

R I G H T S G U I D E

5 OTTER LITERARY

FALL 2026



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PICTURE BOOK



S A R A H H O W D E N



SARAH HOWDEN is the author of several books for children, including *The Wise Pickle* (PRHC/Tundra Book Group, 2026), *Cone Cat* (Owlkids Books, 2020), companion *Cone Dog* (Owlkids Books, 2023), *The Tunnel* (Owlkids Books, 2022), and *5-Minute Stories for Fearless Girls* (HarperCollins/Collins, 2018), among others. Her poems have been published in *Grain* and *Jones Av.*, and stories in *Chirp* and *Chickadee* magazines. Sarah is also an editor at Orca Book Publishers, where she enjoys helping other writers sculpt their stories. She works out writing conundrums on walks around her neighbourhood or by distracting herself with TV shows and salty snacks. Having grown up in the Niagara Region, she now lives in Toronto with her husband, daughter, and two mischievous cats.

PICTURE BOOK

The Wise Pickle

AN INSTANT BESTSELLER!

A hilariously absurd and philosophical picture book for 3-to-7-year-olds about a pickle slowly withering in the sun, sharing its hard-earned wisdom with the local animal population and preparing to be eaten by a dog (its preferred way to go). For fans of *I Want My Hat Back* and *The Skunk*.

A pickle arrives out of nowhere.

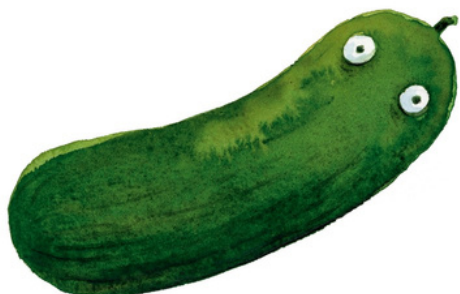
"I have lived a lot of life," it says.

As the pickle slowly withers in the hot sun, the local animals ask it questions. Questions like "Do you ever get bored?" and "Are you hungry?" and "Why are we here?"

The pickle has all the answers.

Except one: what happens next?

A truly weird and wonderful book, *The Wise Pickle* will charm readers big and small with its combination of subtle humor, pathos and ridiculousness, all perfectly captured in Sabina Hahn's delightful illustrations.



The Wise Pickle

written by Sarah Howden illustrated by Sabina Hahn

RIGHTS SOLD: Dos Nisele (Yiddish); Okuyan Us (Turkish); Lillapirat Forlaget (Swedish); PRHC/ Tundra Book Group (world)
PUB DATE: June 23, 2026
GENRE: Fiction
THEMES: second chances, wisdom, philosophy, humour
PAGES: 48
AGES: 3-7
ILLUSTRATOR: Sabina Hahn
FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: Adrienne Tang
(atang@penguinrandomhouse.com)

PRAISE

The Wise Pickle

🌸 A CBC BOOKS BESTSELLER 🌸

🌸 A QUILL & QUIRE BESTSELLER 🌸

🌸 AN ABA INDIE BESTSELLER 🌸

🌸 A VANCOUVER SUN BESTSELLER 🌸

🌸 ABA Kids' Indie Next List, July/August 2026 🌸

★ "With a briny wit, Howden and Hahn offer up a sly parable suggesting that radical acceptance can be goofy, profound, and green. . . . Full of tangy absurdity, it's a picture book fit to be relished." —*Publisher's Weekly* (starred review)

★ "This quirky picture book is a perfect (and perfectly intriguing) read-aloud for conversation and laughs."
—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

"Wisdom can come from the unlikelyst places in children's books, from talking animals to magical creatures. Sarah Howden's deadpan picture book asks, why not a pickle? ...Call it a meditation on the cyclical nature of existence—or simply the power of good timing." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"This delightfully deadpan musing on life urges compassion for others. Howden's straightforward text is on the philosophical side, though also rooted in the absurd." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Prospective Samuel Beckett fans—or any readers open to receiving inscrutable life lessons from a pickle—will find much to chew over in this droll slice of deadpan dilly-dally." —*Booklist*

"With playful pickle illustrations, this weird and ridiculous tale will have children laughing and wondering."
—*Calgary Herald*

"[A] truly surprising, funny and fitting end." —*Montreal Gazette*

"[S]arah Howden doesn't just give us a deeply philosophical look at life's journey—there's also a look at who we revere and why. She also tells her story with a dry humor, which is bolstered by NYC's Sabina Hahn's pencil and watercolour art." —*CanLit for LittleCanadians*

"*The Wise Pickle* is a hilarious, contemplative story that all ages will eat up and request again and again. It is a must for any library or home collection and would make a delectable gift for any child." —*Celebrate Picture Books*

"Such briny wisdom. . . . Sabina Hahn's illustrations—created with pencil, watercolor and pickle brine—leave plenty of white space and capture the story's mock solemnity with just the right understated humor."
—Ron Charles, former *Washington Post* critic

PICTURE BOOK

The Quiet Hunt *A Poem for Young Foragers*

In the forests and fields, beside rivers and creeks, under the earth and hidden in trees, food is waiting to be found ... if you know where to look!

Follow the footsteps of our ancestors as they head out on the quiet hunt, looking for roots and leaves, mushrooms and berries, fruits, flowers, nuts and seeds. But foraging is about more than just food—our ancestors also helped spread seeds and spores, took only what they needed, and gave thanks to the plants and animals that sustained them. Today, in our cities and towns, the quiet hunt looks a little different. But we can still gather our tools and follow the paths our ancestors took to find what grows in our own backyards.

This lyrical story-poem from award-winning author Jean E. Pendziwol is a celebration of foraging that inspires an appreciation of found food, encourages our connection with nature and sparks our awareness of responsible environmental stewardship.



RIGHTS SOLD: Groundwood (world)

PUB DATE:

March 3, 2026

GENRE: Fiction

THEMES: foraging, nature, ancestors, sustainability

PAGES: 32

AGES: 3-6

ILLUSTRATOR: Risa Hugo

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION:

rights@groundwoodbooks.com

“A loving invitation to sample nature’s pantry.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“[A] portrait of eco-harmony both past and present.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“A lovely book of poetry about foraging ... [that] could be used in classroom units on cultural appreciation and learning more of the natural world.” —*School Library Journal*

PICTURE BOOK

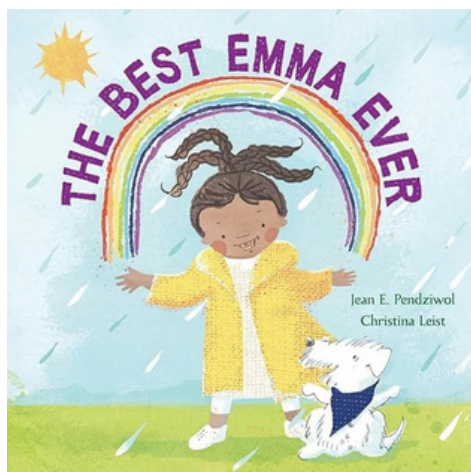
The Best Emma Ever

Emma wants to be the best ever. The question is, at what?

Emma's dog Ruff is the best dog ever. Emma wants to be the best ever too. So she explores some new activities. She tries the violin but discovers she's not the best musician ever. She tries soccer, but she's not the best soccer player ever. Could she be the best student ever? Nope, not that either.

With help from Ruff, Emma soon realizes that while she may not be the best in the world at any of these things yet, she sure has fun doing them AND she keeps getting better at them. This in turn makes her want to keep trying new things with openness and curiosity.

A joyful story that encourages young readers to try and try again.



RIGHTS SOLD: Scholastic Canada (world, English); Éditions Scholastic (world, French)

PUB DATE: March 4, 2025

GENRE: Fiction

THEMES: SEL, practice, curiosity, exploration

PAGES: 32

AGES: 4-7

ILLUSTRATOR: Christina Leist

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: Maral Maclagan (mmaclagan@scholastic.ca)

MIDDLE GRADE



MATTEO L. CERILLI

MATTEO L. CERILLI (he/him) is a transmasculine author and activist specializing in speculative fiction for all ages. His work features the YA horror *Lockjaw* (PRHC/Tundra Group, 2024); spooky middle grade *Something's Up with Arlo* (HarperCollins Canada, 2025); YA fantasy noir *Bad in the Blood* (PRHC/Tundra Group, 2025); young teen speculative duology *Fathom Fall* (Bloomsbury, 2026), and forthcoming *Swarm Strike* (2027); a featured short story in *Bury Your Gays: An Anthology of Tragic Queer Horror* (Ghouliah Books, 2024); and poetry in *Augur* magazine. His activism work has included setting up gender care for trans students at York University, helping to found the Students for Queer Liberation—Tkaronto, and organizing with the No Pride in Policing Coalition.



Fathom Fall

Bad in the Blood

*Something's Up
with Arlo*

Lockjaw

MIDDLE GRADE

Something's Up with Arlo

A spooky-sweet middle-grade novel about remembering the past in order to brave the future, for fans of Anne Ursu.

Twelve-year-old Emily Nero's best friend is a ghost.

For as long as Nero can remember, she's been "haunted" by Arlo. He's always had her back, especially as Nero navigates her workaholic mother, irritable father, even the mega-jerks at school. Nero's been caught too many times looking at "nothing" and talking to "no one," which officially made her "the weird girl." So when she has the chance to start over as "normal" at a prestigious private school, Nero is hopeful that things will change for the better. If she can get top grades at a top school, maybe she'll stop feeling like she's never good enough. Maybe her parents will finally see her—and she'll stop feeling like a ghost too.

But on Nero's first day at her new school, something's up with Arlo, something very wrong: her best friend has suddenly turned on her. Glitching electronics, flickering lights, bad smells and cold drafts are only the beginning. Arlo is changing into something scary. And the only clues he gives Nero leave her with more questions than answers. If she wants to save Arlo and their friendship, Nero will have to break old cycles. She will have to let herself be seen, let in new friends, and—worst of all—say goodbye to the past.

Spooky and sweet in turns, *Something's Up with Arlo* is about the stories we tell ourselves and finding the courage to make our truth be heard.



"Crackling with anger, thrills, and heart, *Something's Up with Arlo* is an electrifying ghost story unlike any other. I defy anyone not to devour this book in a single sitting—*Arlo* is destined to become a classic. Perfectly haunting."

—Mary Averling, author of *The Curse of Eelgrass Bog*

"Coming straight from the heart and featuring a wonderfully endearing cast, *Something's Up with Arlo* is a sweet and spooky story that reminds us of the magic that connects families together and the lengths we must go to find our true selves."

—Melissa Yue, author of *Misadventures in Ghosthunting*



Finalist. OLA Forest of Reading, Red Maple Award, 2027

Winner. The Northern Lights Book Awards, Middle Grade Fiction, 2025

- **Selection.** CBC Books, The Best Canadian Children's Books, 2025
- **Selection.** OLA Best Bets, Junior Fiction, 2025
- **Selection.** Forest of Reading Red Maple Kid Committee Suggested Summer Reading List, 2026

RIGHTS SOLD: HarperCollins Canada
(Canada, English)

PUB DATE: March 18, 2025

GENRE: Horror

THEMES: coming of age, school, inherited trauma, ghosts, friendship, family, LGBTQ+

PAGES: 304

AGES: 8-12

J E A N E . P E N D Z I W O L



JEAN E. PENDZIWOL is the author of more than a dozen critically-acclaimed books for adults and children, including Governor General's Literary Award and the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award winner *Skating Wild on an Inland Sea* (Groundwood Books, 2023), Governor General's Literary Award and the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award finalist *Once Upon a Northern Night* (Groundwood, 2013), and most recently, *The Quiet Hunt* (Groundwood, 2026). Her debut adult novel, *The Lightkeeper's Daughters*, was a Globe and Mail bestseller, shortlisted for the HWA Debut Crown, a BBC Radio 2 Book Club selection, and winner of the Northern Lit Award. Her books for both adults and children have been translated into more than twenty languages and are available around the world. Jean E. lives in northwestern Ontario on the shores of Lake Superior and is often inspired by the people, history, and geography of the region.

MIDDLE GRADE

THIRTEEN BIRDS

***Thirteen Birds* is a deeply moving story, told with Pendziwol's signature lyricism, that evokes nostalgia for the places we come from and the people we love most.**

Life is pretty much perfect in the small community of Port Coldwell on Lake Superior in 1952, and Charlie is dreaming of summer when she will join her father fishing on their boat. But the week of Charlie's twelfth birthday, a ghost appears to her, and with its arrival, everything begins to change. When her mother dies, Charlie blames herself, and is determined to be the perfect, strong daughter to her grieving father. But her family life crumbles around her, and so too does the economic future of the community she lives in. It will take a series of ghostly encounters and thirteen birds to help Charlie realize that what she sees as her flaws are the very things that will help her through life's difficulties and lay the foundation for a new future.

With tone and themes similar to Emily Barth Isler's *The Color of Sound* and the medium of Ann E. Burg's *Force of Nature*, *Thirteen Birds* is ghost story set in the town of Port Coldwell in Northwestern Ontario. This gothic verse novel explores the history and collapse of the commercial fishery on Lake Superior through the eyes of twelve-year-old Charlie as she learns to embrace her creative gifts during a most challenging year.

RIGHTS SOLD: Groundwood (world)

PUB DATE: Fall 2027

GENRE: Historical Novel-in-verse

THEMES: Lake Superior, ghost town, grief and loss, family

LENGTH: ~27K words

AGES: 11-13

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: rights@groundwoodbooks.com

RACHEL SCHWARTZ FAGAN



RACHEL SCHWARTZ FAGAN is a storyteller, fibre artist, and Ontario Certified Teacher. She holds an M.Phil in Children's Literature and her work has been longlisted for CANSCAIP's Writing for Children Award and the Broken Pencil Zine Awards. Rachel works in arts and education spaces, with a passion for facilitating creativity and environmental stewardship. In her spare time, she argues with her dog and stares broodingly at the lake. Rachel lives in Kingston, Ontario.

MIDDLE GRADE

The Water You're Swimming In



Selection. Forest of Reading Red Maple Kid Committee Suggested Summer Reading List, 2026

Selection. 49th Shelf Kids Top Grade: Canlit for the Classroom List, 2026

Selection. Canadian Children's Book Centre, 50 Must Read Canadian Picture Books, 2026

RIGHTS SOLD: Orca Book Publishers (North America, English)
PUB DATE: March 17, 2026
GENRE: Contemporary Realistic
THEMES: family, friendship, competitive sports (swimming); LGBTQ+
PAGES: 192
AGES: 9 - 12

Noah is used to being a straight-A student, swim champ and all-around easy kid. But things haven't been the same since Noah's older brother Jamie ran away to Halifax, leaving only a note behind. His parents spend every free second on the phone or driving to Halifax to try to find Jamie, and Noah is left trying to mask his anxiety and grief by pretending to be the perfect son who does everything right. But inside he feels like crying and gets a knot in his stomach whenever he thinks of Jamie.

Some warmth returns to their home when Grandma Aisling comes to stay, bringing her fiddle and her genius for making chocolate cake with her. At school, funny and kind Alysha joins his class and Noah has a new friend to distract him from his worries. When a swim competition is announced with the grand prize being a trip to Halifax, Noah knows he has to win it so he can go to Halifax himself—and get Jamie back.

"The book offers front-row seats to the myriad of emotions someone can experience when a loved one is struggling. A perfect addition to middle grade realistic and sports fiction collections. Recommended for all libraries."

—*School Library Journal*

"Schwartz Fagan's well-paced narrative convincingly portrays the anxiety of a family dealing with crisis, the pleasures of having a loving grandparent, and the typical—yet still excruciating—ups and downs of adolescence. The maritime province's small-town setting adds flavor and dimension, with lyrics from traditional East Coast Canadian songs interspersed.

An absorbing family drama, helmed by an uncertain but sympathetic protagonist coming into his own."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"In the right readers' hand, such as those who struggle to find and keep friendships or kids who feel overshadowed by siblings, [the novel] will undoubtedly provide a good deal of comfort. Try this with fans of Gordon Korman."

—*Booklist*

"A well-paced novel with relatable characters, *The Water You're Swimming In* touches on the importance of knowing we are never alone—especially when we find ourselves sinking." —*Canadian Children's Book News* (Recommended)

YOUNG ADULT



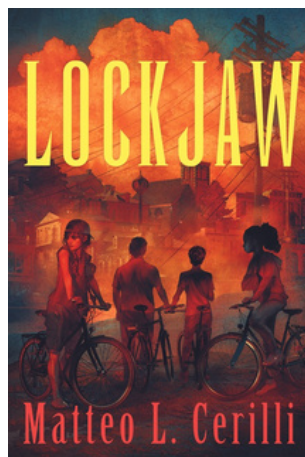
YOUNG ADULT

Lockjaw

Death is neither the beginning nor the end for the children of Bridlington in this debut trans YA horror novel for fans of Rory Power and Danielle Vega.

Chuck Warren died tragically at the old abandoned mill, but Paz Espino knows it was no accident—there's a monster under the town, and she's determined to kill it before anyone else gets hurt. She'll need the help of her crew—inseparable friends, bound by a childhood pact stronger than diamonds, distance or death—to hunt it down. But she's up against a greater force of evil than she ever could have imagined.

With shifting timeframes and multiple perspectives, *Lockjaw* is a small-town ghost story, where monsters living and dead haunt the streets, the homes, and the minds of the inhabitants, for readers of *Wilder Girls* and *The Haunted*.



★ “Cerilli delivers a stunning debut in this gripping paranormal horror novel about queer teens growing up in a community that doesn’t accept them and the insidious danger of apathy”. —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “A horrifyingly honest tale, *Lockjaw* will keep you guessing with its creative storytelling, while its full-bodied characters will keep you reading as they band together to kill the monster haunting their town.” —*BookPage* (starred review)

“Astounding smart, amazingly queer, and so gut-churningly stressful that the pages of your copy will end up dented. *Lockjaw* is small-town horror at its absolute finest, and it’s going to shake you up.”

—Andrew Joseph White, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hell Followed With Us* and *The Spirit Bears Its Teeth*

“This YA novel will satisfy teen and nostalgic adult readers of horror and mystery.” —Vikki VanSickle, author of *The Lightning Circle*

“Supernatural horror and the banality of evil intertwine as the story twists and turns, the bad guys (and gals) get their due, and the good guys eventually triumph.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Cerilli’s debut is both unsettling and engaging.” —*School Library Journal*

“It is hard to believe that *Lockjaw* is Matteo L. Cerilli’s debut novel. Readers will look forward to many more to come!” —*CM: Canadian Review of Materials* (highly recommended)

“Debut author Cerilli masterfully plots a slow-burn thriller from multiple perspectives, which demands the reader pays close attention. Jumping back and forth in time, Cerilli lays plenty of breadcrumbs, culminating in a powerful twist.” —*49th Shelf*

RIGHTS SOLD: PRHC/Tundra Book Group (world)

PUB DATE: June 4, 2024

GENRE: Horror

THEMES: LBGTQ+, social justice, community, monsters

PAGES: 328

AGES: 14+

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION:

Adrienne Tang

(atang@penguinrandomhouse.com)

FILM/TV: Brendan Deneen

(brendan.deneen@gmail.com)

Winner, Ontario Library Association Best Bets, 2024

Finalist, CCBC Book Awards: Arlene Barlin Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy, 2025

Finalist, OLA Forest of Reading, White Pine Award, 2025

Longlisted, Pedro and Daniel

Intersectionality Book Award, 2025

Selection, Toronto Public Library “The List” Great Reads For Youth, 2025

Selection, CCBC’s Best Books for Kids and Teens, 2024

Selection, Reactor Magazine, Notable Young Adult Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror, 2024

Selection, BookPage Best Young Adult Books of the Year, 2024

YOUNG ADULT

Bad in the Blood



★ cinematic and enthralling flare of fey magic.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“An excellent choice for mystery lovers, fantasy lovers, or those who want a unique faerie tale.” —*Booklist*

“Cerilli conjures a uniquely imagined reflection on otherness and mental illness against the backdrop of a twisty mystery”
—*Publishers Weekly*

“A viciously clever caper steeped in noir grittiness and fey chaos. Puck’s Port will devour you.”
—Mary Averling, author of *The Curse of Eelgrass Bog*

“With grit, wit, and incredible worldbuilding, Cerilli interweaves a noir, 1920’s-inspired setting with fantasy using feyism as a sophisticated allegory for madness. This novel is nothing short of magic.”
—Léa Taranto, author of *A Drop in the Ocean*

“*Bad in the Blood* is a refreshing take on the traditional Sherlock Holmes detective-style adventure, only with heart, fey, and magic. Cerilli is a uniquely talented writer whose characters are real, flawed and loveable. *Bad in the Blood* isn’t just for young adult readers, but for everyone.”
—KJ Aiello, author of *The Monster and the Mirror*

“Beautifully hewn and enchantingly queer, *Bad in the Blood* draws the reader into a 1920s-inspired whodunnit that unravels in a world similar enough to our own that we can easily relate to the sibling duo of Gristle and Hawthorne, yet so unique that we want to stay and explore every corner of Cerilli’s richly imagined world long after the mystery is solved.
At last, a hardboiled noir detective story for the rest of us!”
—Carrie Mac, author of *Zombie Apocalypse Running Club*

In a world where magical beings, fey, are mistrusted and often institutionalized, a human brother and fey sister must team up to solve a bizarre murder in this 1920s-inspired queer teen fantasy novel.

In the city of Puck’s Port, where motorized vehicles fill the streets and new technological marvels abound, something rotten is lurking under the surface. A violent murder at the docks seems to point to a fey killer, igniting a powder keg of distrust between the city’s humans and its fey inhabitants—folks who wield wonderful but often uncontrollable magical power.

Gristle Senan Maxim Junior finds himself caught in the middle. Forced into the reluctant role of private investigator, like his late father, he’s working to solve the mystery of this fiery murder . . . mainly because his sister, Hawthorne Stregoni, is a fey herself with an unfortunate penchant for setting things ablaze.

Hawthorne is part of an experimental study to control feyism but struggles to keep her powerful magic in check in a country that hates what she is. Can she and Gristle work together to find the true instigator of the murder before it’s too late?

RIGHTS SOLD: PRHC/Tundra Book Group (world)

PUB DATE: September 2, 2025

GENRE: Fantasy Noir

THEMES: neurodiversity, LBGTQ+, social justice, faerie

PAGES: 400

AGES: 14+

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION:

Adrienne Tang

(atang@penguinrandomhouse.com)

- ★ **Selection** Toronto Public Library “The List” Great Reads For Youth, 2026
- **Commended**, The Pedro and Daniel Intersectionality Book Award, 2025
- **Selection**, Indigo, Best Ten Books of 2025
- **Selection**, Kirkus Reviews, Best Young Adult Books of the Year, 2025
- **Selection** Kirkus Reviews, 90 Most Anticipated Fall Books for Young Readers, 2025
- **Selection** Forest of Reading White Pine Teen Committee Suggested Summer Reading List, 2026

YOUNG ADULT

Fathom Fall



RIGHTS SOLD: Bloomsbury US (world)
PUB DATE: March 3, 2026
GENRE: Speculative Fiction
THEMES: gaming, equity, climate change, violence
PAGES: 288
AGES: 12 - 17
FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: Barney Duly
(Barney.Duly@Bloomsbury.com)

The Maze Runner meets Fortnite in this action-packed young YA about a boy who finds out the monsters from his favorite video game are real.

They came for our water, but they'll settle for our blood.

Fourteen-year-old Wyatt is number three on the leaderboards for his favorite video game, *Fathom Fall*, but in real life, he's the "Water Baby" kid of engineers at Hydrexo, the company that supplies 75% of North America's water. He's always had easy access to water while others have to line up to pay exorbitant prices at public taps, and he's totally awkward and feels totally useless. To prove he's more than a privileged Water Baby, Wyatt is determined to win the upcoming *Fathom Fall* championship and finally make a name for himself.

But when the water-guzzling monsters from the game start appearing in real life, Wyatt suspects that the tournament is about more than prize money. More than ever, Wyatt wants to win, and as the tournament approaches, he starts to worry: Why won't anyone tell them what's really going on? Why would the military train kids to hunt the monsters for them? And how far is he willing to go to prove himself?

Set in a near-future, water-scarce Toronto, *Fathom Fall* is a high-octane speculative thrill ride that questions the ethics of new technology and how it defines our very reality.



"A visceral psychological thriller. . . . The writing is relentlessly intense and successfully conveys the high stakes and psychological trauma endured by the young protagonists, dealing honestly with issues of class, corporate power, and violence." —*School Library Journal* (starred review)

"[A] pulse-pounding dystopian thriller. . . . A provocative look at how technology can shape society and necessity can drive humankind." —*Publishers Weekly*

"A compulsive read with room for a sequel. . . . A fast, ferocious thriller in which water wars, virtual violence, and murky morals collide." —*Kirkus Reviews*

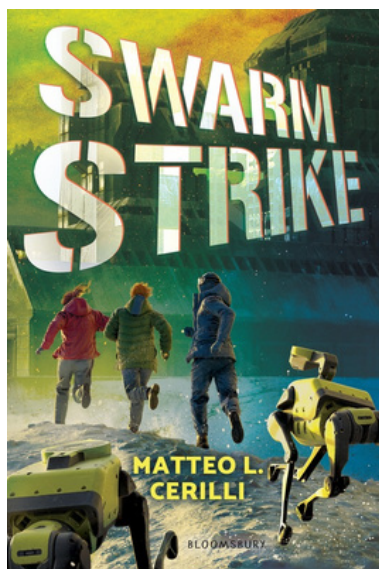
"A dystopian tale ideal for fans of video games and readers who appreciate works with complex ethical questions." —*Booklist*



Selection, Junior Library Guild

YOUNG ADULT

SWARM STRIKE



It was never just a game.

Once, Wyatt Docherty thought that winning the *Fathom Fall* competition would fix everything. But becoming champion has won Wyatt the burning desire to unmask the sponsor, Hydrexo, and he's looking for his chance to bring them down.

Wyatt is forcefully recruited into Hydrexo's next initiative: Ripple Academy, advertised as a specialized boarding school for the next generation of "Eco-leaders." But the academy's true specialty lies in mobilizing kid soldiers with Hydrexo's latest VR tech, and very real weapons to kill very real people.

Wyatt refuses to play along. As their star pupil, he has insider access that could let him take down the company from within, but he can't do it alone. He sets out to find friends old and new, to build a team that might stand a chance . . . if they can find a way to organize together, and survive long enough.

RIGHTS SOLD: Bloomsbury US (world)

PUB DATE: March 2, 2027

GENRE: Speculative Fiction

THEMES: gaming, equity, climate change, violence, community, AI

PAGES: 352

AGES: 12+

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: Barney Duly (Barney.Duly@Bloomsbury.com)

YOUNG ADULT

Who We Are in Real Life



RIGHTS SOLD:

Groundwood (world)

PUB DATE:

February 6, 2024

GENRE: Contemporary

Romance

THEMES: gaming (RPG),

LGBTQ+, *Dungeons &*

Dragons, new kid

PAGES: 288

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION:

rights@groundwoodbooks
.com

Fans of Rainbow Rowell and Casey McQuiston will fall for this story of tabletop gaming, romance and epic campaigns—both in game and IRL.

IRL, Darcy has just moved to the small prairie town of Unity Creek with her two moms. It feels like she left everything good behind in the city. She misses her tabletop gaming friends and her boyfriend—and is horrified by the homophobia her family faces in their new home. Then she meets kind, quiet Art, who invites her to join his *Dungeons & Dragons* game.

Art is mostly happy fading into the background at school and only really coming alive during his friends' weekly *D&D* game—until meeting Darcy pulls his life off-course in wonderful and alarming ways. Suddenly he has something worth fighting for. But what if that something puts him in conflict with his father, an influential and conservative figure in their town? Can Art stand up against his father's efforts to prevent Darcy and her friends from starting a queer-straight alliance at school?

Meanwhile, in game, Darcy's and Art's *D&D* characters join forces to fight corruption as they grow closer in the homebrew world of Durgeon's Keep—as fantasy and reality collide.



Winner, Saskatchewan Book Awards, Young Adult Literature Award, 2025

- **Finalist**, Forest of Reading White Pine Award, 2025
- **Finalist**, Saskatchewan Book Awards, First Book Award, 2025
- **Finalist**, Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards, Snow Willow Award, 2025
- **Selection**, Ontario Library Association Best Bets, 2024
- **Commended**, Globe 100 Best Books, 2024

Saskatchewan author **VICTORIA KOOPS** never stopped playing make-believe and often writes while wearing a tiara. Her stories are full of epic adventure and swoony romance, and navigate social issues through the power of fandom and geek culture. *Who We Are in Real Life* (Groundwood, 2024) is her award-winning debut novel. As a practicing counsellor, Victoria lives with her family in Treaty 4 Territory, where she loves to sing off-key, tease her sisters and pretend that she'll choose a different romance the next time she plays *Dragon Age: Inquisition*.



LAURA NOWLIN



LAURA NOWLIN is the international bestselling author of duology *If He had Been with Me* and *If Only I Had Told Her*, as well as standalone *This Song is (Not) for You*. She holds a BA in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing from Missouri State University. She lives in Buffalo, NY, with her family.

YOUNG ADULT

If He Had Been with Me

Over 4 MILLION copies sold

A BookTok Viral Sensation

A *New York Times* #1 Bestseller

International Bestseller



RIGHTS SOLD: Sourcebooks Fire (world, English); Thorndike (large print); Botime Pegi (Albanian); Bata Press (Macedonian); Mondial (Swedish); Boekerij (Dutch); Baltos Lankos (Lithuanian); Učila (Slovenian); Znanje (Croatian); Keter (Hebrew); Vulkan (Serbian); Ciela (Bulgarian); Diyojen (Turkish); RM (Ukrainian); Psichogios (Greek); Pocket Jeunesse (French); Euromedia (Czech); Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial (Spanish); Penguin Verlag (German); Presença (Portuguese); Trei (Romanian); Maxim (Hungarian); HarperBrasil (Brazil, Portuguese); Newton Compton Editori (Italian); Otwarte (Polish); Mann, Ivanov, and Ferber (Russian); Tantor (audiobook, English); Thélème (audiobook, French)

PUB DATE: 2013; 2019 (repackage); 2020 (audiobook)

GENRE: Contemporary Romance

THEMES: grief and loss, coming of age, love, family, friendship

PAGES: 400

AGES: 14+

FILM/TV: Rich Green (rich@gotham-group.com)

If he had been with me, everything would have been different...

Autumn and Finn used to be inseparable. But then something changed. Or they changed. Now, they do their best to ignore each other.

Autumn has her boyfriend Jamie, and her close-knit group of friends. And Finn has become that boy at school, the one everyone wants to be around.

That still doesn't stop the way Autumn feels every time she and Finn cross paths, and the growing, nagging thought that maybe things could have been different. Maybe they should be together.

But come August, things will change forever. And as time passes, Autumn will be forced to confront how else life might have been different if they had never parted ways...

An achingly authentic and raw portrait of love, regret, and the life-altering impact of the relationships we hold closest to us, this YA romance bestseller is perfect for fans of Colleen Hoover, Jenny Han, and Lynn Painter.

YOUNG ADULT

PRAISE for *If He Had Been with Me*



**A BookTok Viral
Sensation**

A #1 NYT Bestseller

**A USA Today
Bestseller**

**An ABA Indie
Bestseller**

**An International
Bestseller**

**Over 5 Million Copies
Sold Worldwide**

"This sweet, authentic love story masks complex characters dealing with complex issues: single parents, divorce, only children yet ersatz siblings; high school, college, the pull of the clique; love, friendship, sex, and teen pregnancy....First-time author Nowlin keeps the story real and fast paced, avoiding the melodramatic."

—*Booklist*

"The finely drawn characters capture readers' attention in this debut....Autumn's coming-of-age is sensitively chronicled, with a wide range of experiences and events shaping her character. Even secondary characters are well-rounded, with their own histories and motivations.... Readers will relish the opportunity to climb inside Autumn's head."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"[Autumn and Finn's] romance is Shakespeare-worthy in its tragic dimension. Autumn's reflections on love's possibilities and near-misses will surely resonate with the unsettled teen soul, and readers will get exactly what they came for, and then some."

—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"The heart of this novel is an examination of an unresolved childhood love that is so pure and sweet that it seems too fragile to survive the turbulent years of adolescence. Using tender prose that makes it hard not to care about the main characters, this title chronicles four years of high school and the confusing post-graduation period. At the end, when Nowlin reveals why Finny should have been with Autumn all along, readers are sure to feel the ache of life's capriciousness."

—*School Library Journal*

"Educators and librarians looking for fast-moving, interesting plots, in-depth characters, and meaningful themes need to add this one to their shelves."

—*VOYA Magazine*

"This is a story of friendship, family, love, and regret. Readers know from the beginning that Autumn and Finny's story will end in tragedy, but that does not stop the reader from wanting to follow their journey. Recommended."

—*Library Media Connection*

"Friendship, love, secrets, hope and regret...this book has it all....*If He Had Been With Me* by Laura Nowlin is a page-turner that you won't be able to put down."

—*The Girl's Life Book Club*

YOUNG ADULT

If Only I Had Told Her

Companion novel to the BookTok Viral Sensation and international bestseller *If He Had Been with Me*

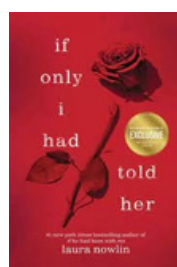
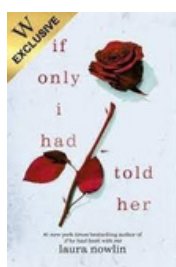
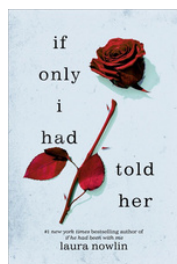
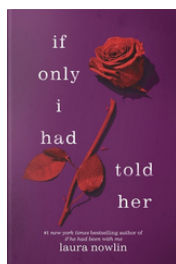
If only I'd told her that I loved her years ago, then I wouldn't be here now.

Finn has always loved Autumn. She's not just the girl next door or his mother's best friend's daughter, she is his everything. But she's not his girlfriend. That's Sylvie, and Finn would never hurt her, so there's no way Autumn could know how he truly feels.

Jack, Finn's best friend, isn't so sure. He's seen Finn and Autumn together. How could she not know? And how is he supposed to support and protect Finn when heartache seems inevitable?

Autumn surrounds herself with books and wants to write her own destiny—but one doesn't always get a new chapter and fate can be cruel to those in love.

Told through three different perspectives, *If Only I Had Told Her* is a love story brimming with truth, tragedy, and the unexpected bonds that heal us.



"A heavy read about the harsh realities of tragedy and their effects on those left behind." —Kirkus Reviews

"Nowlin is unafraid to explore the gritty sides of sadness, grief, regret, and mental health struggles, resulting in a deeply affecting and worthwhile novel.... A full-tissue-box read." —Booklist



Winner, Operation Literary Teen Readers' Choice Awards, Contemporary YA Fiction, 2025

RIGHTS SOLD: Sourcebooks Fire (world, English); Thorndike (large print); Bata Press (Macedonian); Baltos Lankos (Lithuanian); Ciela (Bulgarian); Vulkan (Serbian); Učila (Slovenian); Znanje (Croatian); Euromedia (Czech); De Boekerij (Dutch); Trei (Romanian); RM (Ukrainian); Keter (Hebrew); Otwarte (Polish); Maxim (Hungarian); Diyojen (Turkish); Psichogios (Greek); Pocket Jeunesse (French); Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial (Spanish); Penguin Verlag (German); Presença (Portuguese); HarperBrasil (Brazil, Portuguese); Newton Compton Editori (Italian); Mann, Ivanov, and Ferber (Russian); Tantor (audiobook)

PUB DATE: February 6, 2024; audiobook April 9, 2024

GENRE: Contemporary Romance

THEMES: grief and loss, coming of age love, family, friendship

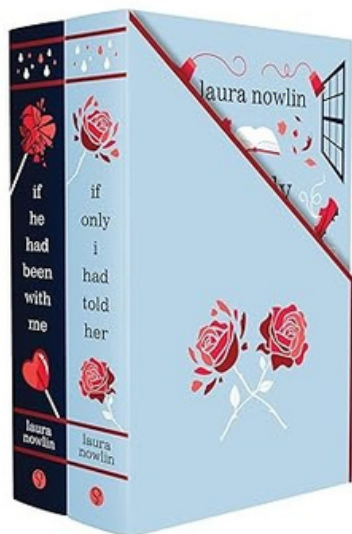
PAGES: 416

AGE: 14+

FILM/TV: Rich Green (rich@gotham-group.com)

YOUNG ADULT

If He Had Been with Me + If Only I Had Told Her



COLLECTOR'S EDITIONS BOXED SETS



Laura Nowlin's #1 *New York Times* bestselling and BookTok sensations *If He Had Been With Me* and *If Only I Had Told Her*—now in a two-book box set!

A love like no other...

Laura Nowlin presents an achingly authentic and raw journey through love, regret, and the life-altering impact of the relationships we hold closest to us. Readers will fall head-over-heels for Autumn and Finn, and the romance that has captivated readers worldwide.

Collector's Editions FEATURING:

- ♥ Printed Edges
- ♥ Designed End Papers
- ♥ Ribbon Bookmark
- ♥ And Exclusive Bonus Materials!



PUB DATES:
CE BOXED SET:
November 3, 2026
IOIHTH:
November 4, 2025
IHHBMW:
November 5, 2024

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL EDITIONS:



YOUNG ADULT

This Song Is (Not) For You

The sophomore novel to the BookTok Viral Sensation and international bestseller *If He Had Been with Me*

"Music is the second most important thing," I say. That was something my mother would always say. We've stopped saying it out loud, but I think it all the same.

The most important thing is love.

From the author of the *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling *If He Had Been With Me* comes a captivating novel about navigating—and protecting—the loves and friendships that sustain us.

Ramona fell for Sam the moment she met him. It was like she had known him forever. He's one of the few constants in her life, and their friendship is just too important to risk for a kiss. Though she really wants to kiss him...

Sam loves Ramona, but he would never expect her to feel the same way—she's too quirky and cool for someone like him. Still, they complement each other perfectly, both as best friends and as a band.

Then they meet **Tom**. Tom makes music too, and he's the band's missing piece. The three quickly become inseparable. Except Ramona's falling in love with Tom. But she hasn't fallen out of love with Sam either. How can she be true to her feelings and herself without losing the very relationships that make her heart sing?

Nowlin perfectly captures the awkwardness of unspoken love (with a nod towards polyamorous love) in this quick, engaging tale of three musicians' senior year...Alternating chapters from all three protagonists offer complete and rich portraits of each character through their own thoughts and their best friends' impressions. Nowlin clearly communicates the visceral pleasures of performing music, as well as the giddiness of infatuation and first love. * —*Booklist*

"Nowlin (*If He Had Been with Me*) captures the antsy energy of senior year and the desire to stand out while still fitting in as she alternates among the three observant narrators...the story offers distinctive characters who show maturity as they seek to create satisfying creative and romantic relationships." —*Publishers Weekly*

- **Selection.** Rainbow Booklist Top 10, 2017



RIGHTS SOLD: Sourcebooks Fire (world, English); Penguin Verlag (German); Harper Brasil (Brazil, Portuguese); Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial (Spanish); Otzwarte (Polish); Newton Compton (Italian); Pocket Jeunesse (French); Tantor (audiobook)
PUB DATE: December 31, 2024
GENRE: Contemporary Romance
THEMES: emotional, LGBTQ+, polyamory, asexuality, relationship, music, performance art
PAGES: 256
AGES: 14+
FILM/TV: Rich Green
(rich@gotham-group.com)

YOUNG ADULT

MYSTERY MARY AND THE UNDERTAKER'S APPRENTICE

From the author of BookTok Viral Sensation and international bestseller *If He Had Been with Me* + *If Only I Had Told Her*

Mary had always been obsessed with the Victorian era. Just ask anyone.

But when she fell asleep on an overnight Victorian-themed train ride and woke up in 1868, Buffalo, New York, Mary discovered the reality of her dream to be a nightmare: squalor, disease, and death everywhere.

Unlike the heroines of her favourite novels, Mary has not simply learned some valuable lesson and returned to her time in the twenty-first century. She is stuck living in the past, with all of the trappings of Gilded Age life: hoop skirts and bustles, parlours and propriety. Having been married off against her will and (happily) widowed at eighteen, Mary still has to play by society's rules, which include pretending to have no education or knowledge of the future. Remaining compliant and composed is the only way to survive, and avoid having her wealth, dignity, and what little autonomy she has stripped from her by male conservators.

When the bodies of young women begin showing up on wealthy business owners' properties around town, Mary suspects a serial killer—a concept that doesn't exist yet. How can she convince the police—or anyone—to help her stop these murders?

Despite her best efforts to remain unattached in this time, Mary develops a crush on the undertaker's apprentice with the nice face, the only one who sees her as a human being, not just her gender or her money. And further finds herself making a new friend of a young suffragist. Together, the three will undermine polite convention, and team up to save the lives of less fortunate girls by unmasking a monster.

Written to the future reader who will uncover her account, MYSTERY MARY AND THE UNDERTAKER'S APPRENTICE is *Outlander* meets *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, for fans of the classics with a modern literary twist, along the lines of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies* and Katie Alender's *Marie Antoinette, Serial Killer*.

RIGHTS SOLD: Sourcebooks Fire (North America, English); Hachette UK Atom (UK + Commonwealth, excluding ANZ + Canada, English); Pan Macmillan (ANZ, English); Penguin Verlag (German); Newton Compton (Italian); Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial (Spanish); Pocket Jeunesse (French); Maxim (Hungarian); Harper Brasil (Brazil, Portuguese); Clever (Russian)

PUB DATE: 2029

GENRE: Speculative, Mystery, Romance

THEMES: serial killer, murder, Gilded Age, feminist

LENGTH: ~80K+ words

AGE: 14+

FILM/TV: Rich Green (rich@gotham-group.com)

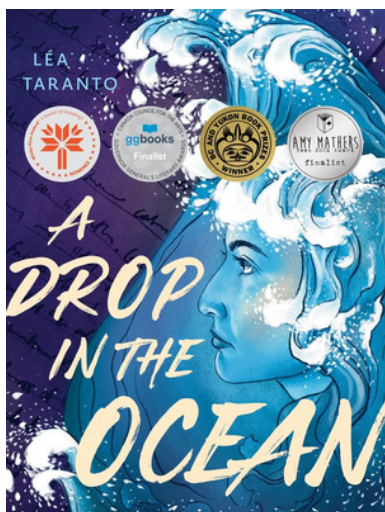
L É A T A R A N T O



LÉA TARANTO (she/her) is a disabled, Chinese Jewish Canadian writer who spent her childhood reading fantasy. Her adolescence was much the same, except certified in various inpatient facilities for life-threatening OCD and comorbid disorders. She writes stories where neurodivergent and/or Mad readers see themselves in her characters, while also acknowledging mental health's intersectionalities, including race, ability, gender, and sexuality. Her memoir short-story "2 South", is featured in the anthology, *Upon a Midnight Clear: More Christmas Epiphanies*. Her debut novel, also based on lived experience, is *A Drop in the Ocean*. A University of British Columbia MFA graduate, alumnus from The Writer's Studio at Simon Fraser University, and member of *PRISM International's* poetry editorial board, find her beachcombing on the traditional, unceded land of the Һә́л̓кəmə́l̓əŋ- (Halkomelem) and Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh- (Squamish) speaking peoples in BC.

YOUNG ADULT

A Drop in the Ocean



Winner, BC & Yukon Book Prizes, Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize, 2026

Finalist, Canadian Children's Book Centre Amy Mathers Teen Book Award, 2026

Finalist, Governor General's Literary Awards, Young People's Literature – Text, 2025

Finalist + Honor Book, OLA Forest of Reading, White Pine Award, 2026

Selection, OLA Best Bets List, Young Adult, 2025

RIGHTS SOLD: Arsenal Pulp Press (world)
PUB DATE: May 20, 2025

GENRE: Recent Historical, Contemporary
THEMES: mental health, coming-of-age, romance, friendship

PAGES: 296

AGES: 14+

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: Brian Lam
(brian@arsenalpulp.com)

An engaging YA novel about a girl in treatment for obsessive compulsive disorder that combats the dehumanizing stigma around mental illness.

Sixteen-year-old Mira Durand has just been checked into the secure unit of the Residency Adolescent Treatment Centre for obsessive compulsive and comorbid disorders. Four years of being passed around different psych wards like a hot potato have only worsened her OCD and anorexia. Her brutal, religious compulsions, which she believes keep her mom safe, make her less of a clean freak and more of a *freak* freak. No wonder her only friend is her journal.

At the Residency's Ward 2, Mira discovers that her shrink is a fellow fantasy nerd and that her wardmates have enough of their own high-risk behaviours to tolerate hers. The complex friendships she forms with them (including a first love), the slow trust she builds with her treatment team, and the outside and family visits she earns give her things to look forward to beyond the drudgery of her compulsions. But it takes visiting Gung Gung, her dying maternal grandfather, for her to realize that to truly live, she must fight the cognitive distortions at the heart of her compulsions.

"Léa Taranto is a bright new spark on the YA scene."
—Susin Nielsen, author of *No Fixed Address*

"Taranto's debut is a refreshingly unromanticized portrayal of a teenager's journey through the mental health system. The novel is filled with a cast of characters equally complex as the winning Mira, but it is her self-expression through writing that is the surefire engine of the book. *A Drop in the Ocean* is funny, heart-rending, and sassy all at once."
—Quill & Quire

"A brave, beautiful novel that will speak to teens everywhere who struggle with mental health challenges. Mira is a compelling character, privy to a darkness that adults don't always see but so many teens will immediately recognize. She's also creative, romantic, funny, and kind, the literary BFF you never knew you were waiting for. This book is a gem." —Annabel Lyon, author of *Consent*

"At the heart of this book is a vivid and bracing honesty about mental illness, our desire to be seen, and the constant struggle to navigate our own path. Through Mira we experience life's unexpected beauty and difficult truths—we see, we hear, we feel, and we root for her at every page turn. A mesmerizing debut."
—Nancy Lee, author of *Dead Girls* and *The Age*

YOUNG ADULT

The World on Either Side

The world on either side is as full as the heart is wide.

After the death of her boyfriend, sixteen-year old Valentine stops going to school, quits seeing her friends and, finally, won't leave her bed. Desperate for her daughter to recover, Valentine's mother takes her on a trek in Thailand. In the mountains north of Chiang Mai, Valentine finds a world she didn't know existed, where houses are on stilts and elephants still roam wild. She learns about the Burmese civil war and the relentless violence against the Karen and Rohingya peoples.

Then she meets Lin, a mysterious young elephant keeper tormented by his hidden past, and an orphaned elephant calf, pursued by violent poachers. Together, the three flee deep into the jungle, looking for refuge and redemption.



'Air. This exquisite novel will have you gasping for it. Valentine's heartbreak and her desperate race through the jungles of Thailand had me holding my breath, smiling and weeping, despairing and hopeful. The World on Either Side is a heart-pounding journey to healing and love.' —Barbara Radecki, author of *The Darkhouse*

'With a compelling voice and eye for evocative detail, Diane Terrana captures the rawness of grief and the dislocation of being a stranger in a strange land. Valentine's journey is part vivid travelogue, part healing odyssey, part high-stakes adventure, astutely narrated and punctuated with poetry, geopolitics and humor. A work of refreshing moral complexity about characters seeking atonement and redemption—and finding the courage it takes to love and to live.'

—Trilby Kent, Governor General's Literary Award finalist for *Once, in a Town Called Moth*

'[An] ultimately hopeful tale of grief and redemption.' —*Kirkus Reviews*

'The characters are well developed...an exciting read with a compelling plot.' —*School Library Journal*

'Teachers of history, geography, or world cultures could use it to explore intercultural oppression around the world, both historically and in modern times, as well as the beliefs and practices of Buddhism and the worldwide problem of poaching. Counselors might also use this book to inspire discussions with students who have lost a close friend or loved one...Its exotic setting and themes of hope and healing resonate.'

—*School Library Connection*

'Sure to be enjoyed by many kinds of readers. It is at once a thrilling adventure story, a heartbreaking romance, and an engaging current issues exploration. Highly Recommended.'

—*CM: Canadian Review of Materials*

'A book readers will not soon (if ever) forget...The World on Either Side is the prime example for other authors to aspire to. The World on Either Side will be a difficult book to put down.' —*Resource Links*

RIGHTS SOLD: Orca Book Publishers (North America, English)
PUB DATE: September 10, 2019
GENRE: Contemporary Realistic
THEMES: grief, depression, family, multiculturalism
PAGES: 288
AGES: 12+

★ **Commended,** Children's Book Council & National Council for Social Studies Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, 2020

Selection, CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, 2020

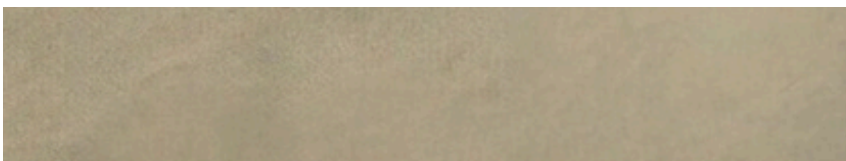


DIANE TERRANA is a publishing industry professional and author. Her work includes the young adult novel *The World on Either Side* (Orca Books, 2019), creative non-fiction "Catching Twilight" (*Freefall*, 2018), and forthcoming picture book *I Wonder Why* (Penguin Random House/Nancy Paulsen Books, 2028). Diane co-founded and co-published literary zine *Don't Talk to Me About Love* (2011-2014), and was previously Executive Editor at The Rights Factory literary agency. She holds an MA in English (UoT), and is an award-winning instructor in the School Continuing Studies, Creative Writing Program at the University of Toronto.

FICTION



RANJINI GEORGE



RANJINI GEORGE holds a PhD and MA in English and an MFA in Creative Writing. She currently teaches in the Creative Writing and Arts and Humanities programs at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies. Her work has appeared in *AGNI*, *The James Dickey* and *Flannery O'Connor Reviews*, *ROOM* and *WRITE*. She's a past recipient of a Canada Council for the Arts grant and multiple Ontario Arts Council recommender grants.

FICTION

DREAM GIRLS OF MEENA BAZAAR

An interlinked short story collection, *DREAM GIRLS OF MEENA BAZAAR* opens and closes with Vijayalakshimi, a Tamilian Brahmin woman inspired by Flannery O'Connor. In August 1975, Viji leaves Madras for Iowa City (where O'Connor studied) to pursue graduate studies in English, chasing a dream of true love and literary success—but decades later, finds herself reflecting on the stories she never wrote.

Now a translator and teacher, Viji emerges both as a character and a creator. The women she writes about are drawn from life: imagined, inherited, or glimpsed. Among them: Bina, a housemaid from Agra who travels to Dubai; Nilofar, an English literature student in love with her married professor; Joy, a Kerala Christian girl, navigating the aftermath of trauma; Urvashi, who gives up her first love to marry within her caste; and Kaveri, Urvashi's daughter, who is haunted by a love she cannot name. Their stories span north and south India and follow diasporic journeys to Dubai, Iowa, Georgia and Vancouver.

In a globalized world of porous borders and shifting identities, these women are citizens, immigrants, expatriates, foreign students, and labourers, each asking: What do we sacrifice for love, for survival, for art? What does it take to speak?

DREAM GIRLS OF MEENA BAZAAR will resonate with readers of Alice Munro's *Runaway*, M.G. Vassanji's *What You Are*, Naguib Hahfouz's *Midaq Alley*, and Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*.

RIGHTS SOLD: Goose Lane (North America & UK, English)

PUB DATE: Spring 2029

GENRE: Contemporary Short Story Collection

THEMES: lives of women, diaspora, immigration, love, Indian culture and tradition

LENGTH: ~70K words

KATH JONATHAN

KATH JONATHAN's novel, *The Resistance Painter*, an instant *Toronto Star* and *The Globe and Mail* bestseller, has been recommended reading on CBC's *The Next Chapter* and on CBC Books and has been chosen by the staff of the Toronto Public Library, the largest public library system in North America, as a Book Club Best Pick. A poet, short story, and novel writer, Kath's work has been shortlisted for the Marina Nemat Award for outstanding manuscript, has been a finalist for The Janice Colbert Poetry Award, longlisted for The Puritan's Thomas Morton Memorial Prize for short story, and published in online literary magazines. She holds a Certificate in Creative Writing as well as a Master's degree in English Literature from the University of Toronto.



FICTION

The Resistance Painter

AN INSTANT BESTSELLER



RIGHTS SOLD: Simon & Schuster Canada (North America, English); Zazie Films (film/TV option)

PUB DATE: March 25, 2025

GENRE: Historical Fiction

THEMES: lives of women, untold stories, WWII, art and sculpture, romance

PAGES: 448

An evocative work of historical fiction, examining the little-known story of Poland's extraordinary WWII resistance army and the contemporary lives of two artists, grandmother and granddaughter, which are inextricably entwined.

Warsaw 1939. Irena Marianowka's dreams of attending art school in Paris are crushed when the Nazis invade Poland. Instead, she joins the Home Army and, together with her resistance cell, risks her life guiding people to safety through the sewers of Warsaw. In 1941, after a harrowing mission, she returns home to learn that her sister, Lotka, has been abducted by the Gestapo. Determined to find her, Irena is willing to risk everything.

Toronto 2011. Jo Blum lives in Toronto with her beloved grandmother, a lauded painter of WWII and a decorated war hero. Jo has a budding career creating sculptures for grave sites based on the life stories of her dying clients. Her recorded interviews with Stefan, her new Polish client, unveil a heroic wartime past eerily similar to her grandmother's. But Jo's quest to uncover the truth about Stefan and her grandmother opens an explosive Pandora's box with shockwaves that threaten everything she's known about her family.

The Resistance Painter will resonate with fans of *Woman with the Blue Star*, *The Book of Lost Names*, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *The German Girl*, and *The Dutch Wife*, confronting questions about the accuracy of the stories we tell about our lives and whether buried secrets should stay buried.

PRaise

The Resistance Painter A *Toronto Star* and *The Globe and Mail* INSTANT BESTSELLER!

"An elegant, riveting, dual-timeline novel about betrayals that haunt generations, and the redemptive power of art." —Genevieve Graham, #1 bestselling author of *The Secret Keeper* and *The Chambermaid's Key*

"The story of the Hitler's invasion of Poland has been neglected by historical novelists. Kath Jonathan has leapt into the breach with great success. *The Resistance Painter* is an inspiring tale of suffering, courage, fortitude, and sisterly love."
—Roberta Rich, bestselling author of *The Jazz Club Spy*

"This dramatic story pays tribute to the youthful resistance fighters who risked their lives hundreds of times in the underground sewers of Warsaw, saving their fellow citizens from certain death. At times I had to lay down the book, unable to read for my tears of rage and sorrow. *The Resistance Painter* illuminates a forgotten chapter of Polish history, one that deserves to be floodlit for all eternity."
—Elinor Florence, bestselling author *Finding Flora*

"*The Resistance Painter* offers a compelling, vivid portrait of the struggles and sacrifices of Poland's Home Army, seen through the eyes of a young woman committed not only to the defence of her country, but to documenting the true face of war. Kath Jonathan is a bright new voice in Canadian historical fiction!" —Bryn Turnbull, internationally bestselling author of *The Berlin Apartment*

"Examining sacrifice, selflessness, and resilience, Jonathan's atmospheric debut is both timely and timeless." —*Toronto Star*

"The novel touches on what are still hot points today—particularly issues of antisemitism and collaboration versus resistance. Jonathan presents both sides with a great deal of compassion, leaving readers to take their own vote."
—*The Winnipeg Free Press*

"... an insightful, emotional, beautifully written debut." —whatsbetterthanbooks.com

"What sets *The Resistance Painter* apart is Jonathan's attention to detail, an intricate puzzle with thousands of pieces, which the author masterfully snaps into place."
—orilliamatters.com

"With its moving plot and writing, this book will definitely be hitting my list of top ten reads for 2025." —the32book.club

FICTION

GRAVITY, BOX, PRIME

The adult novella collection from the author of BookTok Viral Sensation and international bestseller *If He Had Been with Me*

In this hotly-anticipated adult debut from the international and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *If He Had Been with Me*, Laura Nowlin takes readers on a journey through modern feminist interpretations in three riveting novellas spanning space and time:

Beginning with **GRAVITY**, we follow a disturbed flight attendant caught in the repetitive trap of her job. As she seeks relief from the torment of her past, she escapes into novels until she becomes a book inside herself. We are propelled, hands over our eyes, to the terrifying conclusion.

Followed by **I WAS BORN IN A BOX**—a domestic thriller meets cyber noir. In a world where the education crisis and nursing shortage was fixed with CreatedHuman™ technology, one self-aware AI is rapidly gaining memories that will pose untold problems for her fiancé and his ultra-wealthy family.

And ending with **PRIME**, in which a prehistoric woman is exiled from her community after surviving a lightning strike. What follows is the story of women over many thousands of years, and a searing indictment of patriarchal systems.

RIGHTS SOLD: Pan Macmillan (ANZ, English);
Hachette UK Corsair (UK + Commonwealth,
excluding ANZ and Canada, English)

PUB DATE: 2028

GENRE: Literary Fiction, Novella Collection

THEMES: feminism; women's issues; mental health;
experimental; thriller; speculative

LENGTH: ~75K words

DAYLE FURLONG



DAYLE FURLONG is the author of the novel *Saltwater Cowboys*, a Toronto Public Library 2015 Dewey Diva Pick of the Year, and a collection of poetry entitled *Open Slowly*. Her short fiction collection *Lake Effect & Other Stories* (Cormorant Books, 2022) features stories that have appeared in journals in Canada, the US, and New Zealand. Her short fiction has been awarded an Award of Merit from the Disquiet International Literary Prize and was a finalist in *december Magazine's* 2018 Curt Johnson Prose Award in America. She is a graduate of the Humber College School for Writers and has a M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Furlong lives in Toronto and works as a librarian.

FICTION

Unto the Day

Life changes dramatically for suffragette Anne Brown after her husband's assassination.

In the spring of 1880, wealthy politician and *Globe and Mail* editor George Brown was at the height of his career when he was shot by a disgruntled poet who worked in the newspaper's boiler room. Brown left an undeniable legacy as founder of the modern Liberal party, fierce abolitionist, industrialist, and preeminent Father of Confederation. Yet he was not without his flaws: Brown infamously disliked the Irish and arrogantly declared that women should not vote.

In this deeply imagined work of historical fiction, narrated through the perspective of characters most impacted by his formidable presence, readers witness the struggle of a motherless Irish domestic in fear and awe of Brown; his wife, Anne, a suffragette who is caught between devotion and defiance of her husband's authority; and the world-weary poet who seethes with resentment, harbouring notions of revenge.

Immersive, epic and emotionally moving, *Unto the Day* is an intelligent, captivating literary feat.

RIGHTS SOLD: Dundurn (North America, English; audio world, English)
PUB DATE: September 15, 2026
GENRE: Historical Fiction
THEMES: Canada, history, education, drama, assassination, immigration
PAGES: 360

"If you love historical fiction and perfect prose, be prepared to enter a world filled with rebel suffragists, poet-assassins, and high drama. Set in a wonderfully realized 1880s Toronto, this is the book for everyone who's tried to walk that razor-thin line between absolute loyalty and undeniable treason. Or even just felt the weight of someone else's shadow. A heart-pounding literary page-turner you won't be able to put down."

—Andrew Kaufman, author of *Enjoy Your Stay at the Shamrock Motel*



CAITLIN SWEET



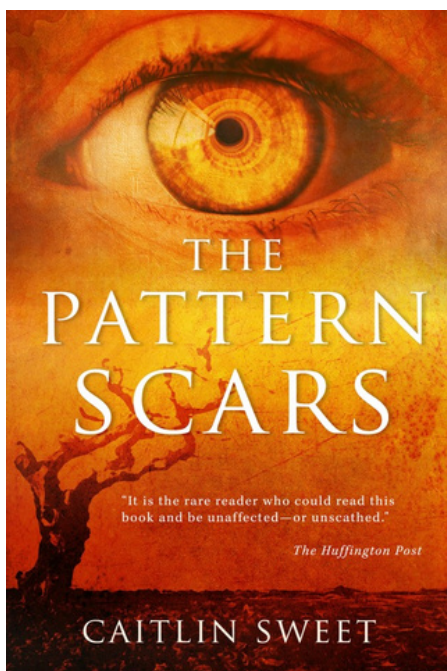
CAITLIN SWEET is the author of five adult fantasy novels: *A Telling of Stars* (Penguin Canada, 2003), *The Silences of Home* (Penguin Canada, 2005), *The Pattern Scars* (ChiZine Publications [CZP], 2011), *The Door in the Mountain* (CZP, 2014) and its sequel, *The Flame in the Maze* (CZP, 2015). Her books have been nominated for the Locus Best First Novel, Aurora, and Sunburst Awards; *The Pattern Scars* won the CBC Bookie Award in the Science Fiction, Fantasy or Speculative Fiction category, and *The Door in the Mountain* won the Copper Cylinder Award. Her novelette, “All the Songs”, was published in *Fusion Fragment #23* in November 2024. She was a creative writing instructor at the University of Toronto’s School of Continuing Studies for twenty years. By day, Caitlin works in communications at Ontario’s Ministry of the Attorney General. She lives in Toronto with her science fiction-writing husband, four cats, a rabbit, and, from time to time, two grown-up daughters.

FICTION

The Pattern Scars

Nola is born into poverty in Sarsenay City. When her mother realizes that Nola has the gift of Othersight and can foretell the future, she sells her to a brothel seer, who teaches the girl to harness her gift. As she grows up, she embraces her new life, and even finds a small circle of friends. All too soon, her world is again turned upside down when one of them is murdered. When a handsome, young Otherseer from the castle promises to teach her, she eagerly embraces the prospects of luxury beyond what she can imagine and safety from a killer who stalks girls by night. Little does she know that he will soon draw her into a web of murder, treachery, and obsessive desire that will threaten the people and land she holds dear, and that she will soon learn the harshest of lessons: that being able to predict the future has nothing to do with being able to prevent it.

RIGHTS SOLD: Audible (ebook world, English)
PUB DATE: September 15, 2011
GENRE: Fantasy
THEMES: feminist, foresight, dark romance
PAGES: 375



“Harrowing, but you won’t be able to put it down. Nola, a young Seer, is born into poverty, but her powerful gift of Othersight gets her an invitation to study at the king’s court. Dazzled by luxury and the legendary heroes of her land, Nola ends up a pawn in a terrible game of treachery and deceit.

The seemingly heroic sorcerer Teldaru has a gruesome plan to seize the throne—and an unwilling apprentice in Nola. Will she be able to escape his curse in time to save the kingdom? And will she be able to cope with the consequences of her actions?

Fantasy and science fiction novels often speak to larger anxieties—about race, class, technology—and can be read as modern parables. *The Pattern Scars*, on a smaller, more human, but no less powerful scale, **has a lot to say about how relationships can become traps, and how monsters can be attractive and compelling.**

It may sound grim for a summer fantasy read, but the spell Caitlin Sweet casts will stay with you long after you’ve finished the book.”
—NPR

NONFICTION



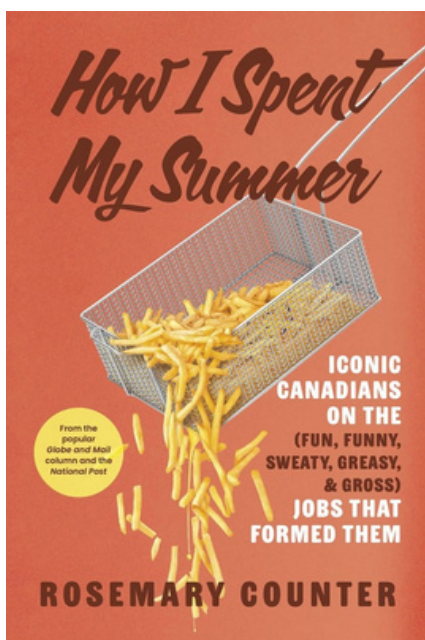
ROSEMARY COUNTER



ROSEMARY COUNTER is a writer and author in Toronto. When she's not reporting for Maclean's or Report on Business, or writing columns or articles for *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post*, *The Toronto Star* and *The Toronto Sun*, Rosemary procrastinates with humour writing, and has appeared in international publications *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Guardian*. Her current ongoing columns include "Ask an Expert" at *Report on Business*, "Later in Love" at *Zoomer* magazine and, of course, "How I Spent My Summer" at *The Globe and Mail*.

NONFICTION

How I Spent My Summer Iconic Canadians on the (Fun, Funny, Sweaty, Greasy, & Gross) Jobs that Formed Them



What was the best/worst job you ever had? And what did it teach you about success? 75 famous and successful Canadians recall their early jobs.

Imagine David Suzuki selling you a basket of hand-picked raspberries. Or Barenaked Ladies' Steven Page cleaning up spilled nacho sauce under your stadium seat. Picture fashionista Jeanne Beker deep-frying your waffle at The Ex. Or answering the door to discover the pizza guy is... Detective Murdock himself.

Strange as they seem, all are true stories. Journalist Rosemary Counter knows because David Suzuki, Steven Page, Jeanne Beker, and Yannick Bisson told her so themselves.

Over and over again, rich and famous Canadians recalled early jobs from before they were rich and famous, when they were regular people starting out in the world and workforce with minimal (if any) experience, no power or pull or prestige, and a whole lot of uncertainty. That is, they were just like you, and *How I Spent My Summer* is the inspiration you need to carry you through to September.

RIGHTS SOLD: Dundurn Press (world)

PUB DATE: May 11, 2027

GENRE: Anthology

THEMES: summer, celebrities, graduation, employment

PAGES: 320

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: rights@dundurn.com

NONFICTION

Marooned

A Memoir of Fandom, Fatherhood, and the Far Side of the World

We all have an Origin story.

On June 8, 2022, in a Vancouver townhouse, Darren Groth gathers with his family to watch State of Origin—uncertain of the result, unsure when they'll meet again, and fearing this may be the last Maroons game with his ailing father. *Marooned* is a moving, funny, and deeply heartfelt memoir of fathers and sons, love of team, and love of state. Spanning five decades of Queensland rugby league devotion—from dusty backyards in Hughenden to frosty mornings in Canada—it's a story about belonging, resilience, and the ties that bind us across distance, hardship, and time.



RIGHTS SOLD: Hawkeye Press (world)
PUB DATE: May 20, 2026
GENRE: MEMOIR, BIOGRAPHY, SPORTS
THEMES: father and son relationship, family, rugby, belonging, resilience
PAGES: 284
FOREIGN & TRANSLATION:
Carolyn Martinez
(editor@hawkeyepublishing.com.au)

"[Groth's] prose flows effortlessly...deeply personal, refreshingly frank and often heart-rending."
—*Good Reading Magazine*

"...A very funny book, wise to masculine foibles...does for the NRL and Origin what Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch* does for soccer..." —*The Age*

"...So much more than a rugby league fan's memoir...a worthy read—even for a Blues supporter..."
—*Australian Women's Weekly*

"A captivating personal coming of age digest imbued with loving recollections of watching the footy with the family... This book is about much more than just rugby league: it's the highs and lows of human relationships; the yearning to be better; the underdog succeeding; and the love of family."
—*Highlife Magazine*

"I loved reading *Marooned*... a heartfelt walk down memory lane."
—John Eales, Queensland Legend and Wallabies Icon

DARREN GROTH is the author of nine novels including *Kindling*, *Are You Seeing Me?*, *Exchange of Heart*, and his most recent North American work, *Boy in the Blue Hammock*. He is an Adelaide Festival Award for Literature winner, a two-time finalist in the Queensland Literary Awards, and a past nominee for numerous other prestigious prizes, among them the CBCA Book of the Year, the Prime Minister's Literary Awards, The TextPrize, and the Governor General's Literary Awards in Canada. He has written for newspapers, magazines and literary journals including *The Courier-Mail*, *The SunHerald*, *Mamamia*, *The Lifted Brow* and *Syntax*. He will always believe Queensland was robbed by Mark McGaw's match-winning try in Game 1 of the 1987 State of Origin series. He lives in Vancouver, Canada.



DR . SYRUS MARCUS WARE

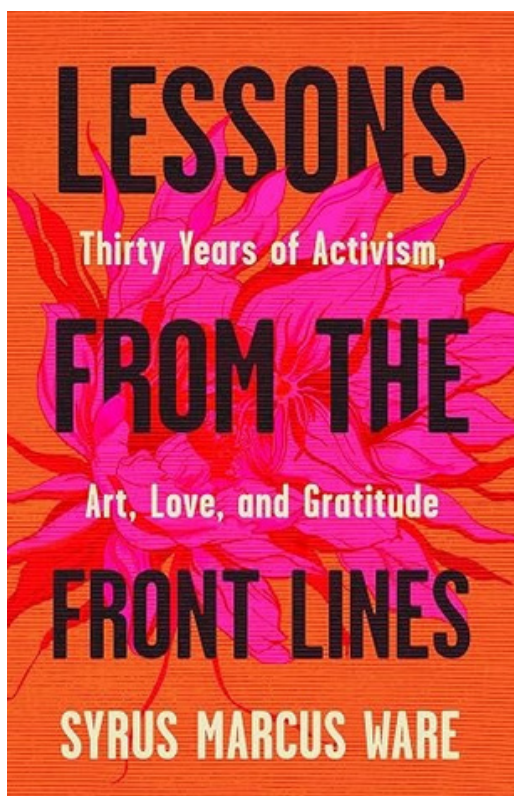


DR. SYRUS MARCUS WARE is a Vanier scholar, visual artist, activist, curator, and educator. Using painting, installation, and performance, Syrus explores social justice frameworks and black activist culture. His work has been shown widely across Canada in solo and group shows, and his performance works have been included in local and international festivals. Syrus is curator of the *That's So Gay* show and a co-curator of *Blackness Yes!/Blockorama*, part of the Performance Disability Art Collective, and a cofounder of Black Lives Matter-Canada. In addition to penning a variety of journals and articles, Syrus is the co-editor of *Free to Be More* (URP, 2026), the best-selling *Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada* (URP, 2020), and illustrator of picture book *I Promise* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2019). Syrus earned his PhD at York University in the Faculty of Environmental Studies and is Assistant Professor at the School of the Arts at McMaster University.

NONFICTION

Lessons From the Front Lines

Thirty Years of Activism, Art, Love,
and Gratitude



After three decades as an activist, Syrus Marcus Ware reflects on his experiences and impact in various momentous movements.

In *Lessons from the Front Lines*, Syrus reflects on what he has learned in the last three decades through a series of essays across four key aspects of his experience: activism, life, art, and love. From the front lines of the Black Lives Matter movement to mobilization for abolition and prisoner, disability, trans, and queer justice, to being a twin, a pregnant dad, an academic, an author, and an artist, Syrus shares his story of being a Black, queer, trans, disabled, Mad, and psychiatrized individual.

Syrus calls this book a love letter to moments in time, to people, to places, and to non-human beings, to the Land and to the water. He offers these reflections to honour the time and the amazing people he has worked with. These experiences have shaped his understanding of justice and the fundamental belief that it is possible to change the world, to build a world where everyone can thrive, and where everyone can have the opportunity to live long enough to become an elder.

RIGHTS SOLD: House of Anansi Press (world)

PUB DATE: April 20, 2027

GENRE: Memoir

THEMES: activism, futurity, art, social justice

PAGES: 368

FOREIGN & TRANSLATION: rights@houseofanansi.com

NONFICTION

Free to be More Creative Activism in the Era of Black Lives Matter

Celebrating the artists at the forefront of a Black aesthetic renaissance and how they harness the arts to shape a freer future.

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin of the Minneapolis Police Department and the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet during a health episode attended by Toronto Police Services in the turbulent summer of 2020, communities rose up in rage, grief, and resistance. Alongside mass protests came an outpouring of creative expression by Black artists, producing art that helped make sense of the moment and mobilize for change.

Today, as anti-Black violence persists—fueled by the rise of white supremacy and fascism, even within the highest levels of government—Black artists, too, persist in painting, dancing, drawing, writing, and expressing their outrage and hope.

Free to Be More honours the creative revolutionary labour of Black artists, past and present. This vibrant collection of essays, poems, images, and interviews affirms the deep connection between art and activism. More than that, it's a testament to how art can amplify a movement and offer tools to gather, organize, and enact transformative interventions in anti-Black racism.

Continuing and expanding the conversation from the bestselling *Until We Are Free*, *Free to Be More* brings together contributions from Rodney Diverlus, Ravyn Wngz, Aisha Sasha John, and other visionary artists to serve as both a singular creative archive and a rallying cry for future changemakers.



"A treasure trove of creation & struggle."

—Sandy Hudson, author of *Defund: Black Lives, Policing, and Safety for All*

"More than a book, this is your invitation to join a gathering steeped in hope."

—Dr. Natalie Wall, author of *Black Expression and White Generosity: A Theoretical Framework of Race*

RIGHTS SOLD: University of Regina Press (world)

PUB DATE: May 12, 2026

GENRE: Criticism

THEMES: Black studies, arts, activism, Canada

PAGES: 320

RIGHTS: James Patterson

(james.patterson@uregina.ca)

RA'ANAA YAMINAH EKUNDAYO is a Tiohtià:ke (Montreal, QC)-based emerging multimedia visual activist scholar whose work explores the intersection of art and activism, particularly the entanglement of Black identity, community, and futurity. Co-founder and Chair of Black Lives Matter Sudbury, they are a Black queer cultural curator with a master's in architecture and are currently pursuing a PhD in art history at Concordia University.



D'BI YOUNG ANITAFRIKA is a Dupleet, playwright, performer, and educator. A triple Dora Award winner and author of twelve plays, seven books, and seven Dub poetry albums, they are also the founding Artistic Director Emeritus of the Watah Theatre in Toronto and founding Creative Director of the Anitafrika Retreat Centre.



DR. SYRUS MARCUS WARE is a Vanier Scholar, visual artist, activist, curator, educator, and co-founder of Black Lives Matter Canada. An assistant professor at the School of the Arts, McMaster University, he is the co-editor of the bestselling *Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada*. He lives in Tkaronto.



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