



# CHILDREN'S -YOUNG ADULT

# THE SKY BLUES

## By Robbie Couch

**A NEW YORK TIMES ANTICIPATED SPRING 2021 YA RELEASE!**

**A JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD SELECTION**

Sky's small town turns absolutely claustrophobic when his secret promposal plans get leaked to the entire school in this witty, heartfelt, and ultimately hopeful debut novel for fans of *What if it's Us?* and *I Wish You All the Best*.

Sky Baker may be openly gay, but in his small, insular town, making sure he was invisible has always been easier than being himself. Determined not to let anything ruin his senior year, Sky decides to make a splash at his high school's annual beach bum party by asking his crush, Ali, to prom—and he has thirty days to do it.

What better way to start living loud and proud than by pulling off the gayest promposal Rock Ledge, Michigan, has ever seen?

Then, Sky's plans are leaked by an anonymous hacker in a deeply homophobic e-blast that quickly goes viral. He's fully prepared to drop out and skip town altogether—until his classmates give him a reason to fight back by turning his thirty-day promposal countdown into a school-wide hunt to expose the e-blast perpetrator.

But what happens at the end of the thirty days? Will Sky get to keep his hard-won visibility? Or will his small-town blues stop him from being his true self?

### Praise:

"The author creates memorable, believable characters who inhabit vivid settings. Couch excels at crafting believable plot twists... Recommended for fans of David Levithan." --School Library Journal

"Earnest, heartfelt, and sincerely moving. Robbie Couch writes with real honesty and compassion about love, family, and friendship in all their beautiful complexity." —Becky Albertalli, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda*

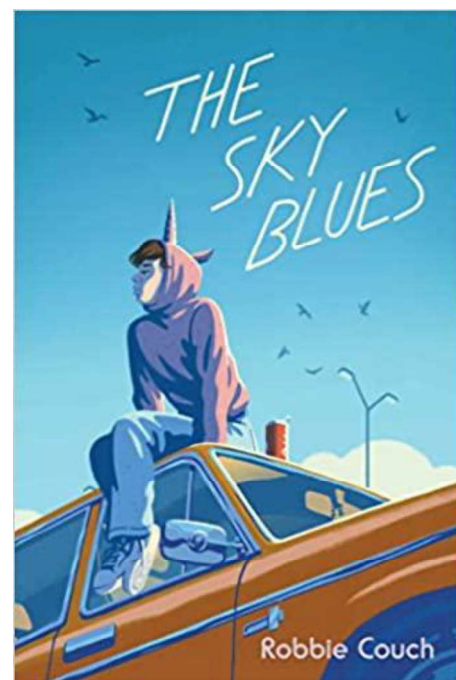
"*The Sky Blues* is the first book I've read that so fully encapsulates the dynamics of growing up queer during adolescence, without falling into the usual dramatic tropes - it's a perfect snapshot. This story is so pure and filled with hope that I never wanted it to end. It almost made me want to relive high school. Robbie Couch was able to successfully provide a beautiful, positive and healthy guide for growing up queer and how to work through what that means. This book will help them navigate life's challenges, while teaching them how to celebrate their wonderful differences." --Kevin McHale, actor ("Glee")

### About the Author:

**Robbie Couch** has been published in *HuffPost*, *Upworthy*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*, among other outlets. *THE SKY BLUES* is his debut novel.

[www.RobbieCouch.com](http://www.RobbieCouch.com)

Twitter: @Robbie\_Couch



**Simon & Schuster  
April 2021**

**All translation rights available**

**Finished book available**

**THE SKY BLUES have been  
optioned for film with Walden  
Media, trade announcement  
forthcoming**

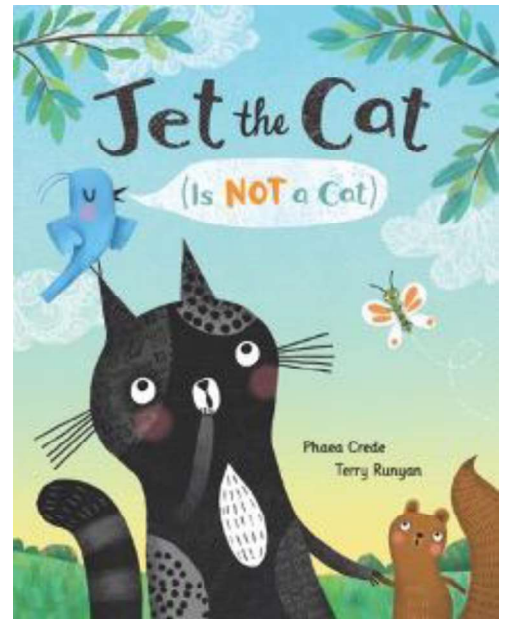
# **JET THE CAT (IS NOT A CAT)**

## **By Author Phaea Crede**

Jet is not like any other cat . . . but when other animals try to convince her that she's really a bird or a frog or a goat, she learns to embrace her unique identity. This hilarious story teaches us to celebrate our differences.

### **Praise:**

Coming soon!



**Barefoot Books**  
**May 2021**

**All translation rights available**

**ARC available**

### **About the Author:**

**Phaea Crede** writes silly picture books for silly kids. Serious kids, too! Her debut picture book JET THE CAT (IS NOT A CAT) will be published by Barefoot Books in spring 2021. She's had lots of writing jobs in her life, like scriptwriting for the TV shows *Nature Cat* and *Word Girl*.

[www.phaeacrede.com](http://www.phaeacrede.com)

# WARRIOR PRINCESS

By Author/Illustrator Sally Deng

Khutulun, great-great granddaughter of Genghis Khan, was living proof that princesses could rule on the battlefield as well as – or better than – any soldier. Treated like the brothers that came before her, she learned how to ride horseback, shoot arrows at full gallop and, most important, to wrestle. Eventually, Khutulun was wrestling boys twice her size and was ready to join her father and brothers in battle.

Despite her brilliant military victories, she was still plagued by rumors. *Why hadn't the princess married yet? What was wrong with the Khan's daughter?* She vowed to marry any man that could defeat her at wrestling – but if they lost, they had to give her 10 horses.

Undefeated, her herd grew to 10,000 horses.

When a well-respected prince wagered 1,000 horses to wrestle her, she agreed to throw the match to end the rumors and restore honor to her family. But in the heat of battle, would she – *could* she – lose the match and become a wife instead of a warrior?

An inspiring tale of a princess who realizes that sometimes the best way to serve one's community is to stay true to oneself.

## Praise:

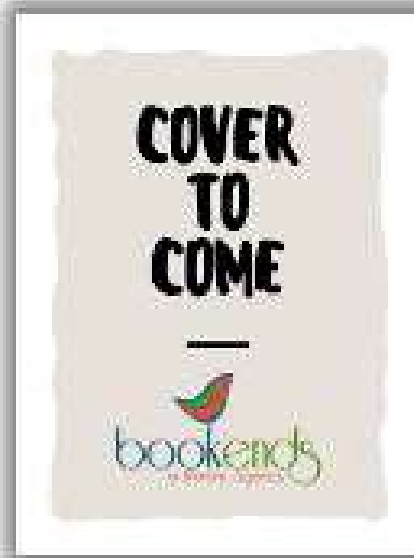
Coming soon!

## About the Author:

**Sally Deng** is the author-illustrator of *Skyward: Women Pilots in WWII* (Flying Eye Books, 2018) and illustrator of the forthcoming *Yusra Swims* (Creative Editions, 2020) and a book with Chronicle. She was chosen as a [2020 Forbes 30 under 30](#) and her illustrations have appeared in various publications including the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, NPR, *Vice*, *The New Yorker*, and *Condé Nast Traveler*.

[www.sallydeng.com](http://www.sallydeng.com)

Instagram: @sa.deng



**Macmillan/Farrar, Straus  
and Giroux  
Winter 2022**

**Spanish rights to Oceano  
Mexico**

**All other translation  
rights available**

**Dummy available**

# THE FRIEND SCHEME

## By Cale Dietrich

A BuzzFeed “Brand New LGBTQ YA Books to Devour This Summer” Selection

Part thriller, part romance, *The Friend Scheme* is another twisty #ownvoices YA novel from Cale Dietrich, author of *The Love Interest*.

Matt’s father is a criminal with high hopes that his son will follow in his footsteps. His family is at war with another, and Matt’s dad is caught in the crossfire. Matt and his older brother are expected to fight for their family. But deep down Matt has other ambitions—and attractions.

When he meets Jason, Matt believes he might be falling deeper than friendship for the first time. The boys keep their connection a secret, and soon Matt suspects that Jason is part of the family that tried to kill his father. The truth, however, is even more shattering, and Matt must decide if he can ever break free and own who he really is and who he is meant to love.

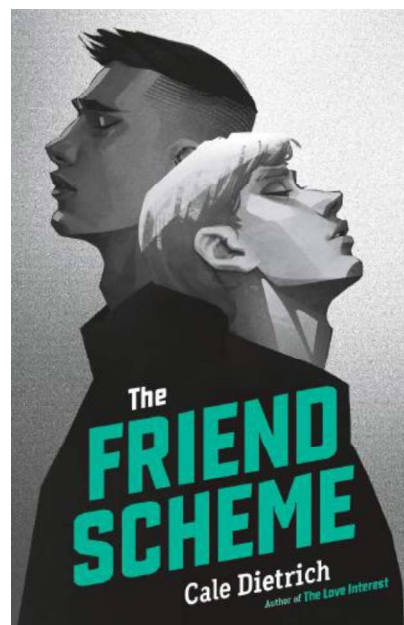
### Praise:

“When the closeted son of a mob boss meets the boy of his dreams in Florida, he’s forced to juggle familial loyalty with the growing suspicion that his crush is part of a rival crime organization. ... a sympathetic love story that captures his protagonists’ insecurities and interests.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Suspenseful and sexy, *The Friend Scheme* is a brilliant novel about not knowing if you should trust someone else, or even yourself, when you’re in the closet.” —L.C. Rosen, author of *Camp*

### About the Author:

A YA devotee, lifelong gamer, and tragic pop punk enthusiast, **Cale Dietrich** was born in Perth, grew up on the Gold Coast, and now lives in Brisbane, Australia. His debut novel, *The Love Interest*, was named a 2018 Rainbow List Selection. His upcoming co-authored project with Sophie Gonzales, *If This Gets Out*, is coming December 2021 from Wednesday Books.



Macmillan/Feiwel &  
Friends  
July 2020

All translation rights  
available

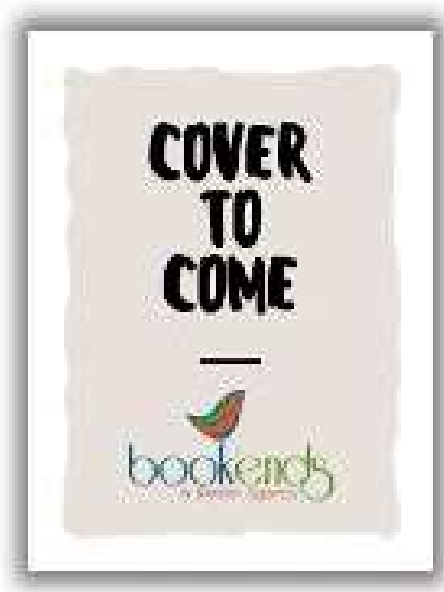
Finished book available



# I AM ODD, I AM NEW

## By Benjamin Giroux, illustrated by Roz Maclean

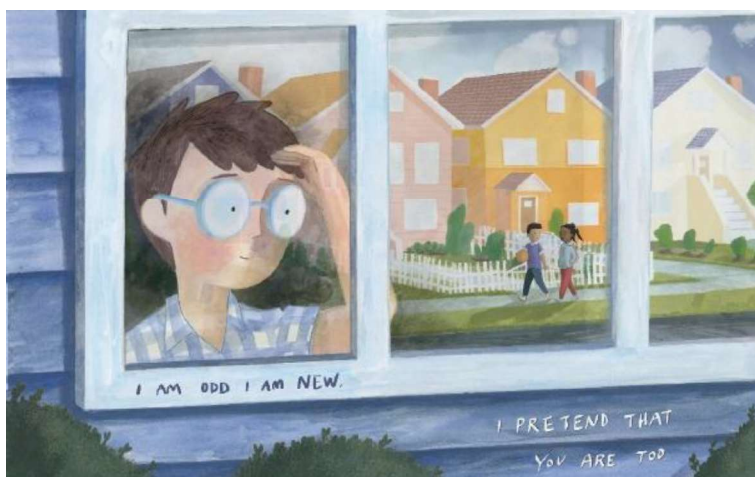
Through the eyes of 10-year-old Benjamin Giroux, being odd is different, and different is a good thing. This is what the then fifth-grader hoped to convey in his poem, beginning every few sentences with "I am," about what it is like to live with autism. Inspired by a school assignment, Benjamin's raw and emotional words poured out onto the page, but when he feared they were not any good, his parents shared the poem with friends and family. Little did they know that it would go viral and end up inspiring thousands of strangers who identified with him to share their support. Now for the first time, Benjamin's iconic poem "I Am Odd, I Am New," comes to life in this lovingly illustrated picture book with a foreword written by the National Autism Association. So whether you know the poem, or it is new to you, discover how Benjamin's honesty will reassure children of all ages that it's okay to be different.



**Schiffer**  
**September 2021**

**All translation rights  
available**

**Dummy available**



## Praise:

Coming soon!

## About the Author and Illustrator:

**Benjamin Giroux's** viral poem *I AM ODD* caught the attention of the whole world when he wrote it for a school project. Calling attention to the social challenges neurodiverse children face, Benjamin's poem has been praised by millions. Benjamin has been interviewed for television news programs, as well as featured by *Huffington Post*, the Today Show and Good Morning America. He has also been the face of the National Autism Association's antibullying campaign. Illustrator **Roz Maclean** is the author of *The Body Book* (2016, Promontory Press, winner of IBPA children's picture book award) and *Violet's Cloudy Day* (2014, Promontory Press, Eric Hoffer Award honorable mention). Roz has many short publications and frequently makes author visits to schools. She has experience working with the deaf/mute community as well.

# YOUNG CAPTAIN NEMO

By Jason Henderson

**Armed with his wits, his friends, and his Nemotech submarine, a twelve-year-old descendant of Jules Verne's famous antihero is determined to help make the ocean a safer place one adventure at a time in Jason Henderson's YOUNG CAPTAIN NEMO, first in a new middle-grade series.**

Gabriel Nemo is not your typical 12-year-old. A descendant of the famous Captain Nemo, he spent the first years of his life living in obscurity, isolated in his parents' peaceful underwater research lab. But with his older sister off following in their ancestor's footsteps, sinking whalers and running away from vengeful navies, Gabriel decides it's time to forge his own path, and use his Nemotech legacy for good.

Armed only with his wits, his friends, and his Nemotech submarine, Gabriel embarks on a series of daring rescues and exciting undersea battles. But when Gabriel's sister suddenly appears with proof of previously undiscovered sea creatures—giant beasts inhabiting wrecked war planes and ships—Gabriel and his new friends must face their biggest and most dangerous mission ever!



**Also available: two more in the series!**

**Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends  
March 2019**

**All translation rights  
available**

**Finished book available**

## Praise:

"Stakes are high, the pace is fast, and there are excellent (and surprisingly subtle) messages of coping with childhood loneliness and the importance of taking care of our planet's oceans." —*Booklist*

"Gabriel and his crew will please seafaring science nerds or anyone seeking a new group of characters to love." —*School Library Journal* on *Quest for the Nautilus*

## About the Author:

**Jason Henderson** is the author of the Alex Van Helsing series from HarperCollins/HarperTeen. An active writer of comics and games, his most recent comic series is IDW and Cartoon Network's Ben 10. His most recent game screenplay was for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles for 3DS, and he was nominated for a WGA Screenwriting Award for his script for Activision's Singularity.

<https://jasonhendersonstx.wixsite.com/jasonhenderson>

Twitter: @jasondhenderson

## THE MISSING PAIRS

By Author/Illustrator Yvonne Ivinson

Fox is missing a sock. Hare is missing a mitten. Badger is missing a boot. But what's the use of wearing socks, mittens, and boots if you don't wear a pair?

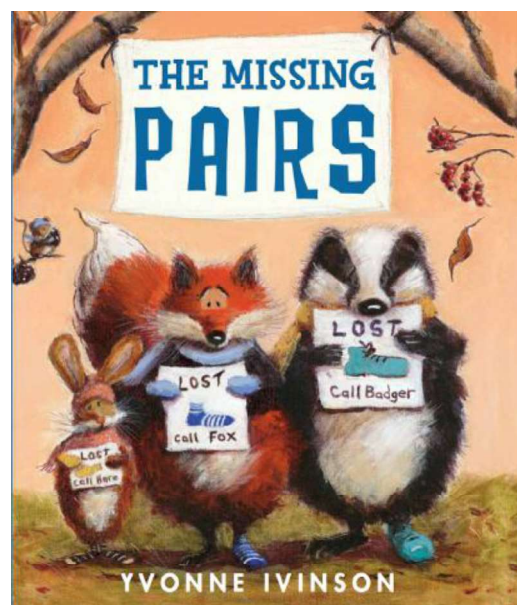
Luckily, Fox, Hare, and Badger have a friend named Bear.

And Bear knows just what to do.

Bear will solve the mystery of the missing pairs.

Or will he?

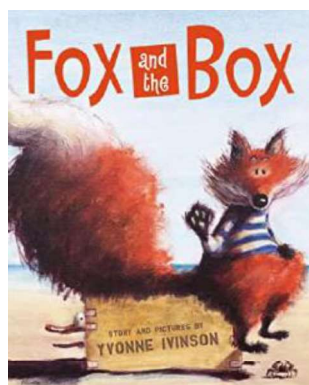
**Also available: FOX AND THE BOX**



Harpercollins/  
Greenwillow  
August 2021

**All translation rights  
available**

**Dummy available**



### Praise:

“Exciting and easy to read. Ivinson tells her story in 46 simple words. . . the paintings of storm, waves, and the small boat and occupants alone on a vast expanse of sea are pretty thrilling. . . Dramatic and accessible for new readers.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“All the creatures depicted throughout the story burst with energy and personality, which allows those sharing the book together to extend the minimal text into an exciting adventure. The punchy words play with phonics and rhyme to create an enjoyable read-aloud as well as opportunities for new readers, and those sounding out their first words, to find success.” —*Horn Book Magazine*

“Full-bleed acrylic paintings wonderfully convey Fox’s changing fortunes. Shifting visual perspectives follow him through contemplation, action, success, danger, and rescue. The text, employing rhythm, rhyme, and sound-work, is comprised only of singular words and short phrases, making this appealing picture book accessible to emergent readers.” —*ALA Booklist*

### About the Author:

**Yvonne Ivinson** is also the author of *Fox and the Box*, a picture book starring the fox in this book. She lives in the countryside near London, England, and tries very hard not to misplace her socks, mittens, or boots.

[www.yvonneivinson.com](http://www.yvonneivinson.com)



# SOLOMON THE LION

## By Author/Illustrator Kristina Jones

Solomon is a young lion who can't fall asleep. He tries sleeping in a tree like the bats, but that's not quite right. He tries a snooze in the pond with the hippos, but that doesn't quite fit either. Will Solomon realize that it's not where you sleep, but who tucks you in at night?

A charming story about feeling safe and peaceful with those you love, SOLOMON THE LION is sure to be a new bedtime favorite.

Illustrated using shweshwe fabric, this book has more of the charming animals found in Kristina's debut!



**Penguin Random House  
South Africa  
Fall 2020**

### Praise:

“There’s an exciting world of words waiting to be discovered through this educational alphabet book, which will help to expand your child’s vocabulary and encourage him to read. Each illustration is accompanied by a sentence, introducing the different animals. The sentence structure is the same for each animal, because the best way for kids to learn is through repetition.” —Living and Loving on THE AMAZING AFRICAN ANIMAL ALPHABET

**All translation rights  
available**

**Finished book available**

### About the Author:

**Kristina Jones** is a Canadian illustrator currently living and working in Swaziland.

[Jonescre8tive.com](http://Jonescre8tive.com)

Instagram: @jones.cre8tive

# DOWN WITH THIS SHIP

## By Katie Kingman

Kole Miller is the best writer at the prestigious Crystal Lake High. But no one knows it—not her creative writing classmates, or even her academic arch nemesis Colin (aka Mr. Valedictorian). That's because Kole's best work is a secret fanfic based on *The Space Game*, her favorite show.

When Kole's fanfic wins a major contest, her readership skyrockets. Suddenly, Kole finds herself stuck in the heated ship wars, as her new readers pair characters from the show together as romantic couples. Worse yet, Kole's classmates discover that she's the fanfic's author. Now it isn't just *The Space Game* everyone is arguing about: they start shipping Kole with her classmates.

With her romantic life in shambles and her anxiety through the roof, Kole must face both her inner demons and the ones at her school. She has one chance to reclaim her fanfic—and the guy that Kole now realizes she's shipped herself with since episode one of the school year.

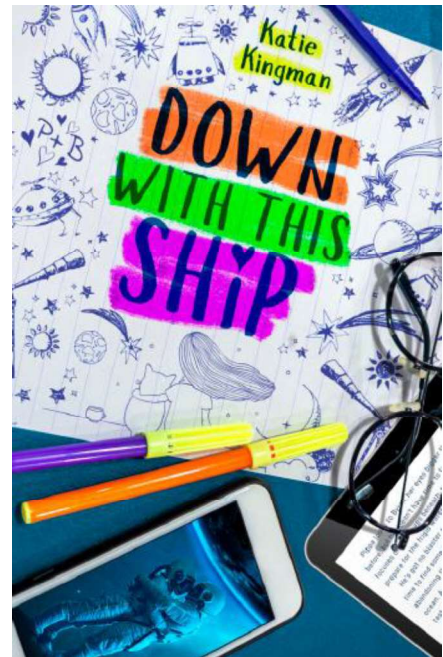
### Praise:

*"Down With This Ship is an addicting and fast-paced ode to fandoms, shipping and glorious geekery. The romance was soft and sweet, the nerd-validation was top-notch and the writing made me swoon. I'm an absolute fangirl of anything Kingman writes!"* —Erin Hahn, author of *You'd Be Mine* and *More Than Maybe*

### About the Author:

**Katie Kingman** has wanted to be a writer since freshman year when her English teacher read her story out loud. The experience was mortifying, but it led to a lifelong love of writing fiction and classic literature. She now lives, teaches, and geeks in Phoenix, Arizona, with her husband, two kids, and five cats.

Twitter: @kingmanwrites



**Flux**  
**June 2021**

**All translation rights  
available**

**Audio to Dreamscape**

**Edited manuscript  
available**

# THE TRAGEDY OF DANE RILEY

## By Kat Spears

**A teen confronts his feelings about his father's death, his new family, and the girl next door in this emotional young adult novel from critically-acclaimed author Kat Spears**

Dane Riley's grasp on reality is slipping, and he's not sure that he cares. While his mother has moved on after his father's death, Dane desperately misses the man who made Dane feel okay to be himself. He can't stand his mother's boyfriend, or the boyfriend's son, whose favorite pastime is tormenting Dane. Then there's the girl next door: Dane can't quite define their relationship, and he doesn't know if he's got the courage to leave the friend zone.

An emotional novel about mental health, and dealing with grief and growing up, *THE TRAGEDY OF DANE RILEY* is the story of a teenager looking to make sense of his feelings in the wake of tragedy, and finding the strength he needs to make life worth living.

### Praise for previous works:

"A rare study of growing pains that gives equal weight to humor and hardship." —*Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review) on *Breakaway*

"A painfully honest and powerful depiction of the changing nature of friendships in the face of hardship and an exploration of what it means 'to be human and alive.'" —*Booklist* (Starred Review) on *Breakaway*

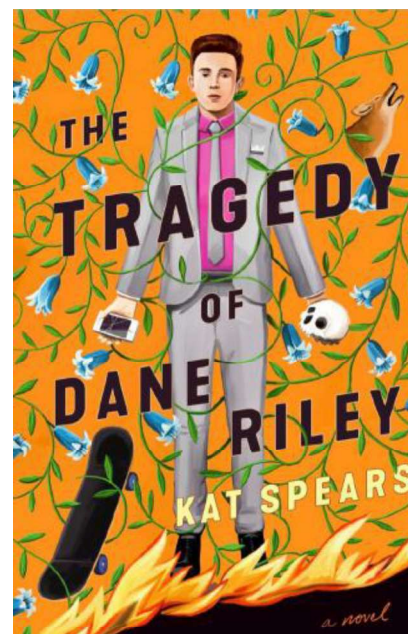
"This sad yet hopeful romance will appeal to readers of Steven Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why*." —*School Library Journal* on *Breakaway*

"Sharp dialogue, edgy humor, and an unlikely hero make this page-turner a winner." —*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review) on *Sway*

### About the Author:

**Kat Spears** grew up moving every few years and is still looking for her hometown. Kat writes realistic, edgy, honest, sometimes heartbreaking, often funny books about and for young people. Being a teenager sucked for Kat, and she's still trying to write her way out of it. She spends her free time rearing caterpillars, vacuuming up dog hair, and writing letters the old-fashioned way. Her favorite job, ever, is being the mother of three perfect and hilarious humans. She is the author of *Sway*, *Breakaway*, and *The Boy Who Killed Grant Parker*.

[www.katspears.com](http://www.katspears.com)



**St. Martin's/Wednesday  
Books  
June 2021**

**All translation rights  
available**

**Edited manuscript available**