

THE BENT AGENCY

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Children's Rights Guide

London 2020

FRED ACEVES

The New David Espinoza

World English: HarperTeen/HarperCollins

Agent: Louise Fury

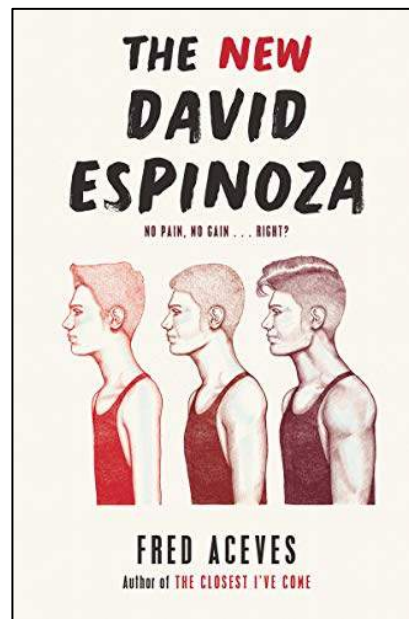
Young Adult

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 will 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



"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**

Praise for Fred Aceves' 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**

"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**

Fred Aceves is a Latino author who grew up in a community like the one described in his debut novel, **THE CLOSEST I'VE COME**, a tough, working-class neighborhood filled with single moms. He attended five high schools and worked two jobs before eventually dropping out of school. He later earned his GED and traveled around the world. He was born in the United States and currently lives in Mexico with his wife.

DANTE MEDEMA

The Truth Project

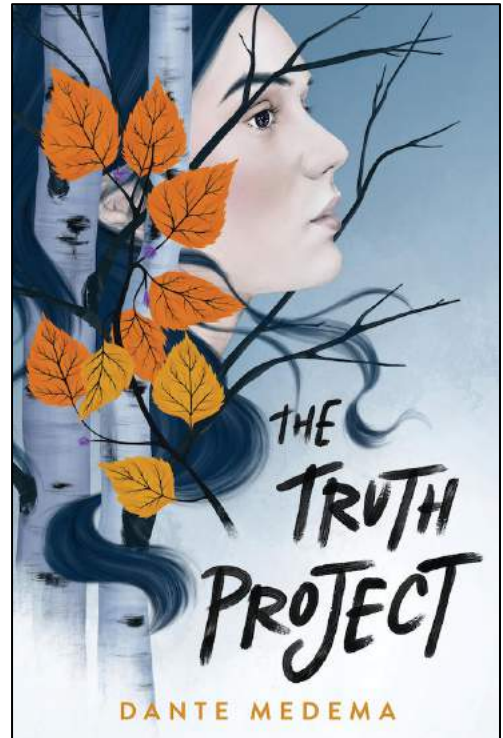
World English: HarperTeen

Agent: Louise Fury

October 2020. Manuscript 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.



RIGHTS SOLD:

Germany: Thienmann

Poland: Media Rodzina

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

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...



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**

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

Fred Aceves is a Latino author who grew up in a community like the one described in THE CLOSEST I'VE COME, a tough, working-class neighborhood filled with single moms. He attended five high schools and worked two jobs before eventually dropping out of school. He later earned his GED and traveled around the world. He was born in the United States and currently lives in Mexico with his wife. THE CLOSEST I'VE COME is his debut novel.

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.

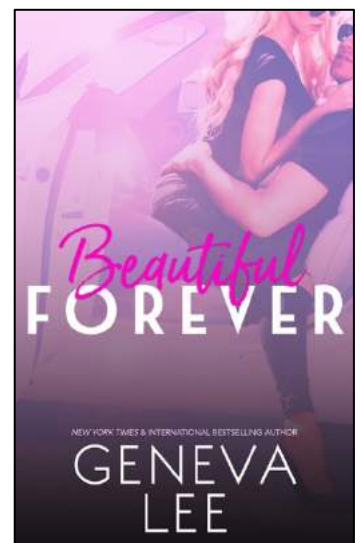
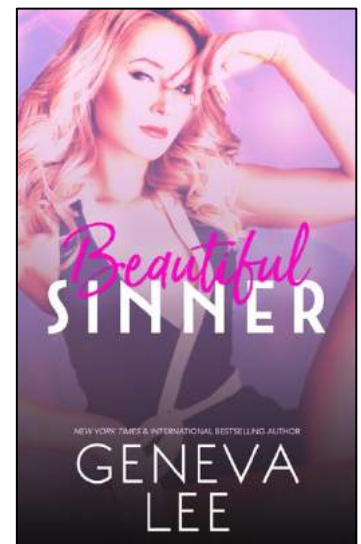
The next morning he's gone, but Emma has a bigger problem. A body's been found and he is the number one suspect...

"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.

KATHERINE LOCKE

The Girl with the Red Balloon

World English: Albert Whitman & Co.

Agent: Louise Fury

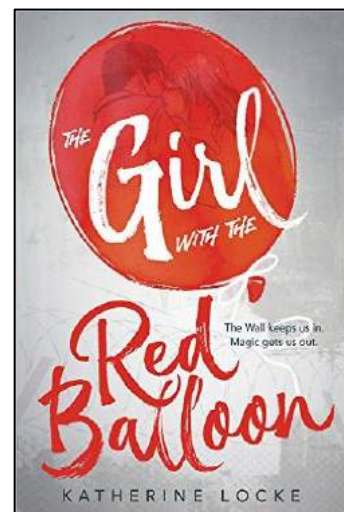
Young Adult

September 2017. Finished books available.

Code Name Verity with a fantasy element.

When 16-year-old Ellie Baum accidentally time-travels via balloon to 1988 East Berlin, she's caught up in a conspiracy of history and magic. Members of an underground guild who use balloons and magic to help people escape over the Wall—but even to the balloon makers, Ellie's time travel is a mystery. When she discovers that someone is using dark magic to change history, Ellie must risk everything—including her only way home—to stop it.

**A 2018 Sydney Taylor Book Award Honor Book
Paste Magazine's Best New Young Adult Book for September 2017
A Paste Magazine Best Young Adult Title of 2017
A BuzzFeed YA Book Gift Guide for 2017 selection**



RIGHTS SOLD:

Brazil: DarkSide Books

The Spy with the Red Balloon

World English: Albert Whitman & Co.

Agent: Louise Fury

Young Adult

October 2018. Finished books available.

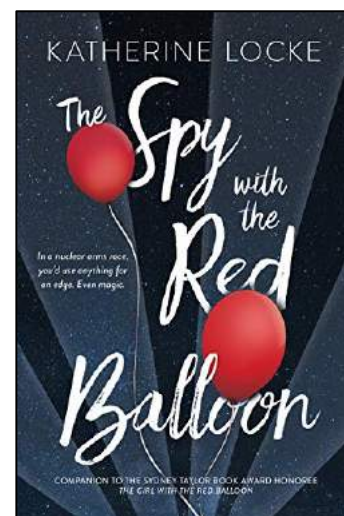
Siblings Ilse and Wolf hide a deep secret in their blood: with it, they can work magic. And the government just found out.

Blackmailed into service during World War II, Ilse lends her magic to America's newest weapon, the atom bomb, while Wolf goes behind enemy lines to sabotage Germany's nuclear program. It's a dangerous mission, but if Hitler were to create the bomb first, the results would be catastrophic.

When Wolf's plane is shot down, his entire mission is thrown into jeopardy. Wolf needs Ilse's help to develop the magic that will keep him alive, but with a spy afoot in Ilse's laboratory, the letters she sends to Wolf begin to look treasonous. Can Ilse prove her loyalty—and find a way to help her brother—before their time runs out?

"An absorbing blend of historical fiction, mystery, and magical realism." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"The first title in a promising series, this is an engaging story that would entice the most reluctant of readers to keep on reading." —**School Library Connections**



Katherine Locke is a freelance editor and has written New Adult romance for Harlequin's Carina Press. THE GIRL WITH THE RED BALLOON is her first young adult novel. She lives in Philadelphia.

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

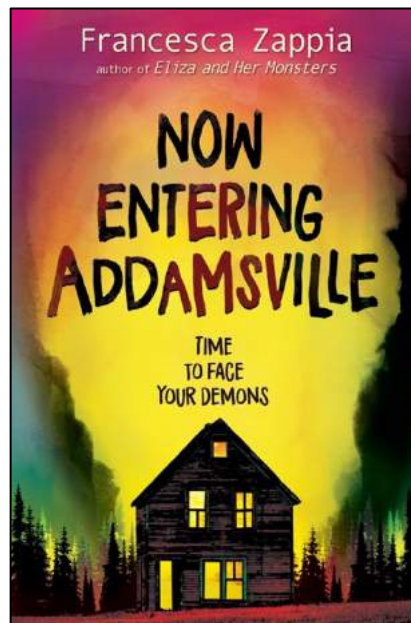
"A darkly humorous, rapid-fire read in which the living are sometimes scarier than the dead." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"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
Estonia: Palitra
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.

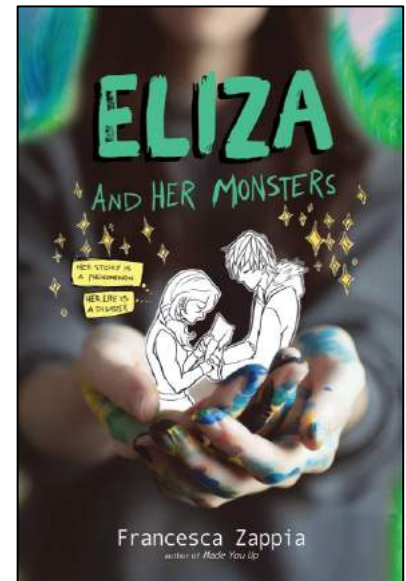
"A love letter to fandom, friendship, and the stories that shape us, ELIZA AND HER MONSTERS is absolutely magical." —**Marieke Nijkamp, #1 New York Times**-bestselling author of *This Is Where It Ends*

"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

Francesca Zappia is the author of *MADE YOU UP*, *ELIZA AND HER MONSTERS* and *NOW ENTERING ADDAMSVILLE*. She is a gifted artist who lives in Indiana. 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.



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Czech: Euromedia

Estonia: Palitra

France: R Collection/Laffont

Georgia: Palitra

Hungary: Kossuth

Italy: Giunti

Poland: JK Jacek Kaszyk

Portugal: 20|20 Editora

Russia: Eksmo

Serbia: Publik Praktikum

Slovakia: Ikar

Spanish (Latin America):

Diamante

Taiwan: Ecus

Turkey: Pegasus

Vietnam: Mintbooks