

Bologna 2024



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS GUIDE

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RUNNING PRESS KIDS

RPKIDS

13 DAYS OF SUMMER

Stephanie K. Strohm

Ages 13 & up 336 Pages June 2025

With three best friends and one hot hitchhiker entering their summer road trip era, it's all about that reputation...



It's the summer after senior year of high school for Carson, Noemi, and Eleanor, and they intend to live it up while they can. What could be more epic than a cross-country road trip to see Taylor Swift in concert? Along the way, the friends pick up a mysterious and charming guy who is stranded at a rest stop (is that a James Dean daydream look in his eyes?). As he and Carson hit it off, Carson gets a crash course in love-at-first sight. But as attractions grow, so, too, do tensions among the friends. Will the group make it to the concert with relationships intact? Or is there too much bad blood?

At its core, a novel about the power and possibility of friendships, sprinkled with just enough romance and set against the ultimate summer playlist, this lighthearted read is both a quintessential teen romance and coming-of-age novel that will stay with readers long after Taylor sings her last note.

Stephanie Kate Strohm is is the author of It's Not Me, It's You; The Date to Save; The Taming of the Drew; Prince in Disguise; Love a la Mode; That's Not What I Heard; Restless Hearts (Katy Keene #1); and, Once Upon a Tide: A Mermaid's Tale. After graduating with a joint major in theater and history from Middlebury College, she acted her way around the country, performing in more than 25 states. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband, her son, and a dog named Lorelei Lee.

For fans of Chronicle's The Tales series and DK's mythology series with Jean Menzies, comes a collection of tales and myths celebrating the rich traditions of Persian storytelling.

Ryan Bani Tahmaseb is an

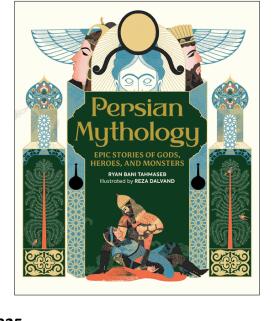
educator, author, and avowed Persian mythology superfan. His debut picture book, *Rostam's Picture-Day Pusteen*, based on his father's experience as a young Iranian-American immigrant, was published by Charlesbridge

Reza Dalvand is an illustrator an internationally recognized, award-winning creator of more than thirty books for readers of all ages. Books he has written and/or illustrated include What Could That Be?, Mrs. Bibi's Elephant, Ace, and I Have the Right. His work has been published into over fifteen languages worldwide, and he has exhibited twice at Bologna Children's Book Fair and received the Grand Prize from the Oshima Picture Book Museum in Japan, among others. A graduate of Isfahan Art University, Reza also holds a Masters in Illustration from Tehran University, where he was a professor while serving as art director for hundreds of children's books

PERSIAN MYTHOLOGY:

Epic Stories of Gods, Heroes, and Monsters

RYAN BANI YAHMASEB, REZA DALVAND

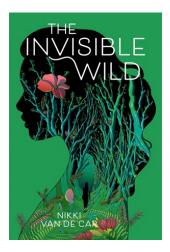




Ages 8 - 12 128 Pages November 2025

An unforgettable collection of 20 dramatic tales of Persian deities and heroes, both mortal and immortal, fighting in the name of goodness, chaos, beauty, love, and evil.

You've heard of mythological characters like Theseus, Medusa, and Thor, but have you heard about Anahita, Jamshid, and Rostam? In this engrossing anthology of twenty stories, middle grade readers will be introduced to the strongest heroes, most legendary creatures, and most vicious demons of Persian mythology. From Atar, the god of fire, going head-to-head with the three-headed demon-dragon Azhi Dahaka, to Anahita, the goddess of war and water, rescuing mortals from monstrous divs, *Persian Mythology* retells some of the most intense sagas that served as the foundation of early Persian religion, passed down from one generation to the next in the form of oral traditions. Author Ryan Bani Tahmaseb and award-winning illustrator Reza Dalvand celebrate the rich history and incredible tradition of Persian storytelling in this epic collection.



THE INVISIBLE WILD

NIKKI VAN DE CAR

Ages 13 & up 256 Pages May 2025

HOW TO SPOT A MERMAID

SARAH GLENN MARSH, LILLA BOLECZ

Ages 8 & up 144 Pages June 2025



No matter their race, age, or interests, the characters in the book are encouraged to be their true selves and to honor the cultural traditions that matter most, whatever comes their way.

The indigenous people of Hawai'i are known as kanaka maoli, "true people." In the third century, they sailed over 2,000 miles across untraveled seas, traveling from the Marquesas to the most remote island chain in the world. According to legend, however, the true kanaka maoli were already there. They were two to three feet tall, squat and strong, good and kind, and bothered no one without cause—they were the Menehune.

Flash forward to today: sixteen-year-old Emma is out running errands when she comes across a boy from Hilo living in the woods, saying things that do not make sense. It's here, in these woods, that Emma has memories of finding a space between "the worlds" as a child. She soon realizes this boy has accessed the place she lost, as well as the people, the Menehune. She helps him hide until whatever spell has been cast over him is broken. Together, Emma and the Hilo boy have to figure out what the Menehune want before it's too late to save the only home any of them have known.

Nikkia Van De Car is the author of over two dozen books on crafting and magic, including *The Junior Witch's Handbook* and *The Junior Astrologer's* Handbook, and is a freelance book editor. This is her first YA novel.

A vibrant, illustrated guide to the mermaids and sea creatures living in the oceans, rivers, and streams (yes, really!) around the world.

For centuries, sailors have told tales of majestic—sometimes dangerous creatures lurking beneath the ocean waves. Over the years, however, researchers have traced these legends to the very real world of merfolk. From yemayas and morgen to sirens, frosties, and more, this illustrated compendium of mermaids takes a deeper look at the different species swimming in seas around the world and highlights their magical abilities. Complete with interactive quizzes, activities, and crafts, this field guide will sweep you away on an underwater adventure!

Sarah Glenn Marsh is the bestselling author of several youn adult novels and many picture books. Her Irish heritage has inspired a love of fairy folklore and fantastical storytelling from a young age. She lives with her husband, daughter, fou dogs, two birds, and several fish in Richmond, Virginia.

Lilla Bölecz is an artist and folklore lover who specializes in graphic art, book illustration, dollmaking, and pattern design Her work is mostly inspired by mysticism, legends, spiritual experiences, mythology, and literature. Lilla uses both digita and traditional media, including ink, gouache, clay, and acrylics. She is always looking for meaningful connections, and to bring to life the unconventional and unique.

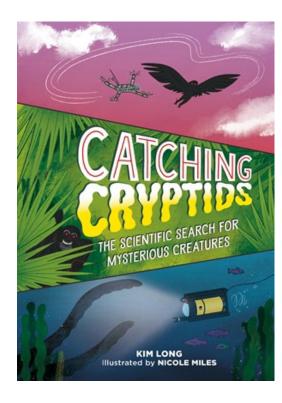


Learn how to find Kraken, Mothman, Microbats, and more in this fun, fact-filled, STEM-based cryptozoology book for fans of *The Book* of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures.

CATCHING CRYPTIDS

KIM LONG, NICOLE MILES

Ages 8 & up 144 Pages May 2025



For years the kraken was considered a mythical beast. Then, in 2004, high-tech cameras captured a photo of a living giant squid. Advances in technology have provided scientists with new tools to study previously undiscovered, unresearched habitats: high-tech cameras, forensic analysis, underwater robots, infrared sensors, drones, remote control photography and measurement tools, airborne DNA, footprint identification, and more.

Catching Cryptids explores these technological advances in a fun way by pairing them with mythical creatures and discussing how modern technology could be used to locate or "catch" these beasts. The book includes a mini history of each cryptid, along with interesting facts about the corresponding field of science, and spot illustrations throughout.

Featuring over 45 creatures found on land, in water, and among the skies, *Catching Cryptids* will leave readers wondering *what's next*? The phoenix? Dragons? The possibilities are endless!

Kim Long is a middle child and the only one of her siblings who did not pursue a true profession in math or science. Instead, she finds herself writing books featuring . . . math and science. Go figure. Her middle grade novel, *Lexi Magill and the Teleportation Tournament* was a Texas Bluebonnet Master List Selection. When not writing, she enjoys biking, board games, and hanging out with friends and family.

Nicole Miles is an illustrator from The Bahamas who currently lives in West Yorkshire (UK) with her pet snake and human boyfriend. She loves any opportunity to inform and entertain with her illustrations.











MAKE YOUR OWN RAINBOW

LIL MISS HOT MES, OLGA DE DIOS RUIZ

Ages 4 - 8 40 Pages May 2025

Explore a kaleidoscope of colors beyond the rainbow in this celebratory and empowering book by Drag Story Hour storyteller Lil Miss Hot Mess!

Drag queens love to dance to their own beat, speak their minds, and let their best selves shine. They love all the colors of the rainbow—as well as all the colors beyond!

From scarlet, marigold, lemon, and emerald, to azure, periwinkle, Byzantium, and onyx, the world's diverse range of colors allows drag queens and kings to be authentic and creative. And you, too, can use any color or hue to express yourself and your fierce imagination! Travel through a colorful, playful, and uplifting world with Drag Story Hour co-founder Lil Miss Hot Mess and whimsical illustrator Olga De Dios in their latest inclusive picture book.

Lil Miss Hot Mess the author of *The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish* and *If You're a Drag Queen and You Know It*, and has written for *Wired, Salon*, and *The Guardian*. She's performed at venues from Stanford to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art to *Saturday Night Live*.

Olga de Dios is a creator of children's books whose work focuses on equality, freedom, and justice. Her first book, *Pink Monster*, has been translated into twelve languages. She lives in Madrid, Spain.



TAKE UP SPACE, Y'ALL

TESS HOLLIDAY, KELLY COON

Ages 4 - 8 176 Pages August 2025





HEN LAI WAS A BAY, HE HAD THE SWETEST LITTLE FOLLS built of the start of the Tig Chonk. At rins, bugger and taler than all his classmate, his parents signed lima up for tackle founds. When they channel this is classmate from the skithlines, a couple of the stammate took notice and channel it is too to when they do the Carrolly it is up there wys. Takes when it less baps to drawn on Kai that he was different from the other loops in a way they thought was bud.

He began to hate the nickname.

As its get older he did his best to shring off the taunits so he could locus on being the best to rollar higher the could be. On his seventhe grade team, he got positioned at center, even though he wanted to play tight end more than anything. He practiced his fortwerk at home and nan plays with his dath in the backycand, but his occelles just shapped him on the back and said his size made him O-line forever.

rubless to him. He tassed him constantly about his nickiname, patted his belly, and did the "Chonk" dance, which inrobved waddling like a pengain. Kai told him to stop, repeatedly—ever incedentably knocked him into the lockers one day to pat some muscle behind his words. But Marcet waddrir ki tup.

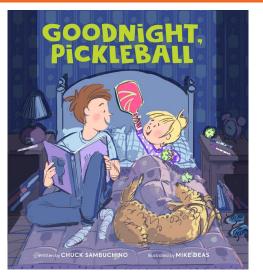
Make your own rules and treat your body well in this uplifting, inspirational, and factfilled guide to navigating social media, healthy eating, and loving your body by top plus-size model Tess Holliday and award-winning author Kelly Coon.

Tess Holliday and co-author, Kelly Coon, are combating the immense pressures society places on teens--from grades to social status to looks--and acknowledging these can have a negative impact on one's physical and mental health. Through fun quizzes, bit-sized stories, writing prompts, and digestible sidebars, this guide is sure to empower you to unleash self-love and to conquer societal pressures while having fun at the same time.

Tess Holliday is one of the world's most famous plus-size models and the first of her size ever to be signed to a major agency. She has been a pioneer of the body positivity movement since 2010, broke boundaries with her *Cosmo* UK cover, and was the first-ever digital cover star for *Self*. She is one of the top six plus-size models globally by *Vogue Italia*. She has created and sold her own clothing lines, speaks at panels around the world, consults for H&M on inclusivity and diversity, and has hosted a podcast.

Kelly Coon is an educator with more than twenty years' writing experience. She was executive editor for Blue Ocean Brain, a high school English teacher, and is a published fiction and nonfiction author for teens and adults. She's written articles for *The Washington Post, Scary Mommy, ThoughtCo*, and more.





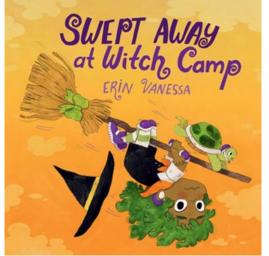
GOODNIGHT, PICKLEBALL

CHUCK SAMBUCHINO, MIKE DEAS

Ages 4 - 8 32 Pages August 2025

SWEPT AWAY AT WITCH CAMP

ERIN VANESSA Ages 4 - 8 32 Pages May 2025



A magical story of a little witch who must face her fears of

failure in order to succeed at camp. An inclusive picture book featuring two mommies and a child with a hearing device for fans of *Kiki's Delivery Service*.

Sid loves being a witch. She can make a Rainbow Mushroom potion. She can turn butterflies into frogs. And she can use her crystal ball to predict the weather! But she's nervous about starting Witch Camp. Why? Because Sid has a secret—she can't fly on a broomstick!

Sid confesses to her moms that she's nervous about the Broomstick Race and that she's going to quit Witch Camp for good. But then something happens at home, reminding Sid that being a witch isn't just about flying well—and that maybe trying your best and not giving up is part of Witch Camp too. This empowering book about self-esteem provides kids with a spunky role model for facing one's fears and trying to succeed.

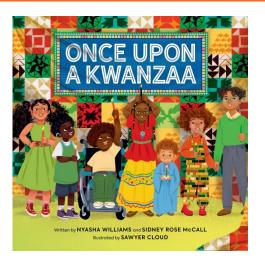
Erin Vanessa is a former video game producer who's been drawing and painting for most of her life. Her artwork is handpainted with watercolor, gouache, and pencil crayon. Her inspirations include video games, beautiful food, and vintage botanical illustrations. She is the authorillustrator of *You Do You-nicorn*. She lives and works in Canada.

A young girl helps cheer on her dad's pickleball team while learning America's fastest growing sport in this delightful bedtime picture book!

Grab your paddles, balls, and a bunch of friends--it's time to play pickleball! *Goodnight, Pickleball* celebrates this trending sport, capturing the excitement of the game through the eyes of a young girl who is cheering on her dad's team on the pickleball court. After the game, the girl says goodnight to all the picklers and the gear before getting tucked into bed with a brand new surprise treat. The book will include a glossary of pickleball terms for any beginning enthusiast! This is a great introduction to pickleball for the younger generation and a wonderful read aloud especially at bedtime for adults who want to share their love of this sport with children in their life.

Chuck Sambuchino is the author of 20+ books, including the *Guide to Literary Agents*, and the humor book *How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack*. He is a professional editor and the founder of <u>Writing Day Workshops</u>. Chuck is involved in the Ohio pickleball scene. He lives in Cincinnati with his 10-year-old daughter, who got her first pickleball paddle last year.

Mike Deas is an illustrator of children's books and graphic novels. Capilano College's Commercial Animation Program in Vancouver helped Mike fine-tune his drawing skills and imagination. Work as a concept artist, texture artist, and art lead in the video game industry took Mike to England and California. Mike lives with his family on sunny Salt Spring Island.



ONCE UPON A KWANZAA

NYASHA WILLIAMS, SIDNEY ROSE MCCALL, SAWYER CLOUD

Ages 4 - 8 32 Pages September 2025

An engaging picture book celebrating the beautiful traditions of Kwanzaa, from the author of *I Affirm Me: The ABCs of Inspiration for Black Kids*.

Kwanzaa is a holiday steeped in ancestral traditions collected over generations of people across the Black Diaspora. *Once Upon a Kwanzaa* introduces communities of all colors to the interwoven history and lived experiences connected to this time of year when families and loved ones gather to celebrate, share, and reimagine the past, present, and future. Sawyer Cloud's stunning artwork showcases seven different BIPOC families and highlights how different peoples of the Diaspora can celebrate in their communities, from setting the table and lighting the Kinara to sharing meals and gathering at events. The book includes a

glossary and pronunciation guide.

Nyasha Williiams grew up living intermittently between the United States and South Africa. As a kindergarten teacher, she was inspired to continue work as an author, creator, and activist.. She is the author of four picture books with Running Press Kids, including the bestselling *I Affirm Me*, and is the author of RP Studio's *Black Tarot*, as well as a board book series with Harpercollins.

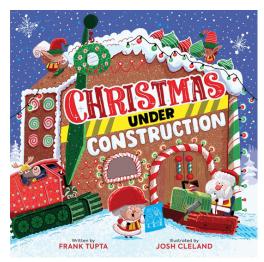
Sidney Rpse McCall is an historian and community intellectual who combines her academic work with her activism.

Sawyer Cloud is a freelance artist from Madagascar. Her passion for kids' literature pushed her to turn it into a living. Sawyer loves sunny days and music.

CHRISTMAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

FRANK TUPTA, JOSH CLELAND

Ages 4 - 8 32 Pages October 2025

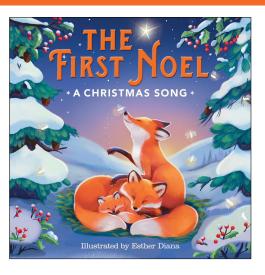


Elf meets *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site* in this fun, festive, and highly commercial Christmas picture book--for fans of the How To Catch A series..

After a storm hits the North Pole, it's up to Saint Nick and his jolly crew to rebuild their workshop. With no building materials and only a day left before Christmas they have to be creative *and* quick. The Clauses, the elves, the reindeer, and a surprise guest all work together to get the job done. But can they save Christmas? Or will they end up out in the cold? *Christmas Under Construction* puts a building twist on the traditional Christmas book, bringing construction to the North Pole. Santa, trucks, teamwork, and a lot of gingerbread all help drive the holiday spirit.

Frank Tupta loves all things funny. He has a tractor that is heavily used. He loves food. He has ducks. They are fluffy and chunky. He also loves nature, shot-put, fishing, and poppy seed. He is the author of *How to Build a Haunted House* and most days, you can find him writing, walking his dog with his family, driving around in his tractor, and co-running www.critterlit.com with his wife.

Josh Cleland is an illustrator working out of his home gingerbread studio just outside of Portland, Oregon, where he resides with his wife, Rayna, and creative director/dog, Newman. Some of his recent illustrated children's books include *Welcome to the Woofmore*, *The Woofmore Is Not Haunted, Banana Hut*, and *Humpty's Great Fall*.. You can see his work at JoshCleland.com.



THE FIRST NOEL: A Christmas Song

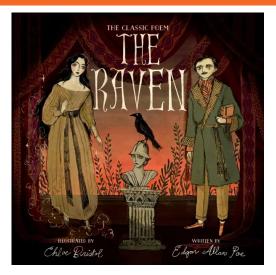
ESTHER DIANA

Ages 0-3 18 Pages October 2025

THE RAVEN: The Classic Poem

EDGAR ALLEN POE, CHLOE BRISTOL

Ages 4 - 8 32 Pages September 2025



Ring the bells for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus with this delightful and festive board book featuring adorable woodland creatures!

Snuggle up on a cold winter's night and look for a shining star in the east as you celebrate Jesus's birth in this cozy Christmas board book. Sing along to the timeless Christmas carol "The First Noel" with your whole family as little ones gather in front of the Christmas tree or manager scene in their homes with loved ones. Esther Diana's whimsical illustrations will surely delight young and old each Christmas season as families gather to celebrate the holiday.

Esther Diana is a freelance children's illustrator based in Madrid. She studied Fine Arts at the University of Seville, where she is originally from. After finishing her studies in the UK and Italy, Esther started her career in the game industry as a concept artist. Since then, she has used her skills to illustrate books and other products for kids. Esther mainly works digitally, but loves to sketch with pencil and paper, and experiment with mixing digital and traditional techniques. Esther loves art and visiting museums, but above all, she loves books and libraries. She is also a lover of animals and nature, enjoying walks in the countryside where she finds calm and inspiration. In her free time, Esther enjoys spending time with her husband, their little boy, and their cat.

Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" comes to life for young readers in this **enchantingly** illustrated picture book of the classic spooky poem.

Once upon a midnight dreary . . .

So begins the story of a man and his unusual encounter with a raven on a dark winter's night in Edgar Allan Poe's infamous "The Raven." The man's struggle with his deep sadness at the loss of the love his life is heightened with the arrival of the raven, who sits watching him, and only uttering a single word: *nevermore*. As the night grows darker, the man tries to escape the shadows of his grief before it is too late. Poe's beloved and mysterious poem is brought to life for young readers and adult fans alike by Chloe Bristol's rich, moody illustrations. *The Raven* is the perfect book to snuggle in and read as a family during the Halloween season or on any blustery, cold day.

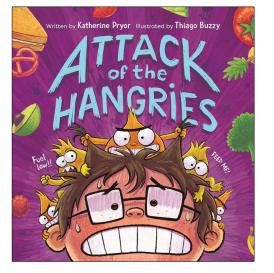
Edgar Allen Poe was born in 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts, and died in 1849 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was an American short story writer, poet, critic, and editor who is famous for his cultivation of mystery and the macabre. His poem "The Raven" (published in 1845) is among the best-known poems in American literature.

Chloe Bristol was born and raised in Texas and is an alumna of the Art Center College of Design. She is the illustrator of the Winterhouse series by Ben Guterson and *Nonsense: The Curious Story of Edward Gorey*

ATTACK OF THE HANGRIES

KATHERINE PRYOR, THIAGO BUZZY

Ages 4 - 7 132 Pages September 2025



This picture book explains the concept of being "hangry" with humor and science, providing both an entertaining read-aloud and a useful look at the way our bodies work.

Learn how to spot the Hangries and how to keep them at bay with this engaging and kidfriendly look at the science behind our bodies' need for food and the relationship between food and mood. We've all been there—when our hunger slides into anger and suddenly, we feel . . . hangry. And kids certainly aren't exempt from this feeling.

Attack of the Hangries explores the scientific reason behind this phenomenon as the author takes the reader through the experience of being hangry in a fun and informative way. What happened? Where did those feelings come from? And why? Kids will delight in the humor and over-the-top characters, while parents will appreciate the subtle message being imparted. Helpful sidebars and accessible back matter explains the science behind hunger and how to properly feed and care for our bodies. For caregivers with hangry little ones, this book will be a welcome tool to encourage regular, healthy eating.

Katherine Pryor is award-winning children's book author and good food advocate. She grew up in California and Arizona before moving to Seattle to study food and farming. Her books are widely used in school garden curriculum, nutrition education, and anti-hunger initiatives and have been recognized by the Whole Kids Foundation Book Club, Ag in the Classroom, and the American Horticultural Society.

Thiago Buzzy was born and raised in the countryside of Santa Catarina, Brazil, in a little town called Lontras. As a child, he discovered a passion for drawing and found inspiration in the natural beauty that surrounded him. Thiago works in both digital and traditional mediums such as ink and watercolors. His playful artwork can evoke a wide range of emotions in his readers, from joy and delight to a touch of melancholy. Thiago now lives in São Joaquim with his wife and dog

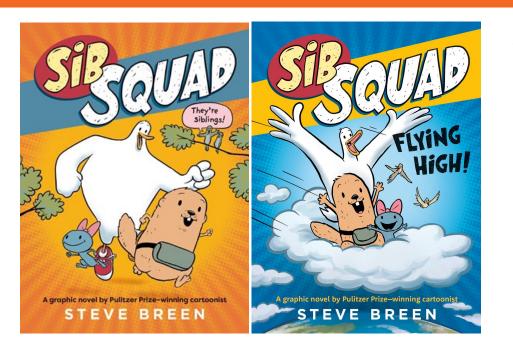
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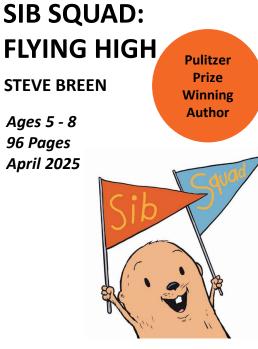
SIB SQUAD

STEVE BREEN

Ages 5 - 8 96 Pages April 2025

Bask in the gleeful rebellion of three younger siblings as they seek bold adventures *far away* from their older siblings in this hilarious early graphic novel.





The youngest of seven siblings, Lucy, Bruce, and Oliver are sick and tired of being told that they are too young to do the things their older siblings do. In a bout of bored frustration, they band together to form the Sib Squad—a club of their own dedicated to having "amazing, mindblowing adventures." And adventures they have! Award-winning cartoonist Steve Breen crafts a riotously fun look at sibling dynamics that will be beloved by downtrodden younger siblings everywhere.

In this first book in the series, the Sib Squad launches the club at their tree house headquarters, then they find themselves drawn into multiple adventures that include wishes at a wishing well gone wrong and an

unlikely encounter with a younger sibling from outer space. As young readers delve into the trio's hijinks, they will find themselves struck with uncontrollable giggles and an unquenchable desire to seek adventures of their own.



The youngest of seven siblings, Lucy, Bruce, and Oliver are sick and tired of being told that they are too young to do the things their older siblings do. In in book two of this hilarious early graphic novel in a bout of bored frustration, they band together to form the Sib Squad—a club of their own dedicated to having "amazing, mind-blowing adventures." And adventures they have! Award-winning cartoonist Steve Breen crafts a riotously fun look at sibling dynamics that will be beloved by downtrodden younger siblings everywhere.

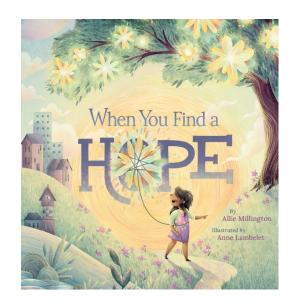
In *Flying High*, the siblings take to the sea—and to the sky—making friends and finding adventure along the way.

Steve Breen grew up in California, as the oldest of seven siblings, and he now has a bunch of kids of his own. So Steve knows siblings! He is fascinated by kids and the things they do, the stuff they say, and the clubs they create. He enjoys working in his home studio in San Diego, even when the house gets noisy and his art supplies mysteriously go missing. Steve has won two Pulitzer Prizes (1998, 2009) for his editorial cartoon work and several broadcasting Emmys for his video work. He is also the author-illustrator of several children's books, including *Stick, Violet the Pilot,* and *Woodpecker Wants a Waffle*.

WHEN YOU FIND A HOPE

ALLIE MILLINGTON, ANNE LAMBELET

Ages 4 - 7 32 Pages May 2025



Experience the improbable beauty of a shattered hope born anew in this magical tale about a young girl, a tree full of hopes, and the power of perseverance.

In this tale of unexplained wonder, there is a tree that grows hope from its branches. A curious girl visits the tree and plucks the largest, brightest hope she can find. Her hope can float, so she tethers it to her side and takes it with her everywhere. But when the unimaginable happens and

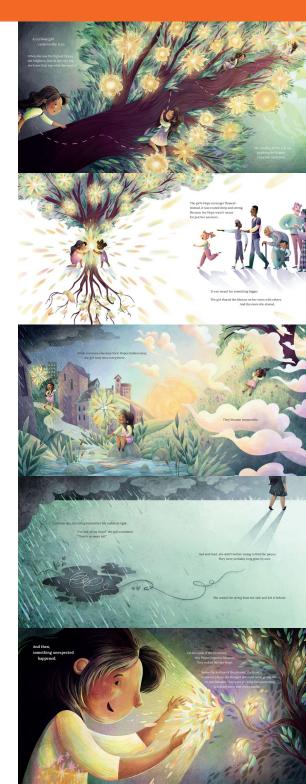
her hope is crushed, she drags the pieces of her precious hope along until even those have been lost along the way. Looking back, she finds that small trees have begun to sprout in her wake, the beautiful offerings of her now firmly rooted, thriving hope.

The first picture book from best-selling author Allie Millington (*Olivetti*), this moving story celebrates the importance of holding onto hope and the improbable beauty of a lost hope born anew.



Allie Millington wrote this story during a season when one of her own hopesbecoming a published author-had been crushed. She is grateful her hope soon blossomed anew, and she is able to share this book and others with readers. Her debut middle-grade novel, Olivetti, was an instant national bestseller and received numerous starred reviews, as well as a review in the New York Times by actor and typewriter enthusiast Tom Hanks. She invites you to follow her on Instagram @allieinink.

Anne Lambelet studied illustration at the University of the Arts and has had the pleasure of illustrating many children's books since. She is the author-illustrator of three picture books: Maria the Matador, Dogs and Their People, and The Poisoned Apple. She currently lives in Philadelphia with her husband, her toddler, and her exceptionally fluffy dog.



MAKE WAY FOR HARRIET AND MAY

Frankfurt 2024 Children's Rights Guide

ELIZABETH WEISS VERDICK, YANA KOZAK

Ages 4 - 7 32 Pages July 2025



Join May and her stuffed-animal spider, Harriet, as May learns to be brave and step out of her comfort zone in this joyful story about being different.

May likes calm and quiet, because oftentimes, the world is too noisy and busy for her to handle. She's more comfortable playing alone than with other children. But one day, when she's hiding beneath a shopping cart at the store, she sees a beautiful, stuffed-animal spider. May names the spider Harriet and convinces her mother to let her take Harriet home. Soon May and Harriet become inseparable—building cuddle caves, having sleepovers, drawing, and playing. Snug in a Harriet hug, May can brave public places. With Harriet, May feels safe, and the world feels less scary.

This joyful and empathetic tale of friendship explores the concept of sensory overload and the different ways people experience and interact with the world, with a message that May's differences are something to be loved and celebrated, not problems that need to be fixed.

Elizabeth Weiss Verdick is the author of *Teeth Are Not for Biting, Small Walt, Bike & Trike*, and *Peep Leap*. She is also the coauthor of *The Survival Guide for Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Elizabeth lives in Minnesota with her family.

Yana Kozak is a children's book illustrator from Ukraine. She earned a degree in journalism and worked for several years for newspapers and TV. For the past few years, she has been doing what she always dreamed of—illustrating children's book full-time.

RIPENING TIME

MELISSA DASSORI

Ages 4 - 7 32 Pages April 2025



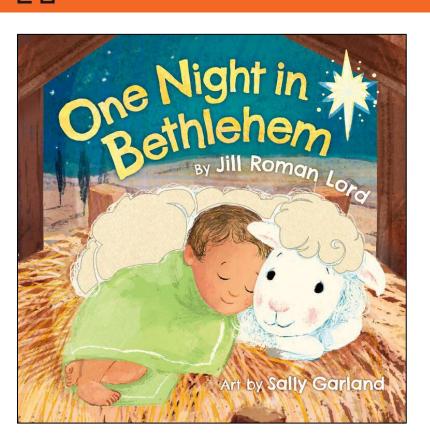
Celebrate the power of food to create delicious, lasting memories with this poetic and playful exploration of the joy of waiting for, and finally sharing, fried plantains.

Mama steers the cart toward the produce section of the grocery store and picks up a bunch of green plantains. Thus begins a week of anxious anticipation as a young girl waits for mustard yellows to seep onto the unripe green peels. By Thursday, black marks begin to splotch and streak across the plantains. And finally, on Sunday, the frying pan sizzles and hisses, as Mama serves up the warm, sugary slices the young girl has waited for so long.

Much like there is sweet treasure hidden beneath the skin of a plantain, this beautifully written and evocative story reaches far beyond the act of preparing a favorite food. *Ripening Time* celebrates the way food and family entwine to connect us across generations—and serves as a touching reminder that some of the sweetest rewards in life are worth the wait.

Patrice Gopo is the child of Jamaican immigrants and was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She is an award-winning essayist and author of *All the Places We Call Home*. She lives with her family in North Carolina—another place she considers home.

Carlos Vélez Aguilera has illustrated for books, magazines, and animation projects, including his own authored book, *Salón Destino*. He works in pencil and ink to create sketches and character studies, then colors his work digitally.



Frankfurt 2024 Children's Rights Guide

ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

JILL ROMAN LORD, SALLY GARLAND

Ages 1 - 4 20 Pages October 2025

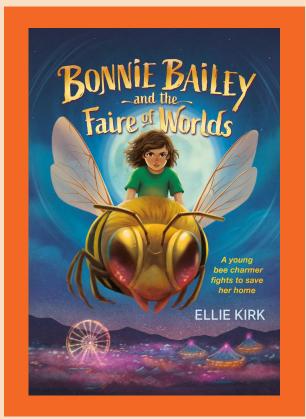
Brand new illustrations give fresh life to this classic Christmas board book that follows a young child as they imagine being present on the night of Christ's birth

Immerse your little one in the events of the first Christmas night with this sweet, festive board book. In this holiday adventure, a young child imagines what it would have been like to be present when Jesus was born. If he had been a lamb, he would have kept Christ warm. If he had been an angel, he would have announced Jesus' birth. And if he had been a shining star, he would have eagerly led the way to the newborn babe. Little ones will be swept up in the infectious joy of the narrator as they experience the first Christmas night from a whole host of perspectives. Charmingly illustrated, this book is a great way to introduce children to the incredible story of Christmas.

BONNIE BAILEY AND THE FAIRE OF WORLDS

ELLIE KIRK

Ages 8 - 12 288 Pages July 2025



Join Bonnie Bailey as she runs away with a magical, worldtraveling Faire in this epic middle-grade fantasy about finding your own strength.

Thirteen-year-old Bonnie Bailey comes from a long line of beekeepers. But her family's apiary is failing, and Bonnie and her mom need money fast if they have any chance of keeping it going. So when a mysterious woman appears among the hives and offers Bonnie a job at a faire that's in town for one night only, Bonnie reluctantly takes a chance. But this Faire isn't a regular carnival. Oh no. This Faire is a sentient, magical being that exists in a nomadic pocket reality and is run by people and creatures from countless universes.

Bonnie is soon swept into a world full of unimaginable wonders and dangerous entities. She befriends a young turtle-wrangling cowboy and his faithful Pegasus; learns how to tend to a colony of giant bees; experiences magical happenings; and discovers that not everything at the Faire is as happy as it seems.

When the faire is threatened by dark forces, Bonnie faces an impossible decision: return to the safety of her own reality or stay and fight to protect this fantastical world she has grown to love? With a cast of unforgettable characters and boundless fantastical curiosities, *Bonnie Bailey and the Faire of Worlds* will lure readers back again and again.

As a child, Ellie Kirk couldn't wait for the carnival to come to town every fall. Her memories (along with a healthy dose of imagination) inspired the magical Faire of Worlds, the setting for her novel. Ellie lives at the southernmost tip of New Jersey, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay. When she's not at the beach she enjoys working in her pollinator garden, a safe haven for bugs, birds, and bees. Ellie also makes the best homemade cannoli in all the land (shells and filling!).

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