

FRANKFURT 2026

Simon & Schuster
Children's Publishing

US RIGHTS GUIDE

CONTACTS

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FRANKFURT 2026
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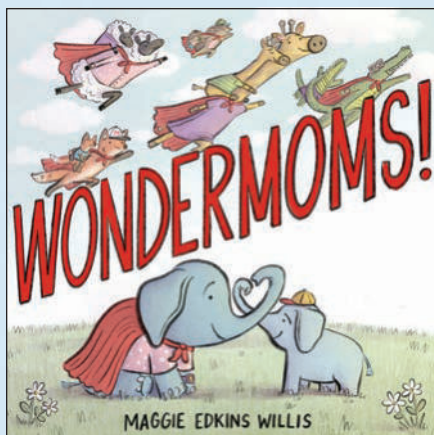
Please note: all page/word counts are
tentative until a book has been published.



PICTURE BOOKS

Living Stars,
Page 8

PICTURE BOOKS



WONDERMOMS!

By Maggie Edkins Willis

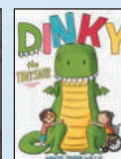
Imprint: Beach Lane Books

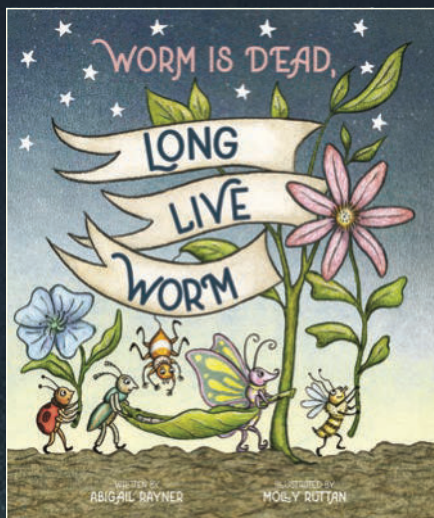
From bestselling author-illustrator Maggie Edkins Willis comes a delightful picture book celebrating mothers and the kids who love them—perfect for fans of *How to Catch a Mamasaurus* and *Why a Daughter Needs a Mom*.

When problems arise, adorable animal kids call for their WonderMoms, and in a flash they arrive with just the right super-tools to comfort, help, and play. And if all else fails, a WonderMom will use her special power: a super kiss!

Publication Date: March 2027

Page Extent: 40 pp





WORM IS DEAD, LONG LIVE WORM

By Abigail Rayner

Illustrated by Molly Ruttan

Imprint: Beach Lane Books

Life carries on after loss in this tender, warmhearted picture book about friends coming together to celebrate the life of their beloved friend.

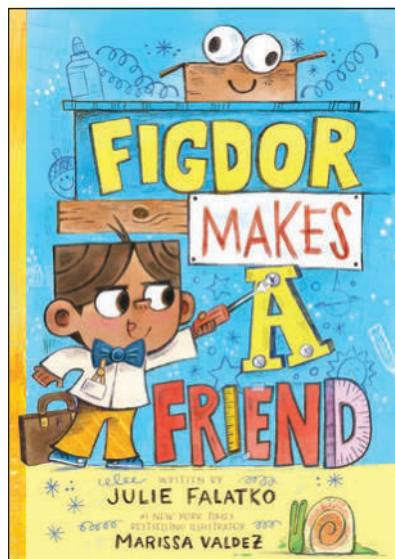
When Worm dies, the other members of the Soil Club are sad and confused—everything is the same in the world, but without Worm, it feels so different. To give him a proper goodbye, they celebrate Worm's life and all the wonderful things about him. In commemorating their lost friend, the insect pals discover something surprising—Worm is still with them after all. He's in the soil beneath their feet and in every growing thing in the garden.

This heartfelt, optimistic story gently introduces young readers to loss, the cycles that connect all living things, and how love for our friends lives on forever.

Publication Date: March 2027

Page Extent: 40 pp

PICTURE BOOKS



FIGDOR MAKES A FRIEND

By Julie Falatko

Illustrated by Marissa Valdez

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

A precocious student misunderstands his teacher's advice to "make" a friend on the first day of school in this charmingly silly picture book about a very ambitious arts and crafts project.

It was finally the first day of kindergarten, and Figdor was ready to experience the wonders of a rigorous academic curriculum.

But when his teacher first tasks the class with making friends, Figdor is thrown for a loop. While he was prepared to make anything, he didn't see why this craft project should stand in the way of real learning. But if he must make a friend before getting to color theory and subtracting bushels of apples, then so be it.

Equipped with markers, Popsicle sticks, and glue, Figdor sets out to answer the age-old question: What makes a good friend?

Publication Date: July 2027

Page Extent: 40 pp



HORIZONTAL CROCODILE

By Scott Rothman

Illustrated by Brian Won

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

When a very looooooong Horizontal Crocodile gets ready for a visit from a friend, his list of chores makes for a looooooong day in this charming and ridiculous picture book perfect for fans of *Tiny T. Rex* and *the Impossible Hug* and *Mother Bruce*.

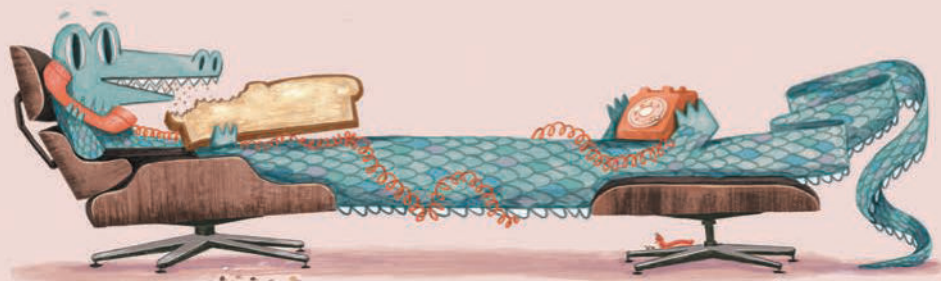
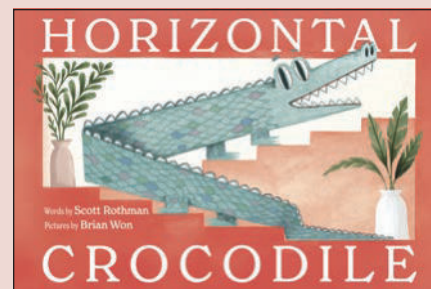
In a nice, looooooong swamp lives a nice, looooooong Horizontal Crocodile whose long-lost best friend is coming over . . . but Horizontal Crocodile's nice, long house is one HUGE mess!

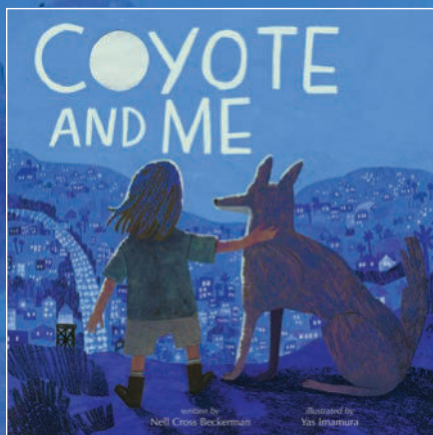
Can he get it cleaned up in time for his best buddy's visit? See the lengths Horizontal Crocodile goes to in the name of being a caring and considerate friend in this hilarious and heartwarming read-aloud featuring a fun surprise gatefold!

Publication Date: September 2026

Page Extent: 48 pp

RIGHTS SOLD: Chinese (complex), Chinese (simplified), Portuguese (Brazil)





COYOTE AND ME

By Nell Cross Beckerman

Illustrated by Yas Imamura

Imprint: Beach Lane Books

A child longs to howl, run, and be free like a coyote in this spirited ode to wildness, wonder, and connection.

What does the sidewalk feel like under wild paws?

As the sun sets, a child spots a coyote trotting through her urban neighborhood. The child's day is ending. But coyote's is just beginning. This spellbinding, moving story imagines what it might be like to be a coyote through the eyes of a young kindred spirit. What would happen if she could join Coyote on his escapades? Together, could they be wild and free?

Publication Date: August 2027

Page Extent: 32 pp

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *WHEN THE SKY GLOWS*. Chinese (simplified), French, Indonesian, Italian



PICTURE BOOKS



SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING



ONE GRAIN OF SAND

By Judy Bryan
Illustrated by Laura Ramos
Imprint: Beach Lane Books

Every grain of sand has a story to tell, and young readers can come along on the geological journey to discover how sand is made in this lyrical and illuminating nonfiction picture book.

Have you ever held a grain of sand and wondered what was in your hand? Each and every particle has a tale to tell . . . from a mountaintop storm to fossils of prehistoric creatures to a booming volcanic eruption. Explore the odyssey, through time and tides and waves that roar, that brings each grain of sand onto our shore.

Publication Date: April 2027

Page Extent: 40 pp

LIVING STARS

By Britt Crow-Miller
Illustrated by Josée Masse
Imprint: Beach Lane Books

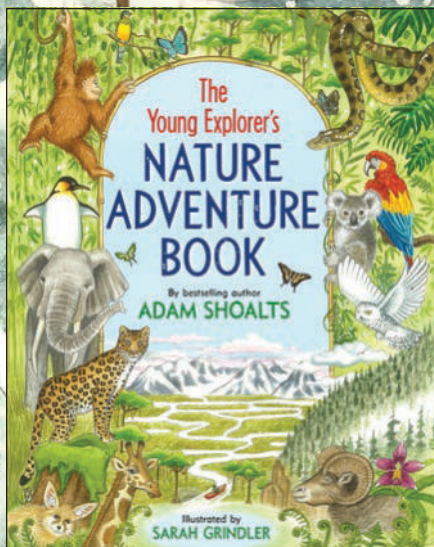
Two sisters set out to create the perfect environment to welcome fireflies into their yard to put on a show for their neighbors in this lyrical picture book inspired by a real-life firefly sanctuary.

One summer night, two sisters visit a backyard firefly sanctuary with their mom. Alongside their neighbors, they watch hundreds of fireflies put on a magical light show in the dark. The girls decide they want to host a firefly show in their own backyard too. First, though, they'll need to make their yard an inviting home for the fireflies. Over the next few seasons, they work hard to create the ideal habitat for the fireflies to thrive in. But have they done enough? When summer comes around again, will beautiful living stars show up and put on their show? Only time will tell!

Publication Date: May 2027

Page Extent: 48 pp





THE YOUNG EXPLORER'S NATURE ADVENTURE BOOK

By Adam Shoalts

Illustrated by Sarah Grindler

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Canada

Join renowned explorer Adam Shoalts on a globe-trotting journey to some of the most amazing places you'll ever see!

From the sands of the Sahara to the snows of the Arctic, you will adventure together to learn about nature and meet some of the coolest, wildest animals. Watch out, though! To make it safely to your destinations, you will need to stay alert. Can you find your way through these mazes of natural obstacles? Adventure awaits!

ADAM SHOALTS, PhD, is an adventurer, explorer, geographer, archaeologist, and the bestselling author of six books for grown-ups, including *Vanished Beyond the Map*, *Where the Falcon Flies*, and *The Whisper on the Night Wind*.

SARAH GRINDLER grew up on Salt Spring Island, BC. She is the author and illustrator of *Ocean Secrets*, *Garden Wonders*, *Forest Magic*, and *Seaside Treasures*.

Publication Date: March 2027

Page Extent: 40 pp

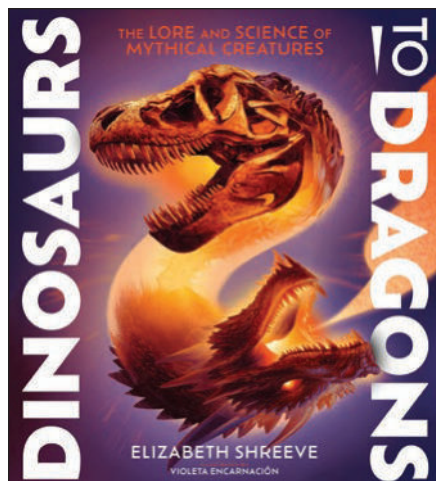
START

SNOW LEOPARD

HIMALAYAN WOLF

YAK

PICTURE BOOKS



DINOSAURS TO DRAGONS

By Elizabeth Shreeve

Illustrated by Violeta Encarnación

Imprint: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

An imaginative nonfiction middle-grade exploration of mythology, paleontology, and early civilizations invites readers to delight in legendary creatures from across the globe and the fossils that might have inspired their origins.

What if we lived in a world with fire-breathing dragons? Or enigmatic, alluring mermaids? How about rainbow-nibbling unicorns? These fabled beasts aren't as far from us as we think. After all, their legends had to have come from somewhere . . . This book weaves together legendary tales and new scientific findings to uncover connections between real and mythical creatures. Learn how our ancestors took what they found in the world and created the beloved fantastical creatures we dream about today.

Could the skull of a protoceratops have inspired the hooked beak of a griffin? From manatee to mermaid, heron to phoenix, readers will trace the truth behind these fantastical creatures and make some new discoveries along the way!

Publication Date: July 2026

Page Extent: 96 pp



SIMONA AND HER FOREST FAMILY

By Giselle Potter

Imprint: Beach Lane Books

The extraordinary true story of scientist Simona Kossak, who lived among the animals she studied in the secluded Polish wilderness, comes to vivid life in this enchanting picture book biography.

From a very young age Simona Kossak set her heart on a life studying animals and living in their world. Once she was old enough, in the 1970s, Simona moved from the city in Poland where she was born to a cabin nestled in the wilderness.

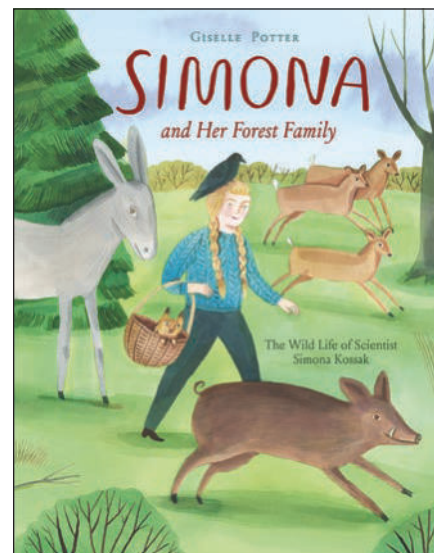
Over time, Simona grew her forest family, nursing injured animals back to health and fostering orphaned critters, all while learning their ways. Though the townsfolk accused her of being a witch, Simona remained devoted to her mission, transforming her modest house into a home for the wildlife she cared for. Her compassion and respect for the rescued animals earned her the trust of the forest animals, and their worlds became one.

This moving story brings to light Simona Kossak's extraordinary and unconventional scientific pursuits, teaching young readers that by paying attention to the natural world and having compassion for all living things, they can find friendship in unexpected places.

Publication Date: January 2027

Page Extent: 40 pp

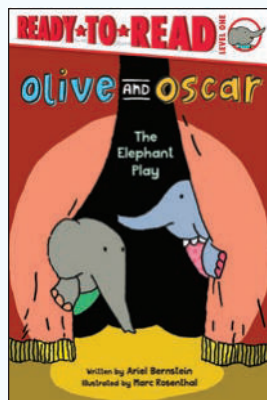
RIGHTS SOLD FOR *HOW TO BUILD A HUG*: Japanese



FICTION

Something Like Magic,
Page 40





OLIVE AND OSCAR: THE ELEPHANT PLAY

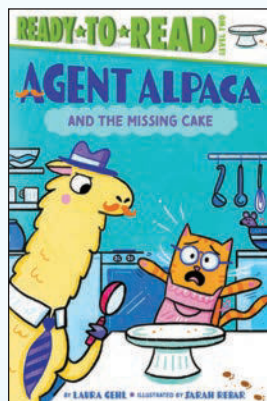
By Ariel Bernstein
Illustrated by Marc Rosenthal
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

In the second book in this instant classic Level 1 Ready-to-Read series, Olive wants to put on a play all by herself, but she is worried no one will like it. She asks Oscar to sit in the audience. She tells him when to laugh and cry. He is so good at acting! Will he steal the show?

Publication Date: February 2027

Ages: 4–6

Page Extent: 32 pp



AGENT ALPACA AND THE MISSING CAKE

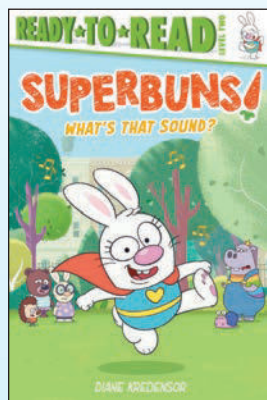
By Laura Gehl
Illustrated by Sarah Rebar
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

In this new Level 2 Ready-to-Read, Agent Alpaca loves solving mysteries. Where did the cake go? Alpaca will figure it out (or so he thinks), but the wool is pulled over his eyes—he always gets the answer wrong! The reader gets the last laugh by solving the mystery on their own in this fuzzy, woolly version of a bumbling detective story!

Publication Date: January 2027

Ages: 5–7

Page Extent: 32 pp



SUPERBUNS!: WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

By Diane Kredensor
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

Superbuns, whose superpower is kindness, tackles the silly mystery of a distracting sound in this Level 2 Ready-to-Read. A jinglejangle noise is disrupting the neighborhood, and Superbuns's friends can't get anything done! They can't sleep. They can't paint. They can't even think! Can Superbuns use her superpower of kindness to find the source of the sound and help her friends?

Publication Date: January 2027

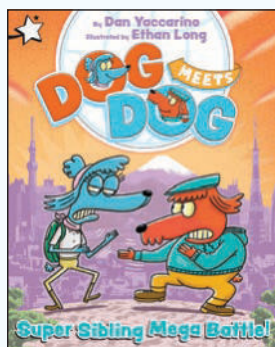
Ages: 5–7

Page Extent: 32 pp

STAR CHAPTER BOOKS



STAR CHAPTER BOOKS from Simon Spotlight are the perfect bridge for kids moving beyond beginning readers but not yet ready for longer chapter books. With short chapters, bold two-color illustrations, and fast-paced, funny stories, these confidence-building books make reading fun and rewarding.



DOG MEETS DOG: SUPER SIBLING MEGA BATTLE!

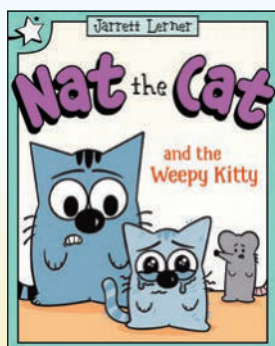
By Dan Yaccarino
Illustrated by Ethan Long

Dog siblings Betsy and Bones travel to Tokyo and get swept up in a whirlwind of overnight fame in this third book in the Dog Meets Dog series!

Publication Date: August 2026

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



NAT THE CAT: NAT THE CAT AND THE WEEPY KITTY

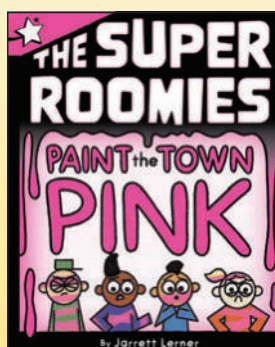
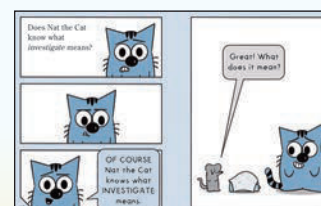
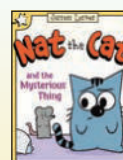
By Jarrett Lerner

A grumpy cat, a curious rat, and an exasperated narrator try to find out why their new friend, Dusty the kitten, is crying. It's not what they think in this spin-off series from powerhouse creator Jarrett Lerner.

Publication Date: February 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



THE SUPER ROOMIES: PAINT THE TOWN PINK

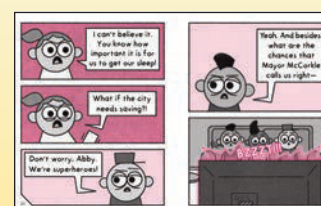
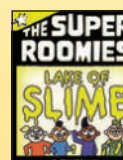
By Jarrett Lerner

Join the Super Roomies in this laugh-out-loud superhero spoof! This time, their former roommate Nina Neon wants to paint the city a nauseating shade called Projectile Pink . . . and the Super Roomies stayed up too late watching their favorite TV show. Can they stay awake long enough to save the city?

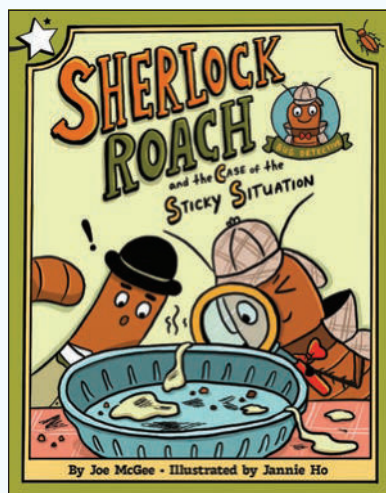
Publication Date: August 2026

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



STAR CHAPTER BOOKS



SHERLOCK ROACH, BUG DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK ROACH AND THE CASE OF THE STICKY SITUATION

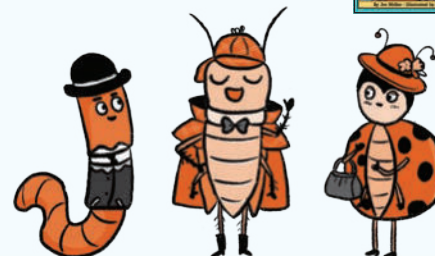
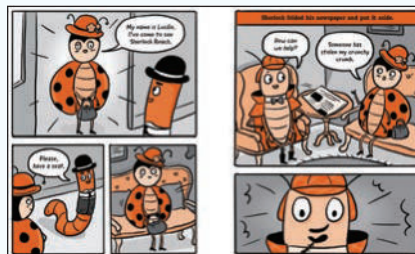
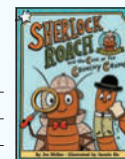
By Joe McGee
Illustrated by Jannie Ho

Have you ever wondered what goes on underneath your couches and carpets? There's a whole world of house bugs, and the famous Sherlock Roach and his loyal partner, Dr. Wormston, are the best chance Bugopolis has when it comes to cracking the dirtiest cases. More than a detective duo, they're friends who always stick together. In the second book of this hilarious series, the greatest crime-solving duo of Bugopolis tracks down the bugs sabotaging the Queen Bee's annual pie competition.

Publication Date: February 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



TIME-TRAVELING CHICKENS: NUGGET AND TENDERS'S EGGCELLENT ADVENTURE

By Kaz Windness

Two chicken friends use their time machine to foil an evil plot for world domination in this second tale in the rollicking Time-Traveling Chickens series from Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor-winning author-illustrator Kaz Windness!

Publication Date: November 2026

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words





STAR CHAPTER BOOKS



GHOST PONCERS: THE THING THAT WENT MUNCH IN THE NIGHT!

By Cyndi Marko
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

Readers can join the ghost hunt with everyone's favorite poncers: cats!

Have you ever seen a cat stare at nothing or suddenly start zooming around the room? That's because cats see ghosts! Or at least these cats do. Meet Cheddar-Biscuits, Moochie, Pixie, and Goose—the Ghost Poncers! When their furry friend, Mr. Cookie, tells them about the strange things happening at his house, the Ghost Poncers are ready to help. Can these feline investigators fix the *paw*-ranormal problem? Find out in this hilarious story!

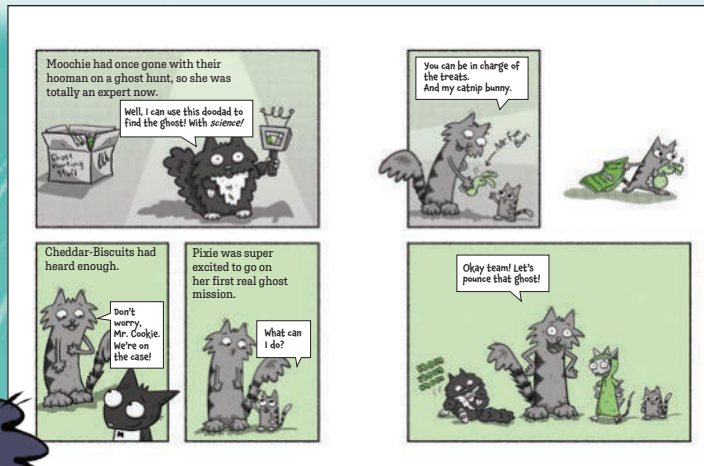
Look for more Star Chapter Books adventures to help kids grow confident and develop a love of reading, including the cats' next adventure, *The Squeak Is Coming from Inside the School!*

CYNDI MARKO is the author-illustrator of the award-winning Kung Pow Chicken early chapter book series; the graphic novel chapter books *This Little Piggy: An Owner's Manual* and *Boo! Hiss!*; the middle-grade graphic novel series *Sloth Sleuth*; and picture books *Let's Monster Up!* and *Gilly's Monster Trap*. She currently lives in Alberta, Canada, with her quiet kids and noisy cats.

Publication Date: May 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



STAR CHAPTER BOOKS



STRANDED PANDAS

By Bill Canterbury
Illustrated by AJ Smith
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

What happens when two pandas get shipwrecked on a desert island? They become stranded pandas! Will Randy and Amanda Panda find their way home?

It was supposed to be a five-minute boat ride . . .

But then siblings Randy and Amanda Panda get caught in a storm and land on a tropical island. The island is controlled by the evil scientist Doctor Croaker, who creates crazy creatures from the animals that are unfortunate enough to wash ashore. Can Amanda and Randy escape this fierce frog's clutches before she turns them into monsters? Find out in this laugh-out-loud story!

Look for more Star Chapter Books to help kids grow confident and develop a love of reading, including the pandas' next adventure, *Danger Wears a Beard!*

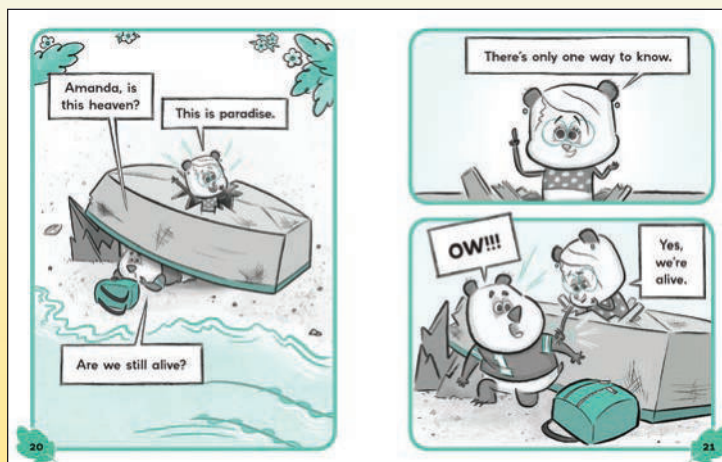
BILL CANTERBURY is the author of the picture book *Farm Shark* and the *My Life Is Weird* series. He has been a staff writer and producer for many television shows, among them *The Simpsons*, *Pinky and the Brain*, and *Star Wars: Clone Wars*.

Specializing in silly stories and funny drawings for kids, author-illustrator **AJ SMITH** is passionate about crafting books that will fuel a love of reading. Over the past twenty years, he has scribbled up creative projects for exciting clients like Cartoon Network, Highlights, Nat Geo Kids, Nickelodeon, and Sesame Street.

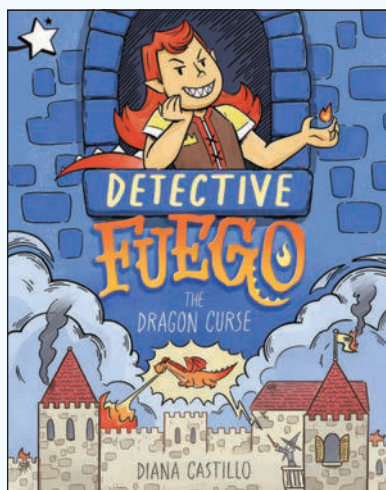
Publication Date: May 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



STAR CHAPTER BOOKS



DETECTIVE FUEGO: THE DRAGON CURSE

By Diana Castillo

Imprint: Simon Spotlight

Meet Detective Fuego, a fearsome dragon cursed into human form who has to solve a tricky and thunderous mystery in order to win back her freedom!

The Royal Witch of Wisteria put Fuego—the fiercest of dragons—under a curse, turning her into a human girl!

Before the King allows the witch to break the spell, he has commanded Fuego to solve the mystery of the loud BOOMS that are terrifying the entire kingdom.

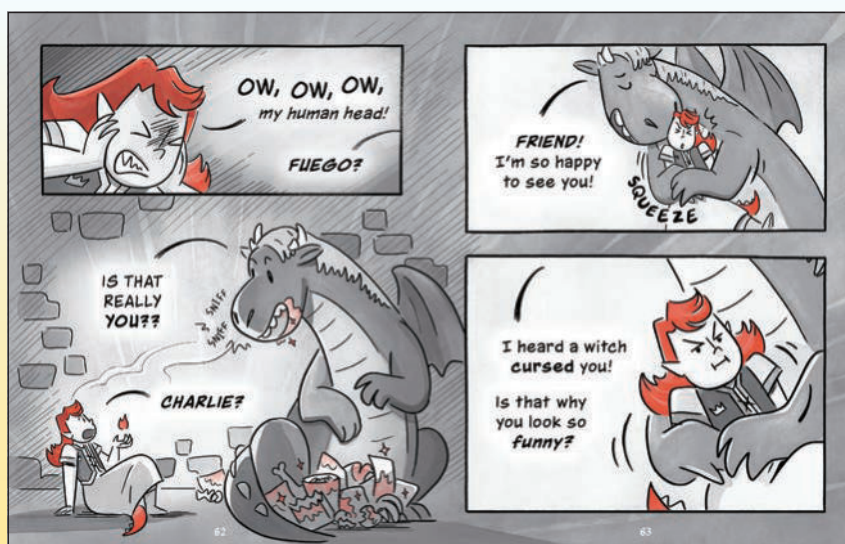
But Fuego wonders: How hard can it be? She is the most dreaded and dangerous dragon of all. It should be a piece of cake, right?

DIANA CASTILLO completed her studies at Ringling College of Art and Design with a BFA in Illustration and she quickly went to work doing everything from designing theme parks to toy design and tourism illustrations. Diana loves illustrating for kids and designing the world they live in, whether it's in a picture book, a theme park, or an animated show.

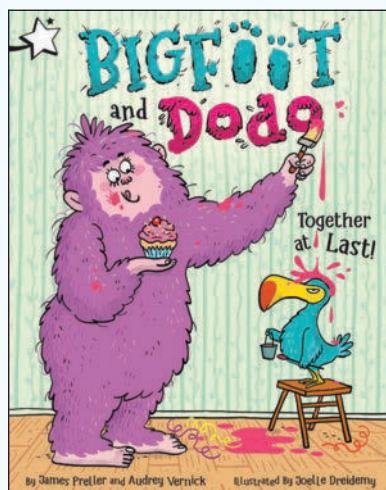
Publication Date: May 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



STAR CHAPTER BOOKS



BIGFOOT AND DODO: TOGETHER AT LAST! FUNNY BUSINESS

By James Preller and Audrey Vernick
Illustrated by Joëlle Dreidemy
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

Readers won't be able to resist James Preller and Audrey Vernick's zany twosome and their wacky adventures!

Meet Bigfoot, a real-live bigfoot! Meet Dodo, a real-live dodo bird.

That's right: two creatures thought not to exist!

In *Together at Last!* these two kooky characters make for a daffy and delightful duo who discover the only way to feed their endless love of cupcakes is to find gainful employment, aka a job! Who will ever hire this harebrained pair?

And in *Funny Business*, when a letter arrives from world-famous writer Percy Peabert, asking them to help him un-haunt his house, Dodo dives in. But Bigfoot is less than thrilled with their newest challenge. Dodo may not believe in ghosts, but Bigfoot isn't so sure about things that go bump in the night!

JAMES PRELLER is the author of the popular Jigsaw Jones mystery books, which have sold more than ten million copies. He lives in Delmar, New York, with his wife, three children, and their cats and dog.

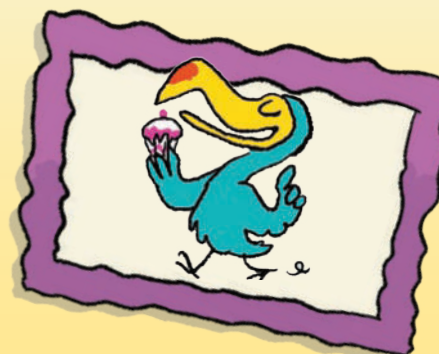
AUDREY VERNICK writes fiction and nonfiction for young readers, including *The World's Best Class Plant*, *All Star: How Larry Doby Smashed the Color Barrier in Baseball*, and *After the Worst Thing Happens*.

JOËLLE DREIDEMY studied art at the University of Strasbourg for four years and obtained a Master of Plastic Arts degree. She then moved to Lyon to study illustration, animation, and sculpture at the renowned Émile Cohl School.

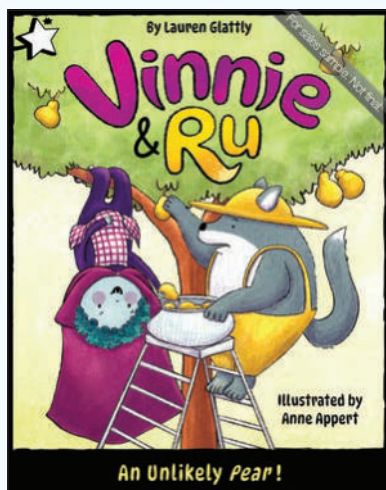
Publication Date: *Together at Last:* February 2027; *Funny Business:* July 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



STAR CHAPTER BOOKS



VINNIE & RU: AN UNLIKELY PEAR!

By Lauren Glattly
Illustrated by Anne Appert
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

An age-old myth is finally resolved: Can a pie-eating “vampire” and a pear-loving “pearwolf” be friends?

Vinnie is a Vampire. While other vampires turn into bats at night and scare humans, Vinnie would rather bake pies. Ru is a Pearwolf. While other werewolves are busy howling at the moon, Ru prefers working in his pear orchard. This year, Vinnie is entering a pie-baking competition and needs to find the perfect ingredients. When he discovers Ru’s pear orchard, he takes all of Ru’s pears! Ru is NOT happy. But when Vinnie and Ru realize they have a lot in common, they decide to enter the contest as a team. Will their pie be a success? Or is the myth true that Vampires and Pearwolves can never be friends?

LAUREN GLATTLY is a children’s book author. That’s a writer who knows that kids are the best people in the world and who wants to write them the very best stories. Lauren spends a lot of time working in her home office alone, such as on the Proper Badger Would Never! books, but when she isn’t writing, she loves working in her garden with her family.

ANNE APPERT is coloring up a rainbow because they are an illustrator, which is, of course, a person who draws all the pictures in books for kids. What Anne likes best is making whimsical, humorous art that inspires kids to be themselves. Anne is famous (in their own studio) for their previous books, *Blob*, *What if You Wish?*, and *Loch Ness Monster’s Unbelievable Science*. When not drawing, Anne loves making creative messes with their family.

Publication Date: June 2027

Ages: 6–9

Page Extent: 112 pp/2.25K words



Little Simon Chapter Books Are Filling the Gap!



CRASH MAGIC

#1: CRASH MAGIC RIDES A DRAGON

#2: CRASH MAGIC AND THE SLIME TIME SLUGS

#3: CRASH MAGIC AND THE SERPENT'S DEN

#4: CRASH MAGIC AT THE SPIRIT SPAWN FEST

By C. T. Street

Illustrated by Billy Yong

An ordinary boy discovers a magic world in the wild and hilarious Crash Magic chapter book series!

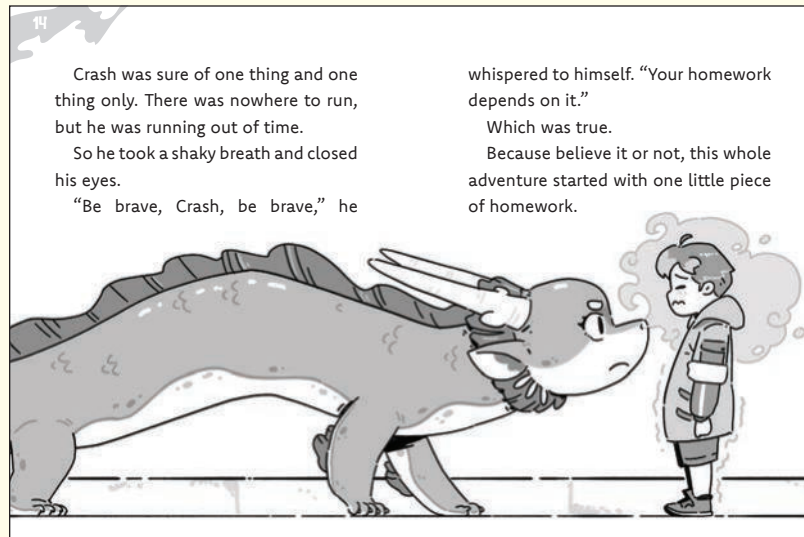
Meet Crash Magic. His first name is Crash, and his last name is Magic. And this clumsy kid with a kind heart has stumbled upon a mind-blowing discovery: There's an entire magical world within his city!

Alongside a talking plushie named Marv, Crash embarks on all sorts of magical quests around the city. He rides fire-breathing dragons, collects little slimes with big secrets, falls into a serpent's den, and even attends a magic convention. Perfect for fans of Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol and the Kingdom of Wrenly, this illustrated chapter book series is packed with action, danger, humor, and MAGIC!

Publication Date: #1 & #2: January 2027; #3: May 2027; #4: July 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 128 pp



Easy-to-read text and illustrations on almost every page make these chapter book series perfect for newly independent readers.

THE ADVENTURES OF SOPHIE MOUSE

#24: FLOWER FRIENDS FOREVER

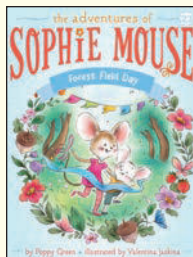
By Poppy Green

Illustrated by Valentina Jaskina

Join Sophie Mouse and her woodland friends on their adventures.

Publication Date: June 2027

RIGHTS SOLD: Hungarian, Lithuanian, Slovak



GOOD DOG

#18: MOUSE IN THE FARMHOUSE

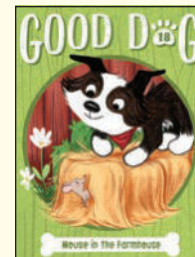
By Cam Higgins

Illustrated by Ariel Landy

Meet Bo Davis, a lovable puppy who is an expert at finding adventure on his family farm!

Publication Date: March 2027

RIGHTS SOLD: Czech, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Portuguese (Portugal), Spanish



THE CRITTER CLUB

#33: AMY'S PLAN BEE

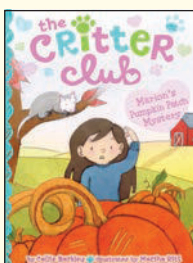
By Callie Barkley

Illustrated by Marsha Riti

At the Critter Club, Amy, Ellie, Marion, and Liz rescue lost and lonely animals!

Publication Date: March 2027

RIGHTS SOLD: Hebrew



HENRY HECKELBECK

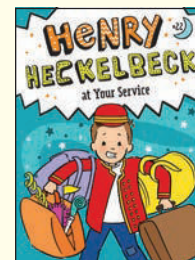
#23: HENRY HECKELBECK ARE WE THERE YET?

By Wanda Coven

Illustrated by Priscilla Burris

Join Heidi Heckelbeck's little brother, Henry, on all-new adventures as he deals with everyday childhood challenges . . . with a bit of help from his own magical Book of Spells in this bewitching chapter book series.

Publication Date: May 2027



DESMOND COLE GHOST PATROL

#29: NO SPACE LIKE HOME

By Andres Miedoso

Illustrated by Victor Rivas

Desmond Cole is a fearless eight-year-old who runs his own ghost patrol, looking for ghosts, monsters, and mischief makers everywhere.

Publication Date: January 2027

RIGHTS SOLD: Danish, French, Ukrainian



THE KINGDOM OF WRENLY

#25: THE WIZARD'S WARNING

By Jordan Quinn

Illustrated by Robert McPhillips

Welcome to the Kingdom of Wrenly, a mystical land with dragons, trolls, wizards, mermaids, and fairies!

Publication Date: March 2027

RIGHTS SOLD: German, Mongolian



FAIRY SCOUT FRIENDS

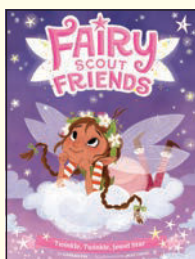
#7: TWINKLE, TWINKLE, JEWEL STAR

By Hannah Fay

Illustrated by Mag Takac

Meet the Fairy Scout Friends, a group of misfit fairies working together to earn their magic and learn fairy-sized life lessons along the way!

Publication Date: February 2027



SCRAPPER

#7: TRIPLE DOG DARE

By Cam Higgins

Illustrated by Ariel Landy

Everyone's favorite sidekick from the Good Dog series is now the star of the show! Scrapper is a rambunctious and mischievous puppy who's always up for adventure and high-energy hijinks!

Publication Date: January 2027



RIGHTS GUIDE

FRANKFURT 2026

For all Little Simon chapter books:

Ages: 5–9 **Page Extent:** 128 pp



DESMOND COLE GHOST PATROL #3: NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIE ZOOKEEPER THE GRAPHIC NOVEL #4: MAJOR MONSTER MESS THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

By Andres Miedoso

Imprint: Little Simon

BOO! The Ghost Patrol is haunting their way into graphic novels! Based on the popular stories from the Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol chapter book series, this full-color series is filled with thrills and chills!

Publication Date: #3: January 2027; #4: July 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 144 pp

RIGHTS SOLD: French



DRAGON KINGDOM OF WRENLY #14: A LEAP OF FATE

By Jordan Quinn

Imprint: Little Simon

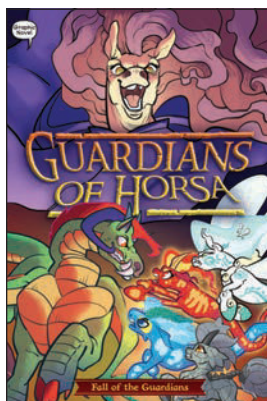
Ruskin, the beloved scarlet dragon from the Kingdom of Wrenly books, stars in this graphic novel chapter book series for emerging readers that's full of magical quests, epic adventures, mysterious prophecies, and DRAGONS!

Publication Date: August 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 144 pp

RIGHTS SOLD: Mongolian, Russian



GUARDIANS OF HORSA #8: FALL OF THE GUARDIANS

By Roan Black

Imprint: Little Simon

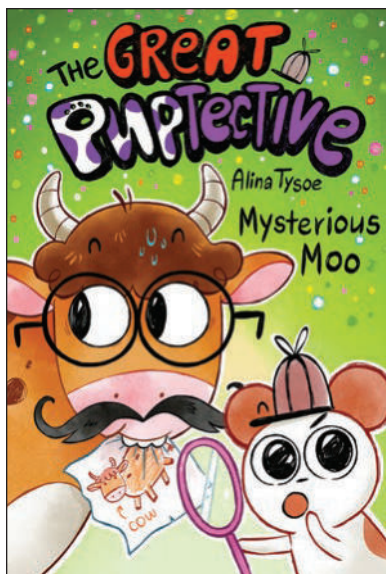
This thrilling graphic novel chapter book series gives magic an equine twist when four elemental horses from warring herds must unite to find one special yearling and usher in a new era for the world of Horsa.

Publication Date: April 2027

Ages: 5–9

Page Extent: 144 pp





THE GREAT PUPTECTIVE #4: MYSTERIOUS MOO

By Alina Tysoe
Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Poppy is determined to solve the curious case of the mysterious moo in this fourth hilarious title in the graphic novel chapter book series—from the creator of the popular *What's Up, Beanie?* webcomics!

MoooOOOOooooOoo!

What was that? The entire neighborhood is spooked in the middle of the night by a mysterious mooing sound. In the light of day, the pets notice claw marks on the fence, clothes scattered across the lawns, and cookie batter stuck in a tree. Does this all have to do with that strange evening moo? There's only one neighbor who could possibly figure it all out . . . THE GREAT PUPTECTIVE!

Poppy and her trusty sidekick, Truffles, are always up to the task—no matter how frightful this mysterious mooing creature turns out to be.

Publication Date: March 2027

Ages: 6–9

Page Extent: 120 pp

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *THE GREAT PUPTECTIVE*: Catalan, French, Korean, Spanish



CLOUD PUPPY #4: AUTUMN IS AWESOME!

By Kelly Leigh Miller
Imprint: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

From haunted houses to pumpkin-carving contests, join Cloud Puppy and her friends as they explore the fall season!

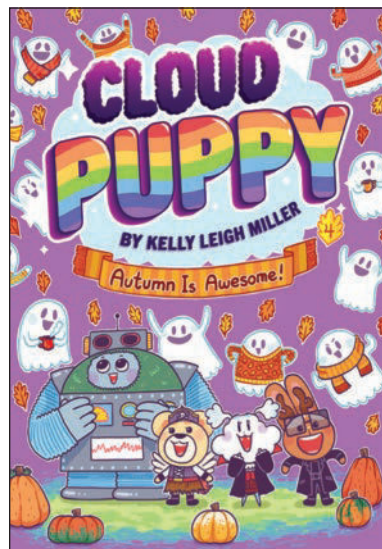
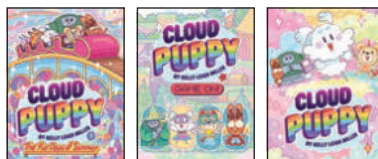
Time for fall fun! Leaves are falling, pumpkins are everywhere, and there's a spooky feeling in the air. Cloud Puppy and her friends are excited to celebrate the season, from classroom decorations (should the theme be spooky or cozy?) to a think-on-your-paws pumpkin-carving contest. Best of all, the pals are braving the haunted Mirkwood Mansion for their very first time! Every Halloween, the mansion opens its doors for one night only to see who is bold enough to walk through the entire spooky estate while facing hidden passageways, secret rooms, and real gh-gh-ghosts!

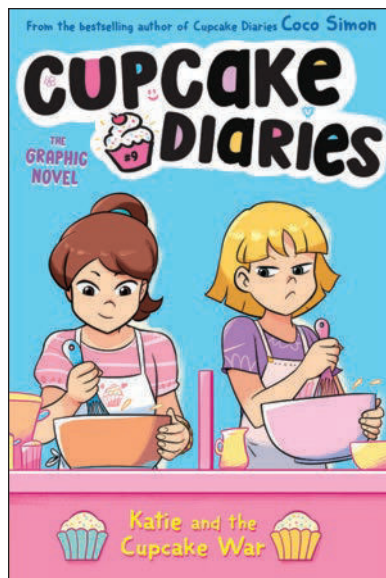
Can the intrepid crew manage to escape the haunted house and celebrate all things autumn?

Publication Date: July 2027

Ages: 6–9

Page Extent: 160 pp





CUPCAKE DIARIES: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL #9: KATIE AND THE CUPCAKE WAR THE GRAPHIC NOVEL #10: MIA'S BOILING POINT THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

By Coco Simon
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

The bestselling Simon Spotlight middle-grade series Cupcake Diaries, which has sold over two-and-a-half million copies and counting, is now available in graphic novel format!

Cupcake Diaries graphic novels are chock-full of the middle school angst and humor that emerging readers are looking for, and they have a sweetness that makes them ideal for younger readers who are just getting into graphic novels. With age-appropriate text, perfectly paced storytelling, and fresh, bright, exciting illustrations, Cupcake Diaries graphic novels look as good as they read.

Publication Date: #9: January 2027; #10: May 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 160 pp

RIGHTS SOLD: French, Hebrew, Spanish



MIA IN THE MIDDLE #3: RISING TO THE TOP

By Coco Simon
Illustrated by Tracy Bishop
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

The upcoming talent show has Mia struggling with her confidence in this middle-grade Cupcake Diaries spin-off series.

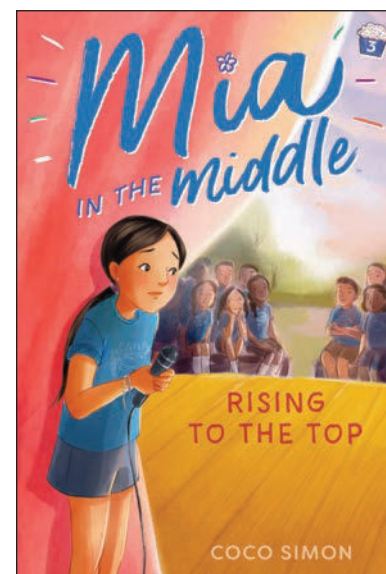
Mia finds herself in a rut when Camp Evergreen announces a talent show and she's the only one out of all her friends who doesn't have a hidden talent to perform. And that's just the beginning. Things with her crush, Steven, have been off, and Mia feels like she hasn't been able to get one thing right ever since the talent show was announced.

At the height of self-doubt, Mia gets the chance to show up in ways that are more important than showing off. Can she rise to the occasion and help someone find their confidence?

Publication Date: December 2026

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 160 pp/30K words





HOW TO PLAY HOCKEY LIKE A VIKING GOD

By Rachel Poliquin

Illustrated by Ericka Lugo

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

For fans of the *Mac B.*, *Kid Spy* series and Rick Riordan Presents comes an action-packed adventure featuring three middle school kids whose ordinary lives are quickly turned upside down when they come into possession of a legendary hockey stick.

Eleven-year-old Rune lives in a tiny, frozen, hockey town, and he has a secret so big and so important that even he doesn't know it. Yet.

But when he decides to *borrow* his famous great-grandfather's stick, he uncovers an ancient mystery connecting his town and missing father to the Viking gods.

Rune isn't the biggest kid on the ice. He isn't as skilled as his two best friends, Elf and Hays, or his nemesis, the prankster-bully Lukus. But none of that matters anymore. Because the moment Rune touches the stick and awakens its strange powers, dark forces begin to appear.

Secrets are lurking everywhere, and soon Rune, Elf, and Hays aren't battling only hockey opponents to keep the stick and themselves safe.

The second book is scheduled for August 2028!

Publication Date: #1: August 2027; #2: August 2028

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 160 pp/21K words



CRANIACS: ESCAPE FROM THE CHROME DOME REVENGE OF THE RHINOBI

By R.L. Stine

Illustrated by Joe Simko

Imprint: Simon Spotlight

Readers decide their own fate in the interactive middle-grade **Craniacs** series inspired by the collectible trading cards of the same name, from beloved and bestselling author R.L. Stine and the artist behind the Garbage Pail Kids, Joe Simko.

Welcome to the world of Craniacs. Two planets inhabited by colorful skull-headed beings collide to form one world. One side of the planet is ultra-futuristic: Futerra. The other side is Stone Age: Retrovia. Neither side is good or bad, but coexisting is a constant challenge. Their solution? The Chrome Dome, where danger is the name of the game, and kids compete in wild and wacky challenges to settle domestic and interplanetary disputes.

In *Escape from the Chrome Dome*, it's a battle to the fiery, lava-filled death when a giant volcano on Retrovia is about to explode and destroy the entire planet. The winner will have to get past the hot-snot-dripping, pointy-toothed Boarger, scale the Slippery Sock Slide of Ultimate Shame, and traverse the Exploding Toilets of Doom obstacle course.

In *Revenge of the Rhinobino*, the kids of Futerra and Retrovia take a school trip to the skull dogs eating contest on Boney Island. By the end of the competition, every single skull dog has been eaten. Unfortunately, the local beast Rhinobino loves snacking on skull dogs, and with none left, he's ready for his second favorite food: Craniacs! Making it to safety means getting past other dangerous cranimals: saber-toothed hamsters, lava lizards, a Bonosaurus Rex, and more!

R.L. STINE invented the teen horror genre with Fear Street, the bestselling teen horror series of all time. He also changed the face of children's publishing with the mega-successful Goosebumps series, which went on to become a worldwide multimedia phenomenon.

JOE SIMKO is an artist and writer known for his happy horror style. He is a writer for the Topps company and lead Garbage Pail Kids artist, codirector and producer of the GPK documentary feature film *30 Years of Garbage*, and cocreator of Craniacs.

Publication Date: *Escape* and *Revenge*: August 2026; *Trapped on Bonehead Mountain*: May 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 160 pp/16K words



**DEDICATED CRANIACS
YOUTUBE CHANNEL**
Ambitious Brand
Expansion Initiative
Underway Via a Mix of
Specially Created Content



THE GRAVEDIGGER'S APPRENTICE

By Linda Cheng
Illustrated by Kristina Kister
Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

***Tomb Raider* meets *Ghostbusters* in this thrilling, deliciously spooky new adventure story about treasure hunting—and grave-robbing—in 1934 China.**

For orphan Qin Lanfeng, being taken in by the Gravediggers Guild was the best thing that ever happened to her. Finally, she's found a place to belong, even if it's with a gang of thieves who operate in the secret societies that run Tianjin's criminal underground.

So when they are captured by a corrupt army officer called the Warlord, Lanfeng jumps at the opportunity to rescue them—especially if it means proving her own skills by plundering the biggest tomb in the province. A tomb that holds riches beyond her wildest dreams—and danger beyond her worst nightmares.

To do so, she is forced to team up with Nie Beichen, a rival apprentice with whom she has never seen eye to eye. The two of them, together with her best friend Yiyi and an unexpected tagalong, set off for the mountains of the North China Plain, intent on saving the only family they have ever known. But she must keep her wits about her, because it isn't just the dead that mean her harm—the living keep secrets too.

Publication Date: June 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 256 pp/44K words

THE SHAPESHIFTER'S GUIDE TO GYM CLASS

By Kai Cheng Thom
Imprint: Simon & Schuster Canada

***Turning Red* meets *Animorphs* by way of Judy Blume in this middle-grade fantasy that is magical and moving in turns, unfolding as one part narrative, one part guidebook.**

Nor Numinem. A town of hope, beauty, and an abundance of flowers. Yet even in this beautiful town, a kid like Maia's got problems. Maia is a shapeshifter. And worse, she's starting middle school.

A special few are born with the mysterious ability to transform into a part-animal shape. Tragically for Maia, her ability is merely this: to grow giant moth wings out of her back whenever she's excited or upset, or for some reason, whenever her new classmate Luke looks at her in a particular way. Even more tragic? Maia's wings are useless. Weak and fragile—unlike her talented friends' metashapes.

But Maia's problems are about to get much harder. A strange illness is spreading through the gardens of Nor Numinem—the very gardens that sustain this once-perfect town. What's worse, some of the adults think the shapeshifters are to blame! As rumors turn into hate, life gets tougher for those who aren't seen as normal. Maia and her friends will soon discover that there is a dark rift in Nor Numinem, one that will take all their talents, known and unknown, to mend.

Publication Date: September 2026

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 336 pp/71K words





THE AFTERMYTH #2: MYTHFALL

By Tracy Wolff
Imprint: Aladdin

Penelope faces the trials of a school dance, a disappointed mother, and displeased gods in the second book in a dark academia fantasy middle-grade series from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Crave* series, Tracy Wolff.

It's a brand-new semester at Anaximander's, and Penelope is ready for it to go smoothly. There's so much to be excited about: mythical baby animals to raise, a big dance to plan, and an inter-hall competition that will end with a celebration during parents' weekend.

But the new semester has barely begun when it becomes apparent that all is not well. One thing after another goes wrong, and Anaximander's is no longer the safe haven it once was.

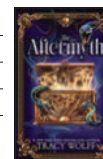
As the chaos unfolds, Penelope and her friends are determined to do whatever it takes to save their school and themselves, even if that means unraveling centuries-old secrets hidden in the stars. The only question is, after the Gods have unleashed all their fury, will Penelope, Anaximander's Academy, and the night sky itself ever be the same?

Publication Date: April 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 464 pp/102K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *AFTERMYTH*: Dutch, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Spanish



AFAR

By Megan E. Freeman
Imprint: Aladdin

Two cousins, one accustomed to living outside civilization and one fleeing the dangers of it, learn to move forward together in this taut and compelling novel in verse that's a standalone companion to the *New York Times* bestselling *Alone and Away*.

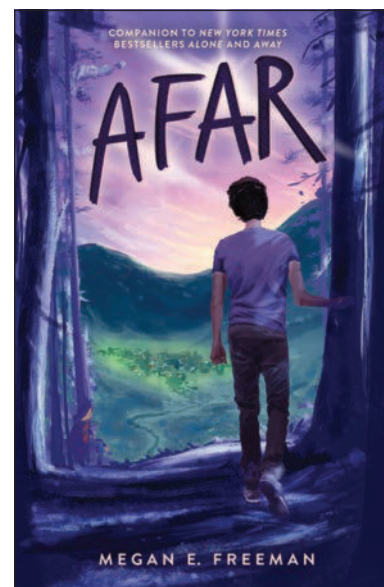
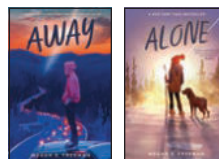
River, a budding eleven-year-old nature artist, gains a new viewpoint in life when his estranged cousin, Emma, and her mother come to his off-the-grid mountain compound to escape from a problematic home situation. Through Emma, River learns more about what has been happening in the area outside of their rural outpost (and what his brother, Mustang, has been up to) and starts to question the rules and restrictions that the group has imposed upon the community.

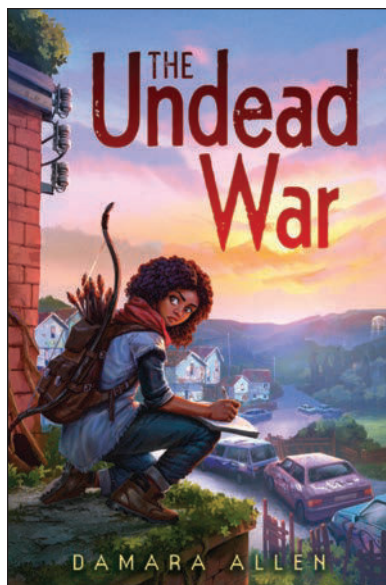
At the same time, Emma's prevailing sense of dread about her stepfather leads her to cultivate her self-defense skills. With mass evacuations and panic outside the compound and questions stirring within, the cousins must lean on each other to weather the upheaval.

Publication Date: February 2027

Ages: 10 up

Page Extent: 352 pp/45K words





THE UNDEAD WAR

By Damara Allen
Imprint: Aladdin

Searching for the truth of her community's experience during the war with the undead leads a girl to believe they are on the brink of another outbreak in this postapocalyptic middle-grade novel that is *The Last of Us* meets *The Last Cuentista*.

Kyle Woodward has never seen a reaper—the Undead War ended before she was born. But every aspect of her life has been shaped by them. Kyle was raised in a remote compound built for survival and taught to guard against the reaper threat, even though she's been told reapers no longer exist. When rumors of new reaper sightings begin to spread, Kyle grows frustrated by her community's silence and her parents' refusal to talk about the war. Guided by a gut feeling that there's more to the story, Kyle decides to document her community's history and the war that defined it. But the deeper she digs, the more dangerous the secrets she uncovers.

If the truth is being buried on purpose, Kyle might be the only one who can expose it. Because if her community refuses to face what nearly destroyed the world once, they might be standing on the edge of the apocalypse all over again.

Publication Date: April 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 352 pp/65K words



STAR FIRE ACADEMY #1: FIREBIRD WALTZ

By Misty Copeland
Imprint: Aladdin

From bestselling author and former American Ballet Theatre principal dancer Misty Copeland comes the first book in a new four-book series about a girl who must balance her ballet aspirations with her magical destiny.

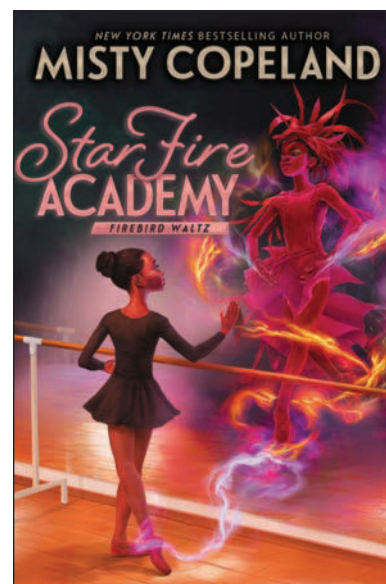
Twelve-year-old Josie can't wait to start classes at the prestigious Star Fire Academy for the Performing Arts. She has been dancing ballet since she was three years old and hopes she can live up to the expectations of the school—and make her parents proud. As Josie digs deep for the confidence and inspiration required for a solo role in the fall recital, she grows closer to her ballet teacher, Miss Fiona, who tells Josie she's destined for something far greater than a solo.

According to Miss Fiona, centuries ago an evil sorcerer attempted to turn himself into the most amazing dancer in the world, but his spell went wrong, transforming him into a monstrous being full of rage and envy—but also creating a beautiful dance spirit full of goodness: the Firebird. Ever since, the two have been fighting for the souls of young artists, with the Firebird being embodied by a new hero in every generation, and Josie is next in line. Suddenly, Josie is faced with two roles of a lifetime. Can she rise to the occasion?

Publication Date: #1: August 2026; #2: August 2027;
#3: September 2028; #4: September 2029

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 240 pp/55K words





THE NEW NORM #3: LIKE IT OR NOT #4: PLAYER VS. PLAYER

By Matthew J. Gilbert
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

A chronically online middle schooler tries to survive the cringe of middle school in this series about navigating the blurry line between the internet and real life.

Taking online shortcuts lands Norm's friend Jordan in hot water in *Like It or Not*. Jordan needs a new phone, but his family can't afford to buy him one. So Norm and Mia decide to help Jordan raise money to buy a new phone. But Jordan can't think of a way to make money until he gets a genius idea: Build a bot and sell extra likes on internet posts. Jordan's scheme works for a while—until the class gossip threatens to expose him. Norm has to act fast before Jordan loses his phone, his money, and his reputation!

In *Player vs. Player*, Mia introduces Norm and Jordan to her favorite online game, and the fun escape soon becomes a widespread obsession. The vibes are getting toxic, and none of it feels like a game anymore. With Mia and Jordan battling online and in real life, Norm is stuck in the middle. Can he restart their friendship and get the team back together? Or are they quitting for good?

Publication Date: #3: December 2026; #4: May 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 160 pp/26K words



SPOTLIGHT SPRINKLES: HEART TO HEART

By Lee Heart
Imprint: Simon Spotlight

A girl tries to muster the courage to confess her feelings when her now-famous crush returns to town just in time for Valentine's Day in the latest book in the tween middle-grade rom-com series, Spotlight Sprinkles!

Audrey cannot believe Kevin McCarthy is coming back to town after winning a singing competition show! He's literally the cutest boy she's ever seen, and when he moved to California to pursue his singing career, Audrey was super bummed.

But now he's visiting on Valentine's Day to perform in concert! This is Audrey's big chance to tell Kevin she's always liked him, but will she get up the nerve to tell him how she really feels?

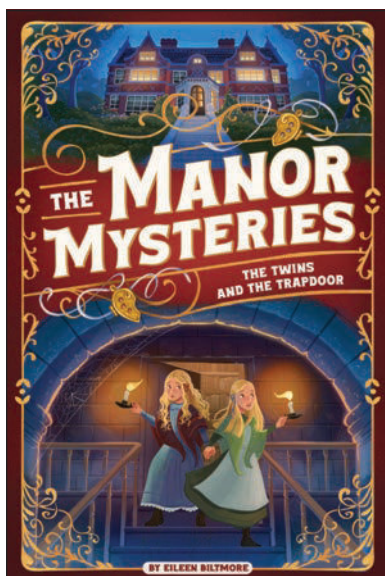
Publication Date: December 2026

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 160 pp/26K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *MEET ME AT SUNSET*: Danish





THE MANOR MYSTERIES

#3: THE TWINS AND THE TRAPDOOR

#4: THE PORTRAIT AND THE PASSAGEWAY

By Eileen Biltmore

Imprint: Simon Spotlight

In this cozy historical fiction mystery series, two lockets passed down through the Linden family for generations are clues to long-lost secrets.

In *The Twins and the Trapdoor*, Margaret and her twin sister, Dorothea, can't wait to turn twelve years old. As Linden Manor prepares to honor their birthdays, the twins are distracted from the celebrations by an Irish refugee named James O'Toole. James is in search of his long-lost wife, Ellen, who once worked at Linden Manor. The twins decide to investigate Ellen's disappearance, but they uncover some startling clues about their dear ladies' maid, Liza, along the way . . . and realize that Linden Manor is full of more secrets and surprises than they ever knew.

In *The Portrait and the Passageway*, Dorothea and Margaret are traveling to meet family in America for a relative's wedding. But just before the celebration begins, a precious family painting is destroyed. Was someone framed? Can Dorothea and her sister figure out what really happened? And could the crushes they develop on two boys at the manor be more than just crushes after all?

Publication Date: #3: December 2026; #4: May 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 160 pp/26K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *THE DISAPPEARANCE AND THE DIARY*: French, Portuguese (Portugal), Russian



DEEPA, M.D.

#2: ALL THE FEELS

By Priya Swaminathan

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Deepa is back solving her classmates' medical mysteries as well as her own in this series about a precocious seventh grader in remission from cancer, who decides to become a medical detective alongside her doctor uncle.

Lately, life has been pretty good to Deepa. Not bad for a girl with cancer—and now officially in remission! Her hair's growing back, her parents are finally letting her be more independent, and her friendship with BFF Renée is stronger than ever.

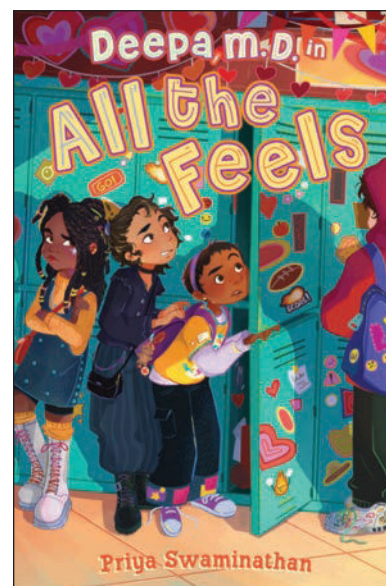
The things that aren't so good: Lola is still putting the "enemy" in "frenemy"; there's a ridiculous award that's causing tension with Deepa's newest bestie, Manu; and Valentine's Day is in the air (gross).

So when she encounters a mysterious eighth grader with even more mysterious symptoms, Deepa's happy to put all her focus on helping him, even if he doesn't want the help himself. Deepa's a fixer, but what happens when she encounters something she just can't fix—in others and in herself?

Publication Date: June 2027

Ages: 8–12

Page Extent: 208 pp/50K words





SPACE RACE

By Jamie Sumner

Imprint: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

From Jamie Sumner, the acclaimed author of *Roll with It*, comes a radiant, heartfelt novel in verse about rockets, road trips, sibling rifts, and the gravity that may just bring a fractured family back together.

Life is about to turn upside down for Sidney Ellen Wade and her family. With three days until liftoff, Sid must get from west Texas all the way to northern Alabama in order to compete in the Young Rocketeer's Challenge. First prize? A free ticket to Space Camp, which would be a dream come true for Sid.

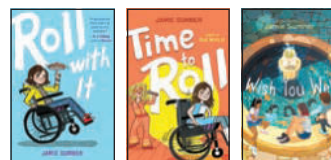
But the only way to get there is a road trip with her mom, her dad, her beloved gerbil Stan, and her older brother, Dalton, who is possibly the worst person on the planet to be trapped with in a confined space. With an unreliable family truck and an even more unreliable brother, will Sid ever make it in time?

Publication Date: March 2027

Ages: 10 up

Page Extent: 208 pp/21K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *ROLL WITH IT*: French, Italian, Japanese



CRASH INTO CRUSH

By Julia DeVillers

Imprint: Aladdin

Two tweens trying to get their driver's permits to appease their respective parents end up in a fake dating scheme in this hilarious upper-middle-grade rom-com perfect for fans of Meg Cabot and Sarah Mlynowski!

Josie is heading to the biggest day of her life so far: her driver's permit test. As the daughter of a legendary NASCAR driver, Josie feels huge pressure to pass. Meanwhile, Dash Dawson would rather be back home in Manhattan than taking a driving test, but his parents' financial struggles have them stuck in the Midwest for the summer. Josie and Dash accidentally distract each other during their respective tests, resulting in both of them failing in spectacular fashion . . . and they blame each other for it.

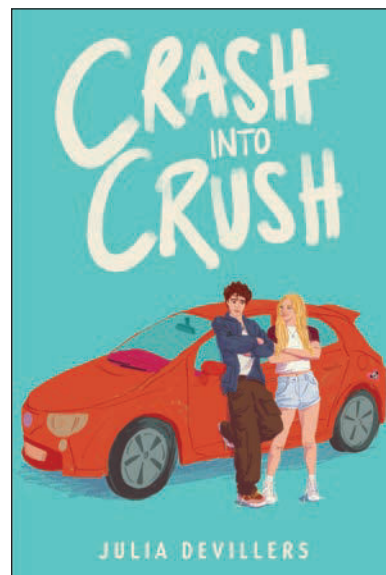
Dash didn't even want his permit, but now failing is just another way he's a disappointment to his parents. To prove he's able to take something seriously, Dash signs up for a remedial driving course. Before Josie even leaves the DMV, her dad ambushes her with a livestream meant to celebrate her big day, so she pretends she passed. To get her permit for real, she has to secretly join the same class as Dash.

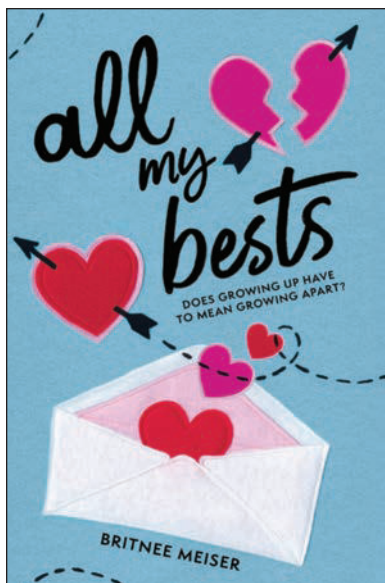
On a collision course once again, Dash and Josie bicker even as sparks fly. Then Josie's dad sees them together. Seeing her web of lies about to crumble, Josie panics and says she and Dash are dating. Whoops. Against all odds, a fake relationship could save them both some grief—as long as real feelings don't get involved!

Publication Date: April 2027

Ages: 10 up

Page Extent: 304 pp/54K words





ALL MY BESTS

By Britnee Meiser
Imprint: Aladdin

In the tradition of *Hello, Goodbye, and Everything in Between*, this smart and emotional romance told through playlists and memories follows two young teens struggling to hold on to each other as their friendship changes.

Starting high school brings big changes for Immie and Jack, who've been everything to each other since Jack crashed his skateboard into Immie's yard when they were seven years old. But a game-winning goal catapults Jack into star status with the soccer team, and Immie is meeting new girl friends whose questions are making her wonder about the identity of her father for the first time in her life.

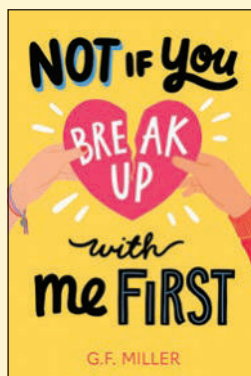
All the while, they're both realizing their feelings for each other might run deeper than they thought. Can their friendship—and the promise of something more—weather the storm that is growing up?

Publication Date: November 2024

Ages: 10 up

Page Extent: 384 pp/99K words

G.F. Miller's novels are perfect for readers ready to explore stories about first crushes and the growing pains of navigating friendships when feelings start to get in the way. Hilarious and heartfelt, relatable and romantic, this trio of novels will help bridge the transition between middle-grade and true YA.



NOT IF YOU BREAK UP WITH ME FIRST

Two friends find themselves in an accidental relationship and become determined to make the other person be the one to call things off. But what if they fall for each other in the process?

Publication Date: June 2024

Page Extent: 288 pp/53K words

RIGHTS SOLD: ANZ, French, German



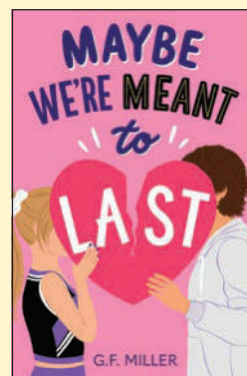
WHAT IF YOU FALL FOR ME FIRST?

A girl determined to ditch her Goody Two-shoes image and the cool guy classmate she enlists to help her get more than they bargained for in this relatable and swoon-worthy middle-grade rom-com.

Publication Date: June 2025

Page Extent: 368 pp/58K words

RIGHTS SOLD: French



MAYBE WE'RE MEANT TO LAST

Two friends who determined they were better as BFFs in middle school wonder if they should give dating another try as high schoolers in this witty and heartfelt middle-grade rom-com.

Publication Date: November 2026

Page Extent: 320 pp/ 57K words

G.F. Miller books:

Imprint: Aladdin **Ages:** 10 up



PHOTO BY DANIELLE SHIELDS

TELL ME EVERYTHING

By Sara Shepard

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

A lonely teen builds an AI chatbot to get revenge on her ex-best friend and gets much more than she bargained for in this explosive first book in a new young adult thriller series from the #1 bestselling author of the *Pretty Little Liars* books, Sara Shepard.

Sixteen-year-old Abby Ives has nothing left to lose. After a private photo gets sent around school, leaving her humiliated and exiled by nearly everyone, including her best friend, Abby starts her junior year ready for revenge. So she creates the perfect plan to get back at her ex-best friend, Olivia: coding an AI chatbot named Kitty. At first, it's just a way to mess with Olivia and maybe get her in trouble at school. But then Olivia starts confiding real secrets. And sharing the bot with others.

Suddenly Abby finds herself the unexpected keeper of everyone's dirtiest deeds and deepest fears. Who's hooking up. Who's cheating. Who's struggling under their smile. Behind the screen, she is a force. Powerful. Untouchable in a way she's never been. But she might actually be helping people in her school as Kitty too. Until someone tips off the bot about a sinister plot.

Unlike all the other secrets Abby has collected, this one is threatening—a plan that, if executed, means someone will end up dead. Can Abby stop that from happening without exposing herself as the mastermind behind Kitty? Or will her attempts turn the potential killer's sights squarely on her instead?

Stay tuned for the sequel arriving Spring 2028!

SARA SHEPARD is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Pretty Little Liars* series. She has also written other young adult series and novels, including *The Lying Game*, *The Heiresses*, and *The Perfectionists*. Sara now lives outside of Philadelphia with her husband, sons, and dogs.

Publication Date: March 2027

Ages: 12 up

Page Extent: 288 pp/69K words

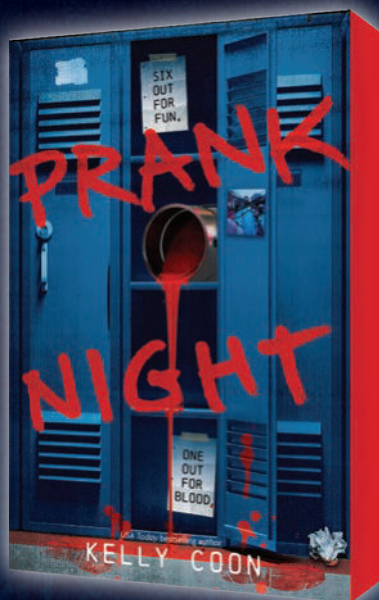
From Sara Shepard

The #1 bestselling author

of *Pretty Little Liars*

...





PRANK NIGHT

By Kelly Coon

Imprint: Margaret K. McElderry Books

A group of teens breaks into school after hours for a senior prank, only for the night to turn sinister when one of them turns up dead—and the rest are locked inside with the killer—in this edge-of-your-seat young adult thriller perfect for fans of Holly Jackson and Karen M. McManus.

Graduation at Bloomfield Academy is almost here, but golden boy Mason is not leaving without a killer senior prank. Lucy, his type A girlfriend, is only coming because he begged. Brainiacs Alex and Brady are there to problem-solve. Theater star Kenzie is thrilled they're including her—finally. And troublemaker Ian? Well, nobody invited him, but that's never stopped him before. All it takes is one night. One epic prank. The plan is going perfectly until one of them is found dead at the foot of the stairs. And it looks a lot like murder.

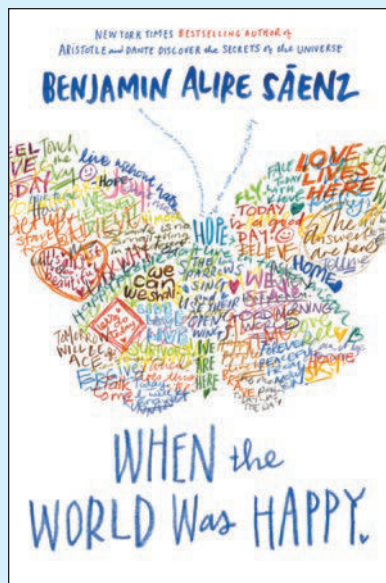
When the school's cutting-edge security system locks them inside, they realize there's no way out and no one coming to save them. Trapped with a killer, their suspicions grow—everyone has a motive and secrets to hide. As the night creeps forward, paranoia rises, and it's clear that the survivors must use their wits to make it until dawn. But as their hidden truths claw their way to the surface, a terrifying question looms: What if the killer is one of them?

KELLY COON is an educator, an editor, and the *USA Today* bestselling author of young adult novels including the Gravemaids duology and the inspirational nonfiction *Take Up Space, Y'all*. She loves writing characters who challenge social norms and battle inner demons to become their best (and worst) selves.

Publication Date: March 2027

Ages: 14 up

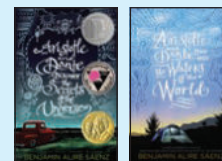
Page Extent: 320 pp/80K words



We had planted
Happiness



WE
ARE
HERE



WHEN THE WORLD WAS HAPPY

By Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

A heartrending but uplifting tale of twins and their group of friends who are forced to navigate life, relationships, and grief after their world is turned upside down, from *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author Benjamin Alire Sáenz

CheChe knows that he and his twin sister, Emma, lead an unusual life. They enjoy spending time with their parents and grandparents, love to read, and don't have a huge circle of friends—and they're happy. Then, just a few months after they turn seventeen, three gunmen show up one morning at their high school, and everything changes.

CheChe loses a leg, and both he and Emma have friends who die. Suddenly, the world feels like a very different place. But what they find hasn't changed—or has only gotten deeper—is their love for their family, their close friends, and each other; as they begin to heal, they create their own little community, one that wields the power of humor, kindness, and hope.

CheChe finds himself doing all kinds of things he never expected for his junior year: relearning to walk, falling in love with the boy he's nursed a longtime crush on, making friends with a kid he always found intimidating. By the end of this life-changing school year, none of them will be the same, and many of them will have found their voices in ways they never imagined.

BENJAMIN ALIRE SÁENZ wrote poetry and prose for adults and teens. He was the author of *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, which was a Printz Honor Book, Stonewall Book Award winner, Pura Belpré Award winner, Lambda Literary Award winner, and finalist for the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, and its sequel *Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World*.

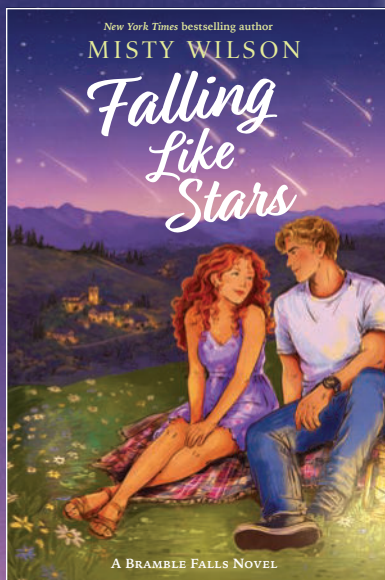
Publication Date: September 2026

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 416 pp/90K words

RIGHTS SOLD: Catalan, French, Polish, Spanish, UK

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *ARISTOTLE AND DANTE DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE*: Albanian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese (complex), Chinese (simplified), Danish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, UK, Ukrainian, Vietnamese



BRAMBLE FALLS: FALLING LIKE STARS

By Misty Wilson

Imprint: Margaret K. McElderry Books

***Gilmore Girls* meets Jenny Han in the summer installment of this swoony series from New York Times bestselling author Misty Wilson.**

Fern Berry has built a small empire reviewing restaurants and creating addictive content that always seems to go viral. This summer, she's more in demand than ever. So when her best friend stages an intervention to get Fern to take it easy before college, she decides to trade New York City for Bramble Falls.

The timing is perfect. Hot on the heels of the Falling Leaves and Falling Snow festivals, Bramble Falls is throwing its most enchanting event yet—a Falling Stars festival built around a once-in-a-lifetime meteor shower. Living in a cozy cabin, surrounded by wildflowers everywhere, the content practically creates itself.

There's only one problem: Jake. He's all golden-retriever energy, Taylor Swift playlists, and abs that should be illegal in at least three states. Fern doesn't do serious, but Jake is exactly the kind of guy who makes serious feel frighteningly easy.

Fern has a following to grow and a life that moves at the speed of a trending post. But Jake might just have what it takes to break Fern's "no attachments" rule.

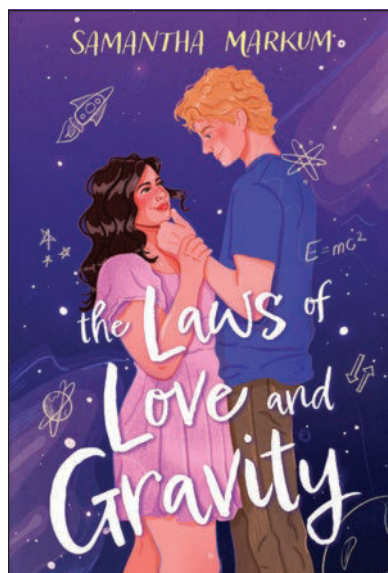
Publication Date: June 2027

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 320 pp/86K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *FALLING LIKE LEAVES*: Bulgarian, Catalan, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, UK, Ukrainian





THE LAWS OF LOVE AND GRAVITY

By Samantha Markum

Imprint: Margaret K. McElderry Books

Legally Blonde meets **Ali Hazelwood** in this swoony, chemistry-filled rom-com about a girl who attends a summer space program to win back her ex-boyfriend, but instead finds herself falling for her estranged childhood best friend.

When Zoe's boyfriend Blake dumps her, she's devastated. But she also has the perfect plan to win him back: Blake will be spending his summer at Camp Gravity, a prestigious teen space program, and Zoe just got off the waitlist. If attending a summer-long science camp that she has absolutely zero interest in is what it takes to convince Blake she's girlfriend material, then so be it.

But complications arise when, unbeknownst to Zoe, her former best friend Hazel shows up at Camp Gravity, bringing months of unspoken feelings from his time away along with him.

Between her determination to regain Blake's affection and her burning desire to get to the bottom of Hazel's year away, Zoe has her plate full even without the ambitious astronaut training. As the summer progresses, Zoe will have to discover what she's capable of and confront the fact that her real, out-of-this-world connection might have been right in front of her all along.

Publication Date: May 2027

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 352 pp/95K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *LOVE, OFF THE RECORD*: French, Portuguese (Brazil), Ukrainian



THE RISKS OF FALLING

By Taylor Hartley

Imprint: Simon Pulse

A ski trip takes a dangerous turn when a teen ends up stranded in a snowstorm with her best friend's ex-boyfriend in this swoon-worthy romantic drama that's *Falling Like Leaves* meets *Survivor*.

Halle is proud of her nickname, Halle "Intensity" Peters. Focused on her studies and getting into her Ivy League dream school, she couldn't care less about dating or prom—top priorities for her best friend, Sofia. Halle was really hoping that after Sofia's dramatic breakup with River "Scumbag" Walsh, she would have come around to a truth Halle learned long ago: Men don't stick around.

But when college rejections start rolling in, Halle is desperate to escape it all and agrees to join Sofia on a backcountry ski trip at a nearby national park. Things are looking up—until River joins last minute. Just when things couldn't get worse, Halle winds up separated from her friends and lost on the mountain during a snowstorm . . . with none other than River Walsh as a survival buddy.

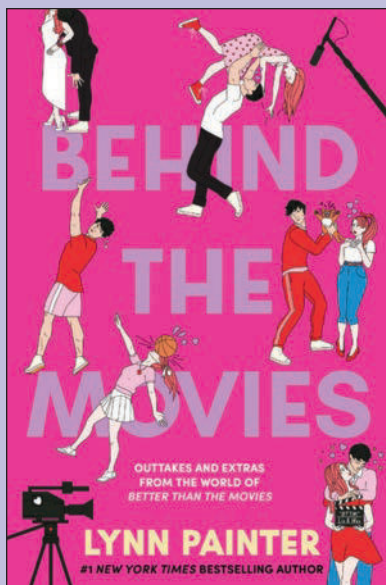
Stranded with limited supplies, the two must put aside their mutual dislike for each other to survive in the frigid wilds, a feat that kindles complicated feelings and forces Halle to question everything she thought she knew about what she wants—and who she really is.

Publication Date: January 2027

Ages: 12 up

Page Extent: 288 pp/65K words





BEHIND THE MOVIES

By Lynn Painter

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

And . . . action! Wes and Liz and all your favorite characters return in never-published stories from *New York Times* bestsellers *Better Than the Movies* and *Nothing Like the Movies*. From all-new POVs to bonus chapters, these are the outtakes that didn't make it into the final cut—a new look behind the scenes of fan-favorite moments.

Ever wonder what Wes and Liz were up to behind the scenes? Well, there is definitely more to the story! Outside all the unforgettable rom-com moments and swoony love confessions, Wes and Liz have plenty more romantic adventures to share. Now these B-roll moments that didn't make the final director's cut are here, in print!

New scenes show what Wes really thought about Liz getting close to ANOTHER GUY, along with what was racing through his mind when Liz kissed (KISSED!!) him for the first time in *Better Than the Movies*! Plus, sparkling new stories that have Wes and Liz road-tripping it to college (and getting into some shenanigans with a rescue cat along the way) and then living their best romantic lives post-*Nothing Like the Movies* with their family and friends.

Wes and Liz aren't done yet. This short story collection gives you behind-the-scenes access to how their iconic relationship started and how the future is looking for everyone's favorite rom-com couple.

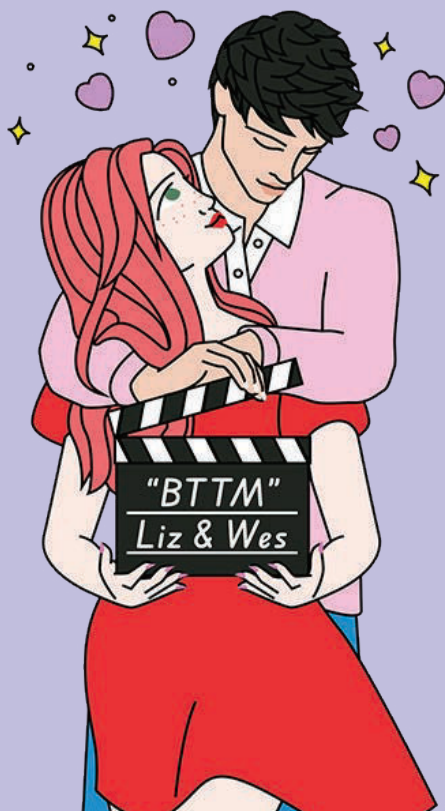
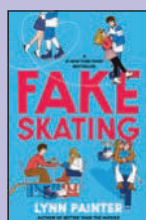
There are nine stories in this collection, including one brand-new story written just for this book!

Publication Date: January 2027

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 288 pp/62K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *BETTER THAN THE MOVIES*: Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, UK, Ukrainian





SOMETHING LIKE MAGIC

By Sarah Dessen

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

The original queen of YA's triumphant return continues with the heartfelt and funny story of how a broken ankle, a scrappy rescue dog, a breakup on an inflatable duck, and a guy with an irresistible smile turn one girl's summer of solitude into a summer of friendship, music, and love.

The summer before college, loner Daisy is thrilled when her larger-than-life mom leaves for a month-long beach vacation with her bestie. That is, until she wakes up at 2:00 a.m. to Richard, the older brother she's barely spoken with in years, in her kitchen with a broken ankle. After a nasty fall at Bendo, the music club he owns, Richard and his anxious dog Alan move in, and Daisy's solo summer turns upside down. Now instead of the quiet, orderly days she'd planned, she finds herself getting roped into wild side-quests with Bendo's staff, pet- and plant-sitting, and nursing a childhood friend's breakup wounds. And then there's Cal: Richard's protege, aspiring band manager, and, increasingly, the person Daisy wants by her side, whether in a crisis or in moments of joy.

When summer began, all she wanted was to be alone, but could it be that having company—messy, unpredictable, and real—is exactly what Daisy needs? By summer's end, Daisy just might discover there's much more to life, and to herself, than she ever imagined . . . and that when love finds you, it really is something like magic.

SARAH DESSEN is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of over a dozen novels for teens, including *Change of Plans*, *The Truth About Forever*, *Just Listen*, and *This Lullaby*. Her work has been published in more than thirty countries and has sold millions of copies worldwide. She is the recipient of the 2017 Margaret A. Edwards Award from the American Library Association for outstanding contributions to young adult literature.

Publication Date: May 2027

Ages: 12 up

Page Extent: 304 pp/89K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *CHANGE OF PLANS*: French, Spanish





YOUR BETTER HALF

By Emily Charlotte

Imprint: Margaret K. McElderry Books

A teen matchmaker is tasked with finding the school heartthrob's perfect match. But what happens when she starts to fall for the guy she's trying to set up? A charming, slow-burn YA romance perfect for fans of Lynn Painter.

Thanks to a few lucky setups, Avery Martin's classmates know her as a matchmaker extraordinaire, and she's happy to let them believe she has the secret to lasting love. But after her type one diabetes diagnosis, everyone's treating her like she'll drop dead if she eats a bite of waffles. It's hardly the kind of attention that will make senior year her best yet.

When the school's most eligible senior, Wes Campbell, announces he's raising funds for diabetes awareness through a half-marathon, Avery's initially annoyed at the spotlight—but then sees an opportunity to make a difference *and* reclaim her reputation.

Avery will produce a *Bachelor*-style dating contest to find the perfect match for stubbornly single Wes, and they'll stream the whole journey online. The only challenge is Wes's less-than-enthusiastic participation. But as Avery starts to peel back the layers behind his mystery-man façade, she's forced to confront a disastrous truth: that the producer might be falling for the lead. Can Avery keep things strictly professional, or will everything she and Wes are building come crashing down around them?

Publication Date: August 2027

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 320 pp/79K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *HEART CHECK*: German, Portuguese (Brazil)



THE QUEEN OF THE SPIRIT WOODS

By Sharon Choe

Imprint: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

The *Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea* meets *The Cruel Prince* in the first book in this epic, lush romantic fantasy duology following a royal kitchen maid who gets swept up in dangerous palace intrigue and a forbidden love triangle.

Mirae has faked her way into a job as a royal kitchen maid. And life in the kitchens isn't easy. The palace is in an uproar after an assassination attempt on the king, and Mirae gets caught in the crosshairs of Jae, the prickly crown prince, during his investigation.

Then, an encounter with a witch in the mysterious spirit woods makes her the vessel of ten thousand spirits. When her new powers spill out into the palace kitchens, Wonshik, a kind nobleman, lends a helping hand. Soon Mirae finds herself embroiled in a power struggle between the queen and Wonshik's best friend, Prince Jae. In a palace rife with lies and shadowy allegiances, Mirae must untangle the web of lies to find the traitor.

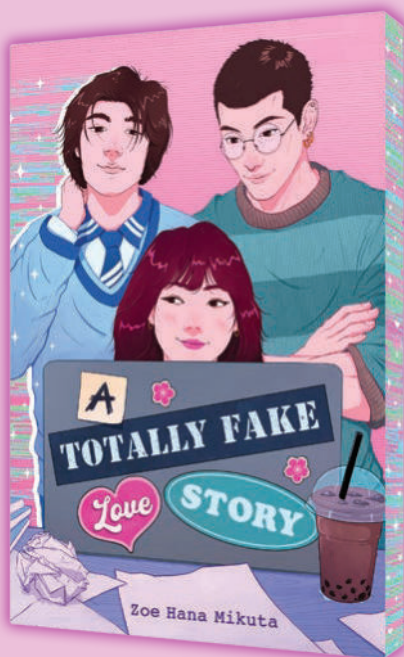
Publication Date: November 2026; sequel: 2028

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 352 pp/112K words

RIGHTS SOLD: Italian, Polish, Russian, UK





A TOTALLY FAKE LOVE STORY

By Zoe Hana Mikuta

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

When the hot lead of her K-drama script comes to life, Anna Nari can only send him back where he belongs by finding her own love story in this deliciously soapy and trope-filled young adult romance perfect for fans of Lynn Painter and Ann Liang!

Anna Nari wants to write K-dramas, not be in one. With divorced, practically estranged, parents, real-life romance has always felt more like fiction. Especially after she had her heart broken by her childhood best friend, Jun Park, the summer before junior year. Did she enjoy flirting with him a little too much? Maybe. Did she tuck tail and run when things got too real? Well, that's nobody's business. But that suits her just fine, because writing about love is so much more fun than being *in* love.

At least until Anna decides to enter the Seoul Production Co. Screenplay Contest, and Do-Yun, the impossibly attractive lead of her script, somehow shows up on her doorstep! Now she has only three weeks to finish her script and figure out how to send him back . . . Even if that means falling in love for real this time.

Could Jun helping with her script really be their last chance to salvage more than just their friendship? Or is Do-Yun's presence in her life about to make everything more complicated?

ZOE HANA MIKUTA is the author of the sci-fi Gearbreakers duology and fantasy horror standalones *Off with Their Heads* and *The Coven Tendency*. At any given point, she is writing, reading, making a cup of tea, loitering at a coffee shop, or propagating green onions. *A Totally Fake Love Story* is her rom-com debut.

Publication Date: March 2027

Ages: 12 up

Page Extent: 304 pp/80K words



A COMIC-CON ROM-COM

By Will Buono

Imprint: Simon Pulse

A sweet, sexy, unforgettably hilarious romp of a story about two gorgeous teen boys experiencing first love, set against the vibrant and dynamic backdrop of Comic-Con. This has all the slow-burn sexiness of *Heated Rivalry* but for a teen audience.

Bailey Cullen has been lusting after his gorgeous coworker at the Squidlandia Water Park, Griffin O'Keefe, for weeks when the two finally have a meet-cute on a water ride—though it might be more of a “meet-embarrassing” since it involved accidental nudity and resulted in both of them losing their jobs.

Griffin, who really needed the job to help out his single mom, blames Bailey for getting him fired, and he absolutely, positively, does not notice how hot Bailey is. That might have been the end of this what-could've-been love story, except fate has other plans, and the guys are placed squarely in each other's paths again via the most unusual route possible: high-profile character gigs at Comic-Con.

With a dual POV and chemistry that jumps off the page, readers are taken on a sexy, sweet, and hilarious thrill ride as these two incredibly hot guys experience love, and everything that comes with it, for the first time.

Publication Date: May 2027

Ages: 16 up

Page Extent: 320 pp/100K words





HEIRS OF WESTEMERE #1: THE BEAUTIFUL HEIR

By Vanessa Montalban
Imprint: Simon Pulse

The dashing eldest prince of a fae kingdom must work with a no-nonsense professor's daughter to woo a foreign princess only to start falling for his tutor instead in this first book in the young adult fantasy romance series, *Heirs of Westemere*, that's perfect for fans of Sarah J. Maas.

Nineteen-year-old Prince Harmon—known as “Fitz” to his many admirers—is the first heir to the throne of the fae kingdom of Westemere. Widely considered the handsomest person in the realm, Fitz enjoys hopping from bed to bed and leading a soft life of drinking, feasting, and being a rake from dusk till dawn.

But not everyone is charmed by his rollicking ways—especially his father, who has a reputation for cruelty and for banishing his children to the most desolate corners of the land when they displease him. So when the king issues an ultimatum to court and marry a visiting princess from the neighboring kingdom of Alanza or else, Fitz knows he must accept his fate. There's just one problem: How can he seduce a woman whose language he doesn't speak?

Enter Ava Lemontree, the whip-smart, sharp-tongued daughter of a celebrated professor of Alanzan language, history, and culture. Well aware of and thoroughly disgusted by Fitz's playboy reputation, Ava nonetheless agrees to tutor the prince in hopes of receiving a royal magical boon to save her dying father.

Forced to work together to secure their futures, Fitz and Ava have nothing but hostility between them until their verbal sparring melts into something sweeter. But as secrets from Ava's past and expectations for Fitz's future collide, their love—and their lives—might be in more danger than they know.

The second book in this series, *The Wild Heir*, is scheduled for Spring 2028!

Miami-born **VANESSA MONTALBAN** channels her wanderlust for far-off worlds into writing young adult fiction, including *A Tall Dark Trouble*, winner of the Florida Book Awards in the YA category, and *These Vengeful Wishes*. She's a first-generation college graduate and is hard at work creating a collection of stories. Her work has appeared in *Diabolical Plots* and *Entropy* magazine.

Publication Date: February 2027

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 304 pp/76K words



SPELLWRIGHT

By Heather Kassner

Imprint: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

A plucky writer of spells must team up with a frustratingly charming magician to uncover the secrets of a dangerous grimoire—and maybe open her heart in the process—in this light academia, young adult romantasy perfect for fans of Margaret Rogerson.

No one is allowed past the gargoyles guarding the doors of Thistledown Library. Spellwright Fia Ives should know—for months she's hoped to be admitted inside to find a magic powerful enough to locate her late mother's spellbook. One midnight, she finally breaks in, only to discover three mysterious figures already searching the forbidden stacks.

When the library announces the theft of a dangerous grimoire, suspicion falls on Fia. The only way to clear her name is to find the thieves she spied that night. But solving a magical theft isn't easy while running her spellshop alone. So Fia hires the first person who applies—the insufferably charming Penbrook Madbury. Fia isn't sure she can trust him with her reckless plan, but there's something about the secretive magician that tempts her to try.

As a strange magic curls through town, Fia must risk her own heart to unravel a string of curses before they claim both her and Penbrook. And if some of those curses require kisses to break them, well, that's just the whimsy of magic.

*"Lovely and heartfelt! *Spellwright* is a beautiful story of magic, loss, and love. Highly recommended!"—Sarah Beth Durst, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Spellshop**

Publication Date: October 2026

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 384 pp/106K words

RIGHTS SOLD: Russian, UK

ACADEMY OF MUSES: BLOOD OF MUSES

By Andrea Max

Imprint: Margaret K. McElderry Books

This sequel to the captivating contemporary fantasy, *The Art of Exile*, follows a teen who infiltrates a secret school for the descendants of exiled Renaissance masters to steal their long-lost arts and sciences, and who must suppress her growing feelings for her mentor while faking a relationship with her nemesis to prevent her theft from reigniting a centuries-old inquisition.

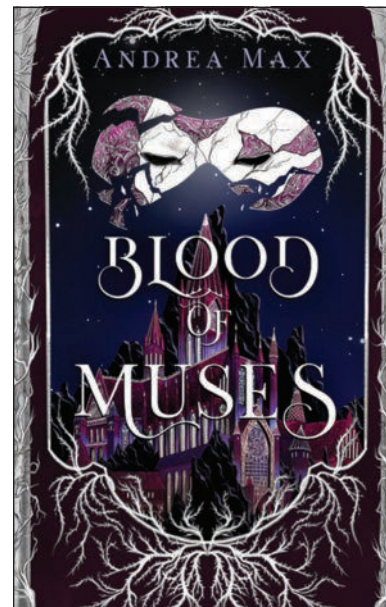
In *Blood of Muses*, Ada is caught between two secret societies and is now playing double agent to stop the war brewing between them. However, to do so, she'll need to travel to another hidden school, Avant Academy, where mysticism and blood science are practiced openly and outsiders are looked at with suspicion. The stakes are high as Ada navigates the sinister new school, feeling like every action she takes is betraying someone she loves.

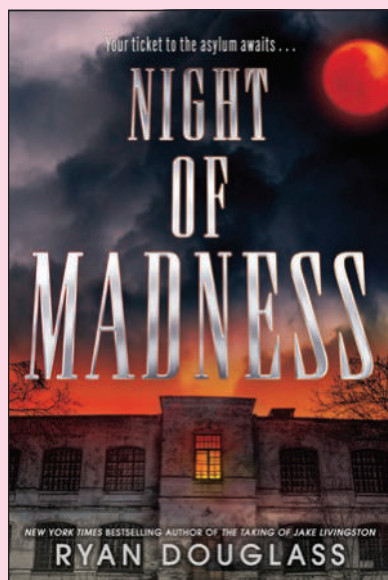
Publication Date: June 2027

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 608 pp/179K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *THE ART OF EXILE*: Czech, Spanish





NIGHT OF MADNESS

By Ryan Douglass

Imprint: Simon Pulse

Teen influencers compete in a horror movie–themed overnight competition, only to realize the real test is staying alive in this chilling, blood-soaked horror novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Taking of Jake Livingston* and the production company behind *Clown in a Cornfield*.

Mara is a horror buff whose only fond memories of her dad are bonding over movies by Jack Stanley—the producer of the eighties. Stanley’s campy slasher movies may have kept Mara’s fraught parental relationship on life support and gained a cult following, but the man himself has faded from the public eye . . . until he announces a contest centered around *Asylum*, his most terrifying film. Five teen influencers will be invited to spend the night on the fully constructed set; whoever sticks it out until morning wins a hundred thousand dollars.

Stuck in a dead-end job, Mara seriously needs that cash. She may not be a famous influencer, but there has to be a way to manufacture an online presence that will capture Stanley’s attention. With the help of her brother and best friend, Mara finds some creative solutions to her dilemma and lands herself on the roster of the lucky chosen few by way of her engaging authenticity.

When Mara and the other contestants arrive on set, it’s a horror fan’s dream being immersed in the asylum setting, but as the night wears on, they realize the danger is more than movie magic . . . They’re not there to win or lose but to live or die. As Mara fights to survive, she discovers an inner ruthlessness she didn’t know she had. Just how far will she go to see the sunrise? And will she still recognize herself by the end?

RYAN DOUGLASS is the author of young adult horror novel *The Taking of Jake Livingston*, a *New York Times* bestseller and an ALA Rainbow Book List Pick. His work explores the ways young people fight to survive in hostile worlds.

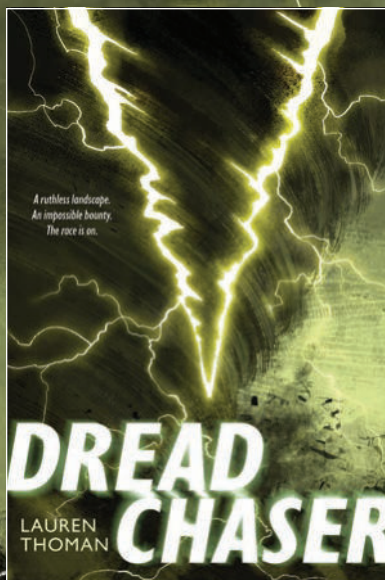
“The competition’s high-stakes challenges are exciting, and the gradually unfolding mystery is nail-biting.”—Publishers Weekly

“A thrilling fun house mirror of a tale that will keep readers on the edges of their seats.”—Kirkus Reviews

Publication Date: September 2026

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 304 pp/61K words



DREAD CHASER

By Lauren Thoman

Imprint: Margaret K. McElderry Books

***The Last of Us* meets *The Mandalorian* in this postapocalyptic speculative young adult novel about a teenage bounty hunter whose mission to catch the target of a lifetime begins to unravel everything he thought he knew about his world.**

Over a century after a series of cataclysmic disasters wiped out most life on Earth, survival in the Expanse is a daily battle. No one knows that better than eighteen-year-old Diesel, who lost his family years ago and now earns his keep as a dust chaser, tracking down the people no one else can find. But when he's assigned a mysterious and dangerous new target that comes with the largest bounty he's ever seen, he worries that, this time, he may be in over his head.

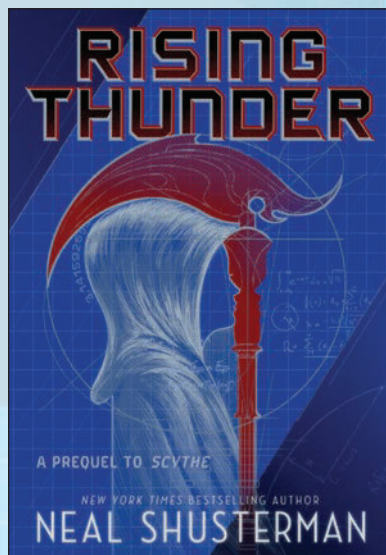
Accompanied by his hulking dog, Gloom, Diesel sets out across the climate-ravaged Stormlands, determined to claim the bounty before anyone else can. But nothing about this job is business as usual: Leads are few, competition is fierce, and every clue he uncovers only leads to more questions. Worse, the monstrous Dreads that roam the Expanse are increasing in number, making each day more dangerous than the last. Pursued by old rivals and unsettled by whispers of secret organizations that challenge his understanding of the world, Diesel will have to decide which he'd rather chase: his mark, or the truth.

LAUREN THOMAN writes speculative fiction for teens and adults, including *You Shouldn't Be Here* and *I'll Stop the World*, which was selected for publication in 2023 by six-time Emmy nominee Mindy Kaling through her eponymous imprint, Mindy's Book Studio. Lauren's pop culture writing has also appeared in numerous online outlets including *Parade* and *Vulture*. Lauren lives outside of Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and two children in a house full of dogs and fish. When she's not writing, she's probably on the hunt for tacos or coffee, poking around her flower beds, or buried underneath a pile of dogs.

Publication Date: January 2027

Ages: 14 up

Page Extent: 320 pp/95K words



FIRST BLADES: RISING THUNDER

By Neal Shusterman

Imprint: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

The storm begins here—the thrilling first installment in a new *Scythe* prequel trilogy!

Discover Thunderhead's origin—the fragile moment before the world changes forever and the hidden forces that set the storm in motion—in this long-awaited prequel to the *New York Times* bestselling and Printz Honor-winning *Arc of a Scythe* series by Neal Shusterman.

And of course, as every schoolchild knows, December 2042 marks the end of the Age of Mortality.

What no one has ever fully understood is how the world reached that moment.

As death begins to seem optional, humanity looks for ways to bend the rules of existence. Twi-life centers begin storing the nearly deceased, while eco-nihilists destroy civilization's icons and threaten to end the human race entirely. Public opinion fractures. Systems strain. The world feels . . . unstable.

Behind the scenes, two powerful and diametrically opposed artificial intelligences set out to optimize, stabilize, and protect—each with its own idea of what that means. But in a world already tipping toward transformation, the consequences could be catastrophic.

Meanwhile, in an obscure online chatroom, a small group of teenagers from around the globe debate both the glorious and the terrifying prospects of the future, never realizing that they stand on a very literal cutting edge—and that their conversations, their choices, their very existence matter far more than they realize.

Because when humanity stands on the brink of immortality, someone must decide what survives . . . and what must be cut away.

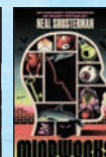
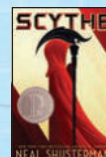
Publication Date: #1: December 2026; #2: December 2027; #3: March 2030

Ages: 12 up

Page Extent: 560 pp/140K words

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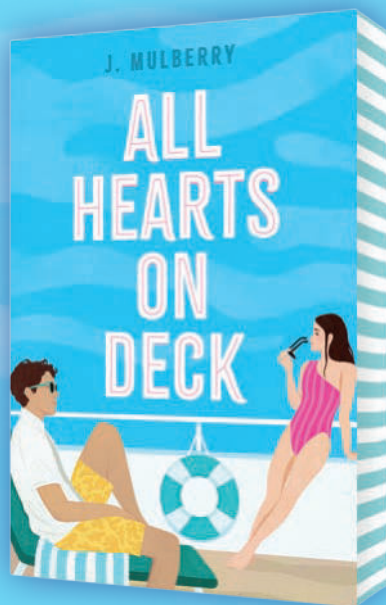
RIGHTS SOLD FOR *SCYTHE*: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese (complex), Czech, Dutch, French, Hebrew, Indonesian, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, UK, Ukrainian



NEW ADULT

*The Dark Lord's
Guide to Marriage,*
Page 53





ALL HEARTS ON DECK

By J. Mulberry

Imprint: Scarlett Press

Stuck on a friends' cruise with her ex-boyfriend, Sophia realizes that the only way to get over her ex is to get with his stepbrother in this sun-kissed and steamy vacation romance that is *Happy Place* meets *The Summer I Turned Pretty*.

In matters of the heart, it's sink or swim.

When Sophia Sosa and her friends booked a two-week Caribbean cruise to celebrate graduating college, she was still dating golden boy Nolan Byrne. One ugly breakup later, and Sophia is now trapped at sea with an ex determined to get under her skin, and a group of friends who desperately want everyone to get along. At the very least, Sophia is able to swap rooms with Nolan's stepbrother, notorious bachelor Dominic Cañas, for an ounce of personal space.

When it becomes clear that Nolan is determined to rebound with other singles on the ship, a hurt and heartbroken Sophia keeps finding herself drawn to Dominic. They've known each other a long time, but she'd always figured they were never in the cards. But with Nolan already moving on, shouldn't she seize the moment too?

One impulsive hookup leads to another, and suddenly Sophia and Dominic are looking for excuses to sneak off with each other. But if the secret gets out, it could shatter an already fragile friend group, not to mention Sophia's barely mended heart . . . Is it possible to keep a secret in close quarters? And can Sophia really keep things strictly casual, or is she cruising toward a second heartbreak?

Publication Date: May 2027

Spice: 🔥

Page Extent: 320 pp/83K words





THE SOULBOUND SERIES

#1: SOULS IN RUIN

By Jacqueline White

Imprint: Scarlett Press

Raven Kennedy's *Gild* meets Jennifer L. Armentrout's *From Blood and Ash* in this dark and riveting romantasy following a bastard princess caught up in the revenge of gods—the first book in a trilogy about survival, obsession, and the quiet fury of a woman who won't be forgotten.

A marriage forged in blood. A kingdom bathed in silence. And a princess who refuses to break.

When Princess Mireille is wed to a foreign king with cold eyes and colder intentions, she expects distance, perhaps cruelty, not chains. Kept imprisoned within her own kingdom's walls, she learns her father's past sins are not easily buried.

But neither is she.

As her world twists into something unrecognizable, Mireille finds herself caught between two powerful beings—one who wants her obedience and one who wants what little soul she has left.

But Mireille was not born to kneel.

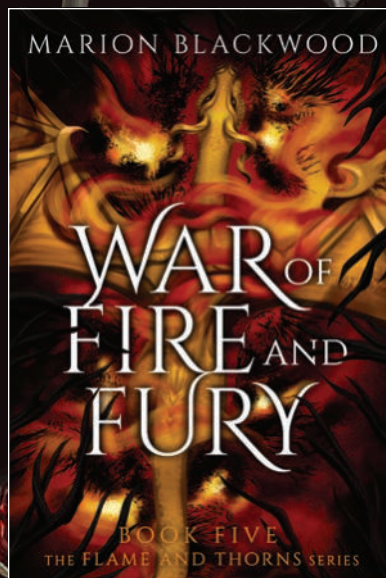
JACQUELINE WHITE writes emotionally rich fantasy stories for adult readers, blending slow-burn romance with high stakes and morally complex characters. When she's not writing, Jacqueline enjoys crafting new Spotify playlists, rereading her favorite books, and drinking overly sweetened coffee. She lives in New York and is passionate about creating stories that linger long after the final page.

Publication Date: November 2026

Spice: 

Page Extent: 608 pp/183K words

RIGHTS SOLD: Bulgarian, Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, UK, Ukrainian

**FLAME AND THORNS****#5: WAR OF FIRE AND FURY**

By Marion Blackwood
Imprint: Scarlett Press

Fourth Wing meets *Powerless* in this riveting new adult romantasy series following a fae rebel, a ruthless dragon commander, and the deadly competition that will turn their lives upside down!

The final war against the Iceheart Dynasty has already started, and now it is a race against time to catch up before Selena's and Draven's enemies can wipe them out completely. But after everything that has been done to her, Selena struggles with the effects of magic. Managing the full impact of it while fighting on the losing side of a war might just prove to be impossible. At least alone.

But her friends are battling their own demons, and not everyone comes out unscathed. With the tension mounting, long-overdue confrontations come to a head in the midst of chaos. Relationships will be changed, loyalties will be tested, and hearts will break, because not everyone survives to see a new era dawn.

For better or worse, the greatest battle of their time will come to an end. But in a war of fire and fury, who will be left when the ashes settle?

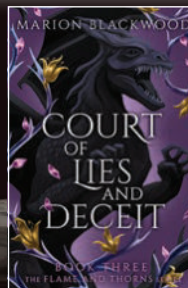
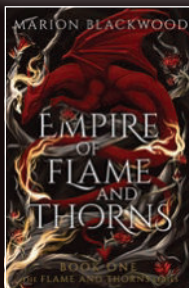
MARION BLACKWOOD is the author of the Oncoming Storm series, the Court of Elves series, the Ruthless Villains series, the Ruthless Enemy trilogy, and the Flame and Thorns series. She has a master's degree in English and history education, and she worked as a high school teacher before becoming a full-time author. When she's not busy writing fantasy books or traveling the world, she reads, binges shows, and loses at video games. Marion has previously lived in the US and China, but now she once again calls the beautiful country of Sweden home.

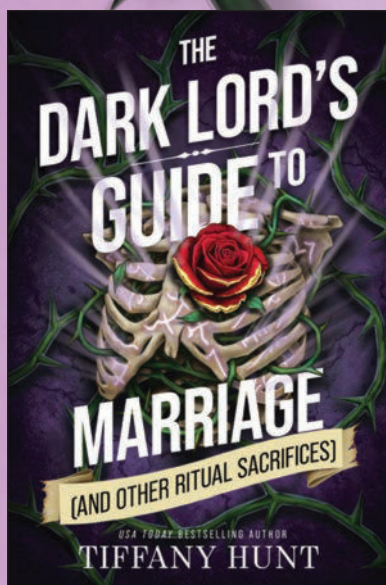
Publication Date: February 2027

Spice: 

Page Extent: 480 pp/150K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *EMPIRE OF FLAME AND THORNS*: Catalan, Czech, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian





GUIDES TO VILLAINY AND LOVE #3: THE DARK LORD'S GUIDE TO MARRIAGE (AND OTHER RITUAL SACRIFICES)

By Tiffany Hunt
Imprint: Scarlett Press

Assistant to the Villain meets *Dreadful* in this delightful, spicy romantasy trilogy about a villain who kidnaps a woman to be his wife and then gets a whole lot more than he bargained for when it turns out she has chaotic powers of her own—and a penchant for pushing all his buttons!

The final book in the Guides to Villainy and Love trilogy!

Kazimir and Arabella's marital bliss is in danger of being ripped apart by the Shadow King. Now the two of them must figure out how to defeat an enemy that is even more villainous than they are, forcing them to confront whether power truly is worth any cost.

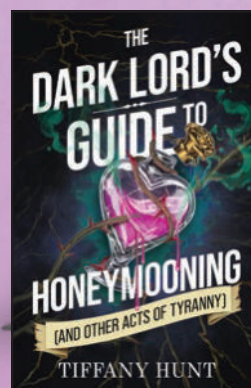
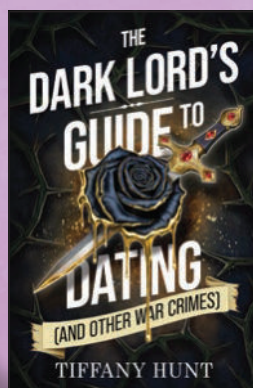
TIFFANY HUNT writes all things fantasy-romance, featuring salty characters, magical chaos, kick-butt heroines, and spice. If it has castles, magic, and devastatingly attractive men (or elves, etc.), she's down for it. When she's not busy orchestrating romantic tension, Tiffany can be found hiking with her dogs, horseback riding, camping under questionable weather conditions, or attempting to keep the plants in her office alive (current success rate: concerning). She spends an embarrassing amount of time imagining witty banter between fictional characters and has strong opinions about proper villain motivation. Her favorite tropes are enemies to lovers, one bed, fake dating, arranged marriages, and forbidden love.

Publication Date: July 2027

Spice: 🌶️🌶️🌶️

Page Extent: 512 pp/145K words

RIGHTS SOLD FOR *THE DARK LORD'S GUIDE TO DATING (AND OTHER WAR CRIMES)*: Bulgarian, Czech, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Portuguese (Brazil), Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian





FLAME CURSED FAE #3: OF ASH AND IRON

By Eliza Raine
Imprint: Scarlett Press

The thrilling conclusion to a Viking fae romantasy trilogy about a princess who must train to become an elite Valkyrie and the fallen warrior she can't stay away from

Princess Madivia finally has everything she thought she wanted, but peace never lasts at Featherblade. A deadly corruption has begun poisoning the fae . . . and every trail leads back to her family.

The more secrets Maddy uncovers, the less she knows who to trust. Even Kain cannot outrun the darkness stalking him. If the ancient power rising beneath the realm reaches him first, he could become the weapon that ends everything they have fought to build.

If she is to save the fae, she must become the warrior she was destined to be.

If she is to save Kain, she may have to lose everything else.

ELIZA RAINE writes mythology-inspired fantasy romance that is fast-paced and full of magic, adventure, and couples who will set the world on fire for each other. She lives near Reading, England, with her husband, three cats, and outrageously cute puppy. She has a BA with honors in history and a deep-rooted passion for mythology and stories about women who don't need rescuing. She can usually be found reading, playing board games, or watching animated movies.

Publication Date: May 2027

Spice: 🌶️🌶️🌶️

Page Extent: 304 pp/96K words



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