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ROLL FOR INITIATIVE
Jaime Formato



Perfect for fans of *Dungeons & Dragons*, Raina Telgemeier, and Jessica Kim, this debut middle grade novel is a upbeat and heartfelt coming-of-age story about finding your voice and believing in yourself.

Riley Henderson has never taken a bus to school in her entire life. Or made an afterschool snack, or finished her homework on her own, or prepared dinner, or—ewww—done her own laundry. That’s what her older brother Devin was for. Her single mom works crazy hours, which means Devin all but raised her, but now he’s away at college, studying at a prestigious gaming program in California, while she’s still at home in Florida. Riley’s never even made a friend on her own because she always had Devin, but new girl Lucy gives Riley no choice but to get over her shyness and fear of rejection and become friends. The best part is . . . both girls have a fascination for *Dungeons & Dragons*. In fact, that was something Riley and Devin used to do together, with Devin as the dungeon master, guiding Riley through his intricate and meticulously planned campaigns. Of course, Riley is a little nervous when Lucy suggests that she run a campaign, but for the chance at a friend, Riley’s willing to give it a shot. To her surprise, it goes really well! So well, in fact, that soon they add Hannah and Jen to their adventuring party.

Soon Riley discovers that not only that she can function without Devin, she kind of likes it. She figures out that bus thing, totes the clothes down to the laundry room and sets up her D&D campaigns right there on the slightly suspect folding table, makes her own snacks and dinner, the whole deal. But when Devin leaves his program and returns home, it's pretty clear, even to Riley, that since he can't figure out his own life, he's going to live Riley's for her. He's even going to run her *D&D* campaigns with all his strict, no fun, no joking allowed rules. Now Riley has to figure out how to prove to him and her mom that she's got this and convince Devin he needs to go back to California to follow his dreams. It's time to *Roll for Initiative*.

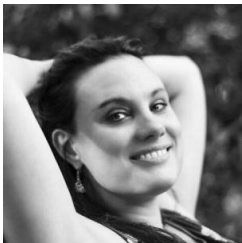
Early Praise:

“A fun-filled winner, *Roll for Initiative* will appeal to gamers and non-gamers alike. Readers will root for Riley as she navigates through friendships and family while keeping her first D&D campaign on track. A fantastic reminder that everyone can use a confidence boost, even those who seemingly have it all together.”—Kim Long, author of *Lexi Magill and the Teleportation Tournament*

“Formato’s middle grade debut is a dazzling story about growing up and finding yourself along the way. This is the book that every D&D playing, comic book reading, gamer girl needs; I would adventure with Riley and her friends any day.”—Nicole Melleby, award-winning author of *How to Become a Planet*

“Maxes out its stats in empathy, creativity, and character growth.” – *Kirkus*

“A thoughtful tale of self-acceptance set against the backdrop of multisided dice...A rollicking RPG romp through pre-teen communication and relationships.” – *School Library Journal*

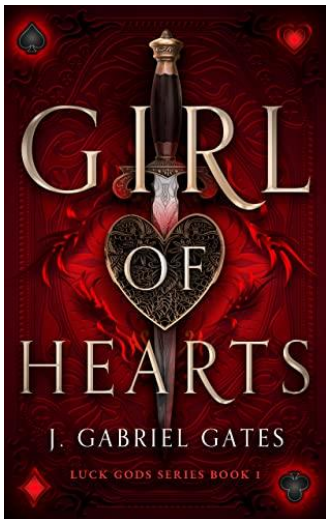


Jaime Formato is a third-grade teacher living in northern Florida. This is her first novel.

Running Press
320 pages
LKG Agency
Book available

GIRL OF HEARTS (Book 1: Luck Gods Series)
MOTHER OF SPADES (Book 2: Luck Gods Series)

J. Gabriel Gates



Four tribes of ruthless demigods rule over luck in our world. To save her mom, Aggie must join them. This contemporary YA fantasy features royal intrigue, slow-burn romance, and a magical system based on the four playing card suits: diamonds, clubs, hearts, and spades.

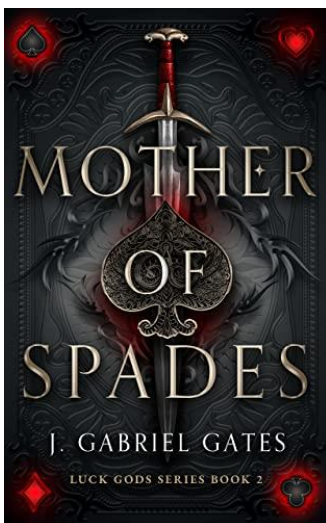
A proud nerd and teen scientist, Aggie doesn't believe in gods or in luck. Her OCD is under control—mostly—and her mom, Rachel, has just finished building a dark matter machine that could win back her job as a physics professor. When Rachel disappears, Aggie sneaks into the casino where her mom has been earning money as a card-counter. Instead of finding her, Aggie is captured by a gang of men with tattoos of clubs on the palms of their hands—the Blackovers. A dangerously beautiful boy, the mercurial Jack Valentine, helps her escape.

Because of a glitch in the dark matter machine, Aggie has been filled with charm, good luck energy, while her mom received bad luck energy and may be forced to become a Blackover. To save her, Aggie must join Jack and his fellow Valentines. She finds herself whisked into their world of opulent mansions, gorgeous people, and fancy cars.

But being a demigoddess isn't all glamor and popularity. It can be deadly. Aggie must master her newfound luck powers, battle the dark suits, and brave the unlucky underbelly of Detroit, all while keeping her OCD at bay—or risk losing her mom forever.

In Book 2, MOTHER OF SPADES, high school senior Aggie is ready to concentrate on important things like college essays, science projects, and her secret older boyfriend. There's one major distraction, however: she's a demigoddess with the power to control luck. Her mom is one, too—the deadly Queen of Spades. When Aggie discovers how wicked her mother has become, she knows she has to win her back from the evil forces controlling her before it's too late.

Aggie is shocked when she's chosen to be the next queen of her suit. Accepting the role will give her the strength to defeat her mom and save her. But in order to become queen, Aggie must first face a deadly trial, a heist to steal a dangerous treasure from the most powerful luck god of them all.



Praise:

“Gates has created a fresh, magical world where luck is power...A must-read.” – Nissa Leder, author of Whims of the Fae series

J. Gabriel Gates is the author of YA contemporary fantasy and horror books and screenplays. A graduate of Florida State University and Spalding University's MFA writing program, Gates has taught writing at the college level and has worked as a ghostwriter. When not writing books, he works as the executive director of a prominent regional arts organization. He is currently at work on Book 3 and 4 of the Luck Gods Series.

Steed Publishing
 396 pages
 Howland Literary
 Book available

ART AND JOY: Best Friends Forever

Danielle Krysa

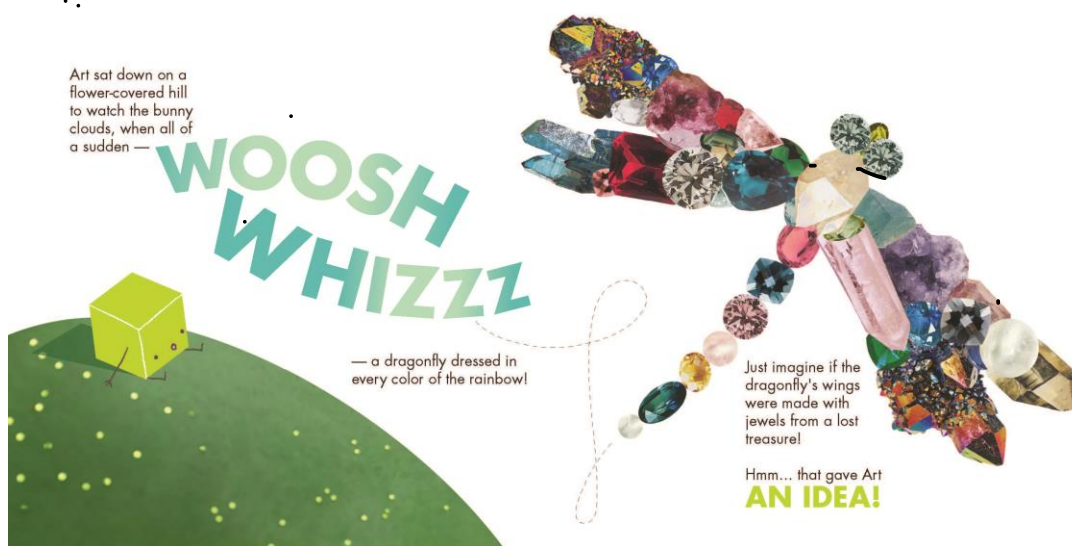


This wry and wisdom-filled children's book from the author of *How To Spot An Artist* helps artists aged five and up discover the joy of artistic expression while silencing self-criticism.

This is the story of two best friends—Art and Joy—and how they overcome the insidious “Art Bully” that criticizes their creative endeavors. Danielle Krysa knows that kids have an inner critic too—the kind that tells them their artworks are stupid, messy, the wrong color, or just plain wrong.

Employing the same arch humor that make her books for adults so relatable and helpful, Krysa illustrates this uplifting tale with her brilliantly colored collages and witty typography. As Art and Joy learn how to tap into their imaginations and shrug off the Art Bully, they also discover some clever ways to get their creative juices flowing using color, shape, line and found objects.

Kids of all ages will find enthusiastic support and valuable inspiration in this playful parable.



Danielle Krysa is the creator of The Jealous Curator, a highly influential contemporary art blog. Her previous books include *Creative Block*, *Collage*, *Your Inner Critic Is a Big Jerk*, *A Big Important Art Book—Now With Women*, and *How To Spot An Artist*. She lives in British Columbia, Canada.

Prestel Junior
40 pages with 40 illustrations
Present Perfect Dept.
Book available

World English rights: Prestel US

Rights sold to HOW TO SPOT AN ARTIST: UK/Prestel; French (Canada)/Quebec Amerique

THE HAIR BOOK

LaTonya Yvette and Amanda Jane Jones

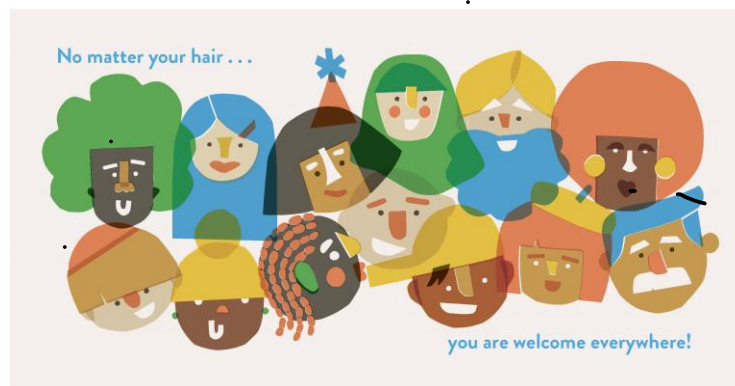


A bold, graphic board book celebrating all types of hair.

*Covered hair,
Bun hair,
Party hair,
No matter the hair – YOU are welcome everywhere!*

With striking, colorful graphics and simple alliterative text, both editions - a board book and hardcover - features poufy hair, wavy hair, Afro hair, hair covered in a hijab, and more. A surprise mirror at the end encourages young children to reflect on their own characteristics.

The message is clear: no matter what you look like, you are beautiful, valued, and welcome everywhere.



Praise:

"Striking spreads include bold and eye-catching colors that celebrate the diversity of beauty." – *School Library Journal*, starred review



Amanda Jane Jones is a graphic designer and illustrator, and was the founding designer and co-creator of *Kinfolk*, a quarterly lifestyle magazine. Her first children's book, *Yum Yummy Yuck* (Prestel), was co-written with her husband—inspired by her three kids. She lives in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains in Utah.

LaTonya Yvette is a Brooklyn, NY-born and -based writer, creative director, and founder of LY, an eponymous lifestyle site focused on style, motherhood, culture, and wellbeing. LaTonya's first book *Woman Of Color* was published in 2019 (Abrams), and her

Sterling Children's Books
7" x 7" Board book
22 pages, illustrated with mirror on the
last page

8" x 8" hardcover
36 pages, illustrated with no mirror
Present Perfect Dept.
Book available



next body of work is a collection of essays to be published by Dial Press.

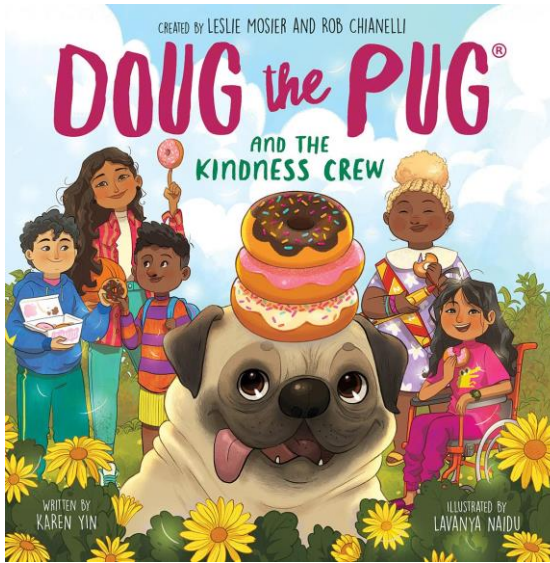
**CHILDRENS (AGES 4-8)
OCTOBER 2022**

DOUG THE PUG AND THE KINDNESS CREW

Karen Yin

Illustrated by Lavanya Naidu

Created by Leslie Mosier and Rob Chianelli



Doug the Pug makes his picture book debut in this original illustrated story.

Doug the Pug loves pizza, posing for paw-traits, and above all else, spreading paw-sitivity. Join the Kindness Crew and follow Doug as he embarks on an adventure across town to share kindness with everyone he meets.

With messages of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion, this beautifully illustrated picture book is perfect for Doug the Pug's youngest fans and anyone looking to make the world a kinder place.



Kindness is waiting your turn.

Karen Yin is the author of diverse and inclusive stories for children, including *Whole Whale* and *So Not Ghoul*, and the founder of Conscious Style Guide. Karen lives in California with her partner and their cat friends, but dogs are welcome to hang out.



Scholastic Children's Books
32 pages
Stonesong Literary
Book available

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