park, Illinois, with his wife, Jenna.

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®**Reviews/Awards:**

"Philip's voice feels authentic to the teen experience, alternately conflicted, profound, and critical. Intense, emotionally charged realism for reluctant readers." —*Kirkus*

JLG Gold Standard Selection**YOU AND ME AND MISERY**

By: Rayel Louis-Charles

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382783

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383391

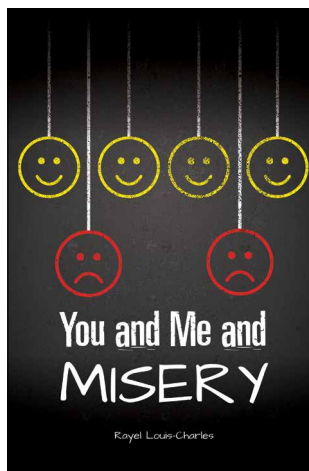
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382776

GRL: N • DEWEY: 811'.60 • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Gin has recently accepted that she is a lesbian. She also may just remain a loner for all of eternity. Meanwhile, across from her in class, Johnny is battling life at school and at home. His day-to-day life consists of a heavy dose of bulimia, self-hate, and abuse from his father. The two loners come together, connected by shared misery, but can they admit how much they need each other before it's too late?

Rayel Louis-Charles was raised by her Haitian grandmother, and is a multiracial, queer author who identifies as, first and foremost, a poet. She has participated in spoken word competitions and drama performances. Much of her writing is a result of her personal traumas and struggles with identity and abandonment, as well as her own discoveries, hopes, and accomplishments. She hopes to reach young teens with her novel in order to remind a lonely young heart that this loneliness exists in others as well. Also, to stress the importance of consideration for others, not knowing that their story could be similar to your own.

**Reviews/Awards:**

"VERDICT: Recommended where novels in verse are popular." —*School Library Journal*

WHAT IF?

By: Anna Russell

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538382585

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538383292

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538382578

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Further Information Section, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Josh Baker isn't sure why his brain tells him to do things that other people don't need to do: checking his locker again and again, counting cracks in ceilings, and always needing to finish a song, for starters. He is a talented drummer, a math genius, and he knows everything about rock and roll. Yet, he knows his problems have the power to hurt his family and make him fail at school. When Josh is diagnosed with OCD, it's a blessing and a curse. Can he overcome his thoughts, or will they break him?

Anna Russell is a writer from Buffalo, New York. She holds a degree in English and creative writing, and it is her goal to create stories for readers of all backgrounds and abilities. She has experienced OCD within her personal life, and she hopes to bring awareness about mental health to literature.



Reviews/Awards:

"While the poetic style of writing might seem choppy, it represents Josh's thoughts as he deals with his illness. Told in first person, the novel clearly creates a deep connection with the protagonists and readers. VERDICT: This is a quick read for large collections."
—*School Library Journal*

"This is a captivating story that will capture teens' imaginations. Written in verse, this slim, rhythmic novel for reluctant readers vividly evokes a teen boy's struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder." —*Kirkus*

YA NOVELS

AND THE MOON FOLLOWS

By: Cyn Bermudez

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eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385319

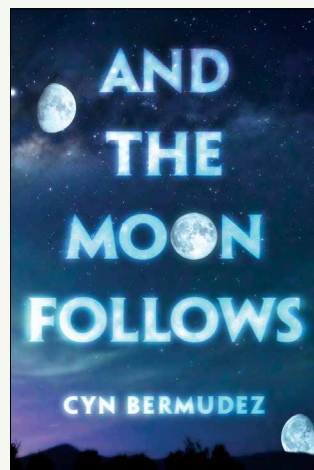
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538385296

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 96 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Luna has nowhere to go. She leaves home after her stepfather sexually assaults her. Now her only option is to run as far and as fast as possible. Luna takes to the streets, where she survives by stealing food, hiding in a car, and living in an abandoned house. But how long can she survive on the run? Where can she go if she can't go home?

Cyn Bermudez is a writer, poet, and artist living in Bakersfield, California. She is the author of the hi-lo fiction series, *Brothers*. She has a variety of fiction and poetry publications in magazines, journals, and anthologies such as *Building Red: Mission Mars*, *Perihelion SF*, *Strangelet*, *Middle Planet*, and more. Please visit her website for more information: www.cynbermudez.com.



JUSTICE

By: Kymbali Craig

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538384237

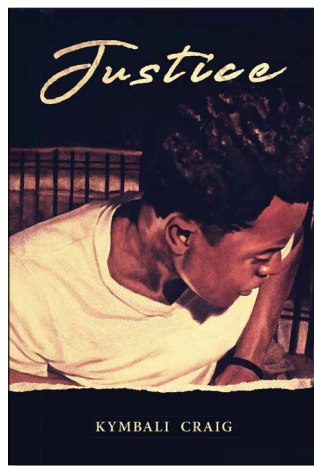
eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538384244

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538384220

GRL: M • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2019 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 96 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Justice knows how it can go down for African American young men, and it isn't always fair. Still, he's pretty sure living on the straight and narrow will keep him safe. Pining over his crush Ebony, writing rap lyrics, and looking forward to chess games in the park, Justice never imagines he could be labeled a criminal. Then his teacher's phone and wallet are stolen, and Justice finds himself at the center of the investigation. Can Justice prove he's innocent, or will he be wrongly convicted of a crime he never committed?



Kymbali Craig is a writer, actor, musician, spoken word performance artist, visual artist, and educator. She is a native of Chicago, Illinois, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and now resides in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. Kymbali was the artist-in-residence at Paul Robeson High School in Brooklyn and the creative director of Bailey's Cafe, a Brooklyn-based nonprofit. Through her years of experience working with urban youth as an artist and educator, Kymbali has cultivated meaningful relationships with her students, who affectionately call her Miss Kymbali or Miss K. This is her first novel.

BITTER AND SWEET

By: Demitria Lunetta

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385241

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385258

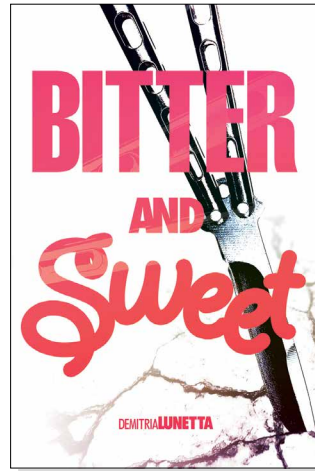
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538385234

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2021 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 96 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Sweetie only knows toxic love. Her boyfriend is violent, her family is cruel, and her life is stuck in a cycle of abuse. Then she meets Loew. Loew is smart, quiet, and different. When Sweetie defends herself against the blows of her boyfriend, he ends up dead. Sweetie and Loew run away to hide from the law. But Loew is not the salvation Sweetie imagines. Emotional and impulsive, Loew has deep, dark issues of his own, and escaping his grip might mean life or death.

Demitria Lunetta is the author of many YA books, including: *The Fade*, *Bad Blood*, and the sci-fi duology, *In the After* and *In the End*. *Bitter and Sweet* is her fifth YA novel and her first hi-lo book. Find her at demitrialunetta.com, on Twitter @DemitriaLunetta and on Facebook at facebook.com/DemitriaLunettaAuthor.

**ON THE PLUS SIDE**

By: P. A. Kurch

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385180

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385197

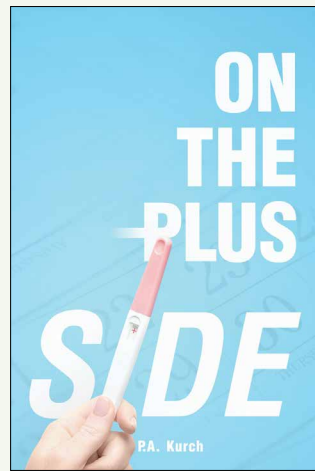
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 / \$14.20 • 9781538385173

GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 96 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Bryan Park is a "good guy." He's smart, driven, and has a picture-perfect future ahead of him when he graduates. That is, until Bryan's longtime friend and now-girlfriend, Alyssa, tells him she's pregnant with his child. Bryan and Alyssa have countless decisions to make that will change their lives forever. When Alyssa decides to continue the pregnancy, Bryan stays by her side. Still facing the pressures of high school, Bryan now has to think of diapers, money, his first real relationship, and reimagining the future he built for himself.

P. A. Kurch is a writer and teacher from Buffalo, New York. He is also an avid videogame fan and collector of all things geeky, which lovingly made their way into this book. This is his second novel for young adults, after having released *Knights of Suburbia* in 2018.

**Reviews/Awards:**

"Useful for igniting classroom discussions...an accessible read that pulls no punches in portraying the consequences of teen parenthood."

—Kirkus

THE WATER YEAR

By: Max Howard

HC ed.: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385128

eBook: \$25.80 / \$19.40 • 9781538385135

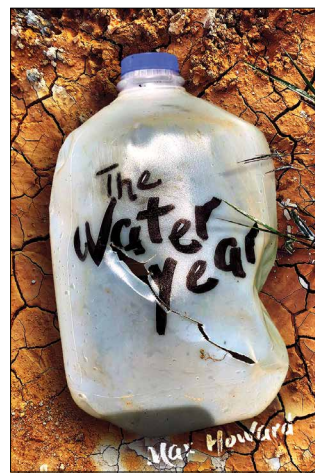
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GRL: N • DEWEY: [Fic] • ©2020 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 96 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Sophie lives on the border between the United States and Mexico. She spends most of her time taking care of her little sister and working at the family restaurant, hoping to catch the eye of Rubén, the Mexican boy who delivers baked goods. Her father and uncle spend their free time scouring the desert as part of a civilian militia, trying to stop undocumented immigrants from entering the United States. When Sophie becomes involved with an immigrant-aid organization called Human Kind, it challenges everything she's ever known. Suddenly, Sophie is stuck at the borderline of family and justice.

Max Howard lives in Wisconsin and is the author of *Fifteen and Change*. Every day, Max tries to remember three things: a) the pen is mightier than the sword, b) the first step toward building a better world is having a dream of how things could be different, and c) the second step is inviting other people to share in that dream.



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