



Spring 2024  
Frontlist Rights Guide

Adult and Children's books

*Greenburger.com*



## CHILDREN'S BOOKS



**Pam Fong**

## **THE LITTLE CLOUD**

Greenwillow Winter 2025 | World English

40 pages, manuscript anticipated April 2024

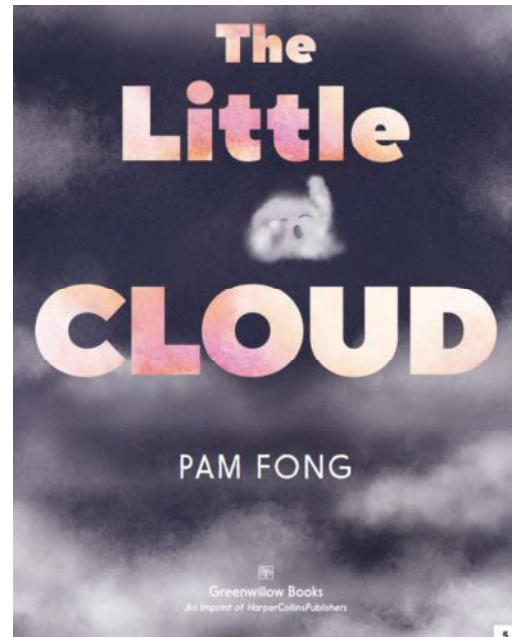
Agent: Abigail Frank

**In a world that often values being busy for the sake of being busy, readers of all ages will be inspired by this heart-melting hero!**

This story follows Little, a cloud who has a hard time doing what all clouds are supposed to do: make storms—and that’s it! She doesn’t get why



everyone always has to be so busy, so focused. Maybe she could sneak away just for a moment, and explore the world below? The other clouds don’t understand, but when the day takes an unexpected turn, it’s clear that Little was onto something all along.



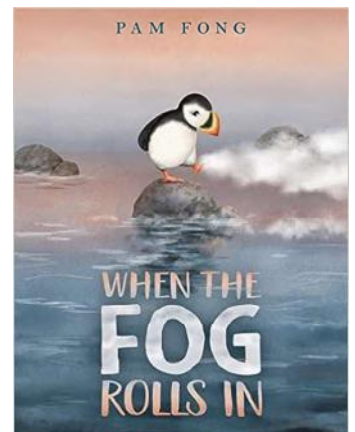
Like all of Pam’s stories, under the adorable characters and gorgeous scenery (her use of color as the dawn rises is striking!) lies a profoundly beautiful takeaway. In her exploration of what it means to be happy and to make the most of each day, Little encourages us to stay curious and find delight in what others may overlook.

## **WHEN THE FOG ROLLS IN**

Greenwillow October 10, 2023 | World English

32 pages, final text and art available

**When a thick fog rolls in, an irresistible little puffin is lost in unfamiliar territory. *When the Fog Rolls In* is an exceptional picture book about navigating uncertainty, opening your mind, and finding your way back to your flock.**

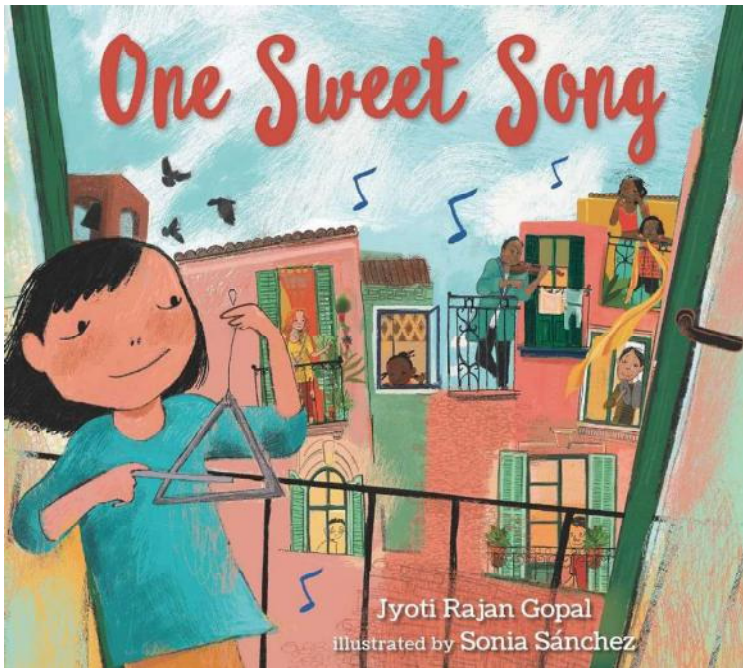


“Robert Frost’s famous quote perfectly applies to Fong’s story: “The best way out is always through.” ...Arresting artwork in muted watercolors....The youngest listeners will empathize with the lost bird trying to find its way home, while older readers, perhaps through discussion with an adult, may better understand Fong’s symbolic message”—*Booklist*

“...young readers will ... be able to empathize with the puffin’s vulnerable condition. Given the foggy setting, the palette is necessarily muted, but despite the general haziness, there are still discoveries to be made for shrewd viewers, like realizing that what looks like a menacing creature is actually a harmless tree. Though the idea of fog as a metaphor for life’s uncertainties might go over the heads of younger readers, the book provides an effective jumping-off point for discussions about fear, anxiety, and obstacles. A simple but poignant tale about navigating difficulties with courage and patience.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

**Pam Fong** earned a degree in Visual Arts and Art History from the University of California, San Diego, and a Masters of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University. She is the creator of three picture books, *ROU AND THE GREAT RACE* (Reycraft Books 2020), *ONCE UPON A FOREST* (Random House Studio, Spring 2022), and *A SPARK IN THE DARK* (Greenwillow, Fall 2022), and *HEDGEHOG AND THE LOG* (Union Square Books: January, 2024). <https://pamfong.com/>

Picture book



## Jyoti Rajan Gopal ONE SWEET SONG

illustrated by Sonia Sánchez

Candlewick, January 16, 2024 | World English

40 pages, final text available

Text c/o SJGA, Illustrations handled by

Candlewick

Agent: Wendi Gu

**In an ode to the power of music and community, this vibrantly illustrated picture book steps out on the balcony for a shared moment of spontaneous joy and celebration.**

In a quiet neighborhood, a single note trills through the air. Another note joins, and then another. One by one, curious people are drawn to their windows, doorways, and balconies to support the medley. Professional musicians play instruments from around the world, while others bang pots and pans. All are welcome as the notes swirl and dip and crescendo, coming together to make one sweet song. And when the music fades and this diverse neighborhood is once again silent, the reverberations of unity remain. Written by a kindergarten teacher and inspired by the balcony singing in Italy during the pandemic—with a countdown from one to ten and back gently woven in—this rhythmic synergy of text and art is a buoyant, global-minded celebration of how music connects us, even in the darkest of times.



**Jyoti Rajan Gopal** is a kindergarten teacher and the author of *American Desi*, illustrated by Supriya Kelkar, *My Paati's Saris*, illustrated by Art Twink and *Desert Queen*, illustrated by Svabhv Kohli, named a Stonewall Honor book from the ALA awards and best of 2023 by *Booklist*, *BookPage*, *Kirkus*, and *BCCB*.



She was born in India but grew up all over the world, from Thailand to Indonesia to Myanmar to China. More than twenty-five years ago, she moved to New York City with her husband and raised her two daughters in

Yonkers in a very old house with an amazing porch, where she still lives.

**Sonia Sánchez** is the illustrator of *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away* by Meg Medina; *Dog Says, Cat Says* by Marilyn Singer; *Here I Am* by Patti Kim, for which she was nominated for a Will Eisner Comic Industry Award; and many other acclaimed picture books. She lives in Barcelona, Spain.

Picture Book

## Praise for ONE SWEET SONG:

---

“In this tale inspired by the Italian performers who serenaded their neighbors from their balconies during the Covid-19 lockdown, a single musical note leads to a neighborhood symphony. . . . The bright illustrations show swirls of colors and musical notes weaving in and out of the homes, suggesting a sense of connection. . . . A joyful celebration of music and community”. —**Kirkus Reviews**

“Propulsive rhymes unite neighbors in this counting picture book featuring a collaborative musical performance that expands and contracts. . . . Driving rhythms and clear rhymes by Rajan Gopal (*American Desi*) tug with a gentle beat, while energetic illustrations from Sanchez (*Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away*) render a sun-washed cityscape with texture and vigorous scribbles in this work about how individuals retain the warmth and support of connection.” —**Publishers Weekly**



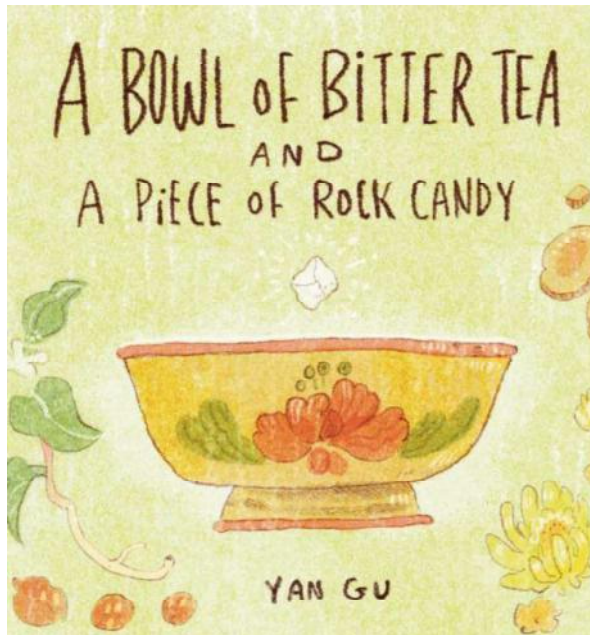
“Gopal, a kindergarten teacher, offers a pleasant, rhyming text that features numbers counting up to 10 and then back down to 1 as night falls. The warm, colorful artwork depicts a diverse group of urban apartment dwellers, young and old, who are clearly enjoying their shared musical experience. Reminiscent of spontaneous musical happenings during the pandemic, this picture book could inspire young children to create their own.” —**Booklist**

“Equally suitable for bedtime or a music-themed storytime program. Sánchez’s spirited art has an endearing hand-sketched look, and a broad range of strokes (scribbles, loops, dots, and smudges) lend a sense of energy and vibration to each exuberantly earth-toned scene. While there are subtle parallels to the balcony singing in various cities during early COVID-19 lockdown, the story itself is deeply resonant and speaks to the power of music to enhance the resilience, creativity, and unity of global communities during an exceptionally trying time.” —**The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books**

“The rhyming, rhythmic text counts up to ten participants and back down to one, first animating readers and then bringing them back down to a quieter, peaceful state that gives this book a dual function as a bedtime story. Colorful painted and digital illustrations show individual lines, an almost scribbly texture, and imperfectly drawn shapes, all of which make the pictures buzz with energy and movement. Even if they didn’t personally experience these types of balcony performances, readers will understand the way music-making can bring people together.” —**The Horn Book**

“From windows, balconies, and rooftops, a neighborhood joins an impromptu symphony in Gopal’s warm, endearing picture book that begs to be read aloud. . . . Preschool and kindergarten teachers will find this title to be an easy fit for math lessons, and music teachers may even use *One Sweet Song* with students to identify the many instruments featured. . . . A twist on the usual counting book that emphasizes community and the ways that music can bridge the distance between people.” —**School Library Journal**

---



Yan Gu

## A BOWL OF BITTER TEA AND A PIECE OF ROCK CANDY

Henry Holt BYR, Fall 2025 | World English

Final art due July 2024

Agent: Wendi Gu

**A humorous and heartfelt tale about the bitterness of liangcha, a popular tea from traditional Chinese medicine, and the sweetness of a Waipo (grandmother)**

Liangcha (凉茶)— translated as cooling tea — is an herbal tea from southern China that nourishes the body by keeping it cool, especially handy for summer's hottest days. However, liangcha is STINKY and BITTER, and little Mimi can't stand to drink it, even though Mimi's doting Waipo makes her fresh homemade liangcha every day. In this beautifully illustrated, Chinese-themed take on how a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down, we follow a

spunky Mimi as she does everything within her power to not to drink Waipo's liangcha, only to realize that she is rejecting Waipo's caring love by doing so. By the end, Waipo and Mimi meet in the middle and delight in a sweet antidote to the bitterness.

This book is about two different flavors of love. Other marketing points: a little knowledge about TCM (traditional Chinese medicine), and intergenerational love between a grandmother and granddaughter. Not to mention: gorgeous illustrations.



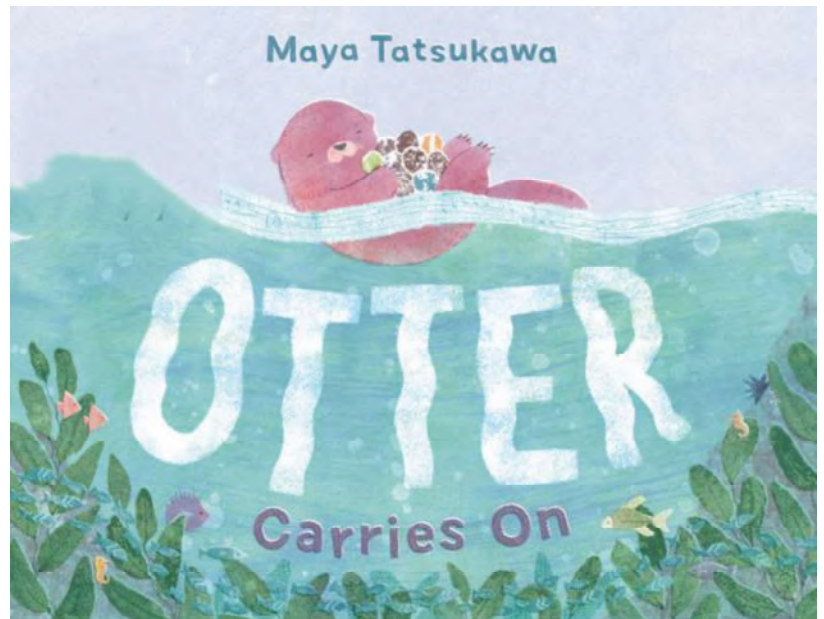
**Yan Gu** is an illustrator from Shanghai. She graduated from RISD in 2022. In her free time, she loves plein-air painting. **A BOWL OF BITTER TEA AND A PIECE OF ROCK CANDY** is her first picture book.

Picture Book

**Maya Tatsukawa**  
**OTTER CARRIES ON**

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,  
March 11, 2025 | World English  
40 pages, final material Summer 2024  
Agent: Wendi Gu

**From the Theodore Seuss Geisel Award-winning author of THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY, the second in a two-book, six-figure deal (with MOLE IS NOT ALONE) that finds a headstrong otter learning a valuable lesson about trying to do it all.**

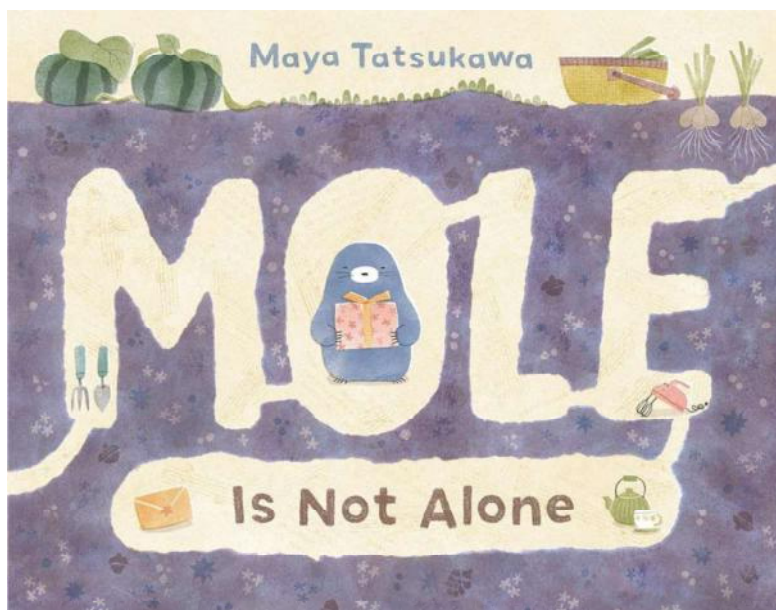


Little Otter is perfectly capable of holding it all together. All alone, without any help, thank you very much. Arms full of cherished collected rocks, Little Otter is swept up in a storm that shakes their grasp, and finds that when times get rough, letting go may not be all that bad after all.

Filled with adorable characters and beguiling scenery, OTTER CARRIES ON is sure to resonate with children and adults alike who may need a bit of encouragement to accept the help of ~~otters~~ others.

By day, [Maya Tatsukawa](https://petitemayat.com/) is a book designer at Walker/Candlewick. By night, she bakes beautiful desserts and illustrates children's books. She is the author/illustrator of Geisel Honor winner THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY (Dial 2020), SUNDAY PANCAKES (Dial 2022), and MOLE IS NOT ALONE (Holt 2023). She sometimes teams up with writer Darren Farrell and together they've created DANDELION MAGIC (Dial 2021), GIVE THIS BOOK AWAY (Knopf 2022), and the forthcoming LION IN BED (Dial 2025). Today, she lives outside of Boston with her cat/studio manager Mosami. <https://petitemayat.com/>





## MOLE IS NOT ALONE

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,

October 3, 2023 | World English

40 pages, final text and art available

Agent: Wendi Gu

Rights sold: China (21<sup>st</sup> Century), France

(Albin Michel), Germany (Gerstenberg),

Israel (Agam Books), Korea (Bear Books),

Taiwan (Easten Publishing)

**Art for MOLE IS NOT ALONE will be included in the Society of Illustrators exhibit at the Bologna Book Fair**

Tatsukawa brings this tale to satisfying conclusion that lets young introverts know they can have fun on their own terms." — ★ *Kirkus*

"...a story about anticipatory worry that ends not with forced revelry, but with a "Maybe... next time?" and gentle camaraderie found." — ★ *Publisher's Weekly*

"Sweet and cozy—much like the cream puffs Mole makes—*Mole Is Not Alone* lends itself well to both storytime read-alouds and quiet snuggles before bed. Fans of Yeorim Yoon and Jian Kim's *It's OK, Slow Lizard* and Cori Doerrfeld's *The Rabbit Listened* will want to add this to their shelves." — ★ *BookPage*

"Tatsukawa's adorable illustrations . . . would be at home on any nursery blanket, making the story's handling of social anxiety feel comforting and reassuring." — *Booklist*

"Tatsukawa creates art that is as gentle as the story, with soft, muted tones in greens, browns, and blacks, clean stenciled lines, and stamp-like smudgy textures. The tunnels Mole traverses are cleverly set up to function like comic book panels, and all text is in speech bubbles, making this easy for youngsters to try to read on their own." — *BCCB*

"Tatsukawa's beautiful pastel illustration create a whimsical feel; kids will delight in the many details in the pictures. . . . This sensitive story will delight party lovers and those with social anxiety alike—a charming addition to the SEL shelves." — *SLJ*

Mole is invited to a party, which is very worrisome. What if the party is too rowdy for Mole? What if Mole doesn't know anyone there? What if Mole is just too shy to make friends? Mole worries through the tunnels, around Snake's burrow, under the forest, past Bear's den, and all the way to Rabbit's door. But despite all those worries, maybe Mole can find a quiet way to make friends.

With warm and sweet illustrations, every page is an invitation to look and look again. Readers can follow Mole's tunnel as it connects from one page to the next, learning along the way that everyone can make friends, even if some parties are quieter than others.

**Please see the artist's artistic process at the QR code at right:**



Picture Book

**Jack Wong**

## **WHEN YOU CAN SWIM**

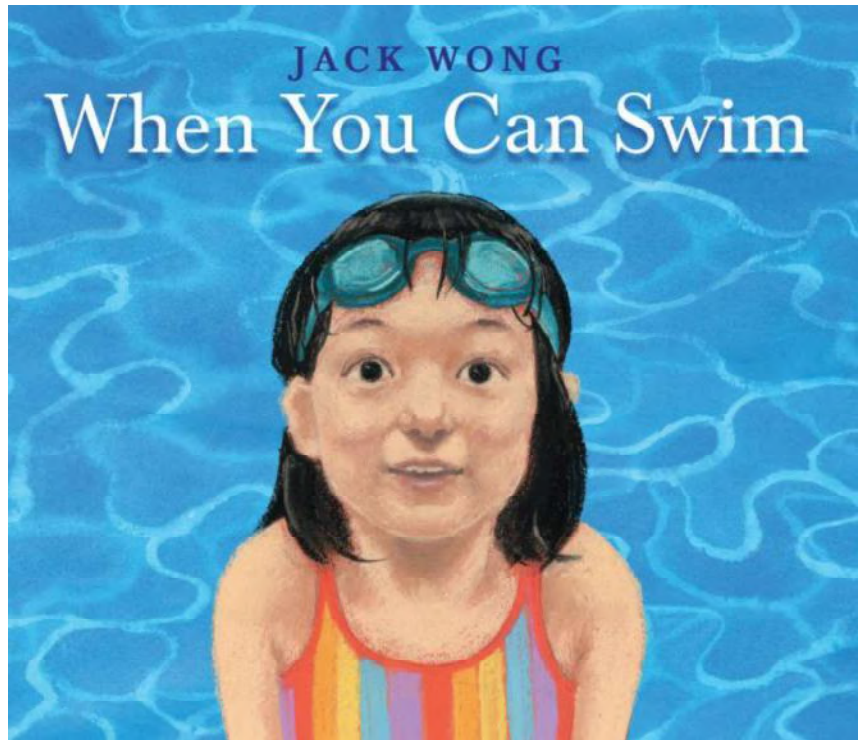
Scholastic, May 2, 2023 | World  
English, NA Spanish, and French  
48 pages, final text and art available  
Agent: Wendi Gu  
Rights sold: Korea (Proomi Books)

**Winner of the Boston Globe-Horn  
Book Picture Book Award**

**Amazon Best Book of May: Ages 3-5**

**Publishers Weekly Best Summer  
Read for 2023**

**A reverent celebration of learning to  
swim among a diverse cast of  
children and families who each  
experience the mysterious joys of  
water in nature.**



In this exploration of what it truly means to swim, expansive vignettes introduce sandpipers, tannin-soaked lakes, and the feeling of a small waterfall on sun-soaked shoulders. But what about those who are afraid of the water's mysterious ways and resist learning to swim? Painting a compelling picture of the many joys and surprises that the water holds, artist and author Jack Wong has delivered an empowering, poetic journey that invites children to discover their confidence within to receive the warmth and wonder of the natural world.

In this exploration of what it truly means to swim, expansive vignettes introduce sandpipers, tannin-soaked lakes, and the feeling of a small waterfall on sun-soaked shoulders. But what about those who are afraid of the water's mysterious ways and resist learning to swim? Painting a compelling picture of the many joys and surprises that the water holds, artist and author Jack Wong has delivered an empowering, poetic journey that invites children to discover their confidence within to receive the warmth and wonder of the natural world.



**Jack Wong (黃雋喬)** was born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver. In 2010, he left behind a life as a bridge engineer to pursue his Bachelor of Fine Arts at NSCAD University (Halifax, Canada), where he now lives with his wife and two cats.

A self-declared actual Jack-of-all-trades, he has also tried his hand at bookkeeping, teaching art, managing a psychology research lab, and running his own bicycle repair shop, just to name a few—a real education for creating children's books, if you ask him!

The books that Jack writes and illustrates are indelibly marked by a first-generation Asian Canadian experience, transposed upon the small-city living, natural beauty, and deeply rooted storytelling traditions of the Maritime east coast. Jack is the recipient of 12x12 Picture Book Challenge's 2021 Diversity Scholarship, competitive mentorships from Annick Press and Visual Arts Nova Scotia (with artist Steve Higgins), and a longlist mention in the 2020 CANSCAIP Writing for Children Competition. He volunteers in the Virtual Readers and Refugees Program hosted by the International Board on Books for Young People, and is an active member of SCBWI, Visual Arts Nova Scotia, and Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia.

Picture Book

### Praise for WHEN YOU CAN SWIM

**“In VISUALLY INVENTIVE, LOVINGLY FINISHED pastel-and-watercolor spreads and sinuous lines of prose-poetry, debut author-illustrator Wong showcases myriad children encountering the joys of swimming.”** ★ *Publishers Weekly*

**“[When You Can Swim] is BOUND TO INSPIRE all swimmers to embrace nature, no matter where they are on their journey....A GORGEOUSLY RENDERED love letter to swimming and the magical experiences that it can unlock.”** ★ *Kirkus Reviews*

**“Jack Wong’s BREATH-taking watery landscapes, strong currents surge beneath rushing waterfalls, and sunlight shimmers on ocean waves and the surface of a river...Text and illustrations merge SEAMLESSLY...Wong’s playful perspectives are CAPTIVATING...STUNNING...[A] SPLENDID PICTURE BOOK.”** ★ *BookPage*

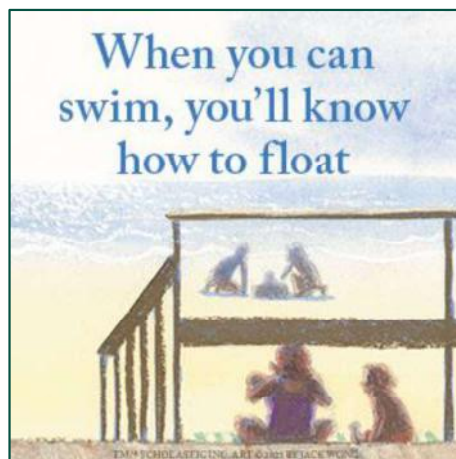
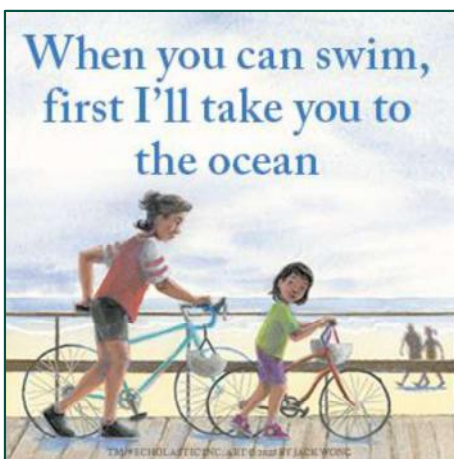
**“With POETIC text and GORGEOUS, INCLUSIVE illustrations, Wong invites readers to learn how to swim—to conquer fear of the water, and also to reclaim aquatic spaces for Brown, Black, and differently abled bodies...This isn’t just a book about swimming but also ‘about our ideas of the world’; it’s a manifesto that ‘this belongs to you, too.’”** ★ *Horn Book*

**“In watercolors and pastels, this picture book EXTOLS the future joys of swimming in many different locales.”** *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, “New Books for 2023 Summer Reading”

**“[A] MARVELOUS book with its GLORIOUS poetry and SPECTACULAR pastel and watercolor illustrations offers an INSPIRING of what is possible when someone conquers their fear of the water and dares to swim in the ocean, a pond, a lake, a canal, a swimming pool.”** *The Buffalo News*

**“STUNNINGLY ILLUSTRATED and LYRICAL.”** *BookRiot*

**“This EXQUISITELY ILLUSTRATED picture book celebrates all the wonder and adventure to be found when you sink your body into water.”** *Northern Virginia Magazine*



Jack’s flight to ALA was cancelled so he ended up missing the Scholastic event where he was supposed to speak, but he made a video at an airport hotel and apparently it stole the show. Enjoy here this video that beautifully captures his intentions for the book:



**Toni Yuly**

## **SLOWLY SLOWLY**

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, September 12,

2023 | World English

40 pages, final text and art available

Agent: Wendi Gu

**A persimmon branch takes its time creating a wonderful gift for the community around it in this charming picture book celebrating the beauty that can be found in slowing down.**

When you slow down...

you see more.

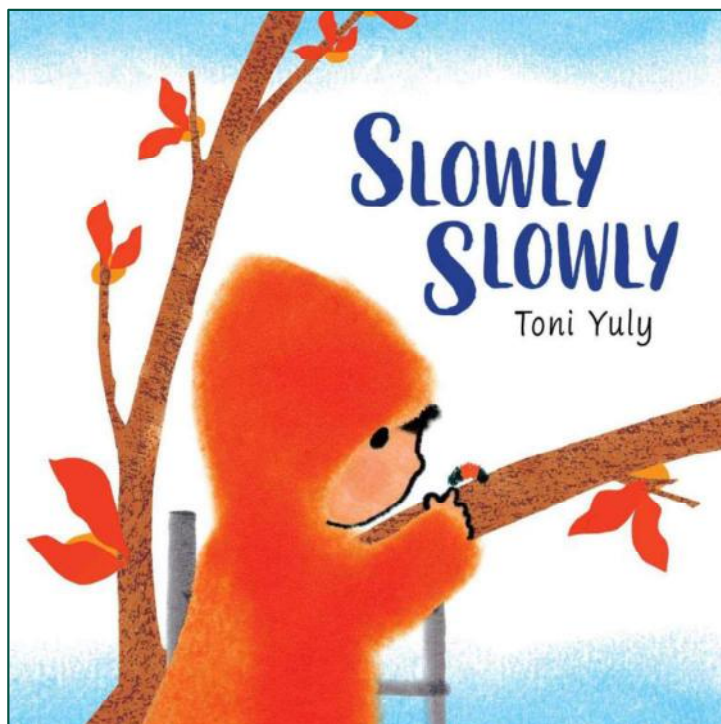
You see the day waking up,

the turtle taking steps,

the wind having fun.

You see wonder

all around.



In this this simple yet stunning picture book, a persimmon tree stretches across every page, changing with the seasons. In the world beyond its branches, a boy and his puppy delight in the wonders they see around them. All the while, the tree is slowly growing, blooming, and creating fruit to be enjoyed.

---

**"With a few carefully chosen words and images, Yuly fashions a delicate paean to nature and mindfulness. "When you slow down.../ you see more," whisper the inviting first lines. . . The minimalist style and composition of the hazy, soft-textured art winningly reflect the book's philosophy of stripped-down simplicity. . . An appealing purchase for all collections, with plenty of details to inspire conversation and reward multiple read-throughs." --★ *School Library Journal***

**"The simplicity of this story results in its perfection. Repeated scenes of a branch of the persimmon tree, shown in different weather and at various times of day, will hold children's interest during multiple rereads and help them learn about the seasons and other aspects of the natural world. . . The precise, limited narrative and its message that good things can take time to develop will lull readers into a sense of calm appreciation, making this an ideal story for bedtime. Delightful and soothing encouragement to slow down and enjoy life."--- ★ *Kirkus Reviews***

---

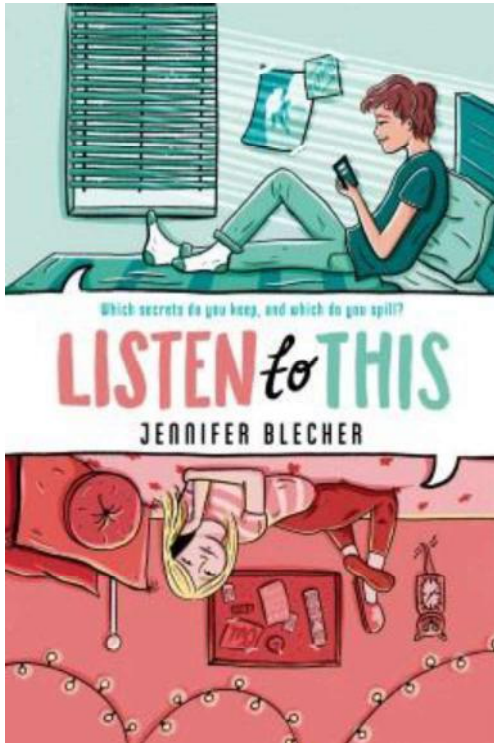


**Toni Yuly** is the creator of many acclaimed picture books including *Some Questions About Trees*, *The Whole Wide World and Me*, and *Thank You, Bees*. She studied painting at the University of Washington, where she worked with the great American painter Jacob Lawrence. Toni also worked for many years as a librarian with the King County Library System. She now lives in Bremerton, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington. Visit her at [www.ToniYuly.com](http://www.ToniYuly.com) .

Picture Book

Jennifer Blecher  
**LISTEN TO THIS**

Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins | March 26, 2024 | NA  
224 pages, final manuscript available  
Agent: Alexander Slater



Critically acclaimed author Jennifer Blecher has four books with Greenwillow! **STICK WITH ME**, **CAMP FAMOUS**, and **OUT OF PLACE**.

---

Secrets, rumors, shifting friendships, overbearing parents, and, on top of all that, a first dance—how does anyone survive seventh grade?

---

Lily, Maddie, and Sasha have always been the perfect friendship trio. But this year, everything is changing. Maddie and Sasha made the elite soccer team, and Lily feels that they're always leaving her behind. And everyone seems to have secrets now: Maddie, and Sasha, and Lily's sister, and even Lily herself.

Lily's classmate Will wishes he had some secrets. After all, his life is already out there for the whole world to hear about, thanks to his dad's super-popular parenting podcast. And Will hates it, but telling his dad that is harder than the hardest climbing wall at Philly Rocks. Until his dad finally crosses a line, and Will's not sure he can forgive him.

But maybe when Lily and Will meet, they'll find just what they need: someone who will listen.



**Jennifer Blecher** is the author of *Camp Famous*, *Stick with Me*, and *Out of Place*. She lives in Boston, Massachusetts, with her husband and their three children, but spends part of every summer on Martha's Vineyard. Visit her at [www.jenniferblecher.com](http://www.jenniferblecher.com).

Middle Grade novel

Shaina Lu

## NOODLE & BAO

HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books, Fall 2024 | World English

222 pages, final art due

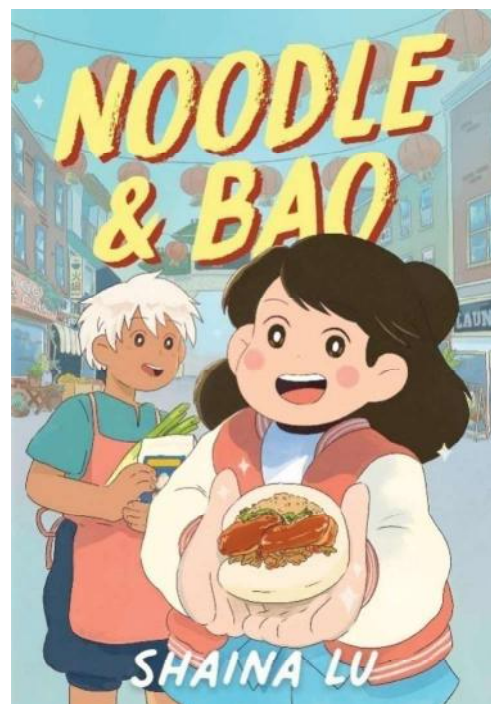
Agent: Wendi Gu, text and art

Perfect for fans of *Animal Crossing* and *Measuring Up*, this whimsical and empowering middle grade graphic novel follows a girl who helps her friend's humble food cart stand its ground against the gentrification of their Chinatown neighborhood. Sold at auction in a two-book deal, **NOODLE & BAO** is an ode to Chinatowns everywhere.

Momo has lived in Town 99 her entire life. She knows all its quirks and rhythms: the best places to buy fruit, practice tai-chi in the park, and, most of all, get the best meal: Noodle & Bao, run by Momo's best friend, Bao, and their amah, Noodle.

But Town 99 is changing. Rent is becoming unaffordable for Momo and her parents, and even Noodle & Bao has been edged out of its storefront, which was just recently bought out by a new business venture—Fancé Cafe. Fancé is run by the ambitious Ms. Jujube and her henchmen, who claim they're only beautifying Town 99 with good business.

Momo knows that's not true, and knows that if she doesn't do something, she'll lose everything she loves about her neighborhood. From undercover recon to a cook-off proposal, protest signs to petitions, Momo and Bao are on a mission to protect Town 99. Will they succeed before it's too late?

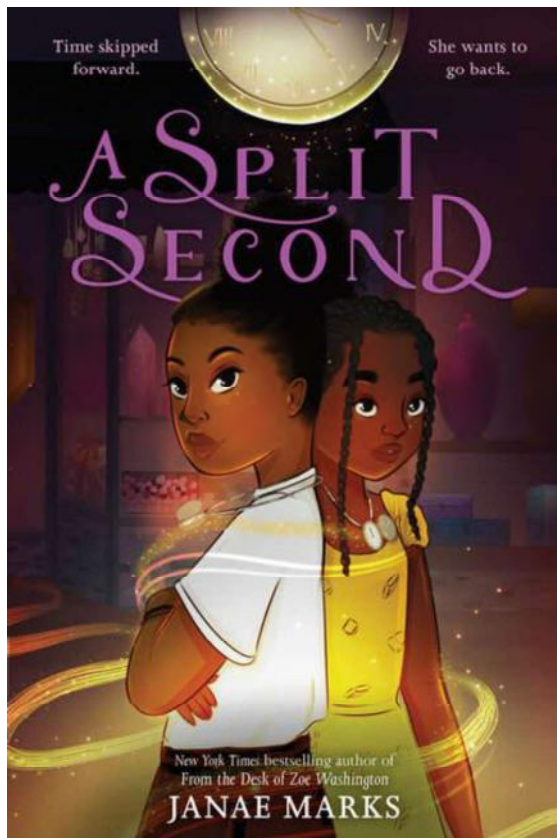


**Shaina Lu** 呂明穎 (she/her) is a queer Taiwanese-American community artist and educator interested in the intersection of art, education, and activism. She graduated from Wellesley College and Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she studied Arts in Education. She lives with her wife and cat on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Massachusetts and Pawtucket people.

<http://shainadoesart.com/>



Middle Grade Graphic Novel



## Janae Marks A SPLIT SECOND

HarperCollins, October 1, 2024 | NA  
256 Pages, Final Manuscript Available  
Agent: Alexander Slater

---

**New York Times bestselling author Janae Marks delivers a stunningly crafted and twisty mystery about the tests of friendships that examines what matters most when everything can change in a split second—perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead and Anne Ursu.**

---

That clock can't be right. When Elise wakes up the morning after her birthday celebration, she's surprised to find herself in her bedroom. Last she can remember, she had fallen asleep next to her best friends at her slumber party in her basement, and it was October. But now she's alone, and her phone says it's April 8. Elise doesn't understand. How could she have woken up six months later?

No one else is acting like anything strange has happened, yet Elise can't remember the last half year. To make matters worse, her friends refuse to talk to her and Elise doesn't know why. She also has no idea how she got signed up for photography club or why her former best friend, Cora, is talking to her again. Is it a memory problem? Could it be magic? Every day that passes takes Elise further from the world she knew. Thankfully, Elise has Cora to lean on in this new reality, and the two come together to investigate why Elise woke up in the future—and, more important, how to get her back to her past and away from this nightmare.



**Janae Marks** is the New York Times bestselling author of middle grade novels *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*, *On Air with Zoe Washington* and *A Soft Place to Land*. She has an MFA in Writing for Children from The New School, and lives in Connecticut with her husband, daughter and miniature schnauzer named Cookie. Visit her at <https://www.janaemarks.com/>.

Her debut novel, FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON, was published in the UK with Chicken House under the title, THE FARAWAY TRUTH: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Faraway-Truth-Janae-Marks-ebook/dp/B084BYJZRR?ref=ast\\_author\\_mpb](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Faraway-Truth-Janae-Marks-ebook/dp/B084BYJZRR?ref=ast_author_mpb).

Middle Grade novel

**Liz Montague**  
**SCHOOL FOR UNUSUAL MAGIC:**  
**The Equinox Test**

Scholastic, April 2, 2024 | World English

240 pages, B&W illustrations

ARCs available

Agent: Wendi Gu

Three friends discover magic and mayhem around every corner of their school in the first book of this brand-new illustrated three-book series from *New Yorker* cartoonist and NAACP Image Award nominee Liz Montague.

It's time to put their magic to the test!

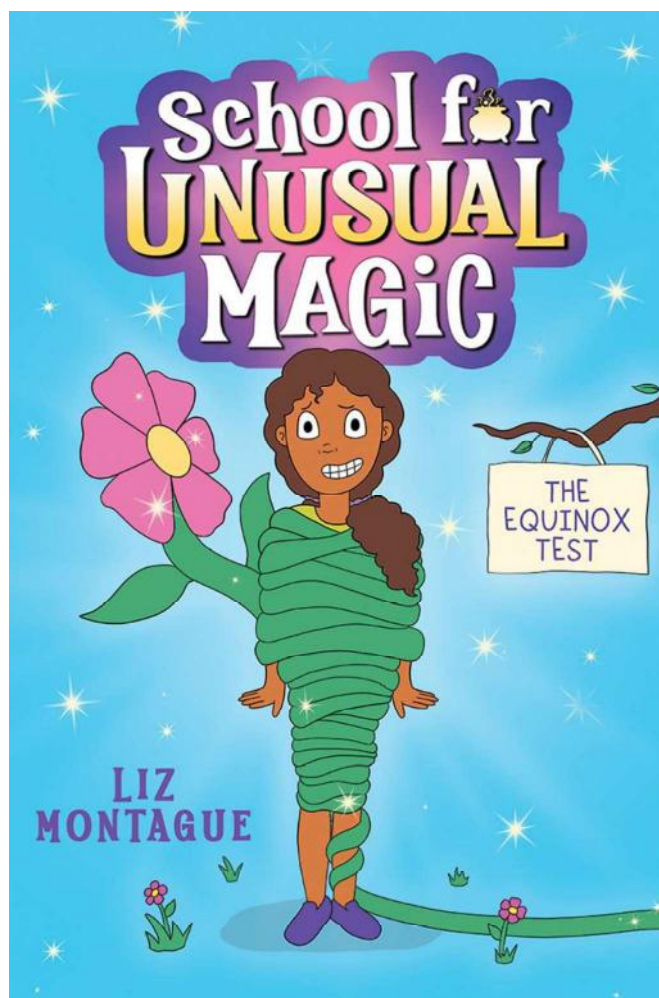
Welcome to the Brooklyn School of Magic, where seeds of enchantment are planted and magic sprouts in every corner. And where each fall, fifth years must pass the Equinox Test if they want to move up to Middle Magic.

Rose is worried. She's never been the best student. And if she doesn't pass with flying colors, Principal Ivy says she may have to transfer to a boring, non-magical school.

Amethyst knows she's got the skills to ace the test. But to really impress her mom, she's got her eye on the school's top prize.

Lavender just wants to fit in. Even after a few years in the States, he still feels homesick. All. The. Time. Passing the test might just be his ticket back to the island.

But with best friend battles, a cheating scandal, and trouble brewing in the magical community, the Equinox Test may not even be the biggest challenge these Magic Bearers will face this year...



**Liz Montague** began as a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* in 2019. She is the author-illustrator of the graphic novel *Maybe an Artist*, which was nominated for an NAACP Image Award, the picture book *Jackie Ormes Draws the Future*, and middle grade series *School for Unusual Magic*. Liz is passionate about nature and emotional literacy. She lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with her husband Pat.

<https://lizatlarge.org/about-3/>

Middle Grade Illustrated



## Rainie Oet **GLITCH GIRL!**

Kokila, Spring 2025 | World English  
Manuscript anticipated Spring 2024  
Agent: Abigail Frank

Sold at auction

The first middle grade novel in verse from poet and children's book author Rainie Oet, **GLITCH GIRL!** is about a young person who processes the isolation of middle school, ADHD, confusion about their gender, and an overwhelming crush on a girl at school through playing a roller-coaster-park-building game.

---

### About Rainie Oet:

George Saunders called her work “complex, mysterious, finely wrought, and formally daring,” and said that she is “a young writer to watch.”

Mary Karr said, “Rainie Oet has it all,” and called her second book of poetry “an extraordinary display of poetic power, and [2020]’s must-read new voice.”

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah called Rainie “a brilliant new writer with the power to make you see things you’ve never seen before with stunning clarity.”

---

**GLITCH GIRL!** follows “J—” from 5th to 7th grade—from, roughly, the beginning to the end of their obsession with the video game, *Coaster Boss* (based off of *RollerCoaster Tycoon*). J—’s life is consumed by this game, by the power they exert over the pixelated theme park attendees. Their life outside the game is less controllable. They’re navigating an ADHD diagnosis, the isolation of middle school, and an overwhelming crush on a girl named Junie. They are convinced that Junie sees them as who they really are, as a person who isn’t “bad” just because they don’t stay quiet and sit still in class. And as a person who is realizing that maybe the name, and the gender, the world uses for them isn’t who they are.

**Rainie Oet** (she/her) is a queer trans woman who writes for adults and younger readers alike. She is the former Editor-in-Chief at *Salt Hill Journal*, and the author of three books of poetry: *Glorious Veils of Diane* (Carnegie Mellon UP, 2021), *Inside Ball Lightning* (SEMO Press, 2020), and *Porcupine in Freefall* (winner of the Bright Hill Press Poetry Book Competition, 2019). She has two upcoming picture books with Astra Young Readers: **ROBIN’S WORLDS** and **MONSTER SEEK** (world rights are with the publisher). Her writing appears in *Poetry Review*, *Blackbird*, *jubilat*, *Palette Poetry*, and *The Yale Review*, among other publications. She received her MFA in Poetry from Syracuse University, where she was awarded the Shirley Jackson Prize in Fiction. Her website is [www.rainieoet.com](http://www.rainieoet.com).

Middle Grade novel in verse

Jacquelyn Stolos  
**ASTERWOOD**

Delacorte, Summer 2025 | NA  
Manuscript anticipated August 2024  
Agent: Alexander Slater

---

**A middle grade version of *The Hazel Wood* by way of Kelly Barnhill, a mysterious new friend introduces a motherless girl to a fantastical yet ominous world, where she discovers not only a secret world and a group of kids that are relying on her, but also that her family has secrets of its own.**

---



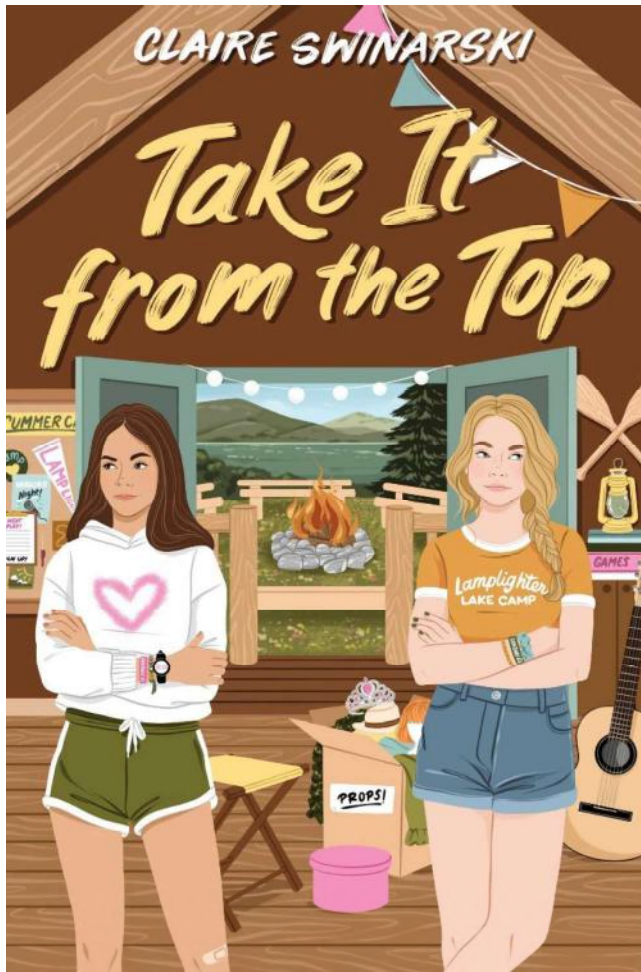
*Now, the tree wavered back and forth, its base engulfed in flames. “And what kind of mother would I have been if I had found you? You don’t think I love you? You don’t think I want you to live a life untouched by badness or hurt? Untouched by me? You are my greatest love and greatest agony.”*

Twelve-year-old Madelyn Delios doesn’t quite fit in her small New Hampshire town, but she’d never let her father, Ezra, know how much it hurts. Life in their lopsided old farmhouse overflows with great books, cozy meals, and father-daughter adventures in the surrounding woods. What more could a good daughter ask for? After all, it’s not Ezra’s fault that Madelyn doesn’t have a mother.

But, when a mysterious new friend appears in the woods behind her house and invites her down a forbidden trail to another world, Madelyn is forced to reckon with yearnings she’s long suppressed and uncomfortable truths she’s always suspected. **ASTERWOOD** is a story of what we inherit, of magic and mothers, and of how one society’s insatiable desire brings their enchanted ecosystem to the brink of collapse. Beware of cannibals, complacency, raging rivers, and the shock of seeing your parents as human for the very first time.

**Jacquelyn Stolos** is a writer living and teaching in Los Angeles. She holds an MFA in fiction from New York University where she was a Writers in the Public Schools Fellow. Jacquelyn has won fellowships to attend the New York State Summer Writers Institute and the Community of Writers. Her short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in Bodega Magazine, No Tokens, Joyland and more. Find her online at <http://www.jacquelynstolos.com/>.

Middle Grade novel



Claire Swinarski  
**TAKE IT FROM THE TOP**

Quill, November 19, 2024 | NA

Manuscript available

Agent: Alexander Slater

A contemporary story told non-sequentially a la *The Friendship List* meets *500 Days of Summer*, following two girls who have become best friends over the course of six summers, while getting flashbacks into what contributed to their present-day falling out.

Eowyn and Jules have been going to theater camp together for the past six summers. But for some reason, Jules is being a total jerk this year – and Eowyn can't figure out why. When they learn the mainstage show is *Wicked* – their dream show – they need to decide if they can keep acting the roles of BFFs, or if unraveling the past six summers could help them understand what happened to their friendship. This summer might just change them for good.

**Claire Swinarski** is the author of three middle-grade books and one adult novel. Her writing has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Seventeen*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, and many other publications. She lives in small town Wisconsin with her husband and three kids, where she writes books, wears babies, and wrangles bread dough. <http://www.claireswinarski.com/>



Middle Grade novel

Alex Thayer  
**HAPPY & SAD &  
EVERYTHING TRUE**

(formerly BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING)  
Aladdin, November 12, 2024 | World English  
272 pages, Manuscript available  
Agent: Alexander Slater

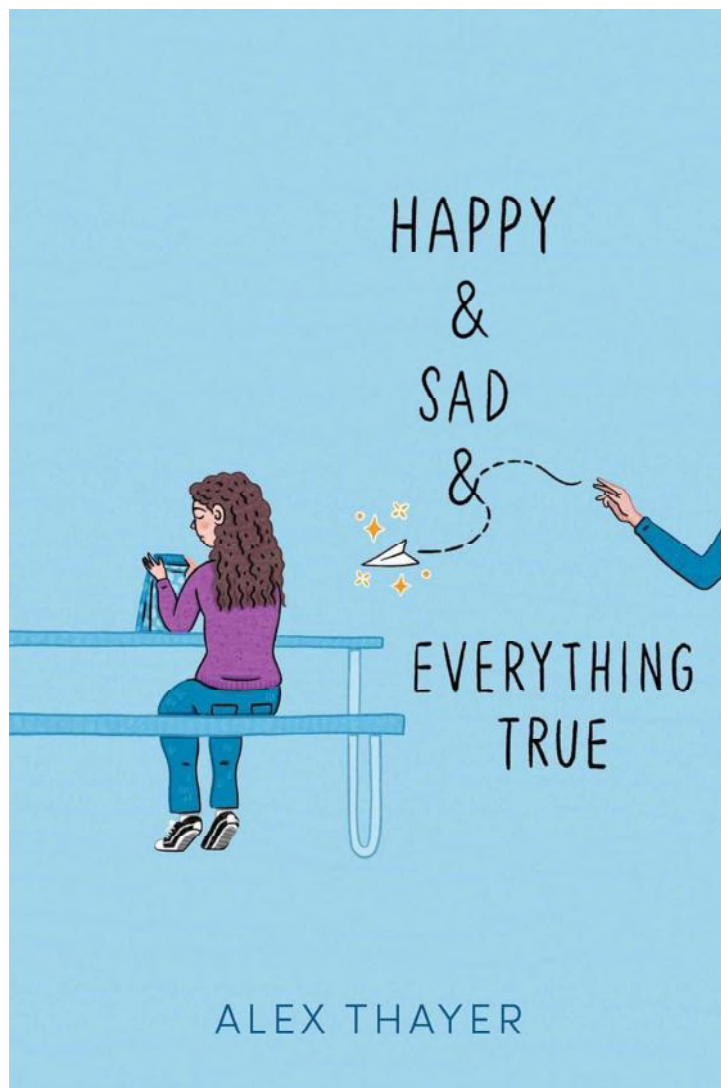
**Sold in a pre-empt!**

**With charm and sincerity reminiscent of Judy Blume and Rebecca Stead, this debut middle grade novel is a heartfelt, hopeful story about a girl finding herself through secretly giving out advice to classmates.**

Back when Dee and Juniper were still friends, Dee never hid in the bathroom. Now, at the beginning of sixth grade, Dee finds herself there often. The dripping faucet is annoying, and there are other places she'd rather be—like at home and in her room with her cat, Norman. But at least Dee is safe from overenthusiastic teachers and having to see Juniper walking through the halls with her new friends. Dee would rather be alone than witness that.

But it turns out Dee isn't the only one hiding from something. There are kids all over the school worrying in secret and needing someone to talk to. After Dee helps a second grader with spelling advice, more students begin coming to Dee with their problems. It turns out she's a good listener, and she likes helping people. And when she starts receiving mysterious notes, it seems someone out there wants to be her friend—if only they would reveal themselves.

**Alexandra Thayer** is a former film and television actress and elementary school teacher. She lives in New England with her two sons and can be found on Instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/alexandra\\_thayer/](https://www.instagram.com/alexandra_thayer/).



Middle Grade novel



## Jasmine Warga A STRANGE THING HAPPENED IN CHERRY HALL

Balzer & Bray, September 10, 2024 | World English  
224 Pages, manuscript available

From the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Rover's Story* and *Other Words for Home* comes an extraordinary story about two friends, a ghost, a missing painting, and a turtle named Agatha. The perfect next read for fans of *The Swifts*, Kate DiCamillo, and Erin Entrada Kelly.

"A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall reeled me in with the opening sentence and didn't let go. I love EVERYTHING about it! The characters! The setting! The suspense! I cannot wait to booktalk it during school visit presentations. I'm going to tell children and educators around the world that I could feel Jasmine Warga's big, kind heart on every page! What a gift she's given us!"—MR. SCHU

A painting has been stolen...!

When Rami sees a floating girl in the museum, he knows he has seen her somewhere before. Then he realizes: She looks just like the girl in the painting that has gone missing. But how does her appearance connect to the theft?

Agatha the turtle knows—she has been watching from the garden. But she can't exactly tell anyone...can she?

Will Rami, with the help of his classmate, Veda, be able to solve the mystery? The clues are all around them, but they'll have to be brave enough to really look.

This is a whimsical, moving story about the universal desire to be seen and understood and how art can help us find connection, even when we are at our loneliest.

**Jasmine Warga** is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of middle grade novels *Other Words For Home*, *The Shape of Thunder*, and *A Rover's Story*. *Other Words For Home* earned multiple awards, including a John Newbery Honor, a Walter Honor for Young Readers, and a Charlotte Huck Honor. *The Shape of Thunder* was a *School Library Journal* and Bank Street best book of the year, a finalist for the Barnes & Noble Children's and YA Book Award, and has been named to several state award reading lists. *A Rover's Story* was an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a Indie Next List and a Junior Library Guild selection, and was named a best book of the year by *Publishers Weekly* and *The Washington Post*. She is also the author of young adult novel, *My Heart and Other Black Holes*, which has been translated into over twenty different languages. Originally from Cincinnati, she now lives in the Chicago-area with her family in a house filled with books. <https://jasminewarga.com/>



Middle Grade novel

**Kara H.L. Chen**

## **ASKING FOR A FRIEND**

HarperCollins July 23, 2024 | NA

336 page, Manuscript available

Agent: Alexander Slater

**This charming YA rom-com follows a strong-willed, ambitious teen as she teams up with her childhood frenemy to start a dating-advice column, perfect for fans of Emma Lord and Gloria Chao.**

Juliana Zhao is absolutely certain of a few things:

1. She is the world's foremost expert on love.
2. She is going to win the nationally renowned Asian Americans in Business Competition.

When Juliana is unceremoniously dropped by her partner and she's forced to pair with her nonconformist and annoying frenemy, Garrett Tsai, everything seems less clear. Their joint dating advice column must be good enough to win and secure bragging rights within her small Taiwanese American community, where her family's reputation has been in the pits since her older sister was disowned a few years prior.

Juliana always thought prestige mattered above all else. But as she argues with Garrett over how to best solve everyone else's love problems and faces failure for the first time, she starts to see fractures in this privileged, sheltered worldview. With the competition heating up, Juliana must reckon with the sacrifices she's made to be a perfect daughter—and whether winning is something she even wants anymore.

## **LOVE AND RESISTANCE**

HarperCollins, July 2, 2023 | NA

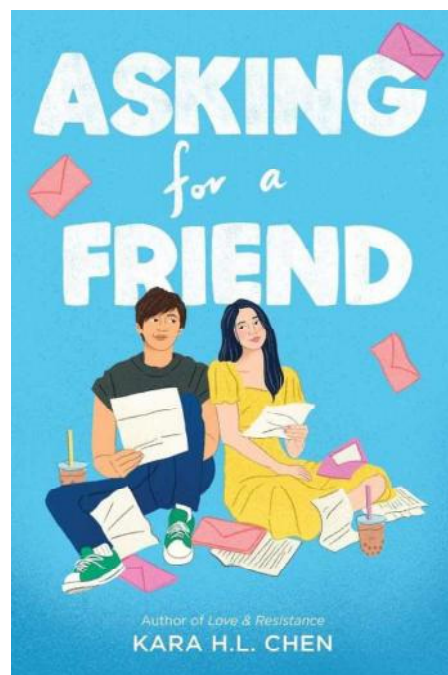
352 pages, Manuscript available

**Moxie meets Mary H.K. Choi in this funny, whip-smart YA debut about love, resistance, and the enduring friendships that make it all worthwhile.**

Seventeen-year-old Olivia Chang is at her fourth school in seven years. Her self-imposed solitude is lonely but safe. At Plainstown High, however, Olivia's usual plan of anonymity fails when infamous it-girl Mitzi Clarke makes a pointed racist comment in class. Tired of ignoring things just to survive, Olivia defends herself.

And that is the end of her invisible life. Soon, Olivia joins forces with the Nerd Net: a secret society that's been thwarting Mitzi's reign of terror for months. Together, they plan to unite the masses and create true change at school.

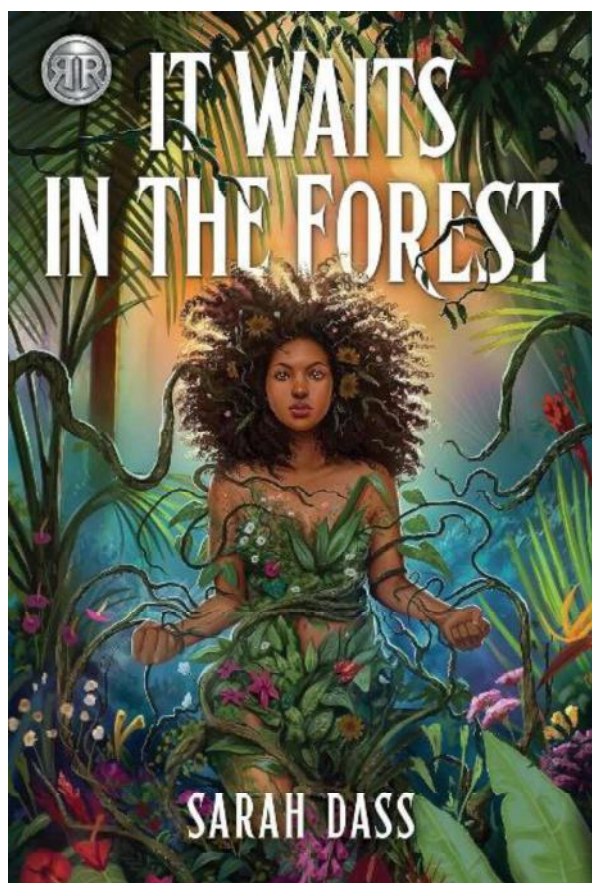
But in order to succeed, Olivia must do something even more terrifying than lead a movement: trust other people. She might even make true friends along the way . . . if Mitzi doesn't destroy her first.



A cheeky, thought-provoking force of a book, perfect for fans of E. Lockhart's *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*.

**Kara H.L. Chen** grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, where she once had to shovel snow off her car with a plastic trashcan. She now lives on the West Coast with her husband and daughters, and is learning how to use an Instapot. She has undergraduate degrees in English and economics, a J.D., and a MFA in fiction. She has used her economics degree exactly once, when she tried to make a joke about marginal costs and marginal returns. It did not go well.

Young Adult



**Sarah Dass**

## **IT WAITS IN THE FOREST**

Disney Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents May 14, 2024 | World English

320 pages, manuscript available

Agent: Wendi Gu

With an introduction by Rick Riordan

**The very first thriller from Rick Riordan Presents! Drawing from the darkest corners of Caribbean mythology, acclaimed author Sarah Dass crafts a chilling tale of magic, murder, and how far we'll go to protect what's ours—perfect for fans of Angeline Boulley and Tiffany D. Jackson.**

Unlike the other residents of the small Caribbean Island of St. Virgil, Selina DaSilva does not believe in magic. With a logical mind and a knack for botany, Selina used to dream of leaving the island to study Pharmacology—until a vicious, unsolved attack left her father dead and her mother in a coma.

Now her guilt over her mother's condition keeps her tethered to the island, relegated to conning gullible tourists with useless talismans and phony protection rituals. But when one of those tourists ends up at the center of a string of strange murders, the truth that Selina has been denying can no longer be avoided: there is evil lurking in the forests that surround St. Virgil. Another thing that can't be avoided? Selina's ex-boyfriend Gabriel, newly employed at the local newspaper and eager

to put his investigative skills to use.

Desperate to put an end to the killings and claim justice for Selina's family, these two former lovers race to find answers. But evil bides its time. And as long-buried feelings and long-hidden secrets about Selina's family's past begin to reveal themselves, only one answer remains—and it waits in the forest.

---

"A wickedly delectable thriller that will have you looking over your shoulder to make sure nothing followed you out of the forest." – **Roseanne A. Brown**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *A Song of Wraiths and Ruin*

"A dark, tantalizing tale that will keep you on your toes as much as it will knock you back on your seat." – **Vincent Tirado**, Pura Belpré Award-winning author of *Burn Down, Rise Up*

"I was glued to these pages from beginning to end!" – **Lauren Blackwood**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Within These Wicked Walls*

"Beggars the question of how far you would go to reclaim what you've lost and what you risk sacrificing to get it. Compelling, creepy, and complex, this story will haunt you long after you've finished reading." – **Liselle Sambury**, author of *Blood Like Magic* and *Delicious Monsters*




---

**Sarah Dass** was born in Trinidad but has lived in Tobago since she was two years old. A graduate of University College London, she works as an office administrator by day and writes stories about the Caribbean by night. You can learn more about the author at [www.sarahdass.com](http://www.sarahdass.com).

Young Adult

## Frederick Joseph **THIS THING OF OURS**

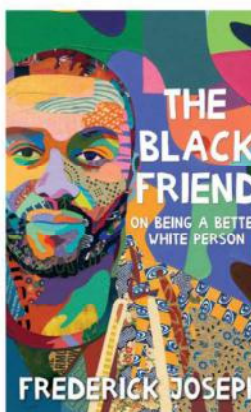
Candlewick, Fall 2024 | World English  
Manuscript anticipated Spring 2024  
Agent: Alexander Slater

From the two-time *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE BLACK FRIEND* (2020) and *PATRIARCHY BLUES* (2022), and the author of *BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT* (2022), comes a YA debut novel that digs deep into the teen mind and the role of art in today's societal struggles.

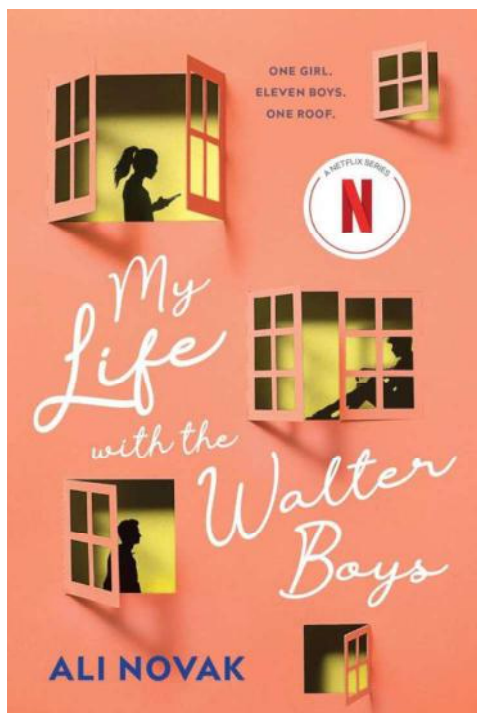
When a teenage basketball star loses his scholarship at a prestigious high school, he turns to writing poetry to cope with his sense of identity. He befriends other artists in his writing class, and uses his social media following to push back against recent book bannings.

In 2020 [Frederick Joseph](#) published *THE BLACK FRIEND*, a social justice book aimed at younger readers based on his own experiences as Black youth in Westchester County, New York and subsequent college years. He has been published on the topics of marketing, culture, and politics in various publications including *HuffPost*, *USA Today*, *NowThisNews*, and *The Independent*. Joseph also received media attention for a fundraising initiative for rent relief program in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, Joseph was named in the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list for marketing and advertising. He was also honored with the 2018 Comic-con Humanitarian of the Year Award and was a member of the 2018 The Root 100 List of Most Influential African Americans. He has been featured over 2,000 times in the media for his work, including *Business Insider*, *Vogue*, *The Oscars*, *Ellen*, *CNN*, *Good Morning America*, and *iHeart Media*.



Young Adult



Ali Novak

Sequel to

## MY LIFE WITH THE WALTER BOYS

Sourcebooks, publication TBD | World English

Manuscript anticipated late 2024

Agent: Alex Slater

Jackie's continuing adventures with the Walter family, coinciding with Netflix's second season of the wildly popular series. More information coming soon.

Of the first book, MY LIFE WITH THE WALTER BOYS:

*A New York Times Bestseller*

A top ten Netflix series in 79 countries!  
#1 in a dozen of them!

**When a tragic accident leads Jackie to move into a house filled with eleven boys, she gets far more than she ever expected. This sweet YA romance is perfect for fans of Kasie West and Jenny Han—and is one of the most beloved Wattpad books ever!**

Moving in with eleven boys was not part of the plan.

Jackie's goal is perfection—perfect grades, the perfect look, getting into the perfect school. If she can achieve that, then maybe her too-busy mom and dad will take notice. But when her parents die in a tragic accident, Jackie is shipped off across the country to live with the Walters, her new guardians...who just happen to have eleven sons (plus a daughter who is basically one of the boys).

The Walter boys are loud, dirty, annoying—and, okay, some of the older boys might be Greek god level hot, but they don't think a city girl belongs on their horse ranch. How is Jackie supposed to fit into their chaotic world when she needs to keep her parents' memory alive by living up to the promise of perfect?

But as Jackie spends more time with the Walter boys, she begins to wonder if the perfection she's always strived for isn't the only way to find love after all.

**Funny and moving, *My Life with the Walter Boys* is perfect for readers looking for:**

- Wattpad love stories
- binge-worthy YA novels
- contemporary romance for teens
- relatable characters

### Foreign sales:

Brazil: VR Editoras- (TMG)

Bulgaria: Ibis (SJGA)

Czech: Albatros (SJGA)

France: Hachette Livre (TMG)

Germany: cbt (Sourcebooks)

Hungary: Konyvmolyképzo Publisher (TMG)

Italy: Newton Compton (Sourcebooks)

Poland: Helion (TMG)

Portugal: Marcador (SJGA)

Russian: Mann-Ivanov-Ferber (TMG)

Spanish: PRH Spain (TMG)

Ukraine: Old Lion (SJGA)

Young Adult

**Dana Schwartz**

## **IMMORTALITY: A Love Story**

Wednesday Books, Macmillan, February 28, 2023 | NA

400 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Dan Mandel

Rights sold:

Brazil – Intrinseca	Italy – Mondadori
Bulgaria – Orange Books	Poland – Kobiece
Czech – Dobrovsky	Portugal – Porto
France – Albin Michel	Romania – Trei
Germany – Loewe	Slovakia – Tatran
Greece – Psychogios	Turkey – Indigo
Israel – Sifrut She'nogaat	United Kingdom – Piatkus
	Ukraine – Zhorzh

**INSTANT #1 New York Times Bestseller**  
**INSTANT #1 Indie Bestseller**

**IMMORTALITY: A Love Story is the eagerly-anticipated sequel to Dana Schwartz's internationally bestselling gothic romance, ANATOMY: A Love Story**

Hazel Sinnett is alone. She's half-convinced the events of the year before—the immortality, Beecham's vial—were a figment of her imagination. She doesn't even know if Jack is alive or dead. All she can really do is run her free clinic, helping people and maintaining Hawthornden Castle as it starts to decay around her.

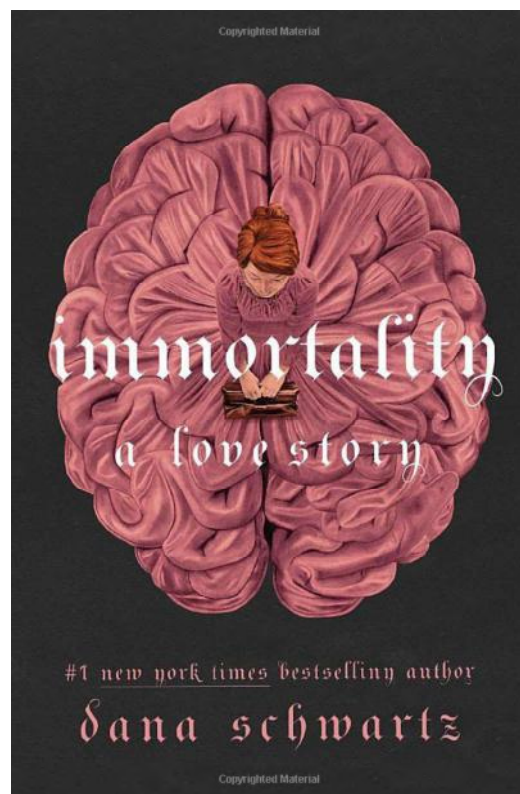
When saving a life leads to her arrest, Hazel seems doomed to rot in prison until a message intervenes: Hazel has been specifically requested to be the personal physician of Princess Charlotte, the sickly daughter of King George IV. Soon Hazel is dragged into the glamor and romance of a court where everyone has something to hide, especially the enigmatic, brilliant social club known as the Companions to the Death.

As Hazel's work entangles her more and more with the British court, she realizes that her own future as a surgeon isn't the only thing at stake for her. Malicious forces are at work in the monarchy, and Hazel may be the only one capable of setting things right.

**Schwartz continues to seamlessly blend fiction with historical events, creating a richly detailed and engaging look at life in Regency London...the central mystery is intriguing and fun, with a delightful historical who's who in the form of a secret society. —★*School Library Journal***

**Accomplished prose —*Kirkus***

**Among “books to add to your reading list in February” - PopSugar**



**Dana Schwartz** is a television writer and the creator of the #1 charting history podcast Noble Blood. As a journalist and critic, Dana has written for *EW*, *Marie Claire*, *Glamour*, *GQ*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Vanity Fair*, and more. In addition to *ANATOMY: A Love Story*, She is the author of *CHOOSE YOUR OWN DISASTER*, *THE WHITE MAN'S GUIDE TO WHITE MALE WRITERS OF THE WESTERN CANON*. Find more at <https://dana-schwartz.com/>

Young Adult