



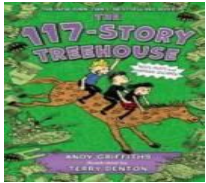
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Selected Titles

13-Story Treehouse (Prebound)

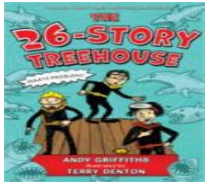


#2346770 (Vol. 09) 117-Story Treehouse (Prebound)
written by Andy Griffiths

The upgrades to the treehouse are still under construction and therefore super-duper top secret, but The 117-Story Treehouse is sure to be the zaniest adventure yet.
978-1-5364-8186-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 580

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

13-Story Treehouse (Trade)

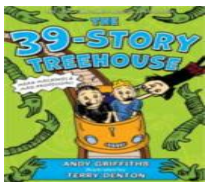


#1753349 (Vol. 02) 26-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Andy and Terry live together in a 26-story treehouse where they tell stories and have crazy adventures
978-1-250-02691-0 ©2014 345 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 770

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99

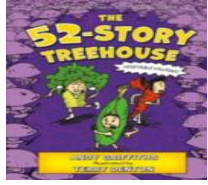
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Andy and Terry, introduced in The 13-Story Treehouse (Feiwel & Friends, 2013), have expanded their incredible arboreal residence by adding several exciting features, including a robot-controlled ice-cream parlor, a mud-fighting arena, an ATM (Automatic Tattoo Machine), and the Maze of Doom. Their publisher, Mr. Bignose, is demanding their next book, so the friends attempt to tell stories about how they met and how they first built their treehouse. They also have to cope with a tank of sick, underwear-eating sharks and a pack of invading buccaneers. Similar in design to Jeff Kinney's "Diary Of A Wimpy Kid" series (Abrams), these 13 wacky, interconnected stories integrate print and graphic elements, with comic-book-style panels, word balloons, and text blocks, which blend together seamlessly. Different font styles help distinguish the storytelling sections from the main action. The conversational, matter-of-fact narration is a delightful contrast to the off-the-wall story line. Wildly humorous without being smart-alecky or sarcastic, this is a top choice for middle-grade readers.-Elaine E. Knight, formerly at Lincoln Elementary Schools, IL (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1912480 (Vol. 03) 39-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

"Andy and Terry are once again inviting readers to come hang out with them in their astonishing 39-story treehouse (it used to be 13 stories, then 26 stories, but they keep expanding). And this year they will have even more time to jump on the world's highest trampoline, toast marshmallows in an active volcano, swim in the chocolate waterfall, pet baby dinosaurs, and go head-to-trunk with the Trunkinator, since Terry has created the greatest invention that he-or anyone else-has ever invented . . . a Once-upon-a-time machine that will write and illustrate their entire book for them!"--OCLC
978-1-250-02692-7 ©2015 346 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.4 Lexile 610

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$15.99



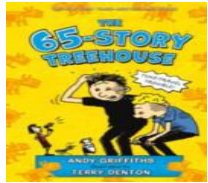
#1946357 (Vol. 04) 52-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Andy and Terry live in a 52-Story treehouse. (It used to be a 39-story treehouse, but they keep expanding.) It has a chainsaw-juggling level, a make-your-own-pizza parlor, a rocket-powered carrot-launcher, a life-size snakes and ladders game, a remembering booth, a Ninja Snail Training Academy and a high-tech detective agency, with all the latest high-tech detective technology, including the Disguise-o-Matic 5000! Something that is sure to come in handy as they try to solve the mystery of: What happened to Mr. Big Nose? After all, it's hard to turn in your next book when your publisher has vanished!

978-1-250-02693-4 ©2016 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.3 Lexile 590

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



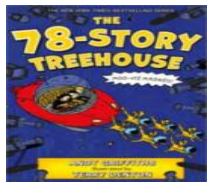
#2002656 (Vol. 05) 65-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Andy and Terry live in a 65-story treehouse. (It used to be 52 stories, but they keep expanding.) It has a pet-grooming salon, a birthday room where it's always your birthday (even when it's not), a room full of exploding eyeballs, a lollipop shop, a quicksand pit, an ant farm, and a time machine which is going to be really, really useful now, since Terry messed up (again) and the treehouse just FAILED its safety inspection.

978-1-250-10246-1 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.4 Lexile 610

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



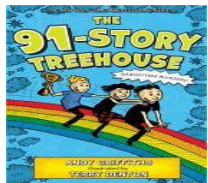
#2051916 (Vol. 06) 78-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Andy and Terry live in a 78-story treehouse. It has a an open-air movie theatre with a super-giant screen... which is a very useful thing to have now that Terry's going to be a big-shot movie star! After Andy gets cut out of the movie, he and Terry have a big fight and decide they don't want to be best friends anymore.

978-1-250-10485-4 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.2 Lexile 560

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$13.99



#2065739 (Vol. 07) 91-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

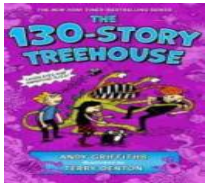
Andy and Terry live in a 91-story treehouse. Good thing there's so many fun things to do in the treehouse, because Andy and Terry get stuck babysitting Mr. Big Nose's three grandchildren for the day.

978-1-250-10488-5 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.7 Lexile 500

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$15.99

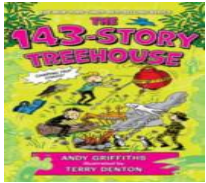
Quantity **Unit Price**



#2221226 (Vol. 10) 130-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

1 \$14.99

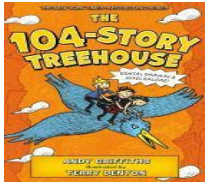
Andy and Terry live in a 130-story treehouse. (It used to be a 117-story treehouse, but they added another 13 stories.) It has a soap bubble blaster, a time-wasting level, a 13-story igloo, the GRABINATOR (it can grab anything from anywhere at any time), a toilet paper factory, and an extraterrestrial observation centre for observing aliens.
 978-1-250-23608-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 2.0



#2275517 (Vol. 11) 143-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99

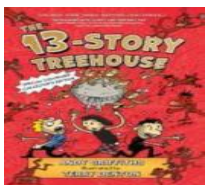
Andy's been a bit stressed out lately, so Terry decides the perfect way to relax would be to head up to their new camping ground level for a much-needed vacation. But it turns out to be not quite as relaxing as planned. Terry forgets to pack the tent and the food, their attempt at fishing ends in disaster, the spooky campfire stories are a little too spooky and then, to make matters worse, all of Andy's fellow campers start mysteriously disappearing.
 978-1-250-23610-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 1.0



#2095996 (Vol. 08) 104-Story Treehouse (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$14.99

When Andy has a toothache that hurts so bad he can't write any jokes for their new book, Terry knows just what to do: buy a Joke Writer 2000 to write the jokes for them! All they need first is some money from their money-making machine and then it's off to the store. It's a foolproof plan--a Terry-proof one, even!
 978-1-250-30149-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 600



#2321548 (Vol. 01) 13-Story Treehouse (Full Color Edition) (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99

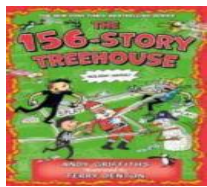
Andy and Terry are trying hard to write their next book but they are constantly distracted by the many animals and special rooms in their thirteen story treehouse. (Full color edition)
 978-1-250-84697-6 ©2023 6 x 9 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.2 Lexile 560

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5. In this series starter that will appeal to fans of Jeff Kinney and Dav Pilkey, a young author-illustrator pair discover that a single day of life in their gigantic tree house provides enough material for a manuscript to satisfy their publisher, Mr. Big Nose. Episodes involving a giant banana attack, a sea monster masquerading as a mermaid, burp-filled bubblegum bubbles, a threatening gorilla, and 13 ferocious flying cats are described in bites of text plentifully seasoned with Denton's scribbly, busy black-and-white cartoons, which vary from full page to spot to other rascally configurations that spill from the page. The wonderfully random slapstick humor is tailor-made for reluctant readers. Even better, each short chapter stands alone, though the whole story hangs together thanks to repeating motifs. A treat for all with a sequel promised for next year. And guess what? It makes for good tree house reading.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Longtime collaborators Griffiths and Denton (Killer Koalas from Outer Space) get metafictional in their latest book (first published in Australia), and the result is anarchic absurdity at its best. Young buddies Andy and Terry live together in the sort of tree

house that kids dream about, complete with bowling alley, shark tank, vines to swing from, and underground laboratory. With so many distractions, is it any wonder that they're late with the book due to their publisher, Mr. Big Nose? "We were a little behind schedule," confides Andy. "Well, when I say 'a little behind schedule,' I mean a lot behind schedule. And when I say 'a lot behind schedule,' I mean a LOT LOT LOT behind schedule." It's due tomorrow, but before they can get to work, they have to handle an escaped catnary (a cat turned canary), "burp-gas-filled bubblegum bubbles," and a horde of destructive monkeys. Denton's manic cartooning captures every twist and turn in hilarious detail, as babies are pelted with garbage, yapping dogs squashed, and monkeys catapulted into the distance. A sequel was published last year in Australia and can't arrive soon enough. Ages 8-12. (Apr.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-Andy and Terry live in a treehouse. In addition to the normal rooms found in a house, it has a theater and library, a bowling alley, and a games room. The boys write and illustrate books, and are far behind on their deadline for their publisher, Mr. Big Nose. They bicker and procrastinate and experience many adventures and misadventures. Wacky stories about flying cats, a monster mermaid, a treehouse full of monkeys, and a banana-seeking giant gorilla will entertain and delight readers. Fun cartoons on every page will engage them and inspire giggles. The situations are described and illustrated so completely that readers will be instantly transported to the fantastic world of the 13-story treehouse. Fans of Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid"(Abrams) and Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" series (HarperCollins) will be drawn to this book, while parents will enjoy the absence of snarky humor.-Erica Thorsen Payne, Meriwether Lewis Elementary School, Charlottesville, VA (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.



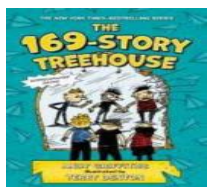
#2343644 (Vol. 12) 156-Story Treehouse: Holiday Havoc! (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Andy and Terry live in a 156-story treehouse. (It used to be a 143-story treehouse, but they added 13 more levels.) It's the night before Christmas but Andy and Terry aren't ready yet! They haven't written their letters to Santa or hung their stockings, and now Mr. Big Nose wants their next book done by tomorrow. When Santa's sleigh crash-lands in the treehouse, the reindeer become tangled in the branches and Santa falls into the cloning machine.

978-1-250-85018-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5—Griffiths and Denton are back for a new adventure in their 156-story treehouse (13 stories have been added to the treehouse since the last book). Andy introduces readers to all the cool things inside the treehouse, including a bouldering alley, which is like bowling but with boulders; an aquarium with their pet axolotl, Quazjex; and even an enigma machine. Andy and Terry's shenanigans include elements of fairy tales; their book publisher, Mr. Big Nose; 12 Santas (created when Santa falls into the cloning machine); and Jill—who, of course, saves the day. Intricate pen illustrations add to the story on every page, and readers will be able to combine words and illustrations to create a more thorough understanding of the storylines. The vocabulary is on-point, with a few words that will add to readers' vernacular, such as "Gorgonzola" and "axolotl." Readers will laugh out loud at the jokes in this humorous story. With a tagline like Holiday Havoc, even the most reluctant reader is in for a wild ride. VERDICT Readers of the "Dogman" and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series will embrace this story.—Katie Loomis



#2376182 (Vol. 13) 169-Story Treehouse: Doppelganger Doom! (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Griffiths

Can Andy, Terry, and Jill escape school, save the treehouse from the doppelganger mirror gang AND get their book written on time?

978-1-250-85021-8 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

A&a Detective Agency (Trade)

#2347923 (Vol. 01) Fairfleet Affair (Hardcover (Trade))
written by K. H. Saxton

When Dr. Alistair Fairfleet, the Fairfleet Institute's eccentric chairman, disappears on

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



the first day of Alex Foster and Asha Singh's summer vacation, they receive a letter inviting them to a game involving complicated clues and puzzles. It is just the sort of case they've been waiting for. But nothing in the Fairfleet case has a simple solution. As the kids track down clues, they uncover art forgeries, archaeological crimes, and Fairfleet family secrets that will test their partnership and force them to confront the complicated legacies of the people and places they admire most.

978-1-4549-5012-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

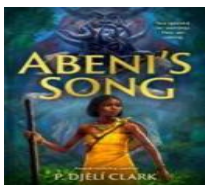
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 810

Reviews by: Booklist Not every detective agency has its office in a tree house, and few are staffed by bright, inquisitive middle-schoolers like Asha and Alex. Good friends and partners in crime solving, they're trying to find clues in an email sent by Dr. Fairfleet, the director of the distinguished Fairfleet Institute. The message challenges them to help him by solving the mystery of his disappearance three weeks earlier. Since he has sent the same message to four others (all adults on the Fairfleet Institute staff, including the one responsible for his disappearance), the race is on to untangle the mystery and find Dr. Fairfleet by the date specified in his message. Determined to solve the case, Alex and Asha earn readers' respect along the way. In her first novel, Saxton reveals a knack for constructing a mystery, planting baffling clues, and creating interesting characters of varied ages. Tension rises and falls, but the pace of the narrative never falters, and readers will enjoy seeing the puzzle pieces fall into place during the satisfying conclusion. A smart, involving first novel.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A notable disappearance leaves two young sleuths with a stirring and surprise-filled summer case. Dr. Alistair Fairfleet is the aging chairman of the Fairfleet Institute, located in the fictional New England town of Northbrook, and a major investor in eighth graders Alex Foster and Asha Singh's A&A Detective Agency. After Dr. Fairfleet vanishes during a solar eclipse on the kids' first day of summer vacation, the young detectives receive a letter that includes four names of people connected to the institute: an archivist, a performing arts director, an art museum director, and a natural history museum curator. When Alex and Asha learn that these individuals also received letters with clues, it sends them into mystery-solving overdrive. In the weeks that follow, they encounter literal and metaphorical red herrings as they unearth clues and solve multilayered puzzles connected to the visual arts, Shakespeare, archaeology, history, and more. The winding plot drives the action and excitement, while an emphasis on the characters' interactions provides relatable snapshots into the tensions that can arise in authentic relationships. Themes relating to morality, bias, and honesty are illustrated through the characters as well as the history the detectives unearth, leaving readers with a satisfying ending, several mysteries solved, and deeper questions to ponder about inheritance, cultural heritage, and record-keeping. Alex is coded white; Asha is Indian American, and there is some racial diversity in the supporting cast. A complex, cinematic, and eclectic page-turner. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Indian American Asha Singh and her best friend Alex Foster, who reads as white, are the 12-year-old founders of A&A Detective Agency, which they run out of Alex's backyard tree house. Though they haven't yet had an official opportunity to exercise their investigative skills, the pair are dedicated sleuths who believe that their knowledge of their town's history; and their rapport with Dr. Alistair Fairfleet, one of Northbrook's most prominent citizens; is the key to legitimizing their agency. When Dr. Fairfleet goes missing on the day of a solar eclipse, Asha and Alex, along with numerous museum directors, receive cryptic messages containing clues about what happened to him. As the tweens decode the messages, many of which include quotes from King Lear, they become embroiled in a wild treasure hunt through the various museums, a local performing arts center, and Dr. Fairfleet's home. But what starts as a missing persons case devolves into something even more nefarious involving blackmail, forgery, and smuggling. Despite thinly characterized protagonists, the intricate plot; jam-packed with brain teasers, convoluted twists, and red herrings; keeps readers in suspense while neatly paving the way for a sequel in Saxton's series-starting debut. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Abeni's Song (Trade)



#2327827 (Vol. 01) Abeni's Song (Hardcover (Trade))

written by P. Djeli Clark

You ignored my warnings. It's too late to run. They are coming. The old woman hasn't come to save them, only to collect one child as payment for her years of service and protection. When warriors with burning blades storm the village and a man with a cursed flute plays an impossibly alluring song, everyone Abeni has ever known and loved is captured and marched toward far-off ghost ships set for even more distant lands. But not Abeni.

978-1-250-82582-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 15.0

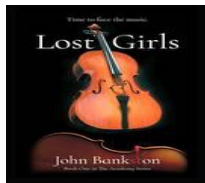
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 All her life, Abeni has been known as the little rain bringer; it is rumored that when she was born, she brought rains that ended a perilous drought. On the day of Abeni's twelfth birthday, she is eager to convince people to drop the "little" from her nickname, wanting to be seen as more than a child. But she doesn't realize that her wish is about to come true, just not in the way she hopes. When Abeni's family and friends are stolen away, she must make an unlikely alliance with spirits to take on a villain who is older than humans themselves. This sweeping epic fantasy takes beloved West African folklore and spins it into a tale of whimsy, horror, and adventure. Nebula-winning Clark, known for his adult works, masterfully builds beautiful, authentic worlds and fills them with characters that are both endearing and flawed. This has the feel of a classic fantasy, something that will be passed down for generations to come. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old West African girl attempts to save children who were stolen from her village. Abeni and her best friend, Fomi, plan to enjoy their annual Harvest Festival, but the festivities are interrupted when Asha, the local witch, appears. She reminds everyone that she gave three warnings that they must leave their homes, but they did not obey; she can no longer protect the village from the coming war. After watching over them for generations, Asha is here to collect her payment: a child. To her great shock, Abeni's mother gives her to Asha. And then war does in fact come to their peaceful valley where they lived quietly, surrounded by a forest. Abeni watches in horror as storm women assisted by magical black ropes capture the adults before a mysterious goat man plays a haunting melody on a flute that ensnares the other children. Abeni, trained in self-defense by Auntie Asha, sets out to find the kidnapped children. She crosses paths with porcupine spirit Nyomi and panther spirit Zaneeya who join her as they pursue quests of their own. The magical storytelling and West African spirit elements will keep readers engaged, while authentic relationships between the central characters offer a nice counterbalance for the fantastical plot points, making this work appealing to fantasy and realistic fiction readers alike. An original, enjoyable coming-of-age story with complex fantasy worldbuilding and multifaceted characters. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this enchanting first installment of an epic fantasy series based in West African mythology, a small village's Harvest Celebration ends in disaster after a mysterious force destroys the town and kidnaps all the villagers; except 12-year-old Abeni. She's saved by Asha, an elderly witch who lives in the surrounding Jembe forest and has been warning the villagers of impending doom. Distraught and confused following the traumatic event, Abeni struggles to adjust to living with Asha and Obi, a man made of straw, in a home in the witch's secluded magical garden. Asha is secretive, only revealing that a great war involving spirits and mortals is brewing, that the villagers have likely boarded ghost ships far from the forest, and that Abeni must grow into her magical powers if she hopes to survive the ordeal. As Abeni experiences harrowing trials and tribulations, and recruits new fantastical and human friends, she's forced to reckon with her hidden abilities and her place in her village's shrouded history is this intricately detailed, riotously fun adventure by Clark (A Master of Djinn, for adults) that explores themes of loyalty, friendship, courage, and the power of belief in oneself. Ages 8: 12. (July)

Academy (Mitchell Lane Publishers)



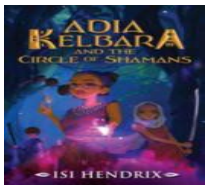
#2354254 (Vol. 01) Lost Girls (Library Binding)
written by John Bankston
 Teens are disappearing from The Academy. One Saturday night, Sheila LaRoche doesn't come home. Everyone says the world-famous musician is overseas. Casey doesn't believe it. Her dorm mate was helping her prep for a big audition. She wouldn't have just ghosted her. Plus, Casey found her passport. How'd she travel without it? More troubling, who was the boy lingering outside their dorm, comfortable in a t-shirt despite the November chill? Casey soon digs up more secrets buried at The Academy. The first teen who disappeared is identical to the boy she saw. Except, he went missing twenty years ago. Ten years ago, an Academy student was murdered. She looked just like the girl Casey saw playing a cello inside an empty classroom. Casey discovers there's more than one way to be ghosted... The first in a series set at The Northeast Kingdom Academy, Lost Girls is filled with building tension and escalating horror. The elite music school exists in a giant dead zone, a corner of Vermont with little cell or internet service. At The Academy isolation is part of the curriculum.
 978-1-68020-846-7 ©2024 6 x 9 128 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 9 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$28.00

Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans (Trade)

#2332827 (Vol. 01) Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Isi Hendrix

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99



Life is tough for twelve-year-old orphan Adia. Her aunt and uncle believe she's an ogbanje, a demon-possessed child that brings misfortune wherever they go, and Adia can't disagree—especially when she suddenly manifests mysterious powers that she can't control, causing an earthquake in her village.

978-0-06-326633-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Adia's life hasn't been easy. Orphaned when she was only a baby, Adia is forced to live with an aunt and uncle who believe she was born cursed. When Adia gets a coveted kitchen internship at the Academy of Shamans, she knows it's her only chance to escape her suffocating life. The only problem is that Adia discovers that her "curse" is actually magical powers—dangerous powers that cause destruction in her home village. With her cat in hand, Adia escapes to the Academy hoping to be fixed, only to discover that everything that she thought was a myth is true, including gods, goddesses, and a demon that wants to watch the world burn. She must learn to control her powers and join forces with other magical beings to defeat the evil demon before he destroys everything Adia knows and loves. Hendrix's awe-inspiring debut novel is a truly masterful addition to the Afrofantasy genre. Hendrix intertwines the cultural richness of African mythology with the visceral history of colonization in a package that will entice middle-grade readers. Her universe interrogates both fantastical and realistic conflicts with equal care. This immersive fantasy, the start of a planned trilogy, deserves to be on every shelf.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Adrenaline-fueled action and inventive worldbuilding personify this captivating Afrofantasy, a series-starting debut by Hendrix. Orphan Adia Kelbara lives with her neglectful aunt and uncle, who publicly claim that she is an Ogbanje; a child possessed by a demon said to cause misfortune; which leads to her becoming locally ostracized. She starts to believe them, though, when she suddenly develops mysterious abilities, as when an intense emotional reaction results in tremors erupting across her hamlet. Witnessing the destruction wrought by her burgeoning powers, Adia determines to find help in harnessing; or removing; her perceived curse. When she is selected to spend her Year of Practicality, during which youths train in a trade, as a kitchen apprentice at the famed Academy of Shamans, she hopes that a resident can extract the Ogbanje. But nothing is as it should be upon her arrival: the school has fallen into disarray and an ancient evil has returned to wreak havoc. Fully fleshed out characters; including a snarky goddess and several effervescent allies; populate this clever adventure, which teems with smartly rendered twists and oodles of hope and heart. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle (Trade)



#2296416 (Vol. 02) **Few Bicycles More (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Christina Uss

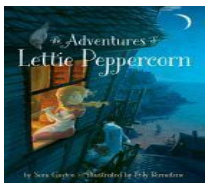
Bicycle has been back from her cross-country adventure with her robot-like bike, named Fortune, for just a month when it starts malfunctioning, insisting that they pedal away from their home in Washington D.C. to Harpers Ferry in West Virginia. Once there, they discover a scrapyards where bicycles are being crushed and recycled—and it appears they are too late to save them. Bicycle and Fortune head to a convenience store so Bicycle can drown her sorrows with a chocolate bar. Much to her astonishment, she meets her long-lost family there. She sets a plan in motion to rescue the bikes, a plan that if it works will help her fit into her family and still stay true to cycling self.

978-0-8234-5087-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Adventures of Lettie Peppercorn (Trade)



#1946715 **Adventures of Lettie Peppercorn (Hardcover (Trade))**

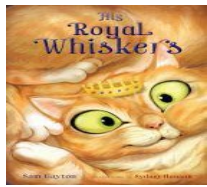
written by Sam Gayton

Confined to her lonely house after the disappearance of her mother, young Lettie opens her door to a traveling alchemist who claims he will change the world with a fantastical invention and help Lettie find her mother.

978-1-4814-4769-0 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 3.5 Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



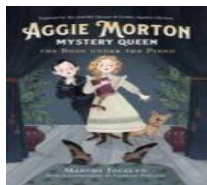
#2029392 His Royal Whiskers (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sam Gayton

A young alchemist and a giant cat stage a meow-tiny to take down an evil czar.
 Prequel to The Adventures of Lettie Peppercorn.
 978-1-4814-9090-0 ©2017 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal le adventure, an evil, selfish, bloodthirsty czar rules the land of Petrossia with an iron fist. His six-year-old on and only heir, Alexander, has been turned into a kitten. The czar's henchman inform him that it's all the fault of Alexander's two friends, Pieter and Teresa. Pieter is an Abadabacus, a master mathemagician employed by the czar. Teresa, described as a "Spice Monkey," is a servant who swings from ropes collecting ingredients for the kitchen staff. But Teresa isn't all that she seems. She's been dabbling in alchemy, and it will take her, Pieter, and a whole lot of magic to convince the czar to keep their heads attached to their bodies. Puns, wordplay, and footnotes keep readers on their toes. What is lacking in character development is made up with numerous plot twists and unpredictable outcomes. The cover art and black-and-white interior illustrations are a bit young for the intended audience, so this one might take some handselling. VERDICT Funny and a little bit creepy, this is a solid addition to any upper elementary or middle grade collection.-Mandy Laferriere, Fowler Middle School, Frisco, TX Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Aggie Morton, Mystery Queen (Trade)



#2151166 Body Under the Piano (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Marthe Jocelyn

Aggie Morton lives in a small town on the coast of England in 1902. Adventurous and imaginative but deeply shy, Aggie hasn't got much to do since the death of her beloved father...until the fateful day when she crosses paths with twelve-year-old Belgian immigrant Hector Perot and discovers a dead body on the floor of the Mermaid Dance Room!
 978-0-7352-6546-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 750

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$15.99

Reviews by: Booklist The world is familiar with renowned author Agatha Christie, Queen of Crime, but how did she come to be such a knowledgeable and prolific mystery writer? In this new series, Jocelyn imagines what Agatha (or Aggie) might have been like as a twelve-year-old: marvelously bright and somewhat sheltered, with an eye for detail and a flair for dramatic descriptions. It doesn't take long for a murder to occur, and when Aggie's dear dance instructor stands accused, the budding writer takes it upon herself to investigate further. Many details are pulled from Christie's actual life, seamlessly woven into this compelling, splendidly surprising murder mystery. Readers already familiar with Christie's works will delight in familiar details and humorous inspiration (sharp-eyed readers will notice classic titles worked into the text), and for Christie novices, the story serves as a wonderful jumping-off point into her intriguing world. Mystery aficionados and Christie fans will delight in the old-fashioned whodunit and hope for more of Aggie's adventures.--Emily Graham Copyright 2020 Booklist

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Child sleuths investigate a poisoning in this winning whodunit based on Agatha Christie's childhood. In 1902 Torquay, Aggie Morton, 12, whose father recently died, has what her mother calls a "Morbid Preoccupation." Additionally, the aspiring writer, homeschooled and often shy, likes crafting descriptive variations ("eyes like lime cordial?... Glittering emeralds?"). In a chance sweet-shop encounter, she befriends Belgian refugee Hector Perot, a fastidious boy staying for a time nearby ("our own little immigrant," his hosts call him). After leaving her journal at her dance studio one evening following a charitable "Befriend the Foreigners" concert, Aggie returns to find a disagreeable local woman dead beneath the titular instrument. When an anonymous note with clues to the murderer's identity appears, the children jump on the case, much to the delight of a prolific reporter and the keen frustration of the constabulary. Though Perot's presence adds little more than Easter eggs (e.g., his namesake's phrasing habits) to the otherwise well-plotted mystery, he is set up to play a larger role in future installments. Jocelyn (One Yellow Ribbon) offers an enjoyable entree to the Queen of Crime and to the genre; the narrative's arch tone, the girl's vital grandmother, and the novel's surfeit of extravagant teas should please. Character portraits and chapter heading spot art from Follath (Joy) add whimsical appeal. Ages 10: up. (Feb.)



#2176371 (Vol. 02) Peril at Owl Park (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Marthe Jocelyn

Aspiring writer Aggie Morton is looking forward to Christmas. Having just solved a murder and survived her own brush with death in her small town of Torquay on the coast of England, Aggie can't wait to spend the holidays with her sister Marjorie, the new Lady Greyson of Owl Park, an enormous manor house in the country. With the help of a certain nosy reporter, Aggie and Hector will once again have to put their deductive skills and imaginations to work to find the murderer on the loose.

978-0-7352-6549-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 780

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$15.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Jocelyn turns to the "country house party" trope in this entertaining Aggie Morton sequel (The Body Under the Piano, rev. 1/20). Twelve-year-old Aggie (loosely based on Agatha Christie) and her friend Hector Perot are spending Christmas at Owl Park, where Aggie's sister, newly a baroness, is learning to be mistress of a great house. The mystery begins when the other guests arrive. One guest, Lakshay Sivam, is carrying a possibly cursed emerald, which he plans to return to his native Sri Lanka; it disappears just as one of the actors hired to entertain the house party is murdered -- and then Lakshay goes missing. Although the police take charge, Aggie, Hector, and their new friend Lucy can't stop themselves from doing some investigating of their own. With a solidly plotted whodunit, Jocelyn keeps readers guessing through a complex cast of suspects, all with something to hide, and enough red herrings to keep any detective on her toes. Despite the high stakes, the book keeps a generally light tone, making for an enjoyable read. Jocelyn touches on deeper issues, including Aggie's concerns about her widowed mother's ongoing depression, but the action always takes center stage. Sarah Rettger January/February 2021 p.105(c) Copyright 2021. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

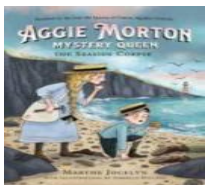


#2245591 (Vol. 03) Dead Man in the Garden (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Marthe Jocelyn

Aspiring writer Aggie Morton is ready to enjoy an invigorating trip to a Yorkshire spa, where her widowed mother can take the waters and recover from a long mourning period. Having solved yet another murder and faced extreme peril with her best friend Hector over Christmas, Aggie's Morbid Preoccupation is on alert when rumors abound about the spa's recently deceased former patient...and then another body appears under mysterious circumstances.

978-0-7352-7081-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 780

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2300824 (Vol. 04) Seaside Corpse (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Marthe Jocelyn

After an invigorating but not exactly restful trip to a Yorkshire spa during which she survived a near brush with death and foiled a murderer, aspiring writer Aggie Morton and her friend Hector are thrilled to have the opportunity to stay at a camp by the sea and watch real paleontologists at work. Tensions are running high throughout the camp, from the cook, to the collectors, to the Blenningham-Crewes themselves, and become downright dangerous after Aggie and Hector make a discovery of their own: a body on the beach. Not a fossil, but a human body.

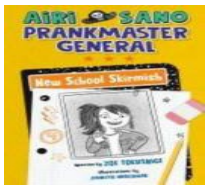
978-0-7352-7082-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Airi Sano, Prankmaster General (Trade)

#2288331 (Vol. 01) New School Skirmish (Hardcover (POB))

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99



written by Zoe Tokushige

Meet Airi Sano. After spending her entire childhood moving from one military base to another, she's excited to be settling down for the long-term in Hawai'i. She's less excited about her new teacher, who's determined to make Airi like school. But she's got a plan: prank her teacher so hard that she gives up on even trying to get Airi to do any work—especially any reading. (Features Dyslexia-friendly font)

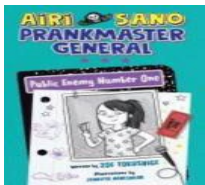
978-0-593-46578-3 ©2022 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* "Zeroes are my heroes," chirps army brat Airi, entering her umpteenth school resolved to convince her new teacher, as she has all the rest, that she is "unteachable," through a relentless campaign of pranks and refusals to do any work. Skilled as she is at disruptive "Teacher Tactics," Airi has never run into anyone like infuriatingly patient, cheery, clever Mrs. Ashton—and the war is on. Readers will soon figure out that the 11-year-old narrator's often ingenious pranks, amusing as they may be (to read about, anyway), are really cries for attention; her tone may be buoyant, but underneath she is a simmering, sad, and angry child—afflicted not only by the repeated disruptions of her military father's reassignments but also (as Mrs. Ashton turns out to be perceptive enough to spot) a learning disability that has turned school into a place where nothing good happens. While bringing the entertainingly back-and-forth struggle to a conclusion that believably counters that last notion, Tokushige embeds her tale and its realistically multicultural cast in a Hawaiian setting that positively bursts with vivid details of daily life, speech, and spirit. Airi chimes in with a side disquisition on "Hawaiian for Haoles," and Naalchigar adds lots of monochrome portraits and spot art of food, shirts, and other local color to match. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Airi uses every trick she knows to test her new teacher's limits. Airi Sano often gets in trouble with adults because she likes to pull pranks, but she just wants to make people laugh. As part of an Army family, Japanese American Airi's moved around a lot, and she's always felt misunderstood and left out. Now that they're settling in Hawaii, where her dad is from (her mom is from Japan), she's excited at the prospect of making real friends but less thrilled about starting sixth grade. Airi tries to get her teacher to see that she's a lost cause, but Mrs. Ashton never gets angry with her. A prank war ensues—documented through Airi's Official Personal Personnel File as well as incident reports, situation reports, maps, and footnotes—and Airi enlists the help of her new friends to get Mrs. Ashton to snap. Airi's feisty attitude and love for joking around lighten this clever story that is full of laughs, family, and friendship. Her difficulties in school and diagnosis of dyslexia touch on struggles and feelings many readers experience. Numerous sweet black-and-white illustrations add to the fun, showing lively scenes, food, and more. Confusingly, the term Hawaiian is sometimes inaccurately applied to non-Native Hawaiian culture and history. The supporting cast represents the diversity of Honolulu. A hilarious, charming story full of humor and mischief. (Fiction. 8-12)

	Quantity	Unit Price
	1	\$14.99



#2332476 (Vol. 02) Public Enemy Number One (Hardcover (POB))

written by Zoe Tokushige

It's the spring semester, and Airi Sano is on top of the world! Her grades are up, she has real friends at her side, and she's joined the school play. She's even keeping out of trouble and toning down the pranks! But when the play falls victim to some truly awful pranks, everyone immediately suspects that Airi is behind them. As suspicion mounts, it's up to her to solve the mystery and clear her own name before the imposter strikes again. Sounds like a job for Airi and her crew!

978-0-593-46581-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 700

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Airi Sano is back for more adventures in this story in which she is framed when things go wrong with the school play. Sixth grader Airi loves to pull pranks, but she's made a deal with her mom and dad: If she can do better in school, she'll get a cellphone and maybe even karate lessons. Things are looking up now that she's been diagnosed with dyslexia, and her teacher is helping her with learning strategies. Airi is earning the best grades she's ever had and has real friends to talk to—and play tricks with. When the school play is announced, Airi signs up to be with her best friend, Mei. At first, she's nervous about reading her lines, but after a few drama classes, excitement takes over. But things start to go wrong when some terrible incidents occur, and Mei, some classmates, and even the principal blame Airi. Determined to prove her innocence and save the play, Airi must catch the real culprit. In the process of navigating ups and downs, she learns what real friendship is made of. Told in the first person and enhanced by interspersed case file reports, humorous footnotes, and lively black-and-white illustrations, Airi's narrative is hilarious and engaging. The spot art adds cultural context to the Hawaiian setting and Airi's Japanese American Army family life. The supporting cast represents diverse cultures. Nonstop laughs, mischief, and fun. (land acknowledgment) (Fiction. 8-12)

Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians (Trade)



#1945662 (Vol. 01) Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Sanderson

When he comes into the possession of a special bag of sand that has the power to transform information, Alcatraz realizes the importance of this mysterious gift when it is stolen by a group of Evil Librarians who use it to suppress truth and spread lies in order to achieve world domination.

978-0-7653-7894-1 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 730

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$23.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Sanderson's (Elantris) children's debut, an over-the-top fantasy/adventure, librarians are evil because they control all the information in Hushland (America). They distort some facts and fabricate the rest. Alcatraz, meanwhile, is the name of the protagonist, who has been raised in a series of foster homes. As the novel opens, on his 13th birthday, he is quickly initiated into the true nature of librarians by his heretofore unmet grandfather, Leavenworth Smedry. Before long, Sanderson brings on talking dinosaurs (it's a librarian distortion that they're extinct), a parallel world, visiting villains and more. The madcap plot can seem chaotic, with action pulling Alcatraz toward new characters at a breakneck speed, but Sanderson unexpectedly draws everything together in an extravagantly silly climax. Readers whose sense of humor runs toward the subversive will be instantly captivated: not only does the author poke fun at librarians, he lampoons books (including this one) in frequent passages directly addressed to readers: "You are saying to yourself, 'The story just lost me. It degenerated into pure silliness. I'm going to go read a book about a boy whose dog gets killed by his mother. Twice.'" Like Lemony Snicket and superhero comics rolled into one (and then revved up on steroids), this nutty novel isn't for everyone, but it's also sure to win passionate fans. Ages 9-up. (Oct.)



#1945663 (Vol. 02) Alcatraz Versus the Scrivener's Bones (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Sanderson

The Evil Librarians are up to their antics again and it's up to Alcatraz Smedry to put a stop to it! This second Alcatraz adventure will take Alcatraz and company on an exploration of the Library of Alexandria, which-despite Librarian rumors-was never destroyed. It is a mysterious place and everyone knows that it holds dark secrets. Can Alcatraz, with his talent for breaking things, break into this secret world? Or will the Evil Librarians once again prevail?

978-0-7653-7896-5 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 3.8 Lexile 660

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99



#1946341 (Vol. 03) Alcatraz Versus the Knights of Crystallia (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Sanderson

In this third Alcatraz adventure, Alcatraz Smedry has made it to the Free Kingdoms at last. Unfortunately, so have the evil Librarians-including his mother! Now Alcatraz has to find a traitor among the Knights of Crystallia, make up with his estranged father, and save one of the last bastions of the Free Kingdoms from the Evil Librarians.

978-0-7653-7898-9 ©2016 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$23.99

#1946339 (Vol. 04) Shattered Lens (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Sanderson

Alcatraz Smedry is up against a whole army of Evil Librarians in this fourth adventure, with only his friend Bastille, a few pairs of glasses, and an unlimited supply of exploding teddy bears to help him. This time, even Alcatraz's extraordinary

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$23.99



talent for breaking things may not be enough to defeat the army of Evil Librarians and their giant librarian robots.

978-0-7653-7900-9 ©2016 11-5/15 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 670



#1980720 (Vol. 05) Dark Talent (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Brandon Sanderson

Alcatraz Smedry has successfully defeated the army of Evil Librarians and saved the kingdom of Mokia. Too bad he managed to break the Smedry Talents in the process. Even worse, his father is trying to enact a scheme that could ruin the world, and his friend, Bastille, is in a coma. To revive her, Alcatraz must infiltrate the Highbrary--known as The Library of Congress to Hushlanders--the seat of Evil Librarian power. Without his Talent to draw upon, can Alcatraz figure out a way to save Bastille and defeat the Evil Librarians once and for all?

978-0-7653-8140-8 ©2016 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 710

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$18.99



#2290417 (Vol. 06) Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Brandon Sanderson

To rescue his friend Bastille, Alcatraz Smedry successfully infiltrated the Highbrary, seat of Evil Librarian power, and left it a smoking pit in the ground. But the cost was too high--his father Attica took his place to be sacrificed to the dark gods on an altar of outdated encyclopedias, and Alcatraz failed to save him. With Alcatraz a wreck, it's up to Bastille to complete the story and lead her friends against Attica's killer: Bilbioden, ancient founder of the Evil Librarians, who has returned to complete his quest for world domination.

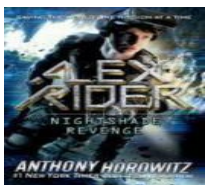
978-1-250-81106-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$17.99

Alex Rider Adventures (Trade)



#2363114 (Vol. 14) Nightshade Revenge (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Anthony Horowitz

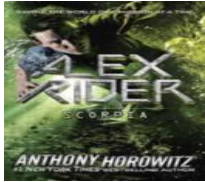
When Alex Rider thwarted the plans of the criminal organization Nightshade, he knew he'd made a new, blatantly evil enemy. But he hadn't expected to get sucked back into the spy game so quickly--that is, until the Nightshade masterminds kidnap his best friend, forcing Alex to do their bidding if he ever wants to see his pal alive again. With a ruthless enemy fighting dirty and not caring who gets hurt along the way, the stakes have never been higher--and this time, it's personal.

978-0-593-69139-7 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$18.99



#1670766 (Vol. 05) Scorpio (Paperback (Trade))

written by Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider, teen spy, has always been told he is the spitting image of the father he never knew. But when Alex learns that his father may have been an assassin for the most lethal and powerful terrorist organization in the world, Scorpio, his world shatters. Now Scorpio wants Alex on their side, and Alex no longer has the strength to fight them. That is, until he learns of Scorpio's latest plot: an operation known only as Invisible Sword that will result in the death of thousands of people. Can Alex prevent the slaughter, or will Scorpio prove once and for all that the terror will not be stopped?

978-0-14-240578-9 ©2006 5-3/8 x 7-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 5.9 Lexile 680

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$8.99

Reviews by: Children's Literature Alex Rider is no ordinary fourteen-year-old West London schoolboy. He has no parents or any other relatives to speak of, so he's pretty much on his own. And he's been recruited to be the youngest spy for MI6, Britain's secret intelligence organization. MI6 needs Alex to investigate the murders of two of the world's wealthiest individuals. The case leads him to an undercover assignment as the son of one of the world's richest supermarket magnates. Relocated to an elite boarding school in the Swiss Alps, Alex uncovers a dastardly plot by the headmaster, Dr. Grief, who has his sights, no less, on taking over the entire world. Dr. Grief's diabolical plot involves the duplication of the sons of the world's most powerful men. With the help of spy gadgets that might make 007 green with envy, Alex is able to make some harrowing escapes to foil Dr. Grief's plans and make the world safe once more. This is the second in the "Alex Rider Adventure" series. 2001, Philomel Books, — Christopher Moning

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fasten your seat belts for the second installment in Anthony Horowitz's spy-thriller series starring 14-year-old British schoolboy and ace agent from MI6, Alex Rider. James Bond has nothing on this crafty kid, and it's lucky Alex is on the job. It seems that mad scientists still infest the planet and still want to rule the world. When readers first met Alex in Stormbreaker (2001), MI6 had sent him to spy school. This time they send him to an exclusive school for the recalcitrant sons of the super-rich. Disguised as the son of a British supermarket magnate, Alex learns that something extraordinarily odd is going on at the school. Yes indeed, the school's owner, the creepy South African apartheid supporter Dr. Grief, intends to take over the world by controlling his wealthy students. But who are his students? Is Dr. Grief using brainwashing, fear, or something more sinister on the boys? Can Alex escape from the fortress-like school before that sinister something happens to him? Horowitz devises a string of miraculous circumstances that keeps Alex alive and spying throughout. Spy thrillers appear too seldom in YA literature. With plenty of cliffhanger action, the Alex Rider adventures might help get young readers hooked. The unabashed fantasy imitates the James Bond movies more closely than the books, but it's all plenty of fun. (Fiction. 11-14)

Reviews by: KLIATT This is the next Alex Rider adventure after Stormbreaker (reviewed in KLIATT in May 2001), which has been identified as a sure bet to interest young adolescents, especially males. The story begins dramatically, but Alex doesn't appear until chapter two, so for highly impatient readers, this might be a slight problem. After that, however, it's all Alex, all action, all the time. He outmaneuvers teenage bullies and South African racists left over from the apartheid days. British Intelligence places him in the worst school situation ever, isolated in the Alps above Grenoble, where he is threatened by a fate worse than death (well, death after the students in biology class dissect him while he is still alive, without anesthetic). Like James Bond, he is given some useful gadgets that save him, and like James Bond, Alex has super-human stamina, courage, wit and intelligence. It's fun stuff for those who like thrilling reading. Category: Hardcover Fiction. KLIATT Codes: J—Recommended for junior high school students. 2001, Penguin Putnam, Philomel, 215p., Ages 13 to 15. Reviewer: Claire Rosser; KLIATT SOURCE: KLIATT, March 2002 (Vol. 36, No. 2)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The fifth entry in the Alex Rider Adventure series by Anthony Horowitz, Scorpio follows 14-year-old Alex to Italy, after he learns that his father was an assassin for a criminal organization, and the teen gets swept up in a murderous scheme of his own. Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7-10-Alex Rider, the 14-year-old spy and adventurer from Stormbreaker (2001), Point Blank (2002), Skeleton Key (2003), and Eagle Strike (2004, all Philomel), is back. While vacationing in Italy, he is recruited by the deadliest terrorist organization in the world, Scorpio, away from the world of M16, a British secret intelligence organization. Through a web of lies and deceit, Alex is persuaded to assassinate the deputy head of M16, a former friend and supervisor, while Scorpio plans a secret mission that will kill hundreds of thousands of British children in the blink of an eye. Missing his target and captured by M16, Rider is sent back into Scorpio, but this time as a spy. It is only with the teen's help that M16 can stop the organization's vicious threat. Of course, Alex Rider saves the day, but not without psychological mind gaming and fighting that will bring readers to the edge of their seats and keep them there until the final page. These titles are perfect for James Bond wannabes and reluctant readers. No prior knowledge of the previous books is necessary, as Horowitz drops clues from previous adventures.—Delia Fritz, Mercersburg Academy, PA Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) This fast-paced book is for the young James Bond and spy-adventure fan. The book is short enough for the reluctant reader and cuts to the chase to hold attention. Other readers might quickly tire of the larger-than-life action scenes and

clichés such as the stereotypical mad-scientist villain. Readers who enjoyed the first book will enjoy Point Blank. VOYA CODES: 3Q 4P M J (Readable without serious defects; Broad general YA appeal; Middle School, defined as grades 6 to 8; Junior High, defined as grades 7 to 9). 2001, Philomel, 208p, Ages 11 to 15. Reviewer: Anna Yu, aka Anna Banana, Teen Reviewer SOURCE: VOYA, February 2002 (Vol. 24, No.6)



#1670763 (Vol. 09) Scorpio Rising (Paperback (Trade))

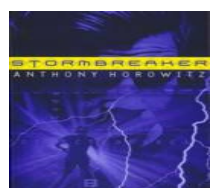
written by Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider must once again do battle against the terrorist organization responsible for the death of his parents--Scorpia--when their plot in the Middle East poses a threat to humanity, but this time around the risks are bigger and Alex will not walk away so easily.

978-0-14-241985-4 ©2012 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 16.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$9.99



#322696 (Vol. 01) Stormbreaker (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anthony Horowitz

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

978-0-399-23620-4 ©2001 5 x 7-3/4 224 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 5.4 GR Lvl Z Lexile 670

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews What if James Bond had started spying as a teenager? This thriller pits 14-year-old Alex Rider against a mad billionaire industrialist. Non-stop action keeps the intrigue boiling as Alex tries to stop the remarkably evil Herod Sayles from murdering Britain's schoolchildren through biological warfare. Alex begins as an innocent boy shocked by the death of his Uncle Ian in a traffic accident. Suspicious of the official explanation, he investigates and finds Ian's car riddled with bullet holes. He narrowly escapes being crushed in the car as it's demolished, then climbs out of a 15-story window to break into Ian's office. He learns that Ian was a spy, and reluctantly joins Britain's MI6 intelligence agency. After surviving brutal training and armed with stealthy spy tools, Alex infiltrates Sayles's operation as the teenage tester of the "Stormbreaker," a new computer Sayles is giving to British schools. Thereafter he survives murderous ATV drivers, an underwater swim in an abandoned mine, and an encounter with a Portuguese man-o-war jellyfish before hitching a ride on an already airborne plane. The plot is, of course, preposterous, but young readers won't care as they zoom through numerous cliffhangers. This is the first book in a series planned by the author, and may prove useful for reluctant readers looking for excitement. (Fiction. 12-14)

Reviews by: KLIATT To quote from the review of the hardcover in KLIATT, May 2001: Agent 007 comes to the middle school! Horowitz, a British writer of thrillers and mysteries for the BBC and a successful writer of children's books, offers here a nonstop thriller featuring Alex Rider, 14 years old, who is enlisted in the British Secret Service to investigate the reason his uncle was murdered. From the first chapter, Alex manages stunning escapes from near-death situations. Like James Bond, he has all manner of skills and intelligence to call upon, and some useful toys (like those gadgets given to 007 before each mission) that are used just in the nick of time throughout his adventure. In this first mission, Alex is called to investigate why a multimillionaire is donating advanced computers to all the schools in Great Britain. Alex impersonates a boy who won a contest to go to the secret compound in Cornwall where the computers are assembled. It turns out that the crazed tycoon is planning to use the donated computers to spread deadly germs throughout the country—but Alex single-handedly prevents the disaster. Thrills all the way. KLIATT Codes: J—Recommended for junior high school students. 2000, Penguin, Puffin, 192p.,

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-9-Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his uncle and guardian has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. The Special Operations Division of MI6, his uncle's real employer, blackmails the teen into serving England. After two short weeks of training, Alex is equipped with several special toys like a Game Boy with unique cartridges that allow it to scan, fax, and emit smoke bombs. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment, to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country. When Alex enters Sayle's compound in Port Tallon, he discovers a strange world of secrets and villains including Mr. Grin, an ex-circus knife catcher, and Yassen Gregorovich, professional hit man. The novel provides bang after bang as Alex experiences and survives unbelievably dangerous episodes and eventually crashes through the roof of the Science Museum to save the day. Alex is a strong, smart hero. If readers consider luck the ruling factor in his universe, they will love this James Bond-style adventure. With short cliff-hanger chapters and its breathless pace, it is an excellent choice for reluctant readers. Warning: Suspend reality.-Lynn Bryant, formerly at Navarre High School, FL Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Alex Rider becomes the first fourteen-year-old MI6 agent when his uncle is assassinated. Alex is forced to take over the case involving a suspicious computer baron who has donated thousands of his newest, top-secret modules to British schools. This action-packed spy novel, the first in the projected Stormbreaker series, has all the clichés: a stony-faced hero, plenty of preposterous stunts-including using the rappelling cord to catch an airplane-terse dialogue, and the evil Egyptian, Russian, and Fräulein. There is not much else to the story, however, nor to Alex's character. Horowitz draws him out a little in the beginning as a reluctant spy who is unwilling to kill-although plenty of other people do kill each other in this story-but then loses him as the movielike plot predictably and explosively unfolds. This uncomplicated novel is fun fare enough for the Young Indiana Jones fan or reluctant reader. Although it offers little that a B movie does not, sophisticated readers will find it simplistic. Those readers looking for intrigue and suspense will be served better with John Marsden or Peter Dickinson. VOYA CODES: 3Q 4P M J (Readable without serious defects; Broad general YA appeal; Middle School, defined as grades 6 to 8; Junior High, defined as grades 7 to 9). 2001, Philomel, 208p, Ages 12 to 15. Reviewer: Nina Lindsay SOURCE: VOYA, August 2001 (Vol. 24, No. 3)



#2158287 (Vol. 13) Nightshade (Hardcover (Trade))

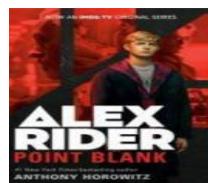
written by Anthony Horowitz

Following the shocking events of Never Say Die, Alex Rider's world has changed--his biggest enemy, the evil organization Scorpia, has been destroyed. But a new and dangerous criminal organization--Nightshade--is rising, and Alex will stop at nothing to take them down.

978-0-593-11531-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 15.0 Lexile 760

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2227851 (Vol. 02) Point Blank (Paperback (Trade))

written by Anthony Horowitz

Fourteen-year-old Alex continues his work as a spy for the British MI6, investigating an exclusive school for boys in the French Alps.

978-0-593-40393-8 ©2021 5 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.9 GR Lvl W Lexile 670

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$8.99

Reviews by: Children's Literature Newsletter for Adults Alex Rider is no ordinary fourteen-year-old West London schoolboy. He has no parents or any other relatives to speak of, so he's pretty much on his own. And he's been recruited to be the youngest spy for MI6, Britain's secret intelligence organization. MI6 needs Alex to investigate the murders of two of the world's wealthiest individuals. The case leads him to an undercover assignment as the son of one of the world's richest supermarket magnates. Relocated to an elite boarding school in the Swiss Alps, Alex uncovers a dastardly plot by the headmaster, Dr. Grief, who has his sights, no less, on taking over the entire world. Dr. Grief's diabolical plot involves the duplication of the sons of the world's most powerful men. With the help of spy gadgets that might make 007 green with envy, Alex is able to make some harrowing escapes to foil Dr. Grief's plans and make the world safe once more. This is the second in the "Alex Rider Adventure" series. 2001, Philomel Books,

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fasten your seat belts for the second installment in Anthony Horowitz's spy-thriller series starring 14-year-old British schoolboy and ace agent from MI6, Alex Rider. James Bond has nothing on this crafty kid, and it's lucky Alex is on the job. It seems that mad scientists still infest the planet and still want to rule the world. When readers first met Alex in Stormbreaker (2001), MI6 had sent him to spy school. This time they send him to an exclusive school for the recalcitrant sons of the super-rich. Disguised as the son of a British supermarket magnate, Alex learns that something extraordinarily odd is going on at the school. Yes indeed, the school's owner, the creepy South African apartheid supporter Dr. Grief, intends to take over the world by controlling his wealthy students. But who are his students? Is Dr. Grief using brainwashing, fear, or something more sinister on the boys? Can Alex escape from the fortress-like school before that sinister something happens to him? Horowitz devises a string of miraculous circumstances that keeps Alex alive and spying throughout. Spy thrillers appear too seldom in YA literature. With plenty of cliffhanger action, the Alex Rider adventures might help get young readers hooked. The unabashed fantasy imitates the James Bond movies more closely than the books, but it's all plenty of fun. (Fiction. 11-14)

Reviews by: KLIATT This is the next Alex Rider adventure after Stormbreaker (reviewed in KLIATT in May 2001), which has been identified as a sure bet to interest young adolescents, especially males. The story begins dramatically, but Alex doesn't appear until chapter two, so for highly impatient readers, this might be a slight problem. After that, however, it's all Alex, all action, all the time. He outmaneuvers teenage bullies and South African racists left over from the apartheid days. British Intelligence places him in the worst school situation ever, isolated in the Alps above

Grenoble, where he is threatened by a fate worse than death (well, death after the students in biology class dissect him while he is still alive, without anesthetic). Like James Bond, he is given some useful gadgets that save him, and like James Bond, Alex has super-human stamina, courage, wit and intelligence. It's fun stuff for those who like thrilling reading. Category: Hardcover Fiction. KLIATT Codes: J-Recommended for junior high school students. 2001, Penguin Putnam, Philomel, 215p., Ages 13 to 15. Reviewer: Claire Rosser; KLIATT SOURCE: KLIATT, March 2002 (Vol. 36, No. 2)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-10-After two influential businessmen die in separate freak accidents, MI6, England's spy network, once again calls upon 14-year-old Alex Rider to infiltrate Point Blanc, a private school in the French Alps for out-of-control, wealthy teens. Armed only with his wits and some 007-type devices, he stumbles upon an evil mad scientist's plot to take over the world using clones as replacements for prominent sons. Spy gadgets, chase scenes, mysteries, and a cliff-hanger ending will keep even reluctant readers interested in the second novel in this series. Familiarity with the first novel is not necessary as the plot fills in past information when needed, but many students will want to go back and read Stormbreaker (Philomel, 2001) to see how Alex first became involved with MI6.-Kim Carlson, Monticello High School, IA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) This fast-paced book is for the young James Bond and spy-adventure fan. The book is short enough for the reluctant reader and cuts to the chase to hold attention. Other readers might quickly tire of the larger-than-life action scenes and clichés such as the stereotypical mad-scientist villain. Readers who enjoyed the first book will enjoy Point Blank. VOYA CODES: 3Q 4P M J (Readable without serious defects; Broad general YA appeal; Middle School, defined as grades 6 to 8; Junior High, defined as grades 7 to 9). 2001, Philomel, 208p, Ages 11 to 15. Reviewer: Anna Yu, aka Anna Banana, Teen Reviewer SOURCE: VOYA, February 2002 (Vol. 24, No.6)



#2024524 (Vol. 11) Never Say Die (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anthony Horowitz

Alex relocates to San Francisco as he slowly recovers from the tragic death of his best friend and caregiver, Jack Starbright, at the hands of terrorists working for SCORPIA.

With Jack gone, Alex feels lost and alone, but then, out of the blue, he receives a cryptic email--just three words long, but enough to make Alex believe that Jack may be alive.

978-1-5247-3930-0 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 14.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 760

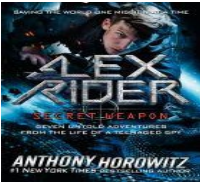
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 The 15-year-old superagent swings back into action in his eleventh outing, after a fragmentary e-mail message convinces him that his nanny-sidekick, Jack Starbrightkilled (supposedly) before his eyes in Scorpia Rising (2011)is still alive. As his search takes him from Cairo to Saint-Tropez and, finally, to an abandoned coke factory in deepest Wales, he becomes entangled in a pair of murderous crime bosses' fabulously baroque scheme to snatch a busload of children of the superrich. Once again amid races, chases, hails of bullets, and increasingly spectacular explosions, the teenage James Bond pulls off one awesome feat of derring-do after another, while allies from previous episodes pop up at convenient times to render aid, and adversaries come to bad, generally self-inflicted ends. Having given his hyperpopular series something of a breather, Horowitz now sets it back on track with a fresh caper that roars along to a (naturally) explosive climax and tidy resolution. If the broad teaser at the end is any indication, Alex's career is in no danger of slowing down. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Demand hasn't lessened for everyone's favorite teen spy in his absence; this series relaunch will have plenty of takers.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2017, American Library Association.)

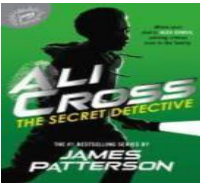
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide A message that seems to be from Jack Starbright, who Alex thought was dead, sets the ostensibly retired young spy on another high-stakes international adventure, one that ultimately involves a (disturbing) threat on the lives of a group of children. This is the sort of whirlwind, adrenaline-driven mission that fans have come to expect from the series. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

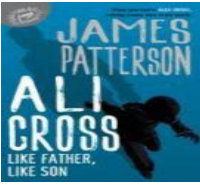
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After ending his Alex Rider series with flashback volume Russian Roulette (2013), Horowitz revives his bestselling adventure series, sending his hero on a pursuit that is very, very personal.Held captive by sadistic enemies in Scorpia Rising (2011), Alex was forced to watch the murder of his best friend and caregiver, Jack Starbright. Now safe, recovered from his wounds, and with his enemies dead, the white, English teen has moved to San Francisco with his foster family, the Pleasures, also white. He's trying to live a normal life; he's going to school, trying to fit in, not standing out even though he'd like nothing better than to trounce the local bullies. Then, out of the blue, he receives a truncated email: "ALEXX / I'M AL." Immediately, against all odds, he knows that Jack's alive and trying to reach out to him. His guardians don't believe it, having seen the footage of Jack's death. But Alex won't give up--and it doesn't take him long to slip away and start a globe-trekking search for the only person who has always been there for him. The time has come to be there for her, regardless of the consequences, with or without the help of his friends from MI6. This time, he's on his own. In his usual breakneck fashion, Horowitz whisks Alex from one improbable situation to another, all of which Alex survives by using his wits and whatever else happens to be at hand. It's as if there'd been no interruption; this installment is sure to please Alex's legions of fans. (Thriller. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) In this latest title in the popular Alex Rider series, teenage spy Alex Rider is trying to start a new life as a normal teenager in the United States with a family that knows his past and agrees to take him in. Alex has lost his uncle and watched his beloved nanny, Jackie, die at the hands of SCORPIA, a villainous group he helped defeat. When a mysterious email gives Alex hope that Jackie may actually be alive, he leaves his adopted family to embark on a worldwide hunt to uncover the truth. Along the way, he is entangled yet again with international intrigue, the remnants of SCORPIA, and a plot that involves the theft of an American Super Stallion helicopter. This is the latest entry in an extensive series; while it is best read in the context of that series, it can work as a stand-alone volume. The narrative is pure escapist spy fantasy in the style of the James Bond stories and is full of one-dimensional villains, improbable situations, and convenient coincidences. As such, it will please the target audience, while disappointing those seeking deeper literature. The narrative is reasonably engaging and moves breezily through a variety of exotic locations. One serious concern with this book is that, while the story begins with Alex suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, it does not capitalize on this chance to delve further into the matter. There are themes of trusting one's instincts, family bonds, and the uncovering of mysteries. This discretionary purchase is most suited for middle and high school libraries, especially those with other books in the series. Jonathan Ryder. 3Q 3P M J

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2103147 (Vol. 12) Secret Weapon: Seven Untold Adventures from the Life of a Teenaged Spy (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Anthony Horowitz</i> Expands the world of Alex Rider with more thrilling action and pulse-pounding heroics. Follow Alex as he infiltrates a terrorist hideout in Afghanistan, fights to prevent an assassination attempt at a ski resort over Christmas, and much more! 978-1-5247-3933-1 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 750</p>	1	\$17.99

Ali Cross (Trade)

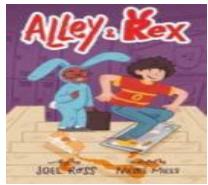
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2281630 (Vol. 03) Secret Detective (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by James Patterson</i> Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, the famous detective Alex Cross. And after helping to solve two big cases, Ali knows he has what it takes to follow in his father's footsteps. Eager to keep solving crimes, Ali and his friends hack into police calls and go to crime scenes to watch the detectives at work—and try to crack the cases themselves. 978-0-316-40991-9 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 6.0</p>	1	\$16.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2228039 (Vol. 02) Like Father, Like Son (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by James Patterson</i> Ali Cross just solved his first real case. Alex Cross knows it's only a matter of time before his son finds his way into more trouble. Neither of them expected Ali to get caught up in another case so quickly. 978-0-316-50013-5 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 304 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist After disobeying his dad by attending a music festival, Ali ends up entangled in another mystery when his friend and potential crush, Zoe, ends up shot. Ali can't help wondering why Zoe appears to know the identity of her shooter but refuses to tell it. This time, Alex Cross, the famous detective of Patterson's adult series, is determined to keep Ali out of the spotlight but fails miserably as Ali enlists the help of friends to investigate all the people in Zoe's life—including her slightly famous music-star mother—to see who may have benefited from Zoe being hurt. Patterson does a good job of writing a fast-paced mystery readers can gobble up in one sitting. Unfortunately, the second installment suffers from the same weakness as the first: awkward chapters told from Alex's points of view, the sole purpose of which seems to be to provide information that no middle-grade detective could ever discover on their own. However, like all Patterson books, this one will fly off the shelves.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ali Cross sets out to solve another case that hits close to home. Ali, son of Washington, D.C., detective Alex Cross, returns in a sequel to his 2019 outing that finds him in the thick of things when his crush, Zoe Knight, gets shot in a park. Middle schooler Ali is the closest thing there is to an eyewitness, though he didn't even see the shooter's face. Zoe knows who did it but strangely is keeping quiet. Still, Ali's knack for investigation and his connection to Zoe propel him to pursue the case with the help of friends. Themes of activism, gun violence, and police bias are explored, with various complex sides to the issues being shared by different characters. Ali's schoolmates become frustrated with the impact of gun violence on Black people and start demanding more accountability from the authorities. Meanwhile, Ali, the son of a homicide detective, finds himself in the middle of arguments about these topics while at times feeling his opinions are dismissed due to his father's profession. Overall, this is a solid follow-up that shows Ali developing as a sleuth even as he's a young boy trying to make sense of his world. Important messages regarding social justice are imparted, although the pacing sometimes feels rushed, taking away from the gravitas of certain moments. Overall, however, readers who enjoy stories of young detectives will be pleased. Ali and Zoe are Black. A fitting, socially conscious sequel. (Mystery. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Alley and Rex (Trade)



#2240582 (Vol. 01) Alley and Rex (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joel Ross

Sixth-grader Alley Katz is innocently trying to help a bunch of kindergarteners when the burrito hits the fan. Literally. A burrito. A ceiling fan. A hail of beans. Now he has to get an A on his science test or he'll be transferred to the dreaded Steggles Academy.

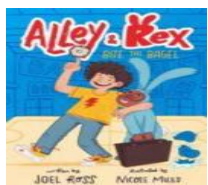
978-1-5344-9543-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 560

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Alex Katz, inevitably nicknamed Alley at school, is an infamous prankster, but as his sixth-grade year commences, his parents and the school principal have warned him that his antics have come to an end, or else he will be transferred to the dreaded Steggles Academy. Alley's one chance to demonstrate requisite character improvement is to get an A on the upcoming science assessment, and to help him accomplish this first-in-a-lifetime feat, he's been assigned a HOST (Helping Other Students Thrive) peer mentor. It's hard to see Rexinald Wrigley as a peer, however, given that he's a fourth grader who wears a bunny suit to school, carries a briefcase, and never uses a monosyllabic word when a longer term's available. Determined to fulfill his assignment, however, Rex covers for Alley when he pursues his alternate plan to ace science class by tracking down the legendary answer key rumored to be locked down in a faculty cabinet. Ross marks time en route to the satisfactory but completely predictable ending with Alley's grousing and not-so-humble bragging, while Miles delivers comic book-style vignettes that serve as welcome placeholders for kids breaking in to longer novels. This lacks the punch and structural cleverness of Barrows' *The Best of Iggy* (BCCB 12/19), but it will elicit plenty of chuckles, and it all but promises a Rex-focused sequel. EB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews r shape up. Alex "Alley" Katz tends to get in trouble. It usually isn't his fault. Most times Alley is trying his hardest to be focused and honorable, but the problem is most people don't seem to focus on the things Alley focuses on. The last straw presents itself when Alley's efforts to protect a bunch of kindergarteners leads to a bean burrito hitting the fan. Now Alley must get an A on his science test or be transferred to the robot factory Steggles Academy. Alley's assigned peer mentor is Rex, a fourth grade genius who wears a bunny suit to school. There's friction at first, but the two quickly see that a mutually beneficial arrangement can be made here: Rex will help Alley stay in school, and Alley will help Rex just plain survive school. These two misfits look out for each other, and friendship blossoms. The characters are broad and brimming with energy--a bit too much to fit into this overlong series opener. Alley is a lot, and readers will see him in all his glory on every page, so much so that readers may find their appreciation waning before the book wraps up. The result is a funny start and a sputtering finish. Judging by cover art, Alley present White and Rex has brown skin. A decent start for a new series that has potential once some pacing issues are sorted out. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2290403 (Vol. 02) Bite the Bagel (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joel Ross

Rex can rock a bunny suit like no one else. But his PE teacher insists that all students must wear gym clothes--or face a punishment worse than dodgeball. Alley vows to help his pal Rex. And to save the free breakfast cart that was closed due to budget cuts. Everyone knows that kids can't learn on empty stomachs!

978-1-5344-9547-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 590

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Alley and Rex make some more mischief. Effervescent sixth grader Alley and bunny-suited fourth grade genius Rex return for more laughs in this sequel to last year's promising *Alley & Rex* (2021). This time the pals team up to help each other survive gym class and save breakfast. Rex is loath to shed his bunny suit, but the PE teacher is insistent that he change into standard gym attire. Meanwhile, Alley is desperate to save the free breakfast cart that's been closed down due to budget cuts. Hilarity, tomfoolery, and elaborate heists ensue as the inseparable pals work toward making smart choices and finding quality solutions to their problems. Fans of the series opener will find plenty to enjoy here. Those who bristled at Alley's boisterous energy levels in the earlier installment will once again be longing for a tranquilizer dart. The narrative is better paced, and the characterization remains decent. While the story never rises to anything special, there's solid workmanship on display; this is a book that will fill out a reader's summer reading log or help pass a dull afternoon. The jokes are fun, the story has just the right dash of mayhem, and the titular pals are engaging enough to keep readers willing to come back for more. Based on cover art, Alley presents as White and Rex is brown-skinned; Alley is cued as Jewish. A "yeah, sure" if there ever was one. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

American Dog (Trade)



#2158196 Brave (Hardcover (POB))

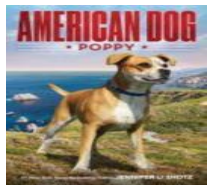
written by Jennifer Li Shotz

Brave is a dog without a home. After surviving a hurricane in San Antonio, Texas, stray dog Brave is hungry and afraid. When twelve-year-old Dylan finds Brave, he's feeling lost himself. Dylan can't help but think they were brought together for a reason. But Dylan knows it'll take hard work and training in order to convince his parents that he can keep this skittish pup. As Dylan and Brave's friendship grows, they learn to rescue each other in more ways than one. Can Dylan give Brave a forever home?

978-0-358-10867-2 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 740

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$12.99



#2158198 Poppy (Hardcover (POB))

written by Jennifer Li Shotz

Poppy is a dog with a problem. She has too much energy, and her elderly owner can keep her only if she can be trained. When twelve-year-old Hannah moves to the coast of Northern California, she thinks she can help turn this rambunctious puppy into the good dog she knows Poppy is. But Hannah realizes Poppy's reputation as a pit bull means she has to work even harder to prove that Poppy and dogs like her deserve a second chance. Will Hannah train Poppy into the perfect dog before it's too late?

978-0-358-10869-6 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

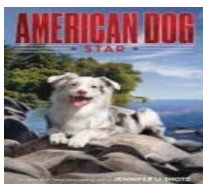
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$12.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A shy transplant from Michigan to California finds her footing when her neighbor's pit bull needs training. Hannah, a white girl with a facial birthmark, is miserable in California. Her parents, overwhelmed with new jobs and Hannah's younger siblings, never have time for her anymore. Hannah misses her Michigan friends, too. How can she possibly make new friends when she's so embarrassed about her birthmark and the California kids are all spending this summer before sixth grade surfing? It turns out there's something to love in California after all, though: her elderly neighbor's rescue pit bull puppy, Poppy. Hannah eagerly offers to take on Poppy's training, which is how she learns that many people prejudge pit bulls unfairly as violent; the analogies between judgments of Poppy for her pit-bull build and Hannah for her birthmark are strained but mostly unobtrusive. Through the process of training Poppy, Hannah slowly gains faith in herself, if only because her lack of confidence means the dog can't learn. She makes friends, learns to surf (with Poppy!), and loses her crushing self-loathing. All of her forward movement--and her personal setbacks--are framed in the little victories and crises of Poppy's education. The timespan of dog training is compressed down to simplified weeks, but the principles are solid. Brave, another in this dog-oriented series, publishes simultaneously, bringing together a canine hurricane survivor and a white boy whose father is deployed in the Middle East. This one's for dog lovers. (Fiction. 7-10) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2178576 Star (Hardcover (POB))

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$12.99



written by Jennifer Li Shotz

After her elderly owner passes away, Star, a deaf Australian shepherd, is brought to a local shelter. Star feels scared and alone, until she meets twelve-year-old Julian. After getting in trouble at school yet again, Julian volunteers at the shelter and realizes he can communicate with Star in a way that no one else can. Their bond continues to grow, and Julian and Star become inseparable.

978-0-358-10871-9 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 8.0

Amina's Voice (Trade)



#2218746 Amina's Song (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Hena Khan

It's the last few days of her vacation in Pakistan, and Amina has loved every minute of it. The food, the shops, the time she's spent with her family--all of it holds a special place in Amina's heart. Now that the school year is starting again, she's sad to leave, but also excited to share the wonders of Pakistan with her friends back in Greendale.

978-1-5344-5988-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* After Amina's monthlong trip to Pakistan with her family, she finds it difficult to leave her ancestral country behind, feeling that she is somehow losing an important part of herself and suddenly less certain about who she is. Back home, Amina tries to make sense of these feelings, and when she attempts to share them with her friends, she begins to wonder if they, too, are growing apart. As Amina comes to better understand her friends, she finds a way to share the beauty of Pakistan with her classmates and to work together with those around her to help others in the community. Along with a new friend, Amina uses her beautiful voice to share her love of both Pakistan and America with others, helping those just like her who may feel part of two beautiful worlds. Revisiting Amina's world (Amina's Voice, 2017) is, in a way, similar to Amina's own experience visiting Pakistan--readers will experience the joy of family, along with the sadness of knowing the visit will end soon. Khan excellently weaves together complex issues of feeling torn between two parts of one's identity, illness in the family, helping others, and finding out that growing up does not have to mean growing apart. Highly recommended for all collections. COPYRIGHT(2020) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

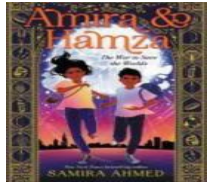
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Amina develops her musical talents and her identity in this follow-up to Khan's popular middle-grade novel Amina's Voice (2018). A monthlong family trip to Pakistan wraps up as summer ends. Although the trip was dotted with moments when she didn't feel Pakistani enough, as Amina returns home to Wisconsin it's as though she's leaving a piece of her heart behind. Seventh grade brings new activities and a new friend, Nico. While she settles back into routines with community service, time with friends, and FaceTime with family back in Pakistan, Amina works on writing song lyrics to capture her feelings about being attached to two places, and Nico teaches her to mix music on the computer. Is the excitement she feels around him about the music and having a new friend, or is it something more? And how can she keep her promise to her uncle to show Americans the beauty of Pakistan when her project about Malala Yousafzai only makes her classmates pity girls in Pakistan? Readers will enjoy being along for the ride as Amina sorts through mild middle school turbulence and finds satisfying ways to express and share her true self. A diverse cast of characters (Nico is French and Egyptian; Soojin is Korean; Emily is, presumably, White) situates Amina in a realistic small American town, and her story offers a hopeful example for young readers who are figuring themselves out, too. A sweet sequel. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this sequel to Amina's Voice, Khan returns to the world of Pakistani American teenager Amina Khokar, whose monthlong trip to Lahore is coming to an end as the book opens. Upon her return to Wisconsin, Amina begins seventh grade smoothly, without the friendship conflicts that plagued her the previous year. To her disappointment, however, her classmates appear uninterested in hearing more about her trip and the people and vibrant places she's come to love, even while feeling excluded from aspects of Pakistani culture. Her decision to dress up as Malala Yousafzai for a school project provokes negative commentary on Pakistan, even though "girls suffer from injustice everywhere in the world." Meanwhile, the presence of Nico, a new French Egyptian classmate, sees Amina navigating the viability of platonic male-female friendships, as he partners with Amina to complete a songwriting project. With his help, she aims to showcase her love of Pakistan and challenge her American classmates' assumptions. Though the prose style can feel somewhat simplistic at times, Amina remains engaging throughout, with her close familial relationships and self-proclaimed "identity crisis" as part of both cultures enabling frank discussions, and well-rounded supporting characters lending layers to the narrative. Ages 8-12. Agent: Matthew Elblonk, DeFiore & Co. (Mar.) Copyright 2021 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Amina loved the month of summer she spent visiting family in Pakistan, though there were

moments she didn't feel quite Pakistani enough and struggled with having to go home, not knowing when she would see her family again. She's also trying to figure out how her experiences have changed her view of herself and the world. Her Thaya Jaan (beloved uncle) has challenged her to show her friends back home the beauty of Pakistan. The protagonist is nervous about how her classmates perceive Pakistan and wants them to understand that it's not as dangerous as they believe it to be. After befriending a new student, Nico, who shares her love of music and a talent for mixing it, Amina finds the opportunity to present the many facets of her heritage through song. A lovely sequel that does not require familiarity with the first book, this is an uplifting story about relationships, especially those that strengthen us and help us grow. Readers really get to know and understand Amina's perspective, but secondary characters are also fleshed out, making the narrative relatable and engaging. VERDICT A beautiful story for middle graders discovering who they are. A wonderful addition to all collections.--Kristyn Dorfman, The Nightingale-Bamford Sch., New York City Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Amira and Hamza (Trade)



#2246426 (Vol. 01) War to Save the Worlds (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Samira Ahmed

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 **\$16.99**

On the day of a rare super blue blood moon eclipse, twelve-year-old Amira and her little brother, Hamza, can't stop their bickering while attending a special exhibit on medieval Islamic astronomy. While stargazer Amira is wowed by the amazing gadgets, a bored Hamza wanders off, stumbling across the mesmerizing and forbidden Box of the Moon.
 978-0-316-54046-9 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 368 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Acclaimed author Ahmed draws on mythical legends of Islamic origin, the Hamzanama, for this middle-grade fantasy novel. Specific references to that ancient story collection may be lost on contemporary readers, but this is nonetheless packed with all the ingredients of a whirlwind adventure: spunky, problem--solving kids; gender-fluid shapeshifters made of smokeless fire; ancient astronomical mysteries; and a hefty dose of science to underscore the inexplicable. The plot features siblings Amira and Hamza, who unexpectedly find themselves enmeshed in an ancient prophecy that foretold their role in saving the world from a cosmic disaster. They must end a war in the land of Oaf or else the moon will split apart, and the earth will be at the mercy of evil jinn and ghuls. Amid myriad twists and turns, Amira and Hamza emerge as smart, funny, likable protagonists with emotional ranges that render them believable even while everything around them is fantastical. This is the first in the series, and readers will be impatient for the stories to come. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

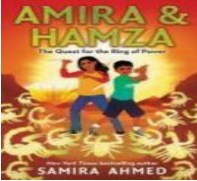
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old Amira and her younger brother Hamza, Muslim Indian American siblings in Chicago, are the heroes of this suspenseful, action-packed adventure filled with jinn, ghuls, devs, and other supernatural creatures from Islamic folklore. When the children disturb an ancient artifact in a museum exhibit, two jinn appear, informing them that they are "chosen ones" needed for a serious mission. They must save Earth and Qaf (the jinn homeland) from Ifrit, a "terrible and cruel dev" intent on destroying both worlds. This is a refreshingly different take on the kids-must-save-the-world story in that Amira and Hamza are the most anxious, reluctant, and nerdy heroes ever. Constant clashes between the bickering siblings provide comic relief, in contrast with the seriousness of the task at hand. Dangerous encounters with monstrous foes challenge the two to believe in themselves and work together to fulfill their mission. Fantasy-adventure fans will have a hard time putting down this fast-paced and engaging tale. Author's note and glossary not seen. Julie Hakim Azzam(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews What will it take for two plucky kids from Chicago to save the universe from certain disaster? Courage with a heaping side of love. Twelve-year-old Amira is a scientist, rational and focused. Hamza, her younger brother, is a risk taker, thriving in his active imagination. The night of a rare astronomical event brings out more than the moon and the stars when they accidentally activate an ancient device recovered from the Caspian Sea, al-Biruni's Box of the Moon, cracking off a piece of the moon, putting everyone else on Earth to sleep, and bringing an army of genderfluid jinn to meet them, the chosen ones. Led by Abdul Rahman, the vizier to the emperor of Qaf, and accompanied by Maqbool, Abdul Rahman's aide-de-camp, the jinn escort Amira (who does not feel eager or ready to assume these duties) and Hamza (who can barely contain his delight) on their quest to protect Qaf by defeating wicked dev Ifrit and saving the universe. In her middle-grade debut, Ahmed rationalizes the irrational with a creative blend of science and magic, building a bridge from a familiar world to a new one. A blend of Indian culture, Islamic folklore, history, and pointed social commentary are all wrapped up in a fantasy world that is as compelling as it is informative. Even readers who don't believe in magic will find themselves wishing on a star. (map, author's note, glossary) (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A budding astronomer and self-proclaimed "nerd," 12-year-old Amira, this novel's Muslim, Indian American narrator, can't wait to witness an upcoming lunar extravaganza. In Chicago, the Islamic Society of Ancient Astronomy is celebrating the coincidence of a supermoon, blood moon, and blue moon (a "celestial trifecta of awesomeness") with an exhibition attended by Amira, her irksome younger brother Hamza, and their parents. When Hamza wanders off, he becomes entranced by the Box of the Moon; an ancient analogue computer made of unidentified alloys. A sibling tussle over the artifact restarts it, unleashing staggering consequences. As the adults drop into an


enchanted sleep, a broken piece of the moon heads directly for Earth, and an army of jinn spirits the siblings away, Amira and Hamza discover that it falls to them to save the world from a great battle between the realms. Ahmed (Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know) centers her fast-paced middle grade debut on a deeply engaging heroine, foil to her more reckless and charming brother. The siblings' relationship; characterized by equal amounts of affection and bickering; lends authenticity and humor to the folklore-inspired narrative. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Joanna Volpe, New Leaf Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--A middle grade fantasy that includes Islamic legends, magic, science, and the power of belief in oneself. While at their mosque, waiting for the super blue blood moon, Amira and her younger brother Hamza both happen to touch a supposedly broken ancient artifact, the Box of the Moon, which sets an equally ancient prophecy in motion. Everyone on Earth suddenly falls asleep, and jinn appear, claiming that Amira and Hamza have been chosen to save the magical world of Qaf, Earth, and life as they know it. Amira loves science, so she has her doubts about fulfilling a mystical prophecy at 12, while Hamza is thrilled to become important, like one of his favorite superheroes. Like any magical journey, this one is full of heart, humor, action, doubt, and the belief that even the most unexpected individuals can save the world. Amira's questions will resonate with skeptical readers, whereas Hamza urges her to let go and believe anyway. Amira and Hamza's adventure is emotionally believable, even as the siblings ride magical creatures to their next destination. Although some of the action might be intimidating for younger readers, this would still make for a great read-aloud. VERDICT A fast-paced adventure with heart and a superb fairy-tale adaptation of Islamic legends. Sure to be a hit with fans of Yoon Ha Lee's *Dragon Pearl* and Sayantani DasGupta's *The Serpent's Secret*.--Hilary Tufo, Columbus Metropolitan Lib., Reynoldsburg, OH Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2291606 (Vol. 02) Quest for the Ring of Power (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Samira Ahmed</i> Amira and Hamza have returned from Qaf, the magical Jinn world, as triumphant heroes-and life has been pleasantly quiet. Too quiet. Hamza is determined to have one last monumental, epic adventure before summer ends. But when sneaking off to explore an old, abandoned castle goes from life-changing adventure to potentially deadly, Amira and Hamza find themselves in the middle of another dangerous quest to save the worlds. 978-0-316-31861-7 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 384 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 10.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The sibling duo return on another quest to save the world. It's been two months since sister and brother defeated Ifrit in Qaf and saved the universe. It's also the end of summer: Hamza wants to have something awesome to share when school starts, so he goes off to explore an old, abandoned, castlelike house. But a sudden tornado hits, and he wakes up in the Oriental Institute, a nearby Chicago museum, face to face with Ifrit's father, Ahriman, who has returned in search of the Ring of Power that will allow him to control the human and jinn worlds. To find it, Ahriman needs all three parts of an ancient oculus—and the help of Hamza, who is a Chosen One. Ahriman threatens to destroy everything Hamza loves if he does not help him. After solving a riddle, they claim the first piece from the Oriental Institute, then travel via Ahriman's tornado to the British Museum and the Louvre to collect the remaining pieces, with Amira and fairy princess Aasman Peri in pursuit. Alternating chapters from Amira's and Hamza's points of view capture their thoughts and emotions. Ahmed cleverly weaves in Islamic historical figures, some of whom are ghost Keepers of The Ring who pose riddles, like scholar and philosopher Ibn Sina and scientists and inventors the Banu Musa brothers. Ahmed's rich worldbuilding continues in this imaginative and absorbing sequel. A captivating magical adventure.

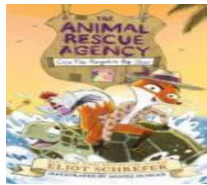
Animal Rescue Agency (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2196159 (Vol. 01) Case File: Little Claws (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Eliot Schrefer</i> Dashing Esquire Fox used to organize the world's most elaborate chicken raids, until the day she encountered Mr. Pepper. Meeting the blustery old rooster changed her heart, convincing her to turn from a life of crime and instead form the Animal Rescue Agency, which masterminds rescue operations across the globe. 978-0-06-298233-9 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 4.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this ecologically minded series opener, Schrefer (*The Popper Penguin Rescue*) introduces the interspecies odd couple that heads up the Animal Rescue Agency; patrician Esquire, a tweed-wearing, tea-drinking, jazz-listening fox, and fastidious colleague Mr. Pepper, a cantankerous elderly rooster. Working from tips supplied by field operatives, the duo sets out to save Little Claws, a young polar bear set

adrift on an ice floe by a villainous fur-wearing animal trafficker who plans to sell the cub to a Florida zoo. Living up to their motto; "To each animal, the right to live its natural life"; the agents thwart the trafficker's efforts, liberating a warehouse full of Arctic animals as part of the high-stakes plot. Though Schrefer plays Mr. Pepper's domestic contributions for laughs, moments of absurdity ("That's not the sound of failure; it's the sound of a walrus!"), amplified by cartoon-inflected illustrations by Duncan (South), make for a lighthearted read with environmental conservation at its core. Back matter includes a recipe, an afterword with facts about climate change, and a list of further reading. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Richard Pine, Inkwell Management. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2–5—When Esquire Fox and her partner Mr. Pepper, a gentlemanly rooster, get the message that an animal of some kind is trapped on an ice floe, they rush to the rescue. As the founders of the Animal Rescue Agency, they have sworn to help any animal who is in trouble. On arrival in Utqiagvik, Alaska, they learn that the animal they need to save is a baby polar bear named Little Claws. It has been stranded on an ice floe by a mysterious man in a white fur hat, who soon captures them as well. It will require the help of some unlikely animal allies and a daring adventure in the Arctic Sea to rescue the stranded polar bear while escaping the villainous poacher. With its odd-couple protagonists (the daring, but slightly vain Esquire Fox and stodgy, sensible Mr. Pepper), and entertaining portrayal of the animal world, this new series by the Endangered author is full of lighthearted adventure. Cartoon-style illustrations by Duncan add to the story's charm. The field notes at the end explain the real-life perils faced by polar bears in the face of climate change, and include resources explaining the causes of polar ice loss and how kids can help. This also includes a recipe for mushroom jerky. **VERDICT** This lively new series will appeal to fans of Elisabetta Dami's "Geronimo Stilton" and other anthropomorphic animal adventure stories.—Ashley Larsen, Pacifica Libraries, CA



#2266121 (Vol. 02) Case File: Pangolin Pop Star (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Eliot Schrefer

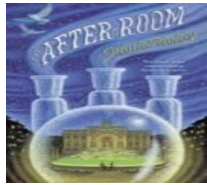
After a frigid arctic rescue, Esquire and Mr. Pepper get the perfect opportunity to warm up--an invitation to Beatle the Pangolin's private island concert! The dynamic duo could use a relaxing break from running the Animal Rescue Agency. Sun and sand await!

978-0-06-298236-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Apothecary (Prebound)



#1993520 (Vol. 03) After-Room (Prebound)

written by Maile Meloy

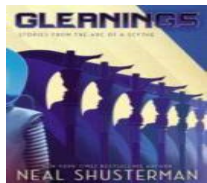
Teenagers Janie and Benjamin continue to explore the secrets of the Pharmacopoeia while Benjamin risks everything to find a way to connect with his father.

978-1-5364-0317-6 ©2017 5 x 7-3/4 448 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 5.1 Lexile 660

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$22.95

Arc of a Scythe (Trade)



#2300561 (Vol. 04) Gleanings (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Neal Shusterman

There are still countless tales of the Scythedom to tell. Centuries passed between the Thunderhead cradling humanity and Scythe Goddard trying to turn it upside down. For years humans lived in a world without hunger, disease, or death with Scythes as the living instruments of population control.

978-1-5344-9997-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 18.0 Lexile 830

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books This sharp, clever anthology, a love letter to a brilliant series, offers readers short takes throughout the timeline of Shusterman's Scythe series. Shusterman himself contributes, as do other authors who have been impacted or influenced by the original trilogy. While some stories offer backgrounds to scythes that appear fully formed in the novels, others explore emerging scythes, immortal humans, or Thunderhead, the AI tasked with helping, protecting, and coddling humanity as they entered a period of time when

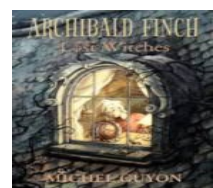
immortality becomes possible (for those counting, that will happen in 20 years). The world Shusterman built is expansive and creative, allowing for significant further exploration on how people would respond when death no longer happens naturally but trained scythes could come for you at any point. The collection also dives into how scythes themselves might evolve depending on their personalities—some who relish power or cruelty and fervently throw themselves into their roles while others reluctantly take on the title and perform the minimum number of killings necessary to keep their quotas. New readers will gather up enough key details sprinkled throughout the stories to appreciate this as a themed sci-fi anthology, but this collection is likely most powerful and memorable if read after the trilogy. The opportunity to explore a world created by one author but now interpreted through the perspectives of many is a rare treat, and much of the richness comes in finding the connections back to the original series. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Welcome back to the post-mortal utopia of the Arc of a Scythe series. In the original trilogy, Shusterman posited that even a true utopia is imperfect thanks to human nature. Here, he returns to the Thunderhead's world with a collection of shorter works that explore moments before, during, and after the end of the Scythedom. While some stories need only basic contextual knowledge of the world, most are directly related to Citra's and Rowan's experiences: prequel tales of teenage Scythe Marie Curie (gleaning the last corrupt politicians) and Carson Lusk (later Scythe Goddard and unpleasant from the start); stories focused on Citra's brother, Ben, and on the sister of the first gleaning Rowan attends in Scythe (2016); and even one from the perspective of the Cirrus, the multifaceted AI offspring of the Thunderhead. The always accomplished, straightforward writing is at its best when it moves away from the larger Scythe-Thunderhead politics and instead focuses on humanity, art, and love in a world without natural or accidental death. Standouts include "The Mortal Canvas," focused on the first (and maybe last) post-mortal artist, and the slyly humorous "Meet Cute and Die," about the niece of a domineering and needy Scythe in Britannia. One for the legions of fans of this world. (Science fiction. 14-adult) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Spanning from the end of the mortal era alluded to in Scythe to the period following The Toll, Shusterman's amalgam of in-world extrapolations; many written in collaboration with creators including Joelle Shusterman and David Yoon; explore previously under-illuminated corners of the Arc of a Scythe universe. While a handful of excellent stories add notable depth to two of the trilogy's most pivotal characters, and others flesh out personages mentioned only in passing, the best engage playfully with the established works' rules and tone. These include a paranoid-feeling thriller ("Never Work with Animals," coauthored with Michael H. Payne), a deadly game of cat and mouse occurring in a literal dreamscape ("Perchance to Glean," coauthored with Michelle Knowlden), a romantic comedy starring an accident-prone pair ("Meet Cute and Die"), and a surreal feud that turns Barcelona into a murderous Rube Goldberg machine ("The Persistence of Memory," coauthored with Jarrod Shusterman and Sofia Lapuente). Though the volume's not a starting place for series newcomers, existing fans will relish the varied tales, which handle themes of art, meaning, and morality in a post-death world with an efficacious mixture of humor, violence, and gentle absurdity. Ages 12: up. Agent: Andrea Brown, Andrea Brown Literary. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up—This work returns to the post-mortal world of the bestselling "Arc of a Scythe" series, telling more captivating tales of the Scythedom. In a society that has conquered hunger, disease, and death, Scythes are the sole arbiters of death, tasked with the responsibility of ending life through gleaning, each with a preferred, sometimes unique, method. This newest installment, presented as an anthology, reveals histories of familiar characters, while also introducing new figures that play a part in the rise and fall of the world that has triumphed over death. Shusterman, in collaboration with David Yoon, Jarrod Shusterman, Soffa Lapuente, Michael H. Payne, Michelle Knowlden, and Joelle Shusterman, paints an enlightening picture of this dystopian world, exposing secrets spanning centuries, and shedding light on further terrors that lay within the Scythedom. The world of the series is brilliantly crafted, with precise and intricate details. In this collection, every chapter works as a standalone story, each with something new and interesting to offer. Standouts include "A Martian Minute" and "A Dark Curtain Rises," both of which expand on stories of familiar characters with cleverly executed twists. Also memorable is the elaborate "The Persistence of Memory" and the satisfying "A Death of Many Colors." Multiracial characters make up this civilization, and multiple characters are introduced as members of the LGBTQIA+ community. VERDICT Fans of the "Arc of a Scythe" series will be pleased with this thrilling continuation.—Amanda Harding

Archibald Finch (Trade)



#2243369 (Vol. 01) Archibald Finch and the Lost Witches (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Michel Guyon

Archibald is a nervous boy with quirks that earn him plenty of eye-rolls, especially from his older sister, Hailee. Things get worse when his parents move the family from London to his grandmother's creepy manor in the English countryside. Now he has to deal with hairless dolls in the library, weird stone creatures on the roof, and a spooky forest at the edge of the backyard. But these turn out to be the least of Archibald's problems . . .

978-1-5248-6772-0 ©2021 6 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Archibald Finch is a unique combo of quirks. He knows everything, but he doesn't know how he's

acquired his knowledge and he's scared of monsters. So scared that he insists on sharing a room with his older sister Hailee, which is odd considering that their new home is a manor with 20 rooms that the family just inherited from Archibald's grandma. He is constantly bullied at school and he feels he has no friends. While exploring his large new home one day, a globe captures Archibald's attention. He's soon absorbed right into the globe, with his sister as a witness. His parents call Scotland Yard. Meanwhile, Archibald has entered a new world and sets off on a magical adventure. Hailee is soon off on her own adventure searching for Archibald. VERDICT This page-turner is sure to capture the attention of readers who enjoy magical fantasy adventures.—Helen Foster James, University of California at San Diego Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2298620 (Vol. 02) Archibald Finch and the Curse of the Phoenix (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Michel Guyon

Archibald is a changed boy. He stands up to bullies and hangs out with the gargoyles that used to scare him. But for all his new toughness, he's also a lost boy who misses his friends in Lemurea. When strange footprints are discovered on the manor grounds, he realizes a piece of that world has followed him home...

978-1-5248-7136-9 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 464 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 860

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$24.99

Archvillain (Trade Binding)



#1611055 Archvillain (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Barry Lyga

Twelve-year-old Kyle Camden develops greater mental agility and superpowers during a plasma storm that also brings Mighty Mike, an alien, to the town of Bouring, but while each does what he thinks is best, Kyle is labeled a villain and Mike a hero.

9780545196499 ©2010 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 4.5 GR Lvl U Lexile 740

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Comic book fans in particular will appreciate this clever origin story, first in a new series. Twelve-year-old prankster Kyle is making mischief at the middle school football field the night a plasma storm falls to earth. After being "bathed in the energy of the storm," he gains amazing superpowers, like heightened intelligence and the ability to fly. He later learns that a boy was found after the storm. Everyone in town assumes this stranger is "a normal kid with superpowers and amnesia," anointing "Mighty Mike" a hero after he uses his powers to extinguish a fire and save kids' lives. But as his memories of the plasma storm return, jealous Kyle is suspicious of the do-gooder's motives, believing it his duty "to expose him for what he is and drive him away." Lyga (Goth Girl Rising) laces his story with ample humor, from the persnickety AI sidekick Kyle makes from his iPod to his failed Pants Laser prank. Readers will find plenty to ponder, from guessing Mike's true motivations to debating whether Kyle is a hero--or a villain in the making. Ages 9-12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7—Sixth-grader Kyle is smart, popular, and the planner of high-quality pranks. Then an encounter with a mysterious "space plasma" leaves him with cosmic intellect, super-strength, and the ability to fly. Kyle loves his new skills, but decides it's safest to keep them under wraps. However, the plasma has brought something else as well—a strange boy whom Kyle strongly suspects is an alien. Mighty Mike has superpowers too—but he isn't shy about exercising them in public. Mike quickly becomes a sensation with adults as well as kids, even though his good deeds don't always go smoothly. Kyle resents Mike taking over his top-dog status and suspects that the newcomer may have more sinister schemes in mind. He plans a super prank to expose him, but things get disastrously out of hand. There is a subtle underlying message about perception vs. reality. Kyle is not a particularly admirable character. He is self-centered and frequently uses his newfound powers to manipulate people. Much of his vaunted popularity seems to rest on his ability to humiliate others, especially in setting up grudge pranks on request. His crowd is quick to switch allegiance when a new sensation comes along. The author takes some sly digs at popular culture as well. The question of Mike's true identity is left unresolved. Is he an earnest, if somewhat naïve superhero or are Kyle's rather cynical suspicions on track? Who is the good guy and who is really the archvillain? Tune in next time....—Elaine E. Knight, Lincoln Elementary Schools, IL

Area 51 Files (Trade)

#2290636 (Vol. 01) Area 51 Files (Hardcover (POB))

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99



written by Julie Buxbaum

When Sky Patel-Baum is sent to live with her mysterious uncle, she didn't imagine she'd end up here: Area 51. A top-secret military base with a bajillion rules and so classified not even the president knows its secrets. Also, it turns out the place is full of aliens. Lots and lots of aliens. But they prefer to be called Break Throughs, thank you very much.

978-0-593-42946-4 ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 690

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ent in 5 years--and a new mystery. When her grandma moves into a kid-free retirement home, 12-year-old or han Priya "Sky" Patel-Baum and Spike, her pet hedgehog, relocate to Area 51 to live with Sky's eccentric Uncle Anish. At 51, humans and Break throughs (government-speak for aliens) live together off-grid in harmony. Unfortunately, several Zdstammars (one of many Break Through species) mysteriously disappear, disrupting the base's harmony and contributing to feelings of suspicion. Despite being deputy head of the Federal Bureau of Alien Investigations, Uncle Anish becomes a prime suspect. Can Sky and Elvis, her alien classmate, prove Uncle Anish's innocence and find the missing Zdstammars before it's too late? YA author Buxbaum's middle-grade debut is a rip-roaring series opener complete with over-the-top characters and jokes galore. Naidu's black-and-white cartoon illustrations extend the comedy with ongoing commentary that smartly interacts with the prose. The cast of Break Through species--like Audiotooters, Galzorian, and Sanitizoria--have hilariously creative on-the-nose names with illustrations to match. Sky is coded biracial, with a White dad and Indian mom. Aliens appear in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors; Elvis shape-shifts but looks like a brown-skinned boy to Sky. Though the main mystery is neatly wrapped up, the cliffhanger ending promises more laughs. Contagiously goofy and fun. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When her grandmother, with whom she's lived almost all her life, moves into a retirement home, 12-year-old Sky Patel-Baum, who reads as of South Asian descent, is sent to stay with her only other living relative. Uncle Anish is second-in-command of Area 51, a secret haven for "Break Throughs," or extraterrestrials on Earth. A place of intense security, numerous regulations, and no contact with the outside world, Area 51 hasn't seen a new resident in five years, but Sky quickly makes friends with Elvis, a shape-shifting alien who appears to Sky as a brown-skinned boy. Sky's arrival coincides with the mysterious disappearance of several Zdstammars, and her uncle Anish seems the most likely suspect. Now, Sky and Elvis must clear Anish's name and find the missing aliens. Populated with human agents sporting names such as Belcher and Fartz, good-natured humor lands alongside imaginatively rendered extraterrestrials (including a living cubist representation), while quick pacing keeps things light. B&w illustrations by Naidu (Home Is in Between) both illuminate and expand upon this tongue-in-cheek mystery adventure, a middle grade debut from Buxbaum (Year on Fire). Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Jennifer Joel, ICM Partners. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—A lighthearted mystery (with delightful illustrations) about accepting everyone just as they are. Priya "Sky" Patel-Baum is an orphan, and when her grandmother has to go to an assisted living facility, the 12-year-old ends up being sent to live with an uncle she has never met. It turns out he lives in Area 51, a top secret military base that is so classified not even the president knows its true purpose. (Rule #1: What happens in Area 51 stays in Area 51). Not only does she discover that there are aliens in Area 51, but they start to disappear when she arrives. Is it a coincidence? Sky, who is Indian and white, meets unimaginably strange beings, such as the Audiotooters, who fart out of their ears and release a delightful whiff of roses. Drones that deliver pizza and secret hatches that lead to tunnels in the living room floor are just a few of the things Sky discovers as she and her friends try to solve the mystery of the disappearing aliens. The school bully turns out to be one of her partners in crime as she and Elvis the alien work to uncover the mystery and clear her uncle's reputation. Readers who like their science fiction with a touch of humor, such as Frank Cottrell Boyce's Sputnik's Guide to Life On Earth, will enjoy these sci-fic high jinks. VERDICT A solid purchase for libraries building their collection of middle grade science fiction.—Deanna McDaniel



#2327970 (Vol. 02) Big Flush (Hardcover (POB))

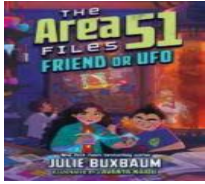
written by Julie Buxbaum

A hunk of space junk is headed right for the base! And it's not just any hunk of junk! It's a giant toilet! Even worse? A traitor on base is working with angry aliens to coordinate the attack. With one case already under their belts, Sky and her friends are on a mission to save Area 51. But what happens if their investigation goes down the toilet? That would stink!

978-0-593-42950-1 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99



#2378332 (Vol. 03) Friend or UFO (Hardcover (POB))

written by Julie Buxbaum

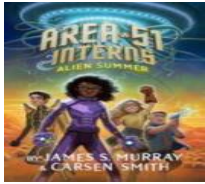
Sky's life in Area 51 is full of surprises. Like the fact that aliens are real-and now one is her best friend! But the biggest surprise yet comes when Sky learns that her grandmother has been kidnapped and is stuck in Area 52, the only other alien portal on Earth. Even more bananas? Her grandma has been an undercover FBI agent for YEARS. Like Sky's whole entire life. How could Sky not have known her grandma had a secret identity?

978-0-593-42954-9 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$14.99

Area 51 Interns (Trade)



#2268328 (Vol. 01) Alien Summer (Hardcover (Trade))

written by James S. Murray

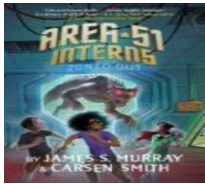
It's the first day of summer vacation, and Viv Harlow just wants to relax with her friends at the beach before they all go to different high schools next year. She is definitely not interested in visiting her mom's office, even if Director Harlow works at the famous Area 51. But when an alarm sounds beneath the secret base and a whole race of aliens escape, she's about to get much more than she bargained for.

978-0-593-22612-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young Black girl and her three friends set out to protect Area 51. Vivian Harlow is a 12-year-old on summer vacation—her last one before entering a STEM magnet school. Her mother is the director of future technology at the famed Area 51. While many people consider it a must-see tourist destination, Vivian is more interested in spending time with her closest friends, Charlotte and Ray, who are White, and (hopefully) her crush, Elijah, who is Latinx. So Area 51 is the last place Viv wants to be for Take Your Kids to Work Day. At least Charlotte, Ray, and Elijah are there too, shadowing their own parents. Initially, the facility seems perfectly ordinary, contrary to all the rumors and conspiracy theories. That is, until a group of aliens breaks out of their quarters, seemingly bent on revenge after being confined and having something important taken from them. The adults put up a fight, but they are soon bested, and it is up to the four young people to save everyone. As the other kids look to her for leadership, Viv fears she is not up to the task. Murray and Smith begin this story in the middle of a high-stakes scene that sets the stage for an action-packed adventure tale filled with humor and charm. Viv and her companions are sure to win over audiences as they try to survive and turn the tide on this alien invasion. An exciting series opener. (Fantasy. 8-12)



#2295502 (Vol. 02) Zoned Out (Hardcover (Trade))

written by James S. Murray

After saving their parents from an alien attack and becoming official interns at Area 51, Viv Harlow and her friends Charlotte, Ray, and Elijah are ready to keep taking down bad guys and helping test all the fun high-tech gadgets. When Elijah discovers a secret Forbidden Zone hidden away on the base, the group jumps at the chance to explore the new place, only to learn it's home to some of the most elusive creatures on Earth. But after the Yeti, Loch Ness Monster, and more terrifying monsters escape, they'll have to prove themselves to their parents and capture the beasts to save the base!

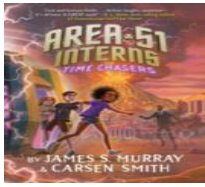
978-0-593-22614-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

#2348654 (Vol. 03) Time Chasers (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



written by James S. Murray

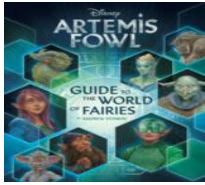
After the shocking revelation about her long-lost father, Viv, Elijah, Charlotte, and Ray are determined to save him at any cost. So it's a no-brainer for them to sneak into one of Area 51's finicky time machines to try to bring him back. What could go wrong? Well, how about not being able to track Viv's father through time, almost getting destroyed by the same meteor that killed the dinosaurs, and being chased by strange beings that preserve the proper flow of time? And with her father's life-and their own histories- at stake, Viv and her friends may be running out of time to set things right...

978-0-593-22616-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 650

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Teen interns chase a pair of fugitives—and each other—up and down the timestream. Following on previous encounters with aliens and cryptids, in this third series outing, Viv, Ray, Charlotte, and Elijah discover that Area 51 includes time travel too. And so, in a tale that features encounters with their past and future selves as well as several historical figures, narrow escapes galore, and regular puking, they pile into a TARDIS-like machine to hare after Viv’s errant parents. Sacrificing elegance for speed (“She floated along in a hapless path,” “They collided into each other,” and “Viv squirmed in her skin”), the authors send their bumbling quartet from a prehistoric extinction event to a far-future one for a climactic battle with bad guys while the swelling sun “plunges the Earth into an uninhabitable chunk of rock.” They then rewind it all for a happy reunion. All this wraps up just in time for a new crisis to set the stage for a lead-in to the next world-saving exploit. Meanwhile, scenes in which the kids help out Einstein, the Wright brothers, Beethoven, and Leonardo da Vinci make fun set pieces, as do Spaziante’s full-color files on the time travelers’ futuristic iPhone 42s and other high-tech gear that appear at the end. High-speed hijinks, albeit in low-rent prose. (Science fiction. 8-12)

Artemis Fowl Novels (Trade)



#2104268 Artemis Fowl's Guide to the World of Fairies (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andrew Donkin

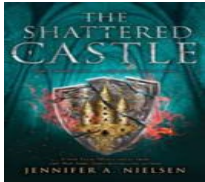
This beautifully illustrated novel is a compendium of Artemis Fowl's knowledge gleaned from The Book of the People and from his encounters with magical creatures and the LEP. Compiling notes from the sacred fairy tome and Artemis's eventual plans to take down the LEP forces that stand in the way of his ultimate goal.

978-1-368-04077-8 ©2020 7-3/4 x 9-3/4 192 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Ascendance (Trade)



#2252508 (Vol. 05) Shattered Castle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer A. Nielsen

King Jaron has outwitted the Prozarians and returned to his own kingdom with one secret in his pocket that not even his friends know about. He's hoping that secret will help him finally bring stability to Carthya.

978-1-338-27590-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



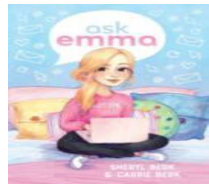
#2179996 (Vol. 04) Captive Kingdom (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer A. Nielsen

In a peaceful Carthya, Jaron leads as the Ascendant King with Imogen beside him -- but the peace he fought so long for is not destined to last. On a routine sea voyage, Jaron's ship is brutally attacked, and he is taken hostage. The mysterious captors and their leader, Jane Strick, accuse Jaron of unthinkable acts.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Ask Emma (Trade)



#2062436 (Vol. 01) Ask Emma (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sheryl Berk

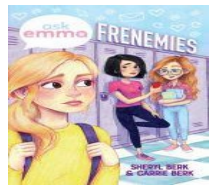
Emma Woods knows just how to fix all her peers' problems--or so she thinks. She starts a blog, "Ask Emma," in the hopes that her peers will write in and ask for her help.

978-1-4998-0647-2 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 620

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-A contemporary, a middle grade retelling of Jane Austen's Emma. Thirteen-year-old Emma Wood attends Austen Middle School and has a tendency to stick her nose into everyone else's business and offer unsolicited advice. In order to share her talents with a broader audience, she starts a blog, "Ask Emma." Unfortunately, her well-meaning interventions don't always go as planned and Emma soon finds herself on the receiving end of some harsh criticism. Undeterred, Emma works to turn a hurtful episode into a positive learning experience. Accessible writing and short chapters make this a comfortable read for middle graders interested in relatively lighthearted realism. Back matter includes resources on cyberbullying. VERDICT A solid addition to larger collections, especially schools in which there is a focus on combatting cyberbullying.-Peggy Henderson Murphy, Wyandot Elementary School, Dublin, OH Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2087832 (Vol. 02) Frenemies (Hardcover (Trade))

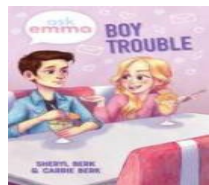
written by Sheryl Berk

When she learns her crush, Jackson Knight, is going to Washington, DC, to attend the National Student Congress, Emma is upset that she wasn't picked as a representative.

978-1-4998-0648-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
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\$16.99



#2121888 (Vol. 03) Boy Trouble (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Carrie Berk

Back from a remarkable trip to Washington DC, 13-year-old Emma Woods thinks Jackson Knight is about to become her first boyfriend. But when Jax seems to suddenly turn icy, Emma is left in the cold. As if Emma's life couldn't get more complicated, Austen Middle School is hosting its first-ever Sadie Hawkins dance, where girls invite a partner.

978-1-4998-0649-6 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Atlantis (Trade / Amulet)



#2222362 (Vol. 01) Accidental Invasion (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gregory Mone

Kaya, raised in the undersea, high-tech world of Atlantis, has always been fascinated by the legends about life above the water. Despite the government's insistence that they're only stories, she can't help but dream about the Sun People--and when a group of officials known as Erasers move to bury those legends for good, Kaya sets out to

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

the surface to uncover the truth once and for all.
978-1-4197-3853-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 304 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Lewis's scientist father has long been discredited for his theory that inhabitants of the underwater city Atlantis have been sending tsunamis to destroy American coasts, an Atlantean retaliation for the pollution of the ocean. When one of the tsunamis carries father and son, along with talented engineer Hanna, far undersea in their subsphere vehicle, they learn that the theory was absolutely right. Meanwhile Kaya, an Atlantean, has always been told that there are no "People of the Sun" dwelling near ocean surfaces: to suggest otherwise is treason. When Kaya encounters the three from the surface, she knows they're doomed if she doesn't help them evade Atlantis's surveillance squad, the "Erasers." This steampunkish sci-fi/fantasy adventure is quickly paced, an inventive, if far-fetched, engagement of plastics pollution and climate change -- as well as a diverting vision of Atlantis's underwater technology. Lewis's middle-grade wackiness is quietly funny and realistic; he is blinkered by his own cultural formation but is a fount of imaginative diversions. With the book's conclusion perched on the eve of the travelers' return, Mone seems to be promising a sequel. An afterword discusses Atlantis's lore and the current crisis of plastics pollution in Earth's oceans. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Lewis's scientist father has long been discredited for his theory that inhabitants of the underwater city Atlantis have been sending tsunamis to destroy American coasts, an Atlantean retaliation for the pollution of the ocean. When one of the tsunamis carries father and son, along with talented engineer Hanna, far undersea in their subsphere vehicle, they learn that the theory was absolutely right. Meanwhile Kaya, an Atlantean, has always been told that there are no "People of the Sun" dwelling near ocean surfaces: to suggest otherwise is treason. When Kaya encounters the three from the surface, she knows they're doomed if she doesn't help them evade Atlantis's surveillance squad, the "Erasers." This steampunkish sci-fi/fantasy adventure is quickly paced, an inventive, if far-fetched, engagement of plastics pollution and climate change -- as well as a diverting vision of Atlantis's underwater technology. Lewis's middle-grade wackiness is quietly funny and realistic; he is blinkered by his own cultural formation but is a fount of imaginative diversions. With the book's conclusion perched on the eve of the travelers' return, Mone seems to be promising a sequel. An afterword discusses Atlantis's lore and the current crisis of plastics pollution in Earth's oceans. Deirdre F. Baker July/August 2021 p.119(c) Copyright 2021. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews I'ds must stop a shadow war. Twelve-year-old Meriwether Lewis Gates' futuristic life might be recognizable in some ways, but it's also plagued by unrelenting, destructive tsunamis. His dad is an eccentric and brilliant academic whose insistence on Atlantis' existence has left him all but ostracized from the scientific community save for his genius teenage assistant, Hanna. Meanwhile, fathoms below in her Atlantean home of Ridge City, 14-year-old Kaya lives with her father and grandmother and is fascinated by illicit stories about the People of the Sun who live above on dry land. When Lewis' and Kaya's worlds collide, they (along with Hanna and Lewis' dad) form an unlikely alliance, discovering that as climate change and pollution poison the sea, Atlantis is quietly and violently retaliating. The Erasers, a secret Atlantean faction, seek to silence and quell anything to do with the People of the Sun. Can these new friends save both Atlantis and Earth? Written from both Kaya's and Lewis' third-person points of view, Mone's book features expeditious pacing, ample secrets, and imaginative science and tech creations that are zippy indeed, though some points are resolved too conveniently. In a jaunty Q&A, Mone carefully explains how he conceived his innovations and their scientific inner workings. Also provided are tips for making a difference regarding ocean pollution. Lewis is presumably White; Hanna is coded as Black. This fun adventure both engages and gently edifies. (map) (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2276754 (Vol. 02) Brink of War (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gregory Mone

After their daring escape from Atlantis, Lewis, Hanna, and Kaya, their resourceful Atlantean friend, find themselves pulled between two worlds. Trapped on the surface under the watchful eyes of government officials, the three adventurers receive an urgent call to return their stolen warship to Atlantis-or risk starting an all-out war.

Aided by a billionaire with unclear intentions, the trio embarks on an all-new journey through Atlantis, from the sunken underwater world of Evenor to the tunnels below Ridge City.

978-1-4197-3855-5 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

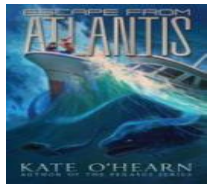
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Can a 12-year-old save his world from an impending invasion? Continuing where Atlantis: The Accidental Invasion (2021) left its readers hanging, preteen daydreamer and dance aficionado Meriweather Lewis Gates (who goes by just Lewis) is back home on dry land with his friends Hanna Barkley, a fellow human, and Kaya, an Atlantean. Frustrated by aboveground cultural differences (and receiving little acknowledgment of her own culture), Kaya is ready to return home. Before long, the trio find themselves on their way back to Atlantis on a multipronged mission: to save both Lewis' and Kaya's fathers, carry out a dubious assignment for a suspicious corporate leader who wants to pilfer

Atlantean tech for her own exploitation, and stave off a megalomaniac who is threatening war. For much of Mone's sophomore effort, the action veers heavily toward a cat-and-mouse premise as Lewis, Hanna, and Kaya keep evading nefarious Atlantean pursuers. Eventually, the plot pivots to a series of reveals and twists, stylistically similar to its predecessor. While the ending is tidily wrapped up, the possibility of more adventures is also floated. Differences between Lewis' and Kaya's worlds are sharply juxtaposed; both find aspects of the other's culture distasteful. Largely action-driven, this story offers enough thrilling chases, cool gadgetry, and gotcha moments to keep pages turning. Lewis reads as White; Hanna is described as having brown skin. A buzzy, fast-paced sequel. (map, scientific explanations) (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—After The Accidental Invasion, humans Lewis and Hanna and their Atlantean comrade Kaya find themselves torn between competing interests on the surface and in Atlantis. Frustrated by the somewhat hostile, strange culture of the "sun people," Kaya is desperate to return home and rescue her father who risked himself for their escape. Lewis is determined to accompany her and reunite with his own father who remains held captive in the underwater nation. Atlantis issues a warning that war will be declared if the warship the kids used to escape is not returned. In the meantime, a conniving tech billionaire hijacks the ship and demands access to more Atlantean technology before letting the kids go. A humorous yet informative "Science of Atlantis" section is appended. VERDICT Fans of the first book will enjoy the mix of adventure, humor, and science fiction gadgetry in this action-packed sequel that leaves room for more stories from this world.

Atlantis (Trade)



#2258896 (Vol. 01) Escape from Atlantis (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kate O'Hearn

As Riley and Alfie unravel the mystery of Atlantis and its most terrifying part, the Forbidden Zone, they realize that the clock is ticking. If they can't learn what happened to their parents and find a way off the island soon, it may be too late to leave.

978-1-5344-5691-4 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 448 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 600

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A disastrous family sail into the Bermuda Triangle strands two cousins on an uncharted island with unusual--and sometimes dangerous--residents. Stocked with characters and creatures that will attract younger members of the Percy Jackson fandom, this opening escapade begins with an attack by a sea monster that casts 13-year-old Riley and her alienated, pestiferous 12-year-old cousin, Alfie, ashore on Atlantis, an island where time has slowed down. There, mutually hostile camps of magical creatures and stranded humans, who are gradually turning into talking beasts of various sorts through a process called "de-evolution," steer suspiciously clear of each other. Eager to escape--and driven by the possibility that his mom and her dad might also have survived the attack--the cousins put aside their antipathy to enlist local allies and, by the end, to engineer, as titularly promised, an escape. O'Hearn further cranks up the mythological vibe by chucking in a siren (friendly), feral mermaids and unicorns (not so much), lotuslike Memory Berries that rob the eater of both recall and the desire to leave, and giant gargoyles that turn to stone in sunlight. Riley is outraged to discover that the partially transformed people--including a mild-mannered koala who positively channels Mr. Tumnus--are exploited as labor but ostracized for their physical differences by the nonaltered. Main human characters follow a White default. Steers a predictable course but does deliver mild thrills along the way. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2308571 (Vol. 02) Return to Atlantis (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kate O'Hearn

Riley thought that her adventure was over when they arrived back home in Colorado. Although she misses her dad, she's back with her mom and brother and has caught up with her classes at school. Though Maggie, Pea, and her aunt have to hide in their basement apartment during the day, they are making the most of things and settling into their new life.

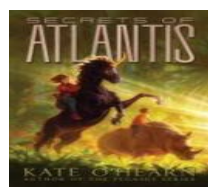
978-1-5344-5694-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 448 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 610

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews id to return to their hidden home in the Bermuda Triangle after finding nothing but cold hearts and violence in Denver. Shortly after leading an Escape From Atlantis (2021) with her cousin, Alfie, and a small group of formerly human island residents who were transformed into talking animals, Riley is regretting her flight. This is partly because her companions are permanently stuck hiding from suspicious authorities in her mom's house; partly because her former school friends have turned mean, cruelly ostracizing and bullying secret

ve new student Jill for being ragged and unwashed; and partly because a vicious punk's terrifying assault during a rare nighttime outing has escalated into vengeful stalking. More worrisomely, the longer Riley and her companions are away from Atlantis, the more mysteriously ill they are becoming. Violent events spur a hasty departure for Florida with parentally abandoned Jill and her five siblings in tow. But Atlantis, once finally reached, turns out to be far from the utopian community of Riley's rosy memories: Hardly have the arrivals settled in than she takes on the role of savior, surviving a murder attempt before insisting on critical reforms. O'Hearn assumes readers will be familiar with the opener, but though the pacing sometimes drags in this long sequel, she continues to keep both the issues and the characterizations simple--and adds a cute baby unicorn to the White-presenting human cast and large menagerie. A second volume that drags a little but will please returning fans. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—Cousins Riley and Alfie have survived the perilous journey back from Atlantis aboard the Moon Dancer and are safely home with their mother. They've brought with them several Atlanteans, some of which have changed to animal form already. Despite the joy of seeing her mother again, Riley and the Atlanteans notice that they're getting weak and sick. Will returning to Atlantis be the thing to save them? In a race against time and finding the transportation to get back there, they know it's their only hope. They also know returning to Atlantis has its own pitfalls and dangers, and that not everyone there will be happy to see them. In this series sequel, O'Hearn delivers big on the imagination and sentiments. VERDICT Filled with suspense and excitement, this novel is sure to delight all fantasy lovers.



#2329673 (Vol. 03) Secrets of Atlantis (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kate O'Hearn

Life on Atlantis has always been unpredictable. But lately, the Community has finally started to feel like the stable home Riley hoped it could be--until the weather becomes anything but stable. After three Red Moons within a month, the latest of which brings an earthquake, it's clear that something is wrong. But what is causing this change?

978-1-5344-5697-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 448 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Riley rescues her fellow islanders, human and otherwise, from fairies and their curses in this series closeout. To finish off, O'Hearn adds two new strife-ridden realms to the hidden isle of Atlantis--one an undersea cavern where dwell two camps of spell-singing merfolk and the other a quarter of the hidden island belonging to the fairy folk. She sends her peace-loving protagonist to both for two brief but savage climactic battles. What's really at war here is the author's chosen plotline juxtaposed against her strenuous efforts to downplay its implicit violence. Despite apparently seeking to distract readers by adding flower-strewing pixies and polka-dot hippos with fairy heads to the crook-horned unicorn colt, adorable talking koala, and other plushy members of the teeming cast, she trots in evil fairies who can only be deprived of their powers by having their wings ripped off, for instance. And then, when the ripping is done, why not gather for a joyous feast? Moreover, doubtless to the disappointment of readers who like to see the fighting as it happens rather than just be told about it later, she forces the finale of the second battle and the death of a vicious predator to occur entirely offstage. Still, by the end, not only have all the magical, mythical, and hybrid human-animal Atlanteans come together in harmony, but a broken contraceptive spell allows the nearly extinct gargoyles to have baby gargoyles again. Baby gargoyles! Muddles through to a properly happy ending. (map) (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Babysitter's Guide to Monster Hunting (Trade)



#2005860 (Vol. 01) Babysitter's Guide to Monster Hunting (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joe Ballarini

Middle-schooler Kelly Ferguson would rather spend Halloween night with her best friend spying on her crush at the biggest party of the year than babysitting Jacob, the super-spoiled son of her mom's ice-queen boss. But Kelly needs cash for her camp fund. And when a job has "sitting" in the title, how hard can it really be?

978-0-06-243783-9 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 680

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: Book Page Kelly Ferguson is a self-described "invisible"--a middle schooler several social circles removed from the popular kids--but she has a plan to change that. Since learning about the camp where popular princess Deanna spends her summers, Kelly has been saving up by doing every odd job she can find. Kelly is reluctant to try babysitting at first, but the promise of earning big bucks for watching Netflix all night is convincing. The only catch is that Jacob, the boy she's babysitting, is adamant that there's a monster under his bed. And he's right. When Jacob is

kidnapped by a group of scary creatures, Kelly gets swept along in the rescue efforts of a secret society of monster-fighting babysitters, sworn to protect the children in their charge. Together, Kelly and the babysitters must find Jacob, defeat an evil bogeyman and save the world from a never-ending nightmare, all before Jacob's parents get home.

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 It's Halloween, and eighth-grader Kelly has been invited to her first party, but her mother has other plans: babysit her boss' son, Jacob. If Kelly had a hint of what was awaiting her, she'd be terrified. Like many little kids, Jacob sees monsters in his room only these turn out to be real monsters, which proceed to abduct the boy. Kelly desperately phones his regular babysitter for help and catches sight of a picture Jacob had drawn, triggering a memory: she has seen this bogeyman before! Thus ensues a night that calls all of Kelly's strength and will into play. She finds herself depending upon schoolmates, whom she had considered misfits but who turn out to be babysitters with abilities to ward off and destroy monsters. All the ghouls of Halloween and bad dreams are threaded into this story of finding friendship in middle school. This new series gives babysitting a daring edge and sets up girls outside of the popular crowd as heroines. An entertaining debut. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2017, American Library Association.)

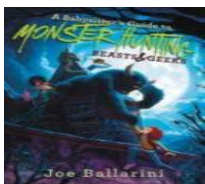
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books All Kelly Ferguson wants is to go to summer camp-so badly that she's willing to (gulp) babysit, even though she doesn't particularly like children and she thinks it's a job for nerds. Things get complicated when Kelly's first charge, four-year-old Baby Jacob, gets carried off by Toadies (goblin-like critters who have an affinity for trash) to the Grand Guignol, who plans to use Jacob's nightmares to populate the world with monsters. The novel dwells a little too long on Kelly's cool-kid aspirations, but it delivers an entertaining mix of humor and horror once she teams up with punk-rock high-schooler Liz and the other members of the Order of Babysitters to rescue Jacob. Together, they venture into the Grand Guignol's deliciously creepy lair, furnished with walls of televisions playing horror movies and hanging cages in which to keep captive babysitters, and fight off giant centipedes, gargoyles, and carnivorous broccoli. The brisk action doesn't leave much room for characterization, and it relies on stereotypes that could do with some pushback, especially for Kelly's fellow eighth-grade Invisibles/babysitters: they're introduced as lazy caricatures, and they don't get nearly enough screen time to compensate. This is a setup for a longer series, though, and all the characters will no doubt gain further depth in future volumes as it delves into the larger universe of monsters and babysitters that Kelly has entered. Reviewed from an unillustrated galley. SS

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Middle schooler Kelly is *not* babysitter material, but she still has to watch her mom's boss's kid on Halloween. When four Toadies steal little Jacob, Kelly must team up with monster-fighting babysitter extraordinaire Liz LeRue to save him and stop the Bogeyman from unleashing Jacob's nightmares. Ballarini offers readers a hilarious and engaging series-opener, complete with black-and-white illustrated pages from Liz's monster-hunting notebook. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews htmare. Needing funds for summer camp, the white 13-year-old grudgingly takes a babysitting job. When her charge is kidnapped by leather-taloned beasties, Kelly discovers that the Boogeyman is actually real. Next thing she knows, Kelly is fighting monsters alongside a secret babysitting society, members of which are a moped-driving teen who looks like she stepped out of an apocalyptic future and three of Kelly's classmates; all are white save African-American Berna, whose hair is "wild [and] puffy." The stakes are high now, as it seems the stolen white 5-year-old has the power to dream dreams into reality, and the Boogeyman wants him in order to fill the world with living nightmares. Kelly, who has never been popular, discovers she's got some really surprising attributes, which increase her chances with her longtime crush Victor from Guatemala (who's both exoticized and largely off the page). While the story never gets all that frightening, it has its moments as in the titular guide's catalog of monsters, which includes the ghost of a woman eaten by her own cats. Grand Guignol, aka the Boogeyman, has a flair for the theatrical, and his snarky complaint exemplifies much of the dialogue: "I get called names like 'creepy evil, twitchy goat legs' or 'that scary man who keeps trying to eat me.'" A series opener that melds Goosebumps and The Baby-Sitters Club with ironic glue. (Adventure. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

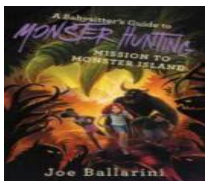
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7-This shining gem in the campy monster drama genre is a step up from R.L. Stine's "Goosebumps." Meet Kelly Ferguson, a struggling 12-year-old who hasn't quite found her place in the middle school hierarchy. Then she accidentally discovers a team of monster-fighting babysitters. Their mission is to save kids from the utmost evil in the world, the Grand Guignol. This despicable, devil-like creature, who is also known as the boogeyman, preys on defenseless children left in the care of babysitters. When Kelly's charge, Jacob, is kidnapped right under her nose, she must work with the band of super babysitters to help rescue baby Jacob from the clutches of the vile Grand Guignol. The over-the-top humorous action, snarky dialogue, and engaging characters will keep readers hooked. The other babysitters, such as Liz, who is haunted by the disappearance of a sibling, each have interesting backstories. Liz creates A Babysitter's Guide to Monster Hunting, which the sitters refer to when faced with a new threat. Excerpts from this handy manual are sprinkled throughout the narrative, adding an interesting dimension to the storytelling and world-building. VERDICT With shades of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, this tale of a courageous heroine and her ragtag group of intrepid babysitters battling nightmare-inducing beasts makes for addictive reading. Hand this to fans of Chris Colfer, Rick Riordan, and Adam Gidwitz.-Julie Shatterly, W. A. Bess Elementary School, Gastonia, NC Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2063692 (Vol. 02) Beasts and Geeks (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Joe Ballarini</i> Now Kelly has to face down the Spider Queen, whose venom turns an angry	1	\$13.99



Sasquatch, Kelly's parents, and her former BFF into babysitter-hunting minions. And on top of that, Monday's math test is going to be a NIGHTMARE! All in a night's work.

978-0-06-243787-7 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 8.0



#2105792 (Vol. 03) Mission to Monster Island (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Joe Ballarini

It's the end of the world as she knows it! Thirteen-year-old Kelly Ferguson's secret life as a monster-hunting babysitter takes a beastly turn when she goes on a rescue mission to Monster Island--where monster royalty is turning kids into hairy mutant monsters! But to do that she'll have to face off against internet trolls, trash monsters, and her fear of screwing up--plus the biggest, baddest Boogey of all. With the fate of humanity on the line, can Kelly save the kids, the world, and her own social life before the big school dance?

978-0-06-243790-7 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Bad Princesses (Prebound)



#2324548 (Vol. 01) Perfect Villains (Prebound)
written by Jennifer Torres

Princesses don't break the rules, but they may rewrite them...Every girl dreams of going to the Fine and Ancient Institute for the Royal to learn how to be a princess. But Dalia and Dominga could not be any less enchanted. They are different...the same kind of different. Neither of them wants to be the fairest of them all. They want to join a secret society of villains at the Bewitched Academy of the Dreadful. So, they've devised the perfect plot to ruin the first day of class. It will be the rottenest scheme of all. Something so perfectly awful, so fantastically horrible, so wonderfully wicked that they'll surely get their invitations to the BAD.

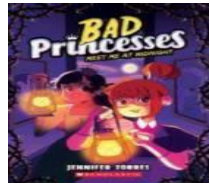
978-1-5364-7908-9 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 176 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Torres (Catalina Incognito: Skateboard Star) examines themes of good vs. evil via warm depictions of friendship in this immersive world featuring two mischievous princesses attending the Fine and Ancient Institute for the Royal (F.A.I.R.). According to her mother and older sister, Dominga must attend F.A.I.R. to learn how to be a proper lady. But Dominga believes that she's destined to enroll in the Bewitched Academy for the Dreadful (B.A.D.), a school for villains in training. She feels out of place at F.A.I.R., until she meets Dalia, another young princess who shares her ideals. The pair team up during Woodland Wildlife lessons to hatch their audition plans for B.A.D. but are foiled at almost every turn, as when an attempt to lure fire ants into class is curtailed by their teacher. Spanish dialogue and abundant descriptions of empanadas and bizcochitos, coupled with the princesses' madcap shenanigans, make for a smart and inclusive novel, which features girls of varying abilities, body types, and heritages, including artist and wheelchair user Leonor, who unexpectedly befriends the dastardly duo. The episodic novel lends itself well to the girls' schemes and provides ample fodder for the tweens' next adventure. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Princess Dominga is less than thrilled to be starting school at the Fine and Ancient Institute for the Royal (F.A.I.R.). Not only is she expected to live up to the perfectness of Paloma, her sister and the future queen, she's just not really cut out for the golden carriages, sweet-smelling flowers, and the arrogant girls at F.A.I.R. She'd rather attend the neighboring school of The Bewitched Academy for the Dreadful (B.A.D.). It's only after she meets Dalia, another princess she suspects is very much like she is, does Dominga decide she has a true companion to launch her plan to create havoc and mayhem at this school. If only the annoying Princess Ines would stop interfering in Dominga's plans and let her execute her schemes to cause trouble! Then those in charge at B.A.D. would have to recognize her wickedness and

invite her to join them. But every time she thinks her strategy is going to work, someone or something interferes with her devilish plans. Magic spells, surly princesses, and even a sorting tiara are all featured in this tale of girls who want to be bad. The author infuses the book with words and phrases (and food) from her Mexican heritage. The story involves a princess's attempt to create mayhem at school but who is thwarted continually. This constant upset of her plans does little to further the story; in fact, it sadly struggles to allow the story to gain momentum. Readers will get tired of waiting for something of substance to happen. The only art is the cover art, which has a manga sort of appeal and thorny vines that introduce each chapter. VERDICT A quick read for princess (bad and good) aficionados but an optional purchase for more discerning readers.—Carol Connor



#2350387 (Vol. 02) Meet Me at Midnight (Prebound)

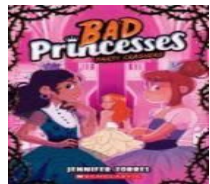
written by Jennifer Torres

Princesses don't break the rules, but they may rewrite them. Every girl dreams of going to the Fine and Ancient Institute for the Royal to learn how to be a princess. But Dalia and Dominga could not be any less enchanted. They are different. The same kind of different. Neither of them wants to be the fairest of them all. They want to join a secret society of villains at the Bewitched Academy of the Dreadful, and tonight they have another chance to prove they belong there.

978-1-5364-8225-6 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 176 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95



#2366593 (Vol. 03) Party Crashers (Prebound)

written by Jennifer Torres

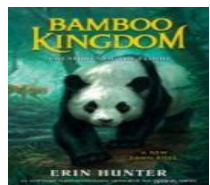
Princesses don't break the rules, but they may rewrite them. Every girl dreams of going to the Fine and Ancient Institute for the Royal to learn how to be a princess. But Dalia and Dominga could not be any less enchanted. They are different. The same kind of different. Neither of them wants to be the fairest of them all. They want to join a secret society of villains at the Bewitched Academy of the Dreadful.

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Bamboo Kingdom (Trade)



#2240622 (Vol. 01) Creatures of the Flood (Hardcover (Trade))

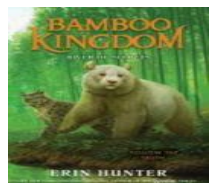
written by Erin Hunter

One kingdom. Three worlds. This thrilling new series from bestselling author Erin Hunter follows three panda cubs, separated at birth, who must join together to complete a prophecy and save their home.

978-0-06-302192-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



#2280785 (Vol. 02) River of Secrets (Hardcover (Trade))

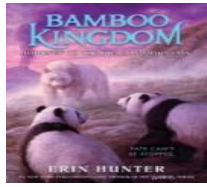
written by Erin Hunter

Separated, the three panda siblings are left without the information they need to take the traitorous Dragon Speaker down. But if they can find each other and trust each other—they may be able to rally the pandas of the Bamboo Kingdom to their side.

978-0-06-302198-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



#2310866 (Vol. 03) Journey to the Dragon Mountain (Hardcover (Trade))

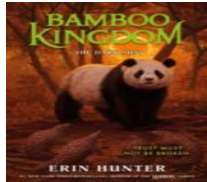
written by Erin Hunter

The triplets of the Bamboo Kingdom are ready to step into their roles as Dragon Speakers. But in order to fulfill their destiny, they first need to find each other. With Ghost stuck performing as wicked Sunset's right-hand man and Rain and Leaf separated across far-flung corners of the land, a reunion feels impossible. If they're going to make it all the way across the Bamboo Kingdom to the Dragon Mountain, they're going to need to face their greatest fears. But little do they know that help can come from the unlikeliest of places--and that fate, one way or another, always finds a way.

978-0-06-302204-1 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99



#2349641 (Vol. 04) Dark Sun (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Hunter

The Bamboo Kingdom is once again safely led by guidance of a real Dragon Speaker—three Dragon Speakers, in fact! But though Rain, Leaf, and Ghost have come together to protect their friends and families, there is no peace in the kingdom. With a dark past behind them, the pandas cannot seem to agree on the best path into a bright future. Do the siblings stay where they are, all together? Or split up, to better serve the entire Bamboo Kingdom?

978-0-06-302211-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#2386941 (Vol. 05) Lightning Path (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Hunter

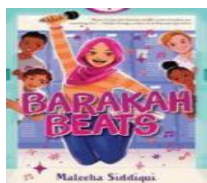
After being forced out of Rain's camp for a murder he did not commit, Ghost is still determined to prove his innocence and help Rain. But though she isn't convinced he did it, if she accepts her brother is innocent, she would have to accept that the killer is still at large—and still targeting her loved ones.

978-0-06-302218-8 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99

Barakah Beats (Trade)



#2252504 Barakah Beats (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Maleeha Siddiqui

Twelve-year-old Nimra Sharif has spent her whole life in Islamic school, but now it's time to go to "real school." Unfortunately, middle school is hard. The teachers are mean, the schedule is confusing, and Jenna starts giving hijab-wearing Nimra the cold shoulder around the other kids. Desperate to fit in and get back in Jenna's good graces, Nimra accepts an unlikely invitation to join the school's popular 8th grade boy band, Barakah Beats.

978-1-338-70206-4 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

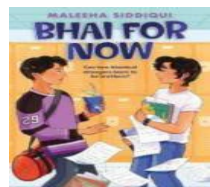
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 650

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Nimra is nervous about trading her small Islamic academy for seventh grade in a public middle school, and though she knows it will be a transition--she'll be the only girl there in a hijab--she's thrilled to finally join her best friend in the classroom. But when a suddenly distant Jenna doesn't make an effort to include her, Nimra's one comfort slips away. In a seemingly helpful twist of fate, three older Muslim boys overhear Nimra singing as she prays at school, and they invite her to join their band. Nimra is torn about hanging out with the boys, which might regain Jenna's approval, because creating music conflicts with her family's interpretation of Islamic guidelines. She decides to briefly join up and quietly drop out once she's back in Jenna's inner circle, but the band flourishes, and life becomes more complicated. It's a delight to watch Nimra navigate school, family, and friendships while taking pride in her religion and abilities. She's a wonderful, confident kid who has no patience for stereotyping or unkindness, and the story gives her room to examine her faith, make mistakes, and get a little messy. Fraught family relationships, shifting friendships, differing religious practices--they're big topics, but debut-author Siddiqui deftly tackles them with warmth, humor, and compassion. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twelve-year-old Nimra Sharif is attending public school for the first time. Pakistani American Nimra was home-schooled until she was 8, then attended a private Islamic school where she memorized the Quran, becoming a hafiza. Now her parents have decided that it is time for her to attend public school, where she'll be with her childhood best friend, Jenna, a White girl. But once seventh grade starts, Jenna ignores and avoids Nimra. Fortunately, Nimra meets other Muslim students: Matthew, a White convert; Bilal and Khadijah, Somali American siblings; and Pakistani American Waleed. When Bilal, Matthew, and Waleed ask her to join Barakah Beats, their Muslim band, she hesitates because of her family's interpretation of Islamic teachings, which eschews taking part in instrumental music. But she gives in, believing that hanging out with three popular, attractive eighth grade boys will impress Jenna. Her plan to join the band just long enough to regain Jenna's friendship before dropping out leads to her lying to her parents--and a sticky friendship situation when the boys sign up to perform at a mosque talent show to raise money for refugees. While secondary characters are less well fleshed out, Nimra grows, takes responsibility for her actions, and thoughtfully engages with her faith. Siddiqui has written a sympathetic character who wants to stay true to her beliefs while facing the pressures of school, changing relationships, and diverse beliefs about music within Muslim communities. An important story about staying true to yourself. (author's note) (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—When Nimra memorizes the Qur'an ahead of schedule, her parents decide to send her to public school as a seventh grader, an entire year earlier than planned. At least Nimra will have her longtime friend Jenna to show her the ropes--right? But Nimra's new classmates have all kinds of assumptions about her faith, and Jenna isn't defending her. So when Barakah Beats, the popular Muslim boyband at school, wants her to sing with them, Nimra agrees, even though performing goes against her beliefs. But as lies build, Nimra is torn between friends, family, and faith, until she's no longer sure who she is. From the very beginning, this is an excellently constructed story. Nimra's dilemmas and challenges will be understood by every reader, regardless of faith or background. Nimra spends the book feeling deeply conflicted about music and its role in her faith and life, but the book's ultimate strength is in demonstrating how, just like there is no one right way to be a teenager, there is no one right way to practice faith. Nimra's decision at the story's end will likely surprise many, but it is one that feels absolutely true to the character. And when she does find her voice, readers will feel the chills right along with her. VERDICT Every elementary and middle school library will benefit from this touching story about a preteen struggling to reconcile faith, friends, and family against the backdrop of an American middle school.—Kristin Brynsvold, Tuckahoe Elem. Sch., Arlington, VA



#2293075 **Bhai for Now (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Maleeha Siddiqui*

(Companion) Ashar is busy with the ice hockey team, studying to get into the best school, and hanging out with his friends. Shaheer and his father are always moving, following his dad's jobs. The two boys have nothing in common. But when they meet on Shaheer's first day at his new school, it's like looking in a mirror. They quickly figure out that they're twins, separated as babies.

978-1-338-70209-5 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 720

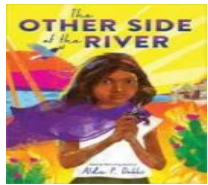
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly d, Northern Virginia: set novel from Siddiqui (Barakah Beats), estranged identical twins come face-to-face at the same middle school. Outgoing Ashar, who grew up with the siblings' teacher mother, loves ice hockey and hopes to make the NHL; aloof Shaheer, an interior design fan who longs to stay put, moves regularly with the boys' restless doctor father and paternal grandfather. When the Muslim, Pakistani American eighth graders meet for the first time since their parents' divorce, which occurred during the twins' infancy, they scheme to switch places. Soon, Ashar is visiting Washington, D.C., with their father as he tries to understand what, if not proximity, makes a family, and Shaheer is helping to renovate a masjid with their mother, engaging with his interest in design. Alternating third-person chapters follow the boys' home lives, their elaborate ruse, and their growing desire to continue living near one another, in a quick-moving slice-of-life novel with warm relationships, a focus on community, and nostalgia appeal. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Lauren Spieller, Triada US. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Shaheer has gotten used to keeping to himself and watching Property Brothers on television with

his grandfather. He's never had the opportunity to stay in one place for very long as he moves around the country, accommodating his physician father's frequent job changes. Imagine his shock and confusion when, on his first day of eighth grade in a brand-new school, he runs into his doppelgänger! It turns out that Shaheer and his identical twin, Ashar, were separated when their parents divorced. Ashar lives with their mother, enjoying ice hockey and studying for the entrance exam to a prestigious high school. Neither parent has ever been open about the other, so the twins (with the cooperation of their cousin Zohra) cook up some classic trading-places high jinks. In this reworked Parent Trap, the story is completely driven by the actions and feelings of the kids. The narrative perspective switches back and forth between the twins, witnessing them getting to know their new relatives and confronting the conflicting feelings that come with discovering such a long-held and damaging secret. The parents don't rekindle any romantic attachment and, in fact, demonstrate some harsh, but emotionally honest, vitriol towards each other. Ashar and Shaheer, who is starting to form connections for the first time in his life, must convince their parents that brotherhood, family, and community all matter more than old grievances. Details of both families' Pakistani heritage and Muslim faith are seamlessly integrated into the story. VERDICT An uplifting, culturally inclusive, and lively exploration of family bonds.—Alyssa Annico

Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna (Trade)



#2292765 Other Side of the River (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alda P. Dobbs

Twelve-year old Petra Luna is in America after escaping the Mexican Revolution. Now that they are safe, Petra, her two younger siblings and her abuelita have a chance to begin again, in this country that promises so much. She leads her family from a smallpox-stricken refugee camp to the city of San Antonio, meeting with both opportunities and obstacles at every turn. Yet she also sees in America the extremes of rich and poor that she thought she'd left behind, and she begins to wonder if it's better to return to Mexico to fight for a better life there. Soon Petra finds her strength and courage tested as she discovers for herself what's truly worth fighting for.

978-1-7282-3844-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

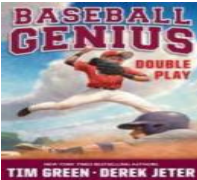
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 After crossing the Río Bravo with her younger siblings and their Abuelita, Petra finds refuge and food in an American camp, where they must choose between returning to Mexico or staying in America. Petra obtains train tickets to a city named San Antonio, which brings her to Sister Nora, who helps her find work, broaden her knowledge of the world, and learn to read and write. Harsh words soon remind Petra of how mestizos like her are regarded, making her wish she could flee back to Mexico, but a twist of fate, support from Sister Nora, and her young sister's bravery help Petra see a bright future within reach. In this sequel to *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* (2021), Petra continues to be a strong, brave protagonist who takes on many worries and responsibilities. Difficult topics such as racism, classism, and poverty are explored, leading Petra to the understanding that prejudice can attack anyone, regardless of skin color. A suspenseful ending brings heartfelt closure, and an author's note provides additional information on the plot and characters. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

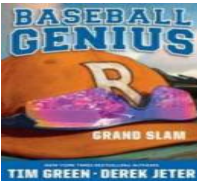
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Safely across the Río Bravo, Petra's journey continues in this follow-up to *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* (2021). It's 1913, and while the revolution rages on in Mexico, Petra and her family find temporary safety in a refugee camp on the U.S. side of the river. But as rebel soldiers recapture some areas, the camp cannot handle the influx of people escaping the violence. The displaced are given the option of returning to Mexico or staying in the country and finding work. Holding fast to her "baby diamond," the lump of coal she keeps in her pocket that reminds her of her goals, Petra decides to get a job in the States to keep her family fed until they can find her father. They head north to los corrales, a poor, predominantly Mexican neighborhood in San Antonio. Though she believes at first that being a hard, loyal worker will yield rewards, Petra quickly discovers that the American dream may not be all it is cracked up to be. She must reorient herself to her own values in order to get ahead while maintaining her integrity. The stakes feel lower in this sequel; there are fewer threats of violence, and struggles are resolved relatively easily. The novel highlights the barriers and abuses faced by many new immigrants both historically and today through short chapters that keep the pace moving toward a happy ending. Readable historical fiction with themes that resonate. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

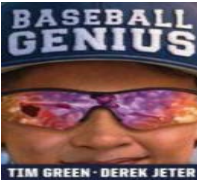
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8—The indomitable Petra continues to fight for her family's survival in this continuation of *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna*, though familiarity with the previous volume isn't necessary to enjoy this companion. They've outrun the federales, the military arm of Mexico's dictator, and have made it across the border. But their struggles have only just begun. The group is met with a smallpox-ridden refugee camp, poverty, and racism as 12-year-old Petra tries to find work and learn to read and write. Along the way to San Antonio, their dreams are hindered by obstacles. This is a vivid glimpse into the 1913 Mexican Revolution and its aftermath, much of which is still relevant to today's immigration and refugee crisis. While Petra is living in a very specific moment in history with a particular conflict, she also must navigate the usual coming-of-age issues that will resonate with current tweens, such as friendships, siblings, and living up to people's expectations. Her touching relationships with her grandmother and siblings will resonate in readers. Dobbs's engaging writing and the even pace of the narrative move the story forward. Petra and her family are Indigenous to Mexico. An author's note gives more context and shares how this story was inspired

by Dobbs's grandmother. Though Petra's family's triumph is never in doubt, kids will be pulled in enough to follow the characters' journey. VERDICT A moving glimpse at an important historical event through the eyes of an unforgettable protagonist. Purchase for historical fiction shelves.—Shelley M. Diaz

Baseball Genius (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2054207 (Vol. 02) Double Play (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tim Green</i> Jalen DeLuca loves baseball. He's playing for his summer travel team and trying to win a regular spot in the rotation. But Jalen's got more than talent on the field. He's a baseball genius who can analyze and predict almost exactly what any pitcher is going to do with his next pitch. He can't quite explain how he knows, he just does. 978-1-5344-0668-1 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780</p>	1	\$17.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2211903 (Vol. 03) Grand Slam (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tim Green</i> Jalen DeLuca loves baseball. But he's more than just a fan and a talented player; Jalen is a baseball genius. He can analyze and predict almost exactly what a pitcher is going to do with his next pitch. His unique ability helped him save the career of the Yankees's star baseman, James "JY" Yager, by signaling the pitches from the stands. 978-1-5344-0671-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 690</p>	1	\$17.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1997719 (Vol. 01) Baseball Genius (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tim Green</i> An average kid with an above average talent for predicting baseball pitches tries to help his favorite player out of a slump. 978-1-4814-6864-0 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 750</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Green teams up with Jeter in his latest piece of sports fiction. Jalen is the son of an Italian immigrant. He lives with his father, who works long days at his diner trying to make ends meet. Jalen has serious baseball talent and has just made a travel team. The only problem is that he needs some extra cash to pay for his team fees. Jalen's friends Cat and Daniel live near a Major League Baseball player's house, and Yankees star James "JY" Yager routinely signs batting practice balls and sells them to benefit a youth sports foundation. Jalen knows that if he can get his hands on a few of those balls, he can easily sell them on eBay to pay for his travel team fees. What he does not see coming is an injured ankle keeping Yager home from a Yankees road trip-and Jalen is caught red-handed. Jalen tells Yager that he has the ability to read pitchers and knows which pitch any guy in the pros will throw before he even gets into his windup. Yager is on the verge of being replaced by a younger player, and his sole shot at staying on the Yankees' roster is by going four-for-four in his next game. If Jalen can help him out from the stands, Yager will pay his travel team fees. The manager of the Yankees, however, has an entirely different agenda. Green is a prolific sports fiction writer, and having Jeter's name grace the cover will keep this book in demand. Green does a nice job incorporating diverse characters throughout the narrative. Despite a predictable story, this title is sure to circulate. VERDICT Bound to be popular among Green fans and readers of sports fiction.-Carli Sauer, Carmel Middle School, IN Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Battle Dragons (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
<p>#2245577 (Vol. 01) City of Thieves (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Alex London</i></p>	1	\$17.99



In a modern mega-city built around dragons, one boy gets caught up in the world of underground dragon battles and a high-stakes gang war that could tear his family apart.

978-1-338-71654-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 10.0

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly "Reckless, easily distracted, and afraid of heights," Abel, 13, is secretly glad that he failed the Dragon Rider Academy Entrance Exam, though it means he can't follow in the footsteps of his older brother Silas. But when Abel accidentally bonds with a stolen, "rare and valuable" dragon named Karak, he becomes a pawn of one of the dragon-riding criminal kins that dominate the technologically advanced city of Drakopolis, expected to train and fly on their behalf. With his implied white family; particularly rebellious older sister Lina; thoroughly entangled in a multi-faction struggle between the various kins and Drakopolis's secret police, Abel must enlist his best friend, nonbinary veterinarian-in-training Roa, as well as Karak himself, to help save them all. London (Gold Wings Rising) establishes an absorbing semifuturistic society where technology and dragons go hand-in-wing, the latter used for everything from transportation to settling gang disputes high in the sky. Abel proves a quick-witted protagonist who copes well with the constant danger and unsettling revelations that invert his world. Fast-paced and adventurous, this series starter hints at a complicated, fascinating setting while leaving plenty to be explored in subsequent installments. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Robert Guinsler, Sterling Lord Literistic. (Sept.)



#2280980 (Vol. 02) City of Speed (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alex London

In the city of Drakopolis, dragons and humans have co-existed for centuries. Dragons burn the city's garbage, taxi its busy citizens from place to place, and even compete in vicious underground battles for ganglike kins. But the dragons also compete in legal sports, like the spectacular aerial races that draw in cheering crowds by the tens of thousands. Abel is at just such a race when he witnesses the unthinkable. A long-shot competitor pulls off an impossible win -- then flies into a destructive rage!

978-1-338-71657-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When cyborg dragons threaten Drakopolis, dragon racer Abel must find a way to save both it and them. As in the series opener, it's cops vs. criminal gangs both in the sprawling, corrupt city and in 13-year-old Abel's family, where his older brother, Silas, works for the Dragon's Eye secret police and his big sister, Lina, is a fugitive member of the politically subversive Sky Knights kin. He himself only wants to train and race dragons--particularly after meeting Brazza, an illegal mixed-breed flyer of touchy disposition and astonishing intelligence. While the plot does indeed feature two breathtaking, high-speed aerial races among the skyscrapers and a massive climactic melee featuring hundreds of maddened dragons with cybernetic enhancements and hacked DNA, it's more than just a pretext for set piece battles, as London also perceptively explores both the dynamics of a close family beset with conflicting loyalties and issues tied to subjugating and experimenting on wild creatures who don't talk but can, it turns out, sing and who, in Abel's view at least, are deserving of freedom. Lighter touches, such as 8-ton Brazza's fondness for being read to and occasional mentions of an anarchistic kin dubbed the Wind Breakers, leaven the proceedings. The human cast, though it presents largely White, does include one nonbinary supporting character, a boy who has a dragon queen act, and glancing mention of same-sex crushes. Breathless action, lots of dragons, and chewy themes to boot. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2315196 (Vol. 03) City of Secrets (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alex London

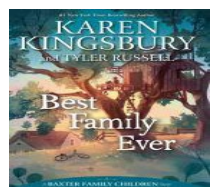
Far from the lights and lizards of the megacity, Abel's new home effectively bans the great beasts. Anyone caught smuggling dragons is hauled away by the ruthless sheriff and her fearsome deputies. They have the only dragons in town, and they run the dreaded dragon rodeo, which pits those who fall afoul of the sheriff's "justice" against a wild dragon in a competition for their freedom. It's dragon versus human and only one can win.

978-1-338-71669-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The exile of young dragon rider Abel from Drakopolis leads to the launch of a dragon liberation movement in this third series entry. Freshly arrived in the isolated town of Glassblower's Gulch with his parents and squabbling older sibs, Abel is quick to learn that local sheriff Bina Skint and her brutal deputy, Manchi, are not only on the take, but run a regular rodeo in which troublemakers are forced to fight deadly dragons. Since Abel soon finds himself struggling to secretly harbor and train an illegal baby wyvern foisted on him by new friend Kayda and her moms, it's only a matter of time before he's in the arena himself--and on the road to startling discoveries about the supposedly feral and nonsentient monsters. London continues to weave nuanced explorations of family relationships into his action-packed plots and also to wheel in crowd-pleasing flocks of fire-, glass-, acid-, or lethal-loogie-spitting dragons of many types and temperaments as he reassembles both the draconian and White-presenting and gender diverse human cast from previous episodes for a lengthy climactic aerial battle that shows every sign of extending back to Drakopolis in the next outing. Stay tuned. More than enough mayhem, mischief, and awesome aerial exploits to send young dracophiles soaring and roaring. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Baxter Family Children (Trade)



#2089163 (Vol. 01) Best Family Ever (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karen Kingsbury

Brooke is the perfect older sister. For that reason, Kari and Ashley work hard to make their parents just as proud of them as they are of Brooke. Each girl has her own talents. Brooke is an excellent student. Kari is a great soccer player. Ashley, a talented artist. And they are always there for each other.

978-1-5344-1215-6 ©2019 5 x 7 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile HL 420

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With her son, bestselling Christian author Kingsbury adapts her bestselling Baxter Family series for adults to suit a younger audience, bringing readers stories of the five Baxter siblings in childhood. Narrated by middle sisters Ashley, 10, and Kari, 11, the slice-of-life story begins in Ann Arbor, Mich., just before Valentine's Day. Exuberant Ashley is thrilled to be organizing her class's party. Kari, meanwhile, is dreading the holiday; her classmate has a crush on her, and she's concerned that his attentions will result in an embarrassing situation. The girls share their joys and concerns with their family because, as their mother always says, "Your very best friends are the ones around the dinner table each night." After Valentine's Day, Ashley feels left out on a family vacation and wonders if she should be more like older sister Brooke, who excels at math. And the whole family struggles with their father's announcement that they will move at the end of the school year for his new job. The Baxters pray and find solace in God while navigating relatable and realistic life changes in this slice-of-life tale. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Rick Christian, Alive Literary Agency. (Feb.)



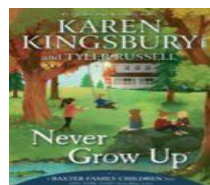
#2150318 (Vol. 02) Finding Home (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karen Kingsbury

Ashley desperately misses the home and friends she left behind. As she realizes her siblings have their struggles, too, she can't help but wonder if unlikely friends can be the best friends of all? And could time and love from her family be enough to make a house feel like home?

978-1-5344-1218-7 ©2020 5 x 7 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 420

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99



#2211902 (Vol. 03) Never Grow Up (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karen Kingsbury

When Kari Baxter is assigned an essay about what she wants to be when she grows up, her mind goes blank. She doesn't want to grow up; she wants everything to stay just like it is. But Kari comes to realize that while making time stand still isn't possible, she can enjoy every moment with her best family ever.

978-1-5344-1221-7 ©2021 5 x 7 304 pgs.

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$17.99



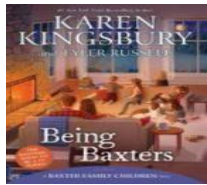
#2266861 (Vol. 04) Adventure Awaits (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karen Kingsbury

School science camp is a few weeks away, but Ashley and Kari Baxter have very different feelings about going. With the help of their siblings, Kari and Ashley prepare for wild experiments and the challenges of the great outdoors, and together they learn what it means to plan for an experience they won't forget. In the process, all five Baxter Children learn how to make new friends and that adventure awaits in the everyday. They just have to look for it!

978-1-6659-0802-3 ©2022 5 x 7 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 460

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2311069 (Vol. 05) Being Baxters (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karen Kingsbury

Things are changing in Bloomington for the Baxters. When Ashley's teacher, Mr. Garrett, takes a month off work for the birth of his baby, the intimidating Ms. Stritch takes his place. Ashley tries but can't seem to crack the new teacher's tough exterior. Meanwhile, Brooke struggles when a popular girl excludes her at lunch, Erin adjusts to getting glasses, and when Kari is given a dance solo for the upcoming recital, she takes her success a little too seriously.

978-1-6659-0805-4 ©2023 5 x 7 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Bear House (Trade)



#2250553 (Vol. 01) Bear House (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Meaghan McIsaac

Moody Aster and her spoiled sister Ursula are the daughters of Jasper Lourdes, Major of Bears and lord of all the realm. But when their Uncle Bram murders their father in a bid for the crown, the girls are forced onto the run, along with lowly Dev the Bearkeeper and the Lourdes's half-grown grizzly Alcor, symbol of their house.

978-0-8234-4660-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 14.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly McIsaac's (Movers) dark fantasy series starter ambitiously weaves intrigue and adventure against a complicated backdrop of constellation-inspired myth. The northern kingdoms, collectively known as the Bear Highen, have always been ruled by the House of the Hemoth Bear. Spoiled Aster Lourdes, 13, dreams of following in her father's footsteps as its sovereign, but everyone expects her imperious older sister Ursula, 16, to be chosen. When their uncle Bram betrays the family in an unthinkable coup, the sisters must flee the kingdom, along with bear keeper Dev, 13, and young grizzly Alcor, "the living symbol of the Bear House." To prevent the Bear Highen from falling to tyranny and blasphemy, the unlikely companions must survive in the wild, outwit their pursuers, and rally the heirs to several other kingdoms. Hot-tempered and insecure, the flawed, cued-white protagonists slowly prove themselves as they're pushed to their limits in a well-depicted journey of maturity. Dense worldbuilding bogs things down early on, but multiple perspectives enable the story to play out from different angles, contributing to an epic, complex narrative. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Alison McDonald, the Rights Factory. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—A group of young teens must deal with the aftermath of a terrible act of betrayal and make a place for themselves in their changed universe. Princesses Aster and Ursula are the daughters of the respected Major Jasper Lourdes, who is basically the high king of their world. After her father and most of the other Majors, plus their magical animal partners, are killed due to the machinations of his older brother Bram, Aster learns that she and her sister are considered spoiled brats by everyone. However, by the end of the book, the princesses

prove capable of heroism. Truly wonderful world-building almost makes up for the stereotypical behavior of the young female characters, who seem selfish and lazy until forced to be otherwise, while the young male characters show resolve and agency as they deal with difficult problems before the events of the novel. The story ties up neatly, but many characters deserve future stories of their own. Most characters are cued as white. VERDICT A novel set in a compelling world marred by uneven characterization that does its female protagonists a disservice.—Mara Alpert, Los Angeles P.L.



#2296423 (Vol. 02) Scales and Stardust (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Meaghan McIsaac

The war in the Bear Highen is over. Aster, at thirteen, has defeated her uncle and become the High Queen. Peace is good, but things are still difficult: political challenges confront her, personal challenges stymie her, and the massive Hemoth Bear, symbol of the House of the Bear, is beginning to resist her control.

978-0-8234-4661-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Beast and the Bethany (Prebound)



#2364084 (Vol. 03) Battle of the Beast (Prebound)

written by Jack Meggitt-Phillips

After being vanquished in spectacular fashion that included an umbrella with human-pudding capabilities and a darn good show, the beast is transferred to a hidden island and placed in an impenetrable cage where it can no longer hurt anyone or carry out its dastardly plan to make Bethany its next meal. Meaning Bethany and Ebenezer's lives are finally beast free and they can pursue their do-gooding activities in peace-even if the "gooding" part is questionable.

978-1-5364-8330-7 ©2024 5 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



#2291642 (Vol. 01) Beast and the Bethany (Prebound)

written by Jack Meggitt-Phillips

Beauty comes at a price. And no one knows that better than Ebenezer Tweezer, who has stayed beautiful for 511 years. How, you may wonder? Ebenezer simply has to feed the beast in the attic of his mansion. In return for meals of performing monkeys, statues of Winston Churchill, and the occasional cactus, Ebenezer gets potions that keep him young and beautiful, as well as other presents. But the beast grows ever greedier with each meal, and one day he announces that he'd like to eat a nice, juicy child next.

978-1-5364-7506-7 ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 730

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Dorian Gray had a portrait; Ebenezer Tweezer has a voracious Beast in the attic of his posh mansion that vomits up antiaging potions in exchange for whatever it demands. So it is that with his 512th birthday coming up, Ebenezer either has to bring the Beast a suitably plump child or die. Unfortunately, that child turns out to be Bethany--seemingly a perfect choice, being the most willful, obstinate, ill-tempered orphaned brat ever to bring misery to the lives of everyone at Miss Fizzlewick's Institute for Gentlemanly Boys and Ladylike Ladies. Why unfortunate? Because against their better judgements, Ebenezer and Bethany reluctantly take a liking to each other. In best Roald Dahl tradition, the Beast is a menacing, murderous monster. Better yet, dubbing the genuinely remorseful Ebenezer "the most good bad person I know," Bethany contrives by the end to give him one last, welcome chance at a better life. Sample ink-and-wash illustrations by Follath capture both the contemporary setting and the gothic flavor of this unexpectedly touching debut. COPYRIGHT(2020) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Ebenezer Tweezer is on the verge of celebrating his 512th birthday thanks to the

magical, age-defying potion vomited up by the beast who lives in his attic. The beast supplies Ebenezer with riches, beautiful paintings, and eternally shiny hair, and all Ebenezer must do in return is feed it. There's just one problem: the beast's appetite—which has already extended to endangered species, priceless antiques, and Ebenezer's own pet cat—now requires Ebenezer to fetch him a child as a feast. He isn't prone to caring about others, so he's especially surprised to find himself enjoying the company of the mischievous, unpleasant orphan, Bethany, whom he adopts and proceeds to fatten up for the beast. Meggitt-Phillips's debut is pure, droll silliness, with selfish, spoiled Ebenezer a surprisingly pleasant antihero whose moral quandaries (most of which have an obvious and ignored solution) are always accompanied with plenty of quips from the author and not a few long-suffering sighs. Bethany is a naughty, angry child who would make David Shannon proud, but the reader soon learns that her destructive tendencies are a veil for her feelings of abandonment. It's only natural that Ebenezer and Bethany have a happy ending, but Meggitt-Phillips throws in plenty of tension and chaos to keep the reader guessing at just how that ending will be achieved. Follath's pencil and pen illustrations have a comedic edge that's perfectly suited to the fast-paced prose. Bethany and Ebenezer's final scene brings this rollicking tale to a satisfying, heartwarming conclusion, but a final twist suggests the potential for a sequel. KP

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A droll tween take on *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. For more than five centuries, the superficially polite Ebenezer Tweezer has resided in an enormous house teeming with riches provided by an attic-dwelling beast. Their arrangement is simple: Ebenezer feeds the beast whatever it requests, and the beast vomits forth anything Ebenezer desires. What began with roast beef sandwiches soon gave way to more...unconventional fare, and the beast has vowed to withhold Ebenezer's 512th birthday present—an annual anti-aging potion—until it's served a human child. Following a few false starts, Ebenezer visits the contemptible Miss Fizzlewick's orphanage and adds Bethany, a churlish girl whose parents perished in a fire, to the beast's menu. Bethany's surly, sarcastic antics immediately make Ebenezer's life less than pleasurable, but the beast refuses to sup upon a scrawny child. Straightforward, third-person narration from Ebenezer's perspective neither preaches nor condescends, and a tight focus on titular characters makes pages fly by. As Ebenezer grows decrepit and battles a will demented as his own, he finds himself growing involuntarily fond of the girl he's fattening. Can this unlikely tandem outwit a truly inhuman monster? Meggitt-Phillips' ability to make readers squeal with delight, squirm in discomfort, and squawk with laughter make classical comparisons inevitable. Though wildly imaginative, the book is also ethnically homogenous, as nearly all characters are coded White. Bound to whet appetites. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ebenezer Tweezer, "a terrible man with a wonderful life," is a solitary, golden-haired person possessed of a Beast in his attic, who gives him his heart's desires for a price: feasts in the form of rare objects and beasts. Approaching his 512th birthday, Ebenezer has most everything he wants; refrigerators full of food, a home "fifteen stories tall and twelve elephants wide"; save for the potion that keeps him young and handsome, which the Beast plans to withhold unless Ebenezer produces a human child for consumption. Acquiring Bethany Bogoff, an orphan who has been "nothing but trouble" since her parents died in a fire, Ebenezer finds himself saddled with a girl as contrary and spiteful as he is, one whom he has three days to fatten up as the two engage in a war of manipulations; over breakfasts, comics, and strong wills; until they find common ground. Debut author Meggitt-Phillips presents an archly told story filled with devious pranks and an appreciable, skillfully played redemption arc that heightens the emotional heft. Crisp black-and-white art by Follath (Joy) adds atmosphere. Ages 9: 13. Author's agent: Rachel Mann, Jo Unwin Literary. (Dec.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—At 511 years old, Ebenezer Tweezer has a wonderful life, despite doing nothing to deserve it. Every year he receives an anti-aging potion from a beast, and all he has to do in return is feed the beast whatever it wants—from statues to house cats to a rare purple-breasted parrot. But Ebenezer gets quite a shock when the beast decides what he really wants to try is a human child. Ebenezer adopts the obnoxious orphan Bethany, thinking she'll be easy to sacrifice. But much to their mutual surprise, the two have a lot to learn from each other. This book is delightful from the first sentence, reminiscent of Roald Dahl and Neil Gaiman at their cleverest. Ebenezer and Bethany are excellent foils, each despicable in their own way while slowly drawing out the other's best qualities. The story is at turns funny, shocking, and redemptive, and flows well through each twist. Side characters, while not taking up much scene time, are well developed and add depth. Follath's black-and-white illustrations emphasize the whimsical, and sometimes dark feel of the book. The ending, however, may give readers pause: While adding a darker tone, it feels out-of-place and opposes the hard-won redemption from the previous chapter. VERDICT This book will appeal to readers because of its clever humor, despicable characters, and shocking reveals. It will fit nicely alongside zanier books like those from Roald Dahl, Neil Gaiman's *Fortunately, the Milk*, and Lois Lowry's "The Willoughbys" series.—Kristin Brynsvold, Tuckahoe Elem. Sch., Arlington, VA

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95



#2309494 (Vol. 02) Revenge of the Beast (Prebound)
written by Jack Meggitt-Phillips

Once upon a very badly behaved time, 511-year-old Ebenezer kept a beast in his attic. He would feed the beast all manner of objects and creatures and in return the beast would vomit him up expensive presents. But then the Bethany arrived. And Ebenezer secretly misses the beast's vomity gifts. Then there's Claudette, who's not been feeling herself recently. Has she eaten something that has disagreed with her?

978-1-5364-7681-1 ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 850

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Uh-oh. The malign magic creature thought to be extirpated in *The Beast and the Bethany* (2020) is back and bent on gobbling down deliciously hateful orphan Bethany at last--as well as anyone else who gets in the way. As the sly beast is hiding inside the body of apparently benign parrot Claudette, it takes some time for the penny to drop for Bethany and her thoroughly reformed adult ally and former nemesis Ebenezer Tweezer, who just cannot understand why all their sincere efforts to "de-beast" and do good after years of pranks and evil deeds are going horribly wrong. Along with plenty of darkly suggestive cartoon illustrations, Meggitt-Phillips strews the spaciouly leaded narrative with broad hints for readers and drives the tale to a hair- (or more accurately, feather) raising denouement that sees the beast undone by an act of selflessness . . . maybe. The author adds another thoroughly dislikable child to the mix, plus crowd-pleasing gross bits (earwax sandwiches, elephant-poop stink bombs) to brighten the farcical sequel's rather dark tone. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews any (2020), Ebenezer and Bethany struggle to become do-gooders. Troublemaking Bethany's working hard to change, and she wants Ebenezer--less enthusiastic but willing--to purge his beast-gifted luxuries and join her de-beasting mission. In flashbacks, readers see that lonely young Ebenezer's first friend was the beast; current-day Ebenezer knows he shouldn't miss the monster, but he kind of does. Furthermore, a significant difficulty in do-gooding is that neither hero knows how to be good. Luckily, they have Claudette, the Wintlorian purple-breasted parrot, for guidance--except Claudette's been feeling off ever since eating the beast. Though readers will be able to spot the not-so-vanquished beast operating through Claudette before the characters do, the exact schemes include intricate plans with details that still surprise. Bethany learns just how hard it is to overcome a bad reputation when she's sabotaged and then blamed for the fallout as the beast manipulates its way into a very public bad ending for her. The humor offers a delightful blend of dry eloquence and gross-out subject matter, as in the description of a building as "an architectural equivalent of someone who freely picks their nose in public." The resolution takes some clever thinking from Ebenezer but also a touch of deus ex machina. The story ends with a teaser for the next book. Some background characters in the illustrations bring racial diversity. Wickedly funny and surprisingly relatable beneath the exaggerated silliness. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Benchwarmers (Trade)



#2106919 (Vol. 01) Benchwarmers (Hardcover (Trade))
written by John Feinstein

Robby loves soccer, but he isn't very good. Andrea is a soccer superstar, but she had to fight to make the boys' team, and is riding the bench with Robby even though she's no doubt good enough to start. The rest of the boys start picking on her and Robby takes her side--but then a mysterious threat arrives, promising that someone will get hurt if Andi plays. Andi and Robby have to band together to find out who sent the threat--and in time for the championship game.

978-0-374-31203-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 830

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Jeff and Andi are super excited their sixth-grade classes now get a chance to play sports at their school. Unfortunately, Andi wants to play soccer, and there is no girls' team. The coach reluctantly allows her to try out, and despite her being one of the best players, he refuses to give her a spot on the team. Jeff finds this unfair?they could stand a chance at making it to the championships with Andi on their team?so he asks his sports-reporter father to feature her story. Viral backlash causes Coach Johnston to give Andi a spot; however, she faces discrimination from the coach, some fellow teammates, and other soccer teams, which means her victory is far from over. Feinstein's series opener doesn't offer any new ground to the "girl fights to be on boys' sports team" story, but he writes engaging characters and offers readers in-depth play-by-play sports action that results in a fun, fast-paced story that will appeal to readers who can't get enough sports fiction.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An all-boys soccer team is put to the test when a talented girl wants to join their ranks. Jeff Michaels is excited to learn that his middle school will now be offering sports teams for sixth graders in the fall: field hockey for girls and soccer for boys. When his female classmate Andrea "Andi" Carillo shows up for soccer tryouts, he's impressed by her skill on the field. Others, however, are upset and even angry that she's attempting to join the team. When Andi is unjustly excluded by a disgruntled coach, Jeff and Andi reach out to the media to pressure him into letting her on the team. Andi grapples for playing time and soon proves her strength on and off the field, but the team is still fractured by huge disagreements over Andi and even bigger egos. The team will have to learn to work together to reach their goal of winning the conference title. Feinstein includes detailed play-by-play of the middle school soccer matches that will be thrilling for soccer buffs but less exciting for the casual reader. Andi's grit and refusal to back down in the face of sexism are inspirational and reflect the real challenges facing student athletes today. It is mentioned briefly that one soccer teammate is Jewish and two are black; other characters are assumed white. Soccer fans will get a kick out of the game-day action in this straightforward series opener. (Fiction. 8-14) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4&6-A soccer story that shoots toward female empowerment but misses the goal. Jeff knows that Andi Carillo, the only girl trying out for Merion's 6th-grade soccer team, is one of the best players he's ever seen. So, when the list goes up and Andi is

cut, Jeff brings in his TV sports reporter Dad to cover the story. All the attention gets Andi on the team, but their coach's resentment puts both of them on the bench. The question is how to get off of it. Jeff and Andi are poorly developed characters who only show growth on the field. Although writing about strong female soccer players is important, Andi shows no depth beyond her ability to make great passes and score goals. The story is rooted in the male gaze; no one would know of her greatness if not for the help and acceptance of her male counterparts and coaches. VERDICT A mediocre sports book for avid soccer fans. Not recommended.-Rebecca Fitzgerald, Harrison Public Library, NY Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

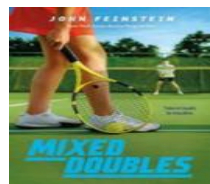


#2167652 (Vol. 02) Game Changers (Hardcover (Trade))
written by John Feinstein

From a new coach's flagrant racism to a teammate's endless sabotage, best friends Andi Carillo and Jeff Michaels start basketball season mired in controversy. To make matters worse, the local media smells more than one juicy story. Will Andi and Jeff be able to help each other power through and find a way to put both their teams back on track?

978-0-374-31205-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



#2270364 (Vol. 03) Mixed Doubles (Hardcover (Trade))
written by John Feinstein

Andi Carillo may have been a soccer prodigy and a basketball standout, but tennis is where she really shines--she's eleven years old and nationally ranked. For her, the sport is just for fun, but suddenly agents are crawling out of the woodwork to offer her deals. Her best friend, Jeff Michaels, is a talented player himself, but he's been dropped into the number-two slot in spite of a perfect record--and he's getting a little jealous of Andi's star potential.

978-0-374-31207-7 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Game, set, match for two young athletes, on the court and beyond. Having gone from Benchwarmers (2019) to Game Changers (2020), sixth grade jock buddies Jeff and Andrea finish off Feinstein's trilogy by leading their school's tennis squad through a series of hard-fought competitions. Tight and quick as the sports action is, though--and readers will need to be well up on tennis scoring and terminology to keep pace--it's what goes on between matches that drives the plot. Though Andi has excelled at soccer and basketball, tennis is her best sport--and she's so good that agents are sidling up to her with business cards and even contracts in hand. His dad being a sports journalist, Jeff sniffs a story...and so it is that the two enlist their parents and other allies to gather documents and testimonials with the aim of exposing the slimy, unethical practice of inveigling talented child athletes into turning pro. Adding in a toxic sports parent and even a teacher/coach who turns out to be working for an agency, the author lays out an alluring but sordid picture of big bucks, glittering promises, and slick legal tricks. Andi remains untempted as she and Jeff battle their way to a tense season finale capped by clear signs that their friendship is (at last) moving to a new phase. Most of the cast is presumed White. Tests and triumphs for two middle schoolers, folded into a harsh indictment of those who would exploit them. (Sports fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal f Feinstein's "Benchwarmers" series features middle grade athletes Andi Carillo and Jeff Michaels in an action-packed tennis season. Jeff is ranked as the number two tennis player, while Andi faces the razor-sharp attention that comes with being a tennis prodigy. In place of heartbreaks, popularity contests, and embarrassing moments, Feinstein portrays a firsthand account of the elite tennis world. With its fresh angle, the narrative becomes an investigation of sports agencies and the startling reality of what adults will do for fame and fortune. Placing Andi and Jeff in the action-oriented, investigative sports journalist's role, Feinstein presents a deep account of elite athletes' young lives. Although the book ends abruptly and some of the gender roles feel antiquated, Feinstein emphasizes the value of sportsmanship, friendship, and, most importantly, a real longing to play the game. VERDICT The perfect pick for sports enthusiasts, budding sports journalists, or those who might wonder about the tennis world.—Jennifer Strattman

Best Babysitters Ever (Trade)

Quantity
Unit Price



#2107260 (Vol. 02) Good, the Bad, and the Bossy (Hardcover (POB))
written by Caroline Cala

1 \$13.99

Just when Malia, Dot, and Bree (aka the Best Babysitters Ever) corner the Playa Del Mar babysitting market, their lives get even busier. Malia's evil older sister ropes her into a thankless internship. Dot must win the science fair. And Bree's brand new cat turns out to be a holy terror.

978-1-328-85090-4 ©2019 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 720

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this follow-up to Best Babysitters Ever (2019), Malia, Bree, and Dot need money to go see their favorite pop star in concert. Problem is, these middle schoolers don't have time to increase their babysitting service hours to earn it. Malia is forced into an internship with her evil older sister and an even more demanding boss. Bree has just adopted a ferocious cat that she has to watch at all times to prevent it from destroying the entire house. Dot has to get ready for the big science fair. To solve their concert fundraising problem, Malia comes up with the idea to subcontract to "satellite" sitters who can babysit in their place while paying them a percentage. After training their new recruits, the girls soon realize it's more complicated than they imagined. With third-person perspective shifting chapter by chapter, the girls struggle with their responsibilities while slowly regretting their decision as they discover that the satellite sitters threaten to replace their bosses in the hearts of their charges. With lessons smoothly woven into the storytelling--Bree's cat's psychotherapist has advice that applies amazingly well to humans, for instance--the narrative neatly balances humor and wisdom. The book's cover shows Malia to be black, Dot to be white, and Bree to have light brown skin and long, dark hair. This smart, humorous tale should inspire girls to dream big, experiment, and problem-solve through challenges. (Fiction. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7—In the second book in the series, Malia, Dot, and Bree, also known as the Best Babysitters Ever, feel as if they have cornered the babysitting market. They have plenty of clients and are on their way to earning money. However, their lives start to get busy: Malia's older, seemingly more successful sister convinces their mother to force Malia into a thankless internship with a terrible boss. Dot will stop at nothing to win the science fair, and Bree's new cat turns out to be a raging terror. Malia is frustrated by the group's lack of commitment, which leads her to an idea: they can hire new babysitters and keep a cut of the new sitters' wages. They think this is a foolproof plan, but it soon falls flat. This light, amusing installment features relatable characters who are imperfect yet well meaning, with present, supportive parents. However, it is difficult to believe that anyone would pay "stacks of twenties" for tween babysitters, or hire all three of them at the same time to watch just a few children. VERDICT A solid purchase for readers looking for alternatives to Rachel RenTe Russell's "Dork Diaries" or Jennifer and Matthew Holms's "Baby Mouse" series.—Amy Caldera, Dripping Springs Middle School, TX



#2148997 (Vol. 03) Miss Impossible (Hardcover (POB))
written by Caroline Cala

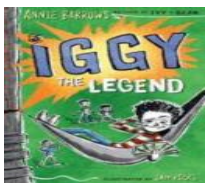
Quantity 1 Unit Price \$13.99

All of the babysitting in the world couldn't prepare the girls for their unusual new charge, and even though Zelda should be the one who's embarrassed that three girls her age are getting paid to babysit her, she relishes the chance to tease them on her home turf. Is she really evil or just misunderstood?

978-1-328-85091-1 ©2020 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 7.0

Best of Iggy (Trade)



#2280763 (Vol. 04) Iggy the Legend (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Annie Barrows

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$13.99

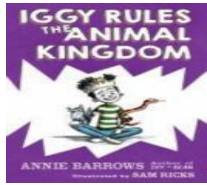
Grownups are always changing the rules! When grown-ups make money, it's good. But when Iggy makes money, all of a sudden it's bad. When grown-ups find something interesting on the sidewalk, it's finders keepers. But when Iggy finds something (very) interesting, finders keepers turns into You're In Trouble. Why is Iggy being blamed for something they never said he couldn't do?

978-0-593-32533-9 ©2022 5 x 8 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 640

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-4—Iggy's adventures continue in this series installment. Iggy tries to convince readers that he is not

responsible for a get-rich-quick scheme involving the tooth fairy. In the beginning, Iggy is thrilled when his best friend Diego builds a tree house. He is less thrilled when Diego decides to form a members-only club that requires members pay \$11.60 to play in the tree house. Iggy tries several methods to raise the money but with no success. When he finds a bag of teeth on the sidewalk, he comes up with a brilliant plan to gather funds. The short chapters and engaging text will make this a fun and accessible work for those who are newer to chapter books. Readers will enjoy Iggy's silliness and his attempts to prove that he is not 100 percent to blame for his actions. Readers of previous entries will enjoy continuing Iggy's adventures. The illustrations are suitably silly and add to the fun of the text. VERDICT Buy this amusing title if the other books in the series are popular.—V. Lynn Christiansen



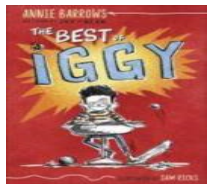
#2333089 (Vol. 05) Iggy Rules the Animal Kingdom (Library Binding (Trade))
written by Annie Barrows

They're nuts about babies, but they tell their 9-year-olds to be more mature. They complain constantly about how old they are, and then they tell their kids to grow up. So when Iggy's mom and dad say he can't have a puppy because he's not mature and responsible, Iggy develops an excellent plan to prove them wrong. Like any great plan, it involves secrecy, strategy, and a chinchilla. There's also some screaming, but that's not Iggy's fault.

978-0-593-32537-7 ©2023 5-1/4 x 8 128 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 660

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



#2144649 (Vol. 01) Best of Iggy (Hardcover (POB))
written by Annie Barrows

Meet Iggy Frangi. He's not a bad kid, he's really not. Okay, so he's done a few (a few is anything up to 100) bad things. And okay, he's not very sorry about most of them. People make a big deal about nothing. What's a little pancake here and there? Is that something to get mad about? Iggy doesn't think so. No one got hurt, so there's no problem. No one got hurt except for that one time, that one time when the Best Idea Ever turned into the Worst Idea of All Time.

978-1-9848-1330-5 ©2020 5 x 7-3/4 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 550

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99

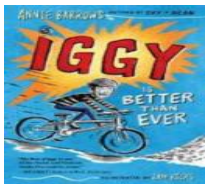
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly "All of us do things we wish we hadn't done" begins this lively illustrated series opener about Iggy Frangi, a mischievous, good-hearted nine-year-old who frequently lands himself in trouble and only sometimes regrets it. The omniscient narrator describes Iggy's world with a dry tone ("He has to stay in his room until dinnertime. It's two thirty in the afternoon"), detailing the events; described as "extenuating circumstances"; that have contributed to Iggy's ill-advised actions. Short chapters tell the story of three occurrences: Iggy inadvertently goading Jeremy Greerson into jumping off the roof onto a trampoline, raiding the family medicine cabinet for an overzealous prank, and racing classroom desks toward an unsuspecting fourth-grade teacher. Of the three, the last inspires regret and thoughtful introspection. With Iggy, Barrows (the Ivy and Bean series) has created a realistic kid; passionate, funny, and sometimes misguided; whom readers will surely root for as he gains awareness of the relationship between choices and consequences. Black-and-white illustrations by Ricks highlight Iggy's antic nature. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Liza Dawson, Liza Dawson Assoc. Illustrator's agent: Minju Chang, BookStop Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Iggy isn't a bad kid—he just lives by the motto "It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time." He blames his friends, his parents, his teacher, but will he ever take responsibility for his actions? Scene transitions feel choppy, but the plot is amusing and Iggy is relatable—though mischievous, he's a good kid deep down. While character development is thin, the cast is engaging and grows on the reader. Funny, detailed illustrations complement the text well, though the font may be difficult to read for some. VERDICT Fans of Barrows's "Ivy + Bean" series and books about kids who often find themselves landing in trouble will appreciate this laugh-out-loud tale. For libraries where humorous realistic fiction is popular.—Kira Moody, Salt Lake County Library Services

#2179693 (Vol. 02) Iggy Is Better Than Ever (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Annie Barrows

No one gets hurt, but the last car involved happens to be driven by their never-smiling,

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99



Iggy-detesting principal. In order to not get caught, Iggy decides he'll be so good at school that he'll be invisible. But the tension of all that goodness builds and builds in Iggy, and, no surprise, it bursts out in a gasp-inducing, very bad way.

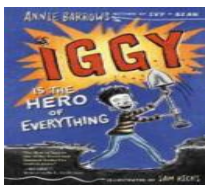
978-1-9848-1333-6 ©2020 5 x 8 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 640

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 2-5 In a sequel to *The Best of Iggy* (2020), this fourth-grader boy devises an ingenious prank to play on passing vehicles, including the school principal's car. After several tense days of waiting for retribution or at least a lecture, Iggy accidentally knocks down an elderly teacher with a basketball at recess. Finally, a hastily made bike ramp leads to a fall, lots of stitches, and an unexpected benefit. Inventive in his mischief-making but short-sighted about its probable results, Iggy has talent for trouble. And, Barrow assures her audience, he won't learn anything from his mistakes, though she'll ensure that readers do. She spells out each lesson along the way, printed in large type to ensure that no one misses her edifying advice (and also because, when forewarned, readers can tell which sections to skip). Ricks, who illustrated Adler's Geisel Award-winner *Don't Throw It to Mo* (2015), excels at expressing the comedy in Iggy's misadventures. And while humor is notoriously hard to write, Barrows makes it look easy in this episodic, amusing, and occasionally hilarious chapter book. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Iggy finds that trying to be good is a possible recipe for disaster. Iggy Frangi, a 9-year-old fourth grader first introduced in *The Best of Iggy* (2020), is not particularly adept at anticipating adverse outcomes, and his analysis after things go wrong is not especially accurate. He's more of a doer than a dreamer. "Mostly Iggy gets in trouble. He does Thing 1, and then Thing 2 happens, and then, unfortunately, Thing 3 happens too." In a wry direct address, the narrator/apologist affirms that Iggy will not be transformed, that this is not about a kid who is "better at the end than he was in the beginning"--not "about a kid who plants flowers by the side of the road." Thing 1: Iggy, who appears White, and two of his best friends, Diego, who has brown skin, and Arch, who appears Black, discover a creative use for gardening tape. As a result of Thing 1, Thing 2 happens: Iggy accidentally clobbers (but doesn't permanently damage) an elderly White teacher with a basketball. Thing 2 leads to Thing 3: a spectacular and, as it turns out, literal face-plant, "one of the best things that ever happened" in Iggy's life. Iggy wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again, and his fans will be the richer for it. Ricks' sketch illustrations feature lighthearted diagrams and cartoon interpretations of Iggy's thoughts and misadventures. Very, very funny. (Fiction. 7-10) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
	1	\$13.99



#2226563 (Vol. 03) **Iggy Is the Hero of Everything (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Annie Barrows

From Iggy's point of view, his plan was genius, pure genius. From Iggy's point of view, he's saved (a) his candy, (b) his family, and (c) the toaster. From Iggy's point of view, he should get a trophy. And respect. And more candy. So what if Rudy Heckie disagrees? Rudy Heckie has been wrong before and he'll be wrong again. Rudy has a scar now, and scars are cool!

978-1-9848-1336-7 ©2021 5 x 8 128 pgs.

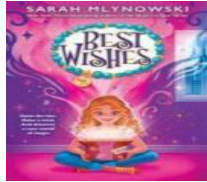
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 670

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Iggy's intrepid and clever selflessness is open to misinterpretation. This installment in the chronicles of 9-year-old Iggy Frangi's (*Iggy Is Better Than Ever*, 2020, etc.) encounters with unintended consequences examines intent as an element crucial to gallantry. After learning of a break-in at the Heckies' house nearby, Iggy has a plan for thwarting the potential theft of his best Halloween candy, along with his family's other valuables. It's pretty simple: Set a decoy and dig a trap. It's hardly Iggy's fault when annoying 7-year-old Rudy Heckie is injured during the trap construction. (No, Rudy's finger is not severed.) Nor is it Iggy's fault that Mr. Heckie hurts his tailbone when he trips over Rudy and falls into the trap dug with the shovel that didn't sever Rudy's finger. The pace and energy of Barrows' narrative matches Iggy's focused enthusiasm for his (somewhat ill-conceived) plan. The apologist narrator, very much on Team Iggy, provides evidence that points to Iggy's heroism. Ricks' cartoon illustrations are a lively and hilarious complement to Iggy's thoughts and experiences. In them, Iggy, his family, and the Heckies appear White. Iggy's charm is substantial, so blithely optimistic are his intentions and so singular (yet familiar to any well-meaning human) his way of seeing the world. Iggy's ideas are clear to him--it's everyone else who ends up asking, "What were you thinking?" This genuine and energetic, if hapless, antiheroic hero grows on you. (Fiction. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-4--Nine-year-old Iggy is this book's main character. Which means, in his mind, he's the most important one and the hero of everything in the story. He has a vivid imagination, the best of intentions, and a knack for getting into trouble. When the Heckies, his neighbors, are robbed and Rudy Heckie's Halloween candy is taken, Iggy gets nervous. When he overhears his parents offering Rudy

the rest of his Halloween candy, Iggy decides to take matter into his own hands. First, he uses the strongbox his grandfather gave him to protect the rest of his candy. Then he starts digging a hole to capture the thieves when they come again. Will his plan work, or will everything go wrong? The illustrations are fun and engaging and complement the text well. The plot is simple but entertaining. Iggy is a humorous, realistic character that young readers will identify with. The other characters are a little two-dimensional, but understandable considering the story is told through Iggy's perspective. Iggy is cued as white. VERDICT Readers who like Megan McDonald's "Stink" series will enjoy this book. A great addition to libraries where humorous realistic fiction is popular.--Kira Moody, Salt Lake County Lib. Svcs. Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Best Wishes (Trade)



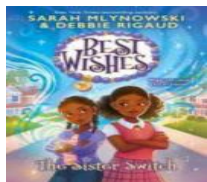
#2290614 (Vol. 01) Best Wishes (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sarah Mlynowski

When Becca's best friend, Hailey, says she doesn't want to be friends anymore, Becca is devastated. But then Becca receives a mysterious package in the mail with a beautiful bracelet and a note that tells her to make a wish. So Becca puts on the bracelet--why not, right?--and wishes to have friends. Lots of friends. So many friends.
 978-1-338-62825-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$15.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Be careful what you wish for. Becca, who lives on New York City's Upper West Side, is planning a sleepover for her 10th birthday. But her best, and only, friend, Harper, seems uninterested, admitting that she has a new best friend. After the two have a falling out, Becca is truly friendless. Everything changes when she receives a mysterious box containing a magic bracelet with a poem saying that the bracelet will ease her sadness and will provide a single wish. She is instructed to mail the bracelet forward when it is no longer needed. Becca wishes everyone wanted to be her pal, and almost immediately, kids are talking to her, complimenting her, and inviting her to sit with them at lunch. It all seems wonderful but soon gets out of hand. She now wants the bracelet off. But it's not so easy. Becca narrates her story via a letter to an unknown Addie Asante, describing in meticulous detail her adventures in the realm of magic, holding nothing back as she questions events, eventually finding new understanding and new friends. Becca is Jewish and depicted as light-skinned in Vee's black-and-white illustrations; she seamlessly includes descriptions of family traditions. Harper is cued South Asian. Readers will love Becca for her humor, honesty, kindness, and insecurities. Many mysteries remain unsolved, but Addie is to be the next recipient of the box and probably the hero of the next book in this new series. A coming-of-age tale told with humor, compassion, and more than a touch of magic. (Fantasy. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Mlynowski (the Whatever After series) kicks off this first installment of a multi-author series positioned as The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants for middle graders, written as a letter from the book's narrator to another girl. The magic begins on New York City's Upper West Side, when Jewish fifth grader Becca receives a mysterious package with no return address; it holds a magical gold and turquoise bracelet with the power to grant one wish. Becca, who has been dumped by her best friend in the lead-up to her 10th birthday, makes the mistake of wishing for "lots and lots of friends." Things get out of hand after Becca's popularity takes a gigantic leap, resulting in changing relationships with classmates and even her strict mother. But Becca finds the attention insubstantial, making even her well-attended birthday feel like a bust. Then there's the matter of the blond stranger who is pursuing Becca, interested in gaining the bracelet's power for herself. The whimsical premise and attendant lessons may be nothing new, but an empathetic heroine and winningly absurd situations offer over-the-top hilarity. Vee's b&w cartoon illustrations portray Becca with light skin. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Laura Dail, Laura Dail Literary. (Sept.)



#2323262 (Vol. 02) Sister Switch (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sarah Mlynowski

Being Sophie is amazing: Addie can hang out at the cafe after school, have her own room, and sing in the talent show. But as her new long-distance friend, Becca (who had the bracelet last time), warns her, having a wish come true can get really messy. Plus, in a twist of magical chaos, Addie's big sister has become the baby sister, and the baby sister has become ADDIE!
 978-1-338-62828-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$15.99

Reviews by: Booklist Addie Asante, a fifth-grader, is the middle child between Sophie, a high-achieving seventh-grader, and Camille, an energetic member of the pre-K class at her sisters' school. One morning, Addie opens a package containing a bracelet that she slips onto her wrist without

reading the warning not to make a wish while wearing it. Fed up with her siblings, she arrives at school and wishes she wasn't in the middle between her sisters. Immediately, she transforms into Sophie, whose teacher waves her into a seventh-grade classroom. Meanwhile, Camille finds herself looking like Addie and enjoying fifth grade, while Sophie-as-Camille looks miserable in pre-K. Attractive grayscale illustrations portray the main characters within their family and at their school. Using a body switch to enlighten characters about others' viewpoints isn't new, but the writing here provides welcome humor as well as insights. And while the bracelet adds a spark of magic, Addie's first-person narrative is primarily realistic, particularly when portraying the three sisters. Book two in the Best Wishes series is engaging and fun.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It is Addie's turn with the magic bracelet in this installment of the Best Wishes series. Ten-year-old Addie Asante, a fifth grader in Columbus, Ohio, tells her tale in a letter to an unknown Lucy. Sandwiched in the middle between bossy, studious older sister Sophie, 12, and indulged little sister Camille, 5, "go-with-the-flow" Addie is used to suppressing her own desires to keep the peace with friends and family. When a mysterious package arrives with the bracelet and instructions, she puts it on at once, ignoring an enclosed warning from Becca, the previous holder of the bracelet, until it is too late. When, in an argument with Sophie, Addie wishes she weren't the middle sister, the bracelet tightens, then glows and warms, and suddenly, the sisters have switched bodies--Addie is Sophie, Sophie is Camille, and Camille is Addie. Mayhem, confusion, twists and turns, and even laugh-out-loud hilarity ensue as each sister tries to cope with the changes. Addie can text with Becca for more information and warnings (including about the strange blond woman who wants the bracelet) but must find the solution herself. Of course, there's a happy, heartwarming ending as Addie and her sisters share their feelings and come to understand each other. Now it's Lucy's turn. Addie and her family present Black in Vee's drawings; Becca is Jewish and light-skinned. Delightful, with just the right touch of magic. (Fantasy. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2352207 (Vol. 03) Time After Time (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sarah Mlynowski

Lucy Usathorn of Fort Worth, Texas is super excited for her class trip to the Natural History Museum, where her dad works. Sure, Ms. Brock, the strict school librarian who happens to be dating Lucy's dad (awkward) is chaperoning, but it'll still be the best day ever, right? Wrong! Lucy has to watch in shock and humiliation as her dad proposes to Ms. Brock. Lucy is distraught.

978-1-338-62831-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$15.99

Reviews by: Booklist A bright but bossy fifth-grader, Lucy receives a bracelet by mail, along with warnings to consult the previous owners before making a wish while wearing it. This magical bracelet grants one wish to each wearer, but the results are sometimes unexpected. Lucy has been looking forward to the fifth-graders' museum field trip, where her divorced Thai American father will give a presentation, but when he uses the occasion to propose to the school librarian, Lucy is shocked and distressed. She wishes for a do-over of the day. Her wish is granted, day after day, with a series of unfortunate outcomes until she learns to consider others' needs and desires as well as her own. Each book in the Best Wishes series has a new main character who receives the magical bracelet from the protagonist of the previous book. Illustrated with occasional grayscale pictures, the third volume picks up the interwoven narrative where *Sister Switch* (2023) left off and becomes a cautionary tale for the next bracelet recipient. A fun chapter book with a touch of magic.

Beyond Baylor (Trade)



#1967711 (Vol. 01) Guide to the Other Side (Hardcover (Trade))

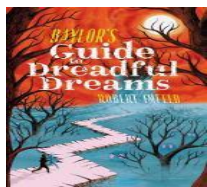
written by Robert Imfeld

A boy and his ghostly twin sister work together to pass messages from the beyond in this funny paranormal debut. There are a few things you should know about Baylor Bosco: He's thirteen-years-old, he has a twin sister, and he really does NOT like ghosts...which is problematic because he's a medium and sees ghostseverywhere. Oh, and his twin sister, Kristina? She's a ghost too. They've been working as a pair for years, expertly relaying messages from ghosts to their still-living loved ones. Baylor's even managed to come up with an introductory phrase--one that he has to use far too often. But when a strange ghost shows up close to Halloween, a grown man, covered in a sheet, with only his black leather shoes showing from the bottom, Baylor starts to wonder if something else has taken notice of him. And when his sister goes missing, somehow ghost-napped, he's forced to figure out the truth about the Sheet Man and his sister's disappearance, all without his usual ghostly ambassador.

978-1-4814-6636-3 ©2016 288 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Thirteen-year-old Baylor Bosco has a strange connection to dead people. Though Baylor truly dislikes the ghosts he constantly encounters, his twin sister, Kristina, faithfully helps him handle this special gift. Kristina's powers are even more extraordinary than her brother's because she herself is a ghost. When a ghoulish spirit shows up close to Halloween--covered by a single sheet and wearing brown buckled shoes--Kristina is mysteriously ghostnapped and evil forces run amok. Armed with odd talismans and accompanied by supportive spiritual guides, Baylor courageously faces a dark and threatening unknown to save his twin. This first installment in a new series features goofy ghost humor and spooky, spine-tingling suspense. Baylor's quirky dialogue with pesky ghosts is a highlight, as many bombard him with hilarious requests to relay to the living. The narrative lags a bit after Baylor connects the sheet man with an ex-wife and girlfriend. There is also a romantic side story between Baylor's two friends, which is somewhat out of sync with the main plot. Despite this, fans of anything otherworldly should be instantly entranced. **VERDICT** A unique ghost story loaded with just the right blend of laugh-out-loud humor and suspense. Anticipate high demand for this series starter.--Etta Anton, Yeshiva of Central Queens, NY Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2026815 (Vol. 02) Baylor's Guide to Dreadful Dreams (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Robert Imfeld

With assistance from a powerful amulet, Baylor Bosco finds himself with a dazzling new ability: he can walk through dreams. Not only his own, but those of other people! Using a starry, otherworldly portal called Loved Ones' Lane, Baylor tumbles through the dreams of his friends, family--even his cranky aunt.

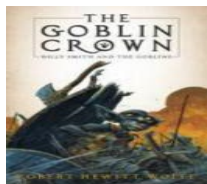
978-1-4814-6639-4 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 770

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Thirteen-year-old Baylor Bosco has a gift: he's a medium tasked with passing on dead people's messages to the living. It has earned him a fan base of Bayliebers as well as his fair share of skeptics. When his dead but ever-present twin sister, Kristina (a ghost), helps him make a talisman, Baylor acquires an entirely new skill: he can enter other people's dreams. In the vast ocean of his dreamland, he discovers two children floating on a boat, lost and close to dying. He assumes they are a dream until he sees their faces on the news the next day, their parents begging for clues to their children's location. Again it seems Baylor's special powers make him uniquely qualified to help. This second book in the Beyond Baylor series carries on with the same spunky, sarcastic, world-weary humor, and the light tone provides a nice balance to the darker topics. The plot is thin, and the danger is so couched in humor that there's not much at stake, but Imfeld's wonderful imagination has spun a story that is still quite fun.--Worthington, Becca Copyright 2018 Booklist

Billy Smith and the Goblins (Trade)



#1985828 (Vol. 01) Goblin Crown (Paperback (Trade))
written by Robert Hewitt Wolfe

Billy Smith is having a rough first day of high school. The new kid at exclusive Francis Drake Prep, Billy embarrasses himself in front of fiery, beautiful Lexi Aquino. He makes an instant enemy in Kurt Novac, the school's surly star quarterback. Then suddenly Billy, Lexi, and Kurt are mysteriously transported to an underworld teeming with goblins, strange animal hybrids, and powerful magic--the fact that they're stuck there is probably Billy's fault, too.

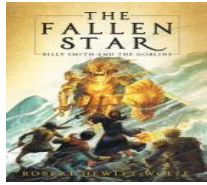
978-1-68162-612-3 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up-Readers who fervently wish for the ability to jump into a mythical world like Middle-earth will enjoy this tale. Nerdy new kid Billy's first day of school is going terribly, but it gets worse when he accidentally and completely mysteriously transports himself, Lexi, and jerky quarterback Kurt to the Ironspine Mountains. The intrepid teens are soon confronted by a group of strange creatures that turn out to be goblins. The leader of the small band, Hop, explains the dire situation: hostile forces are coming to kill all goblins, a false goblin king has taken the throne, and only the true human king can save goblinkind. In a world where light and dark magic rage against each other, the three young adults must battle their way through hardships to uncover the secret of who is the true heir to the goblin throne. The writing moves swiftly, but alternation among multiple perspectives (some goblin, some human) is not always smoothly navigated--at some points the

narratives seem to be running on different time lines, which could cause some head-scratching. While the world-building is sound and intriguing, the many characters feel stereotypical, bordering on stock. Voracious fantasy readers will tear through and probably enjoy this novel, but don't expect it to be in high demand. VERDICT An additional purchase for larger collections.-Abby Bussen, Muskego Public Library, WI Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2064126 (Vol. 02) Fallen Star (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Robert Hewitt Wolfe

With help from his friends, Billy Smith--the unlikeliest of heroes--overthrew the corrupt General Sawtooth and claimed the Goblin Crown. But his perilous journey to save the goblin race has just begun. The powerful Hanorian Army is gathered at the gates of Kiranok, threatening to invade the goblin city and wipe out everyone within.
978-1-68162-616-1 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 780

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$31.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up-Billy's life would be easier if he, Lexi, and Kurt hadn't magically slipped into Kiranok, a goblin city carved into a mountain in a parallel world. At home in San Francisco, he'd be stressing about school. In Kiranok, Billy Smith, the newly crowned king, worries about saving his people from extinction in the war against their human Hanorian enemies, and skirting assassination attempts by three rogue goblin wizards. His previous tormenter, star quarterback Kurt, has become a loyal ally, fighting alongside goblin soldier Hop. And Lexi is learning how to wield her fire magic, giving Billy another weapon in his arsenal. Unfortunately, the Hanorians have more wizards, a larger army, and a ruthless agenda. The newest installment in the trilogy picks up where *The Goblin Crown* left off, alternating among six viewpoints with a tenacity that was not quite as fluid in book one. Cliff-hangers and bad luck abound, compelling readers ever onward to a chilling ending that will leave them impatient for the final installment. Characters are fleshed out in greater detail this volume, giving their conflicting feelings and actions more heft. Wolfe's world-building and connection with his characters feel almost effortless, and the book includes appendices reminiscent of *The Silmarillion*. VERDICT A must-buy for where *The Goblin Crown* is popular.-Abby Bussen, Muskego Public Library, WI Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

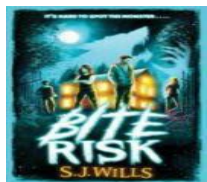


#2165555 (Vol. 03) Final Drop (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Robert Hewitt Wolfe

After being magically transported to another world with two other high school students, perennial outsider Billy Smith has become the unlikely king of a goblin civilization. With the help of his first day of high school crush, Lexi Aquino, now a powerful wizard, quarterback turned warrior Kurt Novac, and a cowardly but wily goblin named Hop, Billy has successfully repelled a human invasion of the goblins' underground city, Kiranok.
978-1-68162-619-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$31.99

Bite Risk (Trade)

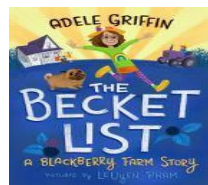


#2329959 (Vol. 01) Bite Risk (Hardcover (Trade))
written by S. J. Wills

Thirteen-year-old Sel lives in the remote, isolated town of Tremorglade, where nothing interesting ever seems to happen. Well, unless you count the one night a month when the full moon rises and kids like him must lock up their parents while they transform into werewolves (though Tremorgladers prefer to call them Rippers). But that's the whole world's new normal since the Disruption changed everything well before Sel was born.
978-1-6659-3800-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Blackberry Farm (Trade)



#2100877 (Vol. 01) Becket List (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adele Griffin

Everything is changing for Becket Branch. From subways to sidewalks to safety rules, Becket is a city kid born and raised. Now the Branch family is trading urban bustle for big green fields and moving to Gran's farm, where Becket has to make sense of new routines from feeding animals to baling hay.

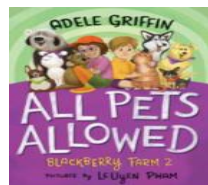
978-1-61620-790-8 ©2019 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly ecide to move from the city to live on Gran's Blackberry Farm, Becket Branch, 9, doesn't think she'll miss much; except, maybe, her best friend Caleb, the apartment she's grown up in, and the egg and cheese on a roll from Sugarman's Deli. Still, she is determined to put on a brave, happy face so that her twin brother, Nicholas, won't be even more upset about the move than he already is. Armed with her growing list, "How to Be a Country Kid," Becket is ready to have new adventures (standing up to a mean chicken, attending Young Explorers Camp), make new friends, and (she hopes) get a dog. Things don't end up going the way she plans, though, and she soon discovers that country living isn't as easy as she'd thought. Heartwarming prose by Griffin (the Oodlethunksseries) is as energetic as Becket herself, while expressive spot art by Pham (Stop That Yawn!) reinforces the story's action and breaks up the text for younger readers. In the end, Becket learns to take Gran's message to heart: "That's life.... Most reliable thing about it are the twists and turns." Final art not seen by PW. Ages 7: 11. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-4-Becket Branch and her family are moving from the city to her grandmother's farm in the country, and Becket is very excited about all the changes that are coming her way. She keeps a watchful eye for what she calls "Beautiful alerts" or any wonderful thing she wants to make a note of. She also keeps a list of all the new experiences she will be having as a country kid, including doing barnyard chores and making a new best friend. Naturally, she hits a few rough patches along the way. The animals don't always cooperate, her new potential best friend seems more interested in befriending her twin brother, and her senior citizen city dog isn't quite the country dog she was wishing for. But it is all part of the many new experiences that country life has to offer. Becket is an outgoing, refreshingly self-confident protagonist, and although she may sometimes come across as a bit pushy to her fellow characters, her enthusiasm is infectious. Readers will appreciate her ability to bounce back from whatever life hands her. Pham's sketch drawings scattered throughout enhance the energy and humor of the story. -VERDICT Give this to kids who enjoy stories with plucky female protagonists. Recommended for most collections.--Jessica -Marie, Salem Public Library, OR Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2239354 (Vol. 02) All Pets Allowed (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adele Griffin

Becket Branch wants a dog for her tenth birthday. But her twin brother, Nicholas, has secretly been wishing for a cat. Lucky for Becket and Nicholas, their animal-loving parents have an animal-loving surprise for them: they're going to the local shelter and adopting both a cat and a dog.

978-1-64375-073-6 ©2021 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 3.0

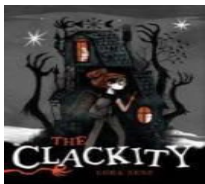
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Booklist Carried away with the awesome thought that she and her twin, Nicholas, will be celebrating their tenth birthday on the tenth day of the tenth month, Becket makes big plans for their party and invites all their classmates. Quiet and somewhat introverted, Nicholas would much prefer a small family gathering, but as usual, he lets his enthusiastic, effervescent sister prevail. Their parents, both vets, let each twin choose a pet as their birthday gift. Soon Becket is attempting to train Dibs, her easily spooked dog, while Nicholas is getting to know Gift, his confident, charismatic cat. When Dibs gets lost at the school fair, an unexpected hero comes to the rescue. Becket's first-person narrative draws readers into her point of view but clearly shows how other characters react to her opinions. The sequel to *The Becket List* (2020), this attractive early chapter book includes one or two grayscale drawings on almost every double-page spread, depicting the characters in action while clearly conveying the emotional content of the scenes. A welcome addition to the engaging Blackberry Farm series.

Blight Harbor (Prebound)

#2328410 (Vol. 01) Clackity (Prebound)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95



written by Lora Senf

Evie Von Rathe lives in Blight Harbor—the seventh-most haunted town in America—with her Aunt Desdemona, the local paranormal expert. Des doesn't have many rules except one: Stay out of the abandoned slaughterhouse at the edge of town. But when her aunt disappears into the building, Evie goes searching for her. There she meets The Clackity, a creature who lives in the shadows and seams of the slaughterhouse. Evie must embark on a journey into a strange otherworld filled with hungry witches, penny-eyed ghosts, and a memory-thief, all while being pursued by a dead man whose only goal is to add Evie to his collection of lost souls.

978-1-5364-8021-4 ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 750

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Senf's atmospheric tale will make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. Evie is 12 and came to live in Blight Harbor with her aunt Desdemona after her parents died. Blight Harbor has a lot of supernatural problems as the seventh-most haunted town in America. When Aunt Des disappears, Evie meets a scary presence called the Clackity hiding out in a slaughterhouse. He sends Evie on a quest to save her aunt, during which she must cross over into an eerie realm and search seven houses to find the only family she has left, all while being chased by an evil ghost. The setting of Blight Harbor is already strange and intriguing, with its witches and lost souls, but Senf's adventure story is hard to put down because of its grounding emotional impact, especially the importance of facing some of life's darkest truths in order to move on. Fans of David Almond's *Skellig*, Holly Black's *Doll Bones* (2013), or Katherine Arden's *Small Spaces* quartet won't be disappointed by this. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Evie already lost her parents, and she sure as heck isn't going to lose her beloved aunt Desdemona, the town's local expert on all things paranormal. Desdemona has disappeared into the abandoned, likely haunted, slaughterhouse at the edge of town, and when Evie follows her, she meets the Clackity, a terrifying creature who is every bit as scary as his name implies. Thus begins a horrifying adventure that sends Evie through a nightmarish series of houses, having made a deal that if she brings him the ghost of a serial killer who lurks around this otherworld then she can have her aunt back from him. Of course, best not to trust monsters who make grand promises, and Evie soon realizes it is up to her grit, cleverness, and kindness to pull her through. Each house is distinct in its misery and creepiness, from an abandoned abattoir that would be plenty haunted even if it wasn't a gateway to an even worse place to a twisted replica of the house Evie shared with her parents. The serial killer's jaunty whistle signals him inexorably closing in; John Jeffrey Pope has not lost any of his malice from when he menaced Evie's small town a century earlier, and the likelihood that Evie will indeed save herself and her aunt does little to tone down the terror. Evie is vulnerable and scrappy, and readers will likely empathize with her and wonder if they, too, could have boldly prioritized fearless action over a fearful state of mind. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Evelyn Von Rathe is on a twisted, spooky hunt for her aunt, who has been taken into a supernatural maze by an evil creature called The Clackity. Blight Harbor is one of the most haunted towns in America, and 12-year-old Evie's Aunt Desdemona, who has cared for her since her parents died, is well versed on the otherworldly. However, when Aunt Des goes to investigate the town's abandoned abattoir, she disappears. Despite its being off-limits, Evie goes in after her and makes a bargain with The Clackity, a demented, sharp-toothed creature: She will find her aunt and in return, fetch him the ghost of serial killer John Jeffrey Pope, who famously used the slaughterhouse for killing humans in the early 20th century. What awaits Evie as she crosses into the other world are seven dangerous, cursed, booby-trapped houses that she must navigate in order to save Aunt Des. Senf's worldbuilding is fantastical and compelling, the scares hair-raising. Evie is a capable, vulnerable, brave, and anxious hero; she's real. She hangs tough, with a magic sparrow companion serving as a sidekick, savior, and coach. While Senf opens the book with a lot of exposition, the story really settles in as Evie begins her quest, and the skilled storytelling will keep readers spellbound and spooked. Cáceres' eerie black-and-white illustrations enhance the mood and atmosphere. Main characters are cued as White. Full of thrills and scares. (Horror. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Evie Von Rathe is a copper-haired 12-year-old who experiences anxiety and panic attacks, has lived with her aunt Desdemona in Blight Harbor, "the seventh most haunted town in America (per capita)." No stranger to the unexplained, Evie occasionally helps her aunt, an advice columnist on matters supernatural, when she takes on cases of "otherworldly concerns" around town. But when Desdemona is captured by frightening creature The Clackity, it offers Evie a bargain: she must venture into a nightmare realm to find her aunt, surviving a series of seven eldritch houses, and lure in the ghost of Jeffrey John Pope, a notorious serial killer who used an abattoir for his crimes. With only the magical tattoo of a sparrow for companionship and protection, Evie undergoes a terrifying journey, testing mind, body, and spirit. Adeptly invoking folkloric elements while creating something darkly original, Senf intimately renders Evie's trials as both internal and external in an atmospheric adventure that will appeal to readers of Neil Gaiman and middle grade horror. Occasional b&w art by Cáceres adds to the book's eerie feel; human characters cue as white. Ages 10: 12. Author's agent: Ali Herring, Spencerhill Assoc. (June)

Blight Harbor (Trade)

Quantity

Unit Price



#2348033 (Vol. 02) Nighthouse Keeper (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Lora Senf

1 \$17.99

Evie Von Rathe has been home for only a few weeks from her adventure in the strange world of seven houses when Blight Harbor's beloved ghosts begin to disappear. Did they leave without saying goodbye, or has something gone horribly wrong? Soon Evie is invited to a mysterious council meeting, where she learns about the Dark Sun Side and a terrible secret.

978-1-6659-3463-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books It hasn't even been a month since Evie returned from saving her aunt in The Clackity (BCCB 6/22), but once again the twelve-year-old girl must be bolder and cleverer than she thinks possible, mustering up the courage to go through a portal door and back into a terrifying world of monsters and innocent spirits that need saving. This time it isn't her aunt who is missing but rather all the ghosts that peacefully coexist with the people of Blight Harbor; Evie is certain they wouldn't all go away without saying goodbye, so she knows something's not right with their vanishings. The villain behind their disappearance calls herself Portia, and although she used to be human, she has long since twisted into a monster who has let her quest for power consume her. Evie meets the spirit of Lark (an eleven-year-old who died a hundred years ago) and her loyal ghost spider, and they become allies against the formidable Portia and the dangers that naturally exist in this other realm. Senf offers just enough history and a thin trace of vulnerability for Portia that make her a slightly sympathetic villain, and this nuanced character development is a strength across both first two books of the trilogy. Readers will undoubtedly eagerly await the final volume, even if it will mean saying goodbye to a fascinating and memorable world, and a brilliant protagonist in the heroic Evie, who is so much more than she initially dreams she can be. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Evie enters the otherworldly place called the Dark Sun Side, searching for Blight Harbor's missing ghosts in this sequel to 2022's The Clackity. Twelve-year-old Evie Von Rathe returns, this time following the trail of missing ghost Florence and finding herself lured to the Dark Sun Side by ghoulish, evil Portia. Once there, Evie learns about the Radix, a swirling, black, oceanlike expanse of unforgiving magical power. In exchange for Evie's return to the land of the living, Portia tasks her with retrieving the soul light from the center lantern of the Nighthouse. With the help of Bird, her tattooed sidekick who moves about her body at will, and a girl she meets on her journey named Lark, who is neither ghost nor human, Evie is pushed to her limits as she navigates this terrifying world on her important, soul-saving mission. Senf's nightmarish, well-imagined supernatural landscape is original and compelling. Evie and Lark's friendship is believably close and trusting, their shared pain and fear binding them together. Bird continues to be a scene-stealing companion, a necessary voice of reason and encouragement for Evie and readers alike. More than just a battle between good and supernatural evil, this story shows the ultimate power of empathy and tenacity. Readers will be left both satisfied by the ending and wanting more. Evie is cued white. Deliciously dark and gripping. (Horror. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Bliss Trilogy (Prebound)

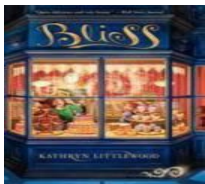


#1763037 (Vol. 02) Dash of Magic (Prebound)
written by Kathryn Littlewood

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.95

Twelve-year-old Rose Bliss and her siblings track down magical ingredients in Paris so Rose can compete in a baking challenge against her evil aunt and win back the family's magical cookbook.

978-1-4844-1841-3 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 810



#1967638 (Vol. 01) Bliss (Prebound)
written by Kathryn Littlewood

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.95

Twelve-year-old Rose Bliss wants to work magic in her family's bakery as her parent do, but when they are called away and Rose and her siblings are left in charge, the magis goes awry and a beautiful stranger tries to talk Rose into giving her the Bliss Cookery Booke.

978-1-4844-8530-9 ©2013 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 384 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 5.6 Lexile 870

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6. There is something magical about the pastries from the Bliss family bakery. The residents of Calamity Falls will admit to as much, though they have no idea just how magical. The Bliss children themselves have an inkling, although Rose, the responsible one, would love to know more. When their parents go away, the children promise not to touch the magic Cookery Book (which has been handed down from generation to generation), but it's oh-so-difficult to resist. Throw in the arrival of a long-lost relative and watch the mayhem ensue. Littlewood has written an entertaining family caper; the dynamics between the siblings are amusing, as they unite in the face of the chaos caused by the enchanted recipes, everything from Love Muffins to Cookies of Truth. Although the fiasco is fairly predictable, readers will likely enjoy the fun to be had in sorting out all the trouble. With the ending left wide-open for a sequel, there could very well be more bliss to come.

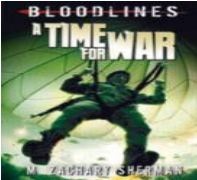
Reviews by: Horn Book Rosemary Bliss promises not to unlock the family's magical cookbook ("Bliss Cookery Booke") while her parents are away, but the opportunity arises. Rose; her siblings Thyme, Sage, and Parsley; and a beautiful stranger named "Aunt" Lily experiment with magical recipes that wreak havoc on the town. This whimsical adventure melds baking, sibling camaraderie, magic, and fantasy to diverting effect.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twelve-year-old Rose and her siblings stir up trouble in Calamity Falls when they experiment with some old family recipes after their parents leave the Bliss bakery in their hands. Ever since she saw "her mother fold a lightning bolt into a bowl of batter," Rose has known "her parents made magic in the Bliss bakery." Their secret recipes, guarded in the Bliss Cookery Booke, have discreetly averted many catastrophes in Calamity Falls. Next to her gorgeous brother Ty, her funny brother Sage and her adorable sister Leigh, dependable Rose feels invisible, but she longs to be a "good baker wizard." When her parents go away, Rose is left in charge of the Cookery Booke and warned to let no one open or move it. Immediately, a mysterious stranger named Lily arrives, announcing she's a distant cousin who's come to help with the bakery. Rose suspects Lily really wants the Booke, but she falls under Lily's insidious influence and finds herself baking and dispensing Love Muffins and Cookies of Truth with hilarious results. As Rose bakes her way out of trouble, she must choose between Lily and her own family. A heroine with baking in her blood and a zany plot liberally sprinkled with humor blend into fun family adventure. Black-and-white spot art highlights story elements. Lighthearted bliss. (Fantasy. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The Follow Your Bliss Bakery has a remedy for everything. Stone Sleep Snickerdoodles can cure sleepwalking, and Fluffy White Macaroons once lifted a neighbor right out of a well. When the Bliss parents go on a business trip, they leave the key to their magical Bliss Cookery Booke with 12-year-old Rosemary, and things go haywire. "Aunt" Lily (a distant cousin) shows up, charming Rosemary's siblings, but Rosemary senses Lily's true aim: to steal the book. The only way to test Lily's trustworthiness is to whip up some of the magical recipes and observe her reactions. After Rosemary's brother distributes their experiments to the whole town, creating crowds of love-struck teenagers, nuns who can't hold their tongues, and general mayhem, Rosemary wonders if she's fit to be a "kitchen magician" after all. Littlewood's first novel mixes the sincere and the silly with entertaining results. This lighthearted family adventure offers a well-meaning and believably insecure heroine, as well as boisterous sibling interactions, and the open-ended finale suggests that readers can expect to see the Bliss family again soon. Ages 8-12. Agent: Michael Stearns and Ted Malawer, the Inkhouse. (Feb.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Twelve-year-old Rose's mother is an excellent baker, and the lightning bolt or weasel's yawn that she adds to normal ingredients gives her cookies and muffins an extra little something that helps keep trouble at bay in their town. Combating a summer flu epidemic, the mayor of neighboring Humbleton begs the Bliss parents to come to his town to make their almond croissants, known for abating flu symptoms. They demur: How will they keep their home-based bakery operational while they are gone, and who will take care of their four children? They finally agree that Rose and teenage Ty can keep things running with the help of their neighbor and the bakery assistant. Before leaving, the parents lock away the Bliss Cookery Booke and entrust the key to Rose, with instructions that there will be no magic and that the Booke is not to be disturbed. Soon, beautiful, enigmatic Aunt Lily arrives and seems to cast a spell on the children. When she tells them of her plans to host a TV show featuring the most wonderful recipes in the world, Ty and Sage immediately want to let their aunt see the cookbook. As a compromise, Rose agrees that she and Ty can try out a few of the recipes, showing Lily the finished products. Chaos quickly ensues throughout the town when one recipe after another goes slightly wrong. Humor abounds in this sweet story that stresses the importance of family, and readers will enjoy getting to know the eccentric Bliss family. The cliff-hanger ending hints at a sequel.-Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.


Bloodlines (Stone Arch Books)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#1628777 Time For War (Library Binding) <i>written by M. Zachary Sherman</i> When his plane is shot down on June 6, 1944, D-Day, paratrooper Private Michael Donovan must find a way to survive and locate his platoon. 978-1-4342-2558-0 ©2011 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 88 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl M Lexile 800</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$20.49</p>


Reviews by: Children's Literature One of titles in the "Bloodlines" series, this book presents the information in an engaging format that is part comic book, part novel, and part textbook. This series introduces readers to the life of a specific soldier in wartime—all members of the Donovan family tree—as they face the realistic conditions of war, including the deaths of fellow soldiers. This particular book launches readers into Private

First Class Michael Donovan's world as he jumps into France from his C-47 Skytrain on D-Day during World War II. Readers will immediately be thrown into the action of Donovan's story as he waits in the plane with his unit as flak explodes all around them, then jumps from the plane right before it explodes. The subsequent chapters are likewise tense, as Donovan hides in a house after landing far from his unit until German soldiers arrive. Readers will share Donovan's anxiety as he feels cowardly for hiding, and will feel vindicated as he gathers courage from Sergeant Anness—a soldier he deeply respects—as they begin to advance through France. The book ends with Donovan about to head off to another battle, his future uncertain but his courage clear. Although the motivation presented for D-Day is a bit more Hollywood-esque (fighting the Nazis and stopping the Holocaust) than the reality (fighting the Wehrmacht and stopping the war and destruction), the action and personal story successfully bring the history behind it to life, providing a great springboard for young readers wanting to learn about World War II. Reviewer: Kip Wilson

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-These titles follow members of the Donovan family and their wartime experiences. In the first novel, PFC Michael Donovan is a paratrooper in World War II. He narrowly escapes being killed by German soldiers on D-Day. Control follows Michael's grandnephew, Lester, a Navy SEAL in Afghanistan. He has just been promoted to commanding officer of his team. They are returning from a successful mission capturing a top-ranking Taliban officer when their Blackhawk helicopters are shot down. Most of the men die, two are captured, and Lester and another man are left for dead. They escape the wreckage and go on to save their captured team members. Each story begins with a brief overview of the war and illustrations of the gear the servicemen wore. Chapters are separated by "Debriefing" spreads that are illustrated with archival photos, describe equipment, and continue the history of the conflict. Color comic-book-style illustrations appear throughout. These books are easy to read, take a serious look at war, and do not glamorize killing or death. Set in small type, the factual sections, however, may be a little too dense for the intended audience.-Erik Carlson, White Plains Public Library, NY (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1628780 Fighting phantoms (Library Binding) <i>written by Zachary M. Sherman</i> Shot down over Viet Nam in 1968, Marine Lieutenant Donovan must leave his injured best friend behind in enemy territory while he tries to reach their rendezvous point. 978-1-4342-2560-3 ©2011 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 88 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl M Lexile 790</p>	1	\$20.49


Reviews by: Children's Literature One of titles in the "Bloodlines" series, this book presents the information in an engaging format that is part comic book, part novel, and part textbook. This series introduces readers to the life of a specific soldier in wartime—all members of the Donovan family tree—as they face the realistic conditions of war, including the deaths of fellow soldiers. This particular book launches readers into Lieutenant Verner Donovan's world during the Vietnam War as he and his radio intercept officer Blam wait in their F-4 for orders to take off from their aircraft carrier. They head for land and help out a group of Marines under fire, but then run into their own trouble and have to avoid air-to-air missiles and two MiG fighter jets. The subsequent chapters are thick with tension as they cannot dodge a missile and have to eject behind enemy lines. Blam is severely injured, and Donovan has to leave his friend behind and evade Vietcong soldiers to get some help. He is helped by two children, a subplot which ends tragically as a Vietcong soldier kills one of them. The book ends with Donovan in the hospital as he learns that Blam did not survive. He is ready to go back to fight and knows he will never forget his friend. Sherman successfully uses the emotion from this soldier's personal story to bring the history behind it to life, providing a great springboard for young readers wanting to learn about the Vietnam War. Reviewer: Kip Wilson

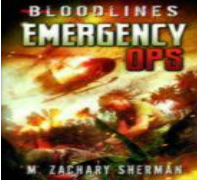
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1628779 Control under fire (Library Binding) <i>written by Zachary M. Sherman</i> Lieutenant Commander Donovan's helicopter is shot down and some of his men are captured by terrorists in Afghanistan. 978-1-4342-2561-0 ©2011 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 88 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl M Lexile 840</p>	1	\$20.49

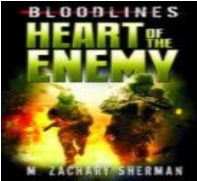
Reviews by: Children's Literature One of titles in the "Bloodlines" series, this book presents the information in an engaging format that is part comic book, part novel, and part textbook. This series introduces readers to the life of a specific soldier in wartime—all members of the Donovan family tree—as they face the realistic conditions of war, including the deaths of fellow soldiers. This particular book launches readers into newly-promoted Lieutenant Commander Lester Donovan's world during the War in Afghanistan as he leads his team of Navy SEALs to capture a Taliban leader. Tension runs high as the helicopter is shot down, the Taliban leader is freed and the living American soldiers are captured. Donovan and Master Chief Miller—who had been left for dead—manage to escape from the burning helicopter just in time. As commander, Donovan decides they should hurry back to get information about the Taliban to base, but his plans change when they locate a cave guarded by the Taliban—which

turns out to be a huge maze of tunnels and a prison for the American soldiers. Donovan makes radio contact with the base and arranges for an air strike, so tension mounts as he and Miller must gather their fellow soldiers and get out within thirty minutes. Donovan leads the way to safety, but is shot in the process. With Miller's help, he joins the others and the book ends with Donovan believing that he did the right thing to follow the generations of his family into the military. With this very current and realistic story, Sherman brings the history behind it to life, providing a great springboard for young readers wanting to learn about the War still going on in Afghanistan. Reviewer: Kip Wilson

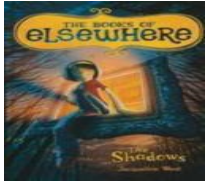
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr4–6—These titles follow members of the Donovan family and their wartime experiences. In the first novel, PFC Michael Donovan is a paratrooper in World War II. He narrowly escapes being killed by German soldiers on D-Day. Control follows Michael's grandnephew, Lester, a Navy SEAL in Afghanistan. He has just been promoted to commanding officer of his team. They are returning from a successful mission capturing a top-ranking Taliban officer when their Blackhawk helicopters are shot down. Most of the men die, two are captured, and Lester and another man are left for dead. They escape the wreckage and go on to save their captured team members. Each story begins with a brief overview of the war and illustrations of the gear the servicemen wore. Chapters are separated by "Debriefing" spreads that are illustrated with archival photos, describe equipment, and continue the history of the conflict. Color comic-book-style illustrations appear throughout. These books are easy to read, take a serious look at war, and do not glamorize killing or death. Set in small type, the factual sections, however, may be a little too dense for the intended audience.—Erik Carlson, White Plains Public Library, NY

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1663724 Damage control (Library Binding) <i>written by M. Zachary Sherman</i> When a C-119 cargo plane crashes behind enemy lines in mountainous terrain, the American survivors are stranded with no chance of rescue. Facing a brutal environment, dwindling resources, and an attack by enemy forces, Corporal Tony Donovan realizes their only hope is doing the impossible: repairing one of the several destroyed Jeeps that was their cargo, utilizing a hodgepodge of remnants from the wreckage, to escape alive. 978-1-4342-3765-1 ©2012 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 88 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl N Lexile 800</p>	1	\$20.49

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1663725 Emergency ops (Library Binding) <i>written by M. Zachary Sherman</i> During the Vietnam War, Captain Anne Donovan's aid station is pinned down by a sniper near the front lines, and the doctor performing a life-threatening surgery is critically wounded. Donovan must take control of not only the operating room, but her emotions as well. 978-1-4342-3766-8 ©2012 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 88 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl N Lexile 830</p>	1	\$20.49

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1663726 Heart of the enemy (Library Binding) <i>written by M. Zachary Sherman</i> During the War in Iraq, Lieutenant Commander Lester Donovan of the U.S. Navy SEALs must capture a known terrorist near the border of Syria. It's a dangerous mission. Land mines and hostile combatants blanket the area, yet Donovan is undeterred. But when the mission goes awry, this gung-ho commander must learn to keep his cool, if he's going to keep his men safe. 978-1-4342-3767-5 ©2012 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 88 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl N Lexile 800</p>	1	\$20.49

Books of Elsewhere (Trade)



#1676564 **Shadows (Large Print) (Large Print Library Binding (Trade))**
written by Jacqueline West

978-1-4104-3139-4 ©2010 267 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 770

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$26.99

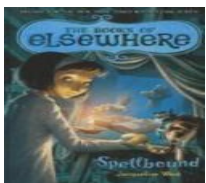
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books A delightful concoction of quirky humor blended with a rumbling ominous undertones, this will be a hit with young fantasists.

Reviews by: Children's Literature Eleven-year-old Olive Dunwoody is often left to her own devices as her math professor parents spend time on their equations. She spends her time exploring their new home which this time is an old house full of antiques instead of the usual bland apartment. Olive realizes something strange is going on when she sees movement in the paintings that cover the walls. After finding a pair of old spectacles, she discovers that she can actually enter the paintings, explore the worlds she finds, and speak with the inhabitants. One of these dwellers, a young boy named Morton, swears that he really belongs on the outside in Olive's world. A beautiful lady in a portrait invites Olive to tea and befriends her. Horatio, Leopold, and Harvey, the magical speaking cats, seem to be protecting old secrets and she does not trust them. After she helps the beautiful lady escape her portrait, Olive realizes her mistake and during one terrifying night learns the secrets of the old house and its former inhabitant, Aldous McMartin. Black and white illustrations enhance the story. Fans of the seriously creepy will love this first volume in "The Books of Elsewhere." Reviewer: Shirley Nelson

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Preoccupied parents, a solitary young girl, talking cats-sound familiar? Unfortunately for debut author West, not only has this been done before, it's been done better. Still, the premise is intriguing. Magical spectacles enable the wearer to enter the worlds captured in paintings created by an evil, long-dead wizard. "Captured" isn't just a figure of speech: At least one young boy has been turned into a painted replica of himself. Another painting, that of the wizard's (also dead) granddaughter, comes creepily to life. In general, though, the action is sluggish and the ominous atmosphere contrived. Characterization is skimpy at best. Olive's parents adore math. Olive doesn't. The cats are pompous, imaginative and martial, respectively. Ironically enough, it's not just the supernatural effects that fail to convince. Would parents, even those utterly obsessed with their own intelligence and interests, really leave their 11-year-old home alone overnight? The fact that they do precipitates Olive's final confrontation with the wicked wizard. Unfortunately readers probably won't care much about who wins nor about the possibility of volume two. (Fantasy. 10-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Poet West's debut novel is a quirky and clever beginning to the Books of Elsewhere series. The Dunwoodys, "a pair of more than slightly dippy mathematicians," and their 11-year-old daughter, Olive, have just moved into an old Victorian house. Olive has learned to be independent, given her parents' aloofness ("Her persistently lackluster grades in math had led her parents to believe that she was some kind of genetic aberration"). She explores the house's eccentricities and discovers that, by donning a pair of spectacles, she can enter the house's many unsettling paintings. Inside one, she encounters nine-year-old Morton, who brings to her attention the secrets that the house and its late owner are keeping. With the help of three talking house cats, Olive works to patch together clues to save the painting-dwellers from their dark fate. The house is as much a character as are Olive, Morton, and her family, and a wicked sense of humor tempers the book's creepiness. A suspenseful plot and insight into childhood loneliness--handily amplified by Bernatene's moody and dramatically lit b & w illustrations--will have readers anxiously awaiting the next book. Ages 9-11. (June)*STARRED REVIEW*

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Jacqueline West's debut novel (Dial, 2010) follows a young girl's intriguing and thrilling adventures as she enters the fantasy world of Elsewhere. Olive, 11, spends much of her summer exploring her family's new home. The previous owner of this crumbling Victorian mansion died and left everything in the house to the new owners. Olive discovers a pair of spectacles that allow her to dive in and out of the mysterious paintings that fill the old home. Three talking cats seem to be helping and protecting Olive, but as she begins to put more puzzle pieces together, she realizes that she may be in some danger and the eccentric cats are not to be trusted. Narrator Lexy Fridell maintains a quick pace as the suspense builds. She gives all the characters distinct and interesting voices, especially those peculiar cats. Fans of Neal Gaiman's Coraline will find many appealing similarities with the story, and listeners who like a fast-paced adventure will enjoy this audio version.—April Mazza, Wayland Public Library, MA



#1675974 **Spellbound (Large Print) (Large Print Library Binding (Trade))**
written by Jacqueline West

In this hotly anticipated sequel, Olive thinks she's controlling the old McMartin house - but is the house controlling her? With no way into the house's magical paintings, and its three guardian cats reluctant to help, Olive's friend Morton is still trapped inside Elsewhere. So when Rutherford, the new oddball kid next door, mentions a grimoire - a spellbook - Olive feels a breathless tug of excitement. If she can find the McMartins' spellbook, maybe she can help Morton escape Elsewhere for good. Unless, that is, the

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$26.99

book finds Olive first.
978-1-4104-3843-0 ©2011 327 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 870

Reviews by: Children's Literature Olive Dunwoody lives in a very strange house and with rather absent-minded parents and with some talking cats. Olive has an old pair of spectacles that take her inside paintings that reside in this house. Her cats, Harvey, Leopold and Horatio, talk to her and she understands them. As the summer ends, Olive finds Leopold guarding a trapdoor in the basement; Harvey begins his own mission as a secret agent and Horatio is missing which is not a good sign. Harvey is actually spying on a strange neighborhood boy named Rutherford Dewey. Olive does not like that Rutherford seems to know about her enchanted cats or the strange house. Rutherford asks if a book of spells exists; Olive takes on the mission to find the book. She gets Horatio to take her to Morton who lives inside one of the paintings; perhaps Morton knows where the book is. Morton cannot help her with the book but he does seem to know the Dewey family. This connection becomes more important as Olive and Rutherford work together to help retrieve the spellbook and the magic spectacles. Rutherford's grandmother is actually a good witch and the neighbor, Mrs. Nivens is really Morton's sister Lucinda. Perhaps knowledge of the first "Elsewhere" book would enhance Olive's second adventure; it is hard to tell. This fantasy has many good things for middle school readers that want a spunky heroine who lives in an enchanted house. Unfortunately Harvey's humor and Olive's irritation with Rutherford goes on too long; this second installment reads slowly without having read the first adventure. Fans of the first book and those that can be patient with Olive would enjoy this and look forward to a third one as Annabel McMartin remains at large. "Books of Elsewhere," Volume 2. Reviewer: Elizabeth Fronk

Reviews by: Examiner.com "As Harry Potter fever takes over . . . The Books of Elsewhere is a great series for young readers who are interested in the world of spells, witches, potions and magic—plenty of fun, action and thrills."

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The second installment of The Books of Elsewhere (The Shadows, 2010) is a by-the-book fantasy follow-up. Olive has yet to find a solution to the last plot thread left over from the first volume—Morton is trapped, unable to rejoin the world outside of the McMartins' enchanted paintings. Meanwhile, the Linden Street setting is enriched through greater focus on Olive's neighbors, especially new kid Rutherford Dewey. When Olive inexplicitly blurts out the McMartin family's magical secret to Rutherford, he educates her on witches' grimoires. Olive is sure that Aldous McMartin's spellbook holds the key to helping Morton, despite her suspicions about Rutherford—he seems to know too much—and the fact that she'd be playing with an evil wizard's spellbook. The ancient McMartin grimoire is as old as the plot device of the untrustworthy magical object. Furthermore, Olive often acts as a slave to plot contrivances rather than as a character. The characters do not trust each other enough to communicate basic information, leading to arbitrary misunderstandings cleared up just in time for a climax that resolves little. Fortunately, zany cat Harvey's multiple characters and Rutherford's set of quirks help pull the story out of Olive's pace-slowng introspection. Definitely the middle of the story, designed to set up further conflicts and sequels for readers already invested in the series. (Fantasy. 9-12)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—This sequel to The Shadows (Dial, 2010) picks up with Olive Dunwoody still trying to discover the many secrets hidden in the old Victorian house she and her parents have moved into. She has her dependable sidekicks, three lively talking cats that manage to keep her from hurting herself when she is possessed by the spirit of the mysterious book that she discovers. She realizes that she could use it to release Morton, a boy who has been imprisoned in a painting for many years by the house's former owners. Olive comes to the shocking realization that the spellbook has forced her to do various deeds while she has been sleeping. This realization is brought to a head when one of her cat protectors manages to wake up her up just before she jumps to her death. Has she not only put her life in jeopardy but also any chance of saving Morton? Who has directed the spellbook to possess Olive and why? These questions and many more will keep young readers engaged as the mystery unfolds. Olive matures in the story; her emotions, including remorse, are genuinely portrayed, and relationships with the cats and with her quirky neighbor, Rutherford, ring true. Some chapters drag a little but overall this is a suspenseful read that leaves plenty of room for the next title in the series. While it stands on its own, it will be enjoyed most by readers familiar with the first book. Occasional full-page, black-and-white drawings are appropriately dark and mysterious.—Julie Shatterly, W.A. Bess Elementary School, Gastonia, NC

Boy Who Grew Dragons (Trade)



#2151203 (Vol. 01) Boy Who Grew Dragons (Hardcover (POB))
written by Andy Shepherd

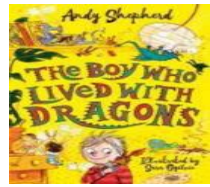
When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandfather's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes the funny fruit from the tree back into the house and gets the shock of his life when a tiny dragon hatches!

978-1-4998-1011-0 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2–5—Tomas "Chipstick" Liffy has agreed to help Grandad plant a garden in his backyard, but what he finds in the process is most surprising. When Tomas unearths an unidentified spiky, red fruit, the last thing he expects is for a dragon to hatch from

inside. Tomas and his new friend, Flicker, get into all sorts of tricky situations—but they learn about friendship and how to take care of those they love along the way. Shepherd delivers an outrageously funny and heartwarming story that will draw readers in and have them chuckling from beginning to end. Black-and-white illustrations by Ogilvie add to the overall Dahl-ness of this book. Young readers will laugh with Tomas and Flicker, and enjoy the heartfelt moments between Tomas and the rest of his family and friends. VERDICT This gently funny title is a must-purchase for public libraries, and a great recommendation for readers of all ages.—Maryjean Riou, Hunterdon County Library, Flemington, NJ



#2218655 (Vol. 02) Boy Who Lived with Dragons (Hardcover (POB))

written by Andy Shepherd

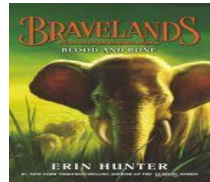
Having your own dragon is magical, but Tomas is also about to find out what living with a dragon is REALLY like. When the fire-breathing kicks in and you get singed every five seconds, it's like having an unpredictable volcano in your pocket. Learning to train the dragons and keep them out of trouble at school and home will take all Tomas's creativity and patience.

978-1-4998-1178-0 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$13.99

Bravelands (Trade)



#2080109 (Vol. 03) Blood and Bone (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Hunter

An elephant entrusted with a powerful gift. A lion treading a dangerous path. A baboon trapped by the truth. A great evil has risen--and it will only be defeated if predator, prey, and scavenger can unite as one.

978-0-06-264210-3 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2123086 (Vol. 04) Shifting Shadows (Library Binding (Trade))

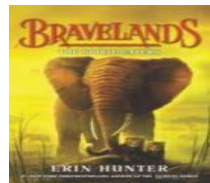
written by Erin Hunter

Stinger's death should have brought peace to the land; but no Great Parent has stepped forward, and now the fate of Bravelands hangs in the balance. With a mysterious threat lurking in their midst, all members of the Great Herd must find the strength to walk the right path or risk the end of Bravelands forever.

978-0-06-264215-8 ©2019 6 x 8-3/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.89



#2149099 (Vol. 05) Spirit-Eaters (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Hunter

The Great Spirit has returned, and the baboon Thorn hopes to guide Bravelands to peace as its Great Father. But when a pack of rogue wolves begins to target the Great Herd, every animal must unite to defend the code of the wild against those who would watch it burn.

978-0-06-264218-9 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 710

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2168641 (Vol. 06) Oathkeeper (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Hunter

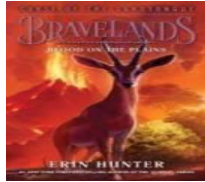
At long last, the Great Herd stands united against Titan--now so powerful that even Fearless, who vowed to avenge his father's death, cannot defeat the rogue lion alone. Thorn may have a plan to bring about Titan's downfall, but the animals of Bravelands must decide how much they are willing to risk--and who they are willing to lose.

978-0-06-264222-6 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 770

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Bravelands: Curse of the Sandtongue (Prebound)



#2324528 (Vol. 03) Blood on the Plains (Prebound)

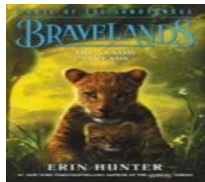
written by Erin Hunter

The serpent is ready to strike. Bravelands is in turmoil. With Thorn dead, the animals of the plains desperately search for the next Great Parent, a role Prance is afraid to fill. Chase hides in plain sight among Grandmother's most loyal creatures, praying that the terrible antidote she's discovered will continue to hold the snake's power over her at bay. And Bramble finds himself up against a foe he couldn't have imagined: his own poisoned troop. Can these three unlikely allies stop the great serpent before her venom corrupts them all?

978-1-5364-7889-1 ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$20.95



#2296912 (Vol. 02) Venom Spreads (Prebound)

written by Erin Hunter

A terrible evil is spreading through Bravelands. Friends and family are split as longtime allies turn on each other, and born foes form unlikely bonds. The very threat that led Bramble to leave the place he called home has ensnared the creatures who live on the mountain. As the mysterious poison begins to affect more and more animals, Chase struggles to determine where her loyalties should lie. And down on the plains, Prance prays that the Great Spirit will send Thorn a solution to the shadowy menace. But even the Great Father may not be able to save them this time.

978-1-5364-7605-7 ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95



#2267603 (Vol. 01) Shadows on the Mountain (Prebound)

written by Erin Hunter

A gorilla with a deadly secret. A leopard struck by tragedy. A gazelle cast out of her herd. For generations, the Silverback troop has lived in peaceful seclusion high above the Great Herd, adhering to one rule: "blood pools on the plains." But when a new and terrifying evil descends on their home, every animal must venture into the unknown to prevent darkness from overtaking all they hold dear.

978-1-5364-7213-4 ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95

Bravelands: Thunder on the Plains (Prebound)



#2366548 (Vol. 01) Shattered Horn (Prebound)

written by Erin Hunter

Echo, a water buffalo, is chosen by the Great Spirit to lead after a horrific accident-- but can't command the respect of any of his herd. Stride the cheetah is keeping secrets from his coalition that could get him killed for disloyalty. And Tailgrabber, a young hyena, is desperate to find peace between her clan and the lions of Noblepride--even though it marks a betrayal of the hyenas' longstanding allegiance to the Great Devourer. As the structures that once guided their lives begin to crumble, can each of these three unlikely allies hold their own against the coming storm?

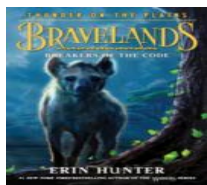
978-1-5364-8337-6 ©2024 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$22.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A new story arc in the Bravelands series introduces three young animals cast from their clans: a cheetah, a buffalo, and a hyena. Three plotlines only begin weaving together by the opener's end: Cheetah Stride finds himself on his own after a star-crossed relationship with a beautiful prospective mate ends in tragedy; as the buffalo begin their annual migration under a new leader who gains his position through treachery, young Whisper loyally stays behind with the dying former leader; expelled from her hyena family for weakness in the midst of a turf war with a pride of lions, Tailgrabber heroically kills a lion and then meets a mysterious white vulture. Meanwhile other creatures, notably an enigmatic honey badger named Stonehide, trot into view, and ominous visions portend impending disaster for the Bravelands that even the wise elephant Great Mother Starlight may be powerless to prevent. For all that the cast is composed of named, talking animals, there's nothing cute or fuzzy about life on the grassy plains, where predators ruthlessly stalk prey and death comes suddenly or with agonizing slowness to cubs and adults alike. Still, along with feral values and behaviors, displays of sibling attachment, courage and cowardice, and deeper thoughts and feelings run through events in ways that young human audiences will easily recognize and understand. Only a start, but a strong one. (map) (Animal fantasy. 11-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Bravelands: Thunder on the Plains (Trade)



#2365525 (Vol. 02) Breakers of the Code (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Hunter

The time for rain is approaching fast, but before the Great Spirit will let it fall, the animals of Bravelands must grapple with a dangerous new threat. Cast out of his coalition, Stride the cheetah embarks on a perilous mission for the Great Parent, accompanied by a honey badger burdened with a dark and mysterious past.

978-0-06-296700-8 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

Brightstorm (Trade)



#2157068 (Vol. 01) Brightstorm (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Vashti Hardy

Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm receive devastating news: their famous explorer father has died in a failed attempt to reach South Polaris. To make matters worse, the Lontown Geographical Society finds Ernest Brightstorm guilty of sabotaging the expedition of his competitor, Eudora Vane. But a mysterious clue leads the twins to question the story they've been told--and to uncover the truth, they must undertake the journey of a lifetime.

978-1-324-00564-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 790

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Maudie and Arthur dream of joining their beloved father, famed explorer Ernest Brightstorm, on his magnificent sky-ship. However, after Ernest fails to return from his latest far-flung expedition, his assets are seized, and the twins are left indentured to a pair of truly loathsome guardians. When evidence comes to light that their father may have survived, Maudie and Arthur plot a daring escape and join the warm and eccentric crew of another sky-ship headed to the same distant lands as their father's ill-fated expedition. Hardy's enthralling story

effortlessly builds a stunning steampunk world around the compelling twin siblings. Maudie is a pragmatic and brilliant engineer, while Arthur, who has a prosthetic arm, is more imaginative and bookish. Although the twins are fleshed out, the terrific action and constant travel comes at the expense of depth, and readers will be hungry for more details about the kooky characters and this astonishing world as they set sail with the brilliant Brightstorm kids. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Arthur and Maudie are the twin children of great explorer Ernest Brightstorm, and when they receive news that he has perished on an expedition to South Polaris and also sabotaged a fellow explorer, they decide to clear their father's name and complete his mission. Maudie is a future engineer, who made her brother an iron arm to replace his missing one, and Arthur is an avid reader; together, they have the skills to discover what's causing disaster at South Polaris and earn back the respect of the community. This UK import joyfully dives right into its steampunk aesthetic with sky ships, clever inventions, and Victorian-inspired clothing. Arthur and Maudie are fully developed characters who survive bandit attacks, thought-wolves, and life-threatening sabotage; the plot has a delicate balance of action versus exposition. The illustrations sometimes contain some frustrating contradictions with the text, but they're cute and appropriately steampunky. Overall, it's a novel of grandeur and action likely to grab junior steampunks. NB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Orphaned twins, an adventurer dad lost to an ice monster, and an airship race around the world. In Lontown, 12-year-old twins Arthur and Maudie learn that their explorer father has gone missing on his quest to reach South Polaris, the crew of his sky-ship apparently eaten by monsters. As he's accused of sabotage, their father's property is forfeit. The disgraced twins are sent off to live in a garret in a scene straight out of an Edwardian novel à la *A Little Princess*. Maudie has the consolation of her engineering skills, but all Arthur wants is to be an adventurer like his father. A chance to join Harriet Culpepper's journey to South Polaris might offer excitement and let him clear his father's name--if only he can avoid getting eaten by intelligent ice monsters. Though some steampunk set dressing is appropriately over-the-top (such as a flying house, thinly depicted but charming), adaptive tools for Arthur's disability are wonderfully realistic. His iron arm is a standard, sometimes painful passive prosthesis. The crew adapts the airship galley for Arthur's needs, even creating a spiked chopping board. Off the ship, Arthur and Maudie meet people and animals in vignettes that are appealingly rendered but slight. Harriet teaches the white twins respect for the cultures they encounter on these travels, though they are never more than observers of non-Lontowners' different ways. A kid adventurer with a disability makes this steampunk offering stand out. (Steampunk. 9-11) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This enjoyable steampunk adventure by debut author Hardy sees twins Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm join a sky ship race to discover South Polaris. Scholarly, headstrong Arty, born with one arm, wears an iron prosthesis crafted and maintained by mechanically inclined Maud. After their father is declared dead; eaten by polar beasts; and judged guilty of violating the frequently classist Geographical Society's Explorer's Code in a previous race, the 12-year-olds are summarily kicked out of their Lontown family home. They're sold to a cruel couple, who send Maud to work in the shipyard and force Arty to clean and cook. When their father's sapient hawk, Parthena, returns from the ice continent with evidence of his survival, the children jump at the chance to crew with young explorer Harriet Culpepper in a voyage to reach South Polaris; they hope to cleanse the besmirched family name and find their father alive. Arty's determination and Maudie's engineering skills both prove vital in the journey across the varied terrain of Hardy's marvelously imagined world and its surprising allies, from desert kings to thought wolves. Ages 9: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6—A Victorian steampunk quest with an unusual company of travelers. Twelve-year-old twins Maud and Arthur Brightstorm lost their father in a terrible accident as he searched for the South Pole of their alternate-Earth world. A heartless insurance company flack has taken their home and all their possessions, and they're living with a couple of ne'er-do-wells who force them to cook, clean, and work to support their household. Eager to find their father, they enlist with explorer Harriet Culpepper as she pilots her balloon sky-ship *Aurora* to the Ice Continent. Deceitful enemies, narrow escapes, and giant wolves propel the plot along as the young voyagers gain independence and make lifelong friends. Maud is an engineering prodigy who has already designed a prosthetic for her twin. Arthur is a writer and thinker whose missing right arm informs but never defines his character. Strong, athletic Harriet and towering ship's cook Felicity Wiggety are powerful adventurers in a narrative with overtones of both Charles Dickens and Philip Pullman. Character descriptions and occasional illustrations portray the travelers as light-skinned people from an alternate-England country. The company reprovisions along the way in a land with two kings whose affectionate relationship sets the tone for their welcoming, environmentally friendly city. The Brightstorm twins learn of the misdeeds of a rival explorer family which parallel those of actual Victorian explorers: thoughtless depredations of the plants and animals they find and terrible abuse of Indigenous people. A satisfying conclusion to the quest leaves room for more exploits from the intrepid crew of the *Aurora*. VERDICT A ripsnorting yarn with broad appeal for tweens.—Beth Wright Redford, Park Elementary School Library, Cross Plains, WI



#2219811 (Vol. 02) **Darkwhispers (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Vashti Hardy*

The ragtag crew of Captain Harriet Culpepper is off on another adventure! Ermitage Wigglesworth, the notable explorer and author, has been reported missing in Stella Oceanus to the east. Twins Arthur and Maudie are eager to answer the call of adventure to find him, but their old nemesis and newly discovered aunt, Eudora Vane, is also on the hunt.

978-1-324-01595-6 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95



#2285654 (Vol. 03) Firesong (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Vashti Hardy

Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm are back home in Lontown and finally settling in after their exhilarating--and secret--adventures in Erythea. Maudie's sky-ak invention is a hit, and Harriet has just announced that she will share her sky-ship's hydroelectric technology. But tensions are brewing.

978-1-324-03045-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 110 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 850

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.95

Brixton Brothers (Trade)



#905012 (Vol. 01) Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mac Barnett

When twelve-year-old Steve Brixton, a fan of Bailey Brothers detective novels, is mistaken for a real detective, he must elude librarians, police, and the mysterious Mr. E as he seeks a missing quilt containing coded information.

978-1-4169-7815-2 ©2009 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 4.0 GR Lvl Q Lexile 590

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$15.99

Reviews by: From the Publisher Steve Brixton is America's next great kid detective (whether he knows it or not)....Steve solve his first case? Since when can librarians rappel from helicopters? Does Steve have any brothers or sisters? If not, then why is this series called The Brixton Brothers? You will solve all these mysteries and many more by the time you finish The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity. We think you'll agree: Steve Brixton's first adventure is his best adventure yet.



#1619958 (Vol. 02) Ghostwriter Secret (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mac Barnett

Twelve-year-old Steve is investigating a diamond heist but the case suddenly changes when the author of the Bailey Brothers detective novels writes him a letter to say that he fears for his life.

978-1-4169-7817-6 ©2011 5-1/8 x 7-5/8 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690


Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99


Reviews by: Children's Literature Twelve-year-old Steve Brixton of the Brixton Brothers Detective Agency is hired to recover the Nichols Diamond which was taken from Mr. Fairview's estate, despite the expensive security system. Steve quickly locates the diamond; however, the thief is still on the loose. Mr. Fairview engages Steve to protect the diamond until the thief is caught. Another client, MacArthur Bart, engages Steve's services. Bart is the author of the "Bailey Brothers Mysteries" series that Steve thoroughly enjoys and studies as a model for his detective agency. When Steve goes to meet Bart, the author is missing and Steve is nearly kidnapped. Steve uses his sleuthing skills to locate Bart. Steve's friend, Dana, joins him on the search. Steve is an only child although the name of his agency suggests differently. There are some daring moments that Steve and Dana encounter as they run around the San Francisco Bay area. Readers who enjoy a fast-paced adventure like the "Hardy Boys" mystery series will enjoy following Steve as he uncovers the secret about the ghostwriter. This sleuthing adventure is the second one in the "Brixton Brothers" series. Reviewer: Carrie Hane Hung

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Partially thanks to his solving The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity (2009), 12-year-old Steve Brixton has been able to start his own detective agency. Now he's a real sleuth like his heroes, the fictional Bailey Brothers, no matter what his mother's lame, cop boyfriend Rick might say to the contrary. Steve gets a call from Victor Fairview, the richest man in Ocean Park, Calif., when Fairview's red diamond goes missing. Steve solves that case in less than an hour despite Rick's interference. While charged with guarding the diamond, Steve gets a letter from his idol, MacArthur Bart, author of the Bailey Brothers books. Bart needs Steve's help! With best friend Dana in tow, Steve sets out to

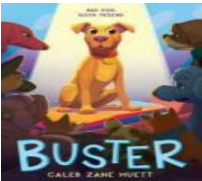
find Bart. Can a detective weaned on a couple of 1950s Hardy Boys clones solve a case with more twists than a...a really twisty thing? Barnett's second Brixton Brothers mystery continues the whimsically sardonic adventures of everyone's soon-to-be-favorite clueless-yet-earnest boy detective-wannabe. Shot through with moments of goofiness and dotted with Rex's black-and-white illustrations, this is sure to please existing fans and win new ones. (Mystery. 8-12)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Middle schooler Steve Brixton has read all 58 of the "Bailey Brothers Mysteries," which were written decades earlier, plus The Bailey Brothers' Detective Handbook, which has become his guidebook for his own detective agency. He frequently refers back to these books, portions of which are reprinted (old typeface and all) in The Ghostwriter Secret. Steve's first case, a missing diamond, is solved easily and seamlessly. He then becomes involved with his hero, the author of the books, MacArthur Bart, who has been kidnapped. An investigation ensues and Steve brings his friend Dana in to help. Before they know what happened, the boys have been kidnapped, too. Barnett has written a fun, adventure-filled book. This is a great choice for slow or reluctant readers.—Patty Saidenberg, George Jackson Academy, New York City

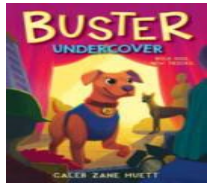
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #1760957 (Vol. 03) It Happened on a Train (Paperback (Trade)) <i>written by Mac Barnett</i> Retired private detective and current seventh-grader Steve Brixton has a new career: taking out the garbage on Wednesdays for five bucks a week. But it's hard to leave the old game behind, and on a train trip down the California coast, Steve finds himself pulled back into sleuthing. 978-1-4169-7820-6 ©2012 304 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620	1	\$8.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #1694478 (Vol. 04) Danger Goes Berserk (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Mac Barnett</i> As soon as 12-year-old Steve Brixton opens a detective office in his backyard, he and his best friend Dana are caught up in a tangle of cases, from breaking up a ring of piratical smugglers, to recovering a stolen surfboard, to tracking down a fifth-grader's missing gym shorts. 978-1-4424-3977-1 ©2012 256 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 3.5 Lexile 620	1	\$17.99

Buster (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2216268 (Vol. 01) Buster (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Caleb Huett</i> Buster's in big trouble. He's been dragged to Dog Court for breaking one of the most sacred of all dog rules: Never, ever talk to a human, or let a human know how smart you really are. But he swears he had a good reason! The boy he's been taking care of, Tonio, needed his help in a big way. 978-1-338-54188-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 690	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—When we first meet Buster, he is being tried in Dog Court for the crime of revealing his true intelligence to humans. As a service dog for Tonino, a young boy with an anxiety disorder, Buster couldn't help but use his full skills to support his person. Huett's clever premise, smooth worldbuilding, and quick pacing will engage young readers. Most notable, though, is his thoughtful depiction of anxiety, which will help kids understand themselves or their peers who may struggle with intrusive thoughts, panic attacks, or other mental health challenges. Tonino grows over the course of the book as he begins to understand that he can implement strategies to feel better but will likely never be "cured." VERDICT A fun caper for dog lovers with a more serious depiction of anxiety disorder woven in. Strongly recommended as a first purchase.—Gesse Stark-Smith, Multnomah County Lib., Portland, OR



#2271942 (Vol. 02) Buster Undercover (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Caleb Huett

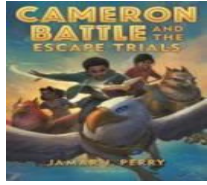
Tonio is not allowed to let anyone know that he can communicate fluently with his therapy dog, Buster. But when dogkind requires that Tonio make friends with a bully, are Tonio and Buster going to go through a ruff patch... or learn some new tricks to keep the dogs in their town safe?

978-1-338-54190-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 700

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Cameron Battle (Prebound)



#2366638 (Vol. 02) Cameron Battle and the Escape Trials (Prebound)
written by Jamar J. Perry

After his first adventure as the Descendant, Cameron can't sit through seventh grade classes. Especially when his parents are still trapped in Chidani. But he encounters a particularly nasty bully in his new school, and it doesn't take long for Cameron and his trusty friends Zion and Aliyah to realize that the troubles of Chidani won't stay away for long.

978-1-5364-8368-0 ©2024 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$20.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—Cameron Battle, now the chosen Descendant of Chidani, is back home with his grandma and at the beginning of his seventh-grade year. Best friends Zion and Aliyah are Cameron's support system when he is ruthlessly bullied by a boy named Vince. Determined to save his mother and find his father, Cameron knows he must make his way back to Chidani with the help of the Book, which has become a part of him. Upon opening the Book, however, Chidani requires the trio to return much sooner than grandma was prepared to let them go. Adventures ensue right from the get-go with a kidnapping, open portals, a lost ring, and two trials that must be tackled in order for Cameron to have any hope of seeing his mother and father again. Can Cameron summon the power within him to see through these trials? Will he be able to save those closest to him and even figure out a way to forgive those who are unkind? VERDICT This installment in the thrilling series is a surefire delight that complements all fantasy shelves.



#2309260 (Vol. 01) Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms (Prebound)
written by Jamar J. Perry

Cameron Battle grew up reading about Chidani, a fabled West African country that cut itself off from the world centuries ago to protect the Igbo people from the dangerous slave trade. After Cameron's parents disappear, The Book of Chidani is his only connection to them.

978-1-5364-7668-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 From a young age, Cameron Battle was fascinated with the stories told to him from the Book of Chidani, a book passed down by his ancestors. It tells tales of the mythical country of Chidani and the Igbo people, who have hidden themselves from the world as a way of protection. When sneaking around one night to take a glance at the book, Cameron and his friends are transported to the Kingdom of Chidani. They learn that Chidani is in turmoil because Queen Ramala's sister, Amina, is seeking to take over the kingdom and break the barrier hiding Chidani from the rest of the world. The secrets of Cameron's family history and his role in Chidani are revealed to him when he is told that the only person who can stop Amina is the Descendant. Perry has written an action-packed fantasy with Igbo and other African mythology, and his world building creates an immersive experience. This title is a must-read for fans of Kwame Mbalia's *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* (2019). COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young Black boy and his two best friends discover a new world in his family's ancestral book. Cameron Battle is a 12-year-old boy of Igbo descent living in Atlanta who starts noticing strange happenings around his house but second-guesses himself, instead

blaming his active imagination. At the start of summer vacation, Cameron has a sleepover with his two best friends, Zion and Aliyah. Despite being strictly prohibited from entering the attic and reading *The Book of Chidani*, a record of ancestral history passed down through the generations of Cameron's family, all three kids disobey and find themselves literally pulled into the book--and with it, the country of Chidani. There, Cameron finds out that the odd things he's noticed were indeed real and that, as the only living Descendant of the people of Chidani, he has been tasked with saving the country from a power grab by the queen's sister. Perry presents a fantasy full of adventure, loss, bravery, and perseverance. Themes of love, intergenerational hardship, and sacrifice are woven throughout the story. Its potential, however, is largely unfulfilled thanks to the cast members' constant vacillation in thought and action. Some characters feel one-dimensional, making it difficult for readers to become fully invested in the novel. The cast of characters is made up of Black people of various ethnicities. A promising West African-inspired tale about courage and legacy let down by inconsistent characterization. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ever since he lost his parents two years ago, Igbo-descended 12-year-old Cameron Battle has been forbidden from entering the attic of the Atlanta home he shares with his grandmother and reading the *Book of Chidani*. The book is a family heirloom filled with stories about a hidden realm in Nigeria that was created centuries back to protect the Igbo people in the height of chattel slavery. But during a sleepover, Cameron and his best friends, tech-savvy Aliyah and smart, protective Zion, sneak into the attic to read the *Book*, accidentally opening a portal to Chidani itself. There, they discover that Cameron's parents died defending the land, leaving him as the realm's only Descendant. To save Chidani from the queen's sister, who seeks to shatter the barrier that keeps enslavers outside it, Cameron must bond with the *Book* and, with his friends, retrieve a trio of stolen magical artifacts while facing monsters, gods, and their own fears. Rooted in Igbo mythology and starring Black protagonists of various ethnic backgrounds, Perry's tale offers up a fast-paced, intense story of legacy and loss as Cameron worries about whether he's fit for the task at hand, even as he draws on the support of his companions and memories of his family legacy. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Caitie Flum, Liza Dawson Assoc.(Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Percy Jackson fans, rejoice! Imagine a magical book whose pages come to life to show memories of events from the land of one's ancestors. Cameron grew up reading *The Book of Chidani*, and now finds himself transported through its pages to the fabled kingdom of Nigeria, home of the Igbo people. It's full of wondrous creatures, such as humanlike fish, the mondao, who wear gold chains and sunbathe, and deeply loyal gryphons. But it is also home to the mmo, spirits of the dead who are trapped in limbo due to the traumatic nature of their deaths. The ancestral homeland holds powerful lessons about survival as well as plenty of questions about the harm that was inflicted on its people. Cameron is a true Descendant, trained in the art of Dambe, tasked with recovering Queen Ramala's ring, crown, and scepter, lost to a bargain with the gods to protect the Igbo people from enslavers. But Cameron soon realizes that the fated role of Descendant may come at great cost. Teachers might want to use a character map to help students develop a clear understanding of who's who in this epic mythological adventure. Perry has a gift for creating dialogue and writing fast-paced, suspenseful scenes that will both enchant readers and leave them wincing in empathy. Cliff-hanger endings abound that will have students begging for more. Devoted readers of this genre will want to dive into this adventure and savor it alone, but it is also perfect for a class read-aloud. VERDICT An action-packed page-turner rooted in West African mythology that middle graders will love.--Darby Wallace Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Camp Sylvania (Trade)



#2378860 (Vol. 02) Moon Madness (Hardcover (Trade))

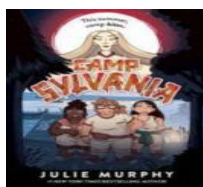
written by Julie Murphy

When creepy things start happening, Maggie insists on investigating. But Nora has found an interest of her own--the strange effects of Luna's homemade "moon water." It removes zits, adds lustrous shine to hair, and even seems to straighten teeth! No braces? No problem! It isn't long before the girls are caught up in another supernatural adventure. But when their friends find themselves in danger, can Maggie and Nora put their differences aside to save them?

978-0-06-334726-7 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#2326154 (Vol. 01) Camp Sylvania (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Julie Murphy

On the last day of school, her parents break the news: Maggie isn't going to Camp Rising Star. She's being shipped off to fat camp--and not just any fat camp. There are the humiliating weigh-ins and grueling workouts, as expected. But the campers are also encouraged to donate blood--at their age! The cafeteria serves only red foods and the oddly specific rules change every day. There are even rumors of a camp ghost.

978-0-06-311402-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Maggie's finally ready to leave for her longed-for performing-arts camp, but her parents have made other plans: she's going to Camp Sylvania, a "wellness" (i.e., fat) camp. Maggie is furious, of course, but thankfully, her bunkmates are fantastic and she gets the lead in the camp production of *The Music Man* opposite her crush. But the counselors have some strange rules (they can't enter cabins unless they're invited in), campers start going missing, and there's an unusually alluring blood bank near the cafeteria. Yes, it's vampires, and Maggie and her friends must save the day! While the vampire plot drives the story, Maggie's personal growth absolutely steals the show: instead of any weight-based bullying, Murphy focuses on the cheerworthy solidarity Maggie feels with her fellow campers, especially when they work together to push back against some of the camp's more fatphobic practices, like public weigh-ins and banning the word fat. Readers of gentle horror will enjoy the eerier elements, and fans of contemporary middle-grade fiction will be delighted by Maggie's realization that she's perfect just the way she is.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine fth grade will be amazing because she's finally going to the performing arts camp of her dreams...until her parents send her to weight loss camp instead. While enduring inedible food and exhausting workouts, Maggie befriends her bunk mates -- Kit, an excitable Girl Scout; and Evelyn, a posh British girl -- and tries out for the camp production of *The Music Man*, for which she scores the title role. But the camp's owner, the glamorous influencer Sylvia, seems determined to suck as much fun from camp as possible, and some of her ideas are downright creepy, like forcing the underage campers to donate blood. When campers start disappearing, Maggie realizes it's up to her to uncover Sylvia's secrets. For starters, what is she doing with all the blood? The characters' quirkiness makes them engaging and memorable, especially Kit with her great enthusiasm for all things outdoors. Humor is woven throughout, from Maggie's frequent sass to a scene of vampires on a Zoom call. The central focus is on Maggie's journey to overcome her personal fears, but the diet culture-obsessed vampires also allow for some moments of biting satire. Bodie Shanis(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

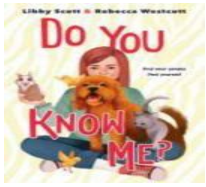
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl must survive not only fat camp, but the vampire who runs it. Despite Maggie's plan to spend the summer with her best friend at Camp Rising Star, where she'll hopefully get over her persistent stage fright, her parents instead ship her off to Camp Sylvania so she'll finally lose her "baby fat." Though feeling betrayed, Maggie, who is White, starts to think spending afternoons on the lake might not be so bad, especially as she gets to know her bunkmates and decides to try out for the camp musical. But between the odd diet of mostly red foods, lack of technology, and mean and creepy counselors, the only place the campers truly feel comfortable is in the air-conditioned blood bank (regular donations are mandatory). When her co-star's brother goes missing along with several other campers, Maggie and her bunkmates begin an investigation into the gruesome truth at the heart of the camp. Murphy renders her camp of fat characters with nuance, giving them unique personalities beyond their size and often pointing out how others' judgments ignore their full humanity and undermine their confidence. Jokes and sweet interactions round out the story, while hints at the camp's monstrous nature create a spooky atmosphere. A continuing focus on the musical in the latter half stunts the story's growing stakes but gives Maggie the chance to fully seize her moment in the spotlight. A fun and spooky celebration of fat kids and friendship. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After years of waiting, best friends and aspiring actors Maggie Hagen and Nora Taylor Whaley are jazzed to finally be headed to Camp Rising Star for three summer weeks. But on the last day of school, Maggie's horror writer father and nurse mother suddenly announce that they're instead sending her to Camp Sylvania, "a place for big dreams, big fun, and big weight loss," run by fitness guru Sylvia Sylvania. Maggie's mom, who is obsessed with her daughter's weight, was once Sylvia's peer at the same camp, and she wants Maggie to attend now that Sylvia's bought it. Most of the counselors prove taken with influencer Sylvia and her Scarlet Diet. But a rebrand isn't the only change the camp has undergone: the property is now haunted, advertised activities are off-limits, underage attendees are asked to donate blood, and soon, campers start disappearing. Through Maggie's witty first-person narration, Murphy (*Dear Sweet Pea*) reveals the fat camp's horrors, both benign and supernatural, as Maggie, who experiences performance anxiety, realizes that she and her body are just right the way they are. It's a character-driven summer camp romp that takes on anti-fat bias while underscoring how parents don't always get things right. Maggie is white, Nora has brown skin; racial diversity exists among the campers. Ages 8: 12. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Fifth grade is over, and this is the summer Maggie and her best friend, Nora, have been waiting for. Finally, it's time to go to Camp Rising Star, where Maggie hopes to get over her stage fright and perform in the camp musical. Maggie's parents spring different plans on her and insist she go to Camp Sylvania, a fat camp founded by the famous Sylvia Sylvania, with whom Maggie's mom attended fat camp as a girl. At Camp Sylvania, Maggie and her bunkmates become fast friends, and there's even a theater production to look forward to. However, things quickly become weird with a diet of strictly red foods, daily required blood donations, and creepy, mean counselors. When campers begin disappearing, and ghostly and vampiric appearances start happening, Maggie and her friends must stop the sinister plan. As the story unfolds, difficult topics of family acceptance and friendship issues are explored fully and satisfactorily. Murphy (*Puddin', Dumplin'*) has created characters who experience all the usual tween feelings, from first crushes to confidence issues, with tenacity and determination. VERDICT Readers looking for a slightly spooky, fast-paced adventure with fully developed characters will delve into this one.--Michele Shaw Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Can You See Me? (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2216266 (Vol. 02) Do You Know Me? (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$17.99



written by Libby Scott

Everyone else in Tally's grade seems excited for the class trip... And she knows she is supposed to be too. Ever since her classmates found out she is autistic, Tally has felt more comfortable being herself. But the end-of-year trip will be an entire week -- her longest overnight trip ever. How will she sleep? What about all the bugs? What will her dog, Rupert, do without her at home?

978-1-338-65615-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Challenges continue for an autistic sixth grader as she joins her class in a weeklong end-of-year campout. Following *Can You See Me?* (2020) teenage author Scott and adult co-author Westcott draw upon Scott's personal experiences to portray middle schooler Tally's responses to stressful situations—both at home, where she's faced with a 12th birthday celebration, and at camp, where everything is new, including a particularly vicious mean girl. As before, the tale is told in the third person with entries from Tally's journal, in which she explains her responses to events and offers guidelines for neurotypical readers. In those entries she comes into focus as not just a mouthpiece, but a character with a distinct, individual voice. Tally is mobbed by understanding allies, including not only her parents and older sister, but a sensitive camp counselor who is in charge of a shelter for rescued pets, two fellow campers who are also neurodivergent, and a formerly trusted classmate who is sincerely remorseful about her role in a devastating incident. With their support and her own growing understanding of how to head off incipient meltdowns and to communicate her own needs clearly, Tally transforms what promises at first to be a disastrous failed experiment into a successful, memorable experience. Aside from some name cues the cast presents White. Heavy on instruction and behavior modeling, but there's a sturdy enough storyline to bear the weight. (Fiction. 9-12)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Xpress Gr 4-6-The follow-up novel to *Can You See Me?* continues the story of Tally Adams, sixth grader extraordinaire. Tally has many parts of being an almost-12-year-old autistic kid figured out. Chapters written in the third person explain Tally's life and her days at home and school. Between chapters, readers get insight into Tally's personal thoughts through journal entries. Tally and her class are wrapping up the school year (one that was evidently fraught with the oh-so-normal change of best friends) by attending GoCamp for a week. This is no small task for a girl who is managing her anxiety on a day-to-day, and sometimes minute-by-minute, basis. Tally's parents and teachers assure her she will be fine at camp and can handle this, despite all of her fears. At camp, things get off to a rocky start, complete with mean girls and bullying. Fortunately, Tally perseveres and finds she has more friends than she realized and has gained a few more along the way. Tally, who is white, is very self aware and conscious of her autism; the lists she includes in her journal entries of how she would like teachers and friends to treat her are fantastic recommendations for anyone. **VERDICT** A great fit for any middle grade collection, particularly those wanting to showcase how differences can help people connect with one another. Hand to readers who enjoyed Cynthia Lord's *Rules* or Holly Goldberg Sloan's *Counting by 7s*.-Kim Gardner, Fort Worth Country Day Sch., TX © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Candymakers (Trade)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#1621987 (Vol. 01) Candymakers (Hardcover (Trade))


written by Wendy Mass

Four gifted twelve-year-olds, including Logan, the candymaker's son, are set to be contestants in the Confectionery Association's national competition to determine the nation's tastiest sweet, but nobody anticipates that a friendship will form between them.

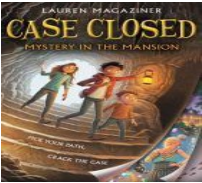
978-0-316-00258-5 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 464 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 15.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 740

Reviews by: School Library Journal a candy factory, immortalized by Roald Dahl, is one story line that bears repeating. At the Life Is Sweet factory, four 12-year-olds gather to create new goodies for the annual Confectionery Association Conference. Logan, the Candymaker's son, dreams of winning his family's respect. Miles's parents hope the experience will help him forget a tragic accident he couldn't prevent. Daisy is fascinated by the factory, but for what reason? And Philip scribbles in his secret notebook, determined to win at all costs. When the factory's secret ingredient is stolen, the children find a common purpose: to foil the plot by creating the best candy ever. The tidy conclusion has a few contrivances, but none that will bother children. Mass has crafted a solid mystery dipped in sweet candy-making details. Character development moves a lengthy story forward in smooth increments. As each child's story emerges, the mystery becomes one bit clearer, making this a real page-turner. The characters are intricate, flawed heroes with whom readers will identify. The book's subtle message of teamwork over greed and growth through friendship will resonate with readers and educators alike. A magical setting filled with conveyor belts, chocolate jungles, and beehives makes it clear what the youngsters are attempting to save. Give this mouthwatering confection to children who like Trenton Stewart's *The*

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1960333 (Vol. 02) Candy Makers and the Great Chocolate Chase (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Wendy Mass</i> It has been a few months since the Harmonicandy was chosen as the winner of the nationwide candymaking contest. Forever changed by the experience, Logan, Miles, Philip, and Daisy have returned to their regular lives. But when presented with the chance to go on tour to promote the new candy, they each have very different reasons for hitting the road. 978-0-316-08919-7 ©2016 336 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 23.0 RC Lvl 5.2 Lexile 790</p>	1	\$18.99

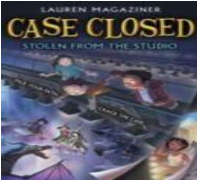
Case Closed (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2067172 (Vol. 01) Mystery in the Mansion (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lauren Magaziner</i> Carlos Serrano has never solved a mystery in his life. But when Carlos's mom gets sick with a nasty flu on the morning of an investigation that could save her failing detective agency, Carlos takes on the case. In this hilarious, interactive, and puzzle-filled adventure, YOU pick which suspects to interview, which questions to ask, and which clues to follow. 978-0-06-267627-6 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$16.99


Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Carlos doesn't know how to solve mysteries, but he'll do anything to help save his mom's detective agency. When a flu prevents her from taking up a big case, Carlos turns to his best friend, Eliza, and her little brother, Frank, to solve the mystery. From here, the mystery becomes an interactive choose-your-own-adventure: readers can help them interview suspects, find clues, close the case, and save Carlos' mom's career. The characters are real kids dealing with real worries. Carlos is so concerned about money that he takes on the near-impossible task of solving a case for his mother, but it's this concern that makes him endearing. The various options mean the story takes on a new flavor with every reading. The puzzles are based in learning, so readers work to solve each clue before moving on to the next. Frank's personality is spot-on for a six-year-old; he lights up every scene with his sincere innocence. Magaziner (Wizardmatch, 2018) blends the fun of interactive stories with a suspenseful mystery and delightful characters.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2018, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The "choose your own adventure" genre gets another reboot in Magaziner's (Wizardmatch, 2018) newest. Protagonist Carlos lives in a run-down house with his single mom, who owns a down-and-out private detective agency. When his mom wakes up ill on the morning she is to meet with a wealthy new client, Carlos takes matters into his own hands. Accompanied by his best friend, Eliza, and with her distractible younger brother, Frank, in tow, the amateur sleuth sets off to discover who has been sending death threats to well-heeled widow Guinevere LeCavalier. The adventure is told through first-person narrative rather than the second-person common to the genre, so readers see the story through Carlos' eyes as they assist in solving puzzles, mazes, and other brain teasers to get to the bottom of the mystery. Pitfalls are everywhere, with over two dozen possible endings, and only a few of them are happy. Most of the endings are silly and clearly intended to be humorous hyperbole, but the endings that result in financial ruin for Carlos and his mom border on ridicule. Readers who themselves know the anxiety of an unemployed or underemployed parent and the reality of living paycheck to paycheck are unlikely to find much humor in these catastrophes. Carlos is Latinx, while Eliza and Frank are white. Mildly amusing, though a sudoku book might be a better investment. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2018) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Carlos knows his mom's detective agency is in trouble; the agency has lost clients and money after several failed cases. But a major case has just been handed to his mom and her partner, and their money problems may soon be over. When his mom comes down with a terrible case of the flu, Carlos decides to step up and take on the case himself. Along with his best friend Eliza and her little brother Frank (short for Frankenstein's Monster), Carlos meets the client, Guinevere LaCavalier. Guinevere has been receiving death threats that are getting scarier and more specific. The three children must follow a winding set of clues to figure out culprit. Plenty of toilet humor and silly puns will keep younger middle grade readers engaged and giggling, though the death threat notes may prove too scary for some. The "choose your own adventure" format adds a fun twist, offering readers different options, alike whom to interview, what to examine, and which clues to follow. The strength of the book is in the riddles that readers must solve in order to move forward in the mystery. -VERDICT An entertaining romp that

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2107525 (Vol. 02) Stolen from the Studio (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lauren Magaziner</i> Pick-your-own-path and puzzle-packed mystery. With his best friend, Eliza, and her wild little brother, Frank, at his side, Carlos must race to find the missing star of the hit series Teen Witch. But with tricky puzzles, hidden secrets, an elusive kidnapper, and dozens of impossible choices, they need your help! 978-0-06-267630-6 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 480 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic	1	\$16.99

Cece Rios (Trade)

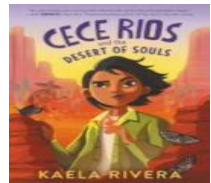
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2289241 (Vol. 02) Cece Rios and the King of Fears (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Kaela Rivera</i> Cece Rios thought saving her sister would be the end of her adventures in the world of criaturas. But part of Juana's soul is still trapped in Devil's Alley. As Cece tries to find a way to get it back using her new curandera abilities, Juana takes her fate in her own hands and sets off alone, intent on restoring her soul and getting revenge on El Sombreron. 978-0-06-321389-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 10.0	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old girl embarks on a supernatural quest to restore her sister's heartbeat. In *Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls* (2021), Cece saved her sister, Juana, from Devil's Alley, the magical dimension inhabited by monsters like El Sombrerón and criaturas, humanlike beings who can transform into animals. But Juana has been acting strangely since her return, and it turns out that a piece of her soul is still back in El Sombrerón's lair. Accompanied by kindhearted criatura friends, Cece embarks on a dangerous trip in search of the Ocean Sanctuary to try to heal her sister's heart. Tired of waiting to be saved, Juana also secretly sets off to recover the missing piece of her soul. Written in alternating first-person chapters narrated by each of the sisters, the gripping, suspenseful story follows the girls' parallel journeys through a lush fantasy world that incorporates Mexican, Mayan, and Aztec influences. Danger lurks at every turn, but warm, loving Cece possesses an uncanny knack for finding the humanity inside monsters--supernatural and human alike. Meanwhile, brave, no-nonsense Juana is more than willing to confront any evildoer who dares get in her way with the family's heirloom fire opal knives. Their journeys see the main characters develop in touching ways, with Cece discovering powerful strengths and Juana befriending and going to great lengths to protect a loyal criatura she'd initially misjudged and mistrusted. Heartfelt, fast-paced, and entertaining. (glossary) (Fantasy. 8-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2366970 (Vol. 03) Cece Rios and the Queen of Brujas (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Kaela Rivera</i> Cece Rios and her friends have escaped Devil's Alley, but the fight to save their world is just beginning. Despite her growing comfort with her curandera abilities, Cece is worried that she won't be strong enough to stop her most dangerous enemy yet: her tia, Catrina. Desperate for power and revenge, Catrina has seized the throne of Devil's Alley and set her sights on the living world. 978-0-06-321396-8 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic	1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old girl leads her family, friends, and townspeople into the ultimate supernatural showdown to save the world from her cruel, powerful aunt. In a fast-paced closer to this trilogy, which incorporates Mexican and Aztec influences, Cece Rios is ambushed by evil forces. She's physically threatened by the bruja army, which descends upon Tierra del Sol to steal the Sun god's soul stone for the

queen of Devil's Alley, Cece's Tía Catrina. But extraordinarily kind Cece must also fight back emotionally: "How could I trust my heart, when, for the first time, it so badly wanted to hate evil more than it wanted to love what was good?" All she wants is to help everyone be happy, but she's frustrated by community members who shun her for wielding her ocean curandera powers to try to save them. And she's deeply resentful of Tía Catrina, who created this mess by hurting anyone who got in the way of her selfish, vicious quest for power. Cece's frustration grows as her aunt sends brujas and criaturas as her deadly proxies to wound and kill those Cece loves while relentlessly pursuing the three remaining gods' souls. But, as Cece learns, only light can drive out darkness. Aside from her ability to control water, Cece's greatest power is her empathetic, probing heart, which enables her to spread her light in even the worst situations. An epilogue rounds out the narrative, offering a charming peek into the characters' grown-up lives. A sweet, beautifully written adventure. (glossary) (Fantasy. 8-14) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2220262 (Vol. 01) Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kaela Rivera

Living in the remote town of Tierra del Sol is dangerous—especially in the criatura months, when powerful spirits break free from their home in Devil's Alley to threaten humankind. But Cecelia Rios has always believed there was more to the criaturas who roamed the desert, much to her family's disapproval. After all, it's common knowledge that only brujas—humans who capture and control criaturas—consort with the spirits, and brujeria is a terrible crime.

978-0-06-294755-0 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 10.0

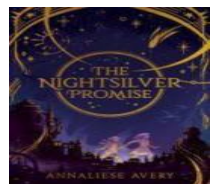
Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Pretending to be an apprentice bruja, an unassuming preteen enters a dangerous competition to rescue her 15-year-old sister from monstrous forces in this mesmerizing middle grade fantasy. In Tierra del Sol, an isolated town plagued by magical criaturas that roam the surrounding desert, 12-year-old Cece Rios lives as "a shadow cast from the light of other people's fires." While her older sister Juana wields fire opal in rituals to protect the town and burns "bright like the Sun," everyone believes a childhood encounter with a criatura cursed Cece with a soul like water; and left her "the weakest person in the village." But when a "powerful dark criatura" known as "El Sombreron, the Bride Stealer" snatches Juana right before her eyes, Cece must tap into her inner strength and enter a world of battles and brujas to get her sister back. With excellent pacing and rich world-building, debut author Rivera flawlessly immerses readers in the landscape of Tierra del Sol and Cece's journey ("The town lights grew brighter, each building like a lantern warming the edges of the desert"). An enthralling, finely crafted read. Includes a glossary of Spanish words with limited pronunciations. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Serene Hakim, Ayesha Pande Literary. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Cecelia Rios does the unthinkable by freeing a dark criatura from the grips of her village. Criaturas have long plagued the residents of the Tierra del Sol desert. Forewarned by her Mama, Cece knows that criaturas were creatures born from the dust and the words of the Great Namer, which aim to harm humans. Shadowed by betrayal and shame, Cece deems herself weak, believing the town whispers that water smothered her inner fire. But when her sister Juana is kidnapped by the criatura, El Sombreron, Cece grapples with a decision that rivals her Mama's beliefs. Her powerful choice unearths secrets of her family's past and leads Cece down a forbidden path. Confronted with her fears, Cece forms unexpected alliances while battling a foe unlike any criatura: herself. Set against the Tierra del Sol backdrop, intertwined with rich Mexican folklore and culturally infused language, this is a brilliantly unveiled coming-of-age story not for the faint of heart. Rivera cultivates a valiant heroine unafraid to follow her heart and stand against the norm. With a captivating story line and adversaries lurking between the pages, readers will remain engrossed as fantasy mingles with the real world. The engaging plot unravels with twists and turns, keeping readers on edge even after Cece's revelation. VERDICT Courage, determination, and unwavering love are the foundation of this debut; a much-needed addition to public and school libraries.—Suraya Jairam, Queens P.L., Hollis, NY

Celestial Mechanism Cycle (Trade)



#2257007 (Vol. 01) Nightsilver Promise (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Annaliese Avery

When thirteen-year-old Paisley discovers from her track that she is destined to die, the race is on to protect her dragon-touched brother and find her missing mother. But an ancient power stalks the sewers of London, and the Dark Dragon is rising, intent on restoring the Great Dragons and destroying Paisley's family and her world forever.

978-1-338-75446-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 840

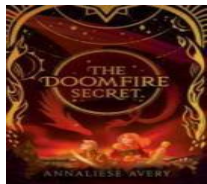
Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 In the Albion empire, dragons are ruthlessly outlawed, and every citizen has a set path, fated by the stars and interpreted by the Celestial Physicists. Thirteen-year-old Paisley has been eagerly awaiting details of her destiny, so she's stunned to learn that she is doomed to die before her fourteenth birthday. She keeps this news from her beloved younger brother, who has his own secret: he is among the cruelly hunted Dragon Touched, sporting a scaly leg and twisting talons. To further complicate matters, their physicist mother disappears after her latest experiment suggests that fates can be altered. It's up to the siblings to change their own fates as well as that of the world, saving all they love in the process. Avery's fast-paced and inventive novel features an alternate London that runs on clockwork and dragon fire, an Amerika where dragons still roam, and independent boroughs floating above the cities below. The history and philosophy of the empire are astonishingly detailed, and a cliff-hanger ending will send readers scrambling for a sequel. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl with not enough destiny and her brother, who has too much, must rescue their mother. In an alternate London, Mechanist priests preach from the Blueprints about how the Chief Designer "forged the looping golden tracks of the Celestial Mechanism" that tell people's fates. Thirteen-year-old Paisley Fitzwilliam finally learns her stars' track--and discovers that she'll die before she's 14. Meanwhile, Dax, her younger brother, who is publicly perceived as disabled, actually wears his uncomfortable leg brace to hide the fact that he is Dragon Touched. The Dragon Touched (the others are girls) all have dragon scales somewhere on their bodies. They are feared and hunted thanks to the prophecy about a male Dragon Lord who will bring back the Great Dragons. After the kids' scientist mother performs a seemingly impossible experiment that shakes society's foundations, she meets with an accident--but Paisley and Dax learn she's not dead and that it was no accident. Teaming up with their mother's apprentice, they set out to save her. In an alternate viewpoint, thief Roach serves the villainous Dark Dragon, showing readers what the heroes are up against and why. The characterization runs shallow, with didacticism from heroes and villains alike delivered in expository monologues, and the climax relies upon an underbaked deus ex machina. Most characters default to White; uncomfortably, the sole explicitly brown-skinned character calls Dax her master and pledges to give up her life for him. A promising concept that fails to deliver. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In an alternate London where the rule of Great Dragons has been displaced by Celestial Physicists; scientists who bend space and matter to their will; white 13-year-old Paisley Fitzwilliam awaits to discover which "track" destiny has in store for her. Though most children are told their fates in childhood, gaining a pattern of constellations on their wrist that maps out their future, Paisley has so far gone unmarked. But finally, she learns a horrifying truth: the stars foretell that she will die before her 14th birthday. As her time ticks down, Paisley must find a way to keep her younger brother Dax, who is Dragon Touched, safe from being hunted as a "half-breed." Meanwhile the Dark Dragon, an ancient evil, works to bring back the reign of dragons; seeking to destroy all that Paisley holds dear in the process. Avery's debut paints an imaginative portrait of steampunk London, complete with floating boroughs and aerocopter transport. Though flat worldbuilding sometimes undercuts the fast-paced narrative, and a lone brown-skinned character is presented as more icon than nuanced being, Paisley's warmth and intelligence shine through this exploration of fate's inevitability and the conflict between science and magic. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Helen Boyle, Pickled Ink. (Feb.)



#2310759 (Vol. 02) Doomfire Secret (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Annaliese Avery

Paisley Fitzwilliam is not supposed to be alive. Her stars told her she was going to die, and she did--stabbed by the Dark Dragon. Against all logic, she has come back through the Veil and now has to deal with the wreck that was left behind. Her mother is dead and her brother, Dax, has been taken by the fierce and mysterious dragon riders, the Krigare.

978-1-338-75449-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.8 AR Pts 14.0

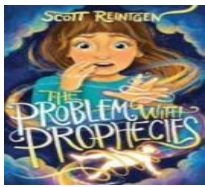
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Paisley has just been betrayed by her uncle, witnessed her mother's death, and watched as her dragon-touched brother is kidnapped, and she still has to find a way to save the world. The Doomfire Secret picks up immediately after The Nightsilver Promise (2021) ends, dropping readers back into a land of dragons and destiny. Paisley is determined to rescue her brother from the Northern Realms and keep the terrifying Dark Dragon from enacting a ghastly agenda, though she quickly realizes she'll require help from an unexpected group of allies—and one possible enemy—if she's to have any chance. The enthralling adventure sees the characters travel further afield, deepening their relationships, sharpening their abilities, and expanding their horizons in all directions. The astonishingly detailed mythology of the world firmly grounds the proceedings, and this sequel more fully contrasts the lives of those who follow their prescribed (literal) life tracks and those who seek to explore the unknown. A worthy follow-up and a thrilling exploration of the joy to be found in forging your own path.

Celia Cleary (Trade)

#2278395 (Vol. 01) Problem with Prophecies (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



written by Scott Reintgen

Most people inherit eye colors or heirlooms, but for Celia Cleary, the gift of prophecy has been passed down in her family for generations. And on the 4,444th day of her life, Celia will have her first vision. But nothing could have prepared her for what she sees--the quiet boy down the street, Jeffrey Johnson, is about to die. Will Celia's gifts be enough to thwart fate? Or are some things in life inevitable?

978-1-6659-0357-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile HL 600

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A middle schooler discovers both up and down sides to being able to foretell the future. Members of the Cleary clan in alternating generations have always been granted predictive powers on their 4,444th day of life, and Celia has been eagerly looking forward to her first vision--until, that is, it comes and reveals that cute, quiet classmate Jeffrey is slated to die in a hit-and-run. Weighing her horror against her wise Grammy's warnings that fate is inexorable, she contrives a way to head off the accident...only to foresee another fatal mishap in his future. And another. By the time she's saved his life five times in a row, she's not only exhausted, but crushing on the hapless lad. (As, unsurprisingly, he is on her.) Reintgen generally keeps the tone of his series opener light, so even after Celia discovers that there's ultimately a tragic price for her intervention, the ensuing funeral service is marked by as much laughter as sorrow. The author surrounds his frantic but good-hearted protagonist with a particularly sturdy supporting cast that includes gratifyingly cooperative friends as well as her Grammy and loving, if nonmagical, mom. There don't seem to be many Cleary men around; perhaps that and certain other curious elements, like a chart listing particular Cleary specialties with names such as Dreamwalker and Grimdark, will be addressed in future entries. Main characters read as White. A very promising kickoff with arbitrary but intriguingly challenging magic. (Fantasy. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$17.99



#2323229 (Vol. 02) Drama with Doomsdays (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Scott Reintgen

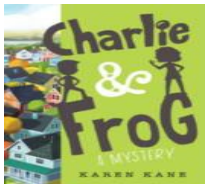
Ever since the fateful visions about Jeffrey Johnson, Celia Cleary's prophecies have focused on smaller things like minor mishaps and everyday inconveniences. It's finally starting to feel like she has a handle on her powers...until things take a turn for the weird.

978-1-6659-0360-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 9.0

Charlie and Frog (Prebound)

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$17.95



#2240642 (Vol. 01) Charlie and Frog (Prebound)

written by Karen Kane

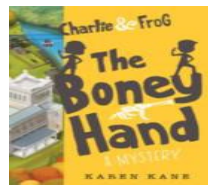
Charlie's parents have left him (again). This time they are off to South Africa to help giant golden moles. And Charlie? He's been dumped with his TV-obsessed grandparents. Lonely and curious, Charlie heads into the village of Castle-on-the-Hudson, where a frightened old woman gives him a desperate message-in sign language. When she suddenly disappears, Charlie is determined to find answers.

978-1-5364-6971-4 ©2019 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 3.2

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Charlie Tickler is once again abandoned by his globe-trotting parents. This time they're off to South Africa in search of giant golden moles. They usually leave him with a nanny, but this time he is sent away to his grandparent's in Castle-on-the-Hudson, a Victorian resort town with a real castle. While exploring the town, Charlie visits the library, where an agitated old woman mysteriously disappears after trying to confess something dire to Charlie in sign language. Charlie smells a mystery and is told to enlist the aid of Francine "Frog" Castle, an expert detective-in-training who is Deaf and uses American Sign Language (ASL). Charlie and Frog work together to find out who the mysterious old lady is and why two men are trying to find her as well. Enduring a whole host of adventures, including shaky gondola rides across a river, meeting an odd fortune-teller, and exploring a creepy graveyard, the two must put together a set of clues, including a mysterious gravestone cipher. This fast-paced tale features a host of offbeat characters. Kane,awho has worked as an ASL interpreter for the Deaf community, warmly depicts Frog's fluent signing and Charlie's efforts to learn the language. VERDICT In addition to a fun-filled adventure, Kane's novel

Charlie and Frog (Trade)



#2104233 (Vol. 02) Boney Hand (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Karen Kane

Charlie, the new kid at the Castle School for the Deaf continues to find unexpected mysteries in the sleepy town of Castle-on-the-Hudson with Frog, his new friend and crime-solving partner. Just when Charlie thinks everything has settled down, a piece of the school's famous history goes missing, and it's up to the Charlie and Frog to solve the case, before it's too late.

978-1-368-00628-6 ©2019 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Charlie Hernandez (Prebound)



#2154020 (Vol. 01) Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows (Prebound)

written by Ryan Calejo

Charlie Hernandez has always been proud of his Latin American heritage. Thanks to his abuela's stories, Charlie possesses an almost encyclopedic knowledge of monsters. But when Charlie begins to experience freaky bodily manifestation he is suddenly swept up in a world where mythical beings seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Hispanic folklore.

978-1-5364-6168-8 ©2019 5 x 7-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Charlie Hernandez loves his abuela's stories, drawn from Latino and Hispanic folklore, in particular legends about supernatural creatures; some good, many evil. When Charlie's parents go missing, his house burns down, and he starts growing horns and sprouting feathers, Charlie, aided by intelligent classmate Violet Rey, begins to discover that the tales his grandmother passed down to him may not have been fiction after all, and may be more entwined with his destiny than he could have ever imagined. As Violet and Charlie get closer to the secret his family was shielding, they come across brujas, La Llorona, El Sombreron, Justo Juez, and more, all while Charlie must try to hide his physical transformations from his best friends. Soon Charlie discovers that his life is deeply linked with the balance of peace between the Land of the Living and the Land of the Dead. Filled with action with fast-paced chapters, Calejo's novel is sure to draw in readers and introduce them to the magic, beauty, and history of Hispanic myths and legends (many of which are elaborated on further in a glossary for those unfamiliar with the stories). This is a perfect pick for kids who love Rick Riordan's many series, particularly for those eager for mythologies beyond Greek and Roman stories. A cliff-hanger ending only adds to the appeal.

Charlie Hernandez (Trade)



#2283026 (Vol. 03) Charlie Hernandez and the Golden Dooms (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ryan Calejo

After hitchhiking across Central and South America to rescue the Witch Queen and face off against La Mano Peluda, Charlie Hernandez is pretty much grounded for life. But after all he's been through, some quiet time at home with his parents might be nice. Though it would be better if he didn't have to share his room with his obnoxiously perfect cousin Raul, who's staying with them.

978-1-5344-8421-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#2368587 (Vol. 04) Charlie Hernandez and the Phantom of Time (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ryan Calejo

Charlie has received a letter from the Land of the Dead—a dire warning from his grandmother concerning his (and the rest of La Liga's) impending demise. He doesn't have much to go on, but according to the letter, a mysterious incident in the past, known only as "The Five Donkeys," set in motion an unstoppable chain of events that will culminate in the total destruction of the Land of the Living.

978-1-6659-4291-1 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Charlie Numbers Adventures (Trade)



#2123780 (Vol. 03) Charlie Numbers and the Woolly Mammoth (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ben Mezrich

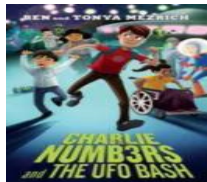
Charlie and the Whiz Kids go on a school trip to the Boston Public Gardens, where they discover the tusk of a prehistoric woolly mammoth buried in the dirt. The kids soon discover that an eccentric billionaire is using the rest of the skeleton and an elephant he stole from the zoo to create his own prehistoric garden.

978-1-5344-4100-2 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 1030

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two gangs of middle school brainiacs use carbon dating to take down a smuggling ring. The book begins with a flash-forward: Charlie's on a cargo ship in Boston Harbor, menaced by a pair of off-the-shelf bad guys, leaping into freezing water to escape. The action cuts back two weeks to when Charlie and his sixth grade Whiz Kids discover a bone on a field trip. They identify it with the help of an excitable white-bearded science professor at Harvard: It's a woolly mammoth tusk! How did it get to Boston? To find out, they'll need the help of a new group of budding scientists, led by Janice, a black girl who uses a wheelchair and talks in disability platitudes ("I know I'm different, but we're all different, right?"). Somehow, every clue in their mystery goes back to "Africa," though neither specific African countries nor any human residents of the continent are ever referenced. The Whiz Kids are all white except Kentaro, the "little Japanese kid," and all are male except Crystal; the others are Charlie and two redheaded boys, one gangly and disorganized and the other fat with apparently comical allergies. Their new friends, who attend school in the city--unlike the Whiz Kids, who live in a wealthy suburb--offer racial diversity. What with all these characters, along with (somewhat-accurate, rarely relevant) Boston trivia and science factoids and a mystery involving a wealthy white businessman, there's no room for character development. Formulaic and busy. (Adventure. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--In this mystery for math and science lovers, the Whiz Kids discover a woolly mammoth tusk and some strange red rock in the Boston Public Gardens. Who buried these artifacts, and why? The Whiz Kids, along with some new friends and a mad scientist, are on the case. Though readers unfamiliar with the series will understand this title, they'll enjoy the books more if they read them in sequence. Elements of math and science enhance the twisty plot, and the characters are knowledgeable in various areas: rocks, fossils, and more. The Whiz Kids, along with readers, learn about carbon dating and differentiating between elephant and woolly mammoth tusks. Even Newton's third law of motion plays a role. There are also a few history lessons on Boston thrown in. The novel is packed with information and advanced vocabulary, which could hinder appeal to reluctant readers. VERDICT Recommended for series fans and advanced readers with mathematical and scientific interests. For larger collections.--Rebecca Fitzgerald, Harrison Public Library, NY Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2329661 (Vol. 04) Charlie Numbers and the UFO Bash (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ben Mezrich

As his school's resident numbers guy, Charlie Lewis has always thought that if something can't be proven with a math equation, it might as well be myth—which is exactly how he feels about UFOs.

978-1-5344-4106-4 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2029507 (Vol. 02) Charlie Numbers and the Man in the Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

1

\$16.99

written by Ben Mezrich

Charlie Lewis is really good at math. So good, that he's approached by a mysterious woman who needs his help. The woman is carrying an incredible item: an actual moon rock, one of the most valuable objects on Earth, and she's investigating the theft of a box of moon rocks from NASA's vault at the Johnson Space Center.

978-1-4814-4847-5 ©2017 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.5 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 960

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Charlie Lewis, aka Numbers, loves math, so he is super pumped when a former student of his father's, Anastasia Federov, asks him and his fellow Whiz Kid friends to help find evidence proving a former astronaut stole invaluable moon rocks from the government. Their mission: infiltrate a national paper-airplane building competition and get close to the astronaut's son, Richard, the reigning champion. Unfortunately for Charlie, the further he digs, the more he realizes Federov might not be telling the whole truth and Charlie might be participating in some major corporate espionage. The Mezrichs' second foray (no knowledge of the first book needed) into Charlie's adventures will require readers to suspend some disbelief, but those who can will be treated to behind-the-scenes STEM concepts, which will likely send many readers out to build their own paper airplanes. This quick, enjoyable STEM-related espionage adventure will certainly appeal to readers of Charlie's first adventure (Bringing Down the Mouse, 2014), but any kid who likes a smart mystery will get a kick out of it, too.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2017, American Library Association.)

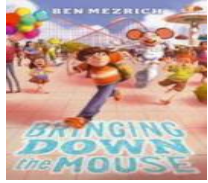
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Presumed NASA functionary Anastasia Federov offers child prodigy Charlie "Numbers" Lewis and his band of sixth-grade geniuses a once in a lifetime opportunity for a recommendation to work at NASA. That offer is dependent on a mission: infiltrate a paper airplane-building contest to get close to Richard Caldwell, son of astronaut Buzz Caldwell, and prove that Buzz stole moon rocks that mysteriously disappeared a few months ago. Reluctant to pass up an opportunity to work for NASA in the future (even if Anastasia's intentions are shrouded in secrecy) or to jeopardize the Caldwells' reputation, Charlie justifies accepting the mission in hopes of clearing their name. Their understanding of the interactions between matter and energy has gotten the team out of jams before, but could physics even avert criminal charges? The Mezrichs take a K.I.S.S. approach to aerodynamics as it applies to constructing paper planes capable of going the distance, and they make learning about resistance, gravity, lift, and thrust fun and unintimidating. Though laced with technical terminology that should appeal to the math- and science-minded, the story is lively enough to engage all kinds of readers. QB

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Mezrich's wife coauthors this [Bringing Down the Mouse] sequel, in which likable numbers whiz Charlie and his fellow sixth-grade pals land a coveted spot at a paper-airplane competition in Washington, DC. The team believes it is working undercover to help NASA recover stolen moon rocks, but something more devious is afoot. Historical and scientific explanations sometimes awkwardly pause the otherwise swiftly moving plot. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Charlie "Numbers" Lewis and his Whiz Kids explore aviation history (and dabble in corporate espionage).Sixth-grader Charlie, a white boy, and his four somewhat diverse friends are very smart in their fields of expertise. They had quite the adventure at Incredio Land (Bringing down the Mouse, 2014); now they've been asked by Anastasia Federov, a former student of Charlie's MIT-professor dad's, to enter a paper-airplane competition. They are to befriend Richard Caldwell, the reigning champ and son of former astronaut (and corporate sponsor of the contest) Buzz Caldwell, and to find out if said former astronaut stole moon rocks from the U.S. government. Of course, nothing turns out the way they expect. Richard's a smart, gracious kid. Anastasia might have faked credentials to get the Whiz Kids into the contest...and faked a lot more than that. Can they figure out what's going on and not come out looking like the bad guys? The Mezrichs follow Charlie's debut with an entertaining-enough thriller dotted with history and science lessons. Though readers will likely give a pass to improbabilities in the story (underground, secret labs and daring escapes riding museum-piece aircraft), improbabilities in the lives of the characters (their parents let their 12-year-olds travel from Boston to D.C. unaccompanied, and another kid sets off fire alarms for fun in a crowded hotel ballroom without repercussions) will leave them scratching their heads and closing the book. More facile than fun. (Adventure. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-It seemed a legitimate proposal to Charlie: help NASA recover stolen moon rocks. What geek wouldn't want to help NASA? Even the adults were convinced by Anastasia Federov, a former student of Charlie's absent-minded professor father, to allow Charlie and his team of friends, known as the Whiz Kids, to travel for a supposed paper airplane aerodynamics competition in Washington, DC. The rocket company sponsoring the competition is suspected of stealing the moon rocks, and Anastasia wants Charlie and his team to scope them out. But as Charlie and the Whiz Kids get up to speed on paper airplanes, Anastasia and her scary associate, Mr. Porter, start leaning on Charlie to break into the owner's private office and the company lab to look for the stolen items. Now Charlie really is flying by the seat of his pants, using his affinity for numbers to rapidly calculate speed, trajectory, and lift to figure out a way to save himself, his team, their reputation, and

the moon rocks from Anastasia and her nefarious plans. There may be just a touch too much science exposition in this follow-up to *Bringing Down the Mouse*, but it is always interesting and the action never stops for long. VERDICT Another rollicking adventure with Charlie and his friends that will delight followers and fans of heist novels like James Ponti's *Framed* and Varian -Johnson's *The Great Greene Heist*.-Gretchen Crowley, formerly at Alexandria City Public Libraries, VA Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1777839 (Vol. 01) Bringing Down the Mouse (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ben Mezrich

Recruited for his exceptional math prowess by a group of kids who want to use their collective skills to rig the game system at the world's biggest theme park, Charlie is caught up in the thrill of the effort before he is overcome by doubts about the risks they are taking.

978-1-4424-9626-2 ©2014 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.1 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 8.4 Lexile 1100

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Book Page What happens when a group of middle school geniuses trains for months to win a special contest at a Disney World-style Florida theme park called Incredoland? That's the premise of *Bringing Down the Mouse*, a page-turning caper whose hero is sixth-grader Charlie Lewis, known as "Numbers," the nerdy son of an MIT professor dad and a mom with two Ph.D.s.

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Charlie is a genius at math and a whiz at probability. So he has a good idea what to expect from sixth grade at Nagassack Middle School: verbal humiliation and physical intimidation to go along with his good grades. He already has a semi-derogatory nickname, Numbers, and he and his friends at the genius table in the cafeteria get called the Dork Brigade or Nerd Herd. He was not expecting a couple of cool older kids to recruit him into a supersmart gang that meets in secret to practice beating carnival games. Who would? Mezrich is the Harvard-educated author of the adult book *Bringing Down the House* (2002), about six MIT students who took their card-counting skills to Las Vegas and cleaned up. This age-adjusted version takes Charlie and his coconspirators to a Disneyland-esque theme park, where they are manipulated by their mentor into beating a game with a substantial payout. Mezrich addresses themes of loyalty and honesty while keeping the action tight and the dialogue snappy. Unexpectedly engrossing. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2014, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Math, chemistry and a little physics look to defeat midway games at a Florida theme park. Pleased to be asked to join a group of smart, interesting kids to work on a secret project, sixth-grader Charlie "Numbers" Lewis goes along with a plan to win a contest at Incredoland. Thriller-writer Mezrich brings themes he's used in popular adult titles including *Bringing Down the House* (2002) to his first middle-grade foray. Charlie has a perfectly good group of long-time friends, known as the Geek Squad (or Dork Brigade, or Nerd Herd...), whom he nearly abandons in favor of the Carnival Killers, led by two supercool seventh graders and a beautiful teacher's aide. He spends all his free time practicing midway gaming skills and thinking about defeating the Wheel of Wonder so that when he and best friend Jeremy go on the class trip, he can win the park's annual contest. Oddly, his friends don't mind; when Charlie needs them, they step up to make his final triumph possible. The author's breathless writing leans heavily on telling rather than showing. The middle school bullies are overdrawn, and the quirkiness of Charlie's friends is exaggerated. There's more sensation than substance in this page-turner. Fast-paced and full of behind-the-scenes detail, this will be an easy sell to readers not too picky about their prose. (Thriller. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2014) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

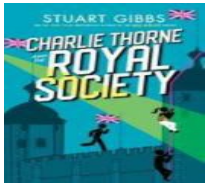
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-Charlie sees everything in terms of mathematical equations, which has earned him the nickname Numbers. He hangs out with the Whiz Kids until the day he is invited to join a secret gang, the Carnival Killers, a group of clever middle schoolers led by a mysterious college kid. They plan on using math and physics to perpetrate a scheme to scam the scammers, those infamous carnival games that no one can ever win. But as Charlie gets pulled into the plan and begins to apply his logical and mathematical intellect to the games, something just doesn't quite add up. The pacing is well developed, building tension to almost a fever pitch as the Carnival Killers perfect their skills and arrive at Incredoland to take on the biggest scam of all. The mystery of who is truly behind the schemes adds another dimension to the adventure. The plot has several unexpected and well-placed twists, and keeps readers guessing until the very end. A good fit for fans of Gordon Korman's "Swindle" series (Scholastic, 2008).-Gretchen Crowley, Alexandria City Public Libraries, VA (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Charlie Thorne (Prebound)

#2374602 (Vol. 04) Charlie Thorne and the Royal Society (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stuart Gibbs

Charlie Thorne is used to being on the run. Ever since she was recruited by the CIA to track down Einstein's most dangerous equation, Charlie-and former CIA agents Dante

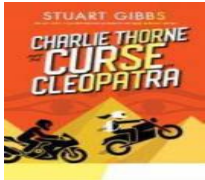
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



Garcia and Milana Moon-have traveled around the world to prevent history's greatest discoveries from falling into the wrong hands. But after beating others to the secrets hidden by Einstein, Darwin, and Cleopatra, they find they are not the only ones searching for an immensely powerful discovery of Isaac Newton's.

978-1-6659-3489-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Charlie Thorne (Trade)



#2281059 (Vol. 03) Charlie Thorne and the Curse of Cleopatra (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stuart Gibbs

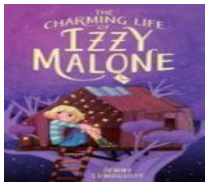
After tracking down incredible discoveries by Einstein and Darwin, Charlie is back. This time, the great ruler Cleopatra has left behind an extremely valuable and powerful treasure, its location encoded on an ancient stone tablet. In a breathless adventure that takes her across the globe, Charlie must fight for her life against ruthless enemies, match wits with Cleopatra, and solve the two-thousand-year-old mystery to prevent the most powerful treasure of the ancient world from falling into the wrong hands.

978-1-5344-9934-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.4 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 880

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews How better to celebrate a 13th birthday than by following clues to a priceless treasure hidden for more than 2,000 years while being hotly pursued by armed thugs and Black Ops units? Still by far the smartest person in every room she enters, Charlie continues her quest to track down the world's greatest treasures while keeping herself and the fantastically dangerous formula only she knows out of the hands of an increasing number of intelligence agencies and other bad actors. A bit of ancient steganography sends her, with her half brother, Dante, and his partner, Milana, both CIA agents, from Giza to the Acropolis, the Roman Forum and then the Metropolitan Museum of Art--for, at each stop, a new clue or artifact paired to heavy infodumps about the locale's historical and archaeological highlights. Not to mention one or more ambushes with, occasionally, gunfire, one or more high-speed chases (including one in a chariot, which is at least different), and chances for Charlie's overachieving sidekicks each to take out entire squads of gunmen sent by the Israeli Mossad, the Egyptian Mukhabarat, an Egyptian billionaire, and even the CIA. The prize turns out to be worth the kerfuffle, but even though this is only the third episode, the plot is all manufactured action strung together with mechanical predictability. The characterizations are equally facile. Multiracial Charlie is described as having globally diverse racial origins. Rattles along to thrill-a-minute tracks, but the series shows signs of losing steam. (Action adventure. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Charming Life of Izzy Malone (Trade)



#1985270 (Vol. 01) Charming Life of Izzy Malone (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jenny Lundquist

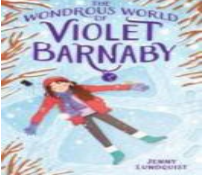
Izzy Malone, a spunky girl who wants to be part of an elite rowing club, must first attend a very unique charm school.

978-1-4814-6032-3 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 750


Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Izzy feels like a sore thumb in a room full of pinkies. She's a spirited girl who wants to be a part of the competitive after-school rowing team, the Dandelion Paddlers, but is best known as "Toad Girl" by her classmates. She describes herself as the "kid in class that everyone secretly (and not-so-secretly) thinks is weird." She lives with her older sister (a musical prodigy who gets more than her fair share of attention), her mom (who is running for mayor), her father (who is the town's police chief), her grandma, and her great-aunt. Her parents enroll her in Mrs. Whippie's Earn Your Charm School, where she learns about manners while being prompted to do her best and is

rewarded with charms for a bracelet. This contemporary realistic novel is told in the first person, and readers will root for Izzy. VERDICT A well-executed and fun school romp. Hand this to middle grade readers looking for light and entertaining fare.—Helen Foster James, University of California at San Diego Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2017757 (Vol. 02) Wondrous World of Violet Barnaby (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jenny Lundquist</i> Violet is dealing with the loss of her mom and trying to handle her new blended family, with the added awkwardness of having one of her teachers as her stepmom. 978-1-4814-6035-4 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 740	1	\$17.99


Children of the Black Glass (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2315289 (Vol. 01) Children of the Black Glass (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Anthony Peckham</i> In an unkind alternate past, somewhere between the Stone Age and a Metal Age, Tell and his sister Wren live in a small mountain village that makes its living off black glass mines and runs on brutal laws. When their father is blinded in a mining accident, the law dictates he has thirty days to regain his sight and be capable of working at the same level as before or be put to death. 978-1-6659-1313-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist As dark and flinty as shards of the titular obsidian used here both for weapons and for magic, this debut fantasy takes two children raised in an isolated, impoverished mountain community of glass miners down the slopes to Halfway—a sprawling town of ruthless traders and dangerous, enigmatic sorcerers—to be attacked, robbed, and swept up in a violent civil conflict. Though Peckham gives 14-year-old Tell and his younger sister, Wren, new city friends and a cantankerous donkey as appealing allies, it's their shared toughness of mind and well-honed abilities to think and work together that get them through challenges ranging from finding a way to free the captured and enslaved men of their village to coping with the shattering discovery that their own absent and presumed dead mother had readily abandoned them to chip out a new life for herself. The harsh tone and brutal twists will leave readers in a sober frame, but the tale, which ends with a promise of further episodes, features embedded glints of loyalty, courage, and friendship to lighten the load.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Greed, magic, and prejudice fuel political machinations in screenwriter Peckham's thinly built fantasy debut. Furious 14-year-old Tell and cheerful 12-year-old Wren belong to the People of the Black Glass, so named for the vein that burrows through the mountain on which their remote village is perched. Things grow dire when the siblings' father is blinded in his remaining eye while carving out a slab of the valuable material, which is mined as the community's sole income source. Their father is given 30 days to heal, after which he'll be sent up the glacier to die and the children will live with other families. Given the thin sheet of "sorcerer's glass" by his father, Tell undertakes the perilous trek to the city of Halfway, accompanied by Wren and faithful mule Rumble; there, they plan to sell the glass to the most powerful and wealthy sorcerer they can find. But the duo soon encounters a secret, bloody coup that threatens to rend Halfway and endanger their people, and must form a shaky alliance to help them navigate a hostile city. Surface-level characterization mires observations on class, intergenerational trauma, and wealth disparity in this brutal, plot-heavy adventure. Characters default to white. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Jodi Reamer, Writers House. (Mar.)

Children of the Flying City (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2268319 (Vol. 01) Children of the Flying City (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jason Sheehan</i> Taken in the night and delivered to the flying city of Highgate when he was a small child, Milo Quick has never known another home. War is coming to Highgate. As a massive armada surrounds the city, a small ship, the Halcyon, slips through the blockade. Led by a charismatic captain, the unconventional crew of the Halcyon has come to collect Milo for a bounty. But they too are being watched.	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 In this action-packed steampunk fantasy, Milo Quick, 13 and an orphan, lives in the flying city of Highgate. He gets by with the help of his close friends, Jules and Dagda, and by engaging in some less-than-lawful pursuits. Complicating his already dangerous life is the fact that Highgate is full of locked doors and dark secrets, one of which could start a war if discovered. When a massive armada emerges and surrounds the city, the small spaceship Halcyon manages to get past it with a more personal mission--capture Milo. Milo and his friends endeavor to stay safe, while coming to realize that their city is not the place they once thought. Sheehan crafts a richly detailed world and uses multiple points of view to relate the narrative, keeping the characters central to the high-stakes plot. Following in the tradition of Kenneth Oppel's *Airborn* (2004) and Philip Reeve's *Fever Crumb* (2010), this fantasy, full of lessons about close friendships and the power of fighting for what's right, will hook readers seeking adventure. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews As fleets of hostile warships gather over a floating city, a young thief finds himself the object of an urgent manhunt. Readers can be excused for coming away bewildered by Sheehan's competing storylines, disconnected events, genre-bending revelations, and refusal to fit any of the major players in the all-White-presenting cast consistently into the roles of villain, ally, or even protagonist. Continually shifting through points of view and annoyingly punctuated with an omniscient narrator's portentous commentary, the tale centers on the exploits of 12-year-old street urchin Milo Quick and his squad of juvenile ragamuffins (seemingly juvenile at any rate; one is eventually revealed to be something else entirely) in an aerial city of Dickensian squalor threatened by a multinational flying armada. Though a lot of people are after Milo, ranging from the swashbuckling crew of a flying privateer hired (ostensibly) to kidnap him and a vengeful punk bent on bloody murder to a sinister truant officer paid lavishly by mysterious parties to watch over him, he ultimately winds up--or so it seems--being no more than a red herring all along. The actual target is revealed piecemeal in conversations and flashbacks before the commencement of a climactic bombardment and an abrupt cutoff in which three side characters, miraculously shrugging off multiple knife and bullet wounds, themselves suddenly take center stage to set up a sequel. A few promising, even brilliant bits are lost in an ill-constructed jumble of warring plotlines and ambiguous agendas. (Science fiction. 11-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In his children's debut, Sheehan (*Cooking Dirty*, for adults) offers up an absorbing, action-packed series opener centering deeply resourceful child protagonists. When he was five, Milo Quick was taken from his father, and then handed to "a different man and a different man after that," until "escaping became his vocation." Now almost 13, the presumed-white boy survives on the treacherous streets of congested Flying City Highgate. Part of a gang of child thieves; along with protective, red-haired Jules and pale-skinned, quiet Dagda, who has facial scars; Milo enjoys "all the great and sweeping joys that came from being a child left alone." When a blockade of airships and waterships creates a growing stranglehold on the city, multiple factions home in on Milo as a person of interest: the cruel Total King of Highgate's thieves demands increased tithes from Milo's gang, and the pirates of the airship Halcyon seek to steal him away. As Milo and his friends struggle to stay alive in the increasingly dangerous city, events quickly spiral out of control, revealing Milo's true purpose. An arch, omniscient narrative; by turns brutal and sweet; unspools into an ambitious, wide-ranging story of survival and loyalty set in a vividly described locale reminiscent of Victorian London. Ages 10: up. Agent: David Dunton, Harvey Klinger. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—There is a boy and he is quick, so quick he can escape the police as he thieves, so quick that he has named himself Milo Quick though that is not his name. There is a girl, if she can be called that. She is called Mouse, but her name is Dagda. She, like Milo, is pale skinned and dark haired, but a killing machine, 12 years old for hundreds of years. She is wanted by the Armada that is moving airships to surround the Flying City where they live. He is wanted by a suspicious group of people led by The Captain who are risking their lives for the money to extract him. Milo is also being watched by the dreaded Sandman, while Dagda is being repaired by a toymaker who does not have the skills or tools as the city is crumbling, and losing its knowledge of technology. Can they escape before they are killed? Will the only home they have known be destroyed? This steampunk world feels both fantastical and based in a reality of time past, focusing on children who live on the streets and create communities without adult supervision. It feels shabby and harsh with rotten teeth and greasy hair galore (although not much diversity in appearances), yet readers will want to visit because there is something magical about the place. The narrative style is unique but feels inconsistent, at times breaking the fourth wall to talk directly to readers and trying to create a tone not unlike that in "A Series of Unfortunate Events." The point of view bounces around to a different character with each short chapter, some of them playing bit parts in the story. This narration style creates a barrier and prevents deeper emotional connection to the story. This book ends on a true cliffhanger, with everyone hanging in a balance. VERDICT A great example of dystopian steampunk for middle graders, but some might find the narrative voice and style an obstacle. —Clare A. Dombrowski

Chloe by Design (Stone Arch Books)

	Quantity	Unit Price
#1776645 (Vol. 02) First Cut (Library Binding) <i>written by Margaret Gurevich</i> There are still two rounds of auditions to go if Chloe wants to earn a spot on her favorite reality fashion show, and each one is more challenging than the next. 978-1-4342-9178-3 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.	1	\$19.49



Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# FIC AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl V Lexile 780



#177664 (Vol. 03) Unraveling (Library Binding)

written by Margaret Gurevich

Chloe arrives in New York and the competition the competition gets under way.

978-1-4342-9179-0 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# FIC AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl W Lexile 770

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49



#177646 (Vol. 04) Design Destiny (Library Binding)

written by Margaret Gurevich

Does Chloe have what it takes to make it to the top and win the internship of her dreams in the final challenge?

978-1-4342-9180-6 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# FIC AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl V Lexile 770

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49



#1933474 (Vol. 07) Runway Rundown (Library Binding)

written by Margaret Gurevich

The pressure and responsibilities mount for Chloe as the countdown to New York Fashion week begins and she returns to Teen Design Diva as a guest judge.

978-1-4965-0506-4 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl W Lexile 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49



#1933472 Fashion Week Finale (Library Binding)

written by Margaret Gurevich

Will Chloe's fashion dreams continue or does New York Fashion Week mark the last of Chloe Montgomery, fashion designer?

978-1-4965-0507-1 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl W Lexile 720

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49



#1971830 Back to Basics (Library Binding)

written by Margaret Gurevich

When Chloe returns home from her internship in New York City, she starts to realize that settling back into her old life might be harder than she thought. While she was learning the ins and outs of the fashion industry, her friends were getting ready for senior year and all that goes along with it including college applications. As much as she tries to fall into her old routine, Chloe can't help feeling left out and left behind.

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49

She knows she wants to be a designer, but deciding on a fashion school is another story. Ane when she agrees to design dresses for Winter Formal, the pressure grows even more intense. Can Chloe handle the stress of senior year?

978-1-4965-3261-9 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 760



#1971829 All or Nothing (Library Binding)
written by Margaret Gurevich

Senior year is full of surprises as Chloe finds herself becoming friends with Nina LeFleur her formal rival as they work together to design dresses for Winter Formal and complete their fashion portfolios before the application deadlines. But as Chloe grows closer to Nina, her relationship with her best friend Alex start to suffer. And when Chloe heads back to New York to visit colleges, Alex grows even more distant. With school and personal pressure mounting, Chloe can't help but wonder if it's possible to balance her relationships and her responsibilities.

978-1-4965-3263-3 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 690

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.49



#1971825 Final Cut (Library Binding)
written by Margaret Gurevich

It's getting down to the wire on more than one of Chloe's senior year responsibilities. Portfolio and application deadlines are around the corner, as is Winter Formal, and Chloe has a big decision ahead of her New York or LA? With pros and cons for both locations, it's up to Chloe to make the final choice and decide where her future lies.

978-1-4965-3264-0 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 640

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.49

Chloe by Design (Trade)



#1934178 Chloe by Design: Balancing Act (Hardcover (POB))
written by Margaret Gurevich

16-year-old Chloe Montgomery beat out the competition to win Teen Design Diva, but she already has another challenge to face - tackling her internship. After winning the first season of the fashion reality show, Chloe is ready to start her job with a famous designer, Stefan Meyers, in New York City. But with an old crush and new challenges to contend with, Chloe discovers that fast-paced fashion industry isn't for the faint of heart. Will she be able to make it work, or will the balancing act prove to be too much for this budding designer?

978-1-62370-258-8 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 96 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.95

Reviews by: Booklist This entry into the Chloe by Design series follows the 16-year-old as she preps for Fashion Week while also facing decisions about her personal life: male friendship versus romance, and how to deal with the competing personalities found in dorm living. All of these challenges help her gain insight into her strengths and weaknesses, as well as her ultimate career direction. Gurevich and illustrator Hagel have found a sure-fire formula: describe the world of teen fashion while illustrating Chloe's own outfits and design sketches in colored pencil. Another strong choice for young teens fascinated with Project Runway and all of its associated drama.--Bradburn, Frances Copyright 2015 Booklist



#2023324 Chloe by Design: Measuring Up (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Margaret Gurevich

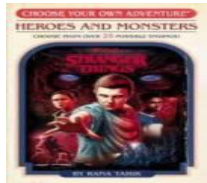
Senior year is full of surprises when Chloe returns home from her internship in New York City. While she was learning the ins and outs of the fashion industry, her friends were getting ready for senior year. Settling back into her old life proves to be harder than Chloe thought. As much as she tries to fall into her old routine, she can't help feeling left out and left behind. Chloe is ready to realize her dream of being a designer, but deciding on a fashion school is another story -- especially when that means deciding between California or New York. And when she agrees to design dresses for Winter Formal, the pressure grows even more intense. Can Chloe handle the stress of senior year and figure out what her future holds?

978-1-62370-915-0 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$9.95

Choose Your Own Adventure (Prebound / Random House)



#2325281 Stranger Things: Heroes and Monsters (Prebound)

written by Rana Tahir

In Netflix's Stranger Things, a group of young friends explore supernatural forces and secret government exploits in Hawkins, Indiana, in the 1980s. As they search for answers, the children embark on incredible adventures and unravel extraordinary mysteries.

978-1-5364-7914-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$24.95

Chronicles of G.A.I.A. (Trade)



#2349385 (Vol. 01) Future Hack (Hardcover (POB))

written by Dana Klisanin

Twelve-year-old Lexa Andromeda loves all things futuristic. But she's about to discover that sci-fi isn't just the stuff of stories. When she loses her beloved dog and turns to pranking, she's sent to Thistleton Academy, a boarding school for Highly Creatives. That's when things get strange. She's contacted by Norbu, a boy from the future who works for G.A.I.A. a global think tank determined to change the course of history. They need Lexa's help to prevent a mass extinction event and Thistleton Academy is at the center of it all. With the help of her friends, a high-tech wearable, and a holographic cat, Lexa sets off on a journey that will test everything she thought she knew and leave you inspired, captivated, and pondering life's biggest mysteries.

978-1-938447-61-7 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A grieving tween is tasked with stopping a fatal cataclysm in Klisanin's earnest debut. To cope with the loss of her dog Zara, whom she felt was her soulmate, white-presenting seventh grader Alexandra Andromeda throws herself into pranking. When a stunt goes too far, she's sent to Thistleton Academy for Highly Creatives, an environmentally focused boarding school where her own parents met years ago. As she contends with frequent discipline for her continued antics, Lexa is stalked by a ghostly boy of a blue hue who reveals that he's from the future; and warns her that Thistleton is the source of an imminent mass extinction event that she must prevent. With the aid of an intersectionally diverse group of friends, Lexa must work to find a way to not only escape Thistleton but also save the world. Cartoonish villainy and a standard boarding school setting weigh down a conveniently plotted storyline. Still, Lexa's grief over Zara's death is palpable, and messaging around the importance of environmental education and individual activism are heartening. Eerie and atmospheric grayscale art by illustrators Klisanin and Xu features throughout. Ages 9: 12. (Oct.)

Chronicles of Never After (Trade)



#2357180 (Vol. 04) Missing Sword (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Melissa De la Cruz

To save her mother from Olga's clutches, Filomena and her friends set off for new adventures in the legendary land of Camelot. There they must find the sword of Excalibur—the only thing that can save Fil's mother from a mysterious illness. But there's mischief afoot in Camelot. Fil and the crew soon realize there is another familiar story wreaking havoc in the land . . . that of the Wizard of Oz! With the help (and hindrance) of the Wicked Witches of the East and West, lions and tigers and bears will be the least of Fil and the crew's troubles . . .

978-1-250-86629-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2307366 (Vol. 03) Broken Mirror (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Melissa De la Cruz

The Never After crew is back for another twisted adventure. This time, they're off to Snow Country—that is, after they rescue the beleaguered Lord Sharif of Nottingham from the evil Robin Hood, who has been plaguing the land with his thievery and mischief. But Robin's antics aren't the only dangers afoot in the Kingdom of Never After.

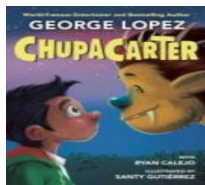
978-1-250-82725-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Filomena, Jack, Alistair, Beatrice, Byron Bessley, and Gretel have a whole new set of trials before them. Heading for Snow Country to save Never After from the fate of the ogres and King Richard, the group of six knows it's a race against time before the kingdom is lost to evil. Not only is Never After threatened, but so is Filomena's adoptive mother's health in Pasadena. After being sidetracked by the wily Robin Hood, the team arrives at Princess Jeanne's castle where they learn her crown has been stolen and she can't be crowned. To add to that, the evil Queen Olga is at it again, turning Prince Charming into a frog and even crossing into the mortal world. On the search for the League of Seven, who can save the kingdom, Filomena and her friends make an unlikely discovery. **VERDICT** An engaging third book to the "Never After" series; de la Cruz is sure to delight fans of this fractured fairy tale.

ChupaCarter (Trade)



#2286835 (Vol. 01) ChupaCarter (Hardcover (Trade))

written by George Lopez

In this illustrated contemporary fantasy, twelve-year-old Jorge is lonely and resentful after being sent to live with his grandparents. His first day at his new school doesn't go well after catching the attention of his belligerent principal and the school bullies, so Jorge might be a little desperate for a friend. But the only kid who shares his interest in junk food and games turns out to be a young chupacabra—a legendary monster whose kind is known for being bloodthirsty livestock killers.

978-0-593-46597-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 730

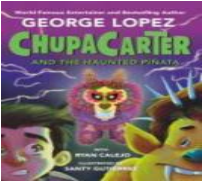
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ng secret friend understandably complicates 12-year-old Jorge's life. To kick off their middle-grade series, celebrity comedian Lopez and his co-author Calejo send young Chicano Angeleno Jorge Lopez to his abuelos in remotest New Mexico—where, as if being threatened by his new school's deranged White principal in an office festooned with animal trophies isn't scary enough, he stumbles on a toothy and terrifying monster in the local woods. Carter, as the cryptid introduces himself, turns out to be just a lonely young chupacabra separated from his family and hiding out from both human hunters and also a questing pack of vicious vampire dogs called dips. In a narrative punctuated with wisecracks and flavored with Spanish phrases and slang, Jorge's struggles with his own tendency to respond smartly to taunts and bullying parallel strenuous efforts to keep his new friend's existence secret. His failure at both (though by the end he does seem a little better at impulse control)

drives a plot laden with both comical situations and hair-raising brushes with death...including no less than two near misses for Jorge from the aforementioned school official. By the end, though, Carter has been bundled off to safety in Mexico, and Jorge has two staunch allies at school in vegan activist Liza, who reads as Black, and Ernie, identified as Native American. Dialogue and punchlines spill over into Gutiérrez's droll illustrations. Frights and fun in equal measure. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

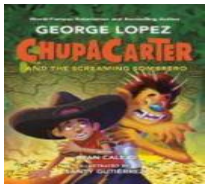
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After getting into trouble one too many times, sarcastic ("Your smart mouth just bought you a one-way ticket to detention," his previous principal used to say) Chicano Jorge Lopez, 12, is sent to live with his abuelos in a "dusty, deserted, desert-y armpit of a town in the middle of Nowheresville, New Mexico." He doesn't love anything about his new life, especially not his "snooty-falooty private school" or his white, bombastic, hunting-enthusiast principal, until he befriends woods-dwelling chupacabra Carter, a blood-drinking humanoid creature. Carter has been hiding from mortal hunters and folkloric vampire dogs after being separated from his family, and Jorge promises to keep him safe. But as the hunters close in on the duo, Jorge enlists two of his classmates; Star Trek fan Ernie, who is Native American, and Black, vegan, "uber smart" Liza; to get Carter to safety. Gutiérrez's (The Garden Plot) lively b&w illustrations expertly render Jorge and Carter's occasionally over-the-top, adrenaline-filled adventures. Actor/comedian Lopez and Calejo (the Charlie Hernandez series) offer a rollicking tale brimming with Latinx folklore and culture about finding one's home in the unlikeliest of places that never takes itself too seriously. Ages 8: 12. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Readers meet Jorge while he is sitting on his roof, stewing over how his mom sent him to live with his grandparents in New Mexico. Jorge is not looking forward to starting a new school, and his first day does not go well after he tries to help another student but finds himself on the wrong side of the principal. Later that day, Jorge ends up saving a chupacabra, Carter, from the principal after Carter saves him from almost being hit by the principal's car. The two become fast friends. Jorge gets Carter blood (chupacabras are mythical creatures known for killing livestock) and they talk about their lives. Jorge also befriends two kids at school, Liza and Ernie, and introduces them to Carter. Carter eventually has to leave because there are real monsters and principal hunting for him. This novel has humorous moments. Jorge is a kid who tends to act before he thinks, which is how he ends up living with his grandparents. He has trouble taking responsibility for his actions but is shown to have a good heart when he speaks up for Ernie and helps Carter. Jorge and his friends do not sound like typical kids, using dated vocabulary (chillax, dweeb). Jorge is fleshed out a little by the end, but most of the characters are superficial. While there is some good and gross humor, the language is a little more advanced than one would expect, which may make some scenes not land as well as they should. There are also some dated references such as Speedy Gonzales and Caspar the Friendly Ghost that intended readers might not get. VERDICT While there are funny moments in this fantasy-infused tale, this is an additional purchase.--Michelle Lettus Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2324316 (Vol. 02) ChupaCarter and the Haunted Pinata (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by George Lopez</i> In this hilarious follow-up to ChupaCarter, world-famous entertainer George Lopez delivers a spooky tale of mystery and revenge starring Carter, the fearsome but friendly chupacabra! 978-0-593-46600-1 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770</p>	1	\$17.99


Reviews by: Booklist Comedian Lopez teams up with award-winning Calejo (the Charlie Hernandez series) in their second installment in the ChupaCarter series. Native Californian Jorge Lopez is finally feeling grounded in his new home of Boca Falls, New Mexico, and the company of best friends Ernie, Liza, and Carter (the chupacabra). Those happy feelings are quickly upended when mysterious fires and sightings of a haunted piñata materialize. Believing these events to be the works of the Blackbriar curse, which occurs every six years, the townspeople are on edge. Things only get worse when Liza's father's butcher shop goes up in flames. Convinced that an arsonist is afoot, Jorge and the gang decide to investigate this unnerving urban legend before their friendship falls victim to it. Lopez and Calejo have created another exciting adventure for young readers that is sprinkled with Spanish words and phrases. The humor in the story is elevated by Gutiérrez's artwork. A great reminder that you can count on your friends to help save the day.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A rash of mysterious fires sets Jorge and his amigos on the trail of an evil arsonist...or maybe a vengeful ghost. Being as his best friend, Carter, is the 7-foot tall, wolflike cryptid met in the series opener--and now just back in town--Jorge Lopez has trouble dismissing a scary old local legend about an evil incendiary piñata possessed by the ghost of a despised rich kid. Still, since the grown-ups in Boca Falls seem oddly uninterested in finding out who, human or otherwise, is burning down local businesses, Jorge nervously enlists his fanged but friendly buddy to join science-minded classmate Liza in an investigation that quickly turns up a positively bountiful array of clues and suspects. Seasoning the eponymous narrator's account with Spanish words, including flavorful Chicano slang, Lopez and Calejo alternate chuckles and chills as the young detectives struggle with their fears, fend off prankster "bully-jerk" Zane, puzzle over the significance of seemingly contradictory findings, and, in the wake of a string of (as Jorge puts it) "übercreepy" incidents and narrow squeaks, wind up stuck in a ruinous old mansion with an entire gang of crazed villains eager to explain their motives before setting one final, deadly blaze. Gutiérrez's frequent monochrome illustrations feature both a racially diverse cast and action and dialogue that segue smoothly into the narrative, offering the feeling of a graphic novel-prose hybrid format. A fresh, lively escapade with lots of übercreepy bits. ¡Órale! (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

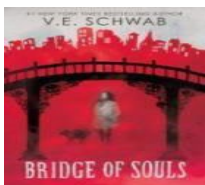
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2368478 (Vol. 03) ChupaCarter and the Screaming Sombrero (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by George Lopez</i> A cursed Aztec dagger. A five-hundred-year-old witch's riddle. And a... screaming sombrero? These are the ancient artifacts that mysteriously hold the answer to the location of the priceless El Dorado treasure hidden in New Mexico-not far from where Jorge and Carter live. When their friend Ernie's dad is accused of stealing the artifacts, it's a race against time to clear his name. 978-0-593-46603-2 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A museum heist and a mouthy talking hat put Jorge and sus amigos, including the cryptid one, on the trail to a fabled treasure in this third series entry. Legend has it that a witch left three cursed artifacts behind as clues to the location of her stolen riches. When mysterious thieves take two, and the third (a sombrero) winds up on Jorge's head, it's time for him and his fanged, nacho-loving chupacabra buddy, Carter, to enlist the help of human friends. Ernie and Liza once again join up for a round of serious sleuthing. As it turns out, the sombrero—which has a startling habit of bursting into screams, when it's not making rude comments about the size of Jorge's cabeza—knows more about the treasure than it's telling. For one, the most valuable thing isn't the glittering trove they seek but the young investigators' friendships, which are tested but ultimately prove true. As in earlier episodes, the mood turns occasionally serious (such as when the tweens see Ernie's dad arrested as a suspect in the robbery). But the tale plays mostly as a Chicano-flavored comedy related in jaunty prose interspersed with pictures that add punchlines (and even major incidents) in a mix of single and sequential panels. Notwithstanding a cave-in, a corrosive subterranean lake, and other thrillingly dangerous hazards, none of the characters, not even the burglars, wind up seriously harmed. Final art not seen. Message-driven but well stocked with chills and chuckles. (Fantasy. 8-12)

Circus Mirandus (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2181616 (Vol. 02) Bootlace Magician (Large Print) (Large Print Library Binding (Trade)) <i>written by Cassie Beasley</i> Everything seems relatively peaceful and calm until Micah's grandmother, Victoria, The Bird Woman, begins to seriously threaten the future of Micah's new home. Worst of all, it's looking like she might be successful in her evil mission to destroy the circus, especially since she has nothing to lose. 978-1-4328-7837-5 ©2020 1 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 14.0 Lexile 770</p>	1	\$24.99

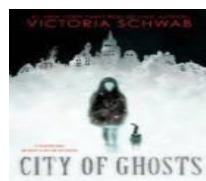
City of Ghosts (Prebound)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2292865 (Vol. 03) Bridge of Souls (Prebound) <i>written by V. E. Schwab</i> Where there are ghosts, Cassidy Blake follows . . . Unless it's the other way around? Cass thinks she might have this ghost-hunting thing down. After all, she and her ghost best friend, Jacob, have survived two haunted cities while traveling for her parents' TV show. 978-1-5364-7576-0 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 336 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 740</p>	1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Cassidy Blake has encountered spirits before. She's met ghosts in Edinburgh and poltergeists in Paris, and now she's in New Orleans, city of beignets, jazz funerals, and 42 cemeteries, where her parents are filming the third episode of their paranormal investigation program. It's not long before Cassidy, an in-between who has escaped death and as a result can interact with the dead, catches the unwanted

attention of an Emissary. This terrifying creature is unlike any spook Cassidy has ever dealt with; its job is to bring those who have defied death to the other side--those like 12-year-old Cassidy. In order to defeat the Emissary, Cassidy will lose something--or someone--no matter the path she chooses. Not knowing which road to follow is frightening, but the scariest thing of all is not knowing how this ends. Armed with her spirit-guiding pendant and accompanied by ghost Jacob Hale (whose foothold in the living world seems to be strengthening) and Scottish friend and fellow in-betweener Lara Chowdhury, Cassidy charges ahead. Intensely curious and furiously independent Cassidy must learn to proceed with caution and know when to ask for help. Her first-person narration is often interrupted by sarcastic Jacob, who can hear her thoughts, a narrative device that adds levity to the scares. The conclusion leaves the door open for another adventure. Cassidy is assumed White; there is diversity in the supporting cast. Another strong entry in a series offering thrills and chills. (Paranormal adventure. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--In the third installment of Schwab's "City of Ghosts" series, 12-year-old Cassidy Blake finds herself in arguably the most haunted city in the world, New Orleans. In the previous book, Cassie and her parents visited Paris to film their ghost-hunting show, The Inspectors, where she attracted the attention of a poltergeist and ran into a mysterious and terrifying skull-faced being. When Cassie enters the Veil during a tour of New Orleans cemeteries with her parents, she discovers that the skull-creature in black was not a figment of her imagination and it has followed her across the Atlantic. Cassie and Jacob must team up again with Lara, Cassie's in-betweener friend from Scotland, to locate a secret society that might know how to banish the monster stalking her. This is a solid entry in the series and builds upon the already established world rules. It explores the meaning of friendship while it introduces readers to new locations and their history, allowing them to tag along for a spookily exciting adventure. VERDICT Purchase where magical realism adventures and previous books in the series are popular. --Sara Brunkhorst, Glenview P.L., IL Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2118207 (Vol. 01) City of Ghosts (Prebound)

written by Victoria Schwab

Ever since Cass almost drowned (okay, she did drown, but she doesn't like to think about it), she can pull back the Veil that separates the living from the dead... and enter the world of spirits. Her best friend is even a ghost.

978-1-5364-5848-0 ©2019 5 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Unbeknownst to her parents, who write books about ghosts but have never seen one, 12-year-old Cassidy Blake has paranormal abilities: ever since she almost drowned, she's been able to visit the spirit realm. She is best friends with Jacob, the apparition who saved her life, and whenever she encounters a phantom, she feels compelled to "cross the veil." Constant specter activity exhausts Cassidy, so she is dismayed to learn that her family is headed for Edinburgh to film a haunted cities television show. There, Cassidy meets Lara Jayne Chowdhury, a girl with similar skills. Jacob doesn't trust Lara, but Cassidy thinks the self-proclaimed ghost hunter could shed light on her own abilities and prove useful; particularly after they attract the attention of a malevolent specter. This atmospheric ghost story from Schwab (the Monsters of Verity duology) chills and charms while challenging readers to face their fears. Courageous, quick-witted Cassidy inspires, her relationship with Jacob is tender, and the thrilling conclusion is sure to gratify. Ages 8--12. Agent: Holly Root, Root Literary. (Aug.)

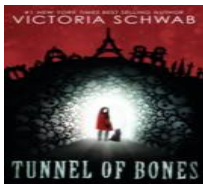
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-Cassidy is looking forward to a mostly ghost-free summer vacation when her parents, paranormal history authors, break the news that, instead of a summer at the shore, their family will be traveling to Edinburgh to investigate the most haunted places in Scotland. This trip of a lifetime is exciting but also scary for Cassidy, who has the power to cross "the Veil" and see ghosts ever since her brush with death. Thankfully, her best friend, a ghost named Jacob, comes along for the trip and helps her navigate the haunted streets of Edinburgh. Cass encounters some scary haunts and is forced to reckon with the strongest ghost she has ever met, all while learning the true purpose of her powers. Schwab paints an eerie portrait of haunted locales and her descriptions of the various ghosts and their terrible ends will send shivers down even the bravest readers' spines. She also portrays modern Edinburgh with accuracy, and readers will be eager to look up pictures of the medieval castle looming over modern streets. The story moves quickly, and children will be intrigued enough to keep reading even in light of the terrifying events. VERDICT This fast-paced, spooky ghost story filled with international adventure is sure to please horror enthusiasts and armchair travelers.-Ellen Conlin, Naperville Public Library, IL Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

#2178168 (Vol. 02) Tunnel of Bones (Prebound)

written by Victoria Schwab

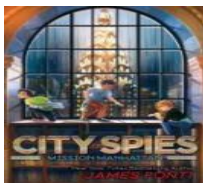
When Cass accidentally awakens a frighteningly strong spirit, she must rely on her still-growing skills as a ghosthunter -- and turn to friends both old and new to help her unravel a mystery. But time is running out, and the spirit is only growing stronger.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95



978-1-5364-6522-8 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 710

City Spies (Trade)



#2365427 (Vol. 05) Mission Manhattan (Hardcover (Trade))
written by James Ponti
 The City Spies head to the Big Apple when a credible threat is made to a young climate activist who is scheduled to speak in front of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.
 978-1-6659-3247-9 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 448 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Clara Poole (Trade)



#2327181 (Vol. 01) Clara Poole and the Long Way Round (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Taylor Tyng
 When an unintended flight over Michigan in her class science project--a lawn chair held aloft by balloons--brings her instant celebrity, Clara Poole is invited to be the spokesperson for a round-the-world adventure race. But when her overprotective father refuses, Clara forges his signature in a moment of defiance and runs away to Paris to take her place in the skies. But there are more dangers ahead. Someone is trying to sabotage the competition. And surviving this race means Clara must come to terms with the tragedy that set her fleeing to the skies in the first place, and accepting that forgiving herself isn't a process she has to undertake alone.
 978-1-64595-159-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Though Clara Poole's impulsive love of high places leads to tragedy when her mother is killed by lightning during a rescue attempt, it serves her well after she's unwillingly swept into an around-the-world balloon race that puts her aboard the Amelia with rude, long-retired pilot Greta Gildersleeve and a crew of three unusually intelligent monkeys. In the course of stressful challenges--ranging from storms and media events to sabotage--that turn her from a frightened and reluctant newbie to a seasoned, resilient adventurer, she navigates through the heavy clouds of her own grief and by race's end has helped her devastated dad begin to heal from his. Tyng surrounds his plucky preteen protagonist with a sturdy and colorful supporting cast, lays out a series of thrilling exploits and dramatic turns as the 10-stage race sails over six continents, and provides both a clever climactic twist and a clear lead-in to sequels at the close. Echoes of Jules Verne and Roald Dahl add even more lift to this soaring debut. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old Clara Abigail Poole causes quite a scene when she hurtles across the skies of western Michigan in a plastic lawn chair attached to hundreds of balloons. After she crash-lands and is grounded by her father, Clara's stunt captures the attention of one Harold Habberdish, who arrives from Paris with a proposal: join "the most ambitious and breathtaking adventure race ever conceived," a hot-air balloon race around the world. Against her father's wishes, Clara runs away from home -- and from the guilt she feels for the accident that killed her mother -- and flies to Paris to join the race. Because she is so young and inexperienced, she is partnered with seasoned aeronaut Greta Gildersleeve and her monkey copilots. What ensues is a madcap tale with oddball characters, intrigue, and new friendships made. Tyng's prose is appropriately light and action verb-driven, complete with sound effects ("Thwack! Pop! Poppity-pop!"). Beyond all the excitement, though, this is, at its heart, a father-daughter story and one about the long road -- or flight -- toward acceptance and forgiveness. Told with a light touch -- lighter than air, you might say. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When her science experiment goes awry, Clara receives international attention--and an invitation to join a race that circles the globe. After her mother's death, 12-year-old Clara Poole tried to become the "safe version" of herself to please her cautious father. Then,

while floating above the ground at the end-of-school-year fair in a plastic lawn chair lifted by hundreds of balloons, Clara has a thought: She could descend to earth--or she could go higher. Cutting her tether, Clara soars away over Michigan. When she lands, Clara is greeted by reporters, grounded by her father, and invited to join the World Organization of Balloon Aeronauts on their 100th air race. Consisting of 10 stages, including an endurance trial over the Sahara and a hunt for flags among the rocky cliffs of Mount Kailash in Tibet, the race is notoriously dangerous and completely thrilling. Partnered with a seasoned aeronaut and three monkey co-pilots, Clara learns the temperamental art of ballooning while navigating new friendships and scheming competitors. Invented elements, like the use of a flusterboard to travel between balloons, exist alongside references to genuine landmarks, creating a fantastical world that feels wholly possible. Most main characters, including Clara, are assumed White. Aeronaut teams represent their countries; Clara forms notable friendships with the Hoshis from Japan and the Jollys from India. An engrossing and inventive flight through the skies. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Michigan daredevil Clara Poole loves heights and climbing, but her overly protective father has kept a tight rein on her ever since Clara's mother was killed by lightning a year ago. But after tying balloons to a lawn chair results in accidental flight and brings Clara unexpected fame, the World Organization of Balloon Aeronauts' invites her to participate in their 100th-anniversary hot air balloon race as their celebrity Face of the Race. Though her father forbids it, Clara forges his signature and runs away. Upon joining the race, she's partnered with veteran champion Greta Gildersleeve and her trio of monkey pilots. Clara makes similarly adrenaline-seeking friends and enemies among fellow juvenile competitors, including aristocratic Ophelia Chins-Ratton, effervescent Hatsu Hoshi, and good-natured Harbinder Jolly, who each encourage her adventurous pursuits. Throughout the race's increasingly risky stages, Clara embraces her newfound calling as a balloon pilot, while navigating natural hazards and ruthless sabotage from a rival. Occasionally outlandish but with plenty of heart and charm, Tyng's fast-paced debut conjures excitement via a high-octane premise that's tempered by laugh-out-loud humor and populated by idiosyncratic characters. Aeronaut teams represent their home countries; Hatsu cues as Japanese, Harbinder reads as Indian, and Clara and others read as white. Ages 8: 12. (July)

Claudia and Monica: Freshman Girls (Stone Arch Books)



#1663684 New firsts (Library Binding)

written by Diana G Gallagher

The first week of high school is not what Claudia and Monica expect.

978-1-4342-3275-5 ©2012 5 x 7 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl N Lexile 570

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.49

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) These four hi-lo stories of freshman-year romances, parties, shopping, and dating from the Claudia & Monica: Freshman Girls series will feed middle school girls' fantasies about how much fun high school will be: how charming the boys, how best buds will develop into cute boyfriends, and how said boyfriends will have cars, play in bands, and be stars of the football team, even though they are only freshmen or sophomores. Narrating alternating chapters, main characters, Claudia and Monica, may be familiar to some from the author's earlier books about the two friends in middle school. Now in their first year of high school ...



#1663687 Tested (Library Binding)

written by Diana G Gallagher

Did Claudia spill her best friend's secret?

978-1-4342-3278-6 ©2012 5 x 7 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl N Lexile 470

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.49

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) These four hi-lo stories of freshman-year romances, parties, shopping, and dating from the Claudia & Monica: Freshman Girls series will feed middle school girls' fantasies about how much fun high school will be: how charming the boys, how best buds will develop into cute boyfriends, and how said boyfriends will have cars, play in bands, and be stars of the football team, even though they are only freshmen or sophomores. Narrating alternating chapters, main characters, Claudia and Monica, may be familiar to some from the author's earlier books about the two friends in middle school. Now in their first year of high school ...

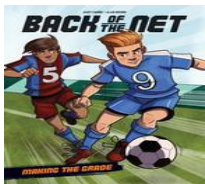
Claw: Back of the Net (Magic Wagon)

#2311872 (Vol. 01) Making the Grade (Library Binding)

written by Gary Fabbri

Aiden is one of the smartest players on the field. His active brain helps him to respond

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$26.95

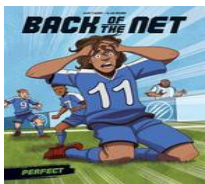


quickly to the action and anticipate the ball. But that same overactivity doesn't translate to his schoolwork. To him, algebra is a foreign language and his English grade is slipping. His scores are so low that if he doesn't improve, he'll be dropped from the team. Will Aiden make the grade, or will he watch from the sidelines?

Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Claw is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-3334-1 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 560



#2311873 (Vol. 02) Perfect (Library Binding)

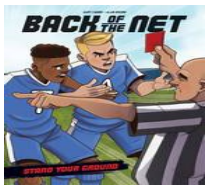
written by Gary Fabbri

Enzo's drive to be perfect is often seen by others as pushy, arrogant, and self-centered. Between his intense practice routine and his pappa drilling him, Enzo feels the constant pressure to overperform. When he misses a penalty kick in an important game, the team loses. Enzo decides to run away. He ends up face to face with the dangers of street life. Will he find his way back home and to his team now that he's facing a less than perfect life? Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Claw is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-3335-8 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$26.95



#2311875 (Vol. 03) Stand Your Ground (Library Binding)

written by Gary Fabbri

Jackson always stands his ground on the field. When a rival player purposefully spikes Aiden, Jackson strikes back. A scuffle breaks out, and Jackson is kicked out of the game. He takes his anger out on the ref's car, and the fight continues after the match at a pizza store's parking lot. Jackson finds himself in trouble with the police. Will he end up with bigger problems or will he be able to stop the downward spiral and find his way back to defend his team? Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Claw is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-3336-5 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 640

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$26.95



#2311870 (Vol. 04) Get On Up (Library Binding)

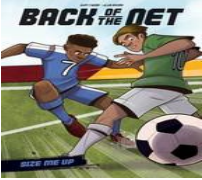
written by Gary Fabbri

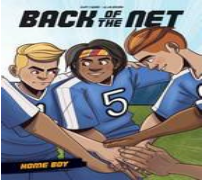
Manny's body feels like it has a mind of its own, and it hurts everywhere whenever he trains hard. But when the goalie passes out during a game, he finds out that his mistake was not his. After a medical exam, he discovers that he has lupus and his own body has been attacking itself. He's been working hard all season to stand in goal at the state finals, but now that seems impossible. Will he be able to get the treatment he needs to continue to play or will he support his team from the sidelines? Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Claw is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-3337-2 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8 112 pgs.

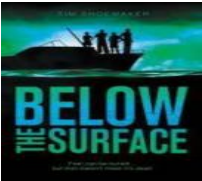
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$26.95


	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2311874 (Vol. 05) Size Me Up (Library Binding) <i>written by Gary Fabbri</i> Ben has dedicated his whole life to soccer. But his big knowledge and even bigger heart can't overcome the fact that he is small. He is a star on the soccer field but a target for bullies. After a dangerous encounter with some bullies, he dedicates himself to applying for college programs in an attempt to get away from the violence. Will Ben be able to feel safe at home again and overcome his bullies? Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Claw is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO. 978-1-0982-3338-9 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8 112 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 640</p>	1	\$26.95

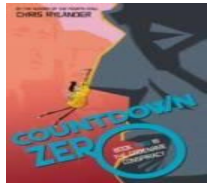
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2311871 (Vol. 06) Home Boy (Library Binding) <i>written by Gary Fabbri</i> As team captain, Kai is always in control on the field. He's like the glue that keeps the team together, and the team relies on him to be a solid, talented player. But at home, as hard as he tries, Kai can't keep his parents together. Their fighting intensifies so much that Kai's frustrations spill over into school and soccer. Will he be able to provide what the team needs without the home support that he used to take for granted? Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Claw is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO. 978-1-0982-3339-6 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8 112 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620</p>	1	\$26.95

Code of Silence (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2028787 Below the Surface (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tim Shoemaker</i> Something is wrong with Cooper. He's plagued by a fear he doesn't understand and can't control. Cooper just wants to escape, and a summer vacation aboard the restored cabin cruiser, The Getaway, with best friends Gordy, Hiro, and Lunk seems like the perfect way to do it. 978-0-310-73501-4 ©2014 416 pgs. Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 13.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Codename Conspiracy (Prebound)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1913740 (Vol. 01) Codename Zero (Prebound) <i>written by Chris Rylander</i> There are places in the world where heroes are born. There are places where brave men and women fight a never-ending battle against evil in order to keep our country and all other countries safe. There are places where the fate of our planet is being decided, even at this very moment, the consequences of which will echo through history. None of these places is in North Dakota. 978-1-4844-4531-0 ©2015 5 x 7-1/2 384 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780</p>	1	\$20.95



#1957427 (Vol. 02) Countdown Zero (Prebound)

written by Chris Rylander

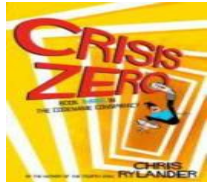
Ever since Carson Fender was let go by the secret agency that had enlisted his services to help foil a nefarious plot perpetrated by one of their former agents, he's been back to hanging with his friends, pulling pranks, and not having to lie to everyone about how he's spending his days. And that's for the best, isn't it?

978-1-4844-7049-7 ©2016 5 x 7-1/2 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95

Codename Conspiracy (Trade)



#1947052 (Vol. 03) Crisis Zero (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Chris Rylander

There is a computer program so unspeakably powerful that its mere existence is unknown to all but the most senior government agents. This computer program is capable of controlling every aspect of communication, transportation, and defense on the planet. This computer program must never fall into the wrong hands or civilization as we know it will be utterly destroyed.

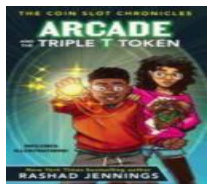
978-0-06-232747-5 ©2016 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 790

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist After performing a daring rescue at Mount Rushmore in Countdown Zero (2015), Carson Fender's services as a secret agent are needed once more. This time the Agency has tasked Carson and his friend Danielle with uncovering an enemy in their very school one who is likely in league with Agency nemesis Mule Medlock. Innumerable close calls and a herd of fainting goats later, the pair catches up with the perpetrator, and they can't believe who it is. Rylander's third installment in the Codename Conspiracy series is comparatively light on action, but the comedic writing keeps this mystery-adventure plenty entertaining.--Smith, Julia Copyright 2016 Booklist

Coin Slot Chronicles (Trade)



#2103357 (Vol. 01) Arcade and the Triple T Token (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rashad Jennings

Arcade is a 12-year-old boy who has a unique gift that allows him to travel into another dimension with his special token from a mysterious woman. However, he doesn't have an answer when his teachers ask his class the same simple question every year: What do you want to be when you grow up? Arcade begins to pick up books on everything from entrepreneurship to football to piano to card tricks. As Arcade dives into books, he discovers that the possibilities for his future are endless. And the more Arcade learns about different professions and hobbies, the more Arcade notices that people from his school have characteristics that make them the perfect fit for each of them. Together with his sister, Zoe, the pair get into scrapes, scuffles, and the occasional extreme adventure as they lend their unique support to anyone who needs them.

978-0-310-76741-1 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

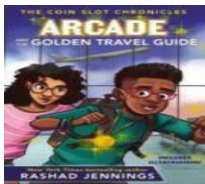
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

#2159475 (Vol. 02) Arcade and the Golden Travel Guide (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rashad Jennings

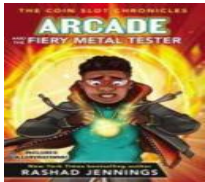
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



In Virginia for the summer, Arcade and his friends restore a local mini golf course and continue to follow the token on fantastic adventures, in spite of recent troubling incidents.

978-0-310-76743-5 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 6.0



#2159474 (Vol. 03) Arcade and the Fiery Metal Tester (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rashad Jennings

In Arcade and the Fiery Metal Tester, New York City is experiencing the hottest summer on record. Eleven-year-old Arcade Livingston can't keep his cool after receiving this suspicious warning atop the Empire State Building: "Things will heat up in all areas to test your mettle."

978-0-310-76745-9 ©2020 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In Volume 3 of the Coin Slot Chronicles, 11-year-old Arcade Livingston and older sister Zoe must harness their patience and compassion. Retired NFL running back Jennings, writing with veteran children's writer Osborne, developed the Arcade Livingston series after finding success with his book for adults, *The If in Life* (written with Michael Strahan, 2018). As the book opens, the Livingston parents set goals with their children: to step into the positive character traits of patience and compassion, in accordance with their Christian faith (references to which are lightly sprinkled throughout the text). These goals inform the adventures that follow. The novels can stand alone but are deepened when read together, so maybe that's the best way for readers to understand the full story behind this mysterious Triple T Token and its time-traveling powers. Readers learn that it can take Arcade and Zoe to times and places they've never been with strange people surrounding them, yet this story isn't always about what's happening way out there. There's the serious inside things too. There's Arcade's best friend, Doug, who is being moved to Florida when he wants nothing more than to be close to his ailing grandmother. Is there something that this mysterious Triple T Token can do about that? Does trying to control the power of the token only create further chaos? Dotted with significant life lessons for young readers, who might prefer to start with Volume 1. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal are back in this third entry in the "Coin Slot Chronicles." This time, Arcade receives a mysterious message telling him, "Things will heat up in all areas to test your mettle." No kidding! It's a record hot New York City summer, and his parents want the siblings to set some character-building goals during their school vacation. Once Arcade's backpack gets stolen in the subway, the adventures come fast and furious. Zipping all over the world once his token is slipped into the slot in glowing elevator doors, Arcade struggles to make sense of his role in many situations. Life is further complicated by the impending move of his best friend Doug (a baby flamingo with a serious shrmp habit), a test score scandal at school, and his dog getting lost in the internet in the future--or is it the past? The parent-child relationships are warm and supportive and (save a few minor squabbles) so is the sibling one. Arcade tries hard to do what is best in every situation while remembering his goal-setting promise. The family's faith is a consistent thread throughout. VERDICT An intriguing premise that gets overcomplicated with too many plot threads makes this a well-meaning, but confusing read. Recommended only where the previous books have enjoyed a healthy circulation.--Sara-Jo Lupo Sites, George F. Johnson Memorial Library, Endicott, NY Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Cold the Night, Fast the Wolves (Trade)



#2265638 Cold the Night, Fast the Wolves (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Meg Long

Desperate to escape, Sena flees with his prized fighting wolf, Iska, and takes an offer from a team of scientists. They'll pay her way off-world, on one condition--that she uses the survival skills her mothers taught her to get them to the end of the race. But the tundra is a treacherous place. When the race threatens their lives at every turn, Sena must discover whether her abilities are enough to help them survive the wild

978-1-250-78506-0 ©2022 6 x 9-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books The annual race across the icy planet of Tundar attracts greedy corporate outsiders to dig for a resource called exocarbon, and seventeen-year-old Sena has a particular hatred for the contest that led to her mothers' deaths. When Sena finds herself indebted to a syndicate boss, she has to help him heal one of his genetically-modified fighting vonenwolves; the girl and animal form a bond and the two soon run away. Sena joins a group of researchers with purer motives than most racers and ends up participating in the competition, but it won't be without a body count--or without digging up her past trauma. Readers used to intricate world-building in their sci-fi will be confused by the vagueness of many of this novel's premises--exocarbon's uses are ill-defined and the characters discover new properties for it as the novel progresses, so it's unclear why it is so in demand in the first place. The conflict between the Corporate Assembly planets and the anti-capitalist "scavvers" barely goes beyond a very basic, decontextualized criticism of capitalism. Still, the winter survival aspects of the race are intense and heart-pounding, and animal lovers will appreciate Sena's bond with vonenwolf Iska. NB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Proud, stubborn, and lonely 17-year-old Sena Korhosen survives by picking pockets. The only thing Sena wants is to save enough money to get off-world, far away from Tundar, an unforgiving planet of electrical storms and bitter cold. When she crosses a cruel crime boss, he offers her clemency--if she can rehabilitate his vicious, prizefighting she-wolf. It's not a task she feels up to, but she has no other choice if she wants to escape to a better life. After a near-fatal turn of events, Sena finds herself in charge of the stolen she-wolf and agreeing to do the one thing she swore she'd never do: take part in a deadly 1,000-mile race to reach valuable exocarbon deposits, the same race that claimed her mothers' lives five years before. Sena may not have a lot, but with the wolf Iska by her side, she has a lot to lose and even more to gain. The action scenes are so fast-paced as to cause whiplash, while quieter interludes slow down enough to allow readers to catch their breath. There is no romantic subplot--instead, the growing trust between Sena and Iska is the focus. The worldbuilding is intricate, and the icy setting is so detailed that readers will feel the need to bundle up as they speed through to the exciting and satisfying conclusion. Main characters are assumed White; some secondary characters have brown skin. Fast and furious. (Science fiction. 14-18) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ever since her mothers died on the racing trail five years ago, 17-year-old narrator Sena Korhosen has lived by one simple rule; "No wolves. No sleds. No racing"; even though the frozen Edge World of Tundar relies upon the annual race of genetically engineered vonenwolves across the frozen waste to mine precious, seasonally accessible exocarbon. Determined to eventually start over on a less brutal planet, presumed-white Sena makes ends meet as a pickpocket, but when she runs afoul of a brutal syndicate leader, she's forced to use the skills taught by her late mothers; one a racer, the other an ice-dwelling scavver; to heal his injured, unengineered prize fighter wolf, Iska. Sena's desperate bid to get off-world sees her stealing Iska and joining the 1,000 mile race, where danger waits around every turn. In this atmospherically told debut with a leisurely beginning, Long skillfully navigates her resourceful heroine through a treacherous, chillingly described tundra setting. Sena's growing bond with Iska, and her relationship to the natural world and struggle for survival, aptly explore themes of corporate greed, environmental care, and personal resilience. Ages 12: up. Agent: Alexandra Machinist, ICM Partners. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up—Long takes readers underground and cross-country in her deadly, frozen sci-fi adventure. Sena was orphaned by the deaths of her mothers in a corporate-sponsored wolf sled race on Tundar, a planet with "electrically charged weather and never-ending ice." She is part "scavver," a mysterious ethnicity hated by the greedy "corpos" who have no regard for human or animal life. Sena is discontent, living her life stealing from tourists and skulking on the edges of the city's underworld, wanting nothing to do with the upcoming race. By chance she is pulled onto a team of researchers who know she could be an asset because of her background and scavver know-how. With her wolf companion, she reluctantly agrees to go along, knowing it could cost her life. The author creates a tale of darkness and intrigue with a tough narrator. The complex world of the novel's setting is a bit of a challenge to envision, and the planet's specific vocabulary can be an early stumbling block. However, once Sena's voice breaks through the pain of her circumstances, readers can't stop rooting for her. Human/animal interaction, heart-stopping race action, and lurking predators are evenly paced, while plot lines crescendo and converge. The blizzard scenes, ice collapses, and temperature drops may entice those who skipped Gary Paulsen or Jean Craighead George to go back and fill in reading gaps. Contains some strong language and violence. VERDICT A forceful debut for teen fans of danger, the outdoors, and the underworld.—Jane Miller



#2309458 **Swift the Storm, Fierce the Flame (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Meg Long

(Companion novel) After nearly catching him on Tundar before the infamous sled race, Remy follows Kiran back to the same jungle planet where everything started. But nothing on Maraas is how it was two years ago. A megalomaniac corpo director now has an iron grip on the world that other groups are trying to overthrow. It's a time bomb that Remy wants nothing to do with.

978-1-250-78512-1 ©2023 6 x 9-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

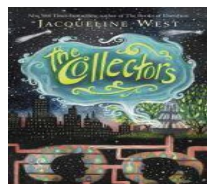
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Teenage genopath Remy Castell, who has been genetically engineered to become the perfect spy, seeks revenge against her ex-partner in this thrilling adventure by Long, set in the same universe as *Cold the Night*, *Fast the Wolves*. Accompanied by her new

friend Sena and Sena's wolf companion Iska, Remy follows her ex-partner Kiran's trail across multiple planets before tracking him back to the storm-wracked jungle world where he once left her for dead. Remy is finally able to exact her punishment, but vengeance becomes the least of her worries when she's drawn into an ongoing power struggle between a ruthless corporation and myriad criminal syndicates. Hoping to turn the tides in his favor, Kiran promises to divulge the location of her captive best friend in exchange for Remy's help in securing power. Told via Remy's ardent first-person narration and brimming with action, shifting alliances, and intrigue, this bustling continuation to Long's broader literary canon follows charismatic protagonists navigating internal turmoil and emotionally turbulent relationships while rapidly bounding from one adventure to another. Characters are described as having varying skin tones. Ages 12: up. Agent: Alexandra Machinist, ICM Partners. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up—In this companion novel to Long's debut *Cold the Night, Fast the Wolves*, Remy Castell has dragged her new friend Sena and Iska the wolf to the world of Maraas to find Remy's ex-partner, Kiran. Remy hopes to reunite with her old friend, Alora, whom she abandoned years ago because of a choice that Kiran made for her. Kiran agrees to help his former partner, but she must take part in the fight to overthrow the ruling corpos of Maraas before he will give her any information. The action heats up as Remy makes her choice to join the coup to help the many over continuing a selfish search for the friend that she lost. Remy and Kiran are genopaths who were engineered by Nova to have superhuman strength. The Assembly worlds consist of various combatting groups including Nova, corpos like TerraCo, syndicates, and scavvers. Readers will have to navigate a vocabulary that is singular to the world that Long creates. It is not necessary to read Long's first novel before this one, though following the politics of this world is not always an easy task because so many factions and their leaders are introduced. The main characters are one note, and their individual idiosyncrasies are repeated endlessly. VERDICT Purchase only where the first novel has fans; readers will be more enthralled with the characters in dystopian titles like *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey or *Legend* by Marie Lu.—Elizabeth Kahn

Collectors (Trade)



#2080145 (Vol. 01) Collectors (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jacqueline West

Van has always been an outsider. He's hard of hearing, collects trinkets, and lives with his single mother—an opera singer with a huge personality. Then one day, Van notices a girl stealing pennies from a fountain, and everything changes. He follows the girl, Pebble, and uncovers an underground world full of wishes and the people who collect them.

978-0-06-269169-9 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist From the author of *The Books of Elsewhere* series comes a story about the power of wishes. While waiting for his mom, Van finds a discarded toy and witnesses a girl talk to a squirrel and take coins from a fountain. When he spots the girl again, he follows her into the hidden world of the Collectors, who gather people's wishes. Then he meets Mr. Falborg, who reveals that an entire species is at risk and that the Collectors may be responsible. West captures Van's curiosity and wonder for life, giving his personality an air of innocence. While Van struggles with his hearing, his ability to truly listen takes on magical qualities as he's able to hear the wish-collecting creatures. He finds himself torn between two sides, so he has to learn how to trust himself, discover his bravery, and follow his heart. Aside from magical problems, he also deals with frequent moves, thanks to his opera-singing mom. A brilliant fantasy adventure exploring the consequences of getting what you wish for.-- Elizabeth Konkel Copyright 2018 Booklist

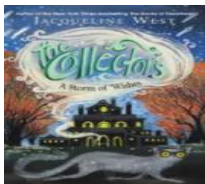
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With an opera singer mother who performs around the world, 11-year-old Van Markson is used to being a new kid, and his taste in books and movies, along with "a tiny blue hearing aid behind each ear," sometimes set him apart at school. Van is also good at noticing things that other people overlook, and when he spots a girl, accompanied by an "almost silver, very bushy-tailed" squirrel, plunging face-first into a fountain, a series of events draw Van into a magical underground world where he is caught in the middle of a secret war. West (the *Books of Elsewhere* series) has created a captivating mythology around wishes, including cuddly-turned-dangerous Wish Eaters (not unlike gremlins) as well as thoughtful explorations of power and the unexpected, sometimes negative, consequences of good intentions. Van's realization that his skill of noticing is a valuable strength, especially when hearing challenges feel to him like a shortcoming, is a gentle, triumphant reminder that being different doesn't correspond to weakness. First in a planned duology, West's magical adventure offers humor and warmhearted adventure. Ages 8-12. Agent: Danielle Chiotti, Upstart Crow Literary. (Oct.)

#2121156 (Vol. 02) Storm of Wishes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jacqueline West

When Van's mother is offered a position at the renowned Fox Den Opera, located in the quiet, beautiful forest a few hours north of the city, she whisks Van away with her,

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



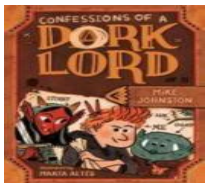
hoping this will be a safer home for their family of two. But Fox Den is home to an ancient Wish Eater--a powerful creature with the ability to grant wishes that have catastrophic consequences...

978-0-06-269172-9 ©2019 6 x 8 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 670

Reviews by: Booklist The second adventure in the Collectors series sees Van—following the fight with Mr. Falborg that resulted in Wish Eaters being set loose upon the world—finding a new job out in the country. While exploring this new location, he finds his missing friend, Pebble, and discovers an ancient Wish Eater buried down a well. As Mr. Falborg’s horrible plan comes into play, Van and Pebble must contact the Collectors and stop him before it’s too late. Here, West delivers a satisfying and thrilling sequel that expands on the wish mythology through the inclusion of an ancient Eater, dead wishes, and the magic of a meteor shower. Everything brilliant about book one is built upon, with the characters readers love being pushed to grow as the story delves into the various relationships of Van’s life. West also weaves in a theme of character complexity, showing how everyone has more than one side to them. She generally hits all the right notes with her well-written characters, expanding mythology, action-packed moments, breathtaking magic, and heartwarming friendships.

Confessions of a Dork Lord (Trade)



#2144659 (Vol. 01) Confessions of a Dork Lord (Hardcover (POB))

written by Mike Johnston

Meet Wick. He's the son of the Dark Lord, heir to the throne of black and broken glass, and next in line to be the leader of the Grim World. Too bad he's stuck in Remedial Spell Casting (he can barely even cast the fart-revealer spell), he's allergic to fire and brimstone, and the bullies at school insist on calling him Dork Lord.

978-1-5247-4081-8 ©2020 6 x 8-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 The coauthor (with Melissa de la Cruz) of the Heart of Dread series aims at a younger (or, at least, less sophisticated) audience with this tale of a dread sorcerer's 12-year-old orphaned son who can't even cast the ultra-simple Fart Revealer spell. More than half convinced that he's regarded as a laughingstock for his lack of magic and leadership ability, Azrael Bal Gorath the Wicked?aka Wick? latches onto the theft of his 10-years-vanished dad's obsidian scepter as a chance to prove himself to the orcs, goblins, and other folk of Grimhold. As he tracks down the culprit, Wick not only has adventures (that range from wading through the Gurgling Lake of Sulfur to being sent to a school for ice giants where even pop quizzes last entire days) but also learns how to organize a wayward crew of allies. Johnston leaves his young warlock looking forward to future challenges?and better equipped to handle them?while wreathing his tale in crowd-pleasing clouds of alimentary humor. Spot art frequent, but some finished versions not seen.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books orath the Wicked, aka Wick, aka Dork Lord, sixth grade at Nightshadows school un olds in a series of embarrassments, from failing to cast the simplest of shoe-tying spells to coming in last on the Index of Muscle, Mayhem, and Ma ic. Wick also lives in the shadow of his legendary father, the Dark Lord Who Vanished, and who left strict instructions that his heir was o have no help while earning his throne. This supposedly leadership-building dictum soon leads to near disaster, when the realm's most powerful eapon, the Scepter of Ultimate Darkness, disappears and Wick sets off on an ill-advised quest to retrieve it. When his travels lead to revelations and a final showdown with bullies, though, Wick might just discover he has talents enough to win the day. Wick isn't the only one to suffer from ine itable comparisons here, as this cross between Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Harry Potter struggles to emerge from the shadow of its predecessors. Joh ston offers up plenty of wordplay, bathroom humor, spells, and silliness, but ultimately the story gets bogged down by an overabundance of world bu lding, while simultaneously shortchanging what could be a quirky series of misadventures. Undeveloped sidekicks, meanwhile, leave rea ers with a main character who's pitiable but not likable. Still, friendly print and sturdily cheerful illustrations add accessibility, and this novel m ight just find a home in hands of those who want a familiar zero-to-hero story with the flavor of their favorite tabletop role-playing game. AM

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The son of a fallen Dark Lord looks for his own place in the world. Azrael Bal Gorath the Wicked--"Wick" to his friends--is the heir to the throne of the grim folk. Wick's father, the Dark Lord, ruled over ogres, orcs, goblins, witches, and warlocks alike until he vanished after fighting the faire folk's champion, Galorian (a "good" wizard). The absent lord left nothing behind for his son, hoping the lack of titles and status would help build Wick's character. Wick (a white preteen with a shock of red hair) spends his days evading bullies and dreaming of having the power to move on past his struggles in Remedial Spell Casting. The novel is a promising if curious blend of Dungeons and Dragons fantasy world and the typical "diary of an underdog middle schooler" fare, but the enterprise never quite gets off the ground. There's a lot of

worldbuilding up front, and the day-to-day banality doesn't jibe well with the big-picture conflicts between the faire folk and the grim world. The novel also overstays its welcome, coming in at well over 300 pages of disjointed and poorly structured story. Wick is unpleasant, the world he inhabits is boilerplate fantasy, and his story feels sluggish when it should be brisk and rushed when it should take its time. A miscalculated satiric fantasy that treads too-familiar ground. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this entertaining yet underwhelming fantasy, a hapless orphan struggles to live up to the legacy set by his impressive but long-vanished father, once Dark Lord of the grim folk, while dealing with bullies and his own magical incompetence. Twelve-year-old Azrael Bal Gorath the Wicked, better known as Wick, is expected to assume his father's throne and lead the "ogres, orcs, dragons, goblins, witches and warlocks," but he can't even succeed in Remedial Spell Casting, let alone garner respect and fear. When his father's legendary scepter goes missing, Wick sets out to uncover the thief and find it in order to prove himself. Naturally, things go quickly awry, requiring Wick to master his powers once and for all. Presented in a faux-diary style complete with stylized illustrations by Altes that enhance the story's whimsy, Wick narrates his mishaps in a put-upon, matter-of-fact manner. Johnston exaggerates fantasy tropes for comedic purposes; orcs are disgusting, goblins creatively malicious; and the narrative strikes a balance between dry humor and clumsy earnestness ("It's hard to be into the whole 'fire and brimstone' thing when you've got allergies") that lends the story an uneven feel. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)

Conjurers (Trade)



#2163852 (Vol. 01) Rise of the Shadow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brian Anderson

After their parents vanished, Alex and Emma are sent to live with strict Uncle Mordo. Only Emma's pet rabbit, Pimawa, keeps them company. But when flying skeletons called Rag-o-Rocs storm their once-quiet home, the kids escape just in time with Pimawa leading the way. The rabbit takes the siblings to the Conjurian, a land where magic exists and Pimawa can talk. But the Conjurian is in trouble.

978-0-553-49865-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Since their parents' disappearance eight years ago, Alex and Emma Muskelyne have lived with their strict uncle Mordo, who forbids anything electronic or dangerous from entering the house. One night, their house is attacked by the Shadow Conjuror, who is looking for a powerful magical artifact purportedly discovered and hidden by Alex and Emma's parents, who it's now clear were anything but ordinary antique dealers. With their normal life suddenly upended, the siblings must venture into the magical world of Conjurian to uncover the truth about their parents and learn the location of the artifact before the Shadow Conjuror finds it and destroys both worlds. Anderson's series starter poses the question, what if magic is real, the way that alternate dimensions might be real? As he explores this idea, he litters his narrative with black-and-white ink drawings, dark and sinister villains, a family secret to discover, personal limitations to overcome, and, of course, magic. Part A Series of Unfortunate Events, part Tony Abbott's The Copernicus Legacy, this adventure has impressive tricks up its sleeve. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Siblings are thrown into a dangerous magical world. Alex, 10, and Emma, 13, live with their cruel antiques-dealer uncle in a house with 252 rooms, 17 Victrolas (Alex calls them "hundred-year-old record players"), and no connection with the modern outside world. Their parents died on an archaeological dig (Alex believes this, but Emma does not), searching for an artifact that would restore magic to a world called the Conjurian. Their quest was pressing because nowadays, "Magic is dying" there. One night, horrifying creatures burst into the mansion and chase the siblings into a secret passage and out into that other realm. Monsters and smugglers loom; the head of this land's ruling circle might be defending the realm from evil--or might be creating illusions of evil to gain more power. Within this adventurous setup, prose is clunky and pacing drags. Even the cliffhanger ending, with one sibling under a collapsed building and the other underwater unable to swim, lights no spark--readers know by then that this story's flashy dangers resolve quickly without substance. An ongoing sibling debate on whether magic exists--even as magic unfolds before their eyes--is preposterous. In a threadbare, distasteful trope, Anderson repeatedly uses facial disfigurement--including eyelessness--to symbolize evil. Moreover, for no apparent reason besides traditional gender roles, both Alex's parents and the text itself explicitly place younger brother Alex as superior to older sister Emma. Alex, Emma, and most characters seem white by default. Flimsy, forced, and stale. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6—After years of living in Uncle Mordo's mansion, siblings Emma and Alex find themselves in the middle of a mission to keep themselves safe while trying to save magic. Magic is fading from the world (both the Flatworld and the world of the Conjuring) and no one knows why. Emma and Alex's parents may have held a key to solving the mystery, but these "anthropologists" were killed in an accident when the siblings were young. With their Jimjarian named Pimawa (a pet rabbit turned magical guide), the siblings face old friends who may in fact be foes, flying skeletons called Rag-O-Racs, and the Shadow Conjuror himself. The suspenseful conclusion paves the way for an action-packed continuation of their journey. Anderson weaves plentiful grayscale illustrations throughout the narrative that will help readers picture the otherworldly setting and characters. VERDICT Middle grade fans of magical mysteries will enjoy this exciting and well-paced series debut.—Lindsay Persohn, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa

Conjureverse (Trade)**#2347324 (Vol. 02) Memory Thieves (Hardcover (Trade))***written by Dhonielle Clayton*

The second installment in Dhonielle Clayton's New York Times- and #1 Indie-bestselling The Marvellerverse series, a middle-grade fantasy adventure set in a magic school that celebrates cultural traditions from around the world, for fans of Rick Riordan and Soman Chainani. In this fantasy adventure set in a global magic school in the sky, Ella, Jason, and Brigit return for their second year at the Arcanum Training institute.

978-1-250-17497-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 14.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old uses history to prove that her people have always belonged in their magical world. Ella Durand, a Black girl from New Orleans, and her friends Brigit and Jason return to the Arcanum Training Institute for Marvelous and Uncanny Endeavors with some experience under their belts but even more questions than when they started last year. Ella's fame among Marvellers has skyrocketed ever since she helped stop the diabolical scheme of the Ace of Anarchy, Gia Trivelino. But Gia is not as down for the count as Ella and most Marvellians would hope--and she has decided that Ella owes her a debt that must be paid. On top of this threat, Masterji Thakur, Ella's mentor, gave her blueprints showing that Conjurers have long been involved with the school. Ella insists on acquiring solid proof and revealing this truth that the media seems intent on suppressing. But with increased schoolwork, a mystery illness affecting the student body, and secrets she uncovers, Ella faces extra obstacles. Clayton continues building a world that is intricate, captivating, and sure to satisfy. This novel brings additional cultural diversity to the story as Ella explores her school and becomes involved with more members of the multidimensional cast of characters. References to events from the first book make this accessible to new fans, but readers are best served by having read *The Marvellers* (2022). A wonderfully well-developed sequel. (list of Paragons) (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cookie Chronicles (Prebound)**#2291643 (Vol. 01) Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom (Prebound)***written by Matthew Swanson*

When Ben reads his fortune-cookie fortune, he's alarmed and inspired. Immediately, he begins drafting a bucket list of unfinished tasks and lifelong dreams (finish his 1000-piece model of the Taj Mahal, eat an entire cake, etc....).

978-1-5364-7507-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 630

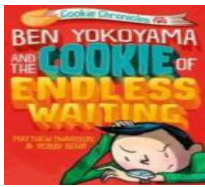
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Noodle lover Ben Yokoyama is at a Chinese restaurant for the first time when he gets a fortune cookie that says, "Live each day as if it were your last." In Ben's eight-year-old mind this means, "Today might be the last day of your life. Seize the day!" He creates a bucket list that begins with eating a frozen piece of cake that his dad has been saving for a special occasion. Ben is impulsive but thoughtful, and he frequently gets sidetracked and edits his list to accommodate other people, with hilarious results. His other tasks end up including his best friend, sticky notes, a scooter, apples, and blue paint on a cat. As he crosses items off his list, Ben learns about himself and the people around him. The husband-wife team of Swanson and Behr have created a fun, quirky character who shows empathy, love, and an exuberance for life that is fun to read. At nearly 300 pages, the book may intimidate some chapter book readers at first, but the illustrations fill as much of the page as the text does. This book is the first in a series that is sure to entertain. VERDICT A good addition to any elementary school library. Highly recommended.—Julie Overpeck, Gardner Park Elem. Sch., Gastonia, NC

Cookie Chronicles (Trade)**#2216075 (Vol. 02) Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Endless Waiting (Hardcover (Trade))***written by Matthew Swanson*

Ben does his best to heed his fortune cookie's advice, and as a result he is paired with Walter--the kid who's always picked last--for a school scavenger hunt. Working with

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99



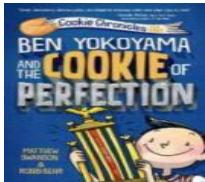
Walter must be a good thing if the cookie said so, but so far all he does is talk too loud and recite obscure facts about feet. Meanwhile, Ben has an argument with his best friend Janet, and waiting for her to apologize first isn't going so well....

978-0-593-30276-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 540

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ben Yokoyama is back for another fortune-cookie-inspired week. When Ben gets his hands on another fortune cookie, he can't wait to discover what it says. This time, the fortune says, "Good things come to those who wait." Mulling this over, Ben decides to start waiting patiently for all the good things he wants. At school, his third-grade teacher announces a partnered scavenger hunt for words. Ben waits rather than picking a partner right away, ending up with his ex-friend, Walter, the kid no one ever chooses. With five school days to answer seven word-related questions, he is excited to get started but remembers to wait. As the days pass, Ben wonders why he and Walter aren't friends anymore--while becoming frustrated when Walter gives silly answers and talks too loudly. Ben struggles with being patient, being a good friend and partner, and just wanting to win. Filled with hilarious situations and shenanigans, this second book in the Cookie Chronicles series is as entertaining as the first. Readers will relate to themes of changing friendships and standing up for others. The black-and-white illustrations are woven into the text, creating an exciting visual experience. The book concludes with a funny about-the-author-and-illustrator section and amusing trivia about things you really do have to wait for. Illustrations and the family surname cue Ben as biracial, White and Japanese. Endless amusement and laughter. (Humor. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Quantity
Unit Price



#2259762 (Vol. 03) Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Perfection (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Matthew Swanson

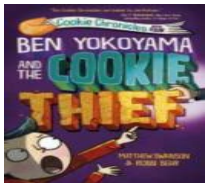
When Ben's fortune cookie tells him that practice makes perfect, he refuses to settle for anything less. He demands better parents, superior hobbies, and a brand-new best friend, who might technically be a superhero.

978-0-593-30277-4 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 610

1 \$13.99

Quantity
Unit Price



#2290566 (Vol. 04) Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie Thief (Hardcover (POB))

written by Matthew Swanson

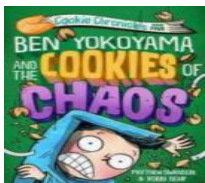
When Ben's fortune cookie tells him that the best things in life are free, he believes he can get anything he wants without paying for it--as long as it's the best. But Ben's dreams of free cookies and fancy scooters are quickly dashed when schoolyard bully Flegg McEggars steals his fortune.

978-0-593-43296-9 ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 610

1 \$12.99

Quantity
Unit Price



#2317417 (Vol. 05) Ben Yokoyama and the Cookies of Chaos (Hardcover (POB))

written by Matthew Swanson

When Ben finds a lost wallet, he's determined to do the right thing instead of spending the money on sweets. But what is the right thing? Ben seeks the guidance of one fortune cookie after another--yet none of the fortunes make sense! In his chaotic quest to track down the wallet's owner, Ben puzzles his way through five baffling fortunes in rapid succession while feuding with a vengeful librarian, battling a terrifying toilet,

1 \$13.99

and gaining a new appreciation for ducks, cardamom, and his best friend, Janet.
978-0-593-43300-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 570

Cookies and Milk (Trade)



#2278500 (Vol. 01) Cookies and Milk (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Shawn Amos

Eleven-year-old Ellis Johnson has the summertime blues. Instead, he'll be sleeping on a lumpy pullout in Dad's sad little post-divorce bungalow and helping bring Dad's latest far-fetched, sure-to-fail idea to life: opening the world's first chocolate chip cookie store. But of course, nothing is as easy as Dad makes it sound, even with Grandma along for the ride. Like she says, they have to GIT-get it together-and make things work.

978-0-7595-5677-5 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 In 1976, Ellis struggles with his parents' divorce, but salvation comes in the form of summer vacation. Alas, relaxation is put on hold after his dad announces he needs Ellis' help to bring his latest business enterprise to life: a shop devoted to selling his chocolate-chip confections. The proposed bakery space is dismal and remote, his dad hasn't finalized a recipe, and there are only six weeks to get things up and running. Can the family pull together and pull it off? The author, Amos, is the real-life son of Wally "Famous" Amos, cookie entrepreneur, and this ode to his upbringing is offbeat and enchanting. The humorous narration is breezy and conversational, though it's often punctuated by serious topics: divorce, racism, deep family wounds, and the experience of being a Black household in a predominantly white neighborhood. But there are also exquisite descriptions of musical transcendence, an uplifting community, and a gorgeous father-son relationship that evolves and deepens throughout. A sweet treat with a warm center. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

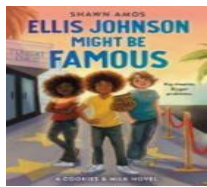
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Summer of 1976 has officially begun, and for Ellis Johnson, whose parents have just split up, this means working with his father on yet another new business venture—a chocolate chip cookie store on a less-than-glamorous stretch of Sunset Boulevard. The community could use some Black-owned businesses, and everyone could appreciate an excellent cookie, but it's really Dad who needs the entrepreneurial win here. Turning a dilapidated A-frame into an inviting draw and scaling up cookie production in six weeks will be a challenge, especially when available (unpaid) staff is limited to Ellis, Dad, a cane-wielding, family-nagging grandmother, and a pair of father/son family friends. Ellis himself is of variable use, vacillating between complaining about his lost summer and creating costly, time-eating mishaps. For readers who make a speedy connection between the author's last name and "Famous Amos" chocolate chip cookies, this semi-autobiographical account of the author and his famous father is obviously on a path to a happy-for-now ending, and the fun is getting to the grand opening. As author Amos suggests in his opening and closing remarks, however, the themes of divorce and family strains are as germane to the tale as hijinks, pecans, and community support. With Paul's black and white drawings as visual rest stops, snappy chapters balance sweet with a touch of bitter, and a dash of salt is added by a local radio DJ who supplies a playlist of funk and a family mystery. This is a solid recommendation for family or classroom chapter reading, and a recipe for you know what is included. EB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy improves his relationship with his father as they prepare to open a cookie store over summer break. Dad has had a lot of ridiculous ideas, but to 11-year-old Ellis, opening a store that only sells chocolate chip cookies—even if they are delicious—seems to be the worst. With his parents recently divorced and his mother visiting her best friend out of town, Ellis dreads spending the summer of 1976 with his father. It only gets worse when they arrive at a run-down storefront. The next six weeks are all about perfecting their recipe, fixing up the shop, and attracting customers—when all he really wants is to play his harmonica and hang out with his best friend. Through Ellis' first-person account, readers encounter several interesting characters on Sunset Boulevard as he explores his new neighborhood. One surprise is the existence of a mysterious paternal uncle that neither of his parents ever told him about, a discovery that sets Ellis on a course to reunite his family. Ellis learns not only the value of clear communication, but the importance of community as well. Readers will immediately love Ellis and his family as they learn to reconnect in this novel that is full of heart and humor. The easygoing pace and descriptive narration make it a suitable choice for reading aloud. Ellis and his family are Black. A wholesome story that bridges generations. (author's note, recipe, playlist)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Based on Amos's life with his father, Wally "Famous" Amos, this semi-autobiographical tale centers an endearing father-and-son relationship in 1976 Hollywood, Calif. Having graduated elementary school, 11-year-old Ellis Johnson hopes he's not the only Black kid in middle school next year. Though he longs to spend his summer playing his harmonica and hanging out with white best friend and vinyl record lover Alex, Ellis is instead begrudgingly helping his newly separated father open "the world's first chocolate chip cookie store" in a tattered building off Sunset Boulevard. Of all his father's "old dumb ideas"; such as peddling jewels made of stone fruits and designing footwear for dogs; this is, to Ellis, his worst. But as the summer unfolds and family secrets come to light, Ellis endeavors to repair fractured relationships while

building new friendships within his bustling neighborhood. Accompanied by Paul's cozy illustrations, Amos's energetic prose encourages pride in one's culture. Championing interpersonal bonds, be they found family or blood relatives, the narrative also emphasizes unconditional love and one community's impact on a boy shaping his identity. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Penny Moore, Aevitas Creative Management. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Can you feel the funk, my friends? Ellis and his family invite you to Sunset Strip Cookies where you are served the most amazing cookies by a family who is strong, Black, and proud of it. Ellis's life has been a little upside down lately: his parents just divorced, his mom left him with his dad for the summer to "put herself first for a change," and his dad has this zany idea of opening a chocolate chip cookie shop on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood. While getting the shop ready, Ellis will go through trials (it's not his fault he's the shortest kid in his grade), tribulations (his grandma says, "listening is tougher than talking," but it feels like his dad never listens), and triumphs (discovering kindness and good neighbors go a long way). Author Amos--and yes, the last name Amos should give readers an idea of how famous these cookies really are--sets a fantastic scene in the summer of 1976 on the Sunset Strip. Music, family dynamics, friends, and cookies are all delivered with imagery so strong that readers will taste those cookies while listening to Muddy Waters. Amos adds a nice touch by including a cookie recipe and a playlist at the end of the book. There are a few instances of period-typical racism and abuse (a "switch" is mentioned). VERDICT Best to read this with a glass of milk and all the ingredients to make Amos's recipe. Recommended as a solid historical fiction purchase.--Kerri L. Williams Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2350067 Ellis Johnson Might Be Famous (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Shawn Amos

After the overnight mega success of his dad's cookie store, twelve-year-old Ellis Johnson is on top of the world. He's met celebrities, strangers stop "the Cookie Kid" on the street, and he's even headed to NYC to be in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with his dad. Ellis is ready for his star turn, playing harmonica on national television--until his big break turns into the most embarrassing moment of his life.
 978-0-7595-5683-6 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist After the events of 2022's Cookies & Milk, Ellis feels like his life in 1970s California is in a great place. The family cookie shop is a roaring success, he has fantastic friends and a burgeoning crush, and he's growing in confidence as a blues harmonica player. He's even booked to be part of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with his famous father! But after the parade turns into an embarrassing nightmare, Ellis bids adieu to his musical aspirations and returns home to a host of other changes: his divorced dad is dating again, and his DJ uncle has taken over his clubhouse. As Ellis schemes to undo these developments, complications arise that have him rethinking his resistance to change. It's a pleasure to return to Ellis' cozy, cookie-scented world and watch him navigate new, relatable challenges. The familial bonds are deep and affectionate, and the confiding, casual narrative style will easily draw in young readers. An eminently entertaining reminder that change should be embraced instead of feared—and that cookies always make life sweeter.

Cooper & Packrat (Trade)



#2005509 (Vol. 01) Mystery on Pine Lake (Paperback (Trade))
written by Tamra Wight

Cooper thought living at a campground would be cool. But ever since his parents bought the lakeside campground, he's had more chores and less time to explore. And as if babysitting his little sister and cleaning bathrooms weren't bad enough, his ex-friends Roy has chosen him as this summer's bullying target. Cooper's only bright spot this summer is his new friend, Packrat, a guy who carries the world in his coat pockets and leaves his troubles behind. But trouble has come to the Wilder Family Campground and Pine Lake, where a family of loons is building a nest. First, someone dams up the lake and floods the nest. Then, when Cooper and Packrat build a raft where the new loons can make a new nest, it gets destroyed by someone with big footprints. It's up to the boys to figure out who, why, and how to stop the culprit before it's too late.
 978-1-939017-02-4 ©2013 5-1/2 x 8-3/4 152 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 700

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95



#1889172 (Vol. 02) Mystery of the Eagle's Nest (Hardcover (Trade))

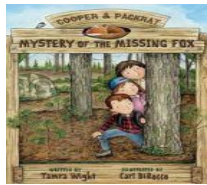
written by Tamra Wight

Trouble has returned to Wilder Family Campground. When Cooper and Packrat find their geo-cache box full of illegal eagle parts, their lazy summer is over. Someone wants those valuable parts back. And if they can't get the parts back, they'll settle for holding one of the rare Pine Lake eaglets hostage instead. Cooper, Packrat, and Roy must elude two goons, tolerate an annoying teenager, keep tabs on a shady new camper, and stake out the eagle's nest -- all without getting grounded. Tamra Wight has written an exciting follow-up to "Mystery on Pine Lake," ripe with adventure and natural history, but above all, a tale of compassion and friendship.

978-1-939017-35-2 ©2014 180 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 3.7 Lexile 650

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95



#1967502 (Vol. 03) Mystery of the Missing Fox (Hardcover (Trade))

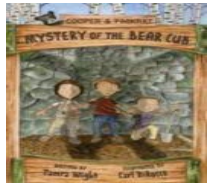
written by Tamra Wight

Who would want to catch fox kits? And why? Cooper, Packrat, and Roy must protect a fox den, find the kits, and rule out Summer, the new girl who lives across the lake, as a suspect.

978-1-939017-89-5 ©2016 6 x 9 206 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 3.7 Lexile 640

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95



#2271369 (Vol. 04) Mystery of the Bear Cub (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tamra Wight

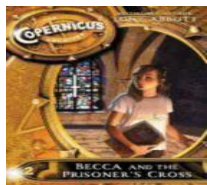
Someone is dumping trash on the Wilder Family Campground's property. When Cooper, Packrat, and Roy start to investigate, they stumble headlong into the path of a garbage truck and a hungry black bear.

978-1-944762-25-4 ©2017 6 x 9 176 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 660

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95

Copernicus Archives (Prebound)



#1941349 (Vol. 02) Becca and the Prisoner's Cross (Prebound)

written by Tony Abbott

A follow-up to Wade and the Scorpion's Claw finds studious language expert Becca suffering from mysterious blackouts that allow her to see the time of Copernicus, where she receives coded messages about a next relic.

978-1-4844-5666-8 ©2015 5 x 7 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 5.0

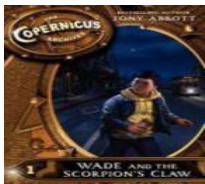
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$12.95

#1893659 (Vol. 01) Wade and the Scorpion's Claw (Prebound)

written by Tony Abbott

Wade and the Scorpion's Claw picks up right where The Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone left off, with the Kaplan family seeking the next Copernicus relic.

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$12.95



Now Wade, the curious, analytical, yet starry-eyed member of the group, leads the chase for another relic through the busy streets of San Francisco while on the run from one of Galina Krause's most treacherous henchmen.

978-1-4844-3896-1 ©2014 5 x 7-13/16 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 690

Coyote Sunrise (Trade)



#2168174 Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise (Prebound)

written by Dan Gemeinhart

Five years. That's how long twelve-year-old Coyote and her dad, River, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation. It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and sisters. Coyote hasn't been home in all that time.

978-1-5364-6473-3 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this poignant, action-packed adventure, 12-year-old Coyote must hoodwink her father, Rodeo, into returning home to Washington State after years of itinerant life on a school bus. A tragic car accident killed Coyote's mother and sisters five years before, compelling Rodeo and Coyote to adopt new names and traverse the country telling escapist stories, until Coyote learns from her grandmother that the neighborhood park where she and her mother and sisters buried a precious memory box faces imminent demolition. Gemeinhart (Good Dog) layers grief and upended caretaking into the father-daughter relationship, which heightens as Coyote schemes to get back home from Florida in just a few days to dig up the box; to help, she recruits and befriends a memorable and motley crew of travelers. The narrative leaves unanswered questions about the duo's time on the road (Coyote's schooling, for example), but sincere friendships, inventive obstacles, and emotional depth propel the cross-country trip as the winning protagonist stakes a claim for her future by reclaiming the past. Ages 9: 12. Agents: Pam Victorio and Bob Diforio, D4EO Literary Agency. (Jan.)



#2366121 Coyote Lost and Found (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Dan Gemeinhart

It's been almost a year since Coyote and her dad left the road behind and settled down in a small Oregon town . . . time spent grieving the loss of her mom and sisters and trying to fit in at school. But just as life is becoming a new version of normal, Coyote discovers a box containing her mom's ashes. And she thinks she might finally be ready to say goodbye.

978-1-250-29277-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 9.0


Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99


Reviews by: Booklist Coyote and Rodeo are no longer on the road and live in a little house with Yager the bus parked alongside. Coyote still spends time in Yager, and one day, she finds a hidden wooden box, filled with what can only be her mother's ashes. Rodeo confirms that she is correct. The place where she wanted her ashes scattered is written in a book of poetry, but when Coyote goes into Yager to get it, she can't find it. Then she realizes that she unintentionally gave it to a thrift store during their last trip. She doesn't tell Rodeo, instead planning an elaborate road trip to search in the most likely places for the book. They bring along best friend Salvador and, to Coyote's dismay, neighbor Candace. Coyote is less happy-go-lucky than in the first novel, and her salty behavior puzzles Salvador and clearly hurts Candace. Still, Gemeinhart allows Coyote to grow up, and readers on their own journeys of emotional growth will be able to identify with her reactions. A memorable blend of sorrow and joy.


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Coyote hits the highway again in this follow-up to 2019's *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*. Set one year later, at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, this sequel finds Coyote Sunrise and her father, Rodeo, both cued white, having settled into a house in Oregon, with Rodeo receiving counseling and Coyote attending school for the first time in five years. But with school canceled for three weeks, it's the perfect time for father and daughter to traverse the country in their bus. They're off in search of a lost volume of poetry by Mary Oliver in which Coyote's mother wrote down the location where they should scatter her ashes. As before, the pair accumulate a motley assemblage

of fellow travelers who fall under the spell of the quirky duo. Coyote's narrative flair propels the novel, but the emotional underpinnings have shifted. Thirteen-year-old Coyote's parentified role has lessened, and, aggravated by challenges with classmates, she displays a believably volatile early-adolescent tone in her narration and behavior. Her friend Salvador, who's Latine, is an empathetic, well-developed character. Thanks to Gemeinhart's trademark compassion, each character participates in moments of poignant humanity, but many supporting characters feel more lightly sketched in, including Thai American former corporate lawyer Wally, who experiences anti-Asian racism related to the unfolding pandemic; purple-haired coder Candace, Rodeo's new girlfriend; and a grieving older Englishwoman named Doreen. Fans of the first book will find much to appreciate in this heartfelt story of growth and change. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

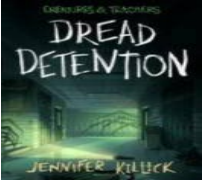
Cragbridge Hall (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1757771 (Vol. 02) Avatar Battle (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Chad Morris</i> The adventure continues when Abby and Derick begin their second semester at Cragbridge Hall. But when Grandpa Cragbridge admits them to the Council of Keys - a secret group of people who have keys to travel back in time - strange things begin to happen. One by one, members are found unconscious and unable to wake, their keys stolen. 978-1-60907-809-6 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 1 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 670</p>	1	\$17.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1768531 (Vol. 01) Inventor's Secret (Paperback (Trade)) <i>written by Chad Morris</i> Abby and Derick are accepted to prestigious Cragbridge Hall. Due to the inventions of their grandfather, they will be able to experience history in 3D, use their minds to literally project visual interpretations of classic literature, and become animal avatars for zoology. But when their grandfather and parents go missing, Abby and Derick must follow clues that will reveal a secret. 978-1-60907-875-1 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 344 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$7.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2101275 (Vol. 03) Impossible Race (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Chad Morris</i> Derick and Abby Cragbridge continue their seventh-grade year at Cragbridge Hall, where they run into competitions, new friends, virtual zombies, and real danger. 978-1-60907-979-6 ©2015 5-3/4 x 8 432 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 15.0 Lexile 660</p>	1	\$18.99

Creatures and Teachers (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2365833 (Vol. 01) Dread Detention (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jennifer Killick</i> When classmates Hallie, Angelo, Gustav and Naira are forced to come to school on a Saturday, they think things can't get much worse. But they're wrong. Things are about to get seriously scary. 978-0-593-65225-1 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 780</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Four kids sentenced to Saturday detention learn that their school grounds are hiding some sinister secrets. For Angelo and fellow students Hallie, Naira, and Gus, their punishment seems like the worst thing ever. At first it appears the kids couldn't be more different, and there's no love lost between any of them, but as they spend time together, they start to discover commonalities and begin developing mutual respect, which comes in handy when their teacher suddenly disappears into a crack in the ground. As it turns out, the forest surrounding Dread Wood Academy is home to some terrifying giant creatures. Are the elderly couple employed by the school who constantly sing or whistle "Itsy Bitsy Spider" harmless eccentrics...or are they up to something nefarious? As the foursome shift from being mostly strangers to a tightknit, supportive team, their banter becomes realistic and at times quite humorous. Though the novel is narrated by Angelo, all the kids deal with personal problems and open up about bad decisions they've made to protect themselves at the expense of others; their realizations about themselves provide considerable depth and character development alongside the shudder-inducing horrors and moments of action and suspense. No mention is made of the characters' races or ethnicities. A creepy tale that boasts both thrills and authentically complex characters. (Horror. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Arriving at their gothic Dread Wood Academy for Saturday morning detention, four seventh graders find themselves embroiled in an even ghastlier predicament in this creepy crawly, morbidly comedic horror mystery by British author Killick. Angelo, a loner experiencing food insecurity; overachieving Naira; impassioned activist Hallie; and wisecracking Gus trudge to their assigned "Back on Track" session after a string of moral trespasses at school land them in trouble. Initially glum because of their confiscated phones, the group kicks into survival mode when their supervising teacher Mr. Canton is dragged beneath the athletic field by a spider "the size of a dog," leaving the youths to fend for themselves against the monstrous arachnids and the married groundskeepers who appear to be controlling them. As the tweens trauma-bond over the eerie coincidences that forced them into detention, they puzzle over why they are being targeted and attempt to survive the ordeal. Between nail-biting chase scenes and elegantly wrought character development, hardly a moment is wasted in this arachnophobia-inducing thriller, making for an icky-fun adventure full of scares and gallows humor. Main characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kirsty McLachlan, Morgan Green Creatives. (Feb.)

Crossing the Stream (Trade)



#2226656 Crossing the Stream (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elizabeth-Irene Baitie

Ato has always seen his father as a real-life Superman, maybe even with a bit of Iron Man and the Hulk mixed in. When he dies, Ato and his mother are devastated, and struggle to put the pieces of their lives back together. So when Ato's mother decides he should spend the summer with his grandmother, he isn't sure what to expect. It certainly isn't arriving to find her preparing to bury the family sofa.

978-1-324-01709-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 690

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly All Ghanaian 12-year-old Ato Turkson wants is to visit Nnoma, "the biggest bird sanctuary in all of Africa," which his father helped build before his death, when Ato was an infant. Now, five years after it last opened, an opportunity to visit the exclusive island arises through an environmental project competition. With his oldest friends, fearless Dzifa and obedient Leslie, Ato decides to grow vegetables with natural pesticides. Concurrently, his mother suddenly tells him he'll visit his paternal grandmother every weekend; following five years' estrangement. Though Ato has fond memories of Nana, his mother and the Prophet of Fire, a local spiritual leader, urge him to be wary of Nana's witchery and porch sofa. While Ato grows closer to Nana, comforted by her stories of his father, his community grows cagey when animals and crops start to die. As Ato becomes more suspicious of the Prophet and determined to save his community, he strives to turn his concerns into courage. Baitie (The Lion's Whisper) offers a fully fleshed, sensorially detailed narrative exploring regret and the manipulation of fears through the lens of children's curiosity in her absorbing latest. Ages 9: 12. Agents: Sarah Odedina and Deborah Ahenkorah, Accord Literary. (June)



#2349694 Flying up the Mountain (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elizabeth-Irene Baitie

Ato and his friends Dzifa and Leslie have been selected to visit Nnoma, the bird sanctuary that Ato's father helped build before he died. Ato is convinced that his father hid something valuable on the island, meant only for him. When the trio arrives at Nnoma with other children from across West Africa, they are split into teams and given missions to help broaden their knowledge of nature.

978-1-324-05267-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.95

Curious League of Detectives and Thieves (Trade)**#2278711 (Vol. 01) Egypt's Fire (Hardcover (Trade))***written by Tom Phillips*

After twelve-year-old John Boarhog's mom dies, the last thing he wants is to be schlepped off to the Jersey Home for Boys, where kids are forced to make skinny jeans for hipsters and are fed nothing but kale. But when a rare Egyptian ruby—the highlight of the museum's new exhibit—goes missing, John is accused of the crime.

978-1-64595-105-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 After losing his mother, John takes refuge in New York's Museum of Natural History, where he hides in a crawl space and befriends the kind staff. As a new Egyptian exhibit is being readied, John finds himself only feet away from the priceless ruby known as Egypt's Fire—but he's not alone. Everything goes dark, and the next moment, John is being accused of stealing the ruby. Only the charismatic Inspector Toadius McGee seems to believe John's innocence, and together they work to find the ruby. As Toadius and John get closer to the real culprit, they grow closer to each other as well, with John learning about being a detective, and Toadius sharing his views on life. They visit Broadway, eat blueberry pancakes, meet with a guild of thieves, and more, all while chasing one of the world's most elusive criminals. This fast-paced mystery, sprinkled with humor and life lessons, has enough twists, turns, red herrings, and secrets to keep readers guessing. A strong series starter for fans of clever mysteries. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Framed for the theft of a billion-dollar ruby, an 11 1/2-year-old orphan hooks up with the World's Greatest Detective to collar the perp. In a tale for which the word madcap might have been invented, hardly has John Boarhog awakened in a gallery of the fictional New York Museum of Natural History with what seems to be a very large gem in his pocket, than he's cast into a whirl of unlikely encounters and mishaps in pursuit of the world's greatest thief, the Mauve Moth—who might or might not, he is shocked to learn, be his beloved, long-missing mom! In the course of a plot that careens from the city jail to the observation deck of the Chrysler Building, climaxing with a chase through Manhattan involving a banana truck, a rickshaw, a horse-drawn carriage, a dog, a motorcycle, a police horse, and a fire truck, the plucky preteen meets a gaggle of (mostly) allies led by genial if maddeningly oblique Society of Sleuths investigator Toadius McGee...an oddly large number of whom confess to being ex-members of a certain defunct circus with a tragic past that will no doubt be articulated in future episodes. Along with proving to be a resilient sort, John turns out to be no mean detective himself and, by the end, proudly sports a probationary S.O.S. badge of his own. John, Toadius, and other significant characters have brown skin. A brisk romp chock-full of tricky twists and daffy doings. (Detective fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Phillips's rollicking debut features 11-year-old John Boarhog, a clever orphan who lives in the ceiling of the fictional New York Museum of Natural History. After nearsighted museum director Victor van Eyck mistakes John for a museum custodian, he gives him an access code to the new Egyptology exhibit. Though John usually spends his nights reading books and avoiding detection, he begins browsing the artifacts, and when the exhibit's crown jewel, a ruby of extraordinary beauty called Egypt's Fire, is swapped for a fake, John is blamed and detained. He's eventually released into the reluctant custody of the world's best detective, Toadius McGee, and John; playing Watson to McGee's Holmes; joins him in hair-raising escapades as they hunt for the real gem. Their investigation takes them from center stage at a Broadway musical to a speakeasy filled with purple-clad patrons, and their adventures are populated by a large, flamboyantly rendered cast (many of whom are described as having brown skin), which includes intrepid reporter Jaelyn Star and Pickles, an actor with a secret. Though abundant jokes sometimes overwhelm at the expense of plot, this laugh-out-loud caper, reminiscent of Lemony Snicket's work, sits well among its madcap mystery cohort. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ann Rose, Prospect Agency. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Eleven-year-old orphaned John Boarhog, secretly living in the New York Museum of Natural History, is accused of stealing a valuable ruby from an Egyptian exhibit in this fun and often absurd middle grade mystery debut. John is discovered when he's found unconscious next to the Egyptian display case with the ruby in his pocket. An anonymous narrator recounts John's desperate efforts to prove his innocence. He's aided in his quest for justice by the incomparable Inspector Toadius McGee; actress Polly "Pickles" Cronopolis, McGee's unrequited love; and the Great Goatinee, a cat burglar and bad magician. The real thief is the Mauve Moth, a criminal mastermind who, to John's disbelief, might be his mother who is thought to have died two years before. The plot is fun in a chaotic way, with double-crossings, plot twists, and outrageous characters and situations. John and company get mixed up in a Broadway show, a speakeasy brawl, and are kidnapped by the nasty head of the Jersey Home for Boys and its bullying orphans. It ends with a fantastical chase scene involving bananas, horses, hansom carriages, rickshaws, dogs, smooching teenagers, a fire truck, and dumpsters. It's not all nonstop comedy though. More sober moments reveal John's struggle to cope with the loneliness of losing his mother. John and Inspector McGee are brown-skinned, most other characters are white. VERDICT Readers who don't take the plot too seriously will enjoy this fast-moving cinematic madcap detective mystery, the first in a series.—Sharon Rawlins



#2328943 (Vol. 02) S.O.S. (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tom Phillips

Fresh off recovering a billion-dollar ruby and losing the criminal who stole it, John Boarhog and Inspector Toadius McGee are soaring high on a new adventure. Hoping to intercept the Mauve Moth before they execute their next great heist, Toadius and John book passage on Her Majesty's Royal Air Armada-a luxury cruise liner airship. But when both the Mauve Moth and Shim-Sham resurface, each with their own nefarious aims, will the detective duo be able to see past their disagreements to, once again, save the day?

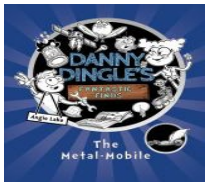
978-1-64595-108-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A giant flying passenger liner bound for Brazil provides plenty of opportunities for apprentice sleuth John Boarhog, ward of legendary detective Toadius McGee, to show his talents. In a second romp characterized by the frame narrator as true ("I have once again changed only the facts I didn't like") if deliciously over-the-top, the 12-year-old gumshoe-in-training finds himself struggling not only to counter the latest scheme of renowned thief Polly "Pickles" Cronopolis, but to prove himself both to a delegation from the Society of Sleuths and to his infuriatingly secretive guardian, Toadius. Both tasks are complicated by the presence aboard the palatial and, as swashbuckling Capt. Amelia Cloudhopper ominously puts it, "uncrashable," H.M.R.A.S. Boutielle of renowned criminal mastermind Shim-Sham, a monkey recently escaped from imprisonment in New York's maximum security Central Park Zoo. Not to mention, following a string of riotous melees and misadventures, an attack by sky pirates capped by a collision with an iceberg. Along with adding a racially diverse assortment of new adult characters to the array of magicians and circus performers introduced in the opener, Phillips gives his brown-skinned protagonist several new young friends and allies, including fabulously wealthy White-presenting Aussie fanboy Wembley Quokkas (and his loving mums) and Kana Rai, a circus performer of Japanese descent. Stay tuned for further feats of deduction and encounters with more fiendishly clever crooks. Soaring, silly, and stocked with detectives and criminal masterminds...some of whom turn out to be both. (Detective fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Danny Dingle's Fantastic Finds (Trade)



#2121349 Metal-Mobile (Hardcover (Trade))

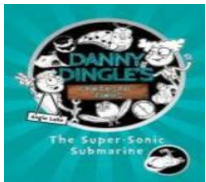
written by Angie Lake

Follow the outrageously entertaining adventures in the Danny Dingle series, as the schoolboy inventor and his best friend Percy collect cool stuff for their box of fantastic finds.

978-1-78226-570-2 ©2019 6 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$7.99



#2124151 Super-Sonic Submarine (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Angie Lake

Danny Dingle, our favourite AMAZING super-inventor, is back and this time he's joining the SCOUTS! (Everyone knows that stands for Spy Club Only for Ultra-Terrific Spies, don't they?) Faced with the perilous prospect of a camping trip to 'Sunny' Scotland, can Danny and Percy save the day?

978-1-78226-571-9 ©2019 6 x 7-1/2 296 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

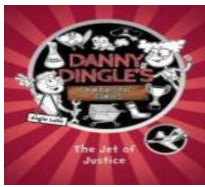
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$7.99

#2147531 Jet of Justice (Hardcover (POB))

written by Angie Lake

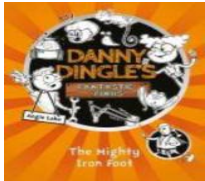
With a sci-fi convention and a flying machine competition on the horizon, Danny and

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$7.99



Percy are desperate to finally get noticed by Metal Face. But Mum is plotting against them at every turn. (Trust her to want a summer of peace and quiet!) Suddenly only one question is important: is summer camp as HORRIBLE as it sounds?

978-1-78226-572-6 ©2020 6 x 7-1/2 256 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 840



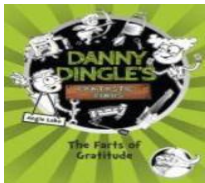
#2157351 Mighty Iron Foot (Hardcover (POB))

written by Angie Lake

When a routine freeze ray demo leads to the death of Mr Nesbit's prize-winning chameleon, Danny and Percy are sent to jiu-jitsu lessons to 'learn some discipline' - YAWN! Instead their friendship is tested as never before.

978-1-78226-573-3 ©2020 6 x 7-1/2 248 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
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#2160548 Farts of Gratitude (Hardcover (POB))

written by Angie Lake

G.A.G is Metal Face's super-cool new band, and Danny and Percy are determined to copy their idol and make some noise. They're not alone: the whole school is obsessed! With Battle of the Bands on its way, the disaster duo faces their greatest challenge yet. Can they put on the show of a lifetime? Or will it all go up in smoke?

978-1-78226-574-0 ©2020 6 x 7-3/4 248 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$7.99



#2249173 Magnificent Mind Melter (Hardcover (POB))

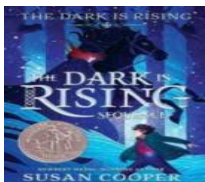
written by Angie Lake

After an awful parents' evening, Danny and Percy's friendship is on the rocks. Thanks to Mr. Hammond spilling the beans about their couscous-projecting particle accelerator, they've been grounded until they're twenty-one! And what's more, they've got to compete against each other in the school's first ever parent-child sports day.

978-1-78226-777-5 ©2021 6 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$7.99

Dark Is Rising (Trade)





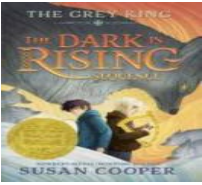
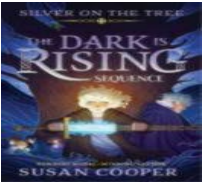
#2352035 (Vol. 02) Dark Is Rising (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Susan Cooper

The day before Will Stanton's eleventh birthday, he notices strange omens on his family farm: a cryptic gift, a terrifying flock of birds, and a deep, cold fear that emerges from the darkness. When he wakes on his birthday-also Midwinter Day-Will has the life-changing revelation that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals who fight to keep the powers of evil, the Dark, from taking over the world.

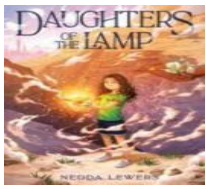
978-1-6659-3288-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 920

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#2352033 (Vol. 01) Over Sea, under Stone (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Susan Cooper</i> All through time, the two great forces of Light and Dark have battled for control of the world. Now, after centuries of balance, the Dark is summoning its terrifying forces to rise once more and three children find themselves caught in the conflict. 978-1-6659-3290-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 830</p>	1	\$19.99
	<p>#2352037 (Vol. 03) Greenwich (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Susan Cooper</i> The priceless golden grail that Simon, Jane, and Barney Drew worked so hard to recover has been stolen by forces of evil. Great-Uncle Merry takes the siblings back to Trewissick in Cornwall, where he expects the Dark has hidden the grail. There, they are joined by Will Stanton, a mysterious boy with astounding powers. 978-1-6659-3292-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800</p>	1	\$19.99
	<p>#2352039 (Vol. 04) Grey King (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Susan Cooper</i> There is a Welsh legend about a harp of gold, hidden away within a certain hill, that will be found by a boy and a white dog with silver eyes—a dog that can see the wind. Will Stanton knows nothing of this when he comes to Wales to recover from a severe illness. But when he meets the strange boy Bran and his white dog, memory wakes in Will. 978-1-6659-3294-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 930</p>	1	\$19.99
	<p>#2352041 (Vol. 05) Silver on the Tree (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Susan Cooper</i> The last great battle between the Light and the Dark has arrived, engulfing Will Stanton; his ageless master, Merriman; the three heroic Drew children; and Bran, the Welsh boy whose destiny is tied to the Light. On a quest through time and space that touches the most ancient myths of the islands of Britain, the six heroes fight fear and death in the darkly brooding mountains of Wales. 978-1-6659-3296-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 890</p>	1	\$19.99

Daughters of the Lamp (Trade)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#2366668 (Vol. 01) Daughters of the Lamp, Vol. 01 (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Nedda Lewers</i></p>	1	\$18.99



Sahara Rashad lives by logic. Loves science. And always has a plan. Except her dad just whisked her away to her uncle's wedding in Egypt, upending every single plan she had for the summer. In Cairo, Sahara's days are filled with family-and mystery. First, Sahara's cousins claim the pretentious bride-to-be is actually a witch. Then her late mother's necklace starts glowing-and disappears. Sahara's attempts to recover the necklace lead her to the greatest mystery yet.

978-0-593-61930-8 ©2024 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 750

Reviews by: Book Page Despite her love for logic and science, 12-year-old Sahara Rashad longs for a trip from her home in Queens, New York, to Merlin's Crossing, a wizard-themed amusement park. Alas, as Nedda Lewers' magical coming-of-age adventure

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 When Sahara's father surprises her with a trip to his Egyptian hometown for a family wedding, she's apprehensive. Though she's never set foot in the country or met her relatives, she's swept up in warm embraces and new friendships, but things take a turn for the bizarre with the appearance of her uncle's malevolent fiancé and a mysterious glowing necklace. Scientifically minded Sahara must now contend with the fact that magic could be real--and that she may have to use it to save both her family and the world. This terrific two-pronged adventure toggles between 1980s Cairo and 985 CE Baghdad, bringing together modern life and classic tales of Ali Baba, with some gratifying twists. There's also a profound exploration of tension between seemingly conflicting ideas--science and magic, American upbringing and Egyptian heritage, the beauty and messiness of life itself--and the relief in accepting that both things may be possible at the same time. A memorable adventure that's as exciting as it is insightful. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Egyptian American Sahara comes to value her dual cultural heritage when her first trip to her parents' homeland reveals a magical family history. Going to Cairo to attend her maternal uncle's wedding was never on 12-year-old Sahara Rashad's summer agenda. Since the death of her mother when Sahara was a newborn, she's had no contact with that side of the family and is unsure how she will be received. Despite her worries, she becomes fast friends with her cousin Naima and feels genuine love from all her relatives, except for her uncle's fiancée, Magda. Sahara and Naima suspect Magda has sinister intentions that the adults don't take seriously. Meanwhile, the story of 13-year-old Morgana, a servant of Ali Baba in 10th-century Baghdad, unfolds in an alternate storyline. As the novel progresses, the connection between the two girls takes shape, revealing a centuries-old family secret in danger from malicious outside forces. Sahara's contemplation of her identity and her search for self-acceptance provide an entertaining and relatable backdrop to her encounters with magical elements. Details of Islamic practices and life in Egypt are peppered throughout the novel, flowing naturally as Sahara asks questions about things she doesn't understand. Lewers cleverly builds on the folktale of Ali Baba and Morgana to construct a magical origin story with a rich sense of place and an original twist that can be expanded upon in future volumes. An engaging fantasy inspired by a classic tale that's guaranteed to leave readers eager for more. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 985 CE Baghdad, Ali Baba's tween servant Morgana is forced to flee after a sorcerer attacks, killing both Ali Baba and the visiting Prince Ala el-Din. As per Ali Baba's dying wish, Morgana takes several enchanted artifacts with her, including a lamp containing a jinni, to keep them out of the wrong hands. A thousand years later, 12-year-old Sahara Rashad, who prizes logic and science over luck and magic, reluctantly accompanies her father to Egypt to attend her uncle's wedding. While she quickly bonds with her cousin Naima, she takes an instant disliking to her uncle's fiancée, whom Naima has nicknamed El Ghoula for her abrasive personality. Mysteries surrounding break-ins at the family shop, the necklace Sahara inherited from her late mother, and a hidden family legacy lead to a desperate attempt to prevent an ancient evil from manifesting in the present. Though the two intertwining narratives never directly connect in this joyful debut, a series launch, they nevertheless provide two halves to a fulfilling, atmospheric story in which Lewers draws on Arabian myth and Egyptian culture to weave a fast-paced magical tale of family, destiny, and belonging. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kelly Dyksterhouse, Tobias Literary. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Past and present combine in this story about magic and adventure in modern Egypt. Sahara dreams of a summer spent with friends at an amusement park, but instead she is going to her uncle's wedding in Egypt. Sahara is disappointed, but also curious about her parents' homeland and especially about her late mother. Sahara becomes enchanted with Egypt; her family shares stories, food, and love. One night Sahara's mother's necklace starts glowing, and the next day it disappears. There is evil lurking; the beautiful bride-to-be may be a witch! Also told in alternating chapters is the story of Morgana, a servant to Ali Baba, who lived long ago and has been entrusted with caring and protecting magical items from those with dark intentions. Can Morgana protect the treasures from dark sorcerers? Will Sahara find her necklace and reveal the true intentions of the nightmare bride? Lewers blends culture, fairy tales, and mystery into a memorable story that will resonate with fans of "Percy Jackson." VERDICT Highly recommended, this book encapsulates unique characters, mystery, and fairy tales in a novel that readers will devour.--Katie Llera Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2386921 (Vol. 02) Children of the Wind (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$18.99



written by Nedda Lewers

It's been a year since Sahara Rashad came face to face with El Ghoula. And now that she's is back in Egypt for the summer, Sahara can't shake the feeling the evil witch is plotting her next move. Thankfully, Sahara's BFF, Vicky, is tagging along this year and can keep her mind off the sorceress. But Vicky seems distant, and for the first time ever, Sahara is noticing cracks in their friendship.

978-0-593-61933-9 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Dead City (Trade)



#1747275 (Vol. 02) Blue Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by James Ponti

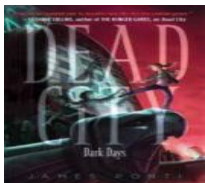
While helping the Omega team track down the identity of the original thirteen zombies in New York City, Molly tries to keep her mother's secret and uncovers a sinister plan of the undead.

978-1-4424-4131-6 ©2013 336 pgs.

Grades 5 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 800

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Finding, fighting, and even protecting zombies is serious extracurricular work for Molly Bigelow and her three Omega team pals from Dead City (2012). In this butt-kicking sequel, they join the Baker's Dozen project. Their assignment? Monitor the Unlucky 13, the Blackwell family men killed in an 1896 subway tunnel digging explosion. The Blackwells roam freely as undead with constantly changing names. Forced to rely on old-school deductive reasoning and methods, Molly and her friends unearth plans for the biggest undead event ever, scheduled for New Year's Eve in Times Square. Manhattan landmarks (the Flatiron Building, Grand Central Station, museums) roll history, science, and geography into the story. While this doesn't fully recap the first book, readers will catch up easily. Molly is an engaging narrator, and Ponti's writing is full of humor and action. Give this to fans of Suzanne Collins' Gregor the Overlander (2003) or J. Scott Savage's Case File 13 series.-- Fredriksen, Jeanne Copyright 2010 Booklist



#1937264 (Vol. 03) Dark Days (Hardcover (Trade))

written by James Ponti

Molly and the Omegas fight to contain the storm unleashed by Operation Blue Moon. As they do, Molly's personal life is thrown into turmoil when she discovers that one of her closest friends has joined the ranks of the undead, a development that threatens the Omegas as well as Molly's relationship with her mother.

978-1-4814-3636-6 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 5 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 730

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Dead Family (Trade)



#2330033 (Vol. 01) Grave Mistakes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kitty Curran

Molly Dade has big problems. But then Molly's mom and twin brother Marty were killed in a freak accident. No one knows why, but Mom is now a ghost and Marty is a poltergeist. Oh, and there's also Molly's younger sister Dyandra, who is a zombie.

Keeping all this supernatural stuff a secret from everyone is hard work, especially when the dead (undead?) members of the family still want to participate in things like the Parent Teacher Association meetings or come to the (very public, very potentially embarrassing) school concert.

978-1-368-08347-8 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A middle schooler discovers that her unusual family is the least of her problems. Readers will have no problem understanding why Molly Dade is stressed--being as her spacey mom is dead but still present as a disembodied voice; Marty, her likewise dead twin brother, is hanging around as a prank-loving poltergeist; and Dyandra, her adopted little sister, is a zombie who craves brains. Keeping these facts from becoming general knowledge has turned both school and her lifelong friendship with classmate Grace into nightmares. Oh, and Molly has actual nightmares, too, along with other symptoms suggesting that she's been cursed by a witch. Emerging hints that the explosion that (more or less) killed her mother and brother a year ago wasn't accidental steer the plotline to a melodramatic climax, but overall, debut author Curran keeps the tone light by, for instance, replacing Molly's supposed grief with irritation at the cloying sympathy she has to endure in public to keep up pretenses. Curran also surrounds her with a secondary cast that, to Molly's amazement and relief, takes her family's differences calmly in stride once they're revealed. By the end, some villains remain at large for future rematches, but everyone else, even ex-nemesis classmate Cara, is on Molly's side--and Molly herself is not quite as "normal" as she had supposed. Most characters seem to be White; one of Molly's grandmothers was Chinese. Addams Family lite for readers seeking spooky fun grounded in relationships. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Deadlands (Trade)



#2321555 (Vol. 01) Hunted (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Skye Melki-Wegner

When the Fallen Star struck, it brought death and despair, ash and toxic rain. But some dinosaurs survived . . . and were changed. Their minds grew alert. They learned to speak. To dream. To wage war. As the two remaining dinosaur kingdoms fight for territory, Eleri, the disgraced son of a prince, is exiled from his home for saving an enemy.

978-1-250-82769-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

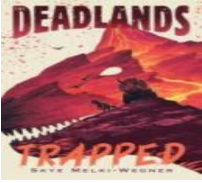
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Fifty years after a falling star wreaked havoc on the prehistoric landscape, two dinosaur kingdoms are locked in a never-ending war. Eleri, a young oryctodromeus, dreams of being a storyteller, not a soldier; but when he inadvertently saves a foe's life, he finds himself exiled to the dreaded Deadlands, a scorched desert left to lawless carnivores and offering endless ways to die. Eleri happens upon exiles from the enemy kingdom, and while they're all desperate enough to put aside their animosity, it's unclear how long the uneasy truce will last. When they learn of a traitorous plot to take down both kingdoms, they realize they'll have to work together to save their worlds and return home. The terrific series opener is packed with detailed dinosaur data and humorous asides, and the world building is well developed, with intricate mythologies, governments, and histories in place from the start. The growing rapport between species is a delight, and though the focus is on friendship and family, there are deeper meditations on morality and war. A treat for any dinosaur devotee.


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ve their warring clans from a deadly outside threat in this all-dinosaur debut. Fifty years after a Fallen Star laid waste to the planet but magically rendered the remaining dinosaurs more intelligent, the herbivorous residents of the Mountain Kingdom and the Prairie Alliance of Cretacea are gathering rival armies for a decisive battle--unaware that the carnivorous raptors of the Carrion Kingdom have formed an unprecedented alliance and are poised to descend in a killing frenzy on the battle's survivors. Expelled or estranged from their herds for various reasons, several young plant eaters, each a different type of dinosaur, meet by chance in the devastated Deadlands and discover the treacherous scheme. Can they put aside rivalries and conflicting agendas to pull off a save? Melki-Wegner provides helpful introductory notes on the large cast, which feels human in all but species ("Look, if we're gonna survive out here, we've both gotta play to our strengths," wheedles aspiring tale spinner Eleri, the small but agile oryctodromeus in the lead role). The story pits the doughty exiles against foes ranging from a horde of ratlike (and unintelligent) warmbloods to a towering tyrannosaur. Keeping the levels of explicit gore and violence low, the author propels her feathered or armored heroes through contrived but suspenseful and ultimately successful efforts to disperse the carnivores and end the original battle in a draw, leaving any resolution or reconciliation to future episodes. Prehistoric adventures with a (more-or-less) period cast. (map) (Adventure. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In a fast-paced trilogy opener, dinosaurs have been capable of "songs and thoughts and language," dreaming, and waging war ever since they were exposed to the star-mist created upon impact of a cataclysmic asteroid 50 years ago. The Mountain Kingdom and the Prairie Alliance; two warring, herbivorous factions; have been at odds for decades. So when, in a moment of compassion, Mountain Kingdom princeling and storyteller Eleri, an oryctodromeus, saves the lives of Prairie Alliance soldiers, he's exiled by his peers to the Deadlands, "an endless sea of charred bones and barren wastes" that is home to innumerable carnivores. There he encounters other young exiles: airborne anurognathid spy Zyre, grumpy triceratops and Prairie Alliance soldier Tortha, gregarious genius ankylosaur Sorielle, and oracular sauropod Lerithon. The quintet form a tentative herd and endeavor to end the war for good, but their quest instead uncovers an insidious carnivore scheme. Melki-Wegner (The Hush) centers intrepid apparent rivals learning to trust and rely on one another while facing natural hazards and threats at every turn. The narrative's emphasis on; and carefully researched depictions of; lesser-known dinosaurs will undoubtedly spark interest among Jurassic enthusiasts, and the


engaging adventure will entice readers to subsequent volumes. Ages 8: 12. (Apr.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2348328 (Vol. 02) Trapped (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Skye Melki-Wegner</i> As bloody battle rages between the two surviving dinosaur kingdoms, Eleri and the other young exiles—including a peppy stegosaur, a stoic sauropod, a testy triceratops, and a mysterious spy—search for proof to convince their herds that the war is a setup orchestrated by the secret Carrion Kingdom, a conniving cabal of carnivores determined to feast on every living herbivore. But without evidence, not a soul believes them. 978-1-250-82770-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 650	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Seeking to escape carnivorous pursuers, a band of exiled prehistoric plant eaters go from the frying pan into the fire (literally) in this follow-up to *The Deadlands* (2023). Calamities compound as a desperate flight over the treacherous, volcanic Salted Scorch—with a carnotaurus colonel and a squad of raptors hot on their trail—leads oryctodromeus Eleri and his four herbivorous allies not to the hoped-for safety of the Drylands but straight into the magma-heated tunnels of the Fire Peak: the headquarters of the Carrion Kingdom. There, along with the very personal danger of being captured and eaten at any moment, the fugitives find not only a captive herd of fellow herbivores in need of rescue but a cache of terrifying weapons certain to turn the tide in the larger ongoing war between predator and prey species. As is proper for a middle volume, Melki-Wegner raises the stakes while developing characters and relationships within the contentious main group. And if she continues to lean too heavily on a conveniently broad magical premise to move her story along, she does effectively sweep readers toward a climax that leaves the captives (including a bonded couple of elderly female triceratops) released and the Carrion Kingdom dealt a fiery, but not final, setback. Jurassic juniors again thwart toothy foes, but the prospects for a plant-based peace remain dim. (Adventure. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2375467 (Vol. 03) Deadlands: Survival (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Skye Melki-Wegner</i> As bloody battle rages between the two surviving dinosaur kingdoms, Eleri and the other young exiles—including a peppy stegosaur, a stoic sauropod, a testy triceratops, and a mysterious spy—have temporarily thwarted the Carrion Kingdom, a conniving cabal of carnivores, and destroyed their secret stronghold. 978-1-250-82773-9 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic	1	\$18.99

Dear Sister (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2081683 Dear Sister (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Alison McGhee</i> What do you do when you have an incredibly annoying little sister? Write her letters telling her so. A collection of short, humorous letters (with drawings to match!) from an older brother to his little sister. 978-1-4814-5142-0 ©2018 5 x 8 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts .5 Lexile 560	1	\$13.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Letters, drawings, and homemade coupons form this epistolary accounting of two siblings' young life together, a portrait of frustration and love that spans 10 years: from the birth of Sister to her 10th year, when her brother departs for college. The missives Brother sends reveal his feelings; notes their parents ("the wardens") make him pen, apologies (also forced), and sibling progress reports ("Whininess: Excellent"). Initially, Sister is an annoyance (she cries, insists Brother read a book for the "763rd time," fails to respect restroom privacy). But affection grows between them, and amusement and tenderness come through in the letters' postscripts (from a note to camp: "PS: I miss you, too"). Drawings by Bluhm complement the handwritten text, mimicking the boy's sketches and the way they change over time. The

authentic sibling relationship may border on nostalgia, but it offers a meaningful look at one of life's realities: sibling-hood and all its foibles. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 10-up. Author's agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. Illustrator's agent: Larissa Helena, Pippin Properties. (Oct.)



#2329659 Dear Brother (Hardcover (POB))

written by Alison McGhee

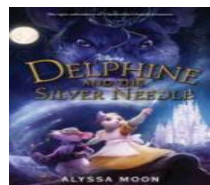
(Companion Novel) Sister has been the overlooked younger sibling for years. She knows the drill. Her brother's banjo band is praised while no one acknowledges Sister's bongo skills. Sister does the grunt work, but Brother gets the credit. But this time, the blatant injustice has gone too far. This time, America's Famous Nothing has been granted the incredible power of choosing the family pet. And what does he choose? Certainly not a dog, the pet Sister has begged and pleaded for—a pet the whole family could love. No, Brother chooses a bearded dragon.

978-1-5344-8708-6 ©2023 5 x 8 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Delphine (Trade)



#2213116 (Vol. 01) Delphine and the Silver Needle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alyssa Moon

When Delphine, a young orphaned dressmaker mouse living in the walls of Cinderella's chateau, stumbles upon an enormous secret, it upends everything she thought she knew: The magical tailor mice of legend really existed.

978-1-368-04802-6 ©2021 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 10.0

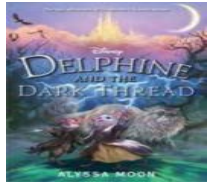
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 For those readers who ever wondered, while watching Cinderella, about the life of the surprisingly agile and talented mice who inhabit the chateau, this is the book to hand to them. Moon vividly portrays a society for mice and other small creatures that parallels that of humans. Delphine was left on the mouse-sized doorstep of the house with nothing but a swaddle and a human-sized needle, and she grows to become a seamstress. She catches the eye of the princess and receives an invitation to the castle where she meets foppish noble mouse Alexander, who is intrigued by the legends of mystical tailor mice who used enormous needles to perform magic. Not a moment after Delphine discovers her needle might be the stuff of legends, she and Alexander attract the attention of King Midnight and his army of rats, and both flee, embarking upon a journey of discovery. This imaginative, exciting spin-off of Disney's Cinderella is a page-turning mystery that banks on the charm of complex, fantastical stories going on unnoticed right under the noses of humans. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A foundling mouse sets out to uncover the mystery of her origins and of the magical needle sized for humans that was left with her. Delphine's travels begin with a summons to the palace, where her growing reputation as a brilliant seamstress commands an order for a ball gown for Princess Petits-Oiseaux--and also gives her a chance to discover exciting hints about a vanished order of needle-wielding magic mice known as the Threaded and of an ancient war with the rats. Meanwhile, no sooner does Midnight, cruel king of the rats, learn that the needle they have been seeking for a century has been found than said old war suddenly heats up and turns into a deadly chase. Also meanwhile, only barely noticed by the animal cast but sure to snag readers' attention, certain events involving another seamstress, a pumpkin coach, a ball, a prince, and a glass slipper are happening above the floorboards in the parallel human world. That isn't the only sly touch in this bibbidi bobbidi debut, which is rich in clearly delineated character types, features plenty of brisk action, and is also, overall, more than a bit reminiscent in tone and setting to Brian Jacques' Redwall series (though with more focus on fashion than food). While this volume is mostly setup, heroes and villains alike end up on their marks, and plenty of loose ends remain to stitch up later. A charming series opener. (Animal fantasy. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6—Delphine appeared one night as a young mouseling on the steps of the Chateau Desjardins (aka Cinderella's abode), wrapped in a cloth with a human-sized needle. Now grown, she has never quite felt like she belongs in the mouse community, though she took pleasure in her passion for sewing. Soon after Delphine sews an exquisite gown for the mouse princess, her mysterious origins catch up with her. The rats, who have had a treaty with the mice for the last 100 years, attack her in an attempt to steal her needle. Delphine's daring escape with the dashing obnoxious Sir Alexander (Delphine does not need rescuing, thank you very much) is the beginning of a quest to find out who she is and how she fits into the ancient magical order of the Threadeds. Along the way, she awakens the magic in the needle and herself as she realizes not all in the order are gone. This anthropomorphic animal story offers a new perspective on the typical "Cinderella" story, while

hearkening back to the "Redwall" series, complete with an abbey run by a badger. The mood of this fairy-tale adventure is both exciting and reassuring, and the fast-paced plot gives enough clues to keep readers guessing without making all the connections. This first installment ends on an exciting cliff-hanger. VERDICT A delight of a quest story that will fill the need of readers seeking a fractured fairy tale, talking animals, or just a quick-moving adventure.—Clare A. Dombrowski, Amesbury P.L., MA



#2269829 (Vol. 02) Delphine and the Dark Thread (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Alyssa Moon

Fresh off the heels of King Midnight's rat-army invasion at the Winterberry Ball, Delphine, Alexander, and Cornichonne are on the run, making their way through the far reaches of Peltinore. Unlikely allies pop up at every turn, but so do new enemies. While evading the rats hot on their tails, the trio uncovers new clues about the legendary Threaded tailor mice, including surprising discoveries about Delphine's magical needle.

978-1-368-04833-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

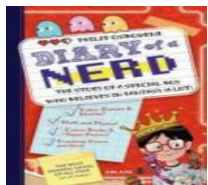
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Armed only with her magical sewing needle, founding mouse Delphine sets out to confront the cruel rat king in this duology closer. As vicious rat armies pillage the mouse realms in search of her and her pointy, long-hidden treasure, Delphine finds herself waging an inner war that parallels the outer one. According to dusty documents and other reputable sources, the needle's good powers can be perverted, but she sees no other way except killing to stop evil rat King Midnight. While struggling with a grim determination to go over to the dark side that sets her at odds with her own fundamentally loving nature, Delphine threads her way along with loyal allies past various scrapes--only to come, climactically, face to face with not only her nemesis, but her own past. Moon stitches in flashbacks to fill out the details of a tragic old love triangle that reaches its fruition here and sews her tale up with a return to Château Desjardins just in time for Cinderella's wedding and a celebratory rodentine ball in the chandelier overhead, and she leaves a fringe of epilogue hinting at further installments to come. Less charming than the opener but does feature a thimbleful of moral quandary at its center. (secret codes) (Animal fantasy. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—When we last left our mouse (and cat) heroes, they had escaped the rat attack of the Winterberry Ball at the Palace. Now, they are in the dark woods in search of the evil self-proclaimed rat king, Midnight, to put an end to the terrible war. The path is hard, cold, and snowy with little food, but Delphine and courtly Alexander, along with faithful cat Cornichonne, are surviving as best they can. All the while Delphine is channeling anger into her magic, making it more dangerous and forbidden while trying to ignore the quest of finding out who she is. But the answer to where she came from may also reveal how to beat the rat king. Perhaps anger is not the way to unknot past wrongs and spells. Readers will need to read the first book, Delphine and the Silver Needle, as not much backstory is given and things start right where the last book ended. Some of the fairytale aspects are lost in this installment as it veers more into a hero's quest, but readers will still become immersed in this animal world. Familiar characters experience growth, and delightful new ones are introduced, such as a helpful family of bats. Past and present plot lines intersect (with distinguishing typeface), eventually revealing connections and rendering the plot a beautifully intricate tapestry. While the hemming up of the plot at the end tends toward hurried and unbelievable based on the actions of the characters throughout, readers will likely appreciate the happy ending. VERDICT A sound sequel that brings adventure and mystery, and weaves an animal story that will appeal to a wide audience.—Clare A. Dombrowski

Diary of a Nerd (Trade)



#2181668 (Vol. 01) Diary of a Nerd, Vol 01 (Hardcover (POB))
written by Philip Osbourne

Diary of a Nerd stars Phil, a twelve year old boy living in Manhattan, NY. He is a talented, self-professed nerd ... an intellectual who enjoys spending his days with his friends, known as "The Geek Team".

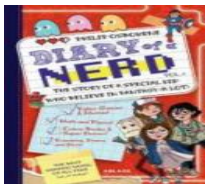
978-1-950912-18-6 ©2021 6 x 9 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
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#2234059 (Vol. 02) Diary of a Nerd, Vol 02 (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$12.99



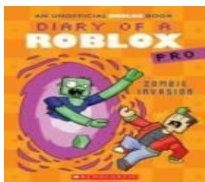
written by Philip Osbourne

Phil likes a girl in his class named Loren, but he also knows that he could never compete with Ted, Loren's boyfriend. One night, while Phil is sleeping, Darth Vader appears to him like a vision in his dream, inviting him to use his strength to challenge the bullies and win the love of Loren.

978-1-950912-29-2 ©2022 6 x 9 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Diary of a Roblox Pro (Prebound)



#2350408 (Vol. 05) Zombie Invasion (Prebound)

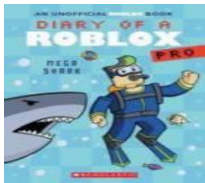
written by Ari Avatar

Ari and his friends are on another adventure in the fifth title in the unauthorized Diary of a Roblox Pro series! Citizens of Blockville have been going missing, and there are rumors that a new threat looms over Ari's town. Ari's best friend Zeke thinks it's zombies. But those don't exist... right?!

978-1-5364-8229-4 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95



#2377450 (Vol. 06) Mega Shark (Prebound)

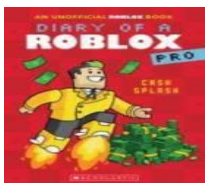
written by Ari Avatar

Ari's dad is a Marine Biologist and has invited Ari, Zeke and Jez to a trip out to sea to track dolphins for his research. Ari and his friends are totally stoked, but there is something lurking deep beneath the water that might derail the entire day. Before they know it, Ari must find a way to save his dad and friends from danger without becoming prey himself!

978-1-5364-8457-1 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95



#2380961 (Vol. 07) Cash Splash (Prebound)

written by Ari Avatar

Ari and his friends have discovered a portal to a parallel universe. And Ari is shocked to find that in this world, he's a millionaire! With a butler, dragon pets, and all the candy he could possibly eat, why would Ari ever want to go back home? Or is there something more threatening in this universe that Ari can't see?

978-1-5364-8477-9 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 580

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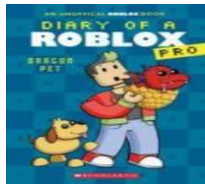


#2309758 (Vol. 01) Monster Escape (Prebound)

written by Ari Avatar

Ari and his friends can't resist a challenge. Rumor has it there's some kind of monster living in the local abandoned warehouse who devours anyone who steps foot inside. Ari doesn't believe the gossip and accepts a dare to enter the building. But as soon as they set foot in the warehouse, all of the doors lock behind them and they come face-to-face with the beast itself!

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95

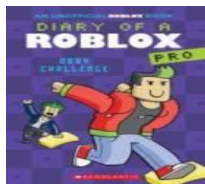


#2317485 (Vol. 02) Dragon Pet (Prebound)
written by Ari Avatar

It's time for another field trip! Ari and his class visit a farm where they are entrusted with an egg to adopt. This is a big responsibility for Ari but he's excited nonetheless. Everyone's egg hatches into harmless animals, except for Ari's. His hatches into a baby dragon! Cool, right? Wrong! As the dragon grows, Ari realizes he may have bitten off more than he can chew. Ari and his friends have to figure out a way to capture the dragon before it destroys all of Blockhaven! Can they handle it?

978-1-5364-7838-9 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 550

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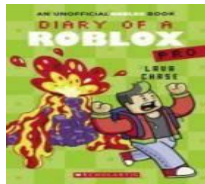


#2327211 (Vol. 03) Obby Challenge (Prebound)
written by Ari Avatar

Ari Avatar is just your average Roblox kid living in a blocky world! Battle monsters and avoid disasters in a Roblox world -- all through the eyes of Ari and his friends. Diary of a Roblox Pro is a must-read for any kid who loves to play Roblox!

978-1-5364-7981-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 570

Quantity
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Unit Price
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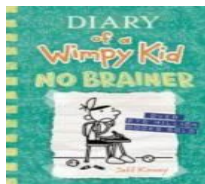
#2331273 (Vol. 04) Lava Chase (Prebound)
written by Ari Avatar

Ari and his friends have to go on a boring geography field trip to a dormant volcano. Ugh! Ari and his friends sneak off... only to get lost. Then they realize their class went home without them! Much to their surprise, Ari, Zeke and Jez also discover that the volcano may not be quite as dormant as they thought. It's time to get out of here!

978-1-5364-8047-4 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 650

Quantity
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Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Prebound)

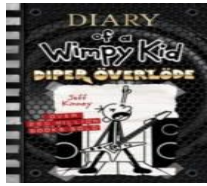


#2350283 (Vol. 18) No Brainer (Prebound)
written by Jeff Kinney

Up until now, middle school hasn't exactly been a joyride for Greg Heffley. So when the town threatens to close the crumbling building, he's not too broken up about it. But when Greg realizes this means he's going to be sent to a different school than his best friend, Rowley Jefferson, he changes his tune. Can Greg and his classmates save their school before it's shuttered for good?

978-1-5364-8218-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity
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Unit Price
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#2298580 (Vol. 17) Diper Overlode (Prebound)
written by Jeff Kinney

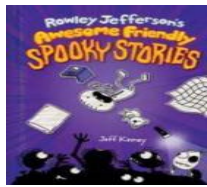
Middle-schooler Greg Heffley charts the rise of his teenage brother's band, Loded Diper, as they live out their rock-and-roll dreams. But things could get messy for Greg and Rodrick when the Diper hits the road.

978-1-5364-7631-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$17.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews th volume. Greg's older brother, Rodrick, has longed to become a rock superstar, and his band, Loded Diper, is s tarting to generate some heat. At least, that's what Rodrick thinks. Greg is a bit more skeptical about Loded Diper's looming success but is just interested enough to catalog the band's efforts to gain enough notoriety to win the Battle of the Bands as Metallichihuahua, Rodrick's idols, did when they were starting out. Setbacks abound, including late nights, a swindling night club owner, band infighting, and financial struggles, accompanied by an endless parade of diaper jokes and toilet humor. The book will be fine enough for die-hard Wimpy Kid readers, but even the biggest fans of the Heffley clan will find this one doesn't live up to previous series high points. Rodrick has long been the weakest character in the Wimpy Kid canon, a one-dimensional lout who was never developed as well as the other Heffleys or even some tertiary characters. This book is squarely placed upon Rodrick's shoulders, and there just isn't enough there for him to make it pop. The rambling series of misfortunes becomes cumbersome after a while. The book is a swing for the long-running series--an attempt to center a long-neglected character--but unfortunately the effort strikes out. A commendable effort that nevertheless misses the mark. (Graphic/fiction hybrid. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid (Prebound)



#2223110 (Vol. 03) Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories (Prebound)
written by Jeff Kinney

Grab a flashlight, crawl under the covers, and dive into the twisted, unexpectedly hilarious world of Rowley Jefferson's imagination. You'll meet zombies, vampires, ghosts, and much more in these comically terrifying tales.

978-1-5364-6792-5 Amulet Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 2.0

Quantity
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Unit Price
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Disney Chills (Prebound)



#2239422 (Vol. 05) Liar, Liar, Head on Fire (Prebound)
written by Vera Strange

On the outside, twelve-year-old Hector seems like he's got it all. He's strong, fast, and rumored to be the favorite to win this year's Zeus Cup at the Mt. Olympus Spartan Race, the highest honor in his small Midwestern town. Hector's parents and his five siblings trained to win gold in their twelfth year, but all fell short.

978-1-5364-6934-9 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$16.95



#2206182 (Vol. 03) Second Star to the Fright (Prebound)
written by Vera Strange

Second Star to the Fright, Book 3 of the all-new Disney Chills chapter book series, tells the tale of a kid who finds he's hooked far more than he can handle when Captain Hook creeps out of Neverland and into our world. With shuddersome spooks and blood-curdling frights, readers should grab their night-lights and prepare to be chilled!

978-1-5364-6680-5 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.

Quantity
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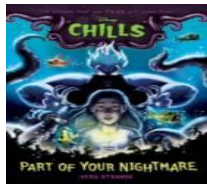
#222522 (Vol. 04) Be Careful What You Wish For (Prebound)
written by Vera Strange

Thirteen-year-old Delia loves fashion. She loves beauty products. She spends hours in her room attempting to take the perfect selfie. All she wants is to be as cool and trendy as the other girls in her school. Unfortunately, Delia's family is not exactly flush with cash, so keeping up with the latest styles is next to impossible. But when Delia finds a near flawless faux fur coat at her local thrift store, she discovers that when she wears it, she's transformed.

978-1-5364-6779-6 ©2021 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity 1
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#2167024 (Vol. 01) Part of Your Nightmare (Prebound)
written by Vera Strange

When eleven-year-old Shelly Anderson finds a mysterious nautilus shell at her family's aquarium and meets The Little Mermaid's infamous sinister sea witch, Ursula, she agrees to help the witch in exchange for becoming the fastest swimmer on her school's swim team. But after Shelly's wish quickly goes belly-up, she must figure out how to back out of the witch's deal before it forever binds her fate.

978-1-5364-6357-6 ©2020 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Shelly Anderson's parents own the aquarium in Triton Bay, but popular girl Kendall pressures Shelly to do environmentally irresponsible things like toss trash into the ocean. That's how she catches the attention of Ursula, the half-human, half-octopus sea witch, who tricks Shelly into making a contract-binding wish that allows her to be the fastest swimmer, beat her rivals, please her friends, maybe even impress her parents so much that they fall back in love. What Shelly does not anticipate is sending Kendall into a jealous rage by shattering her record time or that Ursula would gradually turn her into a fish. Vera Strange (nom de plume of Jennifer Brody) places a creative spin on the Disney classic *The Little Mermaid* in this first of a new novice horror series; there is no happy ending unless you consider the life lesson from Enrique, fellow marine biology enthusiast, who questions Shelly's decision to change for others rather than holding out for people who accept her as herself. Even Enrique's attempts to help Shelly escape the crafty, sea-dwelling diva's "squid pro quo" may not be enough, though, in this Goosebumps-flavored Disney tale that hearkens back to the tale's grittier Andersen origin. Hand this book to a fan of Grimm's fairy tales or Disney villains; they'll appreciate the unhappily ever after. QB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A new middle-grade series featuring Disney stories' scary elements opens with *The Little Mermaid's* Ursula. Shelly Anderson has struggled to make friends ever since she changed schools following her parents' breakup. Even though she's the eco-conscious daughter of an aquarium owner, the spineless Shelly allows her new, popular-clique friends to peer-pressure her into tossing a disposable coffee cup into the ocean. After littering, she's stalked by sea witch Ursula, who offers a deal: She'll make Shelly a fast swimmer in exchange for a favor to be named later. Of course, there's something fishy with the deal: Shelly starts slowly transforming into a fish (first gills, then webbing between her digits and scales); to reverse it, she must retrieve the old trident that's in the aquarium for Ursula. The narrative's insistence on telling over showing causes it to fail to capture any visceral sensory details needed for the body-horror storyline to succeed. Ironically, the most successful horror moment is the least logically connected to the magic at play (her brother's dead goldfish appears in the school toilet to warn her off from the deal). The half-baked environmental storyline features after-school-special levels of heavy-handedness. The ending's unhappy for Shelly, though there's a touch of humor and her safety's implied. Most characters lack descriptions; Shelly has olive skin, and one significant secondary character is coded Latinx. Coasting on a popular villain isn't enough to keep the watered-down story afloat. (Horror/fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-- Middle-schooler Shelly is struggling with trying to fit in at a new school. After her parents split up, she and her brother moved with their mom into a townhouse in a quaint seaside village. Her family runs the local aquarium, so Shelly takes comfort in her love of aquatic life. The problem is that her passion just doesn't fit with the in-crowd. Narcissistic Kendall and her two sidekicks, Attina and Alana, think anything science related is nerdy and not cool. Shelly downplays her love of science but is shocked to witness two eyes glowing with a strange light when they take a school field trip to the aquarium. That night, she awakens to a strange light flashing in her brother's room. When she

investigates, she finds a nautilus shell that she had gifted her brother from her aquarium visit to the aquarium that day. As soon as Shelly touches the glowing shell, she is transported to a strange underwater world ruled by the sea witch, Ursula. Ursula offers Shelly one wish in exchange for an unnamed deed. Just wanting to fit in with her newfound friends, Shelly signs a grim contract only to discover terrible consequences. She wished to be the fastest swimmer on her school's swim team but realizes Ursula's magic is slowly turning Shelly into a fish. Shelly desperately tries to hide her changing state yet receives vile, aquatic reminders from Ursula that she must pay back her wish. The plot is fast-paced and suspense is well maintained. The ultimate lesson of "be careful what you wish for" will resonate with bibliophiles. VERDICT This sinister tale will wrap its tentacles around avid mystery lovers with a moderate dose of chills.--Julie Shatterly, W. A. Bess Elem. Sch., Gastonia, NC Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2167027 (Vol. 02) Fiends on the Other Side (Prebound)

written by Vera Strange

Fiends on the Other Side, Book 2 of the all-new Disney Chills chapter book series, tells the tale of a boy who turns into a shadow after striking a dark bargain with The Princess and the Frog's Dr. Facilier.

978-1-5364-6358-3 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal GR 3-5-In the second book of Disney's "Chills" series, twins Malik and Jamal must work together if they and their beloved New Orleans are to survive. Malik is smart, good at basketball, and has just been voted class president. Jamal feels like he is always in his brother's shadow and desperately wants to be noticed. When the twins' mysterious and reclusive grandmother dies, she leaves two boxes for the boys. Malik's box contains a cool antique trumpet, and Jamal's a strange skull necklace and a cryptic note. Once again Jamal feels he has been cheated. What Jamal doesn't know is that the evil Dr. Facilier wants that necklace, and he is willing to do anything to get it. Fans of "Goosebumps" and Alvin Schwartz will like this title. The story isn't keep-you-up-at-night scary, but it is creepy. Each book in the series incorporates a Disney villain that young readers will be familiar with and will enjoy reading about. The New Orleans setting brings an interesting element to the book and Jamal learns a very important lesson about friendship and the destructive nature of envy and jealousy. VERDICT If you are looking for a new series to satisfy students seeking a creepy, but not bone-chilling story, this is one to consider.--Peggy Henderson Murphy, Wyandot Elem. Sch., Dublin, OH Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2285935 (Vol. 06) Once Upon a Scream (Prebound)

written by Vera Strange

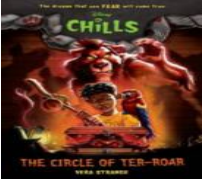
Torn away from her favorite place in the world and shipped off to live with her two cooky aunts in the countryside, Dawn is miserable in her new life. While her parents see this as a chance for her to be away from the bad influences that kept getting her into trouble, Dawn sees her new dumpy town of Moorsland as a sticky and smelly prison with way too many bugs. But no one seems to care what Dawn wants, so she's stuck helping her aunts in their dusty antique shop and finishing the year out in a new school filled with mean girls.

978-1-5364-7457-2 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.


Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A drop of blood unleashes an evil fairy in this installment in a middle-grade series featuring Disney villains. Maleficent features in this updated retelling of "Sleeping Beauty" in which readers meet Dawn Flores, who's been sent to live for six months in rural Castletown after getting in trouble for helping her best friends shoplift. Sixth grader Dawn is staying in the Deep South with her married aunts, Fleur and Merry, and she dislikes everything about the countryside and misses her family, friends, and city life. Dawn soon finds herself at odds with popular classmate Leah, the mayor's daughter. Leah socially excludes and publicly humiliates Dawn, stoking her desire for revenge. While helping her aunts clean out a dusty shed of estate-sale acquisitions for Spindles 'N' Things, their antiques shop, Dawn accidentally pricks her finger on the spindle of an old spinning wheel, unleashing a frightening, evil magical force. Maleficent wants to reclaim her stolen spinning wheel, and she ensnares gullible Dawn in a scheme to help her amplify her powers. The magical tricks deployed by Maleficent include bewitching animals, casting sleeping curses, and possessing people—all while Dawn and her new friend, Phillipa, attempt to maintain control of a losing situation. Despite some tense moments, the predictable plot spins mechanically, bogged down by heavy-handed descriptive language that tells more than it shows. Dawn's shoplifting friends are brown-skinned; other cast members follow a White default. Mild scares woven from well-worn threads. (Horror. 8-12)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2331790 (Vol. 07) Circle of Ter-ROAR (Prebound) <i>written by Vera Strange</i> Twelve-year-old Silas is a scaredy cat. Everything from an unexpected door slam to someone coughing in class scares him, and the other students waste no time in ruthlessly reminding him of it. Hakuna matata is the theme of Camp Pride Rock that was the pride and joy of Silas's Aunt Scarlet. But when she suddenly passes away and gives all ownership to her brother, Silas's father, they find upon arrival that the camp isn't in the shape they they thought it would be. And deep inside Silas's closet is an old, mysterious trunk. When he is finally able to unlock it, he finds the spirit of Camp Pride Rock--the pelt of an old lion named Scar. 978-1-5364-8071-9 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710</p>	1	\$16.95

Disney Villains (Insight Editions)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2231599 Portrait of Evil (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Pat Shand</i> This gruesome grimoire collects the deepest secrets and darkest spells of dastardly Disney villains like Maleficent, Cruella de Vil, Ursula, Mother Gothel, and Prince Hans. Look behind doors and lift secret flaps to uncover the villains' personal keepsakes and collectibles, including the incantation the Evil Queen summoned to poison Snow White's apple and Doctor Facilier's tarot cards. 978-1-64722-058-7 ©2021 10 x 11-1/2 40 pgs. Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$19.99

Disney Villains (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2026546 Mistress of All Evil: A Tale of the Dark Fairy (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Serena Valentino</i> So what of the dark fairy, Maleficent? Why does she curse the innocent princess? What led to her becoming so filled with malice, anger, and hatred? Many tales have tried to explain her motives. Here is one account, pulled down from the many passed down through the ages. It is a tale of love and betrayal, of magic and reveries. 978-1-368-00901-0 ©2017 320 pgs. Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 750</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Disney's Villains series' fourth installment highlights Sleeping Beauty's Maleficent. Maleficent turns to the villainous witch trio the Odd Sisters for aid finding Aurora. Although they were lost in the land of dreams after Poor Unfortunate Soul (2016), they give enough advice that Maleficent succeeds in the spindle plot. But Maleficent needs Aurora gone for good, so she abducts Prince Phillip and seeks the assistance of two other powerful witches, Circe and Nanny, to ensure Aurora never wakes. The connections with the previous books of the series (including periodic recaps and reminders as well as appearances by Princess Tulip, Snow White, Queen Grimhilde, and more) as well as the back story shared among Maleficent and the other characters are told in lengthy, sometimes-clunky expository passages and flashbacks. The nonlinear plotting allows for forward plot progression on the storyline with Circe and her sisters, as well as a metafictional one about a storybook. In flashbacks, Maleficent goes from an isolated outcast adopted by Nanny to a victim of extreme bullying to the villain. Feminist Maleficent sneers at the princesses-needing-rescue trope, thereby insidiously reinforcing it, and the book primarily concerns itself with all manner of relationships between females. The story builds to a revelation that answers the question of why Maleficent seeks to destroy Aurora. Aside from colorful Maleficent (she modulates between green and lavender), if other characters' skin tones are described, they're pale. Despite frequently inelegant prose, the story will probably please series fans. (Fantasy. 10-18)



#2067384 Mother Knows Best: A Tale of the Old Witch (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Serena Valentino

So what of the old witch, Mother Gothel? Where does she come from? And how does she come across the magical golden flower? Here is one account that recounts a version of the story that has remained untold for centuries... until now. It is a tale of mothers and daughters, of youth and dark magic. It is a tale of the old witch.

978-1-368-00902-7 ©2018 400 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2106957 Odd Sisters (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Serena Valentino

Throughout the Villains series, the Odd Sisters have meddled in the lives of the Wicked Queen, The Beast, Ursula, Maleficent, and Mother Gothel, changing the course of fate for the greatest villains ever known. Now, it's time for their reckoning.

This novel goes deeper into the lives of the twisted, diabolical Odd Sisters, finally revealing the dark truth about who they are and where they're from.

978-1-368-01318-5 ©2019 288 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 740

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Circe, identified as the Enchantress from Disney's Beauty and the Beast, sets out to right the wrongs caused by the three women who brought her to life: witches Lucinda, Ruby, and Martha. Her companion Snow White has her own mysteries to explore, and they receive advice from The Fairy Godmother, Nanny, and Oberon. Circe's travels lead her and Snow White to information about the evil witch Nestis and her role in Circe's own family past. The final scene of this sixth book in the series involves Circe and her family and Snow White and her mother Grimhilde, with a cliff-hanger ending. Even die-hard fans will find it difficult to enthuse over this walk on Disney's dark side. Far too many characters with similar titles, roles, and motivations cause the story to lumber along. The first half of the book consists of uninspiring dialogue and lengthy reflections on character backstories that do not provide much clarity or drama. Snow and Circe sit around for over 100 pages before they commit to any action. The backstory often seems written to explain away inconsistencies or fill in gaps rather than to entertain and inform. Exclamation-ridden dialogue reeks with tedious platitudes. The earnest effusions of Snow and Circe don't line up with the edgy exploration of the villainous Disney characters or the intended middle grade audience. VERDICT Avoid unless you have readers eager for every Disney book in existence.--Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2284486 Never Never (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Serena Valentino

As a baby, James Bartholomew fell out of his pram and was taken to Neverland.

James is claimed by his parents just shy of seven days-after which he would have officially become a Lost Boy. Once he returns to London, he never stops thinking about Neverland.

As he grows up, he hates his life in London, and everything to do with growing up and eventually becoming a gentleman. So he seeks a position on the ship of the infamous pirate, Blackbeard.

978-1-368-02529-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 7 256 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.5 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Peter Pan origin story centering the perspective of Capt. Hook. The notorious baddie started life as a precocious child in London. In fact, at one point the infant James Hook vanished from his pram when his nurse's attention was elsewhere. Six days later, after a magical sojourn in Never Land, he was reclaimed by his family—but he continued to long to return there. Years later, disenchanted with his aristocratic life, Oxford-educated James leaves everything behind to become a pirate in hopes that this path will eventually lead him back to Never Land. Entering the world of piracy with loyal servant Smee by his side, James engages in many battles at sea, being attacked by a kraken as well as human enemies and experiencing time moving at a different rate. After Capt. Blackbeard hands his ship over to James to command, James confronts witches and other magical beings, including Tinker Bell. In the vein of other entries in this series that offers alternate perspectives on

beloved tales, readers will hear Capt. Hook's perspective on how his infamous feud with Peter Pan began. This fast-paced, intriguing, and immersive story will capture the attention of its readers with its page-turning adventures and themes of trust and betrayal. Characters read as White. Full of magic and laughs. (Fantasy. 12-14)



#2327852 Fire and Fate (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Serena Valentino

Ruler of the Underworld is not the title Hades would have chosen for himself, but when he and his brothers made a deal to split the world in three, Hades drew the short straw. And a deal is a deal. But eternity proves a long time to be shoved into a role he never wanted, and with each passing day of being treated as a villain, he grows more vengeful. When he discovers he wasn't invited to the celebration of his nephew Hercules' birth, and Hades reaches his limit.

978-1-368-07657-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 7 304 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Doctor Who (Trade)



#2283442 Doctor Who: A Short History of Everyone (Hardcover (Trade))

written by

For over forty years, the Doctor has battled against the monsters and villains of the universe. This book brings together the best - and the worst - of his enemies, companions, and fellow Time Lords. Why are the Daleks so deadly? What did Sarah Jane Smith do after she left the Doctor? Who exactly is the Master? And how did the Doctor defeated every threat, with a little help from some friends and a lot of luck.

978-1-4059-5232-3 ©2022 6 x 9 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$28.99



#2349346 Doctor Who Annual 2024 (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Paul Lang

The Doctor Who 2024 Annual is THE place to start this incredible journey. With exclusive information about this amazing new era, including behind-the-scenes photos, dialogue, costumes and hints from the new episodes. It even includes an exclusive never-seen-before Fourteenth Doctor story, and a sneak peek at the long-awaited Fifteenth Doctor...

978-1-4059-5689-5 ©2023 8 x 11 64 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$12.99



#2349347 Doctor Who: Tenth Doctor Christmas Collection (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Steve Cole

The Doctor's tenth incarnation was: hilarious, furious, fun and vengeful. (He also had great hair.) He also saved the world, and the universe, more times than anyone can remember. But from the Christmas Invasion to the Runaway Bride, things always seemed to need saving around the festive season...So follows a series of ten incredible tales across the universe, as the Doctor (and Rose and Martha and Donna) battle aliens and cross the boundaries of space and time to save Christmas Day.

978-1-4059-5690-1 ©2023 6 x 9 240 pgs.

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$20.00

Doctor Who: The Decades Collection (Trade)



#2357935 Doctor Who, 1960s: Imaginary Friends (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jacqueline Rayner

It's Christmas, 1963, when nine-year-old Gerald starts dreaming of strange worlds and monsters. His parents think it's harmless at first. But Gerald is convinced it's real - his dreams of Daleks and cavemen and insects as big as a person.

978-1-4059-5694-9 ©2023 5 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2357936 Doctor Who, 1970s: The Cradle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Natasha Suri

It is London, 1978, and tensions are high. Seema and her family are struggling, but she has learnt to keep her head down, not create trouble. That is until she and her two friends, Terrence and Inderjit, decide to join an anti-National Front protest in the East End. And when trouble does inevitably find them, the friends are saved by the appearance of a mysterious, seemingly broken-down bus.

978-1-4059-5696-3 ©2023 5 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2357937 Doctor Who, 1980s: The Self-Made Man (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mark Griffiths

Midnight, 1984. In a sprawling, run-down housing estate in south London, a man returning from a night out in the West End finds himself pursued by a strange hooded figure. So naturally when the Doctor and Romana arrive in the TARDIS the next day, they find themselves in the middle of a crime scene. But when child genius Matthew Pickles - inventor of a hugely popular handheld videogame - arrives to help them crack the case, they discover there is more to this than meets the eye.

978-1-4059-5698-7 ©2023 5 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2357938 Doctor Who, 1990s: Wannabes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Dave Rudden

It's Dublin in 1994, and the Doctor and Donna have arrived at the tiny nightclub known as Tripod. Tripod is famous for precisely one thing - the night where four young women came together to make the biggest girl band of the 90s: the Blood Honeys. Donna has convinced the Doctor to visit their first ever concert - and he has begrudgingly agreed. Naturally the band is kidnapped by a deadly pack of siren-like creatures who feed off human adulation, with an eye on taking over the world.

978-1-4059-5701-4 ©2023 5 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2357933 Doctor Who, 2000s: The Monster in the Cupboard (Hardcover Trade)

written by Kalynn Bayron

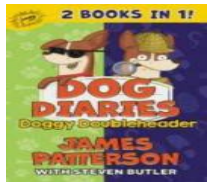
When the Doctor and Rose stumble across thirteen-year-old Lily, they both agree she needs their help. Lily thinks there are monsters in the closet, hiding under the bed. And that they've taken her mother and brother - who went missing months ago. When asked about the monster, Lily can only say it's made of immense light and power. Rose and the Doctor must find out who and what the creature is, and where it's taken Lily's family.

978-1-4059-5703-8 ©2023 5 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Dog Diaries (Trade)



#2283974 Dog Diaries: Mission ImPAWsible and Curse of the Mystery Mutt (2-in-1) (Hardcover Trade)

written by James Patterson

First, you'll read about the RUFF time Junior had when his pet humans went on a trip and left Junior behind in a FUR-RAISING place. Find out how Junior and his pooch-pals did the imPAWsible to get home. Then put on your detective hat and join Junior as he uses his smarts and his sniffer to track down the culprit TERRIER-izing his town! It's up to Junior to solve a TAIL-CURLING mystery.

978-0-316-46842-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$13.99

Dog Squad (Prebound)



#2317380 (Vol. 01) Dog Squad (Prebound)

written by Chris Grabenstein

Duke is not your average dog. Along with his crew, he fights crime and goes on claw-biting adventures helping dogs in peril in the hit streaming sensation-DOG SQUAD! Fred is a pretty average dog. He's scrappy. He's loveable. But he's not brave like his heroes on Dog Squad.

978-1-5364-7804-4 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 570

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 A shelter dog chosen to serve as temporary substitute for an injured TV star proves that a noble heart trumps good looks every time. Though he misses his first chance at stardom when Broadway hip-hop musical Washington closes after one night, Fred refuses to throw away his shot to act the heroic lead in Dog Squad while the streaming series' original prima donna, Duke, recovers from a broken leg. Not only is Fred a natural on set, in real life he saves babies and puppies and, in a display of true altruism, sets out to rescue Duke from abusive trainer Big Tony Bomboloni. Aside from that stereotyping gaffe, the human and canine supporting cast is an appealing mix of rivals and sidekicks. In frequent ink-and-fill scenes (not seen in finished form), Hughes depicts the courageous canine (part boxer, part hound, "part who knows what") in action from various dramatic angles. Grabenstein bills his "wags-to-riches" tale as a series kickoff, but notwithstanding a broad hint about the next episode, this stands (all four paws) firmly on its own. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An unlikely dog becomes the star of a popular dog adventure television show in this series opener. Fred the dog is a "bitzer. A little bit of this, a little bit of that." He idolizes Dog Squad, a television show featuring live-action dogs in daring escapades, and its canine leading star, Duke. Since Fred's original owner dumped him at an animal shelter, he's been living in New York City with Big Tony, who hopes to turn him into a ferocious guard dog and sell him for a big profit. An alley confrontation lands Fred back in the animal shelter, but this time he's rescued by entertainment industry animal trainer Jenny Yen and her young niece (and self-proclaimed pet psychic), Abby. Ideal for reluctant readers with its short chapters, energetic illustrations, plentiful action, and "pawsome" puns, this light fantasy follows Fred, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Duke, as he adopts the starring role in Dog Squad when Duke becomes injured. But does this unassuming dog have what it takes to

be a hero both on and off the camera when a natural disaster, a dognapper, and more disasters strike? Teamwork from Abby and co-stars help guide the way and set the scene for more installments. An author's note touchingly describes the Mr. Lemoncello's Library series creator's source of inspiration: his own Fred, a formerly stray, retired Broadway canine star. Doggone fun. (Animal fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Grabenstein's hilarious series starter begs readers to explore what it means to be a hero. Presented in third person, the story chronicles a dog's journey from famine to fame. Left behind by his owners, Fred must fend for himself. Along the way, he encounters breeds kind and cruel at a city shelter, a Broadway performance, and Second Chance Ranch, where Jenny and Abby train strays to become stars for the popular Dog Squad television series featuring famous canine idols Duke, Nala, and Scruffy. As a mixed-breed dog, Fred faces identity challenges. He looks exactly like the real Duke in the show, but he thinks he's just an average pup. When Fred finally meets the real Duke, he reconsiders his assumptions. Rendered in tight, snappy prose, each chapter builds a narrative arc that leaves readers wondering what will happen next. The tone is humorous, and characters are similar to the kids whom readers might encounter. Laced with positive messages but never preachy, this allegorical, fast-paced, rollicking adventure will appeal to all readers. VERDICT Through expertly paced conflict and characterization, this canine adventure shows what it means to be brave.—Jennifer Strattman, Freelance Writer, Cambridge, NY

Dog Squad (Trade)



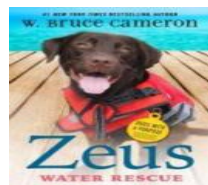
#2296880 (Vol. 02) Cat Crew (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Chris Grabenstein

Fred, the loveable stray who became the star of the hit streaming sensation, DOG SQUAD, is back and working on a new show-Cat Crew! But wait a second-there's something funny about these felines! And something suspicious about their animal trainer. Is this cat crew being electronically controlled?!?! And what exactly is the evil trainer plotting? Can Fred save the day . . .and the cats?! It's time for an all paws on deck top-secret rescue mission!

978-0-593-48087-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 630

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Dog's Purpose (Trade)



#2329304 Zeus: Water Rescue (Hardcover (Trade))
written by W. Bruce Cameron

Ellie is a very special dog with a very important purpose. From puppyhood, Ellie has been trained as a search-and-rescue dog. She can track down a lost child in a forest or an injured victim under a fallen building. She finds people. She saves them. It's what she was meant to do.

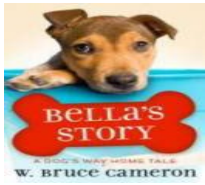
978-1-250-81556-9 ©2023 6-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Cameron once again tackles the subject he is known for: adventure-seeking dogs and the humans who love them. Zeus, a chocolate Labrador puppy, enjoys a simple life of food, lying in the sun, chewing sticks, and playing with his mom and siblings. But one by one, the others, his mom included, leave home with new adoptive families. Only Troy and Zeus, the two largest puppies in the litter, are left when Italian American paramedic Marco Ricci from the Oahu Search and Rescue team arrives. He takes them both for testing, evaluating their abilities and courage in situations including wave pools and waterslides. When single father Marco's 13-year-old son, Kimo, returns from his Native Hawaiian mother's house in Indiana, Zeus immediately bonds with the boy: "Every dog has a person. This one was mine." Training dogs for search and rescue is his business, yet Marco feels moved by his son's love for Zeus. Additional complications arise when Bear, a dog Marco kept after he failed a critical search and rescue test and couldn't be sold, struggles with hearing loss and depression. Written from Zeus' first-person perspective, this novel offers fascinating details about the lives of working dogs and explores relatable themes of purpose, love, and finding family that will resonate with middle-grade dog lovers. An absorbing read celebrating canine courage and heart. (reading group guide) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Dog's Way Home (Trade)

Quantity
Unit Price



#2160298 Bella's Story (Hardcover (Trade))
written by W. Bruce Cameron

1 \$16.99

Even though Bella has to hide from the neighbors and learn boring games like No Barks and Go Home, she loves her boy, Lucas, who rescued her from an abandoned building. Then one day Bella is picked up by animal control and Lucas is forced to send her to a foster home far away. Bella waits and waits for Lucas to come and get her, but days go by and he does not come. Finally Bella realizes what she needs to do--she needs to Go Home to Lucas--and even four hundred miles of dangerous Colorado wilderness won't get in her way.

978-1-250-21276-4 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 630

Donut Dreams (Trade)

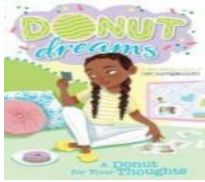


#2195284 Ready, Set, Bake! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

Everyone knows Lindsay loves working at the bakery counter in her family's restaurant... So how is she going to deal with a new bakery in town that will compete with Donut Dreams? Not only that, the owner's daughter, Maria, is in her class. She's glamorous, exciting, and just moved to town from Chicago. She's everything Lindsay wants to be--or at least that's what Lindsay thinks.

978-1-5344-8038-4 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic



#2168250 (Vol. 04) Donut for Your Thoughts (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

Casey thought that coming back from sleepaway camp would mean picking up right where she left off. But when she gets home, it seems like everyone has changed at least a little bit, even her BFF Lindsay.

978-1-5344-7373-7 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 830



#2224263 (Vol. 06) Ready to Roll! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

Kelsey loves working in her family's restaurant at the Donut Dreams counter, but she feels like she could be doing something more. When her friends tease her about always having strong opinions, she decides to start a blog, Kelsey's Corner. Kelsey is positive her words will be her ticket to popularity. But she soon discovers a handful of good friends is far better than a baker's dozen of insincere ones.

978-1-5344-8547-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

#2236603 (Vol. 07) Donut Goals (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

Molly is thrilled to hear that a college scout will be coming to her big soccer game to evaluate the players. But when a player on the opposing team starts making rude



comments about Molly's soccer skills and appearance, Molly begins to lose her confidence. Now she can't help but wonder--is the girl just trying to bring her down, or is Molly really not as good a player as she thinks?

978-1-5344-9598-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic



#2133243 (Vol. 01) Hole in the Middle (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Home feels different ever since Lindsay's mom passed away two years ago. And not having her mom around to help her get through the start of middle school doesn't help her "first day of school" angst. But with her cousins Kelsey and Ava by her side, not to mention her BFF Casey, Lindsay soon discovers family and friends go a long way towards filling any hole in your heart. And life can still be as fun as a pink donut with rainbow sprinkles!

978-1-5344-6026-3 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Two weeks before starting middle school, 12-year-old Lindsay reports for her first job, working at the donut counter in her grandparents' restaurant. Family plays a strong role in Lindsay's life. She and her younger brother have five cousins in the area, and since her mother's death two years ago, her grandparents have helped Dad keep everything running smoothly at home. Because she's grown up in a small, Midwestern town and knows every kid in her grade, middle school doesn't seem like a big step to Lindsay, but as the first day approaches, she's not so sure. She finds herself missing Mom more than ever, just when her relatives are rallying to support her. While the many characters, particularly family members (a list or chart would have been useful), can lead to some confusion, loyal readers will get to know them better as the Donut Dreams series progresses. Apparently, the first-person narrator will shift from book to book, as it has in Simon's 32-volume Cupcake Diaries series and newer Sprinkle Sundays series. A light, enjoyable family story.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It is the summer before middle school when Lindsay Cooper begins her first job working for the family business, Donut Dreams. Though many of her friends spend summer days at the lake, Lindsay has dreams of going away to college; her steadfast commitment to work motivates her to not lounge the summer away. This summer is different, though, as middle school looms. Since her mother died two years ago, Lindsay's paternal grandparents spend a lot of time helping Lindsay, her dad, and her younger brother, Skylar, adjust to their new reality. Once Lindsay's best friend, Casey, returns from summer camp texting a long-distance "boyfriend," the two BFF's speculate about middle school, both feeling an undercurrent of the possibility that their bond may potentially shift in a new environment. When Lindsay's maternal grandmother, Mimi, comes to visit, the family organizes a party to help Lindsay pick a dress for the upcoming fall dance. Grief finally overtakes Lindsay when she learns that the party has been organized to compensate for her mother's absence during this rite-of-passage time for Lindsay. Narrated by Lindsay, this series opener is a comforting read, set in a small town where everyone knows everyone, the donuts are sweet, and familiarity and closeness ease childhood grief. The cast is default white. The book ends with sample chapters for the upcoming Donut Dreams title. As sweet and straightforward as...well, a donut. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2133257 (Vol. 02) So Jelly! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Happy-go-lucky Kelsey hasn't been so happy-go-lucky lately. She's starting to feel pretty jealous of her cousin Lindsay and all the extra time Lindsay is spending with her aunt, who just happens to be Kelsey's mom. The worst part is it seems like Kelsey's mom wants to spend time with Lindsay instead of her!

978-1-5344-6029-4 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



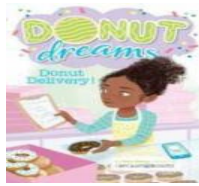
#2161465 (Vol. 03) Family Recipe (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Molly has always considered her adopted family her real family. She's never had reason to question where she fits until she has to do a report on her family tree for school. Being mixed up with doubt may not be a recipe for success, but when Molly reaches out to the people she depends on, they are ready to support her, as always. Molly is soon ready to serve up a perfectly sweet look at what family really is because the main ingredient in any real family is love.

978-1-5344-6540-4 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 650

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2258982 (Vol. 08) Donut Delivery! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Coco Simon

Casey is planning lots of fun things to do over spring break with her BFF Lindsay. But her parents ruin her plans when they tell her she has to join them on a family trip to look at colleges with her older sister, Gabby. Casey is devastated until things take a surprising turn for the better when she runs into her summer crush, Matt!

978-1-6659-0079-9 ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2282708 Donut Dreams: Hole in the Middle; So Jelly!; Family Recipe; Ready, Set, Bake! (4-in-1) (Hardcover (POB))
written by Coco Simon

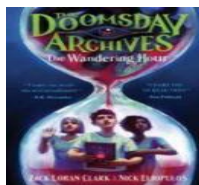
Lindsay Cooper is about to start middle school. In her free time, she works at her family's restaurant, The Park View, handing out the world's most delicious donuts at the Donut Dreams counter. Her grandmother started the counter as a way to earn extra income to send Lindsay's dad to college, and Lindsay wants to use her job the same way-to make her dream of going to school far away from her small town a reality.

978-1-6659-1842-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 640 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99

Doomsday Archives (Trade)



#2363047 (Vol. 01) Wandering Hour (Hardcover (POB))
written by Zack Loran Clark

While bonding with Hazel and Serena, his new neighbors and fellow horror fans, Emrys documents the town's creepypastas, spooky legends, and cryptid sightings in a Wiki. It's all in the spirit of good fun . . . until one day, the trio stumble upon the Doomsday Archives, a mysterious collection of relics that reveal something is very, very rotten in New Rotterdam.

978-1-63893-030-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist The authors of the Adventures Guild series unearth something frightful in their new middle-grade series. Known as one of America's most haunted cities, the seaside town of New Rotterdam is no stranger to unexplained disappearances. Protagonist Emrys Houtman has recently moved to the area, and he counts himself lucky to find camaraderie with Hazel and her curt friend Serena, apartment neighbors who share


his passion for horror. Emrys and Hazel bond over “The Doomsday Archives” page of the New Rotterdam Wiki Project, where they log all unnatural events occurring in town. When the kids inspect unusual activity in their upstairs complex, they discover a talking, anthropodermic book that transports them into another realm of supernatural relics. They are given the chance to join the Order of the Azure Eye and prevent disappearances involving an ominous, blood-red hourglass. Only time will tell if this trio possesses the confidence and strength to stop these disturbances before others disappear. Clark and Eliopulos expertly build heart-pounding suspense by intercutting the story’s action with illustrations and wiki entries on past supernatural occurrences, formatted to resemble Wikipedia pages. The book champions accepting each others’ quirks and weirdness, which will resonate with anyone who’s struggled to fit in. A superb choice for fans of Jonathan Stroud’s Lockwood & Co. series, Tom Booth’s Eerie- on-Sea books, and creepypastas.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Three kids gain access to magic in a fight against their town's evil underbelly. New Rotterdam has so many strange occurrences that it has its own wiki to keep track of them. Emrys is new to town and delighted to live in one of America's Most Haunted Cities. He resides in the same apartment building as Hazel, his old camp friend, who shares his interest in all things spooky, and Hazel's friend Serena, who does not. All three, however, are equally fascinated with their reclusive penthouse neighbor, Mr. Van Stavern. One night, they find his apartment trashed and him trapped within the pages of a grimoire. Mr. Van Stavern inducts the trio into the Order of the Azure Eye--a group dedicated to protecting occult relics--and gives them access to the Blue Reliquary, a magical space holding those items. And just in time, because people are disappearing in New Rotterdam, and Emrys, Hazel, and Serena are the only ones who can stop the evil forces at work. The wiki framing is clever, providing readers with background information and mirroring how many tweens would begin their own research. Legitimately scary scenes resolve quickly, with resolutions driven by the kids' strengths and actions. A big reveal at the end promises exciting developments in future installments. Emrys and Hazel are white; Serena, who has dads who are Black and Dominican, is Black. An engaging start to a promising new series. (Horror. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A terrifying local legend tests the mettle of a resolute trio of sixth graders in the first installment of this grisly horror series by Loran Clark (The Lock-Eater) and Eliopulos (the Minecraft Stonesword Saga). Emrys is excited to move to New Rotterdam despite the town's gloomy atmosphere; after all, it's a "hot spot for urban legends," and the home of his best friend Hazel, a fellow creepypasta fanatic and cataloger of New Rotterdam lore on the town's active wiki. Though he feels like a third wheel around Hazel's childhood friend and cryptid skeptic Serena, Emrys champions teamwork when a power outage prompts the middle schoolers to investigate a shadowy neighbor's ruined apartment, from which they're hurled into another dimension embroiled in a conflict between two opposing magical organizations. Guided by a deadpan talking spell book, the friends confront a demonic hourglass named The Wandering Hour that spells gruesome doom for anyone who gazes upon it. This dark plot-driven adventure, sprinkled with insightful New Rotterdam wiki entries, winking humor, and heaps of horror sensibilities, is unsettlingly creepy. Emrys and Hazel are white, and Serena is Black. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Agent: (for Loran Clark) Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary; (for Eliopulos) Josh Adams, Adams Literary. (Jan.)

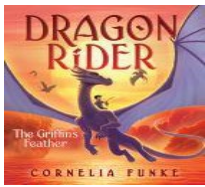
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--The coauthors of "The Adventures Guild" trilogy have written a fantastical horror set in New Rotterdam, a small seaside town teeming with urban legends and mysterious disappearances. Eighth grader Brian Skupp encounters an hourglasslike object on his school bench. As he's studying it, he notices everyone is frozen in time. Keys don't fall. People don't move. The only person who seems to see him is a moving ghostlike woman with fangs. The ominous phrase, "He was never heard from again" segues into one (of many to come) wiki articles about mysterious happenings in the area. The book starts again with three present-day friends, Emrys, Hazel, and Serena, and their story of how they found the Doomsday Archives. The hourglass makes a comeback, as do a variety of life-threatening monsters who like to swallow things, and weird occurrences, such as the Midtown Mummy, an ember bishop, and a wandering hour. This would be a good read-aloud for a middle school class for the month of October, especially if paired with their town's local urban myths. VERDICT A story about kids helping keep their town and neighbors safe will speak to those who love to sink themselves into a different realm and play armchair detective/hero, this is a great choice for middle grade shelves.--Tanya Boudreau Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Dork Diaries (Prebound)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2181594 (Vol. 15) Tales from a Not-So-Posh Paris Adventure (Prebound) <i>written by Rachel Renee Russell</i> Nikki Maxwell deals with the trials and triumphs of middle school in this fifteenth installment of the #1 New York Times bestselling Dork Diaries series! 978-1-5364-6606-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 320 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 4.0</p>	1	\$17.95

Dragon Rider (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2065540 (Vol. 02) Griffin's Feather (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$17.99



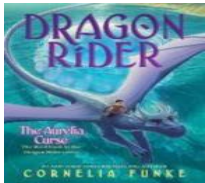
written by Cornelia Funke

It's now been two years since Ben and Firedrake defeated Nettlebrand and rescued the silver dragons. Both boy and dragon have finally found homes, but they must live hundreds of miles apart and can only see each other every once in a while.

978-1-338-21553-3 ©2018 6 x 7-3/4 432 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 6.3

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Dragon rider Ben Greenbloom feels an emptiness in his heart being away from his silver dragon, Firedrake. But when he and his family discover the last Pegasi in the world who need the precious sun feather of a Griffin to hatch, he must lie to the dragon. Griffins and dragons are mortal enemies. Ben and his father Barnabas along with a motley crew including a troll, a rat, and a homunculus (the last of his kind), attempt to complete this dangerous quest which takes them to a remote island ruled by the cruel "lion birds." Most of the characters are familiar from Funke's Dragon Rider and this book does not disappoint as a sequel with suspenseful adventure, creative characters, and the mixing of the modern world with the fantastical. Even those who have not read the previous work will enjoy delving into this world, as enough background is given for it to be a standalone. Detailed black-and-white drawings curve around and throughout the text, adding visual context for the story. Well-chosen quotes from various famous modern and ancient literary works perch on each chapter heading. A glossary of the myriad human and animal characters allow readers easy reference as needed throughout. VERDICT A not-to-be-missed fantasy by an author who is master of her craft.-Clare A. Dombrowski, Amesbury Public Library, MA Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2280978 (Vol. 03) Aurelia Curse (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Cornelia Funke

A new peril has emerged in the world of Fabulous Creatures. One that could cause the disappearance of their kind. But the threat is real and quickly encroaching. A villain from the family's past is seeking revenge. And all the while, the mysterious Aurelia, the most fabulous and powerful creature of all, moves across oceans to its final destination, introducing a new underwater world to enjoy.

978-1-338-21555-7 ©2022 6 x 7-3/4 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 13.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This Dragon Rider novel, written in English rather than translated from German like previous entries, pits the Greenblooms and fabulous creatures against an evil acquaintance from Barnabas' schooldays. An ancient myth states if waterfowl form swirling, flowerlike images on four different bodies of water, the mythical Aurelia, bearing healing pods, will appear where the lines connecting these locations intersect. It seems this is now happening, and the Greenblooms are preparing by calling the magical earth, air, fire, and water creatures who will carry the four pods to their appropriate realms. However, if the Aurelia or her pods are met with violence, she will cause all the fabulous creatures on Earth to disappear. While the Greenblooms and their magical friends are preparing to welcome the Aurelia, evil Cadoc Eelstrom is preparing to steal one of the pods to make himself immortal. The execution of this basic good-versus-evil plot is incohesive and disjointed. While the narrative voice changes with each chapter, the progression of the plot, alas, does not. Readers, reminded for the umpteenth time that the Aurelia will make all fabulous creatures disappear if she is angered, may begin to feel frustrated. Plunked on top of the thin plot are snippets describing the properties of the many magical creatures the author introduces, but these many, undeniably imaginative embellishments cannot resurrect a story that doesn't have depth and characters that lack nuance. Black-and-white illustrations add a whimsical touch. Most human characters read as White. Best for existing series fans. (cast of characters) (Fantasy. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Dragon Warrior (Trade)



#2180059 (Vol. 02) Fallen Hero (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katie Zhao

Faryn Liu thought she was the Heaven Breaker, destined to command dragons and defeat demons. But a conniving goddess was manipulating her all along... and her beloved younger brother, Alex, has betrayed her and taken over as Heaven Breaker instead.

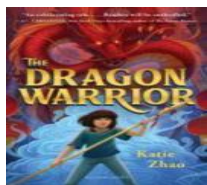
978-1-5476-0197-4 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 The second installment in the Dragon Warrior series once again takes readers on a delightful adventure that melds classic Chinese mythology with original, contemporary folklore. We follow Falun Faryn Liu, formerly known as the legendary, gods-appointed Heaven Breaker, as she tries to keep her loved ones—and the rest of humanity—safe from bloodthirsty demons, vengeful spirits, disapproving gods, and her traitorous brother, Alex. Zhao's returning cast is bolstered by several intriguing new characters, and she seamlessly integrates the backstory of book one, providing accessible flashbacks for those readers jumping into the series here. As Faryn and her friends embark on their second high-risk, high-stakes quest, they navigate the wrath and tricks of the gods to avoid death and destruction, while the former Heaven Breaker must find a way to unite her family before it's too late. The multilayered, high-energy, interwoven plots will keep fans guessing with the many twists, and the author's signature tongue-in-cheek, authentic teenage voice makes learning about Chinese mythology, language, and tradition highly enjoyable. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—This sequel picks up immediately after the events concluding last year's *The Dragon Warrior*. Faryn and the rebel deities land in Manhattan's Chinatown seeking refuge with a group called the New Order. She spots her long-lost father in the crowd, but is devastated when he doesn't recognize her. This bittersweet reunion, combined with the recent betrayal of her brother Alex, leaves Faryn feeling truly alone. But she doesn't have time to dwell on her despair as destiny calls again, sending her on another quest to continue the mission of saving humanity from the Jade Emperor's army. Secondary plots reinforce the central themes of familial connections and overcoming other's perceptions. Faryn's newest companions are siblings Ashley and Jordan, who also share her outsider status and deep desire to belong. As more challenges are thrown their way, all three questers confront their fears and Faryn discovers inner strength from ancestral bonds. Like book one, there is plenty of tongue-in-cheek cultural humor and many Chinese terms and names are interwoven throughout the text. A helpful glossary of the Chinese deities, demons, and terms that appear in the text is included in the back matter. **VERDICT** Fast-paced and funny, this action-packed fantasy sequel dives deeper into Chinese mythology while exploring the universal need for friendship and acceptance.—Sophie Kenney, Aurora P.L., IL



#2121628 (Vol. 01) Dragon Warrior (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katie Zhao

As a member of the Jade Society, twelve-year-old Faryn Liu dreams of becoming a warrior. But the Society shuns Faryn and her brother due to their half-Chinese heritage, forcing them to train in secret. Then, during an errand into San Francisco's Chinatown, Faryn runs into a demon—and helps defeat it. In truth, she's the fabled Heaven Breaker, meant to work with the gods, command dragons, and wage war against demons...

978-1-5476-0200-1 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 **Starred Review** Zhao's impressive and captivating debut adventure novel brings mythology and magic to life as 12-year-old Faryn Liu and her younger brother, Alex, discover an entirely new side to the Jade Society, an elite organization of warriors and demon hunters, in whose shadow they've resided since their father's mysterious disappearance and their mother's passing. But the Jade Society has become complacent and smug after decades of silence from the realms of gods and monsters, keeping their home, San Francisco's Chinatown, demon-free since '83. Nevertheless, Ye Ye, the children's grandfather turned guardian, keeps them on their toes with his stories and training sessions, and Faryn and Alex throw themselves into these outlets, hoping to tune out the mocking voices of the Jade Society bullies who label their father a traitor and discriminate against them for their mixed heritage. When a competition arises for the role of the prophesied Heaven Breaker, Zhao's spot-on writing will have readers empathizing and rooting for Faryn in no time, and her seamless blending of memorable and quirky gods and demons from myriad mythologies—Greek, Phoenician, and Chinese, to name a few—will be both familiar to young readers and also culturally educational. This plot-propelled, action-packed story about family legacy and heritage, as well as self-discovery, is an ideal choice for fans of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series and Roshani Chokshi's *Aru Shah and the End of Time* (2018). (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Ever since their father disappeared four years ago on a demon hunt, twelve-year-old Faryn and her younger brother Alex have been outcasts from San Francisco's Jade Society, which believes that the demons they pledge to hunt have been long eradicated. When Faryn slays a real nian (dragon-like demon) on the Lunar New Year with the help of one of the Chinese gods, it proves that demons still run amok—and Faryn, the Heaven Breaker and the only one who can wield the legendary Fenghuang spear, must bear the responsibility of fulfilling a prophecy for the Jade Emperor. Faryn teams up with her brother and her former best friend to travel to the gods' home on Peng Lai Island, before the Lunar New Year ends, to become guardians of the Jade Emperor. Fans of Rick Riordan will recognize a very similar structure to *The Lightning Thief* (BCCB 10/05) as the characters jump from Chinatown to Chinatown, face quirky twists like a perfect girlfriend-turned-dragon, traps like the hotel of the love goddess Chuangmu, betrayals by friends, and witty quips (in response to picking up the Fenghuang: "I just . . . King Arthur'd"). As in Riordan's work, the humor is interspersed with cultural commentary, from the Jade Society members'

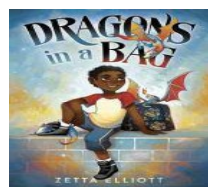
discrimination against Faryn's darker skin to expectations for a perfect wife. Those looking for a story in line with the surge of modern mythological quests will find this take on Chinese mythology a worthy addition. The final copy will include a glossary. NB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Chinese folklore and fantasy intersect in this adventure. Faryn and her younger brother, Alex, were lovingly raised by Ye Ye, who's now seriously ill. Viewed as outcasts by their Jade Society community, the family lives outside of San Francisco's Chinatown but still are dedicated to worshipping the gods and train to fight demons. During a risky trip into Chinatown to get Ye Ye's medicine, Faryn subdues a nián monster with the help of a stranger. The stranger later appears at their society's annual banquet, revealing himself to be Erlang Shen, the god of war. He shares the Jade Emperor's decree that whoever can complete a quest and arrive at the banquet atop the heavenly mountain on Peng Lai Island will be deemed the Heaven Breaker, the ultimate warrior, inspiring several hopefuls to race for the title. Spurred by Erlang Shen's hints and sudden attacks by demons, Faryn reluctantly wields Heaven Breaker's weapon, Fenghuang, and takes off, accompanied by Alex. The two hope they can also find their missing father, lost during his quest to find Peng Lai. Attempts to call in favors earned by their father prove largely futile, however. Zhao seamlessly incorporates Chinese terms and themes into the fast-paced plot. Unfortunately, the book's humor relies heavily on Asian stereotypes. Still, the story takes intriguing twists with its cultural background, and they keep the pages turning. Faryn and Alex are multiracial: Chinese on Ba's side and a mix of Mediterranean heritage on their mother's. An ambitious debut with imperfect execution--here's hoping the sequel is smoother. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this action-packed debut steeped in Chinese mythology, a modern-day warrior is unexpectedly chosen as the Heaven Breaker, destined to lead the Jade Emperor's armies against demons threatening Earth. Ever since the disappearance of their father, a legendary hero, Faryn Liu and her younger brother, Alex, have been ostracized by the rest of the secret Jade Society. But when the gods choose Faryn to embark on a quest to prove her worth, she and Alex finally have a chance to restore their family's reputation. With demons at every turn, capricious gods pursuing their own agendas, and a tight deadline, Faryn will have to make hard decisions and painful sacrifices. Zhao reimagines classic Chinese deities and monsters in an accessible, entertaining manner while filtering the adventure through Faryn's snarky, relatable voice. With engaging characters, a fast-paced plot, and a skillful blend of modern culture and ancient traditions, this series opener will appeal to fans of Percy Jackson and Aru Shah. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Penny Moore, Aevitas Creative Management. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Demons have been dormant in San Francisco for decades, but despite a warning from her sick grandfather, Faryn ventures into the city for his medicine on Lunar New Year. Faryn is stunned when she comes face to face with a powerful nin. Using her warrior training, she defeats the demon with the help of an anonymous stranger, who reveals himself to be the God of War and issues a challenge that will determine the fabled "Heaven Breaker," a champion of the Gods. When Faryn is able to carry the legendary spear meant only for the Heaven Breaker, the community who ostracized her family sends candidates of its own. Together with her brother and best frenemy, Faryn undertakes an epic quest that she hopes will not only redeem, but reunite, her family. This disparate group bands together to solve riddles, fend off foes, and uncover a devious plot to end the world. By embracing her role as Heaven Breaker, Faryn finally meets her destiny—but it comes at a cost. The integration of Chinese terms and cultural influences richly elevates the story with authentic details. VERDICT Inspired by classic Chinese mythology, this #OwnVoices fantasy adventure delivers on action, humor, and heart. Share with fans of Rick Riordan and Roshani Chokshi.—Sophie Kenney, Delray Beach Public Library, FL

Dragons in a Bag (Trade)



#2080869 (Vol. 01) **Dragons in a Bag (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Zetta Elliott*

When Jaxon is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma, he finds out she's not his grandmother--but she is a witch! She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe.

978-1-5247-7045-7 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 4.5 GR Lvl T Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews "What a breath of fresh air: a chapter-book fantasy with an urban setting, an array of brown-skinned magic wielders, and a lovable black protagonist readers will root for and sympathize with... Good, solid fantasy fun."

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When nine-year-old Jaxon's mom leaves him to stay with "Ma," the woman who raised her (presumably, his grandmother), he is startled by a mysterious, moving package on her table. Soon, Jax learns that Ma is a witch to whom his mother was once apprenticed, and that the package contains three baby dragons that must be delivered to a parallel realm, since Brooklyn lacks sufficient magic to sustain the beasts. Jax joins her, deciding he'd like to be her apprentice, but the transporter, an old guardhouse in Prospect Park, mistakenly deposits them in the Mesozoic era instead. When a dinosaur threatens them, Ma pushes Jax and her dragon-filled purse into the transformer, and Jax arrives back in Brooklyn with two essential missions: save Ma, and safeguard the dragons. Filled with entertaining characters, including the grandfather Jax has never met and a man who may just be invisible, the story entertains from start to finish. Readers will mirror Jax's surprise at and joy in discovering the world Elliott (Bird) brings to life. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8-12. Author's agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal "Elliott skillfully introduces themes about creating positive change, examines issues of othering and the fear of differences, and touches upon the complexities of family, gentrification, and segregation. A promising start to a new series."



#2107665 (Vol. 02) Dragon Thief (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Zetta Elliott

Jaxon had just one job--to return three baby dragons to the realm of magic. But when he got there, only two dragons were left in the bag. His best friend's sister, Kavita, is a dragon thief! The gates to the other realm have shut tight! Jaxon needs all the help he can get to find Kavita, outsmart a trickster named Blue, and return the baby dragon to its true home.

978-1-5247-7049-5 ©2019 6 x 8-3/4 176 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine According to Aunty, "every problem has a solution." But what if your problem is a dragon that won't stop growing? This sequel to *Dragons in a Bag* (rev. 9/18) alternates between Jaxon, the previous book's protagonist, and Kavita, sister of Jaxon's best friend Vikram. After she steals a dragon from Jaxon ("I just wanted one for myself-and Jaxon had three!"), Kavita has that very problem. She soon learns that there is a gate that will get the dragon back home to the realm of magic-but the gate is open for only a short period of time. In another part of the city, Jaxon and Vikram are looking for Kavita so they can get the dragon back. Will they do it in time? If not, what will happen to the balance of this world and the realm of magic? This quick-paced, suspenseful, and entertaining sequel leaves readers ready for Kavita, Jaxon, and Vikram's next adventure. Final art not seen. Nicholl Denice Montgomery November/December 2019 p.85(c) Copyright 2019. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2364919 (Vol. 05) War of the Witches (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Zetta Elliott

Jaxon could never have imagined the adventure that would start with an old witch called Ma and three baby dragons shipped to Brooklyn. Ever since he returned the dragons to the magical realm of Palmara, Jax has searched for a way for humans and magical creatures to live in harmony. But despite his efforts, an ancient monster has been released. The Scourge has defeated the powerful Guardian of Palmara and set its sights on the human realm.

978-0-593-64862-9 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2265920 (Vol. 03) Witch's Apprentice (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Zetta Elliott

Ever since the baby dragons were returned to the magical realm, things have been off. The New York summer has been unusually cold. A strange sleeping sickness is spreading across the city. And Jaxon's friends Kenny and Kavita have begun to change, becoming more like the fairy and dragon they once cared for.

978-0-593-42770-5 ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 790

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Jaxon and company return in this follow-up to *The Dragon Thief* (2019). Jax is frustrated with Ma, the witch he's apprenticed to. Instead of teaching him about magic, she's teaching him about plants. Then, mysterious ash starts falling from the sky and the adults of New York City start falling asleep all over the place, just as Ma, Jax, and Ma's coven leave Brooklyn for the annual convention in Chicago. Jax's first-person narration chronicles his frustrations with Ma, which go beyond her unwillingness to teach him magic to a deeper theme: adults who don't communicate thoroughly with children and don't allow children agency. When a face from the past shows up and challenges his assumptions, Jax begins questioning much of what he's been told--and believes. In the end, Jax must decide whether using his voice or following orders is more

important, but the consequences may be steeper than he bargained for. While the themes are compelling, the plot unfortunately relies on the device of miscommunication to propel it. Apart from this, fans will be happy to return to Jax's story (and encounter a new magical creature). The cliffhanger ending points to a future series entry. Most characters are Black; some names cue South Asian heritage. A solid third installment. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2309088 (Vol. 04) Enchanted Bridge (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Zetta Elliott

With their new special abilities, Jaxon and his friends are not the ordinary kids they used to be. No longer destined to become a witch, Jax finds himself caught up in a secret plan involving the Guardian of Palmara's mysterious twin brother, Ol-Korrok. As the ambassador to the realm of magic, Jax must convince Sis that magical creatures should be free to return to the human world. But to reach Palmara, Jax and his friends must cross Ol-Korrok's enchanted bridge connecting the two realms. Is Ol-Korrok really the ally he pretends to be? Or has Jax set in motion a plan that will endanger both realms?

978-0-593-42774-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Dragonwatch: A Fablehaven Adventure (Trade)



#2008816 (Vol. 01) Dragonwatch (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Mull

Because Dragonwatch, an ancient group of wizards, enchantresses, and dragon slayers, is crumbling, an uprising of dragons threatens to destroy the magical preserves as well as overrun the nonmagical world.

978-1-62972-256-6 ©2017 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 3.5 Lexile 620

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-The dragons who were confined to sanctuaries in the celebrated "Fablehaven" series are now restless, and the safe havens feel more like prisons. Celebrant, the King of the Dragons, has pledged to free them and bring back the Age of Dragons. His attacks have caused Wyrmoost's defenses to weaken, as have all other hidden sanctuaries that protect the world from danger. The last remaining members of Dragonwatch call upon 13-year-old Seth and 15-year-old Kendra to guard the sanctuary of Wyrmoost, as it is believed that human caretakers can help strengthen the sanctuary's defenses. The teens face great opposition from their former allies, the dragons, and also from their subjects in Wyrmoost, who are skeptical that two youngsters can succeed where all others have failed, even though they are known to be dragon slayers. Calm, logical Kendra and reckless, wisecracking Seth must work and stay together to find a way to hold the dragons in check. Seth and Kendra have many exciting and dangerous confrontations with fantastic beasts, but they are resourceful and brave, and there is never a doubt that the heroes will triumph. The action moves slowly, especially in the beginning of the book, as much of the backstory is explained and characters reintroduced through dialogue. VERDICT Sure to please loyal "Fablehaven" readers and may be appreciated by fantasy and adventure lovers who have advanced beyond the "Magic Tree House" series.-MaryAnn Karre, Binghamton, NY Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2082866 (Vol. 02) Wrath of the Dragon King (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Mull

After a humiliating defeat at the hands of Kendra and Seth, Celebrant, King of Dragons, prepares to unleash his fury and take control of his native preserve. Armed with information from a new ally--Ronodin, the dark unicorn--Celebrant seeks a legendary talisman--the dominion stone.

978-1-62972-486-7 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 416 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile HL 630

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99



#2107359 (Vol. 03) Master of the Phantom Isle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Mull

Cursed by the Key of Forgetting, Seth's memories of his past--his relationships, experiences, and who he really is--are gone. For now he will align with his new mentor, Ronodin, the Dark Unicorn, who brings him to the Phantom Isle, the secret gateway to the Underworld. Though not formally a prisoner, Seth is heavily influenced by Ronodin, who wants to use him and his special Shadow Charmer powers for his own dark ends.

978-1-62972-604-5 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 16.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2212467 (Vol. 04) Champion of the Titan Games (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Mull

As the war with the dragons intensifies, all eyes are turning to Titan Valley for help. A dragon sanctuary unlike any of the others, this one is home to enslaved dragons ruled by the powerful Giant Queen, one of the five monarchs of the magical world. In addition, it houses the arena for the Titan Games, a series of gladiator-style battles presided over by none other than Humbuggle, the demon who stole Seth's memories!

978-1-62972-788-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8 544 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 17.0 Lexile 720

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99



#2265470 (Vol. 05) Return of the Dragon Slayers (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brandon Mull

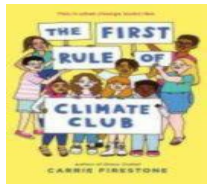
Seth must face his most dangerous quest--the fulfillment of his pledge to the Singing Sisters. With only Calvin the Tiny Hero at his side, Seth needs to collect the pieces of the Ethernem, including the stones from the crowns of the Dragon King, the Giant Queen, and the Demon King.

978-1-62972-930-5 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 624 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 19.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.99

Dress Coded (Trade)



#2314891 First Rule of Climate Club (Large Print) (Large Print Library Binding (Trade))

written by Carrie Firestone

(Companion) Mary Kate and her friends have big plans to bring lasting change to their community and beyond. And now is the time for the young people to lead and the leaders to follow--or get out of the way.

979-8-88578-271-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 489 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 790

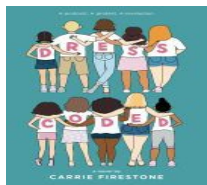
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$24.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Mary Kate Murphy is 1 of 10 incoming eighth-graders at Fisher Middle School chosen to participate in a climate-change pilot project. Warned that this will be a "non--traditional" commitment, the group begins investigating ways within their community to help save the planet. Initially, the students struggle to find their niches but eventually realize they can be more effective when they work cooperatively. Unfortunately, the group encounters an obstacle in the form of the town's mayor, who is resistant to its ideas. Meanwhile, Mary Kate's BFF is suffering from an undiagnosed illness. Applying her abundant pluck and drive, Mary Kate spearheads efforts to help her friend

regain her health. Firestone has created a lively and inspiring companion to her successful *Dress Coded* (2020). Using podcasts, letters, and a variety of other devices, she covers a broad range of ills with realistic energy. This novel addresses more than climate change, also touching on equity and inclusion as well as traditional and natural healing methods. Readers will cheer as the students' actions bring about positive change. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eager to address climate change, Connecticut eighth graders also confront economic inequality, racism, and politics. Bearsville Climate Club is an innovative pilot program: Its students will study climate science and develop community-based initiatives to address environmental concerns. Observant young naturalist Mary Kate Murphy applied along with her bat-loving BFF, Lucy Perlman (both are White), but Lucy is now kept home by a mysterious illness. Initially lost by herself, Mary Kate warms to Mr. Lu, the club's charismatic Chinese American teacher, who pairs her with composting enthusiast Shawn Hill, a Black student who commutes from Hartford to their better-resourced suburban school. As the students explore their priorities—for example, growing hemp, eliminating leaf blowers, addressing disposable fashion, ending meat consumption—they also learn about and discuss racism's toxic legacy in their towns and families. Mary Kate is chagrined to learn that wealthier, predominantly White communities, including hers, outsource their trash to the incinerator polluting Shawn's neighborhood. When the longtime mayor makes Shawn's out-of-district address an excuse to invalidate the club's application for a community grant, the students take action, which proves an energizing antidote to feeling helpless about the future. Fast-paced and often funny, this stand-alone companion to *Dress Coded* (2020) has a similar mosaic structure. Podcast transcripts, checklists, school assignments, and short vignettes showcase Firestone's gift for illustrating how apparently unrelated issues intersect—or collide—while realistically portraying the voices of middle schoolers. A passionate novel uplifting young activists. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Mary Kate Murphy and her classmates in the eighth grade climate science pilot program at Fisher Middle School, with the guidance of their teacher Mr. Lu, set out to create a composting program. When their attempt to apply for a town grant to pay for the program goes awry because of the mayor's racism, Mary Kate and her classmates, family, and friends must find another way to raise funds. Meanwhile, Mary Kate's best friend Lucy is really sick, and Mary Kate works hard to find out what's wrong while juggling activism, her efforts to get teacher Ms. Lane elected mayor, and her frustrations with the current mayor's lies and prejudices. But with the help of school faculty, the ingenuity of her classmates, and her sister's advice, Mary Kate just might find a way to accomplish her goals. Told through short chapters, podcast scripts, flyers, letters, and lists, this book shares with readers the power of determination and unity. VERDICT A great choice for middle grade readers interested in climate change, social justice, and student activism.—Heidi Grange



#2275209 Dress Coded (Large Print) (Large Print Library Binding (Trade))

written by Carrie Firestone

Molly Frost is FED UP because Olivia was yelled at for wearing a tank top. Because Liza got dress coded and Molly didn't, even though they were wearing the exact same outfit. Because middle school is hard enough. And so Molly starts a podcast where girls can tell their stories, and before long, her small rebellion swells into a revolution. Because now the girls are standing up for what's right, and they're not backing down. 978-1-4328-8596-0 ©2021 400 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Molly is an eighth grader at Fisher Middle School, where the patriarchal administration is hell-bent on enforcing a dress code that values compliance over comfort and dignity. Female students are regularly pulled over, harassed, and shamed by the callous Dr. Couchman and his henchwoman Fingertip?so named for her favorite rule: hemlines of shorts, skirts, and dresses will reach below the student's extended fingertips while standing. After witnessing a friend's humiliation at Couchman's hands, Molly decides enough is enough. She begins publishing everyone's horror stories through *Dress Coded: A Podcast*, and as the school year progresses, her peaceful protest grows into a movement. Finally, she and her classmates take their case to the board of education. Molly's first-person narration, delivered in brief sections? occasionally formatted as bullet points, letters, or transcripts?lends a powerful intimacy to the text. That's good, because this story feels personal, for both Molly and author Firestone. They?and countless others?are fed up, and that energy fuels the beautifully paced pages of this book, full of humor, rage, and heart. An uncommonly sprawling cast of students gives authenticity to Molly's middle-school experience, bolstered by subplots of friendship, crushes, and vaping, and a triumphant ending shows how systemic change can be made when girls stand together. Absolutely necessary for tweens and teens, especially non-males too busy to bother with toxic, patriarchal nonsense. Straight fire.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A spirited eighth grader and her friends leverage the power of social networking to fight their school's oppressive dress code. Students are furious when the class campout is canceled because fellow student Olivia contravened the dress code. That changes after Molly persuades Olivia to tell the embarrassing story on her new podcast. Going public at first worsens her mortification; both girls are targeted by bullies. Then, as Molly's podcast followers mount, others post photos of dress-code shaming on Instagram, revealing the harm caused by policing girls' appearances while ignoring social, cultural, and economic realities that govern their lives and clothing choices. Talia's hair (she's Trinidadian) triggers the dress code. While Molly's pre-pubertal figure is ridiculed by an obnoxious classmate (Megan, with cerebral palsy, knows how that

feels), her violations of the dress code are ignored, but girls with curvier bodies are repeatedly sanctioned. When district administrators ignore their petition to end dress coding, students strategize next steps. Molly, a refreshingly average student gifted with empathy, has a brother who deals vaping paraphernalia, stressing her white middle-class family financially and emotionally. Diverse secondary characters include several with disabilities. Beyond code inequities, everyday issues like family stress and active-shooter lockdowns complicate the lives of these appealing characters. Vividly conveyed, their almost-palpable adolescent angst is at once uniquely contemporary and timeless. Readers will root for them as they discover that taking action makes an effective antidote. Timely, engaging, and full of heart. (Fiction. 10-15) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When Olivia Bonaventura, a girl in Molly Frost's eighth grade class, is dress coded for wearing a tank top with spaghetti straps, it results in the class camping trip being canceled. Everyone blames Olivia, but she'd only removed her sweatshirt to cover a period blood stain on her white jeans. It's the latest example of the school's unfair rules, which target young women ("the girls with boobs and butts, the prettiest girls, and the girls with long legs") and fail to account for socioeconomic and other circumstances that can make the code challenging to adhere to. Molly begins *Dress Coded: a Podcast*, where students share their experiences and together try to challenge the rules. As the students protest, Molly learns the power of her voice and finds the strength to handle hardships at home, namely her brother's vaping addiction and dealing of vape pods to middle schoolers. With timely, important anecdotes that ring painfully true, Firestone (*The Unlikelies*) cuts to the heart of the damage that dress coding can inflict. Chapters alternate between podcasts and letters that Molly writes in this deeply satisfying, variously inclusive journey with a wonderfully flawed main character. Ages 10: up. Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (July)

Reviews by: School Library Journal

Gr 6-8--When eighth grader Molly Fisher becomes fed up with her school's unfair enforcement of the dress code policy, she starts a podcast in protest. Through interviews she conducts with her classmates, Molly educates her listeners (and readers) on how the dress code is enforced almost exclusively through young women, and disproportionately affects those who have developed sooner or more than their classmates. Outside of school, her family is in crisis after they discover that Molly's brother has been selling tobacco vape pods to younger kids on the bus. The issues are timely without seeming trendy, and Firestone's crackling writing makes every day in Molly's life interesting to read about--even one of the most boring events on Earth, a school board meeting. By painting such a full picture of Molly's life, Firestone shows how difficult it can be to simply exist in the world of middle school. **VERDICT** Hand this first purchase to blossoming activists of every cause; this is a deeply, often scathingly honest work of modern fiction. -
-*Chance Lee Joyner, Haverhill Public Library, MA*

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Edge of Extinction (Trade)



#2004718 (Vol. 01) Ark Plan (Paperback (Trade))

written by Laura Martin

One hundred and fifty years ago: The first dinosaurs were cloned. Soon after, they replaced humans at the top of the food chain. The only way to survive was to move into underground compounds. Five years ago: Sky Mundy's father disappeared without a trace. Today: Sky has just stumbled upon a clue that points to the surface. To find her father--and possibly even save the world--Sky and her best friend, Shawn, are venturing topside to a land reclaimed by nature and ruled by dinosaurs.

978-0-06-241623-0 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 5.2 Lexile 790

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$6.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Sky Mundy has heard all her life how the Noah saved the citizens of the United States from extinction during the Dinosauria Pandemic, getting them into the old nuclear bomb shelters that were safe from ferocious dinosaurs and the fatal virus they carry. But Sky sees the dark side of the Noah's Marine enforcers. She is singled out because she is an orphan and thus a burden (though she refuses to acknowledge that her father, missing for five years, is dead), and her life is a litany of work details and isolation in the Guardian Wing of the North Compound. Sky desperately hopes for word from her absent father, and finally, on her 12th birthday, her best friend Shawn finds a clue hidden in the compass Sky's father gave her just before he disappeared. With that information, Sky decides it's time to go "topside" to look for her missing dad. Shawn helps her make a daring escape from the compound, and the two discover that the world outside is not as they were led to believe. There are certainly dinosaurs, and most of them are out to make Sky and Shawn dinner. But there are also people living topside, not to mention fresh food and fresh air. In this clever take on Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*, the tale is reimaged on a worldwide scale. The characters are developed, and the postapocalyptic world is well imagined and replete with detail. The plot moves forward briskly, with a few

good twists, and the ending sets up neatly for a sequel. Nonstop action, marauding dinosaurs, and kids on the run: What's not to like? VERDICT This is a great buy for the sci-fi adventure-loving crowd.-Gretchen Crowley, Alexandria City Public Libraries, VA Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2004721 (Vol. 02) Code Name Flood (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Laura Martin

Last week, twelve-year-old Sky found a cryptic message from her dad, who mysteriously fled the safety of their underground compound five years ago. The note said the fate of the world depended on her going topside, to a lost world that's ruled by dinosaurs. Today, after a treacherous journey through the wilderness, Sky and her friends have made it to their destination: Lake Michigan. There they discover a hidden underwater lab, and with the help of its scientists, Sky will finally learn the truth about her father's secret mission.

978-0-06-241625-4 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 5.6 Lexile 870

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Martin continues to delight both dinosaur lovers and techno geeks with her effectively conceived and well-written tales about a world where a dinosaur-sourced pandemic has ushered in a new era. In this fun and fast-moving sequel to The Ark Plan, the adventure starts with a bang, or rather with a frantic race from enraged dinosaurs, and never stops. Sky and her two companions, Shawn and Todd, are still searching for clues to the mystery of Sky's missing biologist father and his connection to "the Noah," a self-styled savior of the United States who cropped up after the pandemic wiped out much of the country's population. All they have to go on is the map that Sky's father left in his compass and a port plug that they don't have the technology to read. The map leads them to a secret compound. From the deep, plesiosaur-infested waters of Lake Michigan to the remains of the New York City subways, Sky and her companions elude pursuers, both dinosaur and human, in their quest to stop the Noah. Martin doesn't pull her punches, the dinosaurs pack a vicious bite, and the guns shoot real bullets. VERDICT An exciting thriller that will more than satisfy fans of the first title.-Gretchen Crowley, formerly at Alexandria City Public Libraries, VA Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Eighth Day (Trade)



#1755424 (Vol. 01) Eighth Day (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Dianne K. Salerni

"Orphan Jax Aubrey doesn't expect much on his thirteenth birthday, but when he discovers there's an extra day squeezed between Wednesday and Thursday whose origins are rooted in Arthurian legend, it's clear his life will never be the same"--

978-0-06-227215-7 ©2014 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

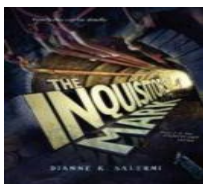
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 730

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7-Jax Aubrey wakes up one day to discover he is a Transitioner; a person gifted with an extra 24-hour day between Wednesday and Thursday. His guardian, Riley, is also a Transitioner, and begins to slowly introduce Jax to a secret world of magic and adventure. Jax soon realizes it's not all fun and games. Not all Transitioners are who and what they appear to be, and Riley is tasked with guarding the girl next door, a prisoner who only exists in this magical Eighth Day. The girl, Evangeline, is the key to rival Transitioners' plans to use the extra day to destroy the normal world. Only Riley, Jax, and their allies can hope to stop them. The Eighth Day is an interesting concept, and Salerni makes it work by having Jax learn, along with the reader, to navigate this extra day that is both fascinating and extremely dangerous. The concept melds Arthurian legend into present day in much the same way that Rick Riordan uses Greek and Egyptian mythology, with characters being descendents of heroes long thought to be folklore and their place in this world sometimes dependent on that lineage. There are a few points where the action stalls slightly, but in general the writing is fast paced and exciting. The story lends itself to further adventures and readers will be excited to follow Jax and eager to see what happens next.-Erik Knapp, Davis Library, Plano, TX (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

#1895669 (Vol. 02) Inquisitor's Mark (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



written by Dianne K. Salerni

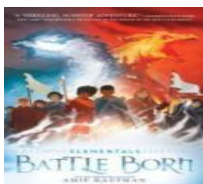
After the all-out Eighth Day war in Mexico, Jax, Riley, and Evangeline have gone into hiding. There are still rogue Transitioners and evil Kin lords who want to use Riley, a descendant of King Arthur, and Evangeline, a powerful wizard with bloodlines to Merlin, to get control over the Eighth Day.

978-0-06-227218-8 ©2015 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 720

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-This volume picks up right after the events of book one. Just weeks after saving the seven-day world from destruction at the hands of the evil King Wylit, Jax Aubrey discovers he might not be the orphan he thinks he is. When his best friend is kidnapped, Jax learns that he may have a mysterious long-lost Uncle and possibly the family he craves. Unfortunately, Uncle Finn happens to be the Inquisitor for the ruthless, criminally minded Dulacs, the family that had Jax's guardian Riley's entire family assassinated. During a search for Jax's liege-lady, Evangeline's sister Riley is trapped in the eighth day and Jax uses the time to rush to New York to save his friend and find out more about his family. Sure enough, Jax is related-his Uncle and Jax's deceased father look eerily alike, and Jax even has a near-identical cousin, Dorian. But is Dorian a friend or just another pawn in the seeming endless political intrigue of the Dulacs? Jax will need to find out soon or he could lose Riley, Evangeline, and much more. Salerni does a good job of portraying Jax's desperate need to fit in and find a family. Readers learn more about the Eighth Day, the Transitioners, the magical Kin, and their connection to Arthurian legend. The narrative is split between Jax and Dorian and there could have been a little more distinction between the two voices at times. The concept and the characters, however, are strong enough to carry the weight of a few minor flaws and The Inquisitor's Mark should continue to entertain its audience who will now eagerly await book three.-Erik Knapp, Davis Library, Plano, TX (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Elementals (Trade)



#2162528 (Vol. 03) Battle Born (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Amie Kaufman

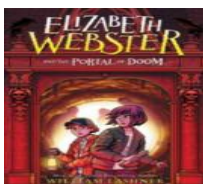
Though Anders and his friends have delayed an all-out war between the Ice Wolves and Scorch Dragons, their mission isn't over. To rebuild Vallen, Anders, Rayna, and all their allies must find a way to unite humans, ice wolves, and scorch dragons, before they miss their last chance.

978-0-06-245804-9 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 326 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Elizabeth Webster (Trade)



#2181456 (Vol. 02) Elizabeth Webster and the Portal of Doom (Hardcover (Trade))

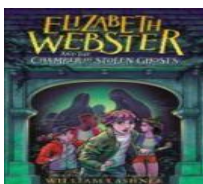
written by William Lashner

After her grand success in the courtroom against the demon Redwing, Elizabeth thought life would get much easier. But balancing homework with defending the undead is tricky. And lately, it's been tough convincing her father that she's ready to do more than sweep the floors of the family firm.

978-1-368-06289-3 ©2020 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



#2254416 (Vol. 03) Elizabeth Webster and the Chamber of Stolen Ghosts (Hardcover (Trade))

written by William Lashner

Reeling from recent struggles in the courtroom, Elizabeth Webster is surprised when two sisters ask her to find the spirits of their parents who have been stolen by a ghost thief. But this simple matter becomes the most terrifying case of Elizabeth's career.

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Soon, she finds herself battling the ghost thief himself, two cement Martha-Washington-faced dogs, and an army raised by the demon Redwing in the Chamber of Stolen Ghosts.

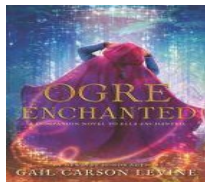
978-0-7595-5772-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Elizabeth Webster's legal troubles come to a head. The Philadelphia middle schooler hasn't been in the greatest shape of her legal career following the events of Elizabeth Webster and the Portal of Doom (2020). But she is nevertheless approached by Janelle and Sydney, two sisters who ask her for help: The ghosts of their late parents and grandfather used to comfort them and keep them company, but ever since they were stolen, the girls have been bereft. A ghost thief is on the loose, and it's up to Elizabeth to track the missing spirits down with the help of a most surprising helper: her mother. The ensuing adventure draws out the nefarious demon Redwing, leading to a showdown in the Court of Uncommon Pleas that holds the future of Elizabeth's world at stake and wraps up the trilogy. At this point, Elizabeth's fans know what they're getting--a delicate mix of legal sparring and paranormal trappings propping up a well-charted mystery. This final entry holds its own against its predecessors: Elizabeth remains an engaging protagonist, and her spooky environs are well fleshed out. There's an emotional undercurrent here that enriches this title, and fans will be pleased with how Elizabeth turns out in this series that remains charmingly original in the field of middle-grade paranormal mysteries. Elizabeth is White; Janelle and Sydney have light brown skin, and there is some diversity in the supporting cast. A rousing send-off for a wonderful young sleuth. (Mystery. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal ebster and her paranormal crew of friends and acquaintances. In this third installment of the series, Elizabeth and her cadre of mystery-solving associates set out on an adventure filled with intrigue, frights, and delightfully witty banter. Someone has been stealing the local ghosts, and it's up to Elizabeth and friends to discover who is responsible and how they can reunite the ghosts with their loved ones. As they uncover clues and make discoveries, many of which stem from the story of how Elizabeth's parents met, readers will be reintroduced to a persistent villain from the past, as well as a new cast of nefarious figures. Elizabeth is white and surrounded by a cast of diverse characters. VERDICT This is a must-purchase for any library that already has the series; it is a wonderful third installment. While this could be read as a standalone, readers might miss out on some background information that helps set up the engaging plot.--Maryjean Riou, Hunterdon County Lib., Flemington, NJ Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Ella Enchanted (Trade)



#2080155 OGRE ENCHANTED (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gail Carson Levine

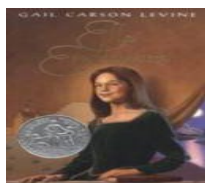
In this companion novel to Ella Enchanted, which can stand on its own, young healer Evie is transformed into an ogre by the meddling fairy Lucinda. She'll turn back only if someone proposes and she accepts!

978-0-06-256121-3 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Evie only has one thing on her mind, and that's healing the sick. She isn't expecting her friend Wormy to propose to her, and of course she turns him down. But that answer isn't good enough for Lucinda, the meddling fairy who likes to attend special occasions and give terrible gifts. Outraged at Evie's lack of romantic spirit, she turns her into an ogre and gives her 62 days to accept another proposal or remain an ogre forever. Undaunted, practical Evie sets to learn what she can from other ogres and then returns to the world of men, where she becomes entangled in a political plot. But her clock is winding down, and every day she doesn't find true love brings her closer to life as an ogre. This prequel to the Newbery Honor Book Ella Enchanted (1997) is a clever, lighthearted spin on Beauty and the Beast that features a heroine more than capable of choosing her own path. Readers new and old to Levine's world will find much to love.--Maggie Reagan Copyright 2018 Booklist



#1662449 Ella Enchanted (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gail Carson Levine

Ella is a girl with a most unusual gift, and her story has charmed readers and critics alike. Now Miramax Films brings this wholly original Cinderella story to the silver screen, complete with princes, ogres, wicked stepsisters, and a fairy-tale ending fit for a princess.

978-0-06-027510-5 ©1997 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 5.1 GR Lvl U Lexile 670

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Gr. 5-8. A superbly plotted and thoroughly enjoyable retelling of the Cinderella story that neatly incorporates elements of the original and mightily expands them. A 1997 Booklist Editors' Choice and a 1998 Newbery Honor Book.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Levine plays her debut expansion of the Cinderella story as a straight--well, nearly straight--romance, sloughing off its layers of Freudian symbolism and creating a lively, stubborn heroine to keep the action tumbling along. Lucinda, an extraordinarily foolish fairy, bestows on baby Eleanor the gift of obedience, condemning her to a childhood in which she's compelled to follow every order, no matter how casually given. By the time she is a teenager, Ella has perfected the art of turning any imprecision in a command back on its giver. With the help of her fairy-godmother-cum-family-cook, Ella keeps her curse a secret; along the way she is sent off to finishing school with the cruel daughters of her simpering stepmother-to-be, launches a fruitless quest to beg Lucinda for release, and falls in love with Prince Charmont (and he with her). She derails their courtship, realizing what a danger she would be to him, but can't pass up a last chance to see him. From that point, the story follows its traditional course, with masked balls, pumpkin coach, and glass slippers. When the prince entreats her to marry him, Ella fights an agonizing internal battle and, driven by love, breaks the curse at last, delightedly screaming refusals over and over before melting into his arms. This refreshing take on one of the world's most popular fairy tales preserves the spirit of the original but adds plenty of humorous twists and a spunky, intelligent female lead. (Fiction/folklore. 11-13)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This lighthearted fantasy and recent Newbery Honor book re-invents the Cinderella story. "A winning combination of memorable characters and an alluring fantasy realm," said PW in a starred review. Ages 8-12. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-The timeless story of Cinderella is deepened and extended in Gail Carson Levine's Newbery Honor book (HarperCollins, 1997). Given the unfortunate gift of complete obedience, the young heroine recounts her struggles to maintain her own identity. Along the way she meets Prince Charmont and a host of fairy tale characters, including gnomes, giants, ogres and, of course, her wicked stepfamily. Her fairy godmother, Mandy, works as the family cook and is Ella's constant helpmate. Ultimately Ella outwits the cruel and charms the good. She also finds the strength to overcome the lifelong curse of obedience and marries the prince. This retelling of the familiar story is rich in detail and offers older readers a chance to revisit well-known characters. Eden Riegel is a skilled and enthusiastic narrator with enough vocal styles to make each character a unique individual. The occasional addition of mood music adds drama but is not intrusive. The recording has no prompts to indicate the end of each side. The lightweight cardboard container is attractive but too flimsy for circulation. Both public and school libraries will find audiences eager for this unabridged recording.--Barbara S. Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT Copyright 1999 Cahners Business Information.

Ellie Engle (Trade)



#2323060 (Vol. 01) Ellie Engle Saves Herself (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Leah Johnson

Ellie Engle doesn't stand out. Not at home, where she's alone with her pet fish since her dad moved away and her mom has to work around the clock. Not at the bakery, where she helps out old Mr. Walker on the weekends. And definitely not at school, where her best friend Abby--the coolest, boldest, most talented girl in the world--drags Ellie along on her never-ending quest to "make her mark."

978-1-368-08555-7 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist relatively simple. She is an avid comic book fan, and she has one friend, Abby, who is bold, fashionable, and, unlike Ellie, constantly in the spotlight. Ellie is fine with the simplicity of her life, and in fact, she prefers it. When an earthquake shakes her town for the first time in decades, it also shakes up Ellie's life: she's surprised to find that she wakes up with the power to bring dead things back to life. Ellie is immediately overwhelmed with her new powers. She was already beginning to struggle with the prospect of starting junior high, her developing feelings for her best friend, and the stress of helping her single mom, who is barely making ends meet. Now, she finds herself having to come to terms with the reality of being a bona fide superhero—and the spotlight, which she never wanted, that comes with it. This delightful, magical middle-grade debut from young adult author Johnson (Rise to the Sun, 2021) excellently harnesses the anxiety that is prevalent throughout the junior-high years. Ellie's magic serves as a metaphor that carves out a space for uncovering and awakening her identity as a young queer Black girl. Strongly recommended for all collections.—Nashae Jones

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A seventh grader doing her best to navigate middle school, a secret crush, and new family dynamics wakes up with a life-altering superpower. Elliot "Ellie" Engle, a 12-year-old Black girl, has always been fine fading into the background with her comic books. Best friend Abby Ortega, who is coded as Latine, always seems to have the spotlight. Following an earthquake during a sleepover at Abby's house, Ellie wakes up feeling weird. She returns home to find her beloved pet, Burt the Betta Fish, has died. While giving his eulogy, Ellie touches Burt, and, to her disbelief, he bounces back to life. Superhero-loving Ellie's first thought is to keep her new abilities a secret or risk being shipped off to some institution like the X-Men's Xavier Institute. But she tells Abby--incidentally her crush and therefore the object of her other big secret. Together,

they attempt to test her powers, until an unfortunate incident on frog dissection day in science class throws Ellie's life into a tailspin. Ellie must come to terms with hard truths, but along the way she learns she doesn't have to live her life in the shadow of others and that true friends will support you through everything. This fast-paced, humorous novel will have readers racing to the end as they fall in love with Ellie's quirky and authentic personality. Johnson deftly explores identity and responsibility to ourselves and others in this joyful coming-of-age story. *Marvelous.* (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Comic book enthusiast Ellie Engle, who is Black, sees herself as the epitome of ordinary, and she's content to dwell in the pressure-free shadow of her outgoing Latina best friend, Abby Ortega. But after an earthquake strikes Plainsboro, Ind., the day the girls start junior high, Ellie realizes she has a crush on Abby, and she also somehow manages to resurrect her own dead pet fish. Slowly, Ellie discovers that she can bring living organisms back to life, for a cost. Ellie, who sometimes experiences panic attacks, doesn't want to cause trouble for her hardworking single mom, and she worries about how the powers of the supers in her comics affect their loved ones. But when popularity-intent Abby pressures Ellie to mask and even reverse her powers, Ellie is reluctant to let them go; even as knowledge of her abilities goes viral, leaving her no choice but to stand on her own two feet. Marrying her customary openhearted style with a necromancy-oriented origin story, Johnson (*You Should See Me in a Crown*) tackles the pains of growing up; changing bodies, shifting bonds, early crushes, and defining oneself on one's own terms; making for a warmly rendered, lightly speculative love story about a girl learning to believe that she's anything but ordinary. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Patrice Caldwell, New Leaf Literary. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—Twelve-year-old Ellie Engle is preparing to start junior high, and wondering what to do with the fluttery feelings she has for Abby, who has been the center of her universe as long as they've been friends. But when a random earthquake leaves Ellie with superpowers (including the ability to resurrect the dead), Ellie finds herself with bigger worries. Add to that her mom's struggles to pay the bills in the wake of a divorce, and Abby's determination to "make her mark" in their new school at all costs—including, perhaps, their friendship—and Ellie's whole world is turned upside down. Things get even worse when a viral video exposes her newfound powers and thrusts her into the spotlight. In lesser hands, these many plot threads might become tangled, but Johnson masterfully weaves them together to explore themes of belonging, identity, responsibility, friendship, heroism, and growing up. Ellie's voice is honest, warm, and sharply funny, and readers will enthusiastically root for her as she learns to love and celebrate herself for all that she is. Ellie is Black and Abby is Latina. **VERDICT** Joyful and magical. A first purchase for all collections.—Lauren Strohecker

Ellie's Deli (Trade)



#2333324 (Vol. 01) Ellie's Deli: Wishing on Matzo Ball Soup! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa Greenwald

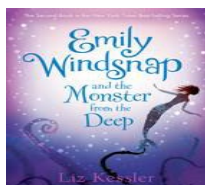
When Ellie accidentally overhears that her family deli is most likely going to close, she does the only thing she can think of. She makes a wish on matzo ball soup.

978-1-5248-8455-0 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Emily Windsnap (Spotlight)



#2294941 (Vol. 02) Emily Windsnap and the Monster from the Deep (Library Binding)

written by Liz Kessler

Emily is reunited with her merman father and lives on an island located in the Bermuda Triangle, where she accidentally awakens the fearsome kraken and faces a bully from her past. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5121-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 3.2 GR Lvl S Lexile 520

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$22.95

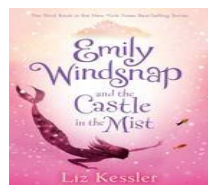
Reviews by: Children's Literature Being a teenager is tough. It is even tougher if you are half-human and half-mermaid, moving to a new mermaid only island where you only have one friend and are already on Neptune's bad side. This is the predicament Emily Windsnap is in at the beginning of this story. It only gets worse from there. While trying to prove that she is a real mermaid, she accidentally awakens the Kraken a few years too early. The beast begins wreaking havoc on the island and the surrounding waters. In the midst of this chaos, Mandy Rushton, Emily's nemesis from her old school, shows up. This book will be a delight for middle school girls. While the story is purely fantasy, they will be able to relate to Emily as she tries to fit in with other girls and as she tried to cope with a bully. The book is told from Emily's point of view with a few

chapters told in Mandy's words. While this is a sequel to another book; it can be read alone and understood, however, there are some parts that seem a little confusing. Consider buying both books rather than this one alone. Part of the "Emily Windsnap" series.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When Emily Windsnap and her parents arrive at their new home in the middle of the Bermuda Triangle, she hopes she can fit in with the mermaids there better than she did with her classmates at Brightport High. Half-human, half-mermaid herself, she wants to make an impression on her new friends, but instead awakens a deadly kraken, angers King Neptune and endangers them all. Neptune hopes to put the kraken back to work sinking human ships; his first target carries Emily's long-time enemy, Mandy Rushton. Occasionally, Mandy interrupts Emily's story; the change of narrator is indicated by a new typeface, and a jarring shift to present tense. Neither Emily nor Mandy are developed enough to account for their change of heart at the end, but the action moves briskly, with a satisfying amount of underwater description and much attention to varied tail styles. The imaginative premise will intrigue readers and the suspense will be enough to keep them reading to the happy ending and perhaps send them back to Emily's first story, *The Tail of Emily Windsnap* (2004). (Fiction. 9-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With a sparkling energy and humor, Finty Williams brings to life the new adventures and travails of a likeable half-mermaid tween in *Emily Windsnap and the Monster from the Deep* by Liz Kessler. This time Emily accidentally rouses a sea monster called a kraken and invites the wrath of Neptune. (May). Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Emily is ecstatic. In *The Tail of Emily Windsnap* (Candlewick, 2004), she learns that she is a mermaid and reunites her human mother with her merman father. Now, the happy family is going to live together on an island smack dab in the center of the Bermuda Triangle. King Neptune himself has designated Allpoints Island as a safe place where humans and merfolk can coexist in peace. Even better, Emily's mermaid buddy Shona is moving to the island as well. Unfortunately, Emily is still feeling a little different as she is the only half-human/half-mermaid hybrid she knows. In an attempt to impress the others, she unwittingly unleashes a monster sleeping at the heart of the island. To put it to rest, she must now face not only her fears but also her old rival from middle school, Mandy Rushton. Constantly shying away from taking responsibility for her actions, Emily opts for the path of least resistance time and again, only stopping the murderous kraken when forced to do so. The book comes across as overly simplistic much of the time and relies too heavily on coincidence and some unbelievably cheery endings. Just the same, mermaid lovers everywhere will undoubtedly enjoy this story. Consider purchase if the first book is popular.-Elizabeth Bird, New York Public Library Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.



#2294938 (Vol. 03) Emily Windsnap and the Castle in the Mist (Library Binding)
written by Liz Kessler

When she incurs Neptune's wrath by finding a diamond ring under rocks in the ocean, Emily is put under a curse that will force her to choose between being a mermaid or human, and searches for someone who can help her. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5122-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 3.6 GR Lvl S Lexile 620

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$22.95

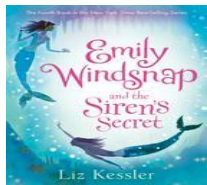
Reviews by: Children's Literature It is hard being half-mermaid and half-human, as Emily Windsnap knows all too well. Her parents have recently reunited, but are having trouble reconciling their different worlds. Emily's mother worries that all Emily learns at mermaid school are things like hair braiding and nothing like mathematics. But when Emily finds a mysterious ring, her troubles have just begun. The ring once belonged to King Neptune and he wants it back. The ring, however, cannot be removed, so King Neptune curses Emily to be neither human nor mermaid. Emily must find another ring to break the curse and return her body to its natural state. With the help from some old friends and some new faces, Emily seeks the ring that holds her fate and the fate of all half-human, half-mer people. The story is a strange mix of whimsical and serious fantasy that does not entirely work. Kessler tries for a deeper social commentary, but the outcome is so predictable that her lesson gets lost in the cliché. Still, Emily is an entertaining figure, and the threat to her way of life will keep the reader hooked to the end.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Back for a third adventure, Emily Windsnap, half-human/half-mermaid, has settled into life with both parents on and around Allpoints Island, where she's found a new best friend, Shona, a mermaid "all girly and sparkly, with shiny long blond hair." But her parents' arguments worry her. Perhaps they are planning to split up. On a class trip she finds a diamond ring King Neptune wants, but it won't come off her hand. Neptune's angry response is to send her far away where she finds a castle inhabited by a dark-haired, green-eyed boy, a semi-mer like herself. Together, the three young people find the ring's missing counterpart, undoing a 500-year-old curse and making possible peace between humans and merfolk-including her own parents. The improbable plot is told in first person, quickly paced and supported by plenty of descriptive detail about the appearance of the characters and the colorful underwater life. This should be an easy sell to girls looking for a friendship story with more than a touch of make believe. (Fiction. 9-12)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6Half-human/half-mermaid Emily should be happy. She's living with her recently reunited parents (a

human mother and merman father), she has a best friend, and she loves her new school. Still, this third book in the series finds her preoccupied with her parents' escalating bickering. After awakening King Neptune's fearsome monster in book two, Emily has vowed to stay out of trouble, but that is exactly what she finds in a magic ring from the ocean floor. When the king finds out that she has hidden it from him, he is furious and puts a curse on her: at the next full moon, she will become all human or all mermaid, whichever he chooses. So begins an adventure that takes the girl to a secret castle where she learns that she may not be as unique as she previously thought. Kessler combines the whimsy of life as a mermaid with the problems of an average middle-schooler. She keeps the story moving, with each chapter posing a new problem. Plenty of dialogue and Ledwidge's soft, dreamlike line drawings add textual and visual interest, making for a zippy story in an attractive package. Fans of mermaids and things that sparkle are the likely audience for this light fantasy.—Adrienne Furness Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) In this third installment of the series about twelve-year-old Emily, Neptune has allowed merfolk and humans to live in harmony. Emily is ecstatic to be living with both her merman father and her human mother. Emily herself is a mix-human on land and mermaid at sea. But these days her parents seem to argue constantly. Emily is terrified that they will separate again and that she will have to choose between them. The real trouble begins when Emily finds a diamond ring at the bottom of the ocean. Neptune wants the ring, and when she is unable to take it off her finger, he puts a curse on her. If she does not hand it over before the next full moon, she will lose the ability to change form. Then a storm conjured by Neptune's rage strands Emily and her best friend, Shona, alone in the middle of the ocean. The story really takes off when Emily decides to explore a mysterious castle visible in the distance. There she meets a boy desperate to save his family, encounters an ancient mystery, and learns a secret from Neptune's past. This quick read is light and charming but also heartfelt. Emily's overactive imagination and excessive worry about her parent's marriage ring true for a girl her age. After many anxious moments, the fairy-tale ending will satisfy the target audience, especially those who have enjoyed the previous two books in the series.



#2294944 (Vol. 04) Emily Windsnap and the Siren's Secret (Library Binding)
written by Liz Kessler
 Emily is finally enjoying a swimmingly peaceful life on Allpoints Island, but her fun is cut short when she learns that the Windsnaps and friends must return to their old home, where construction projects are threatening a secret mermaid community under the sea. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.
 978-1-0982-5123-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 296 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 3.3 GR Lvl S Lexile 600

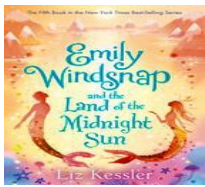
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.95

Reviews by: Children's Literature This fourth book in the "Emily Windsnap" series continues the tales about Emily, a semi-mer (finned lower half when in water, two-legged when on dry land); her best friend Shona; a male interest, Aaron, and a nemesis, Mandy. The conflict in this book involves three groups whose cold peace with each other is beginning to heat up. Neptune has declared a policy of detente between humans, such as Emily's mother, and merpeople. Because of Emily's brave actions in previous stories, he assigns her and her family the job of carrying it out. It is a challenging assignment, however, because humans are threatening to destroy underwater caves, an act likely to result either in the destruction of merpeople's homes or in the merpeople's becoming a degrading circus act to entertain humans. Meanwhile some mermaids, including the principal of Emily's school, are fostering enmity between full mermaids and semi-mers. Adventure, too, heats up when a family friend, Mr. Beeston, starts acting strangely, Shona and a "Lost thing" must be located, and a magic map must be deciphered. The source of the excitement and suspense are threatening sirens, a particular disappointment to Emily, who wants to grow up to become one. The conclusion reveals the intertwined relationships among the groups and leads to their acceptance of one another. The story sustains suspense and multiple story lines. Readers who have not read the earlier books can with close attention understand and enjoy it and those who have will appreciate this back-by-popular-demand sequel. Reviewer: Cynthia Levinson

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Emily Windsnap, half-human/half-mermaid, is faced with her biggest challenge yet when she learns that the mermaid village of Shiprock is about to be destroyed by bulldozers. While attempting to unite humans and merpeople to prevent the disaster, Emily discovers that whenever she and Aaron hold hands, weird things start happening, like people suddenly forget that they're not supposed to know that mermaids exist. She and her best friend, Shona, find some lost sirens but then get stuck underneath a waterfall with them with no way out. The characters are multidimensional, the book is fast paced, and the mishaps and adventures are entertaining.—Kira Moody, Hunter Public Library, West Valley City, UT

#2294940 (Vol. 05) Emily Windsnap and the Land of the Midnight Sun (Library Binding)
written by Liz Kessler
 Convinced that his nightmares herald an approaching threat, Neptune enlists half-

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.95

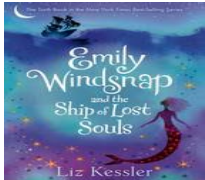


mermaids Emily and Aaron for a top-secret mission to find and eliminate the source of the trouble. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards.

Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5124-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 280 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 3.4 GR Lvl T Lexile 600



#2294943 (Vol. 06) Emily Windsnap and the Ship of Lost Souls (Library Binding)

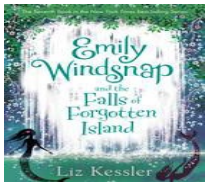
written by Liz Kessler

Emily and Aaron discover a ghostly pirate ship that only they can see, and it is up to Emily to enter a portal to bring the ship's passengers back before the portal is closed forever. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5125-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 3.4 GR Lvl T Lexile 600

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.95



#2294939 (Vol. 07) Emily Windsnap and the Falls of Forgotten Island (Library Binding)

written by Liz Kessler

While on vacation, Emily finds herself swept up in an ancient prophecy that foretells how the people on the island can be saved from a devastating earthquake--and the prophecy revolves around Emily, her boyfriend, and a mysterious, mythic giant.

Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5126-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 312 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 3.2 GR Lvl T Lexile 550

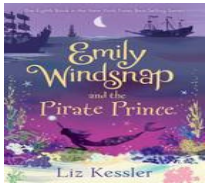
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Following her adventures in *Emily Windsnap and the Ship of Souls* (2015), part-mermaid Emily finds an idyllic island vacation disrupted by an ancient prophecy. Thirteen-year-old Emily's "an adventure magnet." After promising her mermaid best friend, Shona, she will "not be tempted by adventures, risks, or mysteries for at least one month," Emily arrives on a secluded island with Shona, her parents, and her "semi-mer" boyfriend and instantly stumbles onto another adventure. During a boat tour to nearby Forgotten Island, thought to be uninhabited and inaccessible, Emily and Shona explore behind the waterfall and are literally swept into a "whole new world" where Emily overhears people discussing a prophecy about an impending disastrous earthquake. On a second visit to Forgotten Island, Emily becomes lost in a maze of tunnels and encounters the same people, who convince her she's the answer to their prophecy about a girl with a fish tail finding a giant who saves the island. Conflicted by her promise to Shona and her desire to save the island's inhabitants, Emily enlists her boyfriend's help. Emily's fast-paced, first-person narration lends immediacy to her latest quixotic quest, one that tests the bonds of friendship and closes with a surprising twist. Spot art reinforces the maritime theme; friendship and relationship angst ground the story emotionally. Both humans and mer-people seem to be white. Exciting new adventures, risks, and mysteries for Emily Windsnap fans. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2018) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

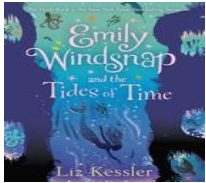
#2294942 (Vol. 08) Emily Windsnap and the Pirate Prince (Library Binding)
written by Liz Kessler

Emily ends up on a life-changing adventure to rescue her boyfriend when he is kidnapped by pirates; she helps unravel riddles to the legendary Trident's Treasure, making sure her friends are safe, and realizing how to be true to herself. Aligned to

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.95



Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.
 978-1-0982-5127-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 288 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 3.1 GR Lvl T Lexile 520



#2294945 (Vol. 09) Emily Windsnap and the Tides of Time (Library Binding)
written by Liz Kessler
 Emily must travel through time and into the future to save both of her hometowns to make a future that's bright for everyone. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.
 978-1-0982-5128-4 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 272 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 7.0 GR Lvl T Lexile 580

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal of the "Emily Windsnap" saga, the titular character is experiencing friendship problems. Just when she thinks she has fixed the problems in her life, the wishing stone leads her to a mysterious rift in the ocean floor and she is transported through time to see what effect her decisions have on her future self. Each time Emily travels through the tides of time, something always goes wrong to cause her future to be less than ideal. Emily must find the correct formula to ensure the best possible future for both herself and her friends and family. This book introduces the importance of recycling and keeping our oceans clean. While the book uses the classic premise of a Groundhog Day-esque theme, readers are able to directly see the results of Emily's actions. VERDICT Purchase where the "Emily Windsnap" series has been popular and for collections that need more hi-lo choices for tweens.—Sara Brunkhorst, Glenview Public Library, IL

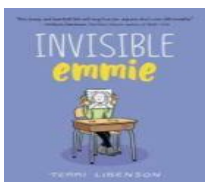
Emily Windsnap (Trade)



#2332033 (Vol. 01) Tail of Emily Windsnap (Deluxe Anniversary Edition) (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Liz Kessler
 For as long as she can remember, twelve-year-old Emily Windsnap has lived on a boat. And, oddly enough, for just as long, her mother has anxiously kept Emily away from the water. But when Mom finally agrees to let her take swimming lessons, Emily makes a startling discovery—about her own identity, the mysterious father she's never met, and the thrilling possibilities and perils shimmering deep below the water's surface.
 978-1-5362-3048-2 ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 540

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$15.99

Emmie and Friends (Trade)



#2004742 Invisible Emmie (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Terri Libenson
 This is the story of two totally different girls. Quiet, shy, artistic Emmie. Popular, outgoing, athletic Katie and how their lives unexpectedly intersect one day, when an embarrassing note falls into the wrong hands...
 978-0-06-248494-9 ©2017 192 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.3

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.99

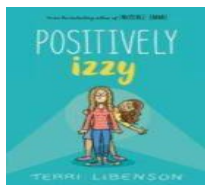
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 If quiet seventh-grader Emmie could have her way, she'd draw all the time, hang out with her best friend Brianna, and otherwise keep to herself. Though things stay pretty quiet at home, middle school is another story, especially when a fake love note she wrote to her crush ends up in the hands of an obnoxious, gossipy classmate. Interspersed with Emmie's doodle-laden first-person narrative are comics about popular, athletic, and confident Katie, who has it all figured out. At first, the two narratives seem unrelated, but as the stories begin to intertwine and Emmie starts finding more confidence in spite of the love-note disaster, the connection between Emmie and Katie becomes crystal clear. Libenson's amiable illustrations from Emmie's snarky (though sometimes glib) cartoon commentary in subdued tones to Katie's brightly colored, picture-perfect comic book life add plenty of comical flavor to the relatable story. With all-too-familiar middle-school drama and an empowering lesson about speaking up and bravely facing down embarrassment, this should find an easy audience among fans of Wimpy Kid or Dork Diaries books. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2017, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide In this clever tale, super-shy seventh grader Emmie rarely speaks to a soul at school but loves to draw. Occasional comics-style sections follow super-popular, impossibly perfect "Katie." After a classmate shares Emmie's note about her crush with everyone, Emmie goes from feeling invisible to feeling embarrassingly visible. But as Emmie becomes more satisfyingly confident, Katie gradually disappears--a no-longer-needed coping mechanism that existed only in Emmie's drawings. (Copyright 2017 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine The main narrative follows a day in the life of super-shy seventh grader Emmie, who rarely speaks to a soul at school; occasional sections follow Katie, super-popular and impossibly perfect (she gets straight As, her parents have never embarrassed her, and everyone wants to be her BFF). Emmie loves to draw and fills her narration with amusingly labeled doodles, while Katie's story is told comic-style. When a classmate finds a note Emmie wrote about the boy she likes and shares it with everyone, Emmie goes from feeling completely invisible to feeling embarrassingly visible, with all her classmates staring and laughing at her. Both text and illustrations contain appropriately kidlike descriptions of her social anxiety (a squeezey feeling in my stomach) along with humorous examples of the various horrors of middle school (an illustration shows a spotlight shining on Emmie as she changes clothes for gym class). The more visible (and satisfyingly confident and outspoken) Emmie becomes, the less visible Katie becomes, until she completely disappears--a no-longer-needed coping mechanism that existed only in Emmie's imagination and drawings. Libenson's clever tale will entertain readers in the throes of middle school as well as younger students both wary of and intrigued by their near future. jennifer m. brabander (Copyright 2017 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews One bad day in seventh grade can feel like a lifetime. However, even end-of-the-world-level heartache can have surprising and comic consequences. Emmie's story is part of the growing subgenre that hybridizes the middle-grade and graphic novel. With doodle-illustrated prose chapters depicting Emmie's world and entire comics-style sections depicting the popular Kate, Libenson takes readers inside the halls of middle school with the same nod to weirdness and eye-rolling angst as such format standards as Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Dork Diaries. Emmie is a painfully shy girl who is forced to see and be seen one fateful day when a playful game with best friend Brianna turns into a nightmare. Libenson uses two different illustration styles to distinguish between Emmie, the soft-spoken wallflower, and Kate, the outgoing girl of fabulousness. An artist using her doodles to illustrate the seventh-grade world, Emmie sees herself as someone with no voice, while the enigmatic, charismatic Kate is full of confidence and determined to push Emmie out of her comfort zone. Though readers may be puzzled by the device initially, Libenson's rationale for the dual portrayals becomes clear in the end. However, the repetition of Emmie's description as quiet, shy, and disenfranchised becomes as grating as a nasal whine. Both Emmie and Kate appear to be white, but school scenes reveal multiethnic classmates. Classic middle school themes come alive, but they fail to really go anywhere. (Graphic/fiction hybrid. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Readers follow a day in the life of Emmie, a shy, quiet eighth grader, as she scrambles to finish her homework, dreads gym class, and navigates hallways full of gossipy girls and spitty boys. She copes by disappearing into her drawing notebook. Interspersed between the illustrated chapters are comics-style panels featuring Katie, a pretty, popular, friendly, confident girl also going through the same middle school day. In homeroom, she notices "that quiet girl. She likes to draw. I'd rather talk. Or text." To amuse themselves during lunch in the chaotic cafeteria, Emmie and her best (and only) friend Bri compose gushy love notes to their secret crushes. Inevitably, Emmie drops hers, and it is found and circulated by the obnoxious class clown. Following the discovery of the love note, Katie comes to Emmie's defense, comforts her, and encourages her to stand up for herself. Many readers will recognize themselves in Emmie and her friends, who are at once self-conscious and eager to be seen for who they are. VERDICT A highly relatable middle grade drama. Recommended for most collections.-Jennifer Costa, Cambridge Public Library, MA Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2060583 Positively Izzy (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Terri Libenson

Izzy is the dreamer. She can never quite focus enough to get her schoolwork done. She wishes her mom (and annoying big sister) would get off her back and appreciate her for the one thing she's really good at: theater. Bri is the brain. While she's proud of her excellent grades, she wishes people would see there's more to her than just a report card full of As--the way her awesome BFF, Emmie, does. The girls' lives converge in

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.99

unexpected ways on the day of the school talent show, which turns out to be even more dramatic than either Bri or Izzy could have imagined.

978-0-06-248497-0 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.0 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.3 Lexile GN 390

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Following a similar structure as *Invisible Emmie* (2016), Libenson's sophomore illustrated novel tells parallel stories of two middle-school girls struggling to find a way to fit in. Brianna knows she's smart, but she's starting to chafe against her nickname, the Brain. When her mom, the new middle-school drama teacher, asks her to perform a scene for the talent show, she agrees despite her serious case of stage fright. Meanwhile, Izzy has been practicing for the talent show for weeks?to the detriment of her other school work?but when her mom finds out she flunked an important test, she grounds her on the night of the performance. Sneaking out obviously isn't a great idea, but Izzy's determined to get her time in the spotlight. Libenson nicely touches on classic middle-grade tropes, such as shifting friendships, crushes, and developing confidence, while the combination of comics, which make up Bri's story, and sections of text with spot illustrations are particularly well suited to the themes. A poignant twist ending adds a heartening note to an already charming story.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2018, American Library Association.)

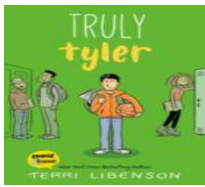
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide This follow-up to graphic novel *Invisible Emmie* again alternates perspectives, with (Emmie's best friend) Brianna's story rendered via large cartoon-panel drawings, and artsy-dreamer classmate Izzy's in smaller, border-free vignettes. Izzy's grounded but sneaks off to perform in the talent show. Brianna, meanwhile, reluctantly steps in for someone at the show and connects with her drama-teacher mother. A twist reveals an emotionally rewarding surprise. Libenson captures middle-school dramas with candor, fast pacing, and relatable characters. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This follow-up to graphic novel *Invisible Emmie* (rev. 7/17) again alternates between two perspectives, this time those of Emmie's best friend Brianna (a.k.a. The Brain) and artsy dreamer Izzy. Brianna's story is rendered via large cartoon-panel drawings, and Izzy's story is shown in smaller, border-free vignettes (final art not seen). Brianna is adjusting to the embarrassing fact that her mother now teaches drama at her middle school. Izzy is eager to perform in the school's talent show, but she's grounded after getting a zero in math; she defies her mother by sneaking off to perform in the show. Brianna, meanwhile, reluctantly agrees to step in for someone at the show; she overcomes her fear of performing (but not without angst) and connects with her mother in a new way. An unexpected twist at the book's close, taking place at a family brunch, reveals a surprise about the book's timeline, an emotionally rewarding discovery that wraps up the story lines with ease. Libenson captures middle-school dramas?family, ?friendships, crushes, stereotypes, grades, self-discovery?with candor, fast pacing, and authentic, relatable characters. Positively satisfying. julie Danielson(Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This reader-friendly graphic/prose hybrid explores the lives of two very different girls who have an unexpected connection.Izzy and Brianna both, separately, navigate difficult middle school experiences. Brianna, whose story is told entirely in sequential panels, is studious, reserved, and a little lonely. Izzy, who tells her story in paragraphs broken up by illustrations, is an unreliable middle sister with a love for performance and a lot of indifference toward schoolwork. Izzy sneaks out against her mother's wishes to perform in the school talent show, while Bri's mother (also a teacher at her school) convinces her to fill in for a sick actor. Both girls juggle complex family dynamics, shifting friend groups, and boys in the hours leading up to their performances. The story is light but resonant for middle graders, with constant comedic asides in the illustrations. Both girls appear white (based on the color cover), with multiracial supporting casts, and both threads of the story skirt larger issues. The opening pages, in which Bri complains about labels, hint at a larger theme that recedes into the background as the two girls struggle with their interpersonal relationships. Readers primed by the back-cover blurb will spend the whole book waiting for the two stories to intersect, with a surprise reveal at the end that may call for an immediate reread.A solid, not particularly daring addition to the hybrid format for middle-grade readers, mixing drama with heart. (Graphic/fiction hybrid. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2018) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

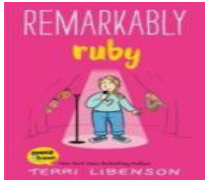
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-This charming book tells parallel stories of two very different girls, using graphic novel format to follow studious, introverted Brianna and a mix of handwritten prose and illustrations for creative daydreamer Izzy. The girls prepare for their middle school's talent show, which turns out to be a pivotal moment in both of their lives. Fans of Libenson's *Invisible Emmie* will be delighted to revisit some familiar characters. Like the previous title, this tale features a clever ending in which the two girls' stories converge. Some may be frustrated that the big reveal doesn't come until the very last page, but the twist is a satisfying one that invites readers to turn back and revisit earlier chapters. Funny details of Brianna and Izzy's lives ring true as the author explores relatable topics such as middle school friendships, self-discovery, and family dynamics. Libenson stresses the importance of being true to oneself, and readers will root for the characters to succeed. VERDICT A strong purchase for libraries where realistic graphic novels are in demand.-Allison Tran, Mission Viejo Library, CA Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2222744 Truly Tyler (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$24.99
<i>written by Terri Libenson</i>		
Ever since Tyler started getting into art and hanging out with Emmie, his friends and teammates have been giving him a hard time. He wonders why can't he nerd out on		



drawing and play ball? Emmie is psyched that she gets to work on a comics project with her crush, Tyler. But she gets the feeling that his friends don't think she's cool enough. Maybe it's time for a total reinvention.

978-0-06-289457-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 192 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.3 AR Pts 2.0

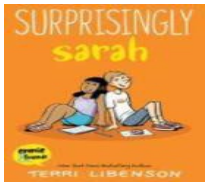


#2277766 Remarkably Ruby (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Terri Libenson

Ruby (aka Baked Bean Girl) is an outsider. She's bigger than all of her classmates and a bit socially awkward. But life-and middle school-take a turn for the better when she's asked to start a poetry club. Mia is a perfectionist. She must always have the right outfits, get good grades, and now she has to win her school class president election. The only thing, or person, ruining her perfect image is her former friend, Ruby.

978-0-06-313919-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 384 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 2.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$24.99

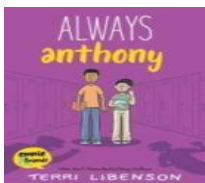


#2323440 Surprisingly Sarah (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Terri Libenson

Sarah and Leo have been BFFs since they were little. They share everything... until Sarah starts crushing on Leo's friend Ben. Then one day Sarah is suddenly faced with a big choice -- ask Ben to the school dance! OR chicken out. Either way, Sarah and Leo's friendship will be put to the test. Which one would you choose?

978-0-06-313922-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 352 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 2.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$24.99



#2379100 (Vol. 08) Always Anthony (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Terri Libenson

Anthony is TPFW (Too Popular for Words), loves science, hates writing. Leah is a super-shy nerd who's finally making friends of her own. What could they have in common? A lot more than they thought, as it turns out! But then one day they witness Anthony's teammates bullying a sixth grader. What happens next could cement their new friendship-or blow it up forever.

978-0-06-332093-2 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8 336 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

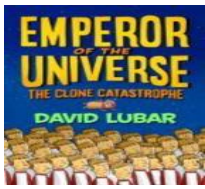
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$24.99

Emperor of the Universe (Trade)

#2221800 (Vol. 02) Clone Catastrophe (Hardcover (POB))
written by David Lubar

Before Nicholas V. Landrew can enjoy more than a few weeks in his new role as emperor of the universe, his world begins to fall apart. His mortal enemies, the Craborzi, have cloned him, and are using these carbon copies to produce an

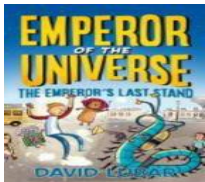
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.99



intergalactic reality show called The Abominable Emperor--killing a clone in every episode!

978-1-250-18933-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic



#2343610 (Vol. 03) Emperor's Last Stand (Hardcover (POB))
written by David Lubar

Nicholas, Jeef, and Henrietta the gerbil face their most existential crisis yet when the universe is attacked by beings from a parallel universe intent on conquering every other parallel universe. If Nicholas fails in his mission to defend the universe, it'll mean the end of life itself.. The Empire's Last Stand is the third and final intergalactic Emperor of the Universe adventure.

978-1-250-18935-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Endling (Prebound)



#2159174 (Vol. 02) First (Prebound)
written by Katherine Applegate

Byx and her companions must travel a perilous path out of Nedarra and into the snow-covered mountains of the country of Dreyland to the north. But just as the threat of war is growing across the lands, so too is the possible extinction of all Byx's dreams.

978-1-5364-6225-8 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this second installment, the dairne Byx's quest is far from over. Applegate continues her otherworldly saga in this second installment of the Endling series. (Yes, the second book is called The First, while the first book was called The Last. Just go with it.) Here readers follow doglike Byx and her companions--humans Khara and Renzo, catlike Gambler, and the small and furry Tobble--as they attempt to find the traveling island of Tarok and, they hope, more dairnes, saving Byx from being the last of her species. Along the way, Applegate shifts focus from the first outing and uses Byx's narration to explore Khara's transition from a young girl to a leader. This change serves the story well, pulling readers further into the political turmoil of the land. The current reigning dictator, the Murdano, will soon be under attack by the no-less-vicious Kazar Sg'drit, who is enslaving other sentient species in his quest to build an army. Against this backdrop, Khara must rise as a leader and raise an army to stop a war even as Byx evolves from a pup to a leader in her own right. Themes of conservation, war, and human trafficking are skillfully interwoven into a world of magic and wonder. This second installment will have readers salivating for a third. Khara is explicitly described as having brown skin; absence of such specificity implies Renzo's white. Simply sublime. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7-The second in Applegate's "Endling" series continues her enchanting world-building with a cast of characters that support and bring out the best in each other. Byx, possibly the last of her magical kind, continues her journey with a pack of unlikely confederates in hopes of finding at least one other dairne like her. Dairnes always know when someone is telling the truth, and the ruling despot wants to use this to his advantage. But he also wants to controls their population. Byx's faithful group of human and animal friends intrepidly venture through tunnels, volcanoes, and even to the depths of the sea to find a rumored colony of dairnes. Along their travels they meet different species who subvert their preconceived notions, or are experiencing abuse and enslavement in the midst of the nascent war. The strength and talents of the group are tested, sometimes violently, against magical obstacles and sharp arrows. Each member of Byx's band has a moment of doubt regarding their ability in the face of danger, and readers will appreciate their inner and outer journeys to become heroes in their own right. VERDICT Timely issues combine with dynamic action and charming characters in this captivating sequel. The backstory provided makes this a solid read even for those who haven't read the first entry. Make some shelf space for multiple copies of this series.-Lee De Groft, Jamestown High School, Williamsburg, VA Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2098689 (Vol. 01) Last (Prebound)

written by Katherine Applegate

Byx is the youngest member of her daime pack. Believed to possess remarkable abilities, her mythical doglike species has been hunted to near extinction in the war-torn kingdom of Nedarra. After her pack is hunted down and killed, Byx fears she may be the last of her species. The Endling. So Byx sets out to find safe haven, and to see if the legends of other hidden dairnes are true.

978-1-5364-5355-3 ©2019 5 x 7-1/2 410 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$20.95

Reviews by: Booklist In the land of Nedarra, six governing species reign supreme, but the dairnes—a cross between dog and sugar glider—are critically endangered. Hunted by humans to obscurity, the remaining dairnes have left their tree-top nests for more concealed abodes on the ground. Byx is the runt of her pack and highly curious about the world around her. When she sneaks out to explore one day, she rescues a wobbyk—imagine a silvery-blue chinchilla—named Tobble from a group of poachers, only to return home to the horror of finding her entire pack slaughtered by human soldiers. Byx flees with Khara—the poachers' young guide—and Tobble, but the unusual group is brought up short by unsettling news: Byx may be an endling—the last of her species. What follows is a dangerous, heart-stopping quest to stay alive and find an elusive island where dairnes are still rumored to live. Applegate (Wishtree, 2017) effortlessly constructs her fantasy world, briskly moving readers through its imaginative details while creating winning, unique characters. Readers expecting a whimsical animal adventure should be warned that the pervading tone is dark, calling attention to humans' greed and lust for power. Yet, Khara proves a loyal friend, as do others in Byx's unlikely crew. This epic series starter is a bracing, propulsive read that will be a challenge to keep on the shelf.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews What do you do when you're the last of your kind? Applegate transports her readers to a new land, one inhabited by numerous sentient species, six of which have fought to the top of the food chain: humans, dairnes, felivets, natites, terramants, and raptidons. In this world, readers meet Byx, a daime—a doglike creature that walks erect, glides like a flying squirrel, and has opposable thumbs—on the day she becomes the last of her species. It's also a day when Byx meets two other creatures: Tobble, a wobbyk, with large ears and a short round body, and Khara (short for Kharassande), a 14 year-old, brown-skinned human girl who pretends to be a boy so that she is not limited by the gendered rules of human society. Bonded through lifesaving acts, the three embark on a journey to find Ferrucci the Gharri, a scientist and scholar who may be able to protect Byx from a human emperor who is hellbent on killing off her entire species. Applegate skillfully builds a fully realized world of intrigue and wonder without ever letting up on the story's quick pace. Themes of genocide, conservation, and magic are interwoven, providing thought-provoking questions for astute readers and educators. A savvy choice for readers of fantasy; individual readers and book clubs will love it and demand to know when the sequel will be available. (Fantasy. 8-11)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Byx has always thought of herself as last: last-born sibling, the youngest in her whole family, and least adept at all the skills valued by the caninelike "dairnes." But when her family, the last-known group of dairnes in Nedarra, is hunted down and murdered by humans under the rule of the villainous Murdano, she truly becomes the last-an Endling, the sole survivor of a species. Byx sets out on a desperate but hopeful journey in search of Dairneholm, a mythical settlement of dairnes. Along the way she is joined by an increasingly unlikely group of adventurers including Khala the human, a girl disguised as a boy with a mysterious past, and Tobble, the small and fiercely loyal wobbyk. Their mission becomes more dangerous as they discover the true machinations behind the dairnes's eradication. Fantasy lovers are in for a treat with this smartly paced, enthralling adventure that pairs novel and exciting world-building with classic high fantasy tropes and political intrigue. Applegate's characters feel fresh and modern, and their questioning of the status quo will resonate with today's middle graders. Illustrations and maps will help young readers imagine the rich setting filled with fantastical creatures that vie for power in Nedarra. The heart and courage Byx and her companions must find within as they stand up against unimaginable odds will inspire and delight. VERDICT A sweeping fantasy epic for the middle grade set that will have readers clamoring for a follow-up. A first purchase.-Darla Salva Cruz, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2271784 (Vol. 03) Only (Prebound)

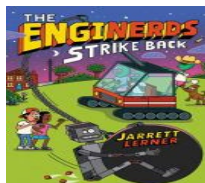
written by Katherine Applegate

In the beginning, Byx's original quest was to discover if there were more of her kind, or if she was destined to become an endling--the last daime alive. She did indeed find more dairnes, and along the way she also created allies among other creatures in her world, including humans, felivets, raptidons, and wobbyks.

978-1-5364-7255-4 ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$20.95

EngiNerds (Trade)**#2210882 (Vol. 03) EngiNerds Strike Back (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Jarrett Lerner

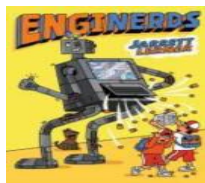
Alien invasion? At the end of *Revenge of the EngiNerds* an alien appeared and it turns out he's the real deal. He explains he was sent to Earth as an envoy to scope things out for a planned massive, futuristic billboard--which will mean demolishing the planet! Here? On Earth? In their town? Not if the EngiNerds have anything to say about it. Time to save the day and the planet!

978-1-5344-6934-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—This third installment picks up immediately after the cliff-hanger ending of *Revenge of the EngiNerds*, with the gang facing a new peril. Aliens from the planet Plerp have judged humans galactically useless because they are intellectually inferior and neglect the environment. The Plerpians have chosen Earth as the site for a giant billboard, even if it will wipe out all life on the planet. It's up to Ken and the EngiNerds to prove that Earthlings have redeeming qualities. While the kids are described as "smarter than average, mechanically and technically proficient," Lerner doesn't provide readers with even cursory details about any of their engineering projects. As the kids work together on a robot that will save the world, readers learn about all the food the kids eat but only one tool they use: a screwdriver. Despite what the title suggests, the emphasis here is not on STEM but on middle school high jinks and silly humor—the aliens wear collared shirts and ties but no pants. Ken's dog is named Kitty. No clues are given regarding characters' ethnicities, and Ken's father, the sole grown-up in the book, hews to the standard "clueless adult" trope. Short chapters may encourage reluctant readers, but many are only one or two pages, which interrupts the narrative flow and feel structured to create artificial drama. VERDICT Purchase where the previous two novels are popular.—Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem P.L., Holbrook, NY

**#2017690 (Vol. 01) EngiNerds (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Jarrett Lerner

Ken is an EngiNerd: one of a super-smart group of friends--all nerds--who have been close since kindergarten. They may be brainiacs, but they're just like everyone else. Well, maybe not just like everyone because Ken's best friend Dan has been building robots. He then secretly sent one to each of the EngiNerds.

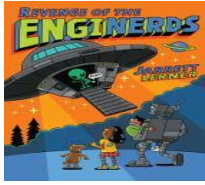
978-1-4814-6872-5 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Kennedy receives a robot named Greeeg on his doorstep. But excitement turns to dismay when he discovers Greeeg's insatiable appetite and bullet-like excrement. Before long, Kennedy and his fellow EngiNerds (all boys) must use engineering savvy to stop a robot horde menacing their town. Short chapters brim with scatological humor, action, and affection for all things nerdy; a cliffhanger ending indicates a sequel. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A gang of science nerds unwittingly unleashes a squadron of destructive robots and must engineer a way to save the town in Lerner's debut novel. When a mysterious box appears outside Kennedy's house, he enlists the help of best friend and fellow EngiNerd Dan to sift through the metal parts and hardware. Together, they piece together a polite but ravenous robot named Greeeg. The robot eats all the food in the house--refusing only radishes--and Kennedy discovers that Greeeg is both insatiable and unmanageable. The potential for catastrophe is fully realized when Greeeg propulsively "disposes" (that's robot defecation) tiny, window-shattering, brown-black cubes. Is the robot from Grandpa K., Kennedy's hero and a former engineer? Is it coincidence that his best friend also hates radishes? Unfortunately, Kennedy isn't the only one with a robot problem. Eighteen bullet-farting robots storm town, and the EngiNerds must band together and use ingenuity to prevent the robots from consuming and destroying everything in their wake. Sci-fi readers will enjoy the science and tinkering, but dangerous excreta is pure schoolboy horseplay. The story includes clever duct-tape solutions, the construction of catapults from disposable chopsticks, and a good, old-fashioned water fight in this action-packed celebration of nerd culture. The absence of ethnic markers implies that Kennedy is white, but the surnames of the EngiNerds suggest a diverse assemblage. A boisterous balance of potty humor and geek pride in this rollicking young engineer's adventure, the first of two. (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2089245 (Vol. 02) Revenge of the EngiNerds (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jarrett Lerner

When last we met, the EngiNerds were battling a horde of ravenous robots, but in this latest caper, they're on the hunt for just one rogue robot. But who knows what kind of mayhem one mechanical creature can cause? And why is Ken the only EngiNerd who's worried about the runaway robot?

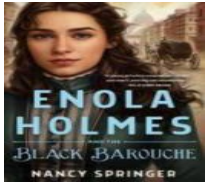
978-1-4814-6874-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 770

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Days after the end of book one, Ken and the EngiNerds are tracking down the final robot from the horde that menaced their town. A girl named Mikaela, who claims she's seen an alien, is a distraction, but Ken refuses to be thrown off his mission. Ample humor, short chapters, and the introduction of a smart, independent girl character make this a worthy successor to *EngiNerds*. (Copyright 2019 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Enola Holmes Mystery (Wednesday Books / Trade)



#2238873 (Vol. 01) Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Nancy Springer

When a young professional woman, Miss Letitia Glover, shows up on Sherlock's doorstep, desperate to learn more about the fate of her twin sister, it is Enola who steps up. It seems her sister, the former Felicity Glover, married the Earl of Dunhynch and per a curt note from the Earl, has died. But Letitia Glover is convinced this isn't the truth, that she'd know-she'd feel-if her twin had died.

978-1-250-82295-6 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.2 AR Pts 8.0

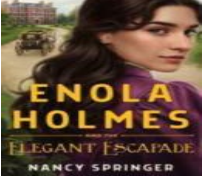
Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-9 In 1889, Enola Holmes, the clever younger sister of Sherlock (and a fellow private investigator), meets her brother's latest client and quickly takes the lead in solving the case. Miss Letitia Glover recently received word of her twin sister, Flossie's, death, but she is suspicious of her brother-in-law, a wealthy earl. Traveling in disguise, Enola arrives at his stately home, wrangles an invitation to stay, and uses her time to observe the household and ferret out information. Locked into Flossie's boudoir, she discovers an important clue and then makes a perilous escape. Readers drawn to the audacious main character and her lively, droll first-person narrative will find themselves learning about Victorian English society while increasing their vocabularies. Sherlock Holmes contributes the book's prologue and epilogue. In *The Case of the Missing Marquess* (2006), Springer first introduced Enola to mystery lovers. Five sequels quickly followed. The Netflix film *Enola Holmes* (2020) has brought a new wave of readers to the original books, and this latest novel continues the chronicle of this capable, ingenious, and fiercely independent young woman. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Teenage sleuth Enola Holmes is back in a follow-up to earlier, middle-grade offerings. A self-described "Scientific Perditorian," grandiloquent Enola Holmes arrives at Baker Street to find her brother, Sherlock, nearly catatonic due to a fit of melancholia. However, when Miss Letitia Glover shows up, convinced that news of her twin sister Flossie's death cannot be true, the puzzle-loving Holmes siblings can't resist taking on the case. Flossie's husband Caddie Rudcliff, the Earl of Dunhynch, sent word that a fever had quickly overtaken Flossie and that she was immediately cremated without so much as a funeral--the same fate as his first wife, Myzella. As Sherlock and Enola investigate, readers are treated to an altogether delightfully engaging romp about Victorian London through visits to horrifying asylums and sprawling manor houses, the antics of a fractious horse, and lush sartorial descriptions. Women's agency--or the lack thereof--is brought to the forefront as Enola repeatedly encounters difficulty due to her gender. With nearly a decade having passed since Springer penned a case for Enola (with a graphic novel and a film being released in the interim), this is an excellent entry point for both established fans and newcomers, and it includes a helpful recap in a prologue from Sherlock's point of view. Enola's voice is wholly charming, prone to just the right bit of humorous snark and a penchant for lists. All characters are presumed White. A clever whodunit with broad appeal. (Mystery. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal la Holmes has reached a dTtente with her much older brothers, having amply proven that she can outwit them both and take care of herself. So when Tish Glover seeks to consult an indisposed Sherlock, Enola offers her services instead. Tish's identical twin, Flossie, has been reported dead by her aristocratic husband, but Tish refuses to believe it; rumors hint that the Earl of Dunhynch's first wife, also reported dead, was actually taken away in a "black barouche." Not knowing what that means, Enola decides to investigate by going to Dunhynch herself. Soon she, her aristocratic friend Tewky (Viscount Tewkesbury), Sherlock, Tish, and Dr. Watson all become involved in a harrowing adventure to expose the truth behind the black barouche—and Flossie's disappearance. Springer's historical worldbuilding is exe

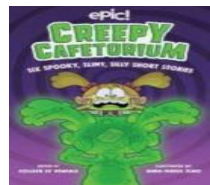
mplary. Evocative sensory descriptions paint vivid pictures of Enola's England, from the Earl's elegant manor to Bedlam's abject misery, and character interactions reflect Victorian treatment of women. Echoing Conan Doyle's prose style, the author's dry wit and sophisticated vocabulary ("scagliola," "crepuscular," "erinyes") will delight some readers, but may confound others. Moving at a speedy pace, the story offers more adventure than mystery, since Enola discovers the truth in the first half of the book. Although characters are distinctive, the adventurous and fashion-loving Enola has the most depth. Characters' ethnicities are generally not described. VERDICT Hand Enola's lively new adventure to fans of Sherlock Holmes, historical fiction, or Netflix's Enola Holmes.—Rebecca Moore, The Overlake Sch., Redmond, WA

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2290322 (Vol. 02) Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Nancy Springer</i> Enola Holmes, the much younger sister of Sherlock, is now living independently in London and working as a scientific perditorian (a finder of persons and things). But that is not the normal lot of young women in Victorian England. They are under the near absolute control of their nearest male relative until adulthood. Such is the case of Enola's friend, Lady Cecily Alastair. 978-1-250-82297-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs. Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Scientific Perditorian Holmes returns to crack her eighth case. Enola Holmes, a clever sesquipedalian sleuth (and younger sister to Sherlock and Mycroft), is terribly worried about her friend Lady Cecily Alistair. Life in 19th-century London affords 17-year-old Lady Cecily little autonomy, and she suffers under the hand of her abusive, social-climbing father, Lord Eustace, who left her with aunts who starve her and cut her off from all she loves. As Enola enlists to help Cecily, she realizes that Lord Eustace's mistreatment has had a terrible impact on her friend's psyche. In Cecily's fragile state, she goes missing: Will Enola be able to not only find Cecily, but also free her from her overbearing father? Those familiar with the series should be at home here with the fiercely feminist and sartorially inclined detective, and those new to her adventures are provided enough backstory to follow and enjoy her exploits. This installment, however, does not quite come together as a mystery. The plotting feels rushed and a bit underdeveloped; the characters, by contrast, are well fleshed out, making this feel more like a character study than a traditional whodunit. All quibbles aside, Enola is a wholly likable character, and more time with her is always welcome. All characters default to White. A cozy installment best suited to established series devotees. (Mystery. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2343617 (Vol. 03) Enola Holmes and the Mark of the Mongoose (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Nancy Springer</i> In May of 1890, Enola Holmes is finally fully on her own and, no longer hiding from her older brothers Sherlock and Mycroft, attending classes and occasionally pursuing her chosen profession as a scientific perditorian, a finder of lost things and people. 978-1-250-88573-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$20.00

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up--This latest in the series continues the adventures of this intelligent, curious, witty, and engaging heroine. Enola Holmes, sister to the famous Sherlock and Mycroft, is ready to solve her first case under her own name. Unfortunately, her first potential client refuses to see her as the competent detective she is, and rudely declines her services in favor of her brother. Determined to work the case despite this misogyny, Enola embarks on the trail of a missing man identified as "Cotswold" who disappeared one evening while on a walk. Using her skills of observation and her ability to remake herself into any number of characters, Enola infiltrates the downstairs kitchens as easily as she partakes of tea in wealthy drawing rooms gathering needed information. The world of late Victorian London is captured in the many layers of grit and grime that reside one street over from the pomp and pageantry of great wealth. Springer expertly shows how society is muddling through turn-of-the-century transitions as gender roles are questioned, science behind the discovery of new things, and change is in the wind. Enola embraces it all, and through grit, determination, a sense of humor, irony, and sometimes sheer luck, she solves her case. While the series need not be read in order, it does have a story arc that will satisfy far more by doing so. Once readers have read the books, send them to the Netflix series for a visual take on the stories. VERDICT Recommend this book and series far and wide. Students who like steampunk, fashion, girl power, historical fiction, and light mystery will enjoy these well-written novels.--Connie Williams Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Epic! Originals: Creepy Cafetorium (Trade)

#2260276 (Vol. 01) Creepy Cafetorium (Hardcover (POB))

written by Colleen AF Venable

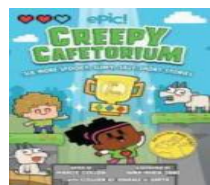
Welcome to the Cafetorium! It's a cafeteria, a gymnasium, and possibly a portal to a world where cube-shaped mashed potatoes are plotting against the almost-definitely-robotic lunch staff. Join Liz Dawson, Declan, Remy, and the rest of Newville Elementary as they learn that when you have plans in the Cafetorium, the Cafetorium has plans for you, too!

978-1-5248-7175-8 ©2021 6 x 9 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-4—Set in an ever-shifting Cafetorium (part cafeteria, auditorium, and gymnasium), these illustrated vignettes mix over-the-top wackiness with expressive illustrations. Gertie, the elderly custodian, tells stories about Newville Elementary, each set in the Cafetorium and focusing on a different student. Each of the six entries is edited by Venable and written by a different author, which keeps the overall tone consistent yet fresh. Though the book is described as "serving up spooky thrills and plenty of laughs," the spookiness component is debatable. The plots are too ridiculous and the humor too broad for the tales to seem genuinely eerie—in one story, Jell-O transforms into people, but no one notices except one shocked girl. In another, a boy gets an "excuse notepad," from a book fair and his new prize makes all his excuses come true. Still, the odd happenings and quirky characters give off a zany "Wayside School" vibe that kids will likely find funny. VERDICT Large font and evocative illustrations make this an inviting option for early readers ready to try chapter books.—Rachel Rosenberg, North Vancouver District Lib., BC



#2333451 (Vol. 02) Creepy Cafetorium: Six More Spooky, Slimy, Silly Short Stories (Hardcover (POB))

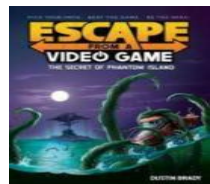
written by Colleen AF Venable

The Cafetorium is open for lunch-and play rehearsal, gym class, and unintentional interdimensional travel! Join comic book fan Dee Dee, master gamer Jackie, and the rest of the crew (including everyone's favorite goat) in this brand-new set of wonderfully weird tales.

978-1-5248-7867-2 ©2023 6 x 9 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Escape from a Video Game (Trade)

#2177851 (Vol. 01) Secret of Phantom Island (Hardcover (POB))

written by Dustin Brady

Cooper Hawke and the Secret of Phantom Island is the greatest video game nobody has ever played. The treasure-hunting adventure was supposed to set a new standard for gaming. Then, just one month before its release date, it fell off the face of the earth. Now, for the first time, you get a chance to play the mysterious game - from the inside.

978-1-5248-5887-2 ©2020 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 176 pgs.

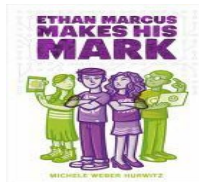
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$15.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—The reader is the hero of the greatest video game never launched in this interactive title. Readers step into treasure-hunter Cooper Hawke's shoes to find the secret of Phantom Island. As a plane heads at full speed to crash land, do you choose a grenade launcher or a wingsuit? Plopped down in a world of killer bees and carnivorous plants, readers must solve puzzles, anagrams, and sudoku to move forward on the journey. Collect achievement letters along the way to unlock the secret message at the end of the book. Make the wrong choice, and you're sent back to checkpoints to start over. Face tests of intelligence and logic as you explore volcanoes, ancient temples, and laboratories (think Jurassic Park). Scan explorer William Shandling's diary for clues. Brady's sardonic wink to video game clichés includes second-

person narration and obligatory signature weapons. When you die, you always get to start over. High stakes situations—monster chases in tunnels, giant gorillas choking tree houses—can make for random and awkward story lines, but readers will stick with it for the interactive problem-solving and breakneck pacing rather than the plot. Keep a pencil and paper handy to work out clues and keep track of page numbers. Leafing back and forth through the book may prove tricky, and the story could use reiteration of the central premise. VERDICT An engrossing ride for die-hard "Choose Your Own Adventure" fans and video game devotees.—Sarah Webb, City and Country Sch. Lib., NY

Ethan Marcus (Trade)



#2084014 (Vol. 02) Ethan Marcus Makes His Mark (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Michele Weber Hurwitz

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

Ethan's laid back and takes things in stride. Erin's a little more intense and doesn't really like to go with the flow. So when these two polar opposites are invited to attend an invention/maker camp during winter break it seems almost impossible.

978-1-4814-8928-7 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 550

Reviews by: Booklist No, seventh-graders Ethan and Erin Marcus are not twins though they were born less than a year apart; in fact, they are exact opposites. As a result of last year's science fair win, they are recommended for a week-long select Zak Canzeri invention and marketing workshop over winter break. Their best friends, Brian and Zoe, can't attend, but Erin's archrival, Marlon, does. The day camp is glitter and competition, but Ethan suspects Zak is being less than forthright. Does he have enough information and time to ferret out Zak's intentions, while finessing his standing desk invention? And who will win the week's prize? The Marcus' team (yes, they joined forces) or Marlon? Hurwitz captures sibling rivalry with insight and humor; tweens will see themselves, their friends, and frenemies in the characters and identify with the middle-school life and drama. Voice is important here, adding dimension and raising tension as the narrative shifts between Erin's, Ethan's, and Marlon's perspectives. This entertaining sequel to *Ethan Marcus Stands Up* (2017) begs for a comfy reading corner where laughs are permitted.--J. B. Petty Copyright 2018 Booklist

Evers (Trade)



#2349051 (Vol. 01) Forever Twelve (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stacy McAnulty

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

WHAT IF YOU COULD LIVE FOREVER? The secret lies with a group of kids who call themselves the Evers. They claim to have been alive for hundreds of years. They hide among the rest of the students, their immortality a complete secret...until now.

978-0-593-42962-4 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

Reviews by: Booklist Indie best-seller McAnulty presents another middle-grade adventure about gifted students, this time featuring secrets, lies, and the importance of memory. Goal-oriented Ivy is determined to excel at any cost at her new boarding school. But when her strange roommate, Abigail, insists that she and her friends, "the Evers," are centuries old—and that Ivy is the key to finding their missing companion—Ivy is caught up in the mystery, despite inner qualms and unreliable clues from her grandmother's compromised memory. Meanwhile, Ronan, the underachiever from Ivy's old school, struggles to cope with newly inherited psychic powers. Underdeveloped character motivations make it hard to connect to the ensemble cast, and the stakes of the conflict are undercut by a lack of on-page consequences; much of the lore feels like set dressing rather than impacting the plot in a meaningful way. However, entertaining touches like Ronan's attempts to subvert his psychic visions add levity. This book will appeal to fans of multiple perspectives and American history (which the Evers were present to witness). A cliff-hanger ending foretells a sequel.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ear-old in a 12-year-old's body meet at boarding school and work to solve a disappearance. Talented, determined Ivy is driven to succeed by a deathbed promise to her mother, who died of cancer; she sees boarding school as the first step on her path to becoming a Supreme Court justice like Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ronan wants to escape his hometown, where everyone knows that his mother is a psychic, but he can't escape the abilities he's inherited. Abigail is an Ever: forever 12 after being saved (or cursed) following a near-death experience. Their lives intersect as students at West Archer Academy, and the story unfolds in short, tightly paced chapters that switch between Ivy's, Ronan's, and Abigail's third-person perspectives. Abigail befriends roommate Ivy immediately, partly because she looks like her best friend, Grace, who's been missing since 1944. Abigail wants Ivy's assistance in investigating what happened to Grace after her disappearance from West Archer. Ivy reluctantly agrees to help Abigail, and they make a surprising discovery. But Este, the oldest Ever of all, is protective of the Ever family and wants to keep Ivy out, ultimately leading to a clash and a cliffhanger ending that sets things up for a sequel. An intriguing premise, complex characters,

and a compelling mystery make for a series opener that will leave readers desperate for the next entry. Main characters are cued white. Fantastic. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two seemingly ordinary tweens are suddenly thrust into a chaotic adventure in this inviting mystery by McNulty (Millionaires for the Month). Twelve-year-old classmates Ronan Haywood and Ivy Stewart are the only two students in their middle school who have been selected to transfer to prestigious West Archer Academy, an exclusive North Carolina boarding school for gifted kids. As the duo acclimate to their new environment, they develop a begrudging yet steadfast friendship that helps them weather anticipated challenges such as increased workload, imposter syndrome, and homesickness. But nothing could have prepared Ronan and Ivy for the realization that Ronan has begun developing psychic powers, or that Ivy's roommate Abigail is both immortal and part of a secret society of kids called Evers who've been alive for centuries. Ronan, Ivy, and Abigail's alternating POVs provide multifaceted glimpses into the ever-widening scope of West Archer Academy's secrets. The appealing boarding school setting, cliffhanger ending, and thematic focus on how to cultivate strong, long-lasting friendships are sure to invest readers in this paranormal series opener. Main characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Lori Kilkelly, LK Literary. (Oct.)

Explorer Academy (Trade)



#2293314 (Vol. 07) Forbidden Island (Hardcover (Trade))

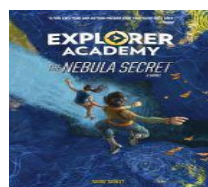
written by Trudi Trueit

Amid assignments that take the Explorer Academy recruits from the iceberg-filled waters of Antarctica to the bone-dry deserts of Argentina, Cruz Coronado is scrambling to complete the last piece of the cipher. With Nebula agents and the elusive explorer spy still out there, his opportunity to recover his mother's world-changing formula is slipping away. But as Cruz has learned from his time aboard Orion, true explorers must never give up.

978-1-4263-7339-8 ©2022 6 x 9 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2071198 (Vol. 01) Nebula Secret (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trudi Trueit

Cruz leaves his tranquil home in Hawaii to join 23 talented kids from around the globe to train at the Explorer Academy with the world's leading scientists to become the next generation of great explorers.

978-1-4263-3159-6 ©2018 6 x 9 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0 GR Lvl X Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

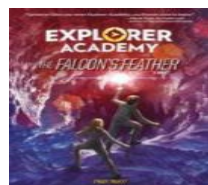
Reviews by: Booklist The first fiction series from National Geographic's new Under the Stars imprint features Cruz Coronado, 12, who's selected to attend the elite Explorer Academy in D.C. in this action-packed illustrated adventure. Cruz and 23 other kids from around the world are training to become explorers aboard the academy's flagship, which travels around the globe doing research. As if the training—and having an aunt on the faculty—isn't hard enough, a scarred man in snakeskin boots is stalking Cruz. He warns Cruz to leave or Nebula will kill him like they did Cruz's mother, who died mysteriously in the academy's synthesis lab when Cruz was five. Who or what is Nebula? Can the codes that Cruz loves to decipher help him solve his mother's death? The students' training includes lessons on cool technologies available now or in the near future, plausibly incorporated into the plot. Not all the characters are fleshed out, but there's potential to learn more about them in future installments. Sure to appeal to kids who love code cracking and mysteries with cutting-edge technology.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Following his deceased scientist mother's legacy, Cruz Coronado has been selected to attend the Explorer Academy, a school that prepares a diverse group of the brightest young budding scientists "To discover. To innovate. To protect." Prior to his departure for the academy, while taking one last surf at his favorite Kauai beach, someone tries to pull him under and then mysteriously disappears. His new roommate also notices that a strange man is following Cruz. Strange occurrences arise, the most dangerous when the students are almost killed during a training simulation. Cruz's pursuer eventually reveals himself, warning him that members of the nefarious Nebula are out to get him due to a secret project his mother had been working on. A cryptic message she left behind may provide a clue to her death—and may save his life. In the meantime, Cruz and his fellow academy recruits learn to navigate secret holographic technology called the CAVE, which prepares them for the terrain they will explore in the real world. This series opener from a new imprint of National Geographic is a fully packed high-tech adventure that offers both cool, educational facts about the planet and a diverse cast of fun characters (Cruz is Mexican-American). The plot, with preteens in a life-threatening mystery, is not new. The package is glitzy enough, with full-color illustrations throughout, that action-craving readers may not

mind. "The Truth Behind the Fiction" concluding backmatter grounds the adventure. Comfortable formula fiction with a scientific twist. (Science fiction. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After 12-year-old Cruz Coronado is invited to attend the prestigious Explorer Academy in Washington, D.C., he leaves his Hawaii home to join fellow students from around the world who are training to become the next generation of conservationists, scientists, explorers, and more. It appears that someone is determined to obstruct Cruz's efforts, however (he is grabbed by a diver while surfing, then followed in an airport), and he soon suspects that the sabotage may be tied to his mother's mysterious death, years earlier. Cruz must discover the truth behind these events before his time at the Academy is cut short. While the story line by Trueit (The Sister Solution) focuses on the mystery, the book's real strength rests in its adventure, as its heroes, including Cruz's new friends, Emmett Lu and Sailor York, tackle puzzles and simulated missions as part of the educational process. Maps, letters, and puzzles bring the exploration to life, and back matter explores the "Truth behind the Fiction," such as notable real-life National Geographic explorers and relevant science. This exciting series opener introduces young readers to the joys of science and nature. Ages 8-12. Agent: Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary Studio. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—This new National Geographic series introduces 12-year-old Cruz, who lives in Hawaii with his dad and has been accepted into the elite Explorer Academy in Washington, DC. It's where his mother, a scientist, was killed in a lab accident, and his aunt, an anthropologist, is still a teacher. He and his classmates are set to embark on an expedition aboard the ship Polaris, but only after training at this high-tech Hogwarts-like academy using things like Augmented Reality Challenges and mind-control cameras. In addition to the pressure of academics, Cruz has acquired a mysterious stalker in cowboy boots and learned that his mother's death may not have been an accident after all. When he is falsely accused of cheating and immediately expelled, he must rely on family and friends to clear his name and track down his mother's hidden journal. An afterword explains "The Truth Behind the Story" and directs readers to the online Explorer Academy. VERDICT Nonstop action and a mix of full-color photographs and drawings throughout make this appealing to aspiring explorers and reluctant readers alike, and the cliffhanger ending ensures they'll be coming back for more.—Laurie Slagenwhite Walters, Brighton District Library, Brighton, MI



#2093861 (Vol. 02) Falcon's Feather (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trudi Trueit

It's an adventure of a lifetime when Cruz Coronado sets sail for the shores of Iceland and Norway aboard the Explorer Academy ship to continue his studies at sea. But, things take a turn while exploring the icy north, when he embarks on a dangerous mission to uncover the first piece of an important puzzle his mother left behind.

978-1-4263-3304-0 ©2019 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0 GR Lvl X Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Cruz Coronado's adventures as part of a group of student explorers continues in book two of the Explorer Academy series (The Nebula Secret, 2018). They find themselves traveling by ship, leaving Maryland to traverse through Nova Scotia, Iceland, and Norway's Svalbard Global Seed Vault. In Canada's Bay of Fundy, they rescue North Atlantic right whales entangled in fishing netting. Cruz communicates with the whales using a UCC (Universal Cetacean Communicator) that the female tech-lab chief developed. Cruz, who received a threatening anonymous note from someone on board, isn't totally surprised when someone tampers with the UCC helmet and he almost dies. He suspects pharmaceutical company Nebula is responsible: both he and Nebula are after marble fragments, left by Cruz's deceased mother, which contain a formula that Nebula will do anything; even kill; to obtain. This exciting, fast-paced, far-flung story is full of science facts and James Bond: like gadgets, accompanied by colored illustrations. The ending is guaranteed to keep readers eager for the next series installment.

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine Cryptic puzzles, heart-pounding action, and international intrigue power this second book in Trudi Trueit's Explorer Academy series, The Falcon's Feather.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Cruz Coronado is still feeling on edge after the attack on his life in series opener The Nebula Secret (2018) as the Explorer Academy sets off on the research vessel Orion for the next phase of its educational journey. Before Cruz's scientist mother's mysterious death, she hid the clues to a secret formula with world-changing healing potential in a holo-journal. Cruz and his academy friend and roommate, Emmett Lu, keep the secret of the journal close even as they discover that someone aboard the Orion is trying to steal it. Lani Kealoha, Cruz's childhood friend, video-calls Cruz and crew regularly from Hawaii, using her decoding skills to help decipher the journal's holographic clues. While dodging his assassins, Cruz pursues his studies, leading Team Cousteau to Norway, where the author infuses cool, scientific facts about the endangered North Atlantic right whale and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault into the narrative. The educational component of this story takes readers outside of the book via a link to an interactive companion website. Like its predecessor, this book is chock-full of National Geographic adventure interlaced with techno-future gadgets the academy provides its diverse young students (cued by naming convention). However, the author basically follows the same storyline rubric as the first book, so if readers aren't hooked by the science, there's little else for them. A formulaic second installment that takes readers around the globe but doesn't push the story forward. (Science fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2118181 (Vol. 03) Double Helix (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trudi Trueit

The adventure continues for Cruz, Emmett, Sailor, and Bryndis as they continue their studies at sea and travel to exotic locations around the world. A mysterious person alerts Cruz to impending danger while he and a few trusted pals explore ancient ruins in Petra, Jordan, and search for another piece of the puzzle his mother left behind.

978-1-4263-3458-0 ©2019 6-1/4 x 10-1/2 216 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0 GR Lvl R Lexile 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



#2155920 (Vol. 04) Star Dunes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trudi Trueit

Cruz, Sailor, Emmett, and the gang are on their way to Africa when Nebula misses their intended target and someone close to Cruz ends up on the brink of death. Secrets creep out from the shadows and leave Cruz with more questions than answers.

978-1-4263-3681-2 ©2020 6 x 9 216 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



#2222739 (Vol. 05) Tiger's Nest (Hardcover (Trade))

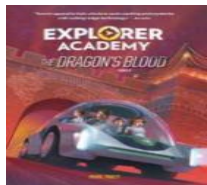
written by Trudi Trueit

On an island nation in the Indian Ocean, the explorers venture through a vast underwater world and take part in a friendly robotics competition. But the tides of good fortune change quickly. Suddenly, Team Cousteau jumps into action to rescue a faculty member from the brink of death. Meanwhile, the team follows the Cruz's mother's clues to a magnificent tomb and center of spirituality precariously perched on the side of a cliff. There, Cruz is confronted by a familiar foe who's determined to stop him from completing his most important mission of all: Retrieving the final pieces of his mother's cipher. In this life-or-death showdown, Cruz witnesses the ultimate sacrifice and uncovers a hidden message that makes him question his own mortality.

978-1-4263-3862-5 ©2021 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 216 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



#2254465 (Vol. 06) Dragon's Blood (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trudi Trueit

Still reeling from the life-changing discovery he found buried in the mysterious archive, Cruz Coronado grapples with an important secret as the gang heads to China in search of the second-to-last piece of the cipher. Under the watchful eye of a new adviser, life on the ship returns to almost normal...Almost.

978-1-4263-7166-0 ©2021 6 x 9 216 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0

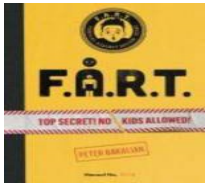
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

F.A.R.T. Diaries (Trade)

#2278135 F.A.R.T.: Top Secret! No Kids Allowed! (Hardcover (POB))

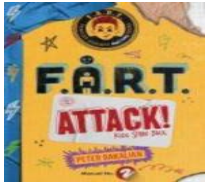
written by Peter Bakalian

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$13.99



The Ultimate Guide to Hacking Your Kids was written by an organization called F.A.R.T. (Families Against Rotten Teens), a secret society of grizzled parents whose origins date back to antiquity. FP is determined to get to the bottom of this, but when he begins investigating F.A.R.T., the manual goes missing, his parents deny knowing anything about any kind of book, and-maybe strangest of all-kids at school start listening to their parents and teachers. What kid would ever do that?

978-1-5344-3619-0 ©2022 6 x 8 144 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 610



#2329660 F. A. R. T. Attack!: Kids Strike Back (Hardcover (POB))
written by Peter Bakalian

Furious Popcorn and his best friends, the Only Onlys, are about to blow the cover of the dangerous and dastardly F.A.R.T. (Families Against Rotten Teens) by exposing their bizarre Parenting Manual. But then Furious Popcorn discovers that one of the Onlys-Apricot-is under F.A.R.T.'s control and he worries they've used their diabolical Brain Modem on her! Can Furious Popcorn save Apricot from becoming a zombie? And can he stop F.A.R.T. from unleashing the Brain Modem on the rest of the planet?

978-1-5344-5183-4 ©2023 6 x 8 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$13.99

Factory (Trade)



#2293338 (Vol. 01) Undercover Latina (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Aya De Leon

Fourteen-year-old Andrea Hernandez-Baldoquin hails from a family of spies working for the Factory, an international organization dedicated to protecting people of color. For her first solo mission, Andrea straightens her hair and goes undercover as Andrea Burke, a white girl, to befriend the estranged son of a dangerous white supremacist.

978-1-5362-2374-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile HL 630

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-9 This upper-middle-grade debut is a fast-paced spy novel that weaves difficult issues like race, identity, and belonging into a fun, engaging, and geeky adventure. Fourteen-year-old Andréa Hernández-Baldoquín and her family are members of the Factory, an international spy organization founded to protect people of color. For her first mission as lead agent, Andréa must go undercover to befriend the estranged, high school-age son of a white-supremacist terrorist. The catch? She'll have to become "Andrea Burke" and pass as a white girl. Everything from her hair to the way she pronounces her name must be sacrificed for the mission. The operation (and her feelings on identity) becomes even more complicated when she finds herself falling for her target's Latine best friend. Undercover Latina takes the fantastical idea of a teenage spy and grounds it in the emotions and issues faced by contemporary teens. Its social commentary feels neither heavy handed nor patronizing to younger readers, and its honest, earnest conversations about tough topics make excellent jumping-off points for class discussions. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

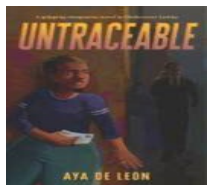
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews "This fast-paced adventure, de León's first for younger readers, takes audiences on the ride of a lifetime. Andréa spotlights racism, discovers friendship (after years of home schooling and constantly moving), develops her first crush, and deeply explores what it means to be Latine and a person of color. Social criticism is woven into a fun read centered on kids of color; the narrative is accessible and engaging, never shying away from difficult conversations about race and privilege or the many forms White supremacy can take. The cast of characters is rounded and three-dimensional, making Andréa's story all the more believable. An engaging, insightful adventure with a heartfelt conclusion."

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Andrea Hernandez-Baldoquin, 14, is on her first lead mission as a full agent of the Factory, a government-unaffiliated "international intelligence organization that serves people of color," for which she, her Mexican father, Puerto Rican mother, and brother are all spies. Undercover in Carson, Ariz., Andrea, passing as white "ANN-drea" with only her mother as backup, must befriend Kyle

Summer, the estranged son of a white supremacist threatening a "localized Armageddon." Getting close to Kyle means not only withstanding inclusion in a clique of classmates who call themselves "First Class," but also learning the ins and outs of Kyle's favorite fantasy card game and spending time with his cute Latino best friend, Ramon Santiago. As reinforcements arrive in the form of a second teenage agent, Andrea struggles to juggle the case, her budding feelings for Ramon, and maintaining her cover as white. Portraying Andrea as a spy skilled in espionage, quick problem-solving, and making visual connections, De Leon (*A Spy in the Struggle*, for adults) adeptly interrogates themes of ageism, colorism, institutional racism, and sexism, layering them with a thrilling tale of a teenage girl. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Jenni Ferrari-Adler, Union Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Connection "The pace moves quickly as characters build relationships amid the action...With strong male and female characters, suspense, and gaming, this novel is sure to appeal."

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Fourteen-year-old AndrTa Hernandez-Baldoqufn comes from a family of spies; they work for The Factory, an international organization that serves people of color. AndrTa goes undercover posing as a white teenager in Arizona, trying to infiltrate the high school and befriend Kyle, whose estranged father might be a dangerous white supremacist. With her mother, they become Andrea and Barbara Burke as they assimilate into the community. AndrTa finds out that her target, Kyle, is an avid player of an online fantasy card game called Tringulo, and she learns how to play to befriend him. Things get tangled up when she develops feelings for Kyle's Latinx friend, Ram=n, but she can't divulge her own Latinx heritage. As a white girl, AndrTa observes racism toward the Latinx community from a new perspective and grapples with her hidden identity. Trying not to blow her cover when a potential deadly threat is unearthed, AndrTa travels with Kyle to the San Diego ComicCon as characters from Tringulo. An author of spy novels for adults, de Leon tries her hand at her first foray into fiction for younger readers, and she has created a fast-paced, resonant story that touches on inter- and intra-community discrimination. VERDICT A strong selection for gamers and middle graders who enjoy action-packed narratives. With broad appeal to fans of spy novels, this title will engage tweens while offering a thoughtful conversation-starter. Highly recommended.—Michele Shaw



#2349018 (Vol. 02) Untraceable (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Aya De Leon

Fifteen-year-old Amani Kendall's biggest problem is being the only plus-size Black girl at a white private school-until her house burns down and her family is unexpectedly on the run. Suddenly, she's reeling from the news that her formerly boring mom is being pursued by an ex-boyfriend turned stalker, and her scientist dad has gone MIA. How much danger is their family really in, and how untraceable are they trying to be?

978-1-5362-2375-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

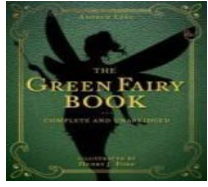
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this YA companion to middle-grade thriller *Undercover Latina* (2022), a Los Angeles teen's family tries to escape her mother's dangerous ex. Fifteen-year-old Amani Kendall goes from practicing roller skating for an upcoming birthday party one day to starting over in a different school with a cover story and a fake name the next. Amani never fit in at elite, STEM-focused Penfield Academy as a "plus-size Black girl who wore African braids...because her mother wouldn't let her flat-iron her hair." But after Amani encounters a creepy man in her backyard and makes a police report (to her mother's great displeasure), everything changes. Her mom picks her up early from school, informing her that their house was burned down, possibly by a stalker ex-boyfriend. Amani's dad, a climate-change researcher, has been away working in the field for months. Amani and her mom take shelter with Sister Niema, who ran the Afrocentric weekend school for girls Amani once attended. Now going by Imani Kennedy, she starts over--with some negative preconceptions about her new classmates--at a public school that's dramatically different from her old one. But she can't help feeling like her mom is hiding something. This body-positive story has an exciting premise and addresses many relevant social issues. Unfortunately, the slow pace makes it difficult to sustain readers' interest, and the book juggles a number of plotlines that don't deliver on their promise. Underwhelming. (Fiction. 12-16) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6 Up--Fifteen-year-old Amani Kendall receives the shock of her life when she discovers her parents are secret undercover agents of the Factory--an international organization of spies protecting people of color. She and her Mom are forced to move suddenly when their cover is blown, and they settle with a family friend, Sister Niema. Amani, using the name Imani, struggles to adapt to the abrupt cultural differences in being surrounded by Black students at her new public school in contrast to her former all-white elite private school. Eventually meeting up with her missing father, the family must embark on a dangerous journey that forces Amani to make some tough decisions. Amani's voice rings true as a plus-size Black adolescent struggling to accept her own beauty in a world where skinny and white represent the ideal. She is her own worst critic; young readers will identify with her anxieties. Amani's thought processes as she puts two and two together about her parents steadily builds the suspense through the narrative. There are multiple social issues covered, such as abortion and racism. The plot is extremely busy, and it may be hard for readers to keep up with the rapid fire action. This is a prequel companion to the author's *Undercover*. VERDICT A complex Black girl sleuth uncovers a web of lies in this spy thriller. Purchase where the genre is popular.--Julie Shatterly Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Fairy Books (Trade)



#2152409 Green Fairy Book: Complete and Unabridged (Hardcover (POB))

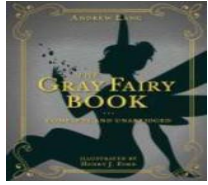
written by Andrew Lang

Some of the famous stories included are The Three Little Pigs, The Three Bears, The Blue Bird, The Magic Swan, The Enchanted Ring, The Twelve Huntsmen and many more!

978-1-63158-563-0 ©2020 6-1/2 x 8-1/4 436 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99



#2163035 Gray Fairy Book: Complete and Unabridged (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andrew Lang

The Gray Fairy Book has been admired time and time again, enchanting readers with its carefully crafted prose and eclectic assortment of fairy tales. Originally published in 1900, this collection of celebrated tales has stood the test of time.

978-1-63158-569-2 ©2020 6-1/2 x 8-1/4 360 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99

Far Flung Falls (Trade)



#2281062 Molly and the Machine (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erik Jon Slingerup

It's the summer of 1983, and one by one, the kids of Far Flung Falls are disappearing. With sheer drop-offs at every turn, the woods behind Molly McQuirter's house have always been a dangerous place—even before something big and metal started lurking in them. Finding the robot culprit only creates more questions, however, and when the unlikely mastermind behind the robot is uncovered, a new story begins to unfold—one of lost love, family bonds, and some seriously weird science.

978-1-5344-9799-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist for Molly since her mother's death. Her father, depressed and listless, expects her to look after Wally, her younger brother. One day, she's entertaining him with her secret project—a large Rube Goldberg-inspired catapult—when a 10-story-tall robot arrives, picks up Wally, and deposits him in its mouth. Molly and her classmates Arvin and Leonard chase the metallic monster on their bikes through the woods and bravely follow Wally into the robot, hoping to rescue him. The pace shifts at intervals throughout the book; like a roller coaster, the narrative starts off slowly as Slingerup introduces Molly, her family, and the boys, but the story speeds up considerably when the kidnapping of Wally sends Molly, her friends, and her beloved but impulsive great uncle hurtling headlong into action. Set in southern Ohio during the 1980s, the story includes a number of cultural references from the period. While the book's humor relies heavily on Wally's nose picking, robot fans looking for action stories will find plenty to entertain them in Slingerup's first novel. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Summer vacation 1983 is about to get a lot more exciting in Far Flung Falls, Ohio. Ever since her mom ran off with a mullet-haired, van-driving stranger, 11-year-old Molly McQuirter's depressed dad spends his time eating junk food and watching TV, leaving her to look after her nose-picking 8 1/2-year-old brother, Wally. Which is exactly how she doesn't want to spend her summer. Tinkering and inventing run in her family's blood, and when Wally won't leave her backyard Rube Goldberg machine alone, Molly banishes him to the wide-open space of the yard, where he is spotted by a giant robot and snatched up. Hopping on her tricked-out bike, Pink Lightning, she and her four-legged friends—dog Darryl, cat Crank, and chameleon Don Carlos—set off to rescue Wally. They are soon joined by neighborhood kids Arvin and Leonard and Molly's bootlegging, armadillo-owning, heavy metal-playing, motorcycle-riding Great-Uncle Clovis. Their adventures are filled with obstacles, but Molly brings all of her powers of invention and ingenuity to the rescue mission. The 1980s slang and pop-culture references keep readers firmly planted in the decade, and, as expected from the Cold War-era setting, fear of the Soviet Union is a recurring theme. The amusing tone and toilet humor sprinkled throughout will appeal to young readers. The characters present as White. A delightful adventure with a nostalgic twist. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In his middle grade debut, Slangerup delivers a STEM-themed romp bursting with hand-built tech and 1980s nostalgia. In 1983, 11-year-old inventor Molly McQuirter expects to spend a lonely, rural Ohio summer tinkering with her massive Rube Goldberg machine and reluctantly caring for her nose-picking younger brother, Wally, whom she blames for their mother's leaving, while the "dad-shaped shell" of her father wallows in front of the television. But when a giant robot abducts Wally from their backyard, Molly loads her bike with fluffernutter sandwiches, gadgetry, and assorted family pets to hunt what she suspects is a Soviet invention. Joined by an arcade-whiz schoolmate and her idiosyncratic great-uncle, whose inventions look "like something out of an old, low-budget sci-fi movie," Molly traverses the hazardous woods to rescue Wally. While the omniscient narration focuses primarily on Molly, Slangerup complicates the story and heightens comedy by occasionally following other perspectives, including the family dog's. On-the-nose emotional revelations limit the novel's thematic resonance, but slapstick and toilet humor drive a riotous adventure that's well calibrated to the audience's sensibilities. Characters cue as white; an author's note concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elizabeth Rudnick, Mackenzie Wolf. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—The summer after fourth grade is not shaping up to be a very good one for Molly McQuirter. Her dad has completely turned into a couch potato and constantly expects her to occupy her annoying younger brother Wally, even when she has amazing things planned such as testing her Rube Goldberg machine. Things take a serious twist when a giant robot comes along and swallows Wally up. Something in Molly snaps as she takes off on her souped-up pink bicycle, her prized possession, and the only nice thing she has, to get him back. She faces danger at every turn and must use her considerable ingenuity to face challenges and manage the menagerie of pets and people drawn to her that want to help along the way. Chapters are told from various points of view, although most focus on Molly. The characters, kids and adults alike, are often dealing with the pain of being let down or left by someone who was supposed to care for them. Molly is cued as white. VERDICT A plot-driven, farfetched, romp with a dose of fun 1980s nostalgia that will appeal to readers who want to go along for the ride.—Erin Wyatt



#2325304 (Vol. 02) Molly and the Mutants (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Erik Jon Slangerup

Molly and her friends take on giant mutant creatures in this second book in the hilarious and poignant Far Flung Falls middle grade sci-fi series set in 1980s Ohio--perfect for fans of Stuart Gibbs and James Ponti! The mystery of the giant brother-stealing robot may have been solved, but a new set of troubles for Molly and her friends has just begun. Strange things are happening once again in Far Flung Falls. Where have all the pets gone? And who--or what--is behind the disappearances?
 978-1-5344-9802-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Farah Rocks (Stone Arch Books)



#2169736 Farah Rocks Summer Break (Library Binding)
written by Susan Muaddi Darraj

It's summer break, and Farah is eager to attend an enrichment camp at her new school. But with car trouble and other family expenses, Farah's parents won't be able to pay for the camp this year. Taking matters into her own hands, Farah takes various odd jobs, including selling items at a yard sale, mowing neighbors' lawns, and finally starting her own tutoring business. When Farah discovers that someone is sabotaging her business by taking down her fliers, she's shocked. Can Farah find the culprit, continue her business success, and earn enough money in time to go to the camp of her dreams?
 978-1-4965-8340-6 ©2021 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 610

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$15.95

#222238 Farah Rocks New Beginnings (Library Binding)
written by Susan Muaddi Darraj

Farah Hajjar is just starting sixth grade at the Magnet Academy when something terrible happens-her house burns down. Even worse, the house fire may be her fault.

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$15.95



When her family moves to temporary housing, Farah feels the guilt piling up. Luckily Farah finds comfort in writing, and she channels her energy into starting a creative writing club at her new school. But can Farah convince her new science-focused school to support it?

978-1-4965-8341-3 ©2021 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690



#2246889 Farah Rocks Florida (Library Binding)
written by Susan Muaddi Darraj

When her little brother faces a lengthy stay in the hospital, Farah is sent visit her grandmother in Florida. Sitti Fayrouz doesn't speak much English, and she has lots of rules. She thinks rocks are dirty, that towels need to hang a certain way, and that hummus must be scooped from the side of the plate. Even worse, Farah managed to make an enemy out of one of her grandmother's neighbors-before she even arrived in Florida! Will Farah find a way to have fun being the only kid in a retirement community, or will she spend the trip worrying about her brother and counting the days until she can go home? Readers will love the fourth book in this series about a strong Palestinian-American girl.

978-1-4965-8342-0 ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$15.95

Fearless (Trade)



#2220933 (Vol. 01) Fearless (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Mandy Gonzalez

The Ethel Merman Theater is cursed. No one is sure how or why, but the evidence speaks for itself. Show after show has flopped and the theater is about to close. Enter twelve-year-old Monica Garcia, who has been cast to star in a Broadway musical revival of The Goonies, the theater's last chance to produce a hit before it shuts its doors for good.

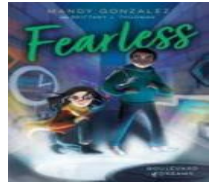
978-1-5344-6895-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Gonzalez, a Broadway star and creator of #FearlessSquad, a group fostering inclusivity, aspiration, and camaraderie, brings drama, mystery, and more in her thrilling love letter to Broadway theater. Pulling from her own experiences, she offers here an adventure in which Monica, a young Latinx kid with a passion for singing, gets a call to be the understudy for one of the leads in Our Time. When she arrives in New York City, she is dazzled, right up until she learns about the curse on the theater where she's working. After receiving an odd key and some cryptic messages, she embarks on a journey to break the curse on the theater forever. More than just a mystery, this is about all the magic of theater, written by someone with a deep appreciate for the art form. Readers will learn about different shows and people, all the while easily relating to the main characters, who are vividly fleshed out on the page. The kids, especially Monica, are easy to root for, and the author delivers a very satisfying ending.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Following a Broadway dream takes a budding actress on an unforgettable adventure. Middle school student Monica Garcia is thrilled to learn that she's been cast as an understudy in a real Broadway musical. She travels from California to New York City with her abuelita to begin rehearsals for a new show at the legendary but financially failing Ethel Merman Theater. Monica learns to her surprise that due to unfortunate events she will be stepping into the lead role. As practice gets underway, Monica is unsure what to think of the rumblings from the cast and crew about a curse and possible haunting of the theater. When strange and unexplainable occurrences pull Monica and the other young actors, now dear friends, deeper into the mystery of the cursed theater, Monica finds that a tale from her family history might help point the way to turning things around. Though the storyline follows a familiar Scooby-Doo-type arc, the quirky theater setting and likable characters make for an engaging

read. Penned by someone who is herself a Broadway star of such mega-hits as Wicked and Hamilton, the story is peppered with authentic theater lingo and interesting backstage tidbits. Monica and her family have Mexican ancestry. Will hit all the high notes for theater and mystery fans alike. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2275354 (Vol. 02) Boulevard of Dreams (Hardcover (Trade))

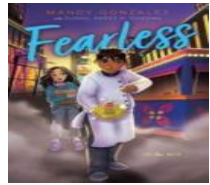
written by Mandy Gonzalez

Twelve-year-old Relly can't wait for his beloved grandfather to finally see him on stage! But right before their night show, a member of the Squad loses their phone down an open manhole. With a series of clues, Relly discovers that his grandfather was a popular tap dancer, working the nightclub circuit and pursuing his dream of performing—something he's been discouraging Relly from doing lately. Perhaps this accidental fall into a different time wasn't so accidental after all. Can Relly help his grandfather and make it back in time for places in the show?

978-1-5344-6898-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 610

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2319518 (Vol. 03) In the Mix (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mandy Gonzalez

Twelve-year-old Hudson Patel has two great loves: Broadway and baking! In addition to giving his all to his role in the hit show Our Time, Hudson takes pride in keeping his castmates and fellow Fearless Squad members well-fed with all the delicious treats he creates.

978-1-6659-2201-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2374293 (Vol. 04) Takeover (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mandy Gonzalez

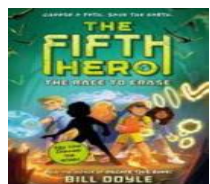
April feels on top of the world, but her brother isn't so thrilled about her attention always being glued to a screen. His warnings don't bother April. What's wrong with wanting more followers and likes? When meet and greet day arrives, the Squad helps make the event special. All goes without a hitch until April attempts to log into her social media—it's gone. Her previous posts have been erased, and a new one that April didn't make pops up. It's even worse than she thought—she's been hacked.

978-1-6659-2204-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Fifth Hero (Trade)



#2309012 (Vol. 01) Race to Erase (Hardcover (POB))

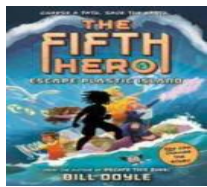
written by Bill Doyle

The Calamity Corporation is determined to end life on Earth as we know it. The company has built hotels that orbit Earth and small cities on the moon and has plans to move the human population to Mars. The sinister corporation is determined to ruin Earth so that people have no choice but to leave it. Not so fast! Four kids who secretly possess the powers of land, air, sea, and creatures are about to change the course of history. These kids may not be the likeliest of heroes, but they are determined to stop Calamity Corporation from destroying Earth. And they have a secret weapon: a fifth

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$13.99

hero. YOU!
978-0-593-48637-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The reader joins four young climate heroes to help save planet Earth in this interactive, near-future adventure story. Everyone knows that Earth is old and dangerous, and it's time for humans to get off the planet. At least, that's the message that the Calamity Corporation has been touting. When 11-year-old Jarrett attends a Climate Club meeting at the home of his classmate Lina, whose parents run the Calamity Corporation, everything goes haywire. Upon touching special spheres secretly created to destroy Earth, Jarrett and fellow club members Malik, Agnes, and Freya are imbued with powers relating to animals, water, land, and air. As they go on the run from evil robots, the heroes require assistance to save themselves and the planet. At three points in the book the reader is required to make a decision that will either end the journey or propel the adventure forward. The nonstop action is engaging, but these interactive elements detract more than add to the story, even if they do fit with the overall theme of how to be environmentally conscious. This tale kicks off a new series, and the ending provides only the barest amount of satisfying closure, leaving much open for future installments. Though characters' races and ethnicities aren't described, the book cover depicts one character as brown-skinned; the others are light-skinned or tan-skinned. It's hinted that Jarrett and Malik's relationship is more than just a friendship. Full of fun action but not entirely rewarding. (fact files about kids finding ways to help the environment) (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2364988 (Vol. 02) Escape Plastic Island (Hardcover (POB))
written by Bill Doyle

The Calamity Corporation is determined to destroy Earth. Their latest plot leaves "ugly" animals in the cold-literally. Any less-than-cute critter will be frozen and blasted into space. Luckily, five climate heroes have the skills to save the day. Make three decisions in this interactive adventure to help the heroes put the Calamity Corporation on ice. Choose incorrectly and it's game over. But choose wisely, and you might save the planet-and the story!

978-0-593-48641-2 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99

Finally Seen (Trade)



#2365480 (Vol. 02) Finally Heard (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kelly Yang

When ten-year-old Lina Gao sees her mom's video on social media take off, she's captivated by the potential to be seen and heard! Maybe online she can finally find the confidence she craves. Whereas in real life she's growing so fast, she feels like microwave popcorn, bursting out of her skin!

978-1-6659-4793-0 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this sequel to *Finally Seen* (2023), Lina becomes self-conscious when she realizes that she's showing signs of puberty earlier than her fifth-grade classmates. Her mother encourages her to become active on social media platforms, and to some extent, Lina is successful. But when she learns that some of her schoolmates are criticizing others online, and their personal attacks become increasingly hurtful, she eventually unleashes her pent-up anger online. Later, she realizes that she can't undo the damage she's done. After she reflects on her actions and candidly expresses her feelings to those she has hurt, help arrives swiftly, sometimes from unexpected sources. Yang writes well, but in this novel, she also has a practical purpose, as explained in the informative author's note about her experiences as a parent researching social media and dealing with its consequences. While some readers will find the didacticism heavy-handed, others might consider that aspect of the narrative secondary to the importance of making the downside of social media apparent to middle-grade readers and dissuading them from using it.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this cautionary tale, the sequel to *Finally Seen* (rev. 1/23), the perks and perils of social media play a pivotal -- and educational -- role. The Gaos still struggle with bills, and Lina's mom joins Instagram to sell more bath bombs. Fifth grader Lina gets her first smartphone, and while technology offers some positives (video-chatting with her Beijing grandma, promoting her neighbors' small businesses), they are outweighed by the negatives. She envies her classmates' fancy homes, worries about her physical appearance, and experiences cyberbullying (as both a target and a bully); and her best friend gets catfished by an adult. Everything converges when the school holds a "Dangers

of Social Media" event and a "Justice Session" to discuss student online behavior. Yang integrates facts about how social media is addictive and detrimental to people's mental health into the story and back matter. She helpfully shows readers a way to cut through social media's downsides -- by having honest conversations "brainstorming how to break the dopamine loop. How to not be played by the algorithm." Michelle Lee(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ith social media and puberty in this follow-up to Finally Seen (2023). A few months after the events of the revious book, Lina's mother's bath bomb business is stalling, so she records a heartfelt social media marketing video. It immediately goes vira , inspiring Lina to overcome her self-consciousness about her changing body to post online videos supporting the business, too. When her mother bruptly gives Lina her old phone, she finally feels included at school, diving headfirst into the world of texting and posting on social media. Bu along with the initial highs of connection, Lina experiences practically every negative impact of internet use, including misinformation, troll ng, a craving for views, envy, FOMO, and body shame. After phone use by Lina and her classmates becomes more disruptive, their teacher expla ns the science behind what they're experiencing, sharing information about dopamine, oxytocin, algorithms, and the online disinhibition effect. Th ngs come to a head when Lina enters a flame war on Discord and gets accused of cyberbullying just as best friend Carla discovers she's been catf shed. While Yang clearly has an important message to deliver, and readers will learn a lot about the dangers of the internet and social media, her eption of fifth graders' out-of-control phone use and the focus on teachable episodes cataloging online harms leave little room for organic storyte lling and character development. This highly anticipated sequel delivers less heart and more education. (author's note, social media research) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Lina Gao of Finally Seen is back in Yang's latest novel, learning to find her voice amid new technology and pubescent self-esteem struggles. Lina's mom is hoping to grow her small bath bomb business with the help of a social media influencer--until she discovers the cost. Encouraged by her daughters, Mrs. Gao creates her own simple, heartfelt video, which quickly garners a wave of positive attention. Lina, despite feeling uncomfortable in her changing body, flexes her creative muscles and, with the help of her best buds, begins creating social media promotion videos for her mom and other struggling small businesses. Things are going great until Lina's mom hands over her phone (and unfettered social media access) to Lina permanently. Yang's novel posits the Internet as the great equalizer, in ways both good and bad. On the plus side, it allows small businesses to spread the word about their products freely, and one's creative visions can be realized with a few taps on a screen. Conversely, kids and grown-ups alike struggle with misinformation, trolls, insecurity, addiction, and scams. In addition to offering plenty of food for thought in her characters' choices, Yang smartly employs Lina's teacher as a conduit for sharing information about the effects of social media on the brain. The lesson learned is how to make healthier technology choices rather than abstaining from it entirely. VERDICT A recommended first purchase that tackles tweenhood and technology woes head-on.--Lindsay Loup Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2311164 (Vol. 01) Finally Seen (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelly Yang

As she reckons with her hurt, Lina tries to keep a lid on her feelings, both at home and at school. When her teacher starts facing challenges for her latest book selection, a book that deeply resonates with Lina, it will take all of Lina's courage and resilience to get over her fear in order to choose a future where she's finally seen.

978-1-5344-8833-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Lina was five years old when her parents and two-year-old sister moved from China to America, leaving Lina with her beloved grandmother. For five years, Lina has wondered why she was left behind. Now she is flying to Los Angeles to grow up with her sister and her parents. Confused by the disconnect between her dreams of America and the reality of her family's poverty, she helps her mother make and sell items in hopes of avoiding eviction from their small apartment. Lina feels guilty about leaving her aging grandmother, and she avoids speaking English at school for fear of ridicule. But after she begins to accept help from others, Lina discovers allies, learns to express her emotions through words and pictures, and even finds the courage to speak up before the school board when a wealthy parent seeks to ban a book by a Chinese American writer. In this involving, realistic chapter book, a likable character overcomes a series of obstacles while forging strong connections with her parents, her sister, and two friends. Yang, the author of Front Desk (2018), writes with a beguiling combination of clarity, simplicity, and immediacy in a new story exploring the practical and emotional challenges of immigration as experienced by children.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This contemporary immigrant tale follows a Beijing girl as she reunites with her parents and younger sister in California after five years of separation. Lina Gao, ten, thinks that her father is a successful microbiologist who owns a big house. -Reality kicks in when the fifth grader discovers that her father is a farm worker, the family lives in a cramped apartment, and her mother sells bath bombs online in hopes of covering the back rent. Yang does a skillful job in portraying Lina's multitude of emotions. There's the sadness of leaving her grandmother behind in a Chinese nursing home and the isolation and loneliness stemming from language barriers. Issues of racism and class come up when her parents struggle to be paid fairly and to get updates on their green card applications, Lina is teased at school, and a graphic novel with an Asian American protagonist is targeted for censorship. The most poignant scenes occur as Lina slowly removes the "invisible thread" that prevents her

from freely expressing herself, especially when ESL teacher Mrs. Ortiz tells her that even though immigrants are "burdened with a lot of guilt," it is important to remember that "your dreams matter. You matter. Never forget that." Michelle Lee(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

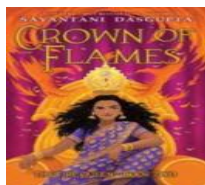
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Chinese girl moves to America to be reunited with her family. When she was 5, Lina's parents and baby sister left her in Beijing with her grandmother. Now she arrives in Southern California as a 10-year-old stranger to her own family. And what of the American dream? Her scientist father toils (sans green card) for a villainous, bigoted organic farmer, while her mother, unemployed since the pandemic put the nail salon where she worked out of business, makes bath bombs to sell online. They live in a one-bedroom apartment whose back rent is due in six weeks. Why isn't Lina in any of the pictures displayed in their home? School is worse. Bullied by mean girls for her English, she vows never to speak again. But with the help of her ELL teacher, the school librarian, and a new friend, Lina begins to find her confidence and her voice through reading. Yang covers a lot of ground, from immigrant experiences and socio-economic inequities to climate change and middle school angst. The plotline that really stands out, however, is when Lina discovers that books can comfort the struggling, link people together, and create changes both internal and external. This theme propels the action through the book's satisfying climax when she must decide whether to use her voice to stop a book that she loves from being banned in her classroom. Timely and pointed. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Five years after her parents left her in Beijing with her maternal grandparents, Lina Gao eagerly awaits being reunited in America, where she'll be starting the fifth grade. Though she's sad to leave her beloved Lao Lao behind, she's enthusiastic about what she perceives as the American dream: endless Frappuccinos and saying "I love you" all the time without embarrassment. But American life isn't how her parents have described it in letters. The two-story house she's been told about is actually an apartment, its back rent looming ever since the pandemic closed the salon that employed her mother. To make ends meet, Lina's mom sells bath bombs online, while her father works long hours for an irritable, xenophobic farmer who engages in shady business practices. As Lina attempts to adapt, facing bullying at school, she finds solace in the form of an encouraging teacher, new friends, and the school library. And gradually, when a class book selection that resonates deeply with Lina is challenged, her growing confidence develops into a tool she can use to speak out. In a thematically wide-ranging, character-driven novel, Yang (Front Desk) highlights the importance of representation alongside one child's experience of navigating a complex reality. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Tina Dubois, ICM Partners. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Arriving in Los Angeles from Beijing after five years away from her parents and little sister Millie, fifth grader Lina Gao has a lot of challenges. First, she found that her parents have been lying about their lives in the U.S.--her microbiologist dad is not a scientist as he claimed in his letters; he is an organic regenerative farmer who works at least 15 hours a day in the field. Her family does not live in a two-story blue house with a white fence, but in a cramped apartment in Los Ramos where she sleeps on a bunk bed. And her mother and little sister make and sell bath bombs on Etsy to repay the extensive back rent they owe from the pandemic. Lina also discovers her parents' green card applications still haven't been filed, after years of waiting. On top of that, Lina has a lot of adjustments at school, including making friends and speaking English. Luckily, she is assigned to work with a special education teacher, Mrs. Ortis, who is a young immigrant from Guatemala. With support from Mrs. Ortis and school librarian Mrs. Hollis, who recommends books that speak to her experience, Lina begins to adjust to her new life. Yang's latest depicts Lina's courage, kindness, and hard work to navigate her first year in the U.S. while building relationships new and old. VERDICT A great novel that depicts the challenges of being a Chinese immigrant in the U.S. while highlighting universally relatable themes of feeling like an outcast for middle schoolers.--Anna Ching-Yu Wong Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Ten-year-old Lina emigrates from China to join her family in America after a five-year separation in the heartfelt middle-grade novel Finally Seen by Kelly Yang (Parachutes).

Fire Queen (Trade)



#2293074 (Vol. 02) Crown of Flames (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sayantani DasGupta

iniki never expected to be the leader of the resistance -- in fact, she's gone on record spitting at the idea. But as domination and persecution of rakkosh continues, she summons her courage for a triumphant return to reluctant leadership in this thrilling sequel.

978-1-338-76681-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 820

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Firebird Song (Trade)

#2225920 (Vol. 01) Firebird Song (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



written by Arnee Flores

The Kingdom of Lyrica was once kept safe by The Firebird, whose feather and song meant peace and prosperity. But when an evil Spectress killed the royal family and the Firebird vanished, the Kingdom fell to ruin. Everyone lived in fear of the Spectress and her volcanic monsters. Almost twelve-year-old Prewitt has only known life without the Firebird.

978-1-5476-0512-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* Prewitt has always known Lyrica to be a gray place full of rain and sadness, where the Spectress rules mercilessly behind the strength of her ash golems. When his granny Arila falls ill one night, she reveals to Prewitt that his destiny is tied to that of the lost princess of Lyrica, the one person who can bring back the Firebird--the only creature that can defeat the Demon and the Spectress who wields his power. Now, 12 years after the events that gave rise to that evil, Prewitt meets Calliope, who learns that she is the lost princess, and the two set off on a journey to find a lost Firebird feather, meeting ancient spirits, traveling to realms unknown to humankind, and discovering hope along the way. Readers will find themselves immersed in Prewitt and Calliope's magical world full of secrets, ancient beings, and mysterious histories. The complex feelings the characters share--from fear to guilt to hope--and the difficult and seemingly hopeless conditions they face will cause readers to reflect on their own perceptions of the world and see what is truly important. A fast-paced, heart-squeezing adventure, perfect for fans of intricate fantasy worlds and memorable characters. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In the kingdom of Lyrica, ruling queens long used the Feather and sung the Firebird Song to summon the Firebird and ensure its ascendancy over the Demon in a battle of cosmic forces. Then, twelve years ago, the Feather was stolen, the last queen died, and the evil Spectress and her army of ash golems seized power. In the present, Prewitt the Bargeboy and Calliope the princess--hidden and raised in secret and isolation by Prewitt's father--join forces to find the Feather, fulfill a prophecy, and enable Calliope to sing the Firebird Song to restore the kingdom. The story has many inventive elements and effective prose, but the mythic background and the action are missing the connective tissue they need to really hang together. Intriguing set pieces such as the Halcyon Glade and its giant Guardians and warrior girls, or the fantastical Queen's Barge and hereditary Bargeman position, command attention but are only nebulously accounted for in the world building. Nevertheless, readers may be drawn to the evocative settings and adventure quest and be inspired to seek out more firebird and fire demon lore. FHK COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two tweens embark on a journey to fulfill a prophecy and save their kingdom. Years ago, Lyrica was filled with life, warmth, and hope, protected as it was by the Song and Feather of the Firebird. Until the night when the Spectress and the Demon of Fear filled the sky with darkness, killing the queen and everyone else in the castle--and leaving behind a cold land, devoid of hope. In the present, Prewitt is turning 12, the Age of Hope, and Granny Arila is finally telling him the truth about Lyrica's dark past, satisfying his curiosity about things no one speaks of openly. Prewitt discovers not only that the Lost Princess survived that terrible night, but that their destinies are tied together through a mysterious prophecy. Prewitt leaves home, searching for the princess, and runs into Calliope, a girl who has been hidden from the world for 12 years. When he realizes she is the Lost Princess, something she had not known herself until recently, they embark on a dangerous quest to find the Firebird's Feather and Song and save Lyrica. Their journey is a fast-paced adventure full of monsters and magic. Told in the third person, the book focuses on Calliope and Prewitt, but secondary characters' stories are neatly woven in. Finding hope, true friendship, and bravery lies at the heart of their journey. Prewitt has brown hair and skin; black-haired Calliope has honeyed skin. A fantastical adventure full of hope. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-8—A Princess, a Demon, a Firebird, a Prophecy. In the dystopian Kingdom of Lyrica where no one dares to read, sing, or even hope, two children might just be the ones to restore their home. Young Prewitt has just turned 12—the Age of Hope—when he discovers Calliope, a long-hidden princess. The two undertake a quest to defeat the evil Spectress ruling Lyrica and call back the Firebird who once protected the kingdom. While this debut grapples with themes of hope and empowerment for young people, its well-worn tropes make it predictable and offer little to make it stand out among middle grade fantasies. In addition, it contains such extended world-building and elevated vocabulary that the intended audience may find the plot difficult to follow. The two protagonists are admirable in their courage and grit, yet the narrative is uneven in the emphasis placed on each character throughout the story. Calliope does most of the heavy lifting during the quest as Prewitt's role shifts from central to supporting and never recovers in a satisfying way. Dedicated young fantasy readers will enjoy this book, but it's unlikely to become a standout favorite. VERDICT A suitable addition where there's a demand; for large youth fantasy collections.—Kelly Jahng, South Park Elem. Sch., IL

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2295380 (Vol. 02) Spirit Queen (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$16.99
<i>written by Arnee Flores</i>		
When Calliope's friend Ilsbeth is kidnapped, Calliope and the Bargeboy, Prewitt, are sent on a secret quest to save her—a quest that traps Calliope on the Nymph Isles, a		



place of great darkness and ancient Spirit Magic. Calliope's confidence as the new Queen of Lyrica was already faltering, but now, with her people once again in danger, can she learn to wield ancient magic and most of all, find the strength she needs to be the leader her people need?

978-1-5476-0515-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist After Calliope defeated the Spectress in *The Firebird Song* (2021), hope returned to Lyrica and Calliope returned to her rightful place as princess—soon to be queen. But there remained in Lyrica an uncertainty that keeps Calliope unsettled. When the Silver Shag, claiming to serve an Ancient Spirit, reaches Lyrica and spreads the rumor that the Spectress is still alive, a fight ensues and Calliope's friend Ilsbeth is kidnapped. With her dear friend Prewitt, Calliope sets off to rescue Ilsbeth, and their journey takes them to magical forests and islands, where Calliope discovers the truth about this new threat to Lyrica. Fans of book 1 will welcome this enchanting sequel and the return to Calliope's mysterious and magical world, enriched this time around by the revelation of tragic backstories. As Calliope and Prewitt journey to save their loved ones and their kingdom, their realization of the magic found in the everyday and in their own stories is sure to inspire readers to consider their own.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Princess Calliope must discover her magical ability in order to keep her kingdom safe. After calling back the Firebird and defeating the Spectress in *The Firebird Song* (2021), 12-year-old Calliope, the Lost Princess of Lyrica, is back in the Royal City. The time has come for her to assume the throne, but Calliope isn't sure she's ready to be the queen. The people are still fearful, and her responsibility is to keep them safe, but she has no idea how. The Bookkeeper recalls learning that the queen can use Spirit magic by listening to the Firebird Song. After many failed attempts, Calliope finally hears something, but it isn't the Song: It's screams and cries for help from afar. On top of that, someone called the Silver Shag is trying to overthrow Calliope and take the throne for an Ancient Spirit. When the Silver Shag kidnaps Ilsbeth, former leader of the Glade Girls, Calliope and Royal Bargeboy Prewitt embark on a journey to save their friend and the kingdom. This fast-paced sequel focuses on the characters' internal struggles with duty, grief, fear, and loneliness. Calliope pushes away the past, forcing herself to be hopeful and, in the process, hindering her growth. Finding strength from our stories and trauma--rather than silencing them--lies at the center of this journey. And although magic is important, readers learn that humans make their own magic through hard work, determination, and resilience. A heartfelt adventure. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Fireborn (Trade)



#2252272 (Vol. 01) **Fireborn (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Aisling Fowler

Ember is full of monsters. Twelve gave up her name and identity to train in the art of hunting them--so she says. The truth is much more deadly: she trains to take revenge on those who took her family from her. But when Twelve's new home is attacked, she'll find herself on an unexpected journey, where her hidden past is inescapably intertwined with her destiny--and the very fate of her world.

978-0-06-299671-8 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve gave up her identity and history when she arrived at the lodge to begin training as a Hunter, an elite warrior sworn to protect—and maintain peace between—the seven clans of Ember. The 13-year-old is an extraordinary fighter but less skilled at interpersonal relationships. Except for one curious, dreamy girl called Seven, Twelve avoids bonding with her fellow students and papers over traumatic memories with a prickly demeanor. An unexpected, magical assault on the grounds sees Seven snatched away by goblins with nefarious intentions, and when the grown-ups are too slow to respond, Twelve impulsively follows on a rescue mission. Former tormentors and a sentient stone dog appear as allies, and the motley crew has to unravel the mystery of the attack, free Seven, and learn to trust one another in the process. It's a gripping tale, packed with twisty reveals, spectacularly sinister creatures, elaborate backstories, and surprising humor to lighten the story. This tale of fighting and forgiveness, of revenge and adventure, is a beautiful reminder that there is always time to become the person you truly want to be.

#2319963 (Vol. 02) **Phoenix and the Frost Palace (Hardcover (Trade))**

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$19.99



written by Aisling Fowler

Twelve is now a fully fledged hunter, with a new name worthy of her fiery powers: Phoenix. But with her new powers come new responsibilities. When a plea for help arrives from the long-lost witch clan, it's clear Phoenix's newfound fire is their only hope. Phoenix and her friends must travel to Icegaard, the witches' home, to combat the mysterious darkness there--one that grows stronger each day. But deep within this darkness lies an enemy that could destroy Ember entirely... unless Phoenix can find the strength to stop it.

978-0-06-299674-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 448 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#2374905 (Vol. 03) Starling and the Cavern of Light (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Aisling Fowler

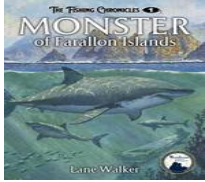
Phoenix and her friends vow to save Ember from all but certain doom in this final unmissable chapter in the sweeping series that New York Times bestselling author B. B. Alston called "the best kind of children's fantasy story." Following the shocking events at Icegaard, Phoenix and her friends gather with the Hunters, desperate to unite the warring clans before their enemy, the Master, launches his attack on Ember.

978-0-06-299677-0 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 512 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Fishing Chronicles (Spotlight)

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$22.95



#2371183 (Vol. 01) Monster of Farallon Islands (Library Binding)

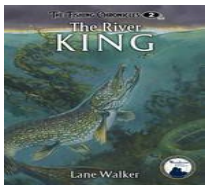
written by Lane Walker

A shipwreck, a greedy billionaire, and a record-sized great white shark are about to invade Casey's life as he tries to uncover a deep secret in the Pacific Ocean. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5368-4 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 176 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 860

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$22.95



#2371184 (Vol. 02) River King (Library Binding)

written by Lane Walker

Bobby and his best friends can't wait for their trip down the Cass River in hopes of catching a "River King," but not long into their journey, they discover they aren't alone. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5369-1 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 128 pgs.

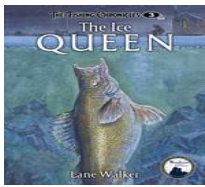
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 760

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$22.95

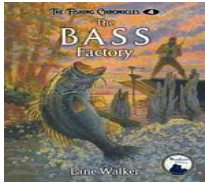
#2371182 (Vol. 03) Ice Queen (Library Binding)

written by Lane Walker

The week of the Ice Queen fishing tournament, Josey and her brother learn their family will lose their bait shop unless they can repay their debt, but in order to save

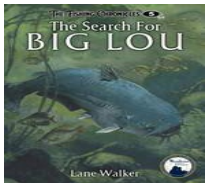


the shop, the kids will have to beat a 61 year old record, find the Lost City, and convince a recluse to help them. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.
 978-1-0982-5370-7 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 136 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 770



#2371181 (Vol. 04) Bass Factory (Library Binding)
written by Lane Walker
 Rock Conrad was set to begin the best and final year of his high school education, but a freak accident changes everything, including Polk High's fishing dream team. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.
 978-1-0982-5371-4 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 136 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 760

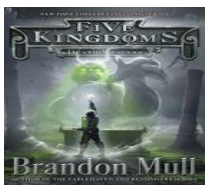
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$22.95



#2371185 (Vol. 05) Search For Big Lou (Library Binding)
written by Lane Walker
 Presley dreads her forced summer camp adventure, but epic prank wars, standing up to the camp bully, and fishing for Big Lou, a 100-pound catfish, make the experience one for the record books. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.
 978-1-0982-5372-1 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 144 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 750

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Unit Price \$22.95

Five Kingdoms (Trade)



#1947019 (Vol. 04) Death Weavers (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Brandon Mull
 Trapped in a world where magic is powerful and dreams are real, Cole's epic adventure continues in book four of the New York Times bestselling "fanciful, action-packed adventure" series (Publishers Weekly, starred review), from the author of the Fablehaven and Beyonders series. Cole and his friends have made it to the fourth of the five kingdoms that comprise the Outskirts--Necronum, land of the dead. New allies and new dangers await...
 978-1-4424-9709-2 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 17.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 580

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Hero Cole Randolph returns in this fourth of a planned five books, this time adventuring in the unstable and terrifying land of Necronum. Filled with echoes, ghosts, shades, and enemies, Necronum is different from everything Cole knows, and as he searches for information about the whereabouts of friends Honor and Destiny, Cole and his crew finds more than they bargained for. Cole, at a loss without his magical powers, has some soul-searching to do, as well. Intrigue and chills build higher as the group seeks out the Cave of Memory for answers while trying to follow clues from Queen Harmony. Equally as compelling as the adventure is the development of interpersonal relationships between Cole and his band of friends. Cole continues to be the everykid champion, and he remains one of the most enduring reasons readers return to this engrossing series. Series fans are already begging for this hotly anticipated title; multiple copies are a must.--Comfort, Stacey Copyright 2016 Booklist



#2026784 (Vol. 05) Time Jumpers (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Brandon Mull

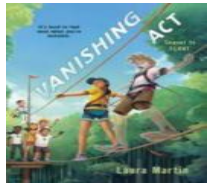
Cole and his friends are pushed to the limit in this finale to the bestselling Five Kingdoms series. Will they finally be able to restore magic to the world of the Outskirts and find their way back home?

978-1-4424-9712-2 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 14.0 RC Lvl 3.3 Lexile 570

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Float (Trade)



#2282322 (Vol. 02) Vanishing Act (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Laura Martin

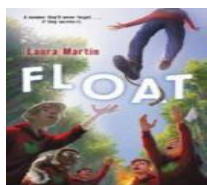
Hank, Emerson, and their friends have returned to Camp Outlier for another summer of fun and shenanigans! Hank won't let his RISK (Recurring Incidents of the Strange Kind) factor of inconvenient invisibility stop him from having the best summer ever, even when it starts mysteriously turning people and objects around him invisible too. But between his invisibility and an internet celebrity joining their cabin, camp clown Hank is struggling to maintain his spotlight.

978-0-06-313676-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old boy with an unpredictable power returns to camp for another summer of misadventures in this follow-up to *Float* (2018). "Inconsistently invisible" Hank can't wait for another summer at pricey Camp Outlier, the one place where he and other RISK kids stigmatized for their uncontrollable abilities, or Recurring Instances of the Strange Kind, can find a sense of belonging. However, his excitement turns to worry when his time-traveling friend appears in the airport bathroom with a tearful warning that Hank is going to die. To make matters worse, a YouTube heartthrob joins their cabin, stealing the center of attention from Hank and making him feel more invisible than ever. On top of that, someone is attempting to sabotage their camp. At this camp of misfits, the cast of characters is predominantly White, with race largely indicated through clumsy, stereotypical descriptors ("gingerbread-colored skin," "almond-shaped eyes"). Hank flirts constantly with girl campers, referring to them as "ladies" and commenting on their attractiveness regardless of their interest in him, behavior in keeping with the book's overall presentation of gender relations: "I'd had my sights set on her at the beginning of camp the summer before, but after I'd realized that Emerson did too, I'd done the gentlemanly thing and stepped back. Besides, Kristy was an intriguing challenge, and I liked intriguing challenges." Not unlike Hank's flirtation, the story's lesson about technology addiction lacks subtlety and nuance. A sequel filled with boys-will-be-boys sensibilities. (author's note) (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2060770 (Vol. 01) Float (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Laura Martin

Emerson can float...he just can't do it very well. His uncontrollable floating is his RISK factor, which means that he deals with Reoccurring Incidents of the Strange Kind. The last place Emerson wants to be is at a government-mandated summer camp for RISK kids like him, so he's shocked when he actually starts having fun at camp--and he even makes some new friends.

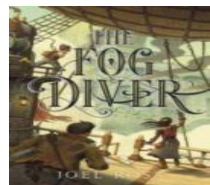
978-0-06-280376-4 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 840

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Emerson floats. Unfortunately, he has almost no control over his floating, which makes it a Reoccurring Incidents of the Strange Kind (RISK)afactor. He and other kids like him are sent to Camp Outlier where the government can keep a close eye on them. It's a motley crew in Emerson's cabin: Gary is sticky, Hank can't control his invisibility, Zeke has sporadicaX-ray vision, and Anthony is a human torch. For once in his life, Emerson feels like he finally fits in. With lots of action, great dialogue, and plenty of humor,aMartin's style and tone are reminiscent of Gordon Korman and Dan Gutman. VERDICT With a great premise and solid writing,athis

Fog Diver (Trade)



#1918377 (Vol. 01) Fog Diver (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joel Ross

In this futuristic high-stakes adventure, humanity clings to cities on the highest mountain peaks above the deadly Fog, and airships transport the pirates of the skies. Daring 13-year-old tetherboy Chess and his salvage crew must face the dark plans of Lord Kodoc and work to save their beloved Mrs. E.

978-0-06-235293-4 ©2015 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-It's been years since the formation of the deadly Fog that drove the last people from the surface of the Earth. The only remaining humans live in towns high in the mountaintops. With few resources, it's a hard life. For a slum kid like Chess, working on a salvage airship is the best way to keep from starving. As his ship's tetherboy, Chess must dive into the Fog and recover relics from Earth that can be traded for food for his crew. Most tether boys don't last a year. Those who avoid the Fog sharks eventually succumb to Fog sickness in the end. All except Chess. For Chess, the Fog never hurts. Chess's deepest secret is that he was born in the Fog, and it has marked him. His whole life, Chess has kept his head down and avoided notice. Now things are changing. Mrs. E., Chess's guardian, is dying of Fog sickness, and Chess and his friends must race against the clock to get her to the cure. Unfortunately, the greedy Lord Kodoc has found out about Chess's affinity for Fog and has made other plans. With plenty of action, and characters who are as precocious as they are prodigious at their airship duties, this is a fun beginning to a unique new series. An abundance of pop culture references gone hilariously wrong add appeal for reluctant readers. Oh, and there are air pirates! VERDICT A solid choice for fans of adventure series or speculative fiction.-Liz Overberg, Darlington School, Rome, GA (c) Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1966039 (Vol. 02) Lost Compass (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joel Ross

Chess and his crew--Hazel, Swedish, and Bea--may have escaped the slums, but they cannot escape the Fog that threatens to swallow the entire mountaintop city of Port Oro. Only one thing can stop the fog: an ancient machine known as the Compass.

Only one person can find it: Chess. With the help of his crew, Chess faces dangerous encounters, brutal battles, and deadly driftsharks to unearth the hidden instrument. It's a race against time to save this high-altitude sanctuary.

978-0-06-235297-2 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-The adventure continues for Chess and his airship crew in this action-packed sequel to The Fog Diver (HarperCollins, 2015). Having recently escaped from the greedy and powerful Lord Kodoc, ruler of the mountaintop empire known as the Rooftop, the crew are sure they'll be safe on a faraway mountaintop called Port Oro. No sooner have they arrived in the strange new city, however, than they learn that Kodoc isn't even close to done with them. He still seeks a mysterious object known as the "Compass," a device that lies somewhere on the surface of the Earth, deep in the Fog. Legend says that the Compass can control the Fog-even make the Fog go away. With the Compass, Kodoc will have the power to determine the fate of his entire Empire, and he knows that Chess is the key to finding that power. The race is on for Chess, his crew, and their new friends on Port Oro to recover the Compass before it falls into the wrong hands. Chock-full of positive themes about loyalty and teamwork and packed with hilariously misinterpreted pop culture references, Ross's middle grade adventure series about a juvenile airship crew raised in a junkyard continues to shine. In this case, with deeper characterization, even more nonstop action, and much higher stakes, the sequel is even better than the original. Readers will find themselves alternately laughing out loud and biting their nails as they anxiously follow the adventures of Chess and his friends. VERDICT A fast-paced narrative and hilarious dialogue make this series an essential purchase where smart middle grade fantasy/adventure is in demand.-Liz Overberg, Zionsville Community High School, IN Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Forgotten Five (Trade)



#2266516 (Vol. 01) Map of Flames (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa McMann

Thirteen years ago, eight supernatural criminals fled the city of Estero to make a new life in an isolated tropical hideout. Off the grid, the missing criminals were presumed dead—but that wasn't really the case. Until recently, when the last one died. When Birdie finds a map with a set of instructions directing her to a stash of treasure that's secret from everyone—including their missing parents—she knows it holds the power to change everything, for better or worse.

978-0-593-32540-7 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 McMann's new middle-grade series features the descendants of supernatural criminals, left to forge their own paths in a world that does not take kindly to them. After Birdie finds a treasure map that might hold the answers to her and her seven companions' lives, answers even their parents didn't share with them, they must all leave their longtime tropical hideaway. These kids haven't had it easy since their parents left, and the text explores this with nuance, addressing complicated family dynamics, grief, and the ups and downs of friendship. With otherworldly skills such as the power to talk to animals, healing abilities, body camouflage, and heightened sensory abilities, this group of preteens would be unstoppable if they could only figure out how to wield their gifts as a team. They must learn how to survive on their own and create the identities that fit them best rather than live with those that prior generations have imposed upon them, intentionally or not. Entertaining and meaningful. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When the last supernatural criminal adult in their seaside hideout dies, their five children journey to the far-flung country of Estero. To escape the outside world with its harsh stigma against anyone supernatural, the eight parents fled to a coastal refuge following a final heist 15 years ago. However, a need for supplies pulled most of them back to Estero, trips from which they mysteriously never returned, leaving just one parent behind. Three years later, 13-year-old Birdie Golden's father succumbs to an illness; his final request that she find her mother haunts Birdie. Reluctantly, the five supernatural young people--Birdie, who communicates with animals; her younger brother, Brix, who heals rapidly; Seven Palacio, whose body is perpetually camouflaged; Tenner Cordoba, who has extrasensory strengths; and Cabot Stone, who has great talents but has yet to develop any powers--depart for Estero City. Armed with a flame-enchanted map that leads to the final heist's stash, they travel across sea and jungle to a city full of modern wonders, secret allies, and an anti-supernatural plot at the highest levels of society. The narrative jumps among the characters' internal perspectives, highlighting each of their personal conflicts in ways that reveal their individual complexities. Though the worldbuilding is rather wobbly and there are loose threads (hopefully to be resolved in a sequel), plenty of humor and fun demonstrations of powers keep readers' attention. Names and skin tone are used to indicate some diversity among the cast. Supernaturally cool. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A decade and a half after their supernatural criminal parents stole a fortune, five children raised on a tropical island enter the mainstream world and contend with their parents' complicated legacy. When her father, the only adult who hasn't vanished during runs to Estero over the last several years; dies, 13-year-old Birdie Golden, who can communicate with animals, is determined to follow his last request: find her mother and pass on a map to a fabled treasure stash, which he'd moved without telling the other adults. Birdie returns to Estero City, accompanied by younger brother Brix, whose super-resilience allows for rapid healing (the siblings are white); brown-skinned Tenner Cordoba, who possesses superhuman senses; Seven Palacio, whose camouflage powers result in changing skin tone; and white Cabot Stone, whose powers have yet to manifest. But the crew's special abilities and unfamiliarity with modern life make it difficult to function; let alone track down their missing parents; in a world where being supernatural is a crime. Though the worldbuilding feels ungrounded in McMann's (the Unwanted series) cohort adventure, an alternating third-person perspective deftly depicts the five friends struggling to remain together as they navigate contemporary technologies, all the while employing their superpowers to survive in a dangerous new environment. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (Feb).

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Birdie and Brix, along with Tenner, Cabot, and Seven, once lived with their parents in the city of Estero. They all are supernaturals, like their parents, with powers plucked from the animal kingdom, such as camouflage and night vision. When the city condemned the use of superpowers and labeled them criminals, the families fled for safety to an island far away from civilization. While the children were still very young, all but Birdie and Brix's dad left to confront their mislabeled reputations. That was 15 years ago, and no one has heard from them since. As far as the kids know, their parents are dead. While still grappling with this abandonment, the five kids face a new dilemma—the death of the remaining parental figure in their lives, Birdie and Brix's dad, and a note that directs Birdie to find a secret map and deliver it to her mother in Estero. Though told to keep this mission a secret, Birdie is forced to share this new information with the other supernaturals so they can join forces and help uncover the surprising truth behind their parents' disappearance in the unfamiliar, modern city of Estero. This new series blends science fiction with the animal kingdom, highlighting incredible feats of nature alongside a compelling quest to survive. VERDICT Middle graders seeking a new twist on science fiction and superpower heroism will find this fast-paced first installment the answer to their search.—Sabrina Carnesi



#2300537 (Vol. 02) Invisible Spy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa McMann

The forgotten five have made it to Estero to search for their missing supernatural criminal parents. Now the president's henchmen are searching everywhere for the children who broke out Elena, driving the group into hiding in the ancient underground tunnels beneath the city. Meanwhile, President Fuerte is making headlines for his nighttime flights to other countries accompanied by an invisible man. But why would the president who outlawed supernaturals be working with the people he supposedly hates? And could it be that some of the five's own parents are helping him?

978-0-593-32543-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 760

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2326213 (Vol. 03) Rebel Undercover (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa McMann

Estero City is in an uproar following the exposure of President Fuerte as a supernatural, as well as the surprise announcement by Magdalia Palacio--Seven's mother--that she will oppose Fuerte in the upcoming election. The forgotten five and their allies know the president is corrupt to the core. But no one knows if Magdalia can be trusted.

978-0-593-61580-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 790

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews As the Forgotten Five investigate President Daniel Fuerte's plans to build an army of supers, the reappearance of their criminal parents continues to complicate matters in this sequel to 2022's *The Invisible Spy*. Reeling from Cabot's decision to rejoin her parents, who are coerced members of President Fuerte's supers criminal gang, the rest of the Five--Birdie, Brix, Seven, and Tenner--grapple with their friend's perceived defection. Is Cabot (whose latent powers have started appearing) now a baddie? But other storms arise. Following the public unmasking of President Fuerte as a super, protesters from around Estero storm the presidential palace. The surprise announcement of a presidential run by Magdalia, Seven's AWOL mom, also threatens Fuerte's bid to retain power. As the presidential race gets heated, stalwart ally Lada preps to infiltrate the presidential palace by going undercover as a recruit for Fuerte's army, a risky move that's deadlier than the group realizes. Meanwhile, The Librarian's enigmatic actions begin to raise the Five's suspicions about their once-reliable spy mentor. Like a well-oiled Saturday-morning cartoon, McCann's series continues to feature boisterous superpower hijinks and lighthearted espionage with dabs of engrossing familial melodrama. The political shenanigans remain deeply, endearingly silly, and the author does a fine job of maintaining high stakes as the plots get knottier and the twists even dizzier. Another doozy of a cliffhanger swoops in at the end to carry willing readers into the following installment. Fantastically silly fun! (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2366582 (Vol. 04) Dangerous Allies (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa McMann

Following an explosive showdown with President Fuerte and his supernatural henchmen, the forgotten five and their allies are feeling lost. Their trusted friend and mentor The Librarian has left the group and declared her loyalty to the corrupt president. Has the Librarian really abandoned them in their quest to take down Fuerte's regime, or has she been kidnapped?

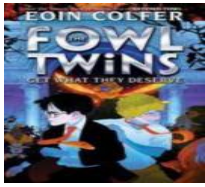
978-0-593-61583-6 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 780

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Fowl Twins (Trade)

Quantity **Unit Price**



#2254386 (Vol. 03) **Fowl Twins Get What They Deserve (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Eoin Colfer

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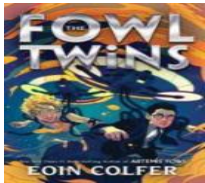
\$18.99

For almost two years, Lord Teddy Bleedham-Drye, the Duke of Scilly, has been plotting revenge against the Fowl Twins, who humiliated him in Book One. Teddy plans to give them exactly what they deserve: permanent death.

978-1-368-07567-1 ©2021 5-1/4 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.4 AR Pts 14.0

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Artemis Fowl's preteen sibs have it out with archnemesis Lord Teddy Bleedham-Drye one last time. Or so it would seem, though, considering Lord Teddy's fondness for clones and the various nonpermanent fatalities in earlier episodes, nothing should be taken for granted. In a plot aptly framed as "a big bang, followed by a series of smaller bangs, then another big bang"--many of which turn out to be epic gaseous blasts or, to use the delighted Beckett's term, "fartsplosions"--the evil genius's latest (as the omniscient narrator puts it) "elaborate and unnecessarily complicated" revenge scheme pits young "aspiring mastermind" Myles and his action-loving brother, aided by diminutive but capable blue-skinned pixel (pixie-elf) Lazuli Heitz and the ghosts of a large number of indignant Bleedham-Dryes whom Lord Teddy has murdered over the years, against first a goblin hit squad then, climactically, an army of fireball-shooting goblins. Generous measures of banter and villainous gloating grease the wheels as well as ridiculous contrivances that pull the twins from any number of obviously hopeless pickles on the way to their hard-won triumph. In an epilogue set in Ho Chi Minh City, Colfer closes another series arc by dropping in a tantalizing revelation about Lazuli's hidden parentage. Magical cast members come in a variety of colors; human ones read as White. Any yarn with the phrase "pinwheeling flatulence juggernaut" is a must-read, and not just for fans of Fowl play. (Fantasy. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2123631 (Vol. 01) **Fowl Twins (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Eoin Colfer

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$18.99

One week after their eleventh birthday, the Fowl twins--scientist Myles, and Beckett, the force of nature--are left in the care of house security (NANNI) for a single night. In that time they befriend a troll who has clawed his way through the earth's crust to the surface. Unfortunately for the troll, he is being chased by a nefarious nobleman and an interrogating nun.

978-1-368-04375-5 ©2019 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.5 AR Pts 14.0 Lexile 1060

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Make way for a new generation of Fowl adventures and fans. In Colfer's opening volume of this spin-off to his popular Artemis Fowl series, readers are introduced to the Fowl twins, Artemis' much younger brothers, who prove their mettle in combat with wrong-doers as they navigate the intersection of a techno-dominated human world and that of Fairie?equally gadget-driven but uniquely oddball. While Artemis is on his way to Mars, the twins (Myles, besuited and intellectual; and Beckett, a wild, wide-eyed nature-child) prove themselves up to the task of defying the evil-minded on two fronts: first, the machinations of Lord Bleedham-Drye, an uber-rich 150-year-old intent on living forever; and second, Sister Jeronima, a nun who leads a secret, government-sponsored organization devoted to infiltrating the unhuman. When a purple, toy-sized, bristly troll emerges on the island off Ireland where the twins live, non-stop adventure is set in motion. Will the Lord or the nun manage to wrest the troll from the others? And to what purpose? Twists of tongue and story line make for a fun experience.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fan favorite Colfer returns to the well for another crowd-pleasing, cross-genre adventure with the Fowl family. This time the action unfolds around eleven-year-old twins Myles and Beckett Fowl, the predictably precocious younger brothers of original criminal mastermind-cum-fairy-ally Artemis Fowl. The story opens with a wily nemesis, an escaped troll, and the expected LEP agent (Lazuli Heitz) before leaping into action when the twins are kidnapped by a secret operative nun, who is intent on unmasking the reality of fairies before they unleash chaos on the human world (again). As they are alternatively chased and dragged across the European continent, Myles and Beckett gradually accept the truth of the stories their older brother has told them, before partnering up with a fairy confederate, grappling with their own fairy-linked disaster, and defeating their enemies once and for all (or not). Ultimately this novel offers up just what familiar readers would expect, with its hallmark pithiness, elaborate wordplay, and omniprescent narrator providing background, tangents, and running commentary. Prior misadventures of the Fowl-fairy alliance are mentioned, but no knowledge of the previous series, or the twins' brief appearances in it, are needed, making this fine, fun fare for a new cohort of readers, who will likely reach for earlier books while waiting for planned sequels. AM

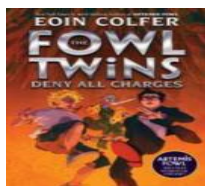
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews With their big brother Artemis off to Mars, 11-year-old twins Myles and Beckett are swept up in a brangle with murderous humans and even more dangerous magical creatures. Unsurprisingly, the fraternal Irish twins ultimately prove equal to the challenge--albeit with help from, Colfer as omniscient narrator admits early on, a "hugely improbable finale." Following the coincidental arrival on their island estate of two denizens of the subterranean fairy realm in the persons of a tiny but fearsome troll and a "hybrid" pixie-elf, or "pixel," police trainee,

the youngest Fowls immediately find themselves in the sights of both Lord Teddy Bleedham-Drye, a ruthless aristocrat out to bag said troll for its immorality-conferring venom, and Sister Jeronima Gonzalez-Ramos de Zárate, black-ops "nuninterrogation" and knife specialist for ACRONYM, an intergovernmental fairy-monitoring organization. Amid the ensuing whirl of captures, escapes, trickery, treachery, and gunfire (none of which proves fatal...or at least not permanently), the twins leverage their complementary differences to foil and exasperate both foes: Myles being an Artemis mini-me who has dressed in black suits since infancy and loves coming up with and then "Fowlspaining" his genius-level schemes; and Beckett, ever eager to plunge into reckless action and nearly nonverbal in English but with an extraordinary gift for nonhuman tongues. In the end they emerge triumphant, though threatened with mind wipe if they ever interfere in fairy affairs again. Yeah, right. Human characters seem to be default white; "hybrid" is used to describe nonhuman characters of mixed heritage. Like its bestselling progenitors, a nonstop spinoff afroth with high tech, spectacular magic, and silly business. (Fantasy. 11-13) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Colfer's clever spin-off of the Artemis Fowl series focuses on Artemis Fowl's twin younger brothers; hyperintelligent Myles and near-feral Beckett, both 11. With their older sibling on Mars, the fraternal twins are dragged into a madcap adventure when they're kidnapped by Lord Teddy Bleedham-Drye, a 150-year-old duke seeking the secret to immortality, which he believes rests in the venom of a diminutive troll that the twins are protecting. Sister Jeronima, a nun and agent of the secret organization ACRONYM, also has them in her sights. Meanwhile, Lower Elements Police Specialist Lazuli Heitz, a pixel (pixie-elf hybrid), seeks to rescue the imperiled troll; and the twins by extension. A globetrotting caper transpires as the myriad factions attempt to outwit, outsmart, escape, and double-cross one another. Colfer's trademark tongue-in-cheek narrative voice is on full display, his characters existing in a preposterous balance between sincerity and absurdity, mad science, and technology. Though a working familiarity with the previous books is handy, this series opener is accessible and entertaining: the fast-paced plot, filled with unexpected betrayals, death-defying feats, and secret train cars, will appeal to Fowl readers established and new. Agent: Sophie Hicks, Sophie Hicks Agency. Ages 10: 14. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Connection Myles and Beckett Fowl, the eleven-year-old twin brothers of the infamous Artemis Fowl, are very different. While there is a strong family resemblance, Myles is brainy, calculating, and has a few O.C.D. tendencies. Golden-haired Beckett, on the other hand, talks to animals, has energy to spare, and wears his dead goldfish, Gloop, as part of a tie around his neck. As with many twin siblings, they are a force to be reckoned with when working as a team. When resident bad guy, Lord Teddy Bleedham-Drye tries to capture a troll believed to be the key to his quest for immortality, the twins spring into action to intervene. This puts the boys on the radar of Jeronima, a Spanish nun who works for a secret society, and Lazuli, a blue fairy-pixie hybrid also trying to capture the troll. Reluctantly, they form an alliance to thwart Lord Teddy's efforts because while they may not be exactly the 'good' guys, they aren't all bad either. Fans of the Artemis Fowl novels will not be disappointed with this first novel of the spinoff series. Colfer's razor sharp wit and fast-paced writing will keep readers engaged, entertained and grinning at the puns. High tech spy gadgets blend sci-fi elements to this fantasy novel. With the Artemis Fowl movie release over the summer, this new series will be in high demand. Barbara S. Zinkovich, Media Specialist, Salt River Elementary School, Scottsdale, Arizona Highly Recommended

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—Based on the same Eurocentric adventure platform, The Fowl Twins transcends the original "Artemis Fowl" series. Welcome to a new level of zany ridiculousness with the warm-hearted interplay between Miles and Beckett, Artemis's now 11-year-old twin brothers, as they fight together with a fairy creature against an elderly Duke and an evil nun, two of the most hilarious supervillains of all time. As his characters chase each other across Western Europe, Colfer mocks predictable tropes with ingeniously unexpected turns made possible by wacky technological or magical marvels and astounding physical feats. The wry narrator's choice of metaphor and unique turns-of-phrase are as delightful as the action on the page. Masterful pacing includes complicated action sequences broken into different perspectives, with time sped up or slowed down to maximize both the reader's excitement and their ability to revel in Miles's cleverness, or to guess at Beckett's hidden talents. Kids familiar with European landmarks will be especially pleased at glimpses of Amsterdam, Verona, and the Irish Coast; Spanish-speakers will appreciate the nefarious nun's frequent exclamations. A handful of beloved characters from the original series make brief cameos. VERDICT Funnier and more appealing than its popular progenitor, this title is destined to become a favorite.—Rhona Campbell, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC



#2181425 (Vol. 02) Fowl Twins Deny All Charges (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Eoin Colfer

The second Fowl Twins adventure, a spinoff of the blockbuster Artemis Fowl series, starts with a bang--literally. Artemis's little brothers Myles and Beckett borrow the Fowl jet without permission, and it ends up as a fireball over Florida. The twins plus their fairy minder, the pixie-elf hybrid Lazuli Heitz, are lucky to escape with their lives. The Fowl parents and fairy police force decide that enough is enough and the twins are placed under house arrest.

978-1-368-04504-9 ©2020 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.5 AR Pts 13.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 As heirs to their big brother Artemis' legacy, the young Fowl twins Myles and Beckett are taking it from here.

From now on, if the denizens of the land of Faerie brew up any shenanigans, the twins are sure to be involved. After 20 years of the Artemis Fowl series, this new branch of stories stands out thanks to the protagonists' spooky, ESP-like connection and their loyalty to one another in spite of their differences. This time around, some belligerent dwarves team up to kidnap Myles and use his intelligence to figure out how to enter a building where an ancient trove of gold is being held. Beck?all action, as usual?and his friend Holly leap to the rescue despite the Fowl patriarch's new rule against the twins mingling with the Faerie world. James Bond-type gadgets, plenty of action, and more than a few punny jokes regarding exactly how dwarves expel the excess dirt they dig make this another treat for Fowl fans.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A scheme to inveigle Artemis Fowl's younger sibs into helping steal a huge trove of gold doesn't go at all well for the schemers. Introduced in Fowl Twins (2019), 12-year-olds Myles and Beckett kick off their second round of exploits, dealing in midair with a guided missile to which their hybrid pixie-elf chaperone Lazuli Heitz has been strapped, then go through a series of equally ridiculous captures and rescues to several showdowns with bad guys, saving not only tons of gold, but thousands of Irish teens at a flash convention from the vengeance of a maddened, human-hating warrior dwarf. How, you ask? By employing a unique skein of complementary abilities: Myles, as dapper and at least as egotistic as his older brother, brings the mental wattage, and Beckett supplies the clever hands, unexcelled martial prowess, and a gift of tongues that extends to animals and plants. Along an improbably daft plotline that even the seldom-reflective Beckett finds "fart-centric," Colfer also strings dazzling displays of high tech, heartwarming peeks at the family dynamics of the closely knit if decidedly eccentric Fowl clan, dolphin-back rides, huge blobs of slime (some of it explosive), and a climactic exhibition of prejudice gone off the rails that is intense enough to leave readers queasy. As a teaser for future adventures, Lord Teddy Bleedham-Drye, arch archvillain from the previous volume, pops up for a cameo at the close. The human cast presents as White. More high-octane Fowl play. (Fantasy. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal is Fowl" spin-off series doesn't hit the same funny bone as its 2019 predecessor, The Fowl Twins, but fans of Myles and Beckett will enjoy their time with the goofiness anyway. In this installment, the white, male Irish twins' parents put them un er house arrest in their mansion, which only works until Myles gets kidnapped and Beckett goes to the rescue. This book's villains, an ambitious dw rf family, aren't nearly as hilarious as the bad guy of the first book, although what they can accomplish with spit and farts is impressively creati ve. Action sequences are bogged down with distractingly long, multi-paragraph explanations of backstory and world-building. Myles' cleverness remains to be marveled at, as is Beckett's physical prowess. There are some rather spectacular flatulence and magic technological feats along the way. Other than the dwarves, there are no new characters, nor are there any fabulous locations. VERDICT Recommended only for those who intend to stay through the whole series.--Rhona Campbell, Georgetown Day Sch., Washington, DC Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Frances and the Monster (Trade)



#2287058 (Vol. 01) Frances and the Monster (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Reife Tuma

What would you do if you accidentally brought a monster to life and set him loose on your town? Frances Stenzel, aspiring scientist and inventor, has done just that. She was trying to prove her scientific worth to her parents so they would take her with them to their scientific symposiums for once--instead, she reawakened her great-grandfather's secret and most terrible invention. Before it can destroy the town, she sets off after it, with her pet chimp and sarcastic robot tutor by her side. Monster-hunting isn't easy and along the way she'll face a persistent constable, angry locals, and an unexpected friendship all while the trail for the monster goes cold and time is running out before her science career, and the city itself, are doomed forever.

978-0-06-308576-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Frances is an unusual girl for 1939: she bucks the fashion codes and wears whatever is comfortable, she has globe-trotting parents who encourage her scientific and intellectual passions even at her young age of eleven, and she hasn't left their mansion for years. She hopes she'll be able to finally go with her parents on a trip to Brussels, but instead her father gifts her with Hobbes, a mechanical tutor that he built, and leaves her behind. Frances is unimpressed, and in her attempts to find a way to dismantle Hobbes permanently, she stumbles upon the research of her great-grandfather, a brilliant scientist who was apparently experimenting on how to reanimate life. Frances decides to continue his work and manages to reanimate a body frozen in the mansion's lab, but she soon deeply regrets her choice, and when the monster flees, Frances knows it is on her to stop it. Frances quickly (and thankfully) makes her first human friend, who helps her through the seemingly endless, confounding ways of the outside world, but the star companion is poor Hobbes, now only a head in a birdcage after Frances used his parts for her creation. Clever and careful readers may foresee the twist ending, though even if they do, the exact execution will likely still make for a series of heartbreaking events and a tender conclusion. Readers familiar with Shelley's Frankenstein will quickly notice the significant similarities, and those who do not know the original story will likely want to dive into the source material to better understand the points of connection. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When her scientific experiment unleashes a monster, an 11-year-old Swiss girl's extraordinary efforts to capture him reveal a surprising secret. A solitary girl who likes tinkering with machines and wearing lab coats, Frances Stenzel has been raised by her famous scientist parents and a series of tutors inside her great-grandfather's mansion in Bern. It's August 1939, and she leads a quiet life, never going anywhere and rarely seeing anyone. When her parents depart for a symposium in Brussels, they leave Frances in the care of Hobbes, a mechanical man designed and programmed by her father to be her perfect tutor. Unhappy about being left with a machine, Frances explores the basement, discovering her great-grandfather's journal and a secret lab with a frozen body. Deciphering the notes in the journal, she successfully animates the body, creating a massive monster. Immediately, Frances regrets what she has done and knows she must stop the monster as he flees into the center of Bern. Leaving home, Frances tracks the monster through the streets, across rooftops, along the river, and down into the city's bear pit and sewers. Pursued by the police and aided by Hobbes, the chimpanzee her mother has been doing intelligence enhancing experiments on, and a boy who befriends her, Frances exhibits remarkable courage and resolve. Her memorable adventure, with strong echoes of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, plays out against a colorful background as she confronts who she is in a truly shocking finale. A fast-paced and remarkably original tale. (Adventure. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 1939 Switzerland, 11-year-old Frances Stenzel, who longs to join her famed scientist parents at a Brussels science symposium, is dismayed to be left behind as she always has been following the accident that took her ear seven years prior. This time, though, she's left in the care of a specially engineered android tutor named Hobbes. Chafing under the attention of her indefatigable caretaker, inventive Frances searches for a way to power Hobbes down, and instead discovers her great-grandfather Grimme's encoded journal and secret laboratory, which houses a corpse encased in ice. Deciphering the journal, Frances devises a way to complete Grimme's final experiment: reanimating the body, which promptly escapes the manor into the nearby city of Bern. Wracked with regret and clad in a bow tie and fedora, Frances sets out in pursuit, aided by sardonic Hobbes; a kind local boy, Luca Frick; and Fritz, a chimpanzee with artificially enhanced intelligence. Bursting with wry humor and references to Frankenstein, Tuma's (the What the Dinosaurs Did series) idiosyncratic, utterly original tale moves at breakneck speed through a richly imagined landscape, accumulating vividly rendered characters and settings; including a bear pit, a sewer, and the famous Zytglogge clock tower; while injecting considered discussions of modern themes such as gender roles and privilege. Characters are presumed white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Marlo Berliner, Jennifer De Chiara Literary. (Aug.)



#2330239 (Vol. 02) Frances and the Werewolves of the Black Forest (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Reife Tuma

Frances achieved the impossible, but at a great cost. She stopped the monster her great-grandfather created from tearing her town apart, but Hobbes doesn't remember their adventure. Her great-grandfather's journal, full of dangerous secrets, is missing. And Frances is still reeling from discovering the truth of her birth parents and the procedures that saved her life.

978-0-06-308581-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

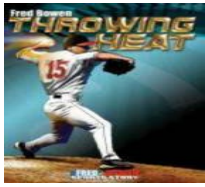
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews More reanimated corpses rise to menace stalwart Swiss tinkerer Frances Stenzel and an expanding crew of allies in this sequel to *Frances and the Monster* (2022). Forced to flee into the Black Forest when her train to Brussels is diverted, 12-year-old Frances goes from hunter (in the opener) to hunted for the refinements she made to her great-grandfather Albrecht's imperfect method of bringing the dead to life. As it turns out, bad actors are conducting their own experiments at Fanggarten, an isolated nearby castle. While trying to elude a sinister hunter, reclaim Albrecht's stolen notebook, and free a group of local villagers seized as experimental subjects, Frances is pursued by moaning revenants, suddenly feral pet dogs, and unnaturally large wolves. Despite struggling with social skills--in part a result of being raised in secret for years--Frances has and enlists allies galore, ranging from a snotty mechanical butler and a chimpanzee with a large sign language vocabulary to her parents, Victor and Mary (wink, wink), and a group of abandoned village children, including one who is deaf. The author opens with a note about different sign languages and shows a knack for describing hand and finger motions clearly. Though the book is set in 1940, there is no mention of Nazis and but one oblique reference to the war. Despite plenty of undead bodies, gunfire, animal attacks, and massive explosions, the casualties, if any, are scrupulously kept offstage. The cast reads white. A rollicking adventure. (Adventure. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Fred Bowen Sports Story (Trade)

#1644865 Throwing Heat (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Fred Bowen

Eighth-grader Jack Lerner relies on pitching fast balls until a young college coach

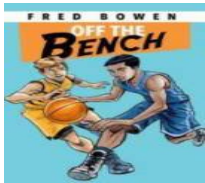
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.95



teaches him that throwing the heat may not be the best way to win games.
 978-1-56145-573-7 ©2011 5-1/2 x 7-7/8 128 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.4 GR Lvl R Lexile 600

Reviews by: Children's Literature Last year, in seventh grade, Jack struck out almost every batter he faced. Things are different this year, however. He has moved up to another level and the distance from the pitching mound to home plate is longer. Jack's fastball is no longer staying in the strike zone. He is walking too many batters and allowing too many runs by his opponents. Finn, his older sister's new boyfriend, is a pitching coach at a local college. He offers to give Jack advice. Finn tells Jack there is more to pitching than throwing heat, and he talks about the difference between two former baseball players: Steve Dalkowski and Sandy Koufax. Who is Steve Dalkowski? Jack asks that same question. Although he hears what Finn tells him, he is not convinced until the final game of the regular season to put the directives into action. Bowen seamlessly weaves baseball history into this story. There is plenty of baseball action to keep sports fans engaged. His character-building themes unfold subtly. Young athletes will find smooth dialogue, well-developed characters, and a storyline with which they can identify. This satisfying read is highly recommended. Reviewer: Sharon Salluzzo

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—This is a quick, easy read with no aspirations beyond what it is: a traditional middle school sports novel. Eighth-grader Jack Lerner is proud of his 75-mph fastball, but has trouble controlling it. When his sister's new boyfriend, a part-time college pitching coach, tells him to take something off his fastball and concentrate on spotting his pitches, Jack is initially resistant, but eventually comes to see the wisdom of the advice. A subplot having to do with a Ping-Pong tournament in which Jack and his friends are involved reiterates the theme that success in sports is more about refining your skills than overpowering your opponents. No overarching social issues are touched upon, and character development is minimal, but sports-minded readers should find the brisk pacing and simple vocabulary to their liking. As in other books in the series, a "Real Story" afterword describes how pro athletes dealt with issues similar to those faced by the characters in the book.—Richard Luzer, Fair Haven Union High School, VT

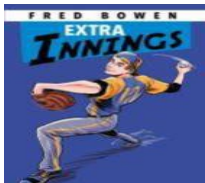


#2312288 Off the Bench (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Fred Bowen

Chris comes from a sports-loving family. His brother is the star scorer on the high school team, and is being recruited by Division 3 colleges. Chris longs to earn the same adulation, and he's a good scorer for his junior high team. But why won't his coach start him? He's better on defense than his rival, Carlos, and nearly as good a shooter. Soon Chris becomes obsessed with earning a place in his team's starting lineup. He does everything he can think of—including being an invaluable player every time he comes in. But nothing seems to get Coach's attention. Even after he learns the history of the valuable "6th man," Chris can't seem to let it go. How will he ever be a big scoring star?

978-1-68263-410-3 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2366354 Extra Innings (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Fred Bowen

"Strike one is the best pitch in baseball." Mike loves pitching, and he loves knowing his team counts on him to deliver wins. But Mike's father starts to worry that Mike is getting too carried away with baseball and not spending time working at after school jobs and developing a sense of responsibility. Can Mike and his father reach a compromise in order to let Mike play the game he loves and help his team win the league championship?

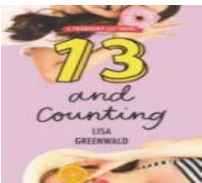
978-1-68263-411-0 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic


Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fourteen-year-old Mike McGinn is a promising pitcher for his baseball team, the Rays, but his father sees baseball

as a frivolous hobby. Mike's dad thinks he should be working this summer, so the teen takes a job caddying at the local country club while continuing to hone his pitching skills. But sometimes hard work and solid pitching aren't enough, as Mike finds when his team makes it to the final game of the end-of-season tournament. The game goes into extra innings, and though Mike's pitching is top-notch, the results aren't quite what the Rays had expected. Still, Mike learns important lessons along the way. Bowen balances action both on and off the field as Mike and his father slowly come to understand each other a little better. Baseball fans will especially appreciate the baseball terminology and slang and the descriptions of the Rays' various games and Mike's pitching. They'll also enjoy learning that this story is based in part on a historical baseball game--in 1959, Pittsburg Pirates pitcher Harvey Haddix threw 12 perfect innings against the Atlanta Braves, only to lose in the 13th. The Rays' summer schedule, game line-ups, league standings, pitching schedule, a scoreboard, and team statistics provide an immersive reading experience. Physical descriptions are minimal, though character names imply diversity in Mike's community. Will tide over youngsters longing for the start of the sport's spring season. (more information on Harvey Haddix) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Friendship List (Trade)


	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2106884 (Vol. 03) 13 and Counting (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lisa Greenwald</i> Some friends feel like family. So, when big life-stuff happens early in the school year--like divorce drama, a sick Bubbie, and lunch table awkwardness--Kaylan and Ari band together to prove their friendship is 100% strong with a new list of 13 goals to achieve before the school year ends and summer begins. But what happens when the challenges they choose expose issues in their friend group? Can a friendship be real and true if secrets are kept between one BFF and the other? 978-0-06-287524-2 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 610</p>	1	\$16.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2167416 (Vol. 04) 13 And 3/4 (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lisa Greenwald</i> BFFs Ari and Kaylan aren't sure how they're going to survive their first summer apart. No pool. No sleepovers. No emergency late-night chats on the porch. So as Ari returns to Camp Silver and Kaylan heads off to comedy camp, they come up with a new list of 13 and 3/4 ways to keep their friendship strong as they tackle everything from bias to batik and moping to matchmaking. Told in alternating perspectives. 978-0-06-287527-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 11.0</p>	1	\$16.99

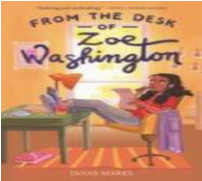
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2010112 (Vol. 01) 11 Before 12 (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lisa Greenwald</i> The first day of middle school means trading in freeze tag at the pool for new schedules, fabulous outfits, and a fresh start. But for eleven-year-old Kaylan, the chaos of new locker combinations, cafeteria cliques, and potential first kisses is more than she can handle. She dreads the start of sixth grade and feels like she wants--no, needs--a winning game plan. 978-0-06-241174-7 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 416 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 590</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-During the last weeks of summer, Kaylan and her friend Arianna become very nervous about entering middle school. To alleviate some of their fears, they create an "11 Before 12" list-11 things that they hope will make them fabulous and confident by the time they turn 12 in November. After the two have initial success with list items such as "highlight our hair" and "make a guy friend," the school year starts, and the social dynamics of middle school put a strain on their friendship. With Arianna not speaking to her, Kaylan must figure out a new way to handle her anxiety and navigate tense situations at home. Kaylan finds support in unexpected places and discovers surprising strengths of her own, but she also realizes that she misses Arianna, and she works to regain her friendship so that they can celebrate the

completion of their list. Although this story does not break much new ground, the voice of a tween dealing with the pressures of adolescence is authentic, and this book will entice those who want to read about a relatable, funny young woman. VERDICT Purchase where tales about the dramas of middle school and family life are in great demand.-Sarah Reid, Four County Library System, NY Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2070511 (Vol. 02) 12 Before 13 (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lisa Greenwald</i> Inspired by the success of their first birthday bucket list, Ari and her BFF, Kaylan, set twelve new goals for the new school year. And this time? They're totes not forgetting to focus on their friendship. 978-0-06-241177-8 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 590</p>	1	\$16.99

From the Desk of Zoe Washington (Prebound)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2240646 (Vol. 01) From the Desk of Zoe Washington (Prebound) <i>written by Janae Marks</i> This book follows Zoe Washington after she receives an unexpected letter on her twelfth birthday from the incarcerated father she's never met and her courageous journey to uncover the truth about his crime. 978-1-5364-6974-5 ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 660</p>	1	\$20.95

Reviews by: Booklist This exceptionally sweet debut from Marks illustrates profound cracks in the American criminal justice system while telling an affecting story grounded in the middle-grade experience. Zoe Washington, a soon-to-be seventh-grader growing up outside Boston, is celebrating a birthday bereft of friends due to distance and betrayal, when a surprise letter from her incarcerated father arrives and throws her life into emotional disarray. The clandestine correspondence they strike up, letters and a few phone calls facilitated by her maternal grandmother, has to be kept a secret from her mother, especially once Zoe decides to investigate whether her father is truly guilty of the dreadful crime that sent him to prison before she was born. Marks tells this story of forgiveness and redemption in a way that will make sense to tween readers without being patronizing or overly complicated. The troubling ways race affects the characters Zoe, who is Black, is subjected to microaggressions when out in public with her white stepfather and Black mother, and she questions whether her father would have been treated differently if he looked less like a typical suspect will facilitate important conversations about racial profiling and incarceration rates for people of color. Fortunately, Marks' capable storytelling and engaging characters also combine into a wondrous confection of a book, full of heart and hope and promise.--Shaunterria Owens Copyright 2019 Booklist

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Zoe Washington is startled to receive a letter from her biological father, Marcus, who was convicted of murder before she was born. Though she's on the outs with Trevor, her next-door neighbor and quondam best friend, she accepts his offer to help investigate the situation, since Marcus seems smart and kind in his letter, unlike the man her mother described. Despite her mom's firm no-contact rule, Zoe secretly responds to Marcus, hoping to get to know him and learn more about his sentence. Meanwhile, the aspiring young pastry chef is also hoping to audition for her favorite TV baking competition, and she's proving herself worthy to her family by interning at a local bakery. Marks delivers a spirited central character whose determination to get to the truth is admirable. While the outcome is wishful-Zoe uncovers an injustice in Marcus' sentencing that eventually leads to his release-the plot effectively explores a problematic system that allows for disproportionate wrongful conviction of African-American individuals, with telling details such as the talk many Black parents have with their children about interactions with police. An involving family story, this novel could also serve as an introduction to social justice for elementary schoolers. QB

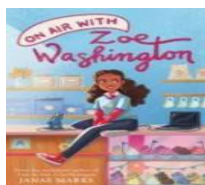
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews r incarcerated father, whom she's never met, 12-year-old Zoe sets out to prove his innocence. It's the summer before seventh grade, and aspiring pastry chef Zoe sets her sights on perfecting her baking skills to audition as a contestant on Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge. One day, she receives a letter from her father, Marcus, who was sent to prison for murder right before Zoe was born. She's never met Marcus, and her mother wants her to have nothing to do with him. So Zoe keeps the letter a secret and begins corresponding with Marcus on a regular basis. He shares his favorite songs and encourages Zoe's baking-competition dreams. When Marcus proclaims his innocence, Zoe is shocked: How could someone innocent end up in prison? With the help of her grandmother and her friend Trevor, Zoe begins to learn about systemic racism and how black people like her and Marcus are more likely to be wrongfully convicted of murder than white people. Zoe's relationship with Marcus is at the center of the novel, but her relationships with her mother, stepfather, grandmother, and Trevor are also richly

conveyed. This powerful debut packs both depth and sweetness, tackling a tough topic in a sensitive, compelling way. An extraordinary, timely, must-read debut about love, family, friendship, and justice. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly On her 12th birthday, Zoe Washington receives a letter from Marcus, the biological father she's never met, who has been serving time for murder since just before Zoe's birth. Zoe's mother and stepfather don't want her in touch with Marcus, but Zoe, curious, strikes up a correspondence with the help of her maternal grandmother, who believes Marcus to be "a good person at heart." Aspiring pastry chef Zoe grows busy as she makes up with her best friend Trevor, writes to Marcus, and interns at a family friend's bakery, where she hopes to prove to her parents that she could compete on Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge. When Marcus tells Zoe he is innocent, and her grandmother agrees, Zoe begins to learn about inequality in the criminal justice system, and she and Trevor set out to find the alibi witness who can prove his innocence. Debut author Marks seamlessly weaves timely discussions about institutionalized racism into this uplifting and engaging story that packs an emotional punch. Zoe is a relatable tween, with friendship and familial frustrations that will resonate with readers. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alexander Slater, Trident Media Group. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up--On her 12th birthday, Zoe Washington receives a letter from her birth father, Marcus, who has been in prison her entire life. He wants to get to know her, and even though she knows her mom won't like it, she writes back. In their letters they bond over a shared love of baking--Zoe is interning at a Boston-area bakery over the summer and dreams of becoming a pastry chef--and music. When Marcus dodges Zoe's questions about the crime he committed, she Googles him and is horrified to discover that he was accused of murdering a college classmate. But Marcus also claims he's innocent and that there's even a witness out there who could prove it. Zoe doesn't know what to believe--can innocent people really go to prison? In the course of researching wrongful convictions, she learns about racial bias in the prison system (Zoe and her biological parents are black, a stepfather is white) and decides to search for the alibi witness herself, even though Marcus doesn't want her to get involved. But keeping secrets from her mom quickly gets Zoe in over her head, jeopardizing her chances of obtaining the information she needs to save Marcus. This is one of only a small handful of middle grade novels to explore the experience of having a parent in prison, and the subject is handled with grace and sensitivity. It also exposes the important and timely issue of racial bias in the prison system in a way that is approachable to a middle grade audience. Zoe is a bright, compassionate protagonist for whom readers will root. She is supported by a loving family whose viewpoints differ yet who all want the best for her. The baking subplot will have readers itching to try out Zoe's recipes. VERDICT A smart, necessary, and hopeful middle grade debut that expertly balances a gentle, heartwarming tone with searing insight into systemic racism. Hand to readers who enjoyed Lisa Ramee's A Good Kind of Trouble or Kekla Magoon's The Season of Styx Malone.--Elizabeth Giles, Lubuto Library Partners, Zambia Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington (Trade)



#2310928 (Vol. 02) On Air with Zoe Washington (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Janae Marks

Two years ago, Zoe Washington helped clear Marcus' name for a crime he didn't commit. Now her birth father has finally been released from prison and to an outpouring of community support. So, everything should be perfect. Right? However, starting a new place is much more difficult than it looks, and despite being innocent--Marcus is having a harder time re-entering society than anyone expected. Between hosting her show, testing recipes, managing shifting friend dynamics, and trying to make sure Marcus and her stepdad each have enough time with her--Zoe is stretched thin.

978-0-06-321231-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0

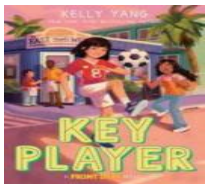
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Zoe Washington, along with her newly exonerated birth father, returns in this upper-middle-grade novel about balancing your passions, finding your voice, and overcoming prejudice. When Marcus mentions his dream of opening a BBQ restaurant, idea girl Zoe is off to the races. But getting a loan isn't easy for someone with no credit score or work history due to incarceration. Zoe and Marcus must find a way to make their dreams come true—even if they have to change—all while Zoe learns that while not everyone who was incarcerated is innocent, they still deserve a second chance. This is a novel of family and a timely discussion of justice issues, also interwoven with middle-school-friendship changes, a ton of sweet baking, and a lovely podcast element that will get readers excited about sharing their own passions with the world. Marks captures the exuberance and energy of early teens in her prose and delicately balances Zoe as a likable protagonist—one with room to broaden her horizons.

Front Desk (Trade)

#2290613 (Vol. 04) Key Player (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



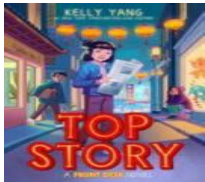
written by Kelly Yang

The Women's World Cup coming to Southern California, everyone is soccer-crazy -- especially Mia Tang! The U.S. is playing China in the finals, and Mia feels like her two identities are finally coming together. Less exciting, though? The fact that her P.E. teacher wants Mia to get out of the soccer field, too -- or fall short of the grade she needs to earn a spot at journalism camp.

978-1-338-77625-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 600

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Mia's feelings about her Chinese and American roots are complicated by the Women's World Cup soccer final between Team USA and Team China. Bookworm Mia Tang struggles to kick a soccer ball, but she must raise her grade in her least favorite class, PE, if she hopes to attend the journalism camp she's dreaming of. She perseveres in her goal of interviewing the women playing for the U.S. and Chinese teams. While Mia remains the keystone for this title, the supporting characters also help elevate the story. Her friend Jason's dad's storyline--told through Jason's eyes--reveals internal pressures to succeed as an immigrant and the importance of family in Asian cultures. Meanwhile, Lupe, Mia's other close friend, dreams of winning the Math Cup, but Mia's mother gets into trouble for helping to coach the team. A central theme of this title is identity, and many Asian American children will relate to being ostracized as perpetual foreigners. Beloved adult characters also experience inequities in housing and the workplace. Yet the hope and excitement for the soccer players clearly inspire Mia, her family, and friends to fight for respect for themselves as they strive to do things others don't believe they can achieve. Reassuringly, everything is resolved positively. Yang scores another win with this tightly paced entry that will ramp up the excitement for Mia's next empowering adventure. A heartwarming story about living your own life fully, even in the face of obstacles. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2333176 (Vol. 05) Top Story (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelly Yang

She's spending winter break with Mom, Lupe, Jason, and Hank in San Francisco's Chinatown! Rich with history and hilarious aunts and uncles, it's the place to find a great story--one she hopes to publish while attending journalism camp at the Tribune. But this trip has as many bumps as the hills of San Francisco . . .

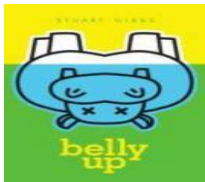
978-1-338-85839-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$18.99

FunJungle (Trade)



#1626018 (Vol. 01) Belly Up (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stuart Gibbs

Twelve-year-old Teddy investigates when a popular Texas zoo's star attraction--Henry the hippopotamus--is murdered.

978-1-4169-8731-4 ©2010 5-1/8 x 7-5/8 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 5.4 Lexile 820

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Henry the hippo is dead. Yes, the signature denizen of Americas newest and largest zoo has been found belly up in his highly, uh, unsanitary habitat (hippos are extraordinarily regular in their habits, so to speak). But theres worse to come when 12-year-old Teddy begins to suspect its murder most foul andin the fine tradition of mysteries for youthsets out to solve the crime by himself. Well, he does have some help from beautiful Summer, the 13-year-old daughter of the zoos fantastically wealthy owner. Who could have dunnit? Large Marge, the surly security guard who has a cold spot in her heart for Teddy? Charlie Connor, the midget clown whos hated Henry ever since the testy hippo took a bite out of him? Or could it be a guerrilla act perpetrated by the anti-zoo Animal Liberation Front? First-novelist Gibbs offers no shortage of suspects in his fast-paced story, which deftly mixes humor and suspense. Cleverly plottedaside from one hippo-sized deus ex machina momentthis book is an auspicious debut that will leave readers clamoring for more.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2010, American Library Association.)

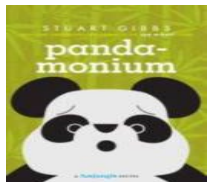
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Something is rotten in FunJungle, the huge Texas park that's a cross between Disneyland and the San Diego Zoo, and it's up to twelve-year-old Teddy, the son of the park's primate specialist, to figure out what it is. The

problem starts with the death of Henry, the foul-tempered hippo who's the park's mascot, and who turns out to have been deliberately killed. Teaming up with Summer, the daughter of the park's owner, Teddy investigates the crime and stumbles into what looks like a conspiracy-but can he solve it before Henry's killers come after him? Promotional copy connects Gibbs to Carl Hiaasen, and there's definitely something of Hiaasen's easygoing, direct style and ecology-related theme here. Even more than Hiaasen's work, though, this is steeped in old-fashioned adventure, starring a kid with enviable freedom and opportunity, who's tangling with classic crime (smuggling of emeralds!) and who's backed by two strong, protective parents. The setting is key, and Gibbs draws a vivid picture of FunJungle, a kajillionaire's pet project that's torn between gate-turning revenue and animal-preservation respectability. Teddy's free-range access to myriad animal enclosures is an alluring fantasy, which the book firmly supports with clear-eyed information about animal behavior and zookeeping logistics. Touches of humor provide additional enjoyment, with many readers likely to find the high and low point simultaneously in the high-speed splatter of a long-rotting hippo carcass. Smart, unironic, and confidently bereft of cool, this is a solidly enjoyable action mystery, a useful complement to Anderson's satirical Thrilling Tales titles (Whales on Stilts, BCCB 4/05, etc.). DS

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Twelve-year-old Teddy is in heaven living with his gorilla-researcher mom and wildlife-photographer dad at the world's largest zoo. When the zoo's hippo mascot is murdered, Teddy not only wants to solve the mystery but also discover why no one else seems to care. Gibbs writes with absurdist humor and seemingly an insider's knowledge of how zoos operate. (Copyright 2010 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twelve-year-old Teddy is a world traveler with a wildlife-photojournalist father and a mother who does gorilla research. Stateside, the family lives at FunJungle, the world's biggest and newest state-of-the-art zoo and theme park, the pet project of a Texas moneybags whose daughter inspired him. Action opens at Hippo River with the death of mascot Henry the Hippo, a beloved creature despite an irascible personality. Teddy sneaks into the autopsy and later strikes up a friendship with Summer, the daughter of the billionaire owner, in his efforts to solve the mystery of who killed Henry. Not a typical child, Teddy has amassed a considerable knowledge of arcane facts of human nature as well as animal behavior in his travels. Overall, the story is great fun, despite a sometimes plodding approach to the narrative that is too reminiscent of a report. In his authorial debut, screenwriter Gibbs combines details of the inner workings of zoos with some over-the-top action for an entertaining read. (Mystery. 9-13)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Teddy Fitzroy, 12, yearns for a little excitement at FunJungle, an animal theme park in Texas where his parents work. When star attraction Henry the Hippo dies under mysterious circumstances, Teddy is convinced that it was murder. Colorful suspects abound, from Large Marge, the security guard, all the way up to J.J. McCracken himself, billionaire owner of FunJungle. Teddy teams up with J.J.'s daughter to ferret out the culprit even as animal-related accidents begin to threaten his safety. A decomposing hippo disaster denouement will fill young minds with equal amounts of horror and glee. Dense with animal trivia, *Belly Up* will suit attentive readers who love mystery and random facts. Teddy's first-person narration allows readers to solve the mystery along with him, but his voice is oddly adult. The content and expression of his thoughts emerge as extraordinarily calm and rational, far from the typical preteen sensibility. His dialogue sounds much more realistic. Gibbs handles issues of animal welfare in a fair way without being preachy, and his motley cast of characters holds its own with quirky personalities and memorable details. Overall, this first novel brings together suspense, wild chase scenes, and enough character development to hold children's attention, despite a few incongruities. Hand it to fans of Gordon Korman's *Swindle* (Scholastic) and Jody Feldman's *The Gollywhopper Games* (HarperCollins, both 2008).—Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT



#1999104 (Vol. 04) **Panda-Monium (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Stuart Gibbs*

FunJungle is frenzied, awaiting the arrival of its most thrilling animal yet--Li Ping--a rare and very expensive giant panda that the zoo went to enormous lengths to secure. But when the truck transporting Li Ping shows up, its precious cargo has vanished into thin air.

978-1-4814-4567-2 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide In the follow-up to *Big Game*, FunJungle Wild Animal Park is abuzz about a new panda--until the truck arrives minus the animal and its escort. As usual, Teddy ends up in the thick of the investigation. Well-researched and cinematically paced, this mystery-romp is only more enjoyable for the improbability that a thirteen-year-old is repeatedly smarter than the adults involved. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this fourth roller coaster of an endangered-species mystery, Teddy is still living at the giant zoo/amusement park called FunJungle, and he's still smack dab in the epicenter of the brouhaha. Middle schooler Teddy, his girlfriend, Summer, and hundreds of panda fanatics anticipate the arrival of a rare panda from China named Li Ping. However, when the guarded truck reaches FunJungle, Li Ping is gone, replaced by a ransom note. Having learned from past mistakes and at the behest of the FBI, Teddy tries to avoid getting involved. No such luck, because his bungling park-security nemesis, Marge, blackmails him into investigating the official investigation. When a villain dressed as a panda

throws Teddy into the freezing-cold water of the polar-bear exhibit, Teddy and Marge forge a new dimension to their relationship. They begin to work together, making some headway into narrowing down the suspects (which include the mythical chupacabra) of this monkey-wrenching whodunit. Gibbs never scrimps on creating belly-laughing hullabaloo for his white protagonists. Interweaving animal facts (pandas can produce 50 pounds of poop per day) into his plot, the author seamlessly inspires compassion and urgency on behalf of species endangered due to lack of habitat and exotic animal trafficking. Never slumping into the formulaic doldrums, the FunJungle series keeps on chugging. (author's note) (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



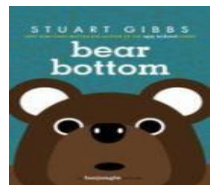
#1937272 (Vol. 03) Big Game (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stuart Gibbs

When someone takes aim at Rhonda Rhino, FunJungle's pregnant (and endangered) Asian greater one-horned rhinoceros, the zoo steps up security measures in order to protect this rare animal and her baby. But the extra security isn't enough--someone is still getting too close for comfort. Teddy and company start to suspect that whoever is after Rhonda is really after her horn, which is worth a lot of money on the black market. For the first time ever, the head of the zoo enlists Teddy for help--for once, he doesn't have to sneak around in order to investigate--and the results are even more wacky, and even more dangerous, than ever before.

978-1-4814-2333-5 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 740

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99



#2224369 (Vol. 07) Bear Bottom (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stuart Gibbs

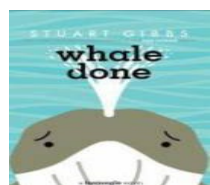
The ranch's endangered bison have been mysteriously disappearing. Then a massive local grizzly bear named Sasquatch breaks into the house, causing chaos. In the aftermath, Kandace McCracken discovers that her exceptionally expensive sapphire necklace has vanished.

978-1-5344-7946-3 ©2021 5-3/4 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 820

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Leaving FunJungle Adventure Park for a vacation on a ranch in West Yellowstone, 13-year-old Teddy and his girlfriend, Summer, find themselves searching for missing bison while in the middle of solving a jewel heist. The latest book in Gibbs' FunJungle series leaves the adventure park for new territory. Even so, Teddy can't seem to escape mysteries. While staying at the Oy Vey Corral, his skills as a teen detective are enlisted by the ranch owners to help find out who is stealing their purebred bison. When a grizzly bear named Sasquatch breaks into the ranch house late one night and Summer's mother's dazzling multimillion-dollar necklace goes missing, Teddy finds himself working not just one whodunit, but two. From an old hidden room for hiding bootleggers' stashes to an abandoned gold mine and a bull on the loose, Gibbs keeps the pace moving and the action coming. While most of the main characters are presumed White, there is diversity in secondary characters. The owners of the Oy Vey Corral are Jewish. Gibbs doesn't shy away from discussing America's brutal treatment of Native peoples or the ways Americans have destroyed animal populations and habitats. This action-packed mystery with a satisfying resolution doesn't rest on predictable thieves or obvious answers. A thrilling, mystery-laden story with an incredible setting. (author's note) (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

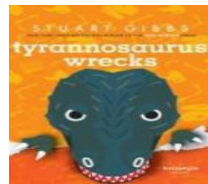


#2311066 (Vol. 08) Whale Done (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stuart Gibbs

First, a massive dead whale has washed up on the beach--and before anyone can determine what killed it, it explodes. Doc, the head vet from FunJungle, suspects something fishy is going on and ropes Teddy and Summer into helping him investigate. Then, Teddy stumbles upon yet another mystery involving tons of stolen sand. And the paparazzi start spreading rumors about Summer dating a celebrity, leading Teddy to question their relationship.

978-1-5344-9931-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99



#2156199 (Vol. 06) Tyrannosaurus Wrecks (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stuart Gibbs

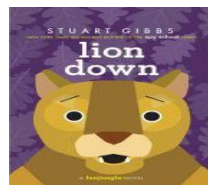
Teddy was all set for a campout at his friend Sage's family ranch--but then Sage gets terrible news: The skull of a rare dinosaur that was being excavated on his property has mysteriously vanished overnight in the middle of a rainstorm, even though it weighed 500 pounds. Not a single footprint has been left behind. Since the dinosaur was top secret, the police don't believe anyone outside the dig could have stolen it.

978-1-5344-4375-4 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 830

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Teddy and his friends have a new mystery to solve in this latest installment of the "Funjungle" series--the improbable theft of a rare, 500-pound T. Rex skull worth millions that was found on Teddy's friend Sage's ranch. The local bumbling sheriff thinks the theft must be a hoax and refuses to spend much time on the case, so Sage asks Teddy to investigate. Soon everyone's a suspect and Teddy and his friends have their hands full trying to solve the mystery. Side plots about the exotic animal pet trade, as well as animal abuse within the zoo (the "Zebra Spanker") add further intrigue and excitement. As in other "Funjungle" books, Gibbs mixes in plenty of information to keep animal lovers happy--such as how snakes flick their tongues to aid in smelling. VERDICT Gibbs has managed once again to write an engaging and educational fiction book that kids will love. Buy where the rest of the series is popular. --Laura Gardner, Dartmouth Middle School, MA Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2089256 (Vol. 05) Lion Down (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stuart Gibbs

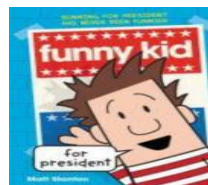
For once, operations at the zoo/theme park appear to be running smoothly. But then a local lion is accused of killing a famous dog--and the dog's owner, an inflammatory radio host, goes on a crusade to have the cat declared a nuisance so it can be hunted. It looks like the lion might have been framed.

978-1-5344-2473-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 850

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Funny Kid (Trade)



#2042560 (Vol. 01) Funny Kid for President (Hardcover (POB))
written by Matt Stanton

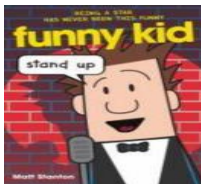
When Max gets blamed for pooping in the storeroom (which he did NOT do), tensions hit an all-time high between him and his terrifying teacher, Mr. Armstrong. But then, the most unexpected thing happens--the school principle, Mrs. Sniggles, suggests Max run for class president.

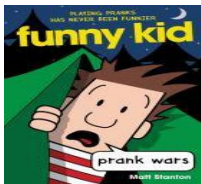
978-0-06-257291-2 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 2.0

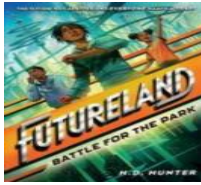
Quantity
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Unit Price
\$13.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-Max Walburt decides to run for class president. Since he's not the best athlete, the smartest, the tallest, or the most handsome, his platform will be that he is the funniest. And funny he proves to be in this hilarious combination of text, drawings, and comics. Max has a lot to deal with: he's being stalked by a duck who thinks he's its mother, his teacher absolutely loathes him, and somebody pooped on the classroom floor (Max is blamed for this transgression even though he's innocent). And classmate Abby Purcell, who, like every villain, has one magical eyebrow that can be raised cynically at will, vows to beat him in the election. Poop, vomit, and snot jokes abound as each candidate is taken out of the competition by someone's evilly successful plan. But who is the culprit behind the election sabotage? Max and his friend Hugo are on the case. Max's droll observations are made even more comical by the simple but highly expressive line drawings, which enhance the humor and plot immensely. This book is guaranteed to be very popular with reluctant readers. Australian spellings will be easily

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2063697 (Vol. 02) Stand Up (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Matt Stanton</i> He's not the strongest, or the smartest, or the handsomest kid in his class--but he may well be the funniest! When an obnoxious clown threatens to steal the show, Max has to come up with a stand-up routine that people will never forget. 978-0-06-257294-3 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 3.0	1	\$13.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2087112 (Vol. 03) Prank Wars (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Matt Stanton</i> Max is the Funny Kid and given the choice, he'd always rather laugh than fight. But when a prank war breaks out just before the big overnight class trip, Max has no choice but to pull off the funniest prank ever! 978-0-06-257297-4 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 3.0	1	\$12.99

Futureland (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2299882 (Vol. 01) Battle for the Park (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by H. D. Hunter</i> Everyone wants a ticket to Futureland, where you can literally live out your wildest dreams. Want to step inside your favorite video game? Go pro in a sports arena? Perform at a real live concert? Grab your ticket and come right in. But things aren't quite right with the Atlanta opening. Park attractions are glitching. Kids go missing. And when his parents are blamed, Cam must find the missing kids and whoever's trying to take down his family... before it's too late. 978-0-593-47942-1 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 570	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Walker family is building a new theme park above Atlanta, Georgia. Futureland is an imaginative, Wonka-esque place that gives kids their heart's desire, and it's fitted out with the latest technology, including humanlike androids called revs. Seventh-grader Cam Walker is heir to this legacy, but doesn't know if he wants it. He recently started real school on the ground, and all his new friends are envious of his life. No one would believe that all he wants is to be a regular kid. When some kids go missing after the park's opening night and Cam's parents start acting strange, Cam and his new friends must solve the mystery before the Futureland legacy is destroyed. Hunter makes good use of the Atlanta setting, exploring the city's rich history and populating it with mostly Black characters. Some troubling elements of Atlanta's past are highlighted throughout the book and add to the story's texture. A thought-provoking middle-grade sci-fi story with an adventurous pace.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Black seventh grader Cameron J. Walker has never been to a normal school before--he's been busy hovering above major world cities in Futureland. It's 2048, and the high-tech theme park is filled with his parents' imaginative inventions, including lifelike androids, or revs. But the plan this school year is to float above Atlanta so Cameron can enroll at Eastside Middle School, spend time with his Grandma Ava, and make some human kid friends. Plans go awry as corporate espionage and shady housing practices intersect before Futureland's Atlanta opening. The Atlanta Disuse and Redevelopment Corporation and its shady White CEO have been spying on them, hoping to sabotage the park and appropriate its technology in its continued efforts to exploit the city for profit. Their plan involves hacking into revs, undermining the park's--and surrounding community's--security and safety measures, as well as abducting children to elicit fear and acquiring the space for themselves. These events evoke the real-life child abductions of 1980s Atlanta and the displacement issues the city faces today. The book is not entirely successful in handling weighty subjects like missing Black children, gentrification, and racial inequities. Aspiring detective Cameron struggles with self-doubt, something that is relatable for readers but also compromises the momentum of such a high-stakes story. Nevertheless,

with the help of friends (human and rev alike), Cam saves the day. Final art not seen. An imaginative and ambitious not-so-distant future tale with a lot to say about the present. (Science fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 2048, Black middle schooler Cameron J. Walker lives in Futureland, a flying futuristic theme park he helps his family run. He's literally on top of the world until his parents decide that Futureland's next destination will be his mother's hometown, Atlanta, where they'll remain for the year while Cameron attends his first "real" school Earth-side, staying with his grandmother on school nights. New friends, portrayed as racially diverse, help Cameron settle in; he gets to assist with Futureland on the weekends; and excitement is high for the park's local launch. But everything changes when the park's robots start to malfunction, exhibiting emotional responses more complex than their coding should allow, and kids begin going missing. Cameron and his new pals start unraveling the occurrences, hoping to link them with his parents' odd behavior and a seedy corporation that's gentrifying Atlanta. Interspersed with comics-style illustrations by Khatib (The Marvellers) and featuring enigmatic interstitials, Hunter's debut foregrounds futuristic tech and themes about the value of charting one's own path, creating an exhilarating mystery. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Suzie Townsend, New Leaf Literary. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Welcome to Futureland, the most innovative theme park in the year 2048. Traveling in the air, it offers visitors a one-of-a-kind VR experience where they can live out their biggest dreams. For seventh-grader Cameron Walker, who is Black, it's just his daily life: his parents created Futureland. Now, though, the park has stopped over Atlanta, and things start to go awry at the park. The revs--highly realistic, AI park characters--are taking on troubling traits; Cameron's parents are acting very strange; children are disappearing. In order to save Atlanta and the park, Cameron's going to have to use his best sleuthing skills to solve a mystery much more dangerous than he imagined. Readers will be bursting to visit every "destiny" in this fictional theme park, and the fast-paced plot will keep them reading. More than that, though, it's the characters and messaging that will stick with tweens. Featuring a cast that's made up almost entirely of people of color, the book speaks to social justice issues in middle grade-friendly ways. There are a few moments in the story where readers may stumble over a character's motive, but not enough to slow them down. Dynamic comic spreads by Khatib are sprinkled throughout the story, occasionally in places that feel abrupt, but overall they add to the moving plot. VERDICT An exciting new series that will grab readers with its futuristic setting, diverse characters, and brisk plotting.--Kristin Brynsvold Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2355955 (Vol. 02) Nightmare Hour (Hardcover (Trade))

written by H. D. Hunter

The most spectacular theme park in the world is headed to the Big Apple. After Atlanta, Cam Walker and his family are ready to turn over a new leaf with Futureland. This is where dreams literally come true, and the Walkers are going to show the people of New York City that their park is back and better than ever. But trouble isn't done with the Walkers yet. Glitches keep happening with the park attractions. There's a creepy carnival in town that gives Cam goosebumps. Plus, he just can't shake the feeling that his family is being watched. And it may be his imagination, but are the people around him acting... stranger than usual?

978-0-593-47946-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 630

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Galactic Hot Dogs (Trade)



#2161510 (Vol. 01) Cosmoe's Wiener Getaway (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Max Brallier

Cosmoe and the rest of the crew journey to food competitions across the universe. The Princess Dagger doesn't plan on going anywhere, and her presence on the ship means her mother is gunning for the Neon Wiener. Cosmoe rallies his friends to fight space jerks in all their many forms and vows to protect the princess. But can a group of hot dog enthusiasts face down an evil space queen?

978-1-5344-7797-1 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile GN 570

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

#2161512 (Vol. 02) Wiener Strikes Back (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99



written by Max Brallier

The circus-goers can't get enough Galactic Hot Dogs, and between the death-defying acts and highly unusual employees. They soon discover there's more to the glitz and showmanship than meets the eye in fact, the hot-dog-loving crew may be in more danger than ever before. And getting to the bottom of the circus's secrets may mean confronting Cosmoe's troubled past.

978-1-5344-7800-8 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 3.3 Lexile 570



#2161514 (Vol. 03) Revenge of the Space Pirates (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Max Brallier

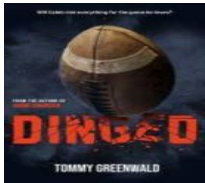
It's like deja vu all over again when Cosmoe is taken hostage by a space pirate with links to the hot dog seller's early days in space. Humphree's past also comes to light as the events of two friends' first days on the Neon Wiener are revealed. And the farther they go down memory lane, the more apparent it becomes that this pirate has landed them in a galaxy of danger.

978-1-5344-7803-9 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 3.2 Lexile 540

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Game Changer (Trade)



#2292696 Dinged (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tommy Greenwald

Caleb Springer is the up-and-coming star freshman quarterback on the high school football team, which isn't a surprise considering his dad, Sammy Springer, was an NFL superstar and is now the town celebrity. But just as Caleb's glory days begin, his dad starts to change. He's forgetting things and getting angry at random times. Caleb is forced to confront a bleak possibility: The sport that gives him so much status and self-worth might be the cause of his dad's strange behavior. Will Caleb keep playing the sport of his dreams, even if he knows how dangerous it can be?

978-1-4197-5515-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A talented high school quarterback weighs gridiron glory against the scary possibility of permanent brain damage. Greenwald lays out a scenario—set a few years later at the same school as in Game Changer (2018)—that will give anyone whose world revolves around strapping on shoulder pads and getting into the huddle second thoughts. As he leads the Walthorne Wildcats through an undefeated season, freshman quarterback Caleb Springer shows every sign of being well on the way to following his father's footsteps into the NFL...except that ominous symptoms follow every hard hit he takes to the head, and as the season wears on, he also sees his strong, confident dad exhibiting ever more erratic behavior, uncharacteristic bursts of anger, and serious signs of memory loss. Will Caleb's love of the game, combined with the high expectations of his father, teammates, coaches, and fellow students, spur him to carry on despite determined opposition from his tough-minded new girlfriend, Nina Rojas, and even after his dad, forced at last to see a neurologist, gets a diagnosis of early-onset dementia? Along with a list of resources at the end, the author folds frightening scenes with an injured teammate and another ex-NFL player into the story as he takes his confused protagonist through the championship game to a decision that may be smart even if just possibly too late. The cast mainly presents White. A cogent cautionary tale showing football at its most violent and joyless.

Gamer (Stone Arch Books)

#2304468 Bandit Battle (Library Binding)

written by Shawn Pryor

Criminal mastermind Cynthia Cyber recruits a videogame super-villain named

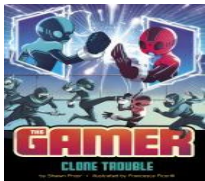
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.49



Bandora Bandit to battle The Gamer. When the Bandit tracks down The Gamer, she transports him to her own videogame world for a Wild West showdown! Will The Gamer defeat the super-powered villain and find his way back home?

978-1-6663-4805-7 ©2023 5 x 7 40 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts .5 GR Lvl O Lexile 560



#2304469 Clone Trouble (Library Binding)

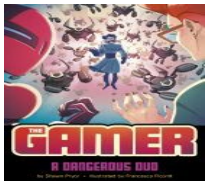
written by Shawn Pryor

Criminal mastermind Cynthia Cyber has hatched her most devious plot yet. She's created an evil clone of The Gamer called Gamertron to defeat the superhero! Gamertron has the same powers and skills as The Gamer, and a group of digital ninjas is ready to do his bidding! Can The Gamer stop the villains, or will this be the superhero's final fight?

978-1-6663-4821-7 ©2023 5 x 7 40 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O Lexile 560

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.49



#2304470 Dangerous Duo (Library Binding)

written by Shawn Pryor

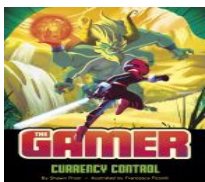
A new supervillain named Mutiny Doom has come to town and kicked Cynthia Cyber out of her evil lair! Mutiny plans to do the thing that Cynthia can't do: defeat The Gamer once and for all! But when The Gamer is overwhelmed by Mutiny and his monsters, an unexpected team-up may just save the day!

978-1-6663-4828-6 ©2023 5 x 7 40 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts .5 GR Lvl O Lexile 540

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.49

Reviews by: School Library Journal Tyler Morant, who uses a device to activate powers and weapons for his battles against wicked digital monsters. Early in the book his nemesis, Cynthia Cyber, is defeated and replaced by malicious Mutiny Doom. As Tyler is playing in Crescent City Arcade, living versions of monsters from the games go on the attack against children. Tyler activates his powers and goes into combat first against the monsters, then confronting Mutiny Doom himself, eventually, with an assist from Cynthia. Text is sparse, typically with no more than four paragraphs to a page and fewer than 20 words per paragraph. Many pages feature onomatopoeic exclamations in enormous fonts, such as "KRASHHHH!" when The Gamer's energy field is destroyed by rocket fists. Illustrations are plentiful, but have a clumsy, computer-generated feel, are often oddly framed, and do little to complement or advance the story. The volume, written at a first to third grade reading level, concludes with a glossary of words highlighted throughout the text, such as atom, lair, and portal, as well as a list of discussion questions and writing prompts. **VERDICT** With little character development or plot, poor illustrations, and simplistic writing, this one is unsuitable for most libraries. Not recommended.



#2273783 Currency Control (Library Binding)

written by Shawn Pryor

Evil Cynthia Cyber is robbing banks with her latest creation, a villain named Currency. The stolen money will go toward building a machine that can capture people in a simulation program. There she could control every victim's life. It's up to the Gamer to stop Cynthia Cyber from taking over the world!

978-1-6639-7705-2 ©2022 5 x 7 40 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts .5 Lexile 550

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.49



#2273784 Digital Terror (Library Binding)

written by Shawn Pryor

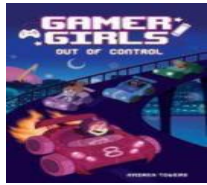
Criminal Cynthia Cyber finds the most sinister video game monster and pulls him out of the digital world into reality! As the Terror Beast tears down buildings all over the city and creates nightmares for the citizens, the Gamer must use new strategy to beat his fears and stop Cynthia's latest threat!

978-1-6639-7706-9 ©2022 5 x 7 40 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.0 AR Pts .5 Lexile 500

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.49

Gamer Girls (Trade)



#2363353 (Vol. 03) Out of Control (Hardcover (POB))

written by Andrea Towers

Lucy is the newest member of the Gamer Girls. She loves her new school, her family, and her friends, but she misses her old life in California, too. After unsuccessfully trying to convince her parents to let her visit California, they decide to bring her aunt and cousin Jordan to HER! +10 XP for awesome parents.

978-1-5248-8867-1 ©2024 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#2323342 (Vol. 02) Monster Village (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andrea Towers

Gamer Girls are four besties who prove that girls can game! But when a new game comes out, it's not a hit with everyone. Maybe they should stick to video game battles instead of middle school arguments!

978-1-5248-8452-9 ©2023 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 790

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#2323319 (Vol. 01) Gnat vs. Spyder (Hardcover (POB))

written by Andrea Towers

Thirteen-year-old Natalie lives a double life. By day, she's an average eighth grader at Golden Trails Middle. At night, she's Gnat112, a streamer for her favorite video game, Alienlord. But when the new girl moves in next door, will Natalie's double life be revealed?

978-1-5248-8453-6 ©2023 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 790

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99

Garbage Pail Kids (Trade)

#2180192 (Vol. 01) Welcome to Smellville (Hardcover (POB))

written by R. L. Stine

Welcome to the town of Smellville, where a dozen kids all live in a big tumbledown house and have as much fun as they possibly can. People may think that they're gross and weird and strange, but they're not bad kids--they just don't know any better. In this

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$14.99



hilarious new series from bestselling author R. L. Stine, the Garbage Pail Kids--from Adam Bomb to Brainy Janie--get into mischief at their middle school, all while battling bullies and their archenemies, Penny and Parker Perfect.

978-1-4197-4361-0 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8 208 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 4.0



#2219755 (Vol. 02) Thrills and Chills (Hardcover (Trade))
written by R. L. Stine

The Garbage Pail Kids are desperate to win the Smellville Pet Contest. But how can they compete against Good Boy, the perfect Chihuahua of the Perfect twins? Good Boy can stand on his head and do algebra problems blindfolded. But the whole thing goes out of control when our heroes meet five new kids who also call themselves the Garbage Pail Kids! (Includes Stickers)

978-1-4197-4363-4 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 208 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99



#2256423 (Vol. 03) Camp Daze (Hardcover (POB))
written by R. L. Stine

Welcome to the town of Smellville, where ten kids all live in a big tumbledown house and have as much fun as they possibly can. People may think that they're gross and weird and slobby and strange, but they're not bad kids--they just don't know any better.

978-1-4197-4365-8 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 208 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99

Ghost Hunters (Trade)



#2269686 (Vol. 01) Bones in the Wall (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Susan McCauley


Twelve-year-old Alex may have lost his ability to play sports, but he gained the ability to see ghosts. Now he must figure out how to put an evil spirit to rest--or die trying.


978-1-951069-04-9 ©2020 6 x 9 182 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$29.99


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A bereaved boy discovers that he can see ghosts in this middle-grade novel. Ever since 1900, when spiritualists "tore a hole" between the real world and the supernatural realm, poltergeists have come through the opening and plagued mortals. Like all children, 12-year-old Alex Lenard was tattooed at birth with a mark shielding him from "evil spirits." His house in New Orleans is covered in pentacles and other signs of protection. Supernatural entities--and the arcane methods of keeping them at bay--are an everyday part of life. Alex is a star ghostball player at school. But on the way to the state championship, he is badly injured in a car accident. His mother is killed. Not only will the grief-stricken Alex never play again, the accident switches something inside of him. He develops psychic powers--a change thought to be impossible at his age. Alex doesn't wish to see ghosts. His dad is staunchly anti-psychic, and going back to school will be hard enough for Alex without having his crazy aunt and his weird, paranormal-obsessed cousin Hannah move in next door. But what Alex wants doesn't seem to matter. When he accompanies his aunt and cousin on one of their investigations, they uncover a spirit that needs putting to rest--and an evil entity hell-bent on stopping them. Backed by his Jamaican best friend, Jason Anderson, Alex must either accept his new situation or risk losing everyone he has left. McCauley writes in the first person, past tense and tells a simple story at an effective pace. The worldbuilding is a bit clumsy at first--the early

chapters repeat some information--but once over its teething troubles, the book moves smoothly from premise to execution. The dialogue is well handled. The ubiquitous nature of the spirits is a pleasing facet that stands out. But of course the true focus is on Alex's loss and how he deals with it. Alex is an average but likable protagonist, and Hannah and Jason are able supporting characters. Young readers should find themselves deeply engrossed. A straightforward but well-structured and absorbing supernatural tale of change and coping. (glossary) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2269688 (Vol. 02) Pirates' Curse (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Susan McCauley</i> Ghosts are commonplace in this dark and exciting world, and the psychics who deal with "the Problem" are rare. Apprentice psychic investigator Alex and his two best friends embark on their first solo case to discover who's haunting an old New Orleans pub. They battle ferocious winds, driving rain, and raging spirits to put a pirates' curse to rest. 978-1-951069-10-0 ©2021 6 x 9 178 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$29.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2275073 (Vol. 03) Spirit Fire (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Susan McCauley</i> Who-or what-is causing the fires in the French Quarter? A little girl? A long-dead prisoner? An evil presence calling to those beyond the grave? In this spooky, fast-paced adventure, twelve-year-old Alex must fight smoke, flames, and ghostly prisoners to stop whatever's causing the blazes-before more lives are lost. 978-1-951069-13-1 ©2021 188 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$29.99

Ghostcloud (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2288242 (Vol. 01) Ghostcloud (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Michael Mann</i> Kidnapped and forced to shovel coal underground, in a half-bombed power station, 12-year-old Luke Smith-Sharma keeps his head down and hopes he can earn his freedom from the evil Tabatha Margate. Then one day he discovers he can see things that others can't. Ghostly things. A ghostly girl named Alma, who can bend the shape of clouds to her will and rides them through the night sky. With Alma's help, Luke discovers his own innate powers and uncovers the terrible truth of why Tabatha is kidnapping children and forcing them to shovel coal. Desperate to escape, Luke teams up with Alma, his best friend Ravi, and new girl Jess. 978-1-68263-518-6 ©2022 320 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Two years ago, Luke Smith-Sharma was kidnapped by the wicked Tabatha Margate. Now enslaved at the Battersea power station, he moves and loads coal to keep the power working. When he and another girl are whisked off for a punishment worse than shoveling coal--cleaning sewage--he wishes for a different life. His wish is granted, but not in the way he thought: Luke is now a half-ghost. This change opens up the world for him, as he can now escape his body and fly through London. With his new bird's-eye view of the power station and help from full-ghost Alma, Luke plans an escape with his friends Jess and Ravi. The plan is simple, but there's danger at every turn, especially with Tabatha after them. Alma and the other ghost rules seem to be almost an afterthought--more a means to an end than the heart of the story. Still, this is a fun first novel in the vein of Obert Skye and Brian Farrey. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide In a post-apocalyptic alternate London, twelve-year-old Luke Smith-Sharma is one of the kidnapped children enslaved as a coal shoveler under the Battersea Power Station. When Luke and new-girl Jess accidentally drop coal dust on their cruel supervisor,

Tabatha, they are locked up in an experimental incinerator room. There Luke makes an odd discovery: a girl he rescues from the incinerator turns out to be a "ghostcloud" who can take him riding through the sky on water vapor and who shows him some exterior vents on the power station they can use to escape. Luke and Jess begin secretly exploring the vents and uncover Tabatha's unsavory experiments in her hidden lab -- experiments that tie together ghosts, electricity, and the smog that shows up when children are kidnapped. The Dickensian hardships endured by the protagonists of this mystery-adventure will appeal to young readers who enjoy a little ostentatious exaggerated suffering in their fiction; so, too, will the characters' resourcefulness as they follow the clues and form alliances to combat the evil they uncover. The mild supernatural elements integrate smoothly into the alternate setting, while the idea of "halves" (Luke is "Half-Indian. Half-detective. Half-ghost") adds a somewhat wistful theme of identity to the rollicking action. (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In a post-apocalyptic alternate London, twelve-year-old Luke Smith-Sharma is one of the kidnapped children enslaved as a coal shoveler under the Battersea Power Station. When Luke and new-girl Jess accidentally drop coal dust on their cruel supervisor, Tabatha, they are locked up in an experimental incinerator room. There Luke makes an odd discovery: a girl he rescues from the incinerator turns out to be a "ghostcloud" who can take him riding through the sky on water vapor and who shows him some exterior vents on the power station they can use to escape. Luke and Jess begin secretly exploring the vents and uncover Tabatha's unsavory experiments in her hidden lab -- experiments that tie together ghosts, electricity, and the smog that shows up when children are kidnapped. The Dickensian hardships endured by the protagonists of this mystery-adventure will appeal to young readers who enjoy a little ostentatious exaggerated suffering in their fiction; so, too, will the characters' resourcefulness as they follow the clues and form alliances to combat the evil they uncover. The mild supernatural elements integrate smoothly into the alternate setting, while the idea of "halves" (Luke is "Half-Indian. Half-detective. Half-ghost") adds a somewhat wistful theme of identity to the rollicking action. Anita L. Burkam(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A supernatural story of one boy's survival in the darkest of times, set in a dystopian London. It has been two years since Luke Smith-Sharma last saw his family. Kidnapped along with thousands of other children, he spends his days shoveling coal in Battersea Power Station, hidden away from the world. The setting is palpably Dickensian, covered in steam and soot, and controlled by Cruella de Vil-like villain Tabatha Margate. White and Indian Luke is also half-ghost, able to see things others cannot. Aiding Luke in his efforts to escape are richly developed supporting characters: his best friend and bunkmate, Ravi; plucky new girl and plumber's niece Jess; and Alma, a ghost girl yearning for closure. Along with Luke's newfound ghosting skills, Alma teaches him how to leave the physical world and fly above steampunk London, where he gains a larger perspective on their predicament. The situation becomes harrowing as he learns of Margate's despicable plans. Some of the content is quite gritty and dark as the novel critiques social inequities; it feels like Charles Dickens, Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, and Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* rolled into one. Mann creates empathy for Luke, who shows clear hope and compassion for others during this evil time. The quick-witted humor and fast pace keep the entertainment factor high. Thrilling. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Scores of kidnapped children shovel coal into Battersea Power Station's underground furnaces, powering all of smog-ridden London, in debut author Mann's splendid escapist adventure. Two years after 12-year-old Luke Smith-Sharma, who's of Indian descent, arrives at the station, he tries to keep new girl Jess from slowing the shoveling line and jeopardizing his chance at a freedom-granting amber ticket. But an ensuing incident results in foul punishment for both: cleaning the sewers. It's during this task that Luke rescues a ghostcloud, or water-bonded spirit, called Alma, who recognizes Luke for the half-ghost he is, and reveals his ability to both perceive the uncanny and fly over an alternate London, which is overseen by evil magnate Tabatha Margate. This taste of the outside world sets aspiring detective Luke on the road to escape, accompanied by Alma, plumber hopeful Jess, and goods and information trader Ravi, who prove fully realized characters and co-conspirators. Smartly wrought worldbuilding aptly engages with themes of identity and equity while conjuring an atmospherically gritty London that's at once singularly inventive and reminiscent of works by Joan Aiken, Charles Dickens, and Philip Pullman. It's a thoughtful and well-built fantasy that's also rollicking good fun. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stephanie Thwaites, Curtis Brown. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--In an alternate London, children are being kidnapped and forced to shovel coal underground to power the city. The factory is run by the watchful and villainous Tabitha Margate, who has threatened to turn slackers and complainers into fuel. Twelve-year-old Luke Smith-Sharma and his best friend, Ravi, know how to survive--keep their heads down, perfect their shoveling technique, and hope that they can earn an elusive golden ticket that would earn their freedom. When Jess, a new girl with a cheery attitude who has dreams of becoming a plumber, makes a mistake that could threaten the whole line of shovelers, Luke goes against everything he thought he believed in to protect her. When the two of them are sent to their punishment, Luke meets Alma, a ghost that only he can see and hear. He learns a surprising truth and that the mysterious and powerful Ghost Council may be the key to exposing Tabitha and saving everyone. This is a magical and engaging debut with likable protagonists and thrilling adventure set against the backdrop of a fascinating smog-covered London. It has wide appeal and will be especially loved by readers of Neil Gaiman, Roald Dahl, and the Rick Riordan Presents imprint. VERDICT A first purchase for all middle grade collections. This series opener is not to be missed.--Marissa Lieberman Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2348899 (Vol. 02) Nightspark (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Michael Mann</i>	1	\$17.99
Several months after the ghosts freed the children of Battersea and uncovered Tabatha Margate's sinister experimentation on ghostclouds and cloudghouls, Luke Smith-		



Sharma struggles to divide his time between learning the ropes of being a ghostcloud and studying to become a detective. But not everyone made it out of the power station, and as he tries to adjust to "normal" life by pursuing his dreams, the guilt over his friends left behind is eating Luke alive.

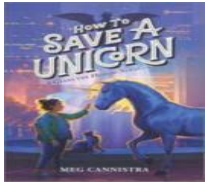
978-1-68263-660-2 ©2023 6 x 8 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ominous signs that murderous Battersea Power Station owner Tabatha Margate is staging a comeback lead to a rematch with former child worker and part-time ghost Luke Smith-Sharma. Actually, Londoner Luke has multiple foes to face in this sequel to Ghostcloud (2022)—notably the corrupt and treacherous mayor of London and the hostile Ghost Council, which wants him permanently dead instead of only sometimes. But Tabatha is by far the scariest threat, and eerie glimpses of her shadow lead through noxious, bone-strewn sewers to a smugglers' haven, followed by a nighttime Channel crossing into enemy territory and a dismaying revelation about her nefarious schemes to exploit Luke's ghostly skills. Fortunately, he not only still has several sturdy allies from the opener, but also new ones in his friend Ravi's hostile but helpful big sister, Radhika, and even Terence, once (and maybe still) Tabatha's right-hand man but now seemingly willing to turn over a new leaf. Along with that sewer crawl, a later trip in a crate of smelly cheese, and several massive explosions, Mann tucks much exhilarating zooming about on clouds (which is how ghosts get around) into this crowd-pleasing adventure and caps the lot with a last-tick save of everyone in London, both living and not so much. Names and the previous volume establish ethnic diversity in the cast. A melodramatic dust-up, with ghosts aplenty and a Dickensian flavor. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Giada the Healer (Trade)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#2349542 (Vol. 02) How to Save a Unicorn (Hardcover (Trade))

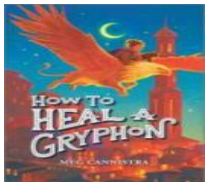
written by Meg Cannistra

Giada Bellantuono has traveled all the way from Italy to New York City to follow her dreams: begin her official training as a magical veterinarian! It wasn't easy going against generations of family tradition, not to mention saving said family from wicked witches.

978-1-335-45802-5 ©2023 6-1/4 x 9-1/2 384 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2293027 (Vol. 01) How to Heal a Gryphon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Meg Cannistra

With her thirteenth birthday just around the corner, Giada Bellantuono has to make a big decision: will she join the family business and become a healer or follow her dreams? When a group of witches kidnaps her beloved older brother, Rocco, and her parents are away, Giada is the only person left who can rescue him. Swept into the magical underground city of Malavita, Giada will need the help of her new companions to save her brother-or risk losing him forever.

978-1-335-42687-1 ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 384 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Giada is nearly 13—nearly old enough to take the oath of a magical healer of humans, as most in her family have done for generations. But Giada doesn't want to heal humans. She's happier caring for animals, including the magical ones around their coastal Italian city of Positano, and that's what she decides to do. But before she can tell her parents, her brother is kidnapped by malevolent witches and spirited away to their eerie underground city. It becomes clear that Giada is the only one who can get him back, though she will have to draw on all her magic and animal friendships to do so. Cannistra's wonderfully engrossing and atmospheric story is replete with intriguing Italian folklore, locations, and language (all witches are "streghe," the healers "guaritori"). Giada is a joy to befriend; she's aware of her shortcomings but also confident in her magic, and she unapologetically delights in her fat body and all that it's capable of. It's worth a trip to this enchanting (and enchanted) Italian coast.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this Amalfi Coast: set adventure steeped in Italian culture and folklore, Cannistra (The Trouble with Shooting Stars) introduces readers to a stubborn heroine determined to embrace her true strengths. Giada Bellantuono, nearly 13, is in training to become a guaritrice; an Italian witch specializing in the art of magical healing. But unlike the rest of her renowned streghe family, Giada doesn't want to serve the god Apollo and heal people, nor undertake a looming apprenticeship. Instead, she feels drawn to Diana, goddess of wild animals, and to healing creatures "ordinary and extraordinary," like the baby gryphon she finds. When Giada spills salt and olive oil, and wishes that her esteemed 16-year-old brother Rocco would disappear, he is kidnapped by the Streghe del Malocchio; witches who can "sniff out a person's bad luck." To rescue him, Giada and her new feline familiar, black cat Sinistro, must journey to Malafi, the witches' underground city, and accomplish an impossible task. Via a world where magic and modern medicine coexist, and a secret spell-casting community lives undetected year-round, Cannistra writes a compassionate quest that interrogates tradition, legacy, and humans' effect on the natural world. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Suzie Townsend, New Leaf Literary. (Oct.)

Gifted Clans (Trade)



#2326333 (Vol. 03) Last Fallen Realm (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Graci Kim

Riley Oh wasn't born into her family. Instead, as she recently discovered, she tumbled down to the earth many years ago as the last fallen star. Riley Oh also wasn't born to be a witch. Like, at all--even her status as a divine celestial being comes with zilch in the magical powers department. And Riley Oh definitely wasn't born to be a leader. But now the entire magical community thinks she and her soul-twin, Dahl, are meant to lead the world into the Age of the Final Eclipse (or whatever it is that the Haetae keeps saying they're "destined" to do). Greeeat. And in order to save the world, Riley must do the one thing she was born to do: believe in herself.

978-1-368-07316-5 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The worlds-shattering conclusion to the Gifted Clans trilogy. Thirteen-year-old Riley Oh's world has turned upside down. Hattie, her adoptive sister, has opted to stay in the Spiritrealm to better understand her problems in the Mortalrealm; her parents have adopted Dahl, her soul twin from back when they lived in the sky; and to top it all off, she and Dahl are supposed to save the world and somehow defeat the Godrealm's vengeful goddesses, which is causing her more than a little anxiety. Luckily, Riley has the support of her friends from both the Spiritrealm and the witch clans, and she's going to need it, because the barriers between the Mortalrealm, the Spiritrealm, and the Godrealm are starting to thin—and even nonwitches have noticed. Nonstop action, a dash of humor, and a world of technology and Korean magic combine once again in the ways that make this series special. In this installment, Riley truly grows and changes (“compassion isn’t only for your friends—it’s for your enemies, too”), but the themes of family and friendship remain ever present, no matter how far into the Godrealm she may stray. With higher stakes, even more creatures from Korean mythology, and plot points from earlier installments finally addressed, this is an intense, satisfying series finale. Funny and heartfelt; a compelling tale featuring a sympathetic cast of characters. (author’s note, glossary) (Fantasy. 9-13)

Gingerbread Witch (Trade)



#2332742 (Vol. 02) Unsleeping Witch (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alexandra Overy

Maud may be made of gingerbread-plus a spark of magic-but she's a real witch! Even if she's still learning, and has a habit of making messes.and might have accidentally unleashed the hundred year old, Class IV sleeping curse that envelops a princess's bramble-covered castle. Oops.

978-1-335-45797-4 ©2023 6-1/4 x 9-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

#2288250 (Vol. 01) Gingerbread Witch (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alexandra Overy

Maud has grown up in a house made of gingerbread, wanting nothing more than to be a witch like Mother Agatha. But just like all of Agatha's creations-from the magical

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



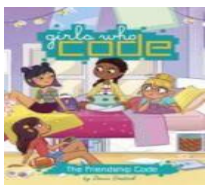
house made of sweets to the chocolate mousse squirrel, right down to the little sugar mice-Maud will turn back into gingerbread if anything ever happens to Agatha. To save herself and the other gingerbread creations, Maud will have to go into the dangerous forest of the Shadelands to find the First Witch's spellbook.

978-1-335-42686-4 ©2022 6-1/4 x 9-1/2 192 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After Mother Agatha, who raised her in a gingerbread house, is burned to ashes, 12-year-old Maud sets out through the dangerous Shadelands in search of a way to bring her back to life. Overy's new spin on fairy-tale favorites is a series opener that includes characters from "Hansel and Gretel" and "Little Red Riding Hood"--plus a three-legged wolf with violet fur aptly named Grim. Maud is not quite human but not fully witch either--she's a creation of Mother Agatha, who quite literally made her from enchanted gingerbread. After Agatha is pushed into a fire by witch-hunting Wolves, Maud seeks to revive her from the ashes. Along the way, she encounters the Wolves and a mysterious witch named Vira and learns to trust her instincts. Overy's story is well paced; the sense of urgency around saving Agatha keeps the pages turning. Maud's sidekicks--Grim and two gingerbread-made creatures, Nuss the squirrel and Florian the vulture--are utterly charming and full of personality. While most of the plot threads are tied together at the end, a few details are frustratingly left unresolved, possibly leaving room for a sequel. Although made from gingerbread, Maud is described as having white skin. A modern reimagining that reads like a well-told fairy-tale classic. (map) (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After witch-hunting Wolves reduce her mentor to ash, a 12-year-old aspiring witch fashioned of enchanted gingerbread must find a way to restore things in an innovative "Hansel and Gretel" subversion from Overy (the These Feathered Flames series). To maintain the form given to her by Mother Agatha; as well as that of other confectionary creations, including Nuss, a squirrel made of mousse; Maud must retrieve the spell book of the First Witch, long hidden in ancient glade deep in the deadly Shadelands. Inadvertently joining a caravan of Wolves, including Hansel and Gretel, who claim responsibility for Agatha's destruction, Maud must hide her true nature and her mission. As the journey takes them deeper into the Shadelands, she finds common ground with those who would destroy her, but newfound friendships may not be enough to overcome age-old enmity. Maud's good nature and sense of loyalty makes her a memorable protagonist in this refreshing fairy tale twist that considers the witch's point of view. Most characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Patrice Caldwell, New Leaf Literary & Media. (Sept.)

Girls Who Code (Trade)



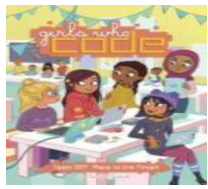
#2013543 (Vol. 01) Friendship Code (Hardcover (POB))
written by Stacia Deutsch

Lucy is super excited about coding club at school. She has an idea for an app, and can't wait to get started! But her excitement turns to disappointment when she sees who else is at the first meeting: her ex-best friend Sophia; Maya, a cool seventh grader who Lucy's never dared talk to; and Erin, a quiet new girl. Lucy doesn't get to work on her app, and she's paired with Sophia, Maya, and Erin for a group project. But when Lucy starts receiving cryptic notes that seem to be in coding language, the girls join forces to figure out the mystery. They discover that coding takes time, patience, and dedication--and so does friendship!

978-0-399-54251-0 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--This fresh series starter from seasoned author Deutsch centers on a group of middle school friends who are learning the basics of computer code. Lucy is finally a sixth grader, which means that she can finally join Coding Club. She wants to figure out how to code so that she can make an app to help her sick uncle keep track of his medication. Unfortunately, the club members don't even get to use the computers during the first meeting! Plus, Lucy is put on a team with a former friend; an intimidating, sophisticated seventh grader; and the new girl who came into Coding Club sobbing. Over the course of a week, Lucy and her teammates are led on a mystery code-based scavenger hunt. Following the directions that are left in an envelope attached to her locker, Lucy relies on each of her teammates to help her decipher the messages, each of which teaches them the very basic elements of coding. Readers will appreciate the characters' diversity of interests and their love of coding. VERDICT A complex topic made accessible; recommended for elementary and middle school libraries and for collections that serve budding coders.-Kristin Unruh, Siersma -Elementary School, Warren, MI Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2018596 (Vol. 02) Team BFF: Race to the Finish! (Hardcover (POB))

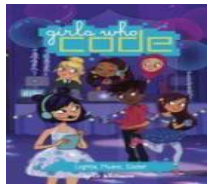
written by Stacia Deutsch

Sophia and her coding club BFFs have the best time together. Sure, they work on coding projects, but mostly they gossip about crushes, eat cookies, and do totally silly impersonations. Now they're about to participate in their first hackathon--a full day of coding and meeting other coders--so it's time to step up their game!

978-0-399-54252-7 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 660

Quantity
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\$13.99



#2056875 (Vol. 03) Lights, Music, Code! (Hardcover (POB))

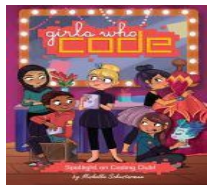
written by Jo Whitemore

Maya and her friends from coding club have an exciting new project: they're coding lights and music for the winter dance! But when Maya's old troublemaking friend Maddie moves to town, Maya starts spending a lot of time with her, and less time with her coding friends. Maddie just gets her in a way that her other friends don't.

978-0-399-54253-4 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 560

Quantity
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\$13.99



#2080565 (Vol. 04) Spotlight on Coding Club! (Hardcover (POB))

written by Michelle Schusterman

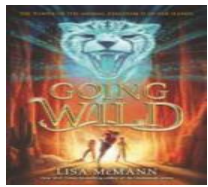
It's almost time for the talent show at school, and Erin couldn't be more excited. It's her time to take center stage! Plus, she and her friends from coding club are putting together an awesome coding program for the show. But Erin has a big secret: she has anxiety.

978-0-399-54254-1 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$13.99

Going Wild (Trade)



#2004660 (Vol. 01) Going Wild (Paperback (Trade))

written by Lisa McMann

Charlie Wilde knew her life would change forever when her family moved from Chicago to Arizona--but she had no idea how right she'd really be after she discovers a mysterious bracelet. After putting it on, Charlie notices odd things happening. She's suddenly able to run across the soccer field as fast as a cheetah and lift heavy objects as if she were as strong as an elephant. Of course, Charlie would be thrilled about her transformation if she had any idea how the bracelet works or how to control her amazing powers. So she and her new friends must work together to figure out what's happening to her and uncover the truth behind the incredible device.

978-0-06-233715-3 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 710

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$6.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Charlie Wilde is moving to Arizona, leaving behind her best friend and all that she knows, where her physician mother and biologist father have taken new jobs. When she gets there, she struggles to fit in at her new school. As she searches for her soccer equipment, hoping that a tryout for the school's team will change her outlook on her new situation, Charlie comes across a package containing an odd metal bracelet. She realizes that the bracelet will lend her powers matching those of several animals, making her a sort of

chimera. When Dr. Gray, the man behind a sinister group bent on retrieving Charlie's bracelet, discovers its whereabouts, he will stop at nothing to get it back, leaving Charlie and her new friends, Mac and Maria, with far more questions than answers. In this first installment of a new series from the creator of "The Unwanteds," readers will find themselves on a fast-paced adventure with a very likable heroine. VERDICT Fans of Rick Riordan and Brandon Mull will not be disappointed.-Wayne R. Cherry Jr., St. Pius X High School, Houston Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2025419 (Vol. 02) Predator Vs. Prey (Hardcover (Trade))

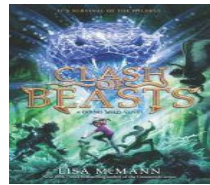
written by Lisa McMann

In Predator vs. Prey, Charlie Wilde's dad has been abducted by masked figures who might not even be completely human. And it will take more than her incredible bracelet--which gives her powers from the animal kingdom--to rescue him.

978-0-06-233717-7 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690

Quantity
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\$16.99



#2080114 (Vol. 03) Clash of Beasts (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa McMann

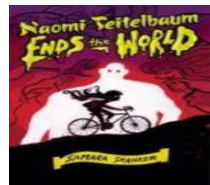
Charlie, Mac, and Maria rescued the Project Chimera scientists from Dr. Gray, but they still weren't able to catch him and his beastly henchmen. And now that Kelly has betrayed the kids and joined forces with the enemy, their foes are closer than ever to enacting their master plan: transforming humanity into a monstrous new species.

978-0-06-233720-7 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 710

Quantity
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Golems and Goblins (Trade)



#2290203 (Vol. 01) Naomi Teitelbaum Ends the World (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Samara Shanker

Naomi Teitelbaum is so ready for her Bat Mitzvah. Her prayers are memorized and she's definitely got a handle on her Torah portion (well, almost). Then she gets a mysterious gift: a tiny clay Golem. To Naomi's shock, it comes to life-and obeys her every command. But with each command, the Golem grows...and gets harder to hide.

To keep herself out of trouble and the Golem out of harm's way, Naomi gives the Golem well-intended instructions: save the world. Unfortunately, this leaves more room for interpretation than Naomi thought. Before long, the Golem is wreaking havoc all over Los Angeles, and only Naomi and her friends can stop it.

978-1-6659-0502-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.


Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 850

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

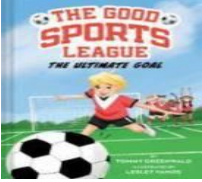
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Naomi Teitelbaum doesn't intend to end the world, but when she receives a tiny Golem as an anonymous bat mitzvah gift, chaos ensues. The Golem needs tasks to keep him busy, but he grows with each job he finishes, and it becomes increasingly difficult to hide him from Naomi's sister and moms. Additionally, Naomi's started seeing mysterious beings around her L.A. neighborhood, none of whom appear quite human. She enlists best friends Eitan and Becca, also preparing for their own bar and bat mitzvahs, who opt to give the Golem a meaningful task that's likely take a long time: improving the world by mitigating gun violence, saving wilderness areas, and assisting unhoused individuals. Linking the Golem tradition with a varied array of Jewish folktales, debut author Shanker gives Naomi and her friends; who draw on their varied skill sets and faith in each other; problems to solve, challenges to overcome, and unexpected sources of counsel. Despite a few loose ends, the three tweens are stubbornly realistic even as they grapple with creatures from legend and folklore, and the eventual solution comes from Jewish ethical precepts, as befits those tasked with taking on their roles as adults in the Jewish community. Protagonists cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stephanie Hansen, Metamorphosis Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—With just a few weeks until her bat mitzvah, 12-year-old Naomi receives a mysterious box from an

unknown sender. Inside is a small clay figurine identified as the Golem, which Naomi unwittingly brings to life. It begins following her and responds to any request Naomi makes, which at first seems exciting and fun to her and her (also Jewish) friends, Becca and Eitan. However, before long Naomi and her friends start experiencing ghost-like encounters, and the Golem begins growing exponentially. When they send the Golem on tasks to do good deeds, their idea backfires and great chaos descends upon Los Angeles. With the help of rabbis (both living and ghostly), Naomi and her friends research Jewish folklore as they attempt to understand why the Golem was sent, his purpose, and how to rein in what is happening without getting themselves snatched by disguised demons. Shanker has created a refreshing, fast-paced book, while centering a culture often overlooked in middle grade fiction. VERDICT Full of adventure and Jewish traditions and customs, Jewish readers will relish in recognizing their own culture, while other kids will root for good over evil and learn about the Jewish faith along the way.—Michele Shaw


	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2332995 (Vol. 02) Rebecca Reznik Reboots the Universe (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Samara Shanker</i> Rebecca Reznik is having a rough time. Her dad lost his job, and her parents are fighting all the time. Her obnoxious brother, Jake, is acting out even more than usual. And post-Bat Mitzvah Becca is expected to be grown up and spiritually mature-whatever that means-but in the wake of these upsets to her routine, she just feels frustrated and helpless. Even worse, she's starting to suspect that the awful vibes surrounding her house might be about more than family drama. 978-1-6659-3523-4 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$17.99

Good Sports League (Prebound)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2331792 (Vol. 01) Ultimate Goal (Prebound) <i>written by Tommy Greenwald</i> Ben Cutler loves everything about soccer! He's got a great team, and they have the best pre-game chants and half-time jokes. He and his best friend, Jay-Jay, even invent dances for when they score a goal! And Ben is good at soccer. Like REALLY good. Too good for a casual rec team. Soon, he's recruited for a travel team. 978-1-5364-8073-3 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews eaves the recreational league for a more competitive team and discovers a different sports culture. Ben Cutler love playing soccer with his best friend, Jay-Jay Wright, in the Pizza League. Their team, the Anchovies, celebrate their goals with silly dances and enjoy postgame snacks, win or lose. But when Coach Cleary invites Ben to play for the West Harbor Soccer Academy, Ben finds a much more serious and less fun environment. He feels nervous before games and is surprised and confused by the "no joking around in soccer" attitude of both coach and players; charts listing the differences between West Harbor and the Pizza League are featured throughout. "Host-slash-narrator-slash-play-by-play man" Freddy introduces the Good Sports League series and pops up in graphic novel-style illustrations interspersed throughout; many readers will appreciate a break from the text, while some might find the switch between formats jarring. Freddy states the moral up front--sports should be enjoyable--and this fast-paced, heartfelt story bears out the message. The story closes out with fun activities, including an invitation for readers to create their own sporty nicknames, a sports quiz, and space for readers to write down a list of their goals in life. Ben presents white in the dynamic grayscale illustrations, while Jay-Jay is Black, and Freddy appears to be brown-skinned. Secondary characters are diverse. Good-hearted sporty fun. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Good Sports League (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2342732 (Vol. 02) Perfect Pitch (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tommy Greenwald</i> Annabella Donatello likes to do everything. She likes to draw, fly kites, play soccer, cook, and eat what she cooks. She even likes to do math! But there are two things she loves most of all: softball and performing. So she's thrilled when she gets cast in the school play, on top of being the star pitcher of her softball team. Unfortunately, her softball coach is less thrilled about Annabella's busy schedule. And with the</p>	1	\$14.99

championships coming up, the pressure is on to make softball her number one priority, even when an important practice conflicts with opening night of the show. To be in two places at once, Annabella hatches a plan that will put all of her softball and acting skills to the test.

978-1-4197-6367-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 144 pgs.

Grades 1 - 4 Dewey# Fic

Goosebumps (Prebound)



#2346761 (Vol. 01) Scariest. Book. Ever. (Prebound)

written by R. L. Stine

From the delightfully twisted mind of R.L. Stine comes a fresh new vision for the fan-favorite brand. This new series will feature an ALL NEW line-up of incredible villains, with iconic monsters as you've never seen them before, whose antics are destined to make them every bit as beloved as Slappy. This exciting new Goosebumps series will have the same humor and terrifying tone that millions of readers love, but will be bigger, bolder, funnier, and scarier!

978-1-5364-8181-5 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.3 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 430

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95



#2070412 Bride of the Living Dummy (Prebound)

written by R. L. Stine

When Slappy, the world's most evil ventriloquist dummy, shows up after being abandoned by his previous owner, things start to go wrong around the house. But this time Slappy may have met his match. There's another bad doll who loves to make a mess of things. Everyone better watch out for this imperfect couple.

978-1-5364-4574-9 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.0 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 440

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Goosebumps SlappyWorld (Prebound)



#2053985 (Vol. 04) Please Do Not Feed the Weirdo (Prebound)

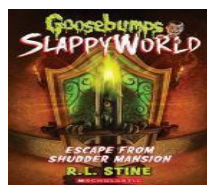
written by R. L. Stine

Robby and his sister Karla beg their parents to take them to a big carnival that has opened on the other side of town. When they arrive, the two kids are delighted by the rides, the sideshow, the interesting displays, and the great food booths.

978-1-5364-3367-8 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 2.5 Lexile 450

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95



#2064923 (Vol. 05) Escape from Shudder Mansion (Prebound)

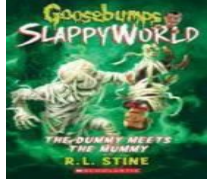
written by R. L. Stine

In an old-fashioned "trapped-in-a-haunted-house" story, twins Riley and Scarlett receive an interesting assignment from their teacher, Mrs. Stermon. Everyone in class needs to do a documentary video about an adventure, something exciting that they experienced.

978-1-5364-4145-1 ©2018 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 2.6 Lexile 480

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95



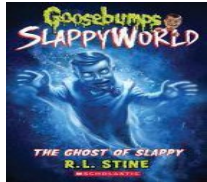
#2106793 (Vol. 08) Dummy Meets the Mummy (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

After being put back to sleep and abandoned in an old museum, Slappy is brought to life by a curious girl on a school trip. Out for revenge, Slappy uses his powers to raise an army of creatures from the exhibits. But when the museum closes, Slappy and his new friends are locked inside with Arragatis, an ancient mummy with his own plan for revenge. It's dummy versus mummy as Slappy faces his most dangerous and frightening opponent yet! Can Slappy defeat this ancient adversary? Or will it be a wrap for this dummy?

978-1-5364-5666-0 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 150 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 470

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95



#2080032 (Vol. 06) Ghost of Slappy (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Slappy's back as a ghost! And this time, the only thing you'll play is hide-and-go-shriek!

978-1-5364-4750-7 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.3 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 2.5 Lexile 440

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95



#1995358 (Vol. 01) Slappy Birthday to You (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

It's bad enough Ian Barker has to spend his twelfth birthday with his sister and their two annoying cousins. The four of them can't ever hang out without getting into trouble. Vinnie and Jonny always want to play with Ian's stuff. They take extra turns and break everything they touch. Even Ian's new birthday presents are up for grabs. But when Ian gets a Slappy dummy from his dad, things go from bad to worse. When Slappy's in charge, you don't fight over him, he fights over you!

978-1-5364-0414-2 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 490

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Chuckles blend with chills in this first book in the Goosebumps SlappyWorld spinoff series, which resurrects Slappy, the ventriloquist dummy featured in some of Stine's earlier novels. In his new incarnation, Slappy is a 12th-birthday gift to Ian from his father, who refurbishes broken dolls; Slappy was sent to him to repair; in a package with no return address. Information that Ian's younger sister, Molly, discovers online casts an eerie shadow on Slappy: a sorcerer carved his head out of wood from a cursed coffin, and six words uttered aloud will supposedly bring the dummy to life. After one of Ian's obnoxious twin cousins shouts out the magic words, it unleashes pranks and insulting quips from the wisecracking Slappy, all of which are blamed on Ian. Stine again deploys a string of cliffhangers to close out many chapters, creating a jittery cycle of scares and relief. The author's many fans won't mind the fairly formulaic plot that unfolds, and the finale suggests that more mischief is ahead from other not-so-inanimate dolls. Ages 8--12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Be very careful what you wish for. For Ian's birthday, his father surprises him with a unique gift: Slappy the Dummy. As veteran Stine readers are bound to know, Slappy is no ordinary toy. Ian's obnoxious cousins, Jonny and Vinny, who have a penchant for playing mean jokes on Ian and his little sister Molly, kidnap the dummy and read aloud the magical words that bring the evil creature to life. Unfortunately, no one believes Ian when he explains that the dummy is responsible for all the terrible things starting to happen. The cousins do, eventually, get their comeuppance. Fans of "Goosebumps" will find the usual winning formula at play here-short chapters, lightning fast pacing, slapdash character development, and groan-inducing humor balanced with slight scares. VERDICT Stock well where Stine devotees thrive.-Valentine Muyumba, Terre Haute, Indiana State University Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2006979 (Vol. 02) Attack of the Jack (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Devin and his sister Violet are visiting their Uncle Jack for the summer. He lives in an old house by the seashore. Jack was a sailor and he has collected strange and fascinating items from the sea. Exploring a back room, Devin and Violet discover a locked trunk.

978-1-5364-1296-3 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 3.1 Lexile 520

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95



#2018413 (Vol. 03) I Am Slappy's Evil Twin (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Luke Harrison's dad makes horror movies. It's very fun to be around such scary stuff- especially when you have your own monster museum at home. But when two ventriloquist dummies join the collection, things get real creepy. Real-life creepy! Slappy and Snappy can walk and talk on their own.

978-1-5364-2160-6 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 2.4 Lexile 470

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95



#2247427 (Vol. 15) Judy and the Beast (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Judy Glassman lives with her brother, Kenny, and father, Noah, in a village at the foot of Evil Rock. Every winter, Kenny accompanies their dad up to the mansion at the top of the mountain to assist the rich, eccentric Grendel family with their house repairs. But this year, Judy convinces her dad to let her come too. Judy has heard whispers about the Beast of Evil Rock -- a half-human creature who stalks the crags. And she's determined to find out for herself if it's true.

978-1-5364-7029-1 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 460

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95



#2234257 (Vol. 14) Fifth-Grade Zombies (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Scarlett Martenson and her friends are total zombie fans! With Ross as the brains, Annie as the makeup artist, Owen as the fright master, and Scarlett as their leader, the group is unstoppable as they terrorize their unsuspecting neighbors. But when Granny Z moves into the creepy, old, abandoned house at the bottom of the hill, things get rotten for the zombie club.

978-1-5364-6892-2 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

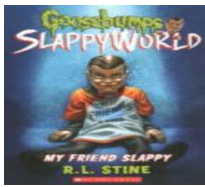
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 450

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95

#2181557 (Vol. 12) My Friend Slappy (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Barton Suggs has it rough. He only has one friend, Lizzie Hellman. The school bullies

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95



are out to get him. And nobody believes him about it! After Barton gets pranked again, he's had enough! So when Barton brings Slappy to life, he's thrilled to find a new "friend" that's willing to help him get revenge on the bullies. Slappy's never had someone like him before. What's up with this Barton kid?

978-1-5364-6594-5 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.3 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 430



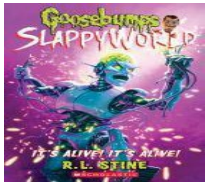
#2167499 (Vol. 11) They Call Me the Night Howler! (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Slappy does his scariest thing yet!

978-1-5364-6391-0 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 430

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95



#2093304 (Vol. 07) It's Alive! It's Alive! (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

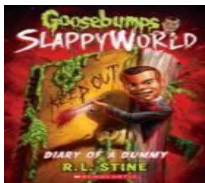
Livvy and Jayden are the stars of their school's robotics team. Livvy is especially enthusiastic because her own mother works in a robotics lab and experiments with Artificial Intelligence. To impress her mom, Livvy and Jayden build a robot.

Desperate to win, Livvy and Jayden "borrow" an Artificial Intelligence module.

978-1-5364-5334-8 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 148 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 2.5 Lexile 470

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95



#2157052 (Vol. 10) Diary of a Dummy (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

What do Zoey and Billy Traister do when they find an abandoned ventriloquist dummy in an empty lot? They take him home, of course! As the pair tries to figure out why someone would throw out a perfectly good dummy, they accidentally bring Slappy to life. A night of horror ensues until the siblings put Slappy back into his case. But when they find Slappy's diary and clues that could lead to gold, they'll have to find Slappy's second diary while evading the evil dummy and other terrors.

978-1-5364-6187-9 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 460

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95



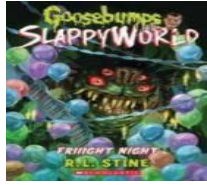
#2122092 (Vol. 09) Revenge of the Invisible Boy! (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Magic Club is supposed to be fun for Frankie Miller and his friends. But that pest, Ari Goodwyn is always ruining everyone's tricks. After a really embarrassing fail, Frankie wants revenge. When the legendary magician, Mystical Marvin, comes to town to perform his daring stunts, Frankie sees an opportunity to get even with Ari. There's only one problem: everything goes wrong.

978-1-5364-5924-1 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 450

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

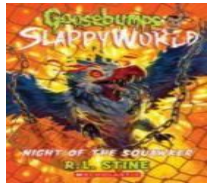


#2328380 (Vol. 19) Fright Night (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Kelly Crosby is the new kid in school. So far, it's not going so well. He's already gotten lost, had trouble making friends, and annoyed the monster that lives in the school basement.

978-1-5364-8008-5 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 420

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95



#2322190 (Vol. 18) Night of the Squawker (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Beak-a-boo, it sees you! Cooper Klavan and his sister Anna are fishing with their parents at a woodland pond when they come across an injured bird. Anna, a huge animal lover, insists on taking it home to rehabilitate. But the bird really does not want to be rescued. It bites Anna, and scares Cooper. Soon, Anna is behaving very strangely. She's perching high up in trees, gathering sticks to hide in her room, and refusing to eat eggs-- once one of her favorite foods. Cooper doesn't want to jump to any conclusions, but his sister seems to be going to the birds.

978-1-5364-7861-7 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.2 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 410

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95

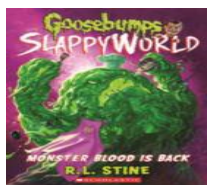


#2271794 (Vol. 16) Slappy in Dreamland (Prebound)
written by R.L. Stine

This is Slappy's world -- You only scream in it! Richard Hsieh's life is about to become a total nightmare. His dad studies dreams and they hook his new Slappy doll up to the dream machine as a joke. All of a sudden, Richard's dreams are becoming scarier and scarier. Each time, seeing Slappy, his birthday present, come to life and wreak havoc. But they're only dreams, right? When his cousin Willow comes to spend a few days with him, she, too, begins to dream of Slappy. It's impossible! But when Slappy threatens to invade more kids' dreams, they'll have to figure out how to defeat him before he becomes a dream master.

978-1-5364-7261-5 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 450

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95

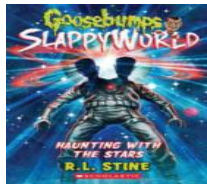


#2218803 (Vol. 13) Monster Blood Is Back (Prebound)
written by R. L. Stine

Sascha Nelson and her best friend Nicole Miller love to cook! After school, they spend their time concocting new dishes in the kitchen. So when their favorite TV show Kids Big Chef Food Fights comes to their school for a special competition, they're ecstatic! But with school cheaters Ashli and Diggs also in the show, things don't seem as fun anymore.

978-1-5364-6753-6 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 470

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95



#2281660 (Vol. 17) Haunting with the Stars (Prebound)

written by R.L. Stine

Space-obsessed Murphy Shannon is pumped that his 6th grade class is visiting the Rayburne Observatory. Except, being a know-it-all means he's totally bored with the lectures he has to sit through. So when classmates Orly and Cleo say they should explore on their own, Murphy sneaks out with them. But when they come face-to-face with the strange Dr. Rayburne and his experiments, they realize they may be in way over their heads. A grand adventure in space may be in store for them, if they can survive...

978-1-5364-7408-4 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 460

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95

Graveyard Girls (Trade)



#2291393 1-2-3-4, I Declare a Thumb War (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisi Harrison

Meet Whisper, Frannie, Sophie, Gemma, and Zuzu, five friends who tell eerie tales by night and navigate middle school drama by day. In Misery Falls, Oregon, it is the 100th anniversary of the electrocution of the town's most infamous killer, Silas Hoke, and the town is abuzz. When a mysterious text message leads the girls to the cemetery--where Silas Hoke is buried!--life can't get any creepier. Except, yes, it can, thanks to the surprise storyteller who meets them at the cemetery, inspires the first-ever meeting of the Graveyard Girls, and sets the stage for a terrifying tale from Whisper that they'll never forget.

978-1-4549-4454-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist The Grim Sleepers club, where sixth-graders Whisper, Frannie, Sophie, Gemma, and Zuzu have sleepovers and share scary stories, has gotten them through difficult times at home and at school. When Hoke Week arrives, the anniversary of the death of murderer Silas Hoke, and the town takes part in various activities to keep his spirit away for another year, each girl receives an anonymous message inviting her to the cemetery where Hoke is buried. Surprised at what they find, together the friends try to gather evidence of Hoke's spirit. This clever, fast-paced story is filled with thrills that will have readers flipping pages into the night. Each friend has her own personality and complex problems, and the girls form a support group for one another. The town of Misery Falls gives an eerie feeling resembling that of Fear Street's Shadyside, and the open ending will have readers excited for the next installment in the series. A strong first title for fans of scary stories, horror movies, and things that go bump in the night.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An infamous killer targets a quartet of tweens in this ghost story: centered novel by Harrison (the Pack series) and Kraus (the Teddies Saga). A century ago, Misery Falls, Ore., PE teacher Silas Hoke, a former Marine with a wooden leg, was sentenced to the electric chair for murdering a student tormentor; every year since, the grisly legend has it, he returns to claim another girl. Now, the town annually observes Hoke Week to banish the murderer's spirit; a tradition that's also a significant tourist draw. But as Misery Falls gears up for the celebrations, meek-looking but outspoken sixth grader Willow "Whisper" Martin is more concerned with the Grim Sleepers; a monthly club she's formed with her friends, who gather to share frightening yarns. When the club members receive an anonymous text inviting them to meet in the cemetery one school night, the event results in a genuinely frightening telling about the dangers of technology. Quick chapters alternate character perspectives; including Hoke's menacing first-person voice; propelling the plot while providing insight into each tween's personal turmoil around bullying, pressure to succeed, and more. Most characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Richard Abate, 3 Arts. (Sept.)



#2350210 Scream for the Camera (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisi Harrison

It's been a month since the Graveyard Girls-Gemma, Whisper, Sophie, Frannie, and Zuzu-discovered Silas Hoke's empty grave. A month, and no answers. That changes when messages from the other side start to creep up on the Graveyard Girls. Who is

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

trying to reach them... and why? Meanwhile, straight-A Sophie is spending way more time hanging out with "Danger Me" and way less time with the Graveyard Girls and her schoolwork. Will her scary story be enough to win back her pals, or will her picture-perfect life become the ultimate photo bomb?

978-1-4549-4456-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews nds tackle ghostly and real-world problems. Frannie, Whisper, Sophie, Gemma, and Zuzu--members of scary-story club the Graveyard Girls--are trying to find out who dug up the body of local legend Silas Hoke. Whisper finds a clue in her dad's therapist girlfriend's confidential patient notes that leads the girls to a local mortuary. A more pressing problem, though, is the fact that Zuzu has been possessed by Ginny Baker, Silas Hoke's murder victim. As the other girls try to figure out how to dispel the spirit, they have other problems to deal with. Frannie accidentally brings bad luck to her play and must concede her role to her nemesis and understudy. Gemma realizes that her efforts to save her family business, the Spirit Sanctuary, may be doing more harm than good. And the boy Sophie has been texting convinces her to move further outside her comfort zone than she's ready for, inspiring her scary story about a boy who turns out to be a monster. This story nicely balances supernatural and real-life plotlines and features plenty of imaginative creepy elements. With a plot that follows closely on the events of 2022's 1-2-3-4 I Declare a Thumb War and a cliffhanger ending, this installment will be best appreciated by committed series readers. Most characters read white; Zuzu's surname cues her as Japanese, and the cover art depicts Sophie as Black. Friendship is at the heart of this humorous, spooky tale. (Horror. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Graysen Foxx, School Treasure Hunter (Trade)



#2319061 (Vol. 01) Graysen Foxx and the Treasure of Principal Redbeard (Hardcover (Trade))

written by J. Scott Savage

Ordinary Elementary is anything but ordinary. Below the classrooms are winding, abandoned, underground passages filled with lost treasures. Fifth-grader Graysen Foxx, aka The Gray Fox--finder of secrets, solver of mysteries, and explorer of the unknown--is hot on the trail of the legendary treasure of long-since-retired Principal Redbeard, which includes a decades' worth of confiscated gadgets, rare comic books, first-edition Pokemon trading cards, an original Rubik's Cube, and a retro football handheld video game.

978-1-63993-103-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A long-lost treasure eludes the grasp of a determined adventure seeker. Fifth grader Graysen Foxx is on the hunt for the trove of Principal Redbeard. The rumored collection of confiscated toys, comic books, trading cards, and old-school gaming devices has been lost to the ages, but Graysen, who reads White, is determined to uncover its location. Unfortunately, his nemesis, Raven Ransom, a redheaded fellow fifth grader, hopes to find the treasure for herself and will stop at nothing to claim it. Graysen is ready for action, feats of derring-do, and the occasional brain teasing puzzle. With third grade twins Maya and Jack Delgado as his allies, The Gray Fox is on the hunt, with Red Raven, her Second Grade Spy Network, and ruthless sixth graders looking at every turn. The riff on Indiana Jones and Uncharted for the middle-grade set works well enough, peppered as it is with effusive verbiage that will get pulses going right from the start. The problem comes when the novel needs to keep up that pace: The high stakes and rollicking action get a bit cumbersome when breathlessly and repeatedly recounted at the same pitch. The modulation is off a bit, making the novel feel too long. Still, Graysen is an engaging protagonist, and his world is charming enough that readers will likely stick with it. Names signal ethnic diversity in the supporting cast. Final art not seen. A strong premise let down by its execution. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5--Treasure seeker Graysen Foxx is on the cusp of his greatest find: a laminated hall pass that will provide students in need with unlimited access to their elementary school. When his plan is foiled by his archnemesis the Red Raven, Graysen is stuck in detention. With gentle prodding from his classroom teacher and detention warden, he stumbles on to the discovery of the ages, that the fabled treasure of Principal Redbeard is real! With the help of two resourceful third grade assistants and an army of first grade soldiers, Graysen dodges a wily sixth grade mafia boss, the cranky janitorial cat, and a sneaky group of second grade spies as he tracks down the greatest fortune of all. With an overemphasis on heavy-handed social-emotional lessons and underdeveloped characters, this high-octane adventure falls flat. Stilted and unnatural dialogue makes the characters feel more like plot and theme devices instead of relatable, authentic individuals. Riddled with awkward similes, such as "the school clocks were as unreliable as a potty-training three-year-old," and a storyline that is too far-fetched to be believable, this plot-heavy adventure will find a limited readership. VERDICT Not recommended for purchase.--Louie Lauer Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



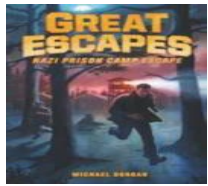
#2349902 (Vol. 02) Graysen Foxx and the Curse of the Illuminderdy (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. Scott Savage

Graysen Foxx is no stranger to the mysteries hidden in Ordinary Elementary—the bat-filled tunnels, the secret passageways, the underground chambers, and the sticky spiderwebs—and he's on the hunt for a creepy old painting that will guarantee his victory in the school's Halloween room contest. But finding and claiming the painting is only the beginning of a wild adventure filled with puzzles that will put Graysen's treasure-hunting skills to the test.

978-1-63993-170-5 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Great Escapes (HarperCollins)



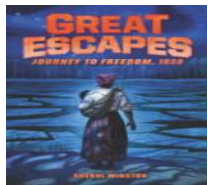
#2157619 (Vol. 01) Nazi Prison Camp Escape (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Michael Burgan

In the spring of 1942, Royal Air Force pilot Bill Ash's plane was surrounded and shot down by Germans. He was eventually brought to Stalag Luft III, a notorious camp for prisoners of war. The Germans boasted that the camp which was isolated, heavily guarded, and surrounded by wire fences was escape proof. But Ash was determined to prove them wrong.

978-0-06-286036-1 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 840

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Readers of this new historical fiction series meet Mr. Bill Ash, a U.S. citizen who joined the Canadian Royal Air Force in 1940. His indomitable spirit permeates the story as the author realistically depicts Ash's multiple escape attempts and the consequences of his failures. Informative sidebars about topics as varied as the Great Depression and prisoner-of-war camps in the United States complement the text by providing additional context. At least one sidebar feels out of place, however, because it details events that have not yet occurred. Readers learn through an author's note that the story is based on a real person and events, with fictionalized dialogue. Black-and-white illustrations serve the action of the text well. Since this is Ash's story, his character has the most depth, and the author portrays him positively throughout the narrative. The novel's strengths are the action-driven plot and the believable setting. A useful bibliography lists both adult and juvenile nonfiction titles. **VERDICT** A straightforward account that highlights a lesser-known World War II service member. Purchase where there is high demand for WWII literature.—Hilary Writt, Sullivan University, Lexington, KY



#2158015 (Vol. 02) Journey to Freedom, 1838 (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sherri Winston

Winter 1838, Kentucky. Determined to save her toddler son from being sold as a slave, the woman who became known as Eliza Harris began a long journey to freedom. Her goal: to escape across the frozen Ohio River, the boundary between the North and the South, between slavery and freedom in America.

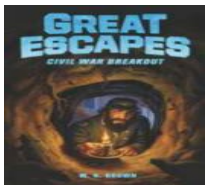
978-0-06-286039-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 128 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 880

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

#2163451 (Vol. 03) Civil War Breakout (Paperback (Trade))
written by W. N. Brown

Civil War, 1863. Union soldiers Colonel Thomas Rose and Major A.G. Hamilton were captured by the Confederate Army and sent to one of the most horrific prisons

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$4.99



ever run--Libby Prison. Infamous for its harsh, overcrowded, and vermin-infested conditions, many soldiers entered Libby but very few left alive. However, Rose and Hamilton were determined to escape.

978-0-06-286041-5 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 2.0

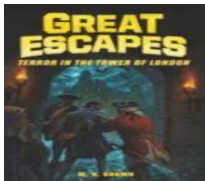


#2189912 (Vol. 04) Survival in the Wilderness (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Steven Otfinoski

December 1920. Three US Navy lieutenants--Louis Kloor, Stephen Farrell, and Walter Hinton--boarded a hot air balloon for a routine training flight. But as the sun set, heavy rain and wind knocked the men off course, forcing an emergency landing deep within the snowy Canadian wilderness.

978-0-06-286045-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 128 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 2.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

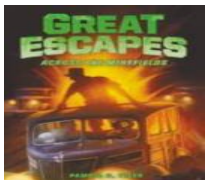


#2220230 (Vol. 05) Terror in the Tower of London (Hardcover (Trade))
written by W. N. Brown

London, 1716. Lord William Nithsdale has been charged with treason after fighting against the British crown. Found guilty, Nithsdale is sent to the infamous Tower of London, where he awaits execution. When Lady Winifred Maxwell, Nithsdale's wife, learns of her husband's death sentence, she sets out to free him from the "Bloody Tower." If her plan works, her husband will escape his grim fate. If it doesn't, both their heads will roll!

978-0-06-286048-4 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 128 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 2.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



#2235559 (Vol. 06) Across the Minefields (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Pamela D. Toler

June 1942. In the hot desert military camp of Bir Hakeim, Free French Officer Susan Travers was one of few women at the battlefield of World War II. German Nazis had surrounded her troop. With their forces outnumbered and low on ammo, the French general gave a shocking order. They were going to breakout in the middle of the night--crossing through dangerous minefields and enemy territory--to reach their British allies. And Susan would have to steer them to safety.

978-0-06-286069-9 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 128 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Great Pet Heist (Trade)

#2161505 (Vol. 01) Great Pet Heist (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Emily Ecton

Butterbean and her fellow pets have to come up with a grand plan to support

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99



themselves in case Mrs. Food is unable to keep taking care of them. Can these animal friends can pull off the heist of the century?

978-1-5344-5536-8 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 520

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 When elderly Mrs. Food takes a spill and winds up in the hospital, her five pets spiral into a panicked frenzy. A temporary guardian is assigned to them, but the anxious animals—an aloof cat, a hyper dachshund, a chatty mynah bird, and two bonded rats—decide that the only solution is to amass their own wealth to control their destiny. Their initial pile of riches is a bit grim (including compression socks, a sparkly button, and a two-week-old piece of toast), but the pup reveals that she picked up a rare coin from another resident, and thus Coin Man becomes the target of a hastily planned heist. Ecton writes entirely from the animals' point of view, aided by the occasional, humorous black-and-white sketch. It's amusing just to watch the merry band of misfit pets navigate the wide world of the eclectic high-rise apartment, but there's enough true suspense to keep the larger story moving. This classic caper may have young readers looking sideways at their own pets when the story is through. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Five spunky pets go to extraordinary lengths to save themselves from abandonment. The pets: wiener dog Butterbean; Walt, nee Lucretia, a secretive black cat; Oscar, a dignified mynah; and Marco and Polo, an exuberant pair of rats. The hapless owner: an elderly woman affectionately dubbed Mrs. Food. The incident: a bad fall (entirely Butterbean's fault, though she hates to admit it) that lands Mrs. Food in the hospital and sends the pets scrambling to become "independently wealthy" lest they be removed from her apartment to the shelter. The accidental discovery of the wealthy Coin Man leads them to plot the "heist of the century" with the assistance of an octopus named Chad and vent-dwelling Wild Rat Wallace. Ecton tells the story from the pets' perspectives, which, while impressively executed, proves to be this madcap adventure's biggest shortcoming. The limited experience of the pets ensures that the human issues depicted—international crime, care of the elderly, deployed caregivers, deception of Child Protective Services—are treated more flippantly than their gravity merits. The scenes dealing with the kidnapping of a child are particularly dire; the character of the Coin Man feels almost too sinister for an otherwise lighthearted children's novel. Yet lighthearted it is: Bantering dialogue, the distinct personalities of the pets (expressively illustrated by Mottram), and the whimsical premise make for an exciting caper. Mrs. Food and the Coin Man present white; the pets' temporary caregiver has Korean heritage. Hilarious but haphazard. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—This cute tale about five household pets in a New York City apartment revolves around their plan to pull off a heist and become "independently wealthy" after their owner is taken away for a medical emergency. Teaming up with ventilation system rats, a lonely girl, and a crafty octopus, they set their sights on a frightening neighbor and his stash of unusual coins. Ecton creates a strong personality for each animal, from the hyper dog Butterbean to the know-it-all bird Oscar, and pet lovers will be sure to enjoy the banter between them. Some plot elements involving the humans are a little less fleshed out and stretch plausibility, leading the book's resolution to feel rushed; but this will be easily overlooked by those who enjoy the pets' adventures. Adorable illustrations from Mottram help readers visualize the characters and add an appealing visual element. VERDICT A story sure to charm children who like to imagine what their beloved pets are up to when they are away. Purchase for fiction collections that serve patrons who enjoy animal-centric stories.—Katie McBride Moench, New Glarus Middle and High School Library, WI



#2240786 (Vol. 02) Great Ghost Hoax (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Emily Ecton

Butterbean is bored. She and the other pets pulled off a heist once, but that was like a million years ago. Nothing exciting has happened since then. That is, until Mrs. Third Floor shows up at their apartment, convinced there's a ghost in the building.

978-1-5344-7991-3 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 490

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

#2319950 Great Vandal Scandal (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Emily Ecton

Big plans are afoot! Butterbean is going to become a therapist (unless maybe she means a therapy dog?). The white cat is going to do a commercial for caviar-flavored pet treats. And Wallace is moving into a great new apartment. But these plans don't

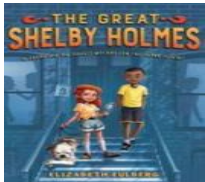
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



include a group of rowdy raccoons taking over the loading dock and throwing the building into turmoil. (Companion)
 978-1-6659-1905-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 510

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A series of break-ins gives the Strathmore apartment building's animal detectives an exciting new mystery to solve. Who is plundering the basement storage cages at night? Only momentarily dismayed by a hysterical Yorkie's reports of scratching claws and "THOUSANDS OF GLOWING EYES," the motley multispecies squad--consisting at this point of two dogs, a feline diva, three rats, a mynah bird, and an octopus named Chad--feverishly plan and execute an investigation under the noses of their oblivious human companions, Mrs. Food and her temporary ward, Madison Park. They run up against a troop of foraging raccoons, sneaking in beneath the security cameras to wreak havoc. How to get them to lay off? When threats don't work any better than polite requests, it's time for a different approach. Maybe a little sympathy? (Butterbean the spaniel is scheduled for therapy dog tryouts.) Maybe the troop can be transformed into...a troupe? (The unnamed cat has starred in many cat food commercials.) The nonstop action and droll exchanges offer chuckles aplenty on the way to a tidy resolution made all the more satisfactory by a hilarious viral video and a well-deserved comedown for nasty nemesis Mrs. Hates Dogs on Six. Mottram's rich, if rare, spots and vignettes feature creatures as aglow with character as the racially diverse human cast. Another wild caper for this winning animal ensemble. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

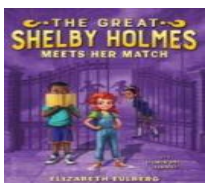
Great Shelby Holmes (Trade)



#1979839 (Vol. 01) Great Shelby Holmes (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elizabeth Eulberg
 Shelby Holmes is not your average sixth grader. She's nine years old, barely four feet tall, and the best detective her Harlem neighborhood has ever seen--always using logic and a bit of pluck (which yes, some might call bossiness) to solve the toughest crimes.
 978-1-68119-051-8 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

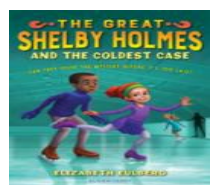
Reviews by: School Library Journal tson are back in school and back to sleuthing. When Shelby meets her new science teacher, Mr. Crosby she immediately senses something suspicious about him. When his watch is stolen, Holmes takes the case and is faced with her greatest adversary yet. Has Holmes met her match? Holmes's know-it-all personality and Watson's more laid-back persona continue to complement each other as they did in the previous book. Watson faces the challenges of beginning a new school, making new friends, coping with his parents' divorce, and navigating health issues related to his diabetes. Holmes continues to be the boisterous character who doesn't care what others think and will do anything to solve a case. Watson sets a great example for middle grade readers as he doesn't sacrifice his relationship with outsider Holmes as he makes new friends in school. Readers are treated to the softer side of Holmes as she learns that sometimes her ego gets in the way of the things that matter most. Eulberg does an excellent job of character development and presenting realistic family and friend relationships. The satisfying conclusion leaves open the possibility of additional sequels. VERDICT Another fantastic addition to the series which will have readers anxiously awaiting Holmes and Watson's next adventure.-Ashley Leffel, Griffin Middle School, Frisco, TX Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2017694 (Vol. 02) Great Shelby Holmes Meets Her Match (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elizabeth Eulberg
 Being friends with a super sleuth isn't easy, especially when she's nine years old and four feet tall, and full of attitude. But for eleven-year-old aspiring writer John Watson, being friends with Shelby Holmes is just the adventure he's looking for.
 978-1-68119-054-9 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 3.7 Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Shelby Holmes and John Watson are back in school and back to sleuthing. When Shelby meets her new science teacher, Mr. Crosby, she immediately senses something suspicious about him. When his watch is stolen, Holmes takes the case and is faced with her greatest adversary yet. Has Holmes met her match? Holmes's know-it-all personality and Watson's more laid-back persona continue to complement each other as they did in the previous book. Watson faces the challenges of beginning a new school, making new friends, coping with his parents' divorce, and navigating health issues related to his diabetes. Holmes continues to be the boisterous character who doesn't care what others think and will do anything to solve a case. Watson sets a great example for middle grade readers as he doesn't sacrifice his relationship with outsider Holmes as he makes new friends in school. Readers are treated to the softer side of Holmes as she learns that sometimes her ego gets in the way of the things that matter most. Eulberg does an excellent job of character development and presenting realistic family and friend relationships. The satisfying conclusion leaves open the possibility of additional sequels. VERDICT Another fantastic addition to the series which will have readers anxiously awaiting Holmes and Watson's next adventure.-Ashley Leffel, Griffin Middle School, Frisco, TX Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2076702 (Vol. 03) Great Shelby Holmes and the Coldest Case (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elizabeth Eulberg

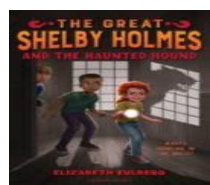
After Watson's blog chronicling his and Shelby's case-closing abilities attracts the attention of a newspaper reporter, the pair becomes a media sensation in their Harlem neighborhood. So it's no surprise (at least, to Shelby!) when the article lands them their highest profile client yet.

978-1-68119-057-0 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 570

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Shelby Holmes and John Watson are back in school and back to sleuthing. When Shelby meets her new science teacher, Mr. Crosby, she immediately senses something suspicious about him. When his watch is stolen, Holmes takes the case and is faced with her greatest adversary yet. Has Holmes met her match? Holmes's know-it-all personality and Watson's more laid-back persona continue to complement each other as they did in the previous book. Watson faces the challenges of beginning a new school, making new friends, coping with his parents' divorce, and navigating health issues related to his diabetes. Holmes continues to be the boisterous character who doesn't care what others think and will do anything to solve a case. Watson sets a great example for middle grade readers as he doesn't sacrifice his relationship with outsider Holmes as he makes new friends in school. Readers are treated to the softer side of Holmes as she learns that sometimes her ego gets in the way of the things that matter most. Eulberg does an excellent job of character development and presenting realistic family and friend relationships. The satisfying conclusion leaves open the possibility of additional sequels. VERDICT Another fantastic addition to the series which will have readers anxiously awaiting Holmes and Watson's next adventure.-Ashley Leffel, Griffin Middle School, Frisco, TX Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2118654 (Vol. 04) Great Shelby Holmes and the Haunted Hound (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elizabeth Eulberg

Now infamous for solving mysteries all over Manhattan, detective duo Shelby Holmes and John Watson stumble into their creepiest case yet. Residents of the Baskerville Estates see flickering lights and hear footsteps, scratching, and a wolfish howl at night--but the sounds come from an empty apartment! It can't be the ghost of former owner Hugo Baskerville's dog. . . can it?

978-1-5476-0147-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Greenglass House (Trade)

#2080318 (Vol. 03) Bluecrowne (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kate Milford

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



Lucy Bluecrowne is beginning a new life ashore with her stepmother and half brother, though she's certain the only place she'll ever belong is with her father on a ship of war as part of the crew. She doesn't care that living in a house is safer and the proper place for a twelve-year-old girl; it's boring.

978-1-328-46688-4 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 840

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Cleverly pulling together Milford's earlier works, this prequel to *The Greenglass House* is the origin story of the house itself, and gives fans more insight into the world of Nagspeake. Twelve-year-old Lucy Bluecrowne grew up aboard the *Left Handed Fate*, living the life of a privateer's daughter. After a serious injury, her father has decided Lucy should live ashore with her stepmother, the beautiful Lady Xiaoming, and her stepbrother, Laio. Her father has even built a house for them atop the highest hill in Nagspeake. Lucy is furious; the sea is in her blood. On the suggestion of Laio, the pair goes to the harbor to see about procuring a bark to fix up to sail on the river. It is no accident that the two children run into roamer Foulk Trigemine and conflagrationeer Ignis Blister. Roamers use science to travel through time and conflagrationeers control fire—it just so happens that Laio has a talent with fireworks, and this is not the first time Foulk has "seen" Lucy. Both Foulk and Ignis are on missions involving the Bluecrowne family. This somewhat complicated amalgamation of story lines is resplendent with time travel, Chinese folklore, nautical explanations, and the history of Nagspeake. **VERDICT** This is a sophisticated tale filled with masterful world building, time travel, science, and nautical life. Ideal for confident readers looking for a challenge.—Stacy Dillon, LREI, New York Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2144391 (Vol. 04) Thief Knot (Hardcover (Trade))

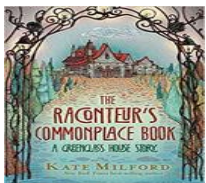
written by Kate Milford

Marzana's parents are recruited to help solve an odd crime, and she realizes that this could be the excitement she's been waiting for. She assembles a group of kid detectives with special skills—including the ghost of a ship captain's daughter—and together, they explore hidden passageways, navigate architecture that changes overnight, and try to unravel the puzzle of who the kidnappers are—and where they're hiding. But will they beat the deadline for a ransom that's impossible to pay?

978-1-328-46689-1 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 464 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 20.0 Lexile 800

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–7—The Republic of Gammerbund is a sanctuary for even the most legendary thieves and smugglers to hide and lead (mostly) normal lives. When a kidnapping threatens Gammerbund, 12-year-old Marzana's parents are recruited to help, and the lure of adventure is too much for the shy aspiring spy. She puts together a team of peers to investigate, each member bringing a talent more unusual than the last. But the case may be even stranger than anyone suspects. This novel takes readers back into the world Milford created in *Greenglass House*, adding richly detailed layers to a well-developed setting. While kids need not have read the other installments, those familiar with the series will appreciate the references to previous books. This is a perfectly plotted and well-told mystery, and the fascinating settings and characters make it unique. Children will find the plot's twists thrilling and immersive, thanks to Milford's world-building talent. **VERDICT** Readers will delight in this old-fashioned mystery, made fresh with intriguing places and people.—Kristin Brynsvold, Tuckahoe Elementary School, Arlington, VA



#2207616 (Vol. 05) Raconteur's Commonplace Book (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate Milford

The rain hasn't stopped for a week, and the twelve guests of the Blue Vein Tavern are trapped by flooded roads and the rising Skidwreck River. Among them are a ship's captain, tattooed twins, a musician, and a young girl traveling on her own. To pass the time, they begin to tell stories—each a different type of folklore—that eventually reveal more about their own secrets than they intended.

978-1-328-46690-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.9 AR Pts 15.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist The wide-reaching world building of Milford's Nagspeake novels gets even more expansive in her latest. Fans of Greenglass House (2014) might recognize the title; it's the book of folktales about Nagspeake that Milo reads, and the stories within bolster just about every other book set in the world, with familiar characters, objects, and places periodically appearing. Beyond that, though, the stories are purely enjoyable, playfully toying with folktale conventions, offering a compelling variety of genres, and allowing each teller's voice to clearly come through in their tale. Some are eerie, like "The Hollow-Ware Man," which tells of someone making a desperate bargain, or "The Game of Maps," about a house with violent tendencies. Others are sweet, like "The Ferryman," featuring a boy who desperately loves riddles, or "The Coldway," about a seemingly doomed romance. As the stories go on, touchpoints emerge that gradually shape into revealing truths about the travelers. Though the importance of those truths might be lost on readers unfamiliar with Milford's other novels, the marvelous descriptions, delicious tension, and palpable atmosphere are plenty appealing on their own.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly As rain and the Skidwreck River's rising make "new rivers that had once been roads," 15 stranded individuals alternately spin stories in this deliciously folkloric, carefully plotted compilation that has roots in; and similarities to; Milford's Greenglass House. Interspersed with interludes in the Blue Vein Tavern and bearing repeating references and themes, the individual stories focus on "peddlers, tricksters, gamblers, and lovers"; keys, maps, and portals; and roads of ice and of old. In the moments between the tellings, the inclusive array of worldly and otherworldly guests; brothers with facial tattoos, a shawl-swathed woman, a child traveling solo; and the tavern's staff rotate across a great room's stage, manipulating physical objects (cards, an hourglass, whittled animals, music boxes) and engaging in continual patterns of movement (bookbinding, dancing, firekeeping). At once a deeply satisfying standalone and a smart addition to Milford's expansive world, this elegant feat of telescopic storytelling serves as both map and key, offering singular stories of consequence that slowly, artfully reveal an immersive mystery; one that will dazzle seasoned Milford fans and kindle new ones. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Barry Goldblatt, Barry Goldblatt Literary. (Feb.)

Greenwild (Trade)



#2325462 (Vol. 01) Greenwild: The World Behind the Door (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Pari Thomson

Eleven-year-old Daisy Thistledown is on the run. Her mother has been keeping big, glittering secrets, and now she has vanished. Daisy knows it's up to her to find Ma-- but someone is hunting her across London. Someone determined to stop her from discovering the truth.

978-0-374-39137-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 870

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist used to the more ordinary magic that comes in the form of international travel and high-seas adventure, as her fearless journalist mother often whisks her away to to far-off places for her investigative articles. But when her mother goes missing on a dangerous assignment, a bereft Daisy discovers an unusual key that accesses Greenwild, a miraculous world of magic--specifically, a botanical magic that used to be accessible to the whole world but is now available only to the very few. When it's revealed that someone is out to use Greenwild's power for nefarious purposes, a determined Daisy resolves to find her mother and save her newfound home. This fabulous first entry in a series is brimming with marvels and magic, but it also tackles topics like environmental destruction and fear of immigrants and outsiders. Stunning imagery and a deeply detailed magic system will draw in young readers, and occasional illustrations and illuminations add to the enchantment. A reassuring reminder of the endless amount of magic in the natural world. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Eleven-year-old Daisy Thistledown receives the grim news that her renowned traveling journalist mother went missing while uncovering a story at the Amazon rainforests--Daisy, however, believes she is still out there. After running away from her strict London boarding school, she finds a secret door that reveals Greenwild, an enchanted world where Botanists rescue endangered plants with the use of Ógreen magic.Ó While spending her time in the town of Mallowmarsh, Daisy learns that her mother is a Greenwild Botanist, and that someone from Grayside, the human world, is threatening the livelihood of Botanists by making them disappear one by one and destroying Greenwild. The start of a dazzling series about a girl's determination to find her mother, Thomson's debut blooms with gorgeous wildlife descriptions that shape Greenwild's world-building and its diverse inhabitants. Daisy is bright and resourceful, and she copes with her loneliness and fears by sharing sentimental stories about traveling with her mother to her new friends, like the animal-loving Indigo and the brilliant Prof. The dialogue adds energy and nuance as Daisy builds up courage to protect a world that feels like the only true home she's ever known, putting herself at great risk to start a rescue mission. Fans of The Secret Garden will find clear nods to that book, while aspiring young explorers will happily spend time in this emotionally gripping adventure. Includes illustrations and a map of Mallowmarsh. DR COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A hidden door in Kew Gardens leads a child to life-changing truths about herself and her family. Having spent most of her life traveling around the world with Leila, her intrepid eco-journalist mother, 11-year-old Daisy Thistledown has acquired useful skills, from shoplifting to slingshot expertise, but not magic--or so she thinks. In the wake of her mother's sudden disappearance in the Amazon, Daisy enters


Mallowmarsh, one of a set of pocket universes called the Greenwild where magical flora and the Botanists who preserve and study them shelter from the hostile Grayside, as they call our world. Met with both welcome and suspicion, Daisy quickly fits in without losing her determination to return to the Grayside to search for Leila and goes on to play a pivotal role in saving Mallowmarsh from mysterious eco-cidal villains dubbed Grim Reapers. The author tucks in a standard-issue magical school for Daisy to attend, though largely just as a setting for occasional class encounters with viciously feral plants, and kits her out with a lively supporting cast complete with a ghost, several previously unknown relatives, and (in the role of Draco Malfoy) bully "Poison" Ivy Helix to sneer at her supposed lack of magic and deride her for being an "unlawful immigrant." Daisy's mother is Persian, and her deceased English father is cued White. Finely detailed illustrations by Paganelli join Baker's equally exact botanical ones. Another magic school story, albeit expertly wrought and worth planting on shelves for its cogent themes. (map) (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Plant magic and majestic botanicals add fresh twists to debut author Thomson's series kickoff, a novel tinged with Frances Hodgson Burnett vibes. Eleven-year-old Daisy Thistledown, who is of English and Persian descent, usually travels the world with her intrepid reporter mother, but she's left at a London boarding school while her mom chases a dangerous assignment in Peru. When her mom is presumed dead after a plane crash, and the school Matron's actions turn both cruel and suspicious, Daisy and kitten Napoleon flee for London's Kew Gardens, where her mother bid her go if anything went wrong. There, Daisy; who's always had a strange connection with plants; is stunned to find an entry to a botanical realm called Greenwild, cared for by magical Botanists. Discovering that her mother is one of many Greenwilders to go missing from the Amazon, Daisy seeks to find out what is behind the disappearances in the mundane world, called the Grayside. Though conveniently rendered circumstances sometimes detract from this bright conservationist fantasy, Daisy's globe-trotting experiences grant her a mature worldview as she contends with a new magical reality, and a hidden-garden-set subplot proves affectionately wrought. Lavish b&w illustrations by Paganelli and Baker portray characters, gardens, and botanical visuals. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Peter Knapp, Park and Fine Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--A superbly written, exciting debut that will leave fantasy lovers wanting more. Eleven-year-old Persian-British protagonist Daisy Thistledown lives a nomadic life of adventure, following her journalist mother as she chases global stories. Then, Ma goes missing while on assignment. Following her mother's last request, Daisy seeks refuge in Greenwild, a hidden world of botanical magicians ("Botanists") and discovers she is one of them. While unraveling the mystery of Ma's disappearance, Daisy and her new friends uncover a plot that threatens the entire planet. The children's harrowing adventures propel the story. Their efforts to stop the nature-destroying Grim Reapers end in a dramatic battle where Daisy's heroism shines. Thomson expertly uses figurative language to establish setting and engage readers. This title is perfect for fantasy fans and as a fiction accompaniment to conservation units. VERDICT With its clever worldbuilding, high-stakes plot, and well-developed characters, this first novel in the "Greenwild" series is a must-purchase.--Maria Bohan Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2387481 (Vol. 02) City Beyond the Sea (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Pari Thomson</i> Desperate to join the expedition searching her mother and the other missing Botanists, Daisy and her friends abandon the safety of magical Mallowmarsh. Facing danger on the high seas, they find themselves pursued across the waves by ruthless Grim Reapers. But they will need help to defeat these dangerous enemies. Their greatest hope: to find the legendary Iffenwild, a mysterious city hidden beyond the sea and lost to time. 978-0-374-39139-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic	1	\$17.99

Grimm Tales (Gidwitz/Trade)

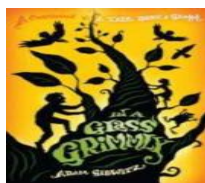
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #1620017 (Vol. 01) Tale Dark and Grimm (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Adam Gidwitz</i> Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. 978-0-525-42334-8 ©2010 5 x 7-3/4 192 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 4.3 GR Lvl V Lexile 690	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: New York Times Book Review ...unlike any children's book I've ever read...Heavy. And yet...really, really funny...The tone ricochets

between lyrical and goofy...And it all works. As the story progresses, it gets less and less faithful to the source material and becomes its own increasingly rich and strange thing...My 8-year-old daughter, a tough critic who doesn't like scary books, read *A Tale Dark & Grimm* three times, back to back. She was enchanted, not terrified. And no wonder. *A Tale Dark & Grimm* holds up to multiple rereadings, like the classic I think it will turn out to be.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Hansel and Gretel actually had their heads chopped off. Who knew? If that statement sends you scrambling for your favorite search engine, Gidwitz is savoring that reaction. And for readers who shriek with bloodthirsty delight, not skepticism, he has much more in store. Fracturing the folk tales of the Brothers Grimm, Gidwitz brings together old and new traditions of matter-of-fact horror. Hansel and Gretel become recurring characters in reworked versions of the Grimms' lesser-known tales, such as "Faithful Johannes" and "The Seven Ravens" (here, "The Seven Swallows"). The children are seeking a "nice" family after their father, no woodcutter but a king, pulls the aforementioned beheading stunt ("hey believed firmly in their little hearts that parents should not kill their children"). The perfect family proves elusive, and the children must extricate themselves from one outrageous situation after another—including, yes, a hungry old woman in an edible house. The rhythms and rhetoric of the prose are heavily influenced by verbal storytelling, which can on occasion strike a false note, but mostly add the intended wry wink to an audacious debut that's wicked smart and wicked funny. Ages 10-up. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal and unexpected good cheer, Gidwitz reweaves some of the most shocking and bloody stories the Brothers Grimm collected into a novel that's almost addictively compelling. He gives fair warning that this is no prettified, animated version of the old stories. "Are there any small children in the room now?" he asks midway through the first tale, "If so, it would be best if we just...hurried them off to bed. Because this is where things start to get, well...awesome." Many of humanity's least attractive, primal emotions are on display: greed, jealousy, lust, and cowardice. But, mostly it's the unspeakable betrayal by bad parents and their children's journey to maturation and forgiveness that are at the heart of the book. Anyone who's ever questioned why Hansel and Gretel's father is so readily complicit in their probable deaths and why the brother and sister, nonetheless, return home after their harrowing travails will find satisfying explanations here. Gidwitz is terrifying and funny at the same time. His storytelling is so assured that it's hard to believe this is his debut novel. And his treatment of the Grimms' tales is a whole new thing. It's equally easy to imagine parents keeping their kids up late so they can read just one more chapter aloud, kids finishing it off under the covers with a flashlight, and parents sneaking into their kids' rooms to grab it off the nightstand and finish it themselves.—Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY



#1682272 (Vol. 02) *In a Glass Grimly* (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adam Gidwitz

More Grimm tales await in the harrowing, hilarious companion to a beloved new classic.

978-0-525-42581-6 ©2012 192 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 3.5 GR Lvl X Lexile 630

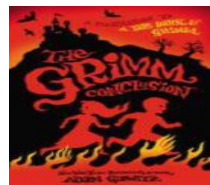
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The author of *A Tale Dark and Grimm* (2010) starts over--sending young Jack and Jill on a fresh quest for self-knowledge through trials and incidents drawn (stolen, according to the author) from a diverse array of European folk and fairy tales. Foolishly pledging their lives on finding the long-lost Seeing Glass, cousins Jack and Jill, with a three-legged talking frog to serve as the now-requisite comical animal sidekick, set out from the kingdom of Märchen. They climb a beanstalk, visit a goblin market and descend into a fire-belching salamander's lair (and then down its gullet). In a chamber of bones ("It gave new meaning to the term rib vaulting"), they turn the tables on a trio of tricky child eaters. Injecting authorial warnings and commentary as he goes, Gidwitz ensures that each adventure involves at least severe embarrassment or, more commonly, sudden death, along with smacking great washes of gore, vomit and (where appropriate) stomach acid. Following hard tests of wit and courage, the two adventurers, successful in both ostensible and real quests, return to tell their tales to rapt children (including one named "Hans Christian," and another "Joseph," or "J.J.") and even, in the end, mend relations with their formerly self-absorbed parents. Not so much a set of retellings as a creative romp through traditional and tradition-based story-scapes, compulsively readable and just as read-out-loudable. (source note) (Fantasy. 11-14)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The grossness quotient has gone up in Gidwitz's companion to *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, his grisly reimagining of classic fairy tales. Translation: this second foray is even more enjoyable than the author's acclaimed debut. The protagonists in this installment are Jack, Jill, and a talking frog, whose adventures begin separately in reworkings of "The Frog Prince" and "The Emperor's New Clothes," before the three join forces in "Jack and the Bean-stalk." Parental cruelties are more ordinary this time—mockery, neglect, and recrimination—but what the children find in their quest for the Seeing Glass is horrifying enough to compensate for any perceived softness at the outset. When Jill rescues Jack atop the beanstalk by accepting the giants' eating challenge, even the Monty Python gang might cringe at the results—it's the phrase "no guts, no glory" brought to Technicolor life. Gidwitz can do nuance, too, as Jill's perilous encounter with a sympathetic mermaid demonstrates. Technically polished, and with more original content, this romp has lost none of the edge of its predecessor. Ages 10-up. Agent: Sarah Burnes, the Gernert Company. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3 Up-Gidwitz is back with a second book that, if possible, outshines *A Tale Dark & Grimm* (Dutton,

2010). Once upon a time, in a faraway kingdom, cousins Jack and Jill have had a particularly tough day. Jack has a mean-boy problem: he's bullied and tortured by a clique whom he hero-worships. Jill has a mirror-obsessed, pettily cruel mother who lets her daughter walk naked, unaware, in front of the entire kingdom. But our woe-ridden hero and heroine are in for far worse: a skyscraping beanstalk, a fratlike group of giants, a deadly mermaid, and an oversize fire-breathing salamander show up before these brave, loving, and realistically flawed children get their happily ever after. This book, like the first, features a bold-font "storyteller" who introduces, explains, and comments on the story as it unfolds-usually with alacrity as he promises gore in the pages ahead, but with a fair dose of true insight into the characters and what makes them, like us, human. However, the chapters derive only loosely from fairy tales; they are mostly Gidwitz's inventions, which allows the character and story arcs to congeal into a satisfying whole. Most delightfully, that snarky, insightful narrator reminds us that stories were once verbal, communal experiences. This book begs to be read aloud, preferably to children who delight equally in hearing about pools of vomit and blood and about triumphant heroes.-Allison Bruce, The Children's Storefront, New York City (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1733630 (Vol. 03) Grimm Conclusion (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adam Gidwitz

Sister and brother Jorinda and Joringel fight to keep their promise to stay together throughout a new series of gruesome, twisted, Grimm-inspired stories.

978-0-525-42615-8 ©2013 5-7/8 x 8-1/2 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 3.5 GR Lvl V Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7. In this final entry in Gidwitz's trilogy, the author once again mashes together unsugarcoated versions of classic fairy tales. Twins Jorinda and Joringel suffer gruesome fates at the hands of their stepfather—naturally—but that's only the beginning. Once they dispatch him, they stumble into other well-known fairy tales, such as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty, as well as some less familiar stories, like The Juniper Tree. The metafictional approach can get distracting; along with regular interactions with the reader, Gidwitz eventually shares a pizza with, and reads his previous two novels to, Jorinda and Joringel. But interested readers won't be there for the narrative structure. No, they'll show up for the awesomely dark stories, full of beheadings, corpses, tyrants, murder, and terrible adults who treat children awfully until those children are empowered to fight back, taking the narrative power into their own hands to tell the stories with the happy endings they want to hear. Fans of the series will eagerly pore over this volume, which can comfortably stand on its own.

Reviews by: Horn Book Readers of Gidwitz's previous two books (*A Tale Dark & Grimm*, rev. 1/11; *In a Glass Grimly*, rev. 11/12) will not be surprised that the sister and brother in this story both endure terrible adventures, including death. From the beginning, when Jorinda and Joringel's wicked stepfather first tricks Jorinda into thinking she has decapitated her brother, then prepares a stew from the boy's flesh, this is gruesome, grisly, grim fun. Gidwitz works his two main characters into several different folktales including "Ashputtle" (a Cinderella variant) and "Sleeping Beauty." An omniscient narrator comments throughout, offering warnings, consolation, and explanations. It's not until Jorinda and Joringel visit the narrator in person in his Brooklyn classroom that the siblings, who have been tamping down their feelings of helplessness and anger, learn the importance of expressing their emotions and telling their stories. This volume is filled with metafictional references to the previous books and their characters; it also introduces some entertaining new characters, from a terrifying ogre named Malchizedek and a dimwitted prince to three ravens who offer their own arch commentary on events. Despite the gleeful horror, this is ultimately a warm and empathetic novel about devotion, and it will make a great read-aloud to groups that can handle the gore. *susan dove lempke*

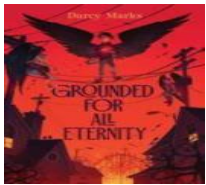
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The names change, but the characters and themes not so much as Gidwitz takes a pair of children through a third series of folk-tale scenarios punctuated with washes of blood, fire, tears and parental issues that presage readers' encounters with Bruno Bettelheim. Before finally making good on their vow never to part, twins Jorinda and Joringel hie off on separate plotlines. Jorinda, as Ashputtle (freely translated as "Toilet Cleaner"), is betrothed to a comically clueless prince, survives three nights in an ogre's haunted castle, becomes a child tyrant queen and is murdered. Joringel, magically reconstituted after having his head snipped off by his stepfather, swallows a fear-killing juniper berry, gives Sleeping Beauty CPR and rescues his sister from hell with help from the devil's grandmother. So intrusive a narrator that even his characters hear him, Gidwitz offers commentary and (necessarily frequent) warnings about upcoming shocks. He then later steps in to shepherd his protagonists to modern Brooklyn for some metafictional foolery before closing with notes on his sources. After many tears, few of them happy ones, and much reference to suppressed feelings of anger and guilt, the children are reconciled with their neglectful, widowed mother and go on to a happy-ever-after in an anarchic day camp dubbed Jungreich, the Kingdom of Children. Entertaining story-mongering, with traditional and original tropes artfully intertwined. (Fantasy. 11-14)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly If it ain't broke, don't fix it, and Gidwitz deploys his successful formula of bloody happenings and narratorial intrusion in his third and final installment of unexpurgated fairy tales. The protagonists are Jorinda and Joringel, who go through hair-raising and stomach-churning travails similar to those of their predecessors, Hansel and Gretel (in *A Tale Dark & Grimm*) and Jack and Jill (from *In a Glass Grimly*); there are even a few cameo appearances by characters from the earlier books. Among the sources this time are "Cinderella" and "Sleeping Beauty," lesser-known tales such as "The Juniper Tree" and "The Boy Who Left Home to Find Fear," and a few non-Grimm tales. Reflecting his love of theory, Gidwitz takes an excursion into metafiction near the end that highlights the power of story, one of two key themes,

along with the folly of repressing one's feelings. Underneath the gore, the wit, and the trips to Hell and back, this book makes it clearer than ever that Gidwitz truly cares about the kids he writes for. Ages 10-up. Agent: Sarah Burnes, the Gernert Company. (Oct.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-The conclusion to the trilogy that began with A Tale Dark and Grimm (2010) and continued with In a Glass Grimmy (2012, both Dutton) is equally gorey and awesomely dark. Jumping outside normal book conventions, Gidwitz not only relies on the previously recounted horror, but he also embraces and integrates it into the plot. "The third raven blinked at the little boy. 'The metafictional dimensions of that statement are kind of blowing my mind.'" Fans of these gruesome tales will not blink an eye, and newcomers are more likely to return to the previous titles to catch up than to find the references off-putting. The assured voice of the storyteller continues to be distinctive and clearly indicated by the bold type. Jorinda and Joringel, main characters in these adventures, gradually take on this storyteller role, upending the expected, and provide a satisfying conclusion while extolling the power of story. As innovative as they are traditional, the stories maintain clear connections with traditional Grimm tales while creatively connecting to the narrative, and all the while keeping the proceedings undeniably grisly and lurid. Gidwitz includes a note regarding the sources of his stories, which are not just Grimm, but also include Peter Dickinson, Hans Christian Andersen, Eric Kimmel, and his own fertile imagination. Readers will rejoice.-Carol A. Edwards, Denver Public Library, CO (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Grounded for All Eternity (Trade)



#2283027 (Vol. 01) Grounded for All Eternity (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Darcy Marks

Mal and his friends are just your regular average kids from hell. The suburbs that is, not the fiery pit part. But when Hell's Bells ring out-signaling that a soul has escaped from one of the eternal circles, Mal and his friends can't help but take the opportunity for a little adventure.

978-1-5344-8336-1 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Middle school can be hell. In this case, quite literally, as middle school fallen angels Malachi, Lilith, and Crowley find themselves transported through an opening in the veil from their suburb in Hell to present-day Salem, Massachusetts, on Halloween. The trio are excited for the adventure, as their weeklong break from classes has been woefully disappointing; Hell's been in lockdown since the soul of Samuel Parris--the Puritan minister who oversaw the Salem witch trials--escaped from the eighth circle. After the three fallen angels attempt to return home, they realize that Parris escaped with them, and Hell has a rule that's keeping them from returning home: The same number that leaves must return. In addition, Parris' evil soul is affecting the citizens of Salem, making it a dangerous place and rendering him more corporeal. The trio have to work with young locals Charity and Sean (a witch and psychic, respectively) and social worker seraph Cassandra before Heaven obliterates the town to stop it from becoming Hell on Earth. This is an entertaining, high-octane story that moves with the speed of a bat out of...you know where. The forward momentum will keep the attention of readers who appreciate plot-driven stories. Mal's fear of change as he and his friends get older feels realistic, and his attraction to both Lilith and Sean adds some nuance, but other characters are more two-dimensional. All characters are presumed White. Fast-paced and amusing. (Adventure. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Dark fantasy collides with Dante-esque imagery in debut author Marks's nail-biting occult adventure, in which a fateful act of rebellion strands an adolescent group of literal hell's angels on Earth. In the infernal suburbs, black-winged middle schooler Malachi is on a school holiday before following in his parents' footsteps and becoming a "power"; a guardian of damned souls held in one of nine Dante-inspired circles. But vacation is rendered boring when an especially dangerous soul, puritan minister Samuel Parris; who acted as a ringleader during the Salem witch trials; escapes from hell's eighth circle (which houses manipulators), resulting in a lockdown. After stumbling through a thin interdimensional veil on Samhain, Mal, along with close friends and fellow fledgling powers Crowley and Lilith, become stuck in Salem, Mass., having unknowingly let another party; Parris; through the veil. Already simmering tensions heighten as the group test their training and friendship, desperate to return Parris to his prison and frantically navigating hell's bureaucracy in search of a way home. Though characterizations can be thinly rendered, a breakneck plot, rousing fight scenes, and light romance drive this action-forward fantasy with a unique premise. Characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Victoria Wells Arms, Wells Arms Literary/HG Literary. (July)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Malachi wants everyone to understand he's not a demon. Neither are his friends. Yes, they live in Hell and their parents work in Hell. But they're not demons. They're simply regular kids enjoying one last school break together before job training begins in this acerbic and spooky middle-grade adventure by Darcy Marks.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

#2328218 (Vol. 02) Afterlife of the Party (Hardcover (Trade))



written by Darcy Marks

Malachi and his friends are back in this fresh and uniquely funny second novel about a squad of teens from hell learning to be guardian angels.

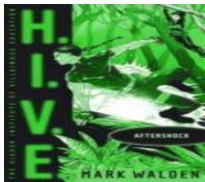
978-1-5344-8339-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Life at a new school can be hell, especially when you're in Hell. After accidentally trapping themselves on Earth and battling the escaped soul of evil Salem witch trial judge Samuel Parris in *Grounded for All Eternity* (2022), fallen angels Malachi (the group's leader), Lilith (the intelligence officer and potential love interest), Crowley (the suave magic user), and Aleister (the muscle) are back in Hell and ready to take on a new challenge: being separated into different schools for the first time. They're coping with it as best they can, but when odd things start happening in Hell--odd enough to get even Lucifer's attention--the foursome work alongside friends old and new, discovering that the primordial force of Chaos is on the rise, threatening all the dimensions. Fans of the first book will be thrilled to catch up with these fallen angels, but the story unfortunately drags, continually hinting that something bad is coming but meandering aimlessly as the characters try to find it. Finally, three-quarters of the way through the book, the pacing picks up. Readers who make it this far may discover the spark of the fun that made the first book enjoyable, but it's a long trek to get there and for little reward. It's a shame because the premise is interesting. Sadly unfocused. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

H.I.V.E. (Trade)

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$19.99



#1758112 (Vol. 07) Aftershock (Hardcover (Trade))

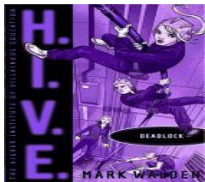
written by Mark Walden

A new era is beginning in the villainous world of H.I.V.E. as civil war looms, forcing Otto and his friends to take sides--perhaps against each other. Scheming, extorting, menacing, and general evilness are nothing new in the world of villainy--indeed, it's expected, especially at the Higher Institute of Villainous Education. But even so, there have always codes of conduct. Until now.

978-1-4424-9467-1 ©2014 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.8 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 7.4 Lexile 950

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$8.99



#1946720 (Vol. 08) Deadlock (Paperback (Trade))

written by Mark Walden

High-octane adventures continue in the eighth book of the H.I.V.E. series, and the team of supremely talented criminals is forced to question everything they know about life as villains. Otto and Raven are desperate to rescue their friends from the clutches of Anastasia Furan, head of the evil Disciples organization. First they must track down the location of the Glasshouse, the prison where Furan trains children to become ruthless assassins. But Otto is also being hunted. In the three months since his "expulsion" from H.I.V.E., The Artemis Section--an elite intelligence division that goes after the toughest targets and reports only to the US president--has had an opportunity to locate him. Set against the backdrop of a daring high-tech prison break, nothing is quite as it seems in Deadlock.

978-1-4424-9471-8 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

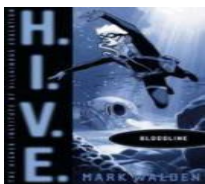
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.0 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 1010

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$17.99

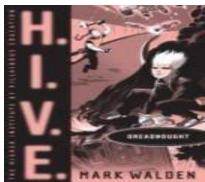
#2282687 (Vol. 09) Bloodline (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mark Walden

As the students of H.I.V.E. face the challenges of their final year at the school, Otto Malpense is forced to confront his own legacy as a new threat rises from the shadows of his past.



978-1-4424-9473-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.5 AR Pts 11.0



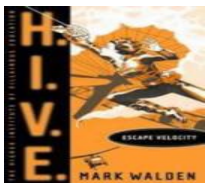
#1678951 (Vol. 04) Dreadnought (Paperback (Trade))
written by Mark Walden

In this action-packed H.I.V.E. adventure, the world's most powerful villains have a problem: one of their own has gone rogue. It's up to Otto to save the world from a renegade faction of the world's most powerful villains, known as the Disciples. And when they kidnap two of Otto's friends, things get personal.

978-1-4424-1368-9 ©2012 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.3 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 8.5 Lexile 1000

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$8.99

Reviews by: Children's Literature In this original and inspired title, the villain's perspective is shown in a creative and unusual way. The message seems to be, "Not all villains are created equally." Readers are drawn directly into the story, seemingly right next to the characters, whether in the heat of battle, or at a heartfelt goodbye. Best friends Otto and Wing are students at the Higher Institute of Villainous Education, or the H. I. V. E. For once, everything is going smoothly until a student disappears and decides to "go rogue," hiring himself out for evil deeds. Ironically, the H.I.V.E. students are the ones to triumph and save the day, even though they are typically the ones wreaking havoc. Every page is filled with exciting twists and turns, making this book a real page-turner. Violence is especially graphic in this addition to the series, as each blow is described in epic detail. Quite a few complicated technical words and phrases are used, most of which are never defined, and may be unfamiliar to young readers. Reviewer: Haley Maness



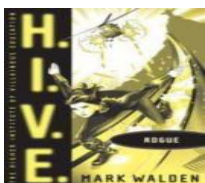
#1645482 (Vol. 03) Escape velocity (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Mark Walden

Pupils and staff at H.I.V.E.--the Higher Institute of Villainous Education--are horrified to discover that Dr. Nero has been captured by the forces of H.O.P.E., the Hostile Operative Prosecution Executive, the world's newest and most ruthlessly efficient security force.

978-1-4424-2185-1 ©2011 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.5 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 8.4 Lexile 920

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist The breakneck, tongue-in-cheek saga of H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute of Villainous Education) continues, and fans of the series will enjoy that the action starts immediately an assassination aboard the London Eye with little introduction to ongoing story threads. Otto, the student at the center of previous series entries, makes a late appearance here but nonetheless gets to show off both his craft and his bravado by breaking into a secret spy agency against the will of H.I.V.E.'s current leadership to rescue evil Dr. Nero.--Goldsmith, Francisc. Copyright 2010 Booklist

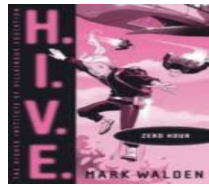


#1649336 (Vol. 05) Rogue (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Mark Walden

The leaders of the world's villainous forces are being picked off one by one in a series of mysterious attacks and Dr Nero is forced to take temporary control of G.L.O.V.E. when Diabolus Darkdoom is seriously injured. Meanwhile back at H.I.V.E., the school's own automated defence systems turn against the pupils and staff. And there is no one there to stop it.

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal . LC number unavailable. Gr 5—8



#1666172 (Vol. 06) H.I.V.E. : zero hour (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mark Walden

Overlord is reborn, and has developed the chilling ability to move from body to body, erasing the host's personality but also ultimately killing them. He must find Otto, the only host designed to contain him, and for that he needs the location of H.I.V.E.

978-1-4424-2188-2 ©2012 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.7 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 6.4 Lexile 920

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#496122 (Vol. 01) H.I.V.E. : Higher Institute for Villainous Education (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mark Walden

Thirteen-year-old orphan Otto Malpense, a boy with a special talent for villainy, is kidnapped and taken to the remote Higher Institute of Villainous Education, where he is enrolled in a six-year training program and immediately begins formulating a plan to escape.

978-1-4169-3571-1 ©2007 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.5 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 1040

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Thirteen-year-old Otto and three of his new friends are kidnapped and taken to H.I.V.E., a super academy for world domination where the particular talents encouraged are craftiness and daring. Students come from all over the world, speak varying degrees of English, and are often the offspring of H.I.V.E. graduates. Otto, however, is an orphan. He has real brilliance and a photographic mind. Both qualities made him relatively independent before he was kidnapped, and they now provide somewhat of a challenge to his would-be keepers at H.I.V.E. Otto spearheads the group's effort to escape and return home, an escape that is foiled in the course of an evening that involves H.I.V.E.'s electronic overseer, an out-of-control flesh-eating plant, and other technothrills. H.I.V.E. comes across as the shadow side of Hogwarts, but Otto and his pals aren't so much bad wizards as they are bright kids realizing they may be out of their depth. The cliff-hanger ending leaves much to be tied together in a sequel.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews How do super-villains become super-villains? Apparently, graduating from H.I.V.E. would be a good start. This fun romp starts with the arrival of a new class of students, kidnapped out of their daily lives and whisked away to an unknown hidden island. Whether sent by super-villain parents or snatched out of an orphanage because of a precocious prank on the Prime Minister of England, these teens must adapt to a new curriculum, consisting of Villainy Studies and Stealth & Evasion 101 in lieu of the traditional three Rs. Of course, some things never change--living up to a parent's reputation, dealing with the bullies from the Brute Squad and making new friends are part of every teen's life. And while some students are clearly happy to be where they are, there are those who are looking for a way out--any way out. This is a fun, intelligent and rapid read, an astringent breath of fresh air, in counterpoint to the sweetness of Hogwarts. Technology replaces magic, and brains are the key asset. This is Walden's first novel, but clearly not his last, as this is a six-year program. Let the adventure begin! (Fiction. YA)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Mischievously talented teenagers star in Walden's debut novel, which envisions the educational training of future megalomaniacs and criminal masterminds. Otto Malpense, a 13-year-old orphan, awakens aboard a helicopter with no memory of how he got there. He soon discovers that he and a few hundred other teens have been abducted by the Higher Institute of Villainous Education, a secret school committed to nurturing youth with "a special talent for the supremely villainous." Dr. Nero, the institute's founder, introduces the new students to the institute, located in a sprawling underground complex on a volcanic island. Otto, who has a photogenic memory, quickly befriends Wing Fanchu, a martial arts expert; Laura Brand, an expert with electronics; and Shelby Trinity, a dextrous jewel thief. The foursome conspire to escape their captors, and engineer a plan to return to their old lives. The multicultural array of staff and students Walden has created exude a cartoonish brand of over-the-top villainy reminiscent of Austin Powers or James Bond. Despite the villains' lack of bite (save for the giant man-eating plant) Walden's characters are memorable, if a bit cliched in execution. Otto and the others ultimately decide to stay at the institute; readers may well anticipate getting answers to several threads left open for subsequent installments. Ages 10-14. (May) Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8. H.I.V.E. is operated on a volcanic island in a distant ocean by G.L.O.V.E., a shadowy organization of worldwide wickedness. And, as 13-year-old master of mischief Otto Malpense soon discovers, here the slickest of young tricksters, thieves, and hackers have been brought against their will to be trained as the next generation of supervillains. Otto and his friends refuse to be held prisoner at the institution and develop a scheme to escape from the island, but they must defeat the all-seeing computer system, a seemingly undefeatable assassin in black, and a giant carnivorous plant to succeed. Warner's first novel is a real page-turner; those who love superhero stories will eat it up and not want to put it down. Sequels are virtually guaranteed. Walter Minkel, New York Public Library Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.



#501186 (Vol. 02) Overlord Protocol (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mark Walden

Still trapped at the Higher Institute of Villainous Education, or H.I.V.E., evil-genius-in-training Otto Malpense is nearly assassinated and must now not only try to escape, but also find out who murdered his best friend--and save himself.

978-1-4169-3573-5 ©2008 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.7 AR Pts 14.0 RC Lvl 8.6 Lexile 950

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Children's Literature Newsletter for Adults H.I.V.E. is not your typical school. It is the higher institute of villainous education, and it trains tomorrow's super villains. H.I.V.E. is where some parents send their too-smart children to keep them from doing something illegal. The rest of the students have no idea how they ended up on the school's rosters. Otto Malpense is one of those students. He is preternaturally smart, sees algorithms in his head and can walk through laser beams, but all he wants to do is escape the school. An opportunity presents itself when his best friend's father dies. Otto is allowed to travel to Tokyo with Wing to attend the funeral services. While they are gone, their friends Laura and Shelby uncover a plot to undermine the security system of the school and attack the boys. Unbeknownst to Wing and Otto, the attack goes off as planned. Upon their arrival, they are attacked by Cypher, one of the most devious masterminds on the villainous council. Wing is killed, and Otto sets out on a mission to hunt down Cypher. But hunting down a super villain is not so easy. Then Otto figures out that Cypher's target is actually the school. Otto is forced to team up with Professor Pike, the head scientist/tactician to reboot the school's H.I.V.E. mind and bring back its defenses. Will he finish the job before the school is infiltrated? Will Cypher use H.I.V.E. as a base for evil? Can Otto find it in himself to avenge his friend's death? Despite the fact that this is the second book in a series, the story is relatively easy to pick up. The story is full of rich details and will keep the reader guessing. The plot lines are extremely intricate, and the characters are quirky in a good way. This book belongs in uppermiddle school or high school. It would truly appeal to any science fiction patrons. Reviewer: Melyssa Malinowski


Reviews by: From the Publisher HOW FAR WILL OTTO GO TO PROTECT HIS FRIENDS? Otto Malpense and his friends thought their first year at the Higher Institute of Villainous Education was the most adventurous and exciting that they would ever encounter. They were dead wrong. When Otto and Wing are allowed off campus to attend Wing's father's funeral, they have no idea it's a trap, all part of a lethal plan organized by Cypher, the most ruthless supervillain any of them have ever known. He intends to use them to retrieve the Overlord Protocol, a device that has the capacity to help him take over the world. But when things go terribly wrong, Otto will stop at nothing to hunt him down and make him pay. With the help of Laura, Shelby, Raven, and his former nemesis, Dr. Nero, Otto must find a way to defeat an enemy that has overcome some of the planet's most infamous villains without even breaking a sweat. Because if he doesn't, the world as they know it will be changed forever.

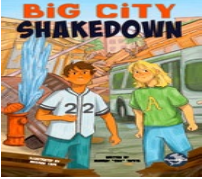
Reviews by: KLIATT Otto Malpense and his friends are back in this sequel to H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education. Now they're in their second year at this unusual school, facing new deadly dangers. Otto and his roommate Wing leave the campus to attend the funeral of Wing's father, but when ninjas attack them they realize the occasion is a trap. Ambitious evildoer Cypher is trying to launch the Overlord Protocol, a computer AI (artificial intelligence) that can help him conquer the world. Wing is shot and Otto sets out to defeat Cypher with the help of his other friends and even his former foe, school headmaster Dr. Nero, in order to save himself and the world. As in Catherine Jinks's Evil Genius, the notion of a school that teaches villainy has great YA appeal. This volume can stand on its own, for those who haven't read H.I.V.E. Fans of Alex Rider's adventures will appreciate all the action and the technotalk, despite the rather stereotypical characters. Overall, it's fast-moving fun. Age Range: Ages 12 to 18. REVIEWER: Paula Rohrlack (Vol. 42, No. 1)


Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-9- If Alex Rider attended a school for bad guys, he'd end up at the Higher Institute of Villainous Education. In this follow-up to H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education (S & S, 2007), the action doesn't stop for a moment. The story begins with Otto Malpense falling through the sky at a speed beyond acceptable parameters. It then flashes back two weeks to an assassination attempt on the life of Dr. Nero, headmaster of H.I.V.E., and the adrenaline keeps pumping from there. The mysterious Cypher is plotting some move against Dr. Nero that begins with the murder of Otto's friend Wing and continues with the mobilization of an army of assassins that is both unbelievably fast and nearly indestructible. Everything is connected somehow to the Overlord Protocol, an AI that went rogue and was then destroyed soon after it was booted up 15 years earlier. Now Otto and his friends, along with Dr. Nero and his staff, must work to counter Cypher and his ninjas. Plot twists and startling revelations continue to the very end. The conclusion suggests that a sequel is inevitable. Just-over-the-horizon technology gives this thriller a bit of a science-fiction flavor, and it's sure to appeal to readers interested in novels that combine action and intrigue.-Eric Norton, McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI Copyright 2008 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Otto Malpense and friends return in this sequel to H.I.V.E. (The Higher Institute for Villainous Education) (Simon & Schuster, 2007/VOYA June 2007). Otto is allowed to leave H.I.V.E. with his friend Wing in order to attend a funeral for Wing's father. The funeral, however, is actually part of an elaborate plan devised by the rogue villain known only as Cypher. Cypher hopes to seize power of the Overlord Protocol, an artificial intelligence that would allow Cypher to bring the world to its knees. Aided by the assassin Raven, Otto must track down Cypher in order to avenge Wing's apparent death and thwart Cypher's heinous scheme. Walden provides answers to several unsolved mysteries from the first book. Subplots that feature H.I.V.E.'s headmaster, Dr. Nero, and several of Otto's friends are nicely interwoven with the main plot. The action never slows as Otto, Raven, and their allies battle robot ninjas, overcome treacherous double agents, and save the institute from a hostile invasion. Tweens and younger teens will relish the escapism that this book provides. On the down side, several characters, especially the true villains, seem to speak in clichés. Villains, such as Dr. Nero, Raven, and even Otto, seem much too virtuous, and this impression strains the book's credibility. There is no denying, though, that this book is a quick, enjoyable thrill ride. Although not necessary, reading Walden's first H.I.V.E. novel will enhance the enjoyment of this book. A third installment is needed to answer some lingering questions. Reviewer: David Goodale

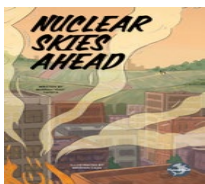
Hammerhead: Amazing Journeys in Historical Fiction (Seahorse Publishing)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2381563 Oh, the Humanity! (Library Binding) <i>written by Murray Tapeta</i> Josef and his family are heading home to America after visiting Josef's grandfather in Germany. Grandpa has a surprise for them. Instead of taking the boat home, they'll be riding a zeppelin across the ocean. The problem? They'll be aboard the ill-fated Hindenburg on its very last flight. Designed for Striving Readers. 979-8-88735-937-3 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O</p>	1	\$24.50

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2381604 Big City Shakedown (Library Binding) <i>written by Murray Tapeta</i> Pietro is a huge San Francisco Giants fan. So when his dad scores tickets to Game 3 of the 1989 World Series, Pietro is ecstatic. Unfortunately, the world has other plans. A massive earthquake rocks the city, destroying buildings and derailing their plans. When help is needed, Pietro steps in. Will he be a hero, or will it be game over for him? Designed for Striving Readers. 979-8-89042-171-5 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P</p>	1	\$24.50

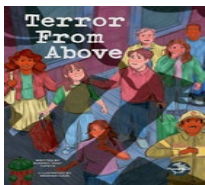
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2381561 Liverpool Nightmare (Library Binding) <i>written by Murray Tapeta</i> During World War II, Nicholas and his brother John seek shelter. Their town of Liverpool is the target of constant Nazi bombings. As the city burns around them, Nicholas and John are forced into the streets, where chaos reigns. Without a home and with no one but the two of them, they fight to escape and stay alive. Designed for Striving Readers. 979-8-89042-172-2 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O</p>	1	\$24.50

	Quantity	Unit Price
<p>#2381562 Nuclear Skies Ahead (Library Binding) <i>written by Murray Tapeta</i></p>	1	\$24.50



An enormous boom wakes Artem from his sleep. He discovers that a reactor at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl has exploded. With radiation everywhere, his family is forced to evacuate their town of Pripyat. But not everyone can go, and Artem's beloved dog Estas is left behind. Learning the fate of the abandoned animals, Artem mounts a dangerous rescue mission into a nuclear wasteland. Designed for Striving Readers.

979-8-89042-173-9 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P



#2381605 Terror from Above (Library Binding)
written by Murray Tapeta

Chris has never been to New York City. When she goes to visit her dad there, she arrives on the city's worst day: September 11, 2001. In a matter of hours, her entire world changes as she witnesses the terror and the horror of the attacks on New York City. It's a day that she and the rest of the United States will never forget. Designed for Striving Readers.

979-8-89042-174-6 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$24.50

Hammerhead: Amazing Journeys in the Paranormal World (Seahorse Publishing)

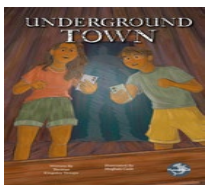


#2381611 Bigfoot Battle Bonanza (Library Binding)
written by Thomas Troupe

Cooper just wants to play games online with his friend. But outside, there's a fight happening between two bigfoots! They're huge, smell absolutely awful, and are trashing his backyard. How is Cooper supposed to stop the rumble before they destroy everything? Designed for Striving Readers.

979-8-88735-936-6 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$24.50



#2381615 Underground Town (Library Binding)
written by Thomas Troupe

Mort and his sister Shirley are exploring the woods outside Grandpa's cabin. Ignoring the old guy's warnings about the gully, they discover a secret beneath the surface. Before they know it, they've awakened an ancient evil. Can they escape? Or will they become dinner for the hungry undead of Underground Town? Designed for Striving Readers.

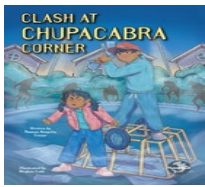
979-8-89042-165-4 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$24.50

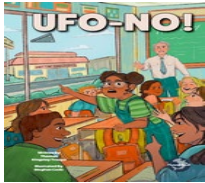
#2381612 Clash at Chupacabra Corner (Library Binding)
written by Thomas Troupe

Bad news! Robby has to get up super early to deliver newspapers. Worse news! Strange creatures are lurking in the dark. Before they know it, Robby and his sister are

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$24.50



surrounded by hungry and nasty chupacabras! Will they survive the morning and make headlines? Or will they end up in the obituaries? Designed for Striving Readers.
979-8-89042-166-1 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P



#2381614 UFO-No! (Library Binding)
written by Thomas Troupe

Tracy has always been a little strange. When she tells her school she's seeing UFOs, people think she's lost her mind. Tracy can see the otherworldly spacecraft, so why can't anyone else? Nothing she does can convince her classmates. But when the night sky is full of UFOs and students start disappearing, everyone will want to believe! Designed for Striving Readers.
979-8-89042-167-8 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$24.50

Hammerhead: Amazing Journeys of Laughter (Seahorse Publishing)



#2381622 Scorebirds (Library Binding)
written by A.B. Clamant

The Forest Hill Falcons are a lousy football team. They've never even scored a point ever. When new star football player Vid Ruxley scores a touchdown, something happens. Birds, living in the scoreboard, come out and attack everyone--players, fans, coaches! Before long, birds have taken over the entire football field. Only bird whisperer Plim Wilson knows what to do. But is it too late? Designed for Striving Readers.
979-8-88735-938-0 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$24.50



#2381621 Animals Have Had It (Library Binding)
written by A.B. Clamant

The animals of Cozy Cages Zoo have had enough. They're sick of the treatment they get and tired of their lousy enclosures. When a careless zookeeper named Phil hits a seal in the face with a fish, chaos erupts. The animals' anger spreads around the world, and in no time every animal on Earth revolts. What will it take for the animals to stop their rampage? Designed for Striving Readers.
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Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$24.50

#2381625 Toothpick of Titans (Library Binding)
written by A.B. Clamant

Crosby has fallen on hard times. He's lost his job and his family. Even his daughter doesn't speak to him. Oh, and his new job as a museum custodian stinks, too. While

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$24.50



sweeping up one day, he discovers a small, strange sliver of wood. He uses it as a toothpick to dislodge some ham sandwich stuck in his teeth. And suddenly he has the powers of a god. When international art thieves descend on the museum, will Crosby save the day? Or will he keep sweeping? Designed for Striving Readers.

979-8-89042-169-2 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.50



#2381624 Stink of the Century (Library Binding)
written by A.B. Clamant

Russ Cavendish wakes up to an awful smell. Birds are falling out of the sky. Cars are crashing. Dogs are going crazy. Could the awful odor be the cause? Who knows? His strange neighbors are no help. But something really stinks at Shady Oak Apartments, and Russ is on a mission to find out what. Designed for Striving Readers.

979-8-89042-170-8 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.50

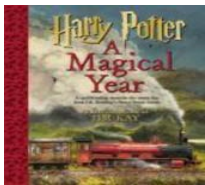


#2381623 Ski-rrel (Library Binding)
written by A.B. Clamant

Skiing is fun, right? Not when it's impossible to make it to the bottom of the hill without eating snow! When Emily and her family arrive at Harmony Hills, they see everyone is wiping out. Why? Emily investigates to discover the truth. She soon learns humans aren't the only creatures who love skiing. Snow way! Designed for Striving Readers.

979-8-88735-940-3 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 64 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P

Harry Potter Illustrated Editions (Trade)

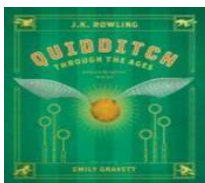


#2252499 Harry Potter: A Magical Year (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. K. Rowling

A unique and beautiful gift book celebrating the art of Jim Kay -- 366 magical moments from J.K Rowling's Harry Potter novels, evoked in spellbinding brushstrokes, characterful ink work, and illuminating pencil sketches.

978-1-338-80997-8 ©2021 7-1/2 x 9 240 pgs.
Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$36.99

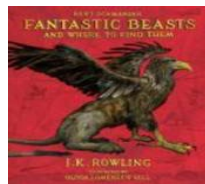


#2181880 Quidditch Through the Ages (Illustrated Edition) (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. K. Rowling

If you have ever asked yourself where the Golden Snitch came from, how the Bludgers came into existence, or why the Wigtown Wanderers have pictures of meat cleavers on their robes, you need Quidditch Through the Ages. This invaluable

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$34.99

volume is consulted by young Quidditch fans on an almost daily basis.
978-1-338-34056-3 ©2020 10 x 11-1/4 160 pgs.
Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 8.2 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 1280



**#2029427 Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (Illustrated Edition)
(Hardcover (Trade))**

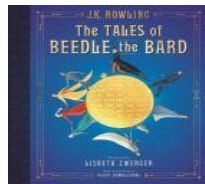
written by J. K. Rowling

An essential companion to the Harry Potter novels, now fully illustrated! Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, Newt Scamander's classic compendium of magical creatures, has delighted generations of wizarding readers. With this beautiful, large-scale new edition illustrated in full color, Muggles too will have the chance to discover where the Runespoor lives, what the Puffskein eats, and why shiny objects should always be kept away from the Niffler.

978-1-338-21679-0 ©2017 160 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$34.99



#2081602 Tales of Beedle the Bard (Illustrated Edition) (Hardcover (POB))

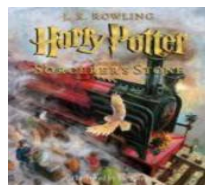
written by J. K. Rowling

A brand-new fully illustrated edition of J.K. Rowling's classic tales from the wizarding world.

978-1-338-26218-6 ©2018 10 x 11-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 8.3 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl U Lexile 1230

Quantity
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**#1934343 (Vol. 01) Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Illustrated Edition)
(Hardcover (Trade))**

written by J. K. Rowling

For the first time, J. K. Rowling's beloved Harry Potter books will be presented in lavishly illustrated full-color editions. Kate Greenaway-award winning artist Jim Kay has created over 100 stunning illustrations, making this deluxe format a perfect gift as much for a child being introduced to the series, as for the dedicated fan.

978-0-545-79035-2 ©2015 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 5.3 GR Lvl V Lexile 880

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$39.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Harry Potter has spent 11 long years living with his aunt, uncle, and cousin, surely the vilest household in children's literature since the family Roald Dahl created for Matilda (Viking, 1988). But like Matilda, Harry is a very special child; in fact, he is the only surviving member of a powerful magical family. His parents were killed by the evil Voldemort, who then mysteriously vanished, and the boy grew up completely ignorant of his own powers, until he received notification of his acceptance at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Once there, Harry's life changes dramatically. Hogwarts is exactly like a traditional British boarding school, except that the professors are all wizards and witches, ghosts roam the halls, and the surrounding woods are inhabited by unicorns and centaurs. There he makes good friends and terrible enemies. However, evil is lurking at the very heart of Hogwarts, and Harry and his friends must finally face the malevolent and powerful Voldemort, who is intent on taking over the world. The delight of this book lies in the juxtaposition of the world of Muggles (ordinary humans) with the world of magic. A whole host of unique characters inhabits this world, from the absentminded Head Wizard Dumbledore to the sly and supercilious student Draco Malfoy to the loyal but not too bright Hagrid. Harry himself is the perfect confused and unassuming hero, whom trouble follows like a wizard's familiar. After reading this entrancing fantasy, readers will be convinced that they, too, could take the train to Hogwarts School, if only they could find Platform Nine and Three Quarters at the King's Cross Station.-Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2018822 (Vol. 03) Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (Illustrated Edition) (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. K. Rowling

For twelve long years, the dread fortress of Azkaban held an infamous prisoner named Sirius Black. Convicted of killing thirteen people with a single curse, he was said to be the heir apparent to the Dark Lord, Voldemort. Now he has escaped, leaving only two clues as to where he might be headed: Harry Potter's defeat of You-Know-Who was Black's downfall as well.

978-0-545-79134-2 ©2017 336 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.7 AR Pts 18.0 RC Lvl 5.9 GR Lvl V Lexile 880

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$39.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-Isn't it reassuring that some things just get better and better? Harry is back and in fine form in the third installment of his adventures at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. His summer with the hideous Dursley family is cut short when, during a fit of quite understandable rage, he turns his Aunt Marge into an enormous balloon and then runs away. Soon, it becomes quite apparent that someone is trying to kill him; even after Harry is ensconced in the safety of fall term at Hogwarts, the attacks continue. Myriad subplots involving a new teacher with a secret, Hermione's strangely heavy class schedule, and enmity between Ron's old rat, Scabbers, and Hermione's new cat, Crookshanks, all mesh to create a stunning climax. The pace is nonstop, with thrilling games of Quidditch, terrifying Omens of Death, some skillful time travel, and lots of slimy Slytherins sneaking about causing trouble. This is a fabulously entertaining read that will have Harry Potter fans cheering for more.-Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2107386 (Vol. 04) Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Illustrated Edition) (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. K. Rowling

Harry Potter longs to escape his hateful relatives, the Dursleys, and live as a normal fourteen-year-old wizard, but what Harry does not yet realize is that he is not a normal wizard, and in his case, different can be deadly.

978-0-545-79142-7 ©2019 9 x 10-1/2 464 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.8 AR Pts 32.0 RC Lvl 5.9 Lexile 880

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$47.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine (Intermediate) The fourth book in the Harry Potter phenomenon, at 734 pages, is what you call a wallow-one that some will find wide-ranging, compellingly written, and absorbing; others, long, rambling, and tortuously fraught with adverbs ("What sort of objects are Portkeys?" said Harry curiously). Year Four at Hogwarts finds Harry enjoined as the surprising fourth contestant in the Triwizard Tournament-"a friendly competition between the three largest European schools of wizardry"-during which he bests a dragon, rescues Ron from merpeople, and finds his way through a maze that, unbeknownst to Dumbledore and the powers of good, leads to the dark wizard Voldemort and to the death of one of the other contestants. Before and in between the book's major action (the tournament is not announced until page 186, and Harry's involvement not until page 271), Rowling explores her major theme of good vs. evil and her minor themes of the value of loyalty and moral courage and the evils of yellow journalism, oppression, and bigotry. We find out, for instance, that Hagrid is not just oversized but part-giant, which is considered a shameful heritage; we see Hermione being taunted as a "mudblood" for her mixed Muggle-wizard parentage. Rowling's emphasis here is much less on school life (not a single inter-house Quidditch match!) and much more on the wider wizard world and, simultaneously, on Harry's more narrow, personal world, as he has his first fight with Ron and asks a girl to his first dance. But on the whole the emotional impact is disappointingly slight. The death of the Hogwarts student causes nary a lift of the reader's eyebrow; the complicated explanation for Voldemort's infiltration of Hogwarts is fairly preposterous and impossible to work out from the clues given. The characterization, as well, seems to be getting thinner, with Dumbledore in particular reduced to a caricature of geniality. As a transitional book, however, Goblet of Fire does its job-thoroughly if facilely-and raises some tantalizing questions: Will Snape really turn out to be one of the good guys? What's the connection between Harry's and Voldemort's wands, between Harry and Voldemort himself? When Harry tells his tale of Voldemort's return, what does the fleeting gleam of triumph in Dumbledore's eyes signify? Stay tuned, Pottermaniacs, for Year Five. (c) Copyright 2010. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. All rights reserved.

#2293080 (Vol. 05) Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$54.99

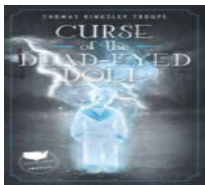


written by J. K. Rowling

There is a door at the end of a silent corridor. And it's haunting Harry Potter's dreams. Why else would he be waking in the middle of the night, screaming in terror? It's not just the upcoming O.W.L. exams; a new teacher with a personality like poisoned honey; a venomous, disgruntled house-elf; or even the growing threat of He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. Now Harry Potter is faced with the unreliability of the very government of the magical world and the impotence of the authorities at Hogwarts.

978-0-545-79143-4 ©2022 9 x 10-1/2 576 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Haunted States of America (Trade)



#2115753 Curse of the Dead-Eyed Doll (Library Binding)

written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

Alejandro Padilla isn't superstitious and he doesn't believe the stories that an old sailor doll in a Key West, Florida, museum is haunted. Al is quick to dismiss the odd occurrences as coincidence and bad luck . . . that is until they become more frequent and more sinister. Is the doll tormenting Al? And if so, what will Al have to do to get him to stop?

978-1-63163-347-8 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2115755 Phantom of the Tracks (Library Binding)

written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

According to local lore, the town of Chester, New Jersey, has a resident ghost. But neither Kara nor her best friend (and newest Chester resident) Natalie have ever heard of these stories. Yet it isn't long before the girls discover the legend of the Hookerman, a railroad worker who was in an accident and lost his hand. Some say he still wanders at night looking for his missing hand. But that was a long time ago. There isn't anything Kara and Natalie can do to help the ghost now . . . is there?

978-1-63163-351-5 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



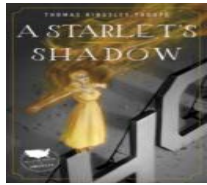
#2115757 Swamp of Lost Souls (Library Binding)

written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

Manchac Swamp in New Orleans, Louisiana, is rumored to be haunted, but Josh Athens doesn't believe it. It certainly didn't affect his decision to take a job with Bayou Boat Tours. But while trying to reach a stranded boat of tourists, Josh's coworker, Carter, crashes their airboat and suddenly their rescue mission turns into one of survival. The boys find the swamp is not only teeming with insects and other wildlife, but also the souls of a long-ago town. And the ghost thought to be at the center of it all, Aunt Julia Brown, has taken a particular interest in Josh. Will Josh and Carter find their way out, or will they join the lost souls of Manchac Swamp?

978-1-63163-355-3 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2115759 Starlet's Shadow (Library Binding)

written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

Isabella Rodriguez is thrilled that she and her sister get to spend a week with their aunt in sunny Los Angeles, California. A budding photographer, Isa keeps her camera at the ready to capture all the iconic sights: especially those of the historic Hollywood neighborhood where her aunt lives. After one of Isa's photos shows a mysterious shadowy figure, she learns that Hollywood Hills is haunted. Now the ghost in the photo won't leave Isa alone. She's trying to communicate with Isa . . . but what does she want?

978-1-63163-359-1 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99



#2220599 Haunt and Seek (Library Binding)

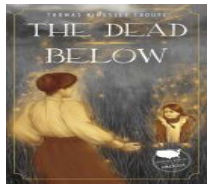
written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

Ever since Ben Tajima found a toy boat on the Chicago Riverwalk, strange things have been happening. Ben keeps seeing a ghostly boy everywhere: the swimming pool, the living room . . . But who is the boy? What is he looking for? And what will happen when he finds it?

978-1-63163-475-8 ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99



#2220598 Dead Below (Library Binding)

written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

It isn't long after Treva Gallo moves into her new Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, neighborhood that she starts to see ghosts. As Treva researches the neighborhood's past, she unearths more than she expected. It seems the spirits want something from Treva. But what can a living person do for the dead?

978-1-63163-479-6 ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99



#2076970 Beware the Bell Witch (Library Binding)

written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

The only interesting thing in Adams, Tennessee, according to Miles Watley, is the Bell Witch Cave which is said to be haunted. Shortly after visiting the cave, ghostly things start happening. It becomes clear that the Watleys have something the ghost wants. It isn't their house, is it?

978-1-63163-203-7 ©2018 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99

#2076971 Ghostly Reunion (Library Binding)

written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

A predictable family reunion in Hibbing, Minnesota turns spooky after Robby Warner and his cousins tour an old bus museum. A video recorded while at the museum

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99

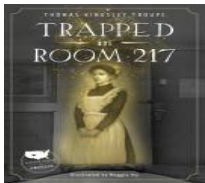


reveals a ghost who is looking for something. Will the ghost find what he's looking for, or will he keep searching for eternity?
 978-1-63163-207-5 ©2018 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690



#2076972 Spirits of the Storm (Library Binding)
written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe
 A quiet night shift in a Galveston, Texas discount store turns spooky when Sara Leung spots ghostly children playing in the aisles of the store. What do the children need? And are they stuck in the store forever?
 978-1-63163-211-2 ©2018 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99



#2076974 Trapped in Room 217 (Library Binding)
written by Thomas Kingsley Troupe
 Something is haunting Jayla Walters' Colorado hotel room--Room 217 of the Stanley Hotel. A ghost visits her room every night. What does the ghost want? And what happens when Jayla gets in her way?
 978-1-63163-215-0 ©2018 5 x 7-1/2 136 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-When Jayla's father whisks her and her brother Dion off on an unexpected trip to Colorado for a work commitment, they expect a fairly dull week stuck roaming around a hotel that doesn't even offer an indoor pool. What Jayla doesn't bargain for is that the hotel her father has chosen is the famed Stanley Hotel, known for its resident ghosts-and that the room they've booked is none other than number 217, popular with ghost watchers for its haunted reputation. Their first night there, Jayla and Dion are woken by a sudden chill in the air and the appearance of Elizabeth, a hotel maid who lights a lamp that no longer exists and leans down to pick up an unidentified object on the floor near the bed. After this action is repeated on multiple nights, Jayla decides to free Elizabeth from the confines of the hotel, an action that brings about disastrous results. Part of a compelling new series about "real" haunted locations across the United States, this installment is an entertaining ghost story, delivering just the right amount of chills. VERDICT Fans of Lauren Tarshis's "I Survived" series will quickly flock to this high interest, accessible thriller.-Joanna Sondheim, Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School, New York City Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Hawkeye (Marvel / Trade)




#2349209 (Vol. 01) Bishop Takes King (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ashley Poston
 When Kate Bishop, the young Hawkeye, solves a minor crime and saves the surprisingly cute Milo in the process, she counts it as a rare win. But a mix-up of their bags means that nope, Kate's life is still refusing to run smoothly. In that bag is a mysterious book that holds powerful, dangerous secrets-ones that New York City's most powerful super villain, the Kingpin, would kill to uncover.
 978-1-368-07899-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

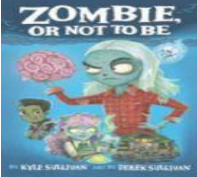
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Kate Bishop must save herself before she can save the world. Kate Bishop is Hawkeye, a New York City superhero

who claims to be the best archer in the world. When E.L. Albright, the enigmatic author of a well-loved children's book series, is killed at a bookstore's author event, Kate springs into action, ready to find the killer. Kate quickly learns that a villainous mob boss named Kingpin is searching for rare copies of Albright's books. Kate must team up with Milo, the author's grandson, to recover the volumes before the secrets held within them are used for evil; she also enlists the help of her best friend and fellow superhero, America Chavez. What should be a simple mission for one of the world's greatest heroes becomes complicated when Kate herself begins to feel the effects of the mysterious books' power. In a race against time, she confronts her greatest nightmare while attempting to save the world. Kate is a snarky yet lovable protagonist whose witty comebacks provide comic relief to the dark and twisted plotline. While the characters feel underdeveloped at times, the appeal of the Marvel universe pervades this action-packed volume, and fans will enjoy this refreshing take that showcases Kate Bishop as Hawkeye. Racial diversity is named in the supporting cast; Kate reads white. A clever murder mystery with all the charm one expects from the Marvel universe. (Mystery. 12-16)

Hazy Fables (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2119392 (Vol. 01) Hobgoblin and the Seven Stinkers of Rancidia (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Kyle Sullivan</i> Set in the faraway (and terrible-smelling) land of Rancidia, where it's good to smell bad and bad to smell good, this uproarious send-up of Snow White follows the adventures of the profoundly stinky Hobgoblin as he flees the jealous wrath of a monstrous, democracy-hating ogre tyrant named Fiddlefart. Along the way, he joins forces with the Seven Stinkers--an outcast band of foul-smelling creatures 978-1-948931-04-5 ©2019 6 x 8-3/4 180 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 860</p>	1	\$15.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A "Snow White" parody--substituting smelling grossest for fairest--about taking down a tyrant. The seven districts of Rancidia once existed in harmony, the people enjoying the blend of everyone's individual odors and governed by democracy. This putrid peace was shattered when ogre Fiddlefart conquered Rancidia and declared himself both king and Grossest Smelling in the Land. When Fiddlefart's magical Burping Bullfrog sees a new challenger for stinkiest--the humble Hobgoblin, a bean farmer from the neighboring Unincorporated Mucklands--the outraged ogre sends his top scent-assassin, Huntress, to scrub Hobgoblin so clean he'll never stink again. Instead of de-odorizing Hobgoblin, Huntress whiffs him into hiding with the Seven Stinkers, the ousted elected former government of Rancidia, who invite him into the resistance. Amiable but essentially an isolationist who tries "to stay out of politics," Hobgoblin initially takes action only for self-preservation (while Huntress warns: "Anytime a creature is treated unjustly--no matter who they are or where they're from--it's everyone's business"), but the fairy-tale plot trajectory pulls him in so he can join the effort to liberate Rancidia. The bodily functions and other stinky-things-based humor amp the kid-friendliness, frequently put the "pun" in pungent, and occasionally dip into parody musical numbers and sly self-awareness. Happy, rounded, nonthreatening cartoon illustrations make Hobgoblin's delighted tooting downright charming. Some of the Seven Stinkers are female, and one has two mothers. As the stench-loving Rancidians would say: It stinks! (Fantasy. 7-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

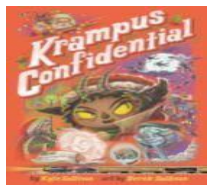
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2177925 (Vol. 02) Zombie, or Not to Be (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Kyle Sullivan</i> This brainy and hilarious parody of Shakespeare's Hamlet follows a young science-minded zombie named Edda as she deals with a myriad of death-altering problems including a climate crisis caused by the anti-science humans in Ignorway, the disappearance of her mom, and the greedy scheming of her villainous Aunt Agonista. 978-1-948931-13-7 ©2020 6 x 8-1/2 220 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 810</p>	1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Following 2019's Hobgoblin and the Seven Stinkers of Rancidia (loosely based on Snow White) the Sullivan twins do serious damage to a more highbrow classic. There's something rotten in the state of Deadmark besides its all-zombie population, as young Edda's chief executive mom has been spirited away and replaced by her anti-science tycoon sister Agonista. Battling not only a ravening appetite for brains but severe mood swings that even put her at odds with her former BFF and science partner Nerida, Edda decides to call on a troupe of Play Things to put on a play called The Thing and check Agonista's reaction. This gets her packed off on a ship bound for the werewolves of Fangland, from which she is rescued by a fleet of live humans from neighboring, thoroughly polluted Ignorway. Readers will chortle at the gross

details, the Beetlejuice-style illustrations, and (given at least some familiarity with Hamlet) the parodic twists. Despite the fact that most of the cast is dead, the only violence here is to the original.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews There's something rotting in Deadmark, and it's not the zombies--it's a science-denial conspiracy! The humans of Ignorway destroyed the environment so badly that viruses ran rampant. One was a zombie virus, and eventually, the zombies abandoned the ruined land to create Deadmark, their rational, science-positive democracy. In this Hamlet-meets-zombies story, when Edda's mother, the elected Lead Scientist, mysteriously goes missing, Agonista, Edda's environmental lawbreaking businesswoman aunt, is selected to replace her. Greed-driven Agonista immediately starts dismantling sustainable energy sources in favor of oil. With the help of allies--vampire bat Bram, the enchanted floating skull Rick (of the Glob Theater)--Edda discovers her mother's dark, humanized fate. The heroes quickly stage a production of the scheme and watch for Agonista's guilty reactions. Adventurous twists and turns--exile, a naval battle, Zombies for the Ethical Treatment of Humans and their development of cruelty-free, lab-grown FeignBrain ("Make your next meal a no-brainer!")--go alongside puns and Shakespearian winks. The horror elements are so campy and over-the-top that, despite the brain-eating monsters, it's funny instead of scary. The resulting cartoonishness allows the story to get away with blunt moralizing without breaking the comedic tone, with the heavy-handedness played as part of the joke without undermining genuine messages. The zombies and Bram are shades of green; humans are racially ambiguous. A standing ovation for undead environmentalist theater. (Humor/Horror. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal ark. Protagonist Edda is a scientist who flees to Ignorway in pursuit of the virus that triggered a zombi outbreak. Shakespeare fans will recall Hamlet's first line--"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark"--then Hamlet fleeing to Norway. Simila allusions pepper the book--most notably, the title. Parallels with the coronavirus pandemic also emerge. Short-sighted greedy decisions damaged Ignorway's environment, and the degradation made an ideal home for the virus to flourish. The virus spreads rapidly, so zombies attack incre sing numbers of humans to satisfy an insatiable appetite for brains. Edda and her two loyal friends tackle the virus and wipe out the zombies. Preven ing future virus flare-ups is difficult because most Ignorwegians do not believe in science, so they will not commit to environmental cleanup. Among the hardliners is Edda's own Aunt Agnostia, who sabotages Edda's scientific work. In the end, Edda and her friends are able to control he zombie population, and they initiate environmental restoration. Fans of zombie novels will remember Max Brooks's World War Z, a readali e for its high caliber scientific background about how viruses spread, and the humanitarian complexities during a global pandemic. A global pandemic, environmental issues, and characters who do not believe in science are themes all too suitable for students seeking contemporary fiction to write about for class. VERDICT Highly recommended for a middle-grade collection that caters to fans of the paranormal genre. Middle graders hungry for the next zombie book will devour this one.--Amy Thurow, Westside Elem. Sch., Sun Prairie, WI Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2246856 (Vol. 03) Krampus Confidential (Hardcover (POB))

written by Kyle Sullivan

In this hardboiled parody of The Maltese Falcon, Ruprecht, a twelve-year-old krampus and wannabe detective, gets more than he bargained for when he takes the case of a terrified elf.

978-1-948931-26-7 ©2021 6 x 9 242 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

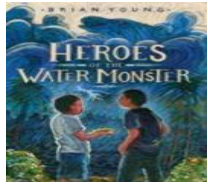
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When they open a detective agency in Tinseltown, Ruprecht and his ghost friend, Marley, become entangled in a deception contrived by a small elf with big bias. In this third installment of the Hazy Fables series, it appears that a krampus is jollifying elves, that is, overloading them on holiday spirit to the point of coma by showing them a snow globe reported to be the first toy Santa ever made. The bad news is that the police suspect young Ruprecht, who is a krampus, or goat/human hybrid from Germanic mythology, of being the perpetrator. Red herrings abound as Ruprecht and Marley race against the police, a goblin, and a bad witch to find the snow globe and the villain who is wielding it. It seems that society expects the worst of krampuses, and Ruprecht has already suffered from others' negative expectations, a circumstance that allows readers an opportunity to understand prejudice. But Tinseltown is packed with the usual (and unusual) suspects of Christmas lore, and the culprit could be anyone. Ruprecht narrates the mystery in a noir style that is both world-weary and tongue-in-cheek. The good news is that Ruprecht, unlike most noir protagonists, accepts help, especially from his parents, who are revealed to be legendary Christmas figures in their own rights. This charming work draws to a satisfactory close with justice restored. Good fun for youngsters who prefer their holiday cheer with a dark twist. (Fantasy/mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Ruprecht, a 12-year-old Krampus, is not the most well-loved creature in Tinseltown, due to some previous misunderstandings and framing for bad behavior that he had nothing to do with. Now that it is winter break, he is working with his best friend, a girl ghost named Marley, to solve cases they get in their makeshift detective agency. However, things go south when an elf comes to them with an alarming amount of "jollification" cases, where an elf is so overwhelmed with holiday spirit that they crash into a coma. Who is the biggest suspect in this ring of jollifications?: An unidentified krampus. Ruprecht must clear his own name, as he has just become the number one suspect. Readers will need a lot of backstory in order to understand Ruprecht. He has a sarcastic, hyperbolic detective tone in his inner thoughts or to other characters that some young readers will find funny and quirky, but others might not recognize. The chapters are short and end in cliff-hangers,

making this mystery a page-turner. However, the whodunit meanders and then slows down toward the middle of the book. VERDICT An additional purchase for elementary libraries where this series and other paranormal/fantasy series are popular.--Molly Dettmann, Norman North H.S., OK Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Healer of the Water Monster (Trade)



#2323617 Heroes of the Water Monster (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brian Young

(Companion Novel) Edward feels ready to move in with his dad's girlfriend and her son, Nathan. And Nathan is glad to have found a new guardian for Dew, the young water monster who has been Nathan's responsibility for two years. But Edward has a lot to learn about taking care of a water monster. And fast. In their search for the Modern Enemy, Nathan, Edward, Dew, and Yitoo must confront their past and their inner selves if they are to save the Fourth World from a devastating disaster.

978-0-06-299043-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 13.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this sequel to Healer of the Water Monster (rev. 7/21), Nathan and his mother and Edward and his father have moved in together. Both boys can see Holy Beings from traditional Dine stories, such as playful Dew and powerful Yitoo, water monsters from the first book. Now that Nathan is entering puberty, he will soon lose his ability to see them, and before that happens, he needs to travel to the Third World to ask Yitoo to mentor Dew. She agrees, but upon her return to the Fourth World (this world), Yitoo finds that her water is being diverted from sacred Navajo land to be used for private swimming pools and water parks. She vows to take her water back and return it to its rightful owners, but her methods would destroy many cities and communities. Navajo author Young interweaves the atrocities of the Long Walk, Navajo traditional beliefs, and modern issues of climate change and water consumption in an action-filled adventure featuring two appealing Indigenous protagonists. Young readers are faced with big questions about identity, justice, and inherited trauma. An author's note and glossary add further context. Nicholl Denice Montgomery(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Before he ages out of seeing Holy Beings, Nathan must find water monster Dew a mentor. A couple of years after the events of Healer of the Water Monster (2021), Nathan's life in Phoenix, Arizona, is changing--he and his mother, Janet, are moving in with Janet's boyfriend and his son, the book's co-protagonist, Edward. More than that, Nathan's going through puberty and knows his time with Dew is limited--her new guardian will be Edward. But to ensure that Dew learns the water monster songs, she needs a mentor. Nathan wants it to be powerful water monster Yitoo Bi'aanii, who eagerly returns to the Fourth World. Upon seeing how her river has dwindled, Yitoo declares that an Enemy is stealing the water. The quest to thwart the Enemy is quickly complicated as the stakes rise and the heroes face conflicting loyalties. The environmentalist narrative embraces nuance and complications, avoiding easy answers without undermining the possibility of a hopeful future. Edward, newly informed of his Diné family's brutal relocation era story, also struggles with inherited trauma, while Yitoo, who was witness to the violence, carries the atrocities with her. Additionally, Edward grapples with the fact that his late mother was White and with being the only household member who is not fully Diné. The bittersweet ending is as beautiful as the prose describing the fantastical journey to get there. Thought-provoking and full of heart; a genuinely pleasurable read. (author's note, glossary, note from Cynthia Leitich Smith) (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7--The second installment in the "Healer of the Water Monster" series is a fantastical blend of action, Navajo lore, and familial relationships. As Nathan is getting older, he understands he needs to pass the care of Dew the water monster off to Edward, his (sort of) stepbrother. But that doesn't make it any easier, coupled with the fact that Dew needs to learn more about her water monster siblings. So when Yitoo arrives to teach Dew, it seems like the perfect fit! However, Yitoo has quite the grudge against the Pale People and sets out on a path of revenge. Readers will be engaged in the fascinating Navajo legends and characters that Young has populated throughout the novel. Young deftly touches on a number of tough topics like climate change, generational trauma, and divorce in a manner that is insightful and age appropriate. The evolving relationship between Edward and Nathan is realistic and heartwarming and highlights the dynamics of blending families. Yitoo, while being downright mean at times, is still easy to empathize with. VERDICT An immersive and heartfelt story that tackles tough topics with grace.--Tara Peace Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Heroes of Havensong (Trade)

#2309157 (Vol. 01) Dragonboy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Megan Reyes

Blue, River, Wren, and Shenli grew up on different sides of a war they didn't start.

Their land has been torn apart over centuries of conflict, with humans taught to fear all

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



things magical, dragons driven to near extinction, and magic under attack. All of them must follow the threads of Fate, leaving behind the lives and homes they know to discover the truth about the seemingly endless war--and the truth about themselves. As the barriers between them begin to crumble, can they unravel the lies they've been taught to believe in order to restore the balance between humans, dragons, and magic before it's too late?

978-0-593-48237-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist In the aftermath of a war that fractured the realm of Haven, drove dragons close to extinction, and divided magical and nonmagical humans, the fates of four characters are intertwined: Blue, who has the magical ability to smell emotions and who, by an odd turn of events, goes from stable boy to king; River, who seeks to be Lead Harvester of the village and who greets Blue and reveals truths previously unknown to him; Wren, part of the Meraki people who are tied to companion Magics and who live side by side with dragons; and Shenli, a mainlander who must work for Chancellor Cudek as payment for his father's debts and who has been taught to despise magic and dragons. When Meraki island is put in danger, these four must come together to discover the truth about the chancellor and the ongoing war and find a way to heal the realm. Reyes has woven together a deeply magical world where fear smells like wood and oranges, hiccups warn of a great danger, and secrets are hidden in every realm. The rich narrative is full of unforgettable characters who have gone through loss and sadness but are the definition of hope and bravery. This enchanting novel is perfect for readers who love their fantasies with humor and cleverness. Highly recommended.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Reyes's ambitious fantasy debut, a series opener, four children must learn to trust one another after self-aware magic and gold threads of destiny bring them together to save the world. Blue, a dragon who was once a stable boy turned king, and his Rider, River, who never wanted to be bonded to a dragon, awoken from a decade-long hibernation to discover that the world is on the brink of war. Thirteen-year-old, tawny-skinned Shenli, in service to a cruel chancellor, balances his desire to protect his family with his yearning to rebel against corrupt royalty. According to her seer grandmother's prophecy, brown-skinned 13-year-old Wren, hailing from a mysterious island of long-lived people, will bring all four tweens together; to do so, she must defy her people's strictest laws while attempting to rein in her own erratic magic. In this complexly plotted adventure told in a nonlinear chronology, Reyes slowly weaves together seemingly disparate narrative threads; some of which take place over the course of several years; and often hints at long-hidden secrets tied to deeper worldbuilding, sowing excitement for the planned sequel. Character descriptions imply racial diversity throughout. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Joanna Volpe, New Leaf Literary and Media. (Jan.)



#2364972 (Vol. 02) Last Ice Phoenix (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Megan Reyes

Blue, River, Shenli, and Wren are still reeling from the discovery that they are the four heroes foretold to save their world. The weight of their destiny and the expectations that come with it is a heavy burden, but when danger once again finds them and the people they love, there's no choice but to act. Shenli and Wren both remain outsiders--one as a prisoner tired of being a pawn and the other banished from the home she fought to save. Meanwhile, Blue and River face a quest for a mythical creature that will take them beyond the world they know--with the fate of the Meraki people hanging in the balance. Although they just found one another, the four heroes are once again scattered across Haven--all facing new journeys, impossible choices and shocking truths.

978-0-593-48241-4 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Hex Allen (Trade)

#2299467 (Vol. 01) Hex Allen and the Clanksmiths (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jasmine Florentine

Hex Allen can't do magic - a huge problem when everything from lights to locks is powered by simple spells that everyone (save a few unfortunate "Undevelopeds") can

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



do. After years of feeling useless, Hex seizes the chance to change her future by journeying to the Wishing Wyrms, a legendary dragon that will grant a single wish once a century. But as they race to the Wishing Wyrms, Hex must decide between her friendship with the Clanksmiths and the wish that would give her a normal, magical life.

978-1-943147-77-9 ©2022 6 x 9 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In a magical world, 12-year-old Hex Allen is used to being Undeveloped, or someone without magic. Her family accepts and supports her, especially her 6-year-old brother, Spanner, who loves the stories she tells about No Magic Girl that include descriptions of her clever inventions. But Hex knows that she can never really be independent without magic--and her only chance to gain magical abilities is to visit the Wishing Wyrms, a volcano-dwelling dragon who lives in the middle of the Great Barren, a desert enveloped in a perpetual sandstorm. Approximately once a century, the storm ceases, offering people the chance to receive a single wish from the dragon. Fortunately, the timing is right, and the sandstorm clears. On her journey to find the Wishing Wyrms, Hex joins Fuse and Cam, two fellow Undevelopeds who teach her about clank, their name for nonmagical laws of nature--in other words, science. The Clanksmiths show her that there's a lot more to the world than casting spells, and Hex wonders if wishing to be magical is really the right choice. Florentine's STEM-positive debut is a delight. The story drives home the fact that science is all around us, and we only have to use some imagination, trial, and error to apply it to reality. Hex and Cam read as Black; Fuse has olive skin and turquoise hair. A beautiful story of discovering science and self. (map, Hex's sketchbook with science project instructions) (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Hidden Knife (Trade)



#2227690 Hidden Knife (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Melissa Marr

Twenty years ago, a door opened between the world of humans and the Netherwhere, allowing all kinds of otherworldly creatures entry. Some, like the kelpies and fairies, who like to bite, are best avoided. But the gargoyles are wise and wonderful, and show a special affection for humans.

978-0-525-51852-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Following a complicated series of events involving her mother's career as guard to manipulative Queen Evangeline, 12-year-old Victoria Wardrop, a powerful warder capable of working magic through both athames and sword, is sent to the Corvus School for the Artfully Inclined, where she hopes to learn enough to address her past. There, she meets Algernon Nightshade, son of the Queen's alchemist, who dreads the day he'll have to murder and replace his father, and street thief Milan, who sees the school as an unexpected route to stability and success. As the three form a tentative alliance, they also wrestle with their respective family legacies and discover that all is not right at the Hogwarts-esque school. Filled with ley lines and animate gargoyles, Marr's (Pretty Broken Things) engaging fantasy is primed for magic and mystery, but it feels more like an extended, jam-packed introduction than a full, fleshed-out arc. While the story line can feel unfocused, promising characters and intrigue-laced history suggest more to come. Ages 10: up. Agent: Merrilee Heifetz, Writers House. (June)



#2311580 Hidden Dragon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Melissa Marr

Otter (short for Otilie) is a girl who is most comfortable on her family's ship, the Tempest, where she and her fathers collect the dragon hides that protect the queen's guards. The streets are full of homeless kids, and now one of them, a street-smart boy called London, has stowed away on the Tempest. He befriends Otter, and soon they realize that the fate of the kingdom needs to be in the hands of the kids. As they work to fight injustice and protect the defenseless, they earn the respect of the realm's most magical creatures--dragons and gargoyles--who all bond together as a force for good.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

(Companion novel)
978-0-525-51855-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Reviews by: Booklist This exciting middle-grade fantasy set on the high seas follows Otter and her dads through their life on the Tempest as they collect dragon hides for the queen and her army. But despite the fantastic nature of the life aquatic, trouble arises in the kingdom, and Otter and her friends must see through the grownups' lies in order to save the day with their knowledge, courage, and kind hearts. Young readers will delight in the unexpected friendship between Otter and stowaway London, in watching the kids take a stand for what they believe in, and in plenty of thrilling moments as their adventures lead to encounters with dragons, gargoyles, and other creatures. This voice-y ride explores found family as well as finding your voice, and through shipwrecks and pirate battles, it's easy to root for Otter, London, and their allies as they continually save the day and, hopefully, their home. For a generation that celebrates supporting one another and finds strength in speaking out against prejudice and wrong, this is the perfect fantasy escape.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A uniquely talented seafaring girl steps up to save those she loves. Otilie Jo Maul, better known as Otter, has grown up aboard her fathers' ship, the HMS Tempest, the only boat licensed to seek out dragons. Otter uses her gift of telepathically sensing the presence of dragons to gather their shed skin for the queen and protect the secret of the dragons' existence. Meanwhile, Sofia finds herself uniquely positioned to demand the queen halt the use of the "relocation ships" responsible for the losses of many parents and children. When the Tempest becomes dangerously damaged, London, a stowaway-turned-friend, tells Otter of a place called the Netherwhere, where they may find the help their sinking ship needs along with the answers to other mysteries. While the plot is at times unclear, with too many different threads and subjects, an array of both common and more unusual fantastical creatures and a cheeky, lovable main character, supported by a close-knit family, will please readers. However, though chapters are brief and action is plentiful, frequent perspective changes are somewhat distracting, and separate storylines take too long to weave together. While this title is not billed as a sequel or part of a series, background knowledge of the Netherwhere and inhabitants would provide illuminating depth for readers. Though Otter is described as having multihued hair, physical descriptions of most characters are limited, implying a White default. A warm, loving family and the lure of dragon secrets boost a somewhat muddled portal fantasy. (Fantasy. 10-14)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this meandering nautical fantasy, a loose companion to Marr's *The Hidden Knife*, a seafaring tween with the ability to sense dragons embarks on a journey to save her friends and family. Twelve-year-old Otilie "Otter" Jo Maul is most at home aboard her adoptive fathers' ship, the HMS Tempest, which sails the Crimson Sea collecting shed dragon hides at the Glass Queen's behest. When streetwise orphan London sneaks aboard the ship in search of a better life, he and Otter forge a bond that serves them well after a dragon-related mishap at sea leaves them shipwrecked in a magical realm, Netherwhere. There, Otter discovers hidden truths behind her adoption and her affinity for dragon-finding. Meanwhile, street thief Sofia infiltrates the Glass Queen's court, hoping to shine a light on the plight of the empire's children, many of whom are unhoused or have gone missing. Through abruptly shifting parallel narratives that take time to intertwine, Marr gently works in themes of hope, compassion, and social responsibility, set against the backdrop of a fanciful, magic-filled world reminiscent of the Victorian era. Tidily resolved conflict gives way to an uplifting, character-focused tale about family and grand adventure. Ages 10: up. Agent: Merrilee Heifetz, Writers House. (Feb.)

Hither and Nigh (Trade)



#2290402 (Vol. 01) Hither and Nigh (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ellen Potter

Nell Batista has been in trouble one too many times. Now she's down to her last chance-literally. Join the Last Chance Club or be expelled from school. The kids in the club are an odd group, but when their teacher starts giving lessons in magic, things quickly go completely off the weird scale. But this magic is real-and powerful. As their skills grow, Nell and her new friends discover a parallel New York City called the Nigh. And it is all controlled by the terrifying Minister, who might hold the key to finding Nell's missing brother.

978-1-6659-1038-5 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

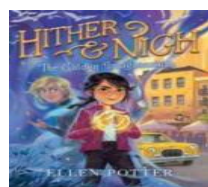
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Fresh clues about what happened to her vanished little brother send seventh-grader Nell Batista shuttling between two alternate versions of New York City, neither one quite ours—as readers will discover when, first, an after-school club the chronic truant is forced to join turns out to be a class in elementary magic, and then, after an attempted kidnapping, she finds herself immersed in Central Park's Bethesda Fountain, talking with the bronze angel. In fact, Potter so stocks her tale with exotic creatures, from tiny sprites to scary sewer monsters, that it's sometimes hard to tell Nell's familiar Hither from the (somewhat) more magical Nigh. But both prove excitingly dangerous places as Nell and allies who, like many of the people and locales in this delicious fantasy, aren't what they seem at first, or second, glance pass back and forth on the

way to a climactic narrow escape from a ring of cruel magicians trafficking in children with fertile imaginations. The scary bits are leavened by sly humor and terrific flights of fancy. Some questions are answered by the end, but a general lack of resolution combined with an uncommonly appealing cast leave plenty of reasons to conjure up sequels.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Three years after Nell Batista's brother, River, vanished from Washington Square Park, skipping class to hustle chess players lands seventh grader Nell in the Last Chance Club, an after-school program. She's there alongside three eighth graders: beautiful bully Annika Rapp, once friend to River; cute new boy Tom Gunnerson, a rich kid in for stealing; and hulking Crud, who is rumored to be violent. Instead of doing community service, they're supposed to "perform miracles, help avert disasters, et cetera" by learning magic from mysterious Mr. Boot, who bears strangely detailed files on each child. As her magic skills develop and Nell glimpses River, she soon stumbles upon the Nigh; an alternate realm in which centuries' worth of children, kidnapped for their powerful imaginations, are trained by Magicians to build towering cities with their minds. Balancing the tweens' everyday social pressures with a dangerous quest across the fantastical 19th-century version of New York City that is the Nigh, Potter (the Big Foot and Little Foot series) satisfyingly blends contemporary snark with physical adventures heightened by spell-casting misfires, anxious close calls, and just-scary-enough monsters. Nell cues as Latinx; other characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alice Tasman, Jean V. Naggar Literary. (Sept.)



#2348011 (Vol. 02) Golden Imaginarium (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ellen Potter

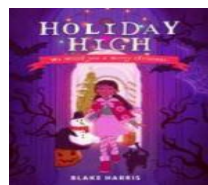
Weeks have passed since Nell Batista and her friends from the Last Chance Club learned how to use magic to access the hidden world of New York City called the Nigh. Weeks since Nell found her missing brother River in the Nigh and was forced to leave him behind. Desperate to find him again, Nell is eager to improve her spell work and get back to the Nigh.

978-1-6659-1042-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Holiday High (Trade)



#2330622 We Witch You a Merry Christmas (Hardcover (POB))

written by Blake Harris

Welcome to Holiday High. A magical school that exists for those who believe in holidays most, entrusted to safekeep the wonder. But when legacy enrollee Max December is surprisingly placed into the Halls of Halloween, all her Christmas dreams disappear into a thick haunted fog. With only one chance to earn his way back to Campus Christmas, Max must lead a misfit crew of ghouls, monsters, and costume keepers to reignite a forgotten All Hallows Eve tradition of magic, music, and song. just in time to find that there's more than one place our hearts can belong.

978-1-938447-59-4 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/4 128 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99

Holly Horror (Trade)



#2328996 (Vol. 01) Holly Horror (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Michelle Jabes Corpora

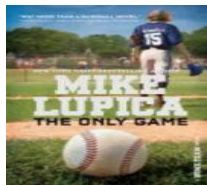
After her parents' painful divorce, Evie Archer hopes that moving to Ravenglass, Massachusetts, is the fresh start that her family needs. But Evie quickly realizes that her new home-known by locals as the Horror House-carries its own dark past after learning about Holly Hobbie, who mysteriously vanished in her bedroom one night. But traces of Holly linger in the Horror House and slowly begin to take over Evie's life. A strange shadow follows her everywhere she goes, and Evie starts to lose sight of what's real and what isn't the more she learns about The Lost Girl. Can Evie find out what happened the night of Holly's disappearance? Or is history doomed to repeat itself in the Horror House?

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An ill-fated move into an inherited house may present an opportunity for a dark history to repeat itself. The home has been in her family for around half a century, but Evie Archer's first time seeing Hobbie House is the day she, her brother, and their mother arrive in search of a place to start fresh. After her parents' divorce, life in New York City has become too expensive. But strange events and bad omens begin to appear almost immediately after they get to Ravenglass, a small Berkshires town, and the disappearance of Holly, Evie's mom's and aunt's cousin, from the house 40 years prior doesn't seem to have faded from local lore as much as the Archers had hoped. Before she realizes what's happening, the shadow that suddenly starts following Evie everywhere begins to drag her deeper into a dark world where everyone she cares about stands in the way and the line between what Evie wants and what the shadow wants starts to blur. Sibling friction--between Evie and her brother and between Evie's mom and maternal aunt--complements elements like an utterly creepy talking doll and dreams of a girl in a bonnet. Evie makes some decisions that will have readers yelling "don't do that!" in excellent horror-movie fashion. Plenty of backstory is given to fill in the story of the disappearance of 15-year-old Holly Hobbie. Evie's family is cued as white. Energetic and colorfully descriptive. (Horror. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This brooding horror novel by Corpora (The Fog of War) follows high schooler Evie Archer, who's recently moved from New York to the quiet town of Ravenglass, Mass., to start a new life with her mother and younger brother following her parents' divorce. Upon arriving, teenage local Tina informs Evie that her new abode, Hobbie House; which Tina calls Horror House; is the site of numerous bizarre incidents, most notably the unsolved disappearance of a girl named Holly Hobbie, whose body was never recovered. When Evie finds Holly's diary and begins to unravel the history of the Horror House, her sense of reality warps and shifts as she begins hearing Holly's voice in her head demanding that Evie uncover the truth of her disappearance. The story becomes occasionally encumbered by standard high school drama, but its myriad twists will keep readers riveted all the way to the satisfying climax. Anticipatory ambiance enlivens the well-trod haunted house premise; bursting with dark history, ghoulish ghosts, and high-stakes secrets; and grounded, rock-solid prose anchors the sinister happenings. The Archers read as white; Tina cues as Latinx. Ages 12: up. (Aug.)

Home Team (Trade)



#1898764 Only Game (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Mike Lupica

Can a young baseball star maintain his love of the game after the loss of his brother? Find out in this start to the Home Team series about a small town with high hopes, from New York Times bestselling author and sportswriting legend Mike Lupica.

978-1-4814-0995-7 ©2015 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 5.2 Lexile 790

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal day of baseball in his small town, Jack Callahan, superlative seventh grade shortstop and arguably the best pitcher in town, surprisingly quits at the end of an outstanding first practice. Jack and his best friend Gus had expected to be strong contender in the Atlantic League with aspirations of playing in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. Believing that an earlier tragedy involving his older brother Brad was all his fault, Jack takes a break from the only game he ever loved. This hiatus is short-lived, and he soon finds himself back at the diamond coaching girls softball. Slowly, he makes it back to his own team. Loyalty, friendship, courage, and teamwork are key components in the novel. Jack and his teammates have a falling out after Jack's decision to quit the team before the season even starts. This leads to new friendships with Cassie, a strong female character, and Teddy, an overweight, friendly guy whom Jack protects from bullying. Various acts of courage are displayed by Cassie, Teddy, and Jack. Lupica lays the foundation for a great sports series where friendship carries the characters through tribulations. Middle-grade readers will easily identify with the four friends. Although the story is sports related, this is more than a baseball book and will appeal to a wide variety of readers. A must-buy.-Glynis Jean Wray, Ocean County Library, Toms River, NJ (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1946501 Extra Yard (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Mike Lupica

Teddy, a young football player, learns that sometimes bridging the distance in your family can be harder than stretching for an extra yard on the field in the second book of the Home Team series from New York Times bestselling author and sportswriting legend Mike Lupica. Last spring Teddy's life changed for the better. He started working out, shaping up, and even earned a spot on the Walton baseball team, and

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$19.99

with the team he went all the way to the Little League World Series. But the best things to come out of that season were his friendships with Jack, Cassie, and Gus, and the confidence to finally try out for the sport he really loves--football. So when eighth grade begins, Teddy couldn't be more psyched. Until his mom drops a bomb: his father--who left them a long time ago--is back in Walton and back in their lives. And Teddy isn't happy about it. As a former star football player at the school, Teddy's dad is thrilled to find out his son is going out for the team, but Teddy begins to wonder if his father only cares about him now because he's putting on the helmet. Can Teddy find a way to go the extra yard for the team and for himself, or is the distance between him and his father too much to overcome?

978-1-4814-1000-7 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780



#1997720 Point Guard (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mike Lupica

Gus and Cassie have always been on the same team off the field, but can they stay friends when they're on the same court?

978-1-4814-1003-8 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Lupica trots his Home Team ensemble out onto the court for a whirl of fast-break hoops action threaded with provocative personal issues. Gus Morales is upset when his intensely competitive friend Cassie tries out for the boys' town basketball team. To Cassie and everyone else, his disturbance reads as a case of prejudice an accusation he stoutly denies. Cassie's vitriolic refusal to talk things out and some of her behavior after she makes the team only solidifies Gus' suspicion that she's out to win at any cost rather than be the best teammate (or friend) that she can be. Is he right or just rationalizing? Is her attitude justified or just a sign of selfishness? Lupica leaves it to readers to decide (and perhaps give their own buried attitudes a fresh once-over) as he carries the Walton Warriors through a series of dramatic last-second wins and losses. A subplot featuring racially charged local and student elections that directly mirror 2016's ugly presidential campaign will, hopefully, become less topical over time.--Peters, John Copyright 2017 Booklist



#2059230 Team Players (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mike Lupica

Cassie Bennett is great at being in charge. She always knows what to do to lead her teams to victory, keep her many groups of friends together, or fix any problem that comes her way. So when Sarah Milligan, an autistic girl with unreal softball skills, joins Cassie's team, Cassie's sure she can help her fit in with the team.

978-1-4814-1007-6 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-It's the summer after middle school and Cassie Bennett is gearing up for the all-star softball season. Cassie is a strong all-around athlete, having made waves as a standout on the boys' basketball team. Now she's looking forward to leading her Walton Red Sox through another undefeated season and competing for a chance to play for a regional championship in Fenway Park. The biggest challenge comes from the rupture of her friend group with the arrival of a new player, Sarah Milligan, who has Asperger's Syndrome. While several of the girls reject Sarah because her disability makes them uncomfortable, Cassie takes her on as someone to "fix." Alongside the softball story is a complementary one about Cassie's friends, Jack, Teddy, and Gus, and the plight of their baseball team after the removal of their overbearing coach and the related tension with his high-strung son, Sam. Through an eventful summer both on and off the field, Cassie and the others learn much about themselves and what kind of commitment it takes to maintain both a friendship and a team, while Cassie gets an insightful lesson from Sarah's mom about the difference between sympathy and empathy. Lupica describes game play with appropriate detail that should please fans but avoids letting the social plot get lost in the weeds. Periodic explorations into the psychology of pitching will be intriguing even to readers not interested in the game. VERDICT A compelling read with important lessons, Lupica's latest is highly recommended for libraries serving middle graders.--Bob Hassett, Luther Jackson Middle School, Falls Church, VA Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Homerooms and Hall Passes (Trade)**Quantity**
Unit Price
1
\$16.99**#2121126 (Vol. 01) Homerooms and Hall Passes (Hardcover (Trade))***written by Tom O'Donnell*

When five young adventurers are magically transported into their H&H game by an ancient curse, they must band together to survive their toughest challenge yet: middle school. Who knew that battling ogres would be easier than passing algebra or navigating the cafeteria social scene?

978-0-06-287214-2 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 10.0

Reviews by: Booklist Pulling a terrific switcheroo on the trapped in a video game premise, O'Donnell sends five young adventurers of the magical land of Brfandalr (a paladin, a thief, a barbarian berserker, a depressive gloom elf assassin, and apprentice wizard Albiorix) into the challenging fantasy realm of the titular RPG they had been playing as a change of pace from the usual quests: to wit, J. A. Dewar Middle School. Fortunately, they arrive on Dress Like a Pirate Day; unfortunately, by the terms of both the game and the curse that has struck them, there will be no return if anyone blows it by flunking any class. If the maddening puzzles of Algebra I or the deadly peril of getting on queen bee Nicole Davenport's wrong side weren't hazards enough, the heroes discover that they've brought along Zazirak, an evil sorcerer who has taken over the body of the vice principal and intends to set the demon Azathor the Devourer upon our defenseless world. Played out with impeccable, hilarious logic, the plot leads up an adventuresome learning curve to a brisk battle in a local mall with animated mannequins, a really high-stakes duel involving the evocatively named phone game Oink Pop, and a final realization that Brfandalr's dangers, lore, glittering treasures, and opportunities for daring exploits seem a bit pale next to those of . . . exotic suburbia. Who's to tell them nay?--John Peters Copyright 2010 Booklist

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Five heroes face their most trying quest yet: surviving middle school. In the real world of Briandalör, Albiorix and his band of fellow adventurers thwart evil forces, but, once a week, on Thursday nights, they meet at the local tavern for a game of Homerooms & Hall Passes, their fantasy role-playing escape. With dice and their imaginations, they transform into students who worry about class elections, algebra tests, spirit week, and the dreaded five-paragraph essay instead of magic, traps, and treasure. However, even with all his dedication to the game, Albiorix never could have predicted he and his friends would end up transported by a curse into the world of J.A. Dewar Middle School. Now they must struggle through the final two months of the semester in the lives of their characters or risk disappearing forever. Apart from remarks about pointy ears, shiny hair, and muscles, O'Donnell doesn't give the characters much physical description, but the cover illustration and naming conventions suggest that both the Briandalörians and middle schoolers are fairly diverse. Every chapter opens with an excerpt from the Homerooms & Hall Passes rule book, capturing the spirit of their tabletop role-playing game and foreshadowing upcoming encounters. Each adventurer learns a different lesson and grows through their humorous attempts at embodying their game personas. The villain is satisfyingly over-the-top, and his defeat befits the book's silly sense of humor. A rollicking, affectionate parody of fantasy role-playing. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Five young adventurers--an apprentice wizard, a barbarian, a thief, a paladin, and an elf from Briandalör--spend one day a week away from their usual quests, playing a very unadventurous role-playing game in which they are suburban middle school students. When Devis, the thief, steals a cursed treasure, the five adventurers find themselves transported to the actual middle school of their game and take on their roles--a nerd, an overachiever, a loner, a weirdo, and an exchange student. The only way to break the curse and return home is to do the near impossible: survive and thrive in middle school. Each chapter starts with excerpts from the game books including teacher characteristics, student characteristics, and more information from a sociological perspective. There is a lot of middle grade humor, poking fun at the horrors of middle school and honing in on the fact that everyone feels like an outsider or imposter. Though the cover implies a diverse group, there's a lack of diverse cultural representation in the text. There is a map located at the front of the book. VERDICT A lighthearted and funny read for larger libraries.-Kristyn Dorfman, The Nightingale-Bamford School, New York City Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Meet Devis the thief, Thromdurr the barbarian, Sorrowshade the gloom elf assassin, Vela the Valiant paladin and Albiorix the apprentice wizard--your typical group of middle school-aged Briandalörians. They take on campaigns "thwarting evil. Righting wrongs. Closing infernal gates opened by demented cultists"--you know, the usual. As a break from the quests, the crew plays its favorite game, Homerooms & Hall Passes (H&H), the "role-playing game of nonadventure... set in the fictional Realm of Suburbia." Players embody the roles of "middle-school students" and create characters who fit into different categories (Thromdurr plays Douglas the 8th level Nerd; Vela plays Valerie the 8th level Overachiever). When Devis steals from a cursed treasure horde, the tweens are transported to J.A. Dewar Middle School and into the lives of their H&H characters. All five must excel or they'll "blow it" and be "permanently eliminated from the game"--effectively, "academic failure... means death." (Thromdurr laments this fate: "I had hoped to be mauled by wild pigs... the traditional death of a berserker of the Sky Bear clan.")



#2178582 (Vol. 02) Heroes Level Up (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tom O'Donnell

Months after saving Suburbia from destruction, our heroes are back to their old lives of dungeon-delving and magical quests. All except the wizard Albiorix, who has given up adventuring and uses his time trying (unsuccessfully) to create his own board game. However, when the party finds their old friend June Westray's smartphone for sale in a Briandalorian bazaar, they fear the Realm of Suburbia is once more under threat.

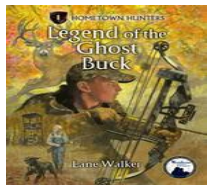
978-0-06-287217-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist This sequel takes the contemporary heroes of Br8andalr back to the fantasy Realm of Suburbia to confront a triple threat: high school, a team of talented grifters from their own plane, and a surprise villain with a powerful grimoire left behind in the previous episode. The greatest of these challenges (arguably) turns out to be the first, as, according to the rules of the titular game's Advanced Module, winning requires a series of unlikely feats ranging from being elected Homecoming royalty to winning a state championship and beating all comers in a battle of the bands. Facing obstacles from sneering cliques to the odd warg, the team battles with help from both Non-Playable Characters (i.e., actual high-schoolers) and a certain magical Axe of Destiny that can shred as well as slice. Mostly, though, they find their way either by overcoming inner doubts or transcending their Types. Readers feeling the pressure, social or otherwise, to conform to standardized roles or expectations may come away reassured that there's still plenty of space for skills and attributes on their Character cards.

Hometown Hunters (Spotlight)



#2371277 (Vol. 01) Legend of the Ghost Buck (Library Binding)

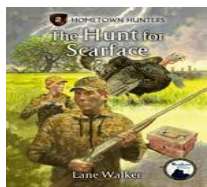
written by Lane Walker

Hunting was an important part of Boone's family's heritage, and Boone hoped to add to their list of achievements by bringing down a legendary buck if he doesn't let his doubts get in his way. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5374-5 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 740

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$22.95



#2371276 (Vol. 02) Hunt for Scarface (Library Binding)

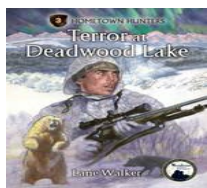
written by Lane Walker

Twins Kent and Kyle set out on an adventure to discover the secrets of Scarface, the thunder chicken, and finally bag him, but they are also on a hidden treasure hunt with someone else willing to do anything it takes to claim the prize. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5375-2 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 168 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$22.95

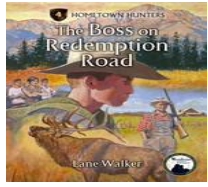


#2371279 (Vol. 03) Terror at Deadwood Lake (Library Binding)

written by Lane Walker

A terrifying near plane crash, a pack of menacing wolves, and a thunderous avalanche were just the beginning of Dre and his father's hunting trip, but in order to make it home, they'll have to survive a kodiak brown bear attack. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$22.95

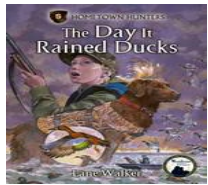


#2371274 (Vol. 04) Boss on Redemption Road (Library Binding)
written by Lane Walker

City kid Hunter has to unplug from his video games when his family is forced to relocate to the mountains, but he learns there's more to the sleepy little town when he awakes to the majestic bugle call of an elk named Boss. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5377-6 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 192 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 660

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$22.95

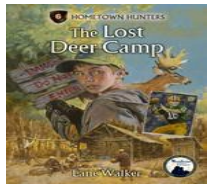


#2371275 (Vol. 05) Day It Rained Ducks (Library Binding)
written by Lane Walker

Blair can't wait for her first duck hunt, but two massive storms collide and change what was to be an exciting hunt into a desperate struggle for survival. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5378-3 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 160 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 750

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$22.95



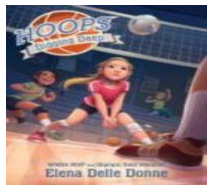
#2371278 (Vol. 06) Lost Deer Camp (Library Binding)
written by Lane Walker

After pulling an epic prank at his new school, Tucker is sent to live with his aunt and uncle, but despite his uncle's warnings to avoid the West Woods, Tucker discovers a creepy old sign, and something in the woods changes his life. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight, a division of ABDO.

978-1-0982-5379-0 ©2024 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 160 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 690

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$22.95

Hoops (Trade)



#2104864 (Vol. 04) Digging Deep (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elena Delle Donne

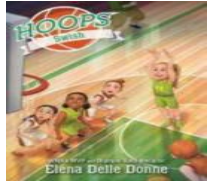
Elle is still reeling from her BIG decision but is also amazed at all the free time she has without basketball. With so much time to fill, she can figure out what she really likes doing--and maybe finding ways to spend more time with Amanda. But when she keeps being drawn back to the gym, could her big decision have been a big mistake?

978-1-5344-4124-8 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 640

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal the "Hoops" series, 12-year-old Elle is struggling with the fallout of quitting the basketball team. She's trying out the Buddy Club, which focuses on preventing bullying, and is enjoying more free time now that she doesn't have basketball practice. Her b

est friends, who are all still on the team, feel betrayed by her decision, especially when Elle accepts a temporary position on the volleyball team subbing for a teammate recovering from an injury. Elle reflects on what she can do to ensure playing on the basketball team is better suited to her mental and emotional needs. The series's plot is heavily inspired by the author's life as a professional women's basketball player and an Olympic gold medalist. Play-by-play scenes of practices and games are gripping and aren't bogged down by sports jargon. The writing keeps the story moving and will draw in newly independent readers and hold the attention of those who are dipping into the YA section. VERDICT Donne entices fans of realistic middle grade fiction by infusing this sports story with timely subjects such as bullying and friendship issues. She also uses her experience as an ambassador for both the Special Olympics and for the Global Lyme Alliance to add depth to the plot and characters. Highly recommended for middle grade sports collections.-Samantha Lumetta, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County



#2156187 (Vol. 05) Swish (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elena Delle Donne

Elle has been having a lot of fun on the volleyball team, a mentality she has decided to take with her to basketball once she rejoins the team. But even though Elle has decided she wants to return...will her teammates and coach welcome her back with open arms?

978-1-5344-4128-6 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2054222 (Vol. 01) Elle of the Ball (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elena Delle Donne

Elle Deluca is a seventh grader who is tall--not just sort of tall. She's six feet tall. And for a twelve-year-old girl, this means that her basketball team has high hopes for her changing positions and becoming their starting center. But a new position is not the only footwork she has to learn.

978-1-5344-1231-6 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 650

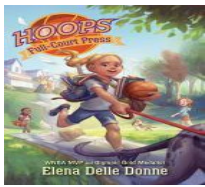
Quantity
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Unit Price
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Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Delle Donne; a professional basketball player, youth coach, and author of the memoir *My Shot* (which publishes simultaneously); taps into her knowledge of the game and her insight into aspiring players in this first book in the *Hoops* series. As basketball season opens, Elle Deluca has skyrocketed to a height of six feet and outgrown her clothes; she now towers over the seventh-grade boys, including her ballroom dancing partner for the upcoming cotillion. Rather than boosting her confidence as a basketball player, Elle's growth causes high anxiety: "I grew ten feet overnight and became a total klutz," she says, and she suspects that her coach has assigned her to the demanding position of starting center because of her stature, rather than her skill. While avoiding melodrama, Delle Donne humorously portrays Elle's adjustment to her changing body and her increasing self-confidence and positivity. Play-by-play basketball action, friendship subplots, and the inspiration Elle draws from her older sister (who is deaf and blind and has autism and cerebral palsy) round out this engaging novel. Ages 8--12. Agent: Jennifer Keene and Erin Kane, Octagon. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Elle has always been tall, but as she enters seventh grade she is already six feet. It is a good thing she loves playing basketball since that is all anyone ever asks her about when they meet her. With her new extra height, she is moving from a guard to center this year. Along with learning a new position, she is adjusting to her new height, making her feel like she will never be coordinated again. Elle is also dealing with her school's annual cotillion in which she will have to dance with a boy for the first time ever. As the tween protests being forced to wear a dress and dance for a grade, she learns that her friends and her family love her for who she is and that she is more capable than she believes. The author, a former WNBA MVP and Olympic gold medalist, keeps the basketball jargon in check and believable for this age group. Readers will be eager to see where the rest of the series takes Elle and her teammates. VERDICT The author's name may draw some recognition from big WNBA fans, but the diverse cast and timely subject matter for girls in middle grades are what will make this a strong choice for middle grades sports collections.-Carli Sauer, Carmel Middle School, IN Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

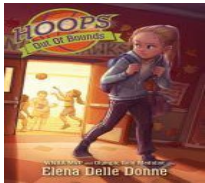
#2063524 (Vol. 02) Full-Court Press (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elena Delle Donne

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



Elle finds herself juggling her new passion, basketball obligations, and schoolwork. But when her grades start to slip, she's going to have to make a tough decision.
 978-1-5344-1234-7 ©2018 5-1/2 x 10-1/2 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0

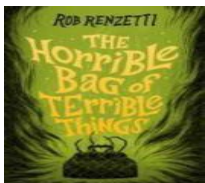
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



#2081742 (Vol. 03) Out of Bounds (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elena Delle Donne

Elle is finally finding her groove and is excited about how her year is turning out. But when her team loses a major game against their rivals, Elle doesn't know if basketball is worth it anymore. It feels like she can't win--even when she's improving and doing well, everyone always expects more from her.
 978-1-5344-1237-8 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 660

Horrible (Trade)



#2327831 (Vol. 01) Horrible Bag of Terrible Things (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rob Renzetti

When Zenith finds a strange, unsettling bag at his front door, he's not sure where it came from or who sent it to him. Zenith sets off into the bag to bring her back but soon finds a bizarre realm where malicious forests, a trio of blood-drinking mouths, and a sentient sawdust-stuffed giant are lurking within the seams. With the help of a greedy, earwax-nibbling gargoyle, Zenith will have to save Apogee from the Great Wurm and help them both escape the horrible bag before it's too late.
 978-0-593-51952-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

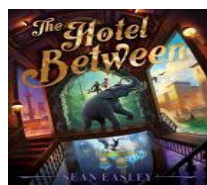
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Zenith, a mischievous eleven-year-old boy, allows his curiosity to get the better of him when a mysterious old bag appears on his front porch whilst his older sister Apogee is minding him. He brings the bag inside, examines it, and even sticks his whole head inside of it; relieved but somewhat disappointed with the bag's ordinariness, he clasps the bag shut, accidentally cutting his finger on the clasp of the bag. With a hearty laugh, the bag comes alive with the drop of blood from his finger, and then out springs a spidery monster, "Shlurp," as Zenith dubs him. Apogee comes to inspect the situation and ends up getting sucked into the bag, so now Zenith must travel through the bag's world filled with mythical creatures and monsters to save his sister and figure his way out before Shlurp or one of many terrible things in GrahBhag gets to them. Along the way, he encounters a variety of sometimes silly, sometimes frightening creatures, including a gargoyle named Kreeble who prefers to feast upon ear wax for sport, and an eight-foot-tall patchwork doll. Renzetti weaves an impressive middle grade novel about two feuding siblings that bond over their adventure in an unknown land. Apogee is the typical older sister, convinced she's right about everything, while Zenith is adventurous to a fault and more prone to mischief. Each chapter leaves off on a cliffhanger (sometimes quite literally for the characters), making for a suspenseful dark fantasy tale, and the ending leaves the series perfectly set up for a sequel, ensuring this will not be Apogee and Zenith's last journey to GrahBhag. JU COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleven-year-old Zenith Maelstrom is on a thrilling mission to save his older sister, Apogee, who was taken by a scary creature down into the world of GrahBhag. Zenith is stuck at home with 13-year-old Apogee when a mysterious weathered and worn bag appears on their front porch. Curious about this unmarked carryall, he brings it inside--and out crawls the horrific, spiderlike Shlurp, which drags Apogee down into the bag. Zenith follows her, and once inside, the magical, eerie world of GrahBhag opens up before him. He's thrust into a harrowing journey to save his sister before the unthinkable happens. Renzetti's story is fast paced and fully imagined, with completely original creatures and characters. The small, literal-minded gargoyle Kreeble proves an unlikely helpful companion for Zenith, perched on his shoulder throughout. The large ravens, Muncie and Hugh, are likable, interesting characters whose work in gathering and preserving history and knowledge makes the descriptions of the Collectory some of the most vivid in the story. The bond between brother and sister is well drawn and believable, as Zenith is desperate for a chance to protect and save his sibling. A painful story from their past shines light on just how much they rely on each other. The ending, resolved and yet open, sets the stage for a follow-up. Imaginative and immersive. (Horror. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two combative siblings must come together to survive an otherworldly kidnapping in this haunting adventure by Renzetti (Onward). Following a science-class mishap that resulted in his grounding, 11-year-old Zenith "Nit" Maelstrom is spending his summer constantly supervised by his patronizing older sister Apogee when a weathered satchel with a "general air of hostility" appears on the family's doorstep. After it belches forth a spidery creature comprised of knotted hair and toenails that drags his sister into the bag's interior, Nit dives in after her and emerges into an unsettling realm called GrahBhag. The eerie land proves populated by bloodthirsty, mouthlike seam monsters; a stuffed, patchwork man with a terrifying definition of friendship; and a gargoyle named Kreeble, who agrees to help Nit find Apogee in exchange for the opportunity to feast on the boy's earwax. A speedy plot hurtles a frantic Nit toward Apogee's cultlike captors and their insectoid leader, and insightful narration highlights the siblings' personal history to emotive effect. Renzetti imbues this series debut with classic horror inflections; the author's dedication to gross-out imagery transforms an otherwise straightforward fantasy into an inventive and genuinely creepy-crawly read. The siblings default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Rubin Pfeffer, Rubin Pfeffer Content. (July)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness The Horrible Bag of Terrible Things, a middle-grade horror novel by Rob Renzetti (Gravity Falls series), is exhilarating, spooky, and reminiscent of Through the Looking Glass--if everyone and everything in Wonderland was trying to kill Alice.

Hotel Between (Trade)



#2071429 (Vol. 01) Hotel Between (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sean Easley

Cam knows their father didn't abandon them, even though his twin sister Cass is certain he did. So when a door opens to "the hotel between," and Cam and Cass find a portal that opens doors to countries all over the world, with all sorts of magical treats (and tricks) within, Cam knows his father is somehow connected.

978-1-5344-1697-0 ©2018 6 x 7-3/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 650

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Cameron's only link to his absent father is a coin which he wears on a chain around his neck. When a mysterious hotel appears in a strip mall near his home, the coin proves to be a link between Cam's mundane life and the magical world of the hotel, where doors open onto every part of the globe. There is some connection between Cam's missing father and the hotel. A cheeky teen doorman who befriends Cam promises to help solve the mystery. However, everyone at the hotel has secrets, and Cam must navigate treacherous circumstances and shifting allegiances in order to achieve his goal. The plot is fast paced but a little muddled. Reluctant hero Cam stumbles into adventure while single-mindedly pursuing the father he can barely remember. Cam's grandmother and his twin sister Cassia, who has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, are incidental characters and remain left behind for most of the book. The hotel staff is diverse, though only a few of them get any significant character development. VERDICT Purchase for large collections where fantasy circulates well.-Misti Tidman, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, OH Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2117901 (Vol. 02) Key of Lost Things (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sean Easley

When a grand party goes horribly wrong, Cam learns his twin sister, Cass, may also be up to no good. Now Cam must set out to prevent Cass and Nico from endangering the Hotel and keep it from falling into the hands of Mr. Stripe, a horrible magic. If he fails, The Hotel Between could be lost. Forever.

978-1-5344-3787-6 ©2019 6 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 760

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

How to Train Your Dragon (Trade)

#898196 (Vol. 01) How to Train Your Dragon (Hardcover (POB))

written by Cressida Cowell

Chronicles the adventures and of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III as he tries to pass the important initiation test of the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans by catching and

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99



training a dragon.

978-0-316-73737-1 ©2004 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 224 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.6 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 5.7 Lexile 930

Reviews by: Children's Literature Newsletter for Adults This book purports to be written by an imaginary young Viking hero named Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III and which was translated from the Old Norse by Cressida Cowell. It is the story of an unlikely hero, son of the tribe's leader, slight in stature and not very heroic looking. "Translator" Cowell added rough sketches of the characters, as well as sketches of dragons, maps, antique book pages and scenes. The main characters, all young hooligan Vikings, have names such as Beerbelly, Snotlout, and Dogsbreath and they do their share of farting, sweating, vomiting, scratching themselves and getting covered in slime, green dragon blood and mud. The story involves an imaginary country where young boys, in order to prove themselves worthy of leadership, have to catch one of the baby dragons that live in their country and train it to obey much as one might train a dog. Because he is the leader's son and heir, the story's hero stands to be embarrassed if he cannot catch and train a dragon. There is more folderol, including the arrival of two unimaginably enormous killer sea dragons, but most of the details involve the young heroes smacking each other around, being bitten by dragons and making rude conversation to show how primitive they are. There are a few grammatical criticisms to be made, such as why a story told by a young hero would be written in the third person with occasional comments in the first person, but these are minor when compared to the overall vulgarity and oafishness of the characters. 2003, Little Brown, Ages 8 to 12.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Facing sneering peers, plus a cave full of vicious young dragons and two mountainous, malign adult ones, brings an ordinary Viking lad around to becoming a "Hero the Hard Way" in this farcical import. Dispatched to capture and train some breed of dragon as a rite of passage into the Hairy Hooligan Tribe, unprepossessing Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III returns not with a mighty Gronkle, or an aptly named Monstrous Nightmare, but a shrimpy creature laughingly dubbed "Toothless"-who also turns out to be about as trainable as a cat, with an attitude to match. But Hiccup and Toothless develop into a doughty team when two humongous, fire-breathing Sea Dragons pull up to shore, looking for the odd village or army to devour. Cowell adds lots of jagged, William Steig-like sketches to a narrative rich in dragon muck, cartoon violence, and characters with names like Snotlout and Dogsbreath the Duhbrain. Her genuinely fierce, intelligent, and scary dragons nearly steal the show, but Hiccup and his diminutive sidekick ultimately come out on top, both displaying a proper hero's mix of quick wit, courage, and loyalty. (Fiction. 10-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this riotous paper-over-board farce, the timid protagonist from Cowell's picture book Hiccup: The Seasick Viking proves himself worthy of the sobriquet "Hope and Heir to the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans." The protagonist is also given author credit (as Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III), with Cowell billed as translator "from the Old Norse." Indeed, "Hiccup" contributes an introductory note: "I was not the sort of boy who could train a dragon with a mere lifting of an eyebrow. I was not a natural at the Heroism business. I had to work at it. This is the story of becoming a Hero the Hard Way." From his initial challenge-Hiccup and his fellow warriors-in-training must each pluck a dragon from a "Dragon Nursery" where 3,000 young critters are hibernating-the likable lad faces a host of hurdles and beats tremendous odds to emerge triumphant. After selecting a tiny, toothless dragon ("I shall call [my dragon] Fireworm," says nemesis Snotface Snotlout. "What are you going to call yours, Hiccup? Sweetums? Sugarlips? Babyface?"). Hiccup tackles the chore of training the stubborn creature, which leads to some fresh, funny dialogue between the two (Hiccup has the rare ability to speak "Dragonese"). A rollicking finale finds the duo rescuing Vikings from a ravenous, mountain-size dragon. Short chapters, clever slapstick, kid-pleasing character names (e.g., Fishlegs, Dogsbreath the Duhbrain) and goofy, childlike drawings will keep even reluctant readers turning these pages-and chuckling as they go. Ages 8-12. (May) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-Young Hiccup may be the son of Stoick the Vast, chief of the Hairy Hooligans, but he isn't exactly heroic Viking material. When he and the other boys of his tribe are sent on a mission to fetch dragons to train, Hiccup comes back with the scrawniest creature ever seen. Toothless, as Hiccup names him, is also rude, lazy, and greedy, but when the tribe is faced with horrible danger, Hiccup's unorthodox dragon-training techniques prove successful and he and his unique beast become true heroes. Sprinkled throughout with funny sketches, scribbles, and ink blots, this is a goofy and exciting tale of an underdog who proves that brains can be just as important as brawn. Kids will hoot at the ridiculous names and sympathize with Hiccup's exasperation with his truly obstinate but strangely lovable dragon. A delightful read that fans of Ian Whybrow's "Little Wolf" series (Carolrhoda) will particularly enjoy.-Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#1608416 (Vol. 07) How to Ride a Dragon's Storm (Hardcover (POB))	1	\$14.99
<i>written by Cressida Cowell</i>		
Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, the reluctant Viking hero, tries to make the most of his somewhat limited time to discover America, return to Berk, save his father, fight		

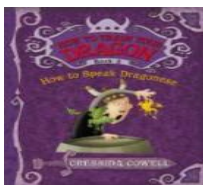


Polarserpents, and win a swimming race.
 978-0-316-07916-7 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 272 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.9 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 9.3 Lexile 1040

Reviews by: Children's Literature Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III thinks he is participating in a friendly intertribal swimming competition. But when Madguts the Murderous is involved in an activity, there is nothing friendly about it. Old grudges come to light as Hiccup, Fishlegs, and Camicazi bravely enter the freezing water, with mysterious instructions from Old Wrinkly to return in three months, five days, and six hours so they can be the last swimmers to return, thus winning the race. During their adventure, the three mighty little Viking children must battle Polar-Serpents, overcome the Curse of the Wanderers, escape an ancient beast, outwit Norbert the Nutjob, and navigate their way to American (and back!), all in time to return to the beach and save their tribes from the mad plotting of Madguts the Murderous. In this non-stop seventh book in the "How to Train Your Dragon" series, Hiccup and his friends must reach deep within themselves for the courage to face their fears and overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges. Author Cressida Cowell brilliantly balances action, humor, pathos, and lunacy as Hiccup careens from bad to worse with each improbable episode illustrated with hilarious drawings. Wisely, she creates stand-alone books that anyone can pick up and read without knowledge of Hiccup's previous adventures. However, with such raucous fun to be had, even reluctant readers will beg for all the books in the series. Reviewer: Keri Collins Lewis

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Praise for How to Train Your Dragon "Will keep even reluctant readers turning the pages--and chuckling as they go."

Reviews by: School Library Journal Praise for How to Train Your Dragon "Action-filled and compelling."



#1648283 (Vol. 03) How to Speak Dragonese (Paperback (Trade))
written by Cressida Cowell
 Packed with energetic black-and-white drawings and plenty of action, this book tells the boisterous tale of a young heir to a Viking chiefdom who must hunt down the fiercest dragon in the land, but ends up with the smallest, most ornery dragon.
 978-0-316-08529-8 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 256 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.5 AR Pts 5.0 GR Lvl T Lexile 910

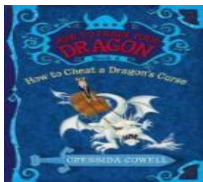
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$8.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Thirteen-year-old Rowan and 11-year-old Nina went to stay with their eccentric great-aunts in Maine after their mother was killed in *The Golden Hour* (which PW called "an entertaining novel"). *The Hour of the Cobra* by Maiya Williams, finds the two headed to Egypt to save some ancient scrolls and they accidentally change the course of events in their own time. Ages 8-12. (May) Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-The misfit hero of *How to Be a Pirate* (Little, Brown, 2005) returns in another Viking tall tale. Chief's son Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, his friend Fishlegs, and his cranky dragon, Toothless, get separated from their class during "Boarding-An-Enemy-Ship" practice. The peaceful fishing boat they are supposed to attack turns out to be a prowling Roman galley, crewed by some of the Empire's least-distinguished legions. The invaders are plotting to provoke war among the Viking factions by kidnapping the heirs of Hiccup's own Happy Hooligans and the Amazonian Bog-Burglar tribe. Then, while the locals are occupied, the Romans plan to make off with the entire dragon population of the islands. With the help of Bog-Burglar girl warrior Camicazi and the bumblebee-sized dragon Ziggerastica, the boys must find a way to counter the treacherous plan before they all end up facing combat to the death in the local arena. There is a lot of raucous humor and mock-heroic dialogue; ridiculous names add to the fun. The theme of brains over brawn is well defined. Warriors, Roman and Viking alike, are loud-mouthed, bullying braggarts, easy targets for clever, scrawny Hiccup. The sketchy, childlike black-and-white cartoon drawings are amusing but occasionally indistinct. Jon Scieszka's "Time Warp Trio" books (Viking), for slightly younger readers, have a sharper, more literate sense of twisted history, but the broad humor of Hiccup's misadventures will appeal to reluctant readers.-Elaine E. Knight, Lincoln Elementary Schools, IL Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

#1648284 (Vol. 04) How to Cheat a Dragon's Curse (Paperback (Trade))
written by Cressida Cowell

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$8.99



Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III must rescue his best friend, Fishlegs, from the deadly disease Vorpentitis. The only cure is rare and almost impossible to find--a potato. But where will Hiccup find such a thing?

978-0-316-08530-4 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.8 AR Pts 5.0 GR Lvl T Lexile 960

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5 - Cowell is getting a great deal of mileage from her pseudomemoirs of the delightfully alliterative Viking. She retains her touch in this latest volume, which relates Hiccup's quest to find the Vegetable-That-No-One-Dares-Name, namely a potato that is the only thing that can prevent his friend Fishlegs from dying of Vorpentitis. The potato, you see, is an imaginary vegetable that comes from a place that doesn't really exist: America. When Hiccup realizes that he has only until 10 o'clock the next morning to find the mythical vegetable, it is a race against time and against the wishes of his father. It also requires traveling with the charming bog-burglar Camicazi, breaking into the headquarters of Norbert the Nutjob and his Hysterical tribe, and stealing the frozen potato while they sleep, all the while trying to avoid a fearsome sea predator. The result is an irresistible concoction. As with all the "Hiccup" books, this one is full of amusing illustrations, clever design that includes inkblots scattered throughout the pages, and an occasional explanation of hibernating dragons and venomous vorpents. This action-filled and compelling story will draw readers along. It's a must for libraries that have the previous books in this series, which is probably most.-Tim Wadham, Maricopa County Library District, Phoenix, AZ Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information



#1648285 (Vol. 05) How to Twist a Dragon's Tale (Paperback (Trade))

written by Cressida Cowell

It's Hiccup's birthday, but that's not going to keep him from getting into trouble. To save his dragon, Toothless, from being banished, Hiccup must sneak into the Meathead Public Library and steal the Viking's most sacred book.

978-0-316-08531-1 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.9 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 7.6 GR Lvl T Lexile NC 1070

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$8.99



#1648286 (Vol. 06) Hero's Guide to Deadly Dragons (Paperback (Trade))

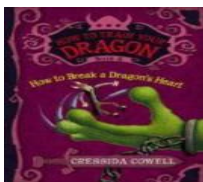
written by Cressida Cowell

It's Hiccup's birthday, but that's not going to keep him from getting into trouble. To save his dragon, Toothless, from being banished, Hiccup must sneak into the Meathead Public Library and steal the Viking's most sacred book. But the Vikings see books as a dangerous influence, and keep them locked up and under heavy guard. To save his friend, Hiccup must brave the Hairy Scary Librarian and his dreadful army of Meathead Warriors and face off against the formidable Driller-Dragons. Will he make it out and live to see his next birthday?

978-0-316-08532-8 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.9 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 7.3 GR Lvl T Lexile 980

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$8.99



#1681947 (Vol. 08) How to break a dragon's heart (Paperback (Trade))


written by Cressida Cowell


Stranded on the exceptionally dangerous, and possibly haunted, Beach of the Broken Heart, Hiccup must face Ug the Uglithug and complete the Impossible Task--or die trying. Along the way, he'll have to battle Berserks, dodge Scarers, and save Fishlegs from being fed to the Beast, all while being hunted down by an old enemy with a dark secret about the mysterious Lost Throne. With Toothless by his side, and time to stage his rescue running out, what's a Hero to do?

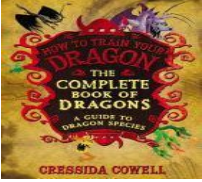
978-0-316-17617-0 ©2012 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 272 pgs.

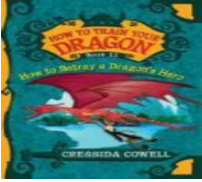
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.4 AR Pts 6.0 GR Lvl T Lexile 960

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$8.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1678777 (Vol. 09) How to Steal a Dragon's Sword (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Cressida Cowell</i> Hiccup the Viking must fight dragons, tongue-twisters, and vampire ghouldeaths to save the town from certain destruction. 978-0-316-20571-9 ©2012 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 384 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 6.3 Lexile 910</p>	1	\$12.99

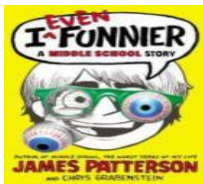
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1765361 (Vol. 10) How to Seize a Dragon's Jewel (Paperback (Trade)) <i>written by Cressida Cowell</i> The Dragon Rebellion has begun, bringing the Vikings' darkest hour upon them. Hiccup has become an outcast, but that won't stop him from going on the most harrowing and important quest of his life. He must find the Dragon's Jewel in order to save his people...but where should he begin? Don't miss Hiccup's most dangerous adventure yet! 978-0-316-24408-4 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 416 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.5 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 7.3 Lexile 940</p>	1	\$8.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1765364 Complete Book of Dragons: A Guide to Dragon Species (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Cressida Cowell</i> This guide is a must-have for fans of the How to Train Your Dragon series that inspired the hit movie and TV show. This gift book features all of the dragon species from the series plus brand-new ones created just for this book, with color illustrations of each and every one! 978-0-316-24410-7 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 224 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.7 AR Pts 2.0</p>	1	\$17.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1781892 (Vol. 11) How to Betray a Dragon's Hero (Paperback (Trade)) <i>written by Cressida Cowell</i> In Hiccup the Viking's misadventures, the stakes have never been higher, and it's friend versus foe to decide the fate of the world. 978-0-316-24411-4 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 416 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 6.3 GR Lvl T Lexile 910</p>	1	\$8.99

I Funny (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
<p>#1919807 (Vol. 02) I Even Funnier: A Middle School Story (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by James Patterson</i> While on a mission to win the Planet's Funniest Kid Comic regional competition, New York middle schooler Jamie Grimm copes with rival comics and bullies, a buddy in</p>	1	\$13.99

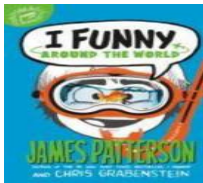


trouble, and a sudden family emergency, all with a sense of humor and a loyal group of friends.

978-0-316-20697-6 ©2014 5-1/2 x 7-7/8 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 710

Reviews by: Booklist d-up comedian Jamie Grimm despite challenges introduced in this Middle School series spin-off's opener, I Funny (201). Those include being orphaned, confined to a wheelchair, and subjected to constant harassment from a bully as well as further setbacks as he advances to the national round of the Planet's Funniest Kid Comic contest. Once again Jamie gets loyal support from an appealing supporting cast led by girl friend (two words at the beginning, one word by the end) Gilda. The wisecrack-laced narrative is enhanced by lots of pen-and-ink cartoons with added dialogue. The book pokes fun at nerd dating, Las Vegas, and other such fertile topics, and it gives budding comedians in the reading audience useful tools both by showing Jamie developing his act from events in his own up-and-down life and by closing with a list of recommended online joke repositories.--Peters, John Copyright 2014 Booklist



#2060278 (Vol. 06) Nerdiest, Wimpiest, Dorkiest I Funny Ever (Hardcover (POB))

written by James Patterson

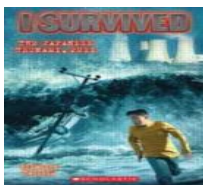
Comedian Jamie Grimm can't help feeling like he's reached the top--he has his own smash hit TV show and he's won a national funny-kid competition. But now he's taking his fame and fortune to international levels by competing in the upcoming world kid comic contest! Will Jamie prove that he's the funniest kid on earth--or does he stand (or sit!) to lose his crown?

978-0-316-34961-1 ©2018 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

I Survived (Prebound)



#1920387 (Vol. 08) I Survived the Japanese Tsunami, 2011 (Prebound)

written by Lauren Tarshis

In 2011, while visiting his father's hometown in Japan shortly after his death, Ben finds himself and his family being swept away by a terrible tsunami that leaves him stranded and alone in a strange country, far from home.

978-1-4844-0255-9 ©2013 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.7 GR Lvl R Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.95

Reviews by: Booklist Booklist (February 1, 2014 (Online)) Grades 2-4. Ben can't wait to leave Japan. The 11-year-old has been visiting his great uncle in his father's home city of Shogahama with his mother and 5-year-old brother, Harry. It's a trip he didn't want to make, since it was originally the idea of his father, a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, who tragically died in a car crash four months earlier. The eighth entry in Tarshis' wildly popular I Survived series begins with an earthquake and hurls Ben through one of the worst natural disasters in recent history. Clear, direct writing doesn't gloss over Ben's terror as he finds himself separated from his family and surrounded by water, drawing upon his memories of his dad to give him the strength he needs to survive. A short overview of the disaster and a list of further resources round out another solid entry in the series.

#1920602 (Vol. 10) I Survived the Destruction of Pompeii, A.D. 79 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.95



During the infamous eruption of Mount Vesuvius, one boy struggles to escape. Can he survive the most devastating disaster of ancient times?

978-1-4844-3641-7 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.3 GR Lvl S Lexile 700

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 2-4. Marcus is an 11-year-old slave in AD 79 who finds himself in Pompeii the day before Mount Vesuvius erupts. Although he has noticed the mini earthquakes that frequently disrupt the city's activities, he is more concerned with his miserable life with his cruel owner. A chance encounter on the street reunites Marcus with his father, who has been sold to gladiators. Marcus braves a daring rescue of his father, and the two race up Vesuvius to escape their captors only to return to warn the unbelieving citizens of the impending disaster. Tarshis serves up another gripping adventure in the I Survived series, with the light-speed pacing and death-defying maneuvering fans have come to expect. The relationship between Marcus and his father softens the terror of the horrific eruption and the ensuing chaos and panic. The insights into Roman civilization and society will please readers with an interest in the time period. Back matter includes suggestions for further research and answers to frequently asked questions about Pompeii.



#1920488 (Vol. 09) I Survived the Nazi Invasion 1944 (Prebound)

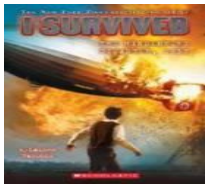
written by Lauren Tarshis

In 1944, Max and Zena Rosen escape from their Polish ghetto and the Nazis and join up with Jewish resistance fighters.

978-1-4844-1832-1 ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.5 GR Lvl T Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.95



#1958129 (Vol. 13) I Survived the Hindenburg Disaster, 1937 (Prebound)

written by Lauren Tarshis

In May of 1937, the Hindenburg, a massive German airship, caught fire while attempting to land in New Jersey, killing 35 people. Lauren Tarshis's latest thrilling addition to the bestselling I Survived series, will feature an 11-year-old boy in the middle of this historic disaster.

978-1-4844-7275-0 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.3 GR Lvl S Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.95

Reviews by: Booklist Booklist (April 1, 2016 (Online)) Grades 3-5. The latest entry in the I Survived series finds 11-year-old Hugo, his family, and a spy aboard the ill-fated Hindenburg on its final journey. Boarding in Frankfurt on the way home from a long stay in Kenya, Hugo is impressed by the craft's size, its smooth flight, and its luxury. A friendly fellow passenger introduces him to her father, Mr. Merrick, who works for the Hindenburg's owners and conducts a tour of the huge vessel. The trip turns out to be anything but routine as Hugo discovers that Mr. Merrick is the quarry of a spy-hunting Nazi officer; thunderstorms over the U.S. coast cause delays; and, of course, a sudden, massive conflagration sends Hugo frantically leaping for the ground amid showers of burning wreckage, not knowing whether his family has survived. Occasional spot art supplements the famous photo of the Hindenburg in flames, and the author closes with a historical summary and additional resources on the zeppelin's structure, its career, and how its catastrophic destruction changed the history of air travel.

Reviews by: Horn Book Horn Book Guide (Fall 2016) Hugo is excited to travel back to America with his family on the German zeppelin Hindenburg. He survives not only the airship's fateful explosion and fire but also maybe-witnesses a spy mission involving Nazis. Short, plot-driven chapters with cliffhanger endings tell a thrilling, if contrived, historical survival story. Black-and-white illustrations add atmosphere. Historical background and Hindenburg facts are appended. Reading list. Bib.

#1916884 (Vol. 11) I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871 (Prebound)

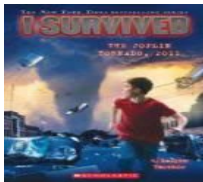
written by Lauren Tarshis

Oscar Starling tries to survive during the Great Chicago Fire.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.95



978-1-4844-4949-3 ©2015 96 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.3 GR Lvl R Lexile 730



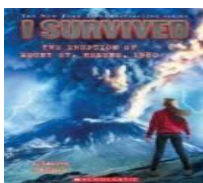
#1945082 (Vol. 12) I Survived the Joplin Tornado, 2011 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis

In 2011, eleven year old Dexter is thrilled to have the opportunity to go storm chasing with Dr. Norman Gage, but when the tornado they are following changes direction, Dexter's bravery is about to be tested.

978-1-4844-6044-3 ©2015 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.4 GR Lvl R Lexile 710

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.95

Reviews by: Horn Book Horn Book Guide (Spring 2016) This fast-paced story about a courageous kid caught in a natural disaster is based on thorough research on a real event, providing middle-grade readers with a fictional but accurate insider's-view of what really happened. Especially effective is Tarshis's afterword explaining that Joplin is where she grew up. Black-and-white illustrations add atmosphere. A narrative timeline and information about surviving tornadoes are appended. Bib.



#1977273 (Vol. 14) I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis

Eleven-year-old Sally Tanner knew the mountain well, and like many, she never imagined that this serene wilderness could turn deadly. But on May 10th, 1980, Sally finds herself in the middle of the deadliest volcanic eruption in U.S. history. Trapped on the mountain, she must escape clouds of poisonous gas, boiling rivers, and landslides of rock, glacial ice, and white-hot debris.

978-1-4844-9094-5 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.7 Lexile 640

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.95

Reviews by: Horn Book Horn Book Guide (Spring 2017) Jess and twins Sam and Eddie are retrieving a camera Jess left in a vacation cabin when Mount St. Helens erupts; Jess braves the heat, darkness, and overpowering ash to seek help for her trapped and injured friends. Though the exaggerated survival aspect feels contrived, the exciting historical story provides a glimpse of the event from an intimate-feeling perspective. Historical background appended. Reading list.



#1983445 (Vol. 04) I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis

Eleven-year-old Danny Crane witnesses the bombing of Pearl Harbor and must find his way home in the midst of the terror, smoke, and chaos of the attack.

978-1-4844-9472-1 ©2011 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.5 GR Lvl R Lexile 620

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.95

Reviews by: Children's Literature It is December 7, 1941 and eleven-year old Danny Crane has an escape plan. His mom meant well when she brought him to peaceful Hawaii, but he was not afraid of living in New York City, even though some of his friends were being threatened by gangs. He was going back to make sure his best friend was OK. Just as he is about to leave, Danny hears the sound of war planes, gun fire, and bombs. Smoke fills the air. Pearl Harbor has been attacked. Tarshis does an excellent job of portraying this surprise attack. She captures the chaos, fear, and destruction in terms young readers can understand. Subplots throughout the story present the life of Japanese Americans in Hawaii and how they

were treated after the attack. A fifteen-page appendix explores Japan's motivation for the attacks, America's response, and the changes in Pearl Harbor today. A timeline outlines the events of that fateful morning from 3:40 am, when a US ship first spotted suspicious activity at sea, to 10:00 am when the attack ended. Pencil sketches and a photograph of the Pearl Harbor memorial help bring this book to life. This well-written page turner is aimed at a third and fourth grade reading level but it will appeal to students as old as twelve. Reviewer: Leigh Geiger, Ph.D



#1983797 (Vol. 05) I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis

Ten-year-old Leo loves being a newsboy in San Francisco --but early one spring morning in 1906 Leo's world is shaken, when he finds himself stranded in the middle of San Francisco as it crumbles and burns to the ground.

978-1-4844-9491-2 ©2012 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.4 GR Lvl S Lexile 610

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.95

Reviews by: Children's Literature Until twenty hours before the earthquake, Leo has his gold nugget. Leo also has warm memories of his papa telling stories of brave Grandpop and Papa saying that Leo has his Grandpop's "guts and good luck." His papa always ended the stories by giving the nugget to Leo to hold. But now his gold nugget, his promise of a better life, has been stolen by two vicious street thugs. For the enterprising young Leo, a self-sufficient orphan who supports himself selling newspapers on the streets of San Francisco, the destructive earthquake of 1906 follows a personal disaster of major proportion. Leo is intent on retrieving his gold nugget until his friend, Morris, and the earthquake foil his efforts. Survival becomes all that matters. All over San Francisco, buildings are collapsing; fires burn out of control and the people are helpless to take care of themselves. Leo will persevere and help other people. This chapter book, in the "I Survived" series, does not have one dull moment. The adventures are fast paced, the descriptions are vivid, and all the illustrations fit the time period and mood. The gold nugget illustration on the title page and at the beginning of each chapter sparkles! Good will prevail over adversity. The end papers are important to the story. The author, Tarshis, writes about her current impressions of San Francisco as she retraces Leo's steps. The question/answer section offers the where, why and what nature of earthquakes. The additional Facts on Earthquakes explain the pattern of earthquakes and their impact on land and sea and space. Reviewer: Jill Walton



#1984321 (Vol. 01) I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis

Ten-year-old George Calder's life changes forever as he, his little sister, Phoebe, and their Aunt Daisy set out across the ocean on the "Titanic" in 1912.

978-1-4844-9592-6 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.3 GR Lvl Q Lexile 590


Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.95

Reviews by: Horn Book Horn Book Guide (Fall 2010) George, his sister, and their wealthy aunt sail from England on the ill-fated Titanic. When tragedy strikes, George is separated from his sister and aunt, but miraculously all survive the disaster. Though the events are contrived, reluctant readers may be drawn to this fast-paced book with short, easy-to-read chapters. Shadowy black-and-white illustrations add to the text.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Returning from England with his aunt and little sister, ten-year-old George Calder explores the Titanic and revels in the luxury of their first-class suite-until the night the ship hits an iceberg and his explorations and determination save their lives. In this first of a new adventure series aimed at reluctant readers, Tarshis has woven plenty of concrete, factual information into her narrative. In an attention-grabbing opening scene the sinking ship lurches and George falls and loses consciousness. Backing up 19 hours, the author describes George's last day aboard ship, using short paragraphs with plenty of dialogue. George recalls earlier escapades: climbing into the crow's nest, meeting third-class passengers-an Italian immigrant and his son-and sliding down the banister of the grand staircase. On the final night, looking for a mummy in the baggage room, he encounters a thief. Both immigrant and thief play roles in his survival. The plot involves too many convenient coincidences, but the fast pace and intrinsically fascinating disaster story will keep readers turning the pages to the unexpectedly sentimental ending. (author's note, additional facts) (Historical fiction. 7-10)

Reviews by: School Library Connection Library Media Connection (August/September 2010) This book follows ten-year-old George Calder on the Titanic as readers learn that George gets into trouble easily, loves his eight-year-old sister, Phoebe, and appreciates that their aunt Daisy provided their passage. When George thinks there might be a mummy on board, he decides to investigate; a man attacks him but is stopped when the ship hits an iceberg. George returns to his stateroom to find Phoebe gone. Through the help of Marco and his father, George and Daisy find Phoebe. Phoebe and Aunt Daisy get on a lifeboat, George and Marco stay with the sinking ship but finally get into a lifeboat. Intermediate students love adventures, so this volume gives them a chance to learn about this historic event and imagine being there. The book includes factual

references, provides a good fictional account of the voyage from a child's point of view, and finishes with interesting information about the Titanic. Students will like the suspenseful action that provides edge-of-your-seat moments. The final details provide a chance to see some fun facts about the ship. Recommended. Marge Cox, Library Media Specialist, Veterans Memorial Elementary School, Naples, Florida


	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1986580 (Vol. 06) I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> Lucas has to tell his dad's friend Benny, a firefighter, that his parents do not want him playing football anymore, and he takes the train into New York City to talk to Benny, but everything changes when the Twin Towers are attacked. 978-1-4844-9909-2 ©2012 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.5 GR Lvl R Lexile 630</p>	1	\$14.95


Reviews by: Children's Literature Today's 8 to 10-year-olds were not alive the day the Towers came down, but are naturally curious about the events of September 11th. Tarshis helps them understand the events of the day through the eyes of 11-year-old Lucas, whose father and "Uncle" Benny are both members of the New York Fire Department, stationed less than 10 blocks from the World Trade Center. She frames the story around Lucas' love of football. Lucas is upset by their decision to end his playing days because of his frequent concussions. Convinced that Uncle Benny will take his side, he sets off on his own to talk to him at the fire station. As the pair walk and talk, they hear a loud roar and look up to see a low-flying airplane, so low he "could even read the letters on the tail: AA." Lucas watches as "the plane plunged like a knife into the side of one of the buildings" and almost immediately hears Uncle Benny shouting the alarm into his phone. Listening to the news as he waits in the now-abandoned fire station, Lucas becomes increasingly afraid and sets out to locate his father and Benny at the Command Center—and thereby is in the midst of things, with his father, when the first tower collapses. They run for their lives, helping people along the way. Tarshis includes vivid details yet avoids being gruesome by keeping everything from Lucas' perspective. Readers will have a clear understanding of the sequence of events as well as a sense of the emotions of those who were there. Dawson's gray pen and ink illustrations show readers what Lucas occasionally sees, again keeping the focus on him more than the horrific events. Backmatter includes a timeline, FAQs, and Tarshis' explanation of her decision to write this book. This is a title in the "I Survived" series. Reviewer: Peg Glisson

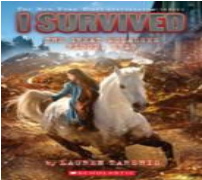
Reviews by: Horn Book Horn Book Guide (Spring 2013) When a football concussion benches Lucas, the son of a New York City firefighter, he skips school, goes downtown to the firehouse to be with his uncle, and is caught in the devastation following the attack on the Twin Towers. The narrative is rushed, but the fast pace and short, accessible chapters will draw reluctant readers. Black-and-white illustrations add atmosphere.


Reviews by: Horn Book Guide When a football concussion benches Lucas, the son of a New York City firefighter, he skips school, goes downtown to the firehouse to be with his uncle, and is caught in the devastation following the attack on the Twin Towers. The narrative is rushed, but the fast pace and short, accessible chapters will draw reluctant readers. Black-and-white illustrations add atmosphere. (Copyright 2013 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

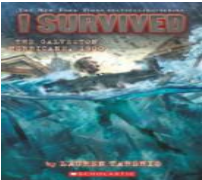
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A terrified 11-year-old gets an "extremely loud and incredibly close" view of the World Trade Center attacks in this disaster series' latest entry. Thoroughly bummed at having to drop football in the wake of his third concussion, Lucas cuts school for the lower Manhattan firehouse where beloved "Uncle" Benny--his firefighter father's colleague and closest friend--is stationed. He arrives just as the first plane does, and hearing that all firefighters have been summoned to the scene, he sets out to find Benny and his dad. Supplemented by occasional staid but realistic scenes from Dawson, Tarshis effectively captures not only the sequence of events and the pervasive confusion and shock as the catastrophe develops, but also its gargantuan scale. Though the author plays with readers' sympathies in the final chapter with a needless red herring, in general she crafts a dramatic, emotionally intense tale that takes account of 9/11's physical and emotional costs--short- and long-term--while ending on an upward beat. Though not yet born in 2001, the intended audience will come away feeling more connected to the tragedy and aware of its historical significance. (afterword, timeline) (Historical fiction. 9-11)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2354990 (Vol. 23) I Survived the Great Alaska Earthquake, 1964 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> It was 1964 in the brand-new state of Alaska, a vast land of staggering beauty and heart-stopping dangers. Eleven-year-old Jack had grown up living happily with his parents in an off-the-grid cabin, miles from their closest neighbors. Grizzlies and wolves outnumbered people, and dark winter days were 30 degrees below zero. Jack had always thought of himself as strong -- "Alaska tough". But then the most powerful earthquake in American history -- the Good Friday Earthquake -- struck. 978-1-5364-8257-7 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.</p>	1	\$16.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2292859 (Vol. 22) I Survived the Wellington Avalanche, 1910 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> The snow came down faster than train crews could clear the tracks, piling up in drifts 20 feet high. At the Wellington train depot in the Cascade Mountains, two trains sat stranded, blocked in by snow slides to the east and west. Some passengers braved the storm to hike off the mountain, but many had no choice but to wait out the storm. 978-1-5364-7575-3 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 570</p>	1	\$14.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2118223 (Vol. 19) I Survived the Great Molasses Flood, 1919 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> There were warning signs that the molasses tank would break. The steel sides moaned and groaned. Molasses oozed from its seams. But the people of Boston's North End -- mostly poor immigrants -- were powerless to complain to the big molasses company. On a bright January day in 1919, the tank finally broke and almost three million gallons of molasses rushed the neighborhood. 978-1-5364-5857-2 ©2019 5 x 8 144 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.4 Lexile 610</p>	1	\$14.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2178172 (Vol. 20) I Survived the California Wildfires, 2018 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> Josh and his cousin bond over tacos and reptiles and jokes, but on a trip into the nearby forest, they suddenly find themselves in the path of a fast-moving firestorm, a super-heated monster that will soon lay waste to millions of acres of wilderness and -- possibly -- their town. Josh needs to confront the family issues burning him up inside, but first he'll have to survive the flames blazing all around him. 978-1-5364-6524-2 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 610</p>	1	\$14.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2247430 (Vol. 21) I Survived the Galveston Hurricane, 1900 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> The city of Galveston, Texas, was booming. Perched on an island off the southern coast of Texas, Galveston had been founded in the 1830s. By 1900, it was Texas's richest and most important city. Boats loaded up with American cotton and wheat steamed from Galveston to countries around the world. Arriving ships were crowded with immigrants. The streets, paved with crushed oyster shells, sparkled like they'd been sprinkled with diamonds. 978-1-5364-7030-7 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 560</p>	1	\$14.95



#2014426 (Vol. 15) I Survived the American Revolution, 1776 (Prebound)

written by Lauren Tarshis

The battlefield was soaked in blood. Screams of injured soldiers rang through the air. Eleven-year-old Nathaniel Knox knelt behind a rock, his gun clutched in his shaking hands. Nate had been heading to New York City to find his father. But now he was trapped in a terrible gunfight between American and British troops.

978-1-5364-1857-6 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.8 Lexile 660

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$13.95

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide After running away from his abusive uncle in Connecticut, eleven-year-old Nathaniel Fox finds himself alone in colonial New York during the Revolutionary War. A Patriot friend of Nathaniel's deceased father finds the boy and brings him to Fort Greene just as the Battle of Brooklyn is starting. Formulaic but well-paced historical fiction for early middle graders and reluctant readers; research notes included. Reading list. Bib. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal School Library Journal Xpress (September 1, 2017) Gr 3-5-As with other historical events covered in the series, Tarshis focuses on one specific character and a limited time frame in order to make the story manageable for readers who may lack background knowledge. Orphaned Nathaniel Fox, 11, is living with his uncle in Connecticut in 1776. Uncle Storch is a Tory and a Northern slave owner. In an author's note, Tarshis explains that 40 percent of people in Connecticut in 1776 owned slaves. When Uncle Storch threatens to beat a young enslaved boy named Theo, Nate diverts his uncle's anger to himself, then runs away. He stows away on a merchant vessel with the idea of getting to New York City and becoming a ship's cabin boy. Instead, he ends up in a military camp, with American soldiers preparing to do battle with British forces. While Nate knows that a war is occurring, like many people, he is not highly interested or informed until it touches him personally. Reunited with a former employee of his father's, Nate fights in the Battle of Brooklyn in August 1776. After his adventures with the Continental Army, Nate learns that his uncle died, leaving Nate as his sole heir. The boy eventually returns home to free Theo and his mother. Tarshis successfully blends historical fact with an involving narrative. VERDICT Purchase where the series is popular. This would also be useful as a supplementary resource for studies of the American Revolution.-Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond © Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.



#1994652 (Vol. 02) I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916 (Prebound)

written by Lauren Tarshis

In the summer of 1916, ten year-old Chet Roscow is thrilled by the news that a Great White shark has been attacking people along the Atlantic Coast. One day, swimming with his friends, Chet sees something in the water.

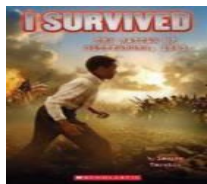
978-1-5364-0354-1 ©2010 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.4 GR Lvl R Lexile 610

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$14.95

Reviews by: Children's Literature Ten-year-old Chet is swimming in a creek when he sees a shark swimming towards him. This exciting beginning leads to other dangerous adventures regarding a mysterious killer shark in this fictionalized account of the true story. It is 1916, and Chet is staying with his Uncle Jerry in New Jersey for the summer while his parents are away. He helps his uncle in the diner. After the opening scene, the story flashes back to nine days earlier when his friends show him an article about a shark that attacked and killed someone in New Jersey waters. His Uncle Jerry refuses to believe it, but Captain Wilson, a former whaling ship captain, believes that it happened and he tells his own story about how he fought off a shark that had attacked him. Chet and his friends swim at the creek, and they fool Chet about a shark attacking them. Chet plays a trick on them, and the boys get mad because Chet's trick about being bloodied by a shark terrifies them. When Chet actually does have an encounter with a shark, they don't believe him. In another series of events, Chet gets bitten seriously by the shark, but at the end, he is on his way to recovery and is reunited with his parents and friends. Several pages at the end explain the actual events as they happened in 1916. This story will keep the reader's interest, but it does have its share of violence. The book is one of the "I Survived" series. Reviewer: Vicki Foote

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—An absorbing story based on the shark attacks in New Jersey in 1916. Chet Roscoe, 10, moves in with his uncle while his father looks for work in California. He works in his uncle's diner and meets some local boys with whom he becomes friends. A story hits the papers about a shark attack about 10 miles away and their little town dismisses it as a fake, but a local fisherman begs to differ. The boys play a series of pranks on one another, but when Chet comes face to face with the shark in the river, the friends refuse to believe him, until they see it themselves. Black-and-white illustrations that resemble old photographs enhance the events of the story. Tarshis incorporates information about the real attacks and fictionalizes it, then follows the story with facts about the attacks and sharks. This is a gripping story that will hold the interest of reluctant readers.—Delia Carruthers, Roxbury Public Library, Succasunna, NJ



#1997805 (Vol. 07) I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis
 In 1863, child slave Thomas and his sister Birdie journey north and meet up with Union soldiers who have orders to fight at Gettysburg.
 978-1-5364-0470-8 ©2013 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.8 GR Lvl S Lexile 660

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.95

Reviews by: Booklist Booklist (April 15, 2013 (Vol. 109, No. 16)) Grades 1-4. Tarshis, author of the popular Emma-Jean Lazarus novels, presents a highly personalized narrative of the Battle of Gettysburg. The story follows former slave Thomas and his little sister Birdie as they fall in with Union forces and make their way north. The Union army rolls toward its epic clash in a small Pennsylvania town, and Thomas becomes an unwitting participant in one of the most formative events in American history. Tarshis writes with sharp, clear, emotional language: "There they were, rebel soldiers ready to charge. There were thousands of them—men in front on horseback, waving gleaming swords." Back matter includes common questions and answers about the Civil War, along with the text of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Others in the I Survived series include high-interest topics such as Pearl Harbor and September 11.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2013) The seventh (chronologically earliest) entry in the series pitches a young former slave into the middle of the Civil War's pivotal battle. Having saved a Union soldier named Henry Green by hurling a live skunk at his Confederate captors, young Thomas finds himself and his little sister Birdie adopted by Green's unit. Three weeks, an ambush and a quick march later, Thomas unexpectedly finds himself in the thick of the fighting—possibly on Missionary Ridge itself, though the author doesn't provide a specific location. Rather than go into details of the battle, Tarshis offers broad overviews of slavery and the war's course (adding more about the latter in an afterword that includes the text of the Gettysburg Address). She folds these into quick pictures of military camp life and the violence-laced fog of war. Afterward, Thomas and Birdie are reunited with their older cousin Clem, who had been sold away, and make good on a promise to Green (who doesn't survive) to settle with his Vermont parents and attend the school taught by his sweetheart. Sentimental of plotline but informative and breathlessly paced. (Q&A, annotated reading list) (Historical fiction. 9-11)



#1991218 (Vol. 03) I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (Prebound)
written by Lauren Tarshis
 Barry's family prepares to evacuate before Hurricane Katrina hits, but when his little sister gets very sick, they are forced to stay home and face the floodwater that sweeps Barry away.
 978-1-5364-0253-7 ©2011 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.3 GR Lvl Q Lexile 590

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.95

Reviews by: Booklist Booklist (February 1, 2011 (Vol. 107, No. 11)) Grades 3-6. This novel in the I Survived series follows 11-year-old Barry Tucker, who resides with his family in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward in 2005. Though the Tuckers attempt to evacuate before Hurricane Katrina strikes, they end up trapped in their home as the storm approaches. Although the events depicted here could be scary for younger children, Tarshis offers a hopeful resolution, and a frank epilogue gives additional facts about the disaster. Expressive illustrations capture the drama of the storm and its aftermath, but the book's real power comes from its exploration of what it means to be a hero.

Reviews by: Children's Literature Both reluctant and eager readers may indeed choose this book because of its cover (by Steve Stone): intense and imminent danger confront a terrified boy and his dog as the jagged remains of a house come rushing toward them in the water. The story inside won't disappoint. This title in the "I Survived" series offers fast dialogue, faster action, threats—not only from Hurricane Katrina but a neighborhood bully and his "killer" dog—and the compelling example of a boy who finds strength and courage he never knew he had. Readers are pulled along with 11 year old Barry Tucker's family as the water rises in the Lower Ninth ward of New Orleans. Should they try to stick it out or leave town? Once they leave, should they return home because Barry's little sister is so sick and the line of cars so long? And what about that jagged house crashing through the water toward Barry? There are heroes and heroines in this fictional account just as there were during the real hurricane. There are several pages of interesting facts about Hurricane Katrina, as well as an author's note posing questions without an answer: why wasn't more done to make the levees stronger? Why was help so slow to arrive? The questions are valid but teachers or parents may need to help young readers discuss possible answers and relate the situation to their own lives. Other titles in the "I Survived" series include The Sinking of The Titanic, 1912 and The Shark Attacks of 1916. Reviewer: Karen Leggett


Reviews by: Horn Book Horn Book Guide (Fall 2011) The book begins on a terrible Monday in August, 2005, with eleven-year-old Barry Tucker clinging to a tree as Hurricane Katrina ravages New Orleans. The text then backs up to tell of Barry's family's attempt to escape the city and how everyone weathered the storm. Accessible writing and fast pacing will appeal to reluctant readers. Shadowy black-and-white illustrations enhance

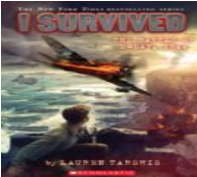
the story.

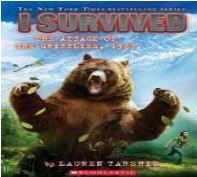
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide The book begins on a terrible Monday in August, 2005, with eleven-year-old Barry Tucker clinging to a tree as Hurricane Katrina ravages New Orleans. The text then backs up to tell of Barry's family's attempt to escape the city and how everyone weathered the storm. Accessible writing and fast pacing will appeal to reluctant readers. Shadowy black-and-white illustrations enhance the story. (Copyright 2011 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Tarshis (I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912, 2010, etc.) again transforms a historical event into a fast-paced adventure story appropriate for lower elementary students. This tale begins on that fateful day, Monday, August 29, 2005. Eleven-year old Bobby Tucker is hanging on to an oak tree trying to survive the floodwaters in the Lower Ninth Ward. After the dramatic opening scene, readers are taken back one day in time, to August 28. Life in the Lower Ninth is humming along as usual that day—Bobby and his friend Jay excitedly planning to send in an entry to a nationwide Create a Superhero contest—until evacuation orders convince Bobby's family to head of town. Unfortunately, Bobby's little sister gets so ill that the family has to return home and try to ride out the storm. The author's research and respect for the survivors of Katrina make this a realistic and gripping account that steers clear of sensationalism and sentimentality. Following the main text are "After the Storm: Questions about Katrina" and "Facts about Hurricane Katrina," both ideal for setting young readers who have been enthralled by Bobby's story on a path to discovering more about the true story of Katrina and its aftermath. (Historical fiction. 7-10)

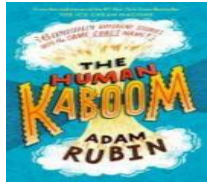
Reviews by: School Library Connection Library Media Connection (May/June 2011) Tarshis has written about survival in other books and has done another masterful job with Hurricane Katrina as a backdrop in this heart-wrenching account of Barry and his family. With his little sister too ill to evacuate, Barry's family stays behind in the Lower Ninth Ward, though a terrifying rise in floodwaters caused by broken levees separates Barry from his family. The action scenes are gripping and described in vivid language that a reluctant reader can handle. The plight of animals affected by the storm is also incorporated into the story, which adds another layer of reality. Digging deep and realizing one's own personal strength is a positive theme in the story, and the author ends by relaying facts from the disaster. This could be a read-aloud in a social studies classroom or an independent read for any student with an interest in realistic fiction. Recommended. Jennifer Coleman, Library Media Specialist, St. Gabriel's Catholic School, Austin, Texas

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2053983 (Vol. 16) I Survived the Children's Blizzard, 1888 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> The Schoolhouse Blizzard, also known as the Children's Blizzard or the Great Blizzard of 1888, caught people completely by surprise and resulted in 235 fatalities, including several children in one-room schoolhouses. What made the storm so deadly was the timing, the suddenness, and the brief spell of warmer weather that preceded it. 978-1-5364-3365-4 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.5 Lexile 630	1	\$13.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2088750 (Vol. 18) I Survived the Battle of D-Day, 1944 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day, Lauren Tarshis shines a spotlight on the story of the Normandy landings, the largest seaborne invasion in history and foundation for the Allied victory in World War II. 978-1-5364-5278-5 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 140 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.5 Lexile 630	1	\$13.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2080020 (Vol. 17) I Survived the Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967 (Prebound) <i>written by Lauren Tarshis</i> Eleven-year-old Melody Vega and her family come to Glacier National Park every year. But this year is different. Mel comes face-to-face with the mighty grizzly. Now her only thought is one of survival. 978-1-5364-4743-9 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.2 Lexile 550	1	\$13.95

Ice Cream Machine (Trade)



#2312374 Human Kaboom (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adam Rubin

In a swanky New York City hotel, a reclusive guest appears to have spontaneously combusted. On a school field trip to a human anatomy museum in space, two kids try to pull off the greatest prank in history. Somewhere on a deserted island, three siblings try to make a life for themselves after the rest of the planet has been decimated by gigantic rock monsters. And then there's the small, quaint fishing town where a boy visiting his sister stumbles across an ancient curse; the traveling circus where a young girl becomes the assistant to a death-defying human cannonball; and the rugged wilderness where one kid with superpowers just can't seem to find some peace.

(Companion Novel)

978-0-593-46239-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 810

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Rubin follows up *The Ice Cream Machine* (2022) with a second gathering of original stories, each with several pictures by different up-and-coming illustrators. Though varied in plot and style, each is shared and spun from the same title in earnest of Rubin's message to young prospective writers that "inspiration is everywhere." The tone fluctuates even more than in the previous outing: there's a hilarious field trip that takes readers to an orbiting amusement park shaped like a human body (which offers a whole new definition for full moon), and a gruesome, twisty whodunit that leads to a character-driven bildungsroman about a temperamental Canadian superhero's journey to mature human. Best of the lot is a thrilling and poignant circus tale that recounts the career of a blind high-wire artist. The author closes with an invitation to his audience to take his title and run with it themselves, while perhaps checking out the instructional videos on his website. Pedagogical purposes notwithstanding, there's more than enough entertainment value to light the fuses of readerly—as well as writerly—readers.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books *The Human Kaboom* acts as the prompt-and all of the titles-for the six stories in this explosively eclectic collection of illustrated stories, which author Rubin hopes will inspire creativity in readers. These particular kabooms deliver that motivation with aplomb, from a swanky hotel's not-quite murder mystery to a near-future where siblings outsmart some thick-headed rock monsters to a blind tight-rope walker's final performance. While shared humor and a propensity for the outlandish tie the stories together on some stylistic levels, the varying approaches to the prompt also share an unexpectedly raw depth; several characters lose loved ones tragically, love is bittersweet, and even tremendous superpowers are shown in a dark, violent, isolating light. A unique popcorn recipe follows Rubin call's for kaboom-y story submissions to end the book, giving readers options for their explosive creativity. WJ COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Rubin returns with six new tales--all featuring the same title--to tickle the funny bone. An Iowa boy discovers an ancient curse while visiting his older sister on an island in northeastern Canada. A young girl from a family of circus trapeze artists lacks coordination but finds her role assisting a human cannonball. Two practical jokers have their sights set on pulling off the biggest prank the universe has ever seen. A guest in a New York hotel mysteriously and spontaneously combusts. Siblings make the best of things on a deserted island in the wake of the end of the world. Rubin, a humorist with a flair for explosive prose and side-splitting gags, is in good form here: All the stories boast laughs, smart characterization, clever plotting, and explosive incidents. The collection's opener kicks things off in style, but the pinnacle is the fifth, "The Human Kaboom (the one with the cursed pirate treasure)." A seventh entry, entitled "The Human Kaboom: (the one that hasn't been written yet)," is in fact a plea for readers to create their own incendiary tale and send it to Rubin. The gags are plentiful, the action is exciting, and the variety is commendable. Each story is illustrated by a different artist, featuring artwork from Marta Altés, Adam de Souza, Daniel Gray-Barnett, Rodolfo Montalvo, Daniel Salmieri, and Gracey Zhang (final art not seen). Most characters read White. Impossible to resist. (popcorn recipe) (Humor. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2266472 Ice Cream Machine (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adam Rubin

Reader, be advised that the events in this book may tickle your funny bone: A boy and his robot nanny travel the globe in search of the world's tastiest treat. A girl and her sister compete in an ice cream eating contest--against an honest-to-goodness pig. A child prodigy invents a new way to create the freshest dessert ever. And we should probably mention the evil ice cream seller terrorizing local kids.

978-0-593-32579-7 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 384 pgs.

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Having properly established that dragons love tacos in his popular picture books, Rubin moves to longer-form writing with a creative exercise--six short stories, each with the same title (plus a few other shared elements) but different plots, casts, and even illustrators. The tales range from spectacularly gooey riffs on "Strega Nona" and various folktales about hastily phrased wishes to one that features a worldwide tour of ice creams and similar sweet treats, and another about evil ice cream man Cromulous Blotch (a Roald Dahl-ish name if ever there was one), who delights in tricking children so he can salt his sweet potatoes with their tears. Along with added tips and encouragement for budding writers, the author also offers convincing proof that words are magical--as anyone who casts an effective "anti-butt" spell with a "Wet Paint" sign on a park bench or transforms their mom into a "jiggling puddle of warm fuzzies" by slipping a love note into her jacket pocket can attest. Scoops of entertainment and insight for young readers as well as writers. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A compilation of stories drawing upon the appeal of ice cream. Six short tales are combined into an ice cream-themed collection written by Rubin and illustrated by half a dozen leading illustrators. Each story is entitled "The Ice Cream Machine," although the characters, settings, and genres vary greatly, and the subtitles are distinct. The only connections between the stories are that each features an ice cream machine of some type and that each story's characters have an affinity for exclaiming "jangus!" Some stories are more successful than others. "The Ice Cream Machine (the one with the sorcerer's assistant)," illustrated by Miles, combines magic and humor to create a story with a surprisingly deep moral, while the "The Ice Cream Machine (the one with the alien space lab)," featuring art by Miller, is a slow-burn spiraling tale of wish-making reminiscent of *The Twilight Zone*. Others aren't as successful: "The Ice Cream Machine (the one with the five-armed robot)" meanders, and "The Ice Cream Machine (the one with the ice cream eating contest)" is fun but has a superficial subplot about bullying that will make most readers roll their eyes. As a whole, the text is entertaining but may not be as consistent as readers will hope for. The variety of artistic styles forms a pleasing complement to the different entries. An uneven collection that mostly succeeds. (author's note, writing prompt; ice cream recipe, illustrator bios) (Short stories. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

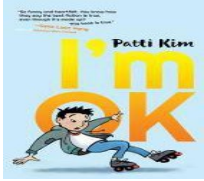
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this madcap middle grade debut billed as six "wildly different stories with the exact same name"; each illustrated by a different contemporary artist; Rubin (Gladys the Magic Chicken) varies genre, setting, and subtitle in tales that all feature ice cream as an integral component (and "have a half a dozen little wormholes in common, too"). In "The Ice Cream Machine (the one with the ice cream eating contest)," illustrated by Charles Santoso, sisters living in a community of anthropomorphized animals clandestinely enter a contest to unseat the unpopular champion. In Liniers-illustrated "The Ice Cream Machine (the one with the genius inventor)," a mechanically minded kid coaxes a loved one to cognizance, while "The Ice Cream Machine (the one with the sorcerer's assistant)," illustrated by Nicole Miles, offers a gross-out medieval fantasy retelling. Via a varied cast of characters, impish humor, and largely upbeat endings, Rubin underlines the idea, outlined in an introduction, that "writing is magic." Though the collection offers little innovation, the result is comforting, entertaining, and uniformly funny. A seventh chapter invites readers to create a story of their own; back matter includes a recipe and instructions to make ice cream without mechanical assistance. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jennifer Joel, ICM Partners.(Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Picture book author Rubin (*Dragons Love Tacos*) makes his middle grade debut with this compilation of six short stories of the same name, "The Ice Cream Machine," each with its own subtitle (e.g., "The one with the ice cream eating contest."). With the common theme of an ice cream machine, each story is creative and fun. Featuring original ideas, an amusing cast of characters (including a robot nanny named Kelly), and exhilarating adventures like searching for ice cream in an uninhabited forest in Peru, the book deftly illustrates how one idea can be deeply, uniquely explored. Rubin's writing is inspired, and tweens will enjoy the wordplay. Rubin concludes with a challenge to write the seventh short story for this compilation, prompting readers to get creative and craft their own variation on the theme (a mailing address is included for receipt of said story). Each entry also has exciting black-and-white art from a different illustrator, bringing even more life to the pages of Rubin's fascinating conceptualization of the short story genre. VERDICT Ice cream lovers and tweens in general will get a kick out of this adventurous, whimsical, and funny book. A compelling twist on a sometimes underrated format, this short story collection is a winner.—Gretchen Schulz

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Adam Rubin (*Dragons Love Tacos*; *Gladys the Magic Chicken*) proves that "writing is magic" in his middle-grade debut, a hilarious collection of six stories, illustrated by different artists, that share the same title: "The Ice Cream Machine." The six stories include Shiro Hanayama and his robot best friend, Kelly, who travel the world in search of the best ice cream; two sisters deciding to challenge the repeat winner of their town's annual ice cream eating contest; a sorcerer's assistant unexpectedly filling in for the sorcerer. The titular machine defies definition and is personified in each iteration as something slightly different. In "(the one with the ice cream eating contest)," it's a nickname. In "(the one with the sorcerer's assistant)," it's an enchanted object whose creations bring joy to a kingdom. Set in space, on a farm, in the future and in the past, every story in this collection is distinct and original, imaginative and inventive. Each is its own world, written in a different genre with characters who feel as real and vivid as those in the last. The writing style for every tale is similar enough to allow the book to feel cohesive, with humor reminiscent of Louis Sachar and an outlandishness that brings Roald Dahl to mind. The illustrations--by Daniel Salmieri, Emily Hughes, Charles Santoso, Nicole Miles, Liniers and Seaerra Miller--help create a feeling of continuity through their grayscale palettes and make each story an individual art piece. The *Ice Cream Machine* brings as much inspiration as it does laughter. COPYRIGHT(2022) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

I'm Ok (Trade)

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99



#2081721 **I'm Ok (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Patti Kim

Ok Lee knows it's his responsibility to help pay the bills. With his father gone and his mother working three jobs and still barely making ends meet, there's really no other choice. If only he could win the cash prize at the school talent contest! But he can't sing or dance, so he tries the next best thing: a hair braiding business.

978-1-5344-1929-2 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 670

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In the wake of his father's unexpected death, sixth-grade Korean immigrant Ok Lee ("No one at school says my name right... Say "pork." Drop the p sound. Now drop the r sound") is determined to earn money to help his mom, who works three jobs, and "keep alive father's plan for success in the USA." Unfortunately, Ok's money-making schemes; braiding his classmates' hair, tutoring the most popular kid in class, and learning how to roller skate to win the school talent contest prize; prove less profitable than he had hoped, and in addition, he is often bullied over his name, his appearance, and his traditional Korean food. As Ok and his mother are forced to move into a smaller apartment, Ok feels like he's failing, and his desperation leads him to lie, steal, blackmail, and betray newfound friends. Debut author Kim, also a Korean immigrant, tells a moving story of family, culture, and growing up, through the eyes of a boy who struggles to fulfill his father's American dream and maintain his own sense of pride. Ok's anger and frustration about his father's death and his mother's burgeoning relationship with a deacon from their church ring particularly true, as do his ethical and emotional growth. Ages 10: up. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7-When Ok's beloved father dies in a construction accident, his mother works several jobs but can't make ends meet. Determined to help pay their bills, Ok writes a business plan for a braiding business. He doesn't make much at first, but he gets the attention of lots of girls, including the retro-fashion obsessed Mickey McDonald. Ok thinks things are under control until the suspiciously nice Deacon Kohl from the First Korean Full Gospel Church begins courting his mom. Ok becomes convinced that no one needs him anymore and he hatches a plan to run away. Ultimately, Ok learns he's not alone, friendless, or unwanted. Things might not go the way he wants them to, but he's going to be fine. Ok's hilarious observations shine in this realistic fiction title about conformity, individuality, and loving people for who they are, not who you want them to be. The Korean American characters stand out as the most nuanced and compelling throughout. The culturally authentic details Ok shares in his first-person narration bring his relationship with his parents into sharp focus. Unfortunately, Ok's friends Mickey and Asa speak in pronounced dialects, perhaps to indicate their belonging to uneducated families. Consequently, their dialogue seems exaggerated and their character development suffers. Although the plot has a few logistical holes and the character development is uneven, Ok's sincerity will hook many young readers. VERDICT The compelling, funny protagonist makes this a solid general purchase for school and public libraries.-Amy Seto Forrester, Denver Public Library Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99



#2162904 **It's Girls Like You, Mickey (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Patti Kim

For the first time in her confident, bold life, Mickey McDonald is nervous about starting school. She becomes friends with Sun Joo, who has just moved to town. Their connection is instant and strong. But things get complicated when Sydney, the popular (and mean) girl in Mickey's class, also takes a shine to Sun Joo. (Companion Novel)

978-1-5344-4345-7 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.


Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 660

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This standalone companion to Kim's I'm Ok shifts the focus to Ok's friend Mickey McDonald, now starting the seventh grade and exchanging postcards with Ok, who has moved away. After the family is deserted by her father, self-described "fat poor white girl" Mickey lives with her overworked, irritable mother and helps care for her little brother, Benny, and their menagerie of animals. When new girl Sun Joo, who is Korean, is assigned to be Mickey's science partner, Mickey helps Sun Joo acclimate, learning Korean phrases and relishing having someone make her a friendship bracelet and nominate her for student government. Mickey sees a chance for them both to upgrade socially when Sun Joo gains the favor of the most popular girl in school, but encouraging her to join the popular group destroys their friendship and tests Mickey's unshakable confidence. Despite money stress at home, Mickey stays upbeat and inventive, as when she creatively repurposes a pillowcase into a skirt, and models both empathy and compassion while confidently standing up to the school's mean girl. Along with her desire to help others, Mickey's unfiltered commentary, for example about her first period and her mother's smoking habit, make her an inimitable protagonist worth rooting for. Ages 10: up. (June)

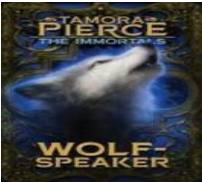
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—The usually confident Mickey McDonald is on shaky ground as she navigates a new year of school without her best friend, Ok. As if her problems weren't bad enough, her mom is having a hard time making ends meet which means no new


back-to-school clothes, and it looks like her dad is out of the picture for good. Mickey's one ray of light is her new friend, Sun Joo Moon, who is new to the school and to the United States. Mickey feels it is her duty to protect Sun Joo and show her the ropes, even if it means pushing and pulling Sun Joo places where she might not want to go. Over the school year, Mickey struggles with everything from her first period to friendship breakups. She has a huge heart and cares a lot for the people around her. Her character growth is admirable, and she eventually learns what is most important. That being said, much of Mickey's behavior as she evolves may be hard for readers to connect with. Throughout the book, she ruminates extensively on random topics in passages that can come across clunky and hard to comprehend. The voice feels inconsistent; at one point, Mickey seems eloquent and well-rounded and in the next breath, she's making another ill-advised decision. It may make for a confusing reading experience. VERDICT Though Mickey is an entertaining character, the inconsistent voice and stream-of-consciousness passages may lose young readers' engagement.—Myiesha Speight, Towson Univ., Baltimore, MD

Immortals (Trade / Pierce)

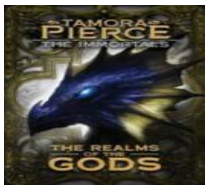
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #1937155 (Vol. 01) Wild Magic (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tamora Pierce</i> The mage Numair, the knight Alanna, and Queen Thayet enlist thirteen-year-old Daine's help to battle the dreadful immortal creatures that have recently begun to attack the kingdom of Tortall. 978-1-4814-4023-3 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 6 - 9 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670	1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this first volume of a series, Pierce returns to the world and characters she introduced in her Song of the Lioness fantasy epic. Here, she tells the story of Daine, a 13-year-old orphaned girl with an extraordinary talent for communicating with animals. The teenager is swept up in the first skirmishes of a war, and is forced to master her fears and learn how to marshal her magical abilities. Trying to make the sequel to four previous novels stand on its own is no mean feat, and Pierce has a lot of exposition to relate. By telling the story through Daine's eyes, she allows new readers a chance to "catch up" on who's who along with her heroine. Although this device proves effective for the most part, some of the scenes are a little bewildering. However, Pierce's inventive descriptions of Daine's apprenticeship as a Mage, her riveting battles with griffins, dragons and other monsters, and her delightful, egalitarian ideals more than compensate for this minor flaw. Ages 10-up. (Oct.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #1937164 (Vol. 02) Wolf-Speaker (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tamora Pierce</i> With the help of her animal friends, Daine fights to save the kingdom of Tortall from ambitious mortals and dangerous immortals. 978-1-4814-4025-7 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 6 - 9 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710	1	\$21.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #1937139 (Vol. 03) Emperor Mage (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tamora Pierce</i> Sent to Carthak as part of the Tortallan peace delegation, Daine finds herself in the middle of a sticky political situation. She doesn't like the Carthaki practice of keeping slaves, but it's not her place to say anything -- she's just there to heal the emperor's birds. It's extremely frustrating! What's more, her power has grown in a mysterious way. 978-1-4814-4027-1 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 6 - 9 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 750	1	\$21.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
#1937146 (Vol. 04) Realms of the Gods (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$21.99



written by Tamora Pierce

Daine and Numair set out on a fantastical adventure that takes them from Earth to the realms of the gods, through huge battles and dangerous encounters with dragons in an attempt to make peace and save others from doom.

978-1-4814-4029-5 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 9 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall (Trade)



#2332566 (Vol. 01) Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ali Standish

What if young Arthur Conan Doyle really went to a secret school for extraordinarily gifted children called Baskerville Hall? When a mysterious man with a pipe notices young Arthur's incredible deductive skills, Arthur's offered a spot at the esteemed Baskerville Hall and a chance to lift his family out of poverty. There Arthur makes quick friends with Irene Eagle, a girl who boldly strides into any adventure, and Jimmie Moriarty, a boy whose brilliance rivals Arthur's own. But he makes enemies, too, who want Arthur expelled . . . or worse.

978-0-06-327557-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* A young, impoverished Arthur Conan Doyle is invited to attend an elite, secretive boarding school named Baskerville Hall. Motivated by curiosity and his determination to support his parents and sisters in the future, Arthur accepts. There he meets his roommate, Jimmy (James) Moriarty; their classmate, Irene Eagle; Dr. John Watson (professor of anatomy and physiology); and Mrs. Louise Hudson, deputy headmistress. Eventually he will also meet Sherlock Holmes in memorable encounters that will leave dedicated Sherlockians' heads spinning. As Arthur and his new friends rise to various challenges during their initiation to a secret society, he begins to question the club members' motives. Meanwhile, he attempts to identify the perpetrator of a series of unsettling misdeeds at his new school. The author of *The Ethan I Was Before* (2017), *How to Disappear Completely* (2020), and *Yonder* (2022), Standish does a capable job of recreating the late-nineteenth-century British setting and laying the foundation for a new series with elements of alternate history and science fiction, all while telling a well-paced, exciting story in which stalwart heroes attempt to outwit inscrutable villains. As Professor Holmes tells Arthur at the novel's end, "The game is afoot." Readers who love period mysteries and adventure stories are sure to enjoy the experience. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A promising young sleuth investigates curious cases at his new school in this series opener written in partnership with the Conan Doyle estate. Young Arthur Conan Doyle is an observant Scottish boy living in poverty in Edinburgh in 1868. When he helps save a young mother and her baby, his keen intellect and quick wits do not go unobserved; soon afterward, he receives an invitation to attend a secretive institution, "the most rigorous and innovative school in these British Isles." A futuristic airship whisks Arthur away to Baskerville Hall, where he's greeted by peculiar professors. He soon makes equally eccentric friends, such as an Irish girl who hoards useful miscellanea in her pockets and a South Asian British boy who writes obituaries for his very much alive acquaintances. There's also a snobbish bully, the son of a member of Parliament. The multilayered mystery brings together the initiation rituals of a secret society, a dinosaur egg, and a mysterious grandfather clock. It builds on the familiar setting of a strange school with quirky inhabitants, evoking the mood of and incorporating characters from Conan Doyle's classics, including professors Sherlock Holmes and John Watson, and Arthur's roommate, James Moriarty. These details will delight fans, but the intricate worldbuilding may overwhelm readers unfamiliar with this universe. The coed student body includes international students and is marked by gender parity and socioeconomic diversity. A satisfying mystery shrouded in layers of scene-setting details. (historical photos and drawings) (Mystery. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 1868 Edinburgh, Arthur Conan Doyle is a boy who notices things, and his observations are "almost never wrong." An unexpected scholarship to Britain's prestigious Baskerville Hall is Arthur's ticket to making something of himself. Upon arrival, though, a chance to join a powerful secret society tests his integrity, while break-ins lead Arthur and his friends on a perilous investigation. So begins this meta mystery series starter written in partnership with the Conan Doyle Estate and Working Partners, which imagines the Sherlock Holmes author as the hero of his own childhood capers. In a narrative voice that melds wry humor with convincing period detail, Standish (*Yonder*) situates Baskerville Hall against the vivid backdrop of Victorian society on the cusp of great cultural and scientific change. The mix of canonical characters and fresh faces will appeal to Conan Doyle fans as well as newcomers to the author's genre-spanning universe. Throughout this tautly constructed tale of suspense, adventure and academic exploration are central pillars of young Arthur's unusual education; as Baskerville Hall's headmaster tells the young protagonist upon his arrival at school, "risks must be taken in the service of knowledge." It's a tantalizing playground for inquisitive minds. Characters are portrayed with various skin tones. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Chelsea Eberly, Greenhouse Literary. (Sept.)

In the Beautiful Country (Trade)



#2280892 In the Beautiful Country (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jane Kuo

Anna is counting the days until her family gets to move to America—the so-called beautiful country—though she's only ever known life in Taiwan. But the beautiful country isn't at all what Anna pictured. Her family can only afford a cramped one-bedroom apartment. Anna is bullied and lost at school because she doesn't understand the new language. And the restaurant her father poured his savings into is struggling to stay afloat. Why is the version of America Anna and her family are experiencing anything but beautiful? Novel in verse.

978-0-06-311898-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 It's difficult for 10-year-old Anna to imagine leaving her grandparents, aunts, and cousins in Taiwan and joining her father in "the beautiful country, the Chinese name for America." He went first and bought a fast-food restaurant, which he is running alone, but soon Anna and her mother join him. Difficulties arise on every front: Anna struggles with discrimination against Asian Americans at school, the restaurant struggles to break even, and teen vandals throw bricks through the front window. Discouraged, her parents consider returning to Taiwan but gradually find the support they need to keep going. Inspired by their example, Anna decides how she wants to treat the people around her. Based on Kuo's experiences as an immigrant growing up in Los Angeles in the 1980s, this novel in verse will resonate with many children who have faced similar challenges, including taunting, bullying, and, once they feel accepted by their peers, the temptation to be equally cruel to other newcomers. Anna's candid first-person narrative makes this first novel an absorbing and ultimately moving book. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine At the start of this emotional novel in verse full of vivid imagery, ten-year-old Ai Shi Zhang and her parents leave Taiwan for the suburbs of Los Angeles. Money is tight after a business deal goes wrong and the family restaurant is repeatedly vandalized, and the Zhang family considers giving up and moving back. Ai Shi is forced to grow up quickly, code-switching and translating for her parents, all while suffering bullying at school and grappling with her new reality and shifts in identity. Kuo conveys the life of a new immigrant, including constant commentary from others on their differing appearances, clothing, and foods. In the end, Ai Shi learns to approach others, even her bullies, with a sense of generosity and empathy, so as to "get off this never-ending merry-go-round of hurt and hate." With the help of a few friends, and through sheer tenacity and creativity, the Zhangs begin to realize that they are, in fact, building a place they can call home. Gabi K. Huesca(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Taiwanese family tries their luck in America. In this verse novel, it's 1980, and nearly 11-year-old Ai Shi and her mother prepare to leave Taipei to join her father in California, where he is pursuing a business opportunity with a friend. The extended family send them off, telling Ai Shi she's so lucky to go to the "beautiful country"—the literal translation of the Chinese name for the U.S. Once they are reunited with Ba, he reveals that they have instead poured their savings into a restaurant in the remote Los Angeles County town of Duarte. Ma and Ba need to learn to cook American food, but at least, despite a betrayal by Ba's friend, they have their own business. However, the American dream loses its shine as language barriers, isolation, financial stress, and racism take their toll. Ai Shi internalizes her parents' disappointment in their new country by staying silent about bullying at school and her own unmet needs. Her letters home to her favorite cousin, Mei, maintain that all is well. After a year of enduring unrelenting challenges, including vandalism by local teens, the family reaches its breaking point. Hope belatedly arrives in the form of community allies and a change of luck. Kuo deftly touches on complex issues, such as the human cost of the history between China and Taiwan as well as the socio-economic prejudices and identity issues within Asian American communities. A powerfully candid and soulful account of an immigrant experience. (Verse historical fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Kuo debuts with a pensive novel in verse centering a Taiwanese girl grappling with a new life in America. On the cusp of her 11th birthday in 1980, Zhang Ai Shi leaves behind the only place she's ever known; along with all the people, places, and food that she loves; to move with her mother from Taipei to Duarte, California, and join her father to co-run a small fast-food restaurant. Their new home is in "the beautiful country," as America is translated in Chinese, but it doesn't feel beautiful, and it definitely doesn't feel like home. As she works to familiarize herself with unfamiliar language, surroundings, and traditions, Ai Shi grapples for joy and comfort amid increasingly upsetting changes, including instances of classism, school bullies, and vandals attacking the family's struggling new business as well as leveling racist slurs. Together, Ai Shi's family must find a way to adjust while holding on to their memories and to each other. Employing a reflective tone and sincere lines that capture the heartbreak of leaving home alongside a clear portrayal of the family's varied experiences, Kuo paints a vivid story of interpersonal bonds and persistence that also touches on nuances of navigating shared Taiwanese and Chinese ancestry. Ages 8: up. Agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—A beautifully written novel in verse about finding your way in the world. Set in 1980, Ai

Shi/Anna, a Taiwanese girl, moves with her parents to California—or as they call it, the beautiful country. Anna is thrilled to be moving, until she arrives and learns that life in California isn't what she expected. She is the only Asian student at school, and the kids bully her for being different. Her parents put all their money into a fast food restaurant that is costing them more than they make, especially with reoccurring vandalism. What started as a big dream may actually be a big mistake. Kuo doesn't shy away from the hardships, but presents them in a suitable manner for the target audience. The racism that Anna and her parents experience is very relevant today, with some of the depictions (pulling at eyelids and reciting racist rhymes) likely to cause discomfort. This book is a work of fiction, but is inspired by Kuo and her family's immigration to the United States. While Anna was born in Taiwan, her father is Chinese, and she discovers what it means to be from both places during that time. Anna's story is a true journey, and Kuo skillfully breaks it into parts that allow readers to think and reflect on each piece before moving on. VERDICT A moving historical fiction book that is valuable for all readers and belongs in libraries and classrooms.—Amanda Borgia



#2326156 (Vol. 02) Land of Broken Promises (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jane Kuo

After a rocky first year, Anna and her parents have settled into life in California--their restaurant is even turning a profit. Then her family makes a discovery that shatters their tranquil reality: their visas have expired. Anna's world is suddenly overwhelmed by new words like "undocumented" and "inequality." She longs to share the towering secret that looms over every aspect of her life, but her parents strictly forbid her from telling anyone.

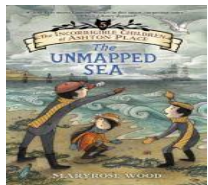
978-0-06-311904-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist A sequel to *In the Beautiful Country* (2022), which told of Anna and her mother leaving Taiwan and joining her father in America, this story opens 18 months later, during Anna's sixth-grade year. She has adjusted well, and the family business, a fast-food place, is supporting them. But later that year, she learns that her family's visa has expired and that, no matter how hard they work, they have no path to citizenship. To someone who increasingly sees herself as an American, this comes as a devastating revelation, but by the story's end, Anna has confided in her best friend, worked through her initial emotional turmoil, and found a way to move forward. Based on Kuo's experiences within a family of undocumented immigrants who were granted amnesty and, eventually, American citizenship, Anna's first-person, free-verse narrative unfolds with simplicity, precision, and insights into what drives the people around her as well as herself. Written in short chapters, this inviting novel in verse offers a rewarding reading experience for young people.

Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place (Prebound)



#1965203 (Vol. 05) Unmapped Sea (Prebound)

written by Maryrose Wood

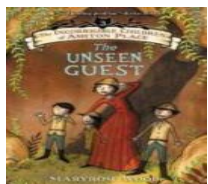
Determined to break the wolfish curse that's threatening her charges and their unborn baby sibling, Miss Penelope Lumley takes a seaside holiday in the hope of gaining answers from an aging mariner.

978-1-4844-8205-6 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 850

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place (Trade)



#1924120 (Vol. 03) Unseen Guest (Paperback (Trade))

written by Maryrose Wood

Returning with the other children to London with unsolved questions about Lord Ashton, Ashton Place and herself, Penelope decides to take matters into her own hands and embarks on an investigation in the estate's local forests.

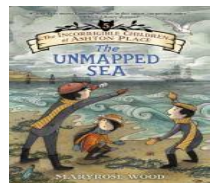
978-0-06-236695-5 ©2015 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.4 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$6.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Those incorrigible children of Ashton Place are back. The story is rife with colorful characters,

catchy phrases, mad-cap adventure, and a touch of mystery. Tantalizing pieces of the puzzle concerning the children's origins and their connection to Miss Lumley and Ashton Place continue to be cleverly revealed throughout the story, creating just the right balance in this fast-paced, fun read. It begins with the appearance of a stray ostrich, soon followed by the Widow Ashton and Admiral Faucet, pronounced Faw-say, who plans on raising, racing, and marketing ostrich as a means to a fortune. His plans also include marrying wealthy Widow Ashton. Faucet is fascinated by the feral Incorrigible children, suggesting that they be used as exhibitions in a traveling show. He's mollified to have them lead the search for his missing ostrich, Bertha, in the nearby forest. Once back in the forest in which they were found, the children revert to many of their wolfish ways, much to Miss Lumley's chagrin. Bertha is found, but all of Faucet's schemes come crumbling down with the appearance of Judge Quinzy. Or is it really the Widow Ashton's late husband? Quinzy/Ashton doesn't stick around long enough for a definitive answer, but his widow is convinced of his identity and cancels her engagement to Faucet. He departs, and readers are left with an epilogue that only whets the appetite for the next installment in this wonderful series. A must-have.-Mary Beth Rassulo, Ridgefield Library, CT (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1964846 (Vol. 05) Unmapped Sea (Paperback (Trade))

written by Maryrose Wood

Determined to break the wolfish curse that's threatening her charges and their unborn baby sibling, Miss Penelope Lumley takes a seaside holiday in the hope of gaining answers from an aging mariner.

978-0-06-211042-8 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 850

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$8.99



#2063713 (Vol. 06) Long-Lost Home (Hardcover (Trade))

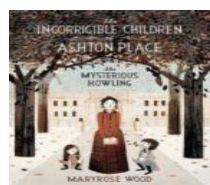
written by Maryrose Wood

Mysteries are solved and long-lost answers are found. Only one question remains: Will Penelope and the Incorrigibles find a way to undo the family curse in time, or will the next full moon be their last?

978-0-06-211044-2 ©2018 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 448 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 14.0 Lexile 890

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$15.99



#1599964 (Vol. 01) Mysterious Howling (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Maryrose Wood

Fifteen-year-old Penelope Lumley is hired as governess to three young children who have been raised by wolves and must teach them to behave in a civilized manner.

978-0-06-179105-5 ©2010 5-7/8 x 8 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.8 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 8.5 Lexile 1000

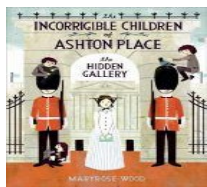
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fresh from the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, 15-year-old Penelope Lumley reports to remote but palatial Ashton Place and discovers just why the advertisement for a governess indicated a strong preference for "Experience with Animals." The three young children are not the offspring of disdainful newlywed Lady Ashton but were recently found in the forest, raised (apparently) by wolves. Lacking magical props but in every other respect a Mary Poppins in the bud, Miss Lumley quickly gets the wild but winning trio out of the barn and into the nursery, washed, properly dressed and—thanks to a savvy strategy of "careful demonstration, a great deal of repetition, and the occasional use of tasty treats"—on the road to civilized behavior. Tongue so forcibly in cheek that medical intervention may be required, Wood plunges her inexperienced but resourceful heroine into an unusually challenging domestic situation, winds the plot up and closes with an aftermath laced with tantalizing hints that All Is Not As It Seems. It's the best beginning since *The Bad Beginning* (1999) and will leave readers howling for the next episode. (High melodrama. 10-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this humorous kickoff to the *Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place* series, Wood (*My Life: The Musical*) injects new life into the governess theme by charging genteel 15-year-old Penelope Lumley (educated at the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females) with three wild children—Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia—who were raised in the woods and taken into the "care" of Lord Frederic Ashton and his selfish, superficial bride (the children are living in a barn when Penelope arrives). With a Snicketesque affect, Wood's narrative

propels the drama; Penelope is a standout, often invoking the truisms of her school's founder ("The best way to find out how fast a horse can run is to smack it on the rump") while caring for the Incorrigibles—named such so they won't be presumed Ashton's heirs. Despite the slapstick situations involving the children's disheveled appearance, pack behavior, and lack of language, the real barbarism comes from the Ashtons and a society that eagerly anticipates their failure. Though the novel ends a bit abruptly, the pervasive humor and unanswered questions should have readers begging for more. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8–12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Jane Eyre meets Lemony Snicket in this smart, surprising satire of a 19th-century English governess story. A witty omniscient narrator speaks directly to modern readers and follows 15-year-old Penelope, recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, to British country manor Ashton Place, where conniving Lord Fredrick has discovered three wild children apparently raised by wolves while hunting in his vast forest property. To Lord Fredrick, who's named them Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia Incorrigible, the children are trophies and property ("Finder's keepers, what?"); to young Lady Constance they're savage nuisances who howl, chase squirrels, and gnaw on shoes. Enter Penelope Lumley, charged with taming them in time for a Christmas party, and bolstered by her top-notch classical education and an endless supply of platitudes from Agatha Swanburne. She also comes armed with a cherished book of poetry and her favorite fiction series, "Giddy-Yap, Rainbow!" There are stock characters, and there are mysteries. Most of all, without taking itself too seriously, there is commentary on writing itself, the dangers and the benefits of relying on books for moral courage, and the perils of drawing false expectations of the world from literature. Penelope shows growth, confronting issues of social class and expectation versus reality, and eventually realizing her own capacity for insight. Humorous antics and a climactic cliff-hanger ending will keep children turning pages and clamoring for the next volume, while more sophisticated readers will take away much more. Frequent plate-sized illustrations add wit and period flair.-Riva Pollard, Prospect Sierra Middle School, El Cerrito, CA (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1631217 (Vol. 02) Hidden Gallery (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Maryrose Wood

Fifteen-year-old Miss Penelope Lumley, a governess trained at the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, takes the three Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place to London, England, and learns they are under a curse.

978-0-06-179112-3 ©2011 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.5 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 7.5 GR Lvl V Lexile 960

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Children's Literature In the tradition of Lemony Snicket's Baudelaire children, who live in a time and place where children are ignored and mistreated, villains lurk around every corner and teamwork proves to be a truly favorable trait, the Incorrigible Children enter the literary world. Three unidentified children have been discovered living in the woods within the vast grounds of Ashton Place. Upon their discovery and "capture," the Lord of this vast estate and his young bride engage a governess. Miss Lumley is a recent graduate of the Swanburne School for Poor Bright Females, and she is fully prepared to accept the challenge of teaching these children to behave in this very social world. The children, named Alexander, Beowulf and Cassiopeia by their discoverer, struggle to learn to speak and to display perfect manners. They are constantly watched by the senior gardener and the housekeeper. The fifteen-year-old governess uses all of her training to prepare these children for their public appearance at the estate's Christmas Ball, as demanded by Lord Frederick and Lady Constance. However, unknown sources are at work to undermine all of Miss Lumley's efforts and create chaos at the great Christmas Ball. Unexpected events at the Ball will cause Lady Constance to question her own control of her household and will bring new respect for Miss Lumley. This is Book 1 of a promised series about the "Incorrigible Children at Ashton Place." It will be an excellent series addition to middle school media centers and reading curriculums. Reviewer: Joyce Rice

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fresh from the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, 15-year-old Penelope Lumley reports to remote but palatial Ashton Place and discovers just why the advertisement for a governess indicated a strong preference for "Experience with Animals." The three young children are not the offspring of disdainful newlywed Lady Ashton but were recently found in the forest, raised (apparently) by wolves. Lacking magical props but in every other respect a Mary Poppins in the bud, Miss Lumley quickly gets the wild but winning trio out of the barn and into the nursery, washed, properly dressed and—thanks to a savvy strategy of "careful demonstration, a great deal of repetition, and the occasional use of tasty treats"—on the road to civilized behavior. Tongue so forcibly in cheek that medical intervention may be required, Wood plunges her inexperienced but resourceful heroine into an unusually challenging domestic situation, winds the plot up and closes with an aftermath laced with tantalizing hints that All Is Not As It Seems. It's the best beginning since *The Bad Beginning* (1999) and will leave readers howling for the next episode. (High melodrama. 10-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this humorous kickoff to the Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place series, Wood (*My Life: The Musical*) injects new life into the governess theme by charging genteel 15-year-old Penelope Lumley (educated at the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females) with three wild children—Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia—who were raised in the woods and taken into the "care" of Lord Frederic Ashton and his selfish, superficial bride (the children are living in a barn when Penelope arrives). With a Snicketesque affect, Wood's narrative propels the drama; Penelope is a standout, often invoking the truisms of her school's founder ("The best way to find out how fast a horse can run is to smack it on the rump") while caring for the Incorrigibles—named such so they won't be presumed Ashton's heirs. Despite the slapstick situations involving the children's disheveled appearance, pack behavior, and lack of language, the real barbarism comes from the Ashtons and a society that

eagerly anticipates their failure. Though the novel ends a bit abruptly, the pervasive humor and unanswered questions should have readers begging for more. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8–12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Jane Eyre meets Lemony Snicket in this smart, surprising satire of a 19th-century English governess story. A witty omniscient narrator speaks directly to modern readers and follows 15-year-old Penelope, recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, to British country manor Ashton Place, where conniving Lord Fredrick has discovered three wild children apparently raised by wolves while hunting in his vast forest property. To Lord Fredrick, who's named them Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia Incurrigible, the children are trophies and property ("Finder's keepers, what?"); to young Lady Constance they're savage nuisances who howl, chase squirrels, and gnaw on shoes. Enter Penelope Lumley, charged with taming them in time for a Christmas party, and bolstered by her top-notch classical education and an endless supply of platitudes from Agatha Swanburne. She also comes armed with a cherished book of poetry and her favorite fiction series, "Giddy-Yap, Rainbow!" There are stock characters, and there are mysteries. Most of all, without taking itself too seriously, there is commentary on writing itself, the dangers and the benefits of relying on books for moral courage, and the perils of drawing false expectations of the world from literature. Penelope shows growth, confronting issues of social class and expectation versus reality, and eventually realizing her own capacity for insight. Humorous antics and a climactic cliff-hanger ending will keep children turning pages and clamoring for the next volume, while more sophisticated readers will take away much more. Frequent plate-sized illustrations add wit and period flair.—Riva Pollard, Prospect Sierra Middle School, El Cerrito, CA



#1738889 (Vol. 04) Interrupted Tale (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Maryrose Wood

A latest entry in the award-nominated series that includes *The Mysterious Howling* finds a heartbroken Miss Penelope Lumley assuaging the disappointments of her 16th birthday by accepting an invitation to speak at her former school, which will be closed if she cannot prove the academic progress of her incorrigible charges.

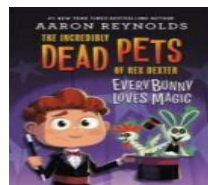
978-0-06-179122-2 ©2013 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 6.2 Lexile 900

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-In Wood's continuing comic-gothic series, nanny Penelope Lumley is called back to the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females to deliver a speech at the Celebrate Alumnae Knowledge Exposition, and she takes her three wolfish charges along. They find things much changed from Penelope's pleasant descriptions of the institution that was so instrumental in forming her character and philosophy. The Board of Directors has experienced something along the lines of a hostile takeover. Any enjoyment of life on the part of the poor, bright females is being squelched. It doesn't take long for Penelope to suspect that Judge Quinzy, who now heads the Board, is actually the supposedly deceased father of Lord Ashton and that he is after a book that may hold clues about the mysterious curse of the Ashtons. Readers learn that the three incorrigible children are not the only wolfish humans in the series and also a fair amount about poetic feet—especially iambic pentameter. It is all great fun and delightfully complicated—an essential purchase for libraries owning the previous three titles.—Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Library, NY (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter (Trade)



#2269855 (Vol. 03) Everybunny Loves Magic (Hardcover (POB))

written by Aaron Reynolds

One thing quickly becomes clear...somebunny hates magic. Whoever it is, they're attempting to put Booper the Mystical out of the birthday biz for good. And they're willing to kill to do it. It's a cold cruel world out there. But don't worry. I'm on the case. And so is Darvish. Also, Sami Mulpepper. (Don't ask.) The point is, nobunny pulls one over on Rex Dexter...and his best friend...and his maybe-girlfriend...and his dead chicken.

978-0-316-10537-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

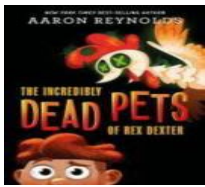
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

#2158908 (Vol. 01) Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter (Hardcover (POB))

written by Aaron Reynolds

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99



Rex Dexter is itching to have a dog. He was practically born to have one. His name is Rex, for crying out loud. When Rex's B-Day for Me-Day finally arrives, his parents surprise him with a box. Could it be? Yes! It has to be! A Chicken? Pet poultry? How clucky. Rex's uninvited ghostly guests are a chatty, messy bunch. And they need Rex to solve their mysterious deadly departures from the Middling Falls Zoo before it happens again. But how?

978-1-368-05183-5 ©2020 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 3.4 Lexile 560

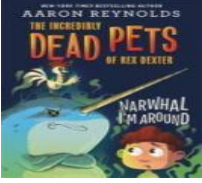
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 As the name of the town suggests, life in Middlington Falls is unremarkable. That is, until Rex Dexter tangles with a wish-granting grim reaper, in the form of a vintage arcade game. Unfortunately, Rex loses the game, and instead of walking away with a real live pet (please be a chocolate Lab!), he is cursed with the ability to see and speak to dead animals—including his rooster practice pet, which just got flattened in the parking lot. Narrating with unchecked confidence and sarcasm, Rex comes to understand that the incorporeal zoo animals now appearing in his bedroom—a charred rhino, a drowned gorilla, a squashed elephant, and a zapped panda—need his help to solve the mystery of their untimely deaths. Picture-book author Reynolds brings his knack for off-kilter comedy to his first novel in a gleefully entertaining fashion. While Rex recklessly leads with self-ascribed charm, he is balanced by his intelligent, good-natured friend Darvish. The zany animal cast adds to the fun of this series starter, perfect for fans of Stuart Gibbs' FunJungle mysteries. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Rex Dexter wants a dog. His parents say no. Unlike other fictional kids who prove their responsibility and earn their reward, though, Rex—with best friend Darvish and a starter pet chicken in tow—takes on the Grim Reaper in an arcade game, loses, and is cursed with being designated advocate for dead animals seeking closure. It starts with his steam-rollered chicken, who returns as a best friend wannabe, and escalates as animals in the local zoo are killed and show up at his house (in various states of post-mortem dishevelment) seeking assistance and shelter. There's a mystery to solve, a crush to pursue, a sixth-grade report to write, and revenants to organize, all of which add up to pretty standard middle-grade fare. As a narrator, Rex Dexter has a mouth that doesn't stop delivering glib patter that will either delight or exhaust readers, depending on their bent. His capacity for self-delusion is on constant groan-worthy display, while his magnificent vocabulary adds to the glee (e.g., on the subject of Beefarooni school lunch: "It is a travesty of colossal proportions wrapped in a veil of tomato sauce and guile"). With another plot queued up for a proposed series, Reynolds is bound to attract fans drawn to overconfident Rex and whatever challenge the Grim Reaper cares to deal him. EB


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Haunted by the ghosts of dead pets, a kid must right their wrongs. All sixth grader Rex wants is a "real-live" pet of his own; preferably a chocolate Labrador. Everyone he knows has a pet. His best friend, Darvish, a "pet hoarder," has four; maybe five. In answer to Rex's constant pleading, his parents give him a "practice pet": a chicken. One hour and 14 minutes after the chicken enters Rex's life, it becomes a real-dead pet. Things go from bad to worse when, after losing a mysterious carnival game called The Reaper's Curse he finds on the sidewalk, Rex can not only suddenly see the ghosts of dead animals, but speak to and understand them. The chicken; Drumstick; is the first of many to communicate with Rex. As a de facto animal "afterlife errand boy," can Rex help these ghosts rest in peace? Reynolds' new series debut is nonstop comedy, poking fun at everything from animal rights groups to the education system. Rex's first-person narration; heavily unreliable and hyperbolic; smartly utilizes direct address to implicate readers in the ridiculous plot. Though several jokes only just toe the line, one punny reference to "spirit animals" goes a bit too far. Most of the human characters are white by default; Darvish is Pakistani American. Laugh-out-loud ludicrousness. (Fiction. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When avid dog lover Rex Dexter, a sixth grader, begs for one; "a chocolate Labrador. That's a proper pet"; for his birthday, he doesn't expect his parents to get him a chicken as a "practice pet." Nor does he expect said chicken to be promptly run over by a steamroller, shortly after Rex loses a carnival game called The Grim Reaper, one that promises a curse. Nor the chicken's ghost to turn up in his bedroom calling him "bestie." More ghosts appear: of the rhino that burned to death at the local zoo, of a dead gorilla with a shark attached to its rear. Rex has become a lightning rod for dead animals, and it's clear that something sinister is happening at the zoo. Now he, his spectral companions, and his best friend, Darvish, must get to the heart of the matter before further animals meet similarly dismal fates. In this entertainingly spooky romp, Reynolds (Dude!) tempers his morbid premise with the absurdity of Rex's situation, the ghostly entourage's distinct personalities, and a hilarious, simultaneously formal and sarcastic, narrative voice. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jodi Reamer, Writers House. (Apr.)


Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Sixth-grader Rex Dexter desperately wants a dog, but his parents have deemed him too irresponsible. When he loses an old-fashioned Grim Reaper carnival game, he is cursed with the ability to see and communicate with dead animals who passed away with unfinished business. The first one he sees is his own pet chicken, which died moments before in a steamroller accident while Rex wasn't paying attention. Soon after, he starts seeing the ghosts of animals from a local zoo, all of whom died under strange circumstances. Rex must solve the mystery of who is killing off rare animals so that the victims can move on to the afterlife. And if he does, maybe he can convince his parents that he is responsible enough to own a dog, too. Hapless Rex follows in the footsteps of characters like Timmy Failure, who think they are much cleverer than they actually are. His hijinks will amuse those who enjoy slapstick humor just a little on the dark side. The mystery has a twist ending that will surprise and satisfy readers who thought they knew what was coming. VERDICT Purchase where funny books are popular—that's

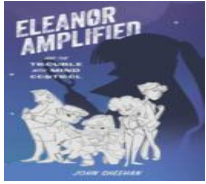
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2226194 (Vol. 02) Narwhal I'm Around (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Aaron Reynolds</i> Rex Dexter is cursed ... with brains ... and daring ... and more than his fair share of devilish good looks. But also with an actual curse: dead animals keep showing up in his bedroom, wanting him to solve their murders. After successfully sleuthing a series of endangered animal assassinations, Rex is pretty sure he's home free, spiritually speaking. But that's when he finds a two thousand pound narwhal in his beanbag chair. And this tough guy is dead. And super crabby about it. 978-0-7595-5523-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 224 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 4.0	1	\$13.99

Individual Titles: Fiction

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2215943 Dragon World (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tamara Macfarlane</i> Lurking in every corner of the earth, from the deepest depths of the oceans, to the tips of the tallest mountains, even tucked beneath the very ground that you tread on, dragons watch and wait. They take many forms--sea monsters, serpents, wild cats, eagles, and they represent many different things; Gods to be revered, evil kings to be feared, wise friends, and fierce foes. 978-0-7440-2765-5 Dorling Kindersley ©2021 7-1/2 x 10 80 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile IG 950	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–8—Beautifully illustrated in bold, vibrant colors, this dragon guide book will have anyone who even slightly admires dragons drooling; it is a true feast for the eyes. Divided into four sections of Asian Dragons, European Dragons, Dragons of the World, and Dragon Discoveries, the book teaches readers interesting details about many different dragons and how they came to be. Each section contains a history of the dragon; its dwelling; body description such as eye shape, neck length, and overall shape; as well as the dragon's powers and traits. Powers and traits range from controlling the weather and shape-shifting to consuming everything in sight. The book also contains several dragon myths that originate from different regions around the world: "'What will we call this creature?' Liu asked. 'It is a sacred creature for our village,' said Mei. 'It made a sound like thunder when it came out—let's call it Dragon,' Chen said. (Dragon sounds like the Chinese word for thunder.)" The final sections of the book contain information about dragon eggs, what they look like and where the nests are built, and dragon jewels. Readers are shown different gems that dragons are often attracted to and accused of stealing. The book ends with information on drawing your own dragon and real animals that resemble dragons. There is a glossary and index to close out the book. VERDICT A must-purchase for libraries where dragon lovers lurk.—Tracy Cronce, Stevens Point Public Sch. Dist., Stevens Point, WI

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2342645 Winter Tales: Stories and Folktales from Around the World (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Dawn Casey</i> Written by award-winning author Dawn Casey and with beautifully detailed artwork by illustrator Zanna Goldhawk, this is a magical book to be treasured for generations to come. Some of the 18 stories included are: "The White Bear King," "The Mitten," "The Apple Tree Man," "The Twelve Months," "The Snow Queen," and more. 978-0-7624-8477-5 Running Press Book Publishers ©2023 9-1/2 x 10-1/2 96 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic	1	\$19.99



#2246391 Eleanor Amplified and the Trouble with Mind Control (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John Sheehan

Join world-renowned investigative reporter Eleanor Amplified as she goes undercover to help a student reporter and fan, Miku Tangeroa, expose the corruption at her middle school. Together they discover that the new organic lunch program and tech-based learning systems are doing more harm than good and might actually be part of an evil plot that might put all of Union City in danger.

978-0-7624-9883-3 Running Press Book Publishers ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Life has changed drastically at Brighton Middle School since a tech corporation stepped in to provide every student with VR headsets, personal tablets, and suspicious smart foods—and not for the better. Seventh grader Miku Tangeroa (race unspecified) knows something's amiss, but her investigative journalism skills alone aren't enough to find out what. Instead, she turns to her hero, ace reporter and radio host Eleanor Amplified, who embarks on an undercover mission as a substitute social studies teacher. Together with Miku's friends and another teacher, they work to crack open a case that links Miku's middle school troubles with Eleanor's preexisting examination of a shady manufacturer. The plot of this novel is fast paced and exciting in its interrogation of the corporate takeover of classrooms. The third act twist does, however, disappoint in replacing this line of thinking with an arc that strains credulity. The diverse cast of characters is well rounded and fun to follow; the narrative alternates between third-person perspectives of Miku's and Eleanor's exploits. VERDICT The ending leaves space for the launch of a new series that fans of middle grade mystery and of the eponymous podcast where Eleanor Amplified originated will enjoy.—Gina Elbert, Dobbs Ferry P.L., NY



#2368804 Underdogs of Upson Downs (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Craig Silvey

Annie Shearer lives in the country town of Upson Downs with her best friend, an adopted stray dog called Runt. After years evading capture, Runt is remarkably fast and agile, perfect for herding runaway sheep. But when a greedy local landowner puts her family's home at risk, Annie directs Runt's extraordinary talents toward a different pursuit--winning the Agility Course Grand Championship at the lucrative Krumpets Dog Show in London.

978-0-593-70363-2 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Eleven-year-old Annie Shearer and her adopted stray dog, Runt, live with her family in Upson Downs, Australia. Their sheep ranch has seen better days; drought and an aggressive neighbor (who has diverted the town's water supply to his own property in hopes of buying out everyone) have made life difficult, spurring Annie's efforts to fix things for her family. Annie and Runt enter the agility contest sponsored by Krumpet's Dog Show in London, hoping for the grand prize, which could save the farm. Silvey's heartwarming story features cleverly named characters (evil neighbor Earl Robert-Barren; nasty dog-show competitor Fergus Fink), a direct and often slyly humorous writing style, plenty of local color, and a plethora of groan-worthy puns ("Horrific Axe-ident at the Woolarama Leg Chop!"). What shines through the witticisms, however, is this family's love and their ability to work together, which holds them in good stead throughout their travails. With a satisfying (although not entirely predictable) ending and a cute dog, this one is sure to please middle-grade readers. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews s. 375 days. That's how long it's been since it rained in the Australian sheep-farming town of Upson Downs. Businesses have shuttered, and multigenerational farms are being gobbled up by the aptly named Earl Robert-Barren. Eleven-year-old Annie Shearer is eager to help her family save their farm. She and former stray dog Runt, who's her best friend, have an unshakable bond that makes them a skilled herding and agility duo. Yet no one knows that, because Runt freezes when anyone but Annie is watching him. Then an opportunity comes up for Annie and Runt to qualify for the prestigious Krumpet's Dog Show in London--with a grand prize of \$250,000. The Shearer family bands together to bring their hidden talents into the spotlight. The novel reads like a well-designed agility course, complete with engaging challenges and pacing that reward focus as well as speed. Expository chapter headings function as an aperture, offering pleasing wit and levity before jumping into the action. Obstacles posed by the aforementioned land-grabber and a peacocking pedigreed-dog handler heighten the tension as the stakes rise. Annie and Runt are the main attractions, and their relationships with the other scrappy Shearer family members--especially Annie's aspiring botanist dad--are authentically drawn and lovingly flawed, making them easy to cheer on and adding depth to a beautiful, rewarding narrative that's a fresh addition to the genre. Main characters read white. A perfect run of a novel with the heart of a champion. (Fiction. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old Annie Shearer's family farm, located in the desperately parched Australian town of Upson Downs, is at risk of being sold to greedy landowner Earl Robert-Barren in this warm and sincere tale from Silvey (*The Amber Amulet*). When her canine companion Runt aces a doggie obstacle course at the local fair, Annie realizes that her pet's hidden talent could be her shepherding family's ticket out of debt, and her admirable drive to "fix everything" prompts her to enter Runt into competitions to raise money to help alleviate her parents' financial burdens. There's just one problem: Runt will only perform when no one but Annie is looking, and only under the near-magical guidance of Annie's index finger. In a flurry of brief, propulsive chapters, Annie and her daredevil older brother Max devise a clever workaround to Runt's performance anxiety, rally community support, and land a spot at the prestigious Krumpet's Dog Show in London, drawing the ire of presumptive champion Fergus Fink. Forgoing nuance for charm, Silvey uses broad strokes to craft slightly cartoonish yet joyful characters who propel this affirming small-town adventure that radiates good humor and a generous spirit. Primary characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Lesley Thorne, Aitken Alexander Associates. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Annie Shearer's family lives on a sheep farm in Upson Downs, a small town in the Australian countryside. Annie is great at fixing things but is troubled by a problem apparently beyond her skills. It hasn't rained in Upson Downs in so very long, and the only source of water has been siphoned off by a greedy neighbor. Businesses are closing, and townspeople are moving away. To help bring rain, Annie builds a rainmaker machine. But rain still doesn't come to the town. At a local fair, Annie has a new plan to get money for her family—she enters her dog, Runt, in an agility contest. Runt is fast, but Runt trusts only Annie and freezes when other people are around. Amazingly, Runt wins the agility contest at the fair and goes on to win at a countrywide contest as well. This win propels Annie and Runt to an international championship in faraway London. Annie is keen to go as she figures the prize money will help her family keep the farm. A series of circumstances causes Runt to lose the final competition, but all is not lost as rain finally comes to Upson Downs. Previously published in Australia as *Runt*, this novel was named the Book of the Year at the 2023 Australian Book Industry Awards. Giving the characters names like Earl Robert-Barren and Basil Peppercorn, Silvey crafts lyrical prose and leaves hidden gems for readers young and old. This novel will keep middle grade readers wishing for more stories about Runt and Annie. VERDICT A delightful novel about a girl and her dog that will capture the imaginations of readers.—Charla Hollingsworth



#2286855 Double O Stephen and the Ghostly Realm (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Angela Ahn

Stephen loves pirates. What he doesn't love is his name: Stephen Oh-O'Driscoll. He believes when his Korean mother and Irish father gave him this name, that it was just one cruel setup for being teased. Giving things the proper name is important, which is why Stephen thinks that it's time to update the definition of "pirate." They've got a bad rep, and maybe they deserve some of it, but Stephen still likes a few pirate traditions, like bandannas and eyepatches -- he's just not that into stealing things from people. He has the perfect new word: piventurate. A sailor who passionately seeks adventure. That's what he wants to be.

978-0-7352-6827-2 Tundra Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

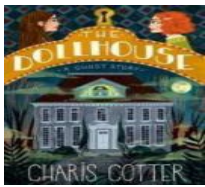
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Pirate-loving Stephen's dreams are about to come true--in a ghostly way. Despite his mother's disapproval, 12-year-old Stephen Oh-O'Driscoll, who is of Korean and Irish descent, wants to be a pirate. With his bandanna and eye patch, he and best friend Brandon are ready for adventure, specifically becoming piventurates, a portmanteau term for pirate adventurers that Stephen coined himself. And one day, adventure comes, but not in the form of a pirate, or at least not really. Instead, it turns out Stephen is a baksu mudang, a Korean term for someone who can communicate with ghosts. Some of the ghosts he meets are friendly, some are scary--and one may or may not have been a pirate. Stephen's mother thinks he should have nothing to do with these spirits, but Stephen doesn't agree. Halmeoni, his late maternal grandmother (who is also a ghost), has been kidnapped, and to save her he will have to help the maybe-pirate ghost. But he isn't really complaining: This is what the Piventurate's Oath is all about! Stephen and friends new and old travel between the worlds of the living and dead, finding self-confidence and the truth about a few family secrets along the way, Full of swashbuckling and supernatural fun, this book touches but never dwells upon serious subjects for too long. Light, appealing, nonstop adventure. (Paranormal. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2238468 Dollhouse: A Ghost Story (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Charis Cotter

Alice's world is falling apart. Her parents are getting a divorce, and they've cancelled their yearly cottage trip--the one thing that gets Alice through the school year. Instead,

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



Alice and her mom are heading to some small town where Alice's mom will be a live-in nurse to a rich elderly lady.

978-0-7352-6906-4 Tundra Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 360 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 640

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It's 1997, and 12-year-old Alice's regular life is in turmoil; a move to the countryside leads to supernatural adventure. Alice has an overactive, vivid imagination--at least, according to her mother. But is what she sees always imaginary? After telling her emotionally absent, workaholic husband that she's leaving him, Alice's mother takes her daughter to Blackwood House, where she has a live-in nursing job caring for a wealthy old woman while she recovers from a fall. Alice is befriended by teenage Lily, the housekeeper's daughter, who informs her that her bedroom is haunted. As Lily and Alice explore the house, they find a dollhouse in a locked room that becomes real in Alice's dreams. Who are Fizz and Bubble--the sisters who also appear in her dreams--and what is her purpose in their lives? In her everyday world, Alice hopes her parents will reunite, worries about her mother's flirtation with the local doctor, and tries to stay out of the way of her mother's cranky patient. This is a twisty tale that goes in many different directions but never loses the main thread. The author carefully lays out clues for readers who like to solve mysteries themselves. Both Lily and Bubble are developmentally delayed; they are described respectfully and are fleshed-out characters. The cast members default to White. A time-traveling mystery that will keep readers involved and guessing up to the very end. (Paranormal mystery. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2234596 Alice Fleck's Recipes for Disaster (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rachelle Delaney

Alice Fleck's father is a culinary historian, and for as long as she can remember, she's been helping him recreate meals from the past--a hobby she prefers to keep secret from kids her age. But when her father's new girlfriend enters them into a cooking competition at a Victorian festival, Alice finds herself and her hobby thrust into the spotlight.

978-0-7352-6927-9 Puffin Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 While Alice enjoys cooking with her father, a culinary historian, she finds it unsettling that his new girlfriend has arranged for them to compete as a team on Alice's favorite cooking show, Culinary Chronicles. Another surprise comes after they arrive at a grand country estate for the week of filming: rebranded as Culinary Combat, the show will now be hosted by the notoriously combative Tom Truffleman. The competitive experience is challenging, and Truffleman is demeaning, but Alice finds support from two new friends, Tavi and Henry, a young detective. After suspicious mishaps occur on the set, they join forces to identify the saboteur. Readers who watch competitive cooking shows will enjoy the backstage view, while others will relate to Alice's anxiety about appearing on TV, as well as her reluctance to accept her father's girlfriend. Delaney creates an array of colorful characters and keeps them in play as suspects, but Alice remains in the spotlight, focusing on problems, adapting to changing circumstances, and shifting her preconceived notions. A lively mystery sprinkled with anecdotes from culinary history. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Mix one shy tween, one unwelcome new woman in her single dad's life, one Victorian hotel, and one TV cook-off prone to mysterious failures. Shake and bake. Ever since the fifth grade calf's foot jelly incident, Alice has kept her love for cookery on the down low--but all bets are off after she learns that Hana, her food historian dad's girlfriend, has signed him up for a weeklong reality cooking competition ominously christened Culinary Combat. Events conspire to keep Alice on the hop too, as the challenge of facing the show's caustic, terrifying judge while preparing dishes like Victoria sponge cake and charlotte russe on camera--at first as her dad's sous-chef, then alone after he's eliminated for alleged misbehavior--is complicated by a string of malfunctioning appliances and other odd kitchen mishaps...not to mention her own tangled feelings about Hana, who introduces her to the intriguing world of Japanese desserts and is actually pretty cool in other ways. Spooning new friends with surprising talents, savvy detective work (it turns out the show does have a saboteur), and mouthwatering foodie talk (if no actual recipes) into this culinary caper, Delaney dishes up a savory tale that tests her young cuisinier--in the face of change as much as in the kitchen--on the way to a flying finish. Alice and her dad present White; Hana has some Japanese ancestry; and there is diversity in the supporting cast. Generous portions of yum for fans of mysteries and mille-feuille. (Mystery. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Rising seventh grader Alice Fleck, 12, who has unruly "ginger-colored hair," secretly enjoys being sous-chef to her culinary historian father as they whip up historically accurate, sometimes stomach-churning, recipes. But then her father's "unnecessary"

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

girlfriend, Hana Holmes, announces that she has entered the duo into their favorite cooking show, Culinary Chronicles, "quite possibly the friendliest cooking competition on TV." Alice doesn't want to be on-screen; or around Hana, since the program will be shot at the "week-long Victorian festival" Hana is lecturing at. Things go from sour to downright unsavory when the production team announces that the show has been acquired and transformed into Culinary Combat, evaluated by Tom Truffleman, "the fiercest judge in the world of competitive cooking." As the contestants prepare Victorian dishes such as charlotte russe, suspicious kitchen accidents point to sabotage, and Alice and her new friends, two other children at the festival, must find the perpetrator; especially after Truffleman accuses Alice's father of cheating. Detailing fascinating food history and delectable dishes, Delaney (Clara Voyant) serves a toothsome culinary caper amid a gentle, well-balanced portrait of one preteen's journey toward accepting adaptability and change. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Amy Tompkins, Transatlantic Agency. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Variety may be the spice of life; but for 12-year-old Alice Fleck, too many changes spell trouble. Alice is not looking forward to middle school, and she isn't very happy about her dad James's new girlfriend, Hana. Things heat up when Alice realizes that her dad and Hana have been planning for them all to attend a Victorian festival where Hana will be lecturing—and that Hana signed Alice and James up to compete on Culinary Capers, a historical cooking show that's filmed there. Alice and her culinary historian dad have been cooking together all her life, but not in front of cameras. Granted, Culinary Capers isn't as intense as most cooking shows; plus, it doesn't even air on a popular station (just the history station), so it's not like anyone will see it. But Alice and James discover there have been some changes to the familiar show. Culinary Capers has become Culinary Combat, complete with a new host, a new network, and a ruthless new judge, Tom Truffleman, who does not like kids. Alice feels alone until she befriends two other kids at the festival, Tavi and Henry, and they decide to figure out who is behind all the "accidents" happening on set. Alongside the mystery plot, Alice's insecurities and family concerns feel authentic, as does her relationship with her father. Alice and her dad are white, and there is diversity among the supporting characters. VERDICT Delaney takes readers on an adventure that feels like a cross between Kids Baking Championship and Scooby Doo in all the best possible ways, along with a few behind-the-scenes glimpses of reality TV and social media. Recommended for fans of cooking shows and sweet family stories.—Heather Webb, Worthington Libs., OH



#2312439 Big Sting (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rachele Delaney

Eleven-year-old Leo is an "armchair adventurer." Unlike his little sister Lizzie, Leo is not a risk-taker. So when he, Lizzie, Mom and Dad leave the city to visit Grandpa on Heron Island, Leo finds all kinds of dangers to avoid -- from the deep, dark ocean to an old barn on the verge of collapse. Despite Leo's best efforts to avoid it, adventure finds him anyway when Grandpa's beehives go missing in the dead of night.

Infuriated, Grandpa vows to track down the sticky-fingered thieves himself... with risk-averse Leo and danger-loving Lizzie (plus a kitten named Mayhem) in tow.

978-0-7352-6930-9 Tundra Books ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 640

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A story full of mystery, adventure, and personal challenges that will have readers buzzing. Eleven-year-old Leo and his younger sister, Lizzie, are staying with their maternal grandfather on Heron Island, British Columbia, after the recent passing of their grandmother. Originally Leo's parents were also staying there, but when a booking opens at an exclusive nearby spa, Leo's city-loving father seizes the opportunity to go somewhere with reliable Wi-Fi under the pretense that the kids' mom needs to unwind from her stressful job. Leo and Lizzie stay with their grandfather, a choice that ultimately proves to be vital when the farm's 12 beehives are stolen. The hives originally belonged to Grandma, but after her death, Grandpa learned how to keep bees, and he is desperate to get them back. The trio embark on an adventure to discover the culprit, learning more about each other along the way. A subplot in which Leo is distressed about his results from an online personality test matching users with career paths that his father constantly talks about is nicely woven into the story, demonstrating how labels can limit people as well as define them. Readers who love adventure will enjoy the overall plot, but while the mystery is solved--and Delaney plays fair with the clues--the pacing will make it difficult for armchair sleuths to discover who stole the hives before the grand denouement. The overall story makes up for this minor shortcoming, however. Main characters read White. A sweetly engaging novel exploring family relationships. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When their parents interrupt a family trip by heading to a spa, 11-year-old Leo and nine-year-old sister Lizzie are unexpectedly left with their cantankerous, recently widowed maternal grandfather on Canada's Heron Island. The kids' father, who is changing careers and obsessed with personality quiz site Fatefinder.com, has dubbed cautious, curious Leo an "Auditor." And it's true that Leo prefers the orderly world of virtual farming game Applewood Acres to Grandad's dilapidated barn and overgrown field, but he's also peeved about being pigeonholed and attempts to embrace the shifting situation. "Adventurer" Lizzie, meanwhile, is ready for anything. The theft of their late, pun-loving apiarist grandmother's dozen hives soon plunges the unlikely trio into a mystery. They set out on an unexpected adventure to track down the beeknappers, with their grieving Grandad declaring, "No. Puns. Allowed"; Lizzie embracing a barn kitten she calls Mayhem; and Leo, true to his careful nature, assessing possible risks along the way. This character-forward beekeeping mystery from Delaney (Alice Fleck's Recipes for Disaster), considers the limitations of labels and the authentic messiness of IRL adventures. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Amy Tompkins, Transatlantic

Agency. (Feb.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In this tender, comical and thrilling (yes, all three!) middle-grade novel, a cautious, thoughtful boy--more inspired by virtual adventures than real-life escapades--finds himself embroiled in a mystery involving stolen beehives, a wild pig named Penelope and more puns than can be BEElieved.



#2269711 Grave Thief (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Dee Hahn

Twelve-year-old Spade is a grave thief. Spade and his brother get caught in a royal trap, and Spade must find the master of the Woegon: a deadly creature that is stalking the castle by night. Along the way, he meets Ember, the queen's niece, and together they race to solve the mystery of the legendary Deepstones and their connection to the Woegon, the queen, a missing king and the mysterious pebble Spade finds in the Wyndhail cemetery.

978-0-7352-6943-9 Puffin Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 344 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 When a heist goes awry for 12-year-old grave digger Spade, he becomes embroiled in a royal trap that requires him to find the master of a fearsome creature who stalks the castle grounds by night: the Woegon. In atmospheric Wyndhail, Spade and his family put food on their table by selling the jewels they dig up from the dead. Introverted and nocturnal by nature--and invested in his role that often allows him to hide his limp from prying eyes--Spade soon finds himself sucked into the castle mystery. When Miss Ember, the queen's niece, complicates matters by unexpectedly joining his quest, they must learn to cooperate in order to save those they love, and together they discover that the graveyard holds more secrets than they ever imagined. Hahn's poignant messages about courage, loss, and forging new friendships are wrapped in an action-packed shell, bound to excite readers who would love Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* (2008) crossed with medieval fantasy. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old grave robber is conscripted as the royal spy. Spade is a Joolie, a member of a traveling people known mostly for theft. Unlike many of their relatives, Spade's family makes their living through robbing graves. When Spade's dad sends him after too valuable a prize, Spade ends up being captured by Queen Carmelia herself. There's not much poor Spade can do when the queen orders him to steal a magical stone from the Moor Mage--Carmelia is keeping Spade's brother captive, and Spade is scared of her henchman, Henschcliff. Against his will, Spade is joined on his quest by the queen's niece, Ember, a redheaded spitfire seemingly modeled on every other ginger girlboss fantasy sidekick. Ember might be a pest, but she's also clever and brave--and she's helpful as Spade learns more about what makes him special. Spade, born with a limp that only appears when he needs a moment of poignant drama, works with Ember to save himself, his little brother, and the kingdom from the terrifying Woegon. The serious drama is peppered with some moments of silliness. All characters read as White in this European-style fantasy world. Unfortunately, the portrayal of swindling, thieving, willfully ignorant Joolies treads extremely close to real-world bigotries about itinerant travelers. Derivative but entertaining. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Spade Archer Rustle doesn't believe in luck. In Wyndhail, a grave robber born with a bad leg can't exactly afford to rely on anything but his wits, after all. So when his father sends Spade and his younger brother, Benji, behind the Wyndhail castle walls to steal from a baron's freshly dug grave, Spade's not entirely surprised the plan doesn't work. In order to free Benji from the dungeon—and armed with little more than his uncle Malachi's fairy tales and the help of a persistent, adventure-hungry princess named Ember—Spade will have to face the most dreaded beast in the kingdom, the Woegon. Fast-paced and full of magic, this debut is sure to be a smash hit with fantasy and adventure lovers. Readers should come prepared with a box of tissues, however, as there are some tearjerker moments. Main characters are cued as white. VERDICT An easy recommendation for fans of Neil Gaiman, Cornelia Funke, or Sayantani DasGupta. Recommended first purchase.—Kaitlin Frick



#2317445 Green Velvet Secret (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Vicki Grant

Yardley and her grandmother, Gidge, are best friends. Sharing a love of vintage clothing and quirky jewelry, Yardley and Gidge spend a lot of time together, which suits Yardley just fine. So when Gidge reveals to Yardley and her parents that she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, Yardley is devastated. Yardley finds solace at Over Easy, befriending the owner, Con, and, begrudgingly, his nephew, Harris, a boy her age. And when a strange woman walks into the store claiming to win a prize --

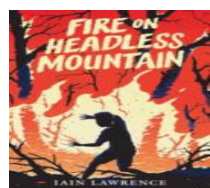
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Gidge's green velvet dress -- in a contest she doesn't remember entering, Yardley starts to believe her grandmother may have come back to life.

978-0-7352-7012-1 Tundra Books ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A beloved grandmother's death drives this moving mystery from Grant (Tell Me When You Feel Something). Twelve-year-old Yardley O'Hanlon is close to her free-spirited grandmother, Gidge, who shares her love of crafting and guerrilla fashion. But Gidge's balloons-and-champagne announcement of her terminal cancer diagnosis; "an exciting new phase of my life"; promises to change that. Using her remaining time to get her karma, and her belongings, in order, Gidge begins writing letters of apology, sorting her vast vintage clothing collection, and trying to persuade Yardley that she could use a friend her own age. When she discovers that a favorite former student owns the Over Easy Vintage Emporium, Gidge urges Yardley to befriend his sullen nephew, Harris. Devastated following Gidge's tenderly portrayed physician-assisted death, Yardley takes up work at Over Easy and embraces Gidge's belief in reincarnation; soon spotting Gidge in a customer who comes in to claim the late woman's green velvet dress. As Yardley seeks the stranger with Gidge's eyes, she discovers that her grandmother; and karma; have surprises in store. Quirky, fully fleshed characters and a tender third-person narration accompany themes of grieving, making amends, and living a full life in this winning novel. Characters read as white. Ages 10: up. Agent: Fiona Kenshole, Transatlantic Literary. (Mar.)



#2285365 Fire on Headless Mountain (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Iain Lawrence

Virgil is making his older siblings trek to a mountain lake on a trip unlike any they've have taken before. They carry precious cargo: the ashes of their beloved mother, who asked that her remains be scattered at her favorite spot. But when a forest fire is sparked by a bolt of lightning at the exact moment when their van breaks down, the journey quickly turns to disaster.

978-0-8234-4654-4 Margaret G Ferguson ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

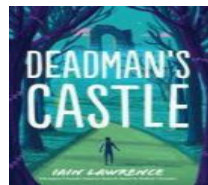
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Eleven-year-old Virgil Pepper and his two older siblings are traveling along the "Boneyard" road in the family's old campervan, winding through a mountain range to scatter their mother's ashes at Little Lost Lake. When the van dies and a raging forest fire encroaches, however, the Peppers must survive as the heat steadily rises. The siblings almost immediately become separated, and Virgil draws upon the lessons from his late mother, a no-nonsense woman of science, who impressively instilled in him skills ranging from ad hoc water filtration to how to eat bugs for survival. An omniscient narrator presents the survival challenges the kids face individually, including injuries, mountain lions, and stranger danger, while naturalistic accounts of the fire as a havoc-wreaking beast heighten the tension. Virgil is the focus of this richly imaginative survival adventure, but flashbacks to his mother's and a wacky uncle's teachings hint at dysfunctional family dynamics but are underexplored. The same can be said of the siblings' obvious need to mourn outside of a life-or-death scenario, and the conclusion offers little to believe they'll be afforded such opportunity in the future. Still, the unrelenting drama of their immediate peril makes for a nail-biting read, sure to satisfy fans of Paulsen's Hatchet. WJ COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ter their mother's ashes in a wilderness lake turns dire. Eleven-year-old Virgil, 15-year-old Kaitlyn, and 19-year-old Joshua Pepper are taking Rusty, their family's old camper van, to Little Lost Lake, miles into the Pacific Northwest wilderness, to scatter their mother's ashes. It is a place filled with special memories for Virgil, as it's where his beloved science teacher mother taught him wilderness skills like using the stars as a compass and building a fire without matches. Thirty-three miles into the trip on the cratered dirt road known as the Boneyard, Rusty breaks down. There is no cellphone signal, and the siblings discover they have forgotten the food and water. The only nearby dwelling is a creepy so-called Sasquatch museum--a run-down trailer, its fence decorated with animal skulls and antlers--that their mother hated. To make things worse, a lightning strike has started a forest fire. Kaitlyn is injured while climbing a tree as a lookout, and the siblings plan a course of action--Joshua will go off for help, and Virgil decides to try to fix Rusty. But their plans go awry, and Virgil becomes lost and separated from the others as the fire rages closer. Clutching the box with his mother's ashes, he must remember everything she has taught him in order to survive. This page-turning and atmospheric adventure story also teaches fascinating science skills. Characters read as White. A superb tale of survival and courage. (Adventure. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When 11-year-old Virgil Pepper and his siblings, 19-year-old Joshua and 15-year-old Kaitlyn, head to spread their mother's ashes at her favorite forest haunt, Little Lost Lake, the engine on their camper van unexpectedly blows. Their artistic father hasn't joined them, and though the kids' science teacher mother taught them excellent survival skills, escalating disasters follow their arrival alongside a wild electrical storm. The siblings lack food and water, the only nearby structure is the eerie "Sasquatch museum," Kaitlyn injures her ankle falling from a tree, and a fast-moving wildfire cuts off the soon-separated siblings' path to safety. Vividly wrought, scientifically grounded text layers facts to develop the protagonists' plight, while occasionally pace-slowng flashbacks hint at their parents' differing worldviews. Lawrence (Deadman's

Castle) draws from his experience fighting forest fires; that expertise informs harrowing descriptions of the out-of-control blaze, creating an elucidating and hopeful portrait of grief amid the natural world. Characters cue as white. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Danielle Egan-Miller, Browne & Miller Literary. (Aug.)



#2215969 Deadman's Castle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Iain Lawrence

Ever since he was five years old and his father witnessed a terrible crime, Igor and his family have been on the run from the Lizard Man, a foreboding figure bent on revenge. They've lived in so many places, with so many identities, that Igor can't even remember his real name.

978-0-8234-4655-1 Margaret G Ferguson ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Ever since Igor can remember, his family has been on the run from a shadowy, terrifying figure known as the Lizard Man. They frequently change their names and move to houses in different communities, but the rules remain the same: for starters, keep the doors locked and the curtains closed, and let no one in. Now that the boy is 12 years old, he's determined to attend school for the first time and make friends. His father fearfully, grudgingly agrees, but he lays down new rules. When Igor breaks them, his worst fears materialize. He endangers himself and his friends as they struggle to escape from a man bent on vengeance. Lawrence, the Canadian writer whose High Seas Trilogy encompassed chilling historical novels, now offers a menacing, contemporary tale of dread, danger, and revenge. Portraying family dynamics and middle-school antics with equal insight and attention to detail, Igor's first-person narrative is absorbing. The well-paced story leads readers to wonder, along with Igor, whether his father is simply paranoid, until events lead to a very different conclusion. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Igor's family has been running from the Lizard Man for so long that Igor has forgotten his original home, how many times they've moved, or even what his real name is. Each move has happened suddenly, with Igor's father spotting some clue that the Lizard Man has caught up to them again, and within minutes, they've grabbed their bags, notified the Protectors, and headed to a new life. Now twelve, Igor wants roots and school and normalcy, and when he manages to find some new friends, they suggest that Igor's dad may actually be fabricating all of this, either intentionally or from mental illness. Igor as narrator is at once both exasperating, as he is painfully oblivious to what he is risking with his tween rebellions, and effective as it's clear just how much he has suffered and lost by being on the run, constantly off center and terrified, with only his parents and little sister. Lawrence weaves in enough hints that the Lizard Man could be either real or imagined to keep later plot turns surprising. Readers seeking a (relatively safe) thriller will likely find this fills the bill, with an added bonus of a memorably complex but relatable narrator. AS

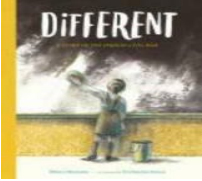
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This is a creepy adventure tale, a family story, and a story of an outsider finding his way in "the freak show known as middle school." Igor Watson's father once saw a man do a terrible thing. He reported it to the police, and ever since, the man has been after them, vowing revenge. "Watch for a man with a lizard tattooed on his skin," Igor's father told him years ago, and since then they have been on the run across the country, chased by the Lizard Man and under the care of the "Protectors." They've lived in so many places, in so many new homes, and under so many aliases that narrator Igor doesn't even remember his real name. Now he is twelve, and he wonders about his father being the only one ever to have seen this Lizard Man. Is their predator real, or is his father "crazy," as some people say? This tension drives the gripping tale to a pulse-pounding conclusion. An author's note describes the "bird's nest of memories" that led to this story. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The Lizard Man is after his family--or so a tween believes. By the time Igor, his unlikely chosen name, has reached his 12th birthday, he wants it all to end. He and his parents and little sister have been on the run from the person he's dubbed the Lizard Man, after his distinctive tattoo. When he was 5, his father reported a crime, after which they hurriedly left town; now they move frequently and keep to themselves while Dad reports to the Protectors. In their current town, Igor finally convinces his father to let him attend school, where he makes friends and plays sports and computer games for the first time. Goth Zoe favors black clothing and makeup. Angelo becomes his constant companion, even inviting him for a sleepover. In the company of his new friends and sometimes on his own, Igor begins to explore their town (against his father's firm directives), feeling a strange sense of familiarity with the streets and buildings. It is in Deadman's Castle, an odd building filled with underground rooms and passages, that Igor, his friends, and the Lizard Man come together in a life-threatening encounter. Friendship difficulties provide a contrast and an anchor to the terrifying threat, and the various plot elements are deftly tied together in a fitting twist that will have readers quickly turning the pages. Main characters are cued as White. Filled with suspense and intrigue. (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A family perpetually flees from a man with a lizard tattoo in this intriguing middle grade mystery. Six years prior to this book's start, Igor Watson's father "saw someone do a terrible thing"; ever since, the family has been on the run, changing towns and identities, and reporting to a witness protection agency, the Protectors, each time an ambiguous character known only as the Lizard Man tracks

them down. Now 12, Igor; his most recent alias; persuades his parents that he should attend school. Slowly settling in, making friends, and experiencing bullying, Igor realizes just how restrictive his family's rules are: always be home before dark, keep the curtains closed, lie about the family's background. As Igor's cover story starts to slip and he feels an odd sense of familiarity in his "new" town, he must decide just how far to trust his friends, even as he questions his father's stability and the Lizard Man's very existence. Against a suspenseful backdrop, Lawrence (The Skeleton Tree) pits Igor's longing for normalcy against the precautions he takes to keep his family safe, creating a rapidly moving story with an interesting emotional arc. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Jane Jordan Browne, Browne & Miller Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Igor and his family have been running for as long as he can remember, ever since his father witnessed a crime. But now he is 12, and this time he gets to choose his new name while his father chooses his boundaries, where he can go alone, and mostly where he cannot. Breaking those boundaries was how Igor came to discover Rutherford B. Hayes Middle School and his absolute desire to be there. He has never had friends or any idea what a normal life could be until he insists on going to school. His first friends ever Zoe (an edgy goth girl who changes her identity yearly by choice) and Angelo (an Italian American former class bully) push him to start a new adventure without fear of the past and fear of the Lizard Man, who threatened his family all those years ago. Just as Igor begins to ask questions, the Lizard Man reappears. Featuring effective worldbuilding, this is a great, suspenseful tale of terror for upper middle graders. The hurried ending is the novel's only flaw. VERDICT A solid addition to middle school collections.—Sarah Voels, Cedar Rapids P.L., IA

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2299415 Different: A Story of the Spanish Civil War (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Monica Montanes</i> Between 1936 and 1939, a civil war raged across Spain. For almost three years, ordinary citizens lived in fear of bombs dropping from the sky. When fascist dictator Francisco Franco declared victory, he began to persecute everyone who had once opposed him. Spain became a country of secrets, where anyone who was different was in danger. 978-0-8028-5598-5 Eerdmans Books ©2022 6-1/4 x 8 88 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 890</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist In alternating chapters inspired by reminiscences of the author's father and aunt, two children describe their experiences living in a climate of suspicion after their "Rojo" (Republican) father is forced to flee the Franco regime in the wake of the Spanish Civil War. Nine-year-old Paco, always hungry, dreams of stealing a classmate's lunch and lies when questioned by a new teacher of the ruling Falangist Party about his father's occupation. Meanwhile, his little sister, Socorro, angrily defies the repressive nuns at her school while recalling other women in her life, like her bookish grandmother, and also learning about liberator Simón Bolívar. Eight years later, the children and their mother leave for Venezuela—Socorro describing the long journey, Paco the relief that being different "stopped being something dangerous for us." The publisher has appended context-filling accounts of the war's course and what became of its refugees to go with an excellent resource list. Atmospheric vignettes and wordless full-spread scenes in colored pencil capture both vivid personalities and details of the historical settings.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2271613 Coming of Age: 13 Bnai Mitzvah Stories (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Albert Whitman</i> What does it mean to become an adult in your faith? Join thirteen diverse characters as they experience anxiety, doubt, and self-discovery while preparing for their b'nai mitzvah. 978-0-8075-3667-4 Albert Whitman ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 240 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O Lexile 670</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Twelve short stories and a poem, connected by shared faith and stage of life, explore the Jewish rite of passage of b'nai (bar and bat) mitzvah in an expansive and accessible collection for middle-grade readers of any faith. With contributions from notables including Jane Yolen ("Ceremony") and Laura Shovan ("A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Bimah"), this easygoing collection spans millennia and locales. Stops along the way include Noah's Ark, the Upper West Side in 1922, hotel reception rooms, synagogues, Greece, and even the pun-filled Planet Latke. Mitzvot are made and valuable lessons learned, particularly among protagonists who appreciate the sentiment behind their simpler celebrations. "The yacht, the band, the dancing—they were all false idols" to the girl envying her cousin's lavish party from her own pandemic-era -parking-lot affair. The feel-good collection weaves threads among disparate adolescent episodes in a way that successfully honors the individuality of the coming-of-age experience without losing sight of this unifying factor: Judaism. Mazel tov! COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews B'nai mitzvah are a monumental part of many Jewish adolescents' lives. At age 12 or 13, Jewish children are called to the bimah to read from the Torah and become responsible adults in their Jewish communities. In the United States, this momentous occasion is generally celebrated with a large party. This collection of 13 short stories, plus one poem by Jane Yolen, is all about becoming b'nai mitzvah and coming-of-age. Some of the tales are poignant, more than a few are silly, but the majority unfortunately fall flat, being too short and lacking the necessary space to accomplish effective worldbuilding in sufficient depth, something particularly noticeable for the stories with fantastical plots. The introduction states that some of the stories are based on fact; the collection would have carried more weight if each of the narratives were accompanied by an author's note speaking to its origin and inspiration. Rosen's heartfelt introduction invites readers in, promising representation for Jewish readers, who form less than 3% of the United States' population, and hoping to build bridges with non-Jewish readers. This book could appeal to those readers currently working toward their own b'nai mitzvah, but the lukewarm stories are not likely to attract a wider audience. Main characters are Jewish and presumed White; there is racial diversity in the supporting cast. Short stories of varying quality centered around coming-of-age in the Jewish American community. (glossary) (Anthology. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2179981 Exceptional Maggie Chowder (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Renee Beauregard Lute

Twelve-year-old aspiring forest ranger Maggie Chowder wants to be just like her favorite comic superhero, the Exceptional Eagirl. So when her dad loses his job and her family moves from a house to a small apartment, Maggie is determined to make the most of her new circumstances. But it's not always easy to be strong like Eagirl when her best friend LaTanya gets to move into a big house and get a puppy because her dad has been recruited to coach for the Seattle Seahawks. It's especially not easy when nitpicky, comic-book-hating Grandma Barrel comes to stay. Maggie Chowder may not always do what Eagirl would do, but with the help of an unforgettable trip to Comic Con, she realizes that home is about more than a house, and families and friendships don't have to change just because life does.

978-0-8075-3678-0 Albert Whitman ©2020 5-1/2 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

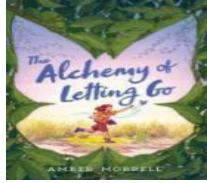
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Maggie is a big fan of Eagirl, the environmental-activist superhero from her favorite comic book. Aspiring to follow in the superhero's footsteps, Maggie becomes a junior ranger to look after the forest and its creatures. If only keeping her own life running smoothly were as easy. Change has been the name of the game lately, with Maggie's family moving from a spacious house to a two-bedroom apartment, her father quitting his stable job to pursue acting, her stay-at-home mom resuming work, and her little brother beginning therapy for his autism. What's more, her best friend just moved into the rich part of town! Just when Maggie feels like her life cannot get any worse, her difficult-to-please grandmother decides to visit for the rest of Maggie's summer vacation. What would Eagirl do in her shoes? Maggie makes some big mistakes during her summer of change, but she also begins to accept and embrace the new. The book includes great black-and-white comic book-style illustrations and snippets of the Eagirl comic. Laugh-out-loud hijinks combine with preteen growing pains for a heart-warming story of self-discovery. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twelve-year-old Maggie Chowder had been looking forward to a promising summer in Renton, Washington. However, things get progressively worse after her father loses his job and takes an unpaid role in a web series to pursue his dream of acting. Several changes that Maggie is not ready for quickly follow: Her mother starts a stressful new job at a grocery store; the family moves from Maggie's beloved home to a small two-bedroom apartment, where she has to share a room with her 4-year-old brother, Aaron, who has autism; and to make matters worse, Maggie's comic-book-hating Grandma Barrel comes to visit and her parents cannot afford to send her to Junior Forest Ranger Camp although she desperately wants to become a ranger and protect the wilderness like her favorite comic-book character, Eagirl. Maggie finds that she is increasingly embarrassed about her family's situation, especially since her best friend, LaTanya Richards, moves into a fancy new house and gets a puppy after her father gets a job coaching the Seahawks football team. But with time Maggie learns the value of family and friends. Lute's well-rounded characters capture the difficulties of change, and Valentine's black-and-white comic strips featuring Eagirl mirror Maggie's feelings about her life. Maggie and her family seem to be White by default; LaTanya's ethnicity is not specified. Empathetic, realistic, and very enjoyable. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Renton, Wash., summer brings unexpected challenges to 12-year-old Maggie: her father loses his job and gets work acting on a low-budget web series, her mother takes a grocery store job, and the family sells their home to move to a "cozy" apartment near the grocer's, where Maggie shares a room with her four-year-old brother Aaron, who is autistic. The arrival of her opinionated, comics-hating grandmother only makes things worse, as does Maggie's best friend, LaTanya Richards, moving into a larger home courtesy of her father's new job coaching the Seattle Seahawks. Despite the upheaval, Maggie is determined to follow the example of her comic book idol, fearless superhero Eagirl, and to become a forest ranger, just like Eagirl. When opportunity arises to attend Seattle Comic Con and compete for a chance to attend Forest Ranger Camp, Maggie begins to see that maybe things aren't all bad. Lute's narrative sensitively portrays Aaron's autism, Maggie's mixed feelings about her new home, and her frustration with changes beyond her control, while interspersed Eagirl comics by Valentine bring readers a

glimpse of the feminist ranger hero whom Maggie hopes to become. Ages 9: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—This is the story of Maggie Chowder, who longs to be just like her favorite superhero, the Exceptional Eagirl. When her best friend leaves for a month in the summer, Maggie assumes nothing new will happen to either of them and cannot wait for her friend to return. Little does she know that both of their worlds are about to shift. This novel is all about change. Readers will empathize with the upheaval of Maggie's life when her father loses his job and they have to move from their large home to an apartment. While this novel speaks to change, it also spotlights the power of platonic and familial relationships. Maggie must find a way to support her dad in his new job, her brother in his new learning environment, and her best friend in her new life as a professional football coach's daughter. She must also learn how to bring joy to her life amidst everything going on around her. The addition of the Eagirl comics at the start of each chapter is sure to attract readers of graphic novels, as well as introduce them to new readers. VERDICT A heartwarming, funny story about family and friends; a worthy addition to middle-grade collections.—Tegan Anclade, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., IL



#2318917 Alchemy of Letting Go (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Amber Morrell

Twelve-year-old Juniper Edwards can't stop chasing the endangered butterfly her sister died trying to catch. In her grief, Juniper finds comfort in her family's study of insects, because science is based on logic, order, and control. But then Juniper's search for the butterfly nearly kills her, too, and when she wakes up with newfound abilities, she discovers that the line between science and magic--and life and death--is not as solid as she thought.

978-0-8075-4937-7 Albert Whitman ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A tween girl is obsessed with bringing her sister back from the dead. Attempting to meld science, magic, and poetry into an uplifting mélange, this story instead labors through a flat-footed plot where little is earned and much is simply declared and whose characters are as two-dimensional as the dead bugs the protagonist collects. Seventh grader Juniper thinks the most important thing in life is science, and her one goal is to catch a Palos Verdes blue butterfly--an endangered species--to add to the collection she and her older sister, Ingrid, began before Ingrid tragically drowned two years earlier. On a class field trip, Juniper leaves the group to chase the butterfly and falls in the water. After being rescued, she finds a rock that glows green in her pocket. (Why? This isn't explained. But apparently this rock can make plants grow.) Next, Juniper meets a talking lemur who lives in the run-down house next to hers. She also meets scientist and magician Artemis, who lives there too, and together they hatch a plan to bring Ingrid back from the dead. Juniper's classmate Mateo, the new kid in town, loves poetry and also conveniently turns out to be a magician. Juniper's first-person, present-tense narration is a series of staccato declarative sentences delivering unearned insights that fail to draw readers into the story. Juniper and her family seem to default to White; Mateo is cued Latine. Interesting premise, labored execution. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Seventh grader Juniper Edwards and her big sister Ingrid used to love studying insects together, but two years after Ingrid's death by drowning, Juniper has become obsessed with entomology. Moreover, she is determined to capture the butterfly that Ingrid most wanted for their collection; the rare Palos Verdes Blue, which lives in the coastal watershed near their Southern California home. After Juniper almost drowns during her pursuit, her rigorous scientific understanding of the world is shaken as she manifests powers that can bring dead flora and insects back to life. The discovery of magician neighbors; and the idea that she can approach her newfound affinity scientifically; lead to her taking on the practice with zeal, a singular goal in mind: reviving Ingrid. Juniper's magic often feels convenient; she becomes magically adept with frustrating ease; but the ramifications of her choices deliver profound emotional moments throughout. Twining matters magical and scientific in straightforward prose, Morrell's contemplative debut handles the complexity of grief with a deft touch while addressing serious ethical questions around life, death, and the responsibilities of power. Juniper and her family cue as white. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Travis Pennington, Knight Agency. (Mar.)



#2153014 Big Red (75th Anniversary Edition) (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jim Kjelgaard

From the moment Danny sees the beautiful Irish setter, he knows Red is the dog for him. Together Danny and Red face many dangers in the harsh Wintapi wilderness that they call home.

978-0-8234-4265-2 Holiday House ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 5.4 GR Lvl T

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2250151 Dreamweavers (Hardcover (Trade))

written by G. Z. Schmidt

Twin siblings journey through the City of Ashes and visit the Jade Rabbit to save their grandpa in this Chinese folklore-inspired fantasy adventure.

978-0-8234-4423-6 Holiday House ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 It is time for the mid-autumn festival, a favorite time of year for 12-year-old twins Mei and Yun, because it is when their grandfather makes his famous mooncakes. This year they will have a special visitor, and their grandfather spends days preparing for their arrival. But when the day finally arrives, disaster ensues: their grandfather is arrested and set to suffer a dreadful fate while their small village is hit by a mysterious and catastrophic storm, destroying their crops and livestock. Now it is up to Mei and Yun to save their grandfather. Through their quest they will learn about old curses, encounter the legendary Jade Rabbit, and uncover the secrets of their family lineage. Schmidt has nicely woven Chinese mythology and history into a fantastic adventure. Readers will find themselves entranced by Schmidt's writing, which will draw them in much in the same way that a storyteller captivates listeners when retelling a folktale. The Dreamweavers is a story about love, family, and the perseverance of twin siblings when faced with the impossible. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books year-old twins Mei and Yun live with their grandfather in a small Chinese village. When the prince hears word of Grandpa's delicious mooncakes, he visits for the Mid-Autumn festival; alarmingly, the mooncakes' secret ingredient has everyone choking, and Mei and Yun's guardian is taken away to the imperial city to be tried. When the village is struck by a unseasonable snowstorm that kills its livestock and leaves its residents isolated, Mei and Yun set out to the City of Ashes, a place cursed by a woman named Lotus, whose lover was framed for treason by the Noble General. There they make a deal with the woman to clear her lover's name and reputation in exchange for the lifting of the curse, and the Jade Rabbit tells them they're dreamweavers (the secret ingredient in the mooncakes is accidentally a nightmare) and transports them to the palace, where they pretend to be servants and plan to clear the name of their grandfather. Schmidt creates a beautifully folkloric atmosphere imbued with elements of Chinese culture and myth. Mei, with her gut instinct and fighting skills, and Yun, with his nearsightedness and quick intelligence, make for a compelling lead duo, with plenty of opportunity for comedy and plot-propelling revelations. An author's note explains cultural references and folkloric icons, such as the Jade Rabbit and Monkey King. NB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine A ghostly City of Ashes, a disappearing moon, and a sudden snowstorm are just some of the supernatural occurrences that kick off this mythology-inspired adventure novel set in China during the Ming Dynasty. Our protagonists are Mei and Yun Wu, twelve-year-old orphaned twins scrambling to rescue their grandpa after a disastrous encounter with the emperor's son during the Mid-Autumn Festival. The Wu twins' tale overlaps with the story of Lotus, a beautiful, haunted poet who cursed the region seventy years earlier when her family was torn apart by a scorned admirer. Along with a bratty noble boy and an inventive princess, the Jade Rabbit (a celestial being with magical powers) helps the peasant siblings on their quest in the Imperial City. Schmidt's story contains many familiar folktale plot points and tropes -- magical travel, cases of mistaken identity, riddles. Passages about the book's titular "dream weaving" are whimsically described. The prose does contain a few anachronisms (some dialogue sounds more like modern-day speech, and today's Western units of time and speed are used), but they won't be distracting to most readers. An entertaining tale for those who enjoyed Lin's Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (rev. 9/09) and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland but might not be quite ready for the scary parts of the Harry Potter and Narnia books. Michelle Lee(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

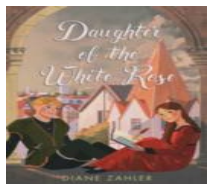
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fraternal twins embark on a magical adventure to rescue their grandfather and break a decadeslong curse. After their parents' mysterious disappearance in the City of Ashes, 12-year-olds Mei and Yun have been outcasts in their village. Their orphan status and reputation for seeing vaporous auras have left them with few friends. The sister and brother have been raised by their grandfather, who is known for his delicious cooking. Word of his talent has reached the Imperial City, and the Emperor's son will be visiting to taste their grandfather's famous mooncakes. But a sour mood has overtaken the village, and the mooncakes taste disgusting and rotten. The twins' grandfather is taken away to the palace to await trial for supposedly using harmful magic on the prince. Determined to rescue him, Mei and Yun undertake a dangerous journey that reveals hidden truths about their family's roots and the cursed City of Ashes. Set in ancient China during the Ming dynasty, this fantasy incorporates elements of Chinese folklore, with the Jade Rabbit acting as a spiritual guide for the twins, references to the Monkey King, and the presence of a mirrorlike dream world. The twins' sibling bond never wavers throughout the challenges they face; like yin and yang, their individual personalities and strengths balance each other and highlight the story's theme of achieving peace by acknowledging both the light and the dark and creating your own destiny. An enchanting tale. (author's note, cultural notes) (Historical fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In the 1500s, 12-year-old fraternal twins Mei and Yun Wu, who have lived with their grandfather since their parents disappeared six years ago, eagerly anticipate the Mid-Autumn Festival, especially since the son of China's emperor will visit the village to sample Grandpa Wu's famed secret-ingredient mooncakes. But when strange weather sours the mood; and Grandpa's mooncakes; the prince is

insulted, and Grandpa is taken away by royal officials. Opposite but balanced, the twins combine their strengths to devise a rescue plan, hoping to learn the truth behind their scholar parents' mysterious disappearance along the way. Their trek leads them to the cursed City of Ashes, where an encounter with the mythical Jade Rabbit reveals a tantalizing inherited gift. Armed with this knowledge, and striking a deal with a vengeful riddle-speaking poet, the twins sneak into the Imperial Palace for answers. In homage to her Chinese roots, Schmidt adroitly interweaves fantastical mythology with the historical context of the Ming Dynasty. Though some plot points skew predictable, the twins' unbreakable bond, paired with rich folkloric details, make for a heartening read. Back matter features an author's note detailing story influences. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Adria Goetz, Martin Literary Management. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Twelve-year-old twins Mei and Yun live in the mountains near the Pearl River with their grandpa and cat, Smelly Tail. The villagers find the twins strange and gossip about their parents' mysterious disappearance on a venture to the City of Ashes. Grandpa makes irresistible mooncakes for Mei, Yun, and the villagers using his secret recipe. When the buzz on Grandpa's renowned mooncakes travels to the emperor himself, he sends his son on a special trip to sample the dessert. It is the auspicious Autumn Festival and Grandpa is elated for the prince to try his homemade mooncakes. Instead, a nightmare transpires as the mooncakes taste horrid, the prince is displeased, and the villagers haggle to no end. Grandpa's arrest is the final straw as the village falls into chaos and the weather goes bonkers. It is up to Mei and Yun to grasp the reins and save their grandpa, village, and parents. United, they bravely journey to the obscure City of Ashes where they meet the Jade Rabbit, fly on a magic cloud, and attempt to undo the 70-year-old curse plaguing their village. Set in the mountains of southern China, Schmidt beautifully weaves a tale rooted in Chinese folklore. The book resonates with excitement and fantasy as Mei and Yun experience magic firsthand while using their wits and brainpower. The character development is evident and convincing. Peeling away at the many layers of the narrative sits revenge and love at the center. The captivating resolution is an emotional rollercoaster, but well worth the escapade. The story is balanced with imagination, love, sadness, new friends, old foes, and enchantment. When two ordinary siblings are guided by compassion and big dreams, the sky's the limit as they collaborate to achieve the unthinkable. VERDICT Rick Riordan fans will find this story to be entertaining and engaging as the magical adventure unfolds.--Suraya Jairam, Queens P. L., Hollis, NY Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness The Dreamweavers by G.Z. Schmidt (No Ordinary Thing) is set during China's Ming Dynasty and seamlessly incorporates folklore and magic into a vivid middle-grade adventure about sibling bonds and destiny. Twelve-year-old twins Mei and Yun don't have many friends in their small village in the mountains of southern China. They were raised by their Grandpa Wu after their parents disappeared six years ago in the dreadful, haunted City of Ashes. Grandpa Wu taught them that "not even the most powerful person in the world can diminish your true value." This lesson is important, as the twins often see things others don't: "soft mists hovering over the river of fish" or sunny wisps of smoke hanging over their cat's ears. When Grandpa Wu is arrested by the emperor's son for allegedly serving him tainted mooncakes at the Mid-Autumn Festival, the twins embark on a rescue mission that reveals an ancient curse and unlocks long-lost family secrets. Chinese mythology and philosophy play a prominent role in The Dreamweavers, with Schmidt sewing the Jade Rabbit (a popular character in Chinese culture), the dream world, and yin and yang into her spellbinding story. One successful way Schmidt does this is with the twins' personalities. While Mae is "as restless as an ant on a frying pan," her brother, Yun, is "careful, cautious" and moves at an "ant's pace." The twins' opposite traits complement each other and strengthen their connection, helping them on their quest. An entrancing story about the power of dreams, helping others and controlling our own destinies. COPYRIGHT(2021) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2209053 Daughter of the White Rose (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Diane Zahler

Nell Gould is the daughter of the royal butcher, a commoner, but she has been raised as the playmate of King Edward and Queen Elizabeth's royal children: Princess Cecily, Princess Bess, Prince Dickon, and Prince Ned, heir apparent and Nell's best and closest friend. They think alike, her and Ned, preferring books and jousts to finery and gossip and the sparkle of the court.

978-0-8234-4607-0 Holiday House ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Twelve-year-old Nell Gould narrates this engrossing medieval tale that reimagines the fate of royal princes Edward "Ned" and Richard "Dickon," imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1483 by their ruthless uncle Richard III. Nell's father is a butcher for the royal family, and Nell grows up happily playing with the royal children. Nell's mother dies after giving birth to Nell's brother Toby, born the same day as the Queen's son Richard. Nell's life changes when nine-year-old Ned goes away to learn his kingly duties and Nell realizes the princesses have outgrown her. Since she's a commoner and can never marry Ned, Nell wants to become educated. Her father hires a printer to teach her to read and write English, and young Jacob, a printer's inker, offers to teach her Latin. Edward IV dies and Ned becomes king at age 12. When ambitious Richard imprisons Ned and Dickon in the Tower, Nell must figure out how to save them. The story starts a little slowly but picks up steam and intensity toward the end. Nell is a fiercely determined girl who faces loss and disappointment but is stronger for it. She's empowered to learn to read and write and even imagines she might become a writer one day. An author's note provides additional information about the real royal princes. All characters present as white. VERDICT Readers who love historical fiction featuring strong female characters and suspenseful court

intrigue will enjoy this story that's perfect for fans of Karen Cushman, Tamora Pierce, and Diane Magras.—Sharon Rawlins, New Jersey State Lib., Trenton



#2300646 Looking for True (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tricia Springstubb

11-year-olds Gladys and Jude live in the same small, rust belt town, and go to the same school, but they are definitely not friends. But they both agree that a new dog in the neighborhood is being mistreated by its owner. They hide True Blue in an abandoned house on the edge of town, but as their ties to the dog--and to one another--deepen, so does the impossibility of keeping such a big secret. Yet giving True up will break all three of their hearts.

978-0-8234-5099-2 Margaret G Ferguson ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

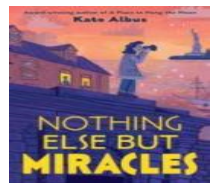
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide This is a neatly constructed story of two parallel characters. Gladys is a small, bright, intense eleven-year-old with a sensitive nature and quirky clothing sense. Her mom runs an in-home daycare. Jude, also eleven, is big for his age, the son of a single mother and the frequent caregiver for his little brother. Their stories are told in alternating chapters (in different typefaces) and come together when each encounters True, a neglected dog in the neighborhood. True's rescue forms the core of the action. Springstubb (*The Most Perfect Thing in the Universe*, rev. 9/21) does a masterly job of creating two distinct voices and sustaining our interest in the two main characters equally. A supporting cast of flawed adults and hilarious preschoolers rounds out the picture. The setting -- a town formerly prosperous but now on the skids, where folks are just scraping by, with subtle reference to the opioid crisis and the collapse of the manufacturing economy -- is one that is underrepresented in contemporary middle-grade fiction, and it mitigates against the potential sopppiness of a dog-rescue story. The writing is fresh, sharp, and authentic: "This could be trouble, said his brain. Open the door, said whatever the opposite of a brain was." *It's Because of Winn-Dixie* (rev. 7/00) for a new generation. (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This is a neatly constructed story of two parallel characters. Gladys is a small, bright, intense eleven-year-old with a sensitive nature and quirky clothing sense. Her mom runs an in-home daycare. Jude, also eleven, is big for his age, the son of a single mother and the frequent caregiver for his little brother. Their stories are told in alternating chapters (in different typefaces) and come together when each encounters True, a neglected dog in the neighborhood. True's rescue forms the core of the action. Springstubb (*The Most Perfect Thing in the Universe*, rev. 9/21) does a masterly job of creating two distinct voices and sustaining our interest in the two main characters equally. A supporting cast of flawed adults and hilarious preschoolers rounds out the picture. The setting -- a town formerly prosperous but now on the skids, where folks are just scraping by, with subtle reference to the opioid crisis and the collapse of the manufacturing economy -- is one that is underrepresented in contemporary middle-grade fiction, and it mitigates against the potential sopppiness of a dog-rescue story. The writing is fresh, sharp, and authentic: "This could be trouble, said his brain. Open the door, said whatever the opposite of a brain was." *It's Because of Winn-Dixie* (rev. 7/00) for a new generation. Sarah Ellis November/December 2022 p.96(c) Copyright 2022. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two kids in a small town join forces to rescue an unloved dog. Big-for-11 Jude lives with his mother and younger half brother; their mom works at a nursing home. Small-for-11 Gladys, who is adopted, helps her mom run an in-home day care; her dad was laid off from the auto plant. When Jude, Gladys, and a strange woman with a blue-eyed dog collide, both kids feel an immediate, wordless connection--to the dog, if not each other. When True Blue, as Gladys dubs her, disappears, Gladys and Jude find her and hide her in Jude and best friend Jabari's secret fortress on the wrong side of town, but it's not a long-term solution. Gladys' dad is allergic, and Jude's mom is afraid of dogs--how can they save True Blue from the owner who treats her poorly? Chapters from alternating close third-person perspectives show what Gladys and Jude think of themselves and each other, their deepest worries and fears, how their parents' beliefs have shaped their own, and how they are shaping each other. The protagonists are a study in contrasts, and the supporting characters bring different worldviews and advice. Jude reads *White*. Jabari's name and frequent, negative, othering mentions of the size, texture, and hair-product smell of Gladys' hair may indicate that they are Black. The repeated use of lame as an insult and insensitive language used to describe people with substance abuse issues detract from the otherwise moving writing. A bighearted novel that suffers from issues with representation. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Springstubb (*The Most Perfect Thing in the Universe*) crafts a heartfelt contemporary novel about unexpected friendship that kicks off with a *Because of Winn-Dixie*: tinged bond. When talkative, small-for-her age Gladys encounters quiet Jude, who's tall for his, the 11-year-olds feel an instant connection with a seemingly mistreated mutt in their small-town neighborhood. Neither can take the hound home: Jude's widowed mother fears dogs following a bite, and Gladys's father is severely allergic. Desperate to save the dog that Gladys calls True Blue, the tweens hide her in an abandoned house after they discover she's escaped from her owner's yard. The stakes grow more complicated when Jude's mother loses her job at a nursing home, resulting in tight finances for the family, and True Blue's owner offers a \$500 reward for the dog's return. As each child navigates familial relationships; Gladys, who is adopted, around belonging and love, and Jude around a desire to make his mother proud; Springstubb gracefully conveys their need for both connection and independence, portraying sweet, protective relationships that

each has with young children. Alternating third-person perspectives render unique characterizations. Jude cues as white; Gladys, depicted on the book's cover with brown skin, is described as having "recalcitrant" hair that "sprang out like the rays of the sun." Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kristin Ostby, Greenhouse Literary. (Nov.)



#2332411 Nothing Else but Miracles (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate Albus

12-year-old Dory Byrne lives with her brothers on New York City's Lower East Side, waiting impatiently through the darkest hours of World War II for her pop to come home from fighting Hitler. Legally speaking, Dory's brother, Fish, isn't old enough to be in charge of Dory and her younger brother, Pike, but the neighborhood knows the score and, like Pop always says, "the neighborhood will give you what you need."

978-0-8234-5163-0 Margaret G Ferguson ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 After Pop is drafted and sent to Europe, reassuring his kids that their Lower East Side neighborhood will provide what they need, WWII becomes challenging for 12-year-old Dory. Her 17-year-old brother takes charge of the household, looking after Dory and her younger brother in their familiar apartment, and their neighbors are kind. The owner of a nearby restaurant gives them dinner weekly, and the baker frequently provides treats. When feeling really low, Dory asks the Statue of Liberty for help. When their supportive landlord dies, and the new one threatens to report them to the child welfare authorities, Dory dares to explore and finds an unusual living space where, she hopes, no one will find them. The author of *A Place to Hang the Moon* (2021), Albus creates a vividly realized setting during a period when families dreaded the loss of relatives fighting in war-torn countries. Even more memorable is the portrayal of Dory, who is worried about Pop and increasingly afraid but determined to save her family. An engaging historical novel with a rewarding conclusion. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

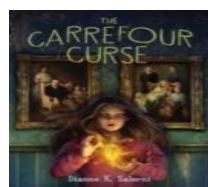
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Dory Byrne regularly gazes at the Statue of Liberty from the southern tip of Manhattan and confides in the statue, whom she calls "Libby," to process her feelings about her father's naval deployment during WWII. Her mother died of tuberculosis years prior, so Dory and her brothers are essentially parentless, with seventeen-year-old Fish overseeing the family and Dory helping to care for their precocious eight-year-old brother, Pike. They've been helped by families and businesses in their Lower East Side area, but when a mean new landlord takes over their building, the Byrnes become nervous that he will report their status as unattended minors to the city. Fortunately, Dory knows about the vacant building stories above a local restaurant, only accessible by a rope pulley-operated elevator, that could be the perfect place for the siblings to hide (and could contain life-changing treasure). Albus paints a picture of New York City life during the late stages of the WWII with engaging prose and a rich sense of setting, which the dedication indicates was informed by stories from the author's father's childhood. Direct-address parentheticals about a diamond hidden in an abandoned building break the flow of the third-person narrative, but clever Dory and her endearing family are easy to spend time with. Readers will surely become vested in this story of family and community and ache for Pop's safe return from war. An author's note is appended. KF COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It's 1944, and Dory, 12, and her brothers, Fish, 17, and Pike, 7, are living alone; their father has joined the Navy, and their mother is dead from tuberculosis. The Byrnes live on New York City's Lower East Side. Their neighbors assist with food, but when a new landlord finds out their dad is away, he makes trouble for the siblings. Dory, an independent risk taker, learns of a long-disused dumbwaiter inside Mr. Caputo's restaurant in the Fulton Fish Market, where he regularly treats the kids to seafood stew. She uses the dumbwaiter to explore the otherwise inaccessible floors of an old hotel and brings her brothers there to live so they can avoid being sent to an orphanage. The story is both grounded in reality and embellished with entertaining exploits, keeping readers excited about Dory's experiences as she holds her family together and they await their papa. Occasionally, the text shifts from third to second person and shares with readers knowledge that is hidden from Dory, such as a mystery about a hidden diamond. The novel develops the setting through the kids' visits to places like the Empire State Building and Coney Island. Dory is an endearing character who confides her thoughts to Libby, her nickname for the Statue of Liberty. In the author's note, the secrets behind the real hotel that inspired this story are revealed. Characters read white. An absorbing tale about urban life on the World War II homefront. (Historical fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Three close-knit siblings rely on each other and their supportive Lower East Side community after their widowed father is called up during WWII in this suspenseful family novel from Albus (*A Place to Hang the Moon*). Free-thinking 12-year-old Dory Byrne lives in a fourth-floor walk-up (which she prefers to access through the fire escape) with her brothers; responsible 17-year-old Fish and wise eight-year-old Pike. From a perch on the wall of Battery Park's half-demolished Castle Clinton, Dory shares her many worries with a secret confidante: the Statue of Liberty ("Libby" to Dory). The siblings are managing thanks to the neighborhood's generosity, but when the Byrnes' understanding landlord dies and his mean-spirited replacement threatens to report the underage trio to city authorities, their situation grows precarious; until Dory's canny observations land them a perfect hideaway. Rich in New York City period detail and era-specific colloquialisms, the briskly moving telling succeeds in its well-executed combination of classic plot elements, sympathetic characters and community, and anxiety-provoking

uncertainties, while parenthetical asides to readers create a deepening sense of engagement and intimacy with the Byrne family. Characters read as white. Ages 9: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Dori talks to the Statue of Liberty. The 12-year-old pleads with "Libby" to bring Pop home safely from the battles of World War II, as the statue was the last to see his ship leave and would be the first to see him return. After Pop was drafted five months ago, Dori's life without him (mom died from tuberculosis) has been a struggle for her and brothers Fish, 17, and Pike, 7. The siblings survive through their fierce devotion to one another and the generosity of their neighbors. The new building landlord, however, suspects Pop's absence and wants to turn the children over to a city orphanage. Dori's adventurous spirit leads her to discover a new home to keep the siblings together: rooms in an abandoned hotel, accessible only through an old hand-pulled elevator hidden in a nearby restaurant. Albus (A Place to Hang the Moon) vividly recreates the landscape of New York City's Lower East Side and the varying cultures of the families whose kindness make Dori's neighborhood a haven. Period jargon ("He's a drip!") adds authenticity. Dori prides herself on "not being especially sensible" while her spunk encourages readers to join in her escapades as coconspirators. Fully realized supporting characters leave a lasting impression. The third-person narration engages readers with witty asides and plot hints. Albus sidesteps embellishing an already upbeat ending, instead dangling two tantalizing threads for a sequel. Back matter includes fascinating facts about WWII-era New York City. VERDICT Historical fiction at its finest: a first purchase.--Marybeth Kozikowski Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2308986 Carrefour Curse (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Dianne K. Salerni

Twelve-year-old Garnet regrets that she doesn't know her family. Her mother has done her best to keep it that way, living far from the rest of the magical Carrefour clan and their dark, dangerous mansion known as Crossroad House. But when Garnet finally gets summoned to the estate, it isn't quite what she hoped for. Her relatives are strange and quarrelsome, each room in Crossroad House is more dilapidated than the last, and she can't keep straight which dusty hallways and cobwebbed corners are forbidden.

Was she brought to Crossroad House as part of the curse... or is she meant to break it?
978-0-8234-5267-5 Holiday House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Garnet Carrefour doesn't know much about her family and their ancestral home, the Crossroad House, but she does know they are tied to her power to harness the magic of stones. Her mother fled the house before Garnet was born, refusing to return—that is, until the (allegedly) dying patriarch summons them back in a way they can't refuse. Now Garnet gets to meet the family she's always dreamed of, but the blood ties to the house, the patriarch, and a family curse make this reunion a gloomy and potentially deadly occasion. Each chapter starts with a description of a precious stone, its properties, and how to care for it, a great way to educate about stones in a way that ties into the story and Garnet's powers. A fun page-turner that touches on the deeper themes of family, identity, and what it means to pay for the sins of the past. Readers not yet ready for Kate Alice Marshall will appreciate the emphasis on spooky mysteries and family secrets tinged with magic.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Garnet Carrefour is eager to learn more about the magical extended family her mother has hidden away from her, but when she finally visits the Carrefour House, she is greeted "with its peeling wallpaper and falling-down porch, the burned-out wing clinging to its side like a parasite." While unexplained events and accidents leave vulnerable relatives trapped on the cursed premises, Garnet starts having visions of other times, including one of a vanished girl connected to the curse. With newfound support from her cousins and family members from the past, Garnet desperately searches for evidence to reveal the truth about a decades-old mystery. The peculiar and cantankerous personalities of the Carreffours are reminiscent of the Addams Family, with the addition of magic in their spellbinding of natural elements. Suspenseful dialogue and pauses allow characters and readers to speculate on clues dating back from the 1700's, and cliffhangers build tension to creepily escalate the plot and conflicts. Fans of *The Haunting of Hill House* or Schwab's *Gallant* (BCCB 03/22) will surely stay up late at night reading this heart-pounding novel. Includes a map of the mansion, Carrefour family tree illustrations, and gemstone descriptions and properties. DR COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide This spooky, dark, and utterly delicious tale begins with a bang: protagonist Garnet is vomiting up frogs, a pestilence that will ease only when she returns to Crossroad House, the house her mother grew up in and fled, vowing never to return. The occasion is a fraught one. Family patriarch Jasper Carrefour is dying, and the last time he was seriously ill, two decades ago in 1998, a wing of the house burned down, four family members were killed, two were gravely injured, and another girl went missing. The suspicion is that Jasper recovered by stealing each one's life force. At Crossroad House, Garnet learns the reason for her mother's self-imposed exile: a cousin foresaw Garnet's disappearance while visiting ruins on the grounds of Crossroad House. Unable to leave this magically enforced family reunion until Jasper "transitions," Garnet promises to avoid the ruins, but with the house itself playing tricks, her promise might be difficult to keep. Building on a family where element-based magic is commonplace (Garnet and her mother work with stones; others wield weather, plants, or even fire), Salerni sustains an atmosphere of menace through a death, several near-fatal accidents, and revelations of other ancestors' fates that Garnet learns about through a newfound talent for time-walking that connects her to her great-great-grandmother and the missing girl from 1998. Interconnected

mysteries keep readers turning pages, and when they all converge, the payoff is spine-chilling and satisfying. (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

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Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A magical lineage threatens to crumble under the weight of its own secrets. The Carrefour family is imbued with magic. Each branch of the family tree has powers relating to nature and names to match their abilities: 12-year-old Garnet (like her mother, Emerald) can hear the magic in stones. Garnet connives to meet her large, estranged, extended family, which has both intrigued and fascinated her for much of her life; Emerald has told Garnet about the Carrefours but has never let her meet them. Jasper, Garnet's nonagenarian great-grandfather, seems in poor health but mysteriously never stays that way, leaning on a cane one moment and striding steadily the next. Given his advanced age, Jasper must choose his successor, the person who will ultimately shape the future of the family's crumbling ancestral manse, Crossroad House, the quasi-sentient source of their vast power. However, buried secrets and years of unexplained disappearances haunt the Carrefours, and before long Garnet must face--and ultimately try to address--the consequences of past generations' wrongdoings. Salerni's gothic charmer is deliciously creepy and atmospheric, building an immersive fantasy world that gently explores intergenerational trauma. A surprise ending hints that there may be more to discover in the Carrefour world. Main characters mostly read White. An enchanting and evocative tale. (floor plans) (Paranormal mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly gacy in this standout, genre-bending dark fantasy from Salerni (Eleanor, Alice, and the Roosevelt Ghosts). Twelve-year-old Garnet Carrefour's mother raised her far from the family estate, the source of their ley-line-based nature powers, but with great-grandfather Jasper dying, the family's magic compels the two back for an impending transfer of magic. Initially excited to meet her extended family, Garnet soon learns why her mother never visited Crossroad House: Jasper prowls the dilapidated home, leeching life force from his most vulnerable descendants, and an augury predicts that Garnet will repeat the fate of a girl who vanished during Jasper's last seemingly fatal illness. As "time-traveling visions" unpredictably jolt her into the missing girl's past, Garnet probes her family history, hoping to dodge the curse by solving a decades-old mystery. Salerni enlivens classic horror tropes and gothic ambience, complete with a sentient manor house, blending wry humor with atmospheric descriptions to create Garnet's compulsively readable first-person voice. The meticulously built, grounded magic system provides a fantastical buffer around realistic depictions of abuse, while supportive family relationships transcend a cycle of generational trauma. Main characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (Jan.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness The Carrefour Curse, a darkly comic supernatural mystery by Dianne K. Salerni (Eleanor, Alice, and the Roosevelt Ghosts), begins with "a quiet but disgusting bit of magic."



#2348905 Pine Island Visitors (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Polly Horvath

Fiona, Marlin, Natasha, and Charlie McCready have been adopted by their unlikely guardian, Al, and finally settled into their new home on Pine Island in British Columbia. Fiona is struggling under the weight of trying to keep everything together, not to mention worrying about expenses, while Marlin tries to adjust to her new high school while facing rejections for her cookbook, *Thirty Meals a Twelve-Year-Old Could Make and Did!*. Natasha is still keeping to herself but is looking forward to learning how to play the violin when school starts. And Charlie is dreaming of what kind of dog she would like. It's been an adjustment, but they are loving being with each other and having Al next door.

978-0-8234-5295-8 Margaret G Ferguson ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this sequel to *Pine Island Home* (2020), the McCready sisters have settled into their British Columbia home and are

looking forward to the school year now that neighbor Al is their official guardian. But troubles soon ensue: Mrs. Weatherspoon (who cared for the girls after their parents' deaths) comes for an extended visit, bringing her odious friend Jo along; Fiona, 15, and Marlin, 13, have trouble with peers at school; Natasha, 10, loves her new violin (until she doesn't); and Charlie, 8, longs for a dog. Much of the conflict centers around Jo, an opinionated manipulator who imposes her beliefs on everyone. The girls' dilemma (how to graciously evict two adults who are ruining their lives) provides the story's most thoughtful and humorous moments, and the solution—contrived by the ever-resourceful Fiona and executed by the always-dependable Al—is deeply satisfying. Horvath's prose is smooth and engaging (she excels at both comedy and pathos) and always respects children's inner lives. Contemporary yet classic, a fine addition to the family stories shelf.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Following Horvath's Pine Island Home, readers meet back up with the McCready sisters, who are settling into their new seaside British Columbian home and beginning the school year. After their parents' tragic death and then the passing of their subsequent guardian, Fiona, Marlin, Natasha, and Charlie are left to fend for themselves. The girls are now living in a small home independent of adult supervision, besides the occasional check-in and words of wisdom from their next-door neighbor and newly adoptive father Al. This year, each sister is dealing with their own unique growing pains, and on top of their own personal chaos, they've just received a letter from Mrs. Weatherspoon, a family friend, saying she has purchased a one-way ticket and will be staying with them, in their already cramped home, for an indefinite amount of time. With Mrs. Weatherspoon comes her friend Jo, a most adversarial woman who sets nearly impossible standards for the girls while taking up residence in their living room. Despite ample sisterly banter, Horvath's writing is at its best when checking in on the quiet lives of each girl. These small moments of reflection allow Horvath to show off her ability to weave authentic wisdom and beautiful writing into a middle grade book. Throughout the year, the sisters learn how to express their needs and support their family while trying to hold it all together. This is a cozy read for fans of *The Vanderbeekers* and *The Penderwicks*, but it works best having read the previous title. KJH COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Now happily settled after the drama of Pine Island Home (rev. 9/20), orphaned sisters Fiona, Marlin, Natasha, and Charlie face new challenges when their former guardian, Mrs. Weatherspoon, announces that she is arriving from Australia for a prolonged visit -- and unexpectedly shows up with a companion. Fiona, now fifteen, is furious that the nasty, intrusive, and demanding Jo seems to be ruining her family; she finds some solace in her journal, which becomes a friend, along with the teacher who responds to her entries. Meanwhile, Marlin is struggling with her outcast status at school and the lack of publisher interest in her cookbook, "Thirty Meals a Twelve-Year-Old Could Make and Did!"; Natasha turns out to be a prodigy on the violin but just wants to commune with the natural world; and youngest sibling Charlie desperately wants a dog. True to form, Horvath packs this sequel (which takes readers from the beginning of the school year through Christmas) with relatable incident, vivid dialogue, humor, and moments of profound reflection on the human condition. Martha V. Parravano(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Uninvited guests demand new survival skills from the McCready sisters in this follow-up to Pine Island Home (2020). The school year is about to start when Mrs. Weatherspoon, who cared for the girls in Borneo after their parents' death, comes to visit, upsetting the equilibrium. She arrives with another church lady, Jo Menzies, and everyone soon finds themselves towed along in Jo's manipulative, overbearing wake. At 15, Fiona can't relinquish the burden of being in charge of her family, shying away from their guardian Al's willingness to pay for things. Thirteen-year-old Marlin has yet to realize her ambition to publish her cookbook. Ten-year-old Natasha's contemplative approach to understanding the world manifests itself in a surprising way. And 8-year-old Charlie has an optimistic naïveté in the face of all this fierce independence. Jo is self-absorbed and almost comically evil in her disregard for everyone but herself. Horvath skewers those who try to wield power over others, using diet or religion or opinions as cudgels. As frustrated Fiona and Marlin find themselves feeling impotent rage, they also gain an understanding of what it means to be--and stand up for--oneself. Everyone presents as white. Horvath keeps the pace captivating in this domestic drama as she demonstrates that life's ups and downs are inevitable. Neither certainty nor confirmation of beliefs is forthcoming--there are few comeuppances for bad behavior--but what emerges is a compelling case for self-reliance, creativity, and kindness. Terrifically entertaining. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this character-focused sequel to Pine Island Home by Horvath, the orphaned McCready sisters have just begun adjusting to their life on British Columbia's Pine Island with new guardian Al. Al mostly leaves Charlie, Fiona, Marlin, and Natasha to their own devices, and while the girls enjoy their independence and newfound security, each longs to move on from their past and build bright futures. Fifteen-year-old Fiona seeks to make things right with a boy she stood up the previous year; Marlin, 13, strives to become a published cookbook author; Natasha, 10, endeavors to learn how to play violin; and youngest child Charlie, eight, determinedly advocates for a dog. When the siblings' first guardian, Mrs. Witherspoon, along with her bossy, ill-tempered childhood friend Jo, arrive for a three-month visit, the sisters struggle to navigate this change. Frequent clashes between Jo and the girls, especially after Jo and Mrs. Witherspoon extend their stay to start a church, prompt the McCready clan to drive out their unwanted guests. Through steady, sober prose and the protagonists' complex relationships, Horvath creates successfully strained situations, giving way to gratifying resolutions that offer a comforting reassurance that bad times don't last forever. Ages 9: 12. (Oct.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2363075 Five Impossible Tasks of Eden Smith (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tom Llewellyn</i> When Eden Smith moves into the beautiful and bizarre old mansion housing her	1	\$17.99



grandfather, she discovers a strange society of elderly metalworkers whose mastery verges on the magical. Deadly mechanical birds, a cavernous chamber full of dirty dishes, a highly dangerous game of Machinist BINGO-life at the guild is not only strange, it's also dangerous.

978-0-8234-5312-2 Holiday House ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist al to miserable after her parents' tragic death-due-to-meteor, and after floating in the foster-care system for years, s e's flabbergasted to discover that a grandfather has been found. After she's unceremoniously dumped at his residence, the massive and mysterious Guildhouse of Smiths, it becomes apparent that he's in serious trouble. The master metalworker is being imprisoned for various guild in ractions, and as the bewildered pair grow closer, Eden learns that she can free him and reinstate his standing by completing five impossible task s—at the risk of eternal expulsion for them both. Eden, unwilling to give up newfound friends and family, accepts the challenge. The unusual guildhall backdrop is incredibly creative and compelling, and the kooky cast of characters, including eccentric elderly silversmiths, is a pleasure to befriend. Eden's willingness to throw herself into the unknown and question prejudice is an inspiration, and her smithing studies provide a glimpse into an increasingly rare physical art. A truly memorable setting for a terrific tale.



#2328982 Forget-Me-Not Blue (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sharelle Byars Moranville

With no one else to rely on, inseparable siblings Con and Sofie must decide who they can trust, and whether or not it's safe to share their hearts with family members who have the power to hurt them. Sofie has always turned to Con-and to books-during times of upheaval in their unstable lives. But as their mother is arrested and their guardianship becomes uncertain, Sofie will have to find hope in the most important story of all: her own.

978-0-8234-5359-7 Holiday House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Tough topics permeate Moranville's novel, which follows 10-year-old Sofie and her 13-year-old brother, Con, through a tumultuous year. Their free-spirited mother loves them intensely, but she also loves to party, get high, and bring around terrible boyfriends. As a result, Sofie and Con have learned to look out for each other. Their world's fragile order is disrupted when their estranged great-granddad, Gunner, comes to stay with them. Sofie just wants him gone, but when their mom takes off without a word (again) and gets herself arrested, Gunner becomes an unexpected source of stability and love. Moranville writes with candor and respect for her audience as she delves into the very real issues of poverty, addiction, physical abuse, foster care, and having an incarcerated parent, as well as the host of emotions that accompany these situations. Sofie finds respite in novels, and readers are sure to recognize the books that help her navigate the disruptions in her life. Though difficult and traumatic circumstances fill the narrative, readers who share Sofie's experiences will feel seen and ultimately reassured.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 10-year-old navigates the uncertainty of life with an unreliable parent while holding on to hope. Sofie has lived in difficult circumstances for a long time. Her mom has struggled with drug use and abusive relationships for much of Sofie's life. They live in poverty in Des Moines, Iowa, making frequent visits to the community center for free lunches and to borrow books, which Sofie takes comfort in. Although Sofie aches for her mother's elusive support, it becomes clear that she has love and support from Con, her 13-year-old brother; her recently sober great-grandfather; and family friend Tommy, her mom's boss at the restaurant. But her mother's erratic nature causes Sofie to harbor a persistent sense of unease and fear of abandonment. When her mother disappears for weeks and is subsequently sent to prison for crimes committed with her boyfriend, the question arises of determining an appropriate guardian. Life from Sofie's perspective is painfully but realistically conveyed, and the portrayal will resonate especially with readers with experience of poverty, addiction, or family trauma. Amid fears and crises, there are still small comforts to be found, capturing feelings of inherent value in her family. As the search for a caregiver finds a happy, albeit unlikely, resolution, the complex mood evoked by Moranville for much of the book is set aside for a softer landing. Most characters appear to be White. A poignant, pointed portrayal of the heavy burden parental instability places on a family. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Fifth grade Des Moines, Iowa, resident Sofie feels lucky to have her 13-year-old brother Connie looking after her in their mother's chaotic household. Despite his care, however, she yearns to have a more stable relationship with her mom, who struggles with drug dependency and is often in abusive relationships. Things begin looking up when Sofie's mother starts working at the restaurant owned by family friend Tommy, until she suddenly disappears for three weeks. When she returns, she's immediately arrested for crimes she committed with

her boyfriend. Now the children need a new guardian, but after the court deems that their beloved great-grandfather Gunner can only keep Con, due to Gunner's recent incarceration, Sofie worries she might be taken from the only people she feels safe with. Sofie's vulnerable POV and her propensity to highlight the good in every situation exude warmth, and a number of cozy, joyful moments, as when Con buys Sofie a pair of special "brand-new, in-a-box, straight-from-the-store shoes," help buoy wrenching setbacks and conflict caused by the characters' familial dynamics. An optimistic conclusion, ferried by an enduring heroine, rounds out this hopeful novel by Moranville (Surprise Lily). Main characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Summertime is often not a respite for those who depend on the structure, supervision, and food that public school provides. Moranville introduces siblings Sofie, 10, and her brother Connie, 13, as they parent themselves using wit above their years to avoid protective services and keep their family intact. Sofie and Connie's single-parent mom has abandoned the kids and let abusive boyfriends harm them in the past, and it appears her hard-partying ways are returning. Once Sofie's great-grandfather, Gunner, leaves prison on parole, Sofie's mom spirals out of control landing Sofie in foster care with more surprises along the way. This title has multiple social-emotional learning connections about accepting your feelings, fighting terror with new habits, building trust, and nurturing a garden. Moranville skillfully intersperses literature connections that implore readers to uncover just what was so comforting to Sofie, and to discover the power of reading in their own lives. VERDICT A unique book with the message that the scars of generational trauma are deep and lasting, but the cycle can be broken with creative outlets, strong family ties, and determination. A must-read companion to Leslie Connor's *Waiting for Normal*.--Laura Dooley-Taylor Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2326309 102 Days of Lying About Lauren (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Maura Jortner

Twelve-year-old Mouse calls an amusement park home. Nobody notices her, and that's the way she likes it. Mouse sweeps the streets and wears a uniform she "borrowed" and sleeps on the top floor of the Haunted House of Horrors. But one morning, a girl named Cat comes looking for Lauren Suszek. Cat notices her, and Mouse doesn't like it. Mouse cannot let this nosy pest find out who she really is! If Mouse gets discovered living in the park, Mama might come back for her, and Mouse doesn't want that. Or--even worse?--Mama might not come back at all.

978-0-8234-5362-7 *Holiday House* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Book Page The amusement park security guards that patrol the Haunted House of Horrors have yet to notice the ghost on the top floor. But it's not a

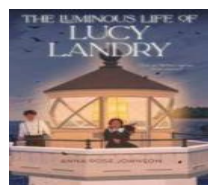
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After Lauren Suszek spends 102 days living inside a theme park, her cousin and a tornado show up on the same day. The 12-year-old goes by Mouse, since that's the name printed on what looks like an official employee nametag. Tall for her age, she pretends to be 16, since she'd have to be that old to be a park employee. During the day she sweeps the grounds; at night she sleeps inside the Haunted House of Horrors. She's been doing that ever since the day Mama took her to the park, put her on a ride, and walked away. Mouse has become friends with Tanner, a teenage employee who says she's a doppelgänger for his sister, a similarity that evokes a strong emotional reaction in him. When Cat, a tween girl who uses a cane, shows up claiming to be her cousin, Mouse denies it. But when a ferocious storm traps the two of them and Tanner inside the haunted house attraction, Mouse's world crumbles, walls and all. Debut author Jortner's writing is smooth and interesting; her setup is good, and the storm chapters are page-turners. However, the story treats the central trauma of Mouse's abandonment too lightly and resolves it without Mouse herself, a supposedly enterprising character, taking any action, which may disappoint readers. Main characters are cued White; there is racial diversity among the park employees. A promising story whose central premise demands deeper exploration. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly her at America's most famous amusement park, in Florida, tall-for-her-age 12-year-old Lauren "Mouse" Suszek hides in plain sight by posing as a 16-year-old park employee. She manages the deception admirably for the titular 102 days, living at the top of the Haunted House of Horrors and logging her self-imposed "Rules to Live By" and "Lies Told." She even befriends Tanner, a park employee who's also son to the park's CEO, and whose sister bears a striking resemblance to Mouse. But Mouse's luck changes quickly when Cat, a seventh grader who uses a cane, arrives and claims to be Mouse's cousin just as a tornado forces everyone in the park to take shelter. Huddled in an unstable building, Mouse struggles to confront her grief and anger alongside a now-injured Tanner, who is navigating his own tumultuous family dynamic, and suspicious but concerned Cat. Industrious Mouse's colloquial first-person voice layers her feelings about her circumstances with the logistics around her solo survival, resulting in a moving debut from Jortner that retains a sense of adventure while lightly exploring an experience of abandonment. Protagonists cue as white; the secondary cast is racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Agency. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—When she's abandoned by her mother at an amusement park, 12-year-old Mouse (also known as Lauren) spends her days pretending to be a park employee, hanging out with her friend Tanner, trying to blend in, and desperately avoiding

thinking about her mother. For 102 days, it's been working: she sleeps undetected on the fourth floor of the Haunted House of Horrors, eats the cinnamon raisin bagels left out for breakfast for the park's "ghost," and follows five carefully constructed rules (the most important one is "Pretend to know more than you do"). But when she is spotted by someone who knows her real name and isn't easy to avoid, Mouse can't help but panic. This coincides with a dangerous storm at the park that leaves Tanner injured, and Mouse has to decide between outing herself or helping her friend. A lively voice and ingenuity carry this exciting story that is filled with humor and heart. Mouse discovers that people aren't always what they seem and that sometimes, breaking the rules is the best way to move forward. VERDICT Memorable, original, and engaging. Recommended for all libraries.—Rebecca Kirshenbaum

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In Maura Jortner's funny and spirited debut novel, a stouthearted girl brings to bear all the cleverness, courage, and morality she can muster as she survives an impossible and terrifying situation.



#2368339 Luminous Life of Lucy Landry (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anna Rose Johnson

Selena Lucy Landry (named for a ship, as every sailor's child should be) has been frightened of the water ever since she lost her father at sea. But with no one else to care for her, she's sent to foster with the Martins—a large Anishinaabe family living on a lighthouse in the middle of stormy Lake Superior. The Martin family is big, hard-working, and close, and Lucy—who has always been a dreamer—struggles to fit in. Can she go one day without ruining the laundry or forgetting the sweeping? Will she ever be less afraid of the lake?

978-0-8234-5363-4 Holiday House ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

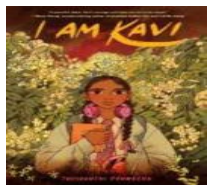
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 A precocious young orphan with a big imagination finds her life uprooted again when she moves to a lighthouse on Harmony Island in Lake Superior. This upper-elementary chapter book blends historical fiction, adventure, and a coming-of-age story, elements that compete with each other in the relatively short page count. As Lucy adapts to the Martin household, she must learn to overcome her "allergy" to the lake if she wants to complete her dead father's mission of finding a missing necklace, and as the Martins share their culture with her, she's happy to forge a stronger connection to her own Ojibwe heritage. Lucy is bighearted but often too quick to act, which many young readers will likely relate to, even as she assumes different personas based on her emotional reactions in a given moment. While the story is quick to unfold, the pacing sometimes makes the story feel unfocused, and the historical fiction elements get overshadowed. All that said, there's still a lot of potential in the character of Lucy Landry, and young chapter-book readers who are more interested in character will appreciate this. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When her guardian Miss Mamie passes away, eleven-year-old Lucy is sent to the Martins, a family in charge of a lighthouse on Harmony Island in Lake Superior. While she and the Martins share Anishinaabe heritage, they have little else in common, and Lucy's intense fear of the lake—understandable after losing her sailor father to its waves—doesn't make her new life on a tiny island any easier. The one bright side is the island's proximity to Mermaid's Corner, a place visited by her father in his search for a lost shipwreck and a ruby necklace. She decides to resume his search, enlisting the help of the Martin children, but her efforts only bring trouble to the family and Lucy has to regain their trust. While the treasure hunt lends an easy structure to the plot, Lucy's interactions with the Martin children provide the story with layers of emotion as she negotiates her way in a family that is welcoming but not terribly warm. She gathers up her courage when near tragedy strikes, and her brave actions earn the other children's admiration, if not their affection. Spunky, precocious, and especially talented in elaborate storytelling, Lucy is surely kin with Montgomery's Anne, and the cozy tone and mild excitement make it an easy read-alike for fans of those books. KQG COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Lucy, a French and Ojibwe orphan living in Michigan in 1912, struggles to fit in with her new foster family. Living with the Martins, an Ojibwe family who are lighthouse keepers on an island in Lake Superior, isn't ideal for someone who's "allergic to lake water." Eleven-year-old Lucy long ago lost her mother to illness. When she was 9, her frequently absent sailor father died in a shipwreck. After her caretaker, Miss Mamie, passes away, Lucy experiences even more upheaval. She's haunted by her father's death—the origin of her fear of water—but she cherishes his stories of the 1866 wreck of the Elva Jane near her new home. The six Martin children have little tolerance for imaginative Lucy's fabricated stories, and from her loneliness grows a need to reconnect with Papa, motivating her to seek the ruby necklace that went down with the Elva Jane. This quest gives her a purpose but endangers the Martin kids and threatens Mr. Martin's job. In a climactic moment, Lucy must draw strength from Papa's memory and face down her fears. This charming page-turner centers a courageous young person whose journey is also a powerful testament to the importance of placing Indigenous children in homes that reflect their cultures. Despite the bumpy start, Lucy finds comfort in connecting with her Ojibwe heritage and also begins to learn some Anishinaabemowin words from the Martins. A heartwarming tale of belonging and learning that life's treasures aren't always shiny. (map, author's note, glossary) (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When French and Ojibwe 11-year-old Selena Lucy Landry's guardian dies, she's placed in the care of the Martins, a large Ojibwe family, in this uplifting tale by Johnson (*The Star That Always Stays*), a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Already apprehensive about the move, Lucy feels further anxious and isolated when she learns that the family inhabits a lighthouse on a small island in the middle of Lake Superior. Even as she copes with grief, Lucy tries hard to fit in with the six Martin children, regaling them with fanciful, sometimes true, stories. After she recounts the tale of a nearby capsized boat that carried a ruby necklace, her pseudo-siblings gently rib her about the epic's validity, prompting Lucy to set out in search of the necklace, certain that obtaining it for the Martins is her only way to gain acceptance. In this tender, wholesome book about family, Johnson acknowledges the importance of kindness and patience, especially in matters of grief and settling into new places and situations. Third-person passages deftly detail Lucy's tumultuous emotions and winningly balance the mystery of the shipwreck; Anishinaabe text throughout emphasizes how culture and environmental preservation shape the Martin family's values. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jessica Schmeidler, Golden Wheat Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Selena Lucy Landry (Lucy, for short) is full of imagination, wonder, and a taste for adventure—with one exception. After losing her father in a shipwreck, she has an overwhelming fear of the sea. This proves particularly difficult when she is sent to live with the Martins, a large Anishinaabe family of lighthouse keepers on a tiny island in Lake Superior. She arrives desperate to be loved but can never seem to say or do the right thing. Soon, however, a window of opportunity appears. The Martins live close to Mermaid's Corner, the site of a shipwreck her father often told her about. Can she find the ship's treasure that her father longed to discover? Will seeking it bring her closer to the Martin family, or is Lucy destined to not only be an orphan, but an outcast forever? Lucy has an enchantment reminiscent of Anne Shirley's, but Johnson adds so much depth to the 19th-century orphan story by weaving it with the girl's self-discovery as she connects more deeply with her Ojibwe heritage through her newfound foster family. There is also a nod to homeschooling as the Martins live far from school, and take pride in having their mother as a teacher. VERDICT Fans of L.M. Montgomery seeking diverse characters will rejoice at this heart-warming, feel-good adventure, as will families looking for books representing home learners.—Amira Walker



#2332504 I Am Kavi (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Thushanthi Ponweera

(Novel in Verse). 1998, Colombo. The Sri Lankan Civil War is raging, but everyday life must go on. At Kavi's school, her friends talk about the weekly Top 40, the Backstreet Boys, Shahrukh Khan, Leo & Kate. and who died-or didn't-in the latest bombing. But Kavi is afraid of something even scarier. She fears that if her friends discover her secret-that she is not who she is pretending to be-they'll stop talking to her.

978-0-8234-5365-8 *Holiday House* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Kavi is 10 years old but has lived a lifetime. Her father died shortly after coming home from war, her mother remarried quickly, and Kavi is left alone to manage her grief and confusion. The story is set in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during the civil war, which serves as a backdrop to this riveting novel in verse. Kavi's only source of stability is her education, and when she wins a scholarship to an elite school in the city, she has the chance to reinvent herself in her new environment—only, she chooses a problematic way of doing so. Ponweera employs spare but descriptive verse that perfectly captures the inner turmoil of a young girl wading her way through the complexities of family, friendship, identity, and emotions. Rich details of life in a middle school in Colombo add texture and nuance. Readers will find her story engaging and the resolution quite satisfying. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Kavi earns a spot in an elite school in the city, she has mixed feelings. She'll miss her friends and the familiarity of her small Sri Lankan village, but she'll be away from her angry and neglectful mother, living instead with her aunt, who works as a housemaid and nanny at a wealthy family's home. Mala Nanda's employers are surprisingly kind, but school is another matter, and in order to fit in, Kavi lies, claiming she's a guest at the family's home, making up a backstory of money and fortune. Of course, that lie catches up with her, and soon she has to repair multiple relationships she managed to destroy. The verse novel has some striking imagery, skillfully capturing the intensity of Kavi's hope, doubt, shame, and determination as she negotiates her reality and her desires. Unfortunately, the verse structure limits the world building and character development, so the backdrop of the Sri Lankan war is nearly nonexistent and her mother's sudden affection for her at the end feels unearned. Nonetheless, Kavi has a distinct notion of right and wrong (even when she chooses wrong), giving her keen insight into how drastically money can affect quality of life, and her observations give a more nuanced explanation of her motives. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine At ten years old, Kavi has already experienced her share of trauma and heartbreak. Her father spent a decade at the front lines in the Sri Lankan civil war and returned to their rural home an amputee, only to die of a sudden heart attack. Kavi's mother remarries and becomes pregnant, leaving a still-grieving Kavi certain her mother no longer loves her. When she earns a scholarship to a prestigious school in the capital city, Colombo, Kavi jumps at the opportunity but soon feels ashamed of her poor, rural roots in a school full of wealthy city kids. The novel, set in the late 1990s, is a superb study of the Sri Lankan class system and the lengths to which someone might go to fit in.

Convinced she will have to change to make friends with the rich "cool" girls who have fancy new clothes, cars, and servants, Kavi pretends to be wealthy and creates a web of lies she soon gets caught in, ultimately revealing what really matters. A moving coming-of-age story written in verse about understanding and embracing who you truly are. The war acts as a highly charged political backdrop to Kavi's struggles to accept her family. Back matter provides context on the Sri Lankan civil war; in an author's note, Ponweera reflects on her own experiences growing up during the war. Julie Hakim Azzam(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews One Sinhalese girl's story set during the late 1990s amid the ongoing Sri Lankan civil war. Ten-year-old Kavi isn't happy, and she hasn't been happy for some time. Her father came home from years of fighting but only because he lost his leg. Then, shortly after Thaththa died, her mother remarried. Kavi's left with no father and a distracted mother who can't understand that no one can replace Thaththa. Her one solace is school; in fact, Kavi does so well academically that she wins a scholarship to attend school in the big city of Colombo. She isn't sure she wants to go live with her maternal aunt who works as a maid in a rich family's house, but it might be better than staying at home. The city is completely different from Kavi's village, and even as she struggles to fit in, she finds unexpected friendships and explores new experiences. But ultimately, Kavi's future will depend on the consequences of one mistake and whether she can remain true to herself. Told in accessible, economical verse, this novel explores Kavi's day-to-day struggles against a backdrop of civil war and social inequality. Though her problems at times seem insurmountable, this is ultimately a reassuring story of friendship, family, and finding solutions. A serious and relatable tale of everyday life intersecting with and diverging from the realities of war. (historical notes, glossary) (Verse historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Exploring friendship, family, and grief against the backdrop of the Sri Lankan civil war, Ponweera's debut, a stirring novel in verse, traces a 10-year-old's desire to fit in. In May 1997, Kavi lives in a village in Sri Lanka's Anuradhapura District with her mother, Amma, who works in the paddy fields, and her step-father, Siripala, whom she worries will replace her late father's role in their family. Kavi tries to be a "good Buddhist girl" and a "good Sinhalese girl," and dreams of achieving academic success so she and Amma can leave for the city. But when Kavi scores highest in her district, now-pregnant Amma cannot accompany her to Colombo for further schooling. Living with her aunt, who works as a housemaid, Kavi dreams of being like her "happy, fearless, popular" peers, and begins telling elaborate lies to fit in. The lies help her find acceptance from her peers, but they come at a cost; to Kavi's grades, her values, and her sense of self. Amid a historical setting informed by classism, colorism, and colonization, short reflective phrases and vivid cultural details bring out the nuanced story's emotional depth and show the devastating impact of war on Kavi and her loved ones. Back matter offers historical context. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jacqui Lipton, Raven Quill Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Set in 1998, this novel-in-verse details an eventful year in the life of a 10-year-old Sri Lankan girl. Kavi's father returned from the long-running civil war, maimed and unable to provide for his family. He dies of a sudden heart attack, and Kavi is shocked when her widowed mother (Amma) remarries. Kavi resents her stepfather, Siripala, and feels displaced when she learns that Amma is pregnant. Kavi wins a coveted scholarship to study at a better school in the capital city, Colombo, but her triumph feels bittersweet. In Colombo, Kavi stays with her unmarried aunt, Mala Nanda, who works as a maid for a wealthy family. Kavi grows close to their daughter, Sasha, and chauffeur, Ranjith. At school, she lies about her background to win acceptance with the most popular girls in her class. This backfires when her new friends ask her to help them cheat on an exam, and she risks losing her scholarship. Kavi's perspective is naïve yet thoughtful as she sorts through new situations and challenges. In Colombo, terrorist attacks leave innocent victims dead and wounded; Kavi struggles to understand the senseless random violence. As she adjusts to city life, she misses Amma but finds solace in her core values as a Sinhalese-Buddhist. VERDICT This engaging, character-driven tale will appeal to readers who enjoy novels-in-verse, and fans of Padma Venkatraman, Rajani LaRocca, and Nizrana Farook's books.--Marilyn Taniguchi Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2348975 Sweetness All Around (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Suzanne Supplee

Almost-eleven-year-old Josephine is NOT pleased to be moving into the Happy World trailer park over the summer of 1974. She misses her beautiful bedroom with ballerinas on the wall and her pretty, well-dressed friends. Happy World isn't happy.

It's dingy and depressing! Nothing like the world that headstrong Josephine wants for herself.

978-0-8234-5369-6 Holiday House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

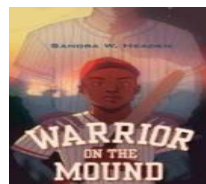
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Ten-year-old Josephine lives with her mother, who was recently forced to sell most of their belongings before they moved into a trailer in a run-down trailer park. Too angry to be civil, Josephine blames her mother and threatens to run away. Storming out of the trailer, she soon meets Lisa Marie, a friendly girl who welcomes Josephine, tells her about the other residents, and seems content living at the trailer park. When the two decide to search for and rescue another girl who was abducted the previous year from her mother's trailer, the story takes an unexpected turn toward mystery and adventure. In the end, Josephine comes to appreciate both her mother's choices and the strengths of their new community. The author of young adult novels such as Artichoke's Heart (2008), Supplee offers an involving middle-grade tale. Josephine is a

likable protagonist who gets caught up in a complicated, possibly dangerous predicament. With a 1974 Tennessee setting and well-drawn main characters, the novel takes readers on a journey with a rewarding conclusion. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It's 1974, and Josephine and Mama have given up their tony apartment and moved into the Happy World Trailer Park, in Glendale, Tennessee. Only problem is, it isn't a happy place. With Josephine's dad gone and Mama's sewing business suffering financially, they have no choice. The limited third-person narration describes Josephine's views of "every miserable thing there was to see in Happy World," from the rundown trailers to the residents who are facing challenges. Josephine meets Lisa Marie, who's also 10 and who lives with her granddaddy and great-uncle. Lisa Marie tells her about a girl from the neighborhood named Molly, who was kidnapped nearly a year ago and hasn't been found. Molly's mom looks as if she's barely hanging on. Josephine is struggling, too, but she's convinced that she and Molly have "a kind of sisterhood," and she's sure that if she can rescue Molly, her own circumstances will become bearable. Things move quickly after Josephine recognizes and interprets a clue that might point to Molly's whereabouts, leading to a thrilling and dangerous climax. The resulting relationships forged are well worth it all. Josephine's resilience and ability to reassess herself and her situation are admirable. Difficult topics such as divorce, poverty, abduction, terminal illness, and incarceration are thoughtfully and age-appropriately explored. Most characters are coded white. Colorfully relayed and gratifying to read. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Following a devastating warehouse fire that destroys her mother's sewing business in Tennessee, 10-year-old Josephine Willoughby and her mama must move into Happy World Trailer Park ("Dandiest Little Place on Earth!"), leaving behind what Jo thinks of as their "pretty life." A "rusty pipe fixing to burst" after the event, Jo is impulsive and sharp-tongued, mourning the sudden relocation and the loss of her friends. She nevertheless forges a reluctant bond with neighbor Lisa Marie, who introduces Jo to the park's rhythms and residents, including Lisa Marie's tender great-uncle Buster Lee as well as withdrawn Helen-Dove, whose daughter Molly was kidnapped a year earlier. As Jo spends the summer of 1974 on outings with Lisa Marie and accompanying her loving and pragmatic mama on seamstress jobs, Molly's disappearance is never far from her mind, and she's drawn to investigate the girl's whereabouts, despite warnings. Brimming with 1970s references and featuring a vivid setting and flawed, richly drawn characters, this immersive middle grade debut from Supplee (Somebody Everybody Listens To) offers up an eloquent portrayal of life's variability through a protagonist learning to search for the "sweetness in this life." Most characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up--This funny, moving historical fiction novel set in Tennessee in the summer of 1974 is perfect for fans of such modern classics as Kate DiCamillo's *Because of Winn-Dixie* and Sheila Turnage's *Three Times Lucky*. Ten-year-old Josephine is having a tough summer. After a fire rips through her mom's business, they are forced to sell many of their possessions and leave their comfortable apartment downtown to move to "Happy World Trailer Park." Rundown and filled with a bevy of unique 1970s characters, including a motorcycle couple, a hippie couple, and a cranky, "hateful" landlady, the cheerfully named trailer park seems to mock Josephine who struggles to accept her new reality--and isn't afraid to say so! She is particularly focused on two of her new neighbors: Lisa Marie, a girl her own age who lives with her "granddaddy" and her Uncle Buster Lee, and Helen-Dove, a mother whose 10-year-old daughter Molly was recently kidnapped by relatives. Josephine fixates on Molly's disappearance and is determined to help find her, eavesdropping and looking for clues to her whereabouts around the trailer park. Readers will easily warm to Josephine, a memorable heroine who is charmingly imperfect and full of vim and vigor. She struggles to keep her always honest but sometimes unkind thoughts to herself and frequently lets her imagination run wild. Supplee has imbued the text with a southern vernacular and sense of place, along with a cast of lovable, realistic characters who are allowed to grow and change with the circumstances of their lives in a satisfying way. VERDICT An excellent, emotional novel sure to make an impact on readers young and old.--Kristy Pasquariello Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2368338 Warrior on the Mound (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sandra W. Headen

1935. Twelve-year-old Cato wants nothing more than to play baseball, perfect his pitch, and meet Mr. Satchel Paige--the best pitcher in Negro League baseball. But when he and his teammates "trespass" on their town's whites-only baseball field for a practice, the resulting racial outrage burns like a brushfire through the entire community, threatening Cato, his family, and every one of his friends.

978-0-8234-5378-8 Holiday House ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It's 1939, and an African American tween in North Carolina is looking forward to following his older brother and now-deceased father into the Negro Baseball Leagues. Twelve-year-old Cato Jones desperately wants to be a great pitcher, just like his beloved father, Daddy Mo. Cato and his teammates go see the impressive new (but whites-only) ballfield, and they can't resist trying it out. But when they're accused of causing damage, Cato knows his denial won't be enough to challenge a white person's lie. Gradually Cato learns that Daddy Mo and Luke Blackburn, the white man who owns the field, were friends, but no one will share what happened on the night Daddy Mo died. Mr. Luke agrees to a game between the Black and white teams, an event disrupted by racial threats. The racist undercurrents in town go back decades, and some seek to use these divisions to sow even more discord. All of that seems unimportant when Isaac, Cato's brother, arrives home, the victim of a

terrible beating. Debut author Headen has crafted a highly engaging novel that skillfully and believably weaves actual events into the story. The energy of sports and Cato's drive to excel propel the narrative. Family and community dynamics reflect the times but still allow today's readers to connect with Cato and his friends. An outstanding blend of history, sports, and coming of age: not to be missed. (author's note, historical notes, timeline, resources, further reading) (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Headen uses baseball to explore themes of racism in this powerful debut set in North Carolina during the Jim Crow era. In 1935, 12-year-old Cato Jones, who is Black, aspires to pitch for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro American League like his late father and older brother. Cato and his team, the Pender County Rangers, often skip school to practice on the new field built by white businessman Luke Blackburn for his own son's team. Cato dreams of playing an actual game on that field, with its real bases, bleachers, and pitching mound: "I would love to see the Rangers whip the tar out of that white boy and his team right on their own fancy ball field. Just one fair game, and we could do it." Scheduling a game against Blackburn's son proves easy; keeping it fair, however, is not. And after the ball game triggers a resurgence of racial violence, Cato's tight-knit Black community must rally around one another to keep each other safe. The protagonist's first-person POV adds immediacy to this emotionally charged sports novel, making for a winning combination of action-driven plotting and underlying historical tension that will inspire discussion surrounding Jim Crow era and contemporary prejudice. Ample back matter concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Victoria Selvaggio, Storm Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—In Poplar Springs, NC, 12-year-old Cato aspires to play in the Negro Baseball Leagues, just like his dad and brother. A swirl of mystery surrounds the sudden death of his father, Daddy Mo, four years ago, but the pain remains just as strong. It's 1939 in the South, and the odds seem stacked against Cato with rampant racism and Jim Crow laws in place. While he and his friends get plenty of practice on their makeshift baseball field, the big talk is the new field built for the white boys. Cutting school and sneaking onto the new field gets Cato and his teammates into a pickle with the white team. In order to settle things, it is suggested that they compete in a series of games on the new field. While this sits very well with Cato and his team, the white players are not fond of the idea at all. The racial tension seeps from the field into every aspect of Cato's life, adding even more weight to each game and putting people in danger. Told in the first person, this engaging novel tackles themes of bullying, racism, segregation, strength, and forgiveness. Helpful back matter roots Cato's story in its historical context with an author's note, time line, bibliography, and biographies of the real Negro League players after which characters are named. VERDICT A home run of a book that is brave enough to speak the hard truths, this is a first purchase for all libraries.—Tracy Crouce



#2363068 Selkie's Daughter (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Linda Crotta Brennan

Brigit knows all the old songs and legends by heart: of Neve, the daughter of the sea god; of the warrior Finn MacCool; and of people who are not quite human. But Brigit knows the truth. It's evident in the webbing between her fingers—webbing that must be cut. She's the daughter of a selkie. A truth she must keep secret from everyone.

978-0-8234-5439-6 Holiday House ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Like her mother, Brigit has selkie (part human—part seal) heritage. But unlike Mum, she hasn't yet shapeshifted from human to seal form. Nor has she met her selkie relatives living in the sea near her small village in Nova Scotia. As Brigit grows toward maturity, she dreads the change but looks forward to it, too. The taunting at school is hard to bear, and soon the villagers spread mean-spirited rumors, blaming her family's selkie connection for diseases striking their friends and family members, as well as calamities at sea. With support from two loyal friends, Brigit prepares to don a sealskin and act with determination to save both her parents' lives and restore order amid escalating chaos. Brennan's first novel is a well-paced first-person narrative inspired by elements of Celtic folklore, which are communicated to readers through snippets from old tales and verses from a selkie-themed traditional ballad. In this quiet but compelling story, Brigit endures humiliation, prejudice, and loss, but she perseveres. A novel combining occasionally harsh realism with elements of magic and unshakable hope.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Brigit's fishing village sits balanced between land and sea, between solid practicality and fear of the supernatural: their hardworking lives abound with superstitions and songs about selkies, whose fabled secret home is said to lie nearby. As the daughter of a selkie woman and a human man, Brigit must conceal her dual nature—and periodically cut the webbing growing between her fingers—for fear of superstition and social stigma. When the Great Selkie sends a blight of storms and bad fishing in retaliation for the hunting of selkie pups, rumors start to fly, disaster threatens, and Brigit must leverage the selkie part of her heritage to save her family and community. The pacing is steady but lacking in rhythm: life-and-death confrontations with selkies and selkie-killers last about as long—and are as quickly and simply resolved—as schoolyard scuffles. This tends to take the wind out of the emotional dynamics, leaving them promising but underdeveloped. Still, the depiction of Nova Scotia maritime culture is engaging (be sure to have a Stan Rogers playlist handy), and Brigit's gradually strengthening friendships with childhood companion Margaret, newcomer Peter, and Peter's dog Tolly should warm the cockles of all but the most cynical of hearts. Sea lore aficionados might find more depth in Thomas' Secrets of Selkie Bay (BCCB 9/15), but readers just ready to dip their toes into selkie lore and Celtic legends à la Jane Yolen will find an easy introduction here. FHK COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

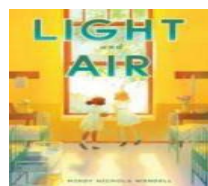
Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine A family is caught between the land and the sea in Linda Crotta Brennan's coming-of-age novel *The Selkie's Daughter*--a story rich in Celtic lore.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl comes of age and reconciles with her selkie blood in Brennan's debut novel. Brigit lives with a secret: Webbing grows between her fingers, and no matter how often her cousin Alys cuts it away, it grows back. Her village on the coast of Nova Scotia may be under a selkie "bane" that's affecting everyone's catch--possibly as retribution for the killing of baby seals. Rumors also swirl about the origins of her mother, who, as Brigit says, "has no ties on land." Brigit befriends new arrival Peter, an orphan who hails "from away"--in this case, Manitoba, where his family were homesteaders. Peter, who's arrived with new priest Father Angus, his uncle, learns about Brigit's life and community, revealing details about them to readers at the same time. This historical fantasy is loosely inspired by the Celtic legends Brigit adores, including the love story of Oisín (son of the warrior Finn MacCool) and Neve (daughter of the sea god). Brigit narrates events in the first person as her sense of self-identity develops through family tragedy, community hardship, and her increasing awareness of her heritage. Everything culminates in Brigit's dramatic quest to get the Great Selkie to lift the bane. The tale's strength lies in its writing: well-drawn characters, a strong sense of place, vivid images of the natural world, and evocative fantastical elements. All characters are coded white. An immersive reading experience threaded through with Celtic lore. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this multilayered middle grade debut, Brennan (the Fact Files series) evocatively establishes the hardships of a tween living as an incognito selkie in the sea-blasted chill of Nova Scotia. Though Brigit Finn habitually cuts back the webbing between her fingers to facilitate her masquerade as human, she and her mother; who are shape-shifting magical seals from nearby Sule Skerrie; are still the topic of persistent gossip throughout her financially struggling rural fishing village. Brigit endures persistent bullying from classmates, but with the support of her family, which also includes her Scots-descended father and precocious five-year-old brother, she forms buoying friendships with her cousin and a newcomer, the Manitoban nephew of the local priest. When the village's fortunes shift for the worse, the fishermen; blaming selkies; target Brigit and her family, who are already suffering their own profound tragedies: someone has been killing young seals, angering the king of the selkies. At times shockingly dark and unflinching in its portrayal of the harsh realities Brigit and her family face, this fresh and evocative tale, rendered in Brigit's clear voice, is propelled by a resilient protagonist toward a satisfyingly complex resolution. The human cast is white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Karyn Fischer, BookStop Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Brigit knows that in order to fit in, she must remove the webbing of skin that is growing between her fingers. Although painful, cousin Alys has always helped with this process. Kids at school aren't very accepting of her, given that she's half human, half seal. Being the daughter of a Selkie (seal woman), Brigit lives near Nova Scotia with her parents and little brother Willie. Thankfully, she develops some close friendships that end up being essential when she finds herself alone; her father has disappeared while fishing, and her mother has returned to the sea to find him. A large golden seal holds the key to the village's survival, as he is preventing the fish from being caught and even causing some of the storms that wreak havoc on the villagers and their way of life. The story is written in first person; Brigit and the other characters read as white. Have a tissue box nearby as heartbreak is in sure supply. The struggle between good and evil become blurred as readers are led to consider both sides, both of value. Topics presented include seal pup clubbing, diphtheria, bullying, food insecurities, storm destruction, and the cliques that come with small-town living. VERDICT Expertly told in poetic fashion, this book will hook its readers from sentence one. Highly recommended for all who love fantasy, tragedy, history, and folklore.--Tracy Cronce Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Author Linda Crotta Brennan (Fact Files series) makes her middle-grade debut with *The Selkie's Daughter*, a lyrical historical fantasy inspired by Celtic folklore.



#2363069 **Light and Air (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Mindy Nichols Wendell

When Halle and her mother both come down with TB, they are shunned--and then they are sent to the J.N. Adam Tuberculosis Hospital: far from home, far from family, far from the world.

978-0-8234-5443-3 *Holiday House* ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Halle (short for Hallelujah) is both hopeful and unhappy after her mother is diagnosed with active tuberculosis and taken miles from home to a sanatorium for treatment. Mama is expected to recover due to the institution's emphasis on fresh air and sunlight. But Halle, who has inactive TB, is unhappy at school, where classmates shun her because of her mother's disease, and miserable living with her father, who reacts to misfortune with anger. Increasingly distressed, she runs away, and soon she, too, is living at the sanatorium. There she befriends staff members, her roommates, and other children, but her real goal is to do whatever she can and take whatever risks she must to help Mama recover. Modeled after a socially enlightened sanatorium that treated an uncommonly diverse group of patients for the time in upstate New York, the setting is unusual and well described, from the architecture to the kids' camaraderie to conversations with the on-site beekeeper. Wendell's engaging, straightforward narrative makes the story highly accessible, and her portrayal of Halle will resonate with many readers. A satisfying first novel.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books It's 1935 in Western New York, and Hallelujah Grace Newton, known as Halle to friends and called Glory by her parents, lives a normal life, playing paper dolls with her best friend Thelma, helping Mama with chores, and bristling at Papa's harsh criticisms. When Mama starts coughing up blood, the family suspects that she has tuberculosis and admits her to J. N. Adam Hospital, a sanatorium where heliotherapy is presumed to help cure the deadly sickness. In addition to her worries about losing her mom, Halle feels shunned by the kids at school who call her a "filthy-lunger" and fear that she will spread TB, despite being cleared by the doctor to go to classes. Fed up with Papa's irritability and desperate to see Mama, Halle sets off to walk many miles to the sanatorium while Papa is at work, until she feverishly collapses and wakes up to find herself being treated in the hospital. Wendell's historical novel skillfully depicts the lived experiences of those affected by TB, and while most readers will have only fleeting familiarity with that disease, apt descriptions of anxiety around infectiousness, symptoms, and the uncertainty of recovery will be familiar to kids who experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond its timeliness, this story fits engaging plotlines into a trim page count, as Halle learns more about the active and dormant statuses of TB, endures the startling death of a friend, navigates a softening in her tense relationship with Papa, and persistently investigates why her mother's recovery is slower than expected. An author's note establishes the ways in which this story is rooted in historical fact. Readers may select this title seeking information about TB, but they'll stay for the sweet-as-honey cast of characters. KF COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 10-year-old becomes a patient at a tuberculosis sanitarium in 1935 New York. Halle's world is transformed when Mama begins coughing up blood one afternoon. Halle and Papa take her to the J.N. Adam Hospital in western New York, a 20-mile drive from their home. The sanitarium is stately and impressive, and, as their local doctor has pointed out, it welcomes everyone, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. But at home, Papa becomes short-tempered and remote. Wrapped up in his own worries, he seems oblivious to Halle's unhappiness. At school, Halle is shunned by classmates afraid of the disease. When Halle sets off on foot to get to her mother, she's stricken with sickness and becomes a patient at the hospital. Eventually Halle is placed in a dorm room with three other girls: Flossie, whose mother is a nurse at the hospital; Vivian, whose delicate paleness Halle finds striking; and Rita, an older girl whose well-off parents are uncomfortable around Flossie, who is Black (most characters are cued white). The book takes place nearly a decade before the use of antibiotics for TB, when treatment focused on fresh air and sunlight. Descriptions of the hospital's open-air porches and daily routines are smoothly incorporated, and Halle's fears for her own health and longing for her mother are relatable. A vivid work of historical fiction that explores how infectious disease can intersect with daily life. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Wendell's well-constructed historical debut, set in 1930s Upstate New York, chronicles six months of dramatic changes in fifth grader Hallelujah "Halle" Grace Newton's life as she and her family navigate the tuberculosis epidemic. When Halle's mother, whom Halle considers as her loving, steadfast lodestar, unlike her father, who always seems angry with her; contracts tuberculosis and is admitted to a sanatorium 20 miles away, Halle's life becomes a misery. She and her father test positive for the disease but remain asymptomatic; still, her schoolmates shun her. Her ill-conceived secret plan to walk to the sanatorium to be with her mother hastens Halle's budding case of pneumonia, resulting in her admittance as a patient, too. As Halle recovers, she bonds with other children in the ward, all of them undergoing "sun curing or air curing" treatments, but still pines for her mother, whose health is not improving. Via unflinching depictions of tragedy and strife, richly rendered period detail, and emotionally honest interpretations of parent-child relationships, Wendell builds satisfying suspense as Halle breaks facility rules to help her mother recover and struggles to win her father's affection. Historical notes conclude. Halle is white; supporting characters are racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--It's 1935, and Halle's life is nearly perfect. She has a best friend, Thelma, and they are perfectly matched. Her momma makes the best paper dolls and wants her to stay young, even though Papa believes Halle should help around the house more. The only not-perfect thing is her relationship with her father, who is always angry with her though they used to be so close. Then, momma falls ill. Momma, Halle's champion and protector from Papa's angry words, is taken to a treatment center to recover. Halle is left alone with her emotionally distant and demanding father who expects her to manage the home and care for him. Overcome with longing for her mother, Halle decides to walk to the treatment center to see her. She becomes quite ill en route and ends up convalescing in the same treatment center. During her recovery is when Halle learns the true meaning of friendship, family, and belonging. This historical fiction novel about the tuberculosis epidemic will resonate with today's readers. They will understand Halle's turmoil about growing up quickly, and in such a dramatic manner. The recent pandemic will connect readers to Halle's fears about community illness and her own battle. Many will also feel the pain Halle is as she misses her parent while worrying greatly about her health. VERDICT A coming-of-age story set in a historical time period that will appeal to many readers.--Jennifer Seebauer Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A girl and her family live through a tuberculosis outbreak in this empathetic, hopeful middle-grade novel set in 1930s upstate New York.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2366357 Not the Worst Friend in the World (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Anne Rellihan</i> It's the thirty-fourth day of sixth grade at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School in Missouri, and eleven-year-old Lou wishes she could rewind time. Lou wants to go back to the ninth day of sixth grade-the day before she fought with her best friend	1	\$18.99



Francie and said the terrible, horrible things she can't unsay. Or better yet, she would go back to fifth grade when Francie was still the Old Francie. Then the new girl, Cece Clark-Duncan, passes Lou a mysterious note. It says she was kidnapped. (!) If Lou can help Cece, maybe she can prove she's not the world's worst friend.

978-0-8234-5479-2 *Holiday House* ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Lou and Francie have been best friends since kindergarten, but now, six years in, Lou senses that Francie is pulling away. Lou reacts harshly, saying hurtful things that she immediately regretted. Even several weeks afterward, she doesn't know how to mend their friendship. So when 11-year-old Cece, the new girl in their classroom, confides that she was kidnapped by her father and asks for help finding her mother, Lou tries to be the best possible friend: kind, smart, and supportive of Cece's ideas. But when those ideas include consulting an astrologer and taking a train alone to Kansas City, Lou's perspective shifts, leaving her torn between her fears of disappointing her friend and her realization that Cece needs far more help than she can give. In her first novel, Rellihan creates an appealing narrator in Lou, who carries a notebook like her literary heroine, Harriet the Spy, and bears a heavy burden of guilt for her cruel words to Francie. Grounded in everyday details of her life in her home, school, and church, Lou's narrative becomes increasingly involving as she hunts for clues, attempts to evaluate people, debates with herself, and tries to do the right thing. An engaging story told from a convincingly tween-age perspective. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

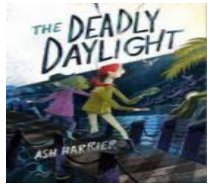
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this pitch-perfect middle-grade novel, Lou (short for Louise) copes with her deep shame over some unkind words she said in anger to Francie, her (now former) best friend. Lou can hardly believe that new-kid Cece wants to be friends, but she's intrigued by the girl's conviction about having been kidnapped by her father. Lou's first-person narration is punctuated with her notebook entries trying to sleuth out if Cece is correct and with flashbacks documenting her friendship with Francie, from kindergarten to "The Tenth Day of Sixth Grade" -- the day everything changed. Parallels with Harriet the Spy are spelled out, so what happens to that notebook and the emotional ramifications that follow are no surprise. Lou's tart perceptions of her Catholic school, her family (her white mother, Black stepfather, and two young siblings), and the emotional dynamics of sixth grade are sharply observant, as is her journey to understanding that people change. Other themes include Cece's keen interest in astrology (and insistence on interviewing a local reader for a "Christ Is Alive!" school project) and Francie's mother's depression; the depiction of the hot and humid Missouri setting is another strength. The mystery and plentiful conversation help keep the momentum going all the way to the end. Susan Dove Lempke(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Louise Bennett gets a second chance to not be a terrible friend in this debut novel. Just over three weeks ago, at the start of sixth grade at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a Catholic school in Mayfield, Missouri, Lou said "terrible, horrible things" to Francie Fitzpatrick, her best friend since kindergarten. Now she's trying to figure out how to get Francie to talk to her again. When new classmate Cece Clark-Duncan passes Lou a note, it sparks a friendship and a big mystery. Cece believes she's been kidnapped by her dad, and she wants Lou--a Harriet the Spy fan who's always writing in her notebook--to help find her mom, whom she's sure must be looking for her. Lou is desperate to be a good friend this time and not spill secrets, but as she pieces together the truth, the right thing to do becomes less clear. Flashbacks are interspersed, highlighting Lou and Francie's history and leading to the reveal of what tore them apart. This story takes on weighty topics from imperfect parents to faith and belief and presents them with such an empathetic yet light, matter-of-fact touch that they feel completely realistic, while still allowing for the friendships to take center stage. Lou's first-person narration is pitch-perfect and endearing, and the small-town setting shines with authenticity. The leads are cued white. The mystery will reel readers in, while the emotions and relationships make this a book to savor. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old Louise Bennett has been struggling with overwhelming guilt ever since she blurted out "terrible, horrible things" that ended her friendship with Francie Fitzpatrick. Lou is brainstorming ways to win Francie back when new girl Cece Clark-Duncan asks Lou for assistance in unraveling a mystery. Though Lou feels that she's "not the kind of friend you should trust with your secrets," she sees helping Cece as a chance to redeem herself. Cece, who believes that she has been kidnapped by her father, is convinced that Lou's propensity to record observations in her notebook à la Harriet the Spy will help her contact her mother. As the pair investigate, Lou realizes that Cece's predicament might not be what it seems, and she struggles with the possibility that the truth might hurt her new friend. Occasional flashback chapters depict Francie and Lou's friendship and provide context to their falling out, which occurs before the book's start. While the dual mysteries of the friendship breakup and Cece's possible abduction don't fully cohere, debut author Rellihan adeptly renders Lou's pain from her broken friendship. Main characters cue as white. Ages 8-12. Agent: Elizabeth Bennett, Transatlantic Literary. (Feb.) Copyright 2023 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Eleven-year old Lou Bennett has been adrift since the 10th day of sixth grade, when a fight with her best friend Francie left her an outcast at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School. That all changes when the new girl, Cece Clark-Duncan, passes Lou a cryptic note asking to meet. Cece is convinced there's something sinister behind her family's sudden arrival in town and her mother's

mysterious absence. Noticing that Lou keeps a Harriet the Spy-inspired notebook full of observations, Cece enlists her help tracking down her mother. With Cece, Lou sees a chance to redo her mistakes with Francie and prove that she can be a trustworthy friend. But Lou soon realizes that Cece's situation may be more complicated than anticipated, and their new relationship might not survive the truth. Flashbacks to Lou and Francie's bond are peppered throughout, slowly building up to the terrible fight that torpedoed their friendship. While the two mysteries lean toward the predictable, there's enough tension to keep readers turning the pages. There are no clear heroes and villains here. Just characters who are realistically flawed, their shortcomings lovingly rendered, and the turmoil of sixth grade friendship empathetically depicted. VERDICT A highly recommended story about friendship, family, and growing pains.--Alia Shields Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2368359 Deadly Daylight (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ash Harrier

While the kids at school taunt her and call her "Alice in Zombieland," Alice England finds refuge at her father's funeral home, where the dead tell her stories. When she "meets" George Devenish, a man who died of a rare sunlight allergy, Alice knows George was murdered. As a determined Alice investigates, she is surprised to find Violet and Cal become more than just suspects, but allies-maybe even friends. However, Alice soon finds navigating her first real friendships might be harder than solving a murder.

978-0-8234-5562-1 Holiday House ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

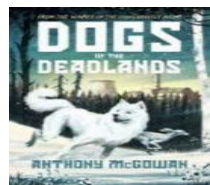
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 In this first book in the Alice England mystery series, readers meet precocious Alice, who has a very peculiar existence for a 12-year-old: she lives in a funeral home that's been in her family for generations. Her father, the embalmer, lets her take charge of the cosmetic aspects of corpses, and her close work with the deceased and a slight limp have made her an outcast at school. Another outsider, Violet Devenish, wears gloves and a veil to school because she suffers from a severe allergy to UV light. Though initially at odds, Violet and Alice slowly become friends. When Violet's uncle dies under mysterious circumstances, Alice suspects foul play, and she convinces Violet to help her investigate. Harrier has crafted an intriguing mystery with a clever resolution, and a slight supernatural element to the plot adds to the engaging atmosphere. As Alice becomes a formidable antagonist against ridiculous adults, both she and Violet grow in emotional maturity, and while this mystery concludes satisfyingly, there's plenty of room for more stories in subsequent series installments. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An Australian girl who works in a funeral home hopes to solve a murder. Eighth grader Alice, who has muscular atrophy of one leg, loves to help out at her family's business, Tranquility Funerals. She assists with aesthetic services--"the beautification of the corpse"--and she's perplexed that anyone finds that odd. Alice also has a secret ability: Sometimes a body's accessories are "resonant," and they tell her a story about the owner's previous life. It's unsurprising that Alice has no friends. While she's perfectly happy being friendless, she's equally unbothered when a protective teacher matches her up with bullying victim Violet, who has a rare and extremely dangerous sunlight allergy called solar urticaria. Soon after, Violet's uncle George is found dead on the pier where he worked, and Alice has a resonant moment while helping to prepare his body. She's convinced he was murdered and ropes Violet in to her investigation. There are so many suspects! Was it George's widow, the rough teens who gather under the pier, the overwrought security guard, the sender of an anonymous note, or the terrifying celebrity allergist? Alice possesses a precocious vocabulary, tends toward pedantry, is obsessive to an extent that annoys her new friend, and struggles with empathy and tact ("Tact meant concealing your curiosity"). But they do make an excellent team, Alice finds she appreciates having Violet in her life, and readers will have fun getting to know them. Most characters read white. A series opener that introduces enjoyably quirky tween detectives. (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Australian author Harrier imbues a classic whodunit with poetic melancholy in this haunting debut. Twelve-year-old Alice England, who has muscular atrophy in her leg due to complications during birth that also killed her twin sister, lives alone with her father in a seaside town and helps tend her family's funeral home. Shunned and unkindly dubbed "Alice in Zombieland" by her classmates both for her limp and her father's profession, Alice is friendless until she meets Violet Devenish, a fellow student who is deathly allergic to light and wears a black veil to protect herself from the sun. Harrier deliberately unspools the jam-packed plot at an unhurried pace, even when Violet's beloved uncle George; who shares Violet's allergy; is found dead of light exposure. Analytical Alice is immediately suspicious, thanks to the insight granted by her supernatural ability to "read the resonance" of objects belonging to the deceased, and her preoccupation with uncovering George's murderer soon puts her at odds with the town, the insular Devenish clan, and eventually Violet herself. While Alice's diversions occasionally slacken the tension, offbeat characters and lyrical writing sustain a thoroughly clever and engrossing riff on the murder mystery formula. Ages 9: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Alice, almost 13, loves dinosaurs, gathering (but not collecting) items from the beach, and helping her father prepare corpses at the funeral home where they live and work. What truly sets Alice apart is her ability to connect with the memories of the departed through objects she calls "resonant." This gift comes in handy when her new friend Violet's uncle dies in a series of "unfortunate accidents" that Alice suspects was ultimately murder. Violet and her family share a life-threatening allergy to sunlight, acting as the central force of

the plot. Alice uses her curiosity and ability to read people to solve the mystery with the help of her friends Violet and Cal. While the story does not shy away from morbid subjects, Alice's matter-of-fact nature and inability to be anything other than her authentic self balance the macabre plot. The side characters are quirky and lovable, adding a layer to the story as Alice learns how important yet difficult friendship can be. The mystery itself is satisfying, with plenty of twists to keep readers guessing until the end, but also enough hints being dropped for would-be detectives to try to solve it themselves. Alice is presented as light-skinned with red hair, and Violet is depicted with very pale skin and blond hair. VERDICT Simultaneously wholesome and somewhat ghoulish, this murder mystery is fun for children seeking an eccentric detective novel.—Nicolette Pavain



#2290668 Dogs of the Deadlands (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anthony McGowan

As humans fled the nuclear disaster, they were forced to leave their pets behind. Without people, nature began to return to the woods surrounding the power plant—lynx, bear, and wolves. But the overgrown forest is no place for dogs. Can Zoya, and her pups Misha and Luka, learn to survive in the deadlands? And will Zoya ever find her way home to her beloved owner?

978-0-86154-319-9 Oneworld Publications ©2022 5-1/4 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Channeling Richard Adams, McGowan throws down a doozy of a historical novel that's more gritty nature program than Homeward Bound adventure—though threads of the latter do subtly find their way into this survival tale. Set in Pripyat, Ukraine, on the eve of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the story explores the very real fact that people evacuating the city were forced to leave their pets behind, some of which survived by turning feral. Here, Zoya—a fluffy Samoyed puppy with a few drops of wolf in her blood—manages to stay alive and eventually have pups of her own: Misha and Bratan. These brothers rapidly become the focal point of the narrative, which tracks the dogs' harsh life in the woods surrounding the disaster zone, occasionally flashing to the humans who will play small but important roles in the dogs' survival. Readers will forge connections with the animal characters as they engage in adrenalin-pumping confrontations with wildlife; death and brutal injury are unavoidable, but Misha and Bratan also find meaningful versions of home and family among other disaster survivors. Haunting and riveting.



#2350426 Brazilian Culture Exchange (Hardcover (Trade))

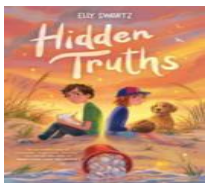
written by Geiszel Godoy

Mori and his family went on a fun journey to Rio de Janeiro. They traveled many historical sites to learn about the rich history and culture of Brazil. This book offers readers valuable knowledge about the largest African Diaspora in the world, Brazil.

978-0-9994734-9-8 Black Sands Entertainment ©2023 6 x 9 70 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 920

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$20.00



#2349493 Hidden Truths (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elly Swartz

Dani and Eric have been best friends since Dani moved next door in second grade. They bond over donuts, comic books, and camping on the Cape. Until one summer when everything changes. Did Eric cause the accident that leaves Dani unable to do the one thing in the world she most cares about?

978-0-593-48366-4 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 600

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Trust and doughnuts get two longtime besties over a deep rift in the wake of a traumatic accident. Dani lives and breathes baseball—but after achieving the ultimate triumph of making it onto an otherwise all-boy middle school team, a camper explosion leaves her with a broken leg, a concussion, and serious nerve damage. Her best friend, Eric, dragged her to safety, but he is tortured by guilt because, having a famously unreliable memory, he wonders if he forgot to turn the stove off. Was this disaster on their annual camping trip all his fault? Swartz skillfully tracks several emotional arcs in her two sixth graders through their alternating voices as Eric's eventual agonized confession

creates a break that drives both well-realized protagonists to fasten onto (and be disappointed by) new friends before realizing their mistake and seeking to mend fences. Eric turns out to be better at this than his tough-minded but inarticulate friend. His MO involves talks with God and bringing doughnuts to social encounters. Dani, her all-consuming determination to heal fast enough to rejoin the team that season only partially dimmed by setbacks, has guilt of her own to overcome for failing to meet him halfway. Sensitive readers will understand what neurodivergent Eric means when he declares "I see stuff differently" as a superpower. The cast reads white; Eric is cued Jewish. A warm testament to the healing power of mutual respect--and doughnuts. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Dani and Eric have been best friends and neighbors since the second grade. Dani has been training hard to make the boys' baseball team. When she finally does, she is ecstatic because she lives for baseball. Eric is into donuts, superheroes, and hanging out with Dani, while always being supportive of her love for baseball. As sixth grade approaches, their friendship changes abruptly when an accident leaves Dani injured, unable to play her favorite sport, and Eric wracked with guilt. Dani and Eric turn away from each other, and new friendships are developed that will test the bond they have formed, forcing them to question their personal motivations and loyalties. Middle grade readers will understand the issues troubling Dani and Eric as they struggle to find their footing within the newer friendships. Swartz includes socially relevant plot points many middle schoolers are dealing with, including honesty, bullying, peer pressure, and responsible social media use as well as a message about using one's voice to make change in society. VERDICT Swartz's latest is realistic fiction at its best. A solid story with a strong positive message about friendship, trust, and tenacity that will fit nicely into all collections.--Kim Gardner Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2332637 Midnight at the Houdini (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Delilah S. Dawson

Life has gone according to plan for Anna--she stays in the background, letting her sister, Emily, shine in the spotlight. But on Emily's wedding night, Anna learns that her sister is moving away, abandoning her--and all their shared dreams. Devastated, Anna leaves the reception in the middle of a raging storm, taking shelter in a hotel she's never seen before: the Houdini.

978-0-593-48679-5 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews To escape the clutches of a magical hotel, a Las Vegas teen must uncover its mysterious origins--or be forced to reside there forever. Sixteen-year-old Anna Alonso just planned the perfect wedding for her older sister, Emily. But when the girls' dad surprises Emily and her new husband with a condo in Manhattan as a wedding present, organized Anna, always prepared, is devastated; she'd planned on having the new couple nearby. To make matters worse, a tornado watch is issued as Anna, her dad, and his two business associates leave the wedding in their limo. Battered by the increasingly dangerous weather, they reluctantly head to the Houdini, the nearest of the hotels they own. When a telephone pole falls on the limo, trapping her dad and friends inside, Anna seeks help in the Houdini, but it's strangely deserted and the doors are locked, so she can't get out. Heading deeper into the hotel, she meets a resident boy named Max who offers to help--but can she trust him? Readers familiar with Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and The Tempest will notice the influences from both works, and fans of contemporary fantasy will be drawn into the magical world explored in this story that is full of twists and turns. Lush details, from descriptions of food and drink to the hotel's furnishings, will engross readers: While Anna is trying to leave the Houdini, readers might not want to. Most characters are cued white. Surreal and mysterious; a wild ride. (Fantasy. 12-17) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

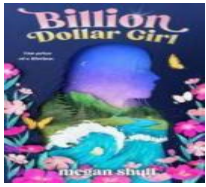
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A teen must escape from a magical hotel or be trapped forever in this insightful mystery romance by Dawson (Camp Scare). Sixteen-year-old Anna, who lives in Las Vegas, is relieved when her older sister's wedding, which she had been planning, goes off without a hitch. Upon Anna's departure, however, a tornado sees her seeking shelter in one of her business-owning father's first hotels, a magic-themed casino called the Houdini. Once she arrives, nothing is as it seems: it's devoid of staff, and secret passages open and close. Anna is immediately enraptured by handsome, enigmatic teenage Max, who was raised in the Houdini with only his mother and ghostly guests for company, and who's spent years dreaming about a girl who looks exactly like Anna. Once she's in front of him, however, he must reconcile his dreams with reality, and help find her a way out of the hotel before it's too late. Employing evocative prose teeming with literary and pop culture nods and myriad enchanted elements, Dawson presents a dreamlike adventure driven by a fierce and vulnerable protagonist struggling with issues of self-reliance and forgiveness. Ages 12: up. Agent: Stacia Decker, Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary. (Sept.)

#2288318 Billion Dollar Girl (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Megan Shull

After a visit from Social Services goes horribly wrong, longing for security, River sets off on the run. Soon, a case of mistaken identity gives River a chance to live a life that

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



she had never even dreamed. But, when her newfound safety is shattered, River discovers, against all odds—one in 307 million, to be exact—that life's true jackpot isn't anything that it seems.

978-0-593-52457-2 Razorbill ©2022 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews changing summer and brighter future. Near the end of seventh grade, River has a terrible day. Her best friend, mi, dumps her because of their socio-economic differences: Sunny, River's single mom, is a bar waitress who often works nights, and River can't afford to pay her way when she's with Emi's wealthy family. Then Principal Martinez, worried about River's frequent absences, makes a home visit—but unreliable Sunny is a no-show. Fed up, River runs away. Although Sunny never discusses her family, she's kept a letter sent from Great Bear Island, so River heads there. By unbelievable chance, when she arrives, she's mistaken for Liv, a high school student who had accepted then rejected, a job at the Great Bear Lodge run by Sunny's sister, Jemma. To give herself time to assess her newfound family, River assumes Liv's identity, saying she changed her mind about working there. No sooner has River come to love her relatives, their Norwegian and Tsimshian heritage, and the island, than Sunny shows up to drag her home. All seems lost until a lottery ticket given to River by a stranger wins! Descriptions of island life are captivating, and likable River narrates with spirit and honesty. Wishful thinkers will buy into her story despite the many times they must suspend disbelief, including the unconvincing change in Sunny after the windfall. Names cue some diversity in the cast. Implausible but dreamy. (Fiction. 10-14)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Thirteen-year-old River Ryland's life "has pretty much been chaos from day one"; her mother Sunny works late as a waitress and goes out on the weekends, and their trailer often lacks basic necessities. After a friend distances herself from River ("You always need rides. You never have any money"), the teen finds an eviction notice on the trailer's front door, and a visit from the assistant principal results in the authorities being called. Taking matters into her own hands, River runs away, heading north from her Seattle-area home to Great Bear, a remote island in the fjords, where the maternal aunt she's never met runs a lodge with few amenities. Posing as a 16-year-old summer worker, River gets to know her Norwegian and Tsimshian family's history, and develops a deep connection to the spectacular nature around her. After her mother shows up to take her home, a sudden reversal of fortune offers River the chance to decide whom she is and where she belongs. Through River's candid voice, Shull (Bounce) intersperses sometimes unbelievable plot twists with languorous descriptions of the natural world, organically exploring themes of environmentalism and human connection. Ages 10: 14. (Sept.)



#2350433 **Thin Air (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Kellie M. Parker

Seventeen-year-old boarding school student Emily Walters is selected for an opportunity of a lifetime—she'll compete abroad for a cash prize that will cover not only tuition to the college of her choice, but will lift her mother and her out of poverty. Between keeping an eye on her best friend's flirty boyfriend and hiding her own dark secrets, she's not sure how she'll survive the contest, much less the flight. Especially when people start dying. As loyalties shift and secrets are revealed, Emily must figure out who to trust, and who's trying to kill them all, before she becomes the next victim.

978-0-593-52600-2 Razorbill ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 Horror, the ugly side of competitiveness, and palpable fear permeate Parker's claustrophobic thriller. The book's locked-room mystery style puts readers in the middle of the dangerous drama that unfolds on a flight to Paris. Seventeen-year-old Emily Walters is eager to be on the flight, since it's taking her and 11 other teens to a competition for a massive cash prize that will more than cover four-years' tuition at any college they choose. Readers will feel and root for Emily, as they learn about her personal struggles and how her mother doesn't have the money to provide for her. Winning would completely change Emily's future. The story becomes increasingly unsettling as the 12 teens turn sneaky and violent on the flight, desperately trying to eliminate their fellow competitors for the prize. The read is truly original, making the most of its inescapable airplane setting. Filled with twists and dread, this novel will thrill those curious about the dark side of human nature and what it means to be a survivor. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A group of teens on a private jet are slowly picked off by a mysterious killer who seems to know all their secrets. Emily has just completed her junior year at an exclusive boarding school where she's on a need-based scholarship. Among other things, she's been hiding the fact that her mother blew their savings on an MLM scheme and is living in her car following the loss of their house. Fortunately, Emily

managed to get a scholarship from a charitable foundation that will allow her to escape to Paris for two weeks over the summer. The unusual program takes 12 finalists from hundreds of boarding school applicants and pits them against one another as they compete in challenges related to "character, intelligence, leadership skills, teamwork, and talent." The kicker? It all begins as soon as they're in the air. Emily's first-person narration of this elaborate setup establishes her as a sympathetic and flawed protagonist. The initial chapter is a quick, interest-piquing vignette set seven hours into the chaotic flight, and it quickly sets the taut line of tension that's maintained throughout, with each chapter opening with a time stamp marking the plane's progress across the Atlantic. The fast pace will keep readers engaged, particularly fans of locked-room mysteries, although the romantic subplot feels a bit formulaic. Emily is cued white; secondary characters show some racial diversity. A fun page-turner. (Thriller. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A dozen high schoolers are traveling to Paris aboard a private plane when, a few hours into the flight, teens begin turning up dead. The passengers are all students handpicked from elite schools across the country, each participating in an academic competition for a four-year, all-expenses-paid scholarship to an Ivy League college and a postgraduate mentorship. This would be life-changing for Emily Walters, who attends a boarding school in Connecticut on a needs-based scholarship; since her father stopped paying child support, Emily lives in the family Subaru with her unemployed mother when she's not at school. On the plane, Taylor, a student from Boston, is targeted via her nut allergy; she's saved with an EpiPen, but Paige from North Carolina isn't so lucky. It seems that someone is taking out the scholarship competitors one by one. And while Emily is desperate to obtain the prize, she must decide whether winning this deadly game is worth sacrificing everyone on board. Emily's empathetic first-person narration, rendered in assured prose, is a steadfast vehicle that drives readers from one suspenseful, if familiar, scare to the next. There are no snakes on this plane, but the dangers are real in this ticking-clock thriller by Parker. The cast is racially diverse. Ages 12: up. (Oct.)



#2330212 Together We Rot (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Skyla Arndt

Wil Greene's mom has been missing for over a year, and the police are ready to call the case closed—they claim she skipped town and you can't find a woman who wants to disappear. But she knows her mom wouldn't just leave, and she knows the family of her former best friend, Elwood Clarke, has something to do with it. Elwood has been counting down the days until his 18th birthday—in dread. Now on the run from a family that wants him dead, he turns to the only one who will believe him: Wil.

978-0-593-52627-9 Viking ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 680

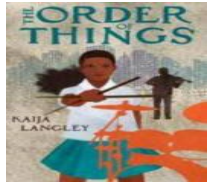
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 Since Wil's mother went missing a year ago, her father has disappeared into addiction, and Wil has become consumed with the single-minded obsession of finding out what happened to her mom, alienating both the local police and her best friend, Elwood, in the process. The son of a powerful local religious leader, Elwood has always known that he will have to give his life over to the congregation when he turns 18, but as that birthday approaches, he begins to realize how literal that sacrifice might end up being. The dual-voiced narrative takes a while to pick up steam, but by the time our protagonists (re)join forces, a frightening and deeply rooted town secret has been revealed and a genuinely tense game of cat and mouse set in motion. As Wil and Elwood go up against a sinister and dangerous plan that has been generations in the making, readers will follow their personal and literal journeys with bated breath, making this debut novel a solid choice for fans of supernatural horror and gothic romance. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When a religious cult threatens everything they know, former friends Wil's and Elwood's purposes collide. In the small Michigan town of Pine Point, 18-year-old Wilhelmina Greene's mom has been missing for a year, and everyone, including the local police, thinks she left voluntarily. Wil, on the other hand, is certain that her ex-best friend, Elwood; his father, local preacher Pastor Clarke; and Elwood's ultrareligious family and church are involved. Channeling her journalist mother's investigative skills, Wil refuses to give up, determined to find answers on her own. Meanwhile, 17-year-old Elwood has done his best to follow the path his parents have laid out for him even though it meant losing Wil's friendship. When he finds out that his parents have never truly loved him and in fact have been planning to sacrifice him for their cause, he flees, joining forces with Wil and their friends to find answers. Together, Wil and Elwood learn that everything they thought they knew was a lie, and they are in more danger than they could have imagined. Arndt's sparkling prose deftly explores the complicated nature of loyalty and religion against the lush background of the forests of the Upper Peninsula. The mythology of the town and its founders is compelling and convincing, setting up the history for the story at hand. Main characters are cued White. Haunting and spellbinding. (Horror. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Former best friends Wilhelmina Green and Elwood Clarke must work together to save their small Michigan town from a terrifying religious cult in Arndt's spine-chilling debut. Teenage Wil's mother has been missing for over a year. Though local police insist that she skipped town, Wil is certain there's something sinister at play. Her solo investigation leads her to believe that the Garden of Adam, a religious organization run by her town's most influential family, has something to do with her mother's disappearance. Seventeen-year-old Elwood, meanwhile, has been doing his best to live up to his preacher father's expectations, especially knowing that he's expected to leave school at 18 and

take up his father's mantle as the head of the Garden of Adam. But when Elwood discovers that his parents intend to sacrifice him to a mysterious entity in his town's surrounding woods, he flees. Wil agrees to hide him in exchange for help in proving that the Garden of Adam is responsible for her mother's vanishment. A meandering plot is buoyed by likable supporting characters, Wil and Elwood's snappy banter, and eerie, brooding atmosphere. Main characters read as white. Ages 12: up. (Aug.)



#2326186 Order of Things (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kaija Langley

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$17.99

Novel in verse. Eleven-year-old April Jackson loves playing the drums, almost as much as she loves her best friend, Zee, a violin prodigy. They both dream of becoming professional musicians one day. When the unthinkable happens and Zee suddenly passes away, April is crushed by grief. Without Zee, nothing is the way it's supposed to be. April isn't sure how to move on from the awful feeling of being without Zee. Desperate to help Papa Zee, she decides to secretly deliver the mail he's been neglecting. But when on her route she discovers a classmate in trouble, she doesn't second guess what she knows is the right thing to do.

978-0-593-53090-0 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile NP

Reviews by: Booklist Eleven-year-old April's best friend (who, like her, is Black) is Zee, a boy who is a prodigy violinist. April herself is a wannabe drummer, taking lessons from Zee's father, Papa Zee. Life is good, but things begin to change when Zee faints one day at school for no discernable reason. Not long after, he experiences a frightening episode of rapid heartbeat but makes April promise not to tell anyone. She reluctantly agrees, but then the unthinkable happens: Zee suffers sudden cardiac arrest and dies. Suddenly, April's life is filled with change. Not only has she lost her best friend, but her single mama brings a date home: a woman whom April instantly dislikes. Then she learns a terrible secret about her tentative friend, a white classmate named Asa. Will she be able to keep Asa's secret after what happened with Zee? Langley has crafted a lovely, beautifully written, and well-plotted novel in verse, populated with memorable, empathetic characters who come alive on the page. Give her a standing O.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books April's Mama works the night shift for UPS, so the eleven-year-old girl lives in a quiet world of inverted sleep schedules, turned-off TVs, and definitely no drum sets. Luckily, April's best friend Zee's place serves as a second home, and there, sound is welcome. Zee, aspiring to be the first Black violinist to lead the Boston Symphony Orchestra, practices his scales; New Orleanian drummer Papa Zee cracks terrible puns; and when Mama wakes up, she brings over baked ham for a family dinner set to jazz music. When Zee gets into a new school to foster his musical talents, April decides she should also start taking her own dream-becoming a rockstar drummer, like Sheila E.-more seriously, beginning drum lessons with Papa Zee. April makes percussive progress but generally can't find a rhythm, missing Zee and unable to let anyone new in her life, when her world is entirely upended by Zee's sudden death. This novel-in-verse is a steady roll that powerfully builds, like a satisfying drum solo, and Langley creates a beautiful (if tragic) symphony out of the rearrangement of characters and dynamics following Zee's death, allowing for tender, heartrending expressions of intergenerational and found family caring in times of deep loss. April begins to see how she can make connections with and care for others in her community even in her grief, eventually helping a friend out of a domestic violence situation. Langley's final verses provide readers reassurance that *ÒAll change leads to something different./ Different isn't always easy, nor is it always bad./ It's just different. And getting used to anything different takes time.Ó* Fans of Kwame Alexander's emotionally charged and character-driven verse novels will have no problem dancing to the beat of this drum. The included author's note educates readers about sudden cardiac arrest. MC COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide In this compelling verse novel set in Boston, African American tweens Zee and April are best friends. Each lives with their single parent in apartments across the hall from each other -- narrator April with Chantelle, her army-veteran mom who works nights for UPS; and Zee with his dad, Papa Zee, a postal carrier. The four function like a family. A virtuoso violinist, Zee now attends an arts school, leaving April to face sixth grade without him. Though passionate about drumming, April lacks Zee's confidence and tenacity. After Zee faints at school, he refuses to rest, wanting desperately to perform the orchestra solo. When April finds out that Zee is secretly practicing, she agrees not to tell his dad. Meanwhile, April's mother has fallen in love with a female coworker, who is becoming more a part of their lives, despite April's resistance. A tragedy changes everything, and April feels responsible. Her grief interferes with her drumming, but music also helps her recover. Langley takes readers on an emotionally turbulent ride while highlighting characters' strengths and flaws. The protagonists' love of music breathes life into the plot and propels the action forward. An honest and poignant portrayal of loss and grief that affirms that time and a supportive community contribute to healing. (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

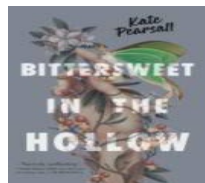
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this compelling verse novel set in Boston, African American tweens Zee and April are best friends. Each lives with their single parent in apartments across the hall from each other -- narrator April with Chantelle, her army-veteran mom who works nights for UPS; and Zee with his dad, Papa Zee, a postal carrier. The four function like a family. A virtuoso violinist, Zee now attends an arts school, leaving April to face sixth grade without him. Though passionate about drumming, April lacks Zee's confidence and tenacity. After Zee

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Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An 11-year-old girl suffers a devastating loss when her best friend suddenly dies. April and best friend Zee, both African American, live across the hall from each other in their Boston apartment building. Their tight unit is disrupted when gifted violinist Zee, who comes from a musical family, is admitted to a new STEAM charter school. April is happy for him but knows her school experience will change. Sure enough, she is paired with socially awkward Asa, who's shunned by the two other White girls in class. April asks Zee's dad, Papa Zee, to give her drumming lessons, fulfilling her own dreams. But there are difficult things too: Zee has some alarming health symptoms and swears April to secrecy, April's single mom is seeing a new woman, and Asa is behaving unusually. When Zee's next medical episode proves fatal, April's grief is compounded by her guilt over keeping quiet. Before long she's hiding something else, as she observes the extent of Papa Zee's depression. When she learns the truth about what Asa's family is going through, however, April realizes she has to share all she has been keeping inside. This well-crafted novel in verse is rich in detail and successfully conveys the depth of April's emotions. The characters are fully realized, and the themes of family, change, and grief are handled with sensitivity and care. A heart-rending narrative of friendship, family, and the path to healing. (author's note) (Verse fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Langley (When Langston Dances) explores communal grieving and found family in this middle grade debut, a layered novel in verse. With her "best and only true friend" Zee Ellis admitted to study violin at a Boston STEAM charter school, 11-year-old April Jackson enters sixth grade determined to fulfill her own musical dreams by taking drum lessons with Zee's dad. Music and her deepening bond with Papa Zee ground April as she clashes with a nosy, talkative classmate, takes in her queer single mom's new romance, and worries about increasingly distant Zee, who experiences a possibly stress-induced health scare. After April reluctantly promises to keep Zee's cardiac symptoms secret, his sudden death leaves her feeling regretful and "dreaming solo," and when Papa Zee's grief reaches new heights, April must reach out to her community to compose her new normal. Declarative lines paint a spare picture of interpersonal bonds and grief, while April's resilience and desire to uplift loved ones guides a narrative that's invested in themes of loss, ethics, and empathy. Most characters cue as Black. An author's note provides background on sudden cardiac arrest. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Charlotte Sheedy, Charlotte Sheedy Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal nces) deftly twines music, poetry, family, and friendship in her middle grade debut in verse. Eleven year-old April is a budding percussionist under the tutelage of neighbor and found family Papa Zee. When April's best friend Zee, Papa Zee's son and a violin prodigy, passes away unexpectedly, her life is thrown into chaos. Her mother is dating a woman from work and things are getting serious. Papa Zee struggles to maintain his job through his grief. At school, April's fledgling friend Asa is mysteriously unwell and frequently absent. As April navigates the tumult, she wrestles with a secret which might have saved Zee's life. Ultimately, an opportunity to use her voice to save another friend helps April find resolution. Langley's verse is both approachable and engaging. Despite a relatively low word count, characters, setting, and plot are richly developed. Readers coming for the music will stay for the feels; readers looking for a good cry may find themselves seeking out more about April's pantheon of "drum mavens." Characters are presumed cisgender; Mama is queer. April and most other characters are Black; Asa and her family are white. Papa Zee and April's mama are both single parents when the book begins. VERDICT A strong purchase for most collections and an easy recommendation for a variety of readers.--Taylor Worley Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2348830 Bittersweet in the Hollow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate Pearsall

In rural Caball Hollow, surrounded by the vast National Forest, the James women serve up more than fried green tomatoes at the Harvest Moon diner, where the family recipes are not the only secrets. Like her sisters, Linden was born with an unusual ability. She can taste what others are feeling, but this so-called gift soured her relationship with the vexingly attractive Cole Spencer one fateful night a year ago . . . A night when Linden vanished into the depths of the Forest and returned with no memories of what happened, just a litany of questions--and a haze of nightmares that suggest there's more to her story than simply getting lost.

978-0-593-53102-0 Putnam Pub Group ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 384 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 870

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 The James women have been purveyors of charms and folk magic for generations, though, by day, they run a respectable diner in their West Virginia town of Cabell Hollow. Linden, 17, is one of four sisters who helps their mom and gran at the Harvest Moon, where baking soothes Linden's lingering anxieties from a traumatic incident the previous summer--if only she could remember what

happened in the forest that night. In her well-crafted debut, Pearsall intertwines local lore about "the Moth-Winged Man" with James family history, Linden's inner turmoil, and a string of unexplained disappearances that include a decades-old cold case, Linden's experience the year before, and a murder. The closeness of the James family is lovely to observe, and a thread of romantic tension between Linden and an older boy is expertly teased out. Pearsall's authentic Appalachian setting is almost a character unto itself, and her subtle handling of the story's magic will enthrall fans of A. R. Capetta and Melissa Albert. Thoughtfully blending mystery, thriller, and folk horror, Pearsall proves herself to be an author to watch. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

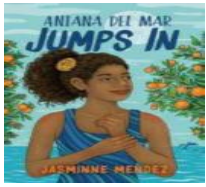
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books On the night of last year's Moth Festival, then sixteen-year-old Linden James went missing in the deep forest that surrounds her small Appalachian town only to be discovered the next morning with no memory of what happened. The other Caball Hollow residents are convinced her disappearance has something to do with the Moth-Winged Man, a local legend—the James women are already known for their strangeness, after all, so their involvement with the supernatural wouldn't be surprising. Now, however, the body of another missing girl has been found, and Linden knows she must revive her memory to save the next girl from the Moth-Winged Man—or an all-too-human monster. Pearsall pulls on elements of Appalachian lore around Mothman but makes the creature and its origin uniquely her own, setting up Faustian deals and fateful tragedies that build tension and surely break hearts (both of characters and readers alike). The pace is impeccable, and if the ending suffers from the villain's over-explanation, the deliciously atmospheric journey to get there easily earns forgiveness. Mainstays of the supernatural genres are elevated by Linden's poignant narration, which captures both her discomfort with and pride in being a James woman as she figures out who she is outside her family, even as she maintains deep bonds with her sisters in particular. Pair this with Wallace's *The Memory Trees* (BCCB 09/17) or Sutherland's *House of Hollow* (BCCB 03/21) for an examination of how we are shaped by family legacy and lore long before we have a say in the matter. KQG

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Mystery and magic unfold in a West Virginian town surrounded by Appalachian forest. The James women are insular not by choice but because they are feared as well as loved by the small-town denizens who patronize their restaurant by day and purchase their magic by night. Narrator Linden, one of "four sisters born in as many years," can taste other people's emotions; the women in her family each have their own small but potent powers. But no magic can repair the fallout from Linden's disappearance last summer solstice. She went into the woods and tried to summon the local bogeyman called the Moth-Winged Man, only to vanish for a day and be found injured and with no memory of what had occurred. Her father has moved out, her nightmares won't stop, and suspicion trails her, especially when another girl disappears a year later. This multifaceted book successfully manages to be many things: a satisfying paranormal mystery, a family narrative examining the damage of secrets kept and the ways in which silence allows violence to grow, and a paean to the immense Appalachian forest and the small communities nestled between the trees. Luscious prose and a compelling setting make the book hard to put down as the mystery slowly and steadily unfolds over the course of just a few days. Main characters read white. Complex, well-realized, and engrossing. (Fantasy. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An empath is thrust into a supernatural murder mystery in this sensory-rich, genre-bending series opener set in the Appalachian Mountains. Every year, the town of Caball Hollow, W.Va., hosts the Moth Festival, a long-standing tradition celebrating a local cryptid called the Moth-Winged Man. A year ago, during the festival, rising high school senior Linden James disappeared into the nearby woods and resurfaced the next morning with no memories of her experience except for flashes of running through a dark forest and feeling overwhelming terror. On the anniversary of her life-altering vanishing, she discovers her former friend Dahlia dead in the same woods; rumors begin to percolate that not only is Dahlia's murder connected to the Moth-Winged Man, but also to both Linden's disappearance and a decades-old case of a missing child. Determined to find answers, Linden recruits her diner-owning sisters and their special gifts to uncover the truth. Via intimate first-person narration, debut author Pearsall balances paranormal thrills and the horrors of the central mystery to craft a cottage-core-infused world replete with cozy domestic enchantments, a close-knit female cast, and a captivating romance. Characters default to white. Ages 12: up. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up—The James women are special; some people in Bittersweet Hollow, WV, even call them witches. The talent of Linden, the third of four sisters, is feeling and tasting people's emotions and the ability to influence people's feelings. The previous summer, she disappeared on Solstice when she and classmates gathered in the woods to call up the Moth-Winged Man, a local folk legend in their parts. She was found suffering from amnesia. A year later, Linden discovers her friend Dahlia's body in the woods and is determined to find her killer. Dahlia's case is tied to a young boy who went missing in the same area almost 20 years ago, and the Moth-Winged Man myth. The teen's investigation leads to her family being vilified, their business vandalized, and her life threatened. Throughout, she struggles with her relationship with Cole, the local golden boy, who seems to shun her since her disappearance. Aided by her three sisters and their supernatural talents, along with their Aunt Sissy's willingness to share family secrets, Linden slowly unravels where folklore meets reality and the sacrifices her family has made. The story flashes back and forth from the present to the night she went missing as she recovers more of her memories. The writing is tense and suspenseful with each new discovery bringing more questions. VERDICT A compelling story as the James women struggle to deal with their own secrets, and in the process, reveal some the darkest ones in town. A first purchase.—Tamara Saarinen

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2317329 Aniana Del Mar Jumps In (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jasminne Mendez</i>	1	\$18.99
Aniana del Mar belongs in the water like a dolphin belongs to the sea. But she and Papi keep her swim practices and meets hidden from Mami, who has never recovered		



from losing someone she loves to the water years ago. Mami forbids her from returning to the water but Ani and her doctor believe that swimming along with medication will help Ani manage her disease. What follows is the journey of a girl who must grieve who she once was in order to rise like the tide and become the young woman she is meant to be.

978-0-593-53181-5 Dial Books ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile NP

Reviews by: Book Page Aniana del Mar knows how to keep a secret. At her papi's insistence, Ani keeps her swim meets and the medals she wins hidden from her mami, who fears the water after a hurricane destroyed her home and killed her brother. So when Ani's body starts to ache, her joints swelling and her limbs radiating with pain, it's not a difficult decision for Ani to keep it all a secret in order to continue swimming.

Reviews by: Booklist d live in the water for the rest of her life she would, but she and Papi have been keeping her swimming practices a secret from Mami. Her mother still hasn't healed from losing someone close to her many years ago, and she's afraid that the water will betray her again. When Ani experiences increasing joint pain to the point that she can no longer move, the secrets come spilling out. After receiving a diagnosis of juvenile idiopathic arthritis, she is forbidden from swimming. Ani starts to feel her happiness slowly drain from her body, but if she is ever to swim again, she must regain her strength both physically and mentally. *Aniana del Mar Jumps In* is a story of love, loss, and growth that explores how our actions can unintentionally harm those who we love, how we learn to heal from that pain, and how we grieve not only those who we've lost but the people we once were, as well as embracing who we are becoming.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Mendez's novel beautifully crafts a first-person narrative with concrete poetry, forming shapes of teardrops, sea creatures, and storms to capture the physical and emotional journey of Aniana's desire to return to the water and navigate her newly diagnosed disability. Stanzas with English and Spanish dialogue, repetition, and spacing visually add to the tension and distance Aniana experiences with her family and friends."

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Aniana (Ani) del Mar lives on the Gulf Coast in Galveston, Texas, and the pull of the ocean is in her blood. But she must keep her passion for swimming secret from her devout Dominican mother, who lost a twin brother to a hurricane and deeply fears the water. A loving father, a preschool-age sibling, and a steady best friend help Ani keep her balance -- most of the time. But when she begins to suffer pain and swelling and is diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, she questions everything -- her gift for swimming, her family relationships, and her own identity. Incorporating some Spanish words and phrases, Mendez weaves together free-verse poetry, concrete poems, haiku, tanka, and even texting and dialogue poems to capture character voice and emotion and propel the story forward. She uses the shape and structure of the poem on the page to add weight to the text, as when "New Ani" offers a list of ways in which the character feels she has changed and has come to accept herself. The story moves quickly as Ani competes in swimming and keeps it secret, then bogs down a bit as she grapples with her illness, but the poetry keeps the plot afloat as we engage with Ani in her struggles. (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Aniana (Ani) del Mar lives on the Gulf Coast in Galveston, Texas, and the pull of the ocean is in her blood. But she must keep her passion for swimming secret from her devout Dominican mother, who lost a twin brother to a hurricane and deeply fears the water. A loving father, a preschool-age sibling, and a steady best friend help Ani keep her balance -- most of the time. But when she begins to suffer pain and swelling and is diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, she questions everything -- her gift for swimming, her family relationships, and her own identity. Incorporating some Spanish words and phrases, Mendez weaves together free-verse poetry, concrete poems, haiku, tanka, and even texting and dialogue poems to capture character voice and emotion and propel the story forward. She uses the shape and structure of the poem on the page to add weight to the text, as when "New Ani" offers a list of ways in which the character feels she has changed and has come to accept herself. The story moves quickly as Ani competes in swimming and keeps it secret, then bogs down a bit as she grapples with her illness, but the poetry keeps the plot afloat as we engage with Ani in her struggles. Sylvia Vardell (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A talented Dominican American swimmer fights to keep doing what she loves. Twelve-year-old Aniana del Mar lives up to her name: Living on the island of Galveston, Texas, the water feels like home. But that's a secret she keeps with her easygoing Papi, who sneaks her to the YMCA for swim practice and meets. Mami discourages Ani from swimming; after witnessing her own brother's drowning during a hurricane, Mami is terrified of losing Ani and her 4-year-old brother, Matti, too. When Ani can no longer hide the joint swelling that plagues her when she overexerts herself, however, her secret's out. Mami, who belongs to a strict Christian church, is furious, insisting that Ani's juvenile idiopathic arthritis is God's punishment for lying. Though Ani's physical therapist endorses swimming, Mami bans Ani from the water she craves. As her family's bonds fray, Ani grapples with the challenges of invisible illness, including loss of bodily autonomy and others' lack of understanding. Incorporating concrete poems, haiku, and tanka, Ani's aching, determined verse narration weaves English and Spanish words into striking imagery as she navigates tumultuous emotions and her loving but stifling relationship with Mami. Mendez, also disabled and Dominican

American, explores post-traumatic stress and its effects with both compassion and honesty, respecting Mami's trauma without diminishing the pain her overprotectiveness causes Ani. Religious belief is similarly represented with nuance. Supportive, diverse secondary characters add warmth. A painful yet hopeful exploration of family, trauma, faith, and healing. (author's note) (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Galveston, Tex., 12-year-old Aniana del Mar loves to swim: "All I want/ is to/ slip/ slide/ drift/ glide." During daddy-daughter dates, she and Papi head to the YMCA for swim practice and meets, but the two keep these events secret from Mami, who still grieves losing "her brother/ her house and/ her village" as a child during Hurricane Georges, and regularly fears the worst for her family. But everything comes crashing down when Ani's occasional post-exercise aches and swelling intensify into chronic pain, "statue-stiff/ mornings and clumsy/ collapses," and a diagnosis of juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Religious Mami believes that God is punishing Ani for keeping secrets and lies with her father, and, in spite of the physical therapist's recommendation otherwise, bans all swimming. Ani meanwhile feels abandoned by Papi, who's frequently away working for the Coast Guard. Via myriad poetic forms and sensorial verse, Mendez viscerally details the emotional family tumult of grief, mistrust, and resentment alongside Ani's heartfelt quest to reunite with water. Back matter details poetic forms used and notes that Mendez, like Aniana, is Dominican American and lives with chronic illness and disability. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stefanie Sanchez Von Borstel, Full Circle Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-9—Acclaimed Dominican American poet Mendez's novel in verse centers around the coming-of-age struggles of a Latinx tween pushing against the expectations of a strict (and loving) family, while also figuring out her identity as an athlete with chronic illness. Aniana and Papi keep a secret from conservative Mami—instead of attending church on weekdays, the pair go to the YMCA where Ani is excelling at swimming. When the Afro-Dominican girl can barely get out of bed because of pain in her body, their secret is out, and Aniana is diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Convinced it's a punishment from God for lying, Mami forbids her from swimming. When Papi is away because of his work with the Coast Guard, Ani begins to pull away from him, too. Mendez never passes judgment on Ani's parents. Her mother's fears come from the traumatic death of Mami's twin brother during a hurricane, and she found comfort in religion during a bout of postpartum depression. A near-tragedy finally unites them, and the realistic conclusion will satisfy readers. Multidimensional characters and the time-honored conflict between daughters and their mothers will ring true. Spanish and English are often used interchangeably in Ani's conversations with her parents, and details about the Dominican Republic further add authenticity to the work. Mendez uses concrete poems, haiku, and tanka throughout to narrate this accessible story of forgiveness. VERDICT The nuanced depiction of disability, intergenerational conflict, and family trauma make this a must-have for all middle grade shelves.—Shelley M. Diaz?



#2332436 Dreamatics (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Michelle Cuevas

The Lunarian is a magical theatre with a mind of its own, often redecorating on a whim or making it snow from the rafters. The theatre's troupe call themselves the Dreamatics, and together they grow sets from seeds, sew costumes that can change an actor's shape, and each night when a girl named Luna goes to sleep, they produce her spectacular dreams: dreams of memories, family, and her beloved dog, Murph.

978-0-593-53222-5 Rocky Pond Books ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 820

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* Where do weird and wonderful dreams come from while we sleep? In the case of 10-year-old Luna Grande, an entire internal theater acts as a staging ground for her dreams every evening, and it takes an extraordinary crew to get it right night after night as she slumbers. The nocturnal theater troupe, known as the Dreamatics, has all of the necessary players in place: versatile actors, a put-upon director, spectacular set designers, and creative costumers. The entire company watches Luna's waking hours spent with her doting dads and beloved dog via the daily newsreels that play in a special screening room, and a lowly stage assistant, Dormir, is particularly enraptured by Luna's life. When tragedy befalls the human household, the magical theater is taken over by a terrible troupe who only produce nightmares, and an already struggling Luna falls into deep depression. Dormir is determined to fight the intruders, reunite the Dreamatics, and give Luna the comforting dreams that she desperately needs to heal. The sensational story is endlessly inventive and incredibly compassionate, and the exquisite descriptions make ephemeral emotions and experiences feel tangible. Every chapter brings a new delightful discovery, and whimsy, puns, trauma, and loss live comfortably side by side within the pages. Tough topics are tackled with gentleness and humor, and readers will be loathe to leave the cozy confines of the otherworldly theater. A dream to read, in every sense. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ork, dedication, and how dreams come to be. Ten-year-old Luna Grande lives with her fathers, Dad and Papa, and urph, the dog she adores. Each night she has vivid dreams that are brought to life by the Dreamatics, a theater troupe at the Lunarian Grand. T ere are incredible actors, the Unseen Playwright, the Forty Winks Orchestra, costume designer Tuck, and more--all working together to perform Lun 's dreams. They are a happy ensemble who delight in what they do and who love Luna and her family. But one day, when tragedy strikes in Lu a's waking world, her dreams are replaced by nightmares, and the Dreamatics are supplanted by Coco and the Bad Dreams. However, humble stagehe d Dormir is determined to save the theater and give Luna her dreams back. This witty, magical, and touching tale will inspire giggles of de

ight, appreciation of the inner workings of a theater troupe, and wonder at the behind-the-scenes process of dream-making. At its core, this is a story of dedication, loyalty, love, and friendship that takes readers on a roller coaster of emotions and leaves them feeling warm and fuzzy: "Life is not a dress rehearsal....The curtains are up and you are on, so get out there and give it your best shot." Papa is cued Latine; Dad and Luna are racially ambiguous. A dreamy, imaginative, and vibrant story full of heart and wordplay. (cast list) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A mythical theater troupe known as the Dreamatics performs dreams for a sleeping child each night until tragedy strikes in the real world, in this evocative and inventive fantasy by Cuevas (The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole). Dormir is a stagehand at the majestic Lunarian Grand Theatre, home to the Dreamatics. Dormir adores the job, which sometimes involves making sure the weather closet stays closed so that winter doesn't creep onto the stage unbidden. He especially loves helping the group perform the dreams of nearly 11-year-old Luna. But when Luna experiences sudden hardship in the waking world, her dreamscape; and the troupe's performance; undergoes a drastic change from fanciful visions to frightening nightmares. If Dormir hopes to set the theater back to rights and help Luna dream in peace once again, he must figure out how to reverse things. Irresistibly rendered worldbuilding and delightfully limned, seldom-described characters buoy serious interrogations on trauma, its effects on mental health, and the process of healing. By utilizing lush yet conversational prose, Cuevas addresses each difficult topic and lesson with sincerity and care, allowing ample space for introspective rumination alongside joy-filled antics. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Inside Out meets the chaos and challenges of stage theater in this highly imaginative world where dreams are productions. Behind the scenes stands the team to make it happen--the director, light crew, sound crew, and many more who make the "dreams" come to life. Luna's dreams are produced by the Dreamatic cast and crew in The Lunarian Grand, a magical theater with a twist of its own. Like anything in life or theater, something can easily throw the whole production out of balance. When Luna and her family suffer a devastating turn of events in the waking world, a new director comes in the form of "Bad Dreams." To keep things in order and make them right it's up to Dormir, the loyal stagehand, and the Dreamatics team to help Luna and keep The Lunarian alive. This whimsical and magical theater story is one where love, determination, and loyalty are woven throughout. Fans of happy tales and lively characters will fall in love with this inventive concept. VERDICT With a fresh take on the familiar concept of dreams, this theatrical book will be a showstopper for young readers.--BreAnn Weeks Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness The Dreamatics is a heartfelt, wonderfully imaginative middle-grade fantasy about the cast of the Lunarian Grand, an acting troupe that performs the nightly dreams of 10-year-old Luna Grande.



#2328990 West of the Sea (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stephanie Willing

When her mom disappears from their small Texas town, paleontology-loving Haven is determined to find her. Her mom can take the shape of a human and, in the right environment, also turn into an amphibious creature known as a kitskara. And so she, her older sister Margie, and her new friend Rye set off on a road trip across Texas's Gulf Coast to her late grandparents' abandoned home, where they're sure her mom has disappeared to.along with plenty of family secrets.

978-0-593-46557-8 Viking ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Haven lives on a farm, loves old sci-fi movies, and just found out she can turn into a salamander cryptid with gills and a tail. Seeing the ghosts of prehistoric megafauna might not be so bad if her mother were around, but Mom hasn't been herself lately--and she went missing last night. Haven, her sister, and new-kid-in-town Rye "borrow" a food truck to find her. As Haven endeavors to accept and control her new abilities, she must also learn to accept what she cannot control about her mother's depression. Part road trip adventure, part family reckoning, Willing's debut ambitiously approaches loss, mental illness, identity, neurodivergence, and adolescence and successfully explores those topics with compassion and depth. Though Haven's supernatural abilities occasionally feel disconnected from deeper themes, the overall impact of her journey of discovery and forgiveness is satisfying. Haven's prehistoric encounters will appeal to paleontology fans, while authentic dialogue and introspective narration will appeal widely. Sincere characters, vivid descriptions, and inventive fantasy elements make this Texan twist on the selkie myth a fun and rewarding read. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

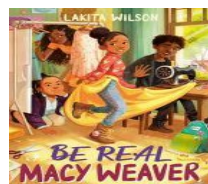
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Haven West doesn't understand why her mother is always disappearing -- either outside or into the bathroom -- or why she herself sees prehistoric creatures in the Texas desert that surrounds her home, but no one else can. She's also not sure why her older sister, Margie, is irritable all the time, although Margie's sensory processing disorder and the way she steps up to keep the household running might have something to do with it. Rye, whose family just moved in nearby, wants to be friends, and his support comes in handy as Haven starts to unravel the mysteries of her family, which bend toward the supernatural. When Mom goes missing for good, Haven, Margie, and Rye -- with the help of Margie's provisional driver's license and Rye's father's food truck -- set off on a trans-Texas road trip that leads to plenty of answers, both about Haven's family and about her own identity and powers. The tone is slightly whimsical, even as the book delves into serious topics, an

effective blend that keeps the plot moving and doesn't let the drama become overwhelming. The characters are likable and authentic, and the resolution is satisfying. Sarah Rettger(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Amid literal and emotional droughts, two sisters must find their mother and themselves during a road trip. Eleven-year-old Texan Haven and her older sister, Margie, are connected in odd ways to magic by their Scottish heritage. Their maternal grandparents came from Orkney, and Margie and Mama share red hair and eyes that change color with their moods. Meanwhile, Haven has started seeing the ghosts of prehistoric animals whenever she touches fossils, which her mom has an uncanny knack for finding. Her mom has been depressed and distant since her parents died a year ago, and after Haven glimpses her looking frighteningly inhuman, Mama leaves in the middle of the night. Meanwhile, Haven discovers that whenever she comes into contact with salt water, she transforms into a kitskara, or scaly cryptid that can breathe underwater. To get answers and find Mama, Haven and Margie (who has her learner's permit) join new neighbor Rye, who volunteers his dad's coffee truck for the search. Black and Mexican Rye, who's upset that his parents moved them from Austin to the middle of nowhere, is up for an adventure. On their journey to the Gulf of Mexico, Haven's developing powers dovetail well with themes of preserving past love while making room for change. Though Haven's closeness with Rye feels rushed, the sometimes-contentious but overwhelmingly supportive sibling dynamic grounds this story about healing and growth. Intriguing mythology with a prehistoric twist and an endearing family focus. (Fiction. 9-13)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Willing's sparkling debut incorporates profound family dynamics, ghostly dinosaurs, a shape-shifting cryptid, and Celtic mythology, culminating in a suspenseful, innovative read. Eleven-year-old Haven West's mother has been "a mood ring stuck on the blues" since Haven's grandparents died suddenly a year ago. Mama has been acting strangely as well; she spends long hours in the bathtub, and Haven often catches her muttering things like "my shape is trapped in the rock, what we need is in the air, but my power is in the water." Even more oddly, when Haven saw her last, Mama looked like a humanoid lizard. Then Mama vanishes. Accompanied by her environmentally conscious teenage sister Margie and kind, puzzle-solving tween neighbor Rye Wilson-Ruiz, the trio steal a food truck and set off across Texas to search for Mama. Their quest turns dire, though, after Haven briefly transforms into a lizard herself, prompting questions about the siblings' heritage. Willing skillfully balances the narrative's inherently fantastical underpinnings with a nuanced cast whose grounded challenges; including issues surrounding coming out and mental health; add ample heart to this road-trip adventure. The West family is white; Rye is Black and Latinx. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alexandra Levick, Writers House. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Paleontology-loving Haven, 12, is fascinated with fossils and bones, so much so that one dry summer she knows she saw something that was not part of nature—at least, not of current nature. Living in a small town in Texas with her family, she has a carefree life as a typical girl. One day when her mom does not come home, she knows something is not right and is determined to find her. As her journey starts, she uncovers secrets that she and her mom share the ability to turn into amphibious creature called the kitskara. With this discovery, Haven, joined by sister Margie and friend Rye, sets off to find her mother and seek answers to understand herself, as she really is. This is a coming-of-age story for tweens who love mythology and fossils, that shows how growing up is always going to be awkward—but no one is alone in that transition. Willing gives clues to Haven's quest not only to find her mom, but to discover how she fits in her family. The book is heavy with paleontology terms that would be suitable for older middle grade students. VERDICT This adventure novel with heart will have kids rushing to learn more about the ancient creatures featured throughout Haven's journey. Recommended.—BreAnn Weeks



#2282506 **Be Real, Macy Weaver (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Lakita Wilson

A humorous, heartfelt, and fashion-filled middle grade contemporary novel about Macy Weaver, a young girl struggling with how to be her true self and make a best friend-during a tumultuous year when her mom goes back to college.

978-0-593-46572-1 Viking ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-3/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Macy Weaver has a tough time keeping friends. She makes sure to learn everything about them, going so far as to pretend to like the things they like, even when she really doesn't. All of Macy's effort is wasted, however, because she always seems to lose her best friends. Things seem to look up for her when her family moves to Maryland, but she soon finds out that making friends isn't going to be easier just because she gets to start over with a fresh slate. Before long, Macy has to grapple with the consequences of lying and the dynamics of her changing family as she tries on yet another set of interests. Wilson's middle-grade novel is the perfect blend of humor, introspection, and authenticity. The major characters are both realistic and likable, and she creates a fully formed, three-dimensional world that integrates serious topics with knee-slapping humor and heartfelt growth. This is a must-read for children who are working through the process of developing their own identities. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A tween struggles to navigate friendship and family in a new community. For 11-year-old Macy Weaver, finding and keeping a best friend is a tough task. She thinks she has it all worked out with Josie, but their connection ends abruptly, and Macy is facing spending summer vacation alone. The news that her mom wants to move them from South Carolina to Maryland so she can attend college seems like a fresh start for Macy's friend despite the strain it places on her dad. Their family dynamic is further complicated by Macy's mom's


decision to live on campus during the week while Macy and her dad stay in a small apartment. Once school begins, Macy is on a friendship mission, but, convinced she is not enough as she is, she makes up stories that she thinks will make her more attractive. When that does not work, she plants a wedge between two friends that backfires. Macy is an entertaining character whose desperate need shows the importance of friendship as young people develop. The portrayal of Macy's immature mom will resonate with readers as they come to understand that not everyone has perfect parents. The appealing cast of characters, pop-culture references, and lively pacing make this an engaging read. Macy and most of the cast are Black; one of her friends is Chinese and Black, and one uses they/them pronouns. A nice blend of life's joys and challenges for today's middle-grade readers. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After getting caught in a lie, South Carolina fifth grader Macy Weaver has lost another friend and is anticipating a dreadful summer alone. But when her mother is accepted to the University of Maryland and they have to move, Macy is ecstatic for a new start, one in which no one knows her history of mistruths. "Making friends was kind of hard" for Macy, whose "creepy-crawlies," or anxieties (which recur around "struggling to figure out just the right words and just the right way to say things"), compel her to keep her truths close to the vest. Attempting to make friends, however, causes Macy's anxieties to take over, and she tells her new friends that her mother is not a psychology student, but a famous fashion photographer. As Macy's lies unravel, and it looks like her past friendship breakups are destined to repeat themselves, she must learn that being oneself is the only authentic way to cultivate real connections. Wilson (Who Is Colin Kaepernick?) sensitively navigates anxiety and the societal pressures associated with belonging and making friends in this lighthearted volume with a predominantly Black cast. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Melanie Figueroa, Root Literary. (July)

Reviews by: School Library Connection 11-year-old Macy tries so hard to win a best friend that she drives them all away. She copies their hairstyles, makes them gifts, and fabricates stories to impress. When her family moves from South Carolina to Maryland so her unabashedly self-centered mother can attend college, Macy hopes for a fresh start. Kind and welcoming Brynn, an aspiring fashion model, seems to be the friend to have—if only she didn't already have a best friend in lawyerly Grace. Undeterred, Macy claims she lives in a mansion and has a fashion photographer mom with a closet full of designer clothes. In fact, Macy and her postal worker father live in a small, run-down apartment while Mom lives on campus. Observant classmate Pax, who intends to become a fashion designer, offers to help Macy create a fashion line, which they do after school with the help of neighbor lady PJ. With her single-minded focus on Brynn, Macy nearly loses all of her naturally budding friendships until she turns to the school guidance counselor for advice. Macy is a sympathetic character whose missteps are painful to watch. The honest work she puts into regaining her friends' trust is believable and worthy of the upbeat ending. Not so believable is her insufferable mother. That said, her multiracial classmates are well-drawn characters with their own challenges, while PJ, Dad, and the guidance counselor are good-hearted adults who provide support when Macy needs them. Middle graders will find this a compelling and satisfying read, especially so if they are fans of fashion-oriented shows like Project Runway. Jan Aldrich Solow, Elementary School Librarian, Retired, Kingston, New York Recommended

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Sixth grader Macy Weaver will do anything to have a best friend. She'll tailor her personality to match anyone she thinks has best friend potential. After this strategy leaves her with a bout of loneliness, she jumps at the chance to move to Bowie, MD, for a fresh start when her mother makes a spur-of-the-moment decision to go back to college. When Macy finds she is more alone than ever in her new home, she decides to craft a new fashion-forward persona far from her reality. As she struggles to keep up with the lies, Macy continues to feel unwanted as her true self, even when genuine friendships form. Readers will enjoy Macy's authentic voice as she reflects on her feelings and the nuanced secondary characters, all of whom are Black. The story's pacing may be slow for some readers, though it allows for tension to build around Macy. The main character's mother's absence and irresponsible spending habits are highlighted in the book, but Wilson does resolve these by the end. VERDICT This is a solid realistic fiction choice for fans of Renée Watson, Jamie Sumner, or Janae Marks. Recommended for purchase for all collections.--Monisha Blair Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Lakita Wilson, author of several Who HQ Now series titles, gives middle-grade readers an earnest and lighthearted novel that offers an honest look at friendships.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2348964 Sparkle (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lakita Wilson</i> Sparkle Moore is destined to be a star. Her mother is determined to turn her and her younger sister, Nova, into social media influencers and budding superstars. And after her dad has lost work as a sitcom actor, Sparkle wants to do whatever she can to help her family financially, too. 978-0-593-46575-2 Viking ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770</p>	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Sixth-grader Sparkle has a shot at becoming a big star someday. Her father was once a well-known actor in Hollywood, and she attends an arts academy for drama, where some famous alumni have graduated. Plus, she has beautiful, thick, curly hair. Her parents struggle financially, and Sparkle has a lot of pressure to make it big. She is on the verge of becoming a social media phenomenon and a star in the school play, until she finds a bald spot and is diagnosed with alopecia. Losing her hair could hold her back from her dreams. Through

Wilson's characters, we see the range of challenges for a middle school girl dealing with devastating hair loss. There are the bullies, of course, but there are also girls who pressure one another to look a certain way. This adept exploration of the definition of beauty for the middle-grade set will appeal to fans of Naomi Milliner's *Super Jake and the King of Chaos* (2019) and Jessica Kim's *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* (2020).
 COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Black sixth grader's love of modeling and performing is challenged on and off the stage. Maryland tween Sparkle Moore is a budding social media influencer, and her hair—abundant “chestnut-colored locks”—is a big part of her persona. Her mother is a former model who has shifted her focus into making Sparkle and her sister social media successes. Sparkle and her best friends, Taryn and Rae, who are also Black, hope to make a good impression on Ms. June, the Arts Academy drama director. Sparkle wants to help her family out financially by landing a key role in the school's spring production and creating content that could attract the attention of Hollywood casting agents; Sparkle's dad was a famous TV star, but the residual checks they live on have been shrinking. Things take an unexpected turn when Taryn notices a small bald spot on Sparkle's scalp. Following a scary diagnosis of alopecia, Rae designs creative hair accessories to help Sparkle cover up her bare patches, but Sparkle's friendship with Taryn becomes strained as she deals with her shifting roles at school and home. This is an honest look at the impact of a medical diagnosis that affects appearance, particularly in the context of social media. Sparkle is an original character who is personally driven but also able to put her family first. The relationship dynamics among the friends will resonate with middle school readers. A timely and relatable story about self-perception and social pressures. (Fiction. 9-13)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly oore is diagnosed with alopecia, she must navigate anxiety and self-image issues in this intimately rendered read by Wilson (Be Real, Macy Weaver). Sparkle, a promising theatrical performer who has just started the sixth grade at Maryland Arts Academy is devastated to learn that the school's renowned theater director Ms. June will be retiring after one last production. Sparkle's manager mother, meanwhile, is delighted when Sparkle lands a shampoo ad, though the growing bald spots on Sparkle's head pose both an obstacle and a growing concern to the ad sponsors. To make matters worse, Sparkle's Emmy-nominated actor father is out of work, and she fears that the family needs her modeling to help support them financially. When she gets an opportunity to work with Ms. June, she's determined to make a good impression. But everything becomes much more complicated as she attempts to juggle her diagnosis with friendships and exciting opportunities. Using emotionally turbulent and candid prose, Wilson delivers a heartfelt narrative about personal growth in which Sparkle approaches each challenge with tenacity and drive. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--All her life, Sparkle has known she was destined to be a star. She has a mom who manages her social media, an actor dad, and a younger sister with her own star power. At her arts middle school, she is hoping for a big part in the annual musical; but it all seems lost when she begins to lose her hair. What follows is an exploration of self image, marketability in a social media influencer world, friendship, bullying, pursuit of passion, and family dynamics as they learn about her alopecia. Sparkle and her family are Black, and her school is portrayed as very diverse. The intense focus on social media and image can feel somewhat superficial but will also ring true for readers entering fraught middle school years during this era. The narrative is told through Sparkle's point of view, which is where the writing shines as an authentic experience for a sixth grader. If some of the other characters seem one-dimensional, that can also be attributed to the limited narrative style. While not a first purchase, this book will find an audience for its empathetic portrayal of a young person who is facing a fundamental shift in their self-identity. VERDICT A solid novel about alopecia through a social media influencer/aspiring actress lens for a tween audience.--Elizabeth Nicolai Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2327943 **Once in a Blue Moon (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Sharon G. Flake

James Henry hasn't been the same since that fateful night at the lighthouse when his momma went into the sea. Now months later, he is barely able to leave the house without having a panic attack, and talking to people, well, that's just too hard. Finding a way back into his own life will mean confronting the truth about what happened at the lighthouse--a step James Henry isn't sure he can take. Until a blue moon is forecast, and as Gran has said, everything is possible under a rare blue moon... (Novel in Verse)

978-0-593-48098-4 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile NP

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Eleven-year-old twins James Henry and Hattie Mae live with their grandmother in North Carolina while their father earns money in Detroit to pay Ma's medical bills. James Henry hasn't left home since a mysterious accident traumatized him and left his mother hospitalized with unspecified injuries. Hattie Mae supports her twin against local bullies and tries to encourage him to confront his mental paralysis during a blue moon. In their story that's told in verse and set during the Jim Crow era, these African American twins are well aware of the rigid rules society dictates for them and the severe penalties for disobedience. The protagonists are well developed (James Henry has a passion for astronomy, Hattie Mae for her pet birds), and the support they receive from family is heartwarming; secondary characters--including the dentist's daughter, Lottie Jean (who has her own missing-mother issues), and the Baker brothers (most of whom are bullies)--are also multidimensional. An

arduous journey to the beach where the accident occurred proves eventful and life changing, providing closure and a path forward.
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Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In sparkling free verse, Flake delivers a rich and compassionate story of family love centered on forgiveness. Eleven-year-old James Henry and his twin sister, Hattie Mae, live with their grandmother in North Carolina, in the Jim Crow South. After a traumatic incident involving their mother and a beloved stray dog, James Henry becomes reclusive, never leaving the house or communicating with anyone except Grand and his sister. Shouldering tremendous guilt, James Henry, an astronomy buff, copes by pretending to fly to outer space with his steadfast companion and constant protector, Hattie Mae. But when she makes a new friend, his troubles become more complicated as now he has to compete for his twin's attention. He knows the only solution to his problems is to confront his anxieties. His first steps out of the house turn into an adventurous odyssey under the luminous guidance of a mystical blue moon that Grand calls a "wishing moon." "What you want for, wish for / or need / on that day is yours / according to her." An evocative, immediate novel with compelling characters and a wonderfully well-paced plot. Pauletta Brown Bracy(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After Ma nearly drowns one fateful night, a North Carolina boy doesn't go outside. Everything 11-year-old James Henry needs to do, including taking imaginary trips into the night skies with twin sister Hattie, he can do at home. He endures the stares and gossip of folks as they pass his house. Nobody but he knows what happened that night, but as long as he has the safety of home, as long as nobody touches him, and as long as he can avoid his own guilt, he's fine. But Hattie is done with James Henry's being "just fine." A rare blue moon is coming, and she thinks that it's time for him to go out and meet it. Everyone knows that things can change and worlds can shift under the blue moon. Using short poems, the tale takes readers on a soul-twisting journey once James Henry, a Black boy living during Jim Crow, leaves home with his sister and her friend Lottie Jean. Together they face off against racists and bullies. Readers also get joyous representations of Black children thriving in the outdoors: swimming, eating well, and using knowledge passed down to them to move forward. This is when these characters start to take full form, but it's interrupted by the mystery of what really happened to James Henry's Ma, something that haunts the storyline in confusing and distracting ways. The theme of recovery after deep trauma shines brightly. (author's note) (Verse historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twins deal with the fallout of their mother's hospitalization in this emotionally raw verse novel by Flake (*The Skin I'm In*), set in Jim Crow: era North Carolina. After their mother nearly drowns, she's sent to a Detroit hospital, leaving 11-year-old Black twins James Henry and Hattie Mae in the care of Gran and Uncle. Only James Henry knows what really happened the night she almost died, but his anxiety, fear, and guilt result in him feeling unable to speak to anyone except Gran and Hattie Mae, prompting suspicion and blame from Uncle and other townspeople. James Henry even refuses to leave the house, creating a rift between the siblings. He finds refuge in astronomy, only going outside to survey the moon. When Hattie Mae learns that a rare blue moon; or a wishing moon, according to Gran; will soon be visible, she's sure that if they can get to the ocean, James Henry could wish away "his condition," as he calls it. But she must persuade him to leave the house first. Brief but impactful poems narrated by perceptive James Henry deliver a poignantly compelling intergenerational story that underlines themes of community and family, forgiveness, grief, and healing. An author's note concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jennifer Lyons, Jennifer Lyons Literary. (July)



#2366259 Dancing in the Storm (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Amie Darnell Specht

Kate's life in Baton Rouge, full of friends and family, gymnastics and Girl Scouts, is just plain great. But then, at the age of twelve, she suddenly develops a mysterious shoulder pain that won't go away... and that will change her life forever. It turns out that Kate has one of the rarest genetic disorders in the world, Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva. FOP causes bone to form in places in the body where it shouldn't, and there's no cure yet. Kate will need to learn how to live with this difficult new reality, helped by those close to her and by a new pen pal named Amie, who has been living with FOP for years.

978-0-593-61946-9 Rocky Pond Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews with a rare, progressive disease. Gymnast Kate Lovejoy should feel elated after winning a gold medal in a meet, but a persistent shoulder ache dims her happiness. Downplaying her pain, she blames her tears on her dog's recent death. But soon, the pain becomes too agonizing to ignore, and eventually, Kate is diagnosed with fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva, a genetic disorder in which muscles and connective tissue turn to bone. Because physical impacts can trigger flare-ups, doing gymnastics is no longer feasible. Her fellow gymnasts and Girl Scouts aren't sure how to act around her, and Kate's reluctance to disclose her diagnosis threatens her relationship with best friend Mandy. Kate has many fears: What if she'll require a wheelchair or need help with toileting? Fortunately, she's surrounded by supportive family and corresponds with a mentor, Amie--a self-insert of co-author Specht, who also has FOP. Kate and Amie's conversations simultaneously explore worries and challenges and offer reassurance and resources. As Kate gradually gains confidence, she discovers the perfect topic for her English

essay on changing the world. Authors' notes explain that Kate's story is drawn from Specht's life, and it shows. Though the dialogue is occasionally somewhat stilted and the pacing slightly uneven, Kate's fear, loss, and anger are vividly portrayed, and others' awkward or ableist reactions ring painfully true. Kate and her family read white; secondary characters are racially and socioeconomically diverse. Educational and encouraging. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Seventh grader Kate, who lives in Baton Rouge, has her hands full competing in gymnastics, navigating friend politics, and nursing a crush on her older brother's best friend. Things get complicated further when shoulder pain after a gymnastics meet leads to a diagnosis of fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva, a rare genetic disorder that causes muscle and ligaments to become bone. Learning that stress, illness, or falls can cause flare-ups prompts Kate's parents to pull her from gymnastics. As she struggles adapting to new life restrictions and the loss of her passion, Kate fears she will be perceived as different and worries about a future with decreasing mobility. While Kate's family is supportive; they replace their trampoline with an FOP-safe pool and consistently validate her frustrations; it's Amie, Kate's 35-year-old mentor with FOP, who helps her process her feelings. In this empathetic novel of loss, resilience, and joy, Hitchcock (*One True Way*) and debut author Specht deftly balance Kate's diagnosis with middle school drama, creating a deeply relatable telling in which community support and an openness to change lead to Kate's hopeful visions of a brighter future. Kate's dealings with FOP are candidly informed by Specht, who has FOP, according to an author's note. Kate and Amie present as white. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)



#2324079 Back to the Bright Before (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katherin Nolte

When eleven-year-old Pet Martin's dad falls from a ladder on their family farm, it isn't just his body that crashes to the ground. So does every hope her family had for the future. She's determined to fix things--but how? Good old-fashioned grit...and maybe a little bit of magic. When a neighbor recites a poem about an ancient coin hidden somewhere on the grounds of the local abbey, Pet forms a plan. But Pet isn't the only one who wants the coin...which means searching for it is more dangerous than she ever imagined.

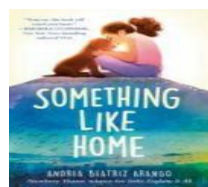
978-0-593-56510-0 Random House Children's Books ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 208 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Pet, short for Perpetua, along with her younger brother, is on a quest to find a valuable coin rumored to be lost at a convent in Iowa, home to her novice-nun friend Melanie, who teaches her Latin. Pet hopes that if she can sell the coin, she can help her family: a depressed, injured father in need of surgery; a mom, tired from constant work; and the aforementioned brother, who stopped talking, except for the word cheese, the day their dad hurt himself. Of course, there's a bad guy--her neighbor's mean son, who wants the coin for himself--and faithful companions, including a white miniature horse and her brother's favorite hen from the nun's flock. They also are armed with a metal detector and a saltshaker, which Melanie says should be opened and sprinkled only in an emergency. Soon the landscape morphs into something magical, peopled with both frightening and helpful characters, such as a floating shepherdess, a giant, and a man in a monster mask. Like Oz or Narnia, the landscape will enchant readers looking for an eventful adventure. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A resourceful girl confronts a greedy foe with courage and an open heart. A debilitating injury prevents 11-year-old Perpetua's father from working, forcing her waitress mother to take double shifts. The cost of yet another surgery is prohibitive, so Pet and her younger brother, Simon (who since their father's accident says only one word: cheese), set off in search of a priceless coin said to have been held by Christ. The coin is rumored to be located somewhere on the 200 acres belonging to a nearby community of nuns, and the only clue to its whereabouts is a rhyme remembered by a neighbor, a woman with an irredeemably wicked and menacing adult son. Pet's undertaking involves "borrowing" another neighbor's pony and setting out onto the prairie. Everything becomes more challenging than Pet anticipates. But three individuals, perhaps divine beings, provide her and Simon with food, shelter, healing, and stories. The success of their quest, not expressly religious but with a sense of the divine, turns out to be practical as much as redemptive, and the satisfactory, if not entirely convincing, outcome is welcome. The dark cloud hanging over Pet's house is offset by her clear-voiced ebullience; she is a funny, determined, and charming narrator. Most characters read White. Final art not seen. A diverting, warmhearted, unusual fantasy. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After 11-year-old Perpetua "Pet" Martin's woodcarver father falls from a ladder and is unable to work, her mother takes on long shifts waitressing to make ends meet, and her nearly five-year-old brother Simon stops saying any word but cheese. Pet, meanwhile, carries significant guilt about her own involvement in the incident. When Pet hears a poem about a rare, valuable coin whose sale would pay for their now-depressed father's needed third surgery, she comes up with a brilliant plan to find it on the nearby sprawling grounds of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Abbey. But a neighbor's menacing adult son wants the treasure, too, and the siblings' adventure involves both borrowing a pony and keeping adults none the wiser, even as three enigmatic figures assist them. Debut author Nolte incorporates religious imagery and Latin vocabulary into a fantastical quest about a winningly indomitable protagonist who remains devoted to her family and mission. If some questions remain unanswered, a sweetly mystical vibe comes through as the story touches on themes of community care, familial alienation, and parentification.



#2333147 Something Like Home (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andrea Beatriz Arango

Laura Rodriguez Colon has a plan: no matter what the grown-ups say, she will live with her parents again. Can you blame her? It's tough to make friends as the new kid at school. And while staying at her aunt's house is okay, it just isn't the same as being in her own space. So when Laura finds a puppy, it seems like fate. If she can train the puppy to become a therapy dog, then maybe she'll be allowed to visit her parents. Maybe the dog will help them get better and things will finally go back to the way they should be. (Novel in verse)

978-0-593-56618-3 Random House Children's Books ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8. Laura Rodríguez Colón just wants to go home, but she made the decision to call 911, and now she's living with an aunt she didn't even know she had and learning the ins and outs of kinship foster care. Disgruntled by the situation, mad at herself, and longing for home, Laura stumbles upon someone who needs her just as much as she needs someone: a lost dog that, somehow, her aunt agrees to let her keep. Laura is certain that the dog, Sparrow, is going to be her ticket back to her parents as she trains him to be a therapy dog. At her new school, luckily, Laura is befriended by Benson, a boy fighting sickle-cell disease who happens to be a good trainer, and a great friend who doesn't judge her for her parents' addiction. Full of the author's signature heart-tugging verse, a character you just want to hug, and threads of friendship, family, and belonging, Arango's follow-up to her Newbery Honor debut is a triumph for readers who need comforting encouragement without having to ask for it.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Sixth-grader Laura Rodríguez Colón will not unpack her bags. A nosy social worker's interference has led to Laura's relocation to the wealthy side of town with her Titi Silvia, but Laura has no plan to stay or to make friends with any of the rich snobs here. Instead, she's hatching a plan to get back to her old life, helping out on her parent's food truck and being with her three best friends. Titi Silvia and the social worker insist she'll just be a distraction to her mom and dad while they are in recovery at rehab, but when Laura finds an abandoned pit-bull puppy on the street, she's sure that training the pup to be a therapy dog for her parents will be her ticket to getting things back to normal. Arango's writing is succinctly genuine, and the verse composition makes each page feel like an intimate journal entry, revealing the complexity of Laura's feelings. Laura is a typical middle-school girl, and her moods vary day to day, which can reveal itself in humor, in reflectiveness, or in confusion, all of which Arango conveys with generosity and compassion; Laura's guilt over calling 911 after finding her parents passed out is delicately handled, focusing more on her feelings than their failures. This story provides honest insight into the difficult subject matter of foster care, addiction, and finding identity. KJH COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine If only life were as straightforward as the Rubik's Cube that Laura loves to solve. When this Virginia-set verse novel begins, the Puerto Rican sixth grader is on her way to a kinship foster-care placement "on the other side of town" with her titi Silvia, whom Laura has never met. Pulled from her admittedly chaotic life with her parents, who are struggling with addiction, Laura copes with the overwhelming changes that a new caregiver, new rules, a new school, and new peers bring, while suffering with extreme feelings of guilt over making the 911 call that resulted in her parents' being placed in rehab. Laura finds purpose in training a dog she rescues near Titi's house to be a therapy animal; her plan is to bring the dog to the rehab facility so she can finally see her parents. Arango's writing is intimate and heartbreaking, tackling such hefty issues as cultural identity, addiction, the pain of displacement and the anxiety it causes, and the adulation and rationalization that a child in pain can offer to adults they love. Arango (Newbery honoree for *Iveliz Explains It All*, rev. 9/22) accomplishes this with the believable voice of a girl in crisis and by tapping into compassion for all the characters amidst moving scenes of joy and connection. Amanda R. Toledo September/October 2023 p.68

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A powerful novel in verse about a girl coping after being ripped from her home. When 11-year-old Laura Rodríguez Colón calls 911 to save her parents from a possible overdose, authorities remove her from her home and place her into the care of Titi Silvia, her estranged aunt. Laura, who is Puerto Rican, resists "this borrowed life," anxiously awaiting the day her parents will be released from rehab. One day, she rescues a sick, abandoned puppy she names Sparrow, and he helps her feel better about everything. When the social worker informs her that children aren't allowed to visit the rehab center, Laura hatches a plan to train Sparrow to be a therapy dog and get inside that way. But when her parents leave without completing the program, Laura learns her stay with Titi may become permanent. Laura's distress increases when her mother shows up at school only to be sent away, leaving Laura torn between life with her aunt and love for her flawed parents. With the help of caring friends and adults, Laura learns that creating a new home doesn't have to mean discarding the old. The short sections written in accessible free verse create a segmented structure that mirrors Laura's experiences and drives the storyline. The clear narrative arc and strong symbolic system make the novel cohere, and Laura's emotional landscape is realistically contradictory. Arango's writing is a joy to read, combining strong storytelling, compelling characters, and rich language. Beautifully executed. (author's note) (Verse fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Latinx 11-year-old Laura Rodriguez Colon believes that it's her fault she was separated from her parents and sent to live with her aunt, Titi Sylvia, a "rich perfect stranger" who resides on the other side of Laura's Virginia county. If she hadn't called 911, she thinks, her parents wouldn't have been sent to rehab for substance reliance, and she wouldn't be staring down the barrel of an uncertain future with Titi Sylvia, whose emotionally closed-off nature makes Laura feel isolated. Though she'd rather be with her parents, she's elated when Titi Sylvia lets her keep the abandoned pup that Laura finds in town, which she names Sparrow. When Laura is told that she can't visit her parents in rehab, she resolves to train Sparrow as a therapy dog, because "Children may not be allowed in Harmonic Way... but apparently therapy dogs and their owners/ are." Laura's improvised training seems to go well, until a disastrous event imperils her hard work. In moving, approachable verse, Arango (Iveliz Explains It All) thoughtfully portrays Laura's guilt and the constant push-and-pull of her desire to be with her parents and her growing connection with Titi Sylvia. Abundant bird facts; which Laura learned on daily walks with her father; add sensitive insight into Laura's interpretation of family and loyalty. Ages 10: 14. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—Everything in Laura's life is wrong, and it is all her fault. If she hadn't called 911, then the police wouldn't have found her parents on pills, and she wouldn't have been sent to live with an aunt she doesn't know while her parents are in rehab. Haunted by her guilt and lack of autonomy, Laura is struggling to find a place in a new school and in a house with rules she doesn't understand when she discovers an abandoned puppy and sets out to train him as a therapy dog. Maybe he will be the key to visiting her parents so she can apologize and they can all go home together. Extraordinarily honest and sensitive, this novel in verse tactfully and gracefully deals with foster and kinship care and some of the many emotions involved. Laura and her aunt are both Puerto Rican, although Laura doesn't speak fluent Spanish, and some simple Spanish phrases are included through their dialogue. The verse format and word choice make this a more accessible option than some other books on similar topics. Throughout the story, Laura learns to accept that her love for her parents does not make her responsible for their actions, and to allow herself to have space in her heart for all those who love and care for her. An author's note supplies more information for readers who are not familiar with foster/kinship care, as well as encouragement to those who have experienced it firsthand. VERDICT So much affirmation, exploration, and positivity for those in similar situations are packed beautifully into these verses, making it a solid addition to collections.—Emily Beasley



#2329831 Field of Screams (Library Binding (Trade))

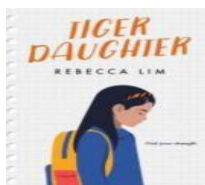
written by Wendy Parris

Paranormal enthusiast Rebecca Graff isn't happy about being dragged to Iowa to spend the summer with family she barely knows. But when she tracks a ghostly presence to an abandoned farmhouse, she starts to think the summer won't be a total lost cause! But the more Rebecca discovers, the scarier the ghost becomes. Soon she is in a race to piece together the puzzle and recover a family legacy before it is lost forever and a horrible tragedy repeats itself.

978-0-593-56998-6 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 640

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$12.99



#2329676 Tiger Daughter (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rebecca Lim

Wen Zhou is a first-generation daughter of Chinese migrant parents. She has high expectations from her parents to succeed in school, especially her father whose strict rules leave her feeling trapped. She dreams of creating a future for herself more satisfying than the one her parents expect her to lead. Then she befriends a boy named Henry who is also a first generation immigrant. He is the smartest boy at school despite struggling with his English and understands her in a way nobody has lately. Both of them dream of escaping and together they come up with a plan to take an entrance exam for a selective school far from home.

978-0-593-64897-1 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 980

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Wen Zhou and Henry Xiao are fast friends. Their families migrated to Australia from different parts of China, bringing with them all manner of hierarchical mores that, combined with the difficulties of trying to survive in a racist environment, stack the odds against them for a good future. At the suggestion of their teacher, they decide to prepare for an entrance exam to a school that could help them realize their

ambitious dreams. They study hard, helping each other, while their parents struggle with immigrant disillusionment, coping in ways that hurt the ones around them. When tragedy strikes, it falls to Wen to keep Henry on track for the exam, which means standing up to her abusive father for the sake of her friend. Wen is a smart, lively narrator whose voice crackles on the page, even when it wavers with vulnerability. Wen and Henry's story is one of community, friendship, courage, and solidarity in unexpected places. Tiger Daughter calls out the ways toxic masculinity intersects with class and race and ultimately hurts everyone, especially those bound up in it. Wen and Henry are part of a generation whose members can lead one another toward a new future, not by running away but by toppling ugly power with defiance, respect, and love. A middle-school must-read.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine ration immigrants to Australia from China -- aspire to escape their dysfunctional lives and constricted futures by being accepted to a prestigious, government-funded high school. Wen Li Zhou, thirteen, and her best friend, Henry Xiao, face different challenges. Wen's controlling, verbally abusive father strictly monitors and restricts his wife's and daughter's every move. Henry is brilliant at math and science but fears his English isn't good enough to pass the high-school entrance exam. When tragedy strikes the Xiao family, Wen becomes defiant and takes big risks to help Henry survive academically and emotionally; her mother, Teresa, joins the effort, at even greater risk to herself. Lim's prose realistically conveys the anguish and fear felt by Wen and Teresa as they hide their charitable deeds and growing involvement in the neighborhood from the tyrannical Mr. Zhou. Ultimately, empathy and kindness prevail in this novel as mother and daughter both learn it is better to risk everything to do what is important rather than take no action, turning a bleak story into one about resilience and change. Michelle Lee (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this award-winning Australian import, a young Chinese immigrant fights to forge her own path, inspiring change in her loved ones in the process. Thirteen-year-old Wen Zhou feels stuck in an insular world, kept in motion by equal parts rage and fear. Having been a medical doctor in China, her father bitterly resents managing a restaurant. Ruling with an iron fist, he places unreasonably high expectations on Wen and her mother. A recent Chinese immigrant to Australia, Wen's best friend, Henry Xiao, has his own share of struggles. With fierce determination, he convinces her that they can escape their circumstances by entering a prestigious school on the other side of town. Just two weeks before the entrance exams, however, tragedy befalls Henry's family. To support her friend and keep their dream alive, Wen must have the courage to take risks and be resilient enough for the two of them. Lim weaves a powerful and empathetic account of the complex struggles of the immigrant experience from a child's perspective. Tough topics like poverty, grief, and domestic abuse are explored with poignant honesty and sensitivity. Despite the harsh realities faced by the characters, the book hums with an infectious sense of hope that is bound to empower readers who see themselves in Wen. Tough but uplifting and, above all, heartfelt. (author's note, note to teachers and librarians) (Fiction. 11-15) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Because of 13-year-old Wen Li Zhou's struggles with math, her father often deems her a "useless, insolent child." His verbal abuse also extends to her mother; once a vivacious woman, she now acts reserved to avoid Wen's father's outbursts. Wen finds peace with her best friend Henry Xiao. Both teens live in Australia with their Chinese immigrant families, and both plan to take the upcoming entrance exam to an "amazing, government-funded selective school," believing that attending it will change their lives for the better. When Henry's mother dies by suicide, however, everything comes to a standstill. Henry won't leave his house, and Wen's parents want her to stay away from him, but she refuses to let him suffer alone. To help Henry, Wen must tap into her own strength and learn to stand up for herself. Lim (the Mercy series) draws on her own experiences as a migrant child growing up in Australia, as outlined in an author's note, to deliver an eye-opening novel that covers weighty issues of abuse, grief, mental health stigma, racism, and sexism alongside the harsh realities faced by Wen and Henry's families. A tidy, uplifting ending, paired with Wen's vulnerable first-person voice, round out this heartstring-tugging read. Ages 10: up. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--For Wen Zhou, a first-generation Chinese immigrant living in Australia, life is challenging. Her father, Jin, who chooses to work in a restaurant after failing to complete a top-level surgical exam, is angry and disappointed. He tries to shelter Wen and her mother, Mei Ling, by forbidding their contact with other members of the community, and both are afraid to defy him. At her local school, Wen finds little solace other than her friendship with Henry Xiao. Both are studying for entrance to a better school more suited to their educational needs. Henry is confident; Wen, not so much. Sadly, Henry's mom dies by suicide, and in grief and humiliation, both he and his father retreat into their home. But Wen is determined to see that Henry keeps studying for the exam and, with the eventual help of her mother, they bring food and homework to his house daily. But can they keep it a secret from Jin? This book offers a fresh perspective on immigration in a setting outside of the United States. The author, an Asian Australian herself, creates the story and dialogue from a wealth of firsthand experience including rich detail on traditional Chinese cuisine and other customs. Young readers will enjoy the story's satisfying conclusion and its reminder to work hard and never forget your dreams. VERDICT A first purchase for libraries serving immigrant populations and highly recommended for those looking to diversify their collections.--Anne Jung-Mathews Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Tiger Daughter by Australian author Rebecca Lim (Mercy series) arrives Stateside already highly celebrated. Lim's novel might initially suggest another familiar immigration story, but her deeply empathic observations ensure an immersive coming-of-age exploration that should resonate with readers regardless of their backgrounds.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2366569 Averil Offline (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$17.99
<i>written by Amy Noelle Parks</i>		
Twelve-year-old coder Averil can't do anything without her parents knowing. That's		



because her mom uses the Ruby Slippers surveillance app to check where she is, who she texts, and even what she eats for lunch. Averil wonders how she's ever going to grow up if she's not allowed to learn from mistakes. When she learns that Ruby Slippers is about to become even more invasive, she teams up with Max, a new kid at school dealing with overbearing parents of his own.

978-0-593-61864-6 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Averil is old enough to walk herself to school, sure, but she and her friends are never alone; their parents are always watching via a monitoring app called Ruby Slippers installed on their phones. In the name of safety, Averil's well-intentioned mother regularly invades her daughter's privacy, constantly monitoring Averil's location and communications and even demanding pictures of her meals. Averil's prowess at coding and puzzle-solving catches the attention of her classmate Max, who enlists her help on a bold plan: ditch their phones and sneak away from a coding camp to confront the app's reclusive, eccentric developer about its problematic use. While the puzzle-solving elements à la Mr. Lemoncello's Library make an easy draw for mystery-loving kids, Parks' portrayal of helicopter parenting and smartphone-enabled surveillance will ring true for many tweens. The book is strongest when Averil is slowly unpacking the ways this surveillance has stunted her emotions, unable at first to express anger or anything else for fear of how adults will react, and so desperate for independence she's willing to abandon her phone completely if it means finding freedom. Rather than fully reckoning with this reality, however, the narrative has to brush its complexities aside, flattening the characters to serve the highly contrived plot with an ideal, boundary-setting resolution between Averil and her parents. Nonetheless, Averil is a compelling character grappling with being underestimated as a girl interested in STEM and a child looking to find herself, and this book may provide an outlet for kids processing their need for independence. AMM COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two kids rebel against intrusive surveillance. Averil's a computer whiz who excels in the Tech class that she and her friends Priya and Max are taking, but even she feels suffocated by Ruby Slippers, the app that her parents use to keep tabs on her. Max learns that the app will soon allow parents to turn on the camera and microphone on their kids' smartphones, and he wants to meet its creator, Rider Woollyback, who has a lab at the local university, and convince him to stop the increased surveillance. Max needs Averil's tech smarts to enter Woollyback's inner sanctum--to get in, visitors must win games and provide "interesting" answers to questions posed by his assistant. Max and his multimillionaire father have already failed to gain admittance, and he thinks that successfully getting in will raise his dad's opinion of him. He proposes that he and Averil ditch their upcoming coding camp and instead attempt to meet Woollyback while Priya covers for Averil. While the plot is a bit far-fetched, Averil and Max's burgeoning friendship is well developed and will pull in readers. Parks also deftly grapples with relevant issues, such as the sexism that women and girls in STEM often face, the overwhelming presence of technology in our lives, and young people's need for autonomy. Most characters are coded white; Priya is of Indian descent. An absorbing tale of determination, friendship, and tech gone wrong. (Fiction. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Middle school tech whiz Averil attends public school in her upscale neighborhood with her best friend Priya. Despite her brilliance, the tech class is an uncomfortable place for Averil and the few girls there; the teacher, Mr. Ballinger, has created a hostile environment for them, and Averil responds by trying to go unnoticed. However, her skills catch the eye of new kid Max McClaren. Max is no tech genius but his father is, and he recognizes and admires Averil's capabilities. Max needs Averil's help to pull off a "cyber caper" to meet with famous young tech wizard, Rider Woollyback. Woollyback's Ruby Slippers app has created a mildly dystopian world of stifling parental oversight that has fractured the relationship between parents and children, eroding any trust. Max hopes that he and Averil can plead their case and put a stop to it. But it's a puzzling and suspenseful path to get to Woollyback, and when Averil sees the consequences of capitulating to the Mr. Ballingers of the world, she has a tough choice to make. This is a good fit for those who appreciate stories where kids have plenty to teach, and it's the adults who should sit down and listen. Averil's struggle to find her voice is a connection point, even for readers whose lives don't look like hers. VERDICT Parks expertly paints a picture of how gender discrimination affects students, while also illustrating the power of advocacy and autonomy wrapped up in a thrilling tech adventure.--Jill Shepard Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness There's a fine line between safety and invasion of privacy in *Averil Offline*, a thought-provoking middle-grade mystery by Amy Noelle Parks (*Summer of Brave*).

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2348840 Night Fox (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Ashley Wilda</i> When seventeen-year-old Eli arrives at Raeth, a remote mountain retreat for teens with mental health issues, her mind is made up-she is not interested in participating, and	1	\$19.99



she doesn't need to "heal." Still reeling from a breakup that left both her heart and faith shattered, she is determined to fake being "fine" so that the program's warden will clear her to return home.

978-0-593-61892-9 Rocky Pond Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 640

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 8-10 In an emotional and whimsical debut, Wilda weaves the present and past together to paint a story of pain and healing. A breakup driven by religious differences plunges Eli into an inescapable depression, leading her mother to take her to a mountainous retreat, Raeth. There Eli encounters others struggling with big life changes as well as Raeth's keeper, Gale. With the opportunity to learn about herself and discover pathways toward feeling well, Eli must take conscious steps forward to heal--but is she ready? In an afterword, Wilda describes the importance of themes of mental illness in the story and how the fiction loosely reflects her past. Readers who enjoy stories of angst and introspection in liminal environments, such as in Meg Wolitzer's *Belzhar* (2014) and Jenny Hubbard's *And We Stay* (2014), will appreciate Eli's narrative. Teens familiar with Tumblr culture--particularly its emo aesthetic--will also find plenty to recognize in the alternating prose and verse. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Mired in the torpidity of depression, recent high school graduate Liz is dropped off by her mother at Raeth, a nature retreat in the middle of the mountains for teens in crisis, where Gale, warden and fellow teen, explains rules that include picking a new name and going outside once a day. Determined to get home fast, Liz picks the name Eli and heads out into the mist surrounding the house, only to find herself—quite literally. Past the fog each day the landscape of Raeth magically changes: once a calm creek, once a grit-warm desert, once a cave starred by glowworms. In each outing Eli comes face to face with a version of her past and potential future selves, all with exhortations to move on from her heartbreak. Vining throughout the novel are poems from Eli's diary recounting love and breakup with a boy from school, written with the believably fevered angst of a lovelorn teenager. It quickly becomes apparent that Eli's desolation springs from the fact that the boy does not share her belief in God, and she therefore cannot see them being together in this life if they cannot have eternity together. All the components of the story work, from the fantastical setting to the poignant scenes of Eli grappling with distressing feelings. Readers will find complexity in Eli's navigating expanding beliefs and new experiences while staying true to a world view she feels certain of, especially in how she approaches the beliefs—or non-beliefs—of romantic partners. Sparingly few curse words, no violence, and chaste romance will make this a great fit for younger and older teens looking for a comforting read with high emotional stakes and a gratifying bit of magic. ART

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An evocative, imaginative story about our emotional landscapes and the quest for mental health and independence. In lyrical, sometimes overwrought language, Wilda's debut tells the story of a girl named Eli, a high school graduate who's mourning her first love and questioning her previously strong faith. The first-person point of view brings readers into the otherworldly wilderness of Raeth, a remote center for struggling teens. There are outings in a morphing natural world, encounters with other participants in supernatural circumstances, and talks and mugs of tea with the warden, Gale. Raeth reveals alternate versions of Eli, including an older self who tells her: "Life's gone dark, sure, but you didn't do anything wrong. You took the hard path. Not the wrong one. That just means you're brave." Between each chapter, readers encounter Eli's poetry, gleaned details about the relationship that led to her broken heart. With a growing sense of questing through her emotional life, Eli ventures on nighttime adventures, guided by a fox and culminating in the realization that she can both hold on to her first love and move forward into a purposeful life. The language and strong imagery will appeal to teens who enjoy literary fiction and poetry, while the concluding author's note with mental health resources will compel readers on their own journeys. Most characters read white. Prose and poetry weave the story of an inner journey of intense emotion, fantastical adventure, and, ultimately, healing. (Fiction. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2330219 **All You Have to Do (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Autumn Allen

In April 1968, in the wake of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, Kevin joins a protest that shuts down his Ivy League campus... In September 1995, amidst controversy over the Million Man March, Gibran challenges the "See No Color" hypocrisy of his prestigious New England prep school... As the two students, whose lives overlap in powerful ways, risk losing the opportunities their parents worked hard to provide, they move closer to discovering who they want to be instead of accepting as fact who society and family tell them they are.

978-0-593-61904-9 Kokila ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 640

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist This intense debut novel connects two young Black men struggling for acceptance and equality. In 1995, Gibran is a senior at Lakeside Academy, a mostly white suburban prep school outside Boston. When his request to attend the Million Man March is refused, he organizes a group to post a letter around campus sharing the realities of attending Lakeside as a Black student. In alternate chapters set in 1968, Gibran's uncle, Kevin, tries to find his place in the resistance as a Columbia University undergraduate. Tutoring young Harlem students and fighting for local tenants' rights is not enough, so after Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated, Kevin joins the campus protests. Dawn is the woman who connects these men to their family expectations: As Gibran's mother, she urges him to keep his head down and graduate. As Kevin's sister, their estrangement haunts his thoughts while he joins the Hamilton Hall sit-in and waits for their demands to be met or, as happens, for the police to respond with shocking violence. Allen expertly integrates historical civil rights figures and events into a character-driven narrative that communicates how it feels to be transformed by a powerful speech, to face violence, and to stand tall every day in the face of injustice and racism. She ends with a moment of triumphant unity in a struggle that continues.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Alternating first-person accounts tell the intrinsically linked stories of Gibran in 1995 and his uncle Kevin in 1968. When Gibran, one of the few Black students in his Massachusetts prep school, and his friends ask to participate in a Day of Absence in support of the Million Man March, they are denied due to the event's "divisive" nature. Gibran leads the charge to respond in a manner that will get the entire school's attention -- and may jeopardize his future. In the parallel story line, Kevin is a Black activist attending Columbia University, keenly aware of the university's unjust practices and their effect on neighboring Harlem. Columbia's response to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. adds to a growing list of concerns, and plans for a protest escalate into a (real-life) student takeover. Allen has created two fully developed, sympathetic characters who must decide what liberation truly means. Kevin and Gibran share a commitment to activism, sometimes to the detriment of their closest relationships. Both voices are clear in their convictions; flashbacks within Kevin's chapters and "What I don't say" sections within Gibran's deepen understanding. Allen's debut novel admirably explores various facets of African American activism and protest, including debates about what is deemed too radical for the movement, and discussion of the role of Black women. Lyrics "by" Gibran appear occasionally, along with some black-and-white illustrations by Karen Eutemey (unseen); a list of acronyms and organizations and an author's note are appended. Eboni Njoku(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Chronicles the experiences of two Black students balancing family and personal expectations while engaging in the precarious work of organizing. In 1995, Massachusetts high school senior Gibran's ambivalent about attending a mostly White prep school. When a talent show performance by White students uses Black rapper aesthetics for cheap laughs, Gibran, quite literally, pulls the plug on it. This small act results in a strong warning: one more "disruption" before he's expelled. His sympathetic mother reminds him to focus on his Howard University scholarship: "The question is, do you deserve the punishment you're going to get for giving them what they deserve?" But when Gibran and others who wish to honor the upcoming Million Man March clash with administrators, his choices place him in jeopardy. In 1968, the day after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, Columbia University student Kevin is organizing with the Society of Afro-American Students. They oppose Columbia's expansion into Harlem, which would displace residents, and, as the Vietnam War rages, they want the university to renounce ties to war research. After reading sensationalized headlines, Kevin's parents try to dissuade him from further participation in the lengthy, increasingly hostile student-led campus occupation. Allen constructs a vivid narrative that balances both timelines seamlessly and pointedly highlights often overlooked history. The crisp, succinct prose and fully realized characters make this a shining example of how principled research in lock step with exceptional writing creates an unforgettable reading experience. An electric debut: a must-read for all. (acronyms and organizations, author's note) (Fiction. 12-18)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly ve chapters that alternate between 1968 and 1995, Allen highlights two Black teens' parallel struggles for racial justice, 27 years apart, in this powerful debut. In 1995 Massachusetts, high school senior Gibran faces severe consequences and possible expulsion after disrupting a racist talent show performance at majority-white Lakeside Academy. Though his family pleads with him to "just graduate" and "finish your last year" without incident, Gibran can't help but chafe against the injustice he witnesses daily. Meanwhile, in the days following Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968, Columbia student Kevin fights to halt the construction of a university expansion that would further gentrify the surrounding Harlem community. Other culturally relevant happenings, including Vietnam War protests, add narrative heft as Kevin's attempts to organize initiatives cause a rift between him and his parents. The two boys' efforts to balance their equity pursuits with interpersonal concerns, such as the importance of caring for oneself amid taxing mental challenges, are expertly rendered. Through Gibran and Kevin's individual exploits of equality and accountability, fully fleshed-out characters, and skillfully cultivated narrative tension, Allen creates a layered debut that is timely and resonant. Ages 12: up. Agent: Cindy Uh, Creative Artists Agency. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 8 Up--A compelling portrait of the intersectionality of race, class, and intergenerational change that features two Black young adults, Kevin and Gibran, living through two different time periods. Because of their grandparents' and parents' upward mobility, both young men are students at prestigious, predominantly white schools. Kevin, a student at Columbia University, tells his story of growing up in a predominantly white suburb in the 1950s and early 1960s as well as his experience at the Black student--led sit-in at Columbia in April 1968. Gibran, Kevin's nephew, is a student at the prestigious White Oaks preparatory school and is driven to organize a group to attend the 1995 Million Man March in Washington, D.C. Readers will be intrigued by a family mystery that Gibran works to unravel and the nuanced relationship between uncle and nephew. Told in short chapters that alternate perspectives, the novel is written in one- to two-page fast-moving episodes, especially important in a book that clocks in at 400+ pages. Gibran's rap lyrics and drawings bring a welcome change of pace. This debut novel is meticulously researched and based on real events and people. Allen includes a list of acronyms and institutions as well as a note that shares her personal connection to these stories and how she made them emotionally realistic. VERDICT An important addition to the canon of YA historical fiction and especially recommended for readers who are invested in the history of racism and the struggle for freedom.--Jamie Winchell



#2362996 Curse of Eelgrass Bog (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mary Averling

Nothing about Kess Pedrock's life is normal. Not her home (she lives in her family's Unnatural History Museum), not her interests (hunting for megafauna fossils and skeletons), and not her best friend (a talking demon's head in a jar named Shrunken Jim). But things get even stranger than usual when Kess meets Lilou Starling, the new girl in town. Lilou comes to Kess for help breaking a mysterious curse--and the only clue she has leads straight into the center of Eelgrass Bog.

978-0-593-62490-6 Razorbill ©2024 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Book Page The Unnatural History Museum may be falling apart, but it's Kess Pedrock's home and contains almost everything she loves: mysterious and magical skeletons from Eelgrass Bog, her petulant and perpetually busy brother, and her best friend Jim, a demon trapped as a jarred shrunken head. Only her parents are missing, but maybe, when they come back from their trip in Antarctica, they can save the museum. Until then, it's up to Kess. One day, the museum finally receives a visitor in the form of a girl named Lilou Starling, who later reveals that her grandfather died and left her a mysterious map with a cryptic puzzle scrawled on its back. This puzzle can only be solved by venturing into the bog itself. Despite Jim's warnings, Kess sets off with Lilou, determined to both save the Unnatural History Museum and impress her new friend. But between the burning watch fires and eccentric witches, Kess discovers that more of her life is tied up in the bog than she could ever have anticipated. And digging too deep might destroy the one thing she's trying to save. Mary Averling bewitches with her debut middle grade novel,

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 With her parents away on an Antarctic expedition, Kess feels responsible for keeping the family's timeworn Unnatural History Museum from falling into ruin. With visitors few and far between, Kess determines that the only way to rouse interest in the museum is to find a new terrific treasure from the nearby forbidding (and forbidden) Eelgrass Bog. Before she can search for a new artifact, though, another girl turns up searching for leads about a family curse, and she partners with Kess. The ensuing adventure uncovers far more than simple skeletons; long-buried secrets come to the surface, and Kess realizes that she's saving not only the museum but the whole town--and herself. Averling's atmospheric writing deftly depicts the desolation of the vast bog and Kess' terrible loneliness, but to lighten the mood, there are also burgeoning crushes and plenty of comical details (notably Kess' closest friend, a talking shrunken demon head in a jar). Readers will enjoy excavating layers of history in this marvelous mystery with heaps of magic and heart. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

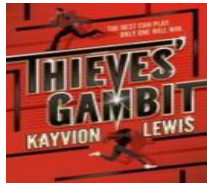
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books The Unnatural History Museum may be old and decaying, but it's still home to twelve-year-old Kess, as familiar to her as the stories of legendary creatures in the nearby Eelgrass Bog. Kess is certain that if she can just find the bones of one such undiscovered creature, the new exhibit would surely bring people back to the Museum, and she can have the place up and running again before her parents return from their expedition to Antarctica. When she meets Lilou, a girl on a mission to find the mysterious Endling Society, Kess finally has some company to go deeper into the bog, along with some guidance from Lilou's grandfather's letters, which were addressed to the Museum but unsent. Eelgrass Bog, however, and the Drowned World it leads to, won't let go of its secrets easily, and the girls will have to reckon with witches, monstrous serpents, and lost memories before they can find what they need. The perfect combination of eccentric and eerie, this builds an immersive, thrilling setting, filled with all sorts of unnatural happenings, while still tending to the interpersonal relationships that give the storyline heft and nuance. Kess makes a delightfully clever narrator, with a voice that is as bold as it is vulnerable, as authentic as it is sassy. A unique twist on a well-trod trope brings unexpected freshness, while the developing romance between Kess and Lilou makes a sweet, wholesome bonus. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eelgrass Bog may be cursed, but Kess has her hopes pinned on what she'll find there. Twelve-year-old Kess and her older brother, Oliver, have lived alone in the Unnatural History Museum ever since Mam and Da left for Antarctica on a research trip ever so long ago. Well, there's also Shrunken Jim, a pickled, disembodied head Kess carries around in a jar, a staunch if unusual friend. Kess hopes that new exhibits will revitalize the museum, and when newcomer Lilou visits, Kess finds a partner in exploration--and what they learn in Eelgrass Bog upends everything Kess thought she knew. Averling's worldbuilding is deft and beguiling, from Kess' unfamiliarity with modern tech that tells readers something's very amiss to the delightful weirdness of the museum and its environs. Averling's use of the present tense effectively unmoors readers (as well as Kess) from time, and Kess' voice is a delight. "Oh, vermin," she curses, and she dismisses Oliver as "a prune-hearted cockroach." Shining brightest is her endearing relationship with Shrunken Jim--an excellent supporting character for all that he's brined. Most human characters are cued white; Lilou has two dads, and Kess and Lilou find that they might "like-like" each other, though active romance is left for Kess' future. A deliciously offbeat magical adventure. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Kester "Kess" Pedrock and her older brother struggle to maintain their family's Unnatural History Museum in eerie Wick's End while their scientist parents are in Antarctica; without a steady flow of paying customers, the facility grows more decrepit daily. Determined to attract new visitors, Kess endeavors to find a rumored "undiscovered monster" on the outskirts of creepy

Eelgrass Bog. Despite feeling drawn to the area, Kess is strictly forbidden from visiting by her best friend Shrunken Jim, a companionable demon's head in a jar who warns that the bog lies atop the Drowned World, an eldritch realm of megafauna, "half-rotten" creatures, and ghastly witches who have succumbed to its dark, all-consuming magic. But after newcomer Lilou Starling; who gives Kess a "warm, sludgy feeling"; asks for Kess's help in breaking a mysterious curse, the pair quickly realize that the answers they seek lie deep within the heart of Eelgrass Bog, prompting them to venture into the Drowned World. While the engrossing mystery wraps up too early on, debut author Averling laces the overall setting with beguiling magical elements that make for an inventive adventure. Characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kelly Sonnack, Andrea Brown Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Twelve-year-old Kess Pedrock's older brother Oliver has given up on the upkeep of the Unnatural History Museum, but not Kess. She is determined that her parents will return from their research trip in Antarctica to a well-maintained museum. This task is proving to be nearly impossible with the museum falling apart around her, plus she hasn't discovered any new monster exhibits to lure patrons. Until she has an interesting visitor, Lilou Starling. Kess feels an instant kinship with Lilou and visits her at home where she lives with her two dads. It turns out Lilou's grandpa left her an old map of Eelgrass Bog with specific instructions: "Beware the witches. Break the curse. Save the society." Kess has been warned to stay away from the bog, but the lure of solving Lilou's mystery is too strong. Foreshadowing is strong as Kess has murky memories of her past. Delightful characters abound, such as Shrunken Jim, a talking demon's head in a pickle jar (brine included). Setting details are equally eccentric; the girls discover a strange house that appears at the mouth of the Drowned World tunnel with eight iron legs and crouching "like a mechanical spider." Readers will be anxious to follow where this mystery leads. Lilou and Kess's relationship deepens to genuinely liking one another. Characters read as white. VERDICT A fetching, heart-stopping read with quirky characters, over-the-top depictions, a sinister setting, and the deep roots of family love.--Julie Shatterly Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2332543 Thieves' Gambit (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kayvion Lewis

At only seventeen years old, Ross Quest is already a master thief, especially adept at escape plans. Until her plan to run away from her legendary family of thieves takes an unexpected turn, leaving her mother's life hanging in the balance. In a desperate bid, she enters the Thieves' Gambit, a series of dangerous, international heists where killing the competition isn't exactly off limits, but the grand prize is a wish for anything in the world—a wish that could save her mom.

978-0-593-62536-1 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 670

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 You are trapped inside a house on a mission to steal a priceless vase. A cat is about to give away your presence. What do you do? If you're Rosalyn Quest, you hack the cat with a laser pointer. If you're not Rosalyn, a member of a family of accomplished thieves (who, frankly, often wishes to be someone else), well, then you're probably not in this situation. When she receives an invitation to compete with the best of thieves in an international heist competition, Rosalyn has more than an opportunity to break free from her family--she has a chance to save her mother. Lewis (The Half-Class, 2021) brings Rosalyn to life with more than quick quips, building the complicated relationship she has with her mother and the life the Quests live. The high-octane stakes will appeal to fans of Jennifer Lynn Barnes and Ally Carter, and the twisty plotting is reminiscent of Ocean's 8. This new teen criminal will steal hearts. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

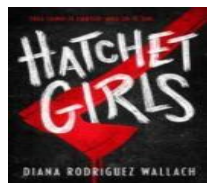
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books The Bahamas-based Quest family are world-renowned thieves, but Rosalyn "Ross" Quest might just be ready to give it all up for some teenage normalcy, if only she can muster up the courage to tell her staunchly untrusting mother about the discreetly sent college applications and the acceptances she's received. Instead, Ross decides to take the easy route and plans an elaborate disappearing act for their next mother-daughter gig, but things quickly go awry when mom is seemingly kidnapped and a billion-dollar ransom forces Ross into a secret high-end thieving competition for the who's who of teen cat burglars. The contrivances that lead to this "Gambit" should give readers some pause, even as Ross is preoccupied with reconciling her immediate crush on a fellow crook with the familial commitment to distrusting all non-Quests. In fact, it's unclear how ransom requests from would-be killers are promptly taken at face value but mean girls and cute teenage boys might be the death of you. Nonetheless, the challenges of the competition transport the troupe of markedly savvy teens from France to Egypt to the Caribbean, from museum heists to sarcophagus scams to kidnapping attempts of their own, all while revealing tidbits of their respective family dramas and burdensome legacies of crime. The novel could sorely use more depth, but Ross' complicated relationships with her mother and others she trusted give momentary glimpses of emotional connection. WJ

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The ultimate competition between thieves tests friendships and family ties. Seventeen-year-old Rosalyn "Ross" Quest, a member of a notorious Black Bahamian family of globe-trotting thieves, has spent her entire life honing her skills and following in her mother's footsteps. But now she just wants to live a normal life, go to college, and make some friends her age. When her attempt to evade her family and secretly make it to a summer gymnastics camp goes awry, Ross' mother is left in a life-threatening situation, and the only way Ross can save her is by competing in the Thieves' Gambit, a potentially deadly heist competition that offers its winner one wish. Ross is up against the biggest names in the game from around the world, including Noelia, a Swiss girl who's her childhood enemy. Hopping from country to country as

she competes in increasingly dangerous challenges, Ross must discern whom she can trust, if anyone, while her feelings for fellow competitor Devroe, a Black British boy, grow. In a manner true to the genre, the pacing is fast, and readers will experience the best kind of whiplash as the story moves from one heist to the next. The characters are also fully realized, and it's impossible not to root for Ross as she tries to figure out who she's meant to be. A fast-paced roller coaster of a read. (Thriller. 13-18)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Debut author Lewis illustrates a captivating push and pull narrative that centers a girl yearning for a "normal" life while navigating a dangerous game where cons and trickery are rewarded. Black Bahamian 17-year-old Ross Quest comes from a family of thieves; with her mother, she completes daring heists around the globe. Though her thrilling life has afforded her close family ties, Ross has always been desperate for friends, and intends to sneak away to a gymnastics camp. On the night she plans to leave her life of crime, the job her mother is on goes sideways, resulting in her capture by mysterious assailants, who hold her for a ransom of one billion dollars. To save her mother's life, Ross enters the Thieves' Gambit, a legendary, potentially fatal tournament in which the world's top teen thieves must complete a series of heists, competing to be granted their heart's desire. With her childhood enemy Noelia, who is Swiss and white, also competing, Ross knows she must remain guarded, but she soon finds herself taken with handsome and cunning Devroe, who is Black and British. Fresh descriptions of varied backdrops, including the Bahamas, Cairo, and France, elucidate wanderlust vibes in this edge-of-the-seat thriller. Ages 12: up. Agent: Chelsea Eberly, Greenhouse Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up--The Quest family is the North American crime family and Ross Quest is no ordinary teenager; she's a prodigious master thief known for her skills in orchestrating daring escapes. However, she wants nothing more than to get away from her family and live an ordinary life. During their last heist together, Ross's mother is captured for a billion dollar ransom. This forces Ross to take part in prestigious criminal contest the Thieves' Gambit, an electrifying series of high-stakes and dangerous heists spanning the globe. The victor is allowed one wish. Ross believes she will win, and plans to use the wish to rescue her mother. As Ross navigates the contest, she finds herself pitted against other teens skilled in the ways of thievery. Among them are an adversary from her childhood and a smooth-talking, attractive contender. When the stakes are huge, Ross must make the difficult decision about who to deceive and who to trust, all the while racing against the deadline that her mother's captors gave her. This thrilling adventure takes readers on a roller-coaster ride through a world of international thievery and high stakes schemes. The plot is full of heists, double-crosses, and unexpected alliances. The pacing is brisk with tension steadily building through the narrative. One of the novel's strengths is its exploration of moral ambiguity--characters are often presented with difficult choices challenging their own notions of right and wrong. Readers feel characters' struggles as they grapple with the consequences of their actions; this adds complexity to the story and elevates it beyond a mere adventure tale. VERDICT A recommended purchase for any high school library, this is a compelling choice for readers seeking a fast-paced escapade filled with intrigue and daring thefts and those who enjoyed Jennifer Lynn Barnes's *The Inheritance Games* or Brittney Morris's *The Jump*.--Jeni Tahaney Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2349252 **Hatchet Girls (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Diana Rodriguez Wallach

When Mariella Morse accuses her boyfriend, Vik Gomez, of murdering her wealthy parents with an axe, the town is quick to believe her. It doesn't help that Vik is caught standing over her parents' bodies with blood on his hands, unable to remember anything about the night in question.

978-0-593-64341-9 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A new start for one family collides with the violent and repeating history of another. Moving to Fall River, Massachusetts, was supposed to offer a fresh start for Tessa Gomez's family after her father's death. Her brother, Vik, has settled in more quickly than she has; he's head over heels for new girlfriend Mariella Morse, who is white and the daughter of the town's wealthiest, most well-connected businessman. She's also a descendant of the infamous Lizzie Borden. When Tessa, whose family is Puerto Rican, wakes to news that Vik, found covered in blood, was arrested for the axe-murder of Mariella's parents, she knows in her heart that there is more to the story. Though unraveling the truth about the threads of violence that run through Fall River will be dangerous, neither human nor supernatural forces are prepared for the determination of a sister who believes in her brother's innocence. This creative spin on the tale of Lizzie Borden asks readers to consider issues of race, power, and control through the abusive and dysfunctional relationships surrounding Mariella's family, some of which more effectively masquerade as healthy than others. Told from both Tessa's and Mariella's third-person viewpoints and packed with action, the book's layered, emotionally well-rounded characters add depth to the horror elements. A fresh, fantastic twist on a crime with an enduring legacy. (Thriller. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly orror novel by Wallach, inspired by the 19th-century Lizzie Borden murders, drips with blood, gore, and enging originality. Following an unexplained incident in her hometown, Puerto Rican high school junior Tessa Gomez, her 18-year-old half brother Vik, and their mother move to Fall River, Mass., famous for the Borden killings. Vik soon begins dating white-cued classmate Mariella, daughter of the town's richest residents, who endures constant emotional abuse from her father. When Vik is found at the site of Mariella's parents' deaths covered in their blood, everyone is certain he's the killer. But Tessa knows that Vik would never commit such an act and, aided by Mariella,

vows to find the real culprit. The key to the mystery lies in the ominous local woods, where the girls must face monsters both human and demonic if they hope to survive the investigation. Present-day chapters; rendered in anticipatory-feeling prose and bursting with foreboding ambiance; follow Tessa as she seeks to absolve Vik of his crime, while alternating sections center Mariella at myriad points in time, including the night of the murders and the two months prior. Ages 12: up. Agent: Lane Heymont, Tobias Literary. (Oct.)



#2349244 Project F (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jeanne DuPrau

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE. There are no cars, planes, television, or smart phones. Climate change wreaked havoc on Earth hundreds of years ago, and now people live a simpler life. Then thirteen-year-old Keith uncovers a secret. It's a mysterious mission known only as Project F. It's advanced, it's scientific, and it's going to change the world. It's exactly the kind of adventure Keith has always longed to be a part of.

978-0-593-64380-8 Random House Children's Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 Keith Arlo, 13, lives in a postapocalyptic world where fossil fuels nearly made the planet uninhabitable; now, the use of those fuels is strictly outlawed. Tasked with the responsibility of bringing his cousin Lulu back home after she lost her parents in an accident, he sets off on his two-day train trip. It's there that he meets a man named Malcolm, and after an accidental swap of their bags, Keith unearths a hidden operation known as Project F. Intrigued by what the project could mean for the future, Keith decides to dig deeper to find out more about the operation that Malcolm is so determined to bring to fruition. What he uncovers, however, leaves Keith in a dilemma: Do the benefits of moving humanity forward outweigh the disadvantages it would also bring? The author of the popular City of Ember series is back with a story that comments on the dangers of global climate change and reliance on fossil fuels. Middle-graders who like their books short and fast-moving will enjoy this imaginative piece of cli-fi. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Several hundred years in the future, one boy has the chance to fly--but at what cost? When 13-year-old Keith Arlo's family receives word that his aunt and uncle have unexpectedly passed away, he is sent to collect Lulu, his 6-year-old cousin, and bring her back to live with them. Most people in Keith's country live in one of seven cities surrounded by nature, and most people do not travel far, so Keith is excited to finally experience train travel. On the journey, he happens upon a man who's involved with the mysterious Project F, and he cannot contain his curiosity. Even after he returns home, Keith keeps thinking about the project and its wonders. Project F has a darker side, however, one that is tied to the times that came before, the use of fossil fuels, and the massive changes humanity experienced long before Keith's birth. Meanwhile, Lulu struggles with the loss of her parents and the large secrets that she carries. This deliberately paced story, reminiscent in tone to older classics but original and timely in its subject matter, explores issues of environmental degradation, renewable energy, and how the future might be shaped. The narrative is satisfying and the questions prescient; young readers looking for something slightly different will enjoy speculating about how our future might appear. Main characters appear to be white. A compelling, nostalgic-feeling story exploring contemporary issues in a futuristic setting. (author's note) (Post-apocalyptic. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Centuries after the Sudden Fall, during which governments across the globe forbade the use of fossil fuels, humankind has adopted a more eco-friendly way of living based on rejecting electricity in favor of renewable resources. As a result, most children, like 13-year-old Keith Arlo, have never encountered a working car, cellphone, plane, or television. While traveling via train to Sandwater City to retrieve his recently orphaned cousin Lulu, Keith encounters a man named Malcolm who claims to be working on Project F, an engineering scheme in remote Graves Mountain. Upon Keith's arrival in Sandwater, he realizes that his and Malcolm's bags were accidentally switched, prompting him and Lulu to detour to Graves Mountain on their return journey. There, they learn the secret of Project F: Malcolm's team is developing a revolutionary new mode of transportation. Now Keith and Lulu are sworn to secrecy as they become embroiled in a venture that could change the world. Using distant-feeling omniscient prose and employing well-meaning messaging that provides much to think about, DuPrau (City of Ember) crafts a postapocalyptic adventure that reads like a cautionary tale about climate change, technology, and unchecked progress. Characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Nancy Gallt, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Project F by Jeanne DuPrau (The Books of Ember series) is a gentle and affecting children's solarpunk novel about a 13-year-old boy's misadventures with a mysterious (and dangerous) technology.

#2355959 15 Secrets to Survival (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Natalie D. Richards

When classmates Baxter, Abigail, Turner and Emerson break a school rule, they're

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



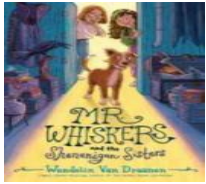
forced to travel to the middle of nowhere for an extra credit project. They think things can't get much worse. After all, how will learning to survive in the wilderness help them stay out of trouble in school? What starts off as a weekend of team building takes a scary turn when their instructor goes missing and they are given nothing but pages of a survival guide to complete a series of challenges.

978-0-593-64412-6 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly All his life, 12-year-old Baxter Phillips has been part of what his mother coined "The Getalong Gang," a playgroup comprised of her and her best friends' children. In addition to gamer Baxter, there's perfectionist Emerson and her gentle-giant twin brother Turner Casella, and Abigail Walters, a competitive gymnast with confidence in spades. The problem is, the four middle schoolers rarely get along. When the tweens' tension comes to a head during a school-sponsored trivia contest, they're disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct. As further punishment, they're forced to complete a group extra-credit assignment, which involves the gang being sent to stay with Baxter's survivalist great-uncle Hornsby in the Montana winter wilderness, an event intended to teach them teamwork. But when Uncle Hornsby sets up an elaborate network of interconnected puzzles, Turner, Emerson, Abigail, and Baxter, along with his feisty younger sister Vivi, rush to solve the puzzles with the help of pages from Hornsby's self-written guide to survival; until something goes awry with Hornsby's plans. Immediate first-person, present-tense prose keeps the emotional resonance high in this fast-paced adventure that features a charging moose, potential hypothermia, and plenty of friendship drama. Characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Suzie Townsend, New Leaf Literary. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Because their parents are best friends, Baxter, Abigail, Turner, and Emerson have been thrown together since they were babies, even being dubbed "The Get-along Gang." But the group is very different now, and they haven't actually been real friends in years. In fact, they actively dislike one another. When a school project goes awry due to "inappropriate use of the text chat feature," their parents decide to send the four off to Baxter's eccentric uncle, an ex-camp counselor and wilderness expert, for a weekend teamwork bootcamp in western Montana. Things do not go well. First there's the addition of Baxter's 18-month-old sister, Vivi, to their group (and the horror of changing her diapers). Then Uncle Hornsby unexpectedly goes missing, leaving the kids with nothing to guide them but a few pages of a survival handbook. This highly readable thriller highlights four kids with unique talents, all of which become crucial to complete their seemingly impossible task. Excellent characterization, rich details, and an exciting setting bring every harrowing adventure to life as the kids learn the value of working together, and the value of one another's strengths and passions. VERDICT A teamwork-oriented update of Hatchet, this fast-paced adventure story is recommended for all collections.—Rebecca Kirshenbaum



#2349054 **Mr. Whiskers and the Shenanigan Sisters (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Wendelin Van Draanen*

Mr. Whiskers is a street-wise stray dog with a nose for trouble and a fondness for two girls he calls the Shenanigan Sisters. So when Misty and Zelda's professor father is kidnapped, Mr. Whiskers follows that car, picking up vital clues.

978-0-593-64430-0 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 640

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist A stray dog who “nose” his way around detective work helps two newly arrived boardinghouse sibs find and fetch back their “dadnapped” father in this breezy and pun-ishing caper. Hardly have Misty and Zelda Nanigan—dubbed the “shenanigans” by the canine narrator—seen their archaeologist single dad hustled off by toughs than they’re on the job, pulled, pushed, and prodded by a ruff streetwise pooch and supported by a network of doggy spies and informants. Along with laying down a trail of juicy clues to sniff out on the way to an exciting denouement, Van Draanen chucks in a stash of pirate gold (a classic MacGuffin if ever there was one) to go with a raft of likewise classic tropes, from a secret room and a hidden staircase to hints of ghostly doings in a ramshackle old San Francisco manor. By the end, the slobbery sleuth will have won over readers just as he does the Nanigan clan, though many will wish for more of Cataln’s well-crafted, detail-rich monochrome illustrations.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Misty, 10, and Zelda, 11, search for their kidnapped dad, Professor Nanigan. Narrator Mr. Whiskers, a pun-loving stray dog who roams the neighborhood looking for a home, calls the sisters the Shenanigans and their father Henanigan. The family lives in a broken-down San Francisco boardinghouse owned by Aunties Tiana and Jada, who can't afford to make much-needed repairs. After a suspicious-looking man claiming to be an FBI agent arrests the professor, and some supposed cops show up asking about stolen coins he was allegedly selling on the black market, the young sisters leap into action with Mr. Whiskers, who has a great sense of smell and some helpful four-legged pals. The girls decipher the meaning of their dad's parting words and discover some old coins in a secret room in the house. Is this what the phony law

officers are after? Could this treasure help the Aunties? The girls and their doggy friend must use smarts and strengths to find the professor. The dog-related puns pile up as the narrative draws to a climax. Written by a prolific practitioner of the genre, this lighthearted, fast-paced mystery features an endearing canine lead, two fearless kids, and plenty of wordplay, all of which will appeal to young readers. The Nanigans present white in the detailed grayscale artwork, while the Aunties appear to be women of color. A mystery both gripping and heartwarming. (Mystery. 8-10) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Loose on the streets of San Francisco, a scrappy stray mutt with a "ruff"-and-tumble vernacular winningly narrates this snazzy mystery caper by Van Draanen (The Peach Rebellion). Canine Mr. Whiskers; so-named by 10-year-old Misty Nanigan and her sister Zelda, who seek him out every now and then to slip him treats on the sly; smells "trrrrouble" when a fishy-looking stranger claiming to be an FBI agent arrives at the Merryweather boarding house looking for Misty and Zelda's archaeology professor father. After "Fishy" uses zip ties to kidnap Professor Nanigan and usher him into a waiting Prius, Mr. Whiskers gives chase, gathering valuable clues that he then brings back to the worried siblings. As girls and pooch embark on their investigation, Misty and Zelda grow closer to their savvy, loyal pet, who's eager to take a bite out of crime. Using brief cliffhanger chapters, brisk pacing, and humor-infused prose, Van Draanen sustains suspense as the sisters navigate clue-filled riddles and secret passageways, uncover long-lost treasure, and outwit a nasty trio of thieves. Catalan captures key dramatic and heartwarming scenes featuring both people, most of whom default to white, and pup via cozy b&w illustrations. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)



#2365863 Bumps in the Night (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Amalie Howard

Darika "Rika" Lovelace is in trouble. The kind of trouble that sends her to her grandmother's estate in Trinidad for the whole summer. But something about the island feels different. As soon as she steps off the plane, strange things start happening!

978-0-593-64587-1 Delacorte Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

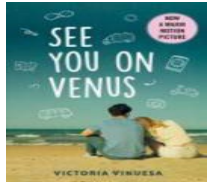
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Now that her mom is supposedly off in New York and her dad is remarried to a woman with two children, Darika "Rika" Lovelace can't help but feel abandoned. After defacing school property using her artistic skills--a possible cry for attention--Rika is shipped off from Colorado to her granny's in Trinidad for the summer. Upon arrival, supernatural events involving jumbies (monsters) and evil spirits spring forth, revealing secrets of her maternal family's connection to witchcraft, along with her mother's true whereabouts. Rika will need to trust herself and work with new friends (and an adorable talking iguana) to protect the island--and the world--from further havoc. Howard, popular with adult and teen readers, fills her first middle-grade fantasy with Trinidadian folklore. She smoothly intertwines environmental issues and romance into the story for more depth. Many young readers will empathize as Rika learns to connect with her blended family, all the while gaining confidence in herself and her magic. An excellent read for those who crave adventure with a touch of eeriness. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old Darika Lovelace is spending the summer in Trinidad with her grandmother; she feels like her dad and stepmother don't want her around because she has been getting in trouble. She also misses her mom, who left two years earlier. When she arrives in Trinidad, she notices a strange woman looking at her; she asks about it, but Granny brushes her off. Later, Granny asks her to clear out her mother's childhood room and finish the mural her mom started. While painting the mural, Darika begins to have strange visions of her mom trapped in a tree she painted. Darika learns from some neighborhood kids that she is a witch and must save her mother. Howard mixes Trinidadian folklore with present-day issues to create a fast-paced adventure. Her descriptions of the island are vivid and create a strong sense of place; references to popular video games add appeal. Fans of Baptiste's Jumbies series will enjoy this accessible page-turner. Nicholl Denice Montgomery(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old has a lot to learn about her true powers and her mom's side of the family before she can save everyone she loves. Since her parents' divorce and her mother's disappearance, Skittles-loving Rika Lovelace-Rose from Colorado has had a lot of complicated feelings but not the best channels for expressing them. Sending her to visit Granny in Trinidad and Tobago was supposed to help. Yet, when she meets a talking iguana and a grimoire speaks to her, it becomes obvious to Rika that there's a lot more to her maternal line than meets the eye. An art project offers a revelation that may answer questions about where Mom's gone. With Piku (the baby iguana with the heart of a dragon) in tow, Rika teams up with a crew of magical tweens to uncover even more Trini folkloric mysteries that, as a Lovelace, she's intimately tied to. Eventually, it becomes obvious: Rika is a witch. The father of Nox, Rika's annoyingly cute crush, is trapped along with Rika's mom in an evil silk cotton tree; to get them back and save the world, Rika and friends must work together to navigate a maze, overcome puzzling trials, and combat Caribbean monsters, including douens, a soucouyant, and la diablesse. The twists and turns, mythological elements, and compelling narration pack a punch. The novel centers Black and brown characters, reflecting the diversity of the setting. Exciting, culturally rich fun and adventure. (author's note) (Paranormal. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A rebellious aspiring artist and incoming eighth grader delves into her family's history; and learns that monsters

and magic are real; in this electrifying adventure by Howard. After being written up for vandalism "again" and kicked off the soccer team, brown-skinned Darika "Rika" Lovelace-Rose's frustrated father confiscates all her electronic devices and sends her from Colorado to Trinidad to spend the summer with her maternal grandmother. Upon arrival, Rika meets handyman Becks, who escorts her and Granny to the family estate. Becks warns Rika of the erratic weather the island has been experiencing and implores her to stay away from the nearby woods, claiming that the devil resides there. Though Rika doesn't believe in magic or monsters, she can't shake the feeling that her absent mother might be closer than she thinks. After Rika unearths a grimoire with her own name on it, she discovers that she comes from a long line of witches, prompting her to team up with new friends to search for her mother and uncover the truth behind the devil in the woods. Rika's determination to embrace her newfound magical abilities and save her family and maternal country land are admirably depicted. Combined with fantastical, climate-conscious scenarios and vivacious and illuminating Black Indo-Trinidadian diaspora folklore that springs from the pages, this beguiling read; led by an intrepid heroine; is one to savor. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)



#2333510 See You on Venus (Library Binding (Trade))

written by Victoria Vinuesa

Mia has had a heart condition her whole life. She's not afraid of dying but something has always stopped her from her biggest fear: tracking down her biological mother in Spain...until now. Before her next surgery, Mia wants to meet the woman who gave her away once and for all. Kyle has always been the life of the party...that was until the car accident that killed his best friend. Since then he's been reeling with guilt and willing to do just about anything to escape his reality.

978-0-593-70514-8 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$15.99



#2255295 Fairy Tale Land: 12 Classic Tales Reimagined (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate Davies

The tales are expertly retold, perfect for bedtime, and each story is followed with an exquisitely illustrated, detailed map of its neighborhood. You can drop into Hansel and Gretel's cottage, explore the palace from Beauty and the Beast, and dive deep under the sea with the Little Mermaid. What wonderful things can you find in your favorites' homes?

978-0-7112-4753-6 Frances Lincoln Books ©2021 11-3/4 x 12-7/8 112 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$35.00

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Strange realms and enchanted kingdoms recur in this appealing collection of gently updated classics that encompasses mostly European fairy tales and stories, including Robin Hood, "The Snow Queen," and Treasure Island, Davies's retellings deftly preserve the originals' sense of magic while recontouring plots to better suit modern sensibilities; in "Beauty and the Beast," the Beast needs friendship, not love, to break his curse, and in "The Little Mermaid," the mermaid chooses to return to her family, spurning the shallow prince: "I have my own palace, thank you." Clerc's intoxicatingly detailed, lushly colored illustrations are richly botanical, offering a riot of blooms and branches, with protagonists of varying skin tones. Each tale is capped with a full spread landscape depicting the story's setting, even if distracting asides offer unnecessary commentary ("Cinderella's sisters are mean and cruel; avoid them"). Casts a charming spell all its own. Ages 7: 10. (Nov.)



#2378497 Wolf-Men and Water Hounds: The Myths, Monsters and Magic of Ireland (Hardcover (Trade))

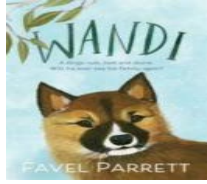
written by Manchan Magan

Uncover the secrets of our island in this engrossing look at magical landmarks across the country. Traveling province by province through Ireland, Manchan outlines the stories most closely associated with each site, focussing on a specific beast or creature from legend and highlighting a magical word or phrase in Irish alongside.

978-0-7171-9611-1 Gill Books ©2023 11-3/4 x 10-3/4 64 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$27.95



#2308338 Wandi (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Favel Parrett

A young cub is snatched from his family and home by a giant eagle, then dropped, injured and alone, in a suburban garden. This is where he meets his first Human, and begins his long journey to becoming the most famous dingo in the world. He will never see his mountain home again, or his family. But it is his destiny to save alpine dingoes from extinction, and he dreams of a time when all cubs like him can live in the wild in safety, instead of facing poison and bullets and hatred.

978-0-7344-2063-3 Lothian Children's Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-3/4 256 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2377480 Night War (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

It's 1942. German Nazis occupy much of France. And twelve-year-old Miriam, who is Jewish, is not safe. With help and quick thinking, Miri is saved from the roundup that takes her entire Jewish neighborhood. But Miri's life is no fairy tale. Her parents are gone-maybe alive, maybe not. One thing is certain: The person Miri meets that night will save her life. And the person Miri becomes that night could save the lives of many more.

978-0-7352-2856-6 Dial Books ©2024 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Paris, France. July 10, 1942. A Jewish refugee, 12-year-old Miri, is forced to flee Paris when gendarmes round up all the Jews in the city. She is helped in her escape with her neighbor's two-year-old daughter, Nora, by a sympathetic nun, who arranges transport to a small town in the French countryside. En route, Miri is separated from Nora and becomes desperate to find her and flee to Switzerland. Before that can happen, however, she--masquerading as a Christian--becomes a student at a Catholic girls' school. There, an elderly nun, Sister Annunciata, presses her into dangerous service as a guide, secretly leading refugees to the nearby Vichy border. To her surprise, Miri is aided by the elderly, imperious Madame Simone, who harbors an astonishing secret. Bradley has crafted a compelling historical novel told in Miri's apposite first-person voice. The book has a hint of magic that, while initially jarring, ultimately becomes as satisfying as the whole of this fine novel. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In 1942, French police in Occupied Paris rounded up over thirteen thousand French Jews and corralled them into a stadium; almost all perished at Auschwitz. Bradley's (The War That Saved My Life, rev. 1/15, and sequel) story begins just before the Jews are forced into the stadium, and Miri's neighbor thrusts her toddler into Miri's arms and tells her to run. Thanks to compassionate, quick-thinking nuns, the two end up in a village near Catherine de Medici's sixteenth-century castle, Chenonceau. Hiding in plain sight among summer boarders at a convent school, Miri (now known as Marie) grows familiar with the castle -- and with a ghost visible only to her, of Catherine de Medici herself. When Miri gets involved in rescuing refugees, Catherine repeatedly steps in to help her out. This is an engaging, imaginative yarn, and Miri's vulnerability and sense of responsibility give it emotional weight and contemporary appeal -- despite, or perhaps because of, the ways it stretches credulity. Given the ease of a few elements as well as a helpful ghost and Miri's talkativeness -- even when hiding from German soldiers only a few feet away -- the novel is something of an unlikely confection, like the fairy tale-esque castle at its center. Best read in tandem with more straightforward Holocaust accounts. Deirdre F. Baker(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young girl escapes a Nazi roundup and plots to flee occupied France. The year is 1942. Twelve-year-old Miriam Schrieber and her parents live in Paris, having fled Berlin after Kristallnacht in 1938. But the Nazis invaded France two years later, and Miri remains haunted by the memories of witnessing her neighbor Monsieur Rosenbaum being taken away. Now, the gendarmes are rounding up all the Jews in her neighborhood and putting them on buses bound for the Velodrome d'Hiver, where they'll await an unknown fate. Miri's parents are missing when the roundup takes place, and Madame Rosenbaum urges Miri to escape with Nora, her toddler daughter. The girls flee and are saved by a Catholic nun, who arranges to send Miri to a convent school in Chenonceaux. The village fortunately borders Vichy France, offering an escape route to Zurich, where Madame Rosenbaum's cousin lives. Nora is placed with a Catholic family, and Miri does her best to fit in with the other students. A desperate moment leads Miri to channel her fear into the courage required to help refugees seek safety across the border, while also plotting her own escape with Nora. This poignant story moves quickly but takes care to consider with sensitivity the excruciating choices Miri must make at every turn as she's torn between choosing safety and honoring her heritage and her convictions. A gripping, humane tale that examines

what war demands of children and what it costs them. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This well-paced novel by Bradley (Fighting Words), set in 1942 Nazi-occupied France, poses thoughtful questions about religious divides and parallels through the experiences of 12-year-old Miriam Schreiber, a German Jew who fled Berlin for Paris with her parents after Kristallnacht. When all the Jews in her neighborhood are rounded up, Miri is separated from her parents and escapes with two-year-old neighbor Nora. Saved by a Catholic nun, the children are sent to Chenonceaux, where the Chateau de Chenonceau straddles the border of occupied France and French-controlled Vichy. Nora is given to a Catholic family, while Miri; pretending to be Christian and going by Marie; is sent to a convent school, where she discovers that two nuns are secretly helping to smuggle Jews across the border. Suffering from fear and anxiety and plagued by guilt for choices she believes she failed to make to save her mother and Nora's father, Miri; aided by a mysterious, imperious elderly woman; takes on risky responsibilities. Miri's highly credible emotions and actions make for a deeply sympathetic character facing increasingly dangerous and suspenseful circumstances; secondary characters are satisfyingly complex. All characters present as white; several are Jewish. A historical note concludes. Ages 9: 12. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Historical fiction at its finest. In 1942 a brave Jewish girl escapes from a roundup in Paris and takes her neighbor's baby in a desperate flee to safety, hoping to be reunited with her family. Miri finds herself hidden in a Catholic boarding school in the town of Chenonceaux. She discovers that the nuns who are hiding her also work in the fledgling movement to help Jews escape Nazi persecution. The Château de Chenonceau spans the river Cher that separates Nazi-occupied France from Vichy France, and Miri undertakes several rescue operations through the castle despite the watchful patrols of Nazi soldiers. The layers of storytelling include the mystical presence of Catherine de Medici, who befriends Miri, and several memorable Catholic nuns. Two-time Newbery honoree Bradley is at her best here; this is a novel that brings layers of the past to life in a way, connecting readers to a historic era and showcasing the author's expertise as a gifted storyteller. VERDICT Bradley's latest masterpiece features a determined and daring heroine and details that bring the past to life. Readers will be wholeheartedly rewarded.--John Scott Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



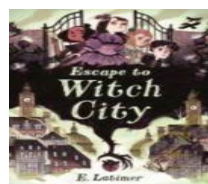
#2167566 Clan (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sigmund Brouwer

Injured as a child, Atlatl dreams of one day earning his father's respect as a hunter. But when Atlatl brings the young saber tooth to his Clan, it leads to a devastating moment of torn loyalties between Atlatl and his father--a moment that will change their lives forever.

978-1-101-91849-4 Tundra Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 810

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—Atlatl, a young boy living in the Stone Age, hopes to earn his father's respect as hunter. Atlatl's father is the leader of the Clan and shows his disappointment on an almost daily basis. Atlatl, who sustained a debilitating childhood injury, can't hunt and provide food. One day, when Atlatl experiments with a new weapon that he intends to show his father, he is stalked by a large female saber-toothed tiger. When a pack of wolves attacks and kills the mother, Atlatl is thrust into the caregiver role of protecting the baby sabertooth. He decides to bring the cub back to the Clan, which leads to consequences and even further isolation from his father—banishment, the worst punishment for any Clan member. Without the protection of the group, Atlatl is susceptible to a variety of predators: The short-nosed bear, dire wolves, and cheetahs. As the rainy season approaches and the Clan decides to move to higher ground, disaster strikes. Atlatl must find a way to survive using his wits, loyalty, and bravery to face his biggest foe yet and to save what remains of his Clan. VERDICT A solid read for fans of Gary Paulsen's Hatchet and general adventure fiction.—Amy Caldera, Dripping Springs M.S., TX



#2235052 Escape to Witch City (Hardcover (Trade))
written by E. Latimer

Emmaline Black has a secret. She can hear the rhythm of heartbeats. Not just her own, but others' too. It's a rhythm she's learned to control, and that can only mean one thing...Emma's a witch.

978-1-101-91931-6 Tundra Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 840

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly out this tale of survival, Latimer (Witches of Ash and Ruin) conjures the sensibilities of an alternate early 19th-century London, one in which magic exists and witches are vilified. Queen Alexandria Black, who staunchly set out on an anti-witch crusade

after reclaiming the throne post: witch uprising, rules with a campaign of fear and surveillance. Emmaline Black, her niece, lives in the castle with her mother Isolde; both have the dark hair and pale skin of the family line. As Emma's 13th birthday approaches, she becomes increasingly restless, especially as she'll be Tested for witch blood; something every child, even Crown Prince Edgar, must undergo. While at the Testing, Emma meets two other 13-year-olds, dark-skinned Eliza, who has tight curls, and freckled, light blue-eyed Maddie. But things soon go awry, leading the trio, and Edgar, to flee the city in search of answers; and others like them. This pulse-pounding adventure will engage readers with its sense of wonder grounded by relatable, age-appropriate experiences, including arguments with parents, fear of not fitting in, and a burgeoning search for self. Ages 10: up. Agent: Silvia Molteni, Peters Fraser & Dunlop. (Aug.)



#2049776 Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Candace Fleming

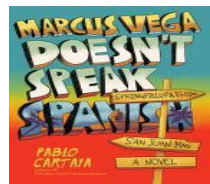
When movie director Larry Trimble travels to Berlin searching for his next big star--a dog!--he finds Etzel, a fierce, highly trained three-year-old German shepherd police dog. Larry sees past the snarls and growls and brings Etzel back to Hollywood, where he is renamed Strongheart.

978-1-101-93410-4 Schwartz & Wade ©2018 6-1/4 x 8 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.2 Lexile 560

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Fleming and Rohmann (Bulldozer's Big Day; Oh No!; and Giant Squid) team up on a new book based on the true story of Strongheart, a vicious police dog turned lovable silent movie star. A puppy named Etzel is taken from his family and trained to act against his gentle instincts. Meanwhile, Larry Trimble and Jane Murfin, movie producer and screenwriter, respectively, are searching for a canine who can actually act. When Larry discovers Etzel, he renames him Strongheart and sets out to make him a silent movie star. He becomes a Hollywood sensation, able to convey emotions on-screen and sniff out the bad guys in real life. Rohmann's illustrations largely consist of Strongheart in various situations (at police dog training, on his first movie set, meeting orphan boys), with very few drawings of the human characters. The subject matter, coupled with the illustrations, make Strongheart ideal for reluctant readers, particularly animal lovers. The back matter (which includes photos of Strongheart and his on-and-off-screen partner, Lady Jule) is extensive enough to satisfy curiosity about the real Strongheart and illuminate the sections of the book that are Fleming's speculation, such as those parts of the story told from Strongheart's perspective. VERDICT This fictionalized account of true events provides a look into the life of a little-known historical figure, and makes an excellent choice for general purchase.-Jessica Ko, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2067274 Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Pablo Cartaya

After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mom decides it's time for a change of environment. She takes Marcus and his younger brother to Puerto Rico to spend a week with relatives they don't remember or have never met.

978-1-101-99726-0 Viking ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile HL 580

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Springfield, Pa., Marcus, a six-foot tall, 180-pound, mustache-sporting 14-year-old, exploits his appearance to run a bullying protection business, secretly contributing his earnings to his single mom's cash jar. When a conniving school bully calls Marcus's brother, Charlie, who has Down syndrome, the "R" word, Marcus gets suspended for punching him. In an effort to "spend time together as a team," Marcus's mother takes the boys to visit their absent father's relatives in vibrant pre-Hurricane Maria Puerto Rico. Cartaya (The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora) poignantly sketches Marcus's desire to meet his father ("How do you start an email to a father you haven't seen in ten years?"), and clues about his dad's mercurial, irresponsible character build to a devastating realization. The loneliness of the family's Pennsylvania life contrasts starkly with the community they find in Puerto Rico; the events spark for Marcus a new understanding of his overworked mother and appreciation for his family and heritage, offering hope for deeper connections going forward. Ages 10--up. Agent: Jess Regel, Foundry Literary + Media. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-This middle grade story, set in Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico, pulls together important themes of family, identity, bilingualism, friends, and bullying. Marcus Vega navigates his six-foot-tall, 180-pound frame through middle school while also caring for his younger sibling, Charlie, who has Down Syndrome. Because of his large size, some of his peers consider him to be a monster, or even a bully. When a real bully uses the "R" word in reference to Charlie, Marcus punches him in the jaw. This begins a series of events in which he is expelled from school before spring break, causing his mother to take the boys to Puerto Rico where they are introduced to their father's extended family for the first time. Marcus decides to locate his long-absent father and over the course of five days, readers travel the island with

him as he is introduced to its rich flora and fauna, foods, community life, music, and friendliness. Marcus eventually comes to terms with his life challenges, including his own identity. VERDICT An excellent choice for upper elementary and middle grade libraries given its multiple, age-appropriate themes and the window it provides to life in a Puerto Rico before Hurricane Marfa.-Ruth Quiroa, National Louis University, Lisle, IL Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2178084 Eleanor, Alice, and the Roosevelt Ghosts (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Dianne K. Salerni

Murderous ghosts and buried family secrets threaten young Eleanor and Alice Roosevelt in this thrilling middle-grade novel that puts a supernatural spin on alternate history.

978-0-8234-4697-1 Holiday House ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 In her most recent novel, set in 1898, Salerni (*The Eighth Day*, 2014) expertly mixes fact and fiction to create a bright historical adventure. Many readers may not expect the history of a beloved presidential family to contain an alarming amount of death and calamity, but the Roosevelts experienced more than their fair share of tragedy, particularly in the case of cousins Eleanor and Alice. Salerni places their true story of loss and friendship in a fictional world plagued by ghostly eruptions of supernatural energy, and their strength in the face of adversity is made all the more memorable and noteworthy. The young women, teenagers in the tale, must investigate an unexpected haunting that brings to light a hidden and complicated family history. Their alternating perspectives provide fascinatingly different depictions of their resilience in the face of tribulations. This book is highly recommended for fans of historical fiction and thrilling mysteries. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide w York City, cousins Eleanor and Alice Roosevelt unite to solve the mystery of the ghost who has recently "erupted" in their aunt Bye's house. Here ghost eruptions are common; professional diagnosticians determine if spirits are Friendlies, Unawares, or Vengefuls. The one haunting Aunt Bye's house is initially categorized as a Friendly -- so why the vicious pranks, the cruel auditory hallucinations, the attempted poisoning of Aunt Bye, and worse? Salerni skillfully incorporates facts about the extended Roosevelt family (Theodore's grief over his first wife's death; the burgeoning romance between Eleanor and Franklin) into a lively and inventive ghost story/mystery/historical fiction mashup. Chapters alternate between Eleanor's and Alice's point of views, allowing readers insight into each young woman's thoughts, emotions, and personality. Introverted and awkward, Eleanor longs to continue her education in London and escape life with her oppressive Grandmother Hall; daring, self-confident, outrageously misbehaving Alice misses the mother she never knew and longs for her distant father's attention. Initially not at all close, the two bond over their shared mission to solve the mystery and dispatch the ghost, and in so doing uncover a second haunting and a dark family secret. Although the novel is engrossing right from the start, tensions build very quickly to a thrilling, Ghostbusters-esque climax, and readers will never think about FDR in quite the same way again after seeing him swing an iron poker at a ghost -- though in fact it is Eleanor and Alice who finish the job. Who you gonna call? An author's note provides additional information about the Roosevelt family. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The Roosevelt family is haunted by a treacherous spirit. In an alternate 1898, ghosts are a common occurrence. Some are unaware of their own spectral status, most are harmless, but a few are a bit vengeful. When a peculiar spirit awakens in the old Roosevelt family house in New York City, cousins Eleanor and Alice must strive to overcome their differences and figure out just what this spirit wants. The ghost authorities claim the spirit is harmless, but the little tricks the presence pulls become more and more dangerous as time goes on. Meanwhile, another dark force has emerged in the house where Alice was born and her mother died. Are the two ghosts connected? The Roosevelt family secrets hold all the answers, and the two teen girls discover them one by one. This mix of history and fantasy creates a nifty setting for a middle-grade mystery, but there's one big problem: The Roosevelts all sound the same. Alice and Eleanor are described as total opposites, but their spoken patterns are nearly identical, making the complex relationships all the harder to decipher, even with the aid of the family tree that is provided. The constant muttering of "Wait, which one is talking this time?" kills the narrative's flow, destroying the pacing that's so crucial to a mystery's success. A poorly characterized mystery. (author's note) (Mystery. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Thirteen-year-old Eleanor Roosevelt and her 14-year-old cousin Alice could not be more different. Eleanor is practical and meek, while Alice is reckless and brash. And in this alternate version of 1898 New York City, ghosts are definitely real, and hauntings are an accepted part of life. When a haunting "erupts" in the home of the girls' beloved Aunt Bye, they resolve to overcome their differences and team up to investigate and hopefully eradicate the ghost. Their sleuthing leads to a shocking discovery that forces them to confront family ghosts, both literally and figuratively. The Roosevelt family is known for its many celebrated, larger-than-life personalities, and it is refreshing that Salerni centers these charismatic female characters. But the plot hinges on the alteration of the true circumstances of the deaths of Theodore Roosevelt's mother and first wife, a tragedy that is somewhat cheapened when retold as a ghost story. Nevertheless, the supernatural phenomena associated with the haunting are chilling, and the protagonists' plucky bravery is undeniable. Fans of presidential history will likely appreciate the novel's hint at a budding romance between Eleanor and Franklin, but true history buffs may be dismayed by Salerni's deviation from the truth. VERDICT A unique premise that doesn't quite live up to its potential, though it may appeal to ardent fans of historical fiction and ghost



#2209011 Place to Hang the Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate Albus

It is 1940 and William, 12, Edmund, 11, and Anna, 9, aren't terribly upset by the death of the not-so-grandmotherly grandmother who has taken care of them since their parents died. But the children do need a guardian, and in the dark days of World War II London, those are in short supply, especially if they hope to stay together. Could the mass wartime evacuation of children from London to the countryside be the answer?

978-0-8234-4705-3 Margaret G Ferguson ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* The year is 1940, and German air strikes on London are looming. After their formidable, wealthy grandmother's funeral, orphans William (12 years old), Edmund (11), and Anna (9) Pearce learn that they will be evacuated to a village where (the solicitor charged with their welfare hopes) they might find a permanent home. They live with a butcher's family until Edmund retaliates against one of the bullying sons by placing a dead snake in his bed. A desperately poor mother with four young children takes them in but barely feeds them. Their only refuge is the lending library, where they find a warm fire, good books, and kind words. After their short-tempered caretaker slaps Edmund, the children strike out on their own and unexpectedly find a new home on Christmas Eve. Albus achieves a great deal in her first novel. While the Pearces' initially bleak situation is firmly rooted in classic children's books (a bibliography of their reading choices is appended), the narrative is fresh, lively, and captivating. The characters are drawn with conviction and a good deal of empathy. Lit by wit and humanity, the novel offers a heartening story in which three resourceful children keep a secret, find what they long for, and treasure it. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When the grandmother of William, Edmund, and Anna Pearce dies, the siblings are left with an inheritance but no guardian, and 1940 London is hardly the place to go looking for anyone to adopt three children. They evacuate to the countryside, cautioned by their grandmother's solicitor not to mention anything about an inheritance unless all three agree they've found a worthy family. The first family seems promising, until the sons begin to bully the Pearce boys, and hot-headed Edmund is having none of that. The second family, comprising a worn-out mother and a brood of neglected children, is more interested in the Pearces' ration allotments and free labor than in caregiving. In the background of their tribulations stands the local librarian, Mrs. Muller, who understands that they need the refuge her library can provide and, as a village outlier suspected of having married a Nazi, also understands what it means to live on the margin. It doesn't take much guessing to know that Mrs. Muller's home will be their home, but it's in the often crisp, often cozy detailing and the ever-so-British turns of phrase ("For June of 1940 was, even for those who had not recently become orphans, a time of most uncertain futures") that this novel claims a place among the most kid-pleasing orphan stories. The loyal bonds among the Pearce siblings and Mrs. Muller's bottomless well of patience, ingenuity, and perfectly tailored reading lists will have readers aching to swap their own messier families, however briefly, for the Pearces' home and hygge. The characters' reading lists are included. EB

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine In Kate Albus's wonderful novel *A Place to Hang the Moon*, terrible times lead to gutsy solutions for three orphaned children who take a chance to find a new home. William, Edmund, and Anna live with their atrocious grandmother in London. When their grandmother dies, the children are left with a pile of money, but nobody to look after them. Their family lawyer hatches a plot to send the children to the countryside; with luck, they will find a forever home and a new family to love. The three siblings pack their bags with the usual clothes, shoes, and "one small family memento." Edmund quips, "No worries there...That'll save you some room." His words become a poignant reminder of how little their children have from their parents, beyond the manufactured memories that William shares with his siblings at bedtime. The dramatic historical backdrop--World War II and the bombings of London--is blistering, characterized by suspicion toward anything German, and filled with danger. The children's life is hard: they are bullied as "filthy vakies," tangle with a frightening teacher, and face the grinding poverty of the war years. They bounce from house to house, never really finding the home they hoped for. But they remain affable. Their secret weapon is that they are all voracious readers: they find inspiration in *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and enlightenment through reading the encyclopedia. They find solace in the town's little library, whose librarian is their perfect adult contact, even if German connection makes her a social outcast. Both touching and genuine, the historical novel *A Place to Hang the Moon* speaks to the power of stories and families, both of which can be found in the most unexpected places. COPYRIGHT(2020) Foreword Magazine, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Three plucky orphan siblings are in search of a mother in wartime England. When their grandmother dies, 12-year-old William, 11-year-old Edmund, and 9-year-old Anna are left in London in the care of an elderly housekeeper. As part of the World War II evacuation of children to safety, they are relocated to the countryside, something the family solicitor hopes may lead to finding adoptive parents. However, they are billeted with the Forresters, an unpleasant family reminiscent of the Dursleys. Bullying by their hosts' two sons, who despise them; the ever present fear of German attack; and the dread of homelessness test their mettle to the limit. The orphans long to find a home of their own, and good boy William is stressed by his responsibility as head of the small family. Edmund's desire for revenge against the Forresters and a prank involving a snake get them evicted from their billet, and they end up in a much worse situation. They find sanctuary in the village library and

a savior in the librarian, who is married to a German and therefore ostracized by the locals. Mrs. Müller provides them with moral support, a listening ear, and true appreciation and love. The classic books she chooses for them--The Wind in the Willows and Anne of Green Gables, among others--may generate ideas for further reading. All characters are White. A wartime drama with enough depth and psychological complexity to satisfy budding bookworms. (reading list) (Historical fiction. 12-16) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this heartwarming debut that contains nods to British children's classics, three orphans; heirs to a fortune; join the WWII London evacuation after the death of their forbidding grandmother leaves them guardianless. Though they seek safety from the Blitz and the possibility of finding a permanent, loving home, the siblings' plight instead becomes precarious. At their first residence, responsible 12-year-old William, roguish 11-year-old Edmund, and earnest nine-year-old Anna encounter bullying from their foster siblings. At the next; a starkly impoverished billet with a harried mother of four; the children experience hunger, and the boys are forced to kill rats for extra funds. Happily, a friendship with their village's warm librarian, regarded by many with suspicion because of her absent German husband, offers solace and hope to the three. Albus infuses the closely bonded siblings' search for found family with dry humor ("Funeral receptions can be tough spots to find enjoyment"), affectionate and authentic-feeling characterization, and a plot that alludes to and aligns with the works of Enid Blyton, Frances Hodgson Burnett, and E. Nesbit. Includes a bibliography of books mentioned. Ages 9: 12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--It's 1940 in London, and William, Edmund, and Anna have found themselves orphaned for the second time in their short lives. With the Nazis breathing down England's neck, the children are sent, with hundreds of other children, to the countryside to live with a billet, a foster family that takes them in temporarily and protects them from the war. Their family's solicitor has advised them to be on the lookout for a family that could be a forever home for them while there. The oldest, William, has the best memories of their mum and dad and often tells stories about them to his siblings, one being that the children were so loved that they could probably hang the moon in the heavens if they wanted to. With that in mind, the three of them know that only a family that thinks the children "hang the moon in the heavens" will be the right fit. While away in the countryside, the children stay with a variety of families, some more traditional than others. With the solace of the little library as their only constant and the town librarian their only friend, the children learn to piece together a family until a real one is found. Told in third person, Albus's rich character descriptions and quick story pace will keep tweens turning the pages until the very end. Vivid details of World War II-era England are written from a child's perspective. Characters are white. VERDICT For fans of Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's *The War That Saved My Life*, this is a highly recommended purchase. Readers will laugh, cry, and root for the three siblings as they endeavor to survive in this endearing tale.--Tracy Cronce Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2227717 Most Perfect Thing in the Universe (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tricia Springstubb</i> While 11-year-old Loah Londonderry's mother, a noted ornithologist, works to save endangered birds of the shrinking Arctic tundra, shy and timid Loah stays home counting the days till her return. But now, believing she's sighted Loah's namesake, a bird long believed extinct, Dr. Londonderry sets off on a risky solo trek that alarms Loah and makes her wonder if her mother cares more about Loah the bird than Loah her daughter. 978-0-8234-4757-2 Margaret G Ferguson ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 6.0</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Eleven-year-old Loah Londonderry, a rather shy, quiet homebody, looks forward to her adventurous mother's return from the Arctic tundra, but one phone call soon derails that plan. Excited by the reported spotting of a loah bird, which was thought to be extinct, Dr. Londonderry, an ornithologist, has decided to track it down on her own for a few weeks. Meanwhile, Loah remains at home, under the care of elderly Miss Rinker and her brother. When both are hospitalized, she struggles to keep their absence a secret in order to maintain her independence. Another call brings alarming news from the Arctic, and Loah decides to act, though it will take all her wits, determination, and courage to save her mother. From Loah to her caretakers to her only friend, the characters have convincing backstories that shed light on their idiosyncrasies. The well-paced story, enhanced with avian information and enchantment, builds in intensity as Loah becomes more isolated and self-reliant, yet increasingly focused on others. The novel concludes in a heartening, wholly satisfying way, suitably accompanied by birdsong.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Eleven-year-old Loah is desperately looking forward to her ornithologist mother's return from an Arctic expedition when she receives a phone call from Mama saying that she's staying a little longer to track the elusive loah bird. Loah is a homebody, comfortable in her dilapidated house and cared for by the elderly Rinkers, but the news of Mama's delay is so painful that she uncharacteristically bikes across town in an attempt to escape her thoughts and ends up meeting Ellis, a girl who is also trying (unsuccessfully) to flee her own family turmoil. The two strike up a friendship, a lucky turn for Loah as she needs all the support she can get when the Rinkers end up in the hospital, the local housing inspector threatens to deem her house uninhabitable, and her mother goes incommunicado. The third-person narration manages both compassion and cleverness with direct addresses to the reader that oscillate in tone between thoughtfully poignant and drolly amused. There's sympathy for Loah but never pity, and the narrator has far more belief in Loah than Loah does in herself. The book makes clear the distinction between loving someone and caring for them, and both Loah's and Ellis' experiences convey how painful the absence of either

can be. Like Standish's *The Mending Summer*, reviewed below, this forgives the failing adults in Loah's life without absolving them, and Springstubb wisely gives the Rinkers and Loah's mother enough depth to garner readerly understanding as well. An author's note explains that the loah bird is fictional, discusses ornithology, and summarizes conservation efforts; a bibliography is appended. KQG COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Loah's widowed mother, Dr. Anastasia Londonderry, a world-renowned ornithologist specializing in birds of the Arctic tundra, is fearless and adventurous, attributes that are the polar opposite of those possessed by her daughter, a shy homebody. Dr. Londonderry's passion takes her to the Arctic for extended periods, and she depends on an elderly pair of siblings, the Rinkers, to take care of Loah and the house -- a system that works well until it doesn't. The breakdown comes at the beginning of summer when Dr. Londonderry elects to stay in the Arctic, on her own. Her situation turns precarious; both Rinkers fall ill and are hospitalized; and the house, in a state of neglectful disrepair, is cited for numerous code violations. It's up to Loah to somehow save her mother, support the Rinkers, and deal with threatening visits from an unfriendly housing inspector -- a series of challenges not included in her usual skillset. Spurred into action by a new friend who is as bold as Loah is timid, Loah finds the internal strength to meet these external forces. The authentic and compelling narrative sings with avian metaphors as Springstubb plays with language, crafting her story around the concept of an egg -- "the most perfect thing in the universe" -- an object that initially houses life but in time allows that life to emerge independently. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Loah's been left--again--in the care of the elderly Rinkers while her mother is on an Arctic expedition. A determined homebody, 11-year-old Loah doesn't enjoy her mother's long, sometimes perilous journeys. This one's been unexpectedly extended since her mom, an ornithologist, believes she's spotted a loah bird, the very rare animal for which Loah was named. Stiff, seemingly unemotional Miss Rinker and her brother, gentle, bumbling Theo, are nice enough, but they are inadequate substitutes for a mother who is so deeply engaged in her professional life. When Loah befriends Ellis (or L.S., whose real name is Little Squirrel), a girl just as deeply in need of TLC as Loah, it puts into motion a series of tender gestures. One lovingly crafted character after another (most seemingly White) reaches out to offer unexpected, desperately needed support, demonstrating a remarkable chain of interconnectedness. As Loah's mother had said, "All living creatures depended on one another in ways big and small." With mysterious noises emanating from Loah's crumbling home's turret, Ellis' seemingly monstrous grandfather, a threatening, busybody home inspector, and a suspenseful accident in the Arctic, there is plenty to keep readers engaged in this heartfelt exploration of goodness. Never-intrusive environmental lessons are an added bonus. Satisfying and life affirming: a perfect thing in the universe of juvenile fiction. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old homebody Loah Londonderry, who enjoys knitting and loves the family's rickety old home, is the opposite of her single mother, a dedicated ornithologist who's away in the Arctic longer than planned, risking her life to save her daughter's namesake, the nearly extinct loah bird. Left in the care of elderly siblings, gentle Theo and tough Miss Rinker, Loah is overwhelmed by problems: Theo, falling ill, has to be hospitalized; a city home inspector keeps coming around, demanding repairs be made to Loah's beloved house in the woods; and her new friend Ellis wants to run away. Loah keeps her worries inside until an incident forces her to step outside her comfort zone, seeking aid and protecting what's dear. Through metaphor and imagery, Springstubb's (*Every Single Second*) tender, sensitively written story captures the essences of places and characters, including frequently dismayed, brave Loah. In addition to offering unique personalities across the cued-white cast and a lesson about global warming, the book provides a host of facts about birds. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Sarah Davies, Greenhouse Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Loah Londonderry's mother is off on yet another expedition while Loah stays behind in their large old home with caretakers Miss Rinker and her brother Theo, who look after her while Dr. Londonderry is away. Loah's mother may be an adventurer at heart, but timid Loah is a homebody, who counts the days her mother has been gone and tries to keep busy, as Miss Rinker always suggests. But this summer it seems everything is going wrong. Dr. Londonderry may be on the brink of a discovery, so her trip has been extended. Theo has a medical emergency, and Loah is left alone while Theo is in the hospital and Miss Rinker stays with him. And a man who says he is a housing inspector from the city keeps dropping by at unexpected moments. That would be a lot for anyone to handle, much less a shy homebody. Readers will cheer as Loah steps up and makes things happen, with the help of some unexpected friends. It's a sweet, satisfying story full of heart--and fascinating facts about birds, climate change, and the environment. An author's note explains that while Loah's namesake, the loah bird, is fictional, other bird facts in the book are true, including the fact that climate change is affecting many birds' habitats. Loah and most of the primary characters are cued as white. VERDICT An excellent choice for fans of realistic fiction and readers interested in nature.--Mindy Rhiger, Hennepin County Lib., MN Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2178086 Pine Island Home (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Polly Horvath

When the McCready sisters' parents are washed away in a tsunami, their Great Aunt Martha volunteers to have them live with her on her farm in British Columbia. But while they are traveling there, Martha dies unexpectedly, forcing Fiona, the eldest, to come up with a scheme to keep social services from separating the girls - a scheme that will only work if no one knows they are living on their own.

978-0-8234-4785-5 Margaret G Ferguson ©2020 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 240 pgs.

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 For those who like to settle into a comfy spot and spend quality time with spunky heroines and quirky supporting characters, Horvath's latest certainly fits the bill. Like the author's *The Canning Season* (2003) and *Everything on a Waffle* (2001), food plays a part in helping four orphaned sisters stick together despite the fact that their great aunt, who was meant to take them in, has actually died, leaving them to fend for themselves on her farm in British Columbia. In order to fool the locals into thinking an adult is watching over them, the oldest girls bribe a cranky neighbor, Al, who has his own secrets, with dinners delivered to his door. While Marlin pours her efforts into her culinary creations and Fiona handles their finances, Al goes along reluctantly, but crises keep popping up. One sister gets lost on a mountain, and another attracts the attention of a friendly, but hungry, bear. Readers will keep going with the hope that things somehow will work out. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books After sisters Fiona, Marlin, Natasha, and Charlie are orphaned, they're sent to stay with their great-aunt Martha on a Canadian island; unfortunately, they arrive in British Columbia to discover Martha's just died. Since she was their last resort and they're determined to avoid being split up, they decide to stay in Martha's house and fly under the radar ("If they didn't tell anyone they were living without a grown-up, who was to know?"). Eventually they're helped by the kind local teacher and by their grumpy, much-less-kind neighbor Al, who are in on the secret, but fourteen-year-old Fiona still struggles to keep her family together and provide for them as they need. Horvath fans will recognize her recurring subject of kids outside of traditional adult care, and the book deftly balances a twenty-first century setting with a classic orphan-story feel. Indeed, the story gains impact from the tension between the girls' belief in a storybook solution to their plight and the realities of loss ("The frightening knowledge that people you were a part of could be just gone") and a situation that is just too much for them to handle. The girls are well distinguished as characters, and there's plenty of humor in witty turns of phrase and their eccentric lives. Ultimately, it's an appealing domestic survival story with a slice of reality, bound to appeal to youngsters who contemplate an adult-free life. DS

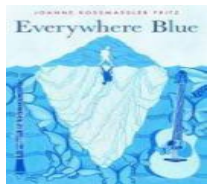
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Horvath (*Everything on a Waffle*, rev. 5/01) returns to her sweet spot (parents lost in tragic accident; quaint British Columbia setting) for her latest novel. When after a long journey orphaned sisters Fiona, Marlin, Natasha, and Charlie arrive at the Pine Island home of the only relative willing to take them in, they discover that Great-Aunt Martha has died and that her house is theirs. They decide, audaciously, to stay. Reasoning that in order to avoid foster care they must find an adult willing to be their guardian, even if in name only, they hire a neighbor, the bellicose and usually hungover Al, to pose as theirs. The book's tension grows from Fiona's attempts to keep the tenuous deception going as she struggles to juggle household and school responsibilities; act as surrogate parent to her younger sisters; put off a suspicious lawyer; and find the money to pay hefty inheritance taxes. Of course, everything would be much easier if the girls had a real guardian, and they pin their hopes on teacher Miss Webster, who has been let in on their secret. Horvath's resolution nicely subverts just about all readers' expectations (though that ending comes quite abruptly); meanwhile, readers will be treated to a story featuring suspense, believable characters, a fully realized setting, and nuggets of Horvath wisdom ("It suddenly occurred to her that...Ya bear's] mind might be full of all kinds of things just as hers was. The things he loved, the things he feared, the things he missed, the new things he was puzzling out. That any creature's life was made up of the wonderful jumble of what they held in their head and their heart"). (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Horvath (*Everything on a Waffle*, rev. 5/01) returns to her sweet spot (parents lost in tragic accident; quaint British Columbia setting) for her latest novel. When after a long journey orphaned sisters Fiona, Marlin, Natasha, and Charlie arrive at the Pine Island home of the only relative willing to take them in, they discover that Great-Aunt Martha has died and that her house is theirs. They decide, audaciously, to stay. Reasoning that in order to avoid foster care they must find an adult willing to be their guardian, even if in name only, they hire a neighbor, the bellicose and usually hungover Al, to pose as theirs. The book's tension grows from Fiona's attempts to keep the tenuous deception going as she struggles to juggle household and school responsibilities; act as surrogate parent to her younger sisters; put off a suspicious lawyer; and find the money to pay hefty inheritance taxes. Of course, everything would be much easier if the girls had a real guardian, and they pin their hopes on teacher Miss Webster, who has been let in on their secret. Horvath's resolution nicely subverts just about all readers' expectations (though that ending comes quite abruptly); meanwhile, readers will be treated to a story featuring suspense, believable characters, a fully realized setting, and nuggets of Horvath wisdom ("It suddenly occurred to her that...[a bear's] mind might be full of all kinds of things just as hers was. The things he loved, the things he feared, the things he missed, the new things he was puzzling out. That any creature's life was made up of the wonderful jumble of what they held in their head and their heart"). Martha V. Parravano September/October 2020 p.92(c) Copyright 2020. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Four orphaned girls try to figure out how to get along on their own. When a relative is found to take them in after their missionary parents' sudden deaths by tsunami, the McCready sisters move from Borneo to British Columbia only to discover that Great-Aunt Martha has died unexpectedly. However, Martha has left her paperwork in good order, registered the children at the local schools, and stocked her house with food and beds. Fourteen-year-old Fiona must keep everyone together and avoid alerting social services. The school principal is sympathetic and supportive. The cranky neighbor, Al, a drinker who lets fly the occasional oath and whose trailer home is in disarray, reluctantly agrees to pretend to be the girls' guardian. They think of him as the Waste Troll, based on a disparaging comment by the McCreadys' garden-gnome-look-alike lawyer. While Marlin, 12, discovers her affinity and talent for cooking and baking, Natasha, 10, becomes a bird-watcher, and Charlie, 8 and a worrier, befriends Al before any of the others. The default white is assumed. Horvath, ever respectful of the inner lives of children, has a way of incorporating moments of sweet hilarity into an account that makes the girls' situation seem plausible. She doesn't stint on vocabulary or on sophisticated observations, yet her narrative arc is direct and extraordinarily satisfying, with its emphasis on competence and survival of the domestic, familial, and emotional sort. Delightful. (Fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Readers who have grown to love Newbery Honoree Horvath's (Everything on a Waffle) slightly quirky characters and unique situations will not be disappointed by this suspenseful story of four orphaned sisters in Borneo, who are in a pickle after their missionary parents are swept away by a tsunami. None of the girls' "suitable" relatives are willing to take in the four children, so as a last resort, 14-year-old Fiona and her younger siblings are sent to their "peculiar" Aunt Martha, who lives in the woods of British Columbia; upon arriving, they discover that Martha has died of a heart attack but had prepared her home for their stay. Terrified that they will be separated and placed into foster care, they reside in their aunt's cottage and bribe her grumpy, beer-guzzling neighbor Al to pretend to be their guardian if they bring him dinner; "a hot dinner"; every night. Still, practical-minded Fiona fears it is only a matter of time before social services or Aunt Martha's suspicious attorney discovers their ruse. Presenting a delicate balance between traumas (sister Natasha getting lost in the woods) and joys (finding an unexpected cohort in the elementary school principal), Horvath's wide array of contrasting personalities adds humor and depth to the familiar premise of orphans forced to survive on their own. Ages 9: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal GR 4-7-Fourteen-year-old Fiona's take-charge nature comes in handy when the four McCready sisters are orphaned, and only upon arrival find that their aunt no longer lives in British Columbia. Energetic Fiona, practical Marlin, dreamy Natasha, and timid Charlie hatch a plot to avoid social services, enlisting the crotchety next-door neighbor to pose as their guardian, trading him Marlin's home-cooked dinners and \$20 a week for car rides and an adult signature when needed. Once readers are on board with the girls' very occasional sadness over the loss of both parents, the story is warm, funny, and insightful. School principal Miss Webster and conservation officer Don Pettinger help keep their secret, but the girls, in grades from high school to elementary, make a run at challenges quite ingeniously on their own. Al Farber is a richly drawn curmudgeon, with depth of character that brings to mind Susan Smith from Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's *The War that Saved My Life*. VERDICT Horvath hits the perfect notes of independence, adventure, and sentimentality, without being cloying. Hand to fans of Jeanne Birdsall's *The Penderwicks* and Karina Yan Glaser's *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*. Deserves a place in most middle school libraries.--Maggie Knapp, Trinity Valley Sch., Fort Worth, TX Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2227716 Everywhere Blue (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joanne Rossmassler Fritz

When twelve-year-old Maddie's older brother vanishes from his college campus, her carefully ordered world falls apart. Nothing will fill the void of her beloved oldest sibling. Meanwhile Maddie's older sister reacts by staying out late, and her parents are always distracted by the search for Strum. Drowning in grief and confusion, the family's musical household falls silent.

978-0-8234-4862-3 Holiday House ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 570

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The musical and natural worlds help a tween understand her family and her personal dynamics. Twelve-year-old Madrigal begins her story in November in a diminuendo mood. Maddie is studying the oboe, the instrument that voices the Duck in Peter and the Wolf, and she is dedicated to improving her technique so she can perform the solo in her school's winter concert. Her world changes when her older brother, Strum, a college student deeply concerned about the environment, disappears. Maddie compulsively counts objects and believes that even numbers are the best. She is a gifted math student who appreciates order and regularity, eating the same precisely prepared sandwich for lunch every day. January is a month of staccato as Maddie thinks of herself as a fraction, divided from the brother who makes her whole; reflecting his favorite color, she plays Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. She regards February as a month of crescendo when, as a member of the environmental club at school, she visits a blue morpho butterfly exhibit that gives her an idea as to where Strum has gone. The combination of free verse and first-person narrative convey Maddie's thoughts as she learns to appreciate that both music and family follow strong emotional currents, not just the precision of a metronome. The family defaults to White. An insightful exploration of a girl's inner tickings. (Verse novel. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Musical and poetic, this is a brave, rich debut novel about mental health and climate change. Maddie, short for Madrigal (like everyone in her family, she has a musical name) likes sameness. Whenever Maddie is stressed, she counts things and hopes they come out to an even number; this calms her. There's a lot to be worried about these days—the quality of her oboe playing, her dad's strictness, her sister Aria's increasing distance, and her older brother Strum's sudden disappearance from college—and lots of her counting comes to odd numbers. There's a dissonance in this musical family, and no one can figure out where Strum has gone or why. Maman, who is French, flies to Colorado to search for him; Daddy follows and leaves Maddie home with Aria, who is even more determined to break the rules now that their parents are gone. Knowing Strum's increasing concern with ecology and conservation, Maddie joins Eco Club with her best friend, Emma, and lands a solo in the upcoming school concert; she experiences common middle school concerns like fitting in while navigating intense family struggles at home. The book is written in verse, and the plot is broken into four narrative segments and utilizes musical terminology like diminuendo in the beginning and crescendo at the end. The imagery of blue morpho butterflies swirling with the conflict and connection in Maddie's life during her oboe solo is particularly beautiful. VERDICT Libraries need more titles featuring young people who care about climate change and live with undiagnosed mental illness, and this fresh novel in verse fits the bill.—Jamie Winchell, Percy Julian M.S., IL

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#1936533 Crenshaw (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katherine Applegate

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent.

And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again.

978-1-250-04323-8 Feiwel & Friends ©2015 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 4.2 Lexile 540

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6. Soon-to-be fifth-grader Jackson goes for facts and science—things that are real and true—and having a giant, talking cat around doesn't fit the bill. It has been years since his imaginary feline friend Crenshaw was on the scene, and Jackson can't figure out why he is back or how to make him go away. It soon becomes apparent that all is not well in Jackson's home. Though he has a loving family, money is tight. Jackson can't help remembering back to when they had to live in a minivan—that was when he first met Crenshaw—and he fears that might happen once again. Newbery winner Applegate (*The One and Only Ivan*, 2012) uses gentle humor, embodied by Crenshaw, to explore the topic of homelessness. Jackson's anxiety is central to the narrative, and his concerns will resonate with readers who have been in stressful situations. Though the story is weighty, it is a quick read that encourages people of all ages to be honest with one another and value family and friends (real and imaginary!).

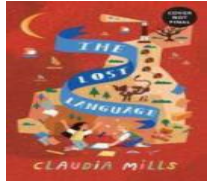
Reviews by: Horn Book Jackson is a scientist, a skeptic, and nobody's fool. He's the resilient fifth-grader (the "most grown-up one in the house") in a dreamy, overwhelmed family that has fallen on hard times. But sometimes even the hyper-competent need help, and when Jackson's family faces homelessness once more, his former imaginary friend, a giant cat named Crenshaw who's visible only to Jackson, makes a reappearance. Crenshaw is neither cute nor obviously supportive. He takes bubble baths, constantly asks for purple jelly beans, and makes gnomish pronouncements ("You need to tell the truth, my friend...To the person who matters most of all"). Jackson tries to banish him, but Crenshaw insists that he has been summoned. Applegate walks a tightrope through this whole robustly sweet narrative. Crenshaw is both real and imaginary. Jackson's family is loving, optimistic, and functional in its way, but the tenuousness of the family's situation and Jackson's lack of control over his own fate are stressful. "Were we going to have enough to eat tomorrow?...Were we going to be able to pay the rent?...Would I go to the same school in the fall?...Would it [homelessness] happen again?" The tone is warm and, occasionally, quirkily funny, but it doesn't sugarcoat the effects of hunger and vulnerability. This novel adds a middle-grade perspective to the literature of imaginary friends and paints a convincing and compassionate portrait of a social class—the working poor—underrepresented in children's books. sarah ellis

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Applegate tackles homelessness in her first novel since 2013 Newbery winner *The One and Only Ivan*. Hunger is a constant for soon-to-be fifth-grader Jackson and his family, and the accompanying dizziness may be why his imaginary friend is back. A giant cat named Crenshaw first appeared after Jackson finished first grade, when his parents moved the family into their minivan for several months. Now they're facing eviction again, and Jackson's afraid that he won't be going to school next year with his friend Marisol. When Crenshaw shows up on a surfboard, Jackson, an aspiring scientist who likes facts, wonders whether Crenshaw is real or a figment of his imagination. Jackson's first-person narrative moves from the present day, when he wishes that his parents understood that he's old enough to hear the truth about the family's finances, to the first time they were homeless and back to the present. The structure allows readers access to the slow buildup of Jackson's panic and his need for a friend and stability in his life. Crenshaw tells Jackson that "Imaginary friends don't come of their own volition. We are invited. We stay as long as we're needed." The cat's voice, with its adult tone, is the conduit for the novel's lessons: "You need to tell the truth, my friend...To the person who matters most of all." Though the lessons weigh more heavily than in *The One and Only Ivan*, a potential disappointment to its fans, the story is nevertheless a somberly affecting one. (Fiction. 7-11)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Although he is "not an imaginary friend kind of guy," rising fifth-grader Jackson recognizes Crenshaw immediately. The cat, who walks on two legs and likes purple jellybeans, first appeared to Jackson three years ago when his family was living in their van. Although life has been stable since then, Jackson notices "Big piles of bills. Parents whispering. Parents arguing. Stuff getting sold." When he asks his parents if they have "a plan for making everything okay," they respond with evasive answers like "maybe they could plant a money tree in the back yard." Newbery Medalist Applegate (*The One and Only Ivan*) poignantly conveys Jackson's memory of hunger and homelessness and his realization that both threaten his family again. Certain that he has outgrown Crenshaw, Jackson feels both dismay and wonder that his friend has returned, with his playful, attention-getting antics (taking bubble baths, doing cartwheels and handstands) and thought-provoking answers to Jackson's questions. This accessible and moving novel demonstrates how the creative resilience of a child's mind can soften difficult situations, while exploring the intersection of imagination and truth. Ages 10-14. Agent: Elena Giovinazzo, Pippin Properties. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-In her first novel since the Newbery-winning *The One and Only Ivan* (HarperCollins, 2012), Applegate tells the story of a 10-year-old boy whose imaginary friend helps him cope with a family crisis. Jackson, his parents, and his five-year-old sister once again are staring down the barrel of an impending eviction notice. What frustrates Jackson isn't just the lack of money: it's his artistically minded parents' tendency to gloss over their woes with humor and cheer rather than acknowledging the reality of their situation. It's understandably a shock to Jackson when an old friend reappears: Crenshaw, a seven-foot-tall talking cat, who first came into his life several years

ago when the boy and his family were living out of their car shortly after his father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Skeptical Jackson tries to dismiss Crenshaw as a figment of his imagination, but the cat's words of wisdom start to resonate with him. Employing sparse but elegant prose, Applegate has crafted an authentic protagonist whose self-possession and maturity conceal relatable vulnerability and fears. While sardonic Crenshaw may not be the warm and cuddly imaginary friend readers are expecting, he's the companion that Jackson truly needs as he begins to realize that he doesn't need to carry the weight of the world upon his shoulders. Though the ending wraps up a shade too neatly, overall, children will appreciate this heartbreaking novel. VERDICT A compelling and unflinchingly honest treatment of a difficult topic.-Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal © Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.



#2250939 Lost Language (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Claudia Mills

Sixth grader Betsy is the one who informs her best friend, Lizard, that thousands of the world's languages are currently threatened by extinction; Betsy's mother is a linguistics professor working frantically to study dying languages before they are lost forever. But it is Lizard who, gripped by the magnitude of this loss, challenges Betsy, "What if, instead of WRITING about dying languages, like your mom, you and I SAVED one instead?"

978-0-8234-5038-1 Margaret G Ferguson ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Sixth-graders Betsy (Bumble) and Liz (Lizard) have been best friends for years, despite Betsy's mother's reservations about audacious Lizard's influence on mild-mannered Betsy, who's under pressure from her mother to bloom. As Betsy's demanding mother battles with work challenges-she's a linguistics professor who studies dying languages-Lizard gets a thrilling idea: she and Betsy will learn one of those dying languages and help its survival, assisting Betsy's mom and proving the value of her project. The girls dive into basic GuernZsiais (the old language of the France-adjacent UK isle of Guernsey), but there's more going on with Betsy's mother than just work frustrations, and when the family situation erupts it leaves the girls divided and Betsy stunned. Mills writes in free verse here rather than her familiar prose, but her keen insight into dynamics and character remains evident, and the compact, accessible phraseology deftly distills the portrayals. Narrator Betsy is particularly well delineated as somebody who has her own strengths, not always visible to her mother, despite her willingness to let Lizard take the lead, and there's some gentle illumination of Lizard's limitations alongside respect for her. Betsy's family situation is also authentic, with its push-pull dynamic between her easygoing dad and hard-driving mother, and it's believable that her father's mishandling of her mother's suicide attempt-initially lying to Betsy about what happened and then letting the information leak so that Betsy's classmates know the truth before she does-rocks Betsy almost as much as the incident itself. Ultimately, though, it's satisfying to see Betsy weather adversity and prove her own strength: "I'm the one who gets to decide/ what blooming means to me." The author includes an extensive note about dying languages. DS COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide This verse novel is told in first person by one of a pair of sixth-grade best friends, both named Elizabeth. Narrator Betsy makes it clear from the beginning that her friend Lizard is more than a little bossy, as when she decides that Betsy was a "dumb name," eventually settling on Bumble as a better nickname. Betsy is also keenly aware that her brilliant linguist mother dislikes the nickname: "Every time my mom hears Lizard call me Bumble... / I can see her jaw tighten / with all the things she isn't saying." She realizes that her mom wants her to make her own decisions and not defer so often, but Betsy is comfortable in her role: "Lizard has to be the first at everything. / Most kids aren't as good as I am at being second." But friction arises between the two when Betsy wins a role in the school play and forms a new friendship; this eventually leads to a deep rift when Lizard reveals to their lunchmates that Betsy's mother is in the hospital following a suicide attempt. Mills uses poetry effectively to strip the layers away, conveying painful emotions in simple words that pack a punch: "Now Lizard doesn't have me / And I don't have her, / And we're never going / to have each other again." The format allows the titles of the poems to add their own little twists. The topic of a parent's suicide attempt is handled with sensitivity and compassion, and all the emotions ring true. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An endangered language becomes a metaphor for people struggling to communicate. Betsy is "good at being second." Her mercurial linguistics professor mother works long hours, studying languages at risk of extinction, and has parental ambitions that sit uneasily on Betsy's shoulders. Her best friend, Lizard, meanwhile, is a possessive, outspoken, and brittle friend who brooks no opposition. Fortunately, Betsy's father is a steady, easygoing presence. The two Colorado sixth graders seize upon a plan: They will learn Guernésiais (a language from the Channel Islands with only a couple hundred speakers), get everyone at their middle school speaking it too, and surprise Betsy's mother with their good deed. The school musical--Betsy is excited to take part, Lizard is disdainful--leads to tension as Betsy considers the high personal cost of their friendship. Through well-drawn characters, this skillfully paced story thoughtfully addresses the need to be truly seen in our important relationships. However, the crisis of language loss is not sufficiently explained: The girls express a savior mentality ("I hope they'd be grateful that two kids in America / were at least trying to save their language for them") that is dramatically put in check. But without more context, readers may fail to fully understand the problem with their earlier attitude. Whiteness is situated as the default; Spanish-speaking students are present as background characters, and one of Betsy's friends from the play is Black. A sincere exploration of humanly imperfect love. (Verse novel.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two presumed-white Colorado sixth-grader best friends named Elizabeth; known as "Bumble" and "Lizard," respectively; navigate their shifting friendship in this tender novel-in-verse by Mills (*Zero Tolerance*). According to Betsy's disapproving mother, a workaholic linguistics professor, Liz holds outsize sway in the girls' relationship. Still, when Lizard decides that she and Bumble should learn a dying language to save it from extinction and impress Bumble's mother, Bumble eagerly follows her lead. Their attempts prove frustrating, however, when no one else seems interested in their mission. Meanwhile, Bumble lands a nonspeaking role in the school's production of *Alice in Wonderland* and finds new friends, making Lizard jealous. When they both experience family crises, a cruel betrayal further threatens the girls' fragile relationship. Conveyed in the first-person perspective, Bumble's epiphanies and observations are crystallized through concise language and evocative descriptions ("Her face looks like/ the face in this famous picture/ of a person screaming/... like when you're in a bad/ dream and you're trying/ to call for help/ and no sound comes out."), while her evolving emotions surrounding her parents and Lizard are as eloquently conveyed as her growing understanding of the world. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Jennifer De Chiara, Jennifer De Chiara Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up--Reserved Betsy trails in the wake of two domineering women in her life: her mother and her BFF, Lizard. Mom, a career-obsessed linguistics professor, has little time for Betsy or her devoted father. Mom's not fond of Lizard, whom she (ironically) thinks is too controlling. Betsy is aware of the imbalance in both relationships, but isn't ready to challenge them yet. In an effort to please Betsy's mother, the friends launch a club at their middle school to "save" a dying European language. The club fails, but sets Betsy on a path of making new friends. Alienated, Lizard retaliates by revealing to classmates that Betsy's mother has just attempted suicide. The author doesn't expand the verse format beyond standard line arrangement and the language lacks the imagery of Thanhha Lai's *Inside Out and Back Again*. But Betsy's first-person narration is engaging and will speak to the many young readers who feel quashed by stronger personalities all around them. It's a pivotal moment of acceptance when Betsy's father observes, "sometimes someone who is quiet/ has their spunk and spirit/ deep inside, like a hidden treasure." The novel ends on a realistic, satisfying note as Betsy's family moves forward--together--and she and Lizard reach a new understanding. Race of the main characters is not described. Back matter hints at a possible meaning of the novel's title: the language we must never lose is the words to tell those we love how we truly feel. VERDICT Empowering and heartfelt; recommended for all middle grade collections.--Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem P.L., Holbrook, NY Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2324603 In the Tunnel (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Julie Lee

Trapped in an enemy tunnel, a young refugee experiences the Korean War firsthand in this searing story of survival, loss, and hope, a companion to the Freeman Award-winning novel *Brother's Keeper*.

978-0-8234-5039-8 Holiday House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-3/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist sequel, part companion to Lee's debut, this story centers on Myung-gi, close friend of Sora, the protagonist of *Brother's Keeper* (2020). Myung-gi is intelligent and a dreamer, due in no small part to his father, the principal of the local boy's school. Then the Communist regime takes over North Korea, ushering in an era of social and intellectual oppression. On the eve of his family's planned flight to the south, Myung-gi's father is captured by soldiers loyal to Kim Il-sung. The boy blames himself for his father's fate, as he was supposed to be keeping watch. Forced to leave their home, Myung-gi tamps down his guilt and focuses on getting his mother and sister safely to a refugee camp in Busan. Afterward, however, he enlists in the army in order to return to the north to find and free his father. Once again, Lee brings readers to the beginnings of the North Korean Communist regime. Myung-gi is an intriguing main character whose self-loathing and guilt alienate him from others. Yet, his earnest yearning to be as strong and virtuous as his absent father draws the reader in, allowing them to sympathize with his existential plight. This is an absolute must-read for those who have already read *Brother's Keeper* and a heart-wrenching meditation on family bonds and the responsibilities they entail. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This companion novel to Lee's *Brother's Keeper* tells the story of Kim Myung-gi and his family from the end of Japan's occupation of Korea through Russia's invasion to the start of the Korean War. The narrative begins harrowingly in 1952 with the war underway and sixteen-year-old Myung-gi, a North Korean soldier, trapped in a collapsed tunnel. Chapters alternate between his desperate attempts to escape and flashbacks beginning in 1945 when he is nine. (The shifts in time are clearly indicated at the start of each chapter.) When it becomes too dangerous to stay in their village, the family makes plans to flee south to Busan, but Communist soldiers abduct Myung-gi's father before they can leave -- and Myung-gi blames himself. Their mother decides they will follow through with the plan to escape; their journey is fraught with peril. Ultimately, Myung-gi is rescued from the tunnel; an epilogue told from his father's point of view, thirty-five years after the war, encapsulates the scope of loss for this family. Lee's vivid, visceral writing provides readers with an unflinching story of war and survival as well as an intimate look at everyday life for Koreans caught up in geo-political forces over which they have no control. Few books for young readers grapple with the Korean War from this perspective; it's an important story to tell, but the bleakness and emphasis on trauma make for a dark and intense read. Kitty Flynn(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A South Korean boy longs to rescue his father imprisoned in North Korea. It's 1952, and 16-year-old Myung-gi has joined the South Korean army in hopes of finding Ahpa, who was taken by North Korean soldiers two years prior. He's trapped in a tunnel at the North-South Korean border, and as he waits for what seems like inevitable death, flashbacks transport him to the events that led to this moment. He recalls his family's joy when Korea was liberated from Japanese imperial rule in 1945--and their despair as American and Soviet troops moved in and divided up the peninsula. His family ended up on the communist side. Myung-gi's father smuggled in Western books for him to read and committed other quiet acts of resistance before he was taken. His mother reminds him and his younger sister of his father's wish should he be arrested: They must undertake the dangerous journey hundreds of miles south to Busan, South Korea, and await him there. The family encounters numerous horrors along the way. Myung-gi's PTSD--in which nothing feels real and all that is familiar is rendered strange--rings entirely true, as does his prolonged grief over losing his father. Nuanced details about the immediate aftermath of World War II in northern Korea, with fraying political alliances, growing tensions among formerly friendly neighbors, and welcome pockets of ordinary life, shed much-needed light on this time in history. A gripping story about family, war, mourning, and resilience told with emotion and heart. (Historical fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This moving historical novel from Lee (*Brother's Keeper*) opens in October 1952, centering bookish Myung-gi, who has joined the South Korean army in order to find his Ahpa. After an explosion traps 16-year-old Myung-gi in an enemy tunnel at the North-South Korean border, alternating chapters trace both his present awaiting death in the tunnel and past experiences beginning in 1945. Emotional third-person narration recounts Myung-gi's family's reaction to historical events, including the feeling of freedom at the end of Japan's imperial rule and rising tensions between Soviet-occupied northern Korea, where the family lives, and U.S.-occupied southern Korea. Ahpa's criticism of the occupying governments, his smuggling in Western books for Myung-gi, and his previous role as a factory owner necessitates the family's departure from their home to Busan. Myung-gi's father is taken by the Red Army before the family can execute their planned escape, however, and Myung-gi, younger sister Yoomee, and their Uhma must make a harrowing journey south to Busan alone, to avoid Myung-gi's recruitment. Interspersed between harrowing scenes of travel and remembrances of Myung-gi's father are the youth's thoughtful ruminations on the human cost of war. Lee compassionately depicts the difficult journey and Myung-gi's grappling with finding normalcy in this well-paced story about an underreported war. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Set in the 1950s, Lee's latest novel offers readers a glimpse of the brutal personal impacts of the Korean War. Myung-gi is 16—too young to go to war, and yet he's carrying a rifle, fighting in a conflict that's tearing families apart all across the country. He shouldn't be there at all. He loves books and reading, the sound of language flowing off the page, but he's come to the 38th parallel to find his father, Ahpa, who was taken by the secret police. This vivid, powerful title uses Myung-gi's story to give readers a firsthand glimpse of the political and military turmoil in mid—20th-century Korea. The book vividly captures the disorientation and longing of a young man who finds himself cut off from his home, his family, and his dreams for the future. Through flashbacks, Lee shows how her characters reassemble the pieces of their lives to create a new, more hopeful story. VERDICT This companion novel to *Brother's Keeper* is recommended for readers of historical fiction—particularly fiction that deals with themes of war, trauma, and disconnection.—Talea Anderson



#2282521 Star That Always Stays (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anna Rose Johnson

Back on Beaver Island, Grand-père told Norvia stories--stories about her ancestors Migiizi and Anang, about Biboonke-o-nini the Wintermaker, about the Crane Clan and the Reindeer Clan. He sang her songs in the old language, and her grandmothers taught her to make story quilts. There, there was no shame in being Chippewa.

978-0-8234-5040-4 Holiday House ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 13.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Norvia grew up on Beaver Island, picking berries, listening to her grand-père's stories of their Ojibwe ancestors, and finding comfort in the stars up above. Now, at 14, in Boyne City, Michigan, Norvia's mother is remarrying. Norvia and her siblings know there will be difficult changes, but they are shocked that they must begin hiding their Native ancestry. As Norvia starts high school, she is heartbroken to realize that people are gossiping about her mother's divorce and their heritage. Norvia and her siblings find comfort and hope in their new family, though, and courage and friendship while navigating first experiences of high school. This beautiful historical novel, based on the author's family, contains flashbacks to the family's time at Beaver Island, providing insight into the traditions and time Norvia enjoyed, along with a glimpse into why her parents separated. A glossary, pronunciation guide, and family photographs add depth. A heartfelt novel about embracing one's identity, appreciating what the past has taught, and finding the courage to move forward. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A teen girl in early-20th-century Michigan faces loss and change. Fourteen-year-old Norvia Nelson's maternal grandfather, Grand-père, shared stories from their family's Ojibwe culture and history before his death. But now, everything has changed. Norvia's parents have divorced, and her French and Indian mother is rushing into a new marriage with a White man she barely knows. Worse still, she has asked Norvia and her siblings not to share the Native part of their background with their new stepfamily (the children's father is a Swedish immigrant). Norvia takes inspiration from the heroines in her favorite novels: *Little Women*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and *What Katy Did*, among

others. She is determined to become popular at her new high school and hopes to maybe even find a beau. Norvia struggles to navigate new relationships under the shadow of her parents' divorce, which is the talk of the town. She is also torn between her love for her Native heritage and a desire to assimilate into her new life. Norvia proves to be a resilient and inspiring main character. Inspired by the author's family history, this gentle novel nimbly and tenderly confronts topics including prejudice, the challenge of blending families, young love, and staying true to oneself. A coming-of-age story with a kind heart and strong spirit. (author's note, glossary and pronunciation guides, family photos) (Historical fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Johnson uses her own great-grandmother's story as a foundation to deliver an intimate tale chronicling an Indigenous 14-year-old's life in a new city, set in 1914 on the brink of WWI. Following Norvia Nelson's parents' divorce and her mother's whirlwind nuptials to a white man they hardly know, Norvia's mother, who is French and Ojibwe, asks her and her siblings to hide their Indigenous heritage from their new stepfamily. The Nelsons soon move from Beaver Island on Lake Michigan to Boyne City, where Norvia longs for her old life listening to her late Grand-pere tell stories about their ancestors. Struggling between embracing her heritage and attempting to fit in at her new high school, Norvia channels heroines from her favorite novels, including Anne of Green Gables and Little Women, to navigate shifting family dynamics, community gossip over her parents' divorce, prejudice, and first love. This introspective, unhurried debut, filled with personal touches from the author's ancestry as detailed in an author's note, is populated by memorable characters, such as Norvia's larger-than-life younger sister. Johnson's family photographs and an Ojibwe glossary conclude. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jessica Schmeidler, Golden Wheat Literary. (July)



#2332405 Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby (Hardcover (Trade))
written by G. Z. Schmidt

When six-year-old Beatrice Willoughby vanished at the Amadeuses' annual All Hallows Eve party, people in the tiny mountain town of Nevermore were quick to whisper: They were always odd. Their house is full of dark magic. And when Mort Amadeus was pegged for the crime, the Amadeuses, once the center of society, retreated. They closed their doors, disappeared from life. People almost forgot. Until thirteen years later, when six envelopes land at the doorstep of six households in town: We cordially invite you to a celebration on the 31st of October this Saturday evening at the Amadeus household.

978-0-8234-5073-2 Holiday House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After 6-year-old Beatrice disappears from an All Hallows Eve party at the Amadeuses' mansion, Mort Amadeus is wrongfully imprisoned; now, it's time for a reckoning. Beatrice is only one of many children who've gone missing from the area, and Mort's loved ones know that he is not responsible. Thirteen years after the event, Maribelle, Mort's wife, and Wormwood, the Amadeuses' caretaker, invite several eccentric guests to the scene of the crime for another All Hallows Eve party. They've been hand-picked for their curious talents, and they can't leave the party until they've identified the real culprit among their number--and the statute of limitations for the crime will be up at midnight. The countdown is reflected in each chapter heading, heightening the tension. As the guests move from room to room, they decipher clues and conduct interviews. Their unusual techniques, enlivened by fantasy elements, include creating a specter hound, consulting folklore, resurrecting and talking with a deceased bird witness, and examining an odd scarecrow. It would be terrifying if it weren't so gloriously zany. Plus, the individual taking the lead on the case is Dewey O'Connor, an 11-year-old child who just needs to point the finger before it's too late. This atmospheric, magic-infused mystery with an unsettling ending is a party readers won't want to miss. Major characters read white. Devilishly clever. (Mystery. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In the remote European town of Nevermore, a child disappears each year around All Hallows' Eve. Even so, 13 years ago, the Incident; the vanishing of the mayor's six-year-old daughter from the Amadeus family's annual All Hallows' Eve party; rocked the community. In the aftermath, no satisfying explanation is found, but Mort Amadeus is arrested, and the Amadeuses cast a spell over their Inkwoods-situated home. Now, six unexpected invitations to the Amadeus mansion bid guests to return for an October 31 gathering. When the manor doors lock until midnight, the caper becomes a Clue-style mystery meant to root out those responsible for the event. Attendees include an alchemist, an heiress, a hypnotist, and a spy; as well as 11-year-old Dewey O'Connor, who systematically assesses possible suspects. Ghost dogs, unsettling scarecrows, a sinister groundskeeper, and heaps of eerie clues await the partygoers and their shadowy hosts. Supplying a relentless tempo to this uneasy whodunit, the chapter headings count down to midnight as Schmidt (The Dreamweavers) pits the wary guests against both the clock and one another in a fiendishly clever mystery whose atmosphere is thick with fevered accusations and Halloween fun. Protagonists read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Adria Goetz, Martin Literary Management. (Sept.)

#2285362 Goblin Market (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99



written by Diane Zahler

Lizzie and Minka are sisters, but they're nothing alike: Minka is outgoing and cheerful, while Lizzie is shy and sensitive. But when Minka is charmed and ensnared by a prince of the zduzes-the goblins-and taken to his dark forest home, Lizzie will have to draw on reserves of strength she never knew she had and follow her sister into a world of dreams, danger, and death.

978-0-8234-5081-7 Holiday House ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 In this reimagined version of Christina Rossetti's poem "'Goblin Market,'" sisters Lizzie and Minka live with their parents on a farm with a village nearby. Lizzie, the younger, is shy and has synesthesia: she sees sounds as colors and being in a crowd can easily overwhelm her. She prefers to help on the farm while her vivacious older sister, Minka, takes produce and bread to market. One day, Minka returns talking about a handsome boy, Emil, who gave her a perfect plum from the fruit he brought to market. Yet in the ensuing time, Minka becomes lethargic and fretful, longing for more fruit from Emil's stand. Lizzie, suspicious of Emil, has to pluck up her courage and overcome her fears to rescue her sister. While the story Zahler tells differs from Rossetti's poem, the spirit is similar, and Zahler employs descriptive language not unlike Rossetti's. The love the sisters bear for each other is obvious from the start, which is an element of Lizzie's success. The well-rounded and appealing characters in this absorbing tale nicely ground the fantasy elements. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Shy, synaesthetic Lizzie and her bright, artistic elder sister Minka are as close as sisters can be-or so Lizzie thinks, until one day Minka comes home from the market enraptured with a handsome seller of marvelous fruits and soon falls strangely ill. To save her sister, Lizzie ventures beyond her own narrow comfort zone and learns of the zduzes (goblins), who steal away humans by promising their victims all they dream of-or leave them to die of longing. Lizzie's synaesthesia enables her to see colors along with sounds she hears and it proves useful for telling the difference between humans and shape-changing zduzes (goblins' voices have no color) as she finds a way to bring Minka back from the market and all its temptations. Zahler creates a historical-feeling world that combines Polish folklore and homey (if idealized) depictions of rural life with elements drawn from Christina Rossetti's lush, unsettling poem that shares the book's title. The sisters' relationship anchors the plot and resonates with emotion; Lizzie's hurt at not having realized that Minka wants more from life than she's shared is quietly heartbreaking. Happily, Lizzie and Minka learn that although sisterly love can't fulfill all dreams and aspirations, it can expand to include them. FHK COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Lizzie "sees" sounds as colors and is sensitive to direct eye contact and being touched; her older sister, Minka, looks out for her and paints the colors Lizzie describes. One day Minka comes home from the market rhapsodic over a new vendor -- a handsome young man selling the most delectable fruit. Over the next few weeks, Minka grows pale for love of him, loses her hair, and falls into a coma-like sleep. The girls' neighbor Jakob helps Lizzie learn what is wrong with Minka: upon investigation, they suspect she's been enchanted by a zduze, a goblin who steals away children and young women. The pastoral surroundings (and particularly Lizzie's description of rich sound-colors) create a lush setting for the folkloric ensorcelled-by-goblins plot, with its dreamy depictions of fruit and longing and with sprinklings of ethnological details from Eastern European cultures. On her quest to save her sister, Lizzie faces down many of her "worries" (going to the market, talking to strangers, knocking on people's doors) while also making use of her strengths (blunt honesty, unsentimental perception, bravery regarding snakes). The climax delivers some breath-quickening action, but this warmly reassuring tale, with its nontraditional protagonist, will keep readers engrossed from beginning to end. (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Lizzie "sees" sounds as colors and is sensitive to direct eye contact and being touched; her older sister, Minka, looks out for her and paints the colors Lizzie describes. One day Minka comes home from the market rhapsodic over a new vendor -- a handsome young man selling the most delectable fruit. Over the next few weeks, Minka grows pale for love of him, loses her hair, and falls into a coma-like sleep. The girls' neighbor Jakob helps Lizzie learn what is wrong with Minka: upon investigation, they suspect she's been enchanted by a zduze, a goblin who steals away children and young women. The pastoral surroundings (and particularly Lizzie's description of rich sound-colors) create a lush setting for the folkloric ensorcelled-by-goblins plot, with its dreamy depictions of fruit and longing and with sprinklings of ethnological details from Eastern European cultures. On her quest to save her sister, Lizzie faces down many of her "worries" (going to the market, talking to strangers, knocking on people's doors) while also making use of her strengths (blunt honesty, unsentimental perception, bravery regarding snakes). The climax delivers some breath-quickening action, but this warmly reassuring tale, with its nontraditional protagonist, will keep readers engrossed from beginning to end. Anita L. Burkam(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

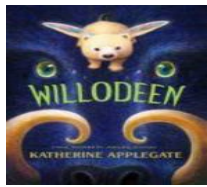
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young girl must face scary situations in order to save her sister from a goblin posing as a man. Elzbieta, who goes by Lizzie, enjoys her simple farm life and close bond with her older sister, Minka, despite their differences; Minka is outgoing whereas Lizzie is overwhelmed by social situations. One day, when Minka returns from the market after a day of selling bread and vegetables, Lizzie can sense something has changed. Minka has become smitten with a handsome new fruit seller named Emil. Soon after, however, she is struck down by a mysterious illness. As Lizzie tries to help her sister, she discovers that Emil is a zduze, or goblin, and is responsible for Minka's state. With the assistance of neighbor boy Jakob, Lizzie enters treacherous Noc Forest to try to defeat Emil and save Minka. This broadly appealing, straightforward story reads like a folktale with its spooky, fantasy elements and uncomplicated, yet satisfying, good-overcomes-evil plot. The Polish-inspired setting is primarily noted through character names and foods, although the worldbuilding is light. Creepy imagery, like a bleeding

tree and a carpet of snakes, will entice readers looking for some chills, while themes of sisterhood, love, and bravery make the story overall more likely to induce sentimentality than nightmares. Lizzie has synesthesia--sounds evoke colors for her--and is coded as neurodiverse. Characters are implied White. Sisterly love triumphs in this endearing, somewhat spooky tale. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set in an unidentified region of what cues strongly as Poland, Zahler's (Daughter of the White Rose) folklore-based fantasy is rooted in the bond between sisters Elzbieta, called Lizzie, and Minka, who are vastly different from, yet devoted to, one another. Synesthete Lizzie, extremely anxious among people, thrives on solitude, while merry Minka, a talented painter, flourishes selling the family's bread and produce at the village market. Lizzie's perceptions involve seeing sounds in color: leaves rustling in spring are silver, Minka's voice is pink, and a thunderstorm is "a vortex" that makes her dizzy and nauseated. After Minka returns from the market infatuated with handsome fruit purveyor Emil and the delicious plum he gave her, Lizzie is suspicious. Her suspicions turn to fright when Minka succumbs to a delirious fever, and her golden hair turns gray and falls out. Meeting Emil and finding that no hue attends his voice, Lizzie is certain he is behind Minka's strange illness. Fueled by love for her sibling, Lizzie becomes entangled in the world of zduze, forest goblins of lore who entice and capture girls. As elements of horror build to an extended climax teeming with fiends, Lizzie's evolution from "shy, strange and fearful" to strong and determined is believably wrought, even as Minka's transformation is less credible. All characters read as white. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Despite their opposite personalities, sisters Elzbieta (Lizzie) and Minka vowed they would stay together forever. Beautiful and vibrant Mink loves going to the village market to purchase and sell food. Lizzie, the quieter of the two, prefers to be at home or in the Wood. Lizzie can see sound as color--and it can be overwhelming for her at times. One day, Minka meets a boy at the market who gives her the most perfect and refreshing fruit. Minka can't stop talking about him or the fruit. Soon after, Minka grows frail, loses her hair, and falls in and out of a deep slumber. When Minka runs off with the mysterious Emil, Lizzie and her friend Jakob rely on the power of love and their courage to save her from the zduze's (goblin's) spell. Based on Christina Rosetti's 19th-century Victorian poem, "The Goblin Market," Zahler's immersive folktale narrative has just the right amount of spookiness and suspense for middle grade readers. Lizzie is a heroine whom readers will root for, and her sisterly bond with Minka is refreshing. Kids will want to enjoy this in one sitting. VERDICT A rich folklore setting, goblin magic, and a spooky atmosphere with a hopeful ending make this a top choice for upper middle grade and middle school collections.--Marissa Lieberman Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Goblin Market is a delightfully imaginative story about the unbreakable bond between two sisters--one who unknowingly falls in love with a goblin, and the other who is driven to save her.



#2245947 Willodeen (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katherine Applegate

Eleven-year-old Willodeen adores creatures of all kinds, but her favorites are the most unlovable beasts in the land: strange beasts known as "screechers." The villagers of Perchance call them pests, even monsters, but Willodeen believes the animals serve a vital role in the complicated web of nature.

978-1-250-14740-0 Feiwel & Friends ©2021 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 610

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 *Starred Review* You know you're in for a treat with an Applegate fantasy, but when she dreams up hummingbears--tiny, winged bears that nest in bubbles--it's instantly catapulted into irresistible territory. For Willodeen, who happens to have a flightless hummingbear as a pet, her heart is far more occupied with the welfare of unlovable creatures, namely the widely detested screechers--a grumpy combo of skunk (odor), warthog (snout, tusks), beaver (tail), and porcupine (quills). This is, perhaps, because Willodeen herself is an outsider, preferring to spend her time alone, observing nature and helping the two women--older, but spitfires--who took her in after a terrible wildfire claimed the lives of her family. Two events force Willodeen out of her comfort zone and into the company of other townsfolk: (1) the steady, mysterious decline in hummingbear populations, and (2) the bounty placed on screechers, as a way to rid Perchance of their smelly presence. Thus, the 11-year-old comes to find her first friend, a baby screecher in need of a home, and her voice when it matters most. Applegate's gentle yet honest tale mixes magic with very real environmental messaging, both warning of human-caused harm and pointing to nature's resilience and interconnectedness. Perchance feels charmingly antiquated without being idyllic, and Applegate empowers her young characters by not only granting them courage but also ensuring they earn the respect of their elders.HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Adored and acclaimed, Applegate has been given a 750k first print run for this release. That's a lot of hummingbears! COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Since losing her parents and brother to a wildfire, eleven-year-old Willodeen is all too familiar with grief, and she suffers one more loss when the last of the screechers-animals beloved by her and her pa-is killed. The residents of her small town Perchance, however, are happy that the stinky and smelly vermin are no longer around to disrupt the tourist season, which revolves around the migration of the adorable hummingbears and their stunning nests. This year, though, only a few hummingbears arrive, and while others

might think it's the heat, or the droughts, or the fires keeping them away, Willodeen is pretty sure their small numbers might be connected to the screechers. The folksy charm here never becomes treacly, just as the environmental message never becomes preachy; the screechers and hummingbears clearly mark Perchance with a bit of fantasy, but the town feels both timeless (no phones, no technology) and timely, a microcosm of a larger world dealing with shifting resources and a changing climate while attempting to plan for the uncertain future. Willodeen is scrappy and sympathetic, posturing toughness but narrating with a painfully raw simplicity as she grieves her family and fears any further connection: "That building and dreaming. Gone in a flash, in a frenzy of flames. What was the point in making things, if they only came to ashes?" Applegate is honest enough with her young readers to give a realistically untidy ending, but it's still a satisfying one; pair this with Gold's *The Last Bear* (BCCB 1/21) for a thoughtful look at the way personal loss can spur community action. KQG COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Applegate's (*Wishtree*, rev. 11/17; *The One and Only Bob*, rev. 7/20) latest novel is set in a town that is home to two creatures unfamiliar to us but affected by similar environmental issues. The village of Perchance has put a bounty on "screechers," animals whose odor and appearance threaten the tourist industry; meanwhile, the small flying "hummingbears" that attract visitors are also disappearing at an alarming rate. Ten-year-old Willodeen lost her family and home to wildfire, but with the support of the two elderly women who took her in, she upholds her father's respect for the environment and remembers his words: "Nature, Willodeen, knows more than we do, and she probably always will." Like the unlovable screechers she admires and her pet hummingbear whose singed wings prevent it from joining its kind, Willodeen struggles in this community. She is most at ease alone in nature where she observes and takes notes. When Connor, another independent child determined to win her friendship, brings her to a town meeting, her anger at the villagers' environmental negligence results in a chain of events (and possible magic) that could ultimately right the balance of nature. With gentle line drawings throughout, this accessible fantasy offers hope as well as a tender examination of people re-learning to work together to care for one another and the world around them. Julie Roach(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An orphan loner's small town faces a hard future after it unwittingly disrupts a natural cycle. Willodeen is lucky that elderly retired thespians Mae and Birdie took her in after the wildfire that killed her parents and brother, not only because they're a loving couple, but because they let her roam the woods in search of increasingly rare screechers--creatures so vile-tempered and stinky that the village elders of Perchance have put a bounty on them. The elders have other worries, though: The migratory hummingbears that have long nested in the area, drawing tourists to the lucrative annual Autumn Faire, have likewise nearly vanished. Could there be a connection? If there is, Willodeen is just the person to find it--but who would believe her? Applegate's characters speak in pronouncements about life and nature that sometimes seem to address readers more than other characters, but the winsome illustrations lighten the thematic load. Screechers appear much like comically fierce warthogs and hummingbears, as small teddies with wings. Applegate traces a burgeoning friendship between her traumatized protagonist and Connor, a young artist who turns found materials into small animals so realistic that one actually comes to life. In the end, the townsfolk do listen and pitch in to make amends. Red-haired, gray-eyed Willodeen is cued as White; Connor has brown skin, and other human characters read as White by default. The young folk and (of course) the animals are engagingly wrought in this tale with a strong ecological message. (Eco-fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Employing flawlessly simple, candid prose that belies deeper messages, Newbery Medalist Applegate again considers the complex relationship between humans and the natural world. Before Willodeen's family died in the Great September Fire when she was just six, her father taught her to love and respect animals, especially the most unlovable. Now, Willodeen's kind but occasionally cantankerous guardians don't seem to mind when the 10-year-old skips school to look for screechers. The sharp-toothed, foul-smelling animals are hated; and hunted; by Perchance's townspeople, who prefer sweet-faced, tourist-garnering hummingbears. Lately, though, both species have been disappearing. After Willodeen witnesses the killing of an elderly screecher, new friend Connor crafts one for her birthday that magically comes to life. Now, Willodeen must overcome her aversion to people to protect it while trying to solve the mystery of the animals' disappearance. Via imaginative depictions, including interspersed chapters from the screecher's point of view, Applegate brings an intimate cast of default-white human characters and scene-stealing mythical ones to life. Fiercely protective Willodeen is easy to champion, and her belief that "nature knows more than we do" is a message worth sharing. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elena Giovinazzo, Pippin Properties. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Applegate's latest fantasy is a simple but beautiful story about humans' relationship with the natural world. Orphaned Willodeen has never quite fit in with her peers. She loves all animals, but especially the widely despised screecher: a smelly creature with tusks, a snout, tails, and quills. She is happy keeping to herself until the screechers begin to disappear, mainly due to the bounty the town of Perchance has placed on them. The rest of the town is focused on the disappearance of the hummingbears, winged bears responsible for the tourist draw to Perchance. After witnessing the killing of an old screecher, Willowdeen's new friend Connor carves her one that is magically brought to life through her tears. Determined to save this last screecher, Willodeen finds the connection between the screechers and hummingbears and stands up for them at a town meeting. Red-haired Willowdeen is cued as white. Connor has brown skin. VERDICT A sweet fantasy about standing up for what you believe in. Hand to all young environmentalists.—Katharine Gatcomb, Nashua P.L., NH

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2290385 Odder (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Katherine Applegate</i>	1	\$16.99
Odder spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater		



acrobatics and spinning the quirky stories for which she's known. She's a fearless daredevil, curious to a fault. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself-and about the humans who hope to save her.

978-1-250-14742-4 Feiwel & Friends ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile NP

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Odder the otter has always been just a little bit, well, odd. The aquatic daredevil is driven by an urge to dive deeper, play harder, and explore further, gifted with the ability to turn "frolic into art." Odder can't resist her instinct to explore the wide world and investigate its mysterious inhabitants, despite motherly advice to avoid anything unfamiliar. Unfortunately, there is another inquisitive (and hungry) animal in the bay, and a shark attack leaves Odder's life ebbing away after she washes up on shore. Not to worry: Odder finds herself in the care of a nearby aquarium, and as she convalesces, she hazily recalls her stay there as a wayward pup, before being returned to the wild. But what will become of the injured otter if she can't roam free? Based on the Monterey Bay Aquarium and its otter rescue and fostering program, this gorgeous story is told in flowing free verse that slips by as silkily as an otter in water. The unconventional form perfectly suits a story told almost entirely from Odder's perspective, imparting dreamy observations of the natural and human worlds from an animal's point of view. Handsome black-and-white illustrations, some of them simple studies of sea creatures, punctuate the verses; it's almost impossible to resist the depictions of fluffy otter pups. A stunning study of a remarkable and resilient sea creature. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Raised in the Monterey Bay Aquarium but now free to frolic in the bay, sea otter #156 is affectionately known by her friends as "Odder" for her bold and playful disposition. She's also a bit reckless, and when she and her friend Kairi swim too far out into the bay, both otters are attacked by a great white shark and must be rescued by the nearby aquarists--Odder for her shark bites and Kairi for suffering from the "shaking sickness" that plagues the otter population. Odder's injuries might mean a permanent stay at the aquarium, a fate she finds terribly depressing, but her role may be more important than she realizes, especially for Kairi's recovery. Applegate's third-person narrative delivers exuberant verse, with candid parentheticals, persistent alliteration, echoic expressions, and just enough satisfying rhyme within the free verse form. Changes in perspective situate young readers in the aquatic world, first through the heightened senses of the hungry shark in the opening pages, then through Odder's adult experiences in the wild, followed by a flashback to her formative days in the aquarium. Nonfiction fans will appreciate how closely this book is based on real events, with facts about sea animals and ecological conservation interwoven in the story, reinforced by a glossary, an extensive author's note, a selected bibliography, and suggested online resources (the live sea otter camera is sure to be a draw). Soft, black-and-white illustrations dot Odder's story, enhancing readers' emotional connections to a captivating tale about life's existential balance between survival and play. KF COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Applegate and Santoso (Willodeen, rev. 9/21) pair for another creature story, this one a verse novel about an otter named Odder who lives off the coast of California near Monterey Bay. The tale is divided into three sections, beginning with "The Queen of Play," a reference to Odder's daredevil nature. But the opening poems are about sharks, foreshadowing what is about to happen. On this day Odder can't resist going a little too far, despite her more cautious friend Kairi's warnings, and is attacked by a great white shark; she manages to make her way to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The second section flashes back to three years earlier, when as a baby Odder became separated from her mother and was rescued and painstakingly taught survival skills by the aquarium's aquarists. The final section returns to the present, as Odder, too injured to be returned to the wild, becomes a surrogate parent to another otter pup that has lost its mother. Applegate grounds the story in scientific fact, slipping in interesting details in a lyrical way, as when she talks about keystone species, "nature's glue, / holding habitats together." "Without otters, / sea urchins, purple as a bruise, / gobble kelp forests / until the ocean floor / becomes a barren wasteland." Santoso's tender black-and-white drawings, together with the large type, will make this novel very accessible and appealing to young animal lovers. Back matter includes a glossary; an author's note about Monterey Bay Aquarium and the real-life stories on which Odder's is based; and a selected bibliography. (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

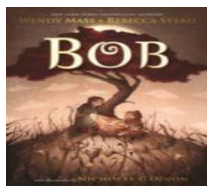
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Applegate and Santoso (Willodeen, rev. 9/21) pair for another creature story, this one a verse novel about an otter named Odder who lives off the coast of California near Monterey Bay. The tale is divided into three sections, beginning with "The Queen of Play," a reference to Odder's daredevil nature. But the opening poems are about sharks, foreshadowing what is about to happen. On this day Odder can't resist going a little too far, despite her more cautious friend Kairi's warnings, and is attacked by a great white shark; she manages to make her way to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The second section flashes back to three years earlier, when as a baby Odder became separated from her mother and was rescued and painstakingly taught survival skills by the aquarium's aquarists. The final section returns to the present, as Odder, too injured to be returned to the wild, becomes a surrogate parent to another otter pup that has lost its mother. Applegate grounds the story in scientific fact, slipping in interesting details in a lyrical way, as when she talks about keystone species, "nature's glue, / holding habitats together." "Without otters, / sea urchins, purple as a bruise, / gobble kelp forests / until the ocean floor / becomes a barren wasteland." Santoso's tender black-and-white drawings, together with the large type, will make this novel very accessible and appealing to young animal lovers. Back matter includes a glossary; an author's note about Monterey Bay Aquarium and the real-life stories on which Odder's is based; and a selected bibliography. Susan Dove Lempke(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Monterey Bay sea otter comes of age. Odder's mom told her to stay away from sharks, humans, and anything else she didn't understand, but after saving her friend Kairi from a shark attack, she encounters all three. Injured herself during the rescue, Odder ends up recuperating at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, or Highwater as the otters call it, where she once lived as a young orphaned pup. Last time, the humans helped her reintegrate into the wild, but because of her injuries this time the outcome might be different. Soon Kairi is there too, stricken with "the shaking sickness" and having lost her newborn pup. Now Kairi is fostering a new pup, and soon one is introduced to an initially reluctant Odder in hopes that she will help raise it so it can return to the wild. The free verse effortlessly weaves in scientific information, giving Odder a voice without overly anthropomorphizing any of the animals. The natural appeal of sea otters will draw readers in, but the book doesn't shy away from real-world threats such as predators, disease, and pollution. Loosely based on the stories of real sea otters rehabilitated at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, this novel will give readers lots to talk about, but uneven pacing and a rushed ending may leave some unsatisfied. Charming black-and-white spot art captures the world and life of the sea. Rich, naturalistic details will delight lovers of marine life. (glossary, author's note, bibliography, resources) (Verse novel. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Writing in exquisitely descriptive free verse, Applegate (Willodeen) delivers an uplifting tale of an inquisitive sea otter pup raised by scientists after being separated from her mother. Released back to the ocean, curious Odder spends her days reveling in her ability to "twist/ and pretzel and weave." Despite warnings to "be afraid of the world," the otter's adventurous nature lures her and a cautious friend, Kairi, into deeper waters, where they encounter an adolescent great white that lands Odder back with the people who raised her. Brief chapters that mimic the feel of each creature's movements capture both the meal-focused musings of the hungry shark; a "soundless ocean ghost" stalking prey; and the playful naivete of Odder (named because of "the way/ the little pup never settled,/... the way/ her eyes were always/ full of questions"). Though humans make cameo appearances in this edifying novel about otter life, the focus remains rightfully on its enigmatic star: a lovable otter who not only survives against the odds but thrives. Occasional art by Santoso (Wombat Underground) highlights the adorable protagonists. An author's note details the story's roots at California's Monterey Bay Aquarium. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Elena Giovinazzo, Pippin Properties. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal eal-life otter rescue program at Monterey Bay Aquarium, Applegate imagines a backstory for the se otter #156, named Odder. Odder is a bit of a misfit, feeling an inexorable need to push the boundaries of her local habitat. Interacting with human and exploring amid dangerous predators, her adventurous spirit eventually gets her in trouble. The dark yet humorous tone of the free verse paints a very human set of motivations for risk-taking and living life on one's own terms. Odder's origin story comes to life through her eyes s she convalesces following a shark attack that risked her friend's life and made Odder feel responsible, even while revealing her courage and loyal y by coming to the rescue. Santoso's grayscale illustrations complement the factual underpinnings of the narrative, encompassing the wild ocean wor d where predators rule and others struggle for survival. This book will appeal to animal lovers and anyone who feels a little stifled by conve ntion. VERDICT Hand this book to middle grade fans of marine biology, authors like Sharon Creech and Eliot Schrefer, and Applegate's Newbery-winning The One and Only Ivan.—Tara Kron

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In the delightful free verse novel Odder, Newbery Medalist Katherine Applegate (The One and Only Ivan) introduces a playful, inquisitive sea otter who lives off the coast of California.



#2060853 **Bob (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Wendy Mass

It's been five years since Livy and her family have visited Livy's grandmother in Australia. Now that she's back, Livy has the feeling she's forgotten something really, really important about Gran's house. It turns out she's right.

978-1-250-16662-3 Feiwel & Friends ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 3.3 Lexile 590

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ten-year-old Livy, who lives in Massachusetts, hasn't visited her Gran Nicholas's house in Australia for five years. When she returns for a visit, Livy is struck by the feeling that something very important is waiting for her. Sure enough, a peek inside her closet reveals "a small zombie wearing a chicken suit," perched atop a dictionary. "You're back. Took you long enough," the creature says to the girl. Once upon a time, it seems, five-year-old Livy discovered this strange being, who goes by the comically understated name of Bob, and the two formed a secret bond. Picking up where they left off, Livy keeps Bob hidden while they hunt for clues about what he is, where he came from, and how to get him home. Authors Mass (the Willow Falls series) and Stead (Goodbye Stranger) team up for this irresistible tale of magic, mystery, and friendship that poses timeless questions about identity and belonging. Ultimately, the answers Livy and Bob seek are waiting in the pages of a cherished book;a tribute to the power of storytelling, which draws readers into the imaginative investigation. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8--12. Authors' agents: (for Stead) Faye Bender, the Book Group; (for Mass) Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown Ltd. Illustrator's agent: Rebecca Sherman, Writers House. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Five years ago, Livy left her friend Bob, who she describes as a zombielike creature, in the closet of her grandmother's house in Australia without saying goodbye. Bob has loyally awaited Livy's return, dressed in the chicken suit she made to

disguise him, and hopeful about the promise she made to help him find his way home, wherever that may be. As Livy gradually eases back into the rekindled friendship, vague memories return to her that could lead to the discovery of Bob's home. Livy's separation anxiety about her mother's upcoming trip with friends and the drought in her grandmother's town round out the story for a full plot line. Mass and Stead's brilliant collaboration has produced a beautiful tale of friendship, love, and the magic of childhood. Livy and Bob's points of view alternate chapters, and each character's personality is wonderfully realized with subtle nuances of emotion and humor. A perfectly paced plot, supported by secondary characters to whom readers will relate and luminous artwork by Gannon, fill out a story that readers will eagerly embrace. VERDICT A must-have for libraries serving middle grade readers, this novel delights.-Amy -McInerney, Falmouth Elementary School, ME Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2287263 Midnight Children (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Dan Gemeinhart

In the dead of night, a truck arrives in Slaughterville, a town named after its windowless slaughterhouse. Seven mysterious kids with suitcases stealthily step out of the vehicle and into an abandoned home on a dead-end street. But lonely Ravani Foster witnesses their arrival and is eager to learn everything he can about his new neighbors: What are they hiding? And where are the adults?
 978-1-250-19672-9 Henry Holt & Company ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 590

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

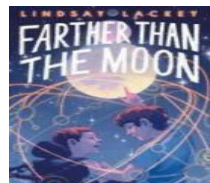
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 *Starred Review* In a tale that manages to be scary, suspenseful, exhilarating, and really really gross all at once, a bullied, lonely child and seven fugitives from "Madame Murdosas Home for Wastrels Foundlings & Orphans" ("Madame Murdosa believed that commas and apostrophes were a waste of paint") change one another's lives while battling a coldly relentless orphan hunter. Of the seven young squatters who have slipped into an empty house on Offal Road in the town of Slaughterville, it's his agemate Virginia that Ravani first meets and bonds with when she stoutly defends him from sharklike serial tormenter Donnie. From the get-go she always knows when he's lying, a check that gives him the courage both to shrug off the bully's power over him (after a few false starts), and ultimately to help his new friend and her fellow "Ragabonds" find safe haven after years of flight. Along with showing a sure hand when it comes to exploring serious themes and crafting strong, sympathetic characters, Gemeinhart displays a literally cutting sense of humor here as he sets much of the action around and in the windowless meatpacking plant that is the town's chief industry--and though he doesn't offer extensive details, the setting will test the stomachs of even confirmed carnivores. A rare (yet well done) tale about second chances and being true to both self and friends. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ravani Foster and the whole town of Slaughterville are changed by the arrival of seven unusual children. Skinny, lonely Ravani is the only one who sees the children arrive and move into the house across the street, and he soon finds a comrade in tough, golden-haired Virginia. Despite the local newspaper owner's assertion that Slaughterville is not the kind of town where exciting things happen, Ravani's life changes dramatically as Virginia and her chosen family of parentless kids calling themselves the Ragabonds let him in on their secret: They are on the run. When vicious bully Donnie learns that the Ragabonds are being pursued, he blackmails Ravani, who is desperate to protect them and equally desperate for Virginia, his first friend, to stay. She introduces him to the quietly revolutionary idea that things don't have to be the way they've always been. The omniscient narrative voice is a strong presence throughout, drawing readers' attention to themes including choices that make a difference, connections between people ("Sometimes, when two souls find each other in the darkness, the darkness goes away"), deciding who you want to be and not letting others define you, and the importance of home and family. Brief chapters from the perspective of the man hunting the Ragabonds ratchet up the suspense, culminating in an exciting sequence of events followed by a heartwarming ending. All main characters are coded White. A story of fierce friendship, bravery, loyalty, and finding--or making--a place to belong. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Slow-boiling danger elevates the stakes of Gemeinhart's (The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise) imagery-rich novel of transformative friendship. Acute loneliness wakes 12-year-old Ravani Foster the night that the seven Deering children appear in Slaughterville, a town as unchanging as the incessant "hiss-moooTHUD!" emanating from its slaughterhouse. He's the only person to see them arrive, and the newcomers intrigue Ravani, especially outspoken, parasol-twirling Virginia, also 12, who disrupts his routines and stands up to his relentless bullies. But the Deerings have "big secrets": they are Ragabonds, a parentless found family on the run from a ruthless Hunter, and trusting new friends jeopardizes their freedom. Still, the same quiet magic that woke Ravani the first night draws him closer to Virginia, urging them to take the risk; because "sometimes, when two souls leap, they catch each other." A quirky, intimate tone permeates the telling, developed through deliberate-feeling omniscient narration, amusing exclamations ("Holy spit"), and surprising metaphor (words that sound "like the smell of a campfire"). Amid suspenseful scenes and straightforward descriptions of slaughterhouse gore, the story's robust emotional core sees the children forge the story's path as they powerfully change their community through courageous honesty and emotional vulnerability. Characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Pam Victorio, D4EO Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Slaughterville, a town well known for its meat processing plant and little else. Virginia is a seemingly su

len girl with a passel of siblings who sneak into town under the cover of night and set up camp in an empty house near Ravani's. So begins Gemeinrt's moody, magnificent novel. A Stephen King--esque blend of the sentimental and sinister flows through the story--alleyway bullies, creeksie confidences, a villain known as the Hunter with fingernails sharpened to points, and a breathtaking chase through the slaughterhouse's killing floor. The Hunter is in pursuit of Virginia's ragtag family, seeking the reward for their return to an equally sinister orphanage. However, as the story unravels, it's clear that the roving band of self-proclaimed Ragabonds are fine, functional, and perhaps a bit magical, living on their own. Their loving embrace of Ravani challenges his bleak view of his situation, and the powerful connection he forms with Virginia helps them both embrace their best qualities and become better together. Gemeinhart's omniscient narrator features heavily in the text, with an almost hypnotic commentary about souls and choices, but his best work in this book is scene-setting, painting the small-town tableaux fit for any drama required of his tale. Ravani and the Ragabonds are coded as white. VERDICT A tale by turns sweet and terrifying of friendship, bravery, and finding oneself in caring for others--this is for readers who enjoy dark tales with a lot of heart.--Emilia Packard Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2346778 Farther Than the Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lindsay Lackey

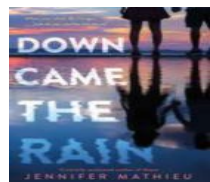
All thirteen-year-old Houston Stewart has ever wanted is to become an astronaut. His dreams feel like they're finally coming true when he's accepted to the highly-competitive Junior Astronaut Recruitment Program - if only he could bring his little brother, Robbie, with him.

978-1-250-20520-9 Roaring Brook Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Junior astronauts aim for disability inclusion in Lackey's conscientiously researched summer camp drama. After their father left, 13-year-old Houston Stewart, who cues as white, promised his now-10-year-old brother, Robbie, that they'd travel space together. So when Houston is accepted into the Junior Astronaut Recruitment Program, a NASA recruitment camp inaccessible to people with cerebral palsy and epilepsy, like Robbie, he feels guilt "like a black hole, sucking Houston into a familiar crush." Still, he goes, both to work toward his future and for an opportunity to meet his estranged maternal grandfather, astronaut Carey Broderick. He hits turbulence with Broderick upon arrival, and as a camp competition to propose a bold new project for NASA heats up, Houston wonders both how to work through conflict on his crew and whether space travel will ever be accessible to all humankind. Inspired by a family member with cerebral palsy, per an author's note, Lackey (*All the Impossible Things*) employs close perspective and nuanced characterization to capture the realities of full-time caretaking as well as the brothers' joyful connection. Anchored by the detail-rich space program environment, the book's competitive tension balances the introspective evolution of intersectionally diverse cast members. Age 10: 14. Agent: Elena Giovanazzo, Pippin Properties. (Sept.)



#2347332 Down Came the Rain (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer Mathieu

After Eliza's home in Houston is destroyed by Hurricane Harvey, she is forced to transfer to Southwest High School. Traumatized by the floods and anxious in her new surroundings, Eliza throws herself into environmental activism, even if it's against the wishes of her big-oil dad.

978-1-250-23267-0 Roaring Brook Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 830

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey's rampage through Houston, white rising junior Eliza and her parents are living with her aunt, uncle, and baby cousin. She and her classmates also have to attend Southwest High while repairs are made at her school, Baldwin High. The kind of student who maintains a color-coded planner and attacks assignments with laser-like focus, Eliza is worried about how these arrangements will impact her goals for junior year. Baldwin and Southwest students are in separate classes, but Eliza connects with Javier, a Mexican American student whose house was spared, but suffers a panic reaction whenever it rains. Javier helps Eliza successfully set up an environmental club that is open to students from both schools. The story is narrated in first-person alternating chapters, and both characters reveal a lot about themselves: Eliza is action-oriented, but she is so tightly wound, readers will likely see her approaching unraveling. Javier's family is warm and loving, although they also don't understand what he's going through. The romantic relationship between Eliza and Javier is sweet and positive, and the ending is promising. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Hurricane Harvey tears through Houston, it uproots privileged overachiever Eliza Brady's well-planned life, flooding her house, wrecking her upscale public school, and dropping her in nearby Southwest High for her all-

important junior year. There she's motivated to start an environmental-action club, though her laser-focus is soon distracted by adorable, sensitive Mexican American Javier Garza. Javi, meanwhile, struggles with his own storm-related trauma and fears he'll always be the odd boy out in his family. After a meet-cute in the hallway, Eliza's passion project quickly sweeps him into a club co-presidency, an unexpected friendship, and a sweetly supportive romance. Yet even as Javi gains control of his anxiety, Eliza begins to spiral in the face of her fears for the planet's future and the stress of constantly maintaining an in-control facade. Emotionally evocative and compellingly real, this novel gives climate change a personal touchstone that frames the global crisis as a uniquely adolescent burden. The underlying politics are smartly conveyed, opening conversations about the limits of personal responsibility and not ignoring real world disparities both in the wake of weather catastrophes and in even the most well-meaning efforts to effect change. Eliza and Javi's low-key romance provides a welcome respite from the trauma-drama, and Javi certainly sets boyfriend-goals with his compassion and courage. Despite alternating first-person chapters, the narrative tips noticeably in Eliza's direction, with her realistic and relatable anxieties-many climate-conscious reader will find themselves reflected here. ACM COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two teen activists in Houston find refuge in each other in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The hurricane has completely upended Eliza Brady's life: Since her own home flooded, she's been sharing a bedroom with her baby cousin, and she and her Baldwin High community have been temporarily transferred to Southwest High. Baldwin had more white students and a more prestigious reputation than Southwest. Regardless, overachiever Eliza is determined to have a successful junior year that will help land her at the University of Texas at Austin. Fueled by her genuine fears about the future, Eliza, a white girl, starts Eagles and Tigers United for the Planet, an environmental club named after the mascots of her old and new schools. After experiencing an instant connection with sweet Mexican American Southwest student Javier Garza, who struggles with his own post-Harvey trauma, she asks him to be co-president of ETUP. Together they navigate a new and exciting relationship. Despite some dialogue not feeling like natural teen speech, Mathieu honestly depicts the toll of eco-anxiety and the nuanced interactions between two seemingly different people who are grappling with the environmental impact of their families' employment. Eliza resents that her family is well-off because her father is a Big Oil executive, while Javi grapples with his older brother's refinery job, a position he could get without a college degree and that helps feed his family. An empathetic exploration of the complex impacts of climate change on young adults. (resources) (Fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Mathieu (Bad Girls Never Say Die) delivers a potent meditation on the devastating effects of climate change through the lens of two eco-conscious high school juniors. After Eliza's home in Houston is flooded during Hurricane Harvey, she and her family are forced to move in with her aunt while their house is repaired. This means losing sleep while sharing a bedroom with her six-month-old cousin Ethan and transferring to a new school; Eliza's worried that both scenarios will disrupt "the most important year of high school" and jeopardize her chances at being accepted into UT Austin. Being separated from her best friend and harboring silent resentment toward her father, who's employed by CITGO, only adds to her frustrations. (The fact that he works for a gas and oil conglomerate "when climate change caused in part by fossil fuels no doubt helped cause our home to flood" is ironic, she asserts.) But when she meets Mexican American classmate Javi, sparks fly, and the two bond over their shared interest in environmental activism. Eliza and Javi's alternating perspectives; each rendered using insightful and intelligent prose; provide illuminating glimpses of their individual experiences navigating class dynamics and eco-anxiety, culminating in an uplifting read. Ages 12: up. (Sept.)



#2199537 **Ambassador of Nowhere Texas (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Kimberly Willis Holt
 Decades after the Vietnam War and Toby's life-changing summer with Zachary Beaver, Toby's daughter Rylee is at a crossroads--her best friend Twig has started pushing her away just as Joe, a new kid from New York, settles into their small town of Antler. Rylee befriends Joe and learns that Joe's father was a first responder on 9/11. The two unlikely friends soon embark on a project to find Zachary Beaver and hopefully reconnect him with Rylee's father almost thirty years later.
 978-1-250-23410-0 Henry Holt & Company ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* In this companion to the author's memorable When Zachary Beaver Came to Town, 30 years have passed and it's 2001. Former protagonist Toby Wilson is now an adult with a 12-year-old daughter, Rylee, who tells this quiet story of a small Texas town and its friendships. The book begins, however, with a friendship's end, as Rylee and her long-time best friend, Twig, have a falling-out. But nature abhors a vacuum, and soon a new boy, Joe Toscani, comes to town from Brooklyn and--after a rocky start--becomes Rylee's new friend. She soon discovers that Joe and his mom, Maria, have fled Brooklyn to distance themselves from the still-raw memory of the tragedy of 9/11, when Joe's fireman father was killed at Ground Zero. It's Joe who decides that--to surprise Toby--he and Rylee should start the Zachary Beaver Project, searching for the "'Fattest Boy in the World,'" as Zachary had been billed in the first novel. But how on earth will they find him, these many years later? Evocatively written ("stiff as burnt bacon"), this is an altogether absorbing and affecting novel. It's obvious that Holt loves her fully realized characters and their small-town setting, and readers can't help but feel the same. COPYRIGHT(2020) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine The narrator of this sequel to National Book Award winner *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* (rev. 11/99) is Rylee Wilson, daughter of the first book's protagonist, Toby. At the beginning of seventh grade, Rylee watches Twig, her former BFF, pull away, seeking new friends and new interests. In a prophetic observation, Toby tells Rylee: "People come and go even when we don't want them to." And one person who unexpectedly comes into Rylee's life is Joe, unhappily transplanted from Brooklyn to Rylee's hometown of Antler, a place he immediately dubs as Nowhere, Texas. As self-proclaimed ambassador Rylee tries to get Joe to accept and appreciate her town (and herself to understand her changed relationship with Twig), the two begin a quest to track down Zachary Beaver, Rylee's father's onetime friend. She wonders about the wisdom of such a search, but, as Joe tells her, "If you're a true friend, you're a friend for life." Toby, now a social studies teacher, believes that history is about people. Mirroring that belief, Holt deftly intertwines the stories of the individuals from both books, each set at a pivotal time in our country's past, the earlier work during the Vietnam War and the latter in the aftermath of 9/11. This volume is a literary reunion of sorts, but more important is its deep examination of the meaning and responsibilities of friendship, family, and community. While Holt's latest can stand alone, its considerable strengths shine brighter when read with *Zachary Beaver* [see also "Hello Again" on page 34]. Betty Carter (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This sequel to Holt's National Book Award winner, *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* (1999), revisits Antler, Texas, 30 years later; this time our guide is Toby's daughter, Rylee. Rylee, 12, is a passionate booster of her tiny hometown. Unlike her mercurial best friend, Twig, she's blessed with a happy family. Rylee's stunned by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, then heartsick over their faltering friendship. Joe, a new classmate from Brooklyn, provides welcome distraction. He ridicules Antler but warms to self-appointed tour guide Rylee, who piques his interest in Zachary Beaver. Learning how the attacks affected Joe's family makes 9/11 personal to locals. Stalwart Rylee, navigating tween angst, is engaging, but comprehensive updates on characters from the first novel slow the narrative. Little has changed for the White residents. Antler's success story is Juan Garcia, the impoverished teen from the Mexican side of town, now a world-famous golfer, his childhood home a tourist attraction. Juan's affluent extended family includes the brilliant Garcia twins, Rylee's classmates. A new character, Vietnamese immigrant Mr. Pham, cooks for and lives at the bowling alley's cafe. He suddenly buys the town's mansion, planning to open an upscale restaurant. White residents' struggles, missteps, and achievements are affectionately chronicled; the Garcias and Mr. Pham get no humanizing backstories, and they seem to serve to validate Antler's post-racial bona fides. Sticks to the shallows. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Following rising seventh grader Rylee, this post-9/11 companion to 1999's *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* revisits familiar characters; including Rylee's father, Toby, that novel's protagonist; to poignantly capture a narrative centering both true friendship and national grief. After longtime town librarian and photographer Miss Myrtie Mae dies, she bequeaths Toby a photo of himself; his best friend, Cal; and Zachary Beaver, whose sideshow visited Antler, Tex., in the summer of 1971. Recently shunned by her longtime best friend, Rylee forges a new friendship with Joe, a newcomer from Brooklyn with a painful secret. Determined to locate Beaver, Rylee and Joe comb through the past at the library, piecing together the circus's timeline after 1971 while contending with their own personal upheavals. Returning readers will appreciate National Book Award winner Holt's attention to detail as she revisits characters, while newcomers will be drawn to Rylee's empathy, protectiveness of her community, and curiosity about the world and her place in it. The thoughtfully drawn setting circumvents the ease of contemporary internet access, creating a hearty mystery unraveled with local librarians' assistance and earnest intergenerational conversations. A quiet celebration of friendship, no matter how brief. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Amy Berkower, Writers House. (Jan.)



#2352118 Balto and Togo: Hero Dogs of Alaska (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Helen Moss

It's the winter of 1924 and a diphtheria outbreak is threatening the population of Nome, Alaska. The only way to stop the deadly illness from causing a full-blown epidemic is to immediately deliver one million units of the diphtheria antitoxin to the affected communities, which seems impossible given the only way to reach any place in Alaska at this time of year is by dog sled. The stakes are high, and the snow is piling higher--will the antitoxin make it in time? Or will the infection spread faster than they can treat it?

978-1-250-79253-2 Godwin Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The historic sled dog "Serum Run" was undertaken to prevent a diphtheria epidemic in Nome, Alaska. Inventing minor details as needed to construct a seamless narrative while sticking closely to participants' memoirs and other documentary evidence, Moss recounts each leg of the nearly 700-mile relay--capturing both its urgency and the serious dangers faced by the 19 teams of dogs and men who undertook it. Exerting authorial license around a claim that the "malamute chorus," a sort of canine news and social network that even worked over long distances, was a real Alaska thing, she tells the tale from doggy as well as human points of view by weaving in engaging exchanges of canine banter: "I can feel it in my bones--we're headed for Norton Bay. I know that Togo here loves the sea ice, but it gives me the heebie-jeebies." Still, nearly every member of the cast, two- or four-legged, was real, as were the extreme cold, severe winds, blinding snow fog, and other obstacles faced by the tough dogs and rugged-looking, fur-clad men in Hughes' stark black-and-white illustrations. The disease claimed one child identified

as Inupiaq/Norwegian, and one musher was part Athabascan; otherwise the human cast reads as white. True to life and compellingly dramatic. (afterword, source list, end notes) (Fictionalized nonfiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Set in the winter of 1924, this illustrated middle grade book is based on real events that took place during the diphtheria outbreak in Alaska. To prevent infection from spreading, one million units of antitoxin must be delivered as quickly as possible. But due to weather, temperature, minimal road access, distance, and isolation, the serum must travel by mushers and dogsleds. As they journey along the trail, the teams face frostbite, black holes, and trips and tangles. The details of the outbreak are shown through a variety of characters' points of view. After a telegraph is sent out asking for help, a team of huskies undertake a 600-mile round trip. Readers get to understand what the dogs are seeing and thinking as the author includes narration and dialogue from their perspectives. Additional viewpoints—from a sick child, a nurse, the mayor—round out the characters and add drama to the story. Footnotes on the bottom of several pages include detail about word definitions. Back matter includes over 10 pages of notes, reference material, and sources. VERDICT This well-researched adventure book will be out just in time for the winter. Children who enjoy animal adventure stories will love this book!—Tanya Boudreau



#2267111 Baker's Guide to Robber Pie (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Caitlin Sangster

With her best friend by her side, Evie sets off into the Old Forest to find a Fel, a crow-like magical creature who can't lie. She is sure her family's irresistible raspberry tart and a carefully crafted deal will lead to a magical adventure--without getting her eaten or worse. But the forest hides many dangers and when they finally find their Fel, they also discover a nest of robbers!

978-1-250-79331-7 Feiwel & Friends ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

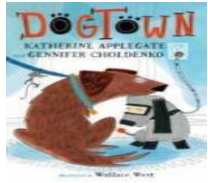
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Evie wants a life full of excitement, adventure, and fun. When an opportunity arises, she and her friend Cecily leave their boring town and venture into the Old Forest, which is filled with dangerous robbers, bears, mountain lions, and more. There, Evie hopes to make a deal with a Fel, a crowlike creature with magical powers, which will let her live the life she's always wanted; she plans to ask the Fel to take her on a yearlong adventure and bring her home safely. However, Evie has to be careful how she phrases her request because an incorrect word could result in disaster. Evie's exploits embroil her in the machinations of the infamous Robber Lord, who has dastardly designs on the queen. Finally surrounded by the adventure she has so craved, Evie must figure out how to save the royal family and thwart the Robber Lord's plan. In her middle-grade debut, Sangster brings readers an exciting tale of fantasy, questing, and finding one's inner hero. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Evie is the twelve-year-old daughter of bakers in the country of Paline, where people fear the Fel, giant crow-like fairy creatures. When adventurous Evie stumbles upon robbers in the woods summoned by her raspberry tart, she's whisked away for her safety by royal guards, posing as a baker for the Hollows, a noble family, while the location of the Robber Lord is identified. Something isn't right about the way everyone is acting toward the robbers, though, and the cunning, manipulative daughter in the Hollow house isn't helping things as Evie searches for answers. This middle grade novel is as charming as it is mouthwatering, with Evie's storytelling inclinations giving zest to even the less thrilling elements. Savvy readers will see plot twists in advance due to some heavy-handed foreshadowing, but the end result is still satisfying. Here, the power of friendship is a driving force, as Evie overcomes her biases to befriend Gisa, another girl in the Hollow household, and uses her connection to hometown friend Cece to save the day. Readers who are as adventure-seeking as Evie will want to join her as she takes on magical enemies with only her wits and baking skills. NB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Evie Baker, whom cover art depicts with light brown skin, is a natural-born storyteller dreaming of real-life adventure beyond her bland-feeling town. Trading in dull school lectures about monstrous creatures for the thrill of finding one, she seeks to catch a Fel; a large, magical crow-like being that would "give you their magic if you made a deal with them"; using one of her family's famous raspberry tarts as bait. But Evie gets more than she bargained for when a band of elusive thieves and the infamous Robber Lord show up at the same time the Fel does. Through a sort of witness protection program, Evie is whisked away from her parents and best friend to the royal city of Reinstadt. But Evie is determined to find the truth and get back home, and with only presumed-white message runner Max and white-haired, dark-skinned maid Gisa as allies, she must navigate secret identities, deep-rooted prejudices, and hidden villainy. Overstuffed passages sometimes slow this middle grade debut, but Sangster (She Who Rides the Storm) writes in a jaunty, irreverent third-person voice that befits the book's clever and principled protagonist. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Ben Grange, L. Perkins.(Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Evie Baker loves to tell stories; tales of pirates, magic, and trickster crows. On Saint Hart's Day, Evie and her best friend, Cece, have a plan to venture into the forest to steal their own magic from the legendary Fel. However, as they set out on their grand adventure, a group of robbers derails their plan and Evie and Cece are whisked away to safety by the Queen's guard. Evie is transported to the capital to stay with a family friend. As a daughter of bakers, Evie takes on the role of baker to the noble Hollow family and is embroiled in a

centuries-old struggle between the royal family and the magical Fel. With help from new friends Max and Gisa, Evie embarks on an adventure to catch the Robber Lord and uncover the truth of the Fel. Mistaken identity, trickery, and thievery combine to create a story more elaborate than anything Evie could have ever imagined. Unfortunately, Sangster's ambitious middle grade debut misses the mark. On the surface it is a fun adventure story; however, none of the plot lines or characters are fully fleshed out. This creates some confusing moments and periods of stagnation throughout. Main characters are coded as white. VERDICT A secondary purchase where adventure and fantasy books are popular.—Maryjean Riou



#2346777 Dogtown (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katherine Applegate

Dogtown is a shelter for stray dogs, misbehaving dogs, and discarded robot dogs whose owners have outgrown them. Chance, a real dog, has been in Dogtown since his owners unwittingly left him with irresponsible dog-sitters who skipped town.

Metal Head is a robot dog who dreams of being back in a real home.

978-1-250-81160-8 Feiwel & Friends ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 The unusual Dogtown shelter provides refuge to both wayward dogs and abandoned robot pups, and there is resentment brewing between the groups. Chance knows he's lucky to have a good life at the shelter after being injured and abandoned by unscrupulous pet-sitters, but having three legs, he worries that no one will want him, and he's still hoping to be reunited with his family. Chance can't understand why Metal Head, a recently discarded robot, refuses to ingratiate himself with potential adopters, preferring to plot a way back to his former owner. The two eventually form an uneasy alliance and, with additional assistance from a resident mouse, escape the confines of the shelter for an outdoor adventure. But their path home will be anything but straightforward. The tension and humor are beautifully balanced in this sympathetic story, and the delightfully distinct voices and memorable characters are enormous fun. Brief chapters set a brisk pace, and charming black-and-white illustrations are incredibly appealing. A sweet spotlight on shelter animals that is as heartwarming as it is entertaining. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Chance, our three-legged canine narrator, concedes that robot dogs are cleaner and more obedient (and definitely poop less) than flesh-and-blood dogs, but she also insists that mechanics can't make up for heart. Like many other residents of the dog shelter Dogtown, Chance is not fond of robot dogs, so when a mechanical canine she dubs Metal Head arrives, she isn't especially sympathetic. She is, however, intrigued, as Metal Head seems to have no desire to make itself more appealing and adoptable to a new family but is instead focused on getting out. Chance's dear friend Mouse convinces Chance to help spring Metal Head, and when the trio successfully make their escape, Chance starts to wonder if she, too, should try to find her previous owners. Clearly kin to the irascible street dog Bob in Applegate's *The One and Only Bob* (BCCB 5/20), Chance is the perfect balance of snark and vulnerability. Her relationships with and affection for the other dogs-metal and flesh-give her particular depth, as she is the one who often explains and comforts Dogtown's new arrivals: "Just because a human doesn't want you, doesn't mean you aren't lovable." The plot unfolds gently but directly, making this an easy choice for a classroom or family read-aloud, though tellers and listeners should have tissues on hand. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Three-legged Chance is at the top of the pack at Dogtown -- an animal shelter where she has a glowing reputation among dogs and humans alike. She's known for quickly settling the new "boo-hoo" pups as they adjust to life without their beloved owners, and she charms the managers into letting her cozy up under the staff poker table: "She makes everyone feel like her favorite," says a shelter volunteer. Then, Chance finds herself on an unexpected adventure back in the outside world, alongside Metal Head (a quirky dog that is actually a robot) and her friend Mouse (an actual rodent). While the threesome searches for Metal Head's human family, Chance's protective poise begins to waver -- just like every abandoned boo-hoo in Dogtown, Chance still harbors the painful hope that she might find a missing-dog sign with her own picture on it. Accompanied by friendly, cartoonlike halftone drawings, this canine slice-of-life adventure features a confident, affable narrator with a proclivity for doggy jargon (the cutest dogs at Dogtown get "First Cage" where they can flaunt their "Adopt-me Routine"). Short chapters and Chance's snappy narration keep the pace rolling, but Applegate and Choldenko adeptly make space for gently poignant moments along the way. An accessible, appealing romp that provides a dog's-eye view of the nature of hope, belonging, and found family. Jessica Tackett Macdonald(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews es the challenges of shelter life as he longs for a home. Friendly three-legged Chance is the perfect guide to Dogtown, a shelter that houses both warmblooded and robot dogs. In fact, she's "Management's lucky charm," roaming freely without being confined to a cage and leaving kibble for her mouse friend. Life is pretty good. But she still yearns for reunification with her family and, like many of the living pups, harbors suspicion of her robot counterparts, who are convenient and more easily adoptable but lacking in personality. When Metal Head, an oddly engineered e-dog, bonds with a child during a shelter reading program, Chance's assumptions about heartless robot dogs are upended. As Chance connects with Metal Head, the two make a brief escape into the wider world, and Chance learns a familiar lesson: Everyone longs for a place to belong. Memories of Chance's happy home loom large in her mind: Easy days with the Bessers, a sweet Black family, were disrupted by a neglectful dogsitter, the accident that cost Chance her leg, and Chance's flight in search of safety. Chance's chatty narrative style

includes flashbacks, vignettes about fellow shelter pets, and thoughtful observations, for example, about the "boohoos," or sad new arrivals. The story offers many moments of laughter and reflection, all greatly enhanced by West's utterly charming grayscale illustrations of irresistible pooches. Eminently readable and appealing; will tug at dog-loving readers' heartstrings. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Newbery Medalist Applegate and Newbery Honoree Choldenko team up for this uplifting escape novel narrated by Chance, a forthright three-legged border collie/Aussie mix. Self-described as an unadoptable "pity party in a dog suit," Chase is a permanent resident of Dogtown; a shelter for dogs both mammalian and robotic; where she offers amusing and insightful commentary about her fellow rescues, including the animosity between the "flesh-and-bloods" seeking forever homes and the "metal dogs" that many humans consider easier to care for. When an uncharacteristically empathic robot dog, Metal Head, arrives, he makes a bold request of Chance and her friend Mouse: break him out of Dogtown. Unwittingly swept up in Metal Head's flight scheme, Chance and Mouse embark on an adventure that makes Chance wonder about life beyond the shelter. Angular b&w line drawings by West (Mighty Red Riding Hood) highlight the humorously sketched canine cast, while brief chapters that explore species divides promise to captivate anyone who enjoys rooting for a couple of down-on-their-luck dogs getting a second chance. Human characters are portrayed with various skin tones. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Welcome to Dogtown, a shelter for regular dogs—and robot dogs (don't ask, just go with it). The shelter's top dog is Chance, a congenial and introspective pooch, who like all the residents, longs to reunite with her family. But as Chance understands, "Hope is a painful business." That anguish, along with her resentment towards robot dogs (they often get adopted before real dogs) fades as Chance spends time with a robot dog she nicknames Metal Head. Animosity gradually evolves into understanding, then friendship as Chance introduces Metal Head to Mouse, a real mouse who lives in the shelter and shares Chance's kibble. The action shifts to adventure when Chance and Mouse escape Dogtown to accompany Metal Head on his quest to rejoin his family. Super short chapters, perhaps suggesting a dog's alleged limited attention span, keep the novel's pace moving briskly toward a climax sure to please animal lovers despite a few sad moments along the way. Chance captivates with insights that are hilarious and wise beyond her age in dog years. She counsels Mouse, "Your heart is a muscle...It grows stronger the more you use it." Thoughtful back matter suggests how children can help shelter dogs. West's grayscale art perfectly captures canine emotion and unbridled energy. VERDICT When Applegate and Choldenko collaborate, readers win.—Marybeth Kozikowski



#2282556 Hike to Home (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jess Rinker

Lin Moser is not looking forward to this summer. After living on the road all her life, hiking mountains and traveling through the country in an RV with her house-flipping parents, she's now stuck in Newbridge, New Jersey for their longest stay yet.

Determined to create her own adventure, Lin sets off on her biggest one yet—braving the wilderness with her two new friends, finding the castle, and maybe discovering home along the way.

978-1-250-81274-2 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

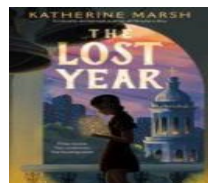
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Lin Moser has been living her best life, traveling from adventure to adventure as one of the "Moseying with the Mosers" YouTube family. So, how will she survive a B.O.R.I.N.G., stationary summer in New Jersey? Help comes in the form of two unlikely new friends: pink-haired Tinsley, who couldn't care less what the other kids think, and introverted, allergy-prone Leo from across the street. They form an odd squad and research the local legend of "The Castle in the Sky," a place that many have searched for, but no one has found. The trio head out alone, planning to discover its location and uncover its treasures. Briefly thwarted along their way by the bullying Sanders boys, the young explorers cleverly persist and are rewarded with exciting discoveries. A cross between the Irwin family's adventures and National Treasure, this is an entertaining quest that touches on facets of home and family, bullying, and personal creativity. A quick read that will entertain and challenge readers to seek out adventures in their own backyards. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Feeling abandoned by her filmmaker mom, who's on a yearlong residency in the Dry Tortugas, a tween finds friendship, mystery, and adventure in a small New Jersey town. Lin loves her family's unusual lifestyle. Her dad restores old houses around the country, while her mom films the process for their popular YouTube channel. The three occupy a souped-up bus that they move from location to location. With Mom away and Dad occupied, Lin--formerly home-schooled, now enrolled in public school summer rec camp--is bored and disgruntled. That is, until she's befriended by pink-haired classmate Tinsley. When Lin confides her intention to make a film about her summer, Tinsley's thrilled. Their friendship evolves to include Leo, a shy, overparented King Arthur buff who tells Lin about an abandoned castle believed to lie nearby, off the Appalachian Trail. Tinsley confides that her dad's Freemason lodge has long unsuccessfully sought the castle. Lin persuades them to break into the lodge to search for clues to its presumed whereabouts and then to join her on an overnight camping trip to find it. Things get more complicated when they're pursued by a trio of bullies who intend to capitalize on any exciting discoveries. Meandering at first, the pace picks up with the search for the castle--as do the stakes. Rinker's affinity for treasure-seeking quests serves readers well, as do her clear interest in and affection for the natural world. Characters default to White. An enjoyably alfresco romp. (Fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews,

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Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Stuck in Newbridge, N.J., with her father while her mother participates in a yearlong film residency in the Dry Tortugas, 12-year-old Melinda "Lin" Moser feels miserable. She's spent years traveling the country as part of her parents' popular YouTube home renovation show, Moseying with the Mosers, and resents being left behind. Ditching summer camp for her own film project, Lin becomes determined to find and film Pen's Castle, a rumored local haunt off the Appalachian Trail with purported roots in Arthurian legend and connections to Freemasonry. Along the way, she also hopes to prove that she, like both her mother and 19th-century mountaineer Annie Smith Peck, the subject of a book her mom sends her; is a true adventurer. Alongside musical theater enthusiast Tinsley Cooper, whose father is recovering from a work accident at local Sanders Construction, and bookish Leo Martin, bullied by another Sanders, Lin searches for clues about the castle while concocting a plan to spend two days hiking and filming in the woods. Rinker (The Dare Sisters) packs themes and plot points into a novel whose real strength is its characters; if the story sometimes bogs down as a result, the white-cued kids' rapport and significant emotional arcs satisfy. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Linda Epstein, Emerald City Literary. (July)



#2309453 Lost Year (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katherine Marsh

Thirteen-year-old Matthew is miserable. His journalist dad is stuck overseas, and his mom has moved his great-grandmother in with them to ride out the pandemic, adding to his stress and isolation. But when Matthew finds a photo in his great-grandmother's belongings, he discovers a clue to a hidden chapter of her past, one that will reveal a life-shattering family secret.

978-1-250-31360-7 Roaring Brook Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, and, like most 13-year-olds, he would rather play video games than hang out with his 100-year-old great-grandmother, Nadiya, or "GG." Matthew's mom has other plans. Forced to unpack GG's storage boxes, Matthew finds a photo that sparks questions and ultimately unspools a long-hidden history about GG's childhood in Stalin-ruled Soviet Ukraine. Alternating perspectives between Matthew and GG's cousins when they were young girls, the story connects 1930s Brooklyn to Communist Ukraine during its devastating, man-made famine, the Holodomor. As the cousins' narratives unfold, the book also links two moments in history deeply impacted by disinformation; it encourages readers to consider carefully their sources and emphasizes that "we need to tell the whole story" and be mindful of whose stories have not—or cannot—be told. Marsh, Edgar Award-winning author of *The Night Tourist* (2007), explains in a note that she rooted her research in her own relatives' experiences during the Holodomor. The fairly lengthy middle-grade book rewards readers with a nimble twist and satisfying ending and has an obvious urgency in light of current geopolitics. A natural selection for fans of Alan Gratz and a stepping stone to the work of Ruta Sepetys, this sobering and important story will be an excellent addition to classroom and library collections.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books With school shut down and socialization limited, thirteen-year-old Matthew has been relying on his Nintendo Switch for entertainment during most of the spring in 2020. That's taken away too, though, when his mom decides it's time to go screen-free, suggesting he help his great-grandmother, who has recently moved in with them, sort through her old boxes. When he finds an old photograph of two young girls, he uncovers a tale far more harrowing and dramatic than any video game. Alternate chapters tell the story of three girls in 1932: Mila, the daughter of a higher-up in the Ukrainian Communist Party; Nadia, orphaned when her mother and family died in the Holodomor in Ukraine; and Helen, the daughter of recent Eastern European immigrants to Brooklyn. The shifting perspectives make for a choppy narrative at points, but the story more than compensates for the unevenness with compelling characters and three separate settings brilliantly utilized for both a sense of place and a connection between the major players. Matthew makes an excellent proxy for young readers, especially as a kid at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic: he's feeling relatively safe but has no idea how long the shutdown will be or how dangerous the virus is. He knows he's lucky but he's also aware that things can get really bad really fast—a fact confirmed in his great-grandmother's account of three girls tossed together in one tragedy and not all making it out alive. Marsh has a clear knowledge of the Soviet world and the Holodomor, and she seamlessly interweaves historical events and figures without extensive exposition. This feels especially timely, given the Russian invasion of Ukraine as well as the continuing pandemic, but ultimately, the book asks the reader a larger existential question: what would you do to survive and who would you become in the aftermath? KQG COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

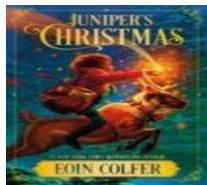
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Marsh's affecting historical novel, inspired by her own family's story, describes the social and political backdrop of the Holodomor, a famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in the 1930s and was covered up by the Soviets (Ukraine was a republic of the USSR at the time). It opens by introducing Matthew, a present-day, screen-obsessed thirteen-year-old living in New Jersey, "basically under house arrest" during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has been asked to help Nadiya, his hundred-year-old great-grandmother, to sort through her belongings; in so doing he starts to piece together the Lomachenko family story. Matthew's chapters alternate with those of Mila, a Young Pioneer living in 1930s Kyiv under the watchful eye of her doting widowed father (and Papa Stalin), and of Nadiya's cousin Helen in Depression-era Brooklyn. The harsh realities of the Stalin regime -- where citizens could be declared "class enemies," evicted from their homes, and sent to labor colonies for any perceived anti-Party infraction -- come to light. The horrors of state-sanctioned starvation and the desperation of would-be

refugees are palpable and disturbing to read, but they are made palatable because the experiences are filtered through the viewpoints and sensibilities of young people caught up in the disaster. The multiple voices come together to bear witness and remind us that history is a collection of stories, "and it matters enormously who gets to tell them." A compelling and timely look at the historically complex and fraught relationship between Ukraine and Russia. Luann Toth(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old boy trapped indoors by Covid-19 uncovers a dark family secret leading back to the Holodomor, the early 1930s Ukrainian famine caused by Stalin's policies. When the pandemic shuts down the world in 2020, Matthew is more isolated than most kids. His journalist father is stuck in Paris, and since his mom has moved GG, his frail, 100-year-old, Ukrainian immigrant great-grandmother, in with them, protecting her means Matthew can't see his friends. Matthew starts helping GG sort her boxes of keepsakes, gradually piecing together a story that's also told from the points of view of Mila, the privileged daughter of a Communist Party member, and Helen, the daughter of Ukrainian immigrants living in Brooklyn. When Helen's cousins write to say they are starving, she secretly mails them her father's cherished gold cross. Meanwhile, in Kyiv, Mila encounters a starving girl who claims to be her cousin Nadiya. Mila is a strong supporter of Papa Stalin, but her efforts to help Nadiya ultimately open her eyes to the truth about his regime--as well as endangering her own life. Marsh's intertwining narratives ground the story of the Holodomor--which affected her own family--within a historical framework while leading up to a completely believable and emotionally powerful conclusion. A strong subplot discusses journalistic integrity and how one powerful man managed to keep the truth of the Holodomor hidden for years. A moving presentation of a long-suppressed piece of history. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A 13-year-old boy discovers a dark family secret in this stirring volume by Marsh (Nowhere Boy). As the Covid-19 lockdown begins, Matthew is stuck in his Leonia, N.J., home with his divorced magazine editor mother and his 100-year-old Ukrainian-born great-grandmother Nadiya, called GG. Struggling to adjust to the new reality, Matthew finds comfort in playing video games, until his mother takes away his gaming console and orders him to help GG organize her personal belongings. When he finds a photo of two girls, labeled "Nadiya and Helen," GG reluctantly divulges that she and her cousin Helen had once been a trio, and that what happened to the third cousin, Mila, is a "terrible secret," spurring Matthew to learn more about GG's past. Captivating first-person POV chapters; which alternate between Matthew in 2020 N.J. and Helen, Nadiya, and Mila in 1930s Brooklyn and Kyiv; vividly render the suffering caused by Stalin's imposed famine, Holodomor; the event's perception around the world; and the aftereffects that ripple into Matthew's present. Helen and Matthew's growing understanding of the tenets of responsible journalism link their stories as each seeks to uncover the truth and report on their discoveries. An author's note concludes. Ages 10: 14. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Four intertwined narratives explore a family history full of suffering, sacrifice, and secrets. Much of the book explores the events in the early 1930s around the Holomodor (death by starvation) in Ukraine. Mila, Nadia, and Helen are the Lomachenko cousins at the center of the story. Helen is in America; Mila is the daughter of a powerful Communist party member in Kyiv; and Nadia lives with her rural farming family in Ukraine. The story opens in 2020 where Matthew spends a lot of time with his great-grandmother during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in New Jersey, and she shares the untold story of her early life as one of the cousins as they go through her box of memories. Matthew seeks help from his reporter father who is working in Europe. The chapters are titled with the name of the character they feature and include an image, location, and date, which helps keep everyone straight as there are a lot of shifting perspectives. The narrative structure is a bit clunky at times, but the story is compelling. VERDICT With appealing connections to a family living in the time of the pandemic and insight into the history of Ukraine, this striking work of historical fiction dives into the importance of telling one's story and preserving the history of everyday people.--Erin Wyatt Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2348446 Juniper's Christmas (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Eoin Colfer

Everyone knows Santa doesn't do Christmas anymore, but Juniper Lane only wants one thing this year: to celebrate the Santa Vigil in Cedar Park in honor of her late father. But then her mother goes missing and the park's bureaucratic director declares the vigil is canceled, so Juniper seeks the help of mysterious and grumpy carpenter Niko--who accidentally reveals his expert craftsmanship, flying reindeer, and magic powers. He insists he's not Santa and refuses to help, so it just might be up to Juniper to find her own magic and save Christmas.

978-1-250-32194-7 Roaring Brook Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

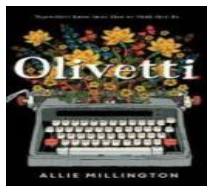
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$22.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An 11-year-old seeks the help of Santa Claus, retired to modern-day London following his wife's death, in a warmhearted Christmas novel from Colfer (the Artemis Fowl series). To honor her late, Ghana-born, London-park-keeper father, Juniper Lane hopes to continue the tradition he started: holding an annual Santa Vigil in the park. But when her white mother, the park's new keeper, vanishes before the event, a desperate Juniper enlists the aid of reclusive handyman Niko; previously Santa; who spends his days building wooden shelters for the park's unhoused residents, and whose retirement eight years ago has left a generation of children without faith in Santa Claus. He reluctantly

agrees to assist after Juniper is imbued with polar magic of her own, but when a criminally inclined businesswoman seeks to gain control of the Claus powers, the two find themselves in a race to save Christmas. A congenial, omniscient narrator supplies a fresh spin on familiar holiday themes, including forgiveness, healing, and hope. Final art not seen by PW; secondary characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sophie Hicks, Sophie Hicks Agency. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Santa Claus stopped delivering presents to children after his wife died eight years ago. Since then, he has lived undercover in England as Nicholas. He and his reindeer do good deeds for people, but try their best not to be found by the Christmas elves. Without Santa Claus to bring Christmas cheer, Juniper's father developed his own tradition of helping those in need and filling the holiday season with good tidings. When he died, Juniper and her mom were too miserable to carry on the Christmas tradition. This year, when they finally feel up to celebrating, Juniper's mom disappears. Juniper is heartbroken and begins searching for her mom. Through a family friend, Duchess, Juniper makes contact with Nicholas. She learns that Nicholas is Santa Claus in hiding at the same time that she and Duchess find out that the local constables want to shut down the holiday food and clothes giveaway. As this fast-paced story races to a conclusion, Juniper thwarts the constables and their criminal helpers, and eventually finds her mom. Duchess falls in love with Nicholas, whom the elves finally locate. Christmas is saved. Colfer is a master storyteller. The voices of both Juniper and Nicholas shine through and will keep readers engaged, while Prabhat's beautiful illustrations help to convey the personalities of each character. VERDICT A delightful tale. Readers will enjoy the imaginative story filled with lush prose and a heartwarming ending.—Charla Hollingsworth



#2369037 Olivetti (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Allie Millington

Being a typewriter is not as easy as it looks. When Olivetti learns Mom has mysteriously gone missing, he believes he can help find her. He breaks the only rule of his 'kind' and types back to Ernest, who must face what he and his family have been running from, *The Everything That Happened*. Only by working together will they find the parts of themselves they've lost.

978-1-250-32693-5 Feiwel & Friends ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* An introverted boy and his missing mother's cherished typewriter plumb forgotten family stories while journeying toward acceptance in this touching middle-grade mystery. The Brindle family swarms distractedly around seventh-grader Ernest, everyone fixed in their ways until the morning Beatrice, his mom, vanishes. This isn't the family's first trauma, but, after "Everything That Happened," Ernest finds an unexpected ally: Olivetti, Beatrice's classic typewriter, who explains, "We [typewriters] hold thousands of stories. Worlds full of words." Because Beatrice spilled her "secrets all over [his] keys," Olivetti breaks his code of silence and recounts Beatrice's writing to help Ernest trace her. As inanimate narrators go, Olivetti is especially well suited to the task and takes turns with Ernest in lending his perspective to the short chapters. And, as stories about stories go, Olivetti's and Ernest's insights about the power of memories, both held and shared, speak volumes. Emotional fragility pervades this introspective debut; sensitive readers should be aware of themes of major illness and its recurrence. Offering a *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* vibe, with its unspooling of a youth perspective on the adult world, this melancholic yet hopeful pick will appeal to fans of books with nonhuman protagonists and readers who enjoy emotional stories with alternating perspectives, such as Jasmine Warga's *A Rover's Story* (2022) and *The Lost Library* (2023), by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

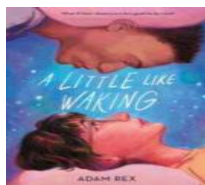
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Olivetti the typewriter was once a beloved part of the human Brindle family, with the mother, Beatrice, typing her various stories and thoughts on him over the years and the children occasionally using Olivetti for their own imaginings. He knows he's out of fashion now, what with the arrival of laptops and cell phones, but he's still shocked when Beatrice pawns him off at a shop. Through alternating narration with Ernest, one of the four Brindle children, readers learn that shortly after selling Olivetti, Beatrice disappeared. Desperate to find her, Ernest goes to the place she was last seen and makes the welcome but surprising discoveries that Olivetti can communicate with him and that the typewriter might know where Beatrice went. The dual perspectives allow for a fuller picture of the Brindle family members, who have all endured Beatrice's years-long battle with cancer but who have yet to process their lingering trauma, feeling it unearned as Beatrice is still alive. The eventual revelation that Beatrice is sick again is gut-punching, and the fact that the book's ending is ambiguous about her survival this time makes it especially emotionally fraught. That heartbreak, however, is both softened and honored by Olivetti, as he offers a view of a family living their fullest even in the face of uncertain tragedy, recognizing that the story goes on but is often reconfigured in unexpected ways. This has the charm of the *Penderwicks* books but the melancholy of Long's *The Death and Life of Benny Brooks* (BCCB 11/23), a balance that makes it an ideal pick for readers looking for both honesty and hope. KQG COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A magical typewriter brings healing, reconnection, and new friends to a hurting family. Olivetti, a silent but fully conscious typewriter, has been there since the beginning, living with parents Felix and Beatrice and their children, Ezra, Adalyn, Ernest, and Arlo, a "copper-colored family with eyes as rich as ink." Olivetti, who even took part in Felix's proposal to Beatrice, watched playfulness and creativity

grow as the children arrived, and he faithfully remembers every single word the people have typed. Then, longing to communicate, he watched the family suffer through *Everything That Happened*. Which is exactly what seventh grader Ernest is still trying to forget. Constantly carrying his dictionary around, Ernest spends most of his time on the roof away from others, scared of getting close to people for fear of losing them. So, when Beatrice suddenly leaves after taking Olivetti to a pawn shop, grief-stricken Ernest seeks him out and confesses that he fears he's to blame for her departure. Desperate to help, Olivetti takes the unusual action of breaking typewriterly code: He communicates with Ernest in order to help him. But will it be enough? The chapters are told from Olivetti's and Ernest's first-person perspectives and frequently contain flashbacks. Debut author Millington skillfully delivers a complex storyline that deals with heavy topics. With plenty of quotable wisdom, richly textured language, and dry humor, this work reads like a classic. An extraordinary journey that speaks to the "before" and "after" of life-changing events. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Olivetti; a polite and observant dark green typewriter; and an introverted 12-year-old narrate Millington's unique debut. Olivetti takes his job as a "protector of memories" seriously. Despite the recent appearance of a laptop ("the glossy show-off"), Olivetti has accumulated "an endless amount of memories" working with owner Beatrice. His patient existence is upended when he's abruptly sold to a pawn shop and Beatrice goes missing, leaving her husband and four children; including middle schooler Ernest; confused and alarmed. While putting up missing-person flyers, Ernest meets dumpster-diving Quinn, whose father owns the pawn shop. Aided by Olivetti, Ernest and Quinn team up to solve the mystery of Beatrice's disappearance, and as they try untangling Beatrice's whereabouts, Ernest frets that his reluctance to speak to a therapist about a mysterious, traumatic family event caused his mother's departure. While the tantalizing premise is hampered by cliché characterizations, incomplete worldbuilding, and a limp mystery, Olivetti's snarky observations entertain, and the human protagonists' endearing support for each other's endeavors paints a worthwhile portrait of community. Ernest and his family have "copper-colored" skin; other characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kristen Terrette, Martin Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—A lively and tender story about language, archive, and family history, Millington's debut will keep young readers on their toes. Ernest Brindle's family is falling apart after the sudden disappearance of his mother, Beatrice. His siblings are squabbling, his father is unraveling, and he can't figure out why his mother would have sold their beloved typewriter to a pawn shop, of all things, before running away. Enter Quinn, the precocious daughter of the pawnbroker. When Quinn and Ernest discover that Olivetti (the typewriter) is "alive" and can type for them every memory that has been recorded on its keys, they begin a race against time to discover anything and everything the Olivetti can recall about Beatrice. With the help of a friendly, if rather stereotypical, librarian and a Brazilian handyman, the Brindle family use Olivetti's unique ability to scour Beatrice's memories for clues to her whereabouts. This is a charming story filled with idiomatic expressions and wordplay. Formatted in alternating chapters between Ernest and Olivetti's points of view, readers will be delighted by the book's playfulness, as well as its bittersweet look at the power of memory, and how a family can be broken and then healed. VERDICT A quirky, heartfelt novel recommended for general middle grade collections.—Nora G. Murphy



#2329159 Little Like Waking (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adam Rex

Zelda is stuck in a dream. A very strange dream, where people can fly, bears sneeze money, and her childhood cat, Patches, is somehow alive—despite being run over years ago. Things only get stranger when Zelda meets Langston, a sweet if overly timid guy who feels more real to her than anyone she's ever met. But what they uncover along the way pushes them towards a truth neither of them wants to face.

978-1-250-62191-7 Roaring Brook Press ©2023 6 x 9 400 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 640

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.99

Reviews by: Book Page Zelda lives in the kind of quaint, upbeat town worthy of a montage. People greet her by name, wish her good luck on her geography test and loan her a bike when she's running late. But after a close call on that bike with a car and a disappearing boy, Zelda starts to question her perfect town. Why does that geography test—which she's pretty sure she also took yesterday—make no sense? Why does the town laundromat sport its own creepy clown? And why has her dead cat, Patches, shown up . . . talking?

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 8-12 *Starred Review* "To sleep, perchance to dream," as Shakespeare wrote, and here Rex (*The Story of Gumluck the Wizard*, 2023) isn't far behind with a captivating fantasy romance that's all about dreams and dreamers. Among the latter is our protagonist, 18-year-old Zelda, who is quick to realize that she is living in a dream in which her fellow students fly about in their underwear and her long-dead pet cat, Patches, comes back to vivid life, talking to her in a lovely baritone. Ah, but is Zelda truly the dreamer, or is she living in someone else's dream? Patches insists that he is the dreamer, as does Langston, the cute boy with whom Zelda is increasingly smitten. To determine who is right, the three set off on a quest to find the edge of the dream, where they hope to discover the identity of the dreamer and what will transpire if that dreamer awakens. Along the way, they'll have dreamlike adventures (while besieged by giant gym teachers who bombard them with dodgeballs, they are rescued when a giant duck waddles on stage and eats their attackers). Rex has dreamed up a charming, funny, highly imaginative story that invites long thoughts about the nature of reality and the enduring importance of romance. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Realizing she's stuck in a dream, a girl journeys with a boy and a cat to discover what's real. Zelda lives in an idyllic town where everyone knows her name, but her world is upended when she comes across a cute boy she hasn't seen before. This leads to the realization that she's inhabiting a dream world; she doesn't know if her memories are real or just more dreams. Zelda learns the boy's name is Langston, and together they set off toward the edge of the dream on an adventure, accompanied by Patches, her erudite talking cat. Zelda believes she must be the dreamer and must find a way to wake up for real, but when she starts falling for the oft-apprehensive Langston, she feels less inclined to leave. This surreal tale mixes a hero's journey with romance, folds in the absurdities and chaos of dreams, and is peppered with vibrant, memorable side characters including a wizard, witches, a giant duck, and a laundromat clown. There's a lot of silliness in the story, which is mostly entertaining but can sometimes grow tiresome. It's thoughtfully balanced, though, with relatable internal struggles and emotions about crushes and confidence, loss and love. The unpredictable nature of the story will keep readers on their toes and the pages flying. Captivating full-page grayscale illustrations are interspersed. Zelda appears White; Langston is Black. A wonderfully inventive story bursting with humor and heart. (Surrealist fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly While running late for a final exam and biking furiously through her small town, white teenager Zelda narrowly misses being hit by a car and meets Langston, a handsome Black boy sprawled in the bushes. This meet-cute; and various encounters before it, including the greeting she received from the gate to her house ("?'MORning,' creaks the gate as it opens"); leads to Zelda realizing that her entire life, including her town and everyone in it, is a dream. Accompanied by Langston and her poetry-spouting, once-dead cat Patches, Zelda endeavors to travel to the edge of the vision, discover the identity of the dreamer, and hopefully return to waking life. Along the way, the trio meets fantastical apparitions (dodgeball-throwing gym teachers on horseback, a sinister laundromat clown, and a 1980s-themed carnival), and muddle through challenges in a world where the rules are constantly changing. Yet the closer they get to the edge, the more apprehensive Zelda and Langston become about their impending separation once the dreamer wakes. By turns existential and goofy, this campy, off-the-beaten-path story by Rex (Fat Vampire), propelled via an immediate, stream-of-conscious present-tense voice and sprinkled with beguiling b&w artwork, ruminates on themes of loss and love. Ages 12: up. Agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Aug.)



#2343658 Eagle Drums (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Nasugraq Rainey Hopson

As his family prepares for winter, a young, skilled hunter must travel up the mountain to collect obsidian for knapping-the same mountain where his two older brothers died. When he reaches the mountaintop, he is confronted by a terrifying eagle god named Savik. Savik gives the boy a choice: follow me or die like your brothers.

978-1-250-75065-5 Roaring Brook Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 910

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Book Page In her debut middle grade novel, Nasugraq Rainey Hopson crafts an exquisitely immersive tale describing the mythical origins of the Iñupiaq Messenger Feast and how the Iñupiaq people acquired song and dance. A boy named Pinja is sent on a mountain journey by his family to get obsidian for their toolmaking. His mother can't help but worry; it's the same mountain where his two older brothers disappeared. Nonetheless, it's a vital task, because this small family lives off the land and never takes more than what's necessary, surviving "thanks to the animals and their kindness and generosity--and a heavy dose of luck." They rarely see others and are extremely cautious the few times they do. When Pinja reaches the mountain, he is immediately confronted by an immense eagle god named Savik, who snatches him and takes him far away to Savik's eagle god family. Pinja remains prisoner for 14 moons, learning many difficult lessons from the eagle gods, including how to dance, sing, drum, build a large gathering hall and become a leader. Pinja is thoughtful, intelligent and determined, and his intense yearning to return home drives him to study and learn from everything he encounters--even a cute lemming teaches Pinja to see the power of combining strength with others. Gradually, Pinja realizes an important new concept, one foreign to his family: "Why would you do things alone when you can accomplish so much together?" Rainey's writing is taut and finely chiseled, as in this description of the endless ennui of Pinja's imprisonment: "The days cut at him like obsidian against grass with their slow emptiness." Her fine-toned illustrations showcase the beauty of the Alaskan landscape and its people, while her knowledgeable, passionate descriptions of survival in a harsh environment integrate well into the ongoing action. Rainey herself lives with her family in a remote Alaska Native village in the Brooks Range, where they follow a predominantly subsistence life and try to preserve traditional Iñupiaq values and knowledge.

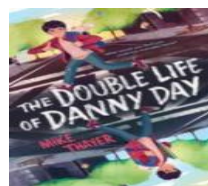
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Pi?a, a young Iñupiat hunter on a journey to the mountains to collect obsidian, meets a magical golden eagle, Savik. Rather than be killed by the shape-shifter (as were his older brothers), Pi?a agrees to accompany Savik to his aerie, where Eagle Mother schools Pi?a with lessons in song, dance, qalgi (sod-house) construction, and community. Eventually Pi?a returns to his family, where he is tasked with sharing what he has learned and preparing a celebratory meal (called the Messenger's Feast) to bring his people together. This folkloric origin myth offers many details about traditional Native Alaskan life, particularly ways to live off the land. Iñupiat Hopson's smoothly written prose is infused with many Native words, and though no glossary is included, context clues make most meanings clear. Full-color illustrations (one per chapter) help readers to visualize the characters and Alaskan tundra setting, and elegant spot drawings grace chapter headings and section breaks. In her debut, Hopson offers a culturally specific survival story that should have much appeal; an author's note clarifies the source for this tale.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In this story of the Inupiat Messenger Feast, divine, shapeshifting eagles command Pi? a, a young hunter, to live with them and learn what they have to teach or die on the mountaintop like his two brothers before him. Although the tasks the birds throw at him initially seem odd-making drums, telling stories through singing and dancing, constructing a qalgi (sod building)-Pi?a grows in his understanding of relationships between people and nature, finally returning to his parents to prepare a massive festival that will join their scattered people in a communal celebration. Pi?a is a compelling and sympathetic protagonist, wary of strangers beyond his immediate family but longing for community as he struggles to find his place in the world. The narrative showcases a treasury of details about Native Alaskan life and traditions; enthralling details of building design, clothing, crafts, food storage, nutrition, transportation, and other day-to-day practices in the Arctic will appeal to survival story aficionados as well as readers eager to learn about Indigenous cultures and histories. Equally compelling is the mythological background of the Messenger Feast, a living celebration reclaimed by the Inupiat and explained further in an author's note. Accompanying illustrations in icy and earthy hues, also by the author, bring the landscape and its inhabitants onto the page to complement the narrative. FHK COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Hopson's (Inupiat) debut novel is the story of the origin of the Messenger Feast, an Inupiat festival of song and dance. Pia follows in the footsteps of his two older brothers, both of whom died confronting a golden eagle. When he encounters the eagle, instead of attacking or freezing in fear, Pia accepts its challenge to learn what the Eagles can teach him. Pia brings his new understandings of song, drumming, dance, architecture, and community back to his family, to the animals who share their environment, and to the people whose stories sustain their culture. This retelling of a traditional tale benefits from Hopson's personal connection to Alaska, where she was born and raised and where she and her family live. Set in the long-ago of oral tradition and accompanied by occasional colored-pencil and ink drawings, the tale evokes the tundra in all its seasons. Hopson deftly describes smells (the autumn earth, the "dusty rot" of the Eagle Mother), tastes (berries, roasted caribou meat, bitter Arctic hare fed on willow bark), and sounds (marmot whistles, bumblebees) that bring the land to life for the reader and ground this archetypal hero's journey in the real world. Lara K. Aase(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Messenger Feast and a boy who was kidnapped by eagles. Throughout Pi?a's childhood, he was told haunting stories about the dangers of strangers, an unknown presence in the mountains near his family's sod house, and his missing older brothers, Atau an Maligu. His mother's projection of his brothers' successes onto him combined with his father's silence, both expressions of their grieving, leave Pi?a wondering, "How can you compete with someone's memories, anyway?" One day, Savik, who shape-shifts between man and golden eagle, offers Pi?a a choice: death or captivity. Pi?a reflects on the pain his death would cause his parents. He decides to go with Savik and try to return so eday. The eagles teach Pi?a singing, drumming, and dancing. He also learns how to build a giant sod house and host a huge feast. The lessons aren't easy, and his ego is challenged: "I learned not to lead with demands. I learned to lead with connections." Pi?a struggles with fear and distrust instilled by his family, overcomes self-doubt, and becomes both "creator and learner." This orally transmitted tale, once banned like the feast it describes, offers a deep connection to rich cultural teachings. Inupiat author and illustrator Hopson enhances the story with full-page color illustrations that visually connect readers with Pi?a's journey and emphasize the importance of connections to nature, spiritual beings, and human relatives. A captivating tale filled with enduring lessons about overcoming the fear of others. (author's note) (Folklore. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Among the Inupiat of the Arctic Circle, "the story of the Messenger Feast was passed down orally from generation to generation for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years," Hopson writes in this illuminating retelling of the original tale, which follows an Inupiat tween who is kidnapped by eagles. All his life, Pi?a has navigated his parents' grief over his missing older brothers, feeling as if he's living in their shadow. When he is one day approached by Savik, a man who shape-shifts between golden eagle and human forms, Savik whisks Pi?a away from his mountainous home. With the eagles, Pi?a learns many skills and hard lessons, as well as the details of what would later become the tenements of the Messenger Feast, including the drum, dance, and construction of the qalgi, the ceremonial building. All the while, he yearns to return to his family. In this poignant adventure, the creator employs rhythmic prose that echoes the story's oral traditions and offers illustrations rendered in rich, textured hues. An author's note discusses how, like many Inupiat songs and dances, the story of the Messenger Feast was banned following the "encroachment of the missionaries into Indigenous territories and communities," not to be resurrected until Hopson was in college. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)



#2228170 **Double Life of Danny Day (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Mike Thayer

My name is Danny Day, and I live every day twice. The first time, it's a "discard day." It's kind of like a practice run. At the end of the day, I go to bed, wake up, and poof everything gets reset, everything except my memory, that is.

978-1-250-77099-8 Feiwel & Friends ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 820

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Through a quirk of fate, Danny lives every day twice. Once as a regular day like everyone else and

once as a "discard" day, when he can do anything he wants without consequences. A typical 12-year-old, he spends his "discard" days cutting school and playing video games. That changes when Danny starts a new school in a new town and meets classmate Zak, self-confident and respected by his peers. Zak's integrity leads Danny to wonder if there is something better he can do with his unique gift. Danny finds his purpose when he vows to take down a video game cheating ring, led by another student who uses the game to steal money from players. Danny's first-person narrative engages readers with wisecracking humor and sharp observations on the middle school social stratum. Danny is coded as white. Zak, whose parents hail from Ghana and Japan, provides the mentoring guidance Danny's parents do not. They are portrayed as loving but preoccupied and a bit clueless: Danny's father doesn't believe he's into video games and his mother thinks he has "playdates" with friends. Gamers will relish Thayer's extended play-by-play accounts of the kids' video battles and strategies. A good group discussion point is the difference between how Zak and Danny handle bullies: Zak stands up to them, Danny plots to get even. VERDICT Perfect for gamers who'd rather play than read, Thayer speaks their language and scores a direct hit.—Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem P.L., Holbrook, NY



#2177589 Explorer's Code (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Allison K. Hymas

Math whiz Charlie won admission in a puzzle contest--and he's intrigued by the strange numbers he finds on Idlewood's walls. His restless sister Anna had to be dragged to the house--but then she discovers its hidden floor. Emily's parents brought her to the mansion on a secret mission--and she's determined to prove herself to them.

978-1-250-25885-4 Imprint ©2020 5-1/4 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Deep in the Shenandoah forest stands Idlewood Manor, where deep-rooted secrets await. The newly reopened historical mansion now serves as a weekend getaway for a select number of lucky visitors. Among these guests are the Hendersons, thanks to gifted 12-year-old Charlie's winning a contest. His exuberant 13-year-old sister, Anna, whose parents continually chastise her, can't wait to explore the manor's nooks and crannies. Following in the footsteps of her idol, famous early-20th-century explorer Virginia Maines, Anna uncovers a secret passageway to a hidden third floor and, further along, an abandoned tower. Charlie's exploits lead him to notice hidden numerical codes among the manor's walls and rooms. Meanwhile, 12-year-old Emily Shaughnessy plans on helping her historian parents on a critical mission to preserve Idlewood Manor as a historical site. All three explorers begin at odds with each other: Emily's suspicious of anyone derailing her task while Charlie and Anna struggle over the loss of their once-close bond. Soon though, the trio must rely on one another to untangle the mysteries of Idlewood Manor and its ties to Maines' disappearance. Full of puzzles and intrigue, this is a delectable treat for readers wanting a brainteaser or two in an intricately paced package. Equally amusing is the three young explorers' implicit battle with the adult guests, who range from bemused roadblocks to the trio's progress to stealthy thieves. Main characters follow a White default. A worthy call to unravel a mystery. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2158692 Ghost Squad (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Claribel A. Ortega

Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and her best friend, Syd, cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits, wreaking havoc throughout St. Augustine.

Together, they must join forces with Syd's witch grandmother, Babette, and her tubby tabby, Chunk, to fight the haunting head-on and reverse the curse to save the town and Lucely's firefly spirits before it's too late.

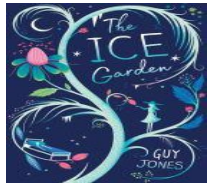
978-1-338-28012-8 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When Dominican-American Lucely Luna, 12, learns that her single father might lose their house, her primary concern is for the myriad ghosts of her family, who inhabit the willow tree out back as fireflies, at least when they're not manifesting in human form. When her grandmother's spirit warns her of a coming darkness before falling dormant, Luna and her best friend, Syd Faires, seek to revive Mama. Borrowing a book of magic from Syd's grandmother, who owns an occult store, they cast a spell that unleashes malevolent forces upon the town of St. Augustine; one that they must reverse to defeat the evil that seeks to destroy them all. With this delightfully spooky adventure, Ortega draws upon her Dominican heritage to craft a heartwarming story with a strong focus on family genetic and found. A peppering of pop culture references; a nod to Ghostbusters, a clowder of cats named for Goonies characters; add humor, but it's the personal touches, such as Lucely's opinionated, ever-present ancestors; her dedication to those she loves; and an emphasis on Latinx food, love, and folklore, that gives this debut its distinctive spirit. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Suzie Townsend, New Leaf Literary. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal read? Look no further. Something strange is happening to Lucely's ghost family of fireflies, known as c ocyos—they are fading away. They tell her that something evil is coming. In an attempt to revive her Mama Teresa, Lucely and her best friend Syd perform a spell to raise the dead, but accidentally awaken old evil spirits that want to revenge against their town. Lucely, Syd, and Syd's grandmother Babette (who is a witch) must undo the curse and save her ghost family. This is a fast-paced adventure rooted in Dominican mythology and packed with action and humor. Readers are pulled into the family's close bond and supernatural world easily, with tender moments like abuela singing Lucely to sleep during a storm and the collective urgency as Lucely feels Mama's spirit quieting. VERDICT Ortega's debut is filled with action, humor, and originality. Lucely and Syd's adventure gives readers paranormal thrills akin to Ghostbusters and the Goonies, from a refreshingly different cultural perspective.—Ruth Guerrier-Pierre, New York Public Library

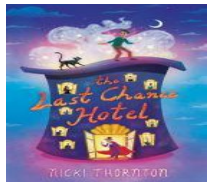


#2087655 Ice Garden (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Guy Jones

Allergic to the sun, Jess sets out to explore the world she longs to be a part of by night. But what she discovers is a beautiful impossibility: a magical garden wrought of ice...
 978-1-338-28533-8 Chicken House ©2019 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 264 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-More than anything, 12-year-old Jess just wants to be like other kids. But Jess is allergic to the sun, a condition that forces her to spend most of her time inside, behind closed shades, or encased in a heavy protective suit complete with hood and goggles. When she's not traveling back and forth for doctor visits with her mom, Jess learns at home and spends her free time making up fantastic tales that she hopes will one day make her famous. One night, fed up with her circumstances, Jess sneaks out to the neighborhood playground she has always wished to visit. Startled by a strange sound, she flees to the woods behind the playground and stumbles into a magical place: a garden made completely of ice. Entranced, she begins to make nightly visits to the playground and soon discovers that she is not alone: Owen, also made of ice, becomes a trusted friend, one of the first Jess has made in a long time. This gentle tale strikes a pleasing balance between the harsh realities of illness and a fantastical world in which to escape. Young readers will relate to Jess and her frustration at the lack of control she has over her life. This effectively straddles the line between realistic fiction and magical realism. VERDICT This feel-good, modern fairy tale is ideal for elementary libraries and all middle grade collections.-Kristy Pasquariello, Westwood Public Library, MA Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2102945 Last Chance Hotel (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Nicki Thornton

Seth is a kitchen boy at the remote Last Chance Hotel. One night, a band of magicians begin to arrive to participate in a secret meeting. But when the doors to the private meeting open, and Dr. Thallonius lay dead on the floor, the group blames the dessert, which means that it's Seth who will pay the price.
 978-1-338-32362-7 Chicken House ©2019 6 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Seth is stuck working at the Last Chance Hotel as a kitchen boy for an awful couple and their daughter, Tiffany, who lives to torment him. He longs to fulfill his dream of becoming an amazing chef like his father. The night a group of magicians gather at the hotel could be Seth's opportunity to show off his cooking skills, but that chance slowly slips away when Tiffany makes him cook up a dessert for Dr. Thallonius, who ends up dead. Seth knows his dessert didn't kill Thallonius, but the magicians have deemed him the killer, and he has to find a way to prove his innocence. Thornton sets the story entirely inside the Last Chance Hotel, giving this closed-room mystery a twist of magic. Though it's his place of confinement, the hotel is also Seth's only home, and there are plenty of secrets buried in its foundation. The murder mystery, powerful magicians, and Seth's love of cooking will appeal to a wide readership. A magical adventure with many intriguing elements. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In this British import, young Seth Seppi works as a kitchen boy at the Last Chance Hotel in the middle of nowhere. Seth shows off his aspirations to be a chef when the hotel receives a prestigious (and odd) assortment of guests, but his special dessert leaves Dr. Thallomius-actually the Sorcerer General in this gathering of magicians-dead rather than impressed, and all evidence points to Seth's cooking. Any of the magicians could be responsible for Dr. Thallomius' death, and as Seth gets swept up in magical politics he never knew existed, only he and his sassy talking cat Nightshade can clear his name. This story has all the staples of an entertaining murder mystery as evidence accumulates that readers can puzzle through along with Seth. There's also a child-understandable touch of modern politics in the likely murder motive: Dr. Thallomius was (probably) killed to prevent magical reform that would open doors for newcomers to the magic

world. Though not all the loose ends get tied up, Seth gets his happy ending, and mystery lovers are left with a satisfying and enjoyable tale full of oddball characters and quirky magic. NB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A parentless, put-upon kitchen boy is accused of murdering a magical hotel guest. Seth Seppi cooks brilliantly, but he'll never be a chef. Instead he's the overworked help at the Last Chance Hotel, abused by his "nasty bosses." Sometimes he sadly recalls the hotel's popularity in the dimly remembered days before his father's mysterious disappearance. Mostly, however, he washes dishes, even on nights like this, when some very special guests are due at the hotel. Tiffany, the daughter of Seth's employers (and Seth's chief tormenter) blackmails Seth into making a splendid dessert for the guest of honor, Dr. Thallomius, for which she'll claim credit. When Dr. Thallomius drops dead from poison, Tiffany promptly snitches: Seth made the dessert, so he must be the murderer! Seth's quest to clear his name is complicated by his realization that Dr. Thallomius and all the other guests at this bizarre party hail from a magical world. One of these odd people--Professor Papperspook in her multicolored, tentlike dress; tiny, scarred, dark-skinned Master Darinder Dunster-Dunstable; glamorous Angelique Squerr with her magical cane; or one of the others--murdered the kindly doctor and pinned the blame on Seth. Thornton's prose can get clunky and characterization resorts to types, but the plot itself is a nifty, magical spin on the classic locked-room mystery. The book subscribes to the white default for characters not otherwise described. A charming, old-fashioned-feeling romp. (Fantasy. 9-11) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Seth Seppi maintains a pitiful existence at the Last Chance Hotel; he's an abused kitchen boy in the space where his father once ruled as chef before he disappeared. Now Seth chafes at scrubbing pots and avoiding the notice of Tiffany, the owners' cruel daughter, hoping against hope that his cooking abilities will someday take him away from this isolated hotel. When a famous guest, one of an odd group of magicians assembled at the hotel, dies during dinner, poisoned by the special dessert Seth made for him, Seth's fate looks dire indeed. He sets out to clear his name, aided by his cat, Nightshade, and several members of the magical community. Can they unravel the crime and find the guilty party in time to save Seth from arrest? In this delightful Harry Potter-meets-Agatha Christie adventure, readers are presented with a classic locked room murder complicated by magic. As Seth and members of MagiCon-the Magic Constabulary-investigate the murder, Seth learns about the existence of magic, and the tensions within the magical society over reforms instigated by the now deceased Dr. Thallomius. Red herrings and sinister suspects abound as Seth alternates between fear for his future and thrill at each piece of magical history and lore he learns; history which may hit closer to home than he ever could have dreamed. VERDICT A well-crafted middle grade mystery with a touch of magic enhancing its appeal. Fantasy fans will find a lot to love here.-Nancy Nadig, Penn Manor School District, Lancaster, PA Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2156075 Guard Dog Named Honey (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Denise Gosliner Orenstein

When her older brother is arrested on her eleventh birthday, Bean Wright is devastated, and determined to raise the bail money that their mother does not have; the most promising scheme she comes up with is getting a young girl named Phoebe, one of the summer residents, to sell her valuable Mastiff guard dog, Honey--but the scheme takes a dark turn when the buyer turns out to want Honey for dog fighting.

978-1-338-34846-0 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 980

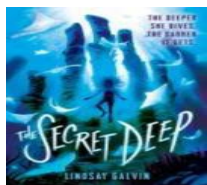
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Bean's determined to raise the money to bail her beloved older brother, Willis, out of jail, but her schemes seem doomed to failure. On this island off the coast of Massachusetts, the opportunities to raise \$1,000 in bail money are seriously limited. But plucky Bean is determined to find a way. It's that mission that motivates her to befriend 9-year-old Phoebe. She's been left by her wealthy but distant parents in the care of the unusual chef-turned-nanny Edwin and, more importantly, Honey, a huge young mastiff. Initially, Bean is skeptical of the whole crew, merely currying their favor in order to make money by--she hopes--painting their house. Unexpectedly, Phoebe and Honey take up the slack for the 11-year-old, who is bereft without Willis. Although Bean talks Phoebe into agreeing to sell Honey, she quickly has sobering second thoughts. After Bean realizes the prospective buyer is involved in the dogfighting world, the two girls, full of spunk but a little short of wisdom, resolve to bring the bad guy to justice. The apparently white characters are lovingly crafted and richly nuanced, although drooly, ever loyal Honey almost steals the show. Bean's motivation is fully convincing, and her heartfelt but somewhat scatterbrained plans are age appropriate as she tries to fix too many hard issues with a believable lack of adult help. Richly engaging and evocative. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Bean's 16-year-old brother, Willis, gets arrested on her 11th birthday for drunkenly crashing someone else's car. When her single mother, who works at the Stop & Shop, says they don't have enough to bail him out, the girl; whose worries bring on hives and vertigo; decides to earn the money herself. Heading to the wealthy section of Rock Haven, the Massachusetts island where she's lived her whole life, she looks for a summer family to hire her for odd jobs. When no one bites, Bean sets her sights on Phoebe, a wealthy girl who is staying for the summer with her nanny and dog, Honey, while her parents tour Europe. When Phoebe discloses that Honey, an Italian Neapolitan mastiff, is a purebred worth \$3,000, Bean persuades the child, whose parents consistently let her down, to sell the dog. Bean finds a shady buyer, and a related mystery, just as Honey adopts three baby kittens, nursing them and carrying them in her jowls. Bean's believable desperation to help her brother is

poignant in this empathic story featuring well-wrought characters who are trying their very best. Ages 8: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—Bean has had a hard life so far. Her dad abandoned his family years ago, and her mother has become the sole provider, which means she is never home. And to top it off, her brother gets arrested for stealing a car. Paying the \$1,000 bail is a momentous hurdle that Bean feels determined to overcome. But she lives on an island off the coast of Massachusetts, where opportunities to make money are very slim. In her mission to earn the bail, she tries everything from applying for summer jobs to offering to paint vacation homes. It's at one of those mansions that Bean meets Phoebe and her giant guard dog, Honey. Phoebe's own parents are similarly absent as they jet-set around the world, leaving Phoebe in the care of an unusual chef-turned-nanny and, of course, Honey. Phoebe and Honey end up taking care of Bean in her brother's absence, as Bean is extremely lost without him. Somehow Bean ends up talking Phoebe into selling Honey. However, once the girls figure out that the prospective buyer is in the dog-fighting world, the girls vow to bring the bad guys to justice. These characters are lovingly crafted and spunky, with Honey stealing the show. Bean's motivation is convincing, and her ideas are age appropriate. **VERDICT** An engaging realistic fiction title for the target audience. A solid purchase for young middle school libraries.—Amy Caldera, Dripping Springs Middle School, TX



#2152159 Secret Deep (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lindsay Galvin

When Aster wakes alone, stranded, on a tropical island, she has no idea what has happened, why she is there, or where to find her younger sister, Poppy. The answers lie in the secretive underwater world surrounding the desert island, populated by the beautiful and the unexpected...

978-1-338-56739-7 Chicken House ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 After losing their mother to cancer, Aster and her sister are flown out to their aunt Iona in Australia, who takes them to a mysterious ecovillage. Next thing Aster knows, she's waking up alone on a beach, with no idea where to find the underwater-breathing boy who saved her from drowning. Meanwhile, Sam, who met the girls on their plane to Australia, searches for them, even as his grandpa's worsening condition drives him to make a deal with a doctor that leads to a shocking discovery. Alternating between Aster's and Sam's perspectives, Galvin explores the reality of cancer through Sam's desperation to find a cure and Aster's struggle to work through grief. It's also a story of survival?with Aster battling sharks, facing off with jellyfish, and finding the courage to stand on her own?that weaves in several mystery elements via Sam's investigation into the ecovillage and Aster's search for her missing sister. An emotional journey of strength and grief set on a stunning island backdrop.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books After their mother dies of cancer, thirteen-year-old Aster and her eleven-year-old sister Poppy move to New Zealand to live with their oncologist aunt, only to be gassed into unconsciousness on a boat in the middle of the sea. It turns out that Aster has become an unwilling participant in her aunt's cancer study, which proposes that merging Aster's DNA with that of a prehistoric mermaid and then storing her in a medically induced hibernation will rid her of genetic markers for cancer. Aster's sister is missing, however, and Aster will do anything to get Poppy back, even if it means that she has to grow gills to join the sea people in the ocean. The preposterous plot poorly suspends disbelief, even for science fiction, and Aster is an impossibly smart thirteen-year-old, calling out her aunt's God complex and, at the end of the book, proposing to use her new altered blood to cure cancer because her best subjects in school were math and science. This may entertain a few B-movie fans with a taste for island survival, but they'll be better off with Bray's Beauty Queens (BCCB 6/11). NB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Aster wakes on a deserted beach, alone and confused, just days after she and her sister, Poppy, move to New Zealand to live with their mysterious aunt. Aster, 13, and Poppy, 11, are officially orphans. Their dad died in a car accident when Poppy was a baby, and their mom recently lost her battle with cancer. Having no other relatives, the girls travel to New Zealand to live with their aunt, Iona, whom they haven't seen in years because she works all over the world as a hotshot research oncologist. Iona moves them to Wildhaven, a remote ecovillage where she is doing fieldwork. Wildhaven is a research site filled with international students, secrets, and doctors at odds with one another. Following a catastrophic boat trip, Aster wakes up alone on a beach, bewildered. She works to uncover the mysteries of Wildhaven and Aunt Iona and to find Poppy. The cast is a range of races and skin colors—including Aster and Poppy, who are white, Korean, and black—but an absence of cultural markers suppresses a feeling of robust diversity. Character development is weak, so while readers will root for Aster to find Poppy, they won't have a sense of who she really is. However, the depiction of her anxiety and panic attacks both feels authentic and is well written. While the twists are interesting, the information reveal is slow in coming, so they pack less punch than they might. An underwater adventure bogged down by uneven pacing. (Thriller. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After their single mother dies from cancer, orphaned sisters Aster, 13, and Poppy, 11, who are multiracial (their mother was black and Korean; their father was white), are sent from England to live with their aunt Iona, a noted oncologist now living in New Zealand. To their surprise, instead of heading home, Iona takes them to her current work site, Wildhaven: a tech-free ecovillage "in the proper bush," where she's conducting "a study of healthy lifestyles" on the teenage residents, largely international students. But after the girls overhear an argument between Iona and a former employee, then experience a strange fever following a routine injection, Aster grows increasingly uneasy with

their situation. Before she can do anything about her worries, a snorkeling trip turns bizarre. Aster is stranded on a remote island, where she's hooked up to strange technology and desperate to find her missing sister; and to figure out how her own experience plays into her aunt's secret agenda. Meanwhile, her New Zealander friend Sam, 14, embarks on his own quest to track down the missing sisters. With this atmospheric debut, Galvin skillfully captures Aster's surroundings, bringing the islands and deep waters to life while employing a fast-paced plot balanced among adventure, mystery, science fiction elements, and Aster's emotional struggle. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Laura Williams, Greene & Heaton. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal er succumbs to cancer, 13-year-old Aster and her 11-year-old sister Poppy travel to live in New Zealand and with their Aunt Iona, whom they have not seen in years. They know that she is a scientific researcher, but they are surprised to learn that they will be joining her to live in a remote ecovillage populated by orphaned teens from different parts of the world. After taking a scuba diving expedition with the rest of the village residents, Aster finds herself washed up on an island. As she desperately searches for her sister, she begins to learn the truth about what Iona is doing with her research. Interwoven with Aster and Poppy's story is that of Sam, a young man they met on the flight to New Zealand. Discovering Poppy's phone left behind near a beach, Sam tries to find his friends with the help of Iona's scientific rival. The two story lines merge in a breathtaking encounter that is both disastrous and transformational. It is easy to become engrossed in this compelling story, and Aster is a convincing lead character; readers will sympathize with her grief and her anxieties. They will cheer her on as she grows strong through facing heart-pounding danger and learning to trust herself. VERDICT A thrilling and original science-fiction mystery that will surprise readers at every turn.—Sarah Reid, Four County Library System, NY



#2156066 Midnight Hour (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Benjamin Read

When strange late-night letters start arriving at home, Emily's parents set off to investigate. But when her parents disappear completely and Emily is left home alone to face the weird strangers that begin to appear at her door, she takes all of the clues at her disposal and makes for the place where the letters came from -- the mysterious Night Post. Armed only with a packed lunch, her very sleepy pocket hedgehog, and her infamously big argumentative mouth, she must escape bloodthirsty creatures of the night, figure out her own family secrets, and maybe just save the world.

978-1-338-56909-4 Chicken House ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99


Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Emily's mother and father suddenly disappear from their London home, it's up to Emily to follow them into the Midnight Hour, a magical pseudo-Victorian world hidden alongside her own. There she discovers that her quiet postal worker father is a Dangerous Deliveries Specialist of the Night Post, her flighty artist mother had a hand in the Great Working that created the Midnight Hour, and an ancient power called the Nocturne is bent on claiming the Midnight Hour's magic for herself and wreaking havoc in the non-magical world. Portal fantasy fans will not be surprised that Emily and her famously outspoken "gob" are more than a match for a quaintly antiquated magical world, squaring off against assorted baddies and armed with magical allies, a hedgehog, and a limitless supply of one-liners. Unfortunately, intrusive over-narration slows down the action. The novel's commentary on British imperialism, most notably the family history of immigrant Constable-in-Training Postlewhite of the Night Watch, is undermined by its liberal application of Irish stereotypes (Emily's newly discovered uncle Pat is particularly egregious) and phonetic brogue. Nevertheless, fans of Percy Jackson-style humor and readers working up to Terry Pratchett may enjoy this as an irreverent, mildly snappy read with plenty of scope for a sequel. FHK

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young girl thrusts herself into a magical, alternate London to find her missing parents. Emily was sent to bed without supper after a massive fight with her eccentric Irish mother the night her mother disappears. Her quiet English letter-carrier father's explanations don't make sense; a week later, just before midnight, he, too, vanishes. With a rescued hedgehog in her pocket and an angry bearlike creature stalking her, she stumbles into, then through the door to an alternate universe--a Victorian-era London populated entirely by diverse magical creatures and protected by an enchanted version of Big Ben. This realm, called the Midnight Hour because it is frozen in time, connects with Emily's world only on the stroke of midnight, while Big Ben chimes. Years ago, manifestations of Art and Language fought their sister, Music, to create the Night World. Emily's mother was the hero of that battle, though her precise role is never explained. Now Music, known as Nocturne, is waging war again, and Emily's parents are her captives. This debut from collaborators Read and Trinder has several strengths: nimble wordplay, fast pace, a breadth of creative detail, and a fearless, impetuous heroine. Sometimes the details don't quite coalesce--what's with that hedgehog, anyway?--and the narrative feels a little overstuffed, but readers who don't need every aspect of their imaginary worlds spelled out for them will lose themselves in the dreamlike rush of words. Emily and her family appear to be white; many of the fantastical characters have darker skin; skin color never signals virtue. Enchanting. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

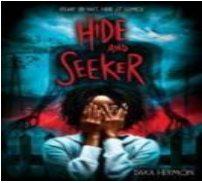
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When her mother disappears, followed by her father, quick-tempered Emily Featherhaugh seeks to find them in Read and Trinder's fun fantasy set in an adjacent London. She sets out for the Night Post and her dad's place of employment, armed with her mom's helpful sayings ("Never be knowingly under-snacked"); a necklace that her mother has always worn; oddments marked "Just in Case" from her father's desk; and her hedgehog, Hog. Though pursued through dark streets by an anthropomorphic bear, she arrives safely, using her father's

magical key to enter the Night Post, arriving into a magical 1859 London called the Midnight Hour, inhabited by creatures driven from the world by human progress, where "it is always pitch dark, always full moon, and always, always midnight." Read and Trinder imagine a wonderfully spooky alternate world populated with creatures from legend and nightmare: as she works to rescue her parents, Emily is menaced by a vampire, rescued by a rare Pooka, and assisted by The Library (aka Language), a constantly quoting Older Power whose sisters are Art and Music. The authors create a determined heroine whose weaknesses are crucial to her quest's success, and a satisfying balance of fright and fancy. Ages 8: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Eleven-year-old Emily's quirky, artsy, garbage-diving mother is the bane of her existence. She's so embarrassing! And Emily's dad is just plain boring; all he does is garden and deliver the mail. Then Emily's mom goes on a mysterious errand one night and disappears altogether. And then, her dad disappears too! When Emily goes in search of them, she finds herself in a completely new world. The Midnight Hour was stopped during London's Victorian era and all of the world's magic was held there. Is it in captivity? Or is it for safe-keeping? While Emily goes on the adventure of her lifetime, she meets an eccentric cast of characters who help (and hinder) her along the way. Emily's coming-of-age story will appeal to a broad spectrum of readers, and fantasy lovers will delight in the superb setting. VERDICT A fast-paced, amusing and endearing tale with a satisfying conclusion. Fun for fans of kooky magical adventure series like Jessica Townsend's "Nevermoor."—Terry Ann Lawler, Burton Barr Library, Phoenix

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2162600 Asha and the Spirit Bird (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jasbinder Bilan</i> In contemporary India, 12-year-old Asha will journey across the dangerous Himalayas to find her missing father and save her family's home -- guided by a mythical bird and a green-eyed tiger who she believes to be the spirits of her ancestors. This is an incredibly unique debut about loss, family, buried treasure, and hope. 978-1-338-57105-9 Chicken House ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 8.0</p>	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Asha's father has traveled to the city to make money, but his family hasn't heard from him in months. Asha's mother feels the only thing to do is sell their farm in India at the base of the Himalayas and move to England. Asha cannot believe that her father would abandon her family and is determined to find him. With the help of her best friend Jeevan and the watchful "dark-flecked" eye of a lamagaia vulture that Asha believes is the spirit of her grandmother, the duo sets off on a dangerous, cold, rocky, and fateful journey to locate her father. With mythical guides believed to be the spirits of her ancestors, Asha has more than just luck on her side. Bilan creates a believable world with real-life conflicts and characters that will resonate. Though the names of places are made up, descriptions of harsh societal conditions such as sickness, child servitude, and poor working environments are rooted in reality. This adventure has its twists and turns, but the book is a somewhat quiet story that can lag in momentum. The resolution leaves a saccharine tone that contrasts with the rest of the narrative, and seems a bit too quick and convenient. However, readers will feel that Asha deserves a happy ending. VERDICT A heroic adventure with a brave, believable female character that would appeal to those who like realistic fiction with a dash of magic.—Clare A. Dombrowski, Amesbury P.L., MA

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2181576 Hide and Seek (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Daka Hermon</i> I went up the hill, the hill was muddy, stomped my toe and made it bloody, should I wash it? Justin knows that something is wrong with his best friend. Zee went missing for a year. And when he came back, he was... different. Nobody knows what happened to him. At Zee's welcome home party, Justin and the neighborhood crew play Hide and Seek. But it goes wrong. Very wrong. 978-1-338-58362-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 480</p>	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Zee had been missing for over a year. Now he's back, but something is not right. From the moment Justin, Lyric, and Nia arrive at Zee's house to celebrate his homecoming and birthday, things are very strange indeed. Attempting to reconnect with their friend and distract themselves with some fun, they play a game of hide and seek -- which turns menacing as the friends start to disappear one by one. Hermon spins a gripping tale that draws readers into a world where friendships are put to the ultimate test and grief, loss, and terror are around every corner. In the bizarre underworld of "the Seeker," one's fears become reality. As his friends disappear, narrator Justin must find the courage to help them, all while confronting his own fears. At times moving, thrilling, and downright scary, this suspenseful horror story delivers a welcome diverse (mostly Black) cast and well-rounded characters. Those who "seek" stories that will surely keep them up at night need look no further.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Justin and his friends play their last game of hide-and-seek at their friend Zee's not-so-welcome-home party. Zee had gone missing one week after Justin's mother passed away just one year ago, and the party is celebrating his return. But the emaciated Zee is acting strangely, mumbling rhymes about a Seeker that will take them all. Shortly after the party, one by one, Justin's other friends begin to disappear. It doesn't take long for the remaining members of the crew to figure out that Zee's strange behavior may be connected to the disappearances. Justin, Nia, and Lyric set out on a trail of clues and possible suspects, hoping to find their missing peers. No sooner do the details of the mystery begin to come to light than Justin, the last of the group, is unwillingly transported into the realm of Nowhere. In this parallel universe, the Seeker keeps children hostage, feeding off of their fears. This dark nail-biter, set in a small Tennessee town and featuring a largely African American cast (Lyric is the only white kid), weaves a creepy spin on a childhood game that quickly slips into a Stephen King-esque tale of horror. Can the children trapped in Nowhere gather as allies to evade the Seeker and get home? A chilling debut--like the Seeker, a tale that doesn't let you go. (Horror. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Zee, sixth-grader Justin's best friend, has been missing for over a year; 404 days to be exact. Now he's home, and his mother, Mrs. Murphy, is throwing a party. Invited along with Justin are other close friends Nia and Lyric, as well as the neighborhood bully, Carla, and her twin brother, Quincy. While waiting for the guest of honor, another neighborhood kid, Shae, arrives and suggests that they play hide-and-seek. The game devolves into a flurry of rule-breaking soon interrupted by the arrival of a changed, scarred Zee, who conveys a cryptic message: "One day soon you'll leave from here and fight against all you fear." When the game's players develop a mysterious mark and begin to disappear one by one, Justin and his friends must find a way to defeat a chilling foe in a world made up of their darkest fears. Hermon's standout debut offers spine-tingling prose that pulls no punches; nuanced depictions of grief, friendship, and fear; engaging characterization that makes readers root for its largely Black cast; and a reassuring ending that leaves room for future installments. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Emily Keyes, Fuse Literary. (Sept.)



#2127449 Dog Driven (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Terry Lynn Johnson

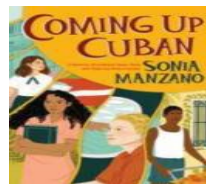
McKenna Barney is trying to hide her worsening eyesight and has been isolating herself for the last year. But at the request of her little sister, she signs up for a commemorative mail run race in the Canadian wilderness--a race she doesn't know if she can even see to run.

978-1-328-55159-7 Clarion Books ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile HL 640

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8—Fourteen-year-old McKenna's sister, Emma, wants to race their sled dogs, but she's lost most of her vision due to Stargardt disease, so she asks McKenna to race in her stead. But McKenna agrees reluctantly—she has the disease, too, and her vision is slowly deteriorating. Still, she wants to deliver a letter to the Foundation for Fighting Blindness. The race begins with McKenna in the lead. She befriends a boy named Guy, and the two take shelter in a cave during a wind storm, wondering how they will finish the race. Guy and McKenna are well developed, and the action is captivating. The plot becomes sluggish at points; a shorter narrative might have been more powerful. Each chapter ends with fictionalized historical letters between figures based on the era of dogsled mail couriers from 1856 to the early 1900s, as well as letters between the contemporary characters. These parallel exchanges tie the chapters together well. VERDICT Recommended for libraries where hybrid contemporary and historical fiction is high in demand.—Jill Baetiong, Bloomingdale Public Library, IL



#2277353 Coming Up Cuban: Rising Past Castro's Shadow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sonia Manzano

In the wake of a new regime in Cuba, Ana, Miguel, Zulema, and Juan learn to find a place for themselves in a world forever changed. In a tumultuous moment of history, we see the lasting effects of a revolution in Havana, the countryside, Miami, and New York. Through these snapshot stories, we are reminded that regardless of any tumultuous times, we are all forever connected in our humanity.

978-1-338-06515-2 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 620

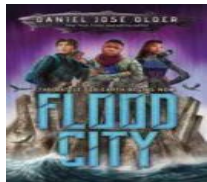
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8 In Coming Up Cuban, "'lo que significa buscar la identidad personal,'" meaning "the significance of finding our

personal identity," is a theme that takes center stage. The story follows four children from Cuba who find themselves seeking solace and pondering what's next after Fidel Castro assumes power, an act that quickly leads to the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Ana, Miguel, Zulema, and Juan face the conflict from different circumstances, but all cling to hope for a better future. Over the course of the story, the characters face their fears, grow as individuals, and learn serious lessons during a difficult time in Cuba's history. As readers follow the characters, they will see the complexity inherent to issues that arise during times of political unrest, such as emigrating to another country and the lingering effects such life-altering decisions have. Featuring gorgeous cover art and a sprinkling of chapter illustrations, this novel is a fantastic choice for middle-school libraries. It gives history relevance and showcases how the characters' actions relate to hope, growth, and inner strength. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews harsh realities of Castro's Cuba in this novel by author and Sesame Street actress Manzano. In overlapping short stories, readers hear from Ana, Miguel, Zulema, and Juan about how Castro's revolution affected their lives. They come from different backgrounds reflect Cuba's racial diversity, and suffer varied consequences in the aftermath of Castro's rise to power. Ana's father is home from fighting in the mountains with Fidel; her family, like many Cubans, wanted to build a better country only to realize too late that Fidel had fooled them. Miguel, on the other hand, is one of thousands of Pedro Pan children, sent to the U.S. alone to protect them; he arrives in Miami and goes to live in an orphanage. Zulema and her rural community learn to read thanks to young brigadistas--but they're only allowed access to state-sanctioned propaganda. In Havana, Juan loses his best friend, who eagerly participates in the militaristic pioneros; being on opposing sides wreaks havoc in their lives. Through these young people's experiences, the realities of Cubans' lives are presented in nuanced and complex ways in this thoroughly researched work. Many moments will ring true to young Cubans who have grown up on family stories, down to the slang and details of daily life at the time. A well-researched, thoughtful, and moving look at post-revolutionary Cuba. (author's note, historical notes, timeline, resources) (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With insight and empathy, former Sesame Street actor Manzano (A World Together) explores the impact of Fidel Castro's rise and revolution through the eyes of four young people building new lives amid a climate of political turmoil. In separate but overlapping sections, Ana, Miguel, Zulema, and Juan offer various perspectives on the turbulent political uprising, highlighting intersectional nuances around class and race. Ana's segment concentrates on the revolution's tail end in 1959 Havana, where her father has returned from fighting for Castro. Miguel details challenges for immigrants and refugees in 1961 Miami after he is sent into care while waiting for his parents. Zulema's section, based in the Cuban countryside in 1961, delves into Castro's literacy campaign, while Juan's section considers youth radicalization in 1961 Havana through the lens of two friends. In stories that brim with love for Cuba while highlighting a difficult historical moment, Manzano employs graceful, straightforward prose, highlighting the experiences, and will, of Cuba's people as they navigate the events' fallout with alternating anguish and elation. Back matter includes a timeline of the book's events and resources. Ages 9: 12. (Aug.)



#2210043 Flood City (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Daniel Jose Older

Welcome to Flood City, the last inhabitable place left above the waters that cover Earth. It's also the last battleground between the Chemical Barons, who once ruled the planet and now circle overhead in spaceships, desperate to return, and the Star Guard, who have controlled the city for decades.

978-1-338-11112-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Max Salazar, his sister, and their friends live in Flood City, Earth's last remaining haven above water. Max has been taught all his life to fear and despise the Chemical Barons, a dangerous dynasty that looms threateningly over them all, and after an unexpected attack on Flood City results in him saving the life of Ato, a young Baron, Max must find a way to keep his home and loved ones safe. In this middle-grade dystopian novel, Older presents a futuristic cityscape replete with technological innovations, like jet-powered boots, and dangerous hybrid mutations, like the menacing iguanagulls. The three-act adventure boasts a vibrant setting; multifaceted characters, alien and human alike; and a heart-stopping plot as Max and Ato join forces to prevent nuclear destruction, emphasizing the importance of working with a diverse community to achieve common goals. Short, action-packed chapters will hook readers with excitement as this steampunk-y journey explores life in a time of intergalactic war, when anything is possible.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ever since the waters rose and drowned the world, the last bastion of civilization on Earth has been Flood City, a ramshackle affair protected from the orbital menace of the Chemical Barons by the extraterrestrial, authoritarian Star Guard. Twelve-year-old musician Max has little interest in the ongoing tension until a devastating attack upon Flood City by the Chemical Barons, the city's former rulers, changes everything. Max meets Ato, also 12, a young Baron who winds up stranded in the wake of the incident, and the two swiftly become friends as Ato rejects his ruthless commander's extremist agenda in favor of Flood City's charms. Now they must work together to save the city from oppression and potential destruction. Older (Thunder Run) conjures a postapocalyptic world packed with danger, excitement, and memorable concepts, such as marauding iguanagulls and enigmatic, posthuman vapors. With Flood City populated by people of color and the Barons primarily white, Older imbues a clear message about how whiteness is proximal to privilege. The story is at times frenetic, filled with individually

entertaining elements that are sometimes undersupported; still, this is a fun, adventure-filled read. Ages 8-12. Agent: Joanna Volpe, New Leaf Literary. (Feb.) Correction: A previous version of this review mischaracterized the book as a series starter; it is a standalone novel. Copyright 2021 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.



#2017439 White Tower (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Cathryn Constable

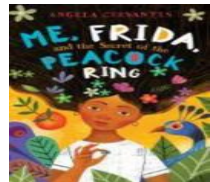
When Livy's accepted at Temple College, an exclusive school for the most gifted students, no one is more surprised than her. After all, she doesn't think she's very smart at all! But she does have a secret that sets her apart from everyone else . . .

978-1-338-15744-4 Chicken House ©2017 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Livy Burgess's best friend Mahalia has just lost her battle with leukemia. Livy is reeling with grief, but her parents decide it might be good for her to take an opportunity for free tuition at the prestigious Temple College, a preparatory school in London. Livy's dad is offered a job as the new librarian there, and it's a chance the family can't pass up. The action starts immediately when, after the move, Livy and her mom encounter the eccentric ex-librarian at Temple, who appears to be homeless and quickly losing his marbles. Also, the stern and intimidating headmistress seems to have an agenda; she's very interested in a possible connection the Burgess family may have to the founder of Temple College, scientist Peter Burgess. Livy senses something's not quite right at her new school, and when she meets an intriguing boy on the roof, even more questions are raised. She's determined to figure out what's going on, even if she has to risk her own life to do it. Livy's love for her departed friend, and her struggle to make new ones and find her place in the world, will resonate with readers. Minor characters are underdeveloped, with the exception of Livy's lively four-year-old brother Tom, and there are a few aimless plot points. The twist at the end is a shocker, though, and the resolution satisfies. VERDICT Perfect for libraries in need of shivery but not-too-creepy middle grade mysteries.-Mandy Laferriere, Fowler Middle School, Frisco, TX Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2057469 Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Angela Cervantes

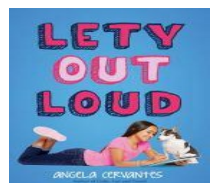
A room locked for fifty years. A valuable peacock ring. A mysterious brother-sister duo. Paloma Marquez is traveling to Mexico City, birthplace of her deceased father, for the very first time. She's hoping that spending time in Mexico will help her unlock memories of the too-brief time they spent together.

978-1-338-15931-8 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2018 6 x 8-1/2 220 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 710

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Paloma Marquez isn't too excited about her first trip to Mexico. Her mom has a fellowship and has dragged Paloma along to introduce her to her father's heritage. Paloma is annoyed that she has to study Spanish in summer school instead of heading to the beach with her friends. Despite her low expectations, she quickly makes some intriguing friends and gets involved in a mystery allowing her to emulate her favorite protagonist, Lulu Pennywhistle. Although the secondary characters are somewhat underdeveloped, the plot moves along at a good pace and young mystery fans will want to keep turning pages. The mystery revolves around Frida Kahlo, so readers learn quite a bit about Mexican art and culture. VERDICT A well-paced mystery plot and a rich exploration of the art of Frida Kahlo make this a good purchase for most middle grade collections.-Geshe Stark-Smith, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2089133 Lety Out Loud (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Angela Cervantes

Lety Munoz's first language is Spanish, and she likes to take her time putting her words together. She loves volunteering at the Furry Friends Animal Shelter because the dogs and cats there don't care if she can't always find the right word. When the shelter needs a volunteer to write animal profiles, Lety jumps at the chance.

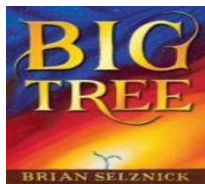
978-1-338-15934-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2019 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 201 pgs.

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fifth grade is over, and Lety is excited about starting her summer camp experience at the Furry Friends Animal Shelter. She's hoping, despite her shyness about her English, to land the position of shelter scribe, creating writeups for the animals to personalize them to prospective adopters, but she's dismayed when she has to share that position with grumpy Hunter. Their friends propose a contest-the scribe whose descriptions get the most pets adopted wins-to determine who keeps the role, but Lety begins to wonder if she's underestimated Hunter, both as a writer and as a person. Mexican-American Lety, with her desire to graduate from the English Language Learner program and her yearning for a dog, is a highly relatable protagonist, and the notion of a summer camp at an animal shelter is irresistibly appealing. Aside from Lety's feelings, though, there's not much reality in the situation, between the implausible and idyllic shelter, Hunter's abrupt shift from foe to friend, and, of course, Lety's final acquisition of the dog she had her eye on from the start. Cervantes nonetheless writes with kindness and accessibility that gives her story a quick payoff for readers at a variety of skill levels, especially if they're animal lovers. DS

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A bilingual girl named Lety volunteers at an animal shelter where she gets drawn into a competition with a boy she finds unkind. Lety signs up to be the animal shelter's scribe, writing biographies for cats and dogs that are up for adoption. It's a tough job--she is an immigrant from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, and she and her best friend are still taking special classes to improve their English. Drawing attention to bilingual learning, the slipperiness of colloquialisms, and the power of dictionaries, Cervantes deftly engages young readers in Lety's predicament through the device of a crabby white boy named Hunter, who challenges her for her position. As the two of them enter into a competition for the job, Lety worries about breaking the rules, encountering prejudice, becoming competent in English, and convincing the shelter's veterinarian that she is the right girl to take home a very special dog. Just as all seems lost, Lety proves her intelligence and willingness to serve by suggesting a solution that benefits immigrants in her community as well as animals in the shelter. At its heart, this is a sweet, entertaining story about a kindhearted girl who has compassion for both animals and people. Young readers will be drawn in by the sweet pet portraits yet they will leave with much more: an empathetic understanding of the immigrant experience in America. A touching story about the power of language, pets, and friendship. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2018) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-Cervantes returns to the Furry Friends Animal Shelter (the setting of Gaby, Lost and Found) in this new title. Ever since she moved to Kansas from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, Lety Muoz has spent her summers at school with the other ELL students working to improve her English; but after finishing fifth grade, she's trying something new and attending a summer camp at the animal shelter. She's immediately drawn to both Spike, a dog she wants to adopt, and the job of shelter scribe, the person who writes profiles of the adoptable dogs and cats for the shelter's website. But Hunter also wants the job, and thinks he can do a much better job than Lety, since she's still learning English while he is already reading and writing at a high school level. Encouraged by their friends, the two end up in a secret competition to determine who gets to be the sole scribe. Lety is an admirable protagonist; she faces challenges, tries new things, and finds her voice. The focus on language, writing, and vocabulary will make this a good fit for a classroom read, and the premise and setting should entice young animal lovers. This novel is also a potential "mirror" book for young immigrants to the U.S. and ELL students, and one that can be an empathy-building "sliding glass door" book for other readers. VERDICT Compelling and relatable, this is highly recommended for all middle grade collections.-Kacy Helwick, New Orleans Public Library Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2319513 **Big Tree (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Brian Selznick

A mysterious voice has been speaking to Louise in her dreams. She and her brother Merwin are Sycamore seeds, who hope to one day set down roots and become big trees. But when a fire forces them to leave their mama tree prematurely, they find themselves catapulted into the unknown, far from home. Alone and unprepared, they must use their wits and imagination to navigate a dangerous world--filled with dinosaurs, meteors, and volcanoes!

978-1-338-18063-3 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 528 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 610

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$32.99

Reviews by: Book Page In previous bestselling, award-winning books such as *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, *Wonderstruck* and *The Marvels*, author-illustrator Brian Selznick has centered his richly imagined, deeply cinematic stories on children growing up alone and navigating worlds both dangerous and wonderful. Selznick explores similar themes in *Big Tree*, but this novel's children aren't human; they're the seeds from a massive sycamore tree.

Reviews by: Booklist Two sycamore-seed siblings, Merwin and Louise, nestle in their seed ball, waiting for the time that their dear mother tree has prepared them for, when they'll float free and set down roots of their own. Louise is eager to explore, and she's certain she's heard whispers from afar that the world needs her help, though exactly how is unclear. Their comfortable Cretaceous existence is upended when a vast fungal network brings news of impending danger and a run-in with a dinosaur sends the seeds flying much earlier than anticipated. They know it's imperative to

find the perfect place to land—too little or too much of anything could prove disastrous. But to fulfill their destiny, they'll have to navigate a wide world filled with wonder and uncertainty. Initially conceived as a film idea that Steven Spielberg hoped Selznick would spin into a screenplay, the astonishing story is at once vast and intimate, succeeding as both a small-scale adventure story and a broader exploration of the natural world. Glorious pencil drawings, moving swiftly from macro to micro lenses, turn wispy seeds into spritely, darling protagonists, and wordless sketched reveals that follow text interludes are sure to elicit gasps of surprise and delight. Detailed endnotes explain the incredible science inspiring much of the story. An enthralling and expansive meditation on what it means to be alive on this planet.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books never expected to be apart from their mom so young—they are still quite small Sycamore seeds when a fire leaves them alone in a giant and dangerous world. This world is full of terrors even if you aren't a little seed, but for them water and wind can be risky, not to mention the dinosaurs and volcanoes. Louise is optimistic, trusting that her vibes will get her where she is destined to grow. Merwin is far more skeptical and fearful, but their love and mutual respect for each other lasts through separations, harrowing adventures, and, ultimately, two very different timelines for planting roots and becoming trees. The story is unrushed, moving at a measured pace that encourages contemplation and patience: nature can be quick and wild, but trees will not be hurried. Selznick's dedication to dual storytelling through text and hundreds of finely detailed pencil drawings allows for each to progress the plot in succession, creating a balanced and rich book that invites careful reading and poring over illustrations to find all of the connective threads. An author's note describes how the pandemic derailed this Steven Spielberg idea from becoming a movie and how Selznick then adapted their project into a book. His expressive art that highlights the heart of the story, paired with his keen eye for creating sympathetic and memorable lost children (here he subbed in seeds for the kids) are a powerful combination to bring to this epic quest. Selznick fans will be delighted, and dinosaur fans and nature buffs will likely be just as enthralled. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Selznick elegantly intertwines pictures and words to tell the macro story of the natural world through the micro perspective of two sycamore seeds. Louise and Merwin are siblings who occupy the same seed ball but possess two distinct personalities. Louise is a starry-eyed dreamer, while Merwin is a pragmatist. When a stampede of dinosaurs forces the siblings' benevolent tree mother to disperse her seeds before they are trampled, a multi-millennial saga begins. Plant and plant-adjacent organisms are personified, often possessing personalities reflective of their roles in nature -- for example, mushrooms serve as communicative "Ambassadors" in the book the way actual mycorrhizal fungi connect forest root systems. Louise and Merwin encounter a range of ancient flora and fauna as they themselves work to "put down roots." A massive time jump to the present day, along with a stunning portrayal of the planet's formation (from Earth's perspective), reveals the true meaning of Louise and Merwin's journey: that life is a gift, fragile and in need of care and protection. Selznick's control of narrative, pacing, and book design is idiosyncratic and masterful. Fluid shifts between prose and double-page spreads of accomplished pencil illustrations are clear and effective, ranging from entire chapters in prose to passages alternating between text and image with every page-turn to sustained sequences of images. The afterword includes annotated notes on the real science found throughout, a selected biography, and backstory on the book's origin (it was originally conceived as a screenplay for a Spielberg film). Ambitious and poignant while still, ultimately, hopeful. Patrick Gall(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A broad history of our planet overlaid on a seed's experience of time and change. Spun out to doorstopper dimensions by the overly liberal use of single lines of narrative on otherwise blank pages, Selznick's latest fulsomely illustrated tale twines storylines large-scaled and small-, literal and metaphorical, immediate and spanning billions of years. In a Cretaceous forest, the desperate efforts of sycamore seed Merwin to protect his visionary little sibling Louise make for adventures aplenty involving fire, winds, dinosaurs, and even a volcanic eruption—with occasional breaks for flashbacks or philosophical dialogues with their loving Mama, a decomposing leaf, and the Earth itself. He eventually fails, as the two are swept off in different directions. They reunite many years later to grow up side by side, branches intertwined, after which the author fast-forwards to the present and a seedling's rescue from a city sidewalk crack by a little Black girl. Most of the illustrations come in wordless, full-page sequential bursts, and if their ultra-soft focus isn't particularly suitable for capturing more violent events, the lyrical, dramatic, and comical ones glow with vivid, cinematic intensity. In a lengthy afterword the author provides nature notes as well as describing the story's origins as a movie concept from Steven Spielberg (whose tendency toward sentimentality is all over this), closing with a bibliography that includes, appropriately, *The Carrot Seed* and *A Tree Is Nice*. Patchy and sentimental but central to our past, present, and future; at once grand and intimate. (Illustrated fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Caldecott Medalist Selznick opens this sweeping illustrated novel in a Cretaceous forest as two sycamore seeds, drawn as diminutive figures with shocks of delicate fuzz, search for a place to take root after a forest fire's fallout propels them away from home. Louise, trusting and intuitive, often hears words from sources that can't be seen ("The voice I've been hearing, the dreams, the Old One... It's telling me there's danger"). Protective, anxious Merwin brushes his sister's insights aside ("We already know there's danger! There's danger everywhere!"), intent on finding a safe place to exist. Journeying through a lush, verdant world on the precipice of catastrophe, the two encounter varied outlooks via a host of beings who form Earth's web of life: self-important King Seaweed, tiny Scientists who record the data of countless generations, a Ghost Leaf who helps other plants grow. Silvery, deeply textural drawings move elegantly between planet-scale drama, microscopic life, and Louise and Merwin's shifting surroundings as the pace bounds inexorably onward, ending in a contemporary city where a Black child encounters a sidewalk-crack seedling. In evocative prose and peppery dialogue that sometimes get caught up in their message, the cinematic story journeys across time and space, contemplating the power of life to heal and the importance of developing "roots and wings." Back matter details the science behind the story. Ages 7: up. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-8--Selznick returns with a majestically illustrated, modern-day parable. Sycamore seeds Louise and Merwin are suddenly separated from their mama tree due to a conflagration. They are thrust into a dangerous world of dinosaurs and volcanoes,

hoping to set down roots somewhere safe. Throughout their treacherous journey, the stars speak to Louise, hinting at a possible life-changing event on the horizon. Along the way, they meet The Ambassadors (mycorrhizal fungi), Spot (a butterfly), King Seaweed, and The Scientists (Foraminifera). Originally meant for a Spielberg-produced animated film, this tale, with its combination of a childlike narrative and profound illustrations, presents a big, universal story of taking care of the miraculous Earth on which we live. Selznick's signature art was created with pencil on hot pressed watercolor paper, and the texture and nuance of these nearly 300 pages will strike wonder in every reader. In the back matter, Selznick explains the science behind the story, including dinosaurs, asteroids, and the beginning of life on Earth. It also features a selected bibliography and a poem by W.S. Merwin, the seed's namesake. Weighty themes of connectedness, conservation, and the impact that one small voice can have on the fate of the universe might feel unfathomable and too big for children, but in Selznick's hands, this poignant fable will resonate with all readers, young and old. VERDICT A special, one-of-a-kind book for the whole family that readers won't soon forget--Shelley M. Diaz Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2364106 Thirteenth Circle (Hardcover (Trade))
written by MarcyKate Connolly

Cat knows aliens are real, and she's determined to prove it. By studying her town's legendary crop-circle phenomenon for the McMurray Youth Science Competition, she'll not only demonstrate the existence of extraterrestrial life but also impress her distant NASA-scientist father.

978-1-250-89159-4 Feiwel & Friends ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Authors Connolly and Holmes have teamed up for their first creepy, sf collaboration starring seventh-graders Cat Mulvaney and Dani Williams, who do not have much in common except science. They each dream of winning the McMurray Youth Science Award, and, determined to win, they join forces, though they have different motivations. Cat, obsessed with crop circles that mysteriously form on a local farm, wants to prove aliens are behind the odd occurrences. Dani, skeptical of Cat's theory, wants to prove that a local pesticide company generates them. Told in chapters alternating between Cat's and Dani's points of view, the novel offers insight into their home lives, adding depth to the characters and aiding with character development. Shocking the girls, people in black show up in town and thwart their investigative efforts, adding intrigue and adversity. The pacing helps keep the excitement going as Dani and Cat continue their investigation despite many obstacles. Connolly and Holmes write an absorbing story using factual science and emotional situations that will resonate with middle-grade readers.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two middle schoolers investigate mysterious crop circles. Dani wants to convince her artistic parents that she's a serious scientist, but her partner in a prestigious youth science competition, "designated school weirdo" Cat, has an alien obsession that might derail Dani's plans to win. When Cat signs them up to investigate local crop circles, Dani is skeptical at first, but she discovers that Cat is a pro when it comes to the scientific method. Still, Dani pursues her own line of inquiry: her belief that the crop circles are human made. The mystery may be the main event, but themes of family relationships and self-actualization permeate the girls' partnership. As they grow closer, the seventh graders bond over social challenges (other kids mock their interests) and parental woes (Dani longs for her parents' acceptance, and Cat just wants to know that her dad, who's away working for NASA, remembers her). The girls, who are white, follow their own paths despite criticism from others, which makes them good role models for readers. Well-developed parental relationships are central, as is the treatment of ways the girls grow closer through their shared love of science and how this affects their relationships with their parents and their school experiences. The references to scientific methodology are presented in an entertaining manner that's grounded in real life. An entertaining, science-focused mystery that encourages readers to embrace their true selves. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2330703 Lost Library (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rebecca Stead

When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change. Evan and his best friend Rafe discover a link between one of the books and a long-ago event. The two boys start asking questions whose answers will transform not only their own futures, but the town itself.

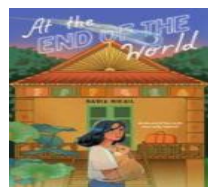
978-1-250-83881-0 Feiwel & Friends ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 640

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist When a makeshift Little Free Library appears on the town green, almost 20 years after the mysterious fire that burned down the town library, the people of Martinville are drawn together once more to not just solve the mystery of the fire but also to decide what it means

for their own fates. Mass and Stead employ a rich cast of characters—including ghost librarians, graduating fifth-graders, mice, and a cat—to dive into the heart of Martinville. As the little library grows, our protagonist, Evan, works to uncover what happened to the original library, and Mortimer (the cat) seeks out his own revelations. Full of heart, sly narration, and Stead's expected air of mystery, this is well suited for lovers of books and libraries and novels featuring ensemble casts. Though certain gaps in the plot (some quite tantalizing) might leave readers feeling unsatisfied, fans of atmospheric tales with nonhuman narrators will be pleased. Hand to fans of Kate DiCamillo's classic *The Tale of Despereaux* (2003) or Andrew Clements' *The Losers Club* (2017).

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Library records contain the keys to a town's secrets in this lightly fantastical literary mystery from the creators of *Bob*. On the last Monday of fifth grade, Evan McClelland takes two books from a little free library that has appeared seemingly overnight. The books' circulation cards signal that they're from the Martinville Library, which burned down years ago; and one card suggests that Evan's father once checked out the book over and over again. With best friend Rafe and a copy of *How to Write a Mystery Novel* that's linked to a famous author, Evan seeks to unravel his family's possible connection to the town's history while navigating his anxiety about the looming adjustment to middle school. Via distinct, unhurried voices, alternating chapters provide history and context from the perspectives of Evan, large orange feline Mortimer, and ghost Al, an assistant librarian at the Martinville Library who died in the fire. Bustling with well-rounded secondary characters and threaded with metafictional elements, Mass and Stead's collaboration is a humane ode to the courage needed to face life's changes as well as the power of libraries as centers of community. Cover art portrays Evan with pale skin. Ages 8: 12. Agents: (for Stead) Faye Bender, Book Group; (for Mass) Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (Aug.)



#2348406 **At the End of the World (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Nadia Mikail

When the world is ending, what matters most to you? Seventeen-year-old Aisha hasn't seen her sister June for two years. She has no idea where she is, but that hasn't stopped her from thinking about her every day and hoping she's okay.

978-1-250-86809-1 Feiwel & Friends ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 830

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 *Starred Review* Earth was given one year of warning to prepare for an asteroid strike that will end all life on the planet. Soon after came riots and upheaval, then a long despair, and finally widespread acceptance. For Aisha and her mother, getting their final affairs in order includes reaching out to Aisha's estranged sister, June, who left several years before. The prospect of seeing June again is bittersweet for Aisha. She blames June for abandoning her and her mother so soon after their father's death, for stranding her with a life un-lived—a university that will never be attended, exciting experiences as a young professional that will never be enjoyed, a future that will never escape the present. Still, along with her boyfriend's family, Aisha accompanies her mother on one last tour of Malaysia to find June and be a family together at the end of the world. Haunting is the perfect word for this novel. Bereft of fantastic schemes to avert the coming disaster or overwrought melodrama, this story instead opts for an elegiac, personal story that extols familial and community relationships and highlights how pivotal memory and storytelling are to the human endeavor. Key to the success of this approach is Mikhail's sparse prose that somehow conveys the weightiest emotions with the most delicate of touches. An incredible, soulful debut. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A looming apocalypse leads a family to heal their estrangement. Seventeen-year-old Aisha's older sister, June, left home three years ago, trying to escape the emotional burden of dealing with her mother's depression and strict rules. The quick succession of family tragedies—the deaths of Aisha's father and maternal grandparents and uncle—affected each of them in different ways. Now, with a devastating asteroid set to collide with Earth and put an end to humanity, Aisha and her mother set out to find June. Walter, Aisha's boyfriend, along with his parents and a stray cat they name Fleabag, join mother and daughter in a road trip across Malaysia. They meander, making pivotal pit stops that reflect cherished memories and support the characters' emotional journeys. Once they find June, feelings of grief, abandonment, and simmering resentment surface, but they slowly give way to understanding and reconciliation. Aisha's family is Muslim and of Malay descent; Walter's presents as Chinese and South Asian in heritage. The heartfelt writing evocatively portrays the complex emotions within close relationships; the bewildering sense of loss in not being able to experience a full life is thoughtfully expressed by both Walter and Aisha. The characters seem so resigned to their impending deaths, however, that framing the story around an apocalyptic event feels unnecessary. Though the situations are easily resolved and some of the metaphors feel overdone, the different landscapes and cultural touches give readers a glimpse of a rich and storied land. A quietly reflective novel enveloped in hope. (Fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Four months ago, teenage Aisha, along with the rest of the world, found out that an asteroid is projected to destroy Earth in less than a year. For the past two years, Aisha has lived alone with her mother in Penang, Malaysia, ever since Aisha's father died and her sister June walked out on them; realizing they have limited time left, Aisha and her mother resolve to find June. Aisha asks her boyfriend and his family to come along, and the group travel together across the country to Melaka with a stray cat named Fleabag. Aisha's despair over her search for June and the oncoming end of the world manifests in increasing anger and irritability, and Walter's seemingly relentlessly positive attitude causes a rift between the teens. The trip provides the families with opportunities to reflect on their lives, strengthen their bonds, admit their most private thoughts, and process their grief. Though revealing flashbacks interwoven throughout occasionally disrupt narrative flow, they also

offer vibrant and emotionally raw looks into the protagonists' relationship with loss, the past, and each other. Using poetic prose, debut author Mikail highlights the power of hope and reconciliation amid impending devastation and dread. Ages 13: up. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6 Up--Aisha was 10 years old when her father died. She was 15 when her sister June left, never to be heard from again. Now at 18, her life is once again upended when a planet-killing asteroid is headed toward Earth. With less than a year left before impact, it is time to reunite what's left of her broken family. Setting out with her supportive boyfriend Walter; her closed-off mother Esah; Walter's parents; and stray cat Fleabag, Aisha travels across Malaysia to find June. Short chapters cut with flashbacks give in-depth glances into Aisha's past as each family member tries in their own way to cope with the aftermath of repeated devastation. Readers will relate to Aisha's journey as she struggles with emotions that are equally expected and unforeseeable. Unlike most end of the world stories, the extended deadline gives plenty of time to digest the bittersweet memories and dreamlike reflections. Aisha and Walter's relationship is a highlight, offering sweet and steady support for her as she lashes out, while also acknowledging Walter's own struggle to accept the end of the world. Malaysian and Indonesian references ground the setting in a heavily character-driven story. While the open ending may not satisfy every reader, hope is sure to resonate. VERDICT Fans of Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End* will find much to relate to in this emotional exploration of the end of the world.--Elisha Sheffer
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#2329210 **No Place Like Home (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by James Bird

When home is a car, life is unpredictable. School, friends, and three meals a day aren't guaranteed. Not every town has a shelter where a family can sleep for a night or two, and places with parking lots don't welcome overnight stays. Opín, his brother Emjay, and their mother are trying to get to Los Angeles, where they hope an uncle and a new life are waiting.

978-1-250-87762-8 *Feiwel & Friends* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 590

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Opín (Ojibwe); his mother, Inde; and his angry and troublesome older brother, Emjay, who has a habit of disappearing at the wrong time, are unhoused and living in their car. Their goal is to drive from Sacramento to Watts, where Inde's brother lives, in the hopes that he might help them. But he struggles with alcoholism and is "a bit off." In the meantime, they move from city to city, one step ahead of the police and Child Protective Services, staying in shelters if they're lucky. This enrages Emjay, whose default emotion is anger and whom Opín often fears. Things ease a bit when Opín finds an abandoned puppy, names it Ani, and adopts it. Opín has fantasies of being a warrior brave, riding a pinto horse (their car is a Pinto) accompanied by Ani (now a wolf in Opín's imagination), until Emjay snarls, "Grow up. . . . This is real life. . . . There's no happy ending." Is he right? Will the family reach Watts? James Bird, who has been unhoused and is of Ojibwe descent, writes with rare authority, insight, and compassion that invites deep empathy from readers. He has done a beautiful job of creating an unforgettable family, who, as Inde says, "may be broke, but we're not broken."

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An urban Native American boy's gripping survival story. In this complex and emotionally resonant novel, Opín lives in a car, enduring unpredictable days as his family struggles. Opín's mother guides Opín and his brother, Emjay, to live life as a game, even though their battle with being unhoused seems unwinnable. They move constantly to avoid "the cavalry"--or Child Protective Services--as they search for money, food, and a forever home. Opín's mother insists that he "keep an active mind." He hunts down science facts and learns all his school subjects from library books. His mother teaches him Ojibwe words from her grandmother's handwritten notebook. She teaches him reciprocity, only taking what they need to survive, and street smarts. Opín and his new friend, a Black boy from the shelter they move to in Stockton, are attacked by racist teenagers. The storytelling is superlative, but some of the phrases and descriptions--for example, "metal pony" for shopping cart, "buffalo hunt" for stealing food--feel reminiscent of Native tropes, despite seeming to be intended to show Opín's feelings of connection to his heritage. Some scenes would have benefited from more context: Opín's mother, who performs her own version of Ojibwe dancing for money, rebuts a passerby's criticism that she's "exploiting our dying Native American culture." Rather than critiquing the framing of Indigenous cultures as "dying," she says that she's "reviving our culture." But do vibrant contemporary Indigenous ways of life need to be revived? Still, Bird seamlessly weaves in historical events, like the government's distribution of smallpox-infested blankets to kill Native people, while telling a story of admirable resilience. A thought-provoking story of one boy playing his own game of life. (song list, Ojibwe glossary, author's note) (Fiction. 11-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Ojibwe Opín has been living in his family's Ford Pinto for some time with his mother and impulsive older brother, Emjay, who often disappears during rest stops along their route across California to Los Angeles. Gathering left-behind grub from fast food restaurants, slipping into empty hotel rooms to shower, and crossing their fingers for space at a local shelter are just a few of the things they must do to survive if they hope to make it to their destination before social services puts the brothers in foster care. Despite the promise of stability in L.A., the feeling of home is always just out of reach, until Opín adopts a stray dog that he believes completes their family. But when Emjay takes his frustrations out on the pup and storms off, and Opín reckons with the fact that most shelters don't allow pets, Opín worries that his family has reached a breaking point. Writing from his own experience, per an author's note, Ojibwe author Bird (*The Second*

Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls) crafts this deeply felt ode to familial love with authoritative prose. Opini's palpable fears, joys, and unrelenting hope buoy this tale of resilience. A glossary and playlist conclude. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary Studio. (Aug.)



#2348595 People to Follow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Olivia Worley

Welcome to "In Real Life," the hot new reality show that forces social media's reigning kings and queens to unplug for three weeks and "go live" without any filters. IRL is supposed to be the opportunity of a lifetime, watched closely by legions of loyal followers. But for these rising stars--including Elody, an Instagram model with an impulsive streak; Kira, a child star turned fitness influencer; Logan, a disgraced TikTok celeb with a secret; and Max, a YouTuber famous for exposes on his fellow creators--it's about to turn into a nightmare.

978-1-250-88138-0 Wednesday Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.00

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ten influencers come together for IRL, a reality show set in a tropical paradise--but not all of them will leave the island alive. The show features content creators from age 18 to their early 20s. Kira promotes fitness. Max films documentary exposés for his YouTube channel. Corinne is a gamer on Twitch. Aaron is a former child star who's struggling to stay relevant. Elody posts photos of herself in swimwear. Cole pulls problematic pranks. Storyteller Logan does comedic bits. Zane heads a TikTok collective, the Bounce House, with McKayleigh and Graham. Left to their own devices on a Caribbean island--and stripped of their electronic devices--the young people quickly become embroiled in drama. Everyone has a secret they're trying to hide, and no one wants to end up canceled. Then, after a night of drinking, one of the influencers winds up dead. Was it just an accident? Or was it something more sinister? Mysteries unravel and secrets spill in this Gen Z thriller. The isolated setting of a private island contributes to the eerie mood, which is punctuated by dramatic reveals as the influencers fall from their pedestals. The story is told from the points of view of Kira, Max, Elody, and Logan. Character development is light; if readers can tell the 10 influencers apart, they'll appreciate the plot's twists and turns. Most characters are coded white; Corinne is Black. A chilling thriller that explores the consequences of getting #canceled. (Thriller. 14-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Worley's tense debut thriller, 10 teen social media influencers agree to ditch their phones to film a reality show on a secluded tropical island, only to realize they're stranded with a killer on the loose. Upon her arrival, wellness enthusiast Kira encounters her frenemy McKayleigh, whom she met at a reality dance competition and who is a founding member of the hugely successful TikTok creator group Bounce House. While former Bounce House member Logan is livid to see McKayleigh, documentarian Max is eager to film what he assumes will be rivalry-fueled chaos among the other influencers, who were all given smart watches to communicate with the show's crew. The vibes turn sinister, however, when the production team fails to arrive and an unknown sponsor informs the group via their watches that they must reveal past secrets or risk media exposure. When one of the attendees turns up dead, the teens turn on one another in a race to escape the island. Somewhat formulaic chapters are buoyed by lighting-quick pacing and savvy twists, and through four shifting perspectives, Worley notably considers social media fame's impact on both the content creator and their following. Most characters read as white. Ages 13: up. Agent: Claire Friedman, InkWell Management. (Oct.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A group of social media stars on an isolated island are forced to reckon with their pasts in this unnerving, tense YA thriller that exposes the dark side of influencer culture.



#2298685 Children of Stardust (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Edudzi Adodo

Zero has spent years scraping by as an aid to stranded travelers whose spacecrafts have crashed on his home planet, while all he has ever wanted is to join one of the legendary Saba guilds--groups of intergalactic travelers who explore space, retrieve lost treasures, and hunt down criminals. When the pyramid imbues Zero with a legendary power, he is recruited by a top Saba guild and launched into a dangerous intergalactic quest to track down the infamous Mask of the Shaman King before the Space Mafia uses it to unleash chaos on the galaxy.

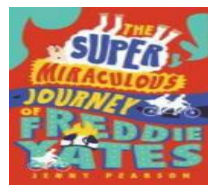
978-1-324-03077-5 Norton Young Readers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95

Reviews by: Booklist follows Zero Adedji, owner of the Zero Worries business, which helps stranded space travelers who crash-land on his home planet of Anansi 12. But Zero's heart is far from being planet bound; his lifelong dream has been to join the Saba guild, a group of adventurers who explore outer space, hunt for artifacts and treasure, and chase down dangerous rogues. Zero is a likable protagonist who becomes an unlikely hero after an encounter with a strange creature and its artifact result in him gaining unexpected powers and being recruited by a Saba guild for the mission of a lifetime. As Zero and his companions embark on their adventure, searching across the galaxy for the mysterious Mask of the Shaman King, his story is charged with humor, a vibrant cast of characters from all corners of the galaxy, and a thrilling plot that keeps readers guessing. Adodo's text is accompanied by lively illustrations of characters and space tech as this spectacular sf adventure brings a fresh take to the genre with elements of African mythology, high stakes, and an otherworldly sense of adventure.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Zero Adedji lives solo on his home planet of Anasi 12, working as a guide for lost travelers. Secretly, though, he wants nothing more than to join one of the Saba guilds, licensed teams of intergalactic adventurers equipped with adhesive Kobastickers, which offer the wearer magical abilities. When he inadvertently becomes host to the Jupiter Kobasticker, a desperately sought-after object that offers the power to conduct electricity, Zero is recruited to the exclusive Shango Heart Guild to learn how to use it. Zero becomes fast friends with rising Saba stars Camih Sitso and Ladi Hyung, and the trio soon faces their first major challenge: recovering the Mask of the Shaman King, an ancient artifact whose reality-distorting power could unleash a fiend imprisoned in the Oblong Dimension. The friends embark on a thrilling adventure, facing a medley of enemies who seek the mask for their own nefarious ends. Through it all, Zero must both learn to wield the Jupiter's power and maintain secrecy around hosting it; the mystical object is rumored to grant immortality to its 26th host; and Zero is the 25th. Inspired by Adodo's love for African mythology and science fiction, this fast-paced debut is a fun-filled space opera with strong themes of friendship and courage. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 9: 12. (Oct.)



#2161769 Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jenny Pearson
 Facts are everything to eleven-year-old Freddie Yates: once you know a fact it's yours to keep. After his grandmother dies and Freddie discovers his biological father might be alive and well in Wales, he decides to follow the facts. Together with his best friends Ben and Charlie, he sneaks off on the adventure of a lifetime (or at least, the summer holidays) to track down Freddie's father.
 978-1-324-01133-0 *W. W. Norton & Company, Incorporated* ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 235 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95



#2348334 Gone Wolf (Hardcover (POB))
written by Amber McBride
 In the future, a Black girl known only as Inmate Eleven is kept confined-to be used as a biological match for the president's son, should he fall ill. She is called a Blue-the color of sadness. She lives in a small-small room with her dog, who is going wolf more often-he's pacing and imagining he's free. Inmate Eleven wants to go wolf too-she wants to know why she feels so blue and what is beyond her small-small room.
 978-1-250-85049-2 *Feiwel & Friends* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 700

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Book Page *Gone Wolf* begins in 2111 with Inmate Eleven, a 12-year-old girl being kept in a tiny room. Her only company is her dog, Ira, who has been "going wolf" more often--pacing, narrowing his eyes and imagining he is free. Inmate Eleven is a Blue, which refers to her blue skin and hair. As a genetic match for the president's son, she is designated to serve as his companion in a mysterious and sinister system. And as Inmate Eleven gathers more information about the world outside her room, she begins to feel the calling to go wolf too. The narrative switches to Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2022, where Imogen--also 12 years old--is often told she feels too much. She used to rely on her brothers to help settle her worries, but now the pandemic has isolated her from everyone other than her mother and therapist. When Imogen connects with a Black college student in the Big Sister program through a mutual love for stories, she begins to open up and heal the sadness--the blueness--in her own heart.

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 **Starred Review** There are two realities for Imogen. In one reality, she is simply known as Inmate Eleven, and she lives in the Bible Boot, a place that has reinstated slavery for Black Americans. Some of those enslaved people are so sad that they have physically turned blue. Imogen is one of those "blue" people, one who lives in a prison with her wolf-dog, Ira. Imogen yearns to be free of the binds that the "clones" harness her with. In another reality, Imogen is a girl in the modern world, dealing with the aftermath of racial violence, a

devastating virus, post-election discord, and the death that links all of these things in her life. National Book Award finalist McBride, author of *Me (Moth)* (2021), is a master at crafting characters who are unapologetically flawed, a pattern that continues in this, her middle-grade debut. Imogen's character perfectly personifies the continuous shroud of grief that Black Americans have to live with in a post-pandemic, post-2016 election world. But even with the integration of the theme of grief throughout the novel, there is still the insistence of hope. McBride examines the beauty in Black resilience and the importance of building community. This novel is an integral addition to the children's literary canon. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In 2111, southern states have seceded from the United States to form the Bible Boot, presided over by President Tuba. The pale-skinned Clones there dominate and enslave Blue people, keeping them isolated and imprisoned until they are deemed fit to serve the Clones or work in the quarry, mining the material that extends Clones' lives. Inmate Eleven, who has dubbed herself Imogen in a small act of rebellion, is selected to serve Larkin, President Tuba's chosen son and successor. She's horrified by the world outside her cell, where Blues work in backbreaking conditions and are killed for any resistance, so when a fellow inmate informs her of an escape route, she dares to take it. The book then shifts to 2022, where Imogen is sharing with her therapist the story of Inmate Eleven and struggling with the trauma of the COVID-19 quarantine, the onslaught of news about violence against Black Americans, and her own loss of her brothers, Lark and Kin. While the premise that twelve-year-old Imogen authored the first half of the book can forgive its lack of subtlety, the expository, forced dialogue and secondary character explanations make both sections feel more browbeating than compelling, leaving little agency or interpretation to the reader. It's Imogen who offers the true, authentic point of connection, much like Callender's Moon in *Moonflower* (BCCB 07/22), and her vulnerability, horror, and grief will feel entirely relatable to kids who have just endured enough hardship to perhaps feel like they are in their own dystopia. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine McBride (*We Are All So Good at Smiling*, rev. 1/23) begins this compelling novel in the year 2111: a girl known as Inmate Eleven has lived in a small cell her whole life. All she knows she's learned from Miss Abby, a pale-skinned "Clone" who describes blue-skinned people as "genetic mistakes, which is why we take care of you here." Inmate Eleven's only true companion is her dog, Ira, who will occasionally "go wolf," pacing the cell, looking desperately as if he wishes to be somewhere else. When she finally learns the disturbing truth -- that Blues are Black Americans, turned blue from generational trauma; and Clones are white Elitists from the "Bible Boot" of the South -- she must escape to save herself. Meanwhile, in the year 2022, young Imogen is struggling with both the racially motivated violence across the country and the catastrophic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. When Imogen and her mother finally find a therapist willing to listen to her whole story, the juxtaposition of past, present, and future creates a jarring narrative. Interspersed throughout are Bible Boot Learning Flash Cards propaganda and asides at the end of Inmate Eleven's chapters touting the virtue of Clones over the "lesser" Blues. A strong voice in the sci-fi genre, McBride presents a fascinating discussion of the inextricable bond between Black Americans and the blues. Eboni Njoku(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews With fear, grief, pain, and suffering caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and America's history of enslavement and racial violence. It's the year 2111, and Inmate Eleven is undergoing a test. She must decide which is better: the blond, blue-eyed, light-skinned doll or the doll with blue skin and hair like her own. Inmate Eleven's world is cruel and fractured: As a Blue, she's separated from the pale-skinned Clones and has been isolated in a cell her whole life. Her only source of comfort is her dog, Ira; they both long for escape. "Bible Boot" flash card fill in the backstory through references to an alternate but recognizable history: a 2016 election, xenophobia, a wall, a worldwide virus, and vaccines. Blues are regarded as inferior, their bodies exploited to prolong the lives of Clones; they are actually Black Americans whose stolen freedom has caused them to turn blue with sadness. Back in 2022, Imogen is trapped by fear and grief from racist violence and devastating pandemic losses. She finds relief and healing through sharing her stories and builds relationships with Black role models like her therapist and her mentor from the Big Sister program. Textbook pages at the ends of chapters share true Black history. McBride's multidimensional genius shines through, artfully exposing the reality that Black Americans have lived lifetimes of dystopias. She scrupulously guides the complicated storyline and hard histories with context, definitions, and word choices. Raw, incisive, and authentic. (author's note) (Fiction. 11-16) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This profound middle grade debut by McBride (*We Are All So Good at Smiling*), set in 2111 and 2022, follows two Black tweens navigating grief and racism. In 2111, in the Bible Boot, pale-skinned Clones are the ruling class while Black children called Blues are kept separate from society. A Blue girl called Inmate Eleven lives under confinement with her genetically modified dog Ira, whose tendency to "go wolf" inspires her to imagine a world elsewhere. As Inmate Eleven learns more about the systemic racism against Blues in the Bible Boot, she discovers that everything she's learned about the world under Clone leadership has been a lie, and longs for escape. Meanwhile, in 2022 America, 12-year-old Imogen grapples with the long-term effects of an unnamed virus that has ravaged the nation while working through an unspecified traumatic event in therapy. McBride skillfully weaves each girl's experience into the other's via callbacks. In this weighty read, which explores the consequences of loss, quarantine, and racism on Black youth, the author employs brilliantly inventive storytelling as a tool through which the protagonists process their grief and find their people. An author's note details historical events addressed in the book. Ages 10: 14. (Oct.)


Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Inmate Eleven has never seen the sky, or even been outside in her 12 years. All she knows is that there's a virus outside and she can't leave without a vaccine. In order to get the vaccine, she must pass tests to be sure she is ready. She is eventually paired with a child called Larkin who is the son of the President. A young Black girl, Inmate Eleven thinks her life may be changing for the better, but little does she know what lies ahead. The book is split into three major sections that deal with Inmate Eleven in the year 2111, and a girl named Imogen in 2022. Imogen has to come to terms with several things that have impacted her life due to the pandemic and her mental health. This book is written in a conversational tone, so it's a quick read. At the end of each chapter there are notecards to help readers understand what is happening

in each character's world. The book deals with tough topics like racism, generational trauma, and the pandemic. Each section is masterfully written, and will cause a few eyes to tear up. McBride includes some notes at the end of the book with an explanation of real and historical events. VERDICT Great for libraries looking for more diverse voices, and books that touch on the topic of the pandemic in a relatable way.--Kristin J. Anderson Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In National Book Award finalist Amber McBride's ambitious middle-grade novel, *Gone Wolf*, a child develops an imagined world to escape the painful realities of the Covid-19 pandemic.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2348350 Just a Pinch of Magic (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Alechia Dow</i> Wini's family of enchanters runs a bakery, but with the prices of magical ingredients skyrocketing, they're going under. Desperate to save their business, Wini takes a risk by casting a (sort of illegal) spell. But the spell backfires. Badly. Now the whole town is in danger. 978-1-250-82911-5 Feiwel & Friends ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old magic user Winifred Mosley is an intuitive baker who lives in the enchanted town of Honeycomb Hill, R.I., with her family, who own a bakery. The reputation of Wini's birth mother ; whom she's never met; as a curse worker repels customers, and the rising cost of magical ingredients has the business in dire straits. To save the store, Wini concocts a plan: Step one involves "captur some of the love floating around" to spread it through town. But Wini must be discreet; "taking emotions" is forbidden by the Enchantment Agency, which polices magic use. Meanwhile, Kalioppe Clarke, a novice word enchanter, moves from Boston to Honeycomb Hill with her queer father and retired Enchantment Agent grandfather so that she can learn and practice magic safely. Upon arrival, her grandfather is called out by residents for bringing "wicked magic" into town. When Kali and Wini meet, the two bond over having single fathers and aid each other during magic lessons. Dow (A Song of Salvation) delivers a magical story about family, friendship, and love that is both beguiling and surprising. An unforgettably rendered magical world paired with delicious descriptions of impeccable baked goods will leave readers wanting more. Wini is Black, and Kali reads as white. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2348580 Search for Us (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Susan Azim Boyer</i> Samira Murphy will do anything to keep her fractured family from falling apart, including caring for her widowed grandmother and getting her older brother into recovery for alcohol addiction. With attendance at her dream college on the line, she takes a long shot DNA test to find the support she so desperately needs from a father she hasn't seen since she was a baby. 978-1-250-83370-9 Wednesday Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$21.00

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 8-12 Two teens in different places in California take DNA tests; each is trying to find a long-absent father. What they discover, however, is that they are half-siblings, although no connection to their mutual Iranian American father appears. They each have different goals for the search: Samira wants to find her father for overdue child-support payments to relieve her family's financial burden, while Henry longs to find belonging and an escape from the strict rules of his prejudiced aunt and uncle who are raising him. They ultimately unite to find their father, and his circumstances are not at all what either of them expected. When they finally meet him, they both begin to fill gaps in their understanding of their lives and gain a richer perspective on their father and their respective families. The narrative switches between Samira's and Henry's points of view, heightening the tension and pressure they both feel. Boyer sensitively explores the complexities of identity, family, and responsibility in a plot fueled by a compelling search for answers and healing. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Samira Murphy may have missed a few days of school to organize her grandfather's funeral, deal with her older brother Kamron's alcoholism, and compensate for her distant mother, absent father, and codependent grandmother, but she's still making straight As and going to Lewis & Clark in the fall. Meanwhile, Henry Owen is trying to do the same, but he still feels like he's falling short of the high expectations set by his guardian aunt and uncle, who seem to think Henry is just one wrong step from landing in jail as they assume his father did (if he's not dead). Henry and Samira know their father's name, Mohammed Safavi, and they each have a copy of his military portrait, but no one in their families is willing to tell them much more. Henry's aunt and uncle would rather he not learn anything about his Iranian

heritage, and Samira knows Kamron's trauma is related to their father's behavior when she was too young to remember. The novel smartly reveals Samira and Henry's shared parent early on, and the third-person narration hews close to Samira's and Henry's points of view in alternating chapters, rendering each teen with sympathy and humanity that doesn't spare their faults or those of the adults in their lives. Samira's sense of superiority over Kamron, Gran, and her mom leaves her little room to feel compassion for them or to reckon with her own pain. Henry's simmering resentment erupts into rage that frightens even him, but he can't bring himself to confront his aunt, uncle, and mother. The driving tension of the book lies in how Samira and Henry navigate their relationships, making this is an absorbing and deeply human story of losing and finding family. SS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews If siblings Samira and Henry each take DNA tests and are surprised by the results. Samira Murphy takes on too much responsibility. Ever since her grandfather died, she's taken on even more, including caring for her grandmother and supervising her older brother's participation in AA, all while preparing for college. After she decides to put her college funds toward rehab following her brother's latest UI, Samira takes a DNA test, hoping to track down and get overdue child support from their absentee father. Meanwhile, Henry Owen feels caught between his flighty biological mom and the overbearing, xenophobic aunt and uncle who've raised him. Hurtling toward a future he didn't shape, Henry longs to slow down and forge a connection to his missing father and his Iranian heritage, and so he takes a DNA test too. When the test results link Samira and Henry to each other instead of Mohammed Safavi, as they expected, the two 17-year-olds continue their quest together, redefining family and untangling their U.S. Army veteran biological father's complicated past. Readers are taken on a moving emotional journey through self-discovery, strained family ties, and the impacts of substance abuse and mental illness. The author effectively explores a number of substantive subjects with nuance in this ultimately hopeful story told through dual narratives. Samira and Henry are multiracial teens living in white families; additional ethnic diversity is shown in supporting characters. Relatable, poignant, and full of hope. (Fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness *The Search for Us* by Susan Azim Boyer (Jasmine Zumideh Needs a Win) is a moving, hopeful YA contemporary novel about half siblings who grew up never knowing the other existed, and their search for their absent father.



#2160125 Every Missing Piece (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Melanie Conklin

Maddy Gaines sees danger everywhere she looks: at the bus stop, around the roller rink, in the woods, and (especially) by the ocean. When Maddy meets a mysterious boy setting booby traps in the North Carolina woods, she suspects the worst. Maddy is certain she's found Billy Holcomb--the boy who went missing in the fall. Except, maybe it's not him. It's been six months since he disappeared. And who will believe her anyway? Definitely not her mom or her stepdad . . . or the chief of police. As Maddy tries to uncover the truth about Billy Holcomb, ghosts from her own past surface, her best friend starts to slip away, and Maddy's world tilts once again. Can she put the pieces of her life back together, even if some of them are lost forever?
 978-1-368-04895-8 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2020 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old Maddy Gaines can't help but imagine danger lurking around every corner. In the three years since a tragic accident took her father's life, the anxious girl has become so well acquainted with the local emergency services as to be considered a nuisance, dialing 911 at any hint of trouble. Six months after a local boy is abducted, she discovers a seemingly similar child with a bruised face setting booby traps in a cemetery, but she decides that she must accumulate proof to be taken seriously. Maddy becomes friends with the boy despite his connection to her sworn enemy, with whom she is engaged in a territory war. Also on Maddy's mind is getting along with her awkward new stepfather, whom she considers "the wrong piece for our puzzle," and the way her best friend seems to be growing up faster than she is. Conklin's well-paced narrative nimbly incorporates Maddy's ever-present fear and lingering grief into a nuanced tale of a tween discovering that things aren't always what they seem. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elena Giovinazzo, Pippin Properties. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–7—Sixth grader Maddy Gaines wants her old life back: before her father died, before her anxiety caused her to keep a rescue ladder under her bedroom window, and before her best friend, Cress, became interested in boys and skin care. But as Cress tells Maddy, "You have to get used to it." As Maddy navigates a relationship with Stan, her mother's new husband, and the changing dynamics of her friendship with Cress, she is also confronted with a mystery. Walking in the neighborhood graveyard one day, Maddy meets Eric, a boy who reminds her of Billy Holcomb who has been missing for six months. Maddy wants to share her discovery with her mom, but after so many false alarms fueled by her anxiety, she decides to say nothing. As she gathers evidence to support her conviction that Eric is actually Billy, Maddy has the opportunity to reconsider assumptions she's made about her friends and Stan. She slowly begins to connect with Stan and appreciate that he is making a genuine effort to be a part of Maddy's life. When she learns the true story of what happened to Billy and his mother, Maddy is also forced to understand some hard truths about the realities of the emotional and physical effects of domestic violence. VERDICT In this heartfelt story about a family struggling through adjustments big and small, Maddy's efforts to make sense of the changes in her life will inspire young



#2333146 Cursed Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Angela Cervantes

To take his mind off his mom's return, Rafa spends an evening crafting the scariest ghost story he's ever told. As an eerie blood moon hangs in the sky, Rafa tells a group of friends about The Caretaker. Rafa is really proud of his latest creation, until strange things start to happen around him. With a sinking feeling, Rafa realizes the Caretaker is real.

978-1-338-81401-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

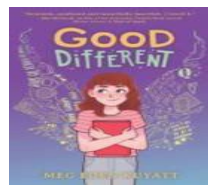
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Rafa is a storyteller who can come up with the scariest stories to send chills down anyone's spine. He knows that his stories are fictional, so he is never frightened about anything except his mom, Nikki, who has been in and out of his life. But a new kind of fear brews when Ms. Martin warns Rafa about the upcoming blood moon and tells him to refrain from telling any scary stories. Rafa initially disregards her cautionary advice, and while they sit in a tree house under the blood moon, he tells his friends a story about the Caretaker, a being who takes children. Strange things begin to happen, and it seems like his nightmarish stories are coming to life. It's up to Rafa to stop the Caretaker before it takes its next victim. Award-winning author Cervantes is back with a story that will captivate horror fans. Cervantes' storytelling is a balance between earnest and eerie that will have readers at the edge of their seats.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy tells one scary story too many and must find his way to a happy ending--or else. Eleven-year-old Mexican American Rafael Fuentes loves writing horror stories. It comes easily to him despite his struggles in school because much of his life has been a different kind of scary story, one full of neglect and instability. For the past two years since their mom was sent to prison, Rafa and his younger sister, Brianna, have lived with their loving abuelos. But now Rafa is dreading his mom's upcoming early release. One day, neighbor Ms. Martin warns Rafa that he should not, under any circumstances, tell a scary story during the upcoming blood moon. But Rafa's storytelling has brought him social acceptance, so at his friends' urging, he tells one of his most frightening tales yet. Soon after, strange, unsettling things start happening. Rafa thinks his spooky story has something to do with this, and he tries to craft a new, happy ending for his story. With the support of his friends and help from a magical jaguar, he faces down the evil threat. Featuring excellent pacing and seamlessly centering a diverse, well-drawn community, Cervantes' latest deals with the complicated issues that arise from having an incarcerated parent and provides ample creep factor for young horror fans without ever losing sight of the fact that maintaining hope is key. The power of words lies at the heart of this heartwarming story. (Horror. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A tween with a penchant for crafting creepy tales must reckon with ghosts from his past and present in this haunting read. Mexican American 11-year-old Rafael Fuentes is dreading his mother's early release from prison. While living with his abuelos for the last two years during her incarceration, he's managed to cultivate a stable environment for his younger sister Brianna, and he worries that his mother's return will disrupt his established peace. When his neighbor Ms. Martin ominously warns him to not tell scary stories tonight during the blood moon lest he awaken a restless spirit, Rafa believes she's just another adult trying to control him. But after regaling his friends with his most terrifying yarn yet, about a specter who lures kids to their deaths in the local pond, strange things start happening: jaguar claw marks appear on Rafa's door, and he begins receiving sinister countdown texts and having ghostly visions of missing youths. Via sometimes choppy prose, Cervantes (Letty Out Loud) delivers a frightening adventure; Rafa and Brianna's close sibling dynamic, and his strained relationship with his mother, are the emotional center of this supernatural page-turner. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)



#2319514 Good Different (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Meg Eden Kuyatt

Selah knows her rules for being normal. She always, always sticks to them. This means keeping her feelings locked tightly inside, despite the way they build up inside her as each school day goes on, so that she has to run to the bathroom and hide in the stall until she can calm down. So that she has to tear off her normal-person mask the second she gets home from school, and listen to her favorite pop song on repeat, trying to recharge.

978-1-338-81610-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

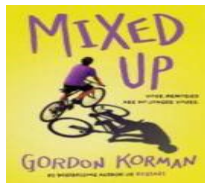
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist This beautifully written novel in verse follows one girl's journey as she learns that she's on the autism spectrum and comes to embrace herself. Seventh-grader Selah lives by her list of how to be a "Normal" person. This school year is already hard: best friend Noelle isn't in her class, her new school uniform is itchy, her homeroom teacher is loud, and her classmates think she's weird. It's exhausting for her to hold in all the bad feelings all the time. When Selah's annoying classmate Addie starts braiding Selah's hair one day without asking, Selah instinctively lashes out. She inadvertently hits Addie and gets suspended. As she learns more about her potential autism diagnosis, a supportive English teacher assures her she's not "damaged" and encourages her to express her feelings through poetry. Selah says, "I used to think / my rules could save me, make me happy, / but all I see now are the ways / they make me feel like I'm not enough." In an author's note, Kuyatt describes her own autism diagnosis, discusses masking and the degree to which the disorder is especially misdiagnosed in girls, and provides a list of resources and tools for autistic kids and their parents and educators. Ultimately, readers will empathize with Selah and rejoice with her as she learns to accept herself as she is.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An autistic artist just wants to survive seventh grade. Selah, a White girl, is a "good kid," praised for her schoolwork--but inside, she's a "dragon." She can't abide noise, smells, or touches, and her mother has been extremely clear about hiding her differences in public. But her "normal-person mask" is fraying. When Selah is praised for getting an A on a test and there is loud applause, she thinks, "I want to crawl / under my desk." Eventually, Selah has a violent outburst: Now classmates and teachers treat her like a wild animal. In her notebook, Selah writes free verse about being a dragon--a metaphor for all her neurodivergent frustration with social norms. She worries that she shouldn't share her poetry ("My feelings are loud. Rude. / BIG. Sometimes / angry. Are those OK in poems?"), but the verses ultimately allow her to share her scary feelings. It's a revelation when she finds fellow neurodivergent geeks at FantasyCon. Happy, married adults use earplugs and sensory tools, wear color-coded communication bracelets, and speak calmly and without shame about their autism. Can these tools help when educators at her private school are hostile to autistic kids' needs? Can they help when even her neurodivergent mother doesn't want to recognize that Selah isn't "normal"? Through her poems, Selah believably mends her family and starts a movement in her school, showing readers ways that "different" can be wonderful. Short free-verse vignettes beautifully evoke despair, loneliness--and determination. (author's note, resources) (Verse fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Kuyatt's heartfelt debut, free verse poems explore middle school changes via the first-person viewpoint of an autistic 12-year-old. Selah Godfrey has always liked rules-oriented Pebblecreek Academy, where she knows exactly "what I'm/ supposed to do." But when she enters seventh grade, everything's different. Amid the crowded hallways, loud cafeteria, and itchy new uniforms, Selah's rules for "Being a 'Normal' Person" include resisting the urge to talk about dragons, remaining on her "Best Behavior," and otherwise masking until she can calm herself in the bathroom. When a classmate braids her hair without asking, and Selah's reaction causes a bloody nose, Selah is regarded as a social pariah and threatened with expulsion. Isolated from her peers, she takes the advice of her beloved, similarly wired grandfather and starts to write in a notebook, further finding her voice through a kind English teacher's poetry assignment. Kuyatt, who is autistic, uses candid lines to present Selah's story, conveying her mother's well-intentioned denial of Selah's needs, and Selah's own experiences, self-knowledge, and eventual self-advocacy. Selah is white. An author's note and resources conclude. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Lauren Spieller, TriadaUS. (Apr.)



#2328028 **Mixed Up (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Gordon Korman

Reef and Theo don't know what's happening to them. They'll be going about their days and then suddenly they'll have these strange flashes of memory -- but the memories don't belong to them. And at the same time, their own memories are starting to... vanish.

978-1-338-82672-2 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Around an electrifying premise, Korman winds themes of grief, family dysfunction, and the ways memory shapes character to generate a powerful friendship tale. Middle-schoolers Reef and Theo don't know one another initially, but that changes in a big way when they suddenly, mysteriously, begin acquiring each other's memories. Not only is this scary, not to mention confusing, but it's devastating for Reef when he realizes that, along with forgetting everything he studied for a test and other such details, bit by bit he's losing all he has left of his mom, who died from COVID-19. Theo has parental issues, too, but Reef's whole life is in such a dark place from the outset that the story takes on a grim tone, only gradually lightened by events that climax in a wild lightning storm, allies (including a hilariously clever rabbit), and the growth of a connection that is, perforce, uniquely perceptive and expresses itself in acts of both kindness to others and a sense of mutual commitment. That relationship will leave readers touched and thoughtful.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two white-cued tweens who have never met mysteriously begin swapping memories in this suspenseful novel by Korman (The Superteacher Project). Twelve-year-old Reef Moody is grieving his mother's death more than a year ago when he realizes that he can't recall certain memories of her. Instead, he has begun remembering events that he's sure he's never experienced. Meanwhile, Theo Metzinger, also 12 and living in another district, has begun recollecting images of a woman he's never seen and things he's never done; the memories are welcome if bizarre distractions from his father's overwhelming future expectations. When the two boys meet serendipitously, it doesn't take long

for them to realize their connection. Together, they resolve to figure out what's happening and reverse it, but the solution turns out to be potentially life-threatening. Via Reef and Theo's earnest alternating POVs, Korman crafts an intricate mystery and a gripping adventure grounded by high-stakes emotional conflict. If the mythos surrounding the memory swap is somewhat contrived, the boys' creative brainstorming evokes classic Hardy Boys detective work, and they each emerge as bighearted, sympathetic heroes whose individual courage and support for one another is palpably rendered. Ages 8: 12. (July)



#2349567 Scarewaves (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trevor Henderson

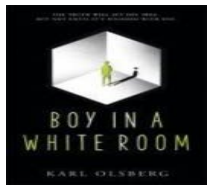
The adults in town are oblivious to these strange occurrences. Others prefer not to talk or even think about them. But over the course of several terrifying nights, a group of kids will come face to face with the horrors hiding within their sleepy town. Guided by the mysterious radio host Alan Graves, they must follow the clues to a terrifying secret before it eats them alive.

978-1-338-82950-1 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$12.99

Reviews by: Booklist True friendships aren't made at the playground or by living next door to someone; they are garnered through paranormal experiences. In the town of Beacon Point, inexplicable activities take place that affect only children. Oblivious to parents and adults, century-old anthropomorphic crows, deer, scarecrows, and more wreak havoc on the innocent. After being repeatedly plagued by the shape-shifting creatures, a motley crew of six kids bands together to stop the malevolence once and for all. Along the journey, they discover a camaraderie among one another. The story incorporates snippets of Beacon Radio Mystery Show, hosted by Alan Graves, who provides history of the spooky town and its ominous woods. Known for his illustrations in horror literature, Henderson makes his writing debut in this chiller for children. Included are images reminiscent of Stephen Gammel's artwork from Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. Though there are a few abrupt moments to the story that leave some unanswered questions, readers' thirst for horror will surely be satiated in this novel.



#2310762 Boy in a White Room (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Karl Olsberg

A fifteen-year-old boy wakes to find himself locked in a white, cube-shaped room. No windows. No doors. Total silence. He has no memories. No clue how he got there. No idea who he is. A computer-generated voice named Alice responds to his questions.

Through her, he is able to access the internet. As the boy uncovers snippets of his story--an attempted abduction, a critical injury, a murder -- it becomes clearer. But when some of the pieces don't fit, how can he tell what's real and what's not? Who can he trust? And who is he really?

978-1-338-83184-9 Chicken House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 660

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 There is a boy in a white room. When he wakes, he knows nothing and feels nothing until an AI called Alice turns on and lets him surf the internet. Here, he figures out where he's located and, eventually, the few facts of his existence: his name is Manuel, he's the son of a millionaire, and he's in a virtual world because his body has been crushed in the real world. While the virtual world can offer amazing things--the first thing his father shows him is a reconstruction of Middle-earth from The Lord of the Rings--Manuel is still unsure and unhappy. He can explore the outside world as "a human brain trapped in a robot body," and he sets about trying to remember his lie before his accident, wondering if he's being told the whole truth. The title sets the stage for this standalone novel. German author Olsberg's work has only recently begun to be translated into English, and this middle-grade mystery struggles to feel complete. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A science-fiction thriller translated from German about a boy trapped in a virtual world. The teen wakes up locked in a silent, white, square room, devoid of memories. He can't smell anything, has no sense of touch, and when he tries to speak, his robotic voice sounds computer-generated. He eventually learns from a man who introduces himself as his father that he is a 15-year-old named Manuel, lives in Hamburg, and is the survivor of a kidnapping attempt during which his mother was killed and he was left for dead, his body damaged beyond repair. Through new technology, his father was able to rescue his brain, and, after a series of operations, Manuel is now able to survive a primarily virtual existence in a simulation of Middle-earth created especially for him due to his love of Tolkien's books. But the more Manuel interacts with the outside world through the internet (with the help of Alice, his voice-activated virtual assistant), the more he comes to question whether he is

being told the truth about what happened and who he really is. Carefully crafted, thought-provoking questions about identity, self, and humanity are interwoven with heavy-handed elements pulled from *The Lord of the Rings* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* to tell a punchy, fast-paced story that doesn't quite coalesce into a convincing, cohesive whole in its rushed ending. The largely racially ambiguous characters are minimally described. An intriguing if uneven journey of self-discovery. (Science fiction. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An initially unnamed teenager wakes up alone in a blank white room with no recollection of who he is or how he came to be there in this cerebral speculative thriller by Olsberg. The teen's only apparent companion is a virtual assistant named Alice, whose monotone voice "seems to come from everywhere." With Alice's help, the teen uses the internet to try and piece together what has happened to him. After some time, a new voice claiming to be his father informs him that he is a 15-year-old Hamburg resident named Manuel, who suffered life-threatening injuries following a failed abduction by unknown assailants that resulted in his mother's death. Assuming that he will have to "live in this virtual reality world forever," Manuel endeavors to uncover more about his past, in the process unearthing ominous truths regarding his father's claims and the world beyond the white room. While the conclusion's breakneck pace leaves a number of questions unanswered, Olsberg makes adventurous use of classic sci-fi tropes, meticulously arranging them in a continually surprising series of twists and turnabouts to craft a pensive tale that explores questions of artificial intelligence, free will, and personhood. Ages 12: up. (Feb.)



#2366370 Just Keep Walking (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Soderberg Downing

Two years after her parents' surprising and painful split, twelve-year-old Jo and her mom find themselves on the 100-mile hike on the Superior Hiking Trail along Lake Superior's north shore—a journey that Jo had always looked forward to hiking with her dad. It's not a situation that either of them ever predicted they'd find themselves in, yet here they are in the wilderness with their entire lives stuffed into a pair of thirty-pound packs.

978-1-338-85130-4 Scholastic Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 990

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$26.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—After her dad bails on their long-awaited father/daughter hike to be with his new family, Jo decides that she and her mother will hike longer and farther than her dad and brother did years before, to prove to him (and themselves) that they don't need him anymore. Out of spite, she plots a 111-mile trek through the Superior Hiking Trail—but spite doesn't last long, as Jo and her mom navigate the wilderness, make new friends, and work together to process the difficult emotions that come with divorce. This is an adventure story with a lot of heart. Readers looking for a pulse-pounding survival tale should look elsewhere, as the focus is on Jo dealing with the emotional fallout of her dad leaving. She has plenty of support in the wilderness, a fact that she uses to remind herself that she and her mother have similar support in their lives as well. While Jo's internal monologue as she processes her feelings about her dad can get a little monotonous, it's realistic, and her amusing observations about trail life shake things up. As Jo treks with her mom through the wilderness, she learns that things will get better as long as she just keeps moving forward. VERDICT This is a great choice for libraries looking for realistic fiction about dealing with divorce, as well as those seeking stories about the healing power of nature.—Mimi Powellt



#2315194 Iceberg (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer A. Nielsen

The thrilling story of a young girl who stows away onboard the Titanic and as she explores, attempting to find answers to her many questions about the ship, suddenly finds herself caught up in the desperate struggle to survive after it strikes an iceberg. The danger only intensifies and readers will be caught up in the terror and suspense alongside Hazel as she fights to save her friends and herself.

978-1-338-79502-8 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Hazel Rothbury stows aboard the Titanic and finds friendships in unexpected quarters before tragedy strikes in Nielsen's latest. When British 12-year-old Hazel, uneducated but resourceful, sneaks aboard the famous ship, it's with a promise that she'll repay her ticket upon publishing an article that "tell[s] the great story of this ship." Hazel befriends a companion in first class and, under the tutelage of an older passenger, is dogged in her pursuit of information about the ship's design and vulnerabilities, offering readers insights to many factors that contributed to the seafaring tragedy. During her journalistic research, Hazel stumbles upon a mystery involving the finances and identities of fellow


passengers, and makes questionable if well-meaning efforts to unravel the truth. Some readers may find Hazel's timely eavesdropping and immediate mastery of Morse code a bit convenient, but this story of perseverance and survival should please readers who enjoy historical fiction with heroism and a heavy sense of foreboding. Includes images throughout, most being documents recreated by the author, and a note parsing facts from the story's fiction.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Ever since Hazel's father's death, it has been hard for the family to make ends meet. When her aunt, who lives in America and works in a garment factory, invites her to live and work with her, Hazel accepts the opportunity to help support the family. Preparing to leave England, she decides to seek passage on the Titanic but is forced to stow away when she doesn't have enough money to cover the fare. Once aboard, she befriends Charlie, a porter; Sylvia, a first-class passenger; and Mrs. Åbelman, a teacher who nurtures her dream of becoming a Åjournalist. The inquisitive Hazel investigates her surroundings quite thoroughly, from the ship's physical construction to the passengers and their secrets. This exploration allows Nielsen (*The Shadow Throne*, rev. 3/14) to weave historical research into her first-person narrative. If the foreshadowing of the impending tragedy is a bit clumsy, that can be forgiven: everybody knows how the Titanic's story unfolds. An author's note separates fact from fiction, while primary source documents (newspaper articles, photographs, and transcripts) are occasionally interspersed between chapters. ÅJonathan Hunt(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young girl stows away on the Titanic. Twelve-year-old narrator Hazel Rothbury arrives in Southampton on April 10, 1912, only to discover she doesn't have enough money for a ticket. Hazel is bound for factory work in America, leaving behind the family farm. She sneaks aboard inside another passenger's trunk, and a young crewman finds her an empty cabin to stow away in. Sylvia, a first-class passenger Hazel's age, and Mrs. Abelman, a former governess, befriend her. Hazel dreads the thought of the factory and wishes to be a journalist--an aspiration that reflects her questioning, curious personality. Hazel's determined and occasionally inopportune questions allow Nielsen to deftly deliver myriad details that point to the looming disaster. These include the nature of icebergs, the refraction of light on calm seas, and the construction of the Titanic and its preparedness for emergencies. Hazel herself has an opportunity to observe human nature at close range, as she realizes both of her friends may be the targets of thieves and tries to intervene. When Hazel and Sylvia are locked in a cargo hold, the stakes seem very high. The astonishing acts of heroism, and a few of cowardice, that accompanied the sinking of the ship and the rescue of a fraction of its passengers become part of Hazel's story. Most characters read White; there is passing mention of four Chinese passengers, but other non-Europeans do not appear. Page-turning historical drama. (photo credit, author's note) (Historical fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

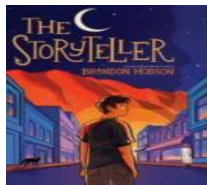
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A British 12-year-old stowed away aboard the Titanic becomes swept up into intrigue in this increasingly tense historical novel set on the ill-fated 1912 voyage. Having left her rural life behind and finding that she lacks sufficient means to pay her fare after arriving in Southampton, Hazel Rothbury sneaks aboard the Titanic in a steam trunk. Aboard the ship, porter Charlie Blight finds her a place to sleep, and Sylvia Thorngood, a first-class passenger Hazel's age, and her governess, invite Hazel into a world of finery and opulence. Though the factory work that awaits Hazel in New York promises to help her support her widowed mother and siblings, the quick-witted tween dreams of life as a journalist, and her inquisitive nature quickly finds her embroiled in mysteries aboard the ship. Nielsen (*Lines of Courage*) attentively sketches the Titanic's allure ("as powerful as the Titans of mythology, and as elegant as... a floating castle") and details its social hierarchy, seeding anticipation as the winning young heroine learns more about the ship's inner workings, notices warnings about icebergs and the ship's wake, and looks into two con artists targeting her newfound friends. It all makes for an engrossing portrait of an infamous maiden journey. Protagonists read as white; an author's note separates fact from fiction. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Nielsen weaves mystery and action in her newest historical fiction novel. Readers join Hazel as she boards the Titanic, heading to America for the opportunity to obtain a job with her aunt in a factory. Her journey is not by choice, but of necessity, as the income will help support her family who recently lost their father. From the beginning of the story, Hazel faces numerous difficulties because of her gender, age, and poverty. Yet Hazel's inquisitiveness introduces her to new friends, a few foes, and lands her in the middle of a big mystery that involves both. Layer on top the impending problems awaiting the Titanic, and readers will find themselves unable to stop turning pages to find out what happens to Hazel, her friends, and everyone aboard the doomed ship. Nielsen creates engaging, authentic characters who pull readers in, making the plot both compelling and believable. VERDICT Fans of historical fiction and Nielsen's other novels will be riveted by Hazel and her friends' plight across the Atlantic aboard the Titanic.--Jennifer Seebauer Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2369109 Uprising (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jennifer A. Nielsen</i> Twelve-year-old Lidia is outside her grandfather's house when planes fly overhead, bearing the Nazi cross on each wing. Before the bombs hit the ground, Lidia realizes her life is about to change forever. After her family returns to Warsaw, where life has changed irrevocably, Lidia continues to play the piano, finding comfort in Chopin, Bach, and Beethoven. 978-1-338-79508-0 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 700	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Lidia's world is shattered when she witnesses the German invasion of her homeland (Poland) and the start of WWII. Her father goes to help defend the country, leaving Lidia with her brother and mother. After seeing the German atrocities towards Jewish people, Lidia wants to help, too, but her brother and mother hold her back out of fear of German retribution. It isn't until her brother's life is in danger that she's able to join the resistance and help take Poland back from the Germans. Based on a true story, Nielsen's newest draws on Lidia Zakrzewski's life as a teenager who joined the Polish resistance and fought in the Warsaw Uprising of WWII. This action-packed read gives a unique perspective of a Polish girl involved on the front lines of war rather than behind the scenes, one who does not bat an eye at danger if it helps her people. With hints of romance, the story focuses more on the war and the Warsaw Uprising, taking readers on a nail-biting ride through history.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A fictionalized account of a real-life Polish resistance fighter. Talented pianist Lidia is just 12 when the Nazis invade Poland, and her whole life is abruptly upended. With their home bombed and then claimed by the Germans and Papa gone to join the Polish army, the Christian Durr family relocates to a crowded apartment adjacent to Warsaw's Jewish quarter. At the mercy of their occupiers, Lidia helplessly watches family, friends, and strangers suffer cruelty and injustice. Desperate to fight back, she finds ways to rebel, like enrolling in an underground school and sneaking food to people in the ghetto. Her brother, Ryszard, is maddeningly tight-lipped about his mysterious work for the resistance, but Lidia eventually finds her own path to participating in the uprising. Once admitted into the circle of those planning Operation Tempest, Lidia--code name Cello--quickly rises in the ranks, thanks to her bravery and willingness to take on the most dangerous assignments. Ferrying everything from messages to grenades across the war-torn city, Lidia hopes for liberation but fears that the world has forgotten Warsaw. Although the true story that inspired this novel is compelling, Nielsen's characters are one-dimensional, and they populate a landscape that never seems to truly come to life. Furthermore, major tragedies lack sufficient setup and execution to elicit the intended emotional gut punch in readers. An unremarkable addition to the already crowded field of World War II fiction. (photos, author's note) (Historical fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2323335 Storyteller (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Brandon Hobson

Ziggy has ANXIETY. Partly this is because of the way his mind works, and how overwhelmed he can get when other people (especially his classmate Alice) are in the room. And partly it's because his mother disappeared when he was very young, making her one of many Native women who've gone mysteriously missing. Ziggy and his sister, Moon, want answers, but nobody around can give them.

978-1-338-79726-8 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Sixth-grader Ziggy Echota suffers from anxiety, the result of his Cherokee mother's mysterious disappearance some 10 years before. He has heard tales of the Nunnehi (spirits that tell stories and protect other Cherokees) from his grandmother and his older sister, Moon. To learn more about his mother and her demise, he asks his classmate Alice to help him find the secret caves located in the New Mexico desert near their homes that his mom loved to explore. Hobson's fantasy features a folkloric setting (Poisonberry, named for the ubiquitous red fruits lethal to non-Cherokees), a mix of real and fantastic characters (including Gus, a fiddle-playing buzzard, and an armadillo channeling Andrew Jackson), and one long night of adventures. While most chapters could stand alone as self-contained stories, and Ziggy's need to cite all the things he has learned from his adventures feels didactic, readers will be happy that he moves beyond his grief (and hopefully the anxiety it has caused him), opting instead to learn and share stories of his mother's life.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Despite his sister's insistence that any evidence regarding their mother's disappearance would either have been found or is long gone, Ziggy is certain there might be clues left in the desert caves Mom often explored, even after ten years. He decides to consult his classmate Alice, one of the few other Cherokee kids at their school, whose knowledge of trickster spirits, Nunnehi, convinces him the spirits might have some answers. Tamping down his usually overwhelming anxiety, Ziggy sets out on an epic night of adventure and revelations on a quest that is filled with talking animals (for example, an armadillo who asserts that he is Andrew Jackson, justifying genocide while quoting from a State of the Union speech) and mysterious figures who convey equally opaque messages. Ziggy is a carefully developed protagonist, and Hobson deftly explores the particular grief of mourning a missing person whose fate is unknown. Ziggy and his older sister hurt from the loss of their mother but also from their father's inability to openly share stories about her because of his own pain, a secondary loss for Ziggy. The blending of the familiar and the fantastical works beautifully within the context of one long, exhausting, and anxiety-fueled night where Ziggy is doggedly determined to find some kind of peace or insight even if he cannot find his mom. Hobson seamlessly integrates Cherokee lore, history, and cultural details, grounding Ziggy in a loving family and community; a grim larger text about Ziggy's mother being one of thousands of Native women to have vanished is also woven in. Mostly, however, the novel zooms in on sixth-grader Ziggy and his broadening understanding of his own potential to be more than his biggest fears. Avid readers will already likely believe fervently in the power of stories to engage, inform, and sometimes even heal, and Ziggy's slow progression toward that knowledge is compelling and believable. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

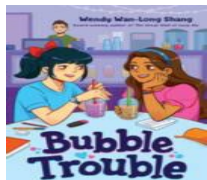
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Hobson (Cherokee Nation Tribe of Oklahoma) combines elements of classic Western literature, Cherokee culture, pop culture, and the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit People to forge the thematic backbone for this fantastical adventure across the New Mexico desert. Ziggy Echota, a socially awkward Cherokee middle schooler with anxiety, is convinced that the key to finding his mother (missing since he was a baby) is somewhere in a secret desert cave. He enlists the help of classmate Alice, who claims that she's familiar with the caves and the Nunnehi (immortal spirit people) that inhabit them. The surreal journey kicks into high gear one night when Alice arrives at Ziggy's house with a talking coyote who calls himself Chupacabra. Along the way, Ziggy encounters, questions, and escapes from an assortment of offbeat characters -- including an armadillo possessed by Andrew Jackson, a fortune-telling snake, and murderous shapeshifters. Each interaction leaves Ziggy with a morsel of wisdom, leading to a difficult conclusion about his mother. The fast-paced narrative is episodic and character-driven, channeling Alice's Adventures in Wonderland as a central reference point. It is Ziggy's eccentric Grandma Moses who provides clarity at the tale's end: "Storytellers have power...We find the meaning in what's happened, and then we convey that meaning to others." A significant story full of delight and dimension. Patrick Gall(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Cherokee tween searches for his missing mother. Ten years after his mother's disappearance, Ziggy Echota hasn't given up hope. The anxious sixth grader becomes convinced that the Nunnehi, trickster spirits who reportedly live in desert caves outside his small New Mexico town, hold answers. Ziggy's classmate Alice, who wears a hearing aid, shows up in the middle of the night to take him to them. His older sister, Moon, secretly follows. Talking animals and humans alike appear along the dreamlike quest, from a coyote and a buzzard to a fortuneteller and a Shakespearean actor. Will Ziggy find answers among the stories? This middle-grade debut from National Book Award finalist Hobson (the Cherokee Nation Tribe of Oklahoma) offers a frank look at anxiety and loss balanced with moments of wonder and levity. The book's opening epigraph from Jefferson Airplane draws a clear link to Wonderland, but the evocative desert setting and infusion of Cherokee history, language, and culture ground the fantastical in tradition while exploring contemporary subjects such as missing Indigenous women. The kaleidoscopic structure imparts plentiful messages among its substories, always with a light hand. Ritualistic behaviors, catastrophizing, and insightful conversations with a therapist add authenticity to Hobson's depiction of anxiety. The multigenerational, majority-Native cast establishes a strong sense of community as well as a reverence for Native storytellers. Although a White side character joins the adventure, the novel refreshingly focalizes Native perspectives. A captivating testament to the healing power of stories. (author's note) (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An anxious Cherokee sixth grader finds the courage to pursue the truth behind his mother's disappearance in this supernatural adventure by Cherokee author Hobson (The Removed, for adults). Eleven-year-old Ziggy Echota lives in Poisonberry, N.Mex., with his father, grandmother, and older sister Moon. Ever since his mother went missing 10 years before this book's start, Ziggy has been seeing a therapist to help him manage his anxiety, which he believes is exacerbated by his mother's disappearance: "Native Women go missing all over the country. Nobody seems to be doing much about it," he explains. When new friend Alice, who is Cherokee and uses a hearing aid, tells him they might be able to find clues about his mother in secret desert caves said to be occupied by mischievous spirits called Nunnehi, who can take human form, he endeavors to set aside his fears to uncover the truth. Hobson weaves complex emotional elements such as Ziggy's relationships with Alice and Moon and his experiences with his anxiety alongside ethereal fantasy tropes, plentiful Cherokee cultural nuance, and educational conversation surrounding the United States' historic prejudiced treatment of Indigenous peoples to craft an atmospheric and meditative read. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Bill Clegg, Clegg Agency. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Ziggy is a member of the Cherokee nation living with anxiety and still processing the grief of his mother's disappearance when he was a baby. Determined to find clues about her, Ziggy teams up with school misfit Alice to explore caves his mother once explored. Alice claims these caves are home to the Nunnehi, spirit people who may be able to offer guidance. What unfolds is a series of encounters with various magical creatures. Once Alice and Ziggy, accompanied by Ziggy's sister Moon and friend Corso, start their adventure, the novel moves at a quick pace. In each chapter readers are introduced to a new magical creature or character, but the story does not feel fragmented. On the contrary, this narrative style is reminiscent of a folklore anthology, woven together with the overarching hero's quest. In one of the final chapters, Ziggy reflects on the lessons he learned from the characters he met along the way. This reflection comes off expositional; readers will have already drawn conclusions and noted the lessons learned through his travels. VERDICT Hand to tweens who enjoy magical realism and quest stories. Ziggy's experiences with anxiety and loss will likely resonate with many.--Katharine Gatcomb Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness An anxious sixth-grader spends a night in the desert seeking closure in Brandon Hobson's unconventional and surreal Indigenous adventure, The Storyteller.



#2328029 **Bubble Trouble (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Wendy Wan-Long Shang*

How many problems can a delicious cup of bubble tea cause? Plenty, if you're Chloe Chen. For starters, Chloe wants to go on the class trip to Broadway -- an expense Chloe's not sure she and her dad can afford since her mom passed away -- and those yummy cups of boba cost money. And then there's the fact that the incorrigible Henry

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Lee is the bobamaster at Tea Palace, and when he's not annoying Chloe, he's usually coming up with the perfect drink for every occasion. For Chloe, lover of neatness and control, the arrival of bubble tea is nothing but trouble!

978-1-338-80214-6 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 5.0

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine erious and comedic in this novel about friendship, grief, and tween romance. Musical theater fan Chloe Wong, still grieving the loss of her mother, an ER doctor who died from COVID-19, yearns to attend her middle school's Broadway trip, but she's afraid her widowed inventor father cannot afford the \$375 ticket. Determined to pay her way to New York City, Chloe (with best friend Sabrina's help) brainstorms money-making ideas involving the Tea Palace, where her show tune-hating classmate/sometimes crush, Henry, happens to work. Several screwball events ensue when Chloe gets banned from the tea shop after confronting the local mean girl and eventually starts her own bubble tea business with help from friends and family. (Foodies will enjoy the detailed descriptions of the flavors and bubble tea-making process.) Some of the novel's strongest passages are also the most heartfelt: those focusing on Chloe missing her mother, the kindness Henry shows Chloe, and the epiphany our protagonist reaches at the end. "The house was never going to be like it was with Mom, but we could still have love, just a different kind, with different people and creatures. And happiness. And mistakes." Michelle Lee (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Boba tea may be the source of--and the solution to--this middle schooler's troubles. Twelve-year-old music lover Chloe desperately wants to go on her school's Broadway trip despite the teasing of her classmate Henry, "Mr. I-Hate-Broadway." But the cost for the shows, meals, and transportation is \$375, and ever since Chloe's mom died, her dad has been working from home as an inventor, and she's sure the money's not there. Sabrina, Chloe's best friend, is eager to help her raise the funds, but when it becomes clear that Chloe's not cut out for babysitting and she gets banned from Henry's family's bubble tea shop for disruptive behavior, the two of them, with help from Chloe's new dog, develop a brilliant and delicious moneymaker. This is buoyant fare, touching only lightly on tough topics like grief and financial troubles. Chloe's and Henry's families are Chinese American; Sabrina is Cuban-Latina. Chloe's intense desire for organization and neatness hints at neurodivergence, and while this is not explicitly identified, her family and friends seem to recognize and accommodate her needs. The story's primary and secondary romances are predictable, sweet, and age appropriate. What may linger longest are the fantastic bubble tea descriptions, which will have readers salivating--and curious about the science of popping boba. Indeed, the only thing missing here may be a recipe. Sweet fun. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this lighthearted novel by Shang (The Great Wall of Lucy Wu), an entrepreneurial middle schooler endeavors to make and sell her own boba to raise money for a class trip. Twelve-year-old theater-lover Chloe is ecstatic about her drama class's upcoming field trip to a Broadway show. But while most members of her affluent D.C. neighborhood think nothing of the expense, Chloe hesitates to ask her father for the funds, especially since finances are tight following her mother's death. A messy incident at a local boba shop inspires Chloe to start her own boba business to pay her way. But handling the sticky drinks and bustling business, on top of navigating her stubbornly growing feelings for cute if irksome classmate Henry Lee, is almost more than Chloe can juggle. But help from her tech-savvy dad, best friend Sabrina, and new rescue dog Phineas bring Chloe closer to her goal. Shang has developed a feast for the senses; anyone with a sweet tooth will rejoice at Chloe and Henry's blossoming romance alongside abundant confectionary descriptions. Empathetic depictions of tween friendships, familial relationships, and moving on from loss deepen this quick-moving read. Chloe and Henry are Chinese American; Sabrina is Latinx-cued. Ages 8: 12. (July)



#2330720 Odds (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lindsay Puckett

This is the story of Begonia, who was abandoned at a retirement home when she was a baby. You might think that's the worst thing that could happen to someone, but for Bug, the worst is yet to come.

978-1-338-80381-5 Scholastic Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

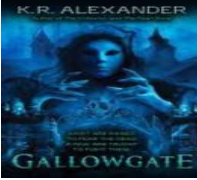
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Growing up in Swamp Root Manor nursing home with 58 magical grandparents may not sound at first like the perfect childhood. But it's the life of prickly, stubborn Begonia Hollowmoor's dreams. In a world divided into Never Odds (regular people) and Odds (anything from a grandma with horns to a grandfather with secret-hearing abilities), she's waiting for her own Oddity to appear before her 11th birthday or face memory-wiping and life in an orphanage with Never Odds. David, the manor's owner and her guardian, is struggling to keep it afloat financially. Worst of all are the ghost attacks leaving residents in a coma-like state. Following a riddle that could awaken her Oddity, Begonia and goofy, passionate 10-year-old Barnabas Montgomery (aspiring mortician, grandson of a resident, and thorn in Begonia's side) set out to save the home she loves. During a quest full of twists and spooky surprises, Begonia figures out who and what she can trust. A narrative voice that breaks the fourth wall to address readers directly is a delightful touch in a story that's unafraid of wry, macabre silliness. Amid some truly creative magic, there's earned emotion, in particular Begonia's experience with chronic pain. Her severe migraines are depicted with compassion

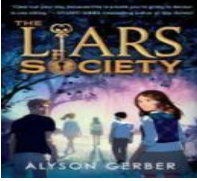
and respect for her agency. Begonia and David read white; Barnabas and his family, which includes his two moms, are Black, and the supporting cast is racially diverse. A rollicking, spooky adventure with a big heart. (Supernatural. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In a world divided between magically gifted Oddities and ordinary Never Odds, a 10-year-old desperately attempts to activate her Oddity ahead of her birthday in this bustling ghost story from Puckett (The Glass Witch). If Begonia Hollowmoor, who experiences intense migraines, fails to do so, she'll be "Odbliterated"; have her memory wiped; before being placed in an orphanage for Never Odds. Begonia stands to lose everything she's ever known, including her 58 pseudo-grandparents; the elderly Odds who live at nursing home Swamp Root Manor, where she was abandoned as a baby. But other events threaten life as Begonia knows it: Swamp Root Manor is in deep financial distress, and an unknown entity has been haunting the estate, resulting in some inhabitants falling into a comatose state. Determined to save her home, Begonia reluctantly teams up with Bass, a resident's 10-year-old grandson, who's also seeking to uncover his power. Employing a sardonic tone that's elevated by a fourth wall: breaking omniscient narrator, Puckett addresses themes of disability, friendship, and mischief. Begonia's experience managing chronic pain is thoughtfully rendered and features heavily throughout, adding a layer of realism to this fast-paced supernatural adventure. Characters are intersectionally diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Samantha Fabien, Root Literary. (Sept.)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#2329244 Gallowgate (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by K. R. Alexander</i> Sebastian Wight is cursed. As a boy with the forbidden ability to traverse the lands of the dead, he must not only harness his newfound powers to fight the monster that stalks him, but also to navigate a creepy world of hunting ghosts and ghouls with his eccentric classmates. 978-1-338-80648-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 12.0</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$18.99</p>

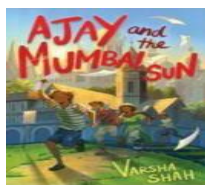
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When Sebastian's ability to see ghosts turns from a secret curse he lives with to a deadly danger, he is thrust into a world where he must learn to hunt what haunts him. Twelve-year-old Sebastian hoped to start over in middle school. Fitting in has always been difficult, especially since he has white hair and can see the spirits of the dead. Sebastian's lone source of comfort and normalcy is his eccentric aunt Dahlia, with whom he has lived since his parents were murdered. Sebastian's hauntings turn violent with the appearance of the terrifying specter he calls the shadowman, but his world is truly upended when Aunt Dahlia reveals his lineage as being one charged with protecting the living world from the departed. No longer safe, Sebastian is sent to Gallowgate Academy for Ætheric Arts to learn the skills he needs to banish the dead and defend himself. There he makes friends and develops a sweet, reciprocated crush on another boy. Sebastian not only learns that his path is different than most, but that the ripple effects of his parents' long-kept secret will put many lives in mortal danger, starting with his own. This is an overall entertaining read with a gothic aesthetic and some loose ends that readers will hope may be resolved in a sequel. Sebastian is implied White; there is some diversity in race and nationality at the academy, and a couple of students use wheelchairs. A dark, fantastical adventure. (Horror. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly ten years ago, 12-year-old Sebastian Wight, who can see ghosts, lives with his aunt Dahlia. When he comes face-to-face with the shadowman, a malevolent entity wearing a porcelain mask and set on capturing him, Aunt Dahlia reveals that Sebastian is an etheric; a being meant to banish evil spirits to the underworld. She sends him to Gallowgate Academy for the etheric Arts to study alchemy, conjuring, necromancy, and summoning. Once friendless Sebastian now finds himself with two pals, classmates who show him the ropes in dealing with poltergeists, banshees, and more. But the shadowman is stronger than the Gallowgate wards, and as the spirit's pursuit of Sebastian grows more harrowing; and Sebastian realizes that the school is hiding secrets about his powers and his past; he must unravel many mysteries to face his foe. Employing myriad magical-school tropes, Alexander (Possess Me) delivers a thrilling fantasy adventure that sets itself apart via its vivid goth aesthetics and use of horror elements that are more squick than scary. Sebastian reads as white; context clues cue racial diversity among the supporting cast. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Brent Taylor, Triada US. (Aug.)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#2366356 Liars Society (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Alyson Gerber</i> Weatherby is a fish out of water. When she lands a scholarship to the prestigious Boston School, she's excited to be in the same world as her dad, whom she's never met, and make real friends. But Weatherby has a secret she'll risk everything to protect, one that could destroy her new life. 978-1-338-85921-8 Scholastic Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$14.99</p>

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Through lying by omission, Weatherby earns a scholarship to an elite school, where she's ready to use her position for the greater good. The Boston School is proud of its sailing team. After Weatherby Walker wins a district regatta, beating Jack Hunt, who comes from one of the Boston School's favored families, she's offered a scholarship on the condition that she sail for the school. The only problem is, Weatherby accidentally used illegal sails that offered her an advantage. She decides not to admit her mistake; she's desperate to attend Boston, her late, estranged father's alma mater--especially since someone recently anonymously mailed her father's old school journal to her. This is just the start of the mysteries and revelations to come, including ones that lay bare her family's history and connections and deceptions by powerful people, all of which threaten ecological disaster. Everyone's lying about something--and some of the lies are deadly. Last Heir, the Boston School's elite secret society, seems designed to support corruption, indoctrinating generations of students and making them complicit. The chapters alternate between Weatherby's and Jack's perspectives; they're both sympathetic characters from whom there's much to learn about friendship and trust. This first entry in a new series sets up a solid premise, with white leads Weatherby and Jack and their somewhat racially diverse schoolmates confronting a powerful system. What happens next is left to be revealed in the sequel. Absorbing intrigue with a cliffhanger ending. (Mystery. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8—After winning a district sailing regatta, public school student Weatherby Walker is offered a full scholarship to the Boston School, the elite private school that her late father attended. The only problem? Weatherby accidentally cheated in the race, and her family's motto is, "Walkers don't lie." Still, she decides not to tell anyone—and quickly comes to find that she's not the only student with a secret. Jack Hunt, a fellow seventh grader whose wealthy family owns the waterproofing company Hunt International, is also hiding a cheating incident, but he's from a family whose motto is, "If you can't get to the top, get to the top anyway." Paired as sailing partners, Jack and Weatherby are soon tapped as candidates for the Last Heir, a secret society. When funds for the annual class trip to Hart Isle are stolen and initiation gambits send them on an investigation, both are desperate to uncover the truth—Jack, because he fears his uncle's involvement, and Weatherby, because her dad's childhood journal details a life-changing trip to Hart Isle with a critical page missing. Told from Jack and Weatherby's alternating perspectives, this is a layered, atmospheric mystery that effectively combines prep school intrigue, environmental issues, sports competition, and explorations of class privilege. The almost otherworldly setting of Hart Isle captivates, and the ending sets up a sequel that readers will be eager to devour. Weatherby and Jack are both cued as white. VERDICT This is an Inheritance Games–style mystery perfect for middle school readers.—Elizabeth Giles



#2328013 Ajay and the Mumbai Sun (Hardcover (Trade))
written by *Varsha Shah*

Abandoned on the Mumbai railways, Ajay has grown up with nothing but a burning wish to be a journalist. And after finding an abandoned printing press, his dreams might just come true. But when he and his friends Saif, Vinod, Yasmin and Jai create their own newspaper, The Mumbai Sun, and begin to hunt down stories to fill their pages, the children uncover a plan to tear down their slum--which will leave hundreds of more people homeless.

978-1-338-87546-1 Chicken House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Abandoned in Mumbai as a young child, Ajay is a quick-witted, resourceful boy who hawks newspapers outside the railway station and dreams of becoming a journalist. When he finds an old printing press, his friends rally to help him start his own newspaper. Saif, an apprentice engineer, overhauls the press. Yasmin, a factory worker, contributes the title design. Ajay discovers the villains behind the building collapse at Jasmin's workplace and discovers that they're plotting to drive out the slum dwellers and build expensive housing on the land. Two more friends--a young chef and an outstanding cricketer--also assist Ajay during the perilous adventures that unfold after he challenges Mumbai's most powerful, greedy, and corrupt public figures. A thoroughly likable hero, Ajay is sometimes discouraged, but he's never down for long. Shah's first novel engages readers with its unusual setting, appealing characters, and exciting action scenes. This fast-paced adventure story is propelled by the young characters' determination to fight for social justice. In England, where the book was originally published in 2022, a sequel is now available. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Ajay can still remember when his mother abandoned him on the Mumbai railways years ago; now at twelve years old (as best he can guess), he has made a life for himself selling newspapers while holding onto his dream of being a reporter. When he stumbles upon an old printing press, Ajay persuades his closest friends to help him create their (his) own newspaper: The Mumbai Sun. Ajay, having faced a lifetime of needing to center himself in order to literally survive, is not always great about sharing, seeing the perspectives of others, or avoiding the temptation to exploit the skills of his friends. These are difficult things to learn while also solving a mystery, writing articles, fighting for justice, planning an epic cricket match, and trying to save his own little corner of the world from corruption, but Ajay soon realizes he needs his pals more than he ever thought. The zippy pace and determined optimism of Ajay are mitigating factors for what is in many ways a bleak look at children's lives in an extremely poor area. Shah does not shy away from describing abject poverty and the ways in which

it drastically constrains possibilities, but the book also offers Ajay as an example of how determination and a resolve to rise above societal constraints can be powerful catalysts for societal change. Readers will likely be happy to know that this UK import already has a published second book in the series, as persistent, brave Ajay and his quirky, gritty friends have surely earned another outing. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ajay, a street kid living in a Mumbai railway station, earns a living by hawking newspapers and longs to become a journalist. A chance meeting with a well-known environmentalist, the discovery of an abandoned printing press, and a whole lot of gumption help Ajay chase his dream. His motley crew of friends--a railway apprentice engineer, an artist, a seasoned cook, and a budding cricketer--get together to start their own paper: The Mumbai Sun. Ajay learns of a plan to raze the neighboring slum and pounds the pavement to get an exclusive scoop that lays bare a diabolical plan by a corrupt nexus of builders and politicians to stage a land grab. With meager resources and goons on their trail, Ajay and his crew use their street smarts to dig deep and uncover hard truths. The fast-paced narrative builds on themes of friendship, loyalty, and underdogs getting the upper hand. However, improbable scenarios, escalating melodrama, and predictable turns mar the storytelling. Awkwardly reworded American idioms ("Compared to finding stories, that was a piece of paratha"), details that feel jarring (in one scene, Ajay hides in a building's air vents, which are uncommon in Mumbai), and references that privilege a Western perspective (Ajay compares making a big discovery to finding Christmas presents) result in a depiction of the city that doesn't ring true. Despite an intriguing premise, weakness in plotting and a lack of nuance hold this Mumbai-set tale back. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly s currently selling newspapers on Mumbai railway platforms to get by, he dreams of becoming a journalist. When he learns of an opportunity to impress Mr. Gupta, editor of the City Paper, Ajay determines to write an article that will convince Mr. Gupta to hire him. But when he goes to deliver his article to Mr. Gupta at a local restaurant, the disgruntled establishment owner tears up his piece, and Mr. Gupta tells Ajay that newspaper sales are declining: "We're firing people, not hiring," he says. Undeterred, Ajay enlists his friends to help create his own paper, the Mumbai Sun, using an abandoned printing press he finds in an alley. Upon discovering that his neighborhood will be sold and demolished by developers, Ajay endeavors to report on it, but his investigation soon imperils him and his friends. While some villain descriptions lean into caricature, short chapters and uncomplicated prose capably propel this largely fresh and fun mystery. By centering enterprising Ajay and his longing to "change the world," Shah delivers a heartfelt debut that tackles issues of housing inequity, financial precarity, and believing in oneself. Ages 8-12. (July) Copyright 2023 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.



#2245581 Ghost of Midnight Lake (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lucy Strange

From award winning author Lucy Strange comes a thrilling ghost story about a strong willed heroine who will follow even the most restless spirit in order to untangles the dark mystery of her own past. It's 1899. The Earl of Gosswater has died, and twelve-year-old Agatha has been cast out of her ancestral home - the only home she has ever known - by her cruel cousin, Clarence. In a tiny tumbledown cottage, she struggles to adjust to her new life and the stranger who claims to be her real father. While adjusting to her new fate, she learns that the shores of Gosswater lake are haunted, and soon comes face to face with the spirit of another young girl who's soul will not rest.

Could the ghost of Gosswater hold the key to Aggie's true identity?

978-1-338-68643-2 *Chicken House* ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This quickly paced gothic tale takes us to England's Lake District, 1899. Twelve-year-old Lady Agatha Asquith's elderly father has just died, and the new Earl of Gosswater, her sleazy cousin Clarence, summarily boots Aggie from her home. Even more outrageously, Aggie is told that the old earl wasn't really her father; in his will he decreed that she now live with her birth father, Thomas, a farmer she has never met. And even as she struggles to adjust to her new status, and learns to respect and trust Thomas, she's pursued and tormented by Clarence. He's certain Aggie knows the whereabouts of the legendary Gosswater opals and will perform any cruelty to get them. The story is stuffed with wintry adventures in small boats, icy treks over mountain passes, rose-fragrant visitations from a ghostly maiden, and ill-advised schemes. Characters are sharp, extreme, and sometimes colorfully eccentric, and the action moves toward an explosive and unpredictable finish. At heart, though, this is the tale of Aggie finding a loving family and friends, at last. Deirdre F. Baker March/April 2022 p.(c) Copyright 2022. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When her life changes overnight, Agatha finds herself in the middle of a ghost story, bravely unraveling her family's hidden truths. It's the turn of the 20th century in England, and 12-year-old Agatha is forced into a new life. Upon her father's death, she is disinherited from Gosswater Hall after learning that she was secretly--and not entirely legally--adopted, and her greedy, malicious cousin, Clarence, is taking over the vast estate. Agatha is sent to live with her biological father in his modest farm cottage, but she's bent on undoing Clarence's evil and fighting for what has been bequeathed to her--the Queen Stone, a priceless family heirloom whose whereabouts are unknown--and discovering the truth about who she is. Strange's writing makes for a compelling read full of vivid descriptions and characters that are well imagined and richly

drawn. Agatha is a strong and capable female lead, vulnerable enough to be believable and brave enough to remake her life. Others, like the midwife and mystic Moll Speedwell, a cantankerous goose named Susan, and Agatha's friend Bryn, are irresistible, lively, fully formed characters. The titular ghost and other atmospheric elements evoke Brontë-an imagery just enough to spook but not terrorize. The story hits the right note thanks to expert plotting and pacing, with each twist and turn setting up what's to come without being overly predictable. Characters are presumed White. A pitch-perfect page-turner. (Historical mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set in England's Lake District in 1899, Strange's (Our Castle by the Sea) gripping riches-to-rags story hearkens back to Victorian classics, employing strong gothic elements alongside matters of inheritance and parenthood. Lady Agatha Asquith, 12, is cast out of her ancestral home when the father she's known, the Earl of Gosswater, dies, and the male heir; Agatha's cruel, recently arrived cousin Clarence; reveals her true lineage. Under the care of her newfound biological father at his small cottage, Agatha struggles to adapt to her new circumstances, tending geese and doing household chores. But she slowly recasts herself as Aggie and befriends orphan Bryn, with whom she sneaks out to explore nearby Skelter Island, where lies the Asquiths' cemetery. The plot thickens when a ghost girl appears and Aggie attempts to find the lost Queen Stone belonging to the Asquith line. Though Clarence proves predictably dastardly, he remains an effective foil throughout, while a spookily atmospheric historical setting; strong friendships among the appealing, presumed-white cast members; and a memorable heroine propel this ghostly mystery. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)



#2333149 Nightmare King (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Daka Hermon

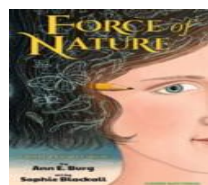
Things haven't been the same since Shane's accident. One minute he was a normal kid playing a game of tag with his friends, and the next he's the boy who came back from the dead. Now, every time Shane falls asleep, he's pulled into a dark world where the evil Nightmare King reigns. The King is collecting children and keeping them as treasure.

978-1-338-77581-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this equally chilling sequel to Hide and Seeker (2020), 12-year-old Shane's determination to pick up his old life in the wake of spending a month in a coma after being hit by a car falls afoul of not only a bullying rival on his school's basketball team but also a weird and sinister "King" who seems to be continuing the game by stalking him through a series of daytime visions and exhausting nightmares. Or are those, along with Shane's memory losses and sudden fits of blind rage, just signs that his mind is far less healed than his scarred body? Hermon keep readers on the edges of their seats waiting for a clear answer as they watch Shane's personality deteriorate on the way to a hard-fought climactic confrontation in, yes, an otherworldly realm. Shane leads a nearly all-Black cast in which loving twin sister, Sadie, and staunch friend/comic-relief provider, Doc, play significant roles. Along with scaring the pants off readers, the tale highlights the value of loyalty and the importance of self-acceptance.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy just wants his old life back, but the Nightmare King has different plans. Twelve-year-old Shane has finally recovered from a game of tag that went tragically wrong, landing him in the hospital with gaps in his memory and scars on his torso. He thinks things are looking up when he is finally cleared to play on the basketball team after having to take a year off. Unable to perform at his previously high skill level, however, Shane begins to doubt himself. To top it off, he starts having terrible nightmares, even worse than the ones he had after his accident. When Shane starts falling asleep at random times, coming to with fresh bruises and objects pulled from his nightmares, his twin sister, Sadie, and best friend, Doc, begin to worry about him. In this novel featuring a central cast that is cued Black, Hermon creates a middle-grade horror world that involves a Nightmare King who collects talented children. Unfortunately, despite the quality of the prose, the story takes a long time to build up to the parts that will get readers spooked. A lot of time is spent dragging out the details of Shane's accident and exploring his self-doubt; readers won't experience any significant creep factor until later in the book and might lose patience hoping for the scary parts to play out. Well-written, but there's a long wait for the scares. (Horror. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2369114 Force of Nature: A Novel of Rachel Carson (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ann E. Burg

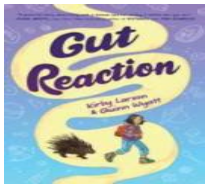
(Novel in Verse) A beautiful and hopeful story of how a young impassioned naturalist grows up to change the world. For everyone who cares about our fragile planet. Rachel was a girl who loved science and the sea books and writing and all the creatures of the world. Rachel was quiet, a listener by nature. But when she saw problems, she could not remain silent.

978-1-338-88338-1 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2024 5 x 8 304 pgs.

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Rachel Carson is particularly well known for 1962's *Silent Spring*, but what led to her writing it? Burg dives into Carson's remarkable mind in this fictionalized biography of her life, including the creation of her most famous work. Young Rachel is enchanted by the natural world and writing, and though her childhood isn't entirely happy, her parents encourage those infatuations. Following her interests to college leads to a fascination with biology, employment with the fish and wildlife department, and a path of environmental discovery that will influence all of her writings. As Carson continually butts up against gender expectations and personal tragedy, she doggedly pursues her passions with determination and grace. The stunning writing, all in verse, effortlessly floats through the details of Carson's life, offering keen observations of the natural world and adding terrific tenderness to Carson's most difficult moments. Interspersed natural drawings and excerpts from field notebooks add a wonderful sense of intimacy and awe. An outstanding ode to both the wonder of the natural world and the incredible woman who loved it so.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In lilting verse, Burg (*Flooded*) writes, "We must always leave nature/ as we find her," quoting Rachel Carson (1907: 1964), a marine biologist, conservationist, and award-winning author credited with launching the modern environmental movement. An early writing phenom enthralled by nature, Carson graduated college with a degree in biology. She received a PhD from Johns Hopkins in 1932 and went on to work as an aquatic biologist for the U.S. Department of Fisheries. Though she sometimes struggled to stand out in the male-dominated field, Carson eventually broke new ground by publishing several works, most notably the National Book Award-winning *Silent Spring*, which fluid text asserts is viewed as being the first to recognize "that unchecked progress wreaks havoc on our planet." Blending biographical detail with Carson's field notes and excerpts from her works, Burg crafts a fictionalized telling of Carson's life, which is accompanied by delicate and realistically rendered b&w illustrations of birds, flowers, and insects by Blackall (*If I Was a Horse*). An author's note expresses the hope that "readers will awaken to the beauty that surrounds us and become thoughtful caretakers of the earth, and recognize, as Rachel did, that we are part of the natural world." Ages 8: 12. (Mar.)



#2369117 **Gut Reaction (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Kirby Larson

Tess Medina is still dealing with the loss of her father when she starts at a new school. One way she is still able to feel close to him is by doing what she does best: baking. He taught her everything she knows. But when tasting her creations causes a deep stabbing pain in her abdomen, she tries to power through and be strong in the same way she powers through her emotional pain.

978-1-338-89313-7 Scholastic Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Tess has a knife in her gut. Not started-a-new-school-for-eighth-grade nerves or misses-her-late-dad emotions but a sharp pain that sends Tess fleeing to the toilet at the most inopportune moments. Tess is a skilled baker, a former finalist in the Jubilee Flour Junior Baker West Coast Competition, and a contender for their tenth anniversary Best of the Best Bake-off. Unfortunately, even her best ginger layer cake can't quiet wry Tess' digestive turmoil and "the Knife," as Tess calls it, which ultimately lands her in the hospital with a diagnosis of Crohn's disease. Debut author Wyatt lends personal insight about living with Crohn's and writes seamlessly with coauthor (and Newbery Honor Book winner) Larson. Baking plays a huge role in Tess' story and frames the plot's empathetic climax, making this a good match for fans of food competition tales like Lily LaMotte's *Measuring Up* (2020) and a natural pairing for Jake Maia Arlow's *The Year My Life Went Down the Toilet* (2023). A frank, sensitive window into life with inflammatory bowel disease and a welcome representation of chronic illness.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eighth grader Tess Medina is wrestling with the death of her father three years prior. She throws herself into baking, hoping it will keep her close to him, since he taught her everything she knows. Maybe it will even score her some friends. When she's invited to compete in the Jubilee Flour 10th Anniversary Junior Baker West Coast competition, though, Tess hesitates. Money is tight enough as it is without trying to afford practice ingredients and other preparation necessities, her grades are so poor her mother might not let her go anyway, and the last time she participated in the competition, her dad died during the event. Complicating matters more is the sharp pain in her stomach that causes Tess discomfort and prompts frequent trips to the bathroom. Bolstered by new friends, Tess starts a dog-walking job and begins preparing for the competition. But as the physical pain worsens, she struggles to continue pretending that everything is okay. Larson (the *Shermy and Shake* series) and debut author Wyatt depict Tess's eventual Crohn's disease diagnosis with empathy and insight inspired by Wyatt's own experiences. Tess's engaging and humorous voice tempers melancholy explorations of grief, as when Tess texts her dad's old phone even as she hides her sadness from her family. Tess defaults to white; supporting characters are racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jill Grinberg, Jill Grinberg Literary. (Mar.)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#2282899 Children of the Quicksands (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Efua Traore

In a remote Nigerian village, thirteen-year-old Simi is desperate to uncover a family secret. Ajao is nothing like Lagos -- no cell phones, no running water or electricity. Not a single human-made sound can be heard at night, just the noise of birds and animals rustling in the dark forest outside. Her witchlike grandmother dispenses advice and herbal medicine to the village, but she's tight lipped about their family history. Something must have happened, but what?

978-1-338-78192-2 *Chicken House* ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 720

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 When Simi has to leave her home in Lagos to stay with her grandmother in a remote village, she isn't happy about being separated from the only life she knows. Simi quickly learns that the village is harboring a secret, one that involves a magical lake and the village's missing children. With the help of her priestess grandmother and new friends, Simi must use her wits to save the village from the ire of warring goddesses and a nefarious, magical bird. Traoré's writing is enchanting, and it immerses readers into the colorful, rich world of Yoruba mythology. Simi is a protagonist readers can root for, while the charming cast of side characters provides the reader with a multitude of personalities to enjoy. Traoré's world building is admirable, easily moving from the cityscape of Lagos to the quaint Ajao to the land where the children of quicksand live. This vibrant and imaginative fantasy celebrates the beauty and complexity of Nigeria and will appeal to fans of mythology-based fantasy adventures. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews estranged grandmother in a remote village and is confronted with family secrets. Thirteen-year-old Simi has only known Lagos--until her mother needs to go to London for work. Her parents are divorced, and Simi can't stay with her perpetually busy father, so she is reluctantly shipped off to spend her summer vacation with her maternal grandmother in Ajao, a remote village with no modern technology. So after her exhausting journey by bus and taxi, Simi goes for a walk and is drawn to go the wrong way--into the forest and toward a forbidden lake, where she is briefly transported to a different world, something she at first believes is a dream. Although her staunchly Christian mother does not want her exposed to the Yoruba gods and goddesses her grandmother follows, Simi later learns a story that is connected to her family about O hun, the river and water goddess. As more children are lured toward the lake, Simi feels compelled to come forward and risk everything to heal the wounds in her family and help the village that has come to feel like home. Traoré's debut is brimming with earnest, admiring details about Yoruba culture and traditions that are woven into the worldbuilding. As Simi's fast-paced adventure unfolds, readers will be swept away by the limited omniscient narration in this plot-driven story with a strong sense of place. A captivating adventure about the strength of love and family. (author's note, glossary) (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When 13-year-old Simi travels from Lagos to the rural Nigerian village of Ajao to spend her summer holidays with Iyanla, the estranged grandmother she's never met, she is not sure how she's going to last two full months without electricity or running water, let alone TV, internet, or phone. But Simi soon discovers that beneath its sleepy surface, Ajao is a town brimming with magic; and a mystery around the forest on the edge of town, in which children seem to disappear. As Simi begins to unravel the tragedies and secrets surrounding Ajao, her mother's never-discussed past, and the forbidden lake in the forest's heart, a mystical golden bird tempts more and more children to stray from home. Alongside her wise and esteemed grandmother and a few new friends, Simi searches for answers and bravely risks it all to make Ajao; and her family; whole again. Sleekly weaving together otherworldly occurrences, elements of the hero's journey, and Yoruba legend in vivid, place-centered prose, this action-packed debut from Traore will keep readers engaged in the mysteries of Ajao. An author's note and glossary of Yoruba words conclude. Ages 8: 12. (July)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.99



#2252500 Christmas Pig (Hardcover (Trade))

written by J. K. Rowling

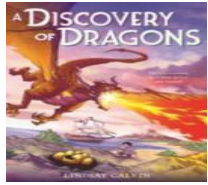
Jack loves his childhood toy, Dur Pig. DP has always been there for him, through good and bad. Until one Christmas Eve something terrible happens -- DP is lost. But Christmas Eve is a night for miracles and lost causes, a night when all things can come to life... even toys. And Jack's newest toy -- the Christmas Pig (DP's replacement) -- has a daring plan: Together they'll embark on a magical journey to seek something lost, and to save the best friend Jack has ever known...

978-1-338-79023-8 *Scholastic, Incorporated* ©2021 6 x 9 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 850

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 7-year-old descends into the Land of the Lost in search of his beloved comfort object. Jack has loved Dur Pig long

enough to wear the beanbag toy into tattered shapelessness--which is why, when his angry older stepsister chucks it out the car window on Christmas Eve, he not only throws a titanic tantrum and viciously rejects the titular replacement pig, but resolves to sneak out to find DP. To his amazement, the Christmas Pig offers to guide him to the place where all lost Things go. Whiffs of childhood classics, assembled with admirable professionalism into a jolly adventure story that plays all the right chords, hang about this tale of loss and love. Along with family drama, Rowling stirs in fantasy, allegory, and generous measures of social and political commentary. Pursued by the Land's cruel and monstrous Loser, Jack and the Christmas Pig pass through territories from the Wastes of the Unlamented, where booger-throwing Bad Habits roam, to the luxurious City of the Missed for encounters with Hope, Happiness, and Power (a choleric king who rejects a vote that doesn't go his way). A joyful reunion on the Island of the Beloved turns poignant, but Christmas Eve being "a night for miracles and lost causes," perhaps there's still a chance (with a little help from Santa) for everything to come right? In both the narrative and Field's accomplished, soft-focus illustrations, the cast presents White. Plays to Rowling's fan base; equally suited for gifting and reading aloud or alone. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2231346 Discovery of Dragons (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lindsay Galvin

It's 1835. Cabin boy Simon Covington is on the voyage of a lifetime to the Galapagos Islands with the world-famous scientist, Charles Darwin. But when Simon falls overboard during a huge storm, he washes up on an unexplored island. Stranded there, he makes a discovery that could change the world.

978-1-338-71444-9 Chicken House ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleven-year-old Syms Covington is the ship's fiddler and naturalist Charles Darwin's assistant as they voyage on the HMS Beagle. Their journey takes them to the Galápagos Islands, where Darwin finds evidence that leads to his theory of natural selection. While all the characters in the story are based on real people, Galvin spins this historical foundation into an imagined adventure. Rowing back to the Beagle after collecting specimens, Darwin is tossed overboard by a sudden storm. Syms jumps in to save him but is swept away, washing up on another one of the Galápagos Islands, half drowned, with no supplies, and surrounded by empty ocean. Six adventure-filled days later, in which, among other things, Syms is befriended by an intelligent lizard he dubs Farthing and survives a volcanic eruption, he is rescued by the crew of the Beagle. But now Syms has a secret that he tells only Darwin--who doesn't believe him--and as events transpire, Syms must choose between loyalty to his employer or his principles. Originally released in the United Kingdom as Darwin's Dragons (2021) with a much more original and appealing cover that better reflects the contents, this terrific novel effectively uses history as a backdrop for both entertaining readers and posing questions about science and society. Characters are cued as White. A rip-roaring adventure exploring themes of friendship, loyalty, and bravery. (author's note, list of characters and places, author interview, timeline, reading list) (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2349676 Plot to Kill a Queen (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Deborah Hopkinson

Emilia Bassano is a girl who relishes the music of words. Although she plays the lute and writes poetry, Emilia nurtures a dream: to hear her words come alive on stage.

Emilia wants to write soliloquies for heroes and kings and queens of old, fashion fierce villains to make audiences howl, and try her hand at comedy and romance. Most of all, she wants to create unforgettable women characters.

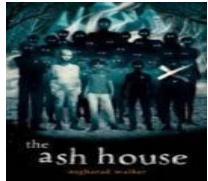
978-1-338-66058-6 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist The imprisonment of Mary, Queen of Scots and the conspiracies against Elizabeth I come to life in this middle-grade novel for fans of theater, Elizabethan England, and smart female protagonists. Emilia Bassano has grown up at court, raised there after her father's death, but when the Queen's spymaster needs her help, she goes undercover as a lute player to play for the imprisoned queen. In between attempts to write her own play, Emilia embarks on a quest to save her queen that unfolds scene by scene, act by act. While there is a mystery in the plot, the theatrical air of the narrative, filled with asides and scene setting, takes prominence and will entice readers interested in the period or theater in general. Somewhat clunky pacing distracts, but the historical intrigue, espionage themes, and Renaissance setting will appeal to fans of Karen Cushman's classic *The Midwife's Apprentice*. Back matter offers more information on the real figures that inspired Hopkinson's characters, as well as the text of Emilia's fictional play, *The Princess Saves the Cakes*.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A 13-year-old stumbles upon a royal murder plot in this standout historical novel from Hopkinson (Race Against Death), written in three acts and set in 1623. The literary curtain opens as lute player and aspiring playwright Emilia Bassano; one of many characters based on 16th-century historical figures; sneaks away from court disguised as a servant boy to see a public performance, and encounters theater hopeful William Shakespeare. This act of daring persuades Emilia's guardian, Queen Elizabeth's spymaster, to send her on a mission to gather intelligence at Sheffield Castle, the court of the imprisoned Mary, Queen of Scots. Under the alias Emily Hughes, free-roaming Emilia spies on Queen Mary's court and encounters a plot against Queen Elizabeth. Breaking down elements of drama and spycraft, this carefully researched, jam-packed read offers insight into layers of historical power and influence while humorously rendering asides on feminism and social issues of the period. It's a bustling theatrical romp worthy of a standing ovation. Extensive back matter includes historical notes, a timeline, and one-act play "The Princess Saves the Cakes." Characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)



#2210042 Ash House (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Angharad Walker

The children at the Ash House want the new boy to love their home as much as they do. They give him a name like theirs. They show him the dorms and tell him about the wonderful oasis that the Headmaster has created for them. But the new boy already has a name. Doesn't he? At least he did before he walked through those gates...

978-1-338-63631-4 *Chicken House* ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 640

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-9 None of the children at the Ash House has seen anyone new join their number, which makes the arrival of 11-year-old Sol a particularly exciting event. For Sol--short for Solitude, the name bestowed upon him there--the place is shrouded in mystery, but he has been promised that someone there will be able to cure him of the excruciating pains that frequently shoot through his back. Sol is received by Dom (Freedom), a kind boy who shows Sol the ropes, describes the headmaster (currently away) with adoration, and explains that all the children at the Ash House are named for a Niceness--the positive virtues that guide their conduct. Debut author Walker effectively builds an atmospheric, frightening story, tinged with just enough of the supernatural to make Sol, and so the reader, question his sanity. Aptly promoted as an intersection of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children and Lord of the Flies, due to its curiosities and the absence of adults, this dread-filled novel is a strong addition to tween horror collections and where Frances Hardinge is popular. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When the new boy arrives at the Ash House, he expects to find someone who can help cure the debilitating back pain that began after his parents died in a house fire. Instead he meets a peculiar group of kids who've never left the property, and he only manages to make one friend, Freedom ("Dom"), from whom he acquires the name Solitude ("Sol"). The residents are governed by Niceness and eager to please their beloved, long-absent Headmaster. Being ill at the heavily surveilled Ash House draws unwanted attention from the unstable and dangerous Doctor, whose surgical intervention renders Sol unable to walk, and as Sol pushes at the Ash House's secrets and restrictions, the Doctor's controls move from subtle to overt savagery. This is an impressive first novel that slowly unfolds its brilliant twists and deceptions as chapters shift focalization between Dom and Sol. The book deftly builds its strange dystopian world of ash and smoke and desperate cooperation, and readers will quickly grasp that something is amiss even behind that front; the note of disturbance is an ever-growing hum until it finally bursts into full-on horror. Walker cleverly leaves the reality of the events a question mark, with evidence plentiful for this being Sol's mental concoction but also for this being a gothic reality, and the teasing ending will allow readers to argue with conviction for either interpretation. This selection would make an excellent option for close reading and developing analytical skills, and it'll be a must for educators looking to spark a classroom debate. Readers will sit back and revel in the uncertainty. QB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy arrives at a new school where he hopes to be healed of a mysterious condition that causes him insufferable pain. The Ash House isn't an ordinary school: It is literally made of ash, and the dorm is an old but verdant greenhouse. The Headmaster has been gone for three years, leaving no adults around, yet the children hold on to the hope that he will return. They have no recollection of anything before they arrived at the Ash House, and each has been named after Nicenesses, positive attributes that they are expected to possess such as Concord, Happiness, Temperance, and Liberty. The new boy, who can't remember his outside name, becomes Solitude. Initially, the students are wary of Sol, but with help from his new friend, Freedom--Dom for short--the others warm to him. Then the Doctor arrives. The Doctor claims he can cure Sol, but the children quickly discover he is pure Nastiness. As the children struggle to free themselves from the Doctor's tightening grip, they discover that Courage is the only Niceness that matters. Chapter headings helpfully indicate when the third-person narration switches between Sol's and Dom's perspectives. Action scenes unfold slowly at times, but when they're intense, they're nail-bitingly so, encouraging readers to push through to the satisfyingly ambiguous conclusion. Assume Whiteness for all. An unexpected--and pleasing--combination of propitious and disquieting. (Mystery. 11-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Debut author Walker spins a tense tale of abuse and neglect that centers on a brown-skinned foster child's arrival at an imposing, smoke-drenched mansion made of ash. After being sent from a hospital to the Ash House, a boy dubbed Solitude, who experiences back pain and seizures, struggles to fit in with the institution's other children. The kids live on their own in service of rigid, moralistic "Nicenesses"; taking on virtuous names such as Freedom, educating themselves using prerecorded lectures, maintaining the grounds, and tethering their lives to

an unbreakable "web of habits and rules"; while longing for their absent Headmaster and dreading the cold and pitiless Doctor's reappearance. Sol bristles at the others' inflexibility, resulting in acrimony and accusations of "nastiness," but when the Doctor returns and Sol is the subject of a medical procedure gone awry, a brutal act with which the group has some experience, he must persuade his reluctant new acquaintances to escape, braving birdlike drones and lantern-eyed creatures en route to the outside world. Simultaneously bleak, moving, and unsettling, Walker's immersive story slowly reveals its secrets, using tension as a lever to tip the reader deep into the Ash House's mysteries. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—The Ash House is a place with a strict moral code that expects Nicenesses and shuns Nastiness, and the child residents seem to have deeply internalized these lessons and have no knowledge of the outside world. An orphaned boy, taken from a hospital, is dropped at the gates of Ash House, where he is renamed Solitude (Sol). The Headmaster has been gone for three years, and the strain is showing on the children who are surviving on their own in decrepit conditions while they live in fear of visits from the Doctor. Twists and turns abound as Sol tries to understand what is happening, find relief from his debilitating mysterious physical pain, and figure out how to help his new community. Sol, with his fresh perspective and outsider knowledge, shakes things up. The children must figure things out on their own as all the adults in the book are either threats or unhelpful. A dreamlike, hazy, ominous atmosphere is created with the story and the book design. The house and grounds are ethereal and seem alive with potential healing qualities, shifting locations, and dangers. The narrative effectively alternates point of view between Sol, who is described as having brown skin, and the pale-skinned brunette child who befriends him, Dom (Freedom). **VERDICT** This creepy story will appeal to readers who are drawn to the unexplained and all things foreboding in its exploration of memory, reality, truth, found family, and survival.—Erin Wyatt, Highland M.S., Libertyville, IL



#2283723 Hummingbird (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Natalie Lloyd

Twelve-year-old homeschooled Olive is tired of being seen as "fragile" just because she has osteogenesis imperfecta (otherwise known as brittle bone disease) so she's thrilled when she finally convinces her parents to let her attend Macklemore Elementary. Olive can't wait to go to a traditional school and make the friends she's always longed for, until a disastrous first day dashes her hopes of ever fitting in.

978-1-338-65458-5 Scholastic Press ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 610

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Book Page From the very first page of Natalie Lloyd's *Hummingbird*, the unforgettable spirit of 12-year-old Olive Miracle Martin shines.

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* Born with incurable brittle bone disease, 12-year-old Olive has done well with homeschooling, but she longs to attend middle school and hopes to make at least one good friend there. After she promises to use her wheelchair at school, and Hatch, her stepbrother and soon-to-be classmate, reluctantly agrees to help Olive, her parents give consent. Immediately, a storm of white "feather-snow" begins outdoors, heralding a phenomenon from local lore: a hummingbird will soon appear to certain people in their Tennessee community and grant their wishes. In the drama group at school, Olive and her new friend, Grace, prepare for a play. Along with Hatch, they begin to search for the hummingbird. Each has a cherished wish, but when magic intersects with reality, odd things happen. With eccentric family members, a distinctive setting, and a supernatural element that is strangely believable within this otherwise realistic story, there's a lot to love here. Inspired by Lloyd's childhood experiences and disability, Olive's first-person narrative transports readers into her world, from the ordeal of a bone break to the triumph of a transformative stage performance. Her active mind, wit, and unerring sense of what matters make this a memorable novel, and the strikingly beautiful jacket art will surely draw readers. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Wildwood, Tennessee's own Olive Miracle Martin is a girl of great, sparkly confidence and passions. She loves her oddball family, church, writing, birding, her wheelchairs, and the idea of attending Macklemore Middle School after years of being home-schooled. Macklemore is the land of her hopes, full of potential friends and wild adventures, yet her osteogenesis imperfecta makes the prospect a challenge. While navigating new social mores and finding her niche within the quirky theater crowd, Olive and intrepid new friend Grace Cho hunt for the local hummingbird said to grant one fantastical wish. In a town where vividly described magic is taken as a point of fact and white feathers fall from the sky like snow, Olive's fairy-tale wish is for bones like steel, not glass. Now she must contend with the question of whether she should--or even wants to--be anyone but who she already is. Olive can lean a tad pitch-perfect, and the world Lloyd builds is at times saccharine, but the energetic first-person narration, interspersed with Olive's thoughts in free verse, is full of bold personality. Refreshingly, her obstacles don't come from being a wheelchair user but from navigating an inaccessible world. Her grappling with fears and bold dreams offers a rare depiction of physical disability that is allowed to be both complicated and empowering. The book follows a White default; Grace is described as East Asian. A spirited tale of self-belief. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Lloyd (*Over the Moon*) puts character development center stage as a sixth grader who uses a wheelchair enters the spotlight thanks to a school play and small-town magic. After years of being homeschooled due to her osteogenesis imperfecta, 11-year-old birder Olive Martin enrolls in a Tennessee middle school to meet her "future BFF" and prove that she's "more/ than bones and wheels/ and

breakable parts." Learning of her brittle bones, classmates initially treat Olive "like a stick of dynamite." When she subsequently hears about a rare hummingbird that grants wishes to seekers who decipher its riddle, an uncomfortable new desire surfaces: "bones like steel." Teaming up with entrepreneurial classmate Grace Cho, Olive races to crack the riddle while wrestling with thorny self-image questions; soon realizing that other classmates also have "a wish tucked deep in soul." Olive's sparkly personality roars to life through assured first-person narration, metaphors rooted in the natural world, and simple yet piercing free verse that distills her self-revelations. An author's note acknowledges the diversity of disability experiences ("as unique as that individual's heart or fingerprints") and connects Lloyd's lived experiences to Olive's candid emotional arc. Protagonists cue as white; secondary characters represent multiple skin tones, ethnicities, and conditions. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Suzie Townsend, New Leaf Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--In her latest novel, Lloyd calls on personal experiences to create a realistic and magical adventure for middle grade readers. Twelve-year-old Olive has been homeschooled her entire life. She has osteogenesis imperfecta (also known as brittle bone disease) and uses a wheelchair, and her mother has always feared for her to leave the nest--but Olive is determined to go to public school and make a friend. When her mother relents and Olive starts public school for the first time, she must deal with so much more than she bargained for. Then she hears about a magical hummingbird that grants wishes, and it seems like finding this creature will be the answer to all her problems. With a few new companions along the way, Olive tries to discover the secrets of the hummingbird. This is an uplifting story for readers who enjoy realistic settings with magical threads. Olive is developed beautifully as a main character, giving older elementary and middle school readers plenty to relate to and love. The authentic voice that Lloyd crafts in Olive shines throughout the book. VERDICT A must-have for any elementary school or middle school library, this magical and heartening novel will keep readers engaged until the end. A perfect fit for fans of realistic fiction and fantasy alike.--Elizabeth Pelayo Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A bold, lively narrator with brittle bone disease stars in this whimsical, heartwarming story that's laced with magic.



#2161758 Eight Princesses and a Magic Mirror (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Natasha Farrant

"Mirror, mirror on the wall . . . what makes a princess excellent?" When an enchantress flings her magic mirror into our universe, its reflection reveals princesses who refuse to be just pretty, polite, and obedient. These are girls determined to do the rescuing themselves.

978-1-324-01556-7 *W. W. Norton & Company, Incorporated* ©2020 6 x 8-1/2 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 880

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Strung loosely together under the premise that an enchantress is using a magic mirror to learn about princesses all around the world and throughout time, eight lovely short stories are presented in a way that feels at once fresh and familiar. Each princess featured is the sort who saves herself, and some of the stories hint just enough at a classic tale that readers will feel completely at home. Female friendships and empowerment, diversity as a given, and Corry's gorgeous, full-color watercolor illustrations deliver the whole package. Digestible in bits or all at once, this is one that readers will return to over and over again for inspiration. As the book closes, the enchantress asks the magic mirror to tell her what it learned about being an excellent princess. Its reply is that they are "brave and fierce and loyal, with big dreams, and even bigger hearts, and such a thirst for the world." In short, they are "excellent people."

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books An enchantress, delighted to be named godmother to a royal baby but a bit perplexed by the task, sends her magic mirror out into the world to find out what it means to be an excellent princess. The mirror observes eight (fictional) princesses across time whose acts of character range from rescuing their sisters and kingdoms, keeping unusual pets, and sailing the seas to baking bread, finding a place to belong, and saving a beloved community garden. Each princess' tale has a light, pragmatic tone that generally keeps it from being prescriptive, and readers will enjoy spotting diverse folkloric influences. As they highlight many kinds of excellent princesshood, the tales emphasize community and cross-generational cooperation while taking humorous jabs at destructive, hypermasculine cliches, especially in the tale of Heloise and a healer witch ("What would you do if a knight were wounded in battle?" "Leave him to die, probably"). Corry's generous illustrations, with folk art influences evident in the botanical accents and flat compositions, frame and punctuate the text. (A crocodile is particularly delightful in his gently mottled blue-green hide, ungainly rounded angles, and cutely pointy snout.) This is an enjoyable addition to a princess collection, and it would pair well with Jessie Burton's *The Restless Girls* (BCCB 2/19). FHK

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide The framing structure for this collection of princess stories is elaborate. When an enchantress is invited to be the godmother to a princess, she realizes that she doesn't know what qualities a true princess should embody, so she sends her magic mirror on a quest, across the world and across centuries, to observe princesses and come up with a definition of princess-ly excellence. As the enchantress loses and finds the mirror, we move from one folktale-inflected setting to another -- medieval Europe, North Africa, Scotland, the Amazon -- all reminiscent of the old-fashioned tradition of "fairy tales from many lands," there as here unsourced. The eight stories feature heroic princesses who are physically brave, rebellious, cheeky, intellectually curious, empathetic, and attuned to the natural world. They save their communities from attack,

they rescue those in peril, they stand up for themselves, they speak truth to power. They find satisfaction, acceptance, and love. The writing is jaunty, and the lushly illustrated and decorated pages are full of movement, detail, and character. The point here is obviously an antidote to the glitter-and-big-hair trope of the pop-culture princess, but the illustrator does throw a sop to princess enthusiasts with her generous use of pink. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ight princesses together. The princess glut in today's media--especially the contemporary threads of the "girl power" ones, such as the entrepreneurial Tiana in Disney's Princess and the Frog and the warrior princesses like said studio's Mulan and Merida from Brave--might make readers roll their eyes at another. However, the author ties this enchanting European-heavy multicultural cast of preteen royalty together through the narrative device of a confidence-boosting enchanted mirror. It all begins when the looking glass, which once hung on an enchantress's wall, flippantly tells its owner that it knows nothing about princesses' attributes. The enchantress shrinks the mirror to compact-size and sends it on a time- and alternate-world-spanning adventure to places coded, from the characters' names such as Héloïse and Ellen Leila al'Aqbar, Abayome, Tica, Anya, and Zarah, and other details, as continental Europe, War and Peace-era Russia and Paris, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and New York City. The author deftly weaves the arc of the mirror's fantastic journey into each girl's journey of self-discovery, from becoming a nation's herbal healer to an anti-gentrification activist. Best of all, though the mirror is a device, it is not a gimmick thanks to the author's engaging plot and the illustrator's evocatively playful, full-colored drawings that border each story. These tales are enchanting in both their realness and their whimsy. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Filled with varied expressions of what it means to excel, culturally diverse fairy tale imaginings by Farrant (The Children of Castle Rock) pair with Corry's naïf-style illustrations to present a series of episodic stories bound together by a single object. When an enchantress employs her magic mirror to discern, for her goddaughter's benefit, the ways to become an "excellent princess," the mirror; made pocket-size; visits young women in various locales and eras, all of whom are people who get things done. Princess Heloise undertakes a forest quest to save her sickly sister, Princess Tica must decide how to handle a beloved crocodile, and Princess Abayome's world is upended by her father's new wife. From Russian royalty fallen on hard times to a young activist living in a concrete apartment building, each must identify what makes her unique and use those traits to overcome her obstacles. Joyful retellings of time-honored fairy tales to inspire and challenge a new generation. Ages 9: 12. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--"What makes a princess excellent?" an enchantress ponders when she is asked to be godmother to a royal princess. When her enchanted mirror cannot give her a satisfactory answer, she shrinks it down to compact size. She then sends it out into the world to be her eyes and ears as it observes princesses across lands and centuries, in order to decide on the right gift for the newborn. As the mirror travels, it is lost, found, and both treasured and ignored for many years by eight different princesses. There is Heloise, who uses the magic in the mirror to become a great healer and save her dear sister's life; Laila, who bravely saves her father's kingdom from an enemy's attack; and Saoirse, who discovers her true talent is collecting stories for future generations. Each princess possesses inner strength and tenacity, refuting the notion that princesses must be merely fair and obedient. There are through lines connecting each tale, and when the mirror finally returns to the enchantress, it relates all that it has seen. It informs the enchantress that it is not through titles or being gifted by others that true princesses emerge; it is integrity, dedication, and self-awareness. Even readers who eschew fairy tales will find adventure and sweet surprise in these tales of royals who rebel against the stereotypes of their position. Prominent throughout the stories are Corry's whimsical color illustrations. The fanciful drawings bring characters and landscape to life, and they are a delightful accent to the tales. VERDICT Readers will find these stories of brave, determined young ladies inspirational as well as engaging.--Carol Connor, Cincinnati Public Schools Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2180167 Distress Signal (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mary E. Lambert

Lavender's class is on a field trip in the desert of Chiricahua National Park, hiking down a ravine, when a flash flood strikes! As the water hurtles down the ravine, everyone sprints for safety. Lavender runs in the opposite direction as the rest of her class and scrambles up a tree while the torrential river rages by.

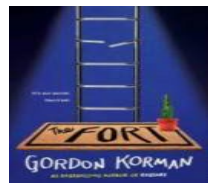
978-1-338-60744-4 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Lavender has been looking forward to the sixth grade field trip to Chiricahua National Park in Arizona. The class will go on hikes and stargaze with the newly purchased class telescope. Plus, she'll get three days of hanging out with her best friend, Marisol. However, nothing is going to plan; Marisol is ignoring her and spending time with mean girl Rachele. When the class accidentally goes off trail, Lavender decides to prank Rachele so Marisol will see Rachele's true colors. Then she hears a flash flood warning on her ham radio, and while the rest of her class escapes, Lavender, Rachele, Marisol, and fellow student John get separated from the group. With no signal to call for help, limited water, and no maps, the students must work together to survive, while overcoming their friendship drama. The story is easy to read with a straightforward plot, and Lambert skillfully hooks readers with compelling chapter endings. The friend drama among the three girls is authentic for their ages, but some readers may find the meanness once they are in a survival situation, unrealistic. VERDICT Readers who enjoyed

Rebecca Behrens's *The Disaster Days* or Watt Key's *Deep Water* will enjoy Lambert's blend of survival themes, focus on teamwork, and friendship drama in her fast-paced plot. Fans of Dusti Bowling's *The Canyon's Edge* will also find the similar wilderness and survival themes intriguing.—
Kaetlyn Phillips, Yorkton, Sask.



#2281020 Fort (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gordon Korman

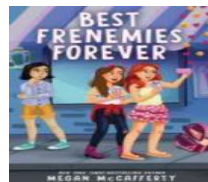
The morning after Hurricane Leo rips through the town of Canaan, residents awaken to widespread destruction -- power outages, downed branches, uprooted trees, broken windows and damaged roofs. Four eighth-grade friends -- Evan, Jason, Mitchell, and CJ -- meet to explore the devastation. Ricky is the one to find the strange trap door that's appeared in the middle of the woods -- the door to an old bomb shelter, unearthed by the hurricane. Things soon get tense. Some bad locals keep snooping around. And what started out as a fun place to escape soon becomes a serious refuge for one of the kids who is trying to avoid an abusive home situation. In order to save the shelter, the friends must keep its secret... and in order to save themselves, they're going to have to share their individual secrets, and build the safest place they can.

978-1-338-62914-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A gaggle of eighth graders find the coolest clubhouse ever. Fulfilling the fantasies of anyone who's ever constructed a fort in their bedroom or elsewhere, Korman hands his five middle schoolers a fully stocked bomb shelter constructed decades ago in the local woods by an eccentric tycoon and lost until a hurricane exposes the entrance. So, how to keep the hideout secret from interfering grown-ups--and, more particularly, from scary teen psychopath Jaeger Devlin? The challenge is tougher still when everyone in the central cast is saddled with something: C.J. struggles to hide injuries inflicted by the unstable stepdad his likewise abused mother persists in enabling; Jason is both caught in the middle of a vicious divorce and unable to stand up to his controlling girlfriend; Evan is not only abandoned by drug-abusing parents, but sees his big brother going to the bad thanks to Jaeger's influence; Mitchell struggles with OCD-fueled anxieties and superstitions; and so forth. How to keep a story overtaxed with issues and conflicts from turning into a dreary slog? Spoiler alert: Neither the author nor his characters ultimately prove equal to the challenge. With the possible exception of Ricky Molina, one of the multiple narrators, everyone seems to be White. A terrific premise buried beneath problem-novel tropes. (resources, author's note) (Fiction. 11-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2271944 Best Frenemies Forever (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Megan McCafferty

Sophie Dailey is NOT looking forward to starting middle school. For one thing, she doesn't look like other kids. Instead of trendy tank tops, she wears high tech shirts that block UV rays. (Sun protection is serious business!) Sophie is comfortable with who she is and doesn't want to change. Sophie can't believe Kaytee wants to spend the last days of summer with her. Determined to keep Kaytee as a friend, Sophie lies about her social status, claiming to be besties with Morgan and Ella. As long as Kaytee attends Villa Academy--a private school on the other side of town--she'll never find out her first friend in New Jersey is a loser. But can any friendship built on lies survive seventh grade?

978-1-338-72249-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

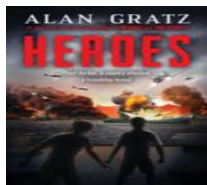
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Sophie befriends her new neighbor, hoping Kaytee will never learn why she was deserted by Ella, her former best friend. Sophie's been lonely the whole summer, but little does she suspect that bubbly Kaytee also has secrets. Kaytee's parents are sending her and her twin brother to private schools, so Sophie feels safe lying about her popularity. In reality, Ella was wooed away by mean girl Morgan in sixth grade, and now "MorganElla" are joined at the hip, excluding and being unkind to Sophie. Everything starts to fall apart when Kaytee, who is miserable at her private school, transfers to Sophie's public school. Sophie--smart, science-oriented, and a budding feminist--has no interest in clothes, makeup, boys, or social media. Kaytee acts more like the popular girls, but there is a part of her ocean- and dolphin-loving self that genuinely likes Sophie. Still, practical Sophie, generally good-hearted, is not above considering blackmail after she learns her neighbor's well-kept secret. The middle school friendship problems in this novel ring true, but some of Sophie's first-person narration feels artificial. Readers will tire of

frequent pronouncements from Sophie's social worker mother and environmental scientist father. Most characters default to White; names cue some minor characters as Asian or Latinx. Seventh grade friendship issues loom large in this novel that doesn't stand out from the crowd. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Sophie, newly best-friendless, is wading through a lonely summer and dreading seventh grade when confident neighbor Kaytee moves in. Sophie is delighted that Kaytee wants to be friends, especially since Kaytee is going to attend a private school; Kaytee will never know that Sophie has been ditched by her former best friend and is the target of ongoing bullying by the popular, social media-savvy squad that her former friend has joined. Sophie's guilt-inducing small lies about being popular morph into more complicated ones as the groups of girls encounter each other and Kaytee eventually switches to Sophie's school. Sophie knows she is awkward, but doesn't know how to change it. She admires Kaytee's "cool girl confidence" and convinces herself that "what Kaytee doesn't know will only help our friendship grow." Kaytee has her own embarrassing past, the truth of which slowly unfolds. Sophie takes advantage of this secret before the girls ultimately reconcile. This is a sequel in the "Mercer Middle School" series, but can stand alone for new readers. The girls' friendship rings true, as do the instances of bullying and the lingering hurt of a friendship ending unexpectedly. Even with short chapters, the story occasionally lags, and the heavy-handedness of Sophie's parents' beliefs occasionally get in the way of the story, despite playing a part in Sophie's own mindset. Most characters are cued as white. VERDICT Despite some shortcomings, the always-relevant topic of friendship drama makes this title an acceptable choice where there is need.--Laura Stiles Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2366355 Heroes: a Novel of Pearl Harbor (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alan Gratz

December 6, 1941: Best friends Frank and Stanley have it good. Their dads are Navy pilots stationed at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and the boys get a front-row view of the huge battleships and the sparkling water. Yes, World War II is raging in Europe and in Asia, but the US isn't involved in the war, and the boys are free to dream about becoming comic book creators. (The book ends with an all-original, 10-page black & white comic that brings to life the comic book idea that Frank and Stanley brainstorm in the novel. The comic is written by Alan Gratz and illustrated by Judit Tondora.)

978-1-338-73607-6 Scholastic Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Pearl Harbor, December 6, 1941. It's another day in paradise for white 13-year-old Frank McCoy and his best friend, Japanese American Stanley Summers, united by their love of the comics they create together. For Frank, though, the perfection is compromised by a closely guarded secret: he's been afraid of everything since what he calls The Incident (he was mauled by a dog and has the scars to prove it). The next day, December 7, a seaman invites the boys to tour the decommissioned battleship Utah. They eagerly accept and are aboard when paradise becomes hell as a wave of Japanese planes attacks, destroying the entire American fleet in the harbor. In a thrilling, white-knuckle set piece, Gratz (Captain America: The Ghost Army, 2023) recreates the attack and Frank's and Stanley's harrowing experience of it. Just surviving tests the boys' mettle, as Frank swallows his fears and rescues a drowning seaman, becoming, at least for a while, a hero. Gratz does his usual splendid job of creating the visceral drama of battle alongside fully realized characters. He handles the theme of heroism well, while not straying into the didactic, and is especially good at depicting the enduring friendship of the two boys as, together, they experience the date that will live in infamy.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set during the attack on Pearl Harbor that drew the U.S. into WWII, this tensely wrought, propulsive historical novel by Gratz (Two Degrees) centers the compelling friendship between 13-year-old aspiring writer Frank McCoy and illustrator Stanley Summers, who are brainstorming their own comic book characters. The pair live in the seemingly idyllic Ford Island Naval Air Station in Pearl Harbor, where their fathers are stationed. Frank harbors secret anxiety surrounding his perceived lack of courage, especially evident when he avoids helping Stanley confront bullies, which prompts Stanley to ask, "How do you think you can write about heroes if you can't be one yourself?" These paralyzing fears come into stark relief when, while the pair are on a battleship tour, Japanese planes begin bombing unsuspecting military targets. After diving from a sinking ship, the friends struggle to reach home amid violence, chaos, and death. Though the novel's tone is sometimes uneven and text can read as didactic, Gratz sensitively handles characters' suspicion of Stanley surrounding his Japanese American heritage, and offers a gripping, well-researched account of courage and friendship in this powerful depiction of American racism and imprisonment. Back matter includes a comic book created by Frank and Stanley and an author's note. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)

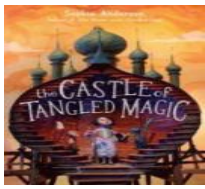
#2271943 Castle of Tangled Magic (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sophie Anderson

Twelve-year-old Olia knows a thing or two about secrets. Her parents are the caretakers of Castle Mila, a soaring palace with golden domes, lush gardens, and

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$17.99

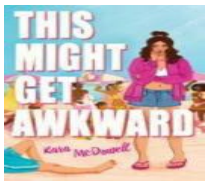


countless rooms. Literally countless rooms. She has a special bond with the castle, and it seems to trust her with its secrets. But then a violent storm rolls in . . . a storm that skips over the village and surrounds the castle, threatening to tear it apart. While taking cover in a rarely-used room, Olia stumbles down a secret passage that leads to a part of Castle Mila she's never seen before. A strange network of rooms that hide the secret to the castle's past . . . and the truth about who's trying to destroy it.
 978-1-338-74621-1 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 860

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Olia is no princess, but she lives in Castle Mila with her baby sister, grandmother, and parents, who are the castle's caretakers. After a fierce storm breaks part of the castle's main dome, Olia embarks on a magical journey with the house's guardian spirit into another realm to try and save the structure. The realm is full of spirits and creatures beyond her imagination, and, to her dismay, she learns that it, too, is in danger of destruction. Anderson describes the fantasy world beautifully, with engaging prose that guides readers through. She blends Slavic folktales and cultures beautifully as Olia explores her castle's secrets, meets new denizens, and acquires magical objects on her quest to save everyone. Bighearted Olia is easy to cheer on and always tries to find ways to resolve all the problems and conflicts she encounters. Unfamiliar names for foods, spirits, and creatures will likely lead readers to search for more stories that inspired this fantastical world within Castle Mila. A story encouraging readers to believe in magic all around us. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ly and her home. Thirteen-year-old Olia loves her family's ramble-shamble wooden castle. She loves that they have called Castle Mila home for the past 500 years, from her royal ancestors to the present day in which her parents are carpenters. And she loves that he and her family--Papa, Mama, baby sister, and Babusya--care for it now. When an unexpected storm threatens Castle Mila, Babusya reveals that magic is attempting to break free from the castle's domes and that only Olia can prevent further damage. Aided by the castle's domovoi, a foxlike spirit named Feliks, Olia has less than one day to journey through the Land of Forbidden Magic, cut off the beard of an evil wizard, and restore the balance of magic. Along the way she meets myriad magical creatures from Slavic lore and learns that nothing--from her own abilities to the Land of Forgotten Magic to her family's legacy--is what it seemed. Although in keeping with the narrative's fairy-tale influences, largely unanswered worldbuilding questions--for example, why is Olia the only one who can save Castle Mila?--may leave readers feeling that key aspects of the plot are underdeveloped and contrived. The dialogue sometimes feels self-conscious, but Olia's first-person narration is earnest, and readers will root for her. The human cast reads as default White. A Slavic-inspired fantasy that may appeal to fans of fairy tales. (glossary) (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Even though a revolution a century earlier ended with a "fallen throne," 13-year-old Olia's formerly royal family, which reads as white, has continued to dwell in Castle Mila leading up to its 500th birthday. While her carpenter parents maintain the ancient structure, which is built entirely of wood and boasts 13 domes, narrator Olia, an artist, delights in discovering its secrets and seeking her way into the domes, which her Babusya insists "are filled with magic that has been locked away from the world." When a terrible storm threatens the building, Olia and her new companion, a foxlike domovoi named Feliks, must travel to the Land of Forbidden Magic; a realm locked away following a rivalry between a wizard and one of Olia's ancestors. But as the magic seeks to break through castle and realm, both are in danger of being destroyed forever. To save her home and prevent a catastrophe, Olia must join with several nature spirits to fight the wizard. Again drawing on Slavic myth, Anderson (The Girl Who Speaks Bear) writes an intimately cadenced adventure, rendering the magically charged setting a character of its own while emphasizing themes of perspective, family legacy, and following one's gut. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Gemma Cooper, Bent Agency. (Mar.)



#2271946 **This Might Get Awkward (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Kara McDowell

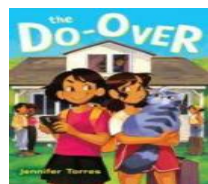
During a solo outing to her favorite beach, Gemma realizes--to her horror--that the popular kids from school have shown up to throw a party. Before she can sneak away (and possibly puke behind her car) Gemma is pulled into the action and ends up talking to Beau, who asks her to pretend that they're "close." After rescuing Beau from the water, Gemma is mistaken for Beau's girlfriend by his friends and family, including his mysterious older brother, Griff, who has returned to town after a year away. For the first time, Gemma has everything she's ever wanted: friends, big family dinners, and Griff--a boy who she can be herself around. But how can she embrace her new dream life when everything is built on a lie?

978-1-338-74623-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-10 Social anxieties plague Gemma, a high-school senior. She feels entirely relaxed on an empty lakeside beach, until a crowd of classmates arrives to party. When Beau Booker, a popular guy and her longtime secret crush, suddenly asks her for a favor, "Pretend that we're close. That you like me," she's baffled but willing. Within minutes, a boating accident leaves Beau unconscious and nearly drowned, while Gemma, who saved his life, is meeting his family and friends, who all assume that she's his new girlfriend. Over the weeks that follow, she tries to conquer her anxieties with the help of Griff, Beau's older brother, whose bad-boy reputation contrasts with Beau's more positive image. McDowell uses the settings (Lake Powell and nearby Page, Arizona) effectively within a first-person narrative written with wit and irony. Hampered by insecurities, Gemma makes plenty of mistakes as she struggles to recognize what she wants and how to achieve it, but readers will have no doubts about where her heart lies. An engaging romance with a satisfying conclusion. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After falling into a fake relationship with her crush while he's in a coma, Gemma starts falling for his brooding brother. Socially awkward Gemma Wells lives near the Arizona-Utah border where her father runs boat tours of Lake Powell. She finds herself in the middle of the summer's wildest drama when she rescues high school hottie Beau Booker from drowning during a boating accident. Beau lands in a medically induced coma, and when a nurse mistakes Gemma for his girlfriend, the story takes on a life of its own. Too nervous to tell the truth, Gemma hopes for a potential real relationship with the boy of her dreams. Beau's hospital stint forces Griff, his mysterious older brother, to return to town, and when he strikes up a friendship with Gemma, she wonders if she's falling for him instead. Griff and Gemma's growing relationship will have readers flying through pages, desperate to uncover what will happen when Beau eventually wakes up. Beyond the romance, McDowell shines a spotlight on mental health: Gemma's social anxiety disorder is displayed in both her social interactions and inner emotional workings, and her friend Sofia opens up about her struggle with depression. While Gemma and Griff's interactions and growing closeness are compelling and fully drawn, many of the side characters unfortunately fall flat. Main characters are presumed White; Sofia is cued as Latinx. Hits the mark as a page-turning romance. (Romance. 12-17) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2273551 Do-Over (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer Torres

Raquel and Lucinda used to be inseparable. But ever since their parents split, Raquel has been acting like editor-in-chief of their lives. Then a pandemic hits, and the sisters are forced to spend the lockdown at their dad's ranch house. But at the ranch, they get a not-so-welcome surprise: their dad's new girlfriend and her daughter are already living there! Lucinda finds she actually likes them, which only makes Raquel more desperate to get rid of them. And as her Raquel's schemes get more and more out of hand, Lucinda starts to wonder what they are really fighting for. Is trying to bring the Mendoza family back together really just tearing them further apart?

978-1-338-75419-3 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0

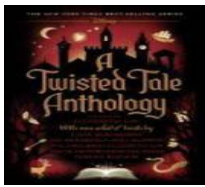
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7-Twins Lucinda and Raquel Mendoza haven't been close since their parents' divorce. Raquel has a tendency to organize and dictate their lives. To cope, Lucinda has committed herself to ice-skating. When a pandemic forces them to quarantine, Raquel remains busy with her school newspaper, but Lucinda is sidelined and anxious about keeping up her training. When the girls' mother decides to send them to their father's ranch to continue quarantining, Raquel convinces their mother to join them at the ranch, hoping that the experience will rekindle the parents' relationship. Unfortunately, the twins discover that their father has moved his new girlfriend and her daughter into the ranch as well. Raquel is undeterred, but Lucinda is not on board, and becomes increasingly uncomfortable with her twin's schemes. This gentle remix of The Parent Trap with a pandemic twist is entertaining. While the pandemic realities of toilet paper hoarding, virtual schooling, and staying sane in close proximity are depicted, they are not the focus. The portrayal of the fraying sibling bond is sympathetic and realistic, as is the challenge of blending families. The adults are involved, supportive, and committed to maintaining family ties. There's humor, drama, and some bad decisions that will keep tween readers engaged. VERDICT A timely, pleasing addition to the realistic middle grade fiction shelf.-Brenda Kahn © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

#2349206 Twisted Tale Anthology (Hardcover (Trade))

This Twisted Tale anthology features sixteen twisted short stories with new takes on fan-favorite Disney films. Swoon as Ariel and Eric meet right after the Little Mermaid

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

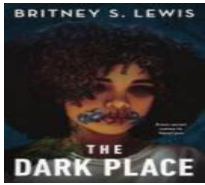


saves her prince; join Tiana and Naveen on a race to get back to Maldonia; take a ride on a pirate space ship with Jim Hawkins; and uncover just what power Tinker Bell's pixie dust holds.

978-1-368-08041-5 Disney Publishing Worldwide ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 576 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A whole collection of Disney what ifs. What if Snow White picked up some magic? What if Mufasa survived his fall? What if Tinker Bell worked for Captain Hook? What if Aurora was raised with knowledge of Maleficent's curse? YA authors explore these possibilities (and more) in this collection of 16 short stories. Previous contributors to the A Twisted Tale series return—Liz Braswell, Jen Calonita, Farrah Rochon, and editor Lim. Joining them are Livia Blackburne, M.K. England, Micol Ostow, and Kristina Pérez. The shorter format allows readers to revisit some movies that already have their own novel-length treatments (The Little Mermaid, Mulan, Hercules, The Princess and the Frog) as well as others that often get less attention (Robin Hood, Treasure Planet, Bambi), which is refreshing. Some of the stories have radical and intriguing premises (Rochon's "A New Dawn," Braswell's "A Royal Game of Chess," and Lim's "The Rose and the Thorns"). The stories that take place after the canon may be the most fun for some readers, since they don't upend the original beloved narratives (Lim's "A First Mission" and Calonita's "The Envelope" and "Fates, Three"). A couple of the tales offer some expanded backstory or fill in missing scenes (Pérez's "A Dragon in the Snow" and Braswell's "The Reluctant Prince"). All in all, this volume contains a pleasing variety of well-crafted entries. An entertaining compilation that will satisfy Disney fans. (Fantasy anthology. 12-18)



#2330018 Dark Place (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Britney S. Lewis

Seventeen-year-old Hylee Williams didn't ask to disappear. She didn't ask to move from Kansas City, Kansas out to the suburbs in Missouri. But she did disappear, and not only that, but when she vanished from our world, she materialized in a dark, twisted version of the night that changed her life forever: the night her older brother went missing.

978-1-368-07773-6 Disney-Hyperion ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99


Reviews by: Booklist Seventeen-year-old Hylee is no stranger to disappearances: one awful night, her childhood home was destroyed and her brother disappeared and has never been found. But when Hylee quite literally disappears right in front of her parents, they decide it's too much to handle and send her to live with her grandmother, who also doesn't seem to want to talk about what happened to Hylee or her brother. Hylee finally gets a chance to have her questions answered when she disappears in front of gorgeous, understanding Eilam, whose family conveniently happens to contain time travelers. But as Hylee begins to follow the story of what she's seeing when she travels back to that fateful night, the darkness starts to follow her back, and only she can save herself. Though a self-admitted frequent liar, Hylee is a sympathetic main character, with big, believable feelings and legitimate frustrations. Despite uneven pacing and a too-quick ending, differences in ways of handling intergenerational trauma and the importance of familial support and open communication are smoothly interwoven with truly disturbing horror imagery. — Allie Stevens

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A high school senior vows to solve her older brother's cold case while warding off the growing darkness of an unseen world. Seventeen-year-old Hylee Williams never wanted to leave Kansas. But after she literally vanished and reappeared in front of her parents and best friend during a cookout, Hylee was sent to live with her paternal grandmother in the cookie-cutter suburbs of Missouri. Hylee's new life is less than desirable. She's the new kid at school, her parents barely keep in touch—and she's being pulled into another dimension, always arriving at a sinister version of her childhood home, where she's forced to relive the night when her then-15-year-old brother, Bubba, went missing. Bubba's body was never found, but nine years later, Hylee believes he is still alive. When Hylee meets a charmingly awkward boy called Eilam Roads at a house party, the attraction is undeniable; both feel as though they've met—and loved—each other before. As the frequency and duration of Hylee's time-traveling episodes increase, she leans on Eilam to help control her ability, which may be linked to Bubba's disappearance. Lewis' genre-bending second novel offers equal parts star-crossed romance and spine-tingling science fiction horror. The method for time traveling is too easily explained, but the narrative is richly layered, and Hylee and Eilam's relationship is depicted with tenderness. Main characters are Black. An ultimately hopeful story that shows love—in all its powerful forms—can conquer the demons of the past. (Horror. 13-18)


Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The day before her 17th birthday, Hylee Williams vanishes from a cookout at her Kansas City home. She emerges nine years in the past in a twisted alternate version of a childhood memory in which her family learned that her older brother had gone missing. When she returns to the present, her parents refuse to acknowledge her sudden disappearance and send her to live with her grandmother in

the Missouri suburbs. Hylee uneasily settles into her new school, but she continues to randomly blink out of her contemporary life into that sinister alternate world. With no one to turn to, she struggles to understand what's happening to her and whether it could be related to her brother's disappearance. After she vanishes in front of tall, charming, and strangely familiar classmate Eilam Roads, 17, Hylee recruits him into her supernatural investigation. Employing alternating past and present sequences, poetic first-person narration, and moody prose, Lewis (*The Undead Truth of Us*) builds a tense atmosphere shadowed by secrets unsaid. By deftly exploring the persistent echoes of a traumatic event on one family, Lewis emphasizes the healing power of connection and closure. Hylee and Eilam are Black. Ages 12: up. Agent: Katelyn Detweiler, Jill Grinberg Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 10 Up--Lewis's sophomore novel at its premise sounds intriguing and scary, but unfortunately the book is not executed as expected. Seventeen-year-old Hylee moves in with her grandmother after she has an incident at her house where she disappeared from inside her house and showed up again on the porch. When she moves in with her grandmother, she starts to learn that when she disappears, she appears to be going back in time, to when her brother disappeared. There is a lot happening in this book. Hylee is dealing with her mysterious disappearing, her parents not wanting her in their home because of it, her meeting new kids at school, her old best friend ignoring her for disappearing, her romance with a boy she met at a party, the disappearance of her brother after her family home was broken into when she was young, and a creepy no-eyed version of her in the "other world" she goes to. Reading this novel often feels like there are multiple stories happening, but nothing ties together cohesively. Also, for a book pitched as horror, it is more sci-fi/time travel. VERDICT Give to fans of Lewis's first novel or those looking for a different twist on time travel.--Tegan Beese Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2356018 All Is Found: A Frozen Anthology (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by</i> Just in time to celebrate the first decade of the Frozen franchise, we join Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, Sven, and Olaf as they embark on new adventures through the Frozen universe with friends new and old. This wide variety of original stories will share untold tales from Anna and Elsa's childhood, memories with their parents, and mysterious creatures they encounter. These highly relatable, yet larger than life characters will appeal to young Frozen fans as well as the Frozen fan in all of us. 978-1-368-09248-7 Disney Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730</p>	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Disney film Frozen. This anthology combines adventure, humor, and lessons in communication and love with opportunities for readers to visit some cherished characters. In Diana Peterfreund's "Anna of Arendelle and the Silver Skates," young Elsa is confined to her room and wants to help Anna practice ice-skating. A surprise engagement party for the happy couple has everyone, including the unsuspecting lovebirds, in a state in "Engaging Anna and Kristoff," by Jen Calonita. "Cold Secrets Deep Down," by Delilah Dawson, follows a sea voyage during which the sisters come face to face with a gigantic tentacled creature. In Vera Strange's "Elsa and the First Monster," Elsa feels compelled to investigate rumors of a mysterious creature up on North Mountain. "Call of the Cuckoo," by Sámi author Karen Anne Buljo, is a Northuldra tale that speaks of wishes and love. Mancusi's "Coronation Day" takes place on Elsa's big day; her parents and sister are all there to support her, so why does she feel like something is wrong? There's a good variety among the stories, and the execution is largely satisfactory. Written with the expectation that readers will already be familiar with the characters and their storylines, most of the entries take place after the timeline of the second film and reference earlier events accordingly. A solid anthology that should satisfy fans of the franchise. (Fiction. 9-14)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2333069 Spirit Glass (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Roshani Chokshi</i> Corazon yearns to finally start training as a babaylan (a mystical healer and spirit guide) under her powerful guardian, Tina. When her magic awakens, Corazon plans to bring her parents back to life. Tina sends Corazon on a quest to fashion a key that will restore balance between the human and spirit realms. But Corazon must move quickly, before a vengeful ghost gets through the Spirit Mirror and all hope is lost. 978-1-368-09339-2 Disney Publishing Worldwide ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* Chokshi is well known for her best-selling Aru Shah series, but she has outdone herself with her newest addition to the Rick Riordan Presents line, a standalone adventure that centers Filipino mythology. Corazon Lopez is a young babaylan

(Filipino shaman) whose powers haven't yet fully awakened. Once they do, her number one goal is to bring back her parents, who passed away several years ago, leaving her in the care of her Aunt Tina, a babaylan with all of the power yet none of the warmth of Corazon's deceased mother. Her plan (and the fate of the world) is threatened when a ghost steals Corazon's soul key, a magical object with the power to tip the balance of the world, both human and spirit. Corazon's quest to retrieve the key unearths many secrets, including the one hidden deep in her heart. The Spirit Glass is a classic quest story with all the fun and danger one might expect from such a tale. Corazon's spirit companion, a gecko named Saso, provides much of the levity, but at its heart, this book is a story about grief. Corazon learns many hard truths, and young readers going through similar loss might find comfort in Corazon's trials. If nothing else, they have these words from the spirit glass in Tina's House: "I see you, little one. Your pain is not invisible to me." A must-have for any reader who loves folklore-inspired fantasy. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An open heart leads a girl to what she needs in this page-turner embedded in Filipino mythology. Corazon Lopez comes from a family of babaylans, mortals “who guarded the boundaries between the human world and the realm of spirits.” She must wait until her 12th birthday for her powerful magic to awaken so she can be trained by her aunt Tina. Corazon is especially eager to develop the ability to bring her deceased parents back to life instead of just having weekly dinners with their ghosts. Despite the presence of Saso, her anito or spirit companion who takes the form of a small lizard, and being cared for by Tina’s sentient home, Corazon feels lonely. Things take a turn for the worse when Corazon encounters Flordeliza, a vengeful ghost who steals her soul key, a token of powerful magic gifted to her by her mother that is essential to bringing her parents back. Soon the Library of Mirrors that contains portals to the spirit realms shows warning signs of an imbalance between worlds. Corazon, Saso, and their new ghost friend, Leo, must attempt to surmount daunting obstacles before it’s too late in Chokshi’s action-packed quest that balances tragedy and grief with comical antics. Family secrets, folktales, and the cultural diversity of the Philippines add interest to this story that ends on a hopeful note. A thrilling tale brimming with magic and love. (author’s note, glossary) (Adventure. 9-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Featuring a Filipina protagonist coming into her powers, Chokshi (the Aru Shah series) writes a memorable spin on a tween's looking-glass adventures. Three years after her parents' deaths, 11-year-old Corazon Lopez lives with her magically powerful but emotionally distant aunt Tina in a wondrous House "that tucked her in each evening and made sure she always had a sweater when it got cold." Like the women in their family, both Corazon and Tina are babaylans; mortals who guard the boundaries between the human and spirit worlds; but two days before her magic-manifesting 12th birthday, Corazon's specific power remains unknown even to her. She waits impatiently on the cusp with her wisecracking companion anito, an earth spirit named Saso who resembles a blue lizard, and a soul key that allows her to visit with her parents' ghosts each Saturday. She plans to bring them back to life once she gains, and trains in, her powers, but when Corazon and Tina travel through the Library of Mirrors en route to the spirit realms' marketplace, a figure pursues Corazon and steals the soul key, and Corazon must work to put the worlds-threatening specter to rest. Filipino folklore and a smart magical system of "bargains and balances" thread this wholly original narrative, which employs laugh-out-loud humor, sensory-forward prose, and deliciously dark threats to explore personal identity and tweenhood. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Thao Le, Sandra Dijkstra Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—About to turn 12, Corazon Lopez is ready to learn what magical powers she possesses and begin her training. Corazon is a babaylan, a rare mortal guarding the boundaries between the human world and the realm of spirits. Her constant companion, the wisecracking Saso, is an anito (spirit of mountains, rivers, streams, and trees) who looks like a glowing blue gecko, with powers also yet unknown. Three years ago, when Corazon’s parents died, she moved into the magical house of powerful Aunt Tina. Corazon despairs that she only sees her ghostly parents for weekly Saturday visits, with the aid of the soul key her mother left her, and hopes that once her powers reveal themselves, she will find a way to bring her parents back to the mortal world. The Library of Mirrors is where the two worlds collide, and the mirrors there are guarded by the powerful Librarian. When a ghost steals the soul key from Corazon, she learns she must gather blessings to lay the ghost to rest and awaken her own powers. Corazon, Saso, and their ghostly friend, Leo, must overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to right the imbalance between the two worlds. An author’s note discusses Filipino folklore and the history of babaylans. VERDICT Chokshi’s tale weaves Filipino mythology and language throughout this spellbinding fantasy, creating a thoroughly original and heartfelt story of family, grief, and new beginnings.—Michele Shaw



#2349406 Wild Wishes and Windswept Kisses (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Maya Prasad

The Songbird Inn has always been the perfect home. No one knows that better than the Singh sisters. Nidhi, Avani, Sirisha, and Rani have been lovestruck and heartbroken and everything in between, all at their dad's cozy bed-and-breakfast. And today the whole Singh family will support aspiring filmmaker Rani in her first film festival-if only they can make it through the windstorm ravaging the Pacific Northwest.

978-1-368-08124-5 Disney-Hyperion ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 480 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Four sisters, two fathers, many relationships. Nidhi, Rani, Avani, and Sirisha--the Indian American Singh sisters whom readers met in 2022's Drizzle, Dreams, and Lovestruck Things--are back together. Well, almost. Oldest sister Nidhi's on her way home from

New Delhi to Orcas Island in Washington state when she bumps into Grayson, the boy she'd been dating, at LAX. Meanwhile, Avani is still writing her poetry (some of it steamier these days, thanks to boyfriend Fernando) but also wondering about her future as she tries to figure out her college plans--but none of her sisters seem to have time for her. Meanwhile, youngest sister Sirisha is reeling from her breakup with girlfriend Brie, but she's invited to an interactive murder-mystery costume party that pushes her out of her comfort zone, and things start looking up. However, the star of this story is aspiring filmmaker Rani, Avani's twin, who's shooting a short movie for a festival inspired by her relationship with boyfriend Raj, but her plans go awry right from the start. The fathers--Dad and his new husband, Pakistani Amir--play less of a role this time around, and they're sorely missed. Oscillating between past and present timelines, the story is punctuated by group chat messages offering insights into the family's warm, poignant relationships. As a windstorm picks up, so does the story's pace, as it traces the ebb and flow of the ties among the members of the charming ensemble cast. An easy, comforting read. (Fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal for a magical day of adventures, obstacles, and, of course, romance in this sequel to *Drizzle, Dreams, and overstruck Things*. A lot has happened since the summer—Nidhi’s study abroad in India has been amazing, and she’s back in Washington for a hort time to meet with her advisor about extending her stay...if she can ever make it to Seattle amid a host of travel obstacles. Things between Avani and Fernando have been a bit rocky, but she’s hopeful that a full-day dance workshop will help them reconnect; of course, she doesn’t plan on n unexpected interruption that will force them to talk things out. Sirisha has been going through the motions since her breakup with Brie, but a friend’s murder mystery party brings new opportunities, and maybe even new love. Rani’s plans to memorialize her own epic love story in a short film are going awry—fate seems to have other plans for her love life and creative vision. Chapters alternate among the sisters and are interspersed with poetry, script excerpts, dialogue from the murder mystery party, and text messages. Despite the short time frame, all the sisters’ stories feel complete, and the alternating perspectives allow each girl’s personality to shine through. Much of the first book took place at the Songbird Inn, and a bit of the magic of that setting is missing here. All of the sisters’ stories have satisfying, if somewhat open, resolutions, perhaps leaving the door open for further titles. VERDICT A solid follow-up and worthwhile purchase for those who enjoyed the first book and readers who like stories set in one day like *Blackout* by Dhonielle Clayton and others or *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* by Jennifer E. Smith.—Alison Glass



#2309138 Simon Sort of Says (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Bow

Simon O'Keeffe's biggest claim to fame should be the time his dad accidentally gave a squirrel a holy sacrament. Or maybe the alpaca disaster that went viral on YouTube.

But the story the whole world wants to tell about Simon is the one he'd do anything to forget: the story in which he's the only kid in his class who survived a school shooting.

978-1-368-08285-3 Disney-Hyperion ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Author of *Stand on the Sky* (2019) Bow delivers another middle-grade page turner. Seventh-grader Simon O’Keeffe moves with his parents to the small town of Grin And Bear It, Nebraska. Hoping to help their son forget a traumatic event, his dad, a Catholic deacon (and sackbut player), and mom, an undertaker, help Simon adjust. Though the townspeople are thirsty to find out more about the O’Keeffes, Simon wants to get through the school year by remaining incognito. That plan becomes moot when he befriends a girl named Agate and a boy named Kevin. All seems normal until the reason for the O’Keeffes' move is exposed, causing anxieties to flare in Simon that result in conflicts among the trio. Bow diffuses the story's serious topics, ranging from parental and social issues to mental and emotional health, with humor and a silly scheme. Middle-grade students will resonate with the worries and pressures attached to making friends and meeting one another’s families. A tale of healing that serves as an excellent reminder to never assume we know what plights another friend is going through.—Beronica Garcia

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Tweenager Simon's prepared explanation for why his family fled Omaha for Grin And Bear It, Nebraska, is pretty darn hilarious, involving rogue alpacas bringing chaos to a Catholic Mass. And surprisingly, it is true-it's just not the entire reason Simon is relieved his new neighbors can't look him up online. This tiny town is a designated National Quiet Zone with no internet, radio, or microwaves, which enables local astrophysicists to search for signs of life in the universe. When Simon learns the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) might lose funding, he joins his new pal Agate in a plan to impersonate alien communication and keep the scientists' dwindling hope alive. Before they can enact the plan, however, the truth about Simon's past comes out: he was the sole survivor of a well-known school shooting. While the violence happens offscreen, Simon's descriptions of his resulting panic attacks and anxiety have a visceral urgency; even more painful, however, are the small adjustments he's made--always staying aware of people's position in a room and noting exits for an escape route. Despite the weighty premise, Bow's storytelling brims with vitality, featuring many hilarious, outlandish scenes, like the antics of a funeral home's peacock, a dog that retrieves cans of beer, and the life and death of a Jesus Squirrel. The scientific plotline is thematically compelling, and the character-driven narratives thrive in its context, including Simon's narration of his post-traumatic healing and the development of winsome secondary characters. An author's note illuminates Bow's motivation to write about this topic and clarifies which story details are real or fictional, but the final backmatter resources for trauma survivors were not seen. KF COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Simon and his family are new to Grin and Bear It, Nebraska, an unusual town located in the National Quiet

Zone, a center for scientific research that restricts radio transmissions. There's no internet, and even microwave ovens are prohibited. They left their home in Omaha because, as Simon tells it, his family is odd, with a mother who is an embalmer and a father who plays the sackbut ("It's a kind of trombone"). These initial details are only the beginning of what builds into a gallimaufry of eccentricity. One neighbor has an emu farm; Simon's new friend, Agate, has siblings named Jade, Jasper, Coral, Onyx, and Mica and a large supply of witty radical T-shirts. There are funeral-home disasters, escaped wildlife, and plans for an elaborate prank choreographed by Simon and Agate. Hidden in all this jokey mayhem are small hints of a dark backstory. Why has the family relocated? Why can't Simon be in a room with just one exit? When it is revealed to the reader that Simon was the sole survivor of a school shooting in his previous town, the tone of the story shifts abruptly, inviting a reread to view the tale in a new light given our insight into Simon's past. This novel takes a considerable narrative risk and would be an excellent catalyst for discussion. SARAH ELLIS

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Attempting to start over, a traumatized tween and his parents move to a town where electronic devices are banned. In a tale that will put readers through an emotional wringer, Bow crafts an uproarious small-town comedy with a devastating tragedy at its core played out by a cast as memorable for its animals as its people. Having gone through a year of therapy and home schooling after witnessing the deaths of the rest of his fifth grade class in a school shooting that happens before the events of the book, Simon O'Keeffe hopes the move to Grin And Bear It, Nebraska, will let him escape the relentless notoriety and start seventh grade as an ordinary new kid. As no one in town is allowed to have a computer, cellphone, or even unshielded microwave because of the supersensitive radio telescopes nearby, things go well...for a while. He even makes friends with Agate, a classmate who cheerfully announces that she's autistic and challenges him to a gross-out contest. (Which he easily wins, what with his mother's being an undertaker.) Though developments--ranging from a roundup of escaped emus to being tasked with socializing a winsome puppy in service-dog training--provide plenty of warm and comical moments, the secret comes out eventually, spiraling into a crisis exacerbated by chance events and Simon's still uncontrollable reactions to sirens and other triggers. Readers will be relieved and cheered by the way he ultimately finds both the inner stuff and outer support to weather it. The cast largely presents as White. Adroit, sensitive, horrifying, yet hilarious. (resources) (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Centering 12-year-old Simon O'Keeffe's recent move to a completely off-the-grid town and told in his laugh-out-loud first-person perspective, Bow (Stand on the Sky) delivers a compassionate and refreshingly hopeful novel about a tween navigating the aftermath of a school shooting, which takes place before this book's start. Hoping to escape the anxiety-inducing notoriety they've been experiencing after the event, Simon and his family move to Grin and Bear It, Neb., where all electronic devices are banned. The devices, local scientists say, would interfere with their radio telescopes, which are listening for signals of extraterrestrial activity. Since no one can google him, Simon is optimistic that he can fly under the radar and put his past behind him. He makes fast friends with classmates Agate Van der Zwann, who is white and autistic, and half-white, half-Filipino Kevin Matapung; together, they set out to create false messages from aliens, using Kevin's family's contraband microwave to attempt to trick the scientists. Without detracting from Simon's uplifting emotional arc about making peace with his past and looking toward a brighter future with friends, Bow imbues this sincere story with levity by employing madcap plot points, including several animal-centered shenanigans featuring squirrels, dogs, and emus. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jane Putch, Eyebait Management. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Facing trauma from the past is difficult, but this book handles it masterfully. Main character Simon is the only survivor from a shooting in his school classroom. He and his family have just moved to Grin and Bear It, NE--a National Quiet Zone town without internet, cell phones, or television. He hopes it will be the perfect place to find the "now" version of himself. While on his journey, Simon makes friends with Agate and Kevin. All three kids face different types of pressure and support one another as they seek out coping mechanisms and strategies. Simon's mother works as the town undertaker and his father works for the Catholic Church. It is a very rural environment, and a large part of the story is Simon and his friends experiencing birthing goats, being chased by emus or an attack peacock, training the sweetest service dog ever, and even faking an alien signal to the scientists managing a Large Radio Telescope. In the mix are an incompetent morgue assistant who is constantly losing bodies (or taking the wrong ones!) and a wild squirrel who ate the sacrament. Simon is a funny, lovable character who has lived through an unthinkable event. Simon is white, Kevin is Filipino American, and Agate is white and autistic. Funny and heartfelt in equal measure, this book tackles some tough topics, but the humor keeps readers engaged, and it is easy to care about these characters. VERDICT A solid purchase for all libraries that serve middle grade readers A solid purchase for all libraries that serve middle grade readers. It deftly handles the sensitive topic of being a young trauma survivor; warning for school shooting content.--Claire Covington Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Escaping the memories of a traumatic event may be impossible, but in this poignant and remarkably funny National Book Award finalist and Kids Indie Next List title, Simon and his family hope to at least escape public attention.



#2330083 **Haunted Mansion: Storm and Shade (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Claudia Gray*

When high school student Audrey Perez moves to a town that's supposedly home to a haunted mansion, she and a few of her new friends decide to investigate. Audrey is quickly swept up in a macabre mystery and eerie adventure that holds the fate of the Haunted Mansion's 999 happy haunts in the balance. A storm is coming--both literally and figuratively--and it'll be up to Audrey and her friends to save the Mansion--and its

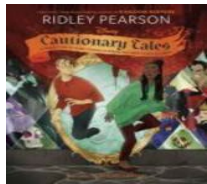
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

ghosts-before it's too late. But can Audrey do so while dealing with her own anxieties and while caught in a love triangle between her boyfriend and the enigmatic Sterling-who just might be a ghost?

978-1-368-07606-7 Disney Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl with anxiety stumbles upon an actual haunted mansion. Even though her therapy is going well, 16-year-old Audrey Perez isn't looking forward to the beyond-nerves that her anxiety will give her as she starts a new school, having moved from the suburbs into New Orleans proper. Worse, she won't have her boyfriend, Chase, there to protect her from the world. Luckily, right off the bat she befriends Tatum, an outgoing girl from Scotland, and Iris, a wryly funny Black girl. When Audrey, whose family emigrated from Spain centuries ago, finds an abandoned manor house in the neighborhood, she lets her new friends in on it. Filmmaker Iris knows she's found a compelling subject. But after her first brush with the paranormal, Audrey starts to experience happenings outside of the mansion—ghostly possessions that lead her to mysterious keys. As the girls investigate, they notice chills in the air and sense that something bad is coming. This mysterious new threat is dangerous enough that even the ghosts dread it. The paranormal storyline has some strong moments, but readers primarily seeking thrills may feel the story's action is overshadowed by the characters' interpersonal dynamics. Audrey and Chase's relationship reveals red flags alongside moments of genuine sweetness and ends on a healthy, mature, nuanced note. Audrey's friendships are impacted by her expertly depicted anxiety and showcase healthy bonds. Disney fans will adore the care put in capturing details of the Haunted Mansion. Come for spooky action, stay for the robust cast. (Paranormal. 12-16)



#2293328 Disney Cautionary Tales (Hardcover (POB))

written by Ridley Pearson

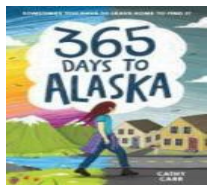
What you are holding is no ordinary book. This book contains scary stories. Thrilling and chilling tales that feature the worst Disney villains. They twist and turn through unfortunate circumstances. Maybe you've heard of a cave full of wonders where no one escapes alive? Or a huntsman carrying a princess's heart back to an evil queen? Don't forget the horseman who lost his head. Literally.

978-1-368-06228-2 Disney Press ©2022 7-1/2 x 9-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Familiar Disney characters appear in new tales with a spooky edge. With their school closed because of nearby wildfires, Billie and Tim are spending their day at the Walt Disney Archives in Burbank, California. The book uses what Disney fan Billie is reading as a springboard, weaving together the present day and the fairy tales Billie and Tim slip into, as in the story "The Spirit Hunter," about the demon from Fantasia. When Tim disappears into a mirror he finds in the archives, Billie follows him on an adventure through dangerous Disney storylines with villains like Ursula and the Headless Horseman. Larson's illustrations are eerie and beautiful, and they also help readers track the threads of the storyline. All of the action that takes place in present-day Burbank is typeset in white against a solid black background. When Billie and Tim are in the world of Disney tales, there are ornate, themed borders surrounding each page along with a smattering of illustrations. One especially stunning full-page illustration depicts a skull with a brilliant diamond eye. The story gets a bit murky toward the end, becoming a confusing fumble through mirrors and timelines. One illustration shows Billie as a Black girl; most other characters are assumed White. Not just for fans of Disney; chilling and compelling despite a puzzling plotline. (Paranormal. 8-12)



#2201420 365 Days to Alaska (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Cathy Carr

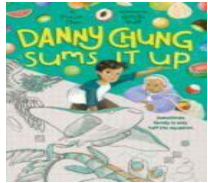
Eleven-year-old Rigel Harman loves her life in off-the-grid Alaska. She hunts rabbits, takes correspondence classes through the mail, and plays dominoes with her family in their two-room cabin. She doesn't mind not having electricity or running water--instead, she's got tall trees, fresh streams, and endless sky. But then her parents divorce, and Rigel and her sisters have to move with their mom to the Connecticut suburbs to live with a grandmother they've never met.

978-1-4197-4380-1 Amulet Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 5-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—Eleven-year-old Rigel Harman is a happy kid who loves living off the grid with her close-knit family in Alaska. Rigel's life looks very different from most American students; she hunts, takes correspondence classes by mail instead of attending school, and has no running water or electricity. Things change when her parents divorce, and she and her sisters move to the Connecticut suburbs with their mother to live with a grandmother they've never met. But Rigel has a secret pact with her father: After one year, she can come home. Rigel hates middle school and Connecticut. She misses real nature and feels out of place. She befriends a small, wounded crow living behind her school and spends her free time with it. Caring for the crow helps her make friends, reconnect with her family, and fit in while still being herself. Rigel is a fun character; she has a lot in common with average tweens trying to find their place in the world, but her experiences in Alaska may be an informative peek into different lifestyles. The story shows how a strong family structure and the willingness to ask for help can be keys to success; the book also depicts the school library as a sanctuary for students. **VERDICT** This charming novel is recommended for realistic fiction fans who love nature and animals.—Christina Pesiri, Island Trees H.S., Levittown, NY



#2250935 Danny Chung Sums It Up (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Maisie Chan

Eleven-year-old Danny's life is turned upside down when his Chinese grandmother comes to live with his family in England. Things get worse when Danny finds out he'll have to share his room with her, and she took the top bunk! At first, Danny is frustrated that he can't communicate with her because she doesn't speak English—and because he's on the verge of failing math and Nai Nai was actually a math champion back in the day.

978-1-4197-4821-9 Amulet Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 240 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly As befits one born in the year of the Dragon, 11-year-old Brit Danny Chung is artistic and loves to draw. His math skills, however, are lacking, especially according to his Ba, who believes Danny should devote his time to more constructive pursuits. Big proponents of "the Chinese Way"; embracing traditional Chinese values; Danny's parents arrange for his Nai Nai to come from China to live with them in England, hoping Danny will learn about Chinese culture and to respect his elders. Predictably, frustration arises. Not only is Danny unable to communicate with her fluently, Nai Nai's very presence renders him the school laughingstock when she visits his classroom to feed him chicken feet, and a giant math project is proving daunting. But luckily for Danny, Nai Nai's mathematical prowess is something to behold. As the two confront the seemingly insurmountable language barrier with a love for numbers and art, Danny begins to view Nai Nai in a different light. Chan wholeheartedly portrays intergenerational relationships and cross-cultural exchange in a way that resonates. While several elements will be familiar to readers of similar titles, classic middle grade humor and detailed b&w sketchbook drawings by Quек add humor to an insightful read. Ages 8: 12. Agent (for Chan): Chloe Seager, Madeleine Milburn Literary, TV and Film Agency;(for Quек): Alice Williams, Alice Williams Literary. (Sept.)



#2319983 Take (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jennifer Bradbury

Two teens uncover a secret hidden in the Cascade Mountains that spans generations, stringing together family skeletons, lost stories, and a discovery of love and self in this tense and emotional young adult thriller.

978-1-4169-9009-3 Atheneum ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
 Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A rock-climbing adventure unearths an unexpected mystery. The summer after high school graduation, Cara's busy working three jobs to fund a gap year rock climbing in Patagonia. She's independent and tough, not the least because she has to be--her dad, who taught her to climb, is unstable, mentally ill, and so unreliable he missed her graduation ceremony. Now, he's not responding to messages. When Cara goes to check on him, she finds his climbing gear gone and one wall of his trailer papered over with maps, photographs, and sticky notes. To find him, she'll need to figure out what it all means--and what peak he's trying to climb. Interspersed with Cara's first-person narrative are diary entries from the 1940s by a young, implied White climber in the Civilian Conservation Corps describing his growing romance with an artistic Japanese American farm girl. They are hampered by racism, particularly once America enters the war. Bradbury's smart, fast-moving book immerses readers in the language, procedures, and emotions of rock climbing without overwhelming those unfamiliar with the sport. She lets her characters and their stories be complicated and multidimensional. Her description of Cara's dad's mental illness is particularly real: "Sometimes he was sort of medically allowed to be a selfish jerk. The tricky part was how the messiness made it really hard for everybody around him to know

when to cut him some slack and when to just cut him off." Great holds, great movement, and a worthwhile finish. (Fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this genre-blending adventure, Bradbury (A Moment Comes) injects a high-stakes mystery with adrenaline. Recent high school graduate Cara plans to spend her summer working various odd jobs, rock climbing, and gearing up for her gap year traipsing through Patagonia. When Nat, her ex-boyfriend and fellow rock-climbing enthusiast, reappears in town, however, it sends her into an emotional spiral. She does her best to avoid Nat, until her depressed father; whom she hasn't spoken to in months; disappears. He leaves behind a trailer filled with clues in the form of old photographs, annotated maps, Beckett Friedrich climbing guides, and coded notes that Cara's convinced only history-loving Friedrich superfan Nat can unravel. Her father's trail leads the teens into the Cascade Mountains, where they face strenuous challenges, learn more about Cara's family's past, and find their way back to each other. Bradbury interweaves Cara's urgent first-person narration with brief diary entries by an adventurer from the 1940s, which tell a parallel story of young love hampered by racism during WWII. Cara's tenacity and grit make her a heroine to root for, and her determination to find her father no matter the cost conveys a complex, heartfelt relationship. Cara is white and of Japanese ancestry; Nat cues as white. Ages 12: up. Agent: Robin Rue, Writers House. (June)



#2162902 Beyond Me (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu

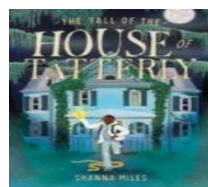
In the aftermath of the natural disasters that have struck her country, eleven-year-old Maya is luckier than many. Her family didn't lose their home, their lives, or each other. But Maya still can't help feeling paralyzed with terror, and each aftershock that ripples out in the days that follow makes her fear all over again that her luck could change in an instant.

978-1-4814-3789-9 Atheneum ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile NP

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly On Mar. 11, 2011, an earthquake off the northeast coast of Japan, followed by a tsunami and an explosion at a damaged nuclear power plant, caused devastation throughout the country. Through the eyes of fifth grader Maya, who lives outside of Tokyo, this novel in free verse recounts the stressors of the event, its aftermath, and its ongoing reverberations. As the story begins, Maya plays freely in the wind and plans to perform a choir piece at school, but her daily life undergoes a dramatic change when the earthquake hits. After the event, the girl spends much of her time sheltering under a table and observing her parents, who try to help those affected, and her grandparents, who calmly tend their garden and vegetable stand. Donwerth-Chikamatsu (Somewhere Among) adapts font color, size, and word placement to reflect Maya's physical experiences: one page includes only the enlarged phrase "Earth/ drops/ below me," while others highlight times in the margin ("07: 44 Earth shudders"), giving a feel to its passing. As the story shows the country's unsteadiness and Maya's creative strategies for overcoming her sense of helplessness, it offers a compassionate window into how adults and children cope with calamity. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Holly McGhee, Pippin Properties. (June)



#2330605 Fall of the House of Tatterly (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Shanna Miles

Twelve-year-old Theo Tatterly's ability to see ghosts is a useful skill in a house full of dead relatives, but it makes him a loner at school and everywhere else, where ghosts eternally pester him for help. For Theo, life is easier on the periphery. When his first failed exorcism portends an end to the Tatterly line, Theo must bring together his entire family—living and dead—to save the home they've lived in for generations . . . and maybe the world.

978-1-4549-4930-5 Union Square Kids ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 280 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 780

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 Be careful in the swamp, and keep brick dust in your pocket! Charleston is a place like no other, and local middle-schooler Theo Tatterly knows it. He's the only medium in a family of assorted psychics, and his life stays busy between the hellhounds in their playground and his perpetually possessed younger cousin. But all Theo wants is to play basketball and make actual friends. When an eerie warning leads to mayhem at an aquarium, Theo must confront fears new and old that threaten his family's home. While the world building is somewhat overstuffed, this debut is a spooky delight full of rich local folklore and urban legends. From the swamp to the Night Market, Charleston feels like a gathering for all the magic folk, and it's the strong depiction of community that truly makes this book shine. A spine-chilling stand-alone for readers who love the works of Eden Royce and Lora Senf. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Black boy with magical abilities must save his family and his ancestral home in Charleston from dark forces that seek to ruin them. When he's not spending time with his magical family of aunts (both alive and ghostly) and his cousins Issa and Femi, 12-year-old Theo Tatterly is a loner. As the Tatterlys' only working medium, he can see a constant stream of ghosts--and despite his family's protests, Theo often exorcises ghosts by himself. But something goes wrong during a seemingly routine exorcism. Then, a ghostly hag ambushes Theo and Issa while they're at the aquarium. On top of that, his aunts are concerned about increasing efforts by someone unknown to disprove their legal ownership of the home that Tatterlys have occupied for generations; further back, the family lived on this land when they were enslaved. Theo's convinced that all the pieces are connected, but he's unsure how. It'll take relying on friends and family to help piece together the history and folklore behind the Tatterly name and save everything Theo cares about. Through limited omniscient narration, the author builds a steady tension as Theo pieces together information about their enemy, leading readers toward a momentous climax. Clear, reverent descriptions of Charleston's rich culture make the city just as much of a character as the members of Theo's diverse community, each of whom has a well-developed personality. A richly detailed story that amplifies the importance of connections and community. (Paranormal. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A Black 12-year-old must take on an evil supernatural entity to save his family in this adrenaline-fueled tale by Miles (For All Time). Theo Tatterly, who has always been able to see and talk to ghosts, lives with his similarly gifted aunts and cousins in an old mansion in Charleston, S.C. Because of his abilities, he is constantly surrounded by ghosts asking for his help in crossing over to the other side. This unending supernatural chatter makes him feel as if he has no time to cultivate relationships with the living, resulting in much time alone and few friendships, save for his bond with cousin Issa. When a malevolent presence interrupts his exorcising a spirit, Theo learns that the sinister specter intends to come after his family. To protect them, Theo must bring together everyone he knows; living and dead; to fight back. Though a somewhat complicated and occasionally inconsistent magic system can sometimes befuddle, over-the-top fantastical ambiance, paired with rich depictions of Charleston's historical and cultural lore, makes for an endearing, enchanting adventure teeming with quirky characters. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

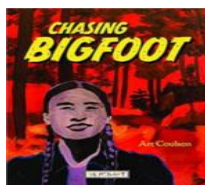


#2285090 Blood Brothers (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rob Sanders

Calvin Johnston's secret is out. He and his brothers are tainted. Untouchable. And the bad blood flowing through their veins is threatening to kill them. So are some of their neighbors in Ashland, the "Friendliest Little Town" in Florida. The Johnston brothers are kicked out of everything-school, baseball, scouts, even church. Ashland's anger has erupted into a fireball of hate. The only silver lining is that Calvin's best friend Izzy lives 65 miles away at the beach, and has no idea about his secret. But news has a way of spreading. Calvin and his brothers are in the fight of their lives. As a matter of fact, they're fighting for life itself.

978-1-4788-6927-6 *Reycraft Books* ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 480 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 2.7 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile HL 340

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.95



#2283420 Chasing Bigfoot (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Art Coulson

Chooch Tenkiller is not thrilled to be spending some of his summer with his Cherokee story-telling uncles and cousin Janees at a convention in North Carolina. While there, the uncles want to visit Judaculla Rock, a place of spiritual significance to the Cherokee people. Little does Chooch know that he has his own connection to the rock--a connection that could put him in mortal danger.

978-1-4788-7548-2 *Reycraft Books* ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 216 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 660

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Cherokee teen Chooch Tenkiller just wants to hang out with his friends, so he isn't thrilled when his mother makes him accompany his 13-year-old cousin Janees and uncles Jack and Dynamite on a trip to a North Carolina Cherokee reservation. His uncles, who are professional story-tellers, insist that the visit was foreseen generations ago by Tsul'kalu, who was one of the asduleni, or Bigfoot, in which Chooch doesn't believe. When it turns out that sacred Cherokee site Judaculla Rock is in danger of being sold to developer Dr. Viktor Almasty, Chooch finds that the Bigfoot prophecy is true; and that his predetermined mission to deliver a message to the world may just endanger his life. The alternating perspectives of Tsul'kalu, Chooch, Janees, and Dr. Almasty are distinct, though Dr. Almasty's chapters, which lean into villainous

caricature, aren't as multidimensional as the others. Coulson (Fishing on Thin Ice), who is Cherokee, adeptly captures a modern Native teen's struggle between wanting to uphold traditions and striving to carve his own path. Cherokee language is featured throughout, and a celebration of Indigenous culture, community, and the search for identity is deeply rooted in the narrative. Ages 10: up. Agent: Jacqui Lipton, Raven Quill Literary. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Cherokee Nation middle schooler Maurice "Chooch" Tenkiller wakes up gagged and tied to a chair with a cloth over his head in a dank, smelly basement. He doesn't know what happened or where he is. He gradually remembers he and his cousin Janees, almost 13, and their uncles were on a road trip returning to Minnesota from North Carolina, where his professional storytelling uncles spoke at a conference. While there, they'd visited a sacred Cherokee site, Judaculla Rock, that's covered by mysterious carvings and petroglyphs. It's said that Tsul'kalu, a giant also known as Bigfoot, made his mark on the rock. Tsul'kalu and the Cherokee Little People have foreseen that Chooch is destined to carry their message out to the world. A Little Person that only Chooch can see gives him Ulvati, a sacred crystal that, when held up to the rock, brings all the rock's markings alive and allows him to hear the message. Unbeknownst to Chooch and his family, the unscrupulous Dr. Almasty and his henchmen intend to kidnap Chooch, because they believe he can read the rock's markings that they think are a map to hidden gold. Coulson, of the Cherokee Nation, keeps the action moving in short chapters, told alternately by Chooch, Janees, Dr. Almasty, and Tsul'kalu. The fact that the villains are cartoonishly buffoonish serves to counter the young heroes' actions. The character Chooch was also featured in Coulson's novella *The Reluctant Storyteller*. VERDICT An appealing addition to the growing body of middle grade fiction by and about Indigenous peoples.--Sharon Rawlins Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2355064 Tagging Freedom (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rhonda Roumani

Kareem Haddad of Damascus, Syria, never dreamed of becoming a graffiti artist. But when a group of boys from another town tag subversive slogans outside their school, and another boy is killed while in custody, Kareem and his friends are inspired and start secretly tagging messages of freedom around their city.

978-1-4549-5071-4 Union Square Kids ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 610

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

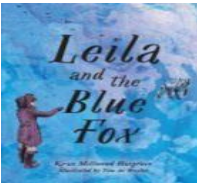
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8 It's 2011, and Kareem is seeing a revolution happening right before his eyes in Damascus, Syria. He and his friends participate through protests and street-art activism, but as things become increasingly dangerous, his parents make the difficult decision to send him to America to live with his cousin Samira. Being the only Muslim and Arab in her school, Samira has been the target of bullying--that is, until she seizes an opportunity to show the popular kids a different side of her. With the arrival of her cousin, however, Samira begins to reconsider what it truly means to fit in. When graffiti starts popping up around town, Samira is faced with a choice: stay silent or speak up for what is right. This is a must-read for those looking for more Arab and Muslim representation in middle-grade titles. Roumani skillfully weaves together two different points of view to create a powerful story of activism that captures the importance of standing up for yourself and advocating for others. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two cousins find common ground in their love of art and graffiti in this dual-perspective novel set on the verge of the Syrian revolution. Samira is a seventh grade Syrian American Muslim girl living in small-town Massachusetts. She's artistic and is particularly drawn to fonts and lettering. After her cousin Kareem is nearly caught spraying graffiti to protest the Syrian government, he's sent from Damascus to stay with her family. Initially, the cousins clash. As the only student at her school who's Arab or Muslim, Samira tries to blend in, going by Sam and staying quiet when her friends make ignorant, xenophobic comments. Kareem can't understand Samira's need to fit in. He befriends Ellie, Samira's Jewish best friend, and the two decide to secretly graffiti the town using spray chalk as a way of drawing people's attention to events in Syria. But as the graffiti divides their small community, Kareem and Samira find common ground and mutual empathy. The cousins grow, both individually and in tandem with their evolving relationship. Samira ultimately realizes who her true friends are, while Kareem finds a way to thrive where he is, despite his intense desire to return home. One event, in particular, realistically juxtaposes Kareem's safe new life with the growing dangers for his family in Syria. As readers follow the characters' evolution, they'll clearly absorb the message that it is worth it to stand up for what you believe in. A well-characterized novel offering insight into Syrian perspectives. (author's note, glossary, poem) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

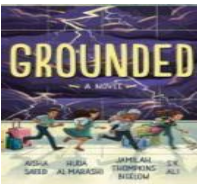
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Kareem; a Syrian Muslim 13-year-old; and his friends tag buildings to protest government oppression in Damascus, Syria. Kareem's seventh grade cousin Samira, meanwhile, paints the banners that accompany her Allansdale, Mass., school's Spirit Squad performances. Though Sam's friends Layla, with whom she takes Arabic lessons at the Islamic Center, and schoolmate Ellie remind Sam that Spirit Squad leader and mean girl Cat "ruined your life in fourth grade," Sam often abandons them both to hang out with the cool kids. When peaceful protests turn violent in Syria, Kareem's parents send him to live with Sam's family in the U.S. Sam and Kareem have always bonded over their love of graffiti, but at school, Kareem clashes with Cat's brother Dylan, whom Sam has a crush on; xenophobic comments from Dylan about Syria, and Sam's complicit silence, enrage Kareem. Soon, however, the cousins must come together to counter racism in Allansdale. High-stakes conflicts in the form of Kareem's fears for those he left behind play powerfully against adolescent challenges, such as Sam's emotionally vulnerable

angst about fitting in, delivering a strongly paced tale. An author's note concludes. Secondary characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--In a book written in alternating voices, the two characters--Kareem, who lives in Damascus, Syria, and Samira (Sam), who lives in Allansdale, MA--are cousins with more in common than they realize. Kareem and his closest friends have been spray-painting graffiti speaking out against how the corrupt Syrian government is treating its people. They know they must graffiti quickly and quietly to avoid being caught and becoming one of the "disappeared" or worse, killed. In an effort to protect their son, Kareem's parents send him to live with his aunt and uncle in the United States. Sam is anxious to join Spirit Squad, but struggles because the leader is a bully and her best friend Ellie refuses to join her. Despite this, Sam is determined to incite school spirit through her artistic talents in writing and drawing. Disappointed that her best friend Sam has joined the Spirit Squad, Ellie becomes close to Kareem when the two embark on their own form of raising awareness through tagging with graffiti. Graffiti in Allansdale brings out two opposing sides throughout social media. Thought-provoking and heartfelt, this novel parallels the struggles teens feel with loss and bullying situations to the oppression that citizens often feel when the government is deceitful. Preteens and teens will find this book relatable and real. VERDICT An outstanding novel that hits its mark, demonstrating that young teens grapple with a gamut of emotions and situations yet are resilient enough to work through them and achieve success. Highly recommended.--Tracy Cronce
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	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2377181 Leila and the Blue Fox (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Kiran Millwood Hargrave</i> Together, Leila and her mother's research team follow the migration of a tiny Arctic fox, Miso, across ice floes and international borders, hopeful the midnight sun will illuminate how to adapt to a constantly changing world. 978-1-4549-5434-7 Union Square Kids ©2024 6 x 8-1/2 256 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 810</p>	1	\$19.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2366096 Kites and Lemonade (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Yasmeen bint Ahmad</i> Lina has spent her life in a wheelchair and has never been friends with another differently abled person until she meets Amara, who is blind. And they both have a secret they must keep from everyone else! Together with Amara's brother Omar they solve a mystery and save the day. 978-1-4482-1829-5 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2024 5 x 7-3/4 208 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$18.00

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2324578 Grounded (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Aisha Saeed</i> When a thunderstorm grounds all flights following a huge Muslim convention, four unlikely kids are thrown together. These kids don't seem to have much in common--yet. Told in alternating points of view, Grounded tells the story of one unexpected night that will change these kids forever. 978-1-4197-6175-1 Amulet Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 272 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0</p>	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Four kids, one fast-paced night, and an opportune mystery: this middle-grade novel hits the ground running from the very first page. A storm grounds flights at Zora Neale Hurston Airport, leaving hundreds of Muslims departing an Islamic conference stranded. Among them are four incredible kids: Feek, longing to be a spoken-word artist (like his famous dad) but relegated to babysitting his sister; Hanna (sister of readers' treasured Adam from Love from A to Z, 2019), searching for Snickerdoodle, a cat that went missing at the airport; Sami, the reserved kid who is never picked first; and Nora, always expected to be poised as the daughter of a congresswoman. In a single night and despite occasional tension, the quad rallies around a common goal: finding Snickerdoodle. In alternating points of view, the four authors—who collaborated on Once upon an Eid (2020)—have crafted a book that, while it brims with unapologetic Muslim rep, is about not religion but friendship and adventure. Sometimes their parents don't get them, but trust and communication abound. Hand to readers seeking a quick escape.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Four tweens stuck in an airport come together for a rescue mission. When 12-year-old Feek Stiles loses his 4-year-old sister, Ruqi, at the airport, he meets Hanna Chen and Sami Iqbal, who try to help him locate her. But Nora Najjar finds her first. The kids are waiting with their families to fly home after attending the Muslims of North America conference when flights are grounded due to inclement weather. Eleven-year-old Hanna, armed with flyers and Meow Mix, is determined to find Snickerdoodle, a cat who has been missing for a week in the airport, and she recruits Feek, Sami, and Nora to help. The story unfolds in chapters that alternate among the viewpoints of aspiring poet Feek from Philadelphia; Doha animal lover Hanna; Sami, who is from Orlando and does karate; and Nora, a Michigan congresswoman's daughter who posts on social media about sweet treats. Each one has something they are struggling with, including parents with busy work schedules, a sports competition, their sense of Muslim identity, and more. They end up going on an adventure throughout the airport that involves unexpected twists and turns, in the process learning more about themselves and one another and finding their voices. Saeed, Al-Marashi, Thompkins-Bigelow, and Ali write four relatable, well-developed characters from different backgrounds who represent the diversity of Muslim communities, seamlessly connecting their individual and collective stories into a single whole. A positive, engaging story centering Muslim kids. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this multi-POV collaboration, four kids leaving the Muslims of North America conference are stranded with their families at Zora Neale Hurston Airport after a thunderstorm grounds their flights. When 12-year-old aspiring lyricist Feek Stiles, from Philly, loses track of four-year-old sister Ruqi, he's thrown into the company of perpetually anxious Sami Iqbal, from Orlando, who's afraid of missing his upcoming karate competition; 13-year-old Nora Najjar, a social media enthusiast struggling to share the attention of her busy Michigan "Congressmom"; and 11-year-old animal lover Hanna Chen, from Doha, who's devoted herself to finding Snickerdoodle, a cat lost in the airport. Once Ruqi is found, Hanna presses the others into joining her cause, precipitating a revealing adventure that pushes each character; all of them navigating personal challenges; to confront whatever it is they're facing, now that there's nowhere to go. Humorous dialogue balances intensely emotional moments throughout alternating chapters by Saeed, Al-Marashi, Thompkins Bigelow, and Ali. Spirited characters with distinctly wrought backgrounds prove both idealistic and realistic while emphasizing the importance of community and the idea that there is more than one way to honor Muslim identity. Ages 8: 12. Authors' agents: (for Saeed) Faye Bender, Book Group; (for Ali) Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties; (for Thompkins Bigelow) Essie White, Storm Literary. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--In a book written in alternating chapters by four well-known, Muslim authors, four tweens with seemingly little in common are stranded at an airport. Bad weather has grounded all flights following a Muslim convention. Feek, an aspiring poet, wants to gain the approval of his famous father through his writing but is instead babysitting his little sister Ruqi. Hanna, animal protector extraordinaire, is trying to find a cat named Snickerdoodle, who was lost in the airport the week before, while also avoiding her dad's talk about finding her a new mom. Sami, forever anxious, is worried the grounded flights will keep him from his important karate tournament. Nora, daughter of a congresswoman, just wants to make videos for social media and work out her friend issues. When Hanna recruits the others to find Snickerdoodle, all four embark on an adventure through the airport (with Ruqi in tow), and uncover potentially sinister happenings with animals. The story contains just the right number of twists and turns to keep middle grade readers engaged. The authors have seamlessly overlapped each family's trials, keeping the characters likable and believable. Muslim readers will be happy to be represented, and will connect with one or more of the kids, whether they feel like they fit in or not, and non-Muslim readers will see the universality of friendship and families. VERDICT This will appeal to a wide audience, with important topics addressed smartly, including the positives and negatives of social media, and fitting in with peers while staying connected to one's family.--Michele Shaw Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2366858 Lost Kites and Other Treasures (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Cathy Carr

Twelve-year-old Franny Petroski never lets anyone know how often she thinks of the charismatic, troubled mom who left her years ago-any more than she talks about the unaccountable things Mom did while she was still in the picture. Life with Nana is safe and secure, and Franny's innovative art projects fill in any lonesome times.

978-1-4197-6799-9 Amulet Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8 272 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Frances' grandmother took her in, Nana was insistent on giving her the stability that Frances' mother couldn't. It wasn't easy at first, but now in sixth grade, with regular assistance from a guidance counselor, Frances is mostly back on track at school and thrives in art class. When Nana takes a fall and needs to use a wheelchair for her months-long recovery, they call on friends to find a new, accessible apartment, though neither Nana nor Franny are keen on asking for help. What's worse is that Franny's estranged Uncle Gabe comes to stay for a bit, which only highlights the familial void left by her absent mother. Franny's first-person narration shines in this approachable story about the ripple effects of mental health challenges within a family. The primary plot centers on Franny seeking out the truth of her early life experiences with her mom, as she snoops through Nana's closet and meets her mom's former best friend on an outing with Uncle Gabe. Honest conversations-in stark contrast to the staunch silence from Nana for most of Franny's life-make way for compassion regarding Franny's mother's struggles with bipolar disorder. The flow of the novel is sometimes interrupted by awkward, obsolete terms that are clearly trying

to connect with modern young audiences, but realism is still found in personality clashes, drifting friendships, and unmet expectations. Franny's artistic inclinations, focused on found objects and mixed media, are thematically compelling, as she finds beauty in things that are broken and discarded, like a makeshift garbage bag kite she eventually transforms into a sculpture piece subtly honoring her mom. KF COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Writing down her concerns and creating art with found objects are things that help calm Franny--and lately, she has big worries. Years ago, Franny Petroski's mom, Mia, left her to be cared for by her maternal grandmother. But now Nana has broken her leg and can't get around without assistance. Twelve-year-old Franny could use some help--or even emotional support--from her best friends, but Lucy Bernal's family is moving back to London, and Ruben Yao is busy befriending school loudmouth Tate. Enter Uncle Gabe, Mia's estranged brother, who moves in for a few weeks to help. While he's there, he starts telling Franny about Mia and raises the subject of her mom's mental health, an issue Franny hadn't heard much about before. This sparks some discomfort, a disagreement with Ruben, and difficult conversations with family members. Carr sensitively explores mental illness, incarceration, and families in crisis, and she portrays her characters as flawed but caring. As Franny works through it all, she discovers that she no longer needs to list her worries. The creative process of working on a lost, damaged kite she finds--covering it with pieces of fabric that represent family and friends--helps her express and resolve her complicated feelings. It's a rocky ride, but everyone, especially Franny, emerges stronger and with their spirits lifted. Franny and her family are white; Ruben is Filipino American. Unusual and gratifying. (Why You Should Be an Artist) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Twelve-year-old Franny Petroski lives with Nana in an apartment in New Jersey and enjoys creating art and spending time with her friends. But when Nana falls and breaks her leg, Franny's life drastically changes. Her estranged Uncle Gabe comes to help, and she starts to learn more about herself, family, and mother's mental illness and incarceration. She learns that by sharing her feelings and fears, she can find ways to deal with the pain of loss and strengthen family bonds. Franny finds power in art and talking about her past as she forges new relationships with Nana and her uncle. She also learns that being true to herself and her past may mean changes in friendships. Carr's first-person narrative features a well-developed character in Franny; readers will root for her from the beginning. Franny displays the complex emotions of a preteen dealing with complex issues. Carr's thoughtful and nuanced representation of a family dealing with bipolar disorder and incarceration gives voice to readers who have similar issues. VERDICT At times this book seems to have too many things going on, but the approach to mental health and family trauma makes it an important addition to any shelf.—Rebekah J. Buchanan



#2376401 Keeping Pace (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Laurie Morrison

Grace Eller has spent most of middle school working toward one goal: beating her former friend Jonah Perkins's GPA so she can be the best student in her class. But when Jonah beats her for eighth grade top scholar and then announces he's switching schools for ninth grade, it feels like none of Grace's academic accomplishments have really mattered. She starts to expand her ideas of what-and who-really matters.

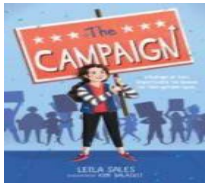
978-1-4197-6875-0 Amulet Books ©2024 8 x 5-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Academic achievement has been one of the few constants in Grace Eller's life, and this last year of middle school wasn't supposed to be any different. When the year-end "top student" designation goes to her sworn enemy, Jonah, she's crushed. Sure, only a fraction of a point separates their scores, but after years of supposedly being the best, it pains her to come in second. It doesn't help that both of her parents are professors, either. As a budding writer herself, Grace places considerable value on her novelist father's seemingly glamorous pursuits. Astute readers will be able to see this as a bid for connection—her parents are divorced, and Grace and her sister live with their mom. The novel provides much-needed space to reflect on these dynamics, but the story is less about Grace figuring out her relationship with her dad than it is about figuring out her relationship with herself. However, it's through running that she gradually acknowledges her intrinsic self-worth, recognizing that it's OK to just be.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Goal-oriented Grace Eller strives to cross everything off her to-do list during the summer between middle school and high school in this introspective novel by Morrison (Coming Up Short). Before she turns 14, Grace wants to babysit her divorced father's girlfriend's son without incident, change her hair style, take a cool class, score her first kiss, make a new friend, and run a half-marathon. Initially doubtful of her athletic ability, Grace soon finds peace and strength in her training routine. This regimen helps ground her as she navigates evolving relationships with friends new and old, feelings for childhood bestie and current rival Jonah Perkins, and changing family dynamics. As Grace comes to terms with this transitional stage of her life, she realizes that "there are all sorts of things I used to find fun.... But now, I'm not so sure." Morrison utilizes insightful prose and a steady momentum to chronicle Grace's pursuit of her goals. Her varying success and fluctuating perspectives all serve to make her feel more complete and confident, especially when she decides that "setting the pace that's right for me" is the only way to get where she wants to go. Protagonists read as white; supporting characters are racially diverse. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (Apr.)



#216796 Campaign (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Leila Sales

Veep meets Parks and Recreation in this hilarious illustrated middle-grade political comedy about a 12-year-old who runs her babysitter's campaign for mayor.

978-1-4197-3974-3 Abrams ©2020 5-1/2 x 8 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity

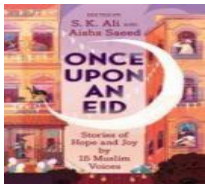
Unit Price

1

\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Maddie, 12, lives for art class, the one place in school where "it's not really possible to do anything dumb or weird," so she's devastated when she learns that the lone candidate running for town mayor, a former Olympian campaigning as a "goal-oriented straight shooter," wants to cut school arts funding. Maddie is not one to go down without a fight, however, so she persuades her babysitter Janet to sign up as the race's challenger. The odds are stacked against Janet, but things kick into high gear after Maddie asks popular drama club queen Dahlina to enlist her friends to help run the campaign. Maddie's fears; that she is disliked by classmates, that she'll have to share Janet with the world; are well wrought and relatable, as is her drive to fight for what she believes. Sales (Once Was a Time) seamlessly weaves campaigning facts and ethics into the timely tale, educating readers while keeping them hooked on the suspenseful election. Balacuit's cartoons pepper the text, detailing story elements through short word-bubble conversations. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Stephen Barbara, InkWell Management. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—The self-important, presumptive mayor-to-be plans to cut arts education funding, so seventh grader Maddie leverages her peers' grassroots action in support of her babysitter's challenge for the mayoral seat. Sales infuses this civic engagement book with humor, identity angst, and character development, and keeps the story moving forward with a light touch. Underneath the who-will-win momentum, another layer of the story unfolds: Will relatable narrator and social outsider Maddie, who can be really mean and dismissive of her peers, learn to stop being so judgmental? Simple cartoons augment the text throughout, adding levity in the style of popular titles by Rachel RenTe Russell and Chris Grabenstein. Lawrenceville is a small, familiar, American town filled with ethnically diverse characters; Maddie is white and middle class. VERDICT A highly readable, enjoyable, nonpartisan story meant to encourage civic activism amongst middle schoolers.—Rhona Campbell, Georgetown Day Sch., Washington, DC



#216022 Once upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Aisha Saeed

Once Upon an Eid is a collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid!

(Anthology)

978-1-4197-4083-1 Amulet Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* For Muslims, there's no better time to gather with family and reflect upon the joy of giving than during Eid-ul-Fitr (which celebrates the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting) or Eid-ul-Adha (the feast of sacrifice, which is connected to the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca). Here Ali (Love from A to Z, 2019) and Saeed (Amal Unbound, 2018) have gathered a roster of #OwnVoices Muslim authors to highlight the diversity within Islam and to explore the meaning of and otherworldly feelings associated with Eid. In Ali's and Saeed's stories, Yusuf and Nadia examine the importance of traditions and of allowing them to evolve to include others. In Hanna Alkaf's story in verse, readers are introduced to Malay food and a pain so poignant it can only be quelled by forgiveness. In Seraj Captures the Moon, Sara Alfageeh (who also illustrated the stunning book cover) gives life to G. Willow Wilson's graphic story about a girl (and a donkey named Pickles) on a quest to share the light of the moon. This special anthology about family traditions, sharing meals, giving presents, and delighting in the cultural uniqueness of people all over the world isn't just for those who celebrate Eid; it's for all who want to share and learn about the holidays.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fifteen Muslim authors contribute to this celebratory story collection centered around Eid, the holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. Joyful reunions, irritating relatives, fancy clothes, and special, heartfelt gifts appear in many of the tales, giving an overall tone of warmth and playfulness, and even the stories that take a more somber approach end with possibilities of hope and optimism. Dessert plans go awry when Yusuf burns the brownies-made from an old recipe and meant to be the best of the post-feast snacks-in Aisha Saeed's "Yusuf and the Great Big Brownie Mistake," a comedy of errors that plenty of novice bakers will recognize. A chaotic eight-hour road trip with unruly younger siblings and increasingly frazzled parents makes for a comic holiday travel in Randa Abdel-Fattah's "Eid and Pink Bubble Gum, Insha'Allah," while Asmaa Hussein's "Kareem Means 'Generous'" focuses on the moral principles emphasized by Eid. Several stories tackle the grief and sorrow that can come with celebration in the wake of loss, and one examines the refugee experience with realism and

compassion. There's a helpful amount of education for those unfamiliar with the holiday, but readers will also savor the mouthwatering descriptions of food that will likely inspire preteens to try their hand at a few of the dishes. KQG

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide This remarkably inclusive collection of short stories by fifteen Muslim authors showcases some of the many Muslim communities; cultural and familial traditions; and the universality of human experience against the backdrop of the celebration of Eid. Like their authors, the stories' protagonists live in majority non-Muslim countries -- in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Greece, the exception being Hanna Alkaf's Malaysian character, Alia, in "Taste." Stories range from simple celebrations of joy and navigating everyday conflicts to addressing loss and grief, but all are inextricably tied to community, identity, and faith. Protagonists' experiences are inclusive of a variety of family structures, differing socioeconomic backgrounds, Shia Muslims, and recent converts to Islam. Though most stories are in prose, other formats include Alkaf's tale in verse; a comic-format story by G. Willow Wilson, illustrated by Sara Alfageeh (who also designed the cover and frontispiece for each story in the collection); and a movingly powerful poem by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow celebrating the vivid imagery of Eid in the African American Muslim community -- its history and connection to the memories and dreams of enslaved African Muslims. As a whole the collection captures the spirit and feelings of Eid as well as the many sensory elements: the collective "ameen" of a congregation of worshippers, the touch and rustle of Eid clothing, and the multitude of smells, sounds, and tastes that will resonate with Muslim and non-Muslim readers alike. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This remarkably inclusive collection of short stories by fifteen Muslim authors showcases some of the many Muslim communities; cultural and familial traditions; and the universality of human experience against the backdrop of the celebration of Eid. Like their authors, the stories' protagonists live in majority non-Muslim countries -- in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Greece, the exception being Hanna Alkaf's Malaysian character, Alia, in "Taste." Stories range from simple celebrations of joy and navigating everyday conflicts to addressing loss and grief, but all are inextricably tied to community, identity, and faith. Protagonists' experiences are inclusive of a variety of family structures, differing socioeconomic backgrounds, Shia Muslims, and recent converts to Islam. Though most stories are in prose, other formats include Alkaf's tale in verse; a comic-format story by G. Willow Wilson, illustrated by Sara Alfageeh (who also designed the cover and frontispiece for each story in the collection); and a movingly powerful poem by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow celebrating the vivid imagery of Eid in the African American Muslim community -- its history and connection to the memories and dreams of enslaved African Muslims. As a whole the collection captures the spirit and feelings of Eid as well as the many sensory elements: the collective "ameen" of a congregation of worshippers, the touch and rustle of Eid clothing, and the multitude of smells, sounds, and tastes that will resonate with Muslim and non-Muslim readers alike. Ariana Hussain September/October 2020 p.80(c) Copyright 2020. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

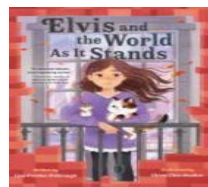
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fifteen accomplished Muslim writers from various regions and backgrounds share Eid-themed short stories in this middle-grade collection. Stylish Hawa from Philly spends Eid in New York City with the Mandinka side of the family and learns to get along with her cousin. Kareem buys himself a new bike, then learns how to embody the meaning of his own name: "generous." Most of the young protagonists live in majority non-Muslim countries--Americans of various ethnicities in the United States, a Syrian family living in a refugee camp on a Greek island--and identity issues are sometimes in the foreground. The traditions depicted vary, but the themes of family, community, and faith permeate the volume. Whether making or buying special foods--Eid brownies, doughnuts, lontong--or taking care of younger siblings, these young heroes and heroines help make Eid special for others. The diversity within the collection is impressive, including several blended families and a recently converted one, and while the writing varies in style and quality, each story is engaging, full of emotion and thought. Particularly powerful are Jameela Thompkins-Bigelow's poem connecting present-day Eid scenes to imaginings of the early Muslims who arrived in the Americas enslaved and Hanna Alkaf's lyrical account of a Malay girl's attempt to save Eid for her family. A well-placed graphic story by G. Willow Wilson and illustrated by Alfageeh, who also contributes a frontispiece to each story, provides a reprieve midway through the book. This thoughtful and uplifting volume will keep readers turning pages year-round; here's to many more. (Anthology. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This effervescent anthology, edited by Ali (Love from A to Z) and Saeed (Amal Unbound), binds together 15 short stories in a variety of formats that explore the festival of Eid. While the annual Muslim celebration is a major component, the authors also interweave deeper explorations of the Islamic faith into their tales, which combine insights on Muslim culture with a message on the importance of such traits as generosity and resilience. Asmaa Hussein's "Kareem Means 'Generous,'" for example, features Kareem's discovery of the pleasure he gains from sharing his good fortune. Candice Montgomery contributes a moving narrative about 11-year-old Leila's first experience wearing a hijab, conveying both the girl's excitement and her mother's anxiety over potential backlash. Leila's closeness with family and positive interactions with classmates further exemplify fulfilling interpersonal relationships that appear throughout the book. No two stories are alike: the inclusion of a narrative in poem ("Taste," by Hanna Alkaf) and a short graphic novel (G. Willow Wilson's "Seraj Captures the Moon") ensures various reading formats. Moreover, a range of diverse, multidimensional characters; among them Shia Muslim, converted Muslim, Algerian, Caribbean, and West African representation; results in a stimulating, celebratory read. Ages 8: 12. Agents: John Cusick, Folio Literary Management (for Ali), and Taylor Martindale, Full Circle Literary (for Saeed). (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--This heartfelt collection of Eid (both Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha) short stories, edited by Ali (Saints & Misfits) and Saeed (Amal Unbound), compiles the work of 15 #OwnVoices creators and provides beautiful, essential narratives about Muslim culture. Regardless of readers' familiarity with Eid or the Muslim faith, they will feel embraced in each and every story. The tales are artfully arranged, beginning with happy and light fare before wading into heavier, more complex topics, and ending on laugh-out-loud perfection. A graphic novel-esque intermission provides a delightful surprise. The narratives here are wonderfully diverse in setting, familial structure, race, culture, and experience. The collection not only celebrates and shares Eid, but skillfully teaches readers, addressing issues like racism and prejudice

with a light but effective touch. With many varied contributors, the stories read well as a whole or individually, and many have significant appeal well beyond the target audience. VERDICT A joyous title that radiates love. This much-needed collection is recommended as a first purchase for all libraries.--Taylor Worley, Springfield P.L., OR Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In a welcoming collection of fictional tales about celebrations of Eid, 15 notable Muslim voices share the excitement of this special day with middle-grade readers.



#2239249 Elvis and the World As It Stands (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa Frenkel Riddiough

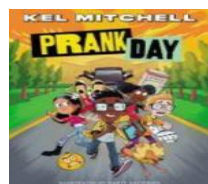
Most shelter animals dream of going home with a forever family. But for Elvis, being chosen by Mrs. Pemberton is a nightmare. He's been separated from his sister, Etta, and is determined to get back to the shelter to find her. In spite of himself, Elvis becomes curious about ten-year-old Georgina Pemberton, who builds LEGO skyscrapers in her bedroom while navigating her parents' separation.

978-1-4197-5239-1 Amulet Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–5—Elvis is a kitten living in a shelter with his sister, Etta. During a big Fourth of July adoption event, Elvis is adopted by Mrs. Pemberton wanting to give her daughter, Georgina, a special gift because Mrs. and Mr. Pemberton have separated and Georgina is not taking it well. Elvis is heartbroken to be torn away from his sister and though Georgina is kind to him, he desperately tries to go back to the shelter. As Elvis becomes more comfortable in his new home with Gina, who builds LEGO architecture to cope with her life changing, will he ever be reunited with his sister? This book is part adventure, part family drama, and a remembrance of 9/11. One of the buildings Georgina works on is a replica of the Twin Towers, which she builds because she keeps asking her parents for a photo of them in front of the towers when they first met, in NYC before 9/11. The author also includes a note about this historical event for younger readers. Though the book deals with serious topics, being told from Elvis' point of view lightens the overall tone, along with supporting characters like a funny hamster named Mo and a goofy dog named Bambi. Readers will race to find out how everything ends, with character growth and plenty of failed escape attempts before the satisfying conclusion. VERDICT An animal adventure with family at its heart, this short read makes for a good purchase for elementary libraries where animal stories, particularly about cats and shelter animals, are popular.—Molly Dettmann, Norman North H.S., OK



#2292943 Prank Day (Hardcover (POB))

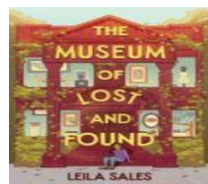
written by Kel Mitchell

This laugh-aloud novel for kids follows Chase as he masterminds a series of epic pranks only to discover that they've all become real on April 2nd. When his tricks become reality in hilarious and disastrous ways, Chase must come clean. How will he set the world right again, catch the eye of his crush Zoe, and keep her from getting flattened by the refrigerator running all over town?

978-1-4002-2922-2 Thomas Nelson, Inc. ©2022 5-1/2 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 600

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$12.99



#2324591 Museum of Lost and Found (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Leila Sales

Vanessa isn't sure which happened first: finding the abandoned museum or losing her best friend Bailey. She doesn't know what to do with herself now that Bailey has left her behind--but when she stumbles upon an empty, forgotten museum, her purpose becomes clear. If she can find the right way to tell the story of her broken friendship, she can figure out how to make it whole again.

978-1-4197-5451-7 Amulet Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

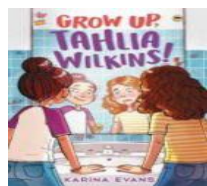
Reviews by: Booklist Sixth grade has been confusing. Vanessa's best friend, Bailey, has grown distant, and when Vanessa learns that she wasn't invited to Bailey's birthday party, it seems their relationship is officially over. Thankfully, Vanessa makes a happier discovery, too: an abandoned museum at a nearby park, complete with a mysteriously abandoned painting. She puts together an exhibit about her floundering friendship, hoping to decipher why it ended, and soon other kids including her older brother and an unusual boy from her Hebrew school, join her in creating their own displays. News of the imminent building demolition sets Vanessa in a race against time to try to save the museum—and possibly her friendship with Bailey—in the process. It's an intriguing premise, and the tone is delightfully conversational, even when tackling topics of shifting friendships, body-focused repetitive behavior, and having an active-duty parent overseas. Discussions of relationships are nuanced and thoughtful, and the book ends on a realistic but hopeful note. A creative and compassionate examination of friendship in all forms.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Sixth grader Vanessa is mystified and saddened by the apparent end of her friendship with longtime BFF Bailey -- so much so that when she comes across a dilapidated building, once a museum, in her small Ohio town, she decides to make it into her own museum: the museum of Bailey. "Maybe by telling the story of Bailey -- by laying it all out clearly behind glass -- she would at last be able to understand where it went wrong." When others discover Vanessa's project -- Eli from Hebrew school; her older brother, Sterling; and twin classmates Rosalie and Honore -- they add their own exhibits. As Vanessa gains more insight into her and Bailey's friendship, "the story of Bailey" changes, with the labels on the items in the Bailey Wing amended to reflect Vanessa's evolving understanding. Meanwhile, the mysterious provenance of a large painting left behind in the museum adds *Mixed-Up Files* resonance. Other elements woven into the plot include Vanessa's compulsive skin-picking (identified late in the book as excoriation disorder) and worry over the safety of her active-service father. Sales (If You Don't Have Anything Nice to Say, rev. 5/18) manages to combine all of this into a nuanced look at friendship, family, self-knowledge, coming of age, and community, with Vanessa a strong-minded and sometimes unlikable but always sympathetic protagonist. Martha V. Parravano (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews For Vanessa, the loneliness of an ended friendship becomes creative inspiration in an abandoned museum. Vanessa Lepp doesn't understand why Bailey Dominguez doesn't want to be best friends anymore. They are both still sixth graders at Edgewood Falls Middle School, and they are still in the same homeroom. But Bailey, who is Mexican American, is not in Vanessa's life anymore. When Vanessa, who is Jewish, finds an old, mostly boarded up museum, she creates an exhibit of meaningful items connected to Bailey, hoping to win back her friend. The space becomes a place to put her pain. Eventually, others bring their stories of sadness and of hope to this secret space, including Sterling, her older brother, and Eli, the class clown from Hebrew school. A mysterious painting has also been left in the museum, raising questions about things we leave behind and how people change as they grow. What will happen to all of these treasures when the building gets torn down? There are many complex themes in this story: the loss of friendship, a military dad stationed in Germany, and Vanessa's anxiety that manifests as body-focused repetitive behaviors. Sales gently uses the museum's exhibits to explore self-awareness, help her characters process past behaviors, and reveal consequences that are not initially understood. The inner thoughtfulness is balanced with an action-packed ending that satisfies. Creatively explores the complexity of middle school friendships. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Sixth grader Vanessa Lepp is hurt and bewildered about being inexplicably abandoned by best friend Bailey Dominguez. When Vanessa discovers a boarded-up museum near her small-town Ohio home, she's fascinated by its empty frames and pedestals, and begins creating an exhibit about Bailey, hoping to understand what went wrong and to win her friend back. Others, including Vanessa's 14-year-old brother Sterling, happen upon the museum and begin building their own personal exhibits, forming a secret community that helps Vanessa expand her focus to other friends; and to the mysterious creator of a remarkable painting that she regards in the museum. Sales (Once Was a Time) persuasively portrays Vanessa's frustration around others' expectations, her lack of control over her life, and her anxiety, whose presentation involves compulsive skin-picking. Rendering the intensity of middle school dynamics in serviceable prose, this multifaceted art mystery with a focus on interpersonal bonds tackles an array of themes; anxiety, friendship's natural fluctuations, and learning to let go of the past; while offering opportunity for reflection. Occasional b&w illustrations from Li portray objects from Vanessa's exhibit. Vanessa cues as white and Jewish; Bailey is Mexican American. Ages 8: 12. (May)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2275115 Grow Up, Tahlia Wilkins! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Karina Evans

Twelve-year-old Tahlia Wilkins is ready to kick off the perfect summer, starting with an invitation to a pool party being thrown by the most popular kid in school. But when her period arrives twenty-four hours before the party, it messes up all her plans. In order to save herself from embarrassment, it will take all of Tahlia and her best friend Lily's scheming to keep her reputation (and favorite jeans) from being ruined.

978-0-316-16875-5 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist It's the last day of seventh grade, and Tahlia Wilkins has a plan for her and her BFF Lily: starting with a pool party at the

home of popular, friendly Noah, Tahlia and Lily will get in with the cool kids crowd. There's only one problem: Tahlia gets her period for the first time the day before the party, right after her mom leaves for the weekend. Tahlia is desperate to avoid embarrassing herself by letting anyone except Lily know, and every attempt to handle the situation leads to disaster. Debut author Evans believably captures the emotional roller coaster of middle-school aged kids in Tahlia's frantic, snarky first-person narrative. Tahlia comes across as quite self-centered, but a sobering bit of news from Lily brings her down to earth and helps her start being a better friend. Tahlia's experience of her first period is refreshingly matter-of-fact and extensive: she tries tampons for the first time, buys supplies on her own, and ultimately discovers that her dad can be a supportive resource. Hand this voice-driven novel to kids interested in friendship stories.

Reviews by: Horn Book e topic of Evans's lively debut, which follows 12-year-old Tahlia Wilkins, who reads as white, and the series of disasters she experiences in the days following seventh grade graduation. Her first problem? The pimple that's appeared on her "traitorous chin" just in time for popular Noah Campos's pool party, where Tahlia hopes to overcome a previous "goggles-and-board-shorts incident," and prove that she's gotten cooler over the past year. Next, just after her mother leaves their central Pennsylvania town to attend a work retreat sans phone service, Tahlia gets her first period. She's too embarrassed to tell her awkward father or 16-year-old twin brothers, but Tahlia and her best friend engage in a series of comic acts. They sneak into a neighbor's bathroom, for one, and wade into a restaurant fountain to gather quarters for a bathroom dispenser, events that lead to further dilemmas. As Tahlia's chatty first-person narration conveys her desire of popularity amid her eventful first visit from "The Fairy Godmother of Puberty," Evans offers some practical tips for young people on the brink of menstruation, ending on a family-oriented upswing—and a note of relief."

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews On the last day of seventh grade, right before Noah Campos' pool party, Tahlia Wilkins worries about a new zit. Last year she wore a practical, sun-protective, but unfashionable outfit and was totally embarrassed to see how fashion-forward the other girls were. Noah is superpopular, and Tahlia is determined to make a good impression this time, but her first period threatens to upend her plans. Tahlia wants to start menstruating, but not right before the party, just after her mom has left on a work retreat. She can't talk to her socially awkward dad about it and doesn't have an older sister, just obnoxious 16-year-old twin brothers. She has no pads but finds some in her parents' bathroom. Luckily, Tahlia's best friend, Lily Baek, tries to assist, offering good ideas and some scatterbrained solutions. In the 24 hours between the onset of Tahlia's period and the help that she finally gets from her parents, her first step into womanhood is filled with funny, albeit mortifying, moments that will have readers both laughing and sympathizing. While largely focused on bodily concerns, there are also messages about friendship and family matters. Quick-moving, lighthearted, and ultimately heartwarming, this first-person narrative will especially be enjoyed by readers awaiting or having recently experienced their first periods. Tahlia's family is cued White. Lily's surname points to Korean ancestry, and names indicate some diversity in the supporting cast. Humorously highlights a meaningful milestone for a tween: a first period. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Middle school humiliation is the topic of Evans's lively debut, which follows 12-year-old Tahlia Wilkins, who reads as white, and the series of disasters she experiences in the days following seventh grade graduation. Her first problem? The pimple that's appeared on her "traitorous chin" just in time for popular Noah Campos's pool party, where Tahlia hopes to overcome a previous "goggles-and-board-shorts incident," and prove that she's gotten cooler over the past year. Next, just after her mother leaves their central Pennsylvania town to attend a work retreat sans phone service, Tahlia gets her first period. She's too embarrassed to tell her awkward father or 16-year-old twin brothers, but Tahlia and her best friend engage in a series of comic acts. They sneak into a neighbor's bathroom, for one, and wade into a restaurant fountain to gather quarters for a bathroom dispenser, events that lead to further dilemmas. As Tahlia's chatty first-person narration conveys her desire of popularity amid her eventful first visit from "The Fairy Godmother of Puberty," Evans offers some practical tips for young people on the brink of menstruation, ending on a family-oriented upswing; and a note of relief. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jessica Mileo, InkWell. (Apr.)



#2342451 Enemies in the Orchard: A World War 2 Novel in Verse (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Dana VanderLugt

It's October 1944, and while Claire's older brother, Danny, is off fighting in World War II, her dad hires a group of German POWs to help with the apple harvest on their farm. Claire wants nothing to do with the enemies in the orchard, until she meets soft-spoken, hardworking Karl. Could she possibly have something in common with a German soldier? Karl, meanwhile, grapples with his role in the war as he realizes how many lies Hitler's regime has spread-and his complacency in not standing up against them. But his encounters with Claire give him hope that he can change and become the person he wants to be.

978-0-310-15577-5 Zonderkidz ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

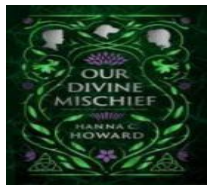
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In a Michigan apple orchard in 1944, a German soldier and an American girl reflect on wartime life. Claire DeBoer, a careworn 13-year-old Dutch American girl, bears countless responsibilities on her family's farm and dreams of one day becoming a nurse. Karl

Hartmann, a teenage German prisoner of war, arrives in Michigan to do agricultural work through a federal program. The book opens with atmospheric poems introducing each protagonist, effectively using George Ella Lyon's "Where I'm From" format. This reflective verse novel alternates their perspectives as it explores their intersecting lives. Claire's brother is fighting in Europe, so the dissonance of enemy soldiers on her farm feels like a cruel joke. Karl is awakening to the immensity of Nazi atrocities and anti-American propaganda, though some of his more nationalistic fellow prisoners are determined to make him suffer. Calm and dread intertwine: The soothing harvest-time rhythms intermingle with the ever-present threat of tremendous loss. Karl and Claire, having lost their youths to a global conflict, discover a tenuous friendship; the hinted-at mutual romantic feelings between an eighth grader and someone described as "almost a man" might cause some discomfort. VanderLugt's reflections on war's personal toll and the tensions of having enemy troops working in America offer opportunities for readers to consider matters from many angles. An author's note describes her inspiration--the German POWs who worked in her own grandfather's fruit orchards during the war. An emotionally layered vision of a difficult moment in history. (sources) (Verse historical fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An aura of tender sorrow pervades Vanderlugt's 1944-set debut, a free-verse novel about two youths who meet due to a WWII labor camp program in the U.S. The paths of 13-year-old American Claire DeBoer and young German soldier Karl Hartmann cross when Karl is one of 250 German prisoners of war brought to a Michigan labor camp under terms with the Federal Emergency Farm Labor Agency. Assigned to the apple harvest on Claire's family's orchard, kindhearted, English-speaking Karl is stunned to learn of German government lies and to find that "now, / as a captive, / ... I'm more at peace / than I ever was / fighting at home." Claire, whose 18-year-old brother is fighting abroad, is desperate to attend high school and become a nurse rather than give in to expectations to leave school and help on the farm until marrying. In spite of Claire's initial distrust, which is amplified within the community, Claire and Karl slowly befriend each other as their perspectives of each other's situations change. Via contemplative first-person narratives and occasional adapted news articles, Vanderlugt intimately limns each character's experiences alongside those of a sympathetically drawn secondary cast. While eliding context around U.S. internment-camp practices in WWII, this bittersweet telling, per an author's note based on little-known true events, is nevertheless rich in atmospheric and emotional detail. All characters cue as white. Ages 9: up. Agent: Amy Thrall Flynn, Rubin Pfeffer Content. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Claire, a 13-year-old daughter of apple farmers in Michigan, and Karl, a Nazi prisoner of war, find themselves in an unlikely friendship--with hints of more--when their lives intersect at Claire's family orchard. This novel-in-verse is based on a true story of a group of German POWs who were transported to the Midwest to help with labor shortages due to the large quantity of Americans fighting in the war. Through dual perspectives, VanderLugt aims to humanize the characters and show that Karl, who was a member of the Hitler Youth, recognizes the horrors of war and the way he was indoctrinated; he is portrayed as a sympathetic character. Pacing and character development flow well in this story and hold readers' interest. WWII fiction crowds historical fiction collections, though not many focus on the experiences of German soldiers on American soil. This book sheds some light on this part of history. VERDICT Recommended for purchase for upper elementary and middle school collections only where WWII fiction is in very high demand.--Monisha Blair Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2349394 Our Divine Mischief (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Hanna C. Howard

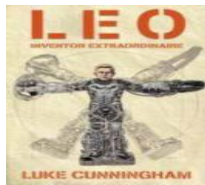
A sweeping YA fantasy inspired by Scottish history and folklore, *Our Divine Mischief* takes readers on a journey told in three voices: a determined heroine, an outcast young man, and a wish-granting canine. Their adventure spans an island fishing village to the king's court in a story about identity, belonging, and the love between a human and her dog.

978-0-310-15622-2 *Blink* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 400 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal finally has her mother's approval to go to the island where the goddess Ysla awaits to award her the meallion that will give her status in the community. But upon arrival, Aila discovers only a rambunctious puppy and no sign of the goddess. Return home a failure, with a puppy in tow, the priests announce a series of trials for Alia to endure in order to earn her medallion. The priests assign Hew, one of the "unblessed"—a person who returned with a blank medallion and is forced to provide menial services—to look after her and keep things organized, on track, and understandable during the trials. The trials are physically difficult and emotionally overwhelming; but her dog, Oriah, provides Aila comfort, resources, and a magic that cements their bond. When the third trial goes awry, bringing politics, violence, and an awareness that Oriah might be a key to great power, Oriah's life is endangered. Aila and Hew take action to ensure her safety even at the risk of their own. Told in alternating chapters, including Oriah's poetic voice, this fantasy sets readers firmly in Scottish folklore cementing the story as part romance, part political intrigue, part thriller, and at its heart, a dog story. Readers will root for the three protagonists as they struggle to save Oriah, alert their community to the dangers alive in the kingdom, and prove to themselves and their community that they belong and are worthy. VERDICT Offer this book to readers who enjoy their fantasy mixed with a folklore twist, romance, and, of course, dogs.—Connie Williams



#2223690 LEO, Inventor Extraordinaire (Hardcover (Trade))

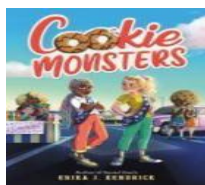
written by Luke Xavier Cunningham

A "lifer" at the secluded Academy of Florence, Leo has never met his parents ... or anyone in his family for that matter. He spends most of his time tinkering with inventions that never work (or work disastrously) and making trouble with his infinitely more charming friend and fellow lifer, Savvy. After Leo's latest experiment goes catastrophically wrong, he discovers a series of secret passages beneath the school that can only be unlocked by the sharpest of wits and a little help from Leo's school lessons.

978-0-310-77000-8 Zonderkidz ©2021 5 x 7 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 13.0

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$16.99



#2309310 Cookie Monsters (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erika J. Kendrick

Twelve-year-old Brooklyn Ace is ready to take the Valentine World Scouts by storm and build her own cookie empire. She nearly won the top cookie selling spot last year and is determined to make her mom--who recently passed away--proud by coming in first this time around. With her fabulous best friends by her side, Brooklyn knows she'll become Santa Monica's District Cookie Queen. The crown is practically in the bag.

978-0-316-28148-5 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old girl finds her voice with the help of her community as she competes to sell the most cookies. Brooklyn Ace, a Black seventh grader at Valentine Middle School, is the reigning cookie queen. This year will be no different despite not having her biggest supporter in her corner to help her reach her goal of selling 5,000 boxes of World Scouts Alliance cookies and winning the Santa Monica district prize. Her biggest obstacle is Piper Parker, a new White student who is already stealing away Brooklyn's regular customers with fancy tactics--and the help of lots of kids from their school eager to go to the pool party Piper is promising them if she wins. Brooklyn realizes that her mom, whose death she is grieving, did a tremendous amount of the groundwork for Brooklyn's record-breaking cookie sales. Even with the help of her therapist and supportive, racially diverse scout squad--Lyric, Luciana, and Stella Rose--Brooklyn will need to reexamine her definition of winning as the fierce cookie competition nears its end. Secondary characters' personalities aren't clearly delineated, and readers will feel less invested in them. The delivery of the central message can feel heavy-handed, but the fast pace and conversational tone that uses up-to-the-minute language will draw readers in. The book's strongest quality is the spotlight it shines on mental health and the importance of community. An appealing read, especially for those looking to start a conversation about grief and anxiety. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

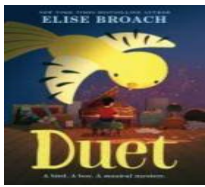
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two seventh graders face off to become a scouting cookie queen in this tenderhearted novel by Kendrick (Squad Goals). Having lost last year's World Scouts Alliance cookie-selling district title to a now-graduated high schooler, Black middle school student Brooklyn Ace is "in it to win it." She hopes to take the grand prize and dedicate it to her mother, who died of cancer the year prior. But the arrival of a transfer student, wealthy white Instagram influencer Piper Parker, brings competition to the fore. As Piper edges in on Brooklyn's established customers, and Brooklyn realizes how much of her success involved her compassionate mother's way with people, Brooklyn becomes overwhelmed with anxiety and grief as well as uncertainty about her prospects for winning. With the aid of her faithful scout troop members, HoneyBee cheer squad, vivacious therapist, and fashionable grandmother, Betty Jean, Brooklyn works to overcome her obstacles. Concentrating on Brooklyn's emotional growth, the positive first-person narrative sheds light on the importance of loyal friends, mental health support, and cherishing a loved one's memory. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Marcy Posner, Folio Literary. (Jan.)

#2278483 Duet (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elise Broach

Welcome to the world of Mirabelle, a young goldfinch who loves to sing and dreams of becoming a musical star. She lives with her family in the backyard of a piano

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$16.99



teacher, and she is quickly intrigued by Mr. Starek's newest pupil. Michael Jin is an eleven-year-old keyboard sensation, but lesson after lesson, he refuses to play. With the prestigious Chopin Festival looming at summer's end, how will he be ready in time?

978-0-316-31135-9 Christy Ottaviano Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Booklist Mirabelle, a goldfinch who sings beautifully, enjoys listening from a branch outside Mr. Starek's window when he plays the piano. A former concert pianist, the elderly man occasionally gives lessons to exceptionally gifted students such as Michael, an 11-year-old boy who is preparing to perform at a Chopin Festival. Unhappy to leave his former teacher, Michael initially refuses to play for Mr. Starek. But one day, the boy begins playing a piece by Chopin, and Mirabelle, perched near the window, begins to sing along. The spontaneous duet fills them both with awe. Now eager to learn from Mr. Starek and determined to play Chopin's music well, Michael is also intrigued by the mystery of the composer's missing Pleyel pianos and sets out to find one with help from Mirabelle. The story involves a treasure hunt, but it revolves around the characters' love of music and the sense of wonder that it inspires. Black-and-white art (not seen in final form) will illustrate the book. Mirabelle's lively, accessible first-person narrative offers a fresh perspective on the lives of birds and keen perception of the human characters. A companion book to Broach's *Masterpiece* (2008), this captivating chapter book is perfect for readers who, like Mirabelle, are sometimes spellbound by music.

Reviews by: Hachette Book Group arklng personality, narrates this engaging music-focused mystery con brio. She attributes her excellent ta te in music to listening through the window to a world-renowned pianist, and she's intrigued by his unappreciative, sulky new student, Michael. Wh Michael finally tries out the piano, she can't resist singing along with him to Chopin's Minute Waltz: "It's as if the song is singing me...Am I sti l made of bones and skin and feathers? No. I am only song." Mirabelle's singing inspires Michael, and the two continue their duets as Michael prepares for a Chopin contest. Broach skillfully incorporates bits of bird lore and information about both Chopin (including the macabre story of his heart) and his life partner, George Sand. As in Broach's previous books *Masterpiece* (rev. 11/08) and *Shakespeare's Secret*, a histori object is missing—this time, Chopin's piano. The pace is brisk, and Mirabelle faces multiple dilemmas (beyond her secret duets), involving newly hatched siblings, a dangerous cat, and a desperately ill man. Broach gives her heroine true self-determination and emotional growth, as the little bird ponders her situation: "What's the difference between a secret and a lie? A secret probably feels like a lie to someone who loves you." A final note sorts out historical fact from fiction.

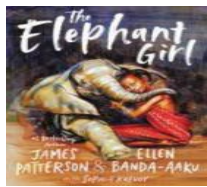
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Mirabelle, a goldfinch with a sparkling personality, narrates this engaging music-focused mystery con brio. She attributes her excellent taste in music to listening through the window to a world-renowned pianist, and she's intrigued by his unappreciative, sulky new student, Michael. When Michael finally tries out the piano, she can't resist singing along with him to Chopin's Minute Waltz: "It's as if the song is singing me...Am I still made of bones and skin and feathers? No. I am only song." Mirabelle's singing inspires Michael, and the two continue their duets as Michael prepares for a Chopin contest. Broach skillfully incorporates bits of bird lore and information about both Chopin (including the macabre story of his heart) and his life partner, George Sand. As in Broach's previous books *Masterpiece* (rev. 11/08) and *Shakespeare's Secret*, a historic object is missing -- this time, Chopin's piano. The pace is brisk, and Mirabelle faces multiple dilemmas (beyond her secret duets), involving newly hatched siblings, a dangerous cat, and a desperately ill man. Broach gives her heroine true self-determination and emotional growth, as the little bird ponders her situation: "What's the difference between a secret and a lie? A secret probably feels like a lie to someone who loves you." A final note sorts out historical fact from fiction. Susan Dove Lempke(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A singing goldfinch becomes a musical muse for a young piano prodigy. Mirabelle, a young female goldfinch who loves music, closely watches the home of Mr. Starek, a gifted piano teacher. One day, a tween boy named Michael Jin arrives, clearly against his wishes. The boy refuses to play for the esteemed teacher, who is supposed to help Michael prepare for the prestigious Chopin Festival in Hartford. Broach unfurls a shy dance between boy and bird, as Mirabelle's curiosity helps Michael, who presents as East Asian American, reveal his precocious talent. When Michael plays Chopin's Minute Waltz, Mirabelle, perched in a tree outside the window, begins to sing along, inspiring both to perform beyond their expectations. This creates a musical friendship that leads them to the mystery of Chopin's lost piano. Readers learn about the historical friendship among three geniuses: Frédéric Chopin; his muse, the writer George Sand; and painter Eugene Delacroix. A dilapidated house stuffed with treasures holds a rare piano that brings forth the duo's best performances, but will the bank take the house and all its contents away? Glimpses of bird life provide a lighthearted balance to the fine details of musicality and piano virtuosity. This story illustrates an appreciation for excellence and the passion to create music just for the joy of it. Final art not seen. A quick and interesting musical read, full of history and mystery.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Narrated by Mirabelle, a goldfinch with an exceptional voice, this soulful story set near Boston offers a bird's-eye view of three friends bound together by their passion for music. Mirabelle loves to listen to her once-famous pianist neighbor Mr. Starek, an emigrant from Poland, play the piano; he, in turn, delights in her singing. But when his sister dies, Mr. Starek grows despondent and ill until he takes on new student Michael Jin, who reads as East Asian, a rising sixth grader preparing for an upcoming Chopin competition that could "open

doors." Michael is initially reluctant to play, but when he does, his talent astonishes both Mirabelle and Mr. Starek. Over the next few weeks, Mirabelle attends the lessons, performing duets with Michael, learning the history of Polish composer Frederic Chopin alongside that of French author George Sand and French painter Eugene Delacroix, and becoming involved in a mystery regarding a very old, very valuable piano. Rich with facts around goldfinches and music, Broach's (the Masterpiece Adventure series) novel employs vivid descriptions ("It comes in a torrent, a rush of silvery notes cascading over one another"), unique characters, and carefully crafted suspense. Occasional b&w illustrations by Chen (Dancing with Daddy) depict the characters. Ages 8: 12. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Connection Narrated by Mirabelle, a goldfinch with an exceptional voice, this soulful story set near Boston offers a bird's-eye view of three friends bound together by their passion for music. Mirabelle loves to listen to her once-famous pianist neighbor Mr. Starek, an emigrant from Poland, play the piano; he, in turn, delights in her singing. But when his sister dies, Mr. Starek grows despondent and ill until he takes on new student Michael Jin, who reads as East Asian, a rising sixth grader preparing for an upcoming Chopin competition that could "open doors." Michael is initially reluctant to play, but when he does, his talent astonishes both Mirabelle and Mr. Starek. Over the next few weeks, Mirabelle attends the lessons, performing duets with Michael, learning the history of Polish composer Frédéric Chopin alongside that of French author George Sand and French painter Eugene Delacroix, and becoming involved in a mystery regarding a very old, very valuable piano. Rich with facts around goldfinches and music, Broach's (the Masterpiece Adventure series) novel employs vivid descriptions ("It comes in a torrent, a rush of silvery notes cascading over one another"), unique characters, and carefully crafted suspense.



#2284576 Elephant Girl (Hardcover (Trade))

written by James Patterson

Clever, sensitive Jama likes elephants better than people. While her classmates gossip—especially about the new boy, Leku—twelve-year-old Jama takes refuge at the watering hole outside her village. There she befriends a baby elephant she names Mbegu, Swahili for seed.

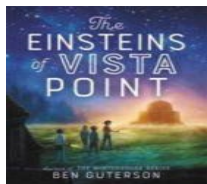
978-0-316-31692-7 Jimmy Patterson ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Maasai girl's bond with a baby elephant catapults her into the world of wildlife conservation. Jama is a 12-year-old Maasai girl in Kenya who feels troubled by the path to maturity most of her friends seem to want. Jama's mother remained single after the death of her father and ran the family business alone. However, Jama's desire for a different version of womanhood, one that includes an education and autonomy, causes her best friend, who dreams of boys and marriage, to slowly begin withdrawing from her. Jama starts to feel isolated as her old friends begin to exclude her. She is hiding near a watering hole, her special secret place, when she witnesses the birth of a baby elephant. Jama immediately feels a bond with the baby elephant and returns to check on her. But when their new wildlife ranger seems to be collaborating with poachers, Jama fears for the elephant herd. Dramatic events lead to tragedy and Jama's banishment from the village. Poaching, conservation efforts, and elephant behavior are explored through Jama's experiences with the baby elephant. Creating the life you want from the ashes of your old one is a prominent theme in this narrative as Jama sheds old friendships and becomes a young woman. Emotionally thrilling and richly satisfying. (glossary, authors' note) (Fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this powerful novel based in true events, Maasai 12-year-old Jama Anyango's life is irrevocably changed when she befriends a herd of elephants near her Kenyan village. As her best friend begins to focus on crushes, Jama, who longs for "the same freedom and power" as boys have, instead seeks refuge in the gorgeous natural landscapes around her, disobeying her widowed mother's rules that she stay near the village. An assured first-person perspective connects readers with Jama as she bonds with the elephant herd at a watering hole she loves, particularly a baby elephant whose birth she witnesses and whom she names Mbegu. But poachers roam the land, looking to kill elephants for their tusks, and the neglect of a seemingly corrupt wildlife ranger further threatens the elephants' safety. After a tragic accident, Jama's courage is put to the test, and her home life and well-being are imperiled, when the other villagers seek to kill Mbegu in revenge. Patterson and Banda-Aaku's well-developed, vividly set story is thoroughly grounded in Jama's bravery, moral strength, and genuine love for the animals that share her home. An authors' note discusses elephant poaching. Ages 10: 14. (July)



#2275105 Einsteins of Vista Point (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ben Guterson

When Zack's younger sister dies in a tragic accident, his family moves to a small town in the Northwest to try and heal from all the pain. Eleven-year-old Zack blames himself for his sister's death, and he struggles to find any comfort in his new surroundings. Vista Point is home to many mysterious landmarks: The great domed Tower casts inscrutable shadows, and what is the cryptic message in its ceiling

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

medallion?

978-0-316-31743-6 Christy Ottaviano Books ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

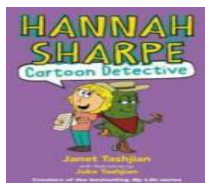
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Booklist ccident, the devastated Einstein family moves to a Victorian mansion in the Pacific Northwest for a fresh start as proprietors of a bed and breakfast. Eleven year-old Zack feels responsible for Susan's death and thinks everyone is moving on except for him. His parents and siblings dreamy Ruth, outdoorsy Ethan, and sporty Miriam—throw themselves into the renovation and exploration of their new setting, but Zack keeps to his room, rereading his favorite vintage sibling adventure series. He's finally coaxed out by an abandoned tower and a girl with an uncanny resemblance to Susan, and along with Zack's new cryptic acquaintance, coded messages eventually thrust the entire family into an ever-expanding mystery. Guterson does a splendid job of conjuring up the ideal setting for a classic summer story, complete with crystal-clear swimming holes, dilapidated dwellings, and lush forests. There are compassionate explorations of grief and loss, but obvious familial affection and gracious communal support keep the tone warm and hopeful. A properly old-fashioned adventure that begs to be read by flashlight under bedcovers.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Eleven-year-old Zack Einstein is trying to figure out how to mourn his sister, who died almost a year ago, without staying stuck completely in a holding pattern of grief and guilt (despite being told otherwise, he still holds himself responsible for the accident). His parents hope that a move and a project to renovate an old house will help them all find the fresh start they need, and Zack does find a distraction in a new friend. It's not entirely clear if his friend is real, a symbol of the sister he still misses, or something else altogether, but Zack is nonetheless able to connect with her, and through that, find his way back to his siblings and family. Guterson treads carefully, demonstrating how grief can be maneuvered but not entirely left behind—this is a bruised family, even as they heal through shared experiences, conversations, and renewed trust that their loved ones will support their unique ways of mourning. The mystery of a tower, secret messages, ghostly communications, and a cranky old man are all appealing elements that move the story forward. The book is most successful, however, when it centers on loss and how much effort it takes to get from a drowning depth of grief to a place where you can put your feet down in the pool sometimes, and, if you're lucky, even walk towards the shallow end. Spot illustrations mirror the text, often appearing at key moments that will deepen understanding with a bit of extra reflection. The sentimentality and sweetness hover at the edge of twee, but readers will be glad to see the Einsteins get some closure, joy, and good karma. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews What secrets will Zack and his siblings discover in and around the cryptic Tower? When 11-year-old Zack Einstein and his family move to Vista Point, Zack still blames himself for the accidental death of his younger sister the previous year. He's paralyzed by grief until he follows a mysterious girl into the abandoned nine-sided Tower. What he discovers sets Zack off on a summer filled with secret messages, a hidden cave, and a touch of the supernatural, But can Zack put the pieces of the mystery together before his family's dream of opening a bed-and-breakfast is dashed by a cantankerous old man? The fascinating cipher that ties it all together is the highlight of this wholesome, gentle story set in 2002. There's little doubt this novel was inspired by classic sibling adventure stories. Indeed, Zack's favorite series, the fictional Falcons and Bandits, reads like an homage to Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons. Zack's emotional journey is compelling, yet his siblings' one-dimensionality keeps this work from ascending to the heights of more character-driven titles. The happy ending is sweet—some may find it cloyingly so—offering closure for Zack, his family, and even the story's villain-turned-friend. The Einsteins are Jewish and White; other major characters are assumed White. Occasional spot illustrations add visual interest. An inspirational throwback for families seeking tales with a classic feel. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old Zack Einstein blames himself for the sudden death of his younger sister, Susan. After her passing, Zack and his family; including siblings Ruth, 13; Miriam, 15; and Ethan, 16; pursue a fresh start in Vista Point, Ore. Their parents plan to renovate a three-story Victorian-style mansion into a bed-and-breakfast, but the siblings would rather explore their new backyard's sprawling landscape. Near the property stands a strictly off-limits abandoned tower where the Einsteins meet mysterious nine-year-old neighbor Ann. Together, the group explores the tower, decoding its cryptic carvings and attempting to communicate with an unknown party by using a flashlight to send messages in Morse code. Amid cheerful adventure, the siblings finally begin healing ("For the first time in months, Zack felt a little less unhappy"). Antonsson's detailed and finely lined art, which includes a map and spot illustrations, provides intimate looks into pivotal scenes. Though the rest of the Einsteins don't feel as richly characterized as protagonist Zack, Guterson (the Winterhouse trilogy) sensitively explores Zack's journey toward self-forgiveness in this contemplative adventure featuring a captivating northwestern U.S. setting, a splash of the paranormal, and a tidy ending. The Einsteins are Jewish and white; supporting characters cue as white. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. (Apr.)



#2342625 Hannah Sharpe, Cartoon Detective (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Janet Tashjian

Young cartoonist Hannah Sharpe has many strengths: she's curious, creative, has an amazing memory, and most important—she notices things. When Doug Williams moves into her family's Airbnb, Hannah can't shake the feeling that he's got something to hide. But his girlfriend, Remy Furtado, couldn't be nicer or more helpful. As

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Hannah investigates, often with her sketchbook in hand, she makes a series of unsettling discoveries involving stolen packages, changed keypad codes, and hidden stacks of cash. Can Hannah crack the case and unfold the mystery on her own?
 978-0-316-31980-5 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist When her teacher, Mrs. Monroe, takes an indefinite leave of absence, white autistic girl Hannah doesn't think any of the coping skills she's learned either in school or from her play therapist will help navigate such a big change. On top of that, there's a mystery of why some of the school's plants aren't doing well, plus a string of porch pirate robberies in her neighborhood. Hannah may not be good with social skills, but her pattern recognition might just be what these cases need. Helping her out are her classmates Noah and Gabriella, as well as her drawings of Dusty Pickle. Included are illustrations explaining how Hannah thinks and reacts, minicomics, and an author's note explaining that her son, the illustrator of this novel, is on the autism spectrum. This is an inclusive, fun addition to the middle-school mystery field, perfect for readers who need a little extra help moving to typical chapter books.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An autistic 11-year-old who's considered the class sleuth practices her investigative knack in this illustrated series starter from mother-son duo the Tashjians (the My Life series). The creator of a comic book series featuring Dusty Pickle; a pickle cowgirl in the Wild West; artist Hannah Sharpe also uses drawing to better understand idioms and decode social interactions. Though she's not a fan of altered routines, Hannah soon navigates a teacher change and befriends the woman renting her family's converted garage apartment. And when a string of catalytic converter and porch package thefts occurs in her family's Northern California neighborhood, she employs her observational skills around the inquiry, noticing patterns that add up to a curveball that Hannah cannot handle alone. Though the concept of the young autistic detective is well-trodden, Hannah's openhearted voice adds myriad details about her neurodivergent experience (drawn, per an author's note, from Jake Tashjian's own life), while comics interstitials; both Dusty Pickle episodes and interpersonal experiences; add humor to the straightforward narrative. Hannah and her family read as white; the broader cast is portrayed with various skin tones. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)



#2330441 Hurricane Girls (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kimberly Willis Holt

Born in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Greer, Joya Mia, and Kiki are seventh graders and the best of friends. After an accident leaves Greer's little sister paralyzed, Greer is forever changed by the experience and blames herself. Kiki and Joya Mia will do anything to help Greer let go of this emotional burden, and a plan is hatched to compete in a triathlon. Each girl will participate: Kiki will swim, Joya Mia will cycle, and Greer, if they can persuade her, will run.

978-0-316-32609-4 Christy Ottaviano Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

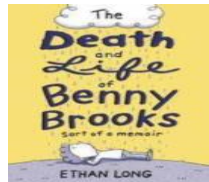
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist gether on a school project on Hurricane Katrina, three sixth-grade classmates in New Orleans formed a strong bond of friendship. Now they're in seventh grade, and Greer blames herself for a road accident that has left her younger sister physically disabled. Hop ng to end Greer's "year-long funk," Kiki proposes that they enter the Junior Team Relay Triathlon. The others agree. Greer, a former track team member, will run. Joya Mia plans to do the cycling on a rusty bike. Kiki, who can't swim yet, agrees to take the aquatic section. During the many months of training, each girl runs into predictable difficulties and unexpected joys. And each challenges herself not to let the others down. Holt's involving third-person narrative shifts focus, chapter by chapter, from one girl to the next and portrays their family relationships as well as the intricately interwoven thoughts, emotions, and memories that bind them together. While some readers may be drawn to one girl in particular, most will find themselves rooting for all three main characters in this engaging novel. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Kiki, Greer, and Joya Mia were grouped together for a sixth-grade class project, they formed a remarkable bond as they gathered stories from their family and friends about their experiences when Hurricane Katrina hit their hometown of New Orleans. However, as seventh grade approaches, Greer's sister is paralyzed in an accident, for which Greer feels completely responsible, and the normally seamless balance of the trio's friendship is Ölike a tricycle with one loose wheel.Ö So Kiki, prone to lofty ideas and eager to help her friend heal, enlists the group in a triathlon. Holt devotes each chapter to the perspective of one girl, which gives the reader insight into the vastly different inner lives of the three friends and what they may be uncharacteristically keeping from each other. Each point of view captures the complexity of young female friendship and shows that while the Hurricane Girls may love and admire each other, they are capable of private resentments brought on by their own personal challenges. This coming-of-age story is an honest portrayal of the lives of girls learning to be resilient in the wake of a city's collective tragedy. KH COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Interpersonal conflicts threaten the friendship of three New Orleans seventh graders in this slice-of-life novel by Holt (The Ambassador of Nowhere Texas). Because she went for a run instead of minding her younger sister, Greer believes that the traffic accident that resulted in her sibling needing a wheelchair is her fault. To lift Greer's spirits, best friend Kiki proposes that she, Greer, and their other friend Joya Mia; who dubbed themselves the Hurricane Girls after their collaboration on a school project about Hurricane Katrina; compete in a relay triathlon. But the race's events present problems for the trio: Kiki cannot swim despite attempting to learn in the pool her father had installed before he abandoned their family, Joya Mia shares her rusted old bike with her financially struggling household, and Greer doesn't want to run at all following her sister's accident. Myriad growing pains surrounding school, money, body image, and the future further imperil their bond. Nuanced relationship dynamics paired with complex characterizations drive this grounded look at the ways in which the aftermath of tragedy can reverberate long after the event and how community and connection can pave a path toward healing. Greer and Kiki read as white; Joya Mia is Mexican American. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Amy Berkower, Writers House. (Aug.)



#2350054 Death and Life of Benny Brook (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ethan Long

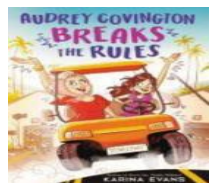
Benny's life is slowly unraveling. His parents are newly divorced, his mom chooses to move away, and Benny and his brother and sister are left with their chain-smoking dad, who has just been diagnosed with lung cancer. Benny is lonely, anxious, and very angry. He can't sleep at night and spends his days trying to survive fifth grade.

978-0-316-33312-2 Christy Ottaviano Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this fictionalized memoir, Long recalls his life as a 10-year-old boy. After a period of anger and arguments, Benny's parents divorce and Mom moves out. Dad can't stop smoking, despite a recent diagnosis of terminal lung cancer. For Benny; his often-bullying, sometimes amusing older brother; and their little sister, household routines become unstable and chaotic. And although Benny attends counselling sessions, he sits silently, unable to talk about his anxiety and loneliness. When his father's condition worsens, Benny punches a classmate. But he makes a breakthrough in counseling, and, with help from a teacher, a friend, and family members, he is ready for his father's death and the increased sense of awareness that follows. As a writer/illustrator, Long is known for his wit, and it emerges in this captivating story as well, particularly in his expressive grayscale drawings, which appear throughout the book. The cartoonlike illustrations keep the tone from becoming unbearably dark, even when the topic is death. Written from Benny's viewpoint, the first-person narrative begins with reflections on who annoys him, but toward the end, he starts reflecting and acting on his own rather than reacting to others. Long's heartening memoir portrays a boy facing challenging situations with hard-won hope and increasing maturity.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Long (the Junior Monster Scouts series) pulls from events in his childhood to deliver an ardent illustrated novel. A month after 10-year-old Benny's parents' divorce, Benny and his siblings have been living with their chain-smoking father, who recently learned that he has a lump on his lung. Both parents struggle to manage childcare on top of their own difficulties; Mom's new home lacks sufficient sleeping space for all three siblings, and Dad's cancer diagnosis impacts his ability to be present for his children. The family's interpersonal tensions result in emotional tumult for Benny, who starts lashing out in moments of intense anger. His parents sign him up for therapy, and as Benny begins being opening about his worries, he comes to terms with the new realities of his life. Dynamic, youthful-feeling pencil drawings by the protagonist; the sun is depicted as a quintessential semicircle on the edge of the page, and tree canopies are rendered using cloud-like shapes; permeate this slice-of-life narrative, allowing readers glimpses into how Benny views his circumstances. The characters' challenges are realistically handled, and painful moments are balanced with levying humor. Character skin tones reflect the white of the page. Ages 9: 14. Agent: Paul Rodeen, Rodeen Literary Management. (Oct.)



#2321200 Audrey Covington Breaks the Rules (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karina Evans

Audrey is stuck helping her parents move her former-movie-star grandmother into a luxury retirement community. When she finally manages to sneak off to her parents' car to check her phone, her grandmother climbs into the driver's seat and speeds off--not realizing Audrey is still in the back seat! But as the two make their way across Hollywood, they realize that the life they think they want might not be what they need.

978-0-316-34042-7 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Why does Audrey's mother set such strict boundaries when her own mother, Nana Rhea, an aging former film star, led such a colorful life? Audrey's parents insist she follow their rules: no gymnastics, no PG-13 movies, no video games. Since rising seventh grader Audrey doesn't even know what she likes, she doesn't rebel--until her two best friends uninvite her from their annual end-of-school-year sleepover because they don't want to limit their activities to ones she's allowed. Audrey is understandably heartbroken and mad, but her mother won't negotiate her rules. She also rarely talks about what her own childhood with Nana Rhea was like. Audrey's mom is directing Nana Rhea's life too, insisting she move to a retirement community. When Nana Rhea runs away for one last romp, Audrey goes with her. What follows is a riotous gallivant across Hollywood as they "borrow" outfits from a studio costume department, visit a tattoo parlor so Audrey can get her ears pierced, mingle at star-filled parties--and try to outrun Audrey's parents. Audrey is having the time of her life while learning heaps about why some parental limits might actually be good. Friendships and family dynamics among this default White cast come under scrutiny, allowing for growth, change, and self-discovery. One of Audrey's best friends has black hair and a Muslim name. This quirky read celebrates exploring and finding the right balance between guidance and freedom. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly th grader Audrey Covington faces a whole summer without longtime best friends Sadia and Tamzin, on whom she's counting to help her navigate junior high. Devastated when they disinvite her from their annual end-of-the-year sleepover by text, citing her protective parents' strict guidelines, she finds her mother unwilling to make any changes. A chance to break some rules presents itself after Audrey's parents move her maternal grandmother; beloved former Hollywood star Nana Rhea, who's been facing paparazzi at her Hollywood home; to a retirement community. Nana Rhea, not truly ready for the adjustment, makes a break for it with Audrey in the car, and the two strike a deal that meets both their needs: one night on the town for Nana Rhea to visit old memories and for Audrey to explore her wild side. With Audrey's parents; an Nana Rhea's fans; hot on their tail, they get Audrey's ears pierced at a tattoo parlor, sneak into a Hollywood studio wardrobe to borrow glamorous attire, and crash an exclusive pool party. Tracing the duo's big night out with considerable verve, Evans (Grow Up, Tahlia Wilkins!) mixes a glamorous setting and quirky characters with deeper themes about growing up, as Audrey learns about her mother's struggles with Nana Rhea and the idea that adults face transitional change, too. Characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jessica Mileo, InkWell Management. (Apr.)



#2291568 Learning to Fall (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sally Engelfried

Daphne doesn't want to be stuck in Oakland with her dad. She wants to get on the first plane to Prague, where her mom is shooting a movie. Armed with her grandparents' phone number and strict instructions from her mom to call them if her dad starts drinking again, Daphne has no problem being cold to him. But there's one thing Daphne can't keep herself from doing: joining her dad and her new friend Arlo at a weekly skate session.

978-0-316-36797-4 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 272 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 7.0

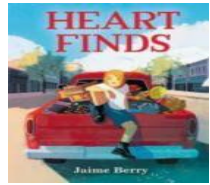
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Daphne is sent to her dad's house for the summer while her mom heads to Prague to film a movie. Daphne hasn't seen him in years because of his problems with alcoholism. Skateboarding was the one thing they bonded over until Daphne got into a skateboarding accident when she was 10, partly due to her dad not showing up for her. Now he is in recovery and doing his best to repair their relationship. Daphne still doesn't feel as if she can rely on him, and she doesn't skateboard anymore either, having tangled up her love for it with her love for her dad. Most stories about alcohol addiction don't always focus on the complexities of recovery and forgiveness like Engelfried does, and the theme of family resonates throughout as Daphne navigates the instability of an alcoholic parent and her anger and resentment towards her father. Pair with *Life in the Balance* (2021), by Jen Petro-Roy, for a story that also deals with an alcoholic parent struggling in recovery.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl learns life lessons through skateboarding. When 12-year-old Daphne is sent to Oakland to stay with her father for the summer so her mother can pursue her acting career in Prague, she feels resentful. Daphne hasn't seen her father since before her 10th birthday, when he was supposed to meet her at a skate park to teach her some skills but didn't show up. Trying to do a trick on her own, Daphne broke her arm and subsequently quit skateboarding. Now in Oakland, Daphne is cold toward her recovering alcoholic father and refuses his attempts to get her to skateboard with him. The tepid, formulaic plot and tentative voice of the first half of this story (overexplaining is rampant, as are tropey expressions of anxiety—the stomach features prominently) give way by the end to a more assured, original voice and welcome nuance in the characterizations of Daphne and her parents. The depictions of alcoholism through the eyes of Daphne and the adults affected are honest and unromanticized—possibly the strongest part of the book—while the skateboarding theme is integrated fairly successfully. Readers will enjoy the descriptions of skateboarding tricks, but the skateboarding-as-a-metaphor-for-life angle is at first too heavy-handed; by the end of the story it becomes more subtle. Main characters read White; two significant secondary characters are Mexican American. Not without glitches but, overall, an honest story about alcoholism and forgiveness.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Twelve-year-old Daphne hasn't seen her dad in three years because of his drinking but now she's being forced to spend the summer with him in Oakland, CA, while her mom films a movie in Prague. Daphne's dad is an avid skateboarder and when she was younger, they used to skateboard together. But, ever since the Skate Park Disaster when she was 10, Daphne's refused to skate. Now

in recovery, her dad's trying to reconnect with her but Daphne stubbornly refuses his overtures, instead giving him her "Cold Fish" look. She blames him for her skateboarding accident two years ago when he didn't show up to skate with her as he promised. Her dad's neighbor and best friend Gus is dating a woman who has a son Daphne's age named Arlo, and he is an enthusiastic skateboarder too. With both Arlo and her dad's patience and encouragement, Daphne begins to regain her confidence and love for skateboarding. She even allows Arlo to film her skating for his summer film project. While Daphne can be sharp at times, her unwillingness to initially trust or forgive her dad feels realistic. As she finally begins to thaw and hear him out, she becomes more understanding and empathetic. Arlo and Gus are Mexican American; the rest of the characters are white. VERDICT An authentic and hopeful look at a young girl with a passion for skateboarding who is struggling to understand and forgive an alcoholic parent with the support of family and friends.--Sharon Rawlins Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2300183 Heart Finds (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jaime Berry

Eleven-year-old Mabel Cunningham is a quiet loner who only feels free to be herself when she's "extreme treasure hunting" with her grampa-much to her perfectionist mother's disapproval. Nothing excites Mabel more than discovering a heart find, an item that calls to her heart, and the maybes that come along with it.

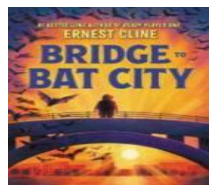
978-0-316-39047-7 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Mabel's sixth grade year challenges her in unexpected ways. Narrator Mabel is bright, observant, and an inveterate punster who wears Doc Martens with everything. The summer's-end change in her lifelong friendship with neighbor Ashley might have been the most bewildering and unpleasant thing that could happen to Mabel at the start of sixth grade. But when her beloved Grampa has a stroke and must move for a time to assisted living, Mabel is distraught and concerned with protecting and defending his collections. A former banker, Grampa has spent recent years scavenging for treasures he finds in dumpsters and at garage sales, repurposing them or sometimes selling them for cash. He and Mabel have had a routine, including weekly visits to a local pawnshop and a thrift store in their Oklahoma town and watching a television show about unexpected finds. He knows "how to take things that look a mess and make them right again." Mabel's relationship with her competitive mother, a talented wedding planner, is less easy and comfortable. Mabel believes if she can help her mother finance her grandfather's care, she can save his house full of salvaged treasures. At the same time, she struggles with navigating her changing friendships and relationship with her sometimes-prickly mom. The characters read White. Sure-handed storytelling and a resilient, extremely likable young hero. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With humor and a light touch, this feel-good novel with a personal-growth trajectory captures the sharp edges of a family crisis and shifting sixth-grade social dynamics. In Abner, Okla., word-loving 11-year-old narrator Mabel and her collection-loving grandfather are "urban scavengers" for whom dumpster diving is sport. For them, "heart finds, items that take hold and stir something in our hearts," prove the ultimate trophy. Just as her lifelong best friend Ashley gets sucked into the popular crowd, and a pattern of unkind behavior ensues, Mabel's beloved grandfather experiences a stroke. Suddenly, Mabel must adapt to hospital routines and scary possibilities, and rely more on her sometimes judgmental single mother, a former beauty queen turned wedding planner and tablescaper who favors the perfect and the new. In this shifting whirlwind, Mabel not only finds a few kindred spirit friends but also comes to a deeper understanding of her mom's own wounds and dreams. Berry (Hope Springs) crafts a winning, wise heroine and a heartfelt small-town story that foregrounds the message that "sometimes you don't find what you were looking for, but just what your heart needed." Characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kaitlyn Johnson, Corvisiero Agency. (Nov.)



#2377789 Bridge to Bat City (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ernest Cline

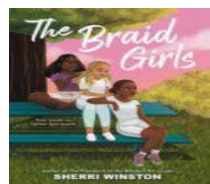
After losing her mother, thirteen-year-old Opal moves in with her uncle Roscoe on the family farm. There, Opal bonds with Uncle Roscoe over music and befriends a group of orphaned, music-loving bats. But just as the farm is starting to feel like home, the bats' cave is destroyed by a big mining company with its sights set on the farmland next.

978-0-316-46058-3 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old girl and a colony of bats overcome losses in this middle-grade debut from Ready Player One author Cline. After Opal B. Flats' mother dies, she goes to live with Uncle Roscoe on the family farm in the Texas Hill Country. Her first night there, she has an alien encounter and subsequently discovers that she can communicate with the Mexican free-tailed bats living in a nearby cave. Their connection becomes essential when Opal, Uncle Roscoe, and the bats, through differing circumstances, are forced to find new homes. Opal and Uncle Roscoe, who read white, convince the bats to accompany them to Austin, "the only place in this whole stone-hearted state where weirdos are welcome!" If Opal and Uncle Roscoe have a slow start with fitting in, it's even more difficult for a colony of over a million bats, especially when prejudice against them is being systematically reinforced by a greedy councilman whose pesticide business suffers when the bats start eating insects. The third-person narration unfolds in a homey style that's colored with references to music and famous names that contribute to the sense of place, including Ann Richards, Selena, and Willie Nelson. Entries from Opal's scrapbook are interspersed throughout. Readers will be relieved that, despite the hardships Opal and the bats must overcome, they ultimately prevail, succeeding in making friends and new homes for themselves in this celebratory primer on bats and belonging. Westell's delicate, atmospheric illustrations greatly enhance the text. Delightfully weird and whimsical. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2326016 Braid Girls (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sherri Winston

Maggie's world is turned upside down when she learns that her father, whom she admires, has a second daughter, Callie, whom no one knew existed. But she won't let a new family member get in the way of her summer plans with best friend Daija.

They're determined to make tons of money braiding hair for kids around the neighborhood.

978-0-316-46161-0 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 272

pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

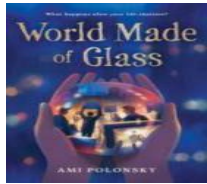
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Maggie has been best friends with Daija ever since she moved from her previous home in Japan. Daija and Maggie just click, and they're so close that they don't really need any other friends. But when Maggie discovers that her father has another daughter, named Callie, and that Callie is going to have to come live with her family, she has mixed feelings. Daija's feelings, however, aren't mixed at all: she doesn't trust Maggie's new sister, and she definitely doesn't like having to share her best friend. When the three girls start a hair-braiding business together, they find that they must navigate the ups and downs of friendship, family, and rivalries. Winston's newest novel explores a variety of different family dynamics within the Black community. It is easy to delineate between the girls, who all serve as narrators, as they each have distinct voices. This book celebrates the empowerment of young Black girls across all walks of life. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine It's a big summer for middle schooler Maggie: she is starting a braiding business with her best friend, Daija, and she will be meeting her half-sister, Callie, who is from the Bahamas, for the first time. Callie's mother recently passed away, and Callie will be moving in with Maggie's family in Jacksonville, Florida. While Maggie is welcoming to Callie, Daija is not so happy about this new sister, as she and Maggie are practically sisters. Protective of her friendship and their new braiding enterprise, Daija is not interested in embracing Callie and is determined not to be replaced by a stranger. However, Callie soon becomes the least of their worries as nemesis Angela and her crew decide to open a competing braid business and start to steal their customers. Is it possible for the three girls to overcome their differences and insecurities and become sisters and friends? Drama between the Braid Girls and the Sistahs Who Braid heats up as the competition for business leads to a memorable climax. A summer crush for Maggie lends extra excitement. Told through the alternating points of view of the three girls, the story explores themes of friend and family relationships, grief, bullying, divorce, and parental absence, all handled with care and sensitivity. Monique Harris(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A tween in Jacksonville, Florida, worries about changes in her closest friendship. Daija and Maggie are best friends, two Black girls with plans to turn their hair-braiding skills into a summer business. Things become complicated with the arrival of Maggie's new half sister, Callie; Callie's White mom had kept her existence a secret from Maggie's dad until just before her death. Maggie's close-knit family absorbs their new addition, but there's naturally some tension. Meanwhile, Daija desperately needs Braid Girls to succeed so she can afford private ballet lessons. The girls incorporate their braiding business into their duties as junior counselors at a local day camp and get off to a great start--until girls from another camp set up a rival business and try to steal their clients. This adversity, along with Daija's worries about money and her place in Maggie's life, creates a rift, revealing personality differences the friends had ignored. But they eventually realize their different ways of handling things can make them a stronger unit. In addition to the centrality of friendship in the lives of middle schoolers, the family connections are richly portrayed. Daija's drive to prove herself to her father, now remarried, is always on her mind; Maggie's need to play peacemaker is perceived as a weakness; and Callie puts on a brave face while mourning her mom. The story is told in the three girls' alternating voices, and the supporting adult characters add realistic texture. An enjoyable story with lively and engaging protagonists. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Hoping to make extra money over the summer, best friends Daija and Maggie, who are both Black, are excited to launch their hair-braiding business while undertaking their responsibilities as junior counselors at Paradise Park camp. Daija plans to use the funds to pay for a ballet tutor, while Maggie yearns to impress her strict father with her success. Since Maggie is the "pie-in-the-sky type of girl" and Daija is the "getting it done type," the pair feel that they're perfectly matched to take on this endeavor and build a booming business. But when Maggie's father introduces Maggie to her biracial half sister Callie, whose mother recently died, Maggie struggles to incorporate Callie into her already established summer plans. Daija and Maggie begrudgingly invite Callie to join their Braid Girls team, but while their business launch is good, emerging competition threatens their progress. Daija, meanwhile, struggles with feelings of jealousy over Callie and Maggie's budding siblinghood, and the two besties must reckon with how life changes will affect their future friendship. In this loving ode to the beauty of Black hair, Winston winningly portrays the girls' ambitious entrepreneurial spirit and competitive drive, and explores, via their shifting dynamics and emotional openness, the complexities of blended families. Ages 8: 12. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–8—Twelve-year-olds Daija and Maggie are looking forward to a summer as junior counselors at a day camp in their north-eastern Florida hometown. They also have plans to set up a business braiding the hair of campers. Both girls are dealing with family issues. Bold ballet dancer Daija worries that her father cares more about his new family than he does about her. Quiet, practical Maggie is nervously awaiting the arrival of her half-sister, Callie, whom she didn't know existed until recently. After some initial conflict, Maggie and Daija decide that Callie can join them in their braiding business. As soon as they begin to develop a clientele, a group of rival counselors decide to start up a competing business. Throughout the summer, the girls deal with competition, friendship, money, and family. They struggle with these challenges in age-appropriate ways and learn from their mistakes. Told in alternating viewpoints, readers see the challenges faced by the three girls from different angles. The family drama is exclusively focused on the perspective of the young leads, and conflict between their parents is not a part of the story. The characters are likable, the conclusion is satisfying, and the business plot means there are lots of beautiful descriptions of different natural Black hair styles. VERDICT This enjoyable slice-of-life novel centers three Black girls navigating family, friendship, and belonging.—Kristin L. Anderson



#2309305 World Made of Glass (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ami Polonsky

As Iris navigates her rage and grief, she resolves to speak out against the rampant fear, misinformation, and prejudice surrounding AIDS--and find the pieces of Dad that she never knew before. In the process, she discovers surprising sides to J.R., the joy of true friendship, and the power of her own voice in school and at home.

978-0-316-46204-4 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Thirteen-year-old Iris' father has died of AIDS, leaving her furious at his partner, J.R., who was the one who infected him with HIV. She also feels anger toward her once-favorite teacher and her two best friends, Will and Toby, who react with fear when they learn that her dad had AIDS. It's 1987--the height of the plague years--and Iris, warming to J.R. a bit too easily, goes with him to a demonstration and an ACT UP meeting, realizing these are the only times since her father's death that her anger has abated. Additional respite is found in Julian, the new boy in class who becomes her staunch ally and then her crush. As time gradually passes, she begins to come to terms with what she thinks of as her rage monster. The novel's character-driven nature is underscored by an enlightening acrostic that Iris and her dad have written for each other. Altogether, the novel offers a valuable education in AIDS history and emotional wellness while never becoming overly didactic. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Iris just wants more time with her dad, but in 1987 his AIDS diagnosis is all but a brutal death sentence. She's gotten used to her parents' divorce after her dad came out, she's learned to (barely) tolerate her dad's partner, J.R., and she has even tried to learn what she can about AZT, the new FDA-approved drug to treat AIDS, but she just cannot accept that her poetic and loving father will be gone in a matter of days. After her dad dies, Iris needs something to ground her, and that quickly becomes activism, which opens her eyes to the glacial speed of AIDS research and medication approval, President Reagan's unfathomable refusal to address AIDS, and the continued misunderstanding about the contagion that has her teacher, for example, lose his mind about a drop of her blood after she gets a splinter. Impeccably written and emotionally powerful descriptions capture Iris' grappling with loss, as she pores over poems she and her dad wrote to each other, and tries to fill the part of herself hollowed out by grief. Iris' eventual bonding with J.R. opens opportunities for historical background that feel naturally integrated after he guesses correctly that activism may be a balm for her heart and a worthy direction for her anger. Early AIDS history will likely be new ground for most younger readers, and detailed notes at the end provide additional context. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine It's 1987, and twelve-year-old Iris Cohen is feeling extremely fragile. In the past year, her father, an NYU professor, has moved to an upstairs unit in their Greenwich Village apartment building and begun a relationship with a man. Before Iris can wrap her head around the new living arrangement, Dad contracts AIDS and is given little hope for survival. Iris and her father are kindred spirits and

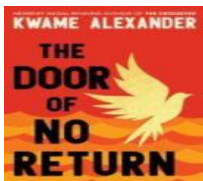
share a special bond -- a love of words, writing, and poetry. The acrostic poems left on each other's doorsteps give readers a glimpse into their relationship and shine a light on their wit, expansive personalities, and mutual affection. The devastation of his loss is made palpable when the poems abruptly stop. To honor her dad's wishes, Iris works at getting to know his partner, J.R., and, in the process, learns about her father's activism and advocacy for fellow AIDS patients. This aspect of his life is totally unknown to her, and participating in early ACT UP demonstrations allows her to channel some of the rage and frustration she feels. With the support of her mom and a small cadre of friends, she sets out to try to change the conversation about the epidemic, including the way the public is being educated about the disease and the way it is spread. This is the best kind of family story, filled with love and, yes, loss, but most importantly with caring. The narrative is lyrical and heartfelt, and young people will be inspired to see Iris transcend her grief, use her voice, and find a way to make a difference. Luann Toth(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It's the height of the AIDS panic in New York City, and Iris' father is dying. Last year, when Iris Cohen was in sixth grade, her parents got divorced because her dad came out. Her folks still love each other and even live in the same building. Dad's boyfriend, J.R., is so wonderful and kind that it's hard work to hate him ("If you lost your focus for even a minute, you started to love him"). But it's 1987, Dad is dying of AIDS, and the panic over the so-called gay plague is at a fever pitch. Iris discovers his diagnosis is no secret when the best teacher at her mostly White private school overreacts with ludicrous terror when Iris gets a splinter and there's a tiny drop of blood on her finger. How can you grieve when people are so scared that they won't go near a dead man's ashes without protective gear? Framed by lovely acrostic poems by Iris and her dad, the book shows a girl focusing her rage and pain into love through the nascent radical activism of ACT UP. An informative author's note describes the complex relationships of early AIDS activists with Dr. Anthony Fauci and adds factual historical nuance to various elements of the story as presented. The homophobia of the 1980s and the horror of AIDS deaths are softened for the middle-grade audience but still clearly present. Simultaneously sad and life affirming; a poetry-filled, inspiring call to activism. (Historical fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set in 1987, this short, emotionally charged novel by Polonsky (Spin with Me) follows a few months in the life of seventh grader Iris Cohen, whose father is dying of AIDS. People at Iris's largely white, private New York City school know her father is gay, but Iris hasn't told her friends, DnD players who head up an after-school Philanthropy Club, that he's sick. Surprising herself, though, she suddenly tells new kid Julian, who's just moved from Indiana and doesn't balk at the news, or at Iris's family situation; she and her mother live in the same West Village building as her father and his boyfriend. Alongside emotional first-person prose peppered with mentions of era-specific entities and people; ACT UP, Indiana teen Ryan White; acrostic poems exchanged by Iris and her father address themes of life's fragility as well as managing grief and rage. Iris's father says that writing a poem means first identifying its "beating heart"; foregrounding believable, dynamic characters and showing both the cost of inaction and fear around the HIV/AIDS crisis, and the power of activism to bring change and build community, Polonsky has done just that. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Wendy Schmalz, Wendy Schmalz Agency. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--It's 1987, and seventh grader Iris Cohen has a secret. Everyone at school knows her parents divorced after her dad revealed that he is gay and planning to move in with his boyfriend JR, but none of them know that her dad is dying of AIDS. When her father dies far sooner than she expected, Iris is filled with anger at all the people who are scared of getting close to her (including two of her best friends) because of HIV, even though she is not infected and the virus isn't spread through casual contact. She finds some relief from her anger by joining JR at one of the ACT UP protests on the streets of New York, demanding help for AIDS victims from President Reagan, the FDA, and Anthony Fauci. She realizes with her new friend Julian that people are often willing to help once they know the facts, so she and her friends come up with a plan to educate students at their school. This beautifully written novel explores the complexity of grief while showcasing the stigmatizing fear, ignorance, prejudice, and anger surrounding the AIDS crisis in the late 1980s. Iris is a sympathetic, authentic character whose love for her father shines through in the acrostic poems they composed for each other, which appear throughout the novel. All of the main characters are white, with the exception of Iris's friend, Will, who is described as the only Black student in Iris's grade in their private school. An author's note at the end offers a brief history of the AIDS crisis and the ACT UP movement, while expressing the hope that the book will inspire readers to fight for justice in their own ways. VERDICT With its sensitive portrayal of loss, and its carefully researched depiction of a devastating time in American history, this lyrical novel is highly recommended.--Ashley Larsen Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2291611 **Door of No Return (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Kwame Alexander

11-year-old Kofi Offin dreams of water. He loves these things above all else: his family, the fireside tales of his father's father, a girl named Ama, and, of course, swimming. He's hoping to finally prove himself in front of Ama and his friends in a swimming contest against his older, stronger cousin. But before this can take place, a festival comes to the villages of Upper and Lower Kwanta and Kofi's brother is chosen to represent Upper Kwanta in the wrestling contest.

978-0-316-44186-5 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 432 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile NP

Reviews by: Book Page Kwame Alexander opens a planned historical fiction trilogy with *The Door of No Return*, which takes place in 1860, near the end of the transatlantic slave trade. Eleven-year-old Kofi Offin lives in the Asante kingdom, in what is now Ghana. Kofi holds deep respect for his grandfather, the village storyteller, who always begins his stories by saying, "There was even a time . . ." In this time, Kofi has a crush on Ama, a girl in his class. In this time, Kofi and Ama's teacher forces them to speak English instead of their native language, or face the wrath of his cane. And in this time, Kofi's older brother, Kwasi, will unintentionally alter the fate of their entire family, and Kofi will have to draw on all of his grandfather's wisdom to survive.

Reviews by: Booklist is a life he loves. He's 11, just on the cusp of becoming a man, and he finds that there are things he must tackle before coming-of-age—proving his strength by beating his cousin at a swimming match, speaking up so that the girl he likes knows that he admires her, and earning the meaning behind the coded language his elders hide from him. When Kofi's brother accidentally kills a neighboring chief's nephew in a wrestling match, Kofi instinctively knows that everything in the world is going to change, he just doesn't realize how much. Alexander weaves a breathtaking tale that is ripe with the juxtaposing emotions that come with any coming-of-age story. Through Alexander's verse, readers are reminded of the beauty and unbounded richness that Ghana and her people have to offer. Simultaneously, while offering a picture of mirth and tangible humanity, Alexander immerses readers in the reality of being Asante during the age of slavery. We see Kofi's humanity slowly ripped away alongside the dehumanization of an entire race. Alexander has written a masterpiece, one that powerfully and truthfully gives agency to the Black voices of the past. Profound and important reading. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Alexander is one of the biggest names in kidlit right now, and his ardent fans will be eagerly awaiting his latest.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Kofi Offin feels ready for his Ashante manhood initiation in the African Gold Coast of 1860, despite his confusion over the contradictory life information he's receiving from respected elders: his British-influenced teacher pushes English language and manners while his grandfather and parents value Twi and tradition. When Kofi's older brother accidentally kills a rival from a neighboring kingdom at an annual competition, however, a fatal chain of events is set in motion that leads to the brother's revenge murder and Kofi's capture and sale to slaver traders. Kofi is left to call upon the wisdom of his grandfather and his own preparation for initiation to keep hope—or at least a reason to live—preserved among his fellow captives. Alexander's narration comprises poems (many incorporating dialogue) and interspersed interludes from Kofi's grandfather, whose stately yet intimate voice imparts the history and advice that will support Kofi through tragedy. The horror of the slave system is clearly traced to its European and American roots, but Alexander also examines some of the complexities within Kofi's society that contributed to the trade—a treaty between rival kingdoms that carried a near-certain guarantee of renewed hostilities; home-grown greed for the shiny allure of "the wonderfuls" civilization; a mechanism for disposing of one's enemies to enslavers. This tragic realism culminates in a climactic enactment of "The People Could Fly" that will feel triumphant for readers who recognize and embrace the allusion and will offer an introduction to those unfamiliar with that work. A glossary will be included. EB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Alexander's latest verse novel, the first in a projected trilogy, is historical fiction set in 1860, in an Asante Kingdom village. Kofi Offin learns about the world through his storyteller grandfather Nana Mosi: how he came to be named after the river; the origin of the rivalry with neighboring Lower Kwanta; and the history of "the wonderfuls," the white colonials who have claimed dominion over their nation of Ghana. While Kofi's school teacher has an affinity for all things British (he's "on a mission to capsize our culture," Nana says), Kofi is content to learn from his grandfather, even as his own highly engaging story plays out through interactions with those around him. There's Ama, Kofi's childhood friend and the most beautiful girl he's ever seen; his best friend Ebo; and the cousin who torments Kofi. And there's his older brother Kwasi, the newest athlete to compete in the village games during the Annual Kings festival. When a wrestling contest results in tragedy, the tentative peace with Lower Kwanta is broken. As a result, Kofi is taken captive, and the book now becomes a searing chronicle of the terror that will carry him to "the door of no return" and far from home. A master storyteller himself, Alexander has taken great care to incorporate familiar West African sayings, folklore characters, and rituals. Themes of conflict within and between cultures, and of war and peace, hate and love, despair and hope are deeply embedded throughout this gripping tale that forefronts the humanity of those who were forced into slavery.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Alexander's (*The Crossover*, rev. 5/14; *The Undefeated*, rev. 3/19) latest verse novel, the first in a projected trilogy, is historical fiction set in 1860, in the Asante Kingdom village of Upper Kwanta. Kofi Offin learns about the world through his storyteller grandfather Nana Mosi: how he came to be named after the river; the origin of the rivalry with neighboring Lower Kwanta; and the history of "the wonderfuls," the white colonials who have claimed dominion over their nation of Ghana. While Kofi's school teacher has an affinity for all things British (he's "on a mission to capsize our culture," Nana says), Kofi is content to learn from his grandfather, even as his own highly engaging story plays out through interactions with those around him. There's Ama, Kofi's childhood friend and the most beautiful girl he's ever seen; his best friend Ebo; and the cousin who torments Kofi. And there's his older brother Kwasi, the newest athlete to compete in the village games during the Annual Kings festival. When a wrestling contest results in tragedy, the tentative peace with Lower Kwanta is broken. As a result, Kofi is taken captive, and the book now becomes a searing chronicle of the terror that will carry him to "the door of no return" and far from home. A master storyteller himself, Alexander has taken great care to incorporate familiar West African sayings, folklore characters, and rituals. Themes of conflict within and between cultures, and of war and peace, hate and love, despair and hope are deeply embedded throughout this gripping tale that forefronts the humanity of those who were forced into slavery. Eboni Njoku(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy's life is turned upside down following a wrestling match in West Africa's Asante Kingdom in 1860. Eleven-year-old Kofi Offin loves his family, admires his friend Ama, and tries to avoid his bully of a cousin. Kofi's teacher, Mr. Goodluck Phillip, who canes him for speaking Twi, is convinced the students must learn the Queen's English, but Kofi prefers the stories of Nana Mosi, his grandfather

and the village storyteller. The place he truly feels at home is the river, where he practices swimming and dreams of defeating his cousin in a race. But before that can happen, all attention turns to the Kings Festival, which features highly anticipated wrestling contests against representatives from their rival village. This year, Kofi's older brother, Kwasi, has been chosen to compete. During the match, Kwasi accidentally kills Prince Yaw Boateng, his opponent and the nephew of the King of Lower Kwanta, changing the direction of their lives. The king retaliates by having Kofi, Kwasi, and other boys from their village kidnapped. Ultimately, they are sold and shipped far away. The immediacy of this verse novel places readers alongside Kofi, thriving as a young boy surrounded by family love and legacy before being abruptly snatched from all he has known. Alexander's rich language is lyrical and haunting as the water, long a source of comfort for Kofi, becomes full of uncertainty and danger. A riveting, not-to-be-missed trilogy opener that will leave readers invested in what is to come.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Newbery Medalist Alexander's gripping historical novel in verse, a trilogy opener rooted in the Asante Kingdom in 1860, centers 11-year-old Kofi Offin; a child deeply connected to water. In early, lyrical chapters that evoke a dreamlike childhood, Kofi lives with his family in Upper Kwanta, where he swims in the river that is his namesake, engages with best mate Ebo, crushes on longtime friend Ama, and listens to the tales of his village-storyteller grandfather, Nana Mosi; who details "the past/ like it lives/ in him,/ like it still matters." He also clashes with his cousin, a bully, and Mr. Goodluck Phillip, the schoolteacher imparting "the Queen's English" and Shakespeare to students speaking their native Twi. When an annual festival pits wrestlers from Upper and Lower Kwanta against one another, and Kofi's older brother, Kwasi, is set to represent their village, an unexpected death sets off a series of tragedies that upend Kofi's world. Interweaving moments of joyful exuberance and heartbreaking sadness via sensate lines by turns sweet and stinging, Alexander's sweeping novel conjures a captivating, resonant world of African tradition, life, and ancestral wisdom. Ages 10: up. Agent: Arielle Eckstut, Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—The beginning of a planned trilogy set in western Africa in 1860, the latest offering from Newbery winner Alexander introduces readers to Kofi Offin. His experiences are a window to what life would have been like for a boy growing up in that specific place and time. He has a crush on Ama. He loves his grandfather's stories. He has learned English in school but speaks Twi with his family and friends. His cousin bullies him and he challenges him to a swimming race. When Kofi's brother accidentally kills his opponent in a wrestling match, the gentle verse narrative is disrupted because the family of the dead wrestler captures Kofi and his brother. They take them away from their village to the coast; Kofi goes through the door of no return and is put on a boat where things get very bad very quickly. The cliff-hanger ensures that future volumes will tackle the rest of Kofi's story. Books with enslaved main characters certainly exist in juvenile fiction, but the reality of the transatlantic slave trade hasn't been so adeptly captured for young readers to date. This important book is ideal for classroom discussion; shelve alongside Sharon Draper's *Copper Sun* and Julius Lester's *Day of Tears*. VERDICT Told in Alexander's lyrical and masterly style, this gritty and compelling novel of Kofi's life should be included in all library collections that serve young readers.—Kristin L. Anderson

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In this foreboding yet mesmerizing historical novel by Newbery Medalist Kwame Alexander, Asante villager Kofi Offin comes face to face with the door of no return. Eleven-year-old Kofi lives with his family in a Ghanaian village where the river plays a huge role in his life. He was named after it, and villagers gossip that beasts dwell there at night. Kofi questions the gossip until he sees for himself that there truly are monstrous things hiding near the water.



#2330418 Tessa Miyata Is No Hero (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Julie Abe

When Tessa and Jin break the Miyata family's precious heirloom they accidentally release the malicious samurai god Taira Masakado and discover a hidden part of the city where gods and mythological creatures walk among humans—including their new companion, a mythical nine-tailed fox who may be more trouble than he is help.

978-0-316-44852-9 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 368

pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

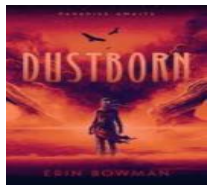
Reviews by: Booklist In internet bullies to ominous ancient spirits that only she can see, Tessa Miyata can't seem to catch a break. So when she and her sisters are invited to spend the summer with their grandparents in Japan, Tessa is excited to start over. But then a vengeful samurai spirit attacks a local shrine, and Tessa and her friends, both mortal and spirit, have to find a way to save the city (and Tessa's self-worth, while they're at it). Tenuous world building and inconsistent characters keep the story from more meaningfully exploring its supernatural and emotional premise, but readers interested in the mythology can enjoy a light-hearted take on figures from Japanese lore. This fast-paced middle-grade fantasy feels like a book dreaming of being an animated series, complete with training sequences, quippy talking-animal sidekicks, and plentiful pop-culture references. Informed by the author's own summers in Japan, Abe (*Eva Evergreen and the Cursed Witch*, 2021) revisits familiar themes of determination and learning to believe in yourself in this high-energy--if somewhat underdeveloped--coming-of-age story. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Grappling with the loss of her parents, Tessa Miyata feels like a burden upon her American grandparents, who have now been charged with providing for her and her sisters. Recently having parted ways with a bullying best friend

and feeling strained by the familial knots of grief, obligation, and love, Tessa sees a summer in Japan at her other grandparents' house as a fresh step towards self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, that plan goes quite awry when she's saddled with stoic neighborhood karate prodigy, Jin Uehara, and together they accidentally release Lord Taira Masakado, a rebel samurai god, who begins wreaking havoc on Tokyo. With the help of Kit, a fox spirit invested in recovering his memories and gaining his own independence, they must find the hidden City of Legends. While they prepare to fight Lord Taira, Tessa and Jin grow to know themselves and one another, finding their own worth and learning what they can offer the world. Abe skillfully builds a world, drawing on elements of Japanese religion, art, food, and architecture in an energizing wash of sensory descriptions. Pencil art evoking manga illustration works to this same end, depicting, for example, torii, a traditional Japanese shrine gate, or a patterned happi coat. An author's note and an in-character glossary likewise invite the reader further into Abe's Japan and provide context. While the text is sometimes overly reliant on expository dialogue, readers will nevertheless be thrilled by the dramatic and epic stakes imbued into action sequences. Looping repeatedly around the Japanese proverb, "After the rain, the earth hardens," Tessa's journey provides young readers with a new heroine whose emotional core is rock solid. MC COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Thrown into a world of Japanese gods and spirits, Tessa must find the courage and strength to defeat an evil samurai spirit. Tessa Miyata is cursed. At the beginning of sixth grade, she began seeing a masked woman who's invisible to everyone else, leading to her being shunned socially. A year later, an incident gets her expelled from summer camp. Gram, the maternal grandmother who has cared for Tessa and her sisters since their parents died, sends her to spend the summer in Japan with Ojii-chan and Obaachan, her paternal grandparents. But Tessa's grand Tokyo vacation plans get shut down when she's forced to hang out with neighbor boy Jin, who is clearly reluctant too. The kids finally get to run an errand for Ojii-chan in Tokyo, but it turns disastrous when bullies break the precious heirloom daruma doll entrusted to them, releasing the spirit of legendary samurai Taira Masakado, who died over 1,000 years ago. With the help of a kitsune, or nine-tailed fox, Tessa and Jin must work together, train to battle monsters, and try to save Tokyo from Lord Taira. In this exciting, action-packed story, Tessa struggles with loneliness and feels like she doesn't belong anywhere, but she discovers true strength, bravery, selflessness, and resilience. The magical world of Japanese spirits is beautifully crafted, with cultural elements seamlessly woven throughout. A glossary and interspersed black-and-white illustrations provide additional context. A delightfully spirited Japanese mythology-inspired adventure that's full of heart. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A determined tween trains to battle an ancient Japanese warrior threatening present-day Tokyo in this mythical fantasy adventure by Abe (Alliana, Girl of Dragons). Twelve-year-old Tessa Miyata, who has been raised by her Gram in California following her parents' deaths, has been labeled a "weirdo" by her classmates for her ability to see things others can't. Once summer begins, Tessa is excited to visit her paternal grandparents in Japan with her two older sisters, hoping for a break from her mysterious visions and a chance at a fresh start. Except she still sees things, including a strange glow emanating from the glass-encased daruma doll that Ojii-chan sends her to deliver to an antique shop. When the case breaks, Tessa learns that it was binding the spirit of Taira Masakado, a thousand-year-old samurai lord who almost overthrew Japan. Accompanied by Jin Uehara, a neighborhood boy and martial arts whiz, and Kit, a magical fox spirit, Tessa must do whatever it takes to save Tokyo from the escaped lord. Otherworldly beings and ethereal landscapes, inspired by Japanese mythology, fill this energetic tale of acceptance and friendship that centers a compassionate, loyal protagonist. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sarah Landis, Sterling Lord Literistic. (Aug.)



#2220333 Dustborn (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Bowman

Delta of Dead River has always been told to hide her back, where a map is branded on her skin to a rumored paradise called the Verdant. In a wasteland plagued by dust squalls, geomagnetic storms, and solar flares, many would kill for it even if no one can read it. So when raiders sent by a man known as the General attack her village, Delta suspects he is searching for her.

978-0-358-24443-1 Clarion Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 16.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-10 The author of Vengeance Road (2015) and Retribution Rails (2017) brings hardscrabble frontier drama to a desolate futurescape in this postapocalyptic western. Delta and her pack of kin spend their days trying to survive in their sweltering, barren settlement and their evenings looking to the stars for signs the gods will return to them. When her family is abducted, Delta sets out on a harrowing journey across the dust to free them. Armed with smarts and very little water, she must figure out whom to trust, who the enemy is, and what is worth fighting for. Delta is a clever and hard heroine, and the cast of characters she forms tentative alliances with along the way are as likable as they are mysterious. A burgeoning romance with an old friend and a dramatic reveal toward the end give way to a satisfying ending, sure to please readers. Ethical dilemmas, especially about violence and sacrifice, make this novel an interesting conversation starter. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Delta and her companions are barely surviving the brutal heat and dust storms of the wastes and then raiders attack, kidnapping her friends and family. Then she herself is captured and brought to the General, who is certain that the map branded onto Delta's back holds the key to finding the idyllic and flourishing Verdant. The problem, however, is that no one can actually read

the map, and Delta flees, thinking the only way to get the General to release her compatriots is to find someone who can make sense of her scars. Her journey takes her to Powder Town, a stronghold against the General; to a lone woman in the middle of a desert inventing (and failing at) a wind wagon; and eventually to Eden, a caved-in bunker where she learns that her world is nothing that she thought it was. The post-apocalyptic setting is richly drawn, with harrowing escapes from dust storms across parched land and a general sense of blistering doom, but the story itself is heavy with info-dumps, particularly in the form of unprompted explanations of plot and/or setting from secondary characters that roll in and out of importance. Delta is a snarky firecracker of a girl, but she lacks the foresight to make any real plan, so the plot starts and sputters with her being pushed around more by circumstance than her own motivation. Thematically, the book works on a more effective scale, particularly when Delta discovers that her world's history is built on a series of miscommunications and lies, and her authentic struggle with faith and spirituality outweighs some of the book's other flaws. Readers will be left to ponder the sometimes warring forces of hope and truth-right after they find a cool drink of water. KQG

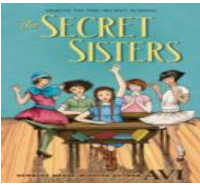
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A powerful teen grapples with love and truth in a post-apocalyptic landscape. Seventeen-year-old Delta lives in a literal wasteland, deadly and unforgiving. But though she is surrounded by the dust, heat, and desiccated misery of the wastes, she has symbols branded onto her back that seem to show the way to the Verdant, a lush oasis that may or may not exist. She hides these markings, knowing--as her Ma has repeatedly reminded her--that her life would be at risk if the wrong people knew about them. When Delta returns from an expedition to find her desolate home settlement of Dead River has been raided and everyone killed or abducted, she suspects the information burned into her skin might be what the General, who ordered the attack, is after. Although Delta sets out in hopes of rescuing her family, what she discovers on her quest upends everything she thinks she knows about the brutal world she inhabits. The rule of the wastes is to trust no one, but in order to survive, Delta must challenge this foundational belief. She is aided by people she meets along her journey, including a long-missing childhood friend and mysterious others. Each encounter pushes Delta toward a deeper understanding of love and trust and the spaces in between in this intense, gritty, and propulsive novel. Main characters follow a White default. Will keep readers turning the pages. (Dystopian. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Bowman (The Girl and the Witch's Garden) sets fierce challenges for implied white protagonist Delta of Dead River, 17, as she struggles across the postapocalyptic desert Wastes, searching for her pack and for the mythical Verdant, a "green paradise" to which Delta has an unreadable map branded on her back. Venturing from her pack's settlement at Dead River with her pregnant elder sister, Indie, Delta seeks medical attention from a healer. When Indie doesn't survive childbirth, grieving Delta returns home with Baby, only to find that her entire pack has been killed or kidnapped. She suspects the kidnappers were looking for her because of the map scarred into her skin when she was five. With few supplies and Baby in tow, Delta heads through the hot, barren land, hoping to reach the sanctuary of Powder Town, until she, too, is captured by The General's minions--including Asher, a boy who was once part of her pack and who also bears a secret map brand. Bowman skillfully portrays the privation and grief that Delta bears, alongside her determination to overcome each obstacle. Absorbing world-building propels this fast-paced adventure, which has crossover appeal and series potential. Ages 12-up. (Apr.) Copyright 2021 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Star Wars in this apocalyptic Western. Delta and the rest of her Dead River pack are trapped between s aying at their waterless river and trying to move in the fatally hot summer months. Returning from a trip to a neighboring settlement, Delta discovers raiders have kidnapped much of her pack and murdered the rest. Determined to save her family and get her revenge, Delta has the ultimate bargaining chip: a map to the Verdant, a lush and lost oasis, is branded onto her back. Bowman's newest dystopia features complicated characters fighting a high stakes war against an unforgiving world--and each other. Dystopian fans will love the mix of familiar Old World tech the heroes stumble upon during their quest across the desert. Bowman's deft hand manages to make both elaborate backstory and lore passages something to look forward to, as Delta and her childhood friend Asher try to find the Verdant. The story's pacing never flags and YA readers suffering from series fatigue will enjoy this standalone's premise and world-building. While there is diversity mentioned in the large cast, the main characters' skin colors are not defined. VERDICT Bowman sets high expectations and meets them in this standalone worthy of all YA shelves. An impeccably crafted dystopian full of beloved tropes and a generous helping of plot twists.--Emmy Neal, Lake Forest Lib., IL Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

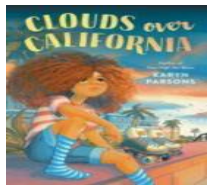
Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Erin Bowman's enthralling post-apocalyptic thriller *Dustborn* is the story of Delta, a 17-year-old struggling to survive in the decaying wastelands of a desert planet.



	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2330286 Secret Sisters (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Avi</i> Attending high school in Steamboat Springs is Ida Bidson's dream-it's her next step toward becoming a teacher and her best shot at escaping a life of milking cows. It's 1925, and from using telephones to attending movies, Ida is thrilled by her new experiences in Steamboat. She and her school friends even form a club, the Secret Sisters, to celebrate everything modern. 978-0-358-24808-8 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 This sequel to *The Secret School* (2001) continues the story of 14-year-old Ida, who leaves her home on a Colorado farm in 1925 to attend high school in Steamboat Springs. Ida boards with Trudy, a woman mourning for her fiancé, who fought in the Great War and died during the 1918 pandemic. Besides encouraging Ida to work hard and avoid annoying the principal, Trudy expresses concern that Ida is influenced too much by her "secret sisters" (a small group of new classmates), particularly lively, rebellious Lulu. When stressful situations arise, Ida handles them with support from those around her and with increasing confidence in herself and her values. While Avi focuses primarily on Ida's excitement, worries, and growth as her world expands, certain elements place the story firmly within its historical context. These include the increasing support of women's rights, the widespread adoption of innovations such as radio, electric lights, and telephones, and Lulu's use of flapper slang, which is translated within the text and the appended glossary. An enjoyable historical novel with a likable heroine. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ida, 14, leaves her rural Colorado mountain ranch home for Steamboat Springs in this stand-alone companion to 2001's *The Secret School*. Ida Bidson attended a one-room schoolhouse, but in September 1925, she says goodbye to her family. She won't be home for two months. Ida dreams of being a teacher, so she must go 20 miles away to high school. Kind county school inspector Miss Sedgewick lets Ida board with her for free, and everything feels so modern: indoor plumbing, electricity, and a telephone! Ida's anxious to please but wrestles with what's considered proper and what other people think of her. When she makes some friends, they form the Secret Sisters club to try new things and help each other in school. But the girls end up on the bad side of the principal, who has firm attitudes about ladylike behavior, women voters, and the capability of rural students and threatens to expel them. Getting good grades on the upcoming midterm exams is critical. While maintaining a solid grounding in the 1920s, the novel tackles self-discovery amid challenging situations, including dealing with peer pressure, misogyny, classism, and general unfairness, in ways contemporary readers will find accessible and relatable. Historical facts are memorably and organically conveyed through Ida's innate curiosity. Characters read White; one of Ida's friends is from an immigrant mining community, and her name cues as having East European heritage. One for smart, outspoken kids looking for their places in the world. (author's note, glossary, bibliography) (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2328339 **Clouds over California (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Karyn Parsons

Stevie's life is fluctuating rapidly. She's starting over in a brand new middle school. Quiet and observant, it's hard for her to make friends. Plus, her mind is too occupied. The tension in her home is building as her parents' arguments are becoming more frequent. To top it all off, Stevie's older cousin Naomi is coming to live with the family in an attempt to keep her from a "bad" crowd-The Black Panthers.

978-0-316-48407-7 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist In 1970s Santa Monica, Stevie's white father and Black mother have been fighting—particularly about her mother's desire to obtain a college degree—and her older cousin, Naomi, moves in after getting in trouble in her Boston hometown. Naomi takes a shine to her cousin and shakes things up, introducing Stevie to new music and encouraging the women in the house to embrace their natural hair texture and women's liberation. Stevie's dad bristles at some of the suggestions, preferring women to be homemakers. Stevie tries to keep everyone afloat and happy, but her mother is disappearing at night, Naomi is sneaking out to Black Panther meetings, and her dad is rarely present. How can Stevie keep all the secrets while staying true to herself as well as her loved ones? It's a compelling, complicated story that touches on huge topics—racist microaggressions, police profiling, feminism, divorce—but keeps it all focused through Stevie's wonderfully compassionate and curious lens. A fascinating and intimate snapshot of familial and personal transformation and the power in finding your voice.

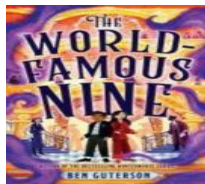
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Stevie's parents haven't stopped fighting since they moved into their new house in Santa Monica, which hasn't made this difficult year any easier for the only Black girl in a new elementary school class that is full of kids who assault her afro hair while chanting a catchphrase from a Charmin commercial. Stevie has already lost a best friend to some mean girls, and with Mom thinking about going back to school despite Dad's protests, Stevie feels desperately alone, at least until her older cousin Naomi from Boston comes west to stay for good. Having a big sis in her life takes some getting used to, but Stevie is quickly won over by the supportive, outspoken, bully-confronting, Black Panther-curious, Chaka Khan-listening, boy-kissing, tight bell bottom-wearing, perfectly '70s cool girl Naomi. Even as Stevie's prudish Black Mom and conservative white Dad feel challenged by Naomi's disruptive politics (which are mostly centered on the then-radical idea that women and Black people deserve personal agency and political power), Stevie's world is being expanded in ways that make some of the everyday adversity she faces manageable. She narrates her own story with a healthy mix of believable naivete and enviable emotional maturity as she turns twelve and starts junior high with an outlook readers have reason to be optimistic about, despite so much to remain enraged by in this pointed period piece. WJ COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In an affecting story set in Santa Monica, California, in the 1970s, a young biracial girl at the center of a

calamitous family dynamic learns to navigate momentous change and find her own place in the world. Life is not as it should be for eleven-year-old Stevie. Her parents have moved, which means she has to adjust to a new school. She does not make friends easily and is targeted by bullies over her natural hairstyle. Her best friend since third grade abandons their friendship when she joins a clique of mean girls. At home, her parents are constantly fighting because her stay-at-home mother wants to pursue a career over the strenuous objections of her chauvinistic father's ideas of women's roles in society. And then an older cousin, Naomi, who is involved with the Black Panther Party and is described as "full of fight," arrives to live with the family. Parsons's keenly empathetic portrayal of Stevie and her tribulations is complemented by an equally compelling attention to detail in establishing the era. Particular attention to the social agenda of the Black Panther Party adds validity to the setting. Themes of empowerment, friendship, bullying, interracial marriage (Stevie's father is white; her mother is Black), trust, divorce, and social justice are interwoven in perfect balance to create a satisfying ending in this honest coming-of-age story. Pauletta Brown Bracy(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews anta Monica, California, navigates family and friendship tensions. Stevie, perceptive and introverted, has recently moved with her parents to a new house on the other side of town and is starting over at a new school where she struggles to make friends. Her former best friend has been hanging out with the mean girls and ignoring her. As if that wasn't enough change, her parents are fighting: Against her White father's wishes, her Black homemaker mother wants to get a degree and a job. Having her rebellious 15-year-old cousin from Boston move in shakes things up even more--with Naomi around, Stevie gets exposed to the ideals of the Black Panther Party, which helps boost her confidence. Meanwhile, Stevie's mother is acting strangely--receiving secret phone calls, running odd errands, and spending time with a mystery friend. Stevie is desperate to know what's going on--and, assuming the worst, to keep her father from finding out. Despite Stevie's attempts to hold her family and friendships together, she may have to come to terms with a new normal. The author weaves together multiple storylines exploring the changing social landscape of the times, such as the Black Power movement and shifting gender roles. However, a lack of depth and uneven pacing hinder the story. Nevertheless, the characterization is strong throughout as Stevie demonstrates growth, and the secondary characters are well defined. A relationship-driven novel that is strongest in its portrayal of one girl's journey. (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 1970s Southern California, 11-year-old biracial Stevie is experiencing an overload of newness, including a new neighborhood, new school, and new classmates who tease her about her natural hair. Even once familiar staples in Stevie's life are shifting before her eyes: her best friend, Jennifer, is dodging her calls now that Stevie has moved across town, and Stevie's white father and Black homemaker mother are getting into arguments late at night about her mother's desire to go back to school. The sudden arrival of her 15-year-old cousin Naomi; whose parents shipped her from Boston to Santa Monica to prevent her from joining the Black Panthers; throws a curveball in Stevie's struggle to find her footing. As she grows closer to outspoken Naomi, Stevie begins unlocking her own untapped inner confidence. But even as Stevie's social life starts looking up, she worries that her mother's increasingly odd behavior; leaving home at strange hours and taking phone calls with someone named Clarence; could spell disaster for things at home. Told through a spirited first-person perspective, this earnest novel by Parsons (How High the Moon) seamlessly connects key historical moments during the Black Power movement, social politics, and evergreen tween conflicts surrounding agency and independence. Ages 8: 12. (July)



#2365691 **World-Famous Nine (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Ben Guterson

Zander Olinga's grandmother is the owner of the fabled Number Nine Plaza, the spectacular nineteen-story skyscraper. The Nine, as it's called, has everything imaginable, including a massive Ferris wheel on its rooftop, monorail tracks suspended from its ceiling, and twenty-five glass elevators. But there's something evil looming in the shadows, and strange accidents start befalling the guests. When Zander and his friend Natasha come across a series of inscriptions hidden throughout the walls of The Nine, they discover that the clues will lead them to a magical object which protects the store's very existence. With the future of The Nine on the line, the pair are determined to recover the mysterious object before the luxury plaza and its many guests are destroyed.

978-0-316-48444-2 *Christy Ottaviano Books* ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Book Page Number Nine Plaza, most often called "The Nine," is a uniquely dazzling place: "the largest, most famous, and most extraordinary department store in the entire world." And Zander Olinga is lucky enough to be the grandson of the woman who owns it, Zina Winebee, who is going to look after him for several weeks while his parents are away on a research trip. But as 11-year-old Zander soon learns in Ben Guterson's imaginative and entertaining mystery-adventure novel

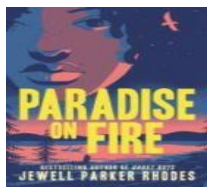
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Coded clues put two young sleuths on the trail of a magic mandala hidden somewhere in a huge, bustling department store. Hardly has meek young Zander Olinga arrived for a visit with Zina Winebee, his grandmother and owner-manager of the Number Nine

Plaza, than he learns of a threat to the continued existence of the renowned emporium. The danger is linked to Darkbloom, a rumored evil spirit set on reversing the good-fortune charm left by Nepali monks at the store's founding. The stone tablet bearing the magical mandala vanished 90 years ago, and finding its hiding place becomes a race pitting Zander and intrepid new ally Natasha Novikov against unknown saboteurs whose minds have been taken over by Darkbloom. The keys to the tablet's location are a series of ingenious word and number clues left by Zander's great-granduncle Vladimir, and Guterson provides enough hints along the way for savvy readers to decode them. What he doesn't do is give either his leads or the many-faceted store (which, over the course of the story, is explored from the Ferris wheel on its roof to the bakery in the cellar) any more depth or distinctive traits than he gives Nepali religious practice. Darkbloom remains a shadowy bugaboo, its actual nature and motivations unexplained and its fate left anticlimactically unresolved. Zander's father is from Cameroon, and his mother reads white; names cue some diversity in the supporting cast. Final art not seen. (This review has been updated for factual accuracy.) A whodunit that doesn't live up to its intriguing premise. (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Deep in the heart of the Russian city of Novatrosk lies Number Nine Plaza, a shopping destination brimming with a plethora of things to see and do. For the first time in years, 11-year-old Zander Olinga; who lives in Pittsburgh and whose father is from Cameroon; travels to Russia to spend the summer with his grandmother, the current owner of the Nine. He quickly befriends white-cued Natasha Novikov, also 11, who works for his grandmother, and the pair bonds immediately over their shared love of sports and mutual appreciation for each other's curious differences (Zander is afraid of heights and Natasha can juggle marbles). All is not perfect in the magical building, however; strange occurrences, old legends, and the arrival of a possibly demonic entity named Darkbloom put the Nine's reputation; and very existence; at risk. Juxtaposing Zander's sophisticated voice with Natasha's effervescent; and occasionally reckless; ways, Guterson (Winterhouse) dives headlong into adventure, employing flights of fancy and imagination and humorous situations to instantly charm readers. A large, multiethnic cast of secondary adult characters balances the tweens' youthful exuberance with caring, patient instruction, while Kister (Baby Unicorns) brings the grandiose setting to life, imbuing it with a wonder reminiscent of department stores of yesteryear. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Zander Olinga is off to spend the next five weeks of summer at his grandmother's world-famous department store, The Number Nine Plaza, while his parents are on a research trip in Kamchatka, Russia. Within hours of Zander's arrival, The Nine is abuzz with news about strange and dangerous things happening. The electricity is on the fritz, and an employee is attacked. Zander's grandmother, Zina, tells him the story about a magical mandala that was gifted to the first Winebee matriarch by Nepali monks. However, the mandala was stolen 90 years ago and hidden in The Nine. Zina suspects the mandala is being hunted by Darkbloom, an evil spirit who wishes harm on The Nine. Zander, with the help of a new friend, Natasha Novikov, goes on a search for the mandala using clues left by his great-granduncle, Vladimir. The Nine is a fantastical place full of shops and activities that will surely tickle readers' imaginations. However, Zander's exploration of the plaza often competes with the mystery of the missing mandala. VERDICT A promising novel with attention-grabbing elements and a high-stakes hunt for a magical object, that unfortunately gets lost in heavily detailed descriptions, a large cast of side characters, and an inconsistent time line.—Maria Martin

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Eleven-year-old Zander Olinga partners with a new friend to protect his family's legendary, theme park-like department store, the Number Nine Plaza, in a wholesome and elaborate middle-grade mystery with fantastical themes.



#2246420 Paradise on Fire (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Addy is haunted by the tragic fire that killed her parents, leaving her to be raised by her grandmother. Now, years later, Addy's grandmother has enrolled her in a summer wilderness program. There, Addy joins five other Black city kids—each with their own troubles—to spend a summer out west.

978-0-316-49383-3 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.3 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist that took the lives of her parents, Addy is obsessed with creating escape maps and mazes. To help Addy continue to heal, her Grandma Bibi enrolls her at Wilderness Adventures, a summer camp in California where city kids can experience camping, hiking, and rock climbing. Addy is reluctant initially but quickly makes friends with campers Jay and Nessa (all three are Black). Recognizing a kindred spirit, the camp owner takes Addy under his wing and helps nurture her budding love of wilderness while they hike trails every morning before sunrise. When a massive forest fire engulfs Eagle's Ridge during the group's final camping trip, Addy must confront her past and rely on her friends to survive. People of color have not historically featured in wilderness stories, which makes this title refreshing, especially in light of national conversations around racial equity in outdoor spaces. A strong read-alike for Gary Paulsen fans or older kids who have graduated from the I Survived series but are still seeking a thrilling survival story. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books After her parents' death in an apartment fire, Adaugo, known as Addy, is hypervigilant

about mapping her surroundings and identifying escape routes (ÒNo matter what: Escape. SurviveÓ). Now she's thousands of miles away from her Bronx home in a summer program called Wilderness Adventures, which allows Addy's group of urban Black kids to experience the California wild. Addy takes to the wilderness like a duck to water, reveling in exploring her surroundings and cartographically comprehending the untamed country around her. When a group camping trip turns into a frenzied flight from a wildfire, will Addy's skills save her and her new friends? Rhodes has a knack for disaster stories with real-life implications, and Addy is an original character whose focus on control is plausible and plausibly advantageous in this very different milieu. The kids are a reasonably individuated bunch, and it's a nice touch that Addy's abilities are respected by most of the group when the time comes. The escape itself is harrowing, and the book doesn't pull any punches about the price and fury of wildfires. Addy's (and the author's) clear love of the natural world shines throughout, balancing the pounding adventure with respect and appreciation. Readers may not want to race a wildfire, but they'll definitely long to hit the hills with Addy. Rhodes appends a detailed note about wildfires, climate change, and systemic racism's effects on minority access to nature. DS COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Having lost both parents to an apartment fire when she was little, Addy steers clear of fire as much as possible, and spends much of her time making maps of her Bronx neighborhood that note all the ways to "no matter what: Escape. Survive." When her grandmother signs her up for a wilderness adventure program in California for "Black city kids," Addy desperately wishes she could escape that, too -- a summer in the forests of California with five strangers doesn't sound particularly interesting or safe. She is almost immediately proven wrong: her interactions with wilderness camp owner Leo establish Addy as "a kid who didn't know they belonged in the wild." Under Leo's tutelage, Addy adapts to the forest, learns about climate change's impact on the environment, and begins to flourish in her mapmaking skills. While the other kids in her group also become acclimated to the wilderness, Addy is unique in her understanding of the world around her -- and when a forest fire threatens their very lives, it is that understanding that offers a chance at survival. Although the quick pacing doesn't lend itself as well to the full development of secondary characters, the novel's lyrical tone and first-person narration bring home Addy's love of nature as well as her urgency to protect it. Rhodes's contribution brings welcome diversity to the wilderness adventure genre; an afterword provides additional information on climate change, forest fires, and minorities' access to wilderness/national parks. Eboni Njoku(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Fire can change everything. Adaugo, whose name means "daughter of an eagle," leaves Bibi, her Nigerian grandmother and surrogate mother, to travel from New York to California with Wilderness Adventures for a three-week outdoor experience. Leo, the White owner of Wilderness Adventures, and two White college-age counselors, seek to teach Addy and five other urban Black kids enough outdoor skills to conclude their stay with a several-night backpacking trip. Tormented by nightmares of the fire that killed her parents, Addy obsesses over maps, mazes, and escape routes. Stylistically varied and impressively detailed, her sketches throughout the book highlight her talent and observational skills. She learns topographical mapping to understand the wooded landscape, and she quickly falls in love with nature. Leaving Leo, the only skilled woodsman, at base camp, the group encounters a wildfire the first night of their culminating trip, and the counselors ignore Addy's informed advice--based on Leo's mentorship and her focus on cultivating her navigation skills--to their peril. Inspired by California's 2018 Camp Fire, this novel teaches about nature and climate change but centers Whiteness since Leo imparts most of the wisdom. He also relies on the leadership of the counselors, neither of whom demonstrates the passion or cultural competence to work effectively with Addy and her peers. Those who know the woods may sense this habitat is less familiar to Rhodes than the settings of her previous books. A heart-pounding read that imparts both a healthy fear and a deep appreciation of nature's power. (afterword) (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Inspired by real events, Parker Rhodes (Black Brother, Black Brother) makes her entree into climate fiction with the story of narrator Adaugo (Addy), a Black 15-year-old from the Bronx. Living with an overwhelming fear of fire after losing her parents to one at the age of four, Addy copes by constantly drawing maps and plotting escape routes in case of emergency. When Addy's Nigerian Grandma Bibi signs her up for Wilderness Adventures in California, Addy expects to be the odd one out; instead, though, she makes friends and falls in love with nature. But a wildfire soon endangers the woods and the people she has come to cherish, and Addy must count on her maps and newfound survival skills to save everyone she can. Addy's character-driven narrative offers a broad picture of her motivations; including a post-traumatic mindset that's focused on survival; yet leaves little room for the explicit development of relationships on which the story's emotional heft eventually relies. If the negative impact of human activity on the environment sometimes dominates the story, Parker Rhodes believably explores one Black city girl's discovery of the wilderness around her. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—Plagued by memories of the fire that killed her parents years ago, Addy always maps her city surroundings. But a chance to experience a wilderness camp leads Addy away from her comfort zone, along with five other kids, and across the country to Paradise Ranch. Out in the California forest, Addy has the opportunity to learn essential wilderness skills. However, her worst nightmare occurs when a deadly forest fire leaves Addy and her friends fighting for their lives in the woods. Now it's up to Addy to take all that she's learned at camp to survive. Rhodes delivers another gripping story about loss, resilience, and healing. Addy's anxiety over her parents' deaths is handled beautifully through her transition from mapper of escape routes to proper wilderness cartographer. Addy's restorative journey is realistically bumpy as she fights to accept that she can't live her life waiting for the worst to happen; rather, she can act wisely, embracing hope. While the environmental message may seem heavy-handed at first, it plays its part well by the end, aiding the final note that humans impact the Earth greatly and need to take this responsibility seriously. Addy and the five other city kids are Black. Camp owner Leo and the two counselors are cued white. An afterword provides the historical inspiration for the story. VERDICT Perfect for reluctant readers and fans of Dusti Bowling's The Canyon's Edge, this is a tale of survival and hope that doesn't disappoint.—Emily Walker, Lisle Lib. Dist., IL

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In this gripping, moving and life-affirming middle-grade adventure, survival requires not only smarts but also compassion for others, the planet and oneself. Jewell Parker Rhodes, award-winning author of *Ghost Boys*, introduces Addy, a Nigerian American teen girl participating in a summer program for Black city kids to develop wilderness skills. "Escape. Survive."--that's Addy's mantra. Her parents died in a fire when she was four, but she lived. Now, on her flight to Paradise Ranch in California, she maps the exits, preparing for an emergency. At the ranch, she avoids the fireplace, trying not to summon unwanted flashbacks. She misses the Bronx and Grandma Bibi, who left Nigeria to raise Addy and who encouraged this trip: "To know yourself, you need to journey, Adaugo." As events lead to a climactic forest fire, Addy endeavors to follow Bibi's words. *Paradise on Fire* is a brilliant melding of captivating storytelling and crucial teaching moments; Rhodes also exemplifies how friends can bring out one's latent strengths. Through the kids' candid dialogue and Addy's expressive narration, Rhodes weaves in issues of race and class. Aware of the opportunities they've lacked as Black city kids, Kelvin jokingly calls s'mores "white people's food" and notes the weirdness of sleeping outside. DeShon, cognizant of how "white people's charity" funded the trip, feels like someone's "summer project." Immersive prose adds urgency to Rhodes's message that 97% of wildfires are caused by humans, a topic cited in the afterword as the book's inspiration, along with the 2018 Camp Fire. Inspiring both action and hope, *Paradise on Fire* heralds the importance of believing in one's own power to make a difference. COPYRIGHT(2021) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2328988 Make a Move, Sunny Park! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jessica Kim

This is the story of Sunny Park, a seventh-grade student at Ranchito Mesa Middle who loves the K-pop band Supreme Beat, hanging out with her cool grandma, dancing when no one is watching, snacking on shrimp chips, and being there for Bailey, her best friend since third grade. When Bailey decides that she and Sunny should audition for the school dance team in a ploy to parent-trap Bailey's divorced mom and dad, Sunny agrees even though the thought of performing in public makes her pits sweat. In a twist of fate, Sunny makes the team and Bailey doesn't, and when Sunny reluctantly joins, it's the start of a painful and drawn-out parting of ways for the two girls.

978-0-525-55500-1 Kokila ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Park is feeling pressure from many directions. Her mother urges her to get over her social anxiety. Sunny's longtime best friend, Baily, who is having trouble adjusting to her parents' divorce, demands Sunny's companionship and support while disparaging her friend's enthusiasm for Supreme Beat, a K-pop band. Baily presses Sunny to try out for the school dance team. Sunny is chosen, but Baily is not. After befriending two fellow dancers who love Supreme Beat, Sunny honors a commitment to them instead of attending her friend's mother's wedding. Baily retaliates online with a video aimed at destroying Sunny's reputation. Taking responsibility for her actions, Sunny brings this hurtful episode to a close and moves forward. Kim, a former teacher and the author of *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* (2020), is equally adept in portraying the members of Sunny's three-generation Korean American household and realistically recreating the shifting dynamics of middle-school friendships. Sunny's first-person narrative becomes increasingly involving as characters and events create rising tension. The appealing jacket art will help this heartening story find its audience. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Korean American Sunny Park wants to support her best friend, Bailey, whose parents are getting divorced (she also wants to avoid Bailey's resentment). Although Sunny experiences social anxiety, she agrees to endure the judgment of fellow seventh graders by auditioning for the middle-school dance team with Bailey. When Sunny makes the team and Bailey doesn't, their friendship becomes strained. Sunny bonds with teammates who share her love of the same K-pop group, an interest that Bailey has derided as immature. Finding solace in her supportive family, Sunny is especially close to her halmoni, who moved in after Sunny's grandfather passed away. Sunny shares the joy of K-pop while her grandmother shares advice and stories of her own childhood as she prepares (vividly described) Korean dishes. Despite the challenges of navigating social interactions, making mistakes, and reflecting on relationships, Sunny finds personal growth and leadership through the dance team. Kim offers humor, tween drama, and a satisfying conclusion in this well-paced story of self-discovery. Kristine Techavanich(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When Sunny joins the school dance team, she discovers some important things about friendship—and about herself. Sunny Park, a Korean American seventh grader, has been best friends with Bailey Stern, a White girl, since third grade. Sunny prides herself on being a good friend: She is always there for Bailey, supporting her through her parents' divorce and being available at a moment's notice. She doesn't even let Bailey's disparaging remarks about her Korean identity or her love of K-pop bother her. It's always been just the two of them, doing everything together, like taking ballet—and then both quitting right after Sunny landed the lead in *The Nutcracker*. Now, Bailey wants to try out for Ranchito Mesa Middle School's dance team, and Sunny, who suffers from social anxiety disorder, agrees to do it too. But when she makes the team and Bailey doesn't, Sunny begins the journey of discovering her own resilience, making new friends, and realizing what really makes for strong relationships. Kim does a stellar job of portraying different types of friendships, illustrating how healthy and unhealthy ones can differ and creating an authentic road map for tweens who are navigating the social complexities of middle school. At the same time, she infuses Sunny's

growth as a friend, an artist, and a leader with fun and joy—especially during the dance scenes. Make a move on this book—its heart will cheer your soul. (Fiction. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Korean American seventh grader Sunny Park loves to dance, especially to music from her favorite K-pop group, Supreme Beat. Her white best friend Bailey thinks Supreme Beat is immature, which doesn't surprise Sunny; Bailey often makes snap judgments and will rarely change her mind once it's made up. Despite Sunny's stage fright, she agrees to audition for the school dance team with Bailey, but things don't go as planned when only Sunny makes the cut. Sunny's decision to carry on dancing with the team alienates Bailey further, as do Sunny's budding friendships with fellow teammates and Supreme Beats fans Jady, who is Filipino, and Bea, who reads as Greek. Though Sunny wants to fix her relationship with Bailey, she also enjoys hanging out with her new friends, prompting conflicting feelings about how to spend her time. But communication lessons from her dance partners and "no-filter" Halmoni help Sunny shore up the confidence to advocate for herself in relationships. While some plot points don't fully coalesce, sensitive portrayals of anxiety define this joyful novel. With unmitigated and endearing honesty, Kim (Stand Up, Yumi Chung!) proffers myriad interpretations of friendship and what it means to be a true friend. Ages 9: 12. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--A relatable story for tweens that illustrates the struggle of ending a toxic friendship and the triumph of being unapologetically yourself. Sunny Park is a Korean American seventh grader who has learned to make herself small. While Sunny loves K-pop and dancing, her best friend Bailey does not, and she shames Sunny for her "immature" hobbies. Sunny is afraid to face Bailey's anger if she goes against her wishes or fails to be completely available to meet Bailey's needs. After joining the school's dance team and making new friends who are part of the same K-pop fandom, Sunny begins to work through her social anxiety and realizes how much Bailey has been holding her back. This slice-of-life, character-driven story is a quick read, mostly conveyed through dialogue. Sunny is an empathetic and complex character who grows from her mistakes. VERDICT A potential mirror for tweens who are struggling with their sense of self-worth and navigating the complexities of friendship. Recommended for middle school collections.--Maria Bohan Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2327802 Flora la Fresca and the Art of Friendship (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Veronica Chambers

Given the choice of a friend who's honest, loyal, or the Most Fun Ever, larger-than-life Flora Violeta LeFevre and her steadfast sidekick Clara Bayano would obviously pick option three. So when the sad news breaks that Clara's moving, the girls roll up their sleeves and get to business: finding Flora an exciting new BFF to continue the adventures in Clara's stead.

978-0-525-55629-9 Dial Books ©2023 5 x 7 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 Ten-year-old Flora and Clara are inseparable BFFs. They look forward to all the exciting things they'll experience together once they're teenagers, but their plans are foiled when they find out that Clara is moving across the country after Christmas. To make things worse, Flora's sister, Maylin, has been especially irritating lately as the day of her quinceañera approaches. To prepare for the move, Flora and Clara come up with a BFF-ometer to help each other find new friends with the same interests. Once Clara has moved to California, it doesn't take long for her to make a new friend, but Flora, on the other hand, is left feeling heartbroken and alone. However, with the arrival of a new student, Zaidee, Flora will find that great friendships can form unexpectedly. Chambers has captured the many real and raw feelings that a child may experience when a friend is moving. Paired with the splendid illustrations by Rim that enhance the story, this is a delightful look into the special connections one can have with friends and family. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When fifth grade best friends Clara and Flora aren't in Saturday Spanish school, they're typically getting into all sorts of mischief, most recently scheming ways to annoy Flora's older sister, Maylin, who has become a quinceañera while planning her upcoming quinceañera. It's all well and good until Clara's mother gets a new job in California, which means that Clara and her family will be moving away from their home in Rhode Island in five weeks, ruining Christmas and, according to the girls, their lives forever. Flora must now navigate her school without her partner in crime while Clara has to figure out how to make friends in a new California school. The girls' friendship is full of inside jokes and heartwarming anecdotes, and both pals are realistic modern tweens, writing code in Scratch, practicing TikTok dances, and skateboarding. The mix of Spanish and English dialogue between the friends shows their growing Spanish language skills, and their relationships with their Latinx mothers deftly convey the parent/child dynamic of second-generation kids trying to honor their heritage. Having a close friend move away in childhood is a common theme in middle grade and YA lit, and Chambers' compassionate look at Clara and Flora's relationship may make the journey more bearable for those facing a similar scenario. JU COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ten-year-old Flora struggles after her best friend moves away. Flora LeFevre would rate her best friend, Clara Londra, full marks on the BFF-ometer the girls programmed in Scratch. Clara makes Saturday Spanish school bearable, and she's down for any adventure. They both have parents from far away--Flora's are from Panama, and Clara's are from Argentina. So, when Clara's mother announces

that they are leaving Rhode Island to move to California, Flora feels lost even though the girls resolve to remain best friends no matter what. Maylin, Flora's older sister, is too obsessed with planning her quinceañera to pay attention to her. Worse, Clara quickly finds a new friend in California. Flora thinks no one can hold a candle to Clara until a new student arrives in class: Hailing from Paris, Lebanese Zaidee Khal seems too sophisticated for fifth grade. As Flora slowly warms up to Zaidee, they begin to form a new friendship. But can Flora have two besties? Chambers places universal friendship trials within the specific joy and beauty of an Afro-Panamanian family, capturing the deep, intense emotions of childhood bonds. Rim's delightful illustrations punctuate the text and capture the mood of the characters' journeys. The dialogue is peppered with Spanish in the natural cadence of bilingual families, with each member possessing varying degrees of proficiency. Non-Spanish-speaking readers won't miss a beat and may even pick up a phrase or two. Funny, heartwarming, and sweet. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Afro-Panamanian American 10-year-old Flora Violeta LeFevre and her Argentinian American BFF Clara Ocampo Londra have experienced everything together, including agonizing Saturday Spanish lessons and daring adventures at the local skate park. So Flora is devastated when Clara has to move from their Rhode Island hometown to California because of Clara's mother's new job. As the besties lament Clara's impending move, they hang out as much as they can and create, using coding tool Scratch, a BFF-ometer test to help them make new friends. While Clara seems to immediately find a new friend group, Flora can't imagine anyone replacing Clara. It's even difficult to connect with her sister Maylin, who's too preoccupied with planning her quinceañera to offer Flora comfort. But when Lebanese new student Zaidee Khal arrives from Paris, Flora begins to believe that maybe she won't feel lonely forever. Pencil-like b&w sketches from Rim (Take a Chance) pepper vivacious prose by Chamber (Finish the Fight!), punctuating Flora's moments of elation and sorrow as she works to navigate her shifting relationships. Realistic familial dynamics and a fair amount of tween antics from Flora and company add verve to this warm friendship story. Ages 8: 12. (July)



#2144777 Nessie Quest (Library Binding (Trade))

written by Melissa Savage

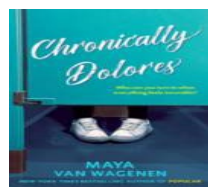
Ada Ru is anything but happy. She doesn't like their new home, she hates haggis, and she certainly doesn't like the idea that she will be away from her best friend all summer. To top it all off, there is said to be a monster in the lake near their house!

978-0-525-64568-9 Crown Children's Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—If Ada Ru Fitzhugh has to spend the summer away from her best friend, she'd rather be at the Magic Kingdom, not in a tiny Scottish town on Loch Ness, where her father teaches. Ada Ru doesn't like change. She's also worried about losing her best friend, and she fears the ghosts that she believes haunt the ancient abbey where she and her parents are staying, as well as bodies of water. She is intrigued by Dax, an American boy who sits on the stairs of the abbey strumming a guitar. Then she meets Hamish Bean Tibby, who runs the Nessie Quest boat tours with his Gran, who was a famous Nessie hunter. Ada Ru doesn't believe in the Loch Ness Monster. Her patient parents challenge her to investigate, so she sets about interviewing the townsfolk for the truth behind the legend. Eventually, though, she must gather her courage and get on a boat. This adventure charms in every way. The characters are endearingly eccentric. Townsfolk speak in a Scottish dialect that is easily understood and often hilarious, while the atmospheric Loch Ness setting sets a perfect stage. Readers will root for these three oddballs as they form an unlikely friendship and embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Fans of the author's Lemons will delight in a certain cameo appearance. VERDICT Fans of warm, quirky comedies will love this epic adventure and friendship story.—Brenda Kahn, Tenakill Middle School, Closter, NJ



#2368643 Chronically Dolores (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Maya Van Wagenen

Nothing has been the same for fourteen-year-old Dolores Mendoza since everything started changing at the end of middle school. Newly diagnosed with interstitial cystitis, Dolores had a humiliating accident in class that earned her the nickname "whiz kid." Even worse, she's losing her lifelong BFF, Shae, who's suddenly ignoring Dolores to hang out with the cool girls. Dolores is alone, and confused. What did she do wrong?

978-0-525-42682-0 Dutton ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 640

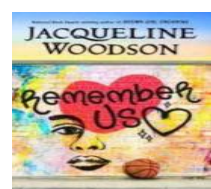
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-10 *Starred Review* Dolores Mendoza's life is in the toilet after she embarrasses herself in front of the entire eighth grade. Between her chronic illness (interstitial cystitis) and repeated head injuries, her best friend Shae ghosting her, and family drama, she

feels really out of place. To get her out of the house, her mom signs her up for a workshop on communication and making friends, where the only other girl there about her age is awkward, direct, and puts the pieces of Dolores' life together, causing her further embarrassment. But that girl, Terpsichore Berkenbosch-Jones, is doing whatever she can to convince her overprotective mom to let her go to the public high school because being homeschooled is not how she's going to become a Tony-winning costume designer for a big Broadway show. Together, the two hatch a plot for Dolores to get her friend back and convince Terpsichore's mother that being autistic doesn't mean she can't have dreams and a life. Hitting themes of growing apart from old friends, confronting exaggerated ideas of embarrassment and rejection, learning to find accommodations and self-advocate, and understanding that people aren't always what they seem, Van Wagenen's (Popular, 2014) fiction debut is a standout with both wide appeal and important, specific representation bolstered by the author's own life. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews During the summer before high school, a nominally Catholic teen finds that she can relate to martyred saints. Dolores Mendoza's family is struggling financially, and her parents' marriage is imploding. A year ago, she was diagnosed with interstitial cystitis after a bladder accident made her a pariah. Then Mexican American Dolores meets Terpsichore Berkenbosch-Jones, who is autistic and reads white. Terpsichore wants to fake a friendship to prove to her helicopter mom that she's capable of attending public school and can stop home schooling. The answer to their problems seems clear: Dolores will win back her former best friend, and Terpsichore will win her independence. What could go wrong? Dolores' chronic illness frequently causes trouble for herself, and a vein of wry humor and dramatics runs through her everyday interactions. Her creative first-person narration includes transcripts from her confessional conversations with a priest, mock telenovela scripts (complete with scene directions), and her reviews of local bathrooms. Dolores is in an ongoing standoff with her illness and comes to no pat resolutions about her body, instead approaching her illness in a way that feels true to her character and to being 14. Self-actualized and incisive Terpsichore's journey and the girls' increasingly non-fake friendship feel earned, and the affectionately combative dynamics between the Mendoza family, in particular between Dolores and her Tia Vera and older brother Mateo, are strong. An insightful, funny, and realistic coming-of-age story. (author's note) (Fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Van Wagenen (Popular) draws on her experiences managing interstitial cystitis—a chronic bladder condition, as addressed in an author's note—in her striking fiction debut. Fourteen-year-old Dolores Mendoza, who's constantly navigating chronic pain due to her IC, is embarrassed when her condition results in a bladder-related incident at school. Suddenly ignored by her best friend and dealing with increasing tension at home surrounding her father's financial irresponsibility, Dolores feels isolated. Hoping to escape reality, she imagines her life as a telenovela; commiserates with her gay older brother Matteo, who's facing romantic hurdles; and periodically confides in a witty local priest despite her mother's disapproval of religion. Then Dolores meets wise and astute autistic teen Terpsichore Berkenbosch-Jones, who rails against her own mother's overprotective nature. Buoyant banter and Dolores's interstitial journal entries in which she rates bathroom environments add levity to tense moments depicting Dolores's illness and her and Terpsichore's yearning for independence. Compassionate prose conveys the protagonists' experiences with care and thoughtful, complex characterizations approachably highlight life's ambiguity. Characters are racially diverse. Ages 12-up. Agent: Daniel Lazar, Writers House. (Mar.) Copyright 2023 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.



#2348841 Remember Us (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jacqueline Woodson

It seems like Sage's whole world is on fire the summer before she starts seventh grade. As house after house burns down, her Bushwick neighborhood gets referred to as "The Matchbox" in the local newspaper. And while Sage prefers to spend her time shooting hoops with the guys, she's also still trying to figure out her place inside the circle of girls she's known since childhood. A group that each day, feels further and further away from her. But it's also the summer of Freddy, a new kid who truly gets Sage.

978-0-399-54546-7 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Book Page ted but powerful punch...Sage's deep sense of nostalgia intertwines with a palpable fear of those fires, which act as a metaphor for Sage's recognition that her body and her world are changing...Remember Us has the feel of a new classic, ageless in its universal themes while wonderfully rendering a specific time and place. The pure magic of this novel is that Woodson somehow makes readers feel as though they are experiencing these moments of growing up along with Sage. Woodson flawlessly intersperses explosive moments—and games of basketball—among quiet, reflective scenes while responding to Sage's weighty fears with reassurance about the permanence of loving memories."

Reviews by: Booklist Sage is spending the summer before seventh grade doing her favorite thing in the world: playing basketball at the park in her beloved Bushwick neighborhood. She's the only girl on the court, but she knows she's as good as any guy in the close-knit bunch and dreams of playing professionally. A new kid, Freddy, quickly falls in with the sports set and becomes inseparable from Sage in particular. Though it may all sound idyllic, it's a supremely strange time in their corner of 1970s Brooklyn—homes are regularly burning to the ground in "The Matchbox," and Sage's mother is keen to relocate them to a safer part of town. A tragic death combined with a threatening confrontation on the basketball court sees the previously confident Sage question her place in every aspect of her world, and it takes all of her courage and the community strength to find her way again. The deeply moving novel from National Book Award winner Woodson is both elegant and accessible, and the novel-in-verse

approach works wonderfully here, with occasional chapters consisting of only a few dramatic lines. Bushwick and its inhabitants are fully fleshed out with incredible detail and immense tenderness, and Sage immediately feels like a dear friend. A poignant portrayal of a historic neighborhood and an outstanding ode to the grief and gift of growing older. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Woodson is one of the most esteemed figures in children's publishing, and her historical fiction especially can't be missed. — Emily Graham

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Homes are catching fire in the summer heat of Bushwick, and twelve-year-old Sage is seeking to preserve her love of basketball and her friendships as she sees more of her Brooklyn community go up in flames. Basketball isn't just a game for Sage but a steady anchor, running through her friendship with Freddy, her memories of her dead father, her love for her neighborhood. But her passion and skills falter after a terrifying encounter with a menacing teenage boy who corners Sage alone, demanding to know what kind of girl she thinks she is playing ball like that. Meanwhile, the fires continue to rage and any sense of safety simply turns to ash. Sports references (Sage isn't waiting for some "ladies team" to be invented so she can play ball) and details like Sage's mother using a typewriter place the novel in its historical moment, but the emotions and challenges feel ever current. Written with the reflective voice of a slightly older Sage, the slice-of-life narrative steers readers through weighty emotions and contemplations on friendship, grounding the connections between notions of identity, family, and home with tactile imagery. The vividness of Sage's world gives an urgency to the story, calling up the immediacy of youth, while the reflective tone softens some of the more painful memories, assuring to children that these things will pass, and that fires will not burn forever. ART

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Sage Durham, a basketball-obsessed Black twelve-year-old, is looking forward to a summer of pick-up games with the boys (she's always the only girl on the court) in her close-knit 1970s Brooklyn neighborhood. Instead, it proves to be a season of screaming sirens and burned-out buildings. The newspapers dub Bushwick "The Matchbox," and a number of the Durhams' neighbors become victims of fire. Sage's mom, the widow of a firefighter, is saving every possible penny to put toward a brick house and a safer future for herself and her daughter. But the idea of leaving the home where her dad grew up and all the people she has ever known is hard for Sage. A recent cruel comment ("What kind of girl are you?") has her questioning where she fits in. This lyrical first-person upper-middle-grade novel taps into a wide array of emotional truths and preteen sensibilities. Passages on loss and memory feature palpable sadness, but there is also a tender exploration of the enduring power of friendship and love, the discovery of inner strength and resilience, and the need to balance an appreciation for what "once was" and what may be. Woodson again delivers an appealing protagonist whose voice will resonate with readers in a nuanced coming-of-age story worth remembering. Luann Toth(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

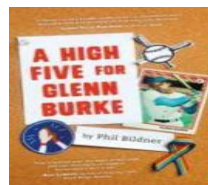
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An African American tween's world is turned upside down by mysterious fires in her neighborhood and by self-doubt as she comes of age. Sage's mother wants them to move to a safer area, but Sage is reluctant to leave their community, where her father, a fireman killed in the line of duty, grew up. Her mother was always one of the first to help families when fires struck, and Sage finds herself drawn to the little kids who play in the residue left behind. Rough-and-tumble, basketball-loving Sage grapples with feeling different from the makeup-wearing girls who used to be her friends. The words of a menacing teen who harasses her on the basketball court haunt her ("What kind of girl are you?" "I should punch you in the face just to show you you ain't a dude..."), and her hurt turns to an anger that nearly has a catastrophic outcome. After one of the neighborhood children is killed in yet another fire, Sage finds herself reflecting on her own loss. Drawing on her own experiences growing up in Brooklyn's Bushwick neighborhood during the '70s and '80s, Woodson has crafted a beautifully lyrical narrative of change, healing, and growth. Her ability to evoke time and place is masterful; every word feels perfectly chosen. Sage is an irresistible character with a rich interior life, and her relationships with her mother and her friend Freddy are exceptionally well drawn. An exquisitely wrought story of self and community. (author's note) (Fiction. 10-13)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Black 11-year-old Sage, a Bushwick native, questions the meaning of memory and struggles with self-image as houses begin mysteriously burning down throughout her neighborhood, newly dubbed "The Matchbox." After Sage's firefighter father dies in the line of duty, her mother saves money in the hope of one day moving them out of town. Despite the growing worry that permeates her community, Sage is reluctant to leave, and spends her time playing basketball with local boys. But some of the boys make fun of her for participating in the sport ("You shoot that ball like you think you a dude or something," one taunts), prompting Sage to wrestle with gender norms and feelings of self-doubt. When another fire results in further tragedy, Sage is forced to reckon with her community, her future, and the power of legacy. Woodson (Before the Ever After) draws on her experiences growing up in Bushwick in the 1970s and '80s to craft a nostalgic-feeling ode to the unexpected. Short chapters offer swift glimpses into momentous happenings in Sage's life, while organic dialogue and mesmerizing prose lay bare a narrative that encourages learning to move with the ebbs and flows of life. Ages 10: up. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Another remarkable ode to Brooklyn and memory from the incomparable National Book Award winner. Twelve-year-old Sage no longer feels comfortable with the girls from her Bushwick neighborhood because she'd rather be playing basketball than worrying about her appearance. The sport is what she loves most in the world and is what unites her and the new boy Freddy. The two exchange player stats and discuss the Knicks, finding a kindred spirit in the other as families are left displaced because of the fires that are mysteriously razing their buildings. Sage's mom warns that they'll be moving out soon, to where "sirens didn't scream deep into the night." That year Sage also grapples with her grief over her father's death and a scary and sexist encounter in the park that has her questioning her identity and giving up basketball altogether. Set during the 1970s, this nostalgia-tinged novel takes place when Bushwick was known as "The Matchbox" because of the fires that plagued its streets. The chapters are vignette-like, sometimes featuring only a few sentences. The often wistful text is lyrical, but the nostalgia never overwhelms the narrative. Woodson's economy of language expertly presents the microcosm of Sage's community of friends and neighborhood kids and the macrocosm of the external world that threatens to destroy it. Sage's journey to finding herself while trying to navigate these two worlds will resonate with readers young and old. VERDICT The power of community and friendship permeates every word in this middle grade novel for all readers. A truly masterly work.--Shelley M. Diaz Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with

permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness National Book Award-winner Jacqueline Woodson (*Brown Girl Dreaming*; *The Year We Learned to Fly*) uses personal experience to honor her childhood in *Remember Us*, a poignant work of middle-grade historical fiction about how a little-known event shapes one girl's transition to young woman.



#2152970 High Five for Glenn Burke (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Phil Bildner

When sixth grader Silas Wade does a school presentation on former Major Leaguer Glenn Burke, it's more than just a report on the irrepressible inventor of the high five. Burke was a gay baseball player in the 1970s--and for Silas, the presentation is his own first baby step toward coming out. Soon he tells his best friend, Zoey, but the longer he keeps his secret from his baseball teammates, the more he suspects they know something's up--especially when he stages one big cover-up with terrible consequences.

978-0-374-31273-2 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 690

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist When Silas has to do a presentation on a famous inventor for his sixth-grade class, he chooses Glenn Burke, the baseball center fielder credited with inventing the high five. When Glenn Burke arrived in the big leagues in 1976, the Los Angeles Dodgers thought he was going to be the next Willie Mays, Silas explains, but there's one thing he doesn't share with his class, friends, or teammates: Burke was pushed out of baseball because, like Silas, he was gay. Even as he considers coming out, Silas worries about his secret being revealed. As he becomes increasingly nervous, he distances himself from baseball and, worse, tells a lie about his best friend Zoey, which causes her to stop speaking to him. Bildner's (Martina & Chrissie, 2017) latest is a middle-grade book that will have broad appeal. Young readers will relate to Silas and cheer him on as he navigates longstanding relationships that suddenly seem new and awkward. Muted problems at home, seen through Silas' eyes, encourage communication with and trust in parents. The story also speaks to the importance of creating a welcoming community whether on a baseball field or in a classroom that embraces differences with not only tolerance but also complete and unrelenting support. An essential book for all readers, not just baseball fans, about friendship, acceptance, and self-confidence.--Grace Rosean Copyright 2020 Booklist



#2199528 Halfway to Harmony (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Barbara O'Connor

Walter Tipple is looking for adventure. His big brother, Tank, always used to say, "Let's you and me go see the world, Little Man"--but Tank went to the army and never came home, and Walter doesn't know how to see the world without him. But then he meets the brash, brave new girl next door named Posey, as well as an eccentric man named Banjo who's off on a bodacious adventure of his own.

978-0-374-31445-3 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 750

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Walter Tipple, 10, does not expect much out of his summer. His brother, Tank, died in an overseas war six months ago, leaving his mother in a kind of depressed fog. His father is on the road much of the time, and no one his age lives near him. In addition, Walter is shy, is pigeon-toed, and has a lazy eye, and he doesn't have friends anyway. His life changes when Posey, along with her mother, Evalina, and a three-legged dog named Porkchop, moves in next door. Posey is outspoken and a little bossy, but she leads Walter on a real adventure. They find an injured man named Banjo in the woods and join his quest in finding his hot-air balloon so he can mend it and enter a balloon competition. Over the course of the summer, Walter finds his voice and his spirit, and he's finally able to face his grief over Tank. This friendship story is sweet and savory, with memorable main characters in Walter, Posey, and Banjo and a story elegant in its simplicity. COPYRIGHT(2020) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

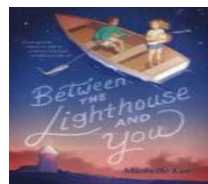
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Walter Tipple is still reeling from the loss of his big brother, Tank, a soldier who was killed fighting abroad. The arrival of new neighbor Posey, far more outspoken and adventurous than he, gives him something to think about besides the family's grief and the recurring dreams of his upcoming birthday, wherein Tank cryptically promises to show him his world. A mystery/project drops literally out of the blue when they discover an injured balloonist-sans balloon-who claims to have crashed in a trial run for a race. Banjo's story might be more believable if his narration of it was less florid, and as he insinuates himself into the lives of the kids and Posey's single mother,

always dishing up a fresh reason not to move along, neither characters nor readers are entirely certain this guy can be trusted. O'Connor's fans will settle smoothly into familiar territory—a Southern rural milieu populated with warm, mildly eccentric adults and resourceful kids who roam, explore, and learn on a very long leash. The technical details of retrieving, repairing, launching, and piloting a hot-air balloon add flavor and expand the audience for this feel-good friendship story, and Walter's balloon ride satisfyingly fulfills Tank's dream-given promise of a new perspective on his familiar world. EB

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Ask ten-year-old Walter Tipple to describe himself, and he would start with the perceived negatives: his slight build, pigeon-toed walk, and lazy eye. He's an easy target for the local bullies -- except when he was with his older brother, Tank, former captain of the football team (and a daredevil who rode a motorcycle into church). But Tank left Harmony, Georgia, to join the army and was killed, leaving Walter despondent and friendless. That is, until a new neighbor, Posey, moves in and the two stumble across a nearly lifeless man, one Jubilation T. Fairweather, a.k.a. Banjo (because his older brothers always picked on him). This discovery leads to the beginnings of a beautiful friendship and a great adventure involving a hot-air balloon, a contest to win a Ford, and Walter driving Tank's beloved truck to save the day. With its fast pace, liberal use of Southern idioms, one bodacious adventure, and memorable characters, this book has read-aloud written all over it. Betty Carter March/April 2021 p.97(c) Copyright 2021. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A hot air balloon race over a small Southern town helps a boy cope with grief. Eleven-year-old Walter Tipple is celebrating his birthday, but with a sad heart. Tank, the older brother that he hero worships and who is fighting in a war overseas, has died. Then a series of events enlivens his quiet life in the sleepy town of Harmony, Georgia. Posey moves next door with her single mother and three-legged dog. Walter, who is meek and has amblyopia, is targeted by school bullies. Posey has a birthmark on her left cheek, loves to read nonfiction and quote advice on making friends--and she stands up for herself fiercely. Together, they find Jubilation T. Fairweather, a man who literally falls into their lives from his damaged hot air balloon. Nicknamed Banjo, he is determined to find his balloon and win a race, an endeavor that becomes the focus of the story's action. Walter thinks constantly about his brother but is unable to read Tank's last letter. The two children balance fear with bravery, and in the concluding balloon ride over Harmony, Walter finds the strength to reconcile his feelings about Tank. Posey owns up to her own fears, and Banjo remains the quirky catalyst. Readers follow Walter's inner feelings through a narrative that is centered on his thoughts and actions, but the resolution of family grief ultimately feels facile. All characters present as White. Heartfelt and accessible. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A boy grieves the death of his revered older brother in O'Connor's (Wonderland) tender story. Ten-year-old Walter Tipple loves living in Harmony, Ga., which is why he can't understand why his older brother, Tank, was so eager to enlist in the Army and fight in the overseas war in which he was killed. Now, all Walter has to remember Tank by is his prized truck; which Walter runs faithfully for a few minutes daily; an unopened letter, and a strange recurring dream. With his birthday approaching, Walter welcomes the distraction of his loquacious and bossy new neighbor, Posey. When the two of them venture to a nearby creek to catch minnows, they find a stranger named Banjo, injured from a hot air balloon fall, who enlists Walter and Posey to help him recover the damaged balloon, resulting in an unexpected but much-needed adventure for Walter as well as a chance to strengthen his friendship with Posey. O'Connor's characters are vividly portrayed, especially Walter, whose insight illustrates his grief, which is by turns confusing, overwhelming, and infuriating. Banjo and Posey's antics provide levity, and the quest to save Banjo's balloon propels the plot forward, resulting in a feel-good novel reminiscent of *Moon Over Manifest*. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Barbara Markowitz, Barbara Markowitz Literary. (Jan.)



#2245897 **Between the Lighthouse and You (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Michelle Lee

Everyone says Alice Jones's mother died in a boating accident, but Alice doesn't believe them. When she hears that the residents of Aviles know how to communicate with loved ones who have died, she knows she has to go--if she can contact her mother, she might have all the answers she needs.

978-0-374-31450-7 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 It's been six years since Alice's mother's presumed death from drowning while visiting Aviles Island. She had gone there to research reports that local residents received "tidings," written messages sent by departed loved ones once a year. Still yearning for some word from Mom, 12-year-old Alice reads her mother's journals and persuades her father to take the family to Aviles for a few days. There she meets Leo, a boy whose family tends the island's lighthouse, collects the annual tidings, and distributes them to their neighbors. Grieving for his beloved grandfather and fiercely protective of the island's traditions, Leo is initially suspicious of the newcomers. Gradually, he forms an alliance with Alice and tries to help her contact her mother, but his plan has its perils. The first-person text shifts from Alice's point of view to Leo's, chapter by chapter, and tells a continuous, interwoven story that builds momentum as it progresses. In her first novel, Lee offers an involving, uplifting story about coming to terms with grief and finding a meaningful way to move forward. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books onvined her mother is alive, despite six years passing since Mom sailed into a storm o the Florida coast and disappeared. After all, Mom studied death for a living—specifically, how to communicate with the deceased—and the remot island where she vanished has a peculiar tradition that allows its residents to do just that. Twelve-year-old Leo Mercury takes this tradition, c lled the tidings, very seriously; he and his family are keepers of both the island's lighthouse and the messages from the dead that wash ashore each ear for island residents. While Leo doesn't appreciate Alice's snooping when she and her family arrive on a vacation, an unprecedented tidi g from his grandfather brings the two together as they attempt to contact their lost loved ones. Debut author Lee switches between her protagonis ts' perspectives in this slow-to-start story, which eventually crests in a heartfelt exploration of grief and familial love. Plot-minded readers will leave Aviles Island with unanswered questions about the liminally spiritual tidings tradition, as well as the island's continued isolation in the internet era. However, kids processing their own loss who are willing to accept the unexplained may enjoy Alice and Leo's quest to communicate both with those who have passed on and those who remain behind. AMM COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Six years ago, Alice's mother, a cultural anthropologist, disappeared in a boating accident near Aviles Island off the coast of Florida. Now twelve, Alice pores over her mom's books and notes, looking for clues and hope, while her father and younger sister contend with grief in their own ways. Alice desperately wants to learn more about the island's tradition of "tidings," or communications with the dead, that her mother was studying when she disappeared, and she pushes for a trip to Aviles Island. Her father plans to interview the Mercury family, the island's lighthouse keepers, for his radio show; Alice sets her sights on finding out more about the tidings. The story alternates between the first-person narratives of Alice and the Mercury family's oldest son, Leo, who's protective of the island's traditions in memory of his beloved grandfather. Alice and Leo have an antagonistic relationship at first, but an unusual tidings message causes them to join forces. Over the course of a weekend on the island, the tidings come and go, the Jones family members finally begin to process their grief, and a risky boat trip nearly finds history repeating itself. A few of the story's fantastical elements (as well as some of its realistic ones) may rankle some skeptical readers, but the narrative's heart and energy, as well as its portrayal of the many ways one can be isolated and paralyzed by grief, feel true and meaningful. Julie Roach(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Unable to accept her mother's death, a 12-year-old girl visits the Florida island where she disappeared in a storm six years ago. Alice has selective mutism resulting from her refusal to believe in her mother's death. A cultural anthropologist, Alice's mother specialized in studying people's communications with the dead. When Alice discovers a letter to her mother from Aviles Island lighthouse keeper John Mercury, she learns that he agreed to speak with her about what the islanders call tidings, or messages between the living and the dead—and she's determined to go there to seek his help. Alice's father agrees to a family vacation on Aviles, hoping it will bring Alice closure. Arriving with her dad, her dad's girlfriend, and her younger sister just in time for the Tidings Festival, Alice learns Mercury has died but meets his grandson Leo, whose family now operates the lighthouse. Still mourning his grandfather's death, Leo realizes Alice wants the same contact with her deceased mother he has with his grandfather, and he decides to help her. As they row out to sea bearing Alice's tidings to her mother, a terrific storm strikes. Could history repeat itself? The alternating first-person present-tense voices of Alice and Leo provide immediacy and intimacy, while the interactions between and among their down-to-earth families add realism, making the implausible feel possible. The island lighthouse setting proves an ideal venue for otherworldly communication. Main characters are presumably White. A heartwarming, emotional tale of family, grief, and acceptance. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—Every April, for the past eight years, on the anniversary of her mother's funeral, Alice loses her voice for several days. The loss of her mother in a boating accident left her confused and desperate for answers. Her sister is too young to remember their mother, and their father has seemingly moved on with his new companion, Neesha. But Alice is stuck. She spends hours combing through her mother's academic notes and letters, and when her father gives her a journal he recently discovered, Alice finds references to a planned interview with John Mercury on Aviles Island. Residents on this island off the coast of Florida purportedly receive written messages from deceased family members each year. What did her mother learn about the island? If she goes there, could she receive a message from her mother? After convincing her family to take a vacation to the island, Alice meets Leo, whose family manages the lighthouse. He is a cautious boy who wants to protect the magic of Aviles Island. Gradually, the two become friends and unite in their efforts to find out what really happened to Alice's mother. This suspenseful story, alternating between Alice's and Leo's perspectives, is beautifully written and captures the agony of unresolved grief. Lee provides rich detail on the physical landscape of the island, and each chapter slowly reveals answers to Alice's many questions, leaving readers eager for more. VERDICT This compelling story tackles weighty issues related to death and the afterlife, so it is better suited for more mature middle grade readers and young adults, especially those who may be grieving their own losses.—Anne Jung-Mathews, Plymouth State Univ., NH



#2245896 **Dog Star (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Megan Shepherd*

Laika is a Cold Dog, a stray pup fighting for her life on the streets of Moscow. Then, one winter night, she is plucked from her alley to become a starflyer, a dog trained to travel into space. Distrustful of people, Laika tries to do everything she can to escape. That is, until she meets Nina.

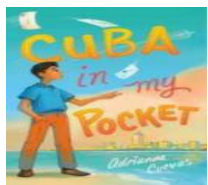
978-0-374-31458-3 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2022 5-1/4 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Based on the true story of the 1950s Space Race, *Dog Star* focuses on the Soviet dog Laika, rescued from the snowy streets of Moscow and groomed to become a "starflyer"--a test traveler orbiting the Earth during the early days of space exploration. Nina is the daughter of one of Laika's scientist trainers and bonds with the special pup. As she deals with school bullies and misses her friend whose family defected to America, she begins to question Communist beliefs. The crisis comes when she realizes that there is no plan to bring Laika back from her mission. There is a fictional, but failed, rescue attempt, leading to the actual result. Told from Laika's and Nina's alternating viewpoints, the novel reveals the process the Soviets followed into space, as well as insights into life during the Cold War. Shepherd includes an informative afterword and valuable bibliography for those who want to know more. Recommended for its insight into a pivotal moment in history and the touching relationship between a girl and her dog. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Laika is a stray struggling to stay alive on the cold, mean streets of Moscow; Nina, 12, is the daughter of a scientist working at the Institute of Space Medicine. It's 1957, the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union is on, and the Soviets are determined to be the first to send a living creature into space. When they settle on dogs, Laika is plucked off the streets as a recruit, and her path crosses with Nina's during a family visit day at the Institute after the little dog has been brought in for testing. A bond immediately forms between them, and Nina engineers a service project through her Young Pioneers group so she can volunteer to care for Laika and the other dogs. The more invested Nina becomes in Laika, the more she begins to question the outright lies and lies of omission churned out by the Soviet propaganda machine, especially in light of her best friend Ludmilla's family's defection to the U.S. And when the question of Laika's well-being arises, Nina will stop at nothing to protect her new friend. The narrative alternates between Nina's and Laika's points of view; Laika's perspective is anthropomorphized with inner monologue as well as dialogue between dogs, and this works to the story's advantage in arousing sympathy for the small animal who was sacrificed for science. A poignant story that accessibly illuminates a milestone in space exploration history. (author's note, recommended reading) (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set in Moscow in 1957 against the internationally charged space race, Shepherd's (*The Secret Horses of Briar Hill*) tautly paced historical novel portrays the friendship between a stray dog and an empathic 12-year-old, both in the orbit of the Starflyer mission to launch animals into space. Alternating chapters follow Laika, a captured street dog inducted into training as a cosmonaut on a remote-controlled spacecraft, and Nina, the presumed-white daughter of a prominent rocket scientist, who volunteers with the group under a patriotic service program. The emotionally intense narrative effectively captures Laika's senses and viewpoint, both on the streets and in the lab, as she begins to trust other dogs, scientists, and especially Nina, who falls under suspicion after the sudden defection of her best friend's family to America. Though some perspectives feel heavy-handed, palpably-wrought authoritarianism follows Nina, who struggles to distance herself from her former friend and to conform to social pressure, priming her for a bond with Laika. Likewise, the voice of wise higher power Dog Star, who speaks to Laika, can feel out of place, but sympathetic characters deliver a tense and compelling adventure that stays true to historical events. An author's note offers background on the real Laika and the space race. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Josh Adams, Adams Literary. (Sept.)



#2245857 Cuba in My Pocket (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adrianna Cuevas

When the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 solidifies Castro's power in Cuba, twelve-year-old Cumba's family makes the difficult decision to send him to Florida alone. Faced with the prospect of living in another country by himself, Cumba tries to remember the sound of his father's clarinet, the smell of his mother's lavender perfume.

978-0-374-31467-5 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7. Cuevas' intense and immersive account of a Cuban boy's experience after the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion brings a specific point in history alive (1961 Santa Clara, Cuba) while also feeling extremely relatable and contemporary on matters such as immigration and the overwhelming feelings associated with moving and starting at a new school. Twelve-year-old Cumba loves his family and home in Cuba's mountains, but Fidel Castro's ascent to power has made life chaotic and frightening. Castro's socialist agenda comes with soldiers patrolling the streets and whispers that turn neighbors against one another. Cumba himself is now old enough to be recruited for Castro's "Young Rebels," a precursor to mandatory military training, and that's not a fate the boy's parents will permit. With heavy hearts and secret contacts on the island, they obtain the forged paperwork needed to fly Cumba to the U.S. and to safety. Drawing from her father's boyhood experiences, Cuevas does an outstanding job of eliciting the confusing array of emotions Cumba feels as he is thrown into life in a new country, where he understands only a smattering of English and desperately misses his family in Cuba. Cuevas takes care not to depict Cubans with broad strokes, emphasizing their individuality within a shared culture, and she lovingly raises up family, biological and made, as essential to finding a way forward.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old Cumba Fernandez carries an unlucky double-nine domino, la caja de muertos, or the "dead man's box," in his pocket as a reminder that "there are worse sources of bad luck than a little white tile." It's April 1961 in Santa Clara, Cuba, and

the Cuban exiles fighting to overthrow Fidel Castro have failed in their mission, leaving families like Cumba's who sided with the former president Batista vulnerable to incarceration and violent subjugation. In order to avoid the threat of mandatory military training in Russia, Cumba's parents decide to send him to the United States. Cuevas's (*The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*) skillful first-person present-tense narrative follows Cumba's experience of separation from his loved ones; his adjustment to life in Miami as a refugee; and ultimately his reunion with his family in the United States. Cuevas furthers this insider perspective with letters between Cumba and his little brother, Pepito. Incorporating elements from her father's experiences as a Cuban exile and child refugee, the author tells a larger, complicated story about the ways children navigate the geopolitical forces that compel families to make hard choices to ensure their survival. Lettycia Terrones November/December 2021 p.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews To escape the harsh realities of Castro's Cuba, a 12-year-old boy must leave his family behind and flee to the United States alone. Following the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, Fidel's grip on Cuba tightens. Neighbors whisper and conspire against each other, and those not loyal to Castro's regime face punishment, even execution. When young Cumba is marked for military recruitment, his family decides to send him off to the United States. Escaping to Miami and the home of a distant relative, Cumba struggles to adjust to his new life without his family. The labyrinthlike city's size and the cacophony of English-speaking voices overwhelm the young boy at first. School also brings its share of pains and embarrassments. Thankfully, Cumba gains allies in the unlikeliest ways, including an American schoolmate obsessed with horse races and other Cuban refugee young people. Letters from his little brother back home also bring him some comfort. Then, one day, a letter brings horrible news: Fidel's soldiers have arrested Cumba's parents. Inspired by stories from her father's childhood, Cuevas' latest is a triumph of the heart. Devoting half of the story to Cumba's life in Cuba and the other half to his adjustment to the United States, the author continually reminds readers about the strength provided by community and family and the forces that can threaten to snatch these sources of happiness away. A compassionate, emotionally astute portrait of a young Cuban in exile. (author's note, glossary) (Historical fiction. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Cuevas (*The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*) excavates family history to illuminate the Cuba of 1961 during Fidel Castro's reign. Cumba, 12, his family, and the other citizens of Cuba are attempting to adjust to the new order after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion a week before, living in fear of "Fidel's oppressive government" and soldiers. With the threat of Cumba getting drafted into the military, his family sends him to the United States alone. When Cumba arrives in Florida, he must learn to navigate his new home, school, and language, as well as the wave of homesickness that follows. His only respite is his new friends, fellow Cuban refugees Valeria and Alejandro, and letters from his younger brother, Pepito. But when bad news from home reaches Cumba as he is forced to start over again, he spirals into self-doubt and the guilt of leaving his family behind. Cuevas packs this sophomore novel with palpable emotions and themes of friendship, love, longing, and trauma, attentively conveying tumultuous historical events from the lens of one young refugee. Back matter features an author's note and glossary. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Twelve-year-old Cumba Fernandez is a normal kid in many aspects. He has a loving family, friends at school, and loves building models so one day he can be an architect. However, life in Santa Clara, Cuba, is far from ordinary in 1961. Fidel Castro, now in power after his successful campaign against dictator Fulgencio Batista, has defeated a group of Cuban refugees who tried to overthrow Fidel during the Bay of Pigs invasion. But as Cumba's grandfather noted "we traded one dictator for another," and life was hard in Cuba. Children were sent to Russia for military training or forced to join the Young Rebel forces. In addition, people were executed; schools' curriculum modified to disseminate communist propaganda; neighbors turned against one another; and churches were closed, with foreign priests expelled. Cumba's parents have only one choice. First-generation Cuban American author Cuevas offers a historical novel inspired by the experience of her father, who as a boy had to leave Cuba alone and start a new life in the United States. The 34-chapter work, written in English with some Spanish terms interlaced in the narrative, is divided into two sections-one depicting Cumba's life in Cuba, and the second, starting in chapter 12, exploring his life in Florida. Of interest to educators, the text contains many English vocabulary words. However, the novel is filled with secondary characters that help to move the story forward but lack meaningful character development. What makes this novel strong is Cuevas's ability to capture the spirit of this Caribbean country, its food, flora, and fauna, and Cubans' cultural traits. The book contains a glossary for terms used throughout. VERDICT A fast-moving novel for middle schoolers who enjoy historical fiction that could work well in a social unit covering child migrants, authoritarian governments, and humanitarianism.-Kathia Ibacache, Univ. of Colorado Boulder © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

	Quantity	Unit Price
	1	\$16.99



#2225891 Adventure Is Now (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jess Redman

Sometimes it's hard to be Milton P. Greene. He says all the wrong things. He has a very sensitive stomach. His family life is falling apart, and his friends will barely speak to him after the embarrassing Bird Brain Incident. But when Milton plays his video game Isle of Wild, he becomes Sea Hawk, the brave and brilliant naturalist explorer who conquers danger at every turn.

978-0-374-31471-2 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile NC 830

Reviews by: Booklist In the wake of "The Most Totally, Terribly, Horribly, Heinously Rotten Year of All Time," Milton's divorcing parents send him off to stay with his naturalist uncle, Evan, on aptly named Lone Island, where he meets the three likewise friendless children of the island's

other resident scientists. The island is about to be sold off to real-estate developers unless proof of its unique species can be found, but its interior is blocked by impenetrable walls of "Truth-Will-Out" vine. Milton learns that admitting his true feelings aloud causes the vines to peel back, sparking an expedition that leads to encounters with a many-armed "Push-Pull Centopus," "Menu-You" fruit that tastes like anything you want, and other wonders. More important (to judge from the author's emphasis), the opportunities for the children to work through mutual suspicion and personal issues lead to an understanding of the importance of true friendship. The remote island filled with Dr. Dolittle-style flora and fauna helps to keep this message-driven tale afloat, and readers will likely wish for even more scenes with the imaginative fancies.

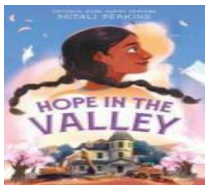
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Milton P. Green's never been big on friends, and ever since the "karate-chopping incident that had brought him school-wide notoriety" he's been content to retreat into the video game *Isle of Wild* and imagine himself as its dashing hero-adventurer, Sea Hawk. Now, while his parents plan their upcoming divorce, he's shipped off to Lone Island in the tropical mid-Atlantic, where his uncle Evan and three other scientists search for confirmation of the amazing flora and fauna reported by the late Dr. Paradis. They'd better be quick about it, because real estate developers are closing in, and without evidence of rare species, the court may decide there's nothing worth preserving. Fortunately, there are three other kids who've been exploring the island on their own, and Milton-now adopting the name Sea Hawk-can't find electricity to recharge his device, giving him no option but to pursue an adventure of his own. That they will collectively save the day is a foregone conclusion, but getting to it is a Roald Dahl-esque delight, from breaking through the Truth-Will-Out Vine (feed it a deep personal secret), to vanquishing the Push-Pull Centopus (sing to it like a Tone-Deaf Warbler), to befriending the Beautiful Lemallaby that helps them deliver Dr. Paradis' complete field notes to Uncle Evan, not a second too soon. There's a touch of kid rivalry, and a few life lessons learned about honesty and cooperation. and a happy developer-free future for the exotica on Lone Island. Mostly, though, there's wryly delivered absurdity with a Charlie Bucket ending, since the Lone Island wildlife legally passes into the hands of four young adventurers, and the developers will just have to find someplace else to exploit. EB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When life deals precocious, friendless Milton P. Greene a blow, he escapes into his hand-held video game. Exploring the game's island with intrepid naturalist Sea Hawk is impossible after Milton's divorcing parents send him to visit his real-life naturalist uncle on an actual tropical island with no electricity and that used to be owned by Uncle Evan's mentor, the late Dr. Ava Paradis. Still smarting from the loss of his only friend, Milton gets the chance at a friendship reboot after meeting the resident scientists' children, Rafi and Gabe Alvarez and Fig Morris. Though unfriendly Rafi rebuffs him, Fig, if skeptical, welcomes his company. Dr. Paradis had described amazing flora and fauna, but despite scientists' efforts, few have been verified, as the impenetrable Truth-Will-Out Vine closed off the interior after her death. When Milton discovers how to part the vines, he finds Dr. Paradis' field guide--a mystery until Fig decodes it. Learning that the island will almost certainly be sold to a developer, Rafi and Gabe unexpectedly join the urgent quest to find species like the Push-Pull Centopus and Menu-You Bush and prevent the sale. The story is entertaining and fast-moving but suffers from slapdash execution and jarring shifts in tone. The silly flora and fauna, played for laughs, clash with potentially effective messages about bullying, loneliness, and family breakup and undercut the sincere environmentalist theme. Milton is presumed White; Rafi and Gabe are Latinx, and Fig is cued as Black. All the ingredients of a first-rate fantasy, disappointingly half-baked. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Sixth grader Milton P. Greene is having the "Most Totally, Terribly, Horribly, Heinously Rotten Year of All Time" in this contemporary story that turns fantastical. He's ending the school year friendless, his parents are on the verge of divorce, and he harbors painful memories of a humiliating school experience known as "The Bird Brain Incident." Milton has grown out of his "Nature Phase" and wants only to retreat into escapism via beloved video game *Isle of Wild*, so he's underwhelmed when an invitation from his uncle Evan, a biologist studying a secluded island, results in Milton heading halfway around the world to give his parents space. Initially disappointed by Lone Island's lack of electricity, pale-skinned, skinny Milton reluctantly befriends the progeny of the island's other scientists, including brilliant Fig, who has brown skin, and energetic, bronze-skinned brothers Rafi and Gabe; together, the kids search for a hidden treasure that will keep the island and its inhabitants from defaulting to corporate ownership. If myriad quests sap some momentum toward story's end, Redman (Quintessence) renders compassionate characters in Milton and crew, placing an emphasis on honesty and emotional directness that makes for an affirming adventure. Ages 8-12. Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (May) Copyright 2021 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Milton, a young white boy, is having a horrible sixth-grade year. His best friend has ditched him, his parents are getting divorced, and now his uncle wants him to spend the summer with him on a deserted island in the middle of nowhere. Of course, Milton doesn't want to go; he just wants to immerse himself in his explorer video game. But when he arrives on the island and finds there are three other kids living there, he realizes it's an opportunity to reinvent himself. Slowly he makes friends with Fig, the dark-skinned daughter of one of the island's research scientists. Rafi is another story, despite the friendliness of his younger brother Gabe, who has bright eyes and a laughing bronze that face pops up everywhere. Milton soon learns that all is not well on the island: the interior is covered in a strange vine, his uncle is distressed, the scientists are worried, and the island is under threat of developers who want to create a resort. When he stumbles across a journal with clues about the island's hidden treasure, Milton decides to help save the island with Fig. They are launched into a series of fantastical adventures as they follow the clues in the journal. The magical realism of this wild adventure will especially appeal to ecologically minded middle grade readers. VERDICT A fun summer read perfect for fans of Kate Beasley's *Lions & Liars*, and Lynda Mullaly Hunt's *Shouting at the Rain*--Gretchen Crowley, formerly at Alexandria City P.L., VA Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2327590 Hope in the Valley (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$17.99



written by Mitali Perkins

Twelve-year-old Indian-American Pandita Paul doesn't like change. She's not ready to start middle school and leave the comforts of childhood behind. Most of all, Pandita doesn't want to feel like she's leaving her mother, who died a few years ago, behind. After a falling out with her best friend, Pandita is planning to spend most of her summer break reading and writing in her favorite secret space: the abandoned but majestic mansion across the street.

978-0-374-38851-5 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 710

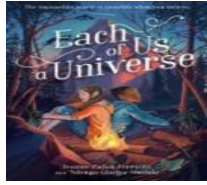
Reviews by: Book Page On her 13th birthday, Pandita Paul escapes to her own secret garden--the Johnson property, an abandoned orchard and house where she and her now-deceased mother used to sneak away for quiet moments. In this haven just across the street from her home in Silicon Valley, Pandita keeps her most precious possessions: notes from her mother and a childhood photo of her mom, whom Pandita worries she's beginning to forget.

Reviews by: Booklist Ever since her ma passed a few years back, Pandita Paul has made it a goal to remember her. This becomes harder when Ashar Jaiga, the once-secret place she shared with her mom, goes up for demolition, and her baba starts dating. As Pandita rallies to preserve the property, one of her sisters fights to transform it into potential affordable housing. Pandita's social life takes a hit, too, as she's forced to attend drama camp with her ex--best friend while another friendship fizzles. Hoping to reclaim letters from her mom hidden at Ashar Jaiga, Pandita sifts through boxes but learns instead about her hometown's complex history--like the "Keep California White" campaign--and realizes that, maybe, moving on doesn't have to mean letting go. Perkins has written a sensitive character who comes of age during a time of rapid change in 1980s Silicon Valley. Pandita's thoughtful nature is most evident through her love of poetry, through which her voice is clear even as she shies away from the stage. Perfect for readers seeking an emboldened young hero.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine The former orchard across from Pandita Paul's home, dilapidated though it may be, holds a special place in the thirteen-year-old's heart. It's where she and her late mother used to spend time: "Ashar Jaiga, as Ma and I called it. Ma's name, Asha, which means 'hope,' Ma's place, Ashar Jaiga. Place of Hope." Now the property is up for sale. Pandita, encouraged by the historical society's call to preserve it, becomes the group's youngest member. Meanwhile, one of her twin older sisters, an activist, helps spearhead the fight for demolition of the orchard and subsequent construction of affordable rental units. The story is set in the summer of 1980 in Silicon Valley, California, before the tech boom. It is a place on the cusp, much like the story's protagonist, who finds herself compelled by memories of her past; the complex and fascinating history she uncovers; and possibilities for the future of her town, her family, and herself. Pandita, a budding poet, reluctantly attends summer drama camp, meets a talented new boy, reconciles with her former best friend, and struggles with family changes. An engaging subplot involves a new love interest for her father; the woman (a.k.a. "the Intruder") is brash and outspoken, and her unsolicited opinion on the development issue is enlightening for the characters, and for readers, about both sides having a point and no one being demonized. Elissa Gershowitz(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Grief, memories, and the difficulty of letting go permeate this powerful story about family, friendship, and finding your voice. Pandita Paul's Bengali family includes two older twin sisters, Shar and Indy, and their father, Baba, but it has a gaping hole: their late Ma. This chasm is deepened as the nearby abandoned Johnson property, including the orchard Pandu and Ma called Ashar Jaiga, or place of hope, is being sold and developed for rental units. This demolition will take with it Pandu's sweet recollections of enjoying the orchard's apricots, flowers, and bird song with Ma. Things are changing too fast for Pandu. Worse, everyone seems to be moving on, including her ex-best friend and even Baba, who is dating The Intruder. But tentative friendships blossom at her summer drama camp even as Pandu, desperately clinging to her memories of Ma, is pitted against her own sister, who advocates for affordable housing in their Silicon Valley community. Set in the 1980s, this beautifully written book weaves together the Indian American Pauls' personal histories as well as those of the U.S. and India. In trying to save the place she and her mother loved, the 13-year-old embarks on a journey that takes her down pathways of memory of earlier inhabitants of the Johnson house and the region. In doing so, Pandu gives wings to her words and her voice. There's poetry here, along with literature and lots of culinary heritage, all combining in a deeply compelling read. A riveting, courage-filled story. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this moving novel by Perkins (The Story of Us), 13-year-old aspiring poet Pandita Paul struggles to navigate grief and change in her rapidly gentrifying Silicon Valley neighborhood. Since the death of Pandu's mother years ago, the apricot orchard across the street; which the two called Ashar Jaiga, or place of hope; has recently been a sanctuary for Pandu, until it's threatened when the mansion property on which it sits is sold for redevelopment into purportedly affordable rental units. When demolition begins, Pandu loses access to this refuge and worries that, once the orchard is gone, her memories of Ma will go with it. In her search for a solution, Pandu cultivates an alliance with the town librarian and members of the local historical preservation society, who are adamant about preventing the property's bulldozing. But this allyship puts Pandu at odds with her older sister Shar, an affordable housing activist who supports the development. Though the novel is set in the 1980s, issues surrounding housing inequity and financial precarity deeply resonate with present-day challenges. Employing Pandu's lilting voice and quiet bravery, Perkins crafts an introspective novel about moving on from loss and finding the courage to fight for what one believes in. Pandu and her family are Indian American. Ages 8: 12. (July)



#2267082 Each of Us a Universe (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

Cal Scott has been running--from her mother's cancer, from her father in prison, and from classmates who've never seemed to "get" her. The only thing Cal runs toward is Mt. Meteorite, named for the magical meteorite some say crashed there years ago. Cal plots to summit the mountain, so she can find the magic she believes will heal her mother. But no one has reached its peak--no one who's lived to tell about it, anyway.

978-0-374-38868-3 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Cal's life changed in an instant with her mother's cancer diagnosis, but Cal has a daring plan: local legend maintains that a meteorite smashed into a nearby mountaintop, and Cal becomes obsessed with scaling the peak and bringing the mystical artifact home to heal her mother. When she learns that Rosine, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, also intends to climb the mountain and find something miraculous herself, Cal reluctantly agrees to team up for the impossible climb, and as their connection deepens, a new kind of magic takes hold. It's an immediately compelling story, full of breathtaking descriptions of the natural world and unafraid to tackle big topics. Cal is allowed a full range of emotions about her situation, from deep love to terrible resentment, and Rosine makes for a remarkable and resilient counterpoint (Mwilelo drew on her own experiences as a refugee to tell Rosine's story). Above all, it's a reminder that life can be imbued with a sense of wonder, even in its most difficult moments. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Cal has been running away from her father's imprisonment and her mother's cancer for months now, and she is pinning all her hopes on the idea that Mount Meteorite actually has some magic as the local legends suggest. Meanwhile, Rosine, a new girl who is a refugee from Burundi, is looking for some magic of her own as she negotiates yet another new town with her older sister as her only family. The two meet and decide to scale the mountain despite the formidable risks and their lack of supplies needed for such an endeavor, and it is during their trek that the girls truly connect, each letting go of their protective walls and sharing their vulnerabilities. Unfortunately, this novel hovers between realism and magic in a way that obfuscates understanding rather than intriguing the reader with multiple possibilities, and the characters serve more as proxies for self-improvement adages than real people. Even so, the climbing passages are tense and frightening, Cal's broken family moves toward reconciliation at an authentically slow pace, and the mountain, serving as symbol of hope or potential in this town hit hard by COVID-19, is effective. End matter includes a note from Ferruolo on her own experience with cancer, as well as a moving note from Mwilelo on her experience as a refugee. There's also a nifty science lesson that explains the micrometeorites that play a key role in the novel. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two preteens in search of rumored mountain magic tackle peaks of both the emotional and the geological sort. With her alcoholic father serving time and her mom debilitated by cancer, it's not surprising that White 12-year-old Calliope Scott has turned into a sullen, thoroughly unlikable child prone to bad behavior and vicious conversational barbs. Her walls are not high enough to keep out new classmate Rosine Kanambe, recently arrived with her 19-year-old sister from the Democratic Republic of the Congo via a refugee camp in Burundi. As Cal puts it, once repeated rejections and harsh exchanges have given way to solid friendship following a grueling shared climb up a vertical spire enticingly dubbed Mount Meteorite, Rosine is "the superhero of never giving up." Rosine has experienced traumatic losses of her own but serves as the steady, strong example Cal needs to find her feet. Along with incorporating their personal experiences, the co-authors enrich their tale with specific technical details about both rock climbing and, referencing Carl Sagan and the popular saying that "we are made of stardust," the micrometeorites that continually filter down around us. They acknowledge the Covid-19 pandemic by setting their story in an economically stricken New England town whose diverse residents are actively pitching in to support one another. Cal experiences growth throughout the story; Rosine functions primarily as an inciting force. A tribute to the value of a friend willing to pull and push when the going gets rocky. (authors' notes, scientist interview) (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2290309 Adrift (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tanya Guerrero

Cousins Coral and Isa are so close that they're practically siblings; their mothers are sisters, and the two girls grew up on the same small island. When Coral and her parents leave on a months-long sea voyage amid the islands of Indonesia, Isa is devastated that they'll be kept apart, and the two vow to write to each other no matter what.

978-0-374-38965-9 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-10 *Starred Review* Half-Filipino Coral and Isa are more than cousins: their mothers are sisters; their fathers are brothers. It is no wonder they feel as close as sisters. This bond is tested when Coral and her family set sail on a long boat trip, only to get swept up in a tidal wave. The shock hits Isa hard, and though she holds out hope, it's soon clear that she will have to accept that her "Star Sister" is gone. Except, she isn't. Across the sea, Coral washes up on the shore of a lonely tropical island. Her parents missing, and food and water dwindling, she must gather all the skills her parents taught her to survive and get back to her home. The action follows the two POVs of Coral and Isa, each girl an example of facing life with courage. While Coral lives out a harrowing survival story, Isa's story is quieter but no less intense. In this way, Guerrero adroitly unfolds this tale of grief and triumph by showing a visceral story of determination alongside the effects a tragedy has on the people left behind. This is a stirring page-turner that will move readers to appreciate the people in their lives. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Growing up on Pebble Island with their families, eleven-year-old Coral and twelve-year-old Isa are biracial Filipino cousins who are as close as siblings. When Coral and her parents are off on a four-month sea voyage to Indonesia, Isa feels lost without her cousin and decides to write letters to Coral to keep in touch. But tragedy strikes when a tidal wave sweeps Coral's parents and the rest of the crew members off the boat, and Coral is washed ashore on a deserted island. Devastated and alone, Coral must find the strength to survive and figure out a way to get back home, while Isa stays hopeful that her cousin is still alive and they will reunite again. First-person point of view and the use of handwritten letters effectively convey the two girls' struggle with grief as they learn how to validate and accept their own feelings during a terrible hardship. Although repetitive dialogue and descriptions slow the narrative down, they also immerse readers in Coral's experience on the island and capture the significance of familial memories to the cousins' resilience. This is an insightful and heartfelt book that balances a strong representation of Filipino culture with a heartfelt message about how it is okay to not be okay. DR COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Stranded on a deserted island, a 13-year-old struggles to survive while her cousin refuses to give up hope that she's alive. Coral and Isa Bituin-Rousseau may be cousins, but they're as close as siblings: Their Filipina mothers are sisters who married brothers, the girls' White American fathers. They grew up together in Pebble Island, New York, eating lobster Isa's father caught and their mothers' Filipino cooking. The two are rarely apart except when Coral and her parents go on one of their journeys to see the world. Following an earthquake and tidal wave while they are sailing through the Indonesian archipelago, Coral is thrown overboard and stranded on an uninhabited island. With the help of survival skills learned from her father and mysterious gifts of freshly killed small game, Coral keeps herself alive. But how long will it be before rescue comes? Isa, meanwhile, is left alone on Pebble Island, with parents who seem willing to abandon hope and a newly introduced cousin who Isa can't help but feel is meant to replace Coral. Partly a survival story and partly an exploration of coping with grief, heavy topics are touched upon with a soft hand. Coral's struggles and triumphs offer an introduction to the wilderness adventure genre, but more experienced readers may find her a little too lucky. Isa's story serves as a nice counterpoint to Coral's, as she struggles with moving on and forming new relationships. A survival story with some guardrails still in place. (Adventure. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly is tender novel, which follows two tightly bonded cousins across a devastating separation. The daughters of two Filipina sisters married to two white-cued American brothers, "Star Sisters" Coral and Isa have been inseparable since birth, raised together on Pebble Island, N.Y. But a crisis strikes during Coral's family sailing trip, when an earthquake in Indonesia causes a tidal wave that capsizes their boat. No survivors are reported, but Isa, unwilling to give up hope, is certain that Coral is alive: "I can feel her presence inside me, in my bones in my gut, in my heart." And she's right: Coral is stranded alone on an island with a survival kit and a few days' rations, attempting to endure until help arrives. Employing the cousins' alternating first-person voices to portray their situations and their love across space and time, Guerrero (All You Knead Is Love) movingly portrays the toll of resilience, sorrow, and survival, seamlessly including Filipino cultural references throughout. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Wendy Schmalz, Wendy Schmalz Agency. (Sept.)



#2348419 Jawbreaker (Hardcover (Trade))
written by *Christina Wyman*

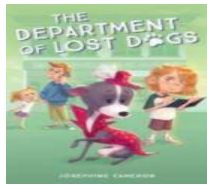
Max Plink's life is complicated. Her parents aren't getting along. The school bullies are relentless-and her own sister is the cruelest of them. Worst of all, her mouth is a mess. Max has a Class II malocclusion, otherwise known as a severe overbite. She already has braces, but now Max has to wear painful (and totally awkward) orthodontic headgear called "the jawbreaker." Could things get any worse?
978-0-374-38969-7 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Smile meets Wonder in Wyman's affirming debut, a South Brooklyn: set novel that probes the intersection between bullying and orthodontia through the eyes of Maximillia "Max" Audrina Plink, a 12-year-old of Italian descent. Nicknamed "Bucky Beaver" and otherwise taunted by cruel classmates, aspiring journalist Max loathes her splayed teeth, severe overbite, and jaws that "fit together like mismatched puzzle pieces." Her Class II malocclusion's painful, costly treatment; braces, headgear (which Max dubs "the jawbreaker"), and

possible surgery; strains the family's already lean finances and triggers harassment from Max's sister. As Max navigates friendships, feuding parents, a father who increasingly smells of alcohol, and a journalism competition that requires a video essay, she slowly gains the courage to speak up for herself; and against academic inequities, bullying, and intergenerational trauma. Portraying complex social concepts with nuance, Max's candid, accessible first-person narration propels her growing pains and journey toward empowerment, leading to a hopeful conclusion emphasizing the idea that "no one should have to look perfect just to be treated well." An author's note discusses the story's personal roots. Secondary characters suggest the presence of racial diversity. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Erin Murphy, Erin Murphy Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–7—In a novel inspired by the author's own childhood, seventh grader Max Plink has a Class II malocclusion, also known as severe overbite, which typical braces are not able to correct. Her orthodontist, Dr. Watson, has been talking about potential surgery that would wire her mouth shut for weeks. Max is currently wearing painful headgear that she calls the "jawbreaker" to try to avoid the surgery. Her parents are struggling financially and the additional cost of dentistry, plus her dad's substance abuse problem, has put a strain on the family. Max's younger sister Alexis is hanging out at school with kids who bully Max about her appearance and the two fight constantly at home. The bright spot in Max's days is spending time with her friend Shrynn, although she has been distant recently while dealing with her own family issues. The two work for the school newspaper and participate in a competition to work with journalist Jordan Slade. Readers will relate to Max's experiences dealing with bullies, trying to complete assignments without the technological resources of her peers, navigating changing family dynamics, and enduring typical preteen angst. **VERDICT** This heartfelt story about a common middle school experience of having braces will appeal to fans of Raina Telgemeier's *Smile*.—Sarah Polace



#2321955 Department of Lost Dogs (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Josephine Cameron

Eleven-year-old Rondo McDade is starting to feel left out. His older brother, Epic, is heading into high school, and his younger sister, Elvis, is always mad at him. His parents, who are busy running their dog-friendly bed-and-breakfast, the Perro del Mar, keep pushing him out of the house and into the company of the new kid in town, hoping he'll keep Rondo out of trouble.

978-0-374-38975-8 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist It's been two years since the McDade kids collared a thief in the dog-obsessed town of Camelito, but due to a dearth of mysteries, their detective agency has since disbanded. Eleven-year-old Elrond "Rondo" McDade, an introverted Houdini expert, is looking forward to a quiet spring break despite the family B & B having been temporarily turned into the set of his favorite canine-detective TV show. The increasingly busy family is growing distant, and the siblings, including older Epic and younger Elvis, aren't as close as they once were. But when dognapping incidents threaten to halt the production, the kids find themselves at the heart of another mystery and pull back together to stop a canine cast member from disappearing. The hilarious whodunit works splendidly on its own, and fans of *A Dog-Friendly Town* (2020) will be thrilled to reunite with familiar characters from a different child's perspective. Brisk pacing, interspersed podcast transcripts, and dog puns aplenty keep the proceedings compelling for younger readers. Supersleuths and dog lovers will lap up this clever caper.

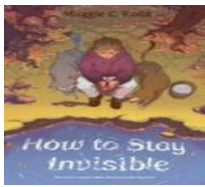
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A stand-alone, high-stakes mystery set in "America's #1 Dog-Friendly Town." Sixth grader, middle child, and Houdini admirer Rondo McDade was hoping for a relaxing spring break, but instead, his family's B&B, the Perro del Mar in Carmelito, California, is serving as a filming location for the reboot of TV series *Bentley Knows*, and the canine star has been dognapped. Rondo's mom and dad are busy, and Rondo is at odds with older brother Epic and younger sister Elvis. He needs to solve the mystery of the missing canine actor or his favorite TV show will be cancelled, but he's going to need to work with, not against, his annoying siblings and 9-year-old Denver Delgado-Doyle, his neighbor's nephew from out of town who is also a fan of magic. Together the kids try to solve a crime with many possible suspects, including a dog trainer, an actress, and the BarkAngels, who claim to be able to communicate psychically with dogs but who Rondo is convinced are frauds. Transcripts of the *Daily Dog Dish* podcast give readers extra insights into the celebrity dog world and help with pacing. A tight time frame of less than a week, an observant first-person narrator, and a large cast of family members and suspects make for an entertaining whodunit perfect for animal lovers. The McDades read White; names and some charming full-page illustrations cue ethnic diversity in the supporting cast. A fun, fast-paced mystery. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2325717 How to Stay Invisible (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Maggie C. Rudd

Raymond Hurley has never had one place to call home. His free-wheeling parents move their family from town to town, and he's living in a trailer in a brand-new state when one day, they just up and abandon him. He is completely alone. With only his

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



reliable old dog Rosie for comfort and company, Raymond makes his home in a cramped hollow tree in the woods near his school.

978-0-374-39033-4 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Reviews by: Booklist ally take place in remote locales, but this one hits closer to home. Suddenly abandoned once again by his deadbeat parents, Raymond takes up residence in the woods behind his latest middle school—determined to make a go of it and actually doing a creditable job of keeping his head down in class while, often, going hungry or barely subsisting on dumpster produce and fish from the local stream as days turn into weeks and then months. While Rudd makes it clear that Raymond is far from safe or comfortable, as points of reference she name checks both *Hatchet* and *The Outsiders* and lightens the load by giving him an unusually intelligent dog and a playful young coyote, two loyal but not too inquisitive friends in school, and an elderly loner who is willing to respect his refusal to contact social services while providing help and temporary shelter at need. Rather than even try to explain the behavior of her protagonist's parents, the author just focuses on Raymond's realistic hurt, incomprehension, and resulting lack of trust in any grownup's motives, all of which many young readers may, sadly, find easy to understand. Still, following a nearly fatal reversal of fortune, she closes the tale on a hopeful note by leaving him in the care of adults who do at least seem to have his best interests at heart.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Raymond is used to his parents' neglect and irresponsibility, but this time is even more drastic than all the rest as they appear to have completely abandoned him without money, a home, or any details about their whereabouts. He has his beloved dog, his wits, and a comfort with being outdoors—these are all essential tools as winter closes in and he is sleeping in the woods with his dog, trying to provide them each with safety, warmth, and food. Raymond is determined to not be found out, at first because he hopes his parents will return for him and then because he does not want to be in the child services system. He finds community in a couple of close friends and a gruff old man Stigs, who takes him in for a bit after Raymond's dog injures herself, and who sees enough through Raymond's stoic exterior to eventually let the right folks know about his situation. This is a painful picture of a middle-school boy in need, who longs for the loving families most of his peers have while clearly so damaged from his own that he can't even really imagine what being cared for must feel like. There is an acute melancholy to his resigned acceptance of his parents' neglect and to his belief that all he can really do is add to his already impressive survival skills, connect with people when he can, and not spend too much time wishing. Specific details, like Raymond watching his grades slip because he is literally unable to do homework on dark, frozen ground, give immediacy to his situation. Readers may imagine how they would fare in similar circumstances, and they'll likely be deeply relieved when things appear to be on a significantly easier path for Raymond. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

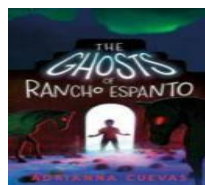
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine "Most people didn't live in hollowed-out trees behind their middle school," but twelve-year-old Raymond does. A seventh grader at River Mill Middle School in North Carolina, he had lived in a rented trailer with his feckless parents three miles from school. But one day he comes home to discover that they have abandoned him, and now here he is living in the woods with his dog and doing his best to fly under the radar. He saves food from cafeteria lunches, does nighttime dumpster dives, and sometimes has luck fishing. He does have a new friend in Harlin, who in an act of kindness chooses as a bingo prize a sleeping bag for Raymond instead of the NASCAR tickets he'd wanted. Gradually, Raymond finds a circle of caring people (and a coyote) in his orbit: Lexi, his first girlfriend; Stigs, a former army surgeon who lives in a cabin nearby; and various teachers who don't let Raymond remain invisible. The third-person narrative allows for fully realized secondary characters who play important roles in Raymond's life and, ultimately, in his rescue. Rudd's straightforward, meticulous prose perfectly captures the daily routines and occasional drama of life in the woods. A worthy match for *My Side of the Mountain* and *Hatchet*, the book Raymond checks out of the library toward the end of the novel. Dean Schneider July/August 2023 p.125

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When 12-year-old Raymond's parents abandon him, he takes to the woods to survive. *The Outsiders* meets *Hatchet* in this story that follows Raymond's ordeal to both survive in the winter woods of North Carolina and attend middle school without anyone finding out how he lives. Trying to balance keeping up his grades with living in a hollow, overturned tree with his dog, Rosie, existing on fish he catches and food he scavenges from the dumpster outside his school, Raymond stoically accepts his reality even as he wishes for parents who cared for him. The narrative poignancy of Raymond's being cold, hungry, and doing homework by the light of a fire is grounded by descriptions of creative survival techniques: how to catch minnows using a plastic water bottle, how to make fire with a battery and foil gum wrappers, and how to build a lean-to with branches. Completely devoid of cheap drama, this tightly written, understated narrative tells its story through finely drawn characters, intensely realistic atmosphere and setting, and a protagonist who will capture readers' hearts with both his courage and his creative survival skills. All secondary characters—irrepressible NASCAR-loving classmate Harlin; red-haired love interest Lexi; emotionally torn old man Stigs, who offers friendship; and the teachers, both callous and obtuse—are drawn with originality and verve. Characters read default White. An exceptional story of courage. (Fiction. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Rudd (*I'll Hold Your Hand*) weaves an uplifting tale of connection and found family featuring an unhoused tween. Twelve-year-old, white-cued Raymond is used to his unreliable parents constantly moving house. So when he starts at yet another middle

school; this time in River Mill, N.C.; he does what he does best: keeps his head down and tries to stay invisible. But when his parents abruptly leave, abandoning him and his dog Rosie outside their locked, rented trailer, Raymond takes to the woods to avoid state care. Thus begins months of living in a tree hollow, where he contends with wild animals and faces hunger, bitter cold, and sickness. Keeping his situation secret, Raymond continues attending school and makes new friends; classmates, adults, and animals alike; who inadvertently help Raymond come to terms with his harsh reality and prompt him to question the long-term effects of his solitude and secrecy. Via introspective third-person prose, Rudd juxtaposes a typical middle school milieu of crushes and school projects against Raymond's harrowing position. A hearty dose of existentialism, depictions of necessary wilderness skills, and ruminations on the perseverance of the human spirit permeate this meditative survival read. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Mary Cummings, Great River Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Raymond is used to taking care of himself, but when he is abandoned by his parents outside a small town where he knows virtually no one, he must learn how to survive in the woods of North Carolina with just his wits and his dog Rosie. Not only does Raymond have to figure out basics like what to eat every day, he must also continue to navigate the homework, friendships, drama, and dances of middle school. How long can Raymond go unnoticed and keep himself out of a children's home? How long can he stay invisible? This heartbreaking and beautiful story balances a survival tale with classic middle grade friendship story while maintaining an impressive level of believability. Readers will find themselves furious at Raymond's parents and his antagonist at school, and a moment later brimming with love for his loyal friends who accept him as he is. While many of the characters are somewhat static, Raymond and his self-appointed best friend Harlan colorfully fill in the gaps with their emotional honesty. Readers will cheer for Raymond as he learns to fish and build a fire just as hard as they cheer for him to ask the girl to the semiformal dance, or learn to trust in the kindness of others. VERDICT A truly unique blend of survival story and standard middle grade friendship fare, this refreshingly genuine book on resilience and survival will enthrall readers from chapter one. Recommended for collections where survival books and heartfelt fiction are popular.--Emily Beasley Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2321564 Ghosts of Rancho Espanto (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adrianna Cuevas

A new contemporary middle-grade fantasy novel about a Cuban American boy who's sent to work on a ranch as punishment for a school prank gone wrong where he is confronted with a troubling supernatural mystery.

978-0-374-39043-3 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Cuevas' riveting middle-grade novel follows Rafa, a Cuban American boy who is sent off to a ranch in New Mexico as punishment for a school-prank fiasco with his friends. When Rafa gets to the ranch, he discovers that little is what it seems, and there are more mysteries afoot than he expected from a boring detention job. Rafa usually finds comfort in his favorite role-playing game, the Forgotten Age, but when the very same game and a slushy-machine heist gone wrong results in disaster and punishment, he must learn to establish new friendships and apply hard work in the real world. Readers will relate readily to Rafa's easygoing, creative, voice-y narration and sympathize with him when he is sent far from home to meditate on his actions. As the emotional clues and multiple time lines and multiverses swirl around him at the eerie ranch, Rafa and his new friends must unravel the truth behind the mysterious figure haunting Rancho Espanto and sabotaging Rafa's hard work, learning in the process much more about themselves and their priorities than they originally expected. In a twist that is equal parts haunting and poignant, readers of all ages will be compelled to reflect upon their own lives and legacies after this gripping read.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Cuevas (The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez; Cuba in My Pocket, rev. 11/21) presents another humorous, sensitive, and compelling story, with hints of fantasy, horror, and science fiction. Rafael, a twelve-year-old Cuban American from Miami, likes to lose himself in role-playing games with his friends. These extended fantasy adventures help him forget how much his life has changed since his mother became ill. After a game-based prank goes badly, his father sends him away for the summer to Rancho Espanto in New Mexico. There Rafa makes new friends while working as a ranch hand, but still living mostly in his fantasy world. When he encounters what he believes is a ghost and has glimpses of alternate realities, Rafa must confront his own "ghosts" and deal with his fears in real life. The character experiences northern New Mexico through a newcomer's eyes, and Cuevas's descriptions of grooming horses, hiking in canyons, and eating green chilies are vivid and immediate. The author incorporates Cuban Spanish words and phrases naturally into the narrative. Topics of illness, death, anxiety, and PTSD give this book some depth but do not overwhelm the story or detract from its appeal to a diverse audience. Lara K. Aase(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When Rafa Alvarez and his two best friends decide to bring their favorite role-playing game into the real world, the consequences become just as real. Between his father's strict nature and his mother's worsening illness, Cuban American Rafa has retreated into playing The Forgotten Age with Beto and Yesi. However, after they attempt to steal a slushie machine from the school cafeteria as part of the game, Dad decides Rafa would best learn his lesson by spending a month on a ranch...all the way across the country from Florida in New Mexico. When Rafa arrives at Rancho Espanto, or Terror Ranch, he forms new friendships with Korean American Jennie Kim, the librarian's daughter, and Black barn manager Marcus Coleman, an army veteran. But when a strange man in a green sweater begins to appear, causing chaos for Rafa, the

seemingly sedate ranch becomes the site of an exciting--and slightly terrifying--mystery to solve. Together, Rafa and Jennie work to uncover the strange (possibly paranormal) happenings at Rancho Espanto. While the mystery lies at the core of this novel, the exploration of themes of loss, grief, and identity add complexity. Readers familiar with these subjects will see themselves in Rafa as he struggles to come to terms with and understand his mother's condition and build his own identity. An intriguing mystery with a satisfying emotional payoff. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ten-year-old Cuban American Rafa Alvarez and his friends Beto and Yesi, who are obsessed with the fantasy tabletop role-playing game *The Forgotten Age*, take the adventure out of doors and into the real world in this boisterous telling by Cuevas (Cuba in My Pocket). When a prank they pull as part of their game goes wrong, Rafa's father sends him from Florida to New Mexico, to spend a month helping Marcus Coleman, an old college friend, run Rancho Espanto; Terror Ranch. There, Rafa meets Marcus, a Black Army veteran turned barn manager, and affable Korean American Jennie Kim, the snack-obsessed daughter of the local librarian. Rafa slowly acclimates to the ranch's sedate lifestyle, which helps him process his mother's worsening cancer. But a stranger in a green jacket, believing the ranch to be haunted, pressures him to leave, even going so far as to frame Rafa for vandalism around the ranch, which puts the youth at odds with his new friends. Via Rafa's vulnerable first-person narration, Cuevas crafts a whirlwind mystery populated by a compassionate community of lovable characters with effervescent personalities, to explore themes of grief, healing, and PTSD with tenderness and well-timed humor. Ages 8: 12. (Apr.)



#2364776 Maybe It's a Sign (Hardcover (Trade))
written by E. L. Shen

Seventh grader Freya June Sun has always believed in the Chinese superstitions spoon-fed to her since birth-but ever since her dad's death a year ago, she's become obsessed, believing that her father is sending her messages through signs from the beyond. Like how, on her way to an orchestra concert where she's dreading her viola solo, a pair of lucky red birds appear, a sure indication that Dad wants Freya to stick with the instrument and make him proud.

978-0-374-39077-8 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

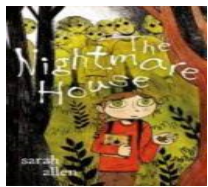
Reviews by: Booklist Seventh-grader Freya June Sun deeply misses her father, who died suddenly from a heart attack eight months ago. She searches for signs from him at every turn, believing his messages will appear through traditional Chinese superstitions he shared with her. But instead of receiving comfort and relief from these "signs," Freya becomes even more fraught with anxiety. She struggles with family pressure to keep playing the viola, but she sees twin red birds that she's convinced are a good luck sign from her dad. Things are extra tense at home as her busy mom and older sister, who keeps sneaking out, fight often. Then, in Freya's home economics class, she is paired with Gus Choi, an annoying, clumsy classmate. Things start to shift during their cooking project, however, when Freya discovers a passion for baking and that maybe Gus isn't so bad after all. She also discovers her sister's secret, and the two begin to develop a bond. A thoughtful portrayal of big feelings around loss and healing. An author's note and recipes cap off this tender, wholesome story.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Since the sudden death of her father from a heart attack, seventh-grader Freya June Sun has been keeping a near-obsessive eye for signs from him, sure they will manifest through the traditional Chinese superstitions he shared with her. However, rather than comforting her, the supposed signs create a constrictive world full of family pressure and anxiety. Her sister's unlucky white headband is a sure sign Freya's about to fail, and twin red birds repeatedly confirm her father's desire to see Freya succeed in the school orchestra, even though playing the viola has come to feel like a suffocating obligation. When she meets goofy but culinarily talented love-interest Gus Choi, Freya is able to open up to new people and new hobbies, temporarily relieved from the isolating stress of both family and friends struggling to cohere in the face of enormous loss. Baking brings joy, pride, and excitement back into her life: in the gentle sureties of kneading dough and mixing chocolate chips into batter, Freya leaves off interpreting signs and lets herself choose what feels right. While Freya's voice is slightly generic and secondary characters often fall into familiar tropes, the emotional effects a sudden death can have on a child are depicted with nuance and depth, and Freya's reckoning with symbolism to connect with her deceased father is emotionally and culturally adept. With friction continually sparking between Freya, her grieving mother, and her activist sister, the interrupted dynamics of a family unit are moreover depicted with compelling insight. A quiet, melancholic read adroitly lifted with just a baker's pinch of first-love sweetness, Freya's journey is sure to resonate with middle graders coming up against big changes and bigger feelings. Author's note and recipes to bake along with Freya included. MC COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young teen searches for meaning after the loss of her father. Eight months after the sudden passing of her dad, 13-year-old Freya June Sun can't help but double down on following the Chinese superstitions that he taught her. She habitually searches for signs from Dad for guidance as friendship dynamics shift at school, tensions simmer between her mother and sister at home, and an orchestra competition looms. When Freya spies two red birds before her viola solo, she's convinced that it's a good-luck signal from Dad to continue with the instrument despite its becoming a growing source of anxiety. As she begins to come to terms with her grief, she's surprised to find support from her longtime nemesis, Korean American Gus Choi, and discovers a passion for baking as another means of connecting with memories of her father,

who had a sweet tooth. Freya's internal struggle between pursuing the viola and her new interests may resonate with young readers who find themselves venturing beyond the perceived scope of parental expectations. Combining a dash of wholesome middle school romance, a generous helping of familial support, and a sprinkling of self-made luck, Shen serves up a realistic portrayal of the many ways that grief and healing can take shape in our lives. A hopeful and uplifting tale of loss, self-discovery, and the restorative powers of baking. (author's note, recipes) (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Thirteen-year-old Chinese American seventh grader Freya June Sun plays the viola in memory of her father, who died suddenly eight months ago. Having bonded with him over Chinese superstitions, Freya looks for signs--such as the two red birds she's constantly seeing--whenever she doubts her desire or ability to continue playing. After being partnered with Korean American schoolmate Gus Choi, whom Freya dubs "the most annoying kid on the planet," for a Cooking & Careers class project, Freya discovers an unexplored comfort in baking and, as she grows closer to Gus, makes a new and compassionate friend. As quiet and sensitive Freya struggles to manage increasingly frequent anxiety attacks, she also gains a deeper understanding of her newly single mother and finds an unlikely supporter and trusted confidant in her older sister. With endearing narration and quick pacing, this gentle meditation on grief and healing by Shen (*The Comeback*) carefully balances heavier moments of fraught emotion and high-stress situations with Freya's sweet memories of her father and her growing appreciation for her new life without him. Includes recipes. Ages 10-14. Agent: Marietta Zacker, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (Jan.) Copyright 2023 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.



#2329215 Nightmare House (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sarah Elisabeth Allen

Penny Hope used to be brave, but that was before she met the Fear Maker when she was a little girl. Years later, he still haunts her nightmares--a tall, thin man with red eyes, in a haunted house in the woods, who devours human souls and leaves their eyes hollow and empty. Penny's beloved grandma tells her to write down these nightmares as poems in her notebook. But then Penny starts seeing blank-eyed people in the waking world, too. She's the only one who notices.

978-0-374-39095-2 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist After the night the Fear Maker found Penny, she was never the same. She grew afraid of the world and shy around those in it. And, of course, it's when the nightmares began. Four years later, the 11-year-old's dreams are getting worse, leeching into the real world as the Fear Maker's power grows. A creeping dread permeates the pages as Penny realizes she must face this monster down in his own territory, a tangled wood where his rickety house feeds on stolen souls. Poetry, sunflower seeds, and a new friend become Penny's unlikely weapons in this endeavor, but they are exactly what is needed. Her poems weave their way through the narrative, fortifying Allen's own lyrical writing and adding to the overall message that strength can be found in words and creativity. Family also plays an important role, especially Penny's close relationship with her grandmother, a published poet. Fans of Jonathan Auxier's *The Night Gardener* (2014) will find the Fear Maker alluring but may suffer some nightmares of their own after following Penny to his door. Allen deals in both beauty and terror, rendering this a sophisticated choice for horror readers.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Penny was a different girl years ago, before she encountered the Fear Maker, a red-eyed man with monstrous intent. She is now a haunted eleven-year-old, writing down her awful nightmares as poems and hoping that someone, anyone, else will help the increasing numbers of hollow-eyed people appearing around her. Unfortunately, it comes down to Penny (along her bold, loyal new friend Aarush and a mysterious gardener with some pointed advice) to stop the oily, charismatic horror that is the Fear Maker, who has moved beyond her dreams into her waking life and is now threatening the world, one soul at a time. Penny desperately needs a friend, and Aarush is an undeniable support in her life, but the crux of this novel lies in Penny and the Fear Maker. The two are inextricably tied to one another, linked through years of nightmares and now both occupying a space that can only hold one of them. The first-person narration sparks sympathy--this is a girl tormented by fear who is, even with magic seeds and a notebook of poems, woefully unprepared to face a soul devourer on her own. Her eventual determined pursuit of the Fear Maker in his own domain is all the more powerful because readers will see how hard-won that determination is, and it may inspire them to peek beyond their own fears, seeing if those boundaries can be pushed just a bit as well. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An anxious 11-year-old girl must save her loved ones from the soul-stealing Fear Maker. One Halloween four years ago, Penny Hope left candy as an offering for the monster under her bed. She receives a gift in return, but it's only after she accepts it that she realizes it's cursed, plaguing her with recurring nightmares. In the daylight, Penny sees that everyone around her has blank, hollow eyes. She learns that the giver of the cursed gift, responsible for both her constant bad dreams and the vacant-eyed people, is the Fear Maker--and his power is quickly growing. Armed with her love of poetry and with new friend Aarush Banerjee by her side, can Penny conquer the Fear Maker before he reaps the souls of everyone around her? For much of Allen's spine chiller, Penny's struggles are internalized; her fear keeps her from reaching out to those around her. Slowly, she tells those she trusts most, and the narrative takes a turn, moving the needle to genuine scares as Penny and Aarush

battle the Fear Maker at his terrifying haunted house. The horror aspects are immersive, but murky characterization and thin worldbuilding leave this novel feeling disjointed and faltering under its own weight. Prose and verse, including a variety of different poetic forms, are interestingly juxtaposed in short chapters. Penny reads White; Aarush is cued South Asian. An ambitious premise that never quite coalesces. (Horror. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly White-cued 11-year-old Penny Hope's anxiety manifests as a real-life monster under her bed in this ethereal novel by Allen (Breathing Underwater). For the past four years, Penny's anxieties have been heightened by the presence of the Fear Maker, a creature of "nightmare and shadow" who lives beneath her bed. But now the Fear Maker, having become a corporeal entity, is stealing the "soul, their them-ness" of the people in her town. Only Penny can see her soulless neighbors' "blank, colorless, empty eyes," resulting in intense feelings of isolation. When her supportive poet grandmother encourages her to write about her fears and introduces her to homeschooled Indian-cued peer Aarush Banerjee, Penny feels as if she's found a bright spot. As the Fear Maker's power intensifies, however, Penny learns that to destroy him, she must "pick one thing you're afraid of, and do it." She resolves to face her fears by joining Aarush in a poetry contest, hoping to find the right words to overcome her anxieties. Poetic prose and visceral emotion infuse realistic depth into this mood-driven, allegorical portrayal of mental illness. Stark b&w illustrations by Hewitt employ a photo negative effect to accentuate Penny's brooding poems. Ages 10: 12. Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Agency. (Aug.)



#2329072 **I'll Tell You No Lies (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Amanda McCrina*

July 1955. Eighteen-year-old Shelby Blaine and her father, an Air Force intelligence officer, have just been wrenched away from their old life in West Germany to New York's Griffiss Air Force Base, where he has been summoned to lead the interrogation of an escaped Russian pilot. Still in shock from the car accident that killed her mother barely a month earlier, Shelby struggles as much with her grief and the emotional gulf between her and her father as having to start over in a new home.

978-0-374-39099-0 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 720

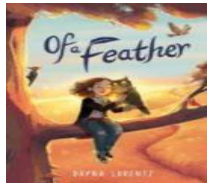
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 Eighteen-year-old Shelby Blaine finds herself at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York, when her father, Col. Robert Blaine, an Air Force intelligence officer, is transferred there from their home in Germany to interrogate a Russian defector. Although bitter and angry at the timing, Shelby has no choice but to attend a party in honor of the defector, whose name is Maksym. The two meet cute, but Shelby is not prepared when Maksym subsequently flees his interrogators and she finds him, injured, hiding in her house. She has two choices: she can turn him in or help him. Of course, she chooses the latter and--hold on to your hairnets--nonstop action ensues with enough red herrings to feed an army (or at least a battalion) for it seems that no one is who they seem to be and lies abound. The ingenious McCrina (The Silent Unseen, 2022) ensures that readers will have a field day with this well-plotted, engaging thriller, and that's no lie. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An American teenager becomes entangled in a web of lies with a Soviet defector during the Cold War. The year is 1955, and Shelby Blaine is grieving the death of her mother three weeks prior when her life is turned upside down again. Col. Blaine, Shelby's father, is in Air Force intelligence, and he's been given a special assignment that takes them from their military base in Germany to upstate New York, where his expertise is required to debrief a Soviet defector. Eighteen-year-old Shelby makes the acquaintance of the defector, a young Ukrainian pilot named Maksym Kostyshyn, at a welcoming party, but the next day she learns that he has escaped without a trace after the military found a hole in his story. When Maksym makes contact with her, Shelby has to decide whether to turn him in under suspicion that he is in fact a KGB operative or to believe him when he insists that he is telling the truth. What follows is a fast-paced, twisty story that keeps readers on their toes. Along with Shelby, they will be unsure who to believe and who can be trusted. This spy thriller is peppered with rich period details. Shelby's character feels like an authentic portrayal of an intelligent, college-bound teenager of the time, lending the book the realistic air of the past come to vivid life. A fascinating dive into a segment of history that reverberates today. (author's note) (Historical thriller. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An encounter with a Soviet defector thrusts an American teenager into a political investigation in this tensely wrought Cold War historical novel set in 1955. After an automobile accident kills her mother, 18-year-old Shelby Blaine's intelligence officer father, Colonel Blaine, moves the two of them from Germany to Upstate New York's Griffiss Air Force Base, where he has been assigned to debrief a Soviet defector. When, at an official dinner, Shelby meets said defector; 21-year-old Ukrainian pilot Maksym Kostyshyn; she immediately falls for his alluring, enigmatic personality. The next day, she discovers that Maksym has disappeared after coming under suspicion as a potential KGB spy. He soon shows up in Shelby's home, insisting that the FBI have made a mistake and begging her not to turn him in. As Shelby learns more about Maksym's past, including the time he spent as a prisoner in Auschwitz, she resolves to help him, despite the considerable risks. Via tight prose, McCrina (The Silent Unseen) effectively sketches a high-stakes spy thriller that features period-relevant intrigue and simmering romance. All characters cue as white. Back matter includes an author's note. Ages 12: up. Agent: Jennie Kendrick, Red Fox Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up--When 18-year-old Shelby Blaine gets relocated with her father to a new Air Force base, she is not expecting to find a wounded Soviet pilot hiding in their new house. Maksim insists he is a defector seeking refuge in the United States. What should Shelby do, when FBI and CIA agents arrive, looking for a KGB spy? When she confronts Maksim, the truth about his past becomes even murkier. Is the young man a defector or an enemy agent? Is he Ukrainian or Russian? What was he doing during WWII? McCrina develops an exciting, engrossing plot--as an unknown Soviet mole and known American operatives close in, Shelby and Maksim must choose what secrets to share, whether to trust one another, and how to save each other. The novel is sensitive to the complicated psychology and layered identities of the central and peripheral characters: Maksim is no more complicated than his CIA handler, a Jewish-German immigrant who adopts the bland surname "Jones." McCrina also has an eye for details that make the 1950s historical setting immersive, whether naming a brand of lipstick, describing summer in upstate New York, or pointing to a specific, Ukrainian neighborhood in Toronto. As to the romance: is a strapping young man likely to be up for some smooches while suffering from a broken ankle and ethylene glycol poisoning? Probably not? Will readers be cheering on Shelby and Maksim? Absolutely! VERDICT Thrilling, historically accurate, and morally complex, this title is sure to please readers of Elizabeth Wein.--Katherine Magyarody Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2207608 Of a Feather (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Dayna Lorentz


Great horned owl Rufus is eight months old and still can't hunt. When his mother is hit by a car, he discovers just how dangerous the forest can be. Reenie has given up on adults and learned how to care for herself--a good thing, since she's sent to live with an aunt she's never met. Yet this aunt has a wonderful secret: she's a falconer who agrees to help Reenie catch an injured passage hawk in the wild and rehabilitate it.
 978-0-358-28353-9 Clarion Books ©2021 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 After Maureen's mom is once again admitted to the hospital for mental-health reasons, Reenie is left in the care of a relative she's never met, her great-aunt Beatrice. Reenie, though resilient, is exhausted and skeptical of the prospect, but Beatrice has a marvelous secret: she's an experienced falconer, and her red-tailed hawk ("not a pet . . . a partner") lives in the mews out back. Throwing herself into the world of falconry, Reenie discovers another young creature without a mother or real home: Rufus, the self-proclaimed "absolute worst great horned owl ever," injured, alone, and hopelessly trapped in a snare. Together, the unlikely pair begin to heal and hope, navigating unfamiliar worlds and learning to trust. Rufus and Reenie split narration duties from chapter to chapter, and it's often funny; Rufus has a delightfully distinct voice and a bewildered way of sorting out human behavior. A tender tale that reminds readers that families come in all forms and that the greatest rewards come from opening oneself to all that life has to offer. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

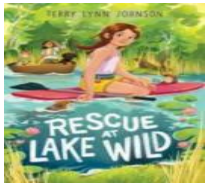
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books After her mother is hospitalized and her grandmother's house turns violent, sixth-grader Reenie moves in with her great-aunt Beatrice, whom Reenie has never met. While Reenie is slow to warm up to the situation, she's captivated to learn that Beatrice is a falconer; she quickly falls in love with the sport and the red-tailed hawk Beatrice has trained. Meanwhile, a young owl in the nearby wilderness struggles to learn how to hunt for himself; when he's injured, chance brings him and Reenie together, and the girl tenderly cares for the wounded bird she names Rufus. This is a classic fish-out-of-water tale, with a hefty helping of lost-parent story. Reenie is all sharp edges and no trust, certain that making friends or letting her guard down would be dangerous to her well-being. Rufus (who calls himself Second) is all uncertainty and self-deprecation, certain he is "The Absolute Worst Great Horned Owl Ever," but his confidence builds under Reenie's care. As narration alternates between Reenie and Rufus, it's clear that Lorentz is mirroring their stories of missing moms and personal growth. However, the voices are too similar, and while Rufus's innate haughtiness and judgment of the Furless Creatures' inability to understand Owl-ish provide some humor, his chapters interrupt what is otherwise a compelling narrative of coping, loss, and learning to trust. Still, for readers interested in hunting, falconry, or birds of prey, there's a lot of instruction packed into this title, with end matter including a glossary of falconry and birding terms and a Q&A based on Lorentz's conversations with experts. KP

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A relationship between a young owl and a young girl helps them both confront their fears. Reenie is taken away from her grandmother's house by social services after a fight between her grandmother and her grandmother's boyfriend endangers her. Reenie has been through this before--when her mother's depression is bad enough, she has to be hospitalized, leaving Reenie at the mercy of social services. This time she is delivered to Beatrice, a great-aunt she has never met. Beatrice turns out to be a master falconer, and Reenie, despite her overall mistrust of adults, is intrigued. When a young, undernourished owl ends up in a hawk trap by mistake, Reenie convinces Beatrice to bring the owl, whom she names Rufus, back to the house. The story is narrated in alternating first-person chapters from the points of view of Rufus and Reenie, with both protagonists having distinctive, plausible voices. Even before he is caught in the trap, Rufus suffers from a debilitating lack of confidence, being second-hatched and therefore smaller and weaker, which he overcompensates for by (often amusing) deliberations and conjectures. Reenie's distrust of emotional closeness is deftly played with well-reasoned plot developments. Set in Vermont, the story is fleshed out by thought-provoking forays into the ethics of hunting and the powerlessness of children in determining their home lives. Reenie is in the sixth grade and reads as White. Unusual and poignant--full of the depth and contradictions of life. (author's note, bird facts, glossary) (Fiction. 8-11)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#222535 Occasionally Happy Family (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Cliff Burke</i> There are zero reasons for Theo Ripley to look forward to his family vacation. Not only are he, sister Laura, and nature-obsessed Dad going to Big Bend, the least popular National Park, but once there, the family will be camping. And Theo is an indoor animal. It doesn't help that this will be the first vacation they're taking since Mom passed away. 978-0-358-32567-3 Clarion Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Nothing sounds exciting about this first family vacation since Mom died. And they can't even bring the cat. Thirteen-year-old Theo Ripley feels powerless about this trip and steels himself for the eight-hour drive. Deftly capturing the childhood torture of family road trips, Burke nails the hilarious dialogue between Theo; his 16-year-old sister, Laura; and their science teacher dad. They are headed to Texas' Big Bend National Park in the middle of July--to camp. Theo prefers to appreciate nature from indoors. He also prefers drawing to dialogue and stares aimlessly out the window as Dad and Laura argue endlessly. Once at the barren and boulder-filled park, the family bounces from one disastrous mishap to the next, encountering a riotous cast of eye-opening characters who surprisingly unite them. Each short chapter provides a glimpse of the humor and pain caused by the lack of communication and unaddressed grief that burdens each family member. When a surprise visitor joins their vacation, the bottled-up grief spills over. With memorable characters and voices, realistic emotions, and an extra helping of humor, this title rocks. The Ripley family reads as White; names cue some diversity in the supporting cast. A masterful look at loss and mourning wrapped up in a hilariously painful family vacation. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Theo is glad that it is his summer vacation. He thinks about all the fun he will have with his friends, playing video games or going to robotics camp. However, those plans are not in the cards for Theo. He has been roped into going with his dad and older sister to Big Bend National Park, the least popular of all the national parks. While this is a little better than the family's usual vacation of visiting their grandmother, it's still a lot of hiking in the woods with bugs and high temperatures. Theo's dad, a typical high school science teacher, loves nature and is a bit too eager for the trip--he has also not planned all that well. Luckily, Laura excels at planning and has brought better snacks, found more amusing activities, and has even upgraded their overnight stays. Since their mother's death from cancer a few years ago, Laura's taken on the role of family organizer. Theo isn't thrilled about the idea of the long drive with limited electronics time, or doing any of that outdoor camping stuff, but those things end up being the least of his worries. Theo goes from one unpleasant situation to another (including sweltering heat, his dad's new hiker "friends," and a close encounter with wildlife) until he finally discovers that his dad's big secret is a woman he's been seeing and he wants them to meet. This is a good, realistic, and a funny book about a family in transition. There are plenty of funny moments, and the scenes with Lucrecia hit just the right note. VERDICT Sure to be a popular title, especially with fans of humor, road trip adventures, and James Patterson's books.--Amy Caldera, Dripping Springs M.S., TX Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2220449 Rescue at Lake Wild (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Terry Lynn Johnson</i> Everyone knows that twelve-year-old Madison "Madi" Lewis is not allowed to bring home any more animals. After she's saved hairless mice, two birds, a rabbit, and a stray tom cat that ended up destroying the front porch, Madi's parents decide that if they find one more stray animal in the house, she won't be allowed to meet Jane Goodall at an upcoming gala event. 978-0-358-33485-9 Clarion Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When someone shoots beavers whose dam has caused a flood in the Canadian small town of Willow Grove, Madi, Jack, and Aaron rescue kits, find the culprit, and figure out how to keep the beavers from attracting further violence. This middle-grade wildlife mystery makes explicit homage to the work of Jane Goodall, whom Madi, who introduces herself as an "animal whisperer" like her late grandmother, is dying to meet. But after a gripping opening during which Madi swims underwater and up into a beaver lodge to rescue two orphaned kits, readers learn she has a choice: She can see Goodall in person at an upcoming gala or she can bring home the two kits, though her parents have forbidden her rescuing any more wildlife. She chooses to bring the kits home anyway. The rest of her first-person, present-tense narrative balances the difficulties of hiding and nurturing beaver kits with the work she and her friends--all 12 years old--do to solve the mystery

and the town's beaver problem. Johnson sets this firmly in the present day; they use iPods, smartphones, and ATVs. There's helpful information about animal rescue, but she makes clear that the process isn't easy. A professional wildlife rehabilitator praises Madi's work but adds that ordinary people keeping wildlife "usually does more harm...than good." The cover illustration suggests that Madi and Aaron are White while Jack, who hopes to be a game warden, has brown skin and long, straight black hair. An appealing and informative wildlife adventure. (author's note, wildlife tips) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Twelve-year-old Madi Lewis has a big problem. If she brings home one more stray animal, she won't be allowed to see her idol Jane Goodall at an upcoming gala in her honor. But when Madi discovers two orphaned beaver kits, she can't help rescuing them. Madi stashes them in a shed that only she visits until she can find a way to get them to a rehabilitation center. Madi gets her animal-whispering ability from her Nana, who used to be the only animal rehabilitator in the area. Since her death, no one has replaced her. When adult beavers start turning up dead, Madi and her best friends have a mystery to solve. Just who is trying to reduce the beaver population, and why? Can Madi find out why beavers are suddenly being hunted down, and can she do it before her parents discover the hidden kits? Animal-loving and eco-friendly readers will appreciate this story that involves both informative discussions about ecosystems and a mystery involving beaver poaching. Adventurous boat excursions and perilous ATV rides keep the action going strong. An instructive piece after the novel offers advice on how to handle a real wildlife encounter. Madi is cued as white. VERDICT Madi is a free-spirited, admirable heroine, and readers will delight in her adventures and her quirky friendships. An enjoyable addition to animal and nature stories.—Carol Connor, Cincinnati P.S., OH



#2226959 Even and Odd (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sarah Beth Durst

Even and Odd are sisters who share magic. Lately, though, it seems like that's the only thing they have in common. Odd doesn't like magic, and Even practices it every chance she gets, dreaming of the day she'll be ready to be a hero.

978-0-358-35038-5 Clarion Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Emma Berry, known as Even, and her 11-year-old sister Olivia, called Odd, share a knack for wielding magic, but the power alternates between them daily, frustrating both Even, who dreams of becoming a fully accredited hero of magical realm Firoth (whence the family originates), and Odd, who prefers all things mundane. When the portal between Stony Haven, Conn., and Firoth malfunctions, leaving Even stuck in the form of a skunk, the sisters investigate. Stranded on the magical side with a young unicorn, they discover that border magic has gone haywire, causing upheaval. Now they must find a way to fix the magic and reopen the portals. Juxtaposing the sisters' real world with a whimsical one populated by unicorns, dragons, mermaids, and more, Durst (Catalyst) inserts a subtle message about the separation of families through closed borders. Even's drive to excel in the magical field is countered by Odd's practicality, balancing their varying personalities and separate goals. A straightforwardly told, feel-good portal fantasy. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Andrea Somberg, Harvey Klinger. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–5—Sisters Emma and Olivia may live in the most ordinary town in Connecticut, Stony Haven, but the town sits on the border between the mundane and magical worlds. Although they are the children of magical parents, the sisters must share their magical ability; each girl is able to work magic on alternating days, hence their nicknames Even and Odd. Twelve-year-old Even fully embraces her magical heritage, but Odd, one year younger, is a more reluctant spellcaster. One day Even is practicing transformation, turning herself into a skunk, when she becomes stuck, unable to revert. The sisters discover magic is malfunctioning, causing the gateway between Stony Haven and Firoth, the magic world, to fade in and out. Investigating the phenomenon, Odd, Even, and their new friend Jeremy the Unicorn become trapped in Firoth, a community now in chaos due to diminishing magic. When the trio uncover the individual responsible for siphoning off the magic, they work together to rescue Firoth and find their way home. This novel highlights the tension between the sisters over the use of magic and the eventual resolution of conflict. During their time in Firoth, Even and Odd learn of their parents' past, and Even faces a decision that could change her life. In a world populated by unicorns, elves, fairies, and goblins, the sisters' ethnicity is not defined beyond human. VERDICT A cozy mystery for unicorn and magic lovers. Firoth and its denizens will delight fantasy fans, and the light suspense peppered with humor is sure to keep young readers engrossed until the happy ending. Purchase where easy fantasy is in demand.—Nancy Nadig, Penn Manor Sch. Dist., Lancaster, PA



#2280933 Shelterlings (Hardcover (Trade))

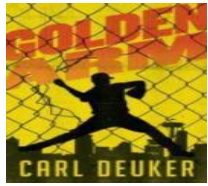
written by Sarah Beth Durst

Holly, a grey squirrel, and her animal friends have accepted that they will never be wizards' familiars. Though they are each magical, their powers are so offbeat-Holly herself can conjure pastries (and only pastries)-that no professional magic-worker would choose any of them as a companion for noble quests. So instead of going on adventures, they languish at the Shelter for Rejected Familiars, where they are known

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

as "shelterlings."
978-0-358-35039-2 Clarion Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Hoping to enhance her magical powers, a clever squirrel embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Holly lives at the Shelter for Rejected Familiars with other disappointed animals. All shelterlings once hoped to become wizards' familiars, but when their magical powers were deemed too insignificant to be of use, they were sent instead to the shelter, a pleasant enough place but one none of them wanted to end up in. Holly's supposedly useless magic is an ability to conjure pastries; her barn owl pal, Gus, can transform himself into a granite statue; and a lemur named Periwinkle finds lost things. When beaver Charlie, a former shelter resident, suddenly returns seeking help in locating seven magical ingredients critical to recasting a spell to cure the shelterlings' defective magic, Holly volunteers. Despite her misgivings, she longs for adventure and surprises herself by negotiating with a greedy dragon to retrieve a magical flower, convincing a hungry orca to recover a magical pearl, and coaching Periwinkle to find a piece of fallen star. When Holly discovers Charlie intends to betray the shelterlings by transferring their magical powers to himself, she must stop him. In an action-packed finale, Holly and the shelterlings rely on one another and discover their unusual magic may not be useless after all. The bevy of animal characters with their peculiar personalities and special powers provide humor and variety. An amusing, fast-paced fantasy with an impressive rodent hero. (Animal fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2158221 Golden Arm (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Carl Deuker

Laz Lazarus "Laz" Weathers finds baseball helps him escape from the world of poverty and drugs. When he gets an opportunity to pitch for the rich kids across town, he has a chance to get drafted by the major leagues. But playing for the other team means leaving behind his family, including Antonio Laz's younger brother. Now Laz will have to choose between being the star pitcher he always dreamed of becoming and the team player his family needs.

978-0-358-01242-9 Clarion Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

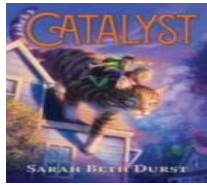
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-11 *Starred Review* Nineteen-year-old Lazarus (Laz) Weathers and his half brother, Antonio, live with their mother in Jet City, a dilapidated trailer park in Seattle. When the boys' high school scraps its baseball program, the former coach convinces a few guys to play in the summer, among them Laz. The ragtag team goes up against other high schools in the area, and Laz's incredible pitching catches the attention of Mr. Thurman, the father of a star player at affluent Laurelhurst High. Mr. Thurman offers Laz a room in their house so that he can attend Laurelhurst, play baseball, and help his son's team win the state title (the main reason for his generosity). Itching to get out of Jet City, Laz knows this could be his chance at a better future and accepts. Just as everything seems to be going his way, including catching the eye of some major league scouts, Antonio gets into trouble, forcing Laz to weigh the value of family against getting an offer from the pros. With short, fast-paced chapters, Deuker's realistic novel pits poverty, friendship, teamwork, self-reliance, and supportive adults against wealth, privilege, overambition, and overbearing helicopter parents. Even readers who don't like baseball will be riveted to this human-interest, underdog story. Readers who still love Matt Christopher's and John Feinstein's books won't want to put this down. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Laz Weathers knows that a pitching career is a long shot, but if he can just catch the eye of a scout in his upcoming senior year, his talent and determination could get him there. Then a perfect storm of bad luck hits at once: his public school team is disbanded; the trailer park where he lives with his single mom and stepbrother, Antonio, is sold; his part-time job is scheduled to end; Antonio is hanging out with a small time drug dealer; and Antonio's father has moved into their trailer. However, there's also Mr. Thurman, a booster for upscale Laurelhurst, who has watched Laz strike out his very talented son, and he knows that Laz could help the Laurelhurst team finally win State, a goal that has eluded them for years. Deuker serves up a groaning smorgasbord of tropes, but rather than allowing Laz to wallow in challenges, he picks them off one by one. Stepfather Curtis turns out to be a good guy; the Thurmans invite Laz to move in with them for the season and prove to be a fair-minded family; the trailer park closure forces the Weathers family into a better apartment; Laz gets good tutoring, a better education, and scout exposure at Laurelhurst; even baseball divo Ian Thurman, initially a brat, ultimately has Laz's back. That narrows the field to Antonio, the painful pressure that Laz can't relieve and can't ignore, who becomes the critical threat to Laz's success, and readers will be plenty worried about Laz's future. This doesn't end miraculously, or even fairly, but it does end hopefully, leaving readers to cheer for Laz's next longshot chance. EB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A high school baseball player fights for his dream of pitching in the major leagues. Lazarus "Laz" Weathers--so named because he almost died while being born--is a pitcher living in Jet City, a trailer park in Seattle. With a speech impediment and a learning disability, Laz believes that baseball might be the only path available to him after high school. His half brother, Antonio, is 18 months younger and

also likes baseball--but lately, Antonio has been hanging out with Garrett, a small-time drug dealer, which worries Laz. After the baseball program closes at North Central High, it's announced that Jet City will be demolished by developers, and his mother decides to move out of the city. Laz receives the opportunity of a lifetime: transfer to Laurelhurst High, which has the city's top team, and live with the family of their star player. Knowing he'll get better training and more exposure to college scouts in Seattle, Laz must decide whether to leave his family and chase after his dream. Deuker (Gutless, 2016, etc.) weaves an interesting plot dealing with socio-economic inequality and drug use into a cast of varied characters. Unfortunately, the secondary characters at times prove to be more interesting than the protagonist, whose characterization falls flat. With few physical descriptions or cultural markers, ethnicity is difficult to determine. An entertaining visit to the ballpark. (Fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up--As he enters his senior year of high school, Lazarus "Laz" Weathers's life already seems to be heading toward a dead end. Laz stutters, his struggles in school mean college isn't an option, the trailer park where he lives is about to be shut down, and his beloved brother has started hanging out with the local drug dealer. The only bright spot on Laz's horizon is baseball. Laz is a gifted pitcher, but his hopes of getting recruited for the minor leagues are dashed when his high school team forfeits at the beginning of their season. Fortunately, a last-minute chance to pitch for a wealthy school across town gives him one final chance to escape the trailer park and make a life for himself. Acclaimed sportswriter Deuker deftly weaves baseball action into a solid coming-of-age tale, as Laz navigates the class divide when the well-off Thurmans take him in when he switches schools. Pressures from coaches and scouts build, and Laz is forced into a reckoning as he must decide what is truly important to him--his career or his family. VERDICT Short chapters and easy-to-follow writing make this book a strong choice for any school with a collection of sports fiction.--Bobbi Parry, East Baton Rouge Parish School System, LA Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2162217 Catalyst (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sarah Beth Durst

Zoe named the kitten Pipsqueak. Then the kitten grew and grew now she's bigger than a horse and talking as well! Fleeing into the woods to escape. Zoe and her best friend, Harrison, must keep the giant cat hidden as they desperately search for a way to return her to normal size. But why did she grow so large in the first place? And what if trying to change her back leads to even greater danger?

978-0-358-06502-9 Clarion Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile HL 630

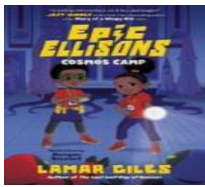
Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When animal lover Zoe begs her parents to let her keep the tiny kitten she finds just before her 12th birthday, they agree, provided she assumes all responsibility. But after the newly named Pipsqueak starts growing at an exponential rate and reveals her ability to talk and read, Zoe turns to her best friend Harrison and then her estranged aunt Alecia for help, hoping to return Pipsqueak to normal. Now Zoe and Harrison must ride the mountain lion: size (and still growing) Pipsqueak to Alecia's home, several hours away in the mountains of New Hampshire, while avoiding detection. Along the way, they attract other weird talking pets, including a mouse with butterfly wings and a green terrier. Durst (Race the Sands) imbues her tale with humor, thoroughly embracing its unusual premise with a sense of wonder. Though conflict and danger are limited to the interpersonal and familial; Zoe's parents are no-nonsense, while her beloved older brother, Alex, is leaving for college soon; the real emphasis is on friendship and found family, as Zoe's misfit companions bond throughout their journey. While the resolution feels a little too easy, the concept lends itself well to follow-up stories. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Andrea Somberg, Harvey Klinger Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Pipsqueak is a tiny little kitten that Zoe has promised to take care of. Zoe found the kitten out by her family's garage right before her 12th birthday. She has always loved animals and brought home quite a few strays in the past. Zoe takes Pipsqueak in and introduces him to her best friend, Harrison. Zoe's parents reluctantly agree to let Zoe keep Pipsqueak since Zoe's older brother left for college in France. Everything is going great until the kitten begins growing. He gets bigger and bigger until Pipsqueak is no longer a pipsqueak. Knowing that this is not normal, Zoe takes him to the vet, who doesn't see a problem. But as Pipsqueak continues to grow to the size of a horse, Zoe knows she needs to make a plan. She contacts her Aunt Alecia, who lives in the mountains of New Hampshire. Along with Harrison's cousin, Surita, Zoe convinces her parents to let her go away to the summer camp where Surita is a counselor, and she uses this time to travel to her aunt's house instead, via Pipsqueak. When Zoe finds out that there are local reports of a green flying poodle who looks a lot like a dog Zoe saw at the vet, she knows that she has made the right choice. She needs to figure out what is going on and fast. Zoe's family obviously cares for her, and their interactions are amusing. It would have helped, though, to know more about Aunt Alecia before the adventure continues at her house. VERDICT A fast-paced, engaging fantasy novel that cat lovers will adore and fans of the author will read vigorously. A solid purchase for fantasy lovers.—Amy Caldera, Dripping Springs M.S., TX

#2323477 Epic Ellisons: Cosmos Camp (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99



written by Lamar Giles

School's out, and Wiki and Leen Ellison are facing a new challenge... their first summer apart! Genius inventor Leen has been accepted to Petey Thunkle's world-famous summer training program for STEM prodigies with their eyes on the stars. But the night before Leen's departure, the twins find out that Wiki has also been accepted into the same camp (even though she didn't apply). Someone (or something) has been tampering with the company's upcoming big-deal rocket launch. Now the sisters are undercover, dealing with hypercompetitive campers by day and trying to stop the mysterious saboteur by night.

978-0-358-42337-9 Versify ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Stepping out of supporting roles in Giles' Legendary Alston Boys novels, the 12-year-old Ellison twins find themselves at odds and in danger after Wiki, the one with perfect recall and good social skills, is suddenly invited to join her awesomely brilliant but insecure gadgeteer sister, Leen, at a STEM summer camp sponsored by Petey Thunkle, the world's richest technocrat. Even fans accustomed to the author's distinctively screwy premises are in for a wild ride as not only has Thunkle disappeared just weeks before the scheduled launch of his mighty Interstellar-Z rocket but also Wiki is suddenly beset with weirdly conflicting sets of memories. Both situations turn out to be related, and their last-tick resolution is complicated by corporate spies and guilty techno secrets. Despite some friction (they had both been looking forward to a bit of separation), Leen and Wiki make a great team, and watching them in action as they work on their own relationship while simultaneously averting cosmic catastrophe juices up the emotional resonance as well as the action in this epic exploit.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twelve-year-old African American girls attempt to solve a complicated mystery that also threatens their tight familial bond in this stand-alone novel that reunites readers with characters from Giles' Legendary Alston Boys series. Twins Evangeleen and Victoria Ellison, who go by Leen and Wiki, respectively, have always done everything together. But now, Leen is excited to attend the STEM-focused summer Cosmos Camp on her own, while Wiki is looking forward to doing her own thing and helping with the family farm. Anna Thunkle, wife of the wealthy tech entrepreneur whose company is behind the camp, causes tension between the sisters by offering Wiki a camp scholarship--even though she didn't even apply. Neither girl is happy about this, but their parents are enthusiastic about the opportunity. Shortly after their arrival, Anna asks the sisters to help find her missing husband, Petey. The mission is made more complicated when Wiki's eidetic memory starts glitching and Leen struggles with imposter syndrome after being placed on a team with bullies. The sisters must work collaboratively to try to figure out what is really going on at Camp Cosmos and in Petey's company. This story highlights the valuable impact African American women and girls can have in science and technology. The relationship dynamics between the engaging, likable sisters will resonate with many readers, who will enjoy accompanying them on this adventurous journey. An imaginative, thrilling story exploring family and team dynamics through the lens of invention. (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--This action-packed book combines elements of science fiction, mystery, and social commentary into an exciting, quickly read narrative. The story revolves around African American twin prodigies, 12-year-olds Wiki and Leen, who win scholarships to the prestigious STEM-focused Camp Cosmos located in Virginia Beach. There, they quickly become involved in a stimulating competition where child wunderkinds are challenged to create the best prototype for a futuristic space shuttle. As they embark on this exciting enterprise, they discover the camp's sponsor and amazing entrepreneur Petey Thunkle, whose inventions have shaped the modern world, has disappeared. The twins, armed with their incredible memories, amazing problem-solving skills, and scientific knowledge, join forces with new friends to rescue their generous, but not necessarily ethical, funder. Rich social commentary is woven throughout, addressing issues such as sibling rivalry, bullying, gender disparity, and the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities in society. References to science concepts like time travel, artificial intelligence, the butterfly effect, and space travel encourage future research topics for the curious reader. The book is illustrated throughout with pencil drawings that add details to the narrative. While working well as a standalone, this story could be considered a companion book to the "Legendary Alston Boys Adventures" series and foreshadows a promise of more adventures to come. VERDICT Highlighting the strength of female characters and the possibilities of young minds, this book will find an audience in fans of young science fiction adventure tales.--Lynne Stover Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99



#2315257 Global Warning (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Steven B. Frank

For sixth grader Sam Warren and his friends Catalina, Alistair, Jaesang, and Zoe, the effects of climate change are too pressing to ignore. Adults don't seem to be up to the challenge of taking action to make real change, but kids know it's their futures on the line. If their parents, teachers, and government officials won't step up, well, then they will! And these young people will stop at nothing--including outside-the-box high jinks and civil disobedience--to save the planet and their futures on it. But can a bunch

of twelve-year-olds really draft an amendment that protects the planet, get it passed by Congress, and change enough hearts and minds across the country to get it ratified before the clock runs out?

978-0-358-56617-5 Clarion Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The intrepid middle schoolers who took a case to the U.S. Supreme Court in Class Action (2018) aim higher. Again challenging credibility but delivering a bracing lesson in motivational civics, Frank unleashes his quartet of seventh grade crusaders--with new allies and legal coaching from a nonagenarian neighbor--on the climate crisis. Motivated by frightening signs of climate change and incidents of heedless pollution, 12-year-old Sam Warren and his friends determine that the quickest way to short-circuit impending catastrophe would be a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to a planet free from "pollution and unnatural warming." All they have to do is get a proposal through Congress and then have it ratified by three-quarters of the states. The first turns out to be relatively easy...but the second becomes a nail-biting campaign against a negotiated deadline that tests the ingenuity of the young eco-warriors and finally forces them into a desperate, spectacular, last tick public protest. Along with a reference to the Juliana v. United States climate suit and other real-life examples of youth activism, Frank slips actual figures into the cast, some thinly disguised (West Virginia Gov. Jim Law, a congressperson whose initials happen to be AOC) and others not (like the indomitable Greta Thunberg), and rounds off the buoyant close with an annotated list of constitutional amendments--all 28 of them. Names and other cues point to a racially diverse central cast. Implausible but engagingly suspenseful--and not, tantalizingly, actually impossible. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2362854 Unbeatable Lily Hong (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Diana Ma

A smart, funny, and heartfelt middle grade novel about Lily Hong's attempts to save her parents' Chinese school and the town's community center using all the resources she has--devoted friends, ingenuity, a passion for filmmaking, mediocre dance moves (at best), and perhaps even her archnemesis. If there's one thing Lily Hong can't stand, it's being second best. That's why she and Max Zhang have been bitter rivals ever since he swooped into town as the new kid with the cool clothes and his fancy downtown Chinese school and showed her up in the fifth-grade reading challenge. She had wanted to be the one to win the pizza party for their class. Okay, so that was two years ago . . . her best friends Kelli and Lauren didn't totally get it, but they were on her side. And that's why they agreed to help Lily with her submission for the Clarktown's Got Talent video competition.

978-0-358-61723-5 Clarion Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

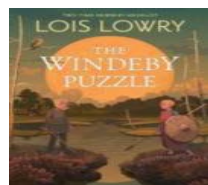
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Lily Hong, a seventh grader who dreams of becoming a filmmaker, turns each school assignment into another episode in her ongoing feud with Max Zhang, her rival for academic honors. In every situation, her loyal friends stand by her, though sometimes wondering if she's taking it all too seriously. When financial woes threaten the rundown community center where Lily's parents run a Chinese school, Lily is expected to help by participating in a Chinese dance performance at the center's fundraising showcase, but rehearsals conflict with the video project she's secretly working on with her friends. Attempting to complete two demanding endeavors at once, she runs the risk of disaster, and the plot takes a few unexpected twists along the way. Lily comes across as headstrong and sometimes unsympathetic, depending on her friends' and family's goodwill while keeping secrets from them. Still, readers who tend to take on more than they can handle may sympathize with her distress when faced with challenging predicaments. Written from Lily's perspective, the first-person narrative moves swiftly toward its feel-good conclusion.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Hui Chinese Muslim tween living in a small town outside Seattle struggles to find balance between family obligations and her passion for film. If Lily Hong isn't making films with her best friends from Clarktown Middle School, Kelli and Lauren, or attending Hong Chinese Academy, her family's business located in the community center, she's competing with her nemesis, Max Zhang. But Lily's project for the upcoming Clarktown's Got Talent video competition is interrupted by the news that the community center is going to be sold to developers--Max's parents. To help raise the \$100,000 needed to save the center, Lily's mom plans a traditional Chinese dance show featuring performances by the students of Hong Chinese Academy. Torn between creating her film and participating in the dance, Lily attempts to do both, but when she lies in an effort to appease everyone, she ends up alienating her friends. Eventually Lily cracks from the strain and spills everything to Max, who is surprisingly empathetic, though she later questions her trust in him. Ultimately, Lily must find a way to make amends with her friends and figure out what she really wants to do. Ma touches on friendship issues, racism, gentrification, and balancing family expectations with personal goals. There's a nice balance between the action-packed plot, the serious themes explored, and Lily's comedic antics. Lauren is cued Black; Kelli presents white. A delightfully adventurous romp with a lovably scrappy protagonist. (folktale, author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A Chinese American tween has a dream; and a plan; to save her family business in this humorous middle grade debut by Ma (the Daughters of Dynasty series). Twelve-year-old Lily Hong and classmate Max Zhang are "destined to be archenemies forever." The two have been competing academically since they were in elementary school, and now they're battling in Lily's favorite activity: filmmaking. Lily, along with her best friends, puts her all into getting ready for an upcoming film competition. But when her parents' financial troubles start affecting the Chinese school that they own, Lily endeavors to help save the business by supporting her family's efforts to host a dance performance fundraiser. As Lily struggles to keep her family's financial challenges a secret from her friends, she also juggles taking Chinese dance lessons, completing schoolwork, and preparing for the film competition. She soon discovers that Max is also keeping secrets, and if the two want to accomplish their goals, they'll have to bury the hatchet and partner up. Strong character relationships and meticulously balanced interweaving plots make this a lighthearted tale that emphasizes how friendship; both expected and unexpected; can help save the day. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--Against all odds, a fiery narrator saves the day in YA writer Ma's debut middle grade novel. Aspiring filmmaker Lily always gets one-upped by her nemesis Max, the only other Chinese student in their small-town middle school outside of Seattle. The competitive heroine is determined to win the annual school district film competition; but her project suffers as she also tries to save the community center where her parents work and she grudgingly attends Chinese school. Lily's distractions pull her away from her loyal friends and closer to Max, who may be helpful in rescuing the center. Lily is a wonderfully flawed and believable character, quick to anger and judge, and funny in her sarcasm. Not all the others are as well developed, such as Lily's parents and other adults, but the book includes a nice array of people of diverse backgrounds. Fans of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Star Trek will also enjoy the many references and subculture portrayals, as well as those interested in Chinese mythology. There are abrupt scene changes and implausibly happy endings to complex problems, along with some bumpy wording along the way, but nothing to deter enjoying the tale. VERDICT A feel-good story with a simmering romance that will likely lead readers to Ma's YA novels.--Elissa Cooper Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2310931 Windeby Puzzle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lois Lowry

Estrild is not like the other girls in her village; she wants to be a warrior. Varick, the orphan boy who helps her train in spite of his twisted back, also stands apart. In a world where differences are poorly tolerated, just how much danger are they in?

978-0-358-67250-0 Clarion Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist There are two sides to this book: In one, it shares the true story of an ancient body dug up from a north German peat bog in 1952. In the other, Lowry asks what might be the true tale of the bog discovery, and she imagines two fictional lives in the pondering of that story. In this unusual approach, she outlines the process of both wondering and writing, fleshing out possibilities for what befell the discovered Iron Age teen. Was the person in the bog male or female? Were they murdered or simply an accidental victim? Slowly, a picture emerges of the tough lives of these pre-Christian people, of how growing up within tight cultural confines could position some as outsiders. In the fictional portion, Estrild is a feisty girl who would prefer to be a warrior than do domestic chores. Her friend Varick is a disabled orphan scraping by in a community that ostracizes him. Which of these two unlikely friends was ultimately forgotten in the German swamp? Interspersing their stories with historical facts and info about the real bog discovery, now called Windeby I, and with news of anthropological advances, Lowry creates a mystery appealing to history lovers. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Two-time Newbery medalist Lowry is something of a living legend, and the unusual approach of this latest historical fiction should draw interest.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In 1952 the body of an Iron Age child was discovered in a bog in Germany. In this hybrid volume -- part fiction, part nonfiction -- Lowry takes the known archaeological facts of this real-life discovery and crafts them into two different stories. In the first, the child, a girl named Estrild, rebels against the restrictive role of women in her agrarian village and presents herself, with the boys, to be a warrior. She is killed, punished for her boldness. The second story's protagonist is Varick, a boy who had appeared as a supporting character in the first one. Disabled and neglected, he is a keen observer of nature, a thinker, a proto-scientist. He dies of pneumonia. Interspersed with each of these stories is an essay; in these, Lowry casts a wide net, covering the art and science of archaeology, natural history, Iron Age lore, and, most innovatively, her own process in writing historical fiction. In what ways can we connect to the past without imposing our own realities on a time that was so different? How does one's own life conform to the accepted shape of fiction? The stories are tightly woven and moving, built of gritty, convincing detail and written in the cadenced rhythm of which Lowry is a master. But it is in the essays that she tackles, head-on, big questions of mortality and meaning in a way that is most unusual, honest, and deeply respectful of her young audience. Sarah Ellis(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

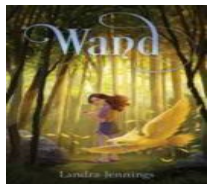
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A venerated author interweaves an archaeological mystery--the 1952 discovery in Germany of an adolescent mummified in a peat bog two millennia ago--with the stories it inspired her to write. The book opens by providing scientific and historical context from similar finds elsewhere and explaining how peat bogs preserve bodies and the way radiocarbon dating works. Lowry describes how she felt

inspired to create a story for the Windeby Girl, whom she names Estrild, and whose tale follows, told in two linked stories. Estrild persuades Varick, a sickly boy, to teach her warrior skills forbidden to girls. When the druid priests next select the boys who will become warriors, Estrild's determined she will stand with them. A middle section describes how recent scientific discoveries changed theories about the Windeby Girl, leading Lowry to write the second iteration centering Varick. In the final part of the book, Lowry explains how it felt to tell the stories of these young protagonists and why she was compelled to do so. While both stories feature vintage Lowry strengths--strong worldbuilding, compassionate characters--it's the sections explaining her authorial decisions that stand out and will encourage readers to reflect upon how history is told and about whom. This book, her answer to probing questions, beautifully illustrates the interaction between idea and execution, illuminating the architecture of storytelling. Dramatic full-page art by Stroh as well as photographs add intrigue. Valuable metafiction for young readers. (photo credits, bibliography, historical notes, discussion questions) (Fiction/nonfiction hybrid. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly tween conversational history and evocative storytelling, Newbery Medalist Lowry creates a contemplative narrative around an Iron Age bog body found in northern Germany. A factual introduction describes the 1952 discovery of the 2,000-year-old body, Lowry's fascination with the "small-in-stature, middle school: age blond person" called the Windeby Girl, and the author's assembling known facts into a narrative to "solve the puzzle" of the figure's story. The first resultant telling centers 13-year-old Estrild, who longs to become the first female warrior in her Iron Age community and secretly practices warrior chants with her friend, budding naturalist Varick. A subsequent historical section reveals a recently discovered detail about the body, leading to a second fictional reimagining of the story involving Varick. In this brief, evocative work that examines the past through a meta lens, a vividly sketched portrayal emphasizes the community's rigid gender roles and rhythms of daily life amid the natural world. Occasional art by Stroh links the sections with a recurring motif. Includes a bibliography, discussion questions, and b&w photographs. Ages 10: up. Agent: Emily van Beek, Folio Literary. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Nicely preserved, the 2,000-year-old body of a small teen girl was found in a bog in 1952 on Windeby Estate in northern Germany. Master storyteller Lowry wondered why. Estrild becomes the main character in this fusion of history and fiction. Unlike other girls, Estrild desires to become a warrior during a time when women are expected to stay at home, cooking, cleaning, and raising the children. Her dear friend Varick, an orphan boy unwanted by society, is happy to help her train in the warrior ways. The friendship that ensues is carried out to a heartrending ending that provides one interpretation for how a young girl ended up dying and buried in a bog. VERDICT Expertly written and beautifully engaging, readers will be transfixed with actual photographs and more than one explanation of this grim mystery. A first purchase for libraries.--Tracy Cronce Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In her moving and engrossing *The Windeby Puzzle*, two-time Newbery medalist Lois Lowry (*Number the Stars*; *Son*; *The Giver*) imagines two possible lives for the Iron Age youth whose body was discovered in a peat bog in 1952.



#2349668 Wand (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Landra Jennings

Eleven-year-old Mira wishes everything could go back to the way it was. Before she changed schools and had to quit gymnastics. Especially before Papa died. Now she spends her days cooking and cleaning for her stepsisters and Val-who she still won't call mom and still won't forgive for the terrible thing she did.

978-0-358-67457-3 Clarion Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99



#2368540 Little Bit Super: With Small Powers Come Big Problems (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Gary D. Schmidt

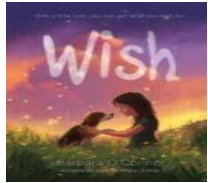
In these hilarious stories by some of the top authors of middle grade fiction today, each young character is coping with a minor superpower-while also discovering their power to change themselves and their community, find their voice, and celebrate what makes them unique.

978-0-358-68342-1 Clarion Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Heavy-hitting, notable writers join forces in a memorable collection of short stories "about middle-school kids who discover in themselves some sort of small superpower." And by "small," the authors took this assignment seriously. These aren't characters who can lift cars

or fly, but, rather, consist of an emotionally intuitive time jumper with no control over which host body he'll inhabit, a restaurateur's daughter whose ability to magically discern perfectly ripe avocados saves their bottom line, and even a lonely seventh-grader whose "right arm is now possessed of a . . . demon in the shape of a claw." And there are rodents. So many rodents. In other words, these are not your run-of-the-mill, cape-and-tights-clad superheroes. These are kids with relatable struggles learning to embrace that quirky bit of themselves that makes them unique, and empathetic lessons follow. The book's 13 digestible, independent stories are divided into two sections, the first featuring characters gazing inward toward self-acceptance, and the second with kids harnessing their potential to serve their community's greater good. Numerous award-winning contributors (think Meg Medina, Kyle Lukoff, and coeditor Schmidt) keep delightfully inclusive and accomplished company in this emotionally grounded, compassionate collection that's perfect for sharing alongside *Flying Lessons & Other Stories* (2017), edited by Ellen Oh, and the authors' individual works. Interstitial art was unavailable for review.



#1974218 Wish (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Barbara O'Connor

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite.

But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true.

978-0-374-30273-3 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 850

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Charlie Reese has been sent from the big city, Raleigh, to the little burg, Colby, North Carolina, to stay with Aunt Bertha and Uncle Gus until Mama gets "back on her feet." Despite the warm welcome she is given, Charlie still manages to find plenty to complain about: the other fifth-graders are squirrel-eating hillbillies; her older sister, Jackie, has a better berth with a friend back home; canning jars are stored in her bedroom; Sunday school is boring; and the only kid who wants to be friends, Howard Odom, has a weird limp. It's clear that her daily wishing routine (stars, clovers, ladybugs, you name it) isn't getting her what she wants. Bertha and Gus are relentless in their loving care, though, and Howard is relentless in his quest for friendship, and there's a stray dog in whom Charlie finds a kindred spirit, so even with her bad temper and impulsive tendency to hurt others' feelings, she is destined to come around. O'Connor again finds the sweet spot for young readers who are beyond early chapter books but not quite ready for the cynicism and/or complexity of much tween-into-teen lit. Bertha, Gus, and the Odoms are certainly awash in goodness, but their big-heartedness never devolves into sentimentality. Moreover, Charlie's tribulations are grounded in reality: Dad may get out of jail, but he'll never stay out of trouble; Mom's depression isn't going away. Even the dog is just a dog—a nice dog, a comforting dog, but just a dog. It won't take much guesswork for readers to figure out what Charlie wishes for through every superstitious ritual she can muster; the family she wants so badly is right there in Colby, NC. EB

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Eleven-year-old Charlie is sent to live with heretofore-unknown Aunt Bertha and Uncle Gus in western North Carolina, and she wishes—every day—to go home. The wish doesn't come true, but Charlie has a lot going for her, including neighbor friend Howard and adopted stray dog Wishbone. What in lesser hands could have turned sappy develops here as a slowly evolving character study. (Copyright 2017 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

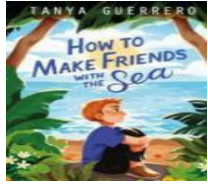
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine il and her mother unable to get her feet on the ground, eleven-year-old Charlie is sent away to live with Aunt Bertha and Uncle Gus, two heretofore-unknown relatives living in western North Carolina. Mad as all get-out, Charlie expresses her anger with that old triumvirate of fighting, sassing, and holding pity parties. And she wishes. Every day. The same wish: to go home. But it doesn't come true. Far from abandoned, however, Charlie has a lot going for her. A neighbor boy, Howard Odom, may be the most generous friend a person could wish for, and Gus and Bertha clearly care for her. There's also the dog Wishbone, a stray she adopts who, like Charlie, just needs a home. Still, Charlie is so busy wishing for her old life that she fails to recognize the love and care that surrounds her in this new one. As Howard reminds her: If all our troubles were hung on a line, you'd choose yours and I'd choose mine. What in lesser hands could have turned sappy develops here as a slowly evolving character study. O'Connor has the setting and colloquial mountain speech down pat, but most important, she gets at the heart of Charlie's unhappiness, showing that wishes may come true, but perhaps not in the ways we expect. betty carter (Copyright 2016 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Sent to stay with her aunt and uncle in Colby, North Carolina, an angry girl makes the same wish daily. Charlie's daddys in jail, her mama stays in bed all day, and her older sisters living with a friend. Daily, the almost-11 white girl wishes for her broken family to heal. (The many ways she wishes form something of a catalog of folk and family traditions and are delightful all by themselves.) When the social worker sends her to live with Bertha and Gus, Charlie feels like a loser that nobody wanted and hates living with total strangers in a hillbilly town. Bertha and Gus, on the other hand, seem truly thrilled to have Charlie with them, even when she's rude, sulking, or getting into trouble at school. Charlie doesn't know what to make of affable, white Howard, the class geek, who walks with a limp and befriends her even though she ignores him. With Bertha and Gus, Charlie finds a stable, loving home. With Howard, Charlie finds a steadfast friend who helps her catch a stray dog she names Wishbone. After weeks living with Bertha and Gus, playing with Howard and Wishbone, and slowly fitting into Colby, Charlie

learns Mama wants her to come home. But where is home? Speaking in an honest voice revealing her hurt, resentment, and vulnerability, Charlie explains how her wish comes true. A warm, real, and heartfelt tale. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2016) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese is heartsick that she's been sent to live with an aunt and uncle she doesn't know in the boondocks of North Carolina, because her dad, Scrappy, is in jail getting "corrected" and her mama can't get up off the couch to care for her. O'Connor (How To Steal a Dog) pens a touching tale of resilience sure to resonate with children who have ever felt like they didn't belong. Charlie feels she doesn't fit in and has built up a tough exterior, which, coupled with a short-tempered fuse, gets her nowhere in her "temporary" home with kind Aunt Bertha and Uncle Gus. Charlie resists becoming friends with Howard, an odd but kindhearted boy with an "up down walk" who comes from a boisterous and loving family, which is far from what Charlie is used to. Every day, Charlie has to find something lucky in order to make a wish, a ritual she's done every day since fourth grade, whether it is a bird singing in the rain, or blowing on an eyelash. Feeling kinship with a stray dog, Charlie is overcome with desire to give "Wishbone" the loving home she, too, is desperately searching for. When Wishbone disappears and she is compelled to search for him, Charlie learns there are people worth holding on to and what you wish for may not be what you really want. VERDICT Poignant and genuine, this is a tale that will resonate with readers long after they finish it and have them cheering for the underdogs-both of the two-legged and four-legged varieties.-Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has plenty of reasons to make a wish--a father in jail, a mother who can't get out of bed and "getting shipped off to this sorry excuse for a town to live with two people I didn't even know"--but there's just one wish she makes every day. Charlie wishes on the first star at night, three birds on a telephone wire, a camel-shaped cloud, a cricket in the house. But if you tell a wish, it won't come true, so even when she becomes friends with Howard, a "little ole redheaded up-down boy" (one of his legs is shorter than the other, so he walks with a hitch), she keeps her wish a secret as long as she can. Charlie doesn't get off to a terrific start in Colby, N.C. She antagonizes her teacher and fights with her classmates. But with the help of Howard, a stray dog named Wishbone and Aunt Bertha and Uncle Gus (her remarkably tolerant temporary guardians), Charlie begins to learn not only how to tame her temper but to understand that the long-wished-for "family that wasn't broken" may not be the one she was born into. Barbara O'Connor (How to Steal a Dog; The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis; The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester) captures a traumatic transition in a young girl's life without resorting to sentimentality or hard-to-believe happy endings. Charlie's prickly behavior is real, understandable and even charming at times, but readers will cheer as she settles and softens into authentic happiness. COPYRIGHT(2016) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2160054 How to Make Friends with the Sea (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Tanya Guerrero

Twelve-year-old Pablo is homesick Now they are residing in the Philippines, and his mother is charged to care for an orphaned child, Chiqui, who has an unrepaired cleft lip. As he and his mother adjust to having Chiqui in their lives, Pablo must face his ever-increasing anxiety. But as it turns out, in his efforts to help Chiqui, he learns a thing or two from her as well, even finding the courage to confront his lifelong and deep-seated fear of the sea.

978-0-374-31199-5 Farrar, Straus & Giroux ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 510

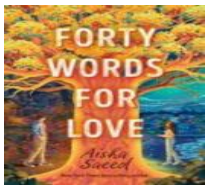
Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Ever since his parents' divorce, Pablo has accompanied his zoologist mother all over the world. While her work to save endangered wildlife is noble, it has prevented Pablo from truly finding a home. Their latest stop is the Philippines, where his mother finds a new, unexpected task—caring for a young girl found in a chicken coop with no family and an unknown past. The presence of this new member of the household forces Pablo to confront several truths about himself: his fractured relationship with his distant father; his feelings for his neighbor, Happy; his phobias about germs, dirt, and large bodies of water; and his connection to the orphan girl who desperately needs someone to trust. Guerrero's heartfelt debut brings to life the colors, textures, and tastes of the Philippines, while also showing a boy's struggles with crippling anxiety. The book evolves in light touches, focusing on Pablo's emotional journey. Presented with care and compassion, Pablo's quest to find courage when another's welfare depends on it will touch and inspire readers.

#2329011 Forty Words for Love (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Aisha Saeed

Moonlight Bay is a magical place-or it was once. After a tragic death mars the town, the pink and lavender waters in the bay turn gray, and the forest that was a refuge for newcomers becomes a scourge to the townspeople. This includes the two teens at the

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99



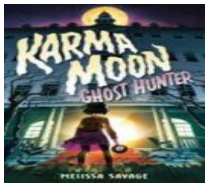
heart of our story: Yasmine and Rafay. Yasmine and Rafay have been friends since Rafay first arrived, nearly ten years ago. The forest elders have long warned that falling in love with "outsiders" will lead to devastating consequences for anyone from Willow Forest. But is this actually true? Can Yasmine and Rafay find a way to be together despite it all?

978-0-593-32646-6 Kokila ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 550

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Eighteen years ago, when a climate crisis forced the Golub people from their home, they were welcomed by the people of idyllic Moonlight Bay. The town has changed dramatically in the last year, though, after tragedies struck and caused the loss of industry and tourism as the bay's famous pink and purple waters receded, leaving only grey ocean behind. Raf blames himself, in no small part due to his uncle, who implies that his feelings for Moonlight Bay local Yas betrayed Golub tradition and caused the tragic events. His guilt is compounded by also feeling responsible for running the diner that supports the community and helping his mom raise his younger brothers. Meanwhile, Yas' family business is struggling without tourism to support them, and Yas herself has lost faith in the charms they make and sell. As the citizens of Moonlight Bay continue to struggle with their collective grief, the mayor hatches a desperate plan to attract wealthy investors, with possibly terrible cost. Saeed's magical realism addresses real-world problems through the comforting layers of fantasy and beautiful prose; despite its fantastical elements, Moonlight Bay maps onto many real-world towns facing a changing economic and environmental landscape, and the growing crisis of climate refugees, like Raf and his family, is also reflected here. While Yas sees her family growing apart as her father takes work in another town, Raf's people face the town's xenophobia and Raf himself copes with the tension between the home and culture he left behind, and the new one he and the Golub people live in now. Saeed beautifully balances these complex concerns and offers up a victorious ending where community action saves the day; even though Moonlight Bay can never go back to what it was, they can still move forward to something new. AT

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Love blooms between two best friends in a magical town grieving a tragic loss. Raf and Yas have been best friends since the former's home was destroyed and his people fled to Moonlight Bay via the enchanted Golub tree in the Willow Forest. Despite warnings from his community elders, Raf decides to confess his romantic feelings to Yas—but he finds her with Moses, the Holler Candy empire heir. The golden leaf-shaped birthmark burns against Raf's wrist, and he runs to the shoreline, where he discovers 5-year-old Sammy Holler dead. Now, a year later, Moonlight Bay is struggling—the Hollers have moved away, the once pink-and-lavender waters have turned dark gray, several local businesses have shut down, and tensions between the locals and the Golubs are rising. Yas, whose parents are struggling to make ends meet, faces the prospect of leaving her hometown. Raf, once excited about college, becomes resigned to staying home to support his family. When the wealthy Naismiths move into the Holler Mansion, the townspeople are desperate to make them stay, but Yas and Raf question what their true intentions are in Moonlight Bay. Saeed takes readers on a gentle exploration of losing faith, finding yourself, and grief's impact on a community. Unfortunately, the slow-burn romance is sluggish, and the secondary characters feel underdeveloped. Readers who don't mind light worldbuilding that allows them to imagine details for themselves may enjoy this lightly magical story. Characters are racially ambiguous. Intriguing but lacking in impact. (Fabulism. 12-17)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two teens navigate grief and first love in this romantic fantasy by Saeed (Omar Rising), set in a magical world. Moonlight Bay local Yas and Raf; who has a leaf-shaped birthmark and is part of the Golub people; have been friends since Raf and his family moved to town as climate refugees when he was young. Determined to confess his feelings for Yas, Raf seeks her out, only to catch her in a seemingly tender moment with Moses Holler, the heir of Moonlight Bay's most influential family. Raf later stumbles upon the corpse of five-year-old Sammy Holler, setting into motion a chain of events with disastrous implications for everyone in town. Moses and his family move away, taking with them the town's economic security, and the ocean, once a soothing pink and lavender, becomes a grimy gray. Thin worldbuilding deflate the intriguingly rendered landscape and a jam-packed plot stymie Yas and Raf's budding, Romeo and Juliet: esque romance. Still, skillful characterizations keep readers invested as Saeed weaves a tale of a grieving town on the brink of financial collapse and the resourceful, minimally described protagonists intent on saving it. Ages 12: up. (Aug.)



#2201381 **Karma Moon: Ghost Hunter (Library Binding (Trade))**
written by Melissa Savage

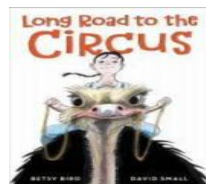
Karma Moon is a firm believer in everything "woo-woo," as her dad calls it. So when she asked her trusty Magic Eight Ball if the call asking her dad to create a ghost-hunting docuseries was her dad's big break, it delivered: "No doubt about it." Because the universe never gets it wrong. Only people do.

978-0-593-30280-4 Crown Publishing Group ©2021 6 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Avid researcher Karma Moon Vallinari, 12, is accompanying her cinematographer father on the break of a lifetime: filming a Netflix docuseries focused on the haunted Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colo. The catch? The team, which includes Karma, her best friend Mags, and portly pug Alfred Hitchcock, must capture an actual ghost on film to satisfy the production company. Unfortunately, Karma's "what-ifs" (a propensity to catastrophize) and her uncertainty over her mother's abandonment join her on the trip. On-site, the team encounters personalities straight out of a Scooby-Doo caper, such as Nyx Brown, a local boy with a head full of paranormal knowledge, including about Harry Houdini's connection to the area. Karma's voice is front and center as readers are introduced to paranormal film classics such as *The Shining*, filmed at the Stanley, while being drawn into the world of a girl dealing with things beyond her control. Studded with occasional doodle-like illustrations by Savage (Nessie Quest), the mystery's mix of unshakable friendship, spooky excitement, and life lessons pops with an empowering protagonist who's full of promise. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Laurie McLean, Fuse Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—The call from Netflix comes on a Tuesday, and by the end of the week it's settled: Karma Moon and her dad, along with the rest of the Totally Rad film crew, will be spending spring break at the haunted Stanley Hotel in Colorado. If there's one thing Karma—queen of the anxious what-ifs and believer in all-things paranormal—knows for sure, it's that this trip is a big mistake in the woo-woo department. But with her dad's dreams hanging on finding a ghost and securing a second season, Karma's all-in, no matter what her what-ifs have to say. Set mostly in Colorado at the famous Stanley Hotel, Savage's latest novel is one readers are sure to devour. Karma is fun, quirky, but also real; she's open about her anxieties, as well as her doubt that her mother will return if the Netflix show is a success. Other characters lack her depth, unfortunately, but a snappy, spooky plot makes up for their shortcomings. All characters present as white. VERDICT With a witty, authentic lead and a story line that's just spooky enough to keep readers on the edge of their seats, this is a perfect read for fans of Patti Kim, Ellen Oh, and Neil Gaiman alike.—Kaitlin Frick, Darien Lib., CT



#2252340 Long Road to the Circus (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Betsy Bird

Twelve-year-old Suzy Bowles dreams of life outside the small town of Burr Oak Michigan, but when she stumbles on the opportunity to learn ostrich-riding with the infamous Madame Marantette her obligations to her family on the farm threaten to derail her dreams of a bigger life. Includes photographs and information on Madame Marantette.

978-0-593-30393-1 Alfred A. Knopf ©2021 6 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist The close-knit Burr Oak community is difficult to escape; almost no one leaves the rural Michigan neighborhood, and those who do leave eventually return, like Suzy's wayward uncle Fred. Twelve-year-old Suzy loves her deeply rooted family and friends, but she secretly dreams of setting off to see the world. After noticing her uncle's frequent absences from their farm and tailing him at sunrise, Suzy is astonished to discover that he's been working for a local circus legend, the extraordinary Madame Marantette—and with her flock of ostriches! Suzy begs to be included, and as her relationship with Madame Marantette deepens, Suzy wonders if her new human (and feathered) friends may be a ticket to a different kind of life. The sunny story seems delightfully far-fetched, but Madame Marantette was a real person (ostrich photos are included), and Bud, her horse trainer, is a fascinating amalgamation of her actual trainer and a successful Black jockey. This unconventional tale is a hoot and an encouraging call to live an adventurous life on one's own terms.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this spirited historical adventure set in 1920, tenacious 12-year-old narrator Suzy Bowles longs for a life beyond her farm in small-town Burr Oak, Mich., and finds purpose under the tutelage of a former circus queen. Using a colloquial first-person narration, Bird (*The Great Santa Stakeout*) effectively portrays Suzy's longing for a larger life, and her curiosity as she follows her recently returned, purportedly "deadbeat" uncle Fred to his secret job with the nearby Madame Marantette, a former circus performer who is attempting to train her ostrich Gaucho to pull a carriage alongside a horse. Tension and comedy escalate as Suzy volunteers to ride cantankerous Gaucho, and Madame invites Suzy to weekly teas for lessons in comportment. Caldecott Medalist Small's expressive, humorous b&w illustrations infuse the narrative with further personality. All characters cue as white, and an author's note chronicles the life of the actual Madame Marantette who inspired the novel. Ages 10: up. Author's agent: Stephen Barbara, InkWell Management. Illustrator's agent: Holly McGhee, Pippin Properties.(Oct.)

#2330216 Barely Floating (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lilliam Rivera

Natalia de la Cruz Rivera y Santiago, also known as Nat, was swimming

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



neighborhood kids out of their money at the local Boyle Heights pool when her life changed. The L.A. Mermaids performed, emerging out of the water with matching sequined swimsuits, and it was then that synchronized swimming stole her heart. People often underestimate her swimming skills when they see her stomach rolls, but she knows better than to worry about what people think. Sometimes, she feels more like a submarine than a mermaid, but she wonders if she could be both.

978-0-593-32312-0 Kokila ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 590

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* Nat Santiago knows she can outswim any kid at her local pool, and if they underestimate her because of her age (12) or size (fat), that's their problem. In fact, she's turned a nice profit by regularly betting her opponents that she can beat them in a race. Her focus shifts when the L.A. Mermaids perform their synchronized swimming routine at the pool to promote upcoming team tryouts. Immediately, Nat becomes obsessed with these swimmers' grace, strength, and sequined costumes, and she dives down an Esther Williams rabbit hole, emerging with the conviction that she must join the Mermaids. Unfortunately, her parents don't agree, citing the sport's unhealthy focus on physical appearance. With the help of her older cousin, Nat sneaks to the tryouts, where she makes the team but is saddled with keeping her new hobby a secret. Rivera's layered, sparkling middle-grade debut is Julie Murphy's *Dumplin'* (2015) by way of Lisa Fipps' *Starfish* (2021). Nat and her family come across as multifaceted, loving, and flawed. Her outspokenness and (mostly) unwavering self-confidence as a fat, beautiful Latina is a splendid thing to see, and her dip into the world of synchronized swimming is eye-opening. Well-integrated subplots involving a fractured friendship and a character coping with being outed add more depth to an already excellent story. Display this empowering novel with Esther Williams' classic *Million Dollar Mermaid*. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Fat and proud" middle grader Nat is winning swim races for cash at the Roosevelt Pool on summer break when she sees a performance of the synchronized swim team LA Mermaids, who then announce they're hosting tryouts. Nat's parents-community activists who emphasize body positivity-worry synchronized swimming may promote negative ideals around beauty and won't allow her to join. So, Nat decides to join the team in secret, pulling her older cousin Sheila in to help her get to practices; Nat is sure once she attains some synchronized acclaim her parents will come around and see how important this is to her. Rivera brings a freshness to a conventional middle-grade story with flowing prose that effortlessly captures the complicated and often conflicting emotions of being a tween, especially one who has to face microaggressions for being fat, brown, Latina, and not rich. Nat's also got a short fuse, but the story never shames her in a gendered way for her temper, instead presenting a fully realized character who sees the real fallout of her anger in her relationships and begins to work toward channeling it in healthier ways. Nat spends much of the novel comparing her thin, conventionally gorgeous, much-beloved activist mother to other maternal figures in her life, wanting to spend more time with her mom while also pushing against the constraints of her rigid feminism. For all that, the story still depicts what a healthy family dynamic looks like, giving everyone space to be real with loveable qualities as well as believable faults. Hand this book to angry kids, to fat kids who deserve to see someone liking their own body, or really to any kids who are looking for a fun read. ART COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

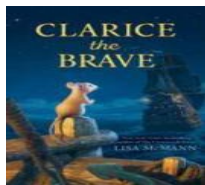
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old first-person narrator Nat (short for Natalia de la Cruz Rivera y Santiago) is all about body positivity and female strength. She feels conflicted, however, when her mother's values around feminism clash with her own love of pretty things -- lipstick, fashion magazines, and especially the spangles on the swimsuits of the L.A. Mermaids, a synchronized swimming group that Nat is desperate to join. She blackmails her older cousin, Sheila, into covering for her and facilitating her participation on the team, but the secrets come between the two cousins and other people they care about. Nat navigates the rough waters of racial bias, fat-shaming, economic class hierarchies, and her own issues with impulse control and anger management, all while she wishes (and doubts) that her parents could be proud of her choices. By building community with her artistic swimming team, whose training Rivera describes in detail, Nat learns that she cannot win every battle, and she reconfigures her concept of what winning means. Although the novel itself occasionally succumbs to Nat's conviction that sometimes "teachable moments have to be forced," ultimately Nat as well as her mother and even ultra-feminine Sheila each grow into a new understanding of what it means to them to be a chingona -- a fearless Latina. Lara K. Aase(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Tough-talking 12-year-old Natalia never backs down from a challenge. Whether it's a fistfight with a boy who is disrespecting her cousin or a swimming race against a much older teen at the city pool, Nat's confidence and tenacity compel her to finish anything she starts, no matter what the odds. Nat's parents, a community activist and a college professor, have instilled a strong sense of justice in her and her three older brothers. When she becomes enchanted with Black-owned synchronized swimming team the L.A. Mermaids, she knows she needs to try out--even if her fat body and Latina heritage aren't the norm for the sport. Her parents veto the idea, citing the dominance in elite synchronized swimming of thin, White girls. In an ill-conceived plan, headstrong Nat decides to join the team anyway and begins learning the sport in secret. Joining the L.A. Mermaids brings her new friends--Daniel, whose race is not specified and who is the sole boy in a female-dominated sport, and Ethiopian American Ayana, who struggles with an overzealous mom. In contrast to these blooming friendships, Nat's connection with her best friend has frayed over the summer, and she isn't sure why. She must tame her temper and learn to own her mistakes to keep her relationships with family and friends afloat. Nat's radical self-acceptance is a beautiful example for readers: Her unapologetic self-love and

empathy make her a compelling character. A body-positive story of growing up that's sure to make a splash. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Rivera (*We Light Up the Stars*) makes a splash with this charming novel about a fat Latinx 12-year-old who dreams of becoming a synchronized swimmer. Natalia De La Cruz Rivera y Santiago knows it's "hard to contain a person like me," a short-tempered hustler who spends her summer days at the public pool challenging other young swimmers to races she knows she'll win. After watching a performance by Black-owned synchronized swimming team the L.A. Mermaids, Nat is spellbound and immediately wants to join the squad, but her hyper-activist mother forbids her from trying out, believing that the sport is anti-feminist because of its focus on costuming and traditionally slender and white beauty standards. Nat secretly joins anyway, making new friends and finding security in her fatness. But clashes with thin, affluent teammates and increasing emotional distance between Nat and her best friend sour her newfound passions. Nat is a confident protagonist whose stalwart self-acceptance makes her a character worth rooting for. In laugh-out-loud, blunt prose, Rivera cultivates a touching and unapologetically positive interpretation of one tween's desire to break the mold. Supporting characters are racially diverse. Ages 9: 12. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Twelve-year-old Nat has never hesitated to speak her mind or to stand up for what she believes in, even if it sometimes gets her in trouble for being angry and confrontational. But when her parents forbid her from joining the L.A. Mermaids, a local synchronized swimming team, she is afraid to try to convince them. Her mother has always actively opposed any activity that is overly focused on physical appearance or traditional female beauty norms. Nat joins the team without telling her family, and although she loves the way synchronized swimming makes her feel, she is soon struggling to pay for equipment, find transportation, and juggle her practice schedule, homework, and time with her best friend. She also has to find ways to deal with people who imply that synchronized swimming should only be for thin white girls, not Latinas with curves like hers. Eventually, her secret is discovered, and Nat has to find a way to explain her feelings to her parents without damaging her relationship with them. The strength of this novel lies in its complex, believable characters. Nat loves and respects her parents, who are presented as encouraging and progressive, but she chafes against her mother's dismissal of fashion and make-up, and sometimes wishes her mother would take time away from her various political causes to be with her. She is extremely confident and self-assured, but still has occasional moments of doubt when faced with comments about her physical appearance. One subplot featuring a cousin who becomes estranged from her mother for being gay, is left unresolved at the end of the book. But it serves as a counterpoint to the complicated yet ultimately strong relationship between Nat and her mother. The novel features a diverse cast of characters from a wide range of backgrounds, and Nat's first-person narrative is sprinkled with Spanish words and phrases. VERDICT This compelling character-driven novel will leave readers wanting to spend more time with Nat and her family. —Ashley Larsen



#2250941 Clarice the Brave (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa McMann

She and her brother, Charles Sebastian, were taught to be careful-as all mice are-but caution is no match for the sea, which took their mother, and it is certainly no match for Special Lady, the horrid cat who ate their sister. Now the siblings hide in their pantry crate, knowing every move they make could be their last.

978-0-593-32337-3 Putnam Pub Group ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

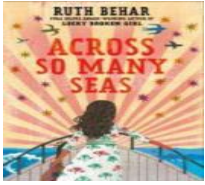
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Clarice the mouse lives aboard a sailing vessel with her brother, Charles Sebastian, avoiding humans and felines. After whispers of mutiny spread below deck, mutineers set the captain and his comrades adrift in a small launch, and a panicked Clarice is separated from her brother. She ends up on the tiny boat, along with the captain's fearsome cat, but as the situation worsens, the desperate animals come to a shaky understanding. Meanwhile, Charles Sebastian receives a crash course in survival on the larger vessel, finding an ally in a young girl. Can the separated siblings find a way to reunite? The rodents split storytelling duties, alternating between cozy details of their small vantage points on the terrifyingly vast sea and occasionally misunderstood human world. There is real peril and death on the water, but the delicate cat-mouse and mouse-girl relationships are a joy to watch unfold, and a recurring theme of the power of belief in oneself and others is a cheering antidote to the bleak circumstances. An absorbing adventure from an unexpected perspective.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Delicately balancing hope and despair, McMann (the Unwants Quests series) lovingly brings to life the tale of ship's mouse Clarice and her runt-of-the-litter brother, Charles Sebastian. Life aboard a ship at sea is all that cunning, pragmatic Clarice and intelligent yet impulsive Charles Sebastian have ever known. While they have plenty, dangers abound; including the "three horrid ship cats," one of whom devoured their sister; disease, which killed their other siblings; and unexpected waves, which took their mother, leaving them with only each other. A mutiny, however, sets the siblings on a bleak, wondrous journey of self-discovery, as they search for one another and find salvation in the most unlikely places. Leaning heavily on the theme of loss, the novel normalizes feelings of sadness and grief for younger readers, relayed in an assured tone and elegant prose. Caparo's full-page, fine-lined b&w illustrations emphasize the relationships from varying, carefully sketched angles. Told from the shifting viewpoints of each mouse, the narrative keenly focuses on the obstacles placed in their paths and the growth processes; both the positive and negative; each must follow to find their way to a new normal. Ages 8: up. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (Oct.)

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99



#2366251 **Across So Many Seas (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Ruth Behar

In 1492, during the Spanish Inquisition, Benvenida and her family are banished from Spain for being Jewish, and must flee the country or be killed. They journey by foot and by sea, eventually settling in Istanbul. Over four centuries later, in 1923, shortly after the Turkish war of independence, Reina's father disowns her for a small act of disobedience. He ships her away to live with an aunt in Cuba, to be wed in an arranged marriage when she turns fifteen. Though many years and many seas separate these girls, they are united by a love of music and poetry, a desire to belong and to matter, a passion for learning, and their longing for a home where all are welcome. And each is lucky to stand on the shoulders of their courageous ancestors.
978-0-593-32340-3 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 In a novel that profiles four 12-year-old Sephardic Jewish girls (three of them grandmother, mother, and daughter), Behar introduces Sephardic history, culinary culture, music and poetry traditions, and Ladino language. Each girl's story is told in its own section, moving readers from the distant past to more recent times. In 1492, Benvenida and her family flee Toledo, Spain, eventually settling in Turkey. Reina is exiled to Cuba in 1923, where she is betrothed to another Turkish Jew. Alegra flees Castro's Cuba for Miami in 1961. And in 2003, Paloma travels from Miami to Toledo, Spain, where she learns about her history while visiting the Sephardic Museum there. Behar's sprawling saga, based in part on her own family history, captures the poignancy of being expelled from one's home. Ladino poetry appears throughout, and a family heirloom, a stringed instrument known as an oud, connects all the sections. While the final section is fraught with coincidences, the return to Spain brings the story full circle and provides readers with a satisfying conclusion. Generous author notes are appended. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

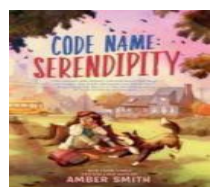
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This welcome historical novel traces a Sephardic Jewish family whose members travel from one country to another with first-person narrators from four generations and spanning centuries. In 1492, Benvenida and her family leave Toledo, Spain, for what is then Constantinople to escape the Spanish Inquisition. In 1923, Reina sneaks out at night and sings for a group of boys against her father's wishes and is sent from Turkey to Cuba for an arranged marriage. In 1961, Alegra teaches literacy as a brigadista but then flees Cuba for Miami with Operation Pedro Pan. And in 2003, Paloma and her family travel back to Toledo and learn what they can about their long-ago family history. The family saga provides glimpses of several moments in world history and gives readers opportunities to spot connections among the generations, sometimes knowing details about the past that the characters can only guess at. (An overly earnest tone in narration and dialogue sometimes detracts from the characters' believability.) A Ladino song and the oud that it is played on add echoes from one section to another. The author's note provides context and personal connections; back matter also includes source notes with accessible explanations. Shoshana Flax(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Four 12-year-old Sephardic Jewish girls in different time periods leave their homelands but carry their religion, culture, language, music, and heritage with them. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella's expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 sends Benvenida fleeing from Toledo with her family, though she promises to remember where she came from. In 1923, Reina celebrates Turkish independence with her longtime friend and neighbor, a Muslim boy, causing her strict father to disown her and send her to live with an aunt in Cuba as punishment. Reina brings her mother's oud with her and passes it on to Alegra, her daughter, who serves as a brigadista in Castro's literacy campaign before fleeing to the U.S. in 1961. In Miami in 2003, Paloma, Alegra's daughter, who has an Afro-Cuban dad, is excited to travel to Spain with her family to explore their roots. They find a miraculous connection in Toledo. Woven through all four girls' stories is the same Ladino song (included with an English translation); as Paloma says, "I'm connected to those who came before me through the power of the words we speak, the words we write, the words we sing, the words in which we tell our dreams." Behar's diligent research and her personal connection to this history, as described in a moving author's note, shine through this story of generations of girls who use music and language to survive, tell their stories, and connect with past and future. Powerful and resonant. (sources) (Historical fiction. 10-15) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Behar (Lucky Broken Girl) delivers a moving tale about four generations of a Sephardic Jewish family navigating cultural and societal upheaval from 1492 to 2003. When the Spanish Inquisition forces 12-year-old Benvenida and her family to flee from Toledo, Spain, the religious refugees settle in what is now Istanbul. In 1923, an act of defiance sees Benvenida's descendant, 12-year-old Reina, banished by her father from Turkey to Cuba. Subsequent years follow Reina's daughter Alegra who, in 1961, teaches literacy in the Cuban countryside, until political unrest prompt her to emigrate to Miami. And in 2003, Alegra's Afro-Cuban daughter Paloma unravels her ancestors' history during a trip to Spain. Divided into four parts, this enlightening read depicts one family's determination to embrace and preserve her Jewish identity and offers glimpses into the long history of Jews in Spain. Behar crafts each included era with painstaking period detail and lush language, delivering a stunning portrayal of immigration and Jewish culture and religion that expounds upon the importance of remaining true to oneself, explores themes of prejudice and racism, and exposes the harm that bigotry can inflict on both individuals and society. The author includes English translations

alongside songs and words in Ladino; concluding source notes add further historical context. Ages 10: up. Agent: Alyssa Eisner Henkin, Birch Path Literary. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Beginning with the Inquisition and the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492 and spanning over 500 years, this powerful historical novel by Behar relates the journeys and discoveries of four young girls from different generations of the same family. The stories of Benevida, Reina, Allegra, and Paloma are linked through the Spanish songs that they learn and pass along through an oud, a musical instrument that becomes a precious family heirloom and symbol of hope. Another recurrent connecting theme is travel—each protagonist embarks on a journey, whether fleeing persecution, searching for liberty, or discovering her past and her future. The plot takes readers from Spain to Naples and Turkey to Cuba, Miami, and back to Spain. The simple, resonant, and lyrical narrative transmits the hope and trust that have sustained Sephardic Jewish communities through the generations. Even the names of the title characters speak a blessing. Benevida means welcome; Reina means queen; Allegra means happiness; and Paloma means peace. An author's note explains Behar's connection to this important history. This moving historic tale treats every word used as if it is a fleeting and impossibly beautiful note in a song that can never be forgotten, as it illuminates a people and a past that deserves to be forever remembered. VERDICT This will appeal to fans of Jane Yolen's Briar Rose, and is highly recommended for all collections. —Kelly Kingrey-Edwards



#2260397 Code Name: Serendipity (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Amber Smith

Eleven-year-old Sadie's school year is off to an awful start. But when she comes across a stray dog, she discovers something wonderful and magical--she and the dog, Dewey, are able to communicate telepathically. Dewey is quickly captured and sent to a shelter. The only solution: break Dewey out of doggie jail.

978-0-593-20491-7 Razorbill ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Sadie's best friend just moved away, her older brother has developed a mean streak, and Gramps is living in the guest room after some mysterious mishaps. She feels like even more of an outsider at school after being diagnosed with a processing disorder and enrolled in a specialized education plan. A wonderful distraction arrives in the form of a sweet stray dog in her backyard, and miraculously they seem to have a telepathic connection! The pair knows they're meant to be together, but the dog is due to be put down in less than a week. Sadie conspires with her increasingly forgetful grandfather and a former school nemesis to save the magical pup and put her world to rights. Sadie is a wonderfully compassionate and introspective narrator, and her family, including two mothers, is realistically complicated and loving. There's a beautiful emphasis on learning to see the world through different perspectives, and all of the characters are given room to grow. A touching tale of dogged determination and the magic in unexpected connections. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

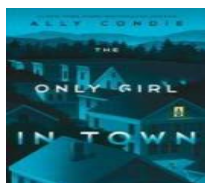
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fifth grade is off to a rough start for Sadie: she's still reeling from a learning disability diagnosis, bestie Jude has moved to Utah, and something's wrong with Gramps, no matter what her moms keep saying. One morning Sadie's feeling especially frustrated but then hears a strange voice calling to her for help, a voice that belongs to an equally lonely pup named Dewey, who's as surprised as Sadie that she can understand her. When Dewey is brought to the shelter where Mom works and labeled a bite risk, the race is on to save her before she's euthanized. At least Gramps believes in Sadie's connection to Dewey, and Macy, a former bully who could use a friend, offers help too. Smith's ambitious middle grade debut runs a gamut of difficult topics, with everything from changing friendships to parental death. However, Sadie's first-person narration, full of asides and frequent focus changes, keeps heavy worries from feeling insurmountable, and Sadie's family is a wholesome, hopeful clan, if a bit chaotic. The slow slip of affable, loving Gramps into anger and confusion is painful for everyone, but especially Mom, who admits to Sadie that she can't make her feel better right now. Fortunately, Mama offers oodles of warmth and comic relief while being the first to lay down boundaries and hard truths. Brother Noah's "butthead" antics are all too real to anyone who has lived with a teenager, and while he takes a turn for the nicer in the third act, the change is cleverly orchestrated and genuine, quietly promising that he'll get on Sadie's nerves again soon. Most readers will know a happy ending is inevitable, but this journey is truly greater than the destination. KP COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl's telepathic connection to a stray dog helps her process change. Fifth grader Sadie Mitchell-Rosen is feeling frustrated. Her best friend has moved away, she and her brother can't get along, and her moms are trying to hide her grandfather's worsening dementia from her. She doesn't know how to feel about the new IEP for her processing disorder, which sometimes makes focusing difficult. But everything changes when she discovers an injured dog named Dewey in the woods. They are able to communicate telepathically, and Sadie learns from Dewey that she has one week to be claimed by her owners from the kennel at Sadie's Mom's vet clinic before being euthanized for aggression. Making it her mission to rescue Dewey, Sadie recruits her Gramps, who has just moved in with her family, and a classmate she used to dislike. While there are plenty of bumps along the way, the happy, hopeful ending is satisfying. Sadie's first-person narration balances action and introspection, creating a thoughtful exploration of interpersonal relationships and what it means to do right by others and ourselves. Sadie and Dewey's telepathic connection is never explained or deeply explored, but readers who feel profound bonds with their pets won't be bothered by this. Sadie's family is described by skin tone: Mama reads as White, Mom has dark-brown skin, and Sadie's and her brother's complexions are

somewhere in between. A quiet winner for animal lovers and fans of realistic fiction. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old narrator Sadie Mitchell-Rosen lives with her mothers (brown-skinned Mom and cued-white Mama) and 14-year-old brother, Noah (the siblings are "gold and sand": skinned). Recently diagnosed with a processing disorder, "or as my moms always say, a difference," the young artist dreads "the carnival of suckage that fifth grade has become." Sadie has recently drawn the ire of "Mean Machine" Macy, who's of Japanese descent; her best friend has moved away; and her increasingly confused grandfather comes to live with the family for reasons her moms won't share. The one bright spot is a dog, Dewey, whom Sadie encounters in the woods near her home and who communicates telepathically with her. So when Dewey is slated for euthanasia at the shelter where Sadie's veterinarian mother works, the girl becomes intent on saving Dewey's life, and Gramps hatches a plan to hide the animal. Smith (Something Like Gravity) creates three-dimensional characters and a warm family dynamic, sensitively portraying learning differences and a beloved grandparent with dementia, and exploring difficult feelings without offering easy answers. Sadie's struggles with friendship and being taken seriously ring true, as do her sympathetic voice and heartfelt love of dogs. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Turning 11 has meant nothing but trouble for Sadie. School is awful, her best friend has moved away, her older brother has turned into a brat, and now her grandfather, who is fighting dementia, is coming to live with them. If only something good would happen in her life, she might just make it through this terrible year. For Sadie, that something good wanders into her yard one day and she instantly makes a connection. It's a dog, but not just any dog—Sadie swears they can communicate telepathically. The dog is scared and wants nothing more than a good meal and a warm place to sleep. Sadie knows her moms will never allow her to have a dog, not with Gramp's arrival and the changes that are about to come with taking care of him. If only she could tell someone about her ability to communicate with the dog, whom she names Dewey. With the help of a possible new friend and, surprisingly, Gramps, Sadie decides to rescue Dewey anyway and bring her home. But if she's caught, it could be big trouble for everyone. In this heartening tale, readers will meet families with two moms, single parents, as well as extended families. Each shares the bonds of love in unique ways. Characters also confront learning disabilities, mental health issues, and bullying in ways that are uplifting and positive. Sadie finds release in her art and her highly active imagination as well as her deep love for her grandfather. Even her brat of a brother has a heart. Realistic issues are depicted with honesty and reach satisfying conclusions. VERDICT Charming and touching, this novel will find a place with fans of realistic fiction who enjoy a bit of sentimentality.—Carol Connor



#2332472 Only Girl in Town (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ally Condie

For July Fielding, nothing has been the same since that summer before senior year. Once, she had Alex to be her loyal best friend, the one who always had her back. Now, July is alone. Every single person in her small town of Lithia has disappeared. July's only chance at unraveling the mystery of their disappearance is a series of objects, each a reminder of the people she loved most. And a mysterious message: GET TH3M BACK.

978-0-593-32717-3 Dutton ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 590

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Suddenly faced with being the only living soul left in her small town, teen cross-country runner July is determined to get her loved ones back and figure out the meaning—and person—behind the strange messages she's finding in unlikely places. With only her cat for company in the present, July shares her story in alternating time lines of before and after everyone went missing, leading to a surprise ending that brings out themes of loyalty and doing the right thing. With limited characters for July to interact with, the pace is maintained through the driving question of "What happened?" This question applies both to the mysterious disappearances and to July herself, who repeatedly alludes to events in her many relationships, without specifics, until her story draws to a close. A novel that sometimes dips into verse, *The Only Girl in Town* may appeal to fans of the classic *Z for Zachariah* and Virginia Bergin's *H2O*. High-Demand Backstory: Condie is a frequent name on the New York Times best-seller list, and her many fans will be eager for her latest book.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A teenage girl finds herself alone after everyone else in her town mysteriously disappears, leaving her scrambling to figure out how to find them all. One late summer day, everybody in July Fielding's town disappears. She is left to piece together what happened, following a series of cryptic signs she finds around town urging her to "GET THEM BACK." The narrative moves back and forth between July's present and the events of the summer before, when her relationship with her best friend, cross-country team co-captain Sydney, starts to fracture due to a combination of jealousy over July's new relationship with a cute boy called Sam and sweet up-and-coming freshman Ella's threatening to overtake Syd's status as star of the track team. The team members participate in a ritual in which they jump off a cliff into the rocky waters below at the end of their Friday practice runs. Though Ella is reluctant, Syd pressures her to jump. Short, frenetically paced sections move the story along quickly, and there is much foreshadowing pointing to something terrible that occurred at the end of that summer, which may be the key to July's current predicament, but there is much misdirection too. Ultimately this is a story without enough setup to make the turn the book takes in the end feel fully developed or earned. All characters read white. A high-concept premise that falls short in its execution. (Fiction. 14-18)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly One summer day, rising high school senior July Fielding is walking back to her car from an afternoon at Fall Creek when she has the sudden realization that she's all alone; not just in the woods, but in her town as well. Her family isn't at home, no one is answering her texts, and when she tries to leave town, an invisible barrier prevents her from crossing city limits. As July frantically tries to uncover who or what is leaving her mysterious "GET THEM BACK" messages and determine where everyone went, alternating sections titled "Once" and "Now" chart her life before and after her loved ones' disappearances. But as July delves deeper into the current mystery, memories of previous drama begin to unfurl, blurring the line between past and present. Liminal-feeling therapy session interstitials provide glimpses into July's struggles with her mental health. July's raw and sometimes unreliable narration amps up the suspense in this cleverly rendered speculative read by Condie (The Last Voyage of Poe Blythe), who ruminates on issues of anxiety and depression in a way that feels at once fresh and grounded. Characters read as white. Ages 12: up. Agent: Jodi Reamer, Writers House. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up--From "Matched" trilogy author Condie comes this new novel. The story opens with July Fielding experiencing a nightmarish reality: everyone in town has disappeared. Or have they? She does find her cat, Yolo. Upon visiting her high school, July discovers that someone has written "Get Th3m Back" on the marquee. Readers and July are left with more questions than answers as that phrase appears in other places. As the book continues, July discovers objects referencing locations around town and memories of the summer before her senior year. The plot builds expertly, pulling readers in as they wonder what trauma July experienced and how the story will resolve. Through flashbacks, text messages, and counseling sessions, readers gain tidbits of July's summer. The ending may leave readers wondering what just happened, but the story is a relatable coming-of-age tale and one can forgive this abrupt landing. Plus, (spoiler alert) it has a happy ending. Condie's sparse text could be enjoyed by teens at a variety of reading levels. She also chose to leave the characters as mirrors in terms of ethnicity and physical characteristics. VERDICT Recommended where Condie's other titles circulate well.--Sarah Sieg Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2332440 Lalo Lesperance Never Forgot (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Phillippe Diederich

Lalo Lesperance lives with his older brother and Mexican American mother in a low-income apartment building in Fort Myers. They moved there from a subdivision after the family lost Lalo's Haitian American father. At school, Lalo is known as the boy who can't remember anything and needs special help in all his classes. But when the first COVID lockdown hits, he finds himself in a friendship of convenience with Vivi, a Mexican American kid his age who gets perfect grades and who never gave him a second thought when they were in school.

978-0-593-35428-5 Dutton ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile HL 600

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books The COVID lockdown has plenty of downsides for eleven-year-old Lalo Lesperance, but at least he's free from school, where his mixed Mexican Haitian heritage makes him an outcast and where he especially struggles with the strange gaps in his memory that have plagued him most of his life. Now he spends days with an elderly neighbor, who teaches him Spanish and tells him stories of Mexican magic, and her granddaughter Vivi, Lalo's classmate-turned-friend who joins him in spying on the mysterious occupant of a creepy motor home parked nearby. This new normal is upended again when Lalo finds a magical old radio in the building's storage, which lets him glimpse a past and father he can't remember. As Lalo pieces together his own story, he finds strength to face his fears and heartbreaks, both old and new. The COVID-19 lockdown makes a recognizable backdrop for a unique, refreshing story and character; the old radio, meanwhile, makes an accessible introduction to magical realism. Equal parts honest, naïve, and determined, Lalo is an appealing narrator, and the twin mysteries of the neighbor and Lalo's missing memories make for a compelling page-turner. The resolution is far from happy, but Lalo emerges with resilience thanks to his strong family, supportive friends, and new sense of self. Hand this to empathetic readers ready to revisit the strange years of lockdown with a new friend. ACM

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, middle schooler Lalo Lesperance is doing his best to adapt to virtual school and make social connections in his Florida apartment complex. Lalo struggles with severe short- and long-term memory loss, triggered by childhood trauma. He is also frustrated by others' inability to accept him as both Mexican and Haitian American. Diederich's descriptive writing stimulates all five senses as Lalo learns about Mexican culture from his neighbor Vivi's abuela and finds ways to manifest some of his key missing memories with a little help from a seemingly magical vintage radio and belief in traditional Mexican spiritualism. Lalo's character offers an important portrayal of Afro-Latin identity for contemporary readers. His story provides an example of how discrimination can come from outside and within the Hispanic/Latin community and how traumatizing that can be for a young person trying to form a sense of self. By framing Lalo's memory issues positively as a reason for "accommodations" in school, Diederich elevates and supports the character's unique life journey. Nicholas A. Brown(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An 11-year-old struggles to connect with his past and survive the tumult of his present. From recollections of Papi, his late Haitian father, to what happened yesterday, Lalo Lesperance's memories feel "like secret notes in bottles floating in the ocean." Even when he finds one, it's "usually vague or written in code." Now that Covid has forced everyone online for school, his neighbor Vivi and her grandmother Alita welcome Lalo and his 17-year-old brother, Claudio, over to use the internet for online classes. Lalo, whose mom is Mexican American, loves to escape into Alita's stories about Mexico, especially ones about magic. One day, Vivi and Lalo spy a strange motor home in the parking lot of their apartment building. Vivi believes it belongs to a roba chico, or kidnapper. As they devise ways to catch him, Lalo discovers a mysterious old-fashioned radio in a storage closet. He becomes certain that the radio is helping him find his memories--but he isn't sure if remembering is good or bad. Diederich immerses readers in Lalo's confused emotional landscape: The uncertainties surrounding his identity, friendships, and place in his family push readers to explore these questions, both in terms of Lalo and themselves. The definition of memory and how integral it is to understanding oneself are heavy themes made accessible for younger audiences without sacrificing depth. A slow-burn of emotional exploration. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An 11-year-old endeavors to build a machine to recover his lost memories in this thoughtful novel by Diederich (Diamond Park), set at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Lalo Lesperance has always had trouble remembering things, including details about his deceased father. When lockdowns begin, he's stuck in his Fort Myers apartment complex with his older brother and forced to attend online school with neighbor kid Vivi. He spends his free time tinkering with his brother's broken PlayStation, hoping to turn it into a memory machine and teams up with Vivi to investigate a mysterious motor home parked outside their building that's rumored to kidnap children. His discovery of an old radio that seemingly helps him remember his past might be the answer to his woes; or the beginning of a whole new set of problems. Subplots starring neighbors and challenges within his apartment block provide insightful looks into one community's experience navigating the pandemic. In spare, resonant prose, Diederich dives into the complexities of family, identity, and memory through Lalo, who feels it's impossible to define who he is when he can't remember the events; and people; that shaped him. Lalo is Mexican and Haitian American; the supporting cast is racially diverse. Ages 10: up. (Sept.)



#2332357 Warrior Girl (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Carmen Tafolla

Celina and her family are bilingual and follow both Mexican and American traditions. Celina revels in her Mexican heritage, but once she starts school it feels like the world wants her to erase that part of her identity. Fortunately, she's got an army of family and three fabulous new friends behind her to fight the ignorance. But it's her Gramma who's her biggest inspiration, encouraging Celina to build a shield of joy around herself. (Novel in Verse)

978-0-593-35471-1 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile NP

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist ple have tried to suppress Celina's expression of her Mexican heritage, but her grandmother is one of the few who have taught her to be proud of who she is. It has not been easy dealing with the constant moving as her father tries to find work, and more recently, his deportation has left Celina feeling lost. Celina and her mother decide to stay with her grandmother as they work through their situation. At school, she starts to experience some blossoming friendships. Only, just as Celina begins to find her voice through her writing, the pandemic pauses her progress. However, with the help of her friends, Celina gains the courage to be the warrior she was meant to be by making a difference with her writing. Readers who enjoy novels in verse will be moved by Tafolla's touching story. This is an emotional novel about the journey of finding where you belong, making your voice heard, and the friendships you can forge along the way. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books A mix-up on a birth certificate changes Celina's last name from Guerrero Amaya to Guerrero, and the identity of a guerrera—warrior girl—is who she's been trying to be since first grade, when her teacher angrily insisted she was pronouncing her own name incorrectly. Now at twelve years old, Celi uses poems to connect with friends, to educate her teachers and peers about Mexican contributions to history, and to navigate her feelings about her father's deportation, the COVID quarantine, the murders of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, and the climate crisis. The narrative voice falters in this middle grade outing, where Celi sometimes sounds believably tween, sometimes like a much younger child, and sometimes like an adult, not so much as wise beyond her years as like an adult proxy. The many important, emotionally weighty issues only get surface level engagement, which may be realistic to an overwhelmed child facing all these crises at once but takes away from their impact in the story, and in some places almost diminishes the real-world events. Still, Celi demonstrates invaluable self-care practices in social justice work, inspired by her grandmother, who was involved in Chicano Movement protests; the book emphasizes the power of coming from a place of love and joy when trying to make progressive change and the importance of building celebration of your people to maintain your spirits in the face of pain. In an author's note, Tafolla states her hope to inspire children to start conversations on issues important to them, and Celi—earnest, if a bit didactic—has enough heart and verve to do just that in helping poets to find their voices too. ART

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old girl claims her place in a turbulent world. After years of being silenced at school, Mexican American

Celina is ready for a clean start. It's not easy starting middle school in a new town, and now her dad has been deported yet again. While she, her mother, and Gramma trust her papacito will find a way to return, as he has before, his absence is always painful. Still, Celi makes one friend, then two more, and the four middle schoolers quickly find refuge and strength in each other. The friendships become lifelines over the course of the year as they face ordinary middle school challenges--homework, mean kids--and broader social turmoil with the emerging Covid-19 pandemic, the killings of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, increasing awareness of global warming, and more. Tafolla skillfully weaves these significant recent historic moments and the hopeful stories of leaders like Emma Tenayuca and César Chávez together with the more specific experiences of the four friends as Celina is racially profiled by a teacher and a Covid death hits close to home. The friends, who are Chicano, are distinct enough, but a few are more thinly drawn; protagonist Celi, an emerging poet, is consistently and vividly rendered, though, and her righteous, powerful, and joyful voice carries the day. An exuberant, rousing celebration of youth activism. (author's note, land acknowledgement) (Verse fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Using rhythmic first-person verse, Tafolla (*I'll Always Come Back to You*) presents messages about the importance of family and friends, social justice, and using one's voice to incite change. Celina Teresa Guerrero Amaya, 12, is used to frequently moving house, especially because of her Mexican immigrant father's odd jobs. When her father is deported, she and her mother move to San Antonio to live with Celi's Gramma. Starting at yet another new school is tough, but Gramma teaches Celi about the history of her ancestors and encourages her to draw strength from their stories. The two develop a strong connection that buoys Celi during difficult times ("Talking with Gramma can be/ a splash of sunshine/ in a dark, cold cave"), and Gramma's steadfastness, as well as new friendships at school, help Celi navigate the onset of Covid, the Black Lives Matter movement, and fraught familial dynamics. Via the protagonist's journey to articulate her complex feelings through succinct and polished phrases, Tafolla crafts an astute and evolving heroine. The lyrical verse; structured as Celi's own poetry, which teachers and Gramma embolden her to pursue; eventually culminates in powerful vocalizations of Celi's values. Ages 10: up. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Mexican American Celina Teresa Guerrero Amaya and her family follow traditions from both cultures. However, in school, her teachers only want her to be American and don't care about her Chicana identity; she tries to go by Tere and the teachers tell her she pronounces her name wrong. Thankfully she has a loving and supporting family and finds friends who understand and respect her culture. With inspiration from her grandmother and the support of a teacher trying to do better, Celina and her friends decide to put on a celebration of different cultures. Things take a turn when a global pandemic hits and the world shuts down. Now, on top of her worries about her father who has been deported, Celina must face a challenging pandemic, fear of her grandmother catching the virus, and finding joy despite it all. But she is a Guerrero, a woman warrior; she has a voice and writing talent, and she can still use that to show the world the beauty of all cultures. Written in verse, this is a timely novel that tackles various struggles teens face, including desire to belong, family conflict, and fighting for what you believe in. Tafolla skillfully writes Celina's voice as a young girl, and allows it to mature as she does. The pandemic is one of the main plot points in the book's second half, and readers should be mindful as it can be a triggering topic for some. For those ready for books covering this era, they will get an insightful, timely, and discussion-worthy read. VERDICT This beautifully written contemporary novel is a highly recommended purchase for library collections.—Amanda Borgia



#2285397 Camp Scare (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Delilah S. Dawson

Parker Nelson can't wait for summer camp. She'll have fun and make amazing memories, far away from the bullies who made seventh grade unbearable. But then something terrible happens: The mean girl who made life a living nightmare is in Parker's cabin. Soon all the other girls turn on Parker, too--no one wants to be her friend. Except Jenny.

978-0-593-37326-2 Delacorte Press ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 900

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A group of girls learn hard lessons at summer camp. Seventh grade lover of poetry and model student Parker is used to being an outsider in search of a friend group, but when popular girls led by classmate Cassandra bully and humiliate her, she becomes desperate for new experiences. Hoping for a fresh start at a summer camp away from everyone she knows, Parker decides to put her best foot forward. Instead of new friends, Parker finds an unhappy surprise--she's assigned to share a cabin with Cassandra, who quickly spreads gossip that keeps the other cabin mates from wanting to get to know her. It gets worse: There are creepy rumors about the camp's past, Parker is blamed for thefts, no one believes her when she says something tried to drown her, and other incidents occur that leave her feeling ostracized and afraid. As the other girls continue to shun her, Parker makes one friend among the mostly White main characters--a quiet girl named Jenny staying in another cabin and having similar experiences of alienation. While the problems escalate, the well-meaning but secretive camp director waxes nostalgic about the camp's ideals, but Parker is convinced he's hiding something sinister about its past. Uneven pacing bogs down the plot, but after a long buildup, Dawson offers readers some disturbing imagery and good scares. Some of the twists feel expected, but the book delivers in character growth. Satisfyingly spooky adventure. (Horror. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Dawson (*Mine*) conjures campfire urban legends in a page-turning novel of summer camp cruelty. After an

agonizing cyberbullying experience at school, 12-year-old poet and "teacher's pet" Parker Nelson receives a scholarship to Camp Care, a Georgia summer camp committed to campers' emotional well-being. There, she hopes to "reinvent herself... as a new, improved, unbullyable" Parker. But one of the mean girls from Parker's school also attends, and she spreads rumors that leave Parker isolated from the other campers, save for a bond with loner Jenny McAllister, with whom she exchanges friendship bracelets. The counselors take the bullies' side, but when Parker's cabinmates begin suffering violent accidents, she dredges up secrets from the camp's dark history, wondering if camp legend "Gory Tori" might have taken matters into her own ghostly hands. Dedicating the novel to "every kid who's ever been told... just be yourself and everyone will like you," Dawson intersperses haunted camp tropes with realistic depictions of forcibly cheerful adults naively attempting to reassure bullied youth. Third-person narration follows Parker's internal dialogue, balancing emotional turmoil with ominous, sometimes gory details, and constantly ratcheting up suspense for a fast, immersive ride. Characters cue as white. Ages 10: up. Agent: Stacia Decker, Dunow Carlson & Lerner. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Seventh grader Parker Nelson is heartbroken to discover a mean girl, Cassandra, is a part of her new camping group. Trying to escape the cruel bullying inflicted on her at school, Parker had jumped at the chance for a scholarship to attend Camp Care, where she was assured that absolutely no bullying was allowed. This turns out to be far from the case, as Cassandra immediately turns all the girls in her bunkhouse against Parker. Miserable and lonely, Parker discovers a fellow loner, Jenny. At first she feels a special kinship with Jenny, but as their friendship continues, Parker becomes increasingly alarmed at Jenny's part in the mysterious accidents that keep occurring to her bunkmates. After all, Parker doesn't like that the girls are mean to her, but she doesn't wish for them to be physically hurt. The injuries start to pile up—first with Cassandra's broken arm, then Addison is shot in the arm with an arrow, and Sydney experiences near-death food poisoning. Parker realizes she must put a stop to her friend's malicious behavior. Standing up to Jenny only serves to put Parker in her evil crosshairs. The suspense is satisfyingly engaging throughout the narrative, though the inability of the adults in Parker's life to believe her protests of bullying is frustrating to read. Ethnicity of characters are not overly evident. **VERDICT** An easy-to-digest horror camp romp with a deeper message about the impact of bullying and ostracization.—Julie Shatterly



#2290653 1-2-3 Scream! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by R. U. Ginns

Stop! Unless you want to be scared, do NOT read this book. These tales of terror are so horrible, so alarming, they had to be bound up between these pages forever! You'll discover The Boogerman, an oozing horror that lurks in mirrors. You'll read about Instagrave, a popular new app that tells kids how they are going to die. In Epizeuxis, you'll learn what happens if you speak the name of a-wait. We've said too much already. The things between these covers are too dangerous to ever be let out.

978-0-593-37407-8 Delacorte Press ©2022 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$12.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Tales short and creepy. In the delightfully deranged introduction, author Ginns shares his writing process: "I usually use my index finger. I raise it high above my head and bring it down, with three or four quick taps in a row. Then I stop and I look around. It's important to know if anyone, or anything, is watching." He's especially concerned about librarians and birds. This sets the tone well for the entries to come, each of which involves some unusual twist of the imagination. Like any collection of stories, readers will find different ones appealing. Some use gross-out humor, others focus on interpersonal conflict, and the opening story is a meditation on social media and fate. A particularly clever one follows a student who forges a permission slip in order to sneak on to a field trip full of troublemakers who are doomed to be replaced by well-behaved replicas. There are also plenty of spooky creatures, an evil bobblehead, and an encyclopedia entry about birds and the dangers they pose. Most pages feature lively black-and-white art by Espila that, combined with character names, indicates some racial diversity. A good pick for kids who want something that leans to the funny side of creepy without requiring sustained attention. Strange fun. (Horror. 8-12) **COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**



#2249372 Kind of Spark (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elle McNicoll

I'm autistic. I see things that others do not. I hear sounds that they can ignore. And sometimes I feel things all at once. I think about the witches, with no one to speak for them. Not everyone in our small town understands. But if I keep trying, maybe someone will. I won't let the witches be forgotten. Because there is more to their story. Just like there is more to mine.

978-0-593-37425-2 Crown Children's Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 580

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Addie is eleven, autistic, and struggling in her Scottish school with an unsympathetic teacher and an ex-friend who's joined forces with a bully. Her best support is her older sister, Keedie, who's also autistic, and there's a growing friendship with a new girl, Audrey, but she's still keenly aware of her outsider status. She's therefore intrigued when she discovers her town has a history of witchcraft-based persecution that resulted in the torture and execution of women deemed outsiders, and, seeing herself as someone who would have been targeted, she crusades for the town to memorialize the women it destroyed. McNicoll, herself autistic, writes Addie's narration with power and determination; it's especially strong at revealing the sheer labor required for Addie to negotiate the world ("The real Addie is behind a mask of social rules, regulations, and strange neurotypical customs") and the toll it takes, which is evident in Keedie as well. The witch plot interweaves effectively, and it gives a contemporary immediacy to the history as well as making emotional sense for Addie. Whether they're facing similar neurodivergent challenges or not, readers will appreciate Addie's honesty, and they may follow her lead in reconsidering history. DS COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Protagonist Addie is a girl with autism who is on a mission. Learning about her Scottish village's history of witch trials in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Addie is moved to persuade the civic powers-that-be to create a memorial to the victims of those witch hunts. In parallel with this project Addie deals with her own challenges, from a malevolent teacher to a mean former best friend, and develops a metaphorical bond with historical characters who, like herself, were pilloried for being different. Many readers, on and off the spectrum, will relate to Addie's physical sensitivities, her pleasure in taking a deep dive into a single research subject, and her stress at trying to pass as "normal." As Addie says, "I spend every moment of my life, when I am outside our family home, second-guessing everything that I think and do." The writer (autistic herself) busts some myths about neurodivergency as she presents a flawed, loving, believable family and a convincing, nuanced, and very likable main character with a distinctive voice. Sarah Ellis(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An autistic girl campaigns to memorialize women branded as witches. Eleven-year-old Addie knows what it's like to be different. Her acute hearing makes loud sounds painful. Hugs, eye contact, and certain textures are hard to tolerate, and she can't always understand people's expressions. Her prickly older sister Nina is hard to read. Addie's mean-spirited teacher publicly scorns her work, dismisses her capability, and even joins her classmates' taunts. Only Addie's other older sister, outspoken Keedie, who's also autistic, really understands her fascination with sharks or the fatigue of "masking" her natural behavior to appease neurotypical people. So when Addie learns that her Scottish village once killed nonconforming women accused of witchcraft, her keen empathy compels her to petition for a memorial. But how can she convince a committee that doesn't believe she can think for herself? Though exposition is occasionally heavy-handed and secondary characters somewhat one-dimensional, the author, herself neurodivergent, imbues Addie's unapologetically autistic perspective with compassion and insight. Addie's accounts of constantly second-guessing herself ring painfully true, and her observations are diamond sharp; she scrutinizes people's faces to ensure they're "never confused or offended" but wonders, "Are any of them ever doing the same for me?" The bullying Addie endures will leave readers' stomachs in sympathetic knots, but Addie's nuanced relationships with her sisters and a new friend, Audrey, infuse humor and heart. Most characters default to White. Earnest and perceptive. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In McNicoll's contemporary debut of advocacy and allyship, an autistic 11-year-old seeks to memorialize the women once tried as witches in her Scottish village. School is a mixed bag for Addie: while librarian Mr. Allison supports her interest in sharks, and new girl Audrey represents a promising friendship, teacher Ms. Murphy mocks Addie openly in class, and the tween can "see the stares, hear the whispers and the giggles" among her classmates. At home with her presumed-white family, older sister Keedie, who's also autistic, understands many of Addie's experiences, including the strain of masking in a largely neurotypical world, but faces her own difficulties at university. Keedie's twin Nina, meanwhile, is often irritable and jealous of her sisters' bond. During a school lesson about women who were tried, tortured, and executed for witchcraft, deeply empathic Addie draws parallels between history and her own present-day interactions, and begins to campaign for a memorial, undeterred by the town council's detractors. Though the unvarnished cruelty that Addie experiences can be painful to read, McNicoll, herself neurodivergent, portrays with clarity Addie's neurological reality, interpersonal bonds, and thoughtful reflections. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Middle schooler Addie is autistic, and this year will be one of great change. When the teacher she had hoped for gets sick, she is stuck with Ms. Murphy, a bully who doesn't want Addie in her class just because she is different. When Addie learns that her small Scottish village used to try "suspicious" women and execute them as witches, she feels a deep and concerning connection with these outcasts. She realizes that it is up to her to ensure that this piece of history, and these women, are not forgotten. But will Addie be able to pull strength from her family and herself while facing opposition from school and the city council because of her autism? This deeply honest, at times painful story brings a much-needed look at middle school from the perspective of neurodiverse students. Addie's twin older sisters, one of whom is also autistic, provide strong examples of healthy family relationships, and her new friend Audrey loves Addie for who she is. This debut novel from neurodivergent author McNicoll will bring readers to tears and have them cheering for Addie as she learns how much she has to offer the world. Addie and her family are cued as white. VERDICT A first purchase in middle grade collections; a must-read for students and adults alike.—Emily Beasley, Omaha Public Sch., NE

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2280879 Before Takeoff (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Adi Alsaid</i>	1	\$18.99



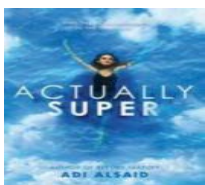
James and Michelle find themselves in the Atlanta airport on a layover. Where James is passive, Michelle is anything but. And she quickly discovers that there is a flashing green button. Which she presses. Which may or may not unwittingly break the rules of the universe—at least as those rules apply to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta.

978-0-593-37576-1 Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 910

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An engaging look at the airportlike maze of the human mind. At the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, two teenagers meet while staring at a blinking green light on the wall that only they seem to notice. Latinx James is heading home to Chicago after visiting relatives in Tampa; Thai and French Michelle, who was raised in Switzerland, Indonesia, and Argentina, is heading to her current home in Quebec. They meet before the blackouts, the snow--falling inside the airport--and other bizarre occurrences that take place after Michelle presses the light, which in fact turns out to be a button. Bored after waiting around with his family, James at first welcomes the distraction, as he wants to get to know Michelle better. Soon, though, it becomes obvious that they're trapped inside an airport that no one can enter or leave. This original narrative feels mature and contemplative, with its omniscient narrator describing ominous events that draw parallels between the strange corridors and passages of both the airport and the human mind. The focus alternates between the protagonists and random adult passersby as the two young people attempt to set things right. Although James and Michelle share a lot of chemistry from the get-go, their romance never detracts from an inward look into human nature that questions what makes us tick. This is a creative literary work with some thriller and romance elements that broaden its appeal. An intelligent narrative featuring introspective characters. (Fiction. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Using an omniscient third-person narrator, Alsaid's (Brief Chronicle of Another Stupid Heartbreak) speculative airport adventure reimagines an ordinary layover in Atlanta. Sparks fly when Latinx-cued James, 16, meets French and Thai Michelle, 18, while passing the time by inspecting a mysterious blinking green button on the terminal wall. Unknown to James, Michelle curiously presses the button and, soon after, a power surge causes flight delays, putting travelers on edge. Waiting for their flights, the teens wander the airport in a pseudo: first date filled with philosophical conversation about imminent adulthood, past regrets, and future plans. Their initially lighthearted reaction to the disturbance ("I hope it lasts all night. Like one big slumber party") turns panicked when a second surge leaves the airport without power. Chaos ensues as people loot stores and form disgruntled mobs, and myriad surreal calamities, such as indoor blizzards and frightening earthquakes, begin surfacing across the terminals. The urgent external situations parallel the pair's internal fears and uncertainties while maneuvering disaster and searching for their families. Alsaid's ominous, high-stakes narrative steadily creeps toward a gripping resolution, balancing suspense, fantasy, drama, and cinematic romance for a multilayered read. Ages 12: up. Agent: Peter Knapp, Park & Fine Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up--This exquisite piece of speculative fiction powerfully highlights the challenges facing young adults by creating a microcosm of the world's problems inside the Atlanta airport. Disasters including the development of extreme indoor "airport microclimates" and the unexplained disappearance of over 300 people lead to a variety of reactions, altogether providing a nuanced portrait of human nature. Strangers James, cued as Latinx, and Michelle, biracial French and Thai, witness and experience the prejudice driving many acts of fear and rage. They move through the chaos while sharing vulnerable conversations, particularly the fears of facing a world that often seems more bad than good. The juxtaposition of their discussions within the rampant senselessness allows numerous themes to flourish, from the power of storytelling to the capacity of humans to find joy. The defining feature of this novel is the narrative voice, which has a snarky omniscience that deftly balances empathy and humor, gifted with an engaging self-awareness. The narrator's insistence that the events are random and largely unexplainable nimbly manages reader expectations for the book's resolution. Glimpses into the lives and minds of basically every person who enters the story provides truly excellent characterization, humanizing individuals who would otherwise be part of a nameless mass. This technique is a perfect example of James's final suggestion to Michelle: the world is scary when you only see the big picture, but if you zoom in to look at individuals, it seems like a better place. VERDICT An honest, evocative, and multilayered examination of humanity, full of both fear and hope. Recommended for first purchase.--Elizabeth Lovsin Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2324104 **Actually Super (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Adi Alsaid

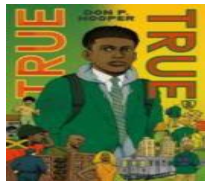
Isabel is having an existential crisis. She's three years into high school, and everything she's learned has only shaken her faith in humanity. Late one night, she finds herself drawn to a niche corner of the internet—a forum whose members believe firmly in one thing: that there are indeed people out in the world quietly performing impossible acts of heroism. You might even call them supers. So, the day she turns 18, she sets off on a journey that will take her from Japan to Australia, and from Argentina to Mexico, with many stops along the way. She longs to prove one—just one—super exists to restore her hope for the future.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

the mystery of the magician's plan--before it's too late.
978-0-593-37866-3 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 810

Reviews by: Booklist Orphaned Eva speaks to the dead during her nightly shows—or that’s what her caretaker would have their audiences believe. She doesn't believe real magic exists, until a performance when she hears a voice whisper that she must come see the fair. A fortunate run-in with an unusual boy, Henry, on a Chicago-bound train suggests that the fair may be the 1893 World’s Fair. Eager to explore the remarkable event, Eva and Henry meet a mysterious Mr. Magister, keeper of the enchanted Pavilion of Magic. Though initially the two are taken in by the endless wonders, it becomes increasingly clear that real magic may require more than they can give, and the seemingly sweet Mr. Magister may have something sinister up his sleeve. It’s a terrific premise with a strong start, and the incredible fair springs to life via gloriously evocative descriptions. The ambitious story may become tricky to follow, however, thanks to repetitive incidents of magically muddled memories. Still, those who enjoy magic mixed in with their history will be rewarded with a remarkable visit to this World’s Fair.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After Mrs. Blodgett adopts Eva Root from Miss Augusta Grandage's Home for Unwanted and Destitute Girls, the seven-year-old is quickly schooled in the ways of running seances, a craft to which she is well suited. Nearly seven years later, a seance in Ohio yields more than the usual when a voice in Eva's head tells her, "Come see the Fair!" Learning that Mrs. Blodgett plans to abandon her that night, Eva preemptively steals a wad of the cash she's helped to earn and boards a train to Chicago, en route befriendng a talented artist named Henry Poole. Henry is traveling to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, summoned there by his own drawings, which have been mysteriously taking the form of Chicago Fair panoramas; and, strangely, of Eva, whom he's never met. There, a hidden, mysterious Pavilion of Magic, and enigmatic overseer Mr. Magister, quickly lure Eva, threatening to trap her and her abilities in a web of dark magic. Interweaving Chicago's fiery history with a sinister world's fair setting and a memorable heroine, Savit (The Way Back) sketches a complex, high-stakes take on magic's underpinnings and seductive powers. Characters read as white. Ages 10: up. Agent: Catherine Drayton, Inkwell Management. (Apr.)



#2328924 True True (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Don P. Hooper

This is not how seventeen-year-old Gil imagined beginning his senior year-on the subway dressed in a tie and khakis headed towards Manhattan instead of his old public school in Brooklyn. Then after a racist run-in with the school's golden boy on the first day ends in a fight that leaves only Gil suspended, Gil understands the truth about his new school-Augustin may pay lip service to diversity, but that isn't the same as truly accepting him and the other Black students as equal. If the school isn't going to carve out a space for him, he will carve it out for himself.

978-0-593-46210-2 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 660


Quantity **Unit Price**
1 \$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 When Gil is accepted into Manhattan's Augustin Prep, his family and community are thrilled at the opportunity, though Gil has reservations about leaving behind his comfortable Jamaican corner of Brooklyn. His fears prove to be correct when a popular, well-connected, white football player instigates a fight with him, resulting in a one-week suspension for Gil--more, he suspects, for his skin color than anything he actually did. During that time, Gil finds *The Art of War*, by famous Chinese general Sun Tzu, and declares war on the school's racist leadership. But he's not prepared for the extent to which his crusade may hurt those he loves the most. Hooper unflinchingly shows Gil's torment at the hands of hostile peers and ignorant school officials. However, the author is similarly unafraid to highlight how Gil's single-minded quest for justice negatively affects his family and friends, showing Gill to be tough and smart but also reckless. Featuring a rich and layered rendering of New York City few other YA books can match, this debut novel is ideal reading for politically minded young readers. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A senior transfer student quickly learns that his prestigious, predominately white private school is a war zone for Black kids like him. To cope with all that’s going on, proud Brooklynite, second-generation Jamaican American, and bookish robotics nerd Gil Powell is advised to read Sun Tzu after the long, difficult trip to Augustin Prep on the Upper West Side takes an even more daunting turn. When a racist classmate and his goons bait Gil into deploying his martial arts training to defend himself, he’s suspended and placed on probation. The interpersonal bigotry reveals systemic patterns affecting students of color at Augustin, but even as this takes its toll, Gil relies on *The Art of War* to guide him through an abundance of stressors: School commitments take him away from family and community, his father’s in Jamaica struggling with his immigration documents, and his grandmother’s dementia is worsening. Even as romance enters his life, Gil is at war on so many politically justified but all-encompassing fronts that he struggles to find time for himself and hurts those he cares about. At times, the presentation of the conflict is a bit on the nose, and ultimately, as Gil takes it upon himself to rage against the machines of inequity, the rage, stress, and anxiety pose threats that Gil, his community, and empathetic readers may all need help navigating. An intense, insightful take on the art of surviving the war on your existence. (Fiction. 12-17)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Seventeen-year-old Gil, who is of Jamaican descent, is anxious about starting at a new school in Manhattan, away from his predominantly Caribbean Brooklyn neighborhood. But with a partial scholarship and Augustin Prep's top-notch robotics program on offer, Gil can't pass up the opportunity. Gil is also dealing with worries surrounding his grandmother's worsening dementia and his father's struggles with emigrating from Jamaica to the U.S. While trying to navigate the majority-white school's social politics, Gil meets Tammy, president of the Black Culture Club and editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. As favoritism and racism run rampant at Augustin, Gil; accompanied by Tammy and a group of BIPOC classmates; resolves to take a stand. In his efforts to better his new school, however, he neglects his friends and family. In this compassionate debut, a love letter to Brooklyn and Caribbean culture, Hooper paints an organic portrait of a Black teenager who feels caught between two different worlds. Gil's determination to lift up his peers often results in him disregarding his own needs and wants; through his earnest first-person POV and natural-feeling prose, Hooper presents valuable lessons on the healing power of community, forgiveness, and sharing one's truth. Ages 12: up. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6-9--A Black teen from Brooklyn gets into a predominantly white prep school in Manhattan and is thrust into a world of microaggressions and outright racism. But before one begins to think this is a tale as (unfortunately) old as time, readers are introduced to Gil--Hooper's martial-arts practicing, Jamaican flag-waving, poetry and robotics team-loving protagonist who quickly assures readers that this story is anything but stale. When Gil is given a copy of *The Art of War* at his dojo, the book really picks up as he uses Sun Tzu's time-honored strategies to gather a following and take on the racist underpinnings of his new school. Infused with the modern and quick language one expects from a contemporary YA novel, mixed with the energy of New York City seen through the eyes of Jamaican immigrants, Dreamers, and first-generation kids, the author takes readers on a journey as Gil figures out how a place at the school of his dreams mixes (or doesn't) with the only life he has ever known in Brooklyn. VERDICT A timely YA novel that takes on heavy themes of race and immigration with freshness, hope, and a dash of Jamaican patois.--Whitney Bates-Gomez Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2285481 12 To 22: POV You Wake up in the Future! (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jen Calonita</i> Turning 12 1/2 shouldn't be the most exciting birthday in the world. It's a half birthday after all. But Harper is thrilled because she is getting the biggest gift of all: her parent's approval to finally get social media accounts. Except when she goes to post her first photo, there is a filter she has never heard of before. One that shows you what you will look like when you are older. Curious, Harper clicks on it...but ends up flash forwarding in time to when she is 22. 978-0-593-43336-2 Delacorte Press ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 256 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 660</p>	1	\$16.99

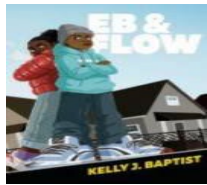
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews On her half birthday, 12-year-old Harper's ready to grow up, but maybe it's better not to rush things. Harper wants to launch a dog-walking business with BFF Ava and start posting on social media. Although her parents won't agree to Harper's business plan, they let her start posting. Harper happily uploads a makeup tutorial featuring Taylor Swift's "22"--and it's a TikTok hit. She and Ava are invited to queen bee Celia's birthday party. Ava is skeptical, but Harper, initially thrilled, is crushed when she learns from members of Celia's clique that she was only included because her mom did Celia's mom a favor. Despite her burgeoning online popularity and Celia's envy of her success, Harper feels humiliated about the party and wishes she were already 22, just like in Taylor's song. With the help of a photo filter, her wish comes true: She jumps ahead a decade and is now the successful marketing director for her social media influencer idol's cosmetics company. But her relationships are a mess, she's in a business partnership with manipulative Celia, and she's earned the nickname Hellish Harper. Harper wants to fix things and asks herself, WWTD: What would Taylor do? Can she go back in time for a redo? While the themes in this tween drama are familiar, Harper's giddy narration bounces along, admirably expressing her hope and determination. Most main characters read White; Ava is Mexican American. Irresistible fun. (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2380489 With Just One Wing (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Brenda Woods</i> Everyone expects Coop to be musical like his beloved parents, but he's not. That's one of the few things he finds awkward about being adopted-well, that and the fact that he sometimes wonders why his birth mother didn't love him enough to keep him. This summer, he's stuck at home with a broken arm after falling out of a tree trying to get a closer peek at a mockingbird nest. 978-0-593-46153-2 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 As an infant, Coop was left in a designated "Safe Haven" at the hospital and adopted the following day by his parents, Willow and Thelonious Garnette. Occasionally he fields awkward questions about inheriting their musical talents, and sometimes he wonders why his mother abandoned him. While recovering from a serious accident, 11-year-old Coop spends his summer watching birds in his grandparents' yard. Drawn to a young mockingbird that was born with one wing and is unable to fly, he names it Hop, nurtures it, and becomes very protective of it. When he makes a painful decision to take Hop to a bird sanctuary, he likens his emotions to his birth mother's when leaving him at the hospital. Woods, whose *The Red Rose Box* (2002) was a Coretta Scott King Honor Book, writes Coop's first-person narrative with simplicity and directness, whether detailing the observations of an increasingly avid bird-watcher or his reflections as he balances his personal longing to keeping Hop with his realization that Hop will be happier elsewhere. A warm, accessible family story with credible conflicts and satisfying resolutions. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Coop is looking forward to a summer full of fun, but when he tumbles from a tree as he tries to check in on nesting birds in his grandparent's backyard, he's stuck in a cast and healing from a concussion, hoping to soon go back to his favorite activities. Meanwhile, one of the birds from the nest is born with only one wing, and Coop and his grandparents' neighbor, Zandi, decide to adopt the bird, which they lovingly name Hop because he hops instead of flies. Coop knows all about being adopted because his parents adopted him, yet as Coop and Zandi take care of little Hop, Coop comes to understand more about adoption as he deals with the possibility of giving Hop up so the bird can have a better life. The story offers an opportunity for readers to better understand adoption along with Coop and to expand notions of what it means to be a family. Coop learns how to share the responsibilities of caring for Hop with Zandi, the importance of having trusting adults in his life, and makes a new friend who can introduce him to other kids his age interested in bird watching. The chapters are short and include various adults teaching Coop and Zandi new words that readers can add to their own vocabularies, making it an accessible read for struggling readers. While everything doesn't work out exactly how Coop hopes, the story ends with him believing he's done the right things for both himself and his bird friend. Includes a note from the author. JMM COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly During a "summer of curveballs," an adopted boy draws parallels between his own life and that of the injured, abandoned bird he rescues in this emotionally grounded tale of family, love, and perseverance by Woods (*When Winter Robeson Came*). Twelve-year-old Coop is ready to spend summer break playing video games at G-Pop and Nana's house and scoring three-pointers for his youth league basketball team. But G-Pop's newfound enthusiasm for bird-watching gets Coop and his friend Zandi hooked on the hobby. Things take a literal dive when Coop suffers a concussion and broken arm after falling out of a tree while investigating mockingbird eggs in a nest. After discovering that one of the nestlings has only one wing, Coop and Zandi rescue it and educate themselves about its care and behavior. They also learn that they can't legally keep the chick, leading Coop to realizations of his own. Woods presents Coop's ponderings about his birth mother, and how he fits into his adoptive family, with tenderness and sincerity in this smoothly plotted story that captures the fine-tuned rhythms of Coop's busy, engaged, and musical family. Characters read as racially diverse. Ages 10: up. (May)



#2317455 Eb and Flow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelly J. Baptist

Ebony and De'Kari (aka Flow) do not get along. How could they when their cafeteria scuffle ended with De'Kari's ruined shoes, Ebony on the ground, and both of them with ten days of at-home suspension? Now Eb and Flow have two weeks to think about and explain their behavior--to their families, to each other, and ultimately to themselves. (Novel in verse)

978-0-593-42913-6 Crown Children's Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile NP

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Book Page Eb didn't mean to mess up Flow's brand-new shoes, and Flow would never hit a girl, but in Kelly J. Baptist's *Eb & Flow*, an accident leads to angry words, then a fistfight and then a 10-day suspension from school for seventh graders Ebony (Eb) and De'Kari (Flow). As they stare down two weeks at home, where they'll be surrounded by parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, chores, homework and a whole lot of time to think, Eb and Flow must find a way to explain to their families and friends--and to themselves--what really happened.

Reviews by: Booklist Two seventh-graders throw punches over a stepped-on pair of shoes and earn a 10-day suspension in this novel in verse that follows both Ebony and Flow over the course of the suspension. While the two find themselves at odds, through their dual points of view, readers see they are both dealing with similar issues: single-parent homes, military fathers, older siblings with their own baggage, and a desire to change their own destinies to avoid more trouble. Baptist's verse flows easily and nicely captures the voices of Eb and Flow, and while the mundanity of 10 days out of school comes and goes, there's an underlying current of possible violence that keeps the reader on their toes. Though the pace occasionally drags, it picks back up when new twists unfold. Baptist, a teacher herself, knows how to capture the interest of students, and following two kids out of school for violence allows the chance to look at how our environments shape the choices we make. Hand to fans of Jason Reynolds

and Jacqueline Woodson.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Ebony (Eb) and De'Kari (Flow), both seventh graders, are suspended from school after a fight in the cafeteria that neither thinks is their fault. On the surface, this looks like a case of two unruly adolescents acting out. Flow is hurt and angry that Eb ruined the shoes his deployed father gave him; Eb says, "It was all just an accident! / Nobody was trying to mess up / his Stupid Ugly Shoes." Over the course of their two-week suspensions, both narrators have the opportunity to reflect and to rethink their actions. Are they really "bad kids," or are they just kids dealing with bad situations? This engaging verse novel reveals the complexities of their home lives, which, despite the kids' enmity, have similarities and are intertwined in surprising ways. Their alternating narratives employ authentic language and tone that give readers the opportunity to empathize with them as their stories unfold. Baptist (*The Swag Is in the Socks*, rev. 11/21) explores the effects of parental absence, inequitable school discipline, and social issues such as gang violence. This story will resonate with readers struggling to express their emotional lives in ways that society deems appropriate. Monique Harris (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Suspended from school, seventh graders Eb and Flow find peace even as life doesn't make it easy for them. Ebony's on her eighth suspension from Brookside Junior High, and 10 days at home in her strict grandmother's crowded house isn't exactly where she wants to be, but with both parents all but out of the picture, it's the only option. De'Kari goes by Flow, a nickname from his rapper father, but he wants to forge his own path. Yet hitting Eb over her dirtying his new sneakers makes him reflect during his 10 restless days at home on the type of person he wants to be--and on memories of his dad hitting his mom. In parallel first-person verse narration, the two Black tweens reveal that they have a lot in common, including struggling with fathers away in the military. Throughout their suspensions, they unknowingly stay so close to each other that they peacefully pass one another by during a snowstorm. Breadcrumbs--sometimes heartbreaking, always poetic--scattered throughout the story gradually offer readers a path toward what really happened in the now-viral fight between the two, and as tensions escalate and extended families get involved along Brookside crew lines, the future is especially murky. A shared nightmare of the worst-case scenario puts a lot into perspective for Eb and Flow, returning optimism to the negotiating table and potentially pointing toward reconciliation. A moving and layered story of reflection and connection. (Verse novel. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Black seventh graders Ebony "Eb" Wilson and De'Kari "Flow" Flood contemplate the conflict that sees them both suspended from school. Following a heated exchange resulting in Eb sullying the sneakers that Flow's father gave him for Christmas, and Flow hitting Eb, the tweens face a 10-day stint at home, and neither of their families is happy. Eb, who lives at her grandmother's bustling, full house, spends her eighth suspension doing as her Granny says and contemplating her perception of herself as a "bad" kid. Flow spends his time taking care of chores, doing boot camp: style workouts with his uncle Reggie, and considering his recent actions alongside a memory of his dad hitting his mom. While the tweens evaluate their families, friendships, and futures, their fight; which has gone viral online; grows into a dispute that threatens to involve their extended community. Personal-feeling lines slowly reveal the duo's similarities and the truth behind the fight as Baptist (*The Swag Is in the Socks*) expertly taps into the minds of two tweens navigating accountability. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Hannah Mann, Writers House. (Mar.)



#2349368 Ready, Set, Dough! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelly J. Baptist

Spunky sixth-grader Zoe Sparks has discovered a unique way to get the laptop of her dreams--to win it! If Zoe can sell more tubs of cookie dough than anyone in her school, the laptop is hers. It's the first step to becoming a prize-winning journalist! But her win-at-all-costs attitude is starting to drive a wedge between Zoe, her best friend Felix, and her family. Zoe may be a top cookie-dough seller in her class, but is winning the prize really worth it?

978-0-593-42917-4 Crown Children's Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Sixth-grader Zoe Sparks is on a mission to sell more cookie dough than anyone else at her school and win the coveted Horizon WordPro GT, the laptop of her dreams. Zoe is an aspiring journalist, but her family can't afford a new computer. With the help of her best friend, Felix, Zoe sets out to sell enough tubs of dough to win the contest and outsell her classmate, Amaya, whose family already has enough money to buy her a new computer. Zoe becomes consumed with reaching her goal, and it comes at a cost. She must take on the responsibility of managing all the orders and money, which she fumbles, and deal with the strain that her tunnel vision puts on her family and friends. It's enough to make anyone hate cookie dough. Partially inspired by Baptist's own experiences with school fundraisers, Zoe's story has some rousing moments--like when her community rallies to help her sales--and touches on the necessity of school fundraisers in the first place. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Sixth grader Zoe dreams of becoming a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, but her family's unreliable old computer is cramping her style. She has her sights set on the Horizon WordPro GT laptop, and since her parents won't buy one for her, she takes matters into her own hands. A school fundraiser offers Zoe the perfect opportunity: top prize for selling the most tubs of cookie dough is, in fact,

the Horizon WordPro GT. Determined to walk away with the computer and defeat her nemesis, Zoe is laser-focused on winning and will do whatever it takes to come out on top -- even if it tests her relationship with her best friend. Zoe's experiences are relatable; her passion for both her short- and long-term goals is believably conveyed. Baptist uses humor to explore themes of navigating family, school, and community; this story will resonate with anyone who has dreamed of winning big. Monique Harris(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An aspiring journalist raises funds for a new computer. The family computer keeps crashing while Zoe attempts to finish writing a feature for the school paper, but her parents are indifferent. Money is tight, and buying a new computer is the last thing on their minds. What's an enterprising young writer to do? Then she sees it, the solution to all her problems: a cookie dough-selling contest at her school. The winner gets a brand-new Horizon WordPro GT laptop. What starts out as an earnest quest to outsell her rival turns into a desperate race to sell, sell, sell. When Zoe attempts to reach out to relatives, including one who turns out to be dead, Mom steps in to slow her down. But the owner of the flower shop where Mom works allows Zoe to sell cookie dough there in exchange for working after school during their Valentine's Day rush. Zoe finds herself on a roller-coaster ride of trials and tribulations. Baptist does a great job of building suspense. Though the first half of the book feels a bit slower, once the momentum picks up, readers will be hooked. This tale of entrepreneurialism run amok isn't new, but it is fun. Readers will root for Zoe while relating to the exasperation of those around her. Zoe and her family are cued Black. A funny, heartfelt romp, with a charming protagonist at its heart. (Fiction. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Kentwood Academy sixth grader Zoe, an aspiring journalist, dreams of owning a Horizon WordPro GT laptop. Her parents aren't in a position to buy her an expensive device, however, so she splits her time between the computers at the library and her older brother's friend's house to crank out her column for the school's paper. When Kentwood's Spring fundraiser rolls around; during which students sell cookie dough to help fund their extracurriculars and win prizes; Zoe realizes that one of the fundraising rewards is a WordPro. She persuades her best friend Felix to help her come up with ideas to win the competition, but selling cookie dough isn't easy; especially when the competition, privileged classmate Amaya, has access to her affluent family's connections to drive sales. Zoe becomes laser-focused on achieving her goals, and uses any opportunity to sell cookie dough, even if it means missing family and friends' important milestones or putting herself in potentially dangerous situations. Baptist explores themes of class and wealth disparity through Zoe's stubbornly determined first-person POV, and enriches the narrative with distinct and unforgettably rendered characters. Protagonists are racially diverse. Ages 8: 10. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—The premise of Baptist's latest will be familiar to all middle grade readers. Zoe, a highly motivated Black girl in sixth grade, has set her sights on selling the most cookie dough in her all-school fundraiser. As an aspiring journalist with computer problems, she wants to claim the campus top-seller prize, a laptop computer, and has plenty of competition to keep her busy. Zoe must learn to keep her fiercely competitive personality in check and remember that people and relationships are more important than winning a contest, even though she sees it as beneficial to her family in the long run. Middle grade readers will enjoy Zoe's quick comebacks and witty banter with her best friend, Felix, and her older brother, Mark. Baptist crafts a spunky, focused female character who has tons of drive, great goals, and funny insight. The book ends as expected and exemplifies the mindset that goals are always achievable if one works hard—which may not be completely realistic but makes for a fun read. This title will appeal to readers who enjoy books with confident, empowered female protagonists like Kelly Yang's *Front Desk* and Janae Marks's *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*, and also to reluctant readers who enjoy a succinct, tight story. VERDICT A fun, relatable realistic fiction title recommended for all middle grade readers and collections.—Kim Gardner

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2380451 And Then, Boom! (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lisa Fipps</i> Joe Oak is used to living on unsteady ground. His mom can't be depended on as she never stays around long once she gets "the itch," and now he and his beloved grandmother find themselves without a home. Fortunately, Joe has an outlet in his journals and drawings and takes comfort from the lessons of comic books—superheroes have a lot of "and then, boom" moments, where everything threatens to go bust but somehow they land on their feet. And that seems to happen a lot to Joe too, as in this crisis his friend Nick helps them find a home in his trailer park. But things fall apart again when Joe is suddenly left to fend for himself. (Novel in verse) 978-0-593-40632-8 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* Joe Oak is a sixth-grader with a love for superheroes and their "and then, boom" moments, when everything terrible can change in an instant. He also has a mess of a mom who takes off whenever she gets "The Itch," abandoning him for days, weeks, or months at a time. Luckily, Joe has an adoring grandmother, but another mom-related disaster leaves the Oaks penniless, and Joe and Grandmum lose their home. After a spell secretly living in their car, they gratefully find shelter in a local trailer park, but another calamity sees Joe left alone to fend for himself. Terrified of the foster system, a desperate Joe works to keep himself alive, his sanity intact, and his secret safe. But after a true "and then, boom" moment of his own, his life will change in a way he never imagined. As in her *Starfish* (2021), Fipps focuses on

another young person on the fringe of their peer group, and the novel-in-verse narrative works beautifully here, invoking urgency and intimacy. Vivid descriptions of housing and food scarcity are intense and unforgettable, sure to spark empathy from any young reader. Though the story tackles heavy subjects, Joe is a wonderful companion, and there are also deep, dear relationships and an undercurrent of kindness that keeps hope afloat throughout. An exceptionally compassionate examination of existence on the edge. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Abandoned by his mother, sixth-grader Joseph is living with his Grandmum in their car, "poorer than poor," until generous strangers and friends give them a leg up, and they move into a mobile home. Though they too often go without, they have each other, until Grandmum gets sick and suddenly dies. Joseph tries to hide the fact that he's living alone with no access to food or money, and the plan sort of works until a tornado touches down in his neighborhood, launching him into the air "like Superman." His resulting injuries lead to a stay in the hospital, where he admits that he needs help, and, once in foster care, he finally finds a safe place to be a kid. This verse novel's conversational tone, linear timeline, and dialogue-heavy writing will ease readers nervous about poetry, and the first-person narration shows Joseph's intelligence and joyful creativity. What Joseph goes through is horrible (scenes where he forces himself to eat dog food to stay alive or gets trapped under rotting garbage while dumpster diving are particularly visceral), but not completely without hope. Joseph is surrounded by a wonderful secondary cast, from his teacher who attempts to support kids living in poverty by changing unfair school systems to a neighbor who models generosity and healthy community building. While the didacticism is sometimes clunky, Fipps' indictment of how society treats and ignores people who need help ("It's amazing / how long you can live / without anyone realizing / how you live") paves the way for compassionate discussion about how cyclical poverty affects kids. CBR COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews How do you cope with the unexpected moments that change everything in your world? Until what he calls "the Mess with Mom," sixth grader Joseph Oak and his widowed English grandmother were doing okay. Between the house Grandmum owned, the money she made cleaning houses and offices, their food stamp benefits, and Joe's free school meals, they were getting by. But about a year ago, when Joe's mostly absent mother got arrested, Grandmum put the house up for bail money. (Joe knows nothing about his dad.) Then Mom fled, and "BOOM!"--they were living in their car: "I felt like we were goldfish in a fishbowl." Grandmum and Joe find an old mobile home to rent, but then, "BOOM!"--Grandmum dies, and Joe's left on his own. Fortunately, he has two best friends who always have his back: Nick, whose mother struggles with depression and who's been in foster care, and Francophile Hakeem, who pays for Joe's convenience store treats. The verse format, combined with Joe's comic book and superhero metaphors, works exceptionally well at conveying honest emotion while maintaining a sense of humor and hope. Fipps doesn't sugarcoat poverty, nor does she romanticize it or treat it as a moral failing; instead, she provides critical representation to the many schoolchildren who are living in poverty. Joe's courage and individuality shine on every page. Most main characters read white; Hakeem is cued African American. A big, bold, engaging, and important story. (Verse novel. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Fipps (Starfish) depicts situations of abuse, financial precarity, houselessness, and hope through easy-to-read verse in this elucidating work. Eleven-year-old Joseph Oak loves superhero comics and his British-born Grandmum, whose "arms are like Captain America's shield,/ protecting me,/ defending me." In contrast, he views his mother as Thanos, "destroyer of worlds"; when she gets "The Itch" and leaves, consequences of her legal troubles result in Joe and Grandmum living in their car. Joe's pragmatic voice explains, "I think I know a lot of things/ kids shouldn't/ have/ to know" about how much his grandmother makes cleaning buildings and what their U.S. government: provided benefits cover (and don't). Things look up when they find an affordable mobile home, but then Grandmum starts feeling sick. Writing from personal experience, as discussed in a foreword, Fipps employs resonant verse to portray Joe's bleak reality as well as the bright spots he experiences due to the kindness of his best friends, who help him get food, and his teacher, who advocates for change in the school's free meal system and opens a food and clothing pantry for students in need. Joe is depicted as white on the cover; other characters cue as racially diverse. Ages 10: up. Agent: Liza Fleissig, Liza Royce Agency. (May)



#2308947 Infinite Questions of Dottie Bing (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Molly B. Burnham

Ten-year-old Dottie Bing is a problem-solver and question-asker who is never more gleeful than when she's encountering a new dilemma-- whether it's her own, or someone else's. But when her Grandpa Walter comes to stay (and stay, and stay!) he brings the biggest question that Dottie has ever encountered: How do you heal a broken heart? You see, Grandpa Walter is grieving the loss of his beloved wife, Dottie's Grandma Ima. Even though she knows every solution starts with a question, for the first time in her life, Dottie isn't sure what to ask.

978-0-593-40666-3 Dial Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 600

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Ten-year-old Dottie's treehouse-construction plans are interrupted when Grandpa Walter shows up at the family's

front door, a Chock full o'Nuts coffee can in tow. Mourning the recent loss of Dottie's grandma, Grandpa Walter now consoles himself by talking to her via the Chock full o'Nuts can. Soon both Grandpa and the can have taken up long-term residence in Dottie's room (and changed the wall color). Dottie endures this disruption bravely, trying to emulate her beloved grandmother, but the situation causes what already feels like a menagerie of animals inside her to grow (an alligator soon joined by a porcupine, an octopus, and a kangaroo). Dottie's friend Sam, with his extensive vocabulary, and their antagonist-turned-friend Miles are going through personal struggles too: Sam's mom is having a new baby, and Miles's parents are getting divorced. By joining forces, they each find their way by questioning everything, trying to create space for themselves (primarily through the ambitious treehouse project), and helping one another along -- sometimes effectively and sometimes slightly less so. Dottie's realistic inner emotional journey contrasts well with her more whimsical day-to-day antics. Though centered in processing grief and change, the short, question-titled chapters filled with humor, quirkiness, and spot illustrations create a warm and buoyant story of family and friendship. (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Ten-year-old Dottie's treehouse-construction plans are interrupted when Grandpa Walter shows up at the family's front door, a Chock full o'Nuts coffee can in tow. Mourning the recent loss of Dottie's grandma, Grandpa Walter now consoles himself by talking to her via the Chock full o'Nuts can. Soon both Grandpa and the can have taken up long-term residence in Dottie's room (and changed the wall color). Dottie endures this disruption bravely, trying to emulate her beloved grandmother, but the situation causes what already feels like a menagerie of animals inside her to grow (an alligator soon joined by a porcupine, an octopus, and a kangaroo). Dottie's friend Sam, with his extensive vocabulary, and their antagonist-turned-friend Miles are going through personal struggles too: Sam's mom is having a new baby, and Miles's parents are getting divorced. By joining forces, they each find their way by questioning everything, trying to create space for themselves (primarily through the ambitious treehouse project), and helping one another along -- sometimes effectively and sometimes slightly less so. Dottie's realistic inner emotional journey contrasts well with her more whimsical day-to-day antics. Though centered in processing grief and change, the short, question-titled chapters filled with humor, quirkiness, and spot illustrations create a warm and buoyant story of family and friendship. Julie Roach(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

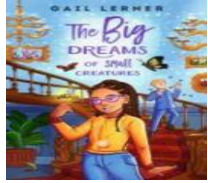
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A child deals with loss. When 10-year-old Dottie Bing's Grandpa Walter shows up at her house, he is carrying a Chock full o' Nuts coffee can and his suitcase. He is there to visit after the death of Dottie's grandma Ima. Dottie soon realizes Grandpa Walter goes everywhere with the coffee can, which is filled with Ima's ashes. He brings it to the kitchen, where he pours two cups of coffee; he reads out loud to it; and he plays cards with it. Dottie is puzzled, but she is dealing with her grief in her own way--building a treehouse, because Ima always wanted one. Her best friend, Sam, is excited to help in this mission--a word Dottie knows Sam will like, since he loves using complex vocabulary, introduced throughout (which readers will delight in learning and using). Tucked into this brilliant mix of a plot is Miles, an unfriendly boy who is always making fun of Sam and Dottie, and Dottie's younger sister, Jazzy, a force of nature in a 4-year-old body. As Dottie and Sam build the treehouse, Dottie focuses on all the animals in her stomach--an effective, original metaphor for her churned-up feelings of grief and change. Embellished with black-and-white illustrations, this surprisingly humorous story has narrative details that fold seamlessly into the overall plot while cleverly enriching it. Most characters read as White in the artwork; Sam is trans. Profound in its own sparkling, humorous way. (Fiction. 8-10) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ten-year-old Dottie Bing processes grief surrounding her grandmother Ima's death in this earnest novel by Burnham (the Teddy Mars series). Following Ima's passing, Dottie's mission of building a tree house to honor her ("She told me how she was sure that if there was a tree house to play in, she would have been the happiest kid in the world," Dottie says) is interrupted by her grandfather Walter's sudden decision to stay with Dottie and her parents. Dottie feels that Walter's grief is something she needs to fix, believing that if she can make him happy, "everything will be perfect." She endeavors to figure out a new plan with her trans friend Sam, who's working through complicated feelings regarding his mother's pregnancy, and cantankerous neighbor Miles, who's navigating uncertainty amid his parents' divorce. Tender b&w illustrations by Liem artfully depict the youths' adventures. As Dottie learns more about her grandfather and works through her own feelings of loss; which manifest as metaphorical "animals" churning in her stomach; she maintains a curious, constantly questioning attitude. Through Dottie's evolving, conciliatory relationship with grief-stricken Walter, Burnham conjures a warm and compassionate tale about myriad paths toward healing. Characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Connection randmother terribly and isn't thrilled when Grandpa Walter shows up with Ima's ashes in a Chock Full O'Nuts can. Grandpa carries the can with him everywhere, talks to it, plays cards with it, even pours it a cup of coffee. Just seeing the can reminds Dottie of her playful, talkative, wise grandmother and makes her feel like wild animals are running around inside of her. Grandpa is a self-contained stranger compared to Ima. Dottie thinks she will feel happier if she and her best friend Sam build a "majestic" tree house in the tree outside Dottie's bedroom window. The construction of the tree house lures in classmate Miles, who has been a thorn in Dottie's side in the past but who turns out to be a surprisingly empathetic and clever building partner. When even the tree house isn't purging the wild animals from Dottie's insides, the boys help her brainstorm ways to make Grandpa Walter happy again so that he'll go back to his own house. The only thing for it, they decide, is for Dottie to hide the can of Ima's ashes. Of course, this does not go well and only adds to Dottie's anxiety until a climactic scene at school leads to a revelatory conversation with her grandfather. Brief chapters, zippy dialogue, and gentle humor move this story right along. Dottie is a well-intentioned, spunky girl, who, with the help of loyal friends, works out her grief in a satisfying way. Jan Aldrich Solow, Elementary School Librarian, Retired, Kingston, New York

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Burnham has crafted a delightful story about grief and the joy of friendship featuring 10-year-old Dottie Bing. Recently widowed Grandpa Walter comes to stay with Dottie, her parents, her four-year-old sister, Jazzy, and MacFurry, their spunky cat. While Dottie mourns the loss of Grandmother Ima, her neighborhood friends are dealing with their own challenges. Miles's parents are getting

divorced, and Sam's mom is having a baby. Their group project of building a tree house brings them all together to deal with their feelings in a genuine and communal way. Sparse but appealing black-and-white illustrations help bring the dazzling cast of characters to life, and humor is infused in all the right places so the plot never feels too heavy (the lunch monitor Mr. Park who goes by "Mr. Shark" because, "I never stop moving, and I'm always watching you," is an especially fun addition). The characters appear white; readers learn that Sam is trans, but it's not part of the primary arc. VERDICT An endearing story about grief and friendship that will resonate with readers. Recommended for public and elementary school libraries where realistic fiction is popular.—Carrie Voliva



#2295282 Big Dreams of Small Creatures (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Gail Lerner

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Ten-year-old Eden's quiet life is upended when she saves a paper wasp nest from destruction and discovers, to her awe and amazement, that she and its haughty queen can talk to each other. This first conversation is the start of a grand adventure, leading Eden to The Institute for Lower Learning, a secret laboratory devoted to the peaceful coexistence of humans and insects. The Institute is more fantastic and idyllic than Eden could've imagined but hidden deep within its tunnels is an old secret that could spell the end for all insects on earth.

978-0-593-40785-1 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 950

Reviews by: Booklist After Eden saves a wasp nest from destruction, she discovers she can communicate with the grateful wasp queen. It's revealed that insects have been attempting to speak with humans for centuries, but people tend to shoo (or squish) bugs in their vicinity. There are rumors of an institute built to further human-insect coexistence, but it's unclear if it actually exists. Meanwhile, young August is a self-declared insect enemy due to a series of unfortunate run-ins, and after declaring war on the six-legged kingdom, he gets wind of a hidden storehouse of a deadly pesticide. Both Eden and August go on the hunt for these rumored locations, putting them on course to intersect in the strangest of places. They'll realize that they need other people—and insects—to become the best version of themselves. Lerner's entertaining, unconventional novel sees humans and insects share narration duties, allowing for a wide range of perspectives, deep empathy, and a marvelous sense of humor. An inventive, endearing story that will make an entomologist and environmental activist out of anyone.

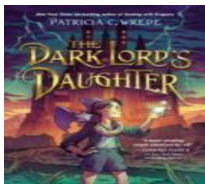
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Can Eden find a way to stop insect-hating August from killing all the bugs? In this debut by the writer and director of *Black-ish* and other hit TV shows, 9-year-old August, a White boy who is the victim of bullying, hates insects: A cockroach climbs up his arm during a school play, a fly lands in his mouth and he vomits on his favorite teacher, and a spiderweb causes him to drop a box of his mother's homemade jelly. August schemes to get his hands on a pesticide that is rumored to be exceptionally toxic—only its inventor is missing. On her 10th birthday, Eden, who has a White Jewish mother and Black father and comes from a musical family, learns she can talk to wasps using her kazoo. She saves a paper wasps' nest from a group of destructive children, and, taken by her kindness, the wasp queen informs her of a mysterious school dedicated to teaching communication between insects and humans. Eden finds a card in a library book for the Institute for Lower Learning: Could it be the right school? Eden's and August's quests intersect at the institute. Though the prose is beautiful, the novel creeps along, with extensive passages of narration that are not broken up with dialogue. Despite the protagonists' young ages, older middle-grade readers may be drawn to the strong messages about environmentalism, friendship, and self-discovery. A slowly unfolding read for bug lovers and environmentalists. (Morse code and semaphore charts) (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two kids at cross purposes intersect over insects in this environmentally invested novel from *Black-ish* writer and director Lerner. August, who cues as white and is often bullied at school, has big dreams of performing on stage. When a cockroach crawls into his costume during a school performance, though, Augie's reaction results in him "shirtless and gasping" on the stage floor, and a fly landing in his mouth soon sees him vomiting on his favorite teacher. Vowing revenge on insect-kind, Augie seeks a mysterious man rumored to have engineered a powerful pesticide. Meanwhile, anxious budding entomologist Eden, who has a white Jewish mother and a Black father, saves a wasp nest and finds that she can speak with the wasp queen via kazoo. Told of a school that focuses on communication between humans and insects, Eden begins a search for it, leading to the kids' connection. Expository third-person prose can sometimes feel heavy-handed, but the alternating arcs invest readers in a world where curiosity leads to discovery, empathy proves a key ingredient in multiple kinds of conflict, and interspecies bonding is portrayed as key to global survival. Ages 10: up. (Oct.)

#2332629 Dark Lord's Daughter (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Patricia C. Wrede

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Kayla is just an ordinary girl... or so she thinks. When a day at the state fair is interrupted by the news that she's the daughter of a "Dark Lord," she and her family



are quickly whisked to another world—one that's chock-full of magic but lacking in technology! As her family encounters fantastical creatures in place of their Earthly gadgets, Kayla must prepare for the unpreparable: meeting her father, the Dark Lord himself, for the very first time. All Kayla wants is to go home, but she must learn magic to do so. The catch? For the Dark Lord's daughter, the road to mastering magic is filled with evil traditions.

978-0-553-53620-1 Random House Children's Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Reviews by: Booklist Fourteen-year-old Kayla is visiting the Minnesota State Fair with her younger brother and Riki, her adoptive mother, when they are magically transported to a medieval-like realm by Waylan, a sword-wielding “commander of the Dark Hordes.” Having sworn allegiance to Kayla as “the Dark Lady of Zaradwin,” he informs her that she has magical powers and is the heir to her father, the previous Dark Lord, now deceased. Curious about her birth parents and this magical realm, but also dealing with Riki’s rules, her safety concerns, and her determination to take her kids back home, Kayla wonders what kind of Dark Lady she could be. Given her ancestors’ cruel, violent governance, she hopes that she would do better. Within the fantasy, one inventive premise is that objects transported between worlds transform into their cultural equivalents: a cellphone turns into a “messenger mouse” and Kayla’s tablet computer is transformed into a talking-monkey familiar, seated on her shoulder and dispensing information upon request. With believable characters and interesting dialogue, here’s a fresh, engaging fantasy with a sequel to come.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly ate Fair with her adoptive mother and brother, 14-year-old Kayla Jones is approached by Waylon, second commander of the Dark Hordes of Zaradwin, who bids her to take her late Dark Lord father's throne. The family is promptly transported to Zaradwin, where Kayla is greeted as the realm's prospective Dark Lady, a role in which she would follow in her father's footsteps. The Jones family would prefer to return home, but accessing enough magic to transport them back requires Kayla to embrace her new function, and the power that comes with it; if she can survive until the official ceremony of investiture. Kayla is nevertheless reluctant to perform the duties of a Dark Lady (battling rivals, waging war, and executing minions), and her presence may upset a land caught in a perpetual war between Light and Dark. In a tongue-in-cheek survey of epic fantasy tropes, Wrede (the Enchanted Forest Chronicles) creates an intentionally generic fantasy world that's keenly devoted to its traditions. Featuring droll chapter headings ("So You Are a Potential Dark Lord," "Discovering Your Dark Heritage") that structure an exposition-heavy telling of family dynamics and character growth, this is an amusing story of finding one's place amid the unfamiliar. Its fantasy-world-incompatible technology-turned-familiars are particularly memorable. Most characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ginger Clark, Ginger Clark Literary. (Sept.)



#2349250 Alice Atherton's Grand Tour (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Lesley M. Blume

Ten-year-old Alice Atherton is sent by her father to spend the summer with his dear friends the Murphys who live with their three children and pet monkey in the French Riviera. There, Alice will meet and learn from some of the most extraordinary luminaries of the time. She visits a junk yard with Pablo Picasso looking for objects to make into art, performs a dance inspired by celestial bodies with the renowned Ballet Russes, and imagines magical adventures with Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

978-0-553-53681-2 Alfred A. Knopf ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Reviews by: Booklist After her mom dies, 10-year-old Alice Atherton becomes listless in her grief, so her father sends her to the South of France, where she spends the summer with Sara and Gerald Murphy, who were friends with her mother. Alice is welcomed as a sister by the three Murphy kids, and together they enjoy a series of surprise classes presented by Mr. Murphy's notable friends, such as Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, and Sergei Diaghilev of the Ballets Russes. Their final lesson comes from F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, who prepare a treasure hunt at the beach. As she tries new experiences with the Murphy family, Alice blossoms, and by the end of summer, Mr. Atherton is pleased to see that his daughter is full of life again. The all-star teaching cast seems too extraordinary to be true, but the author's note reveals that although the story is fictional, the Murphy family was real and socialized with many famous creatives. This historical fiction will appeal to readers interested in unschooling or family stories like the Vanderbeekers series.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Alice Atherton, a fictional 10-year-old, visits real-life American expatriates Sara and Gerald Murphy in Antibes-- and meets luminaries such as Pablo Picasso and Ernest Hemingway. Simple yet elegant text immediately sets the time and place: New York, 1927.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Stuck in the stuffy parlor, Alice fantasizes about playing outside in the snow instead of listening to boring Old Miss Pennyweather. When she starts to drift off, the governess becomes worried and hustles her to bed. After a visit from the family doctor, Alice's father agrees that she is suffering due to her mother's recent death. His solution: send Alice and Miss Pennyweather to France to stay with his friends the Murphys; there, Alice will acquire "the art of living fully." Miss Pennyweather, a rigid and easily scandalized stock character, presents plenty of humorous diversion on the ocean voyage and subsequent travels, returning home almost immediately after arriving at the unconventional Murphy household. Alice, on the other hand, is delighted to stay. In no time, she's running about barefoot, riding donkeys with the Murphy children, and, indeed, learning valuable life lessons. Occasionally, the text references Alice's grieving process, but mostly the story revolves around a fast-paced, humorous series of adventures, including a treasure hunt instigated by Zelda and Scott Fitzgerald. Uplifting though didactic messages about overcoming loss and finding oneself are woven through tantalizing bits of period artifacts, history, and biography. Characters are cued white. Sweetly entertaining. (author's note, afterword, biographies of the real-life people mentioned, photographs) (Historical fiction. 7-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Based on real-life American expatriates who hosted creative luminaries at their Antibes home, "Villa America," this entertaining 1927-set novel from Blume (Julia and the Art of Practical Travel), follows 10-year-old New Yorker Alice Atherton, an only child grieving her mother's death six months earlier. Hoping to revive her spirits, her publisher father sends Alice to the South of France to stay with his friends Gerald and Sara Murphy, experts on "the art of living fully." Welcomed to the Murphys' home in Antibes, Alice joins their three children, pet monkey, and famous visitors, including Sergei Diaghilev, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Pablo Picasso. Offered a summertime education "unlike any other," the children make art with Picasso, learn to appreciate simple things with Hemingway, and embark on a treasure hunt with the Fitzgeralds, hijinks that help Alice learn to enjoy life while grappling with the loss of her mother. Comedic characterizations and standard adventure plotting accompany an amusing premise, idyllic French Riviera ambiance, and introduction to era-specific creatives in this upbeat escapade. Characters present as white. Capsule biographies of the historical figures conclude. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Molly Friedrich and Lucy Carson, Friedrich Agency.(Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--It's the 1920s, and Alice Atherton is a precocious 10-year-old who is sent to spend the summer on the French Riviera with her father's friends, their children, and a pet monkey. Alice is delighted to go on an adventure in France, as her father thinks this will help her after the death of her mother in New York City. While abroad, she meets various historical figures, such as Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, Sergei Diaghilev, and F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. This is an easygoing read for young fans of historical fiction. Books in this genre can be a hard sell for young readers, but this will be a hit with the right audience. Although American adults may know most of the historical figures, middle grade students may be less familiar with them and their works. The afterword helpfully features small biographies of each luminary. VERDICT The lessons taught by the historical figures incorporated into this fiction title will impact readers and bring fresh air to the genre. Alice's tale will resonate with contemporary tweens.--Maeve Dodds Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2324338 **Clementine (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by **Ann Hood**

New York Times best-selling author Ann Hood pens a poignant story of grief and adolescent despair in this follow-up to Jude Banks, Superhero.

978-0-593-09410-5 Penguin Workshop ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

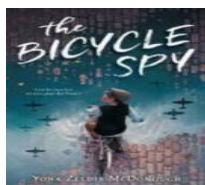
Reviews by: Booklist In a spin-off of Jude Banks, Superhero, Hood turns her attention to a now slightly older Clementine, who continues to grieve the sister who died after a nut exposure. Wracked with guilt and struggling, too, with a best friend who relocated states away, Clementine leans into unhealthy coping mechanisms despite a support network that includes her mother and Jude. Like many dealing with grief, Clementine experiences feelings of isolation and a sense of numbness, which she attempts to handle through risky behavior. Importantly, Clementine represents often unseen populations—both that of bereaved siblings and of 14-year-old characters. Giving voice to these groups, Clementine runs into the same mistakes as she grapples with her grief, trying to honor her sister while reaching for contentment and joy in her life again. This seems impossible and paradoxical to Clementine, who sorts through the conundrum from a slightly different and equally important perspective as Jude's in the initial novel. Facing her own mortality, Clementine seeks external help but must ultimately dig within herself to find the courage to move forward. Like Amy Besheal's *We Are All Constellations* (2022) and Christine Webb's *The Art of Insanity* (2022), Clementine examines the most human of experiences through the lens of family disruption and loss, magnifying feelings of being adrift and what it means to grieve and come-of-age at the same time.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Still haunted by the death of her younger sister two years previous, fourteen-year-old Clementine is losing touch with everything: her only remaining family, her lifelong friends, and reality in general. Now she's suddenly expected to start a new school, where her untreated grief and rumors of her suicide attempt only make things harder. Soon, acting out, skipping school, and sleeping all day land her briefly in a residential facility, where even the best-intentioned counselors can't seem to help. Desperate to regain some sense of normalcy, or at least pretend for her mother's sake, Clementine pushes herself to make new friends, even managing to make tepid connections and a few potential real relationships that may just allow her to find beauty and her own place in the world again. An emotionally

evocative portrait of the crushing weight of grief, this beautifully crafted novel ends with hope yet avoids trite platitudes or easy solutions. The first-person narrative voice keeps raw emotion at the fore, drawing readers into Clementine's struggles without wallowing in melodrama or despair. Characterization is deeply compassionate: Clementine's self-destructive behavior may push family and friends to the edge, but readers will find her surprisingly easy to love, and her mother emerges as a realistically struggling person, both with her own sadness and her failure to help her remaining daughter. A companion novel to Hood's earlier, similarly themed *Jude Banks, Superhero*, this works successfully as a standalone or as a bridge back to the previous work. AM COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A teen struggles to cope with her younger sister's death in the follow-up to *Jude Banks, Superhero* (2021). Ever since her younger sister, Halley, died from a peanut allergy two years ago, 14-year-old Clementine Marsh has felt like the world outside is overwhelming and that she's trapped in a snow globe. Her new high school is chaotic, and gossip has made her a target of bullying. Her best friend moved to Vermont and feels like a stranger. Worst of all, her widowed mother has fallen in love. How can Clementine cope with losing Halley when it feels like she's losing her mom too? Clementine's narrative, which drifts between past and present, candidly explores depression and grief. Unfortunately, some scenes, such as Clementine's vividly recounted suicide attempt, risk triggering readers with similar struggles, and there are no mental health resources included. Realistically, Clementine's path toward healing is not linear; hopeful moments alternate with physical and verbal outbursts and periods of inertia. Readers will root for Clementine as she learns to manage her emotions with help from a support group, though Hood's dashing of potentially positive developments becomes emotionally taxing. Most secondary characters are lightly developed, but Clementine's relationship with her mother--who remains steadily supportive amid her own grief, worry, and exhaustion--is touchingly three-dimensional. Clementine reads *White*; secondary characters bring some diversity. An unvarnished portrait of grief and healing; approach with care. (Fiction. 12-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Since her younger sister Halley died from an allergic reaction to peanuts two years prior to this book's start, now-14-year-old Clementine Marsh, who cues as white, has experienced depression and grief that led to a suicide attempt. Now, she's transitioned out of her beloved Montessori and started ninth grade at a chaotic new school where she experiences bullying, slaps a smirking classmate, and believes she's seen as "the one who has lost her mind." Meanwhile, she also feels as if she's stuck in a snow globe where tears fall instead of snow. Clementine's widowed mother provides support via a residential program and therapy, a support group, a trip to see old friends, and, finally, what Clementine; whose snarky first-person narration is candid and sometimes funny; calls a "low-rent *Outward Bound*." The program emphasizes activity, community, and routine, but nothing really helps, especially when Clementine's mother starts dating. Balancing each of Clementine's steps forward with one back, Hood's follow-up to *Jude Banks, Superhero* offers a difficult, emotionally keyed portrayal of grief, depression, and suicidal ideation in which healing comes slowly, and in fits and starts. Ages 10: up. Agent: Gail Hochman, Brandt & Hochman. (May)



#1980983 Bicycle Spy (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Yona Zeldis McDonough

Marcel loves riding his bicycle, whether he's racing through the streets of his small town in France or making bread deliveries for his parents' bakery. He dreams of someday competing in the Tour de France. But ever since Germany's occupation of France began two years ago, in 1940, the race has been canceled.
 978-0-545-85095-7 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2016 208 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 3.7

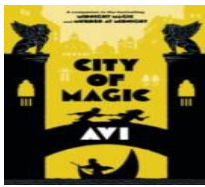
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-It is 1942 in German-occupied France. The Tour de France has been cancelled for the last two years, and Marcel, a young French boy, must keep two very big secrets: his parents are part of the resistance, and the new girl in town, a friend and fellow bicycle enthusiast, tells him that she is Jewish. Marcel must decide if he will help his new friend, even if it means putting his life and the lives of his parents at risk. This story takes readers on a historical adventure as they follow Marcel, astride his trusty bicycle, along the streets of German-occupied France. History seamlessly meets fiction as readers learn about a snippet of life in World War II Europe. Marcel is often frightened when he has to go through various checkpoints, where soldiers question his every move. However, he uses his love for cycling to get him through these dangerous times. The brief histories provided at the end of the story and the glossary of terms offer additional background and support for students just learning about this time period. VERDICT This would be a great resource in a World War II unit. Students will become engrossed in Marcel's exploits as he attempts to save his family from an awful fate.-Elizabeth Anne Ragain, Springfield Public Schools, MO Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

#2281027 City of Magic (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Avi

In Italy, 1492, King Claudio sends Mangus the Magician and his faithful servant boy, Fabrizio, to Venice to steal a manuscript that explains a revolutionary way of

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99



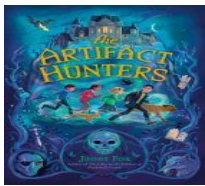
accounting -- double-entry bookkeeping. But Venice is a dangerous place, full of informers, prisons, and harsh punishments for those who steal its secrets. When Mangus is snatched away into prison, it is up to Fabrizio -- and his mysterious new friend, Bianca -- to navigate the countless islands and foggy canals to find Friar Pacioli before their enemies do, and to save Mangus from being executed.

978-0-545-32197-6 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Fabrizio is a kind but naive lad and a devoted servant of Mangus the Magician, who lives in an Italian kingdom in 1492. When King Claudio orders elderly Mangus to travel to Venice and procure a book explaining a secret of acquiring wealth (Claudio's misunderstanding of double-entry bookkeeping), Mangus must go. Thirteen-year-old Fabrizio accompanies him and, when his frail master falls ill, takes charge. During the journey, the boy thoughtlessly shares information with strangers, endangering their mission and their lives. In Venice, Mangus is immediately imprisoned. Befriending a local girl and a friar, Fabrizio attempts to complete his master's quest, despite mortal danger from a rival in Claudio's court as well as Venetian authorities. In this companion book to Avi's *Midnight Magic* and *Murder at Midnight* (2009), he transports readers to a series of vividly realized Italian Renaissance settings and continues the adventures of Fabrizio, a flawed but lovable character who means well, frequently acts on impulse, and stubbornly clings to his hope that Mangus can perform magic, despite the "magician's" protests that he cannot. The novel's pace is quick, and tension is often high, particularly during the chase scenes. Readers who have followed Fabrizio's perilous journey will find the story's ending completely satisfying. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Avi is a pillar of kid's historical fiction, and this companion to a beloved series is sure to attract his stalwart fans. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Rumors of a new kind of magic draw young Fabrizio and his aging master, Mangus, to Renaissance Venice in this follow-up to *Murder at Midnight* (2009). Fabrizio and Master Mangus are dispatched by the king of their town of Pergamontio, who has heard of a mysterious new way of making money, explained in a book by Franciscan friar Luca Pacioli. Superstitious Fabrizio discovers a world of seemingly magical wonders as he shepherds the increasingly sick and feeble Mangus through the cosmopolitan city of canals. They are pursued, for no evident reason aside from drumming up tension, by the king's tax collector and an equally sinister confederate. Fabrizio quickly falls in with Bianca, a fellow orphan who serves as a local guide and who has an Egyptian gondolier (the one character with a speaking part who doesn't present as White) on call for transportation. She even turns out to be trained in the new magic, otherwise known as double-entry bookkeeping. Some chases, captures, escapes, and nighttime boat rides provide at least a framework of a plot, but along with providing no real rationale for the bad guys' pursuit, they offer Mangus no active role beyond prisoner in need of rescue and barely sketch in the distinctive setting. The author seems chiefly interested in introducing readers to Pacioli, a real historical figure, before finishing off with a happy ending...for the good guys, at least. Despite the manufactured suspense, this may draw middle-grade students of accounting history to the series. (author's note) (Adventure. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2167560 **Artifact Hunters (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Janet Fox

With the help of his new friends, Isaac has to unlock his powers and unravel the reason his parents sent him Rookskill Castle. But he's not the only artifact hunter, and soon he finds himself in a race against Nazi spies and an even more sinister magical enemy. Can Isaac solve the puzzle, save his parents, and defeat the evil in our world and beyond, all before the clock runs out?

978-0-451-47869-6 Viking ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Evil forces are closing in on 12-year-old Isaac Wolf. Isaac overhears his parents arguing that he must "escape" and be "trained." Escaping makes sense; the Nazis have invaded his native Prague and many of his friends have disappeared. But what does he need to be trained for? It is too dangerous for his parents to teach him their secrets, so instead they grant him two gifts: an ancient watch and an eternity-symbol pendant. With these, he must discover the secrets of time-traveling and being an artifact guardian. Puzzling out the secrets of his destiny won't be easy with a dark fae named Moloch stalking him. Moloch wants the magical pendant for his own evil designs. Isaac's parents send him to Rookskill Castle in Scotland, the one place that can shelter him against the wicked fairy. Once a school, now Rookskill is a training ground of the MI6 Special Alternative Intelligence Unit, where magical children use their gifts to help the Allies win the war. There Isaac

meets Kat, who has a magical object of her own, a cursed chatelaine that was the subject of the companion novel *The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle*. With the help of his newfound friends, Isaac must learn to harness his magical powers and become a guardian before Moloch can break through the castle's protective wards. VERDICT This fast-paced fantasy will appeal to fans of Carlos Hernandez's "Sal and Gabi" series. A strongly recommended purchase where adventurous fantasy is popular.—Jocelyn Charpentier, Acton-Boxborough Regional School Dist., MA



#2155644 Bad Best Friend (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rachel Vail

Niki Ames can't wait to start eighth grade, that all-important year before high school. She and her best friend Ava have shared so many plans for the coming year. But then the unthinkable happens: at gym class pair-up, Ava chooses someone else to be her partner. Niki is devastated. It's clear that Ava wants to be part of the popular group, leaving Niki behind. Meanwhile, life at home is complicated. Niki's nine-year-old brother Danny continues to act out. Their mother refuses to admit that Danny is somewhere on the autism spectrum, but it's clear he needs help. Niki doesn't want to be like her brother, to be labeled as different. She just wants to be popular! Is she a bad sister and a bad best friend?

978-0-451-47945-7 Viking ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 580

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When the gym teacher tells the eighth-grade class to pair up with their best friends, Niki is stunned when her longterm bestie Ava edges away from her and partners up with a more popular classmate. While it's clear their friendship is circling the drain, mercurial Ava sends mixed signals, and Niki, fixated on her identity as the person who understands Ava and her underlying fragility, keeps hanging on and hoping for a return to full inclusion. Meanwhile, at home, Niki's younger brother is increasingly struggling, but her relentlessly bright-sided mother insists that getting him tested for autism would just harm him and hurt the family's reputation on their small Maine island. As usual, Vail adroitly depicts personality and human dynamics with deceptive simplicity, revealing the complicated facets of this friendship drift. Ava is superbly characterized in her mix of manipulative gaslighting and age-appropriate emotional clumsiness as she grabs onto people and pushes them away according to her momentary need, but Niki does much the same thing to her hastily created new friend group, and Niki's family dynamics clearly set her up to accommodate at all costs. Readers who've experienced the serrated edge of friendship will sympathize with Niki's anguish, and they'll be glad to see her coming into her own. DS

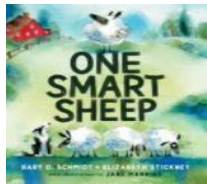
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Protagonist Niki has been best friends with Ava since the latter moved to their small Maine island in third grade. So Niki is crushed when, in eighth grade, Ava suddenly ditches her for the popular girls. She blames herself: she didn't give Ava enough attention; she's immature; she's annoying; and so on. Niki has a tendency toward negative self-talk; she dreams of having a time machine to "erase all my dorkiness." What's worse, she isn't sure what to do about the fact that she like-likes her next-door neighbor, and she's worried about her younger brother, Danny, who's undergoing testing for an autism diagnosis. To her surprise, however, Niki discovers that she isn't alone: her best friend before Ava, Holly, is there for her. And Holly is totally different from Ava; she shows Niki what having a real friend is like, teaching her that mistakes are, if not erasable, then forgivable. Through her protagonist's pitch-perfect narration, Vail re-creates the experience of being thirteen, from the awkwardness to the cutthroat friendship dynamics to the slang ("I'm fully tragic," Niki explains to her classmates about needing glasses). The subplot about Danny adds warmth to the drama; it's clear that Niki is a compassionate sister in a loving family, even though she doesn't always see it that way. With a few missteps, she gains confidence; by book's end, when she is finally able to stand up to Ava, it's with the knowledge that she is complete--and cool!--without her. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An eighth grader's world is thrown into turmoil when her best friend publicly identifies another girl as such instead. Required to team up with a best friend in gym class, Niki's mortified when Ava chooses Britney, leaving Niki by default with "wonky, nerdy, wholesome" Holly, her best friend in third grade (before Ava moved here to Snug Island, Maine). Bonding with Holly and her friends holds little appeal. Niki's desperate to restore the status quo, but Ava won't answer her texts and now hangs out with the superpopular Squad. Confronted, Ava defends her behavior by attacking Niki, who's still mourning their lost friendship. Niki's social anxiety echoes her mother's. (She exhausts herself pretending that Niki's little brother, Danny, is doing fine; later, testing places him on the autism spectrum.) Niki feels guilty for repeatedly blowing off Holly, who single-handedly saves Danny's ninth birthday party. While Danny's needs and crises increasingly demand parental attention, Niki herself becomes a person of interest to neighbor and classmate Milo. Occasionally, the plot spirals into melodrama; Holly's mature intelligence and Ava's manipulative selfishness can seem excessive next to the perfect-pitch presentation of other characters, Niki especially. Danny--high-functioning but self-absorbed, sweet but annoying, impervious yet vulnerable--is an appealing standout among fictional characters on the spectrum, a fully rounded individual. Niki and her family are white, as are most--but not all--of her classmates. Vail's gift for channeling adolescent angst is the icing on this funny, moving tale. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eighth graders Niki and Ava have been best friends since Ava moved to Snug Island, Maine, in third grade and claimed Niki from then-friend Holly. But now critical Ava needs a break. Niki strives to be what Ava wants, even as Ava begins hanging out with

their class's most popular girls. Holly works to befriend Niki again, despite their past, but Niki only wants Ava back; that and maybe to spend more time with her crush, Milo. Things at home are charged, too: Niki's nine-year-old brother, Danny, has meltdowns that have led to the school asking that he be tested, while their mother tries to pretend everything is fine. It's not until Niki attends a party where things go very wrong that she realizes what a good friend really is. The story contains powerful moments, and Niki is a relatable character, but it can be difficult to understand why she would want to remain friends with someone who is repeatedly unkind to her, and Ava's sometimes overly explanatory dialogue makes her feel less developed than her counterpart. Ages 10: up. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Eighth grader Niki Ames is trying to navigate the complexities of middle school friendship and feelings. Early on, she discovers her best friend, Ava, might not be her best friend after all. This sad realization prompts Niki to second-guess herself and her behaviors as she weighs each of her words and actions against how Ava may perceive her. She deals with the push-and-pull of texting; she regrets there isn't a delete for sending a message. She worries she'll tell people too much about her family, especially about her younger brother, who is on the autism spectrum. She has a loving and supportive family, but her brother's behavior can be challenging for both her and her parents. There is a plethora of middle school concerns that will prompt thought and discussion, including a first, and unwanted, kiss; maintaining and acquiring friendships; being and feeling left out; supporting siblings; and more. All are handled with Vail's deft hand and balanced with keen insight and a splash of humor. The story unfolds in Niki's authentic voice. The conflicts, though numerous, do not make this a "problem" novel but rather an insightful look at the dramas surrounding students in middle school. Readers will see good and bad elements of the many characters, just like real life, and will be curious to understand their behaviors. **VERDICT** This page-turning, solid friendship story will be savored by middle grade students. A welcome addition to library collections.—Helen Foster James, University of California at San Diego



#2252184 One Smart Sheep (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gary D. Schmidt

Wilson is a curious sheep, and after he foolishly climbs into the back of a piano movers' truck, he ends up alone in the big city, far from the farm. But Wilson is also one smart sheep, and soon enough he's finding his way home to his worried owner by recognizing the sounds that he heard while he was trapped in the truck—a jackhammer, a calliope, a hotdog man.

978-0-544-88835-7 Clarion Books ©2021 6-1/4 x 8 80 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this beginning chapter book authored by previous collaborators (A Long Road on a Short Day) Schimdt and his late wife Stickney, a sheep named Wilson makes an unexpected journey via delivery truck. It takes Wilson's resourceful owner Abigail Atwood, a border collie named Tippy, and a crusty, loud machine: loving neighbor named Jeremiah Jefferson to restore Wilson to his place on Abigail's farm. The narration proceeds in real time, describing Wilson's remarkably friendly personality; he always trots over for a pat; and developing a subplot of crabby exchanges between Abigail and Jeremiah ("I suppose he'd look handsome to some," Jeremiah says grudgingly when asked to admire Wilson). Affectionate passages recall Wilson's idyllic babyhood in Abigail and Tippy's cabin; it's an interest in finding the "warm and comfortable" that leads Wilson into a piano delivery truck, setting off further gambols. Rhythmic narration often comes in threes, as when Wilson discovers his error: "No Tippy. No Abigail. No woodstove, either." Manning (Jumping Off Library Shelves) contributes green, misty watercolors, with pink-skinned characters whose friendly, expressive faces befit this pure-hearted comedy. The creators celebrate the quirky dilemmas of rural life in a way that radiates affection for animals and their owners. Ages 8: 12. Authors' agent: Rick Margolis, Rising Bear Literary. (Oct.)

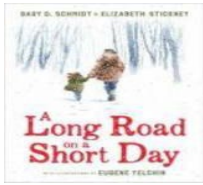
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2–5—Wilson, an unusual sheep, gets lost but finds his way back home. Wilson is no ordinary sheep; he feels emotions and has characteristics like a human. He lives with 26 other sheep on a farm owned by Abigail Atwood. Abigail and her dog Tippy have always observed that Wilson isn't ordinary, and they gravitate toward him. When Abigail goes for her daily visit and upkeep of the sheep pen, Wilson always comes to her to be petted and talks to her in his sheep language. She has had this special sheep on her farm since he was a baby and has always treated him differently. For instance, she gave him bottles of milk when he was little and treats him as more of a pet than a farm animal. One evening, Abigail forgets to close the pen. Wilson ends up in a delivery truck and is left alone in the big city. When Abigail realizes he is missing, she frantically goes looking for him with the help of Tippy and her neighbor Jeremiah. Wilson, realizing he is no longer on the farm, relies on the sounds of his memories to find his way back home. He succeeds, as Abigail finds him headed back to the farm. **VERDICT** A jovial tale of a human and animal bond where it's least expected. Children will enjoy reading about an animal who doesn't always take center stage, and will be awed by Wilson's bravery and intelligence. Great for any children's library collection.—Annmarie Braithwaite, New York P.L.

#2182197 Long Road on a Short Day (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gary D. Schmidt

In a story of perseverance and determination told with warmth and sparkling with

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



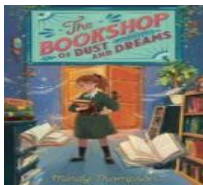
humor, a short winter day finds Samuel and Papa walking a long road on Samuel's first trading trip. Meeting strangers, practicing good manners, and proud to be in Papa's company, Samuel watches and learns as Papa trades up from almost nothing to the milk cow Mama is yearning for.

978-0-544-88836-4 Clarion Books ©2020 6-1/4 x 8 64 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine When Samuel's mother expresses an ardent wish for "a brown-eyed cow to give us milk for the baby," Samuel and his father pack a couple of apples and their best Barlow knife to trade and set out down the road as the cold January clouds gather. At each stop, the boy, who loves animals and longs for a pet, wishes, "just a little bit, it wasn't a brown-eyed cow his mother was wanting." As they swap the Barlow knife first for two tin lanterns and then, successively, briefly come into the possession of a book of poetry, a blue-and-white pitcher, a lamb, and a pony and cart, the daylight begins to wane and the snow begins to fall in earnest. Along the way, readers are privy to the warm interactions between father and son as well as their easy rapport with their neighbors. The narrative is spare and engaging with a folktale-like tone and storyteller's flair for repeated phrasing. Yelchin's lively full-color paintings are full of motion and realistic natural detail. The period and the setting are not specified; rather, this is a bit of timeless rural Americana. The circular journey is a successful one, and Samuel proves his mettle as a companion and helper -- and has earned his heart's desire. Luann Toth November/December 2020 p.82(c) Copyright 2020. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Samuel's mother wishes one winter morning for "a brown-eyed cow to give us milk for the baby." A man of action, Samuel's father takes his good knife off the mantelpiece and sets out to trade. "It's a long road on a short day," he tells Samuel, urging him to keep up; they know the winter sun will set soon. In a series of neighborly negotiations, the knife is exchanged for a pair of tin lanterns, the lanterns for a book of poetry, the poetry for a fine pitcher, and so on, until Samuel and his father return with the treasure they sought. Early American scenes by Yelchin (Spy Runner) capture driving snow, rural scenery, and the many farm animals Samuel encounters. In short, vivid chapters, Schmidt (Pay Attention, Carter Jones) and his late wife, Stickney, show Samuel's father's canny judgment (he knows just who might like the book of poetry) while paying attention to Samuel's inner life, too. He longs for a pet of his own: he "wished again, just a little bit, it wasn't a brown-eyed cow his mother was wanting." Underpinning this deliberately paced story with an old-fashioned feel is the relationship between Samuel and his strong, reliable father, whose pride in his son is quiet but evident. Ages 8: 12. Authors' agent: Rick Margolis, Rising Bear Literary. Illustrator's agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Nov.)



#2252241 Bookshop of Dust and Dreams (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mindy Thompson

It's 1944 Sutton, NY, and Poppy's family owns and runs, Rhyme and Reason, a magical bookshop that caters to people from all different places and time periods. Though her world is ravaged by World War II, customers hail from the past and the future, infusing the shop with a delightful mix of ideas and experiences.

978-0-593-11037-9 Viking ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

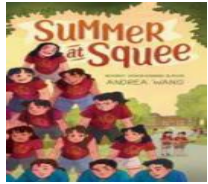
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist While WWII rages overseas, Poppy spends much of her life in her family's magical New York City bookstore, and it's no wonder: the front door acts as a sort of portal, miraculously pulling in people in need of hope from different decades and locations. The extraordinary shop, prone to emotional outbursts, is one of a string of similar stores scattered about, all part of a long tradition of magical bookshop keeping. Each shop abides by strict guidelines—the most crucial rule stating that no personnel can use the time magic for themselves—though when tragedy strikes, Poppy's older brother desperately plots to skirt the regulations and set their world right again. This excruciating test of Poppy's loyalty takes all of her kindness and creativity to keep her family, bookstore, and larger world safe. It's a splendid setup, and the story takes the time to establish the cozy bookshop world while adding enough twists to keep things interesting, with details to delight in, and emotional avenues to explore. Stop by this bookshop for a magical, moving tale.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set in 1944 in Sutton, N.Y., against the backdrop of WWII, this moving examination of pain and power stars bookish, white 13-year-old Poppy Fulbright, who must navigate the painful death of a friend, her brother's all-consuming grief, and their father's sudden illness while managing the family's magical, moody bookshop, which appears to individuals throughout time who need books and community. Despite the promise that she and her brothers, nine-year-old James and 18-year-old Allan, would adhere to the shop's generations-old rules; including never using its magic for their own gain; Poppy begins to suspect something is amiss when the store begins acting out of character. Worried that Allan is at fault and determined to set things right, Poppy enlists the help of Theo Devlin, a young white shopkeeper at another

magical store who understands Poppy's heartache; 14-year-old Ollie Bell, the energetic, light brown: skinned courier who delivers to the shop; and regulars at the shop whom Poppy has come to consider family. Just as the sentient, time-traveling bookstore functions as a comforting haven, Thompson's poignant debut offers an opportunity for readers to gently explore the ways in which people respond to and accept loss. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sarah Landis, Sterling Lord Literistic. (Oct.)



#2368317 Summer at Squee (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andrea Wang

Phoeny Fang plans to have the best summer ever. She's returning to Summertime Chinese Culture, Wellness, and Enrichment Experience (SCCWEE for short and "Squee" to campers in the know), and this year she's a senior camper. That means she; her best friend, Lyrica Chu; and her whole Squad will have the most influence. It almost doesn't matter that her brother is a CIT (counselor-in-training) and that her mom and auntie are the camp directors. Time spent at Squee is sacred, glorious, and free.

978-0-593-11131-4 Kokila ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

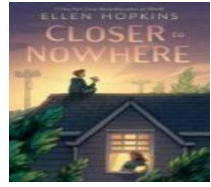
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Phee can't wait to be reunited with her besties ("the Squad") for their last year of summer camp, lovingly called Squee after its acronym, SCCWEE (Summertime Chinese Culture, Wellness, and Enrichment Experience). But Phee, who holds tradition and routine near to her heart, is thrown for a loop when five new girls join, forcing the Squad to break into two separate groups for all their camp activities. What's more, the new girls don't even seem to want to be there. While Phee struggles with these changes, she also grapples with confusing signals from the cute new counselor-in-training and a stressful atmosphere caused by internet trolls targeting Squee with anti-Asian hate messages on social media. Wang, whose *Watercress* (2021) received a Newbery Honor, takes on a lot here. Squee is a place where important lessons are taught and learned, and that's what this book feels like, as well. The number of traditional Chinese arts, crafts, sports, and mini language tutorials come at the reader fast--as do the sheer number of characters--at the risk of overwhelming them with details and overshadowing the plot. None of this is to say that these aren't lessons worth learning, and Wang spends a lot of time examining the complexity of being bicultural and how that experience can look and feel very different from one person to the next. Best for classroom use when it can be paired with extension activities or broader lessons on Chinese culture. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After surviving the loneliness of seventh grade, Phoenix can't wait to be with her favorite people in her happy place just one last time, before she's too old. SCCWEE, or Summertime Chinese Culture, Wellness, and Enrichment Experience, is Phoeny's sanctuary. She loves all the fun camp traditions and the heritage classes, like Chinese rice dough sculpting and ribbon dancing. But her plans for a perfect time are interrupted by the arrival of new girls who don't share her positive attitude toward camp and Chinese culture, which leaves Phoeny feeling confused and threatened. Plus, she's competing with one of them for the attention of the same boy. Thankfully, Phoeny has her passion for sewing clothes to help her deal with the stress. Once she learns that the new girls are transracial adoptees from white families and face their own unique set of challenges, Phoeny opens up, and a virtuous cycle of vulnerability, empathy, and acceptance ensues. When trolls post racist comments on the camp's social media, the campers use their joyful creativity to resist the fear and hate. Through careful research and interviews, Wang has crafted a narrative that reflects many transracial adoptees' feelings and experiences. The believable dialogue questions and explores deeply held beliefs about culture. Phoeny's lovingly detailed, introspective viewpoint will positively influence readers' awareness of their own emotional and cultural landscapes. Blending moxie and grace, this novel is a worthy guide through cultural expansiveness and summer camp antics and angst. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Phoeny Fang looks forward to Squee--a Chinese heritage summer camp--every year. As senior campers, she and her friends--the Squad--plan to make the most of their final experience. But things go awry from the start when the Squad is broken up due to an influx of new, unenthused campers. Phee tries to be as welcoming as possible, but in attempting to befriend her group members, she finds herself butting heads with McKenna, who is irritated by Phee's probing personal questions. This new group doesn't take to martial arts, language lessons, and other Chinese cultural activities as easily as the Squad and, upon learning that they're all adoptees, Phee and the rest of Squee's senior campers shift their perspectives. Over the next two weeks, Phee experiences transformative moments and first crushes, and her love for her friends and community deepens. With light prose and even pacing, Wang (*The Many Meanings of Meilan*) relays themes of identity, belonging, and acceptance, deftly communicating the feelings of both the senior campers and Squee's newest members without minimizing their plights. An author's note speaking to Wang's own experience at a camp like Squee as well as adoptee resources conclude. Ages 8-12. (Mar.) Copyright 2023 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--After a lonely seventh grade year due to her friend group breaking up, Phoeny Fang is looking forward to her summer at Squee, otherwise known as the Summertime Chinese Culture, Wellness, and Enrichment Experience. Phoeny and her summer camp friends are excited to experience the camp traditions as senior campers this year--until their group, the Squad, is split up to include a new group of campers. At first Phoeny tries to be friendly to the new members, sharing everything she loves, but they aren't as interested in

traditional Chinese activities. The new campers are facing their own set of challenges as adoptees, and with the fact that some of Phoeny's favorite parts of camp make them feel excluded. This knowledge changes the perspective of the senior Squee campers, and over the next few weeks, themes of identity, belonging and acceptance surface as both new and returning campers explore what it means to be Chinese American. An author's note shares the experience of Wang's family with cultural heritage camp as well as resources about the adoptee experience. VERDICT A fun summer camp coming-of-age story for all students, but especially those traversing issues of cross-cultural identity.--Sarah Polace Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2179679 Closer to Nowhere (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ellen Hopkins

For the most part, Hannah's life is just how she wants it. She has two supportive parents, she's popular at school, and she's been killing it at gymnastics. But when her cousin Cal moves in with her family, everything changes. Cal tells half-truths and tall tales, pranks Hannah constantly, and seems to be the reason her parents are fighting more and more. Nothing is how it used to be.

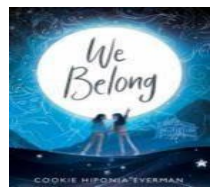
978-0-593-10861-1 Putnam Pub Group ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 490

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist The queen of gritty YA novels-in-verse enters the realm of middle-grade literature with this story of a white, middle-class family fracturing under myriad pressures yet refusing to be broken. Hannah Lincoln is monumentally annoyed when her cousin Cal moves in with them after his mother dies. His mood swings and prank-playing have cemented his “weird kid” status both at home and at school—of course he’s in her class, too—and the arguments between Hannah’s parents have skyrocketed since Cal’s arrival. Hopkins reveals the already-fraying edges of the Lincolns’ domestic life as it begins to unravel more rapidly. Hannah’s dance recitals and gymnastics meets provide a veneer of normalcy by routinely bringing everyone together, but Cal’s PTSD over losing his mother and suffering abuse by his drug-addicted father forces everyone to reassess the truth of their situation. Hannah and Cal narrate in free-verse passages, providing insight into their psyches and Cal’s tumultuous past. Hopkins paints a realistic picture of a family undergoing upheaval and learning to better care for one another.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly ose poems, Hopkins (People Kill People) tells the story of cousins Hannah Lincoln and Calvin Pace, both sixth graders. Following his mother's death three years prior and subsequent difficulties with his father, who struggles with drug addiction, Cal is living with Hannah's family. He likes it there, but he's been through a lot and doesn't feel completely safe, and he knows that popular gymnast Hannah isn't crazy about having a housemate who melts down at school and whose tall tales and disappearances bring chaos into her home life. She admits that things haven't been great for a while, but it's hard not to blame Cal when her parents' marriage seems to be fraying, in part because they disagree about how to handle him. Cal's an aspiring writer, and his chapters question their own accuracy ("FACT OR FICTION: / Owls Are Bad Luck"); Hannah's sections are framed as definitions, as she tries to pin down what's what. While the headers can feel forced, Hopkins creates realistic portrayals of two kids trying to do their best even when it's not easy. Ages 10: up. Agent: Laura Rennert, Andrea Brown Literary. (Oct.)



#2216059 We Belong (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Cookie Hponia Everman

Stella and Luna know that their mama, Elsie, came from the Philippines when she was a child, but they don't know much else. So one night they ask her to tell them her story. As they get ready for bed, their mama spins two tales: that of her youth as a strong-willed middle child and immigrant; and that of the young life of Mayari, the mythical daughter of a god.

978-0-593-11220-5 Dial Books ©2021 5 x 7 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 830

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

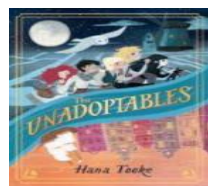
Reviews by: Booklist From debut author Everman comes a novel in verse that blends the magical and the real. As Elsie’s three children prepare for bedtime, they beg her for a story—Elsie’s own story. She instead tells them about Mayari, the moon goddess, who journeys with her siblings from one land to another. Mayari’s story parallels Elsie’s, as well as how her family fled the Philippines and came to America. It is, at times, a painful but familiar new immigrant story of struggle and hardship, but it also showcases not only the very tight bonds of Filipino families but also their perseverance. The book’s strength lies in Everman's ability to weave a plot that incorporates Filipino mythology with a personal immigration story. The challenge is in keeping track of all the characters, some with more than one name. Everman’s novel is a nice addition to the modern Filipino voices in children’s literature, including the similarly themed *Fresh Off the Boat* (2005), by Melissa de la Cruz, and Erin Entrada Kelly’s *The Land of Forgotten Girls* (2016).

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In this verse novel, adult Elsie tells her two daughters bedtime stories about her past, intertwining scenes from her childhood in the Philippines and immigration to America with Pilipino myths about the moon goddess Mayari. Parallels abound and intertwine in this deceptively gentle verse novel punctuated with rounded, friendly illustrations: Elsie's relationship with her siblings often mirrors Mayari's, especially in their love for their younger sisters, while both struggle with love and pain as they remember a mother "who sang the world to life for me, / whose heart was not shaped like a fist." Elsie narrates her young life under the dictator Marcos, who would be ousted a few years after her family emigrates; the stakes of her parents' decision to make a life in the United States; and her struggles to hold onto her whole, multifaceted self when familial and social pressures seem intent on tearing her into Pilipino and American halves. Mayari's story takes her from idyllic childhood with a human mother and godly father to battles with her divine siblings for a role in the heavens as colonialism and Catholicism alter the geographies of mortal and divine life. While the themes of immigration and identity are familiar, the interweaving with mythology makes them feel fresh, as do Elsie's reflections on motherhood, her own daughters, and her determination to "know my name is safe in your mouths." This book packs a lot into spacious, spare lines, and it would work well in conversations about family, immigration, Pilipino history, and world mythology. Lullaby translations, a very useful glossary with pronunciation guide, and author's note are included. FHK

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Pilipino mother recounts a bedtime story about gods and her own family mythology. Speaking in free verse, Elsie, mother to young mixed-race girls Stella and Luna (their dad is White), weaves a moving and ethereal story about family, loss, pain, and hope. Beautifully steeped in Pilipino culture and cosmology, the story she tells is that of Mayari, the moon goddess, and how she came to make it her life's work to reflect light. Her heartfelt narration brings the gods to life. Mayari and her siblings, Apolaki and Tala, believe they have humble beginnings but later learn their father is Bathala Maykapal, or God Creator. Forced to choose between Earth and Heaven, the siblings take only what they can carry and follow their father to Heaven despite their fears. Their fight to belong with the other gods mirrors Elsie's other tale, that of her family's tumultuous immigration to the United States from the Philippines during Ferdinand Marcos' reign amid violent protests and rolling blackouts. Like Mayari, Elsie could bring only so much with her and was forced to leave behind more than her toys--like the yayas, or nannies, who cared for her and the neighborhood she grew up in. Woven together in captivating parallels, Elsie's and Mayari's stories (the former in black type and the latter in light blue) reflect the struggle and hardship many immigrants face in search of a new life. Sometimes raw and traumatic, other times hopeful and inspiring, Elsie's bedtime story rings true, encapsulating the heart of Pilipino culture. A beautiful and poignant tale of immigration fused with Tagalog myth. (glossary, songs, afterword) (Verse fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Filipino mythology beautifully intertwines a personal immigration story in this free verse novel. Half-Filipino, half-white Stella, nine, and her younger sister Luna request a bedtime story from their mother, Elsie Aguila. Elsie tells the Tagalog myth of Mayari, goddess of the moon, and her siblings, Apolaki and Tala; god and goddess of the sun and stars; who were raised on Earth until the death of their mother. There they learn their father is Bathala Maykapal, Great Creator God; they must leave Earth with only a few belongings to follow their father to Heaven, where they struggle to assimilate. Mirroring the myth, Elsie and her family are forced to leave their homeland during the violence of Ferdinand Marcos's presidency, "tak only what can carry" to the U.S. in a 50-pound suitcase. Deeply poignant, at times involving trauma, the tales are relayed in blue and black type, picking up where the last leaves off in alternating chapters. Infusing the heart of Pinoy culture into a moving, accessible bedtime narrative, this "story of outsiders" will resonate with anyone who has felt estranged in the place they call home. Ages 10: up. Agent: Sarah Burnes, the Gernert Co. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up--Sisters Stella and Luna ask their mother, Elsie, for a story one night before bed. Elsie shares with them two stories that weave together and complement each other. First, she tells the story of Dalisay, mother of three demigods; second, the story of Elsie's own childhood and mother who was abusive. Because of this, Elsie found herself always searching for other, better, mothers in stories. Told in verse, mixing Tagalog and English, the plot takes place through flashbacks and current moments. This sweet tale jumps around between Elsie's childhood in the Philippines, her eventual move and adjusting to life in the United States, Filipino culture and mythology, and present-day moments between mother and daughters. A glossary of Tagalog words used is included in the back of the book. VERDICT Everman's debut tackles timely topics such as immigration, and something that all adults and kids yearn for: a sense of belonging. A short, charming tale perfect for easing students into middle grade and longer chapter books.--Alicia Kalan, The Northwest Sch., Seattle Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2162659 Unadoptables (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Hana Tooke

Egbert, Lotta, Sem, Fenna, and Milou. They are the unadoptables: children who have lived their whole lives at the Little Tulip orphanage in Amsterdam. But with the sea captain hunting them down, and a nosy neighbor threatening to reveal them to the authorities, the unadoptables will have to work fast to uncover the truth and find a way to save each other.

978-0-593-11693-7 Viking ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 11.0

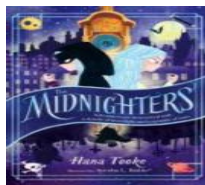
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist s at an orphanage in Amsterdam, Milou is confident her parents will eventually return for her. In the meantime, her only place is in four orphan friends, all possessing unusual talents and skills. When a shady stranger arrives to adopt the ragtag bunch, a suspicious Milo convinces her friends to escape before they're whisked away to certain doom. A puzzling clue in her original belongings may lead them to her family?and, hopefully, freedom?but when their travels point them to an abandoned windmill and a derelict puppet theater, it's clear their search will be anything but straightforward. Tooke's absorbing tale evokes the nineteenth-century Netherlands, including a smattering of Dutch vocabulary and it's a pleasure to explore the quirky and occasionally foreboding settings alongside the curious crew of orphans. Flashes of suspense and peril are balanced by lighthearted moments, with the bonds between the children creating a coziness even in the grimmest of circumstances. Always breezy, never dreary, this is a lovely testament to the power of family, in whatever form that may take.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Targeted in a wicked scheme, five resourceful kids flee their orphanage in 1892 Amsterdam. Each longs to be adopted, but would-be parents reject them when they see the kids' atypical attributes: Lotta's 12 fingers, Egg's East Asian ancestry (other characters default to white), Fenna's muteness, clumsy Sem's ears, and Milou's wild ferocity. That is, until sinister Meneer Rotman sees their remarkable gifts--but Milou's special sense warns her that Rotman's evil. Indeed: They discover he intends to buy them as slave labor to crew his ship. Milou, who keeps a Book of Theories regarding why her birth family hasn't claimed her, persuades them to escape to the puppet-making Poppenmaker family she's sure she belongs to. Loyal if not convinced, the others join her. Lotta's math and Egg's cartographic acumen help them follow coordinates on Milou's mysterious timepiece to the Poppenmakers' windmill home and puppet theater, now abandoned. Thanks to Lotta's technical ingenuity, Egg's artistry, Fenna's culinary prowess, and Sem's needlework--assisted by clockmaker and dike warden Edda Finkelstein--it's almost home. Then Milou forgets the other orphans have family longings, and the orphans discover Rotman has not forgotten them....While the vivid, Dickensian setting--grim orphanage, icy mists, and shadowy dockyards--and quaint clockwork creations and life-size puppets spin a web of Gothic creepiness, the bonds among this found family of lively orphans add plenty of warmth and light. Unfolding with the clarity of a fairy tale, this sure-footed debut casts a delightfully spooky spell. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 1880, five babies were abandoned at Amsterdam's Little Tulip Orphanage without adhering to the institution's orderly rules. Named by the cruel Matron Gassbeek, their monikers are as unique as they are: 12-fingered Lotta, a master of mathematics; gentle Egg, a budding cartographer; timid Fenna, a mute culinary expert; and protective Sem, a sewing whiz. The fifth, Milou, whose ear-prickling sense warns her of impending danger, has written a book of theories about why her parents abandoned her in a small coffin. Twelve years later, these inseparable children, all considered unadoptable, are suddenly courted by a merchant who wants them to join him aboard his ship. Instead, the five escape to an abandoned windmill once owned by Milou's family; however, even their lifelike puppet guardian and Milou's sixth sense may not protect them from the dangers of the outside world. Despite employing a well-trod conceit; orphans frantic to escape a miserable life creating a found family; this story stands out for its enchanted setting, daring escapades, and an arch, vividly wrought third-person narrative by debut author Tooke. Ages 8: 12. (July)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Five orphans dropped off at the Little Tulip Orphanage within months of each other in 1880 remain there 12 years later. Growing up under the thumb of the duplicitous matron Gassbeek, who makes Miss Hannigan look like Mother Teresa, the orphans have banded together to create a tight-knit family. The leader of their group, the smart, creative and daring Milou, encourages them to mount an escape when an advantageous situation presents itself. Each orphan possesses a special skill which comes in handy when needs arise. Lotta, born with six fingers on each hand, is mechanically inclined and technically savvy. Egg is an artist and cartographer, Sem is a genius with a sewing needle, and Fenna, although mute, speaks the language of animals fluently. Each orphan has a clue or two about their birth parents, but no one is as eager to find their mother and father as Milou; that becomes the group's first order of business. The plot thickens with the arrival of a dastardly villain, a nosy yet helpful neighbor, and complications of the children's own doing. The Amsterdam setting lends a theatrical feel and perilous situations keep the pages turning. Milou finds some unexpected answers, but the book leaves many questions about the others should there be a sequel. VERDICT These resourceful orphans will quickly captivate readers who enjoy mysterious adventure stories. The concept of what makes a family is examined with surprising results. Recommended.—Sara-Jo Lupo Sites, George F. Johnson Memorial Lib., Endicott, NY



#2280799 Midnighters (Hardcover (Trade))
written by *Hana Tooke*

Ema Vaskova has always felt different. In a family of famous scientists, there hasn't been much room for superstition or omens. When Ema is sent to stay with her eccentric uncle in Prague, she fears she'll lose the chance to ever fit in. But then disaster strikes. Silvie goes missing-and it's up to Ema to find her. Now she must gather the courage to hunt the city, find her friend, and uncover the secrets of the one clue Silvie left as to where she might be-inside the mysterious Midnight Guild...

978-0-593-11696-8 Viking ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 850

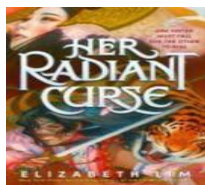
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An anxious child finds a friend, a secret circus, and a mystery to solve in 19th-century Prague. Ema Vasková has

been gifted with an education in the sciences by her 11 older siblings, has uncommon knacks for reading faces and entering rooms unnoticed, falls into fugue states when she's thinking hard, and possesses the inner stuff to face her fears--given proper prodding. That prodding initially comes from mysterious and wild-spirited Silvie, a girl who leads her on a series of thrillingly daring nighttime adventures...and then disappears suddenly. Screwing her courage to the sticking place, Ema sets out alone to track her down and, after clever sleuthing, discovers a subterranean carnival of illusions and pseudoscientific marvels with which Silvie was somehow involved--and which is in turmoil following the supposedly accidental death of a resident ghost whisperer. Along with narrow squeaks and daring exploits, the author tucks in subtle cues and clues on the way to a classic whodunit climax in which Ema gathers cast members into a room to rehearse the evidence and not only exposes the guilty to vindicate her friend, but, most significantly, satisfies a deep yearning to be seen by her busy but, as it turns out, educable parents. Ema leads a cast that largely presents White. Tooke's afterword suggests that her protagonist is, like herself, neurodivergent; she demonstrates positive attributes that accompany a label that is often framed in terms of difficulties. Adventures beguilingly rich and strange beneath a series of "full-ish" moons. (Adventure. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A daredevil's heart beats at the center of a whimsically dark, adventurous mystery from Tooke (The Unadoptables), which is equal parts Tim Burton and Agatha Christie. Born in 19th-century Prague as the 12th child of ambitious scientist parents, Ema Vaskova struggles to find her place within her clinically minded family. Naturally cautious Ema possesses keen stealth and an aptitude for reading people, as well as precognitive instincts that make her insides itch. The 12-year-old's timidity is challenged when she befriends cavalier neighborhood girl Silvie, with whom she engages in clandestine, swashbuckling midnight meet-ups that cement the girls' friendship. When Silvie suddenly disappears, Ema employs her budding moxie to find her friend, putting her at odds with the Midnight Guild, a secret collective that's both responsible for an underground pseudoscience carnival and reeling from a recent murder. Balancing the comfort of an intricately plotted caper with death-defying action, this rollicking, shadowy thriller blurs the line between magic and science, maintaining a lightly creepy charm through every revelation. Black-and-white illustrations by Rubio introduce each chapter. Most characters cue as white; an author's note discusses Ema's characterization in terms of neurodivergence. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Jenny Savill, Andrew Nurnberg Assoc. (U.K.). (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--A thrilling, magical adventure, this murder mystery involves Ema, a 12th child born at midnight just as her grandmother takes her last breath. Ema doesn't feel as though she fits into her large family where every older sibling has a scientific passion and has been accepted at a prestigious academy. When her parents go on a research trip, they leave her with her estranged but kind uncle. He is an ideal support system for Ema, caring for her unceasingly while giving her the space she needs to grow. While there, she meets a mysterious friend who challenges her to face her fears. When this friend goes missing under curious circumstances, Ema begins an investigation into 19th-century Prague's magical underworld. This is a coming-of-age novel combined with an exciting mystery where surprises and revelations abound. Readers will appreciate familiar themes like friendship, discovering and sharing your true self, and seeking acceptance that are woven throughout. This book may be too long for younger readers but has satisfying intrigue and resolution for those who see it through. VERDICT This murder mystery is a thrilling choice for upper elementary and early middle school collections.--Christina Salazar Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2330066 Her Radiant Curse (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elizabeth Lim

Channi was not born a monster. But when her own father offered her in sacrifice to the tiger witch, she was forever changed. Cursed with a serpent's face, Channi is the exact opposite of her beautiful sister Vanna--the only person in the village who looks at Channi and doesn't see a monster. The only person she trusts.

978-0-593-30099-2 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.
 Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 670

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 *Starred Review* Channi was small when her sister, Vanna, was born, but she still remembers the beguiling golden light that emanated from Vanna even at birth. She also remembers how, as her mother lay dying from childbirth, her father brought Channi into the forest as a sacrifice for Angma, the infamous Demon Witch. It was there that Channi's destiny was forged, as the king of serpents sacrificed his life for her in turn and gifted her with a poison so strong that Angma couldn't devour her. In exchange, the Demon Witch cursed her with a serpent's face and a bargain: if Channi brings Angma Vanna before Vanna's eighteenth birthday, Angma will lift the curse. Now that birthday approaches, and Channi, an outcast, loves no one more fiercely than her sister, except perhaps for the snakes who are her only friends. She trains to face Angma again, but the village prepares to auction Vanna off to whichever king will pay the most for her beauty, and both she and Channi are about to be caught up in a political and mythical battle that only one of them can survive. This stand-alone adventure from Lim's Lor'yan universe (Six Crimson Cranes, 2021) is artfully rendered, precisely paced, and piercingly true. Against the rich folkloric backdrop, Lim's complexly rendered characters come heartbreakingly alive. A fantasy to savor. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A curse shapes two sisters' lives. Channi was 2 the day Vanna was born. Adah, their father, tried to sacrifice Channi to the witch Angma in return for saving her mother's life. When his effort was thwarted by a snake, "the king among his kind," Angma punished Channi, giving her a face covered in snake scales that her father makes her cover with a mask. Unless Channi delivers her sister to Angma by

Vanna's 17th birthday in just three days' time, Angma will destroy them. Now 19, lonely Channi is shunned in their village but revered by the island's poisonous snakes and by Vanna, whose beauty, enhanced by the mysterious golden glow radiating from her heart, attracts widespread love, admiration, and gifts. Adah arranges an auction, inviting local royalty to bid for Vanna's hand. When wealthy old King Meguh matches the bid of Vanna's choice, young Crown Prince Rongyo, the dispute is to be settled through combat. Channi leaps into the fray to help her sister, fighting the dragon Meguh puts forward on his side--who she discovers has a connection to her past. Realizing that there is much she doesn't know, Channi faces even more threats. Fast-paced, frenetic action scenes deliver high body counts. The characterization is occasionally inconsistent, but Lim's vivid worldbuilding is a unifying, overarching strength, drawing from the landscapes, mythologies, and cultures of Southeast Asia. Action-fueled fantasy deepened by a compelling setting and well-constructed cosmology. (Fantasy. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two sisters strive to save each other from a persistent evil in this thrilling fantasy adventure by Lim (the Six Crimson Cranes duology). Channi's Adah intended to sacrifice her newborn sister Vanna to Angma, the Demon Witch, in return for a blessing to spare his wife from death. Adah; enraptured by Vanna's beauty and the enigmatic light radiating from within her; instead offers three-year-old Channi. When she's saved by the serpent king, Angma curses Channi to resemble a snake, promising to undo it so long as Channi delivers her sister to Angma before Vanna's 17th birthday, otherwise Angma will hunt them both. Now 19, Channi is ostracized in her hometown for her reptilian face by all except her almost 17-year-old sibling. During Vanna's betrothal selection, in which suitors compete for her hand, her prospective match with kind Crown Prince Rongyo is derailed by brutal King Meguh. Channi battles and defeats King Meguh in Prince Rongyo's stead and, impressed by her face and abilities, King Meguh kidnaps Channi. As Angma begins her pursuit, Channi must rely on unlikely allies to reunite with Vanna. Occasionally dense but lush storytelling evokes East Asian folklore mixed with Helen of Troy vibes, culminating in an intriguing tale about one sisterhood that endures against all odds. Ages 12: up. Agent: Gina Maccoby, Gina Maccoby Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up--A spellbinding adventure that focuses on the bond between sisters and the strength it takes to be our true selves. Channi's father was supposed to sacrifice her new sister to the demon witch, but when the baby is born beautiful and radiating golden light, he drags Channi into the jungle instead. Channi survives her encounter, but at a cost--now she looks like a monster, her blood is poison, and the witch swears to come on her sister Vanna's 17th birthday to kill them both if Channi doesn't give her sister up to save herself. Channi won't sacrifice her sister and trains her whole life to fight the demon witch. On her 17th birthday, Vanna is more beautiful than ever, and their father hosts a selection for Vanna's suitors to bid on her. When Vanna's cruelest admirer wins, Channi duels the man's champion for her sister's freedom and finds herself suddenly the focus of his attention. Lim's latest novel broadens the horizons of her "Legends of Lor'yan," standing alone and highlighting traditional folklore and fairy-tale elements. Channi deals with the consequences of her actions as she grows out of her impulsiveness to grapple with the weight of prophecy and the sacrifices it entails. Readers familiar with the other books will recognize some side characters, but prior knowledge of the world is not required. Characters are coded a variety of Asian ethnicities. VERDICT Highly recommended for new and experienced fantasy readers. Hand to fans of Judy I. Lin's A Magic Steeped in Poison or Melissa Bashardoust's Girl, Serpent, Thorn.--Emmy Neal Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness This action-packed, evocative fantasy is replete with intriguing magic and East Asian folklore.



#2349480 Song of the Swan (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karah Sutton

Olga is an orphan and a thief, relying on trickery and sleight of hand to make her way in the world. But it's magic, not thievery, that could get her into trouble. When Olga and her partner-in-crime Pavel learn of a valuable jewel kept in a secluded castle, Olga sees an opportunity to change their lives: a prize so big, they'd never have to steal again. But the castle is not as it seems, ruled by an enchanter who hosts grand balls every night, only for the guests to disappear each morning, replaced by swans.

978-0-593-12169-6 Alfred A. Knopf ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 More than anything, Olga wants freedom, freedom from the deceitful Mr. Bulgakov who forces her to use her Heartstring magic to swindle innocent villagers and from the hunger that drives her to do it. When she encounters a palace rumored to house a great treasure, she jumps at the chance to buy a new life--with the help of Pavel, her goodhearted, if distractible, companion. But something's wrong with the magic at the palace, and the baron there is planning something terrible. Ripe for fairytale fans, Sutton's magic system is easily understood, and interspersed short stories pose moral questions directly to the reader. As in her acclaimed debut, A Wolf for a Spell (2020), Sutton conjures a folkloric Eastern European setting in this Swan Lake retelling, and illustrator Hannuniemi lends a cozy feel with angular black-and-white renderings. Like the ballet it's inspired by, this middle-grade fantasy emphasizes the power of choice, and Olga is driven and practical as she wrestles with whether to chase her fortune or dig a little deeper to stop the baron's evil plan. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews No granted wish comes without strings attached. Left alone when her mother died, wild-maned moppet Olga, who knows nothing about her father, now runs with the nefarious Mr. Bulgakov and bighearted older-brother figure Pavel. For years, the three have kept moving, swindling villagers for food and profit, often using a form of magic possessed by Olga to create illusions. Olga does not feel good about this lifestyle, but years of being taught to look out for herself have inured her to it. That is, until an escape from law enforcement lands them in the Kamen Mountains, where legend tells of the Scarlet Heart, a jewel that could change their lives. Escaping from Mr. Bulgakov to search for it, Olga and Pavel find themselves in the lavish Sokolov Palace, complete with a swan-filled aviary and extravagant balls hosted by the enigmatic Baron Sokolov. Of course, it's all too good to be true, and Olga soon must try to unlock a "distorted, infected" magic, unaware that her own fate is inextricably linked to it. Segments of the story are cleverly previewed by an omniscient spider storyteller who addresses readers and asks them thoughtful questions. The characters are interesting, and the story, lovingly inspired by the ballets *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*, is well developed and moves briskly. Engaging illustrations, reminiscent of woodcut prints, add interest and context as the tale unfolds. In this Eastern European-influenced world, characters read white. An enchanting fairy tale. (author's note) (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Wise spiders, magical threads, and flawed illusions anchor this traditionally structured fantasy that nods to *Swan Lake*, focused on a child who uses her magical powers to help her swindling merchant caretaker. Desperate to escape the nomadic life she has endured since her mother's death when she was six, 13-year-old Olga determines to find a legendary jewel, the Scarlet Heart. She runs away with loyal 18-year-old giant Pavel, the third cohort of the swindler's trio, to a reputedly haunted valley that's home to Sokolov Palace, rumored both to be abandoned and to house the jewel. Not only is the palace not empty, but exuberant Baron Sokolov hosts hordes of guests nightly at glittering balls. Pavel is enchanted, but Olga, single-minded about finding the treasure and well aware of illusions' nature, quickly grows suspicious, and the presence of magic-bound swans raises further questions. Organized into eight tales and formally narrated by an omniscient spider who interrupts regularly to provide context for readers (addressed as "little ones"), this complicated and suspenseful work by previous collaborators Sutton and Hannuniemi (*A Wolf for a Spell*) is sometimes encumbered by Olga's distrustful nature as she resists succumbing to a compassionate use of her magic. Occasional b&w illustrations create an animated-film ambiance. Human characters present as white. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal d her companion, 18-year-old Pavel, both depicted as white in Hannuniemi's stylized black-and-white illustrations, feature in Sutton's *Swan Lake*-inspired Slavic tale. The story is divided into sections, each introduced by a male spider talking directly to readers and providing small clues. Olga is an orphan and a magical swindler who seeks a legendary gem, the Scarlet Heart, which seems like the answer to her hard-scrabble existence. Searching for it in the remote Sokolov Palace, Olga and Pavel encounter the genial Baron Sokolov who hosts nightly festivities for his guests. Conversations with the local talking spiders convince them to investigate further, as Olga is faced with an ethical conundrum—use her magic to try to break the palace's enchantment, or act in her own self-interest. Sutton transforms the celebrated ballet into a children's folk tale with some success. Olga is a refreshingly flawed individual whose bravery and initiative will appeal to readers. Lengthy descriptions of the foods at the Baron's feasts are unilaterally mouth-watering. Turning a tragic ballet into a hopeful children's tale creates some strained story threads which sit awkwardly alongside several of predictable plot twists. In the story's conclusion, Sutton spends time telling readers what lessons they should learn rather than having Olga demonstrate them. Accompanying illustrations are by turns textured and soft with waves and fine lines, and an engaging author's note sheds light on the book's inspiration and sources. VERDICT Sutton's prose is fluid and readable—certainly young balletomanes and fans of fairy-tale retellings will overlook the stumbles. Suitable for larger fantasy collections.—Caitlin Augusta



#2216138 **Amazing Beef Squad: Never Say Die! (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Jason Ross

Nick Rhodes and his friends Pratchett, Hogue, and Jared--together known as Beef Squad--have got seventh grade totally hacked. They have the smarts to make perfect grades by day, pull spectacular pranks by night, play video games in between, and do it all with a zany sense of humor. (Because someone has to celebrate National Asparagus Appreciation Day.)

978-0-593-12475-8 Delacorte Press ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

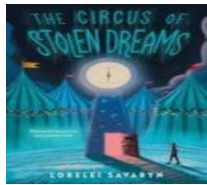
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In trying to save a favorite teacher from being fired, a tight quartet of seventh grade pranksters and a newbie uncover a web of small-town chicanery. Keying off a traditional middle-grade fiction trope, the new kid, motorcycle-boot-wearing, hip urban kid Karla Woo, is both a girl and smarter than her four classmates combined--as she demonstrates by not only beating them repeatedly in the video game "Dynamus," but hacking several phones and security systems...almost in time to save them from being caught in a bit of nighttime breaking and entering. In their defense, though Hogue, Jared, Pratchett, and Nick (the narrator) aren't above concocting fiendishly clever schemes to drive a succession of substitute teachers nuts, they are decent sorts at heart, and it's really their high regard for unconventional science teacher Mr. Easton that fuels most of their shenanigans. Discovering that he's being railroaded out of town by certain prominent local citizens eager to cash in on some suddenly valuable real estate, the middle schoolers do ultimately stumble their way to an improbable but devastating exposé that puts Easton back in the classroom and the villains in deep legal soup. This amiable caper features a young cast that is as smart as it is smart-mouthed, mildly

caricatured grown-ups, and comical pratfalls aplenty on the way to a triumphant close. Everyone presents as White excepting Karla, who is cued as Korean American. More belly laughs than surprises, but a well-buffed debut novel. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—In the town of Leonardsville, a famous swindle has been hanging over residents' heads since the town's beginning. And the charter members of the Amazing Beef Squad, four smart but mischievous middle school boys, are about to get a chance to make things right. Nick, Pratchett, Jared, and Hogue get good grades, but you wouldn't necessarily know that from all of the time they spend playing video games and pulling pranks. Their latest escapade—adding made-up words to the glossary of the school's science textbooks—has landed each of them in suspension and under the overly watchful eye of school resource officer, Officer Jim. Even though they have to play it safe for awhile, the firing of their favorite teacher Mr. Easton is enough to spring them into action in a scheme that is bigger than they imagined. This tale suffers from lack of plot and character development. In the beginning, the blurred time lines make it hard for readers to understand what is happening in the present and what is merely background information. Readers might also have a hard time suspending disbelief. Overly flat characters coupled with exaggerated plot points (the school has students digitizing city documents as a part of their schoolwork) may make it hard for readers to stay invested. Even the interactions between the characters, especially between parents and kids, are not authentic and shift wildly from moment to moment. Although this is on the shorter side for middle grade novels, the overuse of descriptive language and labored dialogue causes the pacing to drag. For books with a similar tone but better results, consider John H. Ritter's *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* or John David Anderson's *Ms. Bixby's Last Day*. VERDICT This book is not recommended for purchase.—Louie Lauer, Jefferson Elem. Sch., Fargo, ND



#2178102 Circus of Stolen Dreams (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lorelei Savaryn

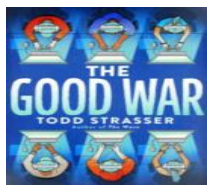
After Andrea's brother, Francis, disappeared, everything changed. Her world turned upside down, and there was nothing she could do to right it. So when she discovers a magical dream world called Reverie in the woods near her home, Andrea jumps at the chance to escape her pain and go inside. But the cost of admission is high: Andrea must give up a memory in order to enter. And she knows exactly which memory she'd like to give up.

978-0-593-20206-7 Penguin Young Readers Group ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 860

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Three years after her little brother, Francis, went missing from their shared bedroom in the middle of the night, Andrea is desperate to escape her pain and guilt. When she happens upon a flyer for “Reverie: Land of Dreams,” a fairground that promises to help you forget your troubles for the price of one memory or dream, she’s happy to pay the admission, ridding herself of the recollection of that horrible evening. Reverie’s proprietor, Mr. Sandman, has fashioned a circus of wonders where every tent contains discarded memories. Anyone can enter and experience the exhilarating dreams or thrilling nightmares, all in the safety of the fairground's embrace. Initially, Andrea is delighted to throw herself into the enchantment, but when she happens upon one of Francis’ nightmares, she realizes that the magical setting may be hiding her brother—along with something much more sinister. Savaryn’s unconventional story makes for a bewitching debut, filled with dazzling descriptions and real surprises. The dreams—and nightmares, too—are incredibly vivid, and readers will find themselves transported; the bittersweet musings on the importance of embracing both the good and bad in life are an encouraging balm to anyone trying to make sense of the beauty and pain that the world has to offer.



#2198115 Good War (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Todd Strasser

There's a new afterschool club at Ironville Middle School. Ms. Peterson is starting a video game club where the students will playing *The Good War*, a new game based on World War II. They are divided into two teams: Axis and Allies, and they will be simulating a war they know nothing about yet. Only one team will win. But what starts out as friendly competition, takes an unexpected turn for the worst when an one player takes the game too far.

978-0-593-17365-7 Delacorte Press ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

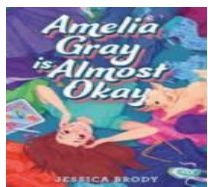
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Through a grant, "Extra Credit" Caleb Arnett has secured top-of-the-line gaming computers for Ironville Middle School, a largely white institution whose football team was cut due to funding, and he's now one of the inaugural members of the school's eSports

club. With teacher approval, the kids, including team captains Emma Lopez and Gavin Morgenstern, select *The Good War*; a WWII game in which players take the sides of Axis or Allies. The students react in various ways to their new knowledge of Nazism: after a few weeks, Gavin's team asks to be Axis for every round, and they begin trying out German accents and clothes, seemingly unaware of these actions' implications. Online, an older white supremacist begins grooming one of the players, employing hateful rhetoric that coincides with outside intrusions of Nazi slogans and images into the club's chat box and matches. Strasser (*The Summer of '69*) packs a lot into this brief tale; while his damning of hate groups is anything but subtle, by using a gaming lens to explore the students' entree to prejudice and radicalization, he succeeds in lending immediacy and accessibility to his cautionary tale. Ages 10: up. Agent: Stephen Barbara, InkWell Management. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–7—The kids at Ironville Middle School love "The Good War," a popular WWII-based video game. It's no wonder that when math teacher Ms. B starts an esports club, that's the game they want to play, with two teams competing against each other as Axis vs. Allies. It's not long before symbols of hatred from that era in history show up in the mannerisms and clothing of the kids on the Axis team, leading to a violent confrontation between the two sides. Strasser tells a compelling, character-driven tale, demonstrating a keen understanding of how tweens think. Juggling eight different characters, including upstanding Caleb, socially anxious Emma, misunderstood footballer Gavin, and bullied Zach, Strasser creates authentic and appealing individuals. Reminiscent of the characters in *The Breakfast Club*, the esports members evolve over the course of the novel, changing the way they see themselves—and their peers. None of the students' race or ethnicity are described; the town of Ironville is described as "mostly white." The novel drives home the consequences of the Axis students' dangerous embrace of hate images they have not been educated about and don't understand. The lesson is a bit undermined by the flawed premise that a public school teacher would permit seventh graders to play a rated M, first-person shooter game in a school club, even if they enjoy it at home. VERDICT A timely message, engagingly told. Purchase for middle grade collections.—Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem P.L., Holbrook, NY



#2317556 Amelia Gray Is Almost Okay (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jessica Brody

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Twelve-year-old Amelia Gray has changed schools thirty-nine times (!!!) because of her dad's job, which doesn't leave a lot of time for making friends. But that's okay. Amelia loves her "life on the go" with Dad and their adorable supermutt, Biscotti. But when her dad announces that he wants to stay in their new town for the whole summer—maybe even forever—Amelia realizes she's going to have to do the one thing she's never had to do: fit in. Yet despite her best efforts, she still can't answer the most important question of all: Who is the real Amelia Gray?

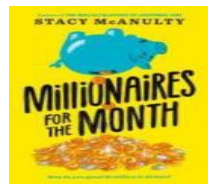
978-0-593-17372-5 Delacorte Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 14.0 Lexile 700

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Twelve-year-old Amelia loves life on the road with Dad. Every month, he takes a new job in a different place, and Amelia starts over at another school (39 and counting). She's learned not to try to make friends, but she has her father and her dog for company, and she enjoys their dependable routine. When Dad takes a three-month job in the small town where her deceased mom grew up, Amelia is upset, but she seizes the opportunity to discover her passion. Reimagining herself as Amie (a track star), Mellie (journalist), and Lia (a musical theater enthusiast), with different looks and personalities, she joins three programs, makes several friends, and frantically tries to keep them away from one another. Brody portrays Amelia as an intelligent, independent, yet vulnerable character, dashing from one activity to another and feigning enthusiasm for each one, while her plan unravels in ways that are both amusing and touching. A feel-good story with a lovable protagonist, this well-paced middle-grade novel is engaging and enjoyable in equal measure. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Identity struggles, moving, and navigating relationships with family and peers are at the center of this middle-grade novel. Amelia Gray, who prefers blending into the crowd, is experiencing her 39th last day of school—that's approximately one new classroom per month. Surprisingly, Amelia's life is actually fairly routinized; for example, she and her itinerant handyman dad pick a different subject to master via YouTube in each new town. When they arrive in their latest town near Pittsburgh, Amelia notices that each student's yearbook picture is captioned with their crowning achievement. She aims to find her special skill over summer break. Amelia flits from one hobby to the next, trying her hand at track, journalism, and even drama, using a different name for each. Trouble ensues when her dog, Biscotti, has a run-in with Ketchup, the dog belonging to Finn, another new kid. Schedule conflicts and other mishaps also create a challenge for Amelia as she attempts to keep her multiple identities hidden. The lives she and her dad have built together since the death of her mother in childbirth may be about to change forever as Dad begins to put down roots. The novel would have benefited from stronger character development to bolster readers' emotional connections with the themes touched on, including the search for identity during the preteen years, peer relationships, and single-parent families' experiences. Main characters read White. Skims the surface in exploring commonly addressed issues. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly As 12-year-old Amelia Gray, who reads as white, finishes up sixth grade at her 39th school, she's ready for yet another four-week stay in a new place with her single father, who travels the country revamping hotels. Happy with their unattached "life on the go" and their "supermutt" Biscotti, she is stunned when her father announces that they'll stay in their next destination; Summerville, N.Y.; for an

entire summer. He also challenges her to join an activity for the duration, and promises that if she sticks with it, he'll secure the thing she wants most: a dog DNA test for Biscotti. Flummoxed by the realization that she lacks a "Thing" of her own, Amelia reinvents herself as three separate people, each with a different name, to find out which persona suits her best. As Amie the "track superstar," Mellie the journalist, and Lia the performer, she makes friends; and enemies; and digs herself into a deepening pit of small-town drama as she tries to keep her identities separate and her father seems to put down roots. Aptly literalizing the perennial theme of reinventing oneself, this light comedy of errors from Brody (I Speak Boy) features laugh-aloud shenanigans and tender insights. Ages 10: up. Agent: Jim McCarthy, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (Mar.)



#2174390 Millionaires for the Month (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stacy McAnulty

Felix Rannells and Benji Porter were never supposed to be field-trip partners. They find a wallet. A wallet that belongs to tech billionaire Laura Friendly. They're totally going to return it-but not before Benji "borrows" twenty dollars to buy hot dogs.

Because twenty dollars is like a penny to a billionaire, right? A penny doubled every day for thirty days is \$5,368,709.12! So that's exactly how much money Laura Friendly challenges Felix and Benji to spend. They have thirty days.

978-0-593-17525-5 Random House Children's Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 570

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

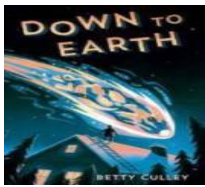
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A reward of \$5,000,000 almost ruins everything for two seventh graders. On a class trip to New York City, Felix and Benji find a wallet belonging to social media billionaire Laura Friendly. Benji, a well-off, chaotic kid with learning disabilities, swipes \$20 from the wallet before they send it back to its owner. Felix, a poor, shy, rule-follower, reluctantly consents. So when Laura Friendly herself arrives to give them a reward for the returned wallet, she's annoyed. To teach her larcenous helpers a lesson, Laura offers them a deal: a \$20,000 college scholarship or slightly over \$5 million cash--but with strings attached. The boys must spend all the money in 30 days, with legal stipulations preventing them from giving anything away, investing, or telling anyone about it. The glorious windfall quickly grows to become a chore and then a torment as the boys appear increasingly selfish and irresponsible to the adults in their lives. They rent luxury cars, hire a (wonderful) philosophy undergrad as a chauffeur, take their families to Disney World, and spend thousands on in-app game purchases. Yet, surrounded by hedonistically described piles of loot and filthy lucre, the boys long for simpler fundamentals. The absorbing spending spree reads like a fun family film, gleefully stuffed with the very opulence it warns against. Major characters are White. Cinematic, over-the-top decadence, a tense race against time, and lessons on what's truly valuable. (mathematical explanations) (Fiction. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Upstate New York seventh graders Felix Rannells and Benji Porter have nothing in common: Felix is small, serious, and a star basketball guard, while Benji is a tall, carefree class clown, so neither is pleased to be partnered for a class field trip. When they find billionaire Laura Friendly's lost wallet but decide to steal \$20 for a snack before returning it, she issues a challenge: spend \$5 million in a month ("a penny doubled every day for thirty days"). If they succeed and follow all the rules, including keeping the contest secret, they will receive \$10 million each. Benji's family is wealthy, while Felix's single mom works two jobs, but both boys are eager to win. At first it's easy: they hire a driver, book hotel suites, and take a private jet to Disney World. But the money eventually causes tension in both families, and both boys are seen as "selfish jerks." The duo is relatable, and the realities of middle school are well wrought, with crushes and crushing embarrassment alike. While the final message about money rings true, reading about wasteful spending during a grim economic reality may not appeal. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Lori Kilkelly, LK Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—The saying "money can't buy happiness" has been tested time and again, but what about spending money—specifically five million dollars? While on a school field trip, the unlikely duo Felix Rannells and Benji Porter discover the lost wallet of tech mogul and billionaire Laura Friendly. As the teen boys failed to return the wallet without spending \$20 on lunch first, Friendly offers them a challenge: spend five million dollars in 30 days in order to receive a penny doubled each day, meaning \$5,368,709.12! From private trips to Disney World, whole school pizza lunches everyday, to a personal driver, the teens rake up quite the bill—but what will they lose as they gain? With specific rules such as preventing purchases for anyone else, the boys risk looking like (or becoming) selfish jerks. Highly reminiscent of the film Brewster's Millions, McAnulty's work will engage a new generation with a fresh teen perspective. Readers will cheer Felix and Benji through their quest, indulge as they imagine the possibilities of spending five million dollars, but also feel stressed as the money threatens family, friends, and their moral compasses. The quick pace of the challenge is mirrored by short chapters and alternating perspectives between the boys, heightening reader engagement. Each chapter also provides a check-in on the boys' total spending to keep readers on track and to offer some light math concepts. VERDICT This novel's unpredictable money twists, paired with the notion of spending five million dollars, topped with a sprinkling of pop culture references, will captivate tweens.—Mary-Brook J. Townsend, The McGillis Sch., Salt Lake City

#2223046 Down to Earth (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



written by Betty Culley

Henry has always been fascinated by rocks. As a homeschooler, he pours through the R volume of the encyclopedia (to help him identify the rocks he finds). So, when a meteorite falls in his family's field, who better to investigate than this rock enthusiast—with his best friend, James, and his little sister, Birdie, in tow, of course.

978-0-593-17573-6 Crown Children's Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 760

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Ten-year-old Henry, homeschooled and fascinated by rocks, lives on the outskirts of a small town in Maine. He very much hopes that, like his father and one of his uncles, he will also have the ability to find water by dowsing, a gift said to reveal itself at his age. When a meteor blazes earthward one night, he's the only one to see it slam into the field beside his home. The next morning, he finds the enormous, amazing meteorite but doesn't expect the dramatic events that will follow. Wells in town begin to dry up, while water floods his family's field and destroys their home. Is the meteorite drawing water toward itself? Who can put things right? Henry's first-person narrative signals his scientific bent: the night after their home is inundated, he likens his father to "a nocturnal animal, awake when everyone else is asleep," and his mother to "an animal going into hibernation, eating less and slowing down her movements to conserve energy." From Henry, his best friend, and members of his extended family to a visiting geologist from a museum, the characters have layers of complexity that are gradually revealed as the story unfolds at its own steady pace. A captivating middle-grade novel. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In retrospect, ten-year-old Henry Bower had a couple of clues that his life was about to change. When he practiced with his dowsing rod, hoping to confirm that he had inherited the family gift, it pointed skyward, and his two-year-old sister Birdie reported hearing "Hizzz hizzzz." Now a huge meteorite has crashed into the ground in his family's field in northern Maine, and the amazing event Henry hoped to keep secret is drawing public concern: a heavy stream of water is flowing from the site, flooding the roads, even as local wells are running dry. The strength and delight of this awe-infused novel derive from Culley's deftly blurred line between fantasy and realism (for readers), and between cause and correlation (for Henry and the townspeople). Plausible explanations abound for the odd goings-on—a damaged aquifer could account for the flooding and the dry wells; the sudden appearance of sandhill cranes may be related to the flooded land; the indestructibility of the meteorite is because space matter is mysterious and weird. But what about the improved health or recovery of people exposed to the water, or Birdie's sudden ability to use complete sentences? And most of all, what of Henry's successful plan to redirect the water flow with the gift of a treasured pebble given to him by a scientist, who shared a similar experience in his youth? This is the perfect match for middle graders starting to sort through what we do know, what we don't know yet, and what might be unknowable. EB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After 10-year-old Henry witnesses the fall of a meteorite, disaster finds his Maine home. Henry Bower, of Bower Hill Road, comes from a family of water dowzers, but he hasn't yet shown any talent in this area—his current skills include reading the most books at the library and writing questions about the world in his home-schooling notebook. Henry has a passion for rocks and minerals and is thrilled when he and his little sister find a meteorite to rival the 31-ton Ahnighito in Greenland. An author's note describes, among other things, the controversy over its fate and the "sad and disturbing history of the Inughuit people brought to New York City, along with the meteorite." Henry tries to keep it a secret to protect it from similar theft. A paean to science, the text can be laudably earnest ("I learn that no matter how big or special a meteorite is, someone always wants to take it or chip it") but the dialogue is occasionally stilted. Brief quotes, mostly from nonfiction science resources, open each chapter, intriguing readers who might otherwise wonder where Henry's narrative is going and why. The flood that overtakes Henry's house traumatizes his family, especially when some people in the town blame them for it, but Henry shows impressive kindness and resilience. The main cast reads as White; a visiting scientist who mentors Henry is Black. A meandering, idealistic tale for budding scientists. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Fascinated with geology, Henry spends hours breaking rocks open. His family members are water dowzers, people who sense sources of water using a dowsing rod. Henry is anxious because water dowsing is not something one can learn from a book, and not everyone in the family has the "gift." When he tries to use a dowsing rod to find water, he feels an urge to hold the stick toward the sky instead of the ground. Soon, a giant meteorite falls to Earth. Henry is ecstatic to find and analyze the rock from space. But the meteorite has brought more than just media attention and a collector offering a giant financial reward—the rock has caused a disaster, and Henry feels responsible. Culley perfectly illustrates Henry's complicated feelings and insecurities. He reacts like any child would, especially when the small town seems to hold him responsible. Poignant, lyrical prose and an engaging mix of geology, astronomy, and wonder will make this title popular, especially for fans of Nancy Viau's Samantha Hansen Has Rocks in Her Head. Henry is cued as white. VERDICT Heartwarming and absorbing, this is a solid choice for middle grade collections. Perfect for readers who want a great small-town story mixed with STEM.—Patrick Tierney, Pascoag P.L., RI

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2235110 Elfie Unperfect (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Kristin Mahoney</i> Elfie Oster was sure that Hampshire Academy was going to be the perfect school for	1	\$16.99



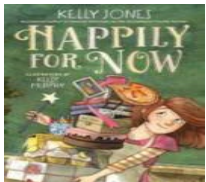
her. She was sure about it right up to the minute she got expelled. On her first day.
 978-0-593-17582-8 Alfred A. Knopf ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 670

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 An excellent student who takes her Student Lunch Monitor duties seriously, friendless Elfie has never really fit in at her local school, Cottonwood Elementary. In fifth grade, she enters prestigious Hampshire Academy as a scholarship student. Her high hopes are dashed on her first day, however, when she's suspended and faces possible expulsion for a supposed honor-code violation. Elfie is shaken by the accusation and, soon afterward, by the news that her beloved, long-term babysitter has cancer. After a series of uncomfortable truths jolt her into seeing herself from others' perspectives, she begins to realize that her exacting, unsympathetic attitude toward her peers may have something to do with her lack of friends. Still, shifting her mindset isn't easy. Initially, Elfie is very relatable yet somewhat unlikable as a character who gladly leaves her old classmates behind in hopes of finding better ones at the Academy. Santat's inviting jacket art, the many vivid characters, and Elfie's spot-on conversations with both kids and adults will draw readers into her involving story of turmoil, discovery, and change. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Upscale Hampshire Academy-where academics are challenging, facilities are topnotch, and students are motivated and honorable-was supposed to be a better fit for Elfie Oster than Cottonwood public school. Before the close of her first day of fifth grade, though, one of Hampshire's honorable students, who also happens to be the scion of a major donor, has framed her for swiping his cell phone, landing her on indefinite suspension until an honor committee holds a formal hearing. Now it's back to Cottonwood with dashed hopes and a heap of embarrassment, particularly regarding her cousin and classmate Jenna, who has always lagged behind her scholastically but outshone her socially. Top that off with the news that her beloved babysitter and confidante has been diagnosed with cancer, and Elfie, who always has problems processing her need for perfection and control, is in a very bad place. There are a few rays of light, however, if Elfie will only choose to acknowledge them: a new teacher at Cottonwood who actually gets her; clunky but heartfelt overtures from Jenna to steer their relationship toward actual friendship; even the dreaded group project (Elfie, like so many control freaks, hates group projects) on caring for an egg baby is unexpectedly engrossing. That Elfie will ultimately turn down her chance to return to Hampshire is a foregone resolution that generates little tension, but Mahoney leaves her star with a couple of uncertainties to resolve and new resilience and friendships to help her meet them head-on. EB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Can a perfect student find a way to belong in the "unperfect" world around her? Studious Elfie yearns for a place where her academic devotion and drive for perfection are appreciated. So she's thrilled when she earns a scholarship and a place as a fifth grader at a fancy private school. Unfortunately, on the very first day Elfie's good intentions get her in trouble with a legacy student, and she finds herself back at her old public school. Elfie is crushed, but as time passes, she begins to realize she's not the only one experiencing hardship and unfairness. Ultimately, Elfie learns that finding community and supporting your friends and family are much more important than perfect grades. Elfie's specific ways of observing and navigating the world are brought to vivid life in the first-person narration of this realistic story. The tension between living up to your principles while also trying to be a good friend rings true. Elfie also explores new emotional territory as she processes loved ones' health and emotional crises. Through it all, there's just the right mix of gentle humor, unconditional love from her mother and father, and Elfie's own compelling brand of heart. The main cast is satisfyingly developed, which makes up for a few one-dimensional minor characters. Most characters seem to default to White; Elfie's teacher is Filipina American. A solid story about the importance of community rather than perfection. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Elfie strives for excellence. But for a girl with no friends, fifth grade is chock-full of challenges. First, Elfie is expelled from her dream school. Second, Elfie's babysitter and confidant becomes ill. And finally, Elfie's aunt and uncle's impending divorce and her return to the dreaded Cottonwood Elementary bring Elfie face-to-face with Jenna, her nemesis cousin. So how does a smart girl sans chums survive? In this well-plotted, realistic read, Mahoney shows readers that when presented the impossible, people can change for the best. Expertly honing in on the social skills that grow with friendship, Mahoney gently reminds tweens that others' perspectives, expectations, and intentions often differ from their own—and that other's intentions can be good. VERDICT A sure pick for booksmart readers who might need a boost making friends, and an excellent candidate for illustrating social-emotional learning skills.—Jennifer Strattman, Cambridge, NY



#2222930 Happily for Now (Hardcover (Trade))
 written by Kelly Jones

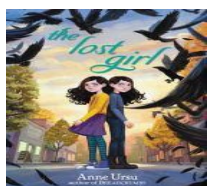
Fiona may have problems, but she's no damsel in distress. She'd rather be the one wielding the wand in the story: she wants to be the fairy godperson. So when her mom sends her off to stay with relatives in a place called Cold Hope for the summer, Fiona decides it's time to start training for the role.

978-0-593-17952-9 Alfred A. Knopf ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 288 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Fiona aspires to be a fairy godperson, helping others to solve their own problems the way her social worker, Ms. Davis, helps her. When her mother, who struggles with addiction, checks into rehab, Fiona goes to stay with Great-aunt Alta, Great-uncle Tim, and Alta's daughter Becky in the small town of Cold Hope (an allusion to this book's inspiration, Stella Gibbons's Cold Comfort Farm, with occasional black-and-white illustrations helping set the scene). Becky and Tim run the family bakery, which has always served the same boring menu. Alta isn't happy when Becky, with Fiona's encouragement, starts baking new recipes, but the rest of Cold Hope appreciates the new flavors. Following the fairy-godperson lessons Ms. Davis sends her by email -- and aided by the offbeat residents of Cold Hope -- Fiona looks for ways to assist her relatives in working through old grudges and to discover what makes them happy. Fiona's tendency to look at the world through the framework of fairy tales makes an effective structure for the story and creates a setting where even grouchy and eccentric Great-aunt Alta feels entirely plausible. Jones believably depicts Fiona as the child of an addict, with a blend of knowledge and naivete that keeps her from seeming precocious or sentimental. The book's lower-stakes conflicts -- a baking competition, Great-uncle Tim's hidden art -- are treated with as much gravity as the bigger issues, making for an emotionally satisfying read. Sarah Rettger July/August 2021 p.114(c) Copyright 2021. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Jones (Sauerkraut) delivers a witty play on traditional fairy tales with a healthy dose of emotional maturity. White, red-haired protagonist Fiona would rather help her mother at home than journey to live with unfamiliar relatives in a "creepy old house" in a town called Cold Hope. But when her mom enters treatment for addiction, Fiona; with the help of social worker Ms. Davis, cued as Black; channels her worries about both situations into "fairy-godperson training," which involves helping others navigate their circumstances. Through Fiona's frank narrative voice, Jones offers humorous allusions to familiar fairy tales with a timely slant; about Cinderella, "When you read about some girl going around covered in ashes... it's pretty clear somebody should get that girl some help." As Fiona attempts to work her magic with her tired relatives, who run a failing bakery, she inadvertently starts a war between their most creative alchemist, Aunt Becky, and a competing operation. Whimsical without being treacly, this on-point fairy tale handles its subject matter sensitively as Fiona learns that helping people isn't as easy as it seems. Occasional illustrations by Murphy (Faraway Things) include detailed maps of the town. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Mandy Hubbard, Emerald City Literary. (May)



#2088815 **Lost Girl (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Anne Ursu

When you're an identical twin, your story always starts with someone else. For Iris, that means her story starts with Lark. When fifth grade arrives, however, it is decided that Iris and Lark should be split into different classrooms, and something breaks in them both.

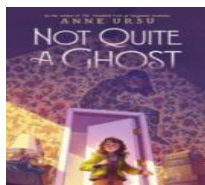
978-0-06-227509-7 Walden Pond Press ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly identical, but not the same." Iris is down-to-earth; Lark has her head in the clouds. The girls have always looked after each other, and when they are placed in different classrooms and after-school activities (art camp for Lark, a library girls' group for Iris) during fifth grade, they are devastated. Nothing feels right to Iris, whose dismay is exacerbated by a series of unsettling events: meeting the peculiar owner of an antique shop who claims he's doing magic, noticing objects gone missing from the twins' home, and being followed by a giant crow. The occurrences connect to a dark secret that proves dangerous to Iris and could separate the twins forever. As intriguing as it is eerie, this imaginative tale by Ursu (The Real Boy) is told from the point of view of the crow, who observes Iris's actions and emotions as she faces life and peril, for the first time without her sister. This suspenseful mystery offers a story of empowerment, showing how one girl with the help of others can triumph. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Tina Wexler, ICM. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6: Ursu's latest novel follows the story of Iris and Lark as they start fifth grade. Iris prides herself on her knowledge, rationality, and assertiveness while Lark is more dreamy and artistic. When they find out that they have been assigned different teachers for the first time ever, their world is shaken. Lark's shyness and anxiety seem to make her wilt and Iris has difficulty connecting to her new classmates while worrying about her twin. Meanwhile, a new store called "Treasure Hunters" sets up shop in their Minneapolis neighborhood. The odd messages on the sign intrigue the sisters, setting Iris on the trail of an ominous mystery as Lark retreats inside herself. Although the sisters initially seem to be too purposely disparate in character, the characterization is not all that it seems. In fact, the magical realism of the book allows an almost metaphoric view of the world as Iris grapples with both supernatural and psychological threats. The style of the novel echoes the mysteriousness of the plot: the viewpoint shifts between Iris, an unnamed observer, and the omniscient chronicler of the disappearance of state treasures. The prose is lovely, unafraid to echo the mysterious questions posed or Iris's comforting refrain that she and Lark have better outcomes when they are together. The sense of adventure and mystery make this appealing to a wide audience. VERDICT A beautiful, timeless tale of love conquering darkness in the midst of mystery and the angst of change. A must-have for any middle grade collection.: Erin Reilly-Sanders, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2363148 Not Quite a Ghost (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anne Ursu

The house seemed to sit apart from the others on Katydid Street, silent and alone, like it didn't fit among them. For Violet Hart-whose family is about to move into the house on Katydid Street-very little felt like it fit anymore. Like their old home, suddenly too small since her mother remarried and the new baby arrived. Or Violet's group of friends, which, since they started middle school, isn't enough for Violet's best friend, Paige. Everything seemed to be changing at once. But sometimes, Violet tells herself, change is okay.

978-0-06-227515-8 Walden Pond Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Booklist Ursu serves up a chilling, middle-grade tweak on Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story, "The Yellow Wallpaper." Violet's anxiety is kicked into high gear after starting middle school and moving into an old Victorian fixer-upper, all in the same week. She barely sees her two best friends now, and they no longer seem like the people she knew in elementary school. It's an isolating feeling that's exacerbated when Violet catches a virus she can't seem to shake, which leaves her suffering from extreme exhaustion and spending more time than she'd like in her creepy new attic bedroom, whose yellowed, vine-patterned wallpaper starts to reveal something sinister within its tangled pattern. Ursu cultivates dread on several fronts as Violet battles insecurities and the dark presence in her room, is beset by her mysterious illness's symptoms, and navigates middle school's bewildering social landscape. Less a haunted-house story than an empathetic examination of one girl's fight to regain normalcy, the narrative validates the reality of the unseen. A heartfelt author's note discusses frustrations that can come from having an invisible illness.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books See this month's Big Picture, p. 125, for review. COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

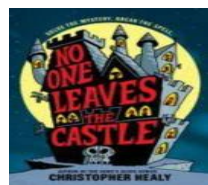
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine The transition to middle school is often a time of tumult, with the upheaval of old elementary school routines and friendships. But for eleven-year-old Violet Hart, the changes are even more far-reaching. Her blended family has just moved into a long-empty, ramshackle house, and her new bedroom is a creepy third-floor attic, wallpapered with twisting vines. After an upsetting sleepover with both old and potential new friends, Vi retires to her room feeling ill. She rides out her virus (she tests negative for COVID-19 and mono) but continues to be plagued by lingering exhaustion and brain fog. Her parents are proactive, but multiple doctors can't find anything physically wrong and suggest that she is merely seeking attention or is in need of mental health counseling. Vivid nightmares, complete with tendrils from the wallpaper slithering down the wall and across the room, slow her recovery, demanding her attention. Ursu (The Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy, rev. 9/21) maintains a light but decidedly eerie touch as she weaves her "not quite a ghost" story, in which the house itself becomes a character and slowly reveals its secrets. She simultaneously writes in a compelling way about difficult-to-diagnose, recurring illnesses. And just as with such conditions, there is no neat and facile wrap-up to the haunting narrative. Luann Toth(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This novel set in Minneapolis combines the stress of changes with a haunting. Eleven-year-old Violet is about to enter middle school. If that wasn't anxiety-inducing enough, her mom and stepdad announce that they will be moving. To Violet's relief, she'll still be in the same school district with her two best friends. The move to a larger if decrepit Victorian means that Violet and Mia, her older sister, won't be sharing a room anymore, something Violet has mixed feelings about. Her new attic room is private, but the ugly wallpaper in a mustard-and-green vine-filled pattern is decidedly creepy. Soon after starting school, Violet begins to have nightmares about the wallpaper coming to life, and she starts to feel weak and tired. Doctors can find nothing wrong, and her best friends become skeptical, implying it's all in her head. Meanwhile, Violet tries to navigate the strains of middle school--fitting in and changing friendships--with the ever-increasing menace of the haunted attic and its link, presented possibly as a metaphor, to her chronic illness. This storyline works pretty well, addressing the experience of invisible disabilities, which are too rarely represented in middle-grade fiction, but some readers may wish for the connection between Violet's illness and the ghost to feature a clearer resolution. Violet and her mom are white; Violet's stepfather is Black, and other characters bring diversity in race and sexual orientation. An ambitious presentation exploring resonant themes. (author's note) (Paranormal. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Sandwiched between moody older sister Mia and three-year-old half brother Owen, Minneapolis sixth grader and middle child Violet Hart feels as if she's the one who's supposed to "make things easy" on her mother and stepfather, resulting in her reluctantly agreeing to take the disconcerting, wallpapered attic bedroom in the family's new home. At school, Violet's besties Paige and Ally are determined to expand their friend group now that they're in middle school, but a sleepover with potential new recruits goes disastrously awry, leading to a mysterious sickness that Violet can't shake. While enduring unrelenting exhaustion, the 11-year-old struggles to balance schoolwork and shifting friendship dynamics, as well as nightmares brought on by her bedroom's disturbingly illogical wallpaper. Upon Violet discovering a haven in the

school library with Will, a bespectacled boy researching ghosts, she wonders if there's something sinister in her home. Inspired by Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," as addressed in an author's note, Ursu (The Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy) perceptively incorporates middle school drama into a page-turning tale about the difficulties of managing an invisible illness and any accompanying skepticism from friends and healthcare providers. Violet is white; there is racial diversity among the supporting cast. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Tina Dubois, CAA. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Violet's new house has the space her growing family needs, but as soon as they move in, the house feels odd and lonely. Violet's older sister Mia declares the attic room with the peeling yellow wallpaper to be "creepy," so by default, that room becomes Violet's. Violet is dealing with a lot of personal issues, including nervously starting middle school, and it doesn't help when she gets sick the first week of school. When she's finally able to return, she's too tired for PE class, so she's sent to study in the library. There she meets a boy named Will who regularly sits out PE due to health reasons. He's researching ghosts and hauntings for a science credit, which Violet finds fascinating. She wants to help her new friend with his project, but her illness returns and she isn't getting better. Visits to multiple doctors lead nowhere, and she ends up homebound in her attic room. The vines on the yellow wallpaper seem to be moving now, and she thinks she sees the shape of a girl trapped beneath them. She's terrified, both of the girl, and her mysterious illness. Loosely based on Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1892 short story "The Yellow Wallpaper," this is a story about a haunted house--but it's also a fresh, modern look at unexplained health issues, COVID-19 anxiety, changing friendships, and blended families. VERDICT Compulsively readable and relatable, Ursu's twisty middle grade novel is highly recommended.--Mandy Laferriere Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2330096 No One Leaves the Castle (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Christopher Healy

The Lilac. The bard songs say that she's the world's most fearsome bounty hunter. That there's no criminal she can't catch, no mystery she can't solve. None of that is true. Yet. In reality, the Lilac is just a kid, and the bard who wrote all that is her best friend, Dulcinetta. But Lilac has set her goals on becoming the best bounty hunter in the 13 Kingdoms
 978-0-06-234194-5 Walden Pond Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

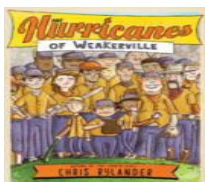
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Dungeons & Dragons meets Clue in this capital-Q Quirky stand-alone murder mystery set in the Hero's Guide series world. When Baron Vargus Angbar's ancestral treasure goes missing, butler Gribbinsnood Flornt must hire a bounty hunter to capture the famous wizard the baron believes to be guilty. Lured by a bard's song, Flornt hires the Lilac--before learning that she's 14 and in cahoots with the bard, Dulcinetta. The wizard hunt is an extended setup to get the Lilac and Netta to the baron's castle, where they are invited by the baroness to dinner and the real mystery can begin. The narrator intrudes to occasionally remind readers what they're really here for--a murder mystery; someone's going to end up dead. The Lilac, sealed in the castle by a magically shrinking bubble with a roster of wacky suspects, must figure out whodunit. There's the baron and his equally unpleasant noble dinner guest, the baroness who seems a bit too familiar with dead bodies, the baron's wizard-in-training son, the baron's prim and proper daughter, said daughter's coarse yet highly competent etiquette master, a surly goth gnome cook, the butler, and an ogre guard. Every last one of them--including the Lilac and Netta--harbors secrets and isn't what they seem. The Lilac must untangle the (sometimes excessive and tedious) red herrings (frequently delivered in long, expository backstory passages) to deduce the truth. Characters read white. Where the execution falters the premise carries the book. (Fantasy mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When the priceless Emerald Axe of Angbar is stolen, the Angbar family hires infamous bounty hunter the Lilac to track down the purported thief, wizard Runar the Unknowable. What the Angbars don't realize, however, is that the Lilac is a white-cued 14-year-old girl whose bard companion Dulcinetta; described as having "tawny cheeks and an array of short braids"; has greatly overexaggerated her reputation. Nevertheless, the Lilac successfully brings Runar (who claims innocence) back to Castle Angbar, where the missing axe has mysteriously returned; and is stolen again. To capture the true thief, Runar places the castle in an inescapable magical bubble, but his sudden murder makes the enchantment seem permanent. Now the Lilac must track down an assassin in a castle full of secrets before the culprit kills them all; if the rapidly constricting bubble doesn't do it first. The Lilac and Dulcinetta make for a congenial crime-solving team, especially when pitted against the scandal-ridden residents of Castle Angbar. In this frenetic, tongue-in-cheek whodunit, Healy (the Perilous Journey of Danger and Mayhem series) blends magic and pandemonium with a locked-room murder mystery, invoking familiar Agatha Christie flair while throwing in copious amounts of dry humor. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Cheryl Pientka, Jill Grinberg Literary. (Aug.)

#2280935 Hurricanes of Weakerville (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Chris Rylander

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



All his life, Alex Weakerman has had one passion: baseball. Specifically, the Hurricanes of Weakerville, Iowa-the scrappy independent-league team owned by his Grandpa Ira. When Grandpa Ira passes away, though, Alex is crushed. He's lost his best friend, and he doesn't see any way that the team will survive. But Ira, it seems, has one last trick up his sleeve: his will names Alex as the new manager of the Hurricanes. Will he be able to save his team, his hometown, and his family legacy?
978-0-06-232750-5 Walden Pond Press ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 12.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Smart but easily flustered, Alex can scarcely put two coherent sentences together when speaking with anyone but his parents, his best friend, or 86-year-old Grandpa Ira. Everyone in Weakerville knows Ira, who seldom sits in the owner's box at Mustard Park, where the Hurricanes play independent league baseball. Instead, he roams the stands, talking with fans and especially with Alex, who analyzes the Hurricanes. After Ira's death, Alex learns that he is to manage the team, which is in a slump, and that the Hurricanes' future existence depends on making the playoffs. He takes on the challenge with help from his best friend, who knows nothing about baseball but everything about Alex, and a 13-year-old girl who understands pitching better than many seasoned players. Readers will quickly warm up to Alex, whose self-deprecating humor brightens his perceptive first-person narrative. The story's pace is leisurely until he starts managing the team, overcoming obstacles while trying to live up to his beloved grandfather's example of caring about people. A middle-grade baseball novel that's more heart-to-heart than play-by-play. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Alex Weakerman's ancestors founded Weakerville, Iowa, but now all that's left of their legacy is Mustard Park and the semi-pro Hurricanes, a team in which the community has pretty much lost interest. Under Grandpa Ira's tutelage, Alex has grown into a middle school baseball fanatic, worthless on the field but an ace at record keeping and statistical analysis. When Ira dies, the team passes into the ownership of Ira's brother-in-law, brash and wealthy Tex Coahaagen, who had been quietly keeping the Hurricanes afloat for years. More of a shock is Ira's direction that Alex be installed as team manager, with the caveat that he has one season to make play-offs or Tex can dissolve the team and sell the property for development. If you think this is boilerplate middle grade wish-fulfillment sports fiction, you got it in one: friends support Alex, adult players reluctantly cooperate, lessons are learned, and the satisfying ending (after the last-minute big play by the underdog) is assured. The formula is skillfully executed, though, and Rylander freshens things up with a nicely individuated cast and bursts of hilarity whenever Tex takes the stage, all tall tales and jovial menace. This serves double duty: easy to enjoy under the summer sun, and easy to write about when book reports are due in fall. EB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young baseball superfan realizes his dream, but is he up to the challenge? Alex Weakerman comes by his love of baseball naturally. His elderly Grandpa Ira owns the Weakerville, Iowa, Hurricanes, "the greatest independent professional baseball team in the whole world," in Alex's not-so-humble opinion. This doesn't mean that Alex is a skilled athlete. He still harbors memories of childhood sports ineptitude under the watchful eye of Aliyah Perkins, the sportiest girl in Weakerville. When Ira passes away, the team is inherited by his brother-in-law, wealthy (and very tan) used-car magnate Parnell "Tex" Coahaagen, who is as flamboyant as his name implies. Alex fears for the team's future, doubly so when Ira's will stipulates the firing of Hurricanes manager Buddy LeForge. Tex pitches a mind-blowing curveball when he reveals Ira's second stipulation: that Alex be hired as the team's manager. Buoyed by the encouragement of his best bud, Slips, Alex stumbles into the unknown, one step at a time. With Ira's notes to guide him and a newly enlisted Aliyah also at his side, how can he possibly fail? Rylander fills his warm coming-of-age story with crackly sports slang and tucks colorful minor characters into the nooks and crannies. Lovable nerd Alex is an ideal first-person narrator, infusing his tale with wonder and joy as well as an insider's knowledge of the game. Slips immigrated from Poland; characters seem to default to White. A peppy, inspirational tale with a sports backdrop. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2162554 **Five Things About Ava Andrews (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Margaret Dilloway

Ava hopes middle school will be a fresh start. Ava is shocked when her writing abilities impress her classmates and they invite her to join their improv group, making up stories onstage. Determined to prove she can control her anxiety, she joins and discovers a whole new side of herself, and what it means to be on a team. But as Ava's self-confidence blossoms, her relationship with Zelia strains, and she learns that it isn't enough to just raise your voice it's how and why you use it that matters.

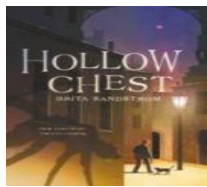
978-0-06-280349-8 Balzer & Bray ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ava Andrews, 11, is more nervous than usual at the beginning of sixth grade: not only is middle school intimidating, but her best friend, Zelia, has just moved across the country. Zelia always stood up for Ava when the clinically anxious girl, who has a genetic heart condition and attendant pacemaker; encountered social difficulties that upped her anxiety and her heart rate. Though Ava doesn't like to stand in front of groups, and dreads attending social events organized by her father's Cotillion business, she discovers a supportive community when she joins an improv group predicated on a foundation of celebrating mistakes and working with what one is given. The group is soon shocked to discover that the theater in which they rehearse is in danger of being developed. They decide to fight the onset of gentrification in their San Diego neighborhood, and with the help of her improv skills, Ava finds her voice. Alongside a sensitive portrayal of Ava's invisible disabilities, well-wrought subplots, such as problems with an unkind classmate and the growing distance between two once-close friends, support the journey of Dilloway's (Summer of a Thousand Pies) thoughtful protagonist from timid observer to well-liked social activist. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Patricia Nelson, Marsall Lyon Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Dilloway (Summer of a Thousand Pies, Momotaro) returns to middle grade with this hopeful story of invisible disabilities, friendship, and advocating for one's beliefs. Like the author, 11-year-old Ava has non-compaction cardiomyopathy and uses an ICD (Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator) to help manage her condition. Ava is also quite anxious, and she's quiet around everyone but her best friend, who just moved across the country. Ava finds confidence and friendship when she begins taking improv classes, and together the group works to save a favorite locale from gentrification. Along the way, Ava discovers she's not the only one struggling with unseen hurdles, and tender moments reveal what it's like to be on both sides of assumption. Dilloway covers a lot of ground including social justice, mental health, physical ability, and prejudice, but all the while the narrative is hopeful and encouraging. Ava describes herself as having her mother's Japanese features, and a diverse cast is implied through brief descriptions. VERDICT Dilloway's latest provides a valuable perspective on living with a heart condition and anxiety as a tween; many will relate to Ava, even if their own experiences aren't an exact reflection of hers. Ideal for book clubs and discussions, this is recommended as a general purchase.—Taylor Worley, Springfield P.L., OR



#2227078 Hollow Chest (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brita Sandstrom

Charlie has been having nightmares. Eyes watching him in the night, claws on his chest, holding him down. His dreams have been haunted for years, ever since German bombs rained down on London, taking his father's life, taking his city's spirit, taking his beloved brother, Theo, off to war in France. Now Charlie is left to take care of his grandpa Fitz while his mother works, waiting for the day when Theo will come home. And with World War II nearly won, that day is almost here.

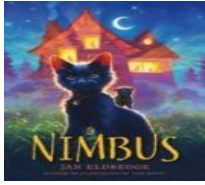
978-0-06-287074-2 Walden Pond Press ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist With WWII ending, Charlie's older brother, Theo, is finally returning home from fighting overseas. Charlie has done his best to look after the family since his father died in a German bombing, but an 11-year-old boy can only do so much for his harried mother and increasingly addled grandfather, and Charlie can't wait for a return to something resembling normalcy. When Theo finally materializes, however, it's clear that he's not the funny, easygoing sibling that left for the front. Worse, Charlie has begun seeing enormous, quietly menacing wolves that seem to track his every movement around the broken city. They're called war wolves, and they feast on broken hearts. The only thing Charlie can do is protect his own damaged heart while helping his brother recover his missing one—no matter the cost. War-ravaged London and its battered inhabitants spring vividly to life in Sandstrom's exceptional debut, which skillfully balances hopefulness and horror. While there is a necessary grimness to the proceedings, plenty of heartening details keep the story from tipping into despair: the familial bonds are strong and sincere, and newly forged friendships (along with the best cat a boy could hope for) buoy Charlie on his journey. The literal and figurative rubble of combat provides a rich setting through which to examine the fragility and incredible resilience of the human heart. It's a both wrenching and wondrous world.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old Charlie, a cued white English boy living in bombed-out 1945 London, helps his mother care for his grandfather Fritz, a wounded WWI veteran prone to trauma-induced trances, and desperately awaits his older sibling Theo's return from war. But when the reunion day arrives, Charlie hardly recognizes the mirthless soldier who returns, wounded by a grenade and with PTSD-like symptoms. Fear subsequently creeps into Charlie's shock and disappointment as he notices huge, wolflike beasts lurking in the shadows of his city. When "Mad Mellie," a local woman whose son died in the Blitz, lets slip that war wolves are involved in taking the hearts of returning soldiers, Charlie gains both a name for the monsters he's been seeing and a steadfast resolve, alongside his clever cat Biscuits, to bargain his brother's heart back from those who took it. In this poetic debut, Sandstrom tells a story that is equally tender and terrifying, balancing a family's emotional gravity with the chilling war wolves. With moody occasional illustrations by Shin, a relaxed pace, and tender prose, this historical fantasy expertly employs anxiety and empathy to demonstrate war's devastating effect on individuals and families. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Tina Dubois, ICM Partners. (June)



#2332223 Nimbus (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jan Eldredge

Nimbus had a rough start as a kitten. But her fortunes changed the day she met Fletcher. The boy nursed her back to health from a life-threatening injury and adopted her. But when Fletcher's aunt brings home a mysterious jar, an ancient nightmare demon is unwittingly unleashed. Despite battling the monster to save her friend, Fletcher's superstitious aunt blames Nim for the attack and secretly abandons her at a dump.

978-0-06-268037-2 Balzer & Bray ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A loyal black kitten's boy is under supernatural attack. Eleven-month-old Nimbus loves Fletcher, the boy who nursed her back to health following life-threatening injuries. When Fletcher becomes curious about a strange jar and opens it, releasing a terrible goblin, loyal Nim protects Fletcher, taking heavy damage in the process. But Fletcher's aunt, who's caring for him over spring break, believes Nim attacked Fletcher and dumps her far from home. Rhett, a stylish rat with star quality, befriends injured Nim and leads her to a witch's house. While the witch cares for Nim, the witch's cats (maternal Fern, bookish Rochester, standoffish Bianca, and openly hostile Abraxas) teach Nim important cat skills. She also discovers she has a supernatural ability: In destroying one eye of the nightmare demon in the fight to protect Fletcher, Nim gained its "dream sight." But she also learns it might come back for Fletcher, who no longer has Nim to protect him, posing a time-sensitive, high-stakes threat. Even though the witch's home is nice and magic itself seems to be telling her to stay put, Nim wants to find a way back to Fletcher. As a hero, Nimbus is as gritty and determined as she is adorable. Tear-jerker moments explore pet abandonment--readers may want their own pets on hand to hug--all the way through the magical, action-packed finale. Fletcher and the witch read white. A deeply imaginative journey that puts the "cat" in cathartic. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this affecting tale by Eldredge (Evangeline of the Bayou), a cat struggling to make it home to her owner finds that she has magical powers. Black cat Nimbus is devoted to her young human owner, Fletcher. So when Fletcher is attacked by a strange monster that he accidentally frees from a jar, Nimbus defends him. Both boy and feline are hurt in the fray; Fletcher's cat-distrusting aunt blames Nimbus for his injuries and abandons her far from home. Nimbus encounters and befriends a fashion-conscious, would-be actor rat named Rhett, and takes refuge with Agatha, a reclusive human witch whose four cats reluctantly accept Nimbus's presence while she heals. There, Nimbus discovers her ability to dreamwalk. Though desperate to return to Fletcher, Nimbus soon realizes that her destiny may lie elsewhere. Fanciful, optimistic, and filled with a gentle humor, this heartrending tale is also offers a thoughtful exploration of animal abandonment and trauma, and the bond between owner and pet. As Nimbus discovers the tragic circumstances that brought each of her new friends to live with Agatha, she confronts her own fears and tumultuous kittenhood, while never losing sight of her goals or beloved owner. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elena Giovinazzo, Pippin Properties. (Sept.)



#2154686 Escape from Hat (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adam Kline

An epic battle between good and bad luck shakes out when a lucky rabbit undertakes a perilous journey into the magical otherworld of Hat to save the boy he's sworn to protect from the evil of the bad-luck cats.

978-0-06-283997-8 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist As we all know, luck comes in two sorts: one brought by black cats, the other by rabbits. When his loving bunny, Leek, disappears down an inept magician's hat, young Cecil Bean's previously idyllic life takes an immediate turn for the worse, thanks to his feline nemesis, Milliken. Meanwhile, Leek finds himself trapped in the surprisingly extensive land of Hat, frantic to get back to his assigned human but relentlessly hunted by Milliken's malign cohorts. Fortunately, Leek finds sturdy allies in fierce Morel, a warrior doe who speaks exclusively in heroic prose, and Hamlin, an itinerant minstrel mouse. Unfortunately, the path home is a dangerous one. Kline embroiders his rodentine romp with what he bills "five-dollar words," pop-culture references, heroic feats, and, natch, really lucky coincidences—the last leading to an epic, cinematic battle and a host of happy unions and reunions. Fans of Despereaux and like small heroes with hearts as outsize as their ears will cheer. Taylor's color illustrations not seen.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Screenwriter Kline and artist Taylor collaborate in this funny, originally self-published saga meshing fantasy and farce and pitting good against evil. Cecil Bean's assigned black cat, Millikin, and rabbit, Leek, are respectively responsible for the boy's swings of bad and good luck. But things run amok when Leek disappears into the top hat of a swindling magician and surfaces in the land of Hat, home to Millikin and fellow nefarious felines and to other (quickly multiplying) banished rabbits. Learning that a tower in the cats' fortress holds magic that

can return him and his peers to their humans, Leek and another rabbit set out to find it. On their madcap journey, they encounter a traveling minstrel mouse, a potbellied pig (king of the Miniature Potbellies), and a cave monster who's afraid of the dark. Meanwhile, Cecil embarks on his own risky quest to procure the itinerant magician's hat in hopes of bringing Leek home. Distinct, droll voices and comedic wordplay help maintain a breakneck pace, while vibrant pictures of the wide-eyed rabbits and their dastardly counterparts radiate an energetic cartoon sensibility. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. (Mar.)



#2268165 Beast of Buckingham Palace (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David Walliams

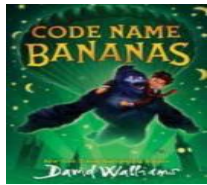
The kingdom has fallen into darkness. Prince Alfred has never left the safety of Buckingham Palace. But there are strange goings on inside the palace walls--and Alfred's life is about to change forever. In the dead of night something terrible stalks the corridors. When Alfred's beloved mother, the queen, is dragged off to the Tower of London, the boy must summon all his courage to embark on an epic quest to save her...and the entire world.

978-0-06-284012-7 HarperCollins Publishers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Walliams' latest features lots of high-volume Brit-style buffoonery but with distinctly angry undertones. A century from now, England is shrouded in permanent darkness in the wake of a comprehensive, humanity-inflicted eco-catastrophe. London lies in ruins and the royal family has either gone missing or been locked into Buckingham Palace by a sinister Lord Protector (a title with Cromwellian associations, though that's less meaningful this side of the pond). It's left up to puny, 12-year-old Prince Alfred to save his family and to counter the Lord Protector's nefarious bid for supremacy, which involves subjugating 10 mighty griffins linked to different parts of Great Britain using spills of royal blood. If some of the jokes and references will pass over American readers' heads ("I haven't had this much fun since that man streaked at Royal Ascot!"), there's gunfire, heroic sacrifice, chasing about, and large explosions aplenty keep the pages turning as Alfred faces down the would-be tyrant with help from a comically malfunctioning robot butler and a crew of aging but doughty ladies-in-waiting. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2315231 Code Name Bananas (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David Walliams

1940: BRITAIN IS AT WAR WITH NAZI GERMANY. Eleven-year-old Eric practically lives at the London Zoo. And there's one animal in particular he loves to spend time with: Gertrude the gorilla. But with German bombs raining over London, Eric realizes Gertrude is in terrible danger, and together with his uncle Sid, a keeper at the zoo, the three go on the run. But while hiding out at the seaside, they uncover a top-secret Nazi plot..

978-0-06-284015-8 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this WWII-era farce, Walliams spins an 11-year-old orphan's concern for the safety of the animals of the London Zoo during the worst days of the Blitz into a hilariously improbable spy thriller. Alarmed by news that loving and beloved gorilla Gertrude has been ordered put down as a dangerous wild creature, Eric enlists his zookeeper great-uncle Sid (a war vet who lost both legs and has secretly gathered a menagerie of similarly disabled zoo residents in his apartment) to help spring her. The caper leads to several droll episodes and ultimately culminates with the group (gorilla and all) captured by Nazi secret agents and bundled aboard an explosives-filled U-boat dispatched to blow up the Houses of Parliament! That, of course, won't do. Gertrude provides plenty of assistance (not to mention frequent massive belches and grossly juicy raspberries), so mostly it's all in fun, though the author does tuck in the occasional exploding bomb and hail of bullets, as well as appended notes on the Battle of Britain and tragic wartime events.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Some plans are bananas from beginning to end. Eleven-year-old Eric Grout is a victim of the times, having lost both his parents to World War II--his father at Dunkirk and his mother when the factory where she worked sewing parachutes was bombed. He's left with two relatives: his nearly deaf paternal Granny, with whom he goes to live, and Uncle Sid, his maternal great-uncle, who is a zookeeper at London Zoo. Eric takes joy in assisting Uncle Sid, and his favorite animal is by far Gertrude, the old gorilla who has a knack for mimicking Eric's gestures, often to the delight of the wartime crowds. When, during the Blitz, tragedy strikes again, Eric and Uncle Sid are left trying to save Gertrude from being euthanized by overzealous zoo director Sir Frederick Frown and his horrendous henchmen. Television personality Walliams

isn't afraid to throw everything and the kitchen sink at readers, so be prepared for terrifying Teutonic twins, grand escapes, tea with royals, and a lot of smelly body humor. Fans of Walliams' previous outings will find themselves on similar ground here, and new readers, especially those who love toilet humor, will happily go along with the madcap zaniness. Sticklers will point out one or two inconsistencies along the way, such as a disregard for wartime rationing, but logic and kooky camp rarely coexist. All characters read White. Readers will go ape. (historical notes) (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2107544 Hoax for Hire (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Laura Martin

Unlike the rest of his family, twelve-year-old Grayson hates hoaxing and wants nothing to do with the business--even when the McNeils land a huge job and must pull off four sea-monster hoaxes in a week. But when things go disastrously wrong and Dad and Gramps go missing, Grayson and his brother, Curtis, are the only people who can finish the job and save their family.

978-0-06-280380-1 HarperCollins Publishers ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Preteen Grayson McNeil longs to get out of his family's traditional business and attend an exclusive private high school where he can pursue his interest in photography. Martin takes this relatively conventional premise for a dizzying spin: that family business happens to be the staging of cryptid sightings, crop circles, and other cons. Grayson has painful choices to make when longtime rivals in the same line of work kidnap the adult McNeils and steal their elaborately crafted monster models and suits. Without help from the police (duh), can Grayson and his only somewhat more experienced older brother pull off a scheduled Champ sighting in Vermont and a rescue? Giving her sometimes comically hapless duo an unasked-for ally in Clare, a biracial classmate of Grayson's who has secrets of her own (but is more resourceful than all of the males in the tale combined), the author piles hoaxes atop hoaxes on the way to a climactic end. The McNeil motto, Keep the Legends Alive, takes on new meaning for Grayson, as it will for readers.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books For generations the McNeil family have been monster hunters, but more recent generations have also been fraudsters, making the bulk of their income from elaborate monster hoaxes as their belief battles with skepticism. After twelve-year-old Grayson McNeil and his older brother are forced to pull off a risky hoax on their own, Grayson wants out. However, the Gerhards, rival cryptid hunters, have abducted Grayson's dad and granddad right before the deadline for a final hoax in Lake Champlain, Vermont, and Grayson must come to the family's rescue. While Martin's take on cryptozoology isn't as thoroughly detailed or even culturally aware as Fisher's *The Cryptid Catcher* (BCCB 7/18) or Brown's *Monster Club: Hunters for Hire* (BCCB 7/19)-the way Africa and its cryptids are depicted as a singular homogenous space is, at best, uninspired-the family dynamics at play are convincing as Grayson and co. seem to be struggling in varied ways in the wake of his mother's death and the gradual decline of the McNeil name. The novel ends predictably yet satisfyingly as Grayson accepts that his family holds a special place in the mysteries of the world. WJ

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Can Grayson extricate himself from the family's monster-making business? Twelve-year-old Grayson McNeil loves his camera, which is never allowed on hoaxes, the family business. For generations the McNeil family has orchestrated elaborate scams for pay, bringing "to life" the Chupacabra, Bigfoot, Mothman, and various sea monsters. Grayson has secretly applied to prestigious Culver Academy for a scholarship in hopes of escaping a life as a hoaxer. When his dad is arrested in Scotland and Gramps vanishes, Grayson and his 16-year-old brother, Curtis, must complete the hoax their family's been hired to pull, but a rival hoaxing family plans to steal this hoax and eliminate the competition all at once. Can the boys beat the baddies and complete their dad's contract? Martin's cryptid caper joins a flooded field of similar tales, but it holds its own. Grayson is an engaging, Everyboy narrator, and the cryptozoological factoids are legion. As with many others of the subgenre, readers must check their credulity at the door whether they believe in crop circles or not; it's the mundane events of the story that can cause the head-scratching. The cast is largely white. The combination of adventure and light humor makes for a pleasant diversion--best where there is strong interest in imaginary zoology. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Have you ever seen a Loch Ness Monster? The MacNeils see them every day because they pull off hoaxes, tricking people into thinking their creations are the real thing. A sea monster, Bigfoot, a yeti, a Bunyip, and more are all part of their "research." Grayson's family comes from a long line of cryptid hunters and adventure seekers. But the 12-year-old struggles with this life of lies about creatures that don't exist. His older brother, Curtis, is all in, but Grayson wishes he could study photography and attend school full time. Just once, he would love to capture his adventures on film and write about them. Even though Curtis hurls rude comments at his brother daily—Grayson calls them "poetic"—the family's commitment to one another is strong. VERDICT Martin weaves a wonderful adventure of hoaxes, legendary monsters, and the importance of family connections. Children will appreciate the creative and difficult steps the family takes to accomplish each hoax and the surprises along the way.—Paige Bentley-Flannery, Deschutes Public Library, Bend, OR



#2252319 Faceless (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kathryn Lasky

Alice and Louise Winfield are sisters and spies in the Tabula Rasa. They're growing up in wartime England, where the threat of Nazi occupation is ever near. But Louise wants to live an ordinary life and leaves the agency. Now, as Alice faces her most dangerous assignment yet, she fears the threat of discovery, but worst of all, she fears losing her own sister.

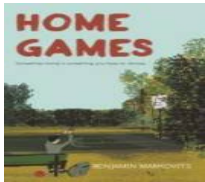
978-0-06-269331-0 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Born into a family of British secret agents, 13-year-old Alice has undergone extensive training before her first mission is assigned. She and her mother parachute into Germany in 1944 and join her father in Berlin, where she quickly establishes her new identity as Ute Schnaubel at school and in the patriotic League of German Girls. Soon she's assigned to help with housekeeping services for the Third Reich within their Berlin stronghold, a maneuver enabled by British intelligence, which wants Alice to report on Hitler's emotional state. Meanwhile, she secretly befriends a homeless Jewish boy who forages in garbage cans for his food. After Hitler's death, Alice's family must immediately escape from Germany on their own. In this historical novel, Lasky makes the idea of a competent 13-year-old spy seem surprisingly convincing. The narrative has its moments of high tension when Alice plays her part as Ute. Somewhat disconnected from the main story, a subplot revolving around Alice's estranged older sister is resolved in the end. A page-turner, particularly for readers intrigued by WWII.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set during WWII, Newbery Honoree Lasky's intense historical drama follows a white family of spies whose tradition of serving Great Britain dates back to Henry VIII. Thirteen-year-old Alice Winfield has for years trained for her first A-level mission, and her celebrated older sister, Louise, once promised to be her guide. But when Louise opts out of the family business, only Alice and her mother join the teens' undercover father on a secret mission in Berlin: taking down Hitler. Upon arrival, Alice becomes Ute, a German girl "certified to be... Aryan, with no contamination of foreign blood." As Alice works to achieve high marks in school and remain as unnoticeable and unmemorable as the "tabula rasas" from which she is descended, she finds herself dangerously drawn to an unhoused boy. With a well-detailed historical backdrop and a puzzling familial mystery, this novel delivers intrigue via tense scenes involving Hitler himself. Albeit fictional, this up-close glimpse at the historical figure's inner circle and last days centers an unnervingly calm protagonist maintaining an elaborate ruse while navigating the increasingly dangerous streets of Berlin, where knowing who is friend and foe determines survival. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Brenda Bowen, the Book Group. (Oct.)



#2149104 Home Games (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Benjamin Markovits

Twelve-year-old Ben is a shy, quiet kid. His life isn't perfect, but he feels at home in New York City. However, when his dad takes a job in London, his world is turned upside down. His parents separate, and Ben's mom moves them back to her hometown of Austin, Texas. There he meets Mabley, who becomes one of the only bright spots in Ben's complicated life.

978-0-06-274230-8 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Twelve-year-old Ben is quiet and reserved. He is content in his New York City apartment, but his workaholic dad and overprotective mother aren't getting along. After his dad is transferred to London, Ben and his mother move to Austin, Texas, to live with her mother. Ben has no say in the decision and feels miserable from all these changes. Making matters worse, Ben has to share a bedroom with his mother in Granma's small house and his mother will be teaching at his middle school. Understandably upset, Ben debates moving to London and resists making friends. While eating lunch alone on a bench, Sam, the school's groundskeeper, befriends Ben and teaches him how to shoot hoops well enough to join the school basketball team?as a manager, anyway. Unfortunately, the other boys on the team bully him, but an opportunity at the excitingly written playoff game helps Ben begin to find his footing. Markovits nails the feelings of this awkward tween as he navigates his parents' impending divorce while discovering where he belongs.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Ben Michaels' workaholic father has been offered a job in London, and his mother refuses to go, leaving the twelve-year-old feeling powerless amid the adult decision making. Mom moves him from New York to her mother's home in Texas, where he first tries to convince himself that his parents will eventually reconnect, or at the very least he will have some options if or when they divorce. Instead, the year ends up an extended, friendless limbo: Dad seldom calls and cancels plans to visit; Mom takes a job in his middle school and dates his social studies teacher; Granma spars with Mom; and the girl next door, who looks like true friend material, turns out to

be uniformly nice to everybody rather than Ben in particular. Probably worst of all, however, is Ben's realization that part of his misery is of his own making—he has been drifting along with his parents' and his only buddy's plans all his life, and now he has to strategize to make his voice and wishes heard. Markovits' novel never devolves into the pity party this plot outline suggests; Ben's growing self-awareness emerges amid spot on and often quite funny observations of parental bumbling and middle-grade folkways. His final decision on where to make a stable home may throw many readers for a loop, but readers will appreciate his growing realism about the complicated dynamics of families. EB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When his parents split up, Ben enters the choppy waters of his new life in Austin. Ben's workaholic dad heads to London while Ben moves with his mother from New York to her hometown. Introspective Ben retreats into himself, feeling pulled between his parents and indecisive about what he truly wants—to stay with his mother or to move in with his dad. Adult novelist Markovits' (*A Weekend in New York*, 2018, etc.) debut book for children starts slowly as readers live through Ben's uneventful summer days and he begins school. Though both his parents encourage Ben to express his opinions and speak up for himself, Ben finds himself lonely and the target of bullies. Readers may find themselves unengaged as the author methodically introduces story elements, but things pick up at the halfway point. Ben is coerced into managing the popular basketball team--coached by a teacher his mom is dating--while on the side, groundskeeper Sam teaches Ben basketball basics on an abandoned outdoor court. When Ben gets the chance to participate in a playoff game, his newly acquired skills are, refreshingly, not a magic fix to his problems. The story moves slowly, and not all the pieces introduced get a proper payoff, but Ben's realistically rocky emotional journey ends on a satisfying note. The cast of characters is a primarily white one. Not quite a slam dunk but an honest portrayal of a family in transition. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Twelve-year-old Ben is feeling lost when his parents announce they are separating. His workaholic dad is moving to London, and his mom decides to move with Ben from New York City to her hometown of Austin, TX, to stay with his grandmother. Starting over in a new place isn't easy: shy, quiet Ben struggles to make friends at his new school. To make things worse, his mom starts working at his school as a part-time teacher. One bright spot for Ben is shooting hoops during lunch at the abandoned basketball court, where he befriends the school grounds keeper Sam. To get him more involved at school, Ben's mom encourages him to be the manager for the basketball team, which is coached by one of his teachers who is also dating his mom. While he works hard at the job, he finds himself being bullied by some of the kids on the team. Meanwhile Ben is struggling to decide whether he should stay in Texas or move to London where his dad has told him there is a special school for American kids. While the pace of the story is slow, the author paints a realistic picture of a family in transition and their nuanced emotions as they figure out a new normal. VERDICT A moving coming-of-age story that will bring hope to those going through times of transition.—Sarah Polace, Cuyahoga Public Library System, OH



#2272698 **Unfadeable (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Maurice Broaddus

A wiser-than-her-years graffiti artist known for tagging walls and bridges in her Indianapolis neighborhood, the Land, Bella plans to spend her summer break lying low and steering clear of anyone who might tip off to social services that she's living on her own. But keeping a low profile is all but impossible when Bella discovers people in high places are trying to defund the Land. She has to find a way to fight back. Getting involved will mean putting herself out there—making connections with unlikely friends and attracting potential enemies. But if Bella doesn't put her trust in her neighbors and learn how to bring her community together, her home—and her future—will never be the same.

978-0-06-279634-9 *Katherine Tegen Books* ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* Ever since her father left and her mom was committed to an institution for her schizophrenia, eighth-grader Isabella Fades has been on her own, unhoused in her neighborhood of the Land. So when school lets out, leaving her without the predictability of a daily schedule, Bella relies on the work of her not-so-secret tagger lifestyle--under the name -Unfadeable--to keep her busy. Seeing the potential in her art, mentor and friend Ms. Campbell encourages Bella to channel her work in a more organized way by starting a summer arts program for youth. But, after a hard rejection and a little bit of digging, Bella finds that something's off when it comes to the community's finances. Reluctantly, Bella teams up with an unlikely crew, and, together, they fight the misuse of the Land's resources. In this timely story of place and displacement, Bella's gritty and steadfast nature will resonate with young people determined to see their ideas to fruition. Equal parts action and mystery with a heavy yet middle-grade friendly nod to 2000s street lit, Broaddus' novel will leave readers rooting for Bella and hoping she puts her pride aside in exchange for her brilliant problem-solving skills. Coupled with a vivid depiction of Indianapolis' overlooked splendor, this heart-wrenching story of friendship, family, and belonging is a perfect read for the middle-grader looking for action and attitude with a considerable dose of do-good. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old girl faces unethical decision-makers to save her beloved Indianapolis neighborhood. Isabella Fades, known for her graffiti tag, Unfadeable, makes sure to keep to herself so no one finds out her secret--that she doesn't have caregivers or a home of

her own. Over summer break, Bella attends a community meeting. She suggests an art project--her mother was an art teacher--but runs up against Mattea Larrimore, newfound nemesis and chair of the neighborhood association. Lost in the overwhelming world of politics and money, Bella must balance her immediate need for survival as an unhoused teen against her desire to enrich her community. With powerful observation skills but few resources, she goes against her better judgment in whom to trust, but as she finds her voice and the courage to make herself known, Bella realizes that taking risks and forming connections isn't such a bad thing. The author introduces a compelling, honest protagonist readers will immediately root for throughout this well-paced story that addresses the impact of gentrification and the power of young voices. The clear narration sends readers a strong message about civic responsibility and how they're never too young to get involved in decision-making that affects their communities. Bella's mom is Black, and her father is White; the remaining cast is majority Black. An engrossing story with a captivating protagonist that will inspire realistic change. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Broaddus's (The Usual Suspects) endearing novel is a testament to personal empowerment, community, and art. Thirteen-year-old mixed-race (Black and white) Isabella Fades is a graffiti artist known as Unfadeable. Previous familial incidents have made Bella independent and cautious, and left her unhoused, squatting in an abandoned home in The Land, her Indianapolis neighborhood. After Ms. Campbell, a member of the Northwest Planners neighborhood association, invites Bella to one of the group's meetings at the local library, she meets Mattea Larrimore, the association's board chair. Citing a lack of funds, Mattea opposes Bella's initiative for a community art project. A meeting with the enigmatic M leads Bella to investigate the association and its nefarious dealings, plunging her into a world of local corruption and gentrification that could put her entire livelihood at risk. Broaddus delivers an optimistic story that champions community engagement and encourages standing up against oppressive systems. Bella's growth and confidence is nurtured throughout by mentors who support her in her decisions without hesitation, and her journey symbolizes a passing of the torch toward younger generations. Ages 8: 12. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal nforgettable protagonist in this novel that deals with creating community and fighting back against injustice. Bella "Unfadeable" Fades doesn't need anybody's help. The 13-year-old, known for her graffiti, plans to spend summer break laying low and avoiding anyone who might alert the authorities that she's living on her own. But laying low becomes impossible when she finds out people in high places are taking money from her beloved Indianapolis neighborhood, the Land. Bella will have to work with unlikely allies and trust her neighbors in order to make sure they all get the beautiful neighborhood they deserve. Readers will find Bella relatable and funny. The plot is fast-paced and twisty enough to keep kids engaged. Broaddus deftly weaves in in-depth discussions of a variety of topics, from anti-Black racism to gentrification to homelessness. The story emphasizes the power of young people's voices and the importance of civic responsibility. Bella's mother has schizophrenia, which is mostly handled with care. Most characters are Black; Bella is biracial (her dad is white, and her mom is Black). VERDICT A must-buy for elementary and middle school collections. Sure to be popular with readers who enjoy books by Kelly Yang, Jason Reynolds, and Crystal D. Giles.—Ness Shortley



#2196113 Unplugged (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gordon Korman

As the son of the world's most famous tech billionaire, Jett Baranov has always gotten exactly what he wanted. So, when his father's private jet drops him in the middle of Little Rock, Arkansas, at a wellness camp called the Oasis, Jett can't believe it. He's forced to hand over his cell phone, eat grainy veggie patties, and participate in wholesome activities with the other kids.

978-0-06-279889-3 Balzer & Bray ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After one too many escapades, Jett Baranov, 12-year-old heir to a Silicon Valley empire, is shipped off to the Oasis of Mind and Body Wellness in Arkansas, where, stripped of technology and subjected to vegetarian food and yoga, he's expected to mend his ways. Jett isn't so easily thwarted, however: if he can't get kicked out, he'll bend every rule to breaking, even going into the candy-smuggling business to disrupt the program's routine. After fellow attendee Grace Atwater, who actually enjoys the retreat, finds a stray lizard, Jett joins her and others, including Brooklyne Feldman, resident girl of mystery, and allergic-to-everything Tyrell Karrigan, in caring for the illicit pet and sneaking out to a nearby town. When the group discovers inconsistencies in the Oasis's management style, Jett must overcome his own reputation as a troublemaker and expose a cunning mastermind. Korman injects his signature dry humor throughout, but Jett's persistent obnoxiousness can drown out the other alternating first-person narratives, and many of the story's twists are telegraphed early on, resulting in an entertaining if predictable arc. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elizabeth Harding, Curtis Brown. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–5—Jett Barnov is the most spoiled kid in Silicon Valley, and he is always getting into trouble. Finally, his father sends him to a retreat at The Oasis of Mind and Body Wellness in the middle of Arkansas. This retreat, complete with no meat, no pets, and worst of all, no screens of any kind, is meant to help Jett get his act together. As a notorious bad boy, Jett wreaks havoc throughout the retreat; but then he finds a strange lizard, and entices a few other kids to help take care of it. Together, they uncover some mysterious happenings at the oasis, and link them to the unknown lizard and enigmatic millionaire in town. This plot-driven, intriguing story is told through the viewpoints of four characters, so readers are likely to find one who resonates with them. The four narrators have well-developed personalities, although some of

the secondary characters are flat and mostly used to move the narrative along. The antics are sometimes over the top but always amusing, and young readers will sympathize with the lack of access to daily creature comforts. Though not expressly a humor title, Korman also sets up some very silly situations, in his typical fashion. VERDICT This fast-paced, funny friendship story will delight realistic fiction readers and fans of Korman's work. A suggested purchase for middle grade collections.—Ellen Conlin, Naperville P.L., IL



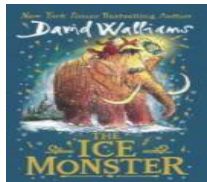
#2167455 Storm Dog (Hardcover (Trade))
written by L. M. Elliott

Whip-smart Ariel doesn't fit in. Only in the winds of the Blue Ridge Mountains and spring storms that mirror the unhappiness she feels at home. There, during a raging storm, Ariel finds a lost dog who leads her to the safety of a cabin and Sergeant Josie, a former Army K-9 handler. Together with music, dog-dancing, and a storm-child-crazy plan--the three outcasts find themselves.

978-0-06-243000-7 Katherine Tegen Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2154761 Ice Monster (Hardcover (Trade))
written by David Walliams

Read all about it! Read all about it! ICE MONSTER FOUND IN ARCTIC! When Elsie, an orphan on the streets of Victorian London, hears about the mysterious Ice Monster; a woolly mammoth found at the North Pole; she's determined to discover more. Then, a chance encounter brings Elsie face-to-face with the creature and sparks the adventure of a lifetime; from London to the heart of the Arctic!

978-0-06-256111-4 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 496 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this bombastic illustrated adventure set in 1899 London, a 10-year-old orphan named Elsie helps revive a 10,000-year-old woolly mammoth from suspended animation, kicking off a series of madcap events across the city and onto the high seas. After running away from the physically and emotionally abusive Wormly Hall: Home for Unwanted Children, where the children are forced to eat cockroaches for every meal, Elsie is drawn to the exhibits of the Natural History Museum. There, she helps a strange old professor hiding in the basement to revive the newest exhibit, a baby mammoth she names Woolly. Determined to save Woolly from a life of captivity and study, Elsie and her newest friend, a professional cleaner named Dotty, must do everything in their power to elude pursuit; even if it means stealing a historic ship and heading for the North Pole. Ross's b&w doodles highlight the characters' fluid, nonstop action. Descriptions of the urchins' lives, including ruthless beatings and endless classist insults, strike a seriously discomfiting note, but Walliams peppers this frenetic, sometimes anachronistic tale with plenty of scatological humor, resulting in a chaotic slapstick comedy. Ages 8: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Readers should buckle their seatbelts for Walliams's new novel, a fast-paced and funny story about a young girl and a woolly mammoth. All of the characters are introduced at the outset, but the star of the story is a spirited, resourceful, homeless orphan named Elsie. It's 1899, and 10-year-old Elsie, who is white, has just run away from the cruel headmistress at Wormly Hall. She is living on the streets of London when she hears about the discovery of a 10,000-year-old woolly mammoth. Elsie sneaks into London's Natural History Museum, the mammoth's new home, and connects with Woolly, who is as "lost and alone" as she is. The following pages are rich with onomatopoeia, hyperbolic adventures, and narrow escapes. Elsie and her new friend Dotty, a kindly cleaning woman at the museum, join forces with a group of retired soldiers to confront a devious villain and bumbling police officers as they outwit their pursuers--and return Woolly safely to the North Pole via the HMS Victory. VERDICT A tale with twists and turns, references to British landmarks, and lots of heart, this title will appeal to reluctant readers and fans of prehistoric animals.--Shelley Sommer, Inly Sch., Scituate, MA Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

#2240480 Final Season (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Tim Green

Ben's whole life is turned upside down when his dad is diagnosed with an incurable disease called ALS, no doubt triggered by those hard hits he took on the field. Ben's

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



mom is now determined to get Ben to quit football forever.
 978-0-06-248595-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 6 x 9 304 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Booklist Ben, the quarterback of his sixth-grade football team, is looking forward to a special season. His teammates are friends, and his coaches are Ben's beloved father, who is a retired NFL player, and his two older brothers, former high-school football stars. When Dad tells his sons that he has been diagnosed with ALS, they're shaken yet confident that he can carry on as usual. But as the season progresses, the disease takes its toll. Mom becomes adamant that Ben should quit football to avoid concussions and possible brain damage. Meanwhile, a girl who joins Ben's football team meets some initial resistance from fellow players, but she earns their respect with her courage, skills, and tenacity. Green, a writer, attorney, and former NFL player who announced his ALS diagnosis in 2018, based the story on his experiences while coaching his youngest son's team along with his two older sons. While football fans will enjoy the play-by-play action, the heart of the story lies in its depiction of strong family relationships. A winning sports novel, on and off the field.



#2315209 Leeva at Last (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sara Pennypacker
 What are people for? That's the burning question on the mind of Leeva Spayce Thornblossom. Fame! says Leeva's mom, the mayor of Nutsmore. Money! says her dad, the town treasurer. With the help of an orphaned badger, a risk-averse boy in a hazmat suit, and the town's librarians, Leeva sets off to discover her own answer-- setting off a chain of events that will change Nutsmore forever.
 978-0-06-311442-5 Balzer & Bray ©2023 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Leeva wants to figure out what people are for. Her mayor mother is certain that people are meant for fame, while her town-treasurer father thinks that wealth is the only point. Ever since they realized that having Leeva would make them neither rich nor famous, the girl has been relegated to servant status. Life is bleak until Leeva sneaks into the building next door and discovers the wonders of a public library and the marvelous humans who keep it running. When her parents prove a threat to the library's well-being, Leeva flees her horrible home to save her town and newly found friends from ruin. If it sounds grim, be assured that Pennypacker tells the story with warmth and whimsy, recalling the tone and charm of Matilda. Though stuck in comically gloomy situations, Leeva is a delight, her eccentric companions are lovable, and the writing sparkles (including possibly the most magical description of toast ever put to paper). A terrifically funny, tender tribute to the power of perseverance, community, and kindness. Final art not seen.

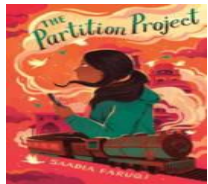
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Lonely, neglected Leeva Thornblossom's greedy parents believe her job is to make them rich and famous. Since this hasn't happened yet, they require Leeva to follow her Employee Manual and perform such duties as washing dishes and cooking the books for the town of Nutsmore, where her mother is mayor and her father is treasurer. Versatile author Pennypacker (Clementine, rev. 1/07; Pax, rev. 3/16) has written a book that is by turns outrageous and wise, funny and touching, fantastical and true; Cordell's sketches contribute to the levity. Although forbidden to leave the Thornblossoms' property, Leeva begins her exploration of the outside world by sneaking to the library next door, where she befriends the kind librarian, Pauline Flowers, and her nephew. Under Mrs. Flowers's direction, Leeva begins reading books to answer her question, "What are people for?" Leeva's social circle and her understanding of the world expand exponentially, and eventually she and her new friends (and a badger) play a role in ridding the town of the adult Thornblossoms and returning all the money they stole. By story's end, Leeva knows exactly what people are for: "Everything that happens is better when someone else shares it with you." Maeve Visser Knoth(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A neglected child asks a poignant and essential question: "What are people for?" Leeva Thornblossom only knows that she's around 8 or 9, but when she learns that a school will open in her town, she longs to go. But her mother, the mayor, and her father, the town treasurer, only love power, fame, and money. Their Employee Manual (Leeva is the sole employee) forbids Leeva to leave the grounds. What Leeva knows of the world comes from reading the Nutsmore Weekly and watching the soap opera The Winds of Our Tides. The accumulation of injustices propels Leeva beyond the hedge surrounding their property, and she discovers a building next door filled with books. A young man named Harry runs the library for his librarian aunt, whose skateboarding injuries hinder her from doing the work she loves. Leeva learns that most of the problems in her town can be attributed to her parents. Harry helps her befriend Osmund, so afraid of disasters that he wears a hazmat suit, and Fern, who must care for several siblings and her aging grandparents. Leeva also takes charge of Bob, a cranky badger whose family was displaced to make room for the mayor's statue. Pennypacker delivers a hugely entertaining mix of outsized comedic villainy, dreadful parents,

delicious cookies, and kindness rewarded. Leeva's sturdy instincts for both survival and justice are worth celebrating, as is the gift of books that expand her world. Main characters read White. Final art not seen. Splendid fun. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Thoughtful Leeva Thornblossom, who's "somewhere between eight and nine," lives a life of servitude to her dreadful parents. Leeva desires to attend school, but her fame-absorbed mother, the town's mayor, and her money-obsessed father, its treasurer, forbid her from going, an act that proves the last straw. Though Leeva, raised on soap operas and periodical Nutsmore Weekly, is seldom allowed to leave her home, she sets out each day, seeking to answer the question "What are people for?" She first visits the Nutsmore library next door, where a kindly librarian and her nephew introduce the girl to the astonishing worlds of literature, friendship, and freshly baked cookies. When an opportunity to meet more new people arises, Leeva jumps at it, soon encountering hazmat-suit-wearing, risk-averse Osmund and good-natured, familiarly obligated Fern. Learning that her greedy parents are responsible for many of Nutsmore's financial struggles, Leeva resolves to keep her identity a secret while attempting to set things right. Strongly recalling elements of Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, this archly narrated satire from Pennypacker (Here in the Real World) slyly integrates potent themes such as fairness, responsibility, and trust. Characters default to white. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. Illustrator's agent: Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A girl wonders "what people are for" in this sharp-witted and absorbing middle-grade novel from National Book Award-longlisted Sara Pennypacker (Pax) and Caldecott Medal-winning Matthew Cordell (*Wolf in the Snow*).



#2365621 Partition Project (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Saadia Faruqi

In this engaging and moving middle grade novel, author Saadia Faruqi writes about a contemporary Pakistani American girl whose passion for journalism inspires her to learn more about her grandmother's experience of the Partition of India and Pakistan--and the bond that the two form as she helps Dadi tell her story.

978-0-06-311581-1 *Quill Tree Books* ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

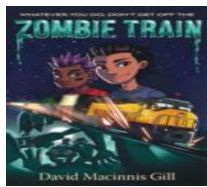
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books As far as seventh-grader Mahnoor is concerned, the arrival of her Pakistani grandmother is nothing to celebrate, seeing as Mahnoor has to not only give up her bedroom but also her free afternoons so she can, as ordered by her parents, look after Dadi. Resentful about having to move from her homeland to the U.S. in the first place, Dadi is as pleased about the arrangement as Mahnoor, but the two slowly warm to each other as Mahnoor asks Dadi about her life in Pakistan. Their discussions eventually lead aspiring journalist Mahnoor to make the Partition of Pakistan and India the topic of her journalism class documentary project. Researching the violence and tragedies of Partition isn't easy, but as Mahnoor learns more and spends time with Dadi, she begins to feel more connected to her Pakistani heritage. As an introduction to Partition, this is an accessible and informative read, providing both a broad overview of the conflict as well as detailed, personal specifics of the human toll. As a narrative, however, the book is less successful, with an uneven pace and shoehorned infodumps. Dadi is especially underserved here; her personality in real time differs wildly from the dialogue in the documentary, and her voice at points becomes almost indistinct from Mahnoor's. Nonetheless, Partition is not yet a common topic in school curriculums, and this provides a solid springboard for additional research and discussion. KQG COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Borders and roots take on new meaning in this coming-of-age story. Pakistani American seventh grader Mahnoor Raheem, an aspiring journalist, and Talha, her older brother, are instructed by Abba to greet their grandmother with "happy faces"--Dadi is leaving Lahore to live with them in Sugar Land, Texas. But smiling is hard for Maha. She's had to give up her bedroom for Dadi and move into the attic, and she even has to take care of her after school. She's excited about media studies, her new elective, but even that goes awry when they're assigned to make documentary films, something Maha believes isn't real journalism. Meanwhile, she meets Ahmad, a new student from Pakistan, and her best friend, Kim Hoang, unsuccessfully tries to interest her in their book report project. But she's immersed in conversations with Dadi about the Partition, something Maha knew nothing about. The Partition forced Dadi to leave her home in the Punjab and settle as a refugee in the newly created Pakistan. Replete with food-related memories, heart-wrenching stories, and warm tales of friendship, this is a riveting read. Maha confronts her own prejudices about the value of stories and what constitutes newsworthiness. In the process, she personally unravels her history and heritage (in ways that resonate with her American classmates who are also made to feel that they look like they're "from somewhere else") and forges a new understanding of herself and her relationships. Powerful and timely. (author's note) (Fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Only the facts matter to 12-year-old aspiring journalist Mahnoor Raheem, so when she partners on a study project for English class with best friend Kim Hoang, Maha finds herself largely uninterested in the fiction books Kim suggests they read. Maha instead focuses on her media studies assignment for which she must create a short documentary with a storytelling hook. Her unlikely subject is Dadi, her gruff Pakistani grandmother, who lives with Maha and her parents following a permanent move to Sugar Land, Tex. Initially resentful of Dadi's

sudden arrival, Maha is soon drawn to her grandmother's childhood stories, especially as Maha's busy parents have imparted little of their Pakistani heritage. Through Dadi, Maha learns of the Partition, the violent severing of British India into Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India, as well as the horrors her grandmother witnessed as a young refugee. Meanwhile, Kim views Maha's preoccupation with Dadi's stories as interfering with their English project, and their friendship fractures. In this vivid rendering of how growing cultural awareness and identity exploration can shape one's adolescence, Faruqi (Yusuf Azeem Is Not a Hero) presents an empowering story of family that will bolster tweens negotiating blended identities. Supporting characters are racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kari Sutherland, KT Literary. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Maha is a future journalist, obsessed with everything about the news. What's new in her life is the arrival of her dadi who has just moved from Pakistan and into Maha's bedroom. Along with her new room and new job as her grandmother's "babysitter," Maha has a school documentary project taking up her time. Slowly, stubborn and grumpy Dadi begins to soften and bond with Maha through sharing memories from her childhood, in particular the events surrounding the 1947 partition of India. When Maha confronts her own lack of knowledge surrounding her family's past, she begins to see the importance of history to the present moment. Diving full force into an exploration of the partition for her documentary tests Maha's stamina, patience, and relationships. Maha navigates her school project and new friendships while collecting interviews and recollections of the partition. Readers will discover along with Maha how our separate histories connect to our shared future, and the importance of archiving and protecting the personal stories of collective moments. VERDICT A heartwarming exploration of history through personal stories perfect for middle grade readers.—Hayley Morgenstern



#2362906 *Zombie Train* (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David Macinnis Gill

Dax has been riding out the zombie apocalypse on his crew's cobbled-together train for what feels like forever. It's a hopeless journey; the train running a loop that covers thousands of miles across the western U.S. But when a mysterious girl arrives with stories of a so-called Nirvana and a potential cure for the zombie parasite, Dax must decide between searching for the cure and protecting those entrusted in his care.

978-0-06-311651-1 Greenwillow Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist In the wake of a zombie apocalypse that has left all the grown-ups mindlessly roaming the Great Plains in vast herds like the buffalo of yore, a group of preteens has stolen a train to ride away from danger—at least until the zombie parasite inevitably catches up with them at puberty. Adding to those dim prospects, Wyatt, who unexpectedly finds himself in charge, has to cope with not only a new batch of much younger children but also other newbies with mysterious links to the outside world who are scheming to hijack the train. The tale has a surreal quality, but along with vividly drawn characters (some in advanced stages of decomposition), Gill offers zombie fans no few scary, macabre encounters that climactically escalate into a running battle, replete with sudden crises and courageous exploits. By the time readers leave the train huffing off into the sunset, headed toward a rumored cure, they will feel as if they've been on a wild ride.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Kids survive the zombie apocalypse on a train to nowhere. Nearly a year ago, a parasite turned all the grown-ups into zombies. Twelve-year-old brakeman Wyatt is leading his riders on an endless loop "from Colorado to Wyoming to Utah and back," hoping that they can find a cure. In the caboose, the nurse experiments on patients with a blood serum, but the passengers struggle with the knowledge of how they'll inevitably end up: 14 is the age when people become susceptible to the parasite's effects. Wyatt and the crew hope to find Nirvana, a military medical facility that may hold the cure. Along the way, Wyatt grows closer to Ryle, a girl who's survived the harsh conditions of the wasteland. Meanwhile, mutiny threatens the train as narcissistic crew member Diesel uses others to try to seize power after Wyatt is made conductor. Diesel isn't the only threat, however, with feral children planning coordinated attacks on the train. The characters are diverse in physical appearance, background, personalities, and skills. Appropriately disgusting descriptions and puns establish the dark humor that pervades the work, and natural-sounding tween dialogue and a fully developed dystopian world are strengths. The novel feels overly long, however, and the action sequences become repetitive; the storyline surrounding the search for the cure moves very slowly. The abrupt ending may point to a sequel. Jam-packed and unevenly paced. (Adventure. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2331802 *Rayleigh Mann in the Company of Monsters* (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ciannon Smart

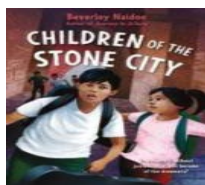
When Rayleigh sneaks out to go trick-or-treating on All Hallows Eve, he gets way more than he bargained for—in the form of a jumbie straight out of his Nana's stories from *The Book of Night Things*. The weirdest part? This jumbie tells Rayleigh that the father he never knew is actually the Bogey Mann and he has been kidnapped!

978-0-06-308125-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Smart (*Witches Steeped in Gold*, 2021) welcomes every kid who feels a touch monstrous to an underground world where monsters of all types live in an uneasy balance. Drawn to Below-London, Rayleigh Mann searches for his missing father, the infamous Bogey Mann. Yet even in the land of monsters, not all is well. With Below-London on the verge of falling apart and its monsters on a citywide treasure hunt, Rayleigh will need to rely on friends who are jumbies, ghosts, and witches to keep his new family safe. Full of crackling British humor and Caribbean folklore, Smart's story evokes the perfect Halloween: children snatched from their beds, ominous prophecies peddled by seers, and plenty of chocolate—a must-have for readers who love Tracey Baptiste and Lora Senf. What are you ghouls waiting for? Toss a token in your laundry hamper, hop inside the swirling vortex, and embrace the monster within.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly On his birthday; the same day as All Hallows' Eve; Black British 12-year-old Rayleigh Mann can't wait to join his troublemaking classmates for annual trickery. After sneaking past his snoozing grandmother, who is from Jamaica, Rayleigh searches for his friends. But he can't find them, and with London's mandatory "Lights Out to Help Out" curfew swiftly approaching, he makes his way back to his family's fancy high-rise apartment, only to be intercepted by a girl named Marley. She introduces him to Thelonus, a creature called a jumbie seemingly straight out of his Nana's Caribbean monster stories. Thelonus claims to be Rayleigh's uncle and informs the tween that he's a monsterling, and son of the infamous Bogey Mann; a legendary "Supreme Scarer"; who's gone missing. After agreeing to help search for his father, Rayleigh journeys to Below-London with Marley and Thelonus. On top of his quest, he must pass a series of trials, be accepted by the leader of the underworld, and settle a power struggle. In this action-packed fantasy adventure, Smart (*Witches Steeped in Gold*) combines organic-feeling descriptions of eerie London streets with Caribbean folklore to craft a world teeming with ghoulish scares and creepy creatures of the night. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)



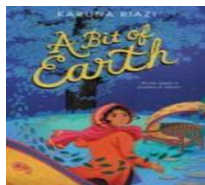
#2293023 Children of the Stone City (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Beverley Naidoo

Adam and his sister, Leila, are Nons-second-class citizens, living under the Permitted ruling class. Though their life in the Stone City is filled with family, stories, and music, they must carefully follow the rules, have all paperwork on hand, and never, ever do anything to anger a Permitted. When their father unexpectedly dies, they are even restricted in how they are allowed to grieve. Soon, Adam and Leila are back to school and practicing music again. But when Adam's friend Zak plays a bold prank on a group of Permitted boys, and Adam is implicated in Zak's "crime," Adam knows their lives will never be the same again.

978-0-06-309696-7 *Quill Tree Books* ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–7—Twelve-year-old Adam and his sister Leila live in Stone City, a society divided into the ruling class called Permitteds and the lower class called Nons. Despite the disadvantages of being Nons, Adam and Leila enjoy going to school and taking music lessons. When their father dies suddenly, they must worry about their mother losing her permit to stay in Stone City. Then Adam is arrested when he and his friend Zak are falsely accused of attacking a group of Permitted teens. Adam fights to clear his name and save his mother from being displaced. Naidoo creates a dystopian allegory illustrating the divisions existing among societies around the world and the need to stand up for equality and justice. The story is told in present tense from both Adam's and Leila's points of view. Adam's chapters include occasional free verse poems. The character names are a mixture of Israeli and Arabic. While the dystopian worldbuilding is limited and young readers may not connect the classical music references, they will find themselves immersed in Adam's desperate struggle. VERDICT Recommended for students who enjoy books about characters overcoming injustice, such as Aisha Saeed's *Amal Unbound* and Margaret Peterson Haddix's *Among the Hidden*. —Maile Steimer



#2315236 Bit of Earth (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Karuna Riazi

Growing up in Pakistan, Maria Latif has been bounced between reluctant relatives for as long as she can remember--first because of her parents' constant travel, and then because of their deaths. So when old friends of her parents offer to "give her a better life" in the United States, Maria is shipped to a host family across the world. When Maria arrives on Long Island, things are not quite what she was expecting. Since she's never been good at following rules, Maria decides to investigate and discovers

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

something she never thought she'd find: a place where she feels at home.
978-0-06-309866-4 *Greenwillow Books* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist A Bit of Earth is a contemporary, multicultural rendition of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel, *The Secret Garden*. It takes place in Long Island, New York, and features a cranky Maria Latif, newly exiled from Pakistan and Bangladesh, as the protagonist. Like Mary Lennox, Maria is grappling with the twin traumas of being orphaned and displaced and finds respite in a garden and an unexpected connection with a peer. Riazi flavors her rendition with heavy doses of cultural references, nostalgic trappings of the people and practices that Maria left behind and then learns anew in the Bangladeshi diaspora on Long Island. Despite some narrative gaps and incongruities, *A Bit of Earth* sustains credibility in plot and character. A nice difference from *The Secret Garden* is the presence of a larger sense of community and adults who are held accountable for their actions. Mary had Colin and Ben (and the robin), but Maria gains quite a gaggle of friends and family.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Roots, both tangible and intangible, come together in this coming-of-age story. Maria Latif is used to being defined by others as unpleasant, ungrateful, and ill-mannered, but it's a veneer to protect herself. Grappling with the grief of being orphaned, she is now being shunted from relatives in Pakistan to live with her late parents' friends in the U.S. All she has left is a pocketful of words that take the shape of verses interspersed between the prose, giving glimpses into her feelings and thoughts. Maria finds herself in Long Island with Mr. and Mrs. Clayborne, a strange couple coded as White. They live in an even stranger house with secrets and taboos. There's also Mr. Clayborne's biracial son, taciturn Colin Clayborne, whose mother, Saira, passed away. But then a bright green gecko leads Maria to a secret garden--and the possibility of friends. Despite knowing it's off limits, Maria begins to revitalize this mysterious garden, turning the soil, finding new life, and discovering possibilities. This retelling of *The Secret Garden* offers an interesting twist on the classic's colonial, racist tone. It opens with promise as the evocative text highlights Maria's grief, isolation, and resignation at being cast adrift. Each character has their own story arc that is explored even as Maria finds ways of becoming her own person. While the book sags toward the middle, it explores themes of home, belonging, identity, and humans' intrinsic connection to nature. This book tackling hefty themes will grow on readers. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A foreboding feeling permeates this mystery-driven novel, a *The Secret Garden* retelling from Riazi (*The Gauntlet*). Having grown up staying with relations in Bangladesh and Pakistan, young Maria Latif, though often considered "unpleasant," has experience abiding without her immediate family. But she's thrust into another new situation after her parents die while traveling, and their alumni friends in New York City seek to provide her with opportunities. When the distant cousin with whom she's supposed to stay is unexpectedly called away, she's forced to head to the "cold, unhappy" Long Island estate of the Claybornes, who read as white. There, she's hosted by "the second Mrs. Clayborne" as well as Mr. Clayborne's mother, who forbids Maria from visiting parts of the home, including the yard. Flouting the rules while navigating the residence's tense atmosphere, Maria feels happier upon finding an unlocked, unloved garden to tend; and inside it a beautifully embroidered sari. The outdoors has always been Maria's favorite place, and working in the secret garden feels just right to her. When he's sent home from boarding school for misbehavior, she also befriends young Colin Clayborne, the biracial-coded son of the late first Mrs. Clayborne, Saira. Chapters alternate experiential free-verse poetry with a third-person narrative as Maria excavates the garden's past and her own isolation in this thoughtful, emotionally honest take on the source material. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Thao Le, Sandra Dijkstra Agency. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--This contemporary reenvisioning of *The Secret Garden* features Maria Latif, a Pakistani-Bangladeshi Muslim girl. Orphaned after her parents' accident, Maria has been labeled difficult and is bounced from house to house. She is dispatched to stay with a friend of her father's on Long Island, but arrives to find he is away on business and she is in the care of his second wife Lyndsay, his judgmental mother, and indifferent son, Colin. Exploring the grounds to escape the tense household, Maria discovers a locked gate and an old unkempt garden. With the help of new friends Mimi and Rick, Colin, and resources from Lyndsay, they collaborate to resurrect the garden that was originally cultivated by Colin's deceased mother, Saira. Found family is a central theme as Maria struggles to find a place she can truly call home. The undertones of colonialism in the original version are changed appropriately. Maria's character evolves, gently showing readers the coping skills she has developed to deal what she has been through, and how she is making new connections. Her Desi identity is represented authentically via foods, scents, clothing/dupatta, prayers, and mehndi, and the bit of earth she tends to brings up with memories of her parents. All of this provides comfort and familiarity. The hybrid prose/verse format provides a narrative that feels genuine, raw, and allows readers into the minds of the characters. A content warning is advised regarding the death of parents, racism, and colorism. VERDICT Destined to be a new classic, this refreshing of the canon is long overdue.--Lisa Krok Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2330283 Jayson Goes for It! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brayden Harrington

Eighth grader Jayson Linden has had a stutter his whole life. Though his fellow classmates can sometimes be mean, Jayson tries not to let it get to him; he enjoys playing basketball and spending time with his friends. Then Jayson's best friend, Gloria, is kicked off the debate team because of her stutter and Jayson starts to notice other injustices happening at their school.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Stutter notwithstanding, eighth grader Jayson Linden runs for class president against the coolest kid in middle school. Teen author Harrington (who shared his own story in the 2021 picture book *Brayden Speaks Up*) stirs strategies and grievances alike into his debut novel, co-authored with Ritz. Jayson, who, like Harrington, speaks with a stutter, is pitted not only against rival candidate Mack--basketball star, local mayor's son, and all-around A-lister--but also insensitive teachers, a hostile principal, and a wrongheaded speech therapist. Initially motivated to run by indignation at seeing Mack insist that champion arguer Gloria Lopez be barred from debate club speaking due to her stutter and best friend Chuck Neville arbitrarily rejected at basketball tryouts for clashing with Mack, Jayson goes on to run an inclusive students' rights-based campaign against his opponent's smooth promotions of school spirit and a refurbished gym. Fortunately, he has peer allies as well as a new therapist more attuned to his needs than the old one to help him get past his profound lack of confidence, a disastrous public speaking performance, and the interference of his plainly partisan principal on the way to a triumphant, feel-good close. If the story overall seems predictable, there is at least one unexpected twist in a significant character's arc. Except for Chuck, who is Black, and Gloria, whose name cues her as Latine, the cast reads White. Weighted by heavy messaging but buoyant enough to stay afloat. (letter from Brayden) (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2308382 What Happened to Rachel Riley? (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Claire Swinarski

Anna Hunt may be the new girl at East Middle School, but she can already tell there's something off about her eighth-grade class. Rachel Riley, who just last year was one of the most popular girls in school, has become a social outcast. But no one, including Rachel Riley herself, will tell Anna why. As a die-hard podcast enthusiast, Anna knows there's always more to a story than meets the eye. So she decides to put her fact-seeking skills to the test and create her own podcast around the question that won't stop running through her head: What happened to Rachel Riley?

978-0-06-321309-8 Quill Tree Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Book Page Last year, Rachel Riley was the most popular girl at East Middle School in Madison, Wisconsin. This year, she's persona non grata with the entire eighth grade class--except for Anna Hunt.

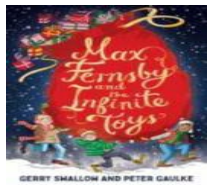
Reviews by: Booklist Moving from Chicago to Madison, Wisconsin, for eighth grade is an unwanted change for bookish Anna Hunt, but at least she has it better than Rachel Riley. Anna can't spot anything that would make her classmate such an outcast, but after doing a little digging, Anna realizes that Rachel used to be extremely popular. Why was she utterly alone now? What happened to Rachel Riley? This question crawls under Anna's skin, ultimately becoming the focus of her application (a mock podcast) for a youth podcasting summit led by her hero, investigative journalist Mimi Miller. What begins as a look into bullying and the social politics of middle school expands into a revealing study of sexual harassment in the ways that "minor" incidents can both be normalized and have significant negative effects on victims. Told largely through embedded emails, texts, and interview transcripts, the novel pulls in a variety of adult and student perspectives as Anna follows clues and endeavors not to become shunned herself. She emerges as a complex protagonist, whose struggles over leaving her friends and Polish community in Chicago are threaded throughout, as is the war raging between her sense of justice and introverted nature. An empowering and empathetic companion to Barbara Dee's *Maybe He Just Likes You* (2019) and Brigit Young's *The Prettiest* (2020).

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Anna Hunt has a unique insight into the eighth-grade class at East Middle School, having just moved to Madison, Wisconsin, from Chicago, and she's confused but intrigued by a story that involves the once-popular student Rachel Riley--a story no one wants to talk about. As Anna takes on a podcast project for her Social Issues class she interviews her peers, steps on many toes, and tracks down the events that led Rachel to burn down a barn in the middle of the night the day before the seventh-grade dance. What starts as curiosity ends with the discovery of a sexual harassment game the boys of East Middle School play on the girls, and now Anna's stuck figuring out what to do with that knowledge. Anna is likeable and compelling, utilizing humor and quirkiness to get the information she needs and providing a buffer to some of the dark themes of the novel. Her narration is interspersed with her findings: voice recordings, emails, notes passed in class, flyers, and text messages provided to her as evidence. The unraveling mystery of the game itself is compelling as Anna identifies the players as well as the people who are complacent in the harassment and other girls who blame Rachel for ruining their dance. If the administration's eventual response is a bit too neat, the story ends on a hopeful but bittersweet note as Anna understands the culture that feeds sexual harassment behaviors can't end overnight. Pair this book with *Maybe He Just Likes You* (BCCB 10/19) for a much-needed conversation with middle schoolers about the harassment they will likely face at school. NB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews How did the most popular girl in school become persona non grata? New kid and aspiring podcaster Anna Hunt could have taken the easy route for her social issues assignment about any subject that was important to her. But somehow Anna always comes back to the question, "What happened to Rachel Riley?" Does it have anything to do with the mysterious game the boys have been playing? Anna's investigation unfolds in emails, text threads, personal narratives, articles, and voice recordings as she asks difficult questions, struggles to make friends, and questions how and if the world can change for the better. Ultimately, Anna's un-essay explores sexual harassment between middle school peers, specifically boys giving each other points for slapping girls' butts and snapping their bra straps. As in Barbara Dee's *Maybe He Just Likes You* (2019), there's social pressure to stay silent and laugh it all off as a joke. Given the central focus on teasing apart this issue, it's understandable that many of the characters lack depth. Anna's mother emigrated from Poland, and Anna is bilingual; some supporting characters have names that point to non-European heritage. With its highlighting of fun and educational facts, the writing style and subject matter make this a good fit for classroom or book club reading and discussion. A useful addition to the pool of middle-grade books about sexual harassment at school. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Wis., middle school, Anna Hunt isn't surprised to be sitting alone in the cafeteria. But another eighth grader; Rachel Riley; is too, and when Anna finds that Rachel used to be one of the grade's most popular girls, she wants to know what happened. Anna, who wants to be "the next Sarah Koenig," frames her investigation as a podcast, hoping to apply to a summer camp with the results: an exploration of "bullying. Social classes.... A middle school caste system." But no one will talk, not even Rachel, who admits she knows the reason behind her being ostracized. In a quietly suspenseful book, Swinarski (*The Kate in Between*) uses Anna's emails with her beloved Polish grandmother, as well as her thoughts and interactions at home and school, to give readers a good sense of the 12-year-old, who's a year younger than her classmates, and happier reading than socializing. Amid universal discouragement, Anna keeps asking awkward questions, eventually garnering help from classmates and her computer-genius older sister. With a slow reveal, the novel shows how frequently written-off behavior can constitute sexual harassment, and how individuals can create change by having the courage to question the narrative. Most characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alex Slater, Trident Media Group. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--As East Middle School's newest student, Anna Hunt has noticed that her classmate, Rachel Riley, is treated like a social outcast. When she is assigned an un-essay project for her Social Issues class, Anna decides to investigate why. Inspired by her favorite podcaster, Mimi Miller, and hoping to land a spot in her summer camp, Anna begins to dig into the past year, recording her process as a podcast. Her findings reveal a "game" wherein boys received points for "slapping girls' butts," which somehow led to a fire that canceled an end-of-year dance and is the reason for Rachel's predicament. When the harassing game is reignited this year in the form of snapping bra straps, and Anna herself is targeted, she's inspired to incite social change through her project. This book is incredibly relevant and empowering for readers and would serve as a powerful conversation starter. Anna is a determined yet vulnerable protagonist, who eventually realizes that change starts with her. Swinarski's writing is compelling and multifaceted, using traditional chapters, letters, emails, and text messages to tell the story. Tackling themes of friendship, betrayal, and harassment beautifully, while keeping them accessible to middle schoolers, this book will resonate with readers, and will inspire them to speak up about unjust situations. VERDICT A necessary purchase for all collections serving middle school readers. Hand to fans of Barbara Dee's *Maybe He Just Likes You*.--Amy McInerney Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2332841 Max Fernsby and the Infinite Toys (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gerry Swallow

Max Fernsby is a typical 10-year-old kid who spends his time avoiding his foster parents and palling around with his two best friends, Baxter and Leoni. But when a red bag literally falls from the sky onto his head, Max discovers that he has the power to produce any toy he wishes for! With his magic red bag in hand and newfound toy-summoning abilities, Max soon realizes that the bag can do more than just supply him and his friends with all the new toys they ever wanted.

978-0-06-321475-0 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young boy comes into possession of a miraculous bag. Two weeks before Christmas, the continued shenanigans of North Pole elves Eldor and Skhiff result in their being given the less-than-desirable job of "fertilizer relocation engineer" (shoveling reindeer poop). Meanwhile, a 10-year-old foster child named Max Fernsby takes an ill-fated, snowy bedpan ride (he and his friends couldn't afford a toboggan)...and winds up careening into Steve Bozeman, the greedy CEO of Rainforest.com. Though the kids run off, they haven't seen the last of Bozeman. When a hankering for pizza prompts Eldor to borrow Santa's sleigh, an almost-collision sends Santa's red bag falling through the sky onto Max's head. The bag produces whatever toy he asks for, and he and his friends start a business to support themselves and provide presents to the neighborhood at much lower prices than Rainforest.com offers. The elves need to find that bag, especially before Bozeman gets his hands on it! Opening with a promise that readers have never heard a Christmas story quite like this one, Swallow and Gaulke certainly deliver in the unique zany shenanigans department. Despite a couple of missteps--a key beat of the climax happens abruptly offscreen, and the end has an odd twist--young readers looking for humor with a holiday twist will have fun here. Occasional illustrations depict the primary characters as light-skinned, though people of color appear, too. General tomfoolery, affectionate and otherwise. (Fiction. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two calamity-prone elves and three human friends team up to save Santa's bag from an avaricious e-tailer in this madcap Christmas adventure from screenwriters Swallow and Gaulke. Lost out of Santa's sleigh during an elfin pizza run, the famous sack lands on the head of 10-year-old Max Fernsby, who lives with foster parents following his mother's death. Max; whose lean allowance recently saw him sledding on a rusty bedpan rather than a toboggan; quickly discovers that the bag magically supplies any toy he asks for, and begins to conjure more for sale, undercutting Rainforest.com's prices in a neighborhood that just lost its last toy store. But Rainforest.com founder and CEO Steve Bozeman is watching Max closely after a sledding collision, and he soon plots to steal the sack, just as elves Eldor and Skhiff; recently demoted to fertilizer relocation engineers; work to retrieve the bag. Though the plotting is formulaic, nonstop action and toilet humor will find their audience in this double debut filled with "high jinks, shenanigans... tomfoolery... funny business... horseplay, and... buffoonery." Occasional b&w cartoons from Kissi render most protagonists with pale skin. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Eldor and Skhiff, two elves who are abject failures at the North Pole, are seemingly always in trouble. They kick up their antics a notch when they borrow Santa's sleigh one night and lose his famous red sack. Falling from the sleigh, the sack lands on the head of Max Fernsby, a foster kid with skinflint guardians who only want chores done and a check in their hands. However, Max and his two friends, Baxter and Leoni, make their own fun through numerous adventures. The only element missing in the story is, of course, a greedy toy maker. Enter Steve Bozeman, CEO of Rainforest.com, who finds fun in forcing small toy stores out of business. The antics of the elves, the action of Max and his friends, and the cruelty of Bozeman are revealed in alternating chapters, but all the seemingly unrelated story lines come together at the end where the narrator is also revealed. Constant action, comic situations, and sarcastic banter make for a fun ride all the way to the end of the story, where there's a great surprise for readers. VERDICT Fast-paced and laced perfectly with a little irreverent humor. Highly recommended.--Laura Fields Eason Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2315338 Bea and the New Deal Horse (Hardcover (Trade))

written by L. M. Elliott

Bea wakes to Daddy's note in a hayloft, where he abandoned her with her little sister after the stock market crash took everything: Daddy's job at the bank, their home, Mama's health and life. How is Bea supposed to convince the imposing Mrs. Scott to take in two stray children? Mrs. Scott's money and Virginia farm are drying up in a drought and the Great Depression, too. She might have to sell her beautiful horses, starting with a dangerous chestnut that has caused tragedy in the past and injures her stablehand shortly after Bea arrives.

978-0-06-321900-7 Katherine Tegen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

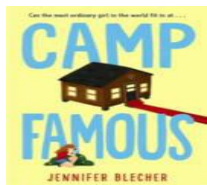
Reviews by: Booklist Bea, 13, and younger sister Vivian are secretly abandoned by their father on the farm of their late mother's friend. After Bea rescues a temperamental chestnut horse with colic, the girls are discovered by the farm owner, Mrs. Millicent Scott, whose brisk demeanor initially dissuades Bea from revealing their connection. That "beaten-up horse and beaten-down girl" prove quite a pair and potentially Mrs. Scott's best hope of saving her farm from foreclosure. Bea shows resilience as she confronts hardships and navigates life within her newfound family. Riding terminology and Virginia hunt-country gentility infuse the emotional text while Depression-era cultural facts, economics, and racial tensions color interactions among side characters. An extensive note details Elliott's (Louisa June and the Nazis in the Waves, 2022) admiration for notable female horseback riders as well as research that informed this work. Distrustful but determined Bea has a lot riding on her, but she harnesses her stubbornness amidst sorrow in this blue-ribbon pick for fans of Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's *The War That Saved My Life* (2015).

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews orse in a Depression-era effort to save a family farm. It's not her family's farm: Thirteen-year-old Beatrice Davi and her 8-year-old sister, Vivian, have been riding the rails with their father. Two years ago, when Daddy lost his bank job in Richmond, they lost everything, including Bea's pony. Then Mama died. Now Daddy's abandoned them in a hayloft belonging to Mama's Sweet Briar College friend's mother. The girls successfully stay hidden until Bea reveals their existence by saving one of Mrs. Scott's horses from colic. Cantankerous Mrs. Scott allows them to stay in exchange for picking peaches but soon enlists Bea to help attract rich buyers by riding some of her horses in an upcoming show--including a beautiful chestnut who's hurt several people. Elliott weaves in historical threads: near-historic droughts in Virginia in 1930 and 1932, 1919 race riots in which Black World War I veterans were attacked, the racially integrated Bonus Army's 1932 march to Washington, and presidential hopeful Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. Bea is a vivid, sympathetic character. She and Mrs. Scott stand up to their multitude of losses with brave honesty and pragmatism, and the victories they achieve feel earned. Elliott knows horses down to her toes. Main characters are White; major supporting character Malachi is a Black veteran blinded during a parade in the U.S. in honor of his regiment. Hurrah for bold riders and the horses who love them. (author's note, selected sources) (Historical fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In a richly characterized novel set against a precisely drawn Great Depression backdrop, a resourceful 13-year-

old enters horse competitions to stave off bankruptcy at her adopted home. Awakening in the hayloft of a once-grand Virginia horse farm, Beatrice Davis is horrified to discover that her father has abandoned her and her eight-year-old sister, Vivian, "like unwanted kittens." Claiming that he cannot care for them, the former banker leaves a note suggesting that they appeal to the farm's owner, Mrs. Scott, whose daughter knew the girls' late mother. Horse-loving Bea soon saves a feisty chestnut with colic, forging a unique connection with the horse and alerting Mrs. Scott to their presence. The formidable woman, once a renowned horse trainer, is loath to take on additional dependents, but she keeps the sisters on to work after an accident incapacitates her only stable hand. As Bea endeavors to become indispensable and learns more about the rural community's Depression-era plight, she trains to compete with the difficult horse. Elliott (Louisa June and the Nazis in the Waves) nimbly layers historical events; including the devastating effects of the stock market crash and FDR's promise of a "New Deal"; and equine details into an engrossing novel for fans of *The War That Saved My Life*. Protagonists read as white; a secondary character cues as Black. Ages 10: up. Agent: Katelyn Detweiler, Jill Grinberg Literary Management. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--This fits snugly within the canon of plucky girls overcoming massive trials. Written in the vein of *A Little Princess* or *Anne of Green Gables*, this title sets the titular Beatrice in the depths of America's Great Depression. Bea's father abandons her and her younger sister Vivian on the farm of a distant and rather prickly acquaintance, Mrs. Scott. Although she's hesitant about the two foundlings, Mrs. Scott soon finds a use for them on her floundering farm. Once Bea, who is white, reveals her innate horse training sense, there's hope and great risk on the horizon as the women try to save the farm through taming a traumatized horse. Bea's journey is gorgeously told through refined but accessible writing. The conflicts are heartbreaking without a heavy hand. The scenes of horse jumping are equally exhilarating and exhausting, enough to make any horse skeptic a full-on fan. With a dash of social issues through veterans, racism, and the Hoover/FDR presidential race, Elliott's novel is as informative as it is entertaining. VERDICT A gorgeous, almost bygone-era tale of overcoming adversity, full of wisdom for all. Upper elementary students, high schoolers, and beyond can learn resilience and wisdom from these characters.--Cat McCarrey Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2277784 Camp Famous (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer Blecher

Eleven-year-old Abby Herman is normal normal normal. She's never stood out, and she never knows quite how to find her place in a group of friends, even though she notices everything and writes it all down in her notebook. When Abby learns that she'll be attending summer camp, she is beyond excited at the idea of a fresh start and a place where she might find what she's always wanted: a best friend. Desperate to fit in with the pop stars, princesses, and geniuses, Abby creates a fake identity as a famous author. But as camp comes to a close, Abby finds herself torn between who she has pretended to be and who she truly is.

978-0-06-314068-4 Greenwillow Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 After a particularly embarrassing playground incident draws the sympathy of her well-connected teacher, lonely Abby is given the opportunity to attend Camp Summerah, a remote summer camp for starlets escaping the spotlight. An ordinary child suddenly surrounded by performers and a princess, 11-year-old Abby pretends to be a famous author with a pseudonym, allowing her to fit in among the camp's UFCs (unrecognizable famous campers). As the lies build, Abby crumbles, recognizing that "lying, faking, pretending to be somebody different was not the answer." A second chance from her new camp pals helps Abby realize that being true to yourself is enough to make you special, and genuine friendships follow. Although close readers may pause over gaps in time and superficial characterizations, the short chapters, generous margins, and relatable themes of insecurity will broaden the book's appeal. Blecher (*Out of Place*, 2019) delivers a satisfying middle-grade story showcasing the makings of real friendship and the possibilities that await over a summer of growth (even if your summer doesn't include a royal BFF). COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Abby longs to leave the troubles of fifth grade behind for a typical overnight summer camp experience. Instead, her teacher, noticing Abby's social troubles and unhappiness at school, finagles her a place at Camp Famous, where celebrity kids go to escape the pressure of the public eye. Finding herself among royalty, pop stars, children of social media influencers, science prodigies, and even Oliver -- a classmate from school who, it turns out, does reporting for national news outlets -- Abby feels self-conscious about being "regular" and pretends to be a best-selling author. Meanwhile, the famous kids all like Abby immediately -- and she could develop close friendships were she not hindered by the false identity she has created. The atmosphere is idyllic: likable counselors in cozy cabins, a lake, evening campfires, loads of activity choices and free time blocks, and a tightknit group of campers with complicated lives and a desire for real connection. Abby's first-person narration, alternating with journal entries in her green fuzzy notebook, builds as the summer of her dreams unfolds, until her secret comes out, upending everything. This enjoyable story of finding self-acceptance through a summer escape is ideal for veteran campers as well as for those who daydream about the experience -- and the new friends they might make there. Julie Roach(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Abigail Herman spends a lot of time trying to figure out the mysterious rules of fifth grade friendship. Everyone knows that you should tuck in your shirt before doing a cartwheel. Everyone, that is, except 11-year-old Abby. Just like she doesn't know the words to the latest songs or the names of the characters on the popular TV shows her mom won't let her watch. She thinks a fresh start at summer camp might be the answer to her friendship problems, and she has her sights set on Camp Longatocket, which her old babysitter reminisced about. But when her teacher, Ms. McIntyre, arranges for Abby to go to a camp run by her brother, it's someplace completely different: Camp Famous, where the high-profile campers include a princess and a pop star. Being the only nonfamous kid makes her feel like an outsider, so Abby pretends to be a bestselling author to fit in. She can only be her true self when she's writing in her fuzzy, green, sequined notebook and when she's spending time with Oliver Frank, her classmate and fellow camper who promises to keep her secret--and has one of his own. This plot-driven, upbeat novel will have readers relating to Abby's awkwardness while enjoying the fanciful situation in which she finds herself. At its heart, it's a sweet story of friendship, being true to yourself, and finding common ground. Most characters default to White. A quirky and fun summer read. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old white Abby Herman attempts to make friends in Blecher's (Stick with Me) bighearted novel about truth and self-acceptance. When "ordinary" Abby gets the opportunity to attend sleepaway camp, she's excited for a new cohort of eligible friends. It's not until she arrives at the airport that her parents reveal that this is not a typical camp: Camp Famous is where famous kids go to get away from the pressures of public life. Despite the other campers' inviting personalities, Abby pretends to be a famous writer to fit in, and ropes preeminent child reporter Oliver Frank, who's white, into her scheme. As Abby finally makes friends, she begins to understand fame's complexities, and realizes that her popular peers are not so different from her. Even so, she's scared to admit her lies, and as these mistruths grow bigger, tension brews within her fledgling relationships. Through Abby's fully realized loneliness and desire for connection, Blecher cleverly presents the pain of being left out, the joy of being seen, and the challenges along the road to accepting and celebrating oneself. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alexander Slater, Trident Media Group. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Blecher's latest is a fun summertime romp with a spotlight on coming into your own. Abby is an ordinary 11-year-old white girl, trying to navigate who she is and what she wants. After an embarrassing incident at school alerts Abby's teacher to possible bullying, her parents give in and enroll her in a summer sleepaway camp she has always wanted to attend. Little does she know that she is in for anything but a typical summer camp experience—she is headed to Camp Famous, where famous kids escape to be themselves. Abby isn't famous but wants to fit in, so tells a lie about being a renowned author. Keeping up the lie and making friends with celebrities isn't easy, but Abby will do anything to make this summer the best ever. Readers will be connect with Abby as the story unfolds. Blecher skillfully crafts relatable experiences and feelings within a unique story arc. Abby is a great example of a kid learning to be patient and comfortable with who she is; growing up can be tough, but being true to herself wins in the end. VERDICT A sweet summer read for realistic fiction fans. Recommended for tween readers who enjoy light coming-of-age tales.—Elizabeth Pelayo



#2310929 Grace of Wild Things (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Heather Fawcett

Grace has never been good at anything except magic--not that anyone believes her. While other children are adopted from the orphanage, nobody wants Grace. So she decides to make a home for herself by running away and offering herself as an apprentice to the witch in the nearby woods. After all, who better to teach Grace to use her magic? Surely the witch can't be that bad.

978-0-06-314262-6 Balzer & Bray ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine The setting is Prince Edward Island, sometime close to the turn of the twentieth century. "The dirt road was reddish, like all the earth on the island, as if it were flushed with pride at its own prettiness." A spirited, impulsive orphan -- romantic about nature, self-dramatizing, and fond of poetry -- is taken in by a grumpy old woman. What the child passionately longs for are connection, friendship, and kindness. So far, so Green Gables -- Grace is certainly a literary second cousin to Anne. The twist is that she is also a witch, and so is the grumpy old woman. The plot involves a series of tests, a year's worth of spellcasting as Grace apprentices to her craft. The stakes are high. If she cannot master all one hundred (and a half) spells, she will lose her magic powers, and thus her identity. A supporting cast includes a crow familiar, a bullying mean girl, a wish-granting fairy (and nascent romantic interest), and a sensible, supportive best friend. This alternative-universe romp is perfect for those who like their fantasy light and sentimental and enjoy a bit of L. M. Montgomery pastiche (yes, the raspberry cordial disaster resurfaces, and there's even a hint of Matthew). Sarah Ellis(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Grace, a 12-year-old witch, runs away from the orphanage to find a better life for herself. With plenty of respectful nods to Anne of Green Gables, this delightful story set on Prince Edward Island features fledgling witch Grace. Escaping the orphanage she hates, Grace ventures with her familiar, a crow named Windweaver, to the cottage of Miss Puddlestone, a reputed witch who is rumored to eat children. But Grace is not afraid; she is there to offer her services and, in return, to learn more about magic. Unfortunately for Grace, the witch is not at all interested in taking her under her wing but agrees eventually (after failing to roast Grace in her giant oven) to consider it--but only if Grace

correctly performs all the spells in the witch's grimoire to prove her potential. Richly imagined and terribly funny in its interactions between Grace and the witch, the narrative's essence honors the plots points and characters of L.M. Montgomery's iconic story. Grace is voluble, imaginative, and a lover of poetry and all things in the natural world. Her endearing character--just as charming as the original Anne (no mean feat)--is by turns funny, wise, determined, and poignant. Most characters read default White except for Sareena, Grace's best friend, who is Lebanese and French Canadian. A magical, witchy, and thoroughly successful homage to a classic. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Told in the spirit of Anne of Green Gables, this highly imaginative fantasy novel by Fawcett (The School Between Winter and Fairyland) follows 12-year-old Grace Greene's path toward becoming a learned witch. After discovering that she has magical powers, Grace feels isolated from her peers at the Prince Edward Island orphanage where she lives. When losing herself in reading poetry no longer seems sufficient as distraction from her loneliness, she and her crow familiar, Windweaver, run away to the home of local witch Miss Puddlestone. There, Grace is offered a deal: if she can cast the spells within Miss Puddlestone's first grimoire by the time the cherry trees bloom, she will take Grace on as an apprentice. As Grace embarks on her endeavor, she meets neighbor Sareena Khalil, 12, and Rum, a fairy boy whose skin shifts tones, both of whom agree to accompany Grace on her quest. Frequently event-foreshadowing works from Grace's favorite writers, including Emily Dickinson and E. Nesbit, begin each chapter. Fawcett utilizes Grace's over-the-top expressiveness to convey with cheerful candor themes of bullying, loneliness, and regret; character interactions embody many flavors of friendship, which together merge into an exuberant tale of belonging and hope. Most characters read as white; Sareena is Lebanese and French Canadian. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Brianne Johnson, Writers House. (Feb.)



#2308402 Figure It Out, Henri Weldon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tanita S. Davis

Seventh grader Henrietta Weldon gets to switch schools--finally! She'll be "mainstreaming" into public school, leaving her special education school behind. She can't wait for her new schedule, new friends, and new classes. Henri's dyscalculia, a learning disability that makes math challenging to process and understand, is what she expects to give her problems. What she doesn't expect is a family feud with her sister over her new friends, joining the girls' soccer team, and discovering poetry. Henri's tutor and new friend, Vinnie, reminds her to take it slow. One problem at a time.

978-0-06-314357-9 Katherine Tegen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

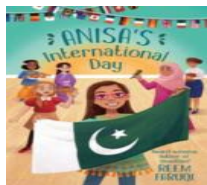
Reviews by: Book Page When Henrietta Weldon's parents decide that she should switch from private to public school for seventh grade, Henri is excited--and determined to hide her nerves. Between her messy bedroom and her struggles with math, Henri's family of competitive overachievers treat her like "a problem to be solved." Her older sister, Kat, refuses to answer Henri's questions about Alterra Junior/Senior High School, instead insisting that Henri needs to "figure things out for herself," which makes Henri eager to prove her whole family wrong.

Reviews by: Booklist Henri, who has been attending private school to bolster her math skills, switches to public school for seventh grade. She finds the workload heavier than expected and making friends more challenging. When her mother tells her that she doesn't have time for soccer, because "Black girls have to work twice as hard to get half as far," she considers that advice, but since Ana, her new friend at school, is urging her to try out, she does and joins the team. Meanwhile, Henri's older sister warns her against befriending Ana but doesn't adequately explain why. Tension builds at school and at home, but in the end, Henri begins to recognize the allies who surround her. The author of *Serena Says* (2020) and *Partly Cloudy* (2021), Davis does a particularly good job of portraying Henri's sister and parents as individuals, while keeping the narrative focused on the main character. Henri makes understandable mistakes, and her reactions involve meaningful reflection about issues such as letting others down. An involving middle-grade narrative with a very likable protagonist.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Henrietta Weldon transfers into public school for seventh grade, she leaves behind the special education program that accommodated her learning disability that impedes her understanding of math concepts. Big sister Kat cautions her not to overcomplicate everything and to stay away from the Morgans, a family of foster children with a bad reputation, but her advice conflicts with Henri's assessment of Vinnie Morgan, her math tutor with a big heart and shared love for nontypical pets. Positive reinforcement from peers and educators encourage Henri to try new things, like soccer and writing poetry--just as long as she can keep up with school. Davis (Partly Cloud, BCCB 07/21) shines with this story of a well-meaning adolescent whose learning disability seems to add an extra layer of complication to an already turbulent stage of life. Mismanaging time, emerging organization skills, and a tendency to concern herself with others' perceptions of her impact her performance at school, and the expectations placed on her at home aren't particularly helpful. Although Henri's apprehension toward math seems rooted in her disability, much of that is reinforced by her own family, especially her mother, who emphasizes that Black girls have to work harder to be taken seriously in the world. Davis successfully drives home the importance of finding one's own path and accepting the journeys of others. QB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl with a learning disability navigates the demands of her new school and family dynamics. Henrietta "Henri" Weldon, a Black tween, is cautiously excited about starting seventh grade. It'd be helpful if her older sister, Kat, answered any of her probing questions about what to expect, but she's acted strangely ever since Henri completed her math placement test. In the middle of a mentally taxing first day, the last thing Henri needed was to drop her change in the lunchroom, but it results in her meeting Vinnie Morgan and his multiracial group of foster home siblings. As they form friendships, Henri craves the bond that the Morgans possess; it contrasts with her own competitive, driven family. Kat warns her to stay away from the Morgans, however, seeing them as troublemakers. But Henri doesn't have much time to worry about this, as she tries to stay on top of parental schoolwork expectations, playing soccer, and writing poetry. The story's brisk pace and accessible vocabulary help readers quickly get to know Henri and the interesting supporting cast. Without sacrificing the story's light tone, the author highlights the daily obstacles that Henri confronts due to her dyscalculia (which is never explicitly named in the text) and her longing for a tighter family unit. Skillfully realized, this is an affirming and inspiring tale for readers who are only ever told what they can't accomplish. Uplifting and amusing, this book will leave readers with valuable lessons. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Seventh grader Henri Weldon is determined to start the new school year on a high note, though she wishes her older sister Katherine were more supportive. As the two start classes, Katherine refuses to answer Henri's questions about what to expect, won't sit with her at lunch, and treats her as a "problem to be solved." Henri's unnamed learning disability, which reads as similar to dyscalculia, often leaves her feeling disconnected from her classmates, so she's heartened when she meets friendly Vinnie Morgan, a foster kid who later becomes her peer tutor. The support Henri receives from her committed teachers and Vinnie allow Henri to flourish, but when she tells her parents she wants to try out for soccer, her mother worries about whether Henri can juggle everything at once. Henri's struggles with her learning disability, her feeling overwhelmed with her increasingly busy life, and her contentious relationship with Katherine are matter-of-factly portrayed via a complex character who is not singularly defined by her personal challenges. In this hopeful, well-paced volume, Davis (Partly Cloudy) centers accommodation, community, and understanding. The Weldons are Black; supporting characters are racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)



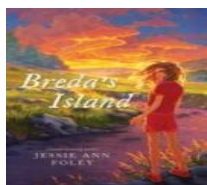
#2288338 Anisa's International Day (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Reem Faruqi

Anisa is super excited about International Day and can't wait to share her mother's samosas with her class. But when someone has the exact same idea, Anisa is crushed. Going to her aunt's dholki party gives her an idea for the perfect activity instead - mehndi! There's only one problem, Anisa's best friend doesn't seem to like the idea - she doesn't even seem to like Anisa anymore. Will Anisa ever get to enjoy International Day?

978-0-06-320623-6 HarperCollins Publishers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 112 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Atlanta, spirited third grader narrator Anisa Zakaria, who is Pakistani American, enjoys drawing; baking with first grader sister Zineera, with whom she runs a small bakery for family; and laughing with jokester best friend Katie, who reads as white. When Anisa wears a new kurta that her Nani sends from Pakistan, it gives her beloved teacher the idea to hold an International Day, for which each student will choose a state or country to which they have a connection. Looking for an "ingenious" idea for the celebration, the occasion of Anisa's beloved aunt's pre-wedding dholki inspires her to plan on bringing mehndi for International Day. But after Katie seems to laugh at Anisa's decorated palms, Anisa surveys classmates about the ingredients required of a good friend, determining that Katie no longer measures up; and resulting in a fallout. Exploring a cross-cultural friendship alongside interpersonal dynamics at home and school, Faruqi (Unsettled) uses a light touch to articulate one student's multifaceted struggles around sharing an intersection of her identity in a slice-of-life chapter book that deftly portrays elements of Pakistani culture. Final art not seen by PW. A glossary, recipes, and activities conclude. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Agency. (Sept.)



#2282354 Breda's Island (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jessie Ann Foley

After Breda Moriarity gets caught stealing one too many times, Breda's mom sends her to Ireland—a place she has never been—to live with the grandfather she has never met. While Breda doesn't want to be in this strangely beautiful land, she finally gets to meet her granda, her mom's father. He's a grumpy farmer who is also a seanchai, a traditional Gaelic storyteller. But the most important story to Breda is the one nobody will talk about: what happened to her absent father. If nothing else this summer, Breda is determined to figure out the truth about her family's history—and herself.

978-0-06-320772-1 Quill Tree Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

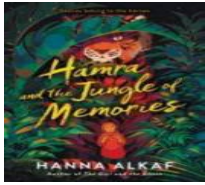
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Twelve-year-old Breda lives in Chicago with her mom, Maura, and knows nothing about her dad. Maura, as a single parent and undocumented immigrant trying to run her own business, has been working around the clock, leaving Breda feeling invisible both at home and at school. Aching for attention and feeling alone, Breda gets caught stealing one too many times and is sent to Ireland to spend the summer with Granda, her grumpy old grandfather whom she's never met and from whom her mom has been long estranged. As Breda unravels the mysteries surrounding her mom and Granda's estrangement as well as the identity of her father, she must navigate the complexities of familial bonds and challenges. Foley folds in Gaelic storytelling traditions, Irish language, and poetic descriptions, creating a rich atmosphere that transports and immerses readers. Well-drawn characters and emotionally charged scenes keep audiences invested. As it explores issues that include undocumented immigration, generational trauma, and emotional and physical abuse, Breda's touching journey through her family's secrets evokes empathy and the need for healing. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books After Breda Moriarity's latest episode of petty theft, her mother Maura ships her off for the summer to Granda's farm on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula-an unexpected choice, given that a pregnant teenaged Maura fled to Chicago years ago to escape Granda's anger and disappointment. Granda's not especially warm to Breda, either, but the farm is beautiful, and Breda surprises herself as well as her grandfather with her affinity to and skill with the livestock. Granda also reveals an unexpected role in the small community as a seanchaí, the valued transmitter of traditional lore who can hold a pub-and a granddaughter-beguiled. However, his declaration that any relationship with the local Fahey family is forbidden runs afoul of Breda's need to make some friends, and when she joins that clan for Gaelic football matches, the Faheys shed light on closely guarded Moriarity family secrets. The plot outline may be a familiar one, but the specific revelations contextualize middle schooler Breda's immediate trials within her family's history, particularly Maura's struggle to make an American life as an undocumented small business owner and Granda's distressing, emotionally-crippling childhood. There's more than a touch of the seanchaí in Foley's own silky prose, and readers who witness the Moriarity family's rapprochement will recognize that it may not promise a fairy tale ending, but it does deliver the right ending. EB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Breda didn't believe her single mother would really send her from Chicago to Ireland's Dingle Peninsula for the summer if she got caught stealing again, but her theft of a classmate's gym shorts earns Breda a visit to the grandfather she's never met. Granda is the epitome of the elderly taciturn farmer, and although he at first seems as unenthused as Breda is about the arrangement, he slowly warms up to her. Breda settles in, exploring the village and finding friends on a Gaelic football team, and she wonders if she might also meet the father who's never been part of her life. When a health crisis waylays Granda, Breda is able to both take charge and rely on the community she's developed, putting her newfound confidence to work and expanding her definition of family. She also develops a new appreciation for her mother, an undocumented immigrant who has spent years working for others and is finally able to start her own business. Foley does an excellent job of building the Irish setting -- with the help of Granda's role as a traditional storyteller. Foley's forthright approach to puberty and periods, which are among Breda's experiences, is refreshing. This is a quiet book, with an emotionally charged conflict that often simmers beneath the surface of the page, made possible by the authentic and fully realized characters. Sarah Rettger(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Answers to long-held mysteries in Breda Moriarity's family dramatically change her life. Her mother has never revealed any information about her father, not even his name. Why does Mom remain undocumented after leaving Ireland when she was pregnant, and why has Breda never met Granda? Lonely and angry--her colorfully glamorous mother is absorbed with her new beauty salon--"awkward and mousy," blue-eyed Breda acts out in unacceptable ways. Mom decides to send her to stay with Granda on his farm near the village of Ballyglass for the summer before eighth grade. Breda is immediately enamored by the beauty of the land, but she is resentful toward and confused by Granda, who can be cold and bitter but surprises her with acts of generosity. He tells stories of banshees from Irish lore and has screaming night terrors. Amid a defiant, forbidden friendship with local girl Nellie Fahey, unexpected confessions, discovered information about Granda's horrifying childhood, and a terrible accident that threatens his life, Breda finds answers to some pressing mysteries but not without resulting regrets and pain on all sides that leave future relationships uncertain. Foley describes settings and events in beautiful, descriptive language and employs evocative Irish expressions. The third-person narrative is devoted to Breda's point of view, with italicized asides indicating her own thoughts and opinions, which are wholly in keeping with her age and experiences. Readers will empathize with Breda and wish her well. Sad, tender, and immensely touching. (map) (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Foley's (You Know I'm No Good) atmospheric story follows 12-year-old Breda Moriarity during a transformative summer in her mother Maura's native Ireland. Pregnant with Breda at 17, Maura left her stern widowed father for Chicago, building a life for them there as an undocumented immigrant and opening a successful beauty salon while avoiding any mention of Breda's father. When Breda, lonely for her mother's attention, turns to petty thievery, Maura sends her for the summer to taciturn, aging Granda, a vigorous farmer and respected storyteller of Irish legends who has secrets of his own. In County Kerry, on the westernmost edge of Ireland, Breda and Granda's relationship proceeds from rocky to grudgingly respectful to loving. As Breda explores the countryside on her mother's refurbished bike, she makes real friends for the first time, discovers her skill for playing Gaelic football, and tries to learn her father's identity, all while falling in love with her family's farmland. The narrative arc builds steadily in a book that stands out for its distinctly Irish language and poetic landscape descriptions: "gray crashing water, silent green cliffs, and jackdaws and gannets wheeling against the cloud-streaked sky." Characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (July)



#2315340 Hamra and the Jungle of Memories (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Hanna Alkaf

On Hamra's thirteenth birthday, she receives nothing but endless nagging and yet another errand to run in the Langkawi jungle that looms behind her home. No one has remembered her special day. And so, stifled and angry, Hamra ignores something she shouldn't: the rules of the jungle. Always ask permission before you enter. Hamra walks boldly in. Never take what isn't yours. Hamra finds the most perfect jambu and picks it. Of course, rules exist for a reason, and soon an enormous weretiger is stalking her dreams, demanding payment for her crimes--or her entire family will suffer.

978-0-06-320795-0 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Book Page Hamra and the Jungle of Memories is a stunning retelling of "Little Red Riding Hood" that brims with big emotions, big adventure and very big teeth.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Hamra's thirteenth birthday is shaping up to be truly awful: her parents are both completely involved with peak COVID work, her ailing grandparents require significant attention, and isolation is wearing her thin. A fit of frustration leads her to ignore long-established rules when she enters the Malaysian jungle bordering her home: she doesn't ask permission to enter, she uses her true name, and, worst of all, she steals a piece of fruit. To make up for her transgressions, a weretiger insists she find a way to make him human again (he stayed too long in his animal form and forgot how to transform back), and Hamra goes from cranky teen to heroic quester in just a few days. She draws from her Muslim religion, Malaysian cultural stories, and her own strength to keep going in the face of daunting odds, all the way to a bittersweet end. This is an immersive story, with Malay language woven into the text along with folktales and culturally specific characters (the fairies are familiar but distinct from the Anglo versions for example). The quest itself, structured by the sacrifices the weretiger must make to regain his humanity, is compelling from the start, exploring loss, grief, and vulnerability as core human experiences. Thoughtful readers will likely contemplate the weight of being human long after they finish the novel. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Hamra has just turned thirteen, though no one in her family seems to have noticed. Due to COVID-19, her home country of Malaysia is under quarantine, leaving her mother working long hours in an overrun hospital hours away, her father distracted by his duty to get supplies to those in need, and Hamra at home to care for her grandparents. While her grandfather often annoys her with his many far-fetched stories, her grandmother's increasing dementia worries and even angers her. Adults are supposed to take care of children, after all. To escape the pressures of caring for elders, Hamra goes to the jungle. When she recklessly takes fruit from the magical jambu tree, a weretiger demands she accompany him on a quest as payment for stealing. If she succeeds, the weretiger will remember his humanity, and her grandmother's dementia will be cured. Accompanied by her best friend, Ilyas, Hamra embarks on a quest where she must face her fears and find the courage to save her family and herself. A compelling story about family, friendship, and the power of memory, filled with Islamic traditions and Malay folklore. S. R. Toliver(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews There are rules for children who go into Malaysian jungles, and they shouldn't be broken. On Hamra's 13th birthday, Malaysia is under lockdown because of the pandemic, leaving her mother working long hours at the hospital, her father preoccupied with the vulnerable people his aid organization serves, and Hamra stuck at home looking after her grandparents. Hamra's grandmother has begun forgetting things, wandering farther and farther away from home and leaving Hamra upset and perpetually concerned. In the middle of all this, Hamra stumbles upon a beautiful jambu air tree in the forest, but when she plucks a fruit from it, she angers the weretiger of Langkawi, leading her to make a deal to settle her debt and perhaps help her grandmother at the same time. Accompanied by the weretiger and Ilyas Chang Abdullah, her best friend and neighbor, Hamra sets out on a quest that will bring her face to face with creatures from Malaysian legends as well as her own fears and flaws. A retelling of "Little Red Riding Hood" that manages to both feel distinctly Malaysian and capture and interrogate contemporary concerns, this is a tale of family, friendship, and sacrifice. Hamra's journey to find strength and understanding within herself is well matched with her physical journey through the jungle. Hamra is Malay; Ilyas is cued Malay and Chinese. Both mature and whimsical, demonstrating how magic and modern-day anxieties can intersect. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly During the Covid pandemic, 13-year-old Hamra contends with perilous fantastical situations and internal struggles stemming from familial concerns in this riveting jungle adventure by Alkaf, a "Little Red Riding Hood": inspired Malaysian fantasy. When Hamra isn't taking care of her grandmother, who grows more forgetful each day, she spends most of her time during the pandemic dreaming of grand adventures. On her 13th birthday, Hamra sets off into the woods to pluck ulam leaves to make nasi ulam for her grandmother. But in her eagerness to accomplish her task, Hamra; accompanied by her best friend Ilyas Chang Abdullah; forgets to heed one of the most important rules of the jungle: "Always ask permission before you enter." As the duo venture further into the woods, they break another rule; "Never take what isn't yours"; and inadvertently anger a weretiger, with whom they must make a deal if they hope to leave the forest alive. Creatures from Malaysian mythology appear throughout, adding texture and imbuing the girls' tale with peril. Alkaf employs lively prose alongside Hamra and Ilyas's dynamic personalities and earnest friendship to deliver a tale about sacrifice, perseverance, and the enduring bonds of love. Ages 8: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Alkaf brings Malaysian folklore into the modern day through this quest of Hamra, a girl just turning 13 who lives on the edge of the Langkawi jungle. The jungle can be dangerous, and so there are six rules her family has taught her about entering (such as asking permission and never taking what's not yours). On her birthday, in an angry tantrum, Hamra purposely disobeys all the rules and takes a magical fruit home to give to Opah who is suffering from dementia. The fruit seemingly cures Opah, but at what cost? This event prompts a magical journey that Hamra must go on to fix the consequences of her disrespect to the enchanted jungle. Hamra, with her neighbor and friend Ilyas and the ambiguous weretiger Pak Belang, set out through the jungle into the realm of fae and creatures, some helpful and some harmful. While making deals with magical favors, Hamra learns lessons about family and friendship. The COVID-19 pandemic and its global effects are also mentioned throughout the story, as Hamra's frustration is driven by the lockdown and her parents' stressful work on the front lines. During the journey, they question what it means to be human, what happens to those who are not the hero of the story, and what it means to pay debts and take care of your community. Alkaf also uses family events to bring the story full circle. The reluctant hero Hamra will appeal to young and older readers alike, and the action will keep tweens engaged. **VERDICT** A welcome addition to libraries that serve children and tweens. This fresh take on Little Red Riding Hood is a necessary purchase for libraries and fantasy shelves.—Helen Prince



#2293097 Decomposition of Jack (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb

Middle school is always hard, but when you're known as the Roadkill Kid, well, it's even harder. Jack's mom collects roadkill—it's her job and she's very good at it. Ever since Jack's mom and dad got divorced, Jack has become Mom's assistant. He feels like it's his responsibility to keep her spirits up and step into the role of co-scientist. Except Jack just wants to play video games with his friend Andre and finally talk to Zoe, his conservationist classmate with bright green eyes.

978-0-06-321226-8 Katherine Tegen Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 His scientist parents study the decomposition of roadkill, so Jack is accustomed to having disintegrating carcasses in the backyard. He's less accustomed to his parents' recent separation—a split that leaves Jack to observe and dissect the decay in his own family's life. A spot of brightness arrives in the form of a magnificent cougar that Jack spots in the forest behind their house, but the sighting also raises questions, as cougars haven't been officially detected in Tennessee for years. Is Jack imagining things? Setting out to prove the cougar's existence, he devises a way to stop his family from disintegrating like the unfortunate animals out back. Roadkill is an unconventional basis for a novel, but it turns out to be the perfect jumping-off point for a poignant, playful exploration of deep family ties, the joy of kindred spirits, and the importance of conservation. Squeamish readers may occasionally struggle to stomach detailed descriptions of death, but all readers will be rewarded with a frank and funny examination of decay—and the new life it encourages. **COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A parent-child duo collect and research roadkill. Tennessee middle schooler Jack Acosta can handle maggots, blood, and intestines. But the "stench of decay" involved in transporting carcasses (his scientist mother studies decomposition) is a big nope. Between being called "Roadkill Kid," his mom and dad's divorce, and extracurricular "roadkill undertaking," Jack has a lot going on. In spite of the "work, work, work," Jack finds time to hang out with his best friend, André, and fret over his budding friendship with his crush, Zoe. A live cougar's surprise appearance in the backyard "Roadkill Garden" inspires Jack to research the species—one that has been declared extinct in the state—for a school report. His mom sees the cougar as a "data nightmare," but to Jack, it's a call to action. Tubb, known for humorous dog books, diverges from her oeuvre to deliver a moving narrative with a distinct point of view. Jack's references to the stages of the decomposition process as he grapples with his parents' divorce offer unique parallels to grieving. Laugh-out-loud moments balance the heavy with the humorous. The strong conservationist message and assignment-based structure, however, make the story a bit bloated. Race and ethnicity aren't explicitly stated; some cues suggest possible diversity (e.g., Zoe's mom wears a headscarf). Niche but surprisingly fascinating. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) **COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A self-aware seventh grader with a roadkill researcher mother ruminates on life, maturation, and decomposition in this jam-packed observational novel from O'Donnell Tubb (*The Story Collector*). Following his parents' divorce, Jack Acosta spends most of his time helping his mom with her research, scraping roadkill from asphalt and recording details about recent finds, while developing an interest in photography. At school, he navigates a crush and contends with bullies who call him the Roadkill Kid. But tensions build after Jack observes a cougar from the family's roadkill-riddled backyard, and chooses the mammal; thought to be extinct in Tennessee; for a school project. The cougar poses a "data nightmare" for his mother, who'd like to chase it off, but Jack becomes interested in confirming the animal's presence, which results in his advocating for his own identity outside of helping his mom. Incorporating the stages of decomposition as a means of describing his parents' divorce, Jack's wry first-person narration highlights his own concerns and growth, changing family dynamics, and lessons around conservation. Jack reads as white; other characters are racially ambiguous. A detailed author's note contextualizes the book's scientific content. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Josh Adams, Adams Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Tubbs's latest middle grade novel (following *A Dog Like Daisy* and *Zeus, Dog of Chaos*) departs from dog narration and introduces readers to seventh grader Jack Acosta, also known as "Jack Splat." Jack is learning to live with his parents' divorce while helping his mom with her career studying roadkill and its decomposition (hence the nicknames, which also include "Roadkill Kid"). He is also providing feedback on his best friend's comics and figuring out how to get the attention of his crush, "Algebra Green Eyes," who happens to head the school's conservation club. Although he's a scientist, Jack finds himself in danger of failing earth science; but he may be able to turn things around if he can prove that cougars are not extinct, because there's one living in the woods behind his house. Heavy themes of divorce and extinction loom large, but Tubb offers humorous moments and a caring mother-son relationship to balance them. Animal lovers and budding conservationists will be especially drawn to the ongoing mystery of whether cougars still live in Tennessee. An author's note provides further information about roadkill collectors and cougars. **VERDICT** An engaging coming-of-age tale for the environmentally minded tween.—Carrie Voliva

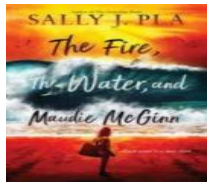


#2332576 Bee Bakshi and the Gingerbread Sisters (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Emi Pinto

Bee is spending the summer trapped at Storm Lake with her too loud, too thrifty, and too Indian family. Luckily, Bee finds a place to escape her family—a magical house across the lake that transforms her into the cool girl she always wanted to be. But strange dreams are haunting Bee, and there's a chill in her bones she just can't shake.
 978-0-06-327572-0 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A family vacation to a lakeside cottage goes awry in this "Hansel & Gretel": inspired ghost story, Pinto's debut. Indian Canadian 12-year-old Binita Bakshi has always felt embarrassed by her family ("If there was a prize for Most Embarrassing Things Parents Say, Bee's mom would be the undisputed champion," she thinks). And as one of the only brown-skinned families vacationing in the predominantly white town of Storm Lake, Bee's desire to fit in feels even more out of reach. She soon discovers a magical house across the lake where she can be "the version of yourself you want to be." There, she meets local girl Alina, who also has brown skin. Bee revels in their immediate friendship, but when Alina tells Bee about the legendary Gingerbread Witch who lives near Storm Lake, things around town take on a sinister aura. As her vacation becomes plagued by unsettling happenings, Bee endeavors to unravel the mystery behind the witch with the help of Alina and new friend Lucas, who reads as white. Bee's self-effacing personality and her embarrassment of her family is occasionally overwrought, distracting from the lively plot and multifaceted tween cast. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)



#2328032 Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sally J. Pla

Maudie McGinn lives for the summers she spends in California with her dad, but this year, she's shouldering the weight of a big secret, one that her mom warned her never to tell. As much as Maudie wants to confide in her dad, she's scared to. As Maudie navigates unfamiliar waters, she makes new friends, and her autism no longer feels like a big deal. But her secret is still threatening to sink her.
 978-0-06-326879-1 Quill Tree Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Summers in California with her dad are the highlight of 13-year-old Maudie's year. When a wildfire forces Maudie and her dad onto the road, Maudie's mom insists that because Maudie is autistic, she won't be able to handle the disruption of routine and the sensory issues. But Maudie is determined not to go home, so she and her dad spend the summer in an old camper by the beach in the town where Maudie's dad grew up. There she meets the locals, including Etta, a famous surfer who gives Maudie surfing lessons in preparation for a competition where Maudie hopes to win money to replace some of what was lost. Maudie feels more at home and accepted than she does with her mom and stepdad. But she's also hiding a dark secret, and as the summer draws to a close, she has to find a way to tell the truth. Any reader who has ever felt different will be able to relate to Maudie's journey to finding her home and her people.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews er of changes. Thirteen-year-old Maudie McGinn is desperately looking forward to leaving Houston and spending th summer with her dad in Molinas, California. Unlike Mom, a YouTube influencer who exploits Maudie's autism, Dad doesn't treat her like she' helpless or berate her for having meltdowns or panic attacks. And unlike Ron, her stepfather, he doesn't erupt in rages or leave bruises on her a ms. But when a wildfire forces them to evacuate, Maudie and Dad find themselves scraping by in Conwy, Dad's hometown on the Mexican borde It's overwhelming, especially when Maudie's secret burns inside her alongside Mom's and Ron's demeaning words, like incapable and ridiculous. If

she tells Dad about Ron's abuse, though, she could be taken from her family altogether; Mom said so. But as Maudie makes friends, including Paddi, a bubbly girl with ADHD, and Etta, an easygoing woman who teaches her to surf, she wonders: Is keeping secrets good? Is she stronger than she thinks? Through Maudie's earnest, occasionally poetic narration, Pla vividly explores the ways that physical and verbal abuse can distort self-perception. Notably, she illustrates how pressure to comply with neurotypical authority figures can complicate self-advocacy. Though Mom's ableism is less firmly addressed than Ron's abuse, Dad, who's also neurodivergent, provides a compassionate counterpoint by consistently reaffirming Maudie's self-worth. Most characters read White; Dad's mom was from Venezuela, and Paddi is cued South Asian. A perceptive, poignant tale of self-discovery. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Autistic 13-year-old Maudie McGinn loves spending summers with her father in his California cabin. But this year, she carries a terrible secret, one that her mother insists Maudie not tell him. But her existing trauma deepens when a wildfire forces Maudie and her father to evacuate and they retreat to the Southern California beach town where Dad grew up. Even amid the challenging situation and her sensory overload, however, she's happy to be with him instead of her mother and stepfather back in Houston. Maudie soon takes up surfing under the mentorship of an effusive elder and enters an end-of-summer Surf Bash offering a beginner's prize of cash and a raffle ticket entry to win an RV, surprise gifts that Maudie wants for her father. But fearful feelings surrounding her imminent return to Texas threaten her newfound peace. Pla (The Someday Birds) gradually reveals the physical and verbal abuse Maudie endures in Texas in a way that is appropriately harrowing but never gratuitous. Interstitial poems provide further emotional depth to Maudie's intimate first-person narrative, fashioning a vulnerable portrait of one girl seeking to empower and redefine herself outside of her personal traumas. Maudie is of white and Venezuelan descent. Ages 10: up. Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (July)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Maudie McGinn has been waiting for summer all year, from the minute she had to leave her father in California last summer and go back to live with her mother and stepfather in Texas. Maudie doesn't feel safe in Texas, but between her autism and fear she hasn't been able to tell anyone why. The summer is her safe place. However, just as Maudie and her dad are getting settled in his forest cabin in Northern California, disaster strikes in the form of a sudden massive wildfire that causes them to flee without any of their possessions. Despite her mother's protestations, Maudie is allowed to stay with her father, and they end up living in a campground in a small coastal town near San Diego thanks to the kindness of her father's childhood friend. In their new summer home, Maudie works through the trauma of having to start fresh with none of her belongings and also keep herself entertained while her father attempts to find work every day. Once she finds the beach and the surfing community, however, she is newly determined to learn how to surf and enter a surfing competition to earn money. Standard prose is interwoven with free verse throughout the book, and the narrative shifts from the present day to widening glimpses of Maudie's life and the dangers she faces in Texas. While the plot races along with ample suspense regarding Maudie's safety and the surfing competition, ultimately the tale wraps up hastily and without the slower pacing the solid ending deserves. VERDICT Themes of autism, child abuse, and the impact of wildfires combine for a unique and memorable story that will appeal to middle grade readers open to a creative format and heavier themes.--Kate Olson Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2323625 Jake Show (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joshua S. Levy

For TV-obsessed Jake Lightman, his parents' divorce is like his favorite show getting canceled: the worst. His strictly Orthodox Jewish mother wants him to play the role of "Yaakov," a Torah-loving kid who never watches TV. His secular father wants "Jacob" to focus on science and math, and leave all that Jewish stuff behind. On Jake's first day at a new school, Caleb and Tehilla barrel into his life. Suddenly he has two friends who seem to like the real Jake. And when they invite him to Camp Gershoni for the summer, Jake knows he has to go--even if his parents won't let him.

978-0-06-324819-9 Katherine Tegen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Torn between polarized parents after a messy divorce, 12-year-old, TV-loving Jake Lightman pleases everyone but himself by adopting different personas for each parent: devout Yaakov when with his mother and secular Jacob with his dad. Jacob sticks to the script of dotting son, supposing it is "better to be a few different people that everybody loves than one person everybody hates." At Jake's latest school (his seventh, postdivorce), new friends Caleb and Tehilla convince Jake he can be himself at their beloved Camp Gershoni, with its summertime cabal of girls named Shira and secret handshake. There, the trio stages an elaborate camp bluff that mires Jake in deeper drama before a reckoning that tidily resolves all relationships. Levy (Seventh Grade vs. the Galaxy, 2019) veers from sf in this contemporary-fiction story where positive stepparenting steals the show. Lessons are learned about the risks of compromising for peace and about the importance of bravery even when scared. This comical, authentic, and firmly Jewish caper should play to rave reviews with both secular and spiritual audiences.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An Orthodox Jewish seventh grader who has watched way too much television negotiates new schools and divorced parents. Readers who are familiar with television-land tropes will enjoy this knowingly comic novel, in which an extremely self-conscious Jewish boy processes his experiences as if they were elements of a long-running TV show. At school, he's Forgettable Kid #5, who goes by Jake if asked.

But at his mother's house--post-divorce, she's married a rabbi and become extremely Orthodox--he's quiet Yaakov, who wears a black suit and fedora. His father's remarried to a non-Jew and is now fully secular; there, he's lively, goofy Jacob in jeans and T-shirts. His parents have been using the courts to yank him between schools representing various denominations of Judaism, moving him so frequently he can't make friends. But two kids at his latest stop--Broward County Jewish Day School--just won't let him slip into the background. Caleb, who's gone through a lot to come out as gay, and Tehilla, whose mother's low-paying jobs don't always cover the basics, help Jake devise a madcap scheme to join their beloved Jewish summer camp, one too secular for his mother and too religious for his father. The web of lies, the fake camp websites, a wild caper scene at the airport--have they pulled off "the greatest sleepover switcheroo in history"? All characters are presumed White. Astutely depicts the pain of a contentious divorce, the balm of friendship, and the complexity of Jewish culture. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--This novel has a tropey premise in middle grade novels: the seventh-grade kid caught between warring divorced parents. However, it is distinct from so many others because the root of Jake's angst is his parents' wildly differing approaches to their Jewish faith and culture. Jake's parents can't even agree on his name; Jake's dad calls him Jacob and his mom--or Imma--calls him Yaakov, his Hebrew name. The differences and expectations ramp up from there, causing Jake to create three versions of himself: Yaakov, the Orthodox version, pleasing to his mother; Jacob, the non-observant, earnest math and science student for his dad; and Jake, as he refers to himself, the kid who is just trying to make it through each day. Jake manages to assimilate into his fifth school in two years and makes friends with Caleb and Tehilla, who, like all kids, have their own personal issues. The story takes some unrealistic turns as Jake, Caleb, and Tehilla come up with a convoluted plan for them all to attend a Jewish summer camp, tricking both of Jake's parents into thinking the camp would fit their criteria for appropriate summer activities. Readers might like the story because the kids take the reins and make adult-worthy decisions. But even Jake admits that "turning on subtitles" might be helpful to non-Jewish readers. Not true. Jake does a good job of explaining. The climax contains unrealistic histrionics, but the ending is nice and tidy and will please most readers. VERDICT A representative novel with enough broad drama to circulate in middle grade libraries.--Kim Gardner Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2349535 Tethered to Other Stars (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elisa Stone Leahy

Seventh grader Wendy Toledo knows that black holes and immigration police have one thing in common: they can both make things disappear without a trace. When her family moves to a new all-American neighborhood, Wendy knows the plan: keep her head down, build a telescope that will win the science fair, and stay on her family's safe orbit. But that's easier said than done when there's a woman hiding out from ICE agents in the church across the alley--and making Wendy's parents very nervous

978-0-06-325548-7 Quill Tree Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

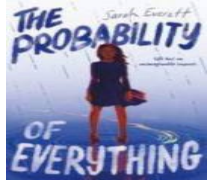
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Wendy Toledo would like nothing more than to reclaim a fraction of her own mental space, but every inch is filled with worries over being the new kid at school, experiencing casual racism, and potentially being detained by ICE, merely for being Latina. Unfortunately, some of her classmates are bullies, and neither the school's culture of fake equality nor the principal's own dismissive attitude helps to alleviate the toxicity. Wendy, for the most part, keeps it all in and focuses on completing her science-fair project. Even in one of the more severe instances of bullying, the seventh-grader observes from the sidelines, torn between the desire to stay safe and the urge to help. It takes an explosive family secret to rouse her out of her paralysis and finally make her stand up for herself and others. This theme of social activism dovetails with a brief exploration of how vulnerable people may refrain from participation. Leahy's debut, while at times heavy-handed, joins the growing list of fearless middle-grade fiction that trusts its readers' capacity for critical empathy.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Latine seventh grader Wendy Celestina Toledo loves outer space, but she's worried about things happening right here on Earth. After a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid on her community leads to disappearances of several people she knows, including her best friend, Wendy and her Salvadoran-Guatemalan family move to a new neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio. Aspiring astronomer Wendy enters a school for gifted and talented students, makes a diverse group of new friends, and sets her sights on building a telescope and winning the science fair. However, with ICE vans patrolling the streets and a woman named Luz claiming sanctuary in the church down the street, her parents are fearful. Not only are Wendy and her friends enduring racist bullying at school, but someone Wendy loves is seriously threatened, and she must tap into her own inner resources to do what's right for herself and those she cares for. The stakes start out high but manage to continue to build throughout the story, culminating in an unexpected plot twist. Heavy topics like bullying, familial hardship, and academic pressures are explored in ways middle-grade readers will understand and are grounded in well-rounded characterization. Readers will resonate with the characters' three-dimensional personalities regardless of their and their families' own immigration experiences. A beautifully executed, character-driven tale of family, courage, resilience, and the meaning of what is right. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids result in numerous neighbors' deportations, Salvadoran-

Guatemalan seventh grader Wendy Celestina Toledo and her family move from Melborn, S.C., to Columbus, Ohio. It's a new start at a new school in a new city; Wendy's parents' number one rule is for Wendy and her older brother to keep their heads down. Still, Wendy is excited for her first day at Leopold Preparatory, a public school for gifted students, and the opportunity to enter the upcoming science fair. At school, she befriends artist Mal, student government hopeful K.K., and enthusiastic Etta, the daughter of the local pastor. Wendy's family isn't adjusting as well: her brother has been behaving recklessly, her mother rarely leaves the house, and both her parents feel uneasy about the woman taking sanctuary from ICE agents in the church next door, afraid that her situation will bring unwanted government attention to their home. When Wendy uncovers a family secret that could change everything, she must find the courage to stand up for what she believes in. Via a propulsive narrative that seamlessly balances typical tween worries with one girl's social justice awakening, debut author Leahy crafts a powerful meditation on the difficult choice between what one views as right vs. safe with resounding empathy and skill. The supporting cast is racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Brent Taylor, Triada US. (Oct.)



#2326409 Probability of Everything (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Sarah Everett

Eleven-year-old Kemi Carter loves scientific facts, specifically probability. It's how she understands the world and her place in it. But everything Kemi thought she knew changes when she sees an asteroid hover in the sky, casting a purple haze over her world. Amplus-68 has an 84.7% chance of colliding with Earth in four days, and with that collision, Kemi's life as she knows it will end.

978-0-06-325655-2 Clarion Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Four days until the end of the world. These are the conditions under which Kemi, an 11-year-old statistics enthusiast, decides to assemble a time-capsule record of her family for the next Earthlings to find after the incoming asteroid destroys all life. In a story ultimately about trauma, grief, and the life that continues after, Kemi's countdown to the apocalypse reveals itself to be about a different—and more personal—end-of-days. Nigerian American Kemi's unreliable narration adds depth to an already poignant and emotionally complex story about the ripple effects of violence (including gun and racial violence) and loss. While initial apocalyptic world building may feel conspicuously unexplored, the reconciliation of Kemi's version of events with the truth provides much-needed explanations, and the emotional through-line of Kemi's reckoning with mortality ties the two narratives together in an effective reveal that careful readers may anticipate. Amidst the catastrophe, the charming characters of Kemi's family add humor and warmth to Everett's middle-grade debut. An empathetic, unflinching portrayal of childhood bereavement, this gut-punch of a story brings familiar themes from Everett's YA works to a younger readership.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An 11-year-old girl processes the end of her world and prepares for a new beginning. What happens after the world ends? Kemi Carter contemplates this as she counts down the last four days before a possible apocalypse brought about by the looming presence of Amplus-68. The asteroid has an 84.7% chance of colliding with Earth. Keen scientist Kemi knows that the likelihood of survival is slim. She looks up facts about asteroids and investigates what the end of the world would be like, but she realizes that her family members are handling this differently than she is. Kemi decides to start a time capsule preserving something each of them loves so "the next earthlings could find it and know about us." As Kemi, who has an African American dad and a Nigerian mom, gathers mementos, she reflects on what life has been like since they moved to their new, prosperous, primarily White neighborhood—a change that has brought complications. These memories lead up to a shocking plot twist that will have readers questioning her reality. Everett skillfully uses Kemi's love of facts and statistics to process her feelings; as the story slowly reaches its climax, this element helps tie its many themes together. Individual family members are fleshed out as they share stories of their cherished possessions and demonstrate their support of Kemi in various ways. This realistically drawn, gut-wrenching novel will stick with readers long after they've finished reading. A powerful exploration of grief. (author's note, resources) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After learning that an asteroid is set to destroy Earth, a sixth grader builds a time capsule to commemorate her family in this pensive read from Everett (How to Live Without You). With her parents and younger sister Lo, 11-year-old Nigerian American Kemi Carter, an aspiring scientist obsessed with probability statistics, makes up one of the few Black families living in a predominantly white neighborhood. And despite some tension with a prejudiced neighbor, Kemi feels that she has a pretty good life with a loving family. So when she learns that there's an 84.7% chance that Earth will be destroyed in four days by asteroid Amplus-68, Kemi determines to collect her family members' "most important stuff, the things we love most," to create a time capsule, hoping that their memory will survive even after they're gone. But as her family and friends go about their lives, Kemi feels as if she's the only person taking their seemingly imminent demise; and her time capsule; seriously. Kemi's astute voice resonates with a deep love and loyalty for her family, rendering her insistence in honoring them and subsequent narrative reveals as heartrending, hopeful, and palpably felt. Ages 8: 12. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Nigerian American Kemi Carter, 11, considers herself a scientist, in particular a scientist of probability. When a giant asteroid, AMPLUS-68 has an 84.7 percent chance of hitting Earth in four days, Kemi decides to create a time capsule to make sure future earthlings know how incredible her family was. They may not be famous, or have invented anything, but each member of Kemi's

family deserves to be remembered for what makes them special. While gathering items from her family, including her pregnant mom, little sister, and cousins, she realizes she doesn't know what one item represents her dad. He recently left his time-demanding job to be with their family, and their move to a predominantly white neighborhood has had bumps, with some not accepting them because of their race. As the apocalypse quickly approaches, Kemi finds each family member supportive of her plan, but continues to seek out her dad's true passion. As the countdown progresses, readers will likely be contemplating their own time on Earth, when a huge plot twist hits. Everett has woven together big themes of racism, mortality, and grief with a heartbreaking story that will stick with readers long after the conclusion. Teachers will find much to discuss, making it a perfect choice for read-alouds or book groups. VERDICT Thought-provoking and utterly unique, this is an impactful book that deserves a place in all middle grade classrooms and libraries.--Michele Shaw Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2326416 Wishing Season (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Anica Mrose Rissi

Lily doesn't believe in making wishes. Not anymore. Not since Anders died. Wishes can't fix the terrible thing that happened. Wishing won't change how it feels. But Lily does believe in the impossible. She has a secret so extraordinary, so magical, no one would believe that it's true. No one except Anders, of course.

978-0-06-325890-7 Quill Tree Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Lily and her twin, Anders, were in fifth grade when he died. Months later, she has yet to emerge from her grief and the guilt she feels for having helped him hide his illness initially. Their mom, still overwhelmed by sadness, has withdrawn to her room. Lily's greatest comfort is that she can still see, hear, and interact with Anders daily in an outdoor space they call the overlap. Summer comes, and she befriends Quinn, a high-school student who takes her to feed a neighbor's chickens, listens to her, and broadens her world. Meanwhile, Lily is devastated to realize that the overlap is shrinking and Anders is gradually withdrawing, visiting her less often and leaving sooner. This sensitive third-person narrative follows Lily's shifting perspective as she reacts to ongoing changes in her life. Expressing the girl's emotional state throughout the novel, Rissi shows Lily taking satisfaction from the chickens' fondness for her, Quinn's friendship, her mother's return to parenting, and her own increasing confidence that she can handle challenges. A heartening portrayal of a resilient character. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

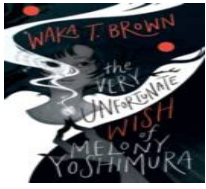
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleven-year-old Lily Neff struggles to accept the death of her twin brother, Anders. Summer break has begun, but Lily, emerging from the school bus and trudging up to her home on Deer Isle, Maine, isn't looking forward to it. Her single mother, deeply depressed following Anders' death from cancer four months earlier, doesn't greet her--and Lily doesn't expect her to. Lily also feels Anders' death keenly, but she has a secret: She can go to a space in the field behind her house that she calls the overlap, and Anders shows up, just as solid as he was in life. The two play and talk together, and this eases Lily's grief. Less a ghost story than a poignant allegory, the scenes of Lily and Anders together are peppered with an appealing gallows humor ("Anders grinned and took a practice stroke. 'Croquet chaos. I like it. Rule Three: Dead kid starts, ' ") that sidesteps the maudlin and adds a delightful layer of wit. As the weeks go by, Anders appears less frequently and becomes less substantial, and Lily panics, trying not to lose him. Meanwhile, Lily is befriended by Quinn, an older girl, and starts to accept a new friendship. By turns gentle and forthright, this well-paced story leads readers to questions about loss and the durability of relationships. The island setting is authentically and lovingly described, adding measurably to the story's ambiance. Characters read White. A droll, well-paced, and deeply moving book about loss and friendship. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After her twin brother, Anders, dies of a sudden infection following a cancer diagnosis, 11-year-old Lily Neff "folded herself into his absence" until she finds him lingering near the tire swing in their Maine island's woods, "real and present and hers" but invisible to everyone else. When summer arrives (which Anders calls "wishing season" thanks to the months' plentiful dandelion puffs), Lily retreats daily to their secret meeting place; "the overlap"; for relief from their spiraling single mother, her callous former best friend, and her guilt around helping keep Anders' symptoms secret from their mother. But Anders can't move beyond the overlap, and Lily can't know what being dead is like, making her feel less connected to him. When Anders doesn't appear in the overlap, Lily distracts herself by helping teenager Quinn do chores for neighbors, and as Lily forges new relationships in her community, the overlap begins to shrink, leaving her wishing desperately for a way to control it. Building a small-town atmosphere via a frank third-person narration and concrete, considered prose, Rissi (Hide and Don't Seek) builds an empathetic voice that cradles Lily's grieving process and experience of change. Characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (June)

#2328127 Very Unfortunate Wish of Melony Yoshimura (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Waka T. Brown

Melony Yoshimura's parents have always been overprotective. They say it's because a

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99



demonic spirit called the Amanjaku once preyed upon kids back in Japan, but Melony suspects it's just a cautionary tale to keep her in line. So on her twelfth birthday, Melony takes a chance and wishes for the freedom and adventure her parents keep her from.

978-0-06-323076-7 Quill Tree Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Melony Yoshimura has parents of the helicopter variety, loving but highly protective to the point where the newly minted 12-year-old isn't allowed to ride her bike alone and has never experienced a sleepover. Tired of being babied, Melony makes a birthday wish for freedom, which has unforeseen consequences, as wishes often do. At first, it seems she finds some liberty in her friendship with new-girl Chloë Yoshida, but then the Amanjaku arrives on Melony's doorstep, and everything changes. This shape-shifting, evil spirit is one of the reasons Melony's parents moved from Japan to the U.S., hoping to leave its harmful influence behind them. However, Melony is susceptible to its suggestions, which lead her to commit increasingly unkind acts that, nevertheless, chafe against her morals, which readers will hope can triumph over the insidious Amanjaku. Brown takes the Japanese folktale ""The Melon Princess and the Amanjaku"" and updates it here for American readers, many of whom will identify with Melony's middle-school tribulations and desire for independence. A fresh take on the "be careful what you wish for" motif. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Sixth grader Melony tries really hard to please her overprotective Japanese immigrant parents and be the good girl they expect her to be, but inside she's raging against their strict rules. Her mother won't let Melony have a phone but does decide she's old enough now at twelve to hear the real reason the family left Japan for Oregon years ago: apparently, they were running from an evil spirit. Melony scoffs, thinking it's just a silly story -- until the creature shows up at their house while her parents are out. Though terrified at first, Melony quickly falls under the Amanjaku's spell; the wily shape-shifting demon somehow knows she's yearning for adventure and freedom -- and a phone! -- and provides her with everything she desires, including revenge on the mean boys at school. Although the Amanjaku convinces Melony that it's all harmless, she slowly realizes that plenty of people are getting hurt, especially her new friend Chloe. The demon has become more and more dangerous; is it too late for Melony to fight back and save everyone? Brown's (Dream, Annie, Dream, rev. 3/22) eerie tale is a suspenseful, just-scary-enough story of the supernatural; the author's note reveals how she incorporated elements of her favorite Japanese folktale, "The Melon Princess and the Amanjaku," into the novel. Jennifer M. Brabander(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A shape-shifting demon takes over an Oregon girl's life in this chilling tale. Twelve-year-old Melony is sure life would be better if her strict, overprotective parents gave her the same freedoms as other kids, not to mention cool clothes and a new phone, and if her real name, Uriko, wasn't fodder for bullies. Melony's parents have lived in the U.S. for years, and she hates the way they constantly talk about Japan and how things were different there. So Melony fights back by being the opposite of the "good girl" she's supposed to be--and it feels amazing! Unknowingly, this opens the door for an Amanjaku, a demon who feeds on a person's most base desires. At first, Melony is drawn in by its playful nature. But as time goes on, its horrifying true nature begins to sour everything good, including Melony herself. Can she realize the error of her ways and save her family and friends before it's too late? Based on the Japanese folktale "Urikohime to Amanjaku," or "The Melon Princess and the Amanjaku," this modern Japanese American version is woven throughout with intergenerational, as well as cultural, tension and specificity. This well-paced story uses foreshadowing to create suspense and build anticipation while exploring themes of independence and autonomy so important to tween development. Blurring the lines of reality, it relies on psychological elements, rather than leaning on blood and gore, before ultimately leading to a safe, comforting homecoming. A satisfyingly scary story about pushing boundaries. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Brown (Dream, Annie, Dream) explores intergenerational trauma and cultural identity in this eerie interpretation of the Japanese folktale "The Melon Princess and the Amanjaku." On Melony Yoshimura's 12th birthday, her Japanese emigrant parents tell her about the shape-shifting demon spirit Amanjaku, the reason they left Japan for Oregon. But Melony doesn't care about the Amanjaku or her parents' memories of Japan; she wants to be like other American kids who have smartphones and get to attend sleepovers. That night, Melony makes a birthday wish for freedom from her overprotective parents. Soon after, she meets the Amanjaku, a "fuzzy gray creature; kind of like a person in a wolf suit," who offers to grant her wishes. But even as things in Melony's life seem to be looking up, she begins to realize that her relationship with the Amanjaku portends disaster. Brown conveys practical lessons on morality via an empathetic protagonist; by interweaving Melony's contemporary struggles surrounding autonomy and independence with the origin text's foundational narrative, the author delivers an evenly paced speculative tale whose anticipatory atmosphere sows tension. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Penny Moore, Aevitas Creative Management. (July)

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2362903 Slugfest (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$19.99
<i>written by Gordon Korman</i>		
Yash is the best athlete at Robinette Middle School. So good, in fact, that's he's		



already been playing on the high school's JV sports teams. Imagine his shock when he learns that his JV practices have kept him from earning a state-mandated credit for eighth-grade PE. To graduate, he has to take Physical Education Equivalency-PEE- which is also known as "Slugfest," in summer school.

978-0-06-323809-1 Balzer & Bray ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Book Page Superstar athlete Arnie "Yash" Yashenko can't believe it when Principal Carmichael tells him he won't graduate eighth grade unless he goes to summer school--for gym. When it comes to sports, Yash is no slouch: He already plays on the high school's JV teams. But thanks to a change in state requirements, he's going to be a slug, which is what everyone calls kids in the Physical Education Equivalency summer program (whose super-embarrassing acronym is indeed "PEE"). So, instead of training for high school football with his best friends Hammon and Amir, Yash grouses through gym class with the likes of sweet but super-uncoordinated Kaden; insightful former athlete Cleo; self-righteous wannabe journalist Arabella; twins and sworn enemies Sarah and Stuart; and oft-destructive class clown Jesse.

Reviews by: Booklist Yash is such a superstar athlete that the middle-school principal allows him to skip gym class to practice and play on the high-school sports teams. But when the state decrees that no middle-school student will graduate and proceed to high school without first completing the eighth-grade physical education requirement, Yash must take the class (rudely called Slugfest) in summer school. Their teacher, a somewhat elderly woman who used to teach second grade, has them playing tag and duck, duck, goose, and some of Yash's peers find even those activities challenging. But miraculously, this ragtag group of basically decent kids bonds sufficiently to compete in a junior-high flag football tournament. The first-person narrative rotates chapter by chapter among members of the Slugfest team. While not every writer can use this technique successfully, Korman makes it look effortless, and his ability to create memorable individual characters will help readers keep the narrators straight. There may be some surprises along the way, but fans can count on a satisfying conclusion.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Eighth grader Arnie Yashenko hits a lot of home runs playing for the high school's JV baseball team. Problem is, he's been missing middle-school gym classes to practice at the high school, and now the state has changed the rules: if he doesn't take summer school PE, he won't graduate and can't start high school in the fall. But if he does the class, he'll miss the workouts necessary for pitching for the JV Comets. Besides (and Yash knows he sounds like a "stuck-up jerk" here), he can't mingle with the uncoordinated unfortunates who attend summer school PE. "There's a name around here for the people who end up in that class -- slugs! That's why they call it Slugfest!" Chapters alternate between Yash and other reluctant summer school attendees, including Cleo Marchand, who's there because of incompletes for missed time due to a skiing accident. (The others' first-person narratives save readers from an overload of Yash's self-absorption.) Star athlete and local legend Yash starts the season playing tag; duck, duck, goose; and musical chairs and, by the end of the term, is part of a team he loves. The team's musical-chairs experience even serves them well in a city-wide seven-on-seven flag football tournament. Yash learns the value of friendship and teamwork in this big-hearted novel. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Unlikely teammates in a summer school PE class go for glory on the gridiron. Korman rewards readers willing to suspend their disbelief with a middle school romp that takes the "Bad News Bears" premise for a wild ride. Thanks to a new state rule that eighth graders can't graduate to high school without a PE credit, summer school sees a motley assortment of students assembled in the gym--from world-class klutz Kaden Cooperman, who skipped that class all year to avoid being bullied, to multisport superstar Arnie "Yash" Yashenko, left high and dry after being led to believe that he had been excused to play with the high school's varsity teams. When the class falls under the management of a retired second grade and home ec ("Family and Consumer Studies") teacher named Mrs. Finnerty, the stage seems set for a wasted summer--but the author has other plans. If none of the classmates (except for Yash) initially show much enthusiasm for sports, by the time the annual all-city flag football tournament rolls around, they've become a quarrelsome, disorganized, laughably inept...team. Even elderly Mrs. Finnerty demonstrates hidden depths, plus an apparently limitless supply of baked goods that will keep readers salivating alongside this lively, large-hearted, sharply seen cast of middle schoolers. Characters largely read white. The pastries aren't all that's sweet in a tale rich in wins both public and personal. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After spending all year playing on the local high school's JV sports teams, middle schooler and athletic superstar Arnie "Yash" Yashenko is shocked to learn that he's failed PE due to numerous unexcused absences. And because he won't graduate eighth grade or be eligible to try out for high school sports until he attends summer school, he reluctantly joins the Physical Education Equivalency class known as Slugfest. His schoolmates include perpetually bickering twins Stuart and Sarah, practical joker Jesse, clumsy genius Kaden, and former athlete Cleo, who was held back a year due to a serious injury. The unlikely assortment of unhappy students bond over their dislike of the class, whose retired elderly teacher prefers baking to instructing, and even develop close friendships. And when Yash concocts a plan to compete in the citywide flag football tournament as a way for him to try out for the high school football team, he determines to turn his athletically disinclined classmates into champions. Korman (Mixed Up) balances humor and heart, delivering a tale that is both plausible and a little outlandish, realistic and just a bit goofy. Snappy dialogue, idiosyncratically depicted characters, and a madcap plot keep this lively, good-natured story moving at a brisk pace. Most characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)



#2315212 You Are Here: Connecting Flights (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ellen Oh

An incident at a TSA security checkpoint sows rumors and chaos, creating a chain of events that impacts twelve young Asian Americans in a crowded and restless airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross and collide, they encounter fellow travelers--some helpful, some hostile--and discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, the importance of the right word at the right time, and the unexpected significance of a blue Stratocaster electric guitar.

978-0-06-323908-1 Allida ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$18.99

Reviews by: Book Page If you've done any amount of air travel, you know that airports are perfect places for people-watching. And if you've ever encountered a flight delay, you've seen firsthand how overcrowded terminals combined with the frustration of changed or canceled plans can become a recipe for a uniquely stressful environment. That mixture makes a busy Chicago airport the perfect setting for

Reviews by: Booklist This short-story collection is unusual in several ways. Each story features a different East or Southeast Asian American young person. Some of them will observe, meet, or talk with others from the group. And all 12 stories take place on the same day in the same place: Gateway International Airport in Chicago, where a thunderstorm has led to numerous flight delays and cancellations, unhappy travelers, and crowded terminals. Each story has a different author and is complete within itself, yet the collection becomes more than the sum of its parts when readers become aware of the connecting characters and thematic links among the stories. A bystander in one narrative might be the protagonist in another, and one character's choices may unintentionally affect another's thoughts, decisions, and actions going forward. Some help others even when it involves some personal risk, while several stand up for themselves or their friends by explaining microaggressions, confronting prejudice, or speaking candidly to their parents. The list of authors includes familiar names such as Linda Sue Park, Erin Entrada Kelly, Grace Lin, and Christina Soontornvat as well as other writers. The individual narratives are consistently engaging and rewarding, and together they form a unique collection of interconnected stories about young, contemporary Asian American characters. High-Demand Backstory: With a roster of high-profile authors in the contributor list, expect those writers' fans to be eager to get their hands on this one.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books authors come together in this collection to tell the interweaving stories of a dozen young Asian Americans and their families, stuck in a Chicago airport on a stormy Fourth of July weekend. Each story is devoted to one of the teen's points of view, as they challenge familial customs, reconsider what home means, and navigate bigotry and racism, both subtle and more direct. Christina Soontornvat gives readers the story of Paul, a Thai American who protects his grandmother's coffee canister that contains his grandfather's ashes from the TSA security checkpoint. Meanwhile, Natalie, the main character in Traci Chee's offering, struggles with her Japanese American identity, confronting her cosplaying friend Beth after she makes stereotypical comments: "My face isn't a costume. It's something I live with every day." Asian American electric guitarist Lee from Mike Chen's contribution has a newfound dream of becoming a role model for future Asian guitarists as he shreds Van Halen's "Eruption" in front of skeptical airport security guards. Ellen Oh's final tale of Soojin brings the collection together, as the young girl convinces her mother to stay in America and not move to Korea. The airport setting is cleverly utilized to allow many people from all over the country to encounter one another on the same weekend, leading to different characters recognizing and acknowledging others' experiences and talents to make a difference in their communities. Readers will feel seen and heard while reading this compassionate and compelling collection. Includes an editor's note. DR COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this collection of linked short stories, a nasty storm strikes Chicago's (fictional) Gateway International Airport, delaying flights and suspending travel plans. Twelve-year-old Paul and his family, who are flying to Thailand to visit family, are stopped by security when his grandfather's remains, which his grandmother is trying to bring aboard the plane, trigger an alarm; then Paul's missing little sister causes subsequent delays. In the midst of the chaos, readers meet eleven other Asian American young people throughout the airport who find themselves in situations where they witness and experience (and also stand up to) racism: Mindy, an adoptee from Korea who doesn't feel ready to visit the country of her biological origin; Ari, who is tired of explaining that she is Jewish and Chinese; Jane, whose Gonggong (grandfather) was attacked for simply being Asian. Oh and the other eleven short-story authors -- who include Erin Entrada Kelly, Grace Lin, Linda Sue Park, and Christina Soontornvat -- paint a picture of what it means to navigate being Asian American in a post-2020 world, where the burden of being blamed for COVID-19 is thrust on young shoulders. An editor's note defines the term Asian American and explains the rationale for highlighting East and Southeast Asian American experiences. Gabi K. Huesca(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Interwoven stories explore themes of identity and belonging from the perspectives of 12 young Southeast and East Asian Americans. Noted crowd pleasers, including Erin Entrada Kelly, Grace Lin, Linda Sue Park, Randy Ribay, and Christina Soontornvat, contribute to this volume. As a storm rages outside a chaotic Chicago airport, an interruption at a TSA checkpoint involving Thai American Paul and his family sparks racist rumors and confusion. The event has a ripple effect on each of the protagonists' lives, prompting them to find their voices and fight for what's right in their own ways as uncomfortable feelings bubble to the surface. Each story is seamlessly interconnected with the whole, allowing moments to be revisited from multiple points of view and creating a sense of intrigue as readers piece together the larger picture. Although each character's journey leads them to different destinations--a guitar jam session, a basketball tournament, a first trip to Vietnam--there

are glowing moments of solidarity ranging from the subtle to the profound as they cross paths. The stories are imbued with a strong sense of authentic lived experiences as well as moments that will resonate with readers of other backgrounds, prompting examination of their own interactions or unconscious biases; it welcomes non-Asian readers to learn and connect. This remarkable anthology offers a warm and heartfelt reassurance to all those who recognize themselves reflected in its pages: You are seen, and you do belong. Compelling and nuanced. (editor's note, meet the authors) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Written by 12 authors, including Erin Entrada Kelly, Minh Le, Grace Lin, Linda Sue Park, and editor Oh, a dozen vibrantly told, overlapping stories center East and Southeast Asian American characters at a Chicago airport as a thunderstorm delays departing flights. "Something to Declare" by Christina Soontornvat sets the stage, describing a TSA checkpoint incident involving Thai American Paul and his family. The event triggers a discriminatory domino effect that echoes throughout the other narratives, which converge seamlessly. In Mike Chen's "Jam Session," security guards harass musician Lee Chang about his instrument case: "You don't look like someone who plays guitar." Traci Chee's "Costumes" involves Natalie Nakahara confronting her white best friend about trying to look Japanese: "My face isn't a costume... it's not something you can just parade around in like a cosplay outfit." Witnessing characters across the stories take a stand, each protagonist is empowered to speak out against cultural assumptions, model minority stereotypes, and racism. Callbacks and details are effectively interwoven throughout each telling, making for an intersectionally diverse, multifaceted collaboration that's artfully conceived and executed. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Marietta Zacker, Gallt and Zacker Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--In this beautifully written short story anthology edited by Oh, every main character has three things in common: they are all East or Southeast Asian American; they are all stuck in an international Chicago airport with every flight delayed or canceled; and they all have racist interactions, most of them with the same white woman in a pink sweater who repeatedly spouts anti-Asian xenophobic comments. As quoted in Linda Sue Park's introduction, each author (including Erin Entrada Kelly, Grace Lin, and Christina Soontornvat) is "refusing to buy into the model-minority fraud, they're exploring what it means to be Asian American on their own terms." All of these characters are on unique journeys (shuttling between divorced parents, aspiring to become a rock star, visiting family in Thailand) and readers can feel how the authors bring their own life experiences to them. Every intertwined story builds on one another, allowing readers to see the same interactions from different angles and perspectives. Many of the characters experience racism so casual (and in a setting heavily informed by contemporary pandemic-related sinophobia) that it will probably make some readers examine their own biases, unconscious or not. In a world where anti-Asian hate is on the rise and a mass shooting occurred on the Lunar New Year, this collection is not only important, but essential. VERDICT A must-purchase for all middle grade collections.--Kerri L. Williams Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness You Are Here, the inaugural title from Allida, an imprint from Clarion/HarperCollins designed to showcase marginalized creators, offers 12 reassuring and absorbing illustrations of contemporary Asian American young people as they face seemingly insurmountable intolerance.



#2332727 **Between Monsters and Marvels (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by *Alysa Wishingrad*

Dare Coates is sure of it. No drifter or ruffian could have killed her father, the captain of the guard, while he was on patrol. But everyone insists that monsters have been gone for years now. Dare's mother. Her classmates. Even the governor, who swiftly marries her mother just months after her father's death. Dare's suspicions grow even stronger when the governor suddenly ships her off to the mainland, away from any hope of uncovering the truth about her father's death. Or so she thinks.

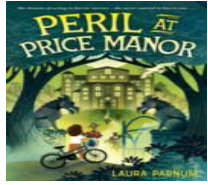
978-0-06-324487-0 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Dare Coates is feisty, unkempt, and opinionated, and she doesn't care who knows it. These qualities don't earn her many—make that any—friends on her island home, so she's beyond heartbroken when her father, the only person who understands her, dies in a suspicious accident. She's barely begun to grieve when her mother marries the governor, who literally ships Dare from Barrow's Bay to her estranged great-aunt Emily's home in City-on-the-Pike. Wishingrad (*The Verdigris Pawn*, 2021) dreams up a rich fantasy setting akin to a magical Victorian London, but don't confuse magic with whimsy. City-on-the-Pike is overpopulated, starkly divided by class, and rife with crime, the filth of industrialization, and—whether people want to admit it or not—monsters. While Dare gets her bearings, she endeavors to figure out the truth about her father's death and, in so doing, exposes a dark ring of corruption that goes all the way to society's top. Colorful characters and genuine friendships make the mystery's darker themes easier to swallow as Dare confronts what actually makes something a monster. Hand to fans of Thomas Taylor's *Eerie-on-Sea* series.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Wishingrad (*The Verdigris Pawn*) tackles themes of exploitation, perception, reality, and trust in this high-stakes tale. Everyone on the island of Barrow's Bay is convinced that the monsters that once plagued the community were killed off years ago. But when

11-year-old Dare Coates's father, the Captain of the Guard, is killed, Dare believes it was by monsters, not humans. Not long after, her new stepfather, the island's manipulative governor, sends her to the mainland City-on-the-Pike to stay with her retired actor aunt. The city proves full of mysteries, and Dare soon discovers that the monsters are still very alive. She finds herself caught between two warring factions: those who wish to kill the monsters and those who want to save them. As she works to puzzle out the truth about her father's death, she uncovers information that makes her question everything she knows not only about the creatures, but about her father as well. Bouncy prose builds toward an engaging and optimistic exploration of how power and privilege can be wielded for both good and bad, as observed by one take-charge heroine who seeks to define her place in the world. Main characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Victoria Marini, Irene Goodman Literary. (Sept.)



#2330051 Peril at Price Manor (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Laura Parnum

Halle dreams of becoming a scream queen. She practices her loudest scream every day and has learned a lot from studying the horror movies of her favorite director, Maximus Price. Maximus lives just outside town, and when the chance to go to his home arises, Halle grabs it with both hands. She doesn't realize that real-life horrors await her at Price Manor.

978-0-06-324953-0 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

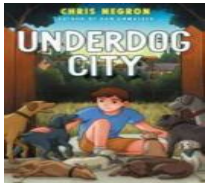
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Halle dreams of being a Scream Queen in a horror movie, and so she immediately seizes the opportunity to deliver flowers from her family's shop to Maximus Price, legendary horror filmmaker. What she doesn't know is that a true horror scenario is currently unfolding at Price Manor as sheltered twins Paisley and Argyle Price fail to realize that their father's yearly birthday prank has gone terribly wrong and that the tentacle creatures leeching off of the faces of their caretakers are more than mere horror props. Used to adults taking care of their every whim despite being a day shy of thirteen, Paisley and Argyle are rather helpless against the creatures (once the siblings figure out what's going on), but after Halle joins them, the trio must use their strengths to repel the tredecapuses, save the world, and find Dad. Parnum's whip-smart narrative pokes fun at its own genre with a classic middle-grade cheekiness, giving each character depth beyond their archetypes. The three main characters have a delightful combination of bizarre talents-Halle's genre-savvy insight allows her to steer the group away from horror movie cliches, while the twins' knowledge of tapestry weaving and sousaphone playing come in handy when calling for help. A playful acknowledgement that overbearing parents stop their kids from fully experiencing the world, this is a fantastic combination of mild locked-room horror and heroes who manifest in unlikely and hilarious ways. NB COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A trio of preteens find friendship while combating comically grotesque tentacled blob monsters. Halle Thompson, a scary movie devotee, is excited to deliver flowers from her mother's shop to imposing, isolated Price Manor, home of famous fright film director Maximus Price. His children, Paisley and Argyle, are preparing for an ordinary day, flanked by a coterie of servants in their grandiose abode. But the house seems eerily quiet. When the twins finally locate their staff, they discover that all the adults are possessed by squidlike creatures who affix themselves to people's faces and effectively zombify them. Halle, approaching through a thick mist, finds a similar scene on the mansion's lawn. The three kids meet and swiftly join forces to combat the mysterious foes in a series of outlandish situations. Halle's vast knowledge of horror tropes combines with the idiosyncratic skill sets of the long-cloistered Price offspring, and between a roller-skating disco, sousaphone practice, and a horrifying foray into a stinky cheese cellar, they tackle the tickly nemeses and prove themselves resourceful and brave in the process. Playing lightly on the tropes of classic B-movie horror, Parnum's imaginative and satisfying debut is packed with high-spirited hijinks. Characters are implied White. Playful energy propels a laugh-out-loud scary story that doesn't tread too far into truly terrifying territory. (Light horror. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this good-humored romp, horror film mega fan Halle Thompson, 12, leaps at the chance to deliver flowers to the lavish home of Maximus Price, creator of one of her favorite movies, The Manic Marmoset Invasion. Meanwhile, on the morning before their 13th birthday, Price's twin children Argyle and Paisley abruptly awaken to find their usually orderly estate in shambles. Upon investigation, they discover that the heads of the mansion's adult caretakers have become encased in slimy, squidlike creatures; these appear to be controlling the adults, and they spontaneously replicate when they sense a new host. Initially believing their trickster father was pulling a prank, the twins are ill-prepared to handle the mayhem, until they meet Halle, who teaches them the rules for surviving "Dire Circumstances" ("Number one rule: Avoid Peril at All Costs"). By combining Argyle's vast knowledge of animal behaviors, Paisley's acrobatic prowess, and Halle's expertise on all things horror, the trio works together to defeat the multiplying invaders. Debut author Parnum keeps the scares gentle but gooey via lively prose that conveys a vibrant setting. Quick-moving chapters and alternating perspectives that showcase the characters' dawning agency make for a propulsive creature feature. Characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kaitlyn Johnson, Belcastro Agency. (Aug.)

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2349666 Underdog City (Hardcover (Trade))

1

\$19.99

written by Chris Negron

Mortimer Bray is not okay. It seems like everything in his life is changing for the worse. After his own much-loved dog dies, he can't bring himself to carry on with his dog-walking business; there's a strange new girl who's moved into the house next door; and suddenly there's a buzzing feeling of anxiety in his head and heart when he's faced with something new.

978-0-06-325187-8 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Nothing in 12-year-old white-cued Mortimer Bray's beloved home of Townsend Heights has felt the same since elderly Mrs. Opal; the community council president and Mortimer's good friend; moved away and passed the title on to Mortimer's mother. Even worse, though, was the death of his pup following an incident while on their regular walk. Now, Mortimer is too anxious to continue with the dog-walking business he founded with his best friend, and he hasn't spoken to Mrs. Opal in a long time. A Puerto Rican family moving into the house next door with their pet rooster, who crows loudly every morning at 5 a.m., further upends life in Townsend, as does the knowledge that the history behind a nearby vacant lot is spreading apprehension throughout the community. Things begin looking up for Mortimer when he persuades Will, the visiting granddaughter of his new neighbors, to help him investigate the property, but overheard, racially charged conversations about her family sow tension around town. Mortimer's anxiety is powerfully portrayed and realistically permeates every aspect of his life. Kind community members, both human and dog, help him manage his constantly racing thoughts and support him during his grieving process in this discerning celebration of connection and healing. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)



#2333013 Ghost Job (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$19.99

written by Greg Van Eekhout

Zenith and her friends were thick as thieves long before an unfortunate lab accident sent them careening into the afterlife. So when they hear about a machine that could return them to the land of the living, they are determined to steal it. Fortunately, they're great at heists. Pulling off the score of their deathtimes is no job for an amateur.

978-0-06-325333-9 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 5.0

Reviews by: Booklist In this latest caper from the ingenious van Eekhout, the discovery that a local necromancer has a device that revives the dead spurs four San Diego seventh-graders killed in a school-lab accident to plan a daring heist. As said necromancer commands cutting-edge ghost-catching tech as well as spectral hounds and other unexpected allies, things don't go smoothly at all. But, as it turns out, there's a whole ectoplasmic community willing to help deal just deserts to the bad guy and that, along with the four teens' complementary ghostly powers and strong bonds of loyalty, proves enough to get the job done—in a way that leaves the racially diverse quartet poised to continue a life (er, afterlife) of crime. Readers will enjoy the banter, which occasionally steers into some deep territory (“Is this all a computer simulation? Am I just a globule of algae in a test tube dreaming he's a human being? What am I, Zenith? Can you answer me that?” “You're a dork,” said Vanessa. “Does that help?” “It's a start.””) as much as the topsy-turvy action.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews lab accident, a group of friends pull off heists in the hope of returning to life. Zenith, a Dutch Indonesian 12-year-old, and her best friends have a lot of fun being dead, but they all agree they'd rather be alive again. And as her family prepares to move away from the area she haunts, Zenith in particular needs to return to life as soon as possible. Using their diverse set of ghostly powers, they work together to steal artifacts, books, and other magical objects that could return them to life, under the guidance of a medium. Nothing works...but then they attempt to take a device called Redeemer from a necromancer, who's using it for nefarious purposes. When one of her friends gets caught in the middle of the botched job, Zenith must take on the role of leader and save her friends, but at what cost to herself? The kids' clever antics keep the levity up through what could have been a somber story. Their respective powers, like Zenith's ability to move physical objects, complement their unique personalities and are organically incorporated into their plans to swipe objects and rescue their friends. The blunt storytelling style brings some reveals on too early but otherwise works to great effect to keep the tone light even while delivering mature messages about death and the meaning of life. A fun ghostly romp. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this animated San Diego: set heist novel from Van Eekhout (Fenris & Mott), the ghosts of four middle schoolers killed in a science lab gas explosion use their newfound skills to seek a return to life. Since "being alive is precisely a billion times better than being dead," the four close friends form a crew following their demises, haunting their school's theater and engaging in heists of supernatural goods. Kind team leader Nicholas can project his voice to "meat-walkers," as the kids term the living; goth performer Vanessa can possess beings and objects; science-minded Eddie feels electricity as a sensation; and object-manipulating poltergeist Zenith serves as the crew's muscle. When a

ghost hunter comes looking for them, they learn that a wealthy necromancer is seeking ghosts, and possesses a device that can take; and restore; lives. Thoughtful ethical dilemmas soon cause them to reconsider the lengths to which they'd go to reunite with their loved ones. Zenith's candidly funny first-person narrative applies a light, portmanteau-riddled touch to themes of death and grief, while the protagonists' close relationships and powers offer up sheer spectral fun. Zenith is of Dutch Indonesian descent; cover art portrays the other protagonists with various skin tones. Ages 8-12. Agent: Holly Root, Root Literary. (Sept.)



#2349643 Nowhere Special (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Matt Wallace

The isolation and bullying Stan suffers at school are nothing compared to the war at home. After he tries and fails to defend his mom by standing up to his abusive father, Stan decides there is only one solution to finding a new self-confidence: he must learn how to fight.

978-0-06-325400-8 Katherine Tegen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Trauma brings together two 12-year-olds living in a financially compromised desert village in an unflinching novel by Wallace (The Supervillain's Guide to Being a Fat Kid). After Elpidia's family house burns down in a fire and her parents are incarcerated for illegal substance use, the events open a rift between the maternal Cahuillan and paternal Peruvian sides of her family. Elpidia is sent to live with her abuela at Lakeshore Estate in Southern California and attends a local school with her Cahuillan cousin, who constantly bullies her. Abuela insists that Elpidia learn to defend herself and signs her up for martial arts classes taught by Filipino American veteran Charlie. There, she meets and befriends schoolmate Stan, bullied for being "fat and white and slow," who wants to protect himself and his mother from his physically abusive father. Wallace's succinct middle grade drama considers heavy subjects such as systemic racism, substance reliance, intergenerational trauma, financial precarity, domestic violence, and anti-fat bias. Elpidia and Stan's affectionate and steadfast relationship, as well as their conversations surrounding wide-eyed dreams for their imagined future together, grants this viscerally told story both levity and hope. Ages 8-12. Agent: DongWon Song, Howard Morhaim Literary. (Oct.)



#2332304 Mossheart's Promise (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rebecca Mix

Twelve-year-old fairy Canary Mossheart knows this better than most. A few years ago, the mold took her papa, and even her famous, former-chosen-one Gran never found a cure. So when Ary's beloved mama falls ill, Ary decides it's taken enough.

Armed with only a bucket and a prayer, she sneaks out to find a magical, underground lake whose healing waters are straight out of Gran's adventures.

978-0-06-325405-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 14.0

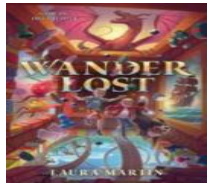
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Canary "Ary" Mossheart's no hero, but if adults won't save Mama from the mold that's killing her, she'll have to try anyway. Ary, a 12-year-old mold-scraper, lives in Terra--a terrarium world designed by the gardener to be a haven for fairies. She should get her wings any day now; they'll be ground into magic dust to beat back the mold that is rotting Terra's food, poisoning the water, and sickening and starving everyone except the privileged. Everyone expects Ary to be a hero like her legendary Gran, who journeyed to the Underground to bring back the cure for a plague, but all she wants is to help Mama. Ary braves the Gloom beyond the fence, where she makes unexpected friends and learns that Terra is built on multiple lies. If, before week's end, a Mossheart doesn't give their life to release the fairies from Terra, their world will die. Mix's straightforward, magic-laced writing doesn't shy away from hard but age-appropriately addressed truths of poverty, privilege, and natural disasters. Through tears and laughter, readers will easily follow this exciting, honest, and hopeful tale that speaks gently and clearly to kids' fears and needs. It urges them to value their own experiences, reassures them that it's OK to be angry when they're left to pay for the mistakes of adults, and reminds them that kindness must guide us, even when we're afraid. A wonderful story for all the scared people doing the right thing because nobody else will. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Like all fairies of Terra; the terrarium where the Gardener once placed fairies for safety; 12-year-old Canary "Ary" Mossheart grew up hearing the legend of her heroic grandmother saving the town from plague 50 years earlier. Now, though, food has become scarce, and her grandmother can save the residents from neither growing darkness nor creeping rot. To help keep the decaying community alive, Ary scrapes mold and, like other fairies, prepares to sacrifice her wings, which will be ground into a magical dust that helps the community. When her beloved mother is struck with the deadly mold, usually timid Ary sets out to find a cure, accompanied by irritating, wingless Owl, who

believes Terra is dying, and a taciturn pill bug named Shrimp. As Ary makes her way underground, she discovers cracks in everything she thought she knew about Terra; and her Gran. Boasting rich, confident worldbuilding and complex interspecies relations in a starkly rendered setting, this stirring middle grade debut from Mix (*The Ones We Burn*) passionately explores the courage it takes to lead with empathy and to become a hero in the face of older generations' failures. Characters are described as having various skin tones. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jim McCarthy, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Twelve-year-old Ary Mossheart lives life like any fairy, but when her mother starts to get sick from mold, she must find a cure for her. She goes on a journey of self-discovery and understands that the past has played a big hand in events she's had to face. With the help of some friends and her courage, she undertakes an impossible task of finding a new path for her and her people, leading with empathy and strength. This coming-of-age story, perfect for middle graders, shows how kids have to live with the mistakes of previous generations. Ary learns to take a stand for change, even if that means others will not follow. VERDICT Flowing with imaginative characters against the odds of natural disasters, privileges, and past generational mistakes, this book will show young readers how empathy for others can make strong positive changes.—BreAnn Weeks



#2387141 Wander Lost (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Laura Martin

When their mom suddenly disappears, the boys are reunited with their long-lost grandfather, Ace, who reveals that their family is descended from a board game character who escaped his game and lived in the real world. Because of this ancestor, their family has the ability to enter the world of any game they want—but this gift also comes with a price.

978-0-06-332621-7 HarperCollins Publishers ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity

1

Unit Price

\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly White-cued 12-year-old twins Rhett and Nash have always chafed at their mother's board game prohibition. It's only after she vanishes that they finally learn the truth. They're picked up by their estranged, taciturn grandfather, who takes them to stay at his home in remote Indiana woods, where he informs the siblings that members of their family can enter the worlds within board games by exchanging places with the game's inhabitants. But their mother did not go willingly. They discover that she's been kidnapped and stashed in one of myriad game worlds by pirate captain Ogden, a former enemy who escaped into the real world years ago. With their grandfather's mentorship and assistance from 13-year-old Cress, a brown-skinned board game character capable of bounding between worlds, the twins must hone their powers, search the games, and thwart Ogden's nefarious revenge plans, all to rescue their mother. Combining the mechanics of Jumanji with the interconnectedness of Wreck-It Ralph, Martin (*Vanishing Act*) spins a humorous and heartfelt homage to classic board games via fictional creations as real and evocative as any childhood favorite. Idiosyncratic characters, thoughtful worldbuilding, and a palpable sense of possibility permeate this fanciful adventure. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jodi Reamer, Writers House. (June)



#2365557 Princess Protection Program (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alex London

Every fairy tale ends with its characters living happily ever after, right? A valiant prince quests long and hard to reach the castle where the sleeping princess lies. And with a kiss, he will awaken her. But what if the princess does NOT think a kiss from a stranger is a very pleasant way to wake up? Yuck!

978-0-06-330387-4 Greenwillow Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity

1

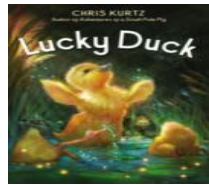
Unit Price

\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist What can a princess do when she no longer wants to be part of her own story? For Rosamund, a kiss from a prince wasn't all it was cracked up to be, and she flees through a Door of Opportunity that takes her to the modern world. Here, she discovers she isn't the only fairy tale leading character who wanted out, and she finds herself in a school setting with a fairy godmother as the headmistress. Except, she starts to notice some things are just . . . off. Rosamund and her new friends eventually decide that they want, quite literally, to take control of their own stories once they uncover the truth about the princess protection program. This is a fresh twist on several classic Western fairy tales, which gets the most inspiration from the darker original versions of events in which some of the princesses, like the Little Mermaid, have gruesome fates they wish to escape. Fans of twisted fairy tales will enjoy piecing together who the different characters are and matching them with their stories.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Fairy tale: based messages of empowerment come through loud and clear in this fun yet thought-provoking

adventure by London (Search and Rescue). After waking to a strange prince's lips on hers, 16-year-old Princess Rosamund, or Sleeping Beauty, arrives at Orphans' Home Educational Academy, or HEA, with no clue as to how she got there. She is soon absorbed into a training program for "wayward fairy-tale characters, to prepare them for new and happy lives in the wide world known as 'reality.'" With her two new friends, princesses Sirena and Rana, Rosamund begins exploring reality which, "as the teachers reminded her all day long, was no fairy tale." She's particularly engrossed in Pizza Arcade, an establishment run by three teen boys and their mother. The more time passes, the more comfortable Rosamund becomes in her new normal, until story-specific beasts called Uponatimes arrive, determined to drag each escapee back to their origins. In this tale of tales whose protagonist sometimes reads as too mature for the target audience, Rosamund evolves from a timid princess archetype into an inquisitive heroine who uses her voice to question what she's told and shake up the status quo. The narrative's emphasis on the power of embracing change and standing together against adversity provides a solid foundation for an engaging, lighthearted adventure. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Robert Guinsler, Sterling Lord Literistic. (Feb.)



#2365620 Lucky Duck (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Chris Kurtz

A heartwarming animal adventure story about Frank, the odd one out in a family of ducks, who discovers both his courage and unique identity as he braves the unknown to save his family from an invading fox.

978-0-06-331134-3 Clarion Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Frank the duckling treasures his family and their cozy home on a small pond. He looks a bit different from his significantly smaller siblings and secretly prefers nibbling grass to snacking on disgusting bugs, but nonetheless, life is good. When the snug setting is threatened by a fiendish fox, some teenage ducks convince Frank that he alone can protect the pond's population by heading out on a quest for unusual amulets that will imbue him with the ability to defend his flock and family. Frank has to break the rules, partner with forbidden fauna, and stretch himself to his limits to save the day. This darling novel nods to "The Ugly Duckling" but delves much deeper in its message of self-acceptance and celebration. Replete with memorable characters and gentle humor, the story spotlights Frank's deeply kind heart as an enormous asset and gives him room to grow on his own terms. A wonderful woodsy adventure about the thrill of finding one's true self—and true friendship—in unexpected places.



#2349572 Coyote Queen (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jessica Vitalis

Twelve-year-old Fud feels trapped. She lives a precarious life in a cramped trailer with her mom and her mom's alcoholic ex-boyfriend of a boyfriend, Larry. Fud can see it's only a matter of time until Larry explodes again, even if her mom keeps on making excuses for his behavior. If only Fud could find a way to be as free as the coyotes roaming the Wyoming countryside. Strong, smart, independent, and always willing to protect their own.

978-0-06-331440-5 Greenwillow Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Felicity Ulyssa Dahlers, "Fud," lives in a trailer in rural Wyoming with her mom and Larry—her mom's abusive, ex-boyfriend who's in the grip of alcoholism. Fud's used to being picked on at school for her poverty, but being unhoused with her mom was better than sleeping on Larry's pool raft and living in constant fear for their psychological and physical safety. A new neighbor, classmate Leigh, offers Fud a bright spot, but as the situation with Larry worsens, a speculative twist tilts this story from tough realistic fiction into slightly dark Animorphs territory, and the fantastical elements may require handselling to readers. Scrappy Fud demonstrates admirable coping mechanisms alongside awareness she shouldn't have to live in fear, and the book's coyote facts and symbolism nicely bolster Fud's survivor mentality: "Sometimes leaving one pack meant finding another." Vitalis (The Wolf's Curse, 2021; The Rabbit's Gift, 2022) lends lived experience from "the fringes of society" to Fud's journey, per a note with resources, and offers readers an honest, slice-of-underrepresented-life story with a speculative twist.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A 12-year-old contends with financial precarity and domestic abuse in this realistic read with a fantastical twist by Vitalis (The Wolf's Curse). In small-town Wyoming, Felicity Ulyssa "Fud" Dahlers walks on eggshells around her mother's volatile, alcohol-dependent boyfriend Larry, a former boxer, and tries to block out the adults' frequent arguments by imagining herself running free with nearby coyotes. Fud is initially wary of new girl Leigh, who's just moved into the trailer next door. But Leigh suggests that they enter the Miss Tween

Black Gold Pageant together, and Fud commits after discovering that the prize money could facilitate her and her mother's escape from Larry. When her mother's health takes a turn and Larry's abuse becomes physical, Fud finds herself manifesting coyote-like traits as she struggles to survive while preparing for the pageant. The challenges that Fud and her mother endure; some of which are based on Vitalis's childhood experiences, per an author's note; are sympathetically wrought, and Fud's resilience and compassion drive the narrative to a complex yet optimistic resolution. Fud is of Spanish descent; the supporting cast is racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sara Crowe, Sara Crowe Literary. (Oct.)



#2332416 Library of Shadows (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rachel Moore

Radcliffe Prep. The third most haunted school in the country, where a student disappearance isn't uncommon and no one dares stay in the library after dark. And where Este Logano enrolls with the hopes of finding her dead father. Not literally, of course. She doesn't believe in ghosts. But then Este meets Mateo, who is maybe-probably-definitely-a real ghost. And an annoying one at that.

978-0-06-328463-0 HarperTeen ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 8-12 *Starred Review* In her debut, Moore has created a story that perfectly mixes gothic elements with romance and mystery. When Este receives a scholarship to her deceased father's alma mater, Radcliffe Prep, she sees it as an opportunity to learn more about him. The school's library quickly becomes central to the story, and book lovers will enjoy visualizing the immense and eerie space, complete with secret passageways and a resident ghost. Despite Radcliffe's reputation for being extremely haunted, Este only realizes the library truly is haunted when she meets the mysterious (and incorporeal) Mateo, who is eager to discuss the library's shrouded history. Plus, he needs her help getting a dangerous tome about soul-harvesting fades from the restricted section. The unusual pair begins to investigate why so many students have disappeared from the grounds over the years, growing closer in the process. Moore incorporates the enemies-to-lovers trope wonderfully, penning rapid and engaging banter between the sassy Mateo and curious Este as they try to ignore their connection. The book kicks into high gear when The Book of Fades goes missing, along with crucial pages that could help solve Radcliffe's dark secrets. This unique novel blends different genres in a magical way, and readers will happily lose themselves in its twisting passages. Recommend to lovers of gothic tales, such as Lyndall Clipstone's Lakesedge (2021) and Adalyn Grace's Belladonna (2022). COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

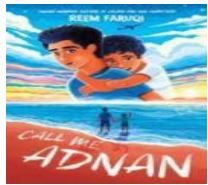
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Este Logano is thrilled to be pursuing her prep school dreams and following in her father's footsteps with a scholarship to attend Radcliffe Prep, but she doesn't make a great first impression. After discovering an old key hidden in one of her late father's picture frames, Este sneaks off during orientation to see what the key unlocks. She meets the infuriating-and attractive-Mateo, who urges her to unlock the spire that houses the library's heirloom collection. Unfortunately, the school's head librarian Ives catches them in the act, and Mateo mysteriously disappears along with one of the heirlooms, the Book of Fades. Ives gives Este a chance to make things right by working the evening shift in the creepy, possibly haunted archives, so now she must track down Mateo and retrieve the book or face expulsion from the school of her dreams. Moore's debut has cozy chills and spooky thrills perfect for the fall season, but a predictable plot and shallow characterization will limit its appeal. Este's friendship with her roommate is given a lot of importance towards the climax of the book despite the two having spent very little time together on page-the majority of the narrative is focused instead on Este's romance with Mateo. However, the blank slate characters are perfect for young readers to project onto, and Moore's good pacing and evocative prose offer some light escapism for the dark academia crowd and fans of Netflix's Wednesday. AT COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A haunted library holds the key to Este's late father's secrets--if she lives long enough to uncover them. On learning she's receiving a legacy scholarship to her father's school, Radcliffe Prep, 16-year-old Este doesn't care that it's purportedly haunted. That's before she tours its spectacular library and meets the gorgeous and enigmatic Mateo, who is not quite what he seems. After cajoling her into a restricted area to find an ancient tome about soul-harvesting Fades and (hopefully) how to eliminate them, Mateo vanishes with it, nearly getting Este expelled. Working night shifts as reparation, Este and the irritatingly irresistible Mateo follow clues left by her father about crucial missing pages in the book. Time is ticking, though; the deadly Fades infesting the library, responsible for multiple student disappearances, are now hunting Este. Lyrical prose builds a complex plot featuring a sympathetic protagonist whose growing connections with the labyrinthine library and its haunts push her living connections aside, to her detriment. A lively enemies-to-lovers romance offers a sweet counterpoint to Este's poignant grief over her father's death. Some plot elements may feel confusingly convoluted to readers, though, and the ultimate villain is easy to spot. Also, certain unaddressed practical issues may pull readers out of the story. Main characters read white; some racial diversity is cued in secondary characters. A compelling, ghostly tale interweaving romance and mystery with a thread of horror. (Supernatural. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Debut author Moore entwines fairy tale horrors and heady romance to craft an eerie boarding school mystery. Sixteen-year-old Este Logano has just received a legacy scholarship to attend prestigious; and rumored haunted; Radcliffe Prep high school, the academy her now dead father once dropped out of. Este soon meets handsome teen Mateo, who persuades her to explore the off-limits spire full of

the school's rarest treasures, from which Mateo steals a magical text called The Book of Fades and vanishes. Caught by the imperious head librarian and threatened with expulsion unless she returns the book, Este seeks out Mateo, who reveals that he is the ghost of the school founder's son, who went missing in 1917. He also informs her that a student is kidnapped each decade by enigmatic spirits called the Fades, and that the book is the only way to stop the specters. But the tome is missing pages, and if the duo want to succeed, Este will have to dig into both Mateo's and her father's shadowy pasts. While densely rendered worldbuilding and plot points occasionally befuddle, the swoony paranormal courtship between Este and Mateo burns brightly in this dark-academia adventure. Ages 13: up. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 8 Up--Este Logano is looking forward to attending Radcliffe Prep, the third most haunted school in the country, to learn more about her dead father's legacy. Rumors fly regarding the haunted library and ghostly souls such as Mateo. No one wants to go there at night. When Mateo blames Este for stealing an archived book, The Book of Fades, the paranormal romance begins to brew even though it seems unlikely. Este finds more than just books in the library during her investigation. Trap doors and secret passages are only part of the mysterious setting that Moore has created where the library is center stage. Readers that appreciate academic libraries and what they have to offer will enjoy the nostalgic research practices; however, those familiar with old collections will understand that some of the preservation practices are not authentic. The pacing of the story varies, meaning some situations resolve too quickly while others are well thought out. The paranormal investigator, Posy, starts with a dominant role but seems to be brushed off. The characters deal with grief and loss in a genuine manner. The ending is predictable but satisfying. VERDICT Fans of ghost stories and dark academia will embrace this debut novel. Recommended.--Karen Alexander
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#2326237 Call Me Adnan (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Reem Faruqi

Adnan Zakir loves table tennis. One thing he doesn't like is losing. He's colorblind, left-handed, and has a fondness for the aviation alphabet. He's super close with his sister, Aaliyah, who is a great dancer and memorizer of the Quran, and he loves his little toddler brother, Rizwan, who only wants to grow up and play table tennis like his big brother.

978-0-06-328494-4 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Adnan Zakir, a 12-year-old Pakistani Muslim boy living in Florida, wants to become a professional table-tennis player or a pilot. He lives with his parents and his older sister, Aaliyah, and his two-year-old brother, Riz. Adnan is colorblind and small for his age, and his teacher repeatedly mispronounces his name at school. But he spends a lot of time at the masjid, which is where he first fell in love with table tennis. He ends up qualifying for the table-tennis tournament finals over Eid weekend, during which his whole family gathers. Tragically, Adnan's little brother drowns in a pool. This horrible situation and the devastated family's grief are handled in a manner that is appropriate for the intended audience. The author's style of verse writing—including the use of short stanzas, creatively and thoughtfully arranged—enhance the emotional impact of the story. Additional resources include an author's note that discusses personal inspiration behind the story, safety resources, and a glossary. A realistic, moving exploration of family, loss, and healing.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twelve-year-old Adnan Zakir is looking forward to going to Florida to see cousins and participate in a table-tennis competition when tragedy strikes, changing his family forever. Adnan lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with Abu, Amma (who is pregnant), 13-year-old sister Aaliyah, and 2-year-old brother Riz. He dreams of playing table tennis professionally or maybe becoming a pilot. When Adnan qualifies for the Ultimate Table Tennis Championship Tournament taking place in Orlando over Eid weekend, his family decides to make it a vacation with extended family. What was supposed to be a fun-filled trip turns tragic when Riz drowns in the pool of their rented house. Adnan blames himself: "If I hadn't gone to Florida to play table tennis, / Riz would still be here." But with support and guidance from his parents, friends, and table tennis coach, he starts to accept that he is not at fault. Observing his mother channel her grief into educating others about water safety, Adnan finds the courage to return to what he loves. In this verse novel, Faruqi depicts strong community bonds, seamlessly interweaving Adnan's Pakistani Muslim identity. The story includes details about the family's time at the masjid (where Adnan also discovered his love for table tennis), Eid rituals, Riz's funeral, and more. An author's note discusses a real-life experience that inspired this story. An emotional tale of a family's grief and healing, full of courage and hope. (swimming resources, ABCs of water safety, recipe, glossary) (Verse fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In stirring, lilting verse, Faruqi (Golden Girl) delivers a heartbreaking novel about grief and moving forward in which a tween attempts to cope with the death of a loved one. Effervescent 12-year-old Adnan Zakir knows exactly who he is: an avid table tennis player, a loved member of his tight-knit Muslim family, and big brother to and frequent caretaker for his toddler brother, Riz. Excited to participate in a prestigious table tennis tournament in Orlando, he's looking forward to his family traveling from their Atlanta hometown to visit relatives during Eid. But when Riz drowns in the pool at their rented house, Adnan wrestles with guilt ("Abu always says,/ Watch out for your baby brother./ But I didn't watch him.../ and now he's gone") and feelings of loneliness, and struggles to find joy in his passions. Faruqi renders this tender story of loss with a deft hand, employing vivid details surrounding Adnan's Pakistani Muslim identity; including sensate depictions of Eid celebrations,

attending masjid, and Riz's funeral; and nuanced characterizations to present a tear-jerking ode to family. Swimming resources and a glossary conclude. Ages 8: 12. (June)



#2349537 **Mari and the Curse of el Cocodrilo (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Adrianna Cuevas

If Mari Feijoo could, she would turn her family's Peak Cubanity down a notch, just enough so that her snooping neighbor and classmate Mykenzye wouldn't have anything to tease her about. That's why this year, there's no way that Mari's joining in on one of the biggest Feijoo family traditions—burning the New Year's Eve effigy her abuela makes.

978-0-06-328549-1 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Cuevas mixes Cuban culture and traditions with magic and themes of belonging in this engrossing fantasy adventure. Mari Feijoo struggles with her Cuban heritage, as it makes her feel like an outsider at school—largely due to a classmate who constantly teases her about it. When Mari decides not to participate in her family's important Cuban New Year's Eve tradition, she finds herself cursed by the creepy El Cocodrilo and dogged by increasingly troublesome supernatural situations. As the curse gains power and begins to spread, Mari's bravery shines as she endeavors to protect her friends and realizes that her family's ancestry might just be what will save the day. Cuevas vividly showcases the struggles that can arise in tween friendships and highlights the power found in a united family and in embracing one's culture and differences. This book will not only captivate readers with its fantasy elements; it will leave them deeply touched by the characters and their adventures. Fans of Claribel A. Ortega's *Ghost Squad* (2020) and Tehlor Kay Mejia's *Paola Santiago* books will be enamored.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old Mari loves her family but tries to avoid "Peak Cubanity," the times she feels their Cuban heritage sticks out in her small Texan town. When everyone else burns effigies in the backyard on New Year's Eve to ward off bad luck, Mari refuses to burn hers, worried that a neighbor girl, who bullies her for her ethnicity, is watching. This curses Mari: a crocodile-shaped mark appears on her arm, bugs follow her in school, and her violin attacks her during mariachi practice. Worse, the curse spreads to a friend. Luckily, Mari has a newfound power to summon the ghosts of her ancestors, some of whom died trying to flee Cuba alongside her abuelitos. They explain that she has the curse of El Cocodrilo, who feeds on misery. The plan she concocts to vanquish "this Cocodrilo guy" relies on the embrace of her Peak Cubanity. Although the text deals with heavy themes, Cuevas keeps a light tone and inserts moments of humor (a young ancestor's superpower is super-snot). Readers will relate to Mari's self-consciousness and fear of change in her friend group, and an explanation of microaggressions from one of Mari's peers is easy to digest. Spanish is interspersed, translated contextually for readers, and an author's note gives more details on Cuevas's bilingual family and Latine New Year's traditions. Monica de los Reyes (Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Cuban American girl who's ashamed of her heritage contends with a curse--and a gift--from her ancestral land. Twelve-year-old Maricela Feijoo just wants to be a normal sixth grader and avoid the scorn of her racist white bully neighbor, Mykenzye. But her family's "ridiculous traditions" are constant sources of shame. On New Year's Eve, when they "reach Peak Cubanity" and the time comes to burn the effigy representing last year's bad luck, Mari spots Mykenzye recording her and pockets the doll instead. Later, a painful black crocodile-shaped mark appears on Mari's arm and with it, all manner of bad luck and scary visions befall her: Maggots infest her food, her pencils turn into worms, and a creeping black shadow writes ominous messages. The curse jeopardizes her upcoming mariachi audition; worse, her best friend, Keisha, develops the same mark, imperiling her shot at the elite fencing team. When Mari accidentally summons the ghosts of dead relatives, she learns she has the family gift of magic. By learning about her ancestors, Mari realizes that only by embracing her Cubanity--and her family, past and present--will she be able to break the curse. Dynamic action scenes rendered in vivid detail bring Cuevas' imaginative (and terrifying) interpretation of Cuban cultural traditions to life, while Mari's relationships provide a rich emotional backdrop. Strong plotting, high stakes, and the curse's evolving rules of engagement make this a satisfying page-turner. A delightful horror novel with emotional and cultural resonance. (author's note) (Paranormal. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this uplifting tale by Cuevas (*The Ghosts of Rancho Espanto*), a Cuban American 12-year-old must reckon with the mystical consequences of breaking tradition. Maricela Yanet Feijoo's family is proud of its Cuban identity and customs. Sometimes, though, their "Peak Cubanity" embarrasses Mari, and a white classmate's frequent racist remarks add to her discomfort. When she shuns her family's annual New Year's Eve burning of an effigy to expel bad luck, her refusal to participate awakens a powerful ghostly entity called El Cocodrilo. Realizing that feeding off Mari's negative emotions boosts his power, El Cocodrilo engages in disruptive mischief; possessing Mari's belongings and sabotaging her school pursuits; that causes her public humiliation. After El Cocodrilo begins haunting her bestie, Mari must rely on her family, friends, and ancestors to expel the spirit. El Cocodrilo's schemes include humor-laced, unsettling situations starring black lizards and flooded backpacks that add levity to this meditative look at the literalization of how rejecting one's identity can have detrimental ramifications. Strong tween friendships, tight-knit familial bonds, and an emphasis on taking pride in one's roots round out this eerie supernatural adventure. An end note discusses Latin American New Year's celebrations. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stefanie Sanchez Von Borstel, Full Circle Literary. (Oct.)



#2328026 Haru, Zombie Dog Hero (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ellen Oh

One stormy day, Mrs. Greene argues with Luke, and Haru runs out to defend him. She quickly calls the police, but instead of being put down at the animal shelter, the officers send Haru to a local lab. Scientists give Haru an immortality serum that kills him. But what they don't know is that Haru comes back to life and turns into a zombie dog!

978-0-06-327229-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.

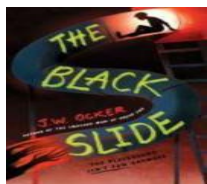
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Oh's latest has all the trappings of a thriller blended with horror (page-turning action, sickening reveals) but is grounded with the simple, touching, and at times heartrending story of the love between Haru the dog and his human, Luke. After Haru heroically protects Luke and his friends from a rabid raccoon, he spends the night at the vet, where he meets a neglected dog named Bruno. This encounter, and a later one with abandoned cat Penny, introduces Haru to a harsh truth for many animals: you can't trust humans. Interwoven into this intimate character story is a plotline dealing with the Sinclair corporation, headed by a billionaire that controls most of the town. After an accident at a secret research facility unleashes a horror upon the town, it's Haru's love for and belief in Luke that saves them both from monsters, both internal and external. On-the-page racism and animal cruelty might make this a tough read for some, but the power of the story is in its tender relationships and well-drawn characters, both animal and human.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books No one can break the loving bond between Korean American Luke and his sweet dog Haru who both live above the family's grocery store in Painted Lake, Virginia. However, when the eleven-year-old tries to protect his family from the harassment of the store's animal-hating landlady Mrs. Sinclair-Green Haru defends Luke, which she unfairly describes as an attack, and Haru is taken away. Instead of going to the animal shelter where he is supposed to be put down, however, Haru finds himself in a lab where scientists experiment with strong and capable dogs in hopes of developing a vaccine to make humans, specifically the billionaire Dr. Anton Sinclair, immortal. After putting Haru through horrific experiments, the scientists kill him, but Haru soon rises as a zombie dog determined to reunite with Luke. Oh covers heavy, relevant topics in this tense middle-grade novel, informing young readers about animal cruelty, environmental pollution caused by biotechnology facilities, and racial microaggressions within social-economic classes. Third-person point of view shifts among humans, domestic animals, and strays as they navigate the horrendous mysteries of the Sinclair facilities. Haru's shifting from a regular dog to a zombie dog is especially heartbreaking; his youthful innocent spirit is stripped away by his experience at the labs, and even as he tries to control his violent urges to attack, he fears Luke will reject him if they meet again. The grim dialogue between dogs and cats of all kinds shares insight on the complexities of human treatment of animals, from which Haru develops his own opinion that there are still decent, caring humans. Even in a zombie apocalypse, Luke and Haru's deep connection with each other, other animals, and the community will not falter. DR COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Oh (the Spirit Hunters series) centers the relationship between a dog and his human in this spellbinding tale with Frankenweenie vibes. In third-person chapters that follow canine Haru Haru, the pooch recounts how he saves his 11-year-old Korean American: cued human Luke from a rabid raccoon while traipsing through the woods. The event is quickly eclipsed by a chemical fire at Sinclair, a local research laboratory that has been polluting a nearby lake. Stray cat Penelope informs Haru that Sinclair is a "bad place" where "animals go in, but they never come back out." When Luke and Haru return to Luke's family deli, racist remarks from their white landlady prompt a physical altercation, and after Haru lunges in Luke's defense, he's seized by animal control, which takes him to Sinclair. But even in his dire situation, he remains determined to return to Luke, no matter what. This riveting adventure is not without its melancholy moments, but Oh skillfully balances inexplicit descriptions of animal abuse with adrenaline-fueled action. Tender character relationships between both pup and human, and the myriad fully realized animals Haru meets along his journey, combine for a multilayered and thoroughly heartfelt must-read. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Nancy Galt, Galt & Zacker Literary. (July)



#2287034 Black Slide (Hardcover (Trade))

written by J. W. Ocker

Griffin Birch isn't known for being brave, but there's something about the new black slide on the elementary school playground that's made him curious. Against his better judgment, he just has to follow his best friend, Laila, down. But the Black Slide is no ordinary piece of playground equipment.

978-0-06-299055-6 HarperCollins Publishers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 This horror phantasmagoria follows 11-year-old Griffin as a trip down the school's eerie slide results in him and his friends being transported from the playground to the ""painground,"" a nightmarish world where monsters are out to get them. Ocker's foray into middle-grade horror brings fresh material to the category, including tropes and themes typically relegated to YA or adult books. Readers should be aware of the content warnings (animal harm, child abuse) before proceeding, as well as the fact that a thinly veiled metaphor for abuse pops up throughout the book. Otherwise, this is a knuckle-tightening trip into a haunting environment from which Griffin and his friends must escape before it's too late. Readers will appreciate the moments of friendship in the face of death and danger, which bring some much-needed levity and warmth to a dark, dreary story line. While this book may not be a fit for every horror fan, it weaves an interesting premise and promises poignant moments between the characters as they try to escape the hellscape they've found themselves in. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

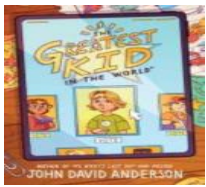
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Griffin has an awful feeling about the black slide that suddenly appears in his school's playground, but when a relentless bully promises to leave him alone if he is the first to go down it, Griffin weighs the misery of the known against the fear of the unknown and chooses the slide. His experience is traumatic and leaves him with a broken arm, but at least he emerges. His best friend and fifth-grade peers aren't so lucky, however, as they're drawn to the slide against their will and never come out. Griffin tosses aside his better judgment and follows them, but this time he lands in a gruesome, harsh world where creatures seek immortality by experimenting on different beings. His peers are locked in cages, tortured in the hopes their duress can be useful to the aptly named Merciless. Griffin teams up with his best friend and the aforementioned bully to escape, but the horrors of this world do not end with the Merciless, and success will require unimaginable pain, sacrifice, and endurance. Ocker pushes the boundaries of middle grade horror, and the extreme and vividly described violence, torture, and casual cruelties make this novel a likelier fit for an audience older than its fifth-grade protagonists. However, Griffin is well-developed and slowly comes into his own role as necessary hero, with vulnerability that adds some welcome depth to the horror framework. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After a mysterious black tube slide appears at their school playground, kids start going missing. If Griffin goes down the Black Slide, becoming the first kid to try it out, then bully Ozzie says he will lay off him for the rest of the year. The subsequent surreal, painful, too-long tumble through darkness drops Griffin in an alien world before he snaps back to reality with a broken arm and nightmares for his troubles. In the following days, fifth graders go missing at an alarming rate, their absences unnoticed by adults; two of them Griffin observes go down the Black Slide but never come out. Trying to prevent his hypnotized best friend, Laila, from going down it too, Griffin ends up taking his second trip with her, and they land in the Painful Place, a hard world of rock and metal where children are subjected to painful experiments by the sadomasochistic inhabitants. Accurately described in the acknowledgements as "Hellraiser for kids," the descriptions focus on the way pain feels rather than physical injuries, and emotional pain is given equal weight. Griffin and Laila must find a way to escape and save their classmates in a plot packed with endless dangers and unexpected alliances. The "happy" ending shows the consequences of their ordeals before landing on a final stinger. Physical descriptors of the kids are absent. An intense, disturbing read as likely to give nightmares as to become a new favorite. (Horror. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly rious black tube slide brings unease to the Osshua Elementary School playground, capitalizing on the fear of impending adolescence, in this genuinely bloodcurdling thriller by Ocker (The Smashed Man of Dread). When bully Ozzie Aldridge dares fifth grader Griffin Birch to be the first down the eerie Black Slide in exchange for a year's reprieve from Ozzie's torment, Griffin readily agrees but upon entering the tube, feels like "something grabbed him by the ankles and yanked." After falling for an indefinite duration ("The Black Slide was not this long. Not this long by a lot. And yet he kept sliding"), he experiences a "lifetime inside that darkness," and finally emerges ith an inexplicably broken arm. But that's the least of Griffin's concerns as his classmates begin disappearing at an increasingly alarming rate, including his best friend. While a seemingly singular focus on the sinister elements over character makes it occasionally difficult to connect with the cast, Ocker's contemplative, metaphor-laden narration ("Griffin felt the inevitable next moment like a choking haze in the room") lends pensiveness and gravitas to this dread-inducing novel. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alex Slater, Sanford J. Greenburger Assoc. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—A creepy horror novel that fans of Stranger Things will gravitate toward. When a large black slide suddenly appears on the playground just outside his fifth grade classroom window, Griffin Birch cannot stop staring out at it. Griffin wants nothing to do with the terrifying slide as his classmates start disappearing down it and no one seems to notice. Despite his fear, he follows his friend Laila down through the tube, and, instead off emerging on the playground, they land in a plane called the Painful Place. There, children are experimented on by white, chalky, metal-studded creatures. One of the scariest aspects is how the children in the Painful Place seem to succumb and accept the torture as inescapable. While the pacing occasionally drags, the author builds a vivid universe. Griffin and Laila's friendship is well developed, although there are flat secondary characters. This title may need a trigger warning for some, as Griffin goes through an experience that abruptly makes him relive being physically and psychologically abused by a parent. VERDICT A good choice for libraries where readers are moving on from "Goosebumps" and are in search of something to bridge the gap to YA horror.—Claire Covington

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2323476 Greatest Kid in the World (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by John David Anderson</i> Zeke Stahls is not the best kid in the world. Some days he struggles just to be good.	1	\$19.99



Which is why Zeke and his entire family are shocked when they receive word that he has been selected as a contestant in an online competition to find the World's Greatest Kid. Still, with a \$10,000 cash prize on the line and Zeke's mom struggling to hold the family together on her single-parent salary, he decides to give it his best shot. As Zeke concocts various plots to show the world just how "great" he is, however, he finds himself wondering what that word even means and who gets to decide.

978-0-06-298603-0 Walden Pond Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 13.0

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Zeke lives with his mother, his older sister, and his younger brother. More than three years after Dad's death in an accident, the family is barely getting by, financially and emotionally as well. Generally considered a smart, creative, mischievous boy with a liking for stunts and pranks, even Zeke thinks it's ludicrous when he is named a finalist in "the Greatest Kid in the World competition." The process of being filmed by a cameraman for several days makes Zeke question his enjoyment of risky challenges and reflect more on his actions. Maybe he's endangering his adoring brother. Maybe he's being unfair to Jackie. Almost certainly, he's letting his mother down. What kind of person does he really want to be? The author of *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* (2016), *Posted* (2017), and *Riley's Ghost* (2022), Anderson portrays a middle-school kid with problems as well as untapped resources that can help him pull through. The novel's premise and the understated wit of Zeke's engaging first person narrative make this title easy to booktalk and rewarding to read.



#2222726 **Finding Junie Kim (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Ellen Oh*

Junie Kim just wants to fit in. From We Need Diverse Books cofounder Ellen Oh comes a relatable and powerful own voices tween novel about Junie's road to embracing herself and her Korean heritage. This book was inspired by Oh's family's real-life experiences facing both modern-day racism and heartache and bravery during the Korean War. Perfect for fans of *Other Words for Home* and *When My Name Was Keoko*.

978-0-06-298798-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* Twelve-year-old Junie is determined to navigate middle school with grace, even as she is bullied by students who consider her Korean heritage worthy of ridicule and suspicion. She's not alone, though. Her diverse group of close-knit friends have all been subjected to similar aggressions. After racist graffiti is discovered in the gym, Junie's crew decides it's time to speak up about the abuse, but she thinks that will only bring more trouble. When a school project has her interviewing her grandparents, their stories of perseverance and bravery in the face of both a terrible war in Korea and ongoing racism in the U.S. make Junie wonder if she, too, can find her courage and her voice. The text switches between Junie's first-person narration and her grandparents' childhood stories told in third person, but they're beautifully woven into a captivating whole. Oh notes that this work was inspired by her own family's experiences, and it's an obvious labor of love, shedding light on both present-day problems and an often-overlooked war, tackling extremely challenging subjects like racism, depression, suicidal ideation, death, and even gruesome war crimes. But there is also fierce familial love, supportive friendship, and an undercurrent of hope that buoys Junie in her worst times and helps her endure and grow. Junie's difficult journey is certainly one worth taking. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Her grandfather's story about growing up during the Korean War mobilizes a girl against racism in her own town. When someone defaces the gym of her suburban Maryland middle school with racist graffiti, Korean American Junie Kim at first doesn't want to join her outraged friends in protesting. Instead, Junie, who has been facing the racist taunts of a school bus bully every morning, becomes cynical, negative, and depressed. Her resistance alienates her friends, and she endures a brief bout of suicidal ideation; fortunately, her family finds her a therapist she trusts. A school assignment to interview an elder gives Junie a chance to hear about her beloved grandfather's boyhood during the Korean War. His harrowing tale and her grandmother's similarly traumatic story offer valuable perspective, and she is inspired to take action by working with her friends to create a video about diversity for an upcoming assembly. Extraneous details sometimes slow the story, the dialogue can feel unrealistically expository, and the alternating narration and time jumps are at times disorienting, but the brutal depictions of life during the Korean War, including the desperate hunt for food and the chaos of evacuation, ring true. Junie's love for her grandparents--and theirs for her--is movingly portrayed. Their conversations and Junie's relationships with her diverse friend group sensitively unpack a range of subjects relating to identity and prejudice. An intergenerational tale that highlights a girl's growing confidence and awareness. (author's note) (Fiction. 9-13)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Oh (The Dragon Egg Princess) conveys the legacy of bravery, tenderness, and forgiveness alongside the fallout of intergenerational trauma in a complex novel that touches on gender discrimination and racism, mental health, and imperialism and civil war. Following a series of racist incidents at her largely white middle school, including graffiti targeting Black, Jewish, and Asian students, Korean American student Junie Kim, 12, falls out with her friend group and into a fatalistic spiral, eventually receiving a diagnosis of depression. As prejudicial bullying continues at school, an assignment leads Junie to interview her beloved grandparents, Doha and Jinjoo, about their experiences during the Korean War, an experience that gives her renewed resilience and courage. Oh alternates Junie's first-person tale of a contemporary America replete with MAGA hats and "fake news" with her grandparents' stories of war-torn South Korea, injecting experiences of painful realism through wartime events, ethnic slurs, and a description of suicidal ideation. Junie's healthy and inclusive family dynamic contributes warmth and hopefulness, and her grandparents' backstories and personal integrity in the face of hardship are thoughtfully drawn. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Marietta B. Zacker, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Twelve-year-old Korean American Junie Kim's first morning of seventh grade turns into a police scene when racist graffiti is discovered in the school gym. Junie has been bullied by a racist white boy who calls her hateful names. Back in 1950, Korean children Doha and Jinjoo endure a brutal civil war. The book moves back and forth between then and now, illustrating the evils and effects of war and racism. In this personal narrative inspired by the author's mother's life, Oh writes about the ravages of war and the depths of Junie's depression with unflinching honesty. She seamlessly provides insight into Korean history and culture for the uninitiated and captures the human condition during wartime through frank portrayals of Junie's modern-day struggles. The portions of the book dealing with the Korean War move more swiftly, but Junie's journey out of depression—through friends, family, therapy, and the discovery of her special talent—still develops poignantly. VERDICT A first purchase for middle school and upper elementary collections, Oh's powerful novel sheds light on the devastating effect racism can have on mental health, and tells a history often overlooked.—Kate Fleming, Hosford M.S., Portland, OR



#2263950 **Operation Do-Over (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Gordon Korman

Mason and Ty were once the very best of friends, like two nerdy sides of the same coin. Until seventh grade, when Ava Petrakis came along. Now Mason can trace everything bad in his life to that terrible fight they had over the new girl. The one thing he'd give anything for is a do-over. But that can't happen in real life--can it?

978-0-06-303274-3 Balzer & Bray ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Mason knows how lucky he is to have his longtime best friend, Ty, who shares his nerdy interests and sense of humor. In seventh grade, when both boys are attracted to Ava, the beautiful new girl who takes pride in her geekiness, they make a no-dating-Ava treaty to protect their friendship. Disaster strikes: a bully posts a photo of Mason and Ava kissing to the seventh-grade chat. Five years later, Ty still hasn't forgiven Mason--and Mason has just been expelled from high school. But after a car accident, Mason is transported back in time to his seventh-grade year, and he has a chance to redo the mistake he most regrets and create a different future. Mason makes an engaging narrator, reporting events in a candid, fair-minded way. In the concluding chapters, when he suddenly returns to senior year with no knowledge of what has happened in the intervening time period, it's intriguing to watch him try to pick up the pieces while gradually discovering what he has changed or preserved because of his choices. A rewarding time-slip story. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Seventh graders and proud nerds Mason and Ty share identical interests, which makes a great foundation for a friendship but causes serious trouble when they're both crushing on the new girl, Ava. Despite making a "non-Ava" treaty with Ty, Mason ends up kissing Ava, destroying his relationship with Ty (and eventually Ava). Fast forward five years: Ty and Mason still don't talk to one another, even as high schoolers, but Mason gets a chance to set things right when a car accident somehow sends him back in time into the body of his twelve-year-old self. If he can prevent the fateful kiss, then Mason can save their friendship--but how will the other choices he makes in this "do-over" affect the rest of his life? Korman proves yet again to have a keen ear for middle grade dynamics, especially how new arrivals shift old relationships and how jokey humor can only do so much to soothe wounded hearts. This is also a thoughtfully constructed portrait of a people-pleasing kid whose tendency toward peacemaking often has the unintended result of taking away other people's agency. The ending falls flat, as Mason basically gets everything he wanted with little consequence for some of his more questionable actions, but Korman's signature blend of comedy, drama, and middle grade angst will leave readers with a warm fuzzy feeling, if not an examination of the ethics of Mason's time travel. KQG COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A high school senior tries middle school again. Seventh graders Mason Rolle and Tyrus Ehrlich are more than best friends, they're platonic soul mates. That is, until cool New Yorker Ava Petrakis shows up at Pasco Middle School, befriends them both, and starts flirting with Mason. The boys attempt to create a bros-before-girls pact, promising that they won't ruin their friendship by trying to date her, but when Mason kisses Ava during a freak storm at the Harvest Festival, he sets in motion a chain of events that destroys their friendship and ends with

his getting expelled from school in his senior year after accidentally assaulting his favorite teacher. A near-death experience mysteriously thrusts Mason back to that fateful middle school moment, and he tries to figure out both how he traveled through time and how he can fix his future. Watching Mason learn from mistakes and explore new aspects of himself (especially with a 17-year-old consciousness trapped in a preteen body) is vicariously satisfying, and the sheer fascination of his predicament will keep readers turning pages, anxious to find out if he succeeds. The story ends well but with no conclusive answers to the questions Korman tantalizingly dangles throughout. Main characters read as White. A satisfying story--right up until readers are left wanting more. (Fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Korman (Unplugged) brings smart plotting to an absorbing time travel narrative that examines the long-term impact of actions. Mason Rolle has shared a "two-brain hive mind" with Tyrus Ehrlich since elementary school, initially bonding over a sports phobia and deep love of science and time travel. When new girl Ava Petrakis arrives from New York City and both boys develop crushes, the friends agree to a "non-Ava treaty" to maintain their friendship. But a time jump five years into the future reveals a terrible falling-out between them when Mason and Ava are caught kissing in a photo. Narration alternates between Mason at ages 12 and 17, until an incident sends 17-year-old Mason back to his 12-year-old body and life. Given this opportunity for a do-over, he seeks to right wrongs as well as try new things, leading to a climax in which both he and readers see what, if anything, has changed. Full of warmth and middle grade humor, the novel centers, among other protagonists who read as white, sympathetically flawed Mason, whose chatty narrative proves engaging at both ages, and whose desire to do right by his friend is inspiring. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elizabeth Harding, Curtis Brown. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Twelve-year-old Mason and his best friend, Ty, are obsessed with all of the same things: science, Star Trek, time travel, and—unfortunately—Ava, the new girl in their class. After breaking their "non-Ava treaty," Mason finds himself without a best friend and has to forge his own path. Fast-forward to senior year of high school, where the rift between the two former friends leads to a disastrous incident that gets Mason expelled from school. Driving home, he gets into a car accident and wakes up in his 12-year-old body, just days before Ava arrives. Realizing that he has a chance to make amends and alter the future, he avoids Ava at all costs, joins the football team, and tries hard not to give away the fact that he knows the future. Eventually another head injury transports him back to his 17-year-old body, where he discovers which of his efforts have paid off. Right from the beginning, Korman's storytelling engages readers, who will root for Mason as he tries to preserve his friendship with Ty, keep his parents married, and prevent his dog being hit by a car. While there's not much new ground broken here, there are lots of laughs and chances to consider how people's choices in the present affect their future. Main characters are cued white. VERDICT Just plain fun from start to finish, this story will appeal to Korman's many fans and others who enjoy humorous fiction.—Sarah Reid



#2293138 Sparrows in the Wind (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gail Carson Levine

Cassandra, a princess of Troy and follower of Apollo, is delighted when the god himself appears to her. Apollo asks to love her in exchange for giving her future sight, and she agrees—but recoils when he kisses her. Enraged, the god transforms his gift into a curse: Cassandra's visions will never be believed. After horrifying images of coming war and death pour into her mind and with no one to heed her warnings, Cassandra risks her safety again and again to avert the disaster awaiting Troy.

978-0-06-303907-0 Quill Tree Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Pleased with Cassandra's offering, Apollo gives her the gift of prophecy, but when she turns down his sexual advances, he curses her so she won't be believed. Cassandra then foretells the sack of Troy and her own enslavement and murder -- a grim premise for a novel, but Levine's Cassandra never stops trying to avert the tragic future she sees. Her efforts win her a few crucial allies, including her brother Hector, a minor wind god named Eurus, and (once the Amazons side with the Trojans against the Spartans) the Amazon princess Rin. But all of Cassandra's attempts fail, even barring Paris and Helen from seeking refuge in Troy. Through a clearly evoked Aegean setting, unique customs, and certain poetic turns of phrase, Levine immerses readers in a Bronze Age society, contrasting the strictures placed around Cassandra and other Trojan women with the freedom and agency enjoyed by the Amazons, whose culture is also meticulously portrayed. Cassandra's friendship with the Amazon princess adds another intriguing strand to the narrative. Purists may object to Levine's modifications, but modern readers most interested in grrrl power won't mind. In the end, does Cassandra succeed in saving Hector from death at the hands of Achilles and the city of Troy from the wooden horse outside the gates? I could tell you -- but best to read it for yourselves. Anita L. Burkam September/October 2022 p.89(c) Copyright 2022. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A nonconformist epic fantasy by Levine (A Ceiling Made of Eggshells) centers the events of the Trojan War around two courageous female protagonists. Fourteen-year-old Trojan princess Cassandra worries about the responsibility of acting as kanephoros; balancing a full basket on her head while leading the city to celebrate a god or goddess. Apollo blesses her with the gift of prophecy when all proceeds smoothly; after she rejects his kiss, however, he appends a curse: no one will believe her portents. Cassandra allies with wind god Eurus to forestall the war she sees coming, but a combination of divine meddling and human willfulness, including the malicious actions of Cassandra's twin Helenus, bring it about anyway. As the war rages, the narrative's focus switches to Rin, a young Amazon princess eager to prove herself in

battle. When the Amazons ride to aid the Trojans, Rin befriends Cassandra, and together, the prophet and the warrior work to avoid the terrible future Cassandra has foretold: the enslavement and murder of her family, and the burning of her beloved Troy. Twining the source material with contemporary sensibilities, Levine emphasizes strong female protagonists in a richly imagined, urgently told mythological variation. Ages 10: up. Agent: Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (Oct.)



#2266099 Comb of Wishes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa Stringfellow

Ever since her mother's death, Kela has felt every bit as broken as the shards of glass, known as "mermaid's tears," that sparkle on the Caribbean beaches of St. Rita. So when Kela and her friend Lissy stumble across an ancient-looking comb in a coral cave, with all she's already lost, Kela can't help but bring home her very own found treasure. Far away, deep in the cold ocean, the mermaid Ophidia can feel that her comb has been taken. And despite her hatred of all humans, her magic requires that she make a bargain: the comb in exchange for a wish. But what Kela wants most is for her mother to be alive. And a wish that big will exact an even bigger price...

978-0-06-304343-5 Quill Tree Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 It's been months since Kela lost her mother. Grieving and heartbroken, she pushes away those around her, since no one can fill the void left by her mom. When walking along the St. Rita beach in search of sea glass, or mermaid tears, she discovers a very curious-looking box with a beautiful comb inside. Unbeknownst to her at the time, the comb belongs to a mermaid named Ophidia who wants to get back what is hers. In exchange for her comb, Ophidia offers to grant Kela one wish. Kela immediately knows what she wants to wish for, though Ophidia warns her that every grand wish comes at a price. Is Kela ready to accept the consequences of her wish in order to have her mother back? Stringfellow's middle-grade debut is a wondrous and original story that incorporates Caribbean culture and folklore. Told in alternating points of view between Kela and Ophidia, the novel leads us through a story about family that spans hundreds of years and will captivate readers until the end. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Grieving for her mother's death, twelve-year-old Kela has pushed away her father, her artistic aspirations, and her connections to vibrant life on the fictional Caribbean island of St. Rita. When she finds a box containing an old, beautiful comb, its owner, an ancient mermaid named Ophidia, is desperate to get it back: it's the soul cage in which she treasures the stolen soul that keeps her young. Ophidia offers Kela a wish in exchange for the comb, but Kela's wish that her mother be restored to life has unforeseen consequences, and human interference keeps preventing her from returning the comb as promised, leading to potential disaster for the whole island. Kela's primary narration allows for a harmonious blend of contemporary island life and Afro-Caribbean lore, while chapters focusing on Ophidia draw on elements of Andersen's "The Little Mermaid." The third-person narration of the interspersed sections echoes a rhythmic traditional call-and-response that links the teller and the listener ("I say Crick, you say Crack. Crick. Crack. This is a story. COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

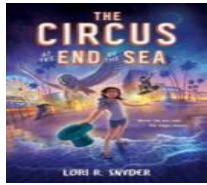
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine After her mother dies in a tragic accident, twelve-year-old Kela Boxhill becomes a shell of her former self. She pushes away her father, her best friend, and her vibrant Caribbean community of St. Rita. She neglects her artistic ambitions because her creative activities remind her of the storyteller mother she's lost. One day, while searching for sea glass on the beach, Kela finds a magical comb belonging to the mermaid Ophidia. Desperate to retrieve the comb because its magical power keeps her young, Ophidia offers Kela a wish. But magic always comes at a price. Kela's wish to bring her mother back has unexpected consequences, and well-meaning adults prevent her from immediately returning the comb as promised, which incites the mermaid's wrath. As the island faces potential devastation from a hurricane caused by Ophidia's rage, Kela must figure out how to appease the vengeful mermaid while also protecting her loved ones, her community, and herself. The story is imbued with magic, but Stringfellow's powerful writing makes the fantastical feel like reality. Through narrative perspectives centering both Kela and Ophidia, the author recalls the call-and-response structure prevalent in Black storytelling traditions. Fans of Baptiste's *The Jumbies* and Rhodes's *Bayou Magic* will enjoy spending time with Kela as she navigates a journey filled with grief, love, loss, and discovery. S. R. Toliver(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young girl discovers a mermaid's comb and is granted the chance of a lifetime. Kela Boxhill is a 12-year-old Black girl from the fictional Caribbean island of St. Rita who enjoys collecting sea glass that she turns into jewelry, something her mother taught her how to do. It's the only activity she has found any pleasure in since her mother's passing left her devastated and adrift. One day, while walking the beach, Kela feels called to explore a cave in a protected and off-limits area of the shore. She discovers an ancient-looking box and takes it home with her. She finds a decorated comb inside and, remembering the many stories her mother shared with her, suspects it contains magic. Unbeknownst to Kela, it is the property of a mermaid named Ophidia, who is none too pleased to have had her precious property taken. According to the rules, the only way that Ophidia can get her comb back is to grant Kela a wish. Will Kela ask for what she most desires--to have her mother come back to life--despite Ophidia's warning of the risk this entails? Stringfellow weaves an enchanting tale of loss, longing, and discovery infused with

Caribbean folklore. Readers will be captivated by Kela's story and become invested in her journey as she tries to deal with the grief of losing her mother as well as regret for her past actions. Will tug at readers' heartstrings. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In her debut, a folkloric fantasy set in Caribbean-inspired island St. Rita, Stringfellow manifests magic strong enough to grant the wish of a grieving heart. Twelve-year-old artisan Kela Boxhill, who is Black, copes with her grief about her mother's death by turning sea glass into jewelry. When Kela hears a hum in the wind one day that leads to a sinkhole in a protected (and off-limits) nature park, she finds a battered box that "breathed a strangeness she couldn't shake," and, inside, a comb that she believes; based on her mother's stories of the island; could be magical. Mermaid Ophidia, the box's owner, becomes enraged when the box is taken, knowing that its absence could lead to her death. But lore requires that Ophidia grant Kela a wish in exchange for the comb, posing a moral quandary that's further complicated when the comb breaks. Stringfellow brings a fantastical approach to one character's processing of grief as, with the support of secondary characters, Kela begins to truly navigate her pain while unearthing the stories and lore that are her heritage. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Lindsay David Auld, Writers House. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Readers will be invested in the twisted tale of Black middle schooler Kela and Ophidia, an aging, vindictive mermaid. Kela is still reeling from the abrupt loss of her mother in a car accident. Her father has been drowning in his grief, and she feels emotionally frozen in place. While visiting the local coral reef in St. Rita one day, Kela grudgingly lets Lissy tag along. The girls used to be inseparable, but Kela has refused to open up to her close friend after her mother's death. Kela feels drawn to an odd object on the coral reef and barely manages to grab the strange item to place in her bag before the tide washes everything away. Through alternating narrators, readers learn that the treasure Kela discovered is a magical comb belonging to Ophidia, who is enraged that someone has taken her comb but is bound under strict magical law to grant a wish to the person who returns the item to her. Of course, the devastated Kela desires nothing else in the world but having her mom back. Kela makes the wish for her mother's return, but would never have guessed the terrifying consequences. Kela's heartbreak rings true as she struggles to navigate healing over her mother's loss. Ophidia's backstory is equally intriguing. Characters are engaging, and the narrative will hook young bibliophiles to the end. VERDICT A unique blend of Caribbean folklore and realistic grief with a vindictive mermaid twist. Hand to fans of mermaid tales, general fantasy lovers, and readers seeking a rare gem in the genre.—Julie Shatterly



#2252314 Circus at the End of the Sea (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lori R. Snyder

Maddy Adriana knows that magic is real. All her life, her heart has pulled her toward things too perfect to be ordinary. One day, that tug leads her to a magical street circus, hidden in plain sight among the canals and boardwalks of Venice Beach.

978-0-06-304710-5 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Parentless, brown-skinned, black-haired Maddy Adriana, 12, has been shuttled from one group home to another nearly all her life. Perpetually known as "the weird new kid," Maddy sees magic in the world, always feeling a tug to follow it. En route to a new group home for sick children on Venice Beach, Calif., Maddy spies an uncanny cat and feels a pull so strong she pursues it through a mysterious white fog, arriving at a magical seaside circus. In the aftermath of the Ringmaster's sudden disappearance, however, acts have grown stale. Maddy, urged by her newfound friend; blonde, pale Vanessa the Muse; embarks on a mission to recover the Ringmaster. Along the way, she encounters wondrous, sometimes frightening experiences: murals and statues brought to life, a roller coaster race through the clouds, and a dangerous bridge, where she confronts an intense manifestation of all her fears and sorrows. Inspired by actual landmarks detailed in an author's note, Snyder crafts a bittersweet, boundlessly imaginative story that emphasizes the bright and dark sides of life. Classic motifs help this enticing debut conjure its own special blend of magic. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Madeline Adriana has always felt drawn to magic, and she's able to perceive magical things that others cannot see. She has spent her life moving from one group home to another, never knowing her real parents. En route to yet another new home, Maddy feels herself led to a pier where she begins a journey through a magical but defunct circus intertwined with the bohemian community of Venice Beach, CA. The motley circus folk enlist Maddy's help to find the ringmaster and restore the show. The book is full of action and page-turning excitement. Maddy's quest keeps her on the move, and readers will be engaged by her hair-raising adventures. However, some of the scene descriptions are a bit lengthy, which breaks the flow of the story at times. There are also conceptual elements which may go over the heads of the target audience. The circus is never portrayed in the conventional sense as a contained show under a big top, so readers may find it difficult to envision a circus mingling with the community around it. Nevertheless, the book is a worthwhile read with positive messages included about perseverance, friendship, and following your own path. Maddy is described as having thick, wavy hair. VERDICT A worthy addition to middle grade fantasy collections.—Kelly Jahng, South Park Elem. Sch., IL



#2363169 Between Two Brothers (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Crystal Allen

Isaiah "Ice" Abernathy has always worshiped his older brother, Seth. For years they've been not just brothers but best friends-and as Seth starts his senior year, Ice is eager to spend as much time with his brother as he can, making memories before Seth goes to college. But when Seth announces he's leaving much earlier than expected, and then he misses an important event-one he'd promised to attend-it causes a major fight. Filled with regret, Ice plans to apologize to Seth later the next day, but later never comes, as he finds out Seth was in an accident-one that leaves him in the hospital. And the doctors say he may never recover.

978-0-06-304729-7 Balzer & Bray ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A Black family must come together following a tragic event in this heartrending novel by Allen (How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy). Worried about his older brother Seth's upcoming departure for Texas A&M on an athletic scholarship, 13-year-old Isaiah Abernathy endeavors to overcome his inner "shy guy" and build self-confidence without Seth's help. When Seth's attending an A&M meeting results in him missing the sibling sports competition which they entered at the local rec center, the brothers have an uncharacteristic physical altercation. Following the fight, a car accident involving Seth and an 18-wheeler leaves Seth critically injured and in a medically induced coma. Desperate to apologize to Seth and believing that "I'm going to be his compass, his light in that dark place. I'm going to lead him back home," Isaiah determines to do whatever it takes to help Seth recover. Rendered in touching prose via Isaiah's empathetic first-person voice, this tender ode to siblinghood showcases the occasional precarity of life's best-laid plans and emphasizes that compassion and familial support can imbue one with the strength and resilience to overcome any obstacle. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)



#2277782 Dear Friends (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa Greenwald

When Eleni comes home from a lonely summer at camp only to get dumped by her BFF since kindergarten, she figures there's got to be something wrong with her. Who loses two friends in the span of a couple of months? Along the way, Eleni reconnects with her across-the-street neighbor, a friend-turned-mean-girl from Hebrew school, and a friend who moved away in Pre-K-and finds herself stumbling into new friendships along the way. But will she ever get over the burn of losing her BFF?

978-0-06-306267-2 Katherine Tegen Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

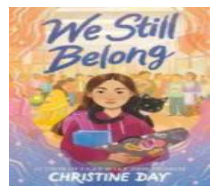
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleni Klarstein, feeling like a friendship failure after Sylvie Bank ditches her, launches a Friendship Fact-Finding Mission to set things right. Leni is looking forward to starting sixth grade with bestie Sylvie by her side, but even before school starts, Sylvie distances herself. Leni is heartbroken--she lost her camp friend over the summer, too. When she thinks about it, other friendships in the past have also lapsed. In this heartening tale, Leni decides to take a long look at friendship by conducting a dedicated investigation. Through her first-person narration, readers feel up close and personal with all Leni's emotions: the pain, the humor, and the shock. As she reconnects with friends past, Leni discovers much about others and how they experienced their relationships with her, and she bravely faces some hard truths about herself. In the process, Leni brings closure to some relationships and develops new ties. It's the rare individual who can take such an awkward, glorious deep dive, and readers will be grateful to go through everything with Leni as their guide. Ultimately, she learns that sometimes the right thing is accepting that relationships grow and change. In case readers need reminding of this, there's a handy list of "Top Ten Takeaways" for being a good friend at the end. Leni is White and Jewish; there is some diversity in the well-rounded cast of secondary characters. Uplifting. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Len, real name Eleni Belle Klarstein, named after her grandmothers, is a soon-to-be middle schooler. Just back from summer camp, she's anxious to reunite with her best friend Sylvie. It's hard reigniting their friendship since it feels as if they have been apart forever, and Sylvie has made other friends. Len feels left out. Her mother is too controlling and doesn't help her navigate the choppy waters of middle school. Len writes in her journal in an effort to understand conflicts, and she tries not to go down what she calls her "worry spiral." In fact, she feels all her friendships have unraveled, so she decides to embark upon what she calls Eleni Belle Klarstein's Friendship Fact-Finding Mission. She will study all of her ended friendships, retrace all her steps and discover what happened, what was her fault, what she could have done better, and most importantly, how to get Sylvie back to being her true confidant. Readers will be amused by the different friend categories Len comes up with, and her dedication to her mission. Len, who is Jewish, is depicted with light skin and dark hair. VERDICT Middle

schoolers trying to navigate ever-shifting relationships will relate to this sweet story. Recommended for juvenile realistic fiction collections.—Lisa Gieskes



#2329977 We Still Belong (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christine Day

A thoughtful and heartfelt middle grade novel by American Indian Youth Literature Honor-winning author Christine Day (Upper Skagit), about a girl whose hopeful plans for Indigenous Peoples' Day (and asking her crush to the dance) go all wrong--until she finds herself surrounded by the love of her Indigenous family and community at the intertribal powwow.

978-0-06-306456-0 *Heartdrum* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Wesley--seventh-grader, gamer, and member of the Upper Skagit tribe--has two important things in her backpack: the poem she wrote for Indigenous People's Day and a card for Ryan from Gamer Club asking him to the school dance. But the school's reception to her poem is lackluster at best, and her perfect plan to reach Ryan keeps getting interrupted by girls she barely knows. Why can't she celebrate her heritage in the way that feels right, not however other people expect her to? And will she ever get to talk to Ryan? Award-winning author Day (Upper Skagit) writes with compassion and precision in this story that digs into the magnitude of small moments. Readers will root for levelheaded Wesley as she navigates familiar adolescent curveballs: family changes, unexpected allies, and the frustration of not being seen. Cozy descriptions, likable characters, and teachable moments animate this occasionally didactic but ultimately heartwarming story about belonging. Acutely relatable and contemporary, this snapshot of a single day in Wesley's life authentically captures the struggle of being 12 and of finding--and using--your voice. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old Wesley Wilder is excited to have her poem, "We Still Belong: An Indigenous People's Day Poem!" published in the school paper. When the time comes, she's unprepared for some of the reactions she receives, for better or worse. The story takes place during one day -- Indigenous People's Day -- with well-timed extended flashbacks and first-person rumination rounding out the characters, setting (Everett, Washington), and main narrative. Wesley lives with her single mother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, and baby cousin; her matrilineal tribal affiliation is Upper Skagit, though she does not qualify for enrollment. She has a supportive best friend, Hanan, and wants to ask a cute fellow gamer to the school dance. Readers learn these details organically as the day unfolds; it's an effective, relaxed way for Day (The Sea in Winter, rev. 3/21) to convey information and endear readers to her protagonist. As Hanan says, when Wesley's poem is discounted by a teacher for not having a "clear thesis statement": "You are enough...You always have been. You have nothing to prove...You're a gamer and a poet and a good friend. You're kind and funny and nerdy and weird." This is a story of quiet determination and triumph, with well-defined characters who push each other and are there for each other, and which culminates in sweet heart-to-heart conversations at a powwow in a high-school gym. An appended author's note provides further detail about the story's setting, tribal citizenship (Day is a tribal citizen of the Upper Skagit Tribe), and names and naming. Elissa Gershowitz(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A coming-of-age story bringing awareness to Indigenous Peoples' Day, "a holiday no one in this school seems to care about." Seventh grader Wesley Wilder, an Upper Skagit Indian Tribe descendant living just north of Seattle, proudly awaits the publication of her celebratory work, "We Still Belong: An Indigenous Peoples' Day Poem!" But when her English teacher doesn't mention her poem, despite always giving extra credit and class discussion time to students who are published in the school paper, she feels hurt and confused. Later, Wesley's plans to ask the boy she's crushing on to the school dance are derailed, adding to her emotional roller coaster. Day (Upper Skagit) crafts believable, complex characters: Wesley lives in a multigenerational Native family, is an outstanding student, a musician, and a gamer. She is kind and helps others in need. Her grandfather's words--"the things that scare us the most in this world are usually the most worthwhile things in our lives"--help ease her vulnerability and self-doubt. This story, which weaves diversity into the supporting cast, incorporates layers of Native identity throughout, as Wesley connects with a new friend who is a young Native activist, learning more about Christopher Columbus. The triumphant ending shows Wesley raised up by family, friends, and community. A rich, captivating story that will resonate with readers. (author's note, note from Cynthia Leitch Smith of Heartdrum, We Need Diverse Books statement) (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly During a "rough patch," 12-year-old Wesley Wilder and her mother move into her maternal grandfather's house in an Indigenous community outside of Seattle, which he shares with Wesley's aunt, uncle, and baby cousin. Seeking a place to fit in at her new school, Wesley joins the Native/Indigenous Student Union and the Gamer's Club, where she meets and crushes hard on white classmate Ryan. But when a teacher harshly criticizes a poem she writes celebrating Indigenous People's Day, and she discovers that Ryan is attending an upcoming school dance with another girl, Wesley struggles with feelings of inadequacy. These emotions amplify when she learns that she can never formally belong to the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe; because her verbally and physically abusive father, who left her mother before she was born, is white, Wesley's "blood quantum is too low to gain citizenship." Upper Skagit author Day (The Sea in Winter) presents Wesley's multilayered emotions, as well as myriad facets of Native life (including citizenship parameters), with crystal-clear prose. Via Wesley's self-aware and astoundingly

perceptive first-person voice, Day highlights everyday tween conflicts about fitting in alongside experiential concerns surrounding identifying with one's heritage in this warmhearted approach to searching for; and finding; community and inclusion. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Suzie Townsend, New Leaf Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Wesley Wilder, whose family are members of the Upper Skagit Tribe, is about to have a big day. Not only is it Indigenous People's Day, but her poem celebrating the occasion has been published in the school newspaper and will be discussed in her seventh grade English class. She has also prepared the perfect card referencing her favorite online game to ask blond-haired, green-eyed, suntanned, good-smelling Ryan to the school dance. The school day does not go according to plan, and though comforted by her best friend Hanan, she arrives home in tears. Things only get worse as her grandpa and mom have a fight about her job, and Wesley learns her aunt and uncle might move out of the house with her baby cousin. In the midst of all this, Wesley makes a new friend and by the time the family arrives at the local powwow, she is looking forward to the dancing and food. Her day has turned completely around and ends on the highest note. Wesley is a believable seventh grader who struggles with family, social, and identity issues as an Indigenous student in Washington state. All of that and more happening in just one day might stretch believability, but there is enough background from past scenes to provide context, and readers will get a well-rounded view of her life. There is also context of Upper Skagit tribal culture and politics to provide even unfamiliar readers an understanding of this central theme. The text realistically touches on discrimination by dismissal, lack of understanding, and complete ignorance, encouraging tweens to consider why Wesley had to write a poem called "We Still Belong." VERDICT A creative peek into the life of a relatable gamer girl who is finding her place in the social and emotional world of middle school while dealing with the ways Indigenous peoples are ignored and celebrated. —Clare A. Dombrowski



#2319911 Creatures of the In Between (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Cindy Lin

Prince Jin is running out of time. He must find a monster companion before his thirteenth birthday or lose the throne completely. And that means travelling to the only place where monsters still live: the legendary, dangerous Whisper Island. But untold perils await Jin there. The magical creatures he seeks are not so easily swayed, and an even greater threat looms on the horizon—one that could threaten everything Jin hopes to achieve.

978-0-06-306479-9 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

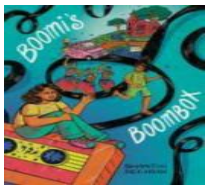
Reviews by: Booklist Lin (The Twelve, 2019) brings to life a lush fantasy world for middle-grade readers to explore in *Creatures of the In Between*. Prince Jin must find a monster companion before he turns 13, or else he must relinquish his claim to the throne of the Three Realms—and thus begins a fast-paced, high-stakes adventure to save everything the prince holds dear. But to find said monster companion, Jin must journey into Whisper Island, the land of monsters, from where most visitors never return. Lin's fantastical adventure follows a determined boy who must defy his given fate as he attempts to approach the monsters on their home turf, win one over, and somehow defeat a greater evil in the process. Filled with detailed settings and descriptions that will engage every sense, plus likable characters that readers will root for until the final scene, this is perfect for fans of monsters, magic, myth, and learning about the stories and heroes of East and Southeast Asian lore.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly mperial family visits a monster-filled island in order to secure the throne in this action-packed, East and Southeast Asian folklore: inspired duology starter from Lin (The Twelve). In the empire of Samtei, also known as the Three Realms, crown prince Jin approaches his 13th birthday and subsequent ascension to the Triad Throne. But tradition requires emperors to gain the trust of a monster companion, and no such creatures have been seen in the kingdom for years; save for his powerful empress dowager grandmother's malicious phoenix. Inspired by an overheard conversation and planning to return with a monstermate, Jin travels to legendary monster sanctuary Whisper Island, joined by his dog, Shishi, and a stowaway servant, Bingyoo. Upon arriving at the island's ruined village, he encounters creatures he's only read about and slowly befriends the handful of people living there following an attack. With their help, Jin learns the art of Whispering, a skill used to bond with magical beings, and finds an even greater conflict than his own looming large. Court intrigue, daring escapades, and quick-moving battle sequences characterize this entertaining read. Though supporting personalities are not as developed as Jin's, Lin's lush descriptions bring her mythical creatures and the mysteries of Samtei's past to life. A bestiary concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Josh Adams, Adams Literary. (Apr.)

#2323623 Boomi's Boombox (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Shanthi Sekaran

When Boomi's dad dies of COVID, the rest of her life topples like a row of dominoes. Then Boomi is given one last gift from her dad: his old boombox. Inside it, she finds a mix tape and a note: You can change your life. When she presses play on the

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99



boombox, her life really does change: she's magically transported to Thumpton-on-Soar, England, 1986. And her dad's there! But he doesn't know he's her dad--he's twelve, just like Boomi. Is she supposed to save her dad? Or change her life?


978-0-06-305158-4 Katherine Tegen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Booklist "Do you know what potential is? Potential is a long, bony finger pointing to everything about you that's not good enough." Infused with grief, joy, and sardonic humor, this tale of a preteen finding out that a note left by her sorely missed father after his COVID-19 death, which reads, "You can change your life," is true in several surprising ways offers a generous measure of comfort as well as entertainment. After failing an audition at her California ballet academy and, as a consequence, being forced into weight-loss plans by her mom, Boomika Gopalan discovers that the antique tape player that came with the aforementioned note is a time machine. Its old tunes keep sending her back to 1986 to meet her 12-year-old dad in a racially divided British factory town, convincing her that she's been given some sort of mission. But what? Unraveling that mystery leads to adventures, bold choices, a climactic Bollywood-style gala in the past, and—with Boomi's reclamation of her own heritage in dance—a buoyant, upbeat ending in the present. Boomi's strong, distinctive narrative voice will sweep readers into her world, and her nuanced relations with a truly colorful supporting cast enhance her tale's humor and emotional resonance.

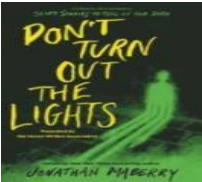
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine It's 2021 in San Francisco, the "second spring of the pandemic," and twelve-year-old Boomi Gopalan is grieving the loss of her father, a physician who recently died of COVID-19. She's also feeling dejected about a botched ballet audition: although she has had ambitions to be a dancer all her life, she isn't selected to move on to the next level at her snobby ballet academy. When she's given her father's old boombox, Boomi discovers a crumpled note in the battery compartment that reads "you can change your life." The boombox transports her back in time to 1986 to a small English town called Thumpton-on-Soar, where she meets her father as a boy. Boomi experiments with time travel, going back and forth as she tries, indeed, to change her life and somehow prevent her beloved father's death. In the end, Boomi learns about the roots of her family's secrets, finds joy in dancing again with the classical Indian dance of Bharatanyam, and fights against the racist treatment of South Asian immigrants in Thumpton. Boomi learns lessons about staying true to herself and her heritage and that a "big change can start with the smallest action of the very smallest person." Sekaran's well-crafted prose, sharp sense of humor, and knack for building suspense will keep readers interested until the surprising, time-bending conclusion. Julie Hakim Azzam (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A grieving Indian American girl finds healing through time travel. Boomi Gopalan has had a terrible year. The 12-year-old ballet dancer lives in San Francisco with her mother and Paati, her paternal grandmother who has dementia. Boomi's doctor father died of Covid-19 last year, and it's thrown her off balance. When his friend gives Boomi her dad's old boombox that contains a mixtape, insisting that he wanted her to have it, she finds a note he wrote tucked inside reading, "you can change your life." By playing the cassette, Boomi travels back in time to 1986 and her father's North of England hometown of Thumpton-on-Soar, where she meets him as a boy her own age. When an accident in the past threatens to change the future, Boomi must reach across the timelines to find a solution. Along the way, she tries to understand her loss and find her true self. The book tackles complex issues, including body image, as both Boomi's mother and ballet teacher make negative comments about her weight; complicated friendships; and racism and xenophobia, explored in 1980s England in ways that parallel Boomi's present-day awakening. Sekaran keeps all the plates spinning at a fast pace. The characters are vividly portrayed, including Boomi's father, his rebellious older sister, and vibrant and wise Paati. Bharatanatyam, an Indian classical dance that is rich in beauty and symbolism, becomes a link between grandmother and granddaughter and a way for Boomi to honor herself. A warm and empowering story. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

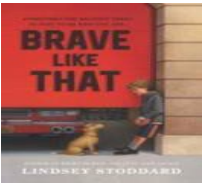
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Boomi is having a hard year. Her dad died of COVID-19, her best friend isn't talking to her, and her mother is caught up in her own grief, making her simultaneously distant and overly involved. She has put Boomi on a restrictive diet and scheduled a "make up" audition to be admitted into an advanced ballet class Boomi no longer has any interest in. In the midst of the chaos, a family friend gives her an old boombox that her father asked him to pass on to her. After discovering a mixtape and a message from her father inside that tells her she can change her life, Boomi plays the tape, and is instantly teleported back in time to 1986 and her father's childhood home in a fictional English town. Though Boomi knows she can't tell her father who she is to him, she becomes fast friends with him and eventually with his rebellious sister, as well as her grandmother, who lives with them in the present but has nonverbal dementia. While jumping back and forth across time, Boomi comes to realize that her experiences in the past are impacting the present, which eventually causes a problem in the 1980s that she must fix to make things right in her own time. Sekaran masterfully balances the harsh reality of Boomi's present with the fantastical elements of the novel. Both time periods read with equal interest, as readers wonder if Boomi can indeed change her own and her family's circumstances. The chapters are themed and structured by the songs on the 1980s mixtape, most of which will be unfamiliar to younger readers but may pique their interest to investigate. All major characters in the family are East Indian and the plot deals with the prejudices of the eras. VERDICT Sensitive captures the isolation of COVID-19 and loss of a parent. Boomi is a relatable, self-aware character readers will be rooting for as she navigates myriad social, familial and personal issues in both time periods. Highly recommended.--Juliet Morefield Copyright 2023 School Library Journal,

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2154685 Dragon Egg Princess (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Ellen Oh</i> Jiho knows better than anyone else the horrors that live deep in the magical forest and how those who go in never come back. Now the ancient forest is in danger from foreign forces that want to destroy it, and a long-forgotten evil that's been lurking deep in the Kidahara for centuries finally begins to awaken. Can a magicless boy, a fierce bandit leader, and a lost princess join forces and save their worlds before it's too late? 978-0-06-287579-2 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This Korean mythology: inspired adventure follows a teenager whose family legacy of magical nullification draws him into the schemes of those looking to exploit his home's resources. In Joson, a kingdom where magic holds strong despite other countries' technological advances, 14-year-old Jiho Park struggles with the expectation that he become a ranger like his paternal ancestors and protect the Kidahara, especially since his father voluntarily walked into the supernatural forest five years ago and never returned. Desperate to help his beleaguered family, Jiho agrees to serve as a guide for Omni Murtagh, a foreign company intent on razing the forest in the name of modernity; little realizing their even darker agenda. On the trail, Jiho must join a long-missing princess and the Kidahara's inhabitants to save the land. The world Oh conjures is populated by diverse and fanciful characters, but the juxtaposition of Jiho's secluded homeland and the modern trappings of the outside world is less effective than one might hope. Slight characterization and inconsistent pacing lead to a hasty climax and abrupt conclusion. Nevertheless, this enjoyable read should appeal to fantasy fans. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Marietta B. Zacker, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (Mar.)

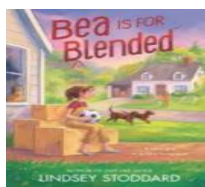
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2168549 Don't Turn Out the Lights: A Tribute to Alvin Schwartz's Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (Hardcover (Trade)) Featuring stories from R.L. Stine and Madeleine Roux, this middle grade horror anthology curated by New York Times bestselling author Jonathan Maberry is a chilling tribute to Alvin Schwartz's Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. A life-size baby doll that stalks its prey. A flesh-hungry ogre who jingle jangles when he walks. A haunted house just dying for a visitor. What do all these things have in common? 978-0-06-287767-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 730</p>	1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine "This book is dedicated to Alvin Schwartz, for scaring the snot out of generations of young readers. And for making being scared a whole bunch of fun!" Maberry has compiled thirty-five short stories by contributors -- Schwartz fans all, per the foreword -- including R. L. Stine, Kami Garcia, Jonathan Auxier, and Tananarive Due. Each tale is creepy, eerie, or just plain weird. Terrifying toys, freaky felines, evil electronics. "The Weeping Woman," "The Knock-Knock Man" "The Green Grabber," "The Neighbor." All the entries are pithy and punchy...perfect to "tell in the dark." Brief contributor bios are appended. Elissa Gershowitz September/October 2020 p.50(c) Copyright 2020. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2162534 Brave Like That (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lindsey Stoddard</i> Cyrus was just a baby when his firefighter dad found him abandoned on the steps of the firehouse. Cyrus feels as out of place as the stray dog who captured his heart. But if fitting in means pretending to be someone he's not, maybe this is the year Cyrus can decide to be his own kind of normal and there's nothing braver than that. 978-0-06-287811-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 272 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A sixth grader who's struggling to find a path forward that doesn't disappoint his adoptive father befriends a bullied boy who's delightfully comfortable in his own skin. His father was a talented football player, so Cyrus believes that if he doesn't succeed on the gridiron, he won't live up to his expectations. But last year was the first year of full tackle, and Cyrus hates it. He finds far greater satisfaction helping out alongside some friendly girls at the local animal shelter, where a stray dog that he befriended has been taken. To volunteer there he must lie his way out of practices and deceive his father, too. Meanwhile, he conceals another serious problem: Even though he reads fluently, he comprehends almost nothing. When his two football-star friends begin to unmercifully pick on puny, smart, and unconventional Eduardo, Cyrus is faced with a daunting challenge. He's convinced he's not brave, but can he find the courage to stand up to his friends and protect the boy he finds understands him much better than they do? Cyrus is movingly supported by his grandmother, who can no longer speak after a stroke but whose love shines through. Cyrus' plight believably expands to seem almost insurmountable, but help comes from surprising directions in this moving, character-driven tale. Cyrus and his family seem to be white; Eduardo is Latinx. With a strong, never-preachy anti-bullying message, this one scores a touchdown. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—When a dog is left at the firehouse where his dad works, Cyrus immediately feels a connection. As a baby, he'd been abandoned there, too. The only person who could soothe him was Brooks Olson, the firefighter who ultimately adopted him. His dad has a strict no pets policy and warns Cyrus not to get attached to the dog he named Parker. The undernourished dog has health issues, and after dropping him off at the vet, Dad instructs Cyrus to forget about Parker and focus on middle school football tryouts. The problem is, Cyrus no longer wants to play football. He hasn't found a way to share the news with his dad, who is also a local football legend. He also hasn't figured out how to explain his struggles with reading. This issue becomes even more troubling when Cyrus is instructed to write a book report for language arts class. Balancing these secrets becomes harder, especially when Cyrus begins skipping football practice to volunteer at the shelter where Parker is housed. When Cyrus is caught in a lie, it is time to come clean with his father about who he wants to be. Stoddard has created complex, heartfelt characters. Cyrus's grandmother, who has lost the ability to speak after a stroke, helps Cyrus navigate his struggles with reading and foster a love for music. The passages featuring their unique way of communicating are extraordinary. His burgeoning friendship with nonconformist new student Eduardo, who is bullied by Cyrus's former football friends, is authentically written, and it's a joy to see Cyrus finding his own voice as he defends him. VERDICT This heartfelt and triumphant novel touches on bullying, stereotypes, and learning differences in a straightforward fashion. Cyrus's journey toward self-acceptance will inspire readers of all ages.—Juliet Morefield, Multnomah County Lib., Portland, OR



#222722 **Bea Is for Blended (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Lindsey Stoddard

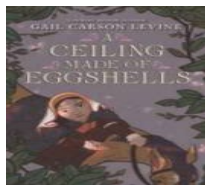
Bea and her mom have always been a two-person team. But now her mom is marrying Wendell, and their team is growing by three boys, two dogs, and a cat. As if finding her place in her new blended family isn't tough enough, Bea's also facing her first year of middle school, where she finds out the girls are just a few players short of forming their first all-girls soccer team.

978-0-06-287816-8 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—Bea's life has centered on her mom, grandmother, and aunt Tam. Now she has to handle a stepdad and three stepbrothers, one of whom is her nemesis from school and the soccer field. Bea juggles complex emotions as she deals with moving, sharing her mom, and coping with Bryce, the stepbrother she tries to ignore. Bea's old life revolved around the women in her family, her best friend Maximilian (who is neurodiverse), and her fame as a soccer star. She doesn't need anything else, except the all-girls soccer team that her school has promised. However, more conflict is on the horizon, in the form of a new soccer-star neighbor girl and the school principal/soccer coach, who is not a fan of the spunky protagonist. A twist midway through includes a new soccer player who uses American Sign Language. Stoddard's dialogue is readable, the story is well paced, and the characters are endearing. The character development highlights overlapping strengths and weaknesses among the various players, all building to create a rich community of schoolmates and family. Bea and Bryce slowly realize they have some common emotional bumps and bruises as they each grow in unexpected ways. Characters' skin tones are not described. VERDICT A little bit coming of age, family drama, sports hype, and school shenanigans all rolled into one for an appealing read.—Linda Annable, Newport P.L., OR



#2271364 **Ceiling Made of Eggshells (Library Binding)**

written by Gail Carson Levine

At first, Loma relishes her adventures with Belo, adventures that are beyond the scope of most girls of the time. But the older she gets, the more she longs for a family of her own if Belo will ever allow her to leave his side.

978-0-06-287820-5 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.89

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This sweeping historical novel illuminates the plight of a Jewish family in Spain during the late 15th century. Precocious narrator Loma is just seven when her facility with numbers endears her to her influential financier abuelo after his wife, her beloved abuela, dies in a plague outbreak. Her status as his favorite proves a mixed blessing and one of the narrative's essential tensions. Loma becomes increasingly indispensable to her grandfather as he travels across Spain collecting taxes for the country's monarchs. As she grows older, however, his requirements of her mean that she must postpone her desire to marry and have children. Infusing her title with historical details about costume, food, and customs, Newbery Honoree Levine (Ella Enchanted) deftly conveys the obstacles facing the Jewish community under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, among them the Inquisition, pressure to convert to Christianity, and eventually expulsion from Spain. Though the narrative unspools slowly, pacing builds considerably in the final chapters as 16-year-old Loma memorably navigates tumult and danger, bravely taking control of her destiny. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Readers first meet Loma, a young Jewish girl living in late 15th-century Spain, when she is seven years old. Readers watch as she navigates life as the granddaughter of a powerful Jewish leader. As the title of Levine's new novel suggests, Spain in the late 1400s was a perilous place for Jewish people. This was the time of the Spanish Inquisition, during which the Jewish community was persecuted and ultimately exiled from Spain. Loma's grandfather is one of the wealthy Jewish figures who uses his connections, money, and skills to help Jewish people and tries to prevent forced conversions to Christianity. As her grandfather's traveling companion across Spain, Loma gets a firsthand look at the superstitions, ceremonies, and sacrifices that governed daily life during a cataclysmic and dangerous time. Loma witnesses, up close, King Ferdinand's and Queen Isabella's efforts to "defeat the infidel," meaning Spain's Muslim people. She also observes her grandfather's efforts to keep her people temporarily safe from harm. Although she loves and respects her grandfather, Loma is also devoted to her parents and siblings and looks forward to being married and starting her own family. She is loyal to her beloved grandmother's memory and is a loving aunt to the "littles," as she refers to her growing number of nieces and nephews. Levine skillfully juxtaposes the larger religious battles taking place in Spain with Loma's dreams for her future. **VERDICT** This story of adventure and bravery under unstable circumstances will appeal to mature readers who enjoy historical fiction and tales of courage.—Shelley Sommer, Inly School, Scituate, MA



#2162533 Zeus, Dog of Chaos (Hardcover (Trade))

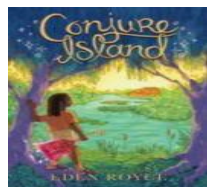
written by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb

Zeus's new human, Madden, is diabetic, and he wants to be invisible, too. And it's even harder because Madden makes this noise called music that gives Zeus funny feelings--and draws attention to Madden as the star tuba player in band. Zeus's mission becomes clear: he must destroy music.

978-0-06-288593-7 Katherine Tegen Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2326408 Conjure Island (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Eden Royce

Del has never even heard of Nana Rose, and she has no interest in spending the summer with a stranger on an unbearably hot island off the South Carolina coast. And when Nana Rose starts talking about the school she runs dedicated to their family's traditions--something called "conjure magic"--Del knows she's in for a weird, awkward summer.

978-0-06-289961-3 Walden Pond Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

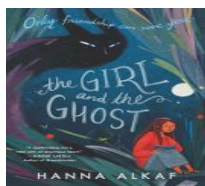
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8 Del Baker has never known what it's like to have a large family, or "roots," as her grandmother says. It has always just been her, her grandmother, and her father, who is frequently deployed. When her grandmother gets ill, Del finds out that she has a great- grandmother who lives on an island in South Carolina. Further surprises arise as Del learns that not only did her grandmother keep her own mother a secret, but she also hid the fact that she comes from a magical community. Del is soon immersed in the enticing world of conjure magic, a branch of magic that stems from her ancestors who were once enslaved. Royce has created a unique world that celebrates the magic and folklore of the African diaspora. This book has a quieter plot than other fantasy adventures, deferring instead to the internal struggles of identity, familial belonging, and friendship. An excellent read for anyone who enjoys getting lost in a world of magic. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Because her father is in the Air Force, eleven-year-old Delphinia Baker moves to a new state every year, making it difficult to form lasting friendships. Del is grateful for the one constant in her life: her grandmother. However, when Gramma falls ill while Del's father is deployed, Del is sent to stay with her great-grandmother, Nana Rose, who runs a school on an island off the coast of South Carolina. Del didn't know she had a great-grandmother -- nor did she know that she comes from a long line of conjurers, spell workers whose magic is tied to the land and the community. At first, Del wants nothing to do with the strange school, but she soon learns that magic is more than incantations and enchantments. Magic is family, community, and life. Still, the mystery remains: why did her grandmother hide the existence of the school, the island, and her family? This heartfelt fantastical novel discusses resonant topics such as belonging, friendship, and grief. Royce's (Root Magic, rev. 3/21) narrative is filled with magic, but the heart of the story lies in its connection to Southern conjure and Gullah Geechee culture. Share with readers who enjoyed Dumas's Wildseed Witch and Clayton's The Marvellers (rev. 5/22). S. R. Toliver(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A family emergency sends a tween to live with a relative she didn't know existed and who holds the secret to her beloved grandmother's past. Eleven-year-old Delphinia Baker is used to being uprooted. Her dad's in the military, and changing duty stations means Del and her grandmother must pack up and move too. However, when Gramma suddenly falls ill, Del's world changes unimaginably. With her father deployed, she's sent to stay with Nana Rose, Gramma's mother, on one of South Carolina's Sea Islands. Nana Rose runs a boarding school dedicated to keeping the lore and traditions of the Gullah people alive, including conjure magic. Del is skeptical about magic, and her worries about Gramma plus the island's isolation weigh on her mind. The school, the teachers, and even the other students feel strange. Eva, Del's roommate, is friendly, but Del is reluctant to open up to her. Soon it becomes clear that the magic is real, and Del is determined to discover why Gramma kept this part of her life hidden. Her struggles to work magic cause her to worry whether she will ever understand her family's past--and land her in some precarious situations. Following her acclaimed debut, Root Magic (2021), Royce offers readers another strong fantasy steeped in Gullah culture, featuring mythic creatures, ghosts, and brooms that facilitate spells. Del is a fully realized protagonist who convincingly changes from a wary observer to a young person embracing her heritage. A rich window into a unique cultural community. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly magical ancestry after meeting a distant relative in this beguiling family mystery by Royce (Root Magic). Because of her father's military career, 11-year-old Delphinia Baker is used to moving every year or so. Though she's never really had a chance to settle anywhere, Del insists that she's fine as long as she has maternal grandmother Gramma ("I don't need friends... I have you," Del says). But when Gramma has a health scare, Del is sent to South Carolina to spend the summer with Gramma's mother Nana Rose, her estranged great-grandmother, whom Del has never met. Nana Rose is nothing like Del expects: she travels on the back of an alligator and runs Vesey Conservatory, a school that teaches conjure magic based in Gullah traditions. While Del is skeptical of magic's existence at first, when faced with ghost butlers, enchantment-casting teachers, and sentient brooms, her disbelief is replaced by two big questions: Why did Gramma never mention this place, and why did she leave it all those years ago? Royce employs Del's observant first-person narration to seamlessly weave together an engaging tale of magic, friendship, and family steeped in Black Southern culture that highlights the importance of knowing one's history. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Adriann Ranta Zurhellen, Foundry Literary & Media. (June)

	Quantity	Unit Price
	1	\$16.99



#2167410 **Girl and the Ghost (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Hanna Alkaf

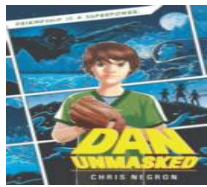
Suraya is delighted when her witch grandmother gifts her a pelesit. She names her ghostly companion Pink and the two quickly become inseparable. But Suraya doesn't know that pelesits have a dark side--and when Pink's shadows threaten to consume them both, they must find enough light to survive before they are lost to the darkness. 978-0-06-294095-7 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 840

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Growing up, Suraya's best friend has always been Pink, a pelesit?a kind of parasitic demon-ghost that feeds on the blood of its host?inherited from her witch grandmother. He's her playmate, caretaker, and defender against bullies, but when Suraya makes her first human friend, Pink feels his relationship slipping away. Flaring insecurity unleashes his demonic nature, plaguing Suraya's new friend with various horrors in an attempt to push her away. As Pink and Suraya struggle to hold on to that which is dearest to them, they discover the tangled roots of a troubled family history, heal their wounds, and grow. Alkaf's (The Weight of Our Sky, 2019) middle-grade debut is unapologetically?and beautifully?Malaysian, its characters, setting, and story steeped in the culture's folklore, language, religion, and food. As a ghost story, grounded in Suraya's and Pink's alternating points of view, it sizzles with tension and safe-but-ghoulish imagery (Pink's MO is unleashing a swarm of creepy crawlers) without letting go of the heartfelt thread of love between a girl and her ghost.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When the witch he is bound to dies, a ghost seeks out her next of kin, her granddaughter Suraya. The ghost-whom Suraya names Pink-is by her side throughout childhood until his retaliation against school bullies and

physically manifested jealousy of Suraya's new friend Jing draws unwanted attention. In a bid to escape a sinister ghost hunter, Suraya, Jing, and Pink decide it's time to find Pink's hometown and put him to rest. Pink's excessive protectiveness and jealousy cause plausible friction with gentle Suraya, whose angelic perfection makes her a rather static character in comparison to her more complex mother and interesting but inconsistently drawn grandmother. Pink and Jing's rivalry is enjoyable once they're forced to work together, however, and Malaysian ghost lore runs alongside pop cultural touchstones such as Star Wars, making an entertaining convergence of the supernatural with the everyday. Even when the narration indulges in well-worn anti-bullying rhetoric, touches of contemporary Malaysian life enrich the background: ethnic and religious diversity, layers of rapid social change, and loving descriptions of food abound, making this a plausible addition to ghost story collections looking to diversify. FHK

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After the death of the village witch, her pelesit, a cricketlike trickster ghost-familiar, must seek a new master who shares the witch's bloodline. Suraya, a lonely, impoverished child who is shunned by the local children and held at an emotional distance by her mother, embraces her pelesit inheritance, lovingly naming him Pink. Pink serves as Suraya's friend and protector, but his retribution against those he believes have slighted Suraya is impulsive and malicious. Disturbed, Suraya extracts a promise from Pink not to hurt others, ever, unless she is in absolute danger. Pink soon breaks his promise when Suraya is bullied by other girls, but when she finally makes her first human friend, Jing Wei, Pink's protectiveness takes a dangerously jealous turn. As Suraya struggles with the decision to cut Pink loose, darker forces remind them that Pink is not the only malevolent being around. Alkaf's middle-grade debut immerses readers in Malaysian culture and food as well as weaving in both Islamic elements and pre-Islamic views of ghosts and death. Though aspects of the novel embrace the disturbing and grotesque (which will delight many readers), its conclusion is grippingly heart-wrenching and speaks to deeper themes of family, trauma, and friendship. Suraya and her family are Malay Muslims while Jing Wei is Chinese Malaysian. A fascinating, page-turning tale. (Supernatural adventure. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2163544 Dan Unmasked (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Chris Negron

After an accident at baseball practice--an accident that Dan is certain he caused--Nate's fallen into a coma. Now, if Dan ever wants to talk to Nate again, he's got to figure out a way to wake him up.

978-0-06-294305-7 HarperCollins Publishers ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Comics and baseball are all Dan needs--before the accident. Things couldn't really be going better for 13-year-old Dan. The Mira Giants have just qualified for the Western New York Double Elimination Tournament, and a new Captain Nexus comic is about to come out. Dan's father is too busy for him these days, but it's OK, because Dan shares comics and baseball and everything great with his best friend, Nate, the Giants' amazing pitcher. So Dan's world seems shattered when Nate is hit with a baseball during practice. Now Nate's in a coma, and Dan's falling apart. Maybe if he and Nate's kid brother make a Captain Nexus fan-fiction comic, that will be the talisman that wakes Nate up? While Nate spirals through rage, fear, and magical thinking, he tries to draw lessons from his beloved comics. But if comics can't save Nate, Dan's got nothing left--except encouraging the now-underdog Giants through a series of inspiring speeches and cinematic epiphanies. Long passages describing the Captain Nexus comics are lovingly detailed, showing a passion for the art of the superhero comic, but these moments drag the action to a crawl; in a visual medium, the dynamism depicted would complement the baseball tropes, but in prose, they detract. Dan and most characters appear to be white, though it's left unclear. Though uneven, stirringly hits every despairing low and thrilling high of a sports movie. (Fiction. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--A story of comic books, baseball, and friendship. Dan and his best friend, Nate, love reading about the comic book adventures of Captain Nexus and the Zone. And the two boys are so close that they can tell by a tap of the nose what the other person is thinking--which comes in handy when Nate, a powerhouse pitcher on their baseball team, is pitching. When their team makes it to the playoffs, they are elated. Then Nate gets knocked out by a ball during practice, and a coma is induced to keep his brain from swelling. Dan is sure that this is the end of their championship hopes. Worse, he believes that he is responsible for the accident and that it is up to him to save Nate. Dan, Nate's brother Ollie, and Ollie's friend Courtney start trying to make that happen, with some surprising help from the comic book creator himself. In the end, readers learn it takes finding their own strength and goodness inside to make things happen. The baseball scenes from the tournament are engaging, and side characters are strong. Both baseball and comic book fans will enjoy this title. Fans of Mike Lupica and John Feinstein will also want to follow this engaging author. Dan is cued as white. VERDICT Recommended for all libraries, this book about sports, comics, and the power of friendship will be widely read.--Deanna McDaniel Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

#2154683 Coo (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kaela Noel

One young girl's determination to save the flock she calls family creates a lasting

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



impact on her community and in her heart.

978-0-06-295597-5 Greenwillow Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Abandoned in a parking lot as an infant, Coo was rescued and raised by a flock of pigeons. If readers are willing to suspend disbelief on this point, Coo's saga will reward them with a heartwarming story of finding family. Ever since Burr got his flock to fly Coo up to their dovecote, the little girl has never left the birds' rooftop home. That changes when Burr injures his wing, forcing Coo to descend and give him to the healer, an older woman named Tully, who feeds and cares for the birds. Coo's tatterdemalion appearance doesn't escape Tully's notice, and she takes in the girl. Noel's debut takes a unique approach to adjusting to a new culture and language (Coo initially only speaks in Yoda-like pigeon), without ignoring practical concerns, like Child Protective Services, adult responsibility, and anxiety. Coo is endearingly strange, and her perception of the human world is fresh and humorous. A subplot involving a city program to curb (i.e., poison) pigeon populations adds drama to what is otherwise an engrossing character study. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Coo was a baby, she was abandoned in a railyard and carried to a rooftop by pigeons, and the human girl has lived in the dovecote on a New York roof with her flock ever since. Then one late fall day a particularly bold hawk, undeterred by Coo's size and shouts, nearly snatches Burr, the pigeon Coo most relies on to look out for her. Coo must venture off the roof to bring an injured Burr to the "healer," but she isn't prepared for how small the sky is when one stands on the ground or just how foreign human language and behavior is. Living with the healer, a retired postal worker named Tully, Coo offers amusing insights into the things humans take for granted from freezers where food is stored in "icy piles of snow behind a plastic door" to beds, "a human's nest." As Tully grows increasingly attached to Coo and worries they will be separated if she reports the girl to the authorities, Coo begins to worry about her flock's safety after she hears that some pigeons are being poisoned. Noel builds an immersive pigeon culture that includes prioritizing the flock over any individual bird and opinions about humans ("Not smart like birds, humans. Very sad, it is"). Coo's final desperate move to help her flock offers a movie-worthy climax to this excellent raised-in-the-wild (well, the wilds of urban rooftops) story that will appeal to a wide range of readers. ML

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Abandoned in Queens, a white human infant was rescued and raised by a flock of pigeons; now it's her turn to rescue them. Occupying an old dovecote on an abandoned factory roof, Coo's flock survives on a dumpster's stale bagels and doughnut crumbs, nesting on shredded newspaper and plastic bags. Coo earns her keep shooing predators away. When Burr, the flock member responsible for her survival, is savaged by a hawk, Coo, who speaks only pigeon (represented as pidgin English), descends to the ground for the first time in order to seek Tully, a human woman (likely also white) who feeds pigeons, restoring injured ones to health. Tully takes Burr and gives Coo her hat, scarf, and food, but she fails to persuade the girl--thin, dirty, clothed in plastic--to come too. Starvation threatens the flock when their dumpster disappears. Again, Coo braves the human world; this time, she lets Tully bring her home, where she finds Burr--alive and healed but permanently flightless. Learning English, Burr and a human friend help Coo adapt. When forces attacking city pigeons threaten her old flock, Coo mounts a desperate rescue. Despite a compelling setting and engaging characters, jarring contradictions hobble this debut. Dumpster diving and scavenging nest materials are detailed with grim realism; bird (and human) droppings are mentioned once. Fantasy's soft focus blurs the hard issues raised--child abandonment, the scourge and plight of urban birds--diminishing their impact. Lovers of animal fantasy may flock to it, but it's not likely to win over genre skeptics. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When a human baby is abandoned near their Queens, N.Y., dovecote, a flock of pigeons raises her as one of their own. Clothing her in plastic bags and feeding her from dumpsters, they name her Coo and teach her to speak pigeon, protect the birds, and fear humans. But when Coo's closest ally is injured, she must risk leaving the roof to find "healer" Tully, who feeds the pigeons and helps birds that are hurt. Though reluctant to trust the woman, Coo seeks her help again when dwindling winter food supply makes her a liability to the flock. Under Tully's care, Coo learns about the human world: its comforts, its language, and its dislike of pigeons. As Tully and Coo discover that someone seeks to hurt the birds, Coo must decide whether she belongs with Tully or the flock that raised her. The story conveys powerful messages about love and friendship, compassion and belonging. Sweetest of all is endearing Coo's steadfast affection and loyalty for those she loves; pigeons and humans alike. With this troop of quirky pigeons whose rooftop world is both strange and familiar, Noel has written a debut replete with hope, humor, and heart. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Katie Grimm, Don Congdon Assoc. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6—The unconventional tale of an abandoned child who is adopted and raised by a flock of New York City pigeons. Coo is left on the doorstep of a guard shack by her young mother. A pigeon squab named Burr discovers the human child in a mysterious bundle. Recognizing it as a helpless hatchling, he convinces his flock to swoop in and save her by transporting her to their rooftop dovecote. Fast-forward 10 years and readers are introduced to Coo's life on the roof. She has survived on doughnuts and bagels, and dresses in plastic bags and newspapers scavenged for her by her bird family. The first time she leaves the roof is to get help for her father-figure Burr when his wing is broken in an eagle attack. She is then thrown into a strange new world filled with humans and terrifying predators in the form of house cats. Coo must learn how to survive in the human world, which gives her the unique advantage to help her flock and all the pigeons of the city when grave danger threatens them all. Though the conceit of the novel pushes the limits of reality, readers will nevertheless shed a tear over the pigeons and root for Coo's success. VERDICT If readers can suspend disbelief that a baby could successfully be rescued and kept alive by a flock of pigeons, they'll find this a charming tale of a young girl raised in the wild being slowly reintroduced into society in the same vein as Tarzan.

Purchase for collections where series with anthropomorphized animals, like Erin Hunter's "Warriors" or W. Bruce Cameron's "A Dog's Purpose," are popular.—Sara Brunkhorst, Glenview Public Library, IL



#2374938 Cats of Silver Crescent (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kaela Noel

With her mother busy curating an art show, Elsby isn't thrilled to be spending a few weeks with her great-aunt Verity. Luckily, she has her notebook and a lush garden to sketch to help pass the time. But a visitor takes Elsby by surprise: a cat standing on its two hind legs and dressed like a sailor dashes across the garden and into the neighboring woods.

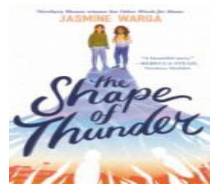
978-0-06-295600-2 Greenwillow Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist When her mother leaves for a work trip, Elsby finds herself in the care of her great aunt in a small Rhode Island town. While keeping busy with her art supplies in the dilapidated garden, she glimpses an incredibly odd sight: a cat on its hind legs, fully outfitted in tiny human clothes. A bewildered Elsby questions the sighting until the same cat taps on her window late at night, desiring a chat. There are actually four talking, walking, attired cats living in the empty residence next door, and they're in desperate need of human help to maintain their magical existence. It's up to Elsby to uncover the town's secrets and aid the fascinating felines before time runs out. Both eerie and enchanting, the story offers a slightly creepy slice of New England life with a feline focus. The atmospheric writing gives the proceedings a fanciful, friendly air, and Elsby is deeply relatable as she navigates new jealousies and responsibilities. Animal lovers will eagerly sink their claws into the marvelous, magical mystery.



#2222770 Shape of Thunder (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jasmine Warga

Cora hasn't spoken to her best friend, Quinn, in a year. Despite living next door to each other, they exist in separate worlds of grief. Cora is still grappling with the death of her beloved sister in a school shooting, and Quinn is carrying the guilt of what her brother did.

978-0-06-295667-5 Balzer & Bray ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Gun violence isn't a topic that has made its way into many middle-grade novels, though it is a reality that too many American children have had to face, if not directly then nonetheless intrusively when enduring lockdown drills. Warga, in her first book since her Newbery Honor-winning *Other Words for Home* (2018), wades into the trauma left by a high-school shooting. Seventh graders Cora Hamed and Quinn McCauley had been best friends since they were toddlers, but they haven't spoken since Cora's sister, Mabel, died. Quinn understands--it's her brother Parker's fault that Mabel's gone--but Quinn has an idea that can fix everything: time travel. The catch is she and Cora will have to work together to make it happen. Chapters alternate between Quinn and Cora's perspectives, gradually revealing the details of what happened the day of the shooting, as well as the complex and messy emotional process of grieving in a healthy way. Warga also touches upon hate crimes, white nationalism, and Cora's struggles with her Lebanese American identity. This will spark meaningful discussions. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Cora Hamed is studious and precise; Quinn McCauley is dreamy and imaginative. That balance has made them the best of friends--until Cora's sister Mabel is killed in a possibly anti-Muslim school shooting, and Quinn's brother Parker is the shooter, who also took his own life. Both girls are immersed in grief for a lost sibling, and Cora acts it out in seething rage against Quinn while Quinn is numbed by ostracism and intra-family guilt and blame, and, of course, neither tween has her best friend to pull her through. Quinn, however, hatches a plan that she's certain will appeal to Cora: they'll time travel back to avert the tragedy, with the tacit understanding that they'll restore their friendship as well. There's no science fiction at play here: both girls find distraction and purpose in researching and seeking out a wormhole and even make an attempt at opening one in a venerable old tree, but readers will realize before either of the girls do that the portal they need to reopen is between themselves. Warga limns a tale that downplays sensationalism while acknowledging the deep fear that many readers may carry regarding school shootings, and she concentrates her focus on healing the survivors rather than excavating specific motives for the perpetrator. An author's note and resources will be included in the bound book. EB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine A dual-perspective novel follows two girls in the aftermath of a school shooting. Almost a year after her older sister was killed in that shooting by a classmate, twelve-year-old Cora still struggles to make sense of life without her. Cora also misses her now estranged best friend Quinn, whose brother, also dead, was the shooter. In alternating chapters, both girls deal with processing their grief and defining their roles at school and at home. Academically focused Cora tries to connect with her Quiz Bowl teammates and her Lebanese heritage, while Quinn latches on to the idea of traveling back in time to prevent the shooting from happening. Quinn persuades Cora to join her in trying to create a wormhole that will allow them to time-travel, but Cora continues keeping her distance until a minor crisis leads them to reconnect and gives both girls the chance to explain to their families what they need in order to make peace with their losses. *Warga* (Newbery honoree for *Other Words for Home*, rev. 7/19) skillfully develops unique voices for her narrators, and the novel's alternating-perspective structure works well. Emotions run high throughout the book without weighing down the plot, and the portrayal of middle-school life is utterly authentic. *Warga* tells a quiet story despite the dramatic events that led up to it, presenting a sad but not overwhelming narrative. Sarah Rettger (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two best friends haven't spoken in the year since the tragedy that upended their lives. Cora Hamed lives with her Lebanese father and White American maternal grandmother; her mother left years earlier. She is mourning the loss of her older sister, Mabel, who died in a school shooting. Quinn McCauley, who is White, is coping with the emotional fallout of her brother Parker's life-changing actions. While Cora's family grieves openly and makes sure she sees a therapist regularly, Quinn's parents fight constantly over who is to blame for what Parker did. The story unfolds in chapters that alternate between the two girls' viewpoints; Quinn's chapters open with movingly honest letters to Parker. On Cora's 12th birthday, she finds a box on her front porch: Quinn believes she has discovered a way to fix everything, but she needs Cora's help. Eventually the two begin to work together on a time-travel project, seeking a wormhole that will allow them to travel back in time and prevent the shooting. Throughout, Quinn struggles with her guilt and a secret she's keeping while Cora struggles with her last interaction with Mabel, wondering whether she can still be friends with Quinn, and understanding the Lebanese heritage she knows relatively little about but that shapes people's perceptions of her. Both characters are well developed, and *Warga* skillfully handles both their delicate, emotional friendship and larger subjects of grief and gun violence. Powerful and emotionally complex. (author's note, resources) (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The longtime friendship of two 12-year-olds; Cora Hamed, who is of Lebanese descent, and Quinn McCauley, who is white; is shattered when Quinn's older brother, having become immersed in white supremacy and misogyny, carries out a school shooting that results in his death and that of Cora's older sister. Though the friends have been close since age two, Cora's grief, explored in therapy, is layered with anger at Quinn over the events. Quinn, meanwhile, is knotted with guilt over her perceived failure to stop her sibling, conveyed through letters she writes to him. When Quinn, an artist who sometimes stutters, starts researching the possibilities of time travel for changing past occurrences, she clutches onto it as a way to "fix everything" and persuades science-minded Cora to join her. Short chapters alternate the girls' voices, tracing each one's struggles to accept her loss alongside the slow, one-step-forward, two-steps-back rebuilding of their bond. The story builds steadily toward a moving conclusion; *Warga's* (Other Words for Home) lyrical language and credible rendering of both middle school life and of the tensions of two families coping differently with personal devastation make for a perceptive, sensitively told novel about the effects of gun violence. Ages 8: 12. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–8—Twelve-year-old Cora's older sister, Mabel, was killed in a school shooting; Cora's best friend Quinn's older brother was the shooter. Told in alternating perspectives, this novel chronicles Cora and Quinn's desperate attempt to unlock the secret of time travel and undo the event that shattered their friendship. The novel confronts readers with devastating questions about school shootings, access to firearms, Islamophobia, and the radicalization of white teenage boys via web forums. Quinn, who is white, is plagued with persistent guilt at the signs she noticed, like Parker calling her a "stupid female" and Cora's father a "nasty foreigner." Cora, whose father is a Lebanese immigrant, wants to learn more about her heritage but fears the way that being Muslim made Mabel a target. *Warga's* characters are full, complex figures who deal with Quiz Bowl practice and first crushes alongside therapy sessions and panic attacks during lockdown drills. This sensitive title holds space for the grief and pain of all of the characters, whether they are related to the shooter or his victims. VERDICT With taut pacing, nuanced characters, and compassionate depictions of grief and trauma, *Warga's* novel is both timely and transcendent; a must-purchase for all collections.—Molly Saunders, Manatee County P.L., Bradenton, FL



#2349532 Treasure Island: Runaway Gold (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Zane is itching for an adventure that will take him away from his family's boarding house in Rockaway, Queens. So when he is entrusted with a real treasure map, leading to a spot somewhere in Manhattan, Zane wastes no time in riding the ferry over to the city to start the search with his friends Kiko and Jack and his dog, Hip-Hop.

978-0-06-299835-4 Quill Tree Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 7.0

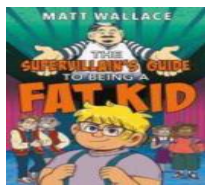
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist "Yeah, I know," young narrator Zane writes. "Pirate treasure in Rockaway? Queens? Ridiculous." But aarrgh, mateys,

there do be a trove of long-lost loot in this modern-day version of the Robert Louis Stevenson yarn! Rhodes doesn't so much rewrite the classic as borrow elements from it wholesale—from the fatal "Black Spot" and a treasure map passed to Zane by a salty old sea captain at his mom's boarding house to a gang of (skateboarding) pirates led by a smooth talking hustler named "John," who is kitted out with dreads, a parrot named "Captain Flint," and a ring of (wink, wink) silver. That map, it turns out, leads not only to rousing "island" adventures aplenty but also to eye-opening revelations about the history of enslaved and free African Americans in New York as Zane; his trusty terrier, Hip-Hop; and loyal friend Kiko Kitaji engage in a breathless round of chases, ambushes, captures, and betrayals in their search for the glittering prize. Along with awesome skateboarding exploits, the author punctuates her protagonist's choppy, fast-break narrative with appropriately dramatic, dark-toned illustrations of figures in tense stances against photographic backgrounds. The whirl of conflicting loyalties, quick pacing, acts of courage and cowardice, pirates, and high stakes create the same rich, compelling mix that makes the original such a timeless read.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews a classic centering a majority Black cast, a boy's search for riches leads him to lesser-known parts of American history. After his father's untimely death, Zane's mother takes in boarders to make ends meet. Zane has mixed feelings about one of them, the enigmatic "Captain Maddie of the Turbulent Underground Sea," and her strange ramblings and warnings. But as her predictions materialize, their bond cements. What about her instructions to "sail on that board of yours. Find the treasure"—is there really treasure waiting to be found? Zane's friends Kiko (who is Japanese and Black and from a prosperous home) and Jack (whose trucker father is an abusive alcoholic), plus Zane's feisty pup, Hip-Hop, set off to explore Manhattan, with the kids on their skateboards. Guided by an old, riddle-filled map, they visit several sites of historical events with echoes of the past. But they're not the only ones interested in treasure, and they don't know whom they can trust. Whether or not readers are familiar with Robert Louis Stevenson's original, they'll be drawn into this accessible, action-packed adventure, full of mysteries, pirates, skateboard drama, and a whole new underground world. The artful, verse-like sentence structures intentionally and effectively evoke the "resonance and rhythm of the African American oral tradition." Select scenes are represented with appealing full-page illustrations. Daringly honors old heroes, stunningly integrating past and present with pitch-perfect success. (skateboarding trick glossary, historical note) (Adventure. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Following his father's death, Black middle schooler Zane's mother must take in several boarders; "all of them old, smelling of Vicks VapoRub and mothballs"; to afford their Queens home. But the bills still pile up despite the extra income, and Zane worries that he and his mother will be evicted. One of the boarders, elderly Captain Maddie, who claims she has a hidden treasure, urges Zane to protect her hoard before dying suddenly. In her room, Zane finds an old treasure map of Manhattan containing mysterious clues, and Zane; accompanied by his two best friends and his dog Hip-Hop; subsequently embarks on an epic treasure hunt. While attempting to evade a group of skateboarders intent on stealing the map and claiming the treasure for themselves, Zane and company encounter an enigmatic man named John who offers to help piece together the clues. As the mission grows more treacherous, Zane must determine whom to trust. In this contemporary spin on Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, Rhodes (*Paradise on Fire*) employs lush descriptive language and engaging dialogue teeming with historical facts, and crafts a sincere protagonist whose compassion for others radiates from the pages of this high-octane romp. Ages 10: up. Agent: Michael Bourret. Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (Oct.)



#2264075 Supervillain's Guide to Being a Fat Kid (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Matt Wallace

Max wishes he could fight back, but he doesn't want to hurt Johnny . . . just make him feel the way Max feels. In desperation, Max writes to the only person he thinks will understand: imprisoned supervillain Master Plan, a "gentleman of size." To his surprise, Master Plan wants to help! He knows what it's like growing up with everyone only thinking of you as the "fat kid," and suggests a way for Max to get even with Johnny Pro, and change how the other kids at school see them both.

978-0-06-300803-8 Katherine Tegen Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 7.0

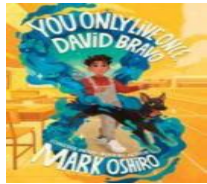
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A fat boy battles bullies in a tale full of villains, heroes, bullies, and good guys. Maxwell Tercero is 11 and in his first year of middle school--where he finds that, just like elementary school, things are no fun for a fat kid. He is mercilessly and cruelly bullied by older students, led by popular eighth grade athlete Johnny "Johnny Pro" Properzi, and while Max doesn't necessarily want to hurt Johnny, he does want to give him a sense of the pain he's causing. Max eventually reaches out to incarcerated supervillain Maximo "Master Plan" Marconius III, who is also fat and who agrees to help Max change his life, inside and out. Master Plan helps Max along his own journey to body positivity, as well as toward victory over the bullies, with some very good advice. However, this help does not come without strings attached, and things rapidly spin out of control for Max, his friends, and others. Body positivity is usually the province of books about girls, so it is refreshing to see the focus here on a boy. Master Plan understands what it's like to be dismissed as the fat kid, and his advice is so good it is a shame that he is writing from prison. Main characters read as White. An exciting romp full of good advice and featuring a fun protagonist. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old baking enthusiast Max Tercero, who is fat and reads as white, hopes that his first year at Captain

Clobbertime Memorial Middle School will offer a respite from being bullied for his size. But when he becomes the favorite target of school water polo captain Johnny "Johnny Pro" Properzi, he knows that nothing has changed. Desperate, Max seeks advice from Maximo "Master Plan" Marconius III, an incarcerated supervillain and fellow "gentleman of size and intellect," who once took on environmentally conscious escapades. Receiving Master Plan's covert email guidance, Max begins gaining confidence and readying to take down Johnny Pro by using Johnny Pro's increasingly aggressive behavior against him, all while navigating the anxieties of middle school, including the locker room and new and changing friendships. An epistolary conceit is well deployed here, creating a safe space for Max to voice his concerns and gain needed empathy and wisdom from an understanding (if not necessarily trustworthy) adult. Confronting the assumption that physical appearance correlates to morality or worth and reinforcing the idea that individual choices and actions show a person's true self, Wallace (Bump) writes a triumphant arc of self-acceptance that extends to developing personal ethics and boundaries. Ages 8: 12. Agent: DongWon Song, Howard Morhaim Literary.(Jan.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness The Supervillain's Guide to Being a Fat Kid by Matt Wallace (Bump) is heartfelt, reassuring and gracefully humorous, and spotlights the benefits of body positivity via a clever protagonist desperate to assert his worth. Eleven-year-old Max is bullied for being fat. He won't tell teachers ("what they think is bullying is a lot different from what I think it is") or his mom (her getting sad won't help him) so he writes to his hero, a fat supervillain named Master Plan, asking for advice. "Other kids don't see me the way I see me," shares Max, who wants his classmates to give him a chance. What ensues is a dynamic mentor-apprentice relationship that equips Max with the faculty to ward off his nemesis and befriend his crush. As his bullies' attentions drift away, his fear subsides. But soon, he's not sure that being left alone is a big enough goal. Max's authentic voice shows the difficulties victims of bullying endure--he avoids normal activities (changing for PE class, looking in mirrors) and copes by cooking because it "shut[s] his brain off"--and his struggles ("anything cool is never in my size") acknowledge social discrimination against fat people. Luckily, Master Plan is there to correct harmful stereotypes, like "people of size are weaker or less intelligent" than their thinner peers. This fun, well-paced and smartly structured middle-grade novel is packed with insightful commentary on how simply existing when different can be a challenge. Wallace exemplifies how, with the necessary support system, tools and motivation, kids can regain or maintain self-esteem when allowed to harness their individuality. COPYRIGHT(2022) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2288355 **You Only Live Once, David Bravo (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Mark Oshiro

Middle school is the worst, especially for David Bravo. He doesn't have a single class with his best (and only) friend, Antoine. After he injures Antoine in a cross-country accident, he just wishes he could do it all over. He doesn't expect his wish to summon a talking, shapeshifting, annoying dog, Fea, who claims that a choice in David's past did set him on the wrong timeline, and she can take him back to fix it.

978-0-06-300815-1 HarperCollins Publishers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 In a determined exploration of intersectional identities and self-understanding, seventh-grader David grabs the chance to travel back in time--not only in hopes of repairing a rift in a closer-than-ordinary friendship with classmate Antoine, but to learn more about his birth parents. Unfortunately, Juanita, his guide, is a spirit of the dead with annoying habits and unfinished business of her own, and David's repeated efforts to fix things only seems to make them worse. Oshiro plays much of this as comedy, but it's David's growing frustration and confusion that will stand out most sharply for readers--that, and perhaps how lucky he is both in his loving adoptive parents (one Japanese American, the other of Mexican and Brazilian descent), who gladly pitch in to help him investigate his Latinx background and the circumstances of his closed adoption, and in steady Antoine. It's David's belated understanding that real change is based not on past choices but future ones that fuels a memorably heady sense of possibility at the upbeat close. A fresh, strong workout for the well-used Groundhog Day premise. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

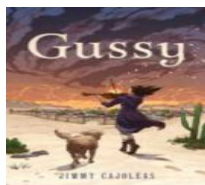
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books for chronically indecisive David Bravo, and with his best friend Antoine Harris now in at her class, David's anxiety quickly gets the better of him. He flubs a presentation about his family history, unnerved by questions he can't answer about his closed adoption, and then a bad batch of cafeteria spinach makes him so woozy he trips Antoine during their pivotal cross-country placement run. David just wants a do-over, and that's exactly what Fea, a chaotic, shapeshifting entity working for the Powers That Be, grants him. But David's do-over (and then repeat do-overs) lead to unintended consequences across timelines, leaving him and Fea to navigate identity, regret, and love as they fix both the present and the future. Dates and times at the start of each chapter helpfully keep readers largely oriented across the timeline jumps, as Fea drops David into new timelines without context for what has been altered based on the things he changed. Oshiro maintains their eye for intentional, thoughtful diversity among David's classmates and family in the Riverside, California, setting, and it's especially welcome to see how keen David's parents are to help their son navigate his identity, including his Latinx heritage and his sexuality. David believably doesn't put a label on his growing feelings for Antoine, but Oshiro includes a decades-old queer love story that develops Fea beyond her role as the funny, if sometimes grating, sidekick. Multiple ending twists provide feel-good closure to all involved, leaving David with a newfound appreciation of himself and the people he loves. AMM COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews David Bravo is having the worst day ever when a time-traveling dog shows up and offers him a chance to do it all

over. Tuesday, Sept. 12, truly takes the cake as the most awful day of 11-year-old David's entire life. It starts with him anxiously fumbling through his first middle school presentation about his heritage: He has a Brazilian and Mexican American father and a Japanese American mother from Hawaii, and he has difficulty explaining that he is adopted. This is followed by an embarrassing food-poisoning incident that ends with David's causing an accident that hurts his best friend Antoine's ankle during cross-country practice. His wish to redo everything is granted by the arrival of Fea, a talking, shape-shifting dog who says her new mission is to help David repair his timestream. His first thought is to fix things for Antoine, worried their friendship may be on the line, but when that doesn't help, David and Fea end up going back and forth in time trying to make things right. This funny, brave, charming novel is packed full of delights. The plot goes to utterly unexpected and beautiful places in a journey about heritage, culture, choice, and, above all, love and connection. David learns to navigate the many aspects of his identity--his anxiety, his budding romantic feelings for Antoine, and his background as a Latinx by birth--and brings the entire well-developed, diverse cast of characters together while doing so. A joyful, surprising, time-traveling delight. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In California, an 11-year-old given the chance for a redo makes mistakes over; and over; again in a joyful novel with a pick-your-path vibe. For David Bravo, a transracial adoptee of Latinx descent, the first week of middle school is riddled with mistakes and disappointments: he gets food poisoning from hot-lunch spinach, accidentally hurts his closest friend during cross-country, and is bullied about his adoption during a presentation on family heritage. The solution to his do-over desires shows up at his back door: a magical hairless hound, Fea, who communicates telepathically and can send him into the body of his past self. For David, it's the perfect way to fix his relationship with his best friend; for Fea, it's another step toward finishing her job as a "non-corporeal timeline guide." As Fea and David endeavor to repair his timeline, it rapidly becomes apparent that fixing small mistakes is not what destiny has in store. Through turns both lighthearted and deeply moving, Oshiro (The Insiders) identifies how day-to-day choices ("Do I quickly make a decision before desks are occupied? Oh, absolutely not") can have long-term effects in this novel of self-discovery that reminds readers: "The future is unwritten.... That's always up to you." Ages 8: 12. Agent: DongWon Song, Howard Morhaim Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—After a disastrous start to middle school, a talking dog offers David Bravo the chance to go back in time to fix the moment where it all went wrong—if only David could pinpoint where that moment was. Was it the school assignment about his culture and where he comes from? Or an unfortunate food poisoning incident that ruins his best friend's chance at making varsity cross-country? David keeps reliving certain moments up and down his time line, but instead of fixing things, he just keeps making them worse. Along the way, David must confront his feelings about his identity as a transracial adoptee (his mom is Japanese American and his dad is Mexican-Brazilian-American, his biological parents were Latinx, but the adoption was closed) and the true nature of his feelings for his best friend Antoine. Through his discussions with Fea, his "non-corporeal time line guide" (who, in addition to appearing as a dog, also shows up as a mosquito, giraffe, and several other animals to great comedic effect) and her backstory, he learns that sometimes it's not past decisions, but future ones that matter most. VERDICT A funny and unexpected twist on the time loop novel with moving and memorable results.—Jennifer Rothschild



#2256729 **Gussy (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by **Jimmy Cajoleas**

Being a village Protector is a big job, even if Grandpa Widow makes it look easy. On her very first night in charge, a mysterious newcomer arrives in search of shelter, forcing Gussy to break the number one rule of being a Protector: When the sun goes down, keep the gates shut.

978-0-06-300877-9 *Quill Tree Books* ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

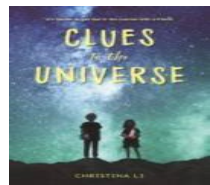
Grades 4 - 7 *Dewey# Fic*

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A young ritualist with an outsize sense of duty attempts to hold her own in Cajoleas's (Minor Prophets) rambling frontier fantasy. For the residents of an unnamed desert outpost within Darkling Valley, all that keeps them safe from lurking supernatural force The Great Doom are Grandpa Widow and orphaned protegee Gustavina Mithridates Pearl; Gussy; two protectors tasked with performing granular daily Rites meant to ward off infection. When Grandpa Widow is summoned by the powerful Council of Protectors, Gussy is charged with shielding the town on her own, a task that becomes exponentially more precarious after she in a sympathetic moment that directly violates a Rite; opens the town gates after dark, welcoming a lone girl in during a terrible desert storm. Gussy's belief structure and colloquial narration dominate the novel's languid first act. Though secondary characters lack the detail of Gussy's daily rituals, Cajoleas gracefully builds to a rousing climax, portrayed alongside a refreshingly positive message of grit, gumption, and community. All characters are cued as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jessica Regel, Foundry Media. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Part fantasy, part dystopian tale, this is a unique, genre-bending story of friendship, trust, and found families. Gussy is a determined, independent girl who is in training as the protector of her village out in the desert. The Great Doom has been fought off by her Grandpa Widow for many years, so when he suddenly gets called away, Gussy is left to defend the town against this dark and magical force. The biggest rule of them all is not to open the gate after dark, so when Gussy does (to save a life), she has to face the repercussions. Gussy's strong personality and unwavering commitment to her grandfather, against common sense, may turn off some readers. There are also points in the story where the characters become possessed by the Great Doom, which switches this story from fantasy and dystopian to pure horror,

with humans crawling on top of the ceiling and hissing. Even with repetitive plot points, the story moves along quicker in the second half, and there is a happily ever after for all the characters that will leave readers satisfied. VERDICT Fans of fantasy and horror may enjoy this unique tale, but some shortcomings may cause it to fall flat for others.—Erin Decker, Discovery Intermediate School, Altamonte Springs, FL



#2196160 Clues to the Universe (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christina Li

Benjamin "Benji" Burns doesn't like science, but he can't get enough of Spacebound, his favorite comic book series. When he finds a sketch that suggests his dad created the comics, he's thrilled. Too bad his dad walked out on the family years ago and Benji has no way of contacting him.

978-0-06-300888-5 Quill Tree Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist two disparate seventh graders find themselves pulled into each other's orbit. Ro, a science/space fanatic and excellent student, is adjusting to a new school and life without her recently deceased father. Benji, a talented artist but disinterested pupil, is preoccupied with a series of comics written by the father he never knew. A chance mix-up sparks a careful confidence between the two quiet kids, and their rapport grows to a place where they reveal their secrets: Ro plans to finish an enormous rocket she'd been constructing with her dad, and Benji seeks to reunite with his father. The pair join forces to see things through, all while navigating the maze of middle school. This sweet story tackles big subjects--bereavement, growing up in a mixed-race family, familial estrangement--with a light touch, grounding the quirky characters in warmth and humor. It's impossible not to root for Ro and Benji as they discover the fun of imperfection, the wisdom that comes with failure, and the joy to be found in unexpected friendships. COPYRIGHT(2020) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books After his best friend moved away, Benji has no one with whom to talk comics, particularly Spacebound, a series created by his out-of-contact father. A serendipitous mixup creates an avenue for a friendship with a brilliant new student, Ro, whose father was killed by a drunk driver. The two combine forces on their individual goals: Benji wants to reunite with the father he hasn't seen since he was four; and Ro wants to finish the rocket she had been building with her father and enter the regional science fair (and launch his belongings into space). Chapters alternate narration between Benji and Ro, making seamless shifts in points of view in this story set in the space-shuttle era of the early 1980s. While Ro's intelligence is always on display, Benji's talent for drawing has to be coaxed into the spotlight (and ultimately admired by his father). There's a clever echo in the plot of Spacebound itself, which involves the heroine's finding her father, and it's plausible that in his yearning Benji takes this as a sign to find his own dad. Benji's quiet hopefulness coupled with Ro's reasoning skills make this novel's premise believable, right down to the way each discovers and navigates their faults. Interestingly, the book ends as it starts, with a friend moving, but this time the protagonists know that connection is not lost with distance. QB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An aspiring scientist and a budding artist become friends and help each other with dream projects. Unfolding in mid-1980s Sacramento, California, this story stars 12-year-olds Rosalind and Benjamin as first-person narrators in alternating chapters. Ro's father, a fellow space buff, was killed by a drunk driver; the rocket they were working on together lies unfinished in her closet. As for Benji, not only has his best friend, Amir, moved away, but the comic book holding the clue for locating his dad is also missing. Along with their profound personal losses, the protagonists share a fixation with the universe's intriguing potential: Ro decides to complete the rocket and hopes to launch mementos of her father into outer space while Benji's conviction that aliens and UFOs are real compels his imagination and creativity as an artist. An accident in science class triggers a chain of events forcing Benji and Ro, who is new to the school, to interact and unintentionally learn each other's secrets. They resolve to find Benji's dad--a famous comic-book artist--and partner to finish Ro's rocket for the science fair. Together, they overcome technical, scheduling, and geographical challenges. Readers will be drawn in by amusing and fantastical elements in the comic book theme, high emotional stakes that arouse sympathy, and well-drawn character development as the protagonists navigate life lessons around grief, patience, self-advocacy, and standing up for others. Ro is biracial (Chinese/White); Benji is White. Charming, poignant, and thoughtfully woven. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Debut author Li explores themes of bullying and cultural identity, volleying between two seventh grade narrators who, on the first day of school in 1984 Sacramento, mistakenly switch folders in science class. Budding scientist Ro, who is "exactly half Chinese, a quarter Scottish, and a quarter Irish," lives with her mother and dreams of sending a rocket to space to honor her late father. Benji, a talented white artist who's not fond of school, is obsessed with comics series Spacebound, which he's convinced is authored by his absentee father, whom he thinks is communicating with him through the story. After the swapped folders lead to a friendly bond, the pair strike a deal: Ro will help find Benji's dad if Benji helps Ro build a science fair: winning rocket. But with a bully in their class determined to thwart them both and their plan hitting roadblocks, their friendship suddenly seems anything but certain. Though the plot unfolds slowly into a predictable arc, alternating first-person chapters provide insight into each character's fears, worries, and hopes, creating two compelling, relatable protagonists who recognize the strengths in their differences and help each other forge new paths forward. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jessica Regel, Foundry Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Twelve-year-olds Ro and Benji are both having a rough start to the school year. Ro's father

recently died, and her mother can no longer afford her private school tuition. Transferring to a school where she knows no one proves difficult, and overhearing conversations of students trying to guess her biracial ethnicity (she is white and Chinese) is painful. Benji, who is white, is lonely and aimless because his best friend, Amir, moved across the country. When Ro and Benji begin working on a science fair project together, an unlikely friendship is formed. While the two are very different in terms of personality and interests, they bond over the shared experience of not having a father. The combination of Ro's aptitude for science and logic and Benji's artistic talents and laid-back personality results in a good team. Soon the two are working on more than a science fair project. They are helping each other fulfill a dream that will bring them closer to their absent fathers—building the rocket Ro and her dad were going to work on together and tracking down Benji's comic book creator father. Since the story is set in the 1980s, before use of the internet was widespread, finding Benji's father is no easy task. The novel feels contemporary, so the setting may be somewhat confusing for readers who don't understand the technological limitations. Ro and Benji alternate narration, which helps the reader see their evolving perspectives of each other and provides a mechanism for telling their backstories. The book would have benefited from a stronger distinction between the two voices, though a heading at the beginning of each chapter indicates which character is speaking. It is refreshing to see a strong friendship between female and male characters depicted in a middle grade novel; it's the authenticity of this relationship that drives the heart of the story. VERDICT The message of resilience, courage, and friendship will resonate widely with young readers. Themes touched on include grief, fears, bullying, and identity, making the work highly discussable and a good candidate for classroom use.—Juliet Morefield, Multnomah Cty. Lib., Portland, OR



#2323585 Ruby Lost and Found (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christina Li

Thanks to her Ye-Ye's epic scavenger hunts, Ruby Chu knows San Francisco like the back of her hand. But when he dies, she feels lost. She finds herself working with Liam, who might not be as annoying as he seems, to help save a historic Chinatown bakery that's being priced out of the neighborhood. Alongside Nai-Nai, who is keeping a secret that threatens to change everything, Ruby retraces Ye-Ye's scavenger hunt maps in an attempt to find a way out of her grief--and maybe even find herself.

978-0-06-300893-9 Quill Tree Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

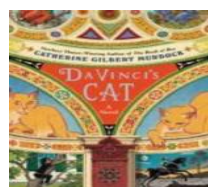
Reviews by: Booklist Grieving for her beloved grandfather, who died in January, 13-year-old Ruby also misses her two best friends (one moved from San Francisco to New York City, the other to the girls' soccer table in the lunchroom). Still, in retrospect, getting caught ditching school during lunchtime just weeks before summer vacation wasn't smart, as her parents grounded her until summer, which she must spend mainly with Nai-Nai, her grandmother, who lives nearby in Chinatown. Gradually, she begins to enjoy being with Nai-Nai and her friends at a nearby senior center and getting to know a classmate who volunteers there. Ruby's concerns about Nai-Nai's memory escalate when her grandmother gets lost close to home. Eventually, Ruby's parents begin to readjust their thinking. Reflecting Li's knowledge of Chinese American immigrant culture, Ruby's first-person narrative is particularly engaging when she begins retracing her steps from her grandfather's legendary scavenger hunts and, with her grandmother, shares a moment of healing and unity with the past. Vividly imagined characters, relationships, and family dynamics are at the heart of this involving novel, in which building tension causes troubles that seem to dissipate but then lead to a crisis that cannot be ignored. A moving, intergenerational story with a narrator who becomes increasingly aware of others.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Thirteen-year-old Ruby Chu is grieving the death of Ye-Ye, her paternal grandfather, who would devise elaborate scavenger hunts around San Francisco's Chinatown for her. Ruby has also lost her best friends Mia, who moved away, and Naomi, who has become closer with her soccer teammates. Even her sister, Viv, is moving across the country for college at the end of the summer. When Ruby gets caught ditching school, her parents send her off to Nai-Nai's house for the summer. She spends the weekdays with her grandmother, visiting her friends ("a bunch of old Chinese ladies") at the senior center, making tea, and watching Chinese dramas. An otherwise boring summer is interrupted when a newcomer, Liam, also no stranger to grief, appears at the senior center with his Maa-Maa. Summer slowly rolls on, Nai-Nai begins exhibiting signs of dementia, and Ye-Ye's favorite bakery, a staple of Chinatown, threatens to close due to development. What begins as an isolating and overwhelming journey through grief turns hopeful as Ruby makes new friends, opens up to the people she loves most, and learns that she doesn't have to navigate change alone. Gabi Kim Huesca(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Big feelings are uncomfortable but to be expected in this story of finding joy and community amid change and loss. With her best friend, Mia Ortega-Anderson, moving across the country to New York, Chinese American Ruby Chu was already afraid of seventh grade, but nothing prepared her for another close friend drifting away and the unexpected death of her beloved paternal grandfather. After Ruby's caught ditching school, her parents decide she'll spend summer weekdays with Nai-Nai, her paternal grandmother. At first reluctant to stay somewhere her grandfather is noticeably absent, Ruby's walls lower as she and Nai-Nai speak openly about their grief. As Ruby begins to open up and find a comfortable routine, more big changes threaten her fragile sense of safety. When a family friend's bakery is poised for closure, Ruby and classmate Liam Yeung set out to save it. The San Francisco Chinatown community is realistically presented: Mandarin and Cantonese are spoken, not every older adult is an immigrant, and a variety of professions and experiences are portrayed. It's unclear if impulsive, restless Ruby, who struggles in school, is neurodiverse or just stands out compared to the rest of her driven, focused family. Readers will identify with Ruby's roller

coaster of emotions amid the challenges of growing up: loved ones leaving, friendships waning, and fitting into the world authentically. Ruby is incredibly self-aware, and her emotions are given space and validity without excusing harm done. Empathetic and emotionally intelligent. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In an affecting contemporary novel from Li (Clues to the Universe), Chinese American Ruby Chu, 13, struggles to process the death of her beloved paternal grandfather, Ye-Ye; her sister's impending departure for college; and the splintering of her friend group. After Ruby gets in trouble for ditching school, her parents decide that she will spend summer weekdays and weeknights with her Nai-Nai, who lives near San Francisco's Chinatown. Despite some initial awkwardness, Ruby finds comfort and stability in the routine of visiting Nai-Nai's friends at the senior recreation center, where she also befriends schoolmate Liam Yeung. But the news that May's Bakery; a Chinatown institution as well as a beloved spot for Ruby and Ye-Ye; may sell to developers, and Nai-Nai's worsening memory, threaten Ruby's fragile peace. Interspersing the present-day narrative with past scenes of Ruby and Ye-Ye's time together, Li balances youthful optimism as Ruby and Liam seek to save the bakery with harder realities as Ruby contends with her guilt about Ye-Ye's death and her own grief. It's an economically told, emotionally driven story that deftly incorporates multiple strands; around community care, gentrification, and the messy parts of familial change; while representing an inclusive Cantonese- and Mandarin-speaking Chinatown community. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jessica Regel, Helm Literary. (May)



#222885 Da Vinci's Cat (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Federico doesn't mind being a political hostage of the Pope, especially now that he has a cat as a friend. But he must admit that a kitten walking into a wardrobe and returning full-grown a moment later is quite odd. Even stranger is the man named Herbert, apparently an art collector from the future, who emerges from the wardrobe the next night.

978-0-06-301525-8 Greenwillow Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly As a political hostage of Pope Julius II, 11-year-old Federico Gonzaga is witness to the historic rivalry between artists Raphael and Michelangelo as the latter works on the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Federico's pampered life is opulent but lonely, until he discovers a cat in an enigmatic closet designed by Leonardo da Vinci. The cat's mysterious movements link him to only child Bee, an intrepid 21st-century Brooklynite who discovers a drawing of herself; purportedly by Raphael; in the home of elderly neighbor Miss Bother, who's struggling to pay her bills. Using the wardrobe to travel to 16th-century Rome, Bee seeks a variation on the sketch's creation, this time with a signature, to ensure that its sale in the present day can provide for Miss Bother. Though the plot holds few surprises, Murdock (The Book of Boy) crafts an arresting blend of speculative time travel and art mystery with a sumptuously imagined Renaissance Italy setting filled with evocative sensory details. The unlikely pairing of cosseted Federico and bold Bee, both cued as white, provides comedic moments, and historical figures, such as the volatile Michelangelo and the suave Raphael, are vividly rendered. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jill Grinberg, Jill Grinberg Literary. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Newbery Honor winner Murdoch's middle grade novel is an engaging adventure story with a lot of time traveling. Bee and Frederico are two children from different time periods—Frederico is from 16th-century Rome, while Bee lives in current-day New Jersey. They are brought together through a mysterious magical wardrobe and an adventurous time-traveling cat. Their quest is to rewrite the past to save the future, and the cat shows them the way, revealing how to use a time machine. Murdoch will captivate readers with her knowledge of medieval Europe and the city of Rome, and her vivid depictions of each character's distinct lifestyles. Readers may be surprised by the contrasts between Bee's and Frederico's perceptions of gender roles and certain cultural expectations. As a modern-day girl, Bee's appearance and behaviors initially strike Frederico as foreign—but Frederico soon learns that girls can be just as empowered and outspoken as boys, and that it is a good thing. Character's skin tones are not described. VERDICT This time-travelling friendship book will be a hit for fans of C.S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and Lloyd Alexander's Time Cat.—Lisa Gieskes, Richland County P.L., Columbia, SC



#2287770 Stars Did Wander Darkling (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Colin Meloy

Maybe Archie Coomes has been watching too many horror movies. He keeps telling himself that this is Seaham, a sleepy seaside town where nothing ever happens. Or at least nothing did, until his dad's construction company opened up the cliff beneath the old-some say cursed-Langdon place. Soon, though, he and his friends can't deny it: more and more of the adults in town are acting strangely. An ancient, long-buried evil has been unleashed upon the community, and it's up to the kids to stop it before it's too

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

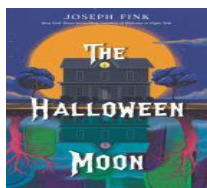
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978-0-06-301551-7 Balzer & Bray ©2022 6-1/4 x 8 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 13.0

Reviews by: Booklist With a brush of nostalgia, Meloy takes readers to 1980s Oregon, where a picturesque town is about to unearth something sinister. A construction project, led by 13-year-old Archie's father, grinds to a halt after digging reveals a destabilizing cave beneath the site. This discovery coincides with a surge in unusual occurrences around town and strange behavior among the adults, noticed primarily by the ragtag foursome at the novel's heart. A general sense of unease is elevated when Archie and his friends (Athena, Chris, and Oliver) sneak to the construction site for a peek at the cave and Oliver falls into a sort of epileptic fit. Meloy expertly teases out the suspense to foster an atmosphere of otherworldly mystery, while concretely establishing the story's sense of time and place. Delectable details stud the narrative with an '80s sensibility—a video store, a character wearing Jams, myriad music references—as the kids pedal their bikes madly to confront the increasingly dangerous threat besetting their home. Written for his young self, whose only horror option was Stephen King, Meloy delivers a solid middle-grade horror story with authentic chills and splashes of gore. The friendship between the four main characters drives it all, much like in *Stranger Things* and *Stand by Me*, ensuring readers' hearts are engaged as much as their adrenaline.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this aesthetically eerie novel by Meloy (*The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid*), set in 1987 Oregon, it's up to a quartet of friends to save their small seaside town when a real estate development awakens a long-buried evil. The plan was to build a resort in place of the long-vacant Langdon House, a Victorian-era legacy of Seaham's founding family; until excavation reveals the nearby promontory to be permeated with holes. Thirteen-year-old Archie Coomes, whose father owns the construction company, is looking forward to a fun summer with friends Athena, Chris, and Oliver, including a much anticipated camping trip. But odd occurrences soon arise: an elderly woman mutters "They shoulda left it hid," local adults act strangely out of character, and Oliver's "unexplained episodes" turn into increasingly vivid visions. All that coupled with the arrival of three poetry-spouting newcomers in old-fashioned suits, and the friends find themselves delving into the town's history and the true nature of the mounting threat. Evoking 1980s adventures such as *The Goonies*, and referencing horror flicks of various eras via the town's resident sage; owner of a Betamax-only video store; Meloy constructs an oddly ambiguous menace within a nostalgic summertime adventure involving cinematic chase sequences, uncanny occurrences, and psychological unease. Characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Sept.)



#2231233 Halloween Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joseph Fink

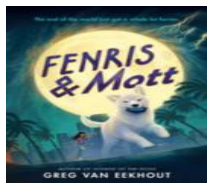
Esther Gold loves Halloween more than anything in the world. So, she is determined to go trick-or-treating again this year despite the fact that her parents think she is officially too old. Esther has it all planned out, from her costume to her candy-collecting strategy. But when the night rolls around, something feels off.

978-0-06-302097-9 Quill Tree Books ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist You're never too old to go trick-or-treating. That's a core belief for 13-year-old Esther Gold, the main character of this middle-grade debut from Fink, creator of the popular podcast *Welcome to Nightvale*. Esther's practically obsessed with Halloween—it was the theme of her bat mitzvah, after all—but her parents think she is too old for trick-or-treating. And when she sneaks out with her best friend, Augustfn, anyway, things do not go as planned. They encounter an eerie Halloween moon and a queen who can put everyone in their neighborhood to sleep, except for a dentist and the school bully. Fink folds in Esther's fear of change for some nice emotional grounding, but being trapped in a dream forever with no possibility of ever growing up is even scarier. There's plenty of humor to complement the creepy atmosphere, with monsters wearing monster costumes, scary ice cream truck drivers, and a dentist who wasn't always a dentist. Kids captivated by Katherine Arden's *Small Spaces* (2018) will find a similar blend of chilling tales, hair-raising adventures, and deeper themes here.



#2284236 Fenris and Mott (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Greg Van Eekhout

Mott knows how important it is to keep a promise. So when she finds a puppy abandoned in a recycling bin and promises to keep him safe, she is ready to do everything she can to protect him. What she doesn't realize, however, is that this is no ordinary puppy. He's a legendary wolf named Fenris, who's prophesied to bring about the end of the world by eating the moon. Mott vows to protect Fenris, rescue him from his destiny, and prevent the world from ending. But will she be able to keep her

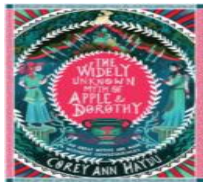
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

promise? Or has she bitten off more than she can chew?
978-0-06-297063-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 5.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* The fates of all nine of the realms of Norse mythology, including ours, pivot on events in Culver City, California, after the cute white puppy that lonely Mott rescues from a recycling bin turns out to be Fenris--the all-devouring wolf of Ragnarok, destined to consume everything at the end of the world. A heart-deep promise to take care of her adorable new pet is tested by a sudden series of scary encounters with Loki and other Asgardians and puts Mott firmly on the horns of a dilemma--massive storms and other signs of impending doom are intensifying, and it looks like there's no way to save both pup and planet. Along with trotting in young Valkyrie Thrudy, a staunch, if bloodthirsty, ally, for both support and comic relief ("You don't know what chocolate is?" "No, we don't have such a thing in Asgard." "This is important: Let's get some chocolate in you right now." "First, I shall pee"), Van Eekhout gives readers both a redoubtable human protagonist who shows hidden depths of courage and resilience on the way to an ingenious resolution and a canine one who is at once irresistibly winsome and terrifyingly destructive (not unlike many nonmythical dogs). COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews "Things done could not be undone. Things destroyed could not be undestroyed. But sometimes they could be fixed." There's a lot Mott, a young girl of Indonesian and Dutch descent, doesn't expect about the abandoned puppy she finds. She doesn't expect to be able to keep him. She doesn't expect him to be a wolf. And she certainly doesn't expect that wolf to be Fenris of Norse mythology: god-foe, moon-eater, ender of worlds. The very universe seems destined for destruction, brought about by Fenris, but Mott made a promise to keep Fenris safe, and she knows only too well the pain of broken oaths. In this Rick Riordan-esque epic, modern and ancient worlds collide in a vividly sketched adventure that begs to be adapted for the screen. The exhilarating pace comes somewhat at the expense of characterization. Only toward the very end, however, does this cause some believability to be lost as deeper emotions and motivations and some themes remain loosely explored. Still, the text strikes a remarkable balance between the hollowness of inevitable destruction and the hope hiding within the darkest voids. Unlike with most stories of this type, readers will at times be utterly convinced that Mott will fail, which only makes her determination to do right by her vows more rewarding to witness. The idea of the downfall of the world feels all too relevant, and the book imparts a subtle warning to readers that while the inevitable may be delayed, it can never truly be reversed. Thrilling and touching in equal measure. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Young Mott finds a fluffy white puppy dumped in an alley near contemporary Los Angeles and vows to keep it safe, only to learn the animal's true capacity for destruction, in this mythological romp. Mott's surprised when a man clad in leather and fur tries to nab the pup, indicating that it's not just any ordinary canine but the legendary wolf Fenris; son of the Norse god Loki and known as "ender of worlds." But Mott's denial proves short-lived when Fenris promptly eats the man whole, soon followed by benches and trees, entire vehicles, and more people. But Mott, unlike her estranged father, intends to keep her promises, even if she's not strictly allowed to have a puppy. As figures of lore appear in Fenris's vicinity, Mott refuses to believe that Ragnarok, the prophesied end of the world, is imminent; or that the only way to avert it is to kill Fenris. Witty dialogue brightens Mott's growing friendship with Valkyrie-in-training Thrudi as the two seek means to avert the apocalypse without causing harm to the adorable, havoc-wreaking puppy. Van Eekhout (Weird Kid) applies a deft touch to Mott's difficult ethical dilemma, imbuing the quickly paced story with tenderness and genuine surprises. Mott is of Indonesian and Hollander descent; Thrudi reads as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Holly Root, Root Literary. (Aug.)



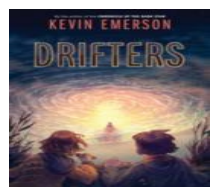
#2332780 **Widely Unknown Myth of Apple and Dorothy (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Corey Ann Haydu

Every winter solstice, today's earthly descendants of Greek gods, nymphs, and muses must visit Mount Olympus to preserve their near-god status. Until Dorothy's mother refuses to go, sealing her fate and dying a human death shortly after. In retaliation, the gods release an ultimatum: return to the heavens as gods or live as humans on earth. Everyone must now make a choice.

978-0-06-297693-2 Katherine Tegen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Haydu (One Jar of Magic) ponders on heartfelt insights surrounding loss in this modern fantastical retelling of classic Greek myths. To remain immortal, the inhabitants of Our Hill; all descendants of Greek gods; must climb a silver ladder to Olympus each winter solstice and take a bite of a golden apple. When Dorothy Hardy's mother refuses, she becomes human and dies soon after. Because of her lineage as a descendent of Pandora, community members blame the goddess's curious nature for Dorothy's mother's actions, shunning Dorothy as a result. The gods soon send an ultimatum: upon the next winter solstice, everyone in Our Hill must choose between returning to Olympus as gods forever or remaining on Earth as humans. As the solstice nears, Dorothy's "nearly perfect" best friend Apple Montgomery, a descendent of Zeus and Hera, grows concerned over Dorothy's burgeoning understanding of her mother's choice, worried that she might lose her friend. Haydu's worldbuilding is suffused with playful details and rich juxtaposition between the strict demands of Olympus and Earth. Through Dorothy and



#2277786 **Drifters (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Kevin Emerson*

Jovie is adrift. She'd been feeling alone ever since her best friend, Micah, left her behind for a new group of friends-but when Micah went missing last fall, Jovie felt truly lost. As strange storms beset Far Haven, she is shocked to discover that Micah isn't just missing-she's been forgotten completely by everyone in town. And Micah isn't the only one: there are others, roaming the beaches, camped in the old bunkers, who have somehow been lost from the world. Something disastrous is heading for Far Haven, and Jovie and Sylvan soon realize that it is up to them to save not only Micah, but everyone else who has been lost to the world and set adrift-now, in the past, and in the future.

978-0-06-297696-3 Walden Pond Press ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 592 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity

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Unit Price

\$16.99

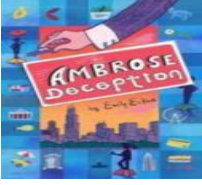
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8 Micah and Jovie were best friends who began to drift apart, until one day Micah vanishes into thin air. Months later, the search for Micah has ceased, and Jovie feels like she is the only one who's still looking for her old friend. Through her searches, Jovie learns of the many disappearances and strange events that have taken place in her small town of Far Haven for decades. Her suspicions are only heightened when she witnesses supernatural forces and discovers that a government organization, Barsuda, may be doing more in the town than they have let on. Jovie, along with her new friend Sylvan, will have to uncover Far Haven's well-kept secrets to find Micah. Emerson's elaborate story will have readers theorizing as they piece together Far Haven's concealed history along with Jovie. There is more to this town than meets the eye, where the seemingly impossible is possible. This is an intricate sci-fi mystery for voracious readers who love an extraordinary adventure that transcends space and time. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Jovie feels strongly that her missing best friend Micah is still alive and needs her help, even if the two had drifted apart in the months before Micah's disappearance. When Jovie and a new pal, Sylvan, begin to look deeper into the history of their small town and the odd events that happen with increasing regularity (radiation exposure, disappearances, and mysterious illnesses, for example), it becomes clear that this is much bigger than Micah being gone. Indeed, the fate of the world may rest on Jovie and Sylvan's ability to bridge a portal and face beings who want Earth for themselves. Behind the zippy sci-fi plot line, there is a stark examination of loneliness, and how people can grow so disconnected from other people that they all but become invisible (in this book, literally so) and are therefore not missed when they are gone. Emerson slowly metes out details of how Micah went from popular and confident to self-doubting, removed, and isolated, and this is made particularly poignant given Jovie had been holding back her love and support for Micah after their estrangement. A satisfying action plot, complete with a shady (but well-developed) government agency and villainous (but strangely sympathetic) beings, is effectively grounded in the emotional realism of the girls' shifting friendships. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Strange doings in a run-down coastal Washington town include all the people who suddenly vanish and are quickly forgotten. Emerson puts a science-fiction slant on the notion of how important it is to see others--and how devastating being or feeling unseen can be. Four months after her former best friend Micah's disappearance, Jovie hasn't forgotten her but has to repeatedly remind everyone else, including the school principal, that she ever existed. More shockingly, one day she sees through a spyglass a young stranger sitting in Micah's empty desk in class, someone invisible to everyone but tangible enough to be unconsciously given space in the hallways. Hoping he'll lead her to Micah, Jovie follows him to a group of other drifters awaiting one of the mysterious electrical storms that have been blasting in over the past century, opening a way to somewhere else. Flashing backward and forward in time while having his protagonist fret at length over how she had failed as a friend by not noticing that Micah was troubled, and shoehorning in sheaves of other mysteries ranging from black vans that appear in the wake of an accident at the nearby nuclear plant to a conveniently key bit of technology tied to a previous trilogy, the author runs up the page count without tying off loose ends or letting the pace of events get much beyond an easy amble. The cast is predominantly White. A worthy theme but an overstuffed and ponderous story. (author's note) (Science fiction. 11-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

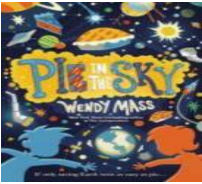
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Emerson (Lost in Space: Infinity's Edge) ambitiously juggles multiple timelines in this speculative tale. Far Haven, Wash., is a small town filled with mysteries stemming from an incident at the old nuclear plant, such as inexplicable illnesses and dangerous storms, with the secretive Barsuda Solutions, a local sanitation company, always in the background. In 2022, 14-year-old Sylvan is once again interrogated by Far Haven authorities regarding classmate Jovie's disappearance four years prior. In 2018, 13-year-old Jovie desperately searches for her best friend Micah, whom no one seems to remember after she vanished a year before. When Jovie meets Mason, a boy only she can see via a spyglass she was given anonymously, she discovers Drifters, people whose corporeal forms are disconnected from the world, and suspects that was Micah's fate. But as Jovie, Mason, and Sylvan search for the truth about Far Haven, they uncover a terrible secret that spans centuries. The connection between the novel's myriad themes; such as government conspiracies, supernatural intervention, and alien contact; is

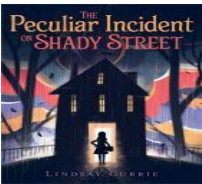
sometimes ambiguous and makes for a jam-packed read, but the protagonists' perseverance and the narrative's countdown toward an unknown event maintain gripping tension throughout. Most characters cue as white. Ages: 8: 12. Agent: Robert Guinsler, Sterling Lord Literistic. (May)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2049158 Ambrose Deception (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Emily Ecton</i> Melissa is a nobody. Wilf is a slacker. Bondi is a show-off. At least that's what their middle school teachers think. To everyone's surprise, they are the three students chosen to compete for a ten thousand-dollar scholarship, solving clues that lead them to various locations around Chicago. 978-1-4847-8838-7 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2018 368 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 610	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Chicago middle-schoolers and noted underachievers Melissa Burris, Bondi Johnson, and Wilfred “Wilf” Samson exceed everyone’s low expectations when they’re invited to participate in what looks to be a prestigious \$10,000 scholarship competition. As the three traverse the city to decipher their respective riddles—each given a debit card, a cell phone, and a chauffeur, but contractually bound to secrecy—the competition becomes increasingly suspicious and, despite the rule prohibiting collusion, Melissa, Bondi, and Wilf begin to work together to solve the larger mystery of what’s going on. What eventually seems like an elaborate multimillion-dollar con may in fact be the greatest prank in the history of the city of Chicago, and these three kids are caught square in the middle. Ecton pens a suspenseful narrative with epistolary elements—various letters, text messages, notes, and emails—that help progress the story in engaging ways. Still, uneven pacing and flat characterizations pose some limitations, as several scenes featuring all three protagonists seem noticeably clumsier than the characters’ individual chapters. Likewise, when Bondi is presented simply as the black kid, as if it’s a compelling enough character trait, the implication that the rest of the Chicago cast is presumably just non-racial reads as lazy. As a result, it takes time for the story to establish its footing, but the research- based puzzles emphasizing real-life exploration beyond Google are diverting.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Melissa, Wilf, and Bondi-an enterprising money-maker, a slacker, and a smooth talker, respectively-are unlikely recipients of a mysterious scholarship offer, but that doesn't stop them from trying to win it anyway. They're given a driver, a cell phone, a debit card, a camera, and three clues, with the instruction that they are to tell no one what they're doing. The first kid to answer all three clues correctly wins a \$10,000 scholarship. But as the chase progresses, the kids soon see that things aren't adding up. This realization forces them to work together, prove that they aren't slackers or criminals, and win a prize bigger than anything they've ever dreamed. This fast-paced story set in Chicago takes readers on a scavenger hunt to some of the city's most famous landmarks, with interesting trivia and history to accompany them. Ecton creates an eclectic and vivid cast of characters from varied backgrounds, lending authenticity to this Chicago-set tale. The addition of text messages, emails, and written notes provides a fun interlude between chapters. VERDICT An appealing adventure story likely to be in high demand. A must-buy for all libraries serving middle graders, especially those in the Chicago area.-Jessica Holland, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #1769426 Pi in the Sky (Prebound) <i>written by Wendy Mass</i> Joss is the seventh son of the Supreme Overlord of the Universe. His older brothers help his dad rule the cosmos, but all Joss gets to do is deliver pies. That's right: pies. Of course, these pies actually hold the secrets of the universe between their buttery crusts, but they're still pies. 978-1-4844-2598-5 Little, Brown & Company ©2014 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 272 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.4 GR Lvl U Lexile 710	1	\$19.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2026741 Peculiar Incident on Shady Street (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Lindsay Currie</i> When lights start flickering and temperatures suddenly drop, twelve-year-old Tessa Woodward, sensing her new house may be haunted, recruits some new friends to help her unravel the mystery of who or what is trying to communicate with her and why. 978-1-4814-7704-8 Simon & Schuster ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Tessa is wildly disappointed that her family has to relocate from Florida to Chicago right before the start of seventh grade. Despite the hardship of leaving sunny weather and her best friend behind, she determines to support her dad in his new job and tries to acclimate to her surroundings. Immediately after moving into their ramshackle older home, strange things begin happening. Crying is heard in the night, the house turns icy cold, and her brother's ventriloquist dummy appears to be shedding real tears. Tessa confides in a few welcoming classmates, and together they work to uncover exactly what is going on in the house on Shady Street and who, or what, is reaching out to Tessa. Their research includes fact-finding missions to the library and a graveyard, where some strange weather patterns make for a terrifying time. Balancing goose bump-inducing frights with relatable scenes of the friends navigating middle school, sibling relationships, and family issues makes the book scary but not horrific. Tessa, like her mother, is an artist and seeing events through her creative perspective adds an interesting element to the narrative. **VERDICT.** Give this page-turner to readers seeking a spooky thrill reminiscent of books by Mary Downing Hahn and filled with strong family relationships, budding friendships, a local history, mystery, and creepiness.-Sara-Jo Lupo Sites, George F. Johnson Memorial Library, Endicott, NY Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2156197 Great Upending (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Beth Kephart

Trouble is the last thing Sara and her brother need. Sara's got a condition, Marfan syndrome and its causing her heart to have problems, the kind of problems that require surgery. But the family already has their share of problems, let alone a surgery to fix those problems. Sara can feel the weight of her family's worry, and the weight of her time running out, but what can a pair of kids do?

978-1-4814-9156-3 Atheneum ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This warmhearted, meandering novel about a tight-knit Pennsylvania farm family also offers a mystery. Twelve-year-old Sara suffers from Marfan syndrome, which makes her tall and thin ("I'm a body built out of stretch"), and strains her lungs and heart so that she desperately needs surgery. Kephart (Wild Blues) keenly conveys the stark economic reality of the drought-ridden farm, intensified by a devastating fire that burns their shed and hay supply, and the intense financial pressure Sara's family faces just to survive, let alone afford additional medical expenses. Sara and her younger brother, Hawk, become increasingly interested in the older man who rents their renovated barn and about whom questions emerge when a big-city editor visits the farm. Though the mystery proves less believable than it might, the literary tone and occasional poemlike chapters convey palpable emotion alongside the strong portrayal of the siblings' relationship, the intertwined family, and the effects of Sara's disease. Ages 11: 14. (Mar.)



#2123605 Shine! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by J. J. Grabenstein

Shine on! might be the catchphrase of twelve-year-old Piper's hero--astronaut, astronomer, and television host Nellie Dumont Frisse--but Piper knows the truth: some people are born to shine, and she's just not one of them. That fact has never been clearer than now, since her dad's new job has landed them both at Chumley Prep, a posh private school where everyone seems to be the best at something and where Piper definitely doesn't fit in.

978-1-5247-1766-7 Random House Children's Books ©2019 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Piper is smart, kind, and obsessed with astronomy, but she has always been overshadowed by her beloved late mother's legacy of excelling at, well, everything, and as Piper starts the spring semester of seventh grade at her mom's former prep school, that shadow engulfs her even more fully. When the school announces that a mysterious new award will be given to a student who excels, Piper wonders if she can finally find a way to truly shine and match her mother's glory. This is a story that happily upsets the trope of the lonely new kid in school, with Piper having an array of quirky friends and helpful teachers, plus a doting father and female astronomer role model to help her navigate the maze of middle school as well as the competition. The Grabensteins' writing is warm and humorous, sneaking in the occasional astronomy fact along the way. This gentle book offers a wonderful reminder that kindness, generosity, and love far outweigh the importance of money, awards,

and prestige.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews lly finds a way to shine in a school full of would-be stars. Piper's father's new job is choral director at Chumley Prep a tony independent school where everyone's an achiever. It comes with full tuition for Piper, who's now able to attend the school where her deceased mother once shone. Feeling out of place and extremely untalented in this new, more competitive world, seventh grader Piper eventually finds friends and discovers that her empathy and willingness to help others make her stellar, too. She even finds it possible to do something nice for the classmate who has made fun of her and her father from their very first encounter. From a characterization standpoint, Piper's enthusiasm for astronomy helps her stand out as a protagonist in this novel about finding one's place in middle school, but her nemesis, Ainsley Braden-Hammerschmidt, is drawn as an all-too-familiar arrogant child of privilege. The puzzle here is more subtle than in some of co-author Chris Grabenstein's previous Mr. Lemoncello books: There's a new prize at Chumley Prep, the Excelsior Award; every student hopes to win it, but no one knows quite how. A subplot involving a teacher who hasn't gotten over her resentment of Piper's mother seems extraneous, but there's plenty of believable dialogue and humor. The cast is default white; Piper's friends have names representative of different cultures and are gratifyingly quirky. A crowd-pleasing reminder that kindness pays. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In the married coauthors' collaborative debut, seventh grader Piper believes that only some people are "meant to shine. Others are better off blending in." Her mother, who died when Piper was three, was a talented cellist, and her father is a choir director, but Piper herself "can't carry a tune in a lunch box." After her dad gets a job at posh Chumley Prep; prompting a transfer for Piper, too, to the school where her mother once excelled; the girl becomes the target of class mean girl Ainsley. When an all-school award with deliberately vague criteria ("excel") is announced, Piper is sure she has no shot. When she wins the science fair, though, thanks to her interest in astronomy, her friends think she is a front-runner. They work to find Piper something at which she can shine, but she becomes sure she won't be chosen when outside occurrences (helping a lost kindergartner and a cafeteria worker in need) make her constantly late to class. Whatever the contest's outcome, the girl's realization that she has been shining all along is the true victory. This encouraging story of self-discovery celebrates friendship, kindness, and self-actualization, and readers will relate to the realistic middle school dynamic and well-developed characters. Ages 8: 12. (Nov.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Seventh-grader Piper is heartbroken when she learns that she has to leave her public school and begin mid-year at Chumley Prep, the local independent school. Her father, a choral teacher who dreams of writing Broadway musicals, has been offered a position at Chumley which comes with full tuition for Piper. Since Piper's mother died when she was three, she and her father have supported each other, and Piper knows how important this opportunity is to him. Just as Piper expects, she initially feels out of place and some of the Chumley students are not very welcoming—especially Ainsley Braden-Hammerschmidt, who tries to sabotage all of Piper's attempts to thrive at her new school. When an award for the student who "most fully demonstrates overall excellence" is announced, some of the students plan strategies to win the anonymous judge's favor. Piper, who shines primarily in science, does not feel confident about winning the award. By the end of the book, Piper has embraced a diverse group of new friends, connected with several teachers, and learned to love her school. VERDICT Piper is likeable and empathetic and the "bad guys," while exaggerated, make this a lighthearted and fast-paced book. The strong message about the power of kindness will be encouraging to readers, and fans of Grabenstein's "Mr. Lemoncello" series will enjoy a different kind of puzzle.—Shelley Sommer, Inly School, Scituate, MA

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Realistic, humorous and a bit satirical, Shine! is performer J.J. Grabenstein's middle-grade debut, co-written with her husband, the prolific author Chris Grabenstein (Word of Mouse). When Piper, unassuming middle schooler and astronomy enthusiast, starts attending a ritzy private school where her music teacher father has just landed his dream job, she's not ecstatic. Although her cellist mom (dead for many years) was a star at Chumley Prep, Piper is not sure it's the place for her. Then the Excelsior competition for excellence is announced, and Piper sees it as a chance to make a mark equal to her mom's at Chumley: "I could have a plaque right next to one of Mom's." Can Piper win? And how can she stand out in a school full of wealthy, overachieving, snobby students? The breezy text highlights the ups and downs of school life, the science fair, the talent show, class assignments that allow Piper to consider her life, and the mean girl behavior of Ainsley Braden-Hammerschmidt as contrasted with the welcoming attitudes of the Hibbleflitts (a group of Piper's nerdier classmates). Piper also gets a chance to show her stuff in many small but important ways: her willingness always to lend a hand (to overburdened nannies, school employees and frightened kindergarten students); her devotion to friends and science; and her optimistic approach to life. Though Piper doesn't share her parents' musical talents, she is a genuinely kind person whom readers would likely love to meet. With rockets and stars related to Piper's scientific interests decorating chapter beginnings and endings, Shine! is a quick read that gives kids a protagonist who is a thoroughly good person with some insecurities and a very positive attitude. COPYRIGHT(2019) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



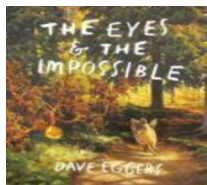
#2155593 Kingdom of Back (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Marie Lu

Born with a gift for music, Nannerl Mozart has just one wish to be remembered forever. As Nannerl's hope grows dimmer with each passing year, the talents of her younger brother, only seem to shine brighter. His brilliance begins to eclipse her own, until one day a mysterious stranger from a magical land appears with an irresistible offer. He has the power to make her wish come true but his help may cost her everything.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Lu (Rebel) deftly layers fantastical elements and historical fiction to craft an expansive tale of rivalry based on two Mozart siblings, both talented pianists and composers. In 1759 Salzburg, eight-year-old Marianne "Nannerl" Mozart is poised to play in front of royalty, but the audience she must first impress is distracted when her younger brother, the nearly four-year-old Wolfgang "Wofelr," enters the room, leading to a small error in her playing. Blaming Wofelr for the mistake and fearful of his burgeoning talent, Nannerl makes a wish that is heard by a magical entity, Hyacinth; he promises to help Nannerl achieve immortality through her music if she helps him regain his crown in the Kingdom of Back. Initially the siblings are intrigued, enjoying adventures in the fantastical kingdom, where they explore magical grottos and outsmart a witch, but when things take a darker turn, Nannerl begins to understand that she has entered a Faustian pact. Carefully constructing a magical kingdom while crafting the historical cities of Europe where the Mozarts played as children, Lu shows her knack for creating detailed worlds while seamlessly building a complicated sibling relationship with a balance of rivalry and love. Ages 12: up. Agent: Kristin Nelson, Kristin Nelson Literary Agency. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up—Sci-fi/fantasy heavy-hitter Lu brings her talents to historical fiction in this magic-infused telling of the lives of the young Mozart siblings. Nannerl Mozart, elder sister to Wolfgang, is skilled enough at the clavier that her father believes she could gain renown as a child prodigy. Her passion for music extends beyond her exacting father's expectations—she composes music in secret, dreaming of achieving fame despite it being a craft forbidden to women. But as she grows and Wofelr's superlative talents begin to become apparent, Nannerl realizes that it is assumed she will eventually abandon her art to become a wife and mother while Wofelr pursues musical glory. Hope arrives unexpectedly one quiet afternoon when a magical world opens up to the siblings: the Kingdom of Back, a faerie realm illuminated by twin moons, populated by forests of mysterious trees whose roots stretch up into the sky, with edelweiss blanketing the ground. Hyacinth, the mysterious fae-like boy who inhabits the forests, promises that if Nannerl completes tasks for him, he will grant her deepest wishes. But as the years pass and events in the Kingdom of Back correspond unsettlingly to real-world calamities, Nannerl begins to question Hyacinth's true motives and weigh her intense desire to be remembered against potential consequences and her fierce love for her brother. Lu strikes a perfect harmony between fantasy and historical fiction that is at once satisfyingly intricate and excitingly paced. In Nannerl she has created a passionate voice that will resonate particularly with readers learning to wield small defiances as the large weapons they can be. VERDICT A beautifully composed historical fantasy that will enthrall readers, especially those with music in their hearts. A first purchase.—Darla Salva Cruz, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY



#2324011 Eyes and the Impossible (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Dave Eggers

Johannes, a free dog, lives in an urban park by the sea. His job is to be the Eyes--to see everything that happens within the park and report back to the park's elders, three ancient Bison. But changes are afoot. More humans, including Trouble Travelers, arrive in the park. A new building, containing mysterious and hypnotic rectangles, goes up. And then there are the goats--an actual boatload of goats--who appear, along with a shocking revelation that changes Johannes's view of the world.

978-1-5247-6420-3 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2023 6-1/2 x 8 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 790

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Johannes has always lived his life as a free dog in a vast park by the sea. Three captive elderly bison are the Keepers of the Equilibrium and overseers of the land, and they've dubbed Johannes "the Eyes," as his agility and observant gaze allow him to notice the park's happenings and report back to the bison. An assortment of wild animals assists Johannes on his daily intel gatherings, and he's content in his dear friendships and freedom. But change is afoot: an enormous building containing mesmerizing rectangles is being built, a herd of mysterious creatures has set up shop in a field, and a heroic act brings Johannes intense human scrutiny that impedes his duties as the Eyes. It will require all of Johannes' ingenuity, kindness, and speed to navigate the new developments while maintaining his precious independence. The utterly delightful book is narrated by a distinctly canine voice similar to the narrator's in Eggers' short story "After I Was Thrown in the River and Before I Drowned," and though Johannes is prone to matter-of-fact bragging and hilarious exaggeration, he's also capable of profound introspection and appreciation of life's wonders. Eggers touches on deep topics with a light hand, effortlessly building suspense and a wonderful sense of adventure. A merry reminder to face the truth about the world and ourselves with compassion, curiosity, and joy.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Johannes is a quicker-than-lightning dog, spotting everything as he explores the park where he and other animals live, and his speed and dutiful reports of the park's ongoings have made him essential to the Keepers of the Equilibrium (three wise but cloistered bison). A new building sparks a series of events that lead to Johannes discovering human art, being captured for the first time ever, finding out his true lineage, and, ultimately, outgrowing what he imagined the rest of his life would be. Johannes' escape from captivity, aided by the motliest of inter-species crews, demonstrates the closeness of the animals in the park and how important Johannes is to the balance

(and goodness) of their home. Johannes is a brilliant narrator as he speculates wildly (he estimates the bison, for example, to be six thousand years old), approaches life with a mixture of experience and wonder, wryly comments on the unreliability of ducks, and captures the world around him with a poetic framing that makes everything seem amazing. In a brief author's note, Eggers emphasizes that none of these animals are human stand-ins: this is a world where humans are mostly destructive and not central to the story other than as beings to be avoided. The goats are laser-focused on goat things (e.g. eating), the raccoons are cranky if woken during the day, and the seagulls are dramatic as heck, an accurate assessment of their nature. Double-page spreads reproduce famous landscape painting, mostly from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with a speedy Johannes cleverly integrated to create the striking, memorable artwork; a note at the end offers readers more information about each of the original paintings. Animal lovers will be enthralled, and even for readers who mostly stick with humans, this is a standout example of the power of chosen family rather than biological ones. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A wild dog who serves as the Eyes for Bison living in a park enclosure devises a plan to free them. Exuberant, observant dog Johannes runs daily throughout the park, which is visited by humans, reporting to Freya, Meredith, and Samuel, three old Bison who are the Keepers of the Equilibrium. Johannes and other Assistant Eyes--a sea gull, a squirrel, a pelican, and a raccoon--describe an art museum being built in the park, a "building full of chaos-rectangles." Johannes finds it captivating, leading to his capture by humans--and subsequent rescue by the other Eyes in a demonstration of interspecies cooperation. This gives him the idea to free the Bison. The appearance of goats, who have been brought in to eat weeds, provides a friend, a revelation, and a new plan and purpose: "to pull off the impossible." Johannes' first-person narration is an interesting mix of poetic language, sophisticated vocabulary, philosophy, humor, hyperbole, and both short declarative and run-on sentences; his estimations of time, size, and quantity are particularly exaggerated. Johannes' loyalty, friendship, and commitment to a noble purpose, even as his sense of self shifts, the stakes are raised, and last-minute changes to the plan occur, make him an admirable character. The artwork consists of double-page spreads reproducing magnificent fine art landscapes into which Harris has seamlessly inserted Johannes, cleverly adapting to each painter's style and color palette. One remarkable creature vividly shows readers that "there is so, so much to see." (author's note, sources) (Fiction. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this exuberant illustrated novel by previous collaborators Eggers and Harris (What Can a Citizen Do?), high-spirited narrator Johannes is an "unkept and free" dog entrusted by the Keepers of the Equilibrium; three penned Bison who oversee the park where they all live; to be the park's Eyes. Aided by a team of "comrades, allies" known as the Assistant Eyes (seagull Bertrand, squirrel Sonja, pelican Yolanda, and raccoon Angus), Johannes reports each day's occurrences to the Bison, including anything that might upset the Equilibrium. When construction activity is detected, Johannes encounters "rectangles full of gorgeous commotion"; an art display that transfixes him, leading to his being leashed. After a dramatic cooperative rescue devised by the Assistant Eyes, Johannes realizes the "glory of liberation" and determines to free the Bison from their enclosure. Studded with strong opinions about the park's residents ("The ducks know nothing"), a quick-moving first-person voice melds the dog's background, beliefs, and observations. Eggers crafts a marvelous, fully fleshed protagonist in Johannes, who is at once an ebullient braggart, a faithful and intrepid operative, and a drolly humorous reporter whose compassionate narration delivers a rousing tale of community, joyful self-reliance, and the pleasures of running very, very fast. Aligning with themes of art and perspective, Harris contributes illustrations of Johannes as added to full-page reproductions of classical landscapes. Ages 8: 12. (May)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Animals have very full lives that humans never see. Johannes the dog introduces readers to his life in a bustling and vibrant urban park in the immersive middle-grade animal adventure The Eyes and the Impossible by Dave Eggers and Shawn Harris, the team behind Her Right Foot and What Can a Citizen Do?



#2378496 **Secret Language of Birds (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Lynne Kelly*

Nina is used to feeling like the odd one out-- school, in her neighborhood, and especially in her large family. But while trying to fit in at summer camp she discovers something even more peculiar: two majestic looking birds and a nest in the marsh behind one of the old cabins. No one had seen a whooping crane nest there for about a hundred years...and now there are two of the rarest birds getting ready to lay eggs.

978-1-5247-7027-3 Delacorte Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Thirteen-year-old Nina decides to attend her aunt Audrey's summer camp, where she befriends three cabinmates who call themselves the Oddballs. Like Nina, an avid birdwatcher, they are new to the camp and "kind of weird." One night, they join other older campers for a forbidden midnight excursion to the old infirmary, which is said to be haunted. Intrigued by a tall white bird she spots by moonlight in the nearby marsh, Nina returns by day and verifies that it's a whooping crane, a member of an endangered species. In the weeks that follow, she and her friends secretly watch the bird and its mate. Nina reports her discovery to a wildlife agency but worries about telling Aunt Audrey because she's been breaking camp rules. Kelly sets up an enjoyable, traditional summer camp story before sending Nina off in an entirely different direction as she takes a leadership role and learns from the experience. From the lively characters to the secret at the heart of the plot, this book takes readers on an unusual and rewarding adventure.



#2235974 \$150,000 Rugelach (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Allison Marks

Exploding with loud, rock 'n' roll attitude, eleven-year-old Jack Fineman dreams of becoming the greatest pastry chef who ever lived. His plans are thrown off course when his butterscotch basil brownies are upstaged at his sixth-grade holiday party by a simple plate of chocolate rugelach brought in by Jillian Mermelstein-the new girl at school whose mother has just died and who only wants to be left alone.

978-1-4998-1210-7 Yellow Jacket ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist 1-year-old Jillian Mermelstein and her father relocate to Ohio to live with Grandma Rita. Jillian's one joy is baking the recipes perfected by Mom, especially chocolate rugelach. Classmate Jack Fineman enjoys baking, too, but his goal is fame and fortune like that of his idol, Phineas Farnsworth, a local businessman who sponsors an annual bake-off. When Jack and Jillian are paired in a child version of Bakerstown Bonanza, the two must develop a rapport (in terms of cooking styles and showmanship) to make it work. The Marks excel at creating goofy but appealing characters: extrovert Jack seems beyond embarrassment, yet he honors Jillian's wish to keep her mom's story private; Grandma Rita has no cooking skills, but she rocks at martial arts and plumbing repairs; and Phineas Farnsworth exploits everyone he encounters but has a soft spot for the memory of the nanny who raised him. Although the ending feels a bit contrived, it will please the intended audience. Recipes for relevant treats are appended.



#2290577 Ghosts Come Rising (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adam Perry

After twelve-year-old Liza Carroll and her ten-year-old brother John's parents die, they are placed in the custody of their uncle, a traveling photographer named Mr. Spencer. Mr. Spencer, realizing the gift he has in his young relatives, uses them to help create fraudulent spirit photographs, which he sells to the grieving. Chased from one town to another, they arrive at a settlement that is different than the others they've been to-a Spiritualist commune in Pennsylvania named the Silver Star Society. They are told they are at a Thin Place between the worlds of the living and the spirits.

978-1-4998-1354-8 Little Bee Books Inc. ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Liza Carroll helps her adoptive uncle, Mr. Spencer (“a liar and a fraud”), create fake photographic images of deceased loved ones using cotton, newsprint, and a double exposure of the film. The pair, along with Liza’s sickly younger brother, John, arrive at the Silver Star Society, a Spiritualist community in rural Pennsylvania, in the fall of 1920 to con its true believers. There Liza begins seeing “shadows” of the departed who become increasingly menacing as they broach the thin veil between the worlds of the living and the dead, seeking to claim John. Perry deftly teeters between suspenseful and scary with an immersive story set during a relatively unexplored era in middle-grade fiction. Although Liza admonishes readers early, “Don’t believe a thing I say,” the photography scam frames careful revelations about the lies Liza tells herself and others. A helpful note introduces spiritualism, and striking photographic images appear throughout. This gripping paranormal story should be an easy sell for R. J. Palacio’s Pony (2021) and future fans of the Miss Peregrine series.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young girl in 1920 upstate New York becomes an expert on helping convince people they can see the dead. After 12-year-old Liza's parents died in the influenza pandemic, she and her younger brother, John, are left in the custody of itinerant-photographer-turned-con man Mr. Spencer. Now they work together on a spiritualist scam, double-exposing photographic plates to make it seem as if the dead are among the living. When they arrive at the Silver Star Society, a spiritualistic center in rural Pennsylvania run by a woman named Ms. Eldridge, their luck seems to spin in both directions at once: They're welcomed and believed, but at the same time, mysterious storms wreak havoc on the center, and Liza begins to see nighttime shadows she's convinced are threatening John. Liza, as narrator, warns us upfront not to believe a single thing she says, yet she seems so utterly grounded and convincing that the story she tells slides from historical fiction into supernatural suspense before readers realize it. The novel is well paced and well plotted, but the ending, especially the epilogue, lacks emotional punch. Black-and-white photographs that, like the story, aren't quite what they seem appear throughout. Most characters seem to be White. Ghost-story fans will stay up reading past their bedtimes. (photo credits) (Historical paranormal. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2330077 Secret of the Dragon Gems (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rajani LaRocca

Eleven-year-olds Tripti Kapoor, a feisty "word nerd" from Massachusetts, and Sam Cohen, a shy, imaginative, budding geologist from California, are both miserable at Camp Dilloway, a summer camp in upstate New York. On the last night of camp, they follow a shooting star to a quiet creek. There they find two silvery rocks glowing in the night. They each take one home, and their long-distance friendship begins.

978-1-4998-1463-7 Little Bee Books Inc. ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

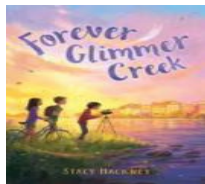
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Tripti Kapoor has recently returned home to Massachusetts from a terrible summer camp experience, having made only one new friend while away from home. Tripti met geology-obsessed Sam on the last night, after they both followed shooting-star fragments to a quiet nearby creek and each retrieved one glowing rock to keep. Post-camp, Tripti writes a letter to Sam at his California address to fulfill a class assignment, and as their correspondence continues, it becomes clear that those souvenir rocks are no ordinary stones. They work together from afar to unravel the deepening mystery before another interested party, the delightfully menacing camp director with unclear intentions and a murky past, can interfere. The absorbing adventure is cleverly told through a series of varying media forms, from simple letters, journal entries, and book excerpts to formatted chat services and video transcripts. There are codes to be broken and puzzles aplenty, and the slowly revealed sci-fi elements add real suspense to the proceedings. A modern-day mystery brimming with deep familial bonds, cross-country connections, and lots of magic.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A suspenseful epistolary novel about two new friends who find some extraordinary rocks. On the last day of their miserable stay at Camp Dilloway, two young campers escape Campfire Night and connect after they find two unusual glowing rocks. Tripti Kapoor, an 11-year-old Indian American girl from Massachusetts, and Sam Cohen, a sixth grade Jewish boy from California, take the rocks home, and their long-distance friendship begins. They call the rocks Opal and Jasper, names taken from their favorite book series, Dragon Gems. Soon, Tripti and Sam notice unusual things about their rocks--they move around, become warm, and even leave coded messages. Communication between the two kids occurs through handwritten letters, emails, video chats, and instant messages. Mixed in are excerpts from the Dragon Gems books, MeTube video transcripts, and journal entries by Sanford P. Dilloway III, an eccentric scientist and the camp's owner. The multiple channels of communication feel current and effectively propel the action, and the scientific information about comets and geology is engaging. As the rocks become more sentient, things become more urgent and dangerous. Themes of estrangement and forgiveness quietly run alongside the excitement of the mystery surrounding Opal and Jasper. Tripti and Sam's friendship authentically traverses the tough and tender waters of middle school, and their friendship proves to be powerful. A strong, suspenseful read about navigating friendship that includes a touch of the extraterrestrial. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly On the last night of summer camp, 11-year-olds Tripti Kapoor and Sam Cohen discover a pair of rocks near the creek, which they name Opal and Jasper in homage to their favorite book series, The Dragon Gems. They keep them as souvenirs to remember each other by before returning to their respective homes in Massachusetts and California. During their regular correspondence via letters, emails, text messages, and video chat they realize that the rocks are acting oddly: moving when no one is looking, becoming "too hot to hold," and somehow writing coded messages. Interspersed throughout the story are excerpts from the Dragon Gem books, online video transcripts, and journal entries written by the camp's director, Sanford P. Dilloway III, who's been keeping tabs on the friends for an unknown reason. In this adroitly crafted epistolary tale, LaRocca (Red, White, and Whole) and Baron (The Gray) explore themes of friendship and connection by way of a drawn-out geological mystery. The pair's back-and-forth exchanges outline their investigation while also allowing them to share slice-of-life details about Sam's Jewish background and Tripti's Indian heritage, particularly through depictions of holiday traditions and food, making this a well-balanced and pleasant adventure. Ages 8: 12. Agent: (for LaRocca) Brent Taylor, Triada US; (for Baron) Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Literary. (Aug.)



#2158730 Forever Glimmer Creek (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stacy Hackney

Rosie Flynn doesn't know how to get a Miracle but knows for sure they're real. It's the same way she's certain her and her Mama are the perfect team of two. But when someone Rosie loves goes missing, she just might discover that the true Miracle of Glimmer Creek is much different than she'd always believed and that the relationships she holds dear are the most fortunate gift of all.

978-1-5344-4484-3 Simon & Schuster ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 720

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Every year one person in Glimmer Creek survives great danger, after which they seem to acquire subtle magical

abilities. Spurred in large part by a longing to impress the actor father she's never met, right now filming only two hours away, 12-year-old budding film director Rosie Flynn is determined to make a documentary about her town's Miracles and premiere it at its Festival of the Fish. Solving the 100-year-old mystery of what causes them would prove she has real talent as a filmmaker. But Rosie, who has secretly invited her father to the showing, has only 17 days to make the movie! She enlists her two best friends, Henry and Cam (all together they are HenRoCam), to help. These three have always been there for one another, but everything seems to be different once they start seventh grade. Hackney authentically covers a lot of middle school ground in this well-crafted debut. Rosie grapples with changing friendships, worries that she and her mother no longer seem "snapped together like the two halves of Mama's locket," and even questions if the Miracles are real. By turns gripping and suspenseful, especially when Henry goes missing, and also emotionally insightful, the story weaves together small-town lore (a 100-year-old skeleton, lost treasure) with a strong sense of community in which love, kindness, and faith quietly emerge. Most characters seem white; Cam has light-brown skin. Readers will be caught up as the lens through which this likable protagonist sees her world expands. (recipes) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Glimmer Creek is known for its Miracles. Every year, one lucky resident receives a potentially life-changing Miracle. Seventh grader Rosie is an aspiring filmmaker who is enthralled with the Miracles and is determined to make a documentary to prove they are real. She struggles to make her film when her best friends, Henry and Cam, suddenly become busy with new friends and new interests. Meanwhile, her mom and Sheriff Parker seem to be a little too friendly for Rosie's comfort. With all of these obstacles, will Rosie be able to finish her documentary in time and make up with her friends? Although this book focuses a lot on the Miracles of Glimmer Creek, it is really a story about friendship, family, and how those things can change as you grow up. Kids will relate to Rosie, who tries to do the right thing but sometimes makes mistakes and has to figure out how to right them. Hackney perfectly captures the challenges of navigating middle school when your interests do not align with those of your friends and classmates, as well as the confusion of friends growing apart. VERDICT Part realistic fiction and part mystery, this character-driven book is a good read for kids who enjoyed Ingrid Law's *Savvy* and Natalie Lloyd's *A Snicker of Magic*.—Kristin Williamson, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma



#2150311 We Could Be Heroes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Margaret Finnegan

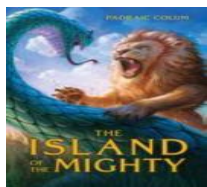
Hank Hudson is in a bit of trouble. After an incident involving the boy's bathroom and a terribly sad book his teacher is forcing them to read, Hank is left with a week's suspension and a slightly charred hardcover--and, it turns out, the attention of new girl Maisie Huang.

978-1-5344-4525-3 Atheneum ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Autistic Hank Hudson lives in his own world; he's happy to go unnoticed by the classmates he can't keep straight and feels protected by a trio of rocks he chooses and carries each day. After a rare rebellious incident, Hank attracts the attention of classmate Maisie Huang, who invites him to see her geologist parents' rock collection. The authoritative Maisie has an ulterior motive, however: guilting Hank into rescuing her elderly neighbor's dog, Booler, a pit bull who experiences seizures. Booler lives outside, tied to a tree because of his condition, and due to Hank's earlier audacity, Maisie believes that Hank has "the meatballs to save him." Sensitive Hank, who is excited to have a friend but horrified by Maisie's emotional manipulation, refuses and has a meltdown; author Finnegan uses an illustrative geological metaphor (a "lava flow where the lava moved and cooled at different rates") for Hank's meltdowns. Maisie is determined to "save" Booler and recruits Hank in other rescue schemes that both get him in trouble and offer him ample social experience (and provide comedic moments, as when the exceptionally honest Hank tries to lie). Debut author Finnegan, parent to a child with autism and epilepsy, deftly captures Hank's difficulties in dealing with emotions; his own and others'; in this good-natured tale of two unlikely friends determined to save a life. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)



#2118087 Island of the Mighty (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Padraic Colum

Among the greatest storytellers of the world, the ancient Celts told tales that, after more than a thousand years, still bristle with life and excitement. This beautifully illustrated book includes fifteen of these enchanting stories, including bold exploits at the Court of King Arthur.

978-1-5344-4561-1 Aladdin ©2019 6 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 1020

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#2156188 Blue Skies (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anne Bustard

The war ended three years ago, but Glory Bea's father never returned home from the front in France. Glory Bea understands what Mama and Grams and Grandpa say--that Daddy died a hero on Omaha Beach--yet deep down in her heart, she believes Daddy is still out there. But miracles, like people, are always changing, until at last they find their way home.

978-1-5344-4606-9 Simon & Schuster ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 630

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly, fifth grader Glory Bea's father is still MIA. Everyone assumes he's dead except Glory Bea, who refuses to give up hope of a miracle: "he's going to find us." When her father's soldier buddy Randall Horton comes for a visit, she isn't pleased with the attention her mother pays him, especially after Randall becomes a permanent resident of their small Texas town. As the adults' relationship grows romantic, resentful Glory Bea strives to drive Randall away. She eagerly awaits the arrival of the Merci Train, delivering, as thanks for wartime help, boxcars full of gifts from France and, she believes, her father ("Why else would it stop in Gladiola?"). Bustard (Anywhere but Paradise) captures a patriotic spirit in post-WWII America in this novel inspired by the real-life Merci Train. Although the book's outcome is fairly predictable, it offers well-researched details about the era and themes relatable to a modern audience. A subplot regarding Glory Bea's playing matchmaker for her two best friends adds humor and interest, highlighting the protagonist's determined attitude. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Emily Mitchell, Wernick & Pratt Agency. (Mar.)



#2235992 One Kid's Trash (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jamie Sumner

Hugo is not happy about being dragged halfway across the state of Colorado just because his dad had a midlife crisis and decided to become a ski instructor. It'd be different if Hugo weren't so tiny, if girls didn't think he was adorable like a puppy in a purse and guys didn't call him "leprechaun" and rub his head for luck. But here he is, the tiny new kid on his first day of middle school.

978-1-5344-5703-4 Atheneum ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Irish American rising sixth grader Hugo O'Connell, 11, is used to being picked on and passed over, thanks to his small stature. When he and his parents move from Denver to Creekside, Colo., so his ex-engineer dad can pursue his passion of ski instructing, Hugo hopes he'll have a fresh start, despite his anguish at having to leave his only friends behind. Starting middle school with his affable half-Indian, half-white cousin, Vijay, whose thoughtful inclusion often leaves him feeling coddled ("I love my cousin. But I wish I didn't need a tour guide for my own life"), Hugo builds tentative friendships with Vijay's friends, who are launching a school newsletter, and begins leveraging his unusual skill at garbology; the practice of inferring information about a person from their trash; to help classmates make sports teams, finagle rides from older siblings, and more. With his dad becoming increasingly absent and the arguments between his parents growing more frequent, Hugo leans into his growing popularity to distract himself and take on a bully. Sumner (Tune It Out) renders Hugo's journey toward embracing his strengths and recognizing the power of kindness painfully believable, not shying from his own hurtful and immature behavior as he learns valuable lessons about friendship and family. Ages 10: up. (Aug.)



#2227551 Arrow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Samantha M. Clark

For the first twelve years of Arrow's life, he has grown up as the only human in a lush, magical rainforest that's closed off from the rest of the world. He was raised by the Guardian Tree, the protector of the forest, which uses the earth's magic to keep it hidden from those who have sought to exploit and kill it. But now the magic veil is deteriorating, the forest is dying, and Arrow may be the only one who can save it.

978-1-5344-6597-8 Simon & Schuster ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 400 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 610

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Wrapping a tale with Jungle Book overtones in a near-future dystopian setting, Clark introduces Arrow, an abandoned, one-handed child raised alone since infancy by a wise old sentient tree. Brought up in an enclave of lush rain forest hidden beneath a magical veil, Arrow is pitted against ruthless corporate developers: the intangible Anima that keeps the forest both healthy and hidden is being rapidly poisoned by seeping pollution, and rents in the veil have allowed newcomers to stumble in from the environmentally wasted outside world. Can Arrow, who has never seen another person before, rise to this sudden flood of threats and challenges? Even the Guardian Tree, who serves as the anxious first-person narrator, has doubts. Rise he does, though, and if Clark goes with a too-easy “be sincere and wish hard” route to the tidy resolution, she does lay out a suspenseful tale with perceptively explored themes of trust and hope, glimpses of a nightmarish future, and an admirably resilient protagonist with a unique perspective. A lengthy afterword includes a list of activist organizations.



#2240840 Welcome to Dweeb Club (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Betsy Uhrig

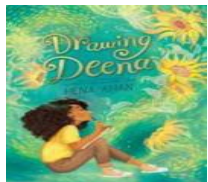
In the second week of seventh grade, Jason Sloan signs up for the brand-new HAIR Club. He and his friends have no idea what it's about, but since they're the first to sign up they figure they'll be in charge in no time. The club turns out to be super weird: using fancy new equipment donated by a mysterious benefactor, the members are supposed to monitor school security footage.

978-1-5344-6768-2 Margaret K. McElderry ©2021 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An eclectic group of seventh graders join a mysterious, life-altering after-school club. At the beginning of seventh grade, Jason Sloan joins Flounder Bay Upper School's new H.A.I.R. Club at an activity fair, motivated by his popular, perfectly coiffed friend Glamorous Steve's enthusiasm. The members soon realize that the club isn't actually about hair; it's a secret club in which the kids must monitor an anonymous donor's high-tech video system for any security breaches on school grounds. The club's first big assignment is to determine who has been stealing the cafeteria's stash of croutons, but as the eight members review the footage, they eventually notice something creepy and unbelievable--it shows themselves eating lunch five years in the future. Most of the kids don't like what they see of themselves as seniors (Steve's lost his enviable hairdo, Nikhil has an embarrassing mustache, Sonia seems to have questionable taste in clothes and boys, and Jason barely has any friends), and they team up to solve the real mystery: Who's behind the time-bending tech, and what they can do to alter their trajectories? The story's premise is compelling, and Jason's family relationships are refreshing and well drawn, but the seventh graders' issues can seem superficial, and the character development is uneven. The club is majority White by default, but three kids' names cue them as Asian. A funny and original story about friendship and the future. (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2365413 Drawing Deena (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Hena Khan

Deena's never given a name to the familiar knot in her stomach that appears when her parents argue about money, when it's time to go to school, or when she struggles to find the right words. She manages to make it through each day with the help of her friends and the art she loves to make.

978-1-5344-5991-5 Salaam Reads ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 "Thirteen is no time to be stressed," Deena's mom admonishes. On the surface, she's right: Deena and her brother have a roof over their heads, parents who are doing their best, and a wider community of Pakistani Americans in Falls Church, Virginia. Still, kids the world over know otherwise, even those like Deena who live in relative privilege. They aren't always afforded the opportunity to express this emotion in a healthy manner, if at all. Deena's stress manifests itself physically--in her nighttime teeth clenching and persistent nausea during the daytime. It's unclear, too, whether the seventh-grader finds any relief by creating art. Despite an obvious talent for drawing, internal drive, and encouragement from friends and teachers, Deena remains unsure of the validity of her pursuits. Possible resolutions to these issues are introduced about halfway, including a budding relationship with a fellow Desi artist and mentor figure. Although Deena's anxiety isn't officially diagnosed until well after the midpoint, it's a minor flaw in an otherwise extremely relatable story. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Pakistani American Deena from northern Virginia is stressed to the point of physical illness; her chronic insecurities about being an artist-and even just a well-adjusted teen-aren't helped by her parents constantly fighting over money.

In hopes of easing the family burden and showcasing her artistic abilities to gain recognition, she decides to help promote her mother's Pakistani clothing boutique online. But when business at the shop picks up and familial relationships and friendships are torn apart, Deena struggles to ask for help and is unsure about what to do, until she reaches her breaking point. First-person point of view and thoughtful Urdu and English conversations flow seamlessly in Khan's middle grade novel, and the book tenderly covers topics about social media, mental health, art, and generational barriers in parent-child relationships. When Deena creates social media accounts for both her mother's boutique and her art, for example, Deena and others discuss making safe decisions online, and dialogue between Deena and her cousin underscores the message that photo-editing apps don't necessarily reflect true beauty. Deena finds a role model in desi artist Salma and expresses how innovation and representation are needed in the art world as "art gives us space to claim our narratives, to speak out truths, and to inspire change." Despite her persistent self-doubt and her parents' unrealistic expectations, Deena ultimately triumphs, advocating for herself and persuading them to join a therapy program with her to manage her anxiety. This is an effective reminder that everyone is a work in progress and that young readers have the power to courageously draw their future. DR COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

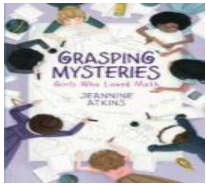
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Thirteen-year-old Deena Rahman's world revolves around spending time with her friends, creating art, and appeasing her Pakistani American family. Deena also helps her mother run a clothing boutique selling Pakistani outfits, hoping to alleviate tension in their home over finances. Deena often overhears her parents fighting about money and feels guilty for their having to spend it on things she needs, such as dental work. She also hesitates to tell them about things she and her brother, Musa, would benefit from, such as art classes for her and talent scouts to further Musa's chances at a soccer scholarship. She tries to ignore the daily nausea and gnawing in her stomach, but soon the physical manifestations of stress demand attention. Both Deena and her parents must confront her anxiety issues and the importance of support. With helpful friends and an artist mentor, she learns to deprioritize others' expectations and advocate for herself, including pushing back against her parents' reluctance to allow her to see a school psychologist. A sensitive look at the effects of anxiety and the pressures of today (including social media) on young people's mental health. Sadaf Siddique(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Seventh grader Deena has a passion for art, a supportive Pakistani American community--and anxiety. Deena feels nauseated every morning; her clenched jaw has even resulted in a cracked tooth. Her parents already fight over finances, so an expensive nightguard adds to the stress. If Mama could earn more from her small home business designing and selling desi clothing, the family would also have enough money for Deena to take drawing lessons. With the help of cousins and friends, Deena successfully executes an online marketing campaign for her mom's business, unfurled with careful attention to internet safety and featuring a logo she designed herself. These achievements, plus encouragement from a new artist customer, help grow Deena's confidence in her creative abilities. But now that she's getting accolades, she encounters relationship turmoil. That, plus the impact of her parents' fighting, leads to a scary panic attack in math class. Deena embraces help from a team of adults at school, but will her parents be able to understand and accept her mental health needs? Meanwhile, through her art, Deena goes on a journey of personal and creative discovery and self-expression. Readers will delight in Deena's endearing voice: She's an inventive and relatable protagonist. Khan skillfully weaves in cultural references and Urdu phrases alongside thoughtful questions about the arts, mental health, social media, parent-child relationships, and the pressures adolescent girls face about their appearances. A nuanced and quietly powerful story. (Fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Palestinian American middle schooler Deena is experiencing stress so severe it's affecting her body, resulting in panic attacks, daily nausea, and a cracked tooth. Some of her anxiety stems from interpersonal relationships: her cool cousin Parisa is a social media star, but Deena isn't allowed to have her own account and doesn't want to make one without her super-smart best friend Lucia anyway. Worries relating to her family's finances and how often her parents fight about money, as well as her desire to become an artist; despite the disapproval she suspects she'd receive from her family were she to voice her dreams; further exacerbate her stress. When Deena decides to make a social media account for her mother's tailoring business, she hopes that the exposure will help the boutique take off and ease her worries; but they only get worse. Mildly uneven pacing gives way to authentic-feeling and engaging character interactions. Through candid first-person narration, Khan (*Zara's Rules for Living Your Best Life*) examines adolescent anxiety and its various triggers and depicts adaptive coping mechanisms, including making the most of mentorship and support from one's community. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Deena, a seventh grade Pakistani American girl, has such stress and anxiety over things like growing up, her family's finances, and not feeling quite as mature as her cousin, that she grinds her teeth at night and has trouble eating breakfast first thing in the morning. When she tries to use her artistic talents to help her mother's clothing business, she quickly hits some snags with family and friends. Can she get past her worries and find her voice to express her feelings? Like Khan's other middle grade novels, this book is written with an authentic middle school voice and blends culture, realistic worries, and mental health in a way upper elementary school and young middle school readers will appreciate. Deena is figuring out who she is in relation to her artistic skills, but still has to tow the line with her mother's expectations and concerns about what others will think of her. The chapters are quick and fast-paced, making the story fly by with proper resolutions. Readers will root for Deena because her struggles will resonate with their own. VERDICT An excellent read for elementary and middle school collections not the least because of its authentic voice and pacing.—Molly Dettmann

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2165000 Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jeannine Atkins</i> Told in vibrant, evocative poems, this stunning novel celebrates seven remarkable	1	\$18.99



women who used math as their key to explore the mysteries of the universe and grew up to do innovative work that changed the world. (Novel In Verse)
978-1-5344-6068-3 Atheneum ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 960

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 In this companion book to *Finding Wonders* (2016), Atkins presents the lives of seven girls who excelled in mathematics and later, often after overcoming significant obstacles, made significant contributions in related fields. Caroline Herschel discovered a comet, and Vera Rubin provided evidence of dark matter in the universe. Inventor Hertha Ayrton became the first woman electrical engineer. Meticulous statistical records were key to Florence Nightingale's success in changing hospital care and Edna Lee Paisano's progress in gaining significantly greater representation for Native Americans in Census Bureau reports. Marie Tharp turned a mountain of data into maps of the Atlantic Ocean floor, while Katherine Johnson calculated trajectories to the moon. Written in free verse, the text is welcoming, informative, pithy, wry, very readable, and occasionally haunting: as Florence Nightingale carries her lantern through the hospital wards at night, soldiers reach out to touch the shadow she leaves behind. Still, doctors resentful of her authority refer to her not as the Lady with the Lamp but as the Lady with the Hammer. A heartening celebration of mathematically gifted women. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books *Three Girls Who Changed Science* (BCCB 6/16), Jeannine Atkins presents a distinguished sorority, drawing readers beyond the customary strictures of collective biographies and into a sensitive exploration not only of accomplishments but the resilient inner lives of women who struggled to navigate male-dominated fields. Seven chapters in verse highlight the familiar-Caroline Herschel, whose calculations led to multiple comet discoveries; Marie Tharp, whose sea floor maps forced geologists to take sea floor spread seriously; Katherine Johnson, whose mathematical work at NASA is finally receiving public acclaim. They also shed new light on a familiar name: nurse Florence Nightingale, whose data collection and graphing opened inroads in public health. Three less familiar figures add depth to the field: Hertha Marks Ayrton, for whom math led to a pioneering career in electrical engineering; Edna Lee Paisano, whose analytical work at the Census Bureau led to a career dedicated to redress of the decennial undercount of fellow Native Americans; and Vera Rubin, whose groundbreaking research on the speed of outer stars in spiral galaxies provided evidence for the existence of dark matter. Although longer biographical works are seldom grist for readalouds, Atkins' respect for the particularities of each life manifests in the image-rich poetry that recommends itself to oral presentation. For Caroline Herschel, for instance, "Winter offers long nights with more time/ to sweep the sky, moving the telescope like a broom/ meant to gather every star." Notes and bibliographies are appended for each entry. This is a must-buy for STEAM collections. EB

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Atkins's (*Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science*, rev. 7/16) latest collective biography in verse spotlights seven "women who used math to frame and solve problems, fix things, or understand the size of the universe." Tracing her subjects' lives from childhood to adulthood, Atkins stitches together intimate slice-of-life moments and impressive professional accomplishments, taking poetic license with "dialogue and sensory detail." First up is astronomer Caroline Herschel (1750-1848), who "writes a note to Dr. Maskelyne / at the Royal Observatory, announcing her second comet. / Then she measures sugar to make gooseberry jam." By pairing comet-discovering with jam-making, and subversively categorizing both as women's work, Atkins underscores what would have been an outrageous notion in late-eighteenth-century England. Similarly multilayered and thoughtful are Atkins's portraits of nurse and statistician Florence Nightingale; inventor and electrical engineer Hertha Marks Ayrton; geologist and oceanographic cartographer Marie Tharp; NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson; Census Bureau statistician Edna Lee Paisano; and astronomer Vera Rubin. Astute and richly detailed, Atkins's free-verse biographies address head-on the challenges -- both shared (sexism) and distinct (financial hardship, racism, work-family balance, illness) -- that these passionate and determined trailblazers overcame. And it's entirely fitting that Atkins's lyrical tributes are keenly evocative when referencing math: "Subtraction is soothing, though she dislikes / landing on zero. Something is missing. She wants more." An author's note, brief biographical profiles, and a selected bibliography are appended. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This collective verse biography "honors women who used math to frame and solve problems, fix things, or understand the size of the universe." Atkins opens with German Caroline Herschel (1750-1848), the first woman to discover a comet, and closes with American Vera Rubin (1928-2016), an astronomer who proved the existence of dark matter. Throughout, she illustrates how each woman faced personal obstacles as well as gender bias but never allowed "insults or lack of faith to stop" her. Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) revolutionized the nursing profession through use of medical statistics, and Hertha Marks Ayrton (1854-1923) became the first female electrical engineer, registering 26 patents; both women were English. American geologist Marie Tharp (1920-2006) helped develop the first map of the entire ocean floor while her countrywoman mathematician Katherine Johnson (1918-2020) endured segregation as she calculated trajectories for NASA. At the U.S. Census Bureau, statistician Edna Lee Paisano (1948-2014) used math to "give everyone a fair chance." With the exception of African American Johnson and Nez Perce Paisano, the women profiled are white. Presented chronologically in engaging verse with a feminist tone, the text artfully weaves scientific data and history with imagined "dialogue and sensory detail based on what's known about the time, places, and questions" of these remarkable math mavens. A line drawing introduces each woman's biography, and the "Women Who Widened Horizons" section summarizes their achievements. Thoroughly researched, creatively presented, inspiring real-life role models for girls who love math. (author's note, selected bibliography) (Verse biography. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2161586 Girl and the Witch's Garden (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Erin Bowman

The grand house and its garden hold many secrets--some of which may even save her father--and Piper will need to believe in herself, her new friends, and magic if she wants to unlock them before it's too late.

978-1-5344-6158-1 Simon & Schuster ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 740

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Twelve-year-old Piper Peavey lives with her father Atticus in Connecticut. As her father faces terminal cancer, Piper is dumped at the Mallory Estate, owned by her estranged mother Sophia and grandmother Melena. Steeped in magical rumors, Mallory Estate is also home to foster children Julius, Kenji, Teddy, and Camilla, who possess magical gifts. Under Sophia's instruction, they work to locate the estate's enchanted garden where the elixir of life is hidden. Desperate to save Atticus, Piper develops her own ability and reaches the garden first, teaming up with Teddy to solve three magical riddles. The children, Sophia, and Melena each are motivated by different goals, and Piper's family secrets guide the final outcome. Bowman's third-person limited perspective gives readers a close understanding of Piper's emotions as she faces her mother's desertion and her father's prognosis. The writing is smooth, and Piper's dialogue with the children and her mother purposefully advances the plot. As with any Faustean bargain, Piper's desire to have the elixir at any cost creates an uncomfortable tension that electrifies the story. The world-building, however, has a tenuous quality. At times, Bowman has to inform readers how Piper figures something out or what the magical rules are. Her explanations seem more the writer's construct than a tight-knit magical universe. **VERDICT** An intriguing premise whose execution is acceptable though not outstanding, saved by Piper's honest grief. Purchase where interest indicates.—Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT



#2161587 Dream Weaver (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Reina Luz Alegre

Twelve-year-old Zoey navigates the tricky waters of friendship while looking for a way to save her grandfather's struggling business.

978-1-5344-6231-1 Simon & Schuster ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 810

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–5—Twelve-year-old Zoey is used to going along with her dad's ever-changing dreams, even if it means moving every few months. After all, he's the only parent that Zoey and her older brother JosT have left. When Zoey's father announces that he's heading to a new job in New York City and leaving Zoey and JosT to stay with their Cuban grandfather at the Jersey Shore, she's not sure how to feel. However, Zoey is soon distracted by trying to save her grandpa's bowling alley from bankruptcy, and a middle school bowling league that desperately needs another member. Zoey is a realistic and likeable protagonist doing her best for her family and new community in a stressful situation. Grief is a frequent topic, but it never dominates the story: Zoey and her family are still dealing with both her mom and abuelita's recent deaths, and their absence is often mentioned. While Zoey's family members are sometimes self-absorbed, their affection for each other and their care for Zoey is always clear. The outcomes for the bowling league and bowling alley are slightly predictable, but earned all the same. **VERDICT** Alegre has written a warm, funny, empowering book that's sure to appeal to fans of Meg Medina's *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* or Pablo Cartaya's *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*. Recommended for all collections.—Kelsey Socha, Springfield City Library, MA



#2293304 Fly (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Alison Hughes

Felix Landon Yarrow, a fourteen-year-old with cerebral palsy, is captivated by the noble, chivalrous ideals of knighthood. So when he fears a school villain poses a danger to his lady love, finding a way to save her becomes his quest. In the elaborate plot he creates, Felix will triumphantly conquer his enemy and rescue his "damsel in distress."

978-1-5253-0583-2 Kids Can Press ©2022 5-1/4 x 9 1 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile NP

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Free verse poems voiced by a wheelchair-using 14-year-old with cerebral palsy form a unique, Cervantes-tinged novel from Hughes (*Hit the Ground Running*). Felix Landon Yarrow; F.L.Y., or Fly; carries his late father's well-worn copy of *Don Quixote* at all times as "physical proof/ to ignorant people/ that there's a/ mind/ in this/ body of mine." Often disregarded by his peers, Felix nevertheless suggests that "invisibility/ is my superpower" as he observes his crush, Daria, and watches out when popular Carter, whom Felix considers dangerous, also takes an interest in her. After Carter initiates a criminal money-making enterprise at school, Felix channels his hero Quixote, beginning a ploy to protect Daria and bring Carter to justice. Hughes's complex characterization of Felix; private, well-intentioned, frustrated with others' low expectations for him; eloquently rings through each observational stanza, especially through his evolving relationship with his "extra, extra" extroverted school aide Levi. The poems, most a page or two in length, stagger words for emphasis and emotional impact, resulting in a seamless and immersive narrative about one teen's "quest/ for a noble life." Felix, Carter, and Levi cue as white; Daria is brown-skinned. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Hilary McMahon, Westwood Creative Artists. (Oct.)



#2350037 Cricket War (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Tho Pham

The gripping story of a boy's escape by boat from Communist Vietnam in 1980. Eleven-year-old Thọ Phạm lives with his family in South Vietnam. He spends his afternoons playing soccer and cricket fighting, but life is slowly changing under the Communists. His parents are worried, and Thọ knows the Communist army will soon knock on their door to make his brother, and then him, join them. Still, it shocks him when his father says he's arranged for Thọ to leave, immediately. Thọ tries to be brave as he sets out on a harrowing journey toward the unknown.

978-1-5253-0655-6 Kids Can Press ©2023 5-1/4 x 8 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 930

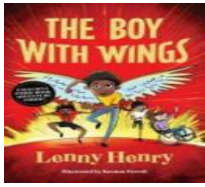
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist It's been more than 40 years since many in Vietnam fled in the aftermath of war, stealing away with boats on dangerous journeys through the South China Sea. Pham's fictional chapter book about his own childhood journey will fascinate readers who are both interested in history and its social ramifications, as well as those who love a story of pure adventure. Just 11, a boy named Tho, like Pham himself, boards a boat without family members and endures a trip fraught with pirates, starvation conditions, and storms until he is rescued by a German boat. On shore in a refugee camp, he bonds with a family he meets, as well as one he knew from home, and perseveres, though sometimes feeling as trapped as the crickets he used to collect to fight in neighborhood bug battles. Like the tough insects, though, Tho is resilient and can fight for himself and others—especially his new makeshift family—without hurting his enemies, and eventually, he finds his way, by plane this time, to his brother in Canada. Inspiring.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In 1980s Vietnam, a boy suddenly becomes a refugee, lost amid a sea of uncertainty. Th? loves cricket fighting, and he and his best friend, Lâm, eagerly compete to see whose cricket will win. Despite this childhood joy, there are certain unsaid rules in their small village. It is not uncommon for young men and even families to disappear. No one talks about why this is happening, and if they do it is never the truth: People are trying to leave Vietnam to escape the required conscription of young men in the Communist army. If any of the families are caught, the surviving relatives will pay dearly. Though Th? knows this, it doesn't dull the pain of finding Lâm and Lâm's brother, An, gone one day. Th?'s own older brother, Vu, is also nearing conscription age, and Th? overhears his parents whispering at night and notices them quietly selling their furniture to earn money to send the boys away. Vu leaves first, and a year later, Th? boards a small boat. He stows away with pirates who raid the boat and eventually navigates life at a refugee camp in the Philippines; through it all, he longs to reunite with his brother. Based on Ph?'m's own experiences of leaving Vietnam at age 12, this action-packed, emotionally intense story is counterbalanced by moments of kindness and joy. A harrowing yet hopeful account of a compelling journey. (pronunciation guide, map, afterword, a brief recent history of Vietnam) (Historical fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Debut author Pham and McTavish (*Life Skills*, for adults) weave a vividly wrought story of hope, loss, and inner strength in this semiautobiographical recounting of Pham's experience fleeing Vietnam. In 1980, 11-year-old Tho lives in Communist Ho` Chi Minh City with his family and spends his days enjoying cricket racing with his best friend Lam. Then, Lam leaves without warning or a goodbye, like many others have, to escape the war draft. Suddenly, Tho 's older brother Vu disappears, too. A year later, Tho is floored to learn that his father has arranged for Tho to leave as well, on a boat to America, where he will live with his uncle. But the boat on which he escapes is repeatedly ransacked by pirates. When one pirate crew offers the children on the boat sweets, Tho decides to stow away on their ship ("any pirates who give out treats must have kind hearts. These are the right pirates"). While the protagonist's journey is plagued by trauma and upheaval, and the authors detail Pham's and other Vietnamese refugees' experiences to tear-jerking effect, the creators also offer comfort via joyful interactions throughout this carefully crafted, fast-paced read. Ages 9: 12. (Oct.)

Quantity
Unit Price



#2325682 (Vol. 01) Boy with Wings (Hardcover (POB))
written by Lenny Henry

1 \$21.99

When Tunde sprouts wings and learns he's all that stands between Earth and total destruction, suddenly school is the least of his problems. Luckily, his rag-tag group of pals have got his back, and with his new powers, Tunde is ready to fly in the face of danger.

978-1-5248-8471-0 Andrews McMeel Publishing ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 208 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly British actor and comedian Henry (Black British Lives Matter, for adults) touches on issues of inclusivity, prejudice, and personal pride in this lively fantasy adventure. While Tunde, an adopted British-born Caribbean 12-year-old, publicly claims that he doesn't mind not knowing anything about his birth family, his private feelings are "bendier and twistier than a rubber band in a microwave." Still, he's happy with his parents, who share and help him connect with his heritage, and who support him through relentless school bullying surrounding his "beaky" nose. When birds of all kinds begin defending Tunde from bullies, Tunde is grateful for their help, if a little weirded out. But nothing about the events could have prepared him for his suddenly sprouting wings. Tunde is soon summoned by a bird-like people called the Aavians to help combat their enemies, the mammalian Furleenians. Animated illustrations by Ferrell (Looking for Happy) depict Tunde's school struggles alongside his high-flying adventures. Though Tunde's unearthing of his paranormal past evokes standard superhero fare, Henry's effusive first-person prose and solid grasp on heartwarming familial and friendship dynamics make for a high-spirited origin tale. A classic-feeling superhero comic by Buckingham (Dead Boy Detectives) concludes, depicting further adventures. Ages 8: 12. (June)

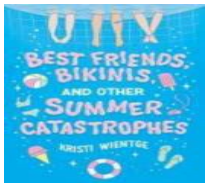


#2329720 Nell and the Netherbeast (Hardcover (POB))
written by Adi Rule

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$21.99

Twelve-year-old Nell Stoker loves animals. She's been working toward becoming a junior volunteer at her local animal shelter for what feels like forever. But now it's summertime, and her parents are making her go to her Aunt Jerry's old bed and breakfast in Deer Valley with her older sister Lulu. When Nell crosses paths with the Netherbeast (a creature that is decidedly not a cat), his hijinks leave her wondering if she's made a new best friend or if Netherbeast will destroy the whole B&B (not even by accident). It's up to Nell to help save her aunt's B&B and solve the mystery of what might be in the basement. Between the mysteries of Rose Cottage and the creepy Netherbeast-Nell is in for an unforgettable summer adventure.

978-1-5248-8472-7 Andrews McMeel Publishing ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/3 288 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600



#2278365 Best Friends, Bikinis, and Other Summer Catastrophes (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kristi Wientge

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

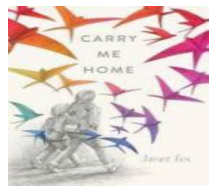
Alex has always known her best friend and next-door neighbor, Will, will be there for her. Until a girl from the pool named Rebekah comes over to them and says hi. Suddenly, Will is changing his clothes, restyling his hair, and breaking all of their summer plans and Alex is not happy about it. Every summer, she and Will come up with a new challenge. This year, it's a treehouse. Now Alex is wrangling up summer jobs and keeping tabs on the new girl, hoping that in completing their treehouse, she can keep from losing her best friend and her summer from falling apart.

978-1-5344-8502-0 Simon & Schuster ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 The summer before eighth grade is supposed to be full of the fun and interesting challenges that Alex and her best friend, Will, create together. But when popular girl Rebekah starts hanging out with Will and Alex at the pool, Alex notices things changing between herself and Will. As Will starts acting differently, their friendship feels like it's starting to fracture. Here, Wientge (Honeybees and Frenemies, 2019) masters the awkward in-between moments of growing up and the world changing around you without you being ready for it.

Alex navigates not only her changing friendships but also her family dynamics, with her grandfather moving on after her beloved Nana's death. The characters are well developed, and nothing in Alex's journey is easily answered. Her inner voice and turmoil ring true as Alex moves from feeling like a kid to becoming a teen. A perfect choice about the emotional in-between experience for middle-schoolers. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews During the summer before eighth grade, Alex experiences challenging changes. One day at the pool, her longtime best friend, Will, suddenly becomes interested in Rebekah, a popular, well-off girl from school. Alex starts to wonder about body image and wearing a bikini, like Rebekah does. She rejects Rebekah's friendly overtures, not trusting that Rebekah might genuinely like her company, too. She resents Will's efforts to attract Rebekah but also worries that Rebekah may be toying with Will's affections. Alex is also upset about other aspects of her life. She feels that her mother, a busy therapist, expects too much in terms of household chores, caring for her younger brothers, and forcing her to take a babysitting class to get other jobs. Alex has a great relationship with her dad, however, and he helps her build a treehouse with Will, a project she hopes will keep Will away from Rebekah. Will and Alex must earn money to buy materials, industriously finding odd neighborhood jobs like painting and picking up dog poop. As the summer slips by, things improve on many fronts for Alex, from friendships to family relationships. Containing some limited dramatic tension, this realistic story about tween emotional swings reads easily and rings true. Characters in this suburban town are presumed White. An enjoyable read about changing friendships and responsibilities. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

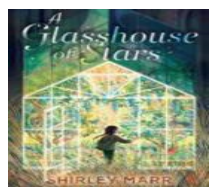


#2235371 Carry Me Home (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Janet Fox

Twelve-year-old Lulu and her younger sister, Serena, have a secret. As Daddy always says, "it's best if we keep it to ourselves," and so they have. But hiding your past is one thing. Hiding where you live-and that your Daddy has gone missing-is harder. 978-1-5344-8508-2 Simon & Schuster ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 790

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist After her mother's death, 12-year-old Lulu has been living in a run-down SUV with her younger sister, Serena, and their devastated father. Montana is a far cry from their familiar Texas, but they've made it work, setting up camp in an RV park, spending days at school and work, and sleeping in the car at night. Dad promises better days ahead, but their precarious existence is upended when, one day, he fails to return home. An increasingly anxious Lulu carries on as usual, fearing sibling separation if anyone finds out. Waiting for her father's return, she dodges questions and cares for Serena while navigating middle school and increasingly suspicious (but kind) townspeople. Fox's moving story is told in flashes of the "Now," "Before," and "Way Before," slowly and affectingly filling in the family's history, as well as a detailed explanation of their situation. A reassuring but realistic ending encourages readers to ask for help when needed and emphasizes that there is always someone who will care. A compassionate and empathetic examination of being unoused.

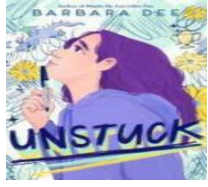


#2227545 Glasshouse of Stars (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Shirley Marr

Meixing Lim and her family have arrived at the New House in the New Land. Her parents inherited the home from First Uncle who died tragically and unexpectedly while picking oranges in the backyard. Her Ma Ma likes to remind Meixing the family never could have afforded to move here otherwise, so she should be thankful for this opportunity. 978-1-5344-8883-0 Simon & Schuster ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 870

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly rr's (Little Jiang) uneven sophomore middle grade follows quiet, pensive Chinese child Meixing Lei, her pregnant Ma Ma, and Ba Ba, "Old People" and new immigrants to the "New Land," where recently deceased First Uncle has bequeathed them a house that Meixing names "Big Scary." Seemingly shifting and growing to reflect Meixing's emotions, the house contains a mystical glasshouse, where Meixing sees past and future visions and interacts with First Uncle. But when tragedy strikes, the family must rely on their Vietnamese neighbors, the Huynhs, including sullen Kevin, a classmate of Meixing's. Certain elements, including a lunch box moment and Ma Ma's pressure on Meixing to become a doctor and bring honor to the family, will be familiar to readers of similar diasporic titles. While the narration doesn't always feel age-appropriate ("Ailing, so highly foreign educated but completely ignorant about the proceedings of a traditional funeral") and the prophetic glasshouse feels underutilized, the second-person perspective allows direct access to Meixing's rich inner landscape, and the hopeful end to this gentle speculative novel will satisfy. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Gemma Cooper, the Bent Agency. (June)



#2365458 Unstuck (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Barbara Dee

A middle grade novel about a girl whose struggles with anxiety and writer's block set off unexpected twists and turns, both on and off the page.

978-1-5344-8986-8 Aladdin ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Seventh-grader Lyla wants to—no, has to—submit her fantasy novel to the local writing contest. Overshadowed by her older sister (who’s refusing to apply to college) and now rejected by her used-to-be best friend, Lyla feels like she has something to prove. But she’s so desperate to be seen as a writer that she ends up completely blocked. With her teacher’s help, Lyla gradually learns to embrace the writing journey rather than the destination. Lyla’s slow progress to make meaningful changes to her story or relationships can drag at times, but dynamic side characters, such as her older sister and new friend, Journey, add color to Lyla’s more insular perspective. With well-established insight into the interior lives of middle-schoolers, Dee (Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet, 2022) nails some of the tiny, painful intricacies of hesitant new friendships and feeling boxed in by other people’s expectations. Lyla’s passion and frustrations will be relatable to any aspiring young writer who’s struggled with feeling blocked by their own big idea, and they may find Lyla’s techniques helpful in their own writing.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Seventh grader Lyla Benjamin is bursting with ideas for the extravagant fantasy novel she's been plotting for a year, which centers on witches, feuding sisters, and a one-toed beast. But when her English class begins a creative writing unit that will end with the students participating in a town-wide writing contest that Lyla's apparently perfect older sister Dahlia once won, Lyla experiences unexpected writer's block. Even though she knows where she wants her novel to go, Lyla feels paralyzed by her goal to create an impressive story, resulting in distractions when she's supposed to be writing. Her stress over the fast-approaching deadline is amplified by interpersonal complications including a growing rift with her best friend Rania, who's attending a different middle school, and Dahlia confiding in Lyla that she's uncertain about attending college. Through Lyla's by turns earnest and anxious first-person perspective, Dee (Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet) deftly depicts the complex and sometimes turbulent writing process, and the self-doubt that can come with it. A section titled "Twenty-Five Ways to Get Unstuck" concludes. Lyla and her family are white; the supporting cast is racially diverse. Ages 9: 13. Agent: Jill Grinberg, Jill Grinberg Literary. (Feb.)



#2323048 Firefly Summer (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Morgan Matson

For as long as Ryanna Stuart can remember, her summers have been spent with her father and his new wife. Just the three of them, structured, planned, and quiet. But this summer is different. This summer, she's received a letter from her grandparents--grandparents neither she nor her dad have spoken to since her mom's death--inviting her to stay with them at an old summer camp in the Poconos.

978-1-5344-9335-3 Simon & Schuster ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Eleven-year-old Ryanna doesn’t remember her mother, who died eight years ago, but she’s curious about her. So, when her mother’s parents invite her to spend the summer at their home on a Pennsylvania lake, she agrees to go. They used to run a children’s camp there. Now their children and grandchildren return every summer, living in cabins and gathering for shared meals, campfires, and adventures. Ryanna quickly warms to her grandparents and the unusual degree of freedom and camaraderie that she and her cousins enjoy. It’s a heady experience for an only child. Learning that a ruthless developer claims to own her grandparents’ property, Ryanna attempts to save their home by following a trail of mysterious clues left by her mother. Matson, whose previous books were written for young adults, makes her middle-grade debut with this endearing book for tweens. The characters, young and old, have their quirks and differences of opinion, but the lakeside camp has a mellowing effect on nearly everyone. Ryanna’s first-person narrative offers a balanced record of events and reflections while bringing the characters to life as people with different needs, moods, and motivations. The mystery and a related treasure hunt bring additional drama, which mounts until the novel reaches its satisfying conclusion.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When a tween accepts an invitation to stay with her estranged maternal grandparents in the Poconos, she finds a large and lively extended family, and a treasure map, in this captivating mystery, a middle grade debut from Matson (Take Me Home Tonight). Eager to hear stories about her mom, who died when she was three, only child Ryanna Stuart nervously agrees when the Van Camps invite her to stay for the summer at their inoperative summer property, Camp Van Camp, which is in danger of being razed by a neighbor. As the mystery-loving 11-year-old settles into the summer's rhythms, she grows closer to her newfound family, teaming up with cousins her age to follow

marginalia once scribbled by her mother in a mystery book and to locate a treasure map that they hope will save the camp. Matson's vibrant setting, peopled with an easygoing extended family that encourages free play, is irresistibly rendered, while Ryanna's quest to learn more about her mother, as well as her father's falling out with the family, imbues the carefully plotted central mystery with emotional resonance. Ryanna and her dad are white; intersectional diversity is present in the extended family. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Emily van Beek, Folio Jr./Folio Literary. (May)



#2332777 Farewell Cuba, Mi Isla (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alexandra Diaz

A poignant middle grade novel about two girls fleeing 1960 Cuba with their family inspired by the author's family's history.

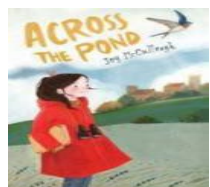
978-1-5344-9540-1 Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist tter to Cuba, a country that hundreds of thousands of its people never saw again following the Revolution. Drawing from the experiences of her family and other exiles, Diaz offers a story following two cousins, Victoria and Jackie, who are both forced to emigrate from Cuba and start a new life in the U.S. with their families. The hardship they face as refugees is a common story among Cubans in exile, but this timely story is told with middle-grade and tween readers in mind. Though the girls shouldn't have to worry about anything beyond enjoying their childhood, Victoria and Jackie find the strength in each other to step up and do whatever is necessary to support their family. Since the tale takes place in the 1960s, readers also get a glimpse of what race relations in the U.S. were like at the time, as well as attitudes toward Russians and other groups. Whether as a novel in itself or a framework for understanding a place and time in history, this is a moving, poignant read.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly For as long as they've been alive, 12-year-old Cuban cousins Victoria and Jackie have never been far apart; they live in the same building with their immediate families, and spend their summers at Papalfonso and Mamalara's farm. But it seems that their carefree days together are coming to an end; when Fidel Castro rises to power in 1960, people Victoria has known all her life begin fleeing the island. Protesters are being arrested en masse, and Victoria's father, who opposes Castro's regime, worries that they might be next. Victoria and her parents soon leave for Miami, believing they'll be able to return to Cuba in a few weeks. Meanwhile, amid rising tensions and violence, Jackie must decide whether she should leave, too; without her parents or younger brother. Employing the cousins' alternating perspectives, Diaz (Santiago's Road Home) weaves a compelling tale that sensitively depicts the struggles many Cuban migrants faced during this period, including financial hardship, losing loved ones, and racist bullying at school. Inspired by her own family's experiences, as discussed in an author's note, Diaz delivers a well-researched story that serves as a compassionate introduction to this underdiscussed part of American and Cuban history. A glossary concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kristin Ostby, Greenhouse Literary. (Sept.)



#2218758 Across the Pond (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joy McCullough

Callie can't wait for her new life to start. After a major friendship breakup in San Diego, moving overseas to Scotland gives her the perfect chance to reinvent herself. On top of that, she's going to live in a real-life castle! But as romantic as life in a castle sounds, the reality is a little less comfortable: it's run-down, freezing, and crawling with critters. Plus, starting off on the wrong foot with the gardener's granddaughter doesn't help her nerves about making new friends.

978-1-5344-7121-4 Atheneum ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

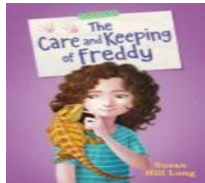
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Painfully ostracized by her former friends in San Diego, Callie is ready for a fresh start. But when her family moves to a small Scottish community and starts renovating the dilapidated castle that her parents have inherited, she just can't face the prospect of a new school. Her parents agree to homeschooling if she will participate in an activity with other kids, so she reluctantly joins a birdwatching club. Sid, a neighbor close to Callie's age, is initially hostile and later seems indifferent, but Callie perseveres and befriends her as well as Raj, an amiable local boy who enjoys birding. Meanwhile, Callie discovers the journal of a girl who recorded the birds she spotted in Scotland after her evacuation from London in 1939. McCullough's novel aptly portrays Callie as a girl rebounding from a painful experience and trying to reinvent herself in a new place, inspired and heartened by the words of a displaced girl during WWII. With appealing jacket art, a distinctive setting, and an involving narrative, this inviting book delivers a good story. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A new life in a new country does not, at first, bring the fresh start Callie hoped for. Seventh grader Callie; her 7-

year-old brother, Jax; and their parents leave San Diego after inheriting a castle in the Scottish countryside. Callie's parents, who as grad students rented a cottage on the grounds and became close to the late owner, Lady Whittington-Spence, begin much-needed renovations. Callie, who departed California ostracized by her friends, imagines the cachet of being the exotic American in her new school. However, while the ebullient Jax quickly settles in, Callie embarrasses herself on her first visit to the local school. Burning with shame, she persuades her parents to let her try home schooling and (eventually) makes friends with Sid, the prickly granddaughter of her parents' gardener. Most excitingly, she uncovers a journal kept by one Pippa Spence when she was evacuated to the Highlands during World War II. Pippa was a keen bird-watcher, and, as Callie reads her journal, excerpts of which are interspersed, and explores the grounds and its bird life with Sid, she starts to put down roots and gain a new perspective on painful events back home. This character-driven story of introspection and growth will appeal to thoughtful readers. The intensely awkward self-consciousness of the middle school years is presented with realistic sensitivity and insight. Main characters are White, and there is natural, realistic diversity in the supporting cast. An emotionally perceptive story of awakening compassion for self and others. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Seventh grader Callie, who is white, can't wait to trade her "small" San Diego existence for life in the sprawling Scottish castle her parents have inherited from Lady Whittington-Spence, a noblewoman from whom they once rented a cottage on the grounds. Callie's life in Scotland is far from perfect, however: the castle is badly in need of repair, and the kids at her new school seem no different from the classmates who turned against her at home. She begs to be homeschooled, but her parents will only agree if she chooses a social activity. Callie opts to join a local bird-watching club and, despite the disappointing club's sexist leader and obnoxious all-boy membership, develops a passion for birds. She also connects with two kindred spirits; club member Raj, who is of Indian descent, and Sid, the strawberry-blond granddaughter of her parents' landscaper; and finds the diary of Pippa Spence, which details her evacuation to the Highlands during WWII and offers insight into the social nature of starlings. McCullough (*We Are the Ashes, We Are the Fire*), who lived in a Scottish castle as a young child, writes with compassion and knowledge as she traces Callie's ups and downs in a new country alongside her burgeoning, awkwardly won knowledge of friendship and self. Ages 10: up. Agent: Jim McCarthy, Dystel, Goderich, and Bourret. (Mar.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A Scottish castle, birdwatching and finding one's flock are at the center of the charming middle-grade novel *Across the Pond* by Joy McCullough (*Blood Water Paint; A Field Guide to Getting Lost*).



#2240782 Care and Keeping of Freddy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Susan Hill Long

Georgia Weathers's worry machine has been on full blast since her mom, Blythe, took off in Lyle Lenczycki's blue sedan. Earlier that same day, Blythe gave Georgia a bearded dragon named Freddy. Georgia is convinced that if she loves Freddy enough, Blythe will come home.

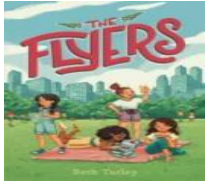
978-1-5344-7519-9 Simon & Schuster ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 640

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Georgia is given Freddy, a bearded dragon, as a pet by her mother, Blythe, who abandons her that very same day. Blythe runs away with her boyfriend, Lyle, leaving Georgia with her quiet, devoted father, Stanley. Georgia, 11, longs for Blythe to return—and makes Freddy a proxy for her mother's love, vowing to do her best for him. Georgia's life is further upended when a larger-than-life boy arrives in their small Maine town, a foster child taken in by a highly religious family. Roly's acquaintance with Georgia and her best friend, Maria, begins after he steals a cat collar from the pet store. Despite witnessing this shocking event, the girls become good friends with him, and the three find a secret refuge in the woods, a glass house that ultimately becomes a danger zone. Strong friendships, parental love (and neglect), and resilient children feature in this slice-of-contemporary-small-town life. Georgia copes with her situation through help from peers and sympathetic adult friends (Maria's paternal grandmother plays an important role, giving Georgia loving advice). This is a realistic, sometimes humorous, sometimes sad family story; while Blythe has problems with alcohol, both Stanley and Lyle turn out to be good fathers. The book follows a White default for most characters; Maria is Mexican American. A sincere story of caring and community in the face of family struggles. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly ther, Blythe, leaves their small Maine town with an old flame, Blythe buys Georgia a bearded dragon, Freddy. One year and eight months later, now 11-year-old Georgia, who is white, and her best friend Maria Elena Garcia, who is Mexican American meet Roland Park, a redheaded new arrival in Prospect Harbor. When Roland, a foster child, shoplifts from the pet shop, the girls chase after him, and a friendship is born. And Georgia will need her friends when her mother announces that she, her new husband, and Rosie, Georgia's baby half sister, are moving back to town. Georgia loves Rosie on first sight, but her plan to shove her stepfather out of the picture and reunite her parents proves difficult as her mother becomes increasingly challenging and requests more of Georgia. Over the course of the summer, Georgia and her friends must lean on one another as they each face different family struggles. Long (*Josie Bloom and the Emergency of Life*) offers an honest, accessibly written look at family and the challenges of loving people who may prove hurtful, one that's both raw and warm in its compassionate telling. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)



#2227657 Flyers (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Beth Turley

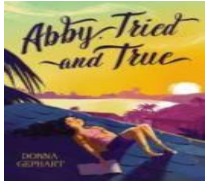
With the arrival of a glossy, cream-colored envelope in the mail, Elena Martinez's dreams come true: she's been chosen for the Spread Your Wings Magazine's Young Flyers program—a week-long summer internship where she'll get to learn the ins and outs of working for the most popular teen magazine.

978-1-5344-7672-1 Simon & Schuster ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 720

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A quiet tween finds her voice during a weeklong magazine internship in Manhattan. Seventh grader Elena Martinez and her best friend, Summer, love Spread Your Wings magazine. They both apply to be Flyers—the four readers selected annually to spend a summer week contributing to the September back-to-school issue. When only Elena, an aspiring therapist and songwriter, is chosen, she worries the experience will fracture her lifelong friendship with Summer, who has begun spending more time with a cross-country teammate and seems to resent being Elena's only friend. Considering that socially anxious Elena can barely speak aloud in class, she's especially intimidated about meeting Cailin Carter, a Flyer who is an elite Texas cheerleader, reality television star, and social media presence. After arriving in New York City, Elena supports fashion-loving Flyer Whitney Richards as she's having a panic attack at the train station. The final Flyer, Harlow Yoshida, is a budding investigative journalist eager to sink her teeth into a good story. The author captures the awkwardness and excitement of four tween girls getting to know one another, learning about publishing, and having adventures in the city. The story also thoughtfully explores anxiety, self-esteem, and influencer culture. Elena is Puerto Rican, Whitney is cued as Black, Harlow is Japanese American, and Summer and Cailin read as White; race does not play a role in the story. A short, sweet tale of expanding horizons, nurturing friendships, and pursuing passions. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2218747 Abby, Tried and True (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Donna Gephart

When Abby Braverman's best friend, Cat, moves to Israel, she's sure it's the worst thing that could happen. But then her older brother, Paul, is diagnosed with cancer, and life upends again. Now it's up to Abby to find a way to navigate seventh grade without her best friend, help keep her brother's spirits up during difficult treatments, and figure out her surprising new feelings for the boy next door.

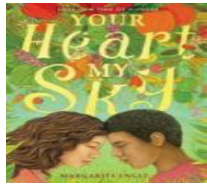
978-1-5344-4089-0 Simon & Schuster ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A quiet, poetry-writing, nature-loving tween learns to cope with changes and challenges during a difficult year. Twelve-year-old Abby Braverman does not feel brave. Her best friend, Cat, is moving away to Israel, and her older brother, Paul, is diagnosed with testicular cancer. Abby and Paul have their two moms, Mom Rachel and Mama Dee, for support, and Abby has her turtle, Fudge, to talk to, but with Cat gone, she doesn't have anyone else to turn to. She suffers from social anxiety at school and finds it difficult to make new friends; however, when a cute boy moves into Cat's old house next door, Abby finds herself making tentative steps toward a new friendship with him. The whole family pulls together to support Paul through surgery and chemotherapy, which is hard on all of them. With each new challenge Abby surmounts, she learns that being anxious and sensitive doesn't mean that she can't also be other things: a supportive sister, a good friend, and a brave person too. This quiet, steady story especially shines when destigmatizing Abby's social anxiety and Paul's particular form of cancer. The Bravermans are Jewish, and, as the school year goes on, they observe holidays like Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, and Passover. This representation of a close-knit modern Jewish family is authentic and warm. A touching story about finding inner strength during a challenging time. (author's note) (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With heartfelt candor, Gephart (The Paris Project) explores the impact of a life-changing diagnosis on a close-knit Jewish family. When Abby Braverman's best friend and Florida neighbor moves to Israel the summer before their seventh grade year, Abby is sure it's the worst thing that could happen, until she learns that her own beloved older brother, Paul, 16, must undergo treatment for testicular cancer. Perpetually quiet with an interest in turtles and poetry, Abby wishes she could be as outgoing as her brother was before he got sick. If components of the exposition feel labored, Gephart's depictions of Abby's friendship with and attraction to new neighbor Conrad, her supportive family's Jewish faith, and her affectionate relationship with Paul; the close siblings joke about their moms and engage in fierce Monopoly games; provide a stable backdrop for this story, which is as much about a family's wearying experience with cancer as it is about a young girl learning to feel comfortable with herself. Ages 10: up. Agent: Tina Dubois, ICM Partners. (Mar.)



#2218780 Your Heart, My Sky: Love in a Time of Hunger (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Margarita Engle

The people of Cuba are living in el periodo especial en tiempos de paz-the special period in times of peace. That's what the government insists that this era must be called, but the reality behind these words is starvation. Liana is struggling to find enough to eat. Yet hunger has also made her brave: she finds the courage to skip a summer of so-called volunteer farm labor, even though she risks government retribution.

978-1-5344-6496-4 Atheneum ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.3 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 1210

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Soaring Earth, rev. 3/19) once again revisits her Cuban heritage and demonstrates an abiding appreciation of nature in this historical verse novel set during the "Periodo especial," the euphemistically named "special period in times of peace." In 1991, Cuba is hosting the Pan American Games and putting on a prosperous face for the rest of the world, but the Cuban people are starving, due to U.S. trade embargoes and the abrupt halt in aid and food imports from Communist allies after the Soviet Union's collapse. Two teenagers who have resisted joining the "voluntary" summer labor programs are brought together by a scruffy stray dog as they scavenge for seaweed, shorebird eggs, and any fruit, fish, or fowl they can find, hunt, or steal to ease their relentless hunger. At its heart, this is a tender love story, lyrically presented in alternating poetic voices (including broader observations in third-person poems from the dog's perspective), but it is also a coming-of-age narrative for the impressionable protagonists, exploring duty to country and family, the consequences of living with hunger and fear, and the costs of individual freedom and ambition. A deeply felt and engrossing look at a time when the grandparents lived "on a menu of memories" while the new generation survived "on nothing / but wishes." Luann Toth March/April 2021 p.86(c) Copyright 2021. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Three-time Pura Belpre Medalist Engle (With a Star in My Hand) offers a soulful historical novel-in-verse, following a matchmaking dog and two malnourished teenagers who fall in love in 1990s Cuba. Utilizing titled free-verse poems, Engle highlights the "plunging shock of hunger" during Cuba's "special period in times of peace" through three perspectives: Liana, 14, and Amado, 15, in their own words, and the omniscient third-person perspective of "the singing dog" Liana adopts. Full of gnawing hunger and defiant hope, both Liana and Amado have chosen to dodge "a summer of oppressive labor" in the sugar fields; and when their paths cross, sparks fly ("Embers flare/ within the heart's sky/ like fireflies that blink/ as they search/ for mates."). The first poem, "Island of Cuba: Summer 1991," sets the tone immediately with its arresting opening line ("Imagine a year when food suddenly vanishes"), and as readers dig deeper into the story of Liana, Amado, and their canine "Cupid," Engle's words evocatively depict how love can thrive even under the harshest conditions. Back matter includes an author's note. Ages 12: up. Agent: Michelle Humphrey, Martha Kaplan Agency. (Mar.)



#2199397 Etta Invincible (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Reese Eschmann

Twelve-year-old Etta Johnson has Loud Days where she can hear just fine and Quiet Days where sounds come from far away and she gets to retreat into her thoughts. Etta spends most of her time alone, working on her comic book about Invisible Girl, the superhero who takes down super villain Petra Fide and does all the things Etta thinks she can't.

978-1-5344-6837-5 Aladdin ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 286 pgs.

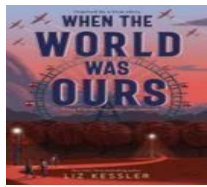
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A rare disorder elicits fear in a young Black artist with a unique sense of the world. Seventh grader Etta's Quiet Days are becoming more frequent and, frankly, irritating since her "maybe-diagnosis" of Ménière's disease in both her ears. Her parents are monitoring her diet, vigilant about stressors, and learning ASL. In contrast to Etta's Loud Days, not being able to hear sometimes makes it easier to focus on her comic book about Invincible Girl (the novel includes some enticing panels featuring Etta's work). But, as peculiar weather patterns begin to overwhelm her Chicago neighborhood and exacerbate her allergies, the corresponding tinnitus and vertigo as well as the increased anxiety from everyone around her leave Etta feeling hopeless. Even meeting Eleazar, an artsy new Colombian friend with an adorable goldendoodle, leads to doubts about her abilities to communicate--Eleazar is also still learning English--and her future with Ménière's. When Eleazar's dog gets lost on a magical train that is linked to the weird weather, the two must traverse the train cars, solve mysteries, and overcome their fears to fix what's broken and heal what can't be fixed. Just like the magical challenges, their journey yields great emotional rewards. Even as Etta and Eleazar make new connections, losses--of family, hearing, and home--are somber reminders of life's challenges. With snappy narration that's rich in sensory detail and

metaphor, readers progress through well-paced storytelling that is ethereal and artfully inclusive. This hopeful adventure leaves an indelible mark. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In a contemporary Chicago plagued by worsening storms and anise-scented clouds, Black 12-year-old Laurette "Etta" Johnson loves drawing her own superheroine, Invincible Girl. But the comics fan doesn't feel her protagonist's bravery as she confronts the increasing hearing loss and vertigo that are symptoms of her "Big Maybe" diagnosis of Meniere's disease. Etta's tentative friendship with Eleazar, a fellow seventh grader homesick for Colombia, deepens after following his beloved goldendoodle, Louisa May Alcott, onto a magical train that pulls in to their neighborhood station, and whose cars feature whimsically nightmarish obstacles that they must outwit as they search for Louisa. Their quest gains increasing urgency as evidence connects the train with the enchanted storms that are draping Chicago in despair, endangering their families. Through Etta's perceptive first-person voice, Eschmann (the Home for Meow series) grounds the train's Hayao Miyazaki: like atmosphere in both children's realities, involving Etta's interest in art-making as well as her use of sign language and Google Translate to communicate with others, including Eleazar, whose first language is Spanish. Lusky's (Primer) interstitial b&w comics panels bring vivid life to Etta's original comic book creations. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Danielle Burby, Nelson Literary. (July)



#2224393 When the World Was Ours (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Liz Kessler

Three young friends—Leo, Elsa, and Max—spend a perfect day together, unaware that around them Europe is descending into a growing darkness and that they will soon be cruelly ripped apart from one another. With their lives taking them across Europe—to Germany, England, Prague, and Poland—will they ever find their way back to one another? Will they want to?

978-1-5344-9965-2 Aladdin ©2021 6 x 8-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile HL 630

Quantity

1

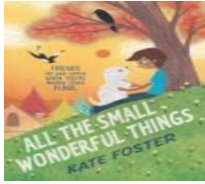
Unit Price

\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8. Best friends Leo, Elsa, and Max are celebrating Leo's ninth birthday in 1936 Vienna. Leo's papa takes their picture, and as their lives spin apart during the next five years, all three depend on their copy of that picture as a touchstone. Elsa, who is Jewish, loses her home, is forced into a ghetto, and is eventually transported to Auschwitz. Leo is Jewish, too, and after his papa is arrested, Leo and his mother try to escape Austria. Max, who was a bullied outcast before he met Elsa and Leo, is the son of a high-ranking Nazi, and he embraces the brainwashing camaraderie of the Hitler Youth movement. The heartbreaking narrative follows the characters across time and space as they age and struggle down their separate paths. And though they still remain connected to one another, a reunion now may bring only grief. Based on the real-life experiences of author Kessler's relatives, the narrative is brutally honest and totally believable. Readers share the inner thoughts of each character as they adapt to their unimaginable circumstances. Despite the characters' initial grade-school ages, this emotional novel is best suited for older middle-grade readers.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Three Austrian children experience the ravages of World War II. On Leo Grunberg's ninth birthday in 1936, he and his two best friends, Elsa and Max, celebrate by riding Vienna's Ferris wheel. Leo collides with English tourists, leading to a friendly connection that later proves lifesaving when the couple sponsor visas for Leo and his mother. Mr. Grunberg is tragically sent first to Dachau and then Auschwitz. Elsa, whose family, like Leo's, is Jewish, moves to Prague to escape growing dangers in Austria, but their new lives are shortly upended: Elsa is unable to escape via the Kindertransport, and she is sent with her family to Auschwitz. Christian Max's father joins the Nazi Party and forbids him to spend time with Jewish friends; initially resentful, Max ultimately joins the Hitler Youth. His father is assigned to work at Dachau and later Auschwitz—where Max becomes a guard—and Max crosses paths with Mr. Grunberg in both locations, each time shunning the man who treated him so kindly. He also meets Elsa in an unforgettably dramatic scene in which he must confront his own humanity. These coincidences may strain credulity, but this sometimes-horrific, sometimes-sentimental page-turner exposes readers to the entire arc of the Holocaust. A note explains how the author's father's family escaped the Nazis after meeting a British couple in a similar manner to that portrayed in the book. Readers viscerally experience the Holocaust in this gripping novel. (resources, further reading) (Historical fiction. 12-18)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Inspired by her family's history, Kessler tells a story of the Holocaust from the point of view of three children: Elsa, Leo, and Max, best friends who live in Vienna. The story opens in 1936 when the children are nine, and as they age, their thoughts and actions develop in sophistication. At the start of Hitler's rise to power, Max's father forbids him to play with his only two friends because they are Jewish. The lives of all three are torn apart when Elsa's family moves to Czechoslovakia seeking a safe haven, Leo's father is imprisoned and his family tries to get out of Austria to a safer country, and Max's father, an SS officer, moves his family to Munich while he works at Dachau. Kessler does not try to paint a pretty picture when Elsa ends up at a death camp and Max becomes a zealous member of the Hitler youth; the once-friends have become teens caught in a situation where suffering and humiliation are daily occurrences. This is a well-researched story that portrays life as it was during the horrors of World War II in Europe. VERDICT A must-have addition to any middle school collection that could easily become a classic like Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars*.—Elizabeth Kahn, Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Acad., Avondale, LA © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.



#2332268 All the Small Wonderful Things (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate Foster

Eleven-year-old Alex knows that starting middle school will be a big change, and for an autistic person, change can be terrifying. He is sure that having a friend by his side will help. But how can he make one? Alex devises a plan to impress the kids at school by winning a trophy at the PAWS Dog Show with his trusty sidekick, Kevin the cockapoo.

978-1-5362-2580-8 Candlewick Press ©2023 5 x 7-3/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 In this middle-grade novel about an 11-year-old autistic boy and his dog, Alex badly wants to make friends at his school. He's convinced that helping his relay team make districts will win the friendship of Jared, a popular boy in his class, but Alex never seems to run fast enough. An even better opportunity for friendship arises in the form of the PAWS dog show: Alex loves dogs and is sure that his cockapoo, Kevin, can win in either the obedience or tricks category. Winning, Alex thinks, will make him friends for sure. But nothing goes as expected, and as he becomes friends with the neighbor boy who just moved in next door and prepares for PAWS, Alex learns that friendship isn't earned by winning. A visual countdown of the number of days to PAWS divides the book into sections. This book will appeal to readers who love dogs and want a story about how friendship often arrives unexpectedly--and a true friend will like you for you. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books As an autistic person, eleven-year-old Alex has found primary school to be pretty tough, but he hopes that making a real friend before going to secondary school might improve things. He assesses his options: he can impress the kids at school by completing Map Five in online game OrbsWorld, he can help his track team qualify for districts, or he and his dog, Kevin the cockapoo, can win a trophy at the upcoming PAWS Dog Show. All this is easier said than done, as he's also navigating the tension between his mum and teenaged brother while the school bully Ryan is making Alex's track experience less than ideal. At least Kevin's excited to learn tricks, and it seems Alex's secondary school fate is all going to come down to Australia's premier dog show. Alex's perspective as an autistic person is relayed with careful authenticity, keeping the narrative grounded in both everyday struggles to connect with others and the warmth of small, loving gestures. Foster portrays the uncomplicated support pets can provide autistic kids, sensitively representing the difficulty Alex has in reading social and emotional cues while depicting the easy synchronicity of Kevin and Alex, who finds Kevin's doggy-cuddle comfort less demanding. However, the book wisely pulls back from putting forth the idea that dogs heal kids and their families, emphasizing instead the need to live alongside them as important, cherished friends. Dog-loving kids will be begging to get their paws on this one. MC COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Eleven-year-old Alex is in grade six and lives on the Gold Coast of Australia. He is autistic and feels he needs a strategy for making friends: be good enough at his favorite computer game, OrbsWorld; run faster and contribute to the track relays coming up; or win a trophy at the upcoming PAWS dog show. Foster's effective first-person narrative gives readers insight into how the protagonist's mind works, allowing them to observe the world the way he does (e.g., his difficulty with noise and crowds and with reading people's facial expressions). The tension of the story rides on the dog show, not only how Alex's dog, Kevin, will do, but also how Alex will cope with the crowds and excitement. By the novel's end, he realizes that not only has he learned how to be a friend, but he's also had a friend all along. It is a testament to Foster's craft in character development that readers will care so much about the earnest, good-hearted Alex and that the final, tear-jerking scene is such a surprise. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A dog-loving autistic Australian boy is desperate to make a friend before grade seven. Alex is a "good boy." He wants to train his cockapoo, Kevin; finish Map Five in OrbsWorld, his favorite video game; draw dogs; avoid school bullies; and do as he's told. He's positive that if he doesn't have a friend, a popular one, before starting secondary school next year, "everyone will be mean." Brown-skinned Alex, who likes rules and consistent systems, is sure he can make a real friend if he can finish Map Five, run fast enough to get his team to districts, or make sure Kevin wins a trophy at the dog show. His school, his mother, and even his annoying 14-year-old brother are supportive of his needs, and Alex has carefully practiced strategies for being a good boy. But it's exhausting being an 11-year-old in a world full of loud nonautistic people who have bizarre ideas about what's rude. Alex can recognize when one of his classmates is uninterested in his OrbsWorld stories, but his autism classes never taught him how to make them be interested--so were they really that helpful? Some classmates are nice and seem to like him, so maybe they'll help with his friend-making plan. Everything builds up to a well-earned, deeply satisfying conclusion. This charming, empathetic story centers the engaging voice of a boy who has a strong set of strategies for doing his best. Dogs and friends are terrific helpers in a confusing, neurotypical world. (Fiction. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2378638 Secret Library (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99



written by Kekla Magoon

Since Grandpa died, Dally's days are dull and restricted. She's eleven and a half years old, and her exacting single mother is already preparing her to take over the family business. Starved for adventure and release, Dally rescues a mysterious envelope from her mother's clutches, an envelope Grandpa had earmarked for her. The map she finds inside leads straight to an ancient vault, a library of secrets where each book is a portal to a precise moment in time.

978-1-5362-3088-8 Candlewick Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

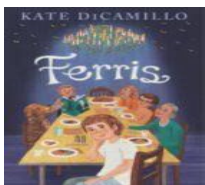
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Dally's maternal grandfather has died, and she feels quite alone since he was the one person who understood her love of adventure. Dally's mother has run the family business efficiently for some time, and she's training her only child to take her place someday, but 11-year-old biracial Dally has her doubts. When she discovers the Secret Library, an amazing, magical place in which each book holds a secret, Dally often chooses books that transport her into the past to observe and interact with her ancestors. These experiences help her understand topics that her mother won't discuss, including her father, who died when she was small. Eager for action and curious about her family's mysterious history, she takes chances and makes discoveries. The story is full of clever touches, including the librarian's responsibility to clothe Dally appropriately for each time-travel destination. Her adventures aboard a nineteenth-century treasure-hunting pirate ship are particularly exciting. While the episodic structure of Dally's adventures occasionally slows the story's pace, the Secret Library itself is a memorable, original concept within an involving novel. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews "A restless, adventure-seeking tween finds herself in a special library... Multiple award-winner Magoon has crafted an engrossing story that skillfully combines a coming-of-age story with fantasy and historical fiction. Dally is an irresistible protagonist, full of curiosity and longing for the joy she experienced with her grandfather. The lively, well-written narrative contains many surprises, pulling readers into Dally's life and the incredible choices she must make... A deeply satisfying, page-turning, genre-defying read."

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Magoon (Chester Keene Cracks the Code) champions self-determination while examining race and gender constructs in this high-spirited, South Carolina: set fantasy. Dally Peteharrington, 11, is devastated when her mother won't let her join Adventure Club because its schedule conflicts with her economics tutoring; lessons Dally needs to eventually succeed her mother as head of Peteharrington Enterprises. Never mind that Dally doesn't want to run the family business and is grieving the death of Grandpa, who encouraged exploration and fun. To rebel, Dally opens an envelope Grandpa left her that her mom had been keeping until Dally's 21st year. Inside is a map to an enchanted library. The books within contain secrets pertaining to Dally and her family, and act as portals to the moments when those secrets occurred, were revealed, or were shared. Dally finds her housekeeper's candy stash, learns how her parents actually met, and crews a pirate ship with an ancestor. Unbeknownst to Dally, however, there are secrets about herself she has yet to uncover. Whimsical worldbuilding, swashbuckling action, and buoyant third-person narration complement Magoon's vibrant character portraits and twisty, nuanced plot. Dally is biracial (Black and white); the supporting cast is intersectionally diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (May)

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99



#2368245 Ferris (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate DiCamillo

It's the summer before fifth grade, and for Ferris Wilkey, it is a summer of sheer pandemonium: Her little sister, Pinky, has vowed to become an outlaw. Uncle Ted has left Aunt Shirley and, to Ferris's mother's chagrin, is holed up in the Wilkey basement to paint a history of the world. And Charisse, Ferris's grandmother, has started seeing a ghost at the threshold of her room, which seems like an alarming omen given that she is also feeling unwell. But the ghost is not there to usher Charisse to the Great Beyond. Rather, she has other plans-wild, impractical, illuminating plans. How can Ferris satisfy a specter with Pinky terrorizing the town, Uncle Ted sending Ferris to spy on her aunt, and her father battling an invasion of raccoons?

978-1-5362-3105-2 Candlewick Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0

Reviews by: Booklist "Ten-year-old Ferris (nicknamed as such after being born at the local fairgrounds) is contending with a hectic household... If it sounds terrifically zany, it certainly is, but it's also wonderfully grounded in deep familial bonds, a tight-knit community, and the beautiful idea that every relationship is a love story in its own way... it all sets the stage for some truly transcendent moments that will leave readers in a state of wonder, no matter their age. It's a spectacularly silly and perfectly sincere exploration of what it means to stay tenderhearted in a sometimes challenging world."

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Family life has always been a bit chaotic for Ferris, but the summer before fifth grade is especially so: her grandmother is seeing ghosts, her uncle has moved into her family's basement to paint the "history of the world" after leaving his wife, and her six-year-old sister's mischief has gone from cute to quite literally criminal. Ferris' main goal is to help her beloved grandmother, who seems to be spending more and more time in bed, but Ferris' steady nature and unflappability is a boon to everyone in her family, especially when her cool-in-a-crisis demeanor helps avert a terrible tragedy. Folksy charm and wholesome whimsy mark this as an easy readalike to DiCamillo's *Because of Winn-Dixie* (BCCB 6/00), and the endearing portrayal of a loving family in disarray has just enough tension to keep the story interesting without any real threat of estrangement or discord. The third-person narration has clear affection for each character, highlighting their strengths and noting their flaws with tenderness, as Ferris' growing independence shifts family dynamics and roles. Pinky, Ferris' sister, is a delightful menace, an agent of chaos with a lisp and an aspiration to be an outlaw, and it's her bond with Ferris that brings about the book's most climactic and emotionally charged moment. Fans of Winn-Dixie or Katherine Applegate's books will find easy contentment and gentle amusement with Ferris and her loving, messy family. KQG COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Returning to her literary roots in Florida (see: *Because of Winn-Dixie*, rev. 7/00; Raymie Nightingale, rev. 3/16), DiCamillo again explores bonds of family, friends, and community. Ferris Winkey finds the summer before fifth grade a puzzling one. Much turbulence surrounds her immediate family, her best friend, and some townspeople: her beloved grandmother, Clarisse, sees a ghost; her uncle leaves his wife and takes up residence in the Winkey basement; her younger sister aspires to be a famous outlaw; and her piano prodigy best friend plays "Mysterious Barricades" exclusively and repeatedly. Thanks to her fourth-grade teacher, who now cries constantly, Ferris has the words for these characters: formidable, unfathomable, unrepentant, quixotic, and bereft. Foreboding is another word Ferris contemplates as Clarisse's health gradually fails. But having the words to describe people and understanding them is not the same. In a glorious climax in which all the book's characters gather to appease the ghost, Ferris discovers that obstacles between individuals can disappear if they have the courage to believe in, rather than simply define, a word she knew all along: love. The limited third-person narration glimpses other lives but never dwells on them, thus leaving Ferris's honest, pre-adolescent perspective to drive the story line. As Clarisse tells Ferris, "Every good story is a love story." Here, DiCamillo adeptly proves this axiom. Betty Carter(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ferris finds herself in the midst of several love stories during the summer before fifth grade. Emma Phineas Wilkey's moniker comes from the circumstances of her birth: under the Ferris wheel at the fairground. Her contained world, centered around her family and best friend, is filled with kindness, humor, and singular personalities, while the indeterminate late-20th-century small-town setting feels like a safe place from which to observe heartbreak and loss. Ferris' architect father and her pragmatic mother, on break from teaching high school math, anchor her home life, along with Pinky, her hilariously ferocious 6-year-old sister, and Charisse, her grandmother, who claims to have seen an unhappy ghost in their big old house. Ferris' best friend, Billy Jackson, whom she's loved since kindergarten, hears the music of the world: "The whole world is singing all the time." Ferris, serious and sensitive, is attuned to the ways that the vocabulary words they learned in Mrs. Mielk's fourth grade class describe moments in her life. DiCamillo's gift for conveying an entire person and world in a few brushstrokes of storytelling provides depth and quiet magic to this account of an eventful summer in which a ghost is appeased, an outlaw (Pinky) is somewhat reformed, and an uncle and aunt are reconciled. Ferris experiences two surprising moments of transcendence and becomes aware of the ways love suffuses everything. Characters are cued white. Tenderly resonant and memorable. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The summer before fifth grade turns out to be a "serious time, in general" for 10-year-old Emma Phineas Wilkey--known as Ferris because of her dramatic birth under a Ferris wheel--as she aids in her idiosyncratic family members' antics and deals with the unfamiliar emotional terrain that accompanies these encounters. Ferris's headstrong younger sister, an aspiring felon, is scheming to appear on a "Wanted" poster; Uncle Ted, who is attempting to paint a history of the world while living in Ferris's basement, recruits Ferris to spy on his estranged wife; and Ferris's beloved, hopeless romantic grandmother's heart is failing. But her grandmother is more troubled by the appearance of a ghost that only she can see, so she enlists Ferris's help in satisfying the specter's quixotic request. Together with her soft-spoken, piano-playing best friend Billy Jackson, Ferris navigates her joyfully chaotic environment and heeds her grandmother's wisdom: "Every good story is a love story." Populated by offbeat, compelling characters with rich histories, this bustling and empathetic tale by DiCamillo (*The Puppets of Spelhorst*) ponders the courage it takes to love someone and the necessity of inconvenience in life through the eyes of one emotionally curious tween. Main characters read as white. Ages 8-12. Agent: Holly McGhee, Pippin Properties. (Mar.) Copyright 2023 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--"Every story is a love story." Rising fifth grader Ferris hears this wisdom from her grandmother, Charisse, and through this lens begins to notice all the ways in which the actions of her community, however bizarre they might seem at first glance, are unspoken declarations of love. There's the ghost that appears to Charisse, who wants the family to light a chandelier to reunite her with her lost love. There's Ferris's friend Billy Jackson, whose love for his mother who died in childbirth lives on through the music he plays. There's Ferris's uncle Ted and his wife Shirley, who are on the outs after he quits his job to paint a history of the world. And of course Ferris's sister Pinky, who wants to be an outlaw and doesn't seem to love anybody, though Ferris realizes later this isn't true. DiCamillo's latest work is a sweet and heartfelt effort, though it is lacking the author's typical fully fleshed-out characters. They are largely defined by their quirks, and their actions begin to feel repetitive and do not propel the story forward. For instance, it seems like Billy's sole function for much of the story is to play "Mysterious Barricades" on the piano in the background. It feels more like a three-dimensional painting than a story; each character has a role and a place, and readers are invited to look at the whole but static picture to examine the idea of love. VERDICT While dialogue shows the author's characteristic charm, the story itself is lacking a strong narrative voice and drive. Purchase where DiCamillo's other titles circulate well.--Lindsay Loup Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#2332035 Little Match Girl Strikes Back (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Emma Carroll

On the streets of Victorian London, Bridie uses her wit selling matches to help feed her family-but no matter how hard she works, it's never enough to stave off hunger or keep her ailing mother safe from the factory's toxins. When a street-side accident leaves Bridie with only three matches, the strike of each one sends her magically tumbling into visions of a brighter, more hopeful future.

978-1-5362-3335-3 Candlewick Press ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 2.0

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In this British import, Carroll skillfully transforms Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl" into an entry point to labor history via the London matchgirls' strike of 1888. Andersen's angelic sufferer is a far cry from Carroll's tough protagonist, Bridie Sweeney, who uses her charisma and gift with words to sell boxes of matches from the Bryant & May factory where her mother works. Scant wages, cruel management, and unhealthy working conditions are taking their toll on the workers and Bridie's family, so when an accident in the snowy London streets leaves her with mostly crushed and soaking matches, Bridie reaches her breaking point. In desperation, she lights the last three usable matches, making a wish each time, and her wishes magically reveal ways to connect with allies and encourage the workers to stand up for their rights. Child's illustrations emphasize Bridie's snap and spark with scratchy black lines and bold, stylized pops of fire red. Bridie herself is frequently depicted as intriguingly off-kilter in a world full of elaborate patterns, tumbling across a full bleed of snowy cobblestones or disgustedly confronting a rigidly patterned brick edifice. A self-aware narrator, Bridie positions her story as a tonic for sentimentalized poverty narratives, more Dickens than Andersen in her focus on avoiding pity and instead inspiring direct action. Older readers and fans of the Enola Holmes films will quickly twig to the factory working conditions and discussions of workers' rights leading up to the strike, though this engaging tale is accessible to a wide audience. Several period photographs accompany historical notes from the author and illustrator. FHK COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

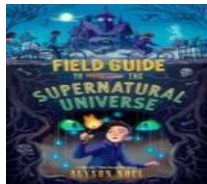
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In July 1888, women and girls working at a match factory in East London went on strike to protest dangerous working conditions and poor pay. Carroll takes the story of this significant event in labor history and uses it as the armature for her own version of Hans Christian Andersen's weeper "The Little Match Girl." Carroll's little match-seller has a name, Bridie, and a strong voice, luring customers with stories and outrageous patter. Her whole family is in the match trade, her mother in the factory, herself on the frigid streets selling, and her small brother at home fashioning match boxes. Like her nameless original, Bridie experiences visions, but unlike her predecessor she turns these visions into social action and survives to tell her tale. The mash-up of history and Andersen-tale works beautifully, especially on the metaphorical level with light, enlightenment, warmth, and energy battling it out against darkness, ignorance, chill, and despair. Child's illustrations, collages in black, gray, and red with a rich use of pattern, incorporate text at certain points to create an arresting, graphically dynamic page. Serve this up with Pinkney's lushly illustrated picture-book edition of the Andersen and with Maguire's Matchless for a feast of Victoriana and an invitation to discuss child poverty, capitalism, and the power of organized labor. Sarah Ellis(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This retelling of a Hans Christian Andersen tale casts the little Matchstick Girl as a social reformer. Instead of a nameless, tragic waif, here the matchstick seller is Bridie Sweeney, a fiery redhead. While her younger brother makes matchboxes and her mother works with toxic chemicals in the match factory, Bridie walks the streets of Victorian London, hawking her wares by persuading passersby that her matches are magical. When a promising day turns terrible, Bridie is left with three damaged matches. She strikes one and makes a wish for the kind of life the wealthy factory owner has--and sees what everyone else's labor purchases for him. Subsequent wishes connect her with Annie Besant, a kind woman who campaigns for workers' rights. Inspired by the match magic's visions, Bridie pushes the factory workers to strike. Here, the narrative shifts from description to mere summary, occasionally jumping forward in time to let readers know how things eventually turn out. The result is didactic and simplistic, an agenda as worthy as it is, unfortunately, transparent. Artwork throughout includes creative typographic styling and black-and-white illustrations with pops of red for Bridie's hair and match flames. An author's note reveals the factual basis of the story (the factory, the big strike over an unjust firing, and activist Besant are real), while an illustrator's note details historical references used in the art. Backmatter includes period photographs. Characters present white. Preachy and painfully earnest. (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Inspired by match company workers' successful strike in 1888 London and using Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl" as a framework, Carroll (Sky Chasers) spins a tale that incites a rallying cry for workers' rights. To make ends meet, tween Bridie Sweeney and her younger brother each contribute to her mother's London factory job making and selling matches. Bridie's brother makes matchboxes, her mother dips matchsticks in toxic white phosphorous, and Bridie sells the filled matchboxes on the street, attracting buyers with her irrepressible nature and fanciful stories of her wares' virtues. When everything unravels one day; her mother is fired due to her failing health, and Bridie loses her matches, money, and shoes in a string of unlucky events; Bridie experiences a series of visions. These apparitions, each seen in the flames of her last three matches, encourage her to fight for a better future. Information about the devastating effects of white phosphorous on workers' health and the effectiveness of collective action to implement change are woven into a brief and engaging story led by a charismatic

heroine. Child (the Clarice Bean series) provides b&w illustrations accented by a fiery red that bring Bridie vividly to life. Archival photographs conclude. Characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5--Bridie (short for Brigid) sets out to set the record straight: to tell the real story of girls who sold matches on frigid 19th-century city streets. Hans Christian Andersen, whose books sold in posh shops, probably never met a real match girl nor learned that they only wanted fair wages. With a touch of magic from very special matches, Bridie gains insight into the greed of the match factory owner, actions that can achieve change, and what a better life might look like for her and her family. Eventually, Bridie inspires a protest which leads to the exposure of inhumane working conditions and the toxic effects of phosphorus on the women who use it making matches. The conclusion is not only more satisfying than the original, but more authentic. Stylized black-and-white illustrations use accents of red to punctuate the action, creating an open and accessible format for a surprisingly timely look at workers' actions. An author's note accompanied by period photographs is provided. VERDICT This sophisticated tale is likely to generate conversation in school and public libraries about 19th-century factory working conditions. Recommended.--Maria B. Salvadore Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2269943 Field Guide to the Supernatural Universe (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alyson Noel

When he first started seeing ghosts, Max mistakenly assumed everyone else could see them, too. Now, after years of being blamed for the pranks of mischievous spirits, Max is determined to do whatever it takes to make himself normal. But when he's sent to spend the summer with his eccentric grandfather, Ramhart, being normal becomes impossible. But when a supernatural attack steals Ramhart's soul, Max--with the help of a few new friends--must go on a quest to find his grandfather's renowned Field Guide, an enchanted book that contains all the knowledge Ramhart has gathered about defeating unearthly nemeses. And if they don't find the book fast, Glimmerville will crumble into chaos, and Max will lose the only person who's ever made him feel at home.

978-1-5344-9823-5 Margaret K. McElderry ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 880

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 Noël's latest middle-grade offering is full of quirky characters, ghosts, and zany adventures. Maxen (Woodbead) Smith is 12 years old and completely normal in every way--except for the fact that he can see ghosts. It's probably because he's the grandson of the famous ghost-hunter Ramhart Woodbead. When Max is sent to live with his oddball grandfather in Woodbead Mansion for the summer, everything seems normal at first . . . too normal. Until Max discovers the truth about Ramhart and a book called Field Guide to the Supernatural Universe. Max must face his worst fears, but there are scarier things in the normal world than demon dogs and mischievous spirits. Noël's fast-paced story combines humor and action, along with the more serious theme of losing a loved one. Ideal for kids who appreciated Katherine Arden's Small Spaces (2018), a spookier story that also focuses on the themes of loss and grief, and a natural read-alike for Lamar Giles' supernatural romp, The Last Last-Day-of-Summer (2019). COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A tween spends the summer with his eccentric grandfather, ghosts, and more. After a viral video taken on the last day of sixth grade solidifies his status as "Class Weirdo," Maxen Smith wants nothing more than to be normal. Trouble is that Max can see ghosts--the real culprits behind what adults at school call his "incidents"--but nobody believes him. Reaching his last straw, Max's dad sends him to stay with his estranged paternal grandfather, Ramhart Woodbead, in his mansion in Glimmerville. As the mansion and its inhabitants' secrets slowly reveal themselves, Max learns that his weirdness is part of a family legacy. But when a dastardly plot renders Ramhart out of commission, Max finds himself woefully unprepared to take his place in keeping order between realms. With the help of a young ghost and a squad of Supernaturalists, Max must save not only his grandfather, but the world. Noël combines a quick pace, zany characters, and plenty of comedic relief to create a quirky adventure with heart. Strong themes of family legacies, personal mythologies, and destinies--if slightly heavy-handed--enhance the cautionary tale of hiding one's true self. The over-the-top first-person narration keeps the tone infectiously light. From a Chupacabra to mutant glowworms, the creatures encountered mix the familiar with the original for delightful worldbuilding. Max and family are White by default, but side characters add some ethnic diversity. Spectral silliness with high appeal. (Paranormal fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly a-half-year-old white Maxen Smith has always been able to see ghosts, though he wishes he didn't. When his goal of an incident-free school year is ruined by a viral video of him fighting off invisible monsters, Max's father sends him to spend the summer with his grandfather, ghost hunter Ramhart Woodbead, "the Indiana Jones of the supernatural world." Max hopes to find a way out of "the wrong side of normal" by using Ramhart's book, Field Guide to the Supernatural Universe. Instead, Ramhart introduces Max to their family legacy as minders of the veil, tasked with keeping the balance between the realm's ghosts and monsters, and the rest of the world. When Ramhart is incapacitated, it's up to Max and his new friends; white Bex, Latina Jools, and Indian Krish; to save the world from a supernatural storm. Noel (The Bone Thief) weaves myth, folklore, and conspiracies with wry humor and bone-chilling moments, creating an entertaining deep dive into the

paranormal. While Max's stubborn refusal to embrace his situation and insistence on being "normal" is sometimes repetitive, his narrative voice is attention-grabbing, ideal for this "anything goes" adventure. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elizabeth Bewley, Sterling Lord Literistic. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Twelve-year old Max has been seeing ghosts all his life, which has caused him no end of trouble. At school he's a social pariah, and his continual "incidents" with the paranormal may have influenced his parents' breakup. After a chaotic last day of sixth grade (which resulted in a viral video of him destroying a classroom), his father decides to send Max to stay with his grandfather, Ramhart Woodbead, at his mansion. Ramhart is known as "the Indiana Jones of the supernatural world" and authored the paranormal encyclopedia Field Guide to the Supernatural Universe. Max is initially angry at these summer plans, but realizes that the guide might hold the key to ridding himself of his unique abilities. Ramhart, however, has other ideas and begins training Max to take over the family duties of guarding graveyards, battling ghosts, and keeping the veil between the worlds secure. Max is immediately thrust into all sorts of wild and near-fatal adventures, discovering that his role in all of this was foretold in a prophecy. Will Max rise to the challenge set before him and take up the family mantle, or will he deny his destiny and risk the consequences? Narrated by Max in a droll, self-deprecating voice, this middle grade paranormal adventure by the award-winning Noël (the "Immortals" series) is irresistible. Sure to satisfy, the plot contains a cast of colorful characters including bogeys, school bullies, zombies, a monkey king, and a craven Chupacabra. Max is cued as white. VERDICT A captivating and diverting read with loads of action and humor, with a bonus lesson about accepting who you are. Recommended for purchase.--Amy Nolan Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2348046 **Galaxy Jones and the Space Pirates (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Briana McDonald

Galaxy Jones lives on the very, very edge of a star system in an inn run by her dads. She loves her home and her little family, but ever since the train station that serviced their part of the universe went defunct, tourists have stopped coming, and Lexi's on the verge of losing it all. When the royal family stops at their inn on the way to a neighboring star system, Lexi's dads hope for some good business, but Lexi knows from past experience with spoiled Prince Weston-and his annoying dog, Comet-to expect nothing but trouble.

978-1-5344-9829-7 *Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4

288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A lonely prince and the daughter of innkeepers pair up to squabble and fight pirates. To save her dads, who run a failing hotel in the "astro-boonies," Lexi Jones sets out to find a "space-techno" amulet that can slow down time. She's helped by annoying "interstellar nemesis" Prince Weston, whose family are guests at the inn. Weston stole the amulet from pirates (partly to keep his aging dog alive but also to earn attention from his royal parents)--and then lost it in space. Now the pirates are in pursuit. Following various escapades, Lexi manages to escape walking the plank into a black hole just prior to the entrance of renowned pirate Great Astro Bonny, who'd been blasted into another galaxy by the twin offspring of "co-pirate" Mary Read. This crowded version of space is plied by cutlass-wielding pirates aboard interplanetary sailing ships, with the occasional planet or meteor shower just a short drive away. Ultimately, Lexi and Weston recognize that it's best to let time march on. After lecturing the captors about making their own career choices instead of just following in the piratical family tradition, the duo return to the inn for joyous parental reunions. The plot's a wild one, and the lively tone adds to the appeal, though frequent, sudden halts for wrangling or reflection interrupt the flow. Major characters read white. More comic opera than space opera, with a heavy payload of life lessons to boot. (Science fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly All her life, tween Galaxy Jones has helped her fathers run their inn, located in the outer solar system. Business has dropped off, however, since most people relocated further inward toward the central system. The arrival of the solar system's royal family is much-needed, if troublesome, as the royals have a reputation for being difficult to please, especially their tween son; and Lexi's archnemesis; Prince Weston. But when space pirates appear in pursuit of an item that Weston stole from them, and subsequently lost, it's up to Lexi to help Weston retrieve the treasure to save their families and her home. As they rocket through space, facing off against perilous intergalactic hazards, the unlikely pair confront their past conflict and uncover unexpected similarities. McDonald (The Secrets of Stone Creek) crafts an interstellar landscape that adheres more to flights of fancy than physics or logic, and juxtaposes the ever-shifting environment with Lexi's fear of change, Weston's desire to prove himself, and the pair's struggle to live up to others' expectations. The result is a wildly original escapade featuring sympathetic protagonists and lively action sequences. Main characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jennie Kendrick, Red Fox Literary. (Oct)

#2173928 **Haunted Lake (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by P. J. Lynch

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

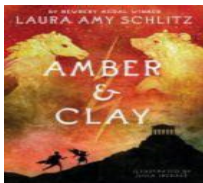


Jacob and his father are the only people who fish Lake Spetzia, which was formed when the river was dammed and their town was flooded. The villagers say the lake is haunted, but Jacob and his father don't want to leave, because Jacob's mother is buried in the cemetery below the water. As Jacob grows up, a village girl named Ellen falls in love with him, and he with her. But before they are married, Jacob disappears.

978-1-5362-0013-3 Candlewick Press ©2020 11 x 10 48 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts .5

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With atmospheric spreads and suitably eerie prose, Lynch (Patrick and the President) spins a long-winded yarn about a drowned village. Only the village's church tower is visible above the water of the reservoir, and Reuben and his son, Jacob, fish there despite warnings: "There are ghosts in that lake. The bell in the tower rings whenever another poor soul is going to join them." A young neighbor, Ellen, dotes on Jacob and vows to marry him. One night, he goes out alone and is lured inside the tower, and a bewitching woman named Lilith takes him into the town, reuniting him with his dead mother. Years pass in the world above until, as the evil Lilith is about to trap Jacob into marriage, Ellen pulls off a daring rescue. Lynch toggles between suspense and calm as he underlines Ellen's faithfulness and grit ("Part of her wanted to sail away as fast as she could, but she stayed"). Though the text is lengthy and sometimes flat, it offers a potent escapist fantasy, especially Lilith's underwater world, which radiates goth allure as fish swim through the bedroom, curtains billow, and a green fire burns magically in the grate. Ages 7: 10. (Sept.)



#2213540 Amber and Clay (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Laura Amy Schlitz

Welcome to ancient Greece as only genius storyteller Laura Amy Schlitz can conjure it. In a warlike land of wind and sunlight, "ringed by a restless sea," live Rhaskos and Melisto, spiritual twins with little in common beyond the violent and mysterious forces that dictate their lives.

978-1-5362-0122-2 Candlewick Press ©2021 6 x 8-1/2 544 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile NP

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$22.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* At the start of Newbery Medalist Schlitz's latest ambitious offering, Greek god Hermes tells, in irreverent verse, a legend in which every person was once two people stuck together. The story to come, he says, is about a boy and girl who "weren't alike, but they fit together." In ancient Thessaly, watchful Rhaskos is born into slavery, to a Thracian woman taken from her home. When Rhaskos is still a child, his mother is sold to a wealthy man in Athens, whose headstrong daughter, Melisto, needs a firm hand. As Melisto's wildness catches the attention of the goddess Artemis and leads to a series of fateful choices, Rhaskos suffers a mercurial master and becomes enamored with horses and learning to replicate their form in clay. Though they aren't destined to meet--at least not while they're both alive--Rhaskos and Melisto are inextricably bound together by fate. Schlitz anchors this astonishing work of historical fiction in Greek tradition: ancient gods and philosophers narrate (Sokrates appears throughout); she makes use of epic verse and literary devices from Greek plays (described in the extensive back matter); references to Homer are threaded through the text. She offers context for modern readers, elaborating on ancient Greece as a slave society, while Iredale's black-and-white illustrations offer glimpses of artifacts. Like its two central figures, this luminous creation is far more than the sum of its parts. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Melisto, beloved by her father but spurned by her mother, who had hoped for a firstborn boy, is an intractable child. As she approaches marriageable age, she is sent to spend months in service at the temple of Artemis, where she meets her early death in a lightning strike. A freak natural tragedy? Retribution from a goddess with a grudge against Melisto's mother, who made only perfunctory offerings at her daughter's birth? Or is the girl's destiny to be fulfilled in the afterlife, as a ghost summoned to rectify the cruel separation of a mother and son? Readers realize what Melisto cannot: her fate has been entwined with that of Rhaskos, an enslaved boy she never met, whose artistic gift may be forever wasted unless the former-slave potter who purchased him-and nurtures his talent-can secure a legal guardian and protector to maintain his own freedom. This is an ambitious but tightly plotted tale, with narration spun in ancient Greek poetic and dramatic forms and familiar contemporary prose; Iredale's black and white illustrations of fictional "exhibits" that simulate archaeological finds cleverly confirm, or at least support, the details of the Olympian drama. YA readers who fondly recall bygone days curled up with Rick Riordan novels will be a prime audience for Schlitz's opus, particularly if they're up for a literary challenge and linger over the closing notes on how she crafted this immersive experience. EB

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Curation, historical fiction, performance piece -- Schlitz (Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!, rev. 11/07) brings a bundle of learning, artifice, and intentionality to this highly stylized tale of ancient Greece. With the god Hermes as sometimes-narrator ("No. Don't put down the book...If the lines look like poetry, relax. This book is shorter than it looks"), the plot revolves around Rhaskos, an enslaved boy, and

Melisto, an aristocratically born Greek girl -- "a wild girl, chosen by Artemis." For structure, Schlitz curates eighteen "exhibits" -- fragments of inscriptions, pottery, and sculpture. As in a museum display or textbook, each has its explanatory note. Each also initiates a section of the story. We follow Rhaskos from his childhood collecting dung to his work as slave to upper-class Menon, when he first encounters Sokrates. We watch as Melisto survives maternal abuse to become one of Artemis's acolytes, her life ending in an ecstatic, tragic dance, when the two narrative threads -- one in verse, one in prose -- entwine. Schlitz deploys many voices; Hermes, Rhaskos, Hephaistos, Artemis, Sokrates, and more have their declamations, strophes, and antistrophes, characteristic of a Greek chorus and fitting for oral performance. Scraps of philosophy find a place, as does much information on pronunciation, etymology, the gods, and relevant cultural practice. Ambitious and original, this is stuffed with food for thought, often sparkling with wit and appropriate strangeness. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

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Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An artistic enslaved boy, "common as clay," and a free-spirited girl, "precious as amber," become "linked together by the gods" in this drama of ancient Greece. After his mother, Thratta, is sold, neglected, red-haired Rhaskos, 5, works in the stables of a wealthy household in Thessaly. Eventually sold to a potter in Athens, Rhaskos learns the trade, expands his drawing skills, and becomes friends with the philosopher Sokrates, who urges him to be his "own master." Raised in a privileged Athens home, wild, brown-skinned Melisto is actively spurned by her mother and prefers her nurse, Thratta. After being sent away to serve the goddess Artemis, 10-year-old Melisto is killed by lightning and Thratta places a binding spell on her ghost, compelling her to find Rhaskos and set him free, thus pulling their stories together. Borrowing elements from classical Greek drama, the tale unfolds primarily in verse through alternating voices, including those of manipulative gods and goddesses as well as real and fictional secondary characters whose varied perspectives add vitality and momentum. Lyrically descriptive, surprisingly contemporary in feel, and laced with allusions to Greek mythology, history, and epic stories, the narrative offers a realistically diverse, colorful portrait of an ancient Greece in which slavery and warfare were prevalent. Black-and-white illustrations of archaeological artifacts add insight and depth to this meticulously researched story. A rich, complex, deftly crafted tale of friendship, creativity, and being true to oneself. (cast of characters, author's notes, bibliography) (Historical fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In a lyrical verse novel packed with ancient myths and well-defined characters, Schlitz (The Hired Girl) takes readers to ancient Greece to tell the saga of two children, virtual strangers, who form a bond extending beyond life. Wild and rebellious Melisto, "a rich man's daughter, and a proper Greek," is adored by her father but unloved by her mother. Enslaved, red-haired Rhaskos, who was separated from his mother at a young age, weathers torment until he is sold to Phaistus, a formerly enslaved potter who recognizes Rhaskos' talent for drawing but apprentices him without hope of freedom. Both children are desperate to escape their predicaments, but how and when they cross paths remains a mystery until the final chapters. Featuring insightful narratives from philosopher Sokrates and several Greek gods (Artemis, Athena, Hephaistos, Hermes) as well as illustrations of archeological items by Iredale (Myths and Legends of the World), the book is as meticulously researched as Schlitz's previous novels, as evidenced in detailed descriptions of settings and lifestyles. Her exploration of the human condition ("Nobody ever gets out of anything") delves into both characters' psyches through a pensive, contemporary-feeling narrative that easily propels readers along. Ages 10: 14. Author's agent: Stephen Barbara, InkWell Management. Illustrator's agent: Alexandra Gehringer, the Bright Agency. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Two children from vastly different backgrounds--one common as clay, artistic and bright; the other precious as amber, wild, and forceful--share stories of hardship and hope, life and death in this historical fantasy told as a Greek tragedy. Born a slave and considered a barbarian by the dominant culture, redheaded Rhaskos is taught to follow orders and never think for himself. Brown-skinned Melisto is born into an affluent Athenian household, but is abused and berated by a mother who wanted a son (or at least an obedient daughter). As the children grow so do their stories, until eventually the two become entangled through the work of the gods and Rhaskos's long-lost mother. Told from multiple perspectives, mostly in verse with some prose sections, Schlitz's latest novel is a beautifully crafted, complex masterpiece that unfortunately may be a tough sell for the intended audience. While the god Hermes acts as chorus, providing irreverent interludes as well as much-needed context, he cannot compensate for an often wide gap in the lived experiences of characters--at one point, Melisto's mother describes her pregnancy and labor--and that of the reader. VERDICT This is a thoroughly researched, epic tale, but one that may have limited appeal. Share with readers who enjoyed other works by Schlitz or Finding Wonders by Jeannine Atkins, or for whom Katherine Marsh's Jepp, Who Defied the Stars is perhaps too mature.--Kaitlin Frick, Darien Lib., CT Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Newbery Medal-winning author Laura Amy Schlitz (Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!) has created a literary feast in this intoxicatingly original tale that takes place in ancient Greece. Amber & Clay is part sweeping saga and part epic narrative, with liberal doses of

ancient history, drama, mythology and philosophy included. Painstakingly researched, the 500-plus-page volume follows the odyssey of two 5th-century BCE children destined never to meet--in the living world. In parallel narratives, Rhaskos, an enslaved Thracian boy living in Greece, and Melisto, a highborn Athenian girl, follow their respective--and severely circumscribed--paths. Rhaskos's mother, also enslaved, is sold when the boy is five, leaving him to the whims of the masters of their home. "I was too small to be much use, / but I was big enough to pick up turds." Horses--and their manure--become Rhaskos's life. One day, after sneaking inside the house of his master, Rhaskos sees his first-ever painting: "A wonder before my eyes." It is a horse "large enough to ride": "You could see the wind ruffle its mane, / the sinewy legs pranced, the nostrils flared; and it had wings, / luminous/ spread like the wings of a swan." Rhaskos becomes obsessed with trying to re-create an image as lifelike as this and begins scratching out drawings in the dirt. Later, when he is sold off to a potter, his growing artistic ability becomes useful. At the same time, he develops a second and unusual (for a "thickheaded" "barbarian," that is) passion for philosophy when he befriends a funny "old man/ who had no beauty to display" named Sokrates. Melisto is the spitfire daughter of an important man; she is spoiled by her father and near despised by her mother. The person Melisto loves most, besides her father, is Thratta, the enslaved woman who takes cares of her.... COPYRIGHT(2021) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2219917 Threads of Magic (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alison Croggon

Pip lives by his wits in the city of Clarel. But when he picks the wrong pocket, Pip finds himself in possession of a strange dried heart in a silver casket--and those who lost it will stop at nothing to get it back. With assassins on his trail and the ominous heart beginning to whisper to him, Pip and his childlike older sister El are drawn deeper into the forbidden world of magic.

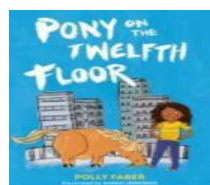
978-1-5362-0719-4 Candlewick Press ©2021 5-1/4 x 8 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When 12-year-old pickpocket Pipistrel, who has fair hair and pale skin, lifts an ornate silver box from a noble on the streets of Clarel, he's just hoping to support his older sister El, who is sometimes "very like a small child," and himself, orphaned as toddlers due to typhus. But inside the box is a sinister "rough black" Stone Heart, an object of great power sought by some of the most commanding people in the kingdom. The siblings' quest to understand the heart takes them to Amina, El's best friend's mother, a witch with dark skin hiding from the ruthless Office for Witchcraft Extermination. Meanwhile, 15-year-old Princess Georgette, "a slim, fair girl" with "aristocratically blue eyes," is desperate to escape an arranged marriage to the terrifying King Oswald of Awemt, and also seeks Amina, her old nurse. Their fates intertwined, these unlikely allies must keep the heart from the immortal body-stealing Specters, who crave its magical potential. Logistics issues dampen enjoyment, but Croggon (the Books of Pellinor series) subverts genre expectations and offers up multiple perspectives; both heroic and villainous; to weave a complicated tapestry of magic and sacrifice. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Jenny Darling and Assoc. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Readers will immediately settle comfortably into this deftly written high-adventure fantasy. When Pip, described as a "thieving young man with black hair, short scrawny legs and weasel eyes," pickpockets a Royal of Clarel, he finds himself with a silver box that holds a bewitched human heart. His sister El is wary of the magical object, but Pip can't seem to part with it. He becomes the target of royal assassins, witches, and specters—all of whom will stop at nothing to get the heart back. The omniscient narrator gives readers a bird's-eye view of the many-threaded plot and the multitude of players woven into it: Pip; El; the blonde Princess Georgette; Oni, a witch with curly, closely cropped hair, and her mother Amina; several kings; a few assassins, shape-shifters, and a host of others. At times, keeping the characters straight becomes cumbersome, and exactly how the magical heart will benefit those seeking it is not clear until more than three-quarters of the way through. However, the theme that power without love must be defeated drives the story. And it's a fun world to be in. The close buildings, cobblestones, and mucky streets of Clarel bring the Victorian gothic mood of Laura Amy Schlitz's Splendors and Glooms to mind, while the worldbuilding and adventure will be enjoyed by Cornelia Funke fans. VERDICT A great selection for voracious readers who aren't yet ready for YA.—Hillary Perelyubskiy, Los Angeles P.L.



#2162260 Pony on the Twelfth Floor (Hardcover (Trade))

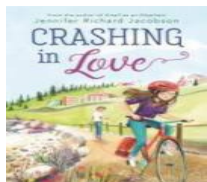
written by Polly Faber

Kizzy has always wanted a pony of her own. So when she finds a pony snacking on donuts in the grocery store, she instantly knows that she must have him and what to name him. Enlisting the help of her best friend, Pawel, Kizzy manages to keep Donut fed, ride him around the park, and even hide him in her school's garden. But Kizzy is finding it harder and harder to keep Donut a secret. Will she be able to give him up if it means finding him a better home?

978-1-5362-0930-3 Candlewick Press ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 256 pgs.

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Faber (the Mango & Bambang series) opens this caper on a droll note, explaining that though Kizzy had always dreamed of owning a pony, "she'd never expected to pick one up from the grocery store." But after the 11-year-old and her friend Pawel spot an unattended pony gorging on doughnuts in a shop, Kizzy impulsively claims ownership. Her imagination instantly ignites as she decides that the pony, which she names Donut, "smelled of dreams come true," and envisions riding him competitively and being tapped for the Olympics. But reality sets in; more or less; when the girl realizes the hurdles she must jump to conceal Donut, which involves hiding him in her bedroom, in Pawel's backyard shed, in her school's walled garden, and on a pony-loving neighbor's apartment balcony, all comically portrayed in cartoon art by Jennings (On the First Day of First Grade). The animal's insatiable appetite wreaks amusing havoc on multiple occasions while triggering a surfeit of scatological humor. Faber neatly weaves Kizzy's sly resourcefulness, devotion to Donut, and rappings with friends and family into a sprightly, uplifting story. Ages 8: 12. (June)



#2252200 Crashing in Love (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

Since her parents divorced, twelve-year-old Peyton has known that to achieve happier outcomes in her life, she's got to focus on eliminating her flaws-and on making sure her first boyfriend is truly right for her. Guided by her collection of inspirational quotes and her growing list of ideal boyfriend traits, Peyton is convinced that this summer will be the perfect summer, complete with the perfect boyfriend!

978-1-5362-1153-5 Candlewick Press ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

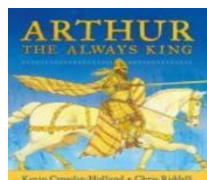
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Almost 13-year-old Peyton is facing a dull summer. Her best friend, Mari, will be away all summer, putting an end to their various plans. On the way to Mari's house to say goodbye, however, Peyton sees what at first seems to be a pile of clothes lying on the road but on further inspection turns out to be an injured boy about her age. The boy, Gray, then lies in a coma in the hospital, and Peyton divides her time between sitting beside his bed and talking to him, at his parents' request, and trying to discover who hit him. Peyton is devoted to self-motivation, and her first-person narrative is appropriately crisp and peppy, and the characters around her are vivid and bright, from her struggling journalist mother to her laid-back father and manipulative paternal grandmother. She is disappointed when her daydream about Gray and who he actually turns out to be don't match, but the truth jars her into reevaluating who she is and wants to be and forces her to step out of fantasy and into the real world. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twelve-year-old Peyton plays detective after rescuing a hit-and-run victim who she hopes could become her summer boyfriend. It doesn't take Peyton long after finding Gray unconscious to start imagining their would-be romance. It's summer in Mussel Cove, and she's working the beat in the small coastal Maine town, on the hunt for whomever hit and then abandoned Gray, all while he's in the hospital in a coma. Her search for justice teaches her a lot about first impressions and assumptions as she realizes that life lies perplexingly in between black and white. While Jacobson tries to convey some of that complexity, it unfortunately mostly falls flat. Peyton's older sisters feel generic, and her divorced parents hit the obvious tropes. There are flashes of depth, as in the sisters' conversation about what split up their parents and in the moment her father stands up to her unforgiving grandmother. But overall, the story stays on the surface. The suspense around what will happen to Gray and the mystery of who hit him keep the plot plodding along, but everything is resolved almost too quickly in the end. Jacobson succeeds, however, at writing Peyton as a believable tween girl with age-appropriate concerns, friends, and interests. The main characters are presumed White; cues such as a name or hairstyle may be intended to identify background characters of color. A middle-of-the-road coming-of-age mystery. (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Jacobson (Small as an Elephant) creates a well-paced blend of mystery and romantic idealism set in mid-coast Maine. Inspired by her collection of self-improvement quotations, 12-year-old narrator Peyton Campbell has plans for her summer all laid out, including trying to find someone who matches her list of "The Top Ten Musts for the Perfect Guy." But the summer changes when, cycling to her best friend's house, Peyton spots an unconscious hit-and-run victim around her age and calls 911, then learns that the boy, Gray Olsen, is in a coma. Even before Gray's mother offers Peyton a job watching over him when she can't be at the hospital, Peyton becomes certain that she and Gray are destined to be together romantically, and determines to find the person who hit him, despite her divorced parents' disapproval. Subplots involving Peyton's fears that she's losing her best friend, her suspicions about a boy she meets at the hospital, and increasing pressures to end her obsession with Gray's situation add tension to the story. If the conclusion is perhaps a bit tidy, Peyton emerges as a realistically flawed heroine who learns that well-laid plans don't always work and truth isn't always the way one person sees it. Characters default to white. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Alyssa Eisner Henkin, Trident Media Group. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—Inspirational quotes paper the walls of Peyton's bedroom in the coastal Maine house she lives in with her aspiring journalist mother and two older sisters. Always striving to be a better person, Peyton is positive that with the right attitude,

anything is possible. With a little more effort, maybe her parents wouldn't have gotten divorced. Twelve-year-old Peyton is also positive that this is the summer she'll get her first boyfriend; in fact, she has created a list of all the qualities her future boyfriend should embody. Riding her bike one morning she finds a boy in the road, victim of a hit-and-run accident. So sure is Peyton that this comatose boy is the boy of her dreams, she devotes her summer to sitting with him in the ICU and trying to solve the mystery of who was driving the car responsible for the accident. Things don't go exactly as planned. Peyton's summer of romance turns out to be one of growth and understanding—understanding what led to her parent's divorce as well as why her best friend has become estranged. Although Peyton does find a potential boyfriend and solve the mystery of who was driving, these accomplishments come with the realization that life is messy and problems can't be solved with inspirational quotes. All of the primary characters are cued as white. While the focus of the story is Peyton's relationship with family members and friends, secondary issues of class differences are subtly addressed. VERDICT A heartwarming and remarkably poignant story of a girl navigating the sometimes painful process of growing up. A solid choice for middle grade readers.—Ragan O'Malley, Saint Ann's Sch., Brooklyn



#2320016 Arthur, the Always King (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$29.99

Translated, adapted, told, and retold, the stories of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table have captivated imaginations across time. Now comes a lavishly illustrated, masterful retelling sure to enthrall a new generation of readers. From the tale of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight to the quest for the Holy Grail, stories both familiar and unfamiliar are woven into a vivid tapestry of Arthurian lore that spans from the king's conception to his final battle. Merlin, Guinevere, Lancelot, and other timeless characters come to life as complex men and women in a rich and atmospheric feat of storytelling that feels at once historical and fantastical, otherworldly and fully human. A compelling collaboration between internationally acclaimed author Kevin Crossley-Holland and three-time Kate Greenaway Medal winner Chris Riddell, this beautiful volume is sure to be treasured by readers of all ages.

978-1-5362-1265-5 Candlewick Press ©2023 9 x 10-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Spanning King Arthur's enchanted birth to the king's disappearance at the lake where he received Excalibur, Crossley-Holland (Norse Myths) recounts myriad Arthurian legends in this evocative, episodic telling. Intricately detailed full-page artwork by Riddell (Pirate Stew), rendered in swathes of muted color highlighted by regal blues and vivid gold, accompanies succinct literary text. Chapters are aptly titled according to their content: for example, in "Arthur's Childhood," the creators depict Arthur's mother, Ygerne, Duchess of Cornwall, giving birth to the babe before the magician Merlin whisks him away, "over the jagged sea cliff. In the almost dark," to foster parents Sir Ector and Lady Margery. "The Fellowship of the Round Table" follows the founding of the society and presents the seven trials faced by Arthur and his knights to achieve greatness. Subsequent tales detail these trials, Excalibur's retrieval, and the story of the Green Knight. The creators maintain outdated interpretations of women found in the Arthurian inspiration material. This lyrically developed, if standard, story of adventure, magic, and intrigue underlines the idea, outlined in an introduction, that the Always King's legend endures because it's "about human beings, not about gods or supermen and superwomen." Ages 10: up. (Apr.)



#2328833 Confessions of a Candy Snatcher (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Phoebe Sinclair

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

For the past few years, twelve-year-old Jonas and his friends have competed to see how many bags of candy they can grab from unsuspecting trick-or-treaters. No one's supposed to get hurt, just lose their treats. So Jonas is taken by surprise when one of his smaller targets fights back against his snatching attempt. He's even more surprised when he starts to receive anonymous notes from someone who knows what happened that night. Jonas already has enough on his plate, between his parents' ill-defined separation and his own guilt-guilt his friend Concepcion challenges him to confront in a zine she's creating around the prompt "What's the worst thing you ever did?" It's a complicated question, one that touches on issues of identity, maturity, physical boundaries, and safety.

978-1-5362-1368-3 Candlewick Press ©2023 6 x 9 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 700

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An ill-fated Halloween candy-snatching incident leads a Black seventh grader to craft a story about what really happened. Jonas has been grabbing candy from trick-or-treaters with friends Mikey, Darius, and Aaron since he was in sixth grade. He doesn't see any harm in it and was having fun until the target became Gideon Rao, his classmate who arrived in fifth grade from Texas and is a Native American. Afterward, Jonas starts finding notes in his locker--"I KNOW IT WAS YOU" and "WATCH YOUR BACK"--and he starts listing classmates who might be responsible for writing them. He's worried about the possible consequences if his involvement is discovered even though his friends promised to keep it all a secret. Concepción, Jonas' Chilean home-schooled friend who goes by C., asks Jonas to write about the worst thing he ever did for her zine, which forces him to think more deeply about the events. His self-reflection is derailed when the notes increase in visibility, however. Soon Jonas is reluctantly involved in mediation with people he thought he knew. The book shows how Jonas' different friendships have shaped him; he is a different person with C. than he is with his boys, something that allows readers to travel down the journey of introspection alongside Jonas. The striking black-and-white illustrations in a variety of styles offer insights into the characters' emotions in compelling ways. A creative debut about harnessing the courage to view yourself and your friendships clearly. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A tween-made zine and the fallout surrounding a disrupted Halloween tradition force a Black 12-year-old to reckon with his actions in this lively work by debut author Sinclair and Taylor (Garvey's Choice). Jonas and his friends have a holiday tradition of hustling younger kids out of their candy. But after something goes wrong on Halloween; something that Jonas inexplicably barely remembers; he begins receiving cryptic anonymous notes reading "I know it was you," "watch your back," and "tell or I will." While Jonas searches for the perpetrator, his everyday life unravels around him: his parents navigate a contentious separation, and Jonas gets into fights with a classmate. The only thing keeping him afloat is his newly acquired pink typewriter, which he uses to help make a zine with Latinx-cued friend Concepcion, who challenges Jonas to use the publication to admit "the worst thing you ever did." Taylor's polished grayscale art features throughout, depicting stories and confessions from Jonas and Concepcion's zine. Twining the mystery behind Jonas's fateful All Hallows' Eve with grounded personal conflicts, Sinclair develops a uniquely rendered interpretation of a misunderstood tween seeking stability and a place to belong. Ages 10: 14. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal "A profoundly relatable debut...The tone is heartbreakingly innocent, brilliantly so, translating the confusion of middle school and the worry of growing up into the acceptance of all manner of hard truths...this debut novel with a delightfully diverse cast provides a truthful account of peer pressure, divorce, and consent."

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Phoebe Sinclair's debut, *Confessions of a Candy Snatcher*, is a fast-paced, thoughtful middle-grade novel about a Black tween who does some serious self-reflection after a night of candy-stealing goes wrong.



#2252188 Birdie's Bargain (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katherine Paterson

Birdie has questions for God. For starters, why couldn't God roll history back to September 10, 2001, and fix things--so the next day was an ordinary sunny day and not the devastating lead-in to two wars? Daddy has already been to Iraq twice. Now he's going again, and Birdie is sure he'll die.

978-1-5362-1559-5 Candlewick Press ©2021 5-1/4 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

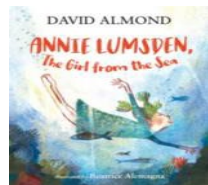
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Birdie isn't happy with the way her life has been going. Her dad has been called up again to serve in Iraq, and living at her Gran's is an adjustment. Her room is small, Mom is working all the time, and Gran is occupied with baby Billy. To top it off, her only "friend" is bossy Alicia. Making a bargain to protect her father seems logical to Birdie, but what if the bargain doesn't work out like she hopes? And is revealing Alicia's troubled home life a betrayal, or is it the right thing to do? The complexities of belief play a major role in how Birdie sees the world, but as she learns through patient Gran, perhaps Birdie's rigid views, learned at Bible camp, aren't the only way to approach faith. Paterson, the beloved author of classics like *Bridge to Terabithia*, has once again written a book that will appeal to thoughtful readers interested in a good story as well as bigger ideas. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Paterson's latest novel opens with Birdie (a nickname for Elizabeth) crying as her mother drives her father to the airport for his third deployment to Iraq. It's significant that Birdie is wearing an "I [heart] Jesus" shirt, because the bargain referred to in the book's title is one she has made with God to keep her father safe: "I'll stop acting like a jerk, if you'll start acting like God and take care of us for a change." To cut costs, the family moves in with Gran. The first person Birdie meets is fellow fifth-grader Alice Suggs, who comes on very aggressively, grabbing her arm and bragging that her father outranks Birdie's. Birdie doesn't enjoy being with her, but she remembers the Bible verse "Be ye kind, one to another" and continues to go to Alice's house and eat lunch with her at school. When Birdie's father is seriously injured in Iraq, she feels shocked and betrayed: "She was mad, so mad, mad at God, at Mom, at Gran, even at Daddy, at everything in the whole stinking world." As the protagonist copes first with the move and then with her crisis of faith, Paterson, using skillful omniscient narration, rounds the story with specific physical details and depicts the character's emotional arc with authenticity and empathy. Susan Dove Lempke(Copyright 2021 by The

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Can a person really make a deal with God? When her father's National Guard unit gets deployed overseas for the third time, and 10-year-old Birdie, her mom, and her 6-month-old brother, Billy, have to move into her grandmother's small house, Birdie is so upset she refuses to tell her father goodbye. Overcome with guilt after he leaves, she thinks back to the lessons she learned at the Bible camp her parents used as child care the summer before and promises God that she'll behave and be a witness if he keeps her father safe. Then God seems to lead her to Alicia Marie, a troubled and troublesome girl in her new class who demands more than Birdie wants to give. Birdie does her best to live up to her promise to God--but Daddy is injured anyhow. Paterson's writing is smooth and nuanced, but this novel lacks a defined narrative arc. Birdie learns to see the truth behind Alicia's lies and exaggerations, but then Alicia, the most fully realized character, drops out of the story entirely. Birdie is reassured when she visits her father at Walter Reed hospital after he is flown back to the U.S. for treatment. She is also comforted some months later when her grandmother suggests a kinder version of God, but she doesn't exhibit much growth on her own. Characters default to White. Lovely prose and an intriguing family situation but insufficient character development. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ten-year-old Birdie, terrified for the safety of her Vermont National Guard father when he is called to Iraq for his third deployment, strikes a bargain with God: she'll "be a witness in the world if...you will just keep my Daddy safe." Challenges abound for Birdie, beyond fearing for her dad's safety: financial difficulties have forced her mother and baby brother to move in with her grandmother, and she is claimed for friendship by unpleasant classmate Alicia Marie Suggs, who frequently exaggerates. Struggling to follow the tenets of her beliefs, timid Birdie allows Alicia to monopolize her time and passively accepts Alicia's abuse, until a family emergency causes a crisis of faith. Other than disagreeable Alicia, who vanishes midway through the book, poorly fleshed-out characters (all presumed white) populate what is more a snapshot of a family; and tween's; turmoil than a fully constructed plotline. Though frequently unfocused, Newbery Medalist Paterson's novel respects Birdie's friendship struggles and offers lyrical turns of phrase: upon Birdie's seeing a gleaming tree encased in ice, "The thought came to her that the tree was singing, singing a hymn to the sun." Ages 9: 12. (Oct.)



#2222645 **Annie Lumsden, The Girl from the Sea (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by David Almond

Annie Lumsden has hair that drifts like seaweed, eyes that shine like rock pools, and thoughts that dart and dance like minnows. She lives with her artist mother by the sea, where she feels utterly at home, and has long felt apart from the other girls at school.

Words and numbers on the page don't make sense to her, and strange maladies have been springing up that the doctors can't explain.

978-1-5362-1674-5 Candlewick Press ©2021 6-1/2 x 8 64 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Rather like the seashell her mother picks up that is "as ordinary as any seashell, as beautiful as any seashell," the precious mystery that is Annie Lumsden is not apparent to all. Thirteen-year-old Annie lives with her mum in a small house beside the sea in a beautiful location in the northeast of England. Classmates ridiculed her difficulties at school, and now she suffers inexplicable seizures. Annie and her single mother, who sings sea shanties in the pub and sells handcrafted art made of shells and rocks, glory in the spinning of tales and in connections between their beloved home and far-flung times and places. One day, Annie asks Mum to explain how she came to be; the ensuing tale weaves together the mysteries of the watery world that Annie, whose hair "drifts like seaweed" when she swims and whose "thoughts dart and dance inside like little minnows in the shallows," loves so dearly. It involves a mysterious man from a seaweed forest, rather like a selkie, who had "skin smooth and bright like sealskin," spoke with a "liquid voice," and is her true father. This short, captivating story is enhanced with watercolor-and-colored-pencil illustrations in natural tones; the illustrations' impressionistic style perfectly mirrors the text's blurring of the lines between the magical and the everyday. This gentle tale reminds readers of the power of stories to remake our humdrum worlds into something wondrous. Main characters present White. Enchanting. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Annie Lumsden and her sea shanty: singing mother, who "finds tales everywhere," live in a modest white house "above the jetsam line," from which parts of the village of Stupor can be glimpsed. The 13-year-old, a white only child with learning difficulties and an innate love of the ocean, describes herself poetically, with language borrowed from the sea ("I have eyes that shine like rock pools. My ears are like scallop shells") and occasionally suffers from "falls," seizure-like episodes in which she goes "far away beneath the sea." One day, Annie asks her mother to tell a new origin story for her, "something that works out the puzzle of me." The resulting tale involves the woman's meeting a mysterious man from the sea with fins and webbed feet, nine months before Annie herself is born; later that day, a traveler snaps a picture of Annie that seems to reveal the truth behind her otherworldliness. Almond's (Joe Quinn's Poltergeist) sea-swept story, enhanced by Alemagna's (Things That Go Away) eloquent, softly hued watercolor and colored-pencil illustrations, melds memorable turns of phrase with an appreciation for the unexpected: "Sometimes the best way to understand how to be human is to understand our strangeness." Ages 7: 10. (May)



#2268154 Healer and Witch (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Nancy Werlin

Sylvie and her mother and grandmother are beloved, trusted healers in their medieval French village, though some whisper that fifteen-year-old Sylvie and her grand-mere deal in more than herbs and medicines. Perhaps they're a bit...witchy?

978-1-5362-1956-2 Candlewick Press ©2022 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 630

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Werlin's first foray into middle grade is a thrilling and suspenseful experience; there are twisting reveals and adventure aplenty, though the story isn't afraid to stop for lovely moments of quiet contemplation and recollection along the way. A budding, respectful romance and hints of deeper powers will have readers hoping for a sequel. It's well worth joining kind and clever Sylvie on her harrowing journey of discovery.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Raised as the daughter and granddaughter of healers in her small French village, fifteen-year-old Sylvie has an untrained magical ability that enables her to see and even manipulate people's thoughts and memories. When her beloved Grand-mère dies, Sylvie is desperate to help her grieving mother, but she accidentally removes not just her mother's sadness but also her memories of Grand-mère and Sylvie herself. Determined to use her powers for good, Sylvie sets out to find a teacher, accompanied on her journey by young local misfit Martin, whose curiosity about the world complements Sylvie's firm conviction to retain her integrity and autonomy. Unfortunately, sixteenth-century gender norms make women's self-determination a complicated matter, as a potential mentor illustrates. The parameters of Sylvie's gift are fuzzy and largely undefined; this leaves a hopeful openness to her future but makes the gift a conveniently literal device for exploring trauma and the limitations of healing. The concept of finding and following one's calling, strongly espoused here, needs more scrutiny and nuance than it gets, and the message requires glossing over some background plot implausibility. Still, the strides toward deeper understanding of what it means to heal minds and bodies are well worth taking. FHK COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book "A refreshingly honest and elegantly written work of historical fantasy."

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Werlin's new novel is cause for celebration -- for its sleek, sharp prose; intelligent ideas; and precise characterization, to name but a few of its attributes. Set in 1531 France, this is the tale of Sylvie, an untaught telepathic healer, who, after the death of her grand-mere, mistakenly removes much of her mother's memory while trying to ease her grief. In the company of clever, rambunctious young neighbor Martin, Sylvie leaves her tiny hamlet in quest of a mentor to teach her how to use her powers safely; the two travel to Lyon with the caravan of an enterprising trader to find the renowned magic-user Madame du Bois. But both Madame du Bois and the trader turn out to be something of a surprise -- and will Lyon's new inquisitor prove to be a help to Sylvie, or a danger? Every sentence here pushes character and plot forward, so there's plenty of momentum and suspense; but what is more unusual is the way Werlin prods characters (and readers) to think through ideas of faith and reason in making their own choices. The story has its articulate and challenging "lessons" (for instance, even after you discover who it is you're meant to be, "you must work hard every day to become that person"). Just as much, it invites questions and rigorous reasoning, refusing to bow to romantic sentiment ("But men owned their wives," Sylvie thinks, considering the legal realities of marriage). A refreshingly honest and elegantly written work of historical fantasy. (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Werlin's new novel is cause for celebration -- for its sleek, sharp prose; intelligent ideas; and precise characterization, to name but a few of its attributes. Set in 1531 France, this is the tale of Sylvie, an untaught telepathic healer, who, after the death of her grand-mere, mistakenly removes much of her mother's memory while trying to ease her grief. In the company of clever, rambunctious young neighbor Martin, Sylvie leaves her tiny hamlet in quest of a mentor to teach her how to use her powers safely; the two travel to Lyon with the caravan of an enterprising trader to find the renowned magic-user Madame du Bois. But both Madame du Bois and the trader turn out to be something of a surprise -- and will Lyon's new inquisitor prove to be a help to Sylvie, or a danger? Every sentence here pushes character and plot forward, so there's plenty of momentum and suspense; but what is more unusual is the way Werlin prods characters (and readers) to think through ideas of faith and reason in making their own choices. The story has its articulate and challenging "lessons" (for instance, even after you discover who it is you're meant to be, "you must work hard every day to become that person"). Just as much, it invites questions and rigorous reasoning, refusing to bow to romantic sentiment ("But men owned their wives," Sylvie thinks, considering the legal realities of marriage). A refreshingly honest and elegantly written work of historical fantasy. Deirdre F. Baker(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In 16th-century France, 15-year-old Sylvie is more than just a healer. Sylvie might be a witch. She has more than just a talent for healing people like her midwife mother, Jeanne; Sylvie possesses mysterious powers like those of her Grand-mère Sylvie. However, when her grandmother dies before she can train Sylvie to use her powers for good, Sylvie commits a grave error: Trying to relieve Jeanne of her grief, Sylvie accidentally removes all Jeanne's memories of both her mother and daughter. Now Sylvie is venturing beyond her small village of Bresnois to find a magical teacher to help her correct her mistake and heal Jeanne. When the farrier's son, Martin, insists on joining Sylvie on her quest, the two of them pose as siblings and set off, eventually reaching Lyon. Unfortunately for Sylvie, not everyone in the large towns and cities of Catholic early modern France appreciates a woman with unusual powers, and inquisitors pose a real threat. Sylvie and Martin

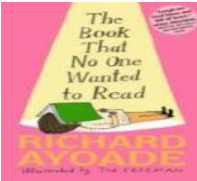
need to work together to figure out whom they can trust and how they will eventually get home--if they return home at all. This historical fantasy is a delightful page-turner that will entice readers of historical fiction and fantasy alike. It's a refreshing stand-alone novel with a resilient protagonist who realizes the greatest magic of all is being true to oneself. Characters read as White. Thoroughly enjoyable and engaging, filled with magic, mystery, strength, and love. (Historical fantasy. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Werlin's (Zoe Rosenthal Is Not Lawful Good) middle grade debut, an introspective historical fantasy set in 1531 France, 15-year-old Sylvie can see and manipulate thoughts and memories, but she has received no official training for the power, which, like that of her Grand-mere, is stronger than her Catholic family's usual gifts of healing. After inadvertently erasing some of her midwife mother's memories in attempting to ease her grief around the death of Grand-mere, Sylvie leaves her small town to seek out a mentor. Unexpectedly accompanied by eight-year-old farrier's son Martin, she sets forth across the richly described French countryside, keeping her power a secret from those who'd attack her for witchcraft as well as those who would exploit her. When she joins a caravan led by 24-year-old merchant Robert Chouinard, Sylvie develops a friendship with the mercurial, mysterious man, but even he may not be able to protect her from the dangers of her journey. Leisurely paced and told in an assured third-person voice, Werlin's gentle reflection on trauma and healing, the ethics of power, and seemingly dual natures explores Sylvie's place in the world and her relationship to those she cares for. Protagonists read as white. Ages 9: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--In 16th-century France, 15-year-old Sylvie, her mother, and Grand-mere are healers; Grand-mere and Sylvie's abilities are rooted in magic, however. When her grandmother dies, and Sylvie's mother no longer remembers her because of Sylvie's mistake, the teen has to leave her small, Catholic village to find anyone who can teach her how to control her great power. She is accompanied by Martin, a younger childhood friend, who was asked by Grand-mere to follow Sylvie if the girl ever left the village. She meets the wise woman Ceciline, one of Grand-mere's former friends. Ceciline may be like Sylvie's Grand-mere, but her feelings about people without magic are completely different. The young woman uses her power, which is much greater than anyone else's, to find her own path forward. Werlin's middle grade debut features adventure, magic, and a strong female protagonist. This suspenseful historical fantasy explores how society perceives and attempts to control women, especially those who are seen as strong, wise, or powerful. VERDICT Recommended for middle school collections, this is a solid standalone choice for libraries where historical, magic-based fiction is popular.--Marissa Lieberman Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness YA author Nancy Werlin's middle-grade debut is an unhurried and subtle bildungsroman that features a young woman trying to understand her magical powers in medieval France. Healer and Witch gracefully explores themes of identity, family and belonging. Fifteen-year-old Sylvie comes from a long line of strong women and healers. She, her mother and her grandmother are trusted in the village of Bresnois to treat injuries and illnesses. However, Sylvie's ability to view and manipulate the memories of others goes beyond ordinary healing. When Sylvie's grandmother dies unexpectedly, Sylvie attempts to use magic to cure her mother's grief--with disastrous results. Desperate to fix her mistake, Sylvie leaves Bresnois in search of "someone who could help her with her gift." Sylvie's quest introduces her to new friends, including a mischievous stowaway, a stern yet kind young merchant and a self-proclaimed witch. Far away from "everything she knew," Sylvie comes to realize that the true nature of her power may be something only she can determine for herself. There are no epic battles or grand prophecies in Healer and Witch, whose fantasy narrative remains grounded in the human stakes facing Sylvie and her companions. Werlin (Zoe Rosenthal Is Not Lawful Good) brings compassion and complexity to her depictions of the relationships between characters. No individual is defined by a single trait and first appearances often prove misleading. Indeed, a recurring message is that positive and negative experiences are part of a full life, and repressing feelings of unhappiness can be harmful rather than helpful. Readers looking for a gentle, understated historical fantasy will sympathize with Sylvie in her struggle to "choose her own future" in a "world that was increasingly hostile to women such as herself." --Alanna Felton, freelance reviewer COPYRIGHT(2022) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

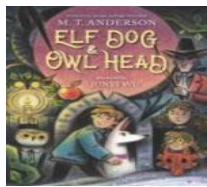


	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2315362 Book That No One Wanted to Read (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Richard Ayoade</i> The life of a book isn't easy, especially when people judge you by your cover (not every book can be adorned with sparkly unicorns!). And this narrator should know--it's the book itself, and it has a lot of opinions. It gets irritated when readers bend its pages back, and it finds authors quite annoying. But it does have a story to tell. Through witty direct address and charming illustrations, readers meet a book that has never been read, with a cover the boring color of a school lunch table and pages so dry they give bookworms indigestion. But what happens when this book meets you, a curious reader? 978-1-5362-2216-6 Walker Books US ©2023 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 128 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist "Could well leave even confirmed nonreaders tempted to turn over a new leaf."

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Comedian and actor Ayoade explores storytelling and books themselves. Readers are quickly introduced to the premise: The narrator of this book...is the book itself. Directly addressing the audience, the narrator waxes philosophical about judging books by covers before plunging readers into a story told in second person about a child who finds "a particular Book That No One Wanted To Read" on a library shelf. Interspersed with imagined, telepathic dialogue between reader and book, this delightfully droll work casually covers everything from footnotes to story structure; information about excess unwanted books being "pulped" by publishers leads to a gag about the book not wanting to be recycled into toilet paper. The design is clean, with different fonts effectively used to maintain speaker clarity, and facts about books blend beautifully with wacky, tongue-in-cheek illustrations. The character "you" is a reader stand-in with a humorous composite depiction (and so lacks race, gender, or any other identity, though other people depicted throughout are diverse in skin tone). In many ways a spiritual successor to B.J. Novak's *The Book With No Pictures* (2014), the book (and Book, the character) will encourage readers to approach literature with a sense of play. Lovingly crafted metafictional silliness both experimental and engaging. (Illustrated fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly British performer Ayoade kicks off this telling with a P.G. Wodehouse epigraph, setting the tone for a jocose metafictional narrative told from a book's point of view. An audience-directed first-person framing chapter introduces the narrator ("Oh yes./ I'm a book./ Hello") before diving into several pages' worth of observations regarding texts and readers (judging books by their covers, people who dog-eat pages) as well as notes about volumes' utility (like delivery vehicles, they're "a packed truck"). When the second chapter picks up the main narrative, it traces the second-person story of a nonspecific child ("you") who finds *The Book That No One Wanted to Read* on a high library shelf and establishes telepathic communication with it. Slowly, the initially repressed Book begins to reveal deep, complex feelings, and together with the child who discovers it, begins to explore the idea of collaborating on a new storytelling project, making for an idiosyncratically charming read. Alongside diagrams, graphs, and lengthy chapter titles, whimsical cartooning from Freeman (*Good Dogs on a Bad Day*) visualizes humans of varying skin tones throughout. Ages 10: 14. (Mar.)



#2320027 Elf Dog and Owl Head (Hardcover (Trade))
written by M. T. Anderson

Clay has had his fill of home life. A global plague has brought the world to a screeching halt, and with little to look forward to but a summer of video-calling friends, vying with annoying sisters for the family computer, and tuning out his parents' financial worries, he's only too happy to retreat to the woods. From the moment the elegant little dog with the ornate collar appears like an apparition among the trees, Clay sees something uncanny in her. Each day the dog leads Clay down paths he never knew existed, deeper into the unknown. There are traps and terrors in the woods, too, and if Clay isn't careful, he might stray off the path and lose his way forever.

978-1-5362-2281-4 Candlewick Press ©2023 6 x 8 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Book Page A boy and his dog--it's the beginning of a story that's been told a thousand times. But when the dog is a Bulgarian elf-hound who magically appears in the woods, the story might be a little different. *Elf Dog and Owl Head* by National Book Award winner M.T. Anderson, with black-and-white illustrations by Junyi Wu, upends familiar tropes with imagination, poignancy and just enough realism to allow the reader to see themselves in at least one character.

Reviews by: Booklist Anderson positions his breezy new fantasy in the present primarily through the pervasive presence of "the sickness," which has citizens living in boredom-generating quarantine. Online school is a joke and a summer without friends isn't looking much better—and family time lost its luster ages ago. But when Clay stumbles upon a lost dog—sleek and white, except for the bright red interior of her ears—everything begins to change. Clay instinctively knows that she is a royal elf-hound. What he doesn't know is that she belongs to the unpleasant People Under the Mountain and is trained to hunt all manner of monsters. With Elphinore the elf-hound by his side, Clay's summer becomes one of wonder, as she is able to follow paths invisible to the human eye. This is how he becomes friends with an owl-headed boy named Amos and very nearly gets his family cursed. This playful romp pulls magic into the mundane and gives regular kids the chance to be heroes while Wu's cross-hatched pencil illustrations dust the proceedings with further enchantment.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books In an experience that will likely be familiar to many young readers, Clay and his sisters are stuck at home after a global illness shut down the world and forced the tween boy online for school, crushing any sort of developing social life. On a walk through the woods, Clay encounters a strange little white dog, who offers the lonely kid companionship and then a bit of adventure, taking Clay off the forest path and into a world inhabited by owl-headed creatures. Despite it becoming clear quite quickly that the magical land holds potentially fatal danger, Clay is still drawn to it, especially when his real-world life only continues to feel more and more suffocating. Invited by owl-headed Amos to a celebration that brings various realms together, he returns, but unfortunately, the dog's previous owners—the haughty People Under the Mountain—show up. They want their animal back, and they'll resort to drastic measures if necessary. This is a charming,

fantastical spin on the familiar kid/dog story, right down to their tragic separation being quickly followed by a heartwarming reunion. The third-person narration expands the story, though, shifting focus among the boy, the dog, and the boy's family, giving secondary characters nuance and roles beyond merely supporting Clay. There's a lot for contemporary kids to relate to here: Clay's loneliness, his sister's anger at being forced to stay home, his parents' constant worry, and the general unfairness of the entire situation. Holding all that chaotic emotion together and framing it with a well-developed fantasy world is an impressive feat, and Anderson, as usual, does it with aplomb. Final illustrations not seen. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Clay and his family are suffering the accumulated tensions of a "global sickness" shutdown. Online school, isolation from friends, financial worries, too much togetherness -- Clay needs escape, and he gets it via a charming elf-hound who has wandered up from the fairy Kingdom Under the Mountain. The dog also gives Clay access to a new friend, Amos, an owl-headed boy who inhabits a different parallel world that resembles a Puritan village. Once these worlds start to leak into one another, chaos is loosed upon Clay and his family. The tone is largely cartoonish, as set pieces of hilarious slapstick involve, for example, an out-of-control wool sweater that reverse-evolves into its original sheep. It's a veritable plum pudding of energetic action and witty delights, but a foundation of traditional folklore elements -- standing stones, half-buried sleeping giants, fairy mischief, portals to the underworld, the Wild Hunt, and predatory wyrms -- creates an underlying hint of genuine menace. One of the guests at the big Midsummer's Eve supernatural shindig is Death ("When he calls, we must go. But knowing that the night may be cut short is what makes it so sweet"). Balancing this chill is the devoted relationship between Clay and his dog companion, a theme that stands sturdily in the middle of the mayhem. Black-and-white full-page pencil illustrations contribute to both coziness and eeriness. (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

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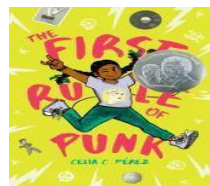
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews "Writing with his characteristic precision, Anderson melds the fantastic with the everyday to often riotous effect. . . It all comes to a thrilling climax on Midsummer's Eve before a bittersweet, perfectly pitched denouement. Wu's lovely, textured pencil drawings add eldritch warmth. . . A hilarious, heartfelt triumph."

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Wandering the mystical forest behind his house on Mount Norumbega offers Clay O'Brian an escape from being stuck at home with his family due to a global virus. As Clay attempts to play Frisbee solo in the woods, he encounters an elegant white elf hound with a bejeweled collar who's been separated from a Royal Hunt. Elphinore, as she is called, is part of an "ancient and dangerous crowd" known as the People Under the Mountain; and when she leads him on a path he's never seen, Clay beholds extraordinary alternate realms "in different folds of space." Alongside genteel Amos, an owl-headed boy, he spends the summer exploring such places and anticipating the festivities of Midsummer's Eve. Meanwhile, older sister DiRossi seethes in her room at the unfairness of spending her 14-year-old summer alone, and, deciding to find out what her brother is up to, has adventures of her own, including an encounter with a similarly misanthropic giant. Revisiting the setting of his Norumbegan Quartet and layering the everyday with intriguing lands and creatures, Anderson expertly balances the anguish of pandemic-era isolation with the transporting joys of new friendships. Stylized b&w pencil art from Wu punctuate this wryly told fantasy. Human characters default to white. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: David McCormick Literary. Illustrator's agent: Anne Moore Armstrong, Bright Agency. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5--Anderson brings to life the magical world found in Mount Norumbega, in this stand-alone novel. Clay O'Brian is tired of the virus that has forced him to stay home away from friends and enjoys the time he spends in the wilderness exploring. When elf-dog Elphinore is locked out from her home beneath the mountain, she comes across Clay in the woods and their adventures together begin. Elphinore is the reason Clay befriends an owl-headed boy named Amos, while Clay's older sister DiRossi forms an unlikely friendship with a sad, blue giant named Vud. At the Midsummer Night Festival, when the magical worlds intertwine, the newfound friends will discover whether their bond can withstand strict, fantastical rules. Wu's illustrations throughout are black-and-white pencil, which adds to the otherworldly quality of the plot. While the story has magical lands and creatures, the backdrop of the COVID-19 shutdown grounds the action in something relatable. The O'Brian family's stress about becoming ill, paying bills, and finding work allows room to explore the trauma of the pandemic. At times, the world-building is underdeveloped, but the engrossing presentation of the different worlds will draw readers in. Other than Anderson's companion series, "Norumbegan Quartet," comparable titles include Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black's "Spiderwick Chronicles" and The Demon Sword Asperides by Sarah Jean Horwitz. VERDICT A stellar novel with read-aloud potential, this whimsically imaginative adventure will thrill those who want magic mixed with reality.--Hilary Tufo Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Xpress "Anderson brings to life the magical world found in Mount Norumbega in this stand-alone novel. Clay O'Brian is tired of the virus that has forced him to stay home away from friends, and enjoys the time he spends in the wilderness exploring. When elf-dog Elphinore is locked out from her home beneath the mountain, she comes across Clay in the woods and their adventures together

begin... The O'Brian family's stress about becoming ill, paying bills, and finding work allows room to explore the trauma of the pandemic... A stellar novel with read-aloud potential, this whimsically imaginative adventure will thrill those who want magic mixed with reality."



#2069161 First Rule of Punk (Prebound)

written by Celia C. Perez

There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school--you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malu inadvertently upsets Posada Middle's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process.

978-1-5364-4422-3 Puffin Books ©2018 5 x 7-3/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 4.2 Lexile 670

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Sure, Malu is half-Mexican and half-white, but with her "sloppy" Spanish, aversion to cilantro, and love of American punk culture, she often doesn't feel very Mexican--that is, until her life in Baltimore is uprooted and quickly replanted in the rich cultural soil of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Here everything is infused with a Mexican-American twist: the local coffee shop, the (still disgusting) middle-school lunchroom selections, and even her beloved punk rock. When Malu decides to enter an impromptu band of punk misfits into the school talent show and they're turned down, she takes matters into her own hands remembering the first rule of punk: be yourself. A familiar story of preteen angst and rebellion is made memorable through Malu's distinct voice and narration as she attempts to make sense of middle-school drama, unfair family decisions, and the implications of being both biracial and bicultural. Included in the text are short zine chapters that creatively pull together Malu's musings about events like being called a coconut--"brown on the outside, white on the inside"--and the realization that punk music knows no one language. Perez draws heavily on the intersections of community that are integral to Mexican-American culture, seamlessly weaving characters into multiple settings, giving depth to their personhood and emphasizing the close-knit and inclusive feel of her neighborhood. It is this element that makes Malu's obvious growth by the end of the book so rewarding, as everyone comes together to rock out. It's not an easy task, but in the words of Malu, "Find your people. Just remember that your people aren't always who you'd expect." MK

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide YBooks by Horn Book reviewers are not reviewed; we provide notice of publication and descriptive comment.] The first rule of punk is to be yourself, but it's hard for Malz, the bicultural daughter of divorced parents. Her white dad doesn't understand her internal struggles with her Mexican American identity, and her mom would rather Malz were more "segorita" than punk. Starting a band becomes a chance to explore her heritage as well as her musical interests. Eight-page "zines" featuring Malz's collages punctuate the text. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

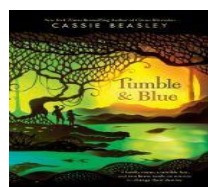
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine [Books by Horn Book reviewers are not reviewed; we provide notice of publication and descriptive comment.] The first rule of punk is to be yourself, but it's hard for Malu, the bicultural daughter of divorced parents, to know exactly what that means. Her white dad doesn't understand her internal struggles with her Mexican American identity, and her mom would rather Malu were more seniorita than punk. Starting a band becomes a chance to explore her heritage as well as her musical interests. Eight-page zines featuring Malu's collages punctuate the text.(Copyright 2017 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Malu wants to be totally punk at her new middle school, but her Mexican-American mother would prefer she learn to be a proper seniorita. Twelve-year-old Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales, aka Malu, loves punk-rock music, hanging out at her father's indie record store, and making zines. She doesn't love moving from her home in Gainesville, Florida, to Chicago for her professor mother's two-year appointment at a university. Although she loves both of her amicably divorced parents, Malu--who favors Chuck Taylors and music T's--feels closer to her laid-back, artsy white father than her supportive but critical academic mother, whom she calls "SuperMexican." At Malu's new majority-Latino school, she quickly makes an enemy of beautiful Selena, who calls her a "coconut" (brown on the outside, white on the inside) and warns her about falling in with the class "weirdos." Malu does befriend the school misfits (one activist white girl and two fellow "coconuts") and enlists them to form a band to play a punk song at the Fall Fiesta. Middle-grade readers will appreciate the examples of Malu's zines and artwork, which delightfully convey her journey of self-discovery. The author surrounds the feisty protagonist with a trio of older women (including her mom, her best friend Joe's tattooed, punk-loving mother, and his humorous Abuela) who help her embrace being Mexican and punk. A charming debut about a thoughtful, creative preteen connecting to both halves of her identity. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales--Malu for short--and her divorced mother move from Florida to Chicago, the 12-year-old struggles with having her music-loving father so far away and with living up to a mother she has nicknamed SuperMexican. "Admit it, Mom," Malu says during one of their squabbles. "I'm just your weird, unladylike, sloppy-Spanish-speaking, half-Mexican kid." Malu takes solace in punk music and in creating handmade zines, which appear throughout; she also begins to make friends, forming a band--the Co-Co's--that blends punk and Mexican music. (It also reclaims the slur "coconut," which one of Malu's classmates calls her.) Perez's debut is as exuberant as its heroine, who discovers that there's real overlap between her Mexican heritage and the punk ethos she so admires. The relationships between children and parents are handled especially well: Malu chafes at her mother's traditionalism while idolizing her friend Joe's mother, a cafe owner

who represents a merging of Mexican and punk cultures in a way that impresses Malu. A rowdy reminder that people are at their best when they aren't forced into neat, tidy boxes. Ages 9-12. Agent: Stefanie Von Borstel, Full Circle Literary. (Aug.) Copyright 2017 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-A fun romp through the awkward years of middle school that examines themes of identity and culture. When Malu has to move away from her dad and everything she knows, she takes her love of punk music with her. Following the rules of punk, she embarks on a new school journey, full of misadventures and hilarious life lessons. Malu is happy not to fit in with the crowd yet cannot bring herself to tell her mom that her passion for punk is not a rebellious phase-it's who she is. When classmates label Malu a coconut (brown on the outside and white on the inside), she is determined to prove to her school and herself that she is proud of her Mexican roots. With tenderness and humor, PTrez explores the joys and challenges of being biracial. Readers will connect with Malu, a strong protagonist who leaps off the page and whose zine-inspired artistry boldly illustrates how she deals with life. VERDICT Those who enjoy vivacious, plucky heroines, such as the protagonists of Brenda Woods's *The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond*, Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich and Audrey Vernick's *Two Naomis*, and Rebecca Stead's *Goodbye Stranger*, will eagerly embrace Malu.-Jessica Bratt, Grand Rapids Public Library, MI Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2069909 Tumble and Blue (Prebound)

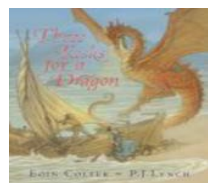
written by Cassie Beasley

In order for Tumble Wilson and Blue Montgomery to fix their ancestors' mistakes and banish the bad luck that has followed them around for all of their lives, they must face Munch, the mysterious golden alligator who cast the curse centuries ago.

978-1-5364-4464-3 Puffin Books ©2018 5 x 7-3/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.2 Lexile 680

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



#2348984 Three Tasks for a Dragon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Eoin Colfer

Studios Prince Lir is next in line to become the Wolfhound King, but he can't ride a horse, lift a sword, or summon the fabled wolfhounds. So his stepmother decrees that her own son will inherit the crown instead, sending Lir away on a seemingly impossible-and assuredly fatal-quest: to rescue the maiden Cethlenn from the once-fearsome dragon Lasvarg. Rather than wage battle, Lir insists that Lasvarg, now decidedly past his prime, honor tradition by setting him three tasks to perform-starting with tackling the mold encrusting the dragon's cave (and his feet!).

978-1-5362-2999-8 Candlewick Press ©2023 7-1/2 x 9 112 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist "A fabulous fairy tale with a standout style that feels pleasingly traditional and yet terrifically fresh, and the well-drawn characters often subvert classic genre expectations. The elegant text is sonorous and suspenseful... every page is splendidly illustrated, with the text set on top of soft, full-bleed artwork and the word blocks contoured to the handsome pencil drawings that surround. A wonderfully classic fairy tale that still surprises and delights."

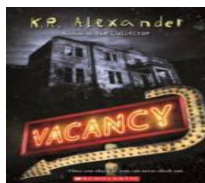
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Prince Lir is perfectly fine with his stepbrother assuming the crown instead of him, but he is less content with the idea that exile or death are his only options instead of ruling. When Lir is offered a chance at survival by completing a mission to save a maiden from a dragon, he accepts despite the odds being wildly against him (and that's even before it's clear that Lir's stepbrother is actively working to sabotage him). Neither the dragon nor the maiden is what Lir expects, and both become dear friends to Lir, even after a dark secret that the dragon holds threatens their bond. Individually, none of them are a match for the murderous stepbrother, who will use whatever means are necessary to secure the crown, but together they are a formidable trio with complementary strengths. Vibrant, glowing artwork is a highlight, with spot drawings throughout and intricate linework that invites the reader to pause and explore the details of each scene. The trim page count and stunning illustrations make this an appealing offer to reluctant readers, while fantasy and fairy tale buffs will gravitate to this book on their own, based on little more than the promising title that hints at (and ably delivers) a memorable quest. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A peaceful prince, an aging dragon, and a mysterious maiden forge a unique alliance. Prince Lir does not possess the power to summon the wolfhounds and is thus unworthy to govern his kingdom. So begins a story of gifts discovered in struggle and friendship

forged in adversity. Lir's stepbrother, Delbayne, who has sinister motives, sends him to fight a dragon, anticipating his demise. Lir is an unlikely questing knight, a bookish young man interested in natural sciences and happy to serve his kingdom humbly in the royal library. Arriving at the dragon's secluded island, he finds a lethargic beast incapable of flying or breathing fire and drunk on cherry wine made from berries stomped by Cethlenn, a servant girl with a hazy past in the palace kitchens. Adhering to tradition, Lir proposes to perform three tasks to free Cethlenn. Instead of challenging the dragon, Lir endeavors, rather radically, to restore him to health using his scientific skill. Simultaneously, the omniscient narrator slowly unravels Delbayne's plans for violent attack, which build to an epic, cinematically dramatic battle whose outcome will depend upon the island trio's nascent trust in one another. Colfer draws out details of kingdom-building in lyrical language while interweaving his characters' relatable idiosyncrasies, motives, and griefs. Lynch's sandy orange and misty blue hued watercolor illustrations, replete with detailed dragon profiles and majestic wolfhounds, seamlessly frame the story and bring Colfer's mostly white-presenting characters fully to life. An elegant and inspired fairy tale that feels both familiar and freshly penned. (Fantasy. 8-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A quest that suggests certain death unfolds quite differently in this reason-centered fantasy novella by previous collaborators Colfer and Lynch (*The Dog Who Lost His Bark*). Calm, analytical Prince Lir is startled when his stepmother, Queen Nimh, denies him the throne because he's failed to summon the wolfhounds; after all, no monarch has completed the wolfhound-summoning ceremony for 500 years. Instead, the queen decrees that her biological son, Prince Delbayne, should become king. Secretly wanting Lir dead, Delbayne sends the prince into the world. But since a questor knight, like Lir's late father, is always granted the kingdom's shelter, Lir may return if he rescues a subject's daughter from the great dragon Lasvarg. "The trick to it... is to work with what is around you," Lir's father, Good King Rufus, used to tell him; and that's just what he does, bringing his scientific mind and medical intuition to the dragon's lair, where he and the creature negotiate the completion of three tasks: cure the dragon's mold-plagued ailments, mend his broken wing, and restore his fire-breathing powers. Colfer combines thrilling moments and hints of romance, while Lynch provides misty fantasy landscapes and portraits of the story's heroes and villains in expressive art. Most characters present as white. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Young Prince Lir must choose between banishment and a dangerous quest in the breathtaking middle-grade adventure *Three Tasks for a Dragon* by Eoin Colfer (*Artemis Fowl* series; *Illegal*), illustrated by P.J. Lynch (*The Haunted Lake*).



#2258670 Vacancy (Prebound)

written by K. R. Alexander

The latest chilling frightfest from horror master K. R. Alexander. *Vacancy* centering around a spooky hotel where guests do NOT check out the way they check in.

978-1-5364-7106-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 590

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Does anyone who volunteers to spend a night in a derelict haunted hotel on a dare deserve what they get? "The hotel is hungry. And we aren't leaving here until it's fed." In what reads like a determined effort to check off every trope of the genre, Alexander sends new arrival Jasmine, along with two friends and several dozen other classmates, to the long-abandoned Carlisle Hotel for the annual seventh grade Dare—touching off a night of terror presided over by the leering, autocratic Grand Dame and complete with sudden gusts and blackouts, spectral visions, evil reflections in mirrors, skeletons, a giant spider, gravity reversals, tides of oily black sludge sucking screaming middle schoolers down the drain, and so much more. (No gore, though, aside from a few perfunctory drops of blood from one small scratch.) The author saves a twist for the end, and as inducement to read alone or aloud in the dark by flashlight, both his language and the typography crank up the melodrama: "He walks toward us, past the mirror, and I see it— / a pale white face in the reflection, / a gaunt, skeletal grimace, / with sharpened teeth / and hollow black eyes, staring at him / with its mouth / wide / open / in a scream...." Jasmine presents White; her closest friends are Rohan, whose name cues him as South Asian, and Mira, who has dark skin. Light on gore and corpses; otherwise a full-bore, uncomplicated shriekfest. (Horror. 10-13)



#2240638 Amelia Six (Prebound)

written by Kristin L. Gray

Amelia Earhart's famous aviator goggles go missing and eleven-year-old Millie has to find them before the night is over.

978-1-5364-6970-7 Simon & Schuster ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 570

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This lighthearted mystery using a classic whodunit setup shines light on women in aviation. When six science-minded girls are invited to a slumber party and scavenger hunt at Amelia Earhart's Birthplace Museum, the disappearance of the icon's flight goggles transforms them into detectives as a raging winter storm shuts down all travel and the phone lines. Gray (*Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge*)

effectively portrays the transformation of shy 11-year-old narrator Amelia ("Millie"), a Rubik's Cube whiz and collector of vintage Nancy Drew novels, who befriends the other girls and assumes a leadership role. Alongside details about Earhart, the narrative features female flight pioneers such as African-American and Native American pilot Bessie Colman, and deaf pilot Nelle Zabel Willhite, who "could sense engine trouble by a change in vibrations." Millie takes the lead in this romp; the supporting five girls can feel indistinct, leaving adult characters more roundly sketched. A thread about Millie's absent pilot mom proves poignant, and a thorough reading list and author's note offer resources for readers eager to discover more. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Caryn Wiseman, Andrea Brown Literary. (June)



#2199420 Follow Me (Prebound)

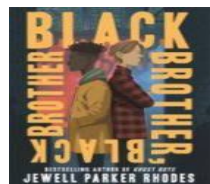
written by K. R. Alexander

It's strange enough for Tamal to be the new kid in town. But it's even stranger to be living in the house that everyone wants to avoid, a house with a very deadly history. Nobody wants to talk about what happened . . . nobody except the terrifying girl Tamal keeps encountering throughout the house. Tamal's parents can't see her, but he's sure she's there -- and wants something from him.

978-1-5364-6677-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 620

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95



#2213517 Black Brother, Black Brother (Prebound)

written by Jewell Parker Rhodes

When an incident with "King" Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing.

With the help of a former Olympic fencer, Donte embarks on a journey to carve out a spot on Middlefield Prep's fencing team and maybe learn something about himself along the way.

978-1-5364-6741-3 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2021 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* A profound treatise about institutional racism for the middle-grade set, Rhodes' (Ghost Boys, 2018) latest elevates beyond simple moralizing into a penetrating look into the soul of a young person struggling with how to become a Black man of character in a world that expects him to be less. Dropping the reader directly into a tony prep-school office where Donte anxiously awaits judgement for an offense he did not commit, Rhodes dials readers immediately into the boy's acute dread as he cycles through feelings of shame, anger, and confusion, ultimately leading to a nonconfrontation that causes him to be arrested. As we learn more about Donte and his biracial family, including his lighter-skinned brother, we come to root for him and his pursuit of redemption as he seeks to prove his self-worth to his bullies and his school community through fencing. His coach, one of the first Black Olympic fencers, helps him refine his talent and his ability to deal with the inequities he experiences on a regular basis. An entertaining story and happy ending does not take away from this powerful examination of how the educational and justice systems punitively treat children of color?and how this bias impacts their self-perception and esteem. A powerful work and a must-have for children's collections.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

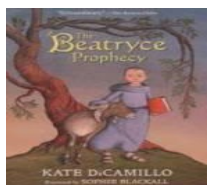
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Donte's older brother, Trey, fits in well at elite Middlefield Prep school; he's athletically talented and as light skinned as Donte and Trey's white father. Donte, on the other hand, has never gone the athletic route, and his dark skin, inherited from their mother, has made him a target for the fencing team bullies, who think it's hilarious that the two boys could be brothers. The school is oblivious to-possibly complicit in-the bullying, and when the tacit "blame the victim" policy lands Donte in a juvenile court hearing, he decides to fight back the only way he can truly hurt his abhorrent classmate, Alan-defeat him in fencing. First he has to learn to fence, though, and for that he has to convince a former Black fencing champ, now working at the rec center, to teach him. This is a classic sports story, complete with a washed-out coach with a skeleton in his closet, a nastier-than-sin villain, a romantic interest, and a supportive mixed-race family that must daily find its way through the maze of microaggressions. As usual in classic sports stories, Donte learns some lessons he didn't count on, including how his own economic privilege appears to other kids of color, and how his own brother struggles to navigate having his back while letting him fight his own battles. Readers who mourn the completion of Jason Reynolds' Track series will be happy to find Rhodes' take on revenge and redemption. EB

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Rhodes delivers another middle-grade novel that takes on complex, historical topics while emphasizing young people's agency and healing. This outing starts with Donte Ellison wishing for invisibility, as compared to being a hypervisible "nighttime dark" s

tudent at upper-crust, overwhelmingly white Middlefield Prep. Maybe if he were invisible, he wouldn't constantly be in trouble for doing nothing--unlike his older and much-lighter-skinned brother, Trey, who walks the hallways with cool. A tragic, unjust incident occurs early on when the headmaster sends for police officers to handcuff, arrest, and jail Donte after an incidental brush with a teacher. Donte's mother (she is black and their father white) challenges the school on its racism, yet within the social world of the schoolyard, the injustice is further compounded by bullies' smirks. Donte responds by devising a plan to make the school see him, in all his dignity, respect, and potential. He leaves the upper-class Boston suburb where he resides and heads to the inner-city Boys and Girl Club, where he finds a former star fencer who now serves his home community. Through this mentorship and other new relationships, Donte discovers more about the gifts of his identity and the pride of cultural heritage. These lessons in self-discovery offer a deeply critical insight for young readers. Placing biracial boyhood and the struggles of colorism at its center, the novel challenges readers to pursue their own self-definition. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this novel, Rhodes brings middle graders a story of two biracial brothers, Donte and Trey, navigating racism, colorism, and bullying. Older brother Trey, the lighter-skinned sibling of the boys' black ("Mom thinks Nigerian and Congolese") mother and white (Scotch-Irish and Norwegian) father, is considered the "white brother." Donte, the "black brother," feels like he's "swimming in whiteness" at Middlefield Prep School, where he is regularly bullied because of his skin tone. When Alan, who constantly targets Donte, throws a pencil and Donte is blamed for it; then arrested when he expresses frustration; Donte's ready to fight back, on Alan's home turf: the fencing mat. Donte finds an African-American former Olympian to coach him, and trains to defeat Alan and earn his respect, all while he deals with his own legal troubles and the civil rights case his mother files. This novel offers a solid story, with relatable, three-dimensional characters considering identity, that will teach readers about colorism's effects. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel & Goderich. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Donte is having a difficult time adjusting to life at Middlefield Prep. Going to public school in New York City to now being one of the only black boys at a prep school in Newton, MA, is a dramatic shift. What's worse, all the kids at school keep bullying him and singling him out as different, while his lighter-skinned brother, Trey, passes with ease. After one too many incidents with Alan, the captain of the school fencing team, Donte decides that he has to beat him at his own game. This quest sets Donte and Trey off on a mission to find Mr. Jones, a black former Olympic fencer and Boston Boys and Girls Club employee, who agrees to teach them how to fence. Along the way, Donte makes friends, becomes an excellent fencer, and finds his place in the Boston area. In the first part of the book, Donte's school calls the police after he throws his backpack to the ground, and he is forced to go to juvenile court. Rhodes points out his privilege in being well off, and how the court is willing to treat him differently after seeing his white father and white-passing brother. Donte's story is a good primer for younger readers on microaggressions. Though the first few chapters of the book focus heavily on Donte's mistreatment at school, the story quickly moves into a heavy focus on his fencing journey. The depiction of Donte's confidence growing with each lesson and as he makes friends at the Boys and Girls Club is interesting and exciting. Readers will want to learn more about the sport. VERDICT Give to readers who love Jason Reynolds's "Track" series or Jewell Parker Rhodes's other offerings for young readers.—Kelsey Socha, Ventress Memorial Library, Marshfield, MA



#2315172 Beatryce Prophecy (Prebound)

written by Kate DiCamillo

In a time of war, a mysterious child appears at the monastery of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Gentle Brother Edik finds the girl, Beatryce, curled in a stall, wracked with fever, coated in dirt and blood, and holding fast to the ear of Answelica the goat. As the monk nurses Beatryce to health, he uncovers her dangerous secret, one that imperils them all—for the king of the land seeks just such a girl, and Brother Edik, who penned the prophecy himself, knows why.

978-1-5364-7788-7 Candlewick Press ©2023 6 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 580

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$28.95

Reviews by: Book Page "In the beautifully spare prose that has become one of her hallmarks, DiCamillo poses big questions, such as "What does it mean to be brave?" and invites readers to discover their own answers. . . . The Beatryce Prophecy is certain to be cherished."

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Father Edik's usual trepidation over approaching Answelica the goat's enclosure skyrockets upon seeing a sleeping girl there, clutching the foul-tempered creature's ear. This turns out to be Beatryce, a girl with no memory aside from her name, a girl who can read and write despite laws prohibiting such a thing, a girl about whom Father Edik believes he may have written in his order's prophetic Chronicles of Sorrowing: "There will one day come a girl child who will unseat a king and bring about a great change." It isn't long before word reaches the monastery that the king is also looking for Beatryce on account of the prophecy, so Father Edik disguises her as a monk and sends her off with Answelica, her fierce and loyal protector, and a bright boy from town named Jack Dory, who has an interesting story of his own. Somehow, DiCamillo manages to fit a medieval epic into just over 250 pages--and that includes many glorious black-and-white illustrations by Blackall that one can easily envision stitched upon a tapestry. DiCamillo fills her narrative with humor and love, never getting in the way of her characters (or Answelica's boney head) as they work through difficult choices and display many forms of bravery. It's a gently feminist tale where stories carry the same power as magic and are, perhaps, one and the same.HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Rumor has it that this might be

popular. And might win all the awards. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Brother Edik spends his days illuminating The Chronicles of Sorrowing, the manuscript his Order is charged with maintaining. He's not at all prepared to deal with the ragged little girl he finds curled up in the barn with Answelica, the most ornery of goats, who is clearly protective of the child. Initially uncommunicative, Beatryce (the name she will reclaim) is clearly repressing some traumatic memories, so Brother Edik convinces his superior to let the Order shelter the girl, disguising her as a young monk. This is an act of bravery as well as kindness, since the girl can read and write (which is unheard of! dangerously unnatural!), and she seems to Brother Edik to be connected to a prophecy in the Chronicle that foretells a girl who will unseat a king. There is, in fact, a king that needs unseating, having been elevated to the throne through the machinations of an evil counselor; counselor and king inevitably become aware of Beatryce's survival, and they relentlessly hunt her. DiCamillo pitches her original tale to an audience sufficiently steeped in folklore to be appreciative of her elegant recrafting of time-honored tropes and attuned to her wryly humorous formality of prose; Blackall's monochrome drawings nudge readers to wistfully recall a time when their favorite fairy tales came with illustrations. The deeply satisfying conclusion finds villains properly vanquished, the prophecy fulfilled with a clever spin, and happily-ever-afters grounded on friendships and strong ethics all round. EB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine Melding the language of prophecies with that of fairy tales and whispered dreams, Newbery Medal winner Kate DiCamillo's latest novel for young readers is both feminist and sweet. The world knew Beatryce was coming before she arrived--in part, because a scribe predicted it to a tenuously positioned king; in part, because injustice cannot last forever. Still, her early years were bright and peaceful. Under careful tutelage, she learned to dream and story-weave--as well as to read and write, despite kingdom-wide edicts that girls and commoners do neither. Beatryce's calm was interrupted when the king tired of waiting for her prophesied arrival, and sent vicious soldiers searching for her instead. Her memories of the ultimate clash are hazy; all she knows is that she woke up not at home, but feverish in a monastery stable. She was without her family, but was protected by Answelica, a fearsome goat who loves her dearly. She is now forced to hide her talents, and her femininity, from those who wish her ill. Jack Dory, a gentle boy with his own grudge against the king, intrudes on Beatryce's period of hiding, forcing her on the road and toward hard revelations. Together, they encounter a runaway king who feeds on honeycomb and hosts bees in his beard; later, they reunite with an illuminator of manuscripts. Finally, this unimposing-looking crew heads to the castle, armed only with literacy, mermaid stories, and righteousness, but prepared to confront injustice together. The Beatryce Prophecy is a gentle and wondrous tale that celebrates knowledge, kindness, and the boundless power of the imagination; its villains, despite their military might, are fast dispatched because they value no such qualities. Delicate illustrations and rich fairy tales run throughout the book, which stirs hope and joy at every turn. COPYRIGHT(2021) Foreword Magazine, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book "The pairing of two-time Newbery Medalist DiCamillo and two-time Caldecott Medalist Blackall is a magical alchemy. Blackall's black-and-white pencil drawings and ornamented initials convey a medieval setting, while DiCamillo's elegant, honed prose weaves a beautiful tapestry of true friends, a feisty goat, and a road to a castle where destiny will unfold."

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine opens, Brother Edik finds a sick girl in the barn of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing, curled up with the "demon goat" Answelica. The child recovers from her fever but has lost her memory, remembering only her name, Beatryce. Brother Edik and the other monks hide Beatryce and her talents as well: the ability to read and write, a "beautiful and agile mind," and a "dangerous will." Beatryce, it is revealed, is the girl named in a prophecy, destined to "unseat a king and bring about a great change." As Brother Edik tells her, "It is dangerous for you to be who you are...And so you must pretend to be someone you are not." The king and his counselor are on her trail, so she agrees to disguise herself, to have her hair shorn and wear a monk's robe. Soon, however, she must enter the world and, with Brother Edik, Answelica, and the orphan boy Jack Dory, begins a journey to take charge of her own destiny. The king's machinations are effectively delineated in bold font in brief sections to remind readers that evil is afoot. The pairing of two-time Newbery Medalist DiCamillo (The Tale of Despereaux, rev. 9/03; Flora & Ulysses, rev. 9/13) and two-time Caldecott Medalist Blackall (Finding Winnie, rev. 9/15; Hello Lighthouse, rev. 3/18) is a magical alchemy. Blackall's black-and-white pencil drawings and ornamented initials convey a medieval setting, while DiCamillo's elegant, honed prose weaves a beautiful tapestry of true friends, a feisty goat, and a road to a castle where destiny will unfold. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews DiCamillo returns to fairy-tale mode with the story of a girl destined to unseat a king. One by one the players take the stage: Answelica, a fearsome goat whose teeth mirror her soul--"large, sharp, and uncompromising"; hapless Brother Edik, who sees beauty everywhere; Beatryce, a bedraggled child who arrives at the monastery knowing only her first name and who shocks the monks by being able to write; Jack Dory, an orphan with a gift for mimicry; and finally Cannoc, an old man who has given up everything except laughter. (There are bad people also, of course, because this story takes place during a time of war, but none of them are given proper names.) Cast out from the monastery and endangered by villains, they take refuge in the dark woods where Beatryce begins to remember more than her name and attempts to answer the question, "what world is this I now inhabit, and how shall I live in it?" The story is told in language as clear and beautiful as an illuminated manuscript, with characters who spring instantly to life. The fairy-tale conventions give it a sense of timelessness and omnipresence without once becoming twee or unwieldy. Blackall's luminous black-and-white illustrations and medieval-style spot art add to this feeling and are wonderful at conveying emotion through posture, pose, and delicate linework. Characters are described and drawn as White. A book with an angelic soul: large, sharp, and uncompromising. (Fairy tale. 8-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set "during a time of war" when "terrible things happen everywhere," Newbery Medalist DiCamillo's engrossing medieval fable verges on darkness while examining what changes a world. When gentle Brother Edik finds young Beatryce in the monastery barn, she is covered in blood and dirt, plagued by fever, and holding the ear of the ferocious goat Answelica; who has until now terrorized the Order of

the Chronicles of Sorrowing with her bites and butts. Upon emerging from her sickness, Beatryce recalls only her name and her ability to read and write, the latter a dangerous secret in a land where only a few people, solely men, are permitted those skills. Fearful of who might be searching for such a child; and of her possible connection to the prophecy of "a girl child who will unseat a king"; the monastery's brethren rid themselves of girl and goat, sending Beatryce away with protector Answelica. In the often-harrowing world, Beatryce encounters idiosyncratic individuals she can trust, each with a painful history that's rendered humanely in DiCamillo's deliberate third-person telling (characters default to white). Tenderly illuminated by Caldecott Medalist Blackall's atmospheric, fine-lined b&w art, this compassionate tale rejoices in "the wonder of being known," the protective powers of understanding one's identity, and the strength found in the hard head of a beloved goat. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Holly McGhee, Pippin Properties. Illustrator's agent: Marietta Zacker, Gallt & Zacker.(Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—The prophecy speaks of a girl who will unseat a king and change the world. It doesn't exactly mention a goat, but true prophecy will find a way to be fulfilled...especially if the hard-headed, and hard-butting, Answelica has anything to do with it. Brother Edik, a monk who illuminates manuscripts and pronounces the occasional prophecy (including the one about Beatryce), is startled to find a very sick girl curled up in the straw next to the monastery's irascible goat. He doesn't realize that the king is looking to capture this very girl; he takes her in and nurses her back to health. The goat refuses to leave Beatryce's side as she is eventually forced to leave the monastery and earn her way by writing (in a world where girls are not allowed to read and write), and ultimately by befriending others who help demonstrate that Beatryce is, in fact, the girl foretold to change everything. Hand to fans of Adam Gidwitz's *The Inquisitor's Tale* (although there are no farting dragons here). VERDICT DiCamillo's fantasy has no magic, but is a gentle tale of the power of love and the determination to do the right thing, even when that thing comes at great personal cost. Recommended for tweens in all library settings, both independent and read-alouds.—Elizabeth Friend, Wester M.S., TX



#2317372 Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy (Prebound)

written by Anne Ursu

If no one notices Marya Lupu, is likely because of her brother, Luka. And that's because of what everyone knows: that Luka is destined to become a sorcerer. The Lupus might be from a small village far from the capital city of Illyria, but that doesn't matter. Every young boy born in in the kingdom holds the potential for the rare ability to wield magic, to protect the country from the terrifying force known only as the Dread.

978-1-5364-7798-6 Walden Pond Press ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 448 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.95

Reviews by: Booklist In Illyria, sorcerers (always men) wield magic to keep people safe and thus hold powerful positions within the land. Therefore, it's a matter of life-changing importance when Marya's brother is pegged as having magic potential. Marya's only job during his magic assessment is to stay out of sight—a task at which she fails spectacularly. The disastrous visit results in Marya's getting sent to Dragomir Academy. With a motto of "Character above All," Dragomir houses girls from all walks of life in supposed need of discipline. Marya struggles to accept her new life there but embraces the opportunity to make friends and receive an education. A mystery of a missing girl is threaded through the school story line, which Marya investigates only to unearth a massive revelation about the school's true purpose. Ursu is heavy-handed in her feminist fantasy's critique of gender inequality, and that's not necessarily a bad thing. Readers present for the tale's magical trappings and interwoven intrigue won't be disappointed, and they'll welcome Marya's determination to assert herself as powerful in her own right.

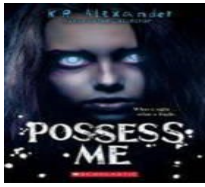
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Though the patriarchal Kingdom of Illyria is known for its tapestries, the elegant visuals center men's experiences to the exclusion of women's: "Behind every great tapestry was a woman who wove it, just as behind every great sorcerer was a wife to tend to his domestic affairs." Likewise, pale-skinned Marya Lupu, 12, is expected to tend to her family's household, while her brother, 13-year-old Luka, receives the privilege and tutelage apparently befitting a prospective sorcerer. With the mysterious Dread increasingly devouring entire towns, the Council for the Magical protection of Illyria scours the countryside for magical talent that can help keep the Dread at bay; and should Luka become sorcerer, the change would confer status on the entire family. But after an incident occurs during Luka's test, Marya is summoned to Dragomir Academy, a faraway school that prepares "troubled" young women for a model future on sorcerers' estates while requiring them to forsake their pasts. Via a wondrously curious protagonist who has a keen interest in the truth, Ursu (*The Lost Girl*) weaves a layered tapestry; filled with close-knit relationships and a well-explained, intriguing world; that questions authority, misogyny, and whom a story serves. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

#2300692 Possess Me (Prebound)

written by K. R. Alexander

The story of spirit that comes back to life... by taking your body. You've been warned -- if you summon a spirit, it may want to go back to being human... by living inside

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95



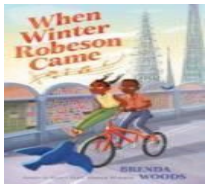
you. Another chilling tale from K.R. Alexander.
 978-1-5364-7643-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 192 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 580



#2296944 Speak for Me (Prebound)
written by K. R. Alexander

Naomi is petrified of the talent show her school is putting on. She can't be out there alone in front of all those people... not without serious stage fright. How will she manage? The answer arrives in a mysterious box -- a ventriloquist's dummy that transforms Naomi from a shy girl into a natural performer. It all goes well... until Naomi starts to want the stage for herself. When the dummy strikes back it raises the question -- who's controlling who?
 978-1-5364-7615-6 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 620

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Unit Price \$17.95



#2309645 When Winter Robeson Came (Prebound)
written by Brenda Woods

When Eden's cousin Winter comes for a visit, it turns out he's not just there to sightsee. He wants to figure out what happened to his dad, who disappeared ten years earlier from the Watts area of L.A. So the cousins set out to investigate together, and what they discover brings them joy--and heartache.
 978-1-5364-7690-3 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2023 5 x 7-3/4 240 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 In August 1965, 14-year-old Winter Robeson travels from Mississippi to visit his relatives in Los Angeles. Narrated in verse through the voice of Eden Louise, his 12-year-old cousin, the novel ensures readers are privy to Winter's real reason for visiting--he's on a mission to find out what happened to his father, who disappeared from L.A. 10 years before. The two of them sleuth together through nearby locales, discovering more than they bargained for, some of it good and some disturbing. During the visit, sparks explode between police and area residents, and Watts erupts into six days of violence. Woods has framed this story lyrically, using musical movements and terminology to move the exposition along believably through Eden, who hopes to be a songstress. Readers will find themselves immersed in the time period with naturally included details, such as musicians, authors, and places. This slim yet affecting offering presents an important moment in U.S. history that sadly mirrors current events. Middle-graders will be entertained and educated, as well as inspired to action. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books It's summer of 1965 when thirteen-year-old Winter travels from Mississippi to visit his twelve-year-old cousin Eden in California, but he isn't in town for a typical sightseeing vacation--he's on a mission to find his father, who has been presumed dead for ten years. Eden wants to help how she can, but as she guides Winter through her neighborhood, she must also come to terms with the fact that California is hardly as welcoming to Black people as her family thought when they moved there years ago; as racial tensions mount and then explode into the Watts riots, the reality of continued bigotry is laid bare. Author Brenda Woods offers this heartfelt piece of historical fiction as she recalls witnessing the Watts Rebellion in 1965. Eden is an aspiring songwriter, and the book cleverly uses music terminology to convey Eden's and Winter's shifting emotions during the six days of unrest and to mark the pacing of the plot. The free verse makes some of the more complex themes accessible, and this could easily spark a thoughtful discussion on how a history of Jim Crow laws, police brutality, and housing inequality plays into current social unrest. QB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Woods (*The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA*) explores the Watts riots of August 1965 through the experience of two Black cousins in a rhythmic historical novel in verse. In Los Angeles, 12-year-old narrator Eden Louise Coal aspires to become a songwriter. With her 13-year-old cousin Winter Robeson visiting, Eden anticipates two weeks of fun, but his arrival makes her long for the music of

Mississippi, "the country roads and folks" she grew up with until the family's move to California two years prior. Winter, who has only experienced life under racial segregation, relishes "being able to sit where you please" on the bus and enjoys time with his hosts while planning to search the Watts neighborhood for his "disappeared daddy," who vanished a decade prior after promising to send for his family. But after Eden's mother receives a phone call that the residents of Watts are fed up with police brutality and harassment, everything goes up in smoke. Interwoven with plentiful music references ("Winter and I became a duo; our ballad, a duet") and utilizing historically accurate language, Woods's harmonious play-by-play narrative of growing up during the Watts Riots spotlights some long-lasting effects of racial inequality and discrimination on children. Ages 10: up. (Jan.)



#2309652 Soft Place to Land (Prebound)

written by Janae Marks

Joy's friendly new neighbor Nora lets Joy in on the complex's best-kept secret: the Hideout, a cozy refuge that only the kids know about. That's where Joy starts exchanging messages with another kid in the building who also seems to be struggling, until abruptly, they stop writing back. What if they're in trouble? Joy has to find out who this mystery writer is, fast, but between managing a new dog-walking business with Nora, keeping on a brave face for her little sister, and worrying about her parents' marriage, Joy isn't sure how to keep her own head above water.

978-1-5364-7692-7 Katherine Tegen Books ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 *Starred Review* Having one's life uprooted is always unsettling, but it can be especially difficult for a child. After her dad loses his job, 12-year-old Joy Taylor finds herself out of their single-family home and living in a cramped apartment, as well as going to a new school. To make matters worse, Joy's parents are fighting more and more, and they can no longer afford the piano lessons Joy loves. Luckily, Joy finds a friend in neighbor Nora, who introduces her to a hidden storage area in the apartment building, called "the Hideout." There kids can take a break from their families and hang out. Joy finds some writing on the wall that makes her think that another kid is also struggling. As Joy continues to try to figure out who is behind these messages, she and Nora start a dog-walking business to raise money for their hobbies. But as things start to look up, Joy and Nora have a falling out, and Joy's parents reach the brink of divorce. Readers will find themselves yearning along with Joy and rooting for her to find a way to make connections and a home once again. Blending mystery with realistic fiction, Joy's story of how complicated life is for a kid will resonate with readers in tender and poignant ways. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Joy's father was laid off, the family sold their house and downsized to an apartment; the move of twelve-year-old Joy into a smaller bedroom with her younger sister is challenging, and parental bickering has accelerated into what both parents assure their daughters is a temporary separation. Fortunately, the community is supportive, the tweens in the building get along well, and Nora, neighbor and classmate, rapidly turns into a friend. Joy concocts a plan to make money to continue her suspended piano lessons (an absolute must for a girl aspiring to become a film score composer) through a joint dog-walking enterprise with Nora. Her steady ascent toward a new normal goes into a tailspin when she is cornered into revealing the location of the kids' secret hideout in the building basement, which results in the loss of her new friends-including Nora-and even worse, the loss of a neighbor's pooch that escapes from Joy during a thunderstorm. There's some front-loaded authorial orchestration here, but the domino cascade of interrelated mishaps is fully credible, as is the patient rebuilding of trust Joy must undertake with family, friends, and neighbors to pull back on track. Marks has a keen eye and ear for the telling particulars of the family's struggle to forge ahead in a new setting, and the book is sensitive to everyone's need for a space to be alone from time to time: kids who need a private, safe place to hang out, and parents who need a respite from perpetual discussion of their shared responsibilities and anxieties. Although the stakes may be lower than those in Marks' debut *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* (BCCB 12/19), fans will welcome her introduction to another determined and resilient Black tween heroine. EB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews essional father is laid off, Joy's family's relocation across town threatens to cost her more than money can buy. Twelve-year-old Joy Taylor wants to compose music for films, but now that money is tight, her piano lessons, along with so much else, are sacrificed. They have moved from a house to apartment 3C, a small two-bedroom where she and her younger sister must share a bunk bed and the walls are so thin, her parents' fighting keeps them up at night. Then Joy meets Nora from 5B, who lost her mother to cancer. The two girls share a love of movies, complicated home lives, and an obvious need to just get away sometimes. A cornerstone of the friendships between Joy and other kids in the building is the secret, cramped Hideout accessed through a storage closet near the laundry room. According to the literal writing on the wall, it's been a sanctuary for generations of kids needing a space to retreat. Marks makes the necessity of this intimate space for not-quite-little-but-not-yet-big kids simultaneously plausible and disheartening. As the story progresses through various relationship trials, it's not the tween drama that provides the most emotional resonance; rather, seeing children work so hard to make their own place in the world, forge connections, and pursue their own interests is truly inspiring--but their needing to do so in quiet corners while adults remain oblivious is terribly sobering. Joy and her family are Black; Nora is cued as Latinx. A bittersweet story of silent perseverance and kids working for themselves. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When her Black family moves from a house to an apartment across town after her father's layoff, aspiring film score composer Joy Taylor, 12, assumes the worst is over. Unfortunately, her parents still argue, she must drop her beloved piano lessons, and none of her old friends have reached out to her as promised. But then she meets Nora Ramos, her cued-Latinx neighbor and new classmate, who knows everything about her new building. As the two become friends, Nora introduces Joy to the apartment building's other kids, and they share with Joy their biggest secret: the Hideout. Relying on each other to navigate the struggles of their lives, the group grows closer; until one rainy day changes everything. Upset and feeling betrayed, Joy makes rash decisions that not only test her friendships, but threaten to oust her from her new crew entirely. If she wants to make things right again, Joy must learn a tough lesson about accountability and boundaries. At turns poignant and affirmative, this sophomore novel by Marks (*From the Desk of Zoe Washington*) imparts invaluable messages on growing up, being honest, and communicating feelings to loved ones. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alex Slater, Trident Media Group. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—When 12-year-old Joy Taylor's dad loses his job and the family has to give up their house, Joy's dreams of learning to play the piano and someday becoming a film score composer are put on hold. Their new apartment is too small, her mom and dad are fighting, and there is no money for piano lessons. A secret room in the apartment complex, known as the Hideout, provides a place where Joy and the other kids in the building can temporarily escape. Soon Joy makes new friends, starts a dog-walking business, and even begins writing to someone who is leaving heartrending messages on the wall of the Hideout. One weekend things go terribly wrong, and Joy must face uncomfortable realities about loyalty and responsibility. This relatable story touches on topics such as divorce (Joy's parents briefly separate, then reconcile), the ups and downs of having a job at a young age, and the difficulties that arise from keeping secrets from family and friends. Joy is Black, and there is a diverse cast of characters with different experiences including her new best friend Nora, who is Latinx, and a boy named Miles, who is one of only a few Black students at a private school. VERDICT An engaging coming-of-age story that will appeal to a wide range of readers.—Sue Morgan, Hillsborough City School Dist., CA



#2309705 Ablaze (Prebound)
written by Christopher Krovatin

Aly Theland doesn't understand what's happening to her. She comes from a very normal family and lives a very normal life. There's only one thing off. When Aly gets angry, things burst into flame. Aly doesn't feel she's in control of this. But as the fires get better and the stakes get higher, something has to be done. Because it's not just flames Aly's unleashing, it's . . . evil.

978-1-5364-7708-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 770

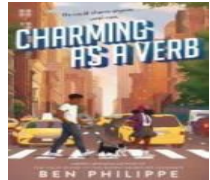
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A blazing superpower propels seventh grader Aly into a firestorm of trouble. Aly Theland is stuck being the helpful, unsung middle child. Whether she's helping her 9-year-old brother, Simon, with a bully or calming her older sister, Rachael, Aly is the family peacekeeper. At her private school she tries to be invisible and avoid trouble until one day when her anger erupts in science class, engulfing her lab table--and sexist, insulting lab partner--in flames. Fires dog Aly as she struggles to control her growing temper, dealing with her nasty ex-best friend and lots of unwanted attention. Rachael tries to help her figure out what's going on as fiery incidents at home and at school plague Aly. A surprise twist changes everything, and quick-witted Aly must save the day. Characters are minimally described: Main characters seem to default to White; names cue some ethnic diversity in the background cast. Krovatin presents readers with an excellent mix of age-appropriate horror and middle school life. Aly's struggles, both paranormal and ordinary, will engender sympathy. The family dynamics, particularly the sibling and mother-daughter relationships, are well crafted. The Theland siblings support and taunt each other in equal measure, and the push-pull of a child growing up is nicely depicted. An explosive and well-earned surprise entertains while the open-ended, movieworthy ending will leave readers wanting more. A scary and surprising cinematic horror story. (Paranormal thriller. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Krovatin (*Darkness*) crafts a *Carrie* variation for middle graders in this tensely written novel of superpowers run amok. The middle child between thoughtful nine-year-old Simon and popular 13-year-old Rachael, seventh grader Aly Theland keeps herself socially unaffiliated, hoping to stave off bullying. After regularly absorbing taunts with her head down, Aly feels ready "to burst, having bottled up so many of her feelings and opinions for the sake of going along, keeping the peace, staying unnoticed." When her anger flares alongside a fire in science class, silencing one of her abusers, Aly feels something like catharsis and power alongside her fear. Subsequent blazes appear when her anger sparks, igniting Aly's curiosity about pyrokinesis as well as growing confidence. But the fires strain her usually close sibling relationships and further alienate her from classmates, forcing the anguished girl to reexamine her social approach. Working in 1990s pop culture references that lend a nostalgic vibe, Krovatin tightly plots the events' fallout, including heightened interpersonal tensions, in this twisty, psychologically unsettling read. Main characters default to white. Ages 9: 12. Agent: John Cusick, Folio Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Seventh grader Aly doesn't like to make waves. As a middle child, she's used to being overshadowed by her popular older sister Rachael and her sensitive younger brother Simon. This changes overnight when things around Aly

mysteriously start catching fire, and she realizes she is the one causing them. When students and staff at school begin suspecting Aly is starting the fires on purpose, it is Rachael who comes to her aid by helping her control her feelings and the fire within her. Multiple plot twists reveal that almost everyone in Aly's family has special powers. This work initially presents as realistic fiction, and it is fun to experience the fantastical elements of the novel as they unfold. Adult characters take a backseat, presumably because they will not believe some of the more fantastical elements, though it seems unlikely that Aly's parents would be clueless about their own children. Only Uncle Marco is aware of the danger his family is in, and he declines to help out of fear of reactivating his own unwanted power. The riveting conclusion sets itself up for a sequel that readers will eagerly anticipate, when Aly does something wholly uncharacteristic that underscores all she's learned about Rachael, setting into motion the events to come. Krovatin's descriptive writing is stronger than his occasionally stilted dialogue. Aly's family reads as white and affluent, with the siblings attending a private day school. VERDICT This fast-paced novel will surprise and entertain young readers, who may also find school and family dynamics relatable.—Juliet Morefield



#2285790 Charming As a Verb (Prebound)
written by Ben Philippe

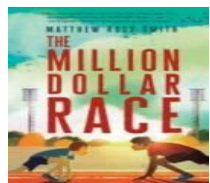
Henri "Halti" Haltiwanger can charm just about anyone. He is a star debater and popular student at the prestigious FATE academy, the dutiful first-generation Haitian son, and the trusted dog walker for his wealthy NYC neighbors. But his easy smiles mask his tireless work ethic and burning ambition to attend his dream college, Columbia University.

978-1-5364-7440-4 Balzer & Bray ©2022 5-1/4 x 8 336 pgs.
 Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$23.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly North American Teenager) expertly navigates the contemporary landscape of a high-achieving, overburdened high schooler of color, with all the pressures and sacrifices that can entail. Charming Haitian-American senior Henri Haltiwanger, 17, is a dog walker, debate team standout, sneaker aficionado, and scholarship student at the Fine Arts Technical Education Academy, a prestigious New York City institution. As the only child of poor immigrants, it's Henri's dream; or, rather, his father's for him; to attend Columbia University, but after a shaky interview with an alum, Henri becomes desperate to increase his odds. When he gets hired to walk the puppy of intense, socially awkward schoolmate Corinne Troy, who lives in the same building for which his father is the live-in superintendent, Henri discovers that her mother is a dean at Columbia. As he gets to know Corinne, Henri realizes his interest in her has nothing to do with her mother's job, but a desperate decision soon threatens to ruin everything he's worked for. A witty, well-developed bildungsroman that presents a Black teenager carefully attempting to navigate systems that disproportionately disadvantage him. Ages 13: up. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up—Henri Haltiwanger is a go-getter. He's created a dog-walking business disguised as a much larger corporation to lure rich New York clients into trusting him with their precious pooches. Henri hopes this hustle will help him achieve his, and his father's, dream of getting into Columbia University. When Corinne Troy, Henri's socially awkward neighbor and classmate, discovers his enterprise, she blackmails him into helping her improve her social standings so that she will look better on her application to Princeton. What happens will change the trajectory of their lives. Philippe's book touches on racial and class struggles experienced by students as they apply to college. Henri is a first-generation American born of Haitian immigrant parents. Corinne is a dark-skinned African American girl, while Henri's best friend was adopted from China by Jewish American parents. While racial struggles are part of the book, it is not the entire focus. Henri deals with moral and ethical questions as he tries to decide how far he is willing to go to get into his dream college and what matters most to him. A budding romance between Henri and Corinne is the icing on a rich and decadent cake. VERDICT A racially diverse cast of characters with authentic voices and realistic struggles makes this a must-have for all YA collections.—Ashley Leffel, Griffin M.S., Frisco, TX

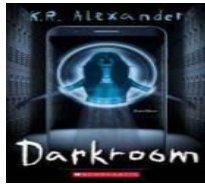


#2291649 Million Dollar Race (Prebound)
written by Matthew Ross Smith

Grant Falloon isn't just good at track; he's close to breaking the world record 100-meter time for his age group. So when the mega-rich Babblemoney sneaker company announces an international competition to find the fastest kid in the world, he's desperate to sign up.

978-1-5364-7513-5 Aladdin ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 590

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.95



#2292891 Darkroom (Prebound)

written by K. R. Alexander

Do you think an app that allows you to see ghosts would be cool? Well, prepare to be haunted... even when your phone is off.

978-1-5364-7580-7 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 580

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After Beatrice downloads DARK[room], she realizes the game's ghosts aren't confined to the digital realm. The Ghastly Girls, sophomore best friends Beatrice and Rochelle, are trying to build a following by streaming video online of themselves playing games. Their specialty is horror. Eager to up their subscriber count, Beatrice downloads the indie game DARK[room] despite desperate online warnings from other players that it could be deadly. The concept seems simple enough: snap photos of the seven unleashed ghosts in as many days. What the girls didn't anticipate was that the ghosts would spill over from the app, haunting and terrorizing the people in their lives. At first, readers might think they're in for a predictable, cheesy read, but in Alexander's hands, the story is fast-paced and interesting, and the ghosts are well imagined. Take, for example, the Tooth Fairy with its dozens of fangs, pincers formed from cat's teeth, spiderlike appearance, and terrorizing need for more teeth to add to its collection. The story is mostly propelled by action with a modest amount of character development. Alexander's best move, though, is wrapping up the story for Beatrice and crew but giving the book a chilling epilogue, leaving room for more haunting. Beatrice defaults to White; Rochelle is Black. Spooky thrills for digital natives. (Horror. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2271109 Following Baxter (Prebound)

written by Barbara Kerley

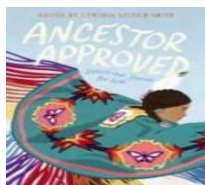
Eleven-year-old Jordie Marie Wallace has been waiting forever for someone to move in next door, so she is thrilled when Professor Reese arrives. Professor Reese has a laboratory in her basement and an extraordinary dog named Baxter--who seems to understand everything Jordie says. Jordie and her younger brother, TJ, begin walking Baxter and helping Professor Reese in the lab. But being lab assistants ends up being more than Jordie and TJ bargained for.

978-1-5364-7245-5 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 265 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 790

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Jordie Marie Wallace is thrilled when she sees that a new neighbor is moving next door. She's even more excited when she sees that her new neighbor, Professor Reese, has a dog named Baxter. When Jordie helps Professor Reese take care of Baxter, she starts to notice strange things happening in Professor Reese's basement. The professor reveals that she is attempting to move things from one place to another through teleportation. When Dr. Reese goes missing and Jordie figures out that she tried to teleport herself, Baxter becomes the key to finding where Professor Reese went. Kerley, known for her picture book biographies and nonfiction, writes with warmth and thoughtfulness in her first work of middle grade fiction. The characters Kerley introduces are fully realized and compelling. Jordie, whose parents are separated, lives primarily with her mom, but often visits her dad, who lives in a studio apartment connected to the family's house. There is enough mystery and science fiction to draw in lovers of those genres, but it is balanced with a realistic portrayal of family and school life that many readers may identify with. A subplot in which Jordie starts to realize she misjudged a classmate who she previously deemed a "bad" kid is particularly compelling. Fans of Rebecca Stead's When You Reach Me and Jennifer Holm's The Fourteenth Goldfish, where characters learn real-life lessons about friendship and compassion through the medium of science fiction, will find similar themes here. VERDICT Relatable and compelling. Fans of realistic and science fiction will find a lot to enjoy.-Celia Dillon, The Brearley School, New York Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2271763 Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids (Prebound)

written by Cynthia L. Smith

In a high school gym full of color and song, people dance, sell beadwork and books, and celebrate friendship and heritage. Young protagonists will meet relatives from faraway, shadowy spirits, and sometimes one another (plus one scrappy rez dog).

978-1-5364-7246-2 Heartdrum ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$20.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Sixteen short stories, two poems, and visual art (not viewed) present Native youth attending a two-day intertribal powwow in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and reflect on kinship, community, and the interconnectedness of the experience. The narratives vary in style and tone: in Monique Gray Smith's "Fancy Dancer," a young boy gains a kind stepfather, who teaches him the Dance for Mother Earth; Tim Tingle's "Warriors of Forgiveness" features young Luksi, who accompanies a bus full of elders on a hilarious road trip from Oklahoma to Michigan; Rebecca Roanhorse's "Rez Dog Rules" reflects on the powwow from a canine perspective; and foster child Aiden receives special regalia from his biological brother in David A. Robertson's "Brothers." Most selections are realistic and ultimately upbeat, although Art Coulson's "Wendigos Don't Dance" explores the supernatural, and Eric Gansworth's "Indian Price" confronts the indignities of microaggressions lobbed by those who would pretend to be Indian as a game. Each piece is tribally specific, emphasizes Native values (cooperation, forgiveness, and the importance of family), and features characters that make cameo appearances in other stories, adding cohesiveness to the collection. With exceptionally strong writing throughout, and appended with glossary, author notes, and acknowledgements, this makes an appealing choice for those just learning about contemporary Indigenous life as well as readers well versed with the powwow circuit. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Eighteen entries by seventeen authors focus on the powwow, specifically the big intertribal powwow in Ann Arbor, and the two poems and sixteen stories each take a different approach, mostly following kids as they compete in a dance, work on regalia, staff the vendor stalls, or just rub shoulders with others who've come for the celebration. Individual stories vary in impact, but in addition to some familiar Native American authors (Tim Tingle, Eric Gansworth, editor Smith) providing strong entries there are compelling contributions from lesser-known writers as well (Andrea L. Rogers' "The Ballad of Maggie Wilson" is a particular standout). The collection's master stroke is the subtle intersection of the entries, as characters team up across stories, a protagonist of one entry wanders past characters from another, everybody returns to the best fry bread stand, and a dog (who stars in his own tale) modeling theme t-shirts, including the titular "Ancestor Approved," figuratively and sometimes literally runs through several outings. Readers will get a kick out of finding the callbacks, and the effect is an underscoring of the intersectional nature of the powwow itself, as experiences remain individual while sharing commonalities. It's a thoughtful and sometimes funny celebration of a celebration, and whether kids are veteran powwow-goers or new to the experience, they'll long for the convivial warmth of the festivities. A glossary, notes and acknowledgments for the stories, and biographies of the contributors are appended. DS

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Through this linked anthology by seventeen contributors, readers experience "What Is a Powwow?" (the title of Kim Rogers's opening poem), as characters converge in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow. Rory begins to heal from his father's abusive words and embrace his Indigenous heritage ("Fancy Dancer" by Monique Gray Smith). Aiden travels with his foster parents to meet his brother and dance in his first powwow (David A. Robertson's "Brothers"). Amber, whose sister battled cancer, receives a new dress for the Jingle Dance ("Secret and Surprises" by Traci Sorell). Some of the attendees live locally, while others travel from places including Oklahoma and Missouri; some live in the city, while others live on the reservation. This anthology offers readers a variety of images of Native children while also introducing them to vocabulary from several different Indigenous languages, compiled in an appended glossary. According to Rogers's poem: "A powwow is / friends and family / ...a way to remember those / who've passed on / ...a place for belly-laughing / ...healing / and soul-soothing," and this volume reflects all of those elements and more. Notes and acknowledgments, contributor bios, and an editor's note are appended. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

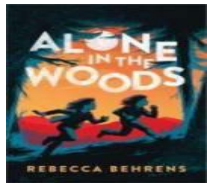
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Through this linked anthology by seventeen contributors, readers experience "What Is a Powwow?" (the title of Kim Rogers's opening poem), as characters converge in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow. Rory begins to heal from his father's abusive words and embrace his Indigenous heritage ("Fancy Dancer" by Monique Gray Smith). Aiden travels with his foster parents to meet his brother and dance in his first powwow (David A. Robertson's "Brothers"). Amber, whose sister battled cancer, receives a new dress for the Jingle Dance ("Secret and Surprises" by Traci Sorell). Some of the attendees live locally, while others travel from places including Oklahoma and Missouri; some live in the city, while others live on the reservation. This anthology offers readers a variety of images of Native children while also introducing them to vocabulary from several different Indigenous languages, compiled in an appended glossary. According to Rogers's poem: "A powwow is / friends and family / ...a way to remember those / who've passed on / ...a place for belly-laughing / ...healing / and soul-soothing," and this volume reflects all of those elements and more. Notes and acknowledgments, contributor bios, and an editor's note are appended. Nicholl Denice Montgomery(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A groundbreaking Indigenous anthology for young people. Readers can join the fun in this collection of 18 contemporary stories and poems about loving families from various parts of the U.S. and Canada who travel to meet, dance, sing, socialize, and honor Native traditions at an intertribal powwow. The entries tell of the personal struggles, family joy, belief systems, and stunning regalia of various nations, including the Cree, Ojibwe, Choctaw, Cherokee, Navajo, Abenaki, and Haudenosaunee, through the eyes of the young protagonists. Enrollment issues, Indian wannabes, and veterans' histories are just a few of the serious themes addressed in these entertaining stories written by familiar and lesser-known writers alike. Senses of goodwill and humor pervade the book as well as the spirit of community, intersection, resilience, and a desire to remember the past. Whether engaging with the quiet spiritual strength displayed in "Fancy Dancer" by Monique Gray Smith or the profound point of view of Brian Young's "Senecavajo," the stories are full of surprises. Rebecca Roanhorse writes from a dog's vantage point, and Dawn Quigley asks about the nature of intelligence. Many other original tales complete this anthology of modern Natives celebrating their diversity together. An especially winning feature is the glossary in which various Indigenous vocabulary words in the stories are defined. A joyful invitation to celebrate the circle of ancestors together. (about the authors) (Anthology. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In a letter to reviewers, editor Smith (enrolled Muscogee Creek) describes this anthology as a "sampling of the many rising Indigenous voices who are changing children's literature for the better." Using the framework of an intertribal powwow, 17 Indigenous authors craft stories that explore themes such as ethnic identity and ancestry. The rhythmic "What Is a Powwow?" by Kim Rogers (Wichita and Affiliated Tribes) first establishes the event as one "where our hearts beat as one/ to the thump of the drum." In enrolled Onondaga author Eric Gans-worth's thought-provoking "Indian Price," two cousins in different living situations connect for the first time. Family is also central to the inspiring "Secrets and Surprises" by Traci Sorell (Cherokee), which celebrates how Native cultures can support others; an idea threaded throughout. The most engaging entries detail aspects of Native culture alongside universal themes: sisters learn to navigate a changing relationship in "What We Know About Glaciers" by Christine Day (Upper Skagit), while two stories by Brian Young (enrolled Navajo) showcase the same events from the eyes of two frenemies. It's a wonderful introduction to the included authors' work and a persuasive encouragement to seek out more Indigenous stories. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Editor Smith and 16 other authors and artists collaborate in this #OwnVoices short story collection from HarperCollins's HeartDrum imprint, which was created to "highlight the voices of Native creators." Each story focuses on a different character and their experience of an intertribal powwow in Michigan. The stories range from solemn to silly, but each emphasizes the power of the tribal community to support and heal its members. The well-edited volume begins with welcoming and humorous tales before moving into heavier territory. Each creator provides a short biography in the back matter, which includes their tribal affiliation and other works, in addition to their acknowledgements and notes on their contributions to the book. This anthology aims to both increase Native representation in middle grade literature and promote knowledge and understanding in non-Native readers. While not every story will be equally engaging for every reader and some points of overlap might seem a bit redundant, there is still more than enough to recommend this for school and public libraries everywhere. VERDICT All libraries should make room on their shelves for this collection of Native-voiced stories. Recommended.—Taylor Worley, Springfield P.L., OR

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Sixteen of today's most skilled Indigenous children's authors join forces in this anthology of richly varied, loosely interconnected stories all centered on an intertribal powwow, "where our hearts beat as one/ to the thump of the drum." From as far away as La Conner, Wash., and Durant, Okla., kids make the trip to Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow. They are Cree and Choctaw, Ojibwe and Navajo, Coast Salish and Cherokee. The stories' broad assortment of family makeups, backgrounds and conflicts underscores the diversity of the Indigenous experience. Even so, overarching themes emerge around the importance of family, the solace of tradition and community, and growing personally through supporting others. This uplifting assembly affirms the vitality of Indigenous life today and offers accessible situations and characters to all young readers. COPYRIGHT(2021) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2276155 Alone in the Woods (Prebound)

written by Rebecca Behrens

When twelve-year-old best friends Jocelyn and Alex head off for a late-summer, joint-family vacation in Wisconsin's isolated north woods, it's supposed to be a perfect week of hiking, tubing, campfire s'mores, and stargazing. Except for one big problem: Alex and Jocelyn are no longer friends.

978-1-5364-7290-5 Sourcebooks, Incorporated ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95

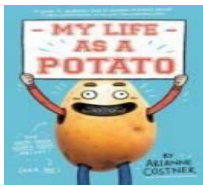
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–7—It's the first day of the annual family trip that Jocelyn ("Joss") and Alex's families take every summer to the Northwoods of Wisconsin, but this vacation looks nothing like the fun-filled trip that Joss anticipated. Alex has just ended their friendship, and now wants nothing to do with her, preferring to spend all her time texting her new best friend Laura Longbottom, the coolest girl at Walden Middle School. Ever since Alex befriended Laura at Spanish camp, she's been a part of the popular crowd. Her interests have changed, and it seems like Joss has been left behind. Joss doesn't want to go shopping or play with makeup. She just wants to keep the same traditions she's always had with her best friend. When Joss and Alex are forced to go inner-tubing on the river together, the last thing they expect is to get lost in the middle of the woods. The story is told chronologically through Joss and Alex's struggle to survive, and in flashbacks to key turning points in their friendship. Readers will empathize with both girls and ultimately root for their reconciliation. If Behrens's detailed and loving descriptions of the Northwoods of Wisconsin aren't enough, the "Note on the Setting" will convince readers to take a visit—while practicing safe tubing, of course. VERDICT A compelling and relatable middle school friendship tale for fans of survival stories.—Jessica Ko, Los Angeles Public Library

#2276210 My Life As a Potato (Prebound)

written by Arianne Costner

Ben Hardy believes he's cursed by potatoes. And now he's moved to Idaho, where the school's mascot is Steve the Spud! Yeah, this cannot be good. After accidentally

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95



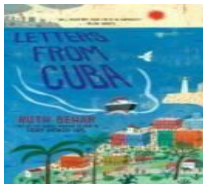
causing the mascot to sprain an ankle, Ben is sentenced to Spud duty for the final basketball games of the year. But if the other kids know he's the Spud, his plans for popularity are likely to be a big dud! Ben doesn't want to let the team down, so he lies to his friends to keep it a secret. No one will know it's him under the potato suit...right?

978-1-5364-7303-2 Yearling Books ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 640

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Twelve-year-old Ben Hardy is the new kid in school. Adjusting to life in the middle of Idaho has not been easy, but Ben manages to make new friends, and the most popular girl at school has asked him to the school dance. However, an incident in the school cafeteria involving a thrown hot dog lands Ben in hot water. He is faced with suspension or performing at basketball games as the school mascot, a dumpy potato. Being the school mascot will mess up his chances with the popular kids, but he reluctantly dons the costume. What follows is a madcap series of incidents involving Ben trying to keep his role as the mascot secret. As the story progresses, Ben learns who his true friends are and that, possibly, popularity is not all it seems to be. The ending is a predictable but satisfying lesson in being true to one's friends. This book will appeal to fans of the Middle School series by James Patterson.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The new kid in school endures becoming the school mascot. Ben Hardy has never cared for potatoes, and this distaste has become a barrier to adjusting to life in his new Idaho town. His school's mascot is the Spud, and after a series of misfortunes, Ben is enlisted to don the potato costume and cheer on his school's team. Ben balances his duties as a life-sized potato against his desperate desire to hide the fact that he's the dork in the suit. After all, his cute new crush, Jayla, wouldn't be too impressed to discover Ben's secret. The ensuing novel is a fairly boilerplate middle-grade narrative: snarky tween protagonist, the crush that isn't quite what she seems, and a pair of best friends that have more going on than our hero initially believes. The author keeps the novel moving quickly, pushing forward with witty asides and narrative momentum so fast that readers won't really mind that the plot's spine is one they've encountered many times before. Once finished, readers will feel little resonance and move on to the next book in their to-read piles, but in the moment the novel is pleasant enough. Ben, Jayla, and Ben's friend Hunter are white while Ellie, Ben's other good pal, is Latina. On equal footing with a garden-variety potato. (Fiction. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Seventh grade student Ben, new to his Idaho school, is punished when he caves to peer pressure and misbehaves: he must don a potato suit and entertain the masses at school basketball games as the school mascot Steve the Spud. Humor ensues when Ben decides to lie to everyone about being in the potato suit. Comical illustrations support the amusement. Despite the frequency of food-throwing incidents, strong moral messages abound: don't lie, don't judge others, and do right by those less popular than yourself. While more astute or mature readers will question the strong subtext that heteronormative romantic pairings are de rigueur for seventh graders, as well as the plot's premise—just why does Ben feel the need to lie, again?—others will simply be swept up in the well-paced unfolding of the light-hearted plot. Almost the entire cast is white, upper middle class, heterosexual, cisgender, and supported by nuclear families comfortable in the suburban setting. VERDICT This title doesn't rock the boat; it's light, predictable, easy to read, vaguely funny, and reminiscent of Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" comics and Chris Grabenstein's and James Patterson's "I Funny" series.—Rhona Campbell, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC



#2276957 **Letters from Cuba (Prebound)**
written by Ruth Behar

The situation is getting dire for Jews in Poland on the eve of World War II. Esther's father has fled to Cuba, and she is the first one to join him. It's heartbreaking to be separated from her beloved sister, so Esther promises to write down everything that happens until they're reunited. And she does, recording both the good--the kindness of the Cuban people and her discovery of a valuable hidden talent--and the bad: the fact that Nazism has found a foothold even in Cuba. Esther's evocative letters are full of her appreciation for life and reveal a resourceful, determined girl with a rare ability to bring people together, all the while striving to get the rest of their family out of Poland before it's too late.

978-1-5364-7318-6 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2021 5 x 7-3/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 850

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 8-12 When Esther's father, a Jewish Polish refugee working in Cuba to send money back to his family, asks one of his sons to join him, she's not quite 12?goes instead. Esther's poignant letters to her sister reveal the heartbreaking stories of the people?the displaced, the downtrodden, the dreamers?she meets along her journey, even as she exposes injustices among class and religion and within ethnic groups, all in parallel to her family's experience in 1938 Poland. Belpré-winning Behar's epistolary novel, based on a true story, addresses identity, family dynamics, culture, tradition, and acceptance as loving Esther opens her heart to her friends and neighbors in Agramonte while learning about issues both in her new home and abroad. Complemented by a vibrant supporting cast and an extensive author's note about the Holocaust and Cuban refugees, Esther's tale is one of adaptation and perseverance as she pursues dressmaking while also fighting for her rights and for peace in her new home.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books years, working to bring his family out of political and economic distress in Poland as azis consolidate power. With enough saved to send for the first family member, twelve-year-old Esther convinces her father that she, as the eldest, should be chosen over firstborn son Moshe. Papa assents, and the choice proves to be a good one, as Esther's outgoing personality and quickness to pick up a new language are genuine assets to him as he peddles small items in rural areas; even her domestic skills, long criticized by Mama, blossom when she unleashes her own creativity, designing and sewing dresses that she sells through a Jewish shopkeeper in Havana. It's her interpersonal skill that is arguably the most valuable, as she makes friends ranging from ex-slaves to the town doctor to Chinese merchants, all of whom band together when Nazi sympathizers, emboldened by Hitler's tyranny abroad, mount an anti-immigrant campaign to rid their island of foreigners. Behar finds inspiration for her novel from the experience of her grandmother Esther, a Jewish immigrant who joined her own father in Cuba in 1927. Fictional Esther seems to have stepped out of a decades-old novel as a kind of good-luck magnet who readily vanquishes trouble with wit, charm, and fortunate breaks. Villainous Nazi wannabe Senor Eduardo caves after a one-day strike on his sugar mill; wealthy ladies in a trendy Havana department store can't get enough of Esther's designs; and even Papa opens his mind and heart to neighbors outside his tight-knit circle of Jewish acquaintances. Readers may eyeroll but still find themselves engaged by a World War II refugee story in an unexpected and underexamined setting. An author's note is included. EB

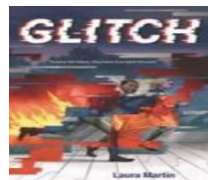
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide In 1938, eleven-year-old Jewish girl Esther is the first of her siblings to emigrate from Poland to Cuba, joining her father, who went three years earlier. Her letters to her sister, kept in a notebook to be shared later, form the narrative of Esther's new life in Cuba. With the help of her skill as a clothing designer, Esther and Papa save money to bring the rest of the family over, as rumors build of the worsening situation for Jews in Europe. The story is in some ways refreshingly optimistic: both Papa and Esther adapt fairly easily to life first in rural Agramonte and then in Havana. Behar creates a welcome portrait of a warm, diverse community -- one that supports the family members when they do face local antisemitism, and as a result creates an Anti-Nazi Society. But the novel doesn't paint an overly sunny picture -- realistically, adjustment isn't as easy for other members of Esther's family when they arrive (or, in one case, choose not to come). An author's note cites connections to Behar's (*Lucky Broken Girl*, rev. 7/17) family history and to Karen Hesse's *Letters from Rifka* (1992). (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In 1938, a Jewish refugee from Poland joins her father in small-town Cuba. After three years abroad, Papa's saved only enough money to send for one of his children. Thus Esther boards the steamship alone even though she's not quite 12. Cuba is a constant surprise: Her father's an itinerant peddler and not a shopkeeper; they live as the only Jews in a tiny village; and she's allowed to wear sandals and go bare-legged in the heat. But the island is also a constant joy. Nearly everyone Esther meets is generous beyond their means. She adores her new trade as a dressmaker, selling her creations in Havana to earn money to bring over the rest of the family. In glowing letters to her sister back in Poland, Esther details how she's learning Spanish through the poems of José Martí. She introduces her sister to her beloved new friends: a white doctor's wife and her vegetarian, atheist husband; a black, Santería-following granddaughter of an ex-slave; a Chinese Cuban shopkeeper's nephew. Esther's first year in Cuba is marked by the calendar of Jewish holidays, as she wonders if she can be both Cuban and a Jew. As the coming war looms in Europe, she and her friends find solidarity, standing together against local Nazis and strike breakers. An author's note describes how the story was loosely inspired by the author's own family history. Warmhearted cross-cultural friendship for a refugee on distant shores: both necessary and kind. (bibliography) (Historical fiction. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 1938, Esther, 11, travels alone from her small Jewish village in Poland to join her father in a small Cuban town, vowing to help earn enough money to pay for the rest of their family; her grandmother, mother, and four younger siblings; to join them. Inspired by her own grandmother's life, Behar (*Lucky Broken Girl*) crafts a series of loving letters from Esther to her sister, describing the perilous journey and Esther's first year in Cuba. Esther's optimism, determination, and unconventionality allow her to adapt quickly; while her father remains as true to his faith as possible, Esther explores her world and, thanks to a highly developed skill learned from her mother, succeeds far beyond expectations. Esther's new friendships with both Cubans and fellow immigrants set the stage for encounters with numerous benevolent minor characters and one who embodies the period's terrors. Global issues such as Hitler's rise, anti-Semitism, slavery, and worker protests are neatly woven into Esther's narrative. Despite a telescoped time frame and an underdeveloped supporting cast, Behar's appreciative descriptions of Cuba and Esther's close, protective bonds with her father and sister make for an engaging read. Ages 10: up. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Pura Belpré Award winner Behar's newest story is based on her own grandmother's immigration journey. Eleven-year-old Esther bravely travels to Cuba from Poland to help her father earn enough money for the rest of their family to join them, including her mother, grandmother, three brothers, and cherished sister Malka. The narrative is told in a series of letters from Esther to Malka, chronicling her journey across the sea and her experiences in this new homeland. As a means to earn money for her family's travel arrangements, Esther puts her sewing skills to good use by making custom dresses for many islanders. Throughout the story, readers learn that many Jewish people are arriving in Cuba, trying to escape the Jewish persecution in Europe, despite Nazi sympathy infiltrating the island. Readers dive into the

story headfirst as they get to know Esther, her family, and her newfound friends. Esther's first-person descriptions of people and the island craft a vivid experience of Cuba's sights, sounds, and culinary delights. VERDICT Readers will not want to part with this story of resilience. A World War II refugee tale that spotlights dedicated hard work. A must-have for public, elementary, and middle school libraries.—Kristin Unruh, Siersma Elem. Sch., Warren, MI



#2276960 Glitch (Prebound)
written by Laura Martin

Regan Fitz and Elliot Mason are training to become Glitchers. They've always been enemies but everything changes when they find a letter from the future that warns of a devastating event to come. Suddenly forced to work together, Regan and Elliot must get over their animosity fast, because to save everyone they know, they'll need to break every rule they've ever been taught.

978-1-5364-7321-6 HarperCollins Publishers ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 13.0

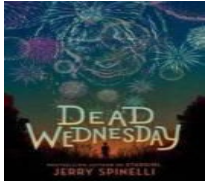
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 In a future where time traveling is very real, the privilege is reserved for individuals born with a Glitch gene, who must also pass extensive training and testing at the exclusive Academy. When Regan, the Commander's daughter, and Elliot, an Academy urchin with no opportunity outside of his servitude, encounter a Cocoon, a contraband time-travel letter sent from the future to warn them, they must overcome their feud in order to salvage everything—and everyone—they treasure. Martin expertly weaves the story through both Regan's and Elliot's perspectives, capturing their innermost emotions, especially their motivations and fears, as together they overcome frightening simulators and actual time travel. From the Boston Tea Party to Pearl Harbor, their history-based missions and inevitable friendship—or, at least, cooperation? will appeal to fans of action-packed dystopian stories like the Hunger Games trilogy or Ransom Riggs' Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children series. This is the grown-up version of the beloved Magic Tree House chapter books, and it doesn't disappoint in honoring that legacy. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Time-traveling archenemies must work together to save their school. In a world where some people are born with a gene that allows them to slide in and out of time—to Glitch—children with that DNA are educated at a special school run by the government. Interfering with the past is against the law, and anyone who travels back in time to manipulate history is labeled a Butterfly and arrested. Glitchers are trained to stop Butterflies, and Regan Fitz, whose mom is commander in chief of the U.S. branch of Glitch Academy, has great intuition when it comes to spotting people intent on altering the timeline. She is, however, at the bottom of her class because school is a struggle. Her nemesis is Elliot Mason, who is at the top of the class, but he lacks the gut instincts needed to be an excellent Glitcher. Character development takes a back seat to premise and plot here. Regan and Elliot fight constantly and are in the middle of an epic blowup when a Cocoon—an object planted by a Butterfly to effect a change—in Regan's handwriting appears. The pair must work together to figure out its clues and succeed in their mission, all while avoiding detection and being arrested as Butterflies. The final time-travel sequences are many and dizzying, but the excellent pacing of the race to save the day overshadows this mechanics issue. Elliot appears black and Regan is white. A solid choice for readers who like history with their mystery. (Science fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this buddy time travel tale by Martin (Hoax for Hire), Cadets Regan Fitz and Elliot Mason are rivals at Glitch Academy; they're training to use their rare genetic ability to travel through time and prevent "Butterflies" (so named for the butterfly effect) from altering U.S. history. Regan, 12, daughter of the Academy commander, is a mediocre student with solid intuition. Her classmate and social nemesis, Elliot, is at the top of their class but lacking in Regan's instincts. After they discover a letter sent from a future Regan to their current selves, they are forced to collaborate in a secret new program that trains Glitchers to work in pairs. A threat by Butterfly organization Mayhem against the Academy means that Regan and Elliot may have to do the forbidden: travel to the past to change the future. By using historical moments, such as the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, for the missions, Martin imparts a bit of learning in an enjoyable fashion, while the protagonists' sparring morphs gradually and believably into a firm friendship. There is much here to please middle grade readers, whether they enjoy historical fiction, time travel, or tales of camaraderie. Ages 8: 12. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal n trained since birth to be Glitchers—time travelers who protect the past from Butterflies, the criminals who meddle in history. Regan and Elliot can't stand each other, but when they find a note from a future Regan that instructs them to travel back in time to prevent a disaster, they become not only teammates, but Butterflies themselves. It's refreshing to see a book that so effortlessly combines history and science fiction, maintaining the energy of a sci-fi adventure and the complexity of historical fiction. The fast-paced plot features plucky, well-developed characters, and first-person narration switches between Regan and Elliot, which works due to each character's strong voice. Martin's rules of time travel are simple enough for younger readers to follow, and the historical settings are comprehensive and thorough. Characters' discussions about the events they travel through provide context for readers. VERDICT With its dynamic plot, engaging characters, and sci-fi/historical fiction blend, this title will pull in a huge variety of readers, all of whom will be racing to see how the story ends.—Kristin Brynsvold, Tuckahoe Elem. Sch., Arlington, VA



#2322269 Dead Wednesday (Prebound)

written by Jerry Spinelli

Worm Tarnauer has spent most of eighth grade living down to his nickname. He prefers to be out of sight, underground. He walked the world unseen. He's happy to let his best friend, Eddie, lead the way and rule the day.

978-1-5364-7881-5 Yearling Books ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile HL 550

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-9 **Starred Review** It's finally here, the day when the eighth-graders get to be deaders. Yes, they'll each be given the name and photo of a teenager who died that year in a stupidly preventable way--speeding, driving while texting, taking drugs. But the truly excellent parts of this "scare them straight" campaign are the half day of school and behavioral free pass that go with it, because anyone wearing the black shirt signifying their status as dead for the day is soundly ignored by the living. For shy, acne-prone Worm, nothing could be better than sanctioned invisibility. It comes as a surprise, therefore, when Worm's assigned dead teen, Becca Finch, shows up to spend Dead Wednesday with him. No one else can see or hear her or seems to be experiencing this peculiar phenomenon, but Becca is so chatty and in the moment and, well, a girl, that Worm doesn't mind. As the two wander through town getting to know each other and figuring out just what is going on, personal revelations spark without romanticizing the process or losing sight of the circumstance that brought them together. Spinelli writes with wry humor that still makes room for sweetness and a belief in the impossible. A stellar pick for tween collections. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Today is the school custom of Dead Wednesday, where eighth graders supposedly get scared straight by assuming the identity of a recent youth fatality and getting temporarily blanked by teachers, community, and sometimes even parents. For most kids, it's the chance to go wild without repercussion, but shy Worm has a very different experience when his Dead Wednesday identity, Rebecca Ann Finch, turns up as a ghost. Affectionate, ebullient Becca spends the day with Worm as she searches for the reason she's come back, and along the way she nudges Worm into sticking his neck out a little more and worrying less about the opinion of his ostensibly cool friend. There's a big Our Town vibe to this story, and Becca is plausibly crafted as the personality-rich seventeen-year-old girl who may not have been the girl most likely but still had a romance with the most popular boy in school, an identity with resonance for acne-endowed Worm. Spinelli's graceful yet accessible present-tense prose captures eighth-grade social dynamics, Worm's self-erasure, and Becca's confidence with vivid authenticity, and the Dead Wednesday tradition is a booktalking hook par excellence. The book gratifyingly takes Worm's growing self-assurance in a slightly unexpected direction, but it's probably all the more Becca-pleasing for that. This is a speedy but high concept read that has great potential for discussion, and for making kids yearn for their own Dead Wednesday and accompanying ghost. DS COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine "Worm" Tarnauer is the sort of middle-school kid who likes to be invisible, "to be out of sight, underground, watching, listening. A spectator" -- until a ghost girl changes all of that. Worm can't wait for Dead Wednesday, when eighth graders are supposed to remember Pennsylvania teenagers who died from preventable accidents, such as wrapping their cars around trees. ("Wrappers," the kids callously call them.) Their faces are on posters in the school, and eighth graders receive their name cards and wear black shirts. The students become "Deaders," and teachers act like they don't see them. But to "freedom-drunk" eighth graders, lack of supervision means raucous behavior, a.k.a. pure bliss. Then the dead girl on Worm's card -- Rebecca Ann Finch, age seventeen -- appears and tells him she is there "to fix him," to show him the life he is missing by being a worm, a middle-school fun junkie, more interested in video games than the real life all around him. Spinelli makes the relationship between a boy and a ghost heartwarming; the life lessons of a dead girl profound; and social commentary astute but not didactic. Dialogue is snappy, and every scene is tight and memorable. Susan Caraway from Spinelli's *Stargirl* (2000) might see in Becca Finch a kindred spirit. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

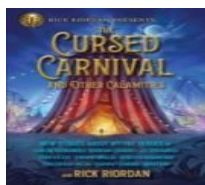
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews For two teenagers, a small town's annual cautionary ritual becomes both a life- and a death-changing experience. On the second Wednesday in June, every eighth grader in Amber Springs, Pennsylvania, gets a black shirt, the name and picture of a teen killed the previous year through reckless behavior--and the silent treatment from everyone in town. Like many of his classmates, shy, self-conscious Robbie "Worm" Tarnauer has been looking forward to Dead Wed as a day for cutting loose rather than sober reflection...until he finds himself talking to a strange girl or, as she would have it, "spectral maiden," only he can see or touch. Becca Finch is as surprised and confused as Worm, only remembering losing control of her car on an icy slope that past Christmas Eve. But being (or having been, anyway) a more outgoing sort, she sees their encounter as a sign that she's got a mission. What follows, in a long conversational ramble through town and beyond, is a day at once ordinary yet rich in discovery and self-discovery--not just for Worm, but for Becca too, with a climactic twist that leaves both ready, or readier, for whatever may come next. Spinelli shines at setting a tongue-in-cheek tone for a tale with serious underpinnings, and as in *Stargirl* (2000), readers will be swept into the relationship that develops between this adolescent odd couple. Characters follow a White default. Characters to love, quips to snort at, insights to ponder: typical Spinelli. (Fiction. 12-15) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Robbie "Worm" Tarnauer is excited to participate in Dead Wednesday, when all eighth graders in Amber Springs, Pa., are given a black shirt, assigned the name of a local teenager who died a preventable death, and then ignored for the day; treated as "dead" by the faculty. Though it's intended to be a grim warning, most students see the day as license to goof off. Worm, however, aptly named

since he prefers to be "out of sight, underground, watching, listening," is happy for a day of invisibility. But when Worm receives the name "Rebecca Ann Finch" and dons the black shirt, he also gets a surprise: the sudden presence of Becca's ghost. A quirky, charismatic 17-year-old wearing raspberry-colored pajamas, she's guilt-ridden about the pain her death caused and convinced that she's arrived to help Worm take charge of his existence. The more she reveals about her life and death, however, the more Worm wonders if it's Becca who actually needs his assistance. Though Becca's characterization can feel more conceptual than fully fleshed, and the male characters frequently view girls as homogeneous, self-conscious Worm's slow-building affection for lively Becca leads to a bittersweet conclusion that prepares both for the future. Centering meaningful themes of ephemerality, forgiveness, and self-acceptance, Spinelli's (Stargirl) characters; cued white; will undoubtedly dig their way into the hearts of readers who need them most. Ages 10: up. Agent: William Reiss, John Hawkins & Assoc. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Worm Tarnauer prefers to go unnoticed. He doesn't want to stand out, and he's happy to let his best friend Eddie take the spotlight. In a somewhat morbid exercise designed to encourage students to consider their own mortality, the teachers at Worm's school assign each eighth grader the name of a teenager who died in the past year. The students don black shirts and are ignored all day by teachers and fellow students. Typically, this leads the eighth graders to do any number of things they wouldn't normally be able to get away with—but when Worm is assigned Becca Finch (17, car crash), he isn't prepared for what happens next. Worm lets Becca into his head and begins seeing her everywhere. He finds himself talking to her and questioning his identity and how he exists in the world. This is a well-written book by a well-known author. The concept of Dead Wednesday is somewhat disturbing and consumes a large portion of the beginning action. The plot really takes off once Worm begins interacting with Becca; she's smart and quick and challenges his preconceived notions about belonging, causing him to think and step outside his comfort zone. **VERDICT** With a macabre premise, this is a solid read about finding one's voice, standing up for oneself, and inner confidence. Recommended for larger collections or where Spinelli is already popular.—Jessica Trafton, Skidompha Lib., Damariscotta, ME

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Newbery Medal-winner Jerry Spinelli (Maniac Magee; The Warden's Daughter) delivers an affecting story about a shy, insecure boy and the dead girl who's supposed to be guiding him.



#2324417 Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities: New Stories about Mythic Heroes (Prebound)
written by Rick Riordan

A cave monster . . . an abandoned demon . . . a ghost who wants to erase history . . . a killer commandant . . . These are just some of the challenges confronting the young heroes in this highly entertaining anthology.

978-1-5364-7886-0 Rick Riordan ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 464 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 17.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 From Rick Riordan Presents comes this anthology of 10 short stories with heroes from the imprint traipsing through the multiverse. Edited by Riordan, who also contributed one of his own stories, this book offers a little bit of everything. There are doorways that open up to silly and funny adventure tales in unicorn and chicken universes. There are ghosts and monsters and a cave of doom. There are sword wielders, a hero with mad fire skills, and a Mayan shapeshifter who can also breathe underwater. There is even a young fighter who once stunned a duck. The stories are diverse and pull from a spectrum of culture's mythologies, including Indian, African American, and Celtic, to name only a few. Contributors include Pura Belpré Award winner Carlos Hernandez and Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book award winner Kwame Mbalia. If the multiverse is a favorite theme, *Me vs. the Multiverse: Pleased to Meet Me* (2020), by S. G. Wilson, or *Strangeworlds Travel Agency* (2021), by L. D. Lapinski, are other middle-grade books worth checking out. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Yes, Riordan's name is on the cover, which will draw in plenty of readers, but don't miss the cache of the contributors, who have plenty of fans themselves. **COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

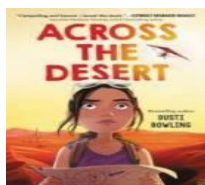
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this anthology penned by authors from the Rick Riordan Presents imprint--and Riordan himself--mythological adventures lie in wait. In the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Gum Baby must save her friends from a ghostie dressed in rags in Kwame Mbalia's "The Gum Baby Files." In Carlos Hernandez' "Calamity Juice," Cuban American Sal and Gabi must figure out which alternate version of the universe has swallowed up their friend. In "Beware the Grove of True Love" by Roshani Chokshi, Aru Shah and her Pandava sisters enter a Night Bazaar in the Otherworld; they must return gunghroos, or anklet bells, to a magical being they upset. And at the All-Nations Assembly powwow, Diné girl Nizhoni; her best friend, Davery; and other Native youth try--and fail--to take a break from slaying monsters in "The Demon Drum" by Rebecca Roanhorse. The 10 short stories in this anthology pulse with imagination and humor, and each entry is a true page-turner set in a fully realized, satisfyingly complete fantasy world that is accessible even to readers who are not familiar with the authors' novels. At times, the dialogue can feel forced, as though the writers are trying to shape their styles to match Riordan's; the strongest stories are the ones that avoid this pitfall and which have the most distinctive voices. A captivating collection of stories based on world mythologies. (guide to Irish names, contributor bios) (Fantasy. 9-13) **COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This middle grade anthology from Rick Riordan Presents serves up 10 new stories from the imprint's contributing authors, including a Celtic mythology: inspired piece by Riordan, who edited the volume. Carlos Hernandez kicks things off with an exuberant

romp as characters Sal and Gabi chase a wayward, unicorn-riding classmate through alternate worlds, in the process linking to other tales. Elsewhere, Kwame Mbali's Gum Baby takes center stage, battling a ghost capable of erasing Black history; Tehlor Kay Mejia's Paola Santiago risks everything to help her ailing pet chupacabra; and Yoon Ha Lee's space-faring fox spirit Min embarks upon a new adventure when she and her ghost brother are sent to spy school. As companion pieces to existing series that nevertheless remain accessible for newcomers, these stories both expand each world and offer readers a full sampling of the imprint's versatility. With an inclusive range of contributors drawing upon their respective heritages and experiences to craft culturally specific, gratifyingly adventurous tales, there's a little something for everyone here, like a world tour of wonder and excitement. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Nancy Gallt, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Connection Rick Riordan and nine other award-winning multicultural authors contribute to this short story collection, the latest book in the Rick Riordan Presents imprint of Disney Publishing. In this particular collection, all but one of the myth-based heroes has appeared in previous books published under the imprint. Each story is a fast-paced adventure set in a mythical universe that focuses on characters and storylines gleaned from folk stories and literature. Whether it's a cave monster on an unknown island or a ghost trying to change history, this collection will appeal to any middle grade reader who loves fantasy. Each simply-told story has a similar tone with contemporary, believable dialogue and features action as the focal point. Fans of the authors' works will be delighted to read a new adventure about their favorite heroes and hopefully will be inspired to read books by the other authors included in the collection. The short chapters are perfect for classroom read-alouds. Barbara S. Zinkovich, Library Media Specialist, Greenville County Schools, Greenville, South Carolina Highly Recommended

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Ten Rick Riordan Presents authors, including Riordan himself, share myths from Korean, Mexican, Native American, Cuban, Indian, and Mesopotamian cultures, among others. The collection is cohesive, with common threads of adventure and kid-friendly humor. Most of the stories are set in the present; only two myths have historic/otherworldly settings: Riordan's Irish yarn of mythical warrior Fionn mac Cumhaill and Ha Lee's space-based tale "The Initiation." Some authors use their myths as vehicles for themes such as cultural pride (Rebecca Roanhorse's "The Demon Drum"), Black history (Kwame Mbali's "The Gum Baby Files"), and immigration (Sarwat Chadda's "The Loneliest Demon"). Readers can reunite with Sal and Gabi in Carlos Hernandez's "Calamity Juice" and adventure with Aru's sisters in Roshani Chokshi's "Beware the Grove of True Love." Most offerings are told in first person, and readers may find it difficult to quickly identify the hero, setting, and premise without careful reading. Many myths also assume prior knowledge of the authors' other stories and, to avoid confusion, should be read by series fans. While some can be enjoyed as stand-alone tales, other entries are aimed at readers who have read Rick Riordan Presents stories and want more from the "Multiverse Mansion" of beloved characters and authors. VERDICT An entertaining collection recommended for libraries that own other Rick Riordan Presents titles.--Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Lib. Assoc., CT Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2325374 Across the Desert (Prebound)
written by Dusti Bowling

Twelve-year-old Jolene spends every day she can at the library watching her favorite livestream: The Desert Aviator, where twelve-year-old "Addie Earhart" shares her adventures flying an ultralight plane over the desert. While watching this daring girl fly through the sky, Jolene can dream of what it would be like to fly with her, far away from her own troubled home life where her mother struggles with a narcotic addiction. 978-1-5364-7940-9 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 336 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In downtown Phoenix, Jolene, 12 and cued white, is watching her favorite livestream. Hosted by her virtual friend Addie Earhart, also white, who lives more than 100 miles away and with whom Jolene exchanges direct messages, the young explorer's show helps Jolene escape from her own reality. A couple of years ago, Jolene and her mother were in a car accident that has left the latter with an Oxycodone addiction; the resulting home situation leaves Jolene isolated and hungry ("My life is so filled with If I had that it sometimes feels like I'm drowning in them"). But then Jolene is the sole witness to Addie's ultralight-trike crash. Capturing friendship history and mutual loss through the girls' messages, Bowling (The Canyon's Edge) immerses readers into Jolene's small world, and how it slowly opens as she follows her own path, fighting against her own PTSD "car-crash feeling" and the discouragement of others, to rescue Addie and perhaps herself. Bowling's passion for the desert and its inhabitants; as well as a personal understanding of children of adults with addictions; is clear and powerful in this tense, poignant story about the essential nature of friendship and life's unexpected possibilities. Back matter features an author's note. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Twelve-year-old Jolene is used to taking care of herself. Ever since a car accident severely injured her mother and caused her slide into opioid addiction, Jolene is alternately upset with and fiercely protective of her, despite their descent into poverty and occasional homelessness. She takes refuge from the Phoenix heat in the library each day, where she reserves travel books, draws maps, researches remarkable female pioneers, and follows livestreamer Addie Earhart's aerial adventures. Addie is grieving the loss of her father and flying their ultralight plane alone in the desert without her mother's knowledge, and the lonely pair strike up a connection. When Addie crash lands and the impact cuts off the feed, Jolene can't get anyone to go search for her. She has a pretty good idea of where Addie might be, and, realizing

she's the only one who knows about the accident, scrounges meager supplies and sets out by bus to find her. Luckily for Jolene, she meets 17-year-old Marty on her journey, and the two end up searching for Addie together. Jolene's voice is instantly compelling, making suspending disbelief at the unique and dangerous scenario quite easy. The tension ratchets up insidiously as the desert heat rises and time seems to keep running out. Alongside the budding friendships, the depiction of parental addiction is utterly realistic and heartbreaking. VERDICT The book's dedication, "For you, the child of an addict, I see you," says it all. A first purchase.—Brenda Kahn, Tenakill M.S., Closter, NJ



#2325378 I Must Betray You (Prebound)

written by Ruta Sepetys

Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe.

978-1-5364-7944-7 Penguin Young Readers Group ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile HL 500

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.95

Reviews by: Book Page Romania 1989: Nicolae Ceau?escu, Romania's longtime leader, has told the world that Romania is a land of bounty, and the world believes him. But Cristian Florescu, who lives with his parents, sister and grandfather in Romania's capital city, Bucharest, knows the truth. Gray, lifeless buildings line the streets, and food scarcity, unreliable electricity and constant paranoia are part of daily life under Ceau?escu's regime. Cristian is a high school student who dreams of becoming a writer, but the Securitate, Ceau?escu's secret police, have other plans for him. Called to the principal's office one day, Cristian is greeted by an imposing member of the Secu. Under threat of blackmail, Cristian agrees to become an informant and to report on the American diplomat whose apartment his mother cleans. As Cristian begins his double life, he starts to doubt everyone around him, even his closest friends and family. Glimpses of the world outside Romania stir feelings of confusion and curiosity and leave Cristian reeling as he tries to make sense of the contradictory truths he is uncovering about his country. All the while, Romania rushes toward revolution. Part espionage thriller and part bildungsroman, Ruta Sepetys' fifth novel,

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 8-11 *Starred Review* Sepetys (The Fountains of Silence, 2019) once again masterfully portrays a dark, forgotten corner of history: Bucharest, Romania, winter 1989. For nearly 25 years, Romania's communist dictator Nicolae Ceau?escu and his wife, Heroine Mother Elena, perpetrated unspeakable human-rights abuses on their people. By focusing on one voice, 17-year-old Cristian Florescu, Sepetys amplifies the isolation, fear, and uncertainty experienced during the final months of Ceau?escu's regime. Cristian shares a tiny apartment with his parents, older sister, Cici, and beloved, rebellious grandfather, Bunu. They speak in whispers and spend hours in line for cooking oil or a single onion. Cristian writes in a journal he hides under the floorboards and dreams of kissing his beautiful classmate, Liliana. When a dollar bill appears in his stamp collection, the secret police use it as leverage to force him to inform on a U.S. diplomat. Cristian's short, almost breathless first-person chapters are interspersed with chilling interview reports by his assigned Securitate agent. Cristian, Liliana, and their friend Luca join the final uprising, from University Square to notorious Jilava prison. The worst tortures take place offstage, but beatings, mental torment, and near starvation do not. Suspenseful twists continue to the very end, when Cristian's betrayer is revealed. The back matter, too, is fascinating; it encompasses archival photographs, an author's note, an extensive source list, and a description of the research process and several in-person interviews. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Grieving for her mother's death, twelve-year-old Kela has pushed away her father, her artistic aspirations, and her connections to vibrant life on the fictional Caribbean island of St. Rita. When she finds a box containing an old, beautiful comb, its owner, an ancient mermaid named Ophidia, is desperate to get it back: it's the soul cage in which she treasures the stolen soul that keeps her young. Ophidia offers Kela a wish in exchange for the comb, but Kela's wish that her mother be restored to life has unforeseen consequences, and human interference keeps preventing her from returning the comb as promised, leading to potential disaster for the whole island. Kela's primary narration allows for a harmonious blend of contemporary island life and Afro-Caribbean lore, while chapters focusing on Ophidia draw on elements of Andersen's "The Little Mermaid." The third-person narration of the interspersed sections echoes a rhythmic traditional call-and-response that links the teller and the listener ("I say Crick, you say Crack. Crick. Crack. This is a story. COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Cristian has grown up under the dictatorship of Ceausescu in Communist Romania. Now it's October 1989, and he's conditioned to life in his family's cramped apartment; to queuing for meagre, awful food; and to whispering indoors to avoid the surveillance of the brutal secret police, the Securitate. Then a Securitate agent blackmails him into becoming an informant. The agent has the power to destroy his future and family, so what can Cristian do? At the cost of trust, friendship, and romance, he must play along -- at least until he joins the thousands of Romanians who rise up to overthrow Ceausescu and the Securitate. Sepetys (Between Shades of Gray, rev. 5/11; The Fountains of Silence, rev. 9/19) paints a nuanced picture of the effects of the deprivation, anxiety, and fear created and upheld by Ceausescu's tyrannical rule. In

quick, economical language, she provides historical detail and shows readers a context in which one contraband can of Coke can result in a police report, but also one in which the courage and solidarity of youth can change a country's oppressive regime. Back matter includes photos, an author's note with historical background, and a note on research and sources. (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Cristian has grown up under the dictatorship of Ceausescu in Communist Romania. Now it's October 1989, and he's conditioned to life in his family's cramped apartment; to queuing for meagre, awful food; and to whispering indoors to avoid the surveillance of the brutal secret police, the Securitate. Then a Securitate agent blackmails him into becoming an informant. The agent has the power to destroy his future and family, so what can Cristian do? At the cost of trust, friendship, and romance, he must play along -- at least until he joins the thousands of Romanians who rise up to overthrow Ceausescu and the Securitate. Sepetys (*Between Shades of Gray*, rev. 5/11; *The Fountains of Silence*, rev. 9/19) paints a nuanced picture of the effects of the deprivation, anxiety, and fear created and upheld by Ceausescu's tyrannical rule. In quick, economical language, she provides historical detail and shows readers a context in which one contraband can of Coke can result in a police report, but also one in which the courage and solidarity of youth can change a country's oppressive regime. Back matter includes photos, an author's note with historical background, and a note on research and sources. Deirdre F. Baker (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A rare look at the youth-led rebellion that toppled Romania's Ceau?escu. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu, with his spiky hair, love of poetry and English, and crush on Liliana Pavel, is as much of a rebel as it's possible to be in Bucharest, Romania, in 1989. Communist dictator Nicolae Ceau?escu has been in power for 24 years, and most Romanians live in poverty, exporting what they produce to unknowingly fund Ceau?escu's obscenely extravagant lifestyle. Wild dogs attack children in the streets, and secret agents are everywhere. When an agent confronts Cristian with evidence of treason--a single dollar bill tucked inside his notebook--and also offers medicine for Bunu, his sick grandfather, Cristian agrees to spy on the American diplomat family whose son he's become friendly with. But as young Romanians gradually become aware that other countries have gained freedom from communism, they rise up in an unconquerable wave. Sepetys brilliantly blends a staggering amount of research with heart, craft, and insight in a way very few writers can. Told from Cristian's point of view, intercut by secret police memos and Cristian's own poetry, the novel crackles with energy; Cristian and his friends join the groundswell of young Romanians, combining pragmatism, subterfuge, hope, and daring. While the story ends with joy on Christmas Day, the epilogue recounts the betrayals and losses that follow. The last line will leave readers gasping. Compulsively readable and brilliant. (maps, photos, author's note, research notes, sources) (Historical fiction. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Sepetys (*The Fountains of Silence*) unveils the culture of constant surveillance in communist Romania through an ominously suspenseful historical novel set at the brink of revolution. Under the corrupt authoritarian Ceaus'escu's tenure in 1989 Bucharest, canny aspiring writer Cristian Florescu, 17, keeps his true observations secret as he studies English and jots down illegal thoughts, such as jokes and notes from a contraband travel guide, in a notebook. When an agent of the secret police blackmails him for accepting a dollar of foreign currency from the son of his mother's U.S. diplomat client, and promises life-saving medication for his grandfather, Cristian is forced to inform on his loved ones. Tensions intensify as the teen suspects everyone close to him for the betrayal that led to his blackmail, including best friend Luca, crush Liliana, and even his own family (all characters cue as white), and wrestles with how to use his new position to resist authority. As the betrayals' nuances become clear via interspersed intelligence reports, Cristian's tense first-person narrative foregrounds stark historical realities (families keep an inventory of American cigarettes as black market currency, police ruthlessly beat protesters), unflinchingly confronting deprivations and cruelty while balancing them with perseverance and hope as Romania hurtles toward political change. Back matter includes an author's note. Ages 12: up. Agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal "Sepetys's latest book maintains the caliber readers have come to expect from an author whose focus on hidden histories has made her a YA powerhouse of historical -fiction...Romania blossoms under Sepetys's attention to detail...Mysterious as it is thrilling, the book's short chapters create an atmosphere of impending danger leading to a historical event in Eastern Europe that may be unknown to many yet is necessary to be told...Sepetys is a formidable writer, and her stories declare the need to write about global issues of social injustice. For that reason and her attention to detail, this is a must-read."

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness escu realizes that "a lie is like a snowball. It rolls, becomes bigger, heavier, and eventually, it's difficult to lift." Cristian is attempting to carry a lie that has the power to destroy lives and, as he'll soon discover, he isn't the only one. Ruta Sepetys (*The Fountains of Silence*) delves into the dark world of 1989 Communist Romania, passionately telling the harrowing story of Cristian and a nation near its reaking point. Cristian is a typical teenager with aspirations (he dreams of being a writer) and a secret crush--if only he could happen upon Liliana Pavel, then he could walk her home. But the rest of life isn't typical for him or for other Romanians. They have very little to eat, have access to electricity and water only sporadically, must stand in long lines for everything, and spies lurk everywhere. The informers are just waiting for an opportunity to catch fellow citizens unfaithful to despot Nicolae Ceausescu. But when Cristian is blackmailed into spying, he decides it's time for the world to know what's happening in his country. Sepetys keeps readers riveted to this vivid, heartbreaking and compelling novel, locked into every meticulously researched detail. *I Must Betray You* demands a full investment from its audience--through poetic writing, sympathetic characters, revolutionary plot and pacing, it grips the heart and soul and leaves one breathless. COPYRIGHT(2022) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Quantity Unit Price



#2327162 Erik vs. Everything (Prebound)

1

\$20.95

written by Christina Uss

Meet Erik Sheepflattener. Each member of his modern-day Viking-heritage family has a motto to live by. His parents have Family and Pride. His sisters have Conquer and Win. His grandfather has Turnip. But Erik is developing a motto he can truly believe in: Avoid Stuff. Mostly, Erik's fierce family ignores or discounts him, especially when he tries to say no.

978-1-5364-7971-3 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 *Starred Review* Nine-year-old Erik Sheepflattener isn't exactly panphobic, but he is terrified of a lot of things from sports to squirrels--not, you would think, a good fit in a clan that has so proudly carried its Viking ethos into the present day that the adults tattoo inspirational runes like TROUNCE on their arms. While his one teenage sister, Allyson, leads a champion cheerleading squad ("Two, four, six, eight! Who do we eviscerate?"), her axe-wielding twin Brunhilde has firmly devoted herself to "helping" Erik face his fears as her newest "Let's Conquer This" project. Brunhilde turns out to be a canny strategist (it doesn't hurt that she's using Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* as a guide) and, in this funny and perceptive tale, proves that she knows just when to push and when to let her timorous little brother take his own hesitant steps. Despite being so on edge that he screams every time the telephone rings, Erik's not a total wimp, as he shows by pitching in to, for instance, help tend to a trio of newborn cousins. His hero's journey climaxes in a mountain biking event aptly dubbed (he discovers after signing up) "Race Down Bonebreaker Hill," and readers will enjoy cheering him on as much as they will delight in the antics of his loving, Wagnerian extended family. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

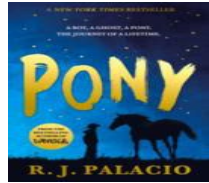
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Nine-year-old Erik Sheepflattener is a descendant of Vikings. Family members sport rune tattoos and keep a weapons closet full of daggers, clubs, and armor. His older sister Brunhilde wields a mean battle-axe and says things like "by Valhalla's rafters, I am hungry"; her twin, Allyson, though more into pompoms and cheerleading, is equally strong and fierce. Many a meal in the Sheepflattener household consists of "fish hunks, fish chunks, fish lumps, and mutton." Erik, however, doesn't fit in. He's scared of everything: "School buses. Running squirrels. Crouching squirrels. Squirrels in trees. Squirrels under beds...Every kind of ball. Having things thrown at you. Having things yelled at you." He hides under furniture and sleeps under the bed. So when the Sheepflattener siblings are shipped off from Connecticut to Minnesota to assist Uncle Bjorn and Aunt Hilda with their new triplets, Erik dreads the trip. But Brunhilde channels her Viking spirit into helping Erik conquer his fears, especially his sciurophobia (fear of squirrels). Real progress comes when Erik joins a mountain biking team and succeeds in finishing a monster race, even if he does cross the finish line toting his bike. The long cycling scene will appeal to all who love well-told sports action. Once again, Uss (*The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*, rev. 7/18; *The Colossus of Roads*, rev. 7/20) delivers a story carried by well-developed characters, plenty of dialogue, and humor. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The Sheepflattener clan fearlessly follow ancestral Viking traditions set down in the Lore, except for Erik, 9, whose default response to challenges and invitations is to invoke his life philosophy, "AVOID STUFF." Sent to help babysit his triplet cousins in Minnesota, Erik's relieved to escape piano lessons with Mrs. Loathcraft but nervous when the fiercer of his two older sisters, ax-wielding Brunhilde, decides to accompany him. Like his parents, the hearty, outdoors-fancying Minnesota Vikings prove deaf to Erik's fears. Forced to fish with his bare hands, he's mauled by a large pike; then Mr. Nubbins, the family pet, activates Erik's squirrel phobia. Erik's meltdowns inspire Brunhilde to help him tackle his fears head-on. Determining their scope, she studies strategies to conquer them, like exposure therapy, and implements breathing exercises, supplementing the Lore's wisdom with the library's *The Big Book of Fear* and Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. Seeking a comprehensive picture of Erik's dizzying array of phobias, Brunhilde constructs an ingenious diorama, using her mapmaking skills and Lego bricks. As the project progresses, Erik finds himself drawn into a multiage biking club soon to race Bonebreaker Hill. Unable to empathize with Erik's anxieties, Brunhilde recognizes they must be vanquished; conquering is a concept the Scandinavian-ancestry-worshipping, rune-tattooed Sheepflatteners embrace. Fond of aggressive sports and a turnip-heavy diet, short on nuance, long on family loyalty, they're portrayed with sly, affectionate humor. Erik's anxieties are presented lightly but sensitively. A quirky delight. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Much to the consternation of his boisterous white Connecticut family, which adheres to a collection of Viking family advice known as "the Lore," nine-year-old Erik Sheepflattener's motto is "AVOID STUFF. Or maybe just the word NO." Though the rest of the Sheepflatteners don't seem to experience fear, Erik worries about everything from piano lessons to team sports to the possibility of squirrels under his bed. While spending the summer with rambunctious cousins in Minnesota, Erik's strong-willed older sister Brunhilde; who loves to quote Churchill's wartime speeches and channels "her ancestral Viking spirit" ; helps Erik conquer his fears by naming and testing each one. Anxious Erik is naturally unenthusiastic about this plan, especially the possibility of utilizing exposure therapy, but has trouble standing up for himself. As the tests proceed, however (including a mountain bike race down Bonebreaker Hill), he finds value in understanding his specific fears and even learns coping skills, such as deep breathing. This riotous second novel by Uss (*The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*), interlaced with quotes from the Lore and a toddler's edition of *The Art of War*, overflows with rollicking scenes of Viking-inspired mayhem and droll dialogue without forgoing respect for the difficulties wrought by Erik's anxiety. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Fourth grader Erik Sheepflattener comes from a big, tough, and very brave family rooted in Viking traditions. Erik does not fit in physically or characteristically with his family; as a matter of fact, he is afraid of almost everything. Erik fears

school, piano lessons, baseball practice, and squirrels—he is even afraid to talk about his fears. Erik would rather stay home and read his comic books rather than try anything that could cause him embarrassment or harm. This all changes when Erik and his sisters visit extended family in Minnesota to help with toddler triplets. Erik reluctantly joins the Lake Park All-Stars Mountain Bike Team and begins training for a race down Bonebreaker Hill. With the help of his sister Brunhilde and her library copy of *The Art of War*, Erik learns that facing fears can help make the scary things a bit less scary. Readers follow Erik as he learns the skills he needs to fall down and not get hurt. This story has a fun cast of characters, all with their own strengths and personality quirks. The book chapters all begin with familiar proverbs that stem from Norse and Danish traditions, and are explained at the end of the story in the "Sources for Quotations" section. This story takes family lore and traditions and blends them with modern tips and tricks to tackle life. It is a fun, uplifting, and often laugh-out-loud story. Erik's family is cued as white. VERDICT A great addition to any elementary and even middle school library with a lesson on determination, taking risks, and family values.—Christina Pesiri, Island Trees H.S., Levittown, NY



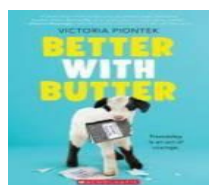
#2331796 Pony (Prebound)
written by R. J. Palacio

A new American classic about a boy on a quest to find his father, guided by a ghost and a mysterious pony. An enthralling, poignant story of love, friendship, perseverance, and the invisible bonds that connect us, set against the American frontier. This is not *Wonder* but an entirely new story/new genre from beloved author. 978-1-5364-8077-1 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 740

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$20.95

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine with his father, a bootmaker and photographer, outside Boneville, Ohio, in 1860. His mother died when he was born, but he does have another companion, a ghost named Mittenwool. When three armed riders show up and haul Pa away, claiming he is the infamous counterfeiter Mac Boat, Silas is lonely and lost, but when one of the men's horses returns -- a black horse with a bone-white face -- Silas determines to go after his father. Though Silas (well-versed in the classics) tries out names for the horse -- Bucephalus, Gringolet, Perceval -- the horse remains "Pony." Their journey after Pa is not to be taken lightly, as Mittenwool warns, and it involves traversing the ancient Woods, where they are engulfed by tangled branches and whispers and moans and air thick with words and ghosts (which Silas has the ability to see). Daguerreotypes begin each chapter, lending period appeal as well as extending the thematic thread of photography and counterfeiting. It becomes a hero's journey, on which Silas feels like Telemachus, a boy in search of his lost father. Classical allusions lend depth to Palacio's elegantly written tale. Telling the story from a perspective of years later allows for philosophical considerations, as Silas realizes "the invisible threads" that have bound him to his mother from the beginning. This is Palacio's first novel that doesn't involve characters from *Wonder* (2012), but it involves plenty of wonder, in rich and haunting ways. An informative and personal author's note is appended. Dean Schneider November/December 2021 p.111(c) Copyright 2021. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When he's struck by lightning in front of an oak tree; an event that doesn't connect much with the rest of the story; Silas Bird, the introspective 12-year-old at the center of this meandering 1860 Ohio-set adventure, has the tree's image permanently imprinted on his back. Silas lives with his inventive but reclusive father, a Scottish bootmaker and photographic scientist, as well as a protective teenage ghost named Mittenwool, until three men on horseback arrive at the family's remote cabin to seize Silas's father. When the kidnappers' white-faced Arabian pony appears a few hours later, Silas is sure his father sent it, and rides off to find him, with Mittenwool reluctantly in tow. In the time-warped Woods, he meets a U.S. marshal tracking three outlaws; Silas, certain that they are the same people who took his father, joins him, en route narrating stories of his family's history and encountering ghosts whom only he can see. Though Silas's "I have made my peace with everything" perspective belies his age, Palacio's cued-white characters are simultaneously crusty and charming in their altruistic bravado, and the blend of rambling western, scientific, and paranormal elements mixed with lingering questions about Silas's father's past will appeal to many as the trio underscores how even unlikely friendships can make for strong bonds. Images made from daguerreotypes serve as chapter heads. Ages 10: up. (Sept.)



#2331862 Better with Butter (Prebound)
written by Victoria Pontek

Twelve-year-old Marvel is afraid of absolutely everything -- amusement park rides, food poisoning, earthquakes, and that big island of plastic floating through the ocean. She also obsesses about smaller worries like making friends, getting called on by the teacher, and walking home alone. 978-1-5364-8079-5 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this heartwarming novel set in Northern California, Piontek (*The Spirit of Cattail County*) conveys the calming and strengthening power of connecting with an animal. Diagnosed with a generalized anxiety disorder, self-proclaimed coward Marvel McKenna views her worries as armor that helps her prepare; "It takes a lot of work to be afraid of everything." When she's not dwelling on global problems, the implied-white sixth grader's mind is filled with worries about making friends, taking tests, and public speaking; including an upcoming presentation in front of the whole school. But after rehearsal for the event makes her freeze on stage, Marvel pushes her fear aside to rescue a baby fainting goat from a group of eighth graders intent on startling it. Marvel's parents agree that she can keep the goat, dubbed Butter, until the owner is found. When she is with the animal, Marvel's anxiety subsides and, for the first time, she feels confident. As a result, Marvel would like Butter to serve as an emotional service animal at school; before that can happen, though, her intimidating principal requires that Butter pass a difficult obedience test. Marvel's honest first-person voice sheds light on an experience of living with chronic anxiety, conveying conflicts and progress with clear internal detail. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Laura Rennert, Andrea Brown Literary. (July)



#2331875 Honestly Elliott (Prebound)
written by Gillian McDunn

Elliott has never had many friends, and he's sure where he fits into his own family, especially since his newly remarried dad and stepmom are expecting a baby. When he's paired with the super-popular Maribel for a school-wide business project, Elliott is a little nervous that they won't see eye to eye. But Maribel is also looking for a new way to show others her true self, and sometimes the least likely friends have the most in common...

978-1-5364-8082-5 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Elliott, who has ADHD, loves cooking, and he's really good at it. When he's creating special dishes, Elliott has no trouble focusing on the tasks at hand, but when it comes to schoolwork and chores, he's easily distracted. In fact, he nearly failed the first semester of sixth grade. His one good friend left town a year ago. His parents are divorced, and his father has remarried. Now that his stepmother is pregnant, Elliott fears that Dad may be shifting away from him and toward his new family. Paired with smart, popular Maribel for a group project, Elliott befriends her. He's surprised to discover that even she has trouble dealing with a condition (celiac disease) that even her friends don't really try to understand. McDunn has a talent for creating sympathetic characters who don't always communicate well with each other. Noting that his father is "trying to squeeze in all the father-son stuff he can before the new baby comes," Elliott's perceptive first-person narrative is frank up to a point, though for dramatic effect, McDunn holds back one revelation for quite a while. This well-paced, heartfelt chapter book offers a lovable main character, a lively supporting cast, and a satisfying conclusion. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine With his ADHD, Elliott feels most at home in the kitchen -- the one place where he isn't "extra-disorganized" and forgetful; the place he feels focused, confident, and decisive. But which kitchen? After his parents' divorce, Elliott and his mother move into "a cozy jumble" of a house with plants everywhere. At his dad and stepmom Kate's house, there are a lot of rules and everything matches. How do you find your true self when your life seems so divided? When super-smart and popular Maribel Martinez agrees to be Elliott's partner for a middle-school group project in Ms. Choi's Advisory period (involving baking gluten-free pies), Elliott knows "this is either the best thing that's ever happened to me or the worst thing that's ever happened to me." But, as it turns out, Maribel is looking for her true self, too, which she has realized is not part of the popular group. They make an odd duo; but through the pie project Elliott comes to realize how lucky he is to have a whole big pie of a community that includes Mom, Dad, Kate, new baby Jonah, Maribel, and other friends, too. This is a slice-of-pie, er, life novel with all the right ingredients for a satisfying read. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A sixth grader's ADHD exacerbates the loss of his best friend, stress of entering a new school, fear of disappointing his father, and anxiety over a new sibling. "Always-late, homework-forgetting, not-many-friends, extra-disorganized" Elliott lives with his positive, supportive mother in their comfortable, welcoming home but spends weekends with his focused, organized father and stepmother in their perfectly redecorated house. Since the recent departure of his best friend, Elliott's ADHD has caused him to nearly fail the first semester of middle school, overreact to his stepmother's pregnancy, upset his father with "The Incident," and start seeing a therapist. Elliott, however, loves cooking, an activity during which he's focused, confident, decisive, and calm. Rejected by the kids he eats lunch with when it's time to work together on a group project to develop and implement a business plan, Elliott unexpectedly ends up paired with Maribel, the smartest girl in class. When Maribel reveals she has celiac disease and Elliott explains his ADHD, they develop a delicious, gluten-free pie recipe--and their friendship blooms. Over time, Elliott applies his culinary skills, opens up about his fears, bonds with his stepmother, and connects with his father. In a droll, engaging, self-effacing, and disarmingly open voice, Elliott narrates his story, providing realistic, firsthand insights into living with ADHD. Elliott and his family read as White; Maribel is cued as Latinx, and names signal ethnic diversity in the supporting cast. A refreshingly honest exploration of family and friendship. (recipes) (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly nds for interrupting and becoming distracted, aspiring chef Elliott, who is white and has ADHD, partners with pe

ectionistic schoolmate Maribel, cued as Latinx, who has celiac disease, to establish a gluten-free pie business for a final school project. Upping he stakes is Elliott's hope of earning enough money selling pies during the year-end festival to reimburse his father for a window broken during The incident; something Elliott refuses to discuss even with his therapist; which he'd otherwise have to fund from the savings he's painstakingly set aside to attend summer cooking camp. The sixth graders' initially rocky partnership gives way to camaraderie and trust as they develop their recipe for a delicious, gluten-friendly product that proves their critics wrong. Interjecting footnotes that mimic the way Elliott's brain processes information, McDunn (*These Unlucky Stars*) offers an affirming and nuanced depiction of empathetic and creative Elliott's experience of ADHD, including the way his executive dysfunction can result in disorganization, impulsivity, resistance to change, and low self-worth. Elliott's relationship with his father, from whom he craves acceptance despite his dad's failure to acknowledge Elliott's specific challenges, is particularly inspiring as the two work toward openness and understanding. Ages 8: 11. Agent: Marietta Zacker, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—A novel full of heart, humor, and honesty. Elliott is your typical kid dealing with his parents' divorce, his best friend moving away, a baby brother being born, not fitting in at his new school, nearly failing sixth grade—and on top of it all, Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder. His passion for cooking drives him to want to do better so he can go to an awesome cooking camp in the summer. When his big school project comes up, he sees it as an opportunity to pay for camp and prove to his dad that cooking is a worthwhile endeavor. But when Elliott's so-called friends refuse to work with him, he ends up making an unexpected ally and convincing her that his cooking skills can get her an A. Elliot is an instantly lovable character, and readers will be hooked from the very first chapter. McDunn provides an honest look into ADHD and normalizes male characters exploring their feelings through therapy, which is a refreshing take on navigating a complicated dad-son relationship. Middle graders will be able to see themselves as Elliot through his various interests and relationships. Those with ADHD may appreciate this reflective text as a glimpse inside the brain of a middle schooler with ADHD. VERDICT This is a must-have for any library servicing middle grade readers; Elliot's struggles are commonplace, and his story is told from a place of warmth and humor, which makes those realities a little less painful and the lessons included easier to digest.—Erin Decker



#2332178 Eden's Everdark (Prebound)

written by Karen Strong

Still grieving the loss of her mother, Eden visits Safina Island, her ancestral home, as a healing balm. But when she discovers an old sketchbook that belonged to her mother, she's haunted by the images she sees drawn there. Days later, exploring the island alone, Eden follows a black cat through a rift in the bright day. She stumbles into Everdark, a parallel world where the sun never rises, where spirits linger between death and the afterlife, and where everything from her mother's drawings is all too real—especially the Witch of Everdark, who wants to make Eden her eternal daughter.

978-1-5364-8109-9 *Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers* ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Eden knows that visiting Safina Island and finally meeting all her mother's family will be painful, but she is also hoping it will help her heal from her mother's recent death. Languid heat, southern coastal island wildness, and perfect drop biscuits are truly balms for her grief but being immediately surrounded by relatives she has never met is a bit overwhelming. She would give anything to get back to them, however, when the distressing images in a journal she found from her mother turn out to be describing a real, cursed parallel world, into which Eden accidentally steps and finds herself trapped. Drawing on her family's ancestral powers will help, as well as a couple of key alliances, but ultimately success comes down to Eden's grit and fierce hold on life. The other spirits in Everdark are all brilliantly developed, each a poignant mix of grief, loneliness, and numbness formed over decades of being in this dark place under the twisted watch of the Witch of Everdark. Even the witch, who calls herself Mother Mary and proclaims herself the loving parent of her ghost daughters, was damaged in life and is seeking impossible remedies for it in death. The island itself reflects the complex metaphorical intersection of Everdark and Safina—built out of the tortured roots of ancestors who were enslaved and then slowly reclaimed and brought into light. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A grieving girl accidentally slips into an alternate magical world inhabited by eerie, mystical creatures from her dead mother's sketchbook. Twelve-year-old Eden is mourning the loss of her mother when she and her father make their first visit to Safina Island, off the coast of Georgia, to meet her maternal relatives. Eden's connection to them is tenuous, mostly consisting of the birthday cards containing pressed flowers sent by her great-aunt; Eden's mother left the island when she was 12 following a bad accident, and she never wanted to return. Eden and her dad are going to participate in the annual celebration honoring the family's purchase of half the island after they received their freedom from slavery. While staying in her mother's childhood room, Eden looks through old boxes in the closet and finds, among the many sketchbooks containing nature drawings, one filled with creepy and terrifying images of a land called Everdark. Eden starts traveling there in her dreams until one day, while following a black cat around the island, she enters a portal, becomes trapped in this world, and must use her own hidden magic to find a way out. The complex narrative portrays multifaceted characters as it weaves together history, magic, and grief. Readers will enjoy the strong pacing along with learning about the island's well-described mythology and root magic. Most characters are Black. A textured,

suspenseful story that traverses an island's timeline and a family's heritage. (Paranormal. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Following her botanist mother's death, 12-year-old Eden Gardener travels with her father to her mother's birthplace, which her mom mysteriously left following a grave injury at age 12. On Safina Island, off the coast of Georgia, Eden meets her extended maternal relations; descendants of the formerly enslaved inhabitants who've owned the north side of the island since the Civil War's end; as they prepare to celebrate the anniversary of purchasing the land. She encounters, too, a bevy of frightening creatures in her mother's childhood sketchbook, including a hauntingly beautiful witch in a spirit world known as Everdark. After passing into Everdark through a dark portal, Eden learns that the Witch of Everdark wants to take Eden as her own daughter; it will require all of Eden's wits, and the magic she inherited from her mother, to escape. Strong (Just South of Home) sets an impeccable scene, imbuing Safina Island with a turbulent history and fully fleshed culture that stands in stark relief to Everdark's opulence. Though interactions can have an RPG feel, undercutting character connection, Strong portrays the island's mythos, and Everdark's extraordinary dangers, to bone-chilling perfection. Ages: 8: 12. Agent: Patrice Caldwell, New Leaf Literary & Media. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--After Eden's mother dies, she travels with her father to Safina Island, GA, to meet her mother's family. Eden's ancestors were enslaved people from the Civil War era who cultivated cotton and sugar cane. After the war, the Gardner family stayed for generations, but Eden and her family have never visited. Eden's mother left the island when she was Eden's age, 12, never to return, though she carried forth the gardening gene, becoming a botanist and professor. When Eden finds her mother's childhood sketchbooks containing island flowers, marshland plants, and animals, she is intrigued. One sketchbook looks to be a dark mirror of Safina Island, with a monster-like dog, a black cat lurking, and stormy oceans and dark skies. Children drawn have deep indigo skin with tiny silver stars, and mouths frozen into eternal screams. A woman drawn is the "Witch of Everdark," and when Aunt Susanna tells Eden her mother created this spirit world from her dreams, Eden feels pulled to discover the truth behind her own nightmares. Eden finds a path into Everdark and, upon entering, realizes there is no way out, and that the witch wishes to claim her spirit. With stunningly descriptive prose, Strong has created two worlds, both Safina Island and the spirit world that entraps Eden. Eden must face her grief bravely, while holding tight to her family and their roots. VERDICT Darkly suspenseful; both readers of fantasy and those looking for a creepy, ghostly tale will find much to keep them rooted in this electric novel.--Michele Shaw Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2332227 Polter-Ghost Problem (Prebound)

written by Betsy Uhrig

Best friends Aldo, Pen, and Jasper are braced for a boring summer. And equally dull summer journal writing assignments. That is, until they see a slightly transparent boy with a bad haircut appear by the soccer field and then disappear into the woods beyond. The boys follow him and discover the long-abandoned Grauche Orphanage for Orphans, a house in the woods that is most definitely haunted.

978-1-5364-8123-5 Margaret K. McElderry ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 740

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews eerie encounters at a long-abandoned orphanage, making for a peculiar "what we did this summer" school project . Aldo Pfefferkuchen, Pen Q. Blaisewell, and Jasper Yi struggle to find interesting things to include in their collective summer journal until a suspiciously pale boy leads them to a moldering building that once housed an orphanage. The trio should be terrified, but the ghost children--yes, there's a group--need help. It's weird that they appear young since most are the spirits of orphans who had moved away and died at ripe old ages. However, they were recently drawn back and trapped there by a poltergeist. Even stranger, the boys discover that the poltergeist is the toddler ghost of a bitter woman who died at over 100 years of age. A diarist and sufferer of verbal diarrhea, Aldo is the designated typist for their group project. His wit shines through as he faithfully describes his friends' personalities and their wildly funny disagreements and dilemmas. It all makes for a laugh-out-loud, high-action read, complete with shrieking and notes in crayon from a frustrated entity trying to communicate about a mystery involving an inheritance and warped family history. Pen's "Useful Index" appears at the end--a humorous nod to a running joke about his fondness for indexes. Oddities abound, as do astute observations about family dynamics and friendships, especially between the boys. Jasper's surname cues him as Korean American; the other boys are minimally described. A-plus entertainment. (Paranormal. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2327236 All Four Quarters of the Moon (Prebound)

written by Shirley Marr

The night of the Mid-Autumn Festival, making mooncakes with Ah-Ma, was the last time Peijing Guo remembers her life being the same. She is haunted by the magical

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95

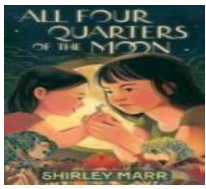


image of a whole egg yolk suspended in the middle like the full moon. Now adapting to their new life in Australia, Peijing thinks everything is going to turn out okay as long as they all have each other, but cracks are starting to appear in the family.

978-1-5364-7992-8 *Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers* ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 860

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* Fans of sisterhood stories are in for a heartfelt treat with this gentle novel centered around family, resilience, and immigration. Two Chinese sisters, 11-year-old Peijing and 5-year-old Biju, find themselves trying to find a new normal after their family relocates from Singapore to Australia for Ba Ba's job. Peijing longs for the familiar, including moon cakes like the ones Ah-Ma would make during the Mid-Autumn Festival back home. But as time goes on, Ah-Ma's memory gets worse and worse, and the family faces a difficult decision. Furthermore, Ma Ma and Ba Ba grapple with adapting to their changing roles. Peijing and Biju also struggle to fit in at their new school and have difficulty with schoolwork due to language challenges. Biju increasingly leans on Peijing for support, who does her best to stay strong for her little sister. Together, they find comfort in Little World, a land made of hand-drawn animals, who are under constant threat of being wiped out by mass extinction. Between each chapter, Chinese mythology presented as a dialogue between the two sisters is beautifully and entertainingly interwoven. Taken from the author's own experiences, the touching characters and relationships in this story will linger with readers for a long time. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books At eleven years old, Peijing Guo is shouldering a lot of responsibility in her traditional Chinese family, serving as a good role model to her younger sister, Biju, while knowing that she'll be caring for Ma Ma and Ba Ba in their old age. With a planned move from Singapore to Australia, however, Peijing is completely out of her element, facing an entirely new set of hardships: acting as an English interpreter for Ma Ma, facing differences in culture and expectations at school, and making sense of Ah Ma's "invisible illness" when she starts to forget her granddaughter's name. Peijing's struggles highlight the nuances of immigration, as she finds her home life and diet to be a frequent source of tension in her new circumstances even as she yearns for the comfort of Chinese traditions and heritage. Interspersed between chapters are Biju's own retellings of myths and fables, offering the sisters a chance to consider elements of Chinese culture as Peijing seeks congruence between the values of what she's been taught and what she learns in Australia. The book closes on a harmonious note, making this an honest, hopeful choice for anyone experiencing extreme cultural differences and needing some reassurance in their new world. NB COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Through tales both familiar and new, two sisters navigate growing up and an international relocation. It is Mid-Autumn Festival time in Singapore, and the Guo family's gathering feels poignant because grandmother Ah Ma, Ma Ma, Ba Ba, and sisters Peijing and Biju are moving to Australia the following day for Ba Ba's new job. As 11-year-old Peijing helps Ah Ma prepare moon cakes, the salted duck egg yolk center symbolizes the moon as the narrative theme interwoven throughout their family's journey during their first year in their new home, through reinterpreted lore and superstitions. When the contents of the sisters' secret Little World--paper-book crafted flora, fauna, landscapes, and a red barn, all housed in a cardboard box--vanish on the morning of their departure, only the paper jade rabbit (a legendary occupant of the moon) is salvaged and with it, the hope of rebuilding their private universe. Contrasting Peijing's anxiety as the eldest child bearing expectations of responsibility, 5-year-old Biju's exuberant, improvisational storytelling centers the sisters' interactions as their lives transform in a new and very different environment. While Peijing finds her voice and makes new friends and Biju shines in the school play, Ah Ma's declining health prompts them to capture memories in the moment. Biju's retold legends are a highlight, showcasing her irreverent humor and demonstrating a self-assured agency that reminds readers of the power of stories' evolution. Subtle contextual clues situate the story in the 1980s. Inventive, ironic retellings frame this folktale-centered family story. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An 11-year-old moving from Singapore to Australia finds normalcy in sisterhood within Marr's (A Glasshouse of Stars) lyrical, Chinese-folktale-twined novel. Finding "the people and the atmosphere and the trees and the space" wildly different in her new home, and trying to fit in at school, Peijing Guo longs for the assurance of established friendships and celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival with homemade mooncakes, an enduring family custom. Her traditional family is having no easier time adjusting: Ma Ma seldom leaves the house, Ba Ba must take on solo parenting, Ah Ma's failing memory causes concern, and five-year-old Biju depends on her sister now more than ever. Amid these adjustments and others, Peijing and Biju's Little World; a miniature crafted universe of paper animals, natural elements, and a red barn in an instant-noodle box; provides comfort and a physical opportunity for them to rebuild. Gentle, observational prose carries the novel's intentionally paced events, folk tale references, organic character growth, and a heartening message of embracing change and impermanence. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Gemma Cooper, Bent Agency. (July)

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2350280 Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen (Prebound)	1	\$23.95



written by Isaac Blum

Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem. That is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary—who happens to be the daughter of the obstinate mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of antisemitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence.

978-1-5364-8217-1 Philomel Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 760

Reviews by: Book Page Fifteen-year-old Yehuda "Hoodie" Rosen and his Orthodox Jewish family, along with many members of their community, have recently moved to Tregaron, Pennsylvania, because the cost of living in their previous town became too expensive. When Hoodie meets Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary, the daughter of Tregaron's mayor, he's instantly smitten. Yet after he and Anna-Marie are spotted cleaning some up antisemitic graffiti together, both Hoodie's father and rabbi forbid him from seeing her again because she isn't Jewish.

Reviews by: Booklist When 15-year-old Hoodie's Orthodox Jewish family moves to a new town along with other families from their tight-knit community. Sadly, they are not made welcome, for the new town, led by the mayor, Monica Diaz-O'Leary, is rife with antisemitism. So isn't it ironic that Anne-Marie, the beautiful girl Hoodie encounters, should turn out to be the mayor's daughter? No matter that he has transgressed against his religion by (a) looking at her and (b) speaking with her, Hoodie is infatuated. Unfortunately, the rebbe and his father are both furious. Things come to a head when three of his friends are attacked while Hoodie is with Anne-Marie. When this is discovered, he is made a pariah. Blum's novel is well plotted, instructive in its portrayal of Orthodox life, and dramatic in its depiction of two communities' tragic misunderstandings. Though the story skews serious, comic relief is found in Hoodie's first-person narration, which invests the book with some much-needed humor. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Along with a small segment of their ultra-Orthodox community, fifteen-year-old Yehuda "Hoodie" Rosen's family has recently moved from their predominantly Jewish town to another place that is less hospitable. Though the mostly non-Jewish locals, including elected officials, eye them with suspicion, Hoodie develops a friendship with Anna-Marie, daughter of the mayor. Accustomed to an isolated way of life, Hoodie (mis)interprets their relationship as romantic. The novel doesn't shy away from questioning attitudes prevalent in this ultra-Orthodox community, including the view by some people of Hoodie's relationship with Anna-Marie as a betrayal. Meanwhile, the antisemitism in town escalates, ultimately building to a violent extreme. But as serious as the subject matter is, there's humor to be found in Hoodie's narration ("You may have pictured me in your mind. If you're going by grossly exaggerated Jewish stereotypes, then you're spot-on. Mazel tov") and in his misunderstandings of the wider world (see: his first time using a smartphone). A sharply written coming-of-age story whose protagonist, like any teen, is figuring out where he fits in, under circumstances that are thought-provoking and at times heart-wrenching. SHOSHANA FLAX

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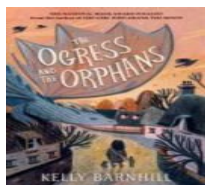
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Along with a small segment of their ultra-Orthodox community, fifteen-year-old Yehuda "Hoodie" Rosen's family has recently moved from their predominantly Jewish town to another place that is less hospitable. Though the mostly non-Jewish locals, including elected officials, eye them with suspicion, Hoodie develops a friendship with Anna-Marie, daughter of the mayor. Accustomed to an isolated way of life, Hoodie (mis)interprets their relationship as romantic. The novel doesn't shy away from questioning attitudes prevalent in this ultra-Orthodox community, including some members' view of Hoodie's relationship with Anna-Marie as a betrayal. Meanwhile, the antisemitism in town escalates, ultimately building to a violent extreme. But as serious as the subject matter is, there's humor to be found in Hoodie's narration ("You may have pictured me in your mind. If you're going by grossly exaggerated Jewish stereotypes, then you're spot-on. Mazel tov") and in his misunderstandings of the wider world (see: his first time using a smartphone). A sharply written coming-of-age story whose protagonist, like any teen, is figuring out where he fits in, under circumstances that are thought-provoking and at times heart-wrenching. Shoshana Flax(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In a town seething over an influx of Orthodox Jews, a yeshiva boy falls in love with the mayor's daughter. Yehuda

"Hoodie" Rosen tells us on Page 1 that his horrible crime ruined his life, humiliated his family, and put him in the ICU--but in some ways, he also thought it was pretty funny. Once you get to know this jokester, you'll believe it; his sharp awareness of the ironies of life and language illuminate every page of this first-person narrative. Hoodie, his parents, and his "numerous and various" sisters have just moved to Tregaron, a fictional town (cued as being near Philadelphia) where his father is involved with building a high-rise intended to house many more Orthodox families. The community's outraged opposition to this is spearheaded by the mayor, Monica Diaz-O'Leary, so it's particularly inconvenient that the first love of Hoodie's 15-year-old life is her daughter, Anna-Marie--who seems to like him back. But after the two attempt to remove the swastikas that have been spray-painted on Jewish gravestones, Hoodie is ostracized by his community and harshly punished for consorting with a non-Jew. Then antisemitism explodes in a violent, ripped-from-the-headlines incident. Blum's engrossing debut explains myriad details of Orthodox Jewish faith and includes Hoodie's questioning of them. Through the brilliant character of Zippy, his wise older sister, Hoodie can see the path to a less constricted but still devout way of living. Anna-Marie's surname cues her ethnic background. Funny, smart, moving, courageous, and so timely it almost hurts. (Fiction. 12-adult) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Blum's immersive debut follows Orthodox Jewish 15-year-old Yehuda "Hoodie" Rosen as he wrestles with forbidden first love in his increasingly hostile, mostly non-Jewish town. Hoodie and his large family have recently moved to a fictional Philadelphia suburb, Tregaron, where his father is overseeing construction of an apartment complex dedicated to housing Orthodox families. Mayor Diaz-O'Leary and the town council, however, oppose the plans, intending to "protect Tregaron's character." Despite stern warnings from Hoodie's father and Yeshiva teacher not to spend time with goyim, Hoodie meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary, the mayor's daughter, who helps him remove swastikas from Jewish gravestones in a local cemetery. When some of Hoodie's friends are attacked while he's hanging out with Anna-Marie, and he is shunned by Jewish peers as a result, Hoodie, hoping to resolve the conflict, plans a dangerous scheme whose consequences reshape their community. Hoodie's sarcasm and complex relationships capably balance renderings of his solemn inner turmoil and society's external pressures and expectations. Blum tackles themes of acceptance and community via an intricately detailed Orthodox Jewish cast and a steadily building anticipatory atmosphere, which enlivens this impressively drawn story. Hoodie and his family read as white; Anne-Marie is Latinx-cued. Ages 12: up. Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Agency. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 8 Up--For Orthodox Jew Hoodie Rosen, the move to a new city has not been all that bad even though the town resents the Jewish people moving into their community and worries about how it changes the status quo. Hoodie's days, though, have stayed pretty much the same--he goes to religious instruction every morning and "regular" school in the afternoon, a school only for members of the Orthodox community. His comfortable existence, only slightly bothered by the conflict in the town, becomes much more difficult when he meets Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary, the daughter of the town's mayor who wants the Jewish people gone. He has an instant attraction to Anna-Maria despite a relationship with her being forbidden by his religion. Hoodie's life takes a difficult turn with the defacing of Jewish graves and a vicious anti-Semitic attack in the community. His relationship with Anna-Maria and his actions that offend the Jewish community result in him being ostracized. This unique coming-of-age story addresses issues of faith and action in a manner that has both light-hearted and very serious moments. Hoodie's gentle rebellion against the constraints of his religion and his family will resound with readers of this relatively short novel who find themselves at odds with those closest to them. Adding to the uniqueness of the book are the easily understandable discussions of Jewish Orthodox beliefs. Hoodie, a nicely developed character, has special appeal because of his thoughtful analysis of what he believes and what he wants from his life. VERDICT A great addition to a diverse book collection for any YA library.--Janet Hilbun Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2346763 Ogress and the Orphans (Prebound)

written by Kelly Barnhill

Stone-in-the-Glen, once a lovely town, has fallen on hard times. Fires, floods, and other calamities have caused the people to lose their library, their school, their park, and even their neighborliness. The people put their faith in the Mayor, a dazzling fellow who promises he alone can help. After all, he is a famous dragon slayer. (At least, no one has seen a dragon in his presence.) Only the clever children of the Orphan House and the kindly Ogress at the edge of town can see how dire the town's problems are.

978-1-5364-8190-7 Algonquin ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 15.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$22.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8 *Starred Review* Barnhill, who won the Newbery Medal for *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* (2016), makes no secret about her latest novel being a response to the current loss of kindness and neighborly values in American society. She applies the same fate to the once-idyllic village of Stone-in-the-Glen, which has been in steep decline since the burning of its library. The tragic loss of this seat of learning has caused the townsfolk to withdraw from public life and regard one another with suspicion. Then the withering of their fruit trees and crops likewise shrivels their impulses to share with their neighbors. This is the place to which readers are transported and meet the happy exceptions to Stone-in-the-Glen's misery: the children of the orphan house, the elderly couple who cares for them, and the Ogress, a shy and generous newcomer on the outskirts of the village. When a misunderstanding surrounding a runaway orphan results in an angry mob unjustly

targeting the Ogress, the orphans know it's up to them to save the day. Barnhill's gift for storytelling immediately draws readers into this character-driven tale where dragons lurk, crows prove great friends, and an unusual narrator relays events with a unique perspective. These fairy-tale trappings cloak modern lessons and timeless ideals that readers will do well to take to heart, no matter their age. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books reat place to live, as a small town where the orphans were well cared for, neighbors elped and shared, and the library was the central place to gather, learn, and grow. Trouble is afoot, though: while the Mayor seems to have driven way the dragons (come to think of it, it is possible there were no dragons before he came) and can enchant (hoodwink) them with his charm, he certainly does not have the good interests of his constituents at heart. Indeed, under his reign the town has become darker, far less kind, and left in disrepair even as more taxes are paid. Only the orphans, a mysterious narrator, and the ogress, who has built a home on the outskirts of town, realize there could be a far better way to live. The reader is immediately tossed into this fantasy, relying on the narrator to explain how life used to be in the town to counter the grim description of how it is now. The Mayor is a fantastic (though loathsome) villain, oozing charisma and evil in equal measures, and in direct contrast is the ogress, who asks permission of the bees to take their honey and secretly shares her baking gifts with the town. While she and the orphans are perhaps just a bit too perfect, they are needed foils against the Mayor, and the good versus evil purity of the story is effective in highlighting key points about the value of generosity and the perils of division. In a thoughtful and vulnerable author's note, Barnhill mentions she was so disheartened by the past handful of years she was uncertain if she would ever publish a book again. It is fortunate that her tinkering with fairy tales and fables helped open a path to this novel that champions kindness in a very dark world. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

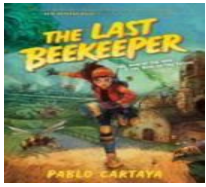
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Stone-in-the-Glen used to be a joyful, cooperative place, but a disastrous library fire ushers in an era of divisiveness and suspicion. In parallel story lines, we learn about the dire situation of an orphanage that has lost its community support and the plight of a gentle ogress who lives on the fringes of town, an outcast. At the center of the plot is an evil mayor -- charismatic, manipulative, and powerful -- who considers the line between truth and lies to be "fuzzy." Offstage are dragons who are, in this world, not only benign but uniquely enlightened. A folksy, discursive first-person narrator (whose identity is the story's final reveal) keeps the tone lighthearted, but there are some genuinely frightening scenes, such as a standoff between an angry mob and the brave orphan who tries to defuse the situation using logic and facts. She fails. Unbowed, she marshals her resources. Can a bitter, irrational, brainwashed populace be brought to the light of reason by individual kindness, libraries, a flock of supportive crows, the gift of delicious pastries, and a "serious girl with long dark braids"? In this story, Barnhill (Newbery winner for *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, rev. 9/16) answers with an energetic affirmative, making it one of the more buoyant of the fictional responses to "the Dark Days of a Certain Administration" and other ills of our time. Sarah Ellis(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A once-idyllic town blames an outsider for its woes. Long ago, a fire claimed Stone-in-the-Glen's beloved Library, which started a sequence of events that eroded all of the nicest things about the town, changing the identity of the place and the townspeople alike as citizens grew suspicious and closed off from one another. When the town fails to support the Orphan House, one orphan runs away so as to not take more resources. Cass is rescued and brought back by the sweet-natured Ogress who lives on a farm at the edge of Stone-in-the-Glen. But her return is spied by a man who misunderstands and thinks the Ogress is abducting children, and the townspeople become riled up against the Ogress by the self-serving, strife-loving Mayor. When the adults won't listen to the children, they must find another way to help their generous neighbor and repair their broken community. The story's told from a broadly omniscient perspective through slow, thoughtful pacing. Readers will make connections before the characters do--especially regarding the true nature of the villain--and they are given narrative assurance of a happy ending. This offers young audiences security as they grapple with nuanced, realistic portrayals of people who are neither all good nor all bad. It also gives them space to form their own opinions on the book's philosophical and thematic questions, including the refrain: "The more you give, the more you have." Main human characters read as White. Combines realistic empathy with fantastical elements; as exquisite as it is moving. (Fantasy. 9-adult) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Before fires claimed its spaces of books and learning, Stone-in-the-Glen was a "lovely town... famous for its trees," its abundance, its close-knit community, and its ample library (where even the librarians' "shushes were lovely"). Following the fires, however, searing light, damaging floods, and anger and rumor become commonplace, and the cued-white human residents retreat behind locked doors and fences, goaded on by a self-interested, isolationist mayor who sows a campaign of suspicion and fear. At the impoverished but love-filled Orphan House, 15 children reside alongside two elderly sweethearts and a fantastical reading room, doing their best to stretch their meager resources. When a "careful and considerate" ogress takes up residence at the town's far edge, cultivating a garden and observing the town's need, she begins delivering nourishing baked goods and boxes of vegetables to the residents overnight. Employing a benevolent, omniscient narrator ("Listen," the voice urges) and a slowly unfurling, deliberately paced telling, Newbery Medalist Barnhill incorporates ancient stories, crow linguistics, and a history of dragonkind into an ambitious, fantastical sociopolitical allegory that asks keen questions about the nature of time, the import of community care, and what makes a neighbor. Ages 10: up. Agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Mar.)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A ragtag band of orphans and a kindhearted ogress fight xenophobia and cynicism with empathy and love in this bewitching fairytale-style fantasy from Newbery Award-winner Kelly Barnhill (*The Girl Who Drank the Moon*).

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2346755 **Last Beekeeper (Prebound)**

1

\$20.95

written by Pablo Cartaya

In a future shaken by climate disasters, Yolanda Ciceron knows that nature is something to be feared. From the crops that don't grow to the terrifying creatures that roam the countryside, Yoly's life in the Valley is brutal and harsh. She dreams of leaving her farm to live in Silo—the most advanced town for miles around. But first, Yoly will need to prove she belongs in a place where only the smartest and most useful are welcomed.

978-1-5364-8194-5 HarperCollins Publishers ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8 Award-winning author Cartaya has written a thrilling sf story set in a world almost destroyed by the effects of climate change. Yolanda Cicerón always planned on leaving behind the family finca and working at Silos, the most technologically advanced city. When the farm cannot produce ripe strawberries to sell and her sister can no longer afford to pay for Yolanda's tuition, Mayor Blackburn offers to help—but with the mayor, everything comes at a price. Soon after, Yolanda reads through her grandmother's journal and discovers what is now the last-known beehive. These pollinating insects may be the key to freeing her from the grasp of Mayor Blackburn and uncovering the dark truth about Silos and the disappearance of her family. The Last Beekeeper raises powerful questions about a possible future if efforts of environmental preservation fail. A middle-grade dystopian story with well-written female characters and interesting world building, this appealing title teaches readers that one person can make all the difference in creating positive change. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Twelve-year-old Yolanda Ciceron dreams of escaping her rustic life for the technology-enhanced metropolis of Silo, but earning a spot in the city requires an intense education and a lot of money. Yoly is close to reaching her goal: after she completes one final course, she can apprentice under a top surgeon, become a doctor, and make sure that she and her older sister, Cami, never struggle financially again. When she learns that Cami does not have the money to pay for the course, Yoly is devastated. However, a well-known benefactor alerts her to a scholarship that would cover her tuition. Yoly jumps at the chance, but she neglects to read the fine print. In accepting the scholarship, she unknowingly agrees to pay off her debt through two years of hard labor in the blighted wasteland beyond Silo's walls. Desperately seeking freedom from the contract, Yoly and Cami begin a life-altering adventure. They uncover schemes of capitalistic greed, expose Silo's evils, and learn that connectivity is interpersonal, not just technological. Cartaya (Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish, rev. 9/18; Each Tiny Spark) has created a portrait of familial and communal love set against a backdrop of a world destroyed by climate change. Perfect for readers interested in dystopian literature and climate fiction, this is a stirring exploration of the connections between technology, nature, and humanity. S. R. Toliver(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In a dystopian future ravaged by climate change, a 12-year-old tech genius must save her community from an evil government. Raised on her family's strawberry farm in the Valley, Yolanda Cicerón, who has Cuban roots, aspires to become a neurolink surgeon, install computer chips in human skulls, and live in Silo, the most developed city around. But Camila, Yoly's older sister and her guardian since their parents' exile, can't afford the tuition. After Yoly secretly accepts a scholarship from Silo's Mayor Blackburn to fund her studies—against Cami's explicit wishes—she realizes the scholarship's terms require her to go on Retreat, a life-threatening mission in territory plagued by extreme weather disasters. Terrified, Cami finally shares secret family history that explains her mistrust of the mayor. Yoly belatedly understands that the System that purportedly keeps everyone safe from nature is actually oppressive and is spying on them. Looking for a way to pay off the scholarship and avoid the Retreat, Yoly and Cami discover a honeybee colony on their farm and recognize that the bees can pollinate fields and thereby reduce people's dependence on Silo. But questioning and innovation are dangerous under an authoritarian regime, and when people dear to Yoly are taken away, she must fight to save them and bring down the whole corrupt System. Readers will root for Yoly, who is as kind and brave as she is smart, in this page-turning story that deals with all-too-relevant themes. An insightful, action-packed, and thought-provoking adventure. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Yoly" Ciceron has never known life without the System that connects everyone and everything around her. After climate disasters plunged the world into darkness, Silo; "the most connected and technologically advanced town in the Valley"; rise up as a beacon of hope, keeping people safe from nature's brutal forces. Yoly dreams of living there, among the brightest and most privileged minds, instead of on her family's struggling strawberry farm with her overbearing older sister. But her ambitions are jeopardized when money becomes too tight for Yoly to continue her Technologically Intuitive Education. Determined to enroll by any means possible, she accepts a scholarship from the mayor that hinges on attending a deadly scavenging program, then stumbles into a bee colony; and a dangerous conspiracy. Cartaya's quick-moving plot pairs well with Yoly's lively voice, highlighting themes of resistance, communal and ecological interdependence, and a shared responsibility to nature that's sure to leave readers buzzing. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jess Regel, Foundry Literary + Media. (July)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Cartaya's newest novel gives readers a dynamic, plot-driven story with heart. Set in the future after climate disasters and constant virtual connectivity have altered the way of life, the plot centers Yoly Cicerón, who wants to go to school to become a surgeon—not a farmer in the Valley like her exiled parents. After accepting a scholarship from the powerful Silo without reading the fine print, Yoly soon realizes that all of the connectivity is just another way for a few affluent people to control impoverished families like hers and keep them in debt. After discovering their abuela's writings about the fabled bees and their importance in pollination, Yoly and her older sister Cami go on a mission to revitalize their family farm, clear their debts, and save the Valley from the Silo. Readers will find Yoly authentic and endearing even

when she makes rash decisions. The depiction of Latinx culture intertwined with the culture of the Valley and the Silo bring necessary texture to the plot. The relationships Yoly builds and her realizations about the beauty of connecting with people in-person happens naturally. While some of the motivation of the villains falls a little flat at the end, the purpose of the hero remains, and ultimately sparks conversation about our own climate crisis. An action-packed adventure that reflects our own mistakes and predicts our fears for the future. Similar titles include Jeanne DuPrau's *The City of Ember* and Rodman Philbrick's *The Last Book in the Universe*. VERDICT Highly recommended for middle school readers who enjoy dystopian adventures and science.—Hilary Tufo



#2346530 Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen (Prebound)

written by Kate McGovern

Maple Mehta-Cohen has been keeping a secret: she can't read all that well. She has an impressive vocabulary and loves dictating stories into her recorder—especially the adventures of a daring sleuth who's half Indian and half Jewish like Maple herself—but words on the page just don't seem to make sense to her.

978-1-5364-8162-4 Candlewick Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 650

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleven-year-old Maple Mehta-Cohen loves words. She loves hearing her father read books aloud to her before bedtime, and she loves dictating her own stories into the digital voice recorder that she keeps in her pocket at all times—she dreams up mysteries about a sleuth called Mira Epstein-Patel. Maybe that's why it took until fifth grade for a teacher to finally notice that Maple has serious struggles with reading. After screening tests reveal that she exhibits characteristics of dyslexia, Maple learns that, unlike her best friends, she is going to have to repeat the fifth grade. Although her friends assure her that nothing has to change between them, on the first day of school, they ignore her. In her new fifth grade classroom, Maple tries to connect with people, but her attempts are tripped up by her embarrassment, and she lies about why she's been held back. Struggling with her friendships and her self-esteem, Maple wonders who she's become—and how she can get back to being her old self, a person that she once truly loved. Maple's narratorial voice is frank and quirky, and her journey with coming to terms with her learning disability is layered, believable, and well researched. Maple has a White Jewish mother and an Indian father who coined the term Hin-Jew to describe her. The book repeatedly references her Indian identity, but her Jewish side is less developed. A layered, utterly readable novel about a biracial protagonist grappling with dyslexia. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Connection “Adventure abounds and develops into a solid story for students who struggle with reading. Ultimately this is a story to share with all as Maple’s reading struggles are revealed to be a result of dyslexia, allowing this title to serve as a talking point regarding the need to show acceptance and understanding for students who struggle with reading and learning. This story deserves a place in many school libraries!”

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—Maple Mehta-Cohen has a secret, and she has worked hard to make sure no one finds out. Maple loves to tell, and spends much of her time dictating, her stories about her half-Indian, half-Jewish sleuth into her recorder. But despite her storytelling ability and expansive vocabulary, Maple doesn't know how to read. Her teacher thought it best for Maple to repeat fifth grade so that she can get help with reading. But Maple is not sure about this plan. It means leaving her two best friends, Aislinn and Marigold, and having everyone wonder why she is still in fifth grade. When the school year starts, things aren't better. Maple's teacher asks her to help new kid Jack learn his way around the school, plus she must go to Ms. Fine's group—the one that is for students who can't read. When Jack asks why Maple is still in fifth grade, the lies start, and Maple isn't sure she can stop. She is caught telling stories to her new friends in her reading group, trying to keep her old friends who don't seem to want to spend time with a fifth-grader, and staying true to herself. Though poignant, with so many different things happening, the novel doesn't really get to the depth of Maple's reading struggles, or her issues with friends, leaving the ending feeling unresolved. VERDICT For young people who struggle with reading or feeling different because of other academic issues, Maple is a welcome protagonist.—Rebekah Buchanan, Western Illinois Univ., Macomb



#2346767 Meet Me Halfway (Prebound)

written by Anika Fajardo

Mattie Gomez feels directionless after being uprooted from her beloved Minnesota and forced to move in with her new stepfamily in California. So when she meets a girl at her new middle school who looks exactly like her, she's not sure what to make of it. But her doppelganger, the popular Mercedes Miller, doesn't like it one bit. Mercedes is used to getting what she wants, when she wants; Mattie would rather be invisible and blend into the background.

978-1-5364-8183-9 Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 288

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist When classmates Mattie and Mercedes discover they are actually half sisters, it isn't exactly celebratory news. The girls, while they look similar, are polar opposites, and the road to friendship is rocky. But when their curiosity and determination to find their mutual Colombian dad wins out, the girls must work through their differences and join together to finally learn more about their mysterious, absent dad—and meet him. Along the way, as Mattie adjusts to her new home in California and complex stepfamily dynamics, Mercedes realizes her luxurious life is devoid of meaning if she doesn't have genuine friends to share it with, and the girls' rivalry develops into a sort of camaraderie. Fajardo's narrative captures middle-school nostalgia, relatably reflecting the swirl of emotions students typically feel when trying to form friendships, be popular, or find a group to be accepted into. With its grit, humor, voice, and heart, this novel will reach readers who struggle to find peace in their families—biological or chosen.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Half sisters concoct a Parent Trap: tinged plan in this heartwarming novel from Fajardo (What If a Fish). When seventh grader Matilde "Mattie" Gomez is uprooted from Minnesota to live with her new stepfamily in California, she doesn't expect to meet her doppelganger on the first day of class. Mercedes Miller is one of the school's most popular girls, and she knows more than she's telling about why she and Mattie are nearly identical: they're half sisters. Despite sharing a father; and a face; they couldn't be more socially different: anxious Mattie disappears into the background both at school and in her bustling new family; prickly Mercedes, meanwhile, thrives in the spotlight, each night returning to an empty house populated only by a nanny and younger half brother. Neither has met their Colombian father, an anthropologist, and when they learn he's a visiting professor at a nearby college, they collaborate in order to meet him, sneaking out of a school field trip, dodging security guards, and getting caught in a student protest. Mattie's and Mercedes's alternating narration follows their individual internality, skillfully exploring variations on family complexity to culminate in a satisfying novel of sisterhood. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Thao Le, Sandra Dijkstra Literary. (Sept.)



#2350445 Elatsoe (Prebound)
written by Darcie Little Badger

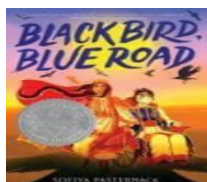
Elatsoe lives in this slightly stranger America. She can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her Lipan Apache family. Her beloved cousin has just been murdered, in a town that wants no prying eyes. But she is going to do more than pry. The picture-perfect facade of Willowbee masks gruesome secrets, and she will rely on her wits, skills, and friends to tear off the mask and protect her family.

978-1-5364-8240-9 Levine Querido ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$24.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Indigenous myths, modern-day technology, and the supernatural successfully blend to build a fast-paced murder mystery in Little Badger's intriguing solo debut. After 17-year-old, asexual Ellie's older cousin Trevor is fatally injured in an apparent car accident, he comes to her in a dream, identifying his killer and begging her to protect his family. Lipan Apache Ellie, named for her "heroic ancestor"; her maternal sixth-great-grandmother, Elatsoe, now known as "Six-Great"; has inherited from her the gift of waking and training ghosts, and sets out to reveal the accident as a crime and unmask the killer. Accompanied by her faithful sidekick, the ghost of her dead dog Kirby, her loyal friend, "white Celtic-and-Nordic-American" cheerleader Jay, and actively supported by her understanding parents, Ellie battles with ghosts, vampires, and exorcists in a series of suspenseful confrontations; including a descent into an underworld of trilobite fossils; that increase in intensity and eventually solidify her place in her strong maternal lineage of Native protectors. Cai's grayscale spot illustrations imbue the book with shadowy breath and movement, bringing a lyrical undertone to the energetic plot and multifaceted, refreshing voice. Ages 12: up. Author's agent: Michael Curry, Donald Maass Literary. (Aug.)



#2350462 Black Bird, Blue Road (Prebound)
written by Sofiya Pasternack

Pesah has lived with leprosy for years, and the twins have spent most of that time working on a cure. Then Pesah has a vision: the Angel of Death will come for him on Rosh Hashanah, just one month away. So Ziva takes her brother and runs away to find doctors who can cure him. But when they meet and accidentally free a half-demon boy, he suggests paying his debt by leading them to the fabled city of Luz, where no one ever dies—the one place Pesah will be safe.

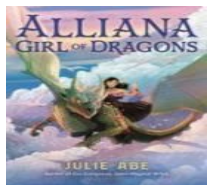
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.95

Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Ziva bet Leah and her twin, Pesah, are growing up in eleventh-century Khazar (an ancient Jewish empire located in present day Ukraine) where their father is a judge. Because Pesah suffers from Hansen's disease (leprosy), his parents have decided to send him away, prompting Ziva and Pesah to run away in search of a cure. Their journey is perilous; they are kidnapped and encounter magical sheydim, the Angel of Death, and a Milcham (phoenixlike bird), but throughout, Ziva remains determined to save her brother's life. Pasternak's historical fantasy weaves Jewish mythology and traditions into this heroine's journey that asks readers to contemplate issues of life and death. Readers will be intrigued by the ravens that follow Pesah everywhere, the details of the city of Luz (where no one dies), and Pesah's vision that the Angel of Death will visit him on Rosh Hashanah. This works as an adventure, but it should also prompt discussions about the ethics of preserving life at all costs.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In the Jewish empire of Khazaria, twelve-year-old Ziva is the only one willing to go near her twin brother, Pesah, who has leprosy (with symptoms described in vivid detail, as are the amputations Ziva performs). A vision Pesah shares with Ziva prompts her to take him on a quest to Byzantium to find a cure, or fight the Angel of Death, or both. The twins encounter figures from Jewish folklore, notably a sheyd (demon) and the aforementioned angel, presented as rounded characters who discuss and debate the nature of mortality with Ziva as she struggles to accept her impending loss with much more fury than Pesah himself has. Pasternack (Anya and the Dragon) writes with a storyteller's cadence without sacrificing liveliness, keeping emotions front and center ("She'd jab the Angel of Death in every single one of its eyeballs if that meant keeping Pesah safe"). Back matter includes a glossary and an afterword that discusses Khazaria, "for the most part...faded from memory," and how even elements of this story beyond the obvious fantasy ones are "just my imagining. And who knows? Maybe, twelve hundred years ago, a girl and her brother really did meet a demon and resist the Angel of Death on the steppe." Ziva and her community (anachronistically) consider her a responsible bat mitzvah now that she's twelve, and her stubborn insistence on taking on far too much is believable and affecting. Shoshana Flax September/October 2022 p.94(c) Copyright 2022. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews For years Ziva bat Leah's quest to cure her twin brother Pesah's leprosy has consumed their lives. When his health worsens, their parents arrange for him to be taken to a colony. But after Pesah has a celestial vision at their birthday party indicating that he will die on Rosh Hashanah, Ziva decides they must run away. Along with Almas, a sheydim, or demon, she rescues, they travel to the city of Luz, the only place the Angel of Death can't go. Pasternack's story is rich in the rhythms, values, and deep magic of Jewish culture and life in the Turkic Jewish empire of Khazaria. It revels in an often overlooked mythology, deploying exciting fantasy elements with ease. Ziva struggles with her fiery nature—stubbornness that is also an intense desire for justice. Her single-minded focus on saving Pesah blinkers her to the inevitability of death and the complexities of both their own fears and needs as she comes to understand them. Pesah is brilliant and gentle, kindhearted Almas faces prejudice for his demon nature, and the three form a charming traveling trio even amid fear and pain. More than simply an adventure, this is a story about grief and illness and arguing with the rules of the world, enduring and enjoying the living that happens between now and the end, threaded through with the profound, unshakeable love of two brave siblings. Propulsive, wise, and heartbreaking. (afterword, glossary) (Historical fantasy. 9-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this dazzling historical fantasy, Pasternack (the Anya and the Dragon duology) tells of a tender sibling bond set in the little-known medieval Jewish empire of Khazaria. In the city of Atil, newly 12-year-old Ziva bat Leah is desperate to keep her brilliant, beloved twin brother, Pesah, from dying of leprosy. Inventive Pesah is kept in a house of his own on the Jewish family's property, but when the siblings' doctor uncle recommends that Pesah be sent to a far-flung colony, Ziva packs the siblings up and hits the road, hoping to find a cure. They soon meet up with a half-sheydim boy with whom they travel, but they're racing against time, and the long journey is shadowed quite literally by Malach hamavet; the Angel of Death himself. Pasternack shows how Ziva's love of justice drives her, while depicting a world in which spirits are manifest, healers come in many forms, and a bold girl can literally bargain with the Angel of Death. Tenderly rendering Ziva's feelings of responsibility; including around Pesah's physical care and amputating his infected fingers and toes; Pasternack imagines a rich, omen-filled journey that powerfully shows love and its limits. A contextualizing afterword and glossary conclude. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Agency. (Sept.)



#2366639 Alliana, Girl of Dragons (Prebound)
written by Julie Abe

Once upon a time, Alliana believed in dreams and fairy tales as sweet as spun-sugar clouds. Alliana wished on shooting stars, sure that someday she and her grandmother would be able to travel to the capital city to see the queen. Then her grandmother passed away—and those dreams disappeared in a disenchanted puff.

978-1-5364-8369-7 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2370321 Always, Clementine (Prebound)

written by Carlie Sorosiak

Clementine is different from other mice: she can calculate the speed of light and she dreams in Latin. The scientists say she's a genius and put her through test after test. Clementine is proud of being a good lab mouse, but she's lonely. Her only snatches of friendship occur during her late-night visits with a chimpanzee named Rosie. When a compassionate lab technician frees Clementine, the mouse discovers an outside world full of wonders: Brussels sprouts, games of speed chess, television fame, and a chance for a real home. But for Clementine, it's not enough to be free when she knows that Rosie and the other mice are not.

978-1-5364-8399-4 Walker Books US ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 500

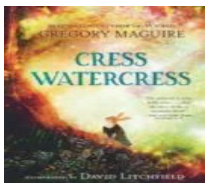
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 The escape-from-the-lab premise is a favorite within the animal-fantasy genre, but Sorosiak keeps it fresh in her latest endeavor. Mousenapped rather than escaped, Clementine has found herself and another lab mouse snatched from their cage and left in a stranger's mailbox with a note entreating whomever finds them to "please protect these mice." That's how a boy named Gus and his grandfather become their unwitting guardians. Experiments with mouse DNA have resulted in genius-level intelligence in Clementine, making her a bright yet naive narrator for this tale. Relayed through a series of imagined letters to her chimp friend, Rosie, Clementine describes the bonkers scheme devised by Gus and Pop to elicit support for keeping her from being returned to the lab--a televised chess game with Clementine facing a series of human opponents. It's a big-hearted endeavor that pulls in an eccentric cast of side characters who are immensely entertaining. Landing somewhere between Katherine Applegate's *The One and Only Ivan* (2012) and James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein's *Word of Mouse* (2016), this sweet-spirited adventure will easily find fans. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews "Serious themes lightened by comedic touches; the strong emotional attachments will linger with readers."

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Genius rodent Clementine finds her purpose with the help of friends and the game of chess in Sorosiak's (I, Cosmo) heartfelt, adventure-filled tale. Due to altered DNA, Clementine shines in the lab, where researchers posit that she "could be the smartest mouse in history." She dreams in Latin, solves mathematical equations, and understands humans' speech. She also makes her first friend, fellow caged lab denizen Rosie, a gentle, curious chimpanzee. Clementine's life is upended when a compassionate junior researcher stealthily liberates her and another mouse, Hamlet, to the nearby mailbox of Pop, the kindly host of local TV program Pop's Hobbies. That's where she's discovered by 11-year-old Gus, Pop's lively and thoughtful grandson, who earnestly promises his protection. Via a series of sensorially written, stirring, and by turns funny and suspenseful imaginary letters to Rosie, Clementine relates her experiences out in the wide world, where Gus, Pop, and a televised game of chess stand to save her from a grim fate back at the lab, which has offered a reward for her return. Maintaining a strong emotional core through Clementine's voice, Sorosiak explores themes; including animal cruelty, duty, empathy, and intelligence; with a deft, light touch. Human characters largely read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Connection "Sorosiak successfully allows the reader to get to know the characters through these letters while still telling a story full of adventures and bravery." *This is the third starred review for *Always, Clementine* (PW, Kirkus)*

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2370322 Cress Watercress (Prebound)

written by Gregory Maguire

When Papa doesn't return from a nocturnal honey-gathering expedition, Cress holds out hope, but her mother assumes the worst. It's a dangerous world for rabbits, after all. Can a dead tree full of annoying neighbors, and no Papa, ever be home?

978-1-5364-8400-7 Candlewick Press ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 5.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 After her father fails to return home from a foraging trip, Cress (a young rabbit) sadly moves out of the family burrow with her mom and baby brother, Kip. Their new home? The Broken Arms, a forest creatures' version of a rundown apartment building, housed in a hulking dead tree and presided over by a haughty owl landlord. Other residents include a lively family of squirrels, an old mouse couple, and a pair of songbirds. Maguire gives them all strongly defined characters, but however charming, they don't live charmed lives. Cress' mother is stressed over making rent (10 dead moths per day) and Kip's fragile health, while Cress refuses to accept that her father is gone for good,

hates their tiny basement apartment, and longs to be seen more as a grown-up. A hungry fox, a sneaky snake, a blundering bear, and "human beanpoles" add drama and suspense to Cress' mini adventures, which are luminously depicted in Litchfield's color illustrations. Despite dark undertones, this novel of family and friendship will please fans of animal fantasies. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book "Dark and shimmering full-color digital illustrations build on the text's singular atmosphere... With its brisk plot, witty details, and thought-provoking concepts, this gloriously illustrated chapter book makes an ideal family read-aloud."

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this richly imagined woodland adventure, a grieving rabbit family -- Mama, Cress, and baby Kip (with stuffed carrot "Rotty" always in tow) -- must leave their comfortable warren to start over without their lost Papa. Their new life gets off to an inauspicious start. Mama loses the map to Mr. Owl's tree, the "Broken Arms," home of their tiny new basement flat; and they must avoid hungry foxes and a snake disturbingly (and hilariously) known as the "Final Drainpipe." Everyone the rabbits encounter -- from the outlandishly selfish skunk, Lady Agatha Cabbage, who wears a surly chinchilla around her neck, to the mix of residents in and around the Broken Arms -- is well drawn, making for a memorable cast of creatures who sometimes quarrel but always look out for any neighbor in need. Dark and shimmering full-color digital illustrations build on the text's singular atmosphere. While the moon waxes and wanes, Cress launches herself into precarious predicaments in every chapter as she cycles through waves of grief, irritability, kindness, loneliness, and bravery. As Mama observes: "But, my darling Cress, the moon will grow back. It comes and goes. Just like sorrow." The rabbits settle into the rhythm of their imperfect but warm new community as the narrative deftly coaxes readers to a place of empathy for each character, including those who initially seemed forbidding or unlikable. With its brisk plot, witty details, and thought-provoking concepts, this gloriously illustrated chapter book makes an ideal read-alone or family read-aloud. Julie Roach(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Maguire's narrative offers wry puns, rich vocabulary, and entertaining dialogue, and Litchfield's glowing, slightly stylized, full-color illustrations present an enchanting, magical peek into this woodland world... Warmhearted and utterly charming.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Maguire (Egg and Spoon) interweaves familiar elements of the animal story; a cozy family, a treacherous woodland, mourning, and growing pains; into a surreal episodic narrative. Grieving the loss of Papa Watercress, who "went out and didn't come back," rabbit child Cress, her little brother Kip, and their mother abandon their warren for new digs in "an apartment tree" known as the Broken Arms, where landlord Mr. Owl demands rent paid in moths. Upstairs are superintendent mice, boisterous squirrels, and songbirds alert for predators such as legendary snake "the Final Drainpipe" and fox Monsieur Reynard. Maguire channels multiple children's literary golden ages, with allusions to Beatrix Potter and Kenneth Grahame alongside nonsense notes of Norton Juster and Russell Hoban. Theatrical situations abound, as from conniving skunk Lady Agatha Cabbage; who wants to gain Cress as a "housemaid"; and her scene-stealing live-chinchilla stole. Super-saturated panels by Litchfield (The Bear and the Piano), which resemble backlit stained glass, picture the forest and its denizens in glowing hues and shadowy black. Suitable for sharing and reading aloud, this exuberant tale revels in the performative and the flavor of language. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Moses Cardona, John Hawkins and Assoc. Illustrator's agent: Anne Moore Armstrong, Bright Agency. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--When Maguire (Wicked) and illustrator Litchfield merge their creative geniuses, a spectacular woodland adventure full of quirky animal characters emerges. Cress, the "teenage" bunny of the family, along with Mama, and baby brother Kip (with his ever in tow, stuffed carrot Rotty), are sad to leave their warren without their beloved missing Papa. They arrive at Mr. Owl's rotten tree, "The Broken Arms," and attempt to start over in a tiny basement flat. The woodland setting is visually stunning, with Litchfield's enchanting full-color illustrations, bringing the motley crew of animal characters to life. There's Lady Agatha Cabbage, the snooty chinchilla-wearing skunk and Tunk the Honeybear, and they must always watch out for "Final Drainpipe," the snake. Maguire is a master of telling a fast-moving adventure full of wry humor, with memorable multidimensional characters to cheer both for and against. Young Cress encounters heart-stopping dangers and adventures, while the creative duo of Maguire and Litchfield weave symbolism and beautiful imagery throughout the text. Cress will appeal to most readers, who will be able to identify with that awkward in-between time during one's youth when they are wishing for independence from their family, while still very much needing them for comfort. VERDICT Reminiscent of Winnie the Pooh and The Wind in the Willows, this makes a scrumptious read-aloud or standalone story that will be beloved for years to come.--Michele Shaw Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95



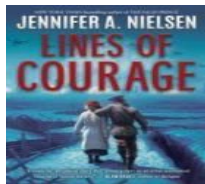
#2366581 **Awake (Prebound)**
written by **Christopher Krovatin**

In this family, pyrokinesis was just the beginning. Now other powers are emerging, including telekinesis -- and it will put the siblings at odds like never before.
978-1-5364-8349-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleven-year-old Simon Theland is exhausted; his family's been on the run for a year and a half while fleeing his pyrokinetic oldest sister, Rachael, who set fire to their house and school. Simon's rest is regularly disturbed by dreams of his house burning down. But one night, the nightmare unfolds differently--hands pull him through the open refrigerator door into a whole new world. There, Rachael isn't

the only one with special powers, and Simon meets and becomes friends with Lena Oneiro, a quiet girl from his history class who's the target of bullies. Soon Simon, Lena, and Aly, the middle Theland sibling, connect in real life and begin talking about their powers. But when Rachael appears with a dangerous crew of teens in tow, Simon, Aly, and Lena must work to keep the flames at bay. This sequel to *Ablaze* (2023) is an entertaining and emotional ride told from Simon's third-person perspective. Readers will sympathize with his plight as the youngest child. Simon struggles to comprehend and use his superpowers responsibly, reflecting middle school kids' burgeoning emotions and identities, and those navigating social difficulties will relate to his desire to be understood. The sibling dynamics also shine, and Simon's parents grapple with seeing who their children really are: a relatable feeling, no matter what your superhero status is. Main characters read white. A satisfying portrayal of budding superheroes who are grappling to do what's right. (Paranormal thriller. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Simon, 11, is hiding out with his family from his dangerous older sister Rachael, a pyrokinetic who can start fires with her mind in this suspenseful psychological thriller, the sequel to *Ablaze*. A year and a half ago, Rachael tried to kill her family by burning down their house. This was retaliation for Simon injuring her as he tried to stop her from setting the fires that Rachael blamed on their sister Aly, also a pyrokinetic. Simon can mentally enter people's minds and push them to do things. When he sees two siblings bullying classmate Lena, called *Zombie* by everyone because of her expressionless face and slow gait, Simon uses his powers to get them to leave her alone. When he reaches into Lena's mind he realizes she's different, like him. She's a somnopath, able to infiltrate and shape people's dreams. She helps Simon enter Rachael's dreams to try to locate her. When they do find her, she's with others like her--Joyce, an energy parasite, and Colin, a cyberpath--and they want to "own the world." Will Simon and Lena be able to stop them? Simon's struggle to understand and use his powers is relatable and his friendship with the shrewd Lena is authentic. Despite a lack of character depth, the family dynamics are well realized, particularly Simon's complicated relationship with Aly. Characters default to white. VERDICT The twisty plot, explosive action, sympathetic characters, and scary cover will hook readers, while the open-ended conclusion will ensure they return for the next installment.--Sharon Rawlins Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2366584 Lines of Courage (Prebound)

written by Jennifer A. Nielsen

World War I stretches its cruel fingers across Europe, where five young people, each from different backgrounds and nations, face the terror of battle, the deprivations of hunger, and all the awful challenges of war. None of them will find exactly what they want. But the winds of fate may cross their paths to give each of them just what they need. And in this remarkable exploration of World War I by critically acclaimed author Jennifer A. Nielsen, they will discover that friendship and courage can light the way through the most frightening of nights.

978-1-5364-8350-5 Scholastic Press ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

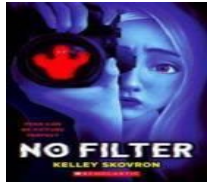
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 What does it mean to have courage? Nielsen (*Words on Fire*, 2019) examines this question through the stories of five tweens in the midst of WWI, offering varied perspectives and showing children caught on each side of the war. There is Felix, a Jewish boy in Austria-Hungary whose family must find a way to survive; Kara in Great Britain, volunteering with the Red Cross; Juliette in France, who is trying to save her imprisoned father; Dimitri, a Russian soldier; and Elsa, a girl from Germany. Over the course of five years, their lives will become interconnected in ways they never thought possible. Nielsen doesn't shy away from the terrors of war and writes about survival in an accessible way for young readers. While the main characters may suffer loss, ultimately their stories are of hope and having the courage to stand up for what you believe is right, even in the face of the most dire circumstances. A riveting historical tale. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Five teenagers from across Europe lead coincidentally intersecting lives during World War I. The day that 12-year-old Felix witnesses the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, everything changes. His father goes to war, and Felix loses the relative safety afforded to Jews in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His city is invaded by imperial Russia, and the Jews and Roma of Lemberg might be shipped to internment camps. With the help of Elsa, a German girl, Felix and his mother escape. Though they go their separate ways, Felix and Elsa will meet again, along with British Kara, French Juliette, and Russian Dimitri. Kara wants to be a doctor and works as an orderly on a Red Cross train, Juliette seeks her lost family, and Dimitri is a miserable soldier in the trenches. The chain of coincidences that repeatedly bring these teens into each other's lives is increasingly improbable until they resolve five years later, on the last day of the war to end all wars. While the events are packed with historical facts, the overall framing feels ahistorical: the British are kind, competent rescuers; to be a good German requires being opposed to one's countrymen; and a Russian sees "freedom" from both the tsar and Lenin in the land-mined French countryside. Adventures across a massive war and pandemic make for a tidy tribute to common understanding. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Nielsen (*Words on Fire*) presents a history of WWI from the perspectives of five young people; each representing

an empire of that era; whose stories slowly converge. Opening with Austro-Hungarian Felix Baum, a Jewish 12-year-old who witnesses the June 1914 assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the novel quickly introduces 11-year-old Elsa Dressler, daughter of a German major, and continues with the experiences of Kara Webb, a British nurse's daughter working with her mother on a Red Cross ambulance train. Kara eventually crosses paths with Juliette Caron, a French girl separated from her family, who hopes to get her father released from prison. When Juliette finds wounded Russian Dimitri Petrenko, 14, she tends to his injuries until he can return to his company. The engrossing plot abounds with necessary, if just-credible, coincidences that build connections between the five as they live through battles, bombings, and occupations; each one growing in courage and compassion while maturing over four years of wartime. All characters cue as white. An author's note contextualizes WWI's beginnings. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (May)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness The brutality and complexity of World War I is expressed in



#2366592 No Filter (Prebound)

written by Kelley Skovron

Janessa "Jinx" McCormick loves photography because it's like real life, except she can make it perfect. Using her late father's camera, Jinx takes photos for nearly everyone in her small town of Greenbelt, making her something of a local celebrity. But one day as she's touching up a new photo, Jinx sees something in the background of the image.

A shadow that she's certain wasn't in the frame when she captured the shot.

978-1-5364-8352-9 Scholastic, Incorporated ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Amateur photographer Janessa "Jinx" McCormick makes an eerie discovery through her camera lens. It's summer in Greenbelt, Maryland, located just outside Washington, D.C., and 12-year-old Jinx is busy taking photographs for local businesses, various cosplayers, and a friend who wants to break into acting. What starts off as an inexplicable smudge on all the photos she's taken eventually turns into something much more sinister. Along with the light horror elements, a parallel thread explores Jinx's mental health while she struggles with OCD in the wake of her father's death. This struggle is the most powerful part of the novel, more suspenseful and compelling than the spooky elements. Readers will be more curious about what happened to both Jinx's father and mother and what she's keeping bottled up in therapy than what's causing the smudges on her photographs. Jinx is a richly drawn, well-imagined character, mature in many ways and yet somehow still very young. The racially diverse supporting characters who surround Jinx, who reads white, are also well developed; each forms an important piece of the storyline. Though the two plotlines seem to be more parallel than braided together, the insights the book offers into Jinx's inner thoughts and feelings make this a valuable, interesting read. An absorbing, well-characterized story for readers seeking something mildly scary. (Horror. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2225924 Best Worst Summer (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elizabeth Eulberg

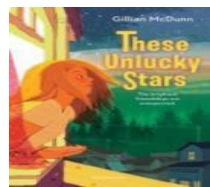
This is going to be Peyton's worst summer ever. Her family just moved. She's lonely. She's bored. Until . . . she comes across a box buried in her backyard. It has a message: I'm so sorry. Please forgive me. Looks like things are about to get interesting.

978-1-5476-0150-9 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Peyton is convinced that the summer her family moves from Minneapolis to Lake Springs, a small town four hours away, will be the worst summer of her life. But when her mom gets a job offer that's too good to pass up, Peyton and her family leave everything behind—including Lily, Peyton's closest friend. The two girls did everything together, and Peyton is nervous about starting sixth grade without her. When Peyton finds an old shoebox buried in her new backyard, things begin to change. Expecting it to contain a long-buried family pet, the box is actually a time capsule from 1989 that was put together by two other close friends, Jessica and Melissa. Along with pop culture souvenirs, Peyton finds some notes, one reading, "I'm so sorry. Please forgive me" and another in secret code. The notes inspire Peyton to learn what happened between the girls. Chapters alternate between Peyton's search and her developing friendship with a boy in a wheelchair named Lucas, and the saga of Jessica and Melissa, who were best friends until a situation in Melissa's family results in their abrupt separation. One weakness is that the chapters focusing on Jessica, who was adopted from South Korea, and Melissa, whose father is angry and abusive, are underdeveloped. The puzzle pieces fit neatly—if somewhat improbably—together by the novel's end. Aside from Jessica, all other main characters are cued as white. VERDICT A story about the power of friendship with fun references to New Kids on the Block, pay phones, and beepers. This



#2218862 These Unlucky Stars (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gillian McDunn

Annie has always been the odd one out in her family. Her practical dad and brother just don't understand the way she thinks. Ever since her mother left a few years ago, Annie has been reluctant to get close to anyone. When a poor decision lands Annie in hot water, she must make amends by watching her elderly neighbor's weird dog all summer.

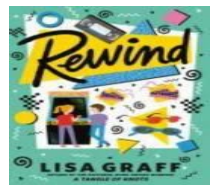
978-1-5476-0538-5 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An accident-prone middle schooler blames her lot on an unlucky star in McDunn's (The Queen Bee and Me) endearing contemporary novel. When an attempted doorbell ditching ends with a broken arm for elderly neighbor Gloria Crumb, rising seventh grader Annie P. Logan spends the summer assisting the stubbornly independent woman with her clutter. She also helps the residents of her North Carolina town prepare for their first festival, which they hope will put the struggling town on the map. Caring for Gloria's beloved hound helps Annie overcome her longtime fear of the creatures, sparked by a dog attack, and as she unearths old pictures; of Gloria's siblings, travels, and surprising talents; Annie begins to wonder about these changing versions of the now frail woman she visits daily, and the choices and experiences that define who a person becomes. Annie's journey to break free of the guilt she carries, about Gloria's accident and her own mother's leaving, and to embrace her true self; including the wild imagination and creativity she shared with her mom; offer quiet triumph through a tenderly drawn intergenerational relationship and Annie's expressive voice. Ages 8: 11. Agent: Marietta Zacker, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—Annie feels like she has no control over her life because she was born under an unlucky star, or so her mother said before she left. So it makes sense that when she dares to play ding dong ditch on an elderly lady's door, Annie causes the woman to fall and break her arm. It figures that she'll have to help take care of her throughout the summer, when all she really wants is to help design the float for the family store in the town festival. And, of course, her dad and brother don't want her help. What starts out as an unlucky break turns into a summer of healing, as Annie and Gloria gain new insights into what makes good life. McDunn includes illustrations drawn by Annie to transition throughout the book, which provide a glimpse into Annie's thoughts. Annie eventually realizes that luck cannot dictate her life, but it grows tiresome watching her blame her poor decisions on bad luck, though the chapters are short enough for reluctant readers. Annie does show spunk, and readers will appreciate her insights: "Ugh. This is so typical. When girls do something nice, it's an expectation. When boys do something nice, it's a celebration." Annie and her family are white, her friend Faith is described as having brown skin, and there is an LGBTQ+ couple. VERDICT A fair realistic fiction read, but there are others that do the job better. A secondary purchase.—Kerri Williams, Center Moriches Free P.L., NY



#2386358 Rewind (Prebound)

written by Lisa Graff

As far as twelve-year-old McKinley O'Dair is concerned, the best thing about living in Gap Bend, Pennsylvania, is the Time Hop—the giant party the town throws every June to celebrate a single year in history. And when McKinley learns that this year's theme is 1993, she can't wait to enter the Time Hop fashion show with a killer '90s outfit she's designed and sewn all on her own. Before she knows what's hit her, McKinley somehow finds herself in the real 1993—and it's not all kitschy parachute pants and Jurassic Park.

978-1-5364-8543-1 Philomel Books ©2024 5 x 7-3/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 730

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 Playing on the theme that the hardest person to see is the one in the mirror, Graff sends bossy 12-year-old McKinley O'Dair 25 years back in time to meet younger versions of the grownups in her life and, she logically concludes, to do something to steer future events. But what? Though her science teacher is as hostile in 1993 as 2018 and, heartbreakingly, her warm and loving grandmother hasn't had her massive stroke yet, several shocks await—notably, discoveries that her future single dad is an angry punk with an undiagnosed learning disability and that her best friend's wise and bighearted future mom is a nasty bully. While folding in funny touches, quaint detail, and wrenching family drama, the author expertly opens up her characters, allowing readers to understand how we are all works in progress. Even McKinley, by the time she finally snaps back to her era, has a clearer vision of her own manipulative tendencies and a sincere resolution to accept others for who they are. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Is going back in time about changing outcomes or changing perspective? McKinley's going to find out. Sixth grader McKinley is excited about Time Hop, her town's annual history celebration, which this time is celebrating the year 1993. In 1993, her father was also a sixth grader--and at the same school where the event is held. Taught to sew by her Grandma Bev, a talented seamstress even after suffering a stroke in 1993 that affected her speech and left half her body paralyzed, McKinley creates a fabulously retro outfit for the fashion show. But on the big day, her single father needs to work, and he asks McKinley to stay home to give Grandma Bev her medications. Instead, she decides to bring her grandma to the Time Hop, but it's a disaster. McKinley has a fight with her best friend, then her father shows up and orders her off the runway. McKinley runs away--and right back in time to 1993. The third-person voice is bright and energetic, while vivid descriptions capture the cast of predominantly White characters as their present and past selves. McKinley is especially endearing, ringing true as a confused, creative, well-meaning tween who realizes she may have been sent back in time to solve a problem--but which one? Or is this journey all about gaining insight so she can better handle her life? The philosophical questions are delivered with a light touch. Quirky and smart. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When the father of sixth grader McKinley O'Dair requests that she stay home with Grandma Bev; whose speech and mobility are impacted by a stroke she had 20 years ago; McKinley is devastated. While she normally wouldn't mind hanging out with her grandmother, today it means that McKinley will miss celebrating 1993 at her town's annual Time Hop, a party thrown every June to commemorate a single year in history. The fashion-obsessed 12-year-old has spent weeks preparing her outfit for the Time Hop fashion show with help from Grandma Bev, so McKinley takes Grandma Bev along, but after a fight with her best friend and her father's unexpected arrival, McKinley is bounced back to the real 1993. There, she meets her hyper-organized father as a sixth grader, as well as younger versions of other adults from her contemporary life. With classic Back to the Future flair, Graff (Far Away) employs snarky prose and abundant early 1990s callbacks to explore issues surrounding fate, destiny, and connection in this immersive, laugh-out-loud time-travel novel that highlights friendship, acceptance, and intergenerational bonds via one 12-year-old's wish to find a place; or time; in which she truly belongs. Main characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stephen Barbara, InkWell Management. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5--In beloved author Graff's latest effort, McKinley O'Dair has created the perfect 1990s outfit for the annual Time Hop, and she cannot wait to walk in the fashion show with her best friend, Meg. When her rigid father humiliates her at the event, and she has a terrible fight with Meg, McKinley suddenly finds herself transported back in time to 1993. With help from Meg's mom--then, a middle schooler herself--McKinley searches for a way back, all while learning what supportive friendship can look like. This is well-worn ground for Graff, who favors protagonists on the path to bettering themselves. The story is at its most effective when exploring the nuances of relationship dynamics, particularly between McKinley and the kid version of her dad, an endlessly frustrating prankster who has little interest in her efforts to be kind, forcing her to confront truths about herself and the father she knows now. Graff makes sure to nod to time travel predecessors such as Madeleine L'Engle and H.G. Wells, and immerses readers in everything 1990s, from the cultural references to the chapter titles, each of which is a hit song from the era. VERDICT Fans of Graff will surely gravitate towards this approachable middle grade story with a splash of sci-fi to spice things up.--Alexandra Quay Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2366634 **Taste of Magic (Prebound)**
written by *J. Elle*

Twelve-year-old Kyana has just discovered she's a witch! This means classes every Saturday at Park Row Magic Academy, a learning center hidden in the back of the local beauty shop, and Kyana can't wait to learn spells to help out at home. The only downside is having to keep her magic a secret from her BFF, Nae. But when the magic school loses funding, the students must pay huge fees at the fancy school across town or lose their magic! Determined to help, Kyana enters a baking contest with a big cash prize. Will she be able to keep up her grades while preparing for the competition and without revealing her magic? What about when a taste of magic works its way into her cupcakes?

978-1-5364-8367-3 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 A determined tween harnesses newfound powers to help save magic in her tight-knit community, navigating complicated friendship dynamics and family demands along the way. After her twelfth birthday, Kyana learns that she descends from a line of magicians who emigrated from Winzhobble to the Park Row neighborhood of Rockford, where "Magicks . . . live in harmony with everyone else." After the Magick Board slates Ms. Mo's Park Row Magick Academy for closure, Kyana enters a citywide baking contest, hoping the prize money will save her school. Potion making and baking have a lot in common, but one misstep proves a recipe for disaster for this big-hearted and brave girl. Elle tackles weighty topics--including educational equity and dementia--with tenderness and thought, and fans of her YA novel Wings of Ebony (2021) should recognize familiar themes of birthright and fortitude. Positive female relationships and fantastical humor (particularly around animals) round out this warm food- and family-centered story. A charming middle-grade series starter, with several of Memaw's legendary recipes

included. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A sixth grader discovers her magical abilities and must navigate her new world while holding on to what means the most. Kyana Turner didn't believe her mom when she said that she'll get to learn the family secret now that she's turned 12--not until her fingers sparked. Once Kyana learns that she's a witch, life drastically changes, which means lying to her best friend, Nae. She begins attending Park Row Magick Academy, a secret school located at her hair salon, but normal life doesn't stop, and Kyana juggles learning new spells and improving her math scores with keeping an eye on her Memaw, who has Alzheimer's, to help ease Momma's burdens. When financial pressures threaten to close her magic school, Kyana jumps into action by entering a baking contest that offers a \$50,000 prize. However, her magic gets out of control as she's baking, things go terribly wrong, and Kyana must work with unlikely allies and push past her fears if she wants to save her magical community. This fast-paced, heartfelt story deliciously blends realism with the whimsy of the mystical. Themes of inequity and self-worth are explored through Kyana's narration as she rises to the additional responsibilities she receives, but they are balanced with sweet moments like time spent in the kitchen making Creole food with Memaw, who is from Louisiana. Kyana and the majority of the cast are Black. A charming story of magic, love, and community. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly on her plate goes up against professional cooks in this whimsical culinary fantasy. Finally old enough to be in on the family secret, Kyana Turner learns around her 12th birthday that she's a witch. She's excited to train her blossoming magic; white sparks that "fizz from my fingertips"; during her mandatory training at Park Row Magick Academy, a free Saturday school run out of the back of a Black-owned beauty salon. But magic must be kept a secret, and the necessary lies Kyana tells to keep hers under wraps begin to take a toll, as do her dropping math grades and looking after her increasingly forgetful grandmother, Memaw, while Momma works. When the magic school faces threat of shutdown, the students' families must either find a way to swing tuition at another academy or be sanitized of their magic. Desperate to save her school, Kyana enters a baking competition with a \$50,000 grand prize; where using her powers backfires, threatening the powers of Park Row's magical residents. Successfully illustrating themes of class separation and economic opportunity across a mostly Black cast, Elle (Wings of Ebony) builds a story of familial love and friendship and tops it with pure culinary enthusiasm. Ages 8: 11. Agent: Jodi Reamer, Writers House. (Aug.)



#2377095 New Dragon City (Prebound)

written by Mari Mancusi

No one predicted the dragon apocalypse. The dragons came suddenly and decimated the world as we knew it, including New York City. Now, three years later, Noah, his hardcore survivalist father, and a ragtag group of survivors are barely scraping by in this new reality. Noah has seen the damage these creatures can do firsthand. When it comes to dragons: It's kill or be killed. But a chance encounter between Noah and a young dragon forces him to question everything he thought he knew.

978-1-5364-8452-6 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 352

pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Five years have passed since the dragon apocalypse, when dragons arrived and burned everything in their path. Noah and his parents were among the survivors, taking shelter in the New York City subway and emerging only in the months when dragons hibernate. After his mother disappears, Noah ventures out to search for supplies and spots a dragon, setting off a chain of events that leaves him and his dad alone in pursuit of dragons and his mom. When Noah finds a baby dragon named Asha, he and his father are forced to reconsider their negative preconceptions about these creatures, and since his father won't open his eyes to the truth, Noah must do all he can to save Asha and the dragons. This fast-paced adventure provides an inventive take on the postapocalyptic novel, mixing the magic of dragons into a survival story set in New York City. Filled with vibrant characters and told from the perspectives of Noah and Asha, *New Dragon City* shows that things are not always what they seem.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When a young dragon saves Noah's life, he realizes that dragons may not be as monstrous as he was taught. It's April in New York City, and a lot has changed in the years since dragons appeared and society collapsed. The time has come for people to go underground for the summer to avoid the dangerous beasts emerging from hibernation, but Noah's mom has been missing for two months, and his dad isn't going without her. Not wanting to be separated from both his parents, Noah devises a plan to get himself left behind. A chance encounter with a baby dragon named Asha sets a series of events in motion that cascade beyond Noah's control, threatening the safety of everyone—human and dragon. Caught between parents who are as unable to see eye to eye as the humans and dragons, 12-year-old Noah is a sympathetic character with a gentle demeanor and a kind heart. His struggle to balance a desire not to disappoint either of his parents with his own developing ideas about what is right and true will resonate deeply. A nuanced exploration of the ways external influences can change us for better or worse is threaded through this story with a vividly rendered setting and a tense, high-stakes adventure at its center. Noah and his family default to White; there is some racial diversity in the supporting cast. A heartwarming, hopeful dragon-filled journey through family life and the importance of finding common ground. (Fantasy. 8-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Five years after the dragon apocalypse wiped out most of humankind, and two years after his survivalist father's bunker ran out of food, 12-year-old Noah is eking out a tenuous existence as part of a band of survivors in New York City. When the dragons awake from their winter hibernation a month early, while Noah's out scavenging for nonperishables, the group relocates from their part-time hotel residence to their subway-tunnel shelter. Noah, however, secretly remains aboveground to search with his dad for Noah's mother, who has purportedly joined a cult of dragon sympathizers. When a chance Times Square encounter with a young dragon named Asha leaves Noah inexplicably connected to her via a mental bond, the revelation suggests it may be possible for humans and dragons to coexist peacefully, but Noah's father refuses to back down from his anti-dragon crusade. In a contemporary-feeling metropolitan adventure replete with dragon deniers and fake news, Mancusi (the Dragon Ops series) lightly sketches the society's day-to-day realities; if the resulting world is unevenly built, it also imbues Noah's experiences with a sense of awe, making for an entertaining, flashy novel centering family and interspecies friendship. Noah reads as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Mandy Hubbard, Emerald City Literary Agency. (Oct.)



#2377097 Ghost of Spruce Point (Prebound)

written by Nancy Tandon

Twelve-year-old Parker has grown up in his family's Home Away Inn, nestled on a wooded peninsula in Maine called Spruce Point. His best friend, Frankie, has been staying at the inn every summer for years with her family. But lately, business at the inn hasn't been great, and Parker is pretty sure he knows why. It's long been rumored that Mrs. Gruvlig, one of the few year-rounders on Spruce Point, has unique abilities of the supernatural kind. As more and more spooky happenings occur around the Point, Parker and Frankie are convinced Spruce Point has been officially cursed.

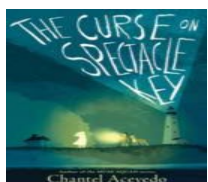
978-1-5364-8454-0 Aladdin ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews During a summer in coastal Maine, the kids of Spruce Point work to break a ghostly curse and save a family inn. The Home Away Inn has been in 12-year-old Parker Emerton's family for generations, and he wants to keep it that way, but unlucky occurrences mean money is tight, and Parker's parents are contemplating selling. He worries about having to leave this place he loves. Along with his younger sister, Bailey; two cousins; and summer friend Frankie, Parker is convinced that a ghost has placed a curse on the place. The kids also suspect grouchy neighbor Mrs. Gruvlig of being a witch. In seeking to contact the ghost and investigate suspected supernatural phenomena, the kids end up solving some of the inn's problems--just not the way they expected. Most of the phenomena turn out to have rational causes, but a bright green flashing light remains unexplained. The strange happenings draw television ghost hunters to Spruce Point, guaranteeing full rooms at the inn. This is a well-paced mystery with a strong sense of place and solidly developed, realistic relationships. Siblings, cousins, and friends work together closely--they have a high degree of independence but do not lack parental oversight. Parker is adopted, and his school counselor believes he has obsessive tendencies; these facts come up in passing. Main characters default to White. Kids tackle problems both supernatural and real in this atmospheric story. (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An eerie ghost story morphs into an anthem for cooperation amid climate change in Tandon's (The Way I Say It) camaraderie-filled Maine mystery. "Particular and thorough" Parker Emerton, 12, loves his adoptive family's secluded inn home, but with rising sea levels eroding coastal tourism, his parents fear having to give it up for jobs in Boston. Calling a secret tree house meeting with his cousins and best friend, Parker plots to save the beloved Home Away Inn, suggesting advertising and cooking classes, winning a fair prize for pumpkins... and breaking the curse of an ancient local shipwreck. After storms surge and unexplained green lights flash, the kids contact the ghostly young wanderer that haunts a crotchety neighbor's yard, but when the figure reveals more questions than answers, the kids pit their ingenuity against the inn's nebulous curse. Urgent present-tense narration and abundant sensory details initially establish a skin-crawling atmosphere, but a realistic, friendship-centric feel soon dominates the tightly paced narrative, and the young investigators' idealistic tenacity results in a supernaturally tinged mystery with a summer camp vibe. All main characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Emma Sector, Prospect Agency. (Aug)



#2364078 Curse on Spectacle Key (Prebound)

written by Chantel Acevedo

Frank Fernandez's family never stays in one place for long. So when his parents announce they're moving to Spectacle Key, Florida, to live in a lighthouse--this time for good!--Frank is thrilled. Then one day while exploring, Frank meets a girl in old-fashioned clothes, with no memory of who she is. What she does know, though, is that the island is under a curse--and she needs Frank's help to figure out how to lift it. But what if learning the truth about Spectacle Key means losing the first real friend he's

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.95

ever had?

978-1-5364-8324-6 Balzer & Bray ©2024 5 x 7-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Acevedo's charming ghost mystery is a thrilling ride that follows "Friendless" Frank Fernandez, a boy who bonds with a pair of ghosts as they help him try to break a curse on the island he calls home, unearthing a multitude of unexpected secrets in the process. Frank is excited about a lot of things, like being accepted to his hometown's Junior Librarian program, but he longs for more friends and for acceptance from his peers. When Frank's family abruptly moves--yet again!--to an eerie lighthouse in Spectacle Key, Florida, he mourns the loss of another chance to fit in, only to discover that his new home is happily haunted. Despite the lush, atmospheric writing and sweet premise, the stakes grow higher and higher, and Frank's solving of Spectacle Key's curse may result in him losing the one ghostly friend he's been able to make and keep. Young horror and mystery fans, and kids who grew up with the sole company of their imaginations, will delight in uncovering the clues and following Frank on his journey to acceptance and belonging. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Frank is tired of following his renovator parents from house to house, so when they purchase a lighthouse in Florida, he dares to hope that their promise of this being their last move is solid. The lighthouse, on the other hand, is far from solid, and the endless repair list that grows with each day taxes his parents' patience and sets them fighting about the smallest thing. Frank also wonders, however, if the unsettling vibe surrounding the area could be contributing to the tension. He is glad to be distracted by Connie, a mysterious girl who is invisible to everyone but Frank and who can't remember anything about her past. Their growing bond helps Frank see what true friendship is, and he resolves to help Connie recover her memories while also helping an angry ghost find peace. Frank's loneliness is palpable, and this makes him particularly sympathetic to a ghost who only wants to be remembered and named--Frank knows down to his bones the feeling of being invisible in new schools each year. Acevedo achieves a remarkable amount of character development alongside a fast-paced and spooky mystery, all within a trim page count. The sticky heat, Cuban comfort food, and quirky small-town happenings are vividly described, and readers will be relieved when it seems that Frank has indeed found his permanent home. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleven-year-old Frank must solve a supernatural mystery to save his new home. As fifth grade comes to an end, Frank Fernández is looking forward to finally staying put in Alabama for a second year, as promised, after a childhood spent following his parents' home renovation work all across the country. Frequent relocation has made Frank wary of forming friendships or making plans, but his hopes for more stability are temporarily dashed when his parents announce plans to renovate a lighthouse in the Florida Keys, near where his mother grew up and his father's home country of Cuba. Papi promises this will be their last move, though: The lighthouse will be theirs. But from their first day on Spectacle Key, things seem to go wrong: Tensions rise between his parents, and Frank's hopes of a forever home are under threat from seemingly supernatural forces. In order to put down roots, Frank and new ghostly friend Connie, a White girl with freckles, must discover what secrets the island is hiding, uncovering Frank's own family roots along the way. Frank is a fan of horror--he names his new Great Dane puppy Mary Shelley. But though there is some mild peril to be found, rather than a ghostly thriller, this is an appealing, lightly spooky family drama with valuable lessons for those who would hide from a difficult past instead of confronting and healing generational trauma. Supernatural mystery meets generational drama with hopeful endings for all. (Supernatural. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Cuban American 11-year-old Frank Fernandez, an ardent book-lover, has never resided anywhere for more than a year, making it difficult for him to establish friendships. Though his parents had agreed to stay in Alabama for two years, their work renovating unique buildings leads them instead to a lighthouse in the Florida Keys, which is meant to finally become their forever home. But after arriving, inexplicable things begin to happen at the Spectacle Key property; thorny vines grow on the lighthouse's exterior walls, hundreds of blue crabs infest the building, and Frank begins to hear a sighing, sniffing sound accompanied by a sweet smell. After conducting an exothermic science experiment in a nearby abandoned building, Frank meets Connie, a white girl his age who can't recall anything about herself. As his parents start fighting and incidents around the lighthouse increase in severity, Frank, Connie, and Frank's Great Dane puppy, Mary Shelley, investigate a local curse, hoping to protect Frank's home. Acevedo (the Muse Squad series) concocts a tidy small-town mystery, filled with ghosts and suspicious townsfolk, that's led by an earnest tween's compassion and hope for friendship, justice, and stability. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Frank, an avid reader who loves horror stories, is extremely frustrated with the frequent transfers his family makes to accommodate his parents' work as building renovators. When they tell the 11-year-old they acquired a new project, they promise that this move, to Spectacle Key, FL, will be the final one. No sooner does the family begin unpacking boxes in their new lighthouse home than things begin to go awry, from electrical malfunctions to crab infestations to a historical preservation group pressuring the family to leave. As tensions escalate at home, Frank escapes by exploring the island, only to encounter mounting evidence of a supernatural presence on the key. Aided by Connie, a young girl who may be a ghost, Frank realizes he must learn the history of his new home, and his family, to lift the curse before his parents give up and move away. This middle grade—friendly horror story features a Cuban American protagonist who has an extremely positive relationship with his family but is less competent at making friends, even with the not-quite-living. While the history Frank unearths is less than pleasant, he reminds the adults that people should not cover up the past just because it is ugly, and there is importance in remembering. Quirky secondary characters, including a mystic and a circus-acrobat librarian, enhance the narrative, as do Acevedo's spin with horror tropes and sly wordplay. VERDICT A solid purchase to enhance popular middle grade horror collections. The balance of humor and horror should attract readers, and the lessons Frank learns are relevant to all.—Nancy Nadig



#2348459 Race for the Ruby Turtle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephen Bramucci

Jake Rizzi is about to spend the summer at his great-aunt's cabin in the mossy, sodden Oregon backwoods. His parents seem to need a break from him and his ADHD. He tries not to take it personally, but isn't sure about his aunt's off-the-grid lifestyle and strange stories about a turtle with a ruby-colored shell.

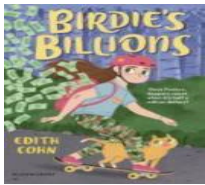
978-1-5476-0702-0 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist In a mix of personal and ecological issues, Bramucci places 11-year-old Jake, weighed down by his ADHD diagnosis, and his formidable great-aunt between a rare turtle and several avid specimen collectors. A mention of a red-shelled turtle in an old, locally published miscellany of reminiscences and folktales has gone viral, and so hardly has Jake been dropped off at his distant great-aunt Hettle's than the small Oregon town of Nehalem sees a rush of eager-to-believe cryptid hunters—plus one scary professional poacher. The efforts of Jake and Hettle, joined by a local mycologist's strong-minded daughter, Mae, to discourage the searchers lead to some reckless acts and suspenseful encounters, but Jake's inner struggles both to see past his disability and to manage dreams of finding the elusive creature (if it even exists) create equally compelling conflicts. At least one of those conflicts is resolved by the end, and in a comment by Hettle, the author also leaves readers with the priceless insight that "the only way to protect the natural world is to love it."

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy with ADHD explores nature and himself. Eleven-year-old Jake Rizzi just wants to be seen as "normal"; he blames his brain for leading him into trouble and making him do things that annoy his peers and even his own parents. Case in point: He's stuck spending a week in rural Oregon with an aunt he barely knows while his parents go on vacation. Jake's reluctance changes as he learns about the town's annual festival, during which locals search for a fabled turtle. But news of this possibly undiscovered species has spread. Although Aunt Hettle insists to Jake that it's only folklore, the fame-hungry convene, sure that the Ruby-Backed Turtle is indeed real—just as Jake discovers is the case. Keeping its existence secret is critical to protecting the rare creature from a poacher and others with ill intentions. Readers will keep turning pages to find out how Jake and new friend Mia will foil the caricatured villains. Along the way, Bramucci packs in teachable moments around digital literacy, mindfulness, and ecological interdependence, along with the message that "the only way to protect the natural world is to love it." Jake's inner monologue elucidates the challenges and benefits of ADHD as well as practical coping strategies. Whether or not readers share Jake's diagnosis, they'll empathize with his insecurities. Jake and his family present white; Mia is Black, and names of secondary characters indicate some ethnic diversity. A wild romp that champions making space for vulnerable creatures and each other. (Adventure. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2257278 Birdie's Billions (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Edith Cohn

For as long as twelve-year-old Birdie can remember, it's always been just her and her mom, which means there's not lots of extra money around. Then Birdie makes one silly mistake that has a big consequence: Mom loses her job. When Birdie discovers a huge stash of cash in an abandoned house, she doesn't think twice about where that cash came from; she just knows it must be the answer to their problems.

978-1-5476-0711-2 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 274 pgs.

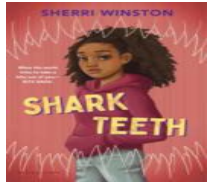
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Skateboarder Birdie, 11 and white, lives with her single mother in fancy Valley Lake, where they moved so her mom could make more money. But soon after Birdie inadvertently causes her mom to get fired from her housecleaning job, jeopardizing their ability to pay rent, an incident at a local lake sees the wealthy mother of Birdie's best friend forbidding the relationship, citing Birdie as a "bad influence" from "the wrong side of town." It doesn't help that Birdie feels she has to keep secrets about her situation, including her mom's need for work and her father's incarceration. All Birdie wants is to not have to worry about finances, so when she follows a cat into an abandoned house and finds \$500,000 in a wall, she devises a way to post some to her mom. But the transformation has complicating effects: Birdie tells lies to keep her cover, frets about the origin of the money, and suddenly isn't so sure who she is anymore. Cohn's (Spirit's Key) entertaining tale is infused with timely reflections on class, money, and privilege. Birdie's frustration and pain is profound, and her feelings about wealth are increasingly complex. A deftly plotted story that thoughtfully renders a close parent-child bond while engaging readers through the mystery of the money. Ages 10: 12. (Dec.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Birdie moves to Valley Lake so her mother can get high-paying work and Birdie can go to a good

school, yet she is not rolling in cash like many of her posh sixth-grade schoolmates. Then Birdie discovers a treasure trove of money in an abandoned house, and their whole lives change. Birdie is excited they've struck it rich, and her mother will never have to work again—now all she has to do is convince her mother to take the cash. Matters go from bad to worse when her friend Hailey's mother starts spreading rumors that Birdie is a thief. Birdie's lies grow as she tries to cover up where she found the money. The main character is well developed, and readers will relate to Birdie's angst at being poor and the challenge of always telling the truth. They will relate to how fragile friendships can be, how being a good friend can mean making tough choices, and how people can judge you before they get to know you. Hailey's mother is well written, cruel and insistent on only her views and judging people harshly. Mom and Birdie's relationship is open and at times feels a bit idyllic. The recurrent themes of not judging a person and always telling the truth can be a little heavy-handed at times, and the story wraps up too conveniently, with everything coming together for the good of all in the end. Fans of Christopher Paul Curtis's *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* or Eleanor Estes's *The Hundred Dresses* may enjoy this title. VERDICT A hopeful story about friendship, prejudice, and overcoming adversity that will keep readers engaged.—Elena Schuck, Mattacheese M.S., Marstons Mills, MA



#2364784 Shark Teeth (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sherri Winston

Sharkita "Kita" Hayes is always waiting. Waiting for her mama to mess up. Waiting for social services to be called again. Waiting for her and her siblings to be separated. Waiting for her worst fear to come true. But Mama promises things are different now. She's got a good job, she's stopped drinking, stopped going out every night—it's almost enough to make Kita believe her this time. But she still can't shake the feeling that everything could go up in flames at any moment. And when her dance coach starts asking questions, Kita is more determined than ever to make sure her family stays together—even if it means falling apart herself. But could it be that Kita's worst fear is actually the best thing that could happen to her family?

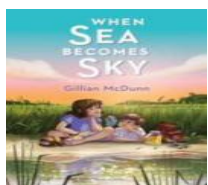
978-1-5476-0850-8 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2024 304 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Nothing is more important to seventh-grader Sharkita (Kita) than keeping herself and her younger siblings, Lilli and Lamar, out of foster care, but Mama doesn't make that easy. Beautiful and magnetic, Mama is a loving parent when she wants to be, but too often she chooses drinking and partying over her children, leaving Kita to care for the littles alone—sometimes for days on end. Lately, though, Mama has been behaving responsibly enough for Kita to feel a glimmer of hope that things might be different this time. She allows herself to join her school's new majorette squad as a twirler, something that would've been impossible if she had to look after Lilli and Lamar. Devastatingly, Kita's hopes go up in smoke when Mama leaves the littles home alone while Kita's out with friends, resulting in the siblings being sent to separate foster families. Winston dives deep into the stark realities some children face in unstable homes, and the immense pressure that that unfairly puts on young people. As unfortunate as Kita's home life is, she is surrounded by caring adults who see the signs that Kita's family is in crisis and do everything in their power to support her, even when she isn't yet ready to accept their help. A powerful, ultimately uplifting portrait of breaking a toxic cycle and embracing a better future.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Winston (Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution) delivers a nuanced telling about a Black family in crisis via this harrowing, compassionate read. After having been placed in separate foster homes, "all because Mama went out one night and decided not to come back for nine days," 12-year-old Sharkita has just been reunited with her five-year-old sister, Lillieana, and her eight-year-old brother, Lamara, who was born with fetal alcohol poisoning. Though her mother promises things will be different this time, Sharkita; whose classmates bully her for her "shark teeth," or hyperdontia; is prepared to single-handedly care for her siblings like she always does. Surprisingly, however, Mama allows her to join her school's newly founded majorette squad, instead of requiring Sharkita to return home immediately after school to tend to her siblings like she used to. Joining the majorettes sparks a flicker of normalcy, but Sharkita still contends with anxiety stemming from her mother's neglect that feels like a shark swallowing her whole ("I didn't know which was worse; a life with her or one without"). Driven by an emotionally intelligent and complex protagonist, this courageous story about strength in the face of neglect, and the bravery to demand what is best for one's family and oneself, is potent and powerful. Ages 9: 11. (Jan.)



#2314029 When Sea Becomes Sky (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gillian McDunn

Bex and Davey's summer in the saltmarsh is different this year, thanks to the record-breaking drought. Even the fish seem listless—and each day the water level lowers farther. When they discover a mysterious underwater statue, they're thrilled at the chance to solve the puzzle of its origin.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist It's June in coastal North Carolina, and 11-year-old Bex wants nothing more than to spend her summer exploring the salt marshes in her rowboat with her younger brother, Davey, who's "a bit of a genius." He has become uncommonly quiet over the past year. Meanwhile Bex, who aims to be a writer, feels that she needs his encouragement to keep trying. Currently, she's in a creative dry spell. Her family lives on an island in a region where a drought is gradually lowering the water level in the marsh. Spotting a metallic hand reaching upwards from the water's surface, Bex discovers a larger-than-life statue mostly submerged. Bex decides to find the sculptor and discover why this artwork was hidden in the marsh. McDunn, whose middle-grade novels include *The Queen Bee and Me* (2020) and *Honestly Elliott* (2022), creates memorable characters within a distinctive setting. Written with immediacy and grace, Bex's first-person narrative increasingly focuses on the mystery and her determination to solve it with Davey's help, until a meeting with the sculptor forces this unreliable narrator to reveal the central truth that she's been hiding all along. It's a pivotal moment for Bex and a wrenching one for readers of this quiet, yet fully engaging novel.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An uneasy vibe permeates this expansive mystery starring two closely bonded siblings. Contentious 11-year-old aspiring writer Bex and her quiet, easygoing nine-year-old brother Davey, who cue as white, live on Pelican Island off the Carolina coast, and spend freewheeling days in their favorite marsh spot. When a pervasive drought lowers the water level, and Bex notices a human-size metal statue embedded in the mud, she believes that the find could detour the building of a planned bridge to the island, which is currently only accessible by ferry. The bridge promises to bring more tourists to the remote island, improving the local economy, but it's also likely to alter the ecosystem and threaten the kids' father's job as ferry captain. Davey tends not to speak around others, but he chats regularly with Bex as they work to solve the art mystery. Bex, meanwhile, studiously avoids "used-to-be friend" Millie Ochoa-Chen, who's Taiwanese and Mexican American. Positing that "writers must tell the truth thoroughly, constantly, and recklessly," McDunn (*Honestly Elliott*) uses the island's drought to imbue the story with an anxious feeling as Bex strives to prolong the waning summer. An author's note details the book's personal origins. Ages 8: 11. Agent: Marietta Zacker, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (Feb.)



#2376217 Trouble at the Tangerine (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Gillian McDunn

Simon's family is always on the move. Every few months, they load up their van, "Vincent Van Go," and set off for a new adventure. According to his dad, you can't live an extraordinary life by staying in one place. But all Simon wants is to settle down, so he's hatched a plan: to make their latest apartment in the Tangerine Pines building his forever home.

978-1-5476-1100-3 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2024 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

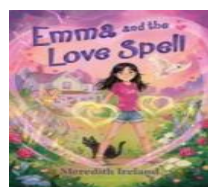
Reviews by: Booklist Once again, 11-year-old Simon and his parents are moving to an apartment in a new town, one where, he fervently hopes, they will stay forever. But before they have had time to settle in, a fire alarm sends all the residents streaming from their building, Tangerine Pines (aka the Tangerine). When they return to their homes, one resident reports the theft of her heirloom necklace, valued at one million dollars. Soon a neighbor named Amaya, a lively girl who befriended Simon soon after his arrival in town, proposes that they investigate the crime together and identify the thief. To that end, they interview the building's residents, consider possible suspects, and consult with Mrs. Kobayashi (a retired detective) about the case. McDunn, whose novels include *Honestly Elliott* (2022) and *When Sea Becomes Sky* (2023), constructs a story that even readers new to mystery novels can understand, and she fills it with quirky, interesting characters of all ages. Writing a whodunit without an obvious villain until the end, she creates a narrative with broad appeal for middle-grade readers.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy in search of roots solves his first mystery. Simon Hyde, 11 1/2, worries that the burglary at the Tangerine Pines apartments will result in his parents' quickly moving from the new home that he'd hoped might be permanent. Including the most recent one, where he broke his leg in a fall from a tree, Simon lived in 27 different places before arriving in Rigsby. His parents, both digital nomads, make a living from remote work and their popular *The Hydes Go Seek* social media account, which details their itinerant lifestyle. Simon feels they've been "adrift like a clump of dandelion seeds." He's kept a rock collection--"one small piece of every place we've ever lived"--but he longs for more lasting connections. When a priceless necklace goes missing, Simon, who reads white, tries to identify the thief with the help of ebullient new friend Amaya Sharma, who's also 11. Another neighbor, retired detective Mrs. Kobayashi, offers him tips, notably, "Be patient and allow yourself to observe." This advice turns out to be a great strategy for getting to know new friends and neighbors, including Calvin Morris, a Black boy around his age. McDunn's characters are nicely realized, and the mystery is satisfyingly resolved. A likable hero and a neatly plotted mystery. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eleven-year-old Simon Hyde's parents' nomadic lifestyle, and yet another move across the country in their "Vincent Van Go," has made him risk averse. Having lived in 27 places, Simon has made up a fool-proof plan: Code Name Chameleon. Part one is

to blend in with his new surroundings, and part two; perhaps the most imperative of the pair; is to not be weird. Though Simon loves collecting rocks and reading fantasy novels, he can't chance revealing his true self, especially since there's been so little stability in his life to begin with. But maybe this time will be different: implementing steps one and two of Operation Rigsby, his new, top-secret scheme, Simon has been researching the best home for his family and has successfully led them to Tangerine Pines. He immediately meets cheery, idiosyncratic neighbors and, upon feeling a spark of "a forever home," enacts step three: "Stay there forever. This was the most important part; and also the most complicated." When his neighbor's necklace is stolen, Simon and his new acquaintance is on the case; and he'll do anything to prolong their stay. In this quiet story of hope, belonging, and adventure, McDunn (*When Sea Becomes Sky*) presents Simon's sincere worries and charming schemes with a humorous, lighthearted approach. Simon reads as white. Ages 8: 11. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Meet Simon Hyde--he's on a mission to put down permanent roots in Rigby. Simon's usual rules for new towns? "Blend In and Don't Be Weird." But after moving 27 times, as a part of his parents' Hyde Go Seek travel blog, he's tired of always being the new kid. This time, he wants a real home and genuine friends. Trouble is, some jewel thefts at his new apartment complex, Tangerine Pines, are getting in the way of Simon's "Operation Rigby." He has already made friends with local petsitter Amaya and her "arch-nemesis" Calvin Morris, making Rigby feel like the home he has always wanted. But can Simon and his new friends solve the missing jewelry mystery before his parents get spooked, and he finds himself on the move again? Blending elements of mystery and realistic fiction, this title mixes a tight whodunit plot with common middle grade themes, such as growing up, fitting in, and developing friendships. The narrative centers around Simon's quest for a permanent home, but a secondary conflict, the jewel heist, injects intrigue into the plot with each proceeding chapter. With chapters averaging between six-to-nine pages in length and maintaining a balanced level of suspense throughout, this would be an excellent choice for either a beginning of the year read-aloud or as an independent read for young mystery buffs seeking a longer text. VERDICT An excellent purchase for middle grade mystery collections that will be an easy sell for kids and teachers alike.--Louie Lauer Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2364110 Emma and the Love Spell (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Meredith Ireland

Twelve-year-old, Korean-American adoptee Emma Davidson has a problem. Two problems. Okay, three: 1. She has a crush on her best friend, Evangeline, that she hasn't been able to share 2. Evangeline has to move away because her parents are getting a divorce 3. Oh, and Emma is a secret witch who can't really control her powers. It's a complicated summer between sixth and seventh grade. Emma's parents made her promise that she'd keep her powers a secret and never, ever use them. But if Evangeline's parents fall back in love, then she won't have to move. And how hard could one little love spell be?

978-1-5476-1260-4 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist powers since she was a child, and she's been taught by her adoptive parents to keep her emotions neutral and conceal them, lest they spiral out of her control. When she learns her best and only friend (and crush), Evangeline, might be moving away because her parents want to divorce, she concocts a magical plan to try to get Evangeline's parents to fall back in love. Love is complicated, though, as she finds out the hard way. Ireland's sweet story about a young witch coming into her own and learning to handle her new abilities emphasizes the importance of not only self-acceptance but also trusting one's intuition, especially when, without getting into any scary territory, Emma must contend with a suspicious adult who might not have her best magical interests at heart. With plenty of relatable depth and wide appeal, this is a stellar pick for fans of the Love Sugar Magic books or other blends of realistic fiction and witchy fantasy.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Fresh out of sixth grade, Korean American adoptee Emma Davidson has the perfect summer planned out; and it definitely doesn't involve using her magical powers, which seem to go haywire whenever she loses control of her emotions. But then she finds out that the parents of her best friend and crush Avangeline are getting divorced, and that Avangeline is moving away. Though she's initially keen on following her own parents' advice to avoid using her powers and "act normal," Emma believes that if she can use her magic to reconcile Avangeline's parents, her bestie won't have to move. With help from her talking parrot and mind-reading cat, Emma practices her magic, but when things go awry, Emma promises Avangeline that she won't interfere anymore; and covertly breaks that promise as she continues to refine her powers with the help of an unexpected mentor. Magic abounds in this cheery tale by Ireland (*Everyone Hates Kelsie Miller*), who employs fast pacing, good humor, and tons of heart to adeptly convey one queer tween's struggle to navigate her feelings and desires, as well as her burgeoning realization that it will take more than good intentions (and fledging enchantments) to repair damaged relationships. Major supporting characters read as white. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Lauren Spieller, Folio Literary.(Jan.)

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2366075 **Hummingbird Season (Hardcover (Trade))**

1

\$17.99

written by Stephanie V. Lucianovic

Archie's life-and the whole world-is turned upside down by Covid-19. Suddenly there are no Friday night dinners out, no going to school, no hanging out with friends . . . no leaving the house at all.

978-1-5476-1274-1 Bloomsbury Publishing ©2024 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 300 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 3.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 Thanks to COVID-19, thinks Archie, nearly 10, nothing is normal now. His parents are working at home while he and his older brother, Hank, have been relegated to distance learning, which makes Archie feel invisible. And while he loves to laugh, he feels lonely. His life changes one day, however, when he sees a hummingbird and, fascinated, starts a hummingbird journal, determined to learn everything he can about the tiny birds. With his mother's help, he puts up feeders, which attract a hummingbird he calls Ruby. Ruby disappears when a thunderstorm causes fires that fill the air around Archie's California home with smoke. Happily, Ruby returns, and Archie's teacher invites him to tell the class all about Ruby and other hummingbirds. Lucianovic's first-person novel in verse is extremely well written and filled with colorful phrases: Archie is fascinated by eyebrows, which he calls the stand-up comedians of the face. Ruby's wings whirl like his friend Liam's cat's purr. Young readers who have experienced COVID-19 (and who like birds) are sure to enjoy this quiet novel. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books COVID-19 upends all that is familiar to nine-year-old Archie, who is suddenly stuck at home, having swapped school for a tablet, and distance between family seems to grow despite their constant physical presence. Although everyone is trapped at home, asthma elevates his risk of contracting the virus, heightening his feelings of isolation, and the California wildfires further threaten his airways-it all feels pretty rotten and desperate. Overwhelmed by uncertainty, Archie discovers a glimmer of hope in the form of the hummingbirds that visit his windows. His developing connection to Ruby the hummingbird renews his spirit and restores the happiness he had abruptly lost. Archie imagines himself as a hummingbird able to "fly . . . to a place where COVID couldn't get any of us" and admires their ability to adapt to changing environments. Lucianovic beautifully crafts this novel in verse, giving voice to a boy who is boisterous at times but often feels left on mute, lost in the shuffle of a changing world. The poetic form is a wise authorial choice, with short sentences and smaller sections giving readers who have lived through COVID some space to process their own feelings without overwrought prose. Archie, his family, and Ruby remind readers there's comfort to be found in being together, even when everything else feels like it's falling apart. QB COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

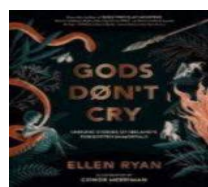
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Lucianovic documents the life of her protagonist during COVID-19 when "every day / everything / is the same boring same." Archie's father works from his bedroom, his mother from the kitchen, and his older brother is still allowed to play outside with friends (some unmasked). Archie wonders, "I don't know / how you can be lonely / when you're stuck / in your house / with a family / who has no / choice but to be / with you / but I know / that's the way it is." COVID has created a near-dystopian world, and the boring ordinariness of Archie's life belies the dangers of a time-warped existence where "a week feels much longer / than it did before. / A day takes / forever to end. / And time feels like it's made of worksheets." Archie simply wants connection -- with parents, brother, classmates. The hummingbirds outside his window represent that, with their happy, friendly, "cozy" whirring-wing sounds reminding him of family moments he misses. Lucianovic portrays Archie's interior world in straightforward first-person verse that effectively captures the voice of an elementary school boy living through extraordinary times. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A California boy chronicles the long, difficult Covid-19 lockdown in verses that explore his confused emotions. On the day "that started everything" and that "was also a day that ended everything," Archie's life is turned upside down. School is abruptly closed, his parents must work from home, and big brother Hank is ever more difficult. Archie's asthma puts him at risk, causing his parents to take ever-greater precautions. All this, plus attending "(not real) school at home," makes him feel more and more isolated, unseen, and muted. He has outbursts of anger and despair: "...even though we're together / stuck inside the house / we're not really together-together." Archie's imagination is captured when he hears a brief buzzing sound, senses something whipping past, and witnesses "the smallest bird ever," and he soon finds a new purpose. With help from his family, he carefully provides nectar for his "hummingbird restaurant" and becomes especially attached to Ruby, a hummingbird with red patches, as he watches for and worries about her, especially when a wildfire rages. Some poems are lists or consist of a few lines; others flow breathlessly, offering detailed accounts of events, beautiful descriptions, or information about hummingbirds. Archie often repeats important words, phrases, or concepts in a rhythmic way that emphasizes his escalating emotions. He's intensely loving, deeply compassionate, insightful, inventive, and expressive. Readers will gasp in wonder and empathy, cry and sometimes laugh, cheer at the upbeat conclusion, and feel every emotion that's so powerfully expressed. Brilliant. (author's note) (Verse fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Set in 2020, this melancholy verse novel by Lucianovic (*The League of Picky Eaters*) stars young asthmatic Archie, who's experiencing a particularly strong disconnect from family and friends while living through the pandemic in California: "Loneliness/ is a word I knew/ before/ but it wasn't a word I felt/ before." He especially mourns the loss of closeness with his older brother Hank, who seems to be thriving in their new situation, pushing Archie away when he needs Hank most. Feeling increasingly unseen and "muted," Archie grows acutely oppressed by the rote sameness of lockdown, which is disrupted by wildfires. Though Archie's overarching trajectory in dealing with negative emotions, as well as his understanding of his estrangement with Hank, feel overly mature, many readers will identify with his struggles with long-

distance learning and feelings of isolation. His discovery of and growing fascination with a hummingbird propels him toward positivity and eventually helps him make the empathetic connections he longs for, shifting the story focus to Archie's empowerment and interpersonal growth and resulting in a satisfyingly realistic resolution. All characters read as white. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)

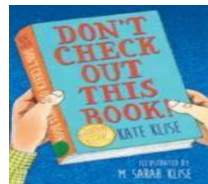
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2–4—When the world shuts down in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Archie struggles to adapt to school moving online. His older brother, Hank, seems to be thriving, and even gets to spend time with friends outside, but Archie feels increasingly alone and isolated, and doesn't think that his teacher and his classmates care if he is in class or not. On top of that, the California wildfires make even the outside air dangerous for him to breathe because of his asthma. When he sees a hummingbird in his yard, he becomes fascinated with her and sets up feeders all around the house. Over time, the hummingbird becomes something that helps Archie find and build connections, both with his brother and with his class. Told in a series of free verse poems, this novel captures the confusion and isolation of the first year of the pandemic, especially for kids. The author uses the metaphor of being on mute in an online class to describe struggles that often go unheard, from the fears Archie's classmates have about situations at home to the natural disasters caused by climate change. This book would make for a great lead-in to classroom discussions or writing prompts, giving kids the opportunity to share their own memories of lockdown. VERDICT This beautifully written novel in verse offers a sensitive reflection on the pandemic and its emotional toll, even for those families who were able to stay healthy and financially stable during lockdown.—Ashley Larsen



#2387260 Gods Don't Cry: Unsung Stories of Ireland's Forgotten Immortals
(Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ellen Ryan

The ancient gods of Ireland were once worshipped throughout the land. Powerful and brave, they were unafraid to show their vulnerability, reject violence, or lean on others for support. Sadly, their stories—passed down by our ancestors—are all but forgotten.
 978-1-62371-674-5 Interlink Publishing ©2024 7-1/2 x 9-3/4 272 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$26.00



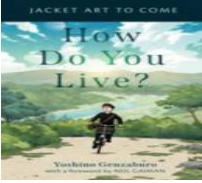
#2155911 Don't Check Out This Book! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kate Klise

When Appleton Elementary's new school board president starts using her position to line her own pockets, it's up to student sleuths, supported by a passionate librarian, to uncover the truth in this zany epistolary novel.
 978-1-61620-976-6 Algonquin ©2020 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95

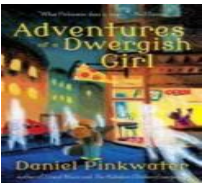
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 The start of the school year in Appleton, Illinois, brings new school librarian, Rita B. Danjerous, and newly elected school-board president Ivana I don't need to read a book to know I don't like it Beprawpa into position for a face-off. Not only does the school's broom-closet library now feature a green dot collection of titles on controversial or embarrassing topics that students can borrow anonymously, but the librarian is recommending books that keep students—and even some grown-ups!—awake past their bedtimes. Worse yet, Ms. Danjerous refuses to patronize Beprawpa Attire (the only clothing store in town) to outfit her nine-year-old daughter, May B, according to the newly imposed dress code. Beprawpa is set up as a straw villain, so openly corrupt that the climactic school-board meeting is less a forum for airing conflicting views, and more the event where she gets hers. Not their best, but another pun-tastic outing from the Sisters Klise, told entirely in memos, email messages, chats, letters, invoices, and newspaper reports, and dedicated to all rabble-rousing librarians and scandal-stomping young readers. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5--Things are changing at Appleton Elementary School with the arrival of the new school librarian, Rita B. Danjerous. Appleton hasn't had a school library in 14 years and, with only 19 students, had been in danger of closing. Ms. Danjerous opens the library in a broom closet, and launches a controversial new book collection addressing topics that students might be embarrassed or scared to ask for, which can be checked out without needing a library card. This newfound excitement for books among students and staff alike comes much to the chagrin of Iwana Beprawpa, the new school board president, who argues this hinders the manners and morals she is encouraging at the school. In addition, Ms. Beprawpa institutes questionable changes, such as creating a new uniform policy requiring students to purchase the uniform from her store Beprawpa Attire. When Ms. Danjerous's daughter, Maya, and her friend Sarah begin working for the local paper, they are able to report on some of these mysteries and scandals in their small town with the help of editor Etta Toryal. Written entirely in letters, e-mails, phone messages, and newspaper articles, this funny (and punny) story introduces censorship issues, political corruption, and investigative journalism. VERDICT A fun and quirky story that shows the impact of books on a small community.--Sarah Polace, Cuyahoga Public Library

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#222463 How Do You Live? (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Genzaburo Yoshino</i> First published in 1937, Genzaburo Yoshino's <i>How Do You Live?</i> has long been acknowledged in Japan as a crossover classic for young readers. Academy Award-winning animator Hayao Miyazaki (<i>Spirited Away</i>, <i>My Neighbor Totoro</i>, <i>Howl's Moving Castle</i>) has called it his favorite childhood book and announced plans to emerge from retirement to make it the basis of a final film. 978-1-61620-977-3 <i>Algonquin</i> ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.8 AR Pts 10.0</p>	1	\$17.95

Reviews by: Booklist This Japanese classic, originally published in 1937 and a story beguiling enough to catch the eye of filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki, sees its first English translation here, complete with an introduction by Neil Gaiman. It's the strange and ruminative coming-of-age tale of 15-year-old Honda Jun'ichi, whose nickname, Copper, is short for Copernicus. The boy's close relationships with his unnamed uncle (who is something of a pedant) and his three best friends are front and center in the book's slow-paced development. Its spare plot comprises a clutch of episodic stories interspersed with lectures by the uncle and extended essays in Copper's notebook about the meaning of whatever event has just transpired. These reflections cover the waterfront of thought: philosophy, economics, sociology, physics, and on and on. As a result, the book is rather didactic and sometimes moralistic. However, it is enough of a sui generis curiosity to excite interest and—happily—inspire thought, and the Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli connection will drum up more than a little interest among anime fans.

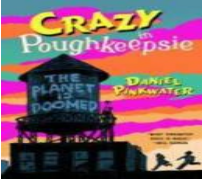
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly First published in 1937, this deeply thoughtful Japanese classic; filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki's favorite childhood book; is offered in its first English translation via Navasky's quiet, carefully measured prose. Born and raised in Tokyo, 15-year-old Honda Jun'ichi, known as Copper and small for his age, "can be a bit too mischievous." When his bank director father passed away around two years ago, Copper and his mother downsized and moved to a modest suburban home, now frequently visited by Copper's maternal uncle, with whom he is "terribly close." Interspersed with prosaic recollections of a year of Copper's school days, interpersonal dramas, and developing friendships, entries from Uncle's Notebook relay affirmative messages to Copper, covering topics such as science, philosophy, history, and poverty. What results is a gentle tale of self-discovery and reflection, and a compassionate guidebook on integrity punctuated by rich sensory details. If the book unfurls a bit slowly, Yoshino's timeless lessons ("You must live your life like a true human being and feel just what you feel"), will resonate with sensitive readers young and old. Front matter includes a foreword by Neil Gaiman; back matter includes a note from the translator. Ages 10: 14. (Oct.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#217792 Adventures of a Dwerghish Girl (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Daniel M. Pinkwater</i> Molly O'Malley is a clever, adventurous girl. She is also a Dwergh. Dwerghs are strange folks who live very quietly in the Catskill mountains, have lots of gold, and are kind of like dwarves (but also not!). 978-1-61696-336-1 <i>Tachyon Publications</i> ©2020 5-1/2 x 9 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 920</p>	1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Teen Molly O'Malley is a Dwergh who lives in New York's Catskill Mountains. Like all Dwergh families, Molly's has extraordinary wealth from mining gold. As a female Dwergh, Molly is expected to tend goats and vegetables and marry a "slob male Dwergh," but she is also permitted to attend school in nearby Kingston. After a year and a half of high school, Molly knows two things: that Dwerghs, though exceedingly boring, possess magic, and that she needs to live on her own. After getting a job at a pizza place, Molly meets the usual, delightful assortment of oddball characters who show up in stories by Pinkwater (the Hoboken Chicken series); here, the cast includes an 18th-century teenage ghost and the Catskill Witch. With their help, Molly must stop androids disguised as British Redcoats from burning New York City, as well as gangsters from stealing the Dwerghs' gold. Molly is curious, practical, and resourceful, and despite her desire for independence, she remains connected to her Dwergh family and heritage. The comically absurd ending is an enjoyable wrap-up to this fast-paced, unexpected adventure that combines history, folklore, and nonsensical fun. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary. (Sept.)

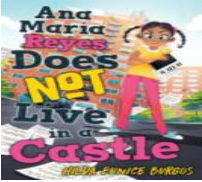
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Written in Pinkwater's unique offbeat style, this novel is part legend, part modern(ish) personal narrative. A Dwerghish girl (of Dutch descent) who calls herself Molly O'Mally recounts days at home and her community life before telling of her adventures outside of that isolated, peaceful place in the Catskills where Dwergh life has remained the same for generations. Molly leaves her Dwergh village to go to the city of Kingston, NY, where she sells a couple Dwergh gold coins, gets a job in a local pizza shop belonging to a man from

Sierra Leone, and sets up a tent of string and garbage bags in the woods behind the shop. On one late night walk in the old town stockade, Molly meets a ghost who becomes a friend and helps Molly understand an apparent plot to use androids to reenact the burning of Kingston from 1777. Molly and her (living) friend, Leni, take a bus trip to New York City to have hotdogs and papaya juice, which Molly later revisits to see the Yorkville witch who can help her solve the mystery. Witty, unorthodox, and highly entertaining twists and turns abound as Molly uses the wisdom of the Dwargs, the help of the local genius DJ, magic parsnips, and her Uncle Norbert's guidance to save Kingston. Small ink drawings open each chapter with a bit of entertainment and some information about the story. VERDICT Those who enjoy a good mystery with an unusual plot, strong characters, and smart language will find connections between this unbelievable story and the incredible adventures of real life.—Lindsay Persohn, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa

		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#2277083 Crazy in Poughkeepsie (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Daniel M. Pinkwater</i></p> <p>Mick is a good kid, but maybe he can use just a little guidance. But it's unclear who will be guiding whom, because Mick's brother came home from Tibet with the self-proclaimed Guru Lumpu Smythe-Finkel and his dog Lhasa-and then promptly settled both of them in Mick's bedroom. The thing about this kind of guru is that he doesn't seem to know exactly what he's trying to do.</p> <p>978-1-61696-374-3 Tachyon Publications ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$16.95</p>

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 In the seemingly inexhaustible Pinkwater's latest short novel, Molly, a character from Pinkwater's Adventures of a Dwerfish Girl (2020) who belongs to a secretive people (which "rhymes," the author hints, "with schmepron"), joins reluctant young narrator Mick and a motley group of fellow travelers in a tricked-out 1958 Buick convertible, complete with built-in toaster, to deliver a ghostly cetacean to the "whale pearly gates," also known as Whalhalla, Mount Whalympus, or Flukes of Glory. Naturally, there are many surreal encounters along the way, but bombinating (look it up) as they "stooge along," guided by a surprisingly knowledgeable dog, the intrepid road trippers complete their mission, only to be rewarded by being all-too-briefly drawn in to the mystical, whirling dance of the massed whale spirits. Renier's intermittent spot art provides an added visual element, and the climactic experience is likely to affect readers as deeply as it does Mick and his compatriots, making an unexpectedly lovely caper for this typically, and distinctively, daffy journey. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

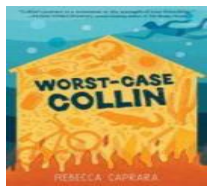
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Mick returns home from summer camp to find "a little old man" named Guru Lumpu Smythe-Finkel occupying his bedroom in Pinkwater's (Adventures of a Dwerfish Girl) jovial novel. Though Mick's older brother Maurice brought Lumpu and his dog Lhasa home from his trip to the Himalayas, the guru takes Mick on as his apprentice. During their daily hikes, Lumpu; who insists that destiny led him to Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; teaches Mick to appreciate the innate oddness of his hometown. The pair are joined by Vern, Mick's environmental activist friend from summer camp, and Molly, a new arrival from the Catskill Mountains who describes herself as "crazy... I'm not myself." After encountering a ghost whale named Luna, the group embarks on a quest to guide the cetacean to her final resting place at the "whale pearly gates." Though outmoded language regarding mental health goes unexamined, this caper offers comical adventure, and Renier's b&w illustrations exude classic comic strip aesthetics, admirably complementing Pinkwater's straightforwardly told absurdist humor. Most characters cue as white; Mick's family reads as Jewish. Ages 10: 13. Agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary. (May)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#2082169 Ana Maria Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Hilda Eunice Burgos</i></p> <p>Ana Maria Reyes REALLY does not live in a castle. Rather, she's stuck in a tiny apartment with two parents, three sisters, everyone's friends, and a piano. If Ana Maria can win a scholarship, she'll be able to get out of her neighborhood school and achieve the education she's longed for. To stand out, she'll need to nail her piano piece at the upcoming city showcase.</p> <p>978-1-62014-362-9 Tu Books ©2018 304 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 3.7 Lexile 640</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$18.95</p>

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When Ana Maria first saw her family's New York City apartment at age three, "it seemed as big as a castle." Now, the 11-year-old shares a tiny bedroom with two of her three sisters, and a new baby is on the way. A gifted student and pianist, the girl worries that a fifth sibling will financially jeopardize her chances of getting a good education and further distract her mother, whom she believes doesn't love her as much as she loves her sisters. Writing in Ana Maria's often angst-riddled voice, debut author Burgos builds the drama as her determined protagonist applies for a scholarship to a private school, performs in a piano recital at Lincoln Center, and discovers during a trip to her

parents' native Dominican Republic that the aunt she idolizes is a snob who abuses her adolescent maid. Despite encroachment on melodramatic turf, the novel offers a poignant portrait of a warm extended family, and its heroine's transition from self-centered to empathetic is credible and gratifying. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-Ana Marfa Reyes doesn't live in a castle, she lives in a two-bedroom apartment with her three sisters and both parents in Washington Heights, New York City. Ana Marfa is caring, outspoken, and impulsive, driven by her emotions but also very goal-oriented. She yearns to attend a private academy, the Eleanor School, but her family doesn't have the money for tuition. To earn a scholarship, she must pass a test and impress the judges playing the piano in a showcase recital at Lincoln Center. She is determined to study and practice every day, but finds it hard to do as part of a large and growing family. Her mother is expecting a new baby and her aunt is getting married. The family travels to the Dominican Republic for the wedding, where the protagonist gets to know her family better and makes a new friend. While there, Ana Marfa struggles to grasp the socioeconomic disparities she sees within her own family and community. Somehow, she finds time to practice, helps her family and friends through tough situations, and learns to deal with and accept the consequences of her actions. This middle grade novel is an engaging, character-driven story about an 11-year-old Dominican American girl who is learning about herself and to appreciate her family and friends. It is an authentic representation of a successful immigrant, middle class Latinx family who values education, community, and family and stays true to their roots. VERDICT An -excellent book for tweens in upper elementary grades and for middle school library collections.-Cynthia Molinar, Medio Creek Elementary SWISD, San Antonio Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2246196 Worst-Case Collin (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rebecca Caprara

Collin is always prepared for something to go wrong. Ever since he lost his mom in a car accident, he's been journaling about how to overcome things like avalanches, riptides, or even a bad case of halitosis. Meanwhile, Collin's father grows more distant by the day, and has started hoarding things throughout their house.

978-1-62354-145-3 Charlesbridge Publishing ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 680

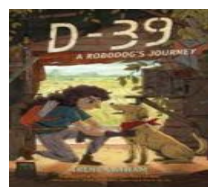
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-7 In the two years since his mom's sudden death, Arizona middle-schooler Collin has tried to deal with his grief by compiling a notebook of calamities--from #212, Indigestion, to #741, Typhoon--and ways to face them. He has no strategy for coping with the relentless bullying from classmate Tyson, though, or the way his distracted father has become such a manic hoarder that the house has turned into a filthy mess. Caprara chronicles Collin's internal struggles, as well as his efforts to hide what's happening from his friends and others, entirely in short-lined free verse interspersed with bulleted entries from his notebook. Readers will likely be appalled by his vivid, wrenching descriptions, but there are moments of poignancy ("she was / supposed to be / with us / forever") and even humor to lighten the load, as well as a reassuringly large circle of supportive peers and grown-ups. Adult characters in fiction who fall prey to compulsive hoarding disorder often tend to be mothers, so this lyrical story offers an unusual perspective on living with a troubled parent. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Ever since Collin's mother died in a car accident, he has worked hard on instructions for what to do in a variety of disastrous situations. His orange notebook is filled with tips, such as these for surviving being buried in an avalanche: "Note where gravity carries your saliva. Dig in the opposite direction." He misses his mother's "morning smooch attacks" as well as the way she kept his brilliant mathematician father's hoarding tendencies under control: "Without someone to keep / Dad's collections in check, / layers accumulate / like...sedimentary rock formations." As the condition of the house deteriorates, it becomes harder for Collin to keep himself clean and to find food. Fortunately, he has two close friends in Liam and Georgia, who don't know about his father's mental illness but are unfailingly supportive and help him feel normal. The verse novel pinpoints Collin's grief over his mother's death, his resulting anxiety, and how he copes with a father he loves but cannot rely on, using short, authentic phrases that home in on his feelings: "I can't decide / if I should laugh / or barf." The inclusion of several concrete poems adds impact, one of the most impressive being a poem in the shape of a house crammed to the brim with words. It's a touching and believable story of getting through to the other side of a terrible time, with Collin's practical survival advice sprinkled throughout. Susan Dove Lempke(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young boy wrestles with his mother's untimely death and his father's consequent hoarding. Sixth grader Collin Brey is anxious. Ever since his mom died in a car accident two years earlier, he has carried an orange notebook full of worst-case scenarios running the gamut from a jammed door to a zombie attack. His father is a brilliant but disorganized math professor who is obsessed with proving the Riemann hypothesis. Collin battles bullies Tyson and Keith at school but is buffered by his two BFFs, Liam and Georgia. At home, Collin's anxiety mounts, as his dad begins to acquire more and more stuff, first starting with thrift-store finds and then working his way up to things like bags of trash and toenail clippings. Ashamed, Collin tries to hide his increasingly distressing home life from his friends, all while battling unresolved grief and his tormentors. While Collin's problems are heavy, Caprara gives him an accessible voice, even managing to imbue humor into the story alongside the many serious moments. Many of the poems are lyrical, flowing free verse, while others play with form. Interspersed beside the poems are Collin's lists from his notebook. Together these elements provide an intimate look into his life and struggles. A note on hoarding and mental health is included. Most characters are presumed White. Poignant, timely, and altogether affecting. (Verse novel. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Written in verse, Caprara's latest centers heartbreaking main character Collin, plus trusty and loving sidekicks Liam and Georgia. Collin has more challenges than most middle schoolers. After the tragic death of his mother in a car accident, Collin is terrified of things going wrong, and his father begins to collect more and more junk that fills up the house. Collin must come up with all kinds of excuses not to have his friends over because of the state of his home. Readers learn about The Hoard--what Collin calls these piles of junk that make for extremely unsafe living conditions. As part of his anxiety about bad things happening, Collin creates a self-guide to emergency situations. These how-to guides are sprinkled throughout the book, which some children might find very helpful. When a prank involving a bully turns into an emergency situation, Collin's preparedness makes him the hero. He has to rescue his father from a house fire that rages out of control because of The Hoard. Collin's unique situation is realistically depicted alongside common middle school moments including pranks, bullying, endearing friendships, and self-examination. **VERDICT** This lyrical title captures the vulnerability of a tween dealing with many challenges, both at school and home. A work of realistic fiction that has much to offer young readers experiencing anxiety and navigating similar middle school situations.--Erin Olsen, Hunter Coll. Elem. Sch., NY Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



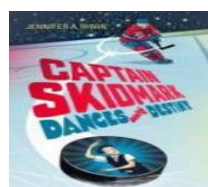
#2234603 D-39: A Robodog's Journey (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Irene Latham

In a future United States, civil war is devastating a country on its last legs. On one side: the Patriots. On the other: President Vex's corrupt government. In the middle: everybody else, just trying to survive. The war is going from bad to worse, but out in the sparsely populated Worselands, twelve-year-old Klynt Tovis doesn't see much of it.

978-1-62354-181-1 Charlesbridge Publishing ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 448 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 630

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Latham (This Poem Is a Nest) melds a dog rescue story with a post-apocalyptic journey in this white-default speculative narrative. Klynt Tovis, 12, lives with her father, Link, on a looganut farm in the Worselands, close to the border of the Wilds. War between the corrupt government of President Vex and the rebel Patriots rages across the country. Dogs have been eradicated as carriers of the deadly BrkX virus and replaced with robos; though those are rare, so Klynt is determined to keep a D-39 robo when it appears at the farm. Soon, D-39 has endeared itself to both Klynt and her neighbor, six-year-old Jopa Tannin. After a lengthy bombardment followed by the disappearance of Klynt's father and Jopa's mother and older sister, Klynt must lead Jopa and D-39 through the war-torn countryside and wilderness to Everlake, a dog refuge in the Wilds where her veterinarian mother lives. Latham invents numerous words ("sparkshine," "quirkface," "hotseason"), imbuing the tale with a whimsical flavor. The palpable isolation Klynt feels will resonate with many readers in the present moment, but any dog lover will appreciate this heartwarming tale of love and perseverance. Back matter includes a glossary of Latham's invented lexicon. Ages 10: up. (May)



#2321369 Captain Skidmark Dances with Destiny (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jennifer A. Irwin

Will is a Canadian eighth grader who hates hockey--and he stinks at it, too. Will is bullied at school, doesn't have any friends, and is generally miserable. When Will's seventeen-year-old hockey-star cousin, Alex, arrives to stay with Will's family, Will and Alex quickly realize they can't stand each other. Then Will stumbles into a local dance school. He fights the urge to cha-cha, but he's good! When Will's dad finds out about the dancing, he basically forbids it. And Alex's dad refuses to listen to what Alex wants to do with his life. Will takes readers on a journey through noogies, awkward conversations, and epic farts. He worries, dances, and makes messes.

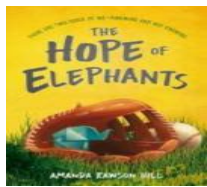
978-1-62354-254-2 Charlesbridge Publishing ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 320 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 Will Stone may well be the worst hockey player ever to take the ice, but from the moment he's roped into taking a ballroom-dancing lesson, he knows he's got a gift. But what will his former NHL-star dad say when he finds out? Not to mention his caustic, scornful grandpa and the vicious tormentors who have made life at school a living hell? Except for the relentless bullying, Irwin delivers her debut's events in a light tone, endowing her resilient but conflicted 13-year-old with comically painful adolescent issues. She also provides unexpected allies in dance partner Tessa ("majestically hot") and a newly arrived live-in cousin with parental issues of his own, both high-schoolers. The author sets up climactic tests of will that will leave readers with two inspiring examples of sons strong enough to chase their own dreams rather

than those of their parents, at least one dad who is willing to learn from his mistakes, and a protagonist with a new outlook on a sport he used to hate. That's some fancy footwork. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Navigating adolescence is hard; family dynamics can make it even harder. Thirteen-year-old Will Stone feels like a loser. He's a skittish new student at Boundary Street Middle School in Evanston, Ontario. His dad, the new principal, has cachet as a former professional hockey player, while Will has earned a special level of disgrace after scoring a goal for the opposing team. Things might be looking up with the news that his cousin Alex, 17, will be coming from cosmopolitan Montreal to live with them. Will sees a potential cool protector. Instead, Alex turns out to be a surly slob. Worse, he becomes the hockey team's new assistant coach. Deliverance comes unexpectedly: Will's kinetic ricocheting as he flees bullies attracts the eye of Jesús Rodriguez, who invites Will into his dance studio. Will is leery, but the flattery of attractive Tessa Harper seals the deal. Will's hockey skills fail to improve, but he doesn't care as he tears it up on the dance floor, and his self-esteem blossoms. Now, how to break this news to his hockey-fanatic family? If the first half of Irwin's bubbly debut is about finding one's bliss, the second half tackles deeper, related questions about identity and masculinity. The first-person narrative sometimes feels too sophisticated for the hyper hero, but there's consistent humor, compassion in abundance, and relatable characters. Will and his family read White; some ethnic diversity is cued in the supporting cast. Adolescent angst and its issues unpacked with a caring, comic eye. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2290483 Hope of Elephants (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Amanda Rawson Hill

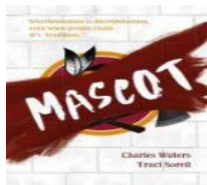
Cass and her parents haven't let her dad's cancer stop them from having a good life—full of love and poems and one annual World Series game. Now that Dad's cancer is back, Cass overhears the doctor say that she has a 50% chance of inheriting her dad's genetic mutation, Li-Fraumeni syndrome. There's a genetic test Cass can take that will tell her for sure. There's still so much she wants to do—play baseball, study at the zoo, travel the world with her best friend, Jayla. Would it be better not to know?

978-1-62354-259-7 Charlesbridge Publishing ©2022 480 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 530

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly On her 12th birthday, Cassandra Hollens's father is diagnosed with Li-Fraumeni syndrome, a mutated p53 gene that makes him susceptible to cancer (which "visits my dad/ in all the odd years/ of my life"). Cass is used to the routine that attends his cancer treatment; trips to the hospital, sanitizing, and homeschooling to avoid germs; but when she realizes she may have the same mutation, she grapples with whether to find out for sure. As her dad's condition worsens, Cass looks into a local study of elephants, which have 20 sets of the cancer-fighting p53 gene, and seeks a way to get her dad to another World Series, which the family has attended eight times following an early bout of his illness. This compassionate verse novel by Hill (You'll Find Me) holds space for Cass's wide-ranging feelings, tracing through the tween's blunt, realistic voice the way that baseball, close friendships, and the family's connection to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, offer succor. An ongoing pro/con list reveals Cass's relatable struggles and closely held dreams; to play baseball, travel the world; but also a stark truth: life can't be boiled down to a list. Protagonists read as white; Cass's best friend cues as Black. Ages 10: up. Agent: Elizabeth Harding, Curtis Brown. (Sept.)



#2332687 Mascot (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Charles Waters

(Novel in Verse) In Rye, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC, people work hard, kids go to school, and football is big on Friday nights. An eighth-grade English teacher creates an assignment for her class to debate whether Rye's mascot should stay or change. Now six middle-schoolers—all with different backgrounds and beliefs—get involved in the contentious issue that already has the suburb turned upside down with everyone choosing sides and arguments getting ugly.

978-1-62354-380-8 Charlesbridge Publishing ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Mrs. Williams tasks her eighth-grade honors English students with a persuasive writing and oral presentation assignment arguing the pros and cons of using Indigenous peoples as mascots. Throughout the course of a school year the story unfolds in a series of poems that detail the perspectives of six students: Callie (Cherokee African American), Franklin (African American), Priya (Indian American), Luis (Salvadoran American), Tessa (white and previously homeschooled), and Sean (white and living in generational poverty). Predictably, Callie, Priya, and Tessa (who sees herself as a committed antiracist) oppose Indigenous mascots, while the boys, who enjoy war paint and tomahawk

chops at Rye Braves games, claim the mascot depicts pride in the team and their school. While the discord around the mascot is a long-standing one in the Virginia community, the assignment empowers the students to take the issue to the school board. After further research, one student switches sides, losing a friend in the process. While the plot requires a fair amount of exposition detailing history and arguments on both sides, the characters are well developed and believable, and the story flows smoothly. A valuable classroom pick that demonstrates the importance of debate. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Waters and Sorell (Cherokee Nation) join forces to write about the power of being true to oneself. In a middle school in Rye, a fictional town near Washington, D.C., a racist mural and offensive pep rally chants shock new student Callie Crossland, who is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and African American. Callie shares a heartfelt poem with her seventh grade honors English class, reminding everyone that the "stupid tomahawk-chop chant" and the "cheap chicken-feather headdress" are nothing less than symbols of "white supremacy." Afterward, Ms. Williams, her teacher, assigns a persuasive writing and oration project entitled "Pros and Cons of Indigenous Peoples as Mascots." The small, broadly diverse group of students is assigned to work in pairs; Callie is matched with Franklin, who is Black and a proud fan of the Rye Braves football team. Franklin insists, "I wish we could Lysol racism away. / It's a bad odor," but he feels conflicted: "I still don't think our mascot is racist though. It brings so much joy. / ...what's the big deal?" This clever novel unfolds in poems told in multiple voices showing the wide range of students', families', and community responses to the controversy; for some, initial feelings of opposition, hesitation, or indifference change and friendships are tested. The compelling, highly relevant subject matter and accessible text invite readers to understand different perspectives and witness individual growth. A brilliant story not to be missed; deeply engaging from the first page. (glossary, additional information and resources) (Verse fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly tives, this ripped-from-the-headlines collaboration in verse by Waters (African Town) and Cherokee Nation men Sorrel (One Land, Many Nations) follows a fictional town's division over a racist sports mascot. Callie Crossland, who is Cherokee and Black, has just transferred to a middle school in Rye, Va. She immediately expresses disgust at her school's mascot, a "copper-toned, muscle , loincloth-clad, tomahawk-wielding" caricature of an Indigenous person. Callie's English teacher Ms. Williams soon assigns a group writing project regarding the "Pros and Cons of Indigenous Peoples as Mascots," and Callie is annoyed at being paired with Black classmate Franklin, who believes the mascot "brings so much joy." Waters and Sorrel paint a complex portrait of the differing reactions toward the controversy by layering the racially diverse tweens' perspectives and showcasing the effects the event has on their individual relationships and the community beyond their school. The creators eschew judgment to present a well-rounded discussion about classism and racism, as well as effective allyship, with compassion and understanding. A glossary and resources conclude. Ages 10: up. Agents: (for Waters) Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary; (for Sorrel) Emily Mitchell, Wernick & Pratt. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Waters and Sorell's novel in verse, told in alternating perspectives, tackles the relevant topic of racist imagery in mascots. In the football town of Rye, VA, Callie, who is Black and a member of the Cherokee Nation, shares her earnest poem in eighth-grade honors English class about using Indigenous peoples as mascots. Their teacher then sets up a formal debate to address the pros and cons of the school's Indigenous mascot. The diverse group of students have varied backgrounds and strong feelings about the issue. As they work through their debate, questions about what is right emerge, friendships are tested, and what it means to be an ally is brought forth. Each character grows throughout the book. However, as in life, the issue remains sensitive and unresolved. VERDICT Highly recommended as a pick for classrooms to use in debate and conversations; a timely and important novel.--Amy Zembroski Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2350411 Invisible Elephant (Hardcover (POB))

written by Anna Anisimova

For the young, blind heroine of *The Invisible Elephant*, the world is a thrilling place full of sounds, smells, and sensations. Although she doesn't see the world outside with her eyes, nothing stops her from encountering her surroundings with joy and an impressively creative imagination. In four charming stories, we go with her to the zoo, the museum, and art class, and get a peek into her wonderfully magical mind where her grandfather's walking stick can transform into a horse and a sled can become a whale. When the time comes for her to learn braille, we watch how her family and friends cheer her on as she discovers how to navigate the world in her own way.

978-1-63206-324-3 Yonder ©2023 7-1/2 x 9-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 490

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$22.00

Reviews by: Booklist This beginning chapter book contains four loosely linked short stories (the titular one appeared first as a picture book) and centers on the everyday life of a young child and her family. In "The Invisible Elephant," she discovers the world around her using her senses; "Speedy" details Grandpa's noisy third leg (a cane) and how it helps her after he suffers a fall; "The Music of My Woodpecker" introduces tactile books and Braille; and "Whale Seeks a Friend" describes a snowy excursion with her inner-tube sled. What goes unmentioned, but will be clear to most readers, is the child's blindness, which neither deters her participation in day-to-day activities nor serves as a source of distress or pity.

Sidneva's playful illustrations (digitally enhanced black and white, accented in blue and yellow) employ a cartoon style and signal the girl's imagination using outlined elements that allow the background to show through. Smoothly translated from the Russian and including a surprising amount of wordplay, this is a joyous story of "unique abilities and possibilities."



#2348503 House of the Lost on the Cape (Hardcover (POB))

written by Sachiko Kashiwaba

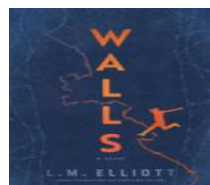
In the wake of a devastating earthquake and tsunami, Yui, fleeing her violent husband, and Hiyori, a young orphan, are taken in by a strange but kind old lady named Kiwa in the small town of Kitsunezaki. The newly formed family finds refuge in a mayoiga, a lost house, perched atop a beautiful cape overlooking the sea. While helping to rebuild Kitsunezaki, the three adapt to their new lives and supernatural new home, slowly healing from their troubled pasts.

978-1-63206-337-3 *Yonder* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 1 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.00

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Kashiwaba (Temple Alley Summer) reimagines sometimes frighteningly depicted creatures from Japanese folklore as friendly allies to a magical grandmother in this fanciful tale. Three strangers arrive separately to Kitsunezaki, a small coastal village, hours before the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. At a shelter following the events, Kiwa Yamana, an endearing 87-year-old whom everyone calls Obachan, seemingly mistakes a young woman and an orphaned child as her daughter-in-law and granddaughter. The woman, having escaped from her physically abusive husband in Tokyo, and the silent youth are gratefully swept up by Obachan's care. The trio move into an old thatch-roofed house that has been fixed up by Obachan's mystical friends. When unexplained incidents result in injured animals throughout Kitsunezaki, Obachan's companions; which include kappa river spirits and Jizo guardian statues; help the little family find the source: a Shinto shrine was destroyed by the tsunami, and the evil sea snake it had sealed away now threatens the village. Kashiwaba's moody work teems with ambient wonder and grim portent, offering glimpses of darkness without overwhelming the narrative's uplifting tone. All characters are Japanese. Ages 8: 13. (Sept.)



#2239347 Walls (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Laura Elliott

This powerful documentary-style novel with a photo essay introducing every chapter tells the story of two cousins, one a German in East Berlin and the other an American Army brat in West Berlin, from August 1960 - August 1961, as they navigate the political and social turmoil that threatens their friendship and ends in the abrupt rise of the Berlin Wall, which may separate them forever.

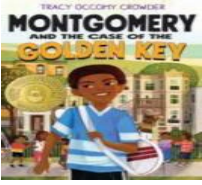
978-1-64375-024-8 *Algonquin* ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Drew and his family move to West Berlin, Germany, as his dad, a U.S. Army sergeant stationed in East Berlin, fights to protect democracy against Communist Russia. Drew's cousin, Matthias, grew up in the war-torn city and experienced the harsh conditions of communism in East Berlin. After the two boys begin spending time together, they learn how different they are in both freedom and ideology. Though Drew is encouraged to befriend Matthias and introduce him to democracy, the two are wary of each other and their respective beliefs. As the political situation grows more tense, Drew's and Matthias' loyalties are tested, and each must choose how to navigate his politics-infused world. Elliott's latest is set a year prior to the unexpected rise of the Berlin Wall, incorporating all kinds of historical context, including science, world events, politics, and entertainment, through pictures at the beginning of each chapter, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the period. The portrayal of events is first-rate, creating a poignant yet lighthearted read.


Reviews by: Publishers Weekly iction novel takes place in Berlin over the course of 12 crucial months of the Cold War: August 1960: 1961, as tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union intensify, culminating in the sudden erection of the Berlin Wall. When self-described "army brat" Drew MacMahon, 15, a star baseball pitcher, arrives with his family at his father's latest posting behind the Iron Curtain, he's prepared to make a new home and new friends for the fifth time. But he quickly finds that living in the heart of divided Europe means unexpected restrictions and growing dangers, which grow personal when his mother welcomes her German first cousin Aunt Marta and her son Matthias, who live in Communist-controlled East Berlin, into their family. As Drew and his sisters maneuver their school and social life among American friends, the political situation around them increasingly intrudes, raising questions of trust and risk-taking. Behm's journalistic photo essay chapter opens smoothly and efficiently render the unfolding of political and cultural events, thrusting readers into the world that Drew and his likable white family and

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2349646 Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Tracy Ocomy Crowder</i> In 2008 Chicago, in the Southside community of Washington Park, Montgomery "Monty" Carver has planned the best summer ever! Unfortunately, things aren't going as planned. Monty is struggling to prove to his parents that he's old enough to be without adult supervision--especially after a very embarrassing incident with a metal detector. Man! So when Monty finds a golden key in Old Lady Jenkins's sunflowers, he decides he's going to unravel the key's mystery all by himself, thank you very much. <i>978-1-64379-517-1 Tu Books ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 300 pgs.</i> <i>Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</i>	1	\$21.95

Reviews by: Booklist Crowder's New Visions Award-winning novel follows newly 10-year-old Montgomery Carver in 2008 as he seeks the secrets of a mysterious golden key found in his neighborhood in South Side Chicago. Monty, intent on proving his independence in a city that is bustling with historical what-ifs, decides to embark on this mission on his own. The big events never stop for his community, either: between possibly hosting the Olympics and possibly being the home of the next history-making president of the United States, Barack Obama, Chicago continues to thrum with excitement. Add to this a possible ghost case that Monty needs to solve and he really has his hands full. Including heartfelt journal entries and vibrant illustrations from Sorra, this voice-y novel is an unforgettable adventure through a nostalgic decade, showcasing the times right before they were about to change.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An almost-10-year-old boy races to solve the mystery of a golden key while forming deeper connections with people in his Chicago community. Born and raised in the South Side of Chicago, Montgomery Carver lives in a world filled with small but plentiful delights. It's the summer of 2008, and Monty's Washington Park neighborhood is buzzing with excitement: A man named Barack Obama could become the first Black president of the United States, and Chicago could host the 2016 Olympics. Monty's summer plans include perfecting his Afro and mastering his tennis serve. But when he prematurely unwraps his birthday present (a metal detector), uses it to find a skeleton key buried in Old Lady Jenkins' flower bed, and then breaks his gift, he gets in trouble with his parents. Forced to work to pay them back, Monty does odd jobs for the neighbors, getting to know them--including community activist Ms. Jenkins--better in the process. Monty feverishly makes observations, does research, asks questions, and forms hypotheses, uncovering the story of the key, which reveals surprising connections to Washington Park and spotlights a lesser-known chapter in Black history. Tu Books' New Visions Award winner Crowder's debut depicts a vibrant community, showcasing the importance of civic responsibility and the power of grassroots organization. The narrative's first-person perspective captures Monty's infinite curiosity and endearing sense of wonder. An engaging novel drawing strength from its rich narrative voice and celebrating Black historical luminaries. (author's note) (Mystery. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This endearing middle grade debut by Crowder, set in 2008 on the South Side of Chicago, is an ode to community engagement. Montgomery Carver, a tennis enthusiast and bearer of an "all-that" Afro, aspires to make this summer the best ever. But when he sneaks out carrying the metal detector his parents plan to give him for his upcoming 10th birthday; and accidentally breaks it; he is tasked with finding a way to pay them back. Unbeknownst to his parents, Monty uncovered a golden key buried in neighbor Ms. Jenkins's yard. The discovery sends Monty on an investigation into the key's origins, which is punctuated by his doing odd jobs for community members and navigating his neighbors' apprehension and excitement surrounding Chicago's bid to host the Olympics. Throughout his inquiry, he learns of Black horse jockeys, train porters, and more, as well as their connections to the found key, Black history, and his beloved town. Crowder employs Monty's inquisitive and irrepressible first-person narration to rousing effect, making for a spirited novel that encourages curiosity while highlighting a protagonist alongside the neighborhood and history fueling his personal growth. Ages 9: 13. (Oct.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2279809 Once Upon a Family (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Amanda Rawson Hill</i> One night, when Winnie makes a hasty wish, she nearly gets sideswiped by an odd bird, leading her to a strangely glowing oak tree. Investigating, Winnie discovers a nest of golden eggs with wishes inscribed on the shells. After Winnie accidentally breaks two of the eggs, the wishes come true. Winnie sneaks back to the tree to try to grant her own wishes. But soon the wishes are coming true in unexpected and terrible ways, and Winnie must find a way to fix everything. <i>978-1-63592-317-9 Astra House ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 1 pgs.</i>	1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Winnie and her mom's "two girls against the world" life changes when Mom decides to marry Jeff, giving Winnie a stepdad and a younger brother she doesn't want. Eleven-year-old Winnie sees the world through a fairy-tale lens thanks to her mom's job as a literature professor. Writing in her notebook, Winnie casts herself as a princess and her mother as a queen; she does not want an evil stepfather. But Winnie's anxiety--which she's named Eustace Clarence Scrubb--causes her to see monsters where there are none, and her fear often turns to anger and causes her to lash out at Jeff's son and even new friends like her neighbor and schoolmate Abigail. But when Winnie discovers magic in their neighborhood, she shares the secret with Abigail, who tries to help her craft the perfect wish to fix her situation. Hill enables readers to see deeply into Winnie, including her past, fears, anger, wishes, and the way she perceives her own story. Though the book is told in the first person, other characters' true natures are clear through their words and actions, and secondary characters, such as grouchy older neighbor Tom Bailey, have their own stories. Hill's writing is full of poetic references readers will recognize, as when Winnie feels "like the oldest sibling in a fairy tale where only third children ever win." The few physical descriptions present point to a White cast. A modern blended family story with a sprinkling of magic. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2348448 Mist (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Marta Palazzesi

London, 1880, 13-year-old Clay is a mud lark, scavenging on the banks of the Thames for anything he might sell for money to buy food. One day Clay goes to the camp of the circus that has newly arrived in town and meets Ollie, a girl about his age, who lives with the circus. Ollie brings him to the cage of "the last wolf in England". Mist, as he calls it, is fierce, angry, and indomitable, perhaps due to the cruel treatment of its tamers, which Clay secretly witnesses.

978-1-63655-069-5 Red Comet Press LLC ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile GN 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy living in the slums of Victorian England recognizes a kindred spirit in a caged wild wolf and seeks to liberate it. Thirteen-year-old Clay and his friends and fellow gang members make their living scavenging the banks of the Thames for objects they can sell. When Clay comes upon an exquisite set of hand-painted tarot cards he knows will fetch a handsome price, they lead him to Smith & Sparrow's Amazing Circus and its headlining attraction, "the last living wolf in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland." Curious, Clay approaches the animal's cage, led there by a young circus performer named Ollie, who's described as a "didicoy" (defined in a footnote as "a traveler of part Romani descent"). Clay sees the anger and unyielding spirit of the silver wolf, whom he names Mist, as well as Mist's cruel treatment at the hands of the traveling circus's animal trainers. Haunted by the memory of Mist in his cage and repulsed by the knowledge of what happens to circus animals that cannot be tamed, Clay resolves to free the wolf at any cost. Readers of this page-turner translated from Italian will be unable to resist rooting for Clay and Mist. Clay is a compelling protagonist with a strong voice, and kids will eagerly follow along as he works to gain Mist's trust. Clay and most characters present white. A heartfelt, attention-grabbing animal adventure. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In 1880 London, 13-year-old orphan Clay and his friends Nucky and Tod; collectively known as the Terrors of Blackfriar Bridge; get by as mud larks, searching the grimy banks of the Thames for anything worth reselling. The trio also defend their territory from other mud larks and avoid being caught by men from local factories, who kidnap orphaned youths to work at their facilities. When Smith & Sparrow's Amazing Circus comes to town, advertising "the last living wolf in the United Kingdom," Clay is intrigued, and a chance encounter with Olivia, the circus fortune teller's granddaughter, enables him to see the fearsome creature up close. Learning that the wolf, which Clay has named Mist, will be killed if it can't be tamed, Clay decides to free it; but first, he must gain Mist's trust. Though a loosely plotted third act diminishes gratification, this gritty adventure from Palazzesi (The Adventures of Young Lupin), populated by numerous uniquely rendered characters, captures the high-adrenaline spirit and danger of living by one's wits, especially as Clay works to redefine his priorities and baseline for happiness while combatting financial precarity. Most characters cue as white; Olivia reads as having Romani heritage. Ages 9: 12. (Sept.)



#2330400 Smoke at the Pentagon: Poems To Remember (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jacqueline Jules

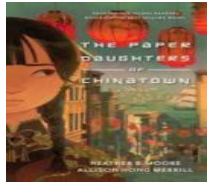
(Novel in verse) On September 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. One hundred and eighty-four innocent people were killed. The event occurred at 9:37 a.m. and was part of a coordinated terrorist attack against the United States involving four hijacked flights. These poems tell the stories

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

of young people from all aspects of the Arlington and Pentagon communities and are composites drawn from personal experiences with students and friends residing in Northern Virginia at the time of the attack.

978-1-63819-152-0 *Bushel & Peck Books* ©2023 8-1/2 x 11 32 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic



**#2322708 Paper Daughters of Chinatown (Young Reader's Edition)
(Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Heather B. Moore

When Tai Choi leaves her home in the Zhejiang province of China, she believes she'll be visiting her grandmother. But in truth, despite her mother's opposition, her father has sold her to pay his gambling debts. When she arrives, she is forced to go by the new name listed on her paper documents: Tien Fu Wu. When Dolly Cameron arrives in San Francisco to teach sewing at a mission home for orphaned Asian girls, she meets Tien Fu, who is willful, defiant, and unwilling to trust anyone. Dolly quickly learns that all the girls at the home were freed from lives of servitude and maltreatment. Dolly immediately joins the group of women dedicated to saving more of these "paper daughters" because some in authority have turned a blind eye to the situation.

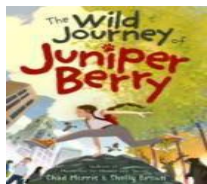
978-1-63993-094-4 *Shadow Mountain* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Young Tien Fu is put on a boat from China to "Gold Mountain" (San Francisco) at six years of age to settle her father's gambling debt. She thinks she is visiting her grandmother, but instead, everything is taken from her, including her name. Tien Fu must fight to survive. Sold into slavery, then bartered and sold again, she is tortured and trusts no one. Once she is rescued and brought to the San Francisco mission, she meets Dolly Cameron, who has arrived to teach sewing to the girls at the mission. Based on the true story of the adult bestselling novel by the same name, the adapted version includes topics, such as gambling, brothels, and opium usage, but doesn't explain in detail what they are. Dolly attempts to rescue girls and young women from deplorable situations, while coming up against the slave owners who resort to violence and bombings to get the girls back. Tien Fu and the other girls are given new names in the United States, making them paper daughters without a home. "Tien Fu" means "heavenly blessing," and the girl wonders if she can change who she is and grow up to be strong, brave, and independent. As the years go by, Tien Fu and Dolly grow closer, and Tien Fu becomes an interpreter and rescuer. Also included is information for teachers, reader questions and answers, and history about Chinese immigration in the 1800s. Heartbreakingly real, the story of Tien Fu can spark conversation about human trafficking, the many people who have been affected, and its existence today. VERDICT A great choice for book clubs and fans of historical fiction.--Michele Shaw Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2330658 Wild Journey of Juniper Berry (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Chad Morris

Eleven-year-old Juniper Berry lives in a cabin with her family deep in the wild woods. Living off the grid is usually exciting, like the time she chased off three growling raccoons with a tree branch and some acorns, or when she thought she glimpsed the legendary Bigfoot. But her happy life in the wild ends abruptly when her younger brother gets sick, and the family moves to the city to be closer to the hospital.

978-1-63993-099-9 *Shadow Mountain* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

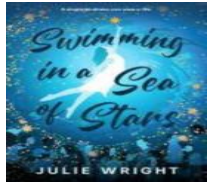
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly s lived her entire life happily off the grid with her parents, older sister Sky, and younger brother Hawk, far away from the pressures of society. But when five-year-old Hawk's appendix bursts, his harried hospital visit thrusts Juniper into contemporary civilization, a world she's only imagined and never longed for that's brimming with seemingly magical machines and new foods. Sent with Sky to Redburn, Calif., to live with relatives she didn't know existed while Hawk recovers, Juniper aches to return to their family's remote lifestyle. Enrolled in school for the first time, she must contend with mean girls, an exasperated cousin, and more rules than she could ever hope to understand. or a girl well versed in climbing trees and living off the land, navigating life among the masses may prove to be more challenging than any dange

r she ever faced in the woods. Juniper's first-person voice and the many memorably developed characters she meets cultivate a feel-good story that reminds readers of both the pitfalls and the benefits of coexisting with others. Juniper is described as looking like her white mother; her father has "dark curly hair and light brown skin." Ages 8: 10. (Aug.)



#2330652 Swimming in a Sea of Stars (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Julie Wright

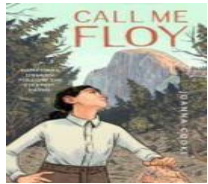
Addison is no stranger to feeling stressed, insecure, and sad. Her therapist recommended she keep a journal to help her understand those feelings better, which she really needs today. It's her first day back to school, several weeks after she survived her suicide attempt. She knows there are rumors about why she did it but she still holds secrets she's not ready to share.

978-1-63993-101-9 Deseret Book Company ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Five students from the same Massachusetts high school struggle with difficult life experiences as one of them prepares to return to school following a suicide attempt. In a diary her therapist suggested she keep, 17-year-old Addison begins the rotation of the narrative in first-person epistolary format, striking a weary tone laced with sarcastic humor. Also lending their voices in the third person are Booker, Damion, Avery, and Celia, students who all know--or at least know of--Addison. Booker is close to Addison, a friend or maybe more, but she's been avoiding him. This, plus his cousin's serious illness, weighs heavily on him. Meanwhile, Damion's image as a minor social media star obscures a tragic family secret, and while everyone knows that Avery's brother was recently arrested for drug dealing, most don't suspect that quiet, reserved Celia is dealing with abuse at home. Many realistic issues are explored, and while readers will feel empathy for each of these characters, the overarching themes of interconnectedness and how people can affect others in ways of which they are not always aware are a bit heavy-handed in their portrayals. Addison, Damion, Avery, and Celia are White; Booker is Black, and there is racial diversity among secondary characters. A story at times poignant but at others too conscious of its own hopeful messaging. (Fiction. 13-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2160621 Call Me Floy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Joanna Cooke

Florence "Floy" Hutchings is the daughter of a famous father, and while the extra attention that brings is not unwelcome, all she really wants is to be herself. Floy longs to return to the majestic place where she was born and where she has always felt free: Yosemite! Upon returning to her beloved Valley, Floy finds that it is changing. Yet, against this backdrop of change, Floy pursues her dream of climbing the indomitable Half Dome.

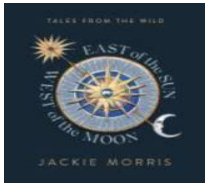
978-1-930238-99-2 Yosemite Association ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 760

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—In 1864, Florence "Floy" Hutchings was the first European American child born in what would become Yosemite National Park. Daughter of publisher and Yosemite advocate James Hutchings, Floy's real-life story is fictionalized in this appealing first-person narrative. Author Cooke (*The Sequoia Lives On*, 2018) introduces Floy just before her 12th birthday, as her family returns to the valley where she has spent unsupervised childhood summers blissfully exploring the wonders of nature. This summer, however, Floy finds much has changed for herself as well as local friends Johnny and Sally Ann. Floy is expected to forego her dream of climbing Half Dome in favor of more ladylike, adult pursuits. Johnny yearns to go to sea and Sally Ann worries that soon her Indigenous family will no longer be able to call Yosemite their home. Readers will be inspired by Floy's determined spirit as she flouts convention to realize her dream, and in 1876, she becomes the youngest person to climb Half Dome. The novel is both a history of Yosemite and a travel guide. In Floy's wanderings through the valley, Cooke describes the girl's feelings of being in the presence of nature more than the specifics of local flora and fauna. Names of park trails and bodies of water, along with historical figures like John Muir, will encourage independent research. Back matter offers simple suggestions for outdoor adventuring. VERDICT An ideal choice for summer reading lists and to support the "No Child Left Inside" initiative.—Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY

Quantity
Unit Price



#2284750 East of the Sun, West of the Moon (Hardcover (POB))

1

\$24.95

written by Jackie Morris

From the moment she saw him, the girl knew the bear had come for her. How many times had she dreamed of him? Now, here he was, as if spelled from her dreams. This encounter marks the beginning of a long and extraordinary journey. At the bear's secret palace in faraway mountains, she is treated courteously but troubled by the bear's unfathomable sadness. As the bear's secret unravels, another adventure unfolds, which takes her to the homes of the four winds and beyond, to the castle east of the sun, west of the moon.

978-1-78352-886-8 Unbound ©2022 5-1/2 x 7 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic



#2284749 Wild Swans (Hardcover (POB))

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$24.95

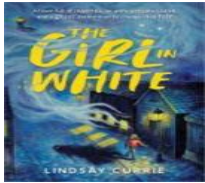
written by Jackie Morris

A girl loses her beloved brothers when they are turned into swans by her wicked stepmother. She embarks on a vital quest with one purpose: to find them and turn them back into boys again. But the task is complicated. She must pick nettles with her bare hands and turn them to yarn, to spin and knit into shirts for each of the eleven brothers. And all the while she cannot speak, for if she does, even so much as a whisper, it will be like a knife in the heart of each swan-boy. And so she knits in silence. And where there is silence, people will put words.

978-1-78352-888-2 Unbound ©2022 5-1/2 x 7 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine Jackie Morris's *The Wild Swans* is a dreamy retold fairy tale that's full of hope, beauty, and love.



#2292829 Girl in White (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$16.99

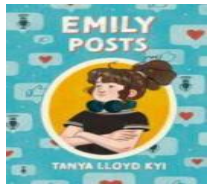
written by Lindsay Currie

Mallory hasn't quite adapted to life in her new town of Eastport yet. Maybe it's because everyone is obsessed with upholding Eastport's reputation as the most cursed town in the U.S. Combined with the unsettling sensation of being watched, she's quickly becoming convinced there's more to her town. Something sinister. When Mallory has a terrifying encounter with the same old woman from her dreams, she's not sure what to do. With the town gearing up to celebrate the anniversary of their first recorded legend, Mallory is forced to investigate the one Eastport legend she's always secretly been afraid of: Sweet Molly.

978-1-7282-3654-4 Sourcebooks, Incorporated ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 9.0

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Living in Eastport, Mass., the country's "most cursed city," is like celebrating Halloween every day, but 12-year-old narrator Mallory Denton, an aspiring travel photographer, doesn't enjoy the unending festivities. Transplanted from Chicago, she struggles to adjust to the "quaint, yet foreboding" town, which revels in its supernatural reputation, hosting monthly parades, boasting shops filled with ghoulish garb, and celebrating the beloved 200-year-old legend of Molly Flanders McMulligan Marshall. Known as Sweet Molly, the resident cursed Eastport after her brother, a fishing boat captain, died at sea during a dangerous storm. While Mallory's parents embrace the town's macabre history, serving gravestone-shaped pancakes at their purportedly haunted, cemetery-adjacent restaurant, the tween endures nightmares of a frightening hag intent on harming her. As the October anniversary of Sweet Molly's curse nears, Mallory's constant nightmares take a turn when a wild-eyed woman appears, determined to unleash her wrath upon the town at whose insistence Sweet Molly's brother set sail. Told through Mallory's resolute first-person voice, Currie's (*What Lives in the Woods*) middle grade debut brims with tension, spine-tingling terror, and convincing characters bravely facing a supernatural dilemma. Characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Shannon Hassan, Marsal Lyon Literary. (Sept.)



#2365822 Emily Posts (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tanya Lloyd Kyi

Emily is the ringleader for her school podcast, Cedarview Speaks - Sponsored by CoastFresh! But her plans for middle-school fame and social media influence are derailed when Amelie joins her eighth-grade class. The new arrival has a seemingly endless supply of confidence and a gift for leading people. Or leading them astray, as far as Emily's concerned.

978-1-77488-204-7 Tundra Books ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 264 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An aspiring social media influencer navigates friendship woes while advocating for climate change. Inspired by her idol, Emily Post, 13-year-old Emily Laurence has a precise plan for her rise to social media influencer fame--guided by proper etiquette, of course. Unfortunately, things aren't going according to plan. For starters, she's acquired an infuriating new stepfamily. Emily's mom also confiscated her phone when she violated her social media restrictions, and she needs it back in time for the local climate march. The school principal is punishing her for posting an unauthorized episode of the podcast she hosts with best friend Simone Ahn, which means likely losing out on meeting Asha Jamil, her social media influencer idol, when she comes to their middle school. And now the annoyingly alluring (and vegan!) new girl, Amelie Cattaneo, is co-hosting the podcast with Simone. Written from Emily's first-person perspective, this story neatly lines up plot points, and the friendship dynamics are handled deftly, but quick resolutions and interrupted conversations prevent authentic, age-appropriate explorations of relevant topics. There's a clear message that climate change is a problem, but ways to have a meaningful impact are explored on a surface level. At times, Emily's narration seems oblivious to her own affluent privilege. Emily reads white; contextual clues point to some ethnic diversity in the supporting cast. Useful as a starting point for more nuanced conversations about internet safety and climate change. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Light humor and erudite insight meld in this socially conscious novel by Kyi (Me and Banksy) that centers middle school activism. White-cued eighth grader Emily Laurence hopes that leading her school's podcast club "through the lens of environmental change" will secure her future as an eco-minded tastemaker and influencer journalist. Jealousy over a magnetic new classmate and frustrations with her newly blended family and her mother's rigid social media rules prompt Emily to distract herself by scripting a podcast story about an upcoming climate march. But when school administration forces the podcast club to cut the story to protect corporate sponsorships, Emily counters with bold action that jeopardizes her friendships and aspirations. As Emily makes amends, bonds with an autistic-cued classmate, and cares for her stepbrother and his wheelchair-using friend, she finds inspiration to develop her online blog Emily Posts, in which she distills her experiences into punchy, clickbait-y articles ("How my life was ruined by my rabid pseudo-sibling"). Kyi scratches the surface of wide-ranging topics such as capitalistic overreliance and greed, cultural appropriation, environmentalism, Indigenous peoples' rights, social media influence, and veganism via convenient plotting that culminates in a rosy resolution. Relevant themes, comedic family antics, and Emily's witty, intimate first-person narration make this a smart and timely read. Ages 10: up. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—Kyi tells the story of Emily, who is an average eighth grader with dreams of becoming an influencer. She runs a school podcast called Cedarview Speaks with three other students. Usually it's a quiet podcast, but the news of influencer Asha Jamil's visit to Cedarview Middle School has everyone excited. Emily does all she can to stay up to date with what is happening around her, including a climate march one of the high schoolers is planning. The excitement of the climate march and Asha Jamil's appearance is quickly extinguished when Emily realizes they are on the same day; the principal, Mr. Lau, purposely scheduled them for the same day so students wouldn't go to the march and mess up the school's corporate sponsorship. Emily is navigating all this plus new family members and her new friends interrupting old friendships. Kyi's writing brings all these elements together for a very crafty and exciting ending. This realistic fiction title is truly a middle grade read. Nothing in the content suggests anything too mature, with the exception of one reference to sexting. The story's complicated nature is pieced together by the end and the relationships between the characters are very well done. The ending is somewhat rushed and glances over plot holes, but things ultimately reach an intriguing and satisfying conclusion. Subtle plot elements like the bullying of a friend are handled quietly but efficiently. VERDICT Recommended for any ambitious middle schoolers who feel as if they are struggling to find their way.—Natalie Wallace



#2356360 Billy and the Giant Adventure (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jamie Oliver

Billy and his friends know that Waterfall Woods is out of bounds; strange things are rumored to have happened there and no one in their village has ventured past its walls for decades... But when they discover a secret way in, Billy and his best friends, Anna, Jimmy and Andy, can't resist the temptation to explore! Only to quickly discover that the woods are brimming with magic and inhabited by all sorts of unusual creatures,

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

including a whole community of sprites who need the children's help!
978-1-77488-414-0 *Tundra Books* ©2023 6 x 8-1/2 352 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Celebrity chef Oliver combines goofy humor and wilderness whimsy with serious real-world issues to craft a layered story-within-a-story, framed as a bedtime tale that a father recounts to his two children. Despite warnings from the local adults that no good will come to those who wander into the surrounding wilds, tween Billy and his compatriots Andy, Anna, and Jimmy venture into enchanted Waterfall Woods. After befriending members of a Sprite civilization, the quartet learn that the Rhythm; or the natural balance of the forest; is off-kilter. At the Sprites' urging, the youths investigate a faceless industrial poultry farm that's spewing waste into the waterways. As Billy and company navigate the perils of the verdant woods, they use the lessons learned in the wilderness to counter challenges back home, such as bullying and managing learning disabilities, grounding the fantastical adventure and pleasantly decelerating the quicksilver plot. Descriptive writing renders plenty of delicious food scenes throughout, portrayed via textured pencil illustrations by Armino (A Wolf Called Wander). Recipes conclude. Most human characters appear white; Jimmy reads as Black. Ages 8: 12. (Nov.)

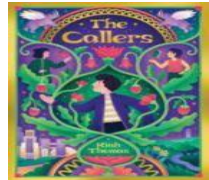


#2223072 Little Mermaid (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ashly Lovett

After saving a human man during a sea storm, she soon desires his love and an eternal soul. Naive and desperate, the little mermaid turns to the banished sea witch among the world pools. The exchange to be human was high. Scared, but determined, she begins her journey to find love and a soul.

978-1-7770817-4-4 *Eye of Newt* ©2021 8 x 11 45 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$24.95



#2275427 Callers (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kiah Thomas

In the world of Elipsom, the ability to Call, or summon objects, is a coveted, crucial skill, revered among its people as both a powerful tool and an essential way to sustain life. But despite an elite family history, a phenom for an older sister, a best friend who is set to join the Council of Callers, and his mother's steely insistence that he learn to Call, Quin doesn't have the gift-an embarrassment made worse when his mother gets his sister to cheat for him on his Calling exam. But everything changes in a moment of frustration when Quin, instead of summoning an object, makes something disappear. And what's more, he quickly discovers that the objects Callers bring into their world aren't conjured at all but are whisked away from another world and a people who for years have had their lives slowly stolen from them. Now Quin must team up with Allie, a girl who's determined to stop this unfair practice, and decide whether he should remain loyal to his family or betray them-and save the world.

978-1-7972-1078-0 *Chronicle Books LLC* ©2022 228 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 On the barren continent of Elipsom, Callers hold the power, sustaining society with the apparent ability to conjure objects from nothing. Quin's intimidating mother heads the Council of Callers, and although their family has led for generations, Quin is unable to Call. When he is suddenly and mysteriously transported across the planet to another continent called Evantra, he learns that Calling, in fact, steals objects from this land. Callers have been oppressing Evantra in secret, exploiting forced labor in order to maintain Elipsom's prosperity, and Quin must decide between loyalty to his family or to the self he is coming to discover. Thomas' debut middle-grade novel is poignant in its simplicity, with tight, effective prose, a slim page count, and a minimal style of world building that allows readers to concentrate on the thought-provoking questions being raised about oppression, consumerism, and our relationship to our planet, as well as Quin's search for identity outside of his family's legacy. A refreshing, affecting work that shows what thoughtful fantasy can do. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Elipsom is a barren, infertile world, and its people depend on the Callers, who can conjure up food and other material needs from nothing, simply by naming them. Quin, of the dynastic Octavius family, is the first Octavius in

history who apparently cannot Call, and he's an utter disappointment to his mother, Elipsom's Chief Councilor. Quin longs to understand his place in the world, and he's determined to figure out what his visions of a green, glowing landscape mean. He is shocked to one day wake up in the dream world, a place called Evantra--the people of Elipsom have always been told Evantra is as dead and barren as their own home. Quin learns that Evantra is the source of all the materials Called to Elipsom, and he soon discovers his destiny is greater than he ever imagined. Despite clever and imaginative world-building (particularly charming are the winged rhinoceroses called ÒrhinodritesÓ), the story lacks much emotional impact. Quin is a likable and accessible protagonist, but his easy acceptance upon learning everything he's ever known is a lie strains credulity. Still, the fast pace keeps the pages turning and the intensity ramps up toward the end, ensuring a sequel. AT COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine The Octavius family is notable for producing Callers -- people with the ability to summon objects seemingly out of thin air. Quintus Octavius, however, has never been successful at Calling anything. This does not sit well with his mother, Elipsom's Chief Councilor, and she makes sure he passes his Calling exam by enlisting his sister to Call for him. Cheating doesn't help Quin's already low confidence, but it's at this point that he accidentally transports himself across their world to Evantra, where he will grow to understand the truth about Callers, Elipsom's history, and his mother's complicity in depleting Evantra's resources for Elipsom's gain. Set in an evocatively realized fantasy world with, in Elipsom's case, a futuristic feel, this is a moving and complex story about the discomfort and reward of doing what is right. Thomas's debut middle-grade novel is a clever critique of the consumerism that we might take for granted. She tackles serious topics with wit, charm, and a few flying rhinodrites along the way. Sarah Berman(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy uncovers deceptions--and truths--about his life. Quintus Octavius, son of the powerful Chief Councilor of the continent of Elipsom, is set to take his Caller test, one that will prove that he can conjure objects out of nothing. Being a Caller is an honored role, since the inhabitants of Elipsom need the Callers' skills to manifest everyday necessities. But, unlike everyone else in his family, Quin has never been able to Call anything, and he dreads the upcoming test. Meanwhile, his sleep is disturbed nightly by vivid dreams of curling vines and green growth, images that he sketches in a notebook. A few days before the test, Quin blacks out and wakes to find himself in a strange place with Allie, an unfamiliar girl. As Allie shows Quin around the lush, green landscape--so different from the sterile, metallic environment he is familiar with--she explains that he is on the continent of Evantra, on the opposite side of the world from his home. But even as Quin revels in the natural landscape, he notices black lines running through the green, and when he discovers what is causing them, he is horrified. This fantasy keeps the tone nonpreachy, but its themes of environmental crisis, greed, and exploitation are spot-on. The action will keep readers avidly turning pages, though Quin's character and the themes could have been more developed. Characters seem to default to White. Overall, a fresh, original, and timely story. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2327358 **Don't Trust the Cat (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Kristen Tracy

Fifth-grader Poppy McBean likes rules and order. She's a follower, and she's totally okay with that. And if you judge her for that, she's okay with that too! But after falling prey to her friends' bullying one too many times, Poppy makes a wish to be happy--and it comes true in a very unexpected way: She wakes up in the body of her cat, Mitten Man.

978-1-7972-1506-8 Chronicle Books LLC ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Poppy McBean just wants to keep her head down and get through fifth grade with her close friends, and she happily lets the other girls take the lead until an incident at school leaves her questioning their devotion to one another. Poppy takes solace in her magnificently cocky cat, Muffin Man, and both the girl and cat feel they'd operate better living as the other. With a magical whoosh, the two souls trade places, and after the initial bewilderment wears off, they set out to fix each other's problems and find a way to swap their spirits back, with predictably entertaining results. Muffin Man's feline behavior in a human body (sniffing at backpacks, shrieking at loud noises, grabbing handfuls of cat food out of the cupboard) and matter-of-fact confidence are priceless, and Poppy's mishaps in her decidedly furrer body are equally silly. The friendships and families are realistically complicated and rewarding, and the writing is playful and nimble, sure to draw in reluctant readers. A wonderfully funny and empathetic exploration of evolving friendships and growing confidence.

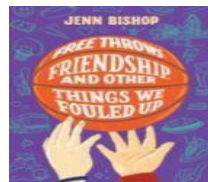
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fifth-grader Poppy knows that she is a pushover, but she finds it easier than trying to fight the status quo. When some of her friends don't even help her after an embarrassing moment, however, she finds solace in her beloved cat, Mitten Man. Somehow a fervent wish made by Poppy (and a less despairing but still heartfelt feline wish) and a newly arrived collar that just happens to be magic come together at the right instant for a cat/girl swap. Mitten Man is elated to be Poppy: he is certain he can make her the confident, shining star that he believes she actually is--plus human food is amazing. Poppy is less happy, especially after Mitten Man completely ignores (with gleeful wild abandon) her exhortations to just blend in until they can switch back. Poppy finds herself outside after being unceremoniously tossed out by her aunt (who did not know her niece is occupying Mitten Man's body), and now she needs to learn how to navigate this cat form and his apparently complex and often troubling relationships with other neighborhood animals. Mitten Man isn't finding his human

form any easier: it's hard enough to be a fifth grader but exponentially worse when you literally don't know anything being taught in school. The humor is light and gentle, the empathy each character learns is warmly conveyed and believable, and the deep love between these two protagonists are all strong selling points for fans of animal books, as well as readers who don't mind a dose of magic mixed in with their realistic middle-grades fiction. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A fifth grader and her cat magically swap bodies. After a particularly embarrassing day at middle school when she was laughed at and her friends didn't stand up for her, Poppy McBean is sharing all her problems with the best listener she knows: her cat, Mitten Man. When she wishes she had his awesome, easy life, she suddenly magically transforms into Mitten Man's feline self! Even more surprising, Mitten Man now inhabits Poppy's body (and is from then on referred to as "Big Poppy"), and the two can communicate telepathically but only when looking at each other. Through alternating first-person narratives, readers follow girl and cat as they embark on strange new adventures and learn about each other, themselves, and what it means to be a good friend. There's a slow start, but once the characters are a bit more settled in their new bodies, the pace picks up. Big Poppy is not great at thinking about others and makes many cringeworthy decisions. As "Old Poppy" (human girl Poppy in cat form) helplessly watches her friendships ruined, she winds up on a dangerous rescue mission involving a stray cat and a turtle that amps up the drama. There is plenty of humor throughout, but it's the realistically imperfect friendships that give the book depth and heart. Poppy is assumed White; names imply some ethnic diversity among her friends. Funny fare realistically exploring feelings. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A girl and her cat switch bodies in this Freaky Friday: flavored romp. Eleven-year-old Poppy McBean, who cues as white, is venting to her cat, Mitten Man, about her frustrations: feeling neglected by her overworked parents and put out by her bossy best friend, she wishes that she had Mitten Man's easy life. Following this admittance, the "world goes crazy" and, as if by magic, tween and cat swap minds. The two are suddenly capable of communicating telepathically, and they arrange for Mitten Man, now known as Big Poppy, to attend school while Old Poppy fumbles through life as a house cat until they can reverse the spell. Big Poppy, who has no interest in maintaining the status quo at school, quickly alienates Poppy's friends. Old Poppy, meanwhile, must brave the dangers of the outside world in a quest to locate a missing turtle. Tracy (I Am Picky) centers themes of empathy and understanding, as well as learning to push one's boundaries, through Big Poppy's stumbling efforts to conform to human life and Old Poppy's hesitancy to embrace change. It's a lighthearted adventure that will appeal to anyone who's ever wished to walk in their pet's paws. Ages 10: up. Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (July)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Kristen Tracy, author of books for teens and tweens, plus poetry for adults (Half-Hazard: Poems), dishes up plenty of frisky fun in Don't Trust the Cat, in which a "scaredy-cat" fifth-grader and her pet feline trade places. Mischief and drama ensue!



#2350105 Free Throws, Friendship, and Other Things We Fouled Up (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jenn Bishop

Cincinnati, Ohio, lives and dies by college basketball, with two elite Division I rivals separated by a mere three miles. Rory's dad just secured a new coaching gig at the University of Cincinnati, so it means yet another school and move for her, only this time to her dad's hometown. Rory's life revolves around basketball; she's never had a close friend outside of it. Could this be a chance for a fresh start?
978-1-7972-1561-7 Chronicle Books LLC ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 304 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Basketball runs in Rory March's and Abby Allenbach's blood. When Rory follows her dad to his new coaching position at the University of Cincinnati, she bonds with fellow eighth-grader Abby, the crosstown rival coach's daughter. That college ball beef? It extends off the court: the coaches were childhood besties but haven't spoken in decades. Opposites Abby and Rory secretly solidify a friendship forged over Skyline Chili, stats, and a love of the game as they investigate their fathers' fouled friendship. Bishop (Things You Can't Say, 2020) returns to athletic themes here, alternating two fully developed perspectives while modeling healthy, communicative relationships. Flashbacks contextualize the rift, and a (total baller) retired nun spanning story lines deserves her own spin-off. Game action is pervasive though notably engaging to nonplayers, and design elements, including numbered jerseys for chapter headers, honor the sport. With side themes of divorce, a first crush, and flawed parenting, this brisk and gracious upper-middle-grade selection is a top seed for collections and slam dunk for sports fans. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews History threatens to repeat itself as two new eighth grade friends try to find out why their dads seem to hate one another. Practically from the moment Cincinnati middle schooler Abby volunteers to chaperone new student Rory on her first day, the girls form a tight bond. In fact, they discover to their shock, their connection is just like the one their own dads had as kids before something caused a decisive break. Even now, meeting years later as coaches of nationally ranked basketball teams at rival colleges, Abby's dad won't shake hands with Rory's dad after a game. What happened? Neither of the fathers will talk about it. But as Rory and Abby gather clues and eventually suffer a traumatic break of their own, Bishop uses flashbacks to weave together two rich friendship stories that differ in detail but both turn on deep rifts caused by

betrayals of trust--and, ultimately, are healed by talking things out. The struggles of the two daughters (both talented hoopsters themselves) with family and personal quandaries play out against a backdrop of March Madness, where their dads go head-to-head. Even though basketball's more a diversion than the main event here, there's some competitive action. The leads appear white; names and other cues identify significant characters of color in the supporting cast. Rich in tight bonds as well as savvy coaching on both game play and forgiveness. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal m to Cincinnati to coach college basketball, Rory meets Avery, and they hit it off right away. Avery's father also coaches a college basketball team, which just happens to be the biggest rival of Rory's dad's team. While college basketball rivalries can run hot, the girls discover their fathers knew each other back when they were the girls' ages and have an even deeper grudge. How can they maintain their new friendship when the divide between their families runs so deep? Very loosely based on Romeo and Juliet, this story of friendship, forgiveness, and most of all, basketball, is a quick read that will connect with readers whether they are sports fans or not. The book is told in the alternating points of view of Abby and Rory but with some interspersed chapters from their fathers' perspectives from the early 1990s. As the girls grow closer in friendship and navigate middle school, they discover more about what tore their fathers apart way back when. There are a ton of teasers and basketball superstars referenced in the book; some will not know every player, but a seasoned fan will enjoy the nods to the greats, both recent and past. The pacing is quick, and readers will not be bored with the family/friend drama and the basketball action. Abby and Rory are well-rounded characters with their flaws who come into their own as they realize how much one decision can change their whole lives. The theme of forgiveness explored with their fathers is an especially touching aspect of the novel. VERDICT A worthy purchase for sports fans and any reader interested in friendship stories.--Molly Dettmann Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2291279 Front Country (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sara St. Antoine

Ginny Shepard is glad to be in Montana for a month of backcountry camping before she starts high school. But once Ginny gets to camp, things get complicated fast. She meets her tripmates: five challenging, rebellious, tech-addicted boys. And she finds out TrackFinders is designed for kids who need extra "support." Instead of feeling free as a bird, Ginny feels trapped . . . and betrayed.

978-1-7972-1563-1 Chronicle Books LLC ©2022 332 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 650

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Beset by climate anxiety, an eighth grader abandons her honor-roll and tennis goals and heeds the mountains' call during a transformative expedition. Ginny Shepard, a privileged Massachusetts girl obsessed with subalpine pikas, struggles with anticipatory anxiety after her aggrieved science teacher tells her class that extinctions and extreme weather are "previews of the horror show that is your future." Her peers laugh it off, but Ginny skips class to attend an environmental rally, quits tennis, and rejects a prestigious summer program at Columbia. Worried by her seemingly rash decisions, her parents enroll her in a Montana hiking camp, TrackFinders; at first excited, Ginny feels betrayed after learning it's actually a program designed to help troubled teens "get back on track" in their day-to-day lives. Though she initially finds it difficult to connect with fellow campers and overzealous counselors, Ginny uncovers a newfound inner peace and prospers under rough conditions while hiking, communing with her beloved pikas, and helping to manage a health emergency. Without diminishing the existential threat of climate change, this uplifting novel from St. Antoine (Three Bird Summer) attentively exhibits ways that communities can support one another in troubling times. Characters present as white. Ages 10: up. Agent: Lucy Cleland, Kneerim & Williams. (Sept.)



#2350073 Shira and Esther's Double Dream Debut (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anna E. Jordan

When Shira and Esther first meet, they can hardly believe their eyes. It's like looking in a mirror! But even though they may look identical, the two girls couldn't be more different. Shira dreams of singing and dancing onstage, but her father, a stern and pious rabbi, thinks Shira should be reading prayers, not plays. Esther dreams of studying Torah, but her mother, a glamorous stage performer, wishes Esther would spend more time rehearsing and less time sneaking off to read books. Oy vey! If only the two could switch places . . .

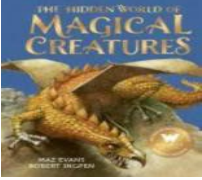
978-1-7972-1565-5 Chronicle Books LLC ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 332 pgs.


Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

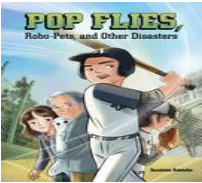
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Two Jewish girls trade places for a shot at pursuing their ambitions in this sprightly three-act tale of found family

and effort rewarded. Esther Rosenbaum longs to learn Hebrew and "raise my voice to God.... On the bima," but her single mother, Yiddish theater sensation Red Hot Fanny, pressures her to join the biz and audition for a televised talent showcase. Shira Epstein was born for the stage, but her rabbi father, a widower, insists that she focus on her Torah studies in preparation for her bat mitzvah. After a chance encounter, the girls; realizing their uncanny resemblance; swap roles to chase their crisscrossed dreams. Mishegas ensues, relayed in the whimsical style of a Yiddish folktale by an omniscient narrator who addresses the reader, in italicized Yiddish, as "mayne kinder." The well-choreographed action unfolds in the fictional town of Idylldale, an amalgam of Manhattan's Lower East Side and a Catskills-like resort of yore. Making her middle grade debut, Jordan (This Pup Steps Up!) juxtaposes Shira's and Esther's yearnings for performance and prayer, showing that there are infinite ways to be Jewish; all valid. Whether they know a bisl or bupkes about the religious tradition and culture, readers will love this sparkling intergenerational ode to chutzpah and Jewish joy. A Yiddish glossary concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Janine Le, Janine Le Literary. (Oct.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2330615 Hidden World of Magical Creatures (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Maz Evans</i> In woodland, over sea, on the highest peaks of the world, and in the darkest caves, these mythological beasts, fierce monsters and helpful spirits have inspired countless stories, poems, and films. This book will tell you where these creatures dwell, how to spot one, and how to keep yourself safe. 978-1-80338-174-9 Welbeck Publishing Group Ltd. ©2023 7 x 8-3/4 64 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 1250</p>	1	\$19.95

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2342635 Spooky Stories of the World (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Wendy Shearer</i> This spine-tingling collection of spooky stories features over 20 eerie tales from across the globe. Discover bewitching retellings of ghost- and monster-filled myths regaled with ghoulish relish, and journey continent-by-continent through this haunting book. With shocks and twists like you wouldn't believe - are you brave enough to read them all? 978-1-83758-003-3 Lonely Planet ©2023 9-1/2 x 11 144 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$19.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2156886 Pop Flies, Robo-Pets, and Other Disasters (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Suzanne Kamata</i> Thirteen-year-old Satoshi Matsumoto spent the last three years living in Atlanta where he was the star of his middle-school baseball team: a slugger with pro potential, according to his coach. Now that his father's work in the US has come to an end, he's moved back to his hometown in rural Japan. Living abroad has changed him, and now his old friends in Japan are suspicious of his new foreign ways. Even worse, his childhood foe Shintaro, whose dad has ties to gangsters, is in his homeroom. After he joins his new school's baseball team, Satoshi has a chance to be a hero until he makes a major-league error. "A heart-warming story about a baseball player who learns that teamwork is much more important than being the star of the team. I loved the family dynamics and depiction of life, and especially baseball, in Japan.": Shauna Holyoak, author of Kazu Jones and the Denver Dognappers (Hyperion, 2019) "A story set in Japan rich in details only Kamata, an insider, could share. With ease and respect, she weaves the pressures, agonies, and loyalties of Satoshi's life at home, at school and on a junior high baseball team with the practices and traditions of the game played in Japan. I am a big fan of this middle-grade homerun!": Annie Donwerth Chikamatsu, award-winning author of Somewhere Among (Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2017) " Pop Flies really pops! A lively, fun, easy read that draws you in and keeps you guessing.": Dori Jones Yang, award-winning author of The Forbidden Temptation of Baseball (SparkPress, 2017)</p>	1	\$12.74

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old boy struggles to save his baseball team, help care for his grandfather, and avoid bullies in Tokushima, Japan, in this middle-grade novel.



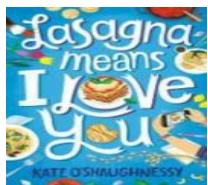
#2222854 Be Your Own Best Friend FOREVER! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Gary Robinson

Be Your Own Best Friend FOREVER! is packed with inspiring tips for any girl who doubts herself or is the subject of exclusion or body shaming. Jayla, the confident young person sharing her advice, takes pride in being Black, Native American, Asian American and Latina. She steers readers away from negative self-talk with proven strategies: If kids are mean to you, make new friends. If a TV program tells you to change how you look, change the channel!

978-1-939053-34-3 7th Generation ©2021 11 x 8-1/2 40 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 580

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal K-Gr 4—A bold self-love journey inspired by friend of the author and real-life kid Jayla Rose. In this hyper-positive picture book, Jayla is a no-nonsense girl who is proud of her Black, Native American, Asian American, and Latina identity. Jayla has something to say to all young girls out there, so you'd better listen up. Addressing negative self-talk, peer pressure, positive affirmations, and harmful messages girls get from the media, Jayla encourages girls to be their own best friend, offering tips and tricks for loving themselves first and unconditionally. The spare text provides confidence-boosting mantras, as well as simple but concrete ideas for girls on how to reject negative words and ideas: "If your inner voice says those negative things, TURN IT OFF! If your friends tell you those negative things, GET NEW FRIENDS!" Moments of awkward rhyming feel disjointed compared with the bulk of the text, which does not rhyme. Digitally texturized photos of Jayla are superimposed on technicolor, patterned backgrounds for a Pop Art-inspired feel that packs a graphic punch and will appeal to readers of a wide age range. VERDICT Readers of all backgrounds will cherish and celebrate the relatable, affirming messages that burst from these pages.—Allison Staley, Lake Oswego P.L., OR



#2312456 Lasagna Means I Love You (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kate O'Shaughnessy

Nan was all the family Mo ever needed. But suddenly she's gone, and Mo finds herself in foster care after her uncle decides she's not worth sticking around for. Then Mo finds a handmade cookbook filled with someone else's family recipes. Even though Nan never cooked, Mo can't tear her eyes away. Soon Mo finds herself asking everyone she meets for their family recipes. Teaching herself to make them. Collecting the stories behind them. Building a website to share them. And, okay, secretly hoping that a long-lost relative will find her and give her a family recipe all her own.

978-1-9848-9387-1 Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 650

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

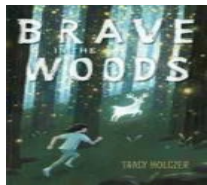
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine After the death of Nan, the grandmother who had been her guardian, eleven-year-old Mo begins a series of letters to Nan in a notebook. She relates the difficulties of her next steps: an uncle is unwilling to care for her; a foster parent gives her up, overwhelmed in part by challenges including her stress-induced bed-wetting; another placement that looks like it might work out has its own obstacles. A family cookbook (stolen but later returned) makes Mo wish she had meaningful recipes of her own, and the cooking project the book inspires grows into a food website. She uses that platform to solicit other people's recipes -- and to put the word out that she's in search of blood relatives. Mo, imperfections and all, is a winning heroine surrounded by flawed though mostly well-meaning adults, and her hopes, even those that are long shots, come from an understandable desperation for family and stability, which makes it easy to root for her. Secondary characters are fully realized, with personalities coming through in the interspersed recipes' directions and commentary. To be read with snacks at hand, and perhaps also some tissues. Shoshana Flax(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Mo Gallagher's life is upended when her beloved grandmother dies and she is thrust into foster care. Nan had been

her loving guardian, raising her in a New York City apartment that she must now leave. Her uncle is unwilling to assume her care, but he gives her a notebook with a letter to her from Nan on the first page. Hoping to remain connected in some mystical way, 11-year-old White girl Mo fills the notebook with frank letters to her grandmother, hoping for signs that she is being heard. But in the rest of her life, she withholds critical feelings and information, even avoiding telling Crystal Wang, her Chinese American best friend, the truth. The chance discovery of a homemade cookbook leads to a brilliant recipe project with her own website (recipes are also shared throughout the book). Her caring caseworker and her therapist help Mo deal with changes, especially as her uneasy relationship with her foster parents leads to a devastating surprise. Fortunately, Crystal remains a stalwart, loving ally, and Mo develops special relationships with a variety of supportive new friends. Mo is confused, feisty, frightened, sometimes self-destructive, intensely needy, and loving--and she has a bigger heart and is stronger than she thinks. Readers will laugh, cry, and embrace Mo completely as they rejoice at the wonderful twist that leads to a happy new beginning for her. The New York City setting is well integrated into the story. Deeply moving and tender. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly navigates foster care and seeks connection by collecting families' recipes and stories in this tenderly rendered, character-driven novel by O'Shaughnessy (*The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane*). When the grandmother who raised her dies, and her sole uncle says he can't take care of her, Mo Gallagher finds herself waiting for a foster placement in New York City. Journal entries framed as letters to her grandmother seek to reforge a connection amid rapid change ("If anyone can find a way to communicate from the afterlife, it's you"). The letters also relay Mo's worry about sharing recent events with best friend Crystal Wang, who is Chinese American; her promising interest in cooking after she finds a book of family recipes; and her growing friendship with the doorman at the building where she now lives. She begins to find her feet after starting a food website but falters when the placement she's been getting used to hits a snag. Mo's pitch-perfect voice vividly portrays her metropolitan past life with her quirky, vibrant grandmother; her own messy and layered feelings; and her established and growing relationships with others. Watching Mo develop new bonds and begin to feel like she has a place in the world is extremely satisfying. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Peter Knapp, Park & Fine Literary and Media. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7—O'Shaughnessy's second middle grade novel will pull at the heart strings of all readers. Mo's grandmother has died and her only known living relative, Uncle Bill, does not want to leave his life in the army to raise his 11-year-old niece. Mo goes into the foster care system where she finds nothing but disappointment. After a little while, a young couple decides they would like to adopt a child, and Mo fits the bill. To develop a new hobby, a suggestion her grandmother made before she died, Mo starts to explore cooking and seeking out family recipes—anyone's family recipes in hopes she might discover someone from her own family. She gets help from the adults around her and develops a website where anyone can share their beloved family recipes along with pictures and stories. The story is told through Mo's journal where she is writing to her deceased grandmother about the highs and lows of her new life. Recipes are included as the story progresses. The ending is predictable and comforting. Readers who enjoyed Lynda Mullaly Hunt's *One for the Murphys* and Frances O'Roark Dowell's *Where I'd Like to Be* will enjoy this middle grade epistolary novel. VERDICT A fine addition to most middle school collections.—Kim Gardner



#2196615 **Brave in the Woods (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Tracy Holczer

Twelve-year-old Juni is convinced her family is cursed. Juni fears any good luck allotted to her family she used up just by being born, so when she wakes up in the middle of the night with the horrible feeling like antlers are growing from her head, she knows something is wrong. The next day she learns her older brother Connor has gone missing during his tour in Afghanistan.

978-1-9848-1399-2 Putnam Pub Group ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 840

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Juniper awakens one morning with the disconcerting feeling that she may be sprouting antlers. To anyone else, this would seem like the remnant of a dream, but family legend has it that she is descended from the Brothers Grimm, who were long ago cursed by a disgruntled witch to experience the highs and lows of their own fairy tales—and Juniper's family certainly seems prone to both miracles and terribly bad luck. After her older brother is declared missing in action while on a military tour in Afghanistan, Juniper becomes determined to break the curse and set things right in her world. By turns heartbreaking and humorous, this is a story that hints at the possibility of magic while remaining rooted in real-world problems and relationships. There is love and hope amid the grief and confusion, just as the Grimm tales contain both wonders and horrors in their own right. A heartfelt lesson on the power of love and the tales we tell ourselves.

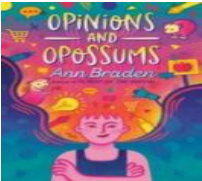
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Extreme luck -- good and bad -- runs in twelve-year-old Juniper Creedy's family thanks to a witch's curse placed on their ancestors, the Brothers Grimm. For example, three miracles saved Juni when she was born, but she suffers from debilitating asthma. And now her older brother, Connor, a soldier, has been declared missing in Afghanistan. While her parents and grandmother mourn, Juni holds out hope he'll return. She convinces Connor's best friend (and two of her own) to join her on an end-of-summer road trip to retrieve Connor's retired service dog. Juni believes that doing so, along with casting a magic spell and sacrificing something cherished, will help break the curse and, she hopes, miraculously bring Connor home. Holczer (*The Secret Hum of a Daisy*, rev. 7/14; *Everything Else in the Universe*, rev. 7/18) has crafted another heartrending story of familial loss, grief, and healing. Though the family's connection to the Grimms serves mainly as a convenient plot device,

Juni does love fairy tales and storytelling, the latter woven into the narrative through memories of her brother and her grandmother's life story, which help tie the more magical aspects of this otherwise realistic novel together. The imagery-rich text ("Lately Juni felt like she was a horse with blinders and on the other side of those blinders were the right words to describe what was happening inside her") also places symbolic importance on deer, bees, and trees, enhancing the natural-world connection. Well-developed secondary characters help readers better understand Juni and the relationships she cherishes, while supporting her journey toward accepting the truth and finally letting go. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Extreme luck -- good and bad -- runs in twelve-year-old Juniper Creedy's family thanks to a witch's curse placed on their ancestors, the Brothers Grimm. For example, three miracles saved Juni when she was born, but she suffers from debilitating asthma. And now her older brother, Connor, a soldier, has been declared missing in Afghanistan. While her parents and grandmother mourn, Juni holds out hope he'll return. She convinces Connor's best friend (and two of her own) to join her on an end-of-summer road trip to retrieve Connor's retired service dog. Juni believes that doing so, along with casting a magic spell and sacrificing something cherished, will help break the curse and, she hopes, miraculously bring Connor home. Holczer (*The Secret Hum of a Daisy*, rev. 7/14; *Everything Else in the Universe*, rev. 7/18) has crafted another heartrending story of familial loss, grief, and healing. Though the family's connection to the Grimms serves mainly as a convenient plot device, Juni does love fairy tales and storytelling, the latter woven into the narrative through memories of her brother and her grandmother's life story, which help tie the more magical aspects of this otherwise realistic novel together. The imagery-rich text ("Lately Juni felt like she was a horse with blinders and on the other side of those blinders were the right words to describe what was happening inside her") also places symbolic importance on deer, bees, and trees, enhancing the natural-world connection. Well-developed secondary characters help readers better understand Juni and the relationships she cherishes, while supporting her journey toward accepting the truth and finally letting go. Cynthia K. Ritter (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Juniper Creedy and her friends embark on a desperate quest after her older brother goes missing in action in Afghanistan. Juni has always known that her family, descended from the Brothers Grimm, is cursed: According to her grandmother Anya, the family's extreme luck--both good and bad--comes from an encounter their famous ancestors had with a Greek witch. But despite her own brushes with fate, including lifelong asthma attacks, the curse doesn't feel real to Juni until the Army delivers the news that Connor is missing. Now, her parents are distant and unreceptive to Juni's conviction that Connor is still alive, but Anya shares new information with Juni, partly through first-person journal entries, about her own childhood and the curse. So when it's time for the annual end-of-summer camping trip with her friends Mason and Gabby (chaperoned by Luca, Gabby's older brother and Connor's best friend), Juni requests a few additional stops in hopes of finding a witch and breaking the curse. Holczer's clear, gentle prose allows the emotional and descriptive elements of the text to shine in this multilayered road-trip story, complete with flashbacks at key landmarks. While Juni's Grimm ancestry isn't critical to the plot, it underscores her faith in the fairy-tale elements that ultimately enable catharsis around Connor's fate. Most characters are coded White; Gabby and Luca's family is coded as Latinx. A thoughtful exploration of grief, family lore, and human connection. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--All her life, Juniper has been told by her grandmother that her family is descended from the Brothers Grimm. Unfortunately for her family, they were also supposedly cursed by a witch to constantly relive the tales that they stole. When her brother Connor goes missing during his military tour of Afghanistan, Juni thinks it must be the curse rearing its head again. She begins receiving signs that must mean Connor is still alive, though her parents have given up hope. Believing that she is running out of time, Juni decides that she must embark on a quest to somehow break the spell put on her family centuries ago. If she succeeds, Connor will be found and finally come home. Juniper convinces her friends Malcolm and Gabby, as well as Connor's best friend, Luca, to help her to retrieve Elsie, Connor's golden retriever service partner from the home where she was sent after Connor's disappearance. This is a beautiful tale of love and grief, friendship and family, and of hope. The tale of Juni's life and the quest she undertakes for her brother unfolds like a fairy tale. With each new layer of the story and character introduced, readers understand a little more about what drives Juniper, why she feels like she owes her life to her brother, and why she refuses to give up on him. Give this to readers who loved Ali Benjamin's *The Thing About Jellyfish* and Kate Allen's *The Line Tender*. VERDICT Holczer's use of humor, thoughtful imagery, and magical realism elements makes this a wholly unique blend of modern fairy tale, hero's quest, and coming-of-age story. A suggested purchase for all middle grade collections.--Sara Brunkhorst, Glenview P.L., IL Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2323803 Opinions and Opossums (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Ann Braden</i> Agnes has been raised to keep her opinions to herself, but how do you keep silent when you're full of burning questions? 978-1-9848-1609-2 Nancy Paulsen Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660	1	\$17.99

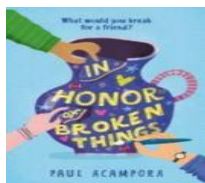
Reviews by: Booklist Agnes doesn't know if she believes in God, especially the God that's an old white man, which is especially problematic because her life at school and her mom's job is increasingly dependent on her being a good girl in confirmation class. A chance encounter with an

opossum, the words of Maya Angelou, and an anthropologist neighbor help Agnes learn that maybe she doesn't have to just lie down and play dead—maybe she can use her voice and help those around her learn to use theirs too. Though the plot concerns conservative Christianity, Braden's book is perfect for middle-graders of any faith, especially those learning to make their faith their own. The relatable core plot, which folds in themes of income inequality, sexism, and asserting one's rights, moves quickly, and while the story can sometimes feel pedantic, the strong women in Agnes' life steal the show. Agnes' growth throughout the novel and the familiar middle--grade plot points reimagined through Agnes' unique situation in her community will resonate with fans of Barbara Dee and Paul Acampora.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old girl learns that questioning faith can make it stronger. Agnes, named after a saint who at age 12 was dragged through the streets when she chose to devote herself to God rather than marry, is having a hard time believing in the God she's been told about--an old man with a white beard. She can't help but question the sexism of original sin and the cruelty of the Old Testament God. After helping to rescue a mother opossum, Agnes learns that playing dead is a survival skill for these marsupials. She comes to identify with the opossum--by going along with confirmation classes despite her doubts, is she merely "playing dead"? Through eye-opening talks with her anthropologist neighbor, creative writing exercises from the perspective of an opossum, and the powerful poetry of Maya Angelou, Agnes finds a version of God that makes sense to her and realizes she has the power to challenge authority. Braden crafts a nuanced story supported by clear metaphors and honest, deep emotions. Readers faced with similar situations will find support here even if it's only the confirmation to keep questioning. As Agnes learns and grows, she comes to realize that there are many conceptions of religion and God--that God could be a Black woman, for instance. Agnes, her single mother, and most other characters are presumed White. Mind-expanding. (Fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When older neighbor Gracy nearly hits an opossum with a pouch full of young at the start of this slim, feminist-leaning novel by Braden (Flight of the Puffin), 12-year-old Agnes learns that a play-dead instinct "isn't great if your predator is a line of traffic ready to run you over." Expected by her widowed mother to attend confirmation classes and sign a pledge that she believes in God, Agnes identifies with the opossum's inability to stand up for herself. Is her worry about "opinions," or "Other People's Opinions," undermining her faith in herself? Questions about finding and speaking her own truth begin consuming Agnes, who understands that her mother usually yields to those in traditional positions of power. Inspiration and guidance come via a Beyonce documentary featuring Maya Angelou ("Tell the truth. To yourself first"), and from Gracy's teachings about archeology, anthropology, history, and poetry, as Agnes works to understand women's underreported, vital roles throughout history, and the importance of perspective in accounts of the past. Underdeveloped characters and message-heavy prose undercut this empowering novel's solidly constructed arc, which is told via a first-person voice and quirky "The Opinion of an Opossum" interstitials. Protagonists present as white. Ages 10: up. Agent: Tricia Lawrence, Erin Murphy Literary. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Adolescence is typically a time of questioning authority and traditional beliefs. Twelve-year-old Agnes never had the opportunity to question what she believes until a Confirmation class makes her rethink all her prior ideology. In Confirmation class, she is faced with the dilemma to pledge to believe in God, spurring much introspection. Agnes, with friends Mo and neighbor Gracy, share deep discussions and partner on writing important topics. Along the way, Agnes writes an opinion piece from the voice of an opossum that was almost gravely injured. Braden has woven the story of an overlooked and misinterpreted animal with thought-provoking realistic fiction. Braden shares a multigenerational story of how poetry and speaking your truth can be refreshing and connecting. This novel could be useful in social emotional learning lessons about being patient when change happens slowly or allowing oneself permission to feel anger. Readers might relate this quirky tale to Naked Mole-Rat Letters by Mary Amato about strange misunderstood animals and unexpected relationship dynamics. The world needs tweens to reflect on who is telling every story, whether fiction or nonfiction, and the motivations for those perspectives. VERDICT A healthy reminder that the status quo continually needs to be challenged by thoughtful youths. There are a multitude of metaphors found in the natural world that can provide lessons if we are open to receiving them. A good choice for tween shelves.--Laura Dooley-Taylor Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2268290 In Honor of Broken Things (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Paul Acampora

At West Beacon Middle School, eighth graders Oscar Villanueva, Ellie Baptiste, and Noah Wright become unlikely friends during Introduction to Clay class. Through art, football, failure, faith, and trust, the friends help one another to piece things back together again. In true friendship, they also discover that some injuries may never heal, some things can never be unbroken--and that's okay too.

978-1-9848-1664-1 Dial Books ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Oscar, Noah, and Riley meet in art class at the junior-senior high school in a once-flourishing town in Pennsylvania. A few weeks after the start of school and 10 days after his younger sister's death, Oscar Villanueva returns to the classroom as the six-foot freshman who is expected to lead the football team to glory. That same day, Noah Wright, whose father has left the family, decides to stop homeschooling and escapes his mother's tears by enrolling as an eighth-grader. Riley Baptiste and her mother recently moved from Philadelphia to

Mom's hometown. Different in their personalities and experiences, the three students form a fast, strong friendship that helps them deal with whatever comes their way. Their lives become increasingly intertwined as the novel unfolds. Writing with insight and wit, Acampora portrays teens and adults as complicated, sometimes surprising people. The first-person narration rotates, chapter by chapter, among Oscar, Noah, and Riley. While the ending ties up loose ends nicely, it will come too soon for readers intrigued by the main characters and their stories. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

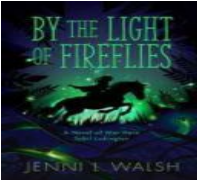
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Navigating the chaos and social groups of adolescent life can be difficult; in this novel, three friends help one another despite feeling "broken" themselves. Four-teen-year-old Oscar, football star at West Beacon Junior/Senior High School (go Mighty Mules!), has recently lost his younger sister to cancer. Riley, who contends with issues of anxiety and anger, has moved with her single mother back to Mom's hometown. Noah -- spelling bee champ, artist extraordinaire, mathlete -- is dealing with his parents' separation. Both Noah and Riley are new to West Beacon; Oscar, returning to school two weeks after his sister's funeral, doesn't want to hang with the cool kids anymore (he feels more like he's the only member of the "your-little-sister-just-died-and-now-you-sort-of-hate-everybody club"). In Mr. Martin's ceramics class, the three find themselves forming the group they all need. Clay becomes the central metaphor of the story -- that which can be created; broken objects that can be fixed; and the things that can't, such as sisters dying, robberies, and families changing. With brokenness as a theme, crushing sadness could have sunk the narrative, but Acampora (*Confusion Is Nothing New*, rev. 7/18) leavens the story with Noah's humor, Riley's tell-it-like-it-is feistiness, and Oscar's openness to receiving help. (Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Navigating the chaos and social groups of adolescent life can be difficult; in this novel, three friends help one another despite feeling "broken" themselves. Fourteen-year-old Oscar, football star at West Beacon Junior/Senior High School (go Mighty Mules!), has recently lost his younger sister to cancer. Riley, who contends with issues of anxiety and anger, has moved with her single mother back to Mom's hometown. Noah -- spelling bee champ, artist extraordinaire, mathlete -- is dealing with his parents' separation. Both Noah and Riley are new to West Beacon; Oscar, returning to school two weeks after his sister's funeral, doesn't want to hang with the cool kids anymore (he feels more like he's the only member of the "your-little-sister-just-died-and-now-you-sort-of-hate-everybody club"). In Mr. Martin's ceramics class, the three find themselves forming the group they all need. Clay becomes the central metaphor of the story -- that which can be created; broken objects that can be fixed; and the things that can't, such as sisters dying, robberies, and families changing. With brokenness as a theme, crushing sadness could have sunk the narrative, but Acampora (*Confusion Is Nothing New*, rev. 7/18) leavens the story with Noah's humor, Riley's tell-it-like-it-is feistiness, and Oscar's openness to receiving help. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly espective family troubles form a supportive friendship circle in Acampora's (Danny Constantino's First (and maybe last?) Date) earnest narrative, which encourages vulnerability and acceptance. Ninth grader Oscar Villanueva, who is Mexican American, has just lost his younger sister to cancer; previously homeschooled eighth grader Noah Wright, who is white, decides to enroll in public school, spurred by his parents' divorce; and fellow eighth grader Riley Baptiste, also white, has just moved to their small town of West Beacon, Pa., after her mother was held up at gunpoint. Though the students are outwardly very different; Oscar is a popular starting linebacker on the football team, Noah is extremely academically advanced, and Riley is quick to anger and thinks her fists can solve all her problems; they bond after meeting in a mixed-grade introductory clay class. Told in distinct and alternating POVs, the group grows closer over misshapen pottery as they admit weakness, navigate new experiences, and learn to accept help from others. Acampora approaches the characters' struggles with levity and intentional thoughtfulness, making for a tender tale. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Susan Hawk, Upstart Crow. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Oscar's, Riley's, and Noah's lives intersect when they meet in their Introduction to Clay class at West Beacon Junior/Senior High School. Each teen is learning to navigate junior high while also coping with personal struggles. Oscar faces the trauma of losing his sister to cancer. Noah's parents are divorcing, and he is just starting public school after years of homeschooling. Riley has recently moved to West Beacon, her mom's small hometown, after a robbery at her mother's workplace in Philadelphia. This book is a solid story of friendship that grows between the three teens, all of whom need a strong foundation in a world of upheaval. Riley, Noah, and Oscar learn that friendship means showing up and being reliable. The characters are multidimensional and compelling, and the plot includes some unexpected turns as the friends find that some wounds may not heal. Despite these twists, the book has a hopeful ending, leaving readers eager to learn more about the characters. VERDICT A multifaceted, realistic fiction tale that connects the pottery the students are creating to what's going on in their lives using metaphors of art and life.—April Crowder



		Quantity	Unit Price
	<p>#228177 By the Light of Fireflies: A Novel of War Hero Sybil Ludington (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jenni L. Walsh</i></p> <p>Sybil Ludington believes in the legend of fireflies - they appear when you need them most. But it's not until her family is thrust into the dangers of the Revolutionary War, and into George Washington's spy ring, that Sybil experiences firefly magic for herself - guiding her through the darkness, empowering her to figure out who she's supposed to be and how strong she really is - as she delivers her imperative message. BY THE LIGHT OF FIREFLIES is the captivating tale of a young girl's journey - as a daughter, a sister, a friend, a spy, and eventually a war hero - completing a midnight</p>	1	\$22.00

ride that cements her place in history as the "female Paul Revere."
 978-1-954332-12-6 Wyatt-MacKenzie Publishing ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 188 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--Sybil Ludington, a young girl growing up in colonial America, wishes she were a boy. Her father, a leader in New York State's early efforts for independence, inspires her with stories about Paul Revere's ride and the night when a cloud of fireflies guided him out of the woods and into safety. As the oldest child in a large growing family, Sybil's future appears limited to marriage and family, doing much the same work she currently does now. But circumstances change. First, one night when she can't sleep, a swarm of fireflies guides Sybil to a young abandoned foal. Fortunately, her parents allow her to keep the horse and she names him Star. Then, the fight for American independence becomes more organized and dangerous. Sybil's father has a bounty offered by the British on his head, so he must elicit the help of Sybil and her younger sister Rebecca to become spies in the colonial network. The girls ride patrols with Star, decode secret messages, and send messages via laundry and lamp light. One night, Sybil rides 40 miles with Star, summoning troops to report for duty before a major battle. She completes the journey, proving that not only men and boys can serve their fledgling democracy. Loosely based on historical writings and a 1907 memoir, Walsh creates a riveting story that reminds young readers that the quest for independence often meant life-threatening dangers for both the colonial militia and their families. The description of secret communication codes, such as invisible ink, and historical facts about the American Revolution, make this a book that young readers will enjoy. VERDICT With short chapters, a suspenseful plot, and a variety of real-life historical characters, this book is perfect for younger readers. Libraries looking to update their historical fiction collections related to the American Revolution will want to consider this title.--Anne Jung-Mathews, Plymouth State Univ., NH Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

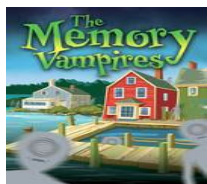


#2344689 Bone Tree: What Lies Beneath May Be More Than Friendship
(Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jenna Lehne

Elsie's best friend, Roman, is dying. But Roman has a plan to escape death. He wants to be resurrected through the powers of the Bone Tree and the curse of the Woman in White, Mary Simon, whose body lies beneath the tree. When the Bone Tree's magic works and Roman resurrects, Elsie vows to do anything to keep him around, even if that means battling an angry, screeching banshee, with talons for fingers. When the Woman in White kidnaps Roman's brother, Jake, and threatens to take his life as revenge, Elsie must choose between saving the lives of many from the deadly grasp of Mary Simon, the Woman in White, or keeping her best friend.

978-1-956378-16-0 Little Press ©2023 6 x 9 192 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2373314 Memory Vampires (Library Binding)
written by Ryan Wolf

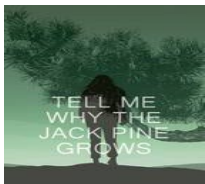
(Novel in Verse) Twins Adam and Adriana Carver couldn't be more different these days, but they are forced to spend time together on a family vacation in a remote New England village. Though the neighborhood looks charming, the locals are spacey and distant. They seem barely able to speak. Soon the twins' parents begin forgetting everyday things--the locations of keys and parked cars. This quickly escalates into something far more troubling. As the adults start losing their core memories, the twins must hunt down the nightmarish cause of this tragedy. But the monsters in this peaceful seaside community prove far darker and more threatening than anything they might have imagined.

978-1-9785-9720-4 West 44 Books ©2024 160 pgs.
 Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl N

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.40

#2373325 Tell Me Why the Jack Pine Grows (Library Binding)

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.40

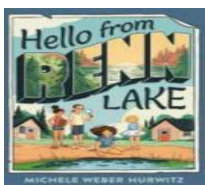


written by D. J. Brandon

(Novel in Verse) Meadow is enjoying a carefree country summer, tending her beloved 4-H chickens and freely exploring the outdoors. Content at home with her father, brother, and Nanna, Meadow wishes she could stay a kid forever. Everything changes the day the man in the green car stops her on the road, alarming her with an uncomfortable request. The brief encounter fills her with a strange new anxiety that she can't share with anyone. As fear fills her every move, she makes her world smaller and smaller to feel safe. But when a friend is also approached by the driver of the green car, Meadow realizes she must talk about what happened to protect others. Like the jack pine growing from the rocky cliff, Meadow can't fight growing up any longer, but maybe she can change her corner of the world for the better.

978-1-9785-9723-5 West 44 Books ©2024 160 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl N



#2161366 Hello from Renn Lake (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Michele Weber Hurwitz

When she was three years old, Annalise discovered that she could sense what Renn Lake was thinking and feeling. Now, at twelve, she still turns to Renn for comfort. But when a small patch of algae quickly becomes a harmful bloom, Annalise can no longer hear Renn, and the lake is closed. She and her friends must find a way to save the lake.

978-1-9848-9632-2 Wendy Lamb Books ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 540

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Left near the shore of Wisconsin's Renn Lake as an infant, Annalise was subsequently adopted by a local family who owns vacation cottages there. Though the 12-year-old knows she can communicate with the lake ("I don't actually hear Renn's words. I sense them"), what Annalise does not know is that Renn Lake, whose first-person narration alternates with Annalise's (and a few chapters by local river Tru), "propelled a surge" so that Annalise would be discovered and saved. When Zach, who is staying at one of the cabins on the lake, discovers a harmful, growing algae bloom that is making Renn very ill, Annalise realizes that she, with the help of her community and Tru, must work to save both the lake and the businesses that depend on Renn for tourism. Along the way, Annalise comes to terms with her origin story and gains a deeper understanding of her friends, her family, and herself. Intertwined with Renn's unique narration and a meaningful human-nature connection, Hurwitz's (Ethan Marcus Makes His Mark) book intersperses scientific facts about algae blooms and pollution with a story of activism and nature appreciation. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Alyssa Eisner Henkin, Trident Media Group. (May)



#2350214 Great Book of Forest Legends (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tea Orsi

The Great Book of Forest Legends offers a selection of short stories about charming and magical creatures of the forest. Each of the folkloric tales is preceded by a description of the forest creature represented in that tale, like leprechauns, elves, and water nymphs. The book features 11 beautifully illustrated stories that children can easily dip into and out of.

978-88-544-1919-3 White Star ©2023 9-1/4 x 11-1/2 64 pgs.

Grades 1 - 4 Dewey# Fic

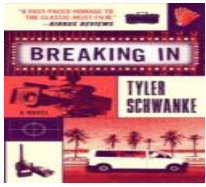
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

#2332786 Breaking In (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tyler Schwanke

Outraged, she reunites her former film crew to steal the movie and hold it for ransom days before its high-profile premiere. Putting their training and film-nerd backgrounds

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



to use, they pull off the heist in extravagant fashion. But when an unexpected femme fatale uncovers their plan, it's not long before a trio of hardened criminals want in on the take.

979-8-200-96079-8 Blackstone Publishing ©2023 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 299 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Teens try to reclaim what's theirs in the cutthroat world of Hollywood. Since before her father died in a botched bank robbery, 17-year-old aspiring filmmaker Millie Blomquist has dreamed of becoming a famous director of heist films. She finally gets the chance to pursue her dreams at the Manhattan Movie Academy, where she is working with friends Paz, Devin, and Jordan, when her idol, famed director and academy founder Ricky O'Naire, is arrested for embezzlement. The school collapses before her summer program is even over. Seven months later, Millie is back home in Fargo, North Dakota, trying to make movies on her own when she sees the trailer for recently exonerated O'Naire's new project--only to realize it's the film about her father she presented to him at the academy. Desperate to hold him responsible, Millie organizes Paz, Devin, and Jordan to carry out a real-life heist and take O'Naire's materials ransom. But with the stakes ramping up, they don't realize how dangerous things are about to become. Given her personal history with heists gone wrong, Millie's naïveté is occasionally unbelievable, and readers not deeply familiar with heist films may have trouble with the endless movie references, but overall, this is a compelling read that doesn't shy away from slightly darker content. Main characters are cued White; contextual clues may indicate that Paz is Latine and Jordan is Black. A fast-paced homage to the classic heist film. (Thriller. 14-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 10 Up--Millie Blomquist aspires to be a filmmaker and selects the Manhattan Movie Academy's summer program because of the possible prestigious award that is offered to high school students, like her, for their final project. She gathers three others to help make up a crew and begins filming her script based on the sad passing of her father. Millie learns after his tragic death during a bank heist that he was a crook. During a late-night editing session, she meets Ricky O'Naire, a famous director who runs the school's program. His most famous movie was a heist film, which just so happens to be Millie's favorite film genre. Ricky likes the premise of Millie's film, and when a scandal breaks that abruptly ends the summer session, Ricky gets the funding to make a new movie using Millie's script. She is shattered by this and decides to gather her crew together to pull a heist on the director who stole her idea to get the final cut of the film. Millie's diverse crew are high school students. Readers will have to suspend their disbelief that teenagers could travel across the U.S., trick adults, and pull off an intricate heist all on their own. Strong language is used throughout, and the adult crooks who are encountered commit violent acts. VERDICT Recommended only for larger collections where readers seek out crime fiction.--Elizabeth Kahn Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2326246 Half Moon Summer (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elaine Vickers

Drew was never much of a runner. Until his dad's unexpected diagnosis. Mia has nothing better to do. Until she realizes entering Half Moon Bay's half-marathon could solve her family's housing problems. And just like that they decide to spend their entire summer training to run 13.1 miles. Drew and Mia have very different reasons for running, but these two twelve year olds have one crucial thing in common (besides sharing a birthday): Hope. For the future. For their families. And for each other.

978-1-68263-539-1 Peachtree Publishers ©2023 5-1/4 x 8 288 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Reviews by: Booklist When Drew, a newborn baby, wouldn't stop crying, a hospital nurse tucked him in beside Mia, another newborn, and he calmed right down. Twelve years later, Drew begins his summer with low expectations, since his best friend has moved away from Half Moon Bay. When Dad takes up running, he persuades Drew to join him on daily outings, training for an upcoming half-marathon. Before that event, a girl named Mia comes to stay with her grandmother and joins their running crew. Just when the summer seems brighter, Drew learns that his father is seriously ill, and Mia discovers that her family will be losing their home. Each is devastated initially, but they continue to run while supporting each other and making discoveries about themselves and their relationships with family members and friends. The book has a small cast of well-developed, mostly likable characters, whose interactions and reflections are at the heart of the novel. The author of Like Magic (2016) and Paper Chains (2017), Vickers tells the main characters' intertwined stories through alternating first-person narratives, with Drew writing in journal-entry style and Mia expressing herself in free verse. Each adds an interesting perspective, while both move the story forward. An involving, heartening novel of change and growing awareness.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books As summer vacation rounds the corner in Half Moon Bay, CA, Drew is dreading the

expanse of time without his best friend Isaac, who recently moved away. Things begin to turn around when Drew's dad gifts him a new pair of Nike running shoes and they start to run together, even though Drew has a sinking feeling about his dad's new clumsiness and his parents' secret conversations. Meanwhile, Mia is not at all happy to be in Half Moon Bay for the summer--instead of working on building their house in Sacramento, Mia's dad heads to Alaska to care for his sick mother, while Mia and the rest of the family spend the summer with her maternal grandmother. When Mia's and Drew's paths converge, they begin to run together daily with the goal of participating in a half marathon at the end of the summer. At the event, Mia intends to confront the wealthy real estate developer who has put her family's dream of living in their own home in jeopardy. An inviting preface foreshadows the main characters' friendship with the story of Drew and Mia's Birth Day, as the two shared a bassinet after they were born on the same day at the same hospital. Vickers deftly distinguishes between the alternating perspectives by composing Drew's point of view in prose and Mia's chapters in verse. Both main characters seem uncommonly self-reflective for almost-thirteen-year-olds, yet their perceptiveness and the parallels between their concerns about family finances and relationships greatly enhance the emotional appeal of this story. News of a serious diagnosis for Drew's dad highlights a tender theme of courage in face of the precariousness of life, evoking a deep gratitude for every precious moment spent with loved ones. KF COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Drew and Mia met as infants -- born on the same day in the same hospital, they stopped crying only when nurses put them in the same bassinet -- but grew up in different areas of California, meeting again only when Mia comes to stay with her Gram in Drew's hometown of Half Moon Bay for the summer before they turn thirteen. Mia's family is there while her father is in Alaska caring for his ailing mother. Drew's summer plans mainly involve avoiding work in his father's carpentry shop until the gift of a pair of Nikes gives him new purpose. Mia joins Drew and his dad on their morning runs, and they decide to enter a local half marathon. When Drew learns that his dad has been diagnosed with ALS, the race takes on a deeper meaning. Vickers does an excellent job of blending her two narrators' voices, with Drew's chapters written in prose and Mia's in verse. The book deals authentically with tween feelings, especially their complex reactions to death and loss, while also maintaining a solid pace through the dynamic plot, making it a great choice for upper-middle-grade readers looking for an emotionally intense story without a hint of romance. (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

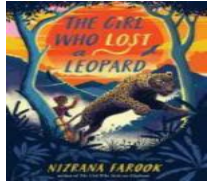
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Drew and Mia met as infants -- born on the same day in the same hospital, they stopped crying only when nurses put them in the same bassinet -- but grew up in different areas of California, meeting again only when Mia comes to stay with her Gram in Drew's hometown of Half Moon Bay for the summer before they turn thirteen. Mia's family is there while her father is in Alaska caring for his ailing mother. Drew's summer plans mainly involve avoiding work in his father's carpentry shop until the gift of a pair of Nikes gives him new purpose. Mia joins Drew and his dad on their morning runs, and they decide to enter a local half marathon. When Drew learns that his dad has been diagnosed with ALS, the race takes on a deeper meaning. Vickers does an excellent job of blending her two narrators' voices, with Drew's chapters written in prose and Mia's in verse. The book deals authentically with tween feelings, especially their complex reactions to death and loss, while also maintaining a solid pace through the dynamic plot, making it a great choice for upper-middle-grade readers looking for an emotionally intense story without a hint of romance. Sarah Rettger(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A bond formed in infancy is reestablished during a pivotal summer when two tweens each need a staunch friend by their side. Drew and Mia have an unusual origin story: They were born on the same day and in the same hospital in Half Moon Bay, California. One baby's presence comforted the other inconsolable one in their shared bassinet. While this story is familiar to each, they don't see each other again until life brings them together 12 years later when Mia returns to Half Moon Bay from Sacramento to visit her grandmother. The two young people feel a connection that blossoms into friendship, one that sustains each of them through some of the worst of life's difficulties. For Drew, it's his father's diagnosis with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. For Mia, it's financial stress and the impending loss of her family's home. They take turns telling their individual stories: Drew's prose is direct and descriptive; Mia uses free verse to capture concise moments and feelings. They begin to go running together, and the way they start to open up is sensitively portrayed and rings true. Just as Drew and Mia fall into step during their runs as they train to enter a half-marathon, their stories begin to align as well, and they encourage and support each other through their challenges. It doesn't alter the road ahead, but it does influence how they handle what comes next. The cast is cued White. Uplifting. (Fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Though they became instant pals as infants born on the same day in Half Moon Bay, Calif., 12-year-olds Drew and Mia haven't seen each other since Mia moved to Sacramento. But now, 12 years later, she's spending the summer with her Gram in Half Moon Bay while her father tends to a sick relative in Alaska. Since Drew's best friend recently moved away, and Mia doesn't know any other kids in town, the pair quickly fall into a routine of running each morning with Drew's father. As the summer unfurls, the duo bond over familial conflicts: Drew has been struggling to accept his father's amyotrophic lateral sclerosis diagnosis, while Mia worries about her family's financial and housing-related troubles. Together, they begin preparing for the town's half-marathon, and while it initially feels as if they're "running away from what scares us," they find that their training helps them make the most of every day in the face of uncertain futures. Via distinct dual perspectives that alternate between Drew's POV, told in compassionate prose, and Mia's, conveyed in rhythmic verse, Vickers (Like Magic) vividly captures one emotionally turbulent summer filled with a friendship's mutual trust and support. Characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8--Mia and Drew were born on the same day in the same California hospital, but don't meet up again until the summer before eighth grade when they discover that they have even more in common. Drew is feeling in-between--old enough to babysit his toddler sister, but not old enough to work in his father's woodshop. His best friend Isaac has moved away and he's worried about some upsetting news his parents are keeping from him. Mia is also in-between. She and her family moved out of their apartment and are staying with her

grandmother for the summer while her dad is in Alaska, taking care of his ailing mother. Mia wants her grandma to get better so that her dad can come home and finish work on the house that he is building for them. The pair initially bonds over music and messy younger siblings, but, over the course of the summer, they encourage and challenge each other to take the next step--literally, in training for a half-marathon and also in how to be a good friend, how to say the right thing, and how to keep going even when it's hard or lonely. Drew's first-person narration is direct with a self-aware and humorous tone. Mia tells her story in compact lines of free verse, filling the pages of a notebook that her father gave her to record everything that happens while he's away. Vickers presents issues of loss, financial instability, and serious illness with a realistic but gentle touch. VERDICT A sensitive, heartfelt story of friendship and growing up. Highly recommended.--Jennifer Costa Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2323834 Girl Who Lost a Leopard (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Nizrana Farook

Selvi is a free spirit who loves climbing in the beautiful mountains behind her home. There, she befriended Lokka, a leopard with a beautiful coat and huge golden eyes. Together, they roam the wilderness as they please.

978-1-68263-581-0 Peachtree Publishers ©2023 6 x 8 224 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Keeping both the South Asian setting (“Serendib,” an island kingdom that closely resembles the author’s native Sri Lanka) and villain from *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* (2021), Farook pits young Selvi against a ring of smugglers out to kill or capture Lokka, a magnificent leopard living in her rural area. Ultimately, Lokka and Selvi end up rescuing each other as the suspenseful story carries the two from one hazardous situation to the next, with both help and hindrance coming from Selvi’s undependable schoolmates and, climactically, matters being complicated by a horrifying revelation that her own family has connections to the illegal trade in rare animals. Though the trade in big cats is depicted in a bad light here, the author also provides glimpses of its potential rewards in terms of money and public safety, giving readers something to ponder. In the end, it's a dramatic, feel-good story—no one dies, the wild and noble leopard runs free to the cheers of the onlooking children, and the poachers get their just deserts.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Adventure, friendship, and activism intertwine in this middle-grade novel. Set in the island country of Serendib, which reads like an alternate Sri Lanka, this story brings readers into the world of leopards, toque macaques, and nelu flowers, which bloom every 12 years. Eleven-year-old Selvi is a loner and outsider in her school class. To fill the loneliness, she often romps with Lokka, a wild leopard she has befriended. One morning she is horrified to discover hunters illegally pursuing her beloved Lokka. She screams and the poachers come after her instead. Fleeing, Selvi stumbles upon the home of Amir, a boy in her class who hangs out with the mean kids. Amir becomes curious about Selvi and follows her, discovering her friendship with the leopard. Meanwhile, Selvi is desperate to protect the leopard from the poachers and at first shuns Amir's offer of help, not trusting him. But eventually the two bond and work together to expose a poaching ring. While the story is not a nuanced one--characters are good or bad--and Amir's transition from untrustworthy to trustworthy is delivered swiftly, it is full of well-written adventure and presents the time-honored theme of the value of friendship. Its evocation of setting is a strong point, as it includes descriptions of many flowers, birds, and animals, creating a strong sense of place. A straightforward, well-written storyline with a strong setting and atmosphere. (map) (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2321459 Spoonful of Time (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Flora Ahn

Maya's grandmother, Halmunee, may be losing her memory, but there's something almost magical about the way she cooks. Whether Halmunee serves salty miyeokguk or sweet songpyeon, her stories about Korea come to life for Maya. Then one day, something extraordinary happens: a single delicious bite of patbingsu transports Maya and Halmunee back into one of Halmunee's memories. Suddenly they're in Seoul, and Halmunee is young. As Maya eats her way through the past, her questions multiply--until a shocking discovery transforms everything she thought she knew about family, friendship, loss, and time itself.

978-1-68369-318-5 Quirk Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 272 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Korean American Maya is surprised to learn that her grandmother, who’s in the early stages of dementia, has the remarkable ability to travel back in time to her own memories by eating or making foods that formed part of that memory. Once Maya gets used to the idea, she

begins to wonder if she can use this special ability to relive memories with her deceased father while also learning more about her Korean culture and heritage through foods and her grandmother's memories. Ahn's accounts of the memories themselves create a nostalgic atmosphere as they unfold before Maya's eyes. In exploring her grandmother's past, Maya is able to learn about herself, reflect on her relationship with her mother, and gain a more solid sense of where she comes from. This beautifully written book includes some recipes for the foods that Maya and her grandmother prepare in the story, and the descriptions of the dishes are tantalizing enough that readers might appreciate the ability to recreate them at home. A warm and satisfying intergenerational story.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Maya and her maternal grandmother use food to travel to the past. For most of seventh grader Maya's life, it's been just her and her exhausted mom living in their quiet house in Southern California. But then, several months ago, Halmunee, who has dementia, came to live with them. Halmunee is an incredible cook, and she encourages Maya to help her make Korean dishes. One day, while they are eating patbingsu, Halmunee transports them to the Seoul of Maya's mother's childhood, where Maya sees younger versions of her mom and grandparents enjoying the sweet Korean shaved ice treat. Halmunee explains that she has the power to return to moments in the past through food memories. Together they cook and eat their ways through moments in Halmunee's past. Maya longs for a stronger connection to Korea and her family's history, and she uncovers more secrets--until an unexpected realization makes her question everything. Full of twists, this middle-grade story is a heartwarming mix of food and family. Maya struggles with fixating on the past, ignoring her friends and schoolwork in the present, something those grappling with letting go of mistakes or regrets will understand. Exactly how time travel works is unclear even for the characters, however, making it difficult and confusing for readers as well. Halmunee's memories are an homage to Korean food and culture, and there are recipes interspersed for readers to try. A charming time-travel story with delectable descriptions of food. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Food forms a bridge across time in this affectionately wrought contemporary novel from Ahn (the Pug Pals series). In Southern California, Korean American seventh grader Maya lives in a "still and silent" house with her single mother, who works long hours at a law firm. Quiet gives way to a tense family dynamic, however, when Maya's maternal grandmother, Halmunee, comes to stay, upsetting Maya's mom. Halmunee, who has dementia, loves to cook, and she reintroduces Maya to an array of Korean foods. As the two bond over making patbingsu one day, they are seemingly transported to the past, where they see Maya's younger grandparents and mother enjoying the treat. Through this event, Halmunee reveals that she can travel through time, using food as a connection between moments. Though Maya tries to glean more information about her father, who died when she was three, and about her mother's complicated relationship with Halmunee, her mother remains taciturn and secretive about the past, until Maya's attempts to balance her own life and new abilities come to a boiling point. Maya's changing understanding of her mother, and evocative descriptions of food and its link to memory carry this light speculative read, which offers up a sweet intergenerational relationship that connects past and present. Recipes, along with illustrations from Park, are interspersed throughout. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Melissa Edwards, Stonesong. (Apr.)



#2179732 Hungry Place (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jessie Haas

Princess lives a charmed life of brown sugar cubes, crunchy apples, sweet grass, and adoration. But it is a lonely life; her elderly owner keeps Princess separate from other ponies so his show-ring champion will remain pristine. When Princess's owner has a stroke, she is thrust into the care of an unscrupulous trainer and his wife, who steal from the farm and leave.

978-1-68437-794-7 *Boyd's Mills Press* ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 190 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide ara pony at Highover Farm, has all the best care from her doting, elderly owner Roland. In a separate but linked narrative, Rae, a scrappy eight-year-old with the love of horses "printed on her heart," sees Princess at a horse show and is immediately smitten -- but any kind of horse or pony is out of her family's reach, let alone a champion like Princess. Some years pass, and Princess racks up ribbons while Rae's grandmother, Gammer, teaches Rae how to work for her dreams: saving, seizing opportunities to learn, never giving up. Dark clouds loom for Princess, though, when Roland has a stroke and his unscrupulous employees steal everything of value and put Princess out to pasture with a herd of rough-and-tumble ponies. With no one feeding them and winter approaching, the ponies eat the grass in their enclosure down to the dirt. Tender-hearted readers (that is, all horse-loving readers) will weep at Princess's peril and, even more, her loneliness, told from a pony's-eye view. In Rae's part of the story, they'll cheer Gammer's wisdom, compassion, and good advice; friends Sam and Tully's emotional and practical support; and Rae's persistence and faith in her dream. Readers' sympathetic agony is eventually replaced with tears of happiness as Haas brings the story around to a rousing happily-ever-after ending. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A pampered, then abused, pony finds her horse-crazy girl. The novel starts from the tightly focused third-person point of view of a filly being born. Soon named Princess, she's the last foal out of breeder Roland's favorite Connemara mare. The perspective then shifts to Rae, a horse-obsessed almost-8-year-old who lives nearby. Rae's mom is dead; though they live on a small farm, her father can't afford a pony. Her grandmother, however, encourages her to keep working toward her goal, so, as a few years pass, Rae goes to horse shows, watches

frenemy Eden's riding lessons, and practices on a horse statue her dad makes from scrap metal. Meanwhile, chapters from Princess' point of view detail how her pampered life amounts to neglect. When Roland suffers a stroke, his cartoon-villain employees abscond with his riches, leaving a field of ponies, including Princess, to starve. Eventually Princess is rescued by Tish, a character familiar from some of Haas' other horse books (Jigsaw Pony, illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu, 2005, etc.), and ridden by Rae, who's saved up for Tish's riding camp. Love ensues, as does a patented happy ending. Clumsy characterization and a predictable plot make for dull reading despite a fair amount of melodrama. Roland is strangely unlikable, and Rae feels one-dimensional. All the human characters are White. Haas has done much better--a disappointment. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5—Roland, the proprietor of Highover Farm, has bred some fine Connemara ponies over his long career, but Princess may be the finest yet. Pampered and expertly trained, Princess is a champion pony. That is not the type of pony that Rae, who has dreamed of owning a pony her whole life, wants. In part because she cannot afford a champion pony, but also because Rae wants one who is spunky like Radish—the pony she hopes to ride at the horsemanship camp she has been saving for. Princess and Rae seem worlds apart until circumstances bring them together. When Roland is taken from Highover in an ambulance, Princess is left out in a field with other ponies to fend for herself. Rescued, injured, and starving, Princess finds herself a camp pony paired up with Rae. Despite initial trepidation on both sides, Rae and Princess bond deeply. Could Princess be the pony Rae was meant to have all along? Roland, now recovering from his stroke, trusts that Rae and Princess are right for each other. Deep inside, people are hungry for a place of refuge that will help to make them feel complete; for Rae and Princess that place is filled by their love for each other. VERDICT A sweet story of longing, determination, and healing that will appeal to readers who enjoy tales of friendship and horses.—Jessica Caron, Bancroft Sch., MA

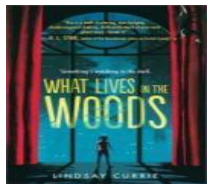


#2324148 Ada and Zangemann: A Tale of Software, Skateboards, and Raspberry Ice Cream (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Matthias Kirschner

The famous inventor Zangemann lives in a huge villa high above the city. Adults and children alike love his inventions and are desperate to have them. But then something happens: when Zangemann wants to take another close-up look at his inventions during a walk through the city, a child hits him in the shin with the skateboard. That hurts! Enraged, the inventor makes a momentous decision... The clever girl Ada sees through what is going on. Together with her friends, she forges a plan.

978-1-7185-0320-5 No Starch Press, Incorporated ©2023 8-1/2 x 8-1/2 57 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99



#2246963 What Lives in the Woods (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Lindsay Currie

When they arrive, Ginny is immediately spooked by the creepy house and the rumors of what lives in the surrounding woods. Legend says the forest is inhabited by prowling creatures that prey on campers, who are never seen again.

978-1-7282-0975-3 Sourcebooks, Incorporated ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile HL 590

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-9 When it comes to Saugatuck, Michigan, the question isn't so much what lives in the woods, but rather, what lives in Woodmoor Manor? As bad luck would have it, 12-year-old Ginny has a whole month to figure that out, as her family will be staying in the clearly haunted old mansion while her father works on restoring some of its rooms. Although Ginny's upset about having to miss a mystery-writing workshop for this trip, it doesn't take the Agatha Christie-obsessed tween long to realize that Woodmoor has its own mystery that needs solving. Currie (Scratch Scratch, 2020) throws all the frightfully fun trappings of haunted-house tales at readers, who will soak up the stormy nights, town rumors, exploding light bulbs, creeping shadows, unsettling whispers--and let's not forget the mannequin in the bedroom. Ginny teams up with her older brother and a kid from town to do some ghost hunting and good old-fashioned sleuthing, ultimately discovering that empathy can go a long way toward healing the past's injuries. Light horror for larger collections. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Ginny and her family move to Saugatuck, Michigan so her dad can restore rundown Woodmoor Manor. Already spooked by the legend of the Hitchhikers, mutant creatures roaming the woods surrounding the manor, Ginny's additionally unnerved by hearing the distant, ominous tick-tocking of a clock from everywhere in the house, getting trapped in the dark with a faceless mannequin that seems to move, and seeing the ghostly face of a woman in the mirror--not to mention the appearance of a typewriter with a note that says GET OUT. New friend Will, who has a connection to the manor, warns Ginny of an even more sinister threat than

the Hitchhikers: the Shadow People. Currie (Scratch Scratch, BCCB 9/20) returns with another chilling outing informed by real history. Agatha Christie superfan and future mystery writer Ginny revels in the spotlight, and the eerie atmosphere without overly gruesome imagery makes this a perfect middle-grade horror selection. Though there are hints of a possible followup, they may just be clever misdirection that will tickle Christie fans, and the novel holds its own as a shivery standalone. QB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A tween who is obsessed with Agatha Christie moves into a haunted house. Twelve-year-old Ginny Anderson and her older brother, Leo, are less than thrilled to be spending a month of summer vacation away from their Chicago home. They are relocating to Saugatuck, Michigan, for their historical restoration expert father's research. Ginny will be missing the mystery writing workshop she's been looking forward to, and Leo doubts there'll be many basketball courts in the sleepy town. Oh, and there's one more thing: The fancy historic house they'll be staying in might be haunted. Saugatuck residents whisper of mutant creatures concocted by a long-ago mad scientist roaming the surrounding woods, and everyone avoids the place. It doesn't take long for Ginny to encounter some spooky situations, but with the help of a new local friend, Will, she is on the case. The setup is familiar and the tone consistent with other middle-grade spook books, but the novel really shines when it spends time with Ginny as she works out the manor's mysterious past; she is a swell character, shaded enough to feel genuine. The mystery is exciting but a bit uneven: There's a lot of buildup, with occasional thrills and chills before the investigation begins, but the reveal comes so quickly readers may be forgiven for assuming there'll be a last-minute twist. Regardless, the scares are real, the resolution satisfying, and a sequel would be welcome. Main characters are presumed White. A thrilling read with an engaging protagonist. (Mystery. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal yet another horror offering from Currie, whose protagonists are equally in love with books and mysteries. Ginny Anderson hears from her parents that their family is packing up and moving out for a monthlong retreat in Michigan, which means missing a highly anticipated mystery writer's workshop and leaving her friend Erica and their summertime plans behind. Her father is entrusted with the renovation of a legendary spooky mansion in Saugatuck on Lake Michigan, and her parents, Ginny, and her brother Leo find themselves in the heart of haunted happenings. Almost immediately, Agatha Christie-obsessed Ginny begins to witness moving objects, faces in the mirror, and shadow in the house's ballroom. Thankfully, Ginny enlists her brother and new friend Will in solving the curse of Woodmoor Manor, giving readers a succinct detective story and bantering dialogue for the paranormal-enthused. Currie serves up an appropriately tween horror story in staccato chapters with plenty of goosebumps. VERDICT A suggested purchase for upper elementary and middle school libraries with students interested in scary stories, and a natural step-up for those reading "Five Nights at Freddy's." Currie provides a genuinely creepy tale that begins with literary jump-scares and evolves into a decades-old historical mystery.—Rachel Joiner, Advent Episcopal Sch., Bessemer, AL



#2176443 Candy Mafia (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lavie Tidhar

In a city where candy is a crime and sugar is scandalous, Nelle Faulker is a 12-year-old private detective looking for her next client.

978-1-68263-197-3 Peachtree Publishers ©2020 300 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 590

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

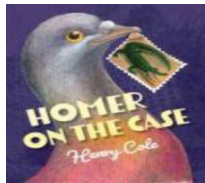
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 *Starred Review* It's been three years since new mayor Thornton, promising to make this city great again, signed on to Prohibition?not of alcohol but of chocolate and all other sweets?and so shut down the Farnsworth Chocolate Factory, the town's largest employer. Unsurprisingly, several gangs of preteen bootleggers have since arisen to satisfy the heavy demand for illegal candy. So far, so good (or at least historically predictable), but when one gang leader, Eddie de Menthe, suddenly disappears just as new one Mary Sweetcakes Ratchet arrives to muscle in, 12-year-old private detective Nelle Faulkner finds herself caught up in a scary whirl of arson, burglary, extortion, smuggling, sugary treats, and official corruption. It all centers around the whereabouts of the factory's reclusive owner, and getting to the bottom of that mystery takes Nelle from seedy playgrounds and midnight rendezvous to sewers on the way to a sweet denouement. Tidhar folds in plenty of noir tropes and contretemps (not to mention a stolen teddy bear for a McGuffin), while in his sparse but atmospheric line and fill drawings, Duncan depicts the young gumshoe properly clad in fedora and trenchcoat. It won't take a detective to spot Willie Wonka, as well as Sam Spade, hidden in the tongue-in-cheek caper's literary DNA.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Preteen detective Nelle battles organized crime during her city's prohibition on candy. From the start, snappy dialogue and mannered narration spoofs the traditions of film noir when 12-year-old candy smuggler Eddie de Menthe hires private detective Nelle Faulkner, also 12, to find a missing teddy bear while a candy prohibition hangs over their neighborhood. As Nelle pursues leads in a playground hideout, store backroom, and lonely mansion, she encounters more kid bootleggers as well as crooked adults also on the hunt for the missing teddy bear. Similarities to the real Prohibition reveal government corruption and the difficulties inherent in denying a population what it wants. When Eddie also goes missing, Nelle's case turns to recovering a candy fortune, locating a hidden chocolatier, and restoring peace--and all kinds of sweets--to her sugar-starved city. Food fights, an abandoned candy factory break-in, and more sweets-themed antics add to the fun and intrigue. Breaking up a mostly white cast is Nelle's South Asian friend, Bobbie Singh, who's also integrally connected to the illegal candy trade. In film-noir fashion, grayscale cartoons highlight Nelle's escapades and exaggerate the criminals. While poking fun at the genre, in his debut for children,

thriller writer Tidhar also recognizes young people's need for respect. Combining chewing gum and gumshoes, this comical mystery begs to be read aloud. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Brought in by the new mayor and relentlessly enforced for the last three years, candy prohibition has spawned a black market in 12-year-old detective Nelle Faulkner's town. Nelle misses candy, but the true loss haunting her is her father's death. After candy bootlegger Eddie de Menthe approaches the private eye to find a stolen teddy bear, Nelle is thrust into the war brewing between three kid-led gangs controlling the illegal candy trade. As Nelle starts asking questions, a rival gang stink-bombs an illicit candy shop, mysterious adults rifle through the girl's office, and the bear arrives at Nelle's home; events that unfurl into a larger mystery. Nelle is convinced the answers lie in the shuttered chocolate factory, whose owner has disappeared. Noir tropes loom large in Tidhar's fast-paced story, with a gutsy gumshoe, a hardboiled narrative voice ("I needed a job even worse than I needed a caramel fudge"), and enough action to keep young readers on their toes. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Twelve-year-old Nelle Faulkner is a private detective. It annoys her that adults think she's playing. She dresses the part, sporting a fedora and a trench coat; set up an official office in the garden shed; and has actual clients. She works on the right side of the law; but since Mayor Thornton prohibited candy of any kind in town, she's been known to turn a blind eye to the candy bootlegging operations that have sprung up. Nelle is nonplussed when prominent bootlegger Eddie de Menthe hires her to find a missing Teddy—then he goes missing. As Nelle interviews the various candy bootleggers, she stumbles onto an even greater mystery as she learns just how vast the operation is. She's also being tailed by a pair of sinister detectives from the Mayor's police force. Nelle is a sturdy, intrepid, practical character surrounded by a colorful cast of candy-obsessed children and adults in this fast-paced mystery. Grey-toned illustrations and spot art enliven the story. Young readers might not get all the film noir references, but there's plenty here to satisfy tween mystery lovers. VERDICT This is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory meets film noir; there's mystery, humor, plenty of action, and a red herring or two with an explosive climax.—Brenda Kahn, Tenakill M.S., Closter, NJ



#2222444 Homer on the Case (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Henry Cole

Homing pigeon Homer and his parrot friend Lulu learn something is afoot when they witness four-legged criminals stealing valuables from both the animal and human communities. Using the sleuthing techniques he's gathered from his favorite mystery comics, Homer and Lulu track down the bandits, but need human help to stop them for good. Can they find a way to communicate with their human keepers and lead them to the culprits' hideout to stop the thieves?

978-1-68263-254-3 Peachtree Publishers ©2021 144 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

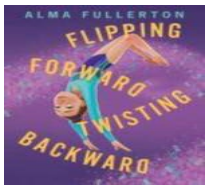
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Something is amiss in Keeler Park, one of Homer the homing pigeon's favorite places to hang out after a stimulating morning race. A string of petty thefts there is upsetting the humans, but it gets personal when the crime spree targets one of Homer's humans (Grandpa!). Taking cues from his favorite comic-strip detective, Dick Tracy—Homer taught himself to read Human by studying the newspapers that line his rooftop cage—Homer resolves to crack the case. Cole's gentle animal fantasies can always be depended upon, and this light mystery is just right for young readers. Delicate pencil illustrations, arranged in panels, begin each chapter, offering a glimpse of events to come. Cole mixes humor with intrigue to keep the narrative bouncing along, and readers will get a kick out of the unusual detective team that forms of Homer and his boy, Otto, and new friends Lulu (an Amazon parrot) and her girl, Charlotte. Hand this to fans of Chris Riddell's *Ottoline* and the *Yellow Cat* (2008) and A. B. Greenfield's *Ra the Mighty: Cat Detective* (2018).

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this chirpy illustrated mystery, an intrepid homing pigeon teams up with a pampered parrot to solve a series of crimes. Curious racing homing pigeon Homer, the novel's narrator, lives on a rooftop looked after by his boy Otto and Otto's grandfather. Homer taught himself to read "Human" from the newspapers on his cage floor, and particularly enjoys following the comic Dick Tracy. Cole (Brambleheart) richly imbues the narrative with sensory details; Homer's perspective and his appetite for "surveillance," which cause him to notice a bejeweled rat that sparks his interest in a series of thefts, prove engaging. The friendship between Homer and a cosseted talking parrot named Lulu enables this unlikely duo to communicate with their humans and enlist their help in detective work. Unfortunately, female characters prove heteronormatively gendered and subordinate, and the many references to Dick Tracy may go unappreciated by readers unfamiliar with the comic. The expressive b&w pencil illustrations, rendered in panels evoking newspaper comics, heighten drama, tension, and humor. While the mystery itself might falter, the industrious hero charms. Ages 8: 12. (Apr.)

#2282522 Flipping Forward Twisting Backward (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Alma Fullerton

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



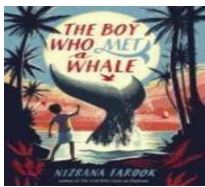
Claire is by far the best gymnast on her team, and she's well on her way to qualifying for the state championships. The gym is where Claire shines. But at school, she's known as a troublemaker. She seems to spend more time in the office than in class—which is fine with her since it enables her to hide the fact that she can't read. She has never been able to make sense of the wobbling jumble of letters on a page. No one except her BFF knows. (Features Dyslexia-friendly font)

978-1-68263-366-3 Peachtree Publishers ©2022 6 x 8 144 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 1.0

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When letters on pages flip around faster than her tumbling routines, a young girl tries to perfect a tricky skill in this verse novel. Claire excels at gymnastics and plans to compete at the state championship soon. But she struggles with reading and writing skills and feels that a fifth grader like her should be able to do what her 5-year-old cousins easily can. She gets by with a stellar memory, her best friend, Emma Lea, writing out her homework, and good improvisation skills. Still, Claire's teacher chastises her for both her schoolwork and her frustrated outbursts in class. Her divorced parents can't help much, what with her dad living across the country and her mom refusing to believe Claire could have a learning disability. Thankfully, a supportive vice principal, Emma Lea, her team, and Claire's older sister all make an effort to help Claire push through her learning disability, which she desperately wants. The resolution feels a tad rushed, but it's an uplifting one nevertheless. Designed with accessibility in mind (the typeface is meant to be easily decoded), the text stresses that learning disabilities are in no way a bad thing. Fullerton offers readers a glimpse into what it's like to try to read with difficulties. Based on the occasional illustrations, Claire and her family are light-skinned, while Emma Lea is dark-skinned. A positive representation of perseverance. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Fullerton (No More Plastic) authentically and compassionately portrays cued-white fifth grader Claire's experience with dyslexia in this easily digestible verse novel. Claire excels at gymnastics and can pick up a routine faster than anyone in her gym. But at school, her difficulty reading ("Letters/ float, blur/ backward/ forward/ upside down/ all mixed up"), coupled with her classmates' jeers, causes self-doubt. When vice principal Mr. McKay suggests she may have a learning disability, Claire is eager to undergo evaluation; her mother, however, who believes Claire just isn't trying hard enough, refuses to get her tested. With help from her gymnastics teammates, older sister, best friend, and Mr. McKay, Claire is empowered to advocate for herself and what she needs to succeed. Printed in a typeface formatted for those with reading challenges, Fullerton's flowing verse adeptly captures what dyslexia is like for Claire alongside her frustration around convincing her mother that she's trying hard but needs assistance. This insightful story carries a strong message for teachers, caregivers, and children alike, and Mensinga's emotive illustrations provide depth throughout. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Deborah Warren, East West Literary Agency. (July)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Fifth grader Claire is a successful competitive gymnast, but she is unable to find the same success in school. She compensates for her inability to read by getting her best friend Emma Lea to do her homework and by listening to audiobooks to complete book reports. Her embarrassment in class leads to conflict with her teacher, and classmates begin to bully Claire. The vice principal, Mr. McCay, suspects Claire has a learning disability, but Claire's mother refuses to let the school test her. Fortunately, Claire receives support from her older sister, her best friend, and her gymnastics teammates. The book, based on the author's personal experience growing up with dyslexia, offers an authentic portrayal of children with learning disabilities. Readers will empathize with Claire as she struggles with feeling "stupid" and will support her journey. The quick-moving plot comes with a satisfying ending, and the free-verse narrative provides plenty of helpful white space for reluctant readers. Claire appears white, and her friend Emma Lea appears Black in the black-and-white illustrations. VERDICT Recommended for students seeking realistic fiction about characters with learning disabilities similar to Alyson Gerber's *Focused*, and for those who enjoy reading books written in free verse.—Maile Steimer



#2267359 Boy Who Met a Whale (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Nizrana Farook

Razi, a local fisherboy, is watching turtle eggs hatch when he sees a boat bobbing into view. With a chill, he notices a small, still hand hanging over the side. Inside is Zheng, who's escaped a shipwreck and is full of tales of sea monsters and missing treasure. But the villains who are after Zheng are soon after Razi and his sister, Shifa, too. And so begins an exhilarating escapade in the shadow of the biggest sea monster of them all.

978-1-68263-373-1 Peachtree Publishers ©2021 6-1/4 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 After his father's death at sea, former fisher boy Razi wants nothing more to do with the ocean. He prefers

peaceful mornings on land, observing sea turtles on a deserted Sri Lankan beach. When a seemingly empty vessel drifts into view, Razi is shocked to spot an unconscious passenger. He rescues a bedraggled Zheng, fresh off a shipwreck and clinging to life. As Razi and his twin sister help Zheng regain his strength, they are taken with his outlandish seafaring stories, but it becomes apparent that there are dangerous people in search of Zheng and his mysterious treasure map. With a priceless cultural artifact at stake, the skeptical trio must learn to trust one another, and Razi must find the courage to trust the sea. It's a thrilling, old-fashioned treasure hunt, and the Sri Lankan setting makes familiar arcs feel fresh. Short, action-packed chapters keep things moving at a fast clip, while lush descriptions and flashes of beauty (including an astonishing encounter with the titular whale) will keep readers absorbed. A proper adventure story with a tender heart. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two siblings become embroiled in a dangerous adventure after meeting a mysterious young boy. In her sophomore novel, Farook returns to Serendib, her fictionalized version of Sri Lanka. When readers first meet Razi, he's watching baby turtles as they venture out to sea. Moments later, a foreign rowboat appears with a sunburned, barely conscious, and desperately hungry boy named Zheng inside. A former deckhand, polyglot Zheng just narrowly escaped an attempted poisoning and shipwreck through sheer good luck. It becomes apparent that he's keeping a dangerous secret and that it's related to a package he's hiding. Razi and his sister, Shifa, will need to help him if he is going to survive. However, Razi and Shifa are dealing with grief, and Razi, despite being a member of a tightknit fishing community, has avoided the water since a recent family tragedy. But when he realizes that reacquainting himself with the ocean is necessary in order to save Zheng, he and Shifa set sail. Zheng's secret alludes to the harm of colonization in a way that middle-grade readers will understand. Additionally, the scenes where the trio is dodging danger are just the right amount of scary. Razi's love and connection with animals lead him to meet the whale of the title, who serves as a wonderful protector that readers will be drawn to. An exciting and appealing page-turner. (map) (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Farook's (The Girl Who Stole an Elephant) second outing set on the beautiful, Sri Lanka-inspired island of Serendib, the lives of grieving fisher boy Razi and his sister Shifa are further upended by the arrival of Zheng, a loquacious seafaring child who claims to be on the run from two villainous thieves after escaping a shipwreck. The siblings are skeptical of Zheng's tales but soon find themselves on a maritime adventure featuring an ancient dagger, a sea vessel chase, and an encounter with the titular whale. Farook draws from Sri Lankan geography, ecology, and culture, punctuating the text with vivid descriptions of Indian Ocean port city Galle, marine life, Razi's fishing village, and delicious Sri Lankan foods. Razi's wonder at the natural beauty and fauna of the island never fails "to amaze him and lift his spirits," brightening this treasure hunt tale, which offers a fantastical, fresh take on familiar tropes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Joanna Moul, Skylark Literary. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5—When Razi slips down to the beach early one morning to watch the hatchling sea turtles scurry to the safety of the sea, he finds a boat drifting near shore. In the boat, he discovers a boy, unconscious, parched, and covered with salt. Just as Razi pulls Zheng to safety and places him in the shade of the coconut trees, he encounters two nefarious-looking men searching for the boy, whom Razi quickly misdirects. When the beguiling Zheng regains consciousness, he quickly charms Razi into the adventure of his life. The two 12-year-old boys, along with Razi's twin sister, Shifa, set off to recover buried treasure ahead of the pair of villainous crew members from Zheng's storm-sunk ship. The story unfolds like a luminous fairy tale, enhanced by the ebullient Zheng, whose stories the twins find almost too outlandish to believe. Farook invokes the beauty of her native Sri Lanka with sparkling descriptions of island and sea. The intrepid trio manage to outwit their enemies with some quick thinking and a few assists from sea creatures, including the titular whale. Along the way, the three find more than the jeweled Dagger of Serendib; they find themselves. Each youngster ends up a wiser, better person: orphan Zheng finds a family, Razi rediscovers his love of the sea, and Shifa learns to trust. Like the sea turtles Razi loves, each child experiences growth on the sea, but also a pull back to the island. VERDICT This lyrical story, reminiscent of Salman Rushdie's Haroun and the Sea of Stories will be appreciated by all lovers of adventurous fairy tales.—Nancy Nadig, Penn Manor S. D., Lancaster, PA

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95



#2284346 For the Record (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Monique Polak

Twelve-year-old Justine's parents are recently divorced. She and her little sister, Bea, go back and forth between their parents' homes in Montreal. Their mother, whose anxiety manifests as the need to control, believes that their father and beloved half-sister are a bad influence on Justine and Bea. So, she enlists Justine in collecting evidence that would lead to getting sole custody. But when Justine crafts an outright lie for her mother's court case, she starts to question her mother's behavior, and her own.

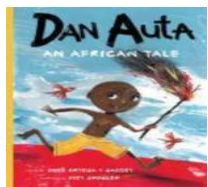
978-1-77147-437-5 Owlkids Books ©2022 5 x 7-3/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 A desperate 12-year-old takes sides in her parents' messy divorce in this complicated and emotionally informative middle-grade novel. Shuttled between two homes, Justine keeps a secret notebook in which she tracks "all the stuff Dad does wrong--or when he's negligent," ammunition for her bitter mother's custody battle. Justine, fearing the return of her mom's gripping anxiety, lies about a harrowing incident at her dad's, which accelerates a court date. As Justine's pride about her notebook of transgressions morphs into keen

discomfort, a lawyer and a judge help Justine see her mother's manipulation for the cruelty it is. No stranger to tackling tough topics, Polak (Planet Grief, 2018) spells out Justine's emotional journey, which will also resonate with readers sensitive to the weighty subject of parental alienation, expounded on in an author's note and resources. Short chapters and a contemplative first-person narration drive the story's pacing, and a supportive network of friends and relatives offers constant reassurances. A solid addition to upper-elementary collections and an especially good selection for children navigating family dissolutions. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A distraught 12-year-old makes iffy choices in the midst of an ugly custody battle. Justine's emotional turmoil is understandable as she and her little sister, Bea, shuttle between their fun-loving but careless, twice-divorced dad and hyperanxious, controlling, neat freak mom. It's the latter's continual codependent demands that lead Justine to think that she has to choose between the two. She makes lists of her dad's supposed parenting failures in a notebook to pass on to her mother--and finally, when he barely prevents Bea from running out into traffic by grabbing her hard enough to leave bruises, lies about the circumstances, dubbing it a violent incident. That earns a date in family court, which leads to a confession and, if not a tidy resolution, at least a reasonable compromise. Polak offers carefully nonjudgmental portraits of both parents as flawed in different ways (and profoundly incompatible) but loving; neither is the unalloyed bad or good guy. That leaves room to focus on Justine's emotional landscape, and it's charting her dawning realization that it's not her job to be the grown-up that will give this particular value for readers caught in similar breakups. The author includes a perspicacious child lawyer and equally canny judge (both of whom understand exactly what's going on and properly prioritize the needs of the children) in her evidently all-White cast. She also closes with resources for both children and adults about parental alienation syndrome. Sad--but frank, supportive, and properly free of easy answers. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7—Family dynamics are central to the story of 12-year-old Justine and her four-year-old sister Bea as they go back and forth between the homes of their divorced parents in Montreal. At their mother's condo, things are strict and controlled because of mom's anxiety. At their dad's house the rules are more relaxed, but Justine's mom thinks her dad and older half-sister Mariella are a bad influence on the girls. Justine begins gathering evidence about her dad's neglect so that her mom can get sole custody, thinking it will help her mother feel better, and stop her migraines and all of the yelling directed at her. Her detailed notes go from things like her dad not sticking to the strict bedtime and serving sandwiches on white bread, to crafting a lie about physical abuse to help her mother's court case. As lawyers get involved and the case moves forward, Justine begins to question her mom's behavior and whether she should be helping her. Characters are cued as white; Justine's father is of French descent and there are a few words regional to Canadian dialect that might be unclear for American readers. The author thoughtfully and honestly explores the realities of divorce, anxiety, and how kids are impacted by parental behavior. Justine's voice will grab readers as she navigates changing family situations and the importance of sharing the truth. VERDICT Purchase for collections where family stories are popular. Children with divorced parents will see themselves reflected in Justine's nuanced story.—Sarah Polace



#2299186 Dan Auta: An African Tale (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jose Ortega Gasset

When Sarra's parents die, they leave her with an important warning: never let Dan Auta, her little brother, cry. But Dan Auta loves to make trouble. He hitches a ride on the back of a bird, pokes the eye of the king's son, and even pees on the king's head. Making sure he doesn't cry is much harder than Sarra thought! But Dan Auta's unbridled curiosity and determination may be exactly what everyone needs: a terrible monster called the Dodo is attacking the city... and Dan Auta is the only one with the courage to take him on.

978-1-77164-771-7 Greystone Books ©2022 8 x 10-1/2 56 pgs.

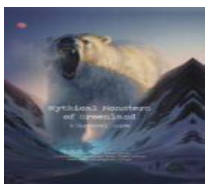
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95

Reviews by: Booklist In this hilarious and subversive translation of a Hausa folktale, a mischievous child sows chaos but, rather than suffer for his transgressions, comes out on top in the end. Charged by her dying parents to never let her little brother, Dan Auta, cry, Sarra comes back from an errand to see that in a fit of boredom he's burned all their food. Rather than punish him, she takes him to a city where he manages to poke out the eye of the king's son, pee on the king, and enrage and then slay a monster called the Dodo. Grobler dresses his small, brown-skinned, comically animated figures in at least an approximation of traditional West African styles and scatters them over the pages among narrative passages, snatches of dialogue, and explanatory labels, mostly for Hausa terms. Wide-eyed readers may have trouble deciding whether to cheer or boo the cheeky troublemaker, but they will definitely feel for his long-suffering sister. A source note at the end retraces the course of this particular version through multiple translations.

#2387741 Mythical Monsters of Greenland: A Survival Guide (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95



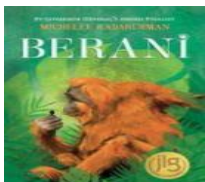
written by Maria Bach Kreutzmann

About 4500 years ago, the first Inuit landed in Greenland via North America, bringing with them stories about the mythical beings that lived alongside them. These creatures and monsters have survived the ravages of time and tide, although they have sometimes had to re-invent themselves to fit the modern world.

978-1-77227-499-8 *Inhabit Media* ©2024 6 x 8 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.95



#2299220 Berani (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Michelle Kadarusman

Malia has had a privileged upbringing in Indonesia, but since her Indonesian father died, her Canadian mother wants to return to her own family on the other side of the world. Besides, if she leaves, how can she continue to fight for her country's precious rainforests? Ari knows he is lucky to be going to school and competing on the chess team, even if it means an endless round of chores at his uncle's restaurant. Back in his home village, he and his cousin Suni dreamed about getting a chance like this. But now he is here without her, and the guilt is crushing him. As if that weren't enough, he's horribly worried about Ginger Juice, his uncle's orangutan. The too-small cage where she lives is clearly hurting her body and her mind, but where else can she go? The rainforest where she was born is a palm oil plantation now.

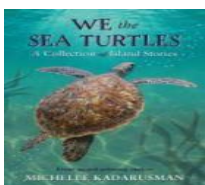
978-1-77278-260-8 *Pajama Press* ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 760

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Seventh-graders Malia and Ari seem unlikely to cross paths. Malia has had a privileged upbringing at one of Indonesia's best schools, and Ari is grateful to be attending a less prestigious academy in a neighboring town. But one subject binds them together: orangutans. Malia is an outspoken critic of palm oil plantations that decimate the apes' rain forest home, while Ari has a deep affinity for his uncle's caged pet orangutan, Ginger Juice, along with guilt about her captivity. When the kids' lives finally overlap, a series of events changes their lives--and Ginger Juice's fate--in ways they never could've imagined. The expansive story, nimbly told from both human and orangutan viewpoints, gives glimpses into different class, race, and even species experiences while introducing readers to life in Indonesia and the plight of the orangutans. Ari and Malia are warm and well-intentioned guides, and it's impossible to resist Ginger Juice's gentle charms. A compelling call to action and a crucial reminder that, while doing what is right is not always easy, it is always worthwhile. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Inspired to help orangutans facing habitat destruction for palm oil agriculture, Malia disregards her teacher's warning and circulates a petition through her private school in Surabaya, Indonesia. The seventh grader garners peer support, but the petition falls afoul of the government's pro-palm oil stance, resulting in both Malia's and her teacher's suspensions. Meanwhile, Ari has moved to the city to work in his uncle's restaurant and attend middle school. Ari feels guilty for his good luck and even more guilty as he looks after Ginger Juice, the sad-eyed orangutan trapped in a too-small cage at the restaurant. Ari feels helpless until he learns about Malia's petition, which offers information about rescuing captive orangutans. All the while, Ginger Juice dreams of the jungle and her lost mother. Told through alternating viewpoints, Malia's and Ari's chapters detail the corruption, inequities, and prejudices that are obstacles to activism as well as the differences between Ari's village life and Malia's privileges. Ginger Juice's sections, written in stilted language, do communicate the awful nature of her plight but also tend toward depicting orangutans as less-intelligent humans as opposed to fully competent beings who are intelligent in their own ways. By contrast, the portrayal of Malia's experiences as the biracial daughter of an Indonesian father who has passed away and a White mother from Toronto is nuanced and well integrated into the larger plot. A stirring introduction to the plight faced by orangutans. (map, glossary, orangutan information and resources, author's note) (Fiction. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$18.95

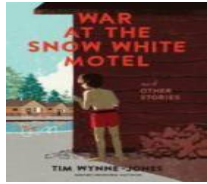


#2346996 We the Sea Turtles: A Collection of Island Tales (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Michelle Kadarusman

In a collection of powerful stories by Governor General's Award-nominated author Michelle Kadarusman, nine children on islands around the world are each changed by a chance meeting with a turtle as they find their own grounding in an increasingly

unpredictable world.
978-1-77278-285-1 Pajama Press ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 208 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 880



#2160604 War at the Snow White Motel (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Tim Wynne-Jones

Rex and his family are vacationing in Vermont. A thoughtless act launches him into war with an older teenager at their motel, but a much bigger conflict the Vietnam War looms large on the horizon.

978-1-77306-047-7 Groundwood Books ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 248 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-9 While the nine stories in this appealing book are varied in many ways, all feature likable main characters facing realistic dilemmas, nearly all are told from a boy's point of view, and most are written in the first person. In *The Pledge*, two terrified 12-year-old boys set out to atone for a boneheaded prank they carried out three years earlier and end up solving a recent mystery. *The Journey to Ompah* concerns a father-son road trip that takes an unexpected turn, showing the boy that a little firsthand knowledge can provide a great deal of useful insight into his family. And in *The Brotherhood of Interstellar Dirt*, a birthday sleepover during a meteor shower turns into a sleepless night outdoors with unexpected drama and a satisfying conclusion. Readers familiar with Wynne-Jones' previous short-story collections, such as *Some of the Kinder Planets* (1995) and *Lord of the Fries and Other Stories* (1999), will come to this one expecting originality, wit, and humanity. They'll find all that and more in these often surprising, always rewarding stories. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Most of the protagonists in these nine short stories are twelve years old and bumping into the realities of human nature -- their own personalities and those of the people around them. In the title story, set in 1964, Rex (from Wynne-Jones's *Rex Zero* novels) is on a family vacation when he tangles with bullying older teen Skip at the motel pool. Compassion dawns as Rex catches on to the teen's fear: the United States is newly at war with Vietnam, and Skip has just registered for the draft. The next hero, Ant, can't resist telling people about the names of creatures he sees hidden in their names (for instance, classmate Vera Best has the letters of the word beaver in hers) and is mystified by how something so interesting might offend them. All nine stories are told in first person, so the situations the narrators find themselves in (such as dealing with an elderly adult with dementia, or a father who has changed personality) are vividly conveyed, as the reader always understands the protagonist's perspective. The settings -- or landscapes, as Wynne-Jones calls them in his lengthy afterword -- are another strength. Varied, funny, and often very touching, this is a fine collection, perfect for reading aloud. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine e nine short stories are twelve years old and bumping into the realities of human nature -- their own personalities and those of the people around them. In the title story, set in 1964, Rex (from Wynne-Jones's *Rex Zero* novels) is on a family vacation when he tangles with bullying older teen Skip at the motel pool. Compassion dawns as Rex catches on to the teens fear: the United States is newl at war with Vietnam, and Skip has just registered for the draft. The next hero, Ant, cant resist telling people about the names of creatures he sees idden in their names (for instance, classmate Vera Best has the letters of the word beaver in hers) and is mystified by how something so interesting might offend them. All nine stories are told in first person, so the situations the narrators find themselves in (such as dealing with an elderly adult with dementia, or a father who has changed personality) are vividly conveyed, as the reader always understands the protagonists perspective. The settings -- or landscapes, as Wynne-Jones calls them in his lengthy afterword -- are another strength. Varied, funny, and often very touching, this is a fine collection, perfect for reading aloud. Susan Dove Lempke July/August 2020 p.146(c) Copyright 2020. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Nine short realistic stories make up this collection set (mostly) in various Canadian locales. Though all but the first seem to be contemporary, many of the issues their protagonists struggle with are timeless. The titular, Vermont-set "War at the Snow White Motel" features Rex from Wynne-Jones' *Rex Zero* trilogy in a nuanced tale filled with dry humor that paints a smaller portrait of the very real everyday fears experienced by a brainy, anxious kid against a backdrop of the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident. Others reference specific modern experiences, like the thought-provoking "Ant and the Praying Mantis," which involves characters interested in Greta Thunberg's #FridaysForFuture movement or in "Jack," in which a boy who is tormented at school describes anti-bullying campaigns like those common in many schools today. Collectively, these stories poignantly explore the navigation of the complicated territory of peer dynamics and changing families through the lens of main characters who are smart misfits, almost all of whom are younger teen boys who seem to default to white. Clever dialogue and genuine, messy relationships among kids and their parents and friends as well as with older relatives who are dealing with dementia will ring true for readers who share these experiences. Author's notes on each story are included in the afterword. An intelligent, emotionally resonant collection. (Short stories. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Each thought-provoking short story in this collection by Wynne-Jones (*The Starlight Claim*) features a different boy navigating a decisive situation with grace and resolve. Most of the tales are contemporary and set in Canada, but the titular one highlights Rex (from the author's *Rex Zero* trilogy), whose family travels to Vermont in 1964, where, while staying in a fairy tale: themed motel, Rex encounters a young man who registered for the draft just as America is entering into Vietnam. "Ant and the Praying Mantis" proves particularly topical when the main character, Anthony, learns about Greta Thunberg, climate change, and FridaysForFuture while trying to befriend a new girl at school. The powerful "Journey to Ompah" sets Michel and his father on a trek to find a rare bird and unearths a secret about his father's past that shines light on his dad's upbringing and character. And in "Jack," the protagonist experiences bullying and develops unexpected empathy for his attacker. An interesting author's afterword offers insight into the creation of each narrative. With a nostalgic, wholesome feel, these stories offer tales of quiet courage. Ages 9: 12. (May)



#2160611 Bird in Me Flies (Hardcover (POB))

written by Sara Lundberg

What do you do when it feels impossible to live up to everything expected of you? When the only person who understands you disappears? When you are young and long for something that seems out of reach? (Novel in verse)

978-1-77306-260-0 Groundwood Books ©2020 7 x 8-1/2 120 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Gracefully translated by Epstein, this illustrated biography of Swedish painter Berta Hansson (1910: 1994) traces a rural childhood that twines tragedy with the burning desire to create art. Berta loves to draw, but she lives on a farm, where art is a luxury not to be thought of; especially since her mother is bedridden with tuberculosis. The family doctor recognizes Berta's talent, but her father dismisses it. She considers her future with only scraps of inspiration; a Sistine Chapel picture from her uncle, paintings glimpsed through a window. In verse and dozens of poignant, intimate gouaches, Lundberg shows Berta's family at their tasks, the countryside around their farm, and images of Berta drawing and molding clay, forming small bird shapes that symbolize her readiness to take flight. Lundberg's handsome biography of self-discovery remembers an artist who came to know without a doubt who she was meant to be. Ages 9: 12. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2–6—This fictionalized biography depicts Swedish artist Berta Hansson's childhood. Told in verse, the text chronicles the events leading up to Hansson's departure from her village as a young woman in 1927. Hansson wanted to continue her education and pursue her interest in art; she was expected to stay and help with the family farm until she got married. Her passion for art, however, couldn't be suppressed. Hansson's uncle, who was a painter himself, inspired his niece. The family doctor, who noted and nurtured Hansson's talents, also supported her. Ultimately, her father gave her permission to leave the farm and embark on an art career. The illustrations, done in gouache, collage and watercolor, add context and detail to the story, allowing for the passage of time and change of place without explicitly naming these transitions. The power of Hansson's story comes through the matter-of-fact first-person narration (informed by her diaries) and is enhanced by Lundberg's illustrations, which echo Hansson's art. A lengthy afterword continues and completes the details of Hansson's journey to becoming a prominent expressionist; photographs and original artwork are included. **VERDICT** Anyone who has cultivated a dream that defies societal demands and cultural expectations will appreciate this affecting story of a young girl's struggle to achieve her creative aspirations. Recommended for larger collections to supplement artist biographies.—Lynn Van Auken, Oak Bluffs Sch., MA



#2256642 Burying the Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andree Poulin

In Latika's village in rural India, there are no toilets. No toilets mean that the women have to wait until night to do their business in a field. There are scorpions and snakes in the field, and germs that make people sick. For the girls in the village, no toilets mean leaving school when they reach puberty.

978-1-77306-604-2 Groundwood Books ©2021 6-1/2 x 8-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 620

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this powerful verse novel, Latika loves school, but she knows that when she turns twelve she will be forced to quit. The reason? Toilets. In her rural Indian village there are no toilets; women and girls must relieve themselves in fields after dark to avoid "shame." As she approaches puberty, she wants to "stop time / to stay a little girl" so she can continue her education without the complication of menstruation. When an engineer from the city installs a water pump for the village, Latika breaks the taboo and tells him about how the issue affects women's health and girls' access to education. Latika gives voice to something unspeakable and risks censure, but her bravery forces change and lasting improvement. She no longer wishes to "bury the moon" for the light it shines onto a supposedly shameful act but learns instead to view

its light as friendly and useful. Emotive illustrations throughout employ deep, rich black and blue hues with bold accents in pinks and purples, accentuating the moonlight. Short poems allow for a powerful exploration of a variety of social issues, all linked to access to toilets and yoking together contradictory elements (fragile but strong; fearful but brave). An appended author's note explains that toilet access is a global problem affecting over four billion people. Julie Hakim Azzam November/December 2021 p.113(c) Copyright 2021. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2348399 Game Face (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Shari Green

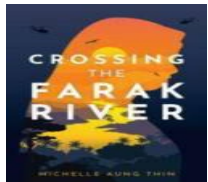
What-ifs rattle around his brain at the worst times, like when he's in the middle of a playoff game. What if he lets his teammates down? What if he can't make it pro? And the biggest what-if of all, the one he keeps to himself - what if he's like his dad, whose life is controlled by anxiety that has only gotten worse since Jonah's mom died in a car crash?

978-1-77306-868-8 Groundwood Books ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 376 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An eighth grade goalie plagued by anxiety both on and off the ice finds help and coping strategies. Casting his record of miseries into accessible free verse poems and haiku, with occasional ventures into rhyme, Jonah Vanderbeek tracks his increasing tendency in the years since his mother's sudden death to respond to stress by going stubbornly silent or exploding in rage. Jonah, who is cued as being of Dutch descent, also chronicles inner struggles with fear of failure so intense that at one point he throws up during an ice hockey game--then later comes close to quitting the sport out of guilt when his best friend collapses and is forced to give up his NHL dreams due to a heart condition. The discovery that his distant, repressive dad is actually struggling with an anxiety disorder so severe that he can't work in an office or come to any of Jonah's games is just one more dismal development. Timely if predictable help comes in the form of Rosamie Garcia, an improbably sensitive and tolerant Filipino classmate; a wise school counselor evocatively named Ms. Rogers; and Jonah's own Oma--who steer him toward the realization that there are always helpers. By the climactic championship face-off, he's found ways to keep "the alien / in my brain" at bay, so that win or lose "I'll be okay. // I'll be okay." An unvarnished problem-focused novel with occasional doses of quick ice hockey action. (Verse fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2159521 Crossing the Farak River (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Michelle Aung Thin

For Hasina and her younger brother Araf, the constant threat of Sit Tat, the Myanmar Army, is a way of life in Rakhine province--just uttering the name is enough to send chills down their spines. As Rohingyas, they know that when they hear the wop wop wop of their helicopters there is one thing to do--run, and don't stop. So when soldiers invade their village one night, and Hasina awakes to her aunt's fearful voice, followed by smoke, and then a scream, run is what they do.

978-1-77321-397-2 Annick Press ©2020 5 x 8 224 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile HL 710


Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95


Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-8 Fourteen-year-old Hasina likes playing soccer, studying geometry, and being with her family in their multiethnic town of Teknadaung in the state of Rakhine on the coast of Myanmar. But all of this falls apart when a military occupation targeting the Muslim Rohingya population sets the neighborhood on fire, separating the family. Suddenly, Hasina is responsible for keeping her younger brother and cousin safe, even as she worries about the rest of her family. The author, aware that ethnic and religious divisions are easily sown by the media, ignorance, and fear, packs a great deal of information into this compelling story that will educate readers on a real, ongoing situation while also building empathy. A variety of characters embodies the array of attitudes towards the Rohingya in an all-too-familiar tale of communities torn apart by political interests. Hasina is a brave and resourceful protagonist, and her brother, Araf, adds a touch of levity to this otherwise heavy story of loss, displacement, and war.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews When helicopters of the Sit Tat, Myanmar's army, arrive in their northern Rakhine province town, 14-year-old Hasina fears for her family and their Rohingya Muslim community. State broadcasts depict the Rohingya as "Chittagonian Bengali Muslims," foreign terrorists, and attempt to pit Buddhist and Muslim neighbors against one another. When the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army clashes with the Sit Tat, the latter immediately retaliates with violence, burning Rohingya homes. Hasina, her 6-year-old brother, and her 13-year-old cousin, flee into the forest, her father charging Hasina to keep them all safe and promising to come for them. But after days in the forest avoiding soldiers,

the children make their way back only to find the adults gone, possibly rounded up. As Hasina desperately seeks to learn where the adults have been taken or if they are even alive, she must also figure out how the children can survive and stay safe even as people try to exploit them--or worse. In this novel, Burmese Australian author Aung Thin introduces young readers to the plight of the Rohingya, alluding to the horrors and violence of targeted persecution while also addressing how decades of authoritarian and military rule have affected the entirety of the country. An abrupt ending jars readers but emphasizes that for children in conflict zones, safety is elusive. Characters are Rohingya, Mro, and Burmese; Islamic terms are localized to both Rohingya language and context. An urgent, timely narrative. (author's note, timeline, glossary, resources) (Fiction. 11-15) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6 Up—Drawing upon historical research and personal family history, Thin crafts a compelling story of life in the Rakhine province. Myanmar is a country in crisis, and 14-year-old Hasina's life is forever changed the day the helicopters arrive. It starts with a sinking feeling in her stomach, and shortly after the soldiers take over her entire village, rounding up all who identify as Rohingyas. As her community burns, Hasina escapes with her brother and cousin to the nearby forest. Motivated by her father's last words to keep the family together, Hasina wonders: Will their parents find them? Where will they go? How will they survive? Readers will find themselves gripped by the novel's rapidly changing events. While the plot touches upon difficult topics like human trafficking, violence, and death, they are referenced at a level appropriate and accessible for middle grades. Thin includes a time line, geographical resources, and a glossary to help readers better understand the ongoing conflict among the Arakan Army, Muslims, Buddhists, Burmese, and Rohingyas. VERDICT This title offers high readability and lends itself to nonfiction pairings exploring the cultural history and governance of Myanmar. A must-purchase for all middle grade libraries focused on building a diverse collection featuring complex world issues and #OwnVoices authors.—Monica Cabarcas, Albemarle High School, Charlottesville, VA

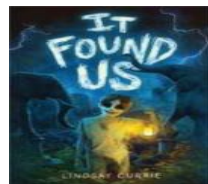
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2333129 Hans Christian Andersen Lives Next Door (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Cary Fagan</i> Andie Gladman is your typical kid - she lives in a small town, doesn't have many friends and quietly puts up with taunts from the school bully, Myrtle Klinghoffer. But one day, a new neighbor moves into the house next to Andie's family... and he looks awfully familiar. Could he be famous author Hans Christian Andersen? Andie sure thinks so, and the arrival of this well-known writer inspires Andie to write her own poems (with a feminist twist) based on his classic fairy tales. 978-1-77488-015-9 Tundra Books ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 3.0</p>	1	\$16.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2322298 Breath of Mischief (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by MarcyKate Connolly</i> Aria is raised by the Wind. She grew up in a castle, floating among the clouds with creatures of the air, and spends her days racing and soaring through the sky with her best friend, Gwyn, a young gryphling. At night, she falls asleep to the music of the Wind. But one morning the chimes are silent, there is not a breath of breeze, and their castle has settled on the ground. The Wind has vanished. 978-1-7282-5686-3 Sourcebooks, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 224 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this world, there are humans who live ordinary human lives, and there is a world of fantastical creatures that exist just in stories. Aria is a windling, a child of the wind. As a windling, she lives in a castle that floats high up in the clouds, and hangs out with all manner of flying creatures. But one day she awakes to find that the wind is gone, she can no longer float, and her castle is literally grounded. In her epic search for her parent, she meets some good and bad humans and the other otherlings, whose parents are the water, fire, and earth. Many stories about fantastical beings focus on saving the world while being unseen by humans, but until the elements were abducted, the otherlings simply moved and acted within their own realms, taking care of the creatures in their own domain and learning from their parents. This hero's-journey-style story, written in the first person, is a total page-turner and a fresh perspective in the world of fantasy.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Narrator Aria, who is pale with blue-tinged skin and hair, has long lived with the Wind, which claims her as their daughter. It's a life the young windling loves; dwelling in a floating cloud castle and traversing the world with young gryphling companion Gwyn; until Aria awakens one morning to air unmoved by the slightest breeze. The castle is grounded, its aviary chimes have gone missing, and the Wind cannot be summoned. Heading west to seek the element, Aria and Gwyn find the Wind trapped within a vast, overgrown estate in a machine of

glass and metal. The creation's inventor, Worton, claims to be bringing harmony to the world, and offers a bargain: if Aria retrieves three fabled treasures before the moon wanes, Worton will free the Wind. Deprived of their customary ease of travel, Aria and Gwyn undergo terrifying challenges, encounter youths connected with the other elements; Fire, Earth, and Water; and together fight against a hidden agenda that's poised to doom the land. For fans of Hayao Miyazaki, this straightforwardly plotted, elementally anchored adventure quest from Connolly (the Hollow Dolls duology) couples cloud turrets and terrestrial wonder with a memorable tone and an ecologically aware narrative. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8-13. Author's agent: Suzie Townsend, New Leaf Literary. (Apr.)



#2348837 It Found Us (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lindsay Currie

Twelve-year-old Hazel Woods has always had an unusual knack for sleuthing. Some may call it snooping, but all she really wants is to solve mysteries around town. So, when she not-so-accidentally overhears her brother Den planning to sneak into the cemetery at night for an epic game of hide-and-seek, she decides to secretly tag along. This seems like the perfect opportunity to investigate the claims that the cemetery is haunted. But the moment the game ends, Hazel realizes something is very, very wrong. From her hiding spot in the bushes, she overhears that her brother's best friend, Everett, is missing. Everyone else was found by the seeker but there's no sign of Everett anywhere. It's as if he just vanished.

978-1-7282-5949-9 Sourcebooks, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

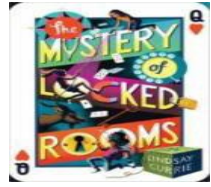
Reviews by: Booklist In the suburb of Forest Park, Illinois, Hazel is known as something of a snoop, to her family's chagrin. Overhearing that her brother, Den, and his friends will be playing hide-and-seek in Woodlawn Cemetery, Hazel decides to sneak along and expose the secrets of the spooky graveyard, proving her skills as a detective (and for other personal motives). During the game, everyone is found except for Den's annoying best friend, Everett. A panic-stricken town commences to search for the missing child. As Hazel; her best friend, Maggie; and Den seek to uncover the missing boy, they also expose the truth about an ominously smiling ghost haunting Woodlawn. *Scratch Scratch* (2020) and *What Lives in the Woods* (2021) author Currie delivers another frightful tale centered around the Chicagoland area. Currie builds suspense through paranormal activities that will leave readers jumping. Middle-graders will admire Hazel's gumption and her journey to becoming an altruistic detective. A solid chiller for fans of Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy*.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 12-year-old girl pits her detective skills against a ghost to find a missing boy. Despite her parents' warnings against getting involved in the neighbors' business and refusal to let her start a mystery-themed podcast, Hazel, who is cued white, can't quell her passion for sleuthing. When Dennison, her older brother, sneaks out to play hide-and-seek in the cemetery, Hazel secretly follows. There, she hears chilling screams and howling--and is horrified when Den's friend Everett disappears. The police are called, volunteers form a search party, and Hazel begins to investigate herself, leading her and Den to encounter a terrifying ghost with its mouth sewn shut. Who this ghost is and what drives its actions become the focus of Hazel's investigation. An occasionally flippant tone undercuts genuinely creepy moments, while the mystery elements inconsistently mesh with the paranormal aspects to produce unfounded assumptions about the haunting. Excessive repetition comes across as not trusting readers' abilities and insights. Hazel's superior sleuthing abilities feel unsubstantiated when internet searches that should have occurred earlier in the story immediately yield vital clues late in the novel, and another character presents facts about the cemetery that most people in the community would know. The author's note describes the real historical events behind the haunting. A muddled mystery combined with horror elements. (Paranormal. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Hazel Woods, a would-be sleuth, can't resist the temptation to eavesdrop on her older brother Den's phone conversation, during which he makes plans to meet his best friend Everett after dark at Woodland Cemetery. Though Hazel believes that a graveyard in Forest Park, Ill., is "not the kind of place you want to hang out in the dark. Or in the light. Or anytime, really," Hazel trails Den, eager to investigate rumors of hauntings. Accompanied by her best friend Maggie, Hazel follows the boys to the cemetery, where a game of hide and seek results in Everett's disappearance. Den, Hazel, and Maggie resolve to find him, but as their frantic search unfolds, disturbing messages reading "found u" and creepily scrawled smiley faces begin appearing on random objects. This relentlessly eerie ghost story by Currie (*The Girl in White*); based on the 1918 Hagenbeck-Wallace train disaster, per an author's note; sometimes struggles to maintain a steady gait. Still, malevolent atmosphere permeates this terrifying telling, and Hazel's energetic first-person voice, combined with her organic relationship with Den, will invest readers from the jump. Protagonists cue as white. Ages 8: 13. Agent: Shannon Hassan, Marsal Lyon Literacy. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Twelve-year-old Hazel considers herself an amateur detective of sorts, and is planning to start a podcast about mysteries she solves around her town. The cemetery is rumored to be haunted, so when she hears her brother Den and his friends talking about a sneaky game of nighttime hide-and-seek there, she follows him. But when Den's friend Everett doesn't get found by the seeker, and doesn't turn up hours later, Hazel realizes she has a real high-stakes mystery on her hands. As she tries to follow the clues to find Everett, strange and creepy things start to happen. Hazel smells smoke where there isn't any, and they encounter a terrifying presence with red and white clothes

and a stitched-up mouth. As Hazel digs into the cemetery's past looking for clues, she uncovers a connection with a horrific accident from many years ago. Can she learn enough to put the ghost to rest and save Everett? Once again, Currie has taken a real-life historical tragedy and created an engaging supernatural tale around those events. Students will be fascinated by the true story outlined in the epilogue. Perfect for young horror fans, there are just enough scares to satisfy without being terrifying. VERDICT Well-written scary novels are few and far between for this age group. All libraries serving middle grades should have this on the shelf.--Mandy Laferriere Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2378389 Mystery of Locked Rooms (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Lindsay Currie

Sarah Greene wants nothing more from her seventh-grade year than to beat the hardest escape room left in her town with her best friends, West, and Hannah. Sarah feels helpless until the day Hannah mentions a treasure rumored to be hidden in the walls of an abandoned funhouse.

978-1-7282-5953-6 Sourcebooks, Incorporated ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

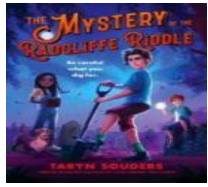
Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Twelve-year-old Sarah never really fit in. That is, until she met West and Hannah, the other members of her best-friend group known as the Deltas. Their love of math and escape rooms drew them together, and when Sarah finds out her home is being foreclosed on and she'll have to move away from the only people who've ever understood her, she hopes their shared skills can bail her family out. How? There's a local legend of a treasure hidden in an abandoned funhouse, and Sarah sees that treasure as the answer to all her family's problems. Currie has a light touch with heavy issues, such as coping with a parent who has a chronic illness and financial instability, while also exploring problems such as personal insecurity and the strength needed to be honest and vulnerable with the people you care about. This page-turner with touching character moments makes a fun read for anyone who enjoys puzzle solving, escape rooms, and books centered around the power of friendship. COPYRIGHT(2024) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews "Like three sides of the same triangle, none of us can imagine what life would be like if we weren't together." Sarah, West, and Hannah have been an intrepid trio since they first met. They bring their passion for math and numbers and their perfectly aligned strengths to solving escape rooms. With a foreclosure looming on Sarah's family home--which would mean moving to live with her grandparents in Michigan--the only solution is to seek out the rumored Triplet Treasure belonging to Hans, Stefan, and Karl Stein. The treasure is supposedly hidden in a long-abandoned fun house they built in the 1950s. To outmaneuver the triplets' ingenious riddles and tricks, the friends will need to overcome personal obstacles and unlock the doors within themselves. While the stakes are high, it's reassuring for readers to know that Sarah's family has a place to go, even if it's far away from her friends. Early chapters detail the health challenges faced by Sarah's father; his chronic illness has placed a strain on the family's finances. Currie sets up a moving metaphor: Sarah's enthusiasm for escape rooms becomes a means of tackling the unsolvable puzzle that has left her parent confined to his own inescapable room. This topic is treated with a gentle touch, but Sarah's emotional depths could have been explored more deeply; West's and Hannah's emotional arcs are fulfilling, however. Main characters read white. A riddling, sporting adventure and a story of true friendship. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Seventh grader Sarah and her two best friends West and Hannah call themselves the Deltas for their love of puzzles. Their unique and perfectly balanced individual skills aid in their team efforts to solve even the hardest of escape room riddles. Because of their friendship, Sarah; who arrived in Park Glen three years ago; finally feels like she belongs. But when her father is diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome and her mother, who is working two jobs, can't make ends meet, Sarah's family faces possible foreclosure on their home, meaning they might have to move if they can't get the money they need, and fast. To help, West and Hannah propose hunting for an alleged treasure left in an abandoned 1950s funhouse built on the outskirts of town by triplets who vacated the lot after one of them died young. In this page-turning thriller, Currie (It Found Us) builds suspense via high-stakes brain teasers in dark rooms and periods of isolation as the Deltas endeavor to solve the biggest, most dangerous series of escape rooms they've ever faced. Sarah reads as white; supporting characters are racially diverse. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Shannon Hassan, Marsal Lyon Literary. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—Locked rooms filled with secret passages, puzzles, and codes create challenges for friends West, Hannah, and Sarah, or as they call themselves, the Deltas. As the story opens, they have just become the first team of mystery solvers to beat the escape room at Lasers and Lava in record time. While riding high on that victory, they begin discussing a long-since abandoned fun house built by a set of triplets many decades ago. Legend has it that treasure awaits the person who manages to escape from it. Treasure is just what Sarah needs now. Since her dad isn't able to work anymore, and her mom can't work enough, their house is being foreclosed on and they will probably have to move. With that motivation, the Deltas decide that they could take on the challenge of the fun house and find the treasure that will keep them together. Upon arriving at the house, Sarah finds the first clue and their way inside. Once in, they must solve puzzles, decipher codes, and escape from one room after another. But the challenges start, becoming more personal and sinister, leaving the Deltas to wonder who planned these, and how to break free. These twists and turns will keep readers rapidly turning the pages to find out if the trio successfully escapes. VERDICT With highly likable characters, authentic dialogue, and tension-building action, this exciting and engaging story will grab the attention of many readers



#2328770 Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Taryn Souders

When Grady and his dad learn that the town oddball, Eudora "Kooky" Klinch left something for them in her will, they can only imagine what it might be. When it turns out it's an old scrap of 300-year-old tapestry, they are bitterly disappointed. But the cloth comes with a note saying, "This is no ordinary piece of needlework. It's a treasure map. Riddles and Clues. To the victor go the riches." Grady's dad dismisses it, but Grady thinks this could be the chance of a lifetime. With the help of his friends Thad, Clemmie, and the town dog Ophelia, Grady is determined to crack the clues and find the treasure.

978-1-7282-7546-8 Sourcebooks, Incorporated ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$15.99

Reviews by: Booklist The possibility that oblique clues on an eighteenth-century sampler might lead to buried treasure and save Grady from losing his and his widower father's home spurs him and his contentious, inseparable friends Clemmie and Thad into a hunt. Keeping the quest secret proves not only challenging in tiny Gifton, Georgia, ("Population: Small enough to mind both our business and yours!") but dangerous, too, as a mysterious someone is also on the hunt—leaving a local antique shop in a shambles and accidental corpses in their wake. That shadowy rival adds suspense, but readers will also be drawn in by watching the three sleuths learn to interpret the sampler's message bit by bit, which leads them at last to an awesome, bona fide treasure. It's not one, alas, that will solve Grady's problem, but in service to a properly satisfying ending, the author slips in an unexpected reprieve for him and his father plus, as a bit of historical "gold" for her audience, a closing account of the little-known War of Jenkins' Ear.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy inherits a needlework sampler that is also a treasure map, leading to opportunity--and danger. Grady, a White middle schooler, is grieving the tragic loss of his mother and struggling to connect with his father. To make matters worse, his family's trailer in fictional Gifton, Georgia, is facing foreclosure. When eccentric local Eudora "Kooky" Klinch passes away, it is revealed that Grady is her next of kin. He inherits from her a cross-stitch sampler and a note suggesting that it leads to fortune (her house and the rest of her possessions are, frustratingly for Grady, left to a cat rescue organization). Motivated by his stressful financial situation, Grady works with best friends Thad (a White redhead who uses the names of architects as swear words) and Clemmie (a confident Black girl who is an emotionally intelligent leader) to solve the puzzle. The subsequent events are well paced and cleverly delineated--especially when it comes to exploring multilayered linguistic clues. The characterization and setting, however, are less successful. The small-town drama and antics of the large cast are humorous but verge on caricature, and the fictionalized setting muddies attempted investigation into Georgia's complex history. The dialogue--especially between the kids--is lighthearted and feels genuine but unfortunately includes frequent usage of terms like dumb and stupid. Themes of family and hope are directly and carefully addressed in this gripping narrative. An entertaining, riddle-focused mystery. (historical note, further reading) (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Elderly Eudora Klinch is known as "Kooky Klinch" by everyone in Gifton, Ga., for the way she "dug more holes around town than a gopher on caffeine." But when she dies after decades of fruitlessly seeking her family's long-lost treasure, 13-year-old Grady Judd is inexplicably bequeathed her antique embroidered sampler, which contains clues to the fabled fortune. Ever since Mama's death, Grady and his dad haven't gotten along, and the local bank has been threatening foreclosure on their home; Grady hopes finding the treasure will help mend his relationship with his father and smooth things over financially. With the help of the town's librarian and his two best friends; whip-smart Clemmie Powell and kindhearted Thad Carlton, who uses renowned architects' names as exclamations ("Frank Lloyd Wright! Why are you scaring me like that?"); Grady endeavors to puzzle out the clues before he and his father are forced to leave town. But his desperate search turns out to be more dangerous than he bargained for. Throughout their adventure, the tweens learn fascinating factoids about U.S. history, but the effect is dampened by the fictional, standard-feeling setting. Still, Souders (Coop Knows the Scoop) appealingly intertwines a compassionate community and a grieving boy's struggle to connect with his father to deliver a rewarding mystery. Grady and Thad are white; Clemmie is Black. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sally Apokedak, Apokedak Literary. (July)

#2244864 Backyard Secrets of Danny Wexler (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Karen Pokras

Eleven-year-old Danny Wexler, the only Jewish boy in his blue-collar town during the late 1970s, is obsessed with the Bermuda Triangle. When a local child goes missing, Danny's convinced it's connected to an old Bermuda Triangle theory involving UFOs.

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$13.49

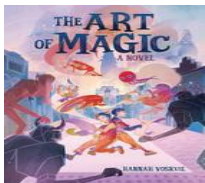


With his two best friends and their Spacetrone telescope, Danny heads to his backyard to investigate. But hunting for extraterrestrials is complicated, and it doesn't help that his friend Nicholas's mom doesn't want her son hanging out with a Jewish boy. Equipped with his super-secret spy notebook, Danny sets out to fight both the aliens and the growing anti-Semitism in the town, in hopes of mending his divided community.

978-1-7284-1294-8 Kar-Ben ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 248 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A white van, the Bermuda Triangle, and undercurrents of prejudice: welcome to the '70s. It's 1978, and 11-year-old Danny Wexler is Jewish (implied Ashkenazi) and living in a predominantly Italian American town. His mother, a nurse, and father, a factory worker, are discreet about their faith, but they are still outsiders: witness the consistent lack of promotion for Danny's father despite his years of experience. Danny and friends Frank and Nicholas obsess over aliens and the Bermuda Triangle, especially after a boy from a nearby town disappears, supposedly snatched by a man in a white van; Danny and his friends even believe Danny's piano teacher may be an alien and the kidnapper. But when that promotion finally comes through for his father, the town's antisemitism also comes out into the open; Nicholas is prohibited from playing with Danny, while another boy starts calling him Matzah Boy, and Mr. Wexler arrives home with a black eye. Meanwhile, Danny, whose engaging voice anchors the novel, discovers that Mrs. Albertini, their elderly neighbor, is Jewish, and he begins to learn classic recipes--and understand the gains and losses of assimilation--from her experiences. This quick slice-of-life read with an upbeat, tidy ending examines what it is like to be othered and the anchoring force of friendship. A look at the past with resonance for the present. (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2274533 **Art of Magic: A Novel (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Hannah Voskuil

A pack of paints, a set of pens, and unlimited creativity throw two friends into an enchanted, fast-paced adventure. ZuZu's first summer without her best friend is looking pretty grim, until she meets new kid Andrew at a visit to the historic Mapleton Mansion. Together they stumble upon some enchanted art supplies and discover that the shapes they draw and paint can come to life. Their creations are harmless- but ZuZu and Andrew aren't the only ones with access to magic. Soon, nightmarish half-machine, half-living creatures begin appearing around town, controlled by a power-hungry "caster" with a sinister mission. It's up to ZuZu and Andrew to use their newfound abilities to protect their community.

978-1-7284-1567-3 Lerner Publications ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 328 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

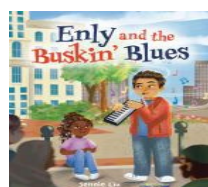
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.49

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 At an end-of-the-year party in a historic mansion, ZuZu sneaks away from her third-grade classmates to explore the turret room but finds an intriguing boy, Andrew, already there. Their introduction is interrupted by creepy knocking noises that lead to the discovery of a pan of watercolors and set of ink pens, which the two eventually realize have the power to bring their drawings to life. The delight is cut short when an animated portrait explains that her long-dead brother is also planning a return to the world--to seek vengeance on a bully (and town) that wronged him decades ago. ZuZu and Andrew must harness their creative powers in order to save their city from malevolent magic. This is an astonishingly creative story, carefully constructing a magic world with specific rules and hints of a larger organization behind it all. There are deliciously chilling descriptions of scuttling, otherworldly creations and resurrections gone awry, but there is also delight to be found in enchanted artwork and blossoming friendships. A thrilling introduction to a newfangled magic. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Art comes alive with the help of magic. Rising fourth grader Aleksandra "ZuZu" Zieuzielowicz and her new neighbor and classmate, Andrew Chang, are caught up in a return-from-the-dead vengeance plot when they visit a local haunted mansion. They find, in a secret compartment, a set of watercolors and drawing pens seemingly meant for them. The art supplies are infused with magical properties and produce visitors--animated, three-dimensional creatures--when the children combine their drawing and painting skills. Martha Mapleton, who long ago lived in the mansion, explains this to the pair when they bring her charcoal self-portrait to life by completing a missing portion. Martha's malevolent brother, Chester, has held a childhood grudge for a lifetime and beyond. He reanimates himself and numerous

auditions--dastardly musical creations--with the assistance of a self-absorbed classmate of ZuZu's, intending to wreak havoc on his bully's descendants. Martha plans to stop him. Entertainingly inventive visitons--some informed by the imagination of ZuZu's younger brother--battle Chester's wicked auditions in an energetic, epic showdown. ZuZu, whose best friend moved away, feels like an outcast; the temptation to hold on to resentment is addressed subtly and with kindness. ZuZu reads as White; Taiwanese American Andrew's diagnosis of Crohn's disease is discussed in an author's note. A satisfying, compelling adventure with an original magical construct and bright, appealing protagonists. (Fantasy. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—Zuzu is not looking forward to her first summer without her best friend who recently moved away. The hobbies they shared are not as fun to do alone. But when she has the opportunity to visit the historic Mapleton Mansion, she doesn't hesitate to go beyond the velvet ropes into the private rooms. While there, she experiences a meet-cute with a fellow student who feels just as out of place—the perfect ingredient to form a wholesome friendship. The pair stumbles upon enchanted art supplies that bring their creations to life. But when a villainous creator emerges, they will have to rely on friendship, artistic skills, and the unexpected development of their inner strength to combat the evil that wishes to consume their town. The magical rules created by Voskuil feel exciting and somewhat plausible within the characters' real worlds. Though the initial seed of the plot's conflict feels tenuous, the resolution and lessons learned overshadow the antagonist's questionable motivation. VERDICT This creative fantasy will move well with fans of Tae Keller's *When You Trap a Tiger* and Lorelei Savaryn's *The Edge of In Between*.—Nicole DeSimone



#2313766 Enly and the Buskin' Blues (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jennie Liu

Twelve-year-old Enly Wu Lewis is determined to go to band camp and follow in the footsteps of his musician father, who died years ago. But his mom, a single parent working two jobs, is saving every penny for his older brother's college tuition. So Enly sets out to earn the money for camp on his own, by busking with an obscure instrument he can only kind of play. When someone drops a winning scratch-off lottery ticket into his tip box, Enly thinks it's the answer to his problems--but he'll have to overcome teenage thieves and his own family if he wants to achieve his dreams.

978-1-7284-2456-9 Carolrhoda Books ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 5.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A sixth grader tries to make money to attend music camp. When Enly Wu Lewis' best friend, Pinky, shows him a flyer for a music-themed summer camp, Enly is determined to attend. It's his chance to learn more than just the church songs and show tunes in his piano teacher's repertoire and to become a musician like his late father. It's an uphill battle, though—\$2,800 for a two-week camp is out of the question. There's no way his mother would divert any potential savings from his brother's college fund, especially for music. But maybe Enly can earn the cash by busking with his keyboard. After a rough start with a new instrument and a possible lottery ticket payout, he might just make a dent in the camp costs. In this fast-moving tale, Liu explores the push and pull of dreams and circumstance. Readers will connect with idealistic Enly and his drive to pursue music despite the obstacles. A single parent in an increasingly gentrifying city, Enly's mom is focused on day-to-day life and an economic path for her children. Ultimately, the family meets in the middle. Secondary characters like elderly piano teacher Ms. Maisie and Saxophone Joe, a grumpy, disabled war veteran, show the support found in community, though they, particularly Enly's mother, could do with more nuanced portrayal. Enly is biracial (his mother is Chinese; his father was White), while Pinky is cued Black. A quick-paced coming-of-age story exploring music and family expectations. (Fiction. 9-12)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Enly Wu Lewis is a sixth grader who is living in the shadow of his high-achieving older brother, Spencer. His white father died when he was young and his Chinese mother struggles to make ends meet in their town, which is undergoing gentrification. Enly wants to be a musician like his dad and gets free music lessons from Miss Maisie, but she only teaches him show tunes. When his BFF Pinky shows him a flyer about a summer music camp, he's excited to go, until he learns of the \$2,800 tuition. Knowing that even if his mother had that kind of money, she would put it towards Spencer's college tuition, Enly and Pinky devise a plan for him to busk downtown, but a piano is not portable. A series of blunders and high jinks lead to Enly to a melodica, an extremely lucky lottery ticket, and even more misfortune. This fast and furious plot will have readers alternately cringing and cheering at Enly's impulsiveness, fully invested in this protagonist's success. While the tone is light, some serious issues are gently explored: gentrification, grief, wealth and lack of it, family ties, and friendship. VERDICT A recommended realistic fiction title with humor and depth.--Brenda Kahn Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

#2375835 Color of Sound (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Emily Barth Isler

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.99



Twelve-year-old Rosie is a musical prodigy whose synesthesia allows her to see music in colors. Her mom has always pushed her to become a concert violinist, but this summer Rosie refuses to play, wanting a "normal" life. Forced to spend the summer with her grandparents, Rosie is excited to meet another girl her age hanging out on their property. The girl is familiar, and Rosie quickly pieces it together: somehow, this girl is her mother, when her mother was twelve. With help from this glitch in time—plus her grandparents, an improv group, and a new instrument—Rosie comes to understand her mother, herself, and her love of music in new ways.

978-1-7284-8777-9 Carolrhoda Books ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Booklist Everyone knows that Rosie is a musical prodigy. At 12 years old, she's already played her violin at Carnegie Hall—twice. But no one knows that Rosie is also a synesthete who sees music as colors and is overstimulated by the sounds and colors of everyday experiences. Overwhelmed by her endless music responsibilities, Rosie goes on strike: no more violin for the summer. Instead, she visits her grandparents with her mother, who is obsessed with getting Rosie to play the violin again. Rosie also meets a girl in her grandparents' shed who claims she's from the 1990s and who has the same name as her mother, Shanna. This Shanna, however, is more emotionally open than Rosie's mother and feels similarly stifled by her own parents. As Rosie and Shanna bond, Rosie reconciles the idea that the crestfallen preteen before her will eventually turn into the strict mother she knows today. Tweens should pair this moving and pensive read with a viewing of Disney's *Turning Red* for similar themes of intergenerational trauma and overbearing yet sympathetic mothers. — Biz Hyzy

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Going on strike gives a synesthetic musical prodigy space in her life to learn the music of her Jewish heritage. Two things control 12-year-old Rosie's life: 1. Her unusual brain, with its full-sensory synesthesia, echoic musical memory, and exceptional violin talent; 2. her imperious stage mother. After her overpacked schedule causes Rosie to lose her only friend, she stops playing violin. Refusing music camp, she perforce accompanies her frustrated mother to her grandparents' for the summer—without devices as punishment. Connecticut offers a fresh start. Alongside secretly watching improv classes at the public library and swimming with her grandfather, Rosie learns about her Hungarian Jewish family history. Most intriguingly, through some time-travel anomaly, she encounters a girl she realizes is her mother. Shanna as a girl is so different from Shoshanna as a grown-up that Rosie wonders how the one became the other—and if she can change that outcome. Rosie is an appealing, sympathetic character who develops believably in her quest to expand both her life and her music. While the scope of her synesthesia is conveyed in a somewhat confusing way, the descriptions of her sensory perceptions are lyrical and evocative, though at times excessive. The depiction of generational trauma is poignant and subtle, from Rosie's Holocaust-survivor great-grandparents, to her dying, Alzheimer's-afflicted grandmother, to her mother. However, as a literary device, Rosie's unexplained time-travel interactions with Shanna feel awkward and unnecessary. A quiet exploration of synesthesia, music, and family history. (discussion questions, author's note) (Fiction. 10-13)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A talented tween with synesthesia probes her Jewish family's history in this sonorous tale by Isler (AfterMath), who contemplates the generational trauma caused by the Holocaust. Twelve-year-old "musical genius" Golden Rose Solomon, who experiences sounds "as textures and colors, as feelings and temperatures and tastes," longs to cultivate a part of her identity beyond "the girl with the violin." To the frustration of her rigid mother, Shanna, Rosie goes on a music strike, forgoing symphony commitments. As punishment, she's forced to join her mom on a visit to the dying grandmother Rosie barely knows. At Shanna's childhood home, Rosie "somehow, magically, impossibly" meets a 12-year-old version of Shanna, who longs to play violin and resents her mother—Rosie's grandmother—for forcing her to become a bat mitzvah. From Shanna, Rosie learns that her great-grandmother survived Auschwitz, an experience that echoes through future mother-daughter relationships in her family, making Rosie wonder whether changing the past could help Shanna understand her, and help revitalize her own connection with music. Intricately entwining interpersonal growth with each character's relationship to their Jewish faith and culture, Isler highlights the role of family history in identity formation through metaphorical time travel. Color-centric imagery rendered in immersive prose translates Rosie's synesthesia in this salient celebration of family, music, and neurodiversity. Ages 11–14. Agent: Emily Keyes, Keyes Agency. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Rosie is a 12-year-old violin prodigy, but she is hiding her feelings, her fears, her hopes, and her synesthesia—she experiences sound as colors. Rosie and her mom go to Connecticut for the summer to stay with grandparents she barely knows; her grandmother is dying of dementia and often doesn't know her. Rosie refuses to continue the grueling violin practices and performances that she believes prevent her from being a regular tween girl enjoying sleepovers and crushes. But she doesn't throw a tantrum; it is a considered decision that her parents might better understand if they truly listened to her. As a result of tensions with her mom, Rosie spends time with her grandfather who shows her their family history, decimated and traumatized by the tragedies of the Holocaust. Encounters with a young girl, Shanna, on the farm lead to a tentative friendship and gives Rosie an understanding of the impact of growing up in an entirely different family structure. Rosie is able, in her gracious way, not only to learn from Shanna but to also help teach and guide her mother to a place of better understanding. Isler crafts an exceptionally honest portrayal of complicated mother-daughter dynamics, and a protagonist whose independence and kindness is a stunning solo. VERDICT A top pick for any middle school collection; a perfect book club pick and a reminder to all that patience and understanding can change lives.—Lee De Groft



#2323226 Cobra's Song (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Supriya Kelkar

Ten-year-old Geetanjali doesn't mind singing, but she knows she'll never be as good as her mother, Aai, or grandmother, Aaji, famous classical singers from India whose celebrity has followed the family all the way to their small town of Deadwood, Michigan, where Geetanjali lives with her aai, and father, Baba.

978-1-6659-1188-7 Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

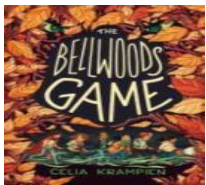
Quantity
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Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Kelkar's (That Thing about Bollywood, 2021) latest middle-grade adventure is colored by magic, mystery, and a lovable, fierce heroine in 10-year-old Geetanjali, whose adventures readers will enjoy following as she discovers more about herself and takes pride in her achievements. In the small town of Deadwood, Michigan, Geetanjali enjoys following in her family's tradition of being a singer, but she is very conscious that she may not measure up to the legacy of her talented mother and grandmother. After she experiences stage fright for the first time at a school concert, her fears and phobias continue to grow, and as her long-awaited visit with her grandmother (and unexpected guests) grows strange, Geetanjali must get to the root of the mystery to help those she loves. Filled with Indian folklore and mythology and memorable characters, this voice-y middle-grade romp will be relatable to anyone who's ever felt nervous about new experiences or family expectations.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ship, and facing your fears. Soon-to-be sixth grader Geetanjali has grown up in the shadow of her mother and grandmother, who were famous Hindustani classical singers back in India. But every time she has to sing publicly, she finds herself besieged with anxiety. And it all starts to snowball: Geetanjali's meant to sing at a public event in her Michigan hometown alongside bestie Penn, a White American boy, but she doesn't feel ready. She's hoping Aaji's visit from Pune will make her feel less anxious, but her grandmother doesn't seem like herself. Nor does their neighbor, recently widowed Heena Mavshi, who is behaving most unusually. Could it have something to do with mysterious new arrival Lata Auntie, who keeps pestering Aaji to sing Raag Naagshakti, a melody said to attract cobras? What about the dead mouse in the backyard with bite marks like those of a snake's fangs? The book digs into changing family dynamics, grief and healing, tween fears, and culture and belonging, among other topics. There's also a mystery connected to snake-related curses and folk beliefs around naagmanis, stones supposedly formed by cobras. Readers might wish for deeper development of some of the many strands. However, the strong pace and the relationships between the vivid characters, both Geetanjali's Marathi family members and others, come together to make this story immensely readable. An absorbing story that has music at its heart. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Though her maternal family have long been famed Hindustani classical singers in India, rising sixth grader Geetanjali struggles to vocalize publicly. She feels ill-prepared to sing with white best friend Penn at their small Michigan town's summertime festival, she fails to intervene when a younger schoolmate is bullied for public singing, and the arrival of her visiting grandmother, Aaji, from Pune, signifies a family performance that she's not ready to join. Geetanjali's reluctance to practice with Penn, or attempt most anything that scares her, drives him closer to a new kid who easily calls out injustice. Worries about Aaji's visible aging and her mother's focus on Geetanjali's baby brother soon spiral into further uncertainty around local events: a warmhearted neighbor starts acting strangely after her husband's death, a newcomer asks Aaji to sing a song whose vibrations attract cobras, and dead mice start turning up with visible puncture marks. Are the threats triggered by baseless fears, or are they clues that portend more? Kelkar (Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame) centers Indian culture and folklore in a first-person narrative that keenly describes oppressive feelings of guilt and anxiety. Seemingly random details culminate in a layered conclusion that vindicates a persevering heroine realizing her own strength. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Kathleen Rushall, Andrea Brown Literary. (May)

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2328219 Bellwoods Game (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Celia Krampien

A spooky middle grade novel about a girl who volunteers to play a game in the haunted Bellwoods--and discovers some legends shouldn't be played with.

978-1-6659-1250-1 Atheneum ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

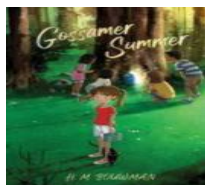
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Every Halloween night in Fall Hollow, it's up to the sixth-grade class to keep their town safe from the vengeful spirit of Abigail Snook. To do this, they play the Bellwood Game, sending some of their own into the forest to ring the bell that will keep Abigail at bay--as long as she doesn't catch them first. On the day of the game, Bailee feels overwhelmed by her nan's recent health scare and her own status as class pariah for supposedly tattling on her peers. Nevertheless, Bailee finds the courage to participate in the long-anticipated game, knowing if she rings the bell, she also gets to make a wish. In the woods, Bailee teams up with four unlikely classmates and a benign spirit to try to defeat the shape-shifting specter. Krampien's eerie story cleverly focuses on themes such as bullying, and Bailee's motley crew discovers the importance of

having the facts before making assumptions. This supernatural tale will chill readers while reminding them that real friendship can brave any situation. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Sixth grader Bailee Heron must win a ghostly game to keep her town, her family, and herself from losing everything. On Halloween in 1982, sixth grader Abigail Snook disappeared in the Bellwoods forest behind Beckett Elementary. Now, every Halloween, Beckett's sixth graders have to play the Bellwoods Game, or her ghost will terrorize the town for the next year. If she catches you, and you don't have a gift to sacrifice, the ghost will take something else--like your tongue. But if you manage to ring the old bell in the woods first, you'll banish her for another year, and she'll give you anything you want. Bailee, lover of all things horror, just wants things to go back to normal. Ever since the factory closed two years ago, her parents have worked long hours to make ends meet, often leaving Nan and Bailee alone. Then Nan got sick at the same time a vicious rumor ostracized Bailee from the rest of the class. Winning the game is Bailee's only chance to set things right, but she soon learns everything is not as it seems in the town of Fall Hollow, where stories are weapons, friends come from strange places, and Abigail Snook isn't the scariest thing hiding among the trees. This gorgeously illustrated, atmospheric, and evocative debut captures the fun of being scared and the hard truths of middle school. Bailee presents White; names and illustrations point to some racial diversity in secondary characters. Beautifully creepy. (Supernatural. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly On Halloween 1982, sixth grader Abigail Snook vanished from the Bellwoods while playing a game with her bully. As October 31 approaches in present-day Fall Hollow, the sixth graders of Beckett Elementary are preoccupied with that legend, which annually lures a group of classmates into the forest to play the Bellwoods Game. Horror fan Bailee Heron would rather stay home with her beloved Nan than head into the woods, but she decides that playing is the only way to clear up a misunderstanding that ostracized her from her class. According to the legend, Abigail's spirit reappears in the forest each year on the anniversary of her vanishing; per tradition, three tweens must play the game to its end in order to help her rest and save the town from chaos. The player who first rings an old bell in the woods banishes the spirit for another annum, but anyone caught by the spirit who lacks a gift to trade will be forced to sacrifice something truly dear. Once the game begins, however, Bailee realizes that the stories belie the game's complexity. Krampien (Sunny) intersperses atmospherically eerie b&w art throughout a tense friendship novel steeped in local lore. Bailee presents as white; secondary characters suggest racial diversity. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Andrea Morrison, Writers House. (July)



#2323164 Gossamer Summer (Hardcover (Trade))

written by H. M. Bouwman

It all started when Jojo saw a fairy but said she didn't. After all, fairies aren't real--and if they were, they wouldn't look like that! No, Jojo did not see a small, green, muddy...person. Her sisters have no problem believing, though. They beg Jojo to finish the story she started telling long ago, but since the death of their beloved grandmother, Jojo hasn't felt like talking about magic, even if her sisters still believe.

978-1-6659-1253-2 Atheneum ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

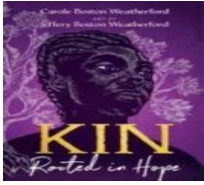
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Five children find a portal to fairyland. Ten-year-old Jojo and her sisters, 11-year-old Maisie and 5-year-old twins Amy and Bee, are spending their summer outside while their mom, an author, tries to meet her looming deadline. The girls while away their sunny days, reading, playing, and imagining. When Theo comes to stay with his uncle, who lives across the street, he joins the gang. Last year, Jojo, the group's storyteller, had woven an intricate tale of an impending attack upon the fairies from frightening skeletal birds she dubs "bone creatures," but she never finished the story after the death of her beloved Grandma Nan. When the quintet follow a fairy through a tiny door in a tree, they discover that Jojo's tale has taken on a life of its own, and she must summon the resolve to give it a conclusion. Bouwman's clever middle-grade fantasy has a delightful throwback feel, noticeably absent of technology or adult intervention as the children spend entire days outside together. As the group delves further into fairyland, Jojo struggles to reconcile her own grief but comes to realize that Maisie and Theo have their own heartaches to unpack. Jojo directly references Narnia as inspiration for her tales, but the book also has much in common with The Neverending Story. Physical descriptions of characters are minimal. A heartwarming fantasy exploring grief, friendship, and fairies. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly telling fairy stories, but when her Grandma Nan died the summer before this book's start, Jojo's interest in the stories died, too. Instead, she spends her summer vacation playing outside the family's countryside home with her three sisters, 11-year-old Maisie and twin five-year-olds Amy and Bee, while their author mother works on deadline. When her sisters insist on building fairy gardens and find a "squirrel-sized greenish person" napping on their porch, Jojo realizes that each story the siblings have told has created a real fairyland. The tales have even established a catastrophic prophecy about innumerable flying skeletal creatures attacking a faraway fairyland; creatures that are primed to return. Joined by 10-year-old neighbor Theo, jocular fairy Roland, and aloof cat Fabio, the siblings must rescue a boggy realm from their own fantasies in two days' time. An omniscient narrator sets a playful tone and brisk pace in this humorous, E. Nesbit-style feeling fantasy from Bouwman (A Crack in the Sea), and the fairies and younger sisters provide comic relief as Jojo and other characters unpack grief of their own. Maisie and Jojo are described as being paler than Amy and Bee. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Tricia Lawrence, Erin Murphy Literary. (May)

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99



#2333190 **Kin: Rooted in Hope (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Carole Boston Weatherford

Carole and Jeffery Boston Weatherford's ancestors are among the founders of Maryland. Their family history there extends more than three hundred years, but as with the genealogical searches of many African Americans with roots in slavery, their family tree can only be traced back five generations before going dark. And so from scraps of history, Carole and Jeffery have conjured the voices of their kin, creating an often painful but ultimately empowering story of who their people were in a breathtaking book that is at once deeply personal yet all too universal.

978-1-6659-1362-1 Atheneum ©2023 6 x 9 208 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.0 AR Pts 3.0

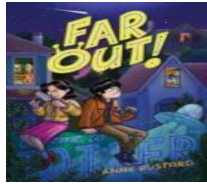
Reviews by: Booklist A sweeping, poetic, and genealogical look at how family was defined and unraveled through enslavement, Carole Boston Weatherford's novel in verse explores her own journey toward finding her ancestors, alongside the gut-wrenching, detailed scratchboard artwork of her son. How can one trace their family history from a portrait hanging in a living room to a slave ship bobbing off the coast? Through historical records and Weatherford's rhythmic, imaginative style, her ancestors come to life, as does the reader's journey through time, from plantation to plantation, through historical moments and quiet afternoons in the Wye House. Weatherford's work here—to help build a bridge from the Door of No Return to a place of hope for generations to come—is an impressive feat that nicely supplements any nonfiction work on the Middle Passage through the Civil War. The stark line illustrations on alternating black and white pages are a searing accompaniment to the verse, bringing these figures out of the darkness and deepening the humanity that glows in the pages. For fans of Kwame Alexander, Ashley Bryan, and Faith Ringgold.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books With lacerating beauty, Weatherford offers up a series of poems that both document and are inspired by her search to trace her heritage beyond her enslaved ancestors' arrival in the Americas. The book begins with a reflection on watching Roots at nineteen and then shifts to her travels to Senegal to see the Door of No Return; from there, the poems mostly center around the experiences of her family, especially of her great-great-grandfather Isaac, during their enslavement by the Lloyd family in Maryland. Poems vary in style and perspectives throughout. The haughty voice of the Lloyds' manor has a steadiness that lays out the ins and outs of a working plantation, but its callousness is punctuated by a painful, haunting couplet; a defiant staccato pace marks Isaac's daughter's perspective as she spits in the food she serves the Lloyds and their guests; and Frederick Douglass narrates his section and interactions on the Lloyd farm with a melancholic regality. Jeffery Boston Weatherford's stunning, scratchboard art highlights the dignity of the enslaved people while indicting those that enslave them; closeups of hands picking fruit and arms enveloping babies emanate with humanity while bright eyes peer at the reader with fierce determination. This is not an easy read, but it is gorgeously rendered and, when paired with Henderson's Dear Yesteryear (BCCB 2/23), can show how art reckons with history better than any textbook. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine From a single photograph and sparse information to a fully realized lineage of excellence, an African American author, with dramatic illustrations by her son, traces their family's roots. Carole Boston Weatherford (Standing in the Need of Prayer, rev. 9/22) deftly weaves a myriad of locations, entities, and mindsets into her imaginative and moving chronicle. Personification poems introduce various locations she visited, such as the Chesapeake Bay ("Surely as I spill into the Atlantic, the current / of greed swept me into the triangular trade") and Wye House plantation in Maryland ("I witness more cruelty than I care to recall / the sin of slavery haunts my every hall"). Most powerful are the poems that give her ancestors a voice. From brief mentions in enslavers' ledgers and other historical documents, Weatherford gives life to kin such as "Nanny / Nancy / Nan Copper, House Servant (born c. 1763)" and Isaac Copper, an elder who taught younger enslaved people Bible verses -- among them, Frederick Douglass. Jeffery Boston Weatherford's (illustrator of Call Me Miss Hamilton, rev. 3/22) scratchboard and digital black-and-white renderings match the poems' intensity, with the compositions' points of view being as dynamic and varied as the styles of verse. Fans of Bryan's Freedom over Me (rev. 11/16) and Nelson's Heart and Soul (rev. 11/11) will appreciate this extensively researched and deeply felt genealogical exploration. Appended with an author's note, an illustrator's note (unseen), and a comprehensive bibliography. Eboni Njoku(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The lineage of a Black family comes to life through powerful poems. Embarking on genealogical research can be daunting but thrilling. But that is not always the case for many Black families, their heritage interrupted by the enslavement of their ancestors and marred by the atrocities they endured. Carole Boston Weatherford invites readers to explore the past through her own family's history. Beginning with her adolescent indifference and, later, her determined curiosity, she lays the groundwork for how the Lloyd family's Wye House, in Maryland, came to be the site of mass cruelty. While the Lloyds passed down property, positions, and people as they amassed wealth, the enslaved began losing parts of their legacies. Writing chronologically, the author pieces together the history of enslavement, her strength and resolve palpable as she tells of her family's triumphs despite the conditions they were forced to bear. Raw, stark, digitally rendered scratchboard illustrations multiply the depth of her profound words. The imagined thoughts of Weatherford's kin and the personification of the things--among them Wye House and the Chesapeake Bay--that "witnessed" generations of enslavement will give readers a new perspective and inspire questions similar to those she intersperses throughout. A striking work that reshapes the narrative around enslavement. (author's and illustrator's notes, bibliography) (Historical

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The Weatherfords; a mother-son duo; pay tribute to their enslaved ancestors' pain and resilience across generations in this moving collection of illustrated poems, inspired by Alex Haley's *Roots*. Hoping to learn more about her family history, the author attempts to trace her lineage to its beginnings. In 2016, while traveling to Goree, an island off the coast of Dakar, Senegal, Weatherford and her son visit "slave castles"; trading posts where "captive Africans/ were held for weeks, months,/ until their numbers could fill/ a ship's belly." From there, the two embark on a journey that takes them to the Wye House Plantation in Easton, Md., where their ancestors were enslaved by the Lloyds, a white Quaker family. Throughout, poems showcase various perspectives, including those of the creators' forebears, the enslaving family, and a ship carrying captives. While this narrative range can sometimes cause confusion, it nevertheless makes for a layered text that highlights the perseverance of the Weatherfords' ancestors and the horrors that they endured. Sketch-like b&w line illustrations depict key moments within the narrative. By sharing their family's story, the Weatherfords craft a harrowing and motivational addition to enslaved peoples' history. Ages 10: up. (Sept.)



#2319973 Far Out! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anne Bustard

MJ is desperate to show the town that this Crook is not a thief. The only problem is that there is a lot of evidence against her, and Mimi herself isn't helping things. She's acting suspiciously, pulling disappearing acts, and worst of all, can't seem to answer any questions about where she was or what she was doing. But much like UFOs, extraterrestrial visitations, and sending people to space, the impossible has been known to happen.

978-1-6659-1419-2 Simon & Schuster ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist ut to prove that it wasn't her beloved grandma Mimi who stole a prize exhibit from the library just days before their FO-smitten Texas town hosts a "First Annual Come On Down Day" festival in hopes of luring aliens (and maybe tourists) into a visit. Unfortunately, the evidence is strong enough that Magnolia Jean's sheriff dad is forced to march his own mom off to jail. Worryingly, Mimi's behavior becoming more erratic as she shows signs of oncoming dementia. Bustard fills her cast with a realistic mix of friends, rivals, supportive parents, and neighborly townsfolk (many given animated faces by Rowland's vignettes at each chapter's head), capturing a vivid sense of the rhythms and atmosphere of small-town life in the early 1960s—inspired, she writes, by a real event staged in the 1970s. Readers fond of comfy tales set in small Southern towns (practically a genre all its own) will enjoy meeting Magnolia Jean.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Cosmic questions merge with terrestrial affairs in this unhurried small-town mystery from Bustard (*Blue Skies*). Magnolia Jean Crook; sheriff's daughter, staunch believer in alien life, and aspiring detective; is as excited as anyone in 1964 Totter, Tex., for the upcoming First Annual Come On Down Day. Organized by funeral home owner Mr. Harrington for a local UFO organization's 10th anniversary, the event is intended to both capitalize on the region's history of otherworldly sightings and to attract "any and all space aliens who wish to visit. No RSVP required." The event hits a snag when a prized, anonymously owned meteorite integral to the festivities is stolen from the local library. Magnolia, in partnership with sixth grade classmate Nick Lawless, a drummer, swears to get to the bottom of the heist. When the meteorite is discovered in the shed of Magnolia's beloved and increasingly forgetful grandmother, the duo doubles down on their sleuthing to clear her name and bolster Totter's waning morale. A sometimes meandering plot centers solidly on the book's compassionate protagonist, whose colloquial narrative reflects the town's quirky affability, offers a loving view of an intergenerational relationship, and touches on themes of memory and belief. Magnolia reads as white; context clues hint at the town's diversity. An author's note concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Emily Mitchell, Wernick & Pratt. (Apr.)



#2311053 Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejia (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alexandra Alessandri

Twelve-year-old Valentina wants to focus on drawing the real world around her and hopefully get into art school in Bogota one day, but Papi has spent his life studying Colombia's legendary creatures and searching for proof of their existence. So when Papi hears that a patasola—a vampire woman with one leg—has been sighted in the Andes, Valentina and her younger brother Julian get dragged along on another magical creature hunt.

978-1-6659-1705-6 Atheneum ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Featuring an artistic and brave protagonist of Colombian descent, Alessandri's first novel seamlessly weaves magical and cultural elements into its adventurous narrative. Valentina, 12, dreams of attending art school in her native Bogotá, but when reports of a patasola (vampire woman) reach her papi, Valentina's life is uprooted again. Determined to prove creatures from folklore are real, Papi takes Valentina and her brother, Julián, to the Andes as he seeks to find the patasola himself. What follows is a tale that mixes folklore with fantasy that plunges Valentina and Julián into an alternate Colombia infested with magical creatures. Readers will be on the edge of their seats as they root for the siblings to return to the real world in the face of many dangers. Beautiful prose combines with gripping adventure in this magical ode to Colombia and its legends. Fans of Roseanne Brown's *Serwa Boateng's Guide to Vampire Hunting* (2022) and Zoraida Córdova's *Valentina Salazar Is Not a Monster Hunter* (2022) will adore this book, for both its mythic monsters and its plucky heroine. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "The earth is not happy." It's a feeling Valentina cannot shake right before an earthquake rips the ground open, leaving her father injured and stuck down a crevice while Valentina and her brother Julián portal into a magical world of myth. Tierra de los Olvidados has been closed to the human world for hundreds of years since Queen Madremonte's son was kidnapped by humans, and Valentina and Julián, desperate to save their father, must find a way across the enchanted land to speak with the Queen without being killed by her guards. Colombian creatures of legend like madremonte, el silbón, and the patasola populate the dazzling setting, "a flip-flopped image of Colombia," bringing an enlivening cultural specificity to familiar mystical quest tropes. Valentina's love of art and her care toward the environment and others make her a character to root for, and the few words in the text that are in Spanish will be a pleasant addition for young Spanish speakers. Savvy readers might spot the twist kilometers ahead of Valentina but even so, its inevitable arrival is deeply satisfying, capping off an adventurous journey that is by turns bone-chilling and joyful. ART COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine As a young girl, Valentina loved the Colombian legends her father told about the magical creatures inhabiting their country. Now that she's twelve ("almost thirteen"), however, she finds the stories childish fantasies, and she's less than thrilled when her father brings her and her younger brother on an expedition into the Andean jungle to investigate a sighting of a mythical female vampire-like creature. Valentina dreams of attending the Bogota Academy of Arts, and she'd prefer to stay at home and work on her drawing portfolio. When a massive earthquake hits the jungle, the siblings fall into a deep crevice that leads to an alternate world -- one that mirrors theirs but is inhabited by mythical beings. To get home, the two must travel through the magical land and beg Madremonte, the mother and protector of Earth, to help them. The only problem is that Madremonte hates humans and will stop at nothing to eliminate them from her realm. Alessandri embeds Colombian folklore into a thrilling tale that centers sibling relationships, eco-justice, border crossing, and intergenerational family wounds. Readers who love mythology, adventure, and suspense will root for Valentina as she embarks on her hero's journey. S. R. Toliver(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Valentina has grown up with Papi's fantastical stories of Colombian monsters and magic. Now she's 12, she thinks the stories are a bit outlandish. When she and her brother, Julián, accompany their dad on a hunt in the Colombian Andes for la patasola--a vampiric demon woman with one leg--the siblings become separated from their dad by a sudden earthquake that leaves him gravely injured. They find themselves in a world beneath their own, one that's similar to Colombia but filled with the mythical creatures from the stories they grew up with. This world is unwelcoming to humans, and they must travel to find Madremonte, the ruler of the land, to convince her to help them before it's too late. In this story skillfully infused with Colombian folklore, Julián and Valentina encounter a variety of beings, including la mano peluda, a hairy hand that lurks beneath children's beds; duendes, or trickster elves; and el mohán, who has the power to bewitch you. A terrifying encounter with el silbón, a harbinger of death, has Valentina running for her life, and she'll need all the bravery she can muster to save her captured brother, reunite her family, and unravel the mystery of Madremonte's discontent. With the action beginning on the first page, this fast-paced adventure set in a well-realized world will keep readers on their toes. Modern kids meet traditional tales with thrilling results. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Colombian 12-year-old Valentina "Vale" Mejia would rather spend her summer working on her art portfolio for the Bogota Academy of Arts than searching for a patasola in the Andes with her folclorólogo father and younger brother Julian, who still believes in the Colombian myths and legends their father tells them. When they get caught in a sudden earthquake, their dad falls into a crevice and is injured. While trying to get help, Vale and Julian stumble upon a mysterious cave that leads to a fantastical version of Colombia seemingly straight out of their father's stories. The siblings journey across the Land of the Forgotten; through a brujita's magical house, an armadillo's cozy burrow, and a village of playful duende; to the castle of the Madremonte, protector of the land, keeper of the only portal back to their world, and known for disliking humans. Vale's pragmatism paired with Julian's effervescent sense of wonder helps them to navigate a world full of danger and magic. Through their adventures, Alessandri (*Isabel and Her Colores Go to School*) expertly weaves an immersive tale bursting at the seams with folklore, enchantments, and spirit. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Deborah Warren, East West Literary. (Feb.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2329824 Vivian Van Tassel and the Secret of Midnight Lake (Hardcover (Trade))	1	\$18.99



written by Michael Witwer

Twelve-year-old Vivian Van Tassel is angry: angry about her mom's mysterious and sudden death; at her dad for uprooting their lives in Chicago to move to the sleepy, creepy town of Midnight Lake; at the bullies who seem to be drawn to her no matter how much she tries to keep her head down. but mostly angry at herself for causing bad things to happen wherever she goes.

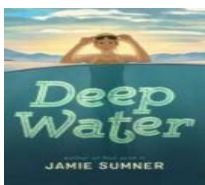
978-1-6659-1819-0 Aladdin ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews e-playing game Beasts and Battlements originated in Midnight Lake, Wisconsin. Twelve-year-old Vivian Van Tassel has extraordinary fencing skills, a short temper, a passion for Harry Potter books, and a dead mother--for which she blames herself. Moving to her mother's hometown of Midnight Lake just exacerbates her negative feelings, as she endures bullies and nasty teachers at her new school. Still, despite insisting she doesn't want friends, Vivian does gradually connect with four Beasts and Battlements gamers. Then, while doing a local history project, Vivian discovers unusual connections between B&B and Midnight Lake. Are the game beasts...real? She soon learns that vulturebears, leer spheres, and canimen belong to an "unholy alliance" fighting for Arborem, an ancient druid determined to eradicate humanity. Perhaps only Vivian, thanks to her mother's special Silverthorn family heritage, can stop him. This fantasy adventure shines in Vivian's struggle with grief and guilt and in its creatively crafted gaming elements. Following the prologue, though, active fantasy components disappear for many chapters, slowing the start, and some plot mechanisms feel contrived. As well, in our environmentally aware time, some readers might feel surprised to find a protective nature entity cast as the villain. Vivian and most human characters read White; one gamer is Black, and one has a Latine name. This earnest but uneven fantasy will appeal most to role-playing-game fans. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Dungeons & Dragons expert Witwer draws inspiration from the tabletop RPG to craft an exciting adventure. Twelve-year-old Vivian Van Tassel's hot temper has gotten her into trouble time and again. It's even led to her removal from fencing class, one of her only outlets for her emotions. But worst of all, she believes that her feelings; and their resultant emotional blowout; are the reason for her mother's tragic accidental death. After her journalist father gets a new job and moves the family to her mother's hometown in Midnight Lake, Wis., Vivian finds herself making friends for the first time while playing Beasts & Battlements with fellow classmates, even as she contends with bullies and struggles to manage her anger and guilt. An assignment about the school's defunct sanitarium brings with it public recognition that a century earlier, many people considered mentally ill described seeing monsters like those featured in B&B, driving Vivian to dig deeper into a dangerous mystery. Abundant Harry Potter references and Vivian's distant third-person perspective bog down the straightforward plot, and standard character archetypes make this a familiar jaunt for fans of fantasy fare. Vivian reads as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Jacques de Spoelberch, J. de S. Assoc. (Aug.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
	1	\$17.99



#2374556 Deep Water (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jamie Sumner

Six hours. One marathon swim. That's all Tully Birch needs to get her life straightened out. With the help of her best friend, Arch, Tully braves the waters of Lake Tahoe to break the record for the youngest person ever to complete the famous "Godfather swim." She wants to achieve something no one in the world has done, because if she does, maybe, just maybe, her mom will come back.

978-1-6659-3506-7 Atheneum ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books At 6 a.m. one cool sunny morning, twelve-year-old Tully begins a 12.1 mile marathon swim across Lake Tahoe, accompanied by her best pal Arch, who kayaks behind her with a timer, snacks, and support. Tully's mom was supposed to be the one joining her--the two were avid swimmers--but she took off months ago after going off of her meds. Tully is convinced that if she can record the swim and go viral as the youngest person to complete the "Godfather" swim, her mom will be so proud of her, she'll certainly come home. But twelve miles gives a person a lot of time to think, and as much as Tully tries to drown out the memories of her mom's erratic, hurtful behavior, she can't help but wonder if she's simply not a good enough daughter. When a storm rolls in, Tully must decide if the risk of finishing the swim will be worth the reward. Outside of a few interactions with Arch, the book fully belongs to Tully, her will to swim, and her memories of her mother. The verse format is expertly used to further immerse the reader in Tully's experience, with shifting cadences that move between steady, firm beats like measured, calm breathing, and more staccato, frantic moments, like sputters and gasps for air. The water makes an apt metaphor for Tully's mom, mercurial and enveloping, and the book's portrayal of her and her depression is not necessarily unkind but very much filtered through

the eyes of a child who has been deeply hurt but unable to fully process that trauma. The authentic voice and contemplations on grief call back to Holly Goldberg Sloan's *Counting by 7s* (BCCB 9/13), and Tully's struggles with her mom's mental health echo themes found in Carr's *Lost Kites and Other Treasures* (BCCB 1/24). KQG COPYRIGHT(2024) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Sometimes you must risk everything to find out who matters. Tully has her mother's nose and auburn hair--and even her mother's maiden name as her given name. Tully is also athletic and competitive like her mother. She's been swimming competitively since she was 6, and now, at 12, she's encouraged by her mother to be the youngest person ever to swim across Lake Tahoe. But then Mom stops taking her meds, begins exercising obsessively, and suddenly leaves without saying goodbye. Seeing Dad "swallowed up / in the glow of his computer screen," Tully decides that if she succeeds in swimming across Lake Tahoe, her mother will come back, "Because I am a winner / and I can do HARD THINGS." Tully trains in secret, and early one July morning, she sets out across the lake with her best friend, Arch, kayaking alongside her. Laid out in parts titled "Hour One," "Hour Two," and so on, this accessible but sometimes overly obvious story pulls readers into the heart of a grueling 12.1-mile swim. As Tully struggles mentally with the confusion and guilt brought on by her mother's departure and she thrashes her way across a suddenly stormy lake while Arch yells at her to quit, she comes to an honest assessment of herself--and her mother. The varied and creative layout of the text adds an interesting component to the free-verse, present-tense narrative, told from Tully's first-person point of view. Characters read white. Packs a powerful punch. (Verse fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Tully Birch attempts to set a record as the youngest swimmer to complete the Godfather swim, a 12.1-mile trek across Lake Tahoe, in this carefully crafted verse novel by Sumner (*Maid for It*). Though the endeavor was originally Tully's mother's idea, she abandons the family months before the planned swim. Tully hopes Mom will return to celebrate once Tully completes her clandestine swim, which her best friend Arch Novak plans to post online. Arch also serves as navigator, kayaking beside Tully to pace, monitor, and encourage her, as well as intercept increasingly worried texts from both their parents. If all goes as planned, the duo will be safely across the lake by lunchtime. But a lot can happen during a six-hour expedition. Sumner compassionately examines the effects that living with a parent managing mental health challenges can have on a child ("The mind is the biggest/ danger of all./ My mother taught me that"). The spare text deftly mirrors the push-and-pull rhythm of a swimmer in open water, while lengthier poems emphasize memories and harsh realities. Tully and Arch cue as white. Ages 10: up. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Twelve-year-old Tully is set to make history as the youngest person to swim the challenging 12-mile "Godfather Swim" in Lake Tahoe. But her motivation isn't just about the athletic feat. She's hoping this achievement will catch her depressed mother's attention, coaxing her to return home after leaving the family. Tully's been training in secret, hidden from her father with the support of her best friend, Arch. Now, poised for the swim, the question looms: Will she complete it or will fate intervene? Told through verse, this quick read captures the emotional turmoil of a young girl grappling with her mother's abandonment. As Tully pushes ahead in the water, she reflects on the past, trying to understand what might have driven her mother away. Each mile not only propels the race forward but delves deeper into Tully's life story, drawing readers into her struggles and emotions. VERDICT A wonderful read that will resonate with athletes, those navigating family challenges, and even reluctant readers; a strong addition to all middle grade library collections.—Kate Rao



#2325247 When Giants Burn (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Beth Vrabel

In this emotional and riveting middle grade novel that's *The Misfits* meets *Hatchet*, two unlikely friends fly off on an adventure they hope will set them free--only to learn the value of what they left behind.

978-1-6659-1862-6 Atheneum ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist zes a "Hatchet and Gretel story," a short hop in a homemade ultralight plane turns into a harrowing ordeal for two sixth-graders feeling betrayed by their parents. Even though his single mom is finally out of prison, Hayes rages at her for deserting him and his little brother, and Gerty, despite losing a baby sister to SIDS, is just finding her balance in school when her survivalist dad announces it's time to leave. Unwillingly brought together by a savvy school counselor, the two outsiders cement a fragile bond by impulsively heading to Pando, a cloned stand of aspen and one of the oldest and biggest single organisms on Earth, just as a massive forest fire shifts into the region. Readers will be swept along by the intense plot, but the way the author also puts her adult cast through hard tests of character over the course of several frantic days, so that by the end both traumatized families have found pathways to healing, adds a rich layer of emotional satisfaction.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Vrabel (*Lies I Tell Myself*) spins a poignant love letter to friendship and a harrowing survival tale in this gripping read. Neither Gerty nor Hayes, both white-cued sixth graders in Rabbit, Utah, think that their participation in their school guidance counselor's "safe space" lunches, meant to help them practice their social skills, is necessary. As their forced proximity blossoms into real friendship, however, Gerty shows Hayes her most prized and secret possession: an ultralight airplane she is building alone in her grandmother's barn. Hayes; who is adapting to life with his mother, recently released from prison, while navigating anxious thoughts about ending up alone; welcomes Gerty's friendship and is fascinated by her survivalist parents. When Gerty's family announces sudden plans to move off the grid, she and Hayes endeavor

to pilot the ultralight at least once before their imminent separation. But the short, spontaneous trip quickly becomes a fight for their lives against injury, illness, forest fires, and unexpected criminal activity. Via Hayes and Gerty's riveting alternating narratives, Vrabel carefully unspools the history of each tween's personal trauma and interrogates the necessity of community and forgiveness in working through internal conflicts and surviving external challenges. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Nicole Resciniti, Seymour Agency. (June)



#2325302 McNifficients (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Amy Makechnie

Every day, Lord Tennyson the Miniature Schnauzer does his very best to care for the six McNiff children and keep them from destroying their pink New England farmhouse--and the rest of the town for that matter. But when summer vacation brings the kids home together all day, his chaos-containing skills are put to the ultimate test.

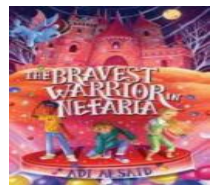
978-1-6659-1898-5 Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Miniature schnauzer Lord Tennyson is in charge of the six rambunctious McNiff children. This precocious dog has his paws filled teaching the children to mind their manners, curb their fighting, and ride their bikes. The children's bumbling father directs community theater productions, and their absent-minded mother is distracted by her gardening and baking--which leaves this accomplished canine in charge. As if six children weren't enough, the family, who live in a pink New Hampshire farmhouse, also have two bunnies, six chickens, and a snake. It is summer vacation for the McNiffs, who are cued White, and chaos reigns, especially between the two oldest girls, Mary, 11, and Annie, 13. In fact, their mutual animosity is venomous; some readers may be distressed by the meanness on display and find it difficult to feel compassion for them, while others may relate all too well. With bed-wetting, a stolen diary, and graffiti involved, even the Sibling Council cannot repair their fractured relationship. Lord Tennyson must find new tricks to bring the children back together into a united pack before summer's end. When Pearl, one of the younger McNiffs who will be entering kindergarten, goes missing, the drama switches gears as Lord Tennyson truly proves his dedication and value to his family. The writing is strong, and Lord Tennyson has an arch, competent manner in keeping with his professional role model, Mary Poppins. Final art not seen. Chaotically entertaining. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A proper miniature schnauzer and self-appointed nanny seeks to tame his unruly charges in a lively role-reversing family story by Makechnie (Ten Thousand Tries). When an event on the first day of summer sees the McNiff clan again ejected from the local lake, pup Lord Tennyson, "a short, middle-aged gentleman with white whiskers and a royal pedigree," resolves to change things by season's end. The children; ranging from 18 months to 13 years; each serve up their own style of disorderly conduct, however, while their free-spirited, largely hands-off parents are often in the wings. But keeping constant watch and employing well-timed barks, frowns, licks, and tugs is only the beginning for Tenny. In addition to doing nanny research and attempting to teach the children basic dog-care tasks, he must take on rescue missions (e.g., pulling toddler Sweetums from the lake) and check his raw canine instincts around the family's baby chicks. Makechnie invites readers into a sometimes frenetic household that's frequently suffused with love and laughs. Humor abounds in quirky details; avian creatures named after Downton Abbey characters, Tenny's formal inner dialogue and love of the film Mary Poppins; while the siblings' bickering, teasing, and supportive interactions ring true. The human family reads as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Zoe Sandler, ICM Partners. (June)



#2332994 Bravest Warrior in Nefaria (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Adi Alsaid

Welcome to Nefaria, where nearly every day the kingdom faces another evil scheme. Most are harmless, though, so the citizens of Nefaria simply learn to live with the latest hijinks and go on with their lives. This includes Bobert Bougainvillea, who is much more concerned with the fact that he seems to be invisible. From the teachers in his school to his classmates, almost no one notices Bobert, no matter how visible he tries to be. Then everything changes when Bobert follows his classmates to a cursed gumball machine.

978-1-6659-2775-8 Aladdin ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 This droll tale features a narcissistic wizard and a lad with a strong tendency to fade into the background. In the land of Nefaria, where evil schemes are practically a daily occurrence, self-dubbed Great Wizard Matt has concocted a particularly fiendish one: to

assemble an army of bespelled young children and stage a coup, because no grownups will be willing to fight them. Thanks to a spell that makes everyone forget them, the children aren't missed, and that particularly applies to 11-year-old Bobert Bougainvillea, who, even before being sucked into the wizard's magical gumball dispenser alongside 199 other kids, had problems being noticed. Can Bobert rise from anonymity to find a way to free the children? Eventually he does, but as the wizard spitefully turned him into a small sloth, performing the complicated and silly counterspell goes . . . very . . . slowly, keying a climax that likewise stretches out to excruciating length. The pacing ploy is a clever twist, but even patient readers may be tempted to skip ahead to the happy ending. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Bobert is used to being ignored by pretty much all who live in the strange kingdom of Nefaria, until an unexpected adventure thrusts him into the spotlight. In fact, making friends feels impossible to mostly invisible 11-year-old Bobert Bougainvillea. So when he's presented with the chance to protect popular classmate Candelabra and her friends from a dangerous dare by taking on the challenge himself, he jumps at the opportunity. As a consequence of using the cursed gumball machine that is rumored to capture anyone who uses it after dark, Bobert finds himself under the control of Matt, an evil but lazy wizard who is plotting to raise a child army to take control of Nefaria. Inventive oddities like singing mountain spiders and the Anti-Beanbag Society's exploits add charm that keeps the storyline fresh, humorous, and fun as it engages with everyday tween dilemmas. Many readers will be able to relate to the relationship issues explored, both between kids and adults and within peer groups. On his journey to find acceptance and belonging, Bobert comes to understand that others are lonely too, and that "it could break the human spirit." Gumball machines and beanbags notwithstanding, the Kingdom of Nefaria, which is ruled by a king and a clueless Council of Elders, has a rustic, preindustrial feeling. The racially ambiguous characters are varied in appearance, and one child has two moms. Fanciful, humorous, and original. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly schemes perpetrated by villainous foes are commonplace. But since ploys such as the Great Cheese Fraud, the formation of the Anti-beanbag Society, and a plot to take over the kingdom using highly trained spider monkeys turned out mostly harmless, residents rarely concern themselves about them. Even 11-year-old Bobert Bougainvillea, who has olive skin, is only worried that he seems invisible to his classmates. To make friends, Bobert accepts a peer's dare to use a purportedly cursed gumball machine after dark. In doing so, he springs a trap laid long ago by a sinister wizard named Matt, whose plans to conquer the kingdom involve slowly gathering an army of children through his gumball machine. Matt ensures that any memory of the child's existence is erased, so as to elude the kingdom's evil-scheme sniffer-outers, but Bobert's new friends somehow remember him just enough to go looking for him, thus drawing them all into a struggle to save him and the kingdom. This goofy middle grade debut from Alsaïd (Actually Super) possesses a simmering humor drawn from the premise and setting's thoroughly absurd trappings, and its good-intentioned protagonists lend it an upbeat tone. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)



#2348009 Looking Up (Hardcover (POB))

written by Stephan Pastis

Living alone with her mother in a poorer part of town, Saint—a girl drawn to medieval knights, lost causes, and the protection of birthday pinatas—sees the neighborhood she has always known and loved disappearing around her: old homes being torn down and replaced by fancy condos and coffee shops. But when her favorite creaky old toy store is demolished, she knows she must act.

978-1-6659-2962-2 Aladdin ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Imagination and drawing help two grieving children in this illustrated novel by the creator of the popular Timmy Failure series and the comic strip "Pearls Before Swine." Things are not looking up for Saint ("I wasn't named for a bearded guy in heaven. I was named for a football team in Louisiana"). Her favorite toy store is demolished, and her beloved diner closes. It's all part of the gentrification for which she holds her single mother, who works long hours as a real estate agent and frequently breaks her promises, responsible. Saint very much likes reticent neighbor Daniel "Chance" McGibbons, who uses a cane, but first she has to win his friendship after an awkward beginning at his birthday party. When the uncle Chance lives with sells to developers, Saint's determination to save his home penetrates Chance's reserve. The kids' subsequent shenanigans will delight readers. The story is generously illustrated with Pastis' characteristic black-and-white cartoon line drawings, mostly of the two round-headed kids, whose hair and skin are as white as the page. Longtime neighborhood resident Old Lady Trifaldi helps Saint learn to cope with change by looking at the stars from her roof, "to make time go backward." Pastis fills this deceptively simple first-person account with humor, puns, turns, and twists--and the final twist gives this friendship tale its surprising depth. Words and art combine to create a moving story. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this deceptively funny illustrated novel about loneliness and grief, Pastis (the Timmy Failure series) introduces a girl striving to save her town from gentrification by latte-sipping hipsters. Saint has a massive crush on neighbor kid Daniel, who walks with a cane. Her heightened emotions compel her to steal his birthday pinata, throw eggs at his drawings, and show up at his door dressed as a skeleton knight speaking in medieval English ("Ye are my Daniel in Distress," she pronounces). On top of her confusing emotions surrounding her crush, Saint is worried about all the fancy new coffee shops and condos springing up around town; she's especially worried about how these new developments have compelled community members to move away. When she learns that Daniel will soon be leaving, too, she persuades him to aid

her in her quest to save the town from developers. Pastis's distinctive, heavily lined b&w illustrations effectively convey the protagonists' depth of emotion via amiable faces composed of two dots for eyes and a c-curve nose, while prose contains his signature absurd humor, which lightens this meditation on mourning. Characters' skin tone reflects the white of the paper. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Dan Lazar, Writers House. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Saint (named after the football team) is a face-loving (will eat nothing with a face), piata-saving girl, who claims her mom breaks all of her promises. The latest proof of this shortcoming comes in the form of Saint's mom not being able to attend an egg toss, which henceforth eliminates the chance of Saint winning the shopping spree at her favorite toy store, Punches Toy Farm. When Punches is demolished to become a coffee shop, it is just one more casualty in their small town. Across the street lives shy, Daniel "Chance" McGibbons, who likes to draw (his imaginary friend, Timmy) and walks with a cane. When Daniel's house goes up for sale, Saint's life partner, a painted turtle named Dr. Rutherford B. Hayes, gives out sage wisdom about life and changes. Daniel and Saint try to thwart buyers from buying the house, knowing it will get bulldozed like much of their town. Readers will rally around Daniel, Saint, and elderly toy store owner Muffins, while seeing the dilemmas faced by Saint's mom and Daniel's uncle, who are struggling to make ends meet and care for their children. With this hilarious book and its comical black-and-white illustrations throughout, Pastis (Timmy Failure) once again reaches out to reluctant readers with a multilayered tale of loss, grief, and growing up. **VERDICT** With an imaginative ending that will make readers think, there is more than meets the eye in this funny gem.—Michele Shaw



#2329318 Grumbones (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jenn Bennett

Everyone in Whispering Pines knows their town is full of ghosts, but Helena Novak hasn't seen a trace of her late grandmother, Babi. Helena and her best friend, Ben, spend most of their free time in the cemetery, yet no amount of gifts on Babi's grave has lured her spirit out. But someone else has been paying attention.

978-1-6659-3031-4 *Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4
 304 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Helena Novak, known as Haunted Helena in her small coastal town, has desperately been trying to contact her grandmother, Babi, but she's not getting a reply. Yes, Babi is technically deceased, but before she passed, she taught her granddaughter a tip for talking to the dead, and Helena, concerned that something has gone wrong for her grandmother in the afterlife, ropes her best friend, Ben, into a last-ditch effort to make a connection. After spinning a spell, they are presented with a cemetery door to the land of the dead, but what starts as a seemingly simple quest to find Babi turns into a battle for a kingdom and a race to outrun a sinister, soul-sucking force known only as the Nightmare. The gripping story is terrifically eerie and atmospheric, and evocative descriptions easily transport readers to an altogether uncommon sort of underworld, one with distinct, feuding kingdoms, an intricate mythology, and creatively creepy inhabitants. A skillful mix of scary, sweet, and silly, with a deep love at its core.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Helena Novak, eager to reconnect with her deceased grandmother, journeys into the nightmarish world beyond the grave with best friend Ben in this middle-grade debut by acclaimed author Bennett. In Whispering Pines Cemetery, the Oregon sixth graders descend into the underworld in search of Babi, Helena's Czech paternal grandmother. What they never expected to find was a place full of unusual, ghoulish creatures. The tweens meet an alarming guide for hire named Grumbones ("Like Santa's evil skinny brother who lived alone in the California desert") who promises to help them find Babi, but they quickly learn that they don't know whom to trust. In fact, their very lives are at stake as Hereafter is roiled by a battle over its rule. Through the close friendship between Helena and Ben, the book explores middle school pressures and tensions. The sense of place is richly executed, with well-drawn creatures and characters populating this world of the dead. Helena's experiences in Hereafter reflect the grieving and desperation that humans feel for connection with their loved ones after death. Loving bonds between family members and close friends sit comfortably at the heart of this supernatural, often gruesome tale that expertly explores people's feelings of love and loss against the backdrop of an absorbing story of the nonliving. Ben has a Black dad and French Canadian mom. Original and absorbing; presents suspenseful underworld chills alongside heartfelt human emotions. (map) (Paranormal. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2332774 Finch House (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ciera Burch

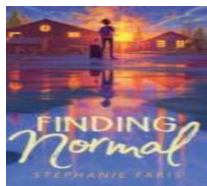
Eleven-year-old Micah has no interest in moving out of her grandfather's house. She loves living with Poppop and their shared hobby of driving around rich neighborhoods to find treasures in others' trash. To avoid packing, Micah goes for a bike ride and ends up at Finch House, the decrepit Victorian that Poppop says is Off Limits. Except

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

when she gets there, it's all fixed up and there's a boy named Theo in the front yard. Surely that means Finch House isn't Off Limits anymore? But when Poppop finds her there, Micah is only met with his disappointment.
 978-1-6659-3054-3 Margaret K. McElderry ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0

Reviews by: Booklist Micah isn't ready for change. Her mom is moving them an hour away from Poppop's house and the familiarity of their town—including the elusive Finch House, an old, run-down mansion Poppop makes her promise to stay away from. Micah finds herself biking near Finch House one day close to the move, but it's no longer run-down; a new family has moved in, and a boy her age, Theo, is hanging out in the yard. She learns from Theo that the house isn't quite what it seems—it's haunted by whispers and childlike shadows—which sparks an argument with Poppop over what secrets he might be hiding. But after Poppop disappears, his truck left in front of the Finch House, Micah has no choice but to go inside. She quickly discovers the secrets of the home (including a challenging racial history) and a magic that's holding on to her great-aunt, the first of many children the house has taken. Pitch-black tunnels, twisting plots, and untrustworthy relatives will tingle the spines of readers intrigued by ghost stories, and an unexpected ending sets up the potential for a sequel delving further into the magic behind the haunted Finch House. Burch's debut is cohesive, fast paced, and thoughtful about the racial challenges of the past and how they may haunt the present.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Having lived most of her 11 years with her beloved grandfather, Poppop, Michaela "Micah" Robinson resists her family's upcoming move to a home an hour away. Frustrated with packing, she goes for a bike ride and discovers that Finch House, a long-abandoned Victorian that Poppop declared off-limits, has been renovated and bought by a new family, including a boy named Theo. When Poppop arrives, he looks strangely terrified and tersely demands that they leave, frustrating Micah with his unusual lack of candor. Later, she learns that Finch House was the last place Poppop saw his sister, who went missing when she was not much older than Micah. After Poppop vanishes the next day, Micah and Theo search to no avail, and a hot chocolate break inside Finch House soon turns terrifying. Micah hears her grandfather's voice, then becomes trapped in the house; an ever-shifting realm with ties to the past. Deftly utilizing a haunted house framework to explore the weight of intergenerational trauma, debut author Burch's chilling tale recalls the sinister atmospherics of *Coraline*, while its thought-provoking ending enhances spare, poetic storytelling. Micah and her grandfather are Black; Theo cues as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Patrice Caldwell, New Leaf Literary & Media. (Sept.)



#2365450 Finding Normal (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Stephanie Faris
 This heartfelt middle grade novel about friendship, belonging, and the power of community follows a girl whose family is uprooted after a flood destroys their house.
 978-1-6659-3890-7 Aladdin ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 7.0

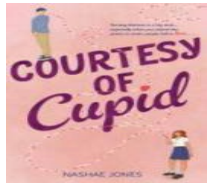
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine After "a bunch of water ruin[s] her life," all that our twelve-year-old protagonist wants to do is get back to normal. But what does normal look like for "Temple Baxter, flood victim"? It doesn't look like living in temporary quarters for weeks, switching schools, and constantly babysitting her three-year-old sister while her parents work and deal with the extensive repairs on their home. When her former private school friends ghost her, she's further unmoored. A natural organizer, Temple lands on the coping strategy of planning a fundraiser. With the help of neighborhood frenemy Jesse and new friend Asha, whose reframing of "flood victim" as "aquatic adventurer" helps Temple find her footing, she recruits local media, some big-name acts, and (just in time) a venue. With a plot that leans on the "plucky kids save the day with a big show" trope, this could read like a heartwarming feature story on the local news. But Faris elevates it with a keen sensitivity to Temple's emotional development as the tween comes to a maturing sense of her place in her family and community. Her desperate insistence that her parents level with her will strike chords of recognition in readers who are also teetering on the brink of agency. Sincere and heartfelt. Vicky Smith (Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After a flood upends her neighborhood, 12-year-old Temple Baxter tries to help. When heavy rains threaten the stability of the dam near their home, Temple, her parents, and her 3-year-old sister, Kennedy, are forced to evacuate in the middle of the night. Fortunately, the dam holds, but water spills over the top of it, and their one-story house is flooded up to Temple's mom's knee level. It needs extensive repairs, but the family doesn't have flood insurance. Pulled out of her private school to save money, Temple has to cope with the unexplained enmity of her former classmates and the challenge of making new friends. She also embarks on an ambitious community fundraiser to collect money to help flood victims. Faris' writing is smooth, but she stays at the surface level: The flood and its damage remain in the background, and readers never get a visceral sense of the magnitude of the family's losses; Temple mourns her old bedroom in the abstract, as a place she used to inhabit but not as the repository of a collection of memories or items with emotional impact. The mean girls and annoying-neighbor-who-turns-out-to-be-a-friend feel more like types than fleshed-out people, and the difficulties of putting on a fundraiser dissolve too easily to ring true. Main characters read white. These floodwaters don't run very deep. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A devastating storm upsets every aspect of sixth grader Temple Baxter's comforting life, inspiring her to make waves of her own, in this accessible, character-driven drama by Faris (the Gabby Ghost Hunter series). When flooding from a storm displaces her family, Temple is ousted from her private school's popular clique. Lacking flood insurance to offset renovation costs, the Baxters move in with a neighbor and Temple transfers to public school to save money; at their temporary residence, she's tasked with babysitting her three-year-old sister while their parents navigate home repairs. To turn "the absolute worst day of her life" around, Temple ambitiously plans a high-profile fundraising concert to benefit her family and others affected by the Moorestown flood; and to show up her former fair-weather friends. But new pals gradually impart lessons about acceptance, openness, and trust that evolve Temple's self-serving agenda, while missteps; including slipping grades, childcare failures, and a booking error; emphasize the importance of delegation and teamwork. Though the third-person narration occasionally feels distant and some plot points strain credulity, themes of community, resilience, and youth empowerment buoy a sincere tale enriched by Faris's personal experience as a flood survivor, as discussed in an author's note. Main characters read as white. Ages 9: 13. Agent: Natalie Lakosil, Looking Glass Literary & Media. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—The story of a sixth grader who overcomes adversity by taking charge and helping those in her neighborhood begins with Temple asking to attend a sleepover and her mom denying her request. At this point, readers might expect a typical coming-of-age novel about strict parents and family disagreements. As the book quickly progresses, Temple and her family experience a natural disaster in the form of a home-destroying flash flood. Temple's family relocates first to a hotel and then to their neighbor's house. The tween is dealing with changing schools, mean girls, and feeling left out. She decides to plan a benefit for the flood victims and contacts the news, and then a popular band to make the event successful. At this point in the novel, there is too much going on to keep up with, and the tasks Temple is taking on seem a bit unrealistic. Despite this, the plot is engaging and the book will be helpful for kids who've experienced something similar. VERDICT Recommended for libraries which serve middle school children.—April Crowder



#2363226 Courtesy of Cupid (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Nashae Jones

Erin Johnson's thirteenth birthday unfolds like any other day, from her mom's quirky and embarrassing choice of outfit to racing her nemesis, Trevor Jin, to the best seat in class-front row, center. But her gifts this year include something very out of the ordinary: magical powers.

978-1-6659-3988-1 Aladdin ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

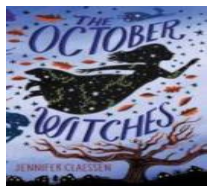
Reviews by: Booklist In her campaign to become president of the Multicultural Leadership Club at school, ambitious eighth-grader Erin uses every tool at her disposal to compete with her nemesis, Trevor Jin—including using her newfound magical powers to make people fall in love. But Erin soon finds out that tampering with people's hearts has major consequences, not least the fact that while Trevor's infatuation with her is caused by Cupid magic, Erin might be falling for Trevor for real. Jones' debut middle-grade romance explores fickle adolescent relationships, and strong-minded Erin's story is at its best when she's learning to see her friends, old and new, with more nuance than before. Sudden emotional shifts can make some interactions feel disjointed, but footnotes from Erin inject humorous asides, and each chapter starts with one of the Cupid Commandments, foreshadowing the chapter's coming themes. Some readers will relate to the pressure Erin and Trevor feel to succeed as high-achieving students, and fans of academic rivalries will enjoy the pair's snarky back-and-forth.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A hyperorganized tween's plans are derailed when her orchestrated love connections go awry. Erin Johnson is an ambitious biracial Black girl who's obsessed with being the best academically and wants to follow in the footsteps of her hero, Marie Curie. Her goal for eighth grade is to be elected president of the Multicultural Leadership Club, finally beating archnemesis Trevor Jin, who's Korean American. Trevor's been a thorn in Erin's side ever since kindergarten and is constantly edging her out in every competition. Right after Erin's 13th birthday, her mother finally reveals her father's identity: Cupid, the God of Love, a redheaded white man, who wrote letters to help Erin prepare for the powers that will manifest now that she's 13. He even left her a Cupid manual. Erin's mom makes her promise not to use her powers until she understands them better, but while Erin believes romantic love is a trivial distraction, she realizes her matchmaking powers might give her the edge she needs. Her single-minded focus on achievement, however, leads to friendship troubles--and other unintended consequences. The humor and strong character development drive this tender story about different types of love and our inability to see the ways they affect our lives. The rivalry between Erin and Trevor and the complex relationships among the kids and adults will resonate with readers. Erin's first-person voice is enhanced by the wry observations in her footnotes, which appear throughout the novel. A sweetly romantic coming-of-age story with fun, magical touches. (the Cupid Commandments) (Romance. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A demigod's scheme to use newfound powers for her own gain backfires in Jones's wholesome, cozy love story. Eighth grader Erin Johnson is ambitious: she's determined to cure colon cancer and become the first Black woman to receive a Nobel Prize for medicine. And her primary motivator is to spite rival Trevor Jin. Erin and Trevor, who is Korean, have been academically neck and neck since kindergarten, and this year the two are set to vie for the presidency of their school's Multicultural Leadership Club. Things take a turn for the weird when, the day after her 13th birthday, Erin notices odd sensations; and consequences; when she focuses too much of her attention on the strained

relationships around her. When her romance author mother reveals that Erin's long-absent father is Cupid, the God of Love, Erin dismisses the idea. But growing evidence of her budding magical powers convinces her of the truth. She resolves to make Trevor fall in love with her, so he'll forfeit his presidential campaign, except it's Erin who begins falling for her longtime nemesis. Jones's enemies-to-lovers debut sparkles with charming rom-com banter, and Erin's drive to succeed at all costs; and the myriad ethical dilemmas her determination lands her in; adds a delightfully refreshing quality to the sometimes familiar feeling tale. Ages 10: up. Agent: Chloe Seager, Madeleine Milburn Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Erin Johnson has no time for love. She may only be in middle school, but she has big plans: become a biologist; cure colon cancer; and win a Nobel Prize. And to start, she needs to secure her spot as president of the Multicultural Leadership Club. There's only one thing standing in her way: Trevor Jin. Erin's academic rival since kindergarten, Trevor has his eyes on the presidency, and he is ready to fight for it. Then, on her 13th birthday, Erin discovers that she is the daughter of Cupid, and she has inherited the power to make people fall in love. Erin uses her newfound abilities for her own benefit and enchants Trevor with the intention of manipulating him into dropping out of the race. But as her own feelings toward Trevor begin to change, Erin must face the consequences of meddling with love. A diverse cast of characters enriches the academic enemies trope. Erin is Black and Trevor is Korean, and they form a bond as they share their cultures with one each other. But while the triumphs and humiliations of adolescence are vividly depicted, the plot tends to wander, and the central romance lacks that spark that would make the book a more satisfying introduction to rom-coms. VERDICT An optional purchase, except where there is a dire need for middle grade romance.--Alia Shields Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



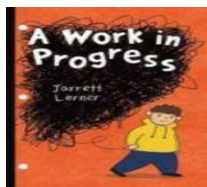
#2329962 October Witches (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jennifer Claessen

Thirteen-year-old Clementine Merlyn lives with her mom, her aunts, and her cousin Mirabelle at Number 15 Pendragon Road. The Merlyns are a family of witches, but because of an ancient falling out with the other branch of the family, the Morgans, they only have powers for a single month of the year: October.

978-1-6659-4052-8 *Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4
 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Clementine Merlyn is nervously awaiting October's arrival. It's the month when her matriarchal household, including her mother, several aunts, and a sullen cousin, are imbued with their magical gifts, and Clemmie wonders if her powers will finally manifest. The Merlyns, distant descendants of the famous Arthurian witch, have been locked in centuries of conflict with the rival Morgan clan; both are desperate to maintain their magic year-round. Clemmie receives her powers but finds them surprisingly painful and unwieldy. She can't help wondering if magic only brings mayhem—a suspicion further confirmed by a disastrous Merlyn family magical attempt that sees the older relative spirited away by the malicious Morgans for nefarious purposes. It's up to Clemmie, her reluctant cousin, and some truly unexpected allies to unravel the Morgan/Merlyn mystery and right their extraordinary world. This clever coming-of-age story is chock-full of magic and mythology, mixing Arthurian legend with Practical Magic and plenty of adventure. A marvelous modern fantasy for any young reader in search of a little magic.



#2323049 Work in Progress (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jarrett Lerner

Will is the only round kid in a school full of string beans. So he hides...in baggy jeans and oversized hoodies, in the back row during class, and anywhere but the cafeteria during lunch. But shame isn't the only feeling that dominates Will's life. He's also got a crush on a girl named Jules who knows he doesn't have a chance with--string beans only date string beans--but he can't help wondering what if?

978-1-6659-0515-2 *Aladdin* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 2.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Will Chambers wrestles with fat stigma, self-loathing, disordered eating, and the ultimate desire to be accepted. Lerner's illustrated verse novel opens on Will's fourth grade year. It's the first time the word fat is hurled at him as an insult, the first time he understands that the rest of the world sees something wrong with his body. Three years later, shame-filled Will is eating less and less. It's Markus, his kind, cool skateboarder friend, who helps Will when he eventually breaks and who is there as he works on piecing himself back together. Lerner uses the format to great effect, as the staccato lines of broken verse are well matched to Will's honest, disjointed inner thoughts. The setup makes for an effective portrayal of Will's painful mental battles. The black-and-white illustrations mostly depict Markus; Will's crush, Jules, a

skinny girl; and a prickly, monsterlike version of how Will sees himself. Peppered throughout are balls of black scribbles representing Will's anxiety, fears, and the anger he directs at himself. The diary feel adds to readers' understanding of Will. Lerner writes very affecting scenes that will resonate with some readers and provide insight for others, shedding powerful light on boys' body image struggles. All characters appear White. A successful marriage of art and poetry. (Verse fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly ing verse, Lerner (the Nat the Cat series) crafts an empathetic illustrated novel about one boy's experience with body dysmorphia, disordered eating, and stigma. Ever since an incident three years ago in which a bully maliciously called him fat in a crowded hallway ("That word./ He spat it at me/ like it was the worst one/ he knew"), middle schooler Will Chambers has felt self-conscious in his body, wearing baggy clothes and isolating himself from his friends. He pretends everything is fine, even as he begins eating less. But when new friend Markus questions Will about why he never brings anything for lunch, and Will overhears hurtful gossip about his crush on a skinny classmate, Will moves further into a cycle of bingeing and restricting food. Lerner's sketch-like illustrations, presented as Will's own diary doodles, render grayscale caricatures of Will's classmates, while his own self-portrait, depicted via stark black scribbles, slowly morphs into a monstrous version of himself that fills the page. Employing frenetic pacing and disjointed verse that conveys Will's growing anxiety and internalized shame, Lerner cultivates a perceptive representation of recovery and self-acceptance. Most characters' skin tones reflect the white of the page. Ages 8: 12. (May)

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner (EngiNerds series) is an earnest and inspiring illustrated middle-grade novel in verse that grapples with bullying, the feeling of estrangement, and the social stigma attached to being in a larger body.



#2332775 Maid for It (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jamie Sumner

Now that Franny and her newly sober mom have moved to a cozy apartment above a laundromat, Franny's looking forward to a life where her biggest excitement is getting top grades in math class. But when Franny's mom gets injured in a car accident, their fragile life begins to crumble. There's no way her mom can keep her job cleaning houses, which means she can't pay the bills. Franny can't forget what happened the last time her mom was hurt: the pills that were supposed to help became an addiction, until rehab brought them to Mimi's laundromat and the support group she hosts.

978-1-6659-0577-0 Atheneum ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

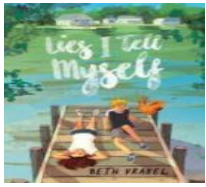
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Franny Bishop's life is built on worrying: She worries that Mom will relapse again and that they will have to move back to Memphis, "where all the bad memories live." Suppressing her anxiety is 12-year-old Franny's specialty--to combat it, she religiously crosses daily goals off in her favorite purple planner. Drawing a line through each item helps her find a sense of peace, even if that means hiding in the bathroom at lunchtime and calling to check on her mother. When she's assigned to sit at a table in math class with popular (and mean) cheerleader Sloan and basketball player and origami enthusiast Noah, Franny is pushed further outside of her comfort bubble. And when a car accident lands her mother in the hospital, upsetting the delicate balance they have achieved, even the support of Mimi, her mother's Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous sponsor, can't stave off her panic attacks. Franny sees no choice but to take over one of her mother's jobs cleaning houses, even if it means resorting to some ingenious strategies to pull off. This honest story invites readers into a realistic situation that many young people experience. It offers an accessible, welcoming, and introspective account of the struggles faced by those who worry about a loved one's addiction. The well-developed relationships are a highlight. Noah is Black and has two moms in a community that is predominantly white and straight. A heart-wrenching read about a girl forced to grow up too quickly. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With sure-handed plotting and distinctive characters, this immediate-feeling novel from Sumner (The Summer of June) captures the lingering impact of substance reliance on one family. Three years after her mother's rehab stay following a pain pill relapse, sixth-grader Franny Bishop relies on meticulously planned logistics to manage her own anxieties as well as her mom's eating schedule. But handling what she perceives as her household responsibilities becomes more challenging when a car accident fractures her mother's leg, resulting in necessary hospital pain management along with increased medical bills and decreased gigwork for her mother. After hiding the prescribed oxycodone tablets her mom tried to refuse ("If it comes to it, I'll be the one to decide when and how much she gets") and engaging in a bit of subterfuge, Franny secretly takes over her mom's house-cleaning jobs to keep the family afloat. As Franny navigates the past traumas that led to her parentification, the aphorism-studded first-person narrative spotlights her learning to lean on others; including classmates; her mother's sponsor, Mimi; and, eventually, her mom; in a novel about moving forward with awareness and hope. Protagonists largely cue as white. Ages 10: up. Agent: Keely Boeving, WordServe Literary. (Sept.)

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2281290 Lies I Tell Myself (Hardcover (Trade))

1

\$17.99

written by Beth Vrabel

Raymond has always preferred to keep life simple and leave adventuring to other people. Determined to show everyone how brave, confident, and untroubled he can be, Raymond hatches a three-step plan: 1) Learn to ride a bike. His mom never got around to teaching him before she left. 2) Learn how to swim. 3) Make friends. On his own. But can Raymond really change, or is this whole plan just a bunch of lies he's telling himself?

978-1-6659-0088-1 Atheneum ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 660

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 After getting into a heap of worthwhile trouble with his best friend, Trixy, in *To Tell You the Truth* (2021), 11-year-old Raymond gets shipped off for the summer to his grandparents' house in Maine. Raymond barely knows his relatives, who've had little contact ever since their daughter, Raymond's mother, abandoned the family five years earlier, and he feels ridiculously out of place. But with the help of his great-grandfather's old journal, Raymond decides to accomplish three things: ride a bike, learn to swim, and make new friends. It's easier said than done; still, he slowly finds ways to connect with the town, his family, and one incorrigible chicken, all combining into a summer far more rewarding and adventurous than he could have dreamed. It's an equally rewarding and adventurous story, remarkable in the way it allows characters to stretch and grow, and even readers unfamiliar with the preceding installment will have no trouble acclimating to Raymond's congenial company. A humorous and honest exploration of deep family ties, unexpected friendships, and the gift of growing self-knowledge. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eleven-year-old Raymond gains what his mother lacks: self-knowledge and roots. When Raymond is sent to spend the summer with his grandparents in Maine, he's sure it's punishment for the trouble he and best friend Trixy caused during his dad's last music tour. Raymond doesn't remember his mother Abigail's parents, probably because Abigail abandoned Raymond, his sister, and dad years ago. His grandparents sure don't know Raymond: They call him "backward" and encourage him to go biking, swimming--make friends! Raymond doesn't know how to do any of those things, but he's determined to learn. Despite his doubts and discomfort, Raymond is genuine and funny in all his interactions. The colorful cast of mostly White characters is well drawn, as is the small town of Winter's Peak. Raymond slowly realizes he's making connections with people of all ages, plus one chicken, and that each individual's story is becoming intertwined with his own. He draws on them all--his experiences and theirs--when Abigail shows up for an unannounced, self-serving visit to her parents. Raymond thinks he tells himself lies, but he bravely confronts the truth about Abigail: She cannot love him the way he deserves to be loved. It's a gut punch made bearable because Raymond has developed the core strength and friendships to help him through. This heartfelt, emotionally insightful companion to *To Tell You the Truth* (2021) is accessible to readers unfamiliar with the previous book. Proof positive that an open heart can overcome hurt. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--In this companion novel to *To Tell You the Truth*, 11-year-old Raymond is sent to spend the summer at his grandparents' house in Winter's Peak, ME. Some kids might not find this so bad, but Raymond doesn't remember his grandparents. In fact, he can barely remember his mom, Abigail, who abandoned his family six years before. Of course, Gigi and Jack don't really know Raymond either. They believe he's "troubled" and "backwards" and needs a summer full of bike riding, swimming, and making friends--too bad Raymond can't ride a bike, swim, or easily make friends. Still, he is determined to try. With the help of his grandfather's journal, the tween sets out to make the best of the summer and maybe even find some truth in the lies he tells himself. Readers see Raymond grow in confidence and ability over the months, so the inner strength he exhibits in the final chapters is believable. The cast is primarily white. In this novel with intergenerational themes, the author takes care that no one, child or adult, comes across as all good or all bad. VERDICT Readers don't need to be familiar with the previous book to enjoy this story of a boy learning who he is. Recommended.--Heather Webb Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2264450 Hidden Powers: Lise Meitner's Call to Science (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$17.99

written by Jeannine Atkins

At the turn of the 20th century, Lise Meitner dreamed of becoming a scientist. In her time, girls were not supposed to want careers, much less ones in science. She earned a PhD in physics, then became the first woman physics professor at the University of Berlin. The work was thrilling, but Nazi Germany was a dangerous place for a Jewish woman. Her efforts led to the discovery of nuclear fission and altered the course of history. Novel in verse.

978-1-6659-0250-2 Atheneum ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 860

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Written in free verse, this book opens in 1938 with physicist Lise Meitner on a westbound train, hoping that her forged papers will allow her to escape from Germany but aware of the consequences if her Jewish identity is suspected. The next poem begins a chronological account to Meitner's life: her youth in Austria, the struggle to find employment in her field, the difficulties of living in Berlin during Hitler's rise to power, and the satisfaction she found in her work. She earned the respect of her peers, though two Nobel Prizes were awarded to her longtime male colleagues alone, ignoring her contributions to their joint achievements. The author of *Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science* (2016) and *Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math* (2020), Atkins approaches her newest biographical novel in verse with the same clarity of purpose and ability to express the vision, the courage, and the achievements of a woman aspiring to move science forward, despite resistance and hostility from many within the field. A respectful and very accessible introduction to Meitner. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Another real-life, courageous, boundary-pushing woman gets some well-deserved attention in Atkins's (*Grasping Mysteries*, rev. 11/20; *Finding Wonders*, rev. 7/16) novel in verse. Readers first meet Jewish physicist Lise Meitner (1878-1968) as she "aches to taste hope," clutching fake papers aboard a train at the German border in 1938. Atkins then leaves her audience in suspense and backtracks to Meitner's childhood in Austria, as she chafes against restrictions preventing girls from formal schooling after age thirteen. When the University of Vienna finally opens its doors to women, Meitner is the only female physics student. After earning a PhD and publishing her work on radiation, she moves to Berlin and begins conducting unpaid research in a makeshift basement laboratory. Vivid and poignant, Atkins's poems chronicle Meitner's hesitation to abandon her experiments and flee Germany after Hitler's rise to power; her horror at realizing her role in the creation of the atomic bomb; and her disappointment that her longtime male collaborator received the Nobel Prize for their shared discovery of nuclear fission, while she was snubbed. Atkins meshes "facts with empathy" in this stirring portrait of -- as Meitner's epitaph reads -- "A Physicist Who Never Lost Her Humanity." An author's note, a timeline, an annotated list of Meitner's colleagues, and a selected bibliography are appended. Tanya D. Auger(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A collection of poems charts the life of Lise Meitner, a pioneering scientist who survived two world wars. As a young Jewish girl in 1880s Austria, Meitner longed to study chemistry, but her options were limited due to her gender. After she finally managed to earn a Ph.D. and became a professor in Berlin, she was "both flattered and annoyed" to be compared to Marie Curie; "no one expects every man to be like Pierre Curie." Deliberate, delicate verse describes well the blistering unfairness of sexist academia and the complications inherent in having mentors who don't share one's marginalized identities. Appearances by other European physicists, including Einstein, Niels Bohr, and Meitner's longtime collaborator Otto Hahn, show these revered minds as generally forthright individuals struggling against the rising tide of fascism. While at first reluctant to leave the German laboratory where she worked for years, Meitner eventually escaped to Sweden in 1938, where she continued her work with Hahn from afar. In 1946 she experienced the bitterness of seeing Hahn accept the Nobel Prize for discovering nuclear fission--without mentioning her central role. More than that, though, the devastation of the atomic bomb and the Holocaust haunted her. She lost trust in her home, and "there can be no science without trust." Appropriately, the fictionalized biography ends on a decidedly bittersweet note. An admirable tribute to a life that holds some timely lessons. (author's note, timeline, biographies, selected bibliography) (Verse biography. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—In brief verses that paint vivid pictures, Atkins, the author of *Finding Wonders*, *Grasping Mysteries*, and other biographies of famous women, presents the complicated and often tragic life of Lise Meitner, the Austrian physicist who was instrumental in the discovery of nuclear fission. Born at a time when women were not permitted to study beyond primary grades nor pursue scientific careers, Lise nonetheless persisted, earning a PhD in physics from the University of Vienna and eventually becoming a full professor at the University of Berlin. While her research was widely published and admired, she was forced to relinquish credit for all that she accomplished to the men with whom she worked. Since she was Jewish, her safety and her work became imperiled after Hitler's rise to power, and she and colleagues were forced to flee to safer countries. While she and Otto Hahn searched for a new element on the periodic table, Lise uncovered the secrets of nuclear fission—but Otto alone received the Nobel Prize for the discovery, since Lise was not free to publish her findings. She refused to work on the development of the nuclear bomb, and although she was honored for her accomplishments after the war ended, she struggled with the consequences of her discoveries. Although the text's format does not lend itself to research, the concluding author's note, time line, and brief biographies of Lise's friends and colleagues help ground this compelling story in history. VERDICT With her portrait of a determined, brilliant physicist, Atkins presents a moving, lyrical tale that reveals the struggles of female scientists and of European Jews between the two World Wars. —MaryAnn Karre

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2282724 **Butt Sandwich and Tree (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Wesley King

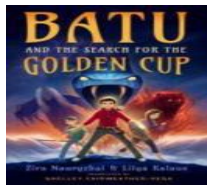
Eleven-year-old Green loves his devoted older brother, Cedar, a popular basketball star, but that doesn't mean he wants to follow in his footsteps. He doesn't really care about sports or making friends. Still, eventually Green caves to pressure to try out for the basketball team. He may be tall like Cedar, but he's nowhere near as skilled.

978-1-6659-0261-8 *Simon & Schuster* ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Brothers, one neurodivergent, team up to shoot baskets and find a thief. With the coach spit-bellowing at him to play better or get out, basketball tryouts are such a disaster for 11-year-old Green that he pelts out of the gym--becoming the chief suspect to everyone except his fiercely protective older brother, Cedar, when a valuable ring vanishes from the coach's office. Used to being misunderstood, Green is less affected by the assumption of his guilt than Cedar, whose violent reactions risk his suspension. Switching narrative duties in alternating first-person chapters, the brothers join forces to search for clues to the real thief--amassing notes, eliminating possibilities (only with reluctance does Green discard Ringwraiths from his exhaustive list of possible perps), and, on the way to an ingenious denouement, discovering several schoolmates and grown-ups who, like Cedar, see Green as his own unique self, not just another "special needs" kid. In an author's note, King writes that he based his title characters on family members, adding an element of conviction to his portrayals of Green as a smart, unathletic tween with a wry sense of humor and of Cedar's attachment to him as founded in real affection, not just duty. Ultimately, the author finds positive qualities to accentuate in most of the rest of the cast too, ending on a tide of apologies and fence-mendings. Cedar and Green default to White. Slick sleuthing punctuated by action on the boards and insights into differences that matter--and those that don't. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly und injustice fuels the tension in this whodunit from King (the Wizenard series), which follows two tightly bonded co-narrating brothers in the Toronto suburbs. Eleven-year-old Green Bennett calls himself "Butt Sandwich" as a play on Asperger's syndrome, with which he's been diagnosed. Heading into middle school, he takes comfort in his routines and his beloved mayonnaise and cheese sandwich ("the peak of food"). But when his 13-year-old brother Cedar, known as Tree, pushes Green to join him on the school's basketball team, the tryout results in disaster. And after the widowed basketball coach's wedding ring goes missing the same day, Green is blamed for the theft, until the brothers; inspired by the Hardy Boys and Veronica Mars; resolve to uncover the culprit and clear Green's name. While the greater school community harasses and ostracizes Green, he receives love and strong support from new friends as well as Cedar, and the story maintains an enjoyably cozy vibe as wrongs are righted and Green gains a greater understanding of his autistic identity. The Bennett siblings cue as white; an author's note discusses the family-oriented seeds of King's novel and contextualizes Green's diagnosis. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Brianne Johnson, Writers House. (Aug.)



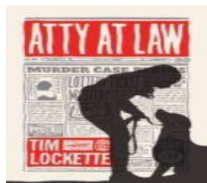
#2328616 Batu and the Search for the Golden Cup (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Zira Nauryzbai

Batu is just an ordinary kid in present-day Almaty, worried about bullies, school, and his mom's new baby, until the day he meets Aspara, the Golden Warrior. Aspara steps straight out of Batu's notebook cover--and out of Kazakhstan's past. Aspara has been waiting hundreds of years to be summoned to the human world and to finally get his chance to search for the Golden Cup, a magical talisman sent down from the heavens. When the Golden Cup was lost, Aspara watched as many of his friends and family were killed or disappeared.

978-1-6625-0702-1 Amazon Publishing ©2023 318 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Debut authors Nauryzbai and Kalas employ Kazakh mythology to craft a thrilling series-opening fantasy about a contemporary tween who accidentally summons a warrior prince from 2,000 years in the past. Batu, who lives in Almaty, is struggling to cope with his family's preparations for a new baby, and bullying from classmate Scorpion. After inadvertently calling upon Golden Warrior Aspara; the legendary 13-year-old hero of the Saka people; Aspara recruits Batu in his search for the Golden Cup, an ancient Saka relic. Dangerous encounters with evil spirits called Jeztyrnaq imperil their quest, forcing the duo to rely on Batu's friends to survive. Things get even more treacherous when Scorpion and his meddling grandfather begin their own search for the Cup. Culturally significant details; including sensorial descriptions of the smell of dishes such as bauyrmaq and shelppek, and the intricate patterns of traditional Kazakh rugs; ground the characters' journey in Batu's present, even as the narrative swiftly shifts between contemporary action and scenes from Aspara's past. Fans of fantasy adventures such as the Pandava series and Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond will enjoy the easy-to-root-for characters and familiar tropes that populate this action-packed tale. A glossary concludes. Ages 8: 12. (Aug.)



#2176425 Atty at Law (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Tim Lockette

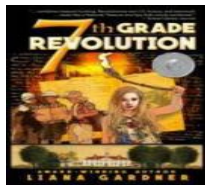
Atticus Peale is desperately trying to save the life of a dog in the animal shelter where she volunteers. And an alligator in the swamp who only allegedly tried to eat a fisherman. Her father named her after his favorite character, a lawyer in a famous book, but everyone calls her Atty, and no one, except her dad, stepmom, and

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95

stepbrother, thinks she's old enough to make a legal case for those who, as Atty points out, can't speak up for themselves.

978-1-64421-012-3 Triangle Square ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic



#2201444 7th Grade Revolution (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Liana Gardner

In this award-winning book inspired by true events, 7th grade turns out to be anything but normal when teachers announce the students&; bloodless revolution succeeded and they are now in charge. After conducting a secret-ballot vote on policy, the 7th graders emerge to find the school evacuated and the FBI lurking outside with the task of unearthing a treasure of national importance.

978-1-64548-013-6 Vesuvian Books ©2020 300 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 640

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$16.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-A fun ride that combines treasure hunting, quick thinking, Revolutionary-era U.S. history, and teamwork. The teachers announce to the seventh grade at Washington Academy Middle School that the students are now in charge of their own education. Instructional time must occur, safety must be maintained, and teachers must remain present, but everything else is up for negotiation. The students are given two days to decide their governing rules. On day two, new boy Dennis, who has an illegal police scanner app, hears that the school has been evacuated and that FBI agents are on grounds. They are looking for an artifact with information that is of great importance to the nation. He relays the information to the rest of the group. Eventually, they also look to Rhonda, a girl whose father is a survivalist, and has been teaching her that way of life. Using Rhonda's knowledge of Silas Tucker, the original owner and builder of the school, and the students' grasp of revolutionary history, the children set off in search of the artifact. Following clues left by Tucker, the students climb through secret passage ways, all while on the hunt. Are they knowledgeable, quick, and brave enough to find the artifact before the FBI storms the school? This novel reads like a National Treasure and Spy Kids movie combined. It has twists and turns. One of the novel's huge strengths is the kids banding together; in addition, each character has the opportunity to show individual skills and to grow as a person. The only real hitch is their use of "QuackerMe" instead of Twitter. The lingo associated with it is jarring and might yank readers out of the story. Also, Spooner's illustrations add nothing to the narrative. VERDICT Suggested for general purchase for middle school collections, especially for adventure-loving patrons.-Melyssa Kenney, Parkville High School, MD Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2178047 Blue Wings (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jef Aerts

Two brothers bound together by affection and responsibility. Jadran is five years older than Josh and huge enough to be nicknamed Giant. Josh is younger, and smaller; but his sweet and stubborn brother thinks in a way that would be more typical of a small child. They are both dealing with changes to their newly blended, Muslim family.

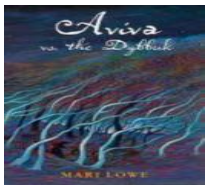
978-1-64614-008-4 Levine Querido ©2020 6 x 9 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Aerts's offbeat novel tenderly depicts the bond between 11-year-old Josh and 16-year-old Jadran, brothers who are so close they fall asleep matching the rhythm of their breaths. Affectionately called "Giant" by Josh and the siblings' single mother, physically large Jadran has a mental disability, and Josh has always proudly served as his "guardian angel." Soon after their mother's boyfriend, Murad, and his daughter, Yasmin, move in, the family visits a local lake to see the soon-to-be migrating cranes; when the flock leaves behind an injured baby, Jadran insists on taking it home. His obsessive attempts to teach the bird, called Sprig, to fly lead to Josh breaking his leg, in turn forcing the decision for Jadran to live full-time at his "special school." Rebellious against the separation, and under the guise of returning Sprig to his now-faraway flock, the boys make a madcap escape via tractor, wheelchair and crane in tow. Their adventure strains credulity, and depictions of Jadran seesaw between respecting his moments of insight and patronizing his emotional immaturity and volatility, but the brothers' love and loyalty, as well as the newly blended family's growing union, gives the story a strong emotional foundation. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Quantity
Unit Price



#2266879 **Aviva vs the Dybbuk (Hardcover (Trade))**

1

\$17.99

written by Mari Lowe

As tensions escalate in the Jewish community of Beacon with incidents of vandalism and a swastika carved into new concrete poured near the synagogue...so does the tension grow between Aviva and Kayla and the girls at their school, and so do the actions of the dybbuk grow worse. Could real harm be coming Aviva's way? And is it somehow related to the "accident" that took her father years ago?

978-1-64614-125-8 *Levine Querido* ©2022 1 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 7.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Sixth-grader Aviva Jacobs and her mother live next door to their temple, in rooms above the mikvah (ritual bath), rumored to be haunted by a dybbuk (a ghost with unfinished earthly business) that only Aviva can see. In the years since her father's accidental death, Aviva and Ema have mostly kept to themselves, locked in their grief. When a schoolyard game of machanayim (a dodgeball-like sport) becomes too rough, Aviva and her former best friend, Kayla, are punished for their actions by being forced to work together to plan a school bas mitzvah social event. And while working together renews the girls' friendship, several acts of antisemitic vandalism put their community on edge. Is this terrorism or the work of the dybbuk? Debut author Lowe offers an insider's view of a close-knit Orthodox Jewish community where much of daily life is prescribed in gender-segregated activities. The dybbuk mystery is well-handled, as are the secrets surrounding Abba's death, which Aviva has blocked from her consciousness. A compassionate look at grief and healing. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Aviva has an antagonistic relationship with the mischievous dybbuk (a restless soul who seeks resolution of some sort) in the mikvah her mother takes care of, but at the same time the creature has almost been her only friend, or at least near constant companion, since her father died. For years, she and her mother have been in a holding pattern of grief, refusing charitable offers and friendly overtures from their close-knit Jewish community, but a required school project turns out to be the necessary catalyst to help both of them move forward with their lives. Antisemitic acts run through the novel, and one particularly cruel incident is so traumatic that Aviva's reliability as our narrator is called into question as the story progresses-it's a powerful and surprising heel turn, crafted in a way to raise questions but not turn the reader against Aviva. The experience of grief as a suffocating fog is described with grace and thoughtfulness, and the ways in which each person copes are given equal validity (Aviva has deep sympathy for her mom's inability to leave their home). Novels focusing on contemporary Orthodox Jewish communities are rare; other than a glossary, Lowe trusts the reader to piece together the cultural and religious elements that are the most important elements in Aviva's life. AS COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine In Mari Lowe's engaging novel *Aviva vs. the Dybbuk*, an Orthodox Jewish girl confronts the troublemaking spirit who disturbs her home, while also working with a friend-turned-rival to plan a big event for her class. Along the way, she learns about grief and being part of a community.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This emotionally complex novel set within a contemporary Orthodox Jewish community is full of immersive Jewish detail -- literally, as much of the story centers around the mikvah, or ritual bath, that eleven-year-old Aviva's mother has run since Aviva's father's death; mother and daughter now live in a "shabby little apartment" above it. Mischief happens often around the mikvah (a guest's candies get unwrapped, a door's hinges come unscrewed), and the culprit is apparently a dybbuk ("a soul that won't rest," though this version creatively inverts the usual definition) that only Aviva can see. When the dybbuk creates more serious trouble, including antisemitic vandalism, Aviva must confront painful truths about her perceptions (and thus what she has been presenting to readers) of her father's "accident," her family's circumstances, and her own actions. The book creates a strong sense of the protagonist's isolation -- awkward, impetuous Aviva has difficult relationships with her classmates, and communication is strained with her mother, who lives with severe depression -- but remains accessible while addressing its heavy issues. Unreliable narrator though Aviva ends up being, she's a heart-rendingly sympathetic one. Shoshana Flax(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

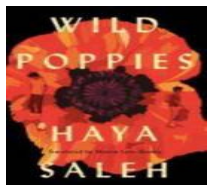
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Is Aviva's dybbuk helping her through the hard times or just making life more difficult for her? Aviva's life changed when her father died in the "accident"; not only do she and her mother have to leave their home to live over the mikvah (ritual bath in Judaism) where her mother works, but a dybbuk now lives with them, causing trouble that is often blamed on Aviva. But the dybbuk is also the only one who pays attention to Aviva; her bestie, Kayla, doesn't like her anymore; and it is all her mother can do to get out of bed some days. Forced to work together on the Bas Mitzvah Bash, Kayla and Aviva tentatively revive their friendship, battle the dybbuk, and face the reality that antisemitism is as near as the swastika etched into the sidewalk in front of the shul. Aviva is a realistic and complicated heroine, negotiating life after loss and the changing dynamics of friendship as well as figuring out who is the grown-up in her relationship with her mother. A rare find, a modern-day, middle-grade novel that focuses on, and honors, everyday Orthodox Judaism, this unforgettable story makes for an incredible window or mirror for readers. Characters present as White. A heart-rending story of loss, community, friendship, and what it takes to heal and survive. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Debut author Lowe offers an intimate look at a contemporary Orthodox Jewish community in this nuanced story of a girl regaining her footing after her father's death. An aura of mysticism and mystery surrounds 11-year-old Aviva, who lives with her Ema

above the local mikvah, which Aviva believes is haunted. The source of the haunting is a dybbuk of Jewish folklore, which here takes the form of a prankster boy who reminds Aviva of her beloved late Abba. "He would have enjoyed our dybbuk," she narrates. Soon, an act of anti-Semitic vandalism and a subsequent attack on the family's shul throw Aviva's tight-knit community into high alert. Shy but quick-witted and competitive, Aviva is an engaging heroine whose qualities are on full display when she faces off against a friend turned rival during a heated match of machanayim, a dodgeball-like game, and when she is recruited to help plan the annual Bas Mitzvah Bash. Lowe portrays Aviva and Ema's mourning with a gentle touch, gradually building to an ending that points toward spiritual and emotional healing, thanks to the steadfast support of their Jewish community, especially its women. Back matter includes a glossary of Hebrew and Yiddish words. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Tamar Rydzinski, Context Literary. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--After losing her father in a terrible accident, 11-year-old Aviva Jacobs and her mother move into a small apartment above the local mikvah, a traditional bathhouse for orthodox Jewish women. Aviva's mother takes care of the mikvah and those who visit it, and Aviva takes care of the dybbuk, a mischievous spirit in Jewish folklore. Aviva's dybbuk is a real troublemaker. From tearing up checks to spilling out the contents of visitor's purses, it keeps Aviva on her toes. As Aviva tries to manage the dybbuk, she must also work with her ex-best friend to plan the most amazing Bat Mitzvah Bash that her school has ever seen. As she juggles the stresses of school, friends, and an increasingly tense situation at home, Aviva discovers her inner strength and the resilience of her community. Many readers will find Aviva charming and relatable as she navigates the roller coaster that is growing up. VERDICT A strong purchase for every school and public library. In this tale that's at times funny, sad, and scary, Lowe seamlessly crafts a coming-of-age story that readers will enjoy.--Maryjean Riou Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness A lonely 11-year-old grieves her murdered father, protects her fragile mother and heals an estranged friendship, all while vexed by a mischievous ghost, in Mari Lowe's stirring and suspenseful debut, *Aviva vs. the Dybbuk*.



#2325268 Wild Poppies (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Haya Saleh

As Oscar waits in line for rations, Sufyan explores more nontraditional methods to provide for his family. Ignoring his brother's warnings, Sufyan gets more and more involved with a group that provides him with big rewards for doing seemingly inconsequential tasks. When the group abruptly gets more intense--taking Sufyan and other boys away from their families, teaching them how to shoot guns--Sufyan realizes his brother is right. But is it too late for Sufyan to get out of this?
978-1-64614-201-9 Levine *Querido* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 128 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-9 *Starred Review* The consequences of war are as varied as the lives they touch, and when fighting reaches Raqqa, Syria, it takes the life of the father of Omar, 15, and Sufyan, 12. The brothers flee with their sick mother and little sister to a refugee camp, where the boys, who narrate different sections of the book, draw in readers through their differing perspectives. As the eldest, Omar feels obligated to step into his baba's empty shoes, but the sensitive and peaceable young teen struggles to command the authority of this position. Conversely, Sufyan knows his own strong, outgoing personality makes him better suited to take charge. This conviction leads Sufyan to look for a way to help his family financially, a well-intentioned goal that gets him and several of the camp's boys kidnapped by the extremist group Falcons of Truth. Omar describes his desperate search for his brother, while Sufyan relays the horrible experiences he endures as an unwilling soldier for the Falcons. Excellently translated from the Arabic, this slim novel acts as a razor-sharp dissection of the Syrian War's destructive power. Moments are necessarily brutal, but both boys' growth and unfaltering love for each other shine brighter. Stark without ever losing sight of hope or the humanity that picks itself up from the rubble of others' folly, Saleh's novel blooms with unforgettable beauty. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fifteen-year-old Omar is in charge of his family, including his sick mother, after his father was martyred in the Syrian civil war. At a Syrian refugee camp, Omar is the one who maintains order, while his twelve-year-old brother Sufyan is always getting into trouble and disappearing. When Sufyan becomes involved with a group called the Falcons of Truth, who pay him to complete small tasks and show up to their meetings declaiming Òinfidels, Ó finances start to look up, but the Falcons of Truth eventually kidnap Sufyan, and the brothers must find their way back to each other in life-or-death circumstances. Saleh's prose, translated from Arabic, is elegant but direct, avoiding descriptions of violence without dulling the emotional impact of the tragedies in these brothers' lives. Omar and Sufyan just want safety and reliable sources of food (and maybe some video games), and their alternating perspectives give readers two access points to a story that shines a light on the threats, both present and in the future, that refugee children face. Media about Syrian refugees tends to focus on legislation about other countries accepting refugees rather than internally displaced refugees, and this book gives necessary context for kids who may be in the dark about the Syrian civil war. NB COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine Syrian refugees fight to survive in Haya Saleh's moving novel *Wild Poppies*, about how brotherhood endures

wartime.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Brothers Omar and Sufyan find their lives upended by the Syrian civil war. After their home in Raqqun is bombed, killing their father, the family moves to the more rural village of Al-Nuaman. They struggle to find food, and their mother's diabetes endangers her health, requiring difficult-to-obtain medicine. Fifteen-year-old Omar is bookish, meek, and tries to be the man of the family; twelve-year old Sufyan also wants to help but is impatient, impulsive, and "has endless secrets." The book alternates between their points of view, offering readers differing perspectives on the same home life. Eventually, Sufyan's story becomes the central one when he goes missing: he is lured and kidnapped by a militant Islamic group, given military training, and being prepared for combat and death (martyrdom). This short but intense book, with its abrupt ending, deals with complicated aspects of war and how youth are often forced to take on the burdens of caretaking and problem-solving for an entire family before their time. A moving portrait of the horrors of armed conflict and a window into the epidemic of child abduction during war and the psychological effects of extremist religious grooming and indoctrination. Julie Hakim Azzam(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A tale of two brothers set against the backdrop of the Syrian civil war. After fleeing the violence that destroyed his family's home and led to the death of his father, 15-year-old Omar diffidently steps into his role as head of the family. Living with his mother and younger brother and sister in his aunt Sajida's home in Al-Nuaman ("the poppy flower"), Omar must obtain rations and other necessities, including medicine for their diabetic mother, while also trying to keep intractable Sufyan, 12, in line and his own heavy feelings at bay. Angry and unimpressed by his brother's feeble attempts, Sufyan secretly provides for his family only to be coerced and abducted by the Falcons of Truth, a group of Muslim extremists seeking to indoctrinate and use child soldiers. Distraught over Sufyan's disappearance, Omar attempts to find him, but soon further violence comes to the village and threatens his friends' and family's survival. Throughout this novel, which alternates between Omar's and Sufyan's perspectives, the brothers make thoughtful and heartbreaking observations about the cruelties of war, the loss of childhood innocence, and the hypocrisy of the Falcons, whose theology and practices sharply contrast with their own understandings of God and Islam. Saleh's prose, translated from Arabic by Qualey, is accessible and straightforward. Though the novel is short, it carries deep emotional impact, and while the ending is somewhat abrupt, it's imbued with themes of reconciliation and healing. Hauntingly hopeful. (Fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Until war came to Syria, 15-year-old Omar lived happily with his 12-year-old brother Sufyan, six-year-old sister Thoraya, and their parents in the Syrian city of Raqqun, attending school, playing soccer, and helping his father tend the family farm. But when bombing begins and their father is killed by shrapnel, the boys move with Thoraya and their diabetic mother to a relative's packed country home in village Al-Nuaman; "the poppy flower." There, each family worries about food, water, and medicine, and the brothers clash over how to care for their loved ones. Clever, moody Sufyan, who sees Omar as a weakling and a coward, starts disappearing on increasingly risky missions to meet their needs. Often-unsure-of-himself Omar, meanwhile, steadfastly queues in hope of buying rationed supplies, and tries unsuccessfully to rein in Sufyan's potentially dangerous activities. When Sufyan's unwitting connection to a religious extremist group leads to his kidnapping, Omar and two friends set out to find him, taking a treacherous journey through the wilderness. In Qualey's smooth translation, Omar and Sufyan's alternating first-person sections thoughtfully explore myriad devastations around an ongoing crisis, including chilling details regarding Sufyan's abduction, while the novel's lean format provides just the right amount of tension and suspense. Ages 10: 14. (May)



#2330974 Salsa Magic (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Letisha Marrero

Thirteen-year-old Maya Beatriz Montenegro Calderon has vivid recurring dreams where she hears the ocean calling her. Mami's side of the family is known as "Los Locos," so maybe she actually is going crazy. But no time for that; the family business is where it's at. Whenever Maya, her sister Salma, and her three cousins, Ini, Mini, and Mo, aren't at school, you can usually find three generations of Calderones at CafeTaza, serving up sandwiches de perrito, mofongo, and the best cafes con leche in all of Brooklyn.

978-1-64614-260-6 Levine *Querido* ©2023 5-3/4 x 7-3/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

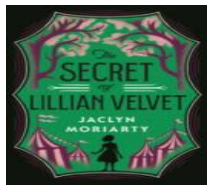
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 For 13-year-old Maya, life revolves around working in her family's Puerto Rican restaurant, Café Taza, in Brooklyn and playing soccer. But lately, her mind has been preoccupied with dreams of a mysterious woman in white. She's shocked, then, when her great-aunt Yaya (rumored to be a witch and never discussed due to a falling-out) arrives from Puerto Rico and is a match for the woman in Maya's dreams. What's more, Tití Yaya is staying in the apartment above the restaurant, and Maya can't help the curiosity and connection she feels to her. Tití Yaya practices Santería, and Marrero folds Puerto Rican and Yoruba history and folklore into the story as Maya learns more about her roots. Maya's large, bustling family is a joy to experience, and Spanish flies through the air as mouthwatering Puerto Rican dishes flow from the kitchen. A first crush adds a dash of sweetness to the lightly magical tale, and developments on the soccer field bring action and drama. A spirited debut about finding oneself, familial love, and forgiveness. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews al within herself and her family. Café Taza in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, is owned by the close-knit Calderon family and is where Maya Beatriz Montenegro Calderon spends most of her time when she's not busy being a star soccer player. Maya and her lively Puerto Rican family do their best to keep the cafe running despite the rapid gentrification of their neighborhood. Maya's eighth grade year brings new developments--her friendship with teammate Kayla grows, a soccer rivalry intensifies, and she has strangely vivid dreams involving water and an unknown woman that evoke feelings of déjà vu. As if she's been summoned, the mystery woman--her estranged great-aunt Titi Yaya--suddenly appears, dredging up a decades-old feud with Maya's abuela. Maya determinedly seeks to understand why her family became so divided and why she feels a connection to Titi Yaya and the water. Defying Abuela's command to never speak to her great-aunt, Maya starts sneaking around, trying to learn about her Yoruba heritage and the destiny that awaits her. The energetic, bilingual dialogue is welcoming, textured, and accessible; combined with the story's fast pace, it will keep readers engaged through an expertly written exploration of an Afro-Latine family's history and the pantheon of West African gods. Marrero's debut beautifully weaves together themes of family trauma, first crushes, spirituality, and history as Maya embarks on her journey of self-discovery. An uplifting, beautifully rendered story of family bonds and embracing the unknown. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Marrero's beguiling debut about a Latine 13-year-old uncovering her mystical ancestral power is profoundly magical. When she's not playing soccer with her crush Kayla, who reads as Black, Maya Beatriz Montenegro Calderon spends most afternoons and weekends waiting tables at her family's Brooklyn restaurant, Cafe Taza. One day, Maya notices a mysterious old woman who looks like a figure from her dreams. Maya learns that the stranger is Titi Yaya, Abuela Chacha's sister, whom Abuela hasn't seen in 20 years. Abuela reluctantly lets Titi Yaya live in the apartment above the cafe, sternly warning the family not to talk to her. But Maya won't let that stop her; she sneaks upstairs to meet with Titi Yaya, who informs Maya that she's been chosen by Yemaya, the Yoruban goddess of water, to succeed Yaya as a bruja. Maya's lively voice dazzles amid a standout cast that includes her lovably unruly cousins as well as memorable neighbors and classmates of varied Black and Latine heritages. In this evocative multigenerational tale, Marrero cultivates a rich N.Y.C. setting that feels like a character in itself, bursting with even richer depictions of cultural traditions. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Joy Tutela, David Black Literary. (Aug.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Maya Montenegro Calderon lives in Brooklyn with her large Puerto Rican family. At 13, she spends all her time at school, playing soccer, or helping out at the family restaurant, Cafe Taza. Recently, Maya has been plagued by curious dreams and questions that her family refuses to answer until she is older. Then her mysterious Titi Yaya arrives on the Cafe Taza doorstep, and Maya's world is rocked and the strangeness in her life becomes even more frequent. In this novel steeped in family lore and West African Yoruba beliefs, Maya navigates old ideas and thirsts for new knowledge as she discovers how she fits into her vibrant family and the world beyond. It's told through Maya's first-person narrative; her stream of consciousness is endearing and relatable, and peppered with Spanish. Readers are transported to the streets of Brooklyn and treated to the sights, sounds, and smells of life in the restaurant. Characters are as diverse as the streets of New York; main family members are Puerto Rican, Afro Caribbean, and Mexican. VERDICT A must-buy for public and school libraries. Hand to readers who love magical realism and coming-of-age stories.--Maryjean Riou Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2333495 Secret of Lillian Velvet (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jaclyn Moriarty

Here are only a few of the wonderful, strange, and mysterious elements in this breathtaking visit to the Kingdoms and Empires: A very proper girl named Lillian Velvet, living a very lonely life with a nasty Grandma. A jar of coins, each with the power to take Lillian on a journey to a different time and place and also to grant a single wish.

978-1-64614-261-3 Levine Querido ©2023 6 x 9 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

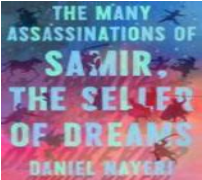
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine In Jaclyn Moriarty's kaleidoscopic fantasy novel *The Secret of Lillian Velvet*, a girl armed with a pickle jar full of coins contends with loneliness and otherworldly derring-do.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Lillian, a foundling, has a momentous tenth birthday: her one gift, a pickle jar full of gold coins, gives her access to a series of fantasy worlds. Without warning she is whisked off to the Luminous Forest, the Mellifluous Kingdom, the Kingdom of Kate-Bazaar, and so on: worlds of spells, genies, and mages. She is thrown into the middle of various disasters -- windstorms, near-drownings, and threats of fatal freezing -- before being arbitrarily whisked home again. The various plots do intersect, waving to each other briefly before ricocheting off in other directions until it all weaves together into a finale of reveals and revelry. Lillian is an Alice-like character, sturdy, intelligent, courteous, and with unexpected reserves of courage. In each of the hectic scenarios she is a force for good, although that can get tricky as the ethics of helpful intervention are by no means uncomplicated. This fifth volume in the series (most recently *The Astonishing Chronicles of Oscar from Elsewhere*, rev. 1/23) sparkles with energy, warm humor, outrageous metaphors, and a joyful alertness to the delights and challenges not just of the invented fantasy worlds but of our own as well. Sarah Ellis (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A birthday gift, her very first, gives a 10-year-old Australian girl a chance to prove her mettle. Astounded though she is when the harshly repressive grandmother who has raised her in isolation presents her with a pickle jar full of gold coins, that's only the first of a string of wonders as Lillian is unexpectedly shoved over and over into the magical land of Kingdoms and Empires. There, she's informed by a mysterious collector that the coins pay for wishes. Each visit leads to encounters in which a person or creature (including, once, a huge dragon) is in a pickle and needs help. Actually, Lillian turns out to be a pawn in an evil and potentially deadly scheme, and around its twists and turns, Moriarty weaves a complex tale involving sprites and genies, time travel, fearsome dangers, hard decisions...and also the Mettlestones, a clan whose 11 sisters and their offspring have gone on to all sorts of splendid feats. The clan's close-knit, noisy dynamics give Lillian an eye-opening view of what family life could be like. Presented through multiple points of view, the tale has an overstretched feel; the author sends Lillian back and forth more than 15 times, strings out the suspenseful climax, and repeats herself occasionally. Still, watching kind, smart, and brave Lillian overcome an upbringing designed to leave her mousy and fearful makes for compelling reading, as does watching the intricacies of the plot unfold. Most characters read white. Absorbingly rich and strange. (Fantasy. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Orphan Lillian Velvet spends her dreary days stuck at home, rarely able to venture out from the watchful eye of her despicable grandmother. Her life is a checklist of homeschooling tasks and household chores until the morning of her 10th birthday. Mysteriously, Grandmother gives Lillian a pickle jar of strange coins, which she discovers will pay her toll to visit the world of Kingdoms and Empires. Lillian is whisked off on short trips to this enchanting land where she makes new friends and thrilling discoveries. Lillian's adventures develop an increasing sense of danger and urgency as she bounces through time, seeking answers to questions about herself, parents, and new friends. Lillian starts to notice common threads among her visits to Kingdoms and Empires. Will these threads help her solve the mystery of her own identity? Will she find what she needs before the entire world of Kingdoms and Empires becomes unraveled? Readers will have a hard time closing this book as they race to discover whether Lillian is the one pulling the threads apart or the only one who can knit them back together. Short chapters with alternating viewpoints, paired with a thrilling opening hook, will draw readers in from the first page. Lillian's adventures take an extended time to coalesce into the climax, but the story does not lose momentum. Middle grade fantasy and adventure enthusiasts will revel in the frequent visits to Kingdoms and Empires. Moriarty broadens appeal here with quirky, charming characters, and richly developed themes of friendship and family. This tale of Kingdoms and Empires works just fine as a standalone, but Moriarty fans will be thrilled to see this new installment in the series. VERDICT A must-have for any middle grade collection with fantasy lovers, and those who enjoy the likes of Roald Dahl, Neil Gaiman, and Lemony Snicket.--Jill Shepard Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

		Quantity	Unit Price
	#2317227 Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Daniel Nayeri</i> Monk (aka Monkey) tells of his journey along the Silk Road with his newfound boss/guardian, Samir, a larger-than-life character and the so-called "Seller of Dreams". Turns out, the man is a scammer; his biggest skill being the ability to talk his way into getting what he wants. While that talking did save Monkey's life, it has left a lot of people furious with Samir--furious enough to hire assassins 978-1-64614-303-0 Levine Querido ©2023 7 x 9 224 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 7.0	1	\$21.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* This tight little tome shares the testament of one orphan boy, dubbed Little Monkey following his rescue (and purchase) by the titular Samir, an incorrigibly jovial and conniving snake-oil merchant, whom--as the boy states up front--he has killed. As Monkey settles in with Samir's caravan, he comes to detest the endless bloviating, scheming, and swindling of the ""Seller of Dreams,"" for whom trickery is not just a constant impulse but the paradigm through which he views the world. As such, there are many who want him dead, and on the journey east along the legendary Silk Road, Monkey elaborates on seven attempts on his master's life. Miyares' rich paintings, only a few here seen, precede each chapter, giving vivid shape to the figures but also endowing the story with a classic quality through a style hearkening to certain renditions of the Arabian Nights. Nayeri grounds the proceedings in Monkey's narration, and the boy proves to be a thoughtful and engaging guide through this simple yet sophisticated story. As Monkey works to save Samir from assassination, hoping to win his freedom in exchange, he takes an inner journey, exploring ""the expansive nature of love"" and ultimately finding something more than he expected. Readers, too, will find more than expected, including tender philosophies, complex characterizations, heaps of humor, a masterful twist, and most importantly, just a great story, beautifully told. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Twelve-year-old Omar is fleeing for his life from a pair of murderous monks (who were actually entrusted to care for him but are clearly failing at it) when he, quite fortunately and quite literally, stumbles into a caravan of merchants. Samir the Seller of Dreams trades six bolts of silk for Omar's life and takes him on as a servant, renaming him Monkey. Initially, Samir seems like a decent man, but it turns out he has duped his fair share of buyers, and now at least six, if not more, groups of assassins are dead set on killing him. Monkey bargains his freedom for his efforts to save Samir, but his success depends on trickery he's not yet comfortable with. The episodic nature of the tale would make this an excellent classroom or family readaloud, and the intriguing characters, richly described setting, and fast-paced action maintains reader/listener engagement with ease. A self-proclaimed true believer of love, Omar/Monkey is nonetheless clueless

about its nuances, and his attachment to needing a clear and distinct line between good and evil prevents him from seeing the complexity of people. He's also not a terribly reliable narrator, and it's possible his early judgments of Samir were never his true feelings at all. Nayeri's immersive writing style brings a you-are-there energy to the depiction of the harsh but gorgeous environment of the Silk Road, and an informative author's note further details the geography of the trail, its economic and social value, and the many people who traversed it. The book ends with a simple but profound reminder that love comes in many forms, it is almost always messy and unpredictable, and it is almost always worth every effort toward it. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Along the medieval Silk Road, a boy is cast out from the temple and nearly stoned to death by monks. He is purchased as a servant by a fast-talking merchant named Samir, for the price of six bolts of silk, and dubbed Monkey. Monkey watches Samir spin tales and make enemies everywhere he goes. In fact, the man is being hunted by six different "killing lines," from a Viking berserker to a Mongol gunner -- though at the end of the first chapter it's Monkey who tantalizingly confesses: "That is why I killed him." The book is warmly funny, with folkloric commitment to larger-than-life characters, exaggerated perils, and plenty of jokes, punctuated by Miyares's lively and colorful illustrations. The formula of the six killing lines encourages readers to anticipate the unspooling of the tale; the twist regarding Samir's eventual death is more a reward than a shock. A celebration of the cultural riches of the Silk Road, along with the geographic, religious, and material diversity of the setting, make for engaging historical fiction -- and a rollicking good yarn. Alex Schaffner(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A servant boy attempts to win his freedom by repeatedly saving his master as they travel the Silk Road. At roughly age 12, Omar has led a hard life, having lost both his parents and the woman who cared for him after their deaths and now being chased away by the monks who once housed him for asking too many questions. For the price of six bolts of silk, they hand him off to Samir, a fellow Sogdian who calls himself the Seller of Dreams. Renamed Monkey, he is tasked with assisting Samir in trading. As the two head west with a large caravan across the Taklamakan Desert toward present-day Tajikistan, Monkey learns Samir's business tricks, though he often disapproves. He also meets blacksmith's assistant Mara, the most beautiful girl he's ever seen. Soon, though, it becomes clear that Samir faces more problems than just making the next deal: He has wronged more than one person along the road, and assassins are after him. What follows is Monkey's account of Samir's brushes with death--and how Monkey himself may have contributed to Samir's eventual demise. Filled with the multicultural hustle and bustle of the Silk Road, enlivened by the unpredictable nature of unreliable storytellers, and adorned with whimsical, colorful illustrations, this is a strange, wondrous, and creative tale. Can family be found along the Silk Road, or will everyone ultimately betray you? An enticing taste of a rich historical world. (author's note, bibliography) (Adventure. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Orphaned novice monk Omar is saved from stoning at the hands of his order at the start of this cleverly constructed adventure centering two Sogdian protagonists. For the dubious equivalent of six bolts of silk, the monks trade the approximately 12-year-old child to Samir, a savvy traveling merchant known as The Seller of Dreams. As their caravan family travels the Silk Road, moving from caravanserais to cities to oases across the Taklamakan Desert en route to Samarkand, Omar, now called Monkey, observes how Samir's dealings have earned more enemies than riches. Fearing for his own fate as a series of hired assassins tracks Samir, and beginning to intuit the man's underlying kindness, Monkey attempts to thwart the killers, each time moving closer to gaining his freedom. Regular acknowledgements of Monkey's involvement in Samir's eventual death accompany an ongoing chain of trades and catastrophes, creating page-turning narrative tension. Nayeri blends playful humor, solid pacing, and fully realized characters into a witty, assassin-studded traveler's yarn that also serves as a memorable, lively portrait of the 11th-century Silk Road. Richly hued art by Miyares and expansive back matter enhance the delight. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Joanne Volpe, New Leaf Literary. Illustrator's agent: Judy Sue Goodwin Sturges and April Jones Prince, Studio Goodwin Sturges. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--This delightful adventure along the 11th-century Silk Road opens with its 12-year-old narrator, Omar (soon called Monkey), fleeing for his life from the monks who had once sheltered him. Monkey is saved by Samir, a merchant traveling in a caravan, who buys him from the monks for six bolts of silk. Monkey joins Samir in his journey to Samarkand and begins to learn Samir's tricks of the trade. What initially seems like simple bartering tactics and weaving of wild tales turns out to be a recipe for disaster. Samir has earned grudges from many of his former customers, and now several assassins are after him. The thrills never let up in this fast-paced adventure tale that is packed with intrigue, vivid description, and plenty of heartwarming moments. The narrative voice is at times naive, at others snarky, but ultimately readers will find delight in Monkey's own ability to weave a wild tale that keeps them guessing till the very end. Miyares's beautiful full-color illustrations animate life along the Silk Road, and an extended author's note provides excellent historical context for Monkey's tale. VERDICT An epic adventure with an enduring message about love and family, this is a first purchase for upper elementary and middle school libraries.--Dana West Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Most middle-grade novels don't begin with the storyteller being stoned to death. But *The Many Assassinations of Samir*, the Seller of Dreams goes delightfully rogue. The 11th-century Silk Road is a treacherous place for all who journey there in this ambitious, mesmerizing adventure by Printz-winning author Daniel Nayeri (*Everything Sad Is Untrue*).

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2322965 Control Freaks (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by J. E. Thomas</i>	1	\$18.99



What if Louis Sachar's Wayside School were a little less wacky - but just as funny - and centered on a young Black boy who IS going to be the great inventor of all time, and set in the top STEM middle school in the country, oh and it was written by someone who worked for years in independent schools, and it also tackles what it's like to live in a blended family and to stand up to a parent who's not being so great and to truly work together with your peers?

978-1-64614-305-4 *Levine Querido* ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 272 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

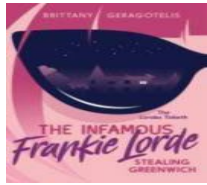
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* An experimental series of team-building exercises takes many of the hyper-motivated students at a Denver middle school for the gifted out of their comfort zones in this warm and funny debut. As a quintet of misfits, ranging from nine-year-old brainiac Travis Elizabeth "Shark" Cod to Frederick Douglass Zezzmer--destined, in his own mind anyway, to become the world's greatest inventor--make their way past six STEAMS-based challenges (the second S is for sports) that ruthlessly eliminate teams that can't get the hang of working together. Thomas strews the increasingly suspenseful competition with teachable moments and traces learning curves not only for the students but for teachers and parents, too. The cast, premise, and lightly delivered life lessons are reminiscent of E. L. Konigsburg's *The View from Saturday*, and however reluctant readers may be to accept the author's proposition that winning isn't always the same as coming in first, they'll be swept up by the drama and the brisk dialogue, not to mention a school where hot-lunch choices are based on answering quiz questions and the principal snatches student-made spy drones out of the air and pockets them without breaking stride. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine e "control freaks," each with ambitious personal goals, put them into an all-middle-school group STEAMS (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, sports) competition, and you will rock their universe. Twelve-year-old Frederick Douglass "Doug" Zezzmer, a Black student at Benjamin Banneker College Prep in Denver, is trepidatious. "There's no way to stand out if I'm one of a dozen kids on a team," he says. This will interfere with his "fifty-seven-step strategy to become the World's Greatest Inventor" and Operation Dazzle, intended to impress his principal, Dr. Yee, enough to nominate him for Rocky Mountain GadgetCon. Furthermore, he's placed on the worst team possible. They're the "Island of Misfit Toys of STEAMS teams." Dr. Yee comes up with wild tests, events, contests, and challenges for the students, related through the author's clever use of alternating voices that offer insights into the minds and lives of characters. As miserable as Doug is at the beginning, he eventually gets into the spirit of the competition and sees his teammates, now friends, in a new light. By the end of the competition, he says, "I'm not sure how Dr. Yee did it, but he got all of us celebrating for each other." Thomas's debut novel is a refreshing take on middle-school life -- smart kids who know they are going places but learn to take care of one another along the way. Dean Schneider(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Family, friends, and middle school are tough in ways this book intuitively gets and even celebrates. At elite Benjamin Banneker College Prep in Denver, a new weeklong STEAMS competition--that is, science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, and sports--requires collaboration among teams of sixth through eighth graders. For Black seventh grader Frederick Douglass Zezzmer, losing is not even an option. His former professional football player dad has recently come back into his life with big sports-centric expectations for Doug. However, Doug intends to become the "World's Greatest Inventor," avoid summer sports camp, and legitimize his talents in his dad's eyes. His nervous but optimistic best friend, Huey, is also part of comically named team TravLiUeyPadgeyZezz, a portmanteau of the students' names. While Doug's point of view is foremost, the novel's narration shifts among many perspectives, giving a rich, panoramic view of how stressful yet ultimately rewarding these learning experiences are for the overachievers, the socially awkward, the kids with complicated home lives, and all those--young and old--who just need to see each other a little differently. The competition itself impressively brings readers into the week's suspense while highlighting insights that many who have had to balance the demands of academics with the complexities of home life already know--and that Doug and his crew are finding out the hard way. Creative and hilarious. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A driven Black middle schooler attending Denver's prestigious Benjamin Banneker College Prep must become a team player in Thomas's debut, a witty competition drama. Frederick Douglass Zezzmer has a 57-step plan to become the World's Greatest Inventor, but Doug's birth father; a former Denver Broncos player who recently reentered his life; has a different vision for him: attending the Elite Juniors sports camp. Doug believes that participating in, and winning, a weeklong STEAM and sports tournament will persuade his father into letting Doug pursue his own dreams. But to succeed, Doug must collaborate with classmates from varying disciplines, including art and athletics, something that forces him out of his comfort zone and challenges him in new ways. As Doug navigates budding friendships, dynamic rivalries, and tense familial relationships, he realizes that he doesn't have to do everything on his own, and that not everyone is as they seem. By utilizing multiple POVs, including that of Doug's stepbrother, Thomas lays the groundwork for a telling that prioritizes characters' interiority as well as their impact on each other's lives. While Doug's determined voice is the primary focus, the rotating narratives showcase each of the racially diverse characters' individual stressors, delivering a well-rounded accounting that is better for its multiplicity. Ages 8: 12. (June)

Infamous Frankie Lorde (Trade)



#2179694 (Vol. 01) Stealing Greenwich (Hardcover (Trade))

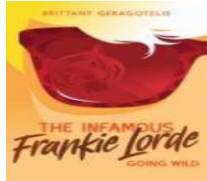
written by Brittany Geragotelis

Frankie Lorde and her dad have been a team for as long as Frankie can remember. Being a tutor under the man responsible for some of the world's biggest heists has given Frankie a unique perspective on the world. And a special set of life skills. Frankie can spot an FBI agent in a second. Pick a lock in two seconds. Steal a Bugatti in three. Then dad is arrested.

978-1-64595-026-4 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2235701 (Vol. 02) Going Wild (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brittany Geragotelis

Volunteering at a local animal shelter over school break, Frankie and Ollie hear that there's a dangerous exotic animal farm supplying Greenwich's elite with lions and tigers and bears. (Oh my!) Feeling an instant kinship with the endangered creatures locked away in their cages, Frankie makes it her mission to find the perpetrators, free the beautiful beasts, and ensnare the bad guys in a trap of her own.

978-1-64595-057-8 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Frankie Lorde is back. She and her new bestie Ollie have been volunteering at an animal shelter for their community service requirement. Frankie has grown restless since her last heist, stuck living in a sleepy Greenwich community with her detective uncle since her dad is in prison. When she learns that Greenwich's idle rich have a penchant for illegally obtained lions and tigers, Frankie decides to act. She makes it her mission to not only free the animals, but to ensnare the traffickers. Along the way, she breaks an eager Ollie into the business and, once she finally gets to visit her dad in prison, has a break of sorts with him. The premise strains credulity, beginning with the supposition that an international jewel thief would keep an incriminating journal, and continues with the supposition that a 13- or 14-year-old could pull off the guise of a writer for a fashion e-zine. Frankie paints herself as worldly and cynically cool and everyone around her in broadly stereotypical strokes—from her earnest yet clueless uncle to the bumbling and rich animal collectors and her theatrical best friend. There's little in the way of character development and subtlety, but the pace is fast and cinematic. This installment can be read as a standalone. Frankie is cued as white. VERDICT A candy-floss confection quickly consumed. Purchase where heist books are in demand or where the first installment is popular.—Brenda Kahn, Tenakill M.S., Closter, NJ



#2288257 (Vol. 03) No Admissions (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Brittany Geragotelis

When Frankie discovers that a classmate's invention has been stolen the day before a school-wide competition, the once-renowned international thief figures she might as well flex her skills to steal it back. But just when Frankie's about to call her mission a success, she learns there's more to the story than she'd originally thought.

978-1-64595-123-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

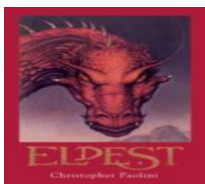
Inheritance Cycle (Trade)

#459338 (Vol. 02) Eldest (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christopher Paolini

After successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$27.99



978-0-375-82670-2 ©2005 6-5/8 x 9-3/8 704 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.0 AR Pts 36.0 RC Lvl 7.8 GR Lvl W Lexile 970

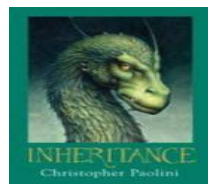
Reviews by: Children's Literature Newsletter for Adults There is something remarkable about the Inheritance trilogy, aside from the intricate plot and meticulously built fantasy world. It's the age of the creator. Paolini became a New York Times bestselling author at nineteen when he wrote the first book in the series "Eragon." His home schooling has served him well and his parents deserve a big thumbs-up. In this second installment of the series, Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, travel to the elven city Ellesmera where both must train in the ways of the dragon riders, a group on the brink of extinction. A reign of evil threatens to dominate the region and life as it has existed. Politics and romance lay at the forefront of events, as Eragon comes to grips with his future and the heavy burdens he must bear. Eragon goes through a major transition on his way to maturity, a necessity to survive an overwhelming foe in the finale's epic battle. The story is richly detailed in parts, logically laying down elements of magic and folklore. This weaving of old world history and modern fantasy works well, allowing us to see Paolini's personal grasp of literary elements and how nature works. This is a series worth reading but it is important to begin with the first book in the series. The linear plot unfolds one section at a time, like the layers of an onion, leaving the reader wanting to know more. 2005, Random House Children's Books, Ages 12 up.

Reviews by: Críticas The second volume in Paolini's popular "Inheritance Trilogy" continues the story begun in Eragon. Eragon the dragon rider and Saphira, his dragon, are being trained in the forest city of Ellesmera while Roran, Eragon's cousin, helps the villagers escape Carvahall and flee the siege by the Ra'zacs. There is a large cast of characters and complex story lines, and listeners must be familiar with the first novel before beginning this sequel. But the clear narration of this abridgment makes the plot easy to follow, and little is lost in the production. Though there is not much differentiation in the characters' voices, it is always apparent who is speaking. The recording is evenly paced, the sound clean and clear, and the Spanish straightforward and smooth. Overall, this is a worthwhile addition to larger Spanish-language audio collections.

Reviews by: KLIATT Readers who have been waiting two years for the release of Paolini's second installment in the Inheritance Trilogy will not be disappointed. The story picks up where Eragon left off, at the end of the battle at Farthen Dur. Eragon is now called Shadeslayer, and he has faced a mighty challenge that has changed him forever. After the leadership of the Varden changes hands, Eragon travels on to Ellesmera with Saphira to continue his training as a rider. Among the elves, he learns more about his power and about himself. In the meantime, Carvahall has been attacked. The villagers put up a brave defense, but ultimately they cannot hold out, and Katrina, Roran's betrothed, is kidnapped by the Ra'zac. Roran knows that Carvahall will fall and he asks the villagers to follow him to Surda, where he hopes to discover the whereabouts of the Ra'zac and Katrina. In parallel story lines and groups of alternating chapters, Roran and Eragon move closer to each other, finally meeting as another dragon and rider drop from the sky. As volume two ends, Eragon and Roran join forces to defeat the Empire and avenge the deaths of their loved ones. Paolini's lush writing and close attention to detail make this epic flow effortlessly, leaving readers to wait impatiently again for the third and final book of the trilogy. (Book Two of Inheritance Trilogy). KLIATT Codes: JS*-Exceptional book, recommended for junior and senior high school students. 2005, Random House, Knopf, 684p. illus., Ages 12 to 18. To quote the review of the hardcover in KLIATT, September 2005: The story picks up where Eragon left off, at the end of the battle at Farthen Dur. Eragon is now called Shadeslayer, and he has faced a mighty challenge that has changed him forever. After the leadership of the Varden changes hands, Eragon travels on to Ellesmera with Saphira to continue his training as a rider. Among the elves, he learns more about his power and about himself. In the meantime, Carvahall has been attacked. The villagers put up a brave defense, but ultimately they cannot hold out, and Katrina, Roran's betrothed, is kidnapped by the Ra'zac. Roran knows that Carvahall will fall and he asks the villagers to follow him to Surda, where he hopes to discover the whereabouts of the Ra'zac and Katrina. In parallel story lines and groups of alternating chapters, Roran and Eragon move closer to each other, finally meeting as another dragon and rider drop from the sky. As volume two ends, Eragon and Roran join forces to defeat the Empire and avenge the deaths of their loved ones. Paolini's lush writing and close attention to detail make this epic flow effortlessly. Read all 7 "From the Critics"

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Narrator Gerard Doyle picks up where he left off narrating Eragon by Christopher Paolini, with its follow-up, Eldest. Again lending his assured, compelling delivery to the proceedings, Brit Doyle relates the continuing adventures of dragon-rider Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, now in Ellesmera, land of the elves. Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up-Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have survived the battle at Tronjheim, but their challenges are not over. Galbatorix, the corrupt emperor, still rules Alagaesia and is looking for them. The magically bonded pair must help the rebellious Varden regroup after their leader is slain. Eragon helps deal with the resulting diplomatic complexities and then leaves for Du Weldenvarden, the home of the Elves, in order to finish his training as a Dragon Rider. Meanwhile, his cousin Roran must unite the small town of Carvahall as it is battered by Galbatorix's forces, including the nasty Ra'zac. The story alternates between Eragon and Saphira and their political maneuvering and Roran and his more traditional adventure over land and sea. Paolini provides a worthy companion to Eragon (Knopf, 2003), though it does not stand alone (a summary of the first book will be included in the final edition). The plot-indeed, most of the fantasy conventions-is heavily inspired by Tolkien, McCaffrey, and especially George Lucas. The momentum of the narrative is steady and consistent: a problem presents itself and is neatly (and conveniently) solved before the next one arises, making it appealing to some adventure-quest fantasy fans and runescape.com players. Eragon's journey to maturity is well handled. He wrestles earnestly with definitions for good and evil, and he thoughtfully examines the question of good at



#1657355 (Vol. 04) Inheritance (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christopher Paolini

Not so very long ago, Eragon--Shadeslayer, Dragon Rider--was nothing more than a poor farm boy, and his dragon, Saphira, only a blue stone in the forest. Now the fate of an entire civilization rests on their shoulders. Long months of training and battle have brought victories and hope, but they have also brought heartbreaking loss.

978-0-375-85611-2 ©2011 880 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 7.5 AR Pts 49.0 RC Lvl 8.6 Lexile 1010

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$29.99

Reviews by: Booklist Adventurers, take up ye swords! Several of the battle scenes in this massive conclusion to Paolini's Inheritance Cycle and, wow, are there a lot of them are so invigorating that even with all the fountaining of blood and clashing of steel, readers young and old will be begging to enlist. Let's start with the good because, largely, this novel is a rousing success: Paolini fulfills nearly every promise set forward in Eragon (2003), with the young Rider fulfilling his destiny; Roran becoming a warrior of legend; Murtagh facing up to his lineage; and Galbatorix finally taking center stage for the final act, where his evil plans begin to make a disturbing amount of sense. Paolini is especially apt at depicting the queasy nature of unnatural alliances, and each of the 78 chapters contains a meaty or enjoyable nugget, even if it's one of Paolini's trademark tangents (the step-by-step construction of a dwarf's thardsvergundnzmal, for instance). Still, the novel isn't perfect: many characters are so burdened by Tolkeinesque posturing that they are more fascinatingly mythic than truly fleshed out, and the long-winded proceedings follow a fairly predictable, The Return of the King-like arc. But this is every bit as challenging and ornate as its predecessors, and very few of the millions of fans will be disappointed. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: How does a 2.5-million-copy first printing sound? An 18-city tour, TV advertising, and dedicated apps ensure that this global publishing event will be just that: an event. --Kraus, Daniel Copyright 2010 Booklist

Reviews by: Children's Literature Eragon and his dragon, Saphira's tale has a beginning, middle and now the end. This epic adventure starts with an egg and finishes in the battle of a lifetime. Our young hero trains and battles with his cousin, Ronan, all the way to the main city saving and losing lives along the way. Driven by the need to feel justice after almost losing his cousin to Galbatorix, Eragon must pull from all his inner strength and passionate nature to combat this evil nemesis and restore peace to his people in Alagaesia. Nothing can prepare him for what will happen next, but luckily he has Saphira to make him whole and unstoppable. This plot driven book makes this world of make-believe come to life as each page takes the reader out of reality and into a fantastic place where heroes look like regular teenagers. At times, the book seems overwhelming due to the 800 plus pages and makes me wonder if it could have been divided into two or three books instead of one. Sadness came over me as the realization of completing the book meant no more adventures with my old friends, Eragon and Saphira. This is the last book in the "Inheritance Cycle" series. Reviewer: Julia Beiker

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Capping the former Inheritance Trilogy, this fourth epic-length episode brings teenage Dragon Rider Eragon at last to a decisive faceoff with his greatest enemy. Beginning with the capture of the fortress city of Belatona, the rebellious Varden alliance wins multiple hard-fought victories before arriving at last before the iron gates of imperial Urû'baen, "wherein sits Galbatorix, proud, confident, and disdainful, for his is the strength of the dragons." Meanwhile, Eragon and his scaled companion Saphira fly off to the ruins of Doru Araeba in response to mysteriously delivered hints that something in a hidden "Vault of Souls" will help defeat their clever and overwhelmingly powerful adversary. Tucking in well-developed side plots, elaborate set pieces, internecine squabbles, extraneous characters, piles of corpses and, toward the end, even oblique allusions to sex (dragon sex, anyway), Paolini moves his tale along with all deliberate speed to its properly explosive, massively destructive climax. As in previous volumes, there are so many nods to Tolkien and other fantasists that authorial whiplash must have been a chronic hazard, but battle scenes are satisfyingly dramatic. Moreover, the act that leads to the thoroughly predictable outcome is just one of several ingenious twists, and before sailing off to lands unknown in a boat of Elvish make (sound familiar?), the young warrior/mage actually wages peace while methodically tying up loose ends over the final 90+ pages. Despite the long, anticlimactic wind-down, it is a strong conclusion to the crowd-pleasing series. (maps, multilingual word list) (Heroic fantasy. 12-15)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Almost 10 years after Paolini self-published Eragon in 2002, he concludes the epic saga of the Inheritance Cycle with this thick fourth volume, the longest yet in the series. With Eragon, his dragon Saphira, and their many allies poised to do final battle against the evil emperor Galbatorix, there is still plenty of unfinished business to wrap up. Cities need to be liberated, enemy leaders (including Eragon's half-brother Murtagh) must be dealt with, prophecies await fulfillment, and a few game-changing secrets will be revealed. In full Tolkeinesque style, Paolini luxuriates in excess details, side quests, and a lengthy dénouement in which every last thread is wrapped up. The solidly entertaining plot is fleshed out with defining moments for every major character and a sense of completion (temporary or permanent) for all involved. While this final chapter is bogged down by an almost obsessive complexity with regard to the world-building, Paolini leaves readers with the satisfaction of a journey's end, along with the promise of new beginnings. It's a can't-miss for fans and completionists, and a worthy end to the story. Agent: Writers House. Ages 12-up. (Nov.)



#2355976 (Vol. 01) Eragon (20th Anniversary Illustrated Edition) (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christopher Paolini

Soar high above the ground with Eragon on Saphira's majestic back. Experience narrow escapes from the gruesome Ra'zac. See the wonders of the dwarves' city-mountain, Tronjheim. Rich detail and painterly strokes make each piece by accomplished fantasy artist Sidharth Chaturvedi feel as if it's actually moving.

978-0-593-70446-2 ©2023 9 x 11 368 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic Lexile 760

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$45.99



#2355974 Murtagh (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christopher Paolini

The world is no longer safe for the Dragon Rider Murtagh and his dragon, Thorn. An evil king has been toppled, and they are left to face the consequences of the reluctant role they played in his reign of terror. Throughout the land, hushed voices whisper of brittle ground and a faint scent of brimstone in the air-and Murtagh senses that something wicked lurks in the shadows of Alagaesia. So begins an epic journey into lands both familiar and untraveled, where Murtagh and Thorn must use every weapon in their arsenal, from brains to brawn, to find and outwit a mysterious witch.

(Companion novel)

978-0-593-65086-8 ©2023 6 x 9 656 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 32.0 Lexile 850

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$29.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-10 A year after the fall of the wicked conqueror Galbatorix (and 12 years since the conclusion of Paolini's Inheritance Cycle), Eragon's half brother, Murtagh, also a Dragon Rider, is on the run. An antihero in the original series, Murtagh was first one of Galbatorix's men, but he changed sides with Eragon's help. Now, he seeks to steer clear of danger, but danger finds him nonetheless, whether through the sword of a greedy trader or rumors of an evil witch. He rides his dragon companion, Thorn, across Alagaësia in search of answers as he also reckons with his past as a villain and wonders how to use his magic to help, rather than harm. Much of the story surrounds Murtagh's relationship with Thorn, and previous Dragon Riders are name-checked but do not appear. Still, familiarity with the original series and characters is a must. Two decades after the debut of Eragon, Paolini shows that there are still fresh tales to be told in this world. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Murtagh and Thorn must defend Alagaësia from a shadowy new threat in this sequel to Inheritance (2011). In an Alagaësia that's at last free from tyrannical King Galbatorix, Murtagh and his dragon, Thorn, cannot free themselves from the stain of association. As the pair hide their identities, Murtagh works to uncover the mystery behind a cryptic warning from Umaroth. Defending himself against an attack by informant Sarros, Murtagh is horrified to learn that a witch named Bachel has created an amulet that protects against even the Name of all Names. Seeking Bachel, Murtagh returns to Gil'ead, where he risks discovery by those who knew him from Galbatorix's court. Werecat Carabel promises information about Bachel and her Dreamers if Murtagh rescues kidnapped werecat children. Murtagh and Thorn must confront the scars left by their enslavement by Galbatorix if they hope to succeed. Murtagh's point of view is kept vividly distinct, and it contains a visceral anger over injustices that are expressed at a new level of intensity. He's particularly protective of children in a way that wasn't displayed by previous series protagonists. The psychological scars from both Murtagh's enslavement and his childhood abuse are well portrayed and shape his characterization in meaningful ways. In a welcome change, Thorn is no longer merely a plot vehicle; with the intimate rider-dragon bond on display, a terrified, confused young dragon still learning who he is shares center stage. A much-needed follow-up centering a beloved character. (map, names and languages) (Fantasy. 12-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

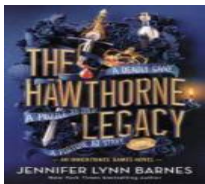
Inheritance Games (Trade)

#2246410 (Vol. 02) Hawthorne Legacy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

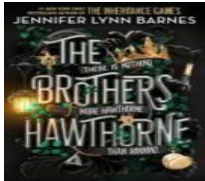
The Inheritance Games ended with a bombshell, and now heiress Avery Grambs has to pick up the pieces and find the man who might hold the answers to all of her

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$17.99



questions-including why Tobias Hawthorne left his entire fortune to Avery, a virtual stranger, rather than to his own daughters or grandsons.

978-0-7595-5763-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 12.0



#2330446 (Vol. 04) Brothers Hawthorne (Hardcover (Trade))

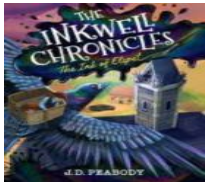
written by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Drawn into twisted games on opposite sides of the globe, Grayson and Jameson-with the help of their brothers and the girl who inherited their grandfather's fortune-must dig deep to decide who they want to be and what each of them will sacrifice to win.

978-0-316-48077-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 480 pgs.
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 16.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Inkwell Chronicles (Trade)



#2300135 (Vol. 01) Ink of Elspet (Hardcover (Trade))

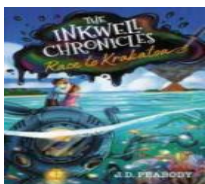
written by J. D. Peabody

When their father goes missing after a mysterious train crash, Everett and his little sister Bea find a curious pen in his belongings, and its magical Ink begins to rewrite their once-ordinary lives. The Ink leads them to a world they never knew existed-one teeming with impossible magic, formidable allies, and villains who are determined to destroy everything they hold dear.

978-1-5460-0198-0 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 384 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A reverend's children seek to preserve the rare, magical Ink that's long fueled creativity in debut author Peabody's uneven series opener. In the early 1950s, 11-year-old Everett and eight-year-old Bea live in a London vicarage with their clergyman father, who uses Ink to create the Max Courageous comics for which he is known. When he heads to Scotland to conduct a secret mission, public use of the liquid attracts attention, leading to a terrible train accident that leaves him presumed dead. With his fountain pen delivered to Max and Bea, who present as white, the two become aware of the long conflict between Inklings, a worldwide force of creators who defend and use Ink, and inhuman "blotters," who seek to destroy the Ink and those who would use it. They also find that they're in danger of becoming the blotters' next target. Partnering with Trey, an amnesiac boy with Indian heritage, the siblings seek the last known source of Ink before the bumbling yet nefarious blotters can cause further harm; to do so, Bea turns to hymns and prayers, and Everett wrestles with doubt and frustration. Heavy-handed moralizing and derivative fantasy tropes undercut the telling, but whimsical elements, including a gondola carried by a giant invisible pigeon, prove bright spots. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Curtis Russell, P.S. Literary. (Sept.)



#2342614 (Vol. 02) Race to Krakatoa (Hardcover (Trade))

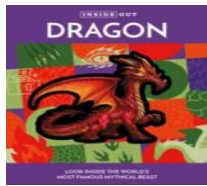
written by J. D. Peabody

Everett and his little sister Bea find themselves drawn even more deeply into the secret world of the Inklings, those who seek to protect the world's rapidly diminishing supply of magic Ink. When a miraculous new type of ink called Inkanto begins to appear around the world, initial celebration soon gives way to suspicions about its mysterious origins. As the race to find and control the world's supply of Ink intensifies, signs begin to appear that not is all that it seems. Will the siblings and their fellow Inklings be able to uncover the truth in time? Fans of The Silver Arrow, The Bookwanderers, and Inkheart will love this classic battle of good and evil that pits creativity against the

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

forces that would seek to blot it out for good.
978-1-5460-0417-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 368 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Inside Out (Trade)



#2330680 Inside Out Dragon: Look Inside the World's Most Famous Mythical Beast (Hardcover (POB))

written by

Inside Out Dragon is a treasure trove of dazzling illustrations and fascinating text, and a die-cut model within the book's pages will take you inside dragons and their lairs to uncover, page by page, the secrets of the mythical beasts that wing through legends around the world.

978-0-7858-4297-2 ©2023 8-1/2 x 11 16 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Invisible Kingdom (Interlink / Trade)



#2348237 (Vol. 02) Kingdom Revealed (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rob Ryan

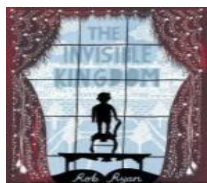
This is a story about a young boy who doesn't want to be King. What he wants, more than anything, is to be normal. So one night, he runs away from the palace. He climbs out of his four-poster bed, disappears through a hidden door in the ceiling, creeps down a long-forgotten passageway, opens a small window and leaves behind everything he's ever known.

978-1-62371-781-0 ©2023 9 x 12-1/2 64 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist A young prince defies his destiny by escaping the castle he is meant to rule. At first, the surrounding city seems magical, full of wondrous sounds and sights, but the prince becomes very lonely without anyone to talk to. The kindness of several strangers allows him to begin building a new life for himself, and he eventually finds a job, a home, and, best of all, true friends. All would be well if it were not for the king's courtiers, who will stop at nothing to get the boy back to the castle. The second volume in this contemporary fairy tale continues the quiet introspection and striking visual elements of *The Invisible Kingdom* (2016) as it examines concepts of personal choice and responsibility. The gently rambling narrative flows easily, and the prose balances a sense of wonder and underlying tension. Simple black figures set against a range of colorful, patterned backgrounds make for vibrant, engaging pages that echo the events in the text. A cliffhanger ending will leave readers waiting for the next volume in this enchanting series.--Hayes, Summer Copyright 2016 Booklist



#2348239 (Vol. 01) Invisible Kingdom (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rob Ryan

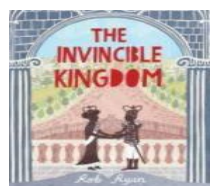
He lived in a palace that seemed to have been specially designed to make someone who already felt small feel even smaller. He rarely saw his parents, who were always busy being the King and Queen; and, unlike other children, the Prince never spent time dreaming about what he would be when he grew up because he knew that when his father died, he would become King. It was his destiny. The only person who treated the Prince like a normal child was the Bootman. Understanding that everyone needs something to call their own, the Bootman gave the Prince a pen with invisible ink and a special flashlight that allowed him to create a world that only he could see.

978-1-62371-782-7 ©2023 9 x 12-1/2 64 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up-First of a three-part narrated modern fairy tale originally published in England, this oversize volume follows the life of a lonely young prince who becomes king at the age of 13 after his elderly father's death. Having led a solitary life at the palace under the stern Lord Von Dronus, his demanding tutor who believes in living life "according to rules," the young prince lacks playmates. But in his occasional wanderings, he has visited the very bottom of the palace, making the acquaintance, then friendship, of the Bootman-a wise and clever young fellow who polishes the palace footwear. The Bootman is a good listener-nonjudgmental and caring-who answers the prince's questions "thoughtfully and honestly" and gives him a pen that writes in invisible ink and a "special torch" to reveal the markings that enable the prince to draw an imaginary village on the drapes encircling his four-poster bed. When he discovers a window in the palace attic, he begins to sneak out at night to wander the city, fascinated with the ordinary people he observes at their nighttime occupations. Ryan's hand-drawn, screenprinted, and cut-paper illustrations, filled with intricate patterns, detailed cityscapes, and numerous black silhouettes, are placed on watercolor backgrounds ranging from bright yellow to dark gray hues. Much of the text is printed in gray on black backgrounds, creating a visually stunning presentation. VERDICT An intriguing fantasy that pulls readers right into the story with its enchanting plot and eye-catching artwork.-Susan Scheps, formerly at Shaker Public Library, OH Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2348233 (Vol. 03) Invincible Kingdom (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rob Ryan

Born into the royal family, John has always known he doesn't want to be King. To escape his destiny he's run away and built a different kind of future for himself. But just when everything seems to be going right for John, his past catches up with him: Lord Von Dronus, the palace's senior courtier, is determined to hunt him down.

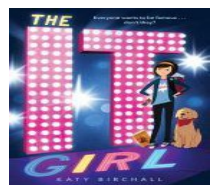
Forced into hiding with his best friend, June, it seems as though John will never be able to live an ordinary life. Until one night he decides to put an audacious plan into place.

978-1-62371-783-4 ©2023 9 x 12-1/2 64 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

It Girl (Birchall / Trade)



#1961032 (Vol. 01) It Girl (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katy Birchall

Everyone wants to be famous...don't they? With the paparazzi moving in and the cool crowd being friendly for the first time ever, Anna must figure out who her real friends are--before her awkwardness is exposed to the whole world.

978-1-4814-6362-1 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-In this witty British import, a middle schooler must face her own insecurity after her social status gets an unexpected boost. Anna Huntley, 12, is most comfortable at home with her journalist single dad, watching old movies and communing with her pet/soulmate, Dog. She's terrified she'll embarrass her only friends, Jess and Danny, into abandoning her. Anna's quirky personality and frequent misreading of situations are bemusing, even to Jess. When Anna's father starts dating a superstar, the potential for public humiliation is high. For naive Anna, navigating the limelight as well as normal adolescence (crushes! field trips!) is a test for her already shaky social instincts. After she imperils both her sweet fledgling romance with a fellow nerd and, worse, her friendship with Jess, she must rely on her new blended family's support to scheme her way back to happiness. Smart plotting has the well-developed adult characters and Marianne, Anna's surprisingly nice celebante sister, demonstrate that anyone worth knowing is a little dorky. Birchall's debut is appropriate for younger readers yet sharp enough to keep older middle schoolers rooting for a well-earned happy ending. There are flaws: a slightly slow start, some culturally insensitive asides-Anna's goals include feeding rice to African children, and unlikely tween email habits. VERDICT Though not nearly as nuanced and authentic, this is in the vein of Rebecca Stead's Goodbye Stranger; its juicy premise gives way to supportive female friendship and realistic self-discovery, without losing its teen appeal.-Miriam DesHarnais, Towson University, MD Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

#1997722 (Vol. 02) Team Awkward (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katy Birchall

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



There are good ways of starting school after Spring Break. But hiding in the bathroom because the video of you falling butt-first into a potted plant has gone viral is not one of them. If she's going to be famous, Anna is determined to find a worthy "thing" to be famous for. Everyone else seems to have one--especially the new girl at school who's distracting her crush, Connor, with a shared love of art. Luckily sports day is looming and Anna is limbering up! What could go wrong?

978-1-4814-6365-2 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 670

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-This second entry in the series is true to the humorous tone of the first book, albeit with slightly lowered stakes. Having been thrust into the limelight as a result of her father's marriage to a movie star, 12-year-old Anna Huntley has strengthened her wobbly self-esteem in order to make trustworthy friends, embrace her expanded family, and realize which boy she likes. However, in this sequel, Anna still faces mishaps in the public eye, including a viral video of her falling into a planter, but the catalysts for drama are a bit flimsier. Spurred by a snarky tabloid piece on useless "it" girls, Anna decides outrageous measures are necessary in order to prove her worth, both to the world at large and to her crush, Connor, who seems distracted. To that end, she becomes captain of the Puffins team for her school's sports day, despite being extremely unathletic and a little shy. As in many rom-coms, most of the problems Anna encounters could be cleared up through better communication-but that's not how high jinks are made. The relatively slight plot is bolstered by breezy pacing and genuinely funny dialogue. Jess, Anna's best friend, is a little on the undermining side, but Anna's unconventional family is portrayed with warmth and specificity. As in the last book, emails, notes, and lists are interspersed throughout; their use may not square with how middle schoolers communicate now, but it does make for easy reading. Anna's process of growing into herself is realistically bumpy, with relatable ups and downs as she develops new capacities and interests. VERDICT This series installment should hold great appeal for tweens who enjoy comic fiction with a touch of age-appropriate romance, with added interest for Anglophiles and self-identified members of "Team Awkward."-Miriam DesHarnais, Towson University, MD Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2042675 (Vol. 03) It Girl in Rome (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katy Birchall

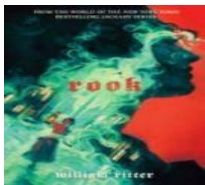
Anna Huntley, her friends, and her ACTUAL boyfriend (definitely requires shouting) Connor are going on a class trip to Rome! This is the ideal opportunity for Anna not only to escape the craziness of her dad's wedding to his world-famous actress fiancée, but also to have a real romantic date with Connor.

978-1-4814-6368-3 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 790

Jackaby (Algonquin/Trade)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#2330424 Rook (Hardcover (Trade))

written by William Ritter

Abigail Rook never intended to be the mortal bridge between the human and supernatural world. But now, the power of the Sight--and all the chaos that comes with seeing the essential truth of everything, every human, fairy, werewolf, enchanted slip of paper, and municipal building, at all times--is hers alone. (Companion)

978-1-64375-240-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

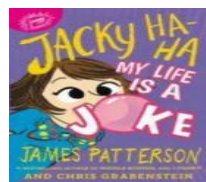
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 6-10 In this stand-alone sequel to *The Dire King* (2018), Abigail Rook, whose ability to identify and interpret auras has been mentored by Mr. Jackaby, now serves as a paranormal consultant to the New Fiddleham Police Department. She accepts a burglary case but is soon investigating a series of murders and several kidnappings (including that of her fiancée, Charlie Barker). Further complicating her life are the sudden appearance of her parents (who want to take her home to England to be married) and two peculiar detectives who work for the Bureau of Curiosities. Set in 1890s New England, this Sherlockian mystery is cleverly written, features an appealing (if often insecure) protagonist, and is filled with all manner of magical, shape-shifting creatures. The inclusion of numerous plot twists and steadily rising action throughout will

please mystery fans as well. While this will be most appreciated by those who have read the earlier Jackaby quartet, Rook will also appeal to fantasy and adventure enthusiasts. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Following the (impermanent) death of her eccentric employer, R.F. Jackaby, Abigail Rook, much to her dismay, inherited his ability to see energy and emotional auras. In this stand-alone set in the Jackaby series world, Abigail must now take the lead in their supernatural detective work. Most unusually, the New England city of New Fiddleham includes a rift to the supernatural world. Many paranormals--goblins, trolls, elves, fairies, and their like--have moved in, necessitating a Paranormal Division of police, for which Jackaby and Abigail consult. But while Abigail was cloistered for months, training as the new Seer, supernatural crime and human-paranormal tensions soared. Though feeling decidedly unready, Abigail must use her gift to trace a series of kidnappings and murders. Things grow especially bleak when her prospective sister-in-law, who can shape shift into dog form, is implicated in a murder and Abigail's fiance, Charlie Barker, is kidnapped. Like Jonathan Stroud's Lockwood & Co. series, this book expertly blends witty banter, sympathetic, struggling characters, descriptive worldbuilding, and sometimes-gory supernatural crimes with all-too-believable motives. Quick-moving action and creative supernatural elements will hold readers' attention, though characters' memory-loss incidents might lead to some plot confusion, and the denouement feels rushed. Human-presenting characters read White; Charlie has a "faint Slavic accent." Lively supernatural investigations with humor and heart. (Fantasy. 12-16) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up--This stand-alone novel is a spin-off of Ritter's well-known "Jackaby" series and follows Abigail Rook. The British Rook is now lead supernatural investigator with Jackaby as her assistant after she receives his sight. The pair have been practicing with Rook's new powers to prepare for solving crimes; for their first case, they are thrown into a complex crime with murder and missing people. The novel is set in the Victorian-era New England town of New Fiddleham where supernatural entities are an open secret after several public displays. Rook's fiancé Charlie is a hound shape-shifter who helps to keep the peace between humans and non-humans. Charlie's sister Alina oversees the veil-gate, an area connecting to a world of magic, something that is not yet fully accepted in New Fiddleham. As Rook attempts to find her footing, her parents turn up to bring her home and marry her off. She tries to keep her two worlds apart while figuring out what she wants from her life, including if she wants her newfound powers. The fantasy world is further fleshed out while the investigators face one of their biggest mysteries and are introduced to the Bureau of Curiosities, a government agency much like their own that investigates the paranormal. Reading the original series would help fill in backstory, but familiarity isn't necessary to follow along. A well-crafted alternative history that will leave readers wanting even more. Main characters cue as white. VERDICT A much-anticipated and worthwhile return to the world of Jackaby.--Rebecca Greer Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Jacky Ha-Ha (Trade)



#2014396 (Vol. 02) My Life Is a Joke (Hardcover (POB))

written by James Patterson

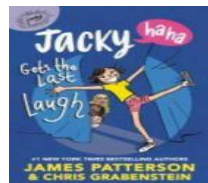
James Patterson's newest hilarious heroine returns in Jacky Ha-Ha: My Life Is a Joke, Jacky Hart has found a hidden talent in the performing arts, and she's a triple threat onstage! She wants nothing more than to act and sing all summer--but her parents have other plans for her. Jacky reluctantly signs up for a summer job in her resort town of Seaside Heights, New Jersey, where tourists come to enjoy the beach and fun carnival atmosphere. Now she has serious responsibilities like her job and babysitting her younger sisters, but Jacky longs to perform in the summer stock performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Can she handle all of her important commitments and still have fun with her friends--or will she learn that juggling isn't one of her many talents? James Patterson's middle grade jokester Jacky returns in this wild romp through summer in the Jersey Shore, featuring lively illustrations by French artist duo Kerasco. 978-0-316-43376-1 ©2017 6 x 8 304 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: Booklist In 1991, 12-year-old Jacky and her older sisters must find summer jobs to help support the family. Soon she's running the Balloon Race game on the Jersey Shore boardwalk. Though she never stutters while amusing customers with her wisecracking carny patter, her tryout for A Midsummer Night's Dream is a near disaster. Still, she lands a small part. Later, after the Balloon Race booth is robbed and she loses her job, she puts her acting skills to practical use, setting a "mousetrap" to catch the thief. Lines from Shakespearean dialogue, along with facts about his plays and Elizabethan stagecraft, are woven into the story. As in Jacky Ha-Ha (2016), the framework introduces Jacky as an adult, a successful actress reminiscing for her two daughters. Black-and-white drawings with speech balloons illustrate the narrative and underscore its humor. Often impulsive but later reflective, the young Jacky makes mistakes and learns from them. Whether she's helping a sister, solving a crime, or dealing with a boy's first stumbling steps toward romance, this chapter book is engaging from start to finish. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Patterson and Grabenstein's latest big-time series will fly off the shelves, and that's no joke.

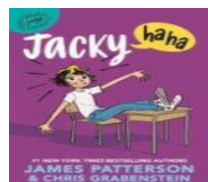
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7-Jacky's mom is back from Desert Storm, her dad has graduated from cop school, and summer is

about to begin. Time for ice cream on the docks and hanging out with friends! Except Jacky's dad is taking a low-paying summer job to get his foot in the door with the police department and now her mom has decided to go into the police academy. Jacky and her six sisters have all been instructed to get jobs to help pay for groceries and babysit their youngest siblings. On top of that, a famous actress is in town, and Jacky's favorite teacher has asked her and her friends to be in a Shakespearean production. There is also a mysterious rash of crime going on all over town. How will Jacky juggle all of her responsibilities, solve the crime, earn enough money, and still have fun? Whimsically illustrated by French duo Kerascodt, the line drawings are reminiscent of "Archie" comics and add more jokes to the story, which is occasionally very funny with a wacky plot. Unfortunately, Jacky is a mostly flat character, as are her family and friends. Disappointingly, stereotypes abound. The Italian shopkeeper is described as wearing large gold chains and saying "fuggedaboutit," the only other characters whose physical characteristics are described in detail are African Americans, and it is noted that girls enjoy gossip, clothes, and relationships (but boys do not). Pop culture references from the 1990s detract from the story and may be confusing or irrelevant to today's kids. **VERDICT** An additional purchase for robust collections. -Terry Ann Lawler, Burton Barr Library, Phoenix Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2317237 (Vol. 03) Jacky Ha-Ha Gets the Last Laugh (Hardcover (Trade))
written by James Patterson
 Jacky Hart finally knows the thrill of having people laugh with her (not at her). She tries to put her comedy and theater skills to use in her summer job--but the boardwalk crowds aren't exactly adoring. So Jacky jumps at the opportunity of a lifetime: an all-expense paid trip to theater camp!
 978-0-316-41009-0 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 6.0

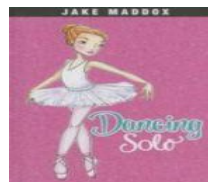
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#2309271 (Vol. 01) Jacky Ha-Ha (Paperback (Trade))
written by James Patterson
 Becoming a class clown and turning everything into a joke in order to avoid feeling the pain of her mother's military service and her father's perpetual absence, 12-year-old Jacky makes a promise to give up something she loves if it will keep her family together. (re-issue)
 978-0-316-50834-6 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 384 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 6.0

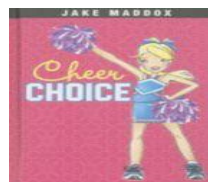
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$7.99

Jake Maddox Girl Sports Stories (Stone Arch Books)



#1920226 Dancing Solo (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox
 Sarah knows she's the best dancer in her class, and she can't wait to show off at the upcoming recital. But when a new move proves too tough to master, Sarah is forced to do something she's never had to do before -- ask for help.
 978-1-4342-4142-9 ©2014 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.3 GR Lvl N Lexile 580

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49



#1920227 Cheer Choice (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox
 When Colleen's best friend and co-captain changes schools, she's devastated. The cheerleading squad won't be the same without Meredith. But when Colleen learns that Meredith is teaching her new squad the routine they created together for an upcoming competition, she's hurt. Colleen has to decide what's more important - keeping her friend or coming in first.

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49



#1750632 Soccer Show-off (Library Binding)

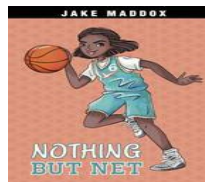
written by Jake Maddox

Gina loves playing soccer, and she can't wait to join the team at her new school. But when Gina tries to be the star of the team, her new teammates don't exactly appreciate it. Gina has to learn that teamwork is more important than winning before she can get back on the field.

978-1-4342-4144-3 ©2014 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.7 GR Lvl N Lexile 640

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.49



#2169806 Nothing but Net (Library Binding)

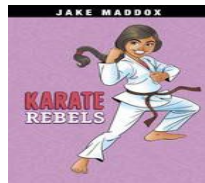
written by Jake Maddox

Layla loves playing basketball, especially with her best friend, Danika. Now, after spending most of the summer getting ready for tryouts, Layla is eager to move from substitute player to becoming one of the starting five. When tryouts finally arrive, Layla not only makes the main roster but she's also chosen to be the team captain. All of her friends and teammates are excited for her. All, that is, except Danika who is jealous of her friend's success. Layla soon discovers that being both team captain and best friends with Danika is no easy task. Can Layla be a good team captain and a good friend?

978-1-4965-9706-9 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.3 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 490

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.49



#2169493 Karate Rebels (Library Binding)

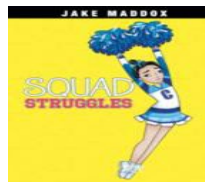
written by Jake Maddox

Karate is the most important thing in Aliyah's life. It allows her to fight - and she's good at that. It also makes her feel like a winner. Nothing is more important to Aliyah than taking down an opponent, especially if it's her main rival, Suma. Things soon change with the arrival of a new student, Zoya, who also happens to be Suma's little sister. Aliyah sees something familiar in Zoya - an anger and aggression that reminds Aliyah of herself. Upon the request of Suma, and with the approval of the sensei, Aliyah agrees to train Zoya. Through their training, she helps Zoya control her anger but also manages to learn a valuable lesson of her own - winning isn't everything.

978-1-4965-9709-0 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 640

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.49



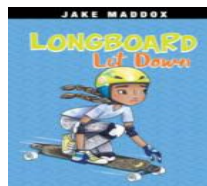
#2020194 Squad Struggles (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

Tam is on the cheerleading squad--finally. Tam works hard and she has plenty of talent. She loves jumping and doing flips and dancing. But Tam's family is different than most of the other squad members' families. Her mom doesn't speak English and she has five little brothers. There's no way they can afford the cheerleading sneakers and hair ribbons the rest of the squad has. Several girls on the squad do little things

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.49

that make it clear that Tam isn't welcome. Will Tam be able to stand up for herself?
 And if she does, will anything actually change?
 978-1-4965-4971-6 ©2018 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.3 GR Lvl P Lexile GN 570



#2020195 Longboard Let Down (Library Binding)

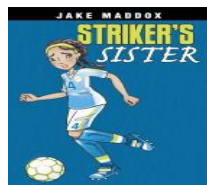
written by Jake Maddox

Valeria has always been one of the best downhill longboarders around, but as she comes back from an injury she seems to have lost her fearless verve. The Pro Longboarding event is right around the corner and Valeria has always dominated the "locals" kids division. Everyone expects this year to be the same--everyone except Valeria.

978-1-4965-4972-3 ©2018 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl P Lexile 510

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$19.49



#2078178 Striker's Sister (Library Binding)

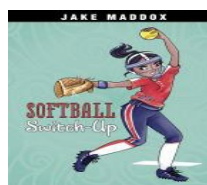
written by Jake Maddox

Lily Davis' big sister, Jana, has recently left home for basic training, and Lily really misses her soccer idol. But when Lily's parents and coach start pushing her to fill Jana's cleats, the pressure to be like the all-star striker is too much. Can Lily find the strength to be herself?

978-1-4965-6355-2 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl P Lexile 460

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49



#2112320 Softball Switch-Up (Library Binding)

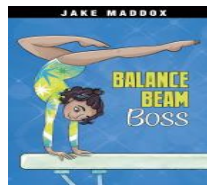
written by Jake Maddox

Raisa Kumar has been playing softball for years, and thanks to the support and encouragement of her team, the Silver Stars, she's one of the best pitchers in the league. When a new girl, Annie, joins the team and wants to learn how to pitch, Raisa is eager to help. But Raisa is sure her way is the best way, what words for her has to work for Annie. Can Raisa lean to step back and share the mound for the good of her team?

978-1-4965-8324-6 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl P Lexile 530

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49



#2112319 Balance Beam Boss (Library Binding)

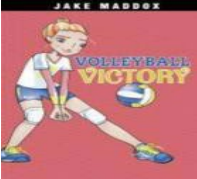
written by Jake Maddox

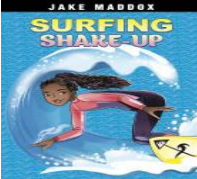
Sofia is used to being the best gymnast at her modest gym in the city. But after a bad fall and injury during practice, getting back on the beam is harder than she thought. When she does come back after rehabbing, Sofia is consumed with fear and anxiety related to her fall, emotions her coach doesn't seem to recognize. Can Sofia overcome her fear and trauma to make it back on the beam?

978-1-4965-8325-3 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.


Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl Q Lexile 630


Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1955012 Volleyball Victory (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Andrea is excited for another volleyball season. But the new coach is bringing the team back to basics, and now Andrea is unhappy and feeling frustrated in her new position. 978-1-4965-2619-9 ©2016 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl P Lexile 650</p>	1	\$19.49

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2316266 Surfing Shake-Up (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Rosie loves nothing more than spending her summers surfing while staying with her Aunt Hazel in Australia. But this summer, her cousin Flora is coming to visit, too, and Aunt Hazel wants Rosie to teach Flora how to surf. Trouble is, Flora has a history of being mean to Rosie--and it doesn't take long to figure out that Flora hasn't changed one bit. Can Rosie set aside her hard feelings and teach her cousin to ride the waves? Or will this shake-up to Rosie's summer of surfing lead to a wicked wipeout? Find out in this exciting, easy-to-read chapter book by Jake Maddox! 978-1-6690-0711-1 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 590</p>	1	\$19.49

Jake Maddox JV (Stone Arch Books)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2304551 Eight-Wheel Wonder (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Kadijah Carrie: aka KC: is obsessed with roller skating. When its revival goes viral on the internet, she shows her parents and friends all the cool videos and tricks she can find. Then Kadijah discovers the world of roller speed skating, and she is determined to take part in a local speed skating tournament. But there's a tiny problem . . . Kadijah doesn't know how to skate. Will the help of her friends and a stint at a fast-food drive-in get Kadijah up to speed for the race, or will she wipe out? 978-1-6663-4486-8 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl R Lexile 610</p>	1	\$19.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2247216 Quarterback Dreams (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Darius Livingston is the starting running back for the seventh-grade football team, but he dreams of playing quarterback. When the team is forced to forfeit the rest of its season, Darius and his teammates get the chance to play with the eighth graders. Darius is sure this is his chance to prove he can throw the ball and be a great quarterback. But can Darius show off his skills and still be a team player? 978-1-6639-1091-2 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 640</p>	1	\$19.99

Quantity Unit Price



#2247217 Taking It to the Mat (Library Binding)

1

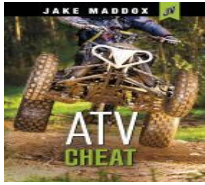
\$19.99

written by Jake Maddox

Fourteen-year old Aarash is nervous to start his freshman year at Fremont Central High School. Though his family has lived in the United States since he was eight years old, Aarash still feels like an outsider. Then an older friend suggests Aarash join the school's JV wrestling team. Aarash is nervous but tries out anyway and is excited to make the team. But a bully on the mat makes Aarash rethink everything. Can he see his commitment through? Or will taking it to the mat cost more than he's willing to sacrifice?

978-1-6639-1095-0 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 740



#2375215 ATV Cheat (Library Binding)

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$19.99

written by Jake Maddox

A young ATV rider and his friend set out to solve a race-day mystery in this action-packed installment of the Jake Maddox JV chapter book series. Teen ATV riders Josh and Christyna are revving up for a big race. Unfortunately, someone has sabotaged the trails, putting the safety of ATV racers- and mountain bikers- in jeopardy. Josh suspects his archrival, Adam, but he needs proof! Can Josh and Christyna dig up the dirt to solve this ATV mystery, or will the ATV motocross culprit leave them in the dust? With fast-paced text and extreme sports actions, this installment in the bestselling Jake Maddox JV series is the perfect, attention-keeping read for young gearheads and sports fans.

978-1-6690-5958-5 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl T



#2375216 Basketball Battles (Library Binding)

Quantity

Unit Price

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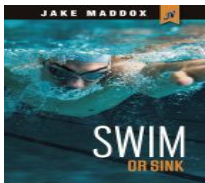
\$19.99

written by Jake Maddox

Raven is dealing with a lot- her grandmother's recent death, a knee injury from an accident, and a tiff with her best friend. But she's determined to prove to her basketball coach that her knee is in good enough shape for her to play in the Jammin' Salmon basketball tournament, which she's been participating in since she was little. So she pushes herself- and her teammates- a little too much while trying to prove she should play in the tournament. But to really get back into the game, Raven will have to battle her own feelings of anger and sadness first- and make some amends.

978-1-6690-5959-2 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl S



#2112324 Swim or Sink (Library Binding)

Quantity

Unit Price

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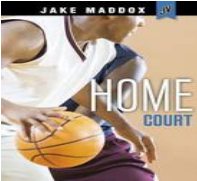
\$19.99

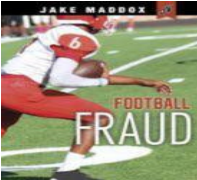
written by Jake Maddox


Baxter Reilly has always felt at home in the water. And the school swim team has been his place of refuge, especially over the past few months. Baxter's parents have separated, and his father is now living in a rundown apartment. Instead of dealing with his home life, Baxter has devoted himself to the swim team as the anchor of their 4x400 freestyle. But how can he anchor a team when his life is so adrift?

978-1-4965-8463-2 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

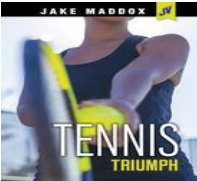
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl T Lexile 640

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2169818 Home Court (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Lew loves playing on his community center's basketball team. He is shocked when he learns that the community center might be shutting down, jeopardizing the future of the team. With no school teams available to them, Lew and his friends worry they won't get to compete in basketball at all. Can Lew and his teammates find a way to keep the center open and give their team the opportunity to win big on their home court? 978-1-4965-9700-7 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 690</p>	1	\$19.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2220876 Football Fraud (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> When DeSean Mitchell makes an embarrassing mistake while showboating in the end zone, he ends up costing his football team the game. In the final play, he's tackled and lies on the field in defeat. A teammate assumes he is hurt, and rather than face the shame of his mistake, DeSean fakes an injury. How long will DeSean let the deception go on? 978-1-5158-8236-7 ©2021 5-1/4 x 8 96 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl R Lexile 600</p>	1	\$19.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2222020 Lucky Soccer Save (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Luis "Lucky" Martinez is the new kid on River Valley Junior High's JV soccer team. But his goalie skills aren't the only thing being tested. When a school talent show opens for auditions, Luis will find out if he's inherited his abuela's musical skills. Can Luis juggle both, or will he have to choose which of his passions to save: soccer or music? 978-1-5158-8237-4 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl R Lexile 600</p>	1	\$19.99

Jake Maddox JV Girls (Stone Arch Books)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2221989 Tennis Triumph (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Mira Ravi is the first-seed singles star on Hilltop Middle School's tennis team, but her life off the court is a much harder match to win. Mira juggles tough responsibilities at home, in school, and with her team, but she also has a secret that threatens the balance. Can Mira be honest about her struggles and still play the sport she loves? 978-1-5158-8238-1 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 600</p>	1	\$19.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2221988 Point Guard Pride (Library Binding)	1	\$19.99

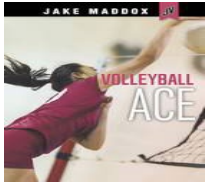


written by Jake Maddox

It is never easy to be the new kid in school-or on the basketball team. But when Yasmin Jones faces racism from one of her new teammates, she insists on dealing with it on her own. Her solution is to prove to her new team that she is a star player. As pressure builds, though, Yasmin's game suffers. How can Yasmin address her problems on and off the court?

978-1-5158-8235-0 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 620



#2169822 Volleyball Ace (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

Until now, Layla has balanced her school work and volleyball easily enough. In eighth grade, though, academic expectations are tougher. Student-athletes need at least a C average in all classes to play sports. When Layla's dedication to volleyball puts her algebra grade at risk, her chances of making the high school freshman team next year are on the line. Can she find a way to ace her classes like she does on the court?

978-1-4965-9701-4 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 690

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99



#2169821 Gymnastics Comeback (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

As an eighth grader, Suzy has just joined the high school gymnastics team, so she is crushed when she gets injured and can't practice or compete. Meanwhile her mother wishes she wouldn't participate in gymnastics and would focus her efforts on her piano playing instead. Facing pressures from her team, her coach, and her mother, Suzy has to take charge of her own destiny. Can she make a comeback in time to help her team defeat its biggest rival?

978-1-4965-9702-1 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 610

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99



#2112328 Out of Step (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

After a big growth spurt, dancer Mercy Smyth feels completely out of step. Her new height has thrown off her center. Now dance moves that used to be easy are challenging and gymnastics skills that were always tricky are nearly impossible. It's going to take a lot of extra work--and money that Mercy doesn't have--to bring her skills back to competition level. Will Mercy ever feel graceful again?

978-1-4965-8469-4 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 2.0 GR Lvl R Lexile 650

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

#2247221 Hoops and Hopes (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

For twelve-year-old Autumn Holloway, a week at Blazing Hoops wheelchair basketball camp is a dream come true. She has high hopes that it will be her ticket to

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99



making friends and connections in the adaptive sports community. But Autumn struggles to fit in with her wealthier fellow campers. To make matters worse, she has to use a borrowed basketball wheelchair that keeps needing repairs. It takes a chance encounter with the campus custodial staff to help Autumn realize that, no matter where she's from or how she speaks, she belongs at camp--and on the court--just as much as anyone else.

978-1-6639-1103-2 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 670

Jake Maddox JV Mysteries (Stone Arch Books)

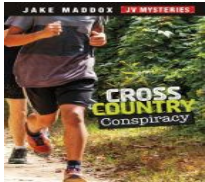


#2247228 Full-Court Mess (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox

Lisa Vega and her basketball teammates are thrilled when they make it into the regional playoffs. But before they can play their first game, they discover that their school gym has been vandalized. Paint is splattered everywhere. The basketball hoops and nets are destroyed. And all of the balls have been slashed open. It's the middle of winter, and the girls have nowhere to practice. Who would do this? Did the rival team from across town somehow wreck the girls' gym? Or is someone else to blame? Follow along as Lisa and her teammates uncover the clues and track down the culprit who trashed their court in this Jake Maddox JV Mystery.

978-1-6639-1107-0 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 640

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

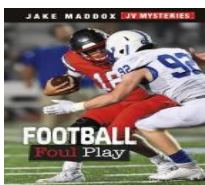


#2247226 Cross-Country Conspiracy (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox

While at summer camp, Domingo and Carmen Rivera are excited for the big Camp Rivals Race, an annual cross-country running competition. But during the boy's race, one runner trips and knocks over several competitors. Then another runner interferes with Domingo and keeps him from finishing in a higher spot. What's going on? Are the boys conspiring against Domingo and the other runners from his camp? And what will happen to Carmen and the girls during their race? Follow Domingo and Carmen as they track down the clues to reveal the truth about the rival runners' plans in this Jake Maddox JV Mystery.

978-1-6639-1111-7 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 610

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99



#2247227 Football Foul Play (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox

After winning their first playoff game, Badger teammates Kenny Hu and Romeo Russell get some disturbing news. The Supreme Bowl trophy has been stolen from the rival school across town! Even worse, the evidence points to the Badgers' quarterback being the culprit. At first, Kenny and Romeo think it's just a prank that went too far. But when their teammate insists that he didn't do it, they decide to investigate. Where will the clues lead? Will the evidence show that their friend is innocent? Follow Kenny and Romeo as they work to uncover the truth behind the stolen trophy in this

Quantity
1
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Jake Maddox JV Mystery.
978-1-6639-1115-5 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 600



#2247229 Gymnastics Payback (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

Mia Hernandez's gymnastics team is nervous about the upcoming season. However, they're encouraged when their new coach tells them that she was once a gymnast for their longtime rivals. The coach's knowledge will be a great advantage during the season. But strange things begin to happen at the competitions. The wrong music is played during some girls' floor exercises. Itching powder ends up in one team's chalk. At another meet, the parallel bars fall apart while a competitor performs her routine. Someone is taking dangerous risks to cheat at the competitions. But who could it be, and why? Follow along as Mia discovers the shocking truth behind who's been sabotaging the competition during the gymnastics season in this Jake Maddox JV Mystery.

978-1-6639-1119-3 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 660

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99



#2273843 Off Base (Library Binding)

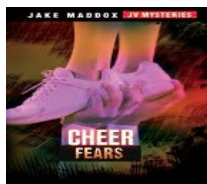
written by Jake Maddox

Jayden is one stolen base away from the school record when he's accused of cheating on his science test. When the answer key is discovered in his locker, he knows he's been framed, and if he has any chance of finishing the baseball season, he'll have to figure out who did it. With the help of a school reporter, Jayden collects clues to solve the mystery. Will he be able to clear his name in time to break the school record, or will he be left watching from the stands?

978-1-6639-7497-6 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 540

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99



#2273842 Cheer Fears (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

Robert, Maryam, and Kylie are excited to be at a sleepaway cheer camp. But then their bunkmates- and main cheer competition- try to convince them their cabin is haunted. The three friends laugh it off until some suspicious things start happening. Flickering lights, getting locked in the bathroom, vandalized poms could all be the work of a cheer competitor . . . or is it the Cabin 4 ghost? Robert is convinced he knows who's to blame, but will he be able to prove it?

978-1-6639-7514-0 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 640

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

#2273844 Soccer Suspicions (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

A professional soccer star has loaned a treasured medal to Stratford Park Middle School goalie Gabriella Carter. But the medal has gone missing! Gabriella and her

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1
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\$19.99



teammate Serena are determined to track it down as they gather information from classmates throughout the school. From the robotics lab to the computer room to student activities room, the soccer players gather clues that make one thing clear: someone stole it. The question is who and why?
 978-1-6639-7517-1 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0



#2273845 Track and Field Trick (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox
 The Sally Ride track and field team's season is off to a rocky start thanks to some suspicious activity. Missing field equipment, stolen uniforms, and finally blackmail notes to the assistant coach, Josh, make it clear: someone wants Coach Josh out of the way. But why? Shot put thrower Sena is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery. But soon the culprit frames Sena herself! Will Sena add up the clues in time to save her season and Coach Josh's job?
 978-1-6639-7519-5 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 96 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 1.0

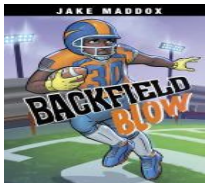
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Jake Maddox Sports Stories (Stone Arch Books)



#2247233 Fast-Break Friends (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox
 Anthony Duran has been Ricky Lau's best friend and basketball buddy since they were little. But now that Ricky has moved schools, the boys find themselves on different middle school basketball teams. With few new friends, Ricky still wants to shoot hoops with his best bud. Anthony, on the other hand, doesn't want to practice with an opponent. Ricky is willing to do whatever it takes to get his friend back. But what if that means letting his new team down?
 978-1-6639-1123-0 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 640

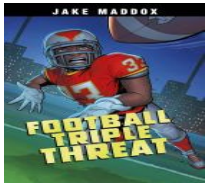
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49



#2247232 Backfield Blow (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox
 Nothing can stop star running back Harris Weathers-until he takes a jarring hit, narrowly escaping injury. Harris is fine, physically, but his nerves are rattled. He can't shake the idea that he could get hurt playing football. After faking illness to get out of a game, Harris realizes he has a decision to make. Does he love football enough to risk a big hit again? And is there anything he can do to keep himself safe while playing the game he loves?
 978-1-6639-1127-8 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 590

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$19.49

Quantity **Unit Price**



#2304557 Football Triple Threat (Library Binding)

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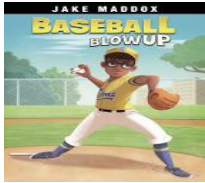
\$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

Michael has the speed to be a great wide receiver, but he struggles to consistently catch passes. The defensive coach sees potential in Michael's speed and has him try his hand at defensive back. Then the head coach puts Michael on special teams to return kicks. Michael is grateful for all of the opportunities to help his team win, but catching passes continues to trouble him. Can Michael improve his catching and become true triple threat?

978-1-6663-4499-8 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl Q Lexile 650



#2316277 Baseball Blowup (Library Binding)

Quantity

Unit Price

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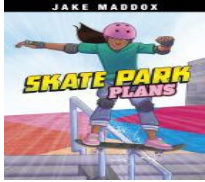
\$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

Malcolm loves two things--baseball and science. He's always studying the stats and coming up with ideas to help his team gain an advantage over the competition. But when Malcolm's homemade glove oil causes a major blowup with his teammates, he must find a way to win back their trust. Leaning into science and statistics, he decides to try a new type of pitch to keep batters off balance during his next start. Will Malcolm's secret pitch prove to be a game winner or just another failed experiment? Find out in this exciting, easy-to-read chapter book by Jake Maddox!

978-1-6690-0727-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 630



#2375220 Skate Park Plans (Library Binding)

Quantity

Unit Price

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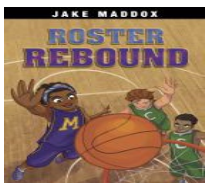
\$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

Avani Patel loves to skateboard. With the nearest skate park an hour away, though, she doesn't get much chance to sharpen her skills or practice advance tricks. Then one day, she learns the city council is considering building a skate park in town! But it's far from a done deal. Can Avani and her friends find a way to convince the council that a park is a worthy investment for the community, or will she be stuck doing ollies in her driveway? Find out in this fast-paced, easy-to-read illustrated chapter book by Jake Maddox!

978-1-6690-5976-9 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl P



#2353855 Roster Rebound (Library Binding)

Quantity

Unit Price

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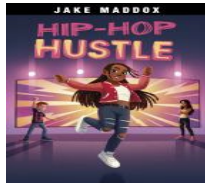
\$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

Nina's basketball dreams have been dashed. After moving to a small town, she learns her new school doesn't have enough players to form a girls b-ball team. Nina is bummed until she finds out the boys team is short one player: and anyone can try out. Nina decides to take a shot, and her hoop hopes rebound when she wins a spot on the roster. But not everyone is pleased she made the team. Can Nina prove herself as a power forward? Or will she buckle under pressure when a teammate tries to foul things up? Find out in this exciting, easy-to-read chapter book by Jake Maddox!

978-1-6690-3330-1 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 580



#2353853 Hip-Hop Hustle (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

Chery lives to dance. She has her own hip-hop dance crew and a signature move that's a surefire showstopper. But when her crew is forced to break up, Chery is faced with joining her school's hip-hop dance team. Trouble is, Chery's not like most dance hopefuls who have formal training. She moves to the music based on what feels right rather than following a strict routine. Will Chery's unique skills be good enough for the dance competition? Or will her hip-hop hustle land her in hot water with her teammates? Find out in this exciting, easy-to-read chapter book by Jake Maddox!

978-1-6690-3337-0 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 620

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.49



#2353856 Soccer Snub (Library Binding)

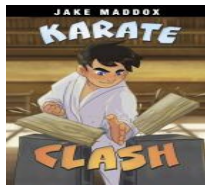
written by Jake Maddox

After working hard in the off-season, Quincy is thrilled to move up to a top-level soccer team and play with his friend Will. But the rest of his new teammates on the Vipers aren't so excited. They give Quincy the cold shoulder, making it difficult for him to find his groove. But soon, Quincy begins to earn some respect. Then his coach shifts him into the starting lineup: and moves Will to the bench. Can Quincy find a way to get Will back in the game? Or will their friendship falter over the sudden soccer snub? Find out in this exciting, easy-to-read chapter book by Jake Maddox!

978-1-6690-3508-4 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 670

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.49



#2353854 Karate Clash (Library Binding)

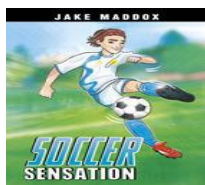
written by Jake Maddox

Levi can't believe his ears when his new stepsister, Sofia, insists that karate isn't a real sport. But he's even more shocked when Sofia suddenly joins his karate school. Why is she there? And why can't she be more respectful toward Levi and his friends? Soon, the sparring between the new siblings turns into an outright competition: until Sofia tries to break a board and has a breakdown instead. Can Levi put aside his feelings to figure out what's at the heart of their karate clash? Find out in this exciting, easy-to-read chapter book by Jake Maddox!

978-1-6690-3517-6 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 540

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.49



#2169827 Soccer Sensation (Library Binding)

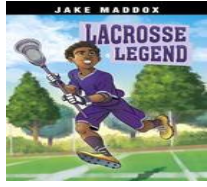
written by Jake Maddox

Cameron Jones plays soccer not because he loves it, but because his dad believed he will one day earn a big prize: a college scholarship. When his father's job transfer takes him from the big city to a small-town team, Cameron thinks it might be his chance to take a step back from soccer. His new team is unorganized and his teammates seem uninterested in the discipline it takes to win. But maybe this new team is exactly what Cameron needs to make soccer fun again.

978-1-4965-9703-8 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 650

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.49



#2169826 Lacrosse Legend (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

Eager to follow in his father's footsteps, Ramon Hill wants nothing more than to be a starting attacker on his lacrosse team. But his dreams don't go as planned, and he's moved to a different position. Playing as a midfielder lets Ramon put his skills and talent to best use, but he can't help but feel disappointed. Will his new position lead to bigger and better things for him and his team?

978-1-4965-9704-5 ©2021 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49



#2112331 Diamond Double Play (Library Binding)

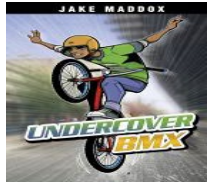
written by Jake Maddox

Blake Easton loves playing wiffle ball with his friends, so when they encourage him to try out for the local traveling baseball team, he decides to give it a shot. Blake has never played organized sports before, and the tryouts are tough, but he makes the team as a second-string player. When a key player on the team gets hurt during their first game of the season, the coach calls on Blake to step in. Can Blake perform under pressure? Will he be able to step up now that he has a chance to play when it counts?

978-1-4965-8329-1 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl P Lexile 610

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49



#2112332 Undercover BMX (Library Binding)

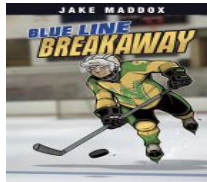
written by Jake Maddox

Devon Rosario has played basketball his whole life, and he's great at it, so great, in fact, that his dad, team, and community in the Bronx can't imagine him doing anything else. And while Devon loves his team, he's not so happy with the rigid structure his success in the sport and his father's expectations has created. So when he sees Jamal, a Yemeni refugee and new kid at school, doing BMX tricks on his bike one day he's intrigued. Can Devon keep his newfound love of BMX under wraps? Or will he be busted when his BMX secret comes out?

978-1-4965-8330-7 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl P Lexile 600

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49



#2078189 Blue Line Breakaway (Library Binding)

written by Jake Maddox

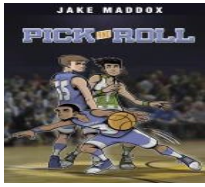
Jack has the talent to be a big-time hockey player just like his older sister. Can Jack find a way to slip out of his sister's shadow and become a hockey phenom in his own right?

978-1-4965-6317-0 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl Q Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.49

Quantity **Unit Price**



#2078190 Pick and Roll (Library Binding)

1 \$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

Roman is the point guard for the Bulldogs, and he's worried about his team and their startling lack of a center. But when big man Sebastian shows up, the Bulldogs are ecstatic . . . until they see that Sebastian's coordination hasn't caught up with his body yet. Can Roman and "Bash" work out a plan to catch the big man up to speed before the season run out?

978-1-4965-6318-7 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.5 GR Lvl Q Lexile 630



#1933443 Caught Stealing (Library Binding)

Quantity Unit Price

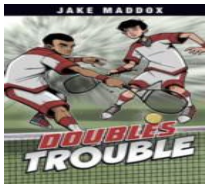
1 \$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

Ian's dad's valuable signed baseball goes missing after a team sleepover. Can Ian trust his teammates and work together to bring the team a win?

978-1-4965-0493-7 ©2016 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl Q Lexile 640



#2020191 Doubles Trouble (Library Binding)

Quantity Unit Price

1 \$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

Deion wanted to make the traveling tennis team as a singles player but failed. The coach, however, finds a spot for Deion as a doubles player. Deion isn't so sure about doubles. And he's definitely not sure about his doubles partner, Dirk, who seems to be the exact opposite of him. Will Deion find a way to stay out of doubles trouble and find success at the net?

978-1-4965-4957-0 ©2018 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl P Lexile 620



#44879 Board Rebel (Library Binding)

Quantity Unit Price

1 \$19.49

written by Jake Maddox

When Tanner moves to an exclusive new town he misses his old skate park, but with the help of the town bully and another new friend, Tanner thinks he can figure out a way to get a skate park built in Woodville.

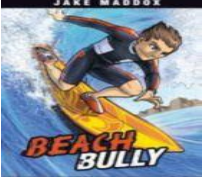
978-1-59889-319-9 ©2007 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.


Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.2 GR Lvl P Lexile 560

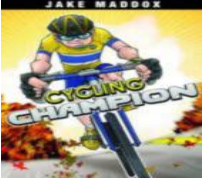
Reviews by: Children's Literature Newsletter for Adults Tanner Ryan is a skateboard fiend. He loves everything about it and he is really good. Trouble is the new neighborhood he and his parents just moved too is not too keen on skateboarding. He hates the place and the local folks are not too crazy about him either! But that is about to change. This adventure story is realistic and face-paced with key scenes that contain vivid descriptions of grinding and racing down steep hills and around curves at breakneck speeds. Even kids who do not skateboard will relate to Tanner and his passion (and they might learn a little about skateboarding as the text is full of related terms). The biggest surprise comes when Tanner visits his old neighborhood (and skateboard park) and unexpectedly finds a way to make his new digs more skateboard friendly. The answer is right in his own backyard! This easy reader (written at a 2.5 reading level) is hip enough to appeal to students in upper elementary and even middle school, which makes it perfect for reluctant or struggling readers. Reviewer: Cathy Puett Miller

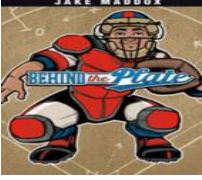
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-These hi/lo books rely on typical sports fiction plots but stand out for their focus on unusual sports. In Board Rebel, Tanner finds himself ostracized when he and his family move to a planned community that doesn't allow skateboarding. In Go-Kart Rush, Tony struggles to keep up when he finds himself the youngest kart racer in a new division. Both stories are written at a second- or third-grade reading level but involve middle grade protagonists and problems-pursuing one's interests and fitting in. In both cases, the boys' dedication

and skill earn them friends who help them resolve their issues. The writing, featuring plenty of sports action and dialogue, is surprisingly engaging, especially considering the constraints of a lower reading level. Each book utilizes the language of the sport at hand. Potentially unfamiliar terms are clearly defined in the backmatter; Go-Kart Rush even includes diagrams. Tiffany's cartoon illustrations have an edge of manga flair. They're eye-catching and support the story, although older readers may think they're a bit too young. The discussion questions and writing prompts at the end of the books add to their appeal for teachers and tutors who work with struggling readers.-Adrienne Furness, Webster Public Library, NY (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1920248 Beach Bully (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Isaac decides to give surfing a try, but his plan hits a snag when a bully lays claim to the entire beach. 978-1-4342-5973-8 ©2014 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl N Lexile 630</p>	1	\$19.49

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1920250 Board Battle (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Conner has to be stand up to a bully who thinks he owns the skatepark in the ultimate battle of the boards. 978-1-4342-5975-2 ©2014 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl N Lexile 630</p>	1	\$19.49

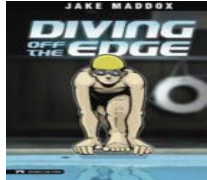
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1663696 Cycling champion (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Austin, eager to prove himself and win a sports trophy like his older brothers, joins a local cycling club and enters a Tour de France-style bike race. Not only does he have to find a bike, train, and learn the course, but he also has to deal with a bully who wants him out of the club. For Austin, it feels like a race just to get to the starting line! 978-1-4342-3290-8 ©2012 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl M Lexile 660</p>	1	\$19.49

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1678415 Behind the Plate (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Danny is a skilled baseball catcher, but suddenly he can no longer make easy throws. He has a case of the yips. 978-1-4342-4010-1 ©2012 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.5 AR Pts 1.0 GR Lvl M Lexile 510</p>	1	\$19.49

	Quantity	Unit Price
<p>#498009 Batter Up! (Library Binding) <i>written by Jake Maddox</i> Caleb has always batted with the same wood bat -- until the other team accuses Caleb of cheating by tampering with the bat! Now Caleb is forced to use the aluminum bat. How is he supposed to help his team win when he keeps striking out?</p>	1	\$19.49



978-1-4342-0465-3 ©2008 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.3 GR Lvl P Lexile 590



#897062 Diving Off the Edge (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox

Riley, having stopped being friends with the daredevil Blake, has to decide if he will come to his old friend's rescue when Blake tries a crazy stunt and puts his life in danger.

978-1-4342-1205-4 ©2009 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 3.1 GR Lvl M Lexile 610

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$19.49

Reviews by: Booklist Kids jeer at Riley because he is scared to take a dangerous jump over the edge of a local cliff into the river. What hurts most is that his daredevil best friend, Blake, joins in the teasing. But Riley loves to swim, and after the school coach pushes him, he joins the swim team and finds success in long distance races, even though Blake and his pals call Riley a dumb jock. The blend of swimming action and the friction between friends and enemies makes this chapter book in the Sports Fiction series an exciting read, and the grey-wash, full-page pictures show the quarrels, the frightening scenes, and the final triumph and reconciliation when Riley performs a daring rescue. The back matter includes water-safety rules as well as a glossary, discussion questions, and writing prompts.--Rochman, Hazel Copyright 2009 Booklist

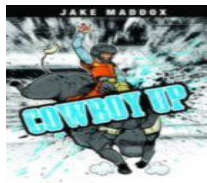


#1575188 Disc Golf Drive (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox

When Ed learns how to play disc golf at summer camp, he can't wait to play with his best friend, Harry. Soon, star quarterback Gordy wants to play too. With Gordy's help, can the boys convince the football coach that Dribble Creek needs its own disc golf team?

978-1-4342-1599-4 ©2010 5-3/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 2.5 GR Lvl M Lexile 610

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49



#1640502 Cowboy Up (Library Binding)
written by Jake Maddox

Jake is the best bull rider in his division. He's never been thrown from a bull and doesn't see that changing anytime soon. But when he takes a bad spill during competition, he hurts more than just his arm. His confidence takes a hit, as well. Jake has to learn to cowboy up and overcome his fear before he can ride again.

978-1-4342-2989-2 ©2012 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 72 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.4 AR Pts 1.0 RC Lvl 2.6 GR Lvl M Lexile 590

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.49

Reviews by: Children's Literature Jake is a champion bull rider, the best in his division. He's never been thrown, and he hopes to win the final. In his last round of the semi-final, he draws a huge bull named King Minos, who has never let a rider last the required eight seconds. King Minos turns out to be a formidable opponent indeed, and when Jake is thrown from the bull's back the boy's shoulder is dislocated. Facing eight weeks of recovery, Jake is discouraged, but then he comes up with a plan: learn to ride left-handed instead. Weeks later, back in the arena, Jake is ready to give bull-riding another try, but then he draws King Minos again. ...

Janitors (Trade)



#1993504 (Vol. 05) Heroes of the Dustbin (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tyler Whitesides

Although their enemies are powerful, their allies few, Spencer and his team of Rebels are not giving up! But what chance do a handful of kids and one rescued janitor have against the combined evil of the Founding Witches and the Sweepers? Can the Rebels close the source of all Glop and stop the Toxites once and for all--or is the world doomed to fall under the control of the sinister Bureau of Educational Maintenance?

978-1-62972-065-4 ©2015 6 x 8 408 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 5.2 Lexile 790

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



#1695066 (Vol. 01) Janitors (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tyler Whitesides

A sixth grader stumbles upon a secret that threatens to turn schoolchildren everywhere into mindless automatons.

978-1-60908-056-3 ©2011 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 307 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Janitors: School of Garbage (Trade)



#2347087 (Vol. 01) Janitors: School of Garbage (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tyler Whitesides

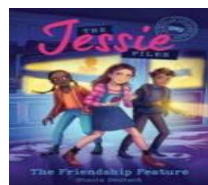
Landon Murphy discovers the undercover janitorial world when his soon-to-be stepsister, Jade Shu, guides him through a magical portal at the bottom of a dumpster that leads to a fantastical landfill and the home of the School of Garbage, where she has secretly been a student for the last few years. Problems at home with his family make it hard for Landon to feel like he belongs anywhere, but he is quickly welcomed a student at the intriguing school for wizard-like janitors. Landon and Jade-along with allies from the original series-are tasked to take out the trash and figure out who-or what-is behind the mysterious garbage attacks and stop them before the entire world is literally trashed.

978-1-63993-168-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Jessie Files: Boxcar Children Book (Trade)



#2275686 (Vol. 01) Friendship Feature (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stacia Deutsch

Jessie Alden thinks her days of solving mysteries are over. But when a new boy at school comes to her with information about strange things taking place at his parent's business, and she also finds out the club she's writing her first feature on seems to know something about it, Jessie realizes her story is much bigger than she thought-and she can't help but get to the bottom of it.

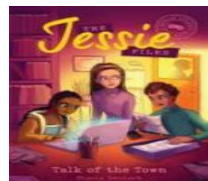
978-0-8075-3786-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl 0 Lexile 680

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In the wake of a freak storm, something is rotten in the town of Greenfield. Jessie Alden is eager to dive into the

new school year: new classes, new friends, new clubs, and, most importantly, new Jessie. That means leaving behind the old Jessie, who "hung out in a boxcar and solved mysteries" with her siblings. But when a new boy at school approaches her with a tale of a bizarre transaction at his parents' art store and strange occurrences in her neighborhood pile up without adding up, Jessie just might have to don her investigator's hat once again, this time with her friends by her side. Deutsch has given the Boxcar Children franchise a modern twist but retains salient features of Gertrude Chandler Warner's original series in creating her version of Greenfield. In doing away with the original family investigative team, this opener heralds a series that feels closer to the A-to-Z Mysteries by Ron Roy and John Steven Gurney, similarly suffused with red herrings, small-town sensibility, and unexpected antagonists, with the added overarching theme of the power of friendship. Characters are distinct and likable, if somewhat shallowly developed, and the surprisingly mature plot clips along at a spritely pace. Jessie and her family are presumed White; supporting characters are children of color. A case worth cracking. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2275685 (Vol. 02) Talk of the Town (Hardcover (Trade))

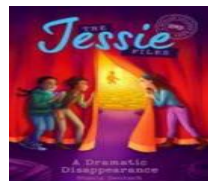
written by Stacia Deutsch

When an embarrassing message between Charla and Daniel goes out to the whole class, Jessie finds herself stuck between her feuding best friends. As she helps Charla investigate how this happened, they find that someone has been tampering with Charla's lawyer mom's computer, and it could spell trouble for her mom's legal case. In order to keep the culprit from walking free, Jessie and Charla need Daniel's help.

978-0-8075-3788-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl O Lexile 700

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2299302 (Vol. 03) Dramatic Disappearance (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stacia Deutsch

When a traveling theater production comes to town, Jessie is excited to write a profile of its star, a talented performer who grew up in Greenfield and is making a big splash around the world. But when the performer goes missing days before the show is set to make its debut, Jessie realizes that something big is going on behind the scenes. If she wants to score a celebrity interview, she's going to have to solve a mystery first.

978-0-8075-3792-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Jinx (Trade)



#1694814 (Vol. 01) Jinx (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sage Blackwood

A young boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond--and within--the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

978-0-06-212990-1 ©2013 6 x 8-5/8 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile HL 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist a forest by his stepfather, young orphan Jinx lands, instead, in the home of a wizard, Simon. There Jinx, who has always had an ability to see others' feelings in colors and symbols, develops the ability to communicate with the forest's trees. But after Simon performs a spell, Jinx loses his capacity as an emotional seer. Setting out into the forest to look for a counterspell, Jinx joins company with a girl and a boy, both of whom are suffering under their own curses. In this expertly paced, beautifully written book, Blackwood elevates familiar fantasy elements with exquisitely credible characters who inhabit a world filled with well-drawn magic and whimsy—witches travel by butter churn, for example. Rounding out the exciting story are terrifying dangers, delightful bouts of wordplay, and vivid settings that will appeal to readers' imaginations, senses of humor, and desire for fair play. A literary cut above Eoin Colfer's Artemis Fowl books but with no less tension or bravado, this exciting, thought-provoking debut will leave readers eager for follow-up adventures.

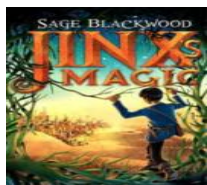
Reviews by: Horn Book Abandoned in the Urwald by his stepfather, Jinx is adopted by a wizard, Simon, who alternately neglects him and

grudgingly teaches him a little magic. Jinx himself has the ability to see people's emotions in colorful clouds around their heads, but after Simon performs a forbidden spell on Jinx, that sixth sense disappears, leaving an absence like a "blank white space inside his head." Jinx sets out through the Urwald to seek his fortune and regain his power, meeting up with chivalrous naif Reven and indiscreetly honest Elfwyn on the Path, the safe road through the woods. They've all been warned against the evil wizard known as the Bonemaster, who is said to be able to suck your soul out through a straw, but what if the Bonemaster, Simon's rival, is the only one who can tell Jinx how to get his magic back (and, incidentally, lift the curses his two friends labor under)? On the other hand, what if it's a trap? Flowing dialogue, easy interactions between the characters, a mixed Diana Wynne Jones/Lloyd Alexander vibe, and a setting both familiar and original (the Urwald's dangers include trolls, vampires, and werewolves but also witches riding butter churns) make the novel immediately inviting and compelling. Unassuming Jinx has a core of steel under his get-along exterior, a mettle that will be tested in future installments. anita l. burkam

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Making unusually entertaining use of well-worn elements, this series opener plops a dense but promising young wizard-in-training between a pair of obnoxious rival mages. Left by his stepparents to die in the dangerous Urwald, Jinx is rescued by Simon Magus, a "possibly evil" forest-dwelling wizard whose obsession with magical research is matched only by a truly profound lack of people skills. Several years later, having learned a little magic but also injured by one of Simon's spells, Jinx stomps off in a rage to seek help. But hardly has he fallen in with a couple of ensorcelled fellow travelers, than all three fall into the clutches of the genial but rightly feared Bonemaster. Along with setting this adventuresome outing in a sentient forest populated by trolls, werewolves and giddy witches who bound about in butter churns, the pseudonymous Blackwood spins out lively dialogue threaded with comical rudeness and teasing. Trotting out a supporting cast whose inner characters are often at thought-provoking odds with their outer seeming, she also puts her central three through a string of suspenseful, scary situations before delivering a properly balanced closing set of resolutions, revelations and road signs to future episodes. Unsurprisingly, Jinx displays hints of developing powers beyond the ordinary. Astonishingly, he and his world still seem fresh, for all that they echo familiar tropes. (Fantasy. 10-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In a story with strong middle-grade appeal, Jinx has grown up in the Urwald, an enormous, sentient forest where humans exist on sufferance, safe only in their own clearings and the paths between them. Trolls and werewolves prowl the Urwald, as do dangerous witches and wizards. After Jinx's brutal stepfather decides to abandon him in the forest, the boy is saved by a crusty, morally ambiguous wizard named Simon, who takes him in as a servant, eventually teaching him some magic. Years later, a 12-year-old Jinx and two new friends set off to find another wizard, the monstrous Bonemaster, in hopes he can help them overcome their respective magical troubles. Blackwood, a pseudonym for writer Karen Schwabach (*The Storm Before Atlanta*), fills her tale with drama and delightfully funny dialogue ("You could have told us you had a curse on you that made you have to tell the truth," Jinx complains at one point). Jinx is an engaging and memorable hero, and adult characters like Simon, the Bonemaster, and the witch Dame Glammer (who rides a butter churn) are entertainingly eccentric. Ages 8-12. Agent: Caitlin Blasdell, Liza Dawson Associates. (Jan.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-"In the Urwald you grow up fast or not at all," readers learn in the opening of this rich and fecund fantasy. Jinx is that staple of children's literature: the scorned, ill-used orphan who proves to be so much more gifted and important than he ever imagined possible. He occupies a world that is simultaneously original and familiar, influenced by centuries of folklore, but newly envisioned and vividly created. This eldritch, primeval forest that Jinx has been warned to shun is, nevertheless, where he has been abandoned by his heartless stepfather. Blackwood has populated this magical place with convincingly conflicted wizards and witches who seem uncertain as to how much they should be using their skills to control events or the beings around them. Jinx is slow to recognize his own powers as he digs his bare toes into the earth of the forest and feels the pulsing heartbeat of its life, or finds that he can call up fire. He is even slower to divine the motives of the various people he encounters, including Elwyn and Reven-youths under mysterious curses of their own-who navigate the Urwald beside him. Readers will thrill to the journey with Jinx as he discovers and grows into himself. Though they will not feel abandoned at the edge of a cliff at the book's end, they won't be surprised-and will be delighted-if sequels are in the offing.-Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Library, NY (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.



#1753731 (Vol. 02) **Jinx's Magic (Hardcover (Trade))**
written by Sage Blackwood

A young wizard's apprentice, Jinx, learns that his forest home, the Urwald, is under threat, and to save it he must travel to a new land.

978-0-06-212993-2 ©2014 6 x 8-5/8 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 3.2 Lexile 560

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8. Blackwood's now nearly 13-year-old wizard apprentice demonstrates both the pluck and smarts to cope with a series of misadventures as he sets about to save Simon, his master, from the evil Bonemaster. To locate an important and powerful book of lost magic wisdom and rescue Simon's missing wife, who has the power to save him, Jinx treks through the magical woodlands, studded with trolls, werewolves, and other menacing creatures, to enroll as a would-be scholar in the hostile country of Samara. Meanwhile, land-grabbing Keyland lumberjacks threaten the trees of the Urwald, who Jinx alone can hear, and his allegiances with his friends Reven and Elfwyn are tested when they are at odds with the desires of the Urwald. Blackwood's invented languages are seamlessly believable, and the compelling moral questions facing

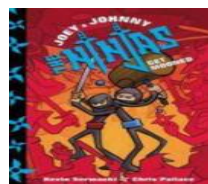
Jinx—how far is he willing to go to rescue the people important to him?—will snag readers. Unlike many second volumes in fantasy series, this one delivers all the grace and spark of *Jinx* (2013) while still allowing the characters to gain depth and complexity and expanding on the already richly dynamic world. This series deserves a permanent place in the children's fantasy pantheon, with *Narnia* and *Earthsea*.

Reviews by: Horn Book As the first "listener" in a hundred years, Jinx can hear the thoughts of the Urwald's trees (*Jinx*, rev. 5/13), so he knows how upset they are that Keylanders are slaughtering acres of them on the Urwald/Keyland border. Jinx tries to rally his companions Elfwyn and Reven to his cause, but after he angrily turns a lumberjack into a sapling, they start to fear him, and he returns to the woods alone. There Jinx finds that his nemesis the Bonemaster has escaped his bonds and wiped out a settlement, and that the destruction is being blamed on Jinx. Blackwood has created several distinct types of magic which, as Jinx explores and reinvents them for his own use, form a puzzle that drives the action forward. The plot is a little convoluted, wrapping up loose ends from the first volume and setting up elements for the next before finally establishing its own internal tension, but the unique setting, smart pace, likable characters, and sprightly voice hold the narrative together while keeping Jinx's fans eager for more. *anita l. burkam*

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews It's hard not to like a fantasy that is set in an argumentative magical forest, but Blackwood squanders the promise of her debut (*Jinx*, 2013) with a sequel that just spins its wheels. Though he's repeatedly assured that he doesn't know who he is or what he's doing, 12-year-old wizard-in-training Jinx continues to explore the nebulous extent of his burgeoning magical powers. He does this both at a school in the city of Samara, where he discovers a new style of magic, and in the Urwald, where he can draw huge amounts of raw power from the trees—but his ability to hear and speak to them is a mixed blessing. Meanwhile, his crabby mentor, Simon Magus, is recaptured by the Bonemaster, an affable archnemesis who has also taken to exterminating the Urwald's scattered human communities, and Simon's scholarly wife, Sophie, has been imprisoned. Further complicating matters, Reven (aka Prince Raymond) has given the whole forest fantods by promoting a profitable lumbering operation on the way to reclaiming his throne. Blackwood drops hints of a larger conflict looming and continues to throw her protagonist into dangerous situations. At odds with this are tongue-in-cheek plot elements, such as Jinx's ability to see thoughts as pink puffy clouds or other shapes, cryptic remarks delivered at odd moments by elves and an oddly rational werewolf. Typical of middle volumes: much backing and forthing to not enough purpose. (Fantasy. 10-12)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-The middle book of a trilogy must be the hardest to write: the thrill of the first book's creation of setting and characters is over and the satisfaction of tying every loose end together is yet to come. In this sequel to *Jinx* (HarperCollins, 2013), Blackwood succeeds in keeping readers' interests piqued without completely frustrating them. Jinx travels beyond the borders of his beloved Urwald and learns that it must be saved from the greedy depredations of invading foreigners from Keyland. He insinuates himself into the school at the Temple in Samara so he can explore the history of magic. As Blackwood extends Jinx's experiences to other lands, she adds layers of complexity that hint at future developments. Jinx's magical powers are strengthening, but he doesn't fully understand their source or their extent. He's still finding out how to use his gifts. The result of these uncertainties is that readers are left feeling as unsettled and unbalanced as he is. The next installment can't come along soon enough.—Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Library, NY (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Joey and Johnny, the Ninjas (Trade)



#1898573 (Vol. 01) Get Mooned (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$12.99

Joey and Johnny are best friends, but they could not be more different. Joey follows all the rules. Johnny doesn't know what rules are. Joey is strategic. Johnny leaves everything up to chance. Joey is serious. Johnny is . . . well, he carries a clown hammer and wears a dooly-bopper on his head. But there is something these two boys have in common: They are ninjas. And they're both students at Kick Foot Academy, the premier ninja school in Lemming Falls.
978-0-06-229933-8 ©2015 320 pgs.
Grades 3 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-Joey and Johnny are real ninjas. They attend the prestigious Kickfoot Academy, run by Headmaster FangSwan. Joey is the smarter of the two, while Johnny is the goofy one who always gets into trouble. The awesomeness of their school is challenged when Red Moon Clan starts using non-ninja, super weapons. The world building is imaginative; especially the visual of the student's sleeping arrangements. They must scale a cliff to get to their two-person tent. At lunchtime, they must catch their food as it flies through the air at super speeds. There are many characters to keep track of amidst the action, so careful reading is required. Full of juvenile humor, fans of super goofy series such as "Captain Underpants" will enjoy this silly adventure, especially if they are looking for a more challenging read. Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Johnny Cannon (Trade)



#1779110 (Vol. 01) Troubles of Johnny Cannon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Isaiah Campbell

Johnny Cannon's got problems. Money is scarce. Martha Macker, the girl he likes, barely knows he's alive. His best friend Willie is pretty great, but he also happens to be a black kid-which is not exactly acceptable in Cullman, Alabama. His big brother Tommy went to war and vanished. His Pa may be committing treason in their backyard. And just when it seems like things couldn't get worse, an old family friend-or maybe enemy-appears and shakes everything up.

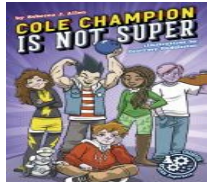
978-1-4814-0003-9 ©2014 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 760

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6 Up-Only in sixth grade, Johnny Cannon has seemed to get himself into a mess of trouble. After surviving a car accident which caused his mother's death, Johnny lives with his Pa, an injured war veteran, and his older brother, Tommy, a well-known pilot. Johnny is left as man of the house after his brother leaves for a secret mission in Nicaragua. Johnny's job gets harder as an oldfamily "friend" shows up. Adding to Johnny's troubles: Martha Macker, theagirl of his dreams, doesn't know he exists; his Pa might be committing treason in the backyard; and his house is getting foreclosed by the bank. Johnny's one good friend has troubles of his own: he is black-which is a tough in 1960s Cullman, Alabama. A significant amount of historical events-including the Cuban missile crisis and race riots-are balanced by Johnny's back-country, boyish point of view. A good choice for fans of historical fiction.-Brittney Kosev, Dave Blair Elementary School, Farmers Branch, TX (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Jolly Fish Press: Cole Champion: STEM Superhero (Trade)



#2275910 (Vol. 01) Cole Champion Is Not Super (Library Binding)

written by Rebecca J. Allen

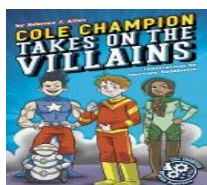
Hi, I'm Cole Champion, and oh-so-very lucky (as my mom's constantly reminding me) to attend the prestigious Honor, Endurance, Resolve, Optimism Junior High. My mom's the principal of HERO Junior High, which is why I'm stuck going there- and sticking out like a sore thumb. How am I supposed to keep up when my classmates can lift cars, become invisible, or break the sound barrier? At least I can excel in science class, where my love of STEM- that's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math- comes in handy. But science class takes a turn for the worse when the antics of my super-strong classmate put the school in danger. And it seems none of the other students' powers can help. That's where I come in!

978-1-63163-587-8 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Cole Champion, who is white, is supposed to feel lucky to attend Honor, Endurance, Restore, Optimism (HERO) Junior High, where his mother is principal. But Cole, an average student with a love of science, can't help feeling out of place alongside his extraordinary classmates, who have powers like invisibility and super strength. However, when an incident at school is beyond the scope of superpowers, Cole finds his moment to shine. This book is a brisk, accessible text, and Huddleston's artwork adds visual appeal for readers who enjoy multimodal texts and illustrated novels. The first-person narration is inviting, and Cole is a very human character with uncertainties and reflections about the world around him who tween readers will likely find relatable. There is an adventure/action-oriented sensibility that adds another layer of engagement, and the theme of finding the hero within is authentic. VERDICT A heroic series debut with a STEM focus that young readers can connect with. Recommended for comic fans, and for libraries as a solid option for open choice reading time.--Jason DeHart Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2275912 (Vol. 02) Cole Champion Takes On the Villains (Library Binding)

written by Rebecca J. Allen

Hi, I'm Cole Champion, and I'm finally finding my place at HERO Junior High. But now the villains have arrived. Every two years, my school's heroes-in-training test their powers against the villains-in-training from WICKED Junior High. It's bad enough that I have to keep my lack of powers a secret. But some of the villains-in-

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99

training are acting suspicious, and it doesn't seem like they're here to play fair. To figure out what's going on, I'll need the help of my new friends. But as amazing as super-strong Boulder and plant-powered Thorn are, their powers are still limited. At least they're used to working as a team . . . right?

978-1-63163-591-5 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 112 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 760

Jules Verne Prophecy (Trade)



#2325842 (Vol. 01) Jules Verne Prophecy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Larry Schwarz

When a mysterious book by the legendary writer Jules Verne falls into the hands of three unlikely friends, it sets off a treasure hunt like no other--get ready for a modern-day reimagining of The Goonies!

978-0-316-34981-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Jet off to Paris and the peculiar world of Jules Verne fanatics in this fun middle-grade adventure set against the backdrop of a summer class dedicated to the famous sf writer. Owen, an American kid, is spending the summer in Paris, but after a very old book falls on his head, he and his friends Nas and Rose get sucked into solving the mystery of a prophesy left by Verne himself and finding what treasure he left for future readers. The plot engagingly explores some Parisian landmarks and draws the readers into Verne's world. Owen's American antics are perfectly juxtaposed with those of his friends, who offer their own lived experiences as resident Rich Kid and a Libyan living in France. Full of larger-than-life twists (including a kidnapped parent, evil schemes, and police chases) this novel perfectly pairs real-life city adventures with a literary puzzle for the ages. Fans of puzzle games, fast-paced adventures with short chapters, and movies like Uncharted will devour this book.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this quick-moving adventure from collaborators Schwarz and Palmer (Romeo, Juliet & Jim), a rare text sparks a treasure hunt for an American middle schooler in Paris. Visiting the City of Light for the summer with his physics professor mother, Owen Godfrey, who has asthma and cues as white, is roped into attending a seminar on Jules Verne. When an unknown tween steals his copy of Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea just before a test, he searches for a replacement in a nearby bookstore. The massive old book he buys, La Prophetie de Jules Verne, doesn't have what he needs, but it turns out to be a clue-riddled quest offering "keys to adventure, wonder, and possibly treasure." Owen and his new friends; privileged French classmate Rose Bordage and fellow skateboarder and would-be DJ Nas Shirvani, a French scholarship student of Libyan descent; must decipher clues and undergo challenges to discover long-hidden secrets, and stay one step ahead of the ruthless people determined to claim Verne's legacy for themselves. Highlighting Verne's classic stories alongside Paris's history and iconic locations, the creators give the three friends ample chemistry as they race around the city by various thrilling means, bonding over their escapades in this energetic thriller. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 10: 14. Agent (for Schwarz and Palmer): Fonda Snyder, Alchemy Ink. (June)

Jurassic Park (Trade)



#2285387 Jurassic World Dominion (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David Lewman

Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment's Jurassic World Dominion releases in theaters on June 10, 2022, bringing with it all the wonder, adventure, and thrills of one of the most popular and successful franchises in cinema history. This all-new motion picture event sees the return of favorite characters such as Owen Grady, Claire Dearing, Alan Grant, and Dr. Ian Malcolm as well as the dinosaurs, and prehistoric creatures everyone loves, including Blue; Tyrannosaurus rex; and the Mosasaurus!

978-0-593-31063-2 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.

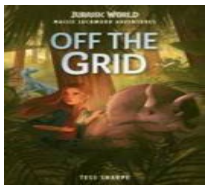
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

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Jurassic World: Maisie Lockwood Adventures (Trade)

#2285390 (Vol. 01) Off the Grid (Hardcover (Trade))

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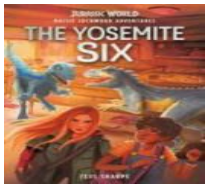
written by Tess Sharpe

Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment's Jurassic World Dominion releases in theaters on June 10, 2022, bringing with it all the wonder, adventure, and thrills of one of the most popular and successful franchises in cinema history. This all-new motion picture event sees the return of favorite characters such as Owen Grady, Claire Dearing, Maisie Lockwood, Dr. Ellie Sattler, and Dr. Ian Malcolm as well as all the dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures that fans love, including Blue; Tyrannosaurus rex; and the Mosasaurus!

978-0-593-37313-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

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#2286838 (Vol. 02) Yosemite Six (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tess Sharpe

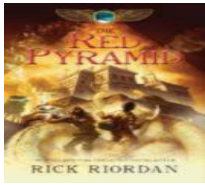
This all-new motion picture event sees the return of favorite characters such as Owen Grady, Claire Dearing, Maisie Lockwood, Dr. Ellie Sattler, and Dr. Ian Malcolm as well as all the dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures that fans love, including Blue; Tyrannosaurus rex; and Mosasaurus! This second book in the series tells the all-new adventures of Maisie Lockwood as she navigates a world filled with dinosaurs both ferocious and friendly.

978-0-593-38035-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$19.99

Kane Chronicles (Trade)



#1604073 (Vol. 01) Red Pyramid (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rick Riordan

Siblings Carter and Sadie join their father in a research project at the British Museum and soon discover that an evil Egyptian god has been unleashed on them, banishing their father into oblivion.

978-1-4231-1338-6 ©2010 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 18.0 RC Lvl 3.7 GR Lvl Y Lexile 650

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The gods sure are busy in New York City. Manhattan was the site of the climactic battle of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. Now, Brooklyn is the base for Riordan's new series involving Egyptian gods. Similar story, different gods. In fact, fans of The Lightning Thief and its sequels will find themselves put through familiar paces here-short chapters with catchy titles, cheeky characters, a lightning-paced plot, humorous banter between characters, gods with mysterious connections to their human counterparts, young protagonists with powers not yet realized and a world in grave danger unless the humans get involved. Here, it's 14-year-old Carter Kane and his 12-year-old sister Sadie, African-American siblings, who must battle the gathering forces of chaos. Lacking the more leisurely development of characters and settings of The Lightning Thief, this tale explodes into action from chapter one, when Dr. Kane, at the British Museum, unleashes mysterious forces that Carter and Sadie must stop. Readers pining for Percy Jackson will find new heroes in Carter and Sadie Kane, and that's not all bad, even if the plot will seem familiar. (Fantasy. 10 & up)

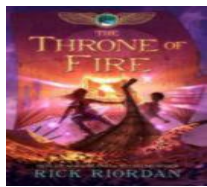
Reviews by: New York Times Book Review Riordan fans young and old will eat this new book up. The Red Pyramid is in almost every way an improvement over its predecessors, deeper and more emotionally resonant, and with an underlying moral and philosophical semi-seriousness...None of which takes away from the thrills...The Red Pyramid is wholly satisfying while also setting the table for what promises to be a rip-roaring saga...

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly This fun, if formulaic, start to the Kane Chronicles series opens with a signature Riordan move: an explosion. Siblings Carter and Sadie have been living apart since their mother's mysterious death. On Christmas Eve, archeologist Julius Kane and son Carter, 14, show up in England for one of their two days a year with Sadie. Julius ushers his children to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone, unleashing five Egyptian gods and causing his own disappearance. The kids' Uncle Amos whisks them to a Brooklyn mansion, where he reveals that the Kanes descend from powerful Egyptian magicians. Swap Egyptian mythology for Percy Jackson's Greek gods and

you've got the best part of this—an ancient history lesson seamlessly unfurled in a rip-roaring adventure. Told in alternating chapters by Carter and Sadie, the novel begins with a warning that the book is a "transcript of a digital recording," a distracting gimmick, and the attempts to make Sadie sound English by dropping in British slang are intermittent. Despite those flaws, Riordan delivers another funny yarn with kids in the lead and animal sidekicks that nearly steal the show. Ages 9-12. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-9-Riordan takes the elements that made the "Percy Jackson" books (Hyperion) so popular and ratchets them up a notch. Carter, 14, and Sadie, 12, have grown up apart. He has traveled all over the world with his Egyptologist father, Dr. Julius Kane, while Sadie has lived in London with her grandparents. Their mother passed away under mysterious circumstances, so when their father arrives in London and wants to take them both on a private tour of the British Museum, all is not necessarily what it seems. The evening ends with the apparent destruction of the Rosetta Stone, the disappearance of Dr. Kane, and the kidnapping of Carter and Sadie. More insidiously, it leads to the release of five Egyptian gods, including Set, who is their mortal enemy. Carter and Sadie discover the secrets of their family heritage and their ability to work magic as they realize that their task will be to save humanity from Set, who is building a destructive red pyramid inside Camelback Mountain in Phoenix. The text is presented as the transcript of an audio recording done by both children. Riordan creates two distinct and realistic voices for the siblings. He has a winning formula, but this book goes beyond the formulaic to present a truly original take on Egyptian mythology. His trademark humor is here in abundance, and there are numerous passages that will cause readers to double over with laughter. The humor never takes away from the story or from the overall tone. A must-have book, and in multiple copies.-Tim Wadham, St. Louis County Library, MO (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Washington Post The pace never flags as the narrative cuts between cautious Carter and intrepid Sadie. Riordan knows what kids like and delivers it well...



#1639975 (Vol. 02) Throne Of Fire (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rick Riordan

In this exciting second installment of the three-book series, Carter and Sadie, offspring of the brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane, embark on a worldwide search for the Book of Ra, but the House of Life and the gods of chaos are determined to stop them.

978-1-4231-4056-6 ©2011 464 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 17.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

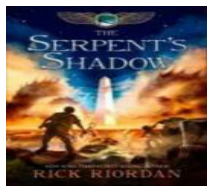
Reviews by: Children's Literature Sadie and Carter Kane return in this second installment of "The Kane Chronicles" in all their wise-cracking, teen angsting, magical glory. The world is going to end in less than five days—at the Spring Equinox—unless they can (1) find all three parts of the book of Ra, (2) find the sun god Ra himself and wake him up, and (3) bring the gods and magicians of the world together to defeat the return of Apophis, the god of Chaos. All pretty typical stuff for the Kane family, we are reminded, who have nascent magical powers due to their Egyptian pharaoh ancestry. Enemies become allies, and they are all needed as Egyptian gods, evil magicians, demons and monsters are swarming to stop Carter and Sadie from succeeding in this fast-paced adventure. The story is told alternately from Sadie and Carter's point of view—ostensibly relayed to the book's author via an audiotape that he has transcribed. They strike just the right tone for siblings who have been raised largely apart but are now each other's only living family. Sadie and Carter's worries about boyfriends and girlfriends take on a bit of humor when said beings are not ordinary humans. This should appeal to both genders and may even spark interest in learning more about Egyptian history and mythology. Text is followed by a glossary of hieroglyphs, some Egyptian terms, and a list of the gods encountered. Reviewer: Paula McMillen, Ph.D.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The amazing performances of Kevin R. Free and Katherine Kellgren make this YA fantasy—the second volume in Riordan's The Kane Chronicles—enthraling for listeners of any age. Descendants of the House of Life, Carter and Sadie Kane are teenage magicians responsible for preventing Egyptian gods from interfering with mortals. And this time around, the brother-and-sister team face off against the chaos snake Apophis—something that's bound to interfere with Sadie's 13th birthday party. But even being chased through the streets of London by monstrous gods doesn't slow down Sadie. Meanwhile, Carter continues to train a troupe of young magicians to battle the forces of evil. Free deftly handles Carter's narration; he sounds exactly like a 14-year-old boy, while voicing dozens of other characters. Kellgren's narration is no less impressive, and her interpretation of a budding teen girl is exuberant and believable, as are the multitude of other colorful characters she creates. Between these two spirited performances, the characters come to life and leave listeners breathless. A Hyperion hardcover. (May)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Elaborating on the ominous revelation that caps The Red Pyramid (Hyperion, 2010), this planned trilogy's middle episode sends dual narrators Carter and Sadie Kane from their newly established school for sorcerers in Brooklyn to the underworld realm of the Duat, leaving massive trails of destruction on their way to a first face-off with Apophis, snake god of Chaos. Given just five days to find the retired god Ra—god of order, or ma'at—before Apophis escapes millennia of confinement and destroys the universe, the squabbling sibs also have their own growing magical abilities to explore; hostile factions of both human wizards and Egyptian gods to battle; monsters to face; temptations to overcome; infatuations to work through; rescues to make; and, of course, plenty of digs, wisecracks, fashion notes, and teen chatter to deliver. Fortunately they have some sturdy allies—notably Bes, the god of little people and memorable for more than just his Speedo with "Dwarf Pride" written on the butt that is his battle costume. Despite helpful lists of Egyptian deities and terms at the back, readers

unfamiliar with the opener may have trouble at the beginning keeping up with both the continuing plotlines and the teeming cast, but Riordan kickstarts the action, never lets up on the gas, balances laughs and losses with a sure hand, and expertly sets up the coming climactic struggle without (thankfully) ending on a cliff-hanger. It's a grand ride so far, showing nary a sign of slowing down.—John Peters, formerly at New York Public Library

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) nicles picks up three months after *The Red Pyramid*, Book 1 (Hyperion, 2010) ends. The siblings and their associates attempt to break into a museum to locate the first part of the Book of Ra. Unfortunately, the museum and the scroll are both heavily protected by curses, magical guards, and a high-tech alarm system. They cause massive damage to the museum and just barely escape with their lives, but they obtain the first piece of the Book of Ra. They need to find and recover the other two pieces within four days. Carter and Sadie will use the Book of Ra to awaken the long-retired Egyptian god Ra in hopes that he can save the world from the chaos threatening to overtake it. The gods and magicians start taking sides, and Ra could be the world's only hope. Once again, the action follows audiorecorded events from Carter and Sadie. They speak directly to the readers and at times each other. Carter and Sadie face difficult choices and must overcome impossible odds to achieve their goal. Danger follows them, and they escape near-death scenarios, creating a fast-paced, exciting read. Sadie and Carter share their adventure with sarcasm, wit, humor, and courage. *Throne of Fire* is a breathless, action-packed tale that will leave readers clamoring for the next chapter. Reviewer: Jennifer Rummel



#1679396 (Vol. 03) Serpent's Shadow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rick Riordan

He's b-a-a-ack! Despite their best efforts, Carter and Sade Kane can't seem to keep Apophis, the chaos snake, down. Now Apophis is threatening to plunge the world into eternal darkness, and the Kanes are faced with having to destroy him once and for all.

978-1-4231-4057-3 ©2012 5-7/8 x 8-1/2 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 15.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8. Armageddon looms as teen magicians Carter and Sadie Kane work feverishly to foil the evil machinations of the Chaos snake, Apophis, and, ultimately, to destroy him. These modern-day siblings have a lot going for them in the struggle, from gifted fellow magicians to the Egyptian gods themselves, but between frequent attacks from an assortment of enemies and the realization that their stalwart friend, Walt, is dying, the outcome of the conflict often looks bleak. While the final battle rages, each of the main characters merges with one of the gods in hopes that their magnified powers will enable them to prevail. This epic battle and the quiet concluding chapters glow, alternating heroism and humanity, with any trace of bombast erased by the wry wit of the alternating narrators, Sadie and Carter. As in *The Red Pyramid* (2010) and *The Throne of Fire* (2011), the cast of characters here is confusingly large and the backstory sometimes seems tucked into the spaces between the battles. But powered by Riordan's talent for creating vividly written action scenes and his ability to keep a complicated story moving, this volume brings the Kane Chronicles series to a rousing conclusion.

Reviews by: Horn Book Joined by the Egyptian gods who helped them in previous books (*The Red Pyramid*, rev. 7/10; *The Throne of Fire*, rev. 9/11) as well as their fellow teen magicians Zia and Walt, Sadie and Carter Kane face the culmination of peril in this third volume in the Kane Chronicles. Apophis, the Serpent of Chaos, is attempting to achieve his legendary goal of swallowing the Sun God, Ra, and destroying all creation. If Sadie and Carter can collect the knowledge and tools they need from journeys to ancient sites in Egypt and the Duat, the Egyptian underworld, they might be able to perform a spell of banishment on him -- but they could just as easily burn themselves out in a spell of such power. As they solve puzzles and fight demons, the siblings grow in confidence and ability. Their wry asides and comedic takes on their predicament keep them accessible to their adventure-loving audience, many of whom will enjoy the romantic byplay between Carter and Zia and between Sadie and Walt. Although little is new in this iteration of Riordan's universe, the climax soundly delivers, and the denouement hints at possible future overlap with foreign gods. Paging Percy Jackson? anita l. burkam

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Riordan's Kane Chronicles trilogy concludes with a smash, as Carter and Sadie Kane once again try to save the world from the forces of Chaos. The giant Chaos snake Apophis and his rebel magician allies are on the rise. Luckily, Carter and Sadie Kane are back, ready to fight Apophis and restore Ma'at, the order of the universe. The ghost of an ancient psychotic magician offers help: Find the shadow of Apophis, capture it and use it for an execration spell that will pop the evil god so far into the Duat--the magical realm that coexists with our world--that he will never return. As in the previous volumes--*The Red Pyramid* (2010) and *The Throne of Fire* (2011)--the tale is told in the alternating and still-fresh voices of Sadie and Carter. Beyond the explosive action and fireworks, Riordan deftly develops the theme of the duality of the universe--order versus chaos, living a normal life versus risking the extraordinary, being protected by parents versus growing up and stepping out of their shadows. A rousing adventure with plenty of magic and food for thought. Other gods and future stories are hinted at in the conclusion; in the meantime, Riordan's *The Kane Chronicles Survival Guide* is available to maintain the spell. (glossary, list of gods and goddesses) (Fantasy. 10-14)

Kat. Incurigible (Trade)



#1599979 (Vol. 01) Kat, Incorrigible (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephanie Burgis

In Regency England, when twelve-year-old Kat discovers she has magical powers, she tries to use them to stop her sister from marrying a man she does not love.

978-1-4169-9447-3 ©2011 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 740

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: From the Publisher In A Most Improper Magick, a twelve-year-old girl with magical powers finds adventure and romance in Regency England.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6-9-Resentful of her stepmother, her secretive older sisters, and the whole code of ladylike conduct in early-19th-century England, 12-year-old Kat Stephenson takes action. She chops off her hair, learns to use her mother's magical mirror, and fends off both well-meaning and threatening adults. Posing as a highwayman, she captures husbands for her sisters. There is more than a little wish-fulfillment here as the ignored younger sister-constantly criticized for her curiosity and impulsive behavior-discovers her exalted status while providing for her less-adept older siblings. The Regency world is drawn in broad strokes, and some secondary characters are more caricature than convincing, but the sisters-clearly close to the 21st century in their basic outlooks, even if Elissa, the eldest, fancies herself a Gothic heroine-are appealing and their relationship is believable. Regency romance and fantasy adventure all in one, this is a satisfying read and a promising beginning to a trilogy that is sure to be popular with middle school girls.-Kathleen Isaacs, Children's Literature Specialist, Pasadena, MD (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1715653 (Vol. 03) Stolen Magic (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephanie Burgis

Kat is tasked with saving her family, the Order of the Guardians, and England itself. With just days to go before her sister Angeline's long-delayed wedding to Frederick Carlyle, the impetuous Kat Stephenson has resigned herself to good behavior. But Kat's initiation into the magical Order of the Guardians is fast approaching, and trouble seems to follow her everywhere.

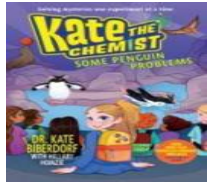
978-1-4169-9451-0 ©2013 400 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 800

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Impetuous teen Kat Stephenson is resigned to being on her best behavior as her sister Angeline's long-delayed wedding to wealthy Frederick Carlyle approaches. But Frederick's mother is intent on humiliating Angeline, there's a mysterious and somehow familiar marquise among the wedding guests, and someone has stolen all the portals used by Kat and her fellow Guardians of the Order. Clearly, it's time to forget Regency England manners and break out her magic powers to put things right. Part Jane Austen, part Harry Potter, and with a healthy dash of Tamora Pierce, Burgis' the Unladylike Adventures of Kat Stephenson series is good, clean fun for tweens and younger teens.--Carton, Debbie Copyright 2010 Booklist

Kate the Chemist (Trade)



#2245409 (Vol. 05) Some Penguin Problems (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kate Biberdorf

Kate, Birdie, and the rest of the class excitedly prepare for their projects until it's finally Aquarium Day! But when a huge snowstorm threatens to ruin the class's field trip, will Kate the Chemist be able to save the day with science?

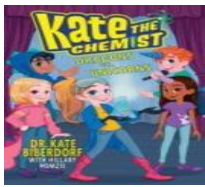
978-0-593-35127-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 630

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$12.99

#2159702 (Vol. 01) Dragons Vs. Unicorns (Hardcover (POB))

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$12.99



written by Kate Biberdorf

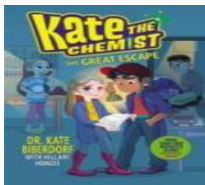
Kate the Chemist is her neighborhood's ten-year-old science problem solver. There's no problem Kate can't fix! When her best friend Birdie is cast as the lead unicorn in their school musical *Dragons vs. Unicorns*, and Kate is chosen to be the assistant director, they agree this is going to be the best musical EVER!

978-0-593-11655-5 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 3.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-7 Fifth-grader Kate absolutely loves chemistry! But chemistry can't help her figure out what to do with her friends over fall break. When one of her best friends announces that the Drama Club is putting on a musical called *Dragons Vs. Unicorns* and they need an assistant director, Kate is intrigued. To her surprise, she lands the job! Unfortunately for her, someone is out to sabotage her best efforts at doing a great job. Can Kate use her chemistry knowledge to find out who is playing tricks on her and trying to sabotage the show? And, most important, can chemistry help her figure out how to get those unicorn horns to stick and her dragon cast to breathe fire? This is a fun read that weaves science concepts throughout the story. Kids will enjoy reading about Kate's antics and will love trying out the chemistry project included at the end of the story. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A fifth grade girl brings her love of chemistry to the school play. Kate loves science so much she's determined to breathe fire. Of course she knows that she needs adult supervision, and so, with her science teacher's help, Kate demonstrates an experiment with cornstarch and a blowtorch that nearly sets her teacher's cactus on fire. Consequences ensue. Can someone who loves science as much as Kate does find pleasure spending her fall break at drama camp? It turns out that even the school play--*Dragons vs. Unicorns*--needs a chemist, though, and Kate saves the day with glue and glitter. She's sabotaged along the way, but everything is fine after Kate and her frenemy agree to communicate better (an underwhelming response to escalating bullying). Doodles decorate the pages; steps for the one experiment described that can be done at home--making glittery unicorn-horn glue--are included. The most exciting experiments depicted, though, include flames or liquid nitrogen and could only be done with the help of a friendly science teacher. Biberdorf teaches chemistry at the University of Texas and also performs science-education programs as "Kate the Chemist"; in addition to giving her protagonist her name and enthusiasm, she also seems represented in Kate-the-character's love of the fictional YouTube personality "Dr. Caroline." Kate and her nemesis are white; Kate's best friends are black and South Asian. A fun-if-flimsy vehicle for science lovers. (Fiction. 8-10) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-5—Kate lives and breathes science and chemistry—literally! After a successful attempt to breathe fire during her after-school chemistry club session, Kate thinks a science camp would be just the ticket to enjoying her fall break. Instead, her friends and her principal mom encourage her to join the drama camp, where Kate snags the coveted assistant director position. After a few disasters, including a glue mishap, Kate realizes someone is trying to sabotage her. Using hypotheses and scientific methods, Kate is on the case to uncover the saboteur before the opening night play becomes a failure. What she ultimately discovers, however, is something much more important and timely. VERDICT This title, which features playfully worded definitions sprinkled throughout, proves that science and fun go together like molecules in a polymer. A delightful addition to early middle grade collections.—Amanda C. Buschmann, Carroll Elementary School, Houston



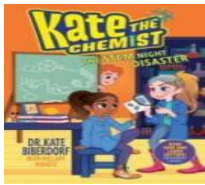
#2177893 (Vol. 02) Great Escape (Hardcover (POB))

written by Kate Biberdorf

What do magnetic slime, a secret code, and the periodic table have in common? They're all part of the science-themed escape room that Kate's science teacher puts together to teach Kate and her friends about teamwork. But will they be able to use their science know-how to crack the code in time to win? Only time will tell . . .

978-0-593-11658-6 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 580

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$12.99

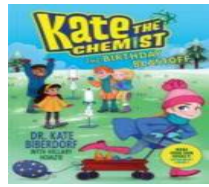


#2197659 (Vol. 03) STEM Night Disaster (Hardcover (POB))

written by Kate Biberdorf

Kate's school is having their first-ever STEM Night and the prizes are incredible! Kate is determined to win and comes up with the perfect experiment. But as she and her best friend, Birdie, start preparing, they find that Kate's project keeps getting messed up. Will Kate be able to use her science know-how to find out who is behind the STEM night sabotage? And will she fix her project before it's too late?

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$12.99



#2226535 (Vol. 04) Birthday Blastoff (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kate Biberdorf

When Kate's brother Liam is having a science-themed birthday party the very same day that the science club in Kate's school is planning a special rocket launch experiment, Kate isn't sure how she'll manage to do it all: be a great big sister AND a great science club member. But with a little help from chemistry-and her friends-Kate figures out a way to be in two places at once.

978-0-593-11664-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 144 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 600

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$12.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-5—The fourth adventure in the "Kate the Chemist" series follows the titular hero as she navigates chemistry experiments, rocket launches, school drama, and more. Kate befriends a new member of the science club, Tala, and the two bond over a shared passion for science. But their burgeoning friendship causes Birdie, Kate's art-loving best friend, to feel isolated. She immediately distances herself from the pair, much to Kate's confusion and dismay. Meanwhile, the science club plans a rocket launch, an experiment suggested by Tala. There is one major problem: The launch falls on the exact same day and time as Kate's younger brother's birthday party. Through clever thinking and no shortage of STEM, Kate works out a way to attend both events, mend friendships, create new ones, and support her brother. Kate and her family are white, Tala and her family are Filipino, and their classmates are racially diverse. Instructions for a double balloon rocket experiment, including materials, protocol, and an explanation of the science behind the experiment, follow the story. VERDICT With numerous scientific concepts and terms scattered throughout, this pleasant title will appeal to fans of other STEM-infused series like Emily Calandrelli's "Ada Lace" and Asia Citro's "Zoey and Sassafras." An additional purchase for middle grade collections.—Olivia Gorecke, Cape May Cty. Lib., Ocean View, NJ

Keeper of the Lost Cities (Trade)



#1747288 (Vol. 02) Exile (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Shannon Messenger

Sophie befriends the mythical Alicorn and puts her mysterious powers to the test in this enchanting sequel to "Keeper of the Lost Cities."

978-1-4424-4596-3 ©2013 576 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 18.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$21.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Sophie continues to learn about her elven heritage and powers (including some disturbing ones) while struggling to clarify her connection to the rebel group Black Swan, which may have created her. Despite this installment's excessive length and inconsistent focus, Sophie's coming into her own as an unwitting "chosen one" is a compelling arc, set against a well-developed backdrop of social conflict. (Copyright 2014 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Full-blown middle-volume-itis leaves this continuation of the tale of a teenage elf who has been genetically modified for so-far undisclosed purposes dead in the water. As the page count burgeons, significant plot developments slow to a trickle. Thirteen-year-old Sophie manifests yet more magical powers while going head-to-head with hostile members of the Lost Cities Council and her own adoptive elvin father, Grady, over whether the clandestine Black Swan cabal, her apparent creators and (in the previous episode) kidnappers, are allies or enemies. Messenger tries to lighten the tone by dressing Sophie and her classmates at the Hogwarts-ian Foxfire Academy as mastodons for a silly opening ceremony and by having her care for an alicorn--a winged unicorn so magnificent that even its poop sparkles. It's not enough; two sad memorial services, a trip to a dreary underground prison, a rash of adult characters succumbing to mental breakdowns and a frequently weepy protagonist who is increasingly shunned as "the girl who was taken" give the tale a soggy texture. Also, despite several cryptic clues and a late attack by hooded figures, neither the identity nor the agenda of the Black Swan comes closer to being revealed. However tried and true, the Harry Potter-esque elements and set pieces don't keep this cumbersome coming-of-age tale afloat, much less under way. (Fantasy 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2013) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8—This sequel to Keeper of the Lost Cities (S & S, 2012) continues the story of Sophie Foster, the girl who was brought up as human but who is really an elf with engineered DNA, which has conferred enormous power on her. She now lives with the

elves in Havenfield, and has been adopted by a couple whose daughter died. Sophie tries to integrate into the elf community and be a regular kid at school. Her powers of telepathy and psychic healing, however, set her firmly apart as she helps to capture and train a unique alicorn (one with wings). As the mystery of the Black Swan group and their true allegiance continues, Sophie tries to help heal the broken minds of certain elves crucial to uncovering the secret. Clearly the middle book in a series, this title works best for readers familiar with the first book. There is plenty of action, but the story of Sophie's origins, the Black Swan and their role, and the struggle to save the world of the elves does not progress significantly. This installment lacks the sense of urgency and emotional connection of the first title.-Sue Giffard, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1778805 (Vol. 03) Everblaze (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Shannon Messenger

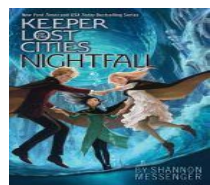
Sophie uncovers shocking secrets--and faces treacherous new enemies--in this electrifying third book in the Keeper of the Lost Cities series.

978-1-4424-4599-4 ©2014 6 x 8-1/2 576 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 20.0 RC Lvl 5.6 Lexile 810

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Sophie, whose psychic talents are getting stronger, continues to probe the complexities and secrets of Elven society in this Harry Potteresque mix of school drama and larger-than-life peril. Sophie and her friends are amiable, wise-cracking, and occasionally petty, drawing readers in, but uneven pacing and a large cast of vaguely defined secondary characters gum up the works of this hefty third book. (Copyright 2015 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)



#2029265 (Vol. 06) Nightfall (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Shannon Messenger

All paths lead to Nightfall--an ominous door to an even more ominous place--and Sophie and her friends strike a dangerous bargain to get there. But nothing can prepare them for what they discover.

978-1-4814-9740-4 ©2017 576 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 26.0 Lexile 830

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide In book six, elf Sophie vows to rescue her human parents, who've been kidnapped by the Neverseen. But Sophie quickly realizes that it's equally important to discover the Neverseen's larger plan if she's going to finally defeat the villains for good. The plot unwinds slowly (over nearly 800 pages), but Sophie's fears and anxieties about her loved ones are portrayed realistically. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)



#2065026 (Vol. 07) Flashback (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Shannon Messenger

Sophie Foster doesn't know what--or whom--to believe. And in a game with this many players, the worst mistake can be focusing on the wrong threat. But when the Neverseen prove that Sophie's far more vulnerable than she ever imagined, she realizes it's time to change the rules. Her powerful abilities can only protect her so far.

To face down ruthless enemies, she must learn to fight.

978-1-4814-9743-5 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 576 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 30.0 Lexile 830

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.99

#2300541 (Vol. 09) Stellarlune (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Shannon Messenger

Stellarlune--and the mysterious Elysian--might be the key to everything. But finding

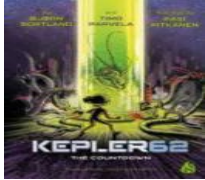
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.99



truth in the Lost Cities always requires sacrifice. And as the Neverseen's plans sharpen into terrifying focus, it appears that everyone has miscalculated. The Lost Cities' greatest lie could destroy everything. And in the battle that follows, only one thing is certain: nothing will ever be the same.

978-1-5344-3852-1 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 800 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 24.0 Lexile 810

Kepler62 (Trade)



#2348250 (Vol. 02) Countdown (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Bjorn Sortland

Children from all over the world are trying to complete the game. Marie, the fourteen-year-old daughter of a wealthy arms manufacturer in Norway, uses unorthodox methods to win. But what is her prize? Marie is flown to Area 51 in Nevada, where she's recruited into a select group of children who are leaving earth to investigate and settle on a faraway planet believed to be capable of supporting life. Marie is advised not to partake on the mission but it's no longer a matter of choice.

978-1-64690-032-9 Arctis ©2023 6 x 8 160 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.00



#2333476 (Vol. 01) Invitation (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Timo Parvela

Overpopulation has caused earth's natural resources to diminish, and people are struggling to survive. Thirteen-year-old Ari is looking after his little brother Joni, who has fallen ill with a mysterious virus. The boys manage to get hold of a copy of Kepler62, the newest computer game that everyone's talking about and which is supposed to be almost impossible to complete. Working together, the brothers manage the impossible and they soon discover that Kepler62 is more than just a game. It's an invitation - for an adventure.

978-1-64690-033-6 Arctis ©2023 6 x 8 128 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.00



#2365397 (Vol. 03) Voyage (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Timo Parvela

An edge-of-your-seat sci-fi adventure series illustrated in full color that follows a group of children are selected for a mission to save the mankind! Their astonishing journey brings them to the outer reaches of our solar system.

978-1-64690-034-3 Arctis ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 160 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

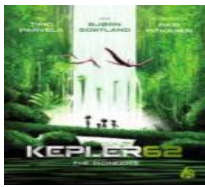
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.00

#2373958 (Vol. 04) Pioneers (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Timo Parvela

The fourth book in the adventure series continues the edge-of-your-seat story of the

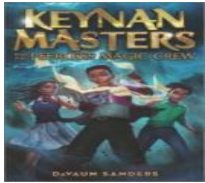
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.00



young pioneers who travel to the distant planet Kepler62. In this story, the lush, green planet that they land on is more suitable for life than anyone could have imagined. It's like a paradise compared to the barren earth they left behind. Once the children start building their base camp they find traces of other forms of life. Will they be friendly or hostile?

978-1-64690-035-0 Arctis ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 140 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Keynan Masters (Trade)



#2349627 (Vol. 01) Peerless Magic Crew (Hardcover (Trade))
written by DaVaun Sanders

Keynan Masters doesn't know the truth about Peerless Academy. He thinks it's just a fancy art school that can't teach him anything he doesn't already know (how to write fire poems) and won't solve his problems (the massive storms that threaten his home and family).

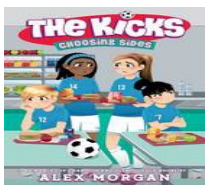
978-1-335-45804-9 ©2023 6-1/4 x 9-1/2 320 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist The arts make more than their usual kind of magic in this dystopian fantasy. Reluctantly leaving his loving parents and tight-knit community for Peerless Academy, an exclusive boarding school, Keynan finds that all is not as it seems as halls weirdly change shape, power failures and lockdowns are frequent, and the teachers are irritable and secretive. He's amazed to learn that a wizard's war long ago left his world a quilt of altered realities, with the academy engaged in a quixotic effort to knit everything back together. The key to magic working lies in using art, music, poetry, and dance together, and it is Keynan's genuinely hard-fought, sometimes disastrous efforts to hone his lackluster hip-hop lyrics, with help from a newly met team of variously gifted classmates, that drive this tumultuous tale. Readers will cheer him along his artistic journey, which reaches a climactic breakthrough courtesy of a frenemy's unexpected talent for beatboxing. But Sanders saves a devastating twist for the end that punctures his budding freestyler's triumph and absolutely demands at least one sequel.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Sanders offers an energetic fantasy adventure teeming with memorable characters and mysteries in this thought-provoking debut. Nobody knows why mercurial and devastating storms have been plaguing Earth, prompting anxiety across the globe. And while 12-year-old Keynan Masters would rather focus on perfecting his rhymes and communing with his neighbors, he's also preoccupied with soothing his mother's fears about the weather. When Keynan is accepted into the Peerless Academy, a prestigious school for the arts, he's reluctant to leave home, and only agrees to attend after learning that the school's elite science programs might determine how to eliminate the storms. But nothing about Peerless is as Keynan expects; underneath the inexplicably boring classes hide unusual and fantastical secrets involving covert passageways, reality rifts, and an ancient, corrupt magic that only he and his classmates can contain. Using his newfound powers, which he conjures through his rhymes, Keynan is determined to uncover the truth behind Peerless and the storms. Occasionally ambiguous worldbuilding sometimes causes confusion; nevertheless, Keynan's talent for spoken-word performance proffers strong messaging about the power of the arts, making for an ambitious, postapocalyptic-feeling tale. Most characters read as Black. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Mary C. Moore, Kimberly Cameron & Assoc. (Oct.)

Kicks (Abdo Publishing)



#2241940 Choosing Sides (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

When Devin's team gets mad at her for helping the competition, she has to prove that she isn't choosing sides. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.

978-1-5321-4990-0 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 112 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 670

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$21.95

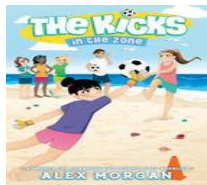


#2241941 Hat Trick (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

The girls deal with the challenges of being on a traveling team, how to keep friendships going, and trying to save the elementary school's soccer program. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.
 978-1-5321-4991-7 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 128 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
 1 **Unit Price**
 \$21.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7-In this addition to the series by an Olympic gold medalist, the seventh-grade Kicks teammates attempt to make the cut for a more competitive and challenging winter soccer league, problem-solve to save a soccer program for younger kids that's on the line due to budget cuts, and learn what it takes to collaborate and keep friendships intact. Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

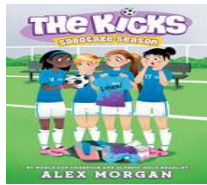


#2241942 In the Zone (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

Emma isn't sure if she's cut out to be a goalie and Devin tries to help her while having uncertainties of her own. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.
 978-1-5321-4992-4 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 128 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 660

Quantity
 1 **Unit Price**
 \$21.95

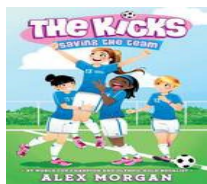
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-The Kentville Kangaroos, a California middle-school soccer team, return. Devin is a cross-county transplant, but as a serious student and zealous cocaptain, she aims to lead her team to victory through drills, hard work, and extra practice. The Kicks find themselves unexpectedly within reach of the playoffs. Then minor troubles crop up, and they can't help but suspect sabotage. Through her nightly video texting with her Connecticut buddy, readers follow Devin's interactions with boys, soccer, a little sister, and other distractions like an exploding soccer ball, damaged team materials, and scheduling mix-ups. Devin's narration sounds artificial, but overall this book is a good choice for girls looking for mysteries or stories about sports or friendship.-Glynis Jean Wray, Ocean County Library, Toms River, NJ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2241943 Sabotage Season (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

Devin has to figure out who is trying to sabotage her team before the Kicks' championship hopes disappear for good. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.
 978-1-5321-4993-1 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 176 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 660

Quantity
 1 **Unit Price**
 \$21.95

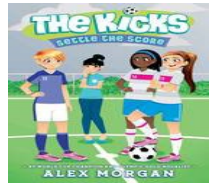


#2241944 Saving the Team (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

Devin makes friends on her new soccer team and hopes to pull the team together. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.
 978-1-5321-4994-8 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 176 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
 1 **Unit Price**
 \$21.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-This formulaic story follows 12-year-old Devin, who has just left her friends and soccer team behind, moving cross country with her family. There is a lot of expected angst in the beginning of the story. Will she like her new school? Make new friends? And since California is known for producing superstar soccer players, will she even make the team? While quickly learning the ropes at her new school and instantly making friends-and perhaps even gaining a boyfriend-the plot twist is revealed: Devin's new soccer team isn't great at all-in fact, it is downright bad. Throw in a bossy/bully older teammate as cocaptain against Devin, and the rest of the blanks will be easily filled in by most readers. Despite its predictability, the novel conveys some solid messages about teamwork and assertiveness. Purchase where there is a demand for sports stories with strong female role models.-Lisa Kropp, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

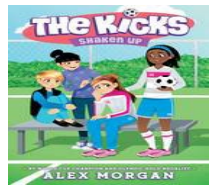


#2241945 Settle the Score (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

Tensions rise between Kicks' teammates when they compete on rival soccer teams in an upcoming winter league championship. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.

978-1-5321-4995-5 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 128 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.95

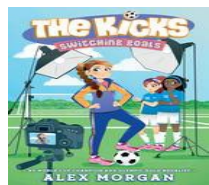


#2241946 Shaken Up (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

After an earthquake and a series of chain events shake Devin's confidence, she will have to turn to her friends and teammates for support. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.

978-1-5321-4996-2 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 128 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.95

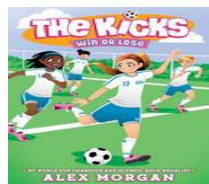


#2241947 Switching Goals (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

With conflicting soccer and modeling schedules, Devin feels like she has to choose her whole future and she might end up switching goals. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.

978-1-5321-4997-9 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 128 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.95



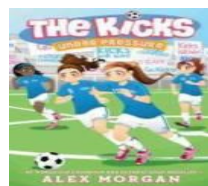
#2241949 Win or Lose (Library Binding)
written by Alex Morgan

The Kicks have made it to league playoffs and the championship trophy is in sight, but a series of challenges might break the team's winning streak. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Chapter Books is an imprint of Spotlight a division of ABDO.

978-1-5321-4999-3 ©2022 6 x 8-1/2 160 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 640

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.95

Kicks (Prebound)



#2063131 (Vol. 07) Under Pressure (Prebound)

written by Alex Morgan

Excitedly reuniting with her teammates at the beginning of a new school soccer season, Devin aspires to win a championship and faces the escalating pressures of higher expectations that her teammates worry they will not be able to meet.

978-1-5364-3980-9 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95

Kicks (Trade)



#2158761 (Vol. 11) Homecoming (Hardcover (Trade))

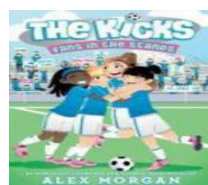
written by Alex Morgan

Devin is finally on her way to Connecticut to visit her best friend, Kara, and the Kicks have just made it into the playoffs! Except Devin's good fortune seems to have run out. Are she and Kara even friends anymore? Is Devin ready to leave all her friends behind again to move back to Connecticut? And can she get her head back in the game in time to win the Kicks's first playoff match?

978-1-5344-2806-5 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 112 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2218786 (Vol. 12) Fans in the Stands (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Alex Morgan

There's only two games separating the Kicks from the regional championship title. And with the Kentville Kangaroos boys' team also on their way to the championship, Devin can't contain her excitement for her friends! That is until Steve, Devin's crush, admits that he doesn't think girl soccer players are as good as the boys.

978-1-5344-2809-6 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 128 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Kid Classics (Trade)



#2277221 Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of Baskervilles (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Arthur Conan Doyle

It's a story that you can't put down: When the Baskervilles are haunted by a giant, ghostly hound that glows eerily and howls outside their estate at night, no one can crack the case but Sherlock Holmes! Holmes and Watson track the fearsome hound through the Grimpen Mire and solve the mystery, along the way learning lessons about greed, truth, and illusion.

978-1-951511-29-6 ©2022 6-1/2 x 8 128 pgs.

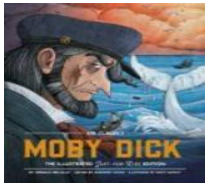
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

#2277222 Moby Dick (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Herman Melville

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95



It's a story that you can't put down: The sailor Ishmael tells the tale of whaling ship Captain Ahab's obsessive quest to get revenge on Moby Dick, the legendary giant white sperm whale who bit off his leg!

978-1-951511-30-2 ©2022 6-1/2 x 8 128 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic



#2290549 Grimm's Fairy Tales (Hardcover (Trade))

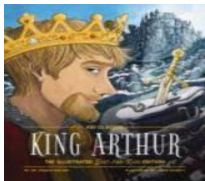
written by Jacob Grimm

The Brothers Grimm collected this hugely popular book of age-old European fairytales more than two hundred years ago. Now, here is the enchanting new just-for-kids version, abridged and retold for a young modern audience while remaining true to the captivating original text. These are stories that you can't put down: Cinderella dashes out of the ball, leaving a glass slipper. Red Riding Hood walks bravely through the dark forest. Hansel and Gretel discover a house made of sparkling treats.

978-1-951511-36-4 ©2023 6-1/2 x 8 128 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



#2352195 King Arthur: The Illustrated Just-For-Kids Edition (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Thomas Malory

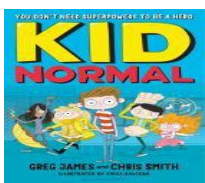
Kid Classics: King Arthur is the thrilling new just-for-kids edition of the classic tales of King Arthur, abridged and retold for modern kids while staying true to the original Arthurian legends.

978-1-951511-66-1 ©2024 6-1/2 x 8 128 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Kid Normal (Trade)



#2064034 (Vol. 01) Kid Normal (Hardcover (POB))

written by Greg James

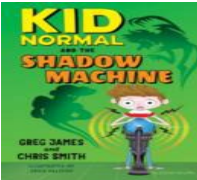
When Murph Cooper begins his new school several weeks into the beginning of semester, he can't help but feel a bit out of his depth. And it's not because he's worried about where to sit, making friends, and fitting in. It's because his mom has enrolled him at a school for superheroes.

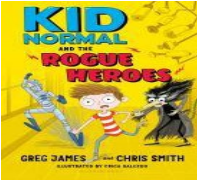
978-1-68119-709-8 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$13.99

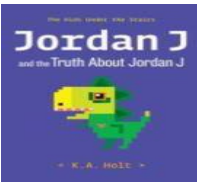
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly rade adventure, a kid without superpowers nevertheless discovers his true calling when he's accidentally enrolled in a secret school for superhumans. Eleven-year-old Murph Cooper doesn't have high hopes for the school, his fifth one in as many years thanks to is mother's many work-related moves. It doesn't help when he's the only normal human in a place where people can fly, control weather, move at s per-speed, and summon tiny horses (not every power, or Capability;"Cape" for short;is a winner). Murph unexpectedly makes friends with some of the school's other misfits, which comes in handy when a bizarre villain attacks the school and captures everyone else. Now only Murph a nd his friends can save the day. This lighthearted caper from BBC radio stars James and Smith is packed with dry wit, snarky narrative asides, and an unabashed eschewing of subtlety (the school's headmaster, a former superhero, is Mr. Souperman). Salcedo's playfully frenetic illustrations complement James and Smith's silly adventure and its good-natured sense of wonder. Ages 8--12. (June)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	#2177534 (Vol. 03) Kid Normal and the Shadow Machine (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Greg James</i> Murph Cooper and the Super Zeroes get past some problems to capture the planet's most dangerous supervillains after a jailbreak, but Magpie gets away and teams up with another old enemy. 978-1-5476-0331-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic	1	\$16.99


		Quantity	Unit Price
	#2102617 (Vol. 02) Kid Normal and the Rogue Heroes (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Greg James</i> Since becoming Kid Normal, Murph Cooper and his friends the Super Zeroes have been catching bad guys all over the place. But being a hero isn't easy, especially when your other classmates don't believe you've got what it takes, and your mom continues to embarrass you. 978-1-5476-0098-4 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 10.0	1	\$13.99

Reviews by: Booklist Murph Cooper, aka Kid Normal, leads his tight, if motley, squad of young superheroes into a second serial escapade (Kid Normal, 2018), facing off against archvillain Magpie, whose Capability, or Cape, is the power to steal the Capes of other supers. Being the newest and youngest members of the worldwide Heroes' Alliance, Murph and the Super Zeroes struggle for acceptance in the Caped community, but when Magpie escapes after 30 years of imprisonment, it is their trust in and reliance on teamwork that (mostly) saves the day. With a number of other previously jailed or otherwise demented baddies at large, more sequels seem imminent, but getting there involves all sorts of daring exploits, narrow squeaks, explosions, and meetings with current and retired heroes. Alongside the action is a darling tale featuring three rapping kittens and other random diversions, outrageous puns, and lines of dialogue printed in heavier type for added drama. Salcedo adds trading-card-style profiles of the Super Zeroes and cartoon views of intrepid heroes taking on caricatured supervillains. Stay tuned.--John Peters Copyright 2019 Booklist

Kids Under the Stairs (Trade)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	#2291302 (Vol. 03) Jordan J and the Truth about Jordan J (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by K. A. Holt</i> Jordan J has a lot to say. Most people-including his parents, his teacher, the kids under the stairs, and even his own self-don't understand why he says all the things he says. Basically the only thing he can concentrate on these days is performing on his favorite dance show, Fierce Across America. Suddenly, an opportunity arises in the form of Casey Price, the only Rocketeer who doesn't hate his guts. With her help, Jordan J just might have the chance to showcase his electric moves on national TV. 978-1-7972-0609-7 ©2022 296 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 950	1	\$17.99

Kiki Kallira (Trade)

		Quantity	Unit Price
	#2233550 (Vol. 01) Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Sangu Mandanna</i> Kiki Kallira has always been a worrier. Did she lock the front door? Is there a terrible reason her mom is late? Recently her anxiety has been getting out of control, but one thing that has always soothed her is drawing. Kiki's sketchbook is full of fanciful doodles of the rich Indian myths and legends her mother has told her over the years. One day, her sketchbook's calming effect is broken when her mythological characters	1	\$17.99

begin springing to life right out of its pages.
978-0-593-20697-3 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 780

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Eleven-year-old Kiki Kallira used to be a "sunshine girl," but these days, the only thing that calms her anxiety is drawing her own fabulous version of the Kingdom of Mysore, inspired by stories of her relatives and ancestors back in India and the myth of the goddess Chamundeshwari's battle with the demon lord Mahishasura. When her fictional heroine Ashwini pursues a demon through a rip in the sketchbook into everyday London, Ashwini explains that Mahishasura turned Kiki's obsessive fictional drawing into a real pocket universe, and only Kiki can vanquish him. Into the sketchbook they go, and soon Kiki's hanging out with a group of child resistance fighters, but vanquishing a demon lord—even if it means destroying the world she created—is every bit as scary and complicated as she could imagine. Kiki's Mysore is full of wonderful architectural details, from magnificent palaces to the caretaking Crow House, while Kiki realizes the weight of the burdens she's placed on her fictional friends and the extent to which anxiety has taken over her own life. Ashwini helps her begin to think of anxiety as an illness rather than a fundamental personal flaw, a distinction readers will appreciate, and one that enables Kiki to reclaim her agency. This opening title in British author Mandanna's first middle grade series will suit fans of Rick Riordan Presents titles, while the focus on Kiki's artistry and anxiety will appeal to readers eager for a heroine who proves that the pen (or drawing pencil) is mightier than the sword (or demon lord). FHK COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal er in London, Kiki Kallira has grown up listening to her mother's stories of family and folklore from India. When her anxiety is overwhelming, she takes comfort in these stories and reimagines her ancestors as characters she draws in her sketchbook, which provides an escape both literal and metaphorical. Steeped in Hindu mythology, Mandanna's fast-paced modern take on a classical myth explores the legend of Mysore and the Goddess Chamundeshwari's victory over the demon king, Mahishasura. While this story is celebrated in the real city of Mysore annually during Dussehra, in Kiki's it begins when a doorway opens from her world to one she created in her sketchbook, filled with her mother's folktales with her own fresh spin. Inside the sketchbook world, it is up to Kiki to defeat the demon king before he escapes to the real one. Armed only with her pencil, she makes an unlikely hero, but one that demonstrates the power young people can wield when they trust their talents. Mandanna creates vibrant, relatable characters, including secondary figures like Ashwini and the Crows who are fleshed out enough for readers to connect. VERDICT While the myth itself may not be familiar to all readers, Mandanna has created an engaging fantastical story that will strongly appeal to readers of Rick Riordan, Roshani Chokshi, and Sayantani DasGupta.—Monisha Blair, formerly at Rutgers Univ., NJ

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness This debut middle-grade novel from Sangu Mandanna (*A Spark of White Fire*) is a vivid reimagining of an Indian legend that makes the myth's classic elements feel both enduring and modern.



#2278834 (Vol. 02) **Kiki Kallira Conquers a Curse (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Sangu Mandanna

Fresh from the exciting discovery that the beautiful kingdom and band of rebel kids she drew in her sketchbook exists in another world, Kiki Kallira has an unexpected visitor. One of those rebel kids has come into the real world to ask for her help--the river Kaveri that is Mysore's only source of water has suddenly vanished! With no water to drink or grow food, Kiki's kingdom is doomed.

978-0-593-20700-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 830

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this sequel to *Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom* (2021), the Kikiverse is grappling with yet another curse: Will Kiki be able to harness her magic in order to save the day a second time? Kiki is back to living her regular life in London after closing the tear in the Kikiverse when Lej suddenly appears in her bedroom saying Mysore is in trouble once again--the Kaveri River has disappeared, and everyone in Mysore will soon be wiped out if their water source is not restored. Kiki agrees to return and help out. Reunited with all her friends, she tries to harness her powers within the realm of this universe, which came to life through the art in her sketchbooks, only to realize things have changed, and her old approach will not work. Mandanna explores Kiki's mental health in more detail in this book, referencing a combination of medication and therapy to cope with anxiety. Kiki has a strong character arc in which she goes from self-doubt to fully embracing her flawed self. Kiki finds her way to understanding that the things we create never fully belong to us once we release them into the world. Readers get to see Kiki rewrite her own story and find nuanced ways of understanding how her mind works. Those unfamiliar with Kiki's story will find this novel accessible but will gain more from having read the previous book. Kiki is of South Indian and Scottish descent. Enchanting and deeply captivating. (Fantasy. 8-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Kingdom Keepers Inheritance (Trade)



#2301908 (Vol. 01) Kingdom Keepers Inheritance (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ridley Pearson

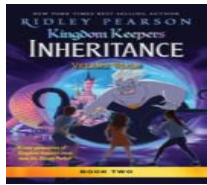
The Kingdom Keepers are all grown up--and their kids are unwittingly following in their footsteps.

978-1-368-09514-3 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 352 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.2

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A boy who lives in an elite residential community at Walt Disney World's Epcot amusement park is unwittingly thrust into a real, magical battle on his 13th birthday. Eli Whitman has grown up in the Epcot CommuniTree, surrounded by amusement park magic. Unbeknownst to Eli and his friends, their parents are among the fabled Kingdom Keepers, those whose heroics protected the amusement parks from Disney villains in an eponymous prequel series. When Eli attempts to use his father's real sword in a holographic video game, he accidentally cuts a hole in the space-time continuum and is kidnapped to an alternate-reality Disney version of the real Morocco, where he encounters the descendants of Aladdin and Jafar. Jafar's grandson Carnius is a powerful sultan plotting to kill the Kingdom Keepers. The fast-paced plot diverges, sometimes confusingly, in numerous directions as it follows Eli, his pals the Kingdom Kids, and everyone's parents as all try to figure out and defeat the new evil threatening their world. A family tree of the original Kingdom Keepers and Kingdom Kids would have been helpful. Eli's mother is described as part Asian (the rest of her ancestry is unspecified); his father is White. The depictions of Morocco and the Moroccan characters are reflective of the Aladdin Disney movie universe. A slur for Roma people is casually included without comment. An overloaded story. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--When Eli is celebrating his 13th birthday in the CommuniTree, surrounding the Walt Disney World theme park, something odd happens. He plays a game with a hologram of Jafar, the main antagonist of Disney's 1992 animated feature film Aladdin. However, the hologram comes to life and tries to attack Eli. Thus begins an exciting story of Eli and his friends fighting against Disney villains, and a secret the children's parents have kept for years begins to emerge. For readers unfamiliar with Disney characters (especially villains), the book might not resonate. While the title holds appeal for fans of Disney and sci-fi, it is fraught with gender stereotypes and racism. A boy who dyes his hair is called "a girl," and a man with long fingernails is considered "girly." The author also describes the smell of curried popcorn as "awful," and something so disgusting that the child will not eat even if she is famished. These sentiments are not challenged within the narrative. VERDICT A Disney-infused sci-fi adventure marred by out-of-place and outdated commentary that renders the book ideologically problematic and harmful for young readers; not recommended.--Shuya Su



#2365785 (Vol. 02) Villains Realm (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ridley Pearson

Home from their adventures abroad in book one, Eli and his friends are safe and sound at Epcot with their families--or are they? When Eli learns that the CEO of the Walt Disney Company has mysteriously done a 180 and ordered Villains Realms to be built in every park across the globe, he and his friends know something is amiss.

978-1-4847-8558-4 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Land of Roar (Trade)



#2162619 (Vol. 01) Land of Roar (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jenny McLachlan

When Arthur and Rose were little, they were the heroes of Roar, a magical world they invented where the wildest creations of their imaginations roamed. When their grandfather is spirited away into Roar by the villain who still haunts their nightmares, Arthur and Rose must go back to the world they'd almost left behind. And when they get there, they discover that Grandad isn't the only one who needs their help.


978-0-06-298271-1 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 304 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 8.0


Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist When twins Rose and Arthur were younger, they were inseparable; they played games, had inside jokes, and even had an


imaginary world they called Roar, which they reached by crawling through a folded-up mattress in their grandfather's attic while shouting, "Hear me roar!" But now the twins are 11, and Rose is more interested in playing on her phone and jumping on a trampoline with the neighborhood girls than she is in hanging out with Arthur. Roar is a distant memory. But when Grandad is suddenly sucked into Roar by Crowky, the half-crow, half-scarecrow monster that Arthur never really stopped fearing, everything he ever knew about Roar comes rushing back. His imaginary world is quite suddenly very real, and if he's going to save Grandad, he's going to have to go back. But Arthur's only ever been one half of the Masters of Roar. Mantle's whimsical black-and-white illustrations enhance this playful, Peter Pan-like tale of sibling rivalry and affection. A series starter with heart.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Once upon a time when twins Arthur and Rose were younger, they created a make-believe world called Roar, which they accessed through a folded cot in their grandfather's attic, and where they enjoyed adventures alongside imaginary friends such as Mitch (a mermaid-witch) and Wininja (a wizard-ninja). Then they got older. But when the twins, now 11, help their grandfather clean out his attic to make way for a "proper den," they find a map that brings back memories. And when an old imaginary foe, a wicked winged scarecrow called Crowky, kidnaps Grandad, the siblings must travel to a far more alarming Roar than they remember, reunite with childhood companions, and stop Crowky from transforming Grandad into a stuffed scarecrow and conquering all of Roar. If, that is, Arthur can convince his sister that she's not too cool for fantasy games. McLachlan (Truly Wildly Deeply) infuses a traditional portal fantasy with a whimsical logic; the twins' power of belief influences Roar's landscape, and their mundane possessions (a fidget spinner, for example) become talismans to its inhabitants; while deftly portraying two modern siblings working to mend their strained friendship. Occasional illustrations by Mantle capture the story's fantastical feel. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Julia Churchill, A.M. Heath. (June)

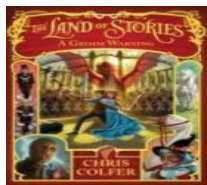
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2227163 (Vol. 02) Return to Roar (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jenny McLachlan</i> Roar is filled with incredible wonders from their own imaginations, but some of their nightmares have also come to life. Crowky, the villain who still haunts Arthur and Rose, has discovered the secret spot where the twins have locked away all their deepest, darkest fears. He plans to unleash their fears upon the land, which means Roar will be in more danger than ever before. 978-0-06-298274-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 9.0	1	\$16.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2280658 (Vol. 03) Battle for Roar (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jenny McLachlan</i> Roar is filled with incredible wonders from their own imaginations. After several showdowns with their nemesis, Crowky, Arthur and Rose are looking forward to exploring beyond the End of Roar, an as-yet unexplored part of the world. When they arrive, they're greeted by some long-forgotten fairies who are very excited to see them. Maybe too excited... Facing down a new nemesis, Arthur and Rose must team up with friends old and new to save both Roar and the real world beyond it from total destruction. 978-0-06-324914-1 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic	1	\$16.99

Land of Stories (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2008632 (Vol. 06) Worlds Collide (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Chris Colfer</i> Conner and Alex must brave the impossible. All of the Land of Stories fairy tale characters--heroes and villains--are no longer confined within their world! With mayhem brewing in the Big Apple, Conner and Alex will have to win their biggest battle yet. Can the twins restore order between the human and fairy tale world? Breathtaking action mixed with laugh out loud moments and lots of heart will make this a gripping conclusion for many fans!	1	\$21.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Witches and other fictional baddies move to conquer this world when a portal opens between the Land of Stories and a branch of the New York Public Library. For the finale to his popular series, Colfer recaps the first five episodes, then brings together most of the teeming cast to wage, as the narrator admits, "an overdue battle of good versus evil." Flanked by a wish-fulfilling frame story in which Conner, one of the white twin protagonists, has grown up to become a revered writer of middle-grade fantasies, the climactic struggle begins with the portal's opening in the sumptuous Rose Reading Room. It spreads to Central Park and other locales as the then-teenager and allies fictional or otherwise (including a lot of ineffectual Marines) square off against his powerfully gifted sister, Alex, the dastardly witches who have ensorcelled her, and a Literary Army led by (among others) the head-chopping Queen of Hearts. Many set pieces ensue, from a pitched battle with gingerbread soldiers to no fewer than six individual witch-fairy duels in a row—not to mention gags and one-liners aplenty, topical references, and adolescent posturing ("Knock it off, boys," Merlin snaps at one point, "there are much bigger issues in this story"). With one exception, characters who die bleed words instead of blood, and all of the destruction in both worlds is neatly fixed at the end by an albino dragon (see Book 3: A Grimm Warning). Dorman's vignettes at the chapter heads offer glimpses of settings and characters. A busy if ultimately tidy wrap-up for fans.



#1776001 (Vol. 03) Grimm Warning (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Chris Colfer

Conner Bailey thinks his fairy-tale adventures are behind him—until he discovers a mysterious clue left by the famous Brothers Grimm. With help from his classmate Bree and the outlandish Mother Goose, Conner sets off on a mission across Europe to crack a two-hundred-year-old code. Meanwhile, Alex Bailey is training to become the next Fairy Godmother...but her attempts at granting wishes never go as planned. Will she ever be truly ready to lead the Fairy Council?

978-0-316-40681-9 ©2014 480 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 19.0 RC Lvl 5.4 GR Lvl K Lexile 830

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$21.99



#1924459 (Vol. 04) Beyond the Kingdoms (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Chris Colfer

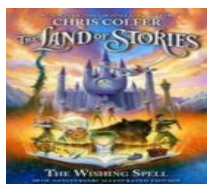
The Masked Man is on the loose in the Land of Stories, and it's up to Alex and Conner Bailey to stop him...except Alex has been thrown off the Fairy Council, and no one will believe they're in danger.

978-0-316-40689-5 ©2015 5 x 7 432 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 14.0 RC Lvl 4.6 GR Lvl K Lexile 760

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-8. Twins Alex and Conner have traveled from our world into the Land of Stories before, but now other realms are available, thanks to a potion their deceased grandmother Anneliese (the Fairy Godmother) created to open portals. The potion has disastrous results when the twins' estranged uncle, Lloyd, uses it to enter fictional worlds and recruit an army of villains. With help from friends—Red, Jack, Mother Goose, and Goldilocks—Alex and Conner race against time and magic to try to stop Lloyd. This latest from Glee star Colfer takes readers beyond fairy tale kingdoms and into realms from literature: Oz, Neverland, Camelot, the Sherwood Forest, and Wonderland all appear. The pacing is fairly relentless, and readers new to the series may struggle to keep up with the large cast of characters (who are not what you might expect). Still, fans of reimagined fairy tales will be drawn to the whimsy, and Colfer's popularity ensures an audience. With a cliff-hanger ending to boot, fans may have a hard time waiting for the final installment of this series.



#2293396 (Vol. 01) Wishing Spell (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Chris Colfer

The Land of Stories tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$24.99



#1747773 (Vol. 02) Enchantress Returns (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Chris Colfer

Against the will of their grandmother, twins Alex and Conner must find their own way into the Land of Stories to rescue their mother and save the fairy tale world from the greatest threat it has ever faced--the return of the Enchantress who cursed Sleeping Beauty.

978-0-316-20154-4 ©2013 528 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 19.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 760

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99



#1960305 (Vol. 05) Author's Odyssey (Hardcover (Trade))

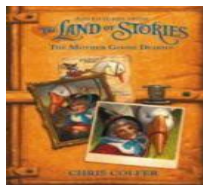
written by Chris Colfer

When the twins and their friends enter worlds crafted from Conner's imagination, finding allies no one else could have ever dreamed of, the race begins to put an end to the Masked Man's reign of terror. Can the twins finally restore peace in the fairy tale world?

978-0-316-38329-5 ©2016 480 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 15.0 Lexile 830

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99



#2008640 Adventures from the Land of Stories: The Mother Goose Diaries (Hardcover (POB))

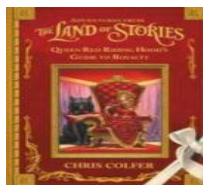
written by Chris Colfer

Mother Goose has had centuries of adventure and finally she's allowing her favorite readers to take a peek at all her secrets. Who else gossiped with Queen Elizabeth I, taught geography to Napoleon, marched for equal rights with Martin Luther King Jr., and served as Andy Warhol's muse?

978-0-316-38334-9 ©2016 128 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 810

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99



#2008637 Adventures from the Land of Stories: Queen Red Riding Hood's Guide to Royalty (Hardcover (POB))

written by Chris Colfer

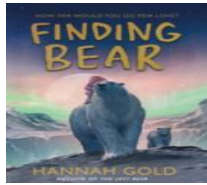
From beloved author Chris Colfer comes a magnificent guide for anyone who is either royal, or might one day become royal after narrowly escaping Death by Wolf. Read the pages within for boundless wisdom regarding royal style and advice on how to handle one's subjects. We wish you a long and successful reign (provided you are not an enemy of our kingdom).

978-0-316-38336-3 ©2016 128 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.4 AR Pts 2.0

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99

Last Bear (Trade)



#2365622 (Vol. 02) Finding Bear (Hardcover (Trade))

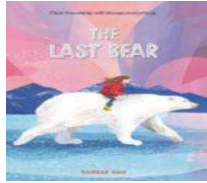
written by Hannah Gold

April Wood has returned home from her adventure on Bear Island, but over a year later, she can't stop thinking about Bear. When she hears that a polar bear has been shot and injured in Svalbard, she's convinced it's her friend and persuades her dad to travel with her to the northernmost reaches of the Arctic. So begins an unforgettable journey across frozen tundra and icy glaciers.

978-0-06-329610-7 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99



#2209300 (Vol. 01) Last Bear (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Hannah Gold

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to a faraway Arctic outpost. But one night, April catches a glimpse of something distinctly bear shaped loping across the horizon. A polar bear who shouldn't be there--who is hungry, lonely and a long way from home.

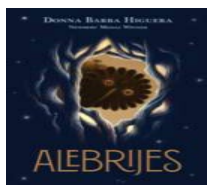
978-0-06-304107-3 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–5—A novel that immerses the reader headfirst into the cold, bare landscape of the Arctic melting under the effects of climate change. Young April and her scientist father travel to Bear Island for his research. Ironically, no bears are believed to be left. That is, until April catches a glimpse of a malnourished polar bear. They form a friendship as April nurses him back to health. She discovers that he has been stranded on the island for many years and devises a plan to get him home to Svalbard before her time in the North comes to an end. Gold's debut middle grade novel is a bold, unapologetic look into the devastating effects of climate change and its impact on wildlife. Scientific facts and statistics are seamlessly integrated into the narrative, strengthening the book's urgent tone. While the themes are clear and compelling, certain plot points remain nebulous, such as how April is able to communicate so well with the bear (a gift briefly tied to her late mother) or how her father seems unconcerned with her wandering the island alone all day. These small details will likely not bother young readers, who will be eager to find out if Bear makes his way home. Sections of the book are divided by gentle black-and-white illustrations that help bring April's story to life. The author includes a helpful and informative note at the end about the real Bear Island she used as inspiration. VERDICT A fast-paced novel that will awaken or strengthen readers' concern for their environment and that has the potential to act as a powerful discussion tool in classrooms and book clubs.—Katherine Hickey, Metropolitan Lib. Syst., Oklahoma City

Last Cuentista (Trade)



#2350046 Alebrijes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Donna Barba Higuera

(Companion) For 400 years, Earth has been a barren wasteland. The few humans that survive scrape together an existence in the cruel city of Pocatel - or go it alone in the wilderness beyond, filled with wandering spirits and wyrms. They don't last long. 13 year-old pickpocket Leandro and his sister Gabi do what they can to forge a life in Pocatel.

978-1-64614-263-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 14.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* Upon a desolate Earth, an enclave of humans has established a society amid hostile surroundings, including a wyrmfield inhabited by subterranean monsters straight out of Tremors. A harsh caste system has landed orphaned 13-year-old Leandro and his little sister, Gabi, in the Pox (Pocatel's slum) with the other Cascabeles, who work the potato fields each day under the watchful eye of the Pocatelan guards. Longing for a better life, Leandro has planned an escape, but everything is ruined when he is arrested for stealing and sentenced to three years' exile. Curiously, it will only be his mind that is held captive--uploaded into a tiny piece of Old-World tech called a spark. The physician performing the procedure secretly offers Leandro a deal in which she will place his spark into a hummingbird drone if

he will search for her missing daughter, who is also in drone form. He accepts, knowing he and Gabi can leave Pocatel should he succeed. The high-stakes adventure awaiting Hummingbird Leandro is enthralling and studded with surprises that spur the narrative onward. Beautiful, imaginative writing fills this dystopian sf novel. Though it exposes cruelty and corruption, it raises up storytelling, culture, and kindness as stronger yet, giving a satisfying nod to Higuera's Newbery Award-winning *The Last Cuentista* (2021) in the process. A wondrous addition to any collection. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Thirteen-year-old Leandro Rivera and his 9-year-old sister, Gabi, brave the harsh reality of a segregated settlement in post-apocalyptic California. Spanish-speaking Cascabeles like Leandro are forced to work the fields to provide for elite English-speaking Pocatelans or risk exile and certain death in the desolate and dangerous monster-filled outside world. Descended from farmers who worked the land before the calamity that made everything barren, the orphaned siblings, who survive as pickpockets, face discrimination within the city's walls and are threatened with deadly punishment for even minor offenses. Leandro and Gabi hatch a plan to escape from their oppressors, live free in the wild, and return to the ways of their people. Their plans derail, however, when Leandro is banished for stealing after he covers for Gabi's impulsive theft of a strawberry. But Leandro's magical transformation leads to a breathtaking discovery that could transform the lives of everyone in Pocatel. In Leandro's hero's journey, alebrijes are brilliantly cast as animalistic machines from another era and saviors of the living. The story examines how people can build better societies from the ashes of unequal, oppressive, and corrupt ones. Softly rendered black-and-white illustrations evoke the terrors and wonders of a broken world through a child's eyes. Strong worldbuilding uses the familiar and the fantastic to prod readers to consider the story's parallels to real-world injustices and the ethics of power, storytelling, and greed. This heartfelt adventure signals hope for humanity, even in the aftermath of darkness. (map) (Dystopian. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An orphaned pickpocket must inhabit the body of a hummingbird drone in Newbery Medalist Higuera's deeply humane postapocalyptic novel set in the distant future. Since arriving in Pocatel, a walled city with a harsh climate and scant resources, 13-year-old Leandro Rivera and his nine-year-old sister Gabi endure a life of arduous physical labor and must frequently engage in petty theft to survive. As Cascabeles, the Latinx-coded descendants of workers from the San Joaquin Valley, Leandro and Gabi must at all times abide by the oppressive Pocatelan Regime's laws; or else face banishment as well as the deadly wyrms that lurk outside the city. When Gabi is caught stealing a strawberry just before a planned escape, Leandro sacrifices himself in her place. Upon meeting his captors, though, he is offered a reprieve in the form of a task: occupy a piece of tech thought lost to time and find a missing person beyond the city's borders. Steeped in folkloric ambience and employing delicate character work, this stellar speculative narrative explores themes of identity across circumstance, centering an adolescent without structural power working to protect family and community. Occasional b&w interiors from Alvarez enrich the narrative. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Allison Remcheck, Stimola Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-9--Subtle worldbuilding, flesh-and-bone protagonists, and magnetic writing make this sci-fi companion to Newbery Award--winning *The Last Cuentista* an instant classic. To survive, orphan brother and sister Leandro and Gabi scavenge potatoes for their harsh employers. They are Cascabeles, the descendants of the farmers who worked the lands of the San Joaquin Valley before a disaster wiped out most of the world 400 years ago. They live under the subjugation of the cruel Pocatelans, under threat of exile for any minor infraction, in tent communities and dire conditions, afraid of monsters and starvation. Completely on their own, the siblings have to pickpocket to stay alive. Leandro takes the fall for Gabi when she gets caught stealing, and he is banished. Instead of a death sentence, he is transformed into a hummingbird drone and joins other machines, called alebrijes, named after the mystical creatures sculpted by Oaxacan artists. In his new form, Leandro uncovers a dangerous plot. With measured pacing and layered character development, Higuera's latest is a masterly exploration of how corruption is an indelible part of every oppressive society. It's also a celebration; there will always be a beacon of hope in dark times, fueled by stories and community. There are still reminders of the previous world that serve to remind readers that this society is not too different from our own. The Cascabeles speak Spanish; the Pocatelans speak English. VERDICT This gorgeously written post-apocalyptic novel is a must for every library.--Shelley M. Diaz Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Last Human (Trade)



#2122513 (Vol. 01) Last Human (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Lee Bacon

In the future, robots have eliminated humans, and 12-year-old robot XR_935 is just fine with that. Without humans around, there is no war, no pollution, no crime. Every member of society has a purpose. Everything runs smoothly and efficiently. Until the day XR discovers something impossible: a human girl named Emma.
 978-1-4197-3691-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 6.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 What if robots destroyed all humans?or at least thought they had? XR_935, a gen-9 robot, narrates this unusual sci-fi tale, beginning with his first day online. XR_935 entertainingly learns about his environment and the downfall of humans by examining data files and asking the two robots serving as his FamilyUnit questions, such as What's a nail salon? and Why did humans congregate to watch movies? Once up to speed, XR_935 spends the next 12 years diligently working alongside SkD (who communicates in emoticons) and Ceeron (who enjoys

telling human jokes). They get the shock of their lives, therefore, when a 12-year-old human, Emma, shows up at the worksite. Emma enlists the robots' help in finding medicine to cure the sickness sweeping through the people in her bunker. Subtle humor surfaces when literal-minded robots try to understand human idioms, behavior, and emotions. And Bacon raises the story's stakes and action level as the group works against the clock and unexpected new threats. A tech-fueled friendship adventure ideal for fans of Peter Brown's Wild Robot series. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books The robotic uprising was successful, and human beings are now officially extinct. Robot XR_935 and its co-workers, SkD_988 and Ceeron_902, believe what all robots believe: that human eradication was necessary for planetary survival. When human Emma appears at their worksite, the bots question if humans are as dangerous as they've been taught. They must decide if they will report her appearance to the robot hive leader, PRESIDENT, and destroy the girl, or if they believe her story enough to help her to safety. Narrated by XR_935, the book examines the post-apocalyptic genre from the robot's perspective. Malapropisms (Ceeron_902'S attempt at "Don't let the bedbugs bite" is advising Emma to "not allow the bedbugs to chew your face off") and debates about human culture create many wink-and-nudge moments between the author and audience. XR_935 navigates experiences of culture clash, morality vs. legality, and friendship that will resonate with young readers in a changing world. Chapter titles written in binary, non-traditional punctuation, and dialogue inscribed in emojis add a sci-fi/futuristic touch that will broaden appeal. The short chapters-some only a sentence or two in length-allow for an especially quick and rewarding read. KP

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A trio of robot workers sets out to help a girl they believe to be the last of humankind. Thirty years after robots put an end to humanity in order to save the planet, a girl appears at the narrator's worksite. XR_935 is purpose-built to install solar panels in a large array. XR_935's work companion, enormous, strong Ceeron, built to lift and carry, is a scholar of human jokes and colloquialisms. Smaller, zippy SkD connects wires and communicates via emoji pictographs. XR_935 itself is analytical, constantly running numbers, data, and measurements. Emma, a white-presenting human, explains that her family and others have been overcome by a flu epidemic in their hidden bunker. The lone survivor, she hopes to reach a point of help marked on a map. XR_935 grapples with the dilemma: It needs to violate the rules it knows in order to provide forbidden assistance to this Unknown LifeForm. Bacon deftly constructs an amiable but also moral and emotional self for XR_935 out of the data that the unlikely hero collects and considers. The result is an amusing and upbeat adventure, with glimpses of a fading human footprint on the planet and a suggestion that there's hope for a shared AI and human future. An off note is sounded, however, in XR_935's initial conjecture that Emma could be "a shaved gorilla" (to which Emma reacts, "not cool"), which unnecessarily deploys a phrase that some young readers will recognize as a racist one. After all, via data clips, XR_935 and its fellow robots have seen images of humans multiple times. Appealing speculative fiction with memorable robot personalities. (Science fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly t war established humans as corrupt, robots wiped them out, replacing them with a machine society linked a ross a hive. Robot XR_935, who narrates, installs solar panels, never questioning its purpose until the day that a 12-year-old human girl, Emma, appears in its solar field. Emma shouldn't exist, but she does, and XR and its two robotic coworkers, despite the paradox, can't bring themselves to destroy her. Instead, they disable tracking and accompany her on a journey set by her dying parents. Along the way, they face danger, risk being lost to battery depletion, and are eventually branded traitors to robot society. But the robots' experiences of human kindness, empathy, and collaboration lead them to reconsider their views on humankind's potential. In this enjoyable sci-fi adventure, the stakes are believable and high, and the robots' interactions are humorous, sometimes mixed up for comedic effect. Against a timely backdrop, Bacon (the Joshua Dread series) explores messages of friendship, tolerance, and cooperation with wit and thoughtfulness. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—In this future world, humans have been eliminated by robots, leaving a supposedly better society devoid of the evils caused by humans—wars, pollution, crime, and waste. The robots have been brainwashed by their leader, the Hive President, into believing that humans caused nothing but trouble, and the robots have no reason to doubt him. Besides, their programming would not allow them to. Robot XR_935 is 12 years old and has spent his whole "life" with his FamilyUnit—Parent_1 and Parent_2—fulfilling his purpose of installing solar panels for energy. His life is shattered by a paradox: he encounters a 12-year-old girl named Emma, which is impossible because humans are supposed to be extinct. From Emma, XR_935 and his robot "friends," SkD_988 (who communicates through emojis) and massively strong Ceeron_902, learn that there is a secret underground bunker of humans who weren't exterminated. However, the inhabitants of the bunker, including Emma's family, succumbed to a mysterious illness, leaving Emma alone in the world and desperate to reach a mysterious spot on a map her parents left her. Despite their programming, the robots decide to help Emma on her dangerous journey, facing killer HunterBots, drones, and the risk of not finding charging stations before it's too late. Along the way, an unlikely friendship is forged, with humor, misunderstandings (robots don't understand human jokes or expressions), and plenty of rule breaking. Bacon's story is full of twists and adventure, leaving readers guessing throughout. VERDICT With the ever-increasing presence of technology, readers may be torn between rooting for Emma or the robots. Recommended for fans of thrilling sci-fi with a strong ethical motif.—Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA



#2376497 (Vol. 02) Fall of the Robots (Hardcover (Trade))

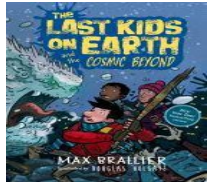
written by Lee Bacon

A group known as the Machine Breakers has emerged. They won't stop until they've destroyed every robot on earth-and any human who stands in their way. Can XR and Emma stop them? Or could this be the end of the robots-and the world as they know

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it?
978-1-4197-6917-7 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8 320 pgs.
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Last Kids on Earth (Trade)



#2071117 (Vol. 04) Last Kids on Earth and the Cosmic Beyond (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Max Brallier

It's the first winter after the Monster Apocalypse. For Jack and his buddies, that means sled catapults, epic snowball battles, and one monstrous Christmas celebration. But their winter wonderland turns dark when a villainess begins hunting them. And this villainess is different--she's a human.

978-0-425-29208-2 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 3.2 Lexile 540

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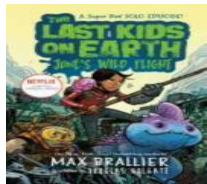


#2355210 (Vol. 09) Last Kids on Earth and the Monster Dimension (Hardcover (POB))
written by Max Brallier

The last kids may have escaped the forbidden fortress by the skin of their teeth, but there isn't much to celebrate. Thrull has what he needs to complete the Tower, Rezzoch will most certainly come to Earth, and the world as they know it will cease to exist. Except Jack's Cosmic Hand is now even more powerful than he realized, and it might just be able to stop the inevitable from happening. To get the answers he seeks, he'll need to travel farther than he's ever been. He must go . . . to the monster dimension!

978-0-593-40525-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
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#2159734 June's Wild Flight: A Super Rad Solo Episode (Hardcover (POB))
written by Max Brallier

Told from June's point of view--and set between the shattering events of The Midnight Blade and the upcoming 6th book in the series--June's Wild Flight brings new characters, high-stakes action, and stunning revelations in an adventure that could only be June's. An essential Last Kids story that readers won't want to miss!

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#2177966 (Vol. 06) Last Kids on Earth and the Skeleton Road (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Max Brallier

Jack Sullivan, Quint Baker, June Del Toro, and Dirk Savage are about to have their biggest adventure yet. That's right--it's ROAD TRIP TIME!

978-1-9848-3534-5 ©2020 5-1/8 x 7-13/16 320 pgs.
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#2244492 (Vol. 07) Last Kids on Earth and the Domsday Race (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Max Brallier
Jack, Quint, June, and Dirk's journey continues with new friends, new stakes, and a new ride!
978-1-9848-3537-6 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 660

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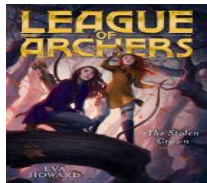
League of Archers (Prebound)



#2033521 (Vol. 01) League of Archers (Prebound)
written by Eva Howard
Ellie Dray and her League of Archers are keeping Robin Hood's legacy alive, but when Ellie is accused of Robin's murder, she must learn what it really means to be a hero in this exciting adventure story.
978-1-5364-2862-9 ©2017 5-1/8 x 7-13/16 304 pgs.
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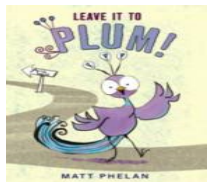
League of Archers (Trade)



#2032679 (Vol. 02) Stolen Crown (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Eva Howard
Ellie Dray and her League of Archers are keeping Robin Hood's legacy alive by stealing from the rich to help the poor, but when they discover someone is trying to steal the crown, they learn that some things may be out of their league.
978-1-4814-6040-8 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 730

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Leave It to Plum! (Trade)



#2280786 Leave It to Plum! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Matt Phelan
Young Plum is one of the peacock ambassadors for the Athensville Zoo. Every day the peacocks are allowed to wander freely among the zoo's visitors, delighting and guiding kids and grownups alike. The peacocks are very proud of their responsibility, none so much as kind, curious Plum. But Itch the ningbing-a type of very small marsupial-doesn't understand why those birdbrains should get so much freedom while he's all cooped up. So he plots and plots, sure that he will escape to become the zoo ambassador!
978-0-06-307916-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity
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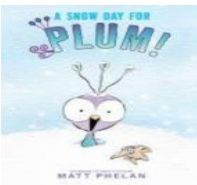
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 Plum the peacock is an exuberant ambassador at the Athensville Zoo, part of the grounds' long tradition of free-roaming peacocks. Plum and the rest of his flock are charged with welcoming and interacting with the human visitors, happily hopping into selfies or helpfully pointing the way to exhibits. But trouble is brewing in the form of disgruntled ningbing Itch, a tiny Australian marsupial who seethes about the unfairness of his own captivity while the foolish birds are free to roam. He conspires to displace the peacocks and take over as a more educational ambassador, and it's up to Plum to sort out the schemes and keep the zoo humming. The story is a hoot, combining the hilarity of chatty

zoo animals with more somber undertones of loneliness, though everyone has found their perfect place by the conclusion. Plum is a chipper and generous, if not sweetly oblivious, guide through the proceedings, while the ningbing is delightfully menacing, and cartoonish sketches enhance the lighthearted tone. Young readers will relish this splendid hullabaloo at the zoo. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

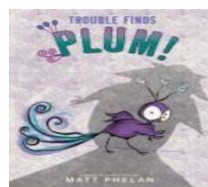
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Plum the peacock is content with his life at Athensville Zoo: he gets to hang out with Mike the alligator, chat with Kevin the giant elephant shrew, and follow the sacred instructions of Hampstead the head peacock regarding zoo visitors: "MINGLE! GUIDE! DELIGHT!" Over in the Small and Unusual Mammal Pavilion, however, Itch the ningbing has had it with all the peacocks strutting around, mingle-guide-delighting visitors. With the help of some devious squirrels, he enacts a brilliantly evil plan to overthrow the birds' reign. After framing the peafowl for a series of thefts, he sends the birds on the Kiddie Monorail to meet their doom, and it's only Plum and his pal Jeremy, a smart but insecure cat, who can save the day. True to his mission, Plum does indeed delight in this beginning chapter book, and the straightforward, concise storyline is both accessible and goofy, with a cast of amusingly quirky characters and a surprising amount of emotional weight. Plum is all innocence and naivete, which sets him up for disappointment when he realizes not everyone operates out of the goodness of their heart, but, even after that reality check, he still wants the best for everyone-including Itch. Phelan's characteristic sketchy black and white art is given more definition here, and wide-eyed, feathery Plum makes a visually appealing foil to angular (and angry), sharp-toothed Itch. The turn in Jeremy's role from fraidy-cat to courageous hero neatly and triumphantly brings everything together, and this will be an instant hit with kids who like to root for the underdog (cat? bird?) KQG COPYRIGHT(2022) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A bighearted peacock with boundless cheer stars in this lively zoo caper by Phelan (Knights vs. Dinosaurs). Free-range peacocks have long been official guest ambassadors at the Athensville Zoo, seeking to "Mingle! Guide! Delight!" But not everyone is happy about the arrangement, especially not a dour, power-hungry marsupial called Itch, a ningbing with an inflated sense of his own smarts. Fed up with being caged while others roam free, Itch plots to frame the pea-fowl for a manufactured crime spree with the help of some wily, sticky-fingered squirrels. When the plan results in entrapment, a "peppy, purple peacock" named Plum plays detective to gain their release, and in the process, his sleuthing sees him standing up to bullies and growing in social awareness. Luckily, the congenial protagonist is also able to draw on the help of new friends, including a lonely street cat and an introverted new zookeeper, and by book's end, everyone is better off than they were at the start, including the series starter's villain. With occasional grayscale art presented alongside amusingly self-important, cinematically rendered characters, Phelan offers winning animalian antics for chapter book beginners. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Rebecca Sherman, Writers House. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—In this alliterative zoo tale, peppy purple peacock Plum befriends Jeremy, a sad and solitary street kitty, who returns the favor by saving all the peafowl from a frightening fate. It seems that nefarious ningbing Itch, a mouselike marsupial aiming to get the feathered flock ejected, has concocted a scheme to frame the flightless fowl for a series of theft, and then dispatch them via an "accident" on the zoo's closed-off elevated monorail. Fortunately, Plum manages to send a signal that brings his feline ally racing to the rescue in the nick of time. And being grateful, as well as the most beneficent of birds, Plum goes on to hook Jeremy up with lonely new zookeeper Lizzie. Perhaps Phelan can be forgiven for portraying the tails of both peacocks and peahens with the same calligraphic swirls, as the expressive ink-and-wash animal portraits that pack his short chapters of well-paced narrative are done in a fanciful style. Progressing readers weaned on similarly sited anthropomorphic shenanigans like Diane Redfield Massie's Baby beebee bird or Philip Stead's Amos McGee tales will find their suspicions that it really is all happening at the zoo further confirmed. VERDICT A buoyant tale for younger middle grade readers, with a mild dose of danger for spice and an extroverted protagonist on a mission to "mingle, guide, delight."—John Edward Peters

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2310864 Snow Day for Plum! (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Matt Phelan</i> The animals of the Athensville Zoo are thrilled to be visiting a local school to star in a presentation--everyone except for a very nervous Plum, that is. And then an unexpected blizzard strands the animals at the elementary school overnight--yikes! 978-0-06-307920-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 7-1/2 128 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 1.0	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Has Plum's pep deserted him? Several animals from the Athensville Zoo are on their way to visit an elementary school. Overconfident Itch the ningbing (an Australian marsupial), unaware that zookeeper Lizzie will be doing all the talking, looks forward to "lecturing eager young minds." Plum, the usually chipper peacock, on the other hand, is anxious--maybe the schoolchildren won't like him or he'll get lost. So when they arrive at the school to find the students have been sent home due to a blizzard, Plum is relieved. The animals are left in a school gym for the night until three self-important class mice free them. Itch heads for the library to meet the learned turtle, but Plum reluctantly explores with his friends. When his anxiety peaks, they reassure him, and when the mice reject Meg, another peacock, as "borrrring" and uncool, they buoy her as well before everyone comes together to save Itch, who finds himself outside and stranded in a snowdrift. Unlike Leave It to Plum (2022), this is not a mystery, and the relationship focus shifts from Lizzie to the rodents, but the pace is brisk, and sequel seekers will be pleased to revisit familiar characters (if dismayed that Itch's longing for knowledge leads to his downfall). In Phelan's engaging grayscale pen-and-wash illustrations, Lizzie has short curly hair; text and art cue her as Latine. Lively fun with animal friends. (how to draw Plum) (Chapter book. 7-10)



#2349570 Trouble Finds Plum! (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Matt Phelan

When Plum the peacock stumbles across a raccoon asking for help finding food on a gloomy day at the zoo, he is delighted to assist his new friend. But Scratch the raccoon doesn't stop there. More and more of Scratch's friends arrive, and soon the zoo is overrun by rowdy and rude raccoons. Though trouble might have found Plum, Plum has a plan to save the Athensville Zoo-and make a few new friends at the same time.

978-0-06-329624-4 ©2023 5-1/2 x 7-1/2 128 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity
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\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Plucky peacock Plum is back with another entertaining installment that has him facing his highest-stakes situation yet. On a quiet day at Athensville Zoo, Plum is thrilled by an unexpected visit from a raccoon named Scratch. Though Plum hopes to make a new friend, it's clear that the nefarious mammal means to take over the zoo and establish a raccoon resort for himself and his henchmen. When the diplomatic approach fails, the zoo animals realize they might need a former evil genius to fight the new one, so Itch the ningbing, reformed nemesis, is tapped to scheme a solution. A scary showdown seems inevitable, and it will take all of Plum's creativity and positivity to save his home. It's a delight to drop back into this wacky zoo world and become reacquainted with the comical cast of critters, from an elephant shrew to a capybara. The brisk pace, witty wisecracks, and humorous illustrations easily retain attention, and Plum's eternal optimism and perpetual enthusiasm are contagious. A warm and welcome addition to an already charming series.

Legend (Trade)



#2107364 (Vol. 04) Rebel (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Marie Lu

Day has spent the past decade piecing together his memory of his time in the Republic, pretending to enjoy life in Antarctica's capital, Ross City, and quietly hiding out from the world. But Eden isn't safe. As the two brothers struggle to accept who they've each become, they grow more distant from one another than they've ever been.

978-1-250-22170-4 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

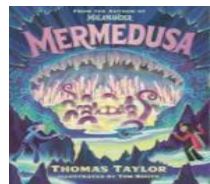
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 15.0 Lexile HL 760

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine ts of the original Legend trilogy (Legend, rev. 11/11, and sequels), and Daniel Wing now lives in Ross City, Antarctica, where he works in the intelligence service for the fledgling nation, while his younger brother, Eden, is attending university there on scholarship for his engineering prowess. Antarctica may provide relative anonymity for the brothers, but its sociopolitical foundation is shaky, as the country's system of rewards and punishments does not offer true opportunities for social mobility, leaving a vast underclass seething with desperation and resentment. As Eden ventures into the Undercity to help a friend, he gets drawn into the clutches of the very crime lord that Daniel has been unsuccessfully tracking. Meanwhile, June has arrived in Antarctica on a diplomatic mission, and Daniel still has feelings for her. In alternating first-person narratives, the book hurtles to its climax as both brothers find themselves in danger, torn by strong feelings of love, loyalty, and honor. The setting isn't as fully realized here as in the original trilogy, but fans will welcome the opportunity to revisit these beloved characters, and the tried-and-true formula of adventure, suspense, and romance once again proves satisfying. Jonathan Hunt March/April 2020 p.84(c) Copyright 2020. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this fourth installment of the Legend series, Lu revisits Daniel "Day" Altan Wing; his brilliant younger brother, Eden Bataar Wing; and Day's love interest, June Iparis. Ten years after Day incited a revolution that brought down the Republic, he is an agent in the Antarctic Intelligence Service in Ross City, the world's most advanced; and purportedly its fairest; metropolis. Residents live within a gamified, level-based social and economic system that monitors and incentivizes good behavior with points; these unlock leveled privileges that control access to education, healthcare, housing, and jobs. But fundamental problems plague the allegedly egalitarian society, reminding the siblings of a tiered pre-revolution Republic. Day is willing to look the other way if it keeps Eden safe, but the injustices Eden sees in Undercity, where those of lower strata are forced to live, push him to take risks that place him in the path of Dominic Hann, a warlord intent on toppling the system for his gain. This tale of intrigue, alliances, and love will draw Legend fans and new readers into a fascinating world whose combined layers of privilege and surveillance draw comparisons to many present-day social ills. Ages 12: up. Agent: Kristin Nelson, Nelson Literary Agency. (Oct.)

Legends of Eerie-on-Sea (Trade)



#2386585 (Vol. 05) Mermedusa (Hardcover (Trade))

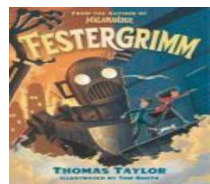
written by Thomas Taylor

It's Midwinter again in Eerie-on-Sea, when legend claims the terrifying Malamander emerges to hunt—and search for its long-lost mate. It's the anniversary of daring Violet Parma's arrival in Eerie; a year later, she still hasn't found her missing parents, just as anxious Herbert Lemon has learned little else about why he washed up on the shore in a crate of lemons.

978-1-5362-2772-7 ©2024 6 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99



#2320072 (Vol. 04) Festergrimm (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Thomas Taylor

Herbie Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, and his fearless friend Violet Parma have unearthed many secrets in their village of Eerie-on-Sea: secrets lurking beneath the waves, lapping onto the beaches, and lying behind locked doors. Sebastian Eels is convinced that within the story of Festergrimm is the key to Eerie's deepest secret--a secret in which Herbie himself plays a crucial part--and he'll stop at nothing to uncover it, including bringing a terrifying clockwork legend back to life.

978-1-5362-2742-0 ©2023 6 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This November is "NOPE-vement," Herbie Lemon tells Violet Parma, meaning no risky adventures, but spoiler alert: Perilous mysteries are Eerie-on-Sea's stock in trade. Sebastian Eels, the sleuths' slimy, would-be nemesis, returns to Eerie to refurbish and reopen Festergrimm's Eerie Waxworks. While Herbie and Vi doubt Eels' good intentions, their adult allies are less wary. When the bookstore mermonkey dispenses Dickens' A Christmas Carol, Jenny assumes it means Eels deserves a second chance. Dr. Thalassi hopes the gallery refurbishment will result in new exhibits for his Eerie Museum. Dismayed by Eels' plan, Mrs. Fossil reveals a secret: She's the caretaker of the gallery that was built by her ancestor Felix Fossil when he was hired to collect and repair the remains of Ludo Festergrimm's creations. Ludo's clockwork wonders included a giant robot intended to find Pandora, his missing daughter, but the robot's deadly rampage resulted in the destruction of both itself and its maker. The gallery is now a ruin. The train that once meandered through the spooky gallery's decaying waxworks sits motionless on tracks that descend in darkness to lower floors and exhibits. As creepy mysteries proliferate, Herbie senses Pandora's story is connected to his--but doesn't know how or why. While series fans know what to expect, the plot's familiar contours deliver a few surprises along the way. As usual, the quirky art serves as witty counterpoint to Herbie's stoic narration while Eerie's Saint Dismal nicely embodies the English-seaside-in-the-off-season setting. A cozy and atmospheric read. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Legends of Lotus Island (Prebound)



#2364020 (Vol. 01) Guardian Test (Prebound)

written by Christina Soontornvat

Young Plum is shocked to discover that she's been accepted to the Guardian Academy on Lotus Island, an elite school where kids learn how to transform into Guardians, magical creatures who are sworn to protect the natural world. The Guardian masters teach Plum and her friends how to communicate with animals and how to use meditation to strengthen their minds and bodies. All the kids also learn to fight, so they can protect the defenseless if needed.

978-1-5364-8312-3 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95

Reviews by: Booklist Though orphaned at a young age, Plum has enjoyed her quiet childhood with loving grandparents on a small island. She spends her days tending their lush garden and communing with local animals; but her quiet existence is interrupted by an unexpected invitation to

attend the prestigious Guardian Academy on Lotus Island. The school has long existed to train future Guardians, a select set of magically endowed humans capable of transforming into mystical creatures and charged with protecting the natural world. With her affinity for flora and fauna, it seems only natural that Plum would conjure such a power. However, she has only a month to train for her first exam, and there's no magic to be found—she worries she may not have what it takes to become a Guardian after all. The first installment in the new series is effortlessly entertaining and atmospheric, and the new Thai-adjacent world is teeming with magical life and gentle mystery. Additionally, Hong's imaginative manga-style illustrations and the book's shorter length will easily draw in younger readers. An enchanting eco-fable sure to intrigue and delight.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews become a shape-shifting Guardian? Raised by her grandparents since her parents died in a boating accident, Plum has spent her childhood learning about plants and animals. She hasn't ventured far from her island home, part of the Santipap Islands, but when she is accepted into the prestigious Guardian Academy, where she will train to become a Guardian along with other children from all walks of life her grandparents encourage her to go, certain that her future holds more than their little island can provide. At the Academy, Plum's tendency to talk to plants and animals strikes some of the students as strange, though she also begins to make friends. In the Santipap Islands, Guardians have the power to shift into an animal shape to better protect the land, and Plum's first test is to find her own animal shape—but will she succeed, or will she be forced to return home a failure? With a Thailand-inspired setting, magic rooted in nature and the environment, and whimsical illustrations, this is a promising beginning to a series ready to introduce readers to both the fantasy genre and a beautiful and mysterious new world. All characters are somewhat loosely implied to be Thai due to character and place names. Themes of friendship and environmentalism combine in this magical school story. (map) (Fantasy. 7-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Soontornvat (The Tryout) deftly combines a Thai-inspired setting, familiar fantasy tropes, and themes of nature conservation to craft a mystical series kickoff. Tween Plum, who's grown up on her grandparents' farm in the Santipap Islands, can hardly believe that she has been chosen to become a Guardian, part of a group of magical animalian shape-shifters who protect and nurture the natural world. She's soon sent to Guardian Academy on Lotus Island to train for her first test: discovering her animal shape. At school, Plum faces bullying based on her rural upbringing, and forges an immediate friendship with knowledgeable, take-charge classmate Cherry. Despite her quickly improving abilities, however, Plum is unsure whether she will be able to unleash her inner power. Plum's struggles with her self-worth are compassionately wrought, and her unique ability to communicate with animals and plants suitably plays into the narrative's focus on environmentalism. Descriptive scene setting and humorous dialogue offer a solid foundation for interpersonal conflicts, while Hong's animated grayscale illustrations elevate Soontornvat's leisurely unfolding, intriguing Guardian mythos. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stephanie Fretwell-Hill, Red Fox Literary. (Mar.)

Legends of Lotus Island (Trade)



#2328033 (Vol. 02) Into the Shadow Mist (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christina Soontornvat

Plum and her friends are traveling to the misty Bokati Island. There they will study with the mysterious Guardian Master Em, who is the keeper of the ancient forest there.

The field trip comes just in time for Plum, who still can't figure out why she's so different from the other Novices on Lotus Island.

978-1-338-75917-4 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A group of young Novices at a magic school learn more about using their powers to protect the land. Plum has passed the first test necessary to remain at the Guardian Academy and now is a true Novice, training to use her magic in service of the Santipap Islands. Like her classmates, Plum has the ability to shape-shift into a fantastic creature, the mark of a Guardian. But unlike her classmates, Plum does not seem to have a Guardian power, at least not one that makes sense. Plum worries that she may be like another one of her classmates who had to leave the academy because she used unauthorized workarounds to pass a test. And Plum's next test is fast approaching: She and a few of her friends must journey to another island in the archipelago to use their magic in the field. Something is threatening the trees on Bokati Island, and Plum and her friends must help—but will Plum be able to use her magic and live up to being a Guardian? Touching on friendship, confidence, environmentalism, belonging, and the notion that sometimes actions aren't black-and-white, this second installment of the Legends of Lotus Island series sheds more light on Plum's mysterious powers but still hints at more to come. Plum and her friends live in a loose fantasy version of Thailand. A fun, magical journey featuring a relatably conflicted protagonist. (map) (Fantasy. 7-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2369120 (Vol. 03) City of Wishes (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Christina Soontornvat

During the New Year break, Plum and her friends travel to fancy, fashionable Nakhon City. There they'll stay with Sam and his mother, the powerful Lady Ubon. At first,

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

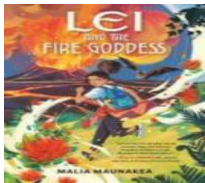


Plum is dazzled by how big and exciting Nakhon City is. She's never experienced anything like it! But under the glittering surface, secrets lurk. A storm is brewing, and Plum will have to harness all of her growing powers to survive it.

978-1-338-75919-8 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Lei and the Legends (Trade)



#2326228 (Vol. 01) Lei and the Fire Goddess (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Malia Maunakea

Curses aren't real. At least, that's what twelve-year-old, part-Hawaiian Anna Leilani Kama'ehu thinks when she listens to her grandmother's folktales about sacred flowers and family guardians. But when Anna accidentally insults Pele the fire goddess by destroying her lehua blossom, a giant hawk swoops in and kidnaps her best friend, and she quickly learns just how real these mo'olelo are. In order to save her friends and family, Anna must now battle mythical creatures, team up with demigods and talking bats, and evade the traps Pele hurls her way.

978-0-593-52203-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

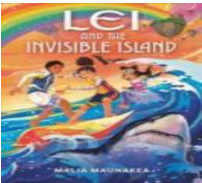
Reviews by: Booklist Anna Leilani is sure there's no place in the modern world for the traditional lore and stories her Hawaiian tūtū (-grandmother) shares—right up to the moment she picks a flower associated with Pele the volcano goddess and a giant bird snatches away her best friend, Kaipō. That's only the first of a series of life-changing revelations, as her determined quest to rescue him leads to encounters with a snarky talking bat, a shape-changing boar, and other supernatural creatures, capped by a wild he'e hōlua, or sled race, down the rocky slopes of Mauna Kea against a mercurial deity with, as she puts it, "major trust and power issues." The author sensitively portrays the way her half-white protagonist wrestles with her identity, and establishes unusually immersive senses of place and culture by, for instance, stirring in references to local foods, tucking untranslated Hawaiian language and slang into the dialogue, and describing a hula Anna/Lei dances in terms of its deeper meaning and spirit. An exciting adventure in an uncommon, perceptively drawn setting.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Anna and her parents moved from Hawaii to Colorado, Anna's grandmother was determined that Anna not forget about her Hawaiian roots, so the family agreed to send Anna back each summer to learn the family stories. Anna used to love just being with her island best friend and grandparents, but after a rough sixth grade, she's hoping to gain some social capital back home by doing a bunch of touristy things and having the photos to compete with her best friend's trip to Paris. Instead, though, she thoughtlessly angers the fire goddess Pele, which results in a series of disasters, including a giant hawk kidnapping her friend and lava threatening her grandmother's house. Anna quickly discovers that the only way to undo her grave error is by fully embracing all of the family stories and her own Hawaiian roots. Anna is brash and impulsive, traits that lead her into trouble but also give her the courage and creativity to find her way back out, and her struggles to reconcile her love for her grandma with her desire to fit in back in Colorado are authentic. Maunakea elegantly folds in enough cultural details to orient readers while not interrupting the flow of the story, trusting the reader to use context with unfamiliar terms or to weave together the snippets of Hawaiian lore as they are offered. AS


Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Hawaiian legends she doesn't want to believe are real. Ever since her family moved to Colorado seven years ago, 12-year-old Anna Leilani Kama'ehu has been spending summers with her tutu, or grandmother, learning the family's mo'olelo. Usually she enjoys these stories that connect her to her Native heritage. She also normally loves spending time with Kaipō, her best friend in Hawai'i, and eating li hing mui gummy bears, but this year is different: Kids at school are mocking her, and her Colorado best friend has left her for the popular crowd, leaving Anna feeling conflicted about her heritage. Now she refuses to believe in the Hawaiian gods and goddesses and tries to convince Tutu to let her do touristy things. Then a frustrated Anna loses her temper, insults fire goddess Pele, and picks a sacred 'ohi'a lehua flower to prove her point. Pele, angered by her disrespect, causes two earthquakes, a lava flow heads toward Tutu's house, and a giant hawk takes Kaipō away. To fix things, Anna must find herself and her Hawaiian roots. This exciting, fast-paced adventure is full of humor and action. Anna wrestles with friendships, being biracial (her mother is Polish American), figuring out where she belongs, and finding pride in her culture. Hawaiian cultural elements are seamlessly woven into the story, giving just enough context for those unfamiliar with them without taking away from the narrative. An exhilarating, adventure-filled celebration of Hawaiian culture. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old Anna Leilani Kama'ehu, who is part white, usually loves spending her summers with her grandmother, Tutu, in Volcano, a rainforest village in Hawaii. But her Boulder, Colo., classmates have started mocking her whenever she brings up Hawaiian stories such as Pele the Fire Goddess, prompting feelings of shame about her heritage. Now Anna isn't looking forward to her trip at all; disinterested in listening to more stories about her culture, she instead wants to "come and visit like a tourist." When Anna questions Pele's existence, Tutu warns her that she'd best show respect, since she's "on Pele's land now." Still disbelieving, Anna picks a sacred 'ohi'a lehua flower, a blasphemous act, resulting in Pele's triggering earthquakes, sinkholes, and volcanic eruptions across the island and sending a giant hawk to kidnap Anna's best friend, Kaipō. Accompanied by Ilikea, a talking bat, and Makani, the breeze, Anna must win back the goddess's favor to save Kaipō and the rest of Hawaii. Scenes peppered with pidgin dialect, Hawaiian words, and descriptions of snacks such as li hing mui gummi bears establish a keen sense of place. Anna feels too Hawaiian to fit in at school, but too haole, or white, to feel at home in Hawaii; a struggle that aptly center themes of identity and connection in Maunakea's energetic, adventuresome debut. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Patrice Caldwell, New Leaf Literary. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Anna Leilani Kama'ehu, a 12-year-old girl who is part-Hawaiian and part-Polish American, finds herself in the adventure of a lifetime as she seeks to right wrongs and rediscover the strength of her Hawaiian roots. At school in Colorado, Anna struggles to balance her desire to fit in with her family obligation to remember her heritage, so, when she visits her beloved grandmother on Hawai'i Island, Anna lashes out and her disrespectful actions invite the wrath of Pele, the fire goddess. As an individual who is part-Hawaiian herself, Maunakea displays mastery in weaving Hawaiian words, mythological references, and legendary Hawaiian figures into her story in a manner that draws readers' attention to the richness of the traditions and beauty of Hawai'i. Bits of humor sparkle throughout the story but the general tone focuses on the significance of Anna's endeavors to connect with her Hawaiian culture and overcome obstacles to save her friend Kaipō with a seriousness that adventure readers will take to mean there is no time to waste, as each event rolls into another at a quick pace. Readers will rely heavily on Anna's outward observations of the rich descriptions of her surroundings and often draw their own conclusions about her emotions from her interactions with figures from legend, as the story's third-person perspective features a great deal of dialogue mixed with or leading up to the story's action. Anna's sullenness and uncertainty give way to a character fueled by wonder and confidence, a transformation that can be discussed in ELA classes as an example of how connections with legends and stories can enliven a sense of identity and inspire strength. VERDICT This story belongs in the hands of middle grade readers who love adventure fiction and mythological elements, as well as those who wish to find an example of rediscovering pride in one's culture and identity.--Rachel Mulligan Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2386905 (Vol. 02) Lei and the Invisible Island (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Malia Maunakea</i> After saving her best friend and ancestral guardian, Kaipō, from Pele the Fire Goddess's traps, and successfully preventing lava from destroying her Tūtū's house, all Lei wants to do is take a nap. The only problem? Kaipō's 'aumakua pendant is missing, and without it, he will soon disintegrate... emotionally and physically. 978-0-593-52205-9 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$18.99

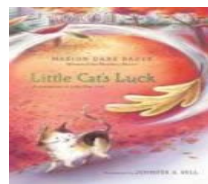
Like a Charm (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2349246 (Vol. 01) Like a Charm (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Elle McNicoll</i> Ramya Knox always knew she was different. Her dyspraxia makes her clumsy and prone to attracting the disapproval of her teachers. Ramya didn't know she can see magic! But when a dog statue comes to life, Ramya follows the pup and discovers a world she thought existed only in fairy tales. 978-0-593-64913-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 570</p>	1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist For as long as she can remember, Ramya has lived with dyspraxia and feeling different, but she's not prepared for how truly unusual she turns out to be. After her grandfather dies, she receives a bizarre inheritance: an empty guidebook to the Hidden World of Edinburgh, which she is charged with completing. Ramya is one of very few humans who can see through the enchantments that magical creatures use to disguise their true appearances. She's suddenly thrust into a world populated by friendly trolls, distrusting vampires, surprisingly helpful kelpies, and menacing faeries. It soon becomes clear that something is terribly wrong in both the visible and hidden worlds, and Ramya appears to be the key to saving them both. McNicoll brings a striking Scottish setting and its otherworldly inhabitants vividly to life with cinematic descriptions. Neurodivergent Ramya is a wonderfully complicated protagonist, imbued with deep compassion and courage but also incredible rage at being othered by parents and teachers. A magical, modern fantasy for anyone who has felt that they don't fit in.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In this eloquently written duology opener by McNicoll (Show Us Who You Are), a 12-year-old with Scottish and British ancestry is seemingly the only one capable of seeing magical creatures that live among humans. Following an emotional blowout between then-five-year-old Ramya Knox's parents and her maternal grandfather, Ramya is forbidden from seeing him. Seven years later, Ramya; who is resentful toward those who view her as "useless" because of her dyspraxia; is stunned to receive a blank book upon her grandfather's death, inscribed with an ominous warning: "Beware the sirens." Ramya soon discovers that her native Edinburgh is home to vampires, trolls, kelpies, and fae. What's more, Ramya learns that she has a rare ability to see through their protective Glamour. Now she must take on the mantle her grandfather left behind: recording the truths about the Hidden Folk. But as she delves further into the enchanted world existing parallel to her own, family secrets emerge and nefarious beings stalk her. By spinning a dark and delightful Edinburgh setting elevated by innovative twists on Scottish mythology, McNicoll paints a vivacious portrait of one neurodivergent tween's experience navigating the world. Ramya's frustrations and vulnerability make for a resilient character who refuses to be defined by her challenges. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Suzie Townshend, New Leaf Literary & Media. (Oct.)

Little Dog, Lost (Prebound)

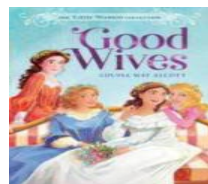


#1993661 (Vol. 02) Little Cat's Luck (Prebound)
written by Marion Dane Bauer

A little cat named Patches manages to push out a window screen and leave her house, chasing a falling leaf, and sets out to find a special place to call her own.
 978-1-5364-0336-7 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 760

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
 \$17.95

Little Women Collection (Trade)



#2141075 (Vol. 02) Good Wives (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Louisa May Alcott

The tale of the March sisters continues in the beloved sequel to Little Women, which picks up three years later as Meg is preparing for her wedding, Jo attempts to launch her literary career, Beth still struggles to regain her health, and Amy begins traveling the world with their aunt. But obstacles stand between the girls and their dreams, and they're forced to confront unimaginable heartache.
 978-1-5344-6249-6 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
 \$17.99

Littlest Bigfoot (Trade)



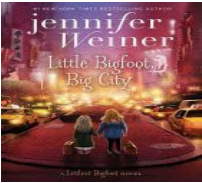
#1967680 (Vol. 01) Littlest Bigfoot (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jennifer Weiner

A misfit who has been shipped to a boarding school by her family, Alice rescues Millie Maximus from drowning and after discovering that Millie is a Bigfoot, part of a clan that lives deep in the woods, Alice tries to find a place where she and Millie can fit in.
 978-1-4814-7074-2 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.4 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 8.3 Lexile 1040

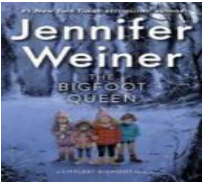
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
 \$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Weiner's middle grade debut tells the story of Alice, a 12-year-old girl who is ostracized and bullied because of her larger size and unruly hair. Alice begins attending the rural, offbeat Experimental Center of Love and Learning-the eighth school to which her wealthy parents, who want little to do with her, have sent her-where she rescues an unusual girl named Millie from drowning in the lake. Millie is a young Yare, or what humans commonly refer to as "Bigfoot," but she is small and fascinated by human life, unlike the rest of the larger, stronger Yare in her tribe, who forbid her from interacting with "No-Furs," or humans. Alice and Millie quickly bond, but Millie is soon threatened when she is spotted by a painfully average boy named Jeremy, who hopes to carve out his own niche by discovering Bigfoot. Weiner's three young outcasts are well-developed as each seeks belonging, acceptance, and friendship. While Alice loathes her hair and size, Millie admires these


attributes and insists Alice is beautiful and strong, and the novel concludes with a feeling of camaraderie and inclusivity as the teachers and students at the Experimental Center stand up for Alice and Millie. The epilogue leaves several unanswered questions, creating an opening for a sequel. VERDICT A heartwarming tale about friendship and belonging that will resonate with those young readers who have ever struggled to fit in or find their place in the world.-Laura J. Giunta, Garden City Public Library, NY Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2026803 (Vol. 02) Little Bigfoot, Big City (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jennifer Weiner</i> Twelve-year-old Alice Mayfair has a secret. She's not human. But who--or what--is she? While Alice goes in search of her past, her best friend Millie Maximus, a tiny Bigfoot with a big voice, prepares for her future. Together they plan to sneak off to New York City, where Millie hopes to audition for The Next Stage, the TV show she's sure will rocket her to stardom and free her from the suffocating expectations of her tribe. 978-1-4814-7077-3 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 8.5 Lexile 1000</p>	1	\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-After learning she might not be human in the first book (The Littlest Bigfoot), Alice starts searching for clues to discover if she really is part Yare-or what humans refer to as "Bigfoot." Unfortunately, her best friend Millie, a confirmed Yare, is too preoccupied to help her; Millie is busy devising a plan to audition for her favorite reality competition show while still hiding her true identity. Meanwhile, amateur Bigfoot hunter Jeremy is being threatened by a shady government organization that wants to find out what he knows about Alice, Millie, and the Yare. Weiner continues to expand both her characters and the Yare mythology while providing resolution to some of the last book's lingering questions, such as revealing the truth about Alice's origins. Readers will relate to Alice and Millie as their paths diverge in their pursuit of their own interests-which sometimes causes them to neglect their friendship-and with Jeremy, who struggles to do the right thing and protect Alice and Millie, even as he is pressured to reveal the information he's uncovered. As in the first novel, not everything is neatly resolved in the sequel, which ends on a cliff-hanger. Although Weiner provides some exposition, new readers will fare better reading the books in order. VERDICT Fans of the first book won't be disappointed with this latest installment.-Laura J. Giunta, Garden City Public Library, NY Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

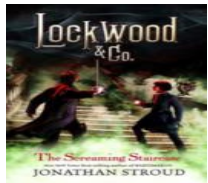
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2352510 (Vol. 03) Bigfoot Queen (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jennifer Weiner</i> Alice Mayfair, Millie Maximus, Jessica Jarvis, and Jeremy Bigelow face their biggest challenge yet when exposure of the sacred, secret world is threatened by a determined foe, someone with a very personal reason to want revenge against the creatures who call themselves the Yare. 978-1-4814-7080-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$18.99

Locker 37 (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2162744 (Vol. 01) Magic Eraser (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Aaron Starmer</i> Carson Cooper realizes that he has a very inconveniently located stain on his pants. Carson finds a letter stuck to the bottom of his desk with some watermelon bubble gum. The note explains the existence of Locker 37, which will provide a solution to any problem! And when Carson sneaks off to the locker it does, indeed, provide a solution--an eraser! But the problem is that the eraser works a little too well, erasing anything it's rubbed against three times. ANYTHING. 978-0-593-09428-0 ©2020 5 x 7 224 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 670</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2–5—Locker 37 provides the fourth grade students of Hopewell Elementary with solutions to their problems in the most unexpected of ways. This first installment promises a look at the various adventures students have with the tools found in the locker, starting with fourth grader Carson Cooper and a mysterious stain on his pants. Awash in shades of green and gray, the cartoon-style artwork often provides character development where the words are lacking. This particular mix of text and illustration may appeal to "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" fans who are looking for another series, though Starmer fails to create relatable characters with depth. Younger readers are likely to skip the special "math chapters," which feel jarring to the flow of this heavily plot-based book. A "history chapter" will give kids an insight into the mythology about how a magical locker came to find its way to Hopewell Elementary. VERDICT With short chapters and large print, reluctant young readers will likely speed through this middle grade novel.—Monisha Blair, Rutgers Univ., NJ

Lockwood & Co. (Trade)



#1748339 (Vol. 01) Screaming Staircase (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jonathan Stroud
 Follows three young operatives of a psychic detection agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.
 978-1-4231-6491-3 ©2013 5-1/2 x 8-3/8 400 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 14.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7. Fifty years after the Problem began in London, it has slowly spread through the country. The public dreads Visitors, malevolent ghosts that can be directly sensed only by children. Young Lucy Carlyle joins Anthony Lockwood and George Cubbins to become Lockwood & Co., three kids using rapiers, iron chains, and magnesium fire to handle Visitors. After they bungle a job by inadvertently burning down a house, their company faces imminent ruin. Their last hope of saving it involves accepting a dicey assignment in one of England's most haunted houses. Despite the necessary time spent framing the series, Stroud ratchets up the tension considerably when the trio goes to work. Still, the most satisfying parts of the book concern the three intriguing main characters and the dynamics of their not-quite-comfortable relationship. Best known for the Bartimaeus books, beginning with *The Amulet of Samarkand* (2003), Stroud writes for a younger audience in book one of the Lockwood & Co. series and delivers some chilling scenes along the way. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY - Stroud made many fans with the Bartimaeus books, and his even though this is for a younger audience, his name carries weight with librarians, teachers, and parents.

Reviews by: Horn Book In a world where ghosts have become the world's worst pest infestation, protagonist Lucy and her Lockwood & Co. colleagues take on a high-profile, high-paying haunting from a client who is not telling them everything. Lucy's wry, practical voice counterpoints the suspenseful supernatural goings-on in this rollicking series-opener, which strikes just the right balance between creepiness and hilarity.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Three young ghost trappers take on deadly wraiths and solve an old murder case in the bargain to kick off Stroud's new post-Bartimaeus series. Narrator Lucy Carlyle hopes to put her unusual sensitivity to supernatural sounds to good use by joining Lockwood & Co.--one of several firms that have risen to cope with the serious ghost Problem that has afflicted England in recent years. As its third member, she teams with glib, ambitious Anthony Lockwood and slovenly-but-capable scholar George Cubbins to entrap malign spirits for hire. The work is fraught with peril, not only because a ghost's merest touch is generally fatal, but also, as it turns out, as none of the three is particularly good at careful planning and preparation. All are, however, resourceful and quick on their feet, which stands them in good stead when they inadvertently set fire to a house while discovering a murder victim's desiccated corpse. It comes in handy again when they later rashly agree to clear Combe Carey Hall, renowned for centuries of sudden deaths and regarded as one of England's most haunted manors. Despite being well-stocked with scream-worthy ghastrilies, this lively opener makes a light alternative for readers who find the likes of Joseph Delaney's *Last Apprentice* series too grim and creepy for comfort. A heartily satisfying string of entertaining near-catastrophes, replete with narrow squeaks and spectral howls. (Ghost adventure. 11-13)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In what has come to be called "the Problem," the British Isles have become plagued with ghostly Visitors in this highly entertaining first book in Stroud's Lockwood & Co. series. Since children and young teenagers are most able to sense the ghosts, psychically gifted youths are employed by agencies large and small, and use iron chains, magnesium flares, and salt bombs to contain and dispatch the Visitors. Narrator Lucy Carlyle has moved to London following a ghost-hunting mission gone very wrong, and her luck improves when she joins a small, independent outfit run by the dashing Anthony Lockwood and his studious and exasperating (to Lucy) partner, George Cubbins. Stroud (the Bartimaeus series) shows his customary flair for blending deadpan humor with thrilling action, and the fiery interplay among the three agents of Lockwood & Co. invigorates the story (along with no shortage of creepy moments). Stroud plays with ghost story conventions along the way, while laying intriguing groundwork that suggests that the Problem isn't the only problem these young agents will face in books to come--the living can be dangerous, too. Ages 8-12. (Sept.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6-9-Lucy Carlyle relates the exploits of the teenage ghost-hunting agency, Lockwood & Co. The world is still reeling from an infestation of malevolent, deadly ghosts that can only be detected by Talented youngsters with rare psychic sensitivities. Anthony Lockwood heads his three-person team, including Lucy and George Cubbins, in their efforts to defeat the evil spirits-and remain solvent.

A minor haunting that turns into a major problem leads Lockwood & Co. to a brooding mansion that has already claimed the lives of more experienced ghost hunters. Combe Carey Hall is "the most haunted private house in England. an ugly oppressive mongrel of a building," and the trio quickly realizes that the dangers they face have human as well as supernatural sources. Authentically spooky events occur in an engagingly crafted, believable world, populated by distinct, colorful personalities. The genuinely likable members of Lockwood & Co. persevere through the evil machinations of the living and the dead and manage to come out with their skins, and their senses of humor, intact. This smart, fast-paced ghostly adventure promises future chills.-Janice M. Del Negro, GSLIS Dominican University, River Forest, IL (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.



#1782571 (Vol. 02) Whispering Skull (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jonathan Stroud

Repeatedly targeted by Quill Kipps and his team of Fittes agents in the months after surviving a night in England's most haunted house, Anthony, Lucy and George attend the exhumation of a Victorian doctor whose remains were buried with a highly dangerous supernatural object.

978-1-4231-6492-0 ©2014 448 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 16.0 RC Lvl 4.2 Lexile 670

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7. In this sequel to *The Screaming Staircase* (2013), Stroud delivers another riveting narrative in which the three young psychic investigators deal with malevolent supernatural forces in an alternate London. Narrator Lucy Carlyle, the newest member of Lockwood & Company, develops the rare ability to converse with a mysterious skull kept in a sealed jar. Though this captive spirit has the firsthand knowledge the group needs to solve its latest case, Lucy suspects that beyond his entreaties and wisecracks, the tortured skull is manipulating them with misleading information. Physically and psychologically taxing, the case strains the bond that Anthony Lockwood, Lucy, and their colleague, George, share. Stroud writes with a fine ear for dialogue, a wry sense of humor, and a knack for describing haunted places. Creating tension that ebbs and flows, he slowly builds the dramatic narrative to a resounding crescendo, and he makes the quieter scenes that follow just as compelling. The second entry in the Lockwood & Company series, this imaginative adventure features one of the most hair-raising chase scenes in children's fiction. At the book's end, when the enigmatic Lockwood reveals a chilling secret, readers can only hope that more sequels are in the offing. High-Demand Backstory: Stroud, of *Bartimaeus* fame, is no stranger to the New York Times best-seller list, and this second installment of his new series looks primed to keep him there.

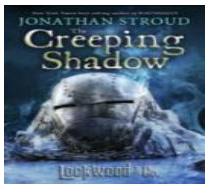
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An occult portal and its spectral guardian nearly cut short the careers of three rising young ghost hunters in this madcap sequel to *The Screaming Staircase* (2013). Continuing their predilection for falling into predicaments that require rapier work and fast exits, psychic detection agents Lockwood, George and Lucy are reluctantly hired by Scotland Yard to track down a mystical old "bone-glass" no sooner found in the arms of a moldering exhumed corpse than stolen. As everyone who has looked into this small but potent artifact seems to have either been driven insane or eaten by rats (or both), police and psychic black marketeers are equally eager to get their hands on it. In fine form, Stroud sends Lockwood & Co. on a trail that leads from an upper-crust social event to the mucky margins of the Thames and into dust-ups with thugs, rival agents and carloads of ectoplasmic horrors that can kill with just a touch. Lucy's cautionary "If you're easily icked-out, you might want to skip the rest of this paragraph..." goes for more than one grisly passage. For all their internecine squabbling, the three protagonists make a redoubtable team--and their supporting cast, led by the sneering titular skull in a jar, adds color and complications aplenty. Rousing adventures for young tomb robbers and delvers into realms better left to the dead. (Ghost adventure. 11-13)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-In this spine-chilling sequel to *The Screaming Staircase* (Hyperion, 2013), Stroud again demonstrates his ease in the world of the macabre and truly frightening. Lucy works for Lockwood & Co., one of many agencies dealing with The Problem. Fifty years ago, for no apparent reason, the dead rose and began to walk among the living. Agencies employ psychic children to help dispatch the dead permanently. In this second installment, the group (Lucy, leader Anthony Lockwood, and bumbling researcher George) finds themselves drawn deeper into the mystery of The Problem. A supposedly simple job dispatching an unruly cemetery ghost leads to the discovery of black markets, obsessive cults, mysterious collectors, and a bone mirror that drives anyone who looks into it completely mad. As in the first novel, the descriptions of the different types of spirits are nightmarishly frightening (one episode with rat-ghosts is especially gruesome.) Lucy's growing abilities to communicate with the dead, especially the nasty spirit attached to a skull in Lockwood's home, add an additional layer of menace to an already creepy tale; Lockwood's secrets add intrigue and suspicion. The plot gallops along at a breakneck pace, giving little respite from the horrors within. For fans of scary fare, this page-turner is a dream (or nightmare) come true.-Elisabeth Gattullo Marrocolla, Darien Library, CT (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

#1981589 (Vol. 04) Creeping Shadow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jonathan Stroud

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



After leaving Lockwood & Co. at the end of *The Hollow Boy*, Lucy is a freelance operative, hiring herself out to agencies that value her ever-improving skills. One day she is pleasantly surprised by a visit from Lockwood, who tells her he needs a good Listener for a tough assignment. Penelope Fittes, the leader of the giant Fittes Agency wants them--and only them--to locate and remove the Source for the legendary Brixton Cannibal. They succeed in their very dangerous task, but tensions remain high between Lucy and the other agents.

978-1-4847-0967-2 ©2016 464 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 17.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690

Reviews by: Booklist *Starred Review* Though Lucy's making a go of it as a freelance psychic investigator, when Lockwood knocks on her door, asking for help with a case, she's willing to work with the old firm again. Their tasks escalate from eradicating the ghost of a cannibalistic Londoner to descending, unarmed, into a den of brutal thugs and thieves. Soon the four young Lockwood agents stumble upon their most alarming and momentous challenge yet. Dispatching a vicious ghost is one thing, but uncovering a vast scheme of calculated evildoing is quite another. While the novel's epic climax will please any lover of chills, thrills, and explosions, the simultaneous conversational counterpoint is not to be missed. A revelation in the concluding pages will leave readers wondering what dark secret lies behind the plague of spirits terrorizing England for 50 years. The wry first-person narrative is a pleasure, relating the story with an impeccable, understated sense of drama. Appearing at chapter headings, Adams' dark, richly atmospheric, and often ghostly vignette drawings can make even a sandwich look downright sinister. Stroud's scene setting and storytelling are second to none, but it's his ability to create credible, idiosyncratic characters and relationships that makes avid fans of the Lockwood & Co. series.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2016 Booklist

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$37.99



#1937840 (Vol. 03) Hollow Boy (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Jonathan Stroud

As a massive outbreak of supernatural Visitors baffles Scotland Yard and causes protests throughout London, Lockwood & Co. continue to demonstrate their effectiveness in exterminating spirits. Anthony Lockwood is dashing, George insightful, and Lucy dynamic, while the skull in the jar utters sardonic advice from the sidelines. There is a new spirit of openness in the team now that Lockwood has shared some of his childhood secrets, and Lucy is feeling more and more as if her true home is at Portland Row. It comes as a great shock, then, when Lockwood and George introduce her to an annoyingly perky and hyper-efficient new assistant, Holly Munro.

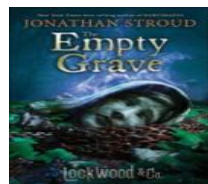
978-1-4847-0968-9 ©2015 400 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 15.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 710

Reviews by: Booklist In the latest captivating volume of the Lockwood & Co. series, a new ghostly threat has forced officials to evacuate London's most afflicted area, which is now swarming with psychic investigators as well as apparitions. Lucy, one of the three intrepid investigators at her firm, returns early from a holiday to find that an administrative assistant named Holly was hired in her absence. She takes an instant dislike to the attractive, highly efficient, and now firmly ensconced newcomer, whose presence both Lockwood and George clearly enjoy. When a crisis takes all four to the center of London's worst paranormal disturbance, Lucy struggles to control her feelings, which the supernatural entity uses to magnify its fearsome destructive powers. From the banter among the young associates at Lockwood & Co. and the flaring of unruly emotions to the well-choreographed fight scenes involving monstrous spirits, Stroud brings his considerable storytelling skills to bear in this riveting sequel to *The Screaming Staircase* (2013) and *The Whispering Skull* (2014). Written from Lucy's point of view, the narrative has excellent pacing, fine descriptive passages, and a wry sense of humor. An unexpected development at the story's end will leave fans wildly impatient for volume four. – Carolyn Phelan

Reviews by: School Library Journal As in the previous volumes, *The Screaming Staircase* (2013) and *The Whispering Skull* (2014, both Disney-Hyperion), the latest escapades of Lockwood and Co., a ghost-hunting agency staffed by the crack team of Anthony Lockwood, George Cubbins, and Lucy Carlyle, starts with a hair-raising scene of murder, mayhem, and ghostly apparitions. Narrator Lucy finds herself on shaky ground as her ability to speak to ghosts grows ever more powerful and more dangerous, while changes to the agency in the form of a tidy, type-A assistant named Holly Munroe seem to spell doom for Lucy's future with the company. Meanwhile, *The Problem* grows exponentially worse and a fading, famous department store holds more horrors than Lucy has ever seen. A series of disturbing discoveries, building on revelations in the earlier books, make it clear that there is a more human malevolency than *The Problem* at work in London, and Lucy, George, and Lockwood are drawing ever closer to its source. As always, the descriptions of the hauntings are genuinely frightening, especially that of a spindly, humanoid creature that crawls on all

fours and whispers Lucy's name. VERDICT Pleasantly nightmare-inducing and as captivating as its predecessors. Fans of the series will anxiously await Lockwood and Co.'s spine-tingling adventures in the next installment.—Elisabeth Gattullo Marrocolla, Darien Library, CT



#2017781 (Vol. 05) Empty Grave (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jonathan Stroud

Join Lockwood, Lucy, George, Holly, and their associate Quill Kipps on a perilous night mission: they have broken into the booby-trapped Fittes Mausoleum, where the body of the legendary psychic heroine Marissa Fittes lies. Or does it?

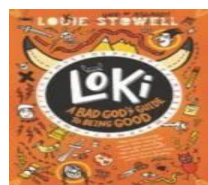
978-1-4847-7872-2 ©2017 448 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 17.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 710

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist *Starred Review* It's not Lockwood & Company's finest hour. Breaking into Marissa Fittes's mausoleum and entering the booby-trapped crypt is routine, if unnerving. But the surprising contents of her coffin leave Lockwood, Lucy, George, Holly, and Kipps distracted and ill-prepared for dealing with the vengeful spirit they've just unleashed. On the upside, they gain a new client, a ghost who's fixated on destroying a mutual enemy, but the path to that end is dark and perilous. In addition to relating encounters with alarming specters and destructive human thugs, the fifth and final volume in the Lockwood & Co. series follows this team of young psychic detectives to the source of the mystery that darkens the entire series: What is causing the plague of dead souls that have been terrorizing London for half a century? Lucy tells the story in an offhand, yet perceptive way. Whether she's describing her enigmatic fellow investigators, their otherworldly adventures, or the disarmingly snarky ghost and sparring partner that she carries around in a jar, the engaging narration shines with imagery, insight, wit, and finesse. Stroud brings his intricate, series-long story line to a close with a complex, dramatic climax followed by a simple, satisfying conclusion. A first-rate adventure, full of memorable, original characters.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2017 Booklist

Loki (Prebound)



#2322201 (Vol. 01) Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good (Prebound)

written by Louie Stowell

After one prank too many, trickster god Loki has been banished to live as a kid on Earth. If he can show moral improvement within one month, he can return to Asgard. If he can't? Eternity in a pit of angry snakes. Loki is not even allowed to use his awesome godly powers! As Loki suffers the misery of school lunch, discovers the magic of internet videos, and keeps watch for frost giant spies, will he finally learn to tell good from bad, trust from tricks, and friends from enemies?

978-1-5364-7866-2 ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic GR Lvl Y Lexile 690

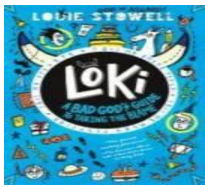
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The Norse god of lies gets well and truly served for his misdeeds--stuck in Midgard (Earth) as an 11-year-old boy with one month to mend his ways. Sternly forbidden by Odin to use his godly powers and compelled to record his experiences in a diary that automatically flags every fib, Loki, or Liam Smith, endures massive frustration as every attempt to raise his rapidly falling Loki Virtue Score with good deeds falls afoul of both his ingrained trickster instincts and his general cluelessness about humans and their feelings. (It doesn't help that Thor, "god of bum thunder," comes along disguised as his rude brother.) Readers will have no trouble seeing where, time after time, he goes wrong...or spotting the literally faint signs of a voice of conscience that begin to appear on occasional pages even before he climactically hires himself out to a bully for a humiliating trick on Valerie, the one classmate he's managed not to alienate. Along with flavorsome Norse mythological references, Stowell peppers her whiny protagonist's daily entries with spiky pen-and-ink drawings of mostly White divines and humans, hand-lettered outbursts, and isolated cartoon panels with smart comments in balloons. At last, after Loki helps rescue Valerie from a quartet of frost giants and, more importantly, shows sincere remorse for doing her wrong, the one-eyed Allfather grants his request to stick around Midgard for future adventures in friendship and snack-food discoveries. Salutory reading for anyone who needs steering toward good behavior...or good-ish anyway. (Graphic adventure. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2354971 (Vol. 02) Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Taking the Blame (Prebound)

written by Louie Stowell

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95



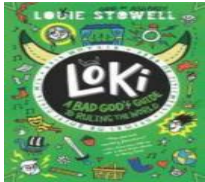
Norse god Loki records the highs and lows of living on Earth as an eleven-year-old in grumbles, snarks, and doodles in his enchanted diary. He might not have shown any moral improvement (yet), but Odin has given Loki another chance to prove himself worthy of Asgard. So far, Loki has managed to make only one human friend, Valerie, but is now irritated to learn that Valerie has made another friend, Georgina. Then, at Thor's birthday party (a pointless mortal ritual, though luckily there is cake), the magical hammer Mjolnir is stolen--and everyone suspects Loki! Can Loki find Thor's hammer, discover who the real thief is, and clear his name--or will his jealousy over Valerie's new friend cloud his judgment?

978-1-5364-8250-8 ©2023 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The Norse god of trickery gets another lesson in ethics when Thor's hammer is stolen. Confined to Midgard (Earth) in the form of 11-year-old Liam Smith by (as he puts it) "Poo-Poo Head Odin" until he can learn better behavior, the god of pranks continues the schooling begun in *Loki: A Bad God's Guide To Being Good* (2022). This time, he not only gets past major jealousy when Valerie, his one human friend, bonds with newly met fellow horse lover Georgina, but overcomes his deeply ingrained sense of self-righteousness to help save more than just this world from Frost Giants. Actually, along with folding in frequent glancing references to Norse myths, the author has salutary messages for much of the immortal supporting cast (and readers, too). Loki, his protestations of innocence ignored, is not only automatically accused of stealing the hammer of Thor, but turns out to have been framed by one of his Asgardian victims. A multitude of cartoon scenes, pages of sequential panels, and spot-art sight gags like a bag of dog poop labeled "MY LIFE" mingle with the boastful, self-absorbed preteen's records of his misadventures, including exchanges with his developing conscience and an admonitory magic journal that displays his wildly variable virtue score. Georgina and a teacher present as Black, the rest of the cast as White. More life lessons abob in poop jokes, boasts, and mythological references on the way to a bit of world-saving. (Graphic adventure. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Loki (Trade)



#2378642 (Vol. 03) Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Ruling the World (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Louie Stowell

Norse god Loki's been able to avoid eternity in a pit of angry snakes, but living on Earth as an eleven-year-old is still a drag. When Thor and Loki's "parents" abandon them to go on holiday, Odin sends Balder--Thor's half brother and god of making Loki look bad--to babysit. Then there's the school play. Despite Loki's acting genius (it's lying, after all), Thor is cast as the wonderful prince, while Loki is the villain. What?!

978-1-5362-2631-7 ©2024 5 x 7-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$15.99

Longburrow (Trade)



#2066562 (Vol. 02) Gift of Dark Hollow (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kieran Larwood

Book two in the series that is Redwall meets Watership Down continues the stirring adventure of the young rabbit Podkin One-Ear as he battles to save his land from the evil Gorm tribe. The Longburrow series is Middle Earth for middle graders!

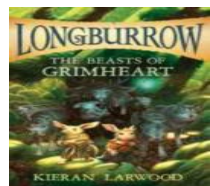
978-1-328-69601-4 ©2018 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this sequel to *Podkin One-Ear* (2017), the enigmatic rabbit bard leaves Thornwood Warren along with a companion, a curious young rabbit who longs to become an apprentice storyteller. During their journey, the old rabbit continues the tale of Podkin and his quest to find the magical objects needed to defeat the evil Gorm. Like the mysterious bard, Larwood shines as a storyteller, providing an intriguing group of heroes with different strengths and vividly describing their experiences on a journey full of danger, suspense, and swashbuckling action. At

intervals, double-page black-and-white pictures illustrate their adventures and intensify the drama inherent in the Longburrow series.--Carolyn Phelan Copyright 2018 Booklist



#2107399 (Vol. 03) Beasts of Grimheart (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kieran Larwood

When they are separated from their clan, the siblings encounter the mysterious and mystical creatures who are the heart of the forest itself. As the fate of all rabbitkind hangs in the balance, the youngsters must recruit these new allies and convince feuding clans to come together in a desperate final battle to defeat the diabolical Gorm.

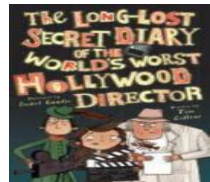
978-1-328-69602-1 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 810

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist The third Longburrow book opens with a framework story: an enigmatic bard faces an intimidating audience and begins a tale in which the Gorm begin a loud, mechanized destruction of the Forest. Shocked into action against their relentless enemy, Podkin and his rabbit friends find that they have some unlikely allies, from the previously hostile warren led by Podkin's uncle to wolves, two-legged beasts, and the mysterious bonedancers. The rabbits' growing treasury of magical objects becomes ever more vital as they plan and carry out their attack to stop the Gorm. The book's appendixes offer an introduction to the growing cast of characters as well as an illustrated, descriptive list of The Twelve Gifts of the Goddesses. Since many of these artifacts are still to be found, readers can hope for more quests, battles, and revelations to come. Double-page grayscale illustrations appear at intervals, adding an appealing visual dimension to the story. This well-crafted adventure will thrill fans of the Longburrow series with its well-drawn characters, dramatic pacing, and occasional humor. An accessible tale of heroism.--Carolyn Phelan Copyright 2019 Booklist

Long-Lost Secret Diary (Trade)



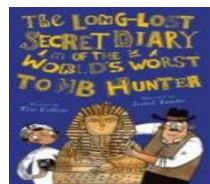
#2160895 Long-Lost Secret Diary of the World's Worst Hollywood Director (Library Binding)
written by Tim Collins

Meet Clara--a girl living in Los Angeles, California, in 1915. Major motion-picture companies have moved out to Hollywood, and she's right in the middle of all the action. When she finds herself working behind the scenes in the film industry for a big-shot producer named Mr. Cheeseman, she's determined to make it to the top in showbiz as a renowned director, no matter what. The hilarious Long-Lost Secret Diary series puts readers inside the heads of unlucky people in unfortunate situations. The accessible, irreverent stories will keep young readers laughing as they learn the importance of not being afraid to learn from their mistakes. Get Real fact boxes featured throughout, as well as a glossary and additional back matter, provide historical context and background.

978-1-63163-379-9 ©2020 5 x 7-4/5 216 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 1000

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

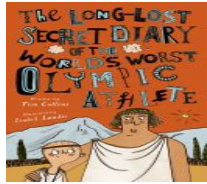


#2160894 Long-Lost Secret Diary of the World's Worst Tomb Hunter (Library Binding)
written by Tim Collins

Meet Ahmed--a boy living near the Valley of the Kings in Egypt in 1922. When he gets the chance to photograph a dig for archaeologist Howard Carter, he's eager to contribute and impatient to uncover a secret tomb. The hilarious Long-Lost Secret Diary series puts readers inside the heads of unlucky people in unfortunate situations. The accessible, irreverent stories will keep young readers laughing as they learn the importance of not being afraid to learn from their mistakes. Get Real fact boxes featured throughout, as well as a glossary and additional back matter, provide

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

historical context and background.
978-1-63163-383-6 ©2020 5 x 7-4/5 216 pgs.
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 960



#2174097 Long-Lost Secret Diary of the World's Worst Olympic Athlete (Library Binding)
written by Tim Collins

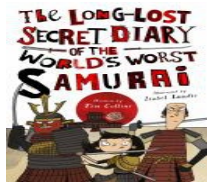
Meet Alexander--a boy living in Athens, Greece, in 380 BC. The famous Olympic games are just around the corner, and he gets to go and assist one of Athens' prized athletes. But when the athlete gets sick the day of his competition, can Alexander uncover the plot against Athens and prove himself a hero? The hilarious Long-Lost Secret Diary series puts readers inside the heads of unlucky people in unfortunate situations. The accessible, irreverent stories will keep young readers laughing as they learn the importance of not being afraid to learn from their mistakes. Get Real fact boxes featured throughout, as well as a glossary and additional back matter, provide historical context and background.

978-1-63163-445-1 ©2021 5 x 7-4/5 208 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 900

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6—An unnamed unheroic lad retells his adventures competing in the Olympic Games with an appealing combination of bravado and humor. As an assistant to the Athenian representative of the ancient games, the hero weaves facts about daily life into the narrative, alongside short factual paragraphs set off with the caption "Get Real." The format is identical to other entries by the same author and illustrator in the series. The humor, line drawing illustrations, and predictability of the plot make it useful to reluctant readers, but it's not a necessary purchase. The whimsical pen-and-ink illustrations are appealing and provide support for readers unfamiliar with ancient Greece, as does the glossary at the end. Fictionalized history proves to be a relatively painless way to discover fifth-century Greece. The time line, which dates from 776 BCE to the 2020 postponement of the Games, combined with a short list of Olympic heroes from ancient and modern times in the back matter add to the value. If the 2020 Olympics had not been pushed back, this title could have seen more demand. VERDICT A useful package for reluctant readers; for reports where the topic is of interest.—Carol A. Edwards, Formerly at Denver P.L.



#2174099 Long-Lost Secret Diary of the World's Worst Samurai (Library Binding)
written by Tim Collins

Meet Suki--a fourteen-year-old girl in sixteenth-century Japan. All she wants is to become a samurai warrior like her father and brother. But all her training attempts end in disaster. Yet when bandits threaten her village while the men are away at war, Suki is the only one left to stop them. Will she be able to save her village and prove herself a legendary samurai? The hilarious Long-Lost Secret Diary series puts readers inside the heads of unlucky people in unfortunate situations. The accessible, irreverent stories will keep young readers laughing as they learn the importance of not being afraid to learn from their mistakes. Get Real fact boxes featured throughout, as well as a glossary and additional back matter, provide historical context and background.

978-1-63163-449-9 ©2021 5 x 7-4/5 208 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 950

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$19.99

#2047828 Long-Lost Secret Diary of the World's Worst Pirate (Library Binding)
written by Tim Collins

Meet Thomas--a young man sailing with his parents aboard a merchant ship in the 18th century and prone to daydreaming about living an exciting life as a pirate on the

Quantity
1

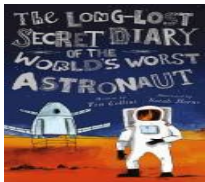
Unit Price
\$19.99



high seas. When a pirate crew led by Captain Bartholomew Morgan takes over the ship, Thomas stows away and is accepted into their motley gang.

978-1-63163-140-5 ©2018 5-1/4 x 8 216 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 840



#2076968 Long-Lost Secret Diary of the World's Worst Astronaut (Library Binding)

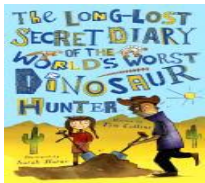
written by Tim Collins

Meet Ellie--an enthusiastic, bumbling teenager who is fascinated with Mars. When a misunderstanding lands her in the astronaut training program for the first human mission to Mars, Ellie is determined to prove her worth.

978-1-63163-191-7 ©2018 5 x 7-3/4 216 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 780

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99



#2076969 Long-Lost Secret Diary of the World's Worst Dinosaur Hunter (Library Binding)

written by Tim Collins

Meet Ann--a smart but unlucky teenager keeping a diary of her life as she hunts for dinosaur bones. When she gets an opportunity to search for fossils in the American West, Ann is determined to turn her luck around and show the world her discoveries.

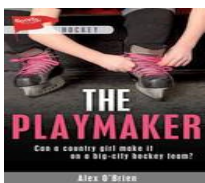
978-1-63163-195-5 ©2018 5 x 7-3/4 216 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 930

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-This epistolary novel follows the exploits of Ann, a young fossil hunter from a coastal town in Britain. Ann hunts along the rocky shoreline each morning for the "fish lizard bones" that her father sells as cure-alls to unsuspecting tourists. Ann believes she is inherently unlucky. Her luck seems to change the day Mr. William Armstrong, a fossil enthusiast, comes to town. Mr. Armstrong is impressed by Ann's finds and facilitates a fossil hunting trip to the American West. That is where the real adventure begins, rife with hijinks, villainy, and humor. This fictional tale is littered with interesting historical facts through the "Get Real" segments included in each chapter. A time line of dinosaur history is included, as well as biographical sketches of the real people on which the fictional characters are loosely based. The beginning of the book is a little disorienting-it is initially unclear who is narrating and from what time period-but readers who stick with it will be rewarded by a funny and enlightening story. VERDICT A humorous and informative read fitting for middle graders interested in paleontology.-Tiffany Davis, Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Lorimer Sports Stories (Lorimer Children & Teens)



#2156792 Playmaker (Library Binding)

written by Alex O'Brien

With no team in her rural town, Zoey tries out for Bantam girl's team the Barrie Sharks. She makes the cut and, knowing that the income from her family's farm won't cover the fees, pushes herself to overcome her shyness and try to raise her own funding. Zoey's talent and eagerness on the ice impress Coach Mikom, team captain Tia, and goalie Anika. But her skills challenge rich Mel for prominence on the team. Teammate Kat makes Zoey embarrassed by her rural background, and Zoey's shame at her father's behavior at a game gives a player on another team the opportunity to bully

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$20.99

Zoey, and interfere with her game.
978-1-4594-1397-9 ©2019 5 x 7-3/4 128 pgs.
Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile HL 640

Los Monstruos (Trade)



#2321107 (Vol. 01) Felice and the Wailing Woman (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Diana Lopez

When Felice learns that she's the daughter of La Llorona, she catches a ride to the magical town of Tres Leches, where her mother is said to be haunting the river. Guided by the magical town's eccentric mayor, Felice vows to help her mother make peace with the events that turned her into the most famous monstruo of US-Mexico border lore. Along the way, she meets the children of other monstruos, like La Lechuza and the Dancing Devil, and together they free Tres Leches from magical and metaphorical curses that have haunted its people for generations.

978-0-593-32649-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist From the author who brought about the captivating picture book *Sing with Me: The Story of Selena Quintanilla* (2021), Lopez returns to deliver a charming, yet ghostly, middle-grade fantasy. Twelve-year-old Felice is being raised by her maternal uncle Clem and has a severe phobia of all things aquatic. Believing this terror stems from her mother being La Llorona, she sneaks off to her birth town of Tres Leches to visit the ominous river where it all began. Setbacks such as a mayoral debate and a mob of townsfolk who fear La Llorona add to Felice's obstacles. During the journey, she befriends three amazingly unique individuals who aid in her quest to find and better understand her mother's suffering. Lopez takes a popular Latin folktale and reimagines it as a bewitching adventure sprinkled with Spanish terminology. This story is an excellent reminder of how fear, anger, or sadness can make people do foolish things; though, with the support of friends and family, people can create happy memories.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this series opener, 12-year-old Felice discovers her mother is La Llorona and embarks on a journey of self-discovery. The magical town of Tres Leches, Tejas, is home to La Llorona, a famous spirit from Mexican folklore. Haunting the local river, she cries out for her lost children. When Felice--whose father is absent and who believes her mother is dead--learns the truth, she sets her sights on visiting the river and meeting her mother. However, her overwhelming fear of water is one obstacle. Another is the opposition of her guardian, Uncle Clem. But Felice ultimately travels from her Corpus Christi home to Tres Leches along with its quirky mayor, Reynaldo, Clem's best friend. There she learns that the town is less sweet than advertised: Despite the abundance of bakeries, the townspeople are unkind, and dangers lurk in even a field of bluebonnet flowers. Felice pairs up with two young outcasts who also have supernatural parents--Ava, the daughter of La Lechuza, and Rooster, the son of a devil--to reunite with her mother and save the town from its magical curses. Explorations of bullying, grief, loss, and fear permeate the landscape and are naturally woven into the story. The characterizations of the secondary characters are well developed. This intriguing adventure centering Mexican American characters gives a maligned monstruo a backstory that reframes her story sympathetically. It will leave readers anticipating the sequel. A fresh, feminist take on Mexican folktales, rooted in family, belonging, and acceptance. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The surviving child of a grieving ghost sets off to uncover familial mysteries in this folkloric series starter from Lopez (*Sing with Me*). Twelve-year-old Felice has always lived under the shadow of her mother and brothers' death by drowning. She was saved from the same fate by her uncle Clem, who has raised her in Corpus Christi, away from the river in Tres Leches, Tex., that "took my family and... almost took me." With the arrival of Uncle Clem's old friend Reynaldo, Tres Leches's mayor, Felice learns that her mother still haunts the river where she and her sons died, seeking her remaining child, Felice. Reynaldo campaigned on the promise of a revitalized river, and he's easily persuaded to take the girl back to Tres Leches, where she; alongside the children of other creatures from folklore; seeks to meet, and free, her mother's ghost. Between Felice's trauma-induced aquaphobia, the frightening reputation Felice's mother has as La Llorona, and the river running suddenly dry, reuniting mother and daughter proves difficult. Both a loving, magically tinged portrayal of border-town Texas and a literalization of folklore, Lopez's moving portrayal of familial love and grief interweaves a tale of acceptance with a genuinely chilling ghost story. Characters read as of Mexican heritage. An author's note concludes. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stefanie Sanchez Von Borstel, Full Circle Literary. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal sole survivor of an accident where her mother and brothers drowned. Raised by her maternal uncle Clem in Corpus Christi, TX, she lives a fairly normal life, other than a severe case of aquaphobia. But everything changes with the sudden arrival of Reynaldo, the Mayor of Felice's birthplace (Tres Leches, TX). Reynaldo comes with the shocking news that Felice's mother, now known as La Llorona, still haunts the river where she drowned, making it inaccessible. Felice must return to Tres Leches and save the day. Felice's adventure is filled with obstacles, many of them magical, on her way to save her mother and the town. Along with Felice, the town of Tres Leches introduces a quirky cast of characters, some also hailing from Mexican folklore like La Lechuza and the Dancing Devil. The story makes reference to various

Mexican traditions along with the use of Spanish terms throughout. The novel presents a great lesson on love, acceptance, and overcoming fears. VERDICT Recommended for readers who enjoy a fast-paced fantasy with folkloric roots. This is a good addition to any juvenile fiction collection, especially for those seeking shorter, less magic-heavy, books in the fantasy genre.--Hannah Pohl Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2380460 (Vol. 02) Rooster and the Dancing Diablo (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Diana Lopez

The magical town of Tres Leches, home to the figures of Texas-Mexico border lore, has been through a lot. Most recently, the town was released from a curse that kept La Llorona, the wailing woman, haunting the shores of their river. But just when the townsfolk were preparing to return to sunny riverside picnics and barbecues, the children of Tres Leches mysteriously began to go missing. The town suspects another monstruo, the Dancing Devil, is luring kids to El Camaron Dance Hall & Arcade.

978-0-593-32652-7 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Lost Art Mysteries (Trade)



#2189962 Rembrandt Conspiracy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Deron R. Hicks

Something's brewing at the National Portrait Gallery Museum in Washington, D.C. twelve-year-old Art is sure of it. But his only proof that a grand heist is about to take place is iced mocha, forty-two steps, and a mysterious woman who appears like clockwork in the museum.

978-0-358-25621-2 ©2020 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 Hanging out at his father's workplace, the National Portrait Gallery, 12-year-old Art notices a suspicious anomaly: every afternoon at exactly the same time, a woman takes exactly the same number of steps along the same path through the Great Hall. After Camille, his friend and sleuthing partner, joins him and observes the woman, he convinces her that the thieves who masterminded the notorious art heist at Boston's Gardner Museum 30 years earlier are about to strike again, probably during the upcoming gala. When Art and Camille's initial investigation leads to embarrassment and reprimands, they back off, but a revelation at the gala sends them into action once more. Readers intrigued by the famous paintings mentioned can access them online by scanning QR codes within the book. Set in Washington, D.C., this fast-paced narrative features two likable, capable protagonists, a twisting plotline, and plenty of suspense. Kids who enjoyed *The Van Gogh Deception* (2017) will want to follow Art and Camille's latest adventure, and this sequel works equally well as a stand-alone. An appealing choice for mystery fans. COPYRIGHT(2020) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Art and Camille return to foil another art thief. Twelve-year-old Arthur Hamilton Jr. ("Art" to his friends) is certain that the National Portrait Gallery's newest exhibit is in danger. Art's father, recently appointed director of the gallery, doesn't share Art's concerns; the paintings are protected by several state-of-the-art security systems after all. But Art can't shake the feeling that something's up, and he ropes his friend Camille Sullivan into helping him expose the suspicious characters buzzing around the museum for the thieves they are. The novel mirrors its predecessor's mixture of propulsive plotting, dynamic character work, and nifty art facts. Fans of *The Van Gogh Deception* (2017) will be thrilled to see not much has changed here. The mystery provides a few pleasant twists and turns, culminating in a rousing conclusion that handily points to the next book without feeling incomplete. While the QR codes included effectively render the works mentioned, the scanning is sometimes difficult when using a digital copy of the book, interfering with the mystery's momentum. Thankfully the art history lessons never feel too artificially wedged into the narrative. The author's note discusses the notorious 1990 heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the subject of tantalizing discussion in this story. Art and Camille are White. A solid second helping. (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2256885 Crown Heist (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Deron R. Hicks

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



No matter how dangerous his adventures have been, Art has always been able to count on his best friend, Camille. Now that Camille is meeting her estranged father, Art wants to be there for her--which means going to London.

978-0-358-39606-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Booklist Traveling to London to meet the father she has never known, 12-year-old Camille is accompanied by her mother and her best friend, Art, who is there to provide moral support. It's a good thing, too, because like her history professor-adventurer father, Camille has curiosity, quick wits, and plenty of courage, and those qualities sometimes lead her into trouble. Camille learns that her father has vanished, leaving behind a cryptic riddle within a stolen artifact. Convinced that he's in danger, she springs into action, while Art scrambles to keep them safe from the cruel thug who lands him in the emergency room and pursues Camille onto a precarious rooftop ledge above Westminster Abbey. While Camille is at the center of the action, the telling gives equal weight to Art's point of view. With a tight time frame, a fast pace, and plenty of action, this sequel to *The Van Gogh Deception* (2017) and *The Rembrandt Conspiracy* (2020) is a page-turner that can be enjoyed on its own, but it will particularly interest readers of the *Lost Art* series.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Art and Camille go to foggy London town in this follow-up to *The Rembrandt Conspiracy*(2020). Camille's estranged father has come out of the woodwork and invited her to visit him in London, and of course, Art is happy to tag along for emotional support. Unfortunately, Camille doesn't get the heartwarming welcome she's longed for upon disembarking from the plane. Dad's a no-show, and it doesn't take long for the friends to discover a clue at his abandoned apartment that points to his whereabouts. Camille's dad is a professor of English Renaissance history with extensive knowledge of myths and legends, and it seems someone has snatched him up hoping to exploit his expertise to solve a long-lost mystery. Art and Camille must visit a variety of famous London sights in search of professor Tinsley. Twists and turns present themselves at just the right moments, and the White tween sleuths bounce off one another with comfortable familiarity as they solve the case. The QR codes remain frustrating to scan when reading a digital edition of the book, but the author is admirably effective at sliding art history lessons into the narrative at just the right times. The balance of character work, nifty art facts, and propulsive mystery-solving remains impeccable in this third entry. Fans will be delighted. Another strong entry in a consistently appealing series. (Mystery. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Lost Rainforest (Trade)



#2042556 (Vol. 01) Mez's Magic (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Eliot Schrefler

The magical rainforest of Caldera has forever been divided into those animals who walk by night and those who walk by day. Nightwalker panthers, like young Mez and her beloved sister, have always feared daywalkers as creatures of myth and legend.

Until the eclipse. Now Mez has discovered that she can cross the Veil and enter the daylight world.

978-0-06-249107-7 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 890

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

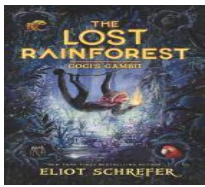
Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Deep in the rainforest, there are animals who are daywalkers and those who are nightwalkers, and it is unnatural for the groups to ever meet. Mez, a young panther who lives with her aunt, sister, and cousins, is not content with walking only at night. While her family sleeps, she explores beyond their cave, making her a shadowwalker. When a constrictor named Auriel comes calling for Mez, she succumbs to his plea to join other shadowwalkers in defeating the ant queen who is imprisoned in the ziggurat. The animals are all heavily anthropomorphized, each with their own distinct personality. As with most adventure stories, the protagonists must contend with obstacles and villains to reach their ultimate goal. It is the camaraderie of the group, and their ability to work together, that makes this tale so charming. Readers will be cheering when Mez and the gang figure out the riddle of the ziggurat. VERDICT Just right for middle grade readers who want an engrossing fantasy adventure.-Elizabeth Kahn, Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy, Avondale, LA Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

#2088771 (Vol. 02) Gogi's Gambit (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Eliot Schrefler

Caldera always existed in harmony between the creatures who walk by day and those

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

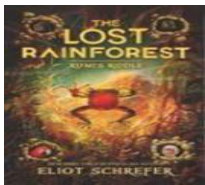


who walk by night--until the Ant Queen awakened. Now, in the year since the shadowwalkers' narrow escape, the ants' destruction has only spread. So when Gogi discovers that the nearby forest has been leveled, he knows it's time to act.

978-0-06-249111-4 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 810

Reviews by: Booklist *Starred Review* In the year since the shadowwalkers met at the magical rain forest's ziggurat (The Lost Rainforest: Mez's Magic, 2018), the evil Ant Queen reemerged with her ant minions and plans to decimate Caldera. Now, with only 13 days until the next eclipse, a strong source of magic, the remaining five shadowwalkers young animals Rumi, Gogi, Mez, Chumba, and Lima reconvene to strategize how best to eliminate the Ant Queen. What they learn from Rumi's interpretation of the symbols on the ziggurat makes their mission all the more urgent: they are the Ant Queen's targets. If she can control or kill them, her rise to power will be more certain. Not only must they trust one another, but they must trust two animals (Sky and Auriel) that in the first book were perceived as traitors. Here the monkey Gogi's heart and caring nature become the group's moral compass. Several times the group appears doomed, yet, even when they triumph, dangers to the rain forest still lurk. Schrefer's second book in the Lost Rainforest series continues the enthralling fantasy adventures of this eclectic group of animals and hints at where the next threat to the rain forest will come from. Fans of Mez's Magic and Katherine Applegate's Endling #1: The Last (2018) will eagerly devour this.--J. B. Petty Copyright 2019 Booklist



#2149105 (Vol. 03) Rumi's Riddle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Eliot Schrefer

When the shadowwalkers were victorious in their battle against the Ant Queen, they hoped their work to save Caldera was done. But the rainforest has begun to rumble. Rumi, a scholarly tree frog who can control the wind, must bring his band of animal friends to face the greatest danger they've yet faced--the giant volcano beneath the jungle itself. While Rumi has solved many riddles to get this far, wits and wind alone won't stop this foe.

978-0-06-249120-6 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Love Like Sky (Trade)



#2082500 (Vol. 01) Love Like Sky (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Leslie C. Youngblood

G-baby and her younger sister, Peaches, are still getting used to their 'blended-up' family. They live with Mama and Frank out in the suburbs, and they haven't seen their real daddy much since he married Millicent. G-baby misses her best friend back in Atlanta, and is crushed that her glamorous new stepsister, Tangie, wants nothing to do with her. G-baby is so preoccupied with earning Tangie's approval that she isn't there for her own little sister when she needs her most. Peaches gets sick - really sick.

978-1-368-01650-6 ©2018 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile HL 610

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal, who prefers to go by Georgie or G-baby, is adjusting to life in her newly blended, African American family. She has moved to the suburbs with her mom and younger sister Peaches to live with her stepdad Frank and teenage stepsister Tangie, whose approval she is trying to earn. Meanwhile, she hasn't seen her dad much since he married Millicent. When Peaches gets sick, requiring a stay at the hospital, Georgie feels guilty for not being there because she snuck out to see a friend. This sweet story features themes of family relationships, friendship issues, testing boundaries, standing up for oneself, and first crushes. The story also touches briefly on difficult subjects including police brutality and racism as Tangie is planning to attend a peaceful protest with her college-age boyfriend. It's rare to find a middle grade novel that puts divorce and the complicated dynamics of blended families at the center of the story, a topic that is relatable to many readers. VERDICT Readers will fall in love with Georgie and her "blended-up" family as they navigate tough challenges and new family dynamics.--Sarah Polace, Cuyahoga

Lucky Luke's Hunting Adventures (Trade)



#2282427 Winner, Winner Turkey Dinner (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Luke and his dad as they experience all the wonders of a big turkey hunt. At last, old enough to join Dad on a wild turkey hunt; Luke is bursting with excitement from the start. When he finally sees his first turkey roaming wild in the woods, he has to overcome his excitement and make sure he can take a good shot. What an adventure, what a day!

978-1-7327646-3-7 ©2012 60 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 660

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



#2282408 Fish On! (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kevin Lovegreen

A perfect day on a magical lake filled with fish. The smell of pine trees, the bright sunshine, a nice breeze: the stage is set for a great adventure! Join Luke at his grandparents' lake cabin, tucked way back in the woods, as he experiences an amazing morning of fishing. Luke has to find the hot spots, pick the right lures, and chase a lunker that steals his lucky Basserino. It's the kind of morning anyone who's ever held a rod dreams of!

978-1-7327646-4-4 ©2013 60 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 840

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



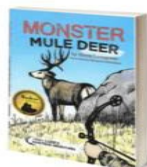
#2282419 Muddy Elk (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Luke and his dad in The Muddy Elk, as they return to the mountains of Colorado in search of majestic elk. This bonding, father and son journey is stacked with hard work, close encounters and adventure. Follow along with Luke as he applies his knowledge from past hunts and finds himself three steps away from a giant elk. It's a standoff you won't want to miss.

978-1-7327646-5-1 ©2014 88 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 810

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



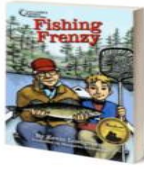
#2282415 Monster Mule Deer (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kevin Lovegreen

The moment has come for Luke to put all his skills, determination, and luck together to make the stalk of his life on the old drop tine buck, a legendary monster mule deer. Join Luke and his dad as they travel to Alberta, Canada, for their first mule deer bow hunt. This adventure is another amazing journey where new friends are made, life lessons are learned, and exciting hunting action is around every corner.

978-1-7327646-6-8 ©2015 122 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 770

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



#2282410 Fishing Frenzy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Luke and his family on a wild fishing adventure in the Canadian wilderness. This trip has it all: a moose mess, a motor mishap, atomic splashing. There's even a bear intruder. And of course the walleye put on an unforgettable fishing frenzy and Grandpa and Crystal hook the fish of a lifetime.

978-1-7327646-7-5 ©2016 104 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 840

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95



#2282425 Whitetail Adventures (Hardcover (Trade))

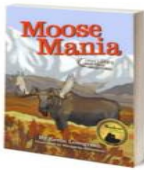
written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Luke and his family in Whitetail Adventures and experience all the wonders of a Minnesota deer camp. In this tale, Luke is finally old enough to join his family on his first whitetail deer hunt, and he has all kinds of advice from his fellow hunters. When Luke's dad brings him deep into a Northern Minnesota swamp for a magical morning hunt, Luke finds adventure and nature at every turn in the trail. One thing's for sure- you won't believe who gets the big buck!

978-1-7327646-8-2 ©2012 65 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 800

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95



#2282417 Moose Mania (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Luke, his family, and their friends as they journey into the wilds of Alaska in search of majestic moose and giant bear. Dive in and see how Luke and the gang use their hunting skills, patience, and determination to take on everything the Alaskan wilderness can throw at them.

978-1-7327646-9-9 ©2017 144 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 760

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95



#2282402 Big Bear Feet (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Luke and the gang on another amazing Lucky Luke's Hunting Adventure-the series kids can't get enough of. This time, the stage is set in northern Minnesota for a thrilling bear hunt. After working hard to prepare for the hunt, the team eagerly counts down to a nail-biting opening weekend. In a twist of luck, Luke ends up in the hot seat, ready and waiting for the bear of his dreams to arrive at the stand. See how his practice, patience, and determination reward him on this unforgettable weekend.

978-1-7346743-0-9 ©2018 138 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95

#2282421 Snake River Challenge (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Lucky Luke and his family as they tackle the amazing Snake River in Idaho.

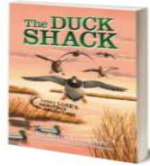
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95



Mom and Dad are excited to take Luke and his sister Crystal along on their annual fly-fishing trip. See all the excitement and the learning as Luke and Crystal experience their first fly fishing adventure. This story has it all, family fun, lessons learned, amazing scenery and the tremendous trout put on show.

978-1-7346743-1-6 ©2019 113 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 650



#2282404 Duck Shack (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Lovegreen

Join Luke, Dad, and Crystal on another Lucky Luke's Hunting Adventure. It's opening morning of duck hunting! The North Star guides them as they head out to the lake in the early hours of morning. The decoys are set. A northwest wind is blowing. Will Luke be ready when the sky fills with the sound of whistling wings? This is sure to be one of the best duck openers ever!

978-1-7346743-5-4 ©2020 90 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 580

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95



#2282413 Frozen Fun (Hardcover (Trade))

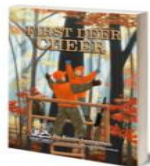
written by Kevin Lovegreen

It's a winter wonderland up north-perfect for snowmobiling and ice fishing fun. Lucky Luke can't wait to get out on the lake, where giant sunfish and monster northern pike await under all that snow and ice. Bundle up, because this will be an ice fishing adventure to remember!

978-1-7346743-7-8 ©2020 82 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 1.0 Lexile 630

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95



#2282406 First Deer Cheer (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Lovegreen

Are you ready for another exciting adventure in the award-winning Lucky Luke's Hunting Adventures series? Crystal and her friend Megan are so excited when their dads take them to northern Minnesota for their first deer hunting experience. You won't believe all the critters the girls see from their deer stands! So, dive into this adventure and get ready to cheer for Crystal and Megan as they try to get their first deer!

978-1-7370808-0-0 ©2021 98 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.8 AR Pts 2.0

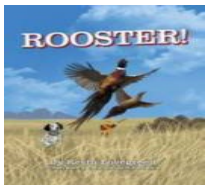
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95

#2290788 Rooster (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Lovegreen

It's a pheasant frenzy! Join Lucky Luke and his sister, Crystal, for an amazing weekend hunting pheasants with family and friends in South Dakota. The boys and girls are fired up, the fields are loaded with birds, and the dogs are ready for action. So

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95

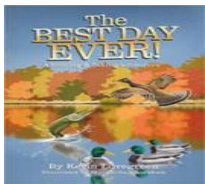


come along and enjoy this adventure!
 978-1-7370808-3-1 ©2022 1 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 1.0



#2311522 Catching Big Bubba (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kevin Lovegreen
 After a sudden change of plans, Luke and his sister, Crystal, find themselves on an unexpected adventure with their fun-loving cousins--right in their own neighborhood. So come join the fun as they do everything they can to catch Big Bubba, a legendary bass in their local lake!
 978-1-7370808-5-5 ©2022 96 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.6 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



#2327224 Best Day Ever (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Kevin Lovegreen
 Lucky Luke, Crystal and Dad head out to make this the best day ever at the cabin.
 978-1-7370808-8-6 ©2022 92 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 1.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

Lulu Sinagtala and the Tagalog Gods (Trade)



#2362904 (Vol. 01) Lulu Sinagtala and the City of Noble Warriors (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Gail D. Villanueva
 Lulu Sinagtala can't wait for a fun Christmas break. She's excited to hang out with her sister, Kitty, and best friend, Bart; to reenact her favorite legends from Tagalog folklore (like the amazing tale of Bernardo Carpio); and, of course, to eat as much yummy street-side inihaw as possible!
 978-0-06-325536-4 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist rom Filipino writer Villanueva is inspired by the legends of her childhood. Eleven-year-old Lulu lives with her adoptive family in Silanganan Village, a subdivision of Manila. After an earthquake erupts, Lulu starts seeing some recognizable creatures from Philippine mythology, like the tikbalang, wakwak, and aswang. Lulu and her sister, Kitty, must rescue their mom after she is taken by a wakwak. Villanueva's fun fantasy adventure takes us on a quest through the urban landscape of metropolitan Manila and includes details of street life in Silanganan: aromatic food vendors, high-speeding bucket trucks, and sari-sari stores. Tagalog words and phrases are sprinkled throughout the book and add to the overall atmosphere and world building. There's plenty of humor in this story, and it also touches on epilepsy and adoption in mixed-race families (Chinese and Filipino). A good pick for fans of Rick Riordan-style mythological fantasies, especially those who liked Erin Entrada Kelly's *Lalani of the Distant Sea* (2019) or Tracy Badua's *Freddie vs. the Family Curse* (2022).

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A Manila tween learns of her magical powers in this duology opener steeped in Tagalog mythology. Lulu has always known that she was adopted; the physical differences between her and her Chinese Filipina mother and sister, Kitty, are clear. Lulu's painfully aware that to the outer world, her darker skin and hair, flatter nose, and shorter stature make her "not 'pretty,' " unlike them. Still, Lulu and Kitty, both 11, are extremely close. Lulu's inner circle also includes best friend Bart and supportive adult friends. But her life is suddenly

shattered by a violent earthquake, the revelation that she's a salamangkero (someone with the power to "save the universe from falling into chaos"), and the kidnapping of her mother by a wakwak, a sharp-toothed flying creature. It also emerges that Lulu's adoptive and chosen family are deities and that Bart is an aswang, or were-dog shape-shifter. They're all trying to protect her from malicious spirit Maligno, who seeks to bring chaos to all three Realms: the Upperworld, the Middleworld, and the Underworld. Lulu, while trying to make sense of everything and explore her new powers, must now rescue her mom. Readers will be completely immersed in the book's fantastical and culturally and historically rich world, which features inclusive representation; Lulu's bisexuality is naturally woven into her characterization. Villanueva deftly balances complex worldbuilding, plot twists, and moments of levity while touching on serious themes such as colonization. Rich in adventure, intrigue, and magical fun. (author's note, glossary) (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly All 11-year-old Luningning Sinagtala wants is "an ordinary life" in the Philippines with her adoptive Chinese Filipina mother and sister Kitty, also 11, in this high-energy exploration of Tagalog mythology, strong relationships, and self-identity by Villanueva (Sugar and Spite). But their physical differences ("My being dark and flat-nosed means I'm not 'pretty'") and her epilepsy make her feel like the odd one out. And when strange things begin happening to Lulu that other people don't seem to remember afterward; such as her single-handedly stopping a truck from hitting her and Kitty; she feels even more at odds with her family. As enchanted creatures descend upon her community, seeming intent on finding and targeting Lulu, she realizes that the Tagalog myths she learned about in school are real, and that she's been chosen by the Anito, or the spirits, to wield their power to protect the universe. Laugh-out-loud humor and a plethora of pop-culture references add contemporary sparkle to this vividly imagined and riveting fantasy adventure starring a charming protagonist whose quick wit and loyalty, as well as love for those around her, make her easy to root for. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--The first in what is sure to be a hit series full of magic, mythical beings, and an endearing cast of characters. Lulu was adopted when she was just a baby and has been brought up in a warm family consisting of her mom and sister Kitty. She has a relatively normal life in the City of Caloocan, learning about her Filipino heritage and spending time with an amazing array of people on her lively street. But one day, everything changes. When an earthquake hits, Lulu and Kitty are thrust into a new world full of magic and Tagalog deities, and a wakwak has kidnapped their mother. Along with their friend Bart, as the sisters embark on an epic journey to save their mother, they must rely on each other to stay safe in a world full of danger. Villanueva is a spectacular worldbuilder and does a remarkable job of depicting Tagalog mythology and Filipino history that is riveting, and also accessible to readers with no background in either. VERDICT A solid magical thriller that will leave readers anxiously awaiting Lulu's next adventure.--Tara Peace Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Maggie and Nate Mystery (Trade)



#2177696 (Vol. 01) Mutant Mushroom Takeover (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Summer Rachel Short

Ever since Magnolia Stone's scientist dad left Shady Pines to find a new job, Maggie's been stuck in her gramma's mobile home with her grumpy older brother, Ezra. Now she's on a mission to put her family back together by winning the Vitaccino Junior Naturalist Merit Award.

978-1-5344-6865-8 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

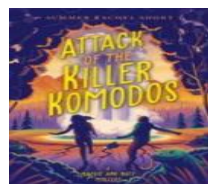
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A budding scientist battles an insidious, glowing fungus. When friends Maggie and Nate decide to investigate paranormal activity in Old Man Bell's woods, Maggie hopes to take the perfect photo so she can win a contest that would allow her to meet with the board of the company that pretty much runs the small town of Shady Pines and convince them to rehire her father. The two friends have been through a lot together, but neither one is prepared for giant, neon bioluminescent mushrooms. Beautiful at first, deadly on further inspection, Maggie and Nate's fungal discovery leads them on a hair-raising race against time to save Maggie's brother, everyone in Raccoon Creek Trailer Park, all of Texas--heck, maybe even the world--from the mutant mushroom takeover! Written from Maggie's first-person perspective, with exaggerated characters and occasionally gross humor, this tale is reminiscent of a larger-than-life monster movie. With giant spiders, zombies, and a satisfyingly stinky solution, Maggie's adventure is packed with creepy, disgusting action. Some characters lack dimension, but Maggie herself is compellingly complex. The small-town setting allows for a contained cast, with White main characters. An author's note separates compelling science fact from fiction. With an abundance of STEM content, this book could easily springboard classroom discussion or library programming. Packed to the gills with fun. (Science fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Eleven-year-old Magnolia "Maggie" Stone loves science and nature, and this summer she is determined to win Vitaccino's Junior Naturalist Merit Award. Not only will the award earn her \$500, but it will also give her the chance to speak to the Vitaccino board about her father getting his job back and coming home to Shady Pines. When her conspiracy theorist pal Nate asks her to come with him to investigate some mysterious lights in the woods, she agrees, hoping to capture a photograph that will earn her the top prize. But what she and Nate encounter in the woods that night is even more bizarre than either of them could have predicted. Maggie is a diligent scientist, recording her observations and hypotheses in her field notes. She is also a persistent and vocal advocate for her family and her town, even in the face of danger and a real conspiracy within Shady Pines' powerful company, Vitaccino. Young readers will likely identify with Maggie's tenacity,

and her frustration when adults seem unwilling to hear or believe her concerns. An author's note at the end of the book helps to ground some of the science fiction elements (such as zombie-creating mushrooms and anti-fungal bat poop) in the real world. VERDICT A fun debut novel with an action-packed climax that will leave readers eager to scope out the weirder side of nature.--Dana West, Roosevelt H.S., Seattle Copyright 2020 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2240589 (Vol. 02) Attack of the Killer Komodos (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Summer Rachel Short

Having rescued her town from zombifying mutant mushrooms, eleven-year-old Magnolia Stone is ready for her next adventure! Maggie and her best friend, Nate, head to Yellowstone National Park to visit Maggie's park ranger dad.

978-1-5344-6868-9 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

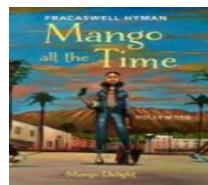
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ungi in The Mutant Mushroom Takeover (2020), friends Mags and Nate are back to solve another science-gone-wrong mystery. While visiting Mags' park ranger father at Yellowstone National Park, the pair uncover a sinister plot involving animals never before seen in the park. The extraordinary creatures are terrifying--but even more alarming is the possibility that Mags' dad might be mixed up in all of it. The stakes get higher when a famous cryptid documentary crew shows up and a massive earthquake separates kids from adults. Encountering more earthquakes and incredible wildlife, Mags must use all her science knowledge and survival skills to get her loved ones out of the park alive. Veering more into adventure than the series starter, this story is better appreciated as a sequel. Mags' first-person narrative is action-packed with a liberal dash of snarky, sometimes gross, humor and dangerous elements that will keep readers' attention even though the madcap plot relies a bit too much on coincidence. Nate's goofy personality and budding YouTube career balance Mags' more serious, science-loving nature. The author's note provides insight into the science behind the story, and as with the previous entry, there are plenty of STEM connections, such as the way Mags uses her knowledge of pH as a weapon. The first book cues the main characters as White by default; this one includes some diversity in supporting characters. A humorous, genre-blurring survival story. (Science fiction. 10-13) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—For budding naturalist Magnolia Stone, exploring the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park is a dream come true. She is there with her family and her adventuresome best friend, Nate, who produces The Conspiracy Squad on YouTube. Nate is a fan of the supernatural, and he is convinced that Bigfoot inhabits Yellowstone and is determined to document it. Maggie's father is a park ranger and Nate believes that he is part of conspiracy to keep Sasquatch secret. Maggie and Nate get more than they bargained for when they find themselves separated from the group after an earthquake disrupts their trip. Finding themselves lost and possibly hunted by rogue Komodo dragons, they then discover they are on the set of a Finn Brody documentary, which is a once-in-a lifetime, big deal in their book! Readers will appreciate that author Short has a background as a science reporter. VERDICT A thrilling, fast-paced adventure book where readers discover awe-inspiring science with interesting and diverse characters.—Lisa Gieskes, Richland County P.L., Columbia, SC

Mango Delight (Trade)



#2265057 (Vol. 03) Mango All the Time (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Fracaswell Hyman

Mango Delight Fuller is ready for her next big break, which just might be in Hollywood! So she heads to California and auditions for a new television series. As she and her family settle in, she meets new friends who also end up competing with Mango for roles. Unfortunately, Mango's big screen test does not go well. But when the star drops out of the show, Mango's new manager convinces the producers to rework the show with Mango as the star. The new series, Mango All the Time (she's a girl who sings and time travels), goes into production and Mango must face the realities of success. Will she be able to juggle a star's extra-heavy workload, while keeping egos in check, heartbreak at bay, and managing the changes to her family's life?

978-1-4549-3395-3 ©2022 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

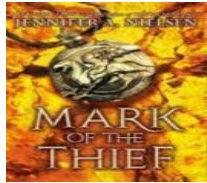
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 800

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews During a life-changing adventure in Hollywood, Mango Delight comes into her own. Mango, her dad, and her friend/crush TJ fly to Hollywood to audition for a TV show starring 16-year-old Destiny Manaconda, her favorite television star, whom they met in

New York City during the off-off-off-Broadway production of their school musical, Yo, Romeo!. Their two-day trip is all paid for, though that doesn't mean it will be incident-free, as indicated early on by the airline employee who assumes their party doesn't belong in first class. On this trip, Mango sees even more of Destiny's life up-close. An emancipated minor, Destiny lives in a mansion apart from her family and works hard to make her performances seem easy. While Destiny's manager whisks them around Los Angeles, revealing his plans for her little by little, Mango contemplates whether she even wants the glamorous life that Destiny has. While the events of her whirlwind experiences in Los Angeles change her, Mango remains the down-to-earth young person fans fell in love with in previous books: a fun, relatable character to follow through the ups and downs of discovering what life is really like for Black people in Hollywood, how to stand up for oneself, and the importance of valuing true friends and family. Glitz and glamour tempered by real-life concerns make this finale a winner. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Mark of the Thief (Trade)



#1944632 (Vol. 01) Mark of the Thief (Paperback (Trade))
written by Jennifer A. Nielsen

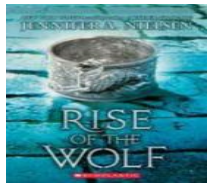
When Nic, a slave in the mines outside of Rome, is forced to enter a sealed cavern containing the lost treasures of Julius Caesar, he finds much more than gold and gemstones: He discovers an ancient bulla, an amulet that belonged to the great Caesar and is filled with a magic once reserved for the Gods -- magic some Romans would kill for.

978-0-545-56155-6 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 4.5 GR Lvl Y Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$9.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6-9-A fantastical alternate history set in ancient Rome. Nicolas Calva and his sister are slaves in the mines outside of Rome. When Nic is forced to retrieve treasure from Julius Caesar's cave, he assumes he is going to his death. But inside the cave he finds a bulla, a magical amulet thought to have given Caesar great power, and takes it for himself. Suddenly, Nic is the most wanted fugitive in Rome. The emperor and a powerful general are after the amulet and they will kill Nic to get it. His only help is Aurelia, a plebian girl who is searching for her own family. With no one to trust and nowhere to hide, the protagonist must decide how he is going to save his sister and get out with his life. He doesn't want the bulla or the responsibility of the magic it contains, but if the magical object gets into the wrong hands, Rome will be at war and Nic will be at the center of it all. Fans of Nielsen's "Ascendance" trilogy (Scholastic) will be clamoring for this new series. This genre mash-up of history, fantasy, and action/adventure is fast-paced and explores themes such as class struggles, familial ties, and the immorality of slavery. Readers will have lots to digest as they quickly flip through the pages to see how Nic will escape his enemies to become a free man.- Kimberly Garnick Giarratano, Rockaway Township Public Library, NJ (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1988784 (Vol. 02) Rise of the Wolf (Paperback (Trade))
written by Jennifer A. Nielsen

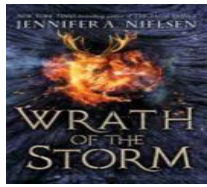
When the Praetors capture Nic's mother, Nic knows he must do anything to save her. He challenges the Praetors to a chariot race. If he wins, they will release his mother. But if he loses, he must hand over a magic that will certainly bring about the end of Rome -- as well as his own life. Can Nic once again harness his magic and gather the strength to defeat his enemies? Or will he lose his mother and bear witness to Rome's destruction?

978-0-545-56205-8 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 4.6 GR Lvl Y Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$9.99

Reviews by: Booklist Though Nic is no longer a slave, he still feels powerless. His grandfather, General Radulf, controls almost every move he makes, at least until the Praetors an opposition group to the Roman government make themselves known. They have captured Nic's mother and are threatening to kill her unless he agrees to use his powerful bulla talisman to create a Jupiter Stone. But Nic knows they intend to destroy all of Rome with the stone, so how can he possibly win? The novel's Roman mythology connections, along with strong characters who are shrewd, if somewhat predictable, will have great appeal for fans of Rick Riordan. Heavily plot-driven with a movie-script feel, the novel suffers as Nielsen struggles with pacing for the first two-thirds, but those who persevere will be rewarded with a stellar climax. Familiarity with its predecessor, Mark of the Thief (2015), is a must, so be sure to read this series in order.--Moore, Melissa Copyright 2015 Booklist



#1989973 (Vol. 03) Wrath of the Storm (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jennifer A. Nielsen

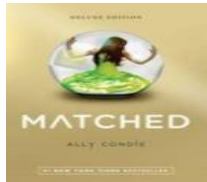
Trouble has a way of seeking out Nicolas Calva, and it's not likely to leave him alone any time soon. With Caesar's magic bulla, the Malice of Mars, and the possibility of a Jupiter Stone in play, all the powers of Rome are circling Nic. He'll have to maneuver his way through scheming government officials and reawakened magical beasts to save the Empire. Can he manage to keep his friends and family safe, claim his own freedom once and for all, and rescue the Empire -- before the magic gets the better of him?

978-0-545-56207-2 ©2017 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 750

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Matched Trilogy (Trade)



#2182719 (Vol. 01) Matched (Deluxe Edition) (Paperback (Trade))

written by Ally Condie

Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but when she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen, and Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility as she tries to decide which man she truly loves.

978-0-593-32481-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 1 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile HL 680

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$11.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 7 Up-In a story that is at once evocative of Lois Lowry's *The Giver* (Houghton, 1993), George Orwell's 1984, and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Condie introduces readers to the "perfect" Society. Cassia Reyes is a model student, daughter, and citizen. How could she not be when the Society has everything planned and functioning perfectly? All of her needs are met: food, shelter, education, career training, and even her future husband are selected by officials who know what is best for each individual by studying statistical data and probable odds. She even knows when she will die, on her 80th birthday, just as the Society dictates. At her Match Banquet she is paired with Xander, her best friend and certainly her soul mate. But when a computer error shows her the face of Ky, an Aberration, instead of Xander, cracks begin to appear in the Society's facade of perfection. A series of events also shakes her dedication to Xander and puts her future in jeopardy. Cassia exhibits some characteristics of Winston Smith and Lenina Crowne in her silent rebellion against societal control and in her illicit friendship with Ky but ultimately, and more satisfyingly, she is more like Lowry's Jonas. Her awakening and development are realistically portrayed, and supporting characters like Cassia's parents and her grandfather add depth to the story. The biggest flaw is that the story is not finished. Fans of the *Giver* will devour this book and impatiently demand the next installment.-Anthony C. Doyle, Livingston High School, CA (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

May Bird (Trade)



#1776332 (Vol. 01) Ever After (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jodi Lynn Anderson

Stumbling into a ghost world that glows blue beneath zipping stars while undead residents walk through walls, shy and precocious young May Bird consults the Book of the Dead for clues about how to escape before the nefarious Bo Cleevil destroys her.

978-1-4424-9577-7 ©2014 368 pgs.

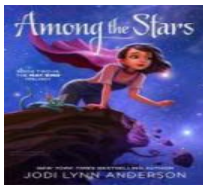
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic RC Lvl 4.8 Lexile 780

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

#1776333 (Vol. 02) Among the Stars (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jodi Lynn Anderson

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



Rereleased with a new cover and title, a continuation of the story of May Bird finds her confronting ghosts and villains while tracking down the mysterious Lady of North Farm in a spooky region of Ever After.

978-1-4424-9579-1 ©2014 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 820



#1776335 (Vol. 03) Warrior Princess (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jodi Lynn Anderson

Three years after her return from the Ever After, May Bird, now thirteen, draws her scattered friends, Pumpkin, Fabbio, Beatrice, and Lucius, out of hiding to take a final stand against evil Bo Cleevil.

978-1-4424-9581-4 ©2014 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 890

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Maya and the Rising Dark (Trade)



#2287765 (Vol. 03) Maya and the Lord of Shadows (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rena Barron

The Lord of Shadows has raised an army powerful enough to challenge the orishas. And it's only a matter of time before he breaks through the veil and destroys Maya's neighborhood and the rest of the world. Maya and her friends aren't going down without a fight. She's honing her guardian powers, with the help of two new allies-her long-lost guardian sister and a mysterious darkbringer (who might be a double agent). Will she succeed or will Darkness prevail, once and for all?

978-0-358-10633-3 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

McCall Mountain (Trade)



#2219809 Hunter's Choice (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trent Reedy

Twelve-year-old Hunter Higgins has been dreaming about his first hunting trip for as long as he can remember. He's taken the classes, earned his license, and become one of the best marksmen in his family. Now he's old enough to join his father, grandfather, and uncle at their cabin for the first weekend of hunting season.

978-1-324-01137-8 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 750

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Twelve-year-old Hunter Higgins, whose favorite book is Hatchet, is beside himself with excitement; he's about to go on his first hunt with his father, grandfather, and Uncle Rick. The Higgins men's passionate devotion to the sport is the very reason the boy was named Hunter. But can he live up to that name? The first day of deer hunting puts it to the test when Hunter finds he's unable to shoot a magnificent buck because it's so beautiful. "Coward," he bitterly calls himself, "failure, hippie." He is only partially mollified when Uncle Rick, whom he reveres, talks with him about the philosophy of hunting and "the awesome, the holy power to kill." Hunter will test that thesis when, later, he and his uncle find themselves in mortal danger. This is a well-written but sometimes didactic paean to hunting that is otherwise notable for its verisimilitude and well-realized setting, the Idaho wilderness. The book's uncritical devotion to hunting recommends it for classroom use, where it may well invite discussion and debate. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Can Hunter live up to his name? Hunter Higgins is 12, and it feels like his whole life has been leading to this

weekend: his first deer hunt. His family is a hunting family, and their land in the Idaho wilderness has been its emotional center for decades. Hunter's taken all the classes, has perfected his shooting, earned his license--but still he wonders whether he can actually take a life. He keeps this worry bottled up as his family gathers at their lodge: his father, his grandfather, his uncle, and his cousin, Yumi, who's also 12--and, unexpectedly, Yumi's friend Annette, their classmate and Hunter's secret crush. Now Hunter has to navigate his family's expectations and Annette. Reedy introduces a powerful subplot in Yumi's difficult relationship with her father, a veteran whose experiences in Afghanistan have left hidden scars. Reedy's familiarity with the terrain, the culture of the outdoors, and combat breathe authenticity into the narrative; as Hunter reflects, "A non-shooter would probably never be able to understand what this felt like." Hunter's rural Idaho world is populated by folks like the Higginses; the ethics of hunting are not called into question. It is also mostly White, with Yumi and her mom's presumed Japanese heritage hinted at in their names. Readers from outside Hunter's culture may find such details as the lodge's all-camo decor cartoonish, but those from within it should feel at home. For kids who, like Hunter, can't get enough of Hatchet. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In the small town of McCall, Idaho, Hunter Higgins, 12, has spent years preparing for "the weekend of his first-ever hunt," a coming-of-age ceremony in his white family. Now that he's completed gun safety training, Hunter finally gets to join his lawyer father, construction worker grandfather, and Uncle Rick, an Army National Guard member; who served in Afghanistan 10 years ago and whose PTSD-like symptoms threaten to estrange him from his wife and daughter; on the last hunt of the season. There's just one problem: though Hunter desperately wants to bag his first buck to prove himself, he feels deep uncertainty over killing an animal. His plans are upset when Yumi, Uncle Rick's half-Japanese, half-white daughter and Hunter's best friend and classmate, and her bespectacled friend Annette Willard, Hunter's secret crush, show up at the family lodge to join the hunt, shifting the hunters' all-male dynamic. Vividly realistic passages about shooting and hunting enrich the narrative, while explorations of toxic masculine attitudes in hunting culture, fear of failure, and trauma underscore the steady action. Though a slightly contrived final act and overly neat ending muddle the thematic impact, intertwining Hunter's growth with his uncle's narrative makes for an emotionally satisfying read. Ages 9: 12. Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7--Turning 12 is a big deal in the Higgins family, because it means Hunter can be part of hunting expeditions. The sixth grader, who is white, is ready--he's taken the safety courses, learned the skills, and has had plenty of target practice--but he's not sure if he'll be able to actually shoot a living deer. Reedy lightly explores topics like mental health and gender dynamics, but the character development remains secondary to the plot. VERDICT Recommended for fans of hunting adventure stories or others looking for a plot-driven middle grade book with a modern rural setting. Not a first purchase.--Gesse Stark-Smith, Multnomah County Lib., Portland, OR Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2267316 Racing Storm Mountain (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trent Reedy

Kelton Fielding has always felt out of place, never sure what to say to his peers who, truth be told, only tolerate him. When a snowmobile race is announced at McCall's annual Winter Festival, Kelton sees his chance to impress his classmates. He'll fix up his old sled and get it running, and he's planned out a risky shortcut through the wilderness that he's sure will win him the prize. But when the popular Swann Siddiq and Kelton's nemesis, Hunter Higgins, follow him into the backcountry, Kelton quickly runs into trouble and realizes that the competition is the least of his worries. With bad weather closing in and the risk of avalanche on the mountain, Kelton and the others find themselves in real danger, relying on their wits and teamwork to survive.

978-1-324-01139-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 176 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal ee middle school students—Swann, Kelton, and Hunter—whose dedication to competing might j st cost them their lives. Swann is the child of rich Hollywood movie stars, Kelton comes from a single-parent household with little to no ext a funds, and Hunter (Kelton's enemy) is somewhere in between. When Kelton attempts a shortcut during the race, the other two follow him into d ngerous land, getting trapped by an avalanche and seeking shelter in a mine to survive. Reedy's writing style evokes classic authors like Gar Paulsen and Terry Lynn Johnson, but this book is also more than an adventure story. Rich dialogue ensues as the trio learn more about each othe r, exploring the differences they face due to their families' socioeconomic statuses. In the midst of disaster, Swann, Kelton, and Hunter have realistic concerns that will resonate with tweens. A minor plot hole involving Kelton and a pawned knife (the pawn industry is regulated and Kelton is underage) doesn't detract from this skillful, exciting companion to Hunter's Choice. VERDICT A complex novel exploring socioeconomic status and friendship wrapped in an engaging adventure story.—Nathan Neal

#2314381 Fishing in Fire (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.95



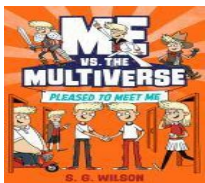
written by Trent Reedy

Things are tense for the middle schoolers in McCall, Idaho, so when Annette Willard suggests a fishing trip, Swann Siddiq, Kelton Fielding, and Hunter and Yumi Higgins all jump at the chance to get away from the drama. The group ventures out into the Idaho woods to Annette's favorite river spot. But with the other four coupling off, Yumi quickly feels like she's the only one catching fish, not feelings. Letting the others stay behind, Yumi makes her way home when she runs into Swann's rival, McKenzie Crenner, and her friends--and instantly connects with professional fisher Mason Bridger. But when they spot smoke rising in the woods between town and their fishing spot, they realize there's a forest fire raging--and closing in on them. The two friend groups must put aside their feud and work together if they're going to get out of the forest alive.

978-1-324-01141-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Me VS. the Multiverse (Trade)



#2167379 (Vol. 01) Pleased to Meet Me (Hardcover (Trade))

written by S. G. Wilson

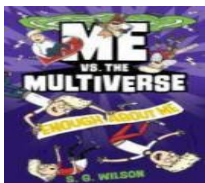
It all starts with a note folded into the shape of an origami octopus: "Hi, Me. Yes, you. You're me, and I'm you." If you believe this and the other origami notes that follow--which middle schooler Meade Macon absolutely, positively does NOT--the concept of parallel dimensions is true, and there is a convention full of alternate versions of Meade waiting for his RSVP. It's got to be a joke.

978-1-9848-9575-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–7—Meade Macon is a pretty average kid with a knack for intricate origami. When he finds a number of invitations to MeCon combined with the origami folds he invented, he's confused but intrigued. When he arrives at MeCon, he's met with 98 versions of himself from 98 unique parallel universes. MeCon was advertised as a way for the different Mes to get to know each other, but there's clearly something more sinister at stake. With the help of some fellow Mes, will Meade (aka Average Me) be able to thwart Meticulous Me and his evil plot? Is Meade actually so average after all? This fun, quick read will appeal to kids who like humor and adventure without the scary. There are loads of Mes to keep track of, but with names like Hollywood Me, Resist Me, Disco Me, and Motor Me, it's not too hard to follow. The engaging plot moves quickly enough to keep readers interested. The story includes many cheesy, intentionally obvious pop culture references, and some may be lost on younger readers. Most kids will, however, enjoy the abundant toilet humor and general quirkiness of the story. VERDICT This is a good book for bridging the gap between early chapter books and more advanced middle grade fiction. A secondary purchase for larger libraries or those with robust middle grade readers.—Jessica Trafton, Skidompha Lib., Damariscotta, ME



#2235136 (Vol. 02) Enough about Me (Hardcover (Trade))

written by S. G. Wilson

Saving the multiverse starts with another origami note: Make it here, pronto. This time Meade Macon, aka Average Me, knows that parallel dimensions are real. He's met dozens of his counterparts from other Earths. What he doesn't know is that they're all about to get zapped out of existence.

978-1-9848-9579-0 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

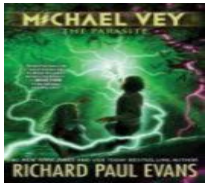
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Michael Vey (Trade)

#2292936 (Vol. 08) Parasite (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99



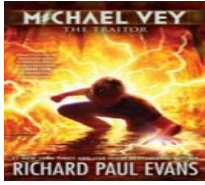
written by Richard Paul Evans

Michael and his friends learn that returning to a normal life is not only more difficult than they imagined, but that normal doesn't last. Like the mythical Hydra, cutting off the head of the global Elgen only created more enemies.

978-1-6659-1952-4 ©2022 6 x 9 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#2333202 (Vol. 09) Traitor (Hardcover (Trade))

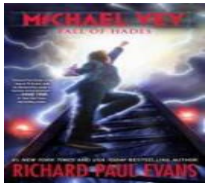
written by Richard Paul Evans

In this electrifying ninth installment, the Electroclan faces a bigger threat than ever before!

978-1-6659-1955-5 ©2023 6 x 9 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#1979381 (Vol. 06) Fall of Hades (Michael Vey) (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Richard Paul Evans

Michael and his friends try to recruit Hatch's Electric Youth to their side.

978-1-4814-6982-1 ©2016 6 x 9 288 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 600

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#1937119 (Vol. 05) Storm of Lightning (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Richard Paul Evans

The resistance movement has been compromised. The Voice is in hiding. Their families are missing. Can the Electroclan pull together to defeat the Elgen once and for all?

978-1-4814-4410-1 ©2015 6 x 9 320 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile 600

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



#2017749 (Vol. 07) Final Spark (Michael Vey) (Hardcover (Trade))

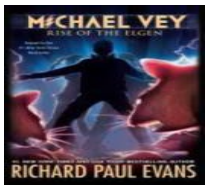
written by Richard Paul Evans

Michael Vey is missing and it's up to the Electroclan to find him.

978-1-4814-9703-9 ©2017 6 x 9 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 620

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.99



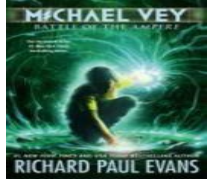
#1679068 (Vol. 02) Rise of the Elgen (Michael Vey) (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Richard Paul Evans

Michael must save his mother--and protect his powers--in the electric sequel to the #1 "New York Times"-bestselling "Michael Vey."

978-1-4424-5414-9 ©2012 336 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 4.4 Lexile HL 610



#1739199 (Vol. 03) Battle of the Ampere (Michael Vey) (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Richard Paul Evans

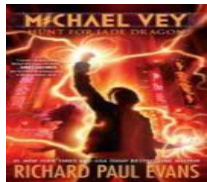
In the third book of the electrifying Michael Vey series, Michael and his friends must continue to fight the Elgen and try to disrupt their plans to rule the world.

978-1-4424-7511-3 ©2013 320 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.7 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 4.1 Lexile 530

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Fans of Michael Vey will not be disappointed in this high-octane addition to the series featuring a boy who can manipulate electricity and who tries to stop the nefarious Dr. Hatch from controlling the world's power. Picking up from the final escape scene in Rise of the Elgen (2012), Michael finds himself in the Amazon rain forest. There, he joins forces with Tessa, whose ability to amplify powers comes in handy as they try to free the other Glows still held captive. Evading both the Elgen and Peruvian armies, the teenage Electroclan try to stop Dr. Hatch and return home once and for all. While the character development is shallow and the dialogue sounds dated, Michael and his friends are appealing, uncomplicated protagonists. Chaste romantic scenes and a conspicuous lack of profanity may widen the audience. Readers new to the series may be confused by the large cast and lack of backstory, but the relentless pace and constant one-liners should keep the pages turning easily.--Hayes, Summer Copyright 2014 Booklist



#1780070 (Vol. 04) Hunt for Jade Dragon (Michael Vey) (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Richard Paul Evans

Michael, Taylor, Ostin and the rest of the Electroclan head to China in search of a girl who may have discovered why Michael and his friends became electric. Her name is Lin Julung, or Jade Dragon, and she's a child prodigy with an IQ higher than Einstein's--"and" Ostin's.

978-1-4814-2438-7 ©2014 320 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 4.1 Lexile HL 530

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 7-10. Michael Vey and the Electroclan gear up for another adventure in the fourth volume of the popular series. A method of replicating the electric children has been discovered, but the formula is locked inside the brain of a deaf, mute autistic savant named Jade Dragon, and Dr. Hatch will stop at nothing to get her to reveal it. Vey and his team must travel to Taiwan to rescue the girl, but Hatch has a powerful army and his own team of Glows that would like nothing better than to see Vey die. Expectant fans will find much to enjoy, with plenty of plot twists, double-crossing characters, and endless action that propels the classic battle between good and evil. Michael and his crew embody strong moral values, emphasizing loyalty and bravery, but the heavy reliance on antiquated Asian stereotypes is off-putting. Purchase for collections with heavy demand for the series.

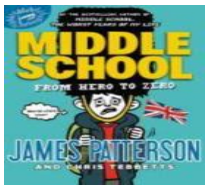
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews An autistic genius is in the hands of the enemy, and it's up to Michael Vey and his fellows in the Electroclan to save her. The Electroclan is regrouping on a top-secret ranch after striking a major blow against the villainous Dr. Hatch and the Elgen. The evil empire's flagship vessel, the Ampere, has been blown out of the sky, but Hatch's plans for world domination are still strong. His next nefarious deed is the abduction of the young Jade Dragon, a girl whose special gifts can make all of Hatch's evil dreams come true. The author mixes this sci-fi nonsense with just the right amount of fun, evoking Saturday-morning-cartoon heroics. It's hard not to see the influence of GI Joe and The Transformers in the Electroclan's adventures. Dueling factions and two-dimensional characters never get bogged down in the superserious mumbo jumbo that trips up many teen adventure series. This individual episode has a refreshingly intimate feel. The heroes' main objective isn't destroying a secret base or executing an evil potentate but instead a simple rescue mission. The relatively narrow focus allows for a more tangible, and therefore more satisfying, victory. A brisk pace and smart characterization make this an easily digestible adventure, and the requisite cliffhanger promises larger stakes for the next go-round. A series that is shaping up to be quite a fun ride. (Adventure. 10-14)

Middle School (Trade)

#1959719 (Vol. 10) Middle School: from Hero to Zero (Hardcover (POB))
written by James Patterson

After a mostly-successful stint at Hills Valley Middle School, Rafe is excited to visit

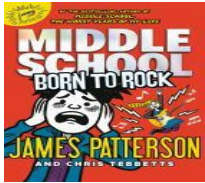
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99



the incredible city of London with his class. Sightseeing around a foreign country sounds like a blast, until Rafe finds out his roommate will be none other than Miller the Killer, bully extraordinaire! Then Rafe is forced to work on a class project side by side with his crush Jeanne Galletta and her too-perfect boyfriend, which might be even more torturous than rooming with Miller.

978-0-316-34690-0 ©2017 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 640



#2092519 (Vol. 11) Middle School: Born to Rock (Hardcover (POB))

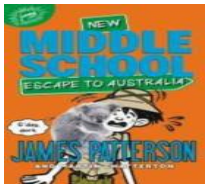
written by James Patterson

When Georgia's favorite rock band, Lulu and the Handbags, advertise a major music competition where the winner gets to jam with Lulu herself, Georgia will pull all the stops to make sure her band wins--even if it means asking her older brother, Rafe, for help! Will his crazy ideas work, or land her in serious trouble?

978-0-316-34952-9 ©2019 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 3.4 Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$14.99



#2008919 (Vol. 09) Middle School: Escape to Australia (Hardcover (POB))

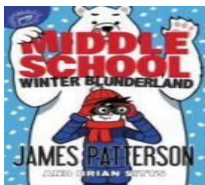
written by James Patterson

Rafe isn't exactly considered a winner in Hills Village Middle School to say the least, but everything's about to change: he's won a school-wide art competition, and the fabulous prize is getting to jet-set off to Australia for a whirlwind adventure! But Rafe soon finds that living in the Land Down Under is harder than he could've ever imagined--his host-siblings are anything but welcoming, the burning temperatures are torturous, and poisonous critters are ready to sting or eat him at every step. So with the help of some new misfit friends, Rafe sets out to show everyone what he does best: create utter mayhem!

978-0-316-27262-9 ©2017 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 5.4 Lexile 820

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$14.99



#2300163 (Vol. 15) Winter Blunderland (Hardcover (POB))

written by James Patterson

Things heat up at Hills Village Middle School when Rafe gets an invitation from Dr. Daria Deerwin to join a research study on polar bears. How many times in life do you get a chance to come face-to-face with a real polar bear in the wild? Rafe is ready to find out! Alaska is pinkie-freezing, hair-freezing, snot-freezing cold, but Rafe might be headed for a meltdown.

978-0-316-50020-3 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.

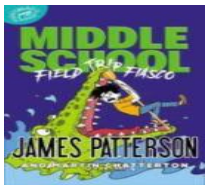
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$13.99

#2220482 (Vol. 13) Middle School: Field Trip Fiasco (Hardcover (POB))

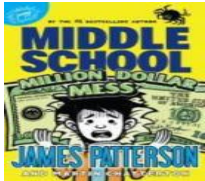
written by James Patterson

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$13.99



Things have quieted down for lovable troublemaker Rafe Khatchadorian, and after all the mishaps and adventures he's been through, he's feeling a little restless. So when he's invited to attend an all-expenses-paid art field trip in California, Rafe jumps at the opportunity.

978-0-316-43377-8 ©2021 288 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 700

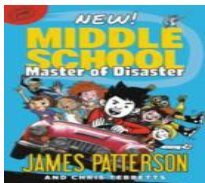


#2363439 (Vol. 16) Million Dollar Mess (Hardcover (POB))
written by James Patterson

When Rafe discovers that he's inherited a fortune, it's not all good news. Sure, he gets an all-expenses-paid trip to glamorous Beverly Hills.. but he also has to go to school while he's in California. Blergh. And not just any school-St. Benedict's, the snobbiest of snobby establishments. You can bet your bottom dollar that Rafe doesn't exactly fit in. Toss in a ramshackle house Rafe's family has to live in before they can inherit the money and a group of bullies who make Miller the Killer look downright friendly, and this trip might be more trash than treasure.

978-0-316-41062-5 ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.99

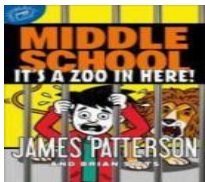


#2149070 (Vol. 12) Middle School: Master of Disaster (Hardcover (POB))
written by James Patterson

Rafe and Jimmy, two misunderstood "troublemakers", are finally up to something good. They're in charge of a huge celebration of books and reading--but when a small issue snowballs into a big problem that threatens to derail the whole event, they need to work fast to keep things on track!

978-0-316-42049-5 ©2020 320 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 5.0 Lexile 600

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99



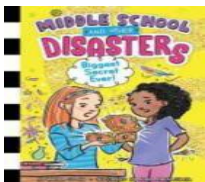
#2263860 (Vol. 14) It's a Zoo in Here! (Hardcover (POB))
written by James Patterson

Rafe Khatchadorian is days away from sweet, sweet summer freedom until bad grades threaten to land him in ... SUMMER SCHOOL.

978-0-316-43008-1 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 320 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 640

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99

Middle School and Other Disasters (Trade)



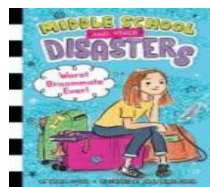
#2368584 (Vol. 03) Biggest Secret Ever! (Hardcover (POB))
written by Wanda Coven

Heidi is making new friends at Broomsfield Academy--in particular, a popular girl named Isabelle. But it turns out Isabelle has a big secret that Heidi discovers by accident! Heidi promises to keep the secret, but as more time goes by, it becomes more and more difficult.especially with nosy Melanie Maplethorpe snooping around. This secret is huge. Will Heidi be able to keep her promise?

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Heidi Heckelbeck is a witch and first-year student at Broomfield Academy, a boarding school that educates magical and nonmagical kids alike. Heidi's an ordinary tween, concerned with clothes, friendships, crushes (currently on Nick Lee, who's not in the School of Magic), and her tenuous relationship with Melanie, her often-mean "broommate" and acquaintance from home. She's also excited about learning witchcraft and is pleased to receive private magic lessons from Mrs. Kettledrum. Her teacher instructs her in calming meditation techniques as a prelude to mind-reading and emergency spells. Sometimes Heidi writes spells enthusiastically but incorrectly, however, with unintended consequences. She also faces a difficult decision about revealing a big secret about new friend Isabelle. Heidi pushes the boundaries of appropriate behavior (both in the real world and the magical one) and must think hard about self-discipline. Breezy and fun, this volume will satisfy devotees who have enjoyed following this engaging character since she was in elementary school, with each entry slowly but surely moving up in complexity as Heidi grows and becomes a little more serious. Her latest adventures are delivered with the usual humorous grayscale illustrations and fonts that vary in size and style, moving the story along quickly. The volume will entice new fans, welcome reluctant readers, and please those who have been awaiting Heidi's latest exploits. Isabelle reads Black; other central characters are cued white. Fun middle school antics with a dollop of light magic and considerations of loyalty. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—In this latest entry of the "Middle School and Other Disasters" series about witch-in-training Heidi Heckelbeck, Heidi is excited to be chosen for private magic lessons with Mrs. Kettledrum, beginning with meditation techniques to help her master mind-reading. She has a blossoming crush on a non-magical student named Nick, and a new friend named Isabelle. Everything is going well until she discovers that Isabelle has a big secret: she is a princess from a magical royal family. Heidi promises Isabelle she won't tell anyone, but she is bursting to share the big news, and accidentally reveals it to her gossipy roommate Melanie Maplethorpe. She tries to use an emergency spell on Melanie to make her forget Isabelle's secret, but in the process makes Melanie forget who Heidi is! Luckily, Mrs. Kettledrum can read Heidi's thoughts and helps her with a new emergency spell to undo her mistake without revealing Isabelle's secret. This novel is full of relatable middle school experiences: crushes, secrets, navigating new and old friendships, and struggling to do the right thing. Although it assumes some knowledge of the previous books, new readers will still be able to understand and engage with the story. The variable font size and cartoon-style black-and-white drawings by Abramskaya add to the book's readability and charm. Although the background of the characters is never explicitly stated, Heidi, and many of the other main characters, appear white in illustrations, while Isabelle and Nick have darker skin. VERDICT A solid new addition for Heidi Heckelbeck fans that could also serve as an entry point for new readers.—Ashley Larsen



#2323255 (Vol. 01) Worst Broommate Ever! (Hardcover (POB))

written by Wanda Coven

It's goodbye, Brewster Elementary and hello, Broomsfield Academy when Heidi starts middle school at the only school in the country that has secret classes for witches in training! Heidi is excited but nervous about living on her own and making new friends (and new crushes)! Her first day takes a turn for the worse when Heidi discovers her roommate is none other than her old rival, Melanie Maplethorpe!

978-1-6659-2528-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 620

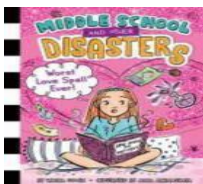
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews With her witch mom and human dad, Heidi Heckelbeck was first introduced to readers in a long-running eponymous series about her elementary school life. Now she's off to middle school at Broomsfield Academy, her mom's alma mater. The boarding school, ostensibly an ordinary one, secretly provides special classes for witches and wizards. Those with magical talents must keep them secret, but that's hard for Heidi. To her great dismay, her "broommate" is her nemesis from home, Melanie Maplethorpe. Is the rude, mean girl of her nightmares also a witch? Despite the rules against using magic outside her special classes, Heidi uses her powers to play a prank on Melanie, whose music is too loud. When the girls are partnered during Broommate Bonding Day, they find out that they are more alike than they think--but that doesn't mean it's completely smooth sailing ahead, especially when both of them have crushes on the same boy. There are sweet, detailed, grayscale illustrations scattered throughout, and many of Heidi's thoughts are emphasized in different type sizes. The story moves quickly, and it may particularly appeal to reluctant readers. Loyal readers of the first series can easily transition to this, and others looking for an accessible read with a touch of magic will also enjoy it. Heidi and Melanie appear White; some secondary characters bring racial diversity. Serves up light sorcery mixed with middle school friendships. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2330003 (Vol. 02) Worst Love Spell Ever! (Hardcover (POB))

written by Wanda Coven

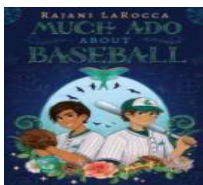
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99



Heidi is settling in at Broomfield Academy. She and Melanie are trying to get along and Heidi is getting used to her classes, all her new friends, and her very first crush, Hunter! The problem is: Hunter is really popular. How will Heidi get him to notice her? Her friends tell her to just be herself, but that sounds so boring! After all, Heidi is a witch-in-training. What good is having magic if you can't use it? She knows she can find the perfect love spell to make Hunter fall in love with her. What could possibly go wrong?

978-1-6659-3720-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 336 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 4.0

Midsummer's Mayhem (Trade)



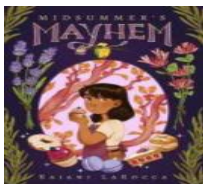
#2227990 Much Ado about Baseball (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rajani LaRocca

(Companion) Twelve-year-old Trish can solve tough math problems and throw a mean fastball. But because of her mom's new job, she's now facing a summer trying to make friends all over again in a new town. That isn't an easy thing to do, and her mom is too busy to notice how miserable she is.

978-1-4998-1101-8 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal in Comity, MA, in this stand-alone companion novel to LaRocca's Midsummer's Mayhem. After moving to Comity, 12-year-old Trish Das worries about being accepted as the only girl on her baseball team. Making matters worse, Trish's math puzzle competition rival Ben Messina plays on the same team. Insecure about his baseball skills and resentful of Trish's most recent math competition victory, Ben clashes with her while his best friend, Abhi, schemes to get the two to become friends (a la Much Ado About Nothing). In this book told in alternating perspectives, Trish and Ben stumble across copies of a mysterious book called The Mathematics of the Wild, whose odd math puzzles seem to magically help the team and bring the former rivals together. But when the books disappear just before the championship game, Abhi's life is endangered and they must seek answers in Comity's enchanted woods. Fans of Midsummer's Mayhem will delight in a return to the richly developed setting of Comity and its familiar quirky characters. A relatable sports plot about rivalry, teamwork, and forgiveness is elevated by lyrical descriptive writing and the unique intersection of mathematics and nature in the book's puzzles, which readers will be eager to solve. Trish is Indian American, and Ben is white. **VERDICT** This ambitious, layered story pulls together sports, Shakespeare, and mathematics while conveying a sweet, accessible message of the value of friendship and forgiveness. Recommended for all collections; hand to fans of Stacy McAnulty's The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl or Erin Yun's Pippa Park Raises Her Game.—Elizabeth Giles, Kansas City P. L., MO



#2104891 Midsummer's Mayhem (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rajani LaRocca

When the new bakery in town holds a contest, Mimi is determined to win and find her place among her successful brethren. But when she starts experimenting with the exotic ingredients she finds deep in the forest, the treats she bakes become simply irresistible and almost... magical, and strange things start happening throughout the town. Contemporary-fantasy retelling of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

978-1-4998-0888-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 670

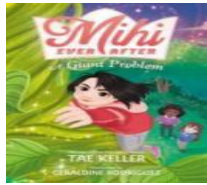
Quantity **Unit Price**
 1 \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly As the curtain raises on this reimagining of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Indian-American Mimi, 11, is reading her favorite cookbook when she hears a song drifting from the woods "like an irresistible aroma." Debut author LaRocca liberally uses food metaphors to underscore Mimi's passion for baking, which she shared with her sorely missed best friend who moved away. Hints of Shakespeare surface as Mimi's brother Henry spouts lines from the school production, in which he plays Puck, whose character traits are reflected in Vik, the mysterious pipe-playing boy who befriends Mimi in the forest. While she experiments with recipes in hopes of winning a celebrity-judged Midsummer's Eve baking contest and proving herself to her high-achieving parents and siblings, Mimi's family and neighbors start talking and

acting out in puzzling, inexplicable ways after sampling her herb- and flower-based confections. Though this mayhem provides some humorous moments, repetition and overstatement impede the pace of the story, until LaRocca; with Vik's help; ties together its myriad threads in a satisfying finale. Enchantment reigns, yet the author's exploration of family, friendship, and self-esteem are firmly grounded in reality. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Brent Taylor, TriadaUS. (June)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–7—Eleven-year-old Mimi Mackson is the youngest in a family of overachievers. Between her older siblings' many activities and her parents' busy work lives, Mimi feels lost in the shuffle and longs for her own moment in the spotlight. When she learns about a contest held by the mysterious new bakery in town, Mimi sees a chance to distinguish herself and jump-start her dream of becoming a celebrity chef like her idol Puffy Fay. But she struggles to find inspiration with the loss of her best friend Emma, who recently moved to Australia, and the advice of her dad, who overnight seems to have lost his impressive sense of taste. Then one day, while searching for ingredients and ideas in the woods, Mimi meets a boy who shows her areas she's never visited before. She is surprised to discover Banyan trees and a wild boar in the Massachusetts forest, along with delicious nectar-filled flowers and other ingredients that she incorporates into her baking. Things at home go from weird to weirder, with her father continuing to eat more food than seems humanly possible, her sisters caught up in an intense and absurd love triangle, and her brother suddenly in love with his own reflection. Despite the mayhem, Mimi pushes forward toward her goal of winning the contest. This delightful and delicious spin on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* flows beautifully into a sensitive and thoughtful novel that addresses family dynamics and self-confidence alongside mouth-watering descriptions of food. Readers will relate to Mimi's attempts to stand out and find her place and will be thrilled by the magical baking. **VERDICT** A first purchase for most libraries, especially where titles like Kathryn Littlewood's "Bliss Bakery" and Anna Meriano's "Love Sugar Magic" series are popular.—Kristy Pasquariello, Westwood Public Library, MA

Mihi Ever After (Trade)



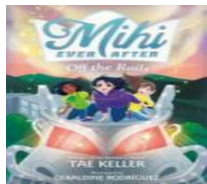
#2323825 (Vol. 02) Giant Problem (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Tae Keller

Mihi and her friends Savannah and Reese have been back from the Rainbow Realm for a few months, and none of them can get it out of their minds. When Mihi's former best friend, Genevieve, goes through the fridge and into the fairy world herself, Mihi and her friends know that they're the only ones who can save her. But when the girls arrive in the fairy tale realm, they discover a giant and an enormous beanstalk have wrought a new kind of havoc in the fairy world, and Genevieve isn't the only one who needs saving.

978-1-250-81422-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Three friends face one giant problem. Since narrowly escaping many dangers in *Mihi Ever After* (2022), Korean American Mihi Whan Park has been afraid to admit her secret to besties Reese and Savannah: She misses the Rainbow Realm and its magic. When Genevieve, Mihi's former best friend and current archnemesis, is near tears due to punishment for a fight they got into at school, Mihi impulsively tells her about the Rainbow Realm in an attempt to cheer her up. Soon after, Genevieve disappears--and Mihi discovers her backpack near the portal. Mihi, Reese, and Savannah decide they ought to rescue Genevieve even though "she's rude and a little spoiled and she doesn't seem to care about other people's feelings." They are surprised to find the Rainbow Realm in dire straits thanks to a large beanstalk and a giant who has been stealing the rain. The action-packed plot maintains a brisk pace as the trio meet with familiar characters, friendly and otherwise, and learn that Genevieve has gone searching for the giant's gold. Using a spell, the three girls disguise themselves and sneak into the giant's ball. Even though they are captured, with a bit of magic and ingenuity, they are able to save the day. Keller deftly explores both perseverance and the evolving nature of friendships that sometimes need to end. Readers would benefit from familiarity with the first book. The ending paves the way for another adventure. Final art not seen. A high-interest fantasy romp. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



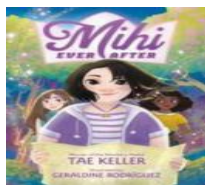
#2366031 (Vol. 03) Off the Rails (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Tae Keller

Mihi, Reese, and Savannah thought their fairy-tale realm adventures were over. But just as they were getting ready to go home, they learn that their first friend in the realm, Princess Pat, has disappeared on a quest of her own. Pat is traveling around the fairy world trying to gather enough magic to save the Rainbow Realm, but the journey is too dangerous, and Mihi, Reese, and Savannah are the only ones who can save her.

978-1-250-81425-8 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2299928 (Vol. 01) **Mihi Ever After (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Tae Keller

training turns out to be more than Mihi bargained for, and the fairy tale world is not the wonderful place she imagined. Soon, Savannah and Reese decide they're ready to go home, and Mihi has to decide where her loyalties lie: With her friends and her future at home, or with her princess dreams?

978-1-250-81431-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 5.0

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 In this cute middle-grade fantasy, fairy tale-loving readers will get to visit the magical land where all their favorite characters live. Korean American Mihi desperately wants to be a princess but feels like she doesn't quite fit in. She unexpectedly meets some new pals (and fellow misfits) in the school library, and, like something out of Narnia, they discover a portal into a magical land. Unfortunately, they get way more than they bargained for when they begin to realize their dreams of being princesses and start to experience magic firsthand. Newbery-winning Keller includes some familiar characters from well-known stories while adding some new dimension with a contemporary spin. The girls are told they cannot make changes to the stories as written, but when they start seeing the dark side of things, they decide they'll do anything to get back home. Themes of friendship, honesty, and integrity really shine here, and the girls' journey to safety makes for an exciting page-turner. Some tantalizing threads left hanging hint at the possibility of future adventures. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Fourth grader Mihi Whan Park, who loves fairy tales and princesses, wants nothing more than to fit in at school, a place where microaggressions abound. A botched game of Snow White results in Mihi's being sent indoors to the library for recess, where she meets two other misfits, Reese and Savannah. Though the three girls are vastly different -- Reese is curious and inventive, Savannah is quiet and cautious, and Mihi is headstrong and bold -- they share a love of princess stories and adventure. These qualities and their common interests come in handy when they discover a magical portal in the school librarian's fridge that takes them to the Rainbow Forest, where they find themselves in training to become royalty. But it turns out that learning how to be a princess isn't as easy or as much fun as Mihi expects. The Rainbow Forest is full of mystery and danger and is home to several classic Western fairy-tale characters, including Sleeping Beauty and Goldilocks's three bears. In a tale of kinship and self-discovery, Keller conveys the isolation one feels when faced with racism and stereotypes without steering readers away from the primary story line. In her quest for belonging and creating her own perfect fairy tale, Mihi finds that genuine friendship is what she needed all along. Gabi K. Huesca(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young girl seeks her own happily-ever-after. Korean American Mihi Whan Park is at a crossroads. Her best friend, Genevieve, is pulling away, and worse, she called Mihi's love of all things princess childish. All her life Mihi has feared that she is not princess material, and she has been looking for a happy ending in which things feel right. Mihi runs into classmates Reese, who is Black, and Savannah, who presents White, in the school library, and the three girls decide to sneak candies from the librarian's fridge. They discover that the fridge is a portal: It transports them to the magical Rainbow Forest. There they meet three chatty mice who are shocked that beings from what they call the Grey World have made it into their land. The mice direct the girls to Sleeping Beauty's castle, where they can seek their own fairy-tale ending. After being greeted by Bertha, Sleeping Beauty's lady-in-waiting, they are presented with a list of odd rules and requirements for becoming princesses. Eventually a more sinister truth reveals itself, compelling the girls to frantically search for a way home. Characters from popular European fairy tales and folktales make appearances, often somewhat randomly and without a clear purpose, and some worldbuilding rules regarding the Rainbow Forest and its magic are left unanswered; the next volume may clarify some of these elements. Final art not seen. A fast-paced series opener that introduces a new kind of princess story. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Keller (Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone) leans into the power of fairy tales, friendship, and self-acceptance via this quickly paced fantasy. In Massachusetts, Korean American princess fan Mihi Whan Park feels "like a princess, like someone important, someone who mattered, someone who belonged," but a close friend's hurtful comment disparaging princess play as "babyish and kind of annoying" leaves her wondering if she will ever be good enough for a fairy tale life. An unexpected portal in the school librarian's refrigerator allows Mihi and two new friends; Reese, who is Black, and cued-white Savannah; into a magical world peopled with characters from popular European nursery rhymes and fairy tales. At first, the girls are ready for adventure and thrilled about the potential of becoming royalty, but various setbacks soon show the world's grimmer realities, including restrictive rules for princesshood. And when she and her friends don't agree on how to react, Mihi must decide whether to prioritize her dreams of princesshood or her hopes for friendship. Familiar elements combine with vivid storytelling and cartoon renderings by Rodriguez (Bella's Recipe for Success) to underline themes of adventure and self-discovery. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. Author's agent: Faye Bender, Book Group.(Nov.)

Minecraft Novels (Trade)



#2302049 (Vol. 11) Castle Redstone (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sarwat Chadda

An exciting new official Minecraft novel from Mojang and Del Rey.

978-0-593-49853-8 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99



#2069121 (Vol. 02) Crash (Hardcover (Trade))

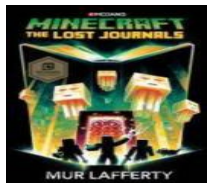
written by Tracey Baptiste

Waking up in the hospital, almost paralyzed by her injuries, Bianca is faced with questions she's not equipped to answer. She chooses instead to try a new virtual reality version of Minecraft that responds to her every wish, giving her control over a world at the very moment she thought she'd lost it.

978-0-399-18066-8 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 740

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99



#2106820 (Vol. 03) Minecraft: the Lost Journals (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mur Lafferty

Allison and Max must team up to find his missing uncle Nicholas. Using the journal his beloved uncle left behind as a guide, the duo hurtle headlong into a treacherous and unknown landscape called the Nether. There, they meet a strange girl named Freya and her woefully unheroic wolf, Bunny Biter, who agree to help them in their quest. The group must take on dangerous new foes and unravel the cryptic journal to find Nicholas and reunite this fractured family.

978-0-399-18069-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 800

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99



#2148385 (Vol. 04) End (Hardcover (Trade))

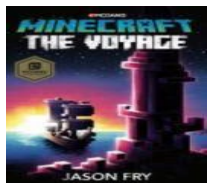
written by Catherynne M. Valente

For as long as they can remember, the twin endermen Fin and Mo have lived in the mysterious land of the End. On the outskirts of the great enderman city of Talos, they explore ancient ruins under the watchful gaze of the mighty ender dragon. They have everything they need in the end ship they call home, and know everything there is to know about their world--or so they think until the strangers from another dimension arrive.

978-0-399-18072-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 540

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99



#2161777 (Vol. 05) Voyage (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jason Fry

Join a daring expedition into strange new lands with this official Minecraft novel!

When a young man is ripped from his quiet life and stranded far from home, he must learn not only how to survive, but how to live. Stax Stonecutter has lived a peaceful--if unremarkable--life in his small town in the Overworld. The son of great adventurers

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

and wise builders, Stax prefers an easier life. He loves to tend to his gardens and play with his cats all day, rather than venturing out to explore the surrounding lands. It's quiet on his estate, even lonely sometimes, but it suits Stax well enough. His solitude is shattered when a mysterious stranger arrives with a band of merciless raiders. In one terrible night, Stax's old life is taken from him, and he is left stranded in the middle of nowhere, angry and alone. He's never left home, and now he knows why: everything beyond the boundaries of his little town is scary and dangerous! But as he begins his long journey back, Stax encounters fascinating travelers who show him that there's more to the Overworld than marauding pirates and frightening mobs; there are beautiful lands to explore, fantastical contraptions to build, and new friends to meet. It may have taken losing everything he once knew, but on his adventure Stax finds something more valuable than all the diamonds in the Overworld: a whole wonderful world that's just waiting to be explored.

978-0-399-18075-0 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 950



#2226789 (Vol. 06) Shipwreck: An Official Minecraft Novel (Hardcover (Trade))

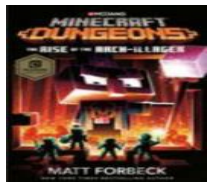
written by C. B. Lee

When three teenagers-Jake Thomas, Emily Quesada, and Thanh Vuong-are forced to clean up and sort through the items in their beloved community center before a developer demolishes the building, they discover an odd Minecraft server on one of the old computers. The game world is littered with riddles that promise incredible, impossible creations if they can just follow the clues. However, a strange figure called the Wizard thwarts the kids at every turn as they try to unravel the mysteries laid before them. Will they be able to work together to beat the Wizard, or will they run out of time?

978-0-399-18078-1 ©2020 6 x 8-3/4 368 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 14.0 Lexile 820

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2263798 (Vol. 07) Rise of the Arch-Illager (Hardcover (Trade))

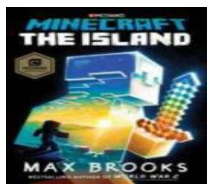
written by Matt Forbeck

Archie discovers an object that whispers to him promises of power: the Orb of Dominance. With it, Archie realizes he can wield incredible magic and reshape a world that turned its back on him. All he needs to do is exactly what it tells him...

978-0-399-18081-1 ©2020 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 880

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2016343 (Vol. 01) The Island (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Max Brooks

An official tie-in to the globally popular video game traces the story of a new hero stranded in the world of Minecraft who must survive a harsh environment while unraveling the secrets of a mysterious island. By the best-selling author of World War Z.

978-0-399-18177-1 ©2017 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 790

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Billed as the first official Minecraft novel, this adventure guides an epicene narrator ignorant of the game world's rules or

hazards along a steep learning curve in solo survival mode. After waking up in the ocean and marveling at the square sun and clouds, the amnesiac gamer swims to an island and gradually learns how to manipulate the blocky environment to make food and shelter while navigating attacks from zombies, skeletons, and other hostile mobs and gaining the confidence to set out in search of new realms. To set this apart (somewhat) from an outright instruction manual, Brooks adds physical pain and smells, gives his protagonist emotional highs and lows, and, for humor, presents general observations and conclusions in the form of frequent conversations with a monosyllabic cow. (How do mobs spawn in caves? Moo.) The plot still has a mechanical feel, but Minecraft noobs will get a sense of what to expect, and also to come away with a tally (actually enumerated at the end) of useful hints and strategies.--Peters, John Copyright 2017 Booklist



#2263799 (Vol. 08) Dragon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Nicky Drayden

The next exciting Minecraft novel from Del Rey and Mojang Studios.

978-0-593-35573-2 ©2021 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2263802 (Vol. 09) Haven Trials (Hardcover (Trade))

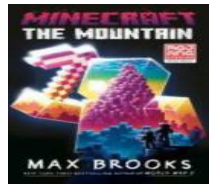
written by Suyi Davies

All of Cecelia Alao's friends call her Cece. All one of them. But she and Therese are so close that one friend is all Cece needs. Both at school and in their shared Minecraft world, Cece and Therese are inseparable. Until the night before the first day of school, when Therese sends Cece a message, three words that change everything.

978-0-593-35575-6 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2263755 (Vol. 08) Mountain (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Max Brooks

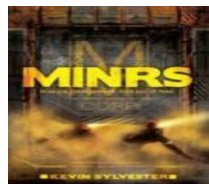
When a stranded hero stumbles upon another castaway, they discover that teamwork might be the secret to survival.

978-0-593-15915-6 ©2021 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 670

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

MiNRS (Trade)



#1937076 (Vol. 01) MiNRS (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kevin Sylvester

A twelve-year-old boy and his friends must find a way to survive in the mining tunnels after their new space colony is attacked.

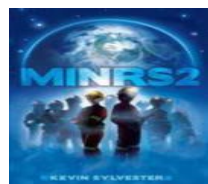
978-1-4814-4039-4 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 3.5 Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Christopher, his parents, and a few other families live on Perses, a planetoid in Earth's solar system that has been set up as a mining operation, shipping much-needed ore back to Earth. One night, just as a communications blackout begins, raiders attack Perses, bombing and shooting into the gathered crowds. Christopher and a few other kids survive, hiding in the mining tunnels. It will be two months before the blackout is over, however, and Christopher isn't sure they can hold out that long. As the oldest, it's up to him to find a way to keep everyone alive and figure out a way to contact Earth once the blackout ends. A survivor with a more militant agenda, the discovery of Perses' dark secret, and a spy within the ranks threaten not only his plan, but everyone's survival. MiNRS combines elements of science fiction and adventure to create a novel with high appeal. Christopher is a very well-developed, realistic character. Secondary characters are developed to

varying degrees, but their motivations are clear and each is essential to the story. Plot twists and turns pull readers through the novel and keep them on the edge of their seats. There is never a dull moment or unnecessary scene. VERDICT A solid survival story with a cliff-hanger ending that will leave readers clamoring for more.-Heather Miller Cover, Homewood Public Library, AL Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1983627 (Vol. 02) MiNRS 2 (Hardcover (Trade))

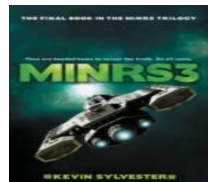
written by Kevin Sylvester

They are coming to get you. Hide. Hide. Hide. The children of Perses have been receiving this message on repeat, from Earth, for weeks. Christopher, Elena, and the other survivors of the attack on their space colony know two things: their victory over the Landers will be short-lived and a new wave of attacks is imminent. The kids have nowhere to go but underground. Again. But resources and patience are running low and the struggle to keep everyone safe is complicated by all the infighting amongst the kids.

978-1-4814-4042-4 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 3.4 Lexile 610

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



#2118050 (Vol. 03) MiNRS 3 (Paperback (Trade))

written by Kevin Sylvester

The children of Perses must return to Earth. They defeated Major Kirk Thatcher on their adopted planet, but his evil plans are still unfolding. People need to know the truth.

978-1-5011-9531-0 ©2019 5 x 8 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$8.99

Miraculous Sweetmakers (Trade)



#2299998 (Vol. 01) Frost Fair (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Natasha Hastings

It's winter, 1683, and the Great Frost has swept into London. By day, thirteen-year-old Thomasina and her friend Anne peddle sweets on the frozen river, hearing rumors of the magical Frost Fair that awakens there at night. They say if you can find it, Father Winter himself will grant any wish you have. And Thomasina has an impossible wish: the return of her twin brother, whose death left her family fractured.

978-0-06-316127-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl in 17th-century London enters a dangerous bargain to resurrect her deceased brother. Since her twin, Arthur, died four years ago, 13-year-old Thomasina, a pale, brown-haired, gray-eyed girl, has blamed herself. After all, she challenged him to a race before he died of their shared affliction, which she later learns is called asthma. Filled with loss and guilt, she makes gingerbread for her family's floundering sweet shop while running the house and caring for her grieving parents. As the Great Frost grips London, a Frost Fair opens on the frozen River Thames, and Thomasina's family sets up a stall there. Lured to the river one night by a blue light, Thomasina encounters Inigo, a peculiar stranger who offers to bring Arthur back to life if she will temporarily surrender her memories of him and make four visits to the Other Frost Fair where Father Winter, Frost Beasts, and Frost Folk gather. As her memories of Arthur fade, Thomasina discovers silvery snowflakes on her skin: Is she becoming one of the Frost Folk? Set against the backdrop of the Great Frost of 1683-84, the third-person narrative conveys Thomasina's consuming guilt, fear for her mother's mental state, frustration with her father, longing to become a sweetmaker, and desperation to heal her family. Her harrowing efforts to unlock the secrets of Inigo's past and expose Father Winter's demonic designs prove intriguing while chilling descriptions of the Other Frost Fair evoke the surreal. A gripping, atmospheric, fantastical tale of atonement. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A mournful blend of historical fiction and frigid fantasy characterizes Hastings's debut, set in late-17th-century London. Blaming herself for the incident that killed her asthmatic twin Arthur four years earlier, Thomasina Burgess all but runs her family's sweets shop, testing out inventive recipes while her father avoids her and her grief-stricken mother remains in bed. After the Thames freezes over and city vendors, including the sweets shop, set up a Frost Fair on its icy surface, a will-o'-the-wisp lures the lonely 13-year-old to mysterious, "blue-tinged" Inigo, who offers to bring her brother back to life if she agrees to terms: give up her memories of Arthur, and accompany Inigo four times to the Other Frost Fair, "created from magic and sea smoke." As her memories of Arthur begin to fade and she encounters the alternate fair, populated by people made of ice and ruled over by sinister Father Winter, Thomasina begins noticing snowflake marks on her skin, and wonders about the bargain's stakes. Though magic-related worldbuilding can slow the book's pace, crystalline prose deftly conjures the protagonist's guilt-laden internality alongside historical topics, including views on, and treatment of, mental health. Most characters cue as white. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Chloe Seager, Madeleine Milburn. (Nov.)

Misewa Saga (Trade)



#2176206 (Vol. 01) Barren Grounds (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David Robertson

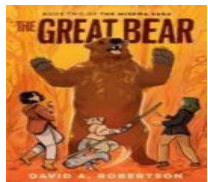
Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children forced away from their families and communities, are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home--until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom.

978-0-7352-6610-0 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 680

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly y House Cree Nation, winks at C.S. Lewis's Narnia tales in this Indigenous fantasy series starter, centering two Cree foster children in Winnipeg. Avid fantasy reader Morgan, 13, has been living with well-intentioned but culturally insensitive white couple Katie and James for two months. After being abandoned as a toddler and cycling through seven white foster families, Morgan is frustrated, and she expects no better from this home. Meanwhile, Eli, 12, arrives at Katie and James's house, escaping his pain by drawing strange creatures in a sketchpad. When Morgan and Eli staple one of Eli's drawings to the wall of their off-limits attic, they travel to the ever-winter land of Aski, where they meet bipedal animals that wear clothes and speak an English-Cree mix. Indigenous stories are touched on as the children and their new friends, Ochek ("fisher" in Cree) and Arikwachas, a squirrel, set out to make spring return to Aski. While the humans' and animals' voices are somewhat homogenous, the treatment of Cree culture resonates, and the engaging characters and folklore ensure readers will look forward to the next installment. Ages 10: up. Agent: Jackie Kaiser, Westwood Creative Artists. (Sept.)



#2246070 (Vol. 02) Great Bear (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David A. Robertson

Back at home after their first adventure in the Barren Grounds, Eli and Morgan each struggle with personal issues: Eli is being bullied at school, and tries to hide it from Morgan, while Morgan has to make an important decision about her birth mother.

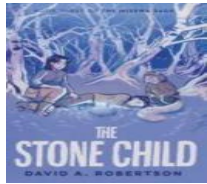
They turn to the place where they know they can learn the most, and make the journey to Misewa to visit their animal friends.

978-0-7352-6613-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist In the second volume of the portal-fantasy Misewa Saga (The Barren Grounds, 2020), Morgan and Eli, foster children of Cree descent, decide to return through one of Eli's visionary drawings to the village of Misewa—but earlier in time than their first venture—in order to meet beloved friends who were lost or left behind. Building what becomes a double-stranded parallel tale around the ever-popular bullying theme, Robertson pits his protagonists in our world against a gang of punks who harass Eli because he wears a braid, and in the alternate one against an aggressive, widely feared bear. Though some of the references may fall flat, the author, who belongs to the Norway House Cree Nation, populates Misewa with an energetic assortment of North American talking animals and enlivens the dialogue with Cree words and phrases, which are defined in a glossary and pronunciation guide in the opening pages. To make the most of the characters and situations here, readers are strongly advised to start with the series opener.



#2285532 (Vol. 03) Stone Child (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David A. Robertson

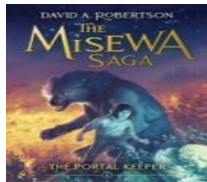
After discovering a near-lifeless Eli at the base of the Great Tree, Morgan knows she doesn't have much time to save him. And it will mean asking for help -- from friends old and new. Racing against the clock, and with Arik and Emily at her side, Morgan sets off to follow the trail away from the Great Tree to find Eli's soul before it's too late. As they journey deep into the northern woods, a place they've been warned never to enter, they face new challenges and life-threatening attacks from strange and horrifying creatures. But a surprise ally comes to their aid, and Morgan finds the strength to focus on what's most important: saving her brother's life.

978-0-7352-6616-2 ©2022 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 770

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Twinned expeditions into the northern woods drive this third installment in The Misewa Saga. When last readers saw Cree teen Morgan, she had just woken up next to Eli under the Great Tree that is their portal from their foster parents' Winnipeg attic into the magical land of Aski. The colossal footprints that lead from her foster brother's unresponsive body can only mean that the giant Mistapew has stolen Eli's soul, and it's up to Morgan to get it back. Soon Morgan and the squirrel Arik are trudging north with Eli's inert body on a sled. They are accompanied by a White girl named Emily, a new school friend whom Morgan's hastily brought through the portal to help (and who becomes something more than friend as they go). This journey is mirrored by a subsequent trip north on Earth so that Morgan can meet her kókom, the old woman who's now her only surviving biological forbear. The shift from race-against-time fantasy adventure to a more mundane car excursion may throw readers, but Morgan's grief at the newfound loss of the mother she'd been taken from years ago forms a unifying throughline. Robertson (Norway House Cree Nation) has a lot of narrative balls in the air in this outing, and they don't all stay there--in particular, the time-travel mechanism becomes quite convoluted--but the story's emotional arc shines true. A mostly satisfying return. (map, glossary) (Fantasy. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2348879 (Vol. 04) Portal Keeper (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David A. Robertson

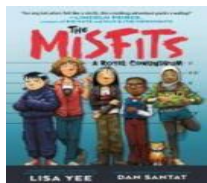
While exploring World's End, an area in Aski they've just discovered, Morgan and Emily delight in their developing relationship, while Eli struggles to understand his new-found power: the ability to locate a portal. A shocking turn of events leads them to a new village, Ministik, where the animal beings who live there are going missing. Horrified to discover who is responsible, the children vow to help and turn to friends, old and new. But it's getting harder and harder to keep the two worlds separate, especially when details of a traditional legend change everything. Forever.

978-1-77488-025-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Misfits (Random House / Trade)



#2363323 (Vol. 01) Royal Conundrum (Hardcover (POB))

written by Lisa Yee

Olive Cobin Zang has... issues. And they mostly aren't her fault. (No, really!) Though she often slips under the radar, problems have a knack for finding her. So, imagine her doubts when she's suddenly dropped off at the strangest boarding school ever: a former castle turned prison that's now a "reforming arts school"! But nothing could've prepared Olive for RASCH (not "rash"). There, she's lumped with a team of other kids who never quite fit in, and discovers that the academy isn't what it seems--and neither is she. In fact, RASCH is a cover for an elite group of misfits who fight crime... and Olive has arrived just in time.

978-1-9848-3029-6 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 820

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$14.99

Reviews by: Book Page If the best fiction taps into universal longings, it's no wonder that middle grade novels often focus on protagonists who feel left out. Lisa Yee evokes this feeling with

Reviews by: Booklist Olive Zang has always felt invisible and out of place. Even her mom and dad barely register her presence, and as they leave on yet another lengthy work assignment, Olive is deposited at a new boarding school for children with artistic temperaments. The island manor turned prison turned reform school turned art school is a wonder, but a series of unusual aptitude tests sees Olive assigned not to an art class but rather to a super-secret training division for elite crime fighters. No one is more shocked than Olive herself, but the small, disparate group of similarly skilled students quickly forms a bond, which is soon tested when a criminal mastermind interrupts a school gala and puts the future of Olive's newly beloved academy at risk. This absorbing series opener wastes no time throwing Olive headlong into adventure. There are hilarious high jinks and outlandish plot points aplenty, plus an astonishingly inventive array of technology that would make even James Bond jealous. It's easy to root for the delightfully diverse spy squad, and readers will eagerly await the next installment of their crime-fighting capers.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this series opener, twelve-year-old Olive Cobin Zang is a lonely homebody who feels invisible and uncool. She doesn't play sports and is only good at things she thinks nobody else cares about: board games, trapeze, acrobatics, and tightrope walking. She loves Meggie & Her Fun Family comic books, which portray a lively family's adventures and home-cooked meals -- most unlike her own family. Her parents are always traveling for business, and now they have shipped her off to the Reforming Arts School -- RASCH -- near San Francisco. A former castle turned prison, the building is now a school (think Alcatraz meets Hogwarts) for the "artistically adventurous." Among the other misfits Olive finds she's a good fit, at least within the team of crime-fighting preteens assembled to thwart an expected jewel heist on campus. This reunion of Yee and Santat (Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally), rev. 9/09; Bobby the Brave (Sometimes), rev. 9/10) offers an entertaining mystery with good kids working together to defeat the bad guys and, in the process, finding their place in the world. Conversational prose, offbeat similes ("Emotions swirled like a smoothie in a blender"), and Santat's black-and-white illustrations (final art not seen) add up to a madcap escapade featuring likable heroes and dastardly villains. Readers will look forward to further installments. Dean Schneider (Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

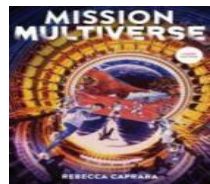
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Olive's move to a new school leads to friends, adventures, and greater self-confidence in this series opener. Invisible at school and forgotten by her distracted parents, 12-year-old Olive Cobin Zang is lonely and drifting. Her only source of solace is memories of her loving grandmother's wise words. So, when Olive's parents transfer her to the Reforming Arts School, a Bay Area boarding school located in a former prison, she is ambivalent but curious. The school's unusual approach includes both individual and group placement auditions. These challenges reward often-overlooked skills that Olive and four other idiosyncratic new students turn out to embody: creativity, teamwork, and reasoning. The new pod of five coalesces, exuberant upon learning that they will "join an elite force of specially trained operatives" and become the youngest group ever to go undercover and bring fresh ideas to solving crime. The self-styled Misfits have finally found their calling, but will it last? A crisis is unfolding: The villainous Bling King could keep the school's main benefactor from attending the annual fundraiser, threatening the school's existence as well as the Misfits' own ambitions and newfound feelings of sanctuary. The straightforward storyline has more telling than showing, making it accessible to younger and reluctant readers. Readers will delight in the cartoonlike worldbuilding, zany capers, and plentiful and expressive illustrations. Olive is Chinese American and white; there's racial diversity among the remaining cast. A fantastical blend of quirky characters and goofy adventures. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Ever since her grandmother Mimi's death, East Asian American tween Olive Cobin Zhang; who "never fit in" at school and hardly sees her busy parents; has felt especially alone. Worse, her mother abruptly sends her to a former castle that had been turned into a prison before being converted into a "reforming arts school." But the prestigious boarding school is a cover; soon, Olive is recruited for an experimental group of covert child operatives to serve as the eyes and ears of the pseudo-government crime-fighting organization No One Can Know, or NOCK. She quickly befriends fellow operative and computer genius Philomena, as well as tough girl Iggy, bookworm James, and laid-back Theo; together, they deem themselves the Misfits. Yee (Maizy Chen's Last Chance) builds suspense in this spy-adjacent series opener by utilizing an immediate feeling third-person perspective to depict Olive's grief over Mimi and attempts to make friends while contending with secretive and dangerous circumstances. An in media res opening alongside expressive and animated b&w pencil illustrations by Santat (A First Time for Everything) add dynamism to the text and heighten the rapidly paced narrative. One of the Misfits wears a hijab and another is Black; other supporting characters are depicted with varying skin tones. Ages 8: 12. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Olive Cobin-Zang's parents are on another one of their business trips, and Olive is off to...reform school? She knows she hasn't always made the best decisions, but this seems a bit extreme. Then she sees RASCH (Reforming Arts School) for the first time, a mystical island campus that emerges from the fog, and she is even more confused. What is this place and why is she here? Strangely, when Olive is placed in what initially appears to be a class of leftovers, she starts to feel a part of something. Soon, Olive and her fellow misfits realize that there might be something extraordinary about themselves after all. In the meantime, a series of high-end jewelry heists have swept across San Francisco and threaten some of RASCH's most important benefactors. If Olive and her friends can't put a stop to these thefts, not only will RASCH lose its money, but Olive might lose the only place that has felt like home in a very long time. Readers will be quick to follow Olive and her diverse friend group as they chase actors/pirates/thieves, search for priceless pastries, and hunt down jeweled cat collars. With quick pacing and over-the-top action, this humorous caper is full of plot twists and zany antics. At times, the pacing may move too quickly, not giving readers enough time to absorb the action or build more suspense. However, the clever clues and outrageous antics will be enough to pull readers through the pages and into the story. VERDICT Clever and funny, this rousing mystery-adventure will be a hit with a wide audience.--Louie Lauer Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness National Book Award finalist and Newbery Honoree Lisa Yee (Maizy Chen's Last Chance) plays out every awkward preteen's fantasy in the humorously charming opener to a new illustrated series, The Misfits, in which a team of nerds solve crimes. A Royal Conundrum introduces 12-year-old Olive Cobin Zang and her classmates, who work together to stop a notorious jewel thief and save their boarding school. National Book Award-winner and Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat (A First Time for Everything) enhances the book's charming zaniness with black-and-white art.

Mission Multiverse (Trade)



#2224143 (Vol. 01) Mission Multiverse (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rebecca Caprara

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

During a school field trip to NASA headquarters, five middle school band geeks—Dev, Austin, Tessa, Isaiah, and Meryl—are accidentally sent to an alternate universe when a project-in-progress goes haywire. The five Space Cadets find themselves in the hands of the Inter Galactic Planning Committee, who inform them that their own universe's destruction is imminent.

978-1-4197-4823-3 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 400 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly On a field trip to NASA's Gwen Research Center in Conroy, Ohio, a quintet of middle school marching band members is transported to a parallel dimension after a mysterious portal-opening device is accidentally activated. Indian American saxophonist and physicist's son Dev Khatri; olive-skinned, prank-playing drummer Lewis Wynner; Black, fashion-conscious mayor's daughter Tessa Hawthorne-Scott (masquerading as her clarinet-playing identical twin sister, Zoey); anxious, gray-eyed, implied Asian trumpeter Isaiah Yoon; and dramatic white oboist Maeve Greene are whisked away to Station Liminus, a waypoint between different worlds. There, they learn that Earth is destined for destruction in 30 days unless they can convince the Multiverse Allied Council, which represents the known dimensions, to help. In this fast-paced intergalactic romp, Caprara (The Magic of Melwick Orchard) introduces an inclusive cast of memorable characters, who must deal with hostile aliens, unfamiliar customs, and the fate of the world as they know it. Elements including the sprawling cast and myriad dimensions may overwhelm at times, but Caprara successfully maintains excitement throughout this action-packed series opener, even while focusing on characters' individual issues and dynamics. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Christa Heschke, McIntosh and Otis. (May)



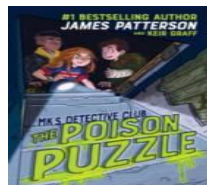
#2279278 (Vol. 02) Doppelgänger Danger (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Rebecca Caprara

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

This action-packed sequel finds middle-school band geeks Dev, Isaiah, Tessa, Maeve, and Lewis trapped in a parallel version of Earth as they fight to save their families—and the entire rest of the multiverse—from the villainous Empyrean One. Far from home and running out of options, it will take everything they have to get back to Earth and preserve humanity once and for all. The startling revelation that they are their own worst enemies forces a painful decision: will they forsake the lives they once knew for an uncertain future?

978-1-4197-4825-7 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Back on their own planet, a group of middle school friends aren't done trying to save the multiverse—and the multiverse isn't done with them either. After an unexpected detour at the tail end of their previous adventure, Dev Khatri, Maeve Greene, Tessa Hawthorne-Scott, Lewis Wynner, and Isaiah Yoon have made their way back to central Ohio's Conroy Middle School and their lives on Earth, a Dimension14 planet. But unbeknownst to the Conroy Cadets marching band members, Maeve's doppelgänger, Em, has tagged along, escaping the wasteland universe she'd been banished to. While being home and reuniting with family in a more familiar, less giant monster-filled environment has its perks, the pull for the original five kids—plus Tessa's twin, Zoey, who resents being secretly replaced in the first book—to return to their multiversal hijinks is strong. Not to mention that Em's constant plotting to get back in the good graces of her planet-destroying family may mean major threats from before are still at play. The warm rapport and slapstick humor the Cadets share is even stronger in this second series entry, as they've matured in their grasp of all things multiverse while maintaining an endearing commitment to middle school concerns. Band practice is just as important as closing interdimensional holes, and if a so-called evil doppelgänger can offer a caring, world-shattering touch when needed, hypercompetitive twin sisters might be able to figure it out too. Ethnicity is largely cued through names. Savvy fun fit for any universe. (Science fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

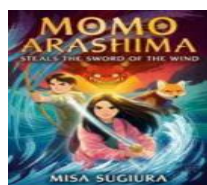
MK's Detective Club (Prebound)**#2387791 (Vol. 01) Poison Puzzle (Prebound)***written by James Patterson*

Living in the luxurious Arcanum building—with its interior balconies perfect for playing tag, an elevator like an iron birdcage, and quirky neighbors behind every apartment door—has always been fun and games for twelve-year-old Minerva Keen . until her neighbors start getting poisoned. Anyone could be next, and everyone is a suspect, including Minerva herself.

978-1-5364-8570-7 Jimmy Patterson ©2024 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Momo Arashima (Trade)**#2313127 (Vol. 01) Momo Arashima Steals the Sword of the Wind (Hardcover (Trade))***written by Misa Sugiura*

All Momo wants for her twelfth birthday is an ordinary life—like everyone else's. At home, she has to take care of her absentminded widowed mother. It turns out that Momo's mother is a banished Shinto goddess who used to protect a long-forgotten passageway to Yomi--a.k.a. the land of the dead. That passageway is now under attack, and countless evil spirits threaten to escape and wreak havoc across the earth. Joined by Niko the fox and Danny--her former best friend turned popular jerk, whom she never planned to speak to again, much less save the world with--Momo must embrace her (definitely not "ordinary") identity as half human, half goddess to unlock her divine powers, save her mother's life, and force the demons back to Yomi.

978-0-593-56406-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

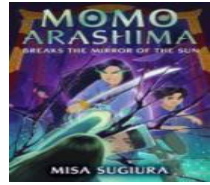
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Momo has long known that she's different. After all, nobody else sees the things she and her mother can—something her teachers attribute to an “overactive imagination” and a childhood listening to her mother's stories of the kami and other fantastical beings from Japan. This has led to Momo being labeled least popular in seventh grade, which makes her yearn to be “normal” and thus reject her mother's stories about the gods. It's hard enough dealing with her father's death and mother's grief without having to be reminded that she doesn't fit in. This is all upended when a visit from a magical fox, her ex-best friend, and a death hag proves not only that everything her mother taught her is true, but that her mother's life—and the fate of the world—are in Momo's hands. Sugiura's wonderful series starter is a page-turning, emotion-packed adventure that draws on Japanese-inspired folklore to explore themes of family, friendship, and identity. Though fairly light and humorous in tone, this book deals with loneliness, the emotional strain of a child acting as caregiver to a parent, and the bravery needed to be who you really are. Highly recommended for fans of the Aru Shah books and Winnie Zeng Unleashes a Legend (2022).

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Momo must travel through the mortal and spiritual worlds and fight Japanese demons to save her mother--and the rest of humanity. Twelve-year-old Momo Arashima is trying to be a normal kid, but that isn't easy since she sees things others can't, gets bullied at school, and takes care of her inattentive widowed mother. After Momo is attacked at the mall by a shikome, or death hag, then rescued by talking fox Niko, who at first appears as a redheaded boy wearing old-fashioned clothing, a tremendous secret is revealed: Mom is a kami, or Shinto goddess. As the guardian of the Island of Mysteries, Mom is tasked with protecting the gate between Earth and Yomi, where the dead dwell. But wicked demon oni are emerging from the portal and harming the island, which in turn is killing Momo's mother. Being half-kami and half-human, Momo is the only one able to visit the island and then leave it; it's up to her to save the day. She travels across the Sea of Heaven in the company of Niko and, unexpectedly, a former friend who gets swept up in their emergency departure. Japanese American transracial adoptee Danny used to be close to Momo until he fell in with the popular crowd. This hilarious, high-spirited tale blends Japanese legends, mythical creatures, and deities. Alongside the fantastical romps, themes of fear, anger, loneliness, belonging, friendship, and inner strength are thoughtfully explored. Funny, relatable, and full of adventure. (author's note, glossary) (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A Japanese American 12-year-old must procure a magical artifact to save the world from monsters in this rollicking series opener by Sugiura (Love & Other Natural Disasters). Momo Arashima's widowed mother raised her on stories about Japanese gods, called kami, and monsters, called yokai. Momo also "tended to see things no one else could see," often confusing her supernatural visions with reality, and leading to her getting bullied by classmates and feeling like an outsider at Oak Valley Middle School. Her life becomes even more

challenging, though, when she's attacked by a Japanese death hag and saved by a magical fox named Niko as well as bully Danny Haragan, a former Japanese friend adopted by white parents. Momo soon learns that her mother is a Shinto goddess, guardian of the Island of Mysteries, and that demons have escaped from the underworld into the mortal plane. To protect humankind, Momo, Danny, and Niko must travel across heaven and earth for an enchanted sword to defeat the yokai. Culturally specific details imbue this roller-coaster-feeling magical plot with authenticity and intrigue, while Momo's smart, funny narration and slowly reforming relationship with Danny ground their adventure in a thoughtful friendship tale. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)



#2365893 (Vol. 02) Momo Arashima Breaks the Mirror of the Sun (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Misa Sugiura

In the next book in the thrilling fantasy series filled with gods and monsters of Shinto mythology, a twelve-year-old girl must steal an ancient relic, work with new friends and learn to control her own dangerous power to defeat a new threat.

978-0-593-56410-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99

Monster Club (Trade)



#2287776 (Vol. 01) Monster Club (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Darren Aronofsky

Like almost everything in twelve-year-old Eric "Doodles" King's life, King's Wonderland—the amusement park his great-great-grandfather founded—was seriously damaged when a hurricane hit Coney Island. Hungry property developers are circling the wreck of the once-awesome Wonderland like vultures, and Doodles's family is falling apart over the threat of losing everything. If it weren't for Monster Club—an epic role-playing game that Doodles and his friends developed together—Doodles's life would be terrible. So when his friends start to get more interested in other things, Doodles just can't deal. But then everything changes when Doodles finds a long-lost vial of magic ink that somehow brings his monster to life. Now that Brickman, Bellybeast, DecaSpyder, and RoboKillz can move, talk, and fight on their own, Doodles thinks he's found the key to saving King's Wonderland—and maybe even his parents' marriage too.

978-0-06-313663-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

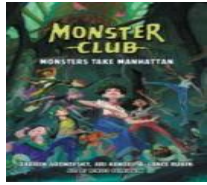
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A 12-year-old's monster doodles come to life and terrorize his Brooklyn neighborhood in a quirky novel by collaborators Aronofsky and Handel (Noah). With his parents bickering more than ever over the fate of his father's Coney Island amusement park, King's Wonderland, Eric "Doodles" King is counting on Monster Club, a neighborhood group dedicated to developing the "coolest, smartest monster battle game of all time," to distract him. But as the club crumbles following a blowout with one of its members, who claims the group has outgrown the game, Doodles scrambles for a way to keep them together. As Doodles contends with tense relationships and literal monsters, flashbacks detailing a surrealist 1940s Coney Island and Doodles's great-great-grandfather fleeing a pogrom in Kyiv feature throughout. Disjointed pacing, a tone that unevenly vacillates between somber and silly, and thinly rendered characters impede what is an otherwise boisterous read. Classic tropes such as monsters coming to life and friends on the outs banding together to defeat a larger evil permeate this action-packed series opener, a savory match for fans of Doodleville. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–6—Eric has spent hours perfecting drawings of Brickman, a very special monster who can shoot cement out of one arm and swing a wrecking ball with the other. Using various board game strategies, Eric and his friends in Monster Club battle their monster drawings against each other, vying for dominance and bragging rights. This takes place on paper until Eric comes across some very special (and very smelly) ink passed down from his great-great-grandfather, which causes the monsters to pop off the page as real, three-dimensional, ready-to-rumble beasties. Eric is thrilled—until his nemesis at school draws some out-of-control monsters of his own, leading to a wild battle and chase culminating in a showdown at Coney Island. The biggest challenge of this novel is simply how many different plot points are included: flashbacks to a great-great-grandfather's experiences in the early 20th century, mythical creatures, modern monsters, both obvious and secret villains, friendships, falling outs, the difficulties of outgrowing childhood pleasures, burgeoning romance, parents who may be divorcing, parents who may be losing their business, bullying at school, and the iconic elements of Coney Island. All these combine to create a fast-paced and

exciting yet cluttered, thrill ride. While this first entry may have been more successful having eliminated some of those elements, all of these pieces do provide numerous potential plot lines for future entries in the series. Engaging illustrations provide additional interest; characters are depicted with a range of skin tones. VERDICT Electrifying adventures and a clever twist will leave readers anticipating the next volume in this new, jam-packed adventure series.—Alyssa Annico



#2363199 (Vol. 02) Monsters Take Manhattan (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Darren Aronofsky

Ever since Eric "Doodles" King and his friends saved Coney Island from Crumple Noodle and its minions, Eric's life has been changing faster than he ever expected. His parents' divorce has gone through, his mom has moved to a deluxe apartment in Manhattan, and now she's making him start all over at a fancy new private school. Suddenly Eric's trapped between two worlds-his old Coney Island friends and the rich, cool kids at his new school who treat him like a celebrity.

978-0-06-313669-4 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eric "Doodles" King thinks the magic ink that brings monsters to life has been destroyed, but a powerful CEO is planning to use it to flood lower Manhattan and make a new Atlantis. The exciting events of the 2022 series opener are months past; Eric's new worry is beginning seventh grade at Tinsdale, a Manhattan private school, instead of returning to his old gifted and talented school with his friends. At Tinsdale, Eric is dubbed "Sketch" for his art skills and adopted by three popular kids. When he returns to Brooklyn and his dad's house on weekends, he has trouble transitioning between worlds. At an age in which friends and identity are closely linked, Eric isn't sure whether he's "Doodles" or "Sketch," and he makes some mistakes with his old friends. But when a serious new threat arises, Monster Club assembles again to fight King Neptune. Most chapters are told from Eric's perspective, but some are about Neptune, and the epilogue focuses on Eric's new friend Pete, with an ending that sets the stage for a third entry. New readers are given enough background information to follow along, but this work is best appreciated by those who've read the first book. The fight scenes with the monsters are joyous, and one especially dramatic, high-stakes action scene is perfectly paced. While Brickman, Eric's monster creation, is heroic, Eric's words are even more powerful. Eric is Jewish; secondary characters' names signal ethnic diversity. Final art not seen. Exciting, inventive, and emotionally intelligent. (Fiction. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Monster High (Amulet / Trade)



#2349886 (Vol. 01) Fright to Remember (Hardcover (POB))
written by Adrianna Cuevas

As Monster High prepares for its annual talent show, Frankie Stein is left wondering what they could perform. When Torelei Stripe mocks Frankie's music playing abilities, Frankie is left even more confused about which of their brain parts is exciting enough for the talent show. Luckily, Headmistress Bloodgood presents Frankie with new information about their brain that might hold the answer. Except Frankie discovers that their brain part is from a disgraced scientist accused of unethical experiments. Plagued by dreams from the scientist's life, Frankie teams up with Draculaura and Clawdeen to discover the truth about their past-and save Monster High in the process.

978-1-4197-6986-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 248 pgs.

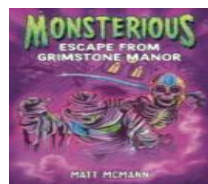
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews At an all-monster school, a new student struggles with identity. Frankie Stein (who uses they/them pronouns) may look around the same age as the other students at Monster High, but they were actually only pieced together by their loving and supportive parents one month ago. The parts making up Frankie's brain came from monsters gifted in STEM subjects, and they're incredibly intelligent and also very literal--Frankie has a tough time with idioms. An upcoming schoolwide talent show puts Frankie on the radar of mean-girl werecat Toralei, who expresses her jealousy through nasty EekTok videos after overhearing a shocking secret about the source of one of Frankie's brain parts. Frankie is then plunged into an unexpected journey of self-discovery as they explore not only their past but also the choices of their parents and the history of the school. Cuevas' series opener is deftly constructed for the middle-grade crowd, examining friendship, bullies, and the power of stories. For those unacquainted with Mattel's Monster High franchise, this volume is an excellent jumping-in point, making enough introductions to the

characters and the world's specific parlance; for those who dismiss commercial tie-ins, this well-crafted volume will get them to reconsider that stance. With its cinematic pacing and contemporary slant told through a fantasy lens, expect readers of series such as Percy Jackson to find much to enjoy here. Satisfying and substantial. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Monsterious (Trade)



#2323925 (Vol. 01) Escape from Grimstone Manor (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Matt McMann

Zari has always been fascinated by creepy stories about Hezekiah Crawly, the real-life inspiration behind her local amusement park's haunted house attraction, so she's thrilled when her friends Mateo and Taylor agree to go on the last ride of the day before the park closes.

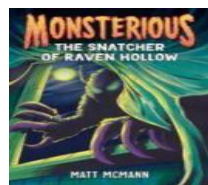
978-0-593-53069-6 ©2023 7-3/4 x 5 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 710

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Three friends discover real monsters lurking underneath an amusement park's haunted house. Cautious Mateo, brash, reckless Taylor, and levelheaded Zari, who's often caught in the middle between the other two, are enjoying a night out at local amusement park ThrillVille. Before they leave, they plan to try one last ride, a haunted house built on the site of the original home of the town's legendary necromancer, Hezekiah Crawly, who disappeared 100 years ago. As luck would have it, on their way through the jump-scare-packed Grimstone Manor, their car breaks down right as the park is closing, leaving the three 12-year-olds searching desperately for an escape. They find a secret passageway to the basement of the haunted house and monsters that are definitely not the animatronic ones from the ride. The answer to the mystery of Hezekiah Crawly may also be closer than they imagine--if they can survive long enough to figure it out. Leaning more heavily on the monsters than the mystery, this series opener features a small cast of imperfect but relatable and well-developed characters. It also deftly explores themes such as courage and the challenges of being vulnerable with friends. There are no dull moments in this rapidly paced tale that's loaded with action, including physical altercations with various monsters (though the end does come a bit too abruptly). Zari has dark brown skin, Mateo is brown-skinned, and Taylor presents White. Frighteningly fun. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A sepulchral theme park tests a trio of 12-year-olds in musician McMann's debut, a pared-down adventure with Goosebumps vibes. Visiting amusement park ThrillVille, friends Mateo, Taylor, and Zari approach haunted house Grimstone Manor near closing time. It's built on the grounds of a mansion that once belonged to suspected necromancer Hezekiah Crawly, whose mysterious disappearance 100 years back is the stuff of local lore. The three gain a grim opportunity to explore the legend firsthand when their ride through the animatronic manor grinds to a halt, stranding them. Tensions, already high between wary Mateo and impulsive Taylor, boil over; despite reserved Zari's exasperated attempts at peacemaking; resulting in a fight that reveals just how real the local yarn is. The action proves unrelenting as the friends fight and flee from all manner of possessed skeletons, mummies, and more in scenes that pause just long enough for the group to attempt reconciliation. An abrupt ending seems designed to propel readers into the next book, while a combination of interpersonal vulnerability and monster mayhem drives a horror-tinged thriller that's more rollicking than revolting. Mateo and Zari are described as having brown skin; Taylor presents as white. Publishing simultaneously: The Snatcher of Raven Hollow. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (May)



#2323953 (Vol. 02) Snatcher of Raven Hollow (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Matt McMann

Here's the second book in a new series of terrifying tales that combine monsters + mysteries, perfect for fans of Goosebumps.

978-0-593-53072-6 ©2023 5 x 7-3/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Teo and Logan's summer plans are disrupted when they stumble onto a lead about the mystery of Raven Hollow's missing infants. After coming across an empty stroller, the kids learn that a baby recently disappeared in their town. Then they see a flyer for yet another missing infant. Teo is sure they can figure out what is going on, and Logan is willing to tag along but doesn't really share her urgency until he realizes the implications for his little sister and baby cousin. Their research leads them in several mythical directions, and they find themselves on an increasingly dangerous quest to discover which legendary creature may be responsible for the disappearing babies. Brown-skinned, willowy Teo and pale-skinned, stocky Logan are very different; Teo is a brave and determined leader, while Logan is somewhat doubtful but devoted to his friend (and also more experienced at handling actual babies). The duo strike a great balance and make believable friends despite (or perhaps because of) their differences. Like the first in this series of stand-alones, short chapters and a lack of extraneous information keep the pace quick

and the tension high. The unsettling ending is thoroughly entertaining, and striving middle school readers interested in mysteries or creepy horror will be particularly enthralled. Brief but darkly mysterious. (Thriller. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2330205 (Vol. 03) Terror in Shadow Canyon (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Matt McMann

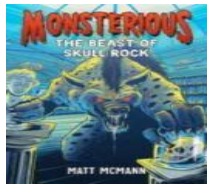
Twelve-year-old Tegan and his friends are excited to set out on a weeklong backpacking trip through the wilderness in Shadow Canyon, known for its vast forests and jaw-droppingly deep canyon. But after the group sets off on a little-used trail to visit a remote waterfall, they soon discover that the path markers they've been following have mysteriously disappeared, leaving them hopelessly lost.

978-0-593-53075-7 ©2023 5 x 7-3/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 690

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews ckers stumble into a living nightmare when their trail markers disappear. Twelve-year-old Tegan's mother was meant to help supervise his and his friends Marcus and Ning's backpacking trip. He tries to make the best of things when she has to work and his hapless, disengaged father steps in, but it isn't long until his dad's immaturity causes problems. Though athletic Ning and her mom, Yanay, are experienced hikers, they all lose their way in the unforgiving wilderness when the markers along their trail disappear. Strange stonelike objects, moving tree roots, and too many glowing eyes begin to coalesce into a terrifying adversary no one could have imagined, and it looks like the kids may have to save the adults. A strength of the series and this title in particular is the tight focus on plotting while characters also work through complex problems. Tegan learns to speak up about how his father's haphazard parenting and inattention make him feel, and his father makes clear efforts to discuss and correct his mistakes. McMann strikes a balance between suspenseful storytelling and strong characterization in another quick-moving, action-packed story with plenty of gore and terror. Tegan and Ed are cued White, while Marcus presents Black. Ning is cued as Chinese, while Yanay is described as tan-skinned. A creepy camping catastrophe that will give even the most stoic readers the shivers. (Fiction. 8-12)



#2363118 (Vol. 04) Beast of Skull Rock (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Matt McMann

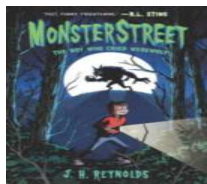
Twins Simon and Jade are thrilled to visit their grandfather in tiny Skull Rock, Maine, and stay with him above the cabinet of curiosities museum he runs, which is full of creepy old relics, taxidermy specimens, and other sinister odds and ends. But lately, strange reports have come out about a series of nighttime animal attacks in the area, leaving Simon wondering if Panther Man—a monster that's part human, part panther, and rumored to live in a cave outside of town—might be responsible.

978-0-593-53078-8 ©2024 5 x 7-3/4 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 650

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Monsterstreet (Trade)



#2105795 (Vol. 01) Boy Who Cried Werewolf (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. H. Reynolds

Twelve-year-old Max Bloodnight can't decide what is more terrifying about his long weekend in Wolf County: being forced to spend his birthday with grandparents he's never met or being stuck on a farm without cell service. If only that was all he had to fear. Determined to solve the mystery of his father's death years ago, Max begins to dig into Wolf County's past—a past that no one, not even his grandparents, wants to mention.

978-0-06-286935-7 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

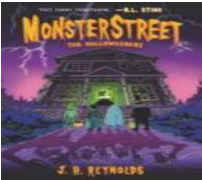
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 3.0

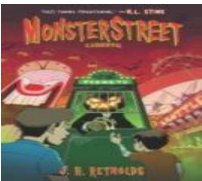
Quantity
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Unit Price
\$16.99

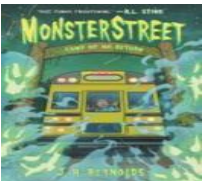
Reviews by: Booklist Taking a seat on the (R. L.) Stinewagon, Reynolds kicks off a series to be based on classic horror story scenarios with this tale of 12-year-old Max, who reluctantly visits his grandparents in their remote rural cabin just in time for some (literally) hairy adventures. Taking

a cue from the master, most of the short chapters end with a sudden shock or cliff-hanger but the suspense depends more on mysterious clues and suggestive language (Max looked out the window and saw ivy crawling across the shingled roof) than explicit gore even when one character does get a silver dagger in the eye, there's no permanent harm done. Readers hoping for close encounters with werewolves will be well served, and as for Max . . . well, he starts out a vegetarian but doesn't end up that way. The unfortunately titled Halloweeners, copublished as book number two, shares a similarly low level of violence (one character dies but it's only temporary) and rapid pacing. Even in the initial going, a series of comfortably formulaic chills.--John Peters Copyright 2019 Booklist

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A weekend getaway takes a hairy turn when a full moon invites werewolves to play. Twelve-year-old Max Bloodnight is wary of meeting his grandparents for the first time and staying with them alone. They live in a dilapidated log cabin in the middle of the forest in Wolf County, which means no cell service and no electricity. But meeting the grandparents also means getting closer to Max's late father, who died in a mysterious hunting accident in the area. Max's grandparents only have one rule in their house: "Don't cross the barbed wire fence into the eastern forest." Max quickly breaks this rule when he helps Jade Howler, his grandparents' young neighbor, search for her missing dog. The forest proves to be as monstrous as his grandparents warned. Can Max learn the truth about his father and the disappearances in Wolf County, or will he become the next to vanish? More Scooby Doo mystery than bone-chilling horror, Reynolds' debut series entry is a fast-paced, cliffhanger-heavy creature feature. Thanks to plenty of carefully laid clues, discerning readers will solve the mystery long before Max does. The predictable, trope-filled plot and medium scare factor offer nothing new but may appeal to the Goosebumps crowd. A stand-alone sequel that stars a different main character, The Halloweeners, publishes simultaneously. The cast assumes a white default; Max is vegetarian. Serviceable scariness for series seekers. (Horror. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2105797 (Vol. 02) Halloweeners (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by J. H. Reynolds</i> When the group stumbles upon an eerie cauldron of candy sitting outside an old haunted house, the real monsters come out. The Halloweeners--all but Jack--eat these Monsterbars, and that leads to something strange ... and terrifying. Suddenly, Jack's new friends are transformed into the monsters of their costumes. Now, as the neighborhood turns to chaos, it's up to Jack to help return his friends to their human forms--or they'll be trapped as monsters forever. 978-0-06-286938-8 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$16.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2109308 (Vol. 03) Carnevil (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by J. H. Reynolds</i> When Ren and his younger brother, Kip, are sent to spend Halloween with their aunt Winnie, who runs Old Manor Nursing Home, they're expecting a boring holiday. But when a strange autumn carnival rolls into town offering them spooky thrills and monstrous delights, they're told they can ride all the rides they want, if they're willing to pay the price... 978-0-06-286941-8 ©2019 6 x 8 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$16.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2163455 (Vol. 04) Camp of No Return (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by J. H. Reynolds</i> The best summer of Harper's life might be her last. On the way to Camp Moon Lake, the most magical summer camp on Earth, all Harper can think about is her parents' looming divorce. Soon enough, though, the outdoor movie theater, the water park, and the chocolate buffet begin to work their magic on her. 978-0-06-286944-9 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$16.99

Moonwind Mysteries (Trade)



#2330494 (Vol. 01) Night Raven (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Johan Rundberg

It's 1880, and in the frigid city of Stockholm, death lurks around every corner.

Twelve-year-old Mika knows that everyone in her orphanage will struggle to survive this winter. But at least the notorious serial killer the Night Raven is finally off the streets. Or is he?

978-1-6625-0958-2 ©2023 192 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Set in Stockholm during the bitterly cold winter of 1880, this dark, intricate story features Mika, a 12-year-old girl. Left at an orphanage as an infant, she now helps the younger children when she's not working at a bar. Detective Valdemar Hoff recruits Mika after reading a constable's report that records her keen observations. Informally deputized, she agrees to help him solve a mystery involving a serial killer who was active years earlier, captured, and supposedly put to death. Now rumors suggest that "the Night Raven lives." It's a terrifying prospect since his victims appear to have had ties to Mika's orphanage. Rundberg creates an utterly convincing, consistently grim setting during a winter so cold that the orphans can barely collect enough firewood to keep from freezing. Dinner means watery gruel again, and Mika's dark humor includes references to cannibalism. Originally published in Sweden, the novel ends with justice done and, for Mika, a newfound sense of purpose. While not every mystery introduced is solved, this is only the first volume in the Moonwind Mysteries series.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine This English translation of Rundberg's lively historical mystery, set in 1880 and winner of several prestigious prizes in its native Sweden, is something to celebrate. Twelve-year-old Mika has lived all her life in Stockholm's public orphanage; she's its child-minder and maid-of-all-work as well as a server in a local pub. She is exceptionally spirited in her humor, kindness, courage, and perceptiveness, and when her astute observations attract the attention of police detective Valdemar Hoff, he enlists her help in a murder investigation. Could a copycat murderer be imitating a man who was recently executed, the serial killer known as the "Night Raven"? This is a captivating murder mystery, and more. Mika's awareness of her disposability -- "I'm an orphanage kid...and a girl besides...I have to pay attention to detail all the time because my life depends on it" -- is only one of the ways Rundberg sheds light on the most vulnerable. At the same time, his prose is quick, earthy, and comic: Hoff's hands are "as big as toilet lids"; he smells like "an old horse blanket"; and the rhapsody of the coming spring is noted by "the smell of thawing latrines." Joyous, funny, suspenseful, and serious -- an unusual and winning combination for middle-grade readers. Let's hope its three sequels appear in Prime's English translation too. Deirdre F. Baker(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this Swedish import, 12-year-old orphan Mika gets wrapped up in a murder investigation. Set in 1880 Stockholm, this story opens with Mika receiving a new admit at the Public Children's Home, a mysterious baby handed to her by a boy who then vanishes into the night. But that's not the only odd happening of the night--there is also a murder. Detective Valdemar Hoff, who's looking into the murder, interviews Mika and is struck by how observant she is. A vulnerable orphan treated as disposable, Mika eventually explains that her survival depends on paying close attention to her surroundings. As the two investigate together, they realize that the murder resembles the work of the Night Raven, a serial killer who once terrorized Stockholm--and who was executed last year. Mika is clever, scrappy, determined, and moral, all of which makes her a compelling hero. Rundberg's sharp writing gives readers a window into the underside of a desperate city grappling with a devastating winter, police corruption, and the cruel indifference of many of its residents. Valdemar makes a good partner for Mika, rough-looking and no-nonsense, oblivious that others have much less privilege than him, yet governed by a strict sense of right and wrong. This gripping, fast-paced mystery comes together well, with Mika's deductions based firmly in logic and connections based in her own clear observations. The climax requires Mika to be as bold as she is clever, and the resolution promises more mysteries. Characters are cued as White. A thrilling and thoughtful period murder mystery. (Historical thriller. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A sharp-witted, orphaned 12-year-old helps solve a perplexing crime in this intelligent series launch by Rundberg, set in 1880 Stockholm. Three months before the book's start, a serial killer called the Night Raven was caught red-handed and executed; so it shocks young Mika when she overhears a cop say that a recent victim's final words were that the Night Raven had come for him. When a newborn arrives at the Public Children's Home, where longtime resident Mika takes up a mentor-like role for younger residents, she briefly forgets this impossible revelation, until the police report for the baby's surrender earns a visit from Det. Valdemar Hoff. Frustrated by his colleagues' ineptitude and impressed with Mika's keen observations, Valdemar enlists her help in investigating the Night Raven's possible return. And though Mika knows the work is dangerous, she perseveres, insisting that "if I can help catch him, I'll have done something with my life, even if I'm risking death." A rushed denouement shortchanges an intriguing setup, brilliant deduction, and an artfully crafted mystery. Still, Mika is a brave, resourceful heroine, and her warm relationships with Valdemar and her peers at the orphanage counterbalance the bleak backdrop. All characters cue as white. Ages 10: 14. Agent: Carin Bacho Carniani, Koja Agency. (Nov.)

Quantity **Unit Price**



#2369563 (Vol. 02) Queen of Thieves (Hardcover (Trade))

1

\$17.99

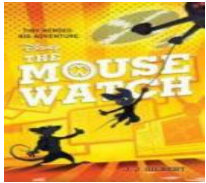
written by Johan Rundberg

After a merciless winter, spring has sprung in 1880 Stockholm, and the city awaits the arrival of the SS Vega, the first ship to have sailed the Northeast Passage. Life is busy at the orphanage, but twelve-year-old Mika quickly notices that the older orphans are up to something-and it doesn't look good.

978-1-6625-0962-9 ©2024 206 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Mouse Watch (Trade)



#2160132 (Vol. 01) Mouse Watch (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$16.99

written by J. J. Gilbert

Around the globe, exceptional mice live in the shadows. Under the direction of famed mouse inventor Gadget Hackwrench, they work together as a team to solve BIG problems using SMALL gadgets. They are high trained. They are nearly invisible. And they love cheese. Their mission: save the world.

978-1-368-05218-4 ©2020 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 8.0

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A young mouse earns her place among a secret society of world-savers. Bernadette is a small rodent with big ambitions: joining the Mouse Watch, an elite team of mice that protect the world from evil while keeping themselves secret from humans. Bernie has long dreamed of joining her idol, Gadget Hackwrench (the female lead of Disney's popular cartoon Chip & Dale: Rescue Rangers), and going on gizmo-filled, adrenaline-fueled adventures. As a new recruit of the Watch, Bernie befriends Jarvis, a sensitive rat with puzzle-solving skills to spare. The two rodents flit from set piece to set piece, uncovering a dastardly plot concocted by the devilish Dr. Thornpaw that could turn the world upside down. Readers familiar with Rescue Rangers will find similar rhythms here: a precise blend of jokes, action, and plucky young heroes ambitious to prove themselves. The novel is smartly paced, keeping readers pushing forward but with just enough assurance that everything will turn out OK in the end. It's a comfort read, one that tees up a sequel in its final pages and points back just enough to Rescue Rangers that young readers interested in exploring more of this world won't be disappointed (provided their families have subscribed to Disney +). A fun little adventure brimming with Disney intellectual-property synergy. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Connection Bernadette Skamperksy (who much prefers to be called Bernie) is not your average 12-year-old girl mouse overly concerned with fashion and the like. For one thing, she is extremely small for her age due to childhood illness; moreover, she has a burning desire to follow in the footsteps of her hero, Gadget Hackworth, founder of the Mouse Watch, a small group of elite mouse agents who travel the world solving crimes. Bernie receives the coveted recruitment invitation from the Mouse Watch and heads off to New York City for great adventures, life-changing friendships, and self-discovery. Good guys, evil guys, mayhem, and cheese ensue. Readers will fall headlong into this mouse-sized story as they follow Bernie's heroic attempts to save the world. There are some great descriptions involving the parallel blend of the human world with the hidden mouse world operating in the shadows. The mice are fully connected with high-tech tools, virtual reality, and more. Readers will love the image of the mice using a smartphone as a large screen TV as well as the very clever mouse-tech invented by these miniature action adventure heroes. Middle grade series readers will want to add this one to their list. Terry Roper, Library Consultant, Region 10 Education Service Center, Richardson, Texas

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7—Evil machinations are at play in the world of mice and rats. Bernie is a 12-year-old mouse determined to become part of the famous Mouse Watch with its technology, determination, and teamwork to fight crime. Readers meet Bernie and her mouse family in a world reminiscent of Mary Norton's The Borrowers. Mice have to evade human detection as they shop for groceries, work, and enjoy their communities, but Bernie is focused on becoming a trainee recruit. Not only are these rodents trying to save the world, but they have a leader, Gadget Hackwrench, who invents fantastically advanced gadgets and technogear. Bernie gets in and out of trouble as it becomes clear that a villainous mastermind is influencing humans to do his bidding through a doctored cheese scent that renders them mindless. The gasp-worthy escapades are over the top, but Gilbert makes it work with trademark covert terminology worthy of a James Bond flick. Plus, he adds in plenty of cheese; swiss, cheddar, camembert, bleu, and brie. Embedded is a message about not stereotyping others and learning to recognize real friendship. The cute little world of mice is an odd mix with advanced spying, giving this a somewhat cinematic vibe. VERDICT A dashing fluff adventure with appealing miniature heroes and villains. Cheesy in a few ways.—Carol A. Edwards, Formerly at Denver Public Library

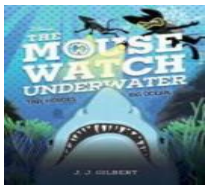
#2226017 (Vol. 02) Mouse Watch Underwater (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity

Unit Price

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\$16.99



written by J. J. Gilbert

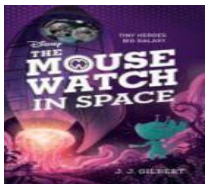
Six months into their Mouse Watch training, Bernie and Jarvis are getting along like cheese and crackers! Less exciting: having already completed their first successful mission, it's now back to basic training. But more pressing matters are at hand (or rather, at paw). The remains of the S.S. Moon, a long-lost spy vessel, have been found.

978-1-368-05219-1 ©2021 6 x 8-1/2 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The Mouse Watch returns. Bernie and Jarvis have settled back into their Mouse Watch training six months after saving the world. Bernie itches to move beyond her station as a Level One agent, to get out into the world and do more than rescue cats stuck in trees. Luckily adventure calls in the form of reports that the SS Moon, a spy vessel long thought lost, may still be out there with a map onboard leading to a power source that could reshape the world for the better--or the worse, if the dastardly R.A.T.S. get to it first. The deep-sea mission sends Bernie and Jarvis along on a snappily paced thrill ride to the underwater city of Catlantis and beyond in this crowd pleaser. Readers with a healthy appetite for Saturday morning cartoons will find much to engage with here, and returning readers will be pumped to see that this sequel boasts more of Bernie and Jarvis' endearing friendship and the propulsive set pieces that made the first entry such a winner. Jarvis and Bernie continue to prove themselves as engaging protagonists who are supported by an array of old reliable characters from the Rescue Rangers cartoon as well as new additions to the franchise. Corporate-branded adventure done right. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99



#2257785 (Vol. 03) Mouse Watch in Space (Hardcover (Trade))

written by J. J. Gilbert

Hot off their successful mission in THE MOUSE WATCH UNDERWATER, Bernie and Jarvis are tapped to join the most important mission yet: one that will take them into outer space! The task? To take the Milk Saucer energy source they recovered from Cat-Lantis and connect it to a satellite that's currently circling the earth in order to halt the effects of global warming, and basically save the world.

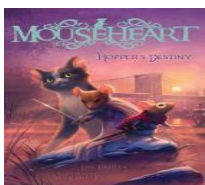
978-1-368-05220-7 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews . Bernie and Jarvis are riding high after the success of their underwater mission to rescue the Milk Saucer from the nefarious clutches of R.A.T.S. Their next assignment promises to bring the dynamic duo into an exciting new frontier: space! With the brave Cmdr. Sleekwhisker in charge, Bernie and Jarvis are confident they'll be able to connect the Milk Saucer to a Mouse Watch satellite that could save the world from the effects of global warming. But not everything is as it seems aboard the USS Mozzarella, and things promptly take a turn for the worse. This third entry in the series stands tall upon the shoulders of its predecessors. The characters are limber, the plotting is excellent, and he blend of humor and action provide the crisp read fans of the series have come to expect. Bernie and Jarvis remain engaging protagonists, and the spionage worldbuilding is effectively rendered. The supporting cast from the second book (particularly the Rescue Rangers legacy characters) have a reduced role here, smartly pinning the focus on Bernie and Jarvis while fleshing out the world with some new supporting players. This proves promising for future Mouse Watch titles, a series that has improved with each outing. The Saturday-morning-cartoon flavor is a tricky one to pull off, but the author has managed to turn this series into a true delight. A heck of a two-fisted action-adventure story. (Adventure. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$17.99

Mouseheart (Trade)



#1898805 (Vol. 02) Hopper's Destiny (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa Fiedler

A brave pet shop mouse named Hopper attempts to rebuild a fallen empire in the underground rat civilization of Atlantia, located in the subway tunnels of Brooklyn, while Queen Felina and her band of street cats declare open season on the rodents.

978-1-4814-2089-1 ©2015 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 11.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 840



#1937299 (Vol. 03) Return of the Forgotten (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa Fiedler

Felina the cat queen may be gone, but the subway tunnels of Atlantia are still dangerous to all rodents who dwell within the twists and turns. Pup and his spider companion Hacklemesh are lurking in the shadows... Hopper is determined to reach out to his brother-gone-bad, to see if he can talk some sense into the young rodent. But then Hope, the youngest of Zucker and Firren's new litter, goes missing, and all signs point to Pup as culprit. Meanwhile, Firren is rattled not only by the disappearance of her daughter, but a shameful secret from her past that she's kept hidden for years. A secret that may hold damaging consequences for not only Firren, but all of Atlantia. How can Pup betray his brother like this? What exactly is Firren hiding? And will the tunnels ever be the same again?

978-1-4814-2092-1 ©2015 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 5.4 Lexile 830

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-The trilogy set in the world of mice concludes with a rousing adventure packed with revenge, kidnapping, redemption, pirates, and a wedding. Hopper and Zucker are still leaders of the underground city of Atlantia, and their friendship grounds the narrative, but Fiedler allows "Chosen One" Hopper's siblings to become important characters in their own right. This entry is younger brother Pup's turn to shine, and he evolves from outlaw to hero as he helps rescue Firren and Zucker's children, held captive by a traitor to the city with an old grudge against Firren. New readers may have trouble keeping track of the novel's different tribes and family trees, but fans will relish surprises in the backstories of characters they have grown to love. Fiedler keeps the pace moving quickly and the tension tight; the traitor's identity is revealed early to readers but not to the characters. The peril is on the lighter side, making this series ideal for younger middle grade readers who enjoy animal fantasy. The novel's New York City setting continues to be a strong, appealing element as the rodent heroes venture into Manhattan, and Fiedler playfully mines local history and culture for character names, some obvious (Verrazano), some subtle (Vigneault). VERDICT A bonus story about the founding of Atlantia caps this satisfying tale full of cat, rat, and mouse heart.-Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1777497 (Vol. 01) Mouseheart (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisa Fiedler

Hopper is just an ordinary pet shop mouse before he escapes. Soon he finds himself below the bustling streets of Brooklyn, deep within the untamed tangles of transit tunnels, and in Atlantia, a glorious utopian rat civilization.

978-1-4424-8781-9 ©2014 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 800

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-Fiedler reinvigorates the "small but courageous mouse" literary trope with this captivating animal fantasy set in the subway tunnels of modern-day Brooklyn, NY. Hopper escapes from a pet shop and tumbles into the subterranean rat empire of Romanus. Aided by his new friend Zucker, rascal prince of the rat empire, he longs to find his missing siblings and understand his role in a war between Romanus and the mysterious Mus tribe. Good and evil are not as they seem, and through careful structure and rounded characterizations, Fiedler keeps readers engaged, revealing important plot details at just the right moment and using varying sentence lengths to great dramatic effect. Rich vocabulary and sly references to New York sports history (Dodger, Ebbets, Rangers) add depth. Older readers may pick up on hints about government control and the dangers of trading freedom for safety. In the end, the stage is amply set for book two as Hopper seeks to reunite with his found-yet-lost-again siblings and explore his destiny as the rodent world's "Promised One." Mouseheart will please fans of novels by Erin Hunter, Brian Jacques, and Kathryn Lasky.-Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Mrs. Smith's Spy School for Girls (Prebound)

#2064532 (Vol. 01) Mrs. Smith's Spy School for Girls (Prebound)

written by Beth McMullen

Quantity 1 Unit Price \$19.95



A girl discovers her boarding school is actually an elite spy-training program, and she must learn the skills of the trade in order to find her mother.

978-1-5364-4085-0 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 630



#2108714 (Vol. 02) Power Play (Prebound)

written by Beth McMullen

Everyone at The Smith School is obsessed with Monster Mayhem, the latest reality video game craze. But when Drexel Caine, the mastermind behind the game is suddenly kidnapped, it becomes clear that the kidnappers are playing for more than just special badges.

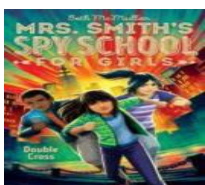
978-1-5364-5759-9 ©2019 5 x 7-1/2 298 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8-Abby and friends are back in this rip-roaring second installment. This time, Toby's dad has been kidnapped by a mysterious villain. Abby, Izumi, and Charlotte must help Toby complete a series of tasks in order to beat the deadline to save his father. The story meanders through various locales with lots of action, sometimes making it tricky to keep up with the chain of events. Initially, it seems like Toby's complicated relationship with his father will be explored, but that is set aside in favor of a new character with whom Toby has a troubled past. This new character feels like a throwaway bad guy, making it a little difficult to emotionally invest in the story's resolution. Readers may also struggle to relate to the very privileged lifestyle of Abby and her friends, who can call up a private jet at a moment's notice. Even with these challenges, Abby's delightfully quick and witty sense of humor and the continual excitement of the plot provide pleasant and satisfying escapism. Young readers will enjoy the quirky spy gadgets, as well as the fact that it's the kids who save the day. VERDICT A celebration of friendship and girl power, this exciting spy story will keep readers on the edge of their seats. Purchase where the first book has fans.-Alyssa Annico, Youngstown State University, OH Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Mrs. Smith's Spy School for Girls (Trade)



#2107840 (Vol. 03) Double Cross (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Beth McMullen

Abby and her classmates have all been invited to Briar Academy to participate in The Challenge, a prep school competition where teams compete for prizes and the glory of being the best of the best. While there, they figure out their nemesis, The Ghost, is using Briar as headquarters to plan a devastating attack on his enemies (a.k.a.: pretty much everyone) using a brand-new invention Toby developed.

978-1-4814-9026-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 7.0 Lexile 660

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Murder Most Unladylike Mystery (Trade)



#2059221 (Vol. 04) Jolly Foul Play (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Robin Stevens

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have returned to Deepdean School for Girls for a new school term, but nothing is the same. There's a new Head Girl, Elizabeth Hurst, and a team of Prefects--and these bullying Big Girls are certainly not good eggs. Then, after the fireworks display on Bonfire Night, Elizabeth is found--murdered.

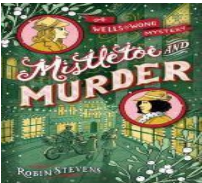
978-1-4814-8909-6 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 10.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99


Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Fall of 1935 finds a new Head Girl and her mean-girl minions making life miserable for Daisy, Hazel, and their Deepdean schoolmates. A murder on Bonfire Night and scandalous secrets put Daisy and Hazel's Detective Society back in action, but they face complication as their own friendship sours. It's an unexpected twist that makes room for character development in this compelling fourth mystery. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-For the first time since the "Wells & Wong" series debut, sleuths Daisy and Hazel are back at Deepdean School with friends Beanie, Kitty, and Lavinia in 1935: their ninth-grade year. During the Guy Fawkes Day bonfire at school, the Detective Society encounters their newest case: Head Girl Elizabeth has been killed, and the only possible suspects are her five closest friends. As Hazel, Daisy, and their friends investigate, they discover that each suspect had her own potential motives for the murder. Elizabeth was holding secrets over her friends' heads, ranging from fairly innocuous (one student dyes her hair) to more serious (an eating disorder and a romantic relationship between two girls at a time when this would have been extremely taboo). As in prior installments in the series, Steven's storytelling and suspense-building are top-notch, though the killer's motive is not quite as compelling as other suspects'. The fast-changing nature of friendship between girls is a constant theme throughout; the gossipy secrets Elizabeth uses to blackmail other students and Daisy's insecurity when Hazel shows interest in a boy are prime examples. This realistic depiction of student life may make the 1935 setting a little more relatable for readers, while also providing appeal to an older audience than previous books. VERDICT An appropriately complex depiction of adolescent friendship gives this well-crafted mystery appeal beyond its genre alone.-Katherine Barr, Cameron Village Regional Library, Raleigh, NC Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2072243 (Vol. 05) Mistletoe and Murder (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Robin Stevens</i> Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are spending the Christmas holidays in snowy Cambridge. Hazel is looking forward to a calm vacation among the beautiful spires, cozy libraries, and inviting tea-rooms. But there is danger lurking in the dark stairwells of ancient Maudlin College and two days before Christmas, there is a terrible accident. 978-1-4814-8912-6 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 720</p>	1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Wells and Hazel Wong spend the holidays at Cambridge University. A reunion with the Junior Pinkertons lead s to a bet--which is the better detective society?--and some flirting. Then a student is found murdered, and the societies collaborate. Stevens's frost-dusted 1935 Cambridge, England, is an appealing backdrop for this fifth adolescent whodunit. Wells and Wong's partnership is as entertaining as ever. Glos. (Copyright 2019 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Their fifth adventure finds Detective Society members Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong spending the winter holidays at Cambridge University visiting Daisy's brother, Bertie. A reunion with the Junior Pinkertons leads to a bet?which is the better detective society??and some flirting. Then a student?insufferable, rich, and a twin?is found murdered, and the two societies agree to collaborate. Stevens's frost-dusted 1935 Cambridge, England, is an appealing backdrop for this adolescent whodunit, and Wells and Wong's partnership, with its echoes of Holmes and Watson, is as entertaining as ever. elissa Gershowitz(Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2290364 (Vol. 06) Spoonful of Murder (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Robin Stevens</i> When Hazel Wong's beloved grandfather passes away, Daisy Wells accompanies her best friend (and detective society vice president) to Hazel's family estate in beautiful, bustling Hong Kong. But when they arrive, they discover something they didn't expect: a new baby brother for Hazel! 978-1-6659-1934-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 10.0</p>	1	\$17.99

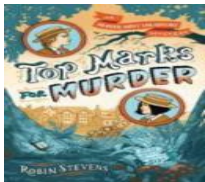
	Quantity	Unit Price
<p>#2319951 (Vol. 07) Death in the Spotlight (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Robin Stevens</i></p>	1	\$18.99



Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells return to London to face an entirely new challenge: acting. Danger has a nasty habit of catching up with the Detective Society though, and it soon becomes clear that there is trouble waiting in the wings at the Rue. And when one of the cast members is found dead, the friends and investigative partners must work together to untangle the web of jealousy and threats that surround them in order to catch the culprit before the curtains rise on opening night...and the murderer returns for an encore.

978-1-6659-1937-1 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic



#2328252 (Vol. 08) Top Marks for Murder (Hardcover (Trade))

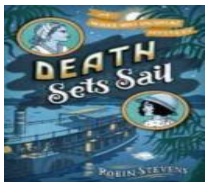
written by Robin Stevens

Daisy and Hazel are finally back at Deepdean, and the school is preparing for a most exciting fiftieth anniversary celebration. Plans for a weekend of festivities are in full swing. But in the detectives' long absence, Deepdean has changed. Daisy has lost her popularity crown to a fascinating new girl, and many of the Detective Society's old allies are now their sworn enemies.

978-1-6659-1940-1 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 11.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2352060 (Vol. 09) Death Sets Sail (Hardcover (Trade))

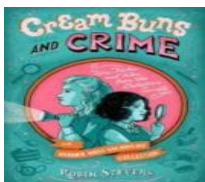
written by Robin Stevens

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are in Egypt taking a cruise along the Nile. They are hoping to see some ancient temples and a mummy or two. What they get instead is murder. Also travelling on the SS Hatshepsut is a mysterious society called the Breath of Life: a group of genteel English ladies and gentlemen who believe themselves to be reincarnations of the ancient pharaohs.

978-1-6659-1943-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2374608 Cream Buns and Crime: Tips, Tricks, and Tales from the Detective Society (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Robin Stevens

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are famous for the murder cases they have solved-but there are many other mysteries in the pages of Hazel's casebook, including the macabre Case of the Deepdean Vampire, the baffling Case of the Blue Violet, and even their very first case of all: the Case of Lavinia's Missing Tie. (Companion Novel)

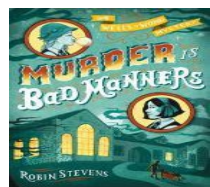
978-1-6659-1946-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4 Up—A short story companion to the popular mystery series. At Deepdean School for Girls, Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are solving mysteries once again. In this book, they encounter some "mini mysteries" while offering tips, tricks, and tales from the Detective Society. The book opens in 1936 with the introductory text appearing on a typewriter, intriguing readers and setting the tone that this is a legitimate artifact revealing true tips and detective secrets. Readers are given a thorough guide on how to set up their own detective society, the basics of sleuthing, information about special cases and the world of spies, and how to crack unsolved mysteries. Readers are encouraged to choose detective society members well and have them pledge to discover truth and justice. The book even includes instructions on

how to make a fingerprint kit. VERDICT Fans of Enola Holmes, Agatha Christie, and Stuart Gibbs will love this engaging text that is a blend of mystery fiction and gumshoe how-to.—Lisa Gieskes



#1898878 (Vol. 01) Murder Is Bad Manners (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Robin Stevens

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are best friends at Deepdean School for Girls, and they both have a penchant for solving mysteries. In fact, outspoken Daisy is a self-described Sherlock Holmes, and she appoints wallflower Hazel as her own personal Watson when they form their own (secret!) detective agency. The only problem? They have nothing to investigate.

978-1-4814-2212-3 ©2015 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 6.3 Lexile 910

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 Here's a mystery import, set in the 1930s, that does justice to its British roots. Hazel Wong has come from Hong Kong to attend Deepdean boarding school. An outcast until she is accepted by upper-crust Daisy Wells, Hazel is happy to be half of a two-girl detective agency. The crimes they solve are silly until Hazel discovers the body of their dead science teacher in the gym. By the time she gets Daisy, the body is gone. The situation grows more complicated as the girls dash around Deepdean, learning secrets about teachers (including a hint of a same-sex relationship), picking up clues, and getting in all sorts of mischief (such as drinking ipecac to make themselves ill). Then another murder occurs. This is a delightfully designed book, from the throwback cover to the school map inside. Hazel makes a good narrator, and while the mystery plods a bit and has too many teacher though a cast list helps not every reader will guess the ending. Nancy Drew, meet Wells and Wong. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2015, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Thirteen-year-old Hazel Wong and her best friend, Daisy Wells, students at Deepdean School in 1930s England, aspire to be detectives. To that end they have formed a secret Detective Society, practicing their observational skills by snooping on their peers and teachers and memorizing license plates. When Hazel discovers science teacher Miss Bell dead in the gym one evening, and the corpse then disappears before anyone else can witness it, the society has a real case at last (much to Daisy's delight and Hazel's trepidation). The pair put their deductive skills to work as they seek to solve the mystery of Miss Bell's death, and gradually they begin to whittle down the suspect list, discovering a connection to a Deepdean student who "accidentally" died the previous year. Stevens' story, narrated by Hazel, is a first-rate homage to English boarding school adventure and period murder-mystery tales. Hazel's astute observations as a cultural outsider (she's a native of Hong Kong) add an interesting layer of depth to the narrative while also making it more accessible to non-British audiences (a helpful "Guide to Deepdean," provided by Daisy at book's end, amusingly sheds more light on specific terminology). Spot art at the beginning of each chapter features Daisy and Hazel in silhouette and sporting flashlights, a satisfyingly correct period detail. Middle-schoolers with a taste for Agatha Christie (and perhaps PBS costume or mystery dramas) will eat this up and ask for more. JH

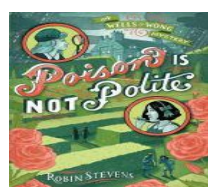
Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Pals Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells are desperate for a mystery to solve, but when Hazel finds the dead body of teacher Miss Bell, she's absolutely gobsmacked. The details of the girls' friendship and the 1930s English boarding school setting are just swell, and readers who fancy mysteries will have masses of fun with this ace murder story. (Copyright 2015 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A pair of eighth-grade girls, admirers of Holmes and Watson, expose a real murderer in a tony English boarding school in 1934. This splendid school story/murder mystery opens with a map and a helpful cast of characters: the staff and students of Deepdean School, where Hazel Wong, daughter of an Anglophile Hong Kong banker, and Daisy Wells, golden-haired member of the English nobility, have formed the Wells & Wong Detective Society. From Part One, "The Discovery of the Body," to Part Eight, "The Detective Society Solves the Case," Hazel, as the society's secretary, worriedly but methodically recounts the case. Her account begins on Oct. 30, 1934, one day after finding Miss Bell's dead body, runs through the end of November, when the murderer is arrested, and wraps up during their Christmas holiday. Her narrative is punctuated with occasional handwritten updates of their suspect list. Hazel's outsider status allows her to comment humorously on the curious customs of the English world, while cheerful Daisy's need to know and her privileged assumption that everyone will love her and do her bidding earns them access to places and information that help them solve their first serious case. There are clues, red herrings and suspenseful chases galore, as well as heaps of boarding school trivia that amuse and delight. An irresistible English import with sequels to come. (Mystery. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2015) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Eighth-grader Hazel Wong lives in the shadow of her best friend Daisy Wells, a girl so flawless that even retching seems to agree with her. Inspired by pulp fiction paperbacks, the girls form a secret detective agency at their boarding school, opening their first big case when their teacher, Miss Bell, turns up dead. Set in 1934 England, this first book in the Wells & Wong Mystery series is part murder mystery, part diary, and a pitch-perfect snapshot of adolescent friendship. Daisy is the classic mean girl: privileged, selfish, and as beautiful as she is heartless; all qualities that Hazel lacks. (Narrator Hazel isn't even the heroine of her own story!) The girls are in over their heads, but Daisy, used to bending everyone to her whims, refuses to admit it, so it's up to pragmatic Hazel to save the case, and their lives. Their yin-yang

friendship, like the camaraderie of Sherlock and Watson, is as integral to the story as the revelation of the murderer. A sharp-witted debut for Stevens, one that will leave readers eagerly awaiting subsequent installments. Ages 10--up. Agent: Gemma Cooper, Bent Agency. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-A cozy murder mystery with manifest charms, this series opener introduces a pair of boarding school sleuths covertly detecting a death no one else realizes has occurred. Narrator Hazel Wong, a sturdy Hong Kong transplant, and charismatic English Rose Daisy Wells forge a friendship based on their mutual deception of their classmates, concealing their abundant intelligence during lessons and instead deploying it in the service of the Wells & Wong Detective Society. Though Hazel adopts the lingo of the native students, her pleasant, frank narration displays her outsider status, a perspective that helps guide readers through the logistical and social nuances of their 1930s British countryside school. The mystery proves a twisty but conventional story replete with concealed relationships, professional jealousy, and genre-bound clues. Fresher and more compelling is the tension between the two detectives. Even as the friends remain bonded in cleverness, Hazel develops a conscientious concern for students and staff along with anxiety at tracking a murderer; her caution sparks conflict with Daisy's gleeful curiosity and unperturbable confidence. A recent spate of boarding school settings means this novel shares some DNA with several 2014 offerings, especially Julie Berry's puzzler, *The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place* (Roaring Brook), a spiky story that flaunts its affectations. But Stevens's engaging tale shines with the reflected charms of its detecting duo, a winsome combination of thoughtfulness and relish.-Robbin E. Friedman, Chappaqua Library, NY (c) Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1947228 (Vol. 02) Poison Is Not Polite (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Robin Stevens

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

A tea party takes a poisonous turn leaving Daisy and Hazel with a new mystery to solve in the second novel of the Wells & Wong Mystery series. Schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are at Daisy's home, Fallingford, for the holidays. Daisy's glamorous mother is throwing a tea party for Daisy's birthday, and the whole family is invited, from eccentric Aunt Saskia to dashing Uncle Felix. But it soon becomes clear that this party isn't about Daisy after all--and she is furious. But Daisy's anger falls to the wayside when one of their guests falls seriously and mysteriously ill--and everything points to poison. It's up to Daisy and Hazel to find out what's really going on. With wild storms preventing everyone from leaving, or the police from arriving, Fallingford suddenly feels like a very dangerous place to be. Not a single person present is what they seem--and everyone has a secret or two. And when someone very close to Daisy begins to act suspiciously, the Detective Society does everything they can to reveal the truth...no matter the consequences.
 978-1-4814-2215-4 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 5-8 *Starred Review* After getting off to a good start in *Murder Is Bad Manners* (2015), Stevens perfects her take on the British murder mystery in the second book in the Wells & Wong series. Daisy Wells has brought boarding-school friend (and co-member of the Detective's Society) Hazel Wong to Fallingford, her family's estate, complete with mazes, libraries, lords, and ladies. It's Daisy's birthday, and a lavish tea is planned with visits from two other school chums. But there are other visitors, including the nefarious Mr. Curtis, who seems as enamored of the family antiques as he is of Daisy's mother. From the first pages, we learn something dreadful happens to Mr. Curtis, and as the book progresses, readers will be enthralled with the what, why, and howall issues that the Detective's Society unravels through cleverness and sleuthing skill. Not so long ago, detailed accounts of murders in middle-grade mysteries were rarely done. Here, though, Mr. Curtis lies moldering in a guest room after a violent poisoning, while the game is afoot all over the house, which has been cut off by a flood. Though Stevens handles the mystery element to perfection (the house diagrams are a nice touch, too), what really shines is the depiction of her characters, especially bossy, egocentric Daisy and loyal, smart Hazel, always aware that she is other. A smashing good time.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2016, American Library Association.)

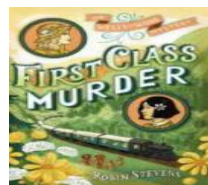
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When a suspicious death occurs at Daisy Wells' family home over the Easter holiday break, the Wells & Wong Detective Society (from *Murder Is Bad Manners*, BCCB 7/15) leaps back into action as young teen Daisy and best friend (and narrator) Hazel Wong endeavor to solve the murder of unpleasant houseguest Mr. Curtis. Fellow Deepdean students and visitors Kitty and Beanie join them as assistants, and the quartet searches for clues throughout Fallingford House as heavy rains flood the area and cut off both escape and outside help. Suspicion falls primarily on Daisy's family members--her mother was having a fling with the deceased; her uncle is acting peculiarly; and her great-aunt (a known kleptomaniac) had been eyeing Mr. Curtis's gold pocket watch--but Daisy's governess is also observed behaving unusually. Daisy's relationships with the suspects make the groups' detective work an emotionally charged effort, but careful deduction and perseverance serve the young detectives well in solving the crime. Stevens continues to satisfyingly scratch the English murder-mystery itch with this delightful second installment in the Wells & Wong series. The supporting cast is fairly formulaic, but Hazel and Daisy are nuanced, three-dimensional characters, and their bickering but loyal friendship rings true. The mystery itself is solidly constructed, and the solution is both surprising and logical. Fans of the first book will find this just as rewarding, and kids on the cusp of embracing Agatha Christie will enjoy testing

their deductive skills here as well. JH

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide It's Daisy's fourteenth birthday, and her best pal and fellow Detective Society member Hazel is there to celebrate. When a party guest is murdered, the sleuths face a suspect list that includes--gulp--Daisy's father. Following *Murder Is Bad Manners*, Stevens serves up another cozy Golden Age style mystery (1930s English manor setting--check; no outside suspects--check), with two likable heroines to boot. (Copyright 2016 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Wells and Wong return in a classic country-estate mystery. Spending their April break at Fallingford, Daisy's stately (but run-down) family home, schoolgirls Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong become detectives again when an unpleasant friend of Daisy's mother is murdered there. Mr. Curtis is a stranger, ostensibly invited for Daisy's 14th birthday party. He's clearly more interested in the family's valuable antiques, and Daisy's mother, Lady Hastings, is inappropriately interested in him. When he's fatally poisoned after drinking his tea, many people have motives, but the girls (and two school friends invited for the occasion) quickly narrow the list. All their potential suspects are members of Daisy's own family. This is difficult for the president of the Detective Society, but she continues to gamely direct its proceedings. Hazel serves as scribe and narrator. Besides recording their activities, she supplies her own observations, including comparisons of her wealthy Chinese family's home in Hong Kong with this shabbier one, and her feelings about looking and being different from Daisy and her white family. Published in England in 2015 as *Arsenic for Tea*, this well-crafted and entertaining detective story, a stand-alone sequel to *Murder Is Bad Manners* (2014), is solidly set in a fading world of 1930s minor nobility and supported by a cast list and map. A first-rate whodunit, reminiscent of a game of Clue and terrific preparation for the works of Agatha Christie. (Historical mystery. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2016) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8--Detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are back to solve another mystery, but this one hits a little closer to home for Daisy. While on school break, bossy Daisy and levelheaded Hazel are staying at Daisy's family home, where her mother is throwing Daisy a children's birthday tea party. Fourteen-year-old Daisy is appalled that she is having such a childish fete, especially since her mother has invited family, school friends, and her "gentleman friend" Mr. Curtis. The house is full of suspects when, during the party, Mr. Curtis is poisoned and later dies. Mr. Curtis is truly an unlikable individual, so the list of suspects is large, and most are people Daisy has known her whole life. Daisy and Hazel's skills are tested as they narrow down the list of possible murderers. The countryside has flooded, and the arrival of the police is delayed by days. Daisy and Hazel's unlikely friendship balances out the strengths and weaknesses of their personalities; Daisy is pushy and clever, while Hazel is cautious and practical. VERDICT An English import with a good mystery that will keep readers' attention, this second volume of the trilogy is strong enough to be a standalone title.--Lisa Nabel, formerly at Dayton Metro Library, OH Copyright 2016 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2000261 (Vol. 03) First Class Murder (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Robin Stevens

An heiress is murdered, her magnificent ruby necklace is missing, and there's a train full of suspects. . . .

978-1-4814-2218-5 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

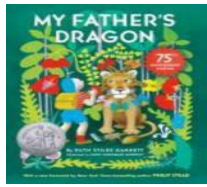
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide Aboard the famed Orient Express, sleuthing schoolmates Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong try their best to heed Mr. Wong's one holiday rule of no crime-solving. But when a young heiress is murdered and another undercover detective appears searching for a spy, the two friends are thrust into their third mystery. A clever and diverting homage to Agatha Christie's classic work, with perceptive musings on racism and classism. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Crime-solving friends Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells encounter yet another murder victim while traveling from Paris to Istanbul on the famed Orient Express in 1935. A jewel theft, a spy hunt, forged documents, a magician, a seance, and a locked-room murder--what more could the Detective Society (rising 14-year-old schoolmates Hazel and Daisy) hope for on a summer holiday? In this third of the Wells & Wong mysteries to be published in this country, Hazel chronicles how her father's efforts to take their minds off crime backfires when one of their fellow first-class passengers is murdered, apparently by her jealous brother and possibly for her beautiful diamond-and-ruby necklace. And it's not just Hazel's father prohibiting their detective efforts--there is also a fellow traveler, the undercover detective Miss Livedon, whom they've encountered before. Disguised as the wife of a copper magnate, she's really searching for a spy onboard. Stevens' clever story has been constructed as a tribute to Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, published in 1934, just one year before Daisy and Hazel's ride on that same train, and uses many similar elements. There's solid suspense, humor, and food for thought: Hazel's Hong Kong origins allow her to notice examples of racism, anti-Semitism, and class snobbery that white, upper-class Daisy doesn't see. Just as Daisy predicts, "the Detective Society's most exciting adventure yet!" (train car diagram with characters, glossary, acknowledgements) (Mystery. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

My Father's Dragon (Trade)



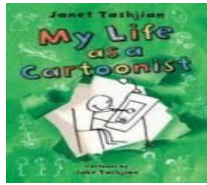
#2349370 My Father's Dragon (75th Anniversary Edition) (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Ruth Stiles Gannett

When Elmer Elevator hears about a baby dragon being held captive on Wild Island, he knows just what to do. First he packs his knapsack with important supplies like chewing gum, lollipops, and lots of rubber bands. Then he stows away on a ship headed for the island. There he'll meet many animals who try to stop him, but Elmer has a few tricks up his sleeve . . . or more precisely, in his knapsack. One way or another, he will rescue the dragon!

978-0-593-65206-0 ©2023 7 x 9 96 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

My Life as a (Prebound)

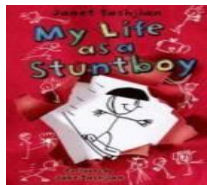


#1961170 (Vol. 03) My Life As a Cartoonist (Prebound)
written by Janet Tashjian

There's a new kid in Derek Fallon's class. His name is Umberto and he uses a wheelchair. Derek's family is still fostering Frank the monkey, and Derek thinks it would be great to train Frank to assist Umberto. But Derek quickly realizes that Umberto is definitely not looking for any help. Derek soon becomes the butt of Umberto's jokes. On top of that, Umberto starts stealing Derek's cartoon ideas and claiming them as his own. How did Derek get himself into this mess, and how can he find a way out before he is the laughingstock of school? The answer may very well be his cartoon strip--SUPER FRANK!

978-1-4844-7845-5 ©2016 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 5.6 Lexile 860

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$19.95

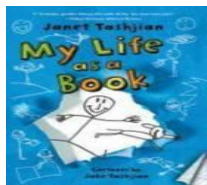


#1919280 (Vol. 02) My Life as a Stuntboy (Prebound)
written by Janet Tashjian

Twelve-year-old Derek Fallon has the opportunity of a lifetime--to perform stunts in a movie featuring a popular twelve-year-old star--but complications arise involving his best friend, a capuchin monkey, and Derek's chronic inability to concentrate on schoolwork.

978-1-4844-5170-0 ©2015 5 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 810

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95



#2080695 (Vol. 01) My Life as a Book (Prebound)
written by Janet Tashjian

Dubbed a "reluctant reader" by his teacher, twelve-year-old Derek spends summer vacation learning important lessons even though he does not complete his summer reading list.

978-1-5364-4775-0 ©2011 5-1/8 x 7-5/8 240 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 5.7 GR Lvl S Lexile 880

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.95

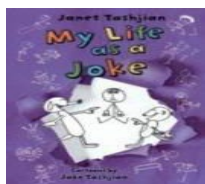
Reviews by: Booklist Twelve-year-old Derek is not a reader. His assignment to read three books over the summer stinks. But then something that he wants to read catches Derek's eye. In the attic, he finds a 10-year-old article about a teenage girl who drowned on a Martha's Vineyard beach.

When he questions his mother about the article, her nervousness tells him something's up, so he takes on the assignment of discovering what happened on the beach that day and why it's important. Janet Tashjian, known for her young adult books, offers a novel that's part *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007), part intriguing mystery; yet the best element here is really the first-person voice, which captures so completely the pushes and pulls in the life of someone with learning disabilities. Derek is brash, careless, and usually willing to do something stupid. He is also bright, a talented artist, and smart enough to know when he has gone too far. Adding to the book's effectiveness is a generous typeface that looks like printing and artwork by the author's 14-year-old son, Jake. Like the story's narrator, he uses stick figures to illustrate vocabulary words, and here they march down the margins. Some are simple depictions, like a handful of flowers for the word bouquet. Some take more thought: a sad face moving to a happier one for adapt. Give this to kids who think they don't like reading. It might change their minds. -- Cooper, Ilene Copyright 2010 Booklist

Reviews by: Horn Book Meet twelve-year-old Derek, a perfect example of the kind of kid adults describe with loving exasperation as "all boy." Derek fidgets, makes (with magic marker grids) grenades out of avocados, and, above all, doesn't like to read required books. In Derek's mind, summer means two months of liberation—that is, until his parents send him to Learning Camp so he won't squander his intellectual potential. What they don't realize is that Derek is an inquisitive child; an imaginative artist; and, in educational parlance, a visual learner. For not being much of a reader, Derek is a smooth narrator with a strong, humorous voice. He outlines the trials and tribulations of Learning Camp, especially in getting along with teacher's pet Carly. Derek's attempts to solve a mystery from his childhood connect the events of the story and divert readers from any hint of didacticism as he learns to build on his strengths rather than concentrate on his weaknesses. Cartoon drawings by the author's teenaged son decorate the margins and not only re-create Derek's illustrated vocabulary lists but also reduce the amount of text on each page, making the book more approachable for kids like Derek. Derek tells readers, "If my life were a book, I'd have my own cool adventures." It is, and he does. From HORN BOOK, (c) Copyright 2010. The Horn Book, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly When 12-year-old Derek discovers an old newspaper article in his attic about a girl "found dead" on a beach, he becomes obsessed, especially when he learns the teenager may have died saving him from the ocean when he was just a toddler. Derek is a mischievous boy who enjoys using avocados as grenades more than reading, but as he uncovers the truth about what happened 10 years ago from those who were there, he discovers he is "surrounded by stories" both tragic and inspiring. Readers may not quite understand the intensity of Derek's obsession, which takes him from his home in California to Martha's Vineyard, where the accident took place, but his story moves quickly, thanks in part to stick figures drawn in the book's margins by Derek to define "vocabulary words." Some of these illustrations, drawn by Tashjian's 14-year-old son, Jake, are quite clever ("injustice" shows two irate students reading a sign saying "School on Saturday"). Derek's concluding speech may strain credibility, but a relatable and fun format make this a smart choice for "reluctant" readers—like Derek. Ages 9-12. (July) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Twelve-year-old Derek has been identified as a reluctant reader. He likes to read, but doesn't enjoy required materials. He says he prefers having his own adventures (tossing as hand grenades the avocados his mother is saving for dinner, climbing onto the roof with a croquet set to hit wooden balls into the satellite dish) to learning about someone else's life. When his teacher gives the class summer reading and writing assignments, Derek finds a way to distract himself from the task. He discovers an old newspaper clipping about a 17-year-old who drowned, and his mother explains that the teen was babysitting him at the time and died saving him. Derek is determined to learn more about her death and his involvement in it. The margins of this book feature vocabulary words illustrated with cartoons. The protagonist is by turns likable and irritating, but always interesting. He is sure to engage fans of Jeff Kinney's "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" books (Abrams) as well as those looking for a spunky, contemporary boy with a mystery to solve. Reluctant readers will appreciate the book's large print and quick-paced story. -- Helen Foster James, University of California at San Diego (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.



#2002741 (Vol. 04) My Life As a Joke (Prebound)
written by Janet Tashjian

Derek Fallon discovers all the angst that comes with being twelve—he just wants to feel grown up, but life gets in the way with a series of mishaps that make him look like a baby. Why isn't being in middle school as great as Derek imagined? Thankfully, with a little help from his friends—and a Toys for Tots fundraiser—things seem like they could start shaping up at last.

978-1-5364-0749-5 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 288 pgs.

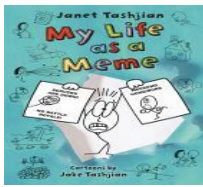
Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 840

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

My Life as a (Trade)

#2100625 (Vol. 08) My Life As a Meme (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99



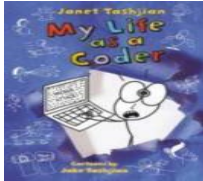
written by Janet Tashjian

Derek Fallon and his friends are back for another hilarious adventure in Book 8 of the My Life series--this time featuring epic "meme" adventures!

978-1-250-19657-6 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 860

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$18.99



#2159795 (Vol. 09) My Life As a Coder (Hardcover (POB))

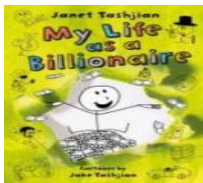
written by Janet Tashjian

Derek Fallon and his friends are back for another hilarious adventure in Book 9 of the My Life series--this time featuring epic tech adventures in coding! For fans of Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Mac B Kid Spy.

978-1-250-26179-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 840

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$15.99



#2221229 (Vol. 10) My Life As a Billionaire (Hardcover (POB))

written by Janet Tashjian

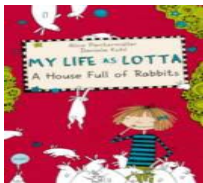
Derek Fallon won the lottery and now gets to spend over a billion dollars with a friend-let the shopping begin! But Derek's shopping spree soon causes major life problems. Derek soon makes a shift to focus on his entrepreneurial skills and find more helpful ways to spend his money.

978-1-250-26181-6 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 910

My Life As Lotta (Trade)

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$12.95



#2123010 (Vol. 01) House Full of Rabbits (Hardcover (POB))

written by Alice Pantermuller

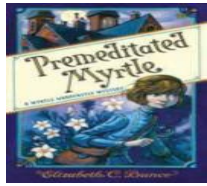
Lotta has just started middle school--but life isn't going very smoothly. First of all, she has a teacher named Mrs. Crabbert--who is very, well, crabby. Then, her mom gives her a recorder that seems to make mysterious things happen. Lotta also wants to get her own pet... no matter what it takes. But her parents' refusal to consider her request, a fight with her best friend, and that weird recorder keep getting in the way. Can Lotta make it all work out?

978-1-4549-3624-4 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8 192 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 660

Reviews by: Booklist Ten-year-old Lotta loves to write and draw in her diary, and this doodle-filled series starter begins with her first day of fifth grade. She's excited for the new school year, until she hears that crabby Mrs. Crabbert will be her teacher; though, luckily, Lotta's best friend, Cheyenne, is in her class. Over the span of two weeks, a lotta things happen to Lotta. These come in the form of everyday disasters and mishaps that kids will find instantly entertaining. For instance, her first-day-of-school family dinner at an Italian restaurant takes an unsavory turn; her mother continues to encourage Lotta to play the recorder by gifting her yet another of the dreaded instrument; then Lotta decides she wants a pet (besides her turtle, Webster), but her parents resoundingly say no. Pantermnller's Lotta books have been wildly popular in her native Germany, and American readers will be smitten with the spunky protagonist and her indefatigable scheming. Lotta's escapades are described and illustrated with theatrical flair and humor, making this an enjoyable snapshot of tween life.--J. B. Petty Copyright 2010 Booklist

Myrtle Hardcastle Mystery (Trade)



#2160429 (Vol. 01) Premeditated Myrtle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elizabeth C. Bunce

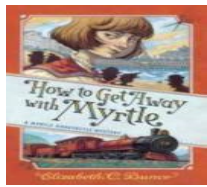
When her next-door neighbor, a wealthy spinster and eccentric breeder of rare flowers, dies under Mysterious Circumstances, Myrtle seizes her chance. With her unflappable governess, Miss Ada Judson, by her side, Myrtle takes it upon herself to prove Miss Wodehouse was murdered and find the killer, even if nobody else believes her -- not even her father, the town prosecutor.

978-1-61620-918-6 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.5 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 740

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Channeling classic Victorian whodunits, Bunce's (the Thief Errant series) detective series opener features a quirky, winning narrator and a lively secondary cast. Thanks to governess Miss Judson, 12-year-old Myrtle Hardcastle, who is middle-class and white, is training to become a Young Lady of Quality. Inspired by the examples of her late mother, who was a medical student, and her widowed lawyer father, Myrtle tends to be anything but proper, for example erecting an observation point from which to chronicle neighborhood events. When elderly next-door neighbor, scornful Miss Wodehouse, doesn't follow her routine one morning, Myrtle summons the constabulary. After the revelation of Miss Wodehouse's death and the arrival of the elderly woman's heretofore unknown relatives, Myrtle suspects she was murdered and enlists Miss Judson to solve the mystery. A generous, well-wrought relationship between governess and charge complements tightly plotted twists. As "the precocious daughter who lurked about everywhere being impertinent and morbid," Myrtle is as clever as she is determined, and her expertise; seen in evidence collection and courtroom antics; is certain to delight genre stalwarts and mystery novices alike. Publishing simultaneously: How to Get Away with Myrtle (A Myrtle Hardcastle Mystery #2). Ages 10: up. Agent: Erin Murphy, Erin Murphy Literary. (Oct.)



#2181364 (Vol. 02) How to Get Away with Myrtle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elizabeth C. Bunce

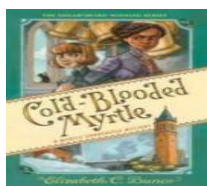
Myrtle Hardcastle has no desire to go on a relaxing travel excursion with her aunt Helena when there are More Important things to be done at home, like keeping close tabs on criminals and murder trials. Unfortunately, she has no say in the matter. So off Myrtle goes--with her governess, Miss Judson, and cat, Peony, in tow--on a fabulous private railway coach headed for the English seaside.

978-1-61620-919-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–8—Twelve-year-old criminologist Myrtle Hardcastle deeply resents being "banished" by her father to an English seaside town instead of being allowed to attend a forensics conference with him in Paris. The year is 1893 and young girls may be expected to become "Young Ladies of Quality," but Myrtle plans to pursue investigating. She is beyond delighted when a female investigator befriends her on the train, just in time for a priceless tiara to be stolen! When someone turns up dead and Myrtle's aunt is charged with the murder, Myrtle has no choice but to solve the case. Who stole the tiara and murdered Mrs. Bloom? Can Myrtle find out before Aunt Helena is shipped off to trial? Readers who enjoyed Premeditated Myrtle will rejoice in this second installment featuring the plucky protagonist, her beautiful and multitalented governess Miss Judson, Peony the cat, and a whole new cast of strong female characters. References to Scotland Yard and investigative techniques will delight young Sherlock Holmes aficionados. The advanced vocabulary will send even the most sesquipedalian readers scurrying to the dictionary. The descriptions of murder may be a touch heavy for some. VERDICT This deeply plotted sequel is an additional purchase for collections serving the most precocious readers who long for a fast-paced mystery where women shine.—Emily Beasley, Omaha Public Sch., NE



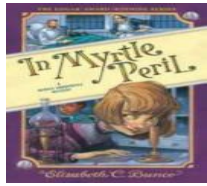
#2256597 (Vol. 03) Cold-Blooded Myrtle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Elizabeth C. Bunce

When the proprietor of Leighton's Mercantile is found dead on the morning his annual Christmas shop display is to be unveiled, it's clear a killer had revenge in mind. But who would want to kill the local dry-goods merchant? Perhaps someone who remembers the mysterious scandal that destroyed his career as a professor and archaeologist.

978-1-61620-920-9 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.95



#2295695 (Vol. 04) In Myrtle Peril (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elizabeth C. Bunce

When a mysterious girl attempts to stake her claim to the Snowcroft family fortune, Myrtle Hardcastle's father, a lawyer, is asked to help prove-or disprove-the girl's identity. Is this truly Ethel Snowcroft, believed to be lost at sea with her parents, or a con artist chasing a windfall? Mr. Hardcastle's pursuit of the case takes a detour when he's hospitalized for a tonsillectomy-only to witness a murder. Or does he?

978-1-61620-921-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Reviews by: Horn Book ur young Victorian sleuth. All the members of Myrtle’s household are suffering from malaise at the lack of crimes t investigate. Myrtle; her father, the Prosecuting Solicitor; and her brilliant governess, Miss Judson have no villainies to uncover, and it’s so dull. I’s exciting when Father gets pulled into the case of a long-ago shipwreck—is Sally, a White girl about Myrtle’s age, an heiress or a fraud? But the case of Sally-the-possible-heiress will have to wait; Father needs his tonsils removed (a dangerous surgery in 1894, even in a “marvelous specimen of modernity” like the Royal Swinburne Hospital). When Father witnesses a murder in the hospital, is it real or a delusion? Only Myrtle and Miss Judson, ably assisted by Sally and Peony, Myrtle’s talkative cat, can expose the truth. Myriad secrets all come back to the central mystery, and though some tertiary subplots are lightly developed, the mystery as a whole is charming. How can it be otherwise when solved by “a cat, a dog, two doctors, a journalist on crutches, an unemployed law clerk, a solicitor in pyjamas, a nurse with a cricket bat, a governess, an off-duty housekeeper, and one small frantic Investigator”? Myrtle’s family is White; multiple characters of color are present, including biracial French Guianese Miss Judson. Enthusiastically, chaotically delightful. (Historical mystery. 9-12)



#2350145 (Vol. 05) Myrtle, Means, and Opportunity (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Elizabeth C. Bunce

When her governess inherits an estate on a Scottish island, amateur detective Myrtle Hardcastle couldn't be more excited. Unfortunately, the ancestral castle is both run-down and haunted. Ghostly moans echo in the walls, and there are rumors of a cursed treasure lost on the island-an ancient silver brooch that may have cost the former lord his life. But who had the motive, means, and opportunity to kill him? And could this Scottish trip mean the end of Myrtle's plans to get her father and governess together?

978-1-64375-314-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Mysteries of Cove (Trade)



#2033236 (Vol. 03) Embers of Destruction (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. Scott Savage

Trenton, Kallista, and their friends from Discovery trace the origins of the dragons to San Francisco where they must battle a powerful white dragon in order to save the city and everyone who lives there.

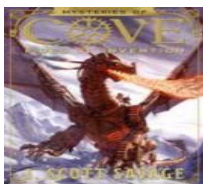
978-1-62972-339-6 ©2017 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 740

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

#1952195 (Vol. 01) Fires of Invention (Hardcover (Trade))
written by J. Scott Savage

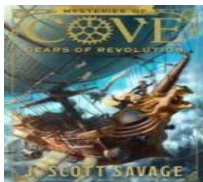
Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99



Even though technology and inventions have been outlawed in the mountain city of Cove, in order to save the city Trenton and Kallista must follow a set of mysterious blueprints to build a creature to protect them from the dragons outside their door.

978-1-62972-092-0 ©2015 370 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 690



#1979926 (Vol. 02) Gears of Revolution (Hardcover (Trade))

written by J. Scott Savage

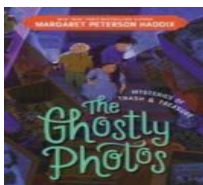
It has been a week since Trenton and Kallista left their mountain city of Cove--now renamed "Discovery"--aboard their homemade mechanical dragon to search for Kallista's father, Leo Babbage. They find a compass and clues that point them towards a second underground city. Hoping to find Kallista's father there-and perhaps more information about the living dragons that ravaged the world-they head west, thinking they will find a thriving city like Discovery. Instead, they find only large swaths of blackened forest and the ruins of destroyed buildings, and a small civilization.

978-1-62972-223-8 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 350 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 14.0 Lexile 730

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.99

Mysteries of Trash and Treasure (Trade)



#2332545 (Vol. 02) Ghostly Photos (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Colin and Nevaeh are great at finding things. After all, they found each other and became best friends-even though their parents are business rivals. They also found hidden boxes of secret letters, which led them to unravel mysteries about kids from the 1970s. But when they started Mystery Solvers Inc., they didn't expect to be asked to find a ghost.

978-0-06-308981-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 10.0

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$19.99

Mysterious Benedict Society (Trade)



#1671032 Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict (Prequel) (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Trenton Lee Stewart

Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict, a boy without parents and afflicted with an unfortunate nose and narcolepsy, is sent to a new orphanage where he encounters vicious bullies, selfish adults, strange circumstances, and a mystery that could change his life forever.

978-0-316-17619-4 ©2013 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 480 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 19.0 RC Lvl 6.2 Lexile 900

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$39.99


Reviews by: Children's Literature Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict is sent to yet another orphanage, Rothschild's End. He is an extraordinarily intelligent lad, with a photographic memory, mechanical skills, and logical thinking. He is also slightly small for his age, sports a larger-than-usual lumpy nose, and suffers from narcolepsy. Not surprisingly, he becomes a target for the trio of bullies called the Spiders, who rule, undeterred by unsuspecting staff, over all the children at the orphanage. In fact, the small staff is rather inept and unaware, with the director's attention and efforts directed toward recovering from the near financial ruin caused by his predecessor. Nicholas is housed away from the other children, locked in a storeroom upstairs so his screams and night terrors do not disturb the others. During his first night there, he exhibits his uncanny ability to think on

his feet, outwit others, and cleverly gains the freedom to come and go around the orphanage as he pleases. During one of his nocturnal roamings he learns of a missing treasure connected to the benefactors of the orphanage and sets his mind to solving the mystery and acquiring the treasure before Mr. Collum, the director. He is helped by John, the only orphan who befriends him, and a deaf girl who lives on a nearby farm. They encounter one conundrum after another, but Nicholas perseveres, discovering much about himself and the life he wants to live, as he fashions solution after solution. Like the "Mysterious Benedict Society" books, the story progresses slowly and thoughtfully with a great amount of detail. Tension builds as Nicholas schemes to evade the Spiders and Mr. Collum and to unravel the clues about the treasure. Nicholas is a fascinating character, likable and sympathetic, and readers who know the previous books will enjoy this opportunity to meet Mr. Benedict as a child. The length and detail might deter those who do not know the series, but they will be well rewarded if they stick with it. Reviewer: Peg Glisson

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–8—The childhood of the brilliant and kindhearted leader of The Mysterious Benedict Society is fleshed out in this prequel to the popular series. Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict is shuffled to yet another orphanage where he's sure to be teased for his intellect, disruptive nightmares, and struggle with narcolepsy. Sure enough, the resident gang makes him their latest target. Mr. Collum, the orphanage director, singles Nicholas out because of his night terrors and locks him in the attic each evening. After creating his own skeleton key in metal-working class, he begins sneaking out after dark to take solace in the library. He cannot resist entering Mr. Collum's locked office, where he finds the former director's diary, which describes a secret treasure room. This is the opportunity that Nicholas has been waiting for: a chance for the kind of financial freedom that will protect him from tyrannical adults and dim-witted bullies forever. While children new to the series, might get mired down by the amount of detail, fans will be thrilled with the rich backstory of a beloved character.—Alison O'Reilly, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, NY

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) After three books in The Mysterious Benedict Society, a prequel is in order. Nicholas is a precocious nine-year-old with an infinite memory, quick wit, and instinct for survival. After leaving another orphanage, Nicholas must navigate the perils of bullying with militaristic precision to avoid a trio of fists while searching for the Rothschild's mysterious treasure with his two new friends. He deals with narcolepsy that at times seems unimportant, only providing a quirk for quirk's sake when Nicholas is already brilliantly providing enough fodder to keep readers interested. There are the humorous aspects—a mule named Rabbit and a nurse whose cure-all potion is nothing but an icky placebo—and sentimental aspects—a deaf girl Nicholas meets in his search for the treasure and Nicholas's own need for love having never known his parents. The puzzles are lackluster, but for those who have continued with the series, there is no doubt that they will read this hefty book since all are as protracted. The mystery drags out as Stewart meanders through Nicholas's every encounter at the orphanage and every thought leading to solving the puzzle. With brief glimpses of hardship, the story never quite delves deep enough into misfortune to convincingly portray Nicholas's hard-knock life, which uncovering a treasure will alleviate. To the contrary, Nicholas realizes that his friendships and intelligence are the treasures with the aptly titled final chapter, "An End at the Beginning." Lengthy and unproblematic, this book only caters to the niche reader already invested in the series. Reviewer: Alicia Abdul

Mystwick School (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2280891 (Vol. 02) Midnight Orchestra (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Jessica Khoury</i> Things are finally looking up for Amelia Jones: she's officially a Mystwick student, and she even has a teacher to help her learn how to use her rare Composing magic. The only problem is that she still doesn't understand how her powers work. But then she hears about a super exclusive Midnight Orchestra-half performance, half magical black market-and Amelia is sure that's where she'll find the answer to her Composing problem. But the Midnight Orchestra is far more sinister than it initially appears and if Amelia can't unlock her Composing powers, not only will Mystwick lose the musicraft competition, she won't be able to rescue her friends from the danger unleashed in this thrilling adventure. 978-0-358-61291-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 12.0</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Amelia Jones isn't a typical seventh grader. She attends a boarding school dedicated to the mastery of Musicraft, a type of magic conjured by playing musical instruments. On top of that, she's the only student with the ability to Compose, that is, create new spells, an unusual skill she has recently discovered. This sequel to 2020's The Mystwick School of Musicraft picks up just a week after the harrowing events of the previous novel. Now, the interscholastic Orphean Trials are fast approaching, and default White Amelia joins the team along with her best friend, Jai Kapoor, who is cued as South Asian, and new pal Darby Bradshaw, who has some Japanese heritage. Amelia must use her fledgling Composer abilities to write an original spell and lead the Mystwick team to victory. The pressure to compose a masterpiece for the competition mounts, and Amelia doubts that she has what it takes to write a winning spell. Meanwhile, strange invitations to something called the Midnight Orchestra begin to appear in unexpected places, which soon leads Amelia and her friends into the shadowy web of a mysterious composer who is seeking black spells. Amelia will need to draw on all her strength to save her classmates from this malevolence. Vividly descriptive language and characters readers will root for make this a strong second installment. A well-orchestrated fantasy that will have readers asking for an encore.

Myth of Monsters (Trade)



#2365591 (Vol. 01) Medusa (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Katherine Marsh

A fantastical adventure about Ava, who attends a boarding school for the descendants of Greek monsters and uncovers a terrible secret that could change the world forever.

978-0-06-330374-4 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist After a mortifying incident in front of her old classmates, Ava is relieved to get a fresh start at a new school. Only after arriving does she learn that the Accademia is actually a “monster rehab” facility for the descendants of monsters from Greek myths—and she herself is a descendant of Medusa (petrification powers included). The school’s teachers demand unquestioning deference to the gods, and when outspoken classmate Fia’s voice is stolen as a punishment, Ava and her new friends embark on a whirlwind tour of goddesses from the underworld to Olympus to get it back. Along the way, they gather the lost pieces of Medusa’s “real” story. This rapid-fire tour of Greek myths and monsters may be a little light on context for readers new to the pantheon, but existing fans of the mythology will enjoy character reveals and reinterpretations. Ava’s righteous indignation about the gods’ history of silencing women drives her. Award-winning Marsh’s contribution to the magical-boarding-school genre focuses on the importance of questioning authority and owning your own story.

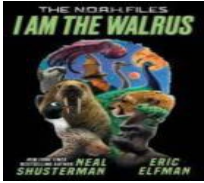
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Ava and her new friends, descendants of mythological monsters, journey across ancient and modern worlds to change their fates. Seventh grader Ava Baldwin is about to choose her favorite goddess as the topic for her report when she's interrupted. Owen King, an arrogant white boy, talks over her to claim Athena, and after they're assigned to share the topic, he tries to snatch her library book. "Chill out," he tells Ava; "It's not a big deal." Overcome with rage, Ava's anger explodes--and Owen freezes, remaining still as stone even as he's taken away in an ambulance. Ava soon discovers that through her mother, she's a descendant of the monster Medusa; like Medusa, Ava can freeze men. She's sent to the Accademia del Forte, a boarding school in Venice, where she'll learn to control her powers along with other kids from around the world who are descendants of mythological monsters. There, Ava shares a room with an Empusa, befriends a Chimera, and schemes with a Harpy. When her friend Fia is cruelly punished for attempting to expose injustice within the school, Ava leads her companions on a journey to restore power to those who deserve it, traveling from Tartarus, "the deepest pit of the underworld," to Olympus, the home of the gods. Readers familiar with this genre will still find plenty of new twists to thrill and delight. Curly-haired Ava has West African and European heritage. A fast-paced adventure offering a fresh, feminist take on popular themes. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Using the Medusa mythos as a framework, Marsh (The Lost Year) crafts a unique and distinctly feminist fantasy series launch set in a contemporary world. When confronting a bully, seventh grader Ava Baldwin somehow freezes him in place. Within days, she's whisked away to Accademia del Forte in Venice, Italy, a boarding school her mother also attended. Things take a turn for the bizarre when headmaster Mr. O'Ryan reveals himself to be the mythic hunter Orion and announces that Greek gods are real--and that all the students at the academy are descended from monsters of myth. Though Ava seems to flourish at the academy, she's haunted by her mother's distraught silence upon Ava's departure. As Ava's new best friend, Irish-born Fia, defiantly questions the school's male-focused dogma, Ava considers both what it means to be a monster and the school's true intentions. By exploring the patriarchal origins often present in Greek mythology, Marsh evokes powerful analogies about how girls and women can be taught to fear the world and themselves via a take-charge, intelligent heroine and her compassionate first-person voice. Ava is described as having golden-brown skin. Ages 8-12. Agent: Alex Glass, Glass Literary. (Feb.) Copyright 2023 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6--Ava Baldwin, 12, is tired of being bullied by Owen and loses her cool; her dark hair pops out like snakes and suddenly he's literally frozen. The next morning, her mother sends Ava and her brother Jax to the exclusive school she attended in Venice. The school is run by the Olympians, and incoming students must be tested to know which mythological Greek monster they are descended from. When Ava finds out she is related to Medusa (who is still alive), she embarks on an adventure with her friends--a Harpy, a Chimera, and an Empusa--to uncover the true story of Medusa, give voice to the goddesses who have been silenced by male gods, and perhaps find her own purpose. While this story fits into the increasingly popular modernized mythology trope, it puts a different spin on it from the perspective of the "villains" and will appeal to a younger audience. However, the theme of women being oppressed by the male gods is presented in such a didactic manner that it detracts from the powerful message. Medusa is described as black-haired with her skin glowing golden brown; Ava is depicted as having the same skin color in the cover illustration. Many other characters are described as pale-skinned when appearance is mentioned. Missing is additional information about Greek mythology, the monsters, and Medusa. VERDICT A story flipping traditional mythology and the voices telling them on their head starring a resourceful, brave Gorgon. Suggested where mythology stories are popular.--Clare A. Dombrowski Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

N.O.A.H. Files (Trade)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



#2321188 **I Am the Walrus (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Neal Shusterman

When fourteen-year-old Noah falls from the trees on his classmate Sahara, he doesn't understand how, or why, he would have been up there. It's just one more in a string of strange things happening to Noah lately.

978-0-7595-5524-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 400 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 13.0

Reviews by: Booklist The coauthors of the Accelerati Trilogy kick off an equally head-spinning sf series starring seemingly ordinary middle-schooler Noah Prime. Noah finds himself caught between rival groups of space aliens wearing creepy, ill-fitting human skins after discovering his useful but hard-to-control ability to take on the characteristics of any animal. As he works to stay alive and uncaptured, he finds allies in smart-mouthed little sister Andi, autistic best friend Ogden, and take-no-prisoners classmate Sahara—all of whom prove to have unusual abilities of their own. Unfortunately, it turns out that the fate of all life on Earth is at stake, and Noah might just have to give up his own life to save everyone else. In this first volume alone, the authors tuck in really big stakes, time travel, fiery explosions, sudden deaths, a monster-alien jailbreak, black ops (human and otherwise), flights to locales from Iowa to Tibet, high tech, and low humor. And that's not to mention the throwaway pop-culture references ("Klaatu barada nikto," one escapee declaims) and an involuntary penguin mating dance. Events tie off (fairly) neatly, but readers who fasten their tusks on this opener won't want to let go until the next one swims by.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Noah has no clue why he is suddenly behaving so . . . weird, and while he knows his fourteen-year-old peers may be struggling with their bodies, he's pretty certain they're not exhibiting animal traits (camouflage, growing spikes, mating rituals) when under stress. Things are getting increasingly weird-dangerously so—in the rest of his life after his parents, sister, a teacher, and a whole bunch of strangers all turn out to have secret missions or agendas; some of them are not even human and most of them do not have Noah's best interests at heart. Fortunately, he's got his quirky bestie Ogden and reluctant new friend (and crush) Sahara as support as he tries to figure out his life and, more importantly, evade the relentless agents who would rather he not have a life at all. It is a good thing that this novel is only volume one, as there is a lot to unpack here, with Noah's remarkable abilities at the center of inter-alien battles for control of the Earth. A subplot involving a disgraced scientist is an unnecessary diversion, but most of the core characters and events are essential in highlighting how small Noah's circle of trustworthy folks are and how quickly everything goes from perfectly normal to baffling and life threatening. The sharp humor is effective and terrific, but it is likely Noah himself, a protagonist so worth rooting for as a loyal, earnest, and innocent victim of an interplanetary war, that will likely have readers eagerly anticipating the sequel. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Fourteen-year-old Noah Prime is late for school and collides with classmate Sahara on his way in, although he can't remember how it happened. But that's not the only strange thing that happens that week. He suddenly freezes up and topples over when confronted by bullies, embarrasses himself on the dance floor with Sahara, and performs a difficult gymnastics routine with ease on the first try. Noah's best friend, Ogden, gradually works out that when Noah is stressed, he exhibits the defense mechanisms of various animals: bird, possum, penguin, chimpanzee, and -- when he is accidentally trapped with Sahara in a refrigerated meat locker -- walrus. Early in the novel, the reader is given teasing glimpses into further mysteries. A boy named Noah Tercero is captured and killed in Argentina, as is Noah Secundus in England. Do they have similar abilities? And does the same fate await Noah Prime -- or can he figure things out with the help of Ogden and Sahara? With brisk pacing, offbeat humor, and endearingly quirky characters, the plot grows more outlandish with each chapter, which is perhaps fitting for a book whose title alludes to a famously nonsensical Beatles song. Shusterman and Elfman (co-authors of the Accelerati trilogy) deliver the goods in this entertaining science fiction romp, leaving readers eager for the next installment. Jonathan Hunt(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

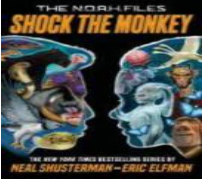
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews cadre of strange individuals while puzzling out the truth of what he is in this science-fiction offering. Fourteen-year-old Noah Prime longs to live somewhere bigger than his small town of Arbuckle, Oregon, though he is happily involved in motocross--at least until he learns that the course is being torn down to make way for a condo development. This bad news coincides with some particularly strange happenings in Noah's life, such as a literal (and very confusing) collision he has with Sahara, a girl that he comes to find very interesting. This is followed by his experiencing a brief and total paralysis while arguing with some bullies, which his friend Ogden, who is on the autism spectrum, insists is due to a psychological phenomenon called conversion disorder. The truth turns out to be much more complex, and it sends Noah, his younger sister Andi, Ogden, and Sahara on a madcap quest involving aliens, time travel, an erupting volcano, and much more. The adventure is laced throughout with goofy, sarcastic humor, balancing the fantastical and somewhat confusing turns of events. While there is resolution at the story's end, it also clearly sets the stage for a follow-up. The main characters read White by default. A fun, if messy, thriller that's not afraid to go straight over the top. (Science fiction. 10-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The creators of the Accelerati Trilogy reteam for this dynamic, Oregon-set series kickoff, whose wide-ranging adventure arc encompasses aliens, animalian hijinks, designer coffins, and Stonehenge. Fourteen-year-old Noah Prime has always had an uncanny knack for sports, but after his beloved motocross course is razed for development; closing just like the ice-skating rink he loved before it; he's surprised to find that he has an affinity for not only motocross and hockey, but basketball, soccer, and wrestling, too. A strange collision with gymnast schoolmate Sahara raises questions about his background, as does a surprising physical reaction to an incident of bullying. With the help


of Sahara, his autistic best friend Ogden, and his younger sister Andi, Noah seeks to find out more about himself and his apparent enemies. The group's exploits, detailed in quick-moving chapters that alternate with additional perspectives from protagonists and antagonists alike, develop a world of depth and moral complexity. Though instances of the cast separating occasionally bog down the plot, often-ludicrous scenarios and pop culture punch lines deliver surprises and laughs throughout, ramping up to a smash-bang ending that leaves plenty unresolved for future volumes. Characters are not physically described. Ages 10: 14. Agent (for Shusterman): Andrea Brown, Andrea Brown Literary. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6 Up--The first book in this new series is too scattered to make its mark as a sci-fi adventure tale. Fourteen-year-old protagonist Noah Prime is outrageously athletic, but since his favorite sports keep getting canceled out of the blue, he rarely gets a chance to show off his talents. After a monkey-like display at a gymnastics tournament and spontaneously developing walrus blubber while trapped in a freezer, Noah discovers that his athletic aptitude is, in fact, superhuman: he can morph into any animal in the world to use its traits to his advantage. The book starts out quirky and witty as Noah and his friends test these abilities. Things start to go off the rails when Noah's house is attacked by aliens, who kidnap his parents and make him the target of an intergalactic manhunt. The plot begins to lose focus, splitting off into multiple, uninteresting perspectives that distract from what seems to be the book's main quest--Noah finding his parents and discovering the reason for his supernatural abilities. When the plots finally intersect, the conclusion is unsatisfying. A potential red flag for school collections--it's implied that a teacher is drinking alcohol while chaperoning a dance. VERDICT From time travel to aliens to shapeshifting to an apocalypse, this work proves there may be such a thing as too much science fiction in one book.--Maria Bohan Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

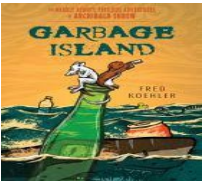
Reviews by: Shelf Awareness I Am the Walrus by Accelerati trilogy authors Neal Shusterman (The Arc of the Scythe trilogy; Game Changer) and Eric Elfman is a lively and absurd sci-fi novel for middle-grade readers.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2382937 (Vol. 02) Shock the Monkey (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Neal Shusterman</i> Noah Prime thought he was done: no more running, no more murderous aliens, and absolutely no more saving the world. The day he went into hiding should have put an end to it. But staying away is no longer an option when he winds up embroiled in yet another intergalactic calamity. This time, it's courtesy of his usually level-headed friend Ogden, whose crush on the most popular girl in school, Claire, leads him to buy her a star for her birthday. 978-0-7595-5527-3 ©2024 5-1/4 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic	1	\$17.99

Nancy Drew Diaries (Trade)

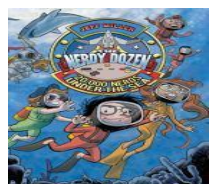
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2363260 (Vol. 25) What Disappears in Vegas ... (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Carolyn Keene</i> Bess and George's cousin Veronica is getting married to extreme sports enthusiast Xavier Redd, and as a close friend of the family, Nancy has been invited to the wedding. Given the groom's big personality and love for the extreme, the wedding will take place in Vegas, and the couple plan to take advantage of local sporting opportunities in the week leading up to the big event. 978-1-6659-3946-1 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic	1	\$17.99

Nearly Always Perilous Adventures of Archibald Shrew (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2080744 (Vol. 01) Garbage Island (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Fred Koehler</i> Mr. Popli, the mouse Mayor of Garbage Island, is always at odds with Archibald Shrew, a brilliant but reckless inventor. When Garbage Island splits apart, they're trapped together in Mr. Popli's houseboat, desperate to find their way home. 978-1-62979-675-8 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.	1	\$17.95

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-Mayor Popli, a mouse, and Archibald Shrew, a shrew, do not get along. Archi is an inventor who is always making a mess, much to Popli's dismay. One day, Garbage Island, their home on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is suddenly split apart and the two are sent on a perilous adventure aboard Popli's houseboat. They meet strange new creatures along the way, including snakes, bugs, spiders, and rats. Among fast-paced action and danger, the mouse and shrew begin to work through their differences and learn more about themselves and each other. Black-and-white illustrations help bring the story to life. A brief author's note explains his inspiration for Garbage Island and the facts of the very real floating garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean. **VERDICT** This entertaining animal adventure stands out from similar fare because of its strong characters and an underlying message of environmental awareness.-Maeve Dodds, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NC Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Nerdy Dozen (Prebound)



#1969383 (Vol. 03) 20,000 Nerds under the Sea (Prebound)

written by Jeff Miller

Neil and his crew have reunited at Reboot Robiski's video-game convention in order to try the brand-new underwater game, Captain Jolly's Shark Hunt. Except that their win only leads to trouble.

978-1-4844-8765-5 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 5.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Nerdy Dozen (Trade)



#1898546 (Vol. 02) Close Encounters of the Nerd Kind (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jeff Miller

Out of this world! Neil Andertol never thought playing video games would make him a real-life hero. But then his favorite game, Chameleon, turned out to be the training simulator for an actual fighter jet, and Neil and the eleven other high scorers of the game were recruited to fly a top-secret rescue mission for the United States Air Force.

978-0-06-227265-2 ©2015 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 3.4 Lexile 600

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-A top-secret spacecraft, the Newt, has been stolen. With the help of the nerdy dozen, Neil "Astronaut" Andertol, are recruited from NASA to bring it safely back home to planet Earth. Before using their video gaming skills to smoothly navigate the Fossil, a spacecraft, they must pass a few basic training obstacles, including boarding the Vomit Comet. Andertol is chosen to lead the NASA nerdy dozen crew, along with a chimpanzee in a jumpsuit named Boris. While flying into space with little training in a spaceship full of space bananas, Andertol and his crew face several stumbling blocks, such as running away from a monstrous Polar Bear on a Yeti Bobsled inflatable raft and meeting a scientist's kid trapped in a space-bubble-community. Time speeds up as they learn Q-94, the world's most dangerous asteroid, is headed toward Earth. Neil is a born space explorer, and astronomy fans will surely enjoy the story. The short time span of the novel does stretch plausibility. However, there is a great assortment of characters with varying degrees of weirdness, gaming abilities, astronomical jargon, silliness, and, most importantly, a clear mission. The characters are quite interesting and well developed. Middle school students who enjoyed Michael Buckley's "NERDS" series (Amulet) and Dan Gutman's "Genius Files" (Harper) will most likely get a kick out of these books. Reluctant readers who are into online gaming and astronomy will find this an easy action/adventure read.-Krista Welz, North Bergen High School, NJ (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

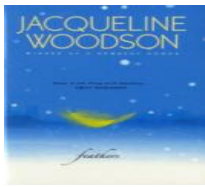
Newbery Honor

#500661 Feathers (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Jacqueline Woodson

When a new, white student nicknamed 'The Jesus Boy' joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. Newbery Honor 2008

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99



978-0-399-23989-2 ©2007 5 x 7-3/4 118 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 5.3 GR Lvl X Lexile 710

Reviews by: Children's Literature Newsletter for Adults Frannie is still trying to figure out exactly what Emily Dickinson meant in the poem her sixth grade teacher read to the class, Hope is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul? Even though she didn't understand it, she wrote it down because she liked the way it sounded, and then she talked to her mama about it and her older brother, Sean, who is deaf and talks in sign language. Her best friend, Samantha, reads the Bible daily and comes to believe that the new boy in class, whom everyone calls Jesus Boy because of his long hair, really is Jesus come back to earth. Frannie doesn't think so, but she is still puzzled about why this white boy would come to a school on this side of the highway, and how he came to know sign language. Once again Jacqueline Woodson brings the reader convincingly into the worldview of a young person who often has to deal with very grown-up issues like death and prejudice and violence and finding your place. Fortunately, as in other Woodson stories, the protagonist has the support of loving family members as she negotiates the shoals of growing up and dealing with an often harsh world. Although Frannie is in many ways a very ordinary girl, with whom girl readers will easily connect, her life circumstances propel her to greater introspection and growth. She is a wonderful role model for coming of age in a thoughtful way, and the book offers to teach us all about holding on to hope.

Reviews by: From the Publisher ?Hope is the thing with feathers? starts the poem Frannie is reading inschool. Frannie hasn't thought much about hope. There are so many other things to think about. Each day, her friend Samantha seems a bit more ?holy.? There is a new boy in class everyone is calling the Jesus Boy. And although the new boy looks like a white kid, he says he?s not white. Who is he? During a winter full of surprises, good and bad, Frannie starts seeing a lot of things in a new light?her brother Sean?s deafness, her mother?s fear, the class bully?s anger, her best friend?s faith and her own desire for ?the thing with feathers.? Jacqueline Woodson once again takes readers on a journey into a young girl?s heart and reveals the pain and the joy of learning to look beneath the surface. About the Author: Jacqueline Woodson, winner of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults, is the author of Newbery Honor winner Show Way, Miracle?s Boys (recipient of a Coretta Scott King Award and a Los Angeles Times Book Prize), Locomotion and Hush (both National Book Award Finalists), among many others. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

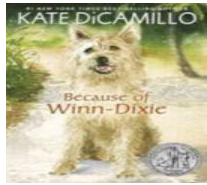
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly The narrator of Woodson's 2008 Newbery Honor title is fascinated with Emily Dickinson's famous couplet Hope is the thing with feathers/ that perches in the soul. Frannie grapples with its meaning, especially after a white student joins her all-black sixth-grade classroom. Trevor, the classroom bully, nicknames him Jesus Boy, because he is pale and his hair [is] long. Frannie's best friend, a preacher's daughter, suggests that the new boy truly could be Jesus (If there was a world for Jesus to need to walk back into, wouldn't this one be it?). Set in 1971, the book raises important questions about religion and racial segregation, as well as issues surrounding the hearing-impaired (Frannie's brother is deaf). Johnson, who also voiced Woodson's Hush, sensitively renders Frannie's narration, and her slow delivery affords listeners the opportunity to fully experience Frannie's keen perceptions. Subtle changes in inflections distinguish the many characters' voices in a skillful performance that enlarges the book's already wide appeal. Ages 9-up. A Putnam hardcover. (June)Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-"Stepped through that door white and softly as the snow," notes sixth-grader Frannie, on the arrival of a pale, long-haired boy to her predominantly black middle school on a winter day in 1971. He is dubbed the Jesus Boy by the class rowdy, and the name seems to suit the newcomer's appearance and calm demeanor. Frannie is confused, not only by declarations that he's NOT white, but that her friend Samantha, daughter of a conservative Baptist minister, also seems to believe that he is Jesus. In light of this and other surprises in her life, Frannie questions her own faith and, most of all, the meaning of the Emily Dickinson poem that she is studying in class, "Hope is a thing with feathers/that perches in the soul/-." How does she maintain hope when her newly pregnant mother has lost three babies already? She also worries about her deaf older brother, Sean, who longs to be accepted in the hearing world. She sees the anger in the bully intensify as he targets Jesus Boy. With her usual talent for creating characters who confront, reflect, and grow into their own persons, Woodson creates in Frannie a strong protagonist who thinks for herself and recognizes the value and meaning of family. The story ends with hope and thoughtfulness while speaking to those adolescents who struggle with race, faith, and prejudice. They will appreciate its wisdom and positive connections.-D. Maria LaRocco, Cuyahoga Public Library, Strongsville, OH (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Reviews by: The Barnes & Noble Review Hope is the thing with feathers / that perches in the soul. Frannie, this novel's 16-year-old narrator, lives with a sweet sense of expectation, a feeling nurtured in her loving home. But even the purest hope does not always materialize. When a white boy nicknamed Jesus Boy joins her previously all-black class, Frannie and one of her friends start to believe that he might indeed be special. An unexpected occurrence snaps them back to reality. Carefully nuanced portrayals and a sensitive look racial segregation, prejudice, and religious faith by a Coretta Scott King Award-winning author.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Frannie is discovering that change does not always come with a bang. Sometimes it can be as simple as a new student showing up at school. The Jesus Boy, as the class calls him, is faced with being the lone white youth in a black school. He

hails from across the highway that unofficially segregates the black and white neighborhoods. The students start grappling with what it means to be different. Should they give the Jesus Boy a chance to settle into the class? Or will they continue relentlessly teasing him? When speculation begins that he really is Jesus, things quietly begin to shift. Hope seems to spread through the cracks of the students' lives. They become a bit gentler with one another. Maybe the Jesus Boy is capable of the type of miracle they need to make it through their urban existence. Frannie sees the humanity in the seams of her family—from her deaf brother's struggle to fit in to her mother's preparation for a new baby. The Jesus Boy also forces the youth to examine the wavering lines defining race. Is he really white, and if he is, why did he not simply stay across the highway? Maybe there is something magical about the Jesus Boy or perhaps the magic lies within the young people whom he encounters. Either way, this book is dynamic as it speaks to real issues that teens face. It is a wonderful and necessary purchase for public and school libraries alike.



#1772622 **Because of Winn-Dixie (20th Anniversary Edition) (Prebound)**
written by Kate DiCamillo

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

978-1-4844-2752-1 ©2021 5 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 4.8 GR Lvl R Lexile 610

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.95

Reviews by: Bookbag Magazine This complicated and wonderful story is not so much about a dog as it is about friendship and loving what you got while you got it.

Reviews by: Childrens Book Watch When ten-year-old Opeal Buloni and her preacher father moved to Naomi, Florida, she adopts a dog and names him Winn-Dixie (after the supermarket where they met). Opal was 3 when her mother left the family. Her father won't speak of her mother. The young girl is lonely, but with the help of her friendly dog, she makes new friends and discovers that life still has a great deal to offer both she and her father. Superb narration by Cherry Jones.

Reviews by: Children's Literature Imagine naming a dog "Winn-Dixie" after the grocery store. Your own name causes kids to mock you "Lunch Meat!" That partly describes India Opal Buloni, a preacher's daughter, who tells us about her first summer in Naomi, Florida. Opal adopts the lovable, mangy dog whose personality changes her life and the lives of the quirky characters in this rural community. The kids think Gloria Dump is a witch but Opal discovers a kind, wrinkled old lady with bad eyesight who wins her friendship when she says, "Since I don't see so well, why don't you tell me everything about yourself so I can see you with my heart." Opal couldn't be happier. "I'd been waiting for a long time to tell some person everything about me, I did." A splendid story with heart, humor and hope. This is Newbery quality. Reviewer: Jan Lieberman

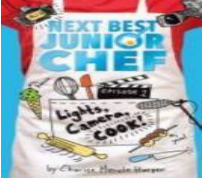
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 10-year old girl learns to adjust to a strange town, makes some fascinating friends, and fills the empty space in her heart thanks to a big old stray dog in this lyrical, moving, and enchanting book by a fresh new voice. India Opal's mama left when she was only three, and her father, "the preacher," is absorbed in his own loss and in the work of his new ministry at the Open-Arms Baptist Church of Naomi [Florida]. Enter Winn-Dixie, a dog who "looked like a big piece of old brown carpet that had been left out in the rain." But, this dog had a grin "so big that it made him sneeze." And, as Opal says, "It's hard not to immediately fall in love with a dog who has a good sense of humor." Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal meets Miss Franny Block, an elderly lady whose papa built her a library of her own when she was just a little girl and she's been the librarian ever since. Then, there's nearly blind Gloria Dump, who hangs the empty bottle wreckage of her past from the mistake tree in her back yard. And, Otis, oh yes, Otis, whose music charms the gerbils, rabbits, snakes and lizards he's let out of their cages in the pet store. Brush strokes of magical realism elevate this beyond a simple story of friendship to a well-crafted tale of community and fellowship, of sweetness, sorrow and hope. And, it's funny, too. A real gem. (Fiction. 9-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly DiCamillo's debut novel, a 2001 Newbery Honor Book, percolates with heartfelt emotion and eccentric Southern color as superbly performed by Tony Award-winning actress Jones. Ten-year-old Opal, lonely in the Florida town where she has just moved with her preacher father, instantly takes a shine to a scraggly stray dog she encounters in the local Winn-Dixie supermarket. The pooch, named for their meeting place, becomes a trusted companion with whom Opal can share her thoughts and fears, and her hurt, confused feelings about the mother who left the family when Opal was three. Winn-Dixie is soon helping Opal in other ways, too. The dog's "smile" and sweet temperament act as ice breakers that allow Opal to meet a whole new group of friends who grow to be an unusual extended family. Jones imbues her depiction of Opal with a tone of youthful, hopeful wonder and skillfully transforms her voice to distinguish the other older, life-weathered characters. A Tennessee native, she never sounds hokey as she adopts a Southern accent, and she effortlessly slips into a compelling storytelling rhythm. This is a top-notch treatment of an award-winning tale. Ages 8-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.

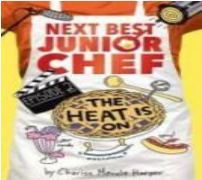
Reviews by: The Five Owls The quick beginning, an essential feature of well-written children's books, carries *Because of Winn-Dixie* forward quite effectively. The stage is set in the first sentence: "My name is India Opal Buloni, and last summer my daddy, the preacher, sent me to the store for a box of macaroni-and-cheese, some white rice, and two tomatoes, and I came back with a dog." Ten-year-old Opal then proceeds to tell the funny story of a stray dog found in the produce department of the Winn-Dixie grocery store, where she calls him as if he were her own in order

to save him from the pound. Because of Winn-Dixie is indeed a dog story, but it is also the story of a child, lonely yet resourceful, who has just recently moved to Naomi, Florida, with her father. It is the story of a motherless child, who longs for the love and comfort that a mother could provide. It is the story of a character finding her way in the world, a character seemingly tentative, yet as starkly defined as her red hair and the big, ugly, smiling stray dog she takes home, washes, and makes her own. And it is the story of Opal's developing friendships with distinctive, well-drawn characters--old Gloria Dump, who is almost blind; the librarian, Miss Franny Block; shy Otis at the pet store--encounters made possible, one way or another, because of the dog, Winn-Dixie. In twenty-six short chapters, DiCamillo has crafted a fine, economical story told in the authentic voice of a child, using regional language and vivid description in a clear, straightforward way. There is immediacy of feeling in this book, perfectly expressing the secret inner life that every child knows. Because of her resourcefulness, demonstrated in the opening chapter and throughout the book at every turn, Opal develops and grows as a character, in both her inner and her outer life. All of this is accomplished through a story worth telling. Children will enjoy Opal's abiding humor and Winn-Dixie's disarming and endearing ways, and the funny and important things that happen when the two of them get together. 2000, Candlewick, Ages 9 to 12. Reviewer: Kathie Krieger Cerra - The Five Owls, November/December 2000 (Vol. 15 No. 2)


Next Best Junior Chef (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2008579 (Vol. 01) Lights, Camera, Cook! (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Charise Mericle Harper</i> Book one in this illustrated chapter book series by seasoned author Charise Mericle Harper about a fun televised cooking competition featuring four very talented junior chefs--on-air and behind the scenes--serving up answers to questions like "how'd these kids get so good at cooking?" and many more! 978-0-544-91260-1 ©2017 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 3.4 GR Lvl S Lexile 600</p>	1	\$12.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 2-5--Food-infused fiction that combines celebrity chefs, reality TV, and a focus on healthy eating. This first installment in an anticipated series is about a lively televised cooking competition featuring four talented tweens: energetic Tate, charming Rae, worldly Caroline, and hypercompetitive Oliver. Through numerous interviews, taste tests, and chopping challenges, readers get to know each character. The black-and-white illustrations complement the story and add humor. There is a bonus in the back matter that includes techniques for aspiring young chefs. VERDICT A mouthwatering read for all foodies. Be sure to save room for the next two volumes.--Paula Huddy, The Blake School-Highcroft Campus, Wayzata, MN Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2049044 (Vol. 02) Heat Is On! (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Charise Mericle Harper</i> Three contestants remain. Which junior chefs will have the chops to make it through week two? And who will have to hang up their apron and go home? 978-0-544-98028-0 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 192 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 4.0 RC Lvl 3.3 Lexile 580</p>	1	\$12.99

Nic Blake and the Remarkables (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2319894 (Vol. 01) Manifestor Prophecy (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Angie Thomas</i> It's not easy being a Remarkable in the Unremarkable world. Some things are cool--like getting a pet hellhound for your twelfth birthday. Others, not so much--like not being trusted to learn magic because you might use it to take revenge on an annoying neighbor. All Nic Blake wants is to be a powerful Manifestor like her dad. But before she has a chance to convince him to teach her, a series of shocking revelations and terrifying events launch Nic and two friends on a hunt for a powerful magic tool she's never heard of to save her father from imprisonment for a crime she can't believe he committed. 978-0-06-322513-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 11.0</p>	1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Book Page Nichole "Nic" Blake and her father, Calvin, have moved 10 times in as many years. In Jackson, Mississippi, Nic has finally managed to make a friend, JP, by bonding over their shared love of the bestselling Stevie James fantasy book series, but there's one thing Nic must hide from her friend. She and her father are Remarkables, born with a Gift that's "more powerful than magic," and this is the year that Nic's father has promised to teach her how to use it, so long as she keeps it a secret from Unremarkables like JP. But when Nic's 12th birthday arrives, Calvin instead gives her a hellhound puppy and the same old promise: "Next year."

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* In a set of gleefully ingenious riffs on African and African American folklore, from "The People Could Fly" to Wakanda, Thomas pitches 12-year-old Nic into a whirl of stunning discoveries about her background as she struggles to understand her own magical gifts while rescuing her secretive dad from the ruthless cops of a hidden, high-tech Black civilization (constructors of an actual underground railroad that inspired the metaphorical one). Along the way, she meets family--including an annoyingly stuffy twin brother--that she never knew she had, and with him and other allies she faces not only a band of dangerous, if comically inept, amateur wizards but a host of supernatural foes, including everything from the Devil's daughter (still smitten with her ghostly beau, High John the Conqueror) to vampires and rougarous. There's even a bona fide dragon lurking near the volcano beneath Jackson, Mississippi, and, adding a generous measure of cuteness to the cast, a tagalong hellhound pup named Cocoa. Sober references to lynching, Emmett Till, and safe behavior while Black in the rural South give further historical and emotional depth to this rousing quest tale's already richly articulated cultural context. While leading up to a melodramatic climax, the author folds in both an ominous prophecy and at least two surprise villains to juice up interest in sequels. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Nic has been eagerly awaiting turning twelve, when her dad will teach her how to tap into the Gift that lives naturally within her and to become as incredible a Manifestor as he is. Unfortunately, he is ripped away from her, accused of a crime she is certain he didn't commit even. Soon, however, shocking secrets emerge about family dynamics, and Nic learns the family stories that were her core truths almost all turn out to be false, or at least way more complex than she believed. She can sort it all out eventually, but for now, Nic, her best friend, and a surprise twin brother need to find a stolen artifact and fix things. The concept of Remarkables hiding among the Unremarkables is certainly a familiar one, but the richly drawn Mississippi setting and creative blending of Black experiences (both historical and contemporary) and African and African American folklore upend most expected tropes. Thomas brings her considerable talents to this first volume of an anticipated trilogy--her characters are well-developed, the world's framework is creative and satisfying, and powerful undercurrents of struggles against injustice add a memorable additional layer lacking in other similar series. Nic is a fantastic narrator, tossing out expositional details and witty insights that inform the reader of key aspects of this world and ensure their commitment to seeing how this will all play out in the final two volumes. AS COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl discovers the truth behind her favorite book series--and her destiny. On her 12th birthday, Nichole Blake's disappointed that her father still won't teach her how to use the Gift. They are Manifestors, the most powerful of the supernatural Remarkables, and they keep their powers secret from the Unremarkables they live among in Jackson, Mississippi. But TJ Retro, Nic's favorite fantasy author, is in town for a book signing--where she learns that not only is he a Manifestor, too, but that he knows her father. Mr. Retro reveals that his books are a fictionalized version of their childhood war against an evil villain. Before Nic can get answers, her father's secrets catch up to him. To prove his innocence, Nic--with the help of a long-lost twin brother and her Unremarkable best friend--must navigate the fantastical secret world of the Remarkables to find a powerful stolen artifact. The first act relies on the narrator's humor and charm to carry the heavy amounts of exposition and to set up familiar fantasy tropes so that stock concepts (like the chosen one) can later be subverted and interrogated in entertaining, thoughtful ways. The Manifestor mythology combines African and African American folklore and Biblical stories, and the book explores Black Americans' historical and present-day traumas alongside a fast-paced adventure and inventive worldbuilding. The ending teases more threats to come. All major characters are Black. Readers will eagerly await the unearthing of more secrets in the next installment. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In Jackson, Miss., homeschooled Nichole Blake is hoping that her single father will finally train her in her Gift as a Manifestor; the most powerful tier of the supernaturally gifted Remarkables, whose innate abilities originate with Africa's Wallinzi tribe. After another Remarkable summons a vision for Nic's 12th birthday; one that turns quickly terrifying; Nic's deeply wary dad forbids her from attending a high-profile book signing. But when Nic goes against his wishes, she discovers something extraordinary: world-famous children's book author TJ Retro is not only also a Manifestor, he's her godfather, and the books she's obsessed with are based in truth. As Nic's developing Gift begins to wreak havoc, and the family secrets her father has kept catch up with them, Nic encounters a prophecy that promises the destruction of the Remarkable world unless a Chosen One can intervene. Thomas (Concrete Rose) brings her trademark voice to an action-packed series kickoff rooted in a mixture of African diasporic myth, biblical references, and U.S. history. Imbuing characters both brave and sweetly vulnerable with unflappable senses of humor amid harrowing circumstances, Thomas creates an elaborate supernatural mythology that boldly confronts fantasy tropes and questions of forgiveness. B&W art by Fiadzigbey (Bunheads) appears throughout. Protagonists are Black. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Molly Ker Hawn, Bent Agency. (Apr.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Nic Blake is a Remarkable, but she and her dad Calvin live in the Unremarkable world, never staying in one place long. Calvin is stalling on teaching Nic to use her powers--apparently she's not mature enough for the immense responsibility. Then, a surprise encounter with someone from Calvin's past reveals that her entire life is much more complicated than she knew; her dad has been accused of kidnapping her and stealing a powerful magical object. Nic sets off on a quest with her Unremarkable best friend, her new brother, and a

pet hellhound. Their goal: to clear Calvin's name, to find the Msaidizi, the magical object, and to keep it out of the hands of the Manowari, the person destined to destroy the Remarkable world. Thomas has been a force on the young adult scene, and her first middle grade novel proves her range extends across genre and age groups; she weaves complex fantasy stories as deftly as realistic ones. This novel in some ways feels like an homage to some of the best works in the genre, both modern and mythical, but the freshness of the story and characters, along with Thomas's control of a multilayered, nuanced plot, makes everything feel brand new. VERDICT A book that will delight young readers and adults alike. Nic Blake is entering the Black fantasy scene with all the confidence and energy of its main character, and we're so glad it's here.--Kristin Brynsvoold
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Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Angie Thomas's first middle-grade title, *Nic Blake and the Remarkables*, is the stupendous story of a supernatural Black girl who must embark upon a dangerous mission.

Night Diary (Trade)



#2363160 Amil and the After (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Veera Hiranandani

At the turn of the new year in 1948, Amil and his family are trying to make a home in India, now independent of British rule. Both Muslim and Hindu, twelve-year-old Amil is not sure what home means anymore. The memory of the long and difficult journey from their hometown in what is now Pakistan lives with him. And despite having an apartment in Bombay to live in and a school to attend, life in India feels uncertain.

Nisha, his twin sister, suggests that Amil begin to tell his story through drawings meant for their mother, who died when they were just babies. (Companion Novel)

978-0-525-55506-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.7 AR Pts 7.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Book Page What happens to a family after a dangerous, life-changing and historic journey? That's the focus of Veera Hiranandani's wonderful *Amil and the After*, which follows 12-year-old Amil and his family, who, during the Partition of India in 1948, have just migrated to Bombay from what would become Pakistan. It's a worthy companion novel to Hiranandani's Newbery Honoree *The Night Diary*, which tells the story of that journey through the perspective of Amil's twin sister, Nisha.

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-6 *Starred Review* Life is quite complicated for 12-year-old twins, Amil and Nisha. Their mother died when they were babies, leaving them in the care of their emotionally distant father and ailing grandmother. Then, the partition of India and Pakistan meant they had to leave their home in Pakistan and move to an apartment in Bombay. Both children exhibit signs of PTSD as a result of the arduous journey through the desert. Making friends in a new place is hard enough, but it is even harder in their context, when Hindu-Muslim tensions crackle in the air and neighbors eye one another suspiciously. Amil struggles in school, and readers might recognize his perception of letters and numbers as akin to dyslexia. He is, however, a talented artist and documents his days by drawing, hoping that somehow his mother can see his sketches and know how his life is unfolding. *Amil and the After* is a searingly emotional middle-grade novel that effectively captures the turmoil and joys of being a kid adjusting to all manner of life changes, all while providing the reader a tangible experience, replete with the tastes, sounds, and atmosphere of bustling post-Partition Bombay. Pencil sketches, supposedly from Amil's journal, add a charming visual dimension. The fast-paced, multifaceted plot will keep readers engaged while bringing them to a satisfying resolution. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In this companion to Newbery Honor Book *The Night Diary* (rev. 7/18), Nisha's twin brother, Amil, resumes the story. Everything was supposed to get better after their family survived the terrifying journey from Mirpur Khas to Bombay following the partition of India in 1947. Now they have a new flat, their father has a job at the hospital, and the twins are attending school. But Amil keeps flashing back to the terrible things he saw and experienced. He tries to quell his anxieties by drawing in his sketchbook (exuberantly depicted by illustrator Miranda), but what he really wants are "a friend and a bicycle." Part of those wishes comes true when he meets Vishal, a mysterious boy from a local refugee camp. When Vishal suddenly disappears, Amil discovers that the point of his own survival may be to help ensure the same for someone else. Fans of the previous title will appreciate this compassionate and thoughtful continuation of the family's story, while new readers can experience Amil's account of hope and survivor guilt as a standalone volume. A glossary and author's note are appended. Jennifer Hubert Swan(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

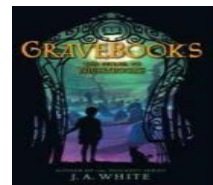
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this stand-alone companion volume to Hiranandani's Newbery Honor title, *The Night Diary* (2018), a boy in post-partition Bombay grapples with the bitter realities of surviving trauma. After leaving their beloved home in Mirpur Khas, which is now part of the newly created Pakistan, 12-year-old twins Amil and Nisha are living in Bombay with their doctor father, paternal grandmother, and beloved family cook. While Amil (whose late mother was Muslim and father is Hindu) is grateful for their newfound safety, he's haunted by memories of their flight. Nisha kept a diary during their journey, and when she suggests Amil should draw to express his feelings, he begins sketching the family's new life. In addition to harboring complicated, painful feelings around his mother's death in childbirth, a result of complications from his breech

positioning, Amil realizes while engaging in his art that his emotions are more intense and complicated than ever. These feelings come to a head when a classmate who was orphaned during the religious violence desperately needs his help, and Amil must decide what to do. This book is a masterpiece of nuance, vulnerability, and emotional complexity. Readers with ancestral connections to the Partition will especially appreciate its layered exploration of the lives of survivors, but Hiranandani provides enough context, skillfully woven throughout, that readers of all backgrounds will find it accessible and absorbing. Final art not seen. A quietly brilliant, deeply insightful story of living in uncertain times. (glossary, author's note) (Historical fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6--Hiranandani's Newbery Honor-winning *The Night Diary* is a family's story of survival. This companion novel is about their struggle to recover after life-changing trauma. Amil, twin sister Nisha, their father, grandmother, and family cook Kazi endured a harrowing flight from their home after the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan. Now living in Bombay, the family struggles to build a new life amid social and political unrest. While Nisha finds solace through writing, Amil expresses himself through drawing. Miranda's spot art effectively conveys Amil's longing for all that he has lost. But at 12, he'd also love to have a bicycle and a friend. How he gains both embodies the novel's themes of hope amid chaos and how kindness can save a life. Kazi advises Amil and Nisha: "Imagine if every person who wasn't suffering helped one person who was." A glossary of South Asian terms, words, and names is included but hardly needed as Hiranandani effortlessly incorporates the tastes, sights, sounds, and history of India in engaging prose. Flashbacks to the first novel round out the narrative and allow this sequel to stand on its own. VERDICT Accessible and engrossing, readers unfamiliar with the historic partition of India and Pakistan will nevertheless readily relate to a boy's yearning for stability in tumultuous times. A first purchase for all middle grade collections.--Marybeth Kozikowski Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness In Veera Hiranandani's *Amil and the After*, a tender companion to her 2019 Newbery Honor-winning *The Night Diary*, Amil, the fraternal twin of the first book's narrator, Nisha, takes center stage.

Nightbooks (Trade)



#2285360 (Vol. 02) Gravebooks (Hardcover (Trade))

written by J. A. White

Alex thought he was done with witches. But when Natacha, the witch who held him captive for scary stories, appears again one night, Alex realizes he's trapped in a nightmare-literally. She's found a way to enter his dreams with a new, terrifying familiar named Simeon. And they once again want Alex to write. Transported to a story graveyard with best friend, Yasmin, Alex will have to complete an original scary story each night. But what does Natacha plan to do with his finished stories? And what makes a story good enough? While Natacha might have control of the beginnings, only Alex has the power to write the ending.

978-0-06-308201-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews witch in his dreams, and the only way out is by completing his unfinished scary stories. This follow-up to *Whit's Nightbooks* (2018) takes place one year later, when Alex and Yasmin think they've seen the last of Natacha, the evil witch who held them captive in her New York City apartment. But when Alex finds himself in a strange graveyard during a nightmare, he's faced with Natacha once again. he's come to demand more scary stories from him, this time from the remains of his unfinished tales, each of which is buried beneath a different tombstone. After completing a story, a plant emerges from the earth; the more original the writing, the more unusual the flower it produces. Eventually, Alex realizes that there is a more sinister creature lurking in his dreams, one eager to possess the flowers and even more dangerous than Natacha. The book opens with a recap of the previous volume, but readers new to the series will be missing a few pieces, as White includes few returning character descriptions and little background context for Alex and Yasmin's friendship. Nevertheless, they will appreciate the incredible concept behind this nightmarish setting. Alex's embedded short stories are interesting and inventive; the novel is chilling but not outright terrifying or gory. The courage, trust, and creativity of the book's lead duo add depth and heighten reader investment. A refreshing, imaginative take on supernatural evildoers. (Horror. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Nightmare Thief (Trade)

#2205127 (Vol. 01) Nightmare Thief (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Nicole Lesperance

Twelve-year-old Maren loves working in her family's dream shop where she can hand-craft any dream imaginable. The shop has only one rule. Dreams cannot be given to a person without their consent. Maren has no problem with this--until her sister has

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



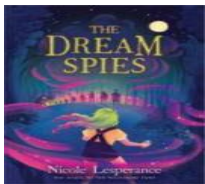
an accident that leaves her in a coma. Maren's certain she can cure Hallie with a few well-chosen dreams. Figuring nobody will find out, she slips Hallie a flying dream.

978-1-7282-1534-1 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 830

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Employing sensory details and potent imagery, Lesperance (*The Wide Starlight*) constructs a fanciful world in which dreams and nightmares are a commodity, created, bought, and sold. Desperate to help her older sister, Hallie, who's in a coma following an accident, 12-year-old Maren Partridge breaks her dream-making family's number one rule; no giving dreams without the receiver's consent; by sneaking Hallie a pleasant one on her birthday. Maren is blackmailed for the act by sinister Ms. Malo, an insect-wielding enigma with a "hearty appetite" for nightmares: in exchange for an escalating supply of horrifying dreams and forbidden ingredients, she'll keep Maren's secret to herself. As the inhabitants of whimsically magic-infused Rockpool Bay begin suffering odd mishaps, Maren struggles to escape her tormentor's demands. But when her grandmother is kidnapped, it's up to Maren and her former best friend, Amos, to rescue Gran-Gran and thwart Malo's scheme. Lesperance crafts a resourceful heroine whose loyalty forces her to confront a difficult situation and come out stronger. She also folds a satisfying sense of wonder into the quaint town, balanced with a chilling element of darkness. Ages 8: 14. Agent: Kathleen Rushall, Andrea Brown Literary. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–8—Disaster strikes the magical New England town of Rockpool Bay. Maren Partridge, described as having pink and green braids, shares her family's talent for dreammaking but lives a nightmare. Her older sister Hallie, blond with freckles, is in a coma, and Maren's parents can't pay the medical bills. Maren promises her Gran-Gran Lishta she will follow the family's dream contract and not give a dream without consent, but petrified over her sister's prognosis, Maren sneaks Hallie healing dreams. Observed by the malicious, dark-haired Ms. Malo, Maren is blackmailed into making nightmares. Matters worsen when Malo traps Maren, her curly haired friend Amos, and her Gran-Gran in an abandoned theater. Malo tortures them with nightmares in an elaborate revenge plot on Rockpool Bay. Maren's ingenuity and a French-speaking parrot save the day. What begins as a sweet fantasy conceit grows into an intense adventure with vivid horror elements. Lesperance fully develops Maren's gut-wrenching emotions, from her fear for her sister and her family's finances, to violating her Gran-Gran's trust, to the dread of exposure, to the absolute terror of being held captive under constant threat of anaphylactic shock (Maren is allergic to bees, and Malo surrounds her with magical ones). The detailed descriptions of Rockpool Bay's safe, nurturing magic contrast with Malo's creeping dream-induced evil. The happy ending may be pat, but readers will appreciate some joy after going through the wringer. None of the characters have race or skin tone described. VERDICT A hair-raising, nontraditional horror novel with fantastical elements. Will have universal appeal for children who don't mind a scare.—Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Lib. Assoc., CT



#2265385 (Vol. 02) **Dream Spies (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Nicole Lesperance

Maren's life has finally gone back to normal. Her sister, Hallie, is recovering from her coma, she's still allowed to work in her family's dream shop, and there's been no sign of Obscura, the evil nightmare thief. But when Lishta, Maren's grandmother, finds an ad for a sleepaway camp designed for dreamers, alarm bells start to ring. Lishta's never heard of these camp directors, which worries her, and prompts Maren to begin an investigation.

978-1-7282-1537-2 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 After saving her magical seaside town, Maren is grateful to return to normalcy. Her sister, Hallie, has recovered from her accident and subsequent coma, and the girls are thrilled to be back in their grandmother's enchanted shop, carefully crafting dreams for curious customers. All seems right in the world until they notice an odd ad for a mysterious sleepaway camp for child dreamers. Dream-making is a small, tightly regulated industry, but these proprietors are unfamiliar, and their approach unorthodox. The girls and their grandmother go undercover at the questionable camp to sleuth out its secrets, and though all initially appears rosy, an escalating series of eerie events leads the trio to fear that something sinister lurks behind the dreamy facade. It's a delight to drop back into Maren's marvelous world, and though the sequel takes a more lighthearted tone, there are still some chilling moments and a compelling mystery to unravel. Big reveals, new magic, and a bananas ending will keep readers hooked in this summer-camp mystery with plenty of magic to go around. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Maren is excited to go undercover at summer camp to spy on camp directors who are promising participants lessons in dream-taking and dream-making. Maren's Gran-Gran owns a dream shop, and she knows almost everyone who makes dreams. But she's never heard of camp directors Calvin and Malvin Peppernot and is suspicious. Is it possible that they, like the evil Obscura Gray, whom Maren defeated in *The Nightmare Thief* (2021), want to use powerful magical dreams for nefarious purposes? Maren, her sister, and Gran-Gran get to work investigating. Alarmingly, the camp staff hand out dreams willy-nilly and seem unconcerned when campers don't wake up from them. Maren is especially surprised that fellow camper Ivy's grandmother, who works in the dream shack where campers can buy more dreams, is not worried. That some of the dreams are comically familiar and slightly dangerous makes them all the more creepy, for example, when a few girls dream that they're hungry caterpillars. As before, Maren is an endearing, plucky sleuth. The pace quickens and things turn more sinister when it becomes clear that there's a mastermind with nefarious goals. Family and loyalty lie at the center of the story, with Maren's close-knit community serving to ground and support her. The cast is default White. A colorful, entertaining romp. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Octagon Valley (Trade)



#2333066 (Vol. 01) (Super Secret) Octagon Valley Society (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Melissa De la Cruz

Edwin Edgefield has high hopes for the weekend-hopes he'll meet other kids like him—kids who will accept him even though he's got a photographic memory, genius level math skills and some very specific personality quirks. But when he meets the other kids, he starts to wonder if they're all in the right place. Turns out the Octagon Valley is all about using teamwork to make the dream work, and these normally isolated kids might not all survive. But those who do will be treated to the greatest prize—and the biggest surprise—of their lives—a chance to be truly EXTRAordinary.

978-1-368-08374-4 ©2023 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist In a tale that owes much to *The Mysterious Benedict Society* (and certain other classics), de la Cruz sends eight particularly talented middle-schoolers selected in a nationwide contest to a science center built in the remote Montana mountains by “the incredibly mysterious and blindingly brilliant” inventor Onasander Octagon. There they are pitched into bonding adventures related by an unnamed narrator, who trots in to lead the visitors on a grand tour while genially deflecting questions and posing a series of challenges on the way to enlisting their help to hide a batch of a powerful, reality-destroying element called *Impossibilium*. Diverse in race, culture, and family situation, the young folk, behind reluctant brainiac leader Edwin, throw off years of being variously ostracized, bullied, and coddled to survive fire, flood, piranhas, ninjas, a siren (of the singing sort), and other trials by learning how to be friends and teammates—and, not to be sneezed at, discovering that besides being smart or at least athletic, they all have actual superpowers.— John Peters

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Eight singular middle schoolers from across America find belonging in a series of escape room–type challenges. Each sixth grader assumes that winning a coveted spot to spend three days at the Octagon Valley Institute led by Willy Wonka–esque Onasander Octagon, an ethnically ambiguous multiracial tech genius, means winning a “golden ticket to the rest of your life.” However, they soon realize that instead of an academic conference, they will each have to utilize their particular skills to find eight puzzle pieces in a high-stakes scavenger hunt. They face a pool of piranhas! A magical maze! Navigating the multiverse! But how can they work together when they each have powerful psychological defense mechanisms to combat fear, even if it’s just the fear of being wrong? Only when they accept their emotions, take chances, and face their vulnerabilities do they overcome obstacles, discover hidden talents, and learn how to be teammates—and even friends. The eight kids’ diverse personalities offer a wide range of connection opportunities for readers. The omniscient third-person narrator ingeniously blends snarky humor, lessons in emotion regulation, and nuggets of wisdom throughout, though readers may miss some references that read adult. The kids are ethnically diverse; some are white, and others have families who are Jamaican, Filipino, Korean, or Indian. They also represent neurodiversity and struggles with anxiety. A series opener that successfully combines emotional intelligence and page-turning adventure. (Adventure. 9-12)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly De la Cruz (the *Chronicles of Never After* series) marries a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory plot with a Nickelodeon adventure vibe in this entertaining series opener. Following a nationwide assessment of American sixth graders, eight are invited to Montana's prestigious Octagon Valley Institute for a three-day summit of lectures and workshops; "It's like winning a golden ticket to the rest of your life." From across the country, the eight students of intersectionally diverse backgrounds gather, ready to discover the top-secret, cutting-edge projects in development. Upon their arrival, though, the Institute's enigmatic multiracial founder, Onasander Octagon, informs them that they must participate in one more assessment. It's a scavenger hunt through the compound's most top-secret areas, and it will require both teamwork and individual aptitude. While solving puzzles and defeating increasingly dangerous challenges, such as a room with slowly closing walls and a piranha-filled river, several of the children discover new angles to their strengths and weaknesses. But when they perceive the true secret behind the weekend's activities, it reframes their perceptions of themselves and the Institute. An energetic omniscient narrator utilizes self-aware humor to keep things moving, while rotating perspectives allow insight into the cast members' personalities and motivations. With its fast pace and

imaginative scenarios, this novel has plenty of appeal. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Richard Abate, 3Arts Entertainment. (Sept.)

Omega City (Trade)



#1993450 (Vol. 02) Forbidden Fortress (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Diana Peterfreund

Gillian Seagret is not having a great summer. Her mother's come back with plans to move Gillian and her brother across the country, and her father is away promoting his new book on Omega City--without her! Though Gillian and her friends were the ones to find the lost doomsday bunker, no one seems to care about their thoughts on the whereabouts of its creator, Dr. Underberg, or learning the truth about the Shepherds, a mysterious group that will stop at nothing to keep Underberg--and Omega City--a secret.

978-0-06-231088-0 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99



#2049061 (Vol. 03) Infinity Base (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Diana Peterfreund

Gillian Seagret thought she knew everything about the secrets of Omega City, the mysteries of the rocket scientist Dr. Underberg, and the evil conspiracies of the organization called the Shepherds. But she's about to learn that uncovering the truth is the easy part. You also have to fight for it.

978-0-06-231091-0 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 630

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.99

Omega Morales (Prebound)



#2346766 (Vol. 01) Omega Morales and the Legend of La Lechuza (Prebound)

written by Laekan Zea Kemp

Omega Morales's family has been practicing magic for centuries in Noche Buena. But Omega's powers don't quite work, and it leaves her feeling like an outsider in her own family. When a witch with the power to transform herself into an owl-known in Mexican folklore as La Lechuza-shows up unannounced, Omega, her best friend Clau (who happens to be a ghost), and her cousin Carlitos must conduct a seance under a full moon in order to unravel the mystery of the legend.

978-1-5364-8188-4 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 352 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 9.0

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.95

Reviews by: Booklist Omega Morales comes from a family of empaths that spans generations, but in the town of Noche Buena, there are those without powers that shun her and her family, causing them to be more reclusive. Omega has powers that she is still developing at what seems like a much slower pace than her cousin Carlitos. When La Lechuza, a witch in Mexican folklore who could transform into an owl, shows up in Noche Buena and begins to cause trouble, Omega notices that her powers begin amplifying. Omega, Carlitos, and Clau, their ghost friend, set about to solve the mystery of La Lechuza and her connection to Omega. With a fun mixture of the supernatural, Mexican folklore, and generational magic, Kemp creates an entertaining story that touches upon family, friendships, and loss. The illustrations and Spanish text sprinkled throughout help to enhance the story and reel in the reader. This title would be a perfect choice for those who enjoyed Lotería (2021), by Karla Arenas Valenti.

Reviews by: Horn Book y of empaths, enchanters who can read and influence the emotions of people and objects around them. Omega struggles to control her power, causing her to feel like an outcast within her family. Her inability to manage her magic also means that she cannot control how much the feelings of others affect her, forcing her to isolate herself from her emotion-filled classmates. When the trees talk of a scary being haunting the city, Omega goes in search of answers and discovers the legend of La Lechuza, a terrifying witch with the power to transform herself into an owl. Could La Lechuza be responsible for the violent occurrences happening throughout the city? Omega, cousin Carlitos, and best

friend Clau (a young ghost who has refused to pass on to the afterlife) work to unravel the mystery before it's too late. Kemp's middle-grade debut is an entertaining, sometimes frightening, and thought-provoking story that comments on generational trauma, bullying, friendship, and family. Readers will relate to Omega's struggles to trust herself in difficult situations.


Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine Omega Morales comes from a family of empaths, enchanters who can read and influence the emotions of people and objects around them. Omega struggles to control her power, which causes her to feel like an outcast within her family. Her inability to manage her magic also means that she cannot control how much the feelings of others affect her, forcing her to isolate herself from her emotion-filled classmates. When the trees talk of a scary being haunting the city, Omega goes in search of answers and discovers the legend of La Lechuza, a terrifying witch with the power to transform herself into an owl. Could La Lechuza be responsible for the violent occurrences happening throughout the city? Omega, cousin Carlitos, and best friend Clau (a young ghost who has refused to pass on to the afterlife) work to unravel the mystery before it's too late. Kemp's middle-grade debut, with Morales's black-and-white art interspersed, is an entertaining, sometimes frightening, and thought-provoking story that comments on generational trauma, bullying, friendship, and family. Readers will relate to Omega's struggles to trust herself in difficult situations. S. R. Toliver(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Deep empathy is a special power but a double-edged sword for a Mexican American girl in this middle-grade debut from Kemp. The town of Noche Buena is precariously divided between families with magic and those without. Omega Morales, whose best friend is a ghost from Venezuela, is a descendant of a long line of magic practitioners who use their abilities to empathize in a variety of ways to assist others, but Omega feels out of place as she struggles with her burgeoning power while it appears to come so easily to others. Amid this internal and external turmoil, an ominous creature of myth has been spotted in the community: La Lechuza. Hoping to mend rifts, Omega sets out to discover the truth of La Lechuza's identity and the meaning behind her appearance. At each turn adults seek to stymie her efforts, yet Omega feels drawn to La Lechuza in an inexplicable way. As her ties to the town's tormentor are revealed, so too are generations of secrecy and trauma alongside the true power--and dangers--of Omega's empathic abilities. Kemp weaves a page-turning plot while executing a satisfyingly slow reveal of the story's core secret and the characters surrounding it. Readers will be eager to discover what Omega does next and to unveil more of the magical world of Noche Buena. A satisfying mystery with depths to plumb. (Paranormal. 9-13) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Mexican 12-year-old Omega Morales feels like the odd one out in the small town of Noche Buena, and in her tight-knit magical family of empaths. While her cousin Carlitos is a natural at controlling his powers, Omega, who's half human as opposed to fully magical; can barely keep her abilities from giving her a stomachache. When an ex-friend accuses Omega of being behind the recent disappearances of neighborhood cats, she wonders what could be stirring up trouble. Accompanied by Carlitos and their best friend Clau, a ghost from Venezuela, Omega digs deeper into the terrifying mystery behind folkloric witch La Lechuza, uncovering long-buried secrets about her own family, and her powers, along the way. Kemp (Heartbreak Symphony) skillfully follows even the most antagonistic characters' interiority throughout, cultivating empathy and understanding around experiences contributing to their behavior. Silver linings balance emotionally fraught moments involving bullying, death and grief, and hate in this well-crafted tale that manages to both deliver scares and elicit laughs. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Andrea Morrison, Writers House. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--In the small, south Texas town of Noche Buena, magic folk live alongside non-magic. The Moraleses are empaths, able to feel the emotions of others around them. Unlike her family, Omega has not yet obtained the ability to successfully manipulate those feelings, something that has overwhelmed her and caused her to become ill more than once. After her best friend Abby broke off their friendship, Omega finds comfort and company with her cousin Carlitos and Clau, a ghost who suddenly appeared one day and has been living with them. When cats in the neighborhood start disappearing, Omega, Carlitos, and Clau try to dig deeper into the mystery--one that leads them to suspect that a legendary creature known as La Lechuza has arrived in their town. Omega unearths truths about her family, her abilities, how La Lechuza is connected to her, and who truly is behind the dark happenings. This fast-paced and fantastical middle grade novel will envelop readers in its magical but also familiar world as Omega deals with the complexities of friendship, bullying, and first love--all while trying to control her magical abilities. Along with Omega, tweens will discover the power of memories and love, as well as the reality that not all monsters are supernatural. Full of dark mystery and unique and memorable characters, Kemp's middle grade debut will enchant readers. VERDICT Heartfelt and suspenseful, this title is an excellent choice for middle grade collections.--Selenia Paz Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Omega Morales (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2350110 (Vol. 02) Omega Morales and the Curse of el Cucuy (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Laekan Zea Kemp</i> After discovering that she has the unique ability to affect the emotions of supernatural creatures, Omega is certain she's strong enough to handle the feelings of others on Dia de Muertos. But when darkness overwhelms her, it's a sign that not only is she still vulnerable but that there may be a new malicious presence in Noche Buena. 978-0-316-50887-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 336 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$16.99

Once Upon a Broken Heart (Trade)



#2245848 (Vol. 01) Once Upon a Broken Heart (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephanie Garber

For as long as she can remember, Evangeline Fox has believed in true love and happy endings...until she learns that the love of her life will marry another. Desperate to stop the wedding and to heal her wounded heart, Evangeline strikes a deal with the charismatic, but wicked, Prince of Hearts. In exchange for his help, he asks for three kisses, to be given at the time and place of his choosing.

978-1-250-26839-6 ©2021 6 x 9-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 14.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12 Teenage Evangeline, who's lost both her parents in a year and been subject to the whims of her stepfamily, is in love. The problem is that she's in love with Luc, who is preparing to marry her stepsister. Evangeline seeks out one of the 16 Fates, the Prince of Broken Hearts, and strikes a bargain: he will stop the wedding if she gives him three kisses. But Evangeline's relief is short-lived once she discovers how the Prince has stopped the wedding and the aftermath of his actions: the immortal Fates return to the world and wreak havoc. Evangeline herself seems to have escaped the Prince's notice--for the moment. Garber, best known for her lush and poetic *Caraval* series, will no doubt have readers flocking to this new series. The potential for the coming installments is huge, as the glimmers of a larger world introduced in this volume are sure to stoke reader curiosity. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Evangeline is horrified to learn that her secret beau is set to marry her stepsister, so she makes a bargain with the Prince of Hearts to stop the wedding. As the tricky Fate is wont to do, however, the Prince hardly plays fair, halting the marriage but destroying any chance Evangeline has with her former lover. Even worse, he ensnares her in a dangerous plot that brings her to the Magnificent North, where she's to betray that kingdom's prince and open the Valory Arch, releasing only the Fates know what into the world. In this story set just after the events of *Finale* (BCCB 6/19), Garber expands her world, introducing a new realm but still building the mythology established in the original series. The new atmosphere is rife with intrigue and betrayal, but Evangeline herself is a bit of sop, and her constant focus on finding someone to marry eclipses the more compelling plot machinations. The Prince reprises his role as the aloof but alluring bad boy and lends some needed heat to scenes, but the pair's chemistry never totally sparks. Further details about the Valory Arch and a prophecy involving Evangeline put some steel into her spine, however, and the sequel promises a feisty heroine bent on revenge. KQG COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide After her stepsister steals her beau, Evangeline seeks out supernatural intervention to stop their wedding. The Prince of Hearts (Jacks, a charismatic Fate whose kiss is deadly to all but his true love) agrees, demanding as payment that Evangeline kiss three people of his choosing. At the ball where Crown Prince Apollo will choose his bride, Jacks assigns the first kiss, and it's with the prince himself. Instantly Prince Apollo is -- magically? -- smitten. But where do all these strings Jacks is pulling ultimately lead? Garber's (*Caraval*, rev. 3/17, and sequels) take on a fairy-tale setting is fresh and vigorous, with lush atmospherics, a protagonist who believes in impossible endings, and a magnetic Prince of Hearts whose connection to Evangeline becomes more compelling the more they see of each other, even as she grows to doubt his trustworthiness. Political intrigue (both mortal and immortal) adds a swirl of exhilaration to the plot. (Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

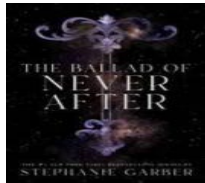
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine After her stepsister steals her beau, Evangeline seeks out supernatural intervention to stop their wedding. The Prince of Hearts (Jacks, a charismatic Fate whose kiss is deadly to all but his true love) agrees, demanding as payment that Evangeline kiss three people of his choosing. At the ball where Crown Prince Apollo will choose his bride, Jacks assigns the first kiss, and it's with the prince himself. Instantly Prince Apollo is -- magically? -- smitten. But where do all these strings Jacks is pulling ultimately lead? Garber's (*Caraval*, rev. 3/17, and sequels) take on a fairy-tale setting is fresh and vigorous, with lush atmospherics, a protagonist who believes in impossible endings, and a magnetic Prince of Hearts whose connection to Evangeline becomes more compelling the more they see of each other, even as she grows to doubt his trustworthiness. Political intrigue (both mortal and immortal) adds a swirl of exhilaration to the plot. Anita L. Burkam(Copyright 2021 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews After praying to a Fate for help, Evangeline discovers the dangerous world of magic. When her father passes away, Evangeline is left with her cold stepmother and kind but distant stepsister, Marisol. Despite inheriting a steady trust in magic, belief in her late mother's homeland of the mystical North (where fantastical creatures live), and philosophy of hope for the future, her dreams are dashed when Luc, her love, pledges to marry Marisol instead. Evangeline desperately prays to the Prince of Hearts, a dangerous and fickle Fate famed for his heart that is waiting to be revived by his one true love--and his potentially lethal kisses. The bargain they strike sends her on a dark and magical journey throughout the land. The writing style fluctuates from clever and original to overly verbose and often confusing in its jumble of senses. While the pervasive magic and concept of the Fates as a religious system add interest, other fantasy elements are haphazardly incorporated without enough time devoted to building a cohesive world. However, the themes of love, the power of story, family influence, and holding onto belief are well

rounded and add depth. The plot contains welcome surprises, and the large cast piques curiosity; readers will wish more time was spent getting to know them. Evangeline has rose-gold hair and, like other main characters, reads as White; there is diversity among the fantasy races in this world. A lushly written story with an intriguing heart. (map) (Fantasy. 12-16) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly First in a series spun off from her *Caraval* trilogy, Garber's dreamy fantasy follows 17-year-old Evangeline Fox, whose boyfriend, Luc Navarro, unexpectedly proposes to her stepsister, Marisol Tourmaline. Luc and Marisol are virtual strangers, and Luc won't explain, so Evangeline assumes her stepmother bewitched them both and strikes a deal with a cunning, immortal Fate known as Jacks and the Prince of Hearts, to stop the wedding; in exchange, Evangeline must later kiss three people of his choosing. Jacks halts the ceremony, but after his methods cause misery for everyone involved, Evangeline and Marisol journey from the Meridian Empire to the magical Magnificent North. Hoping for a fresh start, they'll attend festivities designed to find Prince Apollo a bride. Upon arriving, however, Evangeline encounters Jacks and realizes that their trip is somehow part of his plan. Evangeline, Marisol, and Jacks are cued white; several supporting characters have brown or olive skin. Despite some frothy plotting, Garber enchants readers with exquisitely imagined worldbuilding and her trademark heady romance. Evocative if occasionally overwrought prose adds to the tale's dreamlike feel. Ages 13: up. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 8 Up--Evangeline thinks she has found true love with Luc, until he betrays her and abruptly proposes to her stepsister Marisol. Her anger and hurt cause her to do the unthinkable--pray to Jacks, a Fate known as the Prince of Hearts, who has a reputation for being untrustworthy. He grants her request to stop the wedding in exchange for three kisses. But the stories about Jacks were right, and while Jacks does stop the wedding, Evangeline finds herself in quite a predicament. The lush worldbuilding Garber is known for is on full display here. While there is a modern edge to the characters, they're dressed in corsets and other 19th-century garb, while dealing with magical spell books, curses, and vampires. Evangeline, with her rose-gold hair, is a feisty but sweet heroine. The pacing is dynamic--it's hard to put this one down. The cliff-hanger ending is a clear setup for a sequel, but no one will be complaining about the opportunity to revisit this intricately imagined world. Most of the main characters are cued white with the exception of Luc, who is described as having brown skin. Fans of the "Caraval" series will no doubt be happy to see Jacks in his own leading role, but this spin-off series opener can be enjoyed without knowledge of that story. VERDICT Garber already has a following, so expect this to circulate well.--Mandy Laferriere, Fowler M.S., Frisco, TX Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2290355 (Vol. 02) Ballad of Never After (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephanie Garber

After Jacks, the Prince of Hearts, betrays her, Evangeline Fox swears she'll never trust him again. Now that she's discovered her own magic, Evangeline believes she can use it to restore the chance at happily ever after that Jacks stole away. But when a new terrifying curse is revealed, Evangeline finds herself entering into a tenuous partnership with the Prince of Hearts again. Only this time, the rules have changed. Jacks isn't the only force Evangeline needs to be wary of. In fact, he might be the only one she can trust, despite her desire to despise him.

978-1-250-26842-6 ©2022 6 x 9-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 13.0

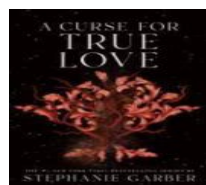
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 9-12. "If you are tempted to trust him again, remember all that he's done." So begins a letter from lead character Evangeline—one she wrote herself. Previously used as a tool and plaything for Jacks, the Prince of Hearts, one of the capricious Fates introduced in *Once upon a Broken Heart* (2021), she knows she has a weakness for him and his magical ways. Between her cursed husband, Apollo, and her first love, Luc—now a bloodthirsty vampire—Eva can hardly keep track of the odds stacked against her. She's been determined never to trust Jacks again, but it's starting to seem like she has no other choice—and Jacks certainly doesn't seem willing to give her one. Garber has created a lush fairy-tale world and each book in this series expands the lands and the Fates who torment them. While Evangeline remains the main character, it's a delight to continue to see how she relates to everyone around her, from Fates like Jacks and LaLa, to her husband Apollo, and her (actually wicked) stepsister Marisol.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Evangeline faces new dangers in her quest for happiness in this follow-up to 2021's *Once Upon a Broken Heart*. As Evangeline Fox seeks a cure for her poisoned husband, Prince Apollo, the enticing and infuriating Fate Jacks reappears, offering to save Apollo if she unlocks the Valory Arch. Remembering the long list of ills brought upon her by the Fate, Evangeline refuses. When the new heir arrives and Apollo wakes with a new curse and glowing red eyes, she is forced to delve into the mysteries of the Valors and find the arch's four missing magical stones whose powers are luck, truth, mirth, and youth. The inclusion of expanded Valor lore alongside the preexisting blend of fairy-tale and paranormal creatures is intriguing and fits the overarching theme of storytelling as history. The ongoing use of emotions as a scale for displaying and determining one's humanity, especially by Fates, is equally interesting. Unfortunately, the impact of Evangeline's often amusing narration and numerous surprising plot twists is diluted by the meandering pacing, convoluted sensory descriptions, and close focus on Evangeline's fluctuating attraction toward her potential love interests. Despite the positive emphasis on hope and happily-ever-afters, Evangeline's romantic relationship with Jacks borders on manipulative and toxic. Evangeline reads White; side characters are fantasy diverse. A disappointing

delivery on a potentially gripping second volume.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 9 Up—This sequel to *Once Upon a Broken Heart* jumps right back into the action with Evangeline willing to go to desperate lengths to save Apollo. The only person she believes can help her is Jacks. She agrees to open the Valory Arch for him, but it's not long before a new curse slows them down and puts Evangeline's life in danger. Again, she's faced with the decision—can she trust a Fate? And can they both get what they want? Nonstop adventure and multiple twists will keep fans turning pages, and the will-they-won't-they nature of Jacks and Evangeline's relationship will leave readers breathless. Unfortunately, Evangeline hasn't grown much as a character, and her decisions are often frustrating. However, those who have yearned to return to this world won't be disappointed. Another cliffhanger ending all but ensures more to come. Most characters cue white; a few have "olive" or darker skin. VERDICT Recommended for fans of romance and fantasy, and where the first book was popular.—Mandy Laferriere



#2348581 (Vol. 03) Curse for True Love (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephanie Garber

Evangeline Fox ventured to the Magnificent North in search of her happy ending, and it seems as if she has it. She's married to a handsome prince and lives in a legendary castle. But Evangeline has no idea of the devastating price she's paid for this fairytale.

978-1-250-85120-8 ©2023 6 x 9-1/4 448 pgs.

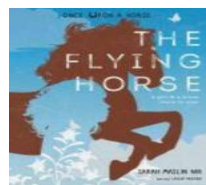
Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$20.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Despite living her happily-ever-after, Evangeline can't help but strive to recover her lost memories in this trilogy closer. Evangeline Fox awakens in the strong arms of Prince Apollo, her apparent husband, who swears to protect her from the evil Lord Jacks, who stole her memories. Unfortunately, Evangeline remembers nothing of her long and complex journey in the Magnificent North or her past romances; only the pain in her heart lets her know something is missing. At Wolf Hall, Evangeline seeks ways to unlock her missing memories, including enlisting the help of a mysterious guard named Archer, even as Apollo's behavior becomes more and more controlling. The pacing and plot feel stagnant at first, with Evangeline remembering things in flashes and moments of brief feelings, but things finally pick up once her memories return. With the point of view rotating among Evangeline, Apollo, and Jacks, there are few narrative surprises, but it's intriguing to delve into the minds of an antagonist and a Fate. The story's inclusion of the legendary Valors and the fantastical fairy-tale setting are unfortunately overshadowed by the love triangle's dramatic tug-of-war romance. Likewise, the book's various themes--power, hope, stories, and the nature of humanity--are of interest but handled in an unfocused way. The conclusion, at least, is satisfying, and it hints at future tales set in this world. Evangeline, Jacks, and Archer read white; Apollo has dark hair and olive skin. Frustratingly slow and lacking in magical wonder. (map) (Fantasy. 14-18) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 8 Up-In this highly anticipated finale to Garber's latest trilogy in the "Caraval" universe, Evangeline (who reads white) awakens with all of her memories from the past year erased. Her husband, the handsome Prince Apollo (who is Black), promises to keep her safe and whisks her back to a seemingly fairy-tale life. Her lack of memories leaves her unsure of whether she should trust Apollo, who is determined to kill the charming but villainous Lord Jacks who Apollo claims was responsible for a long list of heinous crimes. As she slowly pieces together her past, Evangeline rediscovers her love for Jacks and realizes she must stop him from making an irreversible mistake in a foolhardy attempt to keep her safe. As always, Garber's worldbuilding is lush and captivating. The beautiful prose make for a smooth, quick read, and the characters are witty and complex. The first half of the book leaves Jacks and Evangeline separated, but the second half of the book more than makes up for the lack of witty banter and forbidden romance in the first half. Garber has successfully crafted a love story that has left readers rooting for a villain from the "Caraval" series. The ending is predictable, but will give fans what they've been waiting for. VERDICT Readers will be on the edge of their seats to get to the stunning finale of this much-loved series.-Candyce Pruitt-Goddard

Once Upon a Horse (Trade)



#2317859 (Vol. 01) Flying Horse (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sarah Maslin Nir

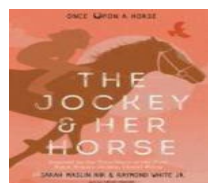
Trendsetter is a horse destined to fly--in more ways than one. Sarah is a horse-loving seventh grader who has a secret and a fear of losing the one thing she loves most in the world. Separated by an ocean, a horse and a girl's parallel struggles to be their best include lots of luck and grit, some stubbornness, and a few failures. It is only when they find each other that the two kindred spirits find themselves.

978-1-951836-67-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/4 192 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The stories of a horse named Trendsetter and a girl named Sarah unexpectedly intertwine. The first foal of the season born to his farm in Luttelgeest, Netherlands, Trendsetter is viewed as exceptional from the start, and he's expected to become a talented show jumper. But between the pressure of competition and unfeeling trainers, stubborn Trendsetter refuses to perform at two crucial events, and a new owner takes him to America to train as an Olympic horse. Meanwhile, over 3,000 miles away in New York City, Sarah, a horse-loving 10-year-old, struggles with her schoolwork because she has trouble spelling. As years go by, she decides to stop doing her homework altogether, but when her beloved grandmother falls ill, Sarah is inspired to try again in order to write Grandma Frieda's story of fleeing Austria to escape Jewish persecution. Chapters alternate between Trendsetter's and Sarah's perspectives and include life lessons within the context of the story. As their stories move closer to their linked destiny, Trendsetter and Sarah finally meet in an ending that will melt hearts and leave readers dabbing away happy tears. Readers will readily draw parallels between the two characters, both of whom struggle with doing what's expected of them and who flourish with kindness and encouragement. Physical descriptions of characters are minimal. An uplifting tale that will especially resonate with horse lovers. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-14) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2342723 (Vol. 02) Jockey & Her Horse: Inspired by the True Story of the First Black Female Jockey, Cheryl White (Hardcover (POB))

written by Sarah Maslin Nir

Cheryl loves horses. She's been studying thoroughbreds at her family's horse racing stables since she was old enough to ride on the shoulders of her father, a famous horse trainer. Cheryl wants to be a jockey. One problem-she is a girl, and there has never been a Black female jockey in history! Jetolara is a young thoroughbred finding his place in the herd. When Cheryl literally falls onto his back, and Jeto sprints off across the pasture, Cheryl discovers that she doesn't just want to be a jockey, she is a jockey-and she and Jeto were born to race.

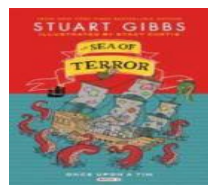
978-1-951836-69-6 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5--History becomes more inclusive by amplifying the remarkable stories of lesser-known groundbreakers. One such story is that of the first female Black jockey Cheryl White. Horse racing rose to popularity after being brought to America by enslaved Africans, and many of the earliest career jockeys were African Americans, like Oliver Lewis, winner of the first Kentucky Derby. In the 20th century, jockeying became a sport of white male competitors--a fact that didn't faze 17-year-old Cheryl White. Growing up on a thoroughbred horse farm in the 1960s as a third-generation horse trainer meant White had horse racing in her blood. White's tenacity and talent for jockeying was met in equal measure with the rampant racism and sexism of the time. Though obstacles came in many forms from many sources (even her father was hesitant to support her competing), White built a tremendously successful jockeying career. Coauthored by White's brother Raymond White, Jr. and journalist Nir, this biographical narrative sticks closely to the events of Cheryl's life as they transpired, the only exception being a quiz-show trip to Senegal. Young readers, especially those who are girls of color, will find a spark in White's achievements. VERDICT Pulitzer Prize-nominated Nir takes the notion of a horse book and elevates it to a work of inspiration. A recommended purchase for public and school library collections.--Sarah Simpson Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Once upon a Tim (Trade)



#2323234 (Vol. 03) Sea of Terror (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stuart Gibbs

After helping Princess Grace foil the villainous Prince Ruprecht--twice!--junior knights Tim, Belinda, and Ferkle are on a new quest--this time to recover the Queen of Merryland's precious golden fleece (and more importantly, the protective amulet in its pocket) from the Kingdom of Dinkum. The safety of all Merryland depends upon them.

978-1-6659-1744-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 176 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 3.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$12.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Knights-in-training Tim and Belinda undertake a terrifying sea voyage to fetch a golden fleece and a few other treasures. Mostly what's terrifying is that they have Sir Fass, Sir Render, and the rest of the Kingdom of Merryland's inept, aptly named, and, as it turns out, treacherous Knight Brigade as shipmates...though surviving such nautical hazards as sirens, not to mention Scylla and Charybdis, are (not unlike a monstrous bargeboar, whose allergy to paprika leaves everyone covered in snot) nothing to sneeze at. Cribbing blithely from ancient

sources but working in some inventive twists of his own--the song of the sirens, for instance, is so awful that rather than luring sailors to their deaths, it results in them wrecking their ships to avoid hearing it--Gibbs steers his young adventurers from one near disaster to the next before doing readers the disservice of leaving the pair hurtling toward certain death on the last page. As in previous outings, Curtis adds comical line drawings of knights in armor grimacing or looking confused to nearly every spread, and the author pauses the action periodically to define relevant vocabulary building words like overcompensating, nauseous, and (irritatingly) cliffhanger. Most of the cast presents White in the interior art, though Belinda appears to be Black. More knightly shenanigans, tongue deeply in cheek. (Fantasy. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



#2351497 (Vol. 04) Quest of Danger (Hardcover (POB))

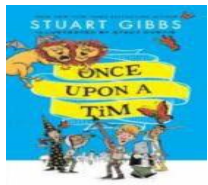
written by Stuart Gibbs

Tim and his ragtag crew have been rescued from certain doom by a mermaid princess--but now, she wants something in return for saving their lives: her father King Neptuna's stolen trident.

978-1-6659-1747-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 176 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$12.99



#2269882 (Vol. 01) Once upon a Tim (Hardcover (POB))

written by Stuart Gibbs

Tim is just a peasant, but he dreams big. He wants more out of life than to grow up to be a woodsman like his father. Unfortunately, the only route to success in the kingdom of Merryland is to be born a prince. Still, Tim is determined. He is brave and clever and always tries to do the right thing--even though he rarely gets the credit for it. Then news spreads that Princess Grace of the neighboring kingdom has been abducted by the evil Stinx and Prince Ruprecht needs a legion of knights to join him on his quest to rescue her. Tim finally has the lucky break he's been waiting for, the opportunity to change his station in life. And even though he doesn't know how to ride a horse or wield anything more deadly than a hoe, he's going to do whatever it takes to make sure his dream becomes a reality.

978-1-5344-9925-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 710

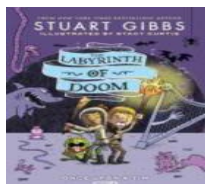
Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$12.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 2-5 Tim and his friend Belinda (disguised as a boy), two peasants during the Middle Ages, seize an opportunity to become knights by accompanying a cowardly prince and his ineffectual wizard on an expedition to save a princess from the dreaded Stinx that has captured her. After an action-packed journey through the Forest of Doom, down The River of Doom, and across the Chasm of Doom, they reach the Stinx's lair. Gibbs peppers his prose with entertaining side comments as well as "IQ boosters," explaining terms such as malodorous, iconoclast, and infinitesimal, while maintaining the pace of the narrative. This giddy romp through a medieval setting, complete with menacing trolls and gigantic, bloodthirsty butterflies, is the start of a promising series from the author of Spy School (2012) and its sequels. COPYRIGHT(2022) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Thinking that it's better to be fake knights than real peasants, Tim and his best buddy, Belinda, sign up to rescue a captured princess. Unaware that they've been snookered into a dastardly scheme, the two youngsters hear that Princess Grace from the next kingdom over has been carried off in the claws of a fearsome and funky "stinx" and volunteer to accompany (reputedly) brave and noble Prince Ruprecht and his (reputedly) powerful magician Nerlim on a rescue mission. Accompanied by village idiot Ferkle, whose habit of shoving mud in his pants effectively lowers the level of humor even further, the two ersatz knights weather the Forest of Doom, the River of Doom, and a "troll bridge" across the Chasm of Doom despite a suspicious lack of assistance from either the prince or the magician...and arrive to discover that neither the stinx nor the princess is quite as expected either. In fact, the princess ends up being the rescuer ("That's what you call irony," she comments) when Ruprecht and Nerlim announce their intention to seize her and do away with any inconvenient witnesses. Tim and Belinda are rewarded with promotions for their efforts; readers will come away with both a cogent warning from Gibbs about the dangers of falling for fake news and better vocabularies due to his penchant for flagging significant words like gullible and malodorous in the narrative and then pausing to define and use them in sample sentences. Along with a full-spread map, Curtis supplies frequent pen-and-ink sketches of the cast in comical poses and straits. The races and ethnicities of the characters are not specified in the text, though cover art depicts characters of various skin tones. Budding heroes defeat class and gender expectations as well as the occasional monster in this wry outing. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Diverting from anything seen at the Round Table, Gibbs (the Spy School series) brings his lighthearted touch to medieval times in this energetic series starter. When a nefarious monster absconds with Princess Grace of a neighboring kingdom, cowardly Prince Ruprecht seeks knights to join him on his rescue. Since, according to self-described peasant Tim, "the worst part of being a peasant isn't really what we don't have. It's what we can't do," he and his best friend Belinda sign up for tryouts, hoping to change their fates. In doing so, they enter into a dastardly plan concocted by Ruprecht and court advisor Nerlim, who aren't actually seeking knights (the kingdom can't afford them following a bad investment) but "people who they could fool into thinking that they were knights." A comic quest follows, with scares and laughs abundantly on offer. Sketch-style b&w art by Curtis (Penguin and Moose Brave the Night) visualizes the paper white: skinned cast's hijinks. Tim's chatty, entertaining narration, which includes ample potty humor and the occasional vocabulary "IQ booster," also touches on lessons about stereotypes and unconscious bias throughout the chatty, madcap adventure. Ages 7: 10. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–5—A quest to save a princess turns out to be nothing like the fairy tales suggest. Narrated by Tim, a peasant boy with a surprisingly rich vocabulary and complete knowledge of all the things that don't exist in his world, this romp follows Tim and his best friend Belinda, who seize the opportunity to join Prince Ruprecht and Court Magician Nerlim as they head off to rescue Princess Grace (who, it turns out, doesn't actually need to be rescued). Along for the adventure are Ferkle the Village Idiot (only pretending because it's the family business) and Rover, Tim's Fr-dog (an enormous frog who was once a dog... oh, it's a long story). The prince isn't brave, the magician can only do card tricks, and the monster isn't so very monstrous. Along with the enhanced vocabulary and extreme silliness, there is discussion of societal expectations. All characters are cued as white. VERDICT Will kids understand all of the references? Possibly not, but the humor, enhanced by Quentin Blake-esque illustrations, will definitely find an audience with kids looking for a quick, funny read.—Mara Alpert



#2300521 (Vol. 02) Labyrinth of Doom (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stuart Gibbs

Prince Ruprecht is VERY UPSET that knights-in-training, Tim and Belinda, have thwarted his plans and ruined his chances with Princess Grace. And so, to get even, he has kidnapped the princess and trapped her in the most complicated, dangerous, complex, dastardly, biggest (okay you get the point)...and scariest maze in all the world!

978-1-5344-9928-7 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 770

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$12.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Princess Grace of Merryland needs rescuing again, forcing two young knights-in-training to face a series of challenges, from hungry cave sharks to a minotaur named Chad. Actually, Princess Grace is perfectly capable of rescuing herself--again: see Once Upon a Tim (2022)--except that this time, kidnapers have stashed her in a room that's locked and bolted on the outside...and in the middle of a maze billed, supposedly, as "the most complex and dastardly labyrinth in the world." So it is that former peasants Tim and his more capable friend Bull--otherwise known as Belinda when she's not disguised as a boy--plunge into a mess of dark and bewildering tunnels, armed with a ball of twine provided by the surprisingly sapient village idiot Ferkle, to face a series of deadly threats...though the most legendary of all turns out to be an amiable monster with the body of a bull and the head of, well, a dude. Throughout Gibbs' lighthearted, laugh-out-loud tale, Curtis supplies proper notes of farce or stark terror as appropriate in flurries of line drawings that present most of the humans and the monsters with human features as White, though Belinda appears to present as Black. Along the way, Tim adds educational value to his narrative by flagging and then pausing to define vocabulary-building words like laborious and vexing. A lighter-than-air blend of knightly exploits and rib-tickling twists. (Fantasy. 10-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

One and Only Ivan (Trade)



#2379058 (Vol. 04) One and Only Family (Hardcover (Trade))

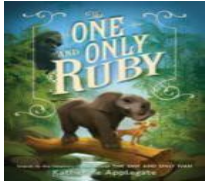
written by Katherine Applegate

Ivan loves being a papa, even though it can be hard sometimes. But as he navigates the joys and challenges of parenthood, he can't help but recall his life before the glass walls of the mall circus, his own childhood in the jungle-and his own twin.

978-0-06-322112-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99



#2323429 (Vol. 03) **One and Only Ruby (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by Katherine Applegate

Ruby's story picks up a few months after the events of *The One and Only Bob* as her caretaker from the elephant orphanage in Africa where she grew up is visiting. Seeing him again brings back a flood of memories of her life before the circus, and she recounts the time she spent in the African savannah to Ivan and Bob.

978-0-06-308008-9 ©2023 5-1/2 x 7-3/4 240 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 *Starred Review* In this latest from Applegate, the elephant introduced in *The One and Only Ivan* (2012) gets to tell her life story to friends at the Wildworld Zoological Park and Sanctuary. Ruby, aka Duni (her African keeper's name for her) aka Nya (her birth name), hates her new nickname, Tuskday. It signals her tusks are emerging and that she will soon have her Tuskday, which is "like a birthday party, only without the fun." There is a deeper reason, though, why everything about her tusks bothers her, and when Ruby is visited by the keeper who helped save her when her mother was killed by hunters, it stirs memories that she relates to her friends Ivan, the silverback gorilla; Bob, the dog; and the leader of her present herd, Aunt Akello. In the guise of a growing-up tale, the story leads readers to ponder the ecological devastation of the ivory trade, the difficulties of being torn from your homeland at an early age, and the horrors of many circuses and zoos. But countering that is also the joy of friendship, humans' kindness toward animals, and the joy of just being a kid, as described in Ruby's descriptions of the fun she has during "pondplay," "mudfun," and her "floppy-run." For fans of *Ivan* as well as animals in general, this is a special sequel. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Little Ruby, the baby elephant featured in *The One and Only Ivan* (BCCB 02/12) and *The One and Only Bob* (BCCB 05/20) has come a long way since her time as a roadside attraction at The Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, and she's flourishing now in the care of her adopted herd at the Wildworld Zoological Park and Sanctuary. Lately, however, she's been plagued with worries about her upcoming Tuskday, when the other elephants in her herd will celebrate the arrival of her tusks. She's not interested in being the center of attention or having to give a speech-at least, those are the reasons she gives to others about her anxiety. The truth, however, comes from a place of deeper trauma, and it's only revealed when she's encouraged by Ivan and Bob to talk about her experience as a baby on the African savanna. Applegate yet again shows her ability to explore grief and its lifelong ripples with a subtle tenderness, balancing the joy of Ruby's current life and relationships with the fact that Ruby only lives in the sanctuary because she lost a mother to poachers and was forcibly relocated multiple times (eventually to the U.S., where readers of previous books will know she lost yet another maternal figure). The direct narrative tone gives depth to her personality: Ruby can be as mischievous and playful as she is stubborn and sometimes angry. Ivan, Bob, and Ruby all share terrible experiences at the hands of ignorant and even cruel humans, and while Applegate shows their current caretakers as compassionate people, she never offers redemption to those that hurt the friends and acknowledges the traumas that will stay with the trio for a long time. An elephant glossary is provided in frontmatter while an author's note discussing conservation, ecotourism, and elephant endangerment concludes the book. KQG COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide After *The One and Only Ivan* (rev. 1/12) and *The One and Only Bob* (rev. 7/20), it's now young elephant Ruby's turn to tell her story. Having relocated to a new wildlife park in Florida (with Ivan, the silverback gorilla; and Bob, the wisecracking dog), Ruby has been adopted into a new elephant herd. Tuskday (the "traditional celebration after the arrival of a young elephant's tusks") is fast approaching, and she is exceptionally anxious about the rite of passage. Ruby gets an unexpected visitor one day when Jabori, who cared for her in an elephant orphanage in Africa, comes to visit. This joyful reunion provides the impetus for her to share the full story of her traumatic past, beginning with her mother being hunted and killed for her tusks. A conversation with the wise matriarch of the wildlife park's herd gives Ruby the courage to proceed with the Tuskday celebration. The book features Applegate's trademark verse-prose; appealing spot illustrations; and the hallmark themes of the series: adversity, trauma, friendship, resilience, and hope. An author's note discusses the plight of elephants in captivity and the continuing devastation of the ivory trade in the wild. (Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)


Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine . 1/12) and *The One and Only Bob* (rev. 7/20), it's now young elephant Ruby's turn to tell her story. Having relocated to a new wildlife park in Florida (with Ivan, the silverback gorilla; and Bob, the wisecracking dog), Ruby has been adopted into a new elephant herd. Tuskday (the "traditional celebration after the arrival of a young elephant's tusks") is fast approaching, and she is exceptionally anxious about the rite of passage. Ruby gets an unexpected visitor one day when Jabori, who cared for her in an elephant orphanage in Africa, comes to visit. This joyful reunion provides the impetus for her to share the full story of her traumatic past, beginning with her mother being hunted and killed for her tusks. A conversation with the wise matriarch of the wildlife park's herd gives Ruby the courage to proceed with the Tuskday celebration. The book features Applegate's trademark verse-prose; appealing spot illustrations; and the hallmark themes of the series: adversity, trauma, friendship, resilience, and hope. An author's note discusses the plight of elephants in captivity and the continuing devastation of the ivory trade in the wild. Jonathan Hunt(Copyright 2023 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this follow-up to 2020's *The One and Only Bob*, Ruby the elephant is still living at Wildworld Zoological Park and Sanctuary. She's apprehensive about her Tuskday, a rite of passage for young elephants when she'll give a speech in front of the rest of the herd. Luckily, she can confide in her Uncle Ivan, who is next door in Gorilla World, and Uncle Bob, the dog who lives nearby with human friend Julia. Ruby was born in an unspecified part of Africa, later ending up on display in the mall, where she met Ivan, Bob, and Julia. The unexpected


arrival of someone from Ruby's past life on the savanna revives memories both warmly nostalgic and deeply traumatic. An elephant glossary and Castelao's charming, illustrated guide to elephant body language help immerse readers in Ruby's world. Goofy, playful, and mischievous Ruby is fully dimensional, as she has shown her bravery during the many hardships of her young life. Applegate deftly tempers themes of grief and loss with compassion and humor as Ruby finds her place in the herd. The author's note touches on climate change, the illegal ivory trade, and conservation efforts, but the highly emotive framing of the story through the memories of a bewildered baby elephant emphasizes the impact of lines such as " 'in Africa,' I say softly, 'there were bad people,' " without offering readers a nuanced understanding of the broader context that drives poaching. Certain to steal hearts. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Lovable baby elephant Ruby is the delightful narrator of this follow-up to *The One and Only Bob*, which further chronicles the animal's difficult journey to the wildlife park and sanctuary where she now lives. As the story picks up, Ruby laments that "nobody ever listens to the littlest elephant," especially concerning her dreaded upcoming Tusksday celebration, a rite of passage that she has no interest in recognizing. Doted on by her adopted elephant "aunts," and counseled by gorilla Ivan, who lives in a nearby enclosure, and dog Bob, who visits regularly, Ruby is safe and surrounded by loved ones. But an unexpected visit awakens memories both welcome and harrowing, including those making her reluctant to celebrate her tusks. Ruby's playful yet sage voice traces the events that brought her from her unspecified African savanna home to the mall where she and Ivan previously lived, and, at last, to the sanctuary. With her trademark blend of frankness and hope, Applegate details dire circumstances facing elephants in the wild, including climate change and poaching, while elucidating their fierce loyalty and highlighting, via the three protagonists' unforgettable bond, myriad interspecies relationships. A concluding author's note offers further context. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Elena Giovinazzo, Pippin Properties. (May)

One and Onlys (Trade)

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2300704 (Vol. 02) Finally, Something Dangerous (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Doug Cornett</i> As the excitement from the last mystery the One and Onlys solved is starting to dwindle, Shanks, Peephole, and Paul worry that their town is back to being boring old Bellwood. But as plans for a shiny town makeover get underway, they realize that the "old Bellwood" is anything but. But the One and Onlys can't deny that something nefarious seems to be afoot--especially if the robot crow they stumbled upon is any indication. 978-0-593-43292-1 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 750</p>	1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Who's ready to sniff out some crime? The One and Onlys--Gloria Longshanks "Shanks" Hill, Alexander "Peephole" Calloway, and Paul (still no nickname) Marconi--return in this sophomore outing. Although technically Peephole isn't an only child since the birth of his baby sister, Trillium, the group name is really good, so they kept it. This time Shanks serves as the narrator, guiding readers through the evolving town of Bellwood, where Mayor Frank Pilkington is aggressively pushing a platform of newness and wants the residents to start patronizing the sleek, national restaurant chains that have been popping up around the city. Along with the restaurants, the town has been experiencing a wave of scents drifting through the air, from the sweet smell of ice cream to the mouthwatering aroma of pizza. But when the denizens start queuing up at their old favorites, the foul odor of sewer pipes frequently sends them running toward the corresponding chain restaurants instead. Who could be responsible for these crimes against mom-and-pop stores? And are they connected to the recently spotted robot crows seen around town? As before, Cornett plays fair with the clues, allowing young sleuths to potentially solve the case ahead of the detectives. A subplot regarding the historically unequal treatment of Black citizens of Bellwood integrates seamlessly into the story, providing readers with some food for thought after the denouement. The central cast reads White; there is racial diversity among supporting characters. A tasty treat for any mystery lover. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2158873 (Vol. 01) Finally, Something Mysterious (Library Binding (Trade)) <i>written by Doug Cornett</i> Paul Marconi has always thought that Bellwood was a strange town, but also a boring one. Not much for an eleven-year-old to do. Hundreds of rubber duckies have appeared on the lawn of poor Mr. Babbage without any explanation. Finally! There is something that Paul and his friends can actually investigate. 978-1-9848-3004-3 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs. Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 790</p>	1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Things get weird in the small, isolated town of Bellwood when hundreds of rubber duckies first appear on Mr. Babbage's lawn, along with a dead fish in his tree, and strangely the grass is soaked despite an ongoing drought; later those ducks are stolen from an evidence locker only to show up in the middle of nowhere. In come the One and Onlys, three fifth-grade detectives: Shanks (whose feisty personality makes up for her slight stature); Peephole (a boy with photographic memory); and mystery buff Paul Marconi, who hope to crack the case before Officer Portnoy stumbles upon the solution. At the same time, the all-important Triple B (Bellwood Bratwurst Bonanza) competition approaches and the Marconis hope for victory, Peephole's little sister is born prematurely, and a wildfire burns just outside of town. This is a diverting mystery with clever misdirection that will keep readers guessing until the end. Despite the addition of real world drama, the focus of the novel is lighthearted overall, and the story comes full circle back to the happy-go-lucky mysterious duckies. Perhaps one of the funniest aspects of this crime story is that it lacks a crime, but there's still plenty of entertainment and satisfaction: Team Marconi are the Wieners, Peephole trades anxiety for the role of protective big brother, and the young detectives wait for the next mystery, which will assuredly appear. QB

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Paul Marconi, 11, loves to solve mysteries with his best friends, Shanks and Peephole, aka the "One and Onlys." All only children, they are the perfect team of sleuths: level-headed Paul "sniffed out the mysteries," fearless Shanks takes risks, and anxious Peephole's photographic memory documents crime scenes. Their sleepy community is preparing for its annual bratwurst cook-off, despite a wildfire burning beyond the town. When hundreds of rubber duckies mysteriously appear on the front lawn of Mr. Babbage, five-time bratwurst champion, the One and Onlys want to know who put them there. But Officer Portnoy won't let them near the evidence, Peephole is worried about the imminent birth of a sibling, and the whole town is preoccupied with the competition. Cornett caters nicely to his audience with amusing scenes; one suspect serenades the duckies with a tuba; and caricature, as with Portnoy, a classically clueless cop. The mystery slowly unspools with well-placed clues and red herrings, while subplots, such as the arrival of an ominous new megastore, lend depth to the lighthearted mystery. With the hint of more to come, the One and Onlys seem primed to become a popular trio among readers who enjoy an old-fashioned whodunit. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Penelope Burns, Gelfman Schneider/ICM Partners. (Apr.)

Operation Kinderspion (Trade)



#2366701 (Vol. 01) Max in the House of Spies (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Adam Gidwitz

Quantity **Unit Price**
1 **\$18.99**

There was once a boy who had two invisible, immortal creatures living on his shoulders. This was the fourth most interesting thing about him. The first most interesting thing about Max-that was his name-was that he was a genius. He could make a working radio from the junk at the bottom of a trash can. Sent away to London, Max Bretzfeld discovers he's been joined by two unexpected traveling companions-a dybbuk named Stein and a kobold named Berg-one on each shoulder. 978-0-593-11208-3 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 680

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-6 *Starred Review* What if the Holocaust hadn't happened? What if someone had stopped it sooner? What if that someone was . . . a child? In 1939, Max Bretzfeld, a savvy 11-year-old with a penchant for radios, begrudgingly leaves his parents in Berlin as danger escalates there for German Jewish families like his. With a mischief-making kobold that appears on one shoulder and a dybbuk on the other, Max adjusts to life in London with his affluent Jewish foster family, who, thanks to connections in the British intelligence community, reluctantly help Max train to return home to infiltrate Nazi ranks as a spy. Clever Max plays the long game with determination, and his agency is refreshing. While humorous and Holocaust story aren't descriptors typically combined (unless you're Taika Waititi), those familiar with the mordant wit of Gidwitz's Newbery Honor Book and Sydney Taylor Book Award winner *The Inquisitor's Tale* (2016) will appreciate Gidwitz's steady gift for finding moments of levity in horrendously dark situations. This first story of the Operation Kinderspion duology ends with Max in a white-knuckle situation, and the pre-WWII tale should read well alongside adventurous youth-resistance stories like Margi Preus' *Shadow on the Mountain* (2012) and Shirley Hughes' *Hero on a Bicycle* (2013). This heartfelt historical novel explores big questions of autonomy and allegiance with an admirable protagonist readers will respect and adore. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine From the moment eleven-year-old Max Bretzfeld arrives in England as a Jewish evacuee from WWII Germany (accompanied by two immortal, opinionated, and invisible-to-others creatures, a kobold and a dybbuk), his overriding desire is to return to Berlin. The preternaturally clever, resourceful Max has always protected his gentle parents, practiced as he is at anticipating the actions of bullies and staying ahead of their next moves. Who now will protect his parents from the Nazis? When he realizes that one of the men in his Jewish foster family works for British Naval Intelligence, he resolves to find a way to use that connection to be accepted as an undercover agent and sent back to Germany. Clearly, Gidwitz's (*The Inquisitor's Tale*, rev. 11/16) story calls for a great deal of suspension of disbelief, but the unlikely and fantastical elements are balanced by a rich and realistic depiction of WWII London, from the snobbery of life at an elite boys' school (including entrenched antisemitism) to the Blitz. Max's training as a spy is described in riveting detail, with readers rooting for the determined boy even as we know the dangers awaiting him if he passes the test. A cliffhanger ending (a sequel is promised) adds even more tension. An author's note gives more background on the historical and folkloric figures, settings, and events of the novel; an annotated bibliography is appended. Martha V. Parravano(Copyright 2024 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

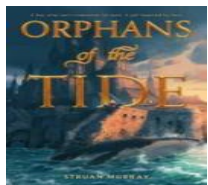
Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A determined refugee will do whatever it takes to get back to his parents--even becoming a British spy in Nazi Germany. When 11-year-old Max Bretzfeld, a Jewish boy from Berlin, is sent to England on the Kindertransport in 1939, he's accompanied by two tiny men on his shoulders whom only he can see. The German kobold and Jewish dybbuk rarely interact with Max, but they comically comment on his circumstances. And such circumstances! After a working-class upbringing, he's fostered in England by Jewish baron Lord Montagu. Most of the white non-Jewish people Max encounters are shudderingly classist, racist, and antisemitic, but after a childhood in Nazi Germany, this is hardly new. Nonetheless, he'll do anything to get back to his parents, and thus, Max sets out to become a spy. While it may be hard to convince British intelligence to send him back to Germany, Max will do whatever it takes. Despite the compelling premise and likable characters, readers will have to wait for the sequel for a payoff. After a strong start, the kobold and dybbuk are relegated to the roles of Greek chorus, and the story's fascination with the real-life people who inspired the secondary characters is such that various questions concerning them are intriguing but remain unresolved in this volume. Nonetheless, this book--packed with sideways thinking, sociopolitical insights, and a Marmite-eating kangaroo named Kathy--delights. A duology opener with a truly likable hero and clever puzzling. (historical note, annotated bibliography) (Historical fiction. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After Kristallnacht, things continue getting worse for German Jews, prompting the parents of highly intelligent 11-year-old Max Bretzfeld to send him to England via the Kindertransport. Though Max doesn't want to go; especially because he often feels as if he's the only one looking out for his meek parents; they insist. Max ends up living with the Montagus, an aristocratic family of British Jews, and he did not arrive alone. He's joined by two invisible companions: a dybbuk, or Jewish evil spirit, on one shoulder and a kobold, or German folk spirit, on the other. When Max realizes that one of the Montagus is a British spy, he endeavors to become one as well, believing it to be the quickest way to return to Berlin to search for his parents. Gidwitz (the Unicorn Rescue Society series) imbues Max's first-person voice with plentiful charm and intellect, making him an irresistible and irrepressible protagonist even his otherworldly tormentors can't help but grow fond of. The compelling plot, which occasionally stretches credulity, boasts an exciting mixture of triumphs and perils, leading up to a cliffhanger ending that will have readers clamoring for the sequel. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Sarah Burnes, Gernert Company. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Gidwitz's latest is absolutely everything a reader could want in a World War II spy novel. Max is sent away from Berlin by his Jewish parents at the brink of WWII. Alone and scared, Max finds himself accompanied by two immortal and incorporeal creatures, a dybbuk and a kobold. Named Stein and Berg, these two offer comedic insights and observations in classic Gidwitz style, with sarcasm and wit in equal measure. Max must engage his full mental capacities to survive anti-Semitic bullies. He then must work his way into training to become the youngest spy for Britain, all in hopes of getting sent back to Berlin to be reunited with his parents. Brilliant, funny, and full of twists and turns that engage both the heart and the mind, this novel will have readers clamoring for the follow-up in the duology. Newbery Honoree Gidwitz is at the top of his form using humor, fantastical creatures, and in-depth research to bring this story zestfully to life. VERDICT Highly recommended for all collections serving middle grade and older readers who enjoy smartly written historical novels.--John Scott Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Reviews by: Shelf Awareness Max in the House of Spies is a spirited and rambunctious middle-grade World War II novel that follows a Jewish boy on his quest to become a British spy.

Orphans of the Tide (Trade)



#2258455 (Vol. 01) Orphans of the Tide (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Struan Murray

Ellie has always been told that there's nothing beyond the shores of her small, salty island. That is, until a mysterious boy washes in with the tide, trapped inside the belly of a whale. The citizens of the City believe he's ruled by the Enemy. The Enemy is said to take possession of human bodies, and the ruthless Inquisition is determined to destroy it forever. Ellie knows the boy is innocent, but in order to save him, she must prove who he really is.

978-0-06-304311-4 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 The City looms out of the ocean, surrounded with buildings submerged by the Enemy, a god that destroyed the other gods and regularly possesses an innocent individual to be its Vessel. When a boy emerges alive from the stomach of beached, cut-open whale, the Inquisitors of the City decide that he's a Vessel of the Enemy and must be executed. It's up to Ellie, who has taken over her late mother's inventing business, and her best friend, Anna, who lives in the orphanage, to rescue the boy they call Seth. When Seth demonstrates an ability to control the ocean, the girls know they have to help him escape the seabound City. Murray has written a complex and often dark tale about friendship, courage, love, and loyalty, filled with well-rounded characters with complex personalities and motivations. He depicts the City in carefully crafted detail while maintaining the pace of the intricate plot. Vivid characters, a breathtaking story, and the promise of a sequel all come together in this alluring middle-grade fantasy. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books world, after the god known as the Enemy drowned the other gods and the world-thirteen-year-old Ellie takes a keen interest in a boy who had to be cut out of the inside of a whale. There's immediate panic that the boy, dubbed Seth by friends Ellie and Anna, is the Vessel, the human the Enemy chooses every few decades to mooch energy off of until it can emerge from their body. Using the diary of the last Vessel, who documented his experience, Ellie tries to prove Seth's innocence despite his strange magic that controls the sea-but she has dark secrets of her own. This UK import sweeps readers right into a complicated world that revolves around religious panic and executes common fantasy tropes well and interestingly. Murray expertly parses out pieces of world building alongside foreshadowing for his multiple story-shattering plot twists, making this one hard to put down. NB COPYRIGHT(2021) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

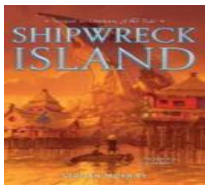
Reviews by: Horn Book Magazine In the Last City, one of the final outposts of land against the rising seas, a whale becomes beached atop some of the lower-lying drowned houses. Twelve-year-old Ellie, an energetic, practical-minded girl with a knack for inventions, punctures the carcass to let out the gases of decomposition. Shockingly, a boy around her own age emerges from the hole in the whale. Despite Ellie's protestations, he's taken away by the Inquisition, as Inquisitor Hargrath believes he is the Vessel, a person the noncorporeal Enemy uses as a steppingstone to wreak havoc on the City. But Ellie knows he's just a boy who must be rescued. Chapters about Ellie's efforts to free and then hide Seth (as Ellie's sidekick and fellow orphan Anna names him) alternate with pages from the diary of Claude Hestermeyer, a scholar who became the Vessel a generation ago and was then killed. It's through these diary pages that readers begin to suspect the grand plot twist that controls the entire second half of the book, raising the stakes by several orders of magnitude. Against a deep backstory, Murray deploys levers of guilt and love to ensnare a believable protagonist in an impossible situation, then provides her with the kinds of friends to help her get out of it. The explanation of Seth's origins fits into the story's framework with a satisfying completeness, capping off a psychologically intricate, steampunk-infused horror tale that will please adventure-lovers as well. Anita L. Burkam(Copyright 2022 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this British import, a girl struggles to do what is right. Decades ago, the Great Drowning destroyed most of civilization; only a small island called the City remains. Periodically, the God Who Drowned the Gods, known as the Enemy, possesses a citizen of the City as its human Vessel, through which it gains power and sows destruction before the City's power-hungry Inquisitors find and execute the Vessel by burning them alive. When a boy with light-brown skin and blue eyes is discovered inside the belly of a whale beached on top of a church, everyone in the City is convinced the new Vessel has arrived--everyone except Ellie, that is. The orphaned daughter of Hannah Lancaster, the City's inventor, Ellie makes it her mission to protect the boy, figure out his secret (and why he can manipulate the ocean with his emotions), and keep her own tragic backstory and deepest secret safe. She's aided by her best friend from the orphanage and Lord Castion, a town leader who was friends with her mother. Excerpts from the diary of the last Vessel are interspersed between third-person chapters that follow Ellie. The pacing is compelling, but superfluous details detract from the narrative, and several worldbuilding questions remain unanswered, presumably leaving space for the sequel. Blond Ellie reads as White; Castion has dark-brown skin and uses a prosthetic limb. A promising series opener, although the quality ebbs and flows. (map) (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly After the death of her brother and inventor mother, orphaned gadgeteer Ellie Lancaster, 12 and coded as white, is left responsible for maintaining many of the intricate mechanisms that help "catch whales, gather oysters, filter seawater, and more" for the inhabitants of the City, a last bastion of humankind that juts out of the flooded world's sea. When a dead whale washes up onto one of the island's rooftops, Ellie frees an amnesiac boy, blue-eyed and light brown: skinned, from its stomach, calling him Seth. The City's Holy Inquisition swiftly declares the newcomer a Vessel of the Enemy; a rogue god who periodically manifests and terrorizes society; and sentences the boy to death. To prove Seth's innocence, Ellie sets out to find the true Vessel with assistance from charming but capricious Finn and adventurous best friend Anna. Alternating an intriguing third-person narrative with first-person accounts from the previous Vessel, Murray weaves an ambitious tale of paranoia, religious zealotry, and adventure. A strong sense of unexplored history combined with the dynamic characters and atmosphere offers potential for further exploration, and readers will enjoy Ellie's struggle to protect her friends and home. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Stephanie Thwaites, Curtis Brown. (Dec.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6—The City is the only land in existence—or really only part of it, since the majority of it sank underground in the tragic Great Drowning. Ellie, a bedraggled, pale-skinned girl rescues a boy from the belly of whale. Unfortunately, as soon as the light brown-skinned, muscular Seth emerges from the whale, the City guards believe he is the new Vessel who contains the Enemy, the evil god that destroyed The City, and decide the only way to save them all is to kill him. Ellie makes it her mission to save Seth and along with redheaded orphan Anna and her mysterious blond, pale friend Finn, she attempts to figure out who Seth is and where he's from. Ellie, however, has her own dangerous secret. The pace never slacks in this page-turning adventure, with well-crafted twists and secrets. Pages of a journal written by a former Vessel are interspersed throughout in a different format, making readers feel even more intertwined in the story. Murray's prose is descriptive and vivid; kids will think they are in Ellie's workshop, piled high with crab catchers, broken machines, books, notes, and unidentified items. The only bump in the plot is the attempted description of the gods of the world, their roles, and not-quite demise. Because this mythology is underdeveloped, it detracts from the story instead of adding to the worldbuilding. VERDICT An action-packed tale in a unique fantasy world that features a girl finding great power with the help of friends.—Clare A. Dombrowski

	Quantity	Unit Price
#2304193 (Vol. 02) Shipwreck Island (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Struan Murray</i>	1	\$18.99



Ellie and Seth know more than most people do about living among gods. So when they escape the City and all of its inhabitants who want them dead, they hope to find a new island-free of gods-to call home. But the tropical island has its secrets, just as the City did, and Ellie and Seth are faced with impossible questions about who they can trust and who they can't-including each other.

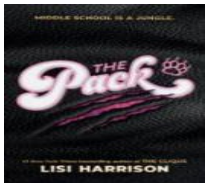
978-0-06-304316-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A hoped-for refuge becomes anything but for two tween fugitives in this muddled middle volume. Somehow surviving a three-month voyage on a makeshift raft over a flooded world, Ellie and Seth make landfall at last just in time to be swept up in a power struggle between a lonely young queen and a smooth-talking aristocrat. Worse yet, the afflictions met in the previous episode have followed them--Seth, a reborn god of the sea, remains tortured by ghostly voices and fragmentary memories, while Ellie is both saddled with a malign spirit insistently pressuring her to make evil choices and dogged by a crazed Inquisitor obsessed with literally burning that spirit out of her. With all this, it's no surprise that Murray's efforts to lighten the load with a new ally's pet kitten or comedic touches like giving Ellie a real gift for saying the wrong thing will likely fall flat for readers, as will the local queen's startlingly sudden shift at the climax from friendly but overwhelmed adolescent to brutally pragmatic monarch. Not to mention an island setting that, obligatory map notwithstanding, becomes small enough to get around in no time depending on the plot's twists and turns, continuity breaks that have characters suddenly rearranged or apparently endowed with more than two hands, and a head-scratcher of a closing scene. The island's population reads largely White. A shambolic, patchwork jumble. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up—Ellie and Seth have traveled to a mysterious island where they meet Kate, a girl who is really the Queen in disguise. Due to a predicted famine on the island, the Queen is expected to use her powers, passed on from royal generations before her, to solve the island's major problem. Ellie befriends Kate, only to learn a tragic secret about the Queen and her powers. Kate has no idea about Ellie and Seth's capabilities. Many enemies have come to wreak havoc on the island, causing Ellie to doubt herself and her safety. Nearly every page features danger and adventure. Will Ellie and Seth survive and come to see the truth for what it really is? VERDICT A definite page-turner that will leave readers eager for more action and an ending that promises just that.

Pack (Trade)



#2227211 (Vol. 01) Pack (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Lisi Harrison

Don't be fooled.... Charm House isn't like any other charm school. Charm stands for Center for Human-Animal Reform and Manners. Every girl who boards there has an animal light inside her that is wild and needs to be tamed.

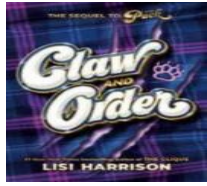
978-0-593-18070-9 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 208 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 650

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist From the author of the popular Clique books comes an imaginative new series set within the halls of an unusual middle school: the all-girls Center for Human-Animal Reform and Manners, aka Charm House. Though she looks like an average girl, Sadie has never felt she fits in; maybe it's her unruly hair, muscled physique, or nocturnal sleep patterns. After a few too many bizarre incidents get Sadie expelled from regular school, Miss Flora—headmistress of Charm House—takes the girl on, promising to help teach Sadie how to develop and control her animal side. Not long after her arrival, a mysterious creature begins exacting vengeance on a self-absorbed clique known as the Pack, prompting Sadie to try to find out what is going on and what secrets Charm House is hiding. An evil science institute, literal cattiness, new friendships, and explorations of identity are all woven through this fun, fast-paced read, guaranteed to fly off the shelf. Thankfully, an aggressive publishing schedule will see two more installments due out in the next year.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Harrison (the Clique series) dives into girls' boarding school dynamics in this playfully paranormal series starter. After animalistic impulses and anger issues get her into trouble at middle school, straw-blond Sadie Samson is transferred to Charm House, a girls' boarding school in Timor Lake, Wash. There, she discovers that Charm, the "Center for Human Animal Reform and Manners," secretly shelters and trains girls like her, who possess animal spirits known as lights. Learning that she has a rare lion light, which distinguishes her as a potential leader among species including hyenas, giraffes, and monkeys, Sadie falls in with the Pack, a clique of popular girls led by tiger light Lindsey. When a series of mysterious attacks implicate her snake light roommate, Sadie must solve the mystery at the heart of Charm House to prove her leadership mettle and save her friends. Scant world-building raises more questions than the brief, fast-paced story has room to detail, and character descriptions are often limited to backward-looking phrases ("exotically gorgeous," "narrow-waisted"); Sadie, nevertheless, makes for a sympathetic, engaging protagonist throughout. Ages 10: up. Agent: Richard Abate, 3 Arts Entertainment. (June)



#2326425 (Vol. 02) Claw and Order (Paperback (Trade))

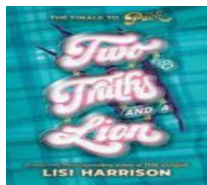
written by Lisi Harrison

Sadie thought joining the Pack would be the wildest thing to happen to her this year but the school year is becoming even harder. On top of classes Sadie has to navigate her growing feelings for her crush, taming her powers during cheer practice and trouble making hyenas trying to take her crown. Then there is the massive secret she is keeping from her BFF Lindsey-that could destroy their friendship and The Pack as they know it. Will the shocking truth come out to bite them?

978-0-593-18075-4 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$7.99



#2357146 (Vol. 03) Two Truths and a Lion (Paperback (Trade))

written by Lisi Harrison

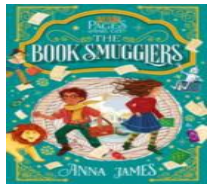
Sadie and her friends should be preparing for end of the year finals but they are about to go on a mission to save one of their own. She was taken from school and they know just where to find her. Things are all going according to plan. But suddenly there's a new girl at school-with the same powers as Sadie-who claws her way into The Pack. But this girl is fiercely confident and soon wants to lead them her own way.

978-0-593-18078-5 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$8.99

Pages and Co (Trade)



#2252154 (Vol. 04) Book Smugglers (Hardcover (Trade))

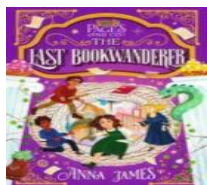
written by Anna James

Since he was six years old, Milo has lived on board the Sesquipedalian, or "Quip", a magical train that uses the power of imagination to travel through both stories and the real world. Aboard the Quip, Milo lives and works with his uncle, Horatio, a book smuggler who trades in rare books.

978-0-593-32720-3 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 880

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99



#2366699 (Vol. 06) Last Bookwanderer (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Anna James

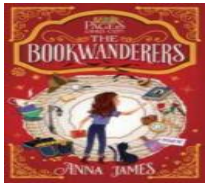
When Milo, Tilly, Oskar, and Alessia venture into Arthurian legend to find the first bookwanderer--the wizard Merlin--they discover that the magic of bookwandering is not at all what they thought. Together, they must journey into Greek and Roman mythology to bargain with the trickster Loki and find a way to untangle the Alchemist's grip on the world's imagination.

978-0-593-32726-5 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 304 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 870

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Quantity **Unit Price**



#2112423 (Vol. 01) **Bookwanderers (Hardcover (Trade))**

1

\$17.99

written by Anna James

Since her mother's disappearance, eleven-year-old Tilly Pages has found comfort in the stories at Pages & Co., her grandparents' bookshop. But when her favorite characters, Anne of Green Gables and Alice from Wonderland, start showing up at the shop, Tilly's adventures become very real.

978-1-9848-3712-7 ©2019 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 870

Reviews by: Booklist Since her mother's disappearance, 11-year-old Tilly Pages has been raised by her grandparents in their London bookshop, Pages & Co. She doesn't question her origins until the day she witnesses her grandma speaking to one Lizzie Bennet. Soon afterwards, she comes upon her grandad sitting with Sherlock Holmes. After Tilly herself is visited by Anne Shirley (of Green Gables) and Alice (of Wonderland fame), she learns that she comes from a family of bookwanderers, people so intensely connected to books that they can enter story worlds and interact with fictional characters. As Tilly delves deeper into the secret and increasingly dangerous world of bookwanderers, the mysteries of her parentage unravel. Well-read youngsters will thrill in joining Tilly as she visits such beloved classics as *Treasure Island* and *A Little Princess*. Steeped in magical world building, James' debut pays loving testament to the power of books, and it functions well as a stand-alone adventure while setting the stage for future installments of enormous potential.--Ronny Khuri Copyright 2019 Booklist

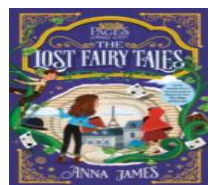
Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books When Tilly Pages catches her grandmother chatting with Lizzy Bennet and her grandfather letting Sherlock Holmes smoke indoors, she's pretty sure something weird is going on. Soon enough, Tilly's having conversations with Anne (of Green Gables) and Alice (of Wonderland) in the stacks of her grandparents' cozy bookshop. After she finds a box of her missing mother's books and she and an acquaintance are pulled into Anne of Green Gables, her grandparents explain that Tilly comes from a long line of bookwanderers: avid readers whose emotional connection to books enables them to conjure their favorite characters and physically enter the stories (making this British import an *Eyre* Affair for preteens). A slow start and long passages of exposition demand readerly persistence, and nostalgia celebrating the magic of books often devolves into sentimentality about a fairly narrow slice of canonical fiction (*Percy Jackson* and *Harry Potter* are the only notable concessions to the twenty-first century). However, a mystery involving Tilly's parents and a copy of *A Little Princess* add some emotional stakes, and her conviction that beloved book characters are better than troublesome real-life friends will resonate with shy readers. The cozy bookshop, the descriptions of decadent baked goods from its cafe, and the fun of the bookwandering world, complete with Librarians tasked with maintaining order and fictional integrity, may therefore appeal to readers looking for an indulgent, low-key treat. Black and white decorative elements and silhouettes enhance the pages, and intentional gaps in the mechanics of bookwandering leave plenty of scope for sequels. FHK

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews This debut is the first in a new series about an English girl with a special ability. Matilda Pages' mother disappeared without a trace when she was a baby, and her father died before she was born. The 11-year-old bibliophile has been raised by her maternal grandparents, proprietors of Pages & Co., a cozy north London bookshop. The school holidays stretch out before her, and Tilly wants some excitement, but, as she laments, "No one has proper adventures in real life." Tilly gets the adventure of a lifetime when Anne Shirley and Alice, her favorite book characters, appear in the shop. Visits to Avonlea and the famously wacky Wonderland tea party lead Tilly to the truth: She comes from a family of bookwanderers, people who use the "natural magic of books" to travel inside works of literature and bring characters into the real world. Inquisitive and intelligent, Tilly is exceptional among bookwanderers: Some of the rules don't apply to her, but why? Tilly's literary adventures thrill, and Anne's characterization in particular is pleasingly congruent with the original character. Escobar's literary-themed silhouettes, reminiscent of Arthur Rackham's, add whimsical flourishes, although the few full-page illustrations do little. Its premise makes it an obvious, wonderful choice for book-loving readers who aren't quite ready for Inkheart's heft. Characters default to white. A loving testament to the powerful magic of books and imagination. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2019) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Tilly, 11, has lived with her grandparents in their London bookstore, Pages and Co., since her mother's mysterious disappearance shortly after Tilly's birth. Tilly struggles to make friends but finally begins to connect with her neighbor Oskar. After she discovers her mother's box of favorite books, two of Tilly's favorite characters, L.M. Montgomery's Anne and Lewis Carroll's Alice, show up at the shop, and Tilly realizes that she is a bookwanderer: someone who "reads a bit harder than most people" and can be transported inside the story. Together, Tilly and Oskar learn the complicated rules of bookwandering from Tilly's grandparents and the staff of the Underlibrary, which exists beneath the British Museum. One employee, Enoch Chalk, follows Tilly through various books, and his creepy ways raise her suspicions. As she and Oskar investigate the truth about Chalk, they uncover more about Tilly's mother, as well as the dangers and magic of bookwandering. Tilly's friendship struggles and love of reading ground James's imaginative debut and, together with satisfying twists and a well-constructed bookwanderer's mythology, create an affectionate ode to books and book lovers. Ages 8: 12. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7-Tilly is an 11-year-old orphan who lives with her grandparents, owners of the magical bookstore Pages & Co. Her adventure begins during winter break when she explores the bookstore and notices unusual characters among the stacks. Her grandparents are alarmed at these sightings because they know these characters materialize out of books--they are fiction made real. They soon suspect that Tilly is able to bookwander, which means she can travel back and forth between the real world and the world of fiction. She especially likes to bookwander with Anne Shirley, of "Anne of Greene Gables," because she feels kinship with her as an orphan. But can Tilly bookwander to find her long-lost family? Readers will want to become familiar with the literary characters Tilly meets. Tilly's grandfather succinctly puts the importance of books into perspective. He says, "The books we love when we're growing up shape us in a special way...The characters in the books

we read help us decide who we want to be." VERDICT James's debut will speak to the heart of bibliophiles and is highly recommended for readers young and old. An important reminder of the centrality of stories in shaping our lives.—Lisa Gieskes, Richland County Public Library, Columbia, SC Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2215966 (Vol. 02) Lost Fairy Tales (Paperback (Trade))

written by Anna James

Tilly and her best friend Oskar are bookwanderers: a remarkable group of people who, using the magical power of books, can travel inside any story they choose. But on a wintry visit to Paris, the friends wander inside a book of fairy tales to find that peculiar things are happening: characters are getting lost, stories are all mixed up, and mysterious plot holes are opening without warning...

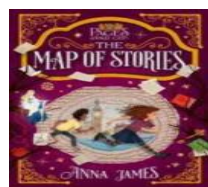
978-1-9848-3731-8 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 820

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$8.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Why is the new head of the Underlibrary cracking down on bookwandering? After Enoch Chalk escaped into fiction in series opener *The Bookwanderers* (2018), the old Head Librarian was disgraced. Her replacement, the smarmy demagogue Melville, begins his tenure with a bang: He forbids Oskar and Tilly from bookwandering, bans Tilly's whole family from the British Underlibrary, and implements tracking measures to locate every bookwanderer. Oskar and Tilly are ready to battle the new regime, and they don't understand the wariness of Tilly's grandparents, who warn them to obey the new rules. When they disobey the adults' dire warnings and enter a book of fairy tales, they discover horrible dangers. Fairy-tale characters are dissolving into black ooze or vanishing altogether. Oskar's kidnapped into Rapunzel's story, and even Tilly, who's half-fictional on her father's side, is hard-pressed to rescue him. The fairy-tale boundaries are so corrupted that Rapunzel is besieged by countless worthless Prince Charmings--Tilly and Oskar had best find out what's wrong posthaste. Droll illustrations spice up the text, though frequent changes of typeface add distraction rather than flair. An author's note on fairy tales is insufficiently clear on the distinction between the oral tradition and original tales. The story itself is clearer on this point, which is lucky, as fairy tales' having no original source edition is key to the adventure. Oskar has brown skin; Tilly (and most other human characters) seems to be white. Winsomely harking back to the oldest children's classics, this has special appeal for romantic bibliophiles. (Fantasy. 9-11) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5–7—In this series sequel, Tilly and her friend Oskar try to rescue lost fairy tales, a particular challenge because they are changeable stories based on oral traditions. Luckily, Tilly and Oskar both come from families of bookwanderers, meaning they can travel back and forth between the real world and the world of fiction. Tilly's grandmother has even bookwandered into fairy tales and knows about mapping stories given her past work in a map room of the Underlibrary, a hidden magical library. Bookwandering becomes fraught with difficulties as Enoch Chalk, a renegade Source (fictional) character, is still missing and Amelia, the Head Librarian of the Underlibrary, is losing her job. Her replacement, Melville Underwood, immediately begins to limit bookwandering. Underwood's shadowy past and hints of danger intrigue Tilly and Oskar, who bookwander in secret. As they morph inside stories, book magic happens and the text transmogrifies too. As gateways between books appear, plot holes open and book magic leaks. VERDICT This series is made for book-lovers and attests to the power and importance of stories.—Lisa Gieskes, Richland County Public Library, Columbia, SC



#2227693 (Vol. 03) Map of Stories (Paperback (Trade))

written by Anna James

The bookwandering community is at risk when an extreme group of Librarians take over the British Underlibrary. Tilly and Oskar believe that an elusive group of bookwanderers called the Archivists may be the key to restoring balance and Tilly thinks she's discovered their whereabouts: the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

978-1-9848-3734-9 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 240 pgs.

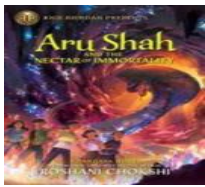
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 860

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$9.99

Pandava (Trade)

#2275077 (Vol. 05) Aru Shah and the Nectar of Immortality (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



written by Roshani Chokshi

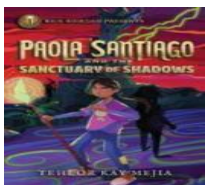
The Pandavas only have until the next full moon to stop the Sleeper from gaining access to the nectar of immortality, which will grant him infinite power. But how can Aru, Mini, and Brynne hope to defeat him without their celestial weapons?

978-1-368-05544-4 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 14.0

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews The Pandava series finale finds heroes Aru, Mini, and Brynne weaponless and thus unable to enter the labyrinth to protect the nectar of immortality from the villainous Sleeper. Although Aru has proven her strength and courage many times over, without Vajra, her celestial lightning bolt, she feels powerless. The recent betrayal of Aru’s half sister, Kara, adds to the complexity of Aru’s familial relationships and the self-doubt that has plagued her throughout this quest. Seemingly out of options, Aru remembers the IO(F)U coin from god of fire Agni. He gives them one piece of the Sun Jewel, which, when reunited with its two other parts, will light their way through the labyrinth. During the journey to find the remaining jewel pieces, the Pandavas encounter more Otherworld characters from Hindu cosmology who test the heart and soul of each sister in their own ways. Several of these characters possess legacies that have been twisted or forgotten. This thread from earlier books reaches a head during the climax, when Aru must make a fateful decision about immortality and who is deserving of having their story live on. This thrilling closing adventure shines with the strength of sisterhood, South Asian representation and Chokshi’s trademark humor and wit. A deeply satisfying conclusion to a superb, groundbreaking series. (glossary) (Fantasy. 9-13)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-7--Aru Shah and the Pandavas (aka the Potatoes) are faced with saving the world from ultimate destruction but they feel completely helpless without their celestial weapons that give them any chance of winning a battle against the Sleeper and his army. Is all hope lost? They certainly are doubting themselves and their relationships as they attempt to get into the labyrinth and get the Nectar of Immortality before Aru's traitorous sister uses her power to release it. They must travel to the parts of the Other World without being noticed, partly with the help of the very conspicuous Ruby, and find themselves stars on the concert stage, reuniting Aiden with family, risking eternal naps, and challenging immense bears. Through their trials, each of them begins to acquire the strength and self-awareness that will gain them back what was lost. This last installment of the series concludes the battle without winners, but all is resolved in ways to satisfy the gods and readers alike. While readers might want to see these characters again, the ending feels like just that. Those who are new to Aru's world will need to begin with the first installment to meet each of the five Pandavas in order of appearance. The extensive glossary is helpful for those wanting to delve more deeply into the Hindu mythology and religion. VERDICT A fitting end to a high stakes mythological adventure; this series is recommended for purchase in collections seeking adventure and strong female characters and where mythology is popular.--Clare A. Dombrowski Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Paola Santiago (Trade)



#2284506 (Vol. 03) Paola Santiago and the Sanctuary of Shadows (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Tehlor Kay Mejia

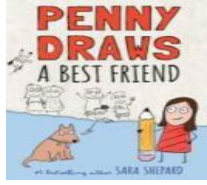
Paola Santiago has recently returned from Oregon, where she defeated the Hitchhiker ghost and saved her father from the vengeful spirit that was possessing him. The poor girl deserves a rest! But first she has to rescue Dante from the void, where he's been imprisoned by some unknown force. Even though Dante has turned against Pao, she can't just leave him there--they've been friends for too long.

978-1-368-07687-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 15.0 Lexile 900

Quantity Unit Price
1 \$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Paola battles the supernatural to save her friend in this follow-up to 2021’s Paola Santiago and the Forest of Nightmares. Dante, one of Pao’s best friends, has been missing for 8 months: He’s trapped in the void, a place full of terrible creatures and dread, and she’s desperate to rescue him. But Mexican American Pao may be suffering from PTSD, and the adults in her life want her to stay home and play it safe. Frustrated, Pao and Emma, her other best friend, take matters into their own hands, brewing up a tea intended to restore Pao’s magical dreams of the void. It works—and Pao realizes she must travel to San Antonio, Texas, as soon as possible if she hopes to save Dante. To get there, she tags along with Emma’s new friends from the Rainbow Rogues, who are going on an environmental conservation volunteer trip to New Orleans. The bus journey from Arizona soon takes a dark turn, triggering a thrilling, fast-paced series of events that force Pao to confront El Cucuy, the lord of nightmares, and his apocalyptic plot as well as to learn to ask for help. While love is often depicted as the means to individually defeat evil, this story conveys a resonant message about the power of broader community support. As she battles monsters, Pao also privately explores her sexual identity and romantic feelings for Emma, who is queer. A brave adventure with meaningful depth. (Fantasy. 8-13)

Penny Draws (Trade)



#2324120 (Vol. 01) Penny Draws a Best Friend (Hardcover (POB))

written by Sara Shepard

A humorous, heartfelt, highly illustrated new middle grade series about friendship, feelings, and finding your people, from #1 New York Times bestselling author Sara Shepard.

978-0-593-61677-2 ©2023 5 x 8 272 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 4.0 Lexile 700

Quantity
1

Unit Price
\$14.99

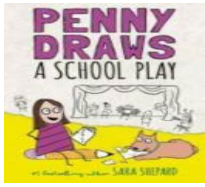
Reviews by: Booklist Penny is a for-real, big-time worrier. When she starts fifth grade, she gears up for another year of comfortable friendship with her pal Violet, but suddenly Violet thinks Penny is too babyish and starts hanging out with a new crowd. While Penny tries to get back into Violet's good graces, she unexpectedly makes some new friends, and this time, they're the good kind who don't exclude her or put her down. This book is set up like Dork Diaries, with all of Penny's private thoughts and retellings of her day peppered with simple cartoon drawings showing what is going on, but they're charmingly addressed to her dog, Cosmo, instead of "Dear Diary." Readers will likely relate to her concerns, such as worrying whether people are laughing about her behind her back, feeling nervous about talking in front of people, or meeting new friends. Penny also learns that looks can be deceiving, and that rumors can be harmful as she gets to know her new misfit pals. This new series comes straight from the heart.

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fifth-grader Penny Lowry is a worrier. She worries about her beloved dog, Cosmo, eating the remote control; about the bacteria lurking in the dirt under her fingernails; about the secret that has her parents acting so squirrely. One thing she never thought she'd have to worry about, however, was losing her best friend, Violet Vance, to their catty classmate, Riley Miller. Unmoored in the face of Violet's desertion, Penny turns to her diary for comfort and to Mrs. Hines, the school's "Feelings Teacher." Just as Penny is starting to grow comfortable with herself and make new friends, Violet and Riley return to her life, and Penny finds herself struggling between who she was, who she is, and who she wants to be. Shepard's illustrated middle-grade novel, relayed through Penny's doodles and diary entries, is imbued with humor, colorful characters, and the perilous dilemmas of childhood—from randomly assigned partners to the mortifying ordeal of eating alone in the cafeteria. Informal line drawings host a cast of wide-eyed characters with gangly, nervous limbs that complement the confessional nature of the narrative and the drive-by observational humor of its protagonist. Shepard carefully and successfully walks a tightrope in her treatment of Penny's worries by validating her feelings while suggesting that they should not be the only thing that guide her actions and choices. The epistolary format and the quirky, lovable main character will appeal to fans of Rachel Renée Russell's Dork Diaries and Svetlana Chmakova's Brave. AB COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Penny learns important lessons about friendship and worry in a series opener inspired by the author's own early struggles with anxiety. As Penny prepares to start fifth grade, she can't wait for her best friend to return from camp, but when Violet gets back, things are awkward. Violet's no longer interested in drawing, and she's spending all her time with popular but mean Riley. Penny tries to accept this, but intrusive, spiraling thoughts continue to interrupt her life; between Violet's distance, her parents' big secret, and her little brother's croup that requires frequent ER visits, she has plenty of real reasons to worry. Thankfully, Penny's visits to Mrs. Hines, the Feelings Teacher, give her a safe place to talk about what is going on in her head, and familiar faces open the door to new, unexpected friendships whose value becomes clear when something bad really does happen. Illustrated throughout with black-and-white sketches that highlight some of the more comical moments in the story, the book features just the right amount of humor to balance out more serious explorations of changing friendships and the ways uncertainty and lack of control can contribute to an increase in feelings of panic for young anxiety sufferers. Many readers will see their own concerns and feelings reflected here. Penny and her family read White. A bright and emotionally accessible story full of wit and warmth. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly As outlined in an author's note, Shepard (the Pretty Little Liars series) draws from her own childhood experience with anxiety for this diary-style illustrated novel. Rising fifth grader Penny is looking forward to her best friend Violet's return from summer gymnastics camp. But the start of school promptly reveals that Violet has moved on: she's no longer into Art Club; an activity the girls previously shared; and camp has bonded her with popular mean girl Riley. But Mrs. Hines, the "feelings teacher" Penny speaks with regularly about her worries, proves a catalyst for personal change, giving Penny a journal to work through things. As Penny encounters, and slowly befriends, other students who talk to Mrs. Hines, she directs her diary entries to her "loyal and nice" dog, Cosmo, who shares many of Penny's fears ("Storms. Fireworks. Balloons. Clowns"). In chatty, quick-moving installments, Penny tells entertaining anecdotes and details her brother's recurring croup, her concerns about social scenarios, and a secret her parents seem to be keeping. Shepard's light touch and sketchbook-style b&w doodles make for an engaging read that candidly portrays the effect of destabilizing changes on one child experiencing anxiety. Character portrayals reflect the white of the page. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Richard Abate, 3 Arts. (May)

Quantity
Unit Price



#2332349 (Vol. 02) Penny Draws a School Play (Hardcover (Trade))

1

\$14.99

written by Sara Shepard

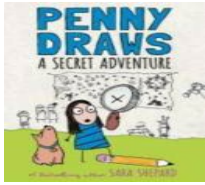
Halfway through the fifth grade, Penny Lowry is discovering that things are actually going . . . okay! With her friends Maria, Kristian, and Rocco on her side, and her lovable dog Cosmo, she can make it through anything. And when her anxiety comes back, there's always her doodling, or talking to Mrs. Hines, the Feelings Teacher. But big change is around the corner: Penny's family is moving to a new house, her mom is about to give birth to twins, and most stressful of all, she's been tapped for a role in her class play!

978-0-593-61680-2 ©2023 5 x 7-3/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 620

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Journal entries addressed to her dog, Cosmo, continue to help Penny navigate life's more difficult situations. Though things have been going OK for a while, Penny knows she needs to start writing letters to her dog again when her classmate Luke's folded-paper fortuneteller predicts "unexpected surprises" are coming her way. The first surprise turns out to be that everyone will be required to participate in the fifth grade class play. As if that isn't enough, next her parents suddenly announce they're moving to a new house. This second series entry further explores Penny's changing friendship with ex-bestie Violet. She also attempts to forge a friendship between two people she likes very much who unfortunately dislike each other. Navigating these uncomfortable changes and social situations requires Penny to step outside her comfort zone and lean on her coping mechanisms to deal with her anxiety. Discussions with her Feelings Teacher offer more useful strategies for young people with anxiety. Although Penny's new friend group is supportive, readers will squirm with vicarious embarrassment from some of the situations she finds herself in. Parts of the narrative would have benefited from tightening, but many readers will feel seen and validated. The interspersed comics are a highlight, carrying surprising emotional weight and humor given their simplicity. Penny and her family read white. A helpful story about a young anxiety sufferer navigating the unexpected. (Fiction. 8-12)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.99



#2368318 (Vol. 03) Penny Draws a Secret Adventure (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sara Shepard

Little by little, Penny Lowry is making it through the fifth grade-with a bit of help from her friends Maria, Kristian, and Rocco, as well as her lovable dog Cosmo. And there's a lot of change to deal with this year! And on top of everything, Penny and her friends discover a very old map in her attic that sends them on a wild scavenger hunt all over town in search of treasure!

978-0-593-61683-3 ©2024 5 x 7-3/4 240 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile GN 580

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews newborn siblings, she tries to figure out a complicated treasure map and even more complicated friendships and feelings. Now that the twins are home from the hospital, Penny and little brother Juice Box are struggling to adjust; it's tough with all the crying, plus a new babysitter. And Penny and Juice Box have to help choose names for the babies, and they can't agree. Penny's also trying to be OK with the fact that bestie Maria is studying for the spelling bee with mutual friend Chloe, though it makes her feel inadequate. The discovery of a bunch of unidentified keys helps Penny and her friends open the locked box they'd found in the attic, and the treasure map inside leads them to the most terrifying house in the neighborhood, where a witch supposedly lives. Amid all this, a school project forces Penny to consider what her own good qualities are. Though ex-friend Riley is still around to (mostly) antagonize Penny, Mrs. Hines, the Feelings Teacher, keeps helping her navigate all the upheaval. This third series entry offers yet more humor and genuine positivity along with an honest portrayal of how anxiety can affect young people. The third volume moves more quickly than the previous two, yet it maintains the wit and warmth (greatly supported by the charming black-and-white cartoon illustrations) that readers have come to expect from Penny's escapades. A sympathetic and amusing account of a young anxiety sufferer navigating life changes. (Fiction. 8-12)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Percy Jackson and The Olympians (Trade)



#2333327 (Vol. 06) Chalice of the Gods (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rick Riordan

After saving the world multiple times, Percy Jackson is hoping to have a normal senior year. Unfortunately, the gods aren't quite done with him. Percy will have to fulfill three quests in order to get the necessary three letters of recommendation from

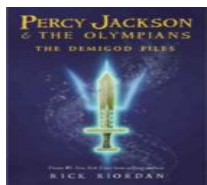
Mount Olympus for college. The first quest is to help Zeus's cup-bearer retrieve his goblet before it falls into the wrong hands. Can Percy, Grover, and Annabeth find it in time?

978-1-368-09817-5 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.1 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 710

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Following years of eager anticipation, Percy Jackson returns in this follow-up to 2009's *The Last Olympian* that is well worth the wait. Now a high school senior, Percy wants nothing more than to leave his old life behind and attend New Rome University in California with his love, Annabeth. In order to fulfill his dream, however, Percy requires three godly letters of recommendation—and the price is completing one heroic quest for each. Reading this latest installment feels like the literary equivalent of coming home after a first year of college: Everything and everyone feels similar yet changed in ways that are poignant. The action is as gripping and well paced as ever, keeping readers guessing about the identities of the villains and culprits as Percy and his friends save the day for various gods. Happily in a committed relationship, the titular hero is more introspective and less impetuous. As graduation nears, Percy grapples with the inevitability that life as he knows it is changing, and the emotion he demonstrates as he savors moments with loved ones and mourns the missed opportunities that come with growing up imbue the novel with heart and heft. Best of all, readers will be inspired to grab the first volume and relive this modern Olympian epic all over again. An entry that renews and deepens fans' love for the series: There is no higher praise for a sequel than this. (Fantasy. 9-14)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5 Up--Percy Jackson has made it to senior year in high school, a feat for a demigod. Things are looking pretty good with his mom happy with Paul, he and Annabeth together, and going to go off to college at New Rome University next year. Well, perhaps it's not so easy because of course, the gods cannot leave him alone, and after a very uncomfortable meeting with his school counselor/Poseidon's lackey Eudora, Percy is told he cannot go to college without three recommendations from gods. How does one get said recommendations? By going on quests, of course! Without a break to breathe, Percy runs into Ganyamede on the Subway and suddenly has the quest of finding the chalice used to serve the gods in Olympus. With the trio of Annabeth, Grover, and Percy back together, they travel through the ages into Brooklyn and run into a few problems. With the expected sarcastic narration and high adventure, Riordan continues this series while still making it relatable (who doesn't dread asking people for recommendation letters?). While anyone who knows the premise of the "Percy Jackson" series can follow this book, it is much better to read the first five in order to fully understand the characters. The one drawback of this story is that while its appeal spans ages, the writing style didn't mature with Percy. Some teens might find it simplistic if they want to continue the series they loved at younger ages; but it does make it accessible to current middle grade readers. VERDICT Recommended highly for all collections; readers will want to get their hands on the newest installment in this eternally popular series.--Clare A. Dombrowski Copyright 2023 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#894837 Demigod Files (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Rick Riordan

Details three of Percy Jackson's adventures, as he battles all kinds of mythological monsters in the modern world, and also features interviews with Connor, Travis, Clarisse, Annabeth, Grover, and Percy; a map of Camp-Blood; and more.

978-1-4231-2166-4 ©2009 6-3/8 x 8-7/8 208 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 3.0 RC Lvl 2.5 Lexile 630

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$12.99

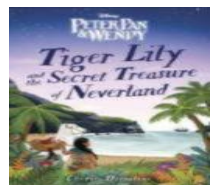
Reviews by: From the Publisher How do you handle an encounter with Medusa on the New Jersey interstate? What's the best way to take down a minotaur? Become an expert on everything in Percy's world with this must-have guide to the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. Complete with interviews, puzzles, games, and original short stories by Rick Riordan.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Billed as a manual for newbies entering Camp Half-Blood, this miscellany of all things Percy Jackson may satisfy readers eagerly awaiting the final installment in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, due in May. Three previously unpublished stories in which the son of Poseidon narrowly escapes death while cracking jokes read like scenes cut from previous novels—which is a compliment. Spliced between stories two and three are brief, comic "interviews" with Grover, Clarissa and other campers. Bland illustrations depicting the contents of Annabeth's trunk, a map of Camp Half-Blood and a short "sneak peek" at *The Last Olympian* pad the contents (barely) to book length; the inclusion of a crossword puzzle and a word search makes the book difficult to share. Not a must-read-but try telling that to rabid fans. Ages 10-up. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-9 This slim volume is clearly intended as a stop-gap product to tide eager readers over until the final volume of the series is released. In addition to three previously unreleased short stories about Percy and his companions, it also includes such filler as interviews with the same, along with word games, portraits of some of the Gods and their half-blood offspring, and the inevitable sneak preview of Book 5. The short stories are the meat of this book, and are filled with Riordan's trademark anachronistic humor. The first one puts Percy and his enemy Clarisse, the daughter of Ares, on the same team as she tries to retrieve her father's chariot, which has been hijacked as a prank by her two

immortal brothers. The second story relates an incident that occurred during one of Camp Half-Blood's infamous Capture the Flag games, when Charlie Beckendorf, the camp counselor for Hephaestus, is captured by a horde of giant, poisonous ants, and has to be rescued with the help of a mechanical dragon. The final story brings Percy, Thalia, and Nico, the son of Hades, together at the request of Persephone to help retrieve Hades's stolen sword, the loss of which could be deadly to the Gods, and the resolution of which forms a lead-up to the probable events of Book 5. Despite the fact that this is more of a marketing package than anything else, the quality of and interest in the three stories likely justifies its purchase.—Tim Wadham, St. Louis County Library, MO

Peter Pan and Wendy (Trade)



#2309123 Tiger Lily and the Secret Treasure of Neverland (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Cherie Dimaline

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99

Tiger Lily uncovers a plot by two of Captain Hook's pirates, who are searching for a mysterious, powerful treasure. Determined to protect Neverland, Tiger Lily sets out on a very grown-up mission: find the treasure first, and keep it out of the pirates' reckless hands. As her journey takes her from Mermaid Lagoon to the Lost Boys' secret fort and beyond, Tiger Lily will need to become the brave leader she has always wanted to be.
 978-1-368-08046-0 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Told from the perspective of Tiger Lily, this story reframes Disney's retelling of J.M. Barrie's classic. A foreword by Dimaline (Métis) sets the stage: At the book's heart lies 13-year-old Tiger Lily, whose tribe are the original people of Neverland; their fictional culture reflects "pieces of collective Indigenous philosophy and worldview"—without conflating those diverse cultures. Tiger Lily has a brave and adventurous spirit that has led her to develop true, loyal friendships with Peter Pan and the Lost Boys, who are English in origin, as well as with the fairy Sashi. But when a monstrous bear attacks, Tiger Lily realizes that she is not as brave as she thought. Ashamed that Peter took the lead in saving the day, she begins to contemplate growing up in order to better protect her people. Tiger Lily has conflicted feelings about growing up, however: Peter makes it sound terrible, but her grandma offers a more positive vision. An opportunity for bravery presents itself when she discovers two White men she realizes are pirates, a shock after years of peace on Neverland. These thick-skulled pirates seem to be searching for a treasure of unmeasurable value. Can Tiger Lily find it first, save her community, and keep her friends out of trouble? Respect for animals, plants, land, and family are all central themes of Tiger Lily's heritage. Her conflicted feelings about leaving childhood behind will resonate. A lighthearted tale with substance beautifully extending the world of Neverland. (Adventure. 8-11) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3–5—Dimaline (The Marrow Thieves) provides vibrancy and substance to a chronically badly represented character in children's literature—Tiger Lily. Her latest novel spotlights the titular tween as she utilizes her sharp wit and acuity to outsmart the devilish pirates who have captured her best friend, Sashi, in their hunt for everlasting youth. While Tiger Lily rushes to save her fairy friend, she grapples with her own fears around growing up, which is something that only members of her community can choose to do in Neverland. Dimaline successfully gives Tiger Lily, her Indigenous community, and the Lost Boys robust identities outside of the perennially famous Peter Pan. The book, slated for release one month prior to the live-action Peter Pan & Wendy on Disney+, offers readers more time with the crossover characters. In a short introduction, Dimaline specifically states that Tiger Lily is native to Neverland and is not based on any one Indigenous community. Some facets of Tiger Lily's culture, including housing (e.g., teepees) and customs (e.g., collecting sweetgrass), are recognizable nods to myriad North American Indigenous peoples. Ultimately, this is an enjoyable adventure that should appeal to Disney fans and could be a good choice for a family read-aloud. VERDICT Recommended for larger collections and where longer Disney books fly off the shelves.—Taylor Worley

Phantom Stallion (Trade)



#2315324 (Vol. 01) Wild One (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Terri Farley

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

When thirteen-year-old Samantha returns home to her family's cattle ranch in Nevada, she's nervous. She moved away two years ago to recover from a bad fall off her beloved mustang, Blackie, and she's still not sure she can get back in the saddle. She's having trouble bonding with her new horse, Ace, the other ranchers treat her like the boss's spoiled daughter, and Blackie has been missing since the day of Sam's fateful accident.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Sam, 13, returns to Nevada after a two-year absence in San Francisco where she was recovering from a head injury caused when she was thrown from her horse. She wonders what happened to Blackie, who ran away after the accident. After several encounters with the wild mustangs, she realizes that the beautiful stallion that she has seen is her horse but she doesn't think anyone will believe her. Unfortunately, one of her neighbors is determined to capture the stallion, now called the Phantom, and Sam knows that she has to save Blackie from this ambitious and uncaring rancher. In the end, she rescues him but sets him free because she realizes that he would never be happy in captivity. Sam is a likable and believable character whose determination and sensitivity will be appreciated by horse lovers. There is a fair amount of suspense and adventure as she tracks Blackie and his mares. Sam's relationship with her father is well drawn, and there is an interesting mixture of characters. This story has enough action to make it an entertaining read for fans of this genre.-Carol Schene, Taunton Public Schools, MA (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2327326 (Vol. 02) Mustang Moon (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Terri Farley

The beloved second book in the middle grade Phantom Stallion series about a girl, her horse, and the beauty of the American West returns with a brand-new, stunning cover and bonus material! Perfect for fans of Canterwood Crest and classic horse stories like Black Beauty and My Friend Flicka.

978-1-6659-1635-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 336 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2348014 (Vol. 03) Dark Sunshine (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Terri Farley

When Sam rescues an abused mare from a group of outlaw horse rustlers, she knows she's done the right thing. But the ranch already has a full corral, a long drought means the cattle are running out of grass, and her dad has told her she can't adopt another mustang. Even worse, the mare is skittish and unruly after being hurt by her former owners. Can Sam get the frightened horse to trust her and find a way to give her a home?

978-1-6659-1638-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2368669 (Vol. 04) Renegade (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Terri Farley

When an ambitious rodeo contractor comes to town, Sam's worried. The woman wants to buy tamed mustangs from local ranchers, including Sam's dad, and doesn't seem to take no for an answer. Then Sam spots the Phantom's herd-without him. She's sure he's been captured by the rodeo, but how will she find him? And if she does, how can she set him free?

978-1-6659-1641-7 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Phoenix (Trade)

#1991466 (Vol. 01) Phoenix Rising (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$15.99



written by Bryony Pearce

For as long as Toby can remember, he and his father have sailed on the Phoenix, salvaging from the junk-filled seas to stay afloat, while keeping under the radar of the authorities. His father is, after all, a wanted man. And now the Phoenix is on the trail of the ultimate prize, a salvage of solar panels that could mean they'll never need to hunt for fuel again.

978-1-5107-0734-4 ©2017 368 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 12.0

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 6 Up-In a dystopian world, natural resources are scarce, a supervolcano has blocked the sun for decades, and martial law rules. Toby serves as the chief engineer of his father's pirate ship, the Phoenix. Toby's father, Captain Barnaby Ford, is a brilliant inventor who has created the Phoenix as a way to escape the military, which wants to use his genius to develop weapons. Along with a crew of outlaws, Captain Ford and Toby search for salvage that can be used to keep the ship afloat, including solar panels that will provide power without the need for oil. When a dangerous storm brings about a confrontation with a rival ship, the Banshee, with its captain, Nell, and second-in-command, Ayla, Toby must use all of his skills to keep the Phoenix and her crew safe. Toby narrates this adventure on seas filled with junk, with ships made of salvaged materials. Fans of dystopian tales will appreciate Pearce's world-building and attention to detail in the mechanics of the new world. The opening fake newspaper clippings feel pulled from today's headlines, adding to the sense of realism and the possibility that the book's events could happen in the future. Questions about some of the characters' backstories and a mysterious island are left unanswered but may be addressed in future volumes. **VERDICT** An additional purchase where steampunk adventure titles are popular.-Ashley Leffel, Griffin Middle School, Frisco, TX Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$15.99



#2042426 (Vol. 02) Phoenix Burning (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Bryony Pearce

Though the Phoenix and the Banshee have divided the precious solar panels they teamed up to salvage at the end of Phoenix Rising, both ships are missing the crucial component that will allow them to actually put the panels to use. And so Toby and Ayla warily team up to infiltrate a sect of sun worshippers to steal the equipment.

978-1-5107-1645-2 ©2018 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic

Pippa Park (Trade)

Quantity 1 **Unit Price** \$16.99



#2152994 (Vol. 01) Pippa Park Raises Her Game (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Erin Yun

Life is full of great expectations for Korean American Pippa Park. It seems like everyone, from her family to the other kids at school, has a plan for how her life should look. So when Pippa gets a mysterious basketball scholarship to Lakeview Private, she jumps at the chance to reinvent herself by following the "Rules of Cool."

978-1-944020-26-2 ©2020 6 x 8-1/2 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 710

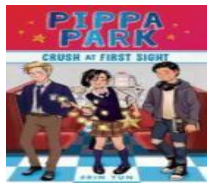
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Pippa loves basketball, but with her academic struggles, along with her family's relative poverty, she's surprised to receive a scholarship from Lakeview, an elite private school. Soon, she finds herself eating lunch with the Royals, Lakeview's most popular girls, and in an effort to belong, hides the truth about her unglamorous home life. It's not long before she gets tangled up in her own lies, flagging math grades, and drama with her new teammates, and to make matters worse, someone begins anonymously threatening to expose her. Yun's debut is a lively, contemporary retelling of Great Expectations?with a side of Mean Girls?following a Korean American seventh-grader as she navigates an unrequited crush, the pressures of family responsibilities, and differences in social class. Pippa is a magnetic heroine, funny and good-hearted, and young readers will relate as she makes one honest mistake after another in an effort to fit in. A nice balancing act between sports action, middle-school drama, and the struggles of an underprivileged immigrant family that will appeal to a wide audience.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: ForeWord Magazine In Erin Yun's enchanting Pippa Park Raises Her Game, a girl starts a new school and tries to reinvent her

image.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly An empowering celebration of identity, friendship, and embracing one's roots, Yun's loose reimagining of *Great Expectations* follows a first-generation Korean-American girl learning to navigate her new life at an elite private school. When Pippa Park's older sister, her caretaker, forces her to quit her Massachusetts public school's basketball team to concentrate on her grades, her basketball dreams seem all but dead. Yet an unexpected lifeline appears when the elite Lakeview School suddenly offers her a basketball scholarship; with the condition that she maintain a 3.0 GPA. Spinning a web of half-truths about her background to fit in with wealthy new friends, Pippa loses sight of her grades, working-class family roots, and true friendships. #OwnVoices author Yun writes of Korean-American family life with heartwarming, authentic detail. The predictability of certain plot points, such as Pippa's mysterious acceptance into Lakeview and the eventual exposure of her lies, is balanced by her cheerful charm. Tall, athletic, and brash, she is an unforced subversion of female Asian-American stereotypes even as she confronts challenges unique to Asian-American teens. A subplot involving her aloof math tutor and his musical older brother adds another layer to the story, revealing Pippa's capacity for empathy and the value of family in her world. Ages 10: 12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Pippa Park is a basketball star at her middle school in Victoria, MA, but she struggles with math and the demands of her older sister and guardian Mina. When she unexpectedly receives a scholarship to a prestigious private school, she is faced with new challenges: reinventing herself to fit in with her wealthy classmates, maintaining her grades to keep her scholarship, performing on the court to help secure a long-overdue win for the school, and working at Mina's laundromat. Complicating things is her crush on the headmaster's son and math tutor Elliot, whose strange behavior and mysterious household fascinate and unnerve her. Pippa also feels guilt for avoiding her best friend Buddy, fear over anonymous blog posts targeting her, and worry over her mother who has been in an auto accident in Korea. Ultimately, after some big mistakes, Pippa must find her own solutions and make things right. In this reimagining of Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*, familiar themes and predictability are offset by the depiction of Korean culture and language, which add texture and depth to the narrative. Readers will sympathize with this likable heroine as she struggles to succeed. VERDICT An enjoyable read with a buoyant contemporary twist on an old classic. Recommended for young fans of modern retellings.--Marie Orlando, formerly at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.



#2290684 (Vol. 02) **Crush at First Sight (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Erin Yun*

Pippa Park picks up right where she left off . . . trying to balance basketball, school, friends, working at the struggling family laundromat, and fitting in. So when Pippa is faced with hosting the annual Christmas Eve party that could make or break her social life, how can she say no? Will Pippa make enough money to cover the costs while juggling crushes and everything else? With courage and determination, Pippa sets out to host the party, find the perfect dress, pick the right boy, and stay true to her real self.

978-1-944020-80-4 ©2022 5-3/4 x 8 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Grades 4-7 Pippa gets way in over her head when she agrees to host a Christmas Eve party at her small apartment for the most popular kids in school. Her Korean American family is a bit strapped for cash, and what's worse, her upstairs neighbor takes a tumble and ends up moving into their living room because she needs care. Add to that her neighbor's terrifying cat and getting caught between two crushes, and Pippa's middle-school experience just became her worst nightmare. This is a heartfelt story about a kid who wants to make everyone happy, including herself, and do things the ""right"" way but who struggles with asking for help. Young and older readers alike will find this relatable, because who--least of all a middle-schooler--wants to admit to their pals that they have to let them down? This lovely Christmastime read has broad appeal and fleshed-out characters who all share in the limelight. This is also a great story for folks who like to read about triumphant underdogs. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Pippa is in over her head and head over heels in the second installment of the Pippa Park series. Pippa, a working-class Korean American 12-year-old, lives with her adult sister, Mina, and Mina's husband in Massachusetts; her mother returned to Korea due to visa issues. Pippa has settled into the private middle school she attends on a basketball scholarship. She is friendly with the Royals, the group of popular girls, most of whom are wealthy and White, but she isn't quite one of them--yet. When the venue for the Royals' Christmas party falls through, Pippa impulsively volunteers to host it. What the other girls don't know is just how tiny Pippa's apartment is and that her family can't afford glitzy decorations or catering--even Christmas presents are outside their budget. Obstacles abound, one of the Royals seems to have it in for her, her best friends are drifting away from her, and she develops feelings for two different boys, one White and one Korean American. It's too much, and Pippa makes one disastrous decision after another until it all comes to a head a few days before the party. Luckily Pippa learns some valuable lessons in friendship and teamwork just in time to make it a very merry Christmas after all. This is solid, classic middle-school drama fare that benefits from the interesting ways Pippa's family background is developed. An engaging variation on a familiar theme. (Fiction. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7--Pippa explores the highs and lows of friendships and first crushes in this well-crafted sequel to Pippa Park Raises her Game. As Christmas approaches, Pippa is busier than ever juggling basketball, homework, hanging out with her friends, and working at her sister's laundromat. When she accidentally agrees to host her new friends' annual Christmas party and her sister volunteers her to help out with the church pageant, Pippa's responsibilities increase. Throw in money troubles, a grumpy cat, and confusing feelings for both her math tutor Eliot and an old friend from church, and Pippa finds herself in over her head. VERDICT This warm-hearted, feel-good series continues to realistically explore one Korean American girl's middle school experience in a relatable way. Copyright 2022 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Planet Omar (Trade)

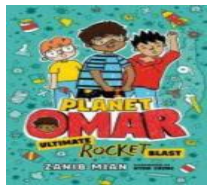


#2280791 (Vol. 04) Planet Omar: Epic Hero Flop (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Zanib Mian

Is there ever a good time to tell a lie? When his best friend Daniel messes up at school, Omar decides to take the blame to save Daniel from getting in trouble-which makes Omar feel like a total hero! Being treated like a hero feels great, so he does it again. But then something more serious happens, and all eyes land on Omar. Uh-oh. The principal is convinced that Omar must have done it. Will he and his friends be able to prove his innocence, or is his good reputation ruined forever?

978-0-593-40717-2 ©2022 5 x 8 208 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 810

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99

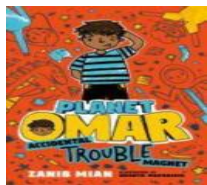


#2333090 (Vol. 05) Ultimate Rocket Blast (Library Binding (Trade))
written by Zanib Mian

Omar and his friends are blasting off on another adventure--this time at a rocket-building competition. All of his family's Science Sundays prepared Omar to lead his friends on their quest to build the best rocket in their school, sending them to the nationals. But when their rocket is sabotaged, Omar and his friends have to use their expertise in science and mysteries to find the culprit.

978-0-593-40720-2 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 208 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 740

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.99



#2149229 (Vol. 01) Accidental Trouble Magnet (Hardcover (POB))
written by Zanib Mian

But when Omar makes a new best friend, things start looking up. That is, until a Big Mean Bully named Daniel makes every day a nightmare! Daniel even tells Omar that all Muslims are going to be kicked out of the country...Could that possibly be true?

978-0-593-10921-2 ©2020 5-1/4 x 8 224 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 820

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$13.99

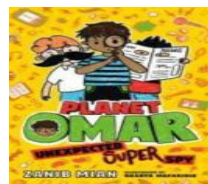
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 *Starred Review* In their #OwnVoices debut, Mian and Mafaridik create a relatable and hilarious story for the elementary-school set. Omar is the middle child of a British Muslim family, and he's feeling anxious about his first day at a new school. Thankfully, he gets seated beside a nice kid named Charlie (instafriend!), but Daniel, the class bully, has his mean eyes on Omar. Outside of school, Omar's family is observing Ramadan, and Omar takes his first crack at fasting, mostly to score bonus points with Allah, which hopefully will get him a prize like a Ferrari! Exploding with personality and imagination, Omar is an easy character to love. His explanations of Muslim faith and culture, such as when and how to pray, his favorite foods to eat (even when they're smelly to cook), and how it's hilarious that non-Muslim people sometimes think his mom never takes off her head scarf, flow naturally through the story. What emerges is the picture of a somewhat harried family that is smart (Omar's parents are scientists) and kind. Doodle illustrations adorn every page, in perfect sync with the story's humorous and dramatic moments. Racist assumptions held by an elderly neighbor and Daniel are excellently handled and evaporate once these characters actually get to know Omar and his family, reinforcing the idea that difference can be a lovely thing.(Reprinted with permission of

Reviews by: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Omar's nervous about going to a new school after his family moves, but despite some pressing concerns-Will he make new friends? What if his teacher is an alien?-he's off to a great start. The only problem: he isn't sure what to make of the class bully's claim that Omar's Muslim family will soon be kicked out of the country. In this slice-of-life British import, Omar recounts the daily struggles of his family of five, from waking up early for morning prayers and breakfast, to chaotic packing for car trips, to dealing the prejudiced neighbor next door. Mian integrates details about Islamic worship and Pakistani culture without becoming didactic, as Omar's voice and understanding of the world are authentically young. Not to be shown up by his older sister, for example, he's determined to fast during Ramadan, and he and his new friend Charlie excitedly speculate that Allah's secret reward for fasting might be a Ferrari. Mafaridik's cartoony artwork and illustrative lettering visualize Omar's imagination, but they don't quite match the writing's charm or humor. The book also holds back at its conclusion, adding an implausibly neat wrapup that writes off the prejudice as a product of misinformation after both the neighbor and the bully receive help from Omar and his family. Still, elementary school readers will find both a funny, relatable new companion and a primer on Muslim family life with the start of this series. AMM

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Omar, a British Pakistani boy, and his family have just moved to a new home in London, where he will be starting at a new school. Omar worries about a lot of things, especially "walking into a brand-new classroom with everyone watching and a teacher who might or might not be an alien zombie." He has a little brother and an older sister, and his mom and dad are both scientists. (Published in the U.K. in 2019, the text has been Americanized for the U.S. edition.) Omar has a huge imagination that helps him get through difficult situations, envisioning, for instance, "a better way to get to school...on a SUPER-Awesome, Magnificent DRAGON." Mafaridik creatively embellishes the text with sketches and a variety of display types. At his new school, Omar makes friends with Charlie but also meets Daniel, a bully. (Both boys present white.) Omar does not tell his mom because he does not want her to worry, instead using humor and creativity to escape Daniel's cruelty. Mian seamlessly weaves Islamic values and teachings through Omar's chatty narration. At prayer in the mosque, "we went into Rukhu. That's when your hands are on your knees....Then we went into Sujood." These descriptions and definitions are consistent and brief throughout, moving with the flow of the story. While the story's tone is light, anti-Muslim sentiment is acknowledged and integrated into the narrative. Readers will be excited to see where Omar's imagination will take him next. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Originally released in the U.K. as *The Muslims*, Mian's middle grade debut features some stock elements: after his family moves, Omar fears he won't make friends at his new school and that his teacher will be a space alien, is vexed that he's targeted by bully Daniel, and gets frustrated that his teenage sister has become a "snitch." In Omar's daily life and close-knit Muslim family, religion plays a focal role. His narrative incidentally relays; with readers and with his new friend, Charlie; the prayers his family says daily; fasting, feasting, and other rituals of Ramadan; and his scientist mother's commitment to wearing hijab. Mian also credibly integrates Omar's hurtful experiences with prejudice, as when Daniel tells the boy that "the worst thing about you" is "You're Muslim.... You better go back to your country before we kick you all out" (Daniel adjusts his attitude and Omar learns the genesis of Daniel's bitterness). Yet the dominant tone of wildly imaginative Omar's free-association narrative, laced with expressive hand lettering and Mafaridik's playfully exaggerated line art, remains chipper and uplifting. Ages 8: 12. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6—When Omar's family moves to a new house, that means the 10-year-old must start the year at a new school. Omar is nervous because he thinks he will stand out as the new kid and because he is Muslim. Luckily for Omar, he has a great teacher and makes a new friend, Charlie, right away. But Omar and Charlie become the target of a bully, Daniel, who seems to dislike Omar for no other reason than he is Muslim. Daniel even goes as far as saying that all Muslims will be kicked out of the country. When Omar and Daniel are thrown together into a scary situation, the boys learn more about each other and realize that maybe they don't have to be enemies. Told from Omar's point of view, the playful text is bolstered with illustrations throughout that show off his creativity and imagination. VERDICT A great #OwnVoices story for children to learn more about connection and empathy.—Jayna Ramsey, Douglas County Libraries in Parker, CO



#2177898 (Vol. 02) **Unexpected Super Spy (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Zanib Mian*

When Omar hears that his family's favorite mosque is at risk of shutting down due to lack of funds, he knows he has to do something. And with the help of his best friend Charlie and another unlikely ally, a great idea is born--a school talent contest!

978-0-593-10924-3 ©2020 5-1/8 x 7-13/16 224 pgs.

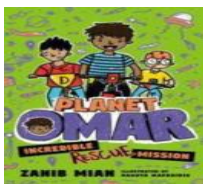
Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 3.0 Lexile 790

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

#2226602 (Vol. 03) **Incredible Rescue Mission (Hardcover (Trade))**

written by *Zanib Mian*

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

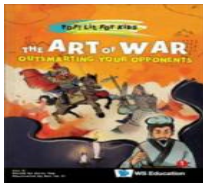


Omar is going on his biggest adventure yet—a trip to Pakistan! But his excitement about the trip is interrupted by some shocking news: his amazing teacher is not coming back to school, and no one will say why. When Omar and his friends start investigating, the hints they overhear and clues they find lead them to an alarming conclusion—it must be aliens!

978-0-593-10927-4 ©2021 5 x 8 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 3.0

Pop! Lit for Kids (Trade)



#2379377 Art of War: Outsmarting Your Opponents (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sun Tzu

How does a leader respond in times of war and chaos? This was the central question the great Chinese military strategist, Sun Zi, sought to answer over 2,000 years ago in his classic book, The Art of War. In this book, you will read about the famous battles fought in China across the different dynasties. You will learn the lessons Sun Zi taught in The Art of War and appreciate the timelessness of his insights!

978-981-12-8072-6 ©2024 96 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$14.95

Poppy Pendle (Trade)



#1685200 (Vol. 01) Power of Poppy Pendle (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Natasha Lowe

Poppy may have inherited the family's magical powers, but she would rather be a baker. How can she avoid the family business? Includes more than a dozen delectable recipes!

978-1-4424-4679-3 ©2012 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 7.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 810

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Can 10-year-old Poppy convince her parents she wants to be a baker and not a witch in yet another fantasy that blends magic and baking? Poppy Pendle has inherited her magic from her Great-Granny Mabel, but her passion is baking. Her Dursley-like parents send her to the Ruthersfield Academy for young ladies with magic. She excels there, but she hates flying on her broomstick, using her wand and the teasing of the other girls. She runs away to the only place where she is happy, Patisserie Marie Claire, where she can create her own cookies and cakes. When this solution does not pan out, Poppy turns to the dark side of being a witch, hiding in a forsaken cottage and turning animals, her parents, police, birds and squirrels to stone. Her friend Charlie (a girl) and Marie Claire try various "sweet-tempting" plans to bring her back and finally succeed. Poppy and Marie Claire rehab the cottage and open a bakery. Numerous unexplained gaps in the fantasy logic crinkle the storyline, beginning with the "magic" of Poppy's being born in the Patisserie (thus her passion) and ending with her turned-to-stone parents taking two years to thaw. The belabored parental conflict, sugarcoated emotions and convenient plot details are cloying. The 12 recipes at the end are the best part; the rest is just half-baked. (Fantasy. 8-11)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Lowe's energetic first novel is led by 10-year-old Poppy, who was born in the Patisserie Marie Claire bakery in the town of Potts Bottom. While Poppy has inherited the gift of magic from her highly respected Great-Granny Mabel, she wants nothing to do with it. Baking makes Poppy happy, and after three years at Ruthersfield, a magic school her parents force her to attend, she is fed up. Poppy runs away to the Patisserie, where sympathetic Marie Claire takes her in, but when Poppy's parents drag her home, she snaps and turns them to stone with the "Stop It Now Spell." It's up to Marie Claire and Poppy's friend Charlie to bring Poppy back from the "dark side." Lowe makes the story's arc (and message) clear early on: the Ruthersfield motto translates to "Follow your passion," and Poppy's interest in another witch who crossed to the dark side presages her own transformation. Readers will easily empathize with Poppy and recognize the loneliness and anger that accompany being misunderstood. Several recipes for Poppy's desserts are included. Ages 8–12. Agent: Ann Tobias, A Literary Agency for Children's Books. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-To her parents' great mortification, Poppy is unexpectedly born in a French bakery; she couldn't

possibly have had a less auspicious birth. As she grows, though, it becomes obvious that she has the rare gift of magic, and her parents couldn't be more pleased. They purchase a state-of-the-art wand and broom and enter her in the Ruthersfield Academy for Witches. While Poppy is an excellent witch, all she really wants to do is bake. When she announces to her parents that she hates magic and just wants to make treats, her parents go to the extreme to stop her, pushing her into the blackest of magic. In this sweet story about true friendship, Poppy is a likable main character. While the accompanying cast is a little flat and an evil-witch story line seems to be dropped altogether, children will like dark-side Poppy and the satisfying ending. Several recipes are included. Recommended this one to fans of Jill Murphy's *The Worst Witch* (Viking, 1989).-Terry Ann Lawler, Phoenix Public Library, AZ (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1898006 (Vol. 02) Courage of Cat Campbell (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Natasha Lowe

Cat Campbell has had magical powers since the day she was born, but she didn't always know that. Cat's mother believes magic ruins lives, and even as Cat's passion for magic grows over the years, no one suspects she has the gift. But she has indeed inherited the coveted magic gene of her famed great-great-grandmother Mabel, a discovery she makes in a most surprising way. Cat is a witch!

978-1-4814-1870-6 ©2015 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 840

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99



#1971598 (Vol. 03) Marvelous Magic of Miss Mabel (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Natasha Lowe

When Mabel is accepted to the prestigious witch school, Ruthersfield Academy, she excels at the magic curriculum but is constantly in trouble for experimenting and inventing her own potions. One day she is asked to write a paper on her magical roots and discovers the truth about her birth after a mean classmate blurts out what everyone seems to know except Mabel. Mabel is shocked but the revelation does explain a lot. In rebellion, Mabel changes her name to Magnolia and tries to understand why she was left in the flowerpot and who her birth family might be. Will Mabel find the answers she's looking for--or will she discover that families are people who love each other and look after each other and that's most important of all.

978-1-4814-6533-5 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 870

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal y great-great-grandmother of Cat (The Courage of Cat Campbell), stars in her own book about resourcefulness and feminism. It's 1881, and Nora Ratcliff, a widow, finds baby Mabel in a flowerpot by her door. Nora falls in love with Mabel, only later discovering that Mabel is a witch. Nora enrolls Mabel in Ruthersfield Academy, a magical school where her innovative spells challenge her teachers' unshakable adherence to rules and traditions. Mabel argues that girls should ride broomsticks astride for safety and brainstorms magical solutions to everyday problems like her housemaid's brittle hair. When the Society of Forward Thinking Witches sponsors a competition for a useful household spell, Mabel's clever idea and the machinations of her archenemy Winnifred make for a disastrous magical muddle that Mabel must unravel. Lowe taps into relevant themes for today's youth with her characterization of Mabel as an inventor and an agent of social change. Through Mabel's trials and errors, Lowe subtly impresses upon readers the ideas that trying and failing can lead to genius and that one should never abandon one's convictions because of others' opinions. Through the lens of the suffrage movement, Lowe also examines the so-called proper roles of women. The subplot involving the restrictive Nanny Grimshaw seems extraneous to the story, further delineating Mabel as a figure of pity and oppression. The historical setting may narrow the audience slightly, but Mabel's high jinks will appeal to readers of Roald Dahl's *Matilda* and Diana Wynne Jones's *Howl's Moving Castle*. VERDICT Mabel will inspire readers with her confident creativity; a solid secondary purchase, especially where Lowe's previous title is popular.-Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Potion Masters (Trade)

#2033238 (Vol. 01) Eternity Elixir (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Frank L. Cole

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

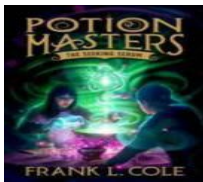


For hundreds of years, all of our medical findings, our technological advancements, and even our weapons are a direct result of magical potions. Few people know about the truth because few people are aware of the hidden potion community known as B.R.E.W.--the Board of Ruling Elixirists Worldwide.

978-1-62972-358-7 ©2018 304 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile 690

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7-Gordy Stitser is an accomplished potion maker despite his young age. His mother is an incredibly gifted Elixirist and keeps a lab in their home, which no one is supposed to talk about (especially not the mummy in the zip top bag). Shortly after a trip to the headquarters of B.R.E.W., the Board of Ruling Elixirists Worldwide, where Gordy learns a life-changing secret, and a strange phone call to his mother, a mysterious package arrives addressed to Gordy's mom from Aunt Priss. Despite his best judgment and at the urging of his friends Max and Adeline, Gordy opens the package and examines the contents. Shortly after, the world's most powerful potion, the Eternity Elixir, vanishes, and Gordy, Max, and Adeline must work together to keep the potion from falling into the possession of those who might use it to destroy B.R.E.W.-and the world along with it. This first installment in a new trilogy has all the hallmarks of a grand adventure: an unknown treasure, an all-powerful enemy, and a host of secrets revealed. Adeline and Wanda both present strong supporting cast members, and Gordy's adventure is a memorable one. VERDICT Fans of the archetypal hero's journey will keep turning pages. A solid addition to large collections where fantasy circulates well.-Wayne R. Cherry Jr., St. Pius X High School, Houston Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2147425 (Vol. 03) Seeking Serum (Hardcover (Trade))

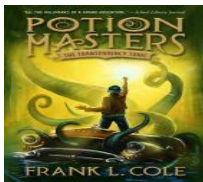
written by Frank L. Cole

Scourges, the name given to potion masters imprisoned by B.R.E.W but who have recently been freed by Mezzarix, attack the Swigs, and Gordy barely escapes with this life. He has to leave his family behind. He heads to the house of his best friend, Max, where his other friends, Sasha and Adilene, join him in making a plan to help find Mezzarix's secret location.

978-1-62972-606-9 ©2020 5 x 8 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2088051 (Vol. 02) Transparency Tonic (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Frank L. Cole

Gordy is starting the eighth grade, where he meets another Dram, Sasha Brexil, whose mother is the new President of B.R.E.W. Gordy has also been practicing new brewing techniques, and has even taken some of his potions to school--something expressly forbidden.

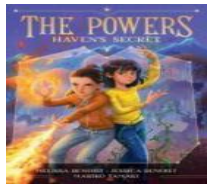
978-1-62972-488-1 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 780

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-Nine months have gone by since Gordy, Max, and Adilene stopped B.R.E.W.'s (Board of Ruling Elixirists Worldwide) destructions at the hands of Esmerelda. Gordy is continuing his education with B.R.E.W. and at school he meets Sasha who is also a dram (an elixirist-in-training). Sasha's mother is the new head of B.R.E.W. and has been making some very strange decisions. To make matters worse, Mezzarix, Gordy's grandfather and one of the most powerful elixirists of all time, has escaped from his exile in Greenland. The mysterious Ms. Bimini asks Mezzarix to brew a special elixir called Silt, which he agrees to do on the condition that she use the power of Silt to destroy B.R.E.W. once and for all. Though Gordy may have the skills to match his grandfather's, but his blackouts may well give Mezzarix the edge that he needs to emerge victorious. This is a wonderful story with an ending that will likely lead readers to beg for more. VERDICT This latest addition to the series picks up where the previous book left off and is filled to the brim with adventure and excitement.-Wayne R. Cherry Jr., St. Pius X High School, Houston Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Powers (Amulet / Trade)



#2256430 (Vol. 01) Haven's Secret (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Melissa Benoist

Ellie McFadden has intuitive gifts. She can sense what other living things are feeling. She can even talk to animals! Too bad she can't connect with her twin sister, Parker. Parker McFadden has kinetic gifts. She can cause shocks to the earth and produce heat energy that explodes from her body like fire, especially when she is angry.

978-1-4197-5261-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 304 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist In this series opener, Californian twin sisters Ellie and Parker discover that they have inherited magical powers along with a mission, if they choose to accept it, to save the planet from ecological disaster. Abruptly taken to Haven, a rambling mansion constructed entirely of recycled bric-a-brac, by a pair of older relatives, the two slowly come to understand that their mother, who mysteriously disappeared five years ago, left them with special, potentially dangerous abilities. Calm Ellie soon finds herself feeling the pain of injured animals, while the more mercurial Parker inadvertently touches off earthquakes and blasts of lightning when she gets upset. Worse yet, there is a corrupting, ill-defined menace in the surrounding woods (dubbed "The Danger" in some passages, "The Darkness" in others) that is fueling Parker's rage and despair. Though the tale is largely a patchwork of contrivances and cliches, the protagonists' relationship is richly nuanced, and unresolved questions leave the door open to sequels. The lead author, Glee and Supergirl star Benoist, may have enough name recognition to swell readership.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Just after their 12th birthday, nonidentical twin sisters Parker and Ellie McFadden are abruptly sent to live with their maternal great-aunt Mabel and great-uncle George, whom they've never known, while their father travels overseas for work. Their new home is Haven, an animal sanctuary in Northern California constructed from salvaged goods and riddled with secrets. While struggling to adjust, the twins manifest strange powers; nature-loving, empathic Ellie discovers she can communicate with animals, while athletic realist Parker can generate lightning. The mystery deepens as they learn about their cued-white family's long-standing role in protecting the environment and battling the Danger, an elemental force created by human greed and planet abuse, which led to their mother's death five years ago. However, the longer they stay at Haven, the more the duo suspects something is wrong. The combination of ambitious worldbuilding, multiple plot threads, and leisurely pacing leads to a somewhat uneven reading experience; still, the Benoist sisters and Tamaki (I Am Not Starfire) establish an engaging fantasy series starter with a strong ecological message, a setting full of character, and tantalizing hints of a bigger, worldwide scale. Ages 8: 12. (Oct.)



#2314044 (Vol. 02) Haven's Legacy (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Melissa Benoist

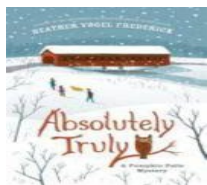
Mountain Harbor is not what it seems. Though Sadie promised the girls protection, the Danger--a smoky, tentacled being born of greed and chaos--has broken free of the forests surrounding Haven to follow Parker and Ellie to Mountain Harbor. The twins must rely on their new friends and teachers to help them defeat the fearsome threat and uncover the truth behind Sadie's mysterious assignment. But most of all, they will have to rely on each other.

978-1-4197-5263-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Pumpkin Falls Mystery (Trade)



#1778774 (Vol. 01) Absolutely Truly (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Heather Vogel Frederick

Twelve-year-old Truly Lovejoy's family moves to a small town to take over a bookstore. Soon, she has to solve two mysteries involving a missing book and an undelivered letter.

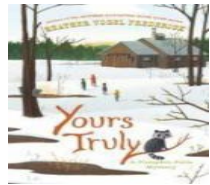
978-1-4424-2972-7 ©2014 368 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.4 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 5.2 Lexile 790

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$19.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Fans of the author's "Mother-Daughter Book Club" books (S. & S.) will rejoice for a new series with a similarly cozy New England setting, great characters, and literary references to beloved classics. Shortly after winter break, Truly Lovejoy finds

herself at yet another school, in another state. The middle child of five, things haven't been the same in her family since "Black Monday" when her usually good-humored father was injured during his last tour in Afghanistan, losing an arm. Having to adjust to what this means for her father's career, the family finds themselves in his hometown-Pumpkin Falls, New Hampshire-so that he and Truly's aunt can take over the family bookstore. The mystery begins when Truly finds a note tucked inside a signed, first edition copy of Charlotte's Web, which sends the protagonist and her new friends on a treasure hunt through town. Though this story really pushes the "middle school private eye" trope, the mystery is not the driving force; other plot lines carry the story. Readers will relish meeting the town's diverse community of characters, exploring Truly's now tenuous relationship with her father who is struggling with PTSD, and the plight to save the bookstore from imminent ruin. The book is laden with bookish references, such as Jane Yolen's Owl Moon, that will delight young bibliophiles as they curl up and enjoy the quaint town of Pumpkin Falls.- Danielle Jones, Multnomah County Library, OR (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



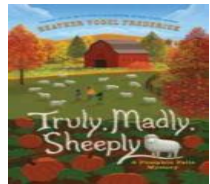
#1991426 (Vol. 02) Yours Truly (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Heather Vogel Frederick

Even Truly Lovejoy has to admit that teeny-tiny Pumpkin Falls, New Hampshire, has its charms--like the annual maple festival, where tourists flock from all over to sample the local maple syrup, maple candy, maple coffee, and even maple soap! But when someone tries to sabotage the maple trees on her friend Franklin's family farm, Truly has to rally the Pumpkin Falls Private Eyes to investigate.

978-1-4424-7186-3 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 740

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$19.99

Reviews by: Booklist Truly Lovejoy and her pals are back on the case in the second offering in the Pumpkin Falls Mystery series. The 13-year-old Texas transplant is still adjusting to life in picturesque Pumpkin Falls, New Hampshire, when her cousin Mackenzie comes to visit during school vacation and the town's Maple Madness. As local families begin feuding over a case of broken maple line taps, Truly and her friends are out to find the culprit. Meanwhile, Truly and Mackenzie happen upon an old family diary hidden beneath the floorboards; could the Lovejoys have played a role in the Underground Railroad? Frederick will easily maintain the reader's interest with the novel's two main mysteries. Complemented by the congenial setting, the cast of delightful townsfolk, young and old, could almost pass for the denizens of Stars Hollow. Truly's jealousy over her cousin's more carefree connections with the boys in town will strike a chord with emerging adolescent readers only now feeling out crushes. Fans of cozy mysteries, get your blankets and hot cocoa ready!--Barnes, Jennifer Copyright 2017 Booklist

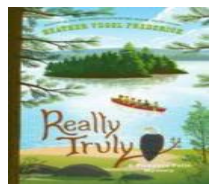


#2329674 (Vol. 04) Truly, Madly, Sheeplly (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Heather Vogel Frederick

It's autumn in New England and Truly and her fellow Pumpkin Falls Private Eyes are gearing up for the annual Halloween Festival. Aunt True and her new husband, Rusty, have bought Ethel and Elmer Farnsworth's dilapidated old farm on the edge of town, where they're going to raise sheep and where Truly and her grandparents have volunteered to farm- and sheep-sit while the newlyweds are on their honeymoon.

978-1-5344-9968-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.
 Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99



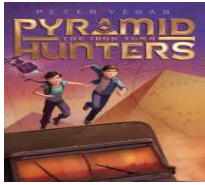
#2162901 (Vol. 03) Really Truly (Hardcover (Trade))
written by Heather Vogel Frederick

Truly Lovejoy is excited for the perfect summer in Pumpkin Falls, New Hampshire. Luckily, a mystery is never too far behind the Pumpkin Falls Private Eyes, and synchronized swimming turns into a hunt for a sunken ship and an investigation of the founding of Pumpkin Falls...which may have involved more pirates than originally thought. And as the Pumpkin Falls Private Eyes get closer to the heart of the mystery and Truly gets closer to her mermaid debut, she may just learn to come out of her shell.

978-1-5344-1437-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$17.99

Pyramid Hunters (Trade)



#1961107 (Vol. 01) Iron Tomb (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Peter Vegas

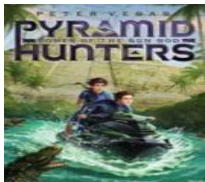
When Sam Force goes to Egypt to spend the summer with his uncle Jasper, he's ready for the usual vacation filled with museums and lessons about the pharaohs and ancient gods. Instead, Sam arrives at the airport and learns that his uncle is missing and wanted by the police. After narrowly escaping his own arrest, Sam sets off to find his uncle using the series of clues that Jasper left behind. But a group of mysterious men are hot on his trail, and Sam knows they're willing to do whatever it takes to track down Jasper and whatever Jasper was looking for.

978-1-4814-4578-8 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile 840

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-A mix of "Indiana Jones," National Treasure, and The Da Vinci Code. Sam Force lands in Cairo for his annual summer visit with his Uncle Jason, ready for the usual three months of ancient Egypt tutorial. This year is different, however, because Jason is not there to meet him. Instead, a young taxi driver named Hadi saves Sam from some unsavory police officers, and Sam is off on a search for his lost uncle. In this story that's complete with clues, codes, and puzzles, Sam navigates labyrinthine souks, flies across desert sand dunes on ATVs, outruns hordes of ravenous rats in the sewers of Cairo, and survives being buried inside a World War II ship left stranded in the sand when the Nile shifted course during a storm. Hadi and Mary, a girl Sam met on the plane, are sometimes friends and sometimes foes, making it difficult for Sam to know whom to trust. The pace of the story makes it hard to find a place to bookmark it for the night, but it also means that puzzles are solved a bit too quickly. It never takes Sam more than a page or three to find a clue and solve it, leading him on to the next. Accidents are fortuitous and frequent, leaving readers little opportunity to see Sam solve problems or to get to know him in any depth. VERDICT This will appeal to readers who enjoy plot-driven mysteries.-Katherine Koenig, The Ellis School, Pittsburgh Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2008181 (Vol. 02) Bones of the Sun God (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Peter Vegas

Sam heads to Belize to continue his investigation into his parents' mysterious disappearance and to learn more about secret of the pyramids. But after being kidnapped by crocodile cultists, will he ever be able to find the answers he's looking for?

978-1-4814-4582-5 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

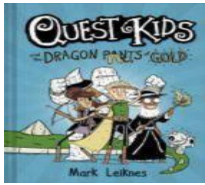
Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 760

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-Sam Force barely escaped from Egypt after a failed search for his missing archaeologist parents in the first installment of the series. After a few months of boring safety at a Boston boarding school, he is ready to continue the search among the Mayan pyramids of Central America. With a little manipulation (and a lot of deception) from his partner in adventure, Mary Verulam, Sam makes it to Belize. Nonstop action ensues as Sam and Mary follow clues from Mayan mythology and the Knights Templar, hoping the secrets of the ancients will lead to his parents. Bad guys abound (a few good ones show up, too), as do crocodiles, bombs, diabolical technological devices, chases of all kinds, and enough blood to satisfy even the thirstiest of youthful adventurers. This works admirably as a sequel, though it could be read alone in a pinch. As with the first volume, flamboyant action trumps character development, but the plot does thicken nicely here as Sam uncovers the surprising purpose of the pyramid network, and faces potential betrayal from his best friend. The writing is crisp and descriptive, with the added bonus of engaging readers in first Egyptian and then Mayan mythology, as well as the legends of the Ark of the Covenant and the Knights Templar. VERDICT Series fans, especially in the middle grades, will welcome this installment and look forward to what follows.-Katherine Koenig, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Quest Kids (Trade)

Quantity	Unit Price
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#2291407 (Vol. 01) Quest Kids and the Dragon Pants of Gold (Hardcover (Trade))

1

\$14.99

written by Mark Leiknes

The Quest Kids are ready for their first real quest. This time, they won't oversleep, they won't be put off by a little rain, and they won't accidentally burn down the village that hired them. All they have to do is find the Golden-Fleeced Rage Beast, shave it, and make a really nice golden tracksuit to appease a furious dragon. Simple, right?

978-1-4549-4625-0 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 336 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Reviews by: Booklist In a long-lost "memoir" recovered by authorial alter-ego J. B. LncastoothT and presented here in a hybrid mix of block letters and squiggly line drawings, an ill-conceived effort to "pants" a fire-breathing dragon in the wake of a series of likewise failed quests pitches glib, young ex-peasant Ned and his game, if overly trusting, buddies—a laid-back rock troll, an apprentice wizard, and a 700-year-old preteen elf—into a series of narrow squeaks. In a desperate effort to keep himself, as well as a local village, from being toasted, the would-be hero offers to make the vengeful dragon a golden track jacket to match its glittering sweatpants. Unfortunately, that requires fibbing to his friends to persuade them to help and then questing for, and shearing the golden fleece from, a huge and really scary Rage Beast. To Ned's credit, he does wrestle with his conscience as they careen through hazards. Chalk up one successful quest for the Quest Kids and, LncastoothT promises, look for more to come.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A gaggle of youngsters set off on their first quest. The Quest Kids crew are a varied lot: There's Gil, a wizard-in-training; Terra, a 700-year-old elf child; and Boulder, a friendly rock troll who is better at preparing meals than vanquishing enemies. There's also Ash, a pig/dog/lizard sort of thing that brings a lot of flatulence to the table. And finally, there's Ned, the boldly (and somewhat overly) optimistic leader with his own personal quest to find his missing parents. The adventurers are tasked with discovering the golden-fleeced rage beast. Once the beast is quelled or slain, they must shave it and create a golden tracksuit jacket as an offering to a disgruntled dragon. The party bounces from scene to scene, flashing gags at a breakneck pace, with characters spouting funny one-liners. Young readers dipping their toes into fantasy realms will find plenty to enjoy here. The characterization is sharp, the jokes land, and the inner workings of the magical kingdom make just enough sense that things don't completely fall apart. The novel is presented in a familiar half-prose, half-comics style. The illustrations bounce along as quickly as the text, making this a bubbly read, one that quickly grabs attention and doesn't require much hand-holding. Ned reads White; Gil and Terra have slightly darker skin. A rip-roaring good time. (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2347929 (Vol. 02) Quest Kids and the Dark Prophecy of Doug (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Mark Leiknes

It's been six months since the Quest Kids-Ned, Terra, Gil, Boulder, and Ash-saved a village from a furious dragon (no big deal) and turned their questing efforts toward finding Ned's parents. With help from new and old friends, the Quest Kids sail through stormy seas, vacation on the newly rebranded Contentment Island, and venture into the Forsaken Lands to find Doug, whose wicked tunes and even wickeder plans are in full force. Can the Quest Kids get it together to counter Doug's plans and find Ned's parents-or must they watch as a triumphant Doug surfs on waves of fire and fulfills his terrible prophecy?

978-1-4549-4628-1 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 368 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 720

Quinnie Boyd Mysteries (Carolrhoda Books)

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$12.74



#1996432 Vampires on the Run (Hardcover (Trade))

written by C. M. Surrisi

In the months after Quinnie Boyd cracked the mystery of her missing teacher, she expected life in her small Maine town to snap back to normal. But two writers from New York City have arrived in Maiden Rock, and there's something not quite right about them. Sure, Ceil and Edgar are pale. And they dress in all black. And they don't go near the sunlight. But could they really be vampires? To find out, Quinnie turns to Dominic--a new kid in town who's an expert on everything geeky. Together, they'll

risk their necks to find an answer . . .
978-1-5124-1150-8 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 296 pgs.
Grades 5 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 8.0 GR Lvl V Lexile 690

Reviews by: Booklist The prospect of a dull off-season in the “boy-bleak” Maine resort town of Maiden Rock brightens considerably for amateur sleuth Quinnie Boyd with the simultaneous arrival of Dominic, teenage son of visiting marine biologists, and the Watermans—eerily pale family friends of her buddy Mariella (“They’re a little strange.” “They’re just from Brooklyn”), who write best-selling vampire fiction. Glimpses of a shadowy doglike shape and a sudden spate of dead pets later, Quinnie is more than half convinced that the Watermans are themselves undead. As in Quinnie’s previous caper, *The Maypop Kidnapping* (2016), Surrisi concocts a juicy small-town mystery out of tantalizing incidents and clues, red herrings, wild imaginings, thrillingly risky management (and mismanagement) of parental expectations, and plot twists that here range from literary legerdemain to a real bank robbery. Quinnie’s present-tense account flies along to a scary (but tragedy-free) climax that delivers just deserts to all, while leaving her, inexplicably, not grounded for life. A comfy romp. — John Peters

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-8—Eighth grader Quinnie Boyd looks forward to the last few days of school before summer vacation arrives in Maiden Rock, ME. Summer also brings her friend Ella’s houseguests—horror writers Edgar and Ceil Waterman. Quinnie wonders if they really talk to vampires and why they walk the beach after dark. She starts surveilling them with the help of her new friend Dominic. Quinnie hopes to present evidence of vampire activity to her mother, a real estate agent cum sheriff cum mayor, even though she promised she wouldn’t investigate anymore after her adventures in Surrisi’s first “Quinnie Boyd” mystery. During their work, Quinnie and friends notice a predatory coyote and a couple of tourists who seem far too friendly. Quinnie may not have all the answers, but a dramatic boating escape in rough waters brings the story to a satisfying resolution. This second outing doesn’t suffer from the awkward stumbles that plague many follow-up novels. Surrisi creates characters with memorable personalities that come together in the detailed Maine setting. Unlike some fictional detectives, Quinnie doesn’t solve the mystery so much as discover interesting clues, but that seems realistic given her age. Readers will enjoy the reveals as much as Quinnie does, though there are consequences for all of her midnight high jinks. The vampire plot adds to the book’s appeal. **VERDICT** A lively Maine mystery with spooky elements that kids will relish. The characters are a little older than the intended audience, but the story is suitable for a wide age range.—Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT.

Randoms (Trade)



#1980631 (Vol. 02) Rebels (Hardcover (Trade))

written by David Liss

It's difficult to return to Earth and live a simple, unadventurous life after having seen the wonders of the universe--especially when you find yourself with Smelly, a self-important artificial intelligence living in your head, reminding you how much of a primitive meat bag you are. But with Smelly's help, Zeke is on his way back to space on a new, super-secret mission. Zeke may earn Earth a second chance at intergalactic membership--and better yet, he'll be reunited with Tamret, the alien girl of his dreams.

978-1-4814-1782-2 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 400 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 18.0 RC Lvl 5.4 Lexile 820

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Ranger in Time (Prebound)



#1913814 (Vol. 01) Rescue on the Oregon Trail (Prebound)

written by Kate Messner

Ranger, a golden retriever, could have been a great search-and-rescue-dog except for the squirrels--but one day he unearths a mysterious box and finds himself transported back to the year 1850 where his faithful service is really needed by a family traveling west along the Oregon Trail.

978-1-4844-4542-6 ©2015 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.5 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 4.3 GR Lvl T Lexile 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.95

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly A time-traveling golden retriever named Ranger stars in this magic-tinged first book in the *Ranger in Time* series. Trained as a search-and-rescue dog, Ranger is magically transported away from his young owner, Luke, to the year 1850 after finding a first-aid kit buried in the garden. It turns out that Ranger is just what a boy named Sam Abbott, his family, and the other families they are traveling with need to survive the treacherous 2,000-mile journey from Independence, Mo., to the Oregon Territory. Ranger finds Sam's lost three-year-old sister, Amelia,

and alerts Sam to dangers ranging from rattlesnakes to stampedes. Perhaps most importantly, Ranger provides comfort to Sam, who couldn't bring his own dog on the journey. McMorris's richly rendered illustrations heighten the plot's many moments of danger and drama, and Messner (Manhunt) incorporates a wealth of historical details into her rousing adventure story. An author's note offers additional context and detail about the challenges pioneers faced and the real-life research that went into this story. Ages 7--10. Author's agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary Agency. Illustrator's agent: Justin Rucker, Shannon Associates. (Jan.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-Ranger is a golden retriever who trained as a search-and-rescue dog. Unfortunately, he never passes the final test due to those pesky squirrels he can't help chasing. One afternoon, while playing outside with his owner, Luke, he comes across a buried first-aid kit that transports him back to the year 1850. Finding himself in Independence, Missouri, Ranger meets the Abbott family, who is making the treacherous journey on the Oregon Trail. Confused by the strange sights and smells, the dog decides that this must be some sort of new tracking test. Convinced that if he passes he will be reunited with his beloved Luke, Ranger takes on the challenge with gusto. He quickly becomes an invaluable family member by babysitting the Abbotts's ever-wandering toddler, making fast friends with young Sam, and warning them of dangers along the trail. This excellent story contains historical details, full-age illustrations, and enough action to keep even reluctant readers engaged. A wonderful author's note at the end is full of quotes from authentic journals, factual information on search-and-rescue dogs, and suggestions for further reading. This is a stellar choice for readers just starting full-length chapter books and would be a hit with young history buffs and dog lovers as well.-Amy Nolan, St. Joseph Public Library, St. Joseph, MI (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1960695 (Vol. 03) Long Road to Freedom (Prebound)

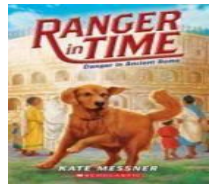
written by Kate Messner

In this adventure, Ranger goes to a Maryland plantation during the days of American slavery, where he meets a young girl named Sarah. When she learns that the owner has plans to sell her little brother, Jesse, to a plantation in the Deep South, it means they could be separated forever.

978-1-4844-7767-0 ©2016 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.5 GR Lvl S Lexile 620

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$14.95



#1941797 (Vol. 02) Danger in Ancient Rome (Prebound)

written by Kate Messner

The mysterious box that Ranger the golden retriever found in the garden transports him back to first century Rome, where he must rescue Marcus, a young servant boy, and Quintus, a volunteer gladiator, from the brutal world of the Colosseum.

978-1-4844-5769-6 ©2015 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 150 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 RC Lvl 3.4 GR Lvl S Lexile 610

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95

Reviews by: Booklist Fresh from expediting a Rescue on the Oregon Trail (2015), Ranger a golden retriever and trained rescue dog again plunges into the past for a dog's-eye view of another era. Carried back by a magical first-aid kit, he lands in Rome's Colosseum, where he hooks up with young slave Marcus Cassius and Quintus Flavius, a new gladiator who is having second thoughts about his chosen profession. As it turns out, there's plenty of work for a rescue dog. Not only is Marcus attacked by a captive lion but Quintus goes temporarily AWOL from gladiator school and has to be tracked down. Along with posing handsomely in the scattered illustrations, Ranger (not anthropomorphized, though an occasional POV character) helps both of his new friends earn their freedom before returning home. Limiting violence to a few slashes and oblique references to wild animal fights and executions, Messner tucks light doses of information about ancient Roman society and gladiatorial combat into both the plot and also a closing note kitted out with photographs and a bibliography. History, happy endings, and a heroic, time-traveling dog. What's not to like?--Peters, John Copyright 2015 Booklist

#2006972 (Vol. 06) Escape from the Great Earthquake (Prebound)

written by Kate Messner

Ranger is a time-traveling golden retriever with search-and-rescue training. In this adventure, he goes to San Francisco and meets Lily Chen, who was sent from China to work as a servant but dreams of becoming a doctor.

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$16.95

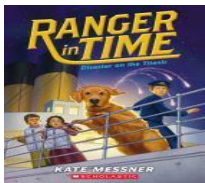


978-1-5364-1291-8 ©2017 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 630



#2048273 (Vol. 07) D-Day: Battle on the Beach (Prebound)
written by Kate Messner
 In this adventure, Ranger heads to Normandy on the morning of the D-Day invasion and finds himself in the middle of one of the fiercest battles of World War II.
 978-1-5364-3189-6 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 650

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95



#2088744 (Vol. 09) Disaster on the Titanic (Prebound)
written by Kate Messner
 Patrick Murphy has been chosen to be part of the crew during the Titanic's maiden voyage! Ranger meets Patrick before the ship sets sail. But one night, the ship hits an iceberg and starts to take on water. It's a race against time for Ranger and his friends to help get passengers off the ship before it's too late.
 978-1-5364-5274-7 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.3 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 640

Quantity
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Unit Price
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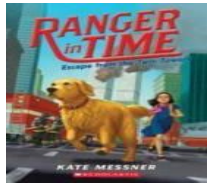
#2106794 (Vol. 10) Night of Soldiers and Spies (Prebound)
written by Kate Messner
 Ranger's next mission finds him in the middle of the Revolutionary War. There he meets Isaac Pope, a fisherman turned soldier for the Continental Army. When General George Washington is in need of a spy to cross into enemy territory, Isaac is chosen for the dangerous task. Ranger must help Isaac remain safe and undetected, or the battle - and their lives - will be lost.
 978-1-5364-5667-7 ©2019 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 156 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.8 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 650

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95



#2064930 (Vol. 08) Hurricane Katrina Rescue (Prebound)
written by Kate Messner
 Ranger, the time-traveling golden retriever with search-and-rescue training, arrives in New Orleans as Hurricane Katrina approaches and residents start to evacuate the city. Ranger meets Clare Porter, who is searching for her grandmother.
 978-1-5364-4151-2 ©2018 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 160 pgs.
 Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 3.9 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 560

Quantity
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Unit Price
\$16.95



#2153347 (Vol. 11) Escape from the Twin Towers (Prebound)

written by Kate Messner

Ranger has never needed his search-and-rescue training more than when he arrives at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. There he meets Risha Scott and her friend Max who have come to work with Risha's mother for a school project. But when the unthinkable happens and the building is evacuated, Risha is separated from her mom. Can Ranger lead Risha to safety and help reunite her family?

978-1-5364-6151-0 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.1 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 570

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95



#2167632 (Vol. 12) Attack on Pearl Harbor (Prebound)

written by Kate Messner

Ranger travels back to 1941 Hawaii, where World War II is on everyone's minds. That includes Ben Hansen, a young sailor stationed at Pearl Harbor, and twins Paul and Grace Yamada who are making their weekly market trip when Japanese bombs begin to fall from the sky. As the surprise attack puts all of Ranger's new friends in danger, his search-and-rescue training kicks in to high gear. Can he help them survive against all odds?

978-1-5364-6408-5 ©2020 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 144 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.4 AR Pts 2.0 Lexile 610

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$16.95

Ranger's Apprentice (Trade)



#471955 (Vol. 02) Burning Bridge (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

Will is forced to overcome his fear of Wargals, the foot soldiers of rebel warlord Morgarath, as Araluen's army prepares to battle Morgarath's forces.

978-0-399-24455-1 ©2005 5-1/8 x 7-7/8 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 12.0 RC Lvl 6.4 Lexile 870

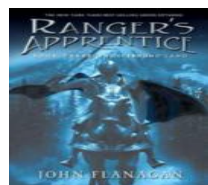
Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Reviews by: Children's Literature Newsletter for Adults The six page prologue reintroduces the main characters-Halt, the senior ranger, and Will, the apprentice ranger-as they continue their search for the Wargals that fight for Morgarath. This long-awaited sequel to The Ruins of Gorlan will not disappoint the reader. Halt and Will engage in battle with the small-brained Wargals who are more beast than man and are completely controlled by Morgarath. As a secret plot is revealed to them, they strike out to deliver news of the threat to the king. In the process, Will and Halt receive orders to pursue separate journeys and Will's new company is an old enemy now considered a friend-the young warrior Horace. The senior member of this new party is Gilan, a young Ranger with an enormous talent for strategy and battle. In the ensuing adventure, Gilan and his charges will rescue a young damsel in distress, continue to train for battle, and discover some alarming changes in the original battle plan that was delivered to the king. Gilan's decision to leave the three young charges on their own and continue quickly to the king, brings disastrous results. Young Will determines to remain loyal to the king and to his mentor Halt, the Ranger. Will and Horace will develop a deep and abiding friendship and both Will and Horace will be called on to demonstrate their courage. The story ends leaving the reader begging for the next book. This is an enticing new series that will capture the imagination of both boys and girls in the middle school range who are looking for fantasy selections. From the "Ranger's Apprentice" series.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews More absorbing, straight-arrow adventures set in the medieval, alternate world kingdom of Araluen and featuring the three apprentices introduced in The Ruins of Gorlan (2005). As the brutish wargals of Morgorath, Lord of Rain and Night, gather for an invasion, deft young Will and his strapping friend Horace discover that Morgorath has planned a complex feint that, unless scotched, will spell doom for the armies of Araluen. The third apprentice, diplomat-in-training Alyss, is relegated to a subplot in this outing, but is sure to play larger roles in future episodes. Flanagan explains more than he needs to but propels the plot forward at a heady clip, stirring in live-wire characters who are still learning the finer points of their assigned professions but prove equal to each challenge they face. He also adds to the company a young fugitive who is far more than the lady's maid she claims to be, and closes with the requisite battle, a breathtaking single combat-and a dismaying lead-in to the next episode. It all adds up to a winning formula that should prove out to a long, steady run for this above average series. (Fantasy. 11-13)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-9-In the second volume in this series, apprentice Ranger Will becomes involved once again in the war against the evil Morgarath. When he joins what should be a simple envoy mission, he and his companions realize that they are the only ones who know the extent of Morgarath's duplicity, and it's up to them to save the kingdom. Will and his friend Horace, along with noblewoman-in-disguise Evanlyn, make a dangerous journey and discover that Wargals, Morgarath's mindless warriors, are infiltrating their kingdom, and their brave actions at the "burning bridge" of the title lead to Will's and Evanlyn's capture and much room for sequels. Will's initial doubts and learning process add reality to his character, but his exploits never achieve true immediacy. Background characters are generally flat, though touches of humor add spice to the narrative. Flanagan creates a well-realized picture of life on the trail and its hardships, but his battles and their resolution seem almost too easy. Fans of the first volume will enjoy this adventure, but readers new to the series may not share their excitement.-Beth L. Meister, Pleasant View Elementary School, Franklin, WI Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Much like its predecessor's jumpstart prologue, this sequel leaps into action as if there is no time to waste, picking right up where Ruins of Gorlan (Philomel, 2002/VOYA December 2005) left off. Halt and Will are tracking Wargals, war is pending, and Morgarath is gathering followers. Fans will recall that Wargals are bad, Morgarath is worse, and Halt and Will are sort of reconnaissance/messenger/foresters in a medieval-styled fantasy world on the brink of civil war. Will, having earned a silver oak leaf, is now entrusted with traveling as emissary to Celtica and gets mixed up in the middle of solving the mystery of why miners have gone missing. Is it part of Morgarath's evil plan? New characters are introduced, each as delightfully complex as the last. Will, Horace, and Alyss mature, and Evanlyn, a rescued refugee is an interesting addition. Halt remains gruff and unintentionally humorous. Honing new skills such as knife combat and near misses with arrows make for exciting scenes. Details are carefully placed, and clues to the denouement are mentioned early. Politics and geography play noticeably larger roles in this book, resulting in a deeper and richer story: Military success hinges on the control of a specific narrow mountain pass. The book's title and fiery cover give away the climatic ending, and occasionally the plot's direction is too obvious, but a surprise twist will keep readers on pins and needles waiting for the next book. Purchase this one where book one was popular. VOYA CODES: 4Q 3P M J (Better than most, marred only by occasional lapses; Will appeal with pushing; Middle School, defined as grades 6 to 8; Junior High, defined as grades 7 to 9). 2006, Philomel, 259p.,Ages 11 to 15.



#496415 (Vol. 03) Icebound Land (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

Chasing the Skandian slave-traders who kidnapped Will and Evanlyn, Ranger Halt and warrior student Horace battle a ruthless knight as they try to rescue their friends.

978-0-399-24456-8 ©2007 5-1/8 x 7-7/8 260 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.8 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 6.5 Lexile 950

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews s afflicts the third episode in this increasingly popular fantasy series, as Flanagan alternates short chapters to weave a double-stranded tale that advances the main story only an inch or two while filling out the page count with incidental adventures and repetitive explanations. In the odd-numbered chapters, Will and Evanlyn, enslaved by Skandian (Viking) captors in the previous volume, manage to escape into the snowy northern mountains, but only after Will acquires an addiction to warmweed, a brain-numbing narcotic. In the even-numbered ones, Will's Ranger mentor Halt and talented knight-in-training Horace set out through Gallica (France) on a rescue mission, and are themselves temporarily imprisoned by a cruel robber baron. The author hasn't expended much effort to develop original cultures or characters, but--repeated side comments and references to past events aside--his fluent writing, engaging protagonists and credibly choreographed fight scenes will keep readers involved. (Fantasy. 11-13)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-9-This third installment in the series picks up where The Burning Bridge (Philomel, 2006) left off. Apprentice Ranger Will and Evanlyn (Princess Cassandra incognito) are being taken by ship to the snowy northern country of the Skandians, a Viking-like group of raiders who plan to sell them as slaves. Will's mentor Halt, frustrated at not being allowed to follow them, stages an incident to get himself thrown out of the Ranger corps so that he can mount a rescue mission. He is joined by Will's friend Horace, and the chapters alternate neatly between Will and Evanlyn's plight in Skandia and Halt and Horace's obstacle-ridden journey to find them. As in the previous titles, the action is well paced and the writing style is engaging. The main characters continue to be believable and to inspire readers' interest and sympathy. A particular strength of this series is that Will has never been the effortless hero. Though talented and intelligent, he makes mistakes and he often needs help from those around him-making him a very realistic and appealing protagonist. Fans of the series will not be disappointed in this latest installment and will be left eagerly anticipating the next one.-Amanda Raklovits, Champaign Public Library, IL (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

#501020 (Vol. 04) Battle for Skandia (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

After escaping slavery, Evanlyn is taken captive by a Temujai warrior, leaving Will to

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99



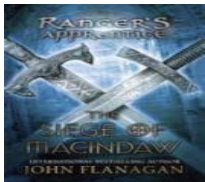
use his Ranger training to find her.
 978-0-399-24457-5 ©2008 5-1/8 x 7-7/8 272 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.7 AR Pts 14.0 RC Lvl 6.4 Lexile 920

Reviews by: From the Publisher Still far from their homeland after escaping slavery in the icebound land of Skandia, Will and Evanlyn's plans to return to Araluen are spoiled when Evanlyn is taken captive by a Temujai warrior. Though still weakened by the warmweed's toxic effects, Will employs his Ranger training to locate his friend, but an enemy scouting party has him fatally outnumbered. Will is certain death is close at hand, until Halt and Horace make a daring, last-minute rescue. The reunion is cut short, however, when Halt makes a horrifying discovery: Skandia's borders have been breached by the entire Temujai army. And Araluen is next in their sights. If two kingdoms are to be saved, an unlikely union must be made. Will it hold long enough to vanquish a ruthless new enemy? Or will past tensions spell doom for all? The battles and drama are nonstop in Book Four of this hugely popular epic.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8- Will and Evanlyn have escaped imprisonment in Skandia and are hiding out in a remote cabin, waiting for Will to gain enough strength to begin their journey home. Their peace, however, does not last long, as Evanlyn is kidnapped by a Temujai warrior. Halt, the Ranger to whom Will is apprenticed; Horace, a knight in training; and Will rescue her, but are intercepted by Skandians before they can continue home. The Temujai are advancing behind them, leaving Will and his friends to form an uneasy alliance with the Skandians. The tension builds to the final battle between the Temujai warriors and the Skandians. Fans of the series will eagerly devour this one and wait impatiently for the next. Readers who aren't familiar with the previous books would do best to start with the first one, but those who choose to start here won't be lost. A sure bet for fantasy fans, as well as those who enjoy action and adventure.-Ginny Collier, Dekalb County Public Library, Decatur, GA

Reviews by: The Barnes & Noble Review Will and Evanlyn have escaped from Skandian enslavement, but their problems are far from over in this riveting Ranger's Apprentice episode. Still far from their Araluen homeland, the pair were stopped in their tracks by an attack by Temujai warriors. After Evalyn is taken captive, Will struggles single-handedly to free her. Dangerous outmatched, he is snatched from death's door by the timely intervention of Halt and Horace. But more dangers await him and indeed, the entire Araluen people: The Temujai invaders are on the march and no army seems capable of stopping them. First-class battle fantasy.

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Fans of The Ranger's Apprentice series will again dive right into this fourth adventure. Will and Evanlyn have eluded their Skandian captors and are waiting out the winter in an abandoned hunting cabin. Halt and Horace have managed to bluff their way across the Skandian border. Apprentice and master are finally reunited as each set out to rescue Evanlyn, again captured by invading Temujai warriors. Halt, Will, and Horace need to convince the Skandians that the Temujai are a greater threat than they are, and the enemies need to work together to defeat the invaders or risk seeing all of their lands fall to these fearsome fighters. This installment clips along at a much faster pace than the preceding book. Newcomers to the series would be able to jump in easily, as very little relies on previous volumes. Will and Halt are reunited quickly, and the multiple story lines merge into one action-packed sequence of strategy and battle as the war with the Temujai unfolds. Characters have a bit more depth, and the humorous banter between Halt and Erak adds personality to both, keeping the book from becoming overly grim. Will and Evanlyn seem to grow up enough to realize that their prospective stations in life are a barrier to deepening the relationship they developed during the course of their servitude in Skandia. The resolution ties up many loose ends satisfactorily, although there is room for more books in this series. Reviewer: Arlene Garcia



#903057 (Vol. 06) Siege of Macindaw (Hardcover (Trade))
written by John Flanagan
 Will is now the protector of his first fief and Keren, a renegade knight, has taken over Castle Macindaw, and is holding Will's friend Alyss captive.
 978-0-399-25033-0 ©2009 5-1/8 x 7-7/8 304 pgs.
 Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 860

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist In Book 6 of the popular Ranger's Apprentice series, Will, his friend Horace, and a sorcerer/healer join forces with a fierce but loyal troop of Skandians to recapture Castle Macindaw, rescue Alyss from its tower, and restore the castle to its rightful owner. Series fans will relish the familiar details of warfare and comradeship as well as the surprising fireworks in both war and love. While this satisfying novel could be enjoyed as a separate volume, it is best read in series order, as it concludes the story of Will's first mission as a Ranger, an adventure begun in Book 5.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2009 Booklist

Reviews by: From the Publisher After years as a Ranger's apprentice, Will is now the protector of his first fief. Not long into his service,

everything that can go wrong does: Keren, a renegade knight, has taken over Castle Macindaw, a strategic gateway to the North?poisoning the royal family in the process?and is holding Will's friend Alyss captive. The situation grows direr when Will uncovers Keren's secret alliance with the Scotti, who have plans to plunder Araluen. Time is of the essence, and Will must recruit a motley crew to rescue Alyss and reclaim Castle Macindaw?before the Scotti can make it their own. This New York Times bestselling series maintains its breathless pace in this newest installment.

Reviews by: The Barnes & Noble Review As Will continues his first Ranger mission, the tasks set before him are clear: With rumors of other evil plots afoot, he, Horace, and a makeshift army must recapture Castle Macindaw, rescue the imprisoned Alyss, and restore peace to the immediate region in time to face the next onslaught.



#1611279 (Vol. 08) Kings of Clonmel (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

Halt, Will, and Horace set out for Hibernia, where a quasi-religious group, the Outsiders, is sowing confusion and sedition, and they find that secrets from Halt's past may hold the key to restoring order before the last kingdom is undermined.

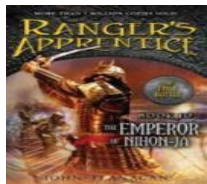
978-0-399-25206-8 ©2011 5 x 7-3/4 400 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 16.0 RC Lvl 5.4 Lexile 830

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist Book 8 in the Ranger's Apprentice series takes Will, his mentor, Halt, and their friend Horace to the kingdom of Clonmel. There Halt confronts painful memories from his past, while the three friends work to subvert a devious plot by a cult religion that seeks to gain control by sending in bands of marauding invaders, then offering a god that can protect the people from them. Although the many references to previous adventures slow the pace at times, there's wit as well as action here, and the revelation of Halt's backstory adds a new dimension to the saga.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2010 Booklist

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) The book 7 and book 8 installments in the popular Ranger's Apprentice series will not disappoint fans. Erak's Ransom, book 7, takes place before the start of book 5, when Will is still an apprentice to Halt. The Skandian leader Erak, an ally of the Araluen's, has been captured and ransomed by a tribe of warriors from the desert. Will's courage and Ranger abilities are tested throughout the difficult quest to find and free Erak. Evanlyn has the chance to prove she is just as brave as the warriors around her as she negotiates Erak's freedom. At the conclusion of book 7, Will graduates as a Ranger and is placed in charge of his own fief. The Will that readers meet again in The Kings of Clonmel, book 8, is now confident and cunning. When a religious cult called the Outsiders conquers several surrounding kingdoms, Will, Halt, and Horace set out to convince the residents of Clonmel to believe in the abilities of the Sunrise Warrior instead of lies being spread by Tennyson, the cult's leader. At the conclusion of this book, the Rangers defeat the evil forces and restore order to the kingdom. As a result of brilliant characterization, the protagonists in books 7 and 8 have the skills to persistently outwit and outfight opponents while still maintaining a sense of humor that makes them seem realistic. True to this series, books 7 and 8 are filled with twists and turns, impassioned negotiations between leaders, and vivid, bloody battles complete with the clang of weapons. Reviewer: Amy Wyckoff



#1630917 (Vol. 10) Emperor of Nihon-Ja (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

Months have passed since Horace departed for the eastern nation of Nihon-Ja on a vital mission. Unwilling to wait a second longer, Alyss, Evanlyn, and Will leave their homeland behind and venture into an exotic land in search of their missing friend, in this final volume.

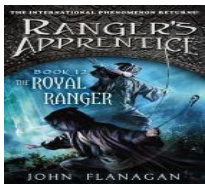
978-0-399-25500-7 ©2012 5 x 7-3/4 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 19.0 RC Lvl 5.6 Lexile 860

Quantity 1
Unit Price \$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist The tenth and final volume of the Ranger's Apprentice series brings Will, Halt, Horace, Alyss, and Evanlyn together to help defend the wise yet vulnerable emperor of Nihon-Ja (an alternate-world Japan) from the renegade Senshi (samurai) force that threatens to overthrow his rule. Introducing a new setting and culture, the story calls upon the familiar characters' courage, wits, and confidence in each other. Though it's the last, this novel is no sentimental journey but a rousing adventure that delivers all the elements that have made the series so popular: comradeship, danger, strategy, warfare, and humor.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2010 Booklist

Quantity **Unit Price**



#1733398 (Vol. 12) Royal Ranger (Hardcover (Trade))
written by John Flanagan

1

\$18.99

The story that brings the Ranger's Apprentice arc full-circle! Will Treaty has come a long way from the small boy with dreams of knighthood. Life had other plans for him, and as an apprentice Ranger under Halt, he grew into a legend the finest Ranger the kingdom has ever known. Yet Will is facing a tragic battle that has left him grim and alone.

978-0-399-16360-9 ©2013 464 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 19.0 RC Lvl 4.7 Lexile 780

Reviews by: Booklist Taking place at least 16 years after the original 10 volumes of the Ranger's Apprentice series, this sequel sees Will training 15-year-old Maddie, the first girl to become a ranger's apprentice. Though accustomed to a life of privilege, she learns to set aside her old ways in order to develop her skills, her wits, and her courage. Meanwhile, Will struggles with troubles of his own. Series fans will hang on every word of this adventure; Maddie emerges as a strong character and could easily develop a following among readers who enjoy Tamora Pierce's books about Alanna, another resourceful, independent-minded heroine.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2010 Booklist



#1733973 (Vol. 11) Lost Stories (Paperback (Trade))
written by John Flanagan

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$9.99

Inspired by his millions of fans worldwide, many of whom wrote him emails and letters questioning the fate or the origin of some of the most popular characters and storylines from Ranger's Apprentice, John Flanagan decided to reward his loyal readers with a collection of stories answering these questions.

978-0-14-242195-6 ©2013 448 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 18.0 RC Lvl 5.3 Lexile 810

Reviews by: School Library Journal unearthed during an excavation of the ancient kingdom of Araluen, contains manuscripts authenticating the existence of the Rangers, who had merely been legend. These lost stories weave a thread through events and characters from previous titles in the series. The collection opens with Ranger Halt divulging to his apprentice, Will, how he came to be his mentor. Years before, he was saved in battle by a young sergeant named Daniel, who, in his last breath, asked Halt to look out for his wife and a son-a baby named Will. In another chapter a young Ranger, Gilan, takes on Halt's search for a coldhearted killer when Halt is exiled for insulting King Duncan. Animals are keen and well-developed characters throughout the series and this volume is no exception. In one story, Will's dog, Ebony, is stolen by Roamers training fight dogs for sport and, in another, Flanagan pulls heartstrings with the bittersweet retirement of Will's horse, Tug. More sentimentality and bits of humor are shown as Flanagan's leading men find their mates and settle down. Halt's masculine demeanor is softened by Pauline and, as Will prepares a speech for the marriage of his best friend, Horace, readers will also be rooting for his union with Alyss. Author notes at the beginning of each chapter explain how readers' questions often prompted the stories. While those unfamiliar with the earlier books will enjoy the adventurous tales on their own merit, Lost Stories will be most satisfying for diehard fans reluctant to say goodbye to the series.-Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#1607710 (Vol. 05) Sorcerer of the North (Paperback (Trade))
written by John Flanagan

Quantity

Unit Price

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\$9.99

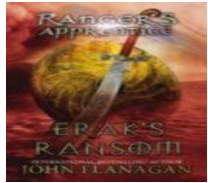
Will seeks the traitors who poisoned the king, investigates rumors of sorcery, and tries to rescue his friend Alyss, who is taken hostage.

978-0-14-241429-3 ©2009 5-1/8 x 7-7/8 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 13.0 RC Lvl 5.2 Lexile 850

Reviews by: Booklist Will is just settling into his first post as a brand-new, just-commissioned Ranger when he is dispatched to deal with problems on the kingdom's northern border. Though his keen senses and uncanny expertise with his knives and his bow are vital, Will's success often hinges on his ability to assess the skills and intentions of those around him. The scenes involving Will, his mentor, Halt, and Halt's mentor, Crowley, work beautifully to fill in background information, dramatize Will's growing maturity, and entertain readers with clever dialogue. The Sorcerer of the North is a must-have volume for fans of the popular Ranger's Apprentice series.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2008 Booklist

Reviews by: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Years have passed since Will's adventures in Skandia—he is now a full-fledged Ranger on his first assignment. Thinking he is stuck in the isolated Fief of Seacliffe, Will is surprised to be called away by his old mentor, Halt, for a secret mission. Rumors of genuine sorcery, not simple mind control or mass hysteria, are plaguing Castle Macindaw and upsetting the succession of the barony in the north. The Rangers need Will's special skills to investigate. Disguised as a traveling musician, Will embarks on another quest that not only might cost him his life but also the lives of those about whom he cares. As always, Flanagan is to be complimented for creating a fantasy world that relies on character and action rather than magic, but fans may have difficulty getting into this fifth Ranger's Apprentice novel. The first chapters' exposition tells rather than shows what Will has done during the years between the Battle for Skandia and the present. Familiar characters are sadly absent for the first part of the book, although Halt makes his appearance midway through. The Princess Cassandra is mentioned only in passing, and Alyss, a diplomat, is introduced as Will's new romantic interest. Readers have to assume the relationship between them, as so much happened "off stage" that it is difficult to warm to her character. As the novel progresses and the action picks up, however, it becomes a satisfying, albeit not the best, addition to this popular series. Reviewer: Arlene Garcia-Allen



#1733555 (Vol. 07) Erak's Ransom (Paperback (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

The battles and drama are nonstop in this latest installment of Flanagan's epic fantasy. Skandia's borders have been breached, and Araluen is next. If the two kingdoms are to be saved, an unlikely union must be made.

978-0-14-241525-2 ©2011 5 x 7-3/4 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.1 AR Pts 17.0 RC Lvl 5.5 Lexile 850

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$9.99

Reviews by: Booklist Book 7, the latest adventure in the Ranger's Apprentice series, chronologically takes place after Book 4. Soon to conclude his apprenticeship and become a ranger, young Will joins Halt, Gilan, Horace, Evanlyn, and Svengal on a perilous mission to free their friend Erak, who has been captured by the Arridians and held for ransom. The vaguely Middle Eastern desert setting provides new challenges, new allies, and new foes for the Araluens and their Skandian friends. Bringing together many favorite characters for a grand adventure, this book delivers both excitement and quiet good times.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2010 Booklist



#1676656 (Vol. 09) Halt's Peril (Paperback (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

The renegade outlaw group known as the Outsiders may have been chased from Clonmel, but not before killing Halt's only brother. Now Rangers Halt and Will, along with the young warrior Horace, are in pursuit and it will take every bit of skill and cunning for the Rangers to survive.

978-0-14-241858-1 ©2012 5 x 7-3/4 336 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 17.0 Lexile 800

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$9.99

Reviews by: Booklist Continuing the story line begun in The Kings of Clonmel (2010), book 9 of the Ranger's Apprentice series sends Halt, Will, and Horace back on the trail of the same vicious, thieving outlaws. When a poisoned arrow takes Halt out of his senses and soon threatens his life, his younger comrades must take the lead to save him and continue their mission. A fine addition to a popular series, this volume sends the three main characters into adventures that they can survive only by relying on one other. Series fans will enjoy the dialogue and camaraderie as much as the action.--Phelan, Carolyn Copyright 2010 Booklist

Reviews by: Children's Literature Tennyson and his cult of Outsiders are on the run, but rangers Halt and Will, along with warrior Horace, have picked up their trail. Their mission is to bring the criminals to justice for their evil deeds, including the murder of Halt's twin brother, King Ferris. The three heroes use their excellent tracking skills to follow the villains, beginning to close the distance between the two groups. Alerted to their presence, Tennyson sends his two paid assassins to put an end to the trouble. Halt and Will are able to take out one of the assassins, but in the process, a crossbow bolt strikes Halt, a minor injury made lethal by the poison on the tip. Now Will chooses to put the chase on hold, valuing his best friend and former mentor's life above the pursuit of Tennyson's gang. He rides day and night as he seeks out the famous healer Malcolm, hoping to bring him back to camp before the poison can claim Halt's life. The ninth book in the "Ranger's Apprentice" series, this tale provides great visualization and description as the characters navigate their way through the forest landscape. Its action is slow to develop, but the pace quickens as readers await the outcome of Halt's battle for his life. The story also provides a great springboard for ethical discussions, specifically in how far one would go to save a friend's life. With few female characters and a fictional setting reminiscent of medieval Europe, this book is likely to draw in male readers—both old fans of the series and newcomers alike. Reviewer: Amanda Ledbetter

Ranger's Apprentice: The Royal Ranger (Trade)



#2182490 (Vol. 04) Missing Prince (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John F. Flanagan

Bestselling author of the Ranger's Apprentice and Brotherband series, John Flanagan returns in the captivating next installment of the Royal Ranger series. Perfect for fans of J.R.R. Tolkien, Brian Jacques's Redwall, and George R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones! Follow the continuing stories of Maddie, Will Treaty's young apprentice in her next epic adventure.

978-0-593-11345-5 ©2020 6 x 9 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 850

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist When the prince in a neighboring country is abducted, the king of Araluen reluctantly agrees to help, but the situation calls for “guile and subterfuge.” Soon two of the King’s Rangers, Will and his apprentice, Maddie, disguised as a minstrel and his daughter, are making their way through unfamiliar territory toward the castle where the hostage is held captive. Along the way, they entertain villagers with singing, juggling, and knife throwing; capture a band of brigands preying on common folk; and finally gain admittance to Baron Lassigny’s formidable castle. Flanagan builds suspense with well-practiced skill and a flair for the dramatic. Tension increases right up to the last page, where readers will find the dreaded words: “to be continued.” The writing offers adventure, wit, and sufficient background information for those new to the Ranger’s Apprentice series to follow the story, but it will be enjoyed most by those who have read one or more of the three previous books in the Royal Ranger subseries, featuring the first girl apprenticed to a ranger.



#2256849 (Vol. 05) Escape from Falaise (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John F. Flanagan

After their plan to rescue the prince of Gallica has gone horribly wrong, Will Treaty and his apprentice, Maddie, are being held captive at the Chateau des Falaises in Gallica. The dangerous baron Lassigny is intent on keeping them--and the prince--no matter what. But Will and Maddie are determined to escape.

978-0-593-11348-6 ©2021 6 x 9 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 860

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99

Reviews by: Booklist This story begins where The Missing Prince (2020) left off. Will and Maddie, two Araluen rangers sent to Gallica to free Prince Giles, are captured and imprisoned in the castle of the same conniving baron who is holding the prince. But two rangers of their caliber can't be held for long, and when they escape, they intend to complete their mission by freeing the prince and escorting him safely home. Meanwhile, two dependable allies, Halt and Horace, travel to a nearby Gallican village to provide support as needed. Equally adept at writing action-adventure scenes and amusing his fans with well-loved characters and their banter, Flanagan shows his range in this well-paced story. From the Ranger's Apprentice series' Royal Ranger subset, one of the few featuring a young woman as part of a highly skilled espionage-adventure corps in a preindustrial setting, the narrative underscores the Araluens' courage, confidence, and trust in each other. While reading the previous novel isn't a prerequisite for enjoying this one, some familiarity with the series and its characters is highly recommended.



#2332352 (Vol. 06) Arazan's Wolves (Hardcover (Trade))

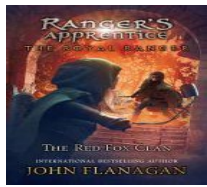
written by John Flanagan

When Maddie and Will get a message that dire wolves--huge misshapen changelings, much larger than regular wolves--have been marauding and attacking through the hills and valleys of Celtica, the Rangers are sent on a mission to unravel just who or what is behind these dangerous creatures. Will isn't anxious to return to Celtica, especially approaching the Rift. And as they travel, Maddie must grapple with their growing dealings with the spiritual and supernatural.

978-0-593-46384-0 ©2023 6 x 9 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 860

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$18.99



#2067277 (Vol. 01) Red Fox Clan (Hardcover (Trade))

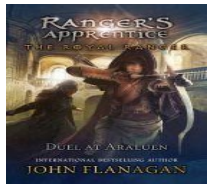
written by John Flanagan

After passing her third-year assessment as a ranger's apprentice, Maddie is called home to Castle Araluen. Forced to keep her ranger training a secret, Maddie feels trapped by the monotony of castle life and longs to find a way out. But there are whisperings of a new threat to the kingdom.

978-1-5247-4138-9 ©2018 6 x 9 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.3 AR Pts 15.0 Lexile 850

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



#2103141 (Vol. 02) Duel at Araluen (Hardcover (Trade))

written by John Flanagan

King Duncan and Princess Cassandra are trapped in the south tower of Castle Araluen and under near-constant attack from the Red Fox Clan. Sir Horace and Ranger Commandant Gilan are holed up in an old hill fort, surrounded by the enemy. And Ranger's apprentice Maddie is the only one who can save them all.

978-1-5247-4141-9 ©2019 6 x 9 384 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 860

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99

Raven Heir (Trade)



#2329219 (Vol. 02) Raven Throne (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephanie Burgis

Now that Cordelia sits on the Raven Throne, things in Corvene must change. When their triplet sister became the Raven Queen, Giles and Rosalind knew they would have to learn to behave at court. For Rosalind, no more fighting. For Giles, no more loud singing. But what they didn't foresee was having to foil a wicked plot against their sister.

978-1-5476-1032-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Booklist This sequel to The Raven Heir (2021) has barely begun when 12-year-old queen Cordelia collapses, slipping into a magically induced sleep that brings her fellow triplets, Rosalind and Giles, and their older brother rushing to protect her from an unidentified assailant. Her vital connection with the land appears to be in jeopardy, as her cousins threaten to seize the throne and other members of the nobility appear to plot against her. Giles and Rosalind leave the castle in a desperate attempt to restore the magical connection that is vital to saving their sister as well as the land itself. But is their magic strong enough? And can they outwit the relatives who pretend to help while thwarting their quest? From shape-shifting heroes to venomous villains to a transcendent connection between human society and the natural world, the second volume in the series offers fantasy lovers well-drawn characters in a setting suffused with magic. The main characters are at their best when working toward a common goal in this satisfying finale to the Raven Crown series.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Cordelia, Giles, and Rosalind, magical triplets raised in exile and now restored to the monarchy, discover the royal court is more dangerous than any wild creature in this sequel to The Raven Heir (2021). A great battle has restored Cordelia to the Raven Throne, so the 12-year-old triplets feel like everything ought to be easy now. Instead, it's all worse than ever. Cordelia, now the Raven Queen, is surrounded by terrible advisers and kept away from her siblings. Rosalind, the young warrior, is tormented by cruel ladies-in-waiting and humiliated for her athleticism. Giles dreamed of becoming a bard, but now he's convinced that indulging in either music or magic will tarnish Cordelia and make her seem unfit for the crown. One night, Cordelia falls into an enchanted slumber, and it's up to Rosalind and Giles to go on a quest to save both their sister and the magical land itself—but they venture forth without their greatest strengths. An escalating series of arguments and misunderstandings means that neither the triplets nor their family members ever compare notes, so it is not until the climax that they realize how badly they've been manipulated by vicious nobles. Instead, they spent much of the adventure angry, shouting, and mutually distrustful. Despite the eventual rewarding character growth for Rosalind and Giles, the unnecessarily overlong communication failure is exhausting. Most characters read White. A thrilling quest, but it would've been unnecessary if the protagonists had had even one calm conversation. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus



#2245927 (Vol. 01) Raven Heir (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Stephanie Burgis

Twelve-year-old Cordelia can shift into the form of any animal, and yearns to explore the world outside her castle deep in an enchanted forest. But her sorceress mother has kept her and her triplet siblings hidden from the war for the Raven Throne that rages in their kingdom, where heir after heir has been killed.

978-1-5476-0637-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 224 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 8.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Booklist Cordelia knows the story well: twelve years ago, her mother (a sorceress) fled to the forest castle where she gave birth to triplets. Ever since, she has kept them safely hidden away. While their older stepbrother, Conall, is diligently learning magic to help protect his siblings, Giles sings ballads, Rosalind practices knightly combat, and Cordelia uses her shapeshifting abilities for pleasure and for eavesdropping. Their mother has renounced her children's claim to the Raven Throne, yet soon after the king's death, warring factions, intent on using the heir in their game of power, track the triplets through the forest and into the mountains. Mysteriously compelled to mend the Raven crown, Cordelia leads her siblings on a perilous quest. In this, the first volume of the Raven Heir series, Burgis introduces the characters and their foibles, identifies the power struggle motivating the triplets' adversaries, and entertains readers with scenes featuring magical powers, adventures, and conflicts. But at the heart of this eventful, enjoyable adventure story, Cordelia is exploring her personal identity and her place in the family.

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Isn't it supposed to be a good thing to learn you're the lost heir? Cordelia adores her family--her fellow triplets, Giles and Rosalind; their older half brother, Connall; her mother; and her mother's friend who looks after the goats--but their secret castle in the woods is claustrophobic. She longs to turn into an animal and explore, but she's promised her overprotective mother that she won't wander off without supervision. Rosalind has her mock sword fighting, and Giles has his music, but Cordelia has only the desperate urge to fly free with her animal shape-shifting powers. Her dream of freedom twists into a nightmare when angry people bearing arms arrive at the castle demanding the war-torn kingdom's heir. The triplets escape into the woods when the others are taken captive, shocked by uncovered family secrets. Cordelia, learning more of her past, now has her own secrets. It's one thing to squabble with Giles and Rosalind, but will they forgive her for being as parsimonious with the truth as their mother has been? Ultimately, saving the world requires an unbearable sacrifice and reveals that even loving family members make dreadful mistakes. Though Cordelia and her siblings are primarily sketched in lightly around their traits and hobbies, their emotional journeys are rich, believable, and fulfilling. The triplets are light-skinned, Connall is brown, and the world is racially diverse and has a mixed-gender military. Chaotic, heartwarming, and emotionally satisfying with high stakes that keep readers invested. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Twelve-year-old triplets Cordelia, Giles, and Rosalind have spent their lives in a castle hidden deep in an enchanted forest, with only their sorceress mother, older half brother, and a family friend for company. Shapeshifter Cordelia yearns to roam the woods freely, while Rosalind trains as a warrior and Giles embraces his love of music. When armored troops break through the castle's magical defenses, claiming that one of the triplets is rightful heir to the Raven Throne of Corvenne, the triad; unaware of who was born first; are forced to flee rather than become pawns in a brutal struggle for succession, while the remaining family is taken prisoner. As the three potential royals cross a war-torn land to uncover long-held secrets and save their loved ones, Cordelia is guided by mysterious voices and impulses that may help her heal the broken kingdom. This simultaneously brief and leisurely paced duology opener may leave readers hoping for more out of the next volume, but Burgis's (the Tales from the Chocolate Heart series) focus on how the land influences the closely knit family of cued-white characters; each bearing complementary and unique gifts; results in a vividly described setting and a strong, shifting sibling dynamic. Ages 8: 11. Agent: Molly Ker Hawn, the Bent Agency. (Sept.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal ade combines magic, family, and heart in a quest to heal the magical land of Corvenne. Cordelia, with a gift or shifting into different animals, is the sibling always called to the forest. Giles composes songs with an obsessive fervor, while Rosalind wants to e a great warrior. One day, the people of the kingdom surround their mother's castle in the enchanted forest, demanding the heir to the throne and thrusting the triplets into the unknown. Similar to other coming-of-age adventures, each sibling learns to harness their talents throughout their journey to increase the success of their magical quest. The bonds of family are tested by secrets and intensified through defining moments of spirit, heart, and protectiveness. Although some of the backstory and characterization of the antagonists falls flat, the good-versus-evil dynamic is necessary for younger readers and has great potential as the series continues. Burgis weaves a tale that inspires readers to harness the magic within themselves, even during challenging times. This title would appeal to fans of Chris Colfer's "Land of Stories" series and Kelly Barnhill's The Girl Who Drank the Moon. VERDICT A fantastical journey for elementary and middle school readers who love magic and adventure.--Hilary Tufo Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Ravenfall (Trade)



#2286833 (Vol. 01) Ravenfall (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kalyn Josephson

Thirteen-year-old Annabella Ballinkay has never been normal, even by her psychic family's standards. Every generation uses their abilities to help run the Ravenfall Inn, a sprawling, magical B&B at the crossroads of the human world and the Otherworld. But it's hard to contribute when your only power is foreseeing death. So when fourteen-year-old Colin Pierce arrives at Ravenfall searching for his missing older brother and the supernatural creature who killed their parents, Anna jumps at the chance to help. But the mysteries tied to Colin go much deeper than either of them expects...

978-0-593-48358-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 790

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Two lonely young people team up to fight an ancient evil. Anna, 13 and the youngest child in a Jewish and Irish family that is psychically endowed, is dismayed about her own gift of psychometry. For Anna, touching someone who has experienced another's death gives her a vision of that death; it's hard for her to understand how that could be useful. Her family runs Ravenfall, an inn in the magical town of Wick, Oregon, "where magic is never far from your fingertips" and the veil between the Otherworld and our own is somewhat permeable. As the family anticipates their annual celebration of Samhain, 14-year-old Colin arrives, seeking refuge after his parents' murders. Colin has known little about his own magical powers but discovers that his Irish ancestor Fin Varra, one of the faerie folk also known as the King of the Dead, plans to use him to reclaim a place among the living. The first-person narrative switches between Anna's and Colin's perspectives. Both kids are home-schooled and isolated, Colin as his family fled mysterious pursuers and Anna as she struggles with being quirky and different. The house Ravenfall is enchanted, taking care of itself and its occupants and sparring with Max, the resident Jabberwocky, a shape-changing guardian posing as a cat. Magical traditions, creatures, and objects abound in this intriguing setting, offering possibilities for sequels. A pitched climactic battle provides the young heroes with a swift if somewhat predictable victory over the dark forces. Largely spellbinding. (Fantasy. 9-14) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly With her psychometric power to envision deaths seen through other people's eyes, 13-year-old Annabella Ballinkay, who is Irish, Jewish, and aromantic, feels out of step with the rest of her family. Her relations' psychic abilities; including empathy and mind-reading; all prove more useful for running the sentient Ravenfall Inn in magic-steeped Wick, Ore., positioned "at a weak spot in the veil to the Otherworld, where spirits dwell." Leading up to the celebration of Samhain, when the border grows even thinner, 14-year-old Colin Pierce arrives from Montana following his parents' murder and his older brother's disappearance. Anna recognizes him from a recent vision, and the two soon find that Colin's family were Ravenguards, protectors of the Shield separating the realms. As Colin learns about his magic and connection to an ancient Irish being with a sinister agenda, the two must locate the killer. Alternating between Anna and Colin's voices, Josephson (The Storm Crow) presents memorable characters in an engaging and eerie magical mystery. As emotionally rich characterizations follow olive-skinned Anna seeking to define her place among her sprawling family, and pale Colin navigating grief as the result of losing his, the novel's quirkiest aspects manifest in the house's ever-changing layout and via Max, a powerful Jabberwocky taking the form of a mischievous black cat. Ages 10: up. Agent: Carrie Pestrutto, Laura Dail Literary. (Aug.)



#2349367 (Vol. 02) Hollowthorn (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kalyn Josephson

It's been over a month since Anna Ballinkay and Colin Pierce defeated the King of the Dead on Halloween night, saving the magical Ravenfall Inn they call home. Now, with Hannukah approaching, the kids are looking forward to some peace and quiet—and maybe a little challah and peppermint cocoa, too.

978-0-593-48362-6 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 840

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$17.99

Rescue Tails (Trade)

#2363149 (Vol. 01) Treacherous Tower (Hardcover (Trade))

written by StacyPlays

Stacy and her intelligent pack of wolves-Addison, Basil, Everest, Noah, Tucker, and

Quantity
1 **Unit Price**
\$18.99



Wink-live in harmony together in their cave home in the forest. But when their friend Milo the bat brings news that a baby ocelot is in danger and needs to be returned to its family, Stacy and Basil must hurry to the jungle biome! After tracking the lost ocelot, they discover it's trapped in a long-lost tower that's full of obstacles, traps, and dangerous creatures. Will Stacy and her wolf Basil rescue the ocelot before it's too late?

978-0-06-322499-5 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 160 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Restorationists (Trade)



#2333163 (Vol. 01) Beneath the Swirling Sky (Hardcover (POB))

written by Carolyn Leiglou

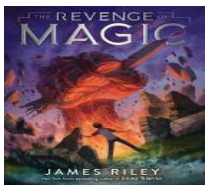
After an experience he'd rather forget, Vincent is determined to be done with art. That is, until Lili disappears into one of the world's most famous paintings and Vincent learns his parents have been hiding something from him: Their family is the last of The Restorationists, a secret society with the power to travel through paintings-and a duty to protect them from evil forces. With Lili's safety on the line, leaving art behind is no longer an option.

978-0-593-57952-7 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Revenge of Magic (Trade)



#2095316 (Vol. 01) Revenge of Magic (Hardcover (Trade))

written by James Riley

Thirteen years ago, books of magic were discovered. Only those born after "Discovery Day" have the power to use the magic. Fort Fitzgerald's father is lost when a creature bursts through the earth, attacking the city. Fort is devastated, until six months later, when a man named Dr. Opps invites Fort to a government run school to learn magic.

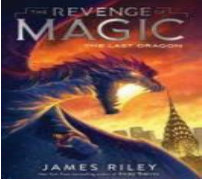
978-1-4814-8577-7 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs.

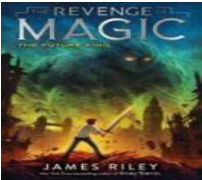
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.7 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 790

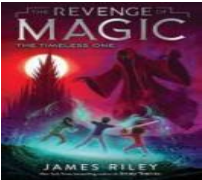
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

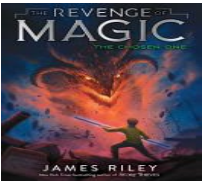
Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Six months after losing his father during a monster attack on Washington, D.C., 12-year-old Fort Fitzgerald is recruited into a secret government program and school that teaches children like him to wield the spells contained within a set of recently discovered magical books. Oddly enough, some at the Oppenheimer Academy are eager to see Fort fail. But, desperate to avenge his father, Fort will do whatever it takes to prove he belongs, even if it means mastering the necessary spells in an unprecedented short period. To his dismay, his strength is for healing magic, rather than destruction spells. With the aid of his new friends, including British precognitive Cyrus, healer Jia, and the acerbic Rachel, Fort throws himself into his training, only to discover his new school has numerous dark secrets, and that they may be the last line in Earth's defense when the books' original owners threaten to return from their long exile. In this ambitious middle grade series opener, Riley (the Story Thieves series) refreshes the familiar "magic school" trope by mixing in conspiracy theories and Lovecraftian monstrosities, as well as an intriguing spell-casting system. A strong introduction to the memorable characters and imaginative concept, this leaves plenty of potential for future installments. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7-Monsters rising up from under Washington, DC, herald the return of magic in this series starter. Twelve-year-old Fort Fitzgerald thought having his father embarrass him at the Lincoln Memorial was bad, but watching his dad disappear underground in a monster's claw was infinitely worse. It turns out that magic reappeared approximately 13 years earlier, and only kids born after that time have the ability to wield it. Months later, Fort is invited to apply to a special school for magical training-a school where the adults all seem afraid of the students. Fort dreams of revenge, but his abilities seem to be leading him to healing-or are they? Fellow students Cyrus, Rachel, Jia, and Sebastian, along with former students Sierra and Damien, help and hinder in Fort's quest to figure out why he can suddenly read minds and steal magic from other students. Readers never really get to know any of the characters well (the adults are particularly opaque), but the brisk pace,

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2107389 (Vol. 02) Last Dragon (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by James Riley</i> Fort Fitzgerald can't stop having nightmares about the day his father was taken from him in an attack on Washington, DC. In these dreams, an Old One, an evil beyond comprehension, demands the location of the last dragon. But other than some dragon skeletons dug up with the books of magic on Discovery Day, Fort has never seen a dragon before. Could there still be one left alive? 978-1-5344-2572-9 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 416 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.8 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 840	1	\$18.99

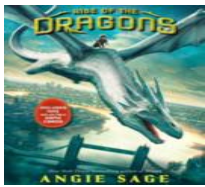
	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2156146 (Vol. 03) Future King (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by James Riley</i> Dealing with monster attacks and his missing father has been hard enough for Fort Fitzgerald in his first month at the Oppenheimer School. But there's another school for magic, this one in the United Kingdom, that's about to create even bigger problems. Can Fort change the future that the Time students have already seen play out? Or is he destined to pay for his past mistakes for all of time? 978-1-5344-2575-0 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 432 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 13.0 Lexile 800	1	\$18.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2181214 (Vol. 04) Timeless One (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by James Riley</i> The future has been saved, but at a cost: Fort Fitzgerald has been expelled from the Oppenheimer School, and some of Fort's friends have been lost in time. But time is the one thing Fort, Rachel, and Jia don't have, as they'll soon be facing one of the eternal Old Ones, the Timeless One, for the fate of the world. 978-1-5344-2581-1 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 800	1	\$18.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 #2218724 (Vol. 05) Chosen One (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by James Riley</i> Fort Fitzgerald is finally reunited with his father and wants nothing more than for life to return to normal, the way things were before magic burst back into the world. But normal isn't an option anymore. Not when the Old Ones could still return to enslave humanity and Damian is dead set on making that happen. 978-1-5344-2584-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 480 pgs. Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 14.0	1	\$18.99

Rise of the Dragons (Trade)

Quantity Unit Price



#2089140 (Vol. 01) Rise of the Dragons (Library Binding (Trade))

1

\$17.99

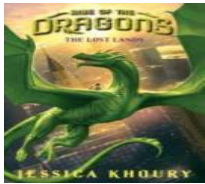
written by Angie Sage

Once our world was full of dragons who lived in harmony with humans. But after a group of rogue dragons tried to take over Earth, all dragons were banished to another realm. Most humans forgot about the dragons, claiming they never existed. But Eleven-year-old Sirin knows the truth.

978-1-338-35413-3 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-3/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.9 AR Pts 11.0 Lexile 900

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-6-In this first book of a new fantasy series from Sage, three stories tie together seamlessly. Joss and Allie are indentured servants until they find a silver dragon egg. The evil Lennix clan trains dragons to raid for dragon eggs and eat humans. Sirin is brought into a foster home after her mother is hospitalized with a serious illness. This latest adventure is reminiscent in style and tone to Sage's best-selling "Magyk" series. Young readers will enjoy many of the plot twists that may be comfortably predictable for older readers. The character development is a little flat, but readers will still sympathize with the protagonists. VERDICT Recommended for middle grade fantasy fans of Sage's previous works, Brandon Mull's "Fablehaven," Jonathan Stroud's "Bartimaeus Trilogy," or Maile Meloy's The Apothecary.-Rachel Reinwald, Lake Villa District Library, IL Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2162903 (Vol. 02) Lost Lands (Library Binding (Trade))

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$24.99

written by Jessica Khoury

Sirin, Allie, and Joss have joined forces with the legendary silver dragon Lysander, the only creature capable of opening portals between the two worlds. But the powerful Lennix clan is following the children's every move and will stop at nothing to capture Lysander. Now, it's up to Allie, Joss, and Sirin to protect Lysander while searching for a secret source of lost dragon magic. But when their search takes them to one of the largest cities on Earth, the new friends must decide what's more important: finding the missing treasure or guarding the most important secret in the world that dragons have returned to Earth. (Includes 9 collectible game cards)

978-1-338-67120-9 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.2 AR Pts 10.0 Lexile 770

Rise of the School for Good and Evil (Trade)



#2323431 (Vol. 02) Fall of the School for Good and Evil (Hardcover (Trade))

Quantity

Unit Price

1

\$19.99

written by Soman Chainani

What rises . . . must fall. Two brothers. One Good. One Evil. In exchange for power and immortality, they watch over the Endless Woods and rule the School for Good and Evil. Yet all School Masters must face a test. Theirs is loyalty.

978-0-06-326953-8 ©2023 6 x 8-1/4 384 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.6 AR Pts 11.0

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews In this sequel to a prequel, a third candidate for School Master brings simmering tensions between twins Rhian and Rafal to a boil. In events following close on those in Rise of the School for Good and Evil (2022), the arrival of James Hook in Neverland, along with fellow ex-students Aladdin and Princess Kyma, spurs ruthless tyrant Peter Pan to mount his own bid to take over the twin-towered school where fairy-tale characters are trained. Meanwhile Rafal and Rhian, amid their growing rivalry, are both searching for an ally they can trust, and they kidnap a Reader—young Midas—from the outside world. What follows is a seminar on telling Good from Evil as the line between the two becomes even more muddled, numerous members of the sprawling cast exhibit qualities of both, and Rafal, in particular, suffers an extended identity crisis. Chainani explores feminist themes as a group of punk Neverland fairies and a man-hunting troll join Kyma, asserting their independence and questioning what might happen “if boys don’t have the last word in our stories.” He also presents a credible rationale for Good’s invariable victory over Evil in fairy tales. Characters’ skin tones vary from pale to bronze, and the two trolls are colorful showstoppers. Final art not seen. Fans will be pleased to see answers, background, and a clear path to Volume 1. (Fantasy. 11-14)

Rizzlerunk Club (Trade)



#2041345 (Vol. 01) Best Buds under Frogs (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Leslie Patricelli

In her first novel, illustrated in her inimitable style, Leslie Patricelli hits all the humorous ups and downs of being the new kid at school, navigating complicated friendships, and standing up to frenemies.

978-0-7636-5104-6 ©2018 288 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.0 AR Pts 5.0 GR Lvl S Lexile 610

Quantity

1

Unit Price

\$15.99

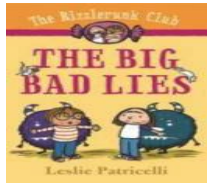
Reviews by: Booklist Grades 3-5 Lily's secret wish of having a turtle shell to hide in is stronger than ever after she christens her first day of fourth grade by puking on the playground. Mortified, she's positive no one at her new school will want to be her friend now. But she didn't count on meeting Darby, a weird but funny girl in her class. Undeterred by the playground incident, Darby breaks through Lily's shy defenses with her goofy personality and enviable disregard for what others think. Together, they form the Rizzlerunk Club, named for the sea captain who, according to Darby, died on (and haunts!) the lake separating the girls' houses. Patricelli nails the anxiety that comes with moving and shyness, particularly the constant worry Lily feels over other people's opinions. Being friends with Darby positively challenges these fears, but when Darby's former best friend moves back to town, Lily worries this bossy, popular girl will steal Darby from her. Embellished with Lily's cartoon drawings, this tween novel about finding your own path is relatable, funny, and sincere. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2018, American Library Association.)

Reviews by: Horn Book Guide "Fourth grade, first day, brand-new school, and I'm barfing in front of everyone," says Lily, protagonist of Patricelli's (known for her preschooler and board books) first intermediate novel. Copious black-and-white illustrations enhance this tale of a shy girl befriended by a quirky outcast, whose own (jealous) best friend has just moved back to town. The three-way friendship dynamic is realistic, and humorous details abound. (Copyright 2018 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Supershy fourth-grader Lily Lattuga (Italian for "lettuce") just wants to blend in at her new school, but on the first day, she throws up on a popular girl's shoes! Then it gets worse: her new classmates start quacking at her after her repeated attempts to pronounce "Kwakiutl" in a list of Northwest Native American tribes--she never gets past the first syllable (an unfortunate joke)--and she gets on the wrong bus. Lucky for Lily, unselfconscious Darby Dorski extends the hand of friendship. The girls bond over their love of frogs, and the Rizzlerunk Club is born. The book's title comes from the club's pledge, which concludes "best buds, under frogs, with loyalty and honesty for all." When Darby's best friend, Jill, returns from London, loyalty and honesty are put to the test. Lily worries she'll lose the only friend she has, and Jill is a lying troublemaker who gets Lily and Darby into one scrape after another, throwing the girls under the bus while weaseling her way out of punishment. Lily attempts to shave her unibrow after Jill makes fun of it, only to end up with a finger superglued to her forehead. Everyone appears to be white except for one classmate with a Spanish name. Lily loves to draw, and her first-person narration is livened up with her humorous line drawings reflecting her thoughts and feelings. This first full-length narrative, a series opener, from board-book creator Patricelli (Hair, 2017, etc.) is a no-frills, funny story about friendship. (Fiction. 7-11) COPYRIGHT(2017) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly There isn't a dull moment in this uproarious first novel from Patricelli, best known for her series of board books starring a springy-haired toddler. After a disastrous first day at her new school (much barfing is involved), "supershy" fourth-grader Lily wishes more than ever that she could "blend in, like the handful of spinach Mom adds to our smoothies." Uninhibited Darby, a passionate believer in ghosts and a collector of frogs, takes Lily under her wing, but then Darby's manipulative former best friend, Jill, reappears after a stint in London, and sets out to reclaim Darby. Flaunting her English school uniform and a rapidly acquired British accent, Jill masterminds pranks (such as sneaking out of class to paint the monkey bars) that she cajoles Lily and Darby into carrying out. With the exception of a running joke revolving around the name of a Native American tribe, Patricelli's humor is on the mark, and her scribbly b&w cartoons add to the fun. Lily's self-effacing narration carries this rollicking look at the challenges and rewards of friendship. Ages 7--10. Agent: Rebecca Sherman, Writers House. (Feb.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 3-5-Popular board book author and illustrator Patricelli offers up an amusing first novel on friendship, peer pressure, and being the new kid. Mono-browed Lily has a terrible first day of fourth grade; although both she and her sister feel ill, they get sent to their new school whereupon Lily throws up on potential new friends' shoes and all over the recess yard. Then a very unusual girl named Darby takes Lily under her wing and they form a two-member group called the Rizzlerunk Club. They have common interests in science, frogs, and trying to stay away from Lily's mom's health food. Things take a bad turn when Darby's previous best friend suddenly returns from a move to England, busting up the duo. Jill has a talent for getting Darby and Lily to do awful things that get them into big trouble with their teachers, the principal, and their friends. Jill always comes out of these incidents smelling like a rose. Lily must decide if she'll keep on being a follower and succumbing to peer pressure in order to stay in the Club or take her parents' advice and make good decisions to be her own person. Patricelli writes with warmth and humor, shining a light on the sometimes painful parts of establishing your own sense of self while wanting to be part of the "in" bunch. Lily's difficulties in deciding what to do are realistic and the solution has no whiff of adult didacticism. A generous helping of hilarious black-and-white illustrations enhances the text with humor and encourages pathos when Darby has difficulty finding her true self. VERDICT This engaging, funny, and heartfelt read will ring true to a young audience; Patricelli shows a real gift for capturing the dramas and goofiness of the age range. Recommended for most collections.-B. Allison Gray, Goleta Public Library, CA Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2259793 (Vol. 02) Big Bad Lies (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Leslie Patricelli

Lily Lattuga finally feels settled after moving to a new town and starting the fourth grade at a new school. She gets to live right across the lake from her best friend, Darby, who loves frogs and drawing just as much as Lily does. They even have their own club: the Rizzlerunks. But then things start going wrong: the new boy in class is a liar and a bully, and Darby begins acting strangely--she even breaks the Rizzlerunk pledge of honesty and gets Lily into trouble!

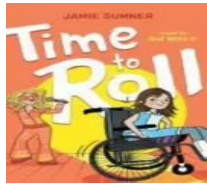
978-0-7636-5105-3 ©2022 5 x 8 256 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Rounds of truth or dare turn into real tests for fourth grade best friends trapped by their lies to one other. Having sworn themselves Best Buds Under Frogs in the 2018 series opener, Lily and Darby, founders and only members of the Rizzlerunk Club, both learn that it's easier to tell a "Big Bad Black Hole Lie" than to bear the weight of one on their consciences. First, when Darby's hilariously "inappropriate" drawing of Michelangelo's David comes to light, Lily is amazed and confused when her friend not only tells their teacher that Lily drew it, but refuses to admit otherwise, even in private. Then Lily inadvertently steps on a class rat that Darby brought home for the weekend and finds herself insisting that it died of natural causes--even after the whole class comes down on Darby as a "Rat Killer." The addition of a charismatic new student who bullies younger ones while compulsively boasting that he lives in the biggest house in town and telling other provable fibs turns Lily's narrative into a kind of seminar on different sorts of lies and their costs. But Patricelli keeps the tone light by adding cartoon line drawings to nearly every page and piling on subplots and incidents of a (mostly) comical tenor. And truth does win out over dare by the end, as does friendship. Most characters read as White. Will make readers both laugh and think...and what could be better than that? (Fiction. 7-10) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Roll With It (Prebound)



#2376947 (Vol. 02) Time to Roll (Prebound)

written by Jamie Sumner

Ellie is so not the pageant type. They're Coralee's thing, and Ellie is happy to let her talented friend shine in the spotlight. But what's she supposed to do when Coralee asks her to enter a beauty pageant, and their other best friend, Bert, volunteers to be their manager? Then again, how else is she going to get through this summer with her dad, who barely knows her, while her mom is off on her honeymoon with Ellie's amazing gym teacher? Ellie decides she has nothing to lose.

978-1-5364-8440-3 ©2024 5 x 7-1/2 224 pgs.

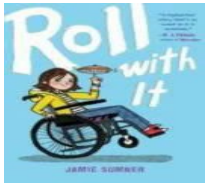
Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.9 AR Pts 6.0 Lexile 750

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A girl with cerebral palsy finds herself in the spotlight. A year after the events of Roll With It (2019), aspiring baker Ellie Cowan's adventures resume just as her mom is marrying Hutch, her gym teacher. Unfortunately, while Mom and Hutch are honeymooning, Ellie will be stuck with her father, rowdy younger stepbrothers, and stepmother for a month. Her father feels like a stranger; he never knows how to act around her or her wheelchair. So when her outspoken best friend Coralee recruits Ellie and her other best friend, über-organized Bert, to help her compete in the Oklahoma Little Miss Boots and Bows pageant, Ellie welcomes the distraction. When Coralee begs Ellie to enter as well, Ellie acquiesces despite her distaste for pageants...and to spite her father, who thinks she can't handle it. But when the pageant's coordinator patronizingly fawns over Ellie, Coralee grows jealous. How can Ellie salvage their friendship? Despite some poignant moments and a realistically messy portrayal of family and friendship, this outing feels somewhat rushed. Readers scarcely have time to process some plot threads--including painful revelations--before Sumner wraps them up, and secondary characters, like fellow competitor Maya, feel somewhat underdeveloped. However, Bert remains endearing, and it's heartening to see Ellie establishing boundaries with the occasionally overbearing Coralee. Ellie, her family, and most of her friends read White; Maya is Black. Sweet but uneven. (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#2178019 (Vol. 01) Roll with It (Prebound)

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95



written by Jamie Sumner

When Ellie and her mom move so they can help take care of her ailing grandpa, Ellie has to start all over again in a new town at a new school. Except she's not just the new kid--she's the new kid in the wheelchair who lives in the trailer park on the wrong side of town. It all feels like one challenge too many, until Ellie starts to make her first-ever friends.

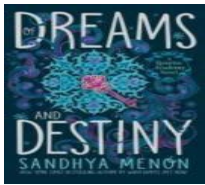
978-1-5364-6500-6 ©2020 5 x 7-1/2 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.6 AR Pts 6.0 RC Lvl 4.5 Lexile 740

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Headstrong 12-year-old Lily "Ellie" Cowan loves to bake. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, Ellie heads to the kitchen when she gets frustrated with her overprotective mom, her hovering full-time aide, and her absent father. After Ellie's grandfather, who has dementia, drives his car into the local supermarket, Ellie and her mom pack up their Nashville home and move into her grandparents' tiny trailer in Eufaula, Okla. Soon, Ellie meets free-spirited neighbor Coralee and eccentric schoolmate Bert; their acceptance helps her to cope with her new school, which is far from wheelchair-friendly. Drawing on her own experiences with her son, who has cerebral palsy, debut author Sumner doesn't sugarcoat Ellie's daily challenges; social, emotional, and physical; including navigating showers and crowded classrooms. Sumner also makes it clear that Ellie is a regular kid who dreams of becoming a chef, which is conveyed partly through letters that Ellie writes to various culinary experts throughout the book. In addition, Sumner deftly explores universal difficulties of fitting in and following one's passions. Ellie is easy to champion, and her story reminds readers that life's burdens are always lighter with friends and family; and a good piece of pie; at the ready. Ages 10: up. Agent: Keely Boeving, WordServe Literary. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-7—In Sumner's middle grade debut, 12-year-old Ellie dreams of being a famous baker/chef, instead of being known as the "kid with cerebral palsy in a wheelchair." Ellie is obsessed with learning baking techniques with her overworked mother and writes letters to her favorite celebrity chefs about the recipes she has tried. Ellie's world is turned upside down when she and her mother move to her grandmother's trailer park residence in Oklahoma to assist with the care of her ailing grandfather, who suffers from the early stages of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Ellie rises to the challenge of being the new girl in school and makes new friends through her kindness, as well as her baking prowess. Ellie finds a way to conquer her doubts and prove to her mother that the move to Oklahoma was a good thing for both of them. Young readers will delve into Ellie's relationships with her distant father and her mother, grandparents, friends, neighbors, teachers, and classmates. Sumner offers a heartfelt and humorous glimpse into the life of a girl with cerebral palsy who is determined to make her mark on a world that often perceives her as limited because of her disability. However, adults may want to discuss the ableist terms and sentiments Ellie expresses when describing herself, including the word "crippled" and feeling "stuck" in a wheelchair. VERDICT Recommended for fans of tender realistic fiction including Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's *The War That Saved My Life* and Elana K. Arnold's *A Boy Called Bat*. The challenges faced by youth like Ellie are underrepresented in children's literature; highly recommended for middle grade collections.—Angelina Bair, Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library, OH

Rosetta Academy (Trade)



#2333199 (Vol. 03) Of Dreams and Destiny (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Sandhya Menon

It's senior year, and Daphne Elizabeth "DE" McKinley, the heiress to the McKinley hotel dynasty, is still licking her wounds after a painful breakup. She's determined to keep her head down and her heart shuttered—even from new student Xander, no matter how dreamy he is.

978-1-5344-1760-1 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 7 - Y Dewey# Fic

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$19.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A heartbroken girl must learn to trust again--before a mysterious illness claims her entire school. After being cruelly betrayed by a boy, Rosetta Academy senior Daphne Elizabeth "DE" McKinley is done with dating. Encouraged by her best friend, Jaya, to consult town psychic Madame Olivera, DE receives an ominous warning about an impending storm--and a death. Madame Olivera also gives her a note stating that, with an open heart, DE can vanquish the storm. Unconvinced, she dismisses it as a hoax. She also eschews love, even resisting handsome new boy Xander Murthy. But DE and Xander find a strange doll from 1873 in the woods, and after DE pricks her finger on something sharp in its body, the academy is enveloped in a severe snowstorm, and students start succumbing to a comalike sleeping sickness. When Xander reveals that his great-great-great-uncle, a Rosetta student, mysteriously died in his sleep during the great storm of 1873, the two work together to uncover long-kept secrets and save their friends. Told from the alternating perspectives of DE and Xander, this retelling of "Sleeping Beauty" includes some appearances by characters from previous entries and is a fun addition to the series. DE experiences many relatable post-breakup feelings before finding herself again, and Xander's family history touches on generational cycles of addiction. DE is white; Xander is Indian, Irish,

Rosie Frost (Trade)



#2348650 (Vol. 01) Rosie Frost and the Falcon Queen (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Geri Halliwell-Horner

Suddenly orphaned and alone, Rosie Frost is sent to the mysterious Bloodstone Island—home not only to a school for extraordinary teens, but also a sanctuary for endangered species. There, Rosie confronts a menacing deputy headmaster, a group of mean girls intent on destroying her, and shocking family secrets. She also discovers that history can come to life in ways she never could have imagined.

978-0-593-62334-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 464 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 730

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews A 13-year-old is sent to a school with ties to the Tudors on a mysterious English island populated by endangered species in this U.S. debut by former Spice Girl Halliwell-Horner. Rosie Frost's world is upended when her mum dies, leaving her an orphan. Per her mother's last wishes, the pale, ginger-haired girl is whisked away to Bloodstone Island, a "conservation hotspot" and the site of Heverbridge, a school founded by Queen Elizabeth I, which now has an ethnically diverse population of pupils and teachers. New scholarship student Rosie immediately seems to get on the bad side of the deputy head, Mr. Hemlock. She soon comes to believe he has plans that will harm the island's flora and fauna. Hoping to make her voice heard and discover more about who she is, Rosie enters the Falcon Queen Games, a competition aligned with the school's values of courage, power, and freedom. She faces danger and bullying, but along the way she makes friends and allies who help her. This contemporary, girl-power story has light paranormal and fantastical elements and is fueled by a captivating mystery and adventure. The good-versus-evil narrative is clear cut and straightforward. Many of the character types and plot elements present here are popular staples of the genre, adding to the lively story's wide appeal. It also features quick pacing, fun and engaging worldbuilding, and a lead character who is easy to root for. Exuberant, action-packed, and warmhearted. (map, glossary, family tree) (Fantasy. 10-14)

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly In an effervescent fantasy series launch with a conservation bent from musician Halliwell-Horner, also known as Ginger Spice, orphaned 13-year-old Rosie Frost is enrolled in a secret boarding school. Founded by Queen Elizabeth I to honor her mother, Anne Boleyn, Heverbridge School is an academy for exceptional students and Tudor descendants. It's also located off England's coast on Bloodstone Island, a hidden haven for some of the world's "rarest and most impressive" plants and animals. Rosie arrives at Heverbridge seeking comfort and answers; instead, rich kids bully her, and imperious deputy administrator Mr. Hemlock belittles and gaslights her. To survive, Rosie keeps her head down, until she discovers that Mr. Hemlock is planning something harmful to the island's endangered species. Hoping that the prestige of a win could provide her with the platform to incite change, she enters Heverbridge's highly competitive Falcon Queen games, a tournament meant to test students' courage. Though the plot follows a familiar path, smart twists rooted in real-life history add excitement, and Anne Boleyn's indomitable spirit literally and figuratively haunts this lively debut, inspiring Rosie and propelling the tale's feminist, eco-preservationist message. Rosie cues as white; the boldly drawn supporting cast is racially diverse. Ages 10: up. Agent: Anthony Mattero, CAA. (Oct.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-7—Rosie Frost has always been an outcast. When she gets the shocking news of her mother's death, she is sent to the elite Heverbridge School on Bloodstone Island with little explanation—how did she get there, and what connection does it have to her mother? In addition to dealing with the typical mean girls, Rosie must now contend with a sinister headmaster, an island that defies the laws of nature, and the ghost of Queen Elizabeth I. Determined to prove herself, she signs up for the Falcon Queen games. Winning, though, is trickier than she thinks, and the games are just a piece of a much more complicated plot. Rosie will need to rely on her friends and trust her instincts not only to win but to save the whole island, too. This book mixes elements of fantasy with history, mystery, and adventure, but it is, at its core, a coming-of-age story. Rosie blossoms when she starts to let her walls down, and the supporting characters who eventually become her friends round out the story. The school and the island are fantastic settings: readers will be bursting to visit Bloodstone Island, with its rare creatures and old secrets. The main plot is slow to start; the book at times feels long, but readers will be engaged enough that most won't mind. VERDICT If an English boarding school on an island full of wild, rare animals isn't enough to grab readers, Rosie Frost, an empowering new heroine, certainly will.—Kristin Brynsvold

Royal Guide to Monster Slaying (Trade)

#2108065 (Vol. 01) Royal Guide to Monster Slaying (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelley Armstrong

Twelve-year-old Rowan is next in line to be Queen; her twin brother, Rhydd, to be Royal Monster Hunter. Rowan would give anything to switch places, but the rule is,

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

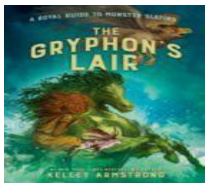


the oldest child is next in line, even if she is only older by two minutes. But a tragic event breaks up longstanding rules, and now Rowan finds herself in hunt of a dangerous gryphon.

978-0-7352-6535-6 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 288 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 4.2 AR Pts 9.0 Lexile HL 610

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly As the oldest child, Rowan, 12, has always known she'd be Queen, but she envies her twin brother, Rhydd, who is in line to become Royal Monster Hunter (but would make a better consort). Nevertheless, she spends her time learning about myriad creatures. However, after their Aunt Jannah is slain in a gryphon attack, just as their father was, and Rhydd is badly injured, Rowan must step into the role she's always dreamed of fulfilling. Accompanied by a jackalope and an enormous wolf, Rowan sets out to find the person who can help train her for the monumental task ahead: to fight and slay the gryphon. As she forges unlikely friendships and alliances, she develops a growing understanding of her weighty responsibility to her people while seeking to understand and respect the monsters she hunts, doing as little harm as possible. Weaving in themes of family, duty, and conservation, YA author Armstrong (the Darkness Rising trilogy) offers a gripping middle grade debut in an imaginative fantasy world populated by fascinating creatures. Readers will hope that there is more planned for Rowan and her growing entourage of monsters and misfits. A monster field guide concludes. Ages 10: 14. (Aug.)



#2162819 (Vol. 02) Gryphon's Lair (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelley Armstrong

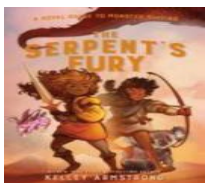
In order to save face after an accident involving the troublesome gryphon, Rowan, with the help of her friends Dain and Alianor, along with an entourage of monstrous companions, must make a journey to the mountains to release the gryphon back into the wild. What starts off as a simple enough task soon becomes a dangerous quest, as the group encounters numerous rare and deadly monsters along the way, including wyverns and ceffyl-dwrs. Nothing is easy when you're a "monster magnet" like Rowan.

978-0-7352-6538-7 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 12.0 Lexile 740

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Rowan returns in this follow-up to Armstrong's *A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying*. Readers do not have to wait long for the Royal Monster Hunter to land in another sticky situation. When the gryphon captured in her last adventure is killed while giving birth, Rowan convinces her mother, the Queen, to allow the baby named Tiera to stay in the castle so it can be studied before it's returned to the wild. When her mother's family attempts to claim the throne through scheming, Rowan is once again thrust into a highly dangerous yet necessary mission to bring Tiera home to her kin living high in the mountains. Following in the footsteps of the first installment, this entry offers nonstop action and adventure. Rowan and her friends not only encounter mythological beasts, they also deal with the everyday problems of the average middle schooler. Rowan must field rumors of her mother becoming involved with someone new after her father's death and navigate the misunderstandings and awkward feelings that come with friends becoming potential crushes. **VERDICT** An enjoyable follow-up to its rollicking predecessor. Recommended for fans of Rick Riordan and Tamora Pierce.—Sara Brunkhorst, Glenview P.L., IL

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99



#2234047 (Vol. 03) Serpent's Fury (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelley Armstrong

Rowan is Tamarel's Royal Monster Hunter, and her twin brother, Rhydd, will be its king. After the events of *The Gryphon's Lair*, Rowan, along with her friends, her brother and an entourage of monstrous companions, makes her way back to the Dunaan Woods to deal with the pack of dropbears the group trapped in an abandoned cabin after a vicious attack.

978-0-7352-7015-2 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—Rowan and her fearless friends return in this newest series installment. We meet our ragtag group on the way to clear out an infestation of dropbears in the Dunnian Woods. After nearly getting swept away by a stampede of colocolos, small lizard and ratlike creatures, and being attacked by fleeing harpies, it is clear that something else is terrorizing the denizens of the woods. As the troupe continues on to find the source of the unrest, we learn a lot more about Tamarel outside of the royal palace. The group encounters a "witch," monster poachers, and an exiled sort-of-prince. In their search, Rowan stumbles on a hidden cave with her ceffyl-dwr—the creatures she finds have not been seen in her world for centuries and are almost certainly the cause of this latest unrest among monsters. In the beginning, the author gives a natural overview of the events in the series so far, which serves as a helpful reminder to series veterans or new readers alike. Armstrong skillfully blends different mythologies; fans of Rick Riordan and mythology will appreciate the lesser-known monsters that are featured. Readers will find Rowan's monster sketchbook, included after the final chapter, helpful in picturing some of the more obscure creatures. VERDICT This latest entry does the action-packed series justice.—Sara Brunkhorst, Glenview P.L., IL



#2281467 (Vol. 04) Final Trial (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Kelley Armstrong

After discovering the true reason for the monster migration, Rowan is on an expedition to ultimately prove that she is worthy of the ebony monster-slaying sword on her back. She and her twin brother, Rhydd, their friends Dain and Alianor, as well as some other trusted advisors - and the ever-growing group of monstrous companions - are on a mission to help protect the dragon living in their homeland and are travelling to kingdoms beyond to make their case.

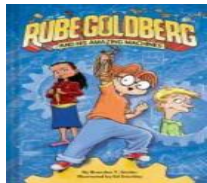
978-0-7352-7020-6 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 320 pgs.

Grades 6 - 8 Dewey# Fic Lexile 700

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Tensions between monsters and humans remain high as Princess Rowan sets out to defuse (or ignite) a dragon-sized situation in this series closer. Our young royal monster hunter-elect finally has her future in sight. One remaining trial has sent Rowan, her twin brother, and their hunting party on a journey from Tamarel to neighboring Roiva. If she can settle the ongoing dragon dilemma, Rowan can officially take her place as her aunt's successor. The expedition combines dangerous monsters with volatile politics, and it's difficult to say which is more treacherous as their monster-hunting mission of mercy turns mercenary when Rowan and her friends are captured. Engineering an escape from abductors in the thick of a giant serpent's hunting ground would be enough. Dealing with troublesome monsters while thwarting a coup would be more than enough. But there is still a dangerously agitated dragon in their midst. Rowan draws on every ounce of skill, courage, and knowledge she possesses, but it may not be enough as she faces the terrifying question: What kind of monster can frighten a dragon? Armstrong delivers a wild ride as rapid-fire monster fight (and sometimes flight) scenes are paced by Rowan's intense introspection. New monsters (faithfully rendered with wonderful detail in Rowan's accompanying guide) give way to satisfying answers to some series-long questions, though the hasty conclusion may feel discordantly tidy. Some new Roivan characters are described as light-skinned, but the majority of the Tamarelian cast remains brown-skinned. Good luck putting it down. (Fantasy. 9-12) COPYRIGHT(2022) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Rube Goldberg (Trade)



#2257543 (Vol. 01) Rube Goldberg and His Amazing Machines (Hardcover (POB))

written by Brandon T. Snider

On the first day of middle school, Principal Kim announces that the school is going to throw a Contraption Convention--the perfect opportunity for young inventor Rube Goldberg to show off his inventions and get out of his summer-long funk! But after a fight with his friends Pearl and Boob about where his priorities really lie, Rube's Con Con entry gets off to a rocky start--and then strange incidents begin to throw the town into disarray.

978-1-4197-5004-5 ©2021 5-1/2 x 8 240 pgs.


Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

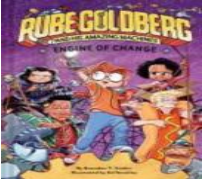
Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$13.99

Reviews by: Kirkus Reviews Middle schooler Rube Goldberg's obsession with building machines lands him in the midst of a best friend crisis, a school haunting, and a town mystery. Though Rube shares the name of the famous American inventor, in this fictional story he is a regular 21st-century sixth grader. When Beechwood Middle School's Principal Kim announces the Contraption Convention, Rube sees his shot at earning real recognition for his passion. His best friends, Boob and Pearl, get pushed to the side as Rube becomes focused both on his creation and his new

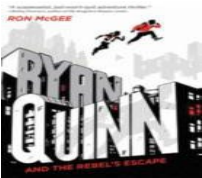
friend, Zach. Ultimately, Rube has to come to terms with tensions arising from his affectionate but frequently absent father, his tattered friendships, and the lingering impact of the death of his mother. Snider accurately conveys feelings of change and growth at a time when tweens are truly still children. Though the story includes a spooky doll, ghost slime, and a neighborhood house that is rumored to be haunted, those elements feel like afterthoughts with weak connections to the central plotline and little thrill factor. Steckley's black-and-white illustrations evoke the cluttered, mad-scientist feel of Rube's workspace, even if some don't always match the text's descriptions. Illustrations cue Pearl as Black and most other main characters as White. Moving parts and missing pieces don't make for a successful machine. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2021) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4–6—In a new series based on a fictionalized version of the infamous inventor, Rube Goldberg loves to create contraptions. With his dad working out of town all the time, his mom deceased, and his grandmother dropping off the occasional casserole, Rube is able to spend his days and nights working on projects. After a summer of isolated machine building, Rube starts sixth grade at Beechwood Middle School. When the principal of Beechwood announces the school's Con-Con, or Contraption Convention, Rube withdraws even more from his old friends Boob (yes, Boob McNutt) and Pearl Williams. Rube's new and unlikely friend, Zach, drives a wedge further between Rube, Boob, and Pearl, as Rube elects to spend time working on inventions with Zach to prepare for Con-Con. Suspicions mount, strange things happen, and friends say all the wrong things as the competition draws nearer. With the exception of the curse of a haunted doll found in the woods, a few supernatural disturbances at the school, and an international criminal disguised as the new science teacher, Rube's induction into the middle school experience will be highly relatable to kids making this transition. Lively cartoon illustrations convey the spirit of the characters, while italicized passages convey Rube's thoughts. Rube and Boob are cued as white, and Pearl is Black. VERDICT With middle school humor and entertaining images, Rube learns to navigate strange and difficult situations in this first installment of the "Rube Goldberg" series.—Lindsay Persohn, Univ. of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2296085 (Vol. 02) New Switcheroo (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Brandon T. Snider</i> After unintentionally unmasking a criminal mastermind at his school's Contraption Convention, Rube Goldberg-and his inventions-are the talk of the sixth grade. Rube's star is on the rise, and it's a lot of pressure. What if he's lost his mojo? There's no time to wonder, because Rube and his two best friends, Boob and Pearl, are busy planning Pearl's campaign for class president. With the Switcheroo Dance a weekend before the big election, Pearl's path to victory is set. 978-1-4197-5006-9 ©2022 5-1/2 x 8 240 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$14.99

	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#2349851 (Vol. 03) Engine of Change (Hardcover (POB)) <i>written by Brandon T. Snider</i> Evil Professor Zeero has disappeared, Superintendent Atwater has been put in his place, and all is right again in Beechwood ... or is it? When Rube Goldberg discovers the Null Corporation is building a giant machine in his beloved junkyard, he suspects something nefarious is at play. Then when he begins receiving anonymous messages from someone claiming to be an ally, he knows something is up. 978-1-4197-5008-3 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 256 pgs. Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic</p>	1	\$14.99

Ryan Quinn (Trade)

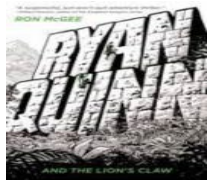
	Quantity	Unit Price
 <p>#1983435 (Vol. 01) Ryan Quinn and the Rebel's Escape (Hardcover (Trade)) <i>written by Ron McGee</i> Ryan Quinn thought his traveling days were over. The son of two United Nations workers, he'd grown up in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa--anywhere but his NYC home. But now that he's settled into life at the International Community School, things have finally gotten good and normal. Until, suddenly, his world gets turned upside down when his father goes missing and his mother is abducted right in front of</p>	1	\$16.99

his eyes.

978-0-06-242164-7 ©2016 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 368 pgs.

Grades 5 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.3 AR Pts 9.0 RC Lvl 4.6 Lexile 750

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-McGee's debut novel offers readers a plot-driven and action-packed whirlwind tour around the world. Ryan Quinn and his family finally settle down in New York, when someone shady starts following him. Then his mother gets kidnapped and his dad goes missing (he was supposed to be in Thailand on business). Ryan soon finds out that his parents both work for the Emergency Rescue Committee, an organization that saves rebels around the world from certain death. And they have been training Ryan for this dangerous work his whole life. Ryan wants nothing to do with it, but he feels compelled to take action to find his dad and save his mom. Readers will root for Ryan and feel sympathy for him because of his situation. Secondary characters are mostly formulaic. The writing seems more like a screenplay, with many play-by-play action scenes. Despite the beautiful settings in which Ryan finds himself, there isn't much in the way of description, making this best suited for kids looking for a fast read with an emphasis on plot over character development. VERDICT Ideal for fans of Alex Rider and libraries with a large action fanbase.-Rachel Reinwald, Lake Villa District Library, IL Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2024643 (Vol. 02) Ryan Quinn and the Lion's Claw (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ron McGee

Ryan Quinn has never been a normal kid, and after everything that happened in Andakar, he's about as far away from normal as could be. His parents want him to forget all about his death-defying escape, his role in the Emergency Rescue Committee, and the fact that they've been keeping secrets from him his whole life. But forgetting just isn't an option for Ryan--not when there's a traitor in the ERC who's looking to ruin Ryan's parents and expose the whole organization.

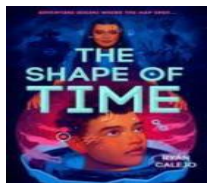
978-0-06-242169-2 ©2017 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 352 pgs.

Grades 5 - 7 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 5.0 AR Pts 8.0 RC Lvl 4.3 Lexile HL 690

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$16.99

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 4-6-In this second installment, the intrepid Ryan Quinn knows something is going on with the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC), the organization that his parents work for. He also knows that his parents are hiding something from him. When a stranger, Lawrence, shows up one night in his house, claiming that his friend and music partner, Nadia, was kidnapped, Ryan gets down to business. His parents are away on other ERC business in Chicago, so Ryan and his friend Danny decide to make themselves honorary members of the ERC by sneaking onto the plane that is taking Nadia to Africa. While trying to save the two musicians, Ryan courageously treks through dangerous but scenic routes in Lovanda and sees firsthand the political unrest there. He also discovers the big secret about his past that his parents have concealed. Meanwhile, his other friend Kasey helps hunt down the traitor who is selling the identities of the ERC rescues. The characters are flat, and there is more telling than showing, but this is a quick, plot-oriented read. VERDICT An action-packed adventure that reads almost like a screenplay and should find a place in most collections. This will keep -reluctant readers in suspense, especially those who enjoyed the first title.-Rachel -Reinwald, Lake Villa District Library, IL Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Rymworld Arcana (Trade)



#2342736 (Vol. 01) Shape of Time (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Ryan Calejo

Antares De La Vega is an adventurer at heart. He dreams of journeying across burning deserts, trekking through wild and uncharted jungles, sailing the furthest reaches of the seas-and yet, he's never stepped foot outside of South Florida. Until strange creatures come leaping out of lightning bolts to kidnap him. Locked away in a secret prison in the middle of the Bermuda Triangle, Antares meets Magdavellia, a mysterious and iron-willed girl who opens his eyes to a shocking truth: this world is a far different-and weirder-place than he's been led to believe. Every strange rumor, every wild theory, is based on truth.

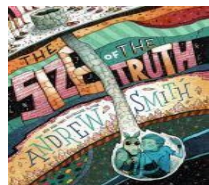
978-1-4197-5988-8 ©2023 5-1/2 x 8 320 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.2 AR Pts 12.0

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$18.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Fourteen-year-old Antares de la Vega, who experiences panic attacks and whose cartographer parents vanished when he was very young, chafes at life's mundanity and has a burning desire to explore the unknown. The arrival of intergalactic strangers named Mr. Now, Mr. Minutes, and Mr. Hoursback kicks off a series of events in which Antares is chased by crocodile men and imprisoned in a secret Bermuda Triangle facility. There he meets fellow detainee Magdavellia, a prickly teenage girl who "could've been from anywhere in the world"; her robot companion; and Zamangar, an idiosyncratic elderly man with an escape plan. As the group work toward their freedom, Antares learns that the world is flat and far weirder than he ever dreamed, and that he's a pawn in an age-old quest to uncover a legendary artifact that promises immense power. In this freewheeling series opener, Calejo (the Charlie Hernandez series) presents a frenetic adventure that combines classic conspiracy theories with metaphysics and a touch of mayhem. Playful linguistic looseness ("This is wondificent!") and memorably rendered characters round out this exciting offbeat tale. Antares is multiethnic ("My dad was born in Mexico City and had Cuban heritage. My mom was part Indian, part Irish, and was born in Switzerland"). Ages 8: 12. Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Agency. (Sept.)

Sam Abernathy (Trade)



#2095266 (Vol. 01) Size of the Truth (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andrew Smith

When he was four years old, Sam Abernathy was trapped at the bottom of a well for three days, where he was teased by a smart-aleck armadillo named Bartleby. Since then, his parents plan every move he makes. But Sam doesn't like their plans.

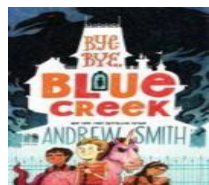
978-1-5344-1955-1 ©2019 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 272 pgs.

Grades 4 - 6 Dewey# Fic AR Lvl 6.0 AR Pts 8.0 Lexile 1000

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Reviews by: Publishers Weekly Sam Abernathy's parents have just skipped him from sixth to eighth grade, the first step, they say, in getting him into MIT. This puts him in the same grade as James Jenkins, the boy he blames for the three days he spent trapped in a well when he was four years old, an event that has defined his life in Blue Creek, Tex. Sam is not interested in MIT, and dislikes survival camping with his enthusiastic father; what he wants most is to leave his small town and become a chef, a goal he pursues secretly to avoid disappointing his parents. Smith (Winger) makes his middle grade debut in this aggressively quirky story that feels overstuffed with cleverly written plot details (mini golf, armadillos, bank robbers, gospel music, aliens) that compete with as often as complement each other. Passages detailing Sam's time in the well offer uncertain connection to the rest of the story and raise more questions than they answer. The well-developed elements shine; as in Smith's YA novels, repeating jokes become funnier over time; but the book fails to coalesce even as it succeeds in over-the-top entertainment. Ages 8: 12. (Mar.)

Reviews by: School Library Journal Gr 5-8-In his imaginative, though at times flimsy, middle grade debut, Smith explores the backstory of Sam Abernathy, who first appeared in the 2015 YA novel Stand-Off. Seven years after falling into an abandoned well, 11-year-old Sam Abernathy can't shake his reputation around town as "Well Boy," especially now that he is in the same class as James Jenkins, who was partially to blame for the well incident. On top of that, Sam is stuck living the life his parents have planned for him, and Sam's desire to become a chef is nowhere in their blueprints. As Sam seizes an opportunity to make his cooking dreams come true, he begins to piece together recollections of the past that change the way he sees his own life and the people in it. Though Sam is a likeable character, readers may struggle to find the depiction of him as a four-year-old believable. Sam's inner thoughts as well as his dialogue with Bartleby, the sassy armadillo whose role throughout Sam's life remains unclear, are more typical of a young teenager than a small child. Still, Smith manages to deliver a unique story with moments that are both endearing and humorous. Readers may appreciate seeing two young male characters who defy the expectations for masculinity set by the people around them in favor of pursuing their true passions. VERDICT Though it fails to reach its full potential, this is a feel-good story with a quirky edge that will leave readers with a smile.-Lauren Hathaway, University of British Columbia Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.



#2181231 (Vol. 02) Bye-Bye, Blue Creek (Hardcover (Trade))

written by Andrew Smith

All twelve-year-old Sam Abernathy wanted to do was make the most of his last few weeks in Blue Creek before he has to say goodbye. Goodbye to the well he fell in eight years ago; goodbye to cooking at Lily Putt's snack bar; goodbye to his overdramatic best friend, Karim; goodbye to unsweetened iced tea at Colonel Jenkins's Diner every Saturday with Bahar (who he does not have a crush on); goodbye to his old life.

978-1-5344-1958-2 ©2020 5-1/2 x 8-1/4 256 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 1030

Quantity	Unit Price
1	\$17.99

Sasquatch Hunters (Trade)



#2328787 (Vol. 02) Sasquatch of Harriman Lake (Hardcover (Trade))

written by K. B. Jackson

Everything Jake Nelson has wished for is coming true. He's finally getting to know his long-lost father, school is a lot less scary with best friends Jasmine and Lanny, and their company, Sasquatch Hunters of Washington, Inc., is taking off. When Jasmine's father invites everyone to a long weekend at their cabin on Harriman Lake, the kids jump at the chance. Legend has it that there is a treasure buried somewhere in the woods nearby, and the "hairy man" the lake is named after might be a Sasquatch. But the deeper they dive into their investigation, tricky puzzles, mysterious locals, and new friendships threaten to break the group apart. Jake may be able to follow the treasure's clues, but will he lose something even more valuable along the way?

978-1-4788-6809-5 ©2024 5-1/2 x 8 204 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 620

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95



#2305305 (Vol. 01) Sasquatch of Hawthorne Elementary (Hardcover (Trade))

written by K. B. Jackson

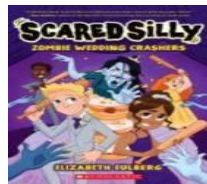
Twelve-year-old JAKE NELSON and his mom, a former Disney Princess, have recently moved from Orlando, Florida, to his grandfather's home in Washington State. Shorter than the average sixth grader, Jake finds it difficult to fit in at his new school, Hawthorne Elementary, especially after making an enemy of one of the most popular boys on the very first day. Not to mention, Jake's hobby is a little unusual: He's a Sasquatch hunter.

978-1-4788-6852-1 ©2022 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 216 pgs.

Grades 4 - 7 Dewey# Fic Lexile 810

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$16.95

Scared Silly (Prebound)



#2346764 (Vol. 02) Zombie Wedding Crashers (Prebound)

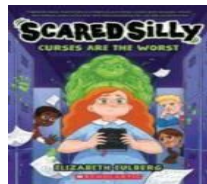
written by Elizabeth Eulberg

WARNING: This book contains a very scary and silly story about a long dormant witch's curse that's been unleashed on the unsuspecting town of Cauldron's Cove. It's revenge, over three-hundred years in the making. (Hey, better late than never!)

978-1-5364-8182-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95



#2317483 (Vol. 01) Curses Are the Worst (Prebound)

written by Elizabeth Eulberg

When the clones of the kids start causing chaos around town, the real kids get in trouble. But nobody believes the "it was my evil clone" excuse, and Ms. Stein only laughs off the accusations. Now, it's up to the kids to defeat Ms. Stein's clone monster army. Will they become victorious and save the town from danger . . . or are they cursed once and for all?

978-1-5364-7837-2 ©2023 5-1/4 x 7-1/2 208 pgs.

Grades 3 - 6 Dewey# Fic Lexile 670

Quantity
1
Unit Price
\$17.95

Reviews by: Booklist Cauldron's Cove has embraced its history as a seventeenth-century haven for witches escaping persecution, by becoming a kitschy, Salemque tourist town. Unfortunately, that history includes a curse that's just been unleashed after 300 years. Its immediate—but unknowing—victims are four fifth-graders (Regan, Sofia, Bennett, and Darius), who have been unjustly sentenced to detention by their usually cool science teacher, Ms. Stein. Things get really weird when Ms. Stein pockets three of the kids' used tissues and yanks some hair out of Regan's head. The unnamed narrator conversationally follows the action as the kids try to figure out what the heck is