

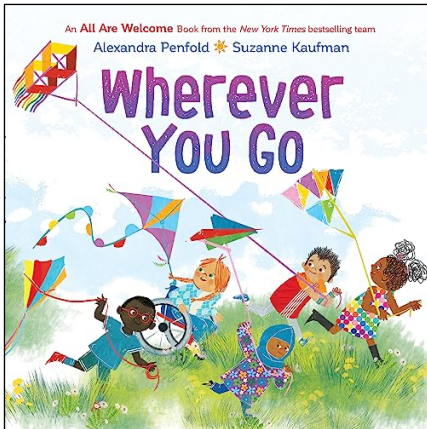


**UPSTART CROW**  
**LITERARY**

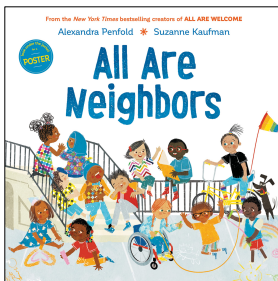
**New & Recent  
Titles of Interest**

**Bologna Book Fair  
Spring 2025**

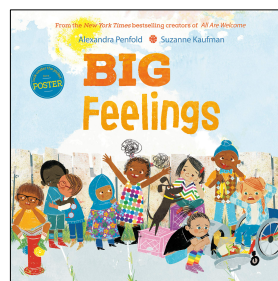
Upstart Crow Literary  
& The Inkhouse  
594 Dean Street, Office 47  
Brooklyn, NY 11238 212.686.5834  
Inquiries: [michael@upstartcrowliterary.com](mailto:michael@upstartcrowliterary.com)



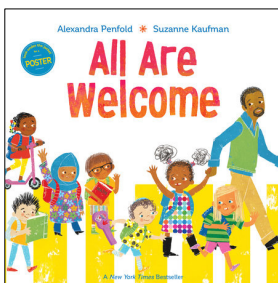
March 2024 • Picture book  
Knopf/PRH (US)  
HC ISBN 978-0-593-43001-9



August 2022 • Picture book  
Knopf/PRH (US)  
HC ISBN 978-0-593-42998-3



March 2021 • Picture book  
Knopf/PRH (US)  
HC ISBN 978-0-525-57974-8



July 2018 • Picture book  
Knopf/PRH (US)  
HC ISBN 978-0-525-57964-9

*The exuberant New York Times–bestselling franchise—now optioned for an animated television special!*

## WHEREVER YOU GO

Alexandra Penfold (*represented by Writers House*)  
illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman (*represented by Upstart Crow*)

Capping off the picture books in this series, this lyrical entry celebrates the kindness, inclusivity, and diversity that we sometimes take for granted in the communities around us. With vivid illustrations and a gently reassuring text, the story is perfect for young readers from all backgrounds.

About *All Are Welcome*, the first entry in the series:

**More than a year on the *New York Times* bestseller list!  
Well over a million copies sold!**

★ “Penfold and Kaufman have outdone themselves in delivering a vital message in today’s political climate.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“A lively, timely picture book.”—*Booklist*

“A great read-aloud selection to start the year and revisit time and again.”—*School Library Journal*

***And now extended into bestselling  
board books & easy readers!***



**Alexandra Penfold** is the author of a half-dozen pictures books. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her family. [www.alexpenfoldbooks.com](http://www.alexpenfoldbooks.com)

**Suzanne Kaufman** has created art for many books, including several she’s written—most recently, *A Friend for Ghost*. She lives in Seattle.

**Rights Information:** PRH/Knopf (US), Bloomsbury (UK/ANZ), Scholastic (Canada), Alba (Catalan), Double Spiral (Simplified Chinese), Alba (Spain), Nova Frontiera (Brazil), Psychogios (Greece), Castoro (Italy), Suzuki (Japan), KIZM (Korea), Kim Dong (Vietnam).

Inquiries: [rights@upstartcrowliterary.com](mailto:rights@upstartcrowliterary.com)



Fall 2025

Middle Grade fiction (8 and up)  
Simon & Schuster Books FYR (WE)  
HC 978-1534496583  
PB 978-1534496576

Review materials: [PDF of interior](#)

*A fake love letter sets off a hilarious cycle of middle-school gossip about a non-existent secret admirer*

## DEAR JACKIE

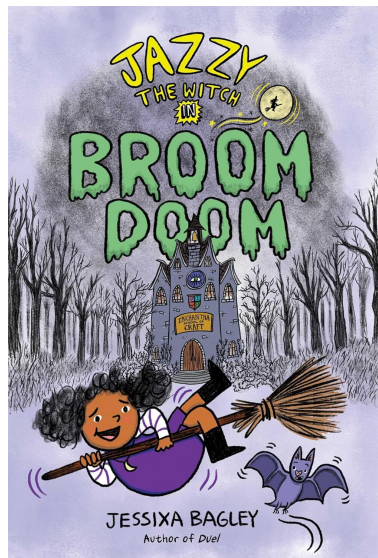
Written by Jessixa Bagley, Illustrated by Aaron Bagley

When Jackie's lifelong best friend Milo grows apart from her, she finds herself lost in the stressful world of middle school. Her new friends want to make her over into someone she's not, and worse, want to help her find her "crush." To get them to back off, Jackie does something unthinkable: sends herself a very public but very anonymous love letter. But if anything, this makes the pressures worse: Soon Jackie's secret admirer is all anybody at school can talk about. Now she's wondering: *Dear Jackie, how are you going to get out of this mess?*

"Smart, sweet, and sophisticated, *Dear Jackie* is a fresh, fearless take on the most meaningful and cringiest parts of middle school. You'll swoon, squeal and cheer in that order."—Tegan Quin (of pop super-duo Tegan and Sara)

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**Jessixa and Aaron Bagley** are a married pair of artists who live in the Pacific Northwest and the creators of the award-winning graphic novel *Duel*. She is the award-winning writer-illustrator of many picture books, he is a well-published cartoonist, and together they are the creators of *Vincent Comes Home*. [www.jessixa.com](http://www.jessixa.com)



Summer 2025

Middle Grade fiction (8 and up)  
Simon & Schuster Books FYR (WE)  
HC 978-1665922326  
PB 978-0-06-299574-2

Review materials: [PDF, bound galleys](#)

*An utterly charming graphic novel series starter about a young witch who struggles to fit in!*

## JAZZY THE WITCH in BROOM DOOM

Jessixa Bagley

In her town full of witches, Jazzy's always been a little bit different. She's not excited about magic. She forgets the steps to spells. And even though her parents run the town's broom shop, she doesn't want to fly.

Then, one day, she discovers what she was born to do: cycling! Now she just has to find a way to get a bicycle...and learn how to ride it. But will her new passion come between her and her best friend—and possibly get her in big trouble?

Praise for *Duel*:

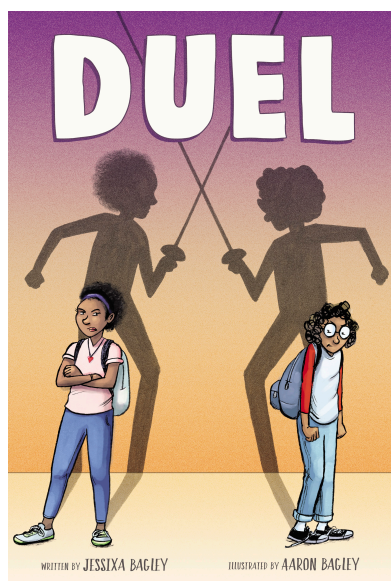
★ "A down-to-earth and emotional family story."—*Horn Book* (starred review)

★ "A natural pick for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Shannon Hale."—*Booklist* (starred review)

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**Jessixa Bagley** is an award-winning creator of many picture books and, with her husband, Aaron, the graphic novels *Duel* and *Dear Jackie*





**Fall 2023**

Middle Grade fiction (8 and up)  
Simon & Schuster Books FYR (WE)  
HC 978-1534496552  
PB 978-1534496545

Review materials: finished books

*A rivalry between sisters culminates in a fencing duel in this funny debut graphic novel perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier*

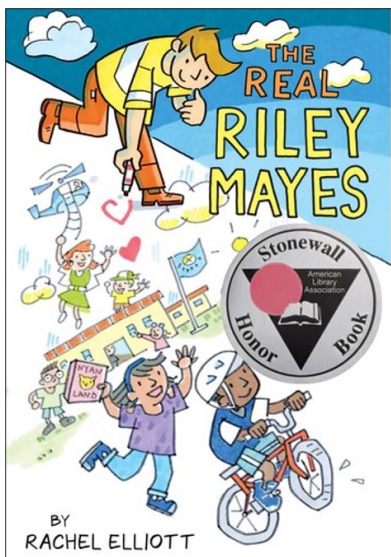
## DUEL

Written by Jessixa Bagley, Illustrated by Aaron Bagley

- ★ "A down-to-earth and emotional family story."—*Horn Book* (starred review)
- ★ "Seamlessly blends sports drama with middle school angst ... [A] rich story of sisterly rivalry that's also an earnest love letter to fencing."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)
- ★ "This heartening story ... is a natural pick for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Shannon Hale."—*Booklist* (starred review)
- ★ *Amazon Editors' Pick: Best Books Ages 9-12*

"I adore this book. Kids are going to love this story of sibling rivalry. *En garde!*"—Victoria Jameson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Roller Girl*

**Jessixa and Aaron Bagley** are a married pair of artists who live in the Pacific Northwest. She is the award-winning writer-illustrator of many picture books, he is a well-published cartoonist, and together they are the creators of *Vincent Comes Home*. [www.jessixa.com](http://www.jessixa.com)



**Summer 2022**

Middle Grade fiction (8 and up)  
Balzer+Bray/Harper Collins (US)  
HC 978-0-06-299575-9  
PB 978-0-06-299574-2

Review materials: PDF, finished book

*The Stonewall Award Honor Book about friendship, identity, and embracing all the parts of yourself that make you who you are*

## THE REAL RILEY MAYES

Rachel Elliott

Instructed to write letters to people they admire, Riley picks the one person who makes her happy: comedian Joy Powers. The assignment brings Riley new friends, but also trouble: mean girl Whitney spreads a rumor about Riley and her celebrity crush.

- *A New York Public Library Best Book of 2022*
- *Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection*
- *A Book Riot Best Comic 2022*
- *A Comics Journal Best Comic of 2022*

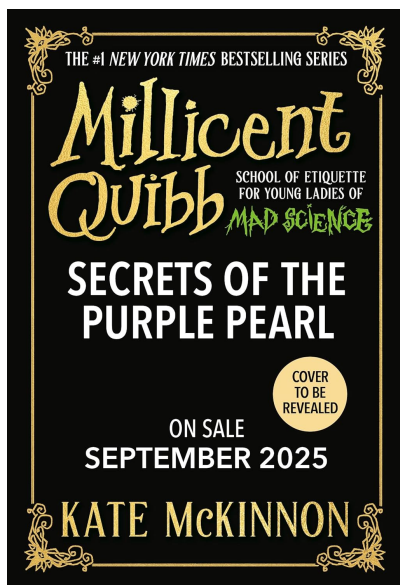
★ "An exploration of self-identity that is both LOL funny and touching.... [Riley] endears herself to readers with her budding self-awareness and undeniable moxie."—*The Horn Book* (starred review)

★ "[A] story of self-discovery that's messy and full of heart."—*Publishers Weekly*

**Rachel Elliott** lives in Lexington, KY. This is her debut. <https://rachelelliott.me>

AWARD WINNER





September 2025

Middle Grade fiction (8 and up)  
Hachette (US)/Harper Collins (UK)  
HC ISBN 978-0-316-55529-6

Review materials: PDF forthcoming

*The hilarious blockbuster #1 New York Times–bestselling series continues the adventures of three sisters and their fearless teacher*

## SECRETS OF THE PURPLE PEARL

*The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science, Book 2*

Kate McKinnon

After the adventures of Book One, the Porch sisters worry they will never see Millicent Quibb again... until another mystery unfolds in the town of Antiquarium. It's summertime, and everyone has flocked to the majestic lakeside Purple Pearl Hotel, including the nefarious group of evil mad scientists, the KRA. They haven't given up on resurrecting their fearsome leader, Talon Sharktūth, and now, they're hot on the trail of the legendary Purple Pearl, a source of power that is rumored to be lost at the bottom of Kagoopy Lake. The Porch sisters are the only thing standing between the KRA and ultimate power.

While Millicent, Gertrude, Eugenia, and Dee-Dee work to stop this nefarious plan, they discover more secrets than they bargained for—including where they came from, and who they truly are...

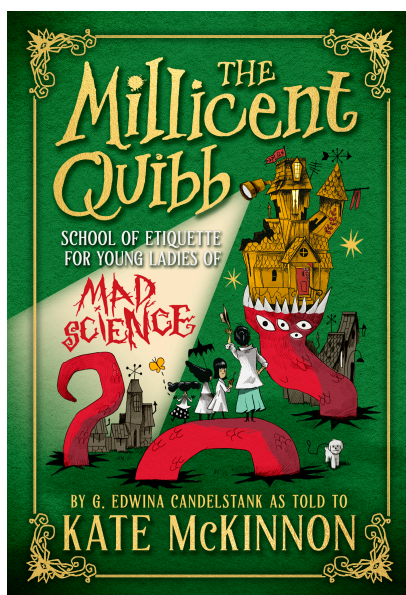
It's a mad science summer vacation they'll never forget!

**\*more than a quarter-million copies sold**

**\*20 Weeks and Counting on the New York Times bestseller list**

**\*Sold in a massive, multi-house auction**

**Supported by a high six-figure marketing & publicity plan  
Including: multi-city author tour, television and  
online press, and unparalleled outreach to  
influencers, gatekeepers, and readers**



October 2024

Middle Grade fiction (8 and up)  
Hachette (US)/Harper Collins (UK)  
HC ISBN 978-0-316-55473-2

Review materials: PDF, galleys



**Kate McKinnon** is an award-winning performer and writer who is celebrated globally for her work in film and television. She recently played Weird Barbie in Greta Gerwig's worldwide blockbuster *Barbie*. *The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science* was her debut novel.

**Rights Information:** Hachette/Little, Brown (US), HarperCollins (UK/ANZ), Poche (France), Duomo (Spain), Knigolove (Ukraine), Salani (Italy), V&R (Brazil)

Inquiries: [rights@upstartcrowliterary.com](mailto:rights@upstartcrowliterary.com)



*An avid fan of Agatha Christie whodunits finds herself smack-dab in the middle of a mystery when a priceless gem goes missing*

## THE CASE OF THE SCARLET SNAKEBITE

Christyne Morrell

Amber Adler is only twelve, but she knows a thing or two about solving mysteries. For one thing, she has read all of Agatha Christie's novels, several of them twice. Second, she herself is the observant daughter of a famous detective, and everyone knows such talents run in the family.

So when the wealthy Willoughby family stays at her mother's bed-and-breakfast and the priceless Scarlet Snakebite ruby goes missing, Amber hits the ground running. And a good thing, too, as her mother is the chief suspect! It is up to Amber and her singular mystery-solving skills to find the *real* culprit and clear her mother's name before the grumpy head of the Willoughbys calls in the police and sends her mother to the slammer.

Fall 2025

Middle Grade fiction (10 and up)

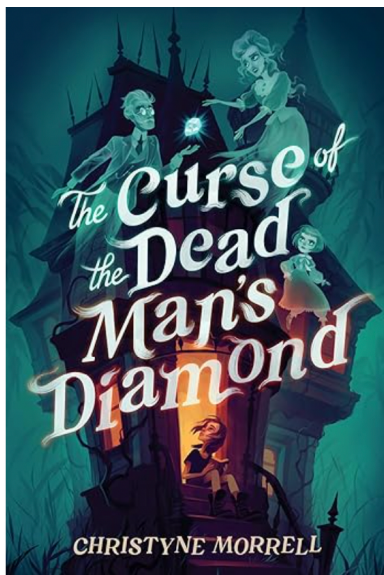
Delacorte/PRH

HC ISBN 978-TK

Review materials: PDF

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**Christyne Morrell** is the author of *Curse of the Dead Man's Diamond*, *Trex*, and *Kingdom of Secrets*. When she's not writing for kids, Christyne is a corporate attorney. [christynewrites.com](http://christynewrites.com)



*Charlie's new home is haunted by three ghosts cursed for stealing a diamond. Finding it may solve Charlie's problems—or curse her, too.*

## THE CURSE OF DEAD MAN'S DIAMOND

Christyne Morrell

Twelve-year-old Charlie would do anything to get back home to New York City. Even if it involves ghosts. Winklevooss Manor, Charlie's new house, is a towering Victorian mansion famous for one thing—it's haunted. Three ghosts—Ada, Arthur, and Guff—are trapped there, cursed for stealing a dead man's diamond. A diamond that, just like the ghosts, is still in the house.... If Charlie can find the diamond and sell it, she'd have enough money to move back to the city. But lifting the curse isn't that simple; and worse, it's dangerous: If she's not careful, Charlie could end up just as cursed as Ada, Arthur, and Guff.

"Ghosts get equal billing with the living in this sweet tale about finding home."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Spooky, fun, just a little scary, and full of heart."—Delilah S. Dawson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mine* and *Camp Scare*

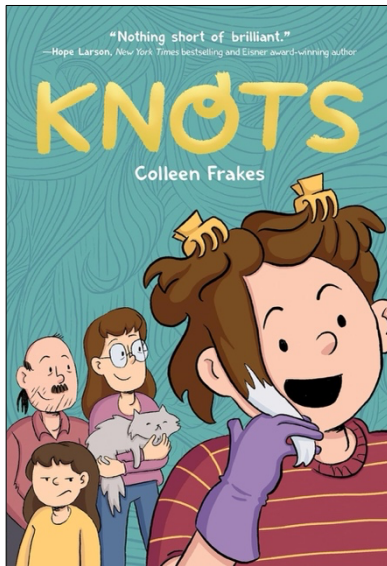
September 2024

Middle Grade fiction (10 and up)

Delacorte/PRH

HC ISBN 978-0-593-70760-9

Review materials: PDF



September 2024

Middle Grade Fiction (8 and up)

HarperAlley (WE)

HC 978-0063247178

PB 978-0063247161

Review materials: PDF, finished books

*A semiautobiographical tale of navigating not just foiled dreams of blond hair ... but also the tangled mess of family*

## KNOTS

Colleen Frakes

*A School Library Journal Best Book of 2024!*

*A Bookshop.org Best of Kids Graphic Novels (2024)!*

Norah is *the good kid*: Good at pleasing her parents and being a good sister. Good at school. Good at, well, *almost* everything. A mature sixth grader who can take care of herself...right?

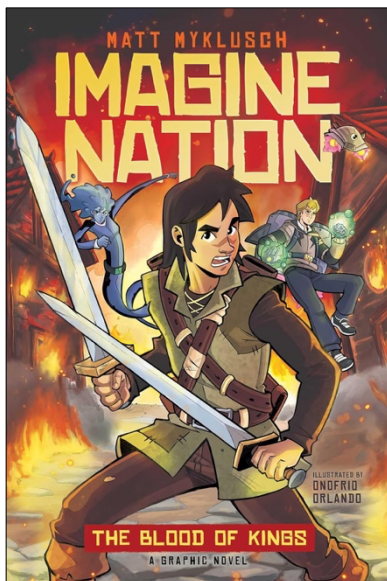
But things spiral out of control after a botched home dye job goes wrong and being the good kid quickly gets a little...hairy. Before long, one small tangle becomes a knot of epic proportions, and Norah soon realizes that the only way to untangle the mess she's made is to find her voice and ask for help.

★“A compelling and strong addition to middle grade graphic fiction collections.”—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

“[An] endearing chronicle [of] one tween’s experience navigating the intense pressures of middle school and family life.”—*Publishers Weekly*

**Colleen Frakes** is a Xeric and Ignatz award-winning cartoonist who has made comics for Koyama Press, Dark Horse, and many others.

NEW TITLE



Spring 2025

Middle Grade fiction (8 and up)

Simon & Schuster (US)

HC 978-1665928182

PB 978-1665928175

Review materials: PDF, finished books

*Return to the world of the acclaimed Jack Blank series in this first entry of an epic graphic novel trilogy full of adventure*

## THE BLOOD OF KINGS

*Imagine Nation, Book 1*

Matt Myklusch

The Imagine Nation is the origin of *all* stories—made up of worlds inhabited by everything from comic book superheroes to embattled knights of medieval epics.

Ever since failing to save his parents, young swordsman Skerren has molded himself into a fearless warrior to defend his home, and to never again be powerless. But then Skerren’s mentor, King Hovarth, nearly dies on his watch. With the king’s life hanging by a thread, Skerren is named Hovarth’s heir, leaving him at the center of threats from inside the kingdom and without. Skerren will face devastating betrayals, a looming threat of war, and the haunting truth about his parents’ death. He may even find out if he has what it takes to be a king... if he survives the experience.

“Briskly paced, expertly crafted, and stocked with surprising twists and nuanced characters.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

**Matt Myklusch** is the author of the acclaimed Jack Blank trilogy, as well as a half-dozen other books. He lives in New Jersey with his family.

NEW TITLE





March 2025

Middle Grade fiction (10 and up)

Candlewick Books

HC ISBN 978-1-536237-7-88

Review materials: PDF

*Starving, a girl scales the walls of a grand estate's kitchen garden to steal a peach, with life-changing consequences*

## THE PEACH THIEF

Linda Joan Smith

Tired and desperately hungry, Scilla risks everything to scramble over the wall into the Earl's garden to steal something to eat. What Scilla craves most of all is a peach, a fruit she's tasted once before and has since dreamed of. She's caught—and because she looks like a boy in her rough trousers and cap, stern head gardener Mr. Layton takes her on as an apprentice. Now going by Seth, Scilla dreams of becoming a permanent employee and, eventually, a gardener. But her growing breasts and bodily changes, as well as her unfamiliar romantic feelings for gardener-in-training Phineas Blake, threatens to expose her secret and get her expelled from the garden forever.

★ "Exceptional ... [a] vivid story of struggle and loss spearheaded by hope."—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "Smith's debut serves up a historical fiction tale not to be missed."—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "[A] deeply layered novel. Nuanced, richly atmospheric, and exquisitely written."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

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**Linda Joan Smith** is a former magazine editor and a lifelong lover of libraries and children's literature. She lives in California. *The Peach Thief* is her first novel.



July 2024

Middle Grade Fiction (8 and up)

Putnam/PRH (NA)

HC ISBN 978-0-593-69654-5

Review materials: pdf

*Jurassic Park meets Impossible Creatures when an expedition at a magical creature preserve goes horribly wrong*

## MAJESTICA

Sarah Tolcser

**\*A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year**

**\*A We Are Teachers Best Book of the Month for Kids, Teens, and Teachers**

Hattie is thrilled to be join Majestica's famous wilderness excursion ... until she meets the rest of the party: Evelyn, the preserve owner's haughty niece; Jacob, an apprentice mage; a strange man who plans to *hunt* the magical creatures; and other sinister characters with goals of their own. None of which matters until the magical fences break down, allowing the creatures to hunt the *humans*. Hattie, Evelyn, and Jacob must figure out what's gone wrong at Majestica if they have any hope of making it out alive.

★ "Rich worldbuilding will draw readers into an immersive adventure [and] fast-paced fantasy."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"A delightful tale full of magic, fantastical creatures and plants, and, of course, adventure ... Perfect for fans of Katherine Rundell's *Impossible Creatures*."—*SLJ*

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**Sarah Tolcser** is the author of *Song of the Current* and *Whisper of the Tide*. She can be found in New Orleans and at [www.sarahtolcser.com](http://www.sarahtolcser.com).



September 2024

YA fiction (14 and up)

Rocky Pond/PRH (US)

HC ISBN 978-0-593-61620-8

Review materials: PDF, finished books

*A bloody love story set during the “Starving Time” in Colonial America, when some would do anything to survive*

## TO THE BONE

Alena Bruzas

It’s 1609, and Ellis has recently arrived from England with Henry Collins and his wife, who she serves as their indentured servant. To orphaned Ellis, the new world is a fresh start awash in promise. She is filled with hope for her future.

Foolishly hopeful, for soon she comes to understand the horrible realities of her new home: the crimes that her fellow settlers have committed against the indigenous people; the cruelty of her employer, both to her and to his pregnant wife; and the terrible shortage of food they all face as winter draws near. People will do anything to survive, but will Ellis?

★ “A young woman goes hungry—and falls in love—in the Virginia Company’s colony.... Ruthless and tender by turns: a triumph.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

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**Alena Bruzas** is the author of the acclaimed debut novel *Ever Since*. lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.



September 2025

YA fiction (14 and up)

Candlewick Books (WE)

HC 978-1-536240-35-1

Review materials: manuscript

*The hilarious tale of a theater nerd who tackles slut-shaming and learns the power of forgiving others—and herself*

## REASONS TO HATE ME

Susan Metallo

*\*Sold at auction for six-figures*

There are countless good reasons to hate Jess Lanza, Stone Bridge High School’s premier theater nerd and Champion of Questionable Life Choices—but most people are stuck on last year’s life-ruining mistake, the one that earned Jess the title “Boyfriend Stealing Slutbag.”

To take back her own story, Jess begins posting online posts about her most ridiculous fails and embarrassing self-owns. But somehow, all of Jess’s posts circle back to her friendship with Chloe—the friendship her alleged sluttiness pulverized—and the gaping hole she left in Jess’s life.

“Entertaining and witty ... great characterization with psychological depth.”—Searchlight Writing for Children Awards

“A masterclass in wholly authentic character development, sharp, revealing dialogue, and pitch-perfect voice-driven storytelling.”—Book Pipeline

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**Susan Metallo** is a youth services librarian. This novel, her debut, won the SCBWI Work-in-Progress Award, among many honors. [www.susanmetallo.com](http://www.susanmetallo.com)

**Fall 2026**

Teen fiction (14 and up)  
 Macmillan/Feiwel (US)/Scholastic  
 (UK)  
 HC ISBN TK

*Review materials: partial & outline*

*A tongue-in-cheek meta-fantasy à la The Princess Bride, in which a teen mega-fan of fantasy finds herself in the world of her favorite series*

**ROMANCING THE THRONE**

Caitlin Cooper

*Find the princess.*

*Tame the dragon.*

*Fall in love.*

*Don't die.*

Sixteen-year-old Cyd is obsessed with the romantic fantasy epic *The Splintered Heart*: a tale of big magic and bigger romance. So when Cyd has the chance to meet the author, she leaps at the chance ... and is accidentally swept up into the pages of the novel itself. Turns out the reason the book is so compelling and the characters are so lifelike is because—well, they actually *exist*.

But Cyd has an advantage in this world: her deep knowledge of the story and these people means that only *she* can find the missing princess, save the princess from those who would kill her, and restore her to her rightful throne. Not because Cyd has any particular powers or is part of a prophecy, but simply because she is this story's Number One Fan.

Cyd's adventure finds her mistaken for a witch, cast into a dungeon, hunted by squadrons of soldiers, and menaced by mercenaries, pirates, and monstrous creatures galore—as well as falling in love with the Princess' gorgeous betrothed, Prince Quillian.

A sweeping saga packed with humor, adventure, and romance, ROMANCING THE THRONE is a tale for all of those readers who love smart heroines, heroes with extremely tight pants, wicked smart fantasy, and books that celebrate the power of storytelling.

**\*Sold in a six-figure pre-empt in the US**

**\*Sold at auction in the UK**

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**Caitlin Cooper** is a lifelong fan of fantasy and romance. She lives outside of Boston.