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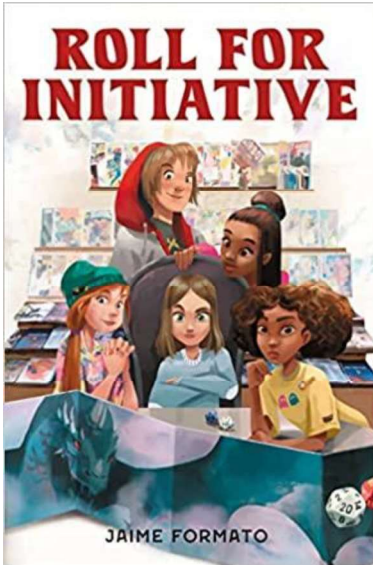
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ROLL FOR INITIATIVE
Jaime Formato



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*.

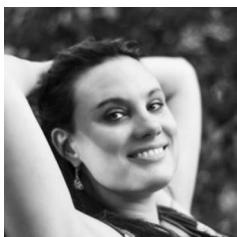
Praise:

"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)
DAUGHTER OF DIAMONDS (Book 3)
J. Gabriel Gates

YA / ROMANTASY
APRIL 2022
JULY 2022
OCTOBER 2023



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. Aggie must master her newfound luck powers, battle the dark suits, and brave the unlucky underbelly of the city—or risk losing her mom forever.

In Book 2, *MOTHER OF SPADES*, 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.

Book 3: As a newly minted Queen of Hearts and a high school senior, Aggie has her hands full. Being a demigoddess. Managing her OCD. Prepping for the SATs. And most of all searching for her mom, who has been brainwashed and remade into a bad luck goddess, the Queen of Spades.

Aggie needs help from her suit of luck gods to get her mom back. But when a prominent Heart is murdered, the Valentines split into factions and question her leadership—because Aggie is one of the suspects. To prove her innocence and regain her suit's loyalty, Aggie must solve the murder. Her partner on the case? Her roguish sort-of-ex-boyfriend, the Jack of Hearts. The investigation will pit them against goblins, sylphs, bad luck gods, a mysterious secret order, and even members of their own suit in a quest to solve the murder, reunite the Valentines, and save Aggie's mom. But they'll have to hurry. Because the Queen of Spades has plans, too. Plans that could cast a shadow of misery over the entire world.

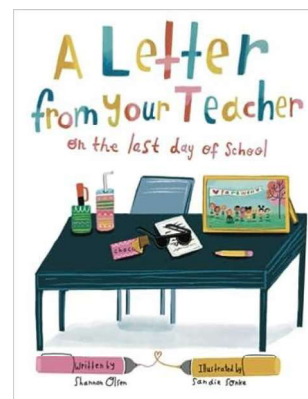
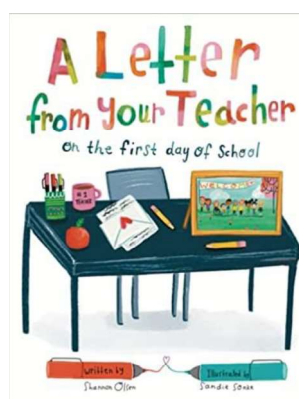
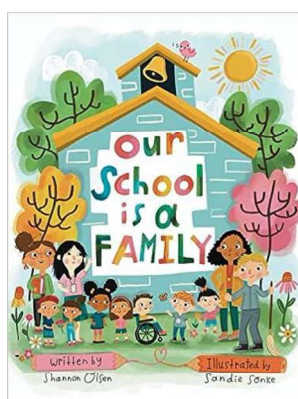
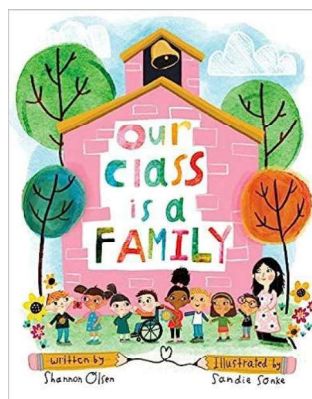
Praise: "Gates has created a fresh, magical world where luck is power...A must-read." — Nissa Leder, author of *Whims of the Fae* series

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 the final book of the Luck Gods Series.

Steed Publishing
396 pages
Howland Literary
Book available

OUR CLASS IS A FAMILY
OUR SCHOOL IS A FAMILY
A LETTER FROM YOUR TEACHER ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
A LETTER FROM YOUR TEACHER ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
 Shannon Olsen, illustrated by Sandie Sonke

PICTURE BOOK (age 5-8)
MAY 2020
MAY 2023
MAY 2021
MAY 2022



Bestselling self-published author with over 700,000 copies sold

Teachers do so much more than academics. Social emotional learning is arguably even more important than academic education, because success in the latter depends on the former. Kids learn best in an environment where they feel safe, loved, and accepted.

With its heartfelt message and colorfully whimsical illustrations, *Our Class is a Family* and *Our School is a Family* are books that will help build and strengthen that class community. Kids learn that their classroom is a place where it's safe to be themselves, it's okay to make mistakes, and it's important to be a friend to others. When hearing this story being read aloud by their teacher, students are sure to feel like they are part of a special family. *A Letter from Your Teacher on the First Day of School* helps teachers in welcoming their new group of students. Through a letter written from the teacher's point of view, students are given the message that their new teacher is someone they will get to form a special bond with. Their teacher is not only there to help them academically, but also to cheer them on, and to provide a caring, safe environment for them to learn and grow. *A Letter from Your Teacher on the Last Day of School* allow teachers to bid a special farewell to their students at the end of the school year, as the class is invited to reflect back on memories made, connections formed, and challenges met. The letter expresses how proud their teacher is of them, and how much they will be missed. Students will also leave on that last day knowing that their teacher is cheering them on for all of the exciting things to come in the future.



Shannon Olsen was born and raised in Southern California, and obtained a B.A. in English and M.A. in Teaching from University of California, Irvine. She has worked in education for 15 years, primarily as a second grade teacher. Shannon also creates resources for elementary teachers and shares teaching ideas through her online store and blog, Life Between Summers. Her non-work related passions include traveling to new places, and being a wife and a mother of two girls

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