

# Autumn 2023 Frontlist Rights Guide

Adult and Children's books

Greenburger.com

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## **CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

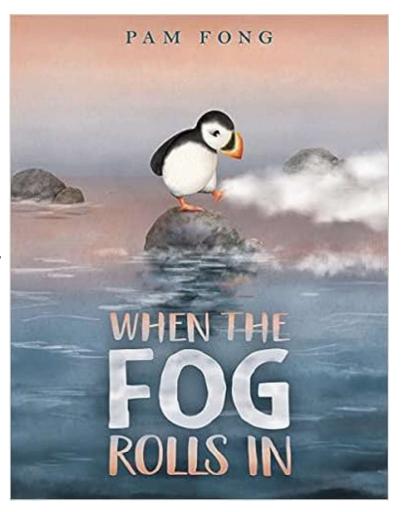
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#### Pam Fong WHEN THE FOG ROLLS IN Greenwillow October 10. 2023 |World English 32 pages, final text and art available Agent: Abigail Frank

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* 

On a clear day, it's easy to see your way. But when the fog rolls in, it's hard to know which way to go. Sometimes the only way to escape the fog is to go through it, knowing that the big, bright world is waiting for you on the other side. With a sensitive, layered text and atmospheric, lush illustrations, author-artist Pam Fong has crafted a tenderhearted story about a lost puffin finding its way through foggy circumstances. This expressive picture book will help readers—and their parents—talk about feeling lost, making decisions, and broadening their perspectives.

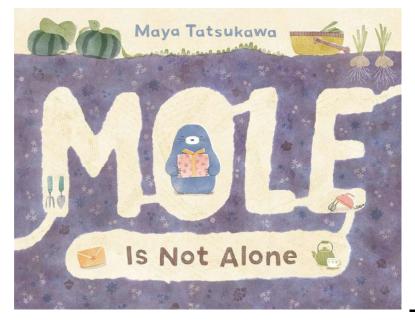
As in the acclaimed *A Spark in the Dark*, Pam Fong's *When the Fog Rolls In* masterfully tackles nuanced emotions in a way that's accessible for young children. *When the Fog Rolls In* is an excellent choice for social and emotional learning for readers of Cori Doerrfeld's *The Rabbit Listened* and Dan Santat's *After the Fall*.



**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 RAZE (Reycraft Books 2020),ONCE UPON A FOREST (Random House Studio, Spring 2022), and A SPARK IN THE DARK (Greenwillow, Fall 2022). <u>https://pamfong.com/</u>

Picture Book

#### Maya Tatsukawa 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)

From the Theodore Seuss Geisel Awardwinning author of THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY, the first in a two-book, six-figure deal with Holt that finds a delightfully relatable mole making an arduous journey.

"Soft, muted artwork depicts an utterly cozy and enchanting world.... Mole's self-talk is endearing and all-too relatable. Ultimately, Tatsukawa brings this tale to satisfying conclusion that lets young introverts know they can have fun on their own terms."—  $\star Kirkus$ 

"...a story about anticipatory worry that ends not with forced revelry, but with a "Maybe... next time?" and gentle camaraderie found."  $- \star$  Publisher's Weekly

"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

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.

By day, <u>Maya Tatsukawa</u> 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). She sometimes teams up with writer Darren Farrell and together they've created DANDELION MAGIC (Dial 2021) and GIVE THIS BOOK AWAY (Knopf 2022). Today, she lives outside of Boston with her cat/studio manager Mosami. https://petitemayat.com/



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

Picture Book 51

### Jack Wong WHEN YOU CAN SWIM

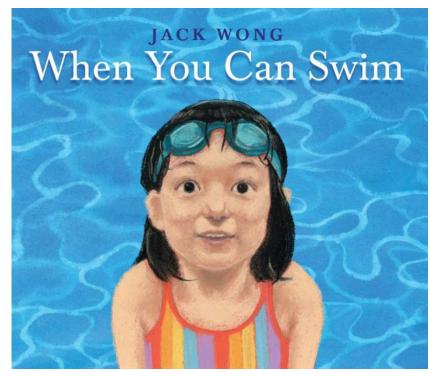
Scholastic, May 2, 2023 |World English, NA Spanish, and French 48 pages, final text and art available Agent: Wendi Gu

#### 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.

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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

Picture Book

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.

#### 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 BREATHTAKING 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

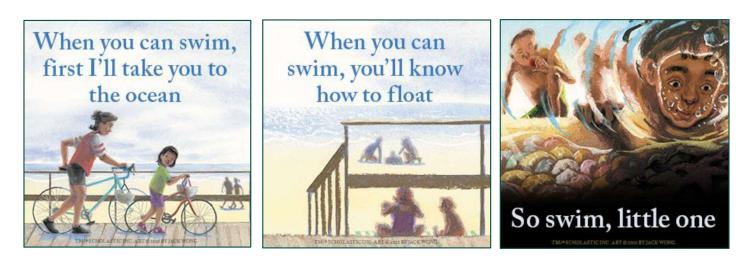
"With POETIC text and GORGEOUS, INCLUSIVE illustrations, Wong invites readers to learn how to swim—to conquer fear of the water, and also to reclaim aquatic spaces for Brown, Black, and differently abled bodies...This isn't just a book about swimming but also 'about our ideas of the world'; it's a manifesto 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:

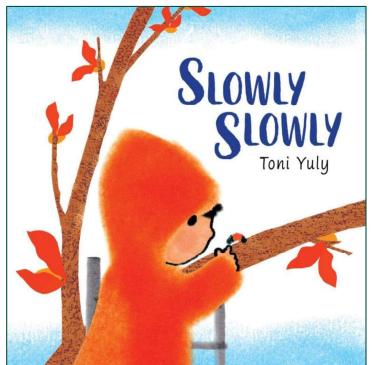


## Toni Yuly SLOWLY SLOWLY

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 <u>www.ToniYuly.com</u>.

Picture Book

#### Shaina Lu NOODLE & BAO HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books, Fall 2024 | World English 222 pages, final art due December 2023 Agent: Wendi Gu, text and art

Sold at auction in a two-book deal, NOODLE & BAO is an ode to Chinatowns everywhere.

When a hip new café takes over their spot, a humble food cart must stand its ground against the gentrification of their Chinatown neighborhood. And one girl has a plan.

<u>Shaina Lu</u> 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 Massachusett and Pawtucket people. <u>http://shainadoesart.com/</u>



"I like to create community art for social change, which means that my art happens in conversation with community members of places that I live, work, or play. Basically, my art is made through dialogue with other people. Sometimes I photograph protests, sometimes I paint murals in collaboration with youth, and sometimes I write and illustrate stories for a more just and liberated world."



Middle Grade Graphic Novel

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

Scholastic | World English 240 pages, B&W illustrations ARCs available Agent: Wendi Gu

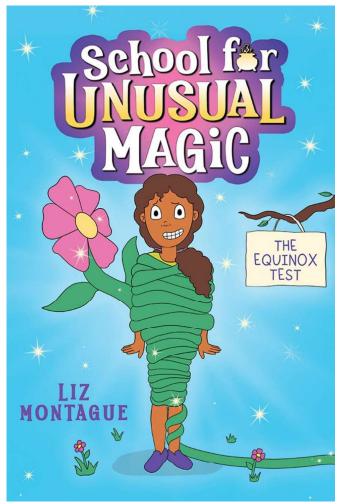
Three friends discover magic and mayhem around every corner of their school in the first book of this brandnew illustrated series from *New Yorker* cartoonist and NAACP Image Award nominee Liz Montague.

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 Kokila, Fall 2024 | World English manuscript coming end 2023

Agent: Abigail Frank

Sold at auction

The first middle grade novel in verse from poet and children's book author Raimie Oet, GLITCH 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 their work "complex, mysterious, finely wrought, and

formally daring," and said that they are "a young writer to watch."

Mary Karr said, "Rainie Oet has it all," and called their 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 follows Jacob 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). Jacob'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 the name "Jacob" doesn't really fit them. That maybe "boy" doesn't either.

**Rainie Oet** (she/they) is a queer, nonbinary 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: THE BIRTHDAY PARTY 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 <u>www.rainieoet.com</u>.

Middle Grade novel in verse

## Claire Swinarski TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

Quill, Fall 2024 | NA Final art due January 2024 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.



<u>Claire Swinarski</u> 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. <u>http://www.claireswinarski.com/</u>

Middle Grade novel



#### Alex Thayer BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING Aladdin Fall 2024 | World English

Aladdin, Fall 2024 | World English Manuscript anticipated end of 2023 Agent: Alexander Slater

Sold in a pre-empt!

BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING has the voice, the heart, and the brevity of the best middle grade debuts. A contemporary story that feels classic, compare this to Caroline Gertler or Rebecca Stead, and watch librarians hand this to students for years to come.

"Hello?" I call into the grate. "Is someone there?"

Now it's completely quiet. The quiet is even scarier than the clatter.

"Hello?" I say again.

A tremble of breath shifts toward me. 'Is someone there?" I ask.

"Yeah."

In one of the girl's bathrooms of Jefferson Middle, in the last stall through the grate in the wall, Dee Diller gives advice. She didn't always give advice in the last stall through the grate in the wall. Back when Dee and Juniper were still friends, Dee never hid in the bathroom. But now, it's where she seeks comfort. It's where she whispers hello. And it's where kids reveal their fears and secrets to her.

Soon, more and more students come to Dee with their problems, and even Juniper learns about the advice she's doling out. What could possibly go wrong?

<u>Alexandra Thayer</u> 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 <u>https://www.instagram.com/alexandra\_thayer/</u>.

Middle Grade novel

#### Sarah Dass IT WAITS IN THE FOREST

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

320 pages, manuscript anticipated November 2023 Agent: Wendi Gu

#### 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.

With an introduction by Rick Riordan

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.



#### WHEN THE VIBE IS RIGHT

Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins, May 30, 2023 |World English 336 pages, final text available

#### A delightful enemies-to-lovers, contemporary romance set during Trinidad's Carnival celebration about finding love in the most unexpected places.

Tess Crawford is destined to be a great Trinidadian Carnival costume designer like her renowned uncle and will one day inherit leadership of the family's masquerade band, Grandeur. But when the future of Grandeur nears the brink of collapse in the face of band rivalry, Tess finds to her chagrin that she must team up with her worst enemy, classmate and social media influencer Brandon, in a desperate attempt to revive the company. But as Tess and Brandon spend more time together, Tess begins to wonder if everything she thought she knew might not be so certain after all.

"Dass infuses this enemies-to-lovers romance with amusing dialogue, fully fleshed-out characters, and nuanced conversations surrounding loss and loneliness. The cast's magnetic chemistry, both romantic and platonic, and the palpable love for the beauty and culture of Trinidad and Tobago stand out in this radiant depiction of love, creative passion, and closure." —  $\star$  *Publishers Weekly* 



"Through captivating, witty, and heartfelt prose, Dass' sweet romance novel shows her protagonist dealing with grief and growing pains. The banter and obvious chemistry between Tess and Brandon are enthralling from the get-go; readers root for Tess and feel invested in every part of her journey. An exciting and sentimental love story perfect for romance lovers who appreciate multifaceted characters." — **\*** *Kirkus Reviews* 

<u>Sarah Dass</u> 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 <u>www.sarahdass.com</u>.

Young Adult



## Frederick Joseph THIS THING OF OURS

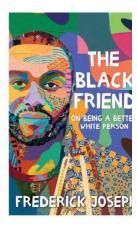
Candlewick, Fall 2024 | World English Manuscript anticipated November 2023 Agent: Alexander Slater

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.

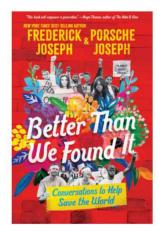
When a teenage basketball star loses his scholarship at a prestigious high school, he turns to writing poetry to cope with his sense of identity. He befriends other artists in his writing class, and uses his social media following to push back against recent book bannings.

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.

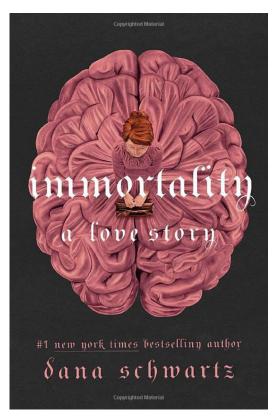
In 2019, Joseph was named in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for marketing and advertising. He was also honored with the 2018 Comic-con Humanitarian of the Year Award and was a member of the 2018 The Root 100 List of Most Influential African Americans. He has been featured over 2,000 times in the media for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







Young Adult



## Dana Schwartz IMMORTALITY: A Love Story

Wednesday Books, Macmillan, February 28, 2023 | NA 400 pages, final manuscript available Agent: Dan Mandel Rights sold:

Brazil – Sextante Bulgaria – Orange Books Czech – Dobrovsky France – Albin Michel Germany – Loewe Greece - Psichogios Israel – Sifrut She'nogaat Italy – Mondadori Poland – Kobiece Romania – Trei Slovakia – Tatran Turkey – Indigo 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 <u>https://danaschwartz.com/</u>

Young Adult