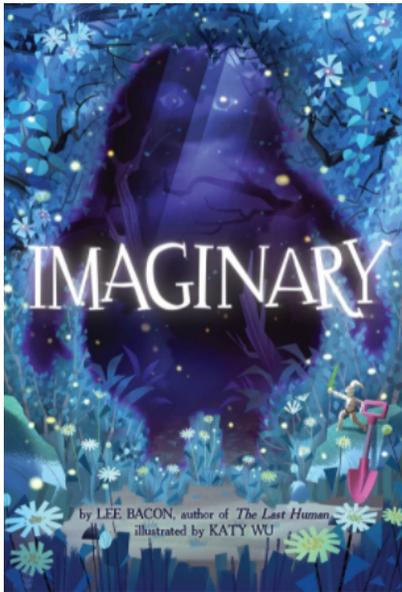


# **THE GERNERT COMPANY**

## **Middle Grade / Young Adult Rights Guide**

**Fall 2021**



## Lee Bacon, **IMAGINARY**

The story of a boy and his imaginary friend—told by the imaginary friend.

Abrams (World English) – October 12, 2021

Material: Final pages

Middle Grade

- "Spot art depicts a charmingly appealing Shovel and a racially diverse human cast. . . A witty, heartfelt, and sophisticated story about the consequences of grief." —***Kirkus Reviews (starred review)***
- "Bacon tells a familiar story of deep loss and friendship that combines gentle humor and ardent wistfulness, making the themes of trauma suppression and the reluctance to move on feel both personal and universal." —***Publishers Weekly***

Zach should've outgrown his imaginary friend by now. He knows this. He's 11, long past the days when kids are supposed to go on epic make-believe adventures with their invisible friends. But after the death of his father five years ago, all Zach wanted was an escape from the real world. So his imaginary friend, Shovel, hasn't faded away like the other kids' have. Their imaginary friendship grew stronger. But now Zach's in middle school, and things are getting awkward. His best friend ditched him for a cooler crowd. His classmates tease him in the hallways. He still misses his dad. Reality is the worst. Which is why Zach makes regular visits to a fantasy world with Shovel. But is Zach's overactive imagination helping him deal with loss or just pushing people away?

Poignant, humorous, and breathtaking, *Imaginary* is an inventive story of friendship, loss, and growing up . . . as only an imaginary friend could tell it.

**Lee Bacon** is the author of several books for young people, including *The Last Human* and the Joshua Dread and Legendtopia series, as well as the original audio story *The Mystery of Alice*. His books have been translated into 23 languages. Bacon grew up in Texas and now lives in New Jersey.

Sold to: DreamLitt (Denmark), Kirmizi Kedi (Turkey)

Previous publishers: Urano (Spain), La Martiniere (France), Van Holkema & Warendorf (Netherlands), Random House Korea (Korea), Mondadori (Italy), Loewe (Germany), Tindur (Iceland), Publicat (Poland), Atticus-Azbooka (Russia), Vivat (Ukraine), V&R Editoras (Brazil), B. Wahlstroms (Sweden), Grup 62 (Catalan), Jota (Czech), WSOY (Finland), Patakis (Greece), Keter (Israel), Maxim (Hungary), Hayakawa (Japan), Kagge (Norway)

**OLIVER  
and the  
GREAT BIG  
UNIVERSE**



By Jorge Cham

**Jorge Cham:  
OLIVER AND THE GREAT  
BIG UNIVERSE**

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid* meets *Cosmos* in an engaging, illustrated book about an eleven-year-old who wants to become an astrophysicist.

Abrams Books for Young Readers – 2023  
Material: Proposal  
Middle Grade

**Sold in a 3-book deal, for a six-figure advance, at auction, North American rights only • All three books will be part of a series featuring Oliver and will cover different scientific topics**

OLIVER AND THE GREAT BIG UNIVERSE by Jorge Cham is about an 11-year old boy (Oliver) who is constantly distracted in life but wants to become an astrophysicist. Through a series of funny comics, Oliver learns complex ideas (the Big Bang theory, black holes, supernovas) from his favorite teacher and then explains them to other kids using humorous and relatable analogies that make learning science fun and engaging.

It is currently a 40-page proposal with two sample chapters, several comics, and an outline for the other chapters. It is planned to be 224 pages long with around 350 comics in total.

Jorge Cham is the author (along with Daniel Whiteson) of WE HAVE NO IDEA (Riverhead, 2017) and FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNIVERSE, which is forthcoming from Riverhead. He is the creator of the popular web comic [phdcomics.com](http://phdcomics.com) and is also a co-creator of the PBS Kids show "Elinor Explains Why", which is one of the highest rated shows on PBS's Kids. He obtained his Ph.D. from Stanford University in Robotics and taught at Cal Tech.

## P. Djèlí Clark, ABENI'S SONG

A middle grade fantasy trilogy about a young girl trying to escape the evil that has taken over her land, by an up-and-coming star in the SciFi / Fantasy world who has won the Nebula, Locus and Alex awards.

Tor Teen – September 2022

Material: Manuscript

Middle Grade

**Sold to Ali Fischer at Tor Teen in a 3-book deal, in a major deal, North American rights only.**

Praise for P. Djèlí Clark's RING SHOUT:

- "A fantastical, brutal and thrilling triumph of the imagination."  
—*New York Times Book Review*
- "Rousing, boisterous, and clever." —*Kirkus Reviews, starred review*
- "A meditation on the all-consuming power of hate and violence." —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*
- "A tale that honors the Black American experience in all its complexity, and yet also delivers in its Lovecraftian delight." —*Library Journal, starred review*
- "Steeped in historical detail and full of engaging characters, that asks the question, 'Who is to blame for the hate that hate made?'" —*Booklist, starred review*

Abeni's village was a small, intimate place of family and song, watched over and protected by the mysterious old lady who lived off in the woods nearby. But when the Storm Women come, and the Goat Man plays his alluring song to steal all the children, the old lady—a witch—can only save one: Abeni. Stuck, unable to help, forced to learn bizarre lessons, Abeni's one thought is to escape the witch and go find her family. And when she finally gets her chance to go, will she have learned enough to help or just disappear into the maw of the great evil in the land?

P. Djèlí Clark is the winner of the Nebula, Locus and Alex awards and the author of the novellas *The Black God's Drums*, *The Haunting of Tram Car 015* and *Ring Shout*. His forthcoming debut novel, *A Master of Djinn*, is out in 2021.

# Gail Lerner, THE BIG DREAMS OF SMALL CREATURES

A heartwarming Middle Grade novel about a 12-year-old girl who can communicate with bugs and a 9-year-old boy who hates insects of all kinds, who square off in a spooky old mansion.

Putnam's Books for Young Readers (WE) – Fall 2022

Material: Manuscript

Middle Grade

**Sold to Stacey Barney at Putnam's in a two-book deal, in a six-figure advance, at auction, World English rights • German deal with cbj**

Twelve-year-old Eden has always felt drawn to bugs. One day in the park, after rescuing a paper wasp's nest, she hears a small voice emanating, incredibly, from one of the buzzing creatures: "Freeze." A budding scientist, Eden has always longed to learn the secrets of the insect world. Nine-year-old August, on the other hand, detests insects. After a painful run-in with a bee and an embarrassing incident with a fly in his school lunch, all in front of the school bully, the last straw is his mom siding against him and with a spider that obviously has it in for him. The bugs have gone too far. August makes it his mission to wipe out every last insect on the face of the earth.

And where will these two fierce opponents naturally meet? In glamorous Newport, Rhode Island, where eccentric, one-hundred-and-twenty-year-old Tillie Wannaberger has literally turned her elegant, turn-of-the-century mansion upside down to create the subterranean Institute for Lower Learning, a fantastical palace devoted to teaching "humans and insects to intersect."

Gail Lerner has been television writer, director, and producer for twenty-three years, and is the writer/director/producer for the first six seasons of *black-ish*. Her work has garnered her a Peabody Award, 6 NAACP Image Awards, and multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. Her short film, *Seraglio* was nominated for a 2001 Academy Award.

Sold to: cbj (Germany)

# Patricia Park, IMPOSTER SYNDROME AND OTHER CONFESSIONS OF ALEJANDRA KIM

A smart and funny YA debut from an acclaimed Korean-American author about growing pains, grief, best friendship, and identity politics.

Crown Books for Young Readers - 2023

Material: Manuscript

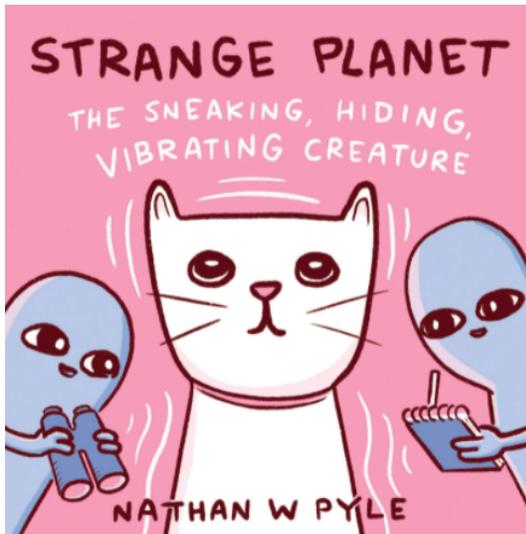
Young Adult

**Sold to Phoebe Yeh at Crown Books for Young Readers in a two-book deal, in a six-figure advance, at auction, NA rights only**

Alejandra Kim, a scholarship student at a progressive Manhattan prep school the kids call “Quaker Oats,” has imposter syndrome, *bad*. Her peers, like best friend (and aspiring Supreme Court Justice) Laurel Greenblatt-Watkins, are quinoa-fed and sustainably-clothed denizens of brownstone Brooklyn who worry about tuition last to never. Ale doesn’t even check off neatly into the POC box; her súper-Korean face and súper-Spanish name endlessly confuse “unwoke” classmates and teachers (especially Jonathan Brooks Garth, a small-minded visiting creative writing teacher). Ale is hoping against hope to get into the esteemed Whyder College -- she wants to leave her native Queens and put her father’s mysterious death on the subway tracks last year behind her. The problem is, Whyder is Laurel’s dream school, too; and at home, she can’t get her mother to talk about Papi’s death, much less put it behind them. *IMPOSTER SYNDROME* charts Alejandra’s senior year as she navigates growing pains, grief, best friendship, and identity politics.

Patricia Park is the author of the acclaimed novel, *RE JANE*, a Korean-American reimagining of Brontë’s *JANE EYRE*, named an Editors’ Choice by the *New York Times* and winner of an American Library Association award. She is the recipient of creative writing fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, The Center for Fiction, the American Association of University Women, the Jerome Foundation, the Sewanee Writers’ Conference, and others. She has written for the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Salon*, *Slice*, and others. She received her BA in English Literature from Swarthmore College and her MFA in fiction from Boston University, where she studied with Ha Jin. Formerly a publicist at Ballantine Books, she is now Assistant Professor in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at American University. She was born and raised in Queens and now lives in Brooklyn.

## More Opportunities . . .



### Nathan Pyle, **STRANGE PLANET: The Sneaking, Hiding, Vibrating Creature**

The first picture book in the *New York Times* bestselling Strange Planet series.

HarperCollins Children's – June 1, 2021  
Picture Book

**#1 New York Times bestseller ! • Sold as part of a 4-book deal to HarperCollins Children's for a six-figure advance, NA rights only • UK deal with Wildfire / Headline • More than 750,000 copies sold of the Strange Planet series worldwide**

Based on his popular Instagram comics, Nathan W. Pyle presents a delightful, heartfelt, and clever picture book that young and old beings alike will enjoy reading together. When the nearest star rises, Lifegiver has an exciting quest planned for Offspring! Follow along as they observe a strange creature that sneaks, hides, and vibrates around their house. Hilarity ensues as the blue beings try to mimic this talented creature.

As always, Nathan W. Pyle draws humor from his unique perspective on human activity and delivers a colorful experience that is an ode to cats and humans alike. This book is a joy to read and share, no matter how many revolutions you've made around the nearest star.

**Nathan W. Pyle** is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Strange Planet*, *Stranger Planet*, *NYC Basic Tips and Etiquette*, and *99 Stories I Could Tell*. He is a former staff writer and illustrator for BuzzFeed. He is based in New York City but travels the country speaking about creativity and storytelling.

Sold to: Wildfire/Headline (UK)

## THE GERNERT COMPANY INTERNATIONAL CO-AGENTS

### **UK & British Commonwealth**

Mr. Caspian Dennis and Ms. Anna Carmichael  
[caspian@abnerstein.co.uk](mailto:caspian@abnerstein.co.uk)  
[anna@abnerstein.co.uk](mailto:anna@abnerstein.co.uk)

### **German**

Ms. Antonia Fritz, Paul & Peter Fritz AG  
[afritz@fritzagency.com](mailto:afritz@fritzagency.com)

### **French**

Ms. Aurelie Lefebvre, Agence Eliane Benisti  
[aurelie@elianebenisti.com](mailto:aurelie@elianebenisti.com)

### **Italian**

Ms. Vanessa Maus, Berla & Griffini Rights Agency  
[maus@bgagency.it](mailto:maus@bgagency.it)

### **Dutch, Flemish**

Ms. Hannah Zirkler, Marianne Schönbach Agency  
[h.zirkler@schonbach.nl](mailto:h.zirkler@schonbach.nl)

### **Spanish**

Ms. Teresa Vilarrubla, The Foreign Office  
[teresa@theforeignoffice.net](mailto:teresa@theforeignoffice.net)

### **Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic**

Ms. Trine Licht, Licht & Burr Literary Agency  
[tl@licht-burr.dk](mailto:tl@licht-burr.dk)

### **Portuguese**

Ms. Tassy Barham, Tassy Barham Associates  
[tassy@tassybarham.com](mailto:tassy@tassybarham.com)

### **Bulgarian, Romanian, Serbian, Macedonia, Bosnian and Albanian**

Ms. Mira Droumeva, Andrew Nurnberg Associates Sofia  
[mira@anas-bg.com](mailto:mira@anas-bg.com)

### **Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian**

Ms. Tatjana Zoldnere, Andrew Nurnberg Associates Baltic  
[zoldnere@anab.apollo.lv](mailto:zoldnere@anab.apollo.lv)

**Czech, Slovak and Slovene**

Ms. Marta Soukopova, Andrew Nurnberg Associates Prague  
[soukopova@nurnberg.cz](mailto:soukopova@nurnberg.cz)

**Hungarian and Croatian**

Ms. Susanna Vojacsek, Andrew Nurnberg Associates Budapest  
[rights@nurnberg.hu](mailto:rights@nurnberg.hu)

**Greek**

Ms Nike Davarinou, Read n Right Agency  
[nike@readnright.gr](mailto:nike@readnright.gr)

**Russian**

Ms. Ludmilla Sushkova, Andrew Nurnberg Associates Moscow  
[sushkova@awax.ru](mailto:sushkova@awax.ru)

**Hebrew**

Ms. Efrat Lev, The Deborah Harris Agency  
[efrat@thedeborahharrisagency.com](mailto:efrat@thedeborahharrisagency.com)

**Polish**

Mr. Lukasz Wrobel, Graal Ltd  
[Lukasz@graal.com.pl](mailto:Lukasz@graal.com.pl)

**Turkish**

Ms. Bengum Ayfer, Akcali Copyright Agency  
[bengum@akcalicopyright.com](mailto:bengum@akcalicopyright.com)

**Japanese**

Ms. Solan Natsume, Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.  
[solan@tuttle-mori.com](mailto:solan@tuttle-mori.com)

**Complex and Simplified Chinese**

Ms. Chang-Chih Tsai, Bardón-Chinese Media Agency  
[changchih@bardonchinese.com](mailto:changchih@bardonchinese.com)

**Korean**

Ms. Nari Shin, Eric Yang Agency  
[eya-child@eyagency.com](mailto:eya-child@eyagency.com)

**Thai**

Ms. Nari Shin, Eric Yang Agency  
[eya-child@eyagency.com](mailto:eya-child@eyagency.com)

**Indonesian**

Mr. Santo Manurung, Maxima Creative  
[santo.maxima@gmail.com](mailto:santo.maxima@gmail.com)