

THEBENTAGENCY

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Children's Rights Guide

Frankfurt 2020

VANESSA L. TORRES

The Turning Pointe

World English: Knopf Books for Young Readers/ Random House

Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

Spring 2022. Manuscript available.

Tiny Pretty Things meets *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*: THE TURNING POINTE is a YA novel about family, music, fandom, friendship, and forgiveness, which follows a gifted 16-year-old dancer as she navigates complex family expectations, a new romance, and her own ambitions.

The daughter of a tyrant ballet master, Rosa seems destined to become the star principal dancer of her family's dance studio, but she would trade it all—her perfect feet, tutus, and Tchaikovsky—for a chance to dance wildly on stage with a rockstar...

Then she meets Nikki—the cross-dressing, funky boy who works in the dance shop—and when she's with him, a different future for herself doesn't feel so impossible.



RIGHTS SOLD:

Audio: Listening Library

Vanessa L. Torres is a firefighter paramedic and a founding member of the B.R.A.V.E. Foundation, a volunteer organization that works with firefighting and medical personnel in developing countries. She is the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow award from Rotary International for her work in Guatemala. Vanessa is married to another firefighter paramedic and they have a nine-year-old daughter. This is her debut novel.

FRED ACEVES

The New David Espinoza

World English: HarperTeen/HarperCollins

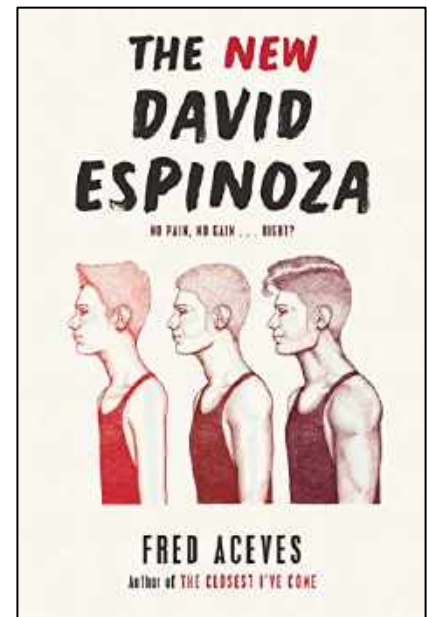
Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

February 2020. Finished books available.

For fans of *History Is All You Left Me* by Adam Silvera and books by Jason Reynolds and Matt De La Peña.

Scrawny David Espinoza is used to getting bullied, but when an embarrassing video of him goes viral, he decides to do something about his small size. Believing that being huge and strong will make him happy, he decides that this summer he'll go from skinny to the epitome of masculinity and do whatever it takes to build the muscles to get him there. But his unrealistic goal requires steroids and leads to an obsession that almost kills him.



**A Junior Library Guild selection
Nominated for the Young Adult Library Services Association
Amazing Audiobooks 2020 list**

"Searing and thoughtful." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"A much-needed novel." —**School Library Journal, starred review**

"...stands out through its examination of toxic masculinity, body image, and the dangers of pursuing perfection." —**Booklist**

"The shame David feels about his body and self-image, despite a caring father and supportive girlfriend, is masterfully conveyed through frenetic fluctuations between self-doubt and self-admiration.... an authentically told story that is both gripping and gut-wrenching." —**Publishers Weekly**

*"David's story is a hard one, but he is such a lovable character even when making bad choices. The story is real and considers a not often talked about problem of teen boys' body issues. The #ownvoices account is dark and sad at times, but hopeful in the end as David is able to turn away from the drugs. Similar to other stories of drug addiction in teens like *Heroine* by Mindy McGinnis and books about cyberbullying, and toxic masculinity, *THE NEW DAVID ESPINOZA* is a hard look at a very true reality not often explored in YA literature."* —**Young Adult Library Services Association**

Fred Aceves is an author, teacher, speaker and world traveler. His debut, *THE CLOSEST I'VE COME*, was a Kirkus Best Book of 2017. He was born in New York and currently lives in Mexico.

DANTE MEDEMA

The Truth Project

World English: Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins

Agent: Louise Fury

October 2020. Finished books available.

A contemporary and romantic coming-of-age novel written in a combined epistolary and verse format. For fans of *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo and *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han.

After taking a DNA test for a school project, a teen learns that her father is not who she thinks he is. Keeping her mother's secret, she's forced to keep the truth from the Shakespeare-loving father who raised her while setting out to find the man who shares half her genes. Traveling with the town's resident bad boy (who is nothing but good for her), she hopes to figure out if her genetic father is a secret worth uncovering. This is a novel about first loves, friendship, and the true meaning of family.

**An American Booksellers Association
Kids' "Indie Next" selection for Fall 2020**

"THE TRUTH PROJECT is a heart-wrenching quest for identity every YA reader will relate to, and a deep dive into the meaning of family."

— **Ellen Hopkins, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Crank***

"Dante Medema beautifully weaves together an emotional and riveting story of self-discovery, family, and finding out the truth that's inside us all. A stunning debut." —**Elizabeth Eulberg, author of *Past Perfect Life***

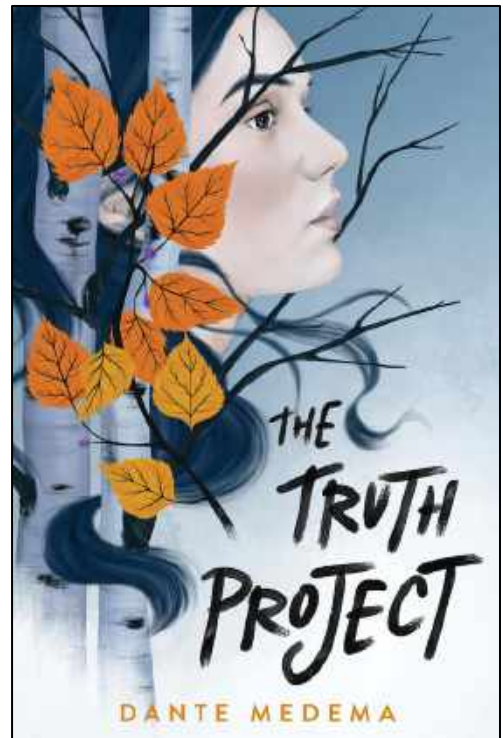
"A captivating, intricately woven story of identity, family, and how we're shaped by our surroundings ...Cordelia's search for belonging brims with honesty and heartache. Each lovely word of this novel-in-verse wields a special kind of power." —**Rachel Lynn Solomon, author of *You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone*.**

"Gripping. THE TRUTH PROJECT is a fast-paced hybrid novel that blends verse together with texts and emails to paint a picture of a girl trying to figure out who she really is." —**Kip Wilson, author of *White Rose***

"With luminous writing and characters who feel like friends, THE TRUTH PROJECT is a book with its own gravitational pull. A lyrical, evocative exploration of family, identity, and seeking your truth. Wholly original and totally incandescent." —**Laurie Elizabeth Flynn, author of *Firsts* and *All Eyes on Her***

"THE TRUTH PROJECT is a brave and beautiful debut, shining with honesty, courage, and hope." —**Laura Taylor Namey, author of *The Library of Lost Things***

Dante Medema is a wife, mother, and contemporary YA writer who lives in Alaska. She speaks German and this is her debut novel.



RIGHTS SOLD:

Germany: Thienmann

Poland: Media Rodzina

VALERIE TEJEDA

Hollywood Witch Hunter

World English: Bloomsbury

Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

2015. Finished books available.

The Mortal Instruments meets *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* —with witches.

From the moment she first learned the truth about witches...she knew she was born to fight them.

Now, at 16, Iris is the lone girl on the Witch Hunters Special Ops Team. But when Iris meets a boy named Arlo, he might just be the key to preventing an evil uprising in Southern California. Together they're ready to protect the human race at all costs. Because that's what witch hunters do.

Welcome to Hollywood.



"The Mortal Instruments meets Buffy the Vampire Slayer set in the cutthroat world of Hollywood—all featuring a kick-ass...leading lady. That's enough to get my fingers over the 'pre-order.'" —**MTV.com**

"Any fan of Buffy or The Vampire Diaries could easily become obsessed." —**Teen Vogue**

"Fast-reading, saucy, and delightfully fun." —**School Library Journal**

"Valerie Tejada makes a splash with her debut novel." —**USA Today**

"Valerie Tejada's HOLLYWOOD WITCH HUNTER shines as bright as the Hollywood sign, with heart stopping intrigue and action and glamour, Tejada weaves a witchy web worthy of Buffy comparisons, while building a new generation of fiercely compelling heroines and villains." —**Danielle Paige, New York Times-bestselling author of Dorothy Must Die**

Valerie Tejada is a writer, editor, and internationally published journalist. She has written for *Vanity Fair*, *MTV*, *Teen Vogue*, *Marie Claire*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Huffington Post*, and she's had multiple articles cited in scholarly journals. Valerie has a bachelor's degree in psychology and is the creator of Big Cosmic Energy, an Instagram account that grew to 33,000 followers in 7 months.

FRED ACEVES

The Closest I've Come

World English: HarperTeen/HarperCollins

Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

November 2017. Finished books available.

Adam Silvera's *History Is All You Left Me* meets Becky Albertalli's *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*.

A poor Hispanic teen surrounded by gang violence must choose between the short game—stay and support his family—or the long game—finish school and get out.

When he is placed in an after-school program for troubled teens, he meets two teens who are nothing like him: a free-spirited girl with electric-blue hair and a gay boy obsessed with vintage clothes. His two new friendships change the way he sees the world and give him hope that he can escape an abusive home life, finish school, and avoid becoming an inner-city statistic. But then everything spirals out of control...



**A Kirkus Best Book of 2017
A New York Public Library Best Teen Book of 2017
School & Library New Voices Pick for Fall 2017
2018 American Library Association Best Fiction for
Young Adults Nominee**

Praise for THE CLOSEST I'VE COME:

"Heart-wrenching, funny, hopeful, and not-to-be-missed." —**Kirkus Reviews**, starred review

"[A] memorable, hard-hitting portrait of a teenager trying to shape his own destiny after being dealt a difficult hand." —**Publishers Weekly**, starred review

"A debut that's as stunning as it is powerful, Aceves' novel is a story is a complex story about family and friendships. Don't sleep on this one." —**Paste Magazine**

"Aceves has written a remarkable debut novel....[E]very reader will enjoy Aceves' deft handling of this coming-of-age journey. THE CLOSEST I'VE COME will be a welcome addition to the growing canon of quality urban young adult literature." —**VOYA**

"It takes about half a page of this debut to become convinced Aceves is an author to watch, but there's no point at which you'll want to put down his strongly voiced coming-of-age, perfect for fans of When I Was the Greatest." —**B&N Teen Blog**

Fred Aceves is an author, teacher, speaker and world traveler. His debut, THE CLOSEST I'VE COME, was a Kirkus Best Book of 2017. He was born in New York and currently lives in Mexico.

GENEVA LEE

Las Vegas Sins series

US: Ivy Estate

Agent: Louise Fury

2016. Finished books available.

Three YA novels in the vein of *Gossip Girl*, *Pretty Little Liars* and *Riverdale*. Wealth, privilege, and murder. Books 1 and 2 have cliffhangers.

In a world with too much money and not enough rules, anything goes. Welcome to Belle Mère Prep, the most exclusive school outside the Las Vegas Strip.

Emma Southerly sneaks into the party of the season and meets a gorgeous and enigmatic guy who is uninterested in the rest of rich kids and their antics. Spending the night with him is against all her rules, but she doesn't want to walk away.

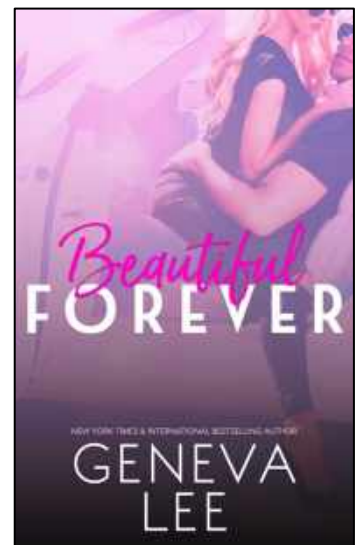
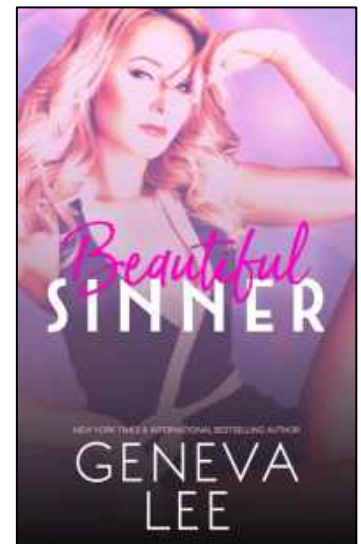
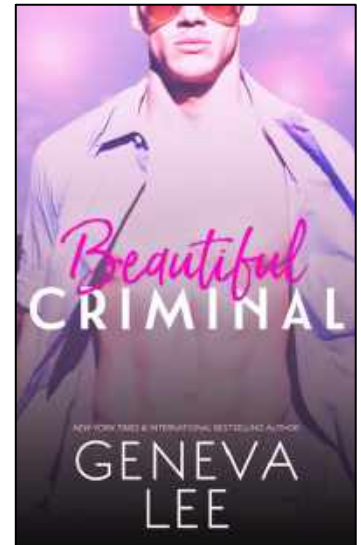
The next morning he's gone, but Emma has a bigger problem. A body's been found and he is the number one suspect...

"Binge-worthy!" —*Hypable.com*

"Must-read YA romance." —*USA Today*

RIGHTS SOLD:
Germany: Blanvalet

Der Spiegel bestsellers



GENEVA LEE is the *New York Times*, *USA Today* and internationally bestselling author of over a dozen novels, including the Royals Saga, which has sold over one million copies worldwide.

FRANCESCA ZAPPIA

Now Entering Addamsville

US: Greenwillow/HarperCollins

Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

October 2019. Finished books available.

Set in a town ruled by ghosts, demons and the dysfunctional but tightly-bonded families that live there, **NOW ENTERING ADDAMSVILLE** is perfect for fans of the Netflix shows *Riverdale*, *Stranger Things* and *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*.

Bad things are brewing in Addamsville. After being blamed for a suspicious fire and a local murder, a not-so-innocent teen—who knows both events are the fault of much more sinister forces—must find the true culprit, clear her name and scare away a popular ghost-hunting TV show before it uncovers the truth behind the local ghost legends. But time is ticking, and she'll have to solve the mystery before she becomes another Addamsville ghost story...

A Goodreads Best YA Book of October 2019

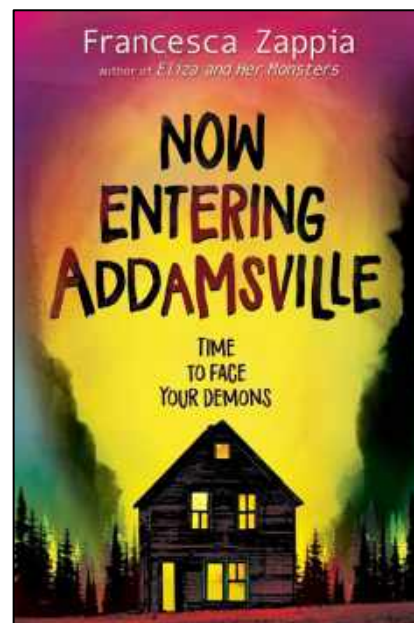
"A darkly humorous, rapid-fire read in which the living are sometimes scarier than the dead." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Zappia crafts an engaging dark fantasy, expertly weaving together a small-town aesthetic and a Midwestern gothic sensibility, a complicated town history replete with grudges and ghost stories, and complex characters in a 'Buffy The Vampire Slayer'—esque story with plenty of appeal." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Zappia threads her fantasy mystery through with thoughtful sketches of class dynamics and family tensions. Like Kiersten White's *Slayer*, this is girl power for a new era." —*Booklist*



Francesca Zappia is the author of *MADE YOU UP* and *ELIZA AND HER MONSTERS*. She is a gifted artist who lives in Indiana, USA. When she's not writing, she's drawing her characters, reading, or playing video games. Francesca also writes the *Children of Hypnos* serial (with accompanying art) on Tumblr and Wattpad.



RIGHTS SOLD:

Sweden: Modernista

Ukraine: Vivat

Francesca Zappia's foreign publishers include:

Albania: PEGI

Brazil: Verus

Czech: Euromedia

France: R Collection/Laffont

Georgia: Palitra

Germany: dtv

Hungary: Kossuth

Italy: Giunti

Latin America: Diamante

Lithuania: Alma Littera

Poland: JK Jacek Kaszyk

Portugal: 20|20 Editora

Russia: Eksmo

Serbia: Publik Praktikum

Slovakia: Ikar

Taiwan: Ecus

Turkey: Pegasus

Vietnam: Mintbooks

Eliza and Her Monsters

US: Greenwillow/HarperCollins

Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

May 2017. Finished books available.

Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl* meets Scott Westerfeld's *Afterworlds* in a story about creating art, sharing fandom, and fighting monsters.

By day she is Eliza, a quiet, lonely student. By night, she is LadyConstellation, the famous and anonymous creator of Monstrous Sea, the wildly popular online comic. By day he is Wallace, the new boy at school who doesn't talk. By night he is the most popular Monstrous Sea fanfiction writer in the world.

Wallace doesn't know Eliza is LadyConstellation, but he thinks she's a fan, and he's determined to be her friend. As their friendship grows stronger, secrets grow bigger until everything she's built—her story, her relationship with Wallace, and even her sanity—begins to crumble around her.

The narrative is structured in a unique way that includes the notes from Wallace, online conversations, and transcripts, as well as art and comic book pages of the real Monstrous Sea.

"A love letter to fandom, friendship, and the stories that shape us, ELIZA AND HER MONSTERS is absolutely magical." —**Marieke Nijkamp, #1 New York Times**-bestselling author of *This Is Where It Ends*

"A fervent celebration of online fandom, sure to leave readers craving an actual Monstrous Sea comic." —**Booklist, starred review**

"Sensitive and compassionate." —**Publishers Weekly, starred review**

"A must-have for all YA collections, especially where geek culture is celebrated." —**School Library Journal, starred review**

"A wrenching depiction of depression and anxiety, respectful to fandom, online-only friendships, and the benefits and dangers of internet fame." —**Kirkus Reviews, starred review**



RIGHTS SOLD:

Albania: PEGI

Bulgaria: Ibis

Czech: Albatros/CooBoo

France: Robert Laffont

Germany: DTV Jr.

Israel: Adel

Italy: Giunti

Lithuania: Alma Littera

Netherlands: Leopold

Poland: JK Jacek Kaszyk

Portugal: 20/20 Editora

Romania: Storia Books

Russia: Eksmo

Serbia: Publik Praktikum

Slovakia: Albatros/CooBoo

Spanish (Latin America):

Diamante

Sweden: Modernista

Turkey: Pegasus

An Epic Reads "Summer Binge Reading" promotion 2019

A Kirkus Best Book of 2017

An Indiana Authors Award Winner

2018 American Library Association Best Fiction for Young Adults Nominee

An Oklahoma Children's Book Award Nominee

One of B&N Teen's 10 Most Anticipated Sophomore Standalones of 2017

One of Lit Reactor's 13 Can't-Miss 2017 YA Releases

An Indigo Books & Music Best Teen Book of 2017

A Paste Magazine Best YA Book of 2017

A Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year 2018 — Outstanding Merit selection

Made You Up

World English: Greenwillow/HarperCollins

Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

2015. Finished books available.

A compelling and provoking literary debut—*We Were Liars* meets *All the Bright Places*.

The ultimate unreliable narrator, a schizophrenic teenage girl unable to tell the difference between reality and delusion who discovers—thanks to her Magic 8-Ball, her little sister and a boy she thought was imaginary—that sometimes there really is someone out to get you.

**An Austrian Young Readers Jury selection
Shortlisted for the 2016 Silver Inky Award
A *Książka Roku* 2017 Nomination**

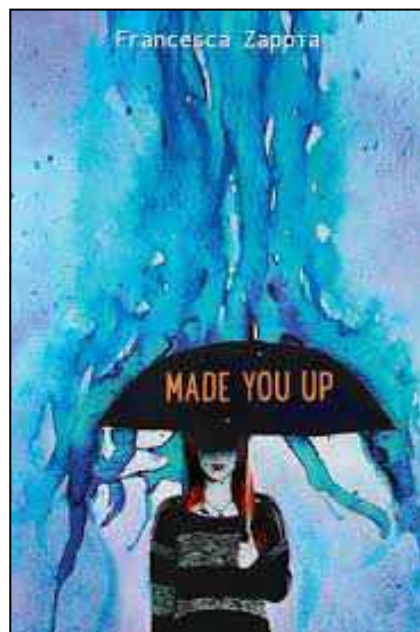
"This debut's talented author creates interesting characters and a suspenseful plot to draw readers in..." —Kirkus Reviews

"Zappia sets a fast pace that she maintains throughout. Readers will be kept on their toes with quick-witted dialogue...as well as plot twists and big reveals. Zappia tackles some big issues in her debut, creating a messy, hopeful, even joyful book." —School Library Journal

"Debut novelist Zappia presents readers with a wholly unreliable narrator, [but] the characters all seem authentic, thanks to Zappia's careful attention to detail." —Booklist

*"Alex is a funny, touching, determined, and smart character, and her story is complex and interesting. Fans of E. Lockhart's *We Were Liars* and Matthew Quick's *Silver Linings Playbook* will immerse themselves in this nuanced look at trying to live a "normal" life while coping with mental illness." —VOYA*

"The storytelling texture here recalls Andrew Smith and Sean Beaudoin...There are moments of genuine tragedy redeemed by the acceptance Miles and Alex find in each other amidst all of their imperfections; if love doesn't conquer all, it certainly makes the battles easier to bear. Readers...will enjoy this quirky trip." —The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books



RIGHTS SOLD:

Brazil: Verus

Czech: Euromedia

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Georgia: Palitra

Hungary: Kossuth

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