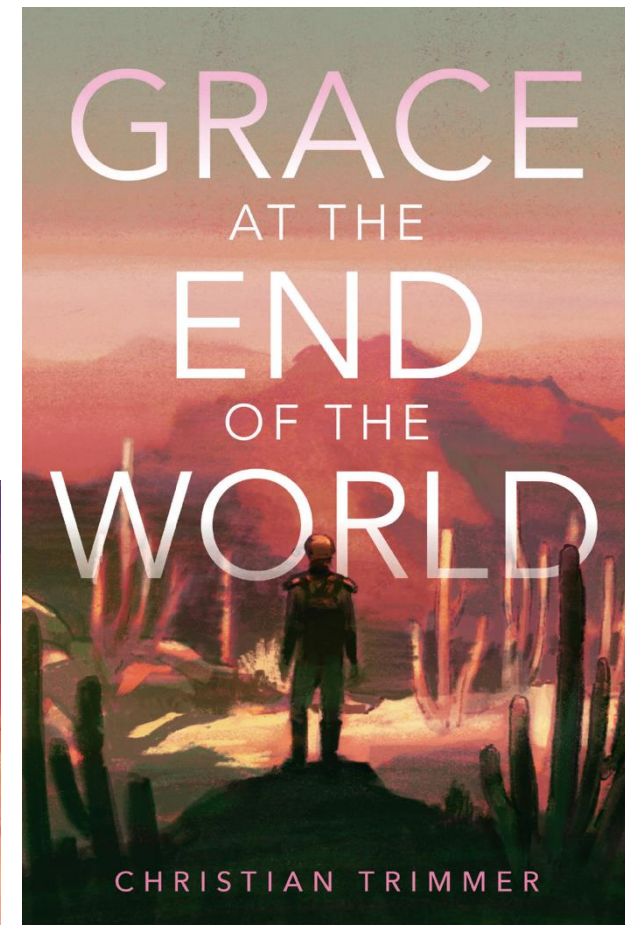
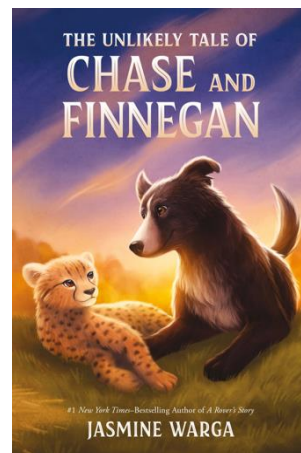
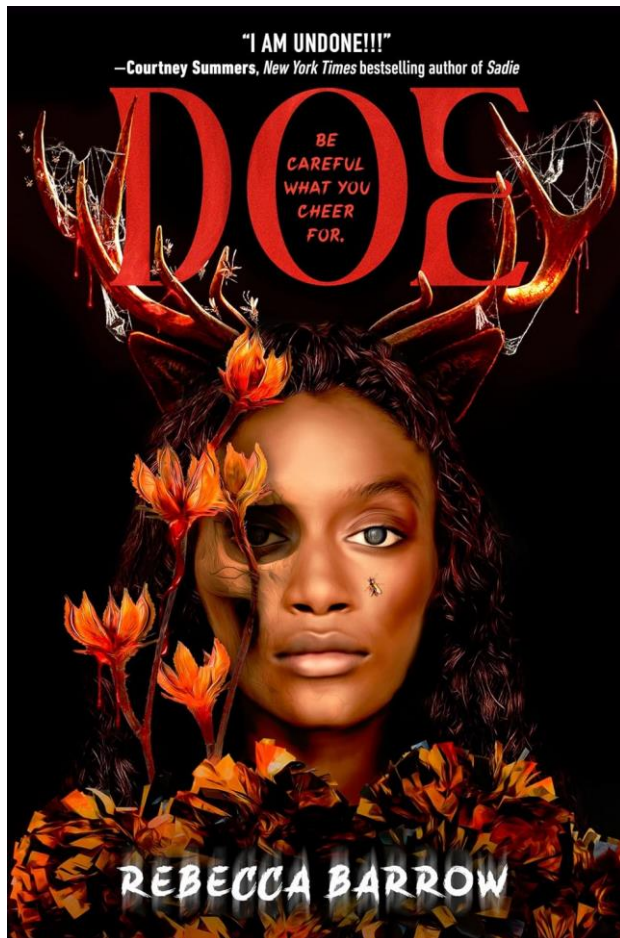


# THE BOOK GROUP

## BOLOGNA 2026



*Ciao!*

For rights queries please contact  
Agence littéraire Lora Fountain & Associates  
[agence@lorafountain.com](mailto:agence@lorafountain.com) +33 1 43.56.21.96



**Avery Hart** received her MFA from Harvard University and is a stay-at-home mom, STEM academia survivor (neuroscience), and part-time 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. She currently resides in sunny Arizona with her own brood of monsters.”

## MONSTER CLAW RANCH

3-book series

Avery Hart

(Penguin Workshop, Summer 2027, Fall 2027, Spring 2027.)

Agent: Faye Bender)

**Fast-paced and funny, thrilling and big-hearted, the MONSTER CLAW RANCH series answers the call for shorter middle-grade books that appeal to reluctant readers.**

Twelve-year-old Mateo Parra lives on a remote Montana ranch, but instead of raising horses and cattle, his family rescues and rehabilitates *monsters*.

The trouble with monsters is that mayhem erupts at every turn: cute Sea Bears turn into ferocious terrors when they smell peanut butter, wily Fire Snakes singe treehouses & eyebrows alike, and the goliath Kraken in the lake out back... good luck feeding him.

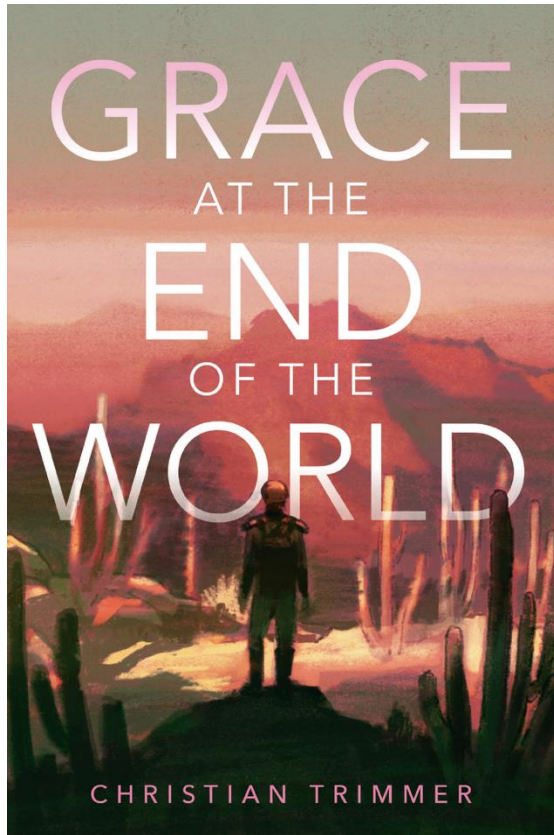
When Mateo’s parents go away for the weekend, he is left to mind the ranch *and* his triplet younger sisters with the world’s most boring babysitter. Mateo is great with magical creatures and feels more drawn to them than to any of the kids at school, but he is forced to make friends, though, when he accidentally spills the beans on his monstrous family secret to neighbor January Jordan.

Then the worst happens, the duo unwittingly allow not one, *but two*, monsters to escape the ranch... including the most dangerous one of them all: a Shade monster who brings nightmares to life. January and Mateo team up to outwit the babysitter and track down the monsters, all before anyone in town gets eaten—or worse—his parents come home and find out.

2027

YA debut by publishing veteran!

YA fiction



**Christian Trimmer** is a writer and book editor who grew up in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. He attended Northwestern University before moving to Los Angeles and then New York City. He now lives in the Hudson Valley of New York with his husband. *Grace at the End of the World* is his debut novel.

## GRACE AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Christian Trimmer

**A teen girl embarks on an apocalyptic cross-country road trip to realize the one dream she has left in this story about grief, friendship, and love, for fans of *They Both Die at the End* and *The Last Bookstore on Earth*.**

Grace has always been a rule follower, even more so since the start of the zombie apocalypse seven months ago. But on the day her aunt dies leaving Grace all alone, she breaks one of the 92 rules she's created since the end of the world, Rule Number 5: *Don't make rash decisions*. The following morning, she decides, she will leave her home in Texas and drive to Malibu, California to find her favorite popstar, Harry Park. She knows the road to Malibu will be littered with danger and that Harry might not even be there. But it's something she feels she has to do. And as long as she follows her rules, she'll be okay. Right?

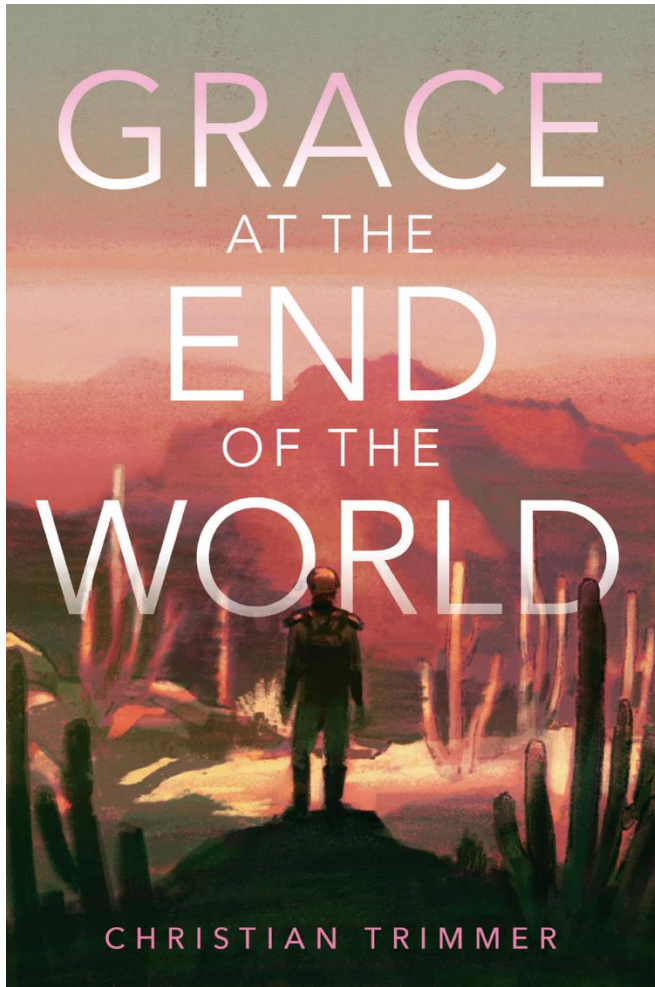
Then she meets Aidan. They form a fast friendship over facemasks and DVDs (Rule 60: *Keep yourself entertained*). When he asks to join her, she gladly says yes, ignoring Rules 2 (*Avoid men*), 5 (again) and 16 (*Avoid people generally*).

As the miles pass by and the rule-breaking increases, their friendship deepens. But Grace can't help feeling that she's running from more than just zombies. With a long way to go and not enough gas in the tank, is she risking their survival for a foolish fantasy or is she finally, at last, really living?

2027

PRAISE FOR....

YA fiction



## GRACE AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Christian Trimmer

“A surprisingly delightful zombie apocalypse road trip adventure that celebrates kindness, connection, and the human spirit.”

—**Angeline Boulley**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

“A fiercely tender, laugh-through-the-tears road trip through the apocalypse. *Grace at the End of the World* is a radiant testament to found family, queer friendship, and the stubborn, life-saving hope that refuses to die—even when the world already has.”

—**Melissa de la Cruz**, internationally bestselling author

“A winsome, affecting, and shockingly optimistic story set in a world that usually breeds pure cynicism. *Grace at the End of the World* takes the time to notice what other apocalyptic tales often look past: that love is love, no matter if the backdrop is sunny or stormy. It’s the most unlikely setting for a patient, touching study of friendship.”

—**Daniel Kraus**, celebrated author of *Whalefall* and *Angel Down*

“Who knew that an end-of-the-world story could be so full of hope? Filled with humor, heart, and unexpected friendships, Christian Trimmer’s debut shows that survival is more than just staying alive—it’s about finding reasons to keep going.”

—**April Henry**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Girl, Stolen* and *In the Blood*

2027

Sold in a six-publisher North American auction!

YA fiction



# EVERYTHING BUT THE REAL THING

## Mimi Tega

(Balzer + Bray/Macmillan, Fall 2027. Agent: Sara Shandler)

At seventeen, Millie Esiri has two priorities: protecting her grade point average like it's a national treasure and running her secret fake-boyfriend agency for girls in desperate need of borrowed love. Ever since losing her parents in a tragic car accident and moving from Nigeria to Atlanta to live with her aunt, Millie's had one rule: no distractions, no feelings, and no failure. Which is why she has absolutely no time for Tucker Johnson – her infuriatingly brilliant academic rival.

But Tucker flips the game before it even begins, blackmailing Millie into pretending to be his girlfriend. Tucker may be maddening, charming, and dangerously good at kissing, but Millie is not about to let a boy derail her master plan. Until he does. And suddenly, Millie risks losing everything – her scholarship dreams, her business empire, and the one person she never meant to fall for.

EVERYTHING BUT THE REAL THING is perfect for fans of Lynn Painter and Talia Hibbert, and any YA crossover readers looking for a sharp, hilarious, voice-driven rivals-to-lovers rom-com with a fake-dating twist. Mimi Tega lives in Nigeria and works as professional romance ghostwriter for clients around the world.

### Foreign rights sold:

UK (Penguin Random House), France (Pocket Jeunesse), Brazil (Globo), Israel (Kinneret)



## SOMETHING BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

### Cathryn Free

(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, April 2027 Agent: Sara Shandler)

Sixteen-year-old Ellie has been in mourning for the last year since her twin brother, Jack, died in a car accident. Ellie barely eats or sleeps, her grades have plummeted. The only thing that brings her solace is running under the stars – the same constellations she once studied with her brother.

Then, on a midnight run, she collides with a mysterious boy she’s never seen before but is inexplicably drawn to. Homeschooled most of his life due to illness, Tom is finally healthy and experiencing the wide-open world for the first time. Ellie isn’t looking for boyfriend. She isn’t even looking for a friend. But she can’t help but feel like the cosmos are pulling them together. . . until a stunning discovery throws Ellie’s entire universe into chaos.

For fans of *You’ve Reached Sam* and *If I Stay*, debut author Cathryn Free’s *Something Bright and Beautiful* gracefully navigates grief, mental health, first love, the cosmic feeling of finding your person – and yourself.

**Cathryn (Cate) Free** is a middle school teacher in Wisconsin, an avid YA reader herself, and member of SCBWI. You can learn a little more about her at [cathrynfrees.com](http://cathrynfrees.com)

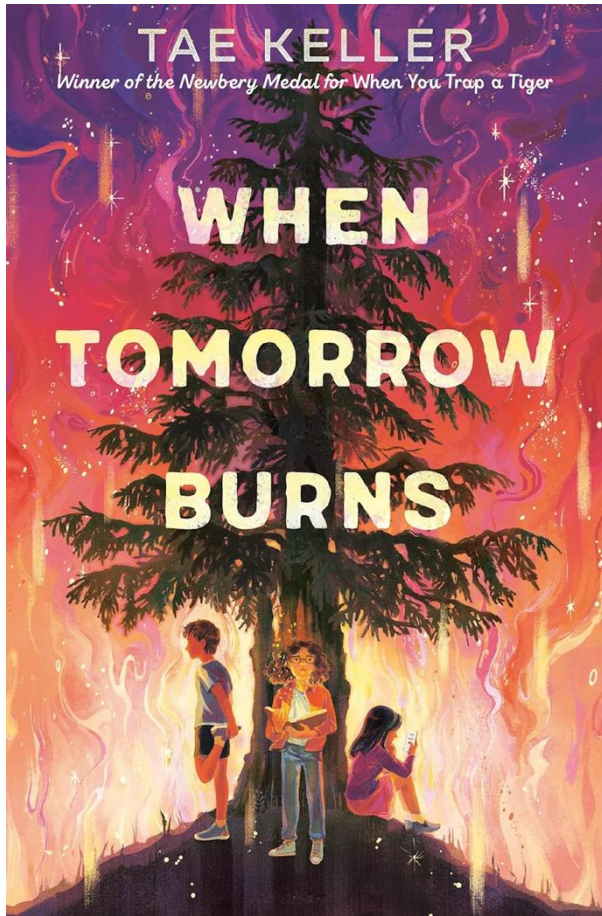
#### Foreign rights sold at auction and in pre-empts to:

Fischer Sauerlander, Mondadori, Pocket Jeunesse, First Ink (Pan Macmillan), Planeta de Livros Portugal, Maxim Konyvkiado Kft., Planeta Grupo (Mexico), EDITORA ROCCO LTDA

2026

Instant NYTimes bestseller!

Middle grade fiction



# WHEN TOMORROW BURNS

Tae Keller

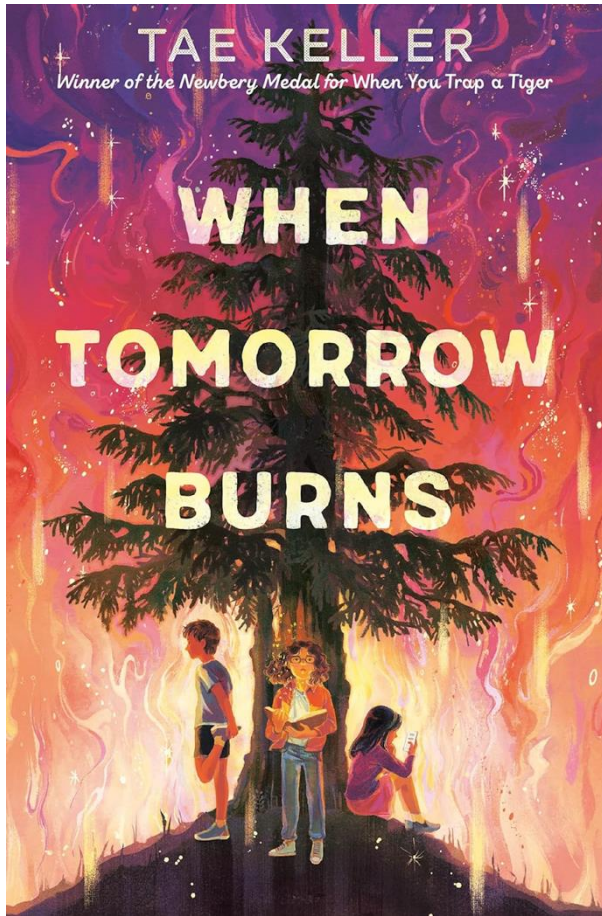
(Random House Children's Books, March 2026. Agent: Faye Bender)

## *How do you live in a world on fire?*

When best friends Nomi, Vi, and Arthur were younger, they discovered a book of prophecies. It was so very comforting to know what was coming. But as the kids grew older, they forgot about the book, until the book's final prophecy started coming true.

Now, it's seventh grade, and the prophecy promises fire and destruction as wildfires threaten their city and middle school threatens their friendship. Nomi knows there's a second book somewhere, a sequel full of answers—and she's determined to find it. The only problem? She needs help . . . but Vi's acting strange and Arthur stopped talking to her.

As the prophecy escalates, Nomi teams up once again with Vi and Arthur, and they must navigate their complicated feelings about each other, their fears of the unknown, and the risks they aren't sure how to take. In the end, will they be able to fight destiny? Past and present intersect, fate and friendship collide, and secrets spread like wildfire.



## WHEN TOMORROW BURNS

Tae Keller

“Another unforgettable novel from one of my favorite authors. I loved Nomi, Arthur, and Vi. I have a prophecy that readers will love them, too.”--**Erin Entrada Kelly**, two-time Newbery Medal winner and National Book Award finalist

“Captivatingly thoughtful, utterly unforgettable, and singularly brilliant. Part probing exploration of prophecy, part searing call to action, part pitch-perfect rendering of middle school dynamics—all woven into a masterful tapestry. Tae Keller is one of my absolute favorite writers, and this just might be her best work yet.”  
--**Jasmine Warga**, Newbery Honor winner and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

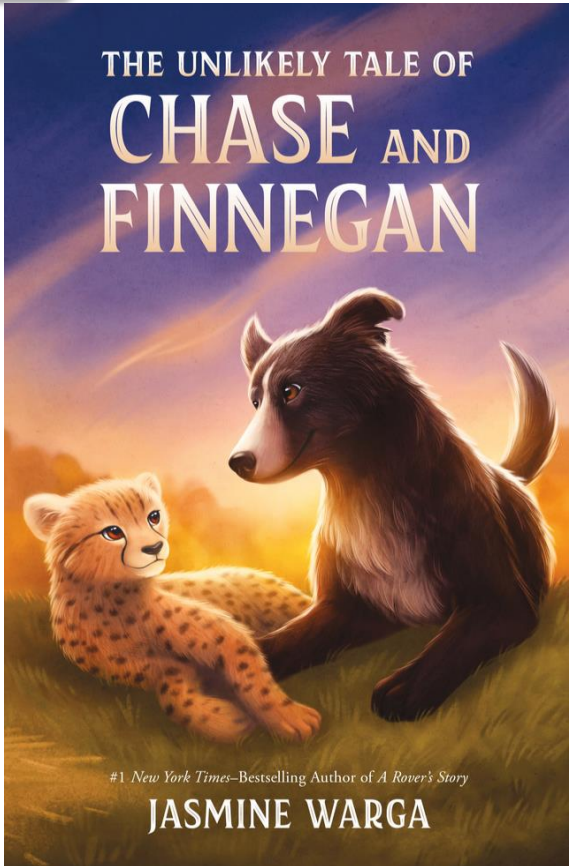
“WHEN TOMORROW BURNS is for anyone who’s ever sensed a whisper of magic in a tree, a book, a friendship—or anyone who wants to. I loved it.”  
--**Elana K. Arnold**, National Book Award finalist and Printz Honor-winning author

“In our uncertain world, Tae Keller’s tender and powerful novel explores the impact of stories, friendship, and ultimately, hope.”  
--**Lisa Yee**, Newbery Honor winner and National Book Award finalist

2026

Instant New York Times Bestseller!

Middle-grade fiction



Jasmine Warga is the author of the international favorite *A ROVER'S STORY*, as well as of *OTHER WORDS FOR HOME*, a Newbery Honor book.

**US & UK rights: HarperCollins**

**Translation: The Book Group**

## THE UNLIKELY TALE OF CHASE AND FINNEGAN

Jasmine Warga

(Balzer + Bray/Macmillan, March 2026) Agent: Brenda Bowen

**From the Newbery Honor-winning and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Rover's Story* comes the moving story of a cheetah who forms a friendship with a rescue dog—a bond that will change their lives forever. Perfect for fans of Katherine Applegate and Rosanne Parry.**

Finnegan is a rescue dog with a broken heart. Chase is an anxious cheetah cub, newly orphaned.

The two animals couldn't be more different. But one day, they are brought together for the unlikeliest of reasons: Finnegan must help Chase gain the confidence she needs to perform as part of an educational program for children at a zoo.

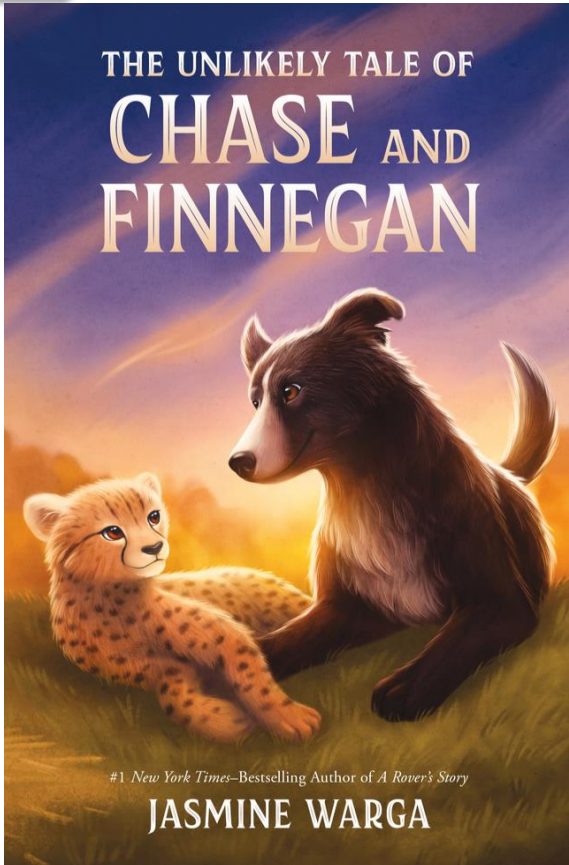
Finnegan and Chase have each suffered losses and have trouble trusting. Yet somehow, they are just what the other needs. But if Finnegan isn't able to help Chase overcome her fears, he won't just be letting Chase down—he could be risking his new home as well.

**Inspired by true stories from zoos across the country, award-winning author Jasmine Warga creates a deeply moving tale about how the power of friendship can transcend anything – even species.**

2026

PRAISE FOR....

Middle-grade fiction



## THE UNLIKELY TALE OF CHASE AND FINNEGAN

Jasmine Warga

**(Balzer + Bray/Macmillan, March 2026) Agent: Brenda Bowen**

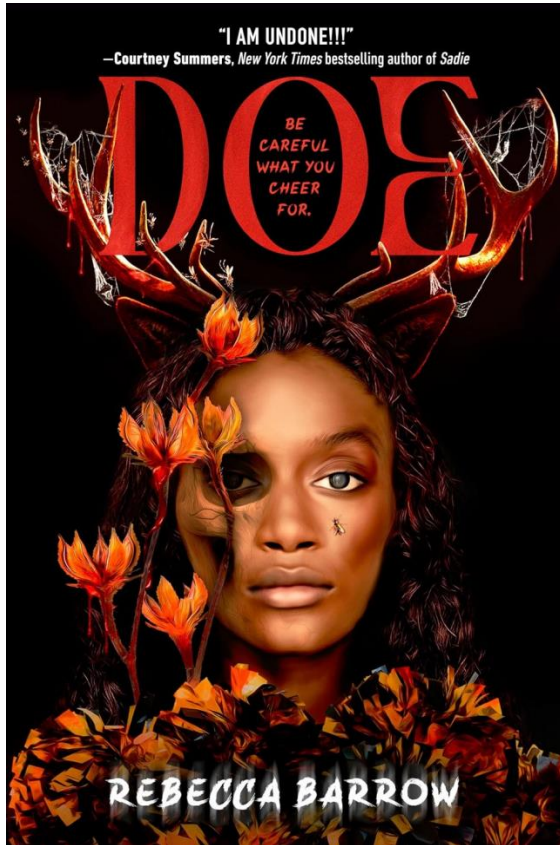
“Ms. Warga...is a versatile and engaging writer who immerses readers in the sensory experience of life through Finn’s and Chase’s eyes.” —The Wall Street Journal

“Animal lovers and readers who appreciate emotional narratives will delight in this ultimately hopeful middle-grade novel inspired by true stories of cheetahs and dogs in zoos across the globe.” —Shelf Awareness (starred review)

“An endearing, deeply moving story of healing.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“In this moving tale of animal friendship and found family...Warga offers an accessible point of entry for curious animal lovers, culminating in a compassionate work that additionally addresses issues of anxiety and trauma.” —Publishers Weekly

"An uplifting and heartwarming story about friendship...Hand to fans of Katherine Applegate’s One and Only and Rosanne Parry’s Voice of the Wilderness series." —School Library Journal (starred review)



**Rebecca Barrow** is a UK-based author who loves writing about complicated queer Black girls. She has published six YA thrillers which have received many starred reviews.. This is her first novel-in-verse.

## DOE

Rebecca Barrow

(Nancy Paulsen Books, Summer 2026) Agent: Faye Bender

**This exquisite YA horror novel-in-verse is in the vein of *Yellowjackets* and explores the ravenous, feral nature of girlhood itself.**

The girls of the West Eaton High cheer team don't cheer for trophies, or popularity, or even for the love of the sport. They cheer because as a team they have an identity. Outside of the gym they are wild and hungry, but inside it they follow the rules and under the keen eye of Coach, they push themselves to their limits.

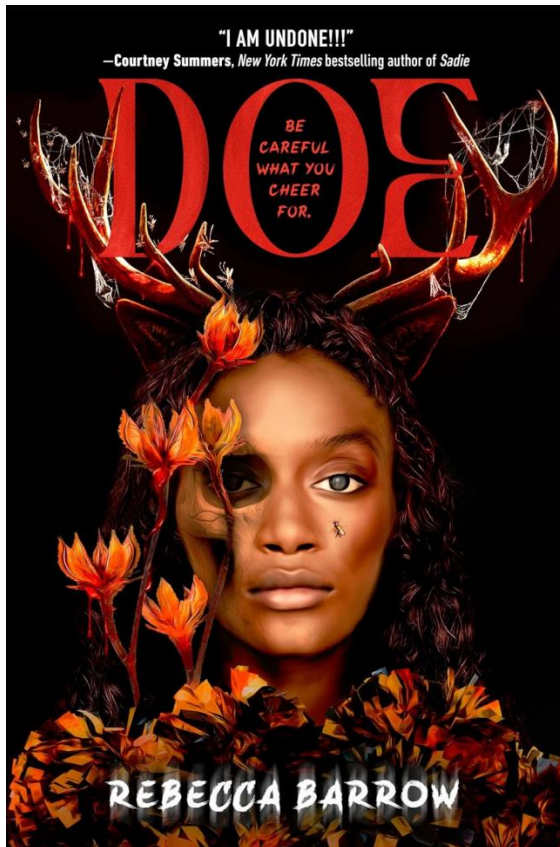
Maris Larsen is always willing to go a little further, a little harder—she's the captain, after all, and Coach's favorite. When she's leading the girls on the mat, she doesn't have to think about her dead-end small-town life, or about the murky dreams in which she is visited by a monstrous beast. She doesn't have to think about the dirty soles of her feet after another night of inexplicable sleepwalking.

Things come to a head when Coach tells the girls they're getting a new teammate and a power struggle ensues. But what none of the girls realizes is that the true threat comes from the monstrous creature from Maris's dreams; that it's real and has plans of its own for them.

2026

EARLY PRAISE FOR....

YA fiction



DOE

Rebecca Barrow

(Nancy Paulsen Books, Summer 2026) Agent: Faye Bender

“Perfect for fans of Megan Abbott's *DARE ME*. A darkly glittering thriller-in-verse, *DOE* vividly captures the ferocity of girlhood. Sharp, wounded, and unsettling--this is Barrow at her very best.”

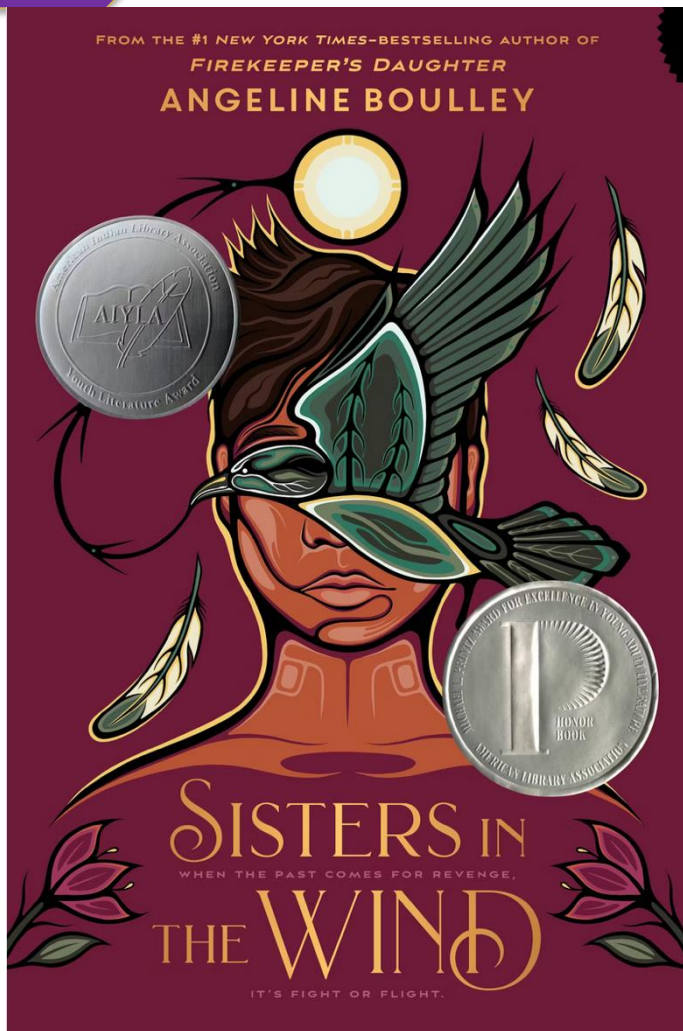
--Rory Powers, NYT bestselling author of *Wilder Girls*

“*DOE* answers the calls of both poetry and narrative and has achieved something very spectacular--both moody and ambient and ephemeral and concrete. Beautiful and ugly, grotesque and gorgeous. Rebecca has spun a story that is so viscerally and electrically alive from that darkness, and emerges a writer at the top of her craft.”

--Courtney Summers, NYT bestselling author of *Sadie* and *I'm the Girl*

2025

INSTANT New York Times bestseller! SEVEN starred reviews! YA fiction



## SISTERS IN THE WIND

Angeline Boulley

(Henry Holt, September 2025) Agent: Faye Bender

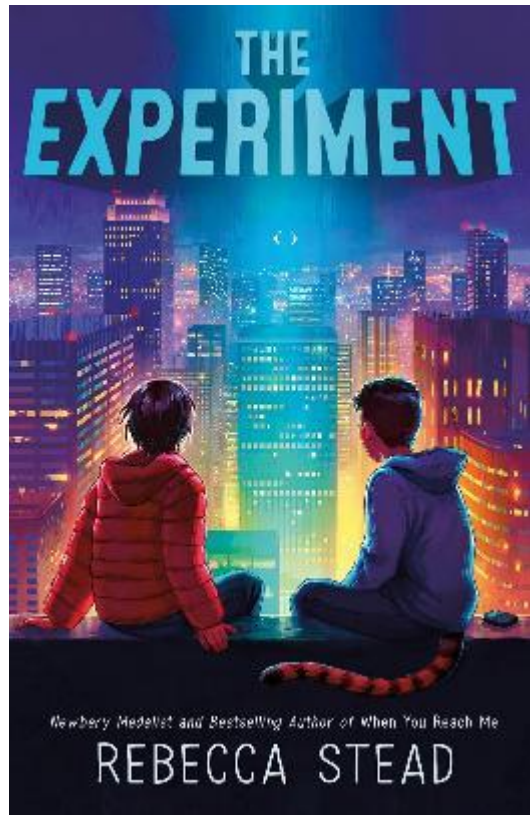
From the bestselling author of *Firekeeper's Daughter* and *Warrior Girl Unearthed* comes a daring new mystery about seeking vindication from a past that won't let you go

Since Lucy Smith's father died five years ago, "home" has been more of an idea than a place. She knows being on the run is better than anything waiting for her as a "ward of the state". But when the sharp-eyed and kind Mr. Jameson with an interest in her case comes looking for her, Lucy wonders if hiding from her past will ever truly keep her safe.

Five years in the foster system has taught her to be cautious and smart. But she wants to believe Mr. Jameson and his "friend-not-friend", a tall and fierce-looking woman who say they want to look after her. They also tell Lucy the truth her father hid from her: She is Ojibwe; she has – had – a sister, and more siblings; a grandmother who'd look after her and a home where she would be loved. But Lucy is being followed. The past has destroyed any chance of normal she has had, and now the secrets she's hiding will swallow her whole and take away the future she always dreamed of.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

OneWorld (UK), Peter Hammer Verlag (Germany)



**Rebecca Stead** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *many books for children*. Her books have been awarded the Newbery Medal, the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award for Fiction and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize.

*Sold to: Text (Australia), Andersen Press (UK)*

## THE EXPERIMENT

Rebecca Stead

(Feiwel & Friends, October 2025) Agent: Faye Bender)

**Newbery Medalist Rebecca Stead** questions whether extraterrestrial beings live among us in this heartfelt, tense novel about a boy who wonders where he's from and where he belongs.

Nathan's life on Earth appears to be typical – he goes to school, does his homework, and hangs out with his best friend, Victor. But Nathan and his parents are from another planet, and now their time on Earth may be ending.

As Nathan discovers the truth about his family and himself, he starts to grow... a tail. Yes, an actual tail that moves and seems to think on its own. What kind of experiment is this? And what is happening to the other kids in his strange, online cohort who are *not* growing tails, but are mysteriously disappearing?

Nathan wants to help his people, but first he has to figure out who they are, and determine what will become of him, his family, and his friends if the experiment fails. And what if it succeeds? In what world does Nathan truly belong? **THE EXPERIMENT** explores the big questions of belonging, family, exploration and what it means to really choose your own place in the world... or galaxy.

2025

FINALIST: ALA Young Adult Award for Non-fiction

Middle-grade non-fiction



*Cover not final*

**NICHOLAS DAY** is the 2024 winner of the Sibert Award for non-fiction. His first book for middle-graders was *The Mona Lisa Vanishes.*, sold in French, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Portuguese.

## A WORLD WITHOUT SUMMER

*A Volcano Erupts, A Creature Awakens, and the Sun Goes Out*

Nicholas Day, Illustrated by Yas Inamura

Agent for TEXT: Brenda Bowen

Agent for ART: The Bright Agency  
(Random House Studio, Sept 2025)

*The Mona Lisa Vanishes* author Nicholas Day now turns his hand to the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia in 1815, an event that changed the world economy, and that marks the dawn of modern climate science.

When Mount Tambora, a volcano on the edge of the Indonesian archipelago, erupted in April, 1815, it was the largest explosion in recorded history.

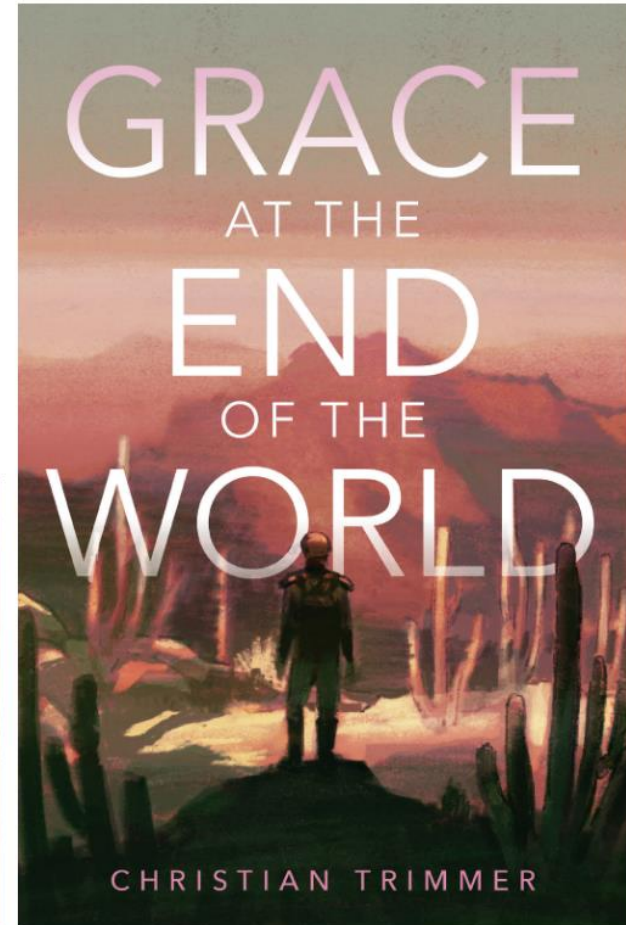
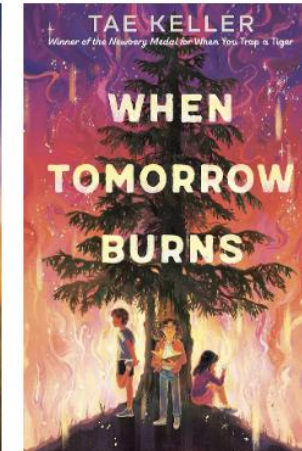
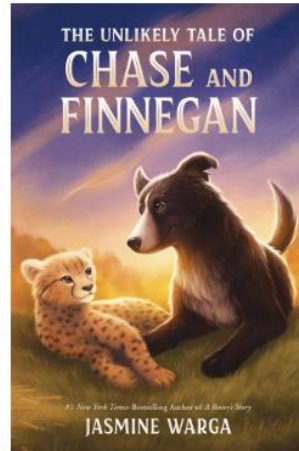
In the months and years that followed, the ashy fallout from Tambora spread through the atmosphere. It shadowed the land beneath, killing harvests on the other side of the world. It turned farmers into beggars and their children into orphans. It changed the economic fortunes of countries throughout the world.

The event also brought creativity and invention, and colorful characters people the book – including Mary Shelley (author of *Frankenstein*), Benjamin Franklin (American inventor), Ignaz Venetz (Swiss early climate scientist), Karl Drais (inventor of an early bicycle), John Constable (British artist).

Before Tambora, the only language scientists had to explain the climate was Biblical. Only God could act on such a scale. In the years after Tambora, the notion that natural events, or even humans, could change the climate—a formerly ludicrous, impossible idea—took hold.

**A ROBERT F. SIBERT HONOR BOOK • A YALSA EXCELLENCE IN NONFICTION FINALIST • A SCBWI GOLDEN KITE AWARD FINALIST • ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *The New York Times Book Review*, NPR, *Horn Book*, *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, *The Boston Globe***

# THE BOOK GROUP



For rights queries please contact

Agence littéraire Lora Fountain & Associates

[agence@lorafountain.com](mailto:agence@lorafountain.com) +33 1 43.56.21.96

*Ciao!*