

CAA

Translation Rights Guide

Children's Titles • Spring 2023





Table of Contents

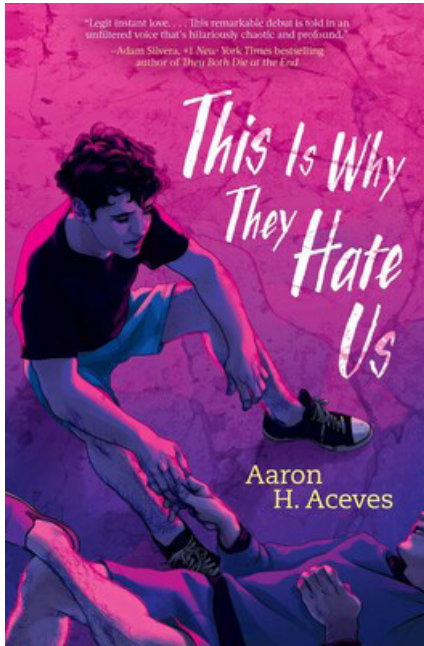
Young Adult Titles	3 - 14
Middle Grade Titles	15 - 17
Picture Book Titles	18 - 20
Titles Co-Agented by ILA	21
Backlist Title Highlights	22

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AARON ACEVES

This Is Why They Hate Us

US: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers | Editor: Alexa Pastor | Agent: Alex Rice

Publication: August 23, 2022 | Final text available

This “hilariously chaotic and profound” (Adam Silvera, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *They Both Die at the End*) summer romp is Netflix’s *Never Have I Ever* meets *What If It’s Us* about a high school senior determined to get over his unrequited feelings for his best friend by getting under someone else.

Enrique “Quique” Luna has one goal this summer—get over his crush on Saleem Kanazi by pursuing his other romantic prospects. Never mind that he’s only out to his best friend, Fabiola. Never mind that he has absolutely zero game. And definitely forget the fact that good and kind and, not to mention, beautiful Saleem is leaving LA for the summer to reunite with a girl his parents are trying to set him up with.

Luckily, Quique’s prospects are each intriguing in their own ways. There’s stoner-jock Tyler Montana, who might be just as interested in Fabiola as he is in Quique; straitlaced senior class president, Ziggy Jackson; and Manny Zuniga, who keeps looking at Quique like he’s carne asada fresh off the grill. With all these choices, Quique is sure to forget about Saleem in no time.

But as the summer heats up and his deep-seated fears and anxieties boil over, Quique soon realizes that getting over one guy by getting under a bunch of others may not have been the best laid plan and living his truth can come at a high cost.

Reading Age: 14+ years old; young adult

About the Author - Aaron H. Aceves is a bisexual, Mexican American writer born and raised in East Los Angeles. He graduated from Harvard College and received his MFA from Columbia University. His fiction has appeared in *jmww*, *Epiphany*, and *them.*, among other places. He currently lives in Texas, where he serves as an Early Career Provost Fellow at UT Austin. He can be found at AaronHAceves.com or @AaronAceves on Instagram or @AaronHAceves on Twitter and TikTok.

“ [C]omplicated tangles of desire, sexuality, and depression while laugh-out-loud punchlines pop up on every page. Aceves’ debut novel honors queer kids of color with earnest, honest depictions of messy teenage life....An outstanding portrait of teenage longing, angst, and self-discovery.”

-Starred *Kirkus* Review

Rights Sold: North American (Simon & Schuster BFYR)

Rights Contact: CAA



BRANDY COLBERT

The Blackwoods

US: Balzer + Bray | Editor: Jordan Brown | Agent: Abby Walters

Publication: October 3, 2023 | Full text available

The Blackwoods. Everyone knows their name.

The effervescent Blossom Blackwood burst onto the silver screen in 1962, and in the decades that followed, she would become one of the most celebrated actors of our time—and the matriarch of one of the most famous Black families in Hollywood. To her great-granddaughters, Hollis and Ardith, she has always just been Bebe. And when she passes away, it changes everything.

Hollis Blackwood was never interested in fame. Still, she's surrounded by it, whether at home with her family or at the prestigious Dupree Academy among Los Angeles' elite. When private photos of Hollis are leaked in the wake of Blossom's death, she is thrust into the spotlight she's long avoided—and finds that trust may be a luxury even she can't afford.

Ardith Blackwood has always lived in the public eye. A television star since childhood, she was perhaps closer with Blossom than anyone—especially after Ardith's famous mother died from a drug overdose. Ever since, she has worked to be everything her family, her church, and the public want her to be. But as a Blackwood family secret comes to light and the pressures from all sides begin to mount, she wonders what is left beneath the face she shows the world.

Weaving together the narratives of Hollis, Ardith, and Blossom, award-winning author Brandy Colbert tells an unforgettable story where everything is personal, and nothing is private.

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

About the Author - Brandy Colbert is the award-winning author of several books for children and teens, including *Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre*, which was the winner of the 2022 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Nonfiction and a finalist for the American Library Association's Excellence in Young Adult Nonfiction Award. Her other acclaimed books include *Pointe*, *The Voting Booth*, *The Only Black Girls in Town*, and the Stonewall Book Award winner *Little & Lion*. A member of the faculty at Hamline University's MFA program in writing for children, Brandy lives in Los Angeles.

Rights Sold: North American
(Balzer + Bray)

Rights Contact: CAA



DEBORAH CROSSLAND

The Quiet Part Out Loud

US: Simon & Schuster | Editor: Nicole Ellul | Agent: Mollie Glick

Publication: June 27, 2023 | Full text available

For fans of *You've Reached Sam* and *A Heart in a Body in the World*, this searing and heartrending teen novel follows an ex-couple as they struggle to reunite in the wake of a devastating earthquake.

High school sweethearts Mia Clementine and Alfie Thanasis had a plan to escape their town for college in the east. Mia would leave her hard-core evangelical home for Sarah Lawrence College, and Alfie would have a new place to pursue his three loves: baseball, poetry, and Mia. But when Alfie got offered a scholarship to the University of San Francisco the same week the entire town found out about Mia's mom's affair with their church's pastor, Mia's world imploded and she pushed everyone away...including Alfie.

Five months after the worst summer ever, Mia is crashing at her best friend's dorm at San Francisco State, just a few miles away from the University of San Francisco, praying she never runs into the boy whose heart she broke. And Alfie is trying to make the most of his freshman year while struggling to reconcile with the abrupt ending of his first love.

When Mia and Alfie's paths cross for the briefest of moments, Mia realizes she never should have let him go and Alfie's suppressed memories and feelings boil to the surface. But their reunion is cut short when a massive earthquake rocks San Francisco, leaving them to stumble desperately across the rubble in search of the ex they still love before the city crumbles—taking one, or both, of them with it.

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

About the Author - Deborah Crossland teaches English and mythology at her local community college, studies myth and depth psychology in her PhD program and writes myth-based, contemporary novels for young adults. She is also a founding board member of the non-profit, Fernweh Collective, which focuses on cultural education through experiential learning. You can find her talking all things myth on Fernweh's Happy Hour on YouTube. She lives in Northern California with her husband and her daughter's very spoiled, retired service dog.

“*The Quiet Part Out Loud* brilliantly navigates an emotional journey through the stages of love and forgiveness, heartbreak and hope. The kind of book that lingers beyond its pages. Moving and powerful.”

— Laura Taylor Namey, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow*

Rights Sold: North American (Simon & Schuster)

Rights Contact: Abner Stein for UK/ANZ rights; ILA for translation rights



KALIE HOLFORD

The Last Love Song

US: Blackstone | Editor: Daniel Ehrenhaft | Agent: Alex Rice

Publication: Spring 2024 | Full text available

Inspired in part by *Mamma Mia* with a dash of Maureen Johnson's *13 Little Blue Envelopes*, *The Last Love Song* will appeal to readers of Laura Taylor Namey and Emma Lord. Between stardom and small-town life, Holford covers it all as she explores how our choices determine our fate and what it means to truly pursue your dreams.

“Heartrending and joyous like the very best love songs, Kalie Holford’s debut is a delightful and deeply emotional, gorgeously imagined letter to the past and future.”

-Emily Wibberley and Austin Siegemund-Broka, authors of *Always Never Yours* and *If I'm Being Honest*

Mia Peters hates goodbyes, and she’s looking at a summer chock full of them as her friends move on to bigger and better things after graduation. While her late mother, country star Tori Rose, escaped their small town in pursuit of her dream, she can’t bear to leave her grandmas alone again. For Mia, Sunset Cove is all she’s destined to know.

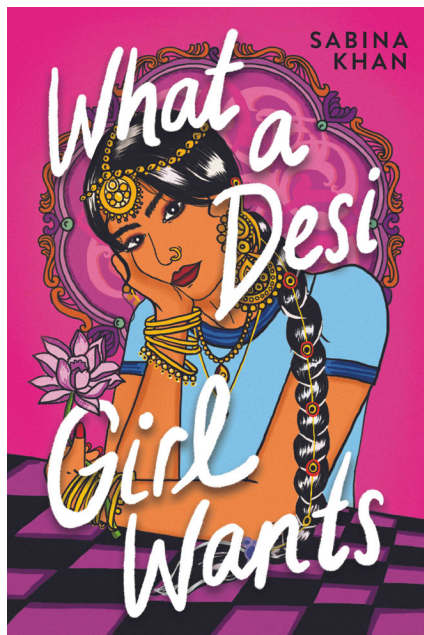
But with her kind-of-sort-of-girlfriend Britt pushing her to go for more, she’s desperate for any sign from her mom as to what to do next. That’s when she finds a letter addressed to her. Written in her mom’s handwriting, this letter sends Mia on a scavenger hunt through a town that’s memorialized her mother in time. Mia sets out to learn more about her mom, and hopefully the father she’s never been able to know. As she discovers more than any of Tori’s greatest hits ever taught her, Mia’s forced to confront her true feelings for Britt, her future in this small town, and what it is she actually wants.

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

About the Author - Kalie Holford is studying Fine Arts with a focus on Creative Writing and Communications. As a bi writer, she’s passionate about YA books featuring messy queer kids who make mistakes, love, and grow alongside each other. When she’s not writing, she can be found reading, playing around on Canva, or being a dog mom. She resides in the Pacific Northwest with her family and two puppies.

Rights Sold: North American (Blackstone)

Rights Contact: CAA



SABINA KHAN

What a Desi Girl Wants

US: Scholastic Press | Editor: TK | Agent: Hillary Jacobson

Publication: July 18, 2023 | Final text available

The romance of Becky Albertalli meets the nuanced family dynamics of *Darius the Great is Not Okay* in this YA novel from acclaimed author Sabina Khan.

Mehar hasn't been back to India since she and her mother moved away when she was only four. Hasn't visited her father, her grandmother, her family, or the home where she grew up. Why would she? Her father made it clear that she's not his priority when he chose not to come to the US with them.

But when her father announces his engagement to socialite Naz, Mehar reluctantly agrees to return for the wedding. Maybe she and her father can heal their broken relationship. And after all, her father is Indian royalty, and his home is a palace--the wedding is going to be a once-in-a-lifetime affair.

While her father still doesn't make the time for her, Mehar barely cares once she meets Sufiya, her grandmother's assistant, and one of the most grounded, thoughtful, kind people she's ever met! Though they come from totally different worlds, their friendship slowly starts to blossom into something more... Mehar thinks.

Meanwhile, Mehar's dislike for Naz and her social media influencer daughter, Aleena, deepens. She can tell that the two of them are just using her father for his money. Mehar's starting to think that putting a stop to this wedding might be the best thing for everyone involved.

But what happens when telling her father the truth about Naz and Aleena means putting her relationship with Sufiya at risk . . .

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

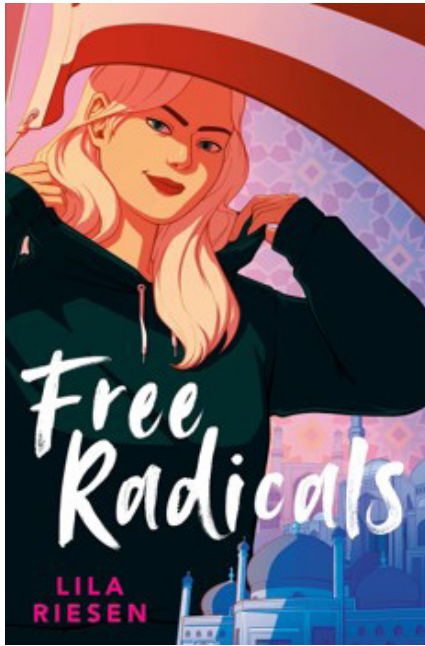
About the Author - Sabina Khan writes about Muslim teens who straddle cultures. She was born in Germany, spent her teens in Bangladesh, and lived in Macao, Illinois, and Texas before settling down in British Columbia with her husband, two daughters, and the best puppy in the world. Sabina is an educational consultant helping young people with academic and personal challenges. She started writing because she couldn't find stories with characters who looked like her daughters or her students. Her mission became to write books, both fantasy and contemporary, where the young people around her could see themselves as heroes overcoming obstacles to find love and happiness.

“Fans of Samira Ahmed, Tahereh Mafi, and Randa Abdel-Fattah will find Khan's powerful work timely and affecting.”

— Praise for Sabina Khan in *School Library Journal*

Rights Sold: World English (Scholastic Press)

Rights Contact: CAA



LILA RIESEN

Free Radicals

2 Book Deal

US: Putnam | Editor: Stacey Barney | Agent: Mollie Glick

Publication: March 21, 2023 | Final text available

Though humorous throughout, *Free Radicals* is a standalone YA novel that tackles universal material about social justice, human rights, and democracy.

Sixteen-year-old Mafi Shahin knows life is not always fair. If it were she'd have just as much freedom as her older brother Rafi and her crush—basketball star Jalen Thomas—would see her as more than Rafi's kid sister. And if life were fair, Mafi's family in Afghanistan wouldn't have to flee their homes to be safe.

Life may not be fair, but as the Ghost, her high school's secret avenger, Mafi vows to make it a bit more even, meting out karmic justice on behalf of classmates who've been wronged. They simply leave a revenge note detailing the transgression in the knot of the SOL tree, and Mafi takes care of the rest.

But there are rules to being the Ghost: Don't get caught. Never reveal your identity. Never involve the police, and definitely don't get emotionally involved. But starting sophomore year, everything changes when instead of a revenge note, a wish turns up in the tree and Mafi breaks all her rules, putting her heart and even her family in Afghanistan at risk. Now Mafi will have to decide who she wants to be—the Ghost, making the world a just place from the shadows or something real, standing up for what's right in the daylight.

Full of humor and a great big beating heart, *Free Radicals* is a sharply written coming-of-age tale where one girl discovers what it means to love: a boy, her family, and most importantly herself.

Reading Age: 14+ years old; young adult

About the Author - The daughter of Afghan and Australian immigrants, Lila Riesen was raised in Indiana. She graduated with MA degrees in English literature and English linguistics from the University of Zurich in Switzerland, and her writing has been published in *Calliope Literary Magazine*, *The Zurich English Student*, and *The Indiana Daily Student*. A chapter of hers, "Unnatural Disasters," was published in Z-Publishing's *California's Emerging Writers* anthology in 2019. Lila now lives in California with her husband and teaches English at Platt College in Anaheim. *Free Radicals* is her first novel, inspired by her cashew-coveting Baba and all the courageous voices that must be heard.

“*Free Radicals* is a deeply moving and keenly drawn story of courage, resilience and familial love, filled with tenderness, heart, romance, and hilarity. Lila Riesen is a talent to watch.”

- Jeff Zentner, award-winning author of *The Serpent King*

Rights Sold: North American (Putnam)

Rights Contact: Abner Stein for UK/ANZ rights; CAA for translation rights



GRETCHEN SCHREIBER

Ellie Haycock is Totally Normal

US: Wednesday Books | Editor: Eileen Rothschild | Agent: Alex Rice

Publication: July 2024 | Full text available

***The Breakfast Club* meets *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* in this big-hearted debut novel.**

Ellie Haycock has always separated her life into sections: Ellie at home and Ellie at the hospital. At home, Ellie is a typical student and proud member of her high school's speech and debate team alongside her best friend and her boyfriend. At the hospital, Ellie has an ever-growing team of doctors and a mom who won't stop posting about the details of her life and illness online. It's not hard for Ellie to choose which of the two she prefers.

When Ellie is forced to return to the hospital for an extended stay, she worries about her two lives colliding, and all she wants is to get back home as soon as possible.

But this stay is different. Ellie becomes close with a group of friends including Ryan, a first-timer who's still optimistic about the doctors that Ellie stopped trusting years ago. Despite their differences, she can't seem to keep him out of her head. Ellie's life has never been normal, but maybe between these fast friendships and falling in love, she can find her own version of normal.

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

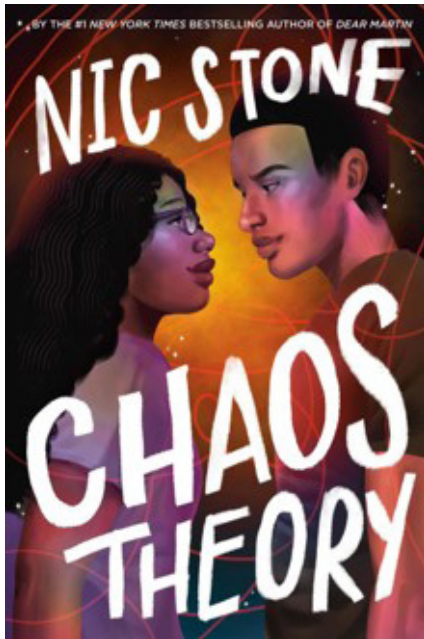
About the Author - Gretchen Schreiber grew up between the hills of Kansas and the hospitals of Minnesota, but now calls Los Angeles home. After getting her MFA from USC Film School, she works as a professional bookworm for Hello Sunshine. She is always down to run away to Disneyland or a book store.

“Gretchen Schreiber's writing is honest, raw, and funny. She seamlessly weaves a story of hurt and humor with beautiful prose and characters that already feel like old friends. With friendship, family, cute boys, and how to stop seeing yourself through the lens of other people's definitions, Ellie is the coming-of-age story everyone should read.”

- Kristin Dwyer, author of *Some Mistakes Were Made*

Rights Sold: North American
(Wednesday Books)

Rights Contact: CAA



“An essential read for furthering conversations on mental illness and the assumptions we make... Make sure to have copies of this one to keep up with demand.”

- Booklist

Rights Sold: North American (Crown Books for Young Readers); Russian (Eksmo); UK (Simon & Schuster)

Rights Contact: Abner Stein for UK/ANZ; CAA for translation rights

NIC STONE

Chaos Theory

US: Crown Books for Young Readers | Editor: Phoebe Yeh | Agent: Mollie Glick

Publication: February 8, 2023 | Full text available

The #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Dear Martin* delivers a gripping romance about two teens: a certified genius living with a diagnosed mental illness and a politician’s son who is running from his own addiction and grief. Don’t miss this gut punch of a novel about mental illness, loss, and discovering you are worthy of love.

Scars exist to remind us of what we’ve survived.

DETACHED

Since Shelbi enrolled at Windward Academy as a senior and won’t be there very long, she hasn’t bothered making friends. What her classmates don’t know about her can’t be used to hurt her—you know, like it did at her last school.

WASTED

Andy Criddle is not okay. At all. He’s had far too much to drink. Again. Which is bad. And things are about to get worse.

When Shelbi sees Andy at his lowest, she can relate. So she doesn’t resist reaching out. And there’s no doubt their connection has them both seeing stars . . . but the closer they get, the more the past threatens to pull their universes apart.

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

About the Author - Nic Stone is an Atlanta native and a Spelman College graduate. Her debut novel for young adults, *Dear Martin*, and her debut middle-grade novel, *Clean Getaway*, were both *New York Times* bestsellers. She is also the author of *Odd One Out*, a novel about discovering oneself and who it is okay to love, which was an *NPR* Best Book of the Year and a Rainbow Book List Top Ten selection, *Jackpot*, a love-ish story that takes a searing look at economic inequality and *Shuri: A Black Panther Novel* based on the much-loved character from the Black Panther comics and film. *Dear Justyce*, the sequel to *Dear Martin*, published in September 2020 and became an instant *New York Times* bestseller.



AMBIKA VOHRA

Aisha's Sticky Note Manifesto

2 Book Deal

US: Quill Tree | Editor: Alyssa Miele | Agents: Alex Rice & Lola Bellier

Publication: TK | Full text available

Ambika Vohra's debut charms with the humor of Netflix's *Never Have I Ever* and the playfulness of *Tweet Cute* by Emma Lord. Perfect for fans of Jenny Han and Maurene Goo, *Aisha's Sticky Note Manifesto* is a story about getting out of your comfort zone and finding it in unexpected places.

"How have you gotten out of your comfort zone?" That's the Stanford application essay question that has, somehow, led to Aisha Agarwal sitting in a stranger's car.

Once Brian got hot and smart, he ignored Aisha for years. Still, when he asks her to senior homecoming, she can't help but set aside her essay draft, put on a dress, and head out for the dance. But when Brian stands her up, leaving her stranded on a park bench with no ride home, Aisha decides she's done playing it safe. She didn't mean to assume someone's identity and co-opt a ride home in pursuit of that goal, but here she is.

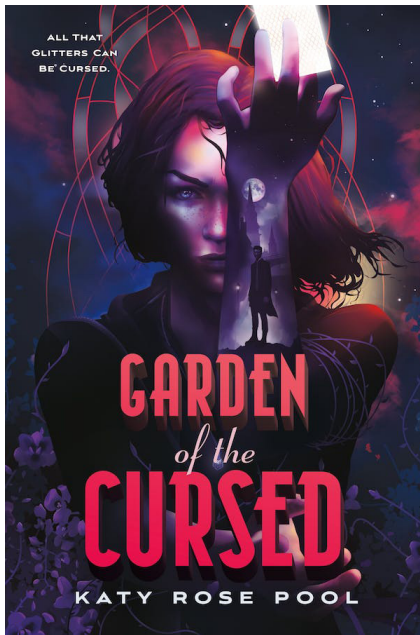
Soon, Aisha's confessing all to her would-be chauffer, fellow high-school senior Quentin. To her surprise, Quentin opens up too, leading to a deal: if Aisha helps Quentin pass math, he'll help push her out of her comfort zone, one sticky note "to-do" at a time. From a good old-fashioned makeover to New Year's eve parties and first kisses, Aisha feels unstoppable. That is, until she realizes that her sticky note manifesto might be full of all the wrong things...

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

About the Author - Ambi Vohra was a Pitch Wars 2021 mentee. She works as a designer and illustrator in San Francisco, surrounded by tiny plants and big books. A Michigan native, she spent her childhood in pumpkin patches and cider mills. When not writing, she's making Indian-style chai with concerning levels of cardamom pods.

Rights Sold: North American
(Quill Tree)

Rights Contact: CAA



“Mystery, fantasy, romance—this book has it all, and every page is more compulsively readable than the last. Gasp-inducing, heart-rending, and beautifully crafted, *Garden of the Cursed* is nothing short of genius.”

— Jennifer Lynn Barnes, #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Inheritance Games* series

KATY ROSE POOL

Garden of the Cursed

US: Henry Holt | Editor: Brian Geffen | Agents: Hillary Jacobson & Alexandra Machinist

Publication: June 20, 2023 | Full text available

In this romantic, edge-of-your-seat fantasy mystery, cursebreaker Marlow Briggs reluctantly pretends to be in love with a powerful noble to gain entry into an illustrious—and deadly—society that holds clues to her mother’s disappearance. Perfect for fans of *Veronica Mars*, *These Violent Delights*, and *Chain of Iron*.

Since fleeing the gilded halls of Evergarden for the muck-filled canals of the Marshes, Marlow Briggs has made a name for herself as the best cursebreaker in Caraza City. But no matter how many cases she solves, she is still haunted by the mystery of her mother’s disappearance.

When Adrius Falcrest, Marlow’s old friend and scion of one of Caraza’s most affluent spell-making families, asks her to help break a life-threatening curse, Marlow wants nothing to do with the boy who spurned her a year ago. But a new lead in her mother’s case makes Marlow realize that the only way to get the answers she desperately seeks is to help Adrius and return to Evergarden society—even if it means suffering through a fake love affair with him to avoid drawing suspicion from the conniving Five Families.

As the investigation draws Marlow into a web of deadly secrets and powerful enemies, a shocking truth emerges: Adrius’s curse and her mother’s disappearance may just be clues to an even larger mystery, one that could unravel the very foundations of Caraza and magic itself.

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

About the Author - Katy Rose Pool, author of the *Age of Darkness* trilogy, was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA before graduating from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in history. Currently, she resides in Oakland, CA, where she can be found dreaming up spells and prophecies, rooting for the Golden State Warriors, and reading books that set her on fire.

Rights Sold: World English (Henry Holt); Spanish (Urano)

Rights Contact: CAA



SASHA PEYTON SMITH

The Witch Hunt

US: Simon & Schuster | Editor: Nicole Ellul | Agents: Hillary Jacobson & Alexandra Machinist

Publication: October 11, 2022 | Final text available

The lush and pulse-pounding sequel to the *New York Times*-bestselling *The Witch Haven* “sparkles with magic” (*Kirkus Reviews*) as it follows Frances and her fellow witches to the streets of Paris where family secrets, lost loves, and dangerous powers await.

Months after the devastating battle between the Sons of St. Druon and the witches of Haxahaven, Frances has built a quiet, safe life for herself, teaching young witches and tending the garden within the walls of Haxahaven Academy. But one thing nags: her magic has begun to act strangely. When an opportunity to visit Paris arises, Frances jumps at the chance to go, longing for adventure and seeking answers about her power.

Once she and her classmates Maxine and Lena reach the vibrant streets of France, Frances learns that the spell she used to speak to her dead brother has had terrible consequences—the veil between the living and the dead has been torn by her recklessness, and a group of magicians are using the rift for their own gain at a horrifying cost.

To right this wrong, and save lives and her own magical powers, Frances must hunt down answers in the parlors of Parisian secret societies, the halls of the Louvre, and the tunnels of the catacombs. Her only choice is to team up with the person she swore she'd never trust again, risking further betrayal and her own life in the process.

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

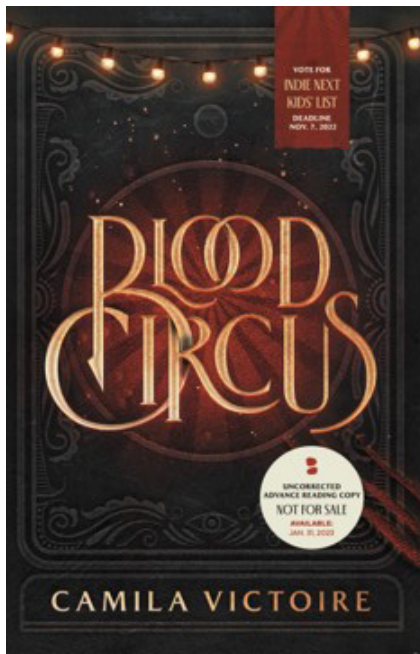
“Smith casts the story back in time to a glamorous society full of magic and secrets, with cinematic prose and deeply developed characters readers can't help but root for...[a] fun and atmospheric conclusion.”

- *School Library Journal*

About the Author - Sasha Peyton Smith grew up in the mountains of Utah surrounded by siblings, books, and one very old cat. She attended the University of Utah and the George Washington University where she studied biology and public health. She is not a witch, though she does own a lot of crystals and always knows what phase the moon is in. She currently lives in Washington, DC.

Rights Sold: World English (Simon & Schuster); French (Editions Casterman); Russian (AST)

Rights Contact: CAA



CAMILA VICTOIRE

Blood Circus

US: Blackstone | Editor: Daniel Ehrenhaft | Agents: Mollie Glick & Abby Walters

Publication: January 31, 2023 | Final text available

Inspired by the dark, bohemian influence of the circus she traveled with for five years, Camila Victoire delivers a twisted coming-of-age tale that combines elements of fantasy, magical realism, and suspense.

At the end of the twenty-first century, climate change and famine almost ended humanity—until the discovery of the Klujns, a barbaric, humanoid species with strangely colored eyes and even stranger abilities. Their crystal claws and bones fertilize barren soil, and their tender meat is a super-protein. Klujns are both humans' saviors and natural-born enemies, meant to be hunted and used.

When sixteen-year-old Ava finds herself on the wrong side of a military fence erected to protect the North American Territory, she's captured by Klujns and made to participate in the Blood Race, a macabre tradition where young human hostages compete to the death for Klujn amusement. At first, she is terrified, but as Ava observes Klujn behavior that contradicts what she's learned, she begins to wonder: Are Klujns as different as she was led to believe? And, as she fights for her life, does it matter?

Reading Age: 12+ years old; young adult

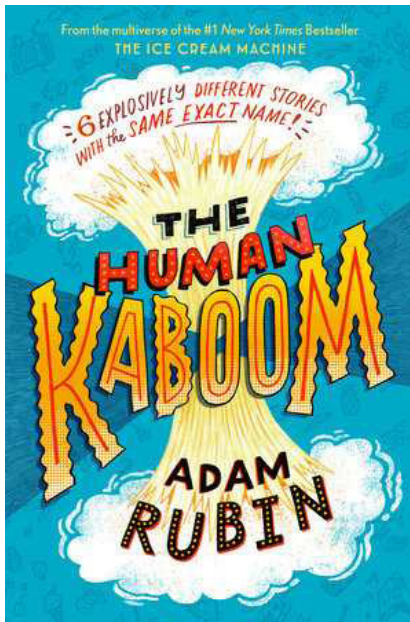
About the Author - Camila Victoire is a screenwriter based in Montreal. She graduated from the Vancouver Film School in 2015 with a Diploma in Writing for Film and TV. She has written several screenplays, including *Miraq*, *The Woman Outside*, and *the Pilot*, *Wild Places*, and has a penchant for the genres of horror, magical realism, dark fairy tales, and thrillers. Camila produced the short film *Muñecas de Carbon* and has been personal assistant to Woody Harrelson on *The Glass Castle* and *Midway*. Prior to becoming a full-time writer, Camila toured for five years with the circus (Cirque du Soleil and Cavalia).

“ This socially progressive dystopian adventure with strong worldbuilding and suspenseful plotting will appeal to fans of the Hunger Games...Pointedly questioning what it is to be human, this absorbing debut expresses profound longing for the disappearing wild.”

- Kirkus

Rights Sold: North American (Blackstone Publishing)

Rights Contact: CAA



“Rubin, a humorist with a flair for explosive prose and side-splitting gags, is in good form here: All the stories boast laughs, smart characterization, clever plotting, and explosive incidents . . . The gags are plentiful, the action is exciting, and the variety is commendable . . . Impossible to resist.”

- Kirkus Reviews

Rights Sold: North American (Putnam)

Rights Contact: CAA

ADAM RUBIN

The Human Kaboom

US: Putnam | Editor: Stephanie Pitts | Agent: Jennifer Joel

Publication: February 21, 2023 | Final text available

The author of the #1 New York Times bestsellers *Dragons Love Tacos* and *The Ice Cream Machine* returns with another hilarious, irresistible middle-grade collection of six totally different stories with the same exact name.

Adam Rubin is back with this companion to *The Ice Cream Machine*, inviting you into six thrilling new worlds filled with daring and danger, mystery and mayhem—not to mention explosions! In a swanky New York City hotel, a reclusive guest appears to have spontaneously combusted. On a school field trip to a human anatomy museum in space, two kids try to pull off the greatest prank in history. Somewhere on a deserted island, three siblings try to make a life for themselves after the rest of the planet has been decimated by gigantic rock monsters. And then there’s the small, quaint fishing town where a boy visiting his sister stumbles across an ancient curse; the traveling circus where a young girl becomes the assistant to a death-defying human cannonball; and the rugged wilderness where one kid with superpowers just can’t seem to find some peace.

Each story is illustrated by a different artist, including Marta Altés, Daniel Gray-Barnett, Rodolfo Montalvo, Daniel Salmieri, Adam de Souza, and Gracey Zhang, with black-and-white artwork that practically explodes off the page. So put on some protective eyewear and grab some earplugs, because this book is guaranteed to blow your mind!

Reading Age: 8 to 12; middle grade

About the Author - Adam Rubin is the author of a dozen critically acclaimed picture books, which have sold more than five million copies combined. They include *Dragons Love Tacos*, *Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel*, *High Five*, *Gladys the Magic Chicken*, *Secret Pizza Party*, *Robo-Sauce*, the *Those Darn Squirrels* trilogy, and *El Chupacabras*, which won the Texas Bluebonnet Award. *Publishers Weekly* called his #1 *New York Times*-bestselling story collection *The Ice Cream Machine* a “madcap middle grade debut.”



LAUREL SNYDER

The Witch of Woodland

US: Walden Pond Press | Editor: Jordan Brown | Agents: Alex Rice & Lola Bellier

Publication: May 16, 2023 | Final text available

A young girl preparing for her bat mitzvah discovers she has mysterious abilities in this magical contemporary coming-of-age story from the beloved author of Orphan Island.

Hi, whoever is reading this. I'm Zipporah Chava McConnell, but everyone calls me Zippy.

Things used to be simple—until a few weeks ago. Now my best friend, Bea, is acting funny; everyone at school thinks I'm weird; and my mom is making me start preparing for my bat mitzvah, even though we barely ever go to synagogue. In fact, the only thing that still seems to make sense is magic.

See, the thing is, I'm a witch. I've been casting spells since I was little. And even if no one else wants to believe in magic anymore, it's always made sense to me, always felt true. But I was still shocked the day I found a strange red book at the library and somehow...I conjured something. A girl, actually. A beautiful girl with no memory, and wings like an angel. You probably don't believe me, but I swear it's the truth.

Miriam is like no one else I've ever met. She's proof that magic is real. And, it's hard to explain this part, but I just know that we're connected. That means it's up to me to help Miriam figure out what she is and where she came from. If I can do that, maybe everything else in my life will start to make sense too.

Anyway, it's worth a try.

Reading Age: 8 to 12; middle grade

About the Author - Laurel Snyder is the author of picture books and novels for children, including National Book Award nominee *Orphan Island* and the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award winner *Charlie & Mouse*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, she currently teaches in Hamline University's MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults program. She lives in Atlanta with her family and can be found online at www.laurelsnyder.com.

Rights Sold: North American
(Walden Pond Press)

Rights Contact: CAA



KYLA ZHAO

May the Best Player Win

US: Putnam | Editor: Polo Orozco | Agent: Alex Rice

Publication: Spring 2024 | Full text available

May Li is a chess prodigy, or at least that's what everyone says. Her parents, coach, teachers – the pressure's mounting. Will May live up to her title?

Chess competitions have decided to go co-ed, making the stakes higher than ever before for May. But not because of who she's facing for matches. The game moves off the chessboard as Ralph, the boy's chess captain, insists that May's previous success is due to the lower competition among girls.

Incensed and with a win against Ralph on her resume, May bets her future: whoever is selected for the prestigious top board at the State Team Championship wins, and the loser must drop out of chess club elections for spring – a leadership position that will guarantee May's scholarship for school. As May gradually becomes overwhelmed by the fear of not living up to her potential, she finds an unexpected ally in Mario Cruz, the school's star soccer player who's dealing with his own anxieties.

In *May the Best Player Win*, Zhao expertly dives into the mind of a skilled, burned out chess player, one who is still figuring out who she is, what she likes, and if the game that's dominated her young life will feature in her future.

Reading Age: 8 to 12; middle grade

About the Author - A native Singaporean, Kyla Zhao now works in Silicon Valley after graduating from Stanford University in 2021 with an MA in communications and BA in psychology. She has been playing chess since she was six and was formerly a member of Singapore's National Junior Squad. Her long-held passion for encouraging female participation in this male-dominated mindsport drove her to organize the Singapore Youth Girls' Chess Championship in 2017. Kyla's debut novel, *The Fraud Squad*, was published Berkley Publishing/Penguin Random House in January 2023.

Rights Sold: North American
(Putnam)

Rights Contact: CAA



“ This poetic story is a love letter to every little Black girl who has ever felt left out from the world around her. Throughout the book, readers are reminded of just how unique and important they are, even if they are not always able to recognize that truth themselves.”

-School Library Journal, starred review

Rights Sold: North American (Putnam Children's)

Rights Contact: CAA

KIRBY HOWELL-BAPTISTE

Little Black Girl: Oh, the Things You Can Do!

US: Putnam Children's | Editor: Stacey Barney | Agent: Mollie Glick

Publication: November 15, 2022 | Final text available

An empowering and joyous picture book by actress Kirby Howell-Baptiste (*The Sandman*) that instills confidence and encourages little Black girls to reach for their wildest dreams.

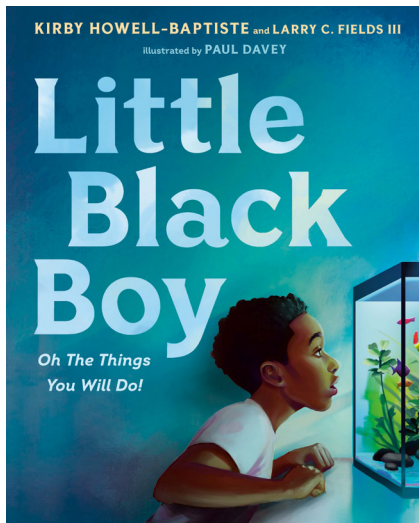
*You have sparks in your brain and fire in your heart.
You can decide where to stop and where to start.
You were born unique. None of us are the same.
Your only job: Make them remember your name.*

In beautiful, lyrical text actress Kirby Howell-Baptiste tells the story of one Black girl and her limitless potential as she pursues her dream of robotics. Determined to have her robot ready for the school fair, getting everything done in time won't be easy, but this little Black girl knows she is destined to shine and is not going to let anything hold her back from achieving her dream. With bright, bold plans in mind she begins to sketch and build her robot. The joy she has pursuing her passion is infectious and she has a community of strong women around her, encouraging and supporting her as she lives out her dream.

Illustrated by the talented Paul Davey, this inspiring picture book celebrates all little Black girls, the power of community, and the joy and hope of being a child.

Reading Age: 8 years old and below; picture book

About the Author - Kirby Howell-Baptiste was born and raised in London, England. She most recently appeared in the Disney feature *Cruella*, opposite Emma Stone and Emma Thompson and the independent feature *Silent Night* opposite Keira Knightley and produced by Matthew Vaughn. She can currently be seen in the CBS All Access series *Why Women Kill* as well as in the final season of the NBC series *The Good Place* and in the HBO series *Barry*. Her previous television credits include *Veronica Mars* (Hulu), *Killing Eve* (BBC America), *House of Lies* (Showtime), *Comedy Bang! Bang* (IFC), *Love* (Netflix), and *Downward Dog* (ABC), for which she was a series regular. Kirby is currently developing a series at FX that she created.



KIRBY HOWELL-BAPTISTE

Little Black Boy: Oh, the Things You Can Do!

US: Putnam Children's | Editor: Stacey Barney | Agent: Mollie Glick

Publication: November 15, 2022 | Final text available

A little Black boy finds the courage to go after his dreams in this empowering and inspirational picture book by actress Kirby Howell-Baptiste (*The Sandman*) with actor Larry Fields.

*Little Black Boy, Oh the things you will do.
Has anyone mentioned the world's open to you?*

“An encouraging story sure to touch the hearts of all readers, and a rousing story time addition.”

-School Library Journal, starred review

Fascinated by marine wildlife, a little Black boy dreams of one day swimming in the ocean alongside all the creatures that make it their home. It will take courage to move from the safety of the swimming pool to the vastness of the ocean, but as he begins his journey of discovery, he soon finds there's nothing he can't do. He realizes if he cares about the animals in the ocean, he must also care about their home and sets out to preserve the beaches he loves by picking up trash. This little boy is determined not only to reach his dream of becoming a marine biologist, but to make a difference in the world and to share his passion of environmental conservation with everyone.

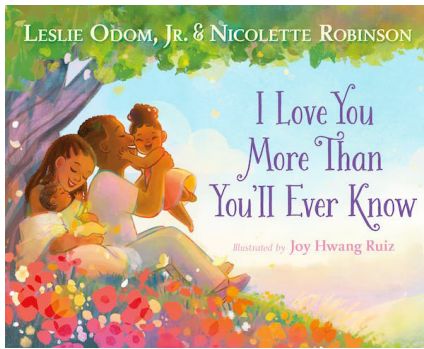
With vivid, dimensional illustrations by Paul Davey, this encouraging and hopeful picture book celebrates the joy of being a little Black boy and their bright futures.

Reading Age: 8 years old and below; picture book

About the Author - Kirby Howell-Baptiste was born and raised in London, England. She most recently appeared in the Disney feature *Cruella*, opposite Emma Stone and Emma Thompson and the independent feature *Silent Night* opposite Keira Knightley and produced by Matthew Vaughn. She can currently be seen in the CBS All Access series *Why Women Kill* as well as in the final season of the NBC series *The Good Place* and in the HBO series *Barry*. Her previous television credits include *Veronica Mars* (Hulu), *Killing Eve* (BBC America), *House of Lies* (Showtime), *Comedy Bang! Bang* (IFC), *Love* (Netflix), and *Downward Dog* (ABC), for which she was a series regular. Kirby is currently developing a series at FX that she created.

Rights Sold: North American
(Putnam Children's)

Rights Contact: CAA



LESLIE ODOM, JR. & NICOLETTE ROBINSON

I Love You More Than You'll Ever Know

US: Macmillan Children's | Editor: Kat Brzozowski | Agent: Mollie Glick

Publication: March 28, 2023 | Final text available

A debut picture book on unconditional love by Leslie Odom Jr. and Nicolette Robinson.

I Love You More Than You'll Ever Know is a touching and heartfelt ode about the love we feel for our children, by award-winning actors of stage and screen Leslie Odom, Jr. and Nicolette Robinson, and illustrated by Joy Hwang Ruiz.

*Do you remember when we first met?
It was a moment I won't soon forget.
Your sparkling aura. Your crooked grin!
Do you remember, my trusted friend?
When I count all my blessings, you're always number one.
Sweetest of all is, we've only just begun.*

The love we feel for our children never wavers. From the moment a baby is born, through the good times and the bad, from the silly moments to the warm embraces, this love is bigger than what we can put into words. This beautiful book is a comforting and lyrical refrain about the bonds we form with the children to whom we are closest in our lives.

Reading Age: 8 years old and below; picture book

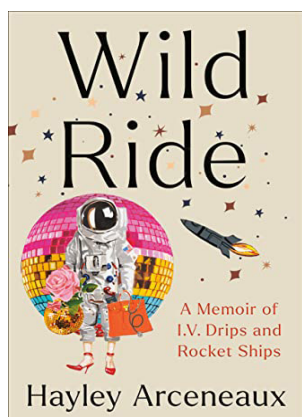
About the Authors - Leslie Odom, Jr. is an actor and singer. He has most recently been seen as Aaron Burr in the blockbuster Broadway musical *Hamilton*, for which he won a Tony Award. His work on *Hamilton* also resulted in a Grammy Award win, and a nomination for a Drama Desk Award and a Lucille Lortel Award. Odom, Jr. has released two solo jazz albums and appeared in shows ranging from *Smash*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *CSI: Miami*. He also starred in the feature film *Murder on the Orient Express*, and most recently *One Night in Miami*, for which he received two Oscar nominations (Best Supporting Actor and Best Original Song).

Nicolette Robinson is an actress. She recently made her Broadway debut as Jenna in *Waitress*. Her off-Broadway credits include *Invisible Thread* (Second Stage) and *Brooklynite* (Vineyard). Regionally, she's appeared in *Witness Uganda* (A.R.T.) and *A Little More Alive* (Barrington Stage). Her film and TV appearances include Jane on Showtime's *The Affair*, *Hart of Dixie*, *Unforgettable*, *One Night in Miami*, and *Love in the Time of Corona*. She is a Princess Grace Award winner and a Graduate of UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television.

Rights Sold: North American
(Macmillan Children's)

Rights Contact: Abner Stein
for UK/ANZ; CAA for translation
rights

Titles Co-Agented by ILA



Wild Ride (Adapted for Young Readers): My Journey from Cancer Kid to Astronaut
HAYLEY ARCENEAUX
Publication: August 8, 2023
 A young reader's adaptation of the story of the youngest American to ever orbit the earth—cancer survivor Hayley Arceneaux—who shows us all that when we face our fears with hope and faith, the extraordinary is possible.



Monster Club
DARREN ARONOFSKY & ARI HANDEL
Publication: September 13, 2022
 From award-winning screenwriter-director Darren Aronofsky and his screenwriting partner, Ari Handel, comes a thrilling, new adventure series about growing up, letting go, and facing down your monsters.
Monsters Take Manhattan coming Fall 2023!



Maya and the Beast
MAYA GABIERA
Publication: August 2, 2022
 A fairy tale of big waves and even bigger courage, inspired by the personal story of professional surfer Maya Gabeira, who smashed records and gender stereotypes.
Maya in the Sea coming Fall 2024!



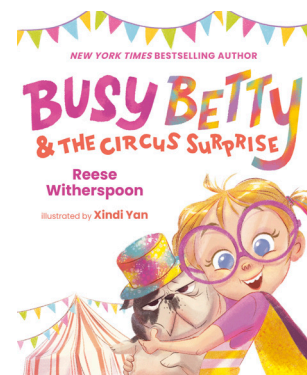
Rosie Frost and the Falcon Queen
GERI HALLIWELL-HORNER
Publication: October 3, 2023
 A sweeping adventure filled with a hidden island, family secrets, shocking betrayals, amazing music, and girl power, by iconic Spice Girl, songwriter and author Geri Halliwell-Horner.



A is for Ambitious (Ambitious Girl #2)
MEENA HARRIS
Publication: March 14, 2023
 The awesome, bold, charming, and decidedly ambitious new picture book by the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Ambitious Girl, Meena Harris, is also a must-have ABC book.

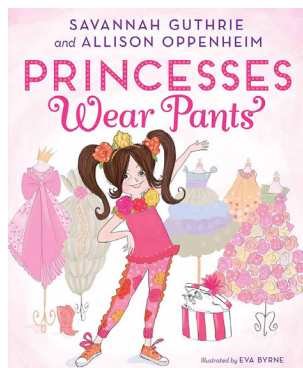


The One and Only Sparkella and the Big Lie
CHANNING TATUM
Publication: May 30, 2023
 The One and Only Sparkella and the Big Lie continues actor, producer and director Channing Tatum's Sparkella picture book series, a charming ode to self-reliance and the love between father and daughter, illustrated by Kim Barnes.



Busy Betty and the Circus Surprise
REESE WITHERSPOON
Publication: October 2023
 Academy Award-winning actress, founder of Hello Sunshine, and bestselling author, Reese Witherspoon is back with a second picture book in the *New York Times* bestselling *Busy Betty* series!

Backlist Title Highlights



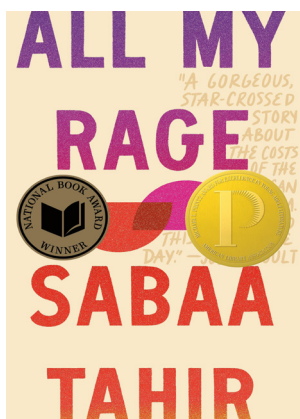
Princesses Wear Pants
SAVANNAH GUTHRIE & ALLISON OPPENHEIM
From NBC's TODAY coanchor Savannah Guthrie and Allison Oppenheim comes an empowering fairy tale with a twist.
An instant *New York Times* bestseller; recently adapted for Netflix as *Princess Power*



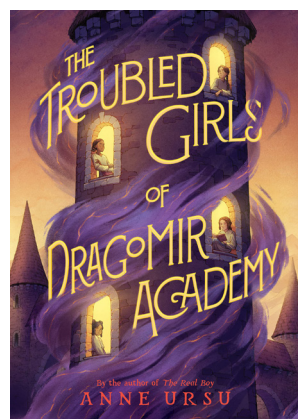
Devil in Ohio
DARIA POLATIN
Rights via ILA
A traumatized girl lives with a family after escaping a cult in this debut YA suspense/thriller that was inspired by true events.
Recently adapted for Netflix



Hello, Goodbye, and Everything in Between
JENNIFER E. SMITH
This sweet romance about a young couple struggling to decide if they should break up before college is perfect for fans of Jenny Han and Nicola Yoon.
Recently adapted for Netflix



All My Rage: A Novel
SABAA TAHIR
A brilliant, unforgettable, and heart-wrenching contemporary novel about family and forgiveness, love and loss, in a sweeping story that crosses generations and continents.
2022 National Book Award winner; 2023 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature; an instant *New York Times* bestseller; an instant Indie Bestseller



The Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy
ANNE URSU
From the acclaimed author of *The Real Boy* and *The Lost Girl* comes a wondrous and provocative fantasy about a kingdom beset by monsters, a mysterious school, and a girl caught in between them.
Shortlisted for 2022 Kirkus Prize; a 2022 International Youth Library White Ravens Selection