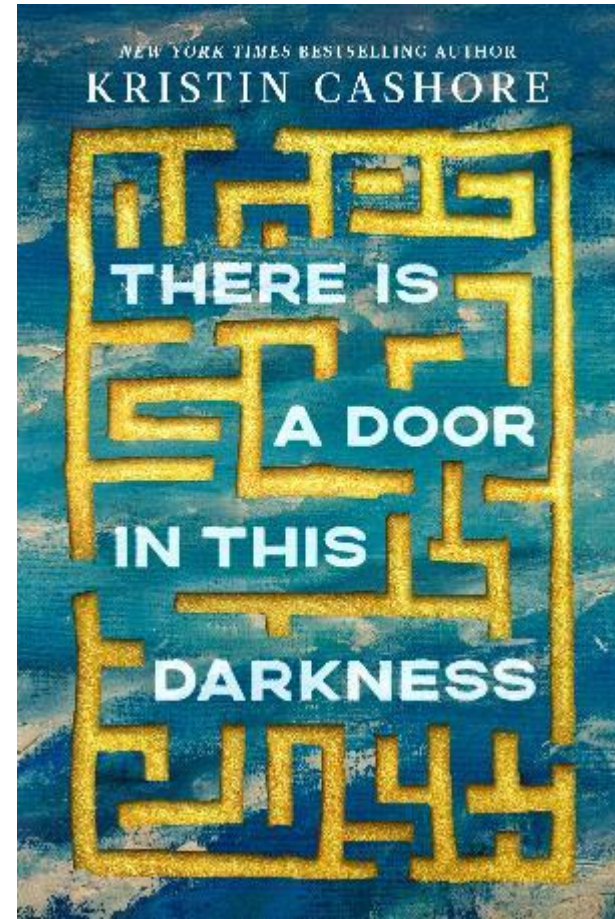
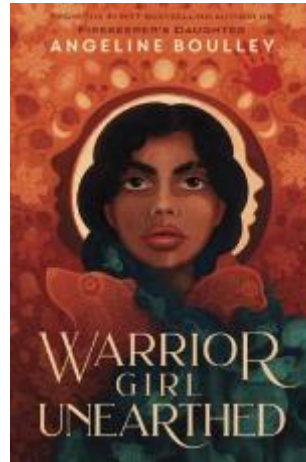
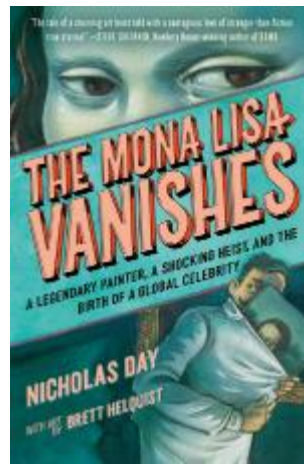
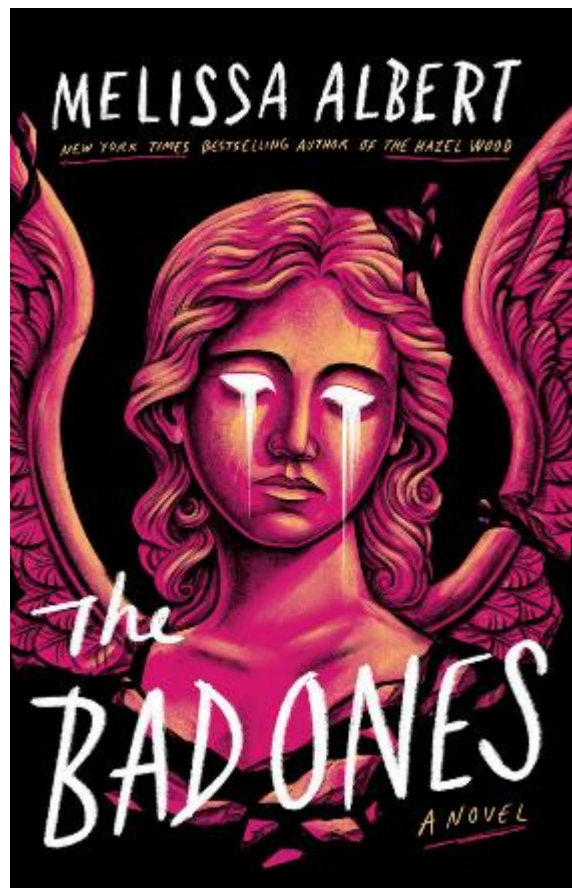


THE BOOK GROUP

FRANKFURT 2023





THE BAD ONES

Melissa Albert

Agent: Faye Bender

Flatiron (February 2024)

*Goddess, goddess, count to five
In the morning, who's alive?*

In the course of a single winter's night, four people vanish without a trace across a small town.

Nora's estranged best friend, Becca, is one of the lost. As Nora tries to untangle the truth of Becca's disappearance, she discovers a darkness in her town's past, as well as a string of coded messages Becca left for her to unravel. These clues lead Nora to a piece of local lore: a legendary goddess of forgotten origins who played a role in Nora and Becca's own childhood games. . . .

An arresting, crossover horror fantasy threaded with dark magic, *THE BAD ONES* is a poison-pen love letter to semi-toxic best friendship, the occult power of childhood play and artistic creation, and the razor-thin line between make-believe and belief.

Melissa Albert is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling Hazel Wood series and her work has been translated into more than twenty languages. Her most recent novel was *Our Crooked Hearts*, Amazon's #1 YA Book of 2022. She's from Illinois and lives in Brooklyn with her husband and son.

Sold to:

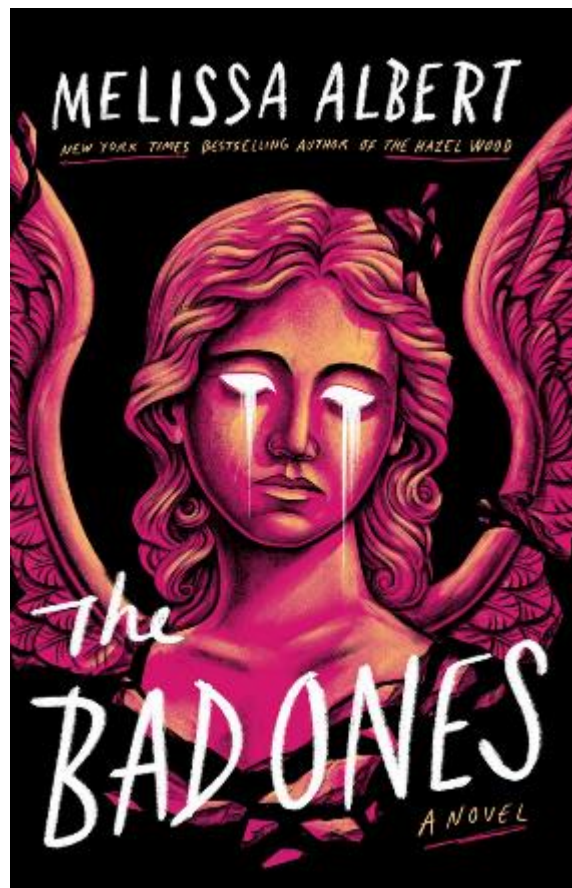
Urano (Spain and Latin America)

Penguin UK (UK)

2024

PRAISE FOR....

Young Adult



Sold to:

Urano (Spain and Latin America)

Penguin UK (UK)

THE BAD ONES

Melissa Albert

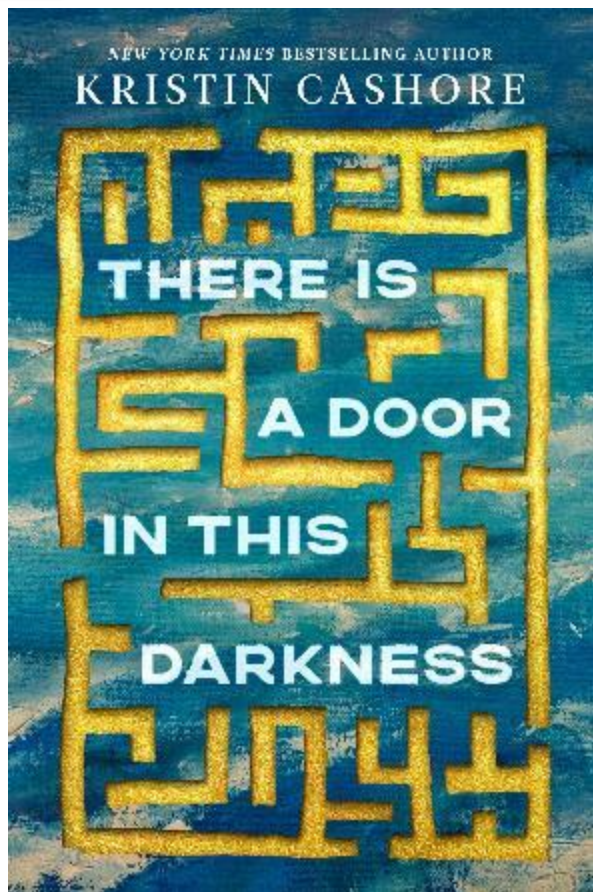
“Melissa Albert writes the kind of horror that doesn’t just make you check under your bed—it makes you check your own reflection in the mirror. A black-veined, spectral howl of a novel, *THE BAD ONES* cements Albert as the contemporary queen of suburban fantasy.” —**Ava Reid, #1 NYT bestselling author of *A STUDY IN DROWNING***

“As twisting and intriguing as a puzzle box, *THE BAD ONES* reveals secret after sinister secret, unfolding chilling layers right until the very end. Melissa Albert is a master of the uncanny.” —**Erin A. Craig, author of *HOUSE OF ROOTS AND RUIN***

“*THE BAD ONES* is a slow-burning yet delectable story so sinister I wanted to keep reading it forever. Albert's prose is juicy and sharp, and will haunt you in all the best ways.” —**Jamison Shea, author of *I FEED HER TO THE BEAST AND THE BEAST IS ME***

“*The Bad Ones* opens with a terrifying and unsettling sequence of disappearances--and then the tension never relents. With beguiling prose and a simmering sense of dread, the book kept me absolutely spellbound as its darkly supernatural mystery unfolded.” --**Kate Alice Marshall, author of *What Lies in the Woods* and *Rules for Vanishing***

“*THE BAD ONES* is a thrilling reminder of what horror that respects its audience can feel like. This was an addictively terrifying, beautifully vicious book.”
—**Courtney Summers, author of *SADIE***



THERE IS A DOOR IN THIS DARKNESS

Kristin Cashore

Agent: Faye Bender
Dutton (June 2024)

A magic-tinged contemporary YA about grief and hope from the acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Graceling Realm* novels.

Wilhelmina Hart is part of the infamous class of 2020. Her high school years began with the election of Donald Trump and they ended with COVID. Now Wilhelmina, like so many of her peers, is in limbo, having deferred college because of the pandemic. Compounding the national trauma of 2016 to 2020, Wilhelmina has wrestled with the illness and death of one of her three beloved aunts shortly after the 2016 election. This is a loss she felt so keenly that she's spent the last years deep in her personal depression, only obscured by the seemingly endless waves of national trauma. Now on the cusp on the most consequential election in living memory, Wilhelmina may have found a door in her darkness and perhaps the courage to pass through it, if she can decipher the bizarre messages that keep appearing in her life.



Jas Hammonds was raised in many cities and between the pages of many books. They have received support for their writing from Baldwin for the Arts, the Highlights Foundation and more. They are also a recipient of the MacDowell James Baldwin Fellowship and their debut novel, *We Deserve Monuments*, won the 2023 Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award for New Talent, among other accolades.

THIRSTY

Jas Hammond

Agent: Faye Bender

Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan (May 2024)

A new novel by the award-winning author of *We Deserve Monuments*, winner the 2023 Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award for New Talent

It's the summer before college and eighteen-year-old Blake Brenner and her girlfriend, Ella, have one goal: join the mysterious and exclusive Serena Society. The sorority promises status and life-long connections to a network of powerful, trailblazing women of color. Ella's acceptance is a sure thing—she's the daughter of a Serena alum. Blake, however, has a lot more to prove. As a former loner from a working-class background, Blake lacks Ella's pedigree and confidence. Luckily, she finds courage at the bottom of a liquor bottle. When she drinks, she's bold, funny, and unstoppable—and the Serenas love it. But as pledging intensifies, so does Blake's drinking, until it's seeping into every corner of her life. Ella assures Blake that she's *fine*; partying hard is what it takes to make the cut...

But success has never felt so much like drowning. With her future hanging in the balance and her past dragging her down, Blake must decide how far she's willing to go to achieve her glittering dreams of success—and how much of herself she's willing to lose in the process.



BETTER MUST COME

Desmond Hall

Agent: Faye Bender

Caitlyn Dlouhy/Atheneum Books, March 2024)

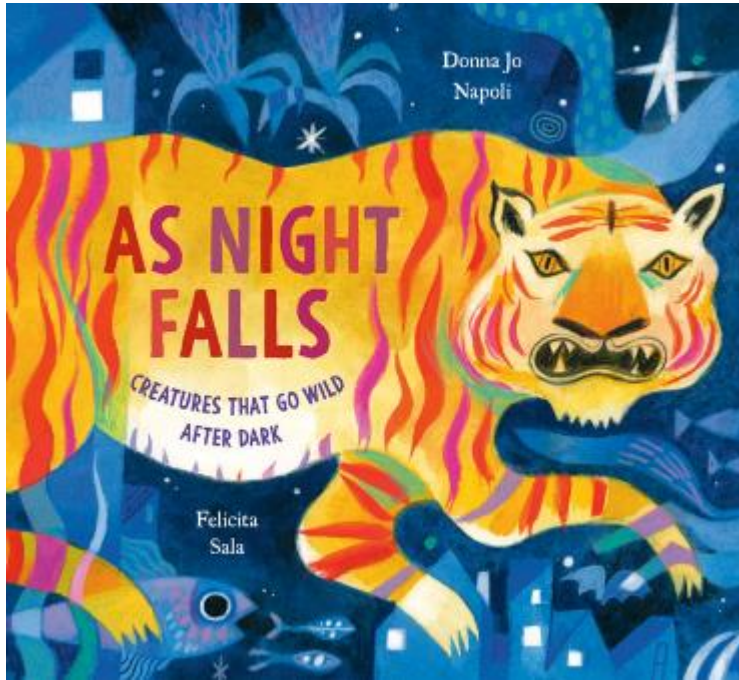
Barely Missing Everything meets *American Street* in this fiercely evocative, action-packed young adult thriller that looks at the darker side of light-filled Jamaica and how a tragedy and missing drug money helplessly entangles the lives of two teens who want to change their fate.

Deja is a “barrel girl”—one of the Jamaican kids who get barrels full of clothes, food, and treats shipped to them from parents who have moved to the US or Canada to make more money. Gabriel is caught up in a gang and desperate for a way out. When he meets Deja at a party, he starts looking for a way into her life and wonders if they could be a part of each other’s futures.

Then, one day while out fishing, Deja spies a go-fast boat stalled out by some rocks, smeared with blood. Inside, a badly wounded man thrusts a knapsack at her, begging her to deliver it to his original destination, and to not say a word. She binds his wounds, determines to send for help, and make good on her promise...not realizing that the bag is stuffed with \$500,000 American. Not realizing that the posse Gabriel is in will stop at nothing to get their hands on this bag—or that Gabriel’s and her lives will intersect in ways neither ever imagined, as they both are forced to make split second choices to keep the ones they love most alive.

“Hall is a hurricane of a writer.” –NYT bestselling author Jason Reynolds

Desmond Hall was born in Jamaica, West Indies, and moved to Jamaica, Queens. He has worked as a high school biology and English teacher in East New York, Brooklyn; counseled teenage ex-cons after their release from Rikers Island; and served as Spike Lee’s creative director at Spike DDB. He’s the author of *Your Corner Dark* and *Better Must Come*.



40 pages
10" x 11"
Full-color throughout

AS NIGHT FALLS

Creatures that Go Wild after Dark

By Donna Jo Napoli
Art by Felicita Sala


Agent for TEXT: Brenda Bowen
Agent for ART: Random House Children's Books
(Random House Studio, Fall 2023)

This science-themed picture book is for the littlest nature aficionado. Bursting with vibrant illustrations, it offers an inviting look into the secret world of how nature goes **BERSERK at night!**

From microscopic organisms to giant cats, it's surprising who you'll find awake in the middle of the night! Dinoflagellates guzzle floating bacteria, bumblebee bats loop and swoop, racer snakes slither, weasels sneak and circle, and spot-bellied eagle owls leap and sweep. One by one, the animals of the food chain find their next scrumptious treat.

For children whose curiosity abounds, and restless sleepers greedy for one more story or one more goodnight kiss, this distinctive picture book with a science focus gives a peek at the animals that come alive at night.

DONNA JO NAPOLI is both a linguist and a writer of children's and young adult fiction. Some of her work includes *Treasury of Greek Mythology*, *Stones in Water*, *Treasury of Norse Mythology*, and *Daughter of Venice*. She has five children and eight grandchildren. She dreams of moving to the woods and becoming a naturalist. She loves to garden, bake bread, dance, and make pottery.



Shrimpy copepods

BUMP
BUMP
BUMP

Goby fish with bubble eyes spy and gobble copepods

scrapping up
dinoflagellates

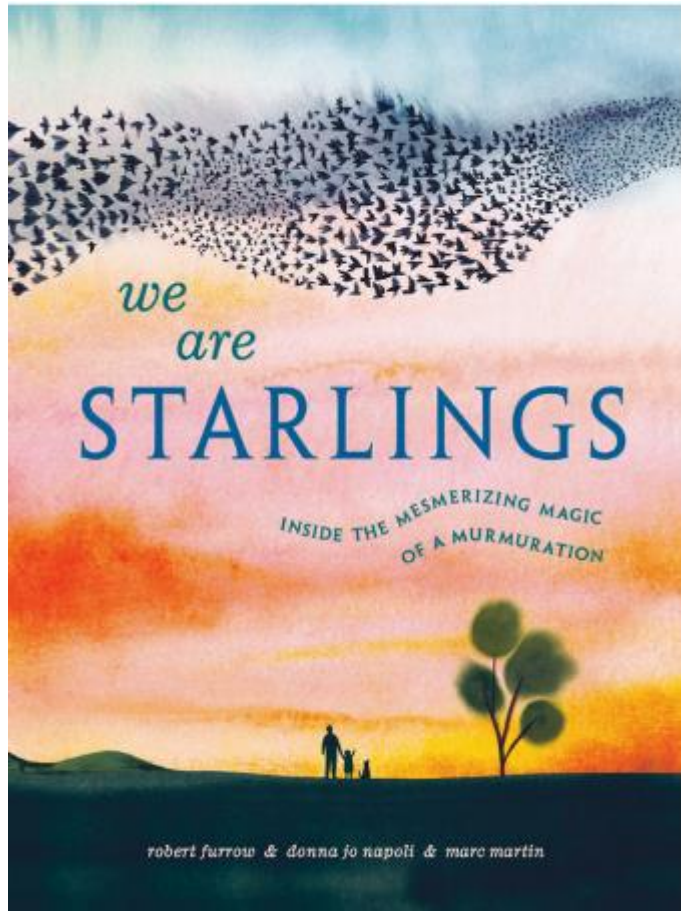
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Gone with one swipe!
Wipe those whiskers clean

Tigers eat whatever they want.

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WE ARE STARLINGS

Inside the Mesmerizing Magic of a Murmuration

Written by Robert Furrow & Donna Jo Napoli
Art by Marc Martin

Agent for TEXT: Brenda Bowen

Agent for ART: Random House Children's Books
(Random House Studio, May 2023)

A stunning picture book for young nature lovers about starlings and the fascinating phenomenon of murmurations. Illustrated by the award-winning artist Marc Martin, this book about the natural world vividly explores how such an enigma is even possible.


Sweeping, diving, twisting, turning. To look up at a murmuration of starlings is an experience like no other. Hundreds, thousands, and sometimes millions of starlings fly together as one flock. The group ripples, whirls, and waves as each bird stays close to its neighbors in a harmonious synchronicity of movement.

The story is told from the point of view of the flock, which gives the reader an inside look at what is happening, and the breathtaking illustrations perfectly capture the ebb and flow of a murmuration. Young readers will witness and fully appreciate the extraordinary communication and collaboration abilities of these birds and may be able to apply these lessons to their own lives.

DONNA JO NAPOLI is both a linguist and a writer of children's and young adult fiction. Some of her work includes *Treasury of Greek Mythology*, *Stones in Water*, *Treasury of Norse Mythology*, and *Daughter of Venice*. She has five children and eight grandchildren. She dreams of moving to the woods and becoming a naturalist. She loves to garden, bake bread, dance, and make pottery. **ROBERT FURROW** is assistant professor of teaching in wildlife, fish, and conservation biology at the University of California at Davis.

40 pages
8.5" x 11.5"
Full-color throughout

We take to the air and meet up with more starlings.

The image is a full-page background featuring a dense, chaotic pattern of small, dark blue or black bird silhouettes in flight. The birds are scattered across the entire frame, creating a sense of a large flock. The background is a soft, watercolor-like gradient of light pink and pale orange, with some darker, more saturated patches of orange and pink, particularly towards the right and bottom edges. The overall effect is one of a vast, busy natural scene.

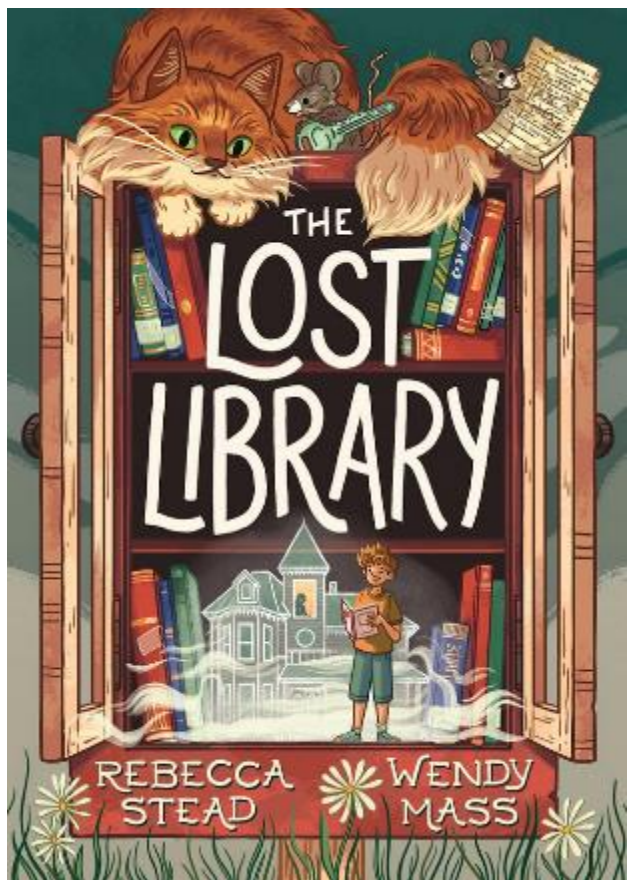
There are millions of us!

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2023

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Middle-grade



Sold to: Dolphin Media (Simplified Chinese character rights); Mann, Ivanov and Ferber (Russia); Nha Nam (Vietnam); Arena Verlag (Germany); Dobrovsky (Czech Republic); Delight Press (Taiwan)

THE LOST LIBRARY

Rebecca Stead & Wendy Mass

Agent: Faye Bender

Feiwei & Friends August 2023

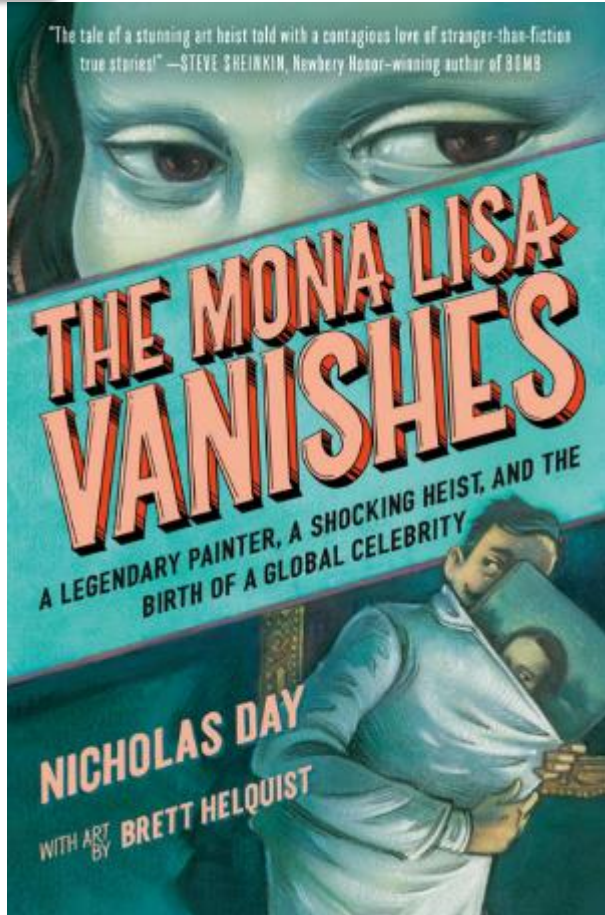
When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight in the small town of Martinville, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change.

Evan and his best friend Rafe quickly discover a link between one of the old books and a long-ago event that none of the grown-ups want to talk about. The two boys start asking questions whose answers will transform not only their own futures, but the town itself.

Told in turn by a ghost librarian named Al, an aging (but beautiful) cat named Mortimer, and Evan himself, *The Lost Library* is a timeless story from award-winning authors Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass. It's about owning your truth, choosing the life you want, and the power of a good book (and, of course, the librarian who gave it to you).

Rebecca Stead is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *When You Reach Me*, *Liar & Spy*, *First Light*, *Goodbye Stranger*, *Bob*, and, most recently, *The List of Things That Will Not Change*. Her books have been awarded the Newbery Medal, the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award for Fiction and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. Rebecca lives in New York City, where she is always on the lookout for her next story idea.

Wendy Mass is the *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty-nine novels for young people (which have been translated into 26 languages and nominated for 91 state book awards). She lives with her family in northwest New Jersey.



Sold to:
Laffont, France
Mondadori, Italy
Shogakukan, Japan

THE MONA LISA VANISHES

A Legendary Painter, A Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity

Nicholas Day, Illustrated by Brett Helquist

Agent for TEXT: Brenda Bowen

Agent for ART: Steven Malk, Writers House

(Random House Studio, Sept 2023)

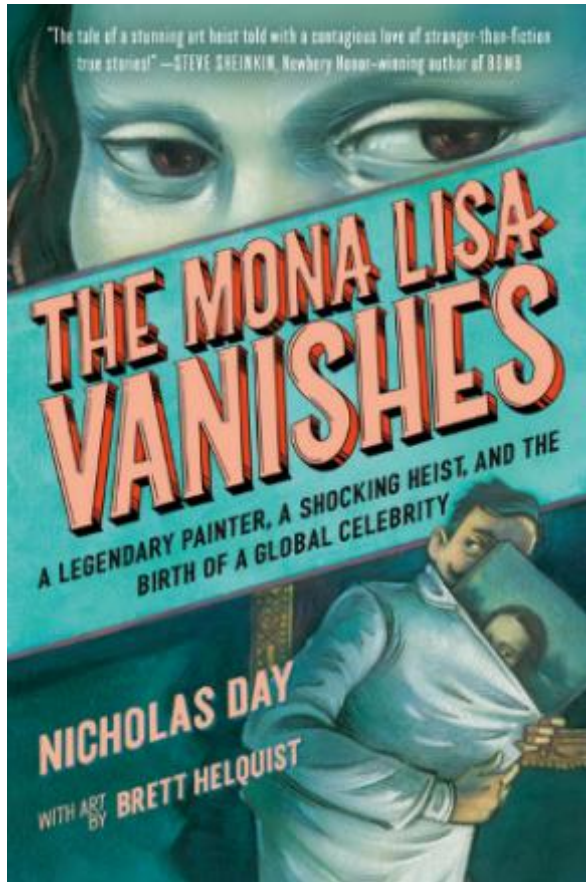
The Mona Lisa Vanishes introduces Nicholas Day, an electrifying new voice in middle-grade non-fiction. To be illustrated by Brett Helquist, whose iconic covers for *A Series of Unfortunate Events* are internationally renowned.

This propulsive work of narrative non-fiction for middle-graders tells the twisting, turning, near-incredible story of how the Mona Lisa was stolen, how the robbery made the portrait the most famous artwork in the world—and how the painting never should have existed at all. This is middle-grade nonfiction written at the pace of a thriller, shot through with stories of crime and celebrity, genius and beauty.

The Mona Lisa Vanishes in Paris, 1911 and Renaissance Italy. It traces a relentless, wrongheaded investigation through the front pages and back streets of Paris, knocking at the door of the most famous artist of the modern era, and ultimately ending up in a packed courtroom in Rome. Simultaneously, it follows Leonardo da Vinci through his dazzling, weird, unlikely life. History here isn't something that *had* to happen—history, like life, is one improbable event after another.

NICHOLAS DAY's work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*, among other publications. He lives in Western Massachusetts.

BRETT HELQUIST is repped by Steven Malk at Writers House.



THE MONA LISA VANISHES

A Legendary Painter, A Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity

Nicholas Day, Illustrated by Brett Helquist

Amazon Best Book of 2023

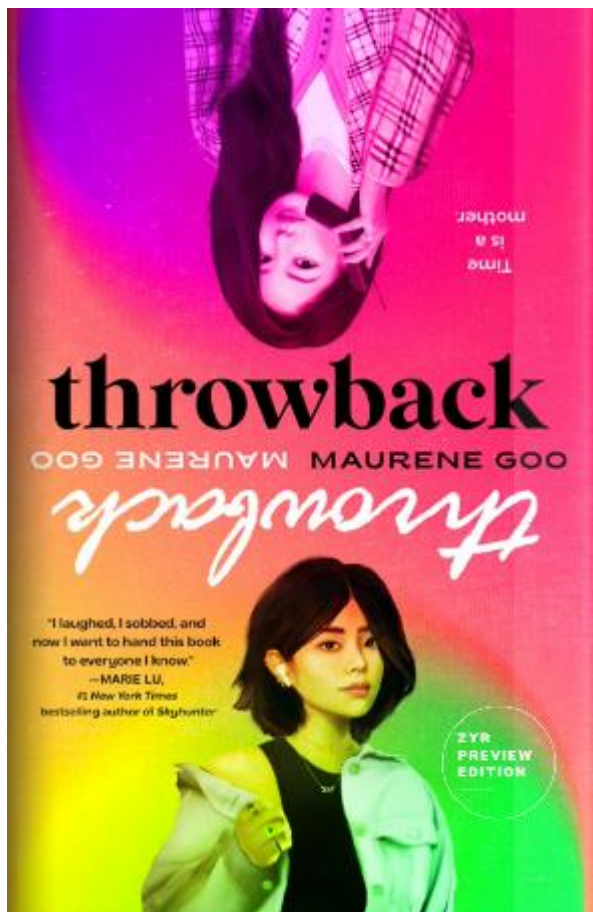
New York Times “A veritable rogues’ gallery of suspects star in this witty thriller about the theft of the painting from the Louvre in 1911.”

STARRED PW: “A captivating work of narrative nonfiction; altogether, it’s a wildly entertaining, thoroughly contextualized look at art, history, and fame.”

STARRED Kirkus: “Day tells his tale with considerable verve... Readers will love the brouhaha and will be tempted to take closer looks at the art too. A multistranded yarn skillfully laid out in broad, light brush strokes with some cogent themes mixed in.”

STARRED Booklist: “The narratives in both time periods are enhanced by Day’s clear explanations of events and their contexts, his appreciation for irony, and his skillful storytelling, which is continuously compelling and often brightened by understated humor... A completely engaging book.”

From Fuse #8: “One of the best books of 2023, bar none.”



Film rights optioned to SISTER

Sold to:

Companhia das Letras (Brazil)

Milan (France)

Hachette (UK)

THROWBACK

Maurene Goo

Agent: Faye Bender

(Zando, April 2023)

Being a first-generation Asian American immigrant is hard. You know what's harder? Being the daughter of one. Samantha Kang has never gotten along with her mother, Priscilla, and after a huge fight between them, Sam is desperate to move forward—but instead, finds herself thrown back.

Way back.

To her shock, Sam finds herself back in high school...in the '90s...with a 17-year-old Priscilla and now this Gen Z girl must try to fit into an analog world. She's got the fashion down, but everything else is baffling. What is "microfiche"? What's with the casual racism and misogyny? And why does it feel like Priscilla is someone she could actually be...friends with?

Sam's blast to the past has her finding the right romance in the wrong time while questioning everything she thought she knew about her mom...and herself. A humorous, romantic, and heartfelt time-travel adventure that asks big questions about what exactly one inherits and loses in the immigrant experience, *Throwback* is *Back to the Future* meets *Thirteen Going on Thirty* with just a dash of *The Joy Luck Club*.

Maurene Goo is a critically-acclaimed and award-winning author of young adult novels, comics writer, and screenwriter based in Los Angeles. Her novels have been translated into twelve languages, received multiple starred reviews from Publishers Weekly, Kirkus, School Library Journal, and Booklist, been placed on many school, library, and state reading lists and has appeared on several "Best Book" lists, including NPR, Cosmo, The Boston Globe, The New York Public Library and The Los Angeles Public Library. Her novels *I Believe in a Thing Called Love* and *Somewhere Only We Know* are currently being developed into feature films by Netflix and she is currently writing a feature film for Sony Pictures Animation.

PRAISE FOR

THROWBACK

Maurene Goo

“I laughed, I sobbed, and now I want to hand this book to every person I know.”

— MARIE LU, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Skywalker*

“The fresh, funny, yet profoundly thoughtful time travel story you didn’t know you needed—but trust me, you definitely do.”

—VERONICA ROTH, *NYTimes* bestselling author of *Divergent*

“One of those rare books that manages to unearth deep truths with the lightest of touches. A true pleasure to read.”

—NICOLA YOON, #1 *NYTimes* bestselling author of *Instructions for Dancing*

“Goo’s masterful storytelling examines the complex nature of familial relationships. A deft, delightful, and emotionally complex examination of intergenerational relationships.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

“With a hauntingly hilarious premise—getting flung back in time to be besties with your mean girl mom in high school—*Throwback* is bright, warm and wholly engrossing. Brimming with breezy dialogue and wry fashion observations, Maurene Goo has rendered a captivating jaunt through the mid-nineties, complete with casual racism and vintage identity politics. Slyly provocative, compulsively readable, with an absolutely tantalizing twist, *Throwback* is a striking, heartfelt addition to the time-travel canon. I want to hang out with the Korean women in this family.” —

Mary H.K. Choi, *New York Times* bestselling author

MORE PRAISE NEXT PAGE!



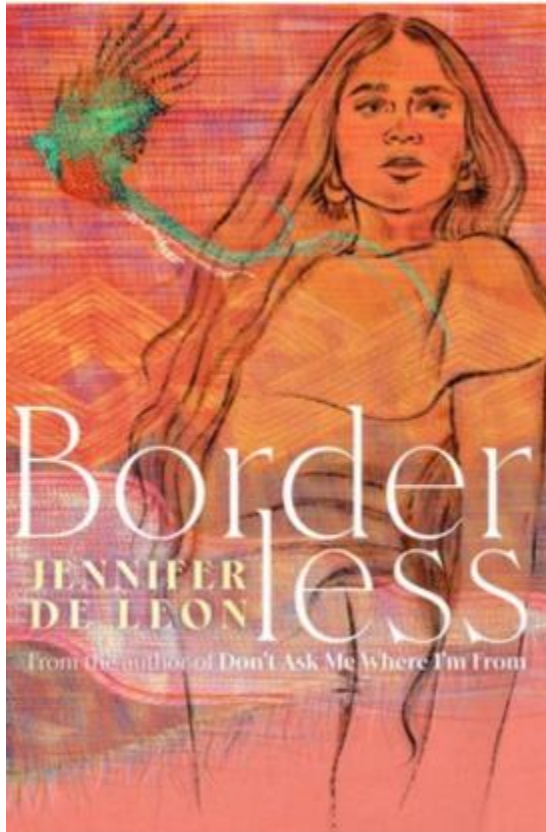
Film rights optioned to SISTER

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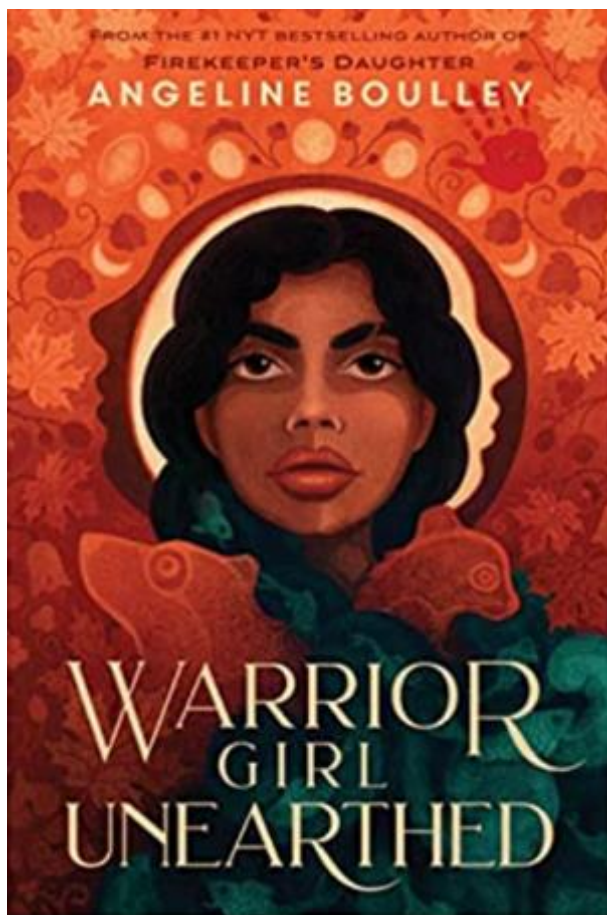
Jennifer De Leon

Agent: Faye Bender

(April 2023, Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Simon & Schuster)

Heart-pounding and propulsive, intimate and deeply human, *MAYA* tells the story of 17 year old aspiring fashion designer Maya who, with her mother, faces grave danger in their hometown in Guatemala and are forced to flee in the dead of night. With only each other to count on, they make it to the U.S./Mexico border where they are separated in an ICE detention center. In an unforgiving and unfamiliar world, Maya needs to find her way back to what and who she holds most dear.

Jennifer De Leon is author of the YA novel *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* (Simon & Schuster), which was a Finalist for International Latino Book Award, a finalist for 2020 New England Book Award, and a Junior Library Guild selection, and the Juniper Award winning essay collection *White Space: Essays on Culture, Race, & Writing* (UMass Press).



Foreign rights:

Largely under option to
Angeline Boulley's current publishers

WARRIOR GIRL UNEARTHED

Angeline Boulley

Agent: Faye Bender

(Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, May 2, 2023)

From Angeline Boulley, the New York Times bestselling author of *Firekeeper's Daughter*, comes *Warrior Girl Unearthed*, a thrilling YA mystery about a Native teen who must find a way to bring an ancestor home to her tribe.

Perry Firekeeper-Birch was ready for her Summer of Slack but instead, after a fender bender that was entirely not her fault, she's stuck working to pay back her Auntie Daunis for repairs to the Jeep.

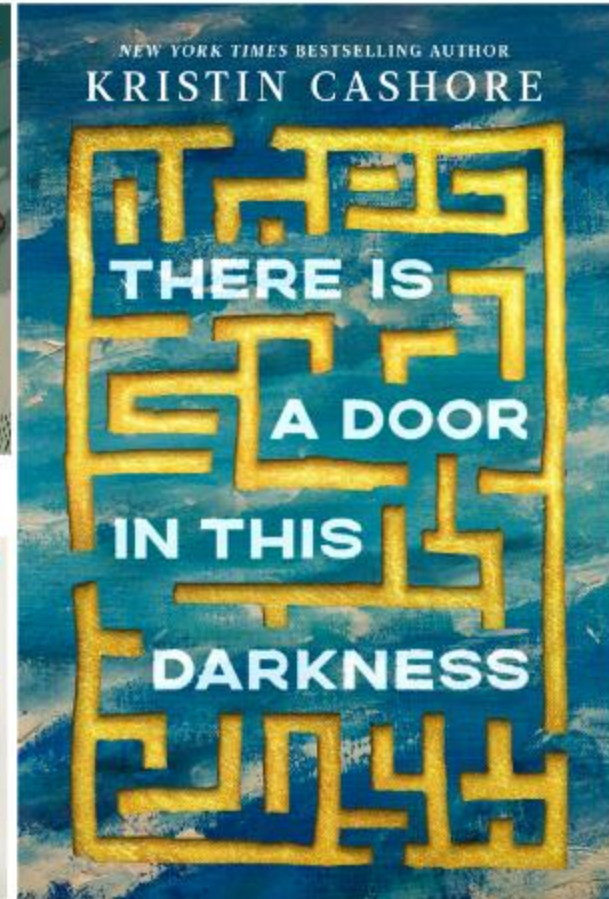
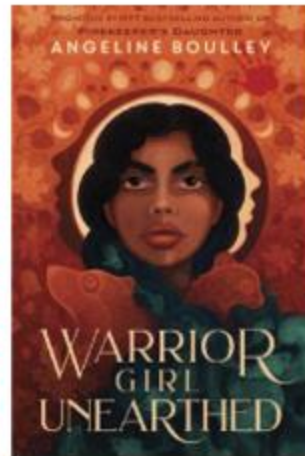
Thankfully she has the other outcasts of the summer program, Team Misfit Toys, and even her twin sister Pauline. Together they ace obstacle courses, plan vigils for missing women in the community, and make sure summer doesn't feel so lost after all.

But when she attends a meeting at a local university, Perry learns about the "Warrior Girl", an ancestor whose bones and knife are stored in the museum archives, and everything changes. Perry has to return Warrior Girl to her tribe. Determined to help, she learns all she can about NAGPRA, the federal law that allows tribes to request the return of ancestral remains and sacred items. The university has been using legal loopholes to hold onto Warrior Girl and twelve other Anishinaabe ancestors' remains, and Perry and the Misfits won't let it go on any longer.

Using all of their skills and resources, the Misfits realize a heist is the only way to bring back the stolen artifacts and remains for good. But there is more to this repatriation than meets the eye as more women disappear and Pauline's perfectionism takes a turn for the worse. As secrets and mysteries unfurl, Perry and the Misfits must fight to find a way to make things right – for the ancestors and for their community.

THE BOOK GROUP

FRANKFURT 2023



Tschuss!