

SPRING 2025 RIGHTS CATALOG

# WERNICK & PRATT AGENCY



## THE SHINDIG is COMING!

CHARISE MERICLE HARPER



# THE SHINDIG IS COMING!



**Charise Mericle Harper**  
**Union Square Kids, an imprint of Hachette**  
**Summer 2025 / 120 pages**

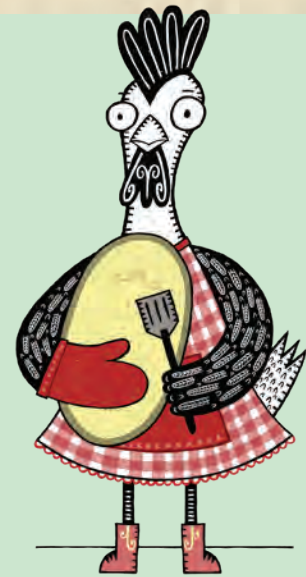


*"The Shindig Is Coming!"*

Mouse heard it from the blue jay, who yelled it from the top of the snowcapped mountain. Now it's Mouse's turn to yell it, 112 times: "The Shindig is Coming!" The forest is abuzz. What is the Shindig? Is it a slimy beast? A furry kitten? Meetings are held. Honey cake is served (courtesy of Stan the chicken). Opossum faints. And nothing is resolved.

That is until Bear waves his giant paws in the air and declares: "Someone is trying to bumfuzzle us with this mystery. I looked it up! A shindig is a party."

But what's coming isn't what Bear finds in the dictionary. It's something loud and goey with drums and fire. Only one thing is for sure: When the Shindig arrives, no one will be ready.



© Charlise Mericle Harper

# PARTY ANIMALS

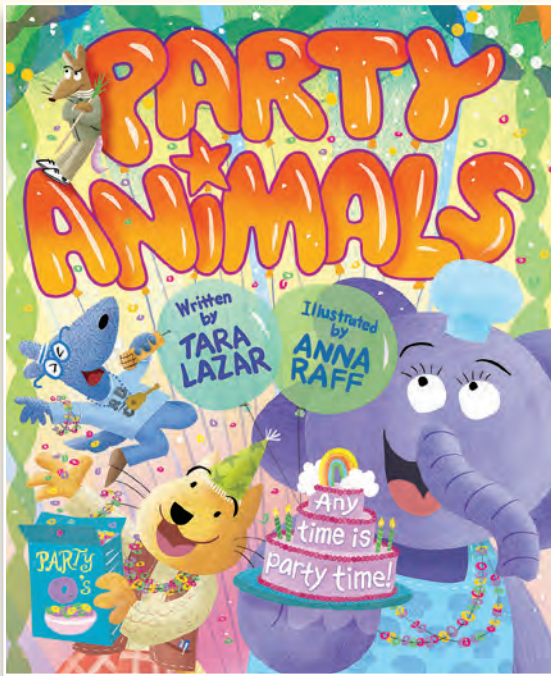
Written by Tara Lazar, illustrated by Anna Raff  
Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of Disney Books / Spring 2025  
Disney handles text rights

*Any time is party time with the Party Animals!*

Meet Beatrix, Theodore, and Phoebe: the Party Animals! They can make a party out of anything.

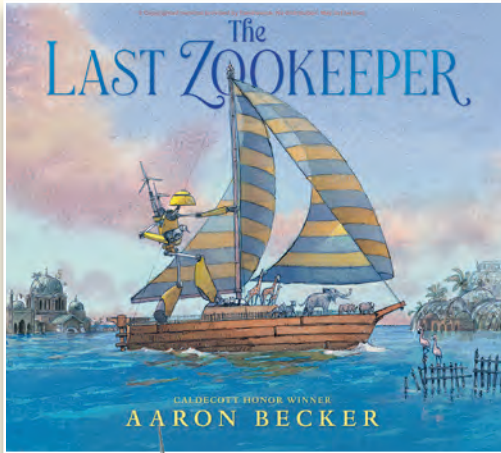
Sour milk? PARTY! Hole in your pants? PARTY! Now meet Horace. He's a party pooper. "You can't have so many parties!" he says. SCREEEECH. Could Horace be right?

Join the Party Animals in this whimsical celebration of friendship and empathy.



© Anna Raff

# THE LAST ZOOKEEPER



**Aaron Becker**  
**Candlewick Press / Spring 2024**  
**Korean and German rights sold**  
**Starred reviews from PW, SLJ, Kirkus, Horn Book**

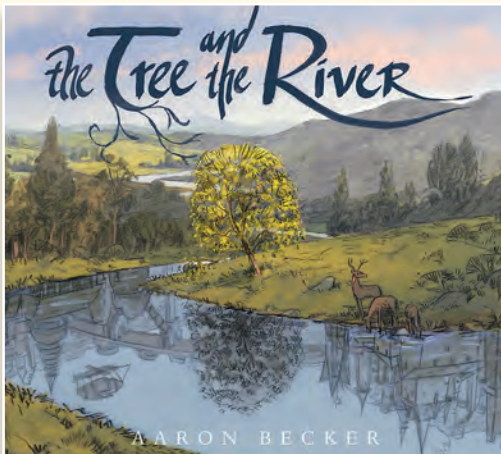
The Earth has flooded. The only signs of humankind are the waterlogged structures they left behind. Peeking out from the deluge are the remnants of a zoo, home to rare and endangered animals, survivors of long neglect. Tender-hearted NOA is a construction robot who's found new purpose as the caretaker of the zoo's beleaguered inhabitants. Bracing for the next storm, NOA builds an ark from the wreckage in search of new land and a new home, only to discover something even more profound. With boundless compassion and sweeping scenes of sea and sky punctuated by detailed wordless panels to pore over, Caldecott Honor-winning creator Aaron Becker delivers a timely and concrete message about the rewards of caring in even the most difficult of times that is sure to inspire the dreamers among us.

***Epic storytelling erupts on the page without the use of a single word. Superb. —Kirkus Reviews***



© Aaron Becker

# THE TREE AND THE RIVER



**Aaron Becker**  
**Candlewick Press / Spring 2023**  
**Korean, German, and Italian rights sold**  
**Starred reviews from PW, SLJ, Kirkus, Horn Book**

**Winner of the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration**

***A stunning accomplishment —Kirkus Reviews***

Aaron Becker takes the reader on another journey in this new wordless masterpiece. Readers will get a timelapse look at one small corner of the world that changes with the arrival, influence, and progression of human activity. Despite all these changes, the power of nature always prevails to reclaim the landscape.

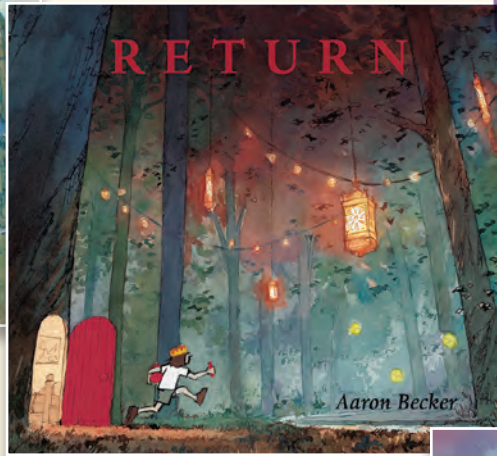
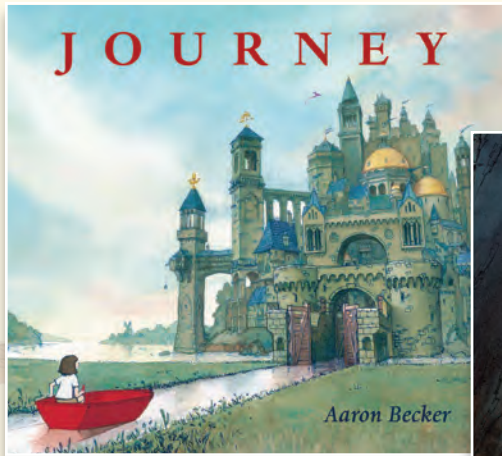


# THE JOURNEY TRILOGY

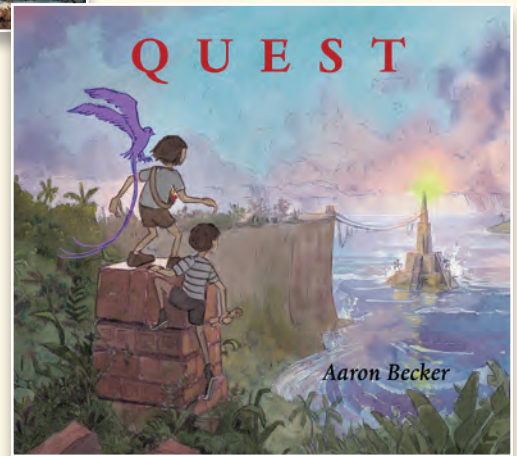
**Aaron Becker**  
**Candlewick Press**  
French, German, Italian, Dutch, Spanish,  
Portuguese, Romanian, Greek, Russian, Danish,  
Swedish, simplified Chinese, complex Chinese,  
Korean, Japanese, Farsi, and Turkish translation  
rights sold in the series



© Aaron Becker



*Becker's creation is a gift to his readers—one they'll want to save for their own children.*  
—Publishers Weekly



# THE WATER BEAST



© Aaron Becker



**A SNEAK PEEK OF AARON BECKER'S  
NEWEST WORDLESS MASTERPIECE!**

**Aaron Becker**  
**Candlewick Press**  
**Spring 2026**



**MORE THAN  
20 MILLION  
COPIES  
SOLD!**

# LITTLE BLUE TRUCK

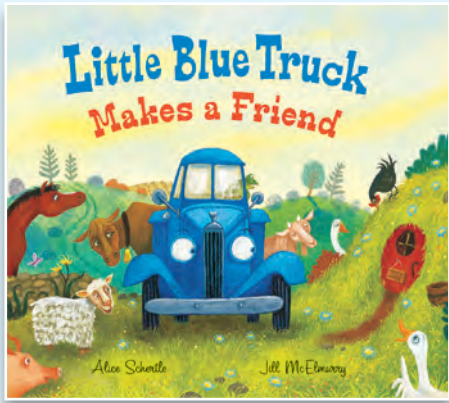
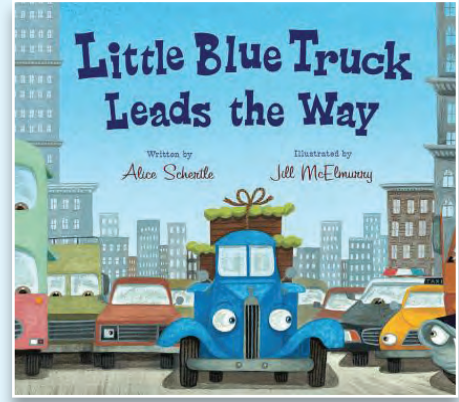
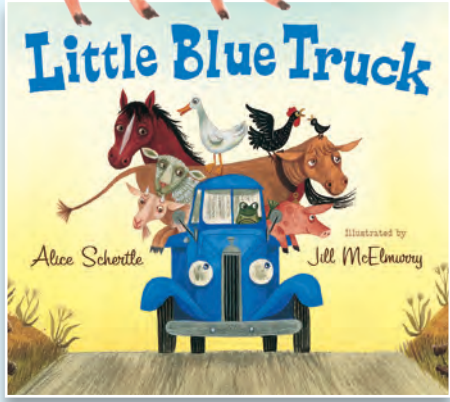
Written by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry  
 Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins  
 Simplified Chinese, complex Chinese, Japanese,  
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 HarperCollins handles text rights



© Jill McElmurry Trust



© Jill McElmurry Trust





# LITTLE BLUE TRUCK

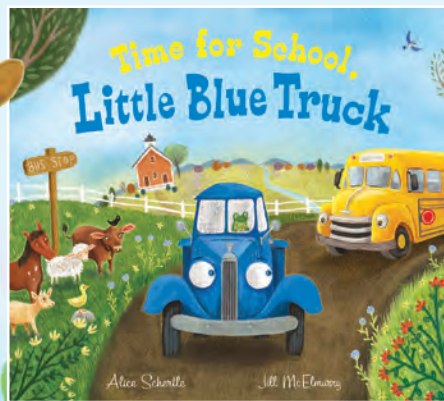
*Beep! Beep!* The Little Blue Truck series is a joyful cacophony of animal and truck sounds that will have youngsters beeping, quacking, and begging for one more go-round! Jill McElmurry's gouache illustrations of wild-eyed farm animals and country roads are warm and wonderful, suiting the cheerfully rhyming texts to a T. A preschool and toddler favorite for over 15 years!



© Jill McElmurry Trust



© Jill McElmurry Trust



**CHECK OUT THE  
LITTLE BLUE TRUCK  
VIDEO!**



# NIMBUS PLAYS ALONE



**Saki Tanaka**

**Henry Holt Books for Children, an imprint of Macmillan  
Winter 2025**

*Alone is better for this cloud...*

Nimbus is a cloud who plays alone—throwing lightning, teasing the sun with peekaboo, sprinkling raindrops to the ground. Alone is better. When Cumulus bursts on the scene (“Look at me! I’m a Penguin!”), followed by Cirrus (“Cool doodle”), then Stratus (“hide and seek!”), Nimbus says ENOUGH! Alone is better. Or is it? Back matter includes information about types of clouds.

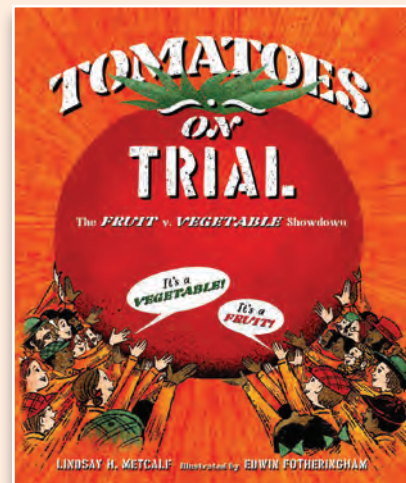
© Saki Tanaka

# TOMATOES ON TRIAL

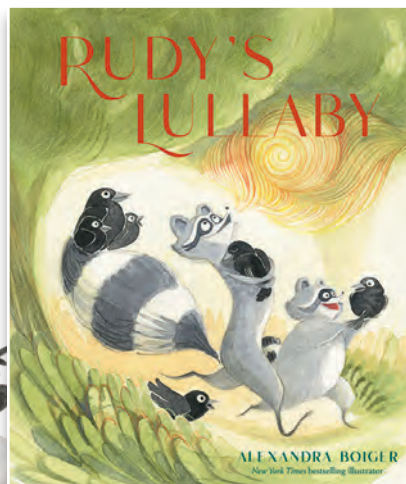
**Written by Lindsay H. Metcalf, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham  
Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Publishing House / Fall 2025  
Astra handles illustration rights**

*Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable? The US Supreme Court takes on the case!*

In the late 1800s, John Nix just wanted to sell tomatoes. But when import taxes on popular vegetables impacted his profits, he knew he had to remedy the situation. Nix set out to prove that tomatoes, which have seeds and grow on vines, were clearly fruits. That was the claim Nix argued all the way to the US Supreme Court. With Nix on Team Fruit, and the US government on Team Vegetable, both sides slung definition after definition in an epic, legal food fight. This little-known agriculturally-based story will fascinate young readers and encourage them to take a stand and defend their opinions.



# RUDY'S LULLABY



**Alexandra Boiger**

**Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House / Fall 2025**

Two raccoons live at the bottom of a tree where a mama bird and her family of chicks move in. Rudy the raccoon is not impressed at all—not by Mama Bird, not by her chicks, and certainly not by their singing school. But when Mama Bird’s work sends her on a business trip to another forest, Rudy must step up and care for the chicks. When he does, he learns a thing or two about love... and the power of music. This gorgeously illustrated book is a must-read for all kids who spend time with babysitters while their parents are away.

***A funny and poignant picture book about working parents, babysitters, love, and the power of music by the #1 New York Times bestselling artist of the She Persisted series.***

© Alexandra Boiger



# BEING HOME

Written by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Michaela Goade  
 Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House / Spring 2024  
 Starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *PW*, *Booklist*  
 An ALA Notable Book  
 Kirsten Hall at Catbird Productions handles illustration rights

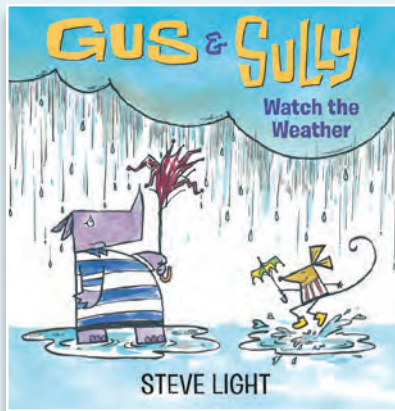
It's moving day! As a young Cherokee girl says goodbye to the swing, the house, and the city she's called home her whole life, she readies herself for the upcoming road trip. She looks forward to the end of the journey, where she'll eat the feast her family has prepared, play in the creek with her cousins, and settle into the new rhythm of home. With warm, expressive artwork and spare, lyrical prose, this picture book from Sibert Honor author Traci Sorell and Caldecott Medalist Michaela Goade celebrates a young girl's move toward rather than away from home.



© Michaela Goade

**An evocative, heartwarming testament to the power of home and community. —Kirkus Reviews**

## GUS & SULLY

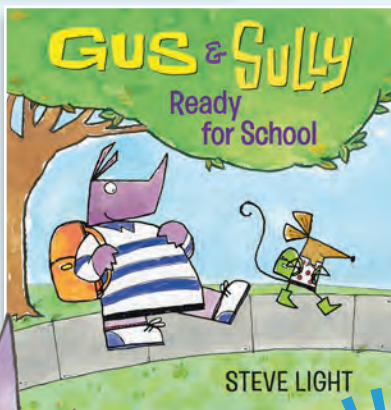
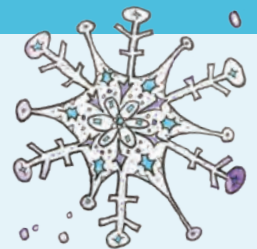


**Gus and Sully Watch the Weather**  
 Steve Light  
 Candlewick Press / Fall 2024

*What's the weather like today? Let's see!*

When Gus the rhino and Sully the mouse check out the weather each morning, they see and feel the same thing, but they experience it a different way. A simple, funny board book ideal for children just beginning to explore the wide world around them.

© Steve Light



**Gus and Sully Ready for School**  
 Steve Light  
 Candlewick Press / Spring 2025

*Good morning!*

The amiable pair are back to show us how they start their day in a sweet, funny board book for little ones from award-winning creator Steve Light.



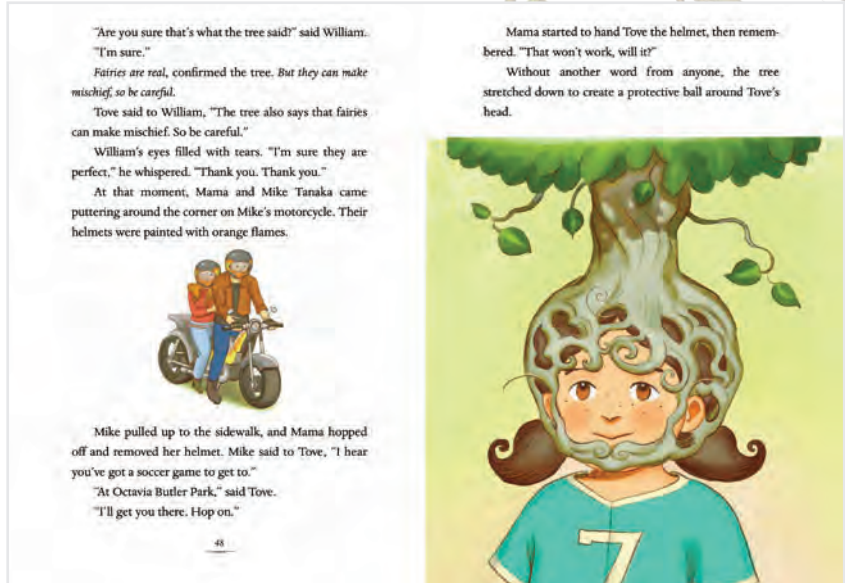
© Steve Light



# TOVE UNDER THE TREE

Written by Larissa Theule, illustrated by Julie Benbassat  
Candlewick Press / Fall 2025 / 80 pages  
Candlewick handles illustration rights

*A child's courage and creativity save a fallen tree in this gentle young chapter book about empathy, resilience, community, and our indelible bond with nature.*



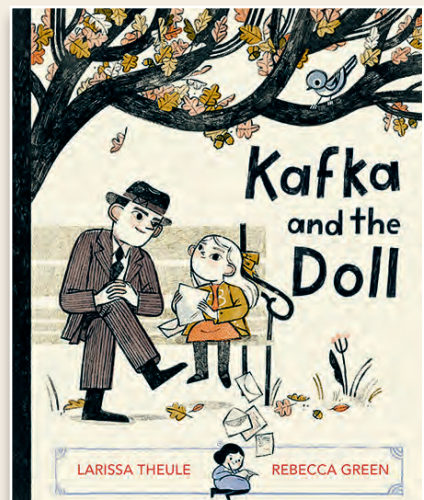
For as long as Tove can remember, the giant ficus tree has stood in front of her house, shading her bedroom during the day, holding up the stars at night. Now it lies on the ground, chopped down. "It was dead," says the arborist. "Trees die. People think they live forever, but they don't." Or don't they? Tove picks up a little branch that escaped the chipper, a branch still green and supple, still holding life. With that, she makes a bold and valiant resolution—and when the weight of her decision grows larger than a small child can handle by herself, the entire neighborhood comes together to support her and the tree they all love. With Larissa Theule's graceful prose and Julie Benbassat's inviting illustrations, a realistic familiarity merges with magical realism in an elegant, moving story with shades of a classic.

# KAFKA AND THE DOLL

Written by Larissa Theule, illustrated by Rebecca Green  
Viking Children's Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House  
Spring 2021  
Simplified Chinese, complex Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese,  
Turkish, German, French, Greek, and Hebrew rights sold  
Starred reviews from *SLJ* and *Booklist*  
Viking Children's Books handles illustration rights.

*Inspired by the true story of Franz Kafka's kindness to a young girl.*

© Rebecca Green

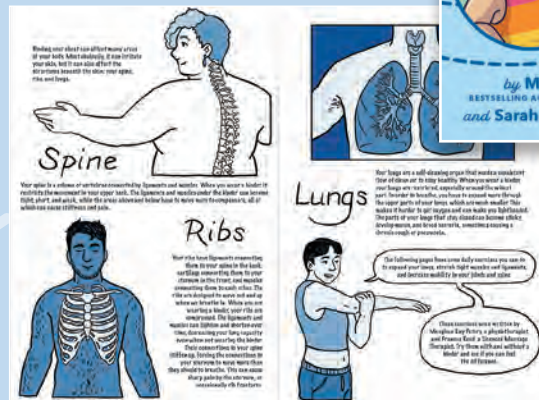


# BREATHE: JOURNEYS TO HEALTHY BINDING

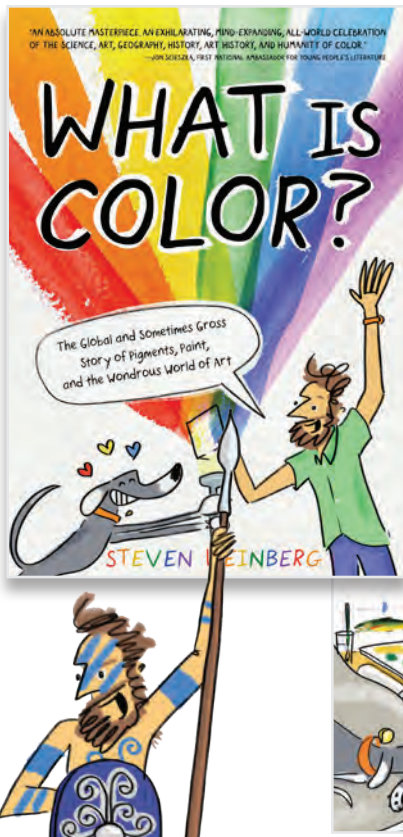
Written by **Maia Kobabe and Sarah Peitzmeier**, illustrated by **Maia Kobabe**  
**Dutton Books**, an imprint of Penguin Random House  
 Summer 2024 / 64 pages  
 Starred reviews from *SLJ* and *Booklist*

*A graphic-novel guide to chest binding with real-life stories and research-backed advice from bestselling Gender Queer author Maia Kobabe and University of Michigan professor Sarah Peitzmeier.*

*Breathe* arose from the need for a resource for folks considering chest binding as gender-affirming care. Dr. Peitzmeier interviewed twenty-five people of different ages and backgrounds about their journeys with binding, and then she and Kobabe combined excerpts from those interviews with evidence-based resources on binding into this extremely accessible guide. *Breathe* is both a practical resource for trans and nonbinary folks and an engaging and perspective-broadening read for anyone interested in what it means to be on a journey of expressing one's gender in ways that are joyful, healthy, and affirming.



## WHAT IS COLOR?



**Steven Weinberg**  
**Roaring Brook Press**, an imprint  
 of Macmillan / Fall 2024 / 144 pages  
**Korean rights sold**  
 Starred reviews from *PW*, *Booklist*, *SLJ*, *Kirkus*  
**An ALA Notable Book**

*In this zany and vibrantly illustrated nonfiction guide to all things color, the origins of today's pigments come alive across continents and history, with oodles of art, tons of science—and extensive interactive backmatter!*



© Steven Weinberg



What do toxic sludge, dragon's blood, avocado pits, powdered bugs, and cutting edge nanotechnology have in common? They all make color! *What is Color?* tells the global story of how color has been made over the past 64,000 years in an immensely researched, yet highly accessible (and funny!) hybrid graphic novel format.

© Steven Weinberg

## SPRING 2025 RIGHTS CATALOG

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