

**ALGONQUIN YOUNG READERS
WINTER 23**



Mermaid and Pirate

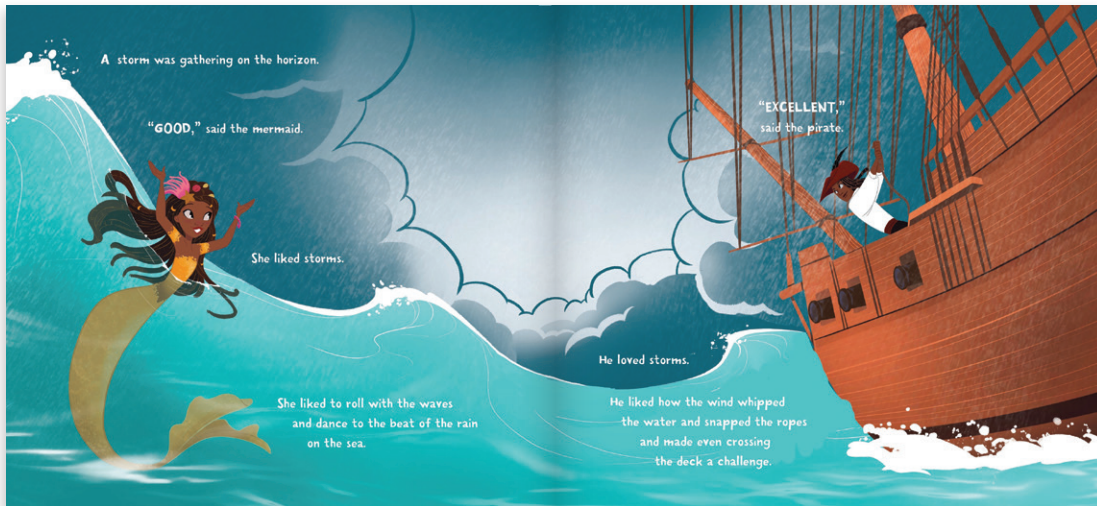
Tracey Baptiste • Illustrated by Leisl Adams

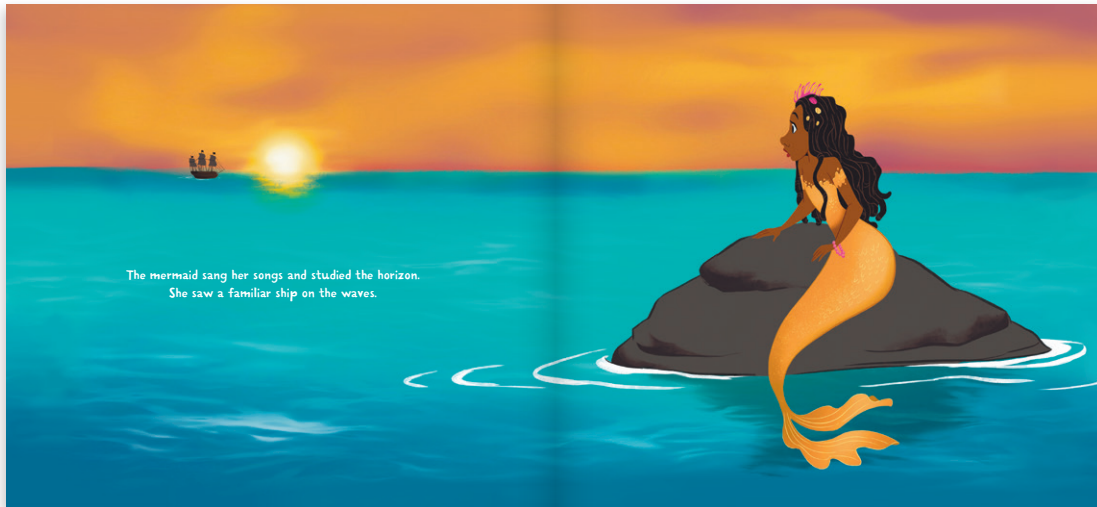
A mermaid and a pirate build a friendship through kindness, empathy, and shared adventure in this heartwarming picture book by *New York Times* bestselling author Tracey Baptiste, with bright, bold illustrations by Leisl Adams.

Glub glub...

Aargh...

Mermaid and Pirate cannot understand each other. They speak different languages and come from different worlds. But they're quick to lend a hand, or a tail, when the sky grows stormy and waters get rough, and a friendship is born. Sometimes kindness and generosity speak louder than words.





© Vasquez Illustration

Tracey Baptiste is the New York Times bestselling author of numerous middle-grade novels, including *Minecraft: The Crash*, *the Jumbies series*, and *African Icons*, and has made a splash with her picture books *Looking for a Jumbie* and *Because Claudette*. You can visit her online at traceybaptiste.com.



© Shabana Bawa Idris

Leisl Adams is a director, storyboard artist, and illustrator. She is the author and illustrator of the graphic novel *Batter Royale*, for young adults. You can visit her online at leisladams.com.

- From the bestselling author of the *Jumbies* series, a highly commercial, summery picture book celebrating friendship and communication that centers Black and brown characters in a historically white-dominated space

- 20-city Radio Tour

- F&G and Digital Galley Distribution

- Digital and Social Media Advertising Campaign

- Early Reader Campaign to Book Groups & Social Reading Networks

- Social Media Influencer & Ambassador Campaign

Also Available by Tracey Baptiste



Mermaid and Pirate

Full-color illustrations throughout; 32 pages; 9¼" x 8½"

Jacketed hardcover picture book: \$18.99/\$23.99 Can./£14.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5077-4

Ships: March



Sunny and Oswaldo

Nicole Melleby

Illustrated by Alexandra Colombo

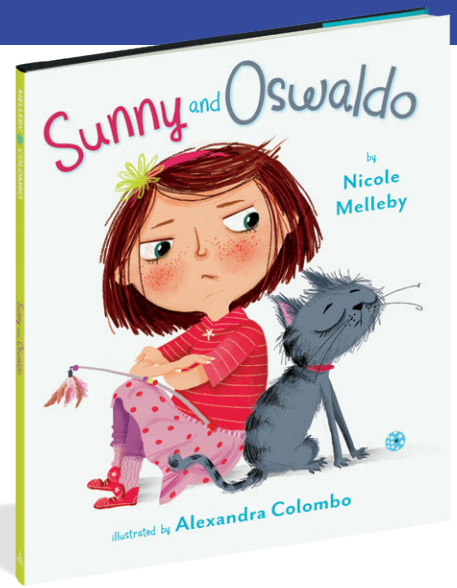
A moving story of friendship, family, and the importance of empathy from award-winning author Nicole Melleby, expertly rendered with vibrant, expressive illustrations from Alexandra Colombo.

Sunny does not like cats—especially Oswaldo. He’s cranky and mean.

Sunny’s dad loves Oswaldo. She does not understand why.

When Oswaldo doesn’t come home one day, Sunny is happy. But her dad is sad.

Sunny wants her dad to be happy, so she helps him look for Oswaldo. But can Sunny and Oswaldo ever get along?



Sunny Swaroo did not like cats. She especially did not like the one her dad brought home. Sunny’s dad named the cat Oswaldo. Sunny thought it was a ridiculous name, but no one had asked for her opinion.



Fluffy would have been better—even though the cat’s fur was clumped and matted.

Sunny thought Spots might be good, too—until her dad gave the cat a bath and those spots disappeared.



Cats were usually good at cleaning themselves. Oswaldo wasn’t a very good cat.



© Elizabeth Melleby Welch

Nicole Melleby, a New Jersey native, is the author of highly praised middle-grade books, including the Lambda Literary finalist *Hurricane Season*.

She lives with her wife and their cat, whose need for attention oddly aligns with Nicole's writing schedule.



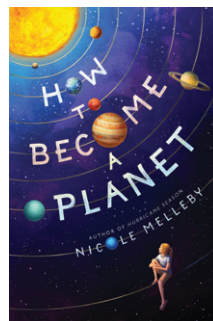
© Alexandra Colombo

Alexandra Colombo was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, and attended secondary school in Italy, where she specialized in scientific studies

and then studied at the Milan European Institute of Design, receiving a degree in illustration. Alexandra loves drawing, writing poetry, and walking in the woods.

- The first picture book from beloved children's author Nicole Melleby
- Regional Author Tour
- F&G and Digital Galley Distribution
- Extensive Influencer Outreach
- Partnership Outreach
- Digital and Social Media Advertising Campaign
- Major Library and Educator Promotions

Also Available by Nicole Melleby



Sunny and Oswaldo

Full-color illustrations throughout; 32 pages; 8" x 10"

Jacketed hardcover picture book: \$18.99/\$23.99 Can./£14.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5095-8

Ships: January



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Camp Quiltbag

Nicole Melleby and A. J. Sass

From the acclaimed authors of *Hurricane Season* and *Ana on the Edge*, an unforgettable story about the importance and joy of finding a community, for fans of Alex Gino and Ashley Herring-Blake.

Twelve-year-old Abigail (she/her/hers) is so excited to spend her summer at Camp QUILTBAG, an inclusive retreat for queer and trans kids. She can't wait to find a community where she can be herself—and, she hopes, admit her crush on Laura Dern to kids who will understand.

Thirteen-year-old Kai (e/em/eir) is not as excited. E just wants to hang out with eir best friend and eir parkour team. And e definitely does not want to think about the incident that left eir arm in a sling—the incident that also made Kai's parents determined to send em somewhere e can feel like emself.

After a bit of a rocky start at camp, Abigail and Kai make a pact to help each other find their footing, all while navigating crushes, their queer identities, and a competition pitting cabin against cabin.

"I don't care about the competition," Abigail said. "Not really. I just really need to make friends. Maybe I could try to help make sure your cabin wins any competitions both our cabins enter."

This was sounding better to Kai by the second.

"And if I do that . . ." Abigail paused to take a deep breath. "Would you help me, too? Teach me how to pretend to be confident?"



© Elizabeth Melleby Weich

Nicole Melleby, a New Jersey native, is the author of highly praised middle-grade books, including the Lambda Literary

finalist *Hurricane Season*. She lives with her wife and their cat, whose need for attention oddly aligns with Nicole's writing schedule.



© Devin Sass-Cox

A. J. Sass (he/they) is the author of *Ana on the Edge*, an ALA 2021 Rainbow Book List Top 10 title, and *Ellen Outside the Lines*. He grew up in the Midwest

and South and now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his partner and two cats who act like dogs. Visit him online at sassinsf.com or @matokah on Twitter, TikTok, and Instagram.



- **Two acclaimed middle-grade authors team up on a celebration of LGBTQIA+ identities and journeys in this fun, supportive, and friendly summer camp story**
- **Digital and Social Media Advertising Campaign**
- **Social Media Influencer & Ambassador Campaign**
- **Library Marketing**

Camp Quiltbag

288 pages; 5½" x 8¼"

Jacketed hardcover:
\$16.99/\$22.99 Can./
£12.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5266-2

Ships: February

HARDCOVER



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I'll Take Everything You Have

James Klise

A make-or-break summer in 1930s Chicago takes a turn into noir in this riveting coming-of-age novel by award-winning author James Klise.

In the summer of 1934, Joe Garbe arrives in Chicago with one goal: Earn enough money to get out of debt and save the family farm. Joe's cousin sets him up with a hotel job, then proposes a sketchy scheme to make a lot more money fast. While running his con, Joe finds himself splitting time between Eddie, a handsome flirt on a delivery truck, and Raymond, a carefree rich kid who shows Joe the eye-opening queer life around every corner of the big city.

Joe's exposure to the surface of criminal Chicago pulls him into something darker than he could have imagined. When danger closes in—from gangsters, the police, and people he thought were friends—Joe needs to pack up and get lost. But before he can figure out where to go, he has to decide who he wants to be.

I'll Take Everything You Have is a vivid portrayal of queer coming of age in Depression-era Chicago, and a timeless story of trying to make your future bright when the rest of the world is dead set on keeping it hidden in the dark.

I stepped away quickly, pausing only to glance behind to make sure he didn't follow. My heart racing, I retraced the route back to Bernie's building, where my trembling hand struggled to get the key into the lock.

Anything could happen, I realized, if I wanted it to. If I wasn't careful.

James Klise is the author of *The Art of Secrets*, winner of the Edgar Award for Best Teen Mystery, the Nevada Young Readers Award, and a Booklist Editors' Choice Award, among other honors. His first book, *Love Drugged*, was an ALA



© Kurus Images

Stonewall Honor Book and Lambda Literary Award finalist. His short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in the New Orleans Review, StoryQuarterly, Southern Humanities Review, Chicago Tribune, and elsewhere. Mr. Klise earned an MFA from Bennington College. He leads a popular Novel-in-a-Year workshop at StoryStudio in Chicago, and for the past two decades, he has overseen a very busy high school library.



- Award-winning author James Klise explores the little-shown queer history of 1930s Chicago in this noir-flavored YA
- Regional Author Tour
- Targeted Publicity Campaign to Regional Queer and Historical Societies
- Prepublication Buzz and Awareness Campaign
- Major ARC and E-galley Distribution
- National Advertising Campaign
- Digital and Social Media Advertising Campaign
- Social Media Influencer & Ambassador Campaign

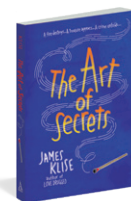
I'll Take Everything You Have

288 pages; 5½" x 8¼"

Jacketed hardcover:
\$17.99/\$22.99 Can./
£13.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6162-0858-5

Ships: February



Also Available:
The Art of Secrets
ISBN: 978-1-6162-0482-2

The Counterclockwise Heart

Brian Farrey

Tick . . . tick . . . tick . . .

Time is running out in the empire of Rheinvelt. The sudden appearance of a strange and frightening statue foretells darkness. The Hierophants—magic users of the highest order—have fled the land. And the shadowy beasts of the nearby Hinterlands are gathering near the borders, preparing for an attack.

Young Prince Alphonsus is sent by his mother, the Empress Sabine, to reassure the people while she works to quell the threat of war. But Alphonsus has other problems on his mind, including a great secret: He has a clock in his chest where his heart should be—and it's begun to run backwards, counting down to his unknown fate.

Searching for answers about the clock, Alphonsus meets Esme, a Hierophant girl who has returned to the empire in search of a sorceress known as the Nachtfrau. When riddles from their shared past threaten the future of the empire, Alphonsus and Esme must learn to trust each other and work together to save it—or see the destruction of everything they both love.

“The Counterclockwise Heart encourages readers to be true to themselves, and to consider the source when confronted with opinions that contradict their own experience . . . [An] entertaining, fast-paced and thoughtful novel.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A fascinating fairy tale.”

—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“Full of drama, twists and turns, and poignant points of view, the novel’s storylines converge into an unforgettable ending.”

—*Booklist*

“A pleasing mix of fantasy and mystery with compassion at its (ticking) heart.”

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



© Benjamin Farrey-Latz

Brian Farrey is the author of *The Secret of Dreadwillow Carse*, winner of the 2017 Minnesota Book Award, and the *Stonewall Honor Book* *With or Without You*. He lives in Minnesota with his husband and their sweet but occasionally evil cats. You can find him online at brianfarreybooks.com and on Twitter: @BrianFarrey.



- Inclusion in New & Noteworthy Paperback Mentions
- Book Club Marketing and Promotions
- Countdown to Paperback Social Media Campaign
- Social Media Influencer & Ambassador Campaign

The Counterclockwise Heart

352 pages; 5½" x 8¼"

Trade Paperback:
\$7.99/\$11.99 Can./ £6.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5352-2

Ships: March



Also Available:
*The Secret of
Dreadwillow Carse*
ISBN: 978-1-6162-0697-0

Walls

L. M. Elliott

Can two cousins on opposite sides of the Cold War and a divided city come together when so much stands between them?

Drew is an army brat in West Berlin, where soldiers like his dad hold an outpost of democracy against communist Russia. Drew's cousin Matthias, an East Berliner, has grown up in the wreckage of Allied war bombing, on streets ruled by the secret police.

From enemy sides of this Cold War standoff, the boys become wary friends, arguing over the space race, politics, even civil rights, but bonding over music. If informants catch Matthias with rock 'n' roll records or books Drew has given him, he could be sent to a work camp. If Drew gets too close to an East Berliner, others on the army post may question his family's loyalty. As the political conflict around them grows dire, Drew and Matthias are tested in ways that will change their lives forever.

Set in the tumultuous year leading up to the surprise overnight raising of the Berlin Wall in August 1961, and illustrated with dozens of real-life photographs of the time, *Walls* brings to vivid life a heroic and tragic episode of the Cold War.

★ "Immersive . . . An expertly crafted, evocative time capsule."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Elliott both fills in the historical background . . . and crafts a tale of rising tensions that culminates in a suspenseful climax . . . A sensitive exploration of cogent themes in a richly detailed historical setting."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

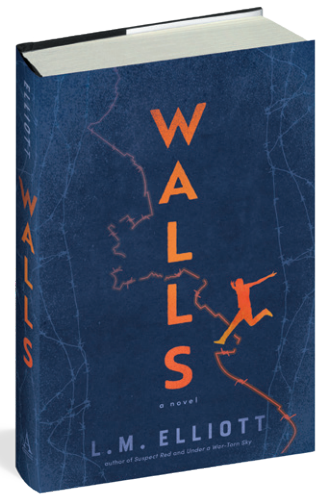
"Elliott's latest is set a year prior to the unexpected rise of the Berlin Wall, incorporating all kinds of historical context . . . through pictures at the beginning of each chapter, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the period. The portrayal of events is first-rate, creating a poignant yet lighthearted read."

—*Booklist*



© Anne Lund Photography

L.M. Elliott was an award-winning magazine journalist in Washington, D.C., before becoming a New York Times bestselling author of historical and biographical young adult novels. Her works include *Under a War-Torn Sky*, *Suspect Red*, and *Hamilton and Peggy*.



- The history of yesterday affects the front-page news of today—Cold War events, including the founding of NATO, eerily echo current events in this astounding story from L.M. Elliott
- Prepublication Trade, Librarian, and Consumer Buzz Campaign
- Book Club Marketing and Promotions
- Reading Group Guide Available

Walls

352 pages; 5½" x 8¼"

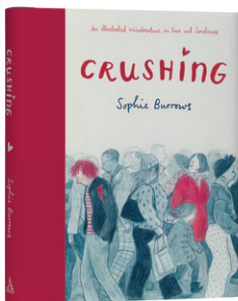
Trade Paperback:
\$10.99/\$14.99 Can./ £8.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5351-5

Ships: January



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CRUSHING

Sophie Burrows

Life is full of connections – if you know how to make them. *Crushing* follows two people longing to find out where they belong. Their intersecting and overlapping journeys reveal hidden connections and the unpredictable and unexpected ways we may find each other. This stunning

debut graphic novel from Sophie Burrows is a timely look at life in an age of distance and a story of love and understanding – a perfect book to read and to share.

“A narrative that recommends optimism and a wry sense of humor while acknowledging the ubiquity of loneliness.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Every detail has been carefully thought out, providing the reader with a rich narrative experiences. That this is a debut leaves one eager to see what Burrows’ next project will be.”

—*The New York Journal of Books*

“Evocatively sketches a fine line between someday and happily-ever-after.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Jacketed Hardcover: \$22.95/\$26.95 Can.

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5239-6

160 pages; 6.6" x 8.7"



DEAD FLIP

Sara Farizan

Award-winning author Sara Farizan brings her trademark referential humor, witty narration, and vividly real characters to this vintage edge-of-your-seat horror.

Everyone thought Sam Bennett was gone forever. But when he returns five years later—somehow still twelve

years old—old friends are thrown back together to figure out what happened the night Sam went missing. Beneath the surface of that mystery lurk secrets the friends never shared, then and now. And Sam’s is the darkest of all . . .

“Well-crafted homage to narratives like *It* and *Stranger Things*. . . A great choice for horror stalwart fans and newcomers to the genre.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

Jacketed Hardcover: \$17.99/\$22.99 Can./£13.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5080-4

272 pages; 5.5" x 8.25"



THE OGRESS AND THE ORPHANS

Kelly Barnhill

A new instant-classic fantasy about the power of generosity and love, and how a community suffers when they disappear, by Kelly Barnhill, winner of the Newbery Medal for *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, a New York Times bestseller.

“Deeply moving and often hilarious, *The Ogress and the Orphans* will encourage readers to live by the Ogress’ adage: ‘The more you give, the more you have.’”

—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

“An ambitious, fantastical sociopolitical allegory that asks keen questions about the nature of time, the import of community care, and what makes a neighbor.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Character-driven tale where dragons lurk, crows prove great friends, and an unusual narrator relays events with a unique perspective. These fairy-tale trappings cloak modern lessons and timeless ideals that readers will do well to take to heart, no matter their age.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

“Champions kindness in a very dark world.”

—*BCCB*, starred review

“As exquisite as it is moving.”

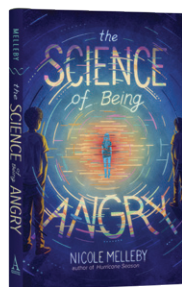
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

**FIVE
STARRED
REVIEWS**

Jacketed Hardcover: \$19.95

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5074-3

400 pages; 5.5" x 8.25"



THE SCIENCE OF BEING ANGRY

Nicole Melleby

Eleven-year-old Joey is angry. All the time. And she doesn’t understand why. After a meltdown at Joey’s apartment building leads to her family’s eviction, Joey is desperate to figure out why she’s so mad. A new unit in science class makes her wonder if the reason is genetics. Does she lost control because

of something she inherited from the donor her mothers chose?

The Science of Being Angry is an unforgettable story about what makes a family, for fans of *Hazel’s Theory of Evolution* and *Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World*.

“This emotional read shows the power of friendship and family without omitting the work that goes into loving someone.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

“A strong recommendation for readers who enjoy contemplative, character-driven stories like those by Ashley Herring Blake.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

Jacketed Hardcover: \$16.95/\$22.95 Can./£12.99 UK

ISBN: 978-1-6437-5037-8

288 pages; 5.5" x 8.25"



OUR SHADOWS HAVE CLAWS
15 Latin American Monster Stories
 Edited by Yamile Saied Méndez
 & Amparo Ortiz • Illustrated by
 Ricardo López Ortiz

From zombies to cannibals to death incarnate, this cross-genre anthology drawing on Latine mythology offers something for every monster lover. Set across Latin America and its diaspora, this collection offers bold, beautifully written stories by YA's premier Latine

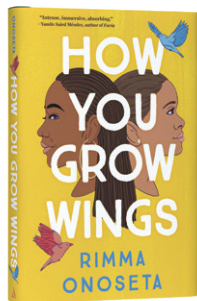
authors, exploring themes of oppression, grief, sisterhood, identity, first love, and empowerment.

“The combination of recognizable names from young adult literature and superlative stories on a range of themes makes this collection a winner. This bloodcurdling anthology soars.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Full contributor list: Chantel Acevedo, Courtney Alameda, Julia Alvarez, Ann Dávila Cardinal, M. García Peña, Racquel Marie, Gabriela Martins, Yamile Saied Méndez, Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite, Claribel A. Ortega, Amparo Ortiz, Lilliam Rivera, Jenny Torres Sanchez, Ari Tison, and Alexandra Villasante.

Jacketed hardcover anthology: \$19.99/\$24.99 Can./£15.99 UK
ISBN: 978-1-6437-5183-2
 368 pages; 6" x 9"



HOW YOU GROW WINGS
 Rimma Onoseta

Two sisters. Two very different paths. Can one save the other from her own disastrous choices? Debut author Rimma Onoseta deftly explores classism, colorism, cycles of abuse, how loyalty doesn't always come attached to love, and the messy truths that sometimes family is not a source

of comfort and that morality is all shades of grey.

“A character-driven story that promises—and delivers—hope for a brighter tomorrow.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Onoseta explores a range of social issues, including class, colorism, intergenerational trauma, and colonization, through a masterfully crafted and diverse cast of characters. A stunning and emotional debut.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“Intense, immersive, absorbing.”

—*Yamile Saied Méndez*, Pura Belpré Award-winning author of *Furia*

Jacketed hardcover: \$18.99/\$23.99 Can./£14.99 UK
ISBN: 978-1-6437-5191-7
 336 pages; 5.5" x 8.25"



SLIP
 Marika McCoola • Illustrated
 by Aatmaja Pandya

From Eisner-Award nominated writer Marika McCoola and debut artist Aatmaja Pandya, an emotional coming-of-age graphic novel for fans of *Bloom* and *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me*.

Just as Jade is about to leave for a summer art program, her best friend, Phoebe, attempts suicide. How is Jade supposed to focus on her ceramics when Phoebe is in so much pain? Jade pours herself into making clay creatures. When she fires them in the kiln, something unreal happens: they come to life. If Jade won't confront her problems, her problems are going to confront her, including the scariest of them all: if Jade finds a way to grow, thrive, and even fall in love this summer, is she leaving Phoebe behind?

“A fierce, transformative graphic novel about art and relationships.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“With themes ranging from mental health to self-discovery, this art-infused text will entice graphic novel fans and art students and leave them wanting another installment of Jade's story.”

—*School Library Journal*

Paperback original: \$17.95/\$19.95 Can./£13.99 UK
ISBN: 978-1-6162-0789-2
French flaps and two-color illustrations throughout
 208 pages; 6" x 8.5"



BEATRICE LIKES THE DARK
 April Genevieve Tucholke •
 Illustrated by Khoa Le

Beatrice likes the dark. She likes black clothes, graveyard picnics, and a sky full of stars. Her sister, Roo, likes the light. She likes bright clothes, picking strawberries, and hot, sunny days. Can Beatrice help Roo

love the dark, as she does? Can Roo help Beatrice love the light? Or are they simply too different to get along?

In celebrated YA author April Genevieve Tucholke's debut picture book, sisters Beatrice and Roo learn to accept each other's differences in a heartwarming, slightly spooky story with art by award-winning illustrator Khoa Le.

“A sweet tale of sisterly differences and love.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Jacketed hardcover picture book: \$18.95/\$25.95 Can./£14.99 UK
ISBN: 978-1-6437-5157-3
 32 pages; 10" x 10"

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