

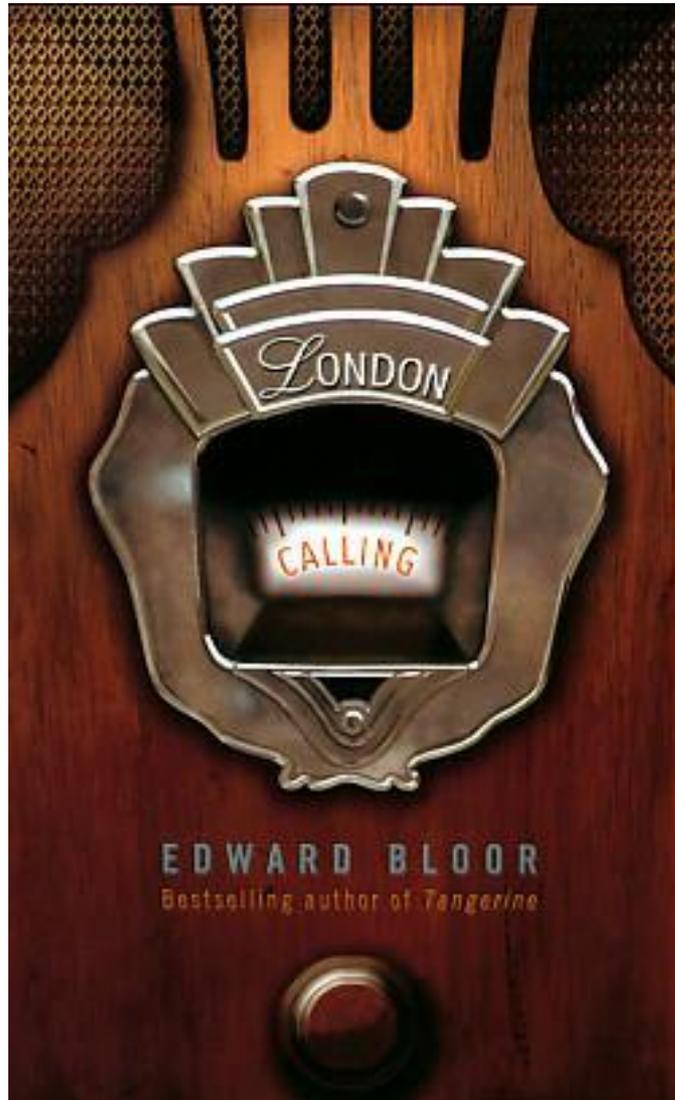
# Adopt-a-Book

Grades 5-8

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Library

5-8

\$16.50

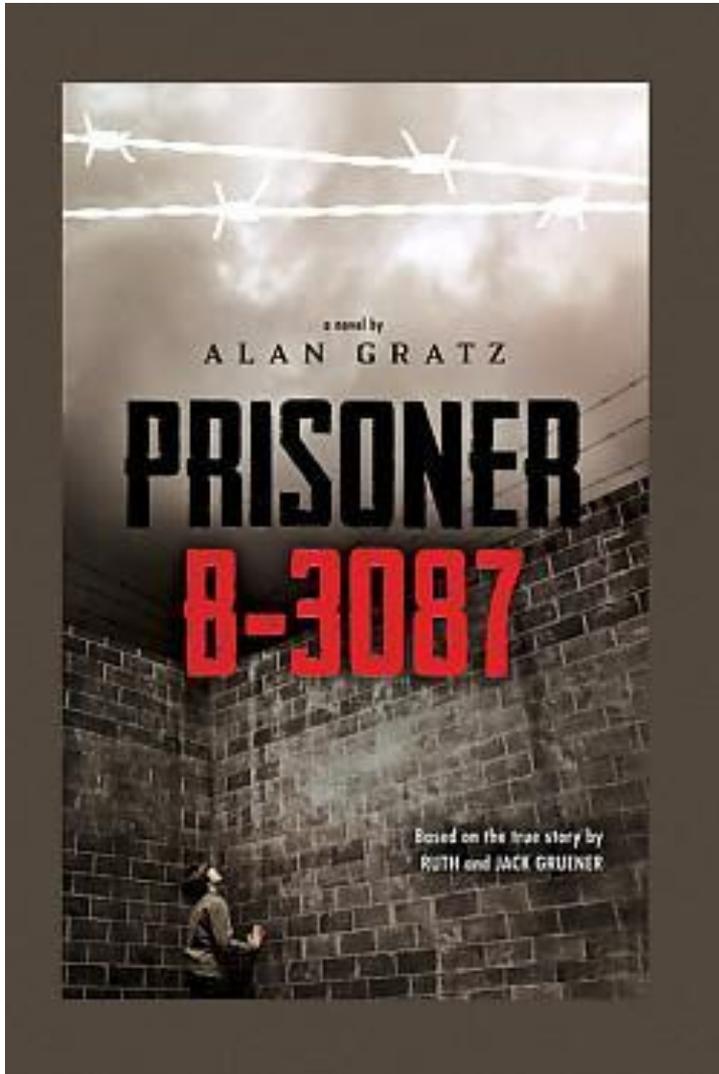


John hates All Souls Preparatory School, where he's tormented by Hank Lowery, great-grandson of General "Hollerin' Hank" Lowery, a WWII hero. Or was he? John's older sister, revising the article on Lowery for her job at an encyclopedia, suspects otherwise. John holds the answer-in a radio bequeathed to him by his grandmother that turns out to be a time-travel device that takes him to the home of a boy named Jimmy in 1940s London. With Jimmy, John observes Lowery at the U.S. Embassy, during the events that precede and follow Jimmy's death. Then he can answer the question Jimmy puts to him: "What did you do to help?" Helping involves a lot of research on Lowery and the Blitz, and a trip to London to find Jimmy's aging father. Sound complicated and unwieldy? Just add overtones of religion (Is Jimmy an angel? What does God want of John?) and alcoholism (John's father) and you've got an ungainly mess.

Tinged with Catholic spirituality, the story is a provocative but not wholly successful mix of history and fantasy.

4-7

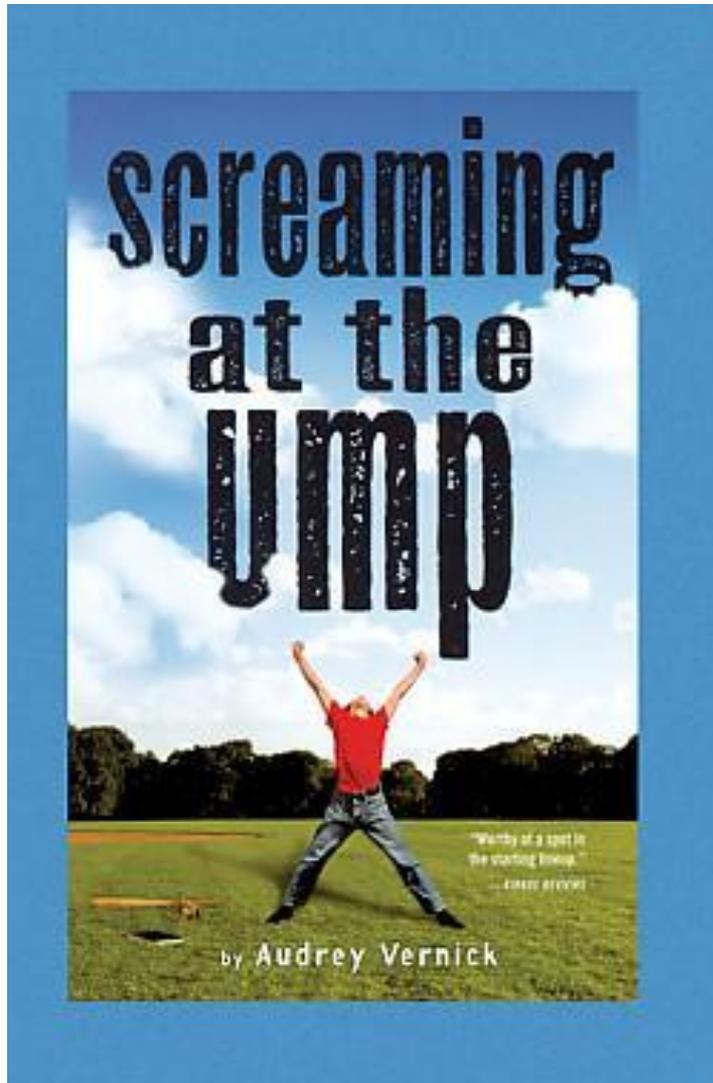
\$21.00



"If I had known what the next six years of my life were going to be like, I would have eaten more. I wouldn't have complained about brushing my teeth, or taking a bath, or going to bed at eight o'clock every night." Yanek Gruener was 10 years old when the German army invaded Poland in 1939 and trapped his family inside the walls of the Jewish ghetto in Krakow. Over the course of World War II, he saw his parents deported by the Nazis and survived 10 different concentration camps. Through Gratz's spare, persistent prose, the story of the boy's early life unfolds with the urgency and directness necessary for survivor stories. While some liberties have been taken, with the permission of Gruener and his wife, Ruth, also a survivor, the experiences and images come directly from the Grueners' collective memories of the war. "If I had known what the next six years of my life were going to be like, I would have eaten more. I wouldn't have complained about brushing my teeth, or taking a bath, or going to bed at eight o'clock every night." Yanek Gruener was 10 years old when the German army invaded Poland in 1939 and trapped his family inside the walls of the Jewish ghetto in Krakow. Over the course of World War II, he saw his parents deported by the Nazis and survived 10 different concentration camps. Through Gratz's spare, persistent prose, the story of the boy's early life unfolds with the urgency and directness necessary for survivor stories. While some liberties have been taken, with the permission of Gruener and his wife, Ruth, also a survivor, the experiences and images come directly from the Grueners' collective memories of the war.

4-7

\$15.00

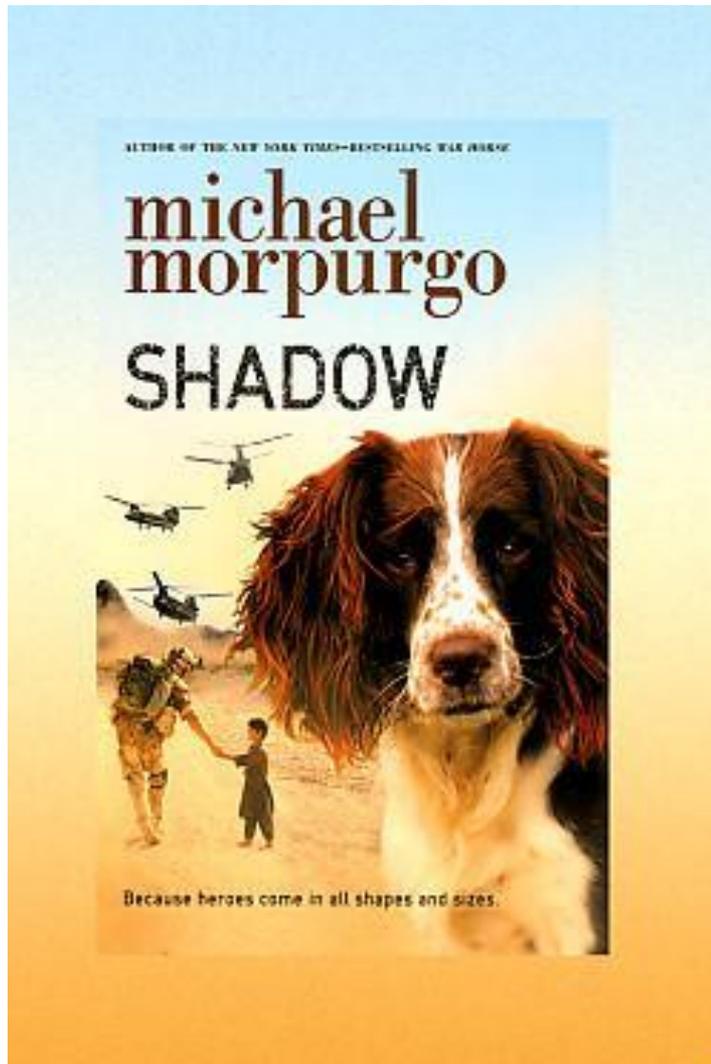


Casey Snowden, 12, loves life at Behind the Plate, the third best (out of three) U.S. academy devoted to training baseball umpires. He lives there with his father, grandfather, and (often) best friend Zeke, whose absent parents have a busy dental practice. Also absent is Casey's mother, who hated living on the retooled grounds of a former reform school, and left with Bob the Baker, the bread delivery guy. As sixth grade starts, another session of umpiring school begins, and this one includes a student who goes by one name but bears an uncanny resemblance to a former major league pitcher who disappeared following a steroids scandal. Could they be one and same, and can Casey make a splash in the school newspaper if he uncovers the truth?

**\$15.50**

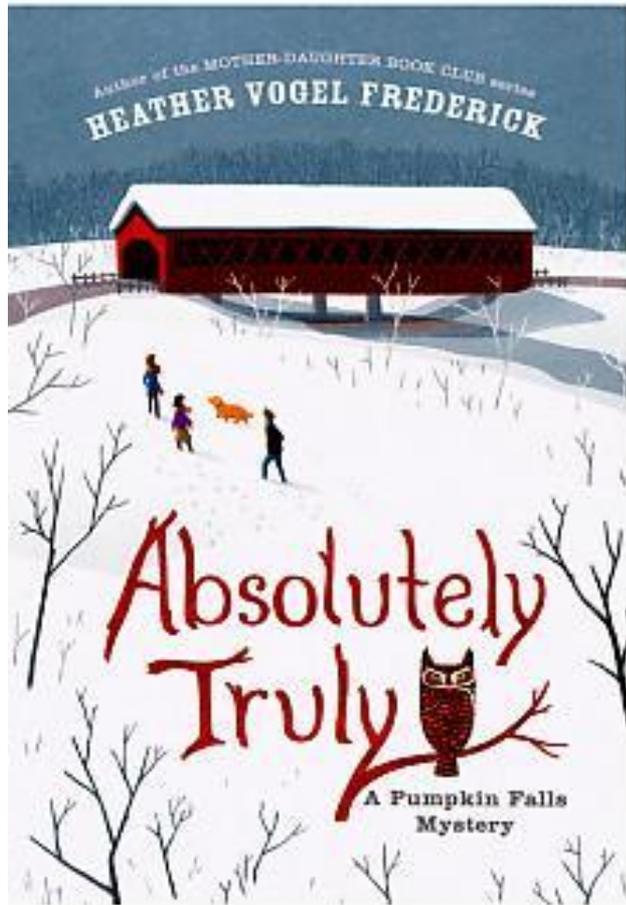
**4-6**

As Aman, a young asylum seeker from Bamiyan, Afghanistan, sits in a British detention center waiting to be deported, his best friend Matt is determined to help. Matt tells his retired-journalist grandfather of Aman's plight and persuades him to visit Aman in the deportation center. There Aman tells Matt's grandfather the story about the talented spaniel (he could sniff out IEDs) he once saved in the caves of Bamiyan. Aman remembers everything: the destruction of the famous stone Buddha sculptures of Bamiyan, the Taliban's firm grip, family members' deaths and disappearances, landmines, and that amazing dog (called Shadow by Aman and Polly by his British-soldier trainer). Grandfather's dormant journalistic skills are awakened. Not only does he listen to Aman's stories but he orchestrates a protest at the deportation center and reunites Aman with the dog and soldier-trainer from Afghanistan. The tale is filled with coincidences, prayerful hopes, and prophetic dreams, all of which come together to lift this story without becoming unduly As Aman, a young asylum seeker from Bamiyan, Afghanistan, sits in a British detention center waiting to be deported, his best friend Matt is determined to help. Matt tells his retired-journalist grandfather of Aman's plight and persuades him to visit Aman in the deportation center. There Aman tells Matt's grandfather the story about the talented spaniel (he could sniff out IEDs) he once saved in the caves of Bamiyan. Aman remembers everything: the destruction of the famous stone Buddha sculptures of Bamiyan, the Taliban's firm grip, family members' deaths and disappearances, landmines, and that amazing dog (called Shadow by Aman and Polly by his British-soldier trainer). Grandfather's dormant journalistic skills are awakened. Not only does he listen to Aman's stories but he orchestrates a protest at the deportation center and reunites Aman with the dog and soldier-trainer from Afghanistan.



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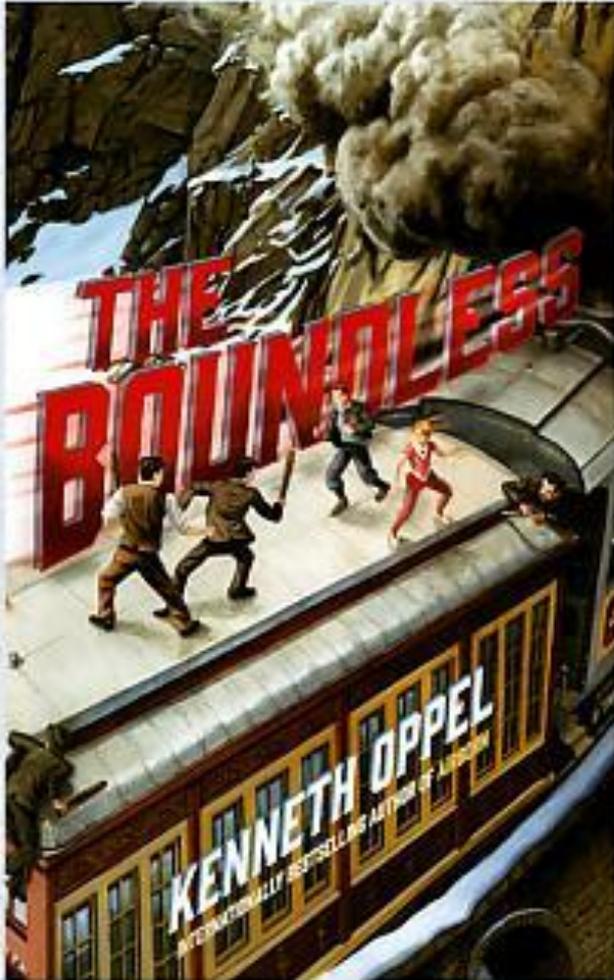
\$15.50



Six months ago, 12-year-old Truly Lovejoy's life was perfect: her military family had finally settled down in Texas, and she was beginning to make friends. That was before Truly's army pilot father lost an arm in Afghanistan and decided to move the family to his hometown to take over his parents' failing bookstore. This first installment of Frederick's Pumpkin Falls Mystery series, starring an endearing middle schooler who bemoans both her name and her towering height, focuses on themes of adjustment, small-town life, and teamwork. Stuck in a "population you've-got-to-be-kidding-me Pumpkin Falls, New Hampshire" during "the coldest winter on record," Truly is distracted from her disappointment when she discovers a letter tucked inside one of the bookshop's rarest books. Soon she's on a treasure hunt, trying to find clues to a 20-year-old puzzle involving two young lovers. There are conflicts with bullies along the way, but Truly also makes an assortment of friends and acquaintances, including some eccentric citizens.

4-6

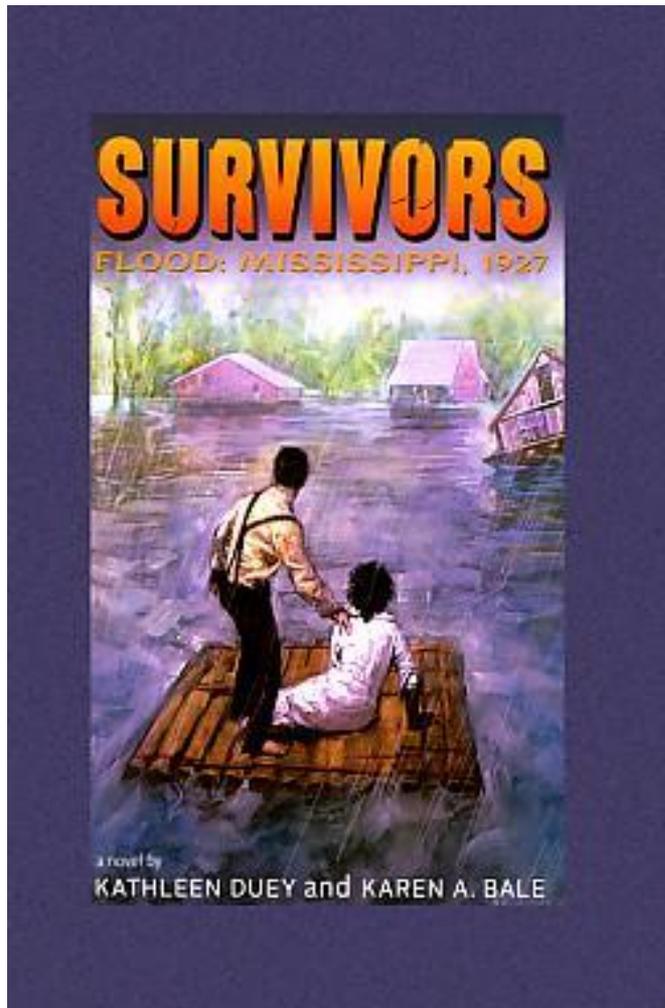
\$15.50



William Everett is proud of his rags-to-riches father, manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but he wants to forge his own destiny. Will's first chance comes when real-life 19th-century rail baron Cornelius Van Horne invites him on a train ride to greet his years-absent, track-laying dad at a nearby mountain camp. After surviving an avalanche and a terrifying sasquatch attack, Will gets to hammer in the last spike, a diamond-encrusted gold railway spike worth a fortune. The story resumes three years later, as a taller, more fancified Will embarks with his now--high-ranking father on the maiden voyage of the Boundless, an opulent, 987-car train--a "rolling city" complete with automaton bartender and traveling circus, 7 miles from locomotive to caboose. Untold treasure is locked up in Van Horne's booby-trapped funeral car, and a motley crew of hungry souls wants to get their hands on it no matter whom they have to kill to get it.

4-6

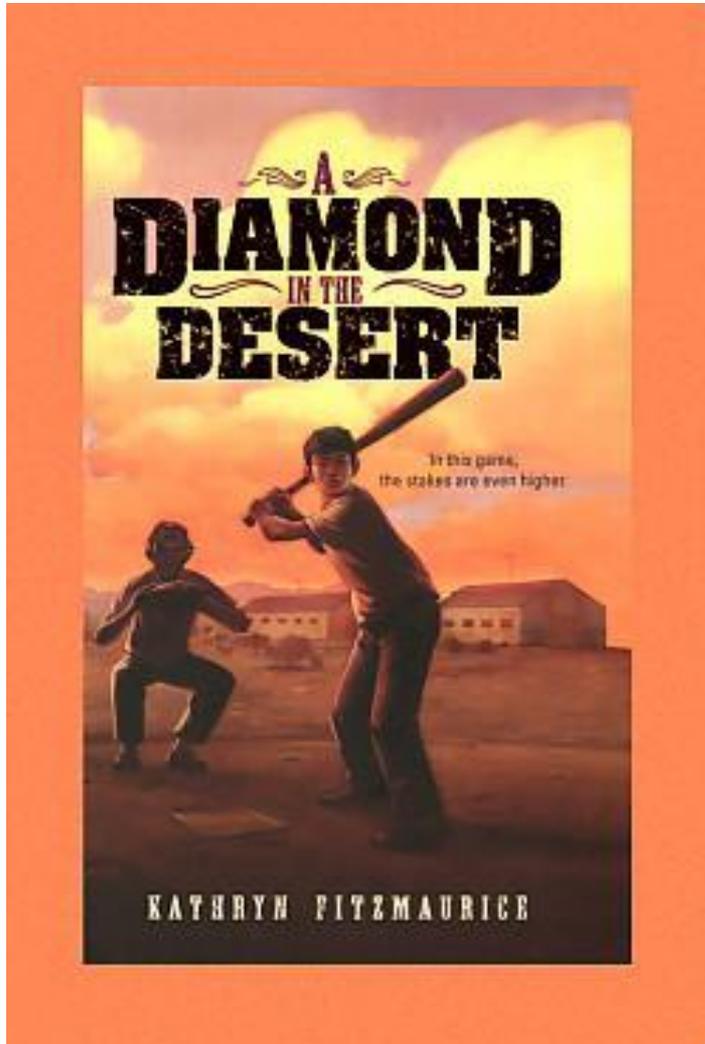
\$15.00



Flood: Mississippi, 1927: When the raging Mississippi threatens their secret cache of hard-earned nickels and pennies, Molly Bride and Garrett Wood risk their lives to retrieve the money that's their escape from the grinding poverty of their lives as sharecroppers.

**4-7**

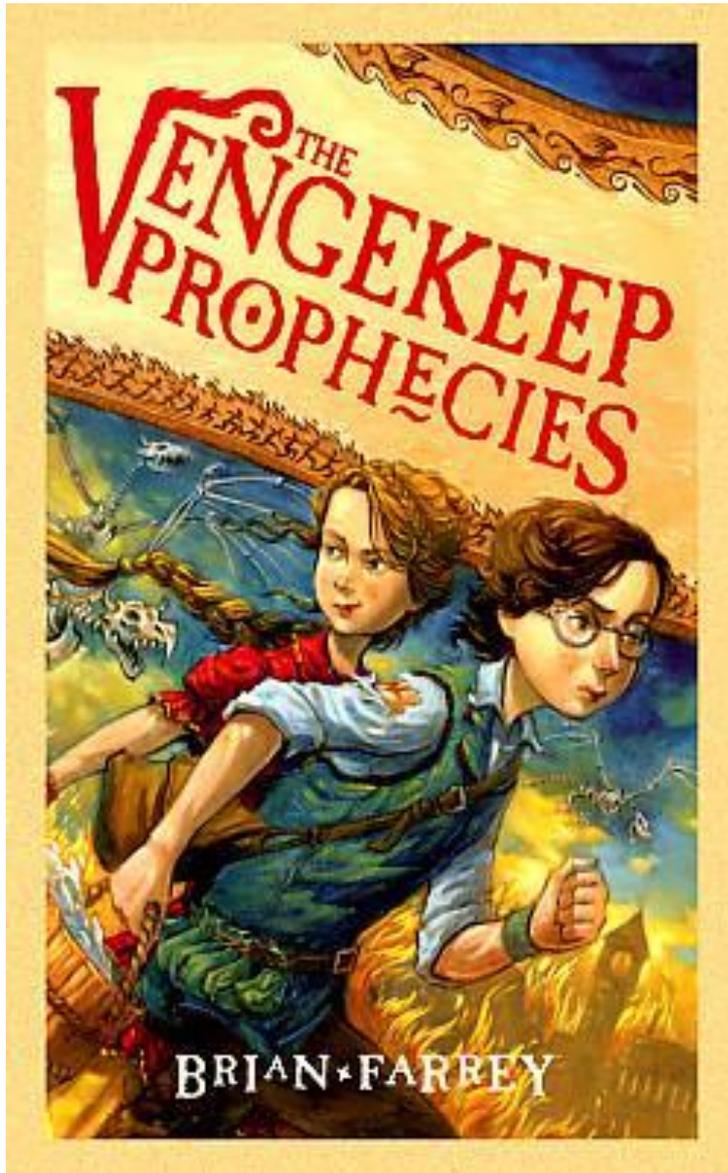
**\$15.00**



Tetsu has to leave his home, dog, and baseball team behind when his family is sent to an internment camp following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Playing catch with two boys in the next barrack makes his life seem normal. The boys' father begins building a ball field. After an argument with his younger sister, Tetsu discovers she's missing; he and his friends find her in the desert. Tetsu refuses to practice with the baseball team out of shame, but he is finally coaxed into playing at a different camp. This book provides a striking glimpse at internment camp life and would fit well with the study of World War II or human rights.

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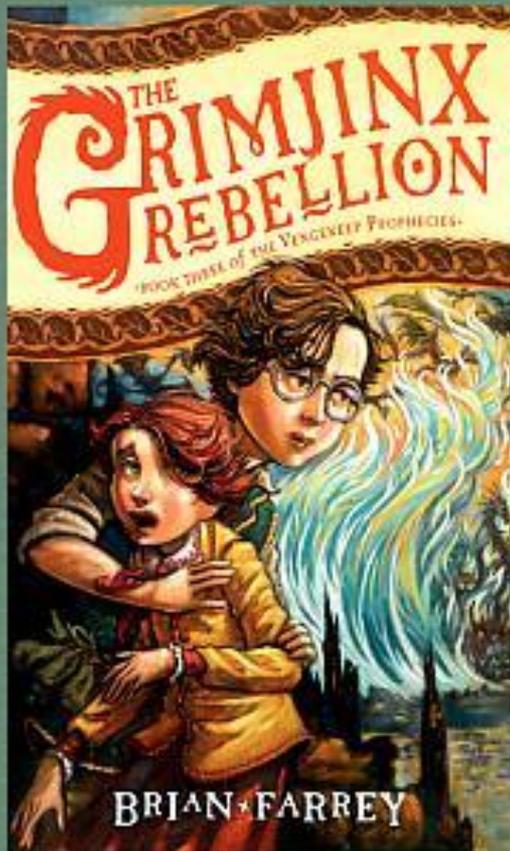
\$16.50



There couldn't be a more likable family of thieves. The tightknit, affable and affectionate Grimjinx clan is trouble in Vengekeep. They steal (not from anyone poor or weak) and nimbly avoid prosecution. Ma's a master forger, Da an expert thief. Little sister Aubrin (terrific nickname: Jinxface) is an ace pickpocket. But 12-year-old Jaxter, the narrator, is clumsy. Lock-picking evades him. "Every year it became clearer: I really wasn't a very good thief." Jaxter excels at "beating magic with nonmagical means," though: His carefully mixed plant/herb pastes dissolve magical protections on locks and loot. When a tapestry meant to predict Vengekeep's future reveals, astonishingly, that the Grimjinxes are "saviors," readers will giggle as the con emerges. And then the con becomes deadly. The (faked) tapestry's fabric is "fateskein," which means its ominous images will come true. Woe is Ma, who unknowingly used fateskein in the weaving; woe is Vengekeep, now truly destined for lethal plagues. Can Jaxter traverse enough land beyond his familiar town-state to gather the plants and spiderbat milk that might dissolve the fateskein? He's no crackerjack thief, but he has heart and unflinching humor.<sup>10</sup>

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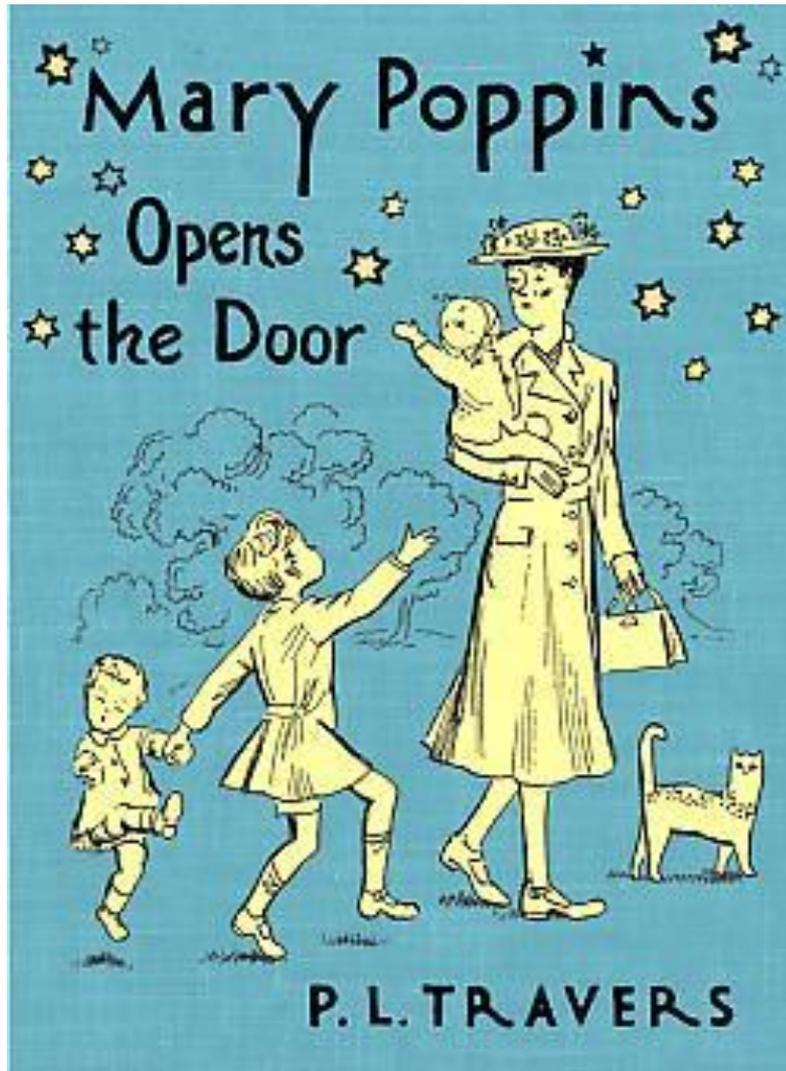
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Jaxter Grimjinx reveals at the start of this installment that he is going to die. After all, this is the prophecy that was given to him by his very own sister Aubrin, who turns out is the most powerful kind of seer ever. Which is why the Palatinate takes her away from her family and places her in the Creche, a magical place where all of the seers learn to hone their abilities. Jaxter's family doesn't care that the Creche is where seers live, they just want Aubrin back home with them, and they quickly hatch a plan to rescue her. Jaxter, Maloch, and Callie head to the Creche to be presented as new workers and quickly start their search. Aubrin is not happy to see Jaxter, however, and is worried that by coming to get her he has set the prophecy of his death in motion. Adding to their worries is the coming rebellion. The Palatinate have been messing with magic for years, and sometimes magic has a way of getting too big for relics and control. Can a clumsy thief really be the leader necessary to end the Scourge and set things right?

5.1

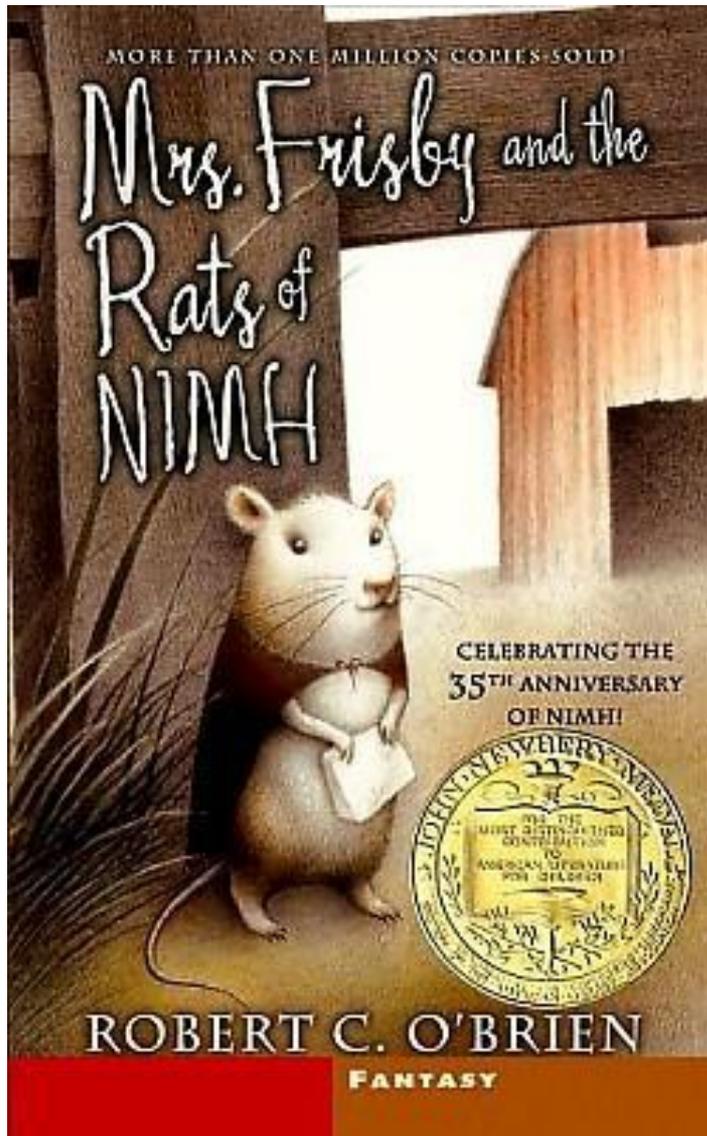
\$17.50



From the moment Mary Poppins arrives at Number Seventeen Cherry-Tree Lane, everyday life at the Banks house is forever changed. This classic series tells the story of the world's most beloved nanny, who brings enchantment and excitement with her everywhere she goes. Featuring the charming original cover art by Mary Shepard, these new editions are sure to delight readers of all ages.

Mary Poppins reappears just in time! According to her tape measure, Jane and Michael have grown "Worse and Worse" since she went away. But the children won't have time to be naughty with all that Mary has planned for them. A visit to Mr. Twigley's music box-filled attic, an encounter with the Marble Boy, and a ride on Miss Calico's enchanted candy canes are all part of an average day out with everyone's favorite nanny.

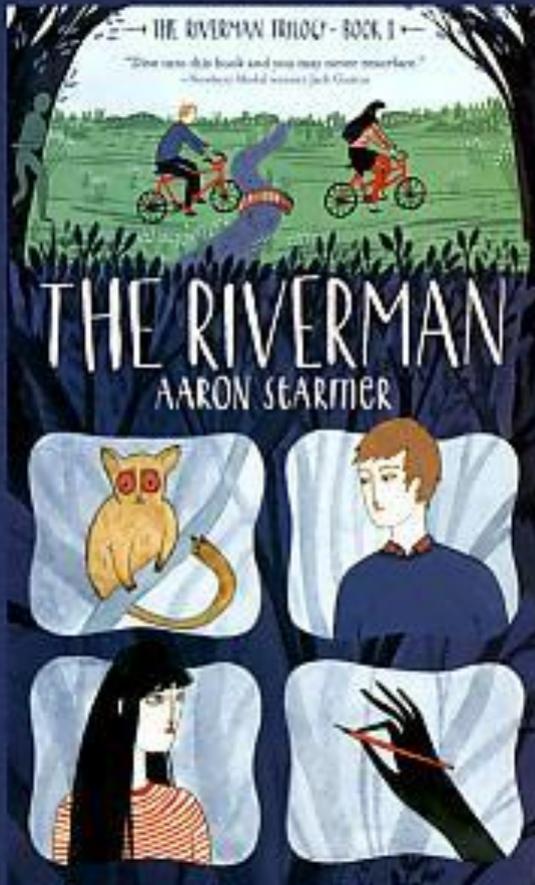
## 5.1



Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. \$15.50

## 5.1

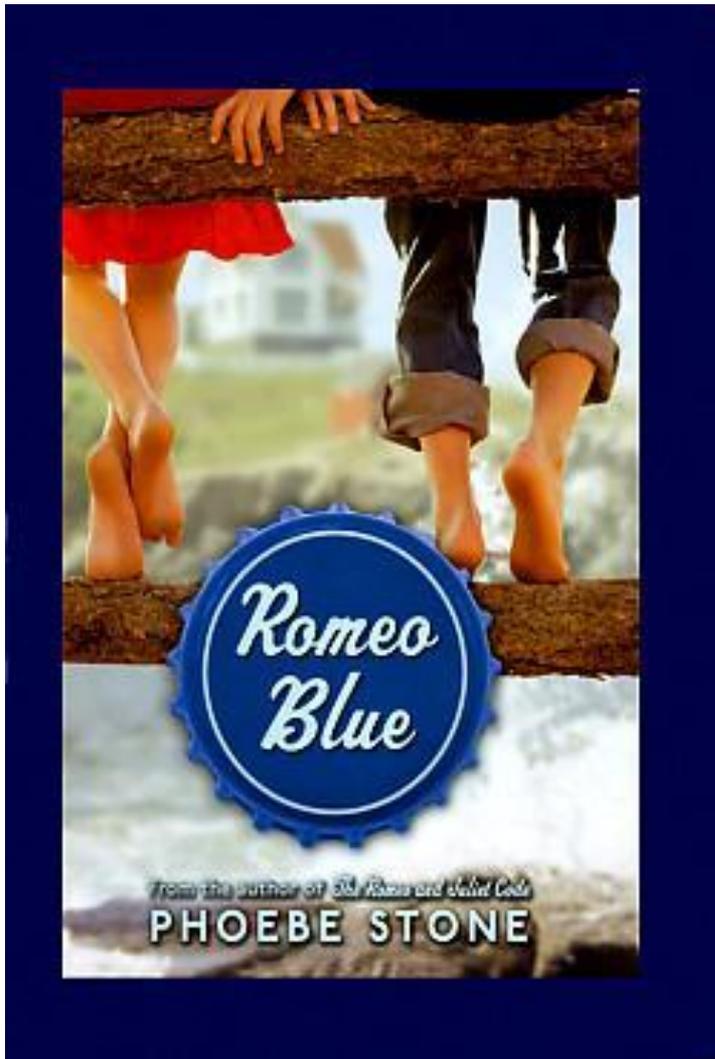
**\$16.50**



This novel built of stories yields nightmares. Alistair's first memory is seeing a drowned, missing child floating in the river. He tells no one and grows into a tween who has a talent for keeping secrets. Fiona, his neighbor, chooses him to share hers: kids are missing, and the Riverman, from the parallel, timeless world of Aquavania, where stories are born, is the accused. Is this some kind of fantasy created to cope with a reality too grim to bear? Or are the missing kids simply runaways? The pace accelerates when Fiona confides in an exhumed letter that she might be next. The portal in this book is not only into Aquavania, through Fiona's stories dictated to Alistair, but also into the characters' convoluted adolescent world. Alistair turns to 18-year-old Kyle, the town's emotionally complex, daredevil dropout, for advice and muscle.

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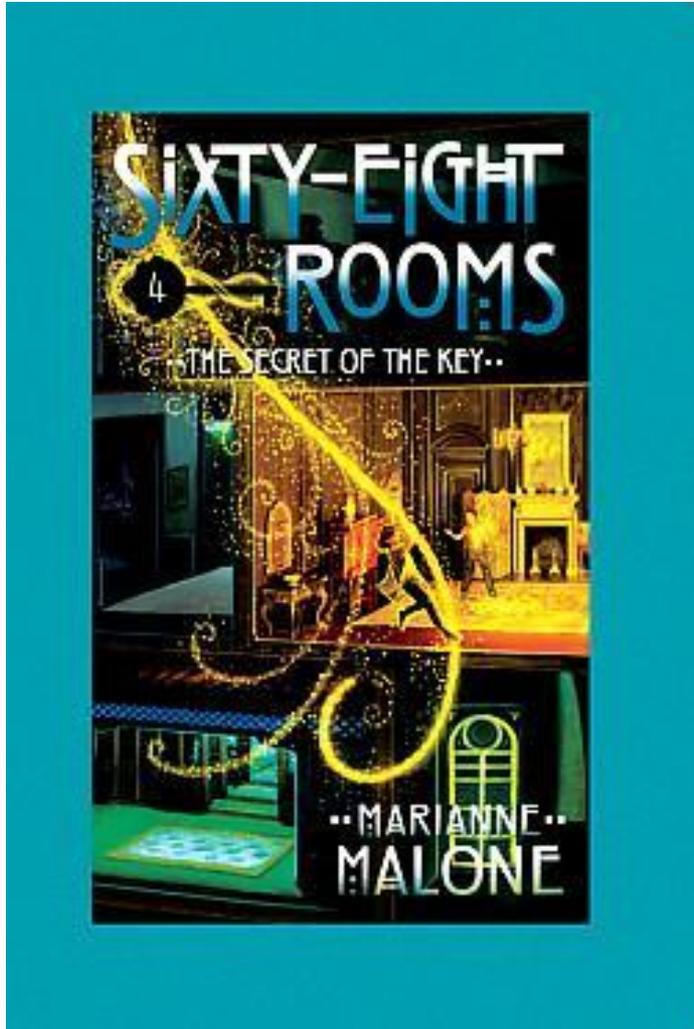
\$16.00



During World War II, Felicity Bathburn is living in Bottlebay, Maine, with her eccentric relatives and their foster child Derek, whom she has grown to love, but when a man claiming to be Derek's true father arrives and starts asking all sorts of strange questions Felicity becomes suspicious of his motives.

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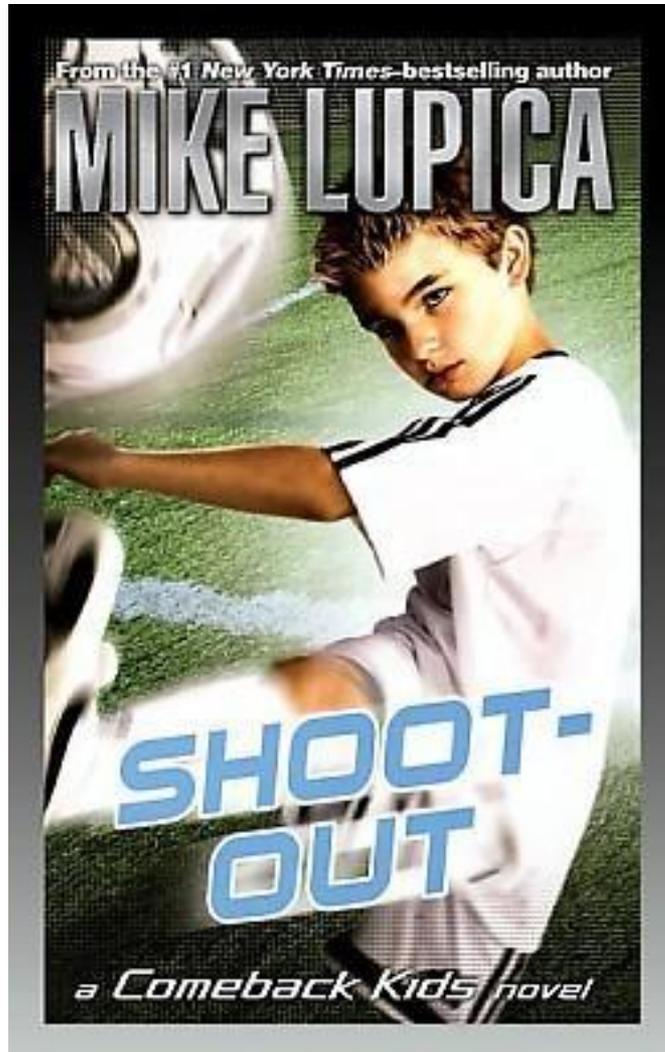
\$15.50



Ruthie and Jack learn more about the time-travel magic of the Art Institute of Chicago's miniature Thorne Rooms, including the dangers involved. Though some trips in this series-ender give new insights, including the whereabouts--or whenabouts--of a long-missing museum visitor, other trips' apparent purpose is to include as many rooms as possible.

6.4

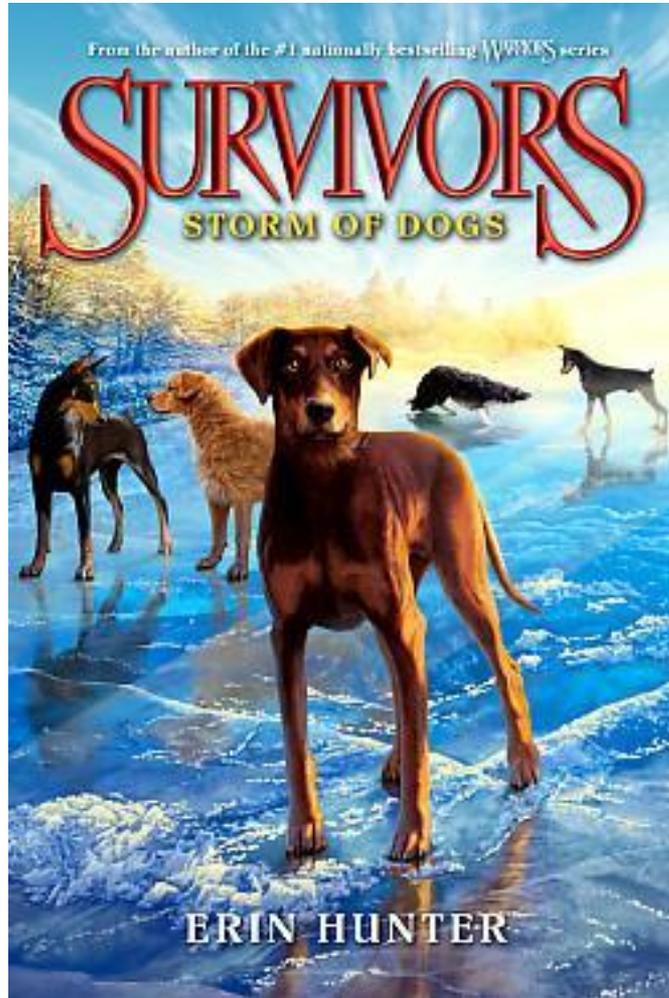
\$15.50



Jake is accustomed to being a soccer star on winning teams, so when he ends up on the losing side, he is flummoxed. His teammates think he is arrogant, and he has trouble getting along with one in particular. Jake's ability to read the flow of a soccer match makes him a good player, though, and he gradually learns to develop a similar ability with his teammates' personalities, eventually earning their respect and bringing the story to a victorious close. An enjoyable sports story with lots of action.

**5.1**

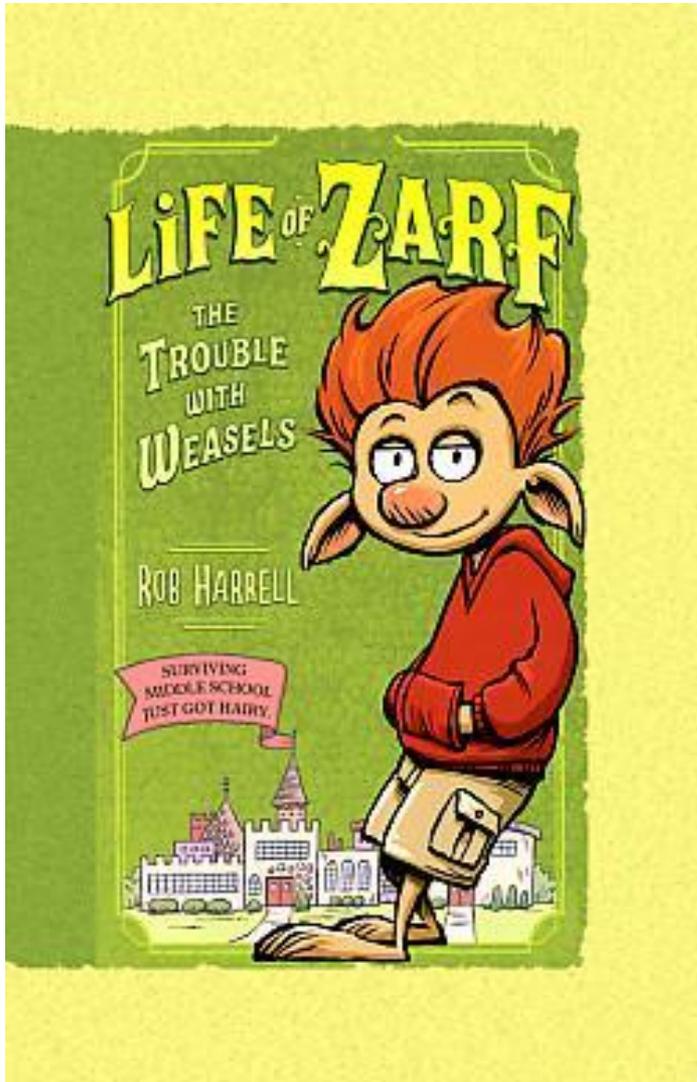
**\$20.50**



Lucky is not the only dog having prophetic dreams in this sixth installment of the series: Blade, the leader of the Fierce Dogs, has also had dream warnings of an upcoming Big Growl more devastating than the last. The number of characters is overwhelming, but devoted fans will enjoy the dramatic and inviting story.

5.1

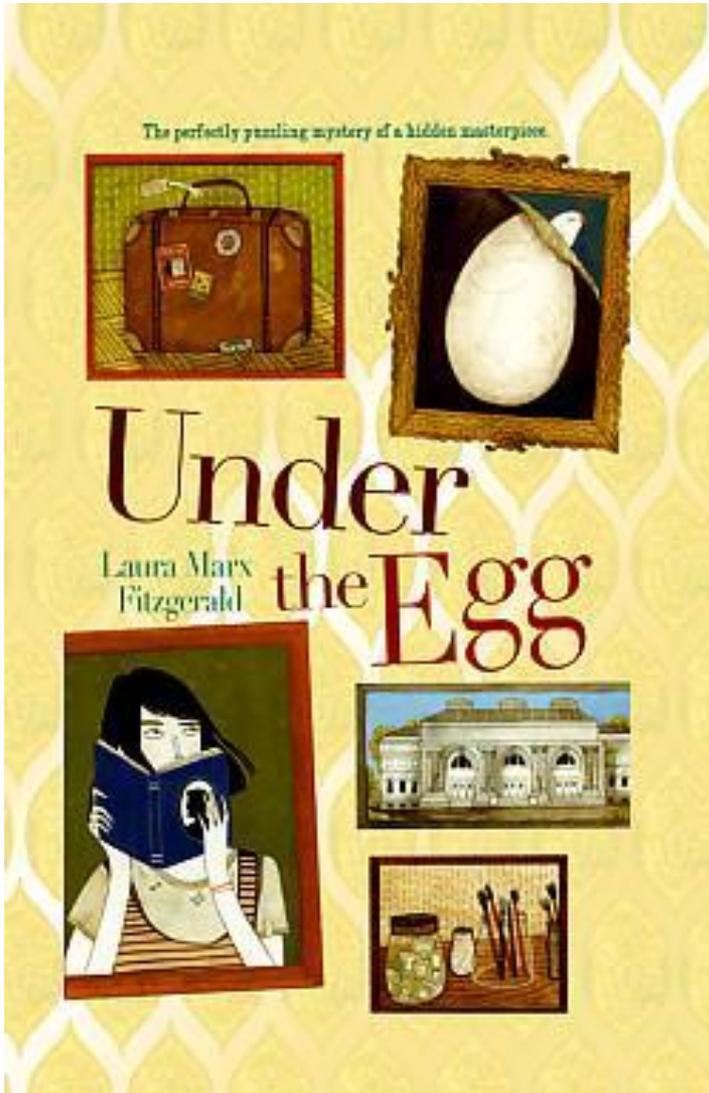
\$15.50



A Wimpy Kid format with a fairy-tale twist? Yes, this is bound to be a hit. Middle school is tough, but it's even tougher when you're a troll—the absolute bottom of the social heap. Zarf can't control his troll blood, and that causes him trouble when it comes to the annoying Prince Roquefort. After King Cheznott goes missing, Snuffweasels start attacking the kingdom, and Prince Roquefort throws Zarf in the dungeon, a wild adventure begins. This is a witty twist on ordinary school-day troubles, and Harrell's turning of familiar fairy-tale tropes on their heads adds to the charm (and a lot to the amusement factor): Goldie Locks is the lunch lady, Zarf's best friends are a worrisome pig and a not-so-funny aspiring jester, ogres play football, etc. Interspersed with bratty illustrations, this ought to find a sweet spot at the nexus between fans of humor and fans of fractured fantasies.

5.1

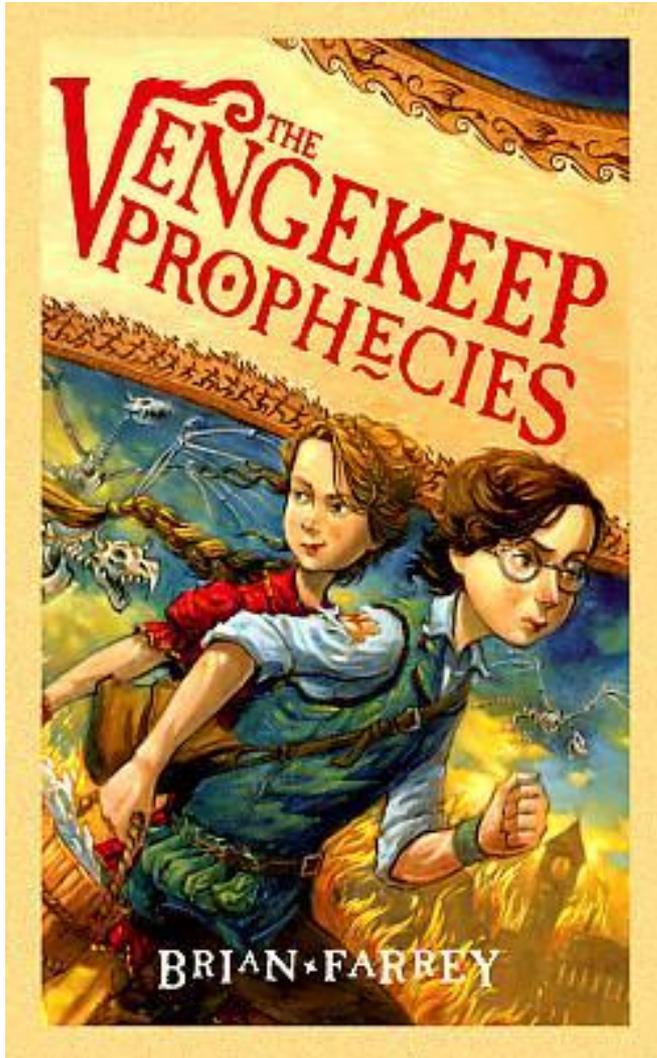
\$15.50



This is the story of how 13-year-old Theodora Tenpenny discovers her late grandfather's ties to the Monuments Men of World War II. The Monuments Men's charge was to save art from the Nazis and to return the works to their rightful owners. When she finds her grandfather lying in a puddle of blood, she has no idea how his final words will change her life. According to her grandfather, the answer to her family's problems can be found in the treasure that is located under the egg. The question, however is, what egg? Along with the themes of research, family commitment, and Holocaust history, fans of Koningsburg's *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and Balliett's *Chasing Vermeer* (Scholastic, 2004) will thrill at the chance to solve a new mystery centered around art.

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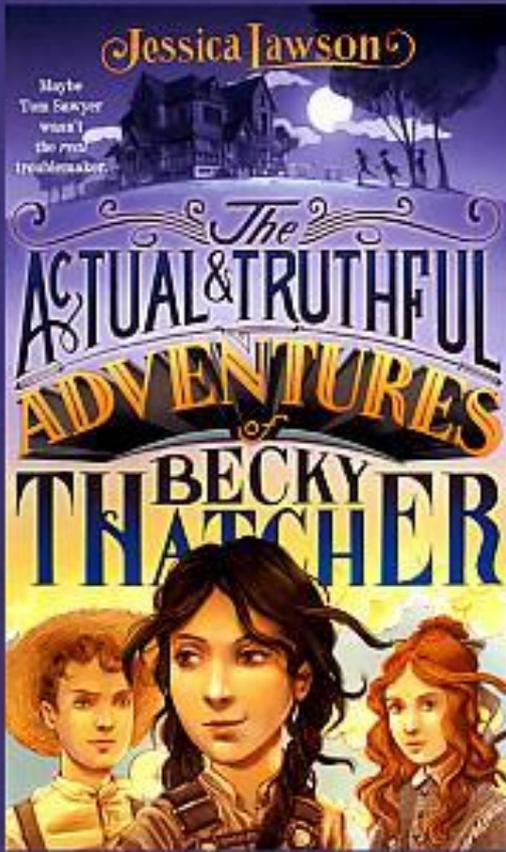
\$16.50



In an excellent, self-contained adventure from Farrey (With or Without You), 12-year-old Jaxter Grimjinx is anxious to prove himself at the family business: thievery. Jaxter's first attempt at burglary ends with a house fire and his family being jailed, but his parents have already put their biggest con into motion, having replaced the prophetic tapestry that predicts the year ahead for the city of Vengekeep with one that shows the Grimjinx family as heroes. The family quickly discovers, however, that the fake tapestry is actually enchanted, and every disaster it depicts is coming true, from lava men to winged skeletal creatures. Stuck in the role of town saviors, the Grimjinxes must destroy the tapestry before it destroys Vengekeep. Farrey's rich fantasy hits the ground running and never lets up. Jaxter has an amazing talent for defeating magic with science, and a strong theme of the value of knowledge runs through the book. Farrey's story is gentle enough for sensitive children, yet the travails of the conniving Grimjinx clan will entertain a broad range of readers.

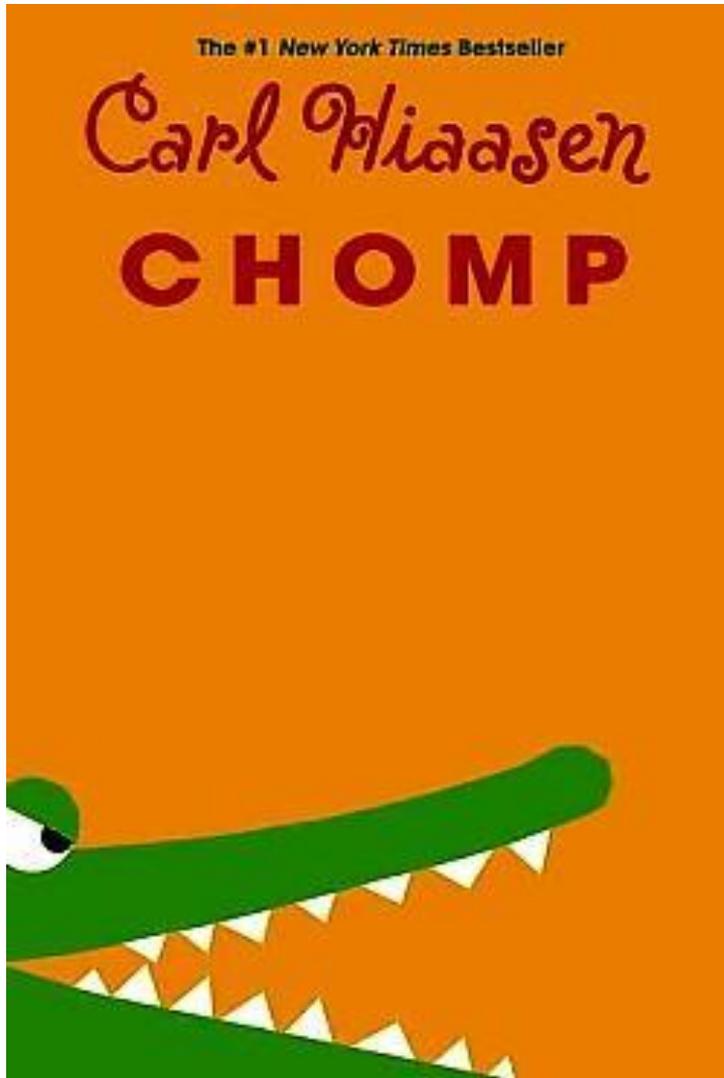
5.2

\$15.50



Here's a different Becky Thatcher: She spews spitballs, prefers overalls to dresses, takes dares from boys and tracks down criminals. In this debut novel, Becky's voice, full of Southern expressions and superstitions, describes events that occur in her new hometown of St. Petersburg, Mo., during the time that steamboat captain and aspiring writer Sam Clemens is boarding with Tom Sawyer and Aunt Polly. As Becky digs up a beetle to avenge a cruel insult to her best friend, she muses: "I didn't know why they were called gull beetles, but I reckoned it had something to do with the high-pitched shriek Ruth Bumpner would let out when she found one buried in her egg salad sometime in the next week or so." Even as Becky's adventures reveal bits of plot and characters that will later be found in Mark Twain's writing, readers also enter Becky's personal world, which includes the different ways she and her parents are grieving her beloved brother's death.

5.2

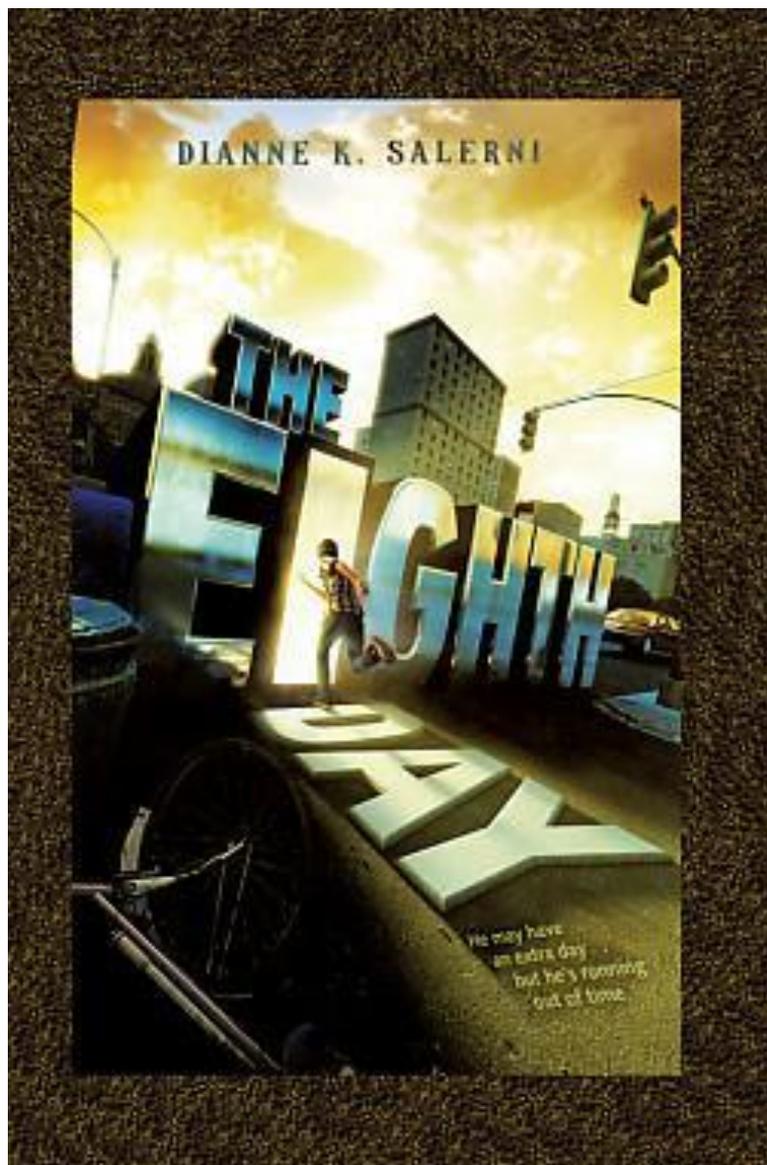


\$16.50

Wahoo Cray's pop Mickey is a well-known South Florida animal wrangler, but when he gets a concussion (a dead iguana falls from a coconut palm onto his head), he can't work, and the family is going broke. A lucrative job offer seems like a godsend. All they have to do is offer their backyard zoo and faux Everglades pond for use by the TV program Expedition Survival! starring the bumbling and egomaniacal Derek Badger. Mickey's expertise comes in handy when Derek bungles another encounter with a dangerous animal. And from Mickey and Wahoo's backyard to the Everglades themselves, there are plenty of opportunities for father and son to prove useful during Derek's exploits: a wild ride on Alice, a twelve-foot-alligator; a nasty nip on the nose by a snapping turtle; a bloody attack by a water snake; a bite on the tongue by a mastiff bat. Though there is a serious environmental message behind the madcap antics -- the effect on South Florida's ecosystem of the proliferation of imported exotic animals from Southeast Asia and the tropics -- it isn't heavy-handed; the story sticks to easy laughs and good fun from start to finish. Larger-than-life characters pitted against large creatures of the murky swamp make for fast-paced reading.

5.3

\$15.00

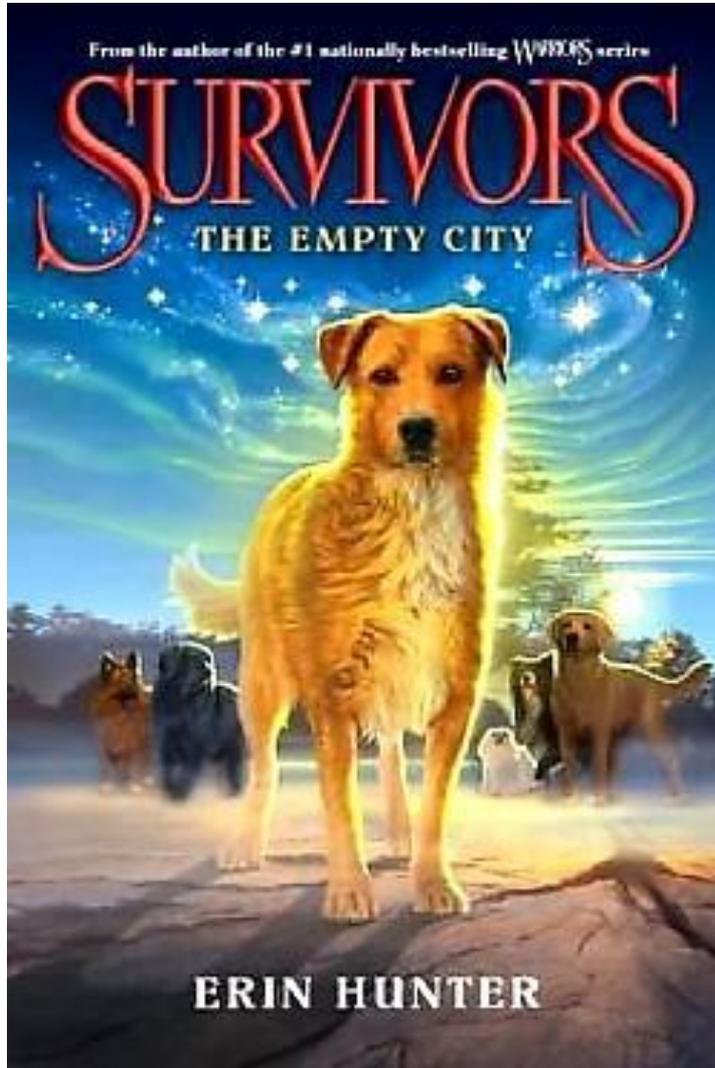


Adventure, magic, and Arthurian legend combine in a roller-coaster ride of secrets and mythology. When Jax Aubrey's father is killed in a car accident, a mysterious stranger shows up claiming to be his guardian. Jax isn't thrilled; Riley Pendare never buys groceries, keeps to himself, and is full of secrets. Soon Jax discovers an eighth day—a day between Wednesday and Thursday, known as Grunsday—that only descendants of Merlin, Arthur, and the Knights of the Round Table can pass through. Evangeline, a girl who only lives on Grunsdays, becomes the target of those hoping to destroy the normal seven-day week, and it's up to Jax and Riley to protect her. The adventure starts early and whizzes along at a brisk clip, with more about Jax's past and the legend of Grunsday unfolding as the novel continues. Perfect fodder for fans who adore mythology, legends, and series with more volumes yet to come.

*Horn Book Guide (Fall 2014)*

5.2

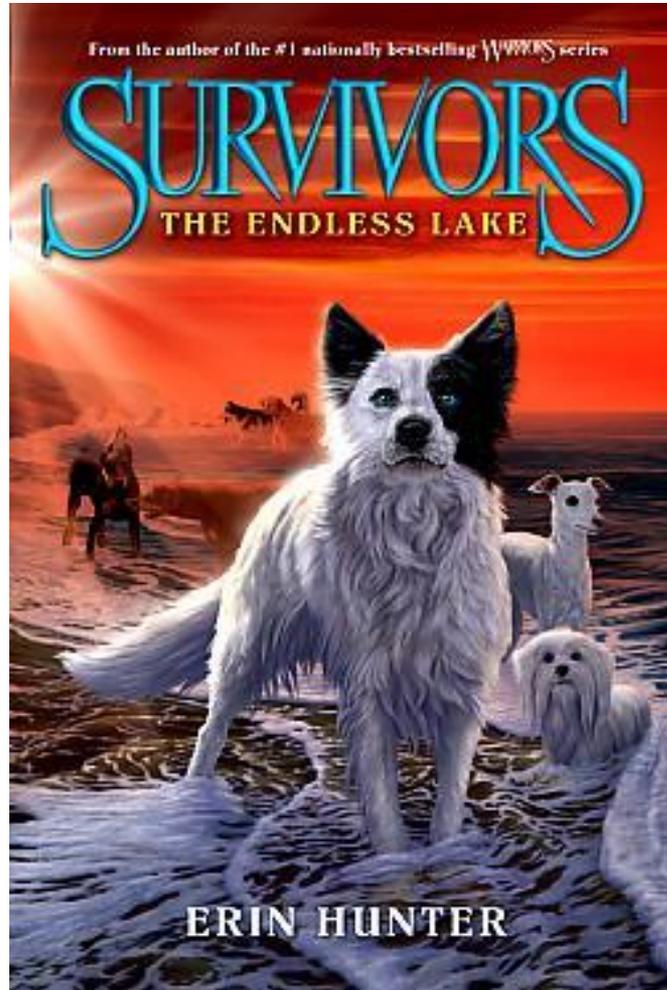
\$20.50



In this dog-themed series opener from the team behind the Warriors franchise, dogs must learn to face not only the results of the devastating earthquake that has turned their world upside down, but their own feelings of loyalty and independence. With the earth swelling beneath them and their cages twisting around them, the dogs in the shelter are trapped and frightened. Familiar with the legend of the "Big Growl," Lucky is able to quickly piece together what has happened. He and another dog, Sweet, manage to escape, only to find themselves in the middle of a city in ruin. With the humans ("longpaws") gone, it is up to Lucky to try to find food and shelter. He is quickly joined by other dogs who are desperately hungry and unprepared for their new world. Lucky is a reluctant leader, eager for a life of solitude, but he feels a kinship and responsibility for this new pack. Weaving together the horrific yet all-too-familiar scenes of natural disaster with the mythical legends of the dogs, Hunter expertly explores the tensions between responsibility and freedom; risk and safety; and loyalty and acceptance. Viewing the unfolding adventure through Lucky's eyes makes even the most mundane or familiar seem alive with magic.

5.2

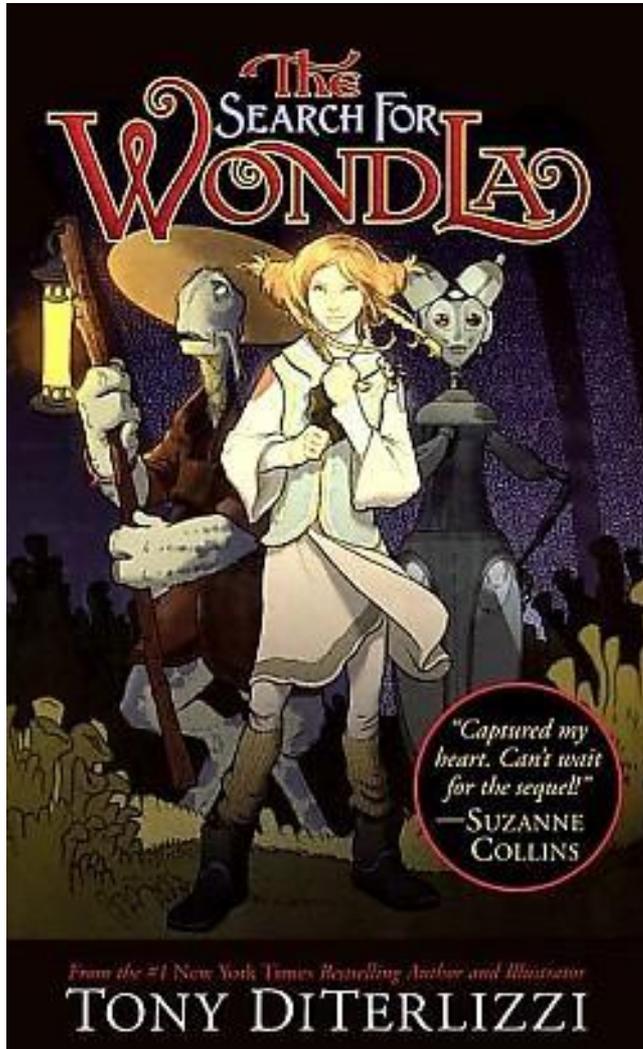
\$20.50



Lucky--a former Lone Dog--suffers from visions of an upcoming battle known as the Storm of Dogs and worries about his new pack's health as winter approaches, food remains scarce, and the dogs find themselves at the edge of the Endless Lake. Lucky is a sympathetic protagonist, but it's challenging to keep track of all the characters. Intense action moves the plot swiftly along.

5-8

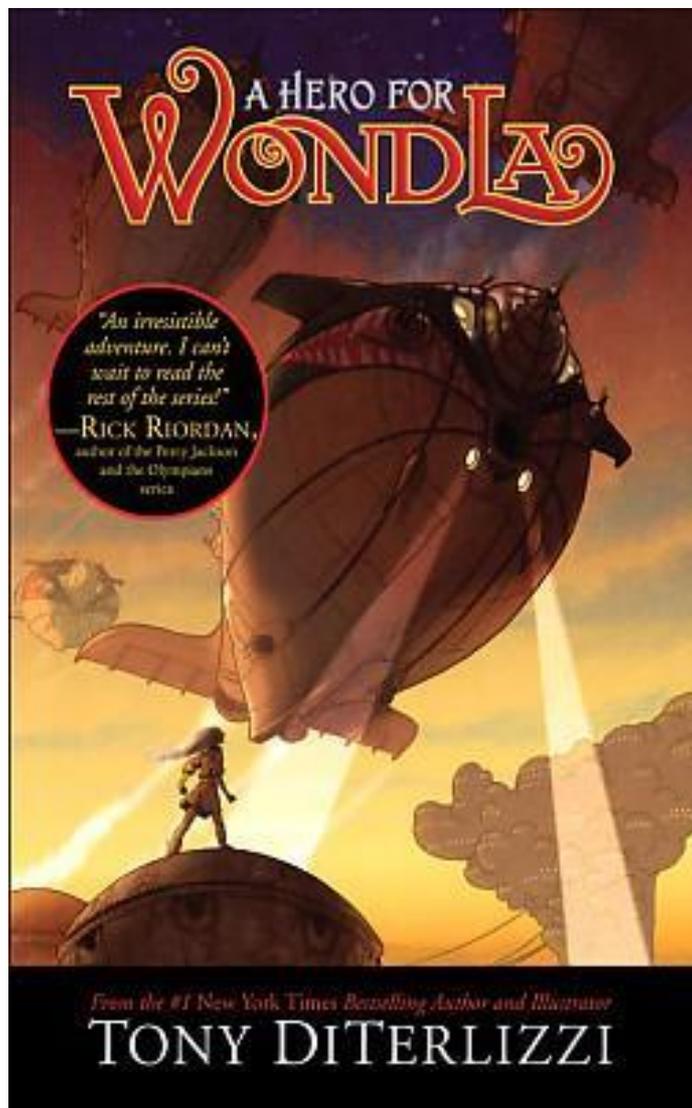
\$17.50



Twelve-year-old Eva Nine is being raised by Muthr, a pale blue robot who is loving and maternal (she speaks in the sweet, unflappable tones of a 1950s sit-com mom), in an underground home on the planet Orbona. When a marauder destroys her home, she leaves Sanctuary in a quest to find other humans like herself. Aboveground she finds a fantastic and frightening world populated by malevolent wandering trees, a giant beast who is pursuing her, nasty sand-snipers, and more. With the aid of Rovender, a lanky blue creature with backward-bending knees, and Otto, a giant water bear with whom she can communicate telepathically, Eva faces many dangers, including capture by a taxidermist who wants to skin her in order to create a living fossil for display. This first book in the series concludes with her arrival at her destination in the ancient city of ruins.

5-8

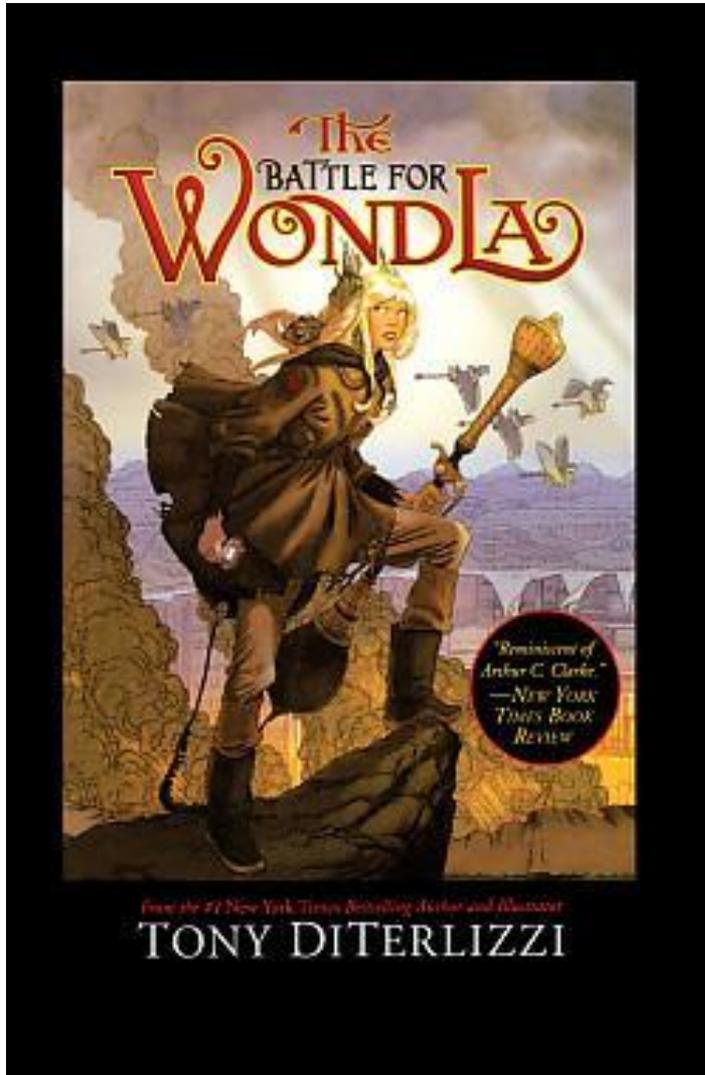
\$16.50



Long on action and atmosphere, with detailed descriptions and illustrations of the odd world of Orbona, Eva Nine's adventures pick up just where they ended (*The Search for WondLa*, 2010). In the ruins of an ancient city, an airship has appeared, piloted by the first other human Eva has ever seen. Hailey (think a teenage Han Solo) promises to deliver Eva and Rovender to New Attica (the reference will doubtless be lost on young readers), where the human population lives beneath a giant dome. Once there, Eva gets briefly caught up in its glamour and novelty before a strangely familiar young woman opens her eyes to the destructive intentions of the colony's leader. A complicated escape and a series of chases ensue, with dramatic battles, a stop to reunite Rovender with his estranged family, betrayal by an ostensible ally, a mystical encounter and an attempt to rescue friends from danger.

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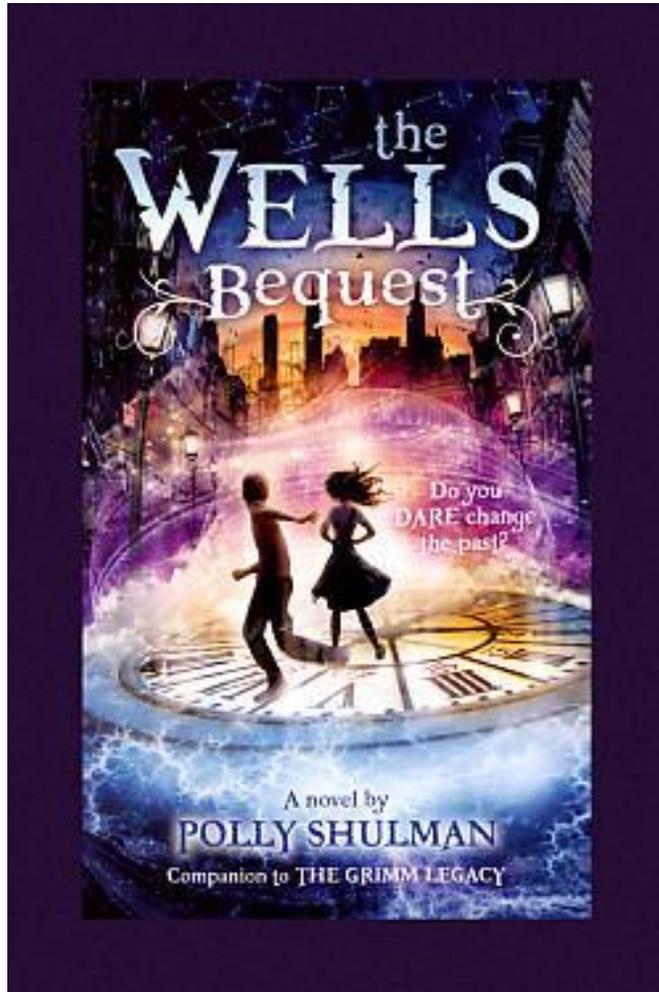
\$17.50



All hope for a peaceful coexistence between humankind and aliens seems lost in the third installment of the WondLa trilogy. Eva Nine has gone into hiding for fear of luring the wicked Loroc to her companions. However, news of the city Solas being captured by the human leader, Cadmus Pryde, forces Eva into action once again. With help from an unlikely ally, Eva tries to thwart Loroc's ultimate plan for both mankind and the alien life on Orbona.

5-8

\$16.00

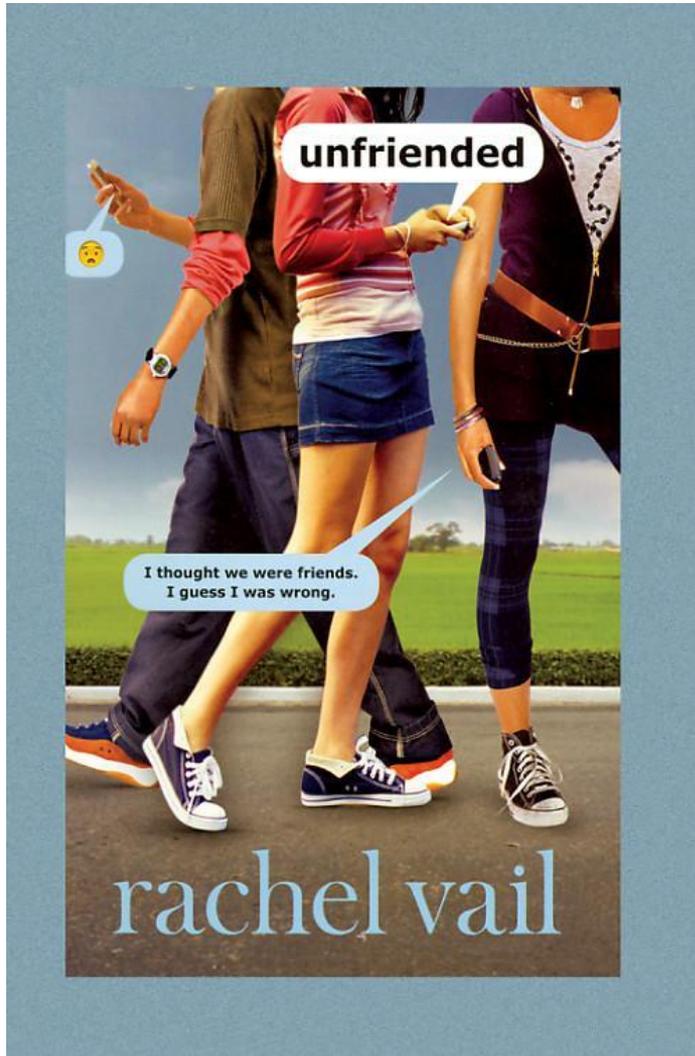


Leo never imagined that time travel might really be possible, or that the objects in H. G. Wells' science fiction novels might actually exist. And when a miniature time machine appears in Leo's bedroom, he has no idea who the tiny, beautiful girl is riding it. But in the few moments before it vanishes, returning to wherever—and whenever—it came from, he recognizes the other tiny rider: himself!

His search for the time machine, the girl, and his fate leads him to the New-York Circulating Material Repository, a magical library that lends out objects instead of books. Hidden away in the Repository basement is the Wells Bequest, a secret collection of powerful objects straight out of classic science fiction novels: robots, rockets, submarines, a shrink ray—and one very famous time machine. And when Leo's adventure of a lifetime suddenly turns deadly, he must attempt a journey to 1895 to warn real-life scientist Nikola Tesla about a dangerous invention. A race for time is on!

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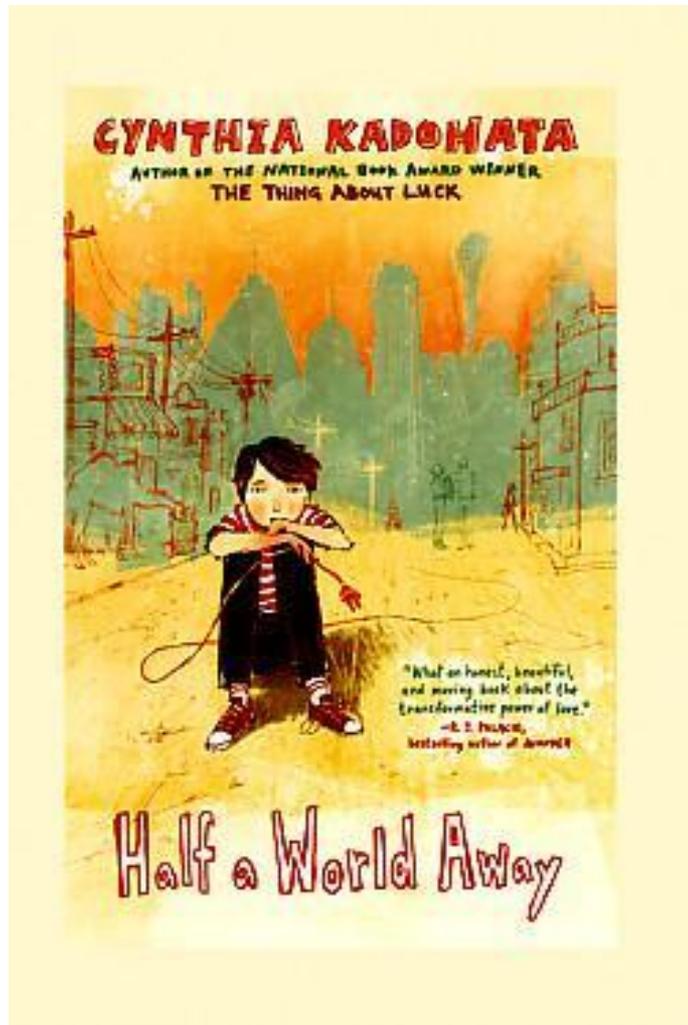
\$16.50



Life in middle school is a challenge for every young teen and the pressure of being part of the "in crowd" can be intense. Six teens, male and female, interact in realistic dialogue that reflects the drama the main character, Truly, faces as she engages in both face-to-face and online conversations. The points of view allow the reader to be drawn into the teens' motivations and illustrate the importance of clear communication, the dangers of online bullying, and the universal struggles teens face. Mean girls, misunderstood girls, awkward boys, friendship, popularity, social misfits, all play into this book that epitomizes the roller coaster that is middle school. There is a great deal of fiction that centers on female characters, so it is refreshing and insightful to gain perspective from the male point of view.

5-8

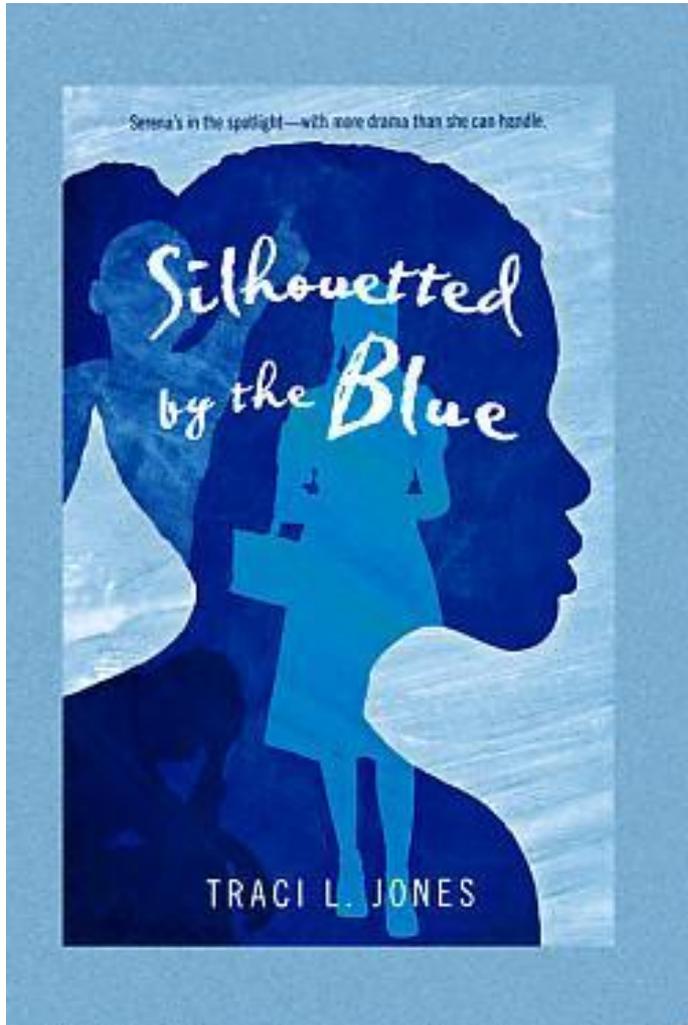
\$16.50



Four years ago, Jaden, 12, was adopted from Romania, but he still grieves for the birth mother who abandoned him; accompanying his parents to Kazakhstan to adopt his new brother, Jaden's confused feelings intensify. Jaden doesn't remember his biological mother, and memories of the years between her abandonment and his adoption are vague but horrific. He's learned to use his passionate interest in electricity to calm himself. After years of therapy, he's stopped setting fires, but he continues to hoard food and to steal. He recognizes that his behaviors cause his parents pain and exhaustion. In Kazakhstan, everyone's expectations are upended. As his parents struggle to accept new adoption ground rules, Jaden befriends a toddler and the prickly driver assigned to his family, with whom he finds common ground.

5-8

\$16.00



A young teen struggles to balance responsibilities she shouldn't have to assume against the day-to-day travails of seventh grade. Serena Shaw, a spirited middle-school student, is trying to keep her family together following the accidental death of her mother and the subsequent debilitating depression of her father, a noted illustrator. Her little brother is having problems coping with the change in their family. For a while, Serena thinks her father is just in a funk, and there are moments when he is able to work, but these are outweighed by days when he doesn't get out of bed. Serena has always dreamed of getting the lead in her school musical, but this means more pressure as she works on the play and assumes more responsibility at home as her father slips deeper into "the blue." She tries everything to reach her father, but his condition worsens with each day, culminating in an attempt to take his life. Finally, a family member steps in to help in the crisis.

6-8

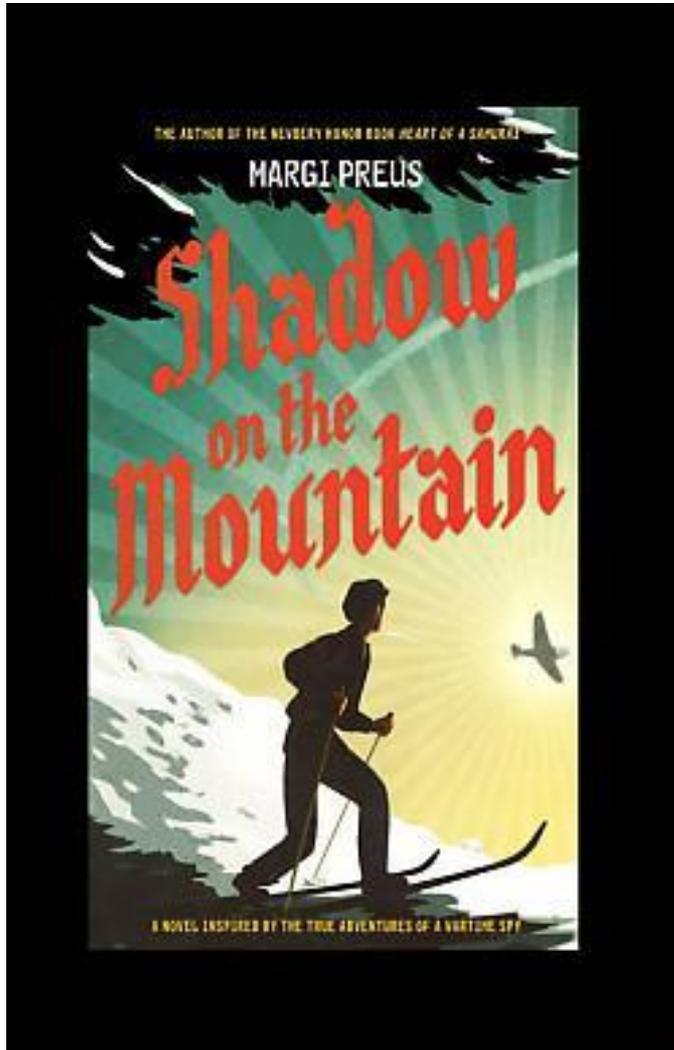
\$17.50



Themes: Hi-Lo, High school, neighborhoods, family, loyalty, friendship, urban teen fiction, high school elections, jealousy, suspense, loyalty, friendship, gangs. Written for young adults, the Urban Underground series confronts issues that are of great importance to teens, such as friendship, loyalty, drugs, gangs, abuse, urban blight, bullies, and self-esteem to name a few. More than entertainment, these books can be a powerful learning and coping tool when a struggling reader connects with credible characters and a compelling storyline. The highly readable style and mature topics will appeal to young adult readers of both sexes and encourage them to finish each novel. Cesar Chavez HS Series-  
- The robberies in the barrio are becoming increasingly bold and unsettling. After a recent robbery, Ernesto swears that he recognizes a suspect fleeing the crime scene. But is he jumping to conclusions unfairly? After all, Cruz isn't the only tattooed guy known to wear a hoodie in the neighborhood.

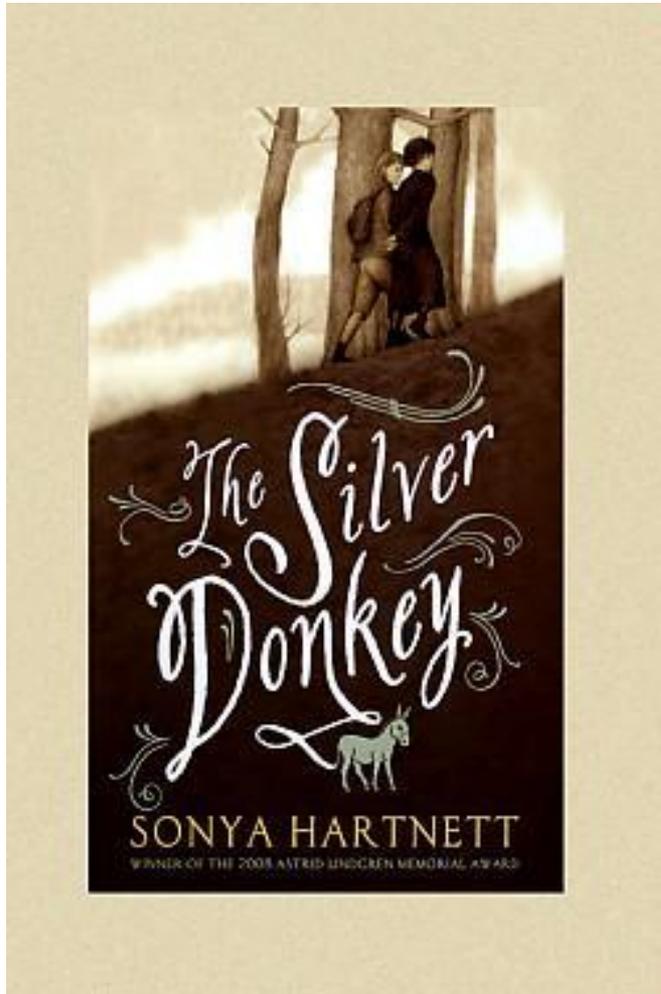
4-6

\$15.00



A teenage boy becomes a spy in Nazi-occupied Norway. After the Germans invade his country in 1940, Espen goes from a life of school, Scouts and soccer games to delivering underground newspapers. Gradually, he advances to transporting secret documents via bicycle or skis and spying on Gestapo locations for the intelligence branch of the Resistance. Along the way, he navigates relationships with a beloved best friend who has joined the Nazis, his younger sister and peers who share his passion for opposition, as well as a budding romance with Solveig, who wears a red stocking hat signaling displeasure with the new regime. Newbery Honor winner Preus (*Heart of a Samurai*, 2010) infuses the story with the good-natured humor of a largely unified, peace-loving people trying to keep their sanity in a world gone awry. Based on a true story, the narrative is woven with lively enough daily historical detail to inspire older middle-grade readers to want to learn more about the Resistance movement and imitate Espen's adventures.

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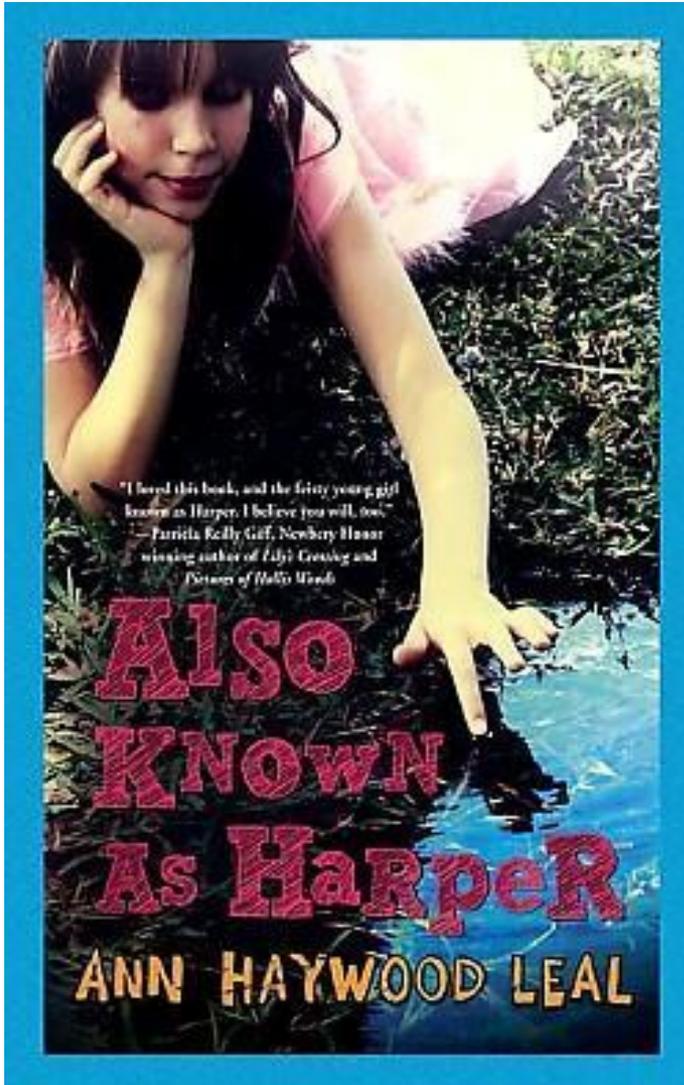


\$16.50

One morning in the woods of World War I France, two young sisters stumble upon an astonishing find — a soldier, temporarily blinded by war, who has walked away from battle longing to see his gravely ill younger brother. Soon the care of the soldier becomes the girls' preoccupation, but it's not just the secret they share that emboldens them to steal food and other comforting items for the man. They are fascinated by what he holds in his hand — a tiny silver donkey. As the girls and their brother devise a plan for the soldier's safe passage home, he repays them by telling four wondrous tales about the humble donkey — from the legend of Bethlehem to a myth of India, from a story of rescue in war to a tale of family close to the soldier's heart. Sonya Hartnett explores rich new territory in this inspiring tale of kindness, loyalty, and courage.

5.1

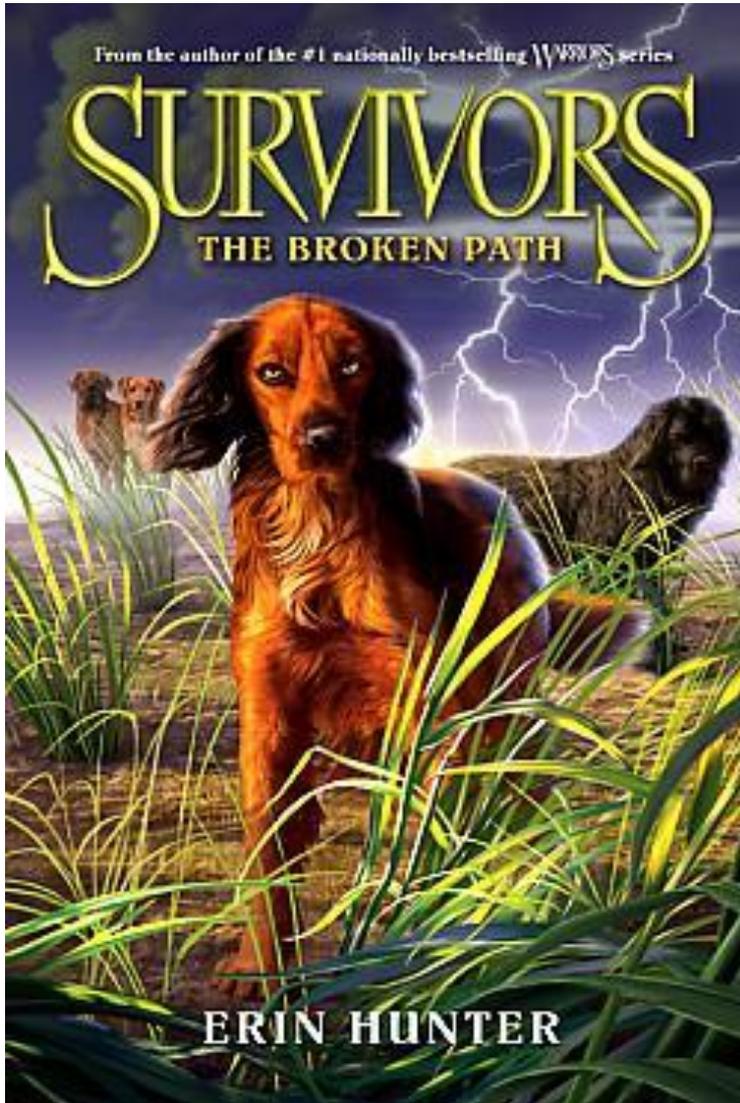
\$16.50



Fifth-grader Harper Lee Morgan has a lot on her mind. Her father left a year ago, her mother has fallen behind on the rent, and her five-year-old brother waits every day on the porch for his father's return. A talented writer, she desperately wants to enter an upcoming poetry contest. All of her worries can be forgotten when she is writing poetry or her mother is reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* to her and Hem. Then her family is evicted and they move to a local motel, where the children meet Lorraine and Randall Kelley, who live in a nearby tent encampment with their mother. Lorraine hasn't spoken since a fire destroyed her family's apartment. Hem and Harper meet Lorraine and Randall's friend Dorothy, an elderly widow who once owned the land that the motel is on and still lives in a cabin behind it. It is through these friendships that Harper discovers what really is important to her—poetry, family, friends, and the home you make with them.

## 5.1

**\$20.50**

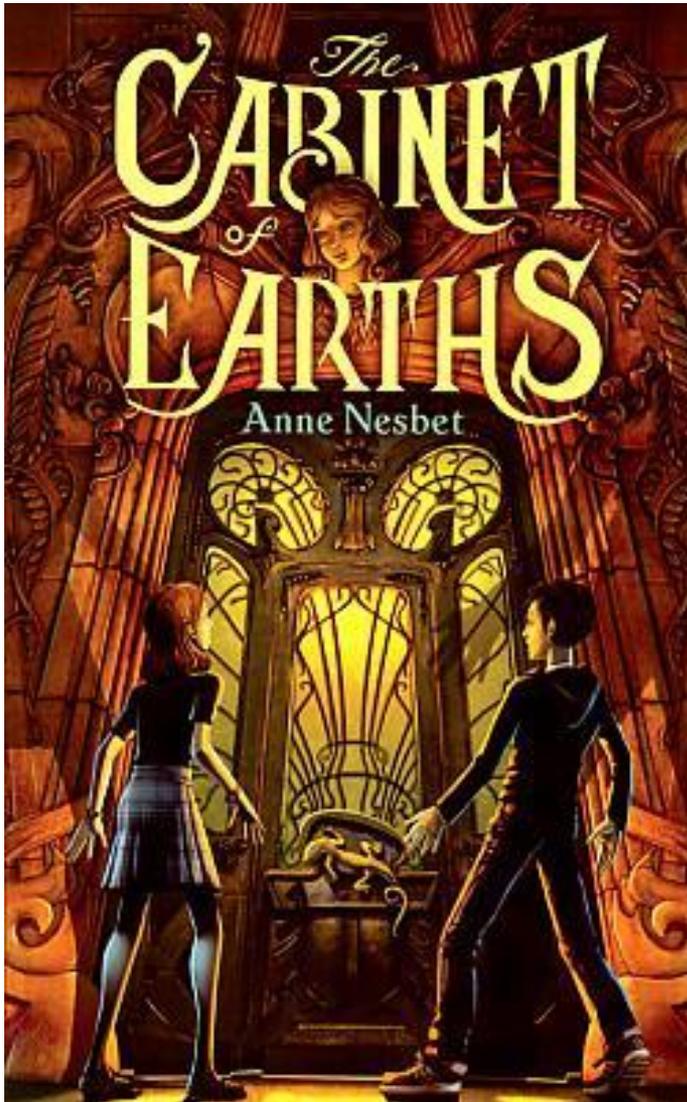


Lucky and Alpha have finally reached an uneasy peace, but tensions are still high—and Alpha has made it clear that there are some dogs he will never fully accept.

As the newly united Pack sets off in search of a home far away from the Fierce Dog camp, they discover that no territory is truly safe. When they encounter another group of dogs who survived the Big Growl, Lucky hopes that they can work together as allies—but this new Pack may be their most dangerous enemy yet.

5.1

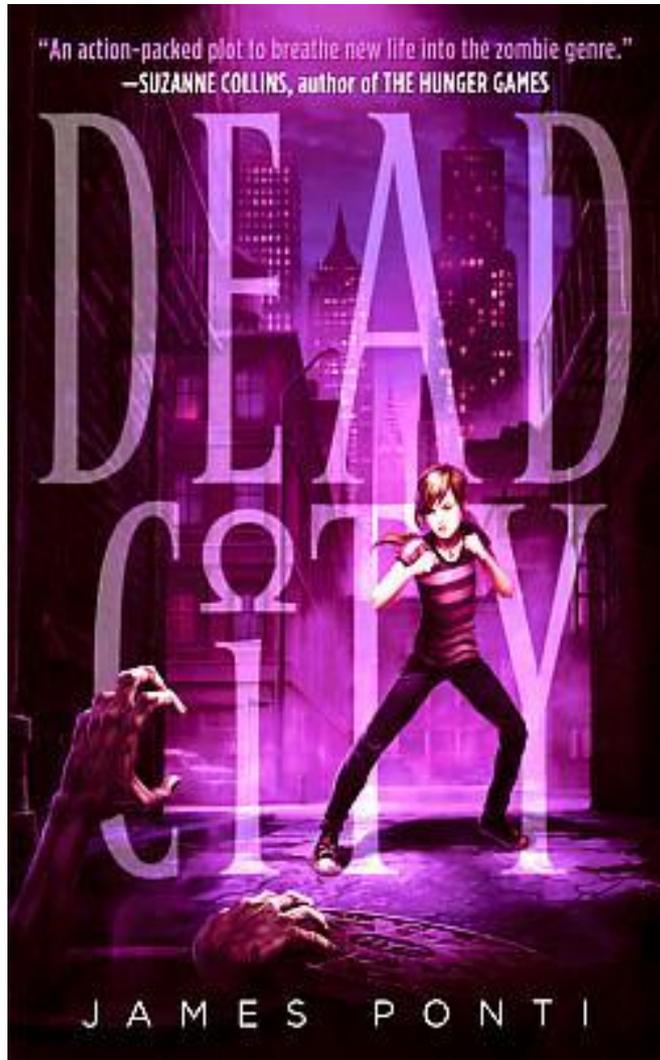
\$15.50



-Twelve-year-old Maya Davidson; her five-year-old brother, James; and their parents have moved to Paris from California while her father works on a research fellowship. Maya's mother, who is recovering from cancer treatment, has always dreamed of living there, so Maya tries to be positive in spite of feeling extremely out of place. As the siblings begin to explore the city, Maya sees a salamander-shaped doorknob that seems to move, meets a strange man with dark glasses, and is introduced to an almost-invisible cousin named Louise. With the help of her new friend Valko, she begins to learn about her family's secret past and their role as caretakers of the mysterious Cabinet of Earths and its magical glass jars. When James disappears, Maya has to use what she has learned and the mysteries that surround her to save her brother, escape her family's dark legacy, and try to find a new beginning.

## 5.1

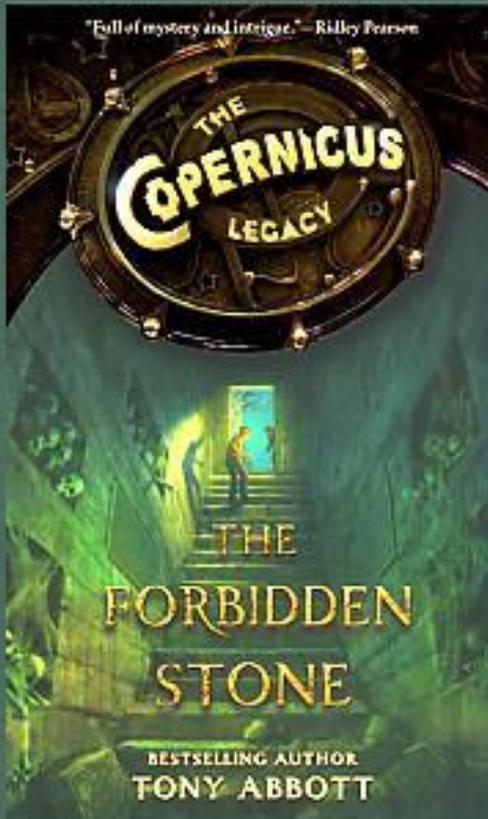
**\$15.50**



Brainy and awkward middle-schooler Molly is recruited by friends Alex, Grayson, and Natalie to train to become a member of Omega, a secret agency sworn to police and protect the undead in Manhattan. She gets her first assignment when bloodless dead bodies are found lined up in a park to form the Greek letter Omega. It is up to Molly and her crew to figure out who has it in for the Omegas before it is too late. Keeping the city safe from zombies takes her and her friends all over New York. Ponti incorporates several landmarks into the story: Roosevelt Island, Blackwell House, subway ghost stations, and the New York Marble Cemetery. The most significant Manhattan feature the author uses is schist, the type of rock from which the island was formed. In his Manhattan, the schist emits a unique energy. Because the zombies need it to survive, they stay underground, in their thriving Dead City, or as close to ground level as possible.

5.2

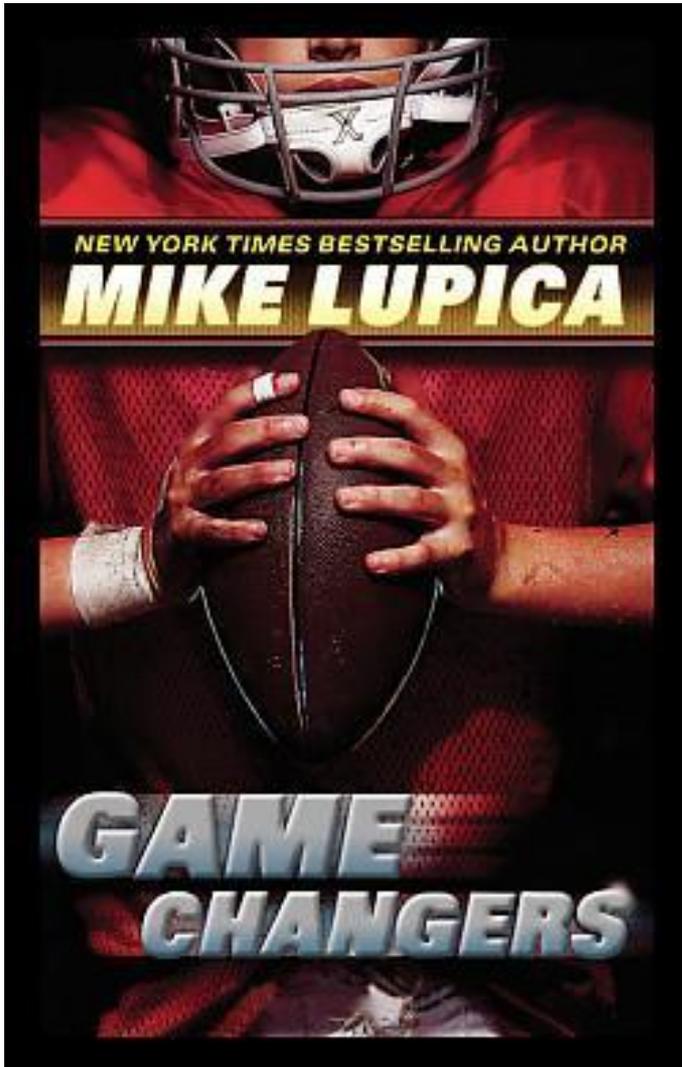
\$15.50



Four precocious preteens and a distracted astrophysicist travel to Europe to unravel a mystery that has already claimed several lives. The arrival of a coded email reveals that 12-year-old Wade Kaplan's antique star map is not just a beautiful artifact, but a key. Unfortunately, as Wade, his astrophysicist father and his stepbrother, Darrell, discover, the map is only the first of many clues. The three would-be adventurers are joined by Wade's technophile cousin, Lily, and her bookish friend, Becca. The five follow the clues to Berlin, where Dr. Kaplan discovers that he is the only remaining member of the Asterias, a group run by his murdered mentor. The academic quest quickly becomes deadly as a ruthless group competes for the 12 hidden relics that can save the world and unlock the Copernicus Legacy. Filled with riddles and ciphers, this first of 12 installments will keep readers intellectually stimulated as well as entertained.

5.2

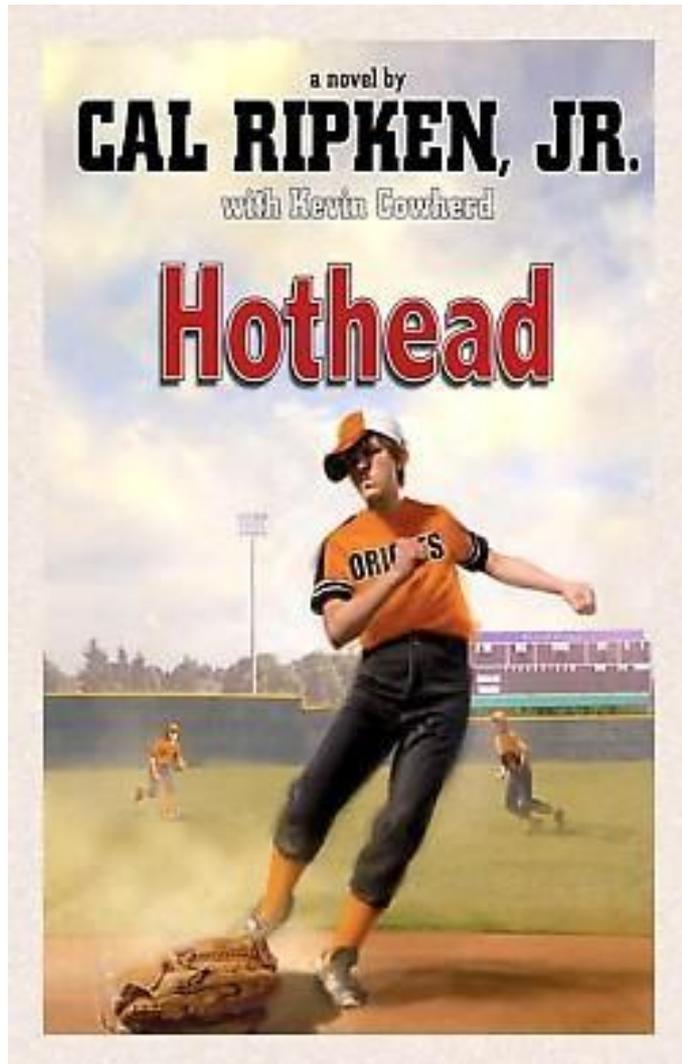
\$15.00



Though barely big enough to qualify for the Pop Warner League, 11-year-old Ben McBain knows he is a better quarterback than the coach's son, Shawn. Still, he'll willingly play any position because he loves football. At his mother's suggestion, he tries to befriend the arrogant, mistake-prone Shawn. Then the team loses their first two games. Down 20–0 at halftime in the third effort, the coach inserts Ben at quarterback, and the team begins to click and win. The amazing turnaround is predictable, but game descriptions create tension, as do the evolving personal relationships. Although idealized, primary figures are fully believable with distinct personalities. Even the female characters display intelligence and insight, a rarity in male sports fictio

5.2

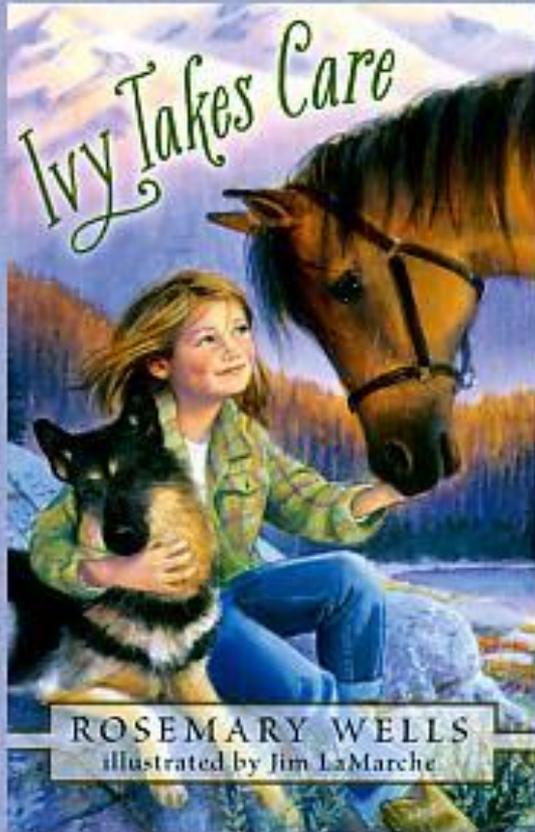
\$15.00



With Kevin Cowherd. **Like many other sports novels** for middle graders, this one involves a good athlete with a bad problem: in this case, baseball player Connor's impulsiveness and volatile temper. Not surprisingly, he learns to get a grip by the end of the book. The story, "loosely based on a challenge Cal Ripkin, Jr. once faced," will entertain his fans.

5.2

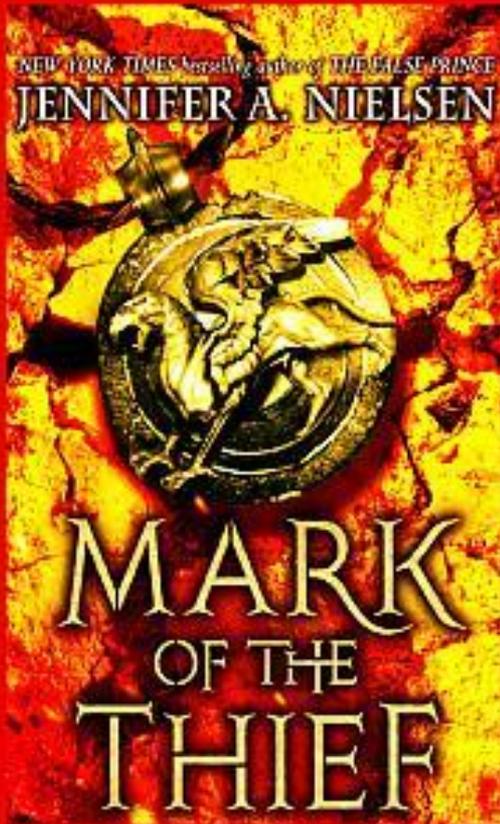
\$15.00



In the summer of 1949 in western Nevada, things are changing for thoughtful fifth-grader Ivy, who has a special gift with animals. Ivy senses a shift when her closest friend Annie departs for her privileged summer camp in New Hampshire. Though Ivy lacks Annie's monetary resources, she is resourceful in her own way and starts a pet care business with the intent of buying Annie a friendship ring. The ring can't hold Annie, but Ivy's three clients and their animals broaden her world and her relationship with others in remarkable ways. Ivy is a mature character with strong insight: "She realized that she missed Inca much more than she had missed Annie. With a dog, there was no guessing as to who loved whom in the world." The vividly evoked rural setting tends to overshadow the book's historical period, but the moving story, told from a third-person limited perspective, brings the characters to life for young readers.

5.2

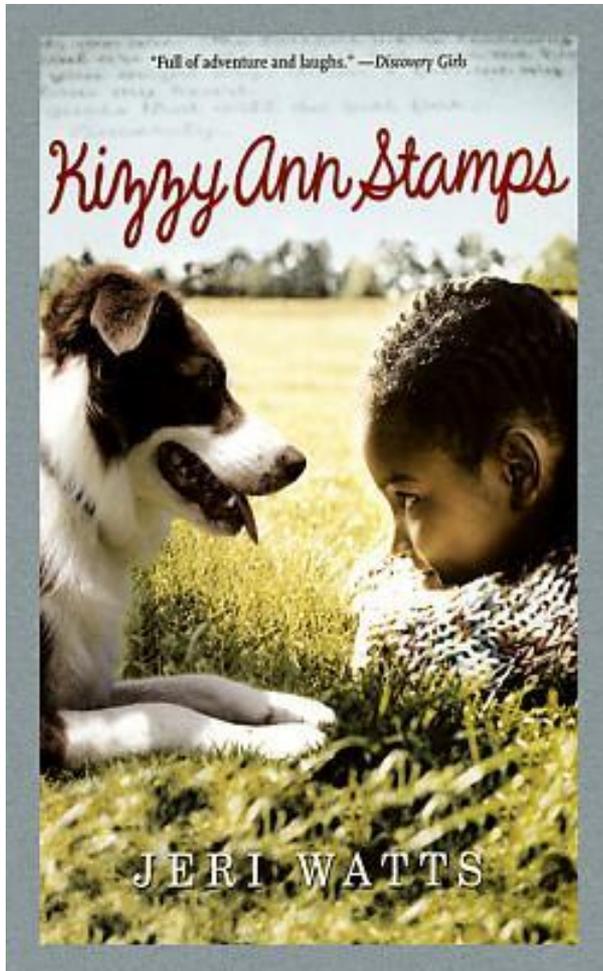
\$16.00



Compelled by an ambitious general to retrieve an amulet from Julius Caesar's treasure, long hidden in a mine outside Rome, Nic--a slave with attitude--more than succeeds, upending his life and escalating conflict among the power brokers of imperial Rome. Caesar's bulla (a good-luck amulet given to boys in wealthy families), a gift from his ancestress the goddess Venus, is especially powerful. So is the terrifying but beautiful griffin guarding it, whom Nic names Caela. The two escape the cave only to be recaptured and sent to Rome as players in the city's brutal blood sports. With the bulla's help, they survive the games--barely. Caela's wounded, and Nic flees into the sewers, where he must beg for help from the girl he's angered. There's more to Nic than meets the eye--effervescent, hot-tempered, irreverent and funny, he's a bracing antidote to jaded teen heroes commenting ironically from the sidelines. Getting out of, then right back into, tight situations without losing sight of his goal--reuniting with his enslaved sister--Nic seizes each day with gusto, knowing his future will be short unless he can evade the power brokers--senators, Praetors, general, emperor--determined to make him their pawn.<sup>7</sup>

6.0

\$15.00



During the summer of 1963, 12-year-old Kizzy Ann Stamps writes letters to the teacher who will instruct her at the new, integrated school. Kizzy is forthright in her first letter; she does not want to go to a school with white children. Miss Anderson is understanding, and as Kizzy begins to trust her, she shares stories about Shag, the stray border collie her family adopted. Through her love of Shag, Kizzy reveals what she understands about integrated life. When classmates tell her that blacks can't participate in dog shows, she writes, "I made a mistake and let down my guard. I let them in, and now I feel a fool." Kizzy is sensitive yet sassy, and she bounces back with fierce determination. Her brother, on the other hand, suffers from discrimination at the upper school. When he causes trouble, a neighboring white boy fixes the problem, and Kizzy learns to see each person as an individual. Yes, there are whites who hate her, but she learns to trust herself and her feelings.

5.2

\$17.50



From the moment Mary Poppins arrives at Number Seventeen Cherry-Tree Lane, everyday life at the Banks house is forever changed. This classic series tells the story of the world's most beloved nanny, who brings enchantment and excitement with her everywhere she goes. Featuring the charming original cover art by Mary Shepard, these new editions are sure to delight readers of all ages. Pulled down from the clouds at the end of a kite string, Mary Poppins is back. In Mary's care, the Banks children meet the King of the Castle and the Dirty Rascal, visit the upside-down world of Mr. Turvy and his bride, Miss Topsy, and spend a breathless afternoon above the park, dangling from a clutch of balloons. Surprises are sure to pop up when Mary Poppins is around!

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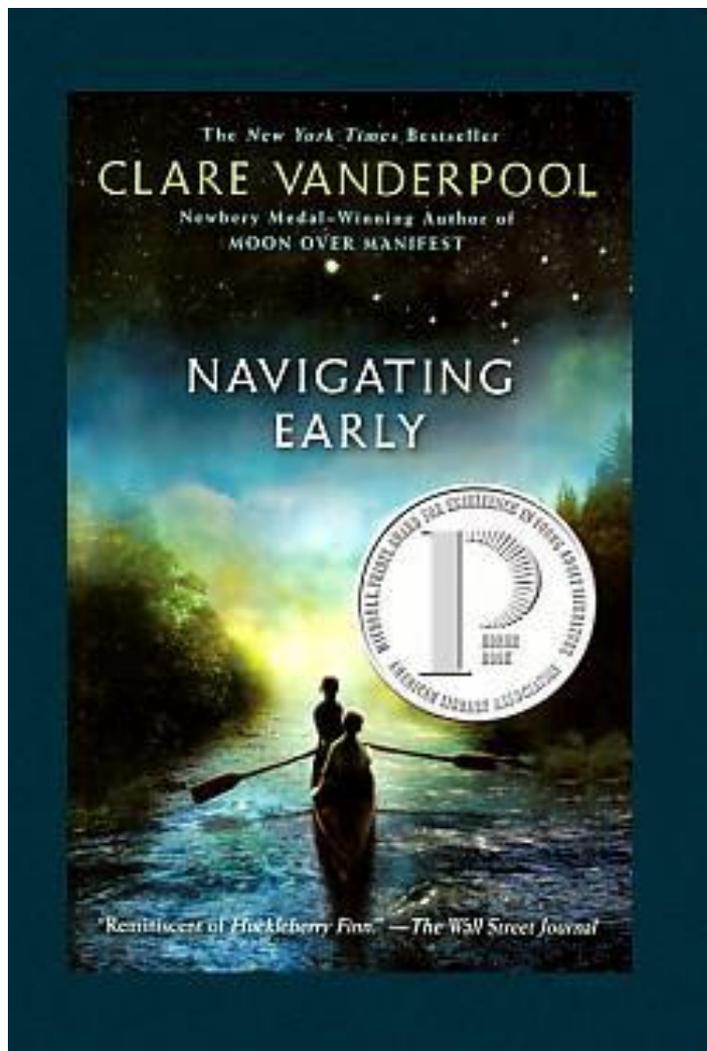
\$15.00



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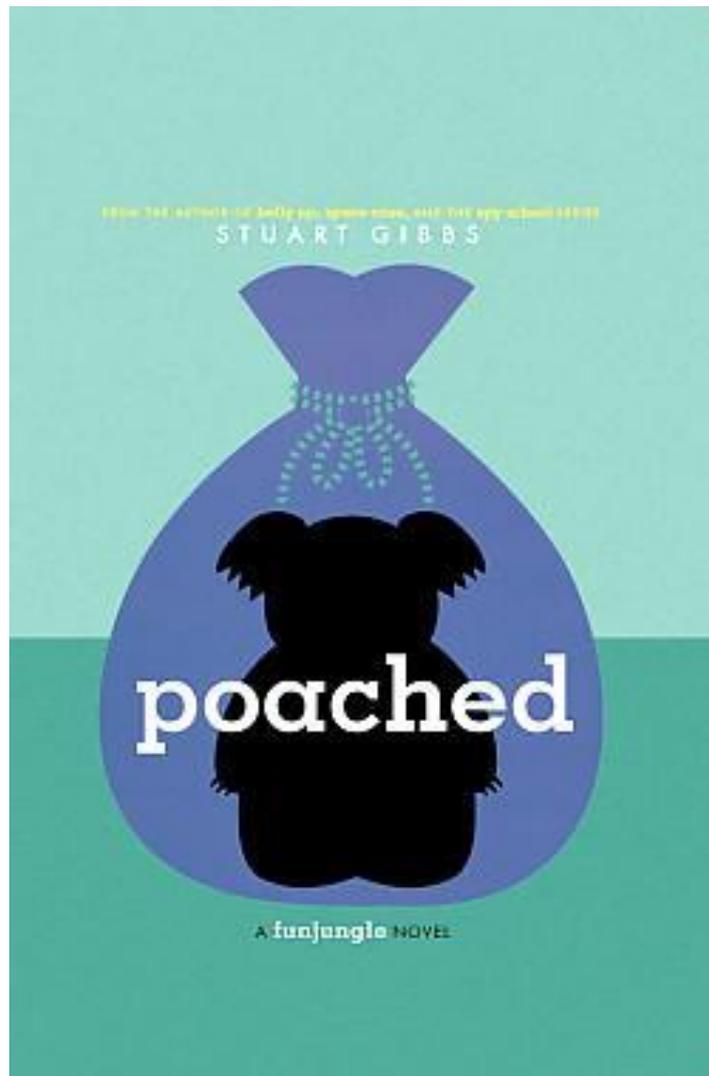
**\$15.00**



When Jack Baker's mother dies, his father deposits him in the Morton Hill Academy for Boys in Maine, far from the only home he has ever known— Kansas. Alone and lonely, Jack befriends Early Auden, a strange, legendary boy who understands all manner of unknowable things, from the necessity of listening to Billie Holiday on rainy days to the secrets embedded in patterns of jelly beans. Most important, Early believes the unwinding digits in the calculation of pi hold a connection to his revered older brother, lost in the war. Jack and Early set out on a mysterious journey, following Pi's story, tracking a great black bear along the Appalachian Trail, and searching for reconciliation neither knows he seeks. Along the way, they encounter a collection of characters, all of them wound up in Early's eerily prescient Pi yarn. Newbery Medal-winning author Vanderpool's sharp, honest narrative, sparkling with the stars of the night sky, pieces together an elaborate, layered plot with precision, weaving multiple threads into a careful, tidy conclusion perfectly suited for those, like Jack and Early, who want to believe.

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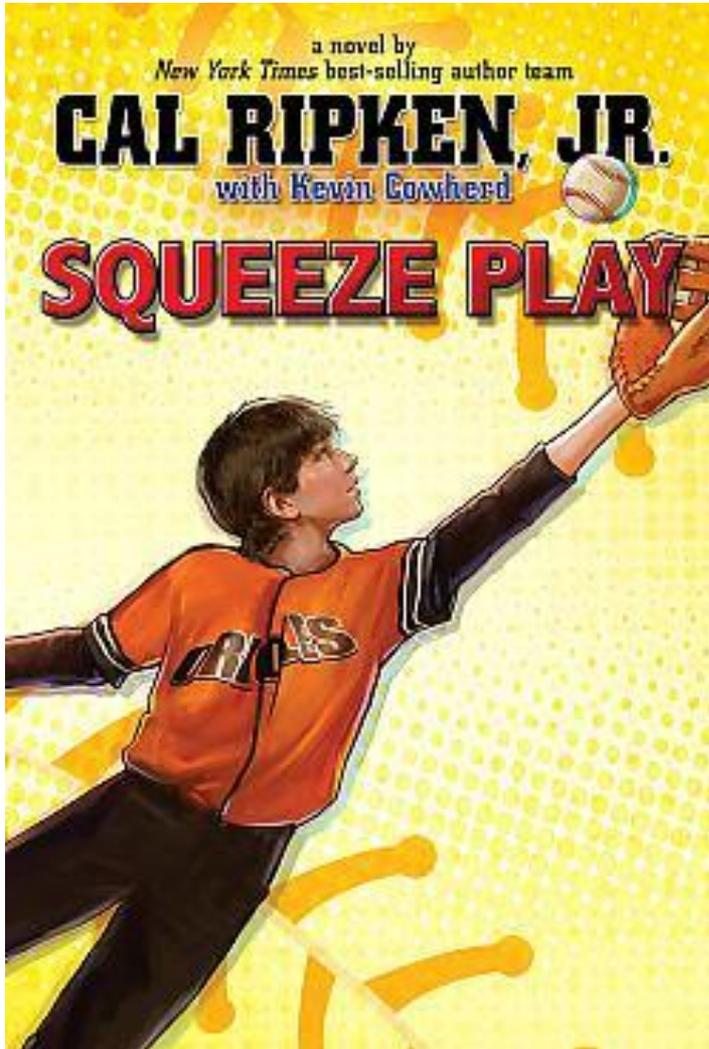
\$16.00



After successfully solving the case of FunJungle’s hippo murder in *Belly Up* (2011), Teddy Fitzroy stumbles into another mystery. But this time, he’s the primary suspect. After getting caught dropping mannequin limbs in the shark tank (under threat of a harsh thumping from the dimwitted middle-school bully), Teddy escapes into FunJungle’s newest exhibit, KoalaVille, where he hides until the coast is clear. But when maintenance crews discover that Kazoo the Koala, on loan from Australia, is missing, and FunJungle security finds video footage placing Teddy at the scene of the crime, he rushes headlong into clearing his name and rescuing the koala while simultaneously uncovering a sinister plot to sabotage the whole park. Amid the mystery and subterfuge, Gibbs interweaves plenty of animal facts, such as “the koala is the only known animal whose brain only fills half its skull.”

5.2

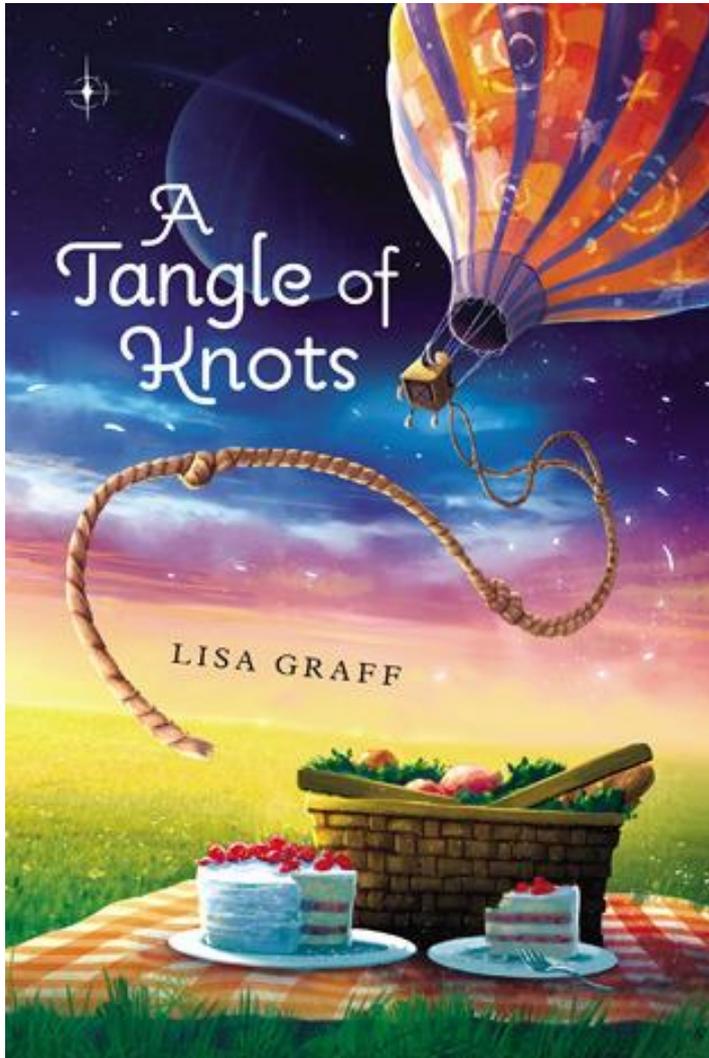
\$16.00



The Orioles are excited about playing in a tournament, but center fielder Corey is worried about a hitting slump and about competitive teammate Katelyn. Even worse, his dad's angry words and aggressive actions in the bleachers are embarrassing and frightening. Just the right amount of play-by-play details will keep baseball fans engaged; the father-son subplot and flashes of humor give the story depth.

5.2

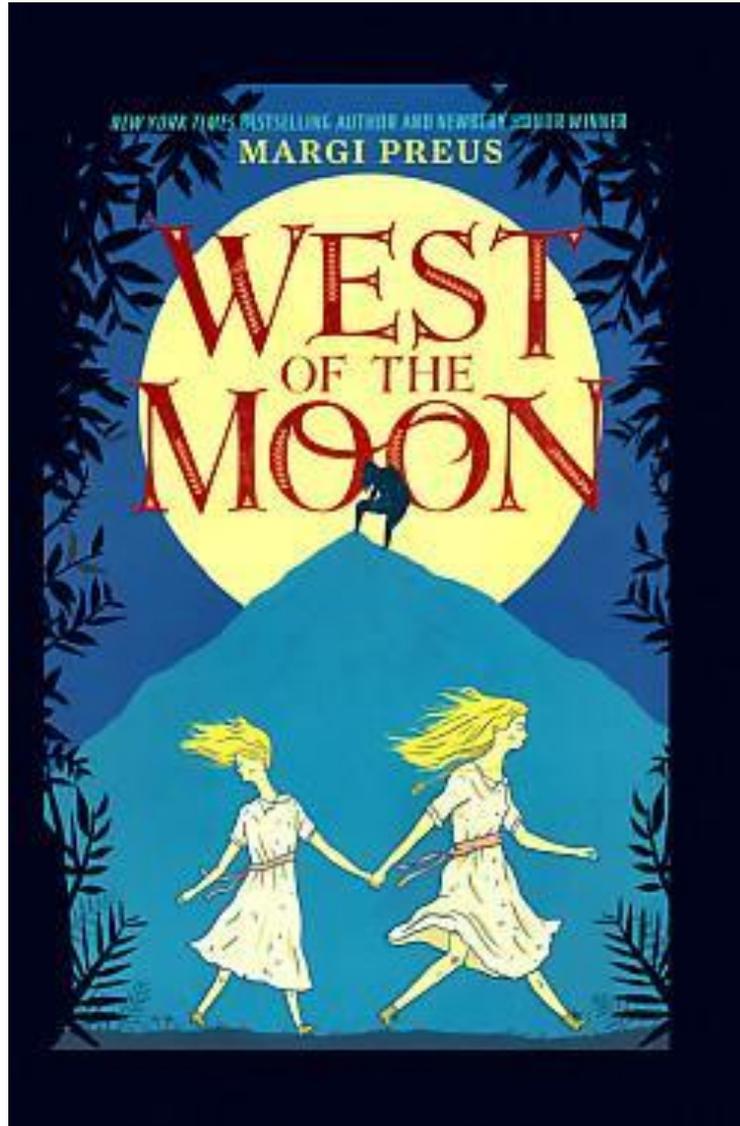
\$16.00



Told in multiple viewpoints, *A Tangle of Knots* is a magnificent puzzle. In a slightly magical world where everyone has a Talent, eleven-year-old Cady is an orphan with a phenomenal Talent for cake baking. But little does she know that fate has set her on a journey from the moment she was born. And her destiny leads her to a mysterious address that houses a lost luggage emporium, an old recipe, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever. However, these encounters hold the key to Cady's past and how she became an orphan. If she's lucky, fate may reunite her with her long-lost parent.

## 5.3

**\$15.00**



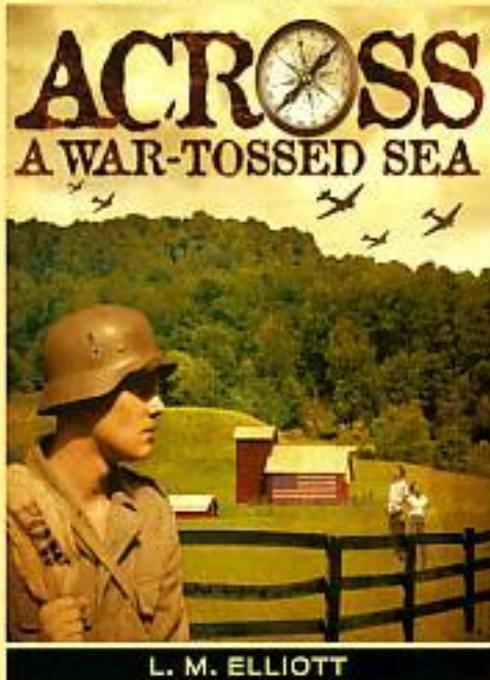
In the Scandinavian fairy tale “East of the Sun and West of the Moon,” a young girl is taken from her home to a magnificent castle by a great bear, whom she discovers is really a prince. Young Astri is not so lucky—when she is taken away from her aunt’s home, it’s by a hunchbacked goat herder, and she doesn’t sleep in a magnificent castle, but in a cold, filthy cottage in the mountains. Still, she can’t forget the stories and fairy tales that her mother told her before she died—stories that inform how she understands her plight. Perhaps the goat herder is a prince in disguise, and maybe he is hiding troll treasure. Clever, deeply feeling Astri knows what’s real and what’s not, but those stories have power, and they buoy her to do whatever it takes to escape the cruel goat herder; reunite with her sister, Greta; and depart for America, where they will finally be with their father again.

## 5.3

**\$15.00**



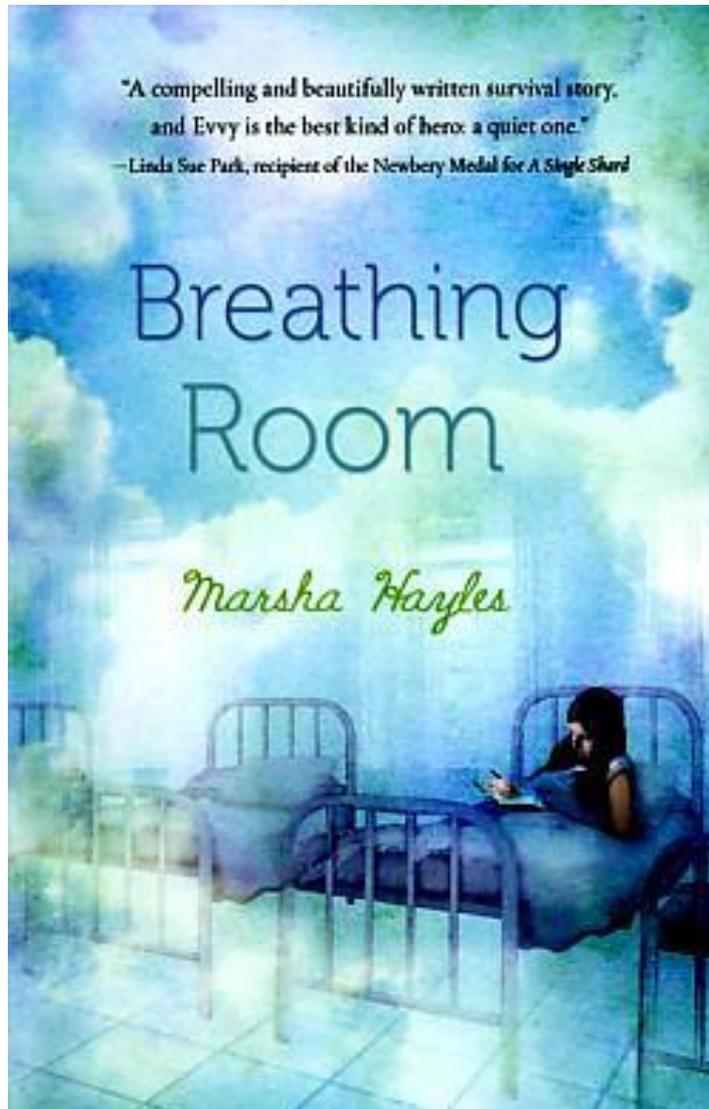
COMPANION TO UNDER A WAR-TORN SKY



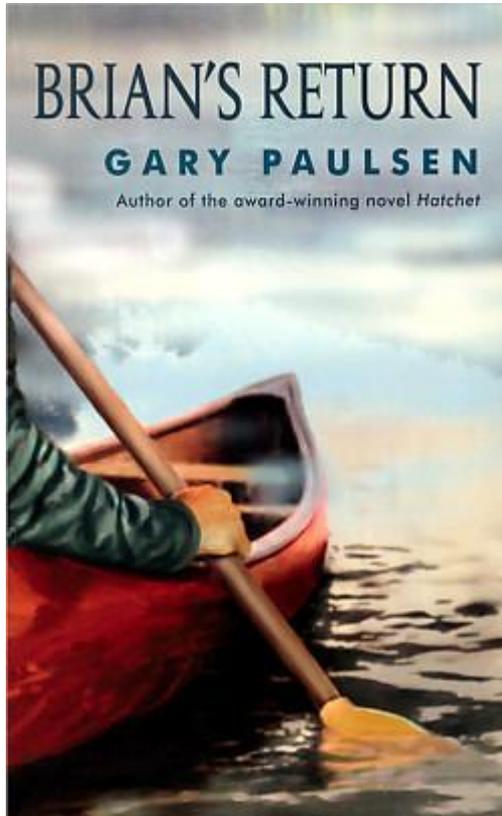
- The adventures and cultural experiences that occur when two young boys are transplanted from London to Virginia during World War II are wonderfully portrayed. The Bishop boys survive a treacherous journey across the ocean as part of several convoys to remove children from Hitler's Blitzkrieg. They are taken in by the Ratcliff family. Elliott does a fabulous job of giving a British perspective to American viewpoints during the war. Charles turns from a boy into a young man during the book, conflicted by wanting to serve his home country while also experiencing the joy of playing sports and developing a crush on Patsy Ratcliff. Ten-year-old Wesley, traumatized by flashbacks of London bombings, learns to stand up for himself. He also fulfills his dream of meeting a "real Indian" and learns about race relations after befriending a sharecropper's son.

## 5.3

**\$16.50**



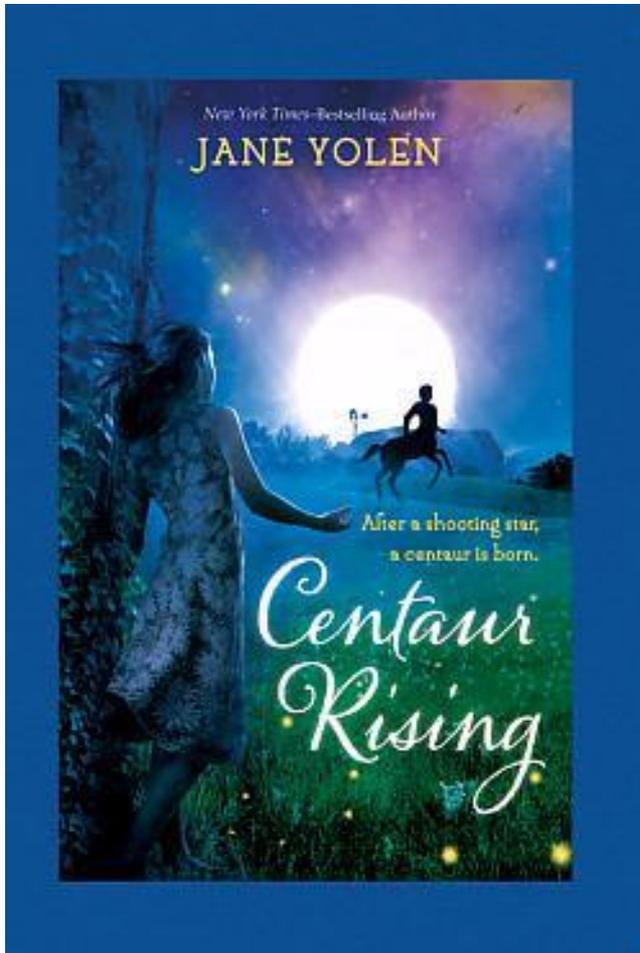
Tuberculosis still scourged the nation in 1940, and sanatoriums such as the fictional Loon Lake facility in Hayles' first novel were established to quarantine patients and treat the illness. Shortly after Evelyn arrives there, she tries to put on a brave face, holding back tears. "My head hurt with questions. Really, all of me hurt, worse than ever before. I had to close my eyes. Trying to stay alive at Loon Lake felt like it was killing me already." Eventually, she grows more comfortable with the new routines and forges friendships. Hayles provides a fascinating glimpse into the medical technology of the day, such as the pneumothorax to blow air into the chest or surgical rib removal to ease pressure on the lungs. The unique setting provides a backdrop to a well-crafted, believable story complete with happy moments and camaraderie interspersed with a daily reality of anxiety and loss.



This is not as much a sequel to *Hatchet*, *Brian's Winter*, and *The River* as it is a coda or an epilogue because it sends Brian into the wilderness for good. Brian can barely make sense of the everyday concerns of his fellow students when he begins high school back home, and he reverts to his survival kill-or-be-killed mode when he is attacked by a bully. After consulting a therapist, a blind, benevolent African American man, Brian leaves society behind forever. As a fisherman on his plane tells him, he "has the woods in him." Plotwise, very little happens. The appeal of the book lies in the highly specific details of the choices Brian has made in gear--using arrows rather than a gun for hunting, eshewing most fancy high-tech equipment--and in the keen observations of the wilderness and its creatures.

## 5.3

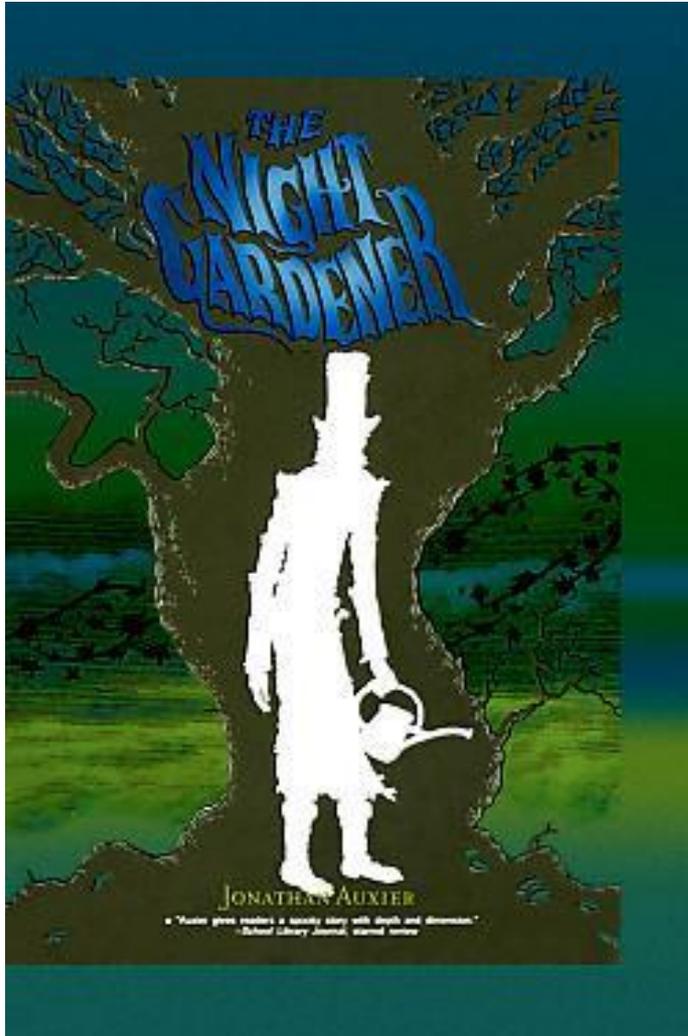
**\$16.50**



In 1965, 11 months after Arianne witnesses an unusual Perseid meteor shower over her family's ranch, Agora the pony gives birth to a centaur and life completely changes. As soon as he is on his hooves, the baby centaur, named Kai, embraces and bonds with another liminal being: Ari's six-year-old brother, Robbie, a thalidomide child. Kai's birth, however, brings additional concerns for their mother, Hannah. How do they keep Kai a secret not just from the world but from their boarders and riders—especially Mrs. Angotti, with her big mouth and unruly children? How do they allow him to run as a foal but also develop as a child? And most worrisome, what will happen when he is no longer a secret? When Robbie is accidentally knocked out of his wheelchair, Kai picks him up and places him on his back, inspiring Hannah to create Kai's Kids, a horse-therapy program. Yolen offers something wholly uplifting here: shooting stars, a child's hug, and the nuzzle of a horse's nose.

6-8

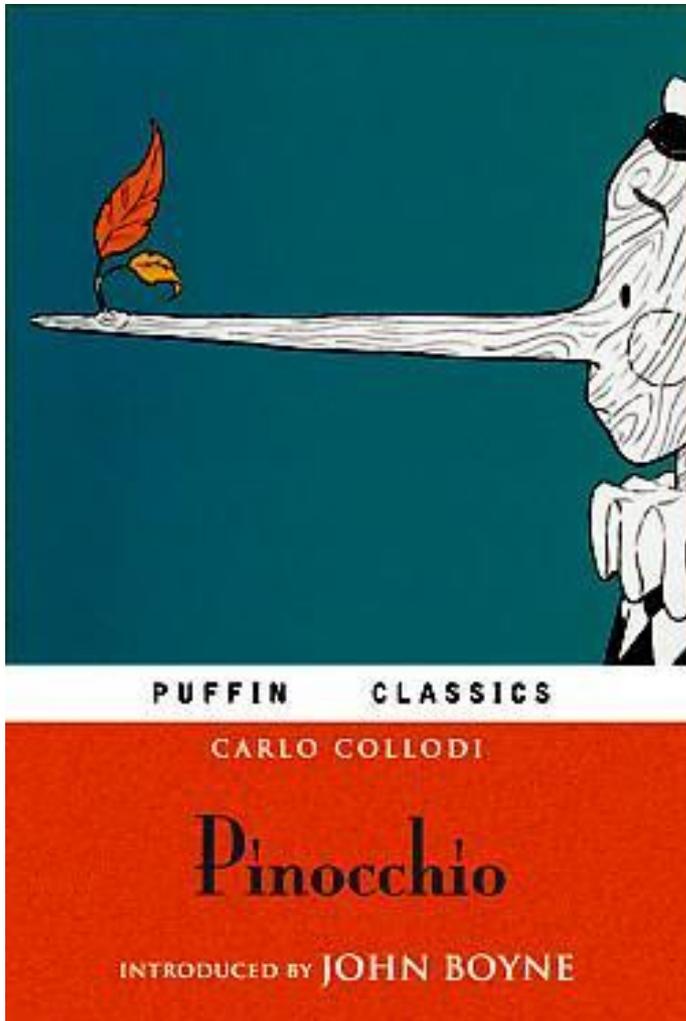
\$16.50



Auxier's second novel is part morality play, part ghost story, and all enthralling. Molly and Kip are Irish orphans seeking employment in England after their parents die in a shipwreck. Brave, quick-thinking Molly is solicitous of her younger disabled brother, and she feels guilty because she has managed to hide the truth about their parents' death from him, spinning yarns about their travels and promising they will all be together soon. Molly finds them work as servants in a distinctly creepy, isolated country manor where a huge tree growing into the house is casting a spell over the inhabitants, among other mysterious goings-on. Auxier, like Molly, is a born storyteller, and he weaves a tale that will keep readers glued to the page. The outcomes may be expected, but the journeys are riveting, while the predictability conjures the comfort and satisfaction of a classic fairy tale.

5.5

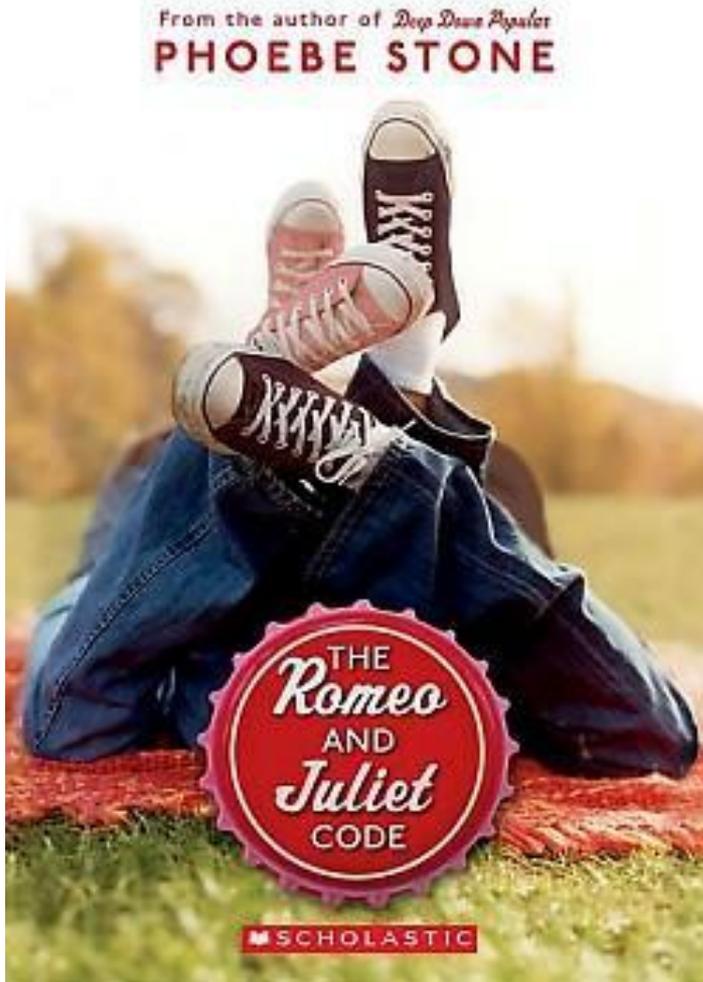
\$15.00



Translation of: Avventure di Pinocchio. An illustrated edition of "Pinocchio," the story of a wooden puppet who must overcome many challenges before achieving his wish to be a real boy.

5.5

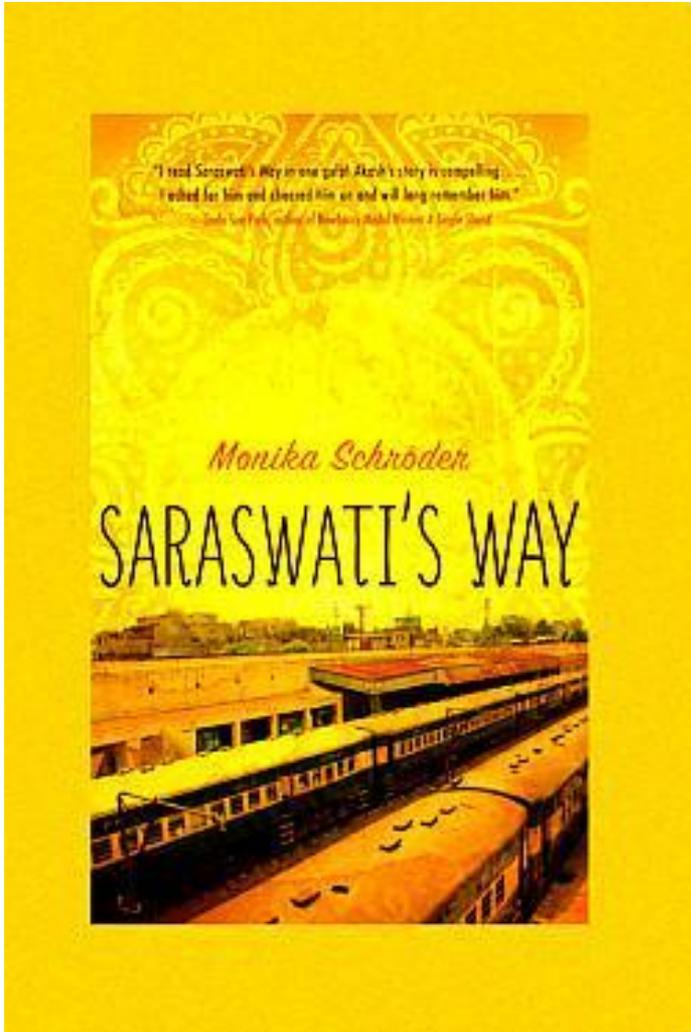
\$15.00



Because of the bombing of London, 11-year-old Felicity is taken by her parents to live with relatives in Maine in 1941. She slowly adjusts to her new family, including Uncle Gideon, who teaches sixth grade at the local school; Aunt Miami, who lives and breathes Shakespeare; “The Gram,” Felicity’s grandmother; and Derek, a 12-year-old adopted orphan whose dreams of military service have been dashed by a bout with polio. Felicity’s engaging personality and curiosity about letters arriving from Portugal written in code “stir up the soup” of life in the Bathburn household, but only time will tell if that’s a good thing. In lyrical prose, Stone conjures up America on the brink of WWII through the eyes of a delightful British girl.

## 5.3

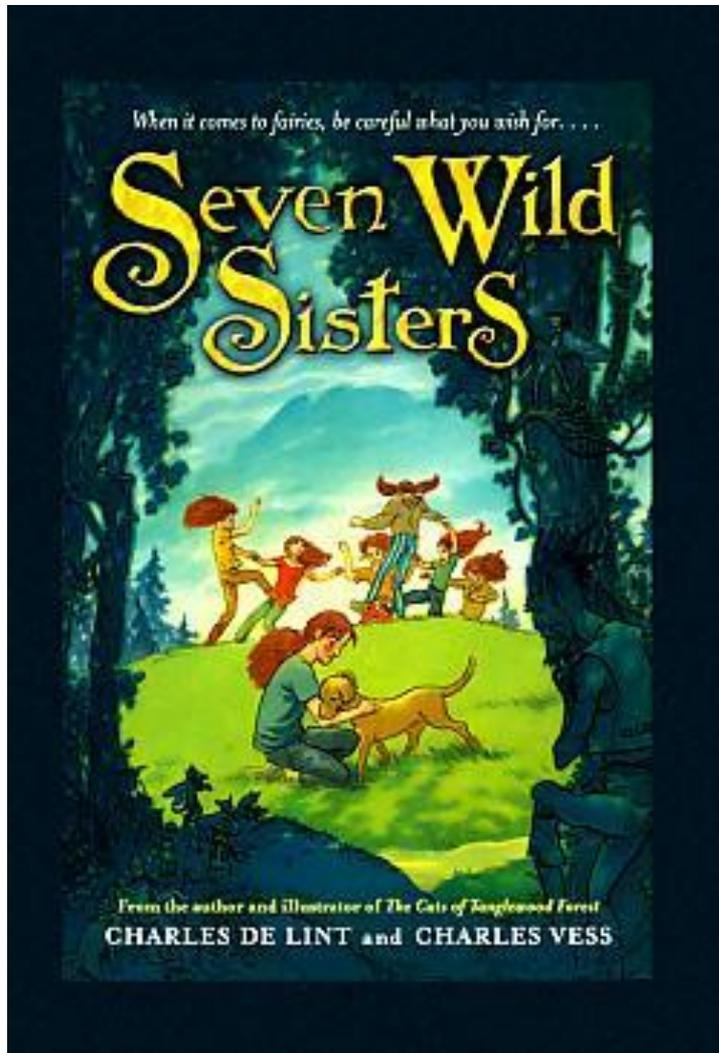
**\$17.50**



In Rajasthan, India, 12-year-old Akash loves math, and he dreams of earning a scholarship to further his studies. After his father's abrupt death, though, his grandmother sends him to work in a quarry to pay off the family's deep debt. Quickly realizing that loan-shark interest rates will never allow his family to reduce what they owe, Akash escapes by sneaking onto a New Delhi-bound train. In the bewildering big city, he joins a group of street kids who feed themselves from garbage scraps and earn coins by collecting plastic bottles. Schröder, a German-born educator who now lives in India, frankly exposes the harsh realities of the street children's world: many sniff corrective fluid for a cheap, brain-melting high, and even Akash tries selling drugs to make the quick money he needs to continue his education. Eventually, though, Akash begins to find real opportunities and support.

5.3

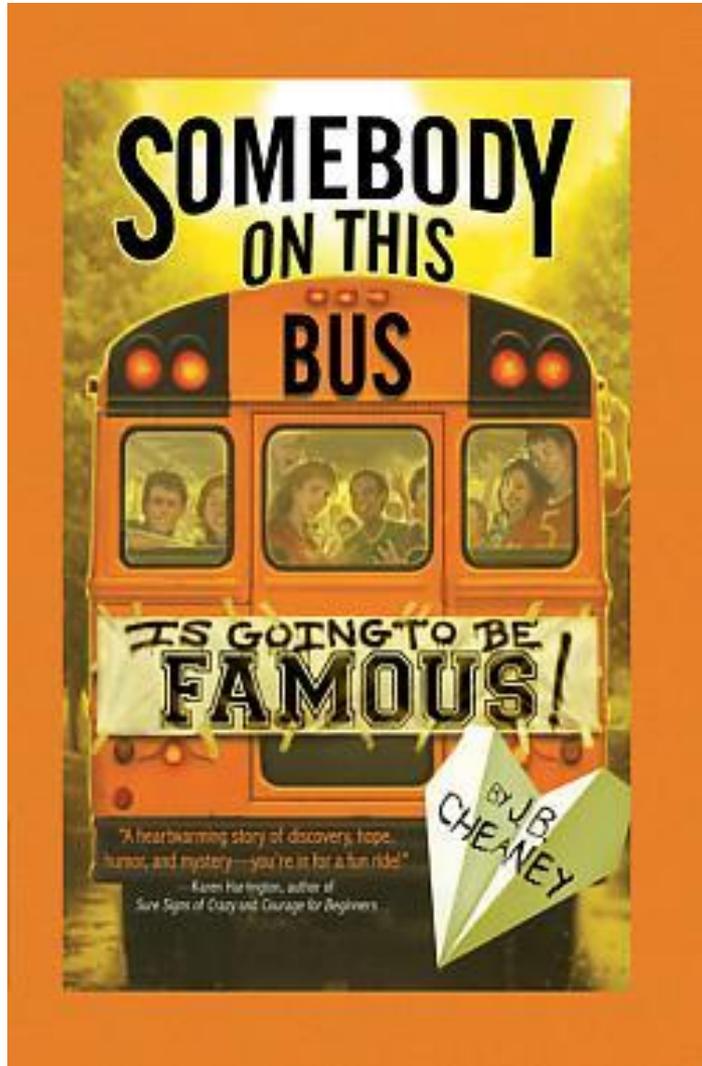
\$15.00



The girl from *The Cats of Tanglewood Forest* (Little, Brown, 2013) returns as elderly and reclusive Aunt Lillian. This delicious companion novel, set many decades after the first story, features Sarah Jane Dillard (the middle daughter in a family of seven redheaded sisters), who befriends Aunt Lillian and unwittingly gets involved in the fairy world. Sarah Jane tells her parts of the story in first person, while her sisters (two sets of twins and two singletons) weave theirs in third person. When Sarah Jane stumbles upon an injured spirit called a "sangman" and assists him, she angers the bee fairies, who have a longstanding feud with the sangman. Aunt Lillian has always told Sarah Jane stories about fairies and the Apple Tree Man, so she is the one Sarah Jane turns to for help. Soon Sarah Jane's sisters are kidnapped, half by the bee fairies and the other half by the sangmen. Aunt Lillian and Sarah Jane attempt to rescue the girls before they are killed or trapped in the fairy world forever. The sisters each have distinct skills and personalities, which de Lint develops marvelously. In an artist's note,

5.5

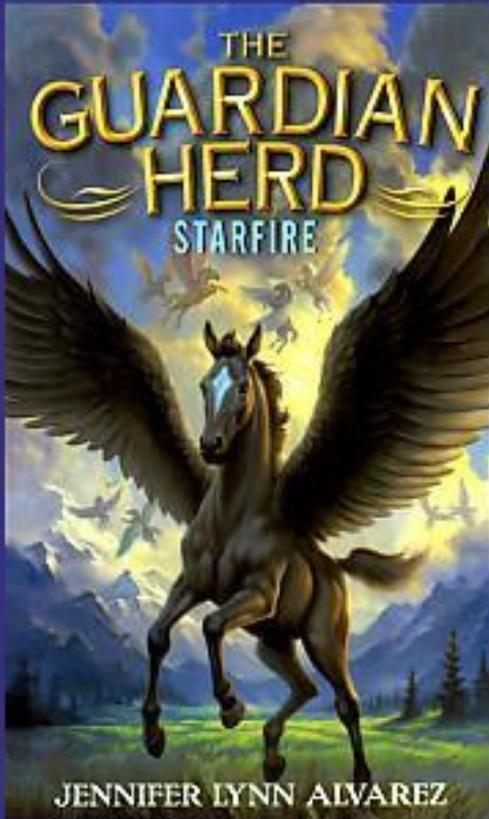
\$15.50



An intriguing mystery, a cataclysmic storm and a school bus accident converge with extraordinary results. Nine of the students who ride Mrs. B.'s school bus are about to find their lives intersecting in unexpected ways. A new stop on their established bus route stirs little curiosity until several students notice that a passenger never appears. As seventh-grader Bender collaborates with other students in his quest for the truth, they uncover the repercussions of a tragic event that occurred nearly two decades earlier. Cheaney immediately immerses readers in the action, opening with the chaotic accident scene and then transitioning back nine months to the first day of school. Following the months of the school year, the chapters highlight different characters. Even as she drops subtle hints regarding the mystery, the author reveals the challenges the characters face. With the nine key characters in a variety of middle school grades and situations, the tale explores a range of life experiences. It addresses familiar issues, such as defining self-worth and social relationships.

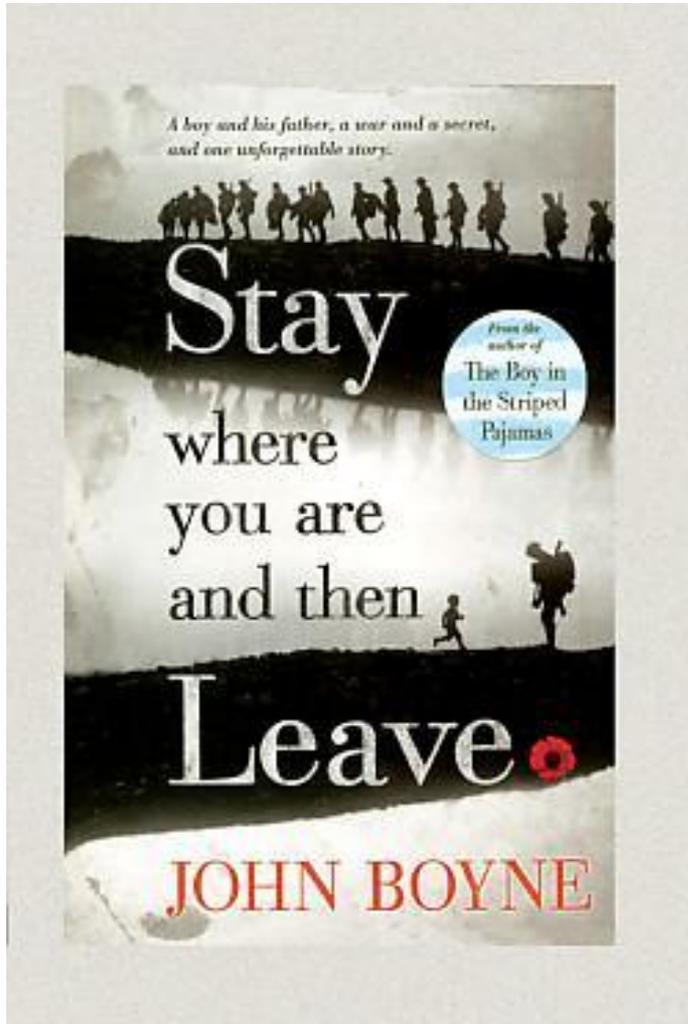
5.3

\$15.00



Every 100 years, a black foal is born in the land of the pegasi, a foal that is destined to either destroy or heal the five herds of winged horses. This time, it is Star, a pegasus who cannot fly, only walk, and from the start, when his mother dies giving birth, he is ostracized, bullied, and feared. Only Morningleaf and a few other foals befriend Star, but they cannot protect him from their herd's over-stallion Thunderwing, who promises to kill Star on his first birthday, before he can fulfill his destiny. Clearly the beginning of a series, this first novel still stands alone and will prove popular with both animal lovers and fantasy fans.

5.7

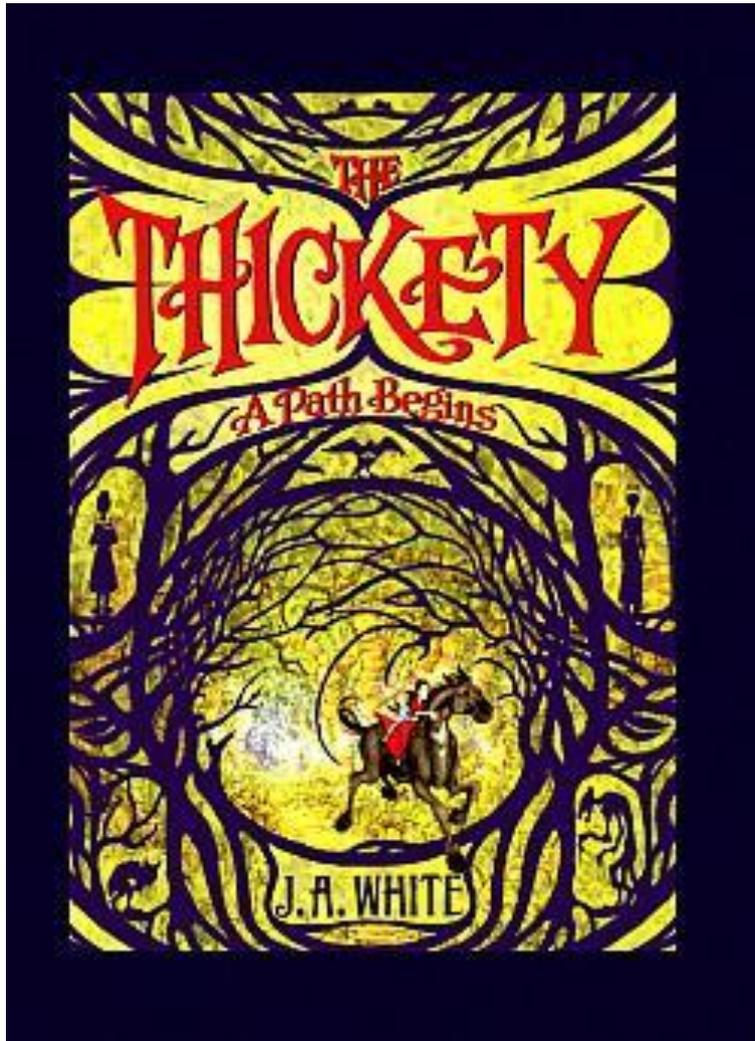


\$16.50

Another child's-eye view of war from the author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (2006); here the child is working-class, the conflict, World War I. The fighting starts July 28, 1914, the day Alfie Summerfield turns 5. Eager to defend king and country, young men--including Alfie's dad, Georgie--enlist in droves, leaving wives to manage households and families. Everyone says it will be over by Christmas, but four years later, the war grinds on, having transformed Alfie's stable, working-class neighborhood beyond recognition. Czech-immigrant neighbors have been taken away, their candy shop boarded up. Released from jail, a conscientious objector and old family friend is reviled and beaten when he returns home. Georgie's letters stop coming. Alfie's mother, now a nurse, insists he's on a secret government mission, but Alfie fears he's dead. Hard times get harder. Skipping school to shine shoes at King's Cross railway station, Alfie learns Georgie's hospitalized with shell shock and vows to bring him home.

5.3

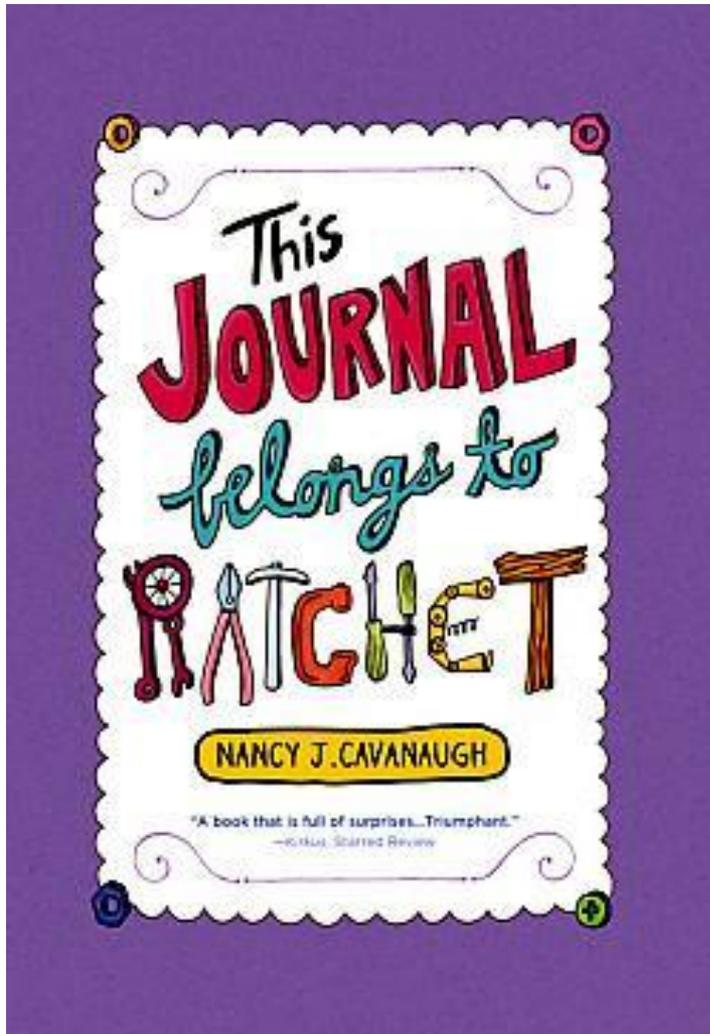
\$15.50



Nail-biting suspense is the hallmark of this long fantasy novel, from the terrifying prologue to the shocking epilogue. This pleasantly accomplished debut presents readers with a dystopian, theocratic society that fears and executes witches and magic users. The community lives on the island of De'Noran, where the habitable land is being devoured by strange forest called the Thickety. In the prologue, readers meet little Kara Westall, who is roused from her bed and dragged to watch her mother's execution as a witch. Years later, Kara, now 12, is responsible for herself, her younger brother, Taff, and their father, crippled by depression. When Kara finds her mother's grimoire in the Thickety and uses it, the already suspenseful narrative becomes nerve-wracking.

5.3

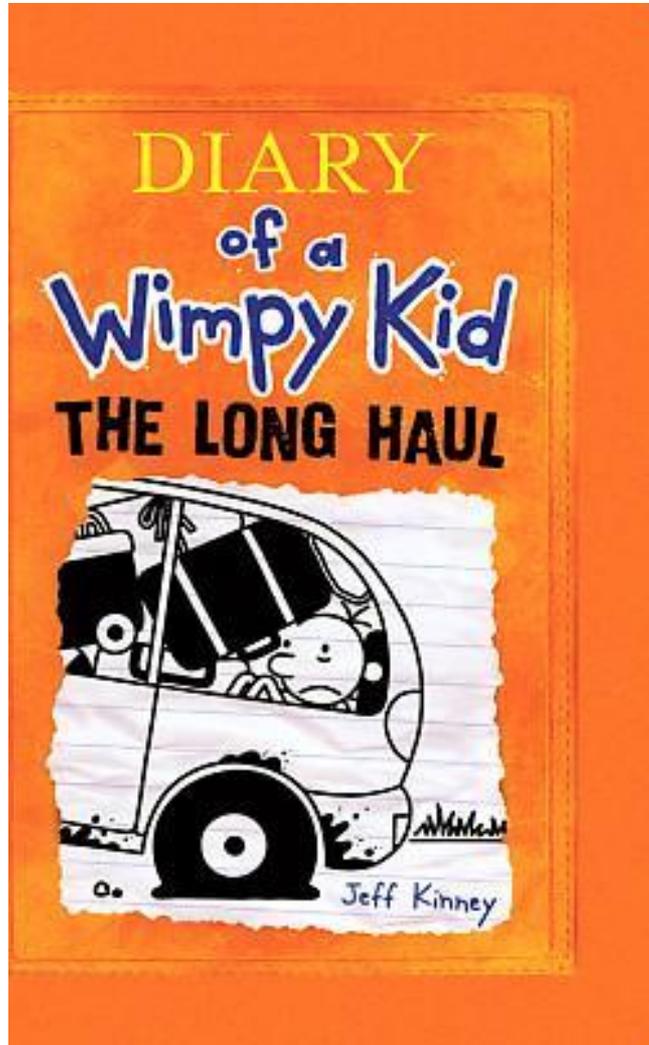
\$15.00



Rachel “Ratchet” Vance is an 11-year-old girl, homeschooled by her widowed, activist father. Ratchet is embarrassed by her father’s often confrontational environmentalism, the fact that she knows more about fixing cars than creating a wardrobe, and that they move each year from one fixer-upper to the next. Desperate to lay down roots, make friends, and simply live a normal life, Ratchet hopes to discover her own identity by learning more about her mother and ultimately changing herself for the better. The book’s journal format, which shows Ratchet writing in various styles as she completes her language arts assignments, allows debut author Cavanaugh to cover a lot of ground thematically. Ratchet is a thoroughly relatable character whose wish for normalcy will strike a chord with readers.

6.0

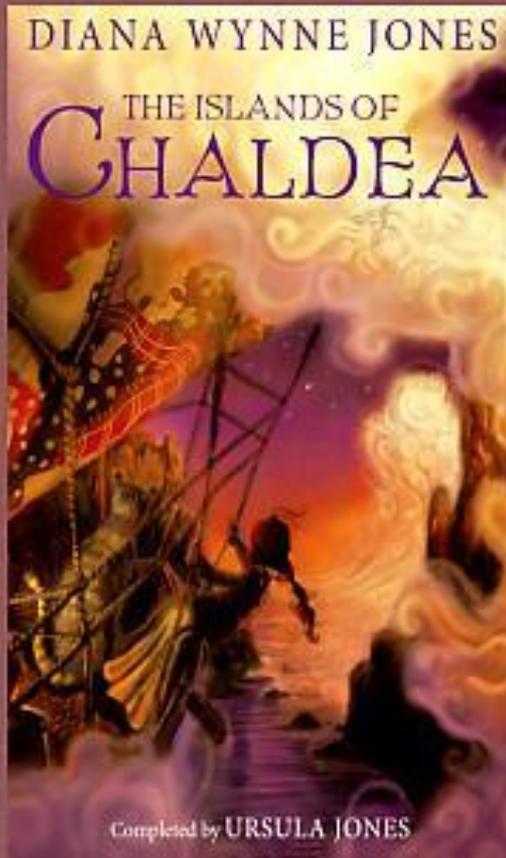
\$19.00



School's out for the summer, but Greg Heffley's dreams of air conditioning and video games vanish in the first page of this latest installment in the iconic series. This time, Greg's overexcited mother shepherds Greg, his reluctant father, and his two brothers into an overstuffed minivan for the road trip to end all road trips. What starts as picture-perfect family fun soon turns into a comedy of errors involving, among other things, car trouble, rival road-trippers, and a pig. Long-suffering Greg has plenty of new material with this Choose Your Own Adventure style of vacation ("The problem is, I never seem to make the choices that get me to a happy ending"), and, as always, his angst will be easily relatable to his audience.

**5.4**

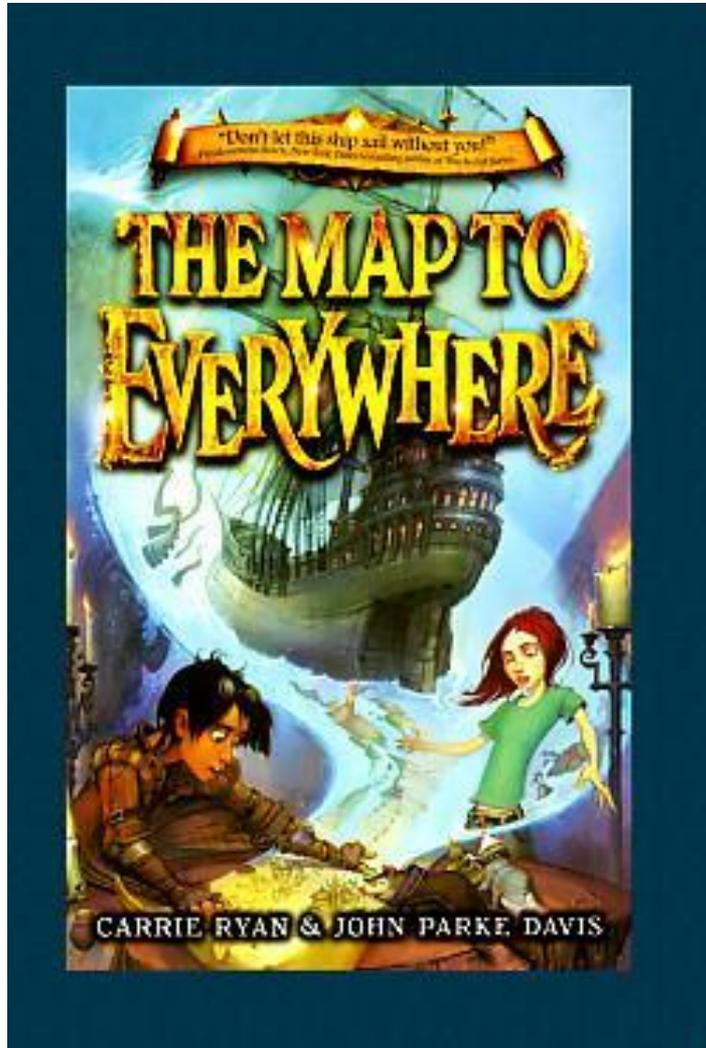
**\$17.00**



The islands of Chaldea are in turmoil; ten years ago, the island of Logra erected a blockade preventing anyone from entering or leaving. At the time the spell was cast, the Four Guardians of the islands disappeared. Without them, nothing is as it should be. It is time to make the perilous journey down to Logra and attempt to break the spell. The appointed search party includes young Aileen, supposedly a Wise Woman in training, and her Aunt Beck, the original Wise Woman who is stricken by a spell and left half incapacitated. Together with a motley handful of travelers, they must make their way across the islands and find a way to bring down the barrier and restore the islands' Guardians. This compulsively readable adventure will delight fantasy fans. The story is reminiscent of C.S. Lewis' *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, with overtones of Le Guin's *Earthsea* books, all with Diana Wynne Jones' lighthearted touch.

5.4

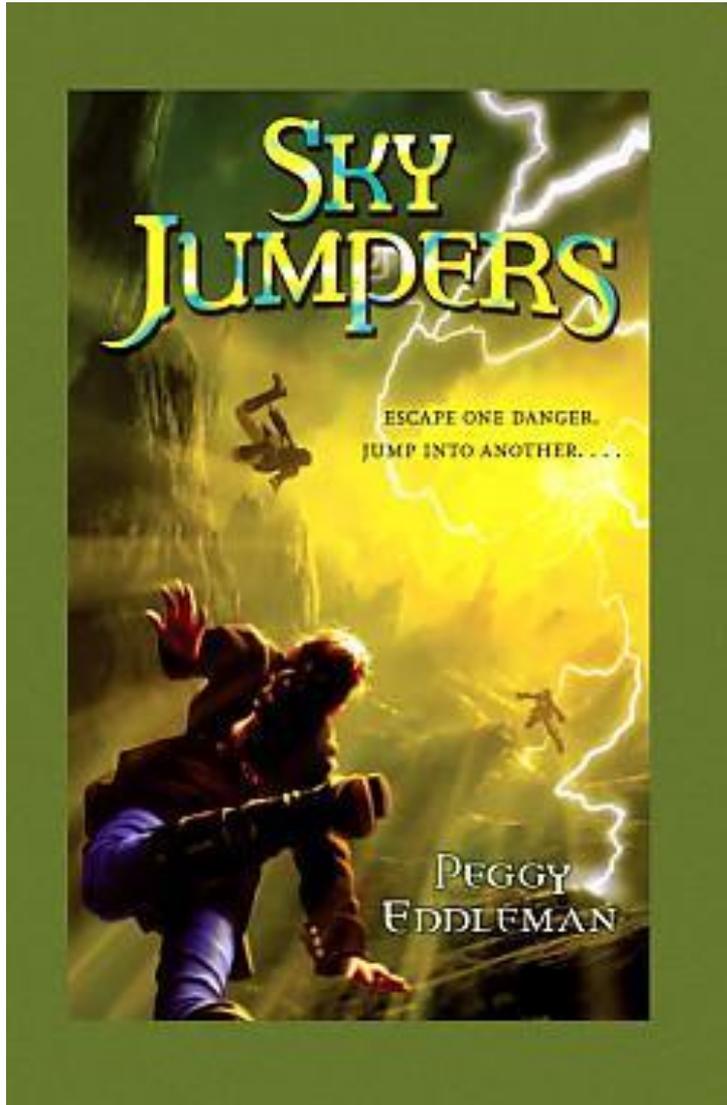
\$15.00



Ryan (the Forest of Hands and Teeth series) teams up with her husband, short fiction author Davis, to launch a series that sees an intrepid girl from Earth teaming up with a colorful cast as they attempt to prevent the end of everything. Trapped aboard a ship sailing the Pirate Stream, a waterway that meanders between myriad worlds, 12-year-old Marrill must help her new friends find the scattered pieces of the Bintheyr Map to Everywhere if she has any hope of getting home. Unfortunately, an ancient, insane wizard also seeks the Map; if he gets it first, he could destroy all of creation. Marrill's new best friend is Fin, a master thief and orphan who's literally forgettable, a useful ability for a thief, but one that can make for a lonely existence (Marrill is one of only a few people who recognize him from minute to minute).

5.5

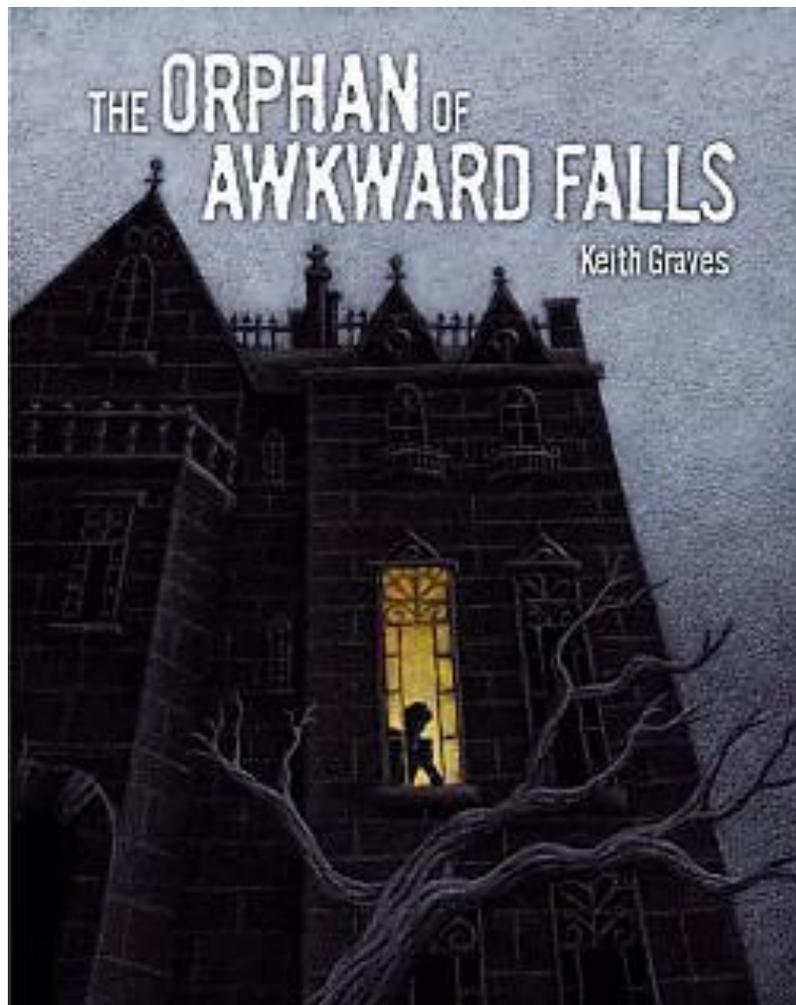
\$15.00



-In 2069, Earth is partially destroyed by the detonation of 27 green bombs that leave behind a pocket of dense oxygen molecules potent enough to kill any creature that inhales them. Twelve-year-old Hope lives in one of the few safe areas of fertile land that still remain. This life-threatening pocket of air, known as the Bomb's Breath, has blocked all magnetic forces, causing many of the technological advancements of the early 21st century to disappear. Now the mostly agrarian society puts heavy emphasis on people to invent useful gadgets to improve on the quality of life, but Hope has no skills in this area. The only thing that she is good at is jumping through the Bomb's Breath, a secret she has shared only with her friend Aaron. At a council meeting, the citizens of White Rock are told that the Bomb's Breath, besides being a danger, has also served as a deterrent to roving groups of bandits from looting their town. When some thieves break through these protective perimeters to hold the town hostage for a rare antibiotic they have invented, Hope's father is injured in the process. The antibiotic is the only cure for Shadel's Sickness, a contagious disease developed as an offshoot of the war. Besides her dad needing the medicine to stave off the infection from his injury, the entire community needs it to survive the next year. Help from the neighboring communities is mandatory before time runs out, so Hope, along with some friends, carries off a daring and dangerous escape to run for help.

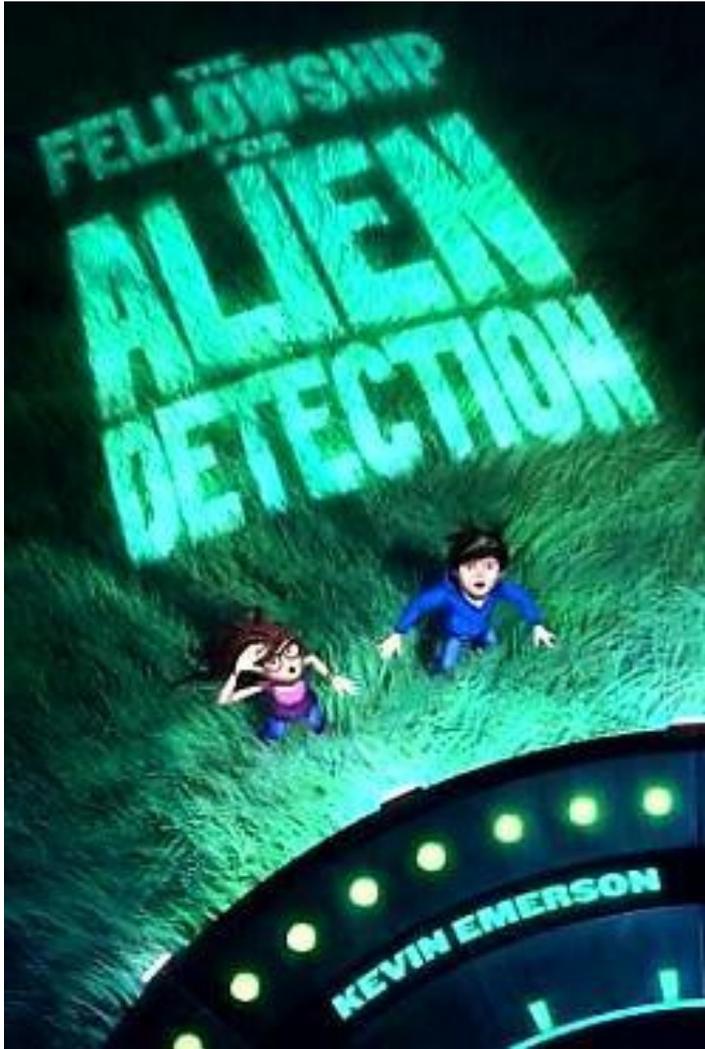
**7.0**

**\$17.00**



Twelve-year-old Josephine Cravitz is moving for the fourth time in three years, this time to Awkward Falls in northern Canada. Awkward Falls is known for two things: its canned sauerkraut and its insane asylum. Unsuspecting Josephine is in for the adventure of her lifetime when she snoops around the dilapidated mansion next door and discovers young inventor/orphan Thaddeus Hibble and his robot sidekick Norman. Not to mention that noted madman Fetid Stenchley has just escaped from the insane asylum and is heading for them. In this dark, twisted tale, the characters stand out as events come to life and leave the reader in suspense

6.6

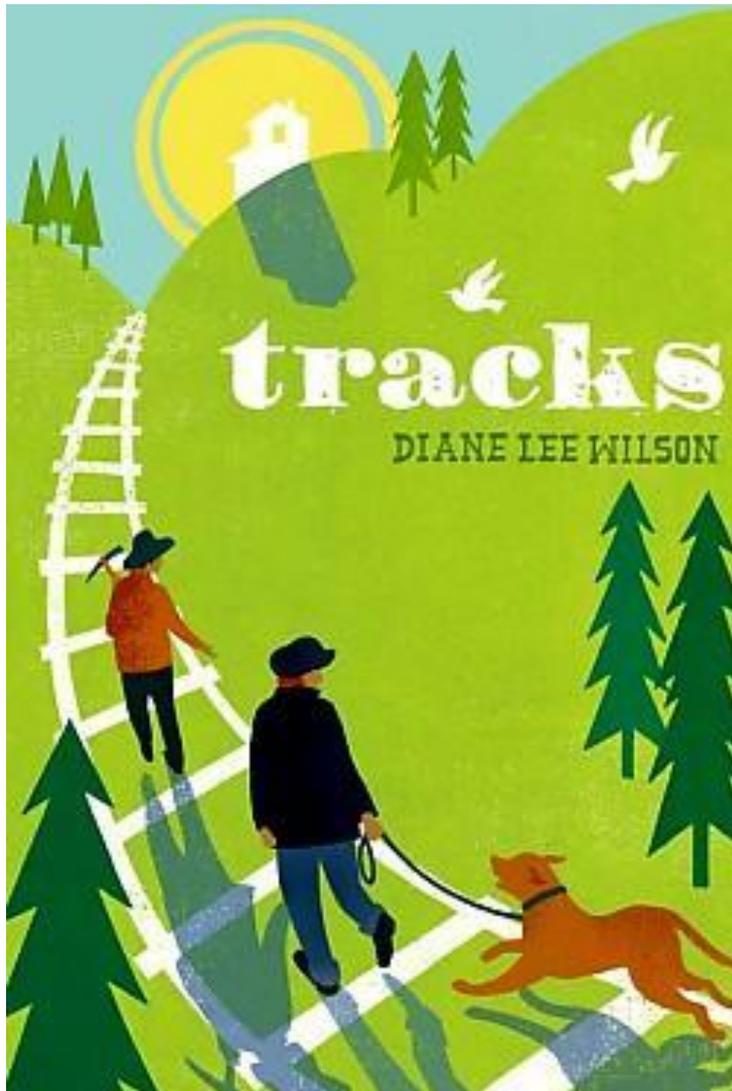


**\$17.00**

Two middle schoolers might be Earth's only defense against an alien takeover. Haley, a slightly neurotic overachiever, wants a summer of adventure that will look good on her college applications. Dodger, a misfit who hears a phantom radio station in his head, hopes to finally find a place where he belongs. Haley and Dodger are brought together when they each receive a grant to study extraterrestrial activity. Their research could give them both what they desperately desire, but only if they can avoid being abducted. Assisted by the mysterious Alto, whose memory seems spotty at best, the two young investigators find themselves at the center of a global conspiracy. Unless the three unlikely heroes can figure out how to thwart the alien threat, Earth is scheduled to be turned into a zoo with mankind as its primary exhibit. Despite the looming takeover, Haley and Dodger face universal questions: Where did I come from? Where am I going? And are pancakes the perfect fuel for adventurers? Quirky characters and an intriguing mystery elevate this story above many other alien encounters.

**\$17.00**

**6.5**



In 1866, 13-year-old Malachy Gormley can't wait to travel west to Cisco, Calif., to join the Central Pacific Railroad Company in its race against the Union Pacific to complete the transcontinental railroad. When his father didn't return from the Civil War, Malachy became the sole provider for his mother and siblings in New York ("I was on my own. It was up to me and me alone to regain my feet and punch the world back"). Malachy works alongside mistreated, underpaid "Chinamen," observing their unfamiliar culture and developing an uneasy friendship with Chun Kwok Keung, a Chinese teenager who Malachy nicknames "Ducks." With an adopted bulldog and a blind but loyal horse, Malachy battles horrendous weather, miserly bosses, daily dangers, loneliness, and guilt about his family's struggles back home. Wilson's (Raven Speak) coming-of-age story plunges readers into the heart of Malachy's character and circumstances (of Irish heritage, Malachy, like the Chinese workers, is no stranger to prejudice).

## 6.2

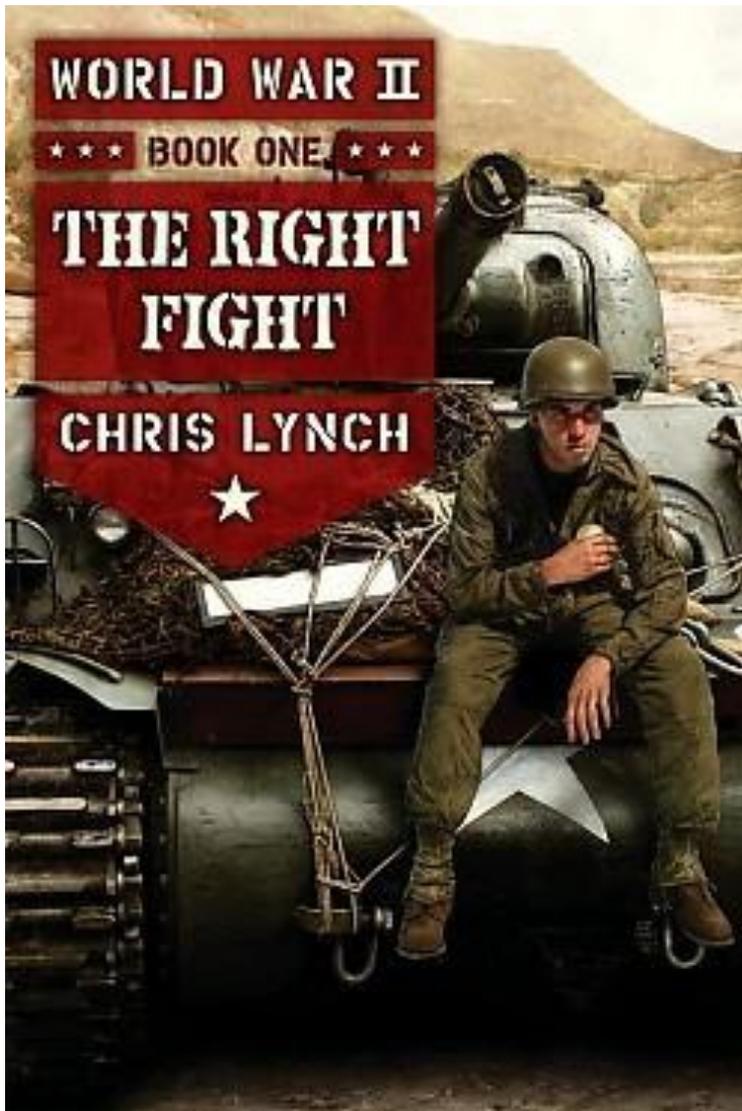


**\$17.00**

Young Jack London continues his supernatural adventures as the authors soup up London's original *The Sea Wolf* to fit the current paranormal craze. In this second installment of their new series, Golden and Lebbon use the major plot points of London's 1904 adventure as a loose framework for a new story that features a teenage Jack fighting werewolves. Most of the names remain the same (but alas, they exclude Oofy-Oofy), although they switch a few--here, this ship is the *Larsen* and the captain is called *Ghost*. London and the brutal captain have philosophical arguments about the virtues of human versus animal nature. Of course, young Jack will wind up fighting the crew of werewolves and *Ghost* himself. Whatever one may think of the worth of the authors' concept, they produce an exciting tale that's written with considerable oomph, and Ruth's bold, charcoal drawings brilliantly capture the book's action. However, their captain doesn't linger in the mind as does London's original *Wolf Larsen*, and their adventure, although suspenseful, pales against London's efforts.

**7.0**

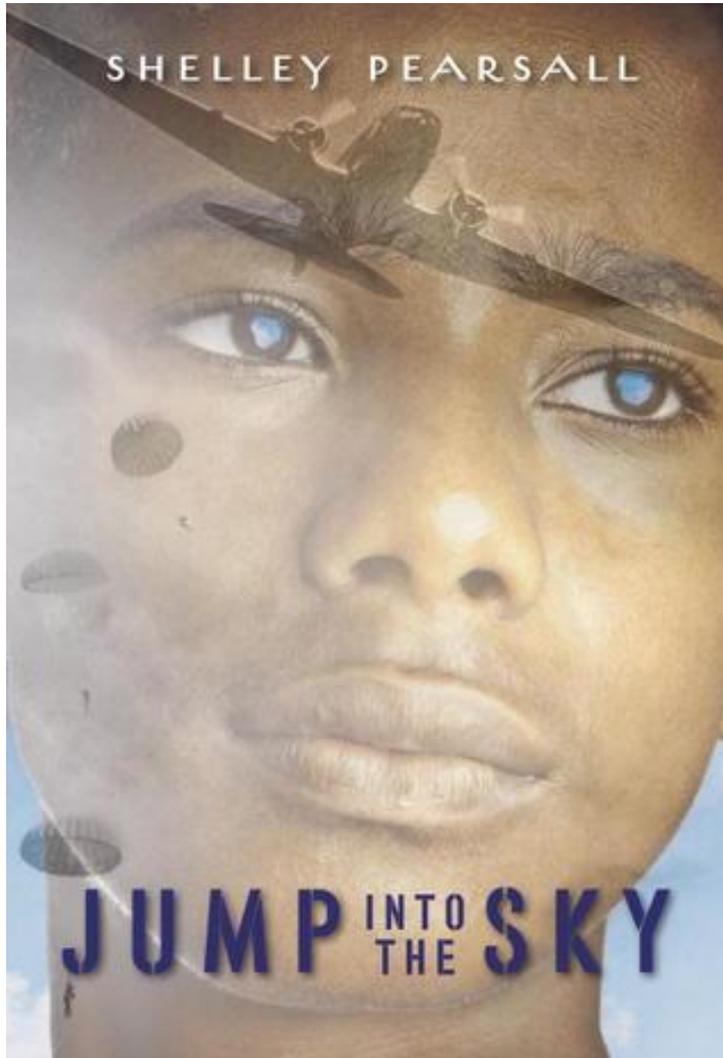
**\$19.00**



Professional baseball player Roman Bucyk realizes that U.S. involvement in the current European war is imminent and decides to enlist. Roman is sent to the African front, first to Algeria and then to Tunisia, where his mediocre baseball talent takes a backseat to his earnest enthusiasm for fighting against the Nazi regime. An often overlooked portion of the war effort, the Allied battle with the German Afrika Korps is well delivered through a first-person narrative and a series of letters to Hannah, his fiancée. The letters also illustrate how the women at home, like Hannah, did their duty by serving in the Women's Army Corps and other military organizations. Roman's youthful optimism, bravado, and fear allow readers to experience a firsthand look into a soldier's life, from long days waiting for orders to the perilous battle arena. Perhaps most affecting is the portrayal of friendships with Roman's military unit, which help highlight the lifelong bonds fellow soldiers formed during and after this war.

**7-8**

**\$22.50**

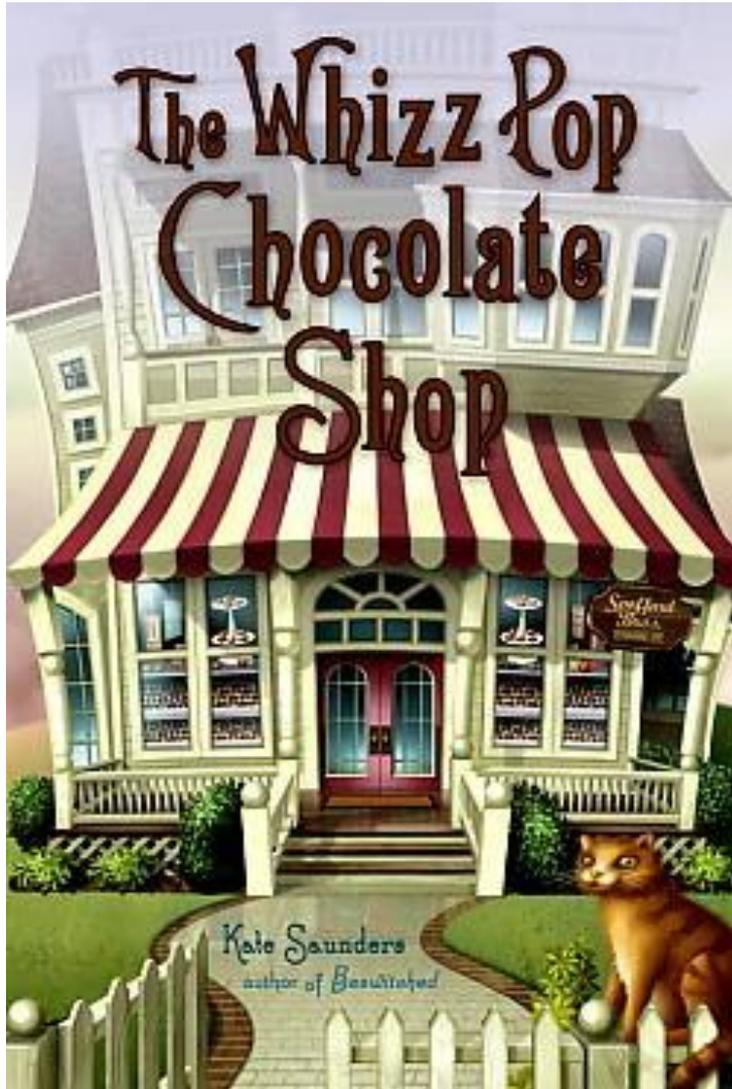


Levi Battle's been left behind all his life. His mother could sing like a bird and she flew away like one, too. His father left him with his grandmother so he could work as a traveling salesman—until Levi's grandmother left this world entirely. Now Levi's staying with his Aunt Odella while his father is serving in the U.S. Army. But it's 1945, and the war is nearly over, and Aunt Odella decides it's time for Levi to do some leaving of his own. Before he can blink, Levi finds himself on a train from Chicago to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where his father is currently stationed—last they knew.

So begins an eye-opening, life-changing journey for Levi.

**\$18.00**

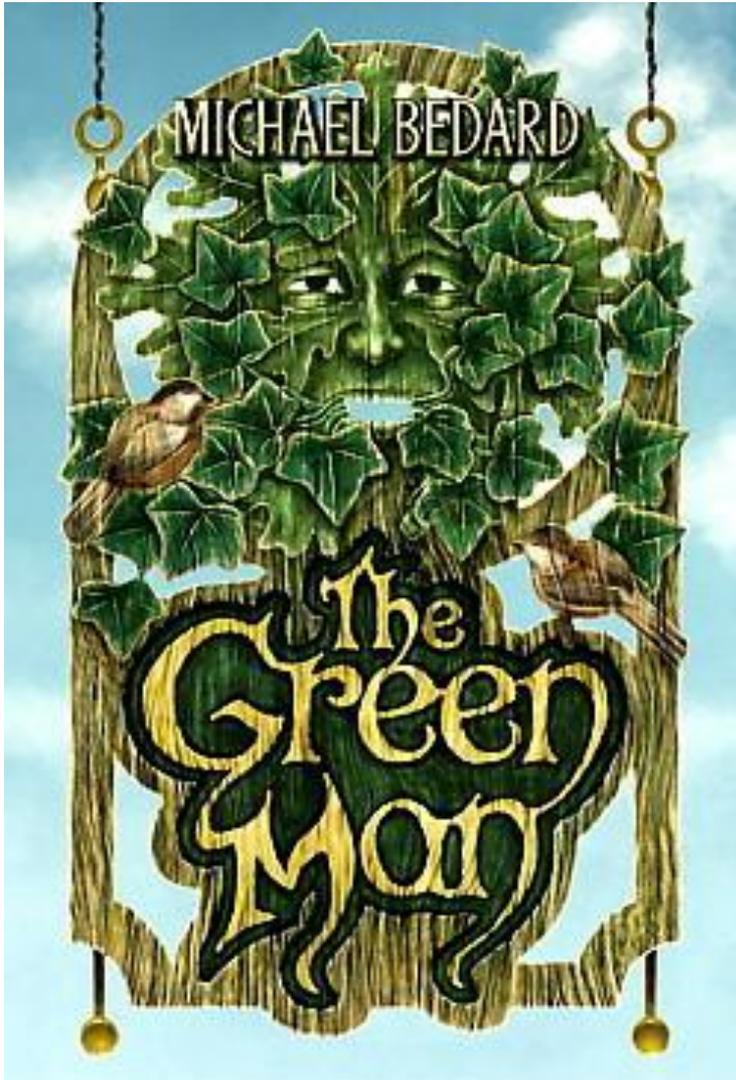
**6.0**



What do you get when you mix chocolate, magic, dyslexia and immortality? Plenty of zany intrigue, that's what. When the Spoffard family inherits 18 Skittle Street, London, twins Lily and Oz are pleased to discover it includes a now-defunct old-fashioned chocolate shop. At first it's just a lark, but soon the kids are drawn into a vortex of historical tensions involving their mysterious triplet relatives--great-great-uncles Pierre and Isadore and great-grandfather Marcel. Ongoing challenges range from fighting off the demands of the Schmertz Gang for magical chocolate and dealing with the Secret Ministry of the Unexplained to assuaging the immortal and evil Isadore's pain over unrequited love for his sister-in-law, Daisy. Helpful cohorts include a skateboarding neighborhood boy named Caydon, with talking-animal assistance provided by a plump cat named Demerara and a rat named Spike. A Time-Glass that shows events from the past and magical postcards add to the fun. Light and fluffy when not bogged down in explanations, the narrative gives occasional overt or implied nods to Harry Potter, James Bond, Narnia and Alice in Wonderland.

6-8

\$19.50



Fifteen-year-old Ophelia, known as O, encounters the unexpected when she spends a transformative summer with her aunt, a poet and the proprietor of a secondhand bookshop called the Green Man, "where extraordinary things [happen]." After receiving a summer grant to study in Italy, O's father sends her to stay with his older sister Emily, "one of the finest poets of her generation." Though "always a poet, always a little odd," Emily's recent heart attack has left her even more "off-center." Emily's eccentricity concerns O, who has recently starting writing poetry. Arriving at the Green Man, O finds Emily frail and distracted. Suffering from debilitating angina and disturbing childhood dreams of an evil magician, Emily has clearly neglected everything. As O tries to restore order to Emily's disintegrating life and business, she falls under the Green Man's spell and is drawn irrevocably into the dark mystery threatening her aunt. United by poetry, O and Emily bond, and, by summer's end, O "joins the ranks of those crazy people who call themselves poets."

8.5

\$15.00



This enchanting collection, retold by writer and critic Naomi Lewis, contains twelve of Hans Christian Andersen's magnificent stories. It includes Thumbelina, a little girl no more than a thumb-joint high, The Emperor's New Clothes, the tale of a man who cares only for his appearance and The Little Mermaid, who longs to one day marry a human prince.

7-8

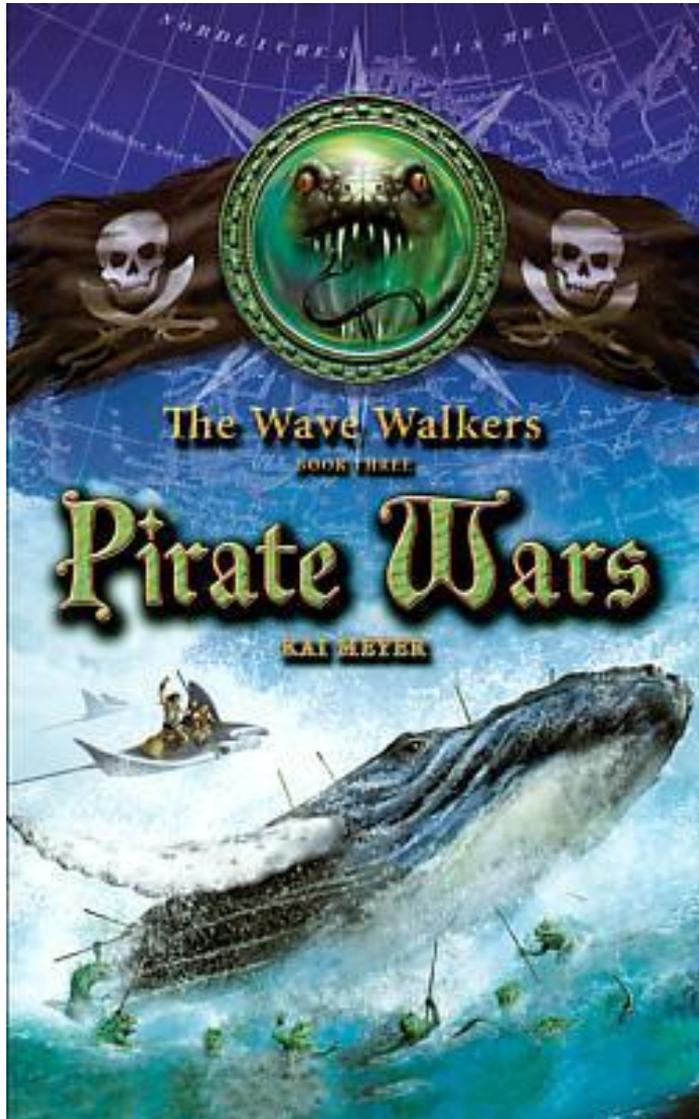
\$17.00



Jonathan Harker is sent by his law firm to Count Dracula's castle to discuss business, but he soon finds himself plunged into a nightmarish race against time to free his love and other lost souls from the Count's horrifying spells...

6.5

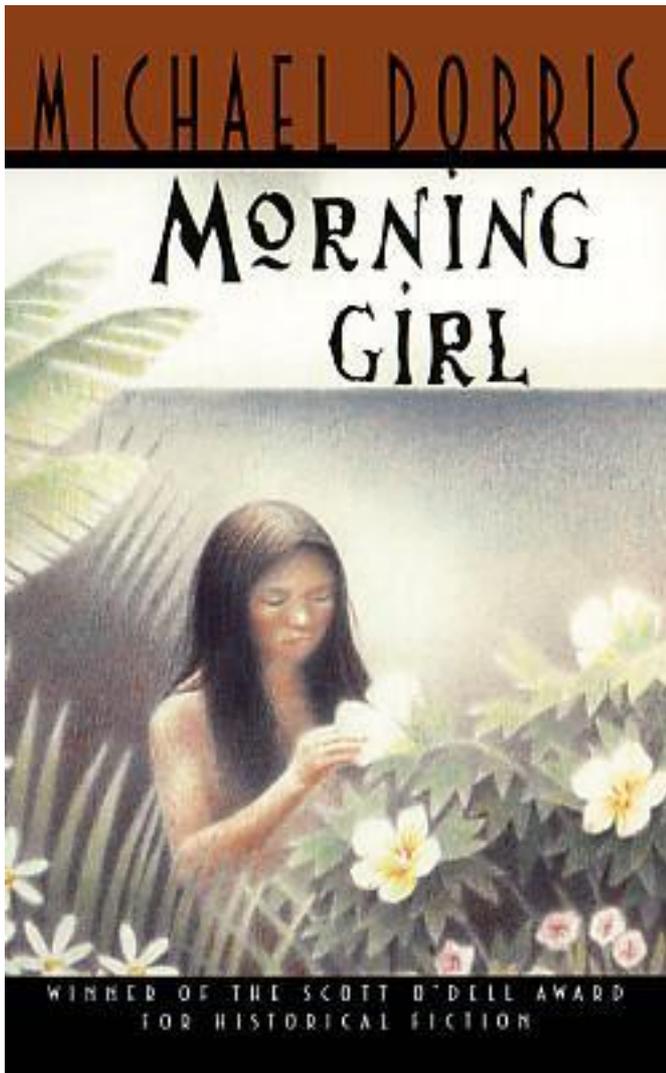
\$15.00



A swashbuckling fantasy trilogy trudges toward a formulaic conclusion in which a mythical city girds for a hopeless battle against overwhelming forces, hoping to provide sufficient diversion to cover the desperate quest of two unlikely heroes to destroy Ultimate Evil. Sound familiar? A bizarre alliance of retired gods, roguish pirates and extraordinary sea beasts defends Aelenium, the sketchily conceived starfish city, from monstrous kobalins of the deeps and the hordes of the cannibal king. Meanwhile, adolescent "polliwogs" Jolly and Munk acquire a problematic companion in Aina, erstwhile enemy--or is she?--of the terrible Maelstrom they must destroy. Cue gory battles, heroic sacrifices, encounters awesome and inexplicable. Just when All Seems Lost, the climactic confrontation turns upon the homely virtues of friendship. The piratical flourishes and campy charm of the previous titles are lost in the rush of plot.

6.3

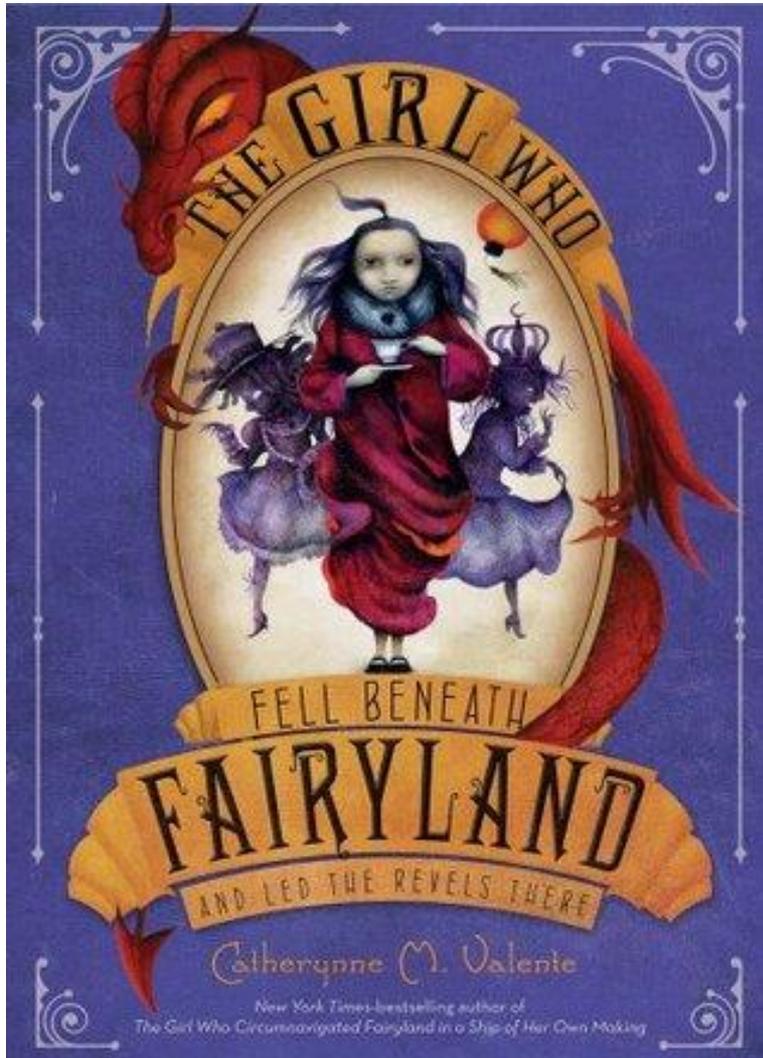
\$15.00



Like the quiet lap of waves on the sand, the alternating introspections of two Bahamian island children in 1492. Morning Girl and her brother Star Boy are very different: she loves the hush of pre-dawn while he revels in night skies, noise, wind. In many ways they are antagonists, each too young and subjective to understand the other's perspective--in contrast to their mother's appreciation for her brother. In the course of these taut chapters concerning such pivotal events as their mother's losing a child, the arrival of a hurricane, or Star Boy's earning the right to his adult name, they grow closer. In the last, Morning Girl greets--with cordial innocence--a boat full of visitors, unaware that her beautifully balanced and textured life is about to be catalogued as "very poor in everything," her island conquered by Europeans. This paradise is so intensely and believably imagined that the epilogue, quoted from Columbus's diary, sickens with its ominous significance.

6.7

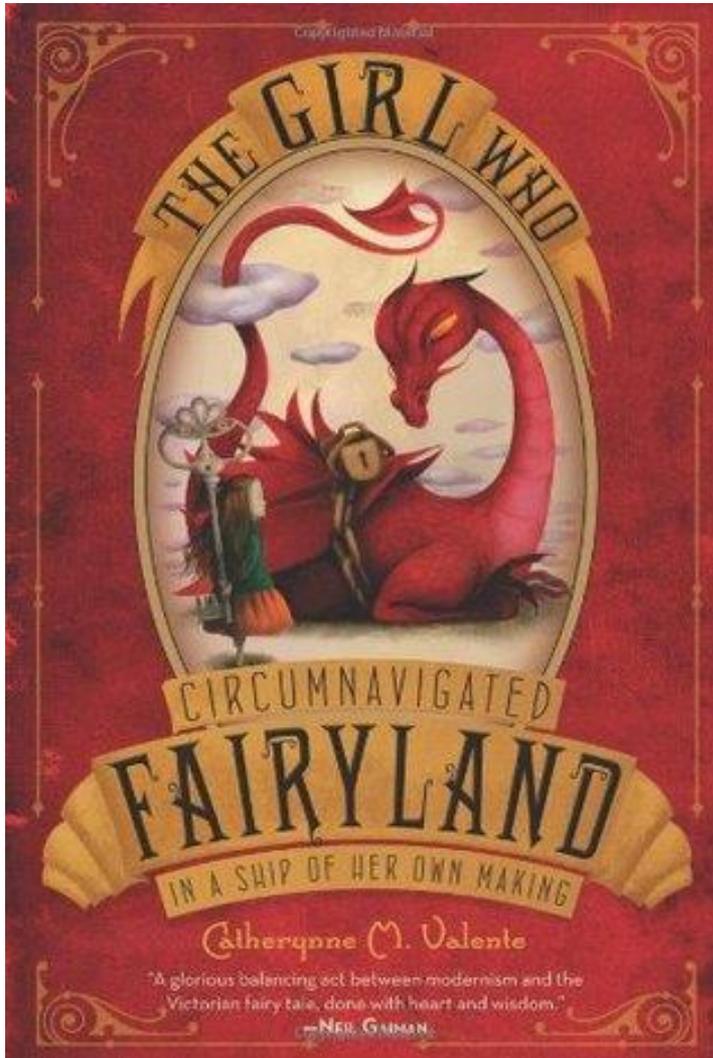
\$16.50



September has longed to return to Fairyland after her first adventure there. And when she finally does, she learns that its inhabitants have been losing their shadows—and their magic—to the world of Fairyland Below. This underworld has a new ruler: Halloween, the Hollow Queen, who is September's shadow. And Halloween does not want to give Fairyland's shadows back.

6.2

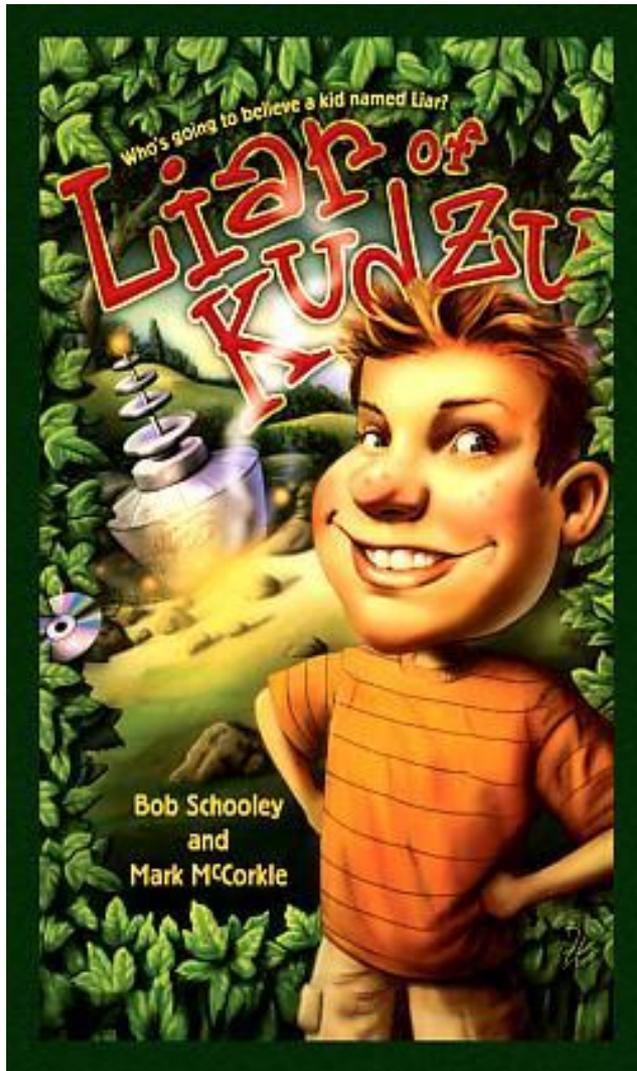
\$16.50



Twelve-year-old September lives in Omaha, and used to have an ordinary life, until her father went to war and her mother went to work. One day, September is met at her kitchen window by a Green Wind (taking the form of a gentleman in a green jacket), who invites her on an adventure, implying that her help is needed in Fairyland. The new Marquess is unpredictable and fickle, and also not much older than September. Only September can retrieve a talisman the Marquess wants from the enchanted woods, and if she doesn't . . . then the Marquess will make life impossible for the inhabitants of Fairyland. September is already making new friends, including a book-loving Wyvern and a mysterious boy named Saturday.

6.1

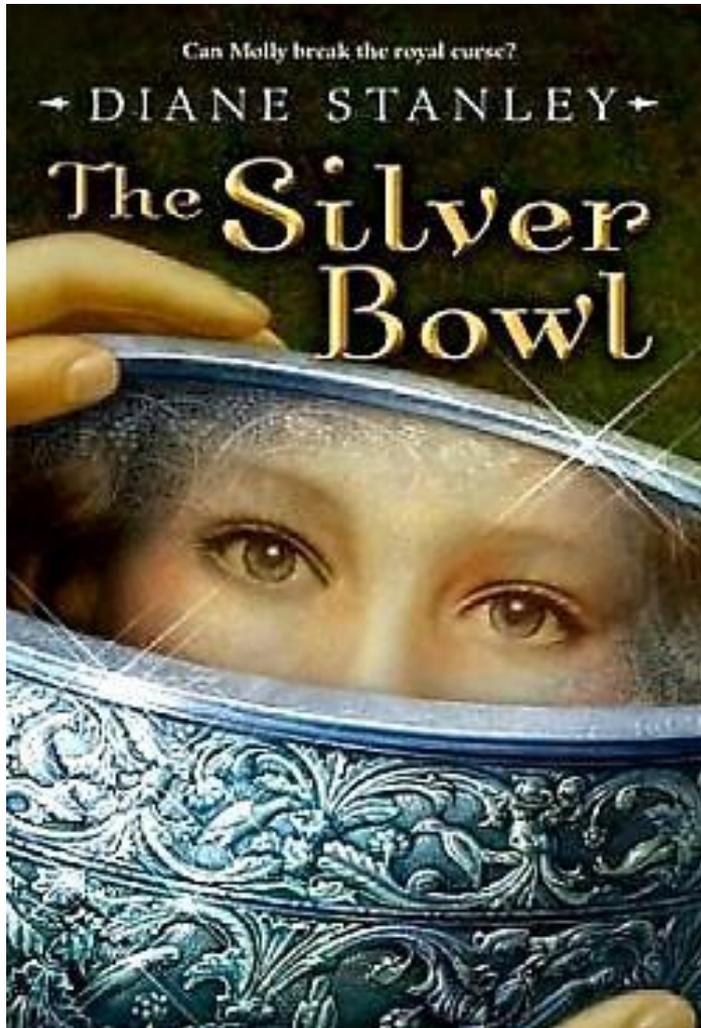
\$17.50



""Everybody calls me Liar. They don't mean no harm by it, it's just a plain fact that I am the finest truth bender in all of Dixon County. And not little weeny white lies. Big fat whopper ones that make people forget the question they asked in the first place.""When a new girl, Justine, moves to town, Pete Larson -- better known as Liar -- is smitten. He gets his chance to impress her after a strange spacecraft crashes in the woods. Along with the class science geek, Bobby Ray Dobbs, they discover that the crashed UFO holds an amazing key to the future. But who's going to believe a kid named Liar?

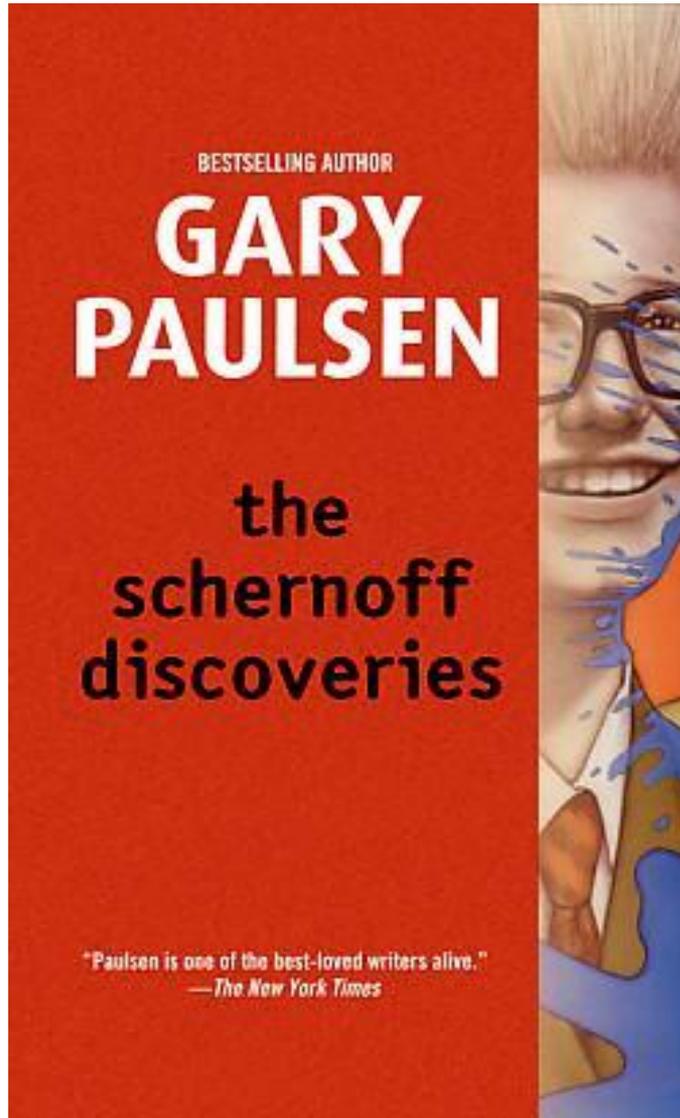
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\$15.50



Molly is a young scullery maid in the castle of King Edmund, and like her mother before her, she sees visions and hears voices that offer glimpses of the future. But is this a blessing or a curse? Surely it is the latter, for if others learn of Molly's strange abilities, they will regard her—as they did her mother—as a madwoman or, worse, a witch. The girl's choice of silence, however, is challenged when she learns that a rumored curse on the royal family is true and only by sharing her visions might they be saved. Combining carefully chosen details of setting with a richly realized fantasy premise, Stanley succeeds in creating a believable world large enough to accommodate not only menace and evil but also loyalty, enduring friendship, and love. The central characters—Molly and her friend, the stable boy Tobias—come wonderfully alive as their story unfolds and their mettle and character are tested. Aside from a small glitch near the end of the book that most readers will cheerfully overlook, Stanley has done a particularly good job of investing her story with plausibility and creating dialogue and a narrative voice that are spot-on in both tone and suitability.

6.0

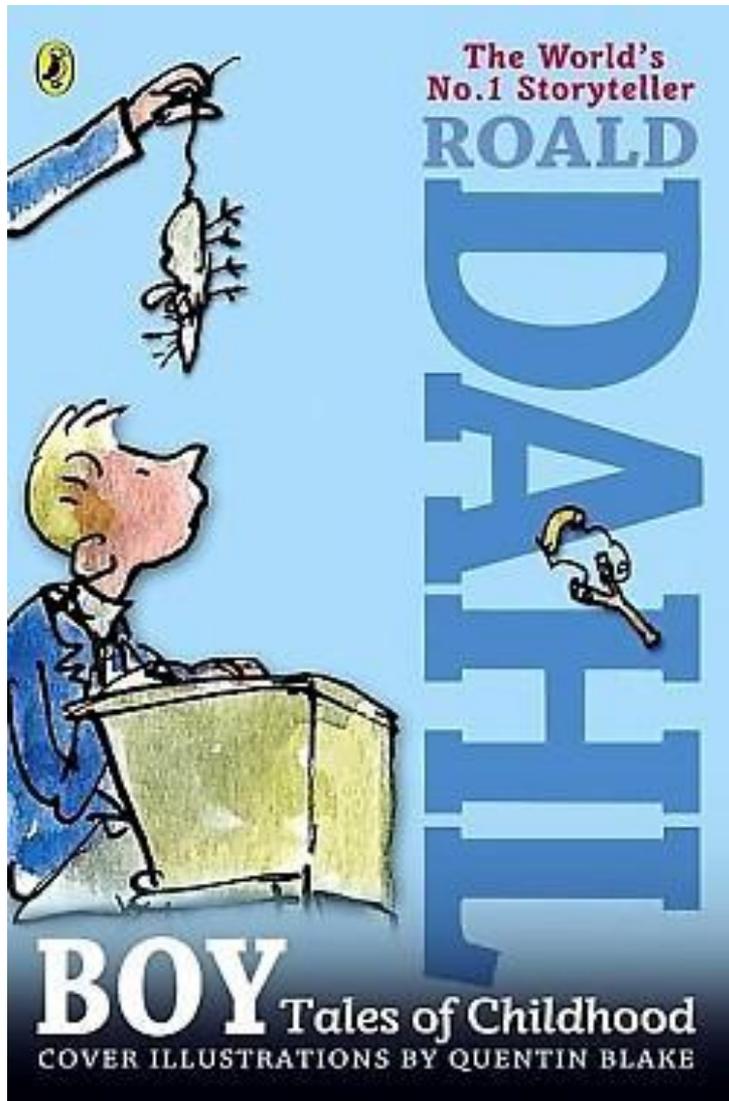


\$15.00

Paulsen's humorous novel, narrated by a 14-year-old, self-confessed geek, focuses on the narrator's friend, Harold. Equally geeky and brainy as well, Harold takes the lead in an episodic series of adventures ranging from the unusual but pragmatic (enrolling in home economics to meet girls) to the sneaky and possibly suicidal (taking revenge on the football players who broke his slide rule by giving them a cake flavored with 43 boxes of chocolate laxatives). The novel's late-1950s setting may limit its appeal somewhat, but Paulsen taps into two factors that haven't become outdated in the last four decades: adolescent angst over popularity with the opposite sex and the broad humor that appeals to some pre-teen and teenage boys

6-8

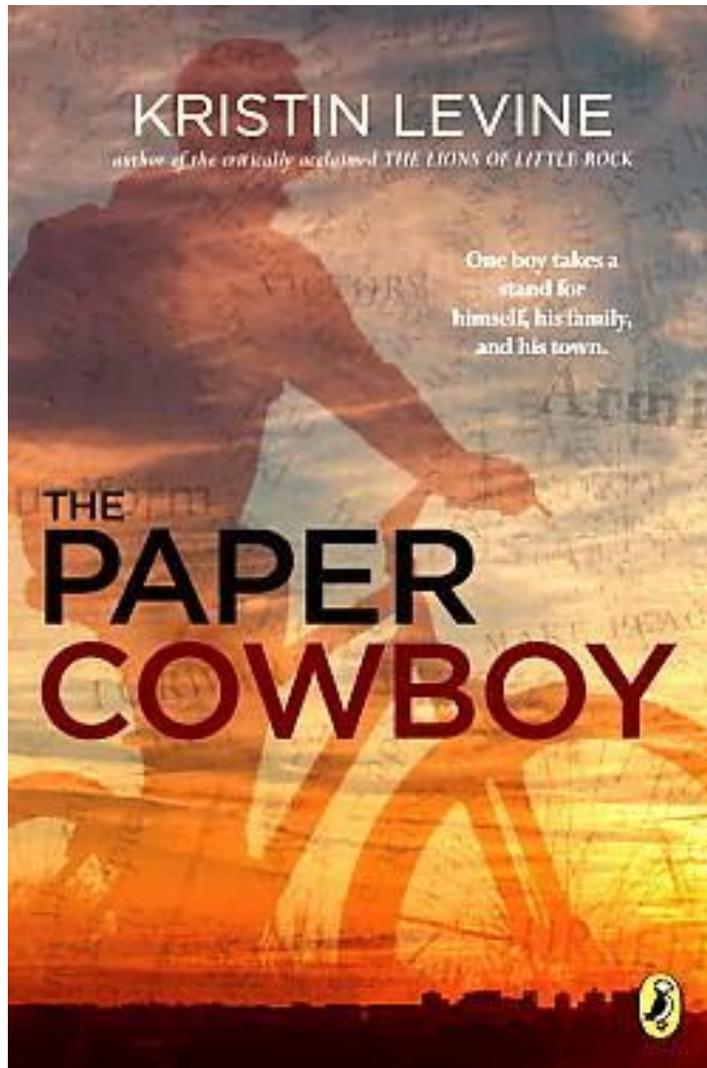
\$15.50



In *Boy*, Roald Dahl recounts his days as a child growing up in England. From his years as a prankster at boarding school to his envious position as a chocolate tester for Cadbury's, Roald Dahl's boyhood was as full of excitement and the unexpected as are his world-famous, best-selling books. Packed with anecdotes -- some funny, some painful, all interesting -- this is a book that's sure to please.

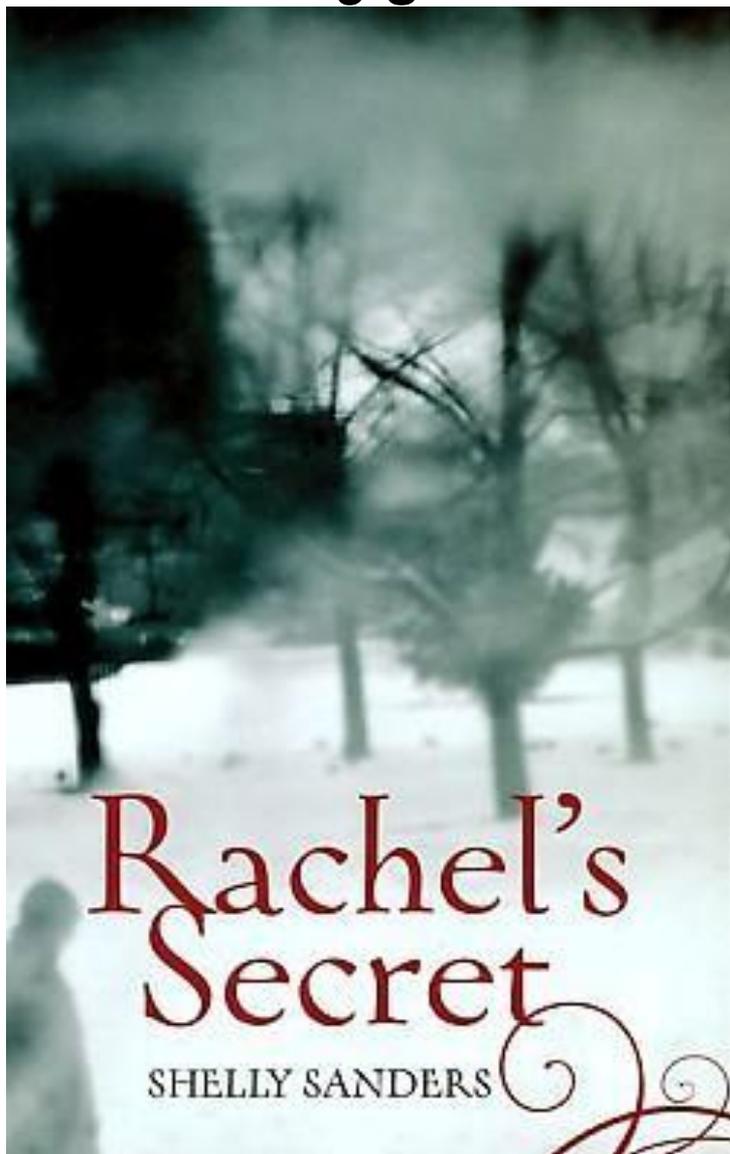
**\$16.50**

**6-8**



In 1950s Downers Grove, Illinois, where tensions over communism run high in the wake of McCarthyism, 12-year-old Tommy wants to be just like Gary Cooper, the ultimate cowboy in *High Noon*. He channels the character while he takes over his injured sister's paper route, but in reality, Tommy is nothing like his idol—he is a bully who all too often gets away with it. He picks on Sam McKenzie, ironically named Little Skinny, and steals from Mr. McKenzie's store. When a thoughtless prank goes wrong, Tommy is suddenly responsible for leading the townspeople to believe that Mr. McKenzie is a communist, and they turn against the store owner with such fervor that he goes out of business. Guilt-ridden, Tommy takes it upon himself to find out who the real communist is, only to find the answer is a lot closer to home than he ever imagined. Though much of Tommy's brutish behavior stems from his home life, including a mother with an undiagnosed and untreated mental illness, Levine never exaggerates this connection, allowing readers to draw their own conclusions. A sophisticated, powerful story about a community's ability to help one another out, and the paper cowboy who helps bring them together.

6-8

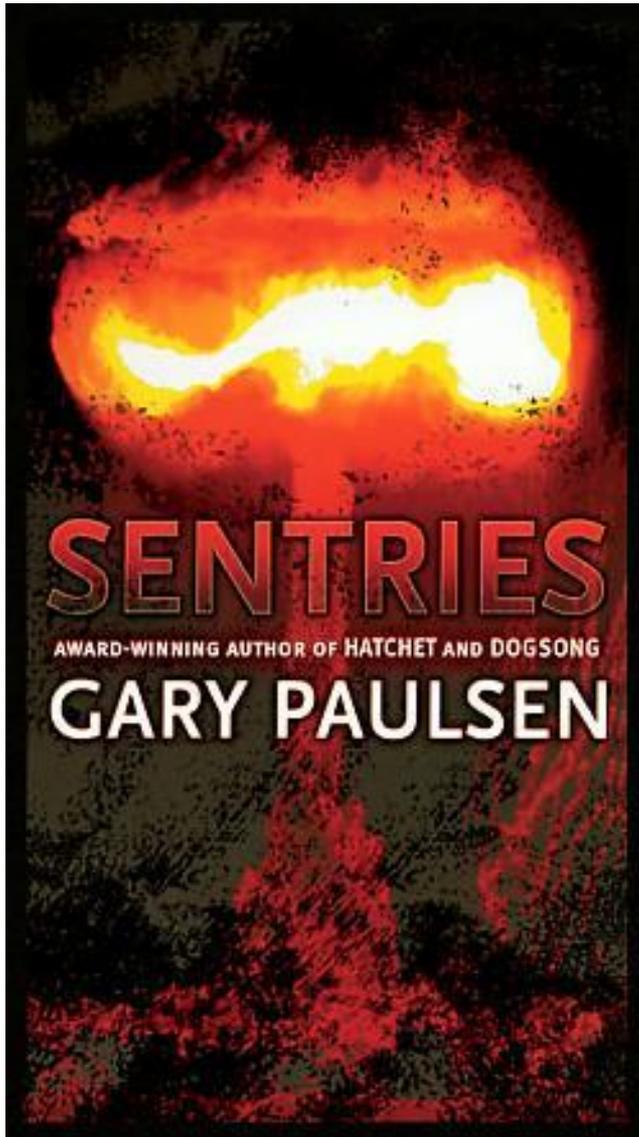


**\$18.50**

1903, the Russian city of Kishinev erupted in violence as a mob of Christians descended upon the Jews, slaughtering many and leaving hundreds wounded. The catalyst for the riot was the murder of a Christian boy, Mikhail Rybachenko. After his death, the local newspaper began publishing reports that Jews were responsible. Soon rumors ran rampant in the city, inciting hatred. In this novel based on that event, 14-year-old Rachel, a Jewish girl, witnesses the murder and knows that Mikhail's uncle killed him, but is too terrified to tell what she saw. Sergei, a Christian and friend of the victim, is attracted to her, and she eventually confesses her secret to him. He plans to tell his police-chief father, believing that he will take care of everything. However, his father dismisses his claims and does nothing to stop the resulting riots. Rachel and Sergei are left feeling haunted by their inability to do anything

7-8

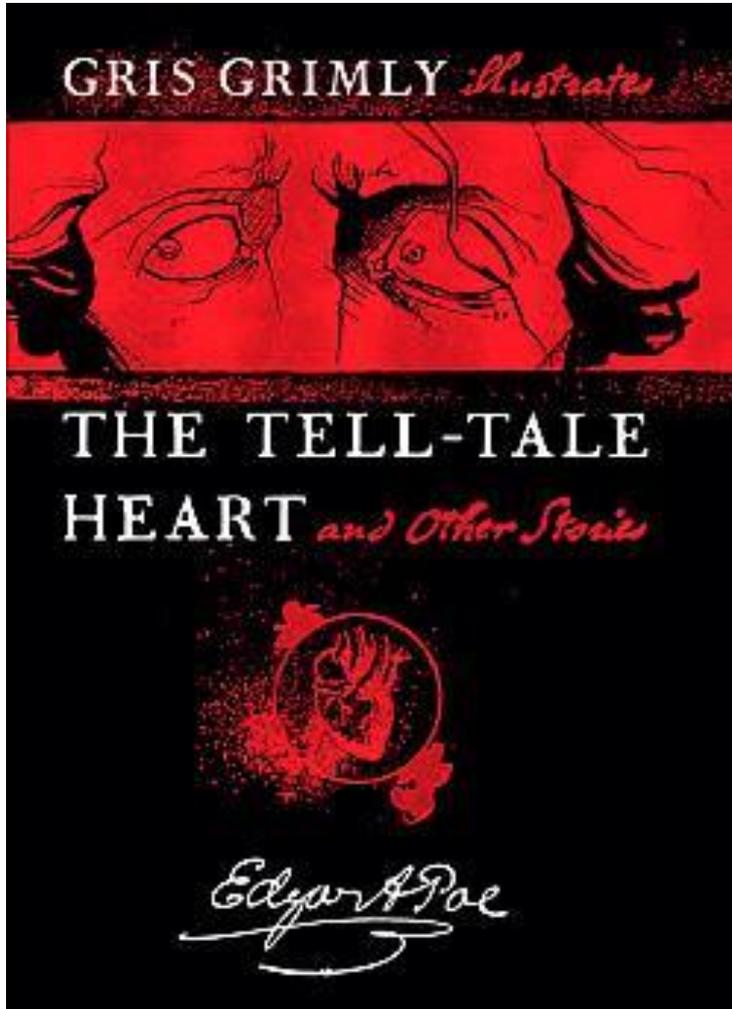
\$15.00



Four young adults come to dramatic realizations that would profoundly alter their futures. . .if the world survived. Sue Oldhorn, a 17-year-old Ojibway, enjoys her job but is tormented by her grandfather's musings on the Indian heritage she ignores; then she meets Alan, an Indian so proud of his roots that he lives a primitive, idyllic forest life. David Garcia leaves Mexican poverty for the US with dreams of sending money back to his family, but after an agonizing day hoeing beets in Nebraska he realizes the hard life in store here. Laura Hayes, a Montana high-school senior, longs to help run the family ranch, but her father sends her to school; eventually, she draws the family together in a new acceptance of individuality. Peter Shackleton's band is breaking big, yet he abhors the phoniness of the rock scene and yearns to release a musical sound to unite an audience as one, a goal he finally achieves.

7-8

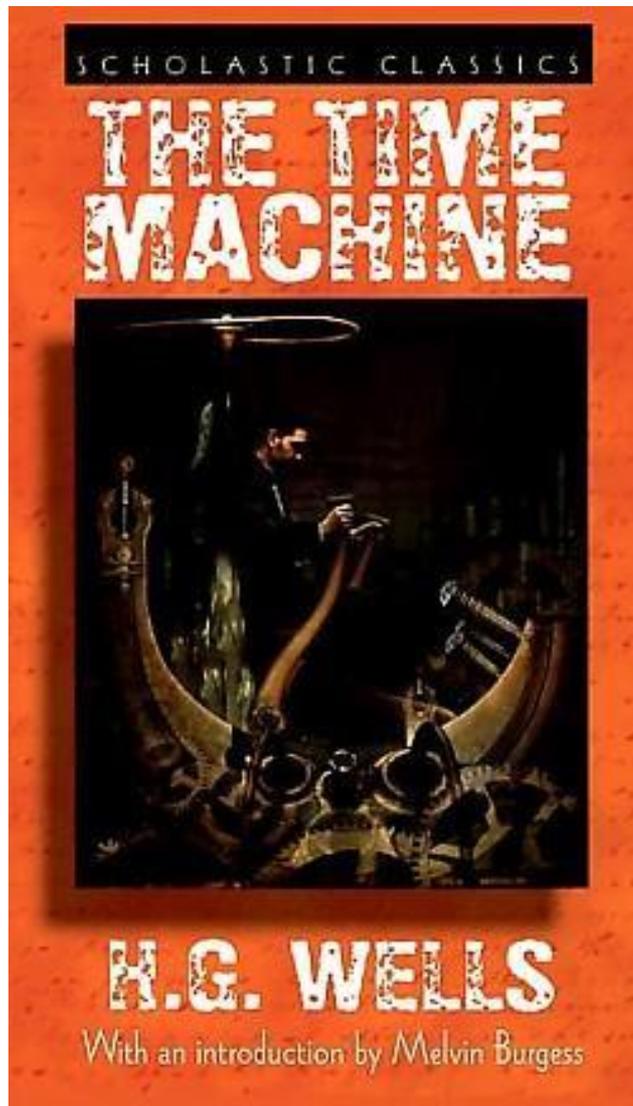
\$19.50



The tell-tale heart -- The system of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether -- The oblong box -- The facts in the case of M. Valdemar. Contains illustrated adaptations of four stories by nineteenth-century American horror writer Edgar Allan Poe, including "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Oblong Box," "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar," and "The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether."

6-8

\$18.00

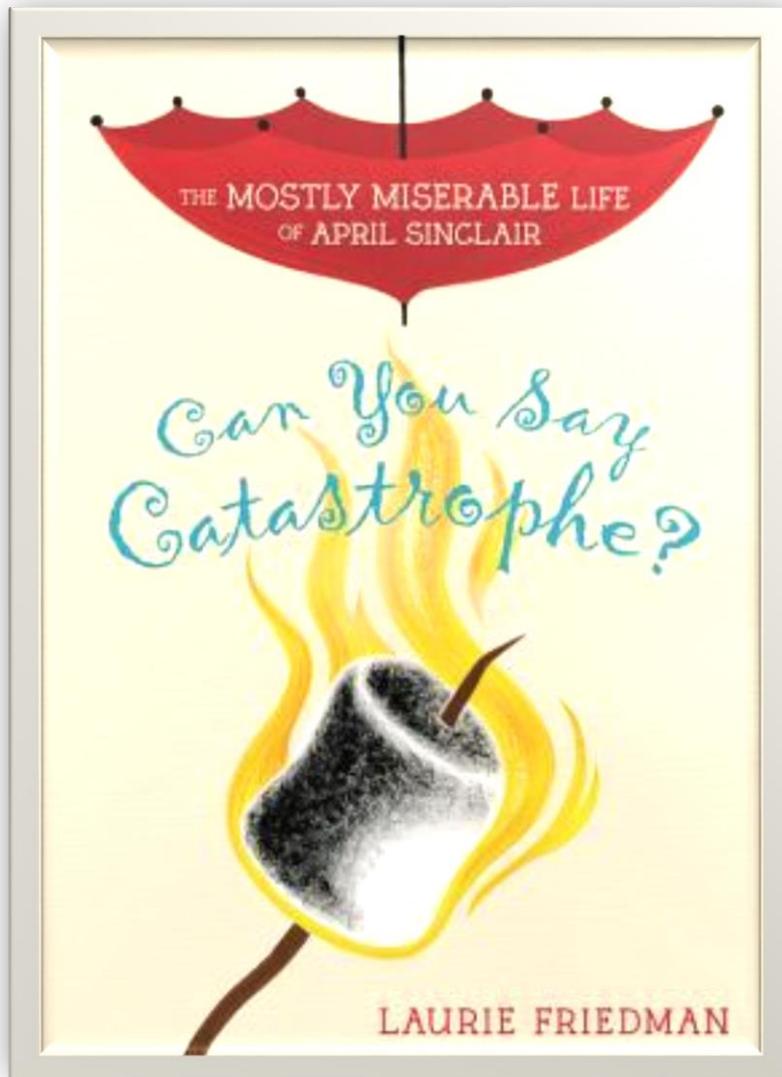


**“I’ve had a most amazing time....”**

So begins the Time Traveller’s astonishing firsthand account of his journey 800,000 years beyond his own era—and the story that launched H.G. Wells’s successful career and earned him his reputation as the father of science fiction. With a speculative leap that still fires the imagination, Wells sends his brave explorer to face a future burdened with our greatest hopes...and our darkest fears. A pull of the Time Machine’s lever propels him to the age of a slowly dying Earth. There he discovers two bizarre races—the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks—who not only symbolize the duality of human nature, but offer a terrifying portrait of the men of tomorrow as well.

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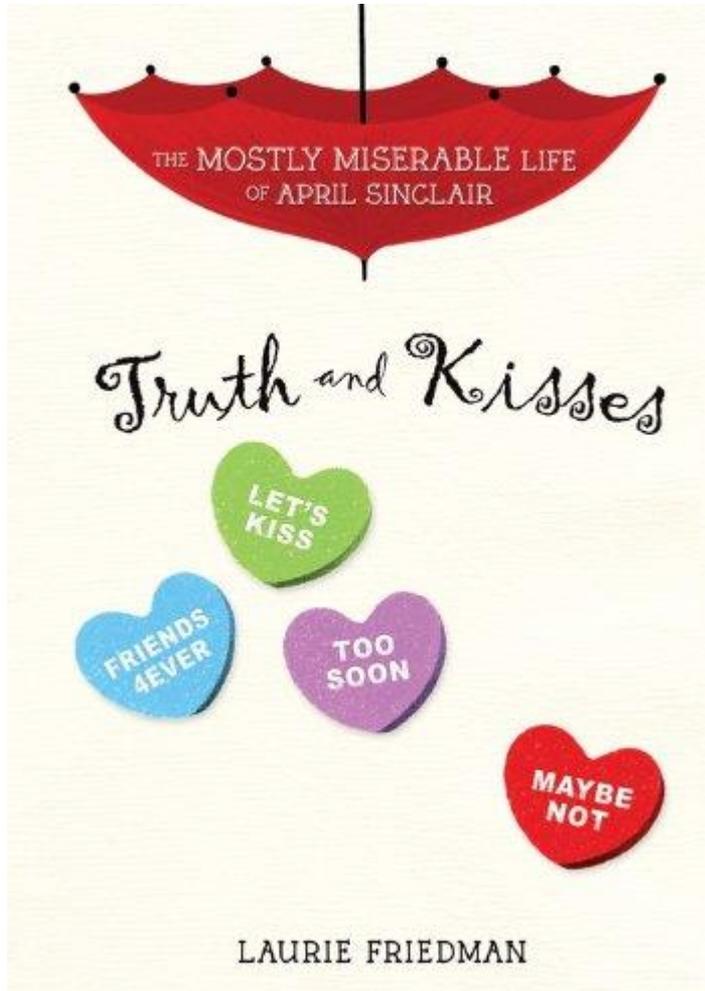
\$20.50



April Sinclair just wants what any normal thirteen-year-old would want: to disown her parents and obnoxious little sisters; to escape to summer camp ASAP with her two best friends, Billy and Brynn; and to make a good impression on Matt Parker, the hot new boy next door. Unfortunately, Matt witnesses April's utter humiliation at her birthday party. Just as April is trying to figure things out, her parents cancel her camp plans in lieu of a family RV trip. A summer of babysitting her sisters and "re-bonding" with her family isn't how she imagined life as a teenager. And it certainly won't help her straighten out her feelings about Billy or Matt. Is there any silver lining to a road trip in *The Clunker* with her family of misfits?

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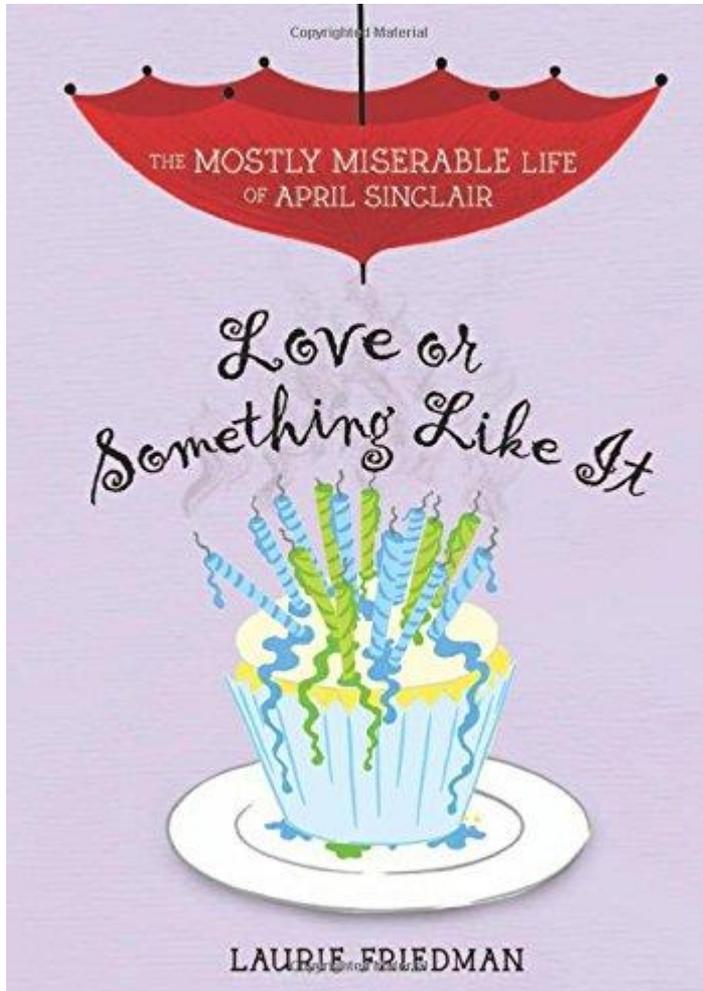
\$20.50



April has a New Year's resolution to start the year off right—get back together with sweet, funny Billy. They've been friends forever, her family loves him, and he's even class president this year. But she keeps getting stuck on several questions: What does Billy think about her? What's going on between Billy and their friend Brynn? And why does she feel she needs to keep her friendship with Matt Parker, her hot neighbor, a secret? When Cupid throws April a curve ball, she's faced with a new problem: how does a girl follow her heart when old friendships, new friendships, and her family's trust are on the line?

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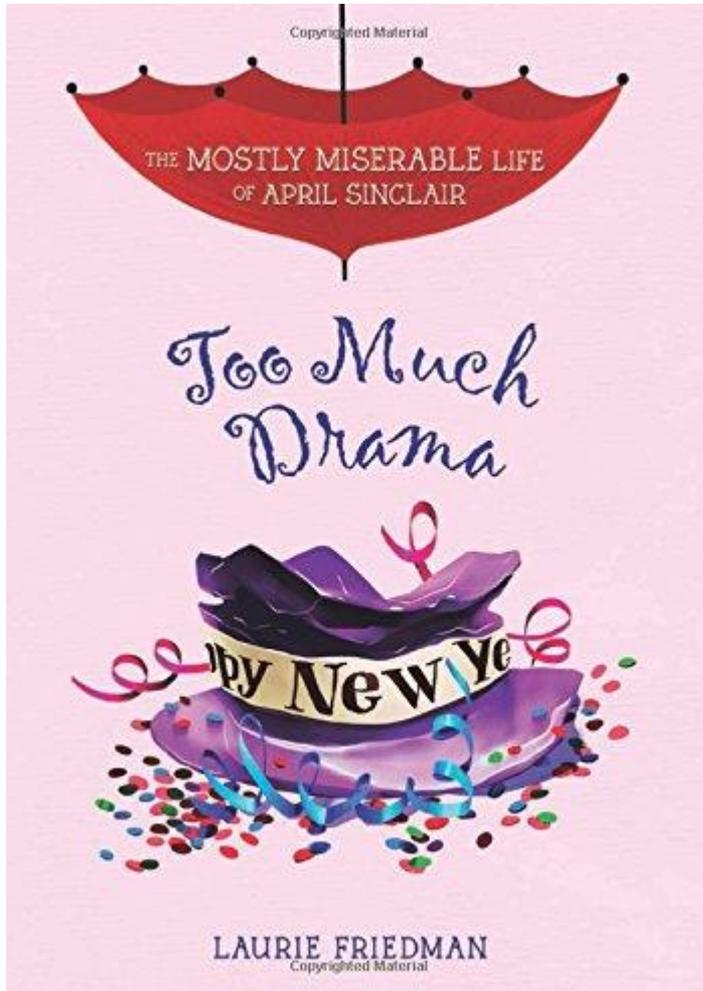
\$20.50



Now that April is officially going out with hot-boy-next-door Matt, she's head over heels. She loves how he makes her feel . . . most of the time. But one minute he's sweet and attentive, and the next, it's as if he's forgotten they're together. April just wants things to be great between them, like when they started going out. Now as summer approaches, she has to decide if she'll go to camp with her best friends, Billy and Brynn, or stay home and be with Matt. April wishes she could do it all--keep up with friends, have summer adventures, please her annoying family, and save her new relationship. But with Matt's affection running so hot and cold, she has some tough decisions to make.

6-8

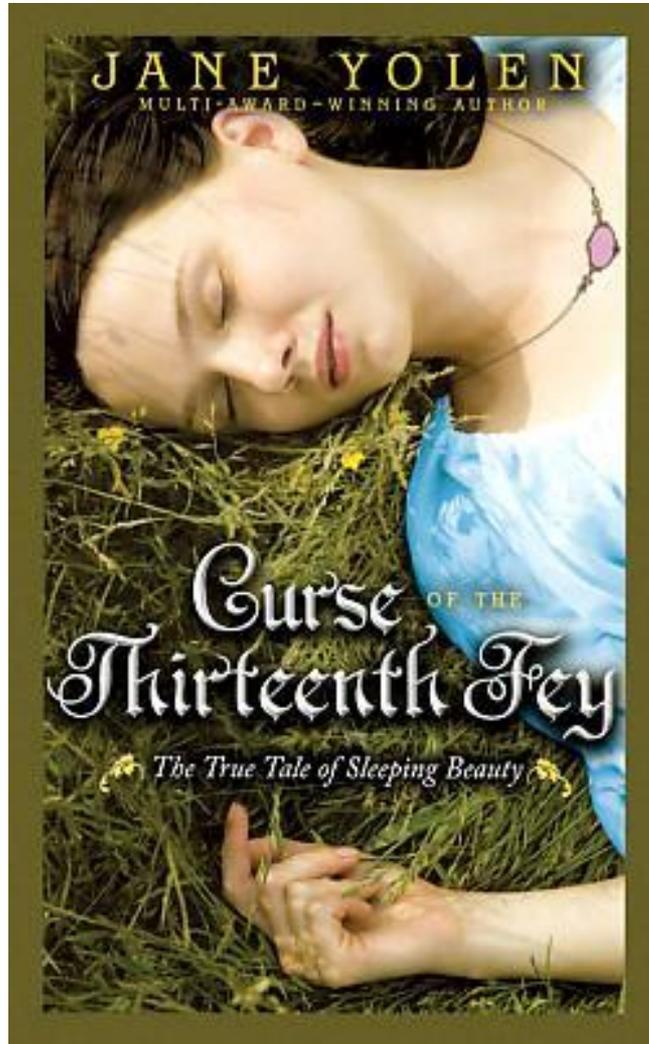
\$20.50



A few months into freshman year, April thought her rocky friendship with her childhood BFF, Brynn, was improving. But then Brynn blames April for the breakup with her boyfriend, Billy, and soon other girls on the dance team do too. Meanwhile, April's cousin Sophie seems to like Billy—and vice versa—putting April awkwardly in the middle. On top of it all, April can't figure out what to make of being maybe-friends-maybe-more with sixteen-year-old genius Leo, now that he's leaving for college a few hours away. As a new calendar year kicks off, April just wants a clean start—but high school is messy business.

**\$15.50**

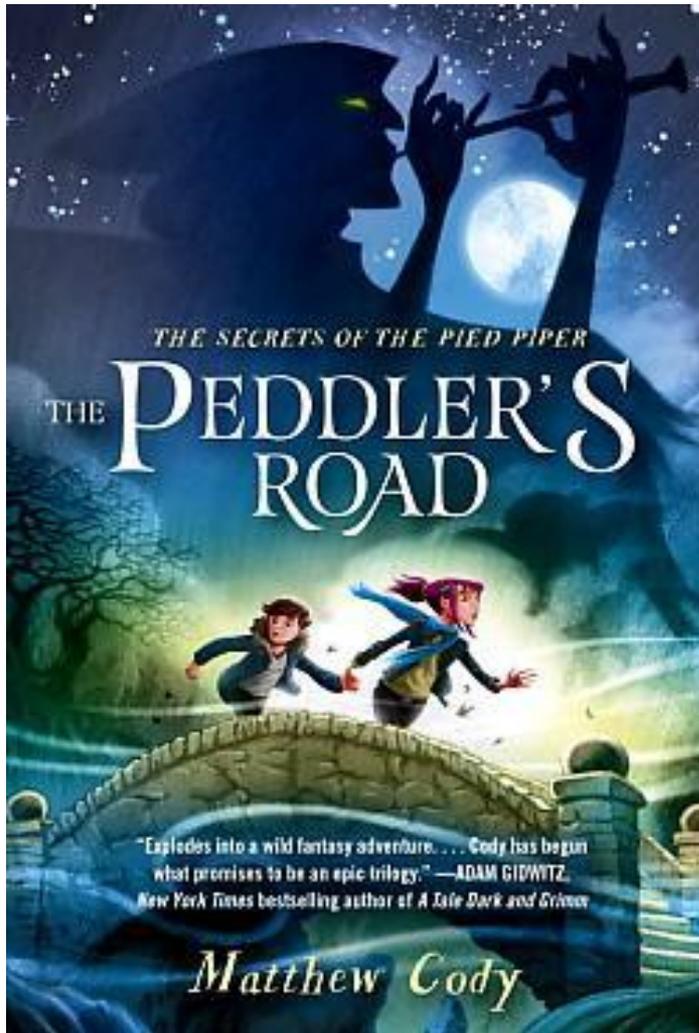
**5-8**



Despite its misleading cover image of Sleeping Beauty, this is quite a nice back story as to how and why that last fairy was late to her christening. Yolen takes off from a handful of short stories she published in the mid-1980s and engages readers with the voice of Gorse, the 13th fey of the title, youngest child of her Irish Elven father and her mother, who is of the Shouting Fey. Despite her heritage, magic--using it or even being around it--always makes Gorse ill. She is sick when the rest of the family is called to the fateful christening, and her hurrying, late, with a magic spindle for a gift lands her down a hole--with allusions to both Alice's rabbit hole and a wormhole--with a prince and his loyal companion. These two have been imprisoned together in caves inhabited by a furry and smelly lot of creatures for generations. The relationship between Grey and Orybon is silken with loyalty and betrayal, and Yolen studies it carefully through Gorse's eyes. They expect Gorse to rid them of the curse that keeps them imprisoned, and she does, although not in the way anyone expects. The pages are peppered with subtle references to everything from Lord of the Rings to Emily Dickinson, and Gorse grows in both cleverness and thoughtfulness as the story unwinds. A graceful and absorbing look at a familiar villain.

6-8

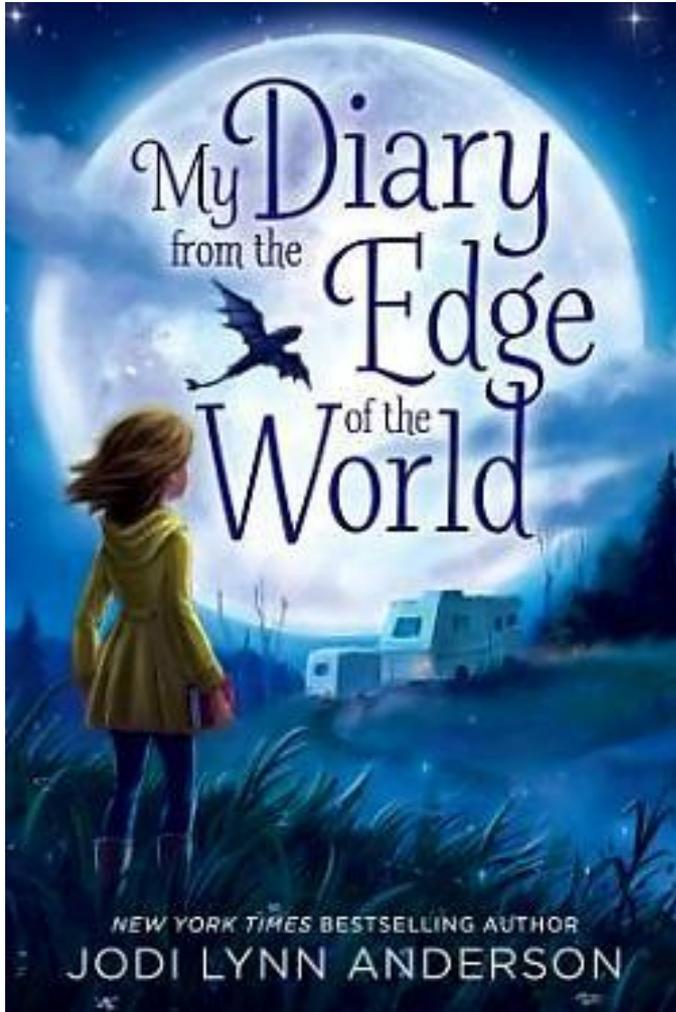
\$23.50



In this first book in the Secrets of the Pied Piper trilogy, Cody (Villainous) seeks to answer some of the mysteries surrounding the famous legend. Did it actually happen? Who was this enigmatic piper? And what became of the children he led away? The book opens with 10-year-old Carter and his older sister, Max, reacting very differently to their trip to the German town of Hamelin, where their father is researching the folktale. Despite his clubfoot, Carter wants to explore with his sister, while Max would rather sulk and dye her hair pink. After the siblings are magically transported to an enchanted island where the long-missing children from the tale still live, they must embark on a perilous journey to fulfill a prophecy in hopes of returning everyone home. Shifting among various characters' perspectives, this engaging story introduces a world filled with human-size rats, magicians, kobolds, elves, ghosts, and more

**7.0**

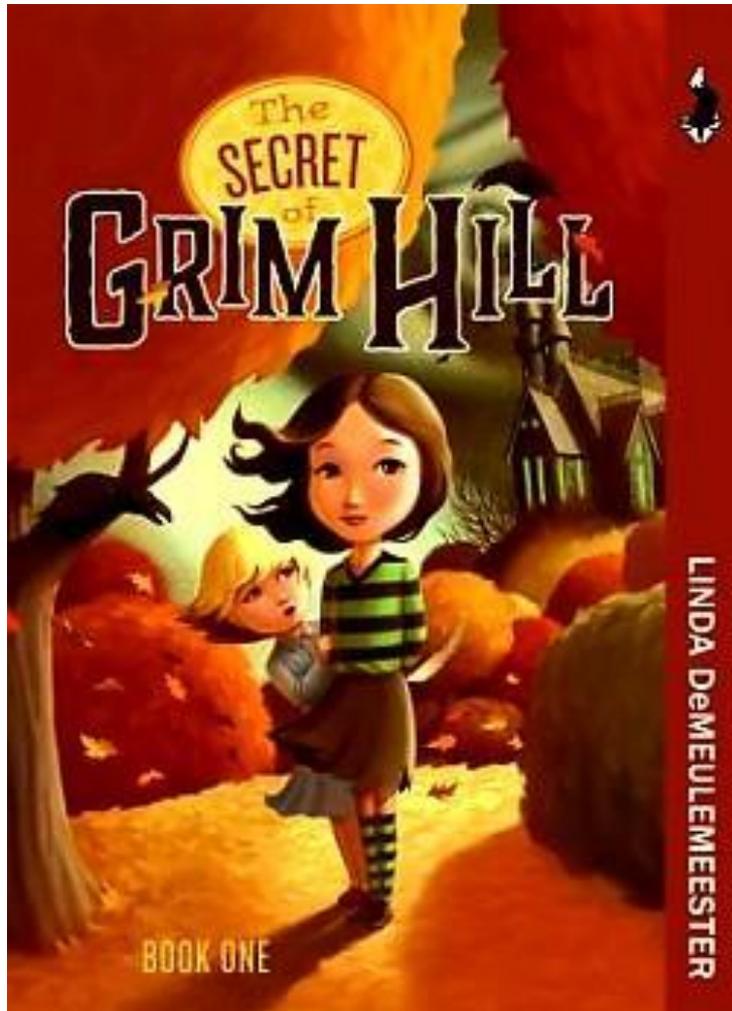
**\$17.00**



Living in Camden, Maine, 12-year-old Gracie Lockwood is used to dragons, giants, and vampires. Even her grandmother, a witch living in the Smokey Mountains, keeps ghosts in her backyard. When a Dark Cloud, a harbinger of death, arrives at the family's doorstep, Gracie, her siblings, their parents, and her orphaned friend Oliver escape their beloved town in a Winnebago. They embark on a journey across the country in search of the Extraordinary World, a place without supernatural beings, believed to be a myth by everyone except Gracie's absent-minded father. Anderson (Tiger Lily) infuses the novel, written in the form of Gracie's diary, with effervescent magic and harrowing adventure, and every enticing cliffhanger makes it difficult to put down. Gracie and family weather a soul-stealing genie, phantom ships, and a weak-kneed guardian angel named Virgil in their escape from death, only to discover the necessity in accepting one's fate and the importance of family.

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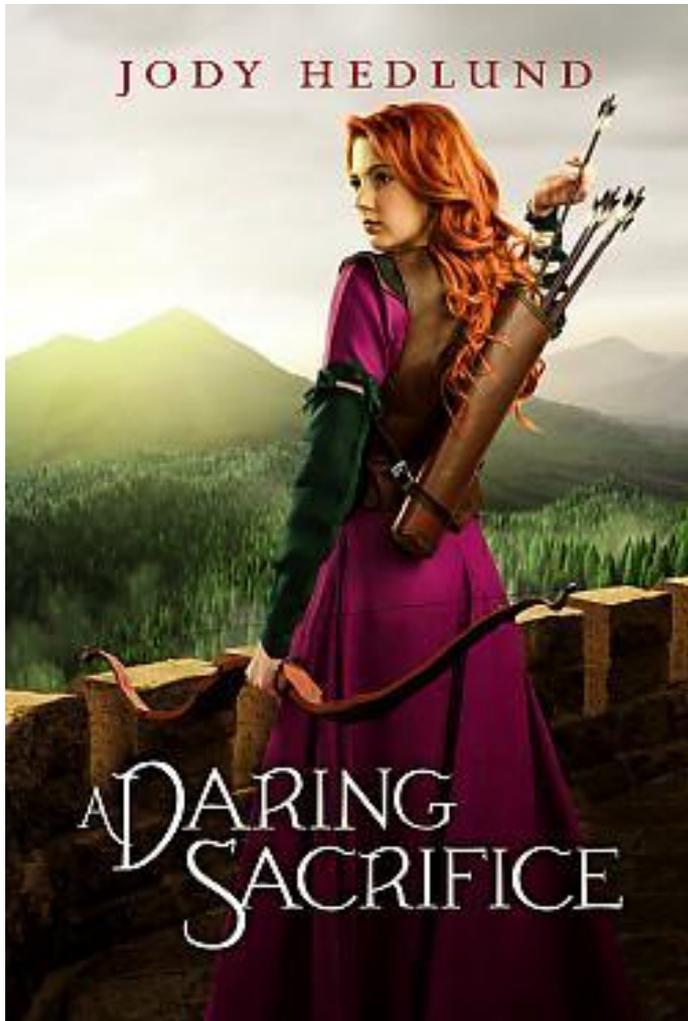
\$13.50 (pbk)



The new kid at Darkmont High, Cat Peters is already desperate to get out. So when she hears that Grimoire, the private school nearby, is offering scholarships to the winners of a Halloween soccer match, Cat jumps at the chance to apply, despite her sister Sookie's warnings that there's something creepy about the old school on the hill. Sookie's worries are confirmed when they uncover a mystery about an entire soccer team that disappeared many years ago. Further investigation leads Cat to a book about ancient Celtic mythology, and she soon realizes that there is something truly wicked at work inside the walls of Grimoire.

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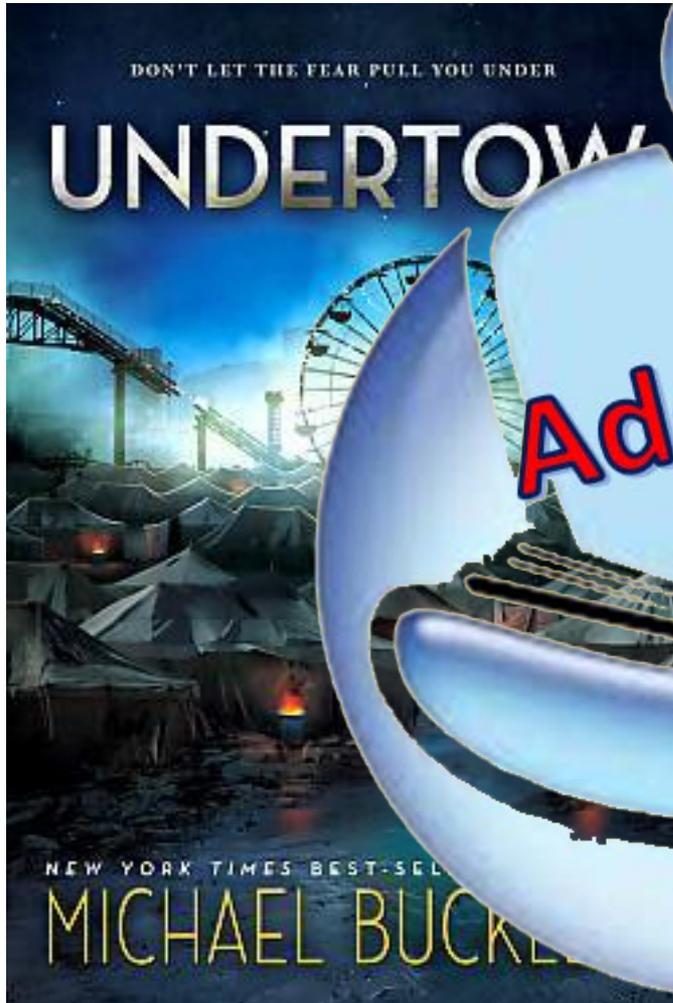
\$13.50 (pbk)



In a reverse twist on the Robin Hood story, a young medieval maiden stands up for the rights of the mistreated, stealing from the rich to give to the poor. All the while, she fights against her cruel uncle who has taken over the land that is rightfully hers. Forced to live in the woods and hide with the poor people she's grown to love, she works to save and protect them, but she never anticipates falling in love with the wealthy knight who represents all she's come to despise.

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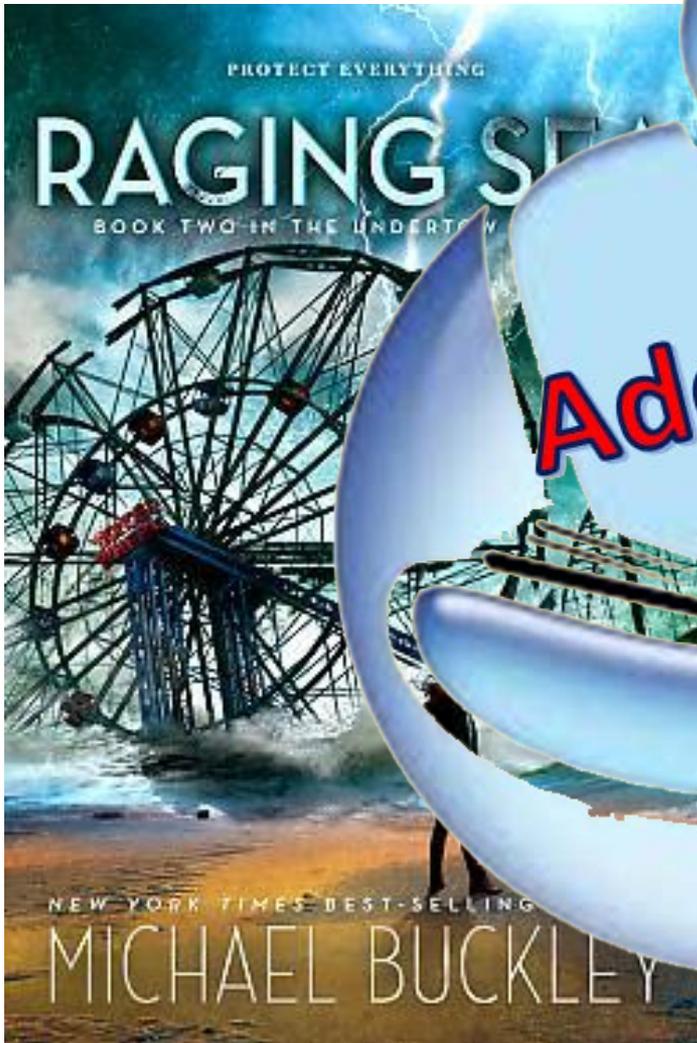
\$19.00



Eric Walker has lived her whole life on  
oney Island, and it has always been a  
eird place, but it's even stranger now  
that the Alpha—a warrior race of  
ater beings with sea-creature-  
es—have taken up residence  
ch. Their presence is a major  
oast, and when several  
ric's high school,  
y engulfs the  
at's the least of  
mother is secretly  
is discovered, her  
ed and secreted  
horrible. It's only by  
oddingly handsome  
of the Alpha, that she  
family's safe escape.  
herself powerfully  
n, however, she is in  
more than ever.

7-8

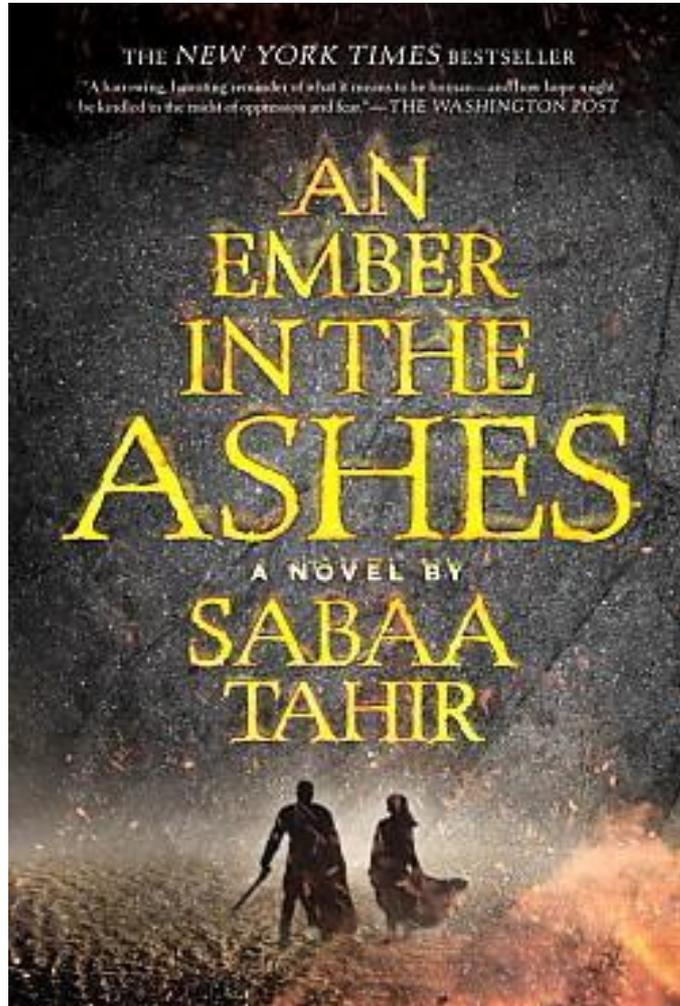
\$19.00



The first book of Michael Buckley's Undertow trilogy, the Alpha arrived and the world was not the same. At the start of the second book, most of south Florida is in ruins and the survivors are few. Nearly everyone is dead. Nearly everyone is gone. Lyric Walker loves his mother for presumed dead. He is the mesmerizing narrator. It is up to Lyric to save the world before the second wave of cataclysmic events hits. The Undertow trilogy is an incredible reading experience. At author E. J. ... "Allegorical and ... the book nevertheless ... like an action movie with especially awesome CGI."

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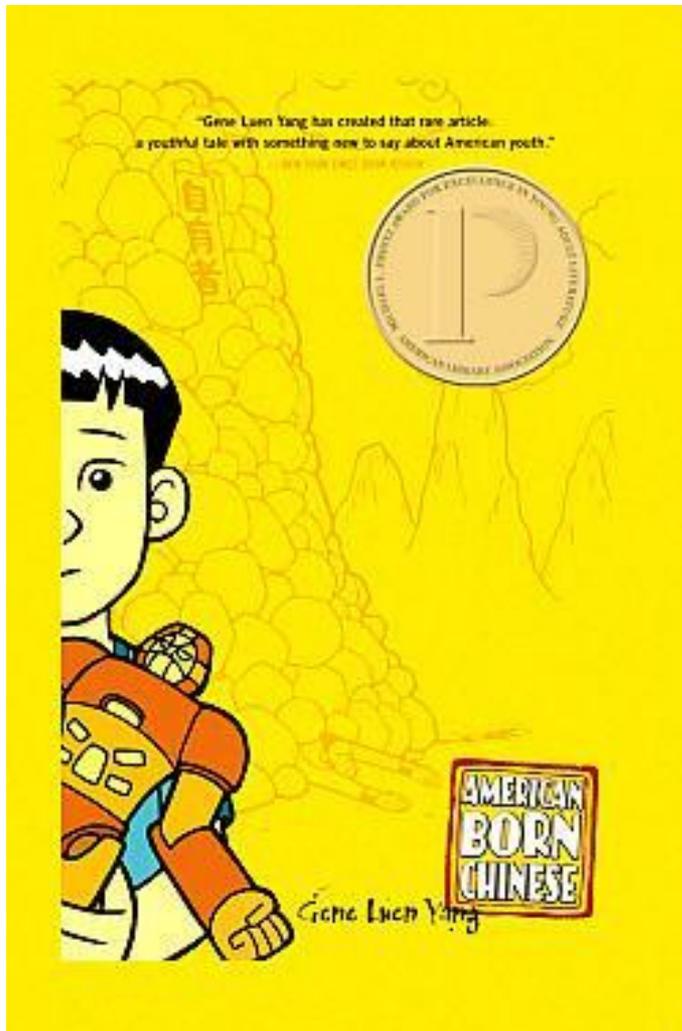
\$18.00



Laia's adventures begin after her brother is taken captive by the reigning, warlike Martials, who have subjugated her people, the Scholars. In an attempt to save him, she enters into a dangerous agreement with the Resistance to spy on the fiendish commandant of the Martial's military academy. In the meantime, the commandant's son, Elias, the finest soldier at the academy, is undergoing a series of trials that will determine the next emperor of the Martial Empire, which loosely recalls the Roman Empire, though this one is no stranger to magic and the supernatural. Though born enemies, Laia's and Elias' lives will come together with unpredictable results that involve a love triangle of sorts. First-time novelist Tahir has written an ambitious sword-and-sand adventure story that is notable for its suspense and scope. There are flaws: the diction is sometimes not as fresh as it might be, and some incidents defy credulity, especially those propelling the ending, which, not surprisingly, is inconclusive enough to promise a sequel.

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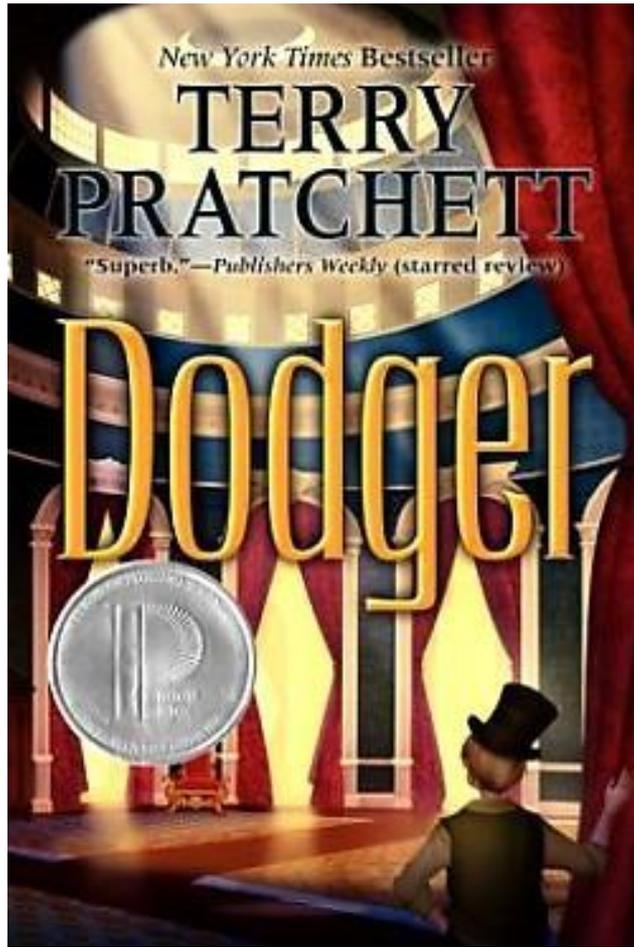
\$18.00



With vibrant colors and visual panache, indie writer-illustrator Yang (Rosary Comic Book0 ) focuses on three characters in tales that touch on facets of Chinese American life. Jin is a boy faced with the casual racism of fellow students and the pressure of his crush on a Caucasian girl; the Monkey King, a character from Chinese folklore, has attained great power but feels he is being held back because of what the gods perceive as his lowly status; and Danny, a popular high-school student, suffers through an annual visit from his cousin Chin-Ke, a walking, talking compendium of exaggerated Chinese stereotypes. Each of the characters is flawed but familiar, and, in a clever postmodern twist, all share a deep, unforeseen connection.

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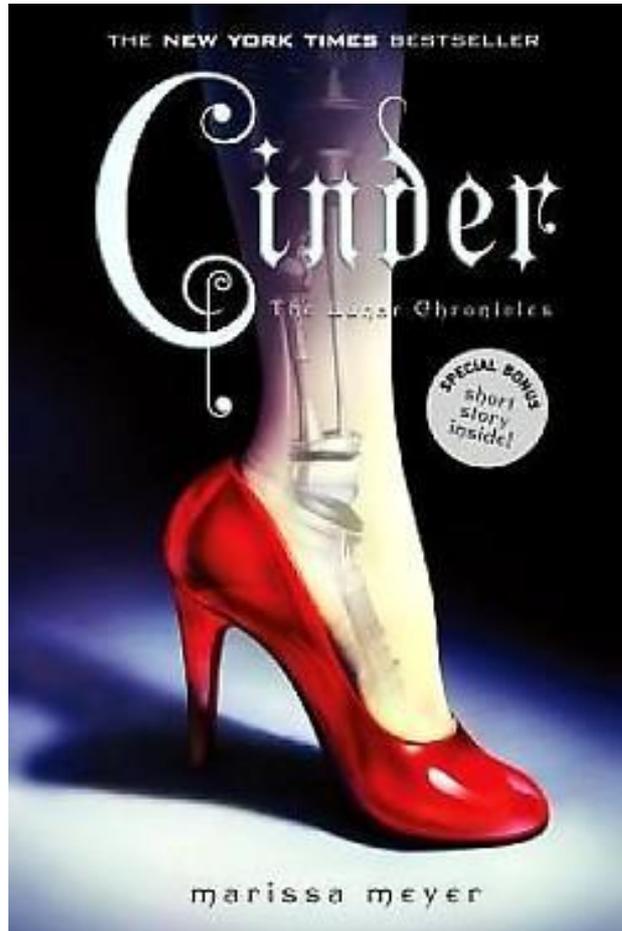
\$18.00



On a stormy night in early Victorian London, an able young man named Dodger rises from the sewers in response to a scream, fights off two thugs, and rescues a damsel in distress. Dodger continues to rise throughout the novel, as his love for the mysterious lady motivates this tosher (scavenger for lost coins and other treasures in London's sewers) to elevate himself and leads him to a closer acquaintance with a string of historical figures, including Dickens, Disraeli, and ultimately, the queen and her consort. While most writers would be well advised not to include such characters in their books, Pratchett manages to humanize them without diminishing them or throwing the story off-kilter. However lowly Dodger's origins, he remains the most memorable character in the book. Living by his wits and unencumbered by conventional morality, this trickster hero expertly navigates the underbelly of his city as he carries out a bizarre scheme resulting in justice and mercy.

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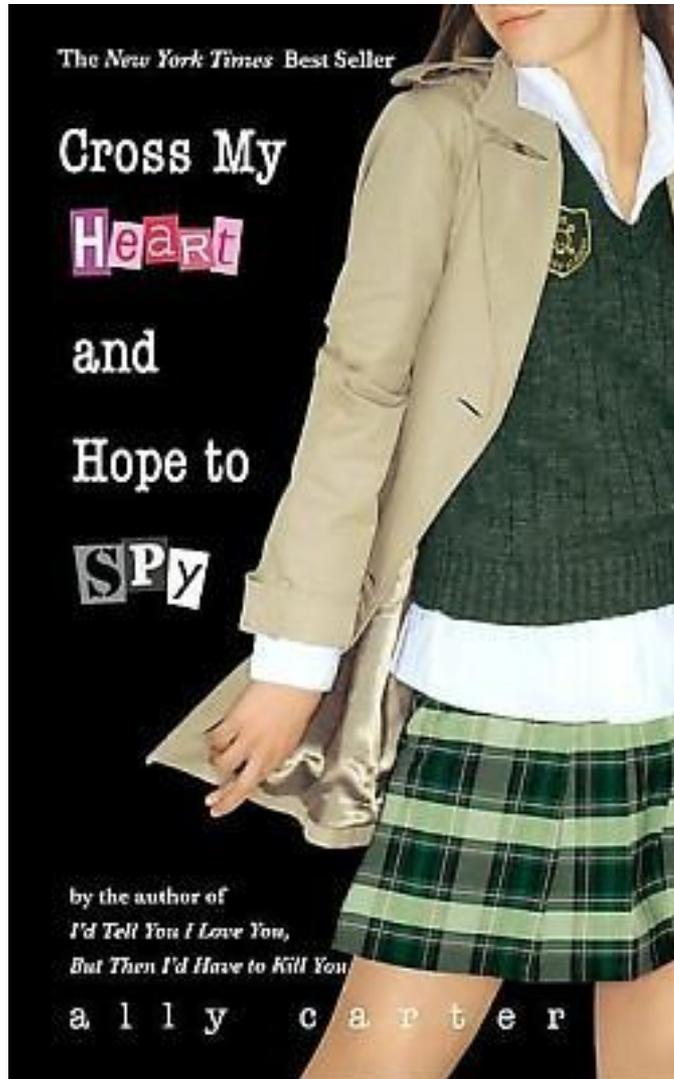
\$16.50



Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

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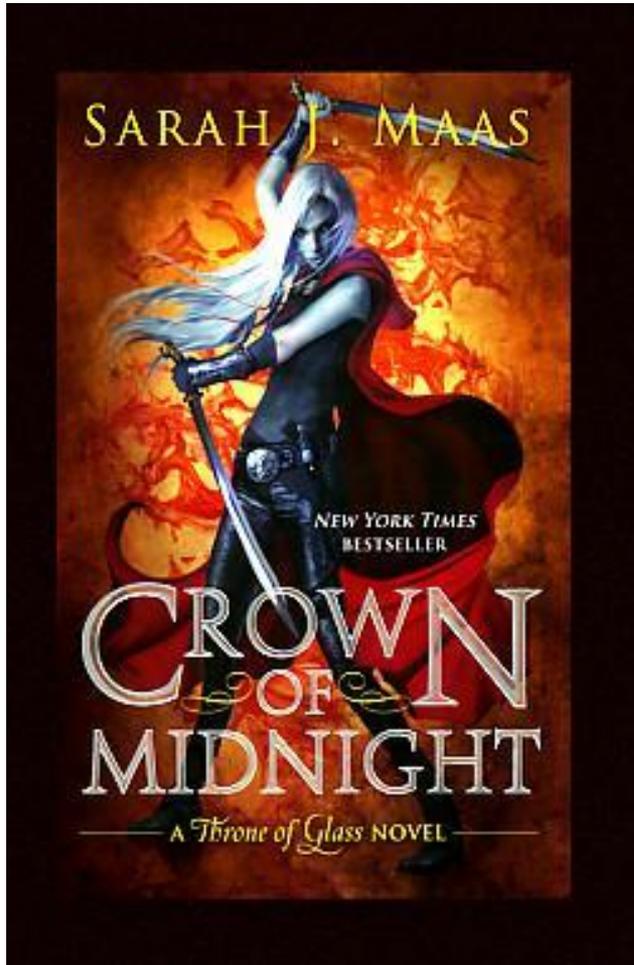
\$16.50



Cameron Morgan is still a sophomore at Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women (otherwise known as a spy training ground). Still reeling from the end of her short-lived relationship with non-spy Josh, she is shocked to learn that her school will soon be infiltrated by male students from Blackthorne, a spy school for boys. The Gallagher girls are thrown for a loop and begin acting like normal teens, except that they know of more than one use for a curling iron. Despite the constant reminder that these girls don't know much about boys, the characters still succeed in keeping readers interested in the unexpected "missions" around every turn.

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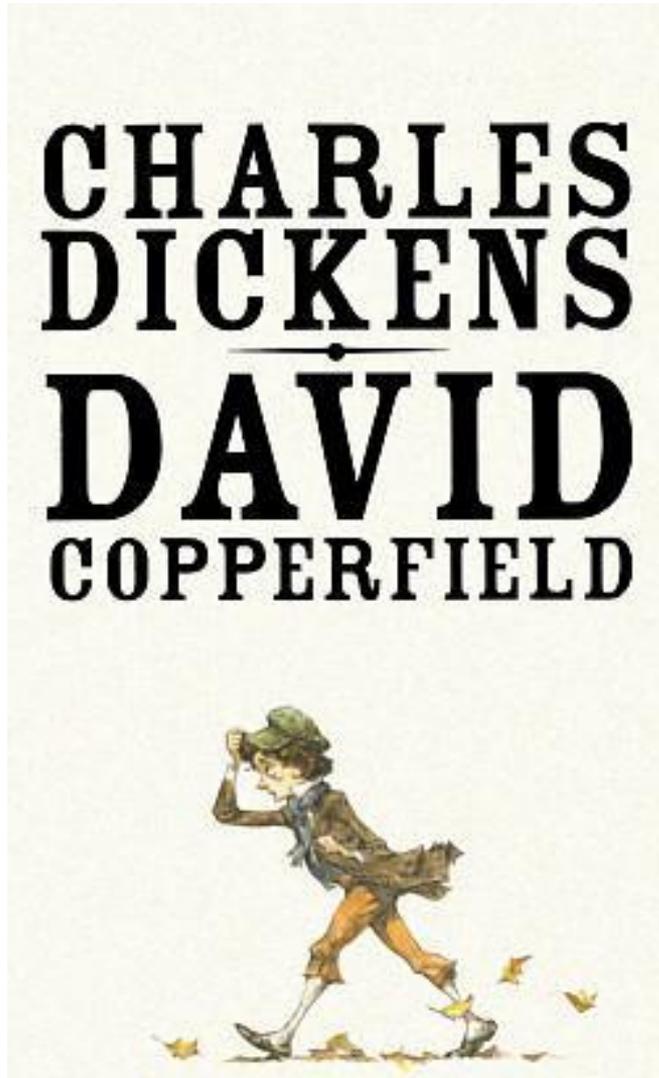
\$19.00



Now that Celaena Sardothian is safely ensconced as the king's assassin, after *Throne of Glass* (2012), she's begun to consider the true price of her freedom. Tasked with killing her tyrant king's enemies, Celaena has a tricky balance to strike: proving her loyalty and preserving her life, and trusting the growing voices decrying the king's power-hungry schemes. But that balance crumbles with an unexpected death and a frenzied search for both the killer and the secrets that murder was meant to hide. Meanwhile, Celaena finds herself in the midst of a steamy love triangle, with jealous glares flying almost as fast as her own daggers.

**classic**

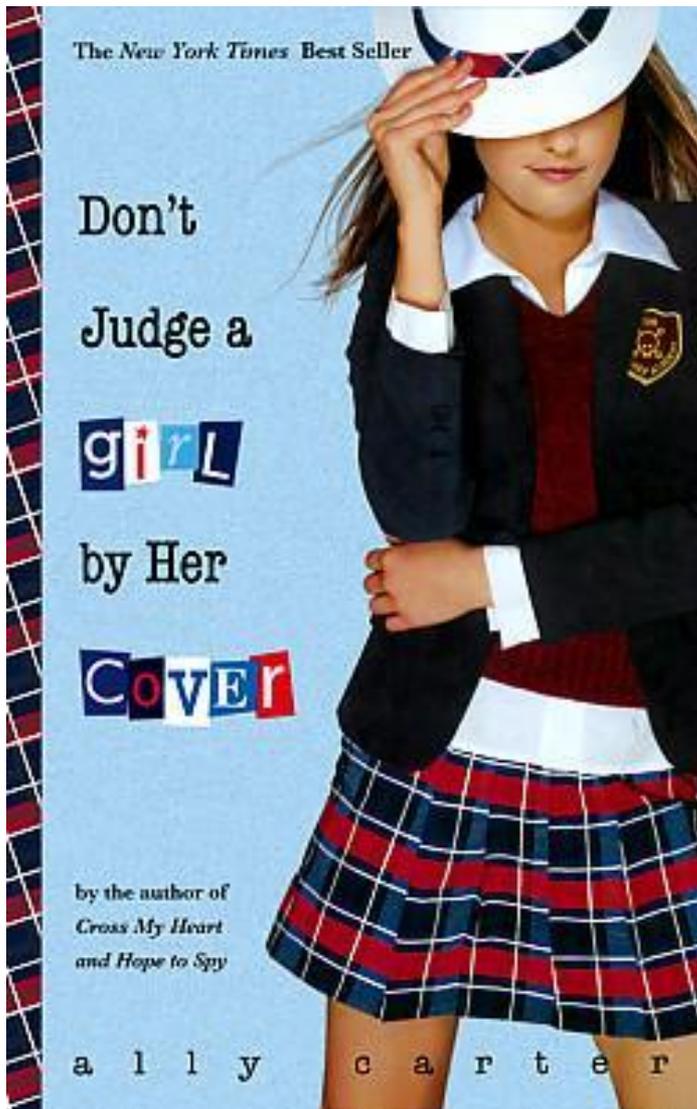
**\$18.00**



A young boy in nineteenth-century London runs away from an unhappy home, finds employment in a wine factory, and becomes acquainted with a wide variety of characters in the city streets.

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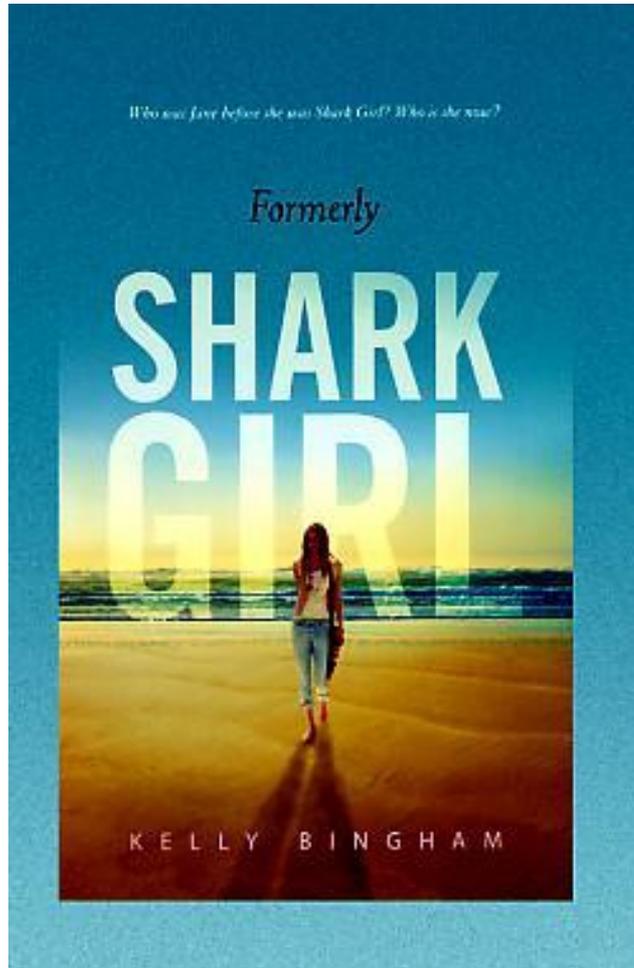
\$16.50



Cammie Morgan visits her roommate Macey in Boston and the two escape a kidnappers' plot using their espionage skills, and when Macey goes on the campaign trail with her father, the vice-presidential nominee, Cammie and other friends use their spy training as part of the security team.

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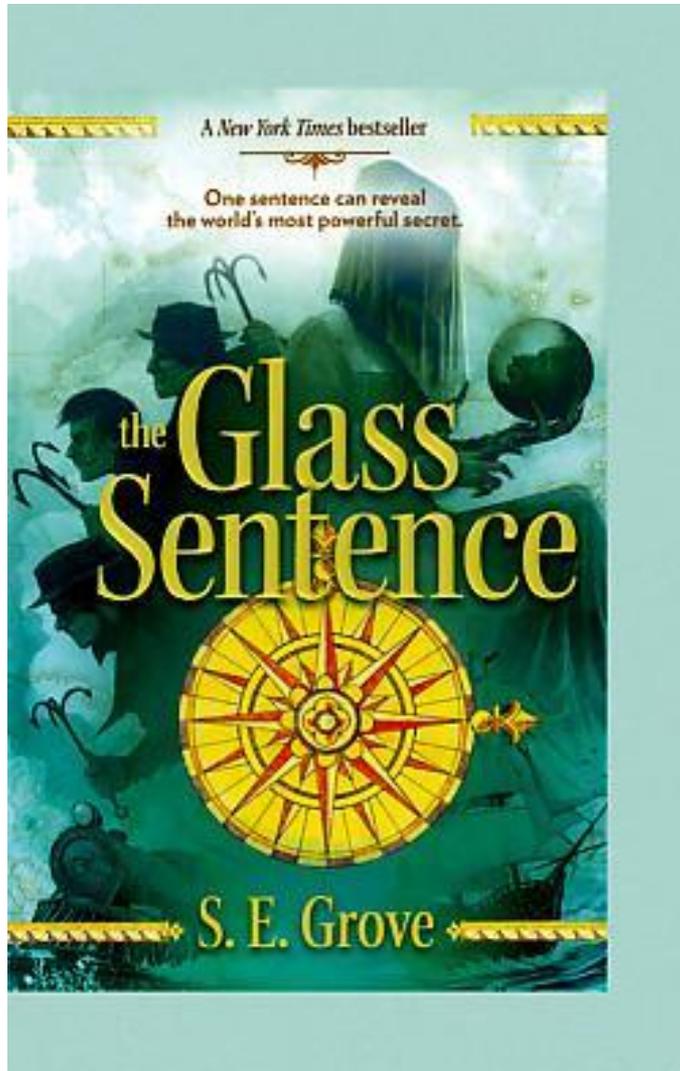
\$16.50



A year after losing her arm in a shark attack, Jane, a senior, deliberates between art school and nursing. She feels obligated to help others since her "miracle" survival, yet she's still passionate about painting. The free-verse novel captures the highs and lows of a young woman living through extraordinary circumstances and an otherwise typical adolescence

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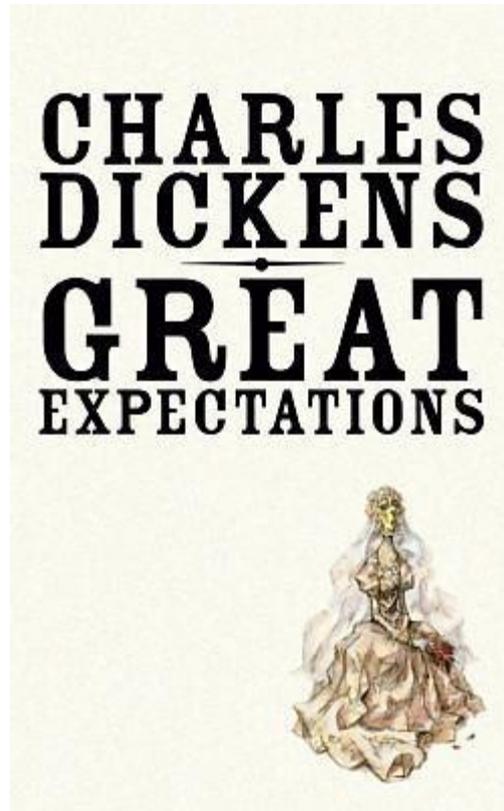
\$16.50



In the late eighteenth century, a great temporal disruption plunged the world into chaos—some continents remained in the present, while others were thrust into the distant past, a far future, or an ever-shifting mélange of ages. A century after the disruption, Sophie, who lives with her famed mapmaker uncle Shadrack, arrives home one day to find their house ransacked, her uncle kidnapped, and their secret map room—housing mystical maps containing memories—emptied of all of its treasures. Was Shadrack secretly hiding the key to a map capable of healing the rift in time? Together with her new friend Theo, Sophie embarks on an adventure to distant lands to find her uncle. Encountering pirates, hidden cities, undiscovered ages, and legendary creatures along the way, brave Sophie uses her ample smarts and powers of observation to unlock deep secrets.

**Classic**

**\$15.50**



The story of Pip, an orphan in Victorian England who is informed one day that he has "great expectations" and is to be educated and reared as a gentleman.

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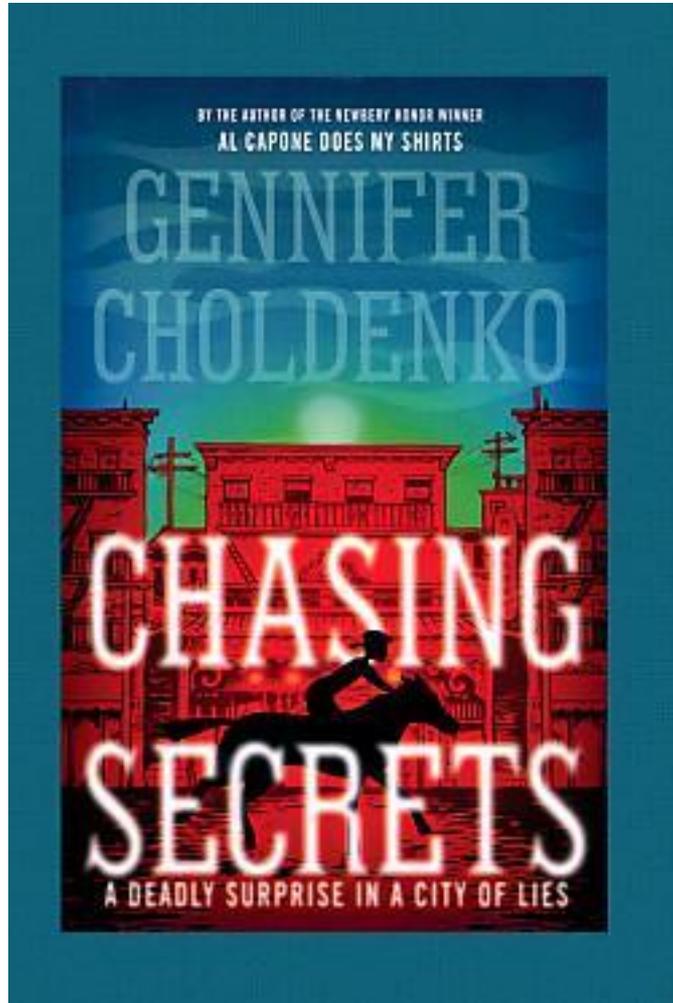
\$18.50



Fleeing a mission to kill, Celaena trains with the Fae in hope of gaining Wyrdkeys to free her people. Meanwhile, Prince Dorian struggles to hide his magic, Aedion and Chaol search for the curse's source, and the king builds an army of dark creatures and bloodthirsty witches. Fans of Pierce, Cashore, and Bardugo will enjoy this installment of the sassy heroine's epic journey.

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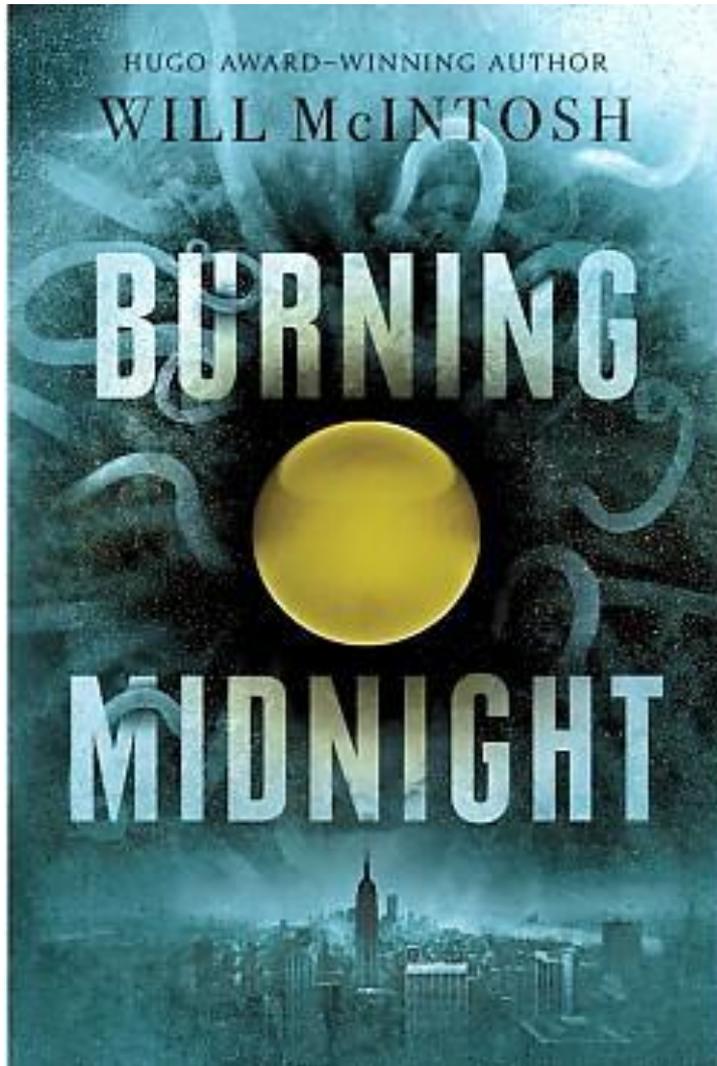
\$21.00



"Aunt Hortense says I try hard to be peculiar. But she's wrong; I come by it quite naturally," says Lizzie Kennedy, 13, who reluctantly attends a fussy finishing school in turn-of-the-20th-century San Francisco when she'd rather be making house calls with her father, a kindly doctor. (She and Jacqueline Kelly's Calpurnia Tate could've been BFFs if they had lived nearby.) When Lizzie overhears talk about a bubonic plague outbreak, her father and her uncle, a wealthy newspaper publisher, dismiss it as rumor. Within days, however, Chinatown is quarantined, trapping the Kennedys' beloved cook, Jing, and marooning his son, Noah, who he had secretly hidden in the Kennedy's servants' quarters. Ignoring the social mores that would prohibit Lizzie from befriending a boy her age, a servant's child, or a Chinese person, she finds Noah much better company than her snooty classmates. A powerful subplot involving Lizzie's older brother, Billy, shows that the controversy over immunization has long roots.

7-8

\$23.50



**For fans of *The Maze Runner* and *The Fifth Wave*, this debut YA novel from Hugo Award winner Will McIntosh pits four underprivileged teens against an evil billionaire in the race of a lifetime.**

Sully is a sphere dealer at a flea market. It doesn't pay much--Alex Holliday's stores have muscled out most of the independent sellers--but it helps him and his mom make the rent.

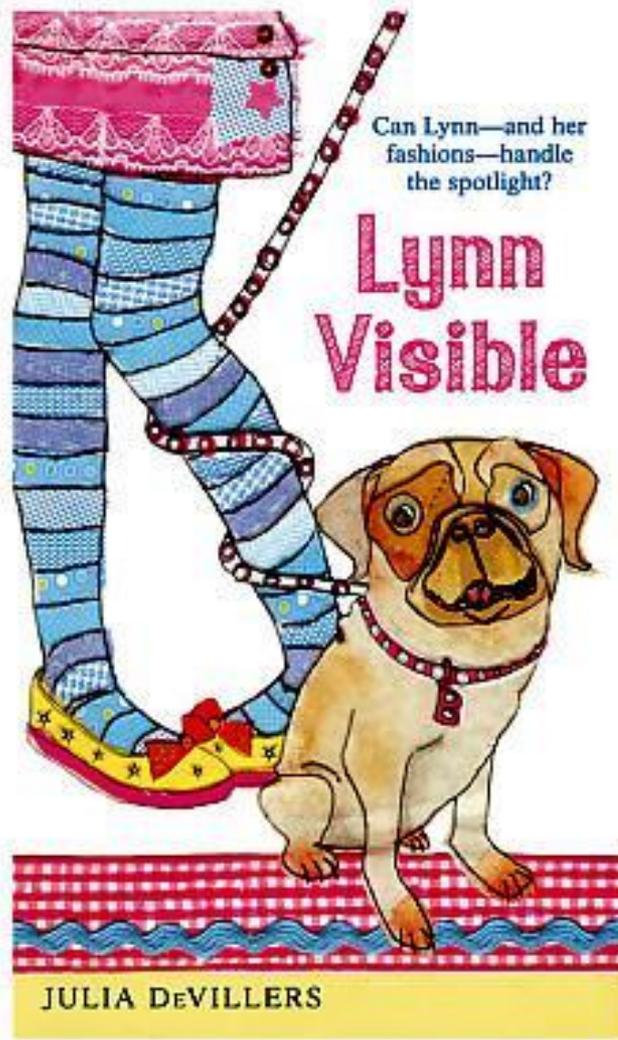
No one knows where the brilliant-colored spheres came from. One day they were just there, hidden all over the earth like huge gemstones. Burn a pair and they make you a little better: an inch taller, skilled at math, better-looking. The rarer the sphere, the greater the improvement--and the more expensive the sphere.

When Sully meets Hunter, a girl with a natural talent for finding spheres, the two start searching together. One day they find a Gold--a color no one has ever seen. And when Alex Holliday learns what they have, he will go to any lengths, will use all of his wealth and power, to take it from them.

There's no question the Gold is priceless, but what does it actually do? None of them is aware of it yet, but the fate of the world rests on this little golden orb. Because all the world fights over the spheres, but no one knows where they come from, what their powers are, or why they're here.

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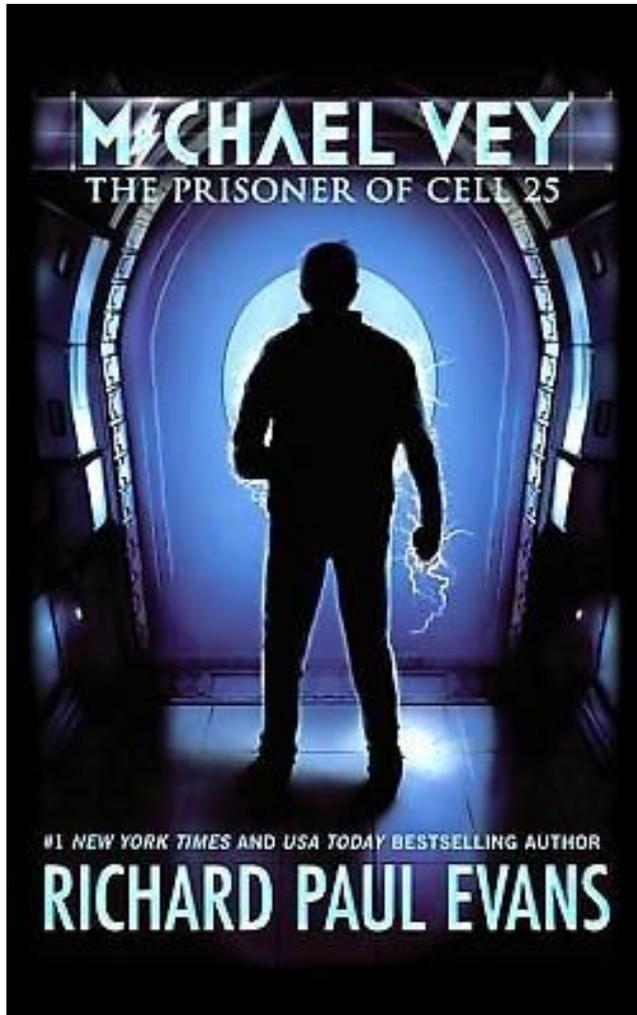
\$15.00



For ninth-grader Lynn Vincent, creating her own festive, funky ensembles has always been a source of fun and self-expression, even though she is often ridiculed, especially by a trendy mean girl, Chasey. When one of her shoe creations unexpectedly catches famous designer Valentyna's eye, Lynn is chosen as the first "It Girl" for a new online teen-trend magazine. Soon everyone wants to be her friend, and Lynn even gets a marketing offer for national distribution. Issues arise when her creations become mainstream, though, and with the support of best friend Taylor, Valentyna, and cute boy Jacob, Lynn must determine what's right—for her.

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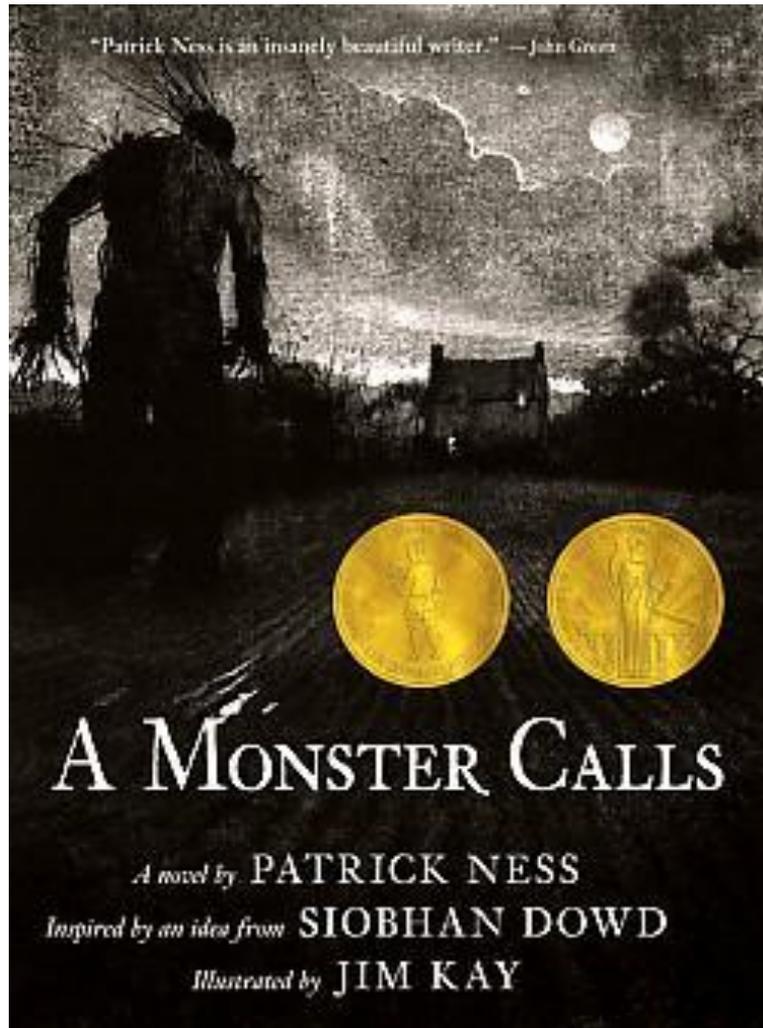
\$18.00



Like Richard Evans' adult novels, this title has a message of hope and love. However, this book also has pure adventure, science fiction, and creepy bad guys. Michael Vey has been hiding a secret all his life: he has a superpower. Sixteen other children born in the same hospital at the same time also exhibit unusual electromagnetic powers. Michael and Taylor are the only ones who haven't been collected by the evil, power hungry men. With some help from others, Michael and Taylor free the prisoners of the twisted Elgin Academy where they are held. The book ends with Michael, Taylor, and their new friends banding together to rescue Michael's mother, setting the scenario for a sequel. Although the book starts out rather slowly, the pace picked up.

6-8

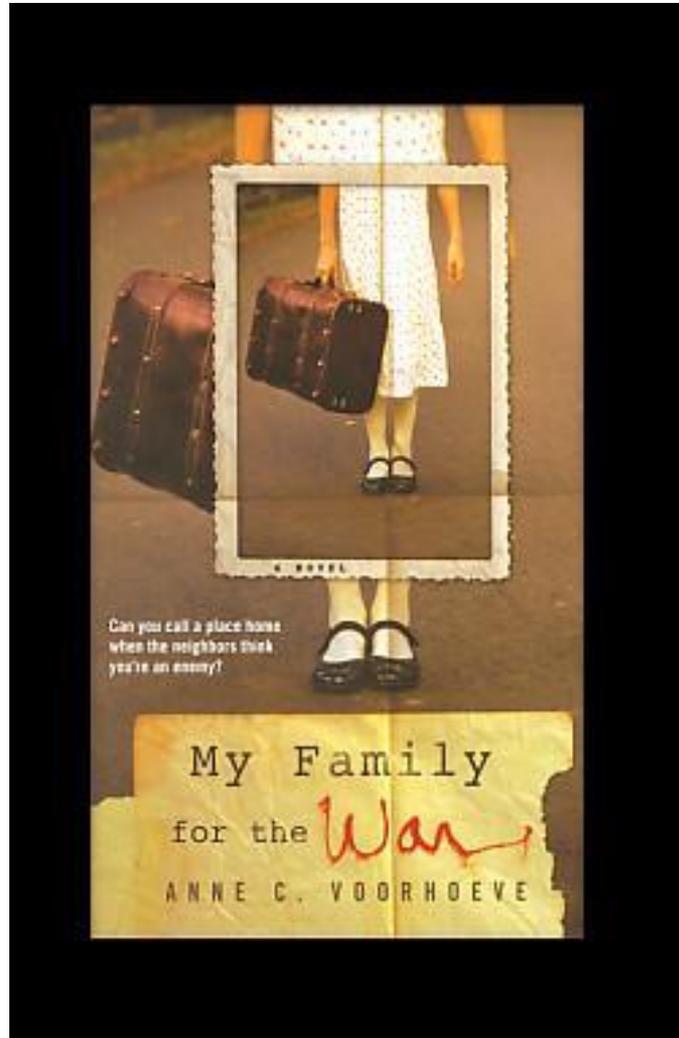
\$17.00



In his introduction to this profoundly moving, expertly crafted tale of unaccountable loss, Ness explains how he developed the story from a set of notes left by Siobhan Dowd, who died in 2007 before she had completed a first draft. "I felt-and feel-as if I've been handed a baton, like a particularly fine writer has given me her story and said, 'Go. Run with it. Make trouble.'" What Ness has produced is a singular masterpiece, exceptionally well-served by Kay's atmospheric and ominous illustrations. Conor O'Malley is 13. His mother is being treated for cancer; his father, Liam, has remarried and lives in America; and Conor is left in the care of a grandmother who cares more for her antique wall clock than her grandson. This grim existence is compounded by bullies at school who make fun of his mother's baldness, and an actual nightmare that wakes Conor, screaming, on a recurring basis. Then comes the monster-part human, part arboreal-a hulking yew tree that walks to his window just after midnight and tells three inscrutable parables, each of which disappoints Conor because the good guy is continually wronged. "Many things that are true feel like a cheat," the monster explains. In return for the monster's stories, Conor must tell his own, and the monster demands it be true, forcing Conor, a good boy, a dutiful son, to face up to his feelings: rage and, worse still, fear. If one point of writing is to leave something that transcends human existence, Ness has pulled a fast one on the Grim Reaper, finishing the story death kept Dowd from giving us. It is a story that not only does honor to her memory, it tackles the toughest of subjects by refusing to flinch, meeting the ugly truth about life head-on with compassion, bravery, and insight.

6-8

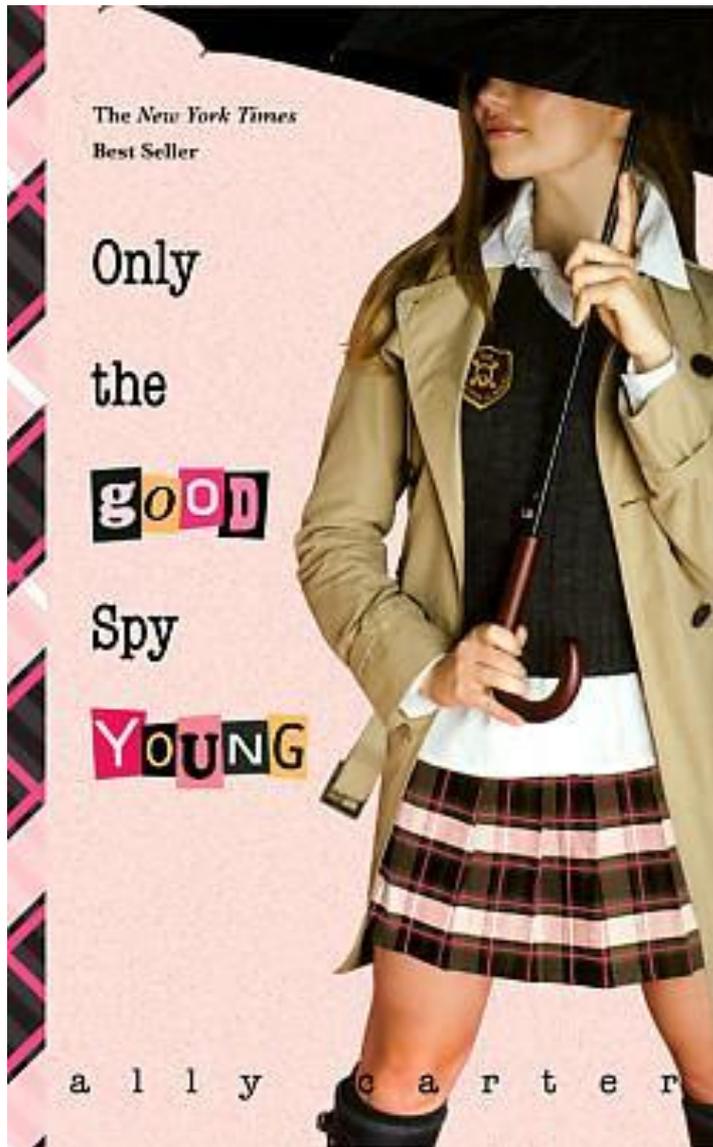
\$17.50



Franziska's wealthy Berlin family has converted from Judaism to Christianity, but when the Nazis come, her parents must send her at age 11 on the Kindertransport to safety in England. During the anguished parting, her father is arrested; her mother escapes over the border to Holland; and her best friend does not make it onto the transport. When the train arrives at the English station, there is no one to meet her, but she finds a home with a kind, Orthodox Jewish family in London. "What I had learned to hate, even to hide, was a source of joy in my host's family." Now called Frances, she bonds closely with her loving foster mother. Will she ever see her biological mother again? Does she want to? This novel, told from a young girl's perspective, is also a gripping history of how the war in Europe affected ordinary people. As London is bombed, Frances is temporarily evacuated to a cruel, rural family, and some of the locals hate her because she is Jewish and German. Then the news filters in about the transports and the death camps. When will the U.S. join the Allies? Will her mother survive Belsen?

6-8

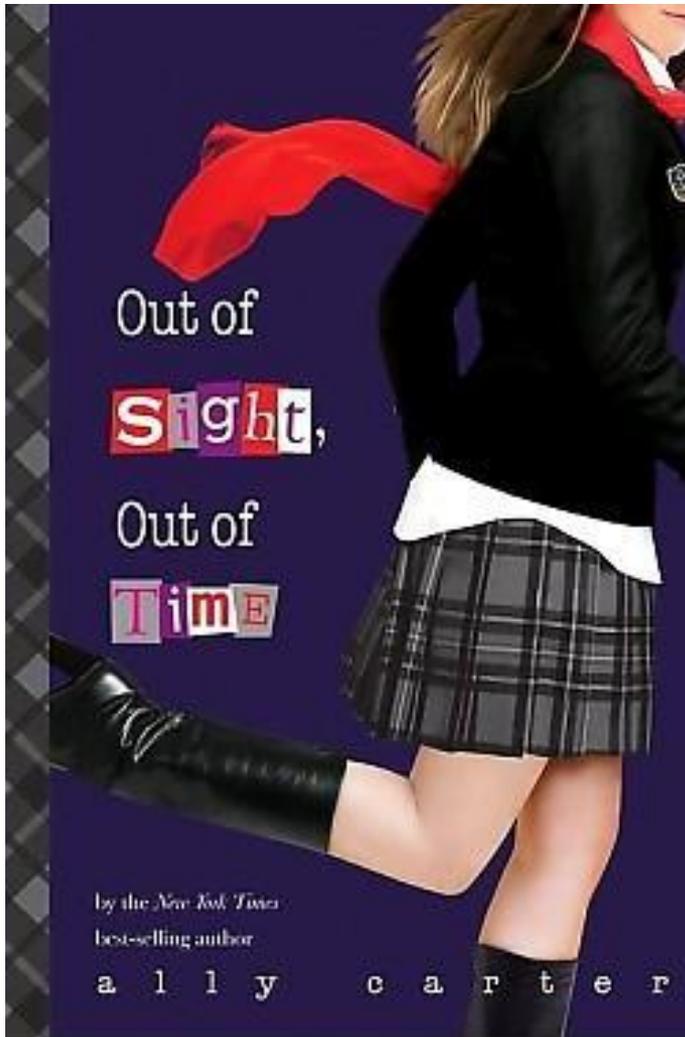
\$15.50



Cameron Morgan's junior year at an elite spy school is off to an inauspicious start. She's lured away from her friends, held hostage by a former teacher-turned-rogue, and given the cryptic message: "follow the pigeons." Cammie knows the Circle (evil terrorist operatives so secret many doubt their existence) is still after her. Gallagher Academy is now on a ridiculously high security alert and everyone, including teachers and friends, is suspect. Questions abound. Who can Cammie trust? Why does the Circle want her? And can she possibly have a relationship with super-cute double-agent Zach?

6-8

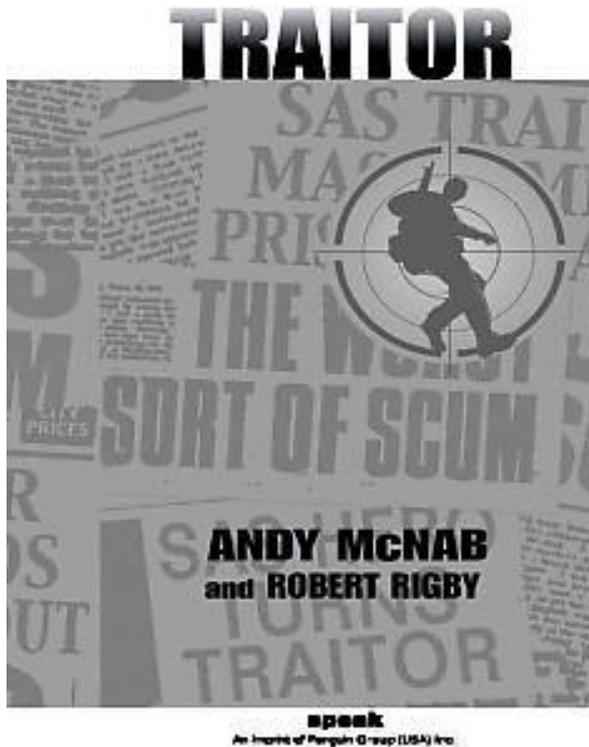
\$16.50



Cammie Morgan finds herself not at the Gallagher Academy, a private school for young female spies, but in an alpine convent with no memory of how she got there. Her only clues are horrible, painful bruises all over her body, dirty fingernails, and the realization that she has completely missed the end of school and summer vacation. Now that her senior year has started, her best friends are terrified that they will lose her again, and her mother is begging her not to try to remember what happened, stating that “some things are best forgotten.” But Cammie, her spy boyfriend Zach, and her best friends gradually begin piecing together Cammie’s terrifying summer, a summer that threatens to continue well into her senior year, as the Circle of Cavan will stop at nothing to get whatever it is that she has. Carter has written another Gallagher Girls page-turner chock full of spy trivia, private-school allure, BFFs, world travel, a bit of violence, and a touch of romance. It’s a sure winner, especially when teens realize that the ending points to further adventures.

7-8

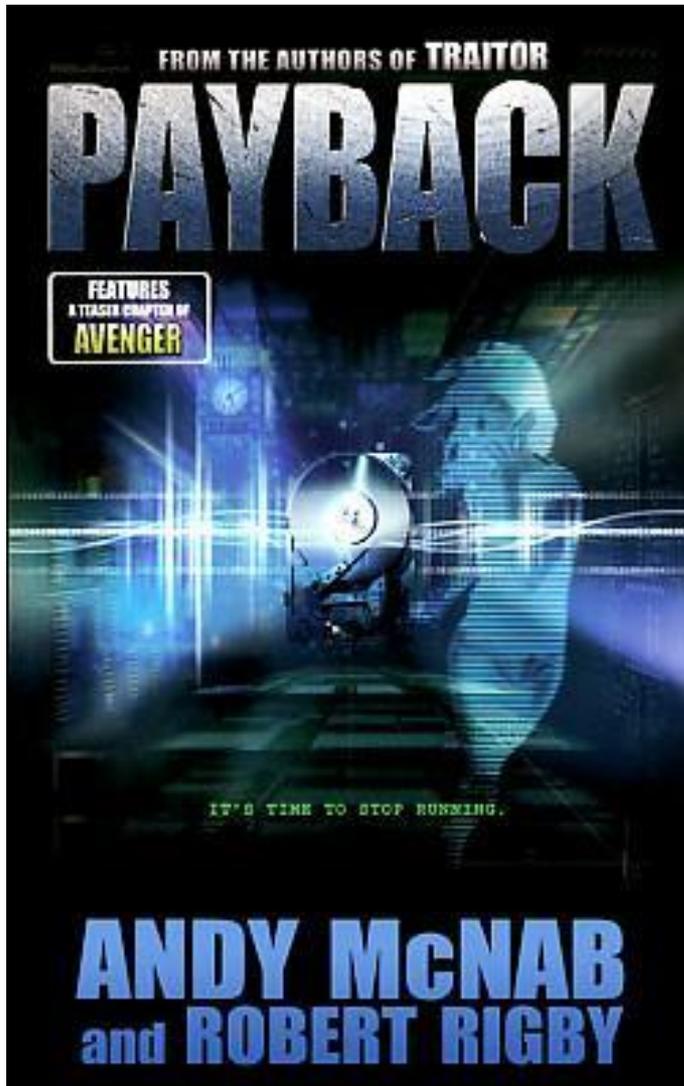
\$10.00 (pbk)



Danny Watts' grandfather, Fergus, was a Deniable Operator in the SAS before he was betrayed, imprisoned, and falsely denounced as a traitor. Now Fergus has escaped, but the real traitor is determined to silence Fergus and Danny for good. Together Danny and Fergus are forced to go on the run in an against-the-odds battle for survival. As they try to clear Fergus' name, Danny learns all the military field craft, trade skills, and covert operations techniques that are second nature to his grandfather. When Fergus is recaptured, Danny must put those skills to the test and rescue Fergus before it's too late.

7-8

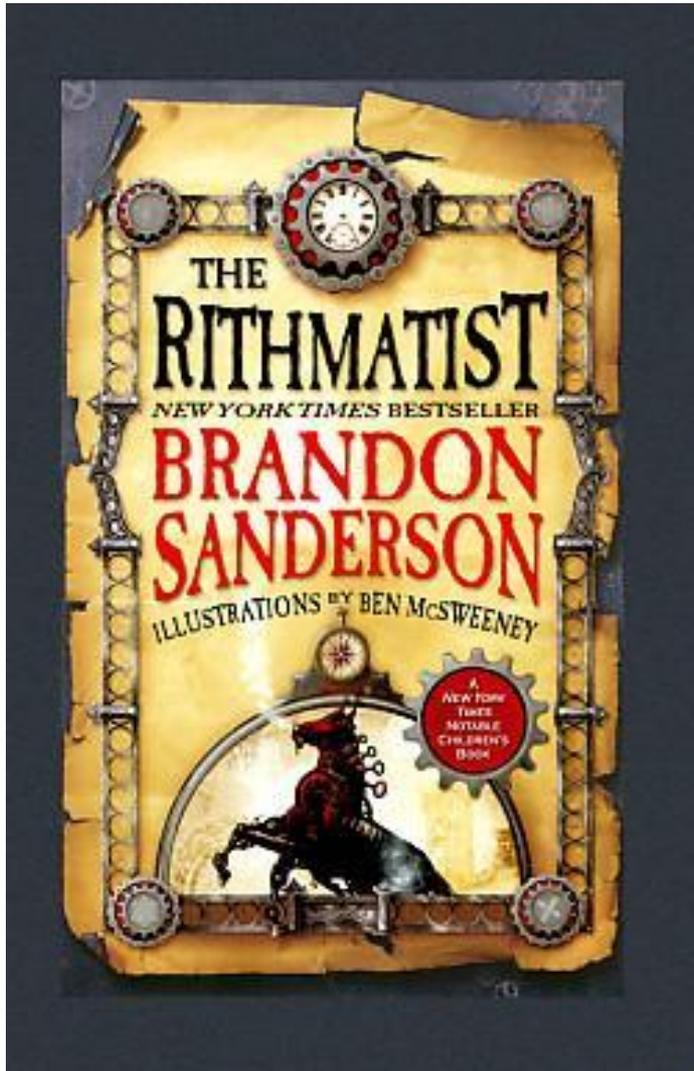
\$16.50



This sequel to the authors' *Traitor* (2005) picks up with 17-year-old Danny and his British SAS-veteran grandfather Fergus as they hide out in Spain from a high-placed traitor in British intelligence. The action begins quickly and rarely lets up as Danny and Fergus deftly avoid the hit team sent to kill them. Danny's girlfriend Elena enters the picture with her computer and wi-fi access, to help them break into the British government's most secret and secure computer files. McNab adds interest with his real-life expertise in explosives and clandestine techniques, and playwright Rigby keeps the narrative flowing. This story has trouble standing on its own for those who haven't read the first in the series, and it clearly sets up the premise for a sequel. However, interested young readers probably will want the entire series and won't be disappointed when they start from the beginning. Good entertainment for the action and suspense crowd.

6-8

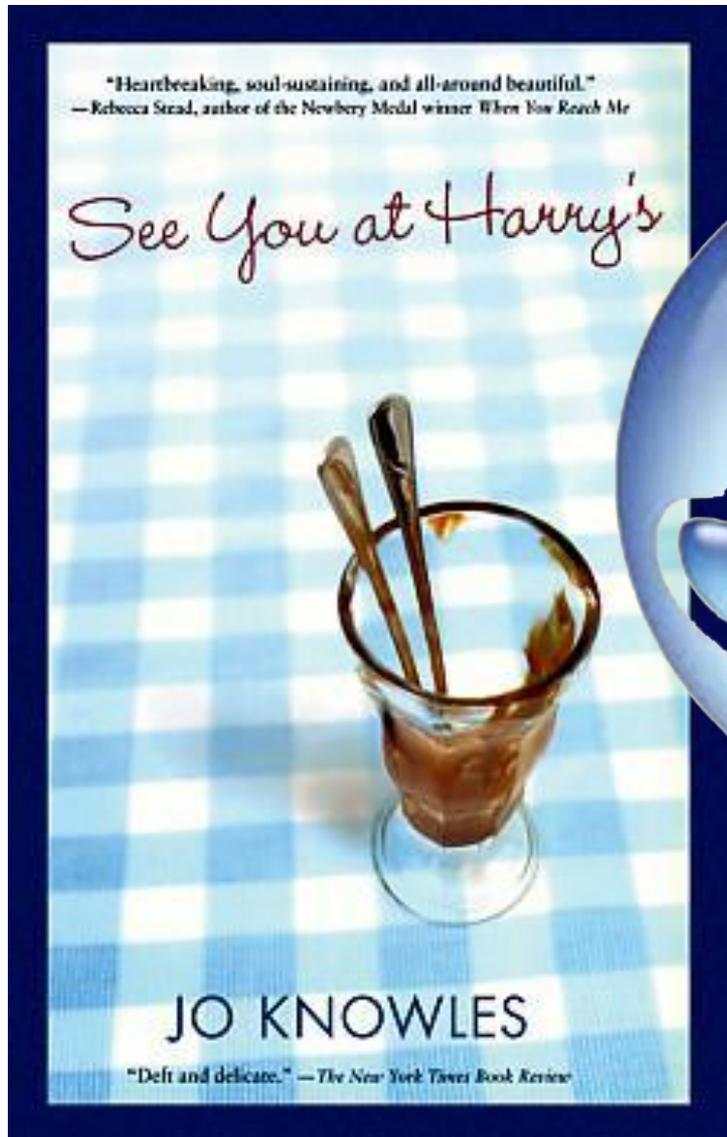
\$18.00



Joel longs to be a Rithmatist with the magical power to bring two-dimensional objects, called Chalklings, to life. But he is 16, and Rithmatists are chosen at age 8. Surely he has missed his chance, or has he? When Rithmatists-in-training at the prestigious Armedius Academy begin to go missing, Joel—a scholarship student there—determines to find out what has happened to them. Could it possibly have something to do with the Wild Chalklings of the Nebraska territory? Could his success or failure determine the fate of the American Isles? And, for that matter, could he become a Rithmatist, after all? So many questions and so few answers in this spoiler-free review. Suffice it to say that with an intriguing premise and captivating characters in Joel, his friend Melody, and their teacher Professor Fitch, Sanderson's first YA novel is a fast-paced mash-up of fantasy and adventure that will grab readers' attention at the first page and hold it until the inconclusive end, which promises a sequel.

7-8

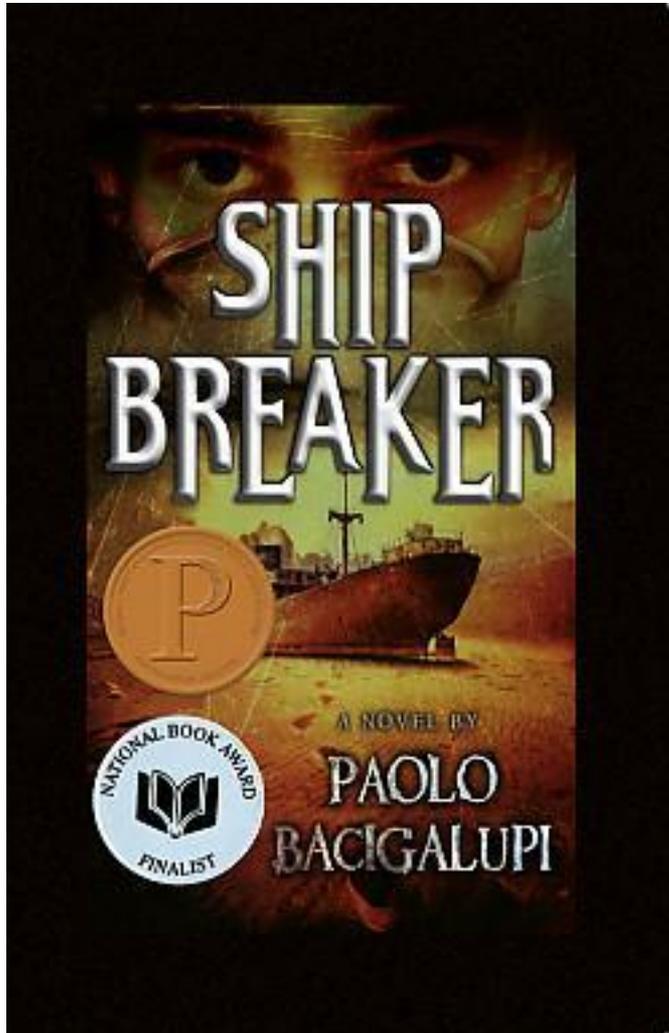
\$16.00



Sitting in a comfortable chair, bring on the  
K... and cry your heart out. Seventh  
g... ern, in pitch-perfect present tense,  
re... the dual tragedies of her family. Her  
high-sch... freshman older brother Holden  
Fern offers him support and  
... can give is not always  
... older sister, Sara,  
... gap year after high  
... going with the family  
... ward for everyone  
... often unkind  
... And there's 3-year-old  
Charlie, always... often annoying, but  
... busy, distracted parents  
... wanting for more  
... a... accident tears the  
family apart... they experience after  
... vividly, agonizingly portrayed  
... dadlin. Eventually there are tiny  
... brightness to relieve the gloom: the  
wisdom of Fern's friend Ran, the ways that  
Sara, Fern and Holden find to support each  
other and their thoughtfully depicted, ever-  
so-gradual healing as they rediscover the  
strength of family

7-8

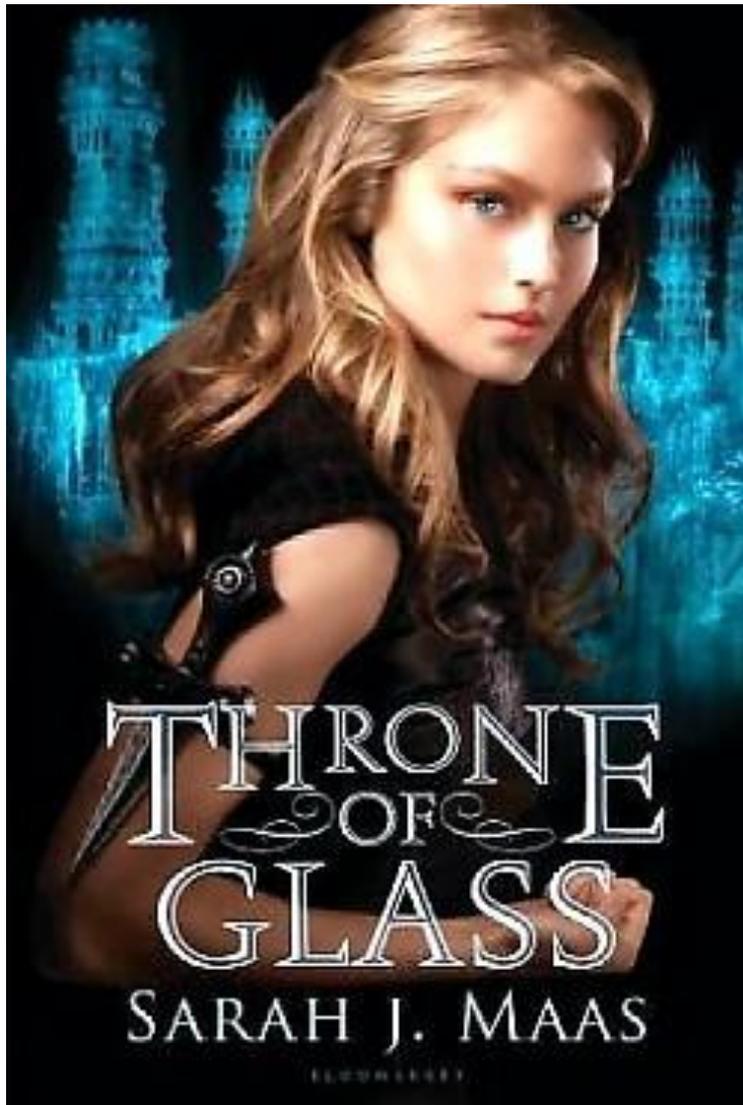
\$17.50



This YA debut by Bacigalupi, a rising star in adult science fiction, presents a dystopian future like so many YA sf novels. What is uncommon, though, is that although Bacigalupi's future earth is brilliantly imagined and its genesis anchored in contemporary issues, it is secondary to the memorable characters. In a world in which society has stratified, fossil fuels have been consumed, and the seas have risen and drowned coastal cities, Nailer, 17, scavenges beached tankers for scrap metals on the Gulf Coast. Every day, he tries to "make quota" and avoid his violent, drug-addicted father. After he discovers a modern clipper ship washed up on the beach, Nailer thinks his fortune is made, but then he discovers a survivor trapped in the wreckage—the daughter of a shipping-company owner.

7-8

\$19.00



Readers seeking the political intrigue of Kristen Cashore's *Graceling* and its sequels or the deadly competition at the heart of *The Hunger Games* will find both in Maas's strong debut novel. Celaena Sardothien is considered the best assassin in Adarlan, and she has been condemned to the salt mines for her work. As the story opens, she is plucked from slow execution by the calculating crown prince, Dorian, to be his candidate for champion, competing against "[t]hieves and assassins and warriors" to become an enforcer for the king. The stakes are freedom or death: win or return to the mines. Youthful captain Chaol is charged with preventing Celaena's escape, and though she fantasizes about killing him on occasion, he becomes a far different target of her attention.

6-8

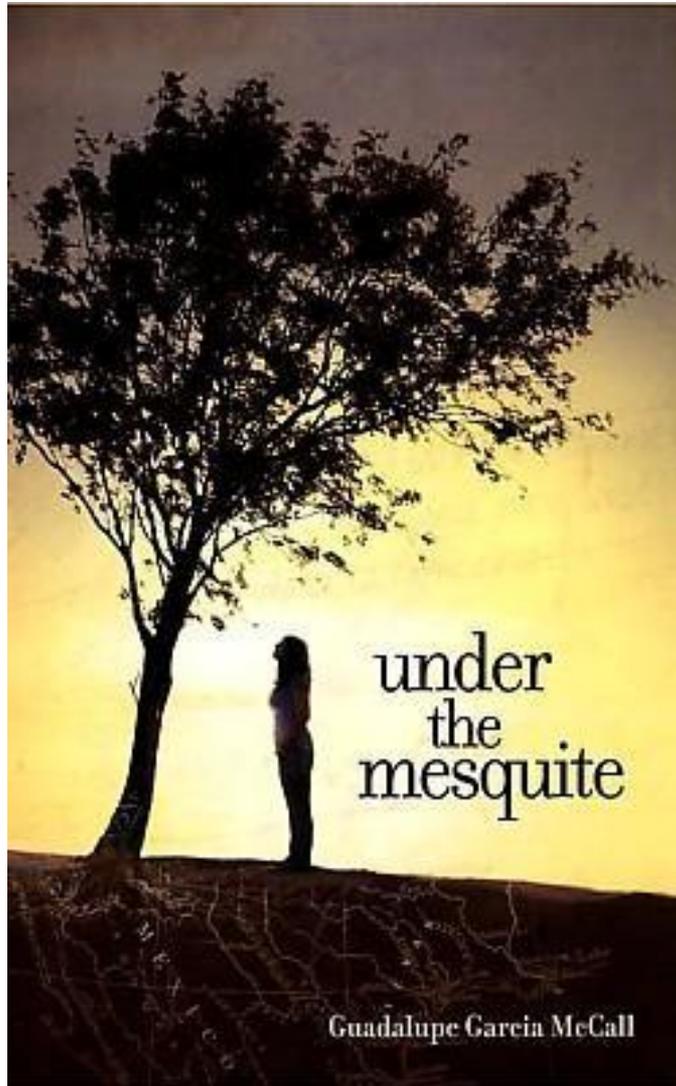
\$16.50



Katarina, fifteen, and her con artist crew are tasked with stealing the Cleopatra Emerald--a well-secured and supposedly cursed gem--and returning it to its rightful owner...or so they think. When the team members discover they've been conned, they race to steal the emerald back before it's lost forever. Carter's chatty, humorous voice and cinematic prose bolster this jewel-thief thriller.

8.4

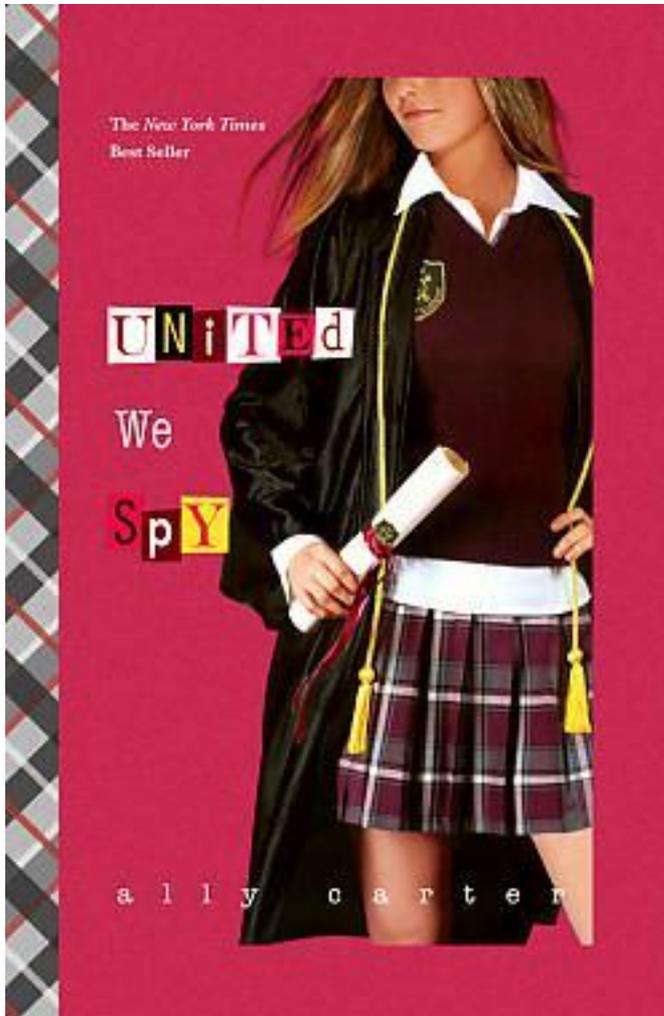
\$21.50



The mesquite tree is resilient; it survives the harshest of climates and its roots can survive even when torn from the ground. It is an appropriate symbol in this story, told in verse, of Lupita. Based on the author's teenage years, the book is an homage to survival despite great tragedy. Using beautiful metaphors and lyrical Spanish words, McCall writes simply of what it is to love and lose and to find strength in nature. Lupita is a memorable character who takes care of her family through her mother's illness. To cope with the pain, she writes about her feelings while under the mesquite tree. McCall is an established poet, but this is her first novel. It is eloquently written and strong in its sparseness.

6-8

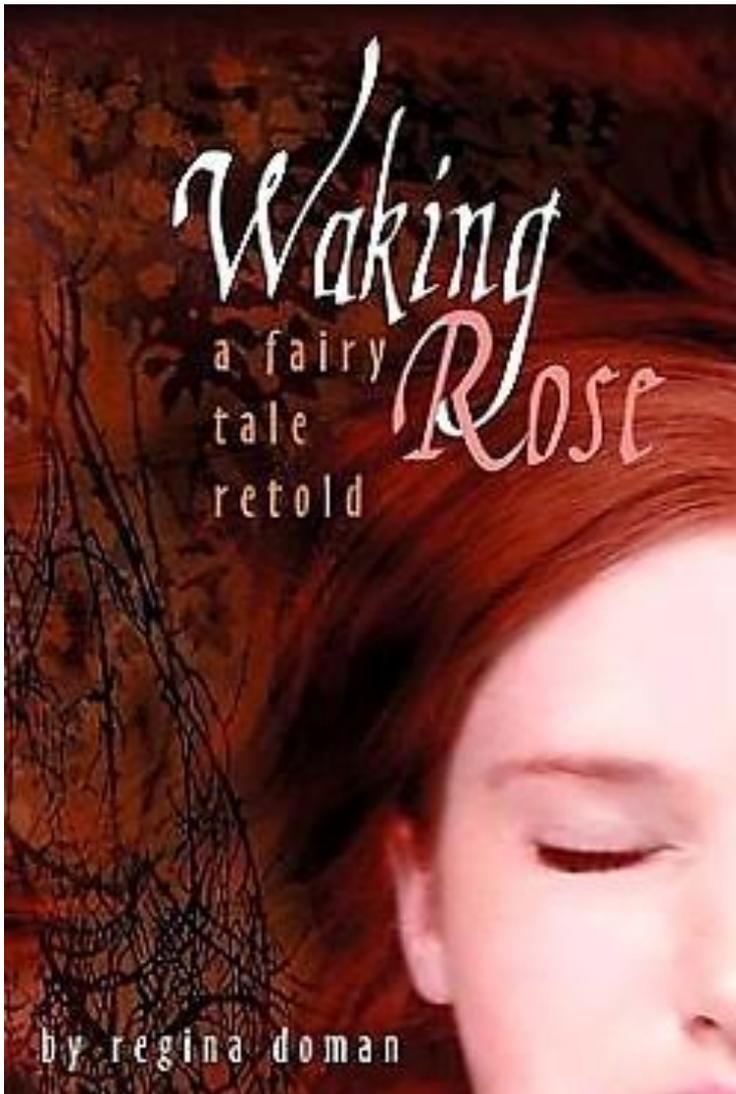
\$16.50



High school senior Cammie Morgan has survived incredible adventures alongside her best friends Bex and Liz at Gallagher Academy, a top-secret boarding school for girl spies. The signature lighthearted and fast-paced narration features a large cast of characters, but very little exposition. Readers are advised to start with *I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You* (Hyperion, 2006). In this final series installment, Cammie is bent on uncovering a cabal of villains known as the Circle of Cavan. Using stolen plans from super-genius Liz, the Circle of Cavan is hoping to start World War III and it's up to the jet-setting Gallagher Girls to stop it. Cammie engages in a daring global game of cat and mouse, traveling to Rome, Marseille, and a hidden government compound in the Arctic, juggling conflicts with her mother and boyfriend Zach along the way. Fans will enjoy the touching graduation scene, which brings the series to a satisfying close.

YA

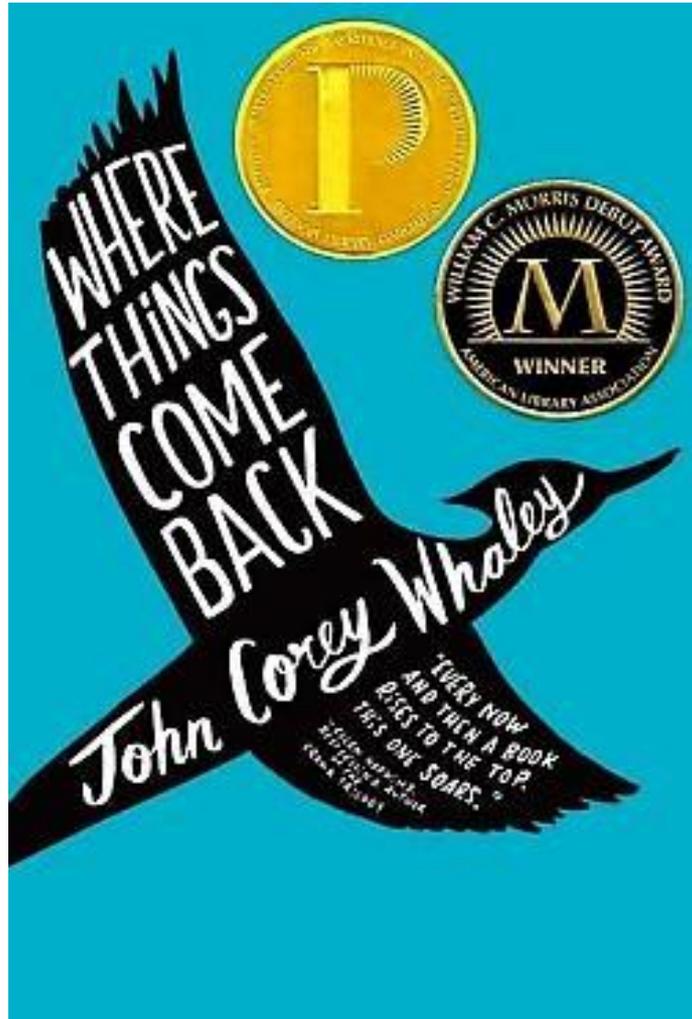
\$32.50



Nineteen-year-old Rose Brier is in love with Fish Denniston: but Fish, struggling with abuse issues in his past, holds her at arms length until an old danger and a tragic accident threatens Rose s life. A modern retelling of the story of Sleeping Beauty, and the third novel in the Fairy Tale Novel series."

7.5

\$19.00

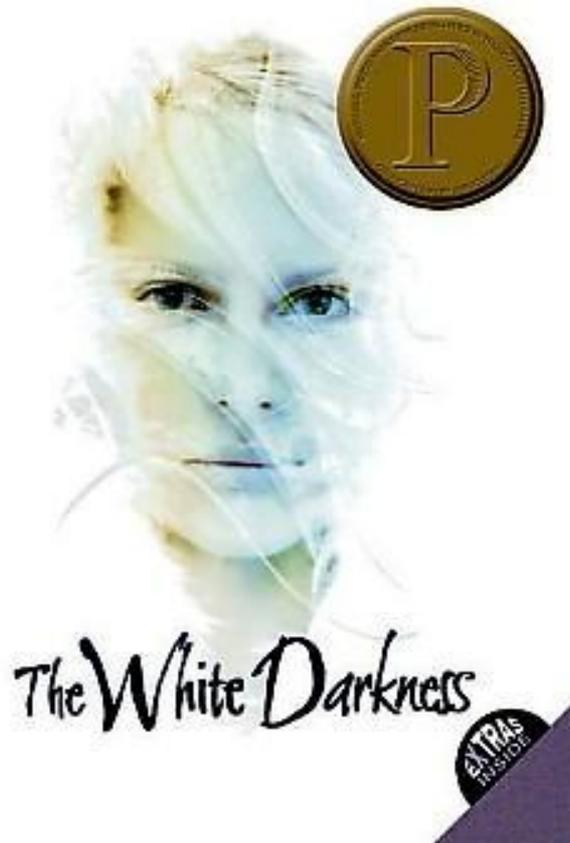


Cullen Witter, 17, lives in dull, dreary Lily, AR. He is desperate to escape his small town but is fearful that, like so many others, he'll never do so. His world is turned upside down by a flurry of activity and interest that the sighting of a supposedly extinct Lazarus woodpecker brings to his town, by the devastating and unexplained disappearance of his 15-year-old brother, and the death of his drug-addicted cousin. Simultaneously, Benton Sage, a young missionary, jumps to his death while searching for the meaning of his life. The lives of Cullen and Benton's roommate at the University of Atlanta, Cabot Searcy, collide and meld into one well-crafted narrative; however, it will take patience on the part of readers to find out how the stories and characters are connected. The powerful plot elements allow readers to have empathy for the Witter family and understand their painful ordeal

6.2

\$18.00

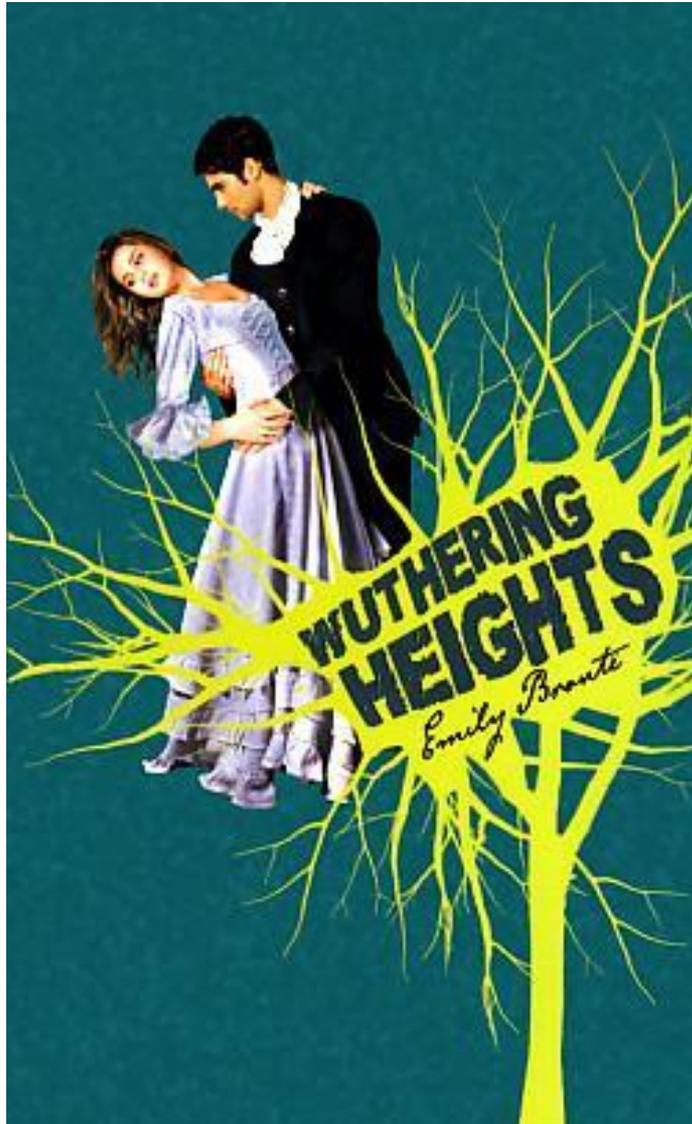
GERALDINE McCAUGHREAN



Fourteen-year-old Sym Wates is fascinated with the Antarctic and the men who explored it, even to the point of creating an internal confidante in the form of Captain Lawrence "Titus" Oates, who was part of the doomed Scott expedition 90 years earlier. So when her "Uncle" Victor whisks the painfully shy, hearing-impaired teen away on a surprise trip to the South Pole, it seems like a dream come true. But Victor has his own agenda, seeking the legendary Symmes's Hole, portal to the interior of a hollow Earth. The lengths to which the madman pursues this quest provide the book with a dramatic drive and powerful revelations. Sym makes for an engaging (if occasionally melodramatic) narrator, although aspects of her character, such as her hearing loss, are not fully developed.

**YA**

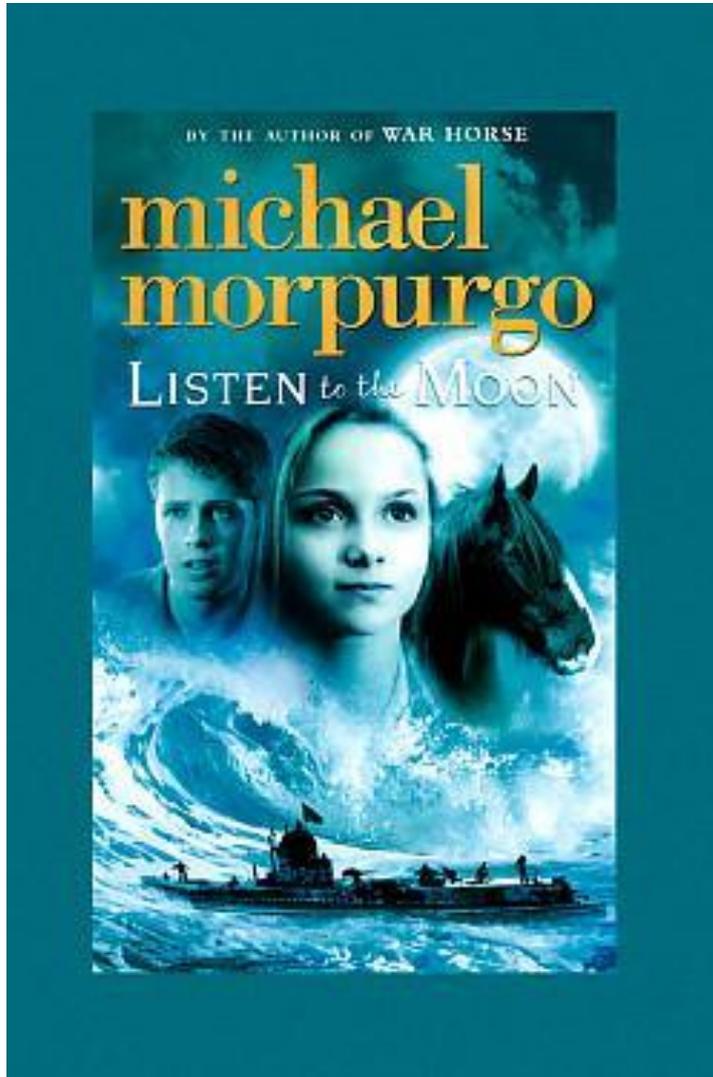
**\$15.50**



In early-nineteenth-century Yorkshire, the tumultuous relationship between a headstrong girl and a foundling boy raised in the same home wreaks havoc on them and those around them, even into the next generation.

## 6.3

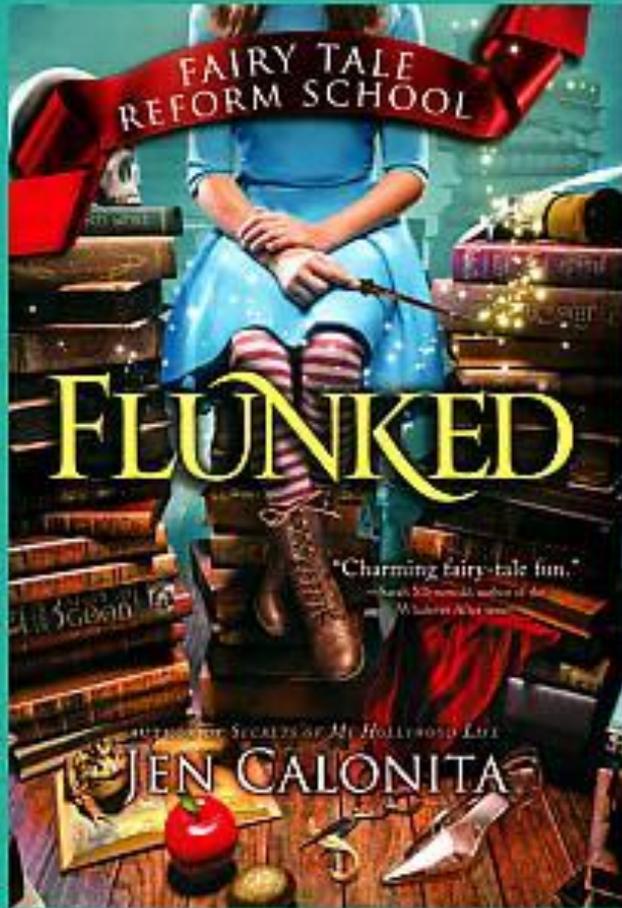
**\$19.00**



Remember the Lusitania! That fateful day in May 1915 certainly won't be forgotten by 12-year-old American castaway Merry, who is saved on the Scilly Isles off the coast of Cornwall, England, by fisherman Jim Wheatcroft and his son Alfie, who heard a humanlike noise coming from the uninhabited St. Helen's Island. They bring the girl, her teddy bear, and her blanket home, where the family patiently nurses the girl back to health, though her lost speech is the most difficult affliction to remedy. Merry, known only as "Lucy Lost," becomes a curiosity to the townsfolk, who begin to wonder if her mysterious origins mean that she is German. Soon they start to believe that retribution against the Wheatcrofts will show they mean business about harboring enemies. Morpurgo traces Merry's tale from New York and her trip to see her father recovering from war injuries in England to the sinking and her rescue, and always with a deliberate pace.

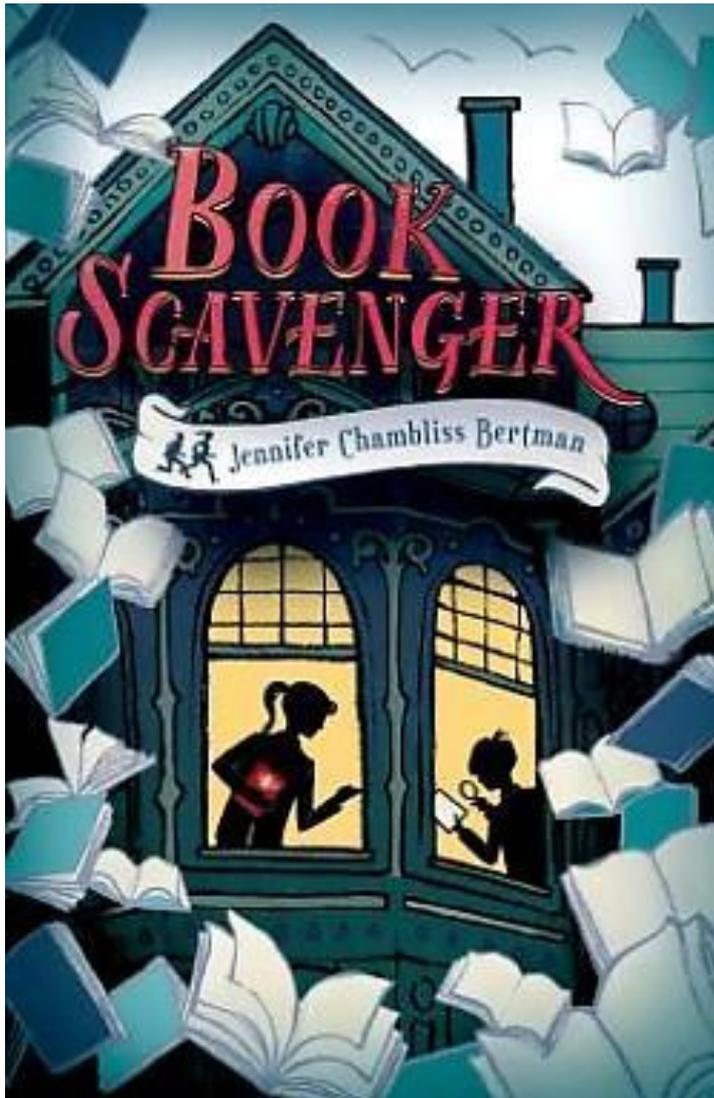
5-8

\$15.00



For 12-year-old Gilly Cobbler, thieving is easy—and it supplements her family’s meager existence after their shoemaking business in Enchantasia falls on hard times. But then Gilly is busted and sent to Fairy Tale Reform School (“Our mission: To turn wicked delinquents and former villains into future heroes”), founded by Cinderella’s repentant stepmother, Flora, and staffed by other reformed baddies, like Professor Harlow (evil queen of Snow White/poison-apple fame) and Professor Wolfington, purportedly Red’s grandmother-eater. There Gilly contends with a strict regimen, rules, and mean girl Jocelyn, but befriending Kayla and Jax helps. However, FTRS is not all it seems. Someone has a secret, sinister agenda, and Gilly and pals must quickly discern perpetrator and plot, whom to trust, and what to do to avert a not-so-happy ending for everyone. This enjoyable series launch creatively incorporates familiar fairy-tale characters and hallmarks—princesses, talking mirrors, spells, and magical beings, from fairies to ogres—along with an engaging and spirited protagonist, abundant plot turns, and witty touches

6.0

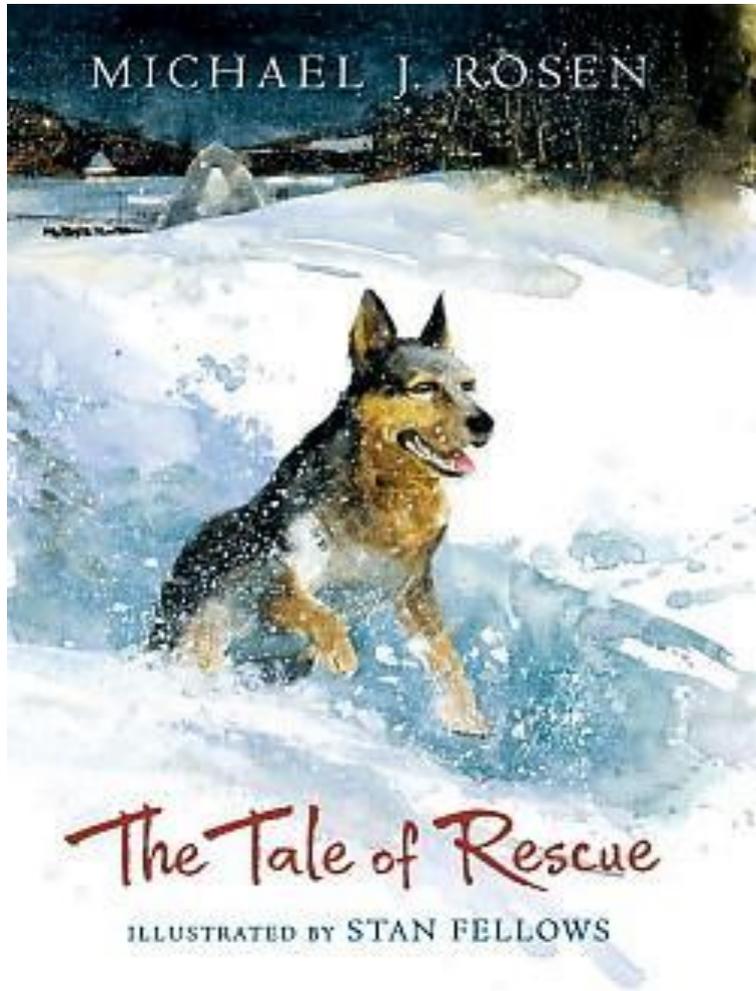


**\$17.00**

Twelve-year-old Emily is an avid player of Book Scavenger, the hidden-book game masterminded by publishing legend Garrison Griswold. When her family moves to San Francisco, home of Griswold's Bayside Press, she hopes it will position her favorably for the new game he's about to launch. But then Griswold is mugged and left in a coma, and the book he was carrying—a new edition of the Edgar Allan Poe short story "The Gold-Bug"—is missing. At the site of the mugging, Emily and her new friend and fellow code-enthusiast James find the book and take it home, where, upon reading it, they discover typos in the text that spell out words: fort, wild, rat, home, open, belief. Emily and James start following the clues—but nefarious others want the book, and they've already shown they're willing to hurt people to get it. Codes and ciphers star in this puzzle-game of a novel, offering challenges for code-breaking fanatics plus plentiful explanations for those who prefer that someone else do the legwork. A hiccup in Emily and James's new-fledged friendship and questions over which of their adult accessories are trustworthy create an emotional arc that supports the more cerebral treasure-hunt aspects, while the solution employs so many San Francisco landmarks that the city and its literary history take a best-supporting-player award.

6.8

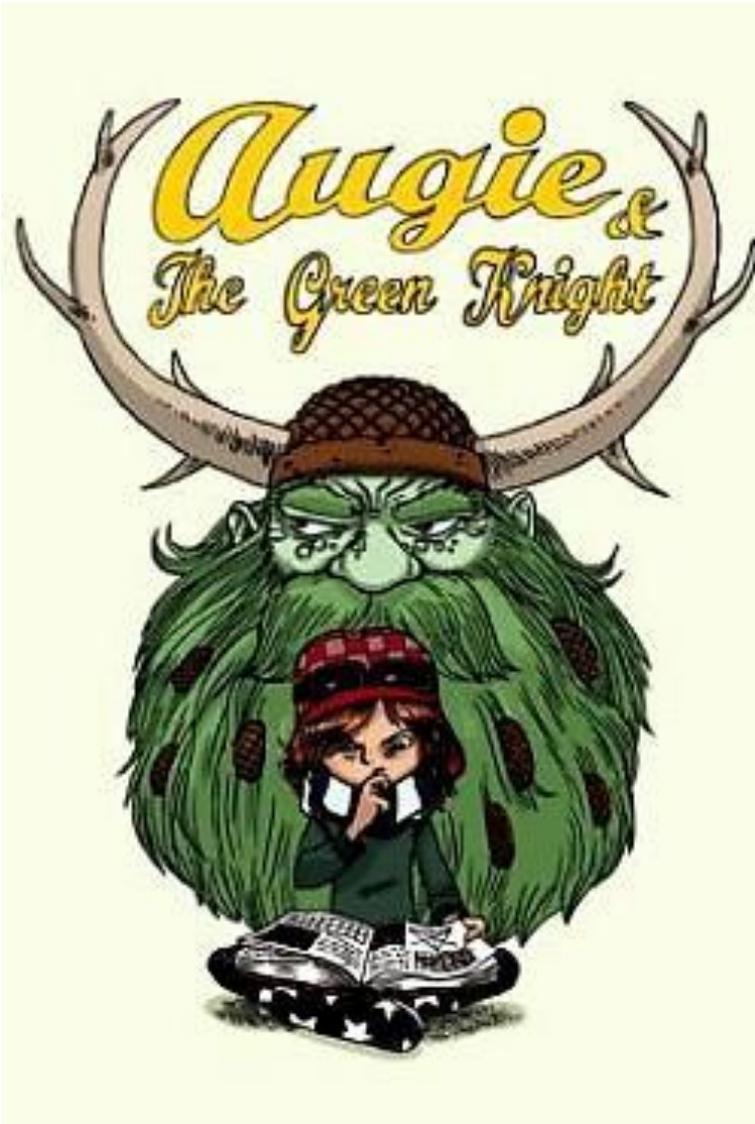
\$15.50



A Florida family of three—mother, father, and 10-year-old son—go on vacation to introduce the boy to a true Appalachian winter. An early morning hike through the snowy landscape turns dangerous as a sudden blizzard descends. Now trapped in a whiteout with almost no visibility, the snow too deep to walk through, the wind beating them back, they realize that their only chance is for the father's piercing whistle to be heard. Meanwhile, at a nearby farm, an Australian cattle dog hears the whistle and races toward it. Finding the family covered with ice in the freezing rain, she returns to the farm, rounds up her herd of cows, and guides them on a trek to clear a path to the stranded family. Beautifully lyrical language ("The snow spackled the evergreens' boughs.... The ground glistened like finely grated diamonds."), narrative tension, and accurate portrayal of animal behavior mark this gem of a novella.

6.9

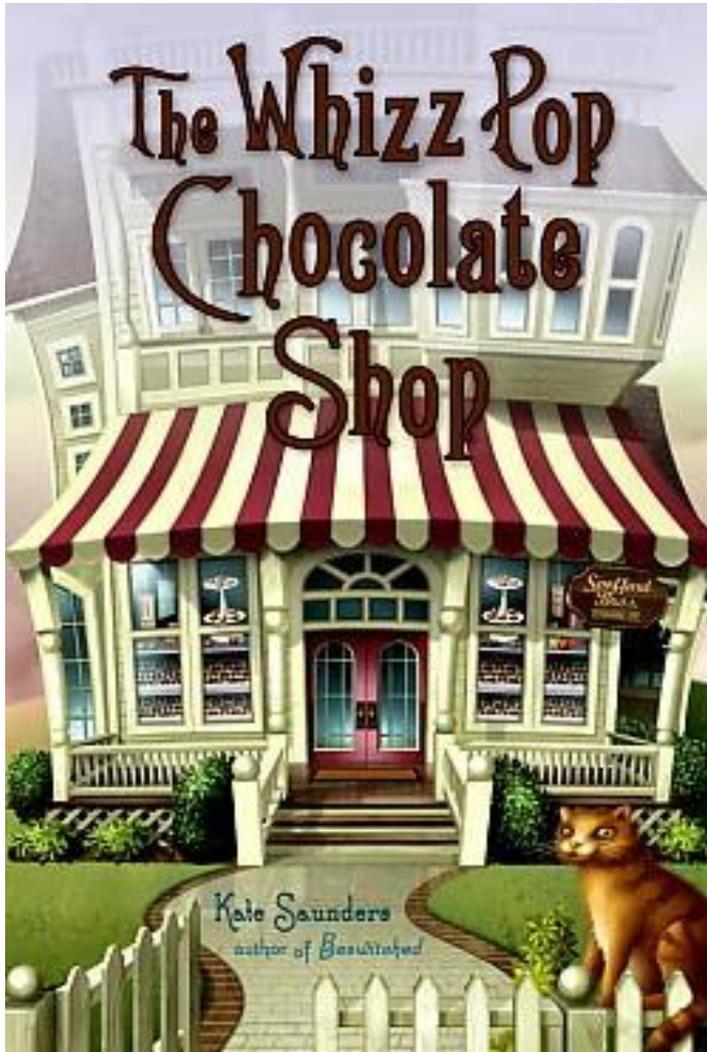
\$24.00



Based on: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.;Book issued under a Creative Commons license in 2015. On her walk in the woods one day, Augie befriends The Green Knight, who takes her along on a visit to King Arthur's castle where he encounters Sir Gawain.

6.0

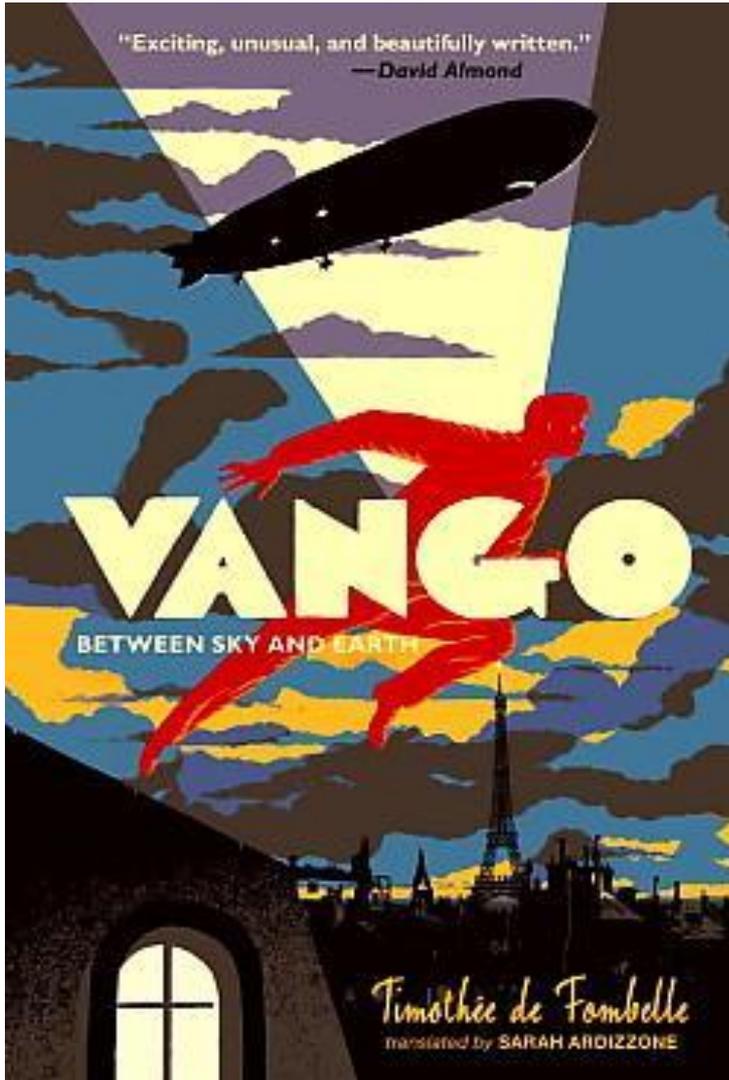
\$17.00



Mix chocolate, magic, villains, one immortal uncle, a few invisible and immortal animals, and a couple 11-year-olds, and viola!—a tasty morsel that, in some ways, is reminiscent of Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Unexpectedly, the Spoffards inherit a house from Mr. Spoffard’s great-uncles, who tragically died young in a tram accident in 1938. Twins Lily and Oz are captivated by the house, especially after meeting the resident invisible and immortal (and talking) animals: Demerara the cat and Spike the rat. Demerara and Spike tell the children that their deceased uncles were famous London chocolatiers and that they suspect one brother, Isadore, didn’t really die. The twins soon learn their summer will be quite an adventuresome one. By using magic to foil the children’s unsuspecting parents, the Secret Ministry of the Unexplained enlists the kids to help solve a plot to steal their uncles’ secret chocolate recipe and use it to destroy the world.

6.8

**\$18.00**



Minutes from joining the priesthood in 1934, Vango, who was found washed ashore on a tiny Italian island as a toddler, must suddenly avoid both arrest and a simultaneous assassination attempt. Establishing his innocence while on the run across Europe requires untangling his mysterious past. The story's got all the classic elements of swashbuckling adventure tales like *The Count of Monte Cristo*--except pistols replace swords, and the villains include men who would become leaders of the Axis powers. Flashbacks to Vango's childhood demonstrate that his heroism is innate--such as when, at 10, he drops from a cliff into a sinking boat to save a neighbor. But fate doesn't always reward valor, and de Fombelle notes that by saving his neighbor, the youngster "was embarking on a stormy life ahead." But Vango's gentleness and caring earn him loyalty (and potentially romance) from those who help him along his journey. These characters, like Vango, are inherently brave but also shaped by tragedy. Their courage is tested by war and their frustrating inability to counteract the growing power of the Nazi regime. Tension escalates when readers begin to suspect that Vango's story is more closely interwoven with the conflicts of World War II than either he or his supporters realize.

**\$19.50**

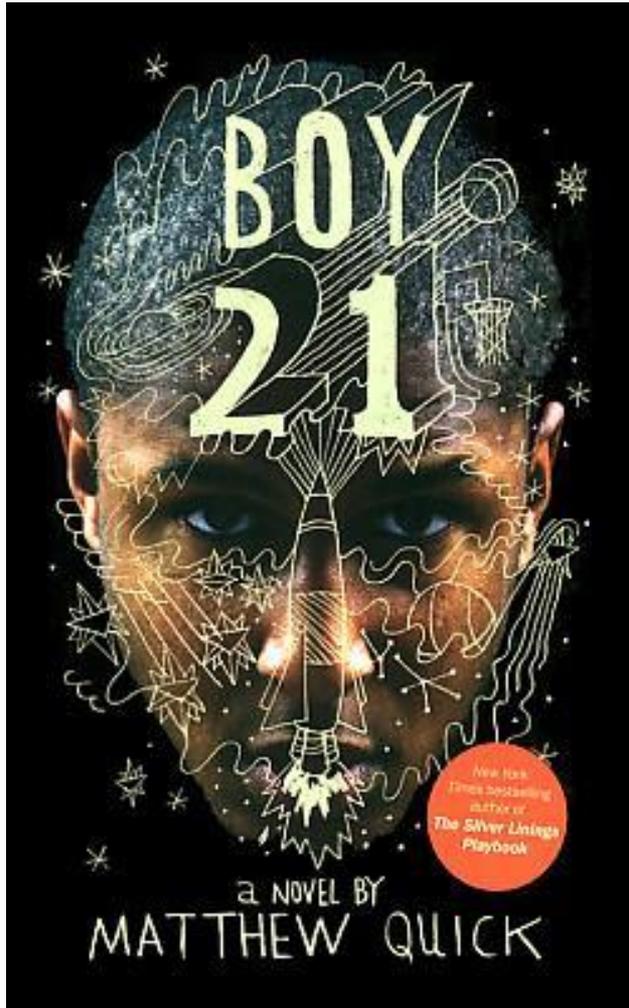
**7.5**



Crystal-clear prose poems paint a heart-rending picture of 13-year-old Mina Masako Tagawa's journey from Seattle to a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II. This vividly wrought story of displacement, told from Mina's first-person perspective, begins as it did for so many Japanese-Americans: with the bombs dropping on Pearl Harbor. The backlash of her Seattle community is instantaneous ("Jap, Jap, Jap, the word bounces / around the walls of the hall"), and Mina chronicles its effects on her family with a heavy heart. "I am an American, I scream / in my head, but my mouth is stuffed / with rocks; my body is a stone, like the statue / of a little Buddha Grandpa prays to." When Roosevelt decrees that West Coast Japanese-Americans are to be imprisoned in inland camps, the Tagawas board up their house, leaving the cat, Grandpa's roses and Mina's best friend behind. Following the Tagawas from Washington's Puyallup Assembly Center to Idaho's Minidoka Relocation Center (near the titular town of Eden), the narrative continues in poems and letters. In them, injustices such as endless camp lines sit alongside even larger ones, such as the government's asking interned young men, including Mina's brother, to fight for America. A

7.5

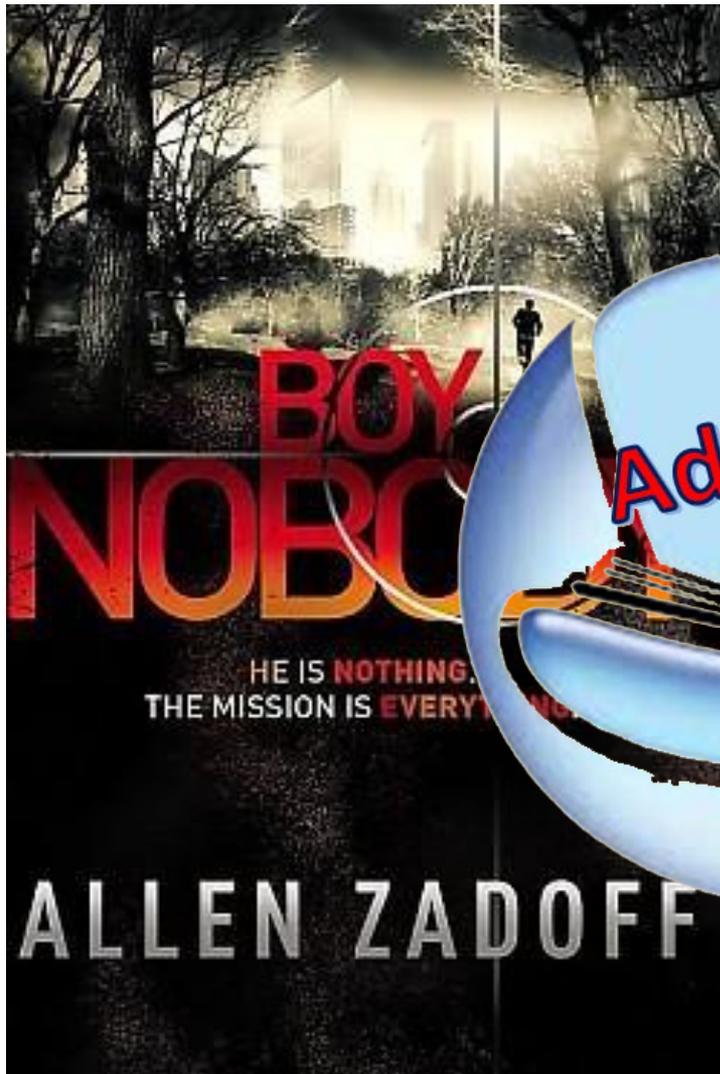
\$16.5



In a town partially controlled by the Irish mob, a quiet friendship develops between two basketball players. Finley doesn't say much, and his basketball teammates fondly call him White Rabbit, both for his quiet demeanor and for being the only white player on his high school team. He is surprised but willing when his coach introduces him to Russ Washington and asks Finley to look after him. Russ, a nationally recognized athlete, is experiencing post-traumatic stress after the murder of his parents. While there are hints that something in Finley's own past makes this assignment particularly relevant, Finley quietly but firmly refuses to discuss his own history with other characters or with readers. Instead, they see the friendship among the two boys and Finley's girlfriend, Erin, gently unfold and the mysteries surrounding Russ deepen. Does Russ want to play basketball or not? Does he really believe he is an alien called Boy21?

8.0

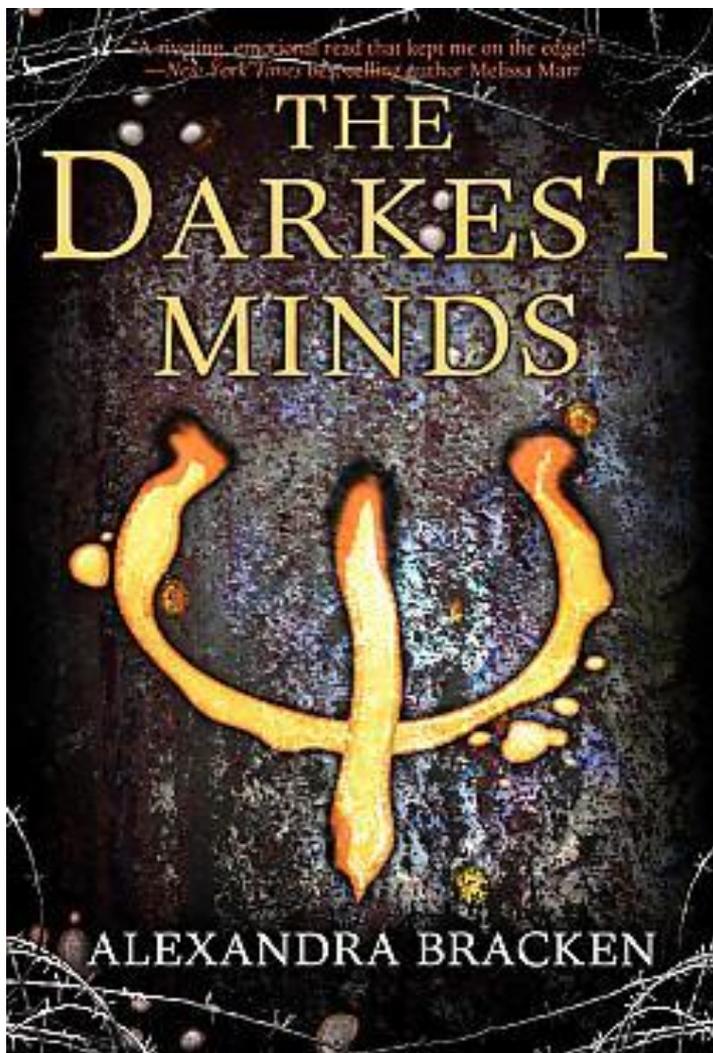
\$18.00



Boy Nobody is a coldly dispassionate teenage assassin working for a mysterious organization called the Program. When it assigns him his next mission—to assassinate the mayor of New York—it seems at first like business as usual. But then he meets Sam, the beautiful daughter. Suddenly, his mission abruptly changed, and all bets are off. The formerly obedient Boy Nobody is asking questions that are dangerous to his mission and to himself. The question that a teenager is playing the role assigned to Boy Nobody in a book like these requires a suspension of disbelief, and most readers will be willing to make that concession for the sake of the fast-paced plot and the surprisingly sympathetic protagonist. Operating in the tradition of James Bond and of Robert Cormier's *Run with the Cheese* (1977), *Boy Nobody* is an auspicious first volume in a promised new series of action-adventure thrillers that will keep readers clamoring for more.

8.0

\$18.00

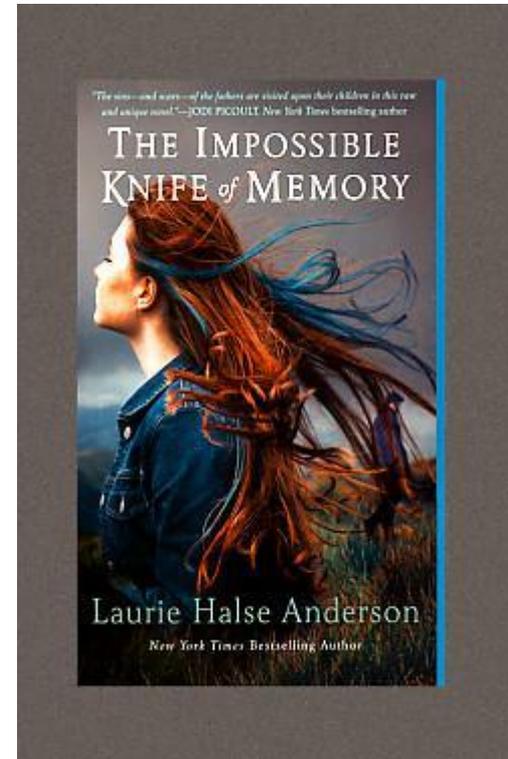


In the not-so-distant future, most of America's children have died; but those who live find that they have psychic abilities that range from moving objects to getting inside people's minds. Sixteen-year-old Ruby, using her powers as an Orange, has escaped the survivor facility she has lived in for six years. She has also used her abilities to make the doctors believe she is a more docile Green. Now Ruby intends to keep her secret, even from new friends, including handsome Liam, persnickety Chubs, and the mute but sweet, young Zu. This ragged band searches the Virginia countryside in hopes of finding the Slip Kid, who seems to have outsmarted the government. Instead they find trouble on almost every turn of the page, but eventually discover what seems to be a youth utopia. Bracken is skilled at ramping up the action, but there is so much going on here, it's hard to keep it all straight. Still, the character development is good, and the book's ability to tackle larger issues is solid. In the end, Ruby must make an important decision

**8.0**

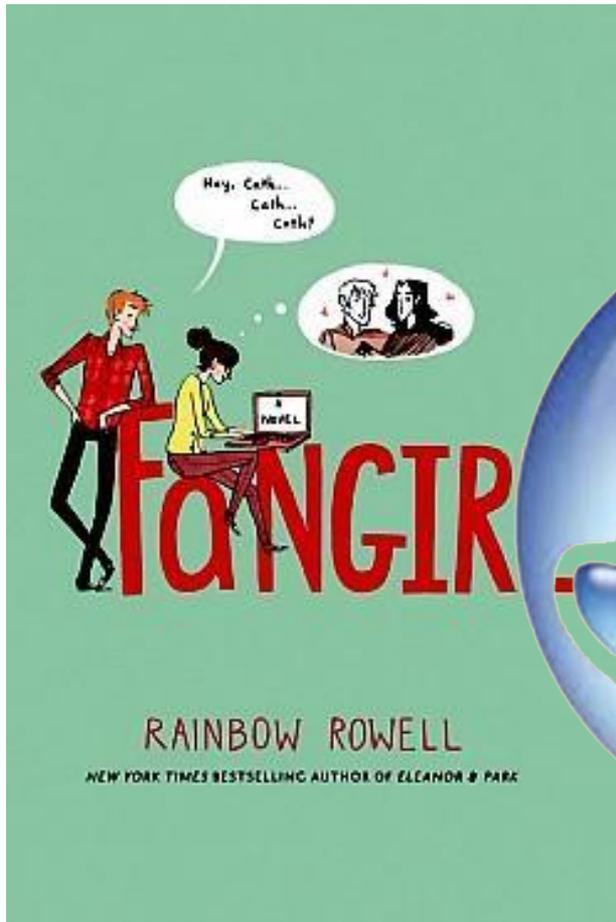
**\$17.50**

This book provides a compelling look into the complexities of post-traumatic stress disorder from the perspectives of both the victim and a loved one. Seventeen-year-old Hayley Kincaid's father, a war veteran, is tortured by painful memories that he attempts to drown with drugs and alcohol. After spending years on the road in the cab of an 18-wheeler with her dad, Hayley finds herself having to navigate the daily challenges of a traditional high school and her first romantic relationship. Readers will easily identify with at least one character in Hayley's world as each of her friends must deal with some level of dysfunction within their families. Hayley shines as a refreshing contrast to the stereotypical teenager, reflecting intelligence and self-confidence. A serious subject is balanced by humorous cultural commentary, making this an intelligent, thought-provoking, and entertaining read.



7.8

\$18.00



Much of the literary fandoms we see are dominated by bookish girls writing and posting online fan fiction, often romantic in nature and frequently featuring gay, non-traditional relationships. But this is Cath's world. Her fandom is the Simon Snow series. Simon is a Potter-like figure who saves the world and the Humdrum, a magical world that is slowly erasing the world of magic. Cath is a fan who reads Cath's two-volume series, "Simon Snow," a piece she's written before the release of the series. However, life has intervened: she's starting college with her new roommate, Wren, who has a crush on her. They share dorm rooms so they can meet new people." An awakening unfolds as Cath battles her mother's mental illness, a new romance, and feelings for her dorm mate's friendly part-time boyfriend. This is an epic writ small; the magic here is cast not with wands but with Rowell's incredible ability to build complex, vivid, troubling, and triumphant relationships. The internal lives of the characters are so well developed that it is almost surprising to remember that Rowell is writing in third person.