



# LEE & LOW BOOKS

ABOUT EVERYONE • FOR EVERYONE

## Fall 2023 Titles

### **Children's Book Press**

*Family Poems for Every Day of the Week* – paperback picture book

### **Cinco Puntos Press**

*Dance, Nana, Dance* – middle grade novel

*The Great and Mighty Nikko* – paperback picture book

*Juan Verdades* – paperback picture book

*Mali Under the Night Sky* – paperback picture book

*Pitch Black* – YA graphic novel

### **Lee & Low Books**

*Benyi, el mal día y yo* – Spanish paperback picture book

*Confetti Kids: Fiesta en el barrio* – Spanish paperback

*Confetti Kids: ¿Quieren jugar?* – Spanish paperback

*Connor Kissed Me* - hardcover picture book

*Empty and Me* – hardcover picture book

*Los nachos de Nacho* – Spanish paperback

*Zain's Super Friday* – hardcover picture book

### **Shen's Books**

*Confucius* – paperback picture book

*The Crane Girl*– paperback picture book

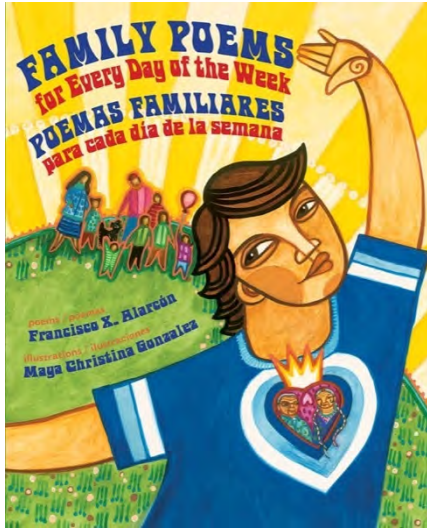
### **Tu Books**

*Indio no más* - Spanish young adult novel

*The Longest Night in Egypt* – hardcover young adult novel

*Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key* – hardcover YA novel

*When a Brown Girl Flees* – hardcover YA novel



# Family Poems for Every Day of the Week / Poemas familiares para cada día de la semana

by Francisco Alarcón  
illustrated by Maya Christina  
Gonzalez

Picture Book  
Children's Book Press  
**November 7, 2023**

## Paperback

978-089239-481-4

\$11.95

## E-book

978-089239-444-9

\$20.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 8-3/4" x 11"

**Ages:** 6 to 12

**Grades:** 1 to 7

**Carton Quantity:** 36

## BISAC Categories

JUV / People & Places / United States / Hispanic & Latino

JUV / Poetry

JUV / Family / Multigenerational

## Keynote

**A bilingual poetry collection by the late Francisco X. Alarcón, acclaimed Chicano poet, celebrating the days of the week and everyday childhood experiences.**

**Una colección bilingüe de poesía del difunto Francisco X. Alarcón, aclamado poeta**

Family Poems for Every Day of the Week / Poemas familiares para cada día de la  
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**chicano, que celebra los días de la semana y las experiencias cotidianas de la infancia.**

## **Summary**

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Get ready for a bilingual collection of poems that takes us through the week day by day! Children spend Sunday visiting their grandparents, play with school friends on Monday, daydream on Tuesday, eat popcorn at the local market on Wednesday, and more, until we arrive at Saturday, when they get to play nonstop all day. Along the way, we also learn how the names of the seven days came to be.

Partly based on the real life experiences of Alarcón's own family, this festive, celebratory collection of poems highlights the daily life of children while also honoring the experiences of the poet's Latino family in the United States. With her vibrant illustrations, artist Maya Gonzalez has created a loving tribute to childhood, to family, and to beloved poet Francisco Alarcón.

¡Prepárate para una colección de poemas bilingüe que nos lleva a través de la semana día a día! Los niños pasan el domingo visitando a sus abuelos, juegan con los amigos de la escuela el lunes, sueñan despiertos el martes, comen palomitas de maíz en el mercado local el miércoles y más, hasta que llegamos al sábado, cuando se ponen a jugar sin parar todo el día. En el camino, también aprendemos cómo llegaron a ser los nombres de los siete días.

Basada en parte en las experiencias de la vida real de la propia familia de Alarcón, esta colección de poemas festivos destaca la vida cotidiana de los niños y al mismo tiempo honra las experiencias de la familia latina del poeta en los Estados Unidos. Con sus vibrantes ilustraciones, la artista Maya Gonzalez ha creado un amoroso tributo a la infancia, a la familia y al amado poeta Francisco Alarcón.

## **Key Selling Points**

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- Francisco X. Alarcón has a wide following for his popular bilingual collections of poetry for children; his fans will be delighted to see this exciting new collection available as an affordable paperback edition.
- Focuses on universal childhood experiences, family, and community in a warm,

positive environment, trademarks of Alarcón's children's poetry.

- Introduces the origin of the name of each day of the week with a short, lively poem at the beginning of each day's section of the book.
- Presents a fully bilingual text that makes the poems accessible to both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking children and adults.
- The focus on contemporary life and will have special appeal to the growing Latinx population in the United States.
- Features stunning, graphic artwork by Maya Christina Gonzalez, Alarcón's longtime collaborator, who has created an homage to the poet by including an image of him in every illustration; readers can have fun trying to find him in the images.
- Includes an introduction with specific information about the names of the days and their connections to the sun, moon, planets, and mythology.

## Awards

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Junior Library Guild Selection

101 Great Books for Kids, Evanston Public Library

## Reviews

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\* "This poetry collection from Chicano poet Alarcón, who died in 2016, includes three or four poems for each day of the week, written in the voice of a boy who reflects on traditions, special gatherings, and time spent with family... Gonzalez's radiant illustrations (inspired by Mexican indigenous crafts, she notes) bring a sense of cosmic oneness to the pages, connecting the boy to his family, community, and the ever-spinning planet." – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Daily ritual and mundane activities take on the patina of legend as time molds the character of what a family is and what it becomes. Equating the distinct characteristics of each day with the uniqueness of each family member, the poems embrace the strength of individuality while recognizing the power of the whole." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"The poems vary in complexity and style and could serve as reliable examples for  
Family Poems for Every Day of the Week / Poemas familiares para cada día de la

classroom poetry exercises. Gonzalez's vivid, culturally relevant illustrations define the mood of each poem, switching between a cool palate (pale blues for Monday daydreaming) and a warm palate (neon pinks and oranges for playful Saturday)... Recommended for wide purchase as a warm introduction to poetry and either a mirror of or a window into Latino family life." -- *School Library Journal*

"Celebrates the days of the week and the closeness of the family... The text, in both Spanish and English, is heightened by Gonzalez's buoyant artwork. With psychedelic colors and shapes, the pictures pop off the pages." -- *Booklist*

"Richly descriptive... Gonzalez's full-bleed double-page-spread illustrations, in watercolor, gouache, and acrylic marker, richly complement the text. Her art pays tribute to Mexico's indigenous crafts, while her use of circles on each page shows that everything in life is a continuous cycle." -- *The Horn Book*

## Contributor Bios

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**Francisco Alarcón** was a renowned poet and educator, and a three-time winner of the Pura Belpré Author Award Honor for his bilingual *Magical Cycle of the Seasons* series of poetry for children. His many other honors include the American Book Award, the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award, the Chicano Literary Prize, and finalist for state poet laureate of California. Alarcón was also the author of several poetry collections for adults and textbooks for teaching Spanish. In addition, he directed the Spanish for Native Speakers Program at the University of California. Alarcón passed away in early 2016.

**Maya Gonzalez** is an award-winning children's book artist, author, activist and progressive educator. Their work addresses systemic inequity in relation to race/ethnicity, sexism and cissexism using children's books as radical agents of change and healing, both personally and culturally. They co-founded Reflection Press, a POC, queer and trans owned independent publishing house that uses holistic, nature-based, and anti-oppression frameworks in their books and materials for kids and grown-ups. Maya is also the creator of the Gender Wheel, a tool to express the dynamic, infinite and inclusive reality of gender, and provides lectures and workshops to educators, parents and caregivers. Visit Maya online at [genderwheel.com](http://genderwheel.com).

## Comparison Titles

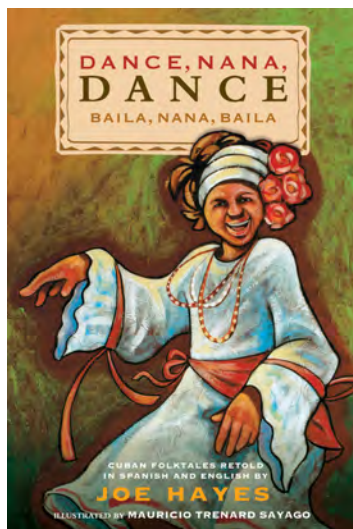
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978-143383-253-6	The Heart of Mi Familia	\$16.99
978-162014-311-7	I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage	\$21.95
9781580897303	A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices	\$16.99

## Related Backlist

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978-089239-278-0	My Colors, My World/ Mis colores, mi mundo	\$11.95
	Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems	
978-089239-202-5	/ Iguanas en la nieve y otros poemas de invierno	\$10.95
	Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems	
978-089239-199-8	/ Jitomates Risueños y otros poemas de primavera	\$11.95



# **Dance, Nana, Dance / Baila, Nana, baila**

**Cuban Folktales in Spanish  
and English**

by Joe Hayes

illustrated by Mauricio Trenard Sayago

Middle Grade Novel

Cinco Puntos Press

Originally Published October 1, 2008

**Lee & Low Books October 17, 2023**

**Paperback**

978-194762-744-4

\$16.95

**E-book**

978-194762-745-1

\$16.95

**Page Count:** 144

**Trim Size:** 6" x 9"

**Ages:** 8 to 12

**Grades:** 3 to 7

**Carton Quantity:** 40

**BISAC Categories**

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JUV / Legends, Myths, Fables / Caribbean & Latin American

JUV / Fairy Tales & Folklore / Anthologies

JUV / People & Places / Caribbean & Latin America

**Keynote**

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**Talking yams, a wily sorceress, a famous rascal, and more--find them all in this bilingual collection of Cuban folktales featuring ingenious and magical protagonists.**

**Ñames que hablan, una hechicera astuta, un granuja famoso y más: encuéntrelos a todos en esta colección bilingüe de cuentos populares Cubanos con protagonistas ingeniosos y mágicos.**

## Summary

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In this award-winning anthology, folklorist Joe Hayes shares stories he learned after years of visiting Cuba and listening to local storytellers. Out of these visits came this collection of thirteen delightful folktales that will charm you with their humor, magic, and wisdom.

The book also includes an introduction and afterword to storytellers in which Hayes provides some background of the tales included: the cultures they originated from, cultural meanings of important elements in the stories, and previous collections that included the stories, along with other relevant storytelling and anthropological information.

En esta antología premiada, el folclorista Joe Hayes comparte historias que aprendió después de años de visitar Cuba y escuchar a los narradores locales. De esas visitas surgió esta colección de trece encantadores cuentos populares que te cautivarán con su humor, magia y sabiduría.

El libro también incluye una introducción y un postfacio para los narradores, en las que Hayes repasa algunos antecedentes de los cuentos incluidos: las culturas de las que se originaron, los significados culturales de los elementos importantes de las historias y las colecciones anteriores que incluyeron las historias, junto con más información narrativa y antropológica sobre los cuentos.

## Key Selling Points

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- A classic Joe Hayes book that is sure to be welcomed back by his fans and beyond; both the English and Spanish texts are descriptive and expressive, a signature of Hayes's storytelling.
- Side-by-side English and Spanish text makes the book very accessible to readers and storytellers of both languages.
- The universal appeal of humor, magic, trickery, and a bit of scariness make these folktales eminently appealing to readers of all backgrounds.
- Several tales have a musical phrase or verse that encourages listeners to join in during storytelling or read-aloud sessions.
- The introduction, stories themselves, and backmatter—all meticulously researched—



combine to make this book an excellent resource for anyone interested in the unique blend of Spanish, African, and Caribbean influences on Cuban storytelling and culture.

## Awards

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Aesop Prize, American Folklore Society

Best Children's Books of the Year, Bank Street College

Américas Award Commended Title, Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs

Skipping Stones Honor Award, *Skipping Stones* magazine

Tejas Star Reading List, Texas Library Association (TLA)

Anne Izard's Storytellers' Choice Award, Westchester Library Association

Best Children's Books, *Críticas*

## Reviews

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\* "The entertaining collection present readers with a variety of colorful characters . . . A bold pastel illustration that beautifully celebrates Afro-Cuban culture accompanies each story." -- *Críticas*, starred review

"Throughout, the tellings are clear and amusing, equally well adapted for reading or for listening." -- *School Library Journal*

"[The stories] are lively, often funny and sometimes a bit scary. . . . Eminently tellable, all the stories have refrains and songs sure to get audiences joining in." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"A captivating collection of thirteen folktales with influences from the Caribbean, Spain and Africa; Hayes has captured the essence and diversity of Cuba. Creation myths, legends and Pataki comprise this fascinating folktale anthology. Sayago's illustrations are a visual feast adding to the cultural details. . . . Perfect for teaching bilingual students or units on world myths in the classroom. Recommended." -- *Reforma*

## Contributor Bios

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**Joe Hayes** is one of America's premier storytellers. He grew up in a small town in southern Arizona and developed a lifelong interest in the cultures and creatures of the region. As Hayes got older, he began reading the work of folklorists and anthropologists and gathering the old stories from the Southwest region. His books for young readers have received numerous awards. He lives in New Mexico.

**Mauricio Trenard Sayago** was born in Cuba and raised to believe in the power of art to educate and transform the individual and society. His goal is to use his work to simplify or change how people see their current realities so they can make the world a better place. He came to the United States in 2000 and lives in Brooklyn, New York, where he uses painting to create images and explore himself in a different cultural context.

### Comparison Titles

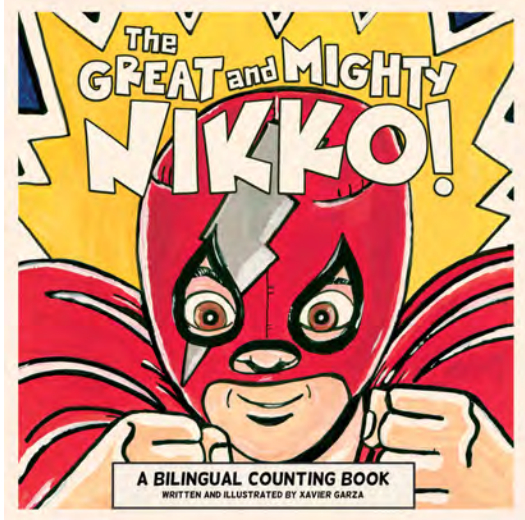
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978-070230-691-4	African and Caribbean Folktales, Myths and Legends	\$12.54
978-075099-489-7	Caribbean Folk Tales: Stories from the Islands and the Windrush Generation	\$22.95
978-014056-548-5	De Colores and Other Latin American Folksongs for Children	\$8.99

### Related Backlist

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978-193595-506-1	The Coyote Under the Table/El coyote debajo de la mesa	\$15.95
978-093831-776-0	The Day It Snowed Tortillas/El día que nevó tortillas	\$14.95
978-193369-303-3	Ghost Fever	\$14.95
978-194762-700-0	Watch Out for Clever Women / Cuidado con las mujeres astutas	\$19.95



# **The Great and Mighty Nikko! / ¡El gran y poderoso Nikko!**

## **A Bilingual Counting Book**

written and illustrated by  
Xavier Garza

Picture Book

Cinco Puntos Press

Originally Published August 4, 2015

**Lee & Low Books August 1, 2023**

### **Paperback**

978-193595-583-2

\$11.95

### **E-book**

978-193595-584-9

\$11.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 9" x 9"

**Ages:** 5 to 8

**Grades:** K to 3

**Carton Quantity:** 36

### **BISAC Categories**

JUV / Concepts / Counting & Numbers

JUV / Sports & Recreation / Wrestling

JUV / Bedtime & Dreams

### **Keynote**

**It's bedtime! Join Nikko in this joyous bilingual lucha libre counting adventure by wrestling aficionado Xavier Garza.**

**¡Es la hora de dormir! Únete a Nikko en esta alegre aventura bilingüe de conteo de lucha libre del aficionado a la lucha libre Xavier Garza.**

## Summary

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Nikko loves bedtime. That's because his bed turns into a magical wrestling ring for the masked luchadores he loves. They bounce up and down like crazy. His mom just thinks Nikko is jumping on his bed. But that's not true at all. Here comes luchador number ONE with a silver mask and cape. Then number TWO shows up wearing a flaming orange mask. And on it goes until Nikko dons his red mask and cape and TEN luchadores end up wrestling on his bed. After defeating all the other wrestlers, and with victory under his belt, it's finally time for the Great and Mighty Nikko to catch some ZZZZZs.

Nikko ama la hora de acostarse. Eso es porque su cama se convierte en un ring mágico para los luchadores enmascarados que él ama. Saltan arriba y abajo como locos. Su mamá solo piensa que Nikko está saltando en su cama. Pero eso no es cierto en absoluto. Aquí viene el luchador número UNO con una máscara plateada y una capa. Luego, el número DOS aparece con una máscara naranja llameante. Y así continúa hasta que Nikko se pone su capa y máscara roja y DIEZ luchadores terminan luchando en su cama. Después de derrotar a todos los demás luchadores y con la victoria en su haber, finalmente es hora de que el Gran y Poderoso Nikko cambie su enfoque a contar ovejitas.

## Key Selling Points

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- Fans of Xavier Garza's other lucha libre picture books will be happy to see this exuberant, fully bilingual counting book for younger readers back in print.
- Vibrant, fun art and a young graphic format complete with speech balloons and sound effects appeal to readers at all levels of reading ability, especially reluctant readers.
- Presents a Mexican American sport in a playful way that children of all backgrounds will enjoy.
- The rambunctious happenings in the story celebrate and encourage the universal joy of imaginative play.
- A child-centric bedtime story for parents or caregivers to share with youngsters.
- Award-winning storyteller and artist Xavier Garza's illustrations are filled with fun details for readers to discover and explore.

## Awards

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Best Children's Books for Summer Reading -- *Los Angeles Times*

## Reviews

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"What's better than one wrestler jumping on the bed? *Ten* of them! Nikko's mom is not amused. But it's not his fault. Nine lucha libre wrestlers are just too much for one kid to handle. Or are they? Between Nikko's narrative dialogue bubbles and electric-starburst interjections from Mom, this fun, fully bilingual counting book is just the thing to settle down unruly luchadores everywhere. With wrestlers to the left and wrestlers to the right, Nikko is stuck in the middle--just in time for a bout of bedtime bedlam in a twin-sized ring, ropes and all. Garza's palette of roaring red, overwhelming orange, yelling yellow, Pepto pink, and gagging green is perfect for the black-outlined, vibrant illustrations that catapult across the comic-book-style frames. Appropriate Arabic numerals complement the mayhem in the corners of the spreads. The individual masks and costumes of the luchadores are wonderfully detailed, from the jaguar's spotted cape to Mighty Nikko's belted singlet.... [T]his rambunctious addition to the world of bedtime and early concept books stands out. One, uno; two, dos; three, tres ... ¡LUCHA!" -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"What an entertaining read. -- *Latinos In Kid Lit*

"Xavier Garza takes the traditional bedtime story and gives it a festive twist. Nikko is playing with Lucha Libre action figures on his bed. His mother, of course, doesn't want him wrestling on the bed. Nikko is not wrestling; it's the Lucha Libre fighters.... What makes this work particularly distinctive is Garza's art, which is big and bold, with strong colors. The title's art style has a comic book feel, down to the Growls! and Roars! of the wrestlers. This is a book that celebrates not only Mexican culture, but the universal joys of imaginative play." -- *School Library Journal*

"From southern Texas bursts the bilingual counting adventure, 'The Great and Mighty Nikko!' By an award winning author, artist, and storyteller, 'The Great and Mighty Nikko!' is a fabulous big screen comic book counting escapade, with Nikko wrestling with his many masked wrestlers (toys) on his bed (instead of going to sleep).... Brilliant graphic images of masked luchadores alternate with bilingual large speech balloons, as the reader is completely drawn into the bedcover world of Lucha Libre, home base of the Great and Mighty Nikko. Could counting or reading in two languages be any more fun? -- *Midwest Book Review*

## Contributor Bios

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**Xavier Garza** is a prolific author, artist, and storyteller whose work is a lively documentation of the dreams, superstitions, and heroes in the bigger-than-life world of South Texas. Garza has exhibited his art and performed his stories in venues throughout Texas, Arizona, and Washington state. He is also celebrated for his bilingual lucha libre picture books and chapter books, including the award-winning, four-book Max's Lucha Libre Adventures series. Garza lives with his family in San Antonio, Texas.

## Comparison Titles

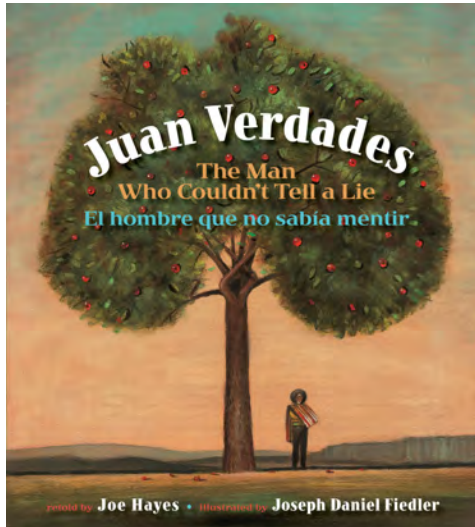
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978-159643-604-6	Niño Wrestles the World	\$19.99
978-157687-894-1	Lucia the Luchadora and the Million Masks	\$16.99
978-155885-599-1	Kid Cyclone Fights the Devil and Other Stories/Kid Ciclon se enfrenta a el Diablo y otras historias	\$10.50

## Related Backlist

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978-193369-398-9	Maximilian & the Mystery of the Guardian Angel	\$18.95
978-193595-546-7	Maximilian & the Bingo Rematch	\$18.95
978-194102-641-0	Maximilian & the Lucha Libre Club	\$18.95
978-194762-731-4	Maximilian & the Curse of the Fallen Angel	\$18.95
978-193369-310-1	Lucha Libre: The Man in the Silver Mask	\$8.95



# Juan Verdades

**The Man Who Couldn't Tell a Lie /  
El hombre que no sabía mentir**

by Joe Hayes

illustrated by Joseph Daniel Fiedler

Picture Book

Cinco Puntos Press

Originally Published January 4, 2011

**Lee & Low Books August 1, 2023**

## **Paperback**

978-193369-370-5

\$11.95

## **E-book**

978-193595-517-7

\$11.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 9" x 10"

**Ages:** 7 to 10

**Grades:** 2 to 5

**Carton Quantity:** 40

## **BISAC Categories**

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JUV / Social Themes / Values & Virtues

JUV / Fairy Tales & Folklore / Adaptations

JUV / People & Places / United States / Hispanic & Latino

## **Keynote**

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**A prized apple tree, a dangerous bet, and a beautiful young woman--can Juan Verdades still be truthful by the end of the two-week bet?**

**Un manzanopreciado, una apuesta peligrosa y una hermosa joven: ¿puede Juan Verdades seguir siendo sincero al final de la apuesta de dos semanas?**

## **Summary**

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Juan Verdades is an honest man. His employer, don Ignacio, owns a fine apple tree (*un*

*manzano real*) that produces delicious fruit, and he trusts only Juan to care for the tree. Don Ignacio is so sure of Juan's honesty that he enters into a dangerous bet with another rancher, don Arturo. Each man wagers his entire ranch. Don Ignacio is confident in Juan's inability to lie. But don Arturo is determined to prove he can make Juan tell a lie.

Juan has no idea how greatly he is being tested. Nor does Juan realize that don Arturo's beautiful young daughter is doing all she can to make him fail. Will Juan's truthful nature triumph, or will don Ignacio lose everything, including his beloved apple tree?

Juan Verdades es un hombre honesto. Su patrón, don Ignacio, es dueño de un manzano real que produce frutos deliciosos, y solo confía en Juan para cuidar el árbol. Don Ignacio está tan seguro de la honestidad de Juan que hace una peligrosa apuesta con otro ganadero, don Arturo. Cada hombre apuesta todo su rancho. Don Ignacio confía en la incapacidad de Juan para mentir. Pero don Arturo está decidido a demostrar que puede hacer que Juan mienta.

Juan no tiene idea de lo mucho que lo están probando. Juan tampoco se da cuenta de que la hermosa joven hija de don Arturo está haciendo todo lo posible para que fracase. ¿Triunfará la naturaleza veraz de Juan, o perderá todo don Ignacio, incluido su amado manzano?

## **Key Selling Points**

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- Fans of Joe Hayes's numerous, masterful retellings of classic and humorous tales will be happy to see this captivating, fully bilingual English/Spanish version of the story back in print.
- The suspenseful flow of events will appeal to readers in both languages at several age levels.
- Provides a lively introduction and starting point for a timely discussion about honesty, temptation, the power of telling the truth, and compassion.
- The story features a strong female character, which is unusual in traditional folklore.
- Spanish words sprinkled throughout the English text, smoothly defined in context, give an authentic, regional (New Mexican) flavor to the text.



- The clever riddle and outcome at the end will delight readers, especially those who expect a more unfair conclusion.
- Illustrations depicting traditional clothing and landscapes add to the timelessness of the story.

## Reviews

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"Don Ignacio, a wealthy rancher and owner of the finest apple tree in the area, implicitly trusts his foreman, Juan Valdez. When a friend claims that no employee should be trusted, don Ignacio declares openly that Juan can't tell a lie and in fact has been nicknamed Juan Verdades because of his honesty. Don Arturo then bets his entire ranch that he can get the man to tell a lie.... The clever conclusion proves just how truthful Juan is. Hayes's retelling of this tale is masterful and he manages to introduce several Spanish words without disturbing the flow of the text. The full-page paintings capture a distinct landscape and costume and convey the quiet drama of the story.... As a read-aloud, this story would be likely to evoke some lively discussion about honesty, and right and wrong." --*School Library Journal*

"As Hayes ... explains in his author's note, he has revised a variant of Aarne-Thompson's tale type 889, 'The Faithful Servant,' drawing on versions collected in Spain and New Mexico. Hayes makes the young woman a stronger character and adds other twists to this delightful tale, eloquently told, of two men who bet their ranches that the servant of one of them can be made to tell a lie. The reader is kept in suspense as to how the several strands of the narrative will come together.... The final riddle, a Hayes invention, will appeal to young readers.... Hayes's sprinkling of Spanish phrases provide an authentic historical northern New Mexico setting that gives the story a strong sense of time and place, making this an interesting and unusual addition to folklore collections." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Hayes ... offers a Hispanic setting for his smooth retelling of a traditional tale about a steadfastly honest servant. On a ranch owned by don Ignacio, a spectacular apple tree flourishes under the conscientious care of the foreman, Juan Verdades, who reports daily to the rancher on the condition of his beloved tree. When a fellow rancher, don Arturo, boasts that he can make Juan tell a lie.... Using his daughter as a pawn, don Arturo hatches a plot to win his wager, but things don't go quite as he anticipated.... Hayes's flowing plot, enlivened by several wry twists, is decidedly satisfying. Spanish words and phrases dot the characters' dialogue, enhancing the regional flavor. Fiedler's

... spare, earth-toned paintings convey the particulars of the setting from traditional garb to the sprawling landscapes as well as the timelessness of folklore." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"Hayes incorporates a sense of Spanish culture and vocabulary in his charming, romantic folktale, set in the old Southwest. The prose is almost lyrical, and the Spanish words are well defined in context. The artwork, in rich, earthy tones, is equally effective whether showing sweeping desert vistas or close-ups of the characters. An author's note describes the tale's origins and the changes Hayes has made in this version. A good choice for multicultural story times." -- *Booklist*

"This is a beautifully done picture book....The story is rich and will provide much for young readers to think about, long after the tale is told." -- *Children's Literature*

### Contributor Bios

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**Joe Hayes** is one of America's premier storytellers. He grew up in a small town in southern Arizona and developed a lifelong interest in the cultures and creatures of the region. As Hayes got older, he began reading the work of folklorists and anthropologists and gathering the old stories from the Southwest region. His books have received the Arizona Young Readers Award, two Land of Enchantment Children's Book Awards, the Texas Bluebonnet award, and the National Storytelling Network Talking Leaves Award. He lives in New Mexico.

**Joseph Daniel Fiedler** was born and raised in the Appalachian hill country of Western Pennsylvania. He attended the Ivy School of Professional Art and Carnegie Mellon University. His work has appeared in numerous national and international publications, including *Time* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and he is the recipient of a Silver Medal for book illustration from the Society of Illustrators.

### Comparison Titles

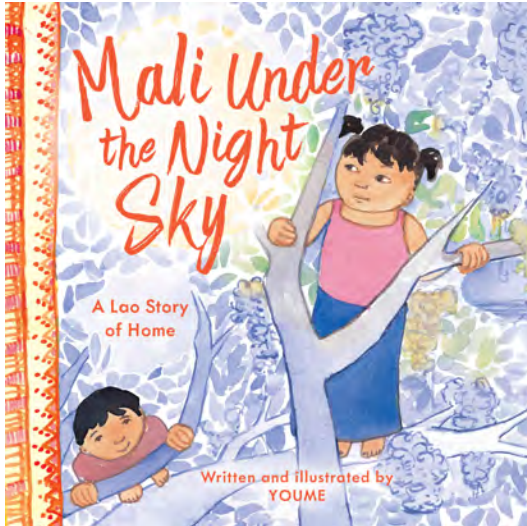
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978-132856-778-9	Federico and the Wolf	\$17.99
978-163655-046-6	Peng's Vase: A Chinese Folktale	\$18.99
978-194762-700-0	Watch Out for Clever Women/Cuidado con las mujeres astutas	\$19.95

## Related Backlist

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978-193595-545-0	Don't Say a Word, Mamá/No digas nada, Mamá	\$12.95
978-093831-778-4	¡El Cucuy! A Bogeyman Cuento in English and Spanish	\$10.95
978-194102-655-7	Grandpa's Hal-la-loo-ya Hambone!	\$11.95
978-193369-319-4	The Gum Chewing Rattler	\$11.95
978-093831-793-7	A Spoon for Every Bite/Una cuchara para cada bocado	\$11.95



# Mali Under the Night Sky

## A Lao Story of Home

written and illustrated by  
Youme

Picture Book

Cinco Puntos Press

**November 7, 2023**

### **Paperback**

978-164379-659-8

\$12.95

### **E-book**

978-193595-519-1

\$17.99

**Page Count:** 40

**Trim Size:** 9" x 9"

**Ages:** 5 to 10

**Grades:** K to 4

**Carton Quantity:**

### **BISAC Categories**

JNF / Social Topics / Emigration & Immigration

JNF / History / Asia

### **Keynote**

**A child finds comfort in the memories of the landscapes and traditions of the beautiful homeland she was forced to leave.**

### **Summary**

*Mali Under the Night Sky* is the true story of Lao American artist Malichansouk Kouanchao. Due to wars that were not contained by borders, she and her family had to leave their home in Laos. Before the war changed everything, Mali lived an idyllic life in a community where she felt safe and loved. She enjoyed sitting in front of her house and asking everyone who passed by, "Where are you going?" She went everywhere too--

climbing on flowering trees, searching for pale bamboo shoots in the dark forest, and catching fish in rice fields. But when she was five years old, her family had to cross the Mekong River into Thailand to be safe. She remembers the journey, as well as the beauty and strength of Lao culture.

Through warm and accessible watercolor illustrations, author-illustrator Youme shows readers the joyful memories of home that carried Mali through the heartbreak of leaving it.

### Key Selling Points

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- By using a child's POV, the author-illustrator gives an authentic, yet gentle depiction of the experience of a refugee.
- Backmatter from Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Thavisouk Phrasavath provides further context on Laos and the fighting that forced both him and Mali to flee.
- A beautiful celebration of Laos--Laotian text is woven throughout the story, and patterns from traditional Laotian textiles frame every illustration.
- The hope and joy Mali holds on to makes her story perfect for sharing with children also impacted by violence.

### Awards

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Skipping Stones Honor Award, *Skipping Stones Magazine*

### Reviews

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"A Laotian girl's life takes a cruel turn in this haunting yet hopeful tale based on the childhood of Laotian-American artist Malichansouk Kouanchao. Sunny watercolors with patterned borders illuminate the simple joys of Mali's early life, when the world was 'full of wonderful things.' . . . Landowne smoothly includes several Laotian words and phrases in this deeply felt and gently told story." – *Publishers Weekly*

"The focus remains tightly on Mali's experiences and feelings, keeping it accessible to young readers. . . . an additional endnote by another Laotian artist provides historical context. Laotian vocabulary is incorporated in a natural way, and the illustrations include Laotian script. The watercolor illustrations, while naive in style, convey a real sense of

place. Intricate borders surround every spread, and the bright/dark color schemes reflect the emotions of each scene."--Heidi Estrin" – *School Library Journal*

"As heartrending as the story is, it also offers a glimmer of hope in the love people have for their homeland and each other. *Mali Under the Night Sky* is a soul-stirring picture book about the difficulties faced by wartime refugees, and deserves the highest recommendation. (Featured as Reviewer's Choice)" – *Midwest Book Review*

"The small child's viewpoint will move young readers." – *Booklist*

"Cinco Puntos Press has made a significant contribution in publishing *Mali Under the Night Sky*. Its tender images and heartfelt words will touch children everywhere. . . . The book's value to Laotian families in diaspora is of course incalculable." – *Papertigers.org*

### Contributor Bios

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**Youme** is a writer, artist, and activist. As a community artist, she has lived and collaborated with people from all over the world—creating murals and teaching poetry classes. Youme's nationally acclaimed books include *Sélavi (That Is Life): A Haitian Story of Hope*, *Mali Under the Night Sky: A Lao Story of Home*, and *Pitch Black* with Anthony Horton. To find out more about Youme's work, visit [youmeland.org](http://youmeland.org).

### Comparison Titles

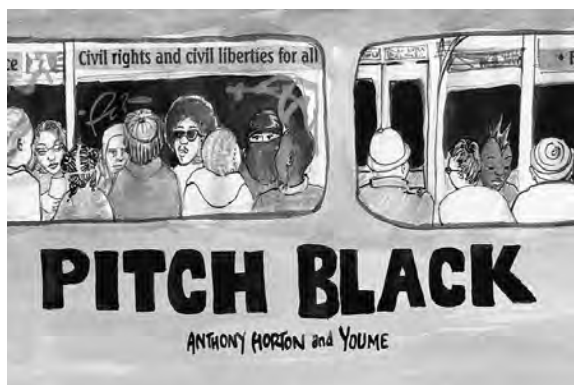
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978-188000-063-2	Dia's Story Cloth	\$11.95
978-158430-232-2	Brother's in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan	\$20.95
978-188500-865-7	Grandfather's Story Cloth	\$9.95
978-164379-602-4	The Three Lucys	\$12.95

### Related Backlist

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978-194102-617-5	Crane Boy	\$11.95
978-093831-795-1	Sélavi, That Is Life: A Haitian Story of Hope	\$12.95



## Pitch Black

written and illustrated by  
Anthony Horton and Youme

Young Adult Graphic Novel  
Cinco Puntos Press

Originally Published 2008

**Lee & Low Books September 5, 2023**

### Paperback

978-164379-656-7

\$17.95

### E-book

978-193369-376-7

\$17.95

**Page Count:** 72

**Ages:** 12 and up

**Grades:** 7 and up

**Carton Quantity:** 40

### BISAC Categories

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YAN / Biography & Autobiography / Cultural, Ethnic & Regional

YAN / Comics & Graphic Novels / Biography

YAN / People & Places / United States / African American

### Keynote

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In this short graphic novel, acclaimed author Youme joins with Anthony Horton to tell the true story of how Anthony lived and created art underneath the NYC subway system.

### Summary

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"On the subway, do you ever notice that people are always looking, but they only see what they want to?" Anthony Horton asks. A guide, an observer of the many, and resident of the spaces below New York City streets, he's happy to show you how he lives in the tunnels underneath the subway system—that is, if you'll let him show you. Which

is exactly what happened when Youme and Anthony began a conversation in the subway about art. It turns out that both Youme and Anthony are artists. While part of Youme's art is listening long and hard to the stories of the people she meets, part of Anthony's job is making art out of what most people won't even look at. Thus began a unique collaboration and conversation between two artists over a year, which culminated in this graphic novel *Pitch Black*. With art and words, they map out Anthony's life and world—a tough one from many perspectives, startling and wrenching. But from Anthony's point of view, it's a life lived as art.

## Key Selling Points

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- **A STORY OF PERSISTENT HOPE:** Although Anthony Horton's biography is filled with rejection and abandonment, the life and community he builds while unhoused is full of persistent hope.
- **CELEBRATES FRIENDSHIP THROUGH ART:** Despite differences in race, class, and histories, the authors build a friendship through their shared love of art and the belief in the human spirit—all of which is reflected in the pages of this graphic novel.
- **A WINDOW INTO THE UNHOUSED:** At only 72 pages, this graphic novel is a perfect conversation starter for classrooms and libraries to discuss poverty, society, and the role art can play in creating community.

## Awards

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Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens, 2009, YALSA  
Skipping Stones Honor Award, *Skipping Stones* Magazine  
Best Children's Books of the Year, Bank Street College of Education

## Blurbs

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"I sat right down and read through [*Pitch Black*] . . . I found it immediately engaging and also interesting in the respect that at first you think it's about homelessness then, as you read on, perhaps about race and, finally, you discover that it reaches for something beyond those thorny and somewhat shopworn subjects; the simple and pure light of hope." —Lee Stringer, author of the award-winning book *Grand Central Winter: Stories*



from the Street

## Reviews

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"This book's unflinching look at homelessness and the ability to find hope and inspiration in the dark will appeal greatly to teens." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

"[Landowne and Horton] collaborate here to bring Horton's story of perseverance and hope to print, and the fluid black-and-white sequential panels tell it well. The horrors attendant on homelessness are not sugarcoated, and the language is as raw and gritty as one might expect. Powerful." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"[A] spare but rich gray-and-black graphic novel . . . We want to know more about Horton, but like peering down a dark tunnel, we only catch glimpses . . . For academic and high school libraries, and teen as well as adult collections in public libraries." —*Library Journal*

"This short, collaborative graphic novel introduces teens to a life unheard of by most . . . This full-page graphic novel style helps the reader perceive the darkness surrounding [Anthony] Horton's life and the light that his artwork gave him. The artwork done in black, white, and gray watercolor tones is realistic and sparse with subway details illustrating a wide range of multicultural characters riding the subway . . . Handselling or booktalking to readers who like true life stories or gritty fiction will find this special title and format an audience." —*VOYA Magazine*

## Contributor Bios

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**Anthony Horton** (1968–2012) was an unhoused artist living underneath New York City. His work can be seen along the tunnel walls in the darkest parts of the transit system. Anthony met Youme some years ago and together they embarked on a journey to bring *Pitch Black* to light.

**Youme** grew up loving stories. She has lived and worked as a community artist in New York, New Haven, Miami, Woods Hole, San Francisco, Kenya, Japan, Lao P.D.R., Vietnam, St. John, U.S.V.I., Haiti, and Cuba. Youme's books include *Selavi (That Is Life): A Haitian Story of Hope*, *Mali Under the Night Sky: A Lao Story of Home*, and *Pitch Black* with Anthony Horton. She is drawn to stories of survival and champions for social justice.

Youme lives in an ever-changing location with her partner and their two children. Find her at [youmeland.org](http://youmeland.org).

### Comparison Titles

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978-1-62875-184-0	The Dregs	\$15.74
978-1-72844-867-1	Amazona	\$14.99
978-1-43382-758-7	I See You	\$15.95

### Related Backlist

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978-1-94102-617-5	Crane Boy	\$11.95
978-0-93831-795-1	Sélavi, That Is Life: A Haitian Story of Hope	\$12.95



# Benji, un mal día y yo

(Benji, the Bad Day, and Me)

by Sally J. Pla

illustrated by Ken Min

Picture Book

Lee & Low Books

**October 17, 2023**

## Paperback

978-164379-662-8

\$12.95

## E-book

978-164379-679-6

\$12.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 10-3/8" x 8-1/4"

**Ages:** 5 to 8

**Grades:** k to 3

**Carton Quantity:** 60

## BISAC Categories

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JUV / Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings

JUV / Family / Siblings

JUV / Imagination & Play

## Keynote

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**El día de Sammy es absolutamente un desastre, el peor día de su vida. Su hermano pequeño, Benji, sabe exactamente cómo se siente eso.**

**Sammy is having the absolute rottenest, worst day ever. His little brother, Benji, knows exactly what that's like.**

## Summary

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Esta historia llena de ternura capta los retos y las alegrías de tener un hermano, y les

ofrece a los lectores una forma de manejar sus propios momentos de ira, todo envuelto en una gran manta azul. *Benji, un mal día y yo* abre una ventana a la neurodiversidad y nos recuerda que en los días realmente malos, siempre podemos contar con el apoyo de nuestra familia.

This tender story captures the challenges and joys of being a sibling and offers readers a way to manage their own bad moods--all wrapped up in a big blue blanket. *Benji, the Bad Day, and Me* embraces neurodiversity and reminds us that on those really bad days, you can always count on family to be there for you.

### **Key Selling Points**

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- Originally published as *Benji, the Bad Day, and Me*, this charming picture book is now available in Spanish!
- Author Sally J. Pla received the Dolly Gray Award for Children's Literature for *The Someday Birds*. This award recognizes effective, enlightened portrayals of individuals with developmental disabilities in children's books.
- Provides both windows and mirrors for neurodiverse readers.
- Ties in to units about social and emotional learning.
- Features realistic sibling dynamics of friendship, understanding, and sometimes jealousy.
- Explores emotions and encourages readers to think about what they need when they're not feeling great.
- About 1 in 44 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to estimates from the CDC. ASD is about 4.2 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189, though it may be underdiagnosed).

### **Awards**

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Choices, Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)  
Starred Review, Shelf Awareness

## Reviews

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"Benji is wholly heartwarming." -- *Shelf Awareness*

"[A] thoughtful reminder that all siblings need extra love and attention sometimes."  
-- *Publishers Weekly*

"Pla selects a common theme, the power of familial love to overcome adversity, and deftly moves the challenges of autism to a supporting detail rather than a distracting focus in this simple picture book. That Min depicts this family as people of color further broadens this story's inclusive reach. An ordinary story is given a spark of life by the inclusion of an empathetic little brother with autism." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

## Contributor Bios

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**Sally J. Pla** is the award-winning author of several novels for young people, including *The Someday Birds* and *Stanley Will Probably Be Fine*. Many of Pla's stories are based on her experience of raising three active boys, very close in age. When her sons were young and having a bad day, they loved being "made into burritos"--getting wrapped tightly in their blankets. The tight pressure appealed especially to Pla's autistic son. Pla lives with her family in Southern California. You can find her online at [sallyjpla.com](http://sallyjpla.com).

**Ken Min's** picture book debut *Hot, Hot Roti for Dada-Ji*, published by Lee & Low Books, received the Picture Book Honor for Literature from the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA). Ken is an illustrator and animation storyboard artist for commercials and animated TV shows such as *Futurama*, *Fairly Odd Parents*, and *New Looney Tunes*. His illustration work has been recognized numerous times by the Society of Children's Books Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI). Min lives in Los Angeles, California. You can see more of his artwork online at [kenminart.com](http://kenminart.com).

## Comparison Titles

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978-068971-173-2	Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	\$8.99
978-162014-963-8	A Space for Me	\$19.95
978-089239-223-0	My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito	\$10.95

## Related Backlist

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978-162014-352-0	Hot, Hot Roti for Dada-ji	\$11.95
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# Confetti Kids: Fiesta en el barrio

(Block Party)(Dive Into Reading, Emergent)

by Gwendolyn Hooks

illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez

Early Readers

Lee & Low Books

October 17, 2023

## Paperback

978-164379-664-2

\$10.95

## E-book

978-164379-677-2

\$10.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 6" x 9"

**Ages:** 4 to 7

**Grades:** k to 2

**Carton Quantity:** 40

## BISAC Categories

JUV / Readers / Intermediate

JUV / Cooking & Food

JUV / Imagination & Play

## Keynote

En este nuevo libro de la popular serie Confetti Kids, a Padma le preocupa que a sus amigos no les guste el plato especial que va a preparar su madre para la fiesta en el barrio.

In this early chapter book, part of the Confetti Kids series, the neighborhood is having a block party and Padma worries that her friends won't like her mom's lentil soup.

## Summary

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El vecindario va a celebrar una fiesta en el barrio a la que todos deben traer un plato de comida. Padma está emocionada por la fiesta hasta que se entera de que su madre planea preparar sopa de lentejas. ¡Padma piensa que la sopa es muy aburrida! Todos los demás llevarán cosas divertidas como pizza o perritos calientes. Además, a Padma le preocupa que a sus amigos no les guste la sopa, pero para su deleite, descubre que no solo les gusta, sino que también quieren aprender a prepararla.

The neighborhood is having a block party where everyone is responsible for bringing a food dish. Padma is excited about the party until she learns that her mother is planning to bring lentil soup. Padma thinks soup is so boring! Everyone else will bring fun things like pizza or hot dogs. Plus Padma worries that her friends won't like the soup—but to her delight, she discovers that they not only like the soup, they want to learn how to make it.

## Key Selling Points

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### **This book:**

- \* Presents a new story in this popular early chapter book series with a diverse cast of characters in relatable and realistic situations.
- \* Helps young readers navigate big feelings like disappointment, learning to compromise, and feeling excluded.
- \* Tackles tough topics like a parent losing a job or closing a beloved business in an approachable and kid-friendly manner.
- \* Includes an activity page that prompts readers to write about favorite places in their neighborhood and what makes them special.

### **The Confetti Kids series:**

- \* One of the few early chapter book series to feature characters of many backgrounds.
- \* Features approachable and realistic stories at just the right level for children who are



starting to read independently.

\* Offers young readers "window and mirror" stories that expand their experiences while also reflecting their own experiences.

\* Each book contains three short chapters with familiar underlying themes: feeling out of place, experiencing new things, social interaction, imagination, and making new friends.

\* Detailed, supportive illustrations; high-frequency words; and repeated phrases support comprehension for emergent readers.

\* Leveled for Emergent readers, grade 1, guided reading level I.

## Awards

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Choices, Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)

## Reviews

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"This beginning reader distinguishes itself with its strong representation of children from a variety of cultures, addressing the need for greater diversity in this format. VERDICT A strong addition for all libraries serving new and emerging readers." -- *School Library Journal*

"An earnest and conscientious effort to add diversity to new readers' choices." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

## Contributor Bios

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**Gwendolyn Hooks** is the author of *Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas*, which received an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for Children. Thanks to her Air Force dad, she grew up in Texas and Washington in the United States, and in Italy. After teaching middle school math, Hooks decided to follow her passion and write books for children. Hooks lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with her husband. Please visit her website at [www.gwendolynhooks.com](http://www.gwendolynhooks.com).

**Shirley Ng-Benitez** is a children's book illustrator who creates art using watercolor, gouache, pencil, and digital techniques. She also loves to make 3-D creatures from clay and fabric. She lives in the Bay Area of California with her husband, their two daughters, and their pup. Please visit her website at [shirleyngbenitez.com](http://shirleyngbenitez.com) and follow her on social media at [@shirleysillos](https://www.instagram.com/shirleysillos).

### Comparison Titles

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978-006322-999-0	Reina Ramos encuentra la solución	\$4.99
978-089239-380-0	Rafi y Rosi ¡Carnaval!	\$10.95
978-089239-432-6	Rafi y Rosi ¡Música!	\$10.95

### Related Backlist

---

978-164379-596-6	La mascota de Pablo	\$10.95
978-164379-633-8	La muestra de talentos	\$10.95
978-164379-594-2	La protesta	\$10.95
978-164379-632-1	Un adiós especial	\$10.95



# **Confetti Kids:** **¿Quieren jugar?** **(Want to Play?)(Dive Into** **Reading, Emergent)**

by Paula Yoo  
illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez

Early Readers  
Lee & Low Books  
**October 17, 2023**

## **Paperback**

978-164379-663-5

\$10.95

## **E-book**

978-164379-674-1

\$10.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 6" x 9"

**Ages:** 4 to 7

**Grades:** k to 2

**Carton Quantity:** 40

## **BISAC Categories**

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JUV / Readers / Intermediate

JUV / Social Themes / Friendship

JUV / Imagination & Play

## **Keynote**

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**En este nuevo libro de la popular serie Confetti Kids, Pablo y sus amigos se divierten en el parque, pero no pueden ponerse de acuerdo sobre el juego perfecto para todos.**

**In this early chapter book, part of the Confetti Kids series, a diverse group of kids decide to play pretend. There's no limit to what they imagine they can be!**

## Summary

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Es un día cálido y soleado, y los amigos se dirigen al parque del vecindario para jugar. ¿Qué deberían jugar? Henry quiere jugar básquetbol y Padma quiere jugar «sigan al líder».

Finalmente a Pablo se le ocurre una gran idea: jugar a imaginar. Es un juego que todo el mundo puede jugar fácilmente. Pueden imaginar que son arqueólogos, astronautas o exploradores. ¡No hay límites para lo que imaginan que pueden ser!

It's a warm, sunny day, and the gang heads to the neighborhood playground to play. What should they play? Henry wants to play basketball, and Padma wants to play Follow the Leader. Finally Pablo comes up with a great idea: to play pretend. It's a game that everyone can do easily. They can pretend to be archaeologists, astronauts, and explorers. There's no limit to what they imagine they can be!

## Key Selling Points

---

### **This book:**

- \* Presents a new story in this popular early chapter book series with a diverse cast of characters in relatable and realistic situations.
- \* Helps young readers navigate big feelings like disappointment, learning to compromise, and feeling excluded.
- \* Tackles tough topics like a parent losing a job or closing a beloved business in an approachable and kid-friendly manner.
- \* Includes an activity page that prompts readers to write about favorite places in their neighborhood and what makes them special.

### **The Confetti Kids series:**

- \* One of the few early chapter book series to feature characters of many backgrounds.
- \* Features approachable and realistic stories at just the right level for children who are starting to read independently.

- \* Offers young readers "window and mirror" stories that expand their experiences while also reflecting their own experiences.
- \* Each book contains three short chapters with familiar underlying themes: feeling out of place, experiencing new things, social interaction, imagination, and making new friends.
- \* Detailed, supportive illustrations; high-frequency words; and repeated phrases support comprehension for emergent readers.
- \* Leveled for Emergent readers, grade 1, guided reading level I.

## Awards

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Junior Library Guild Selection  
Choices, Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)

## Reviews

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"In the companion title to Yoo and Ng-Benitez's *Lily's New Home*, Lily enjoys playing with a diverse group of friends in her new neighborhood. A helpful title-page illustration introduces Lily and her friends, Henry, Mei, Pablo, and Padma, by name in order to support new readers in keeping track of them from one page to the next. Then, the first brief chapter opens with Pablo heading outside to read after being distracted by his sisters' indoor play. He abandons his book, however, when Lily comes by with her mother and invites him to go to the park. They are soon joined by Mei, Henry, and Padma, and they go on the swings, play basketball, and climb on the play structure. Ng-Benitez's inviting multimedia art deftly conveys a shift when the children's play moves into imaginary scenarios as verso-page depictions of the playground come into dialogue with facing recto images of imagined scenes in a cave, at the beach, in space, and so on. When rain threatens, the children all go to Pablo's house where they join his sisters in their play. Young readers are sure to want to join Pablo, Lily, and all of their friends, and it's wonderful to note that the diverse characterization will aid in making many feel all the more included." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"This book was enjoyable. My favorite part is when they are pretending to be at the beach because the descriptions and pictures look and sound so real. I give this book 5

out of 5 stars and recommend it for ages 6 to 7. I recommend this book to kids that like to play with their friends and have big imaginations." -- *5 Girls Book Reviews*

"While Paula Yoo has written excellent books for older readers, she proves herself to be just as good at writing for new readers, which is no easy task. Although the story lines are simple, she adds depth to each one. In *Lily's New Home* the diversity that defines the city becomes part of the story line, and in *Want to Play?* the children's imaginary play (so well reflected in Shirley Ng-Benitez's illustrations) makes the playground even more fun. Most remarkably, Yoo and Ng-Benitez together have created truly engaging child characters living in a vivid realistic world with just a few masterful lines of text and ink. I hope these will be the first two volumes of a long and successful series about the five friends. What a great beginning for *Dive into Reading!* -- and for brand new readers." -- *Reading While White*

## Contributor Bios

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**Paula Yoo** is an author and screenwriter whose children's books for Lee & Low include *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds*, *Shining Star*, and several titles in the Confetti Kids series. Her titles have been recognized by the International Reading Association, the Texas Bluebonnet Award Masterlist, and Lee & Low's New Voices Award. She and her husband live in Los Angeles, California, where she works in television. You can visit her online at [paulayoo.com](http://paulayoo.com).

**Shirley Ng-Benitez** is a children's book illustrator who creates art using watercolor, gouache, pencil, and digital techniques. She also loves to make 3-D creatures from clay and fabric. She lives in the Bay Area of California with her husband, their two daughters, and their pup. Please visit her website at [shirleyngbenitez.com](http://shirleyngbenitez.com) and follow her on social media at [@shirleysillos](https://twitter.com/shirleysillos).

## Comparison Titles

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978-006322-999-0	Reina Ramos encuentra la solución	\$4.99
978-089239-380-0	Rafi y Rosi ¡Carnaval!	\$10.95
978-089239-432-6	Rafi y Rosi ¡Música!	\$10.95

## Related Backlist

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978-164379-596-6	La mascota de Pablo	\$10.95
978-164379-633-8	La muestra de talentos	\$10.95
978-164379-594-2	La protesta	\$10.95
978-164379-632-1	Un adiós especial	\$10.95



# Connor Kissed Me

by Zehava

illustrated by Sarah Turner

Picture Book

Lee & Low Books

**September 19, 2023**

## Hardcover

978-164379-118-0

\$20.95

## E-book

978-164379-672-7

\$20.95

**Page Count:** 40

**Trim Size:** 10" x 8"

**Ages:** 4 to 8

**Grades:** PK to 3

**Carton Quantity:** 40

## BISAC Categories

---

JUV / Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings

JUV / Social Themes / Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance

JUV / Social Themes / Friendship

## Keynote

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**In this empowering picture book, Miriam navigates her confusion about an unprovoked kiss—finding her voice and using it to assert her personal boundaries.**

## Summary

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Miriam is so surprised when her friend Connor kisses her that she doesn't know how to react. Not sure what to do, she turns to the people around her—her best friend, the recess monitor, her teacher—but everyone has a different reaction and advice for Miriam. It's not until she gets home and talks with her mom that Miriam stops to ask herself how *she* feels about Connor's kiss. With her mom's encouragement, Miriam figures out her boundaries and makes them clear to everyone. Especially Connor!

With simple text and expressive illustrations, *Connor Kissed Me* introduces young readers to consent and bodily autonomy in plain terms: always ask someone if it's okay



to kiss or hug, and listen if they say no!

### Key Selling Points

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- This realistic story gives children a concrete example of what it looks like to stand up for their bodily autonomy.
- Miriam’s journey to figure out how she feels shows kids that it’s okay to take time to process experiences, and that they can turn to adults for help with this.
- A gentle but firm way to teach affectionate kids that they have to ask permission before giving kisses or any kind of touch gesture.
- The book demonstrates the variety of opinions that people might have about a kiss, but emphasizes that what matters is how the person that received it feels.

### Contributor Bios

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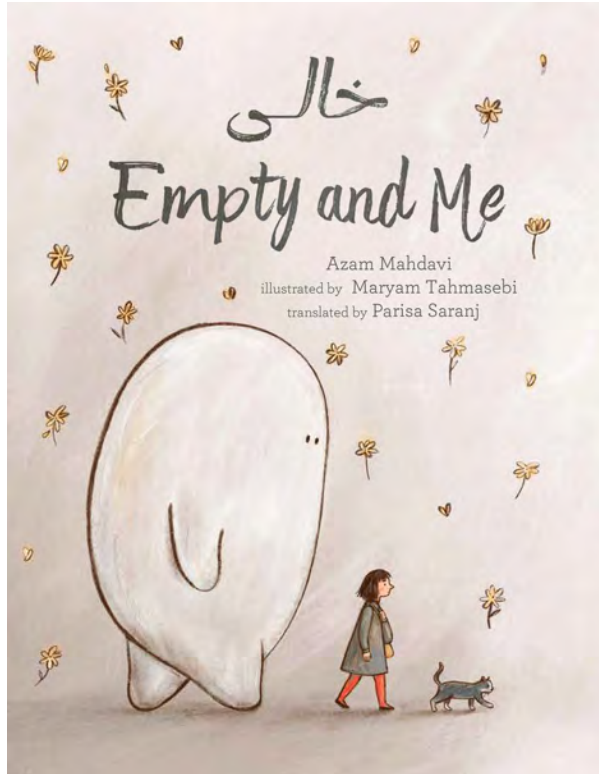
**Zehava** is an author as well as a former editor and bookseller. She and her family make their home in Montreal, Quebec where she is the head librarian at a school. *Connor Kissed Me* is her debut picture book.

**Sarah K. Turner** is a picture book and graphic novel artist. Her biggest goals are to spread love, acceptance, and positivity through her work. *Connor Kissed Me* marks her first traditionally published picture book. Sarah currently lives in the greater Seattle Area. You can see more of her art at [sarahkturnerart.com](http://sarahkturnerart.com).

### Comparison Titles

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978-1-63198-675-8	We Ask Permission	\$15.99
978-1-98481-302-2	Don’t Hug Doug	\$16.99
978-0-59352-188-5	Yes! No!: A First Conversation About Consent	\$14.99
978-1-54159-798-3	Rissy No Kissies	\$17.99



# Empty and Me: A Tale of Friendship and Loss

by Azam Mahdavi  
illustrated by Maryam Tahmasebi  
translated by Parisa Saranj

Picture Book  
Lee & Low Books  
October 3, 2023

## Hardcover

978-164379-622-2

\$21.95

## E-book

978-164379-623-9

\$21.95

**Page Count:** 48

**Trim Size:** 8.5" x 11"

**Ages:** 4 to 7

**Grades:** PK to 3

**Carton Quantity:** 28

## BISAC Categories

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JUV / Social Themes / Death, Grief, Bereavement

JUV / People & Places / Middle East

JUV / Family / Parents

## Keynote

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**In this bilingual Persian-English picture book, a little girl learns how to live with the gentle giant that embodies her grief.**

## Summary

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After a young girl's mother dies, Empty appears and silently takes up the big blank

Empty and Me: A Tale of Friendship and Loss | Fall 2023 | Lee & Low Books |

space left behind. For some time, the girl can't connect with her dad or any friends, and Empty is her closest companion. But then, a happy reminder of her mom pops up one day, and this bit of joy helps the little girl open up to the world around her. Empty stays around, but the little girl starts to connect with others and share new moments of happiness with them.

Originally published in Iran, this bilingual Persian-English picture book provides a gentle starting point for discussing death and grief with young readers. Its spare, poignant text and artwork gives children a concrete point of reference for the complex emotions people experience after the loss of a loved one. Readers of any age, however, will find comfort in the encouraging message of this beautiful book.

### Key Selling Points

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- A timely book that encourages a gentle discussion about grief and loss with children. According to recent studies, over 200,000 children in the U.S. have lost a caregiver to COVID-19.
- Addresses death and the experience of grief in a direct manner, without using euphemisms that can confuse young readers.
- Originating from and set in Iran, *Empty and Me* provides a window into everyday life in the Middle Eastern country.
- Masterful illustrations from Iranian artist Maryam Tahmesabi pulls readers in with a unique mix of playfully cute characters and an emotionally compelling use of light and empty space.
- Simple, concise text makes this book accessible to emerging readers.

### Contributor Bios

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**Azam Mahdavi** is a freelance author, artist, translator, and graphic designer based in Tehran. She has published dozens of books for children and young adults in Iran, which have been translated into various languages. Several of her books have received awards in different national festivals, such as the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults' Festival. *Empty and Me* is her first book to be translated into English and published in the U.S.

**Maryam Tahmasebi** is a freelance illustrator and designer based in Tehran. She's illustrated six books published in Iran, which have been translated into Korean, Turkish, and Chinese. You can see more of her work at [maryamtahmasebi.org](http://maryamtahmasebi.org).

## Comparison Titles

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978-080756-112-6	One Wave at a Time	\$16.99
978-160060-343-3	Grandma's Purple Flowers	\$11.95
978-076369-494-4	My Grandma and Me	\$16.99
978-164379-599-7	Calling the Water Drum	\$10.95



# Los nachos de Nacho

(Nacho's Nachos)

by Sandra Nickel

illustrated by Oliver Dominguez

Picture Book

Lee & Low Books

October 17, 2023

## Paperback

978-164379-666-6

\$12.95

## E-book

978-164379-683-3

\$12.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 8-1/2" x 10-1/2"

**Ages:** 5 to 10

**Grades:** k to 5

**Carton Quantity:**

## BISAC Categories

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JNF / Cooking & Food

JNF / Biography & Autobiography / Cultural, Ethnic & Regional

JNF / People & Places / Mexico

## Keynote

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**La deliciosa historia real de un chef inventivo y los eventos casuales que llevaron a la creación del bocadillo favorito del mundo: ¡los nachos!**

**The delicious true story of an inventive chef and the serendipitous events that led to the creation of the world's favorite snack--nachos!**

## Summary

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Presentamos a Ignacio (Nacho) Anaya. De niño le encantaba comer y cocinar. Cuando

creció trabajó en restaurantes, incluyendo el Club Victoria, un sitio popular cercano a la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos.

En una tarde de 1940, una cliente asidua llegó con unas amigas. Quería una botana. Algo nuevo, algo especial. Nacho corrió a la cocina e improvisó con los ingredientes que tenía a la mano. En ese momento de inspiración, ¡Nacho hizo historia!

Aquí tienes la sabrosa y verdadera historia de un creativo chef mexicano y la exquisita botana que le encanta a comensales entusiastas de todo el mundo. Es tiempo de saborear *Los nachos de Nacho*.

Meet Ignacio (Nacho) Anaya. As a boy, he loved to eat and cook. When he grew up, he worked in restaurants, including the Victory Club, a popular eatery near the Mexico--United States border.

Late one afternoon in 1940, a regular customer stopped by with some friends. She wanted a snack--something new, something different. Nacho rushed to the kitchen and improvised with the ingredients on hand. In those inspired moments, Nacho made food history!

Here is the tasty and true tale of an inventive Mexican chef and his delectable snack that is loved by enthusiastic eaters around the world. It's time to dig into *Nacho's Nachos*.

## **Key Selling Points**

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-Who doesn't love nachos? Children will delight in discovering how and why one of their favorite snack foods came to exist.

-This is the only book that introduces readers to the *real, true* origin story of nachos (there are many inaccurate stories online).

-Includes an easy-to-follow recipe for those who are inspired to make Nacho's original nachos for themselves.

-Presents a fun-filled look at the rewards of human ingenuity and problem solving, and the exciting, sometimes coincidental, path to invention.

-Publication coincides with the 80th anniversary of the invention of nachos.

-Explores the popular topics of cooking and food and introduces readers to a historical "celebrity chef."

## Awards

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Best Children's Books of the Year, Bank Street College of Education

Christopher Award, Books for Young Readers

Best Books of 2020, Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature (CSMCL)

Reading the West Book Award nominee, Reading the West

Best Books, New York Public Library

Eureka! Nonfiction Children's Book Award, California Reading Association

Delaware Diamonds Award, Delaware Literacy Association

## Reviews

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"This tale of the humble origins of nachos, bolstered by vivid and period-specific illustrations, will whisk young readers away to a different time and place." -- *Booklist*

"Nickel tells an engaging origin story of the humble but mighty nacho." -- *The Horn Book*

"A lively food history piece." -- *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

## Contributor Bios

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**Sandra Nickel** makes her children's book debut with *Nacho's Nachos*. She says that story ideas are everywhere; you just have to reach out and grab them. She is a two-time winner of the *Hunger Mountain* Katherine Patterson Prize for YA and Children's Writing. A native of Kansas, Nickel now lives in Chexbres, Switzerland, where she blogs about children's book writers and illustrators at [whatwason.com](http://whatwason.com). You can also find her online at [srandnickel.com](http://srandnickel.com) and [@senickel](https://twitter.com/senickel).

**Oliver Dominguez** is a freelance illustrator in the summer and during the rest of the year he works as a professor of illustration at Ringling College of Art and Design. Dominguez's inspirations for his illustrations come from contemporary artists, photography, history books--just about everything and anything. He has a special fondness for historical fashion, knowing the story behind what people used to wear and why. Dominguez and his family live in Cape Coral, Florida. You can visit him online at [cargocollective.com/oliverdominguez](http://cargocollective.com/oliverdominguez) and [@oliverdominguezart](https://www.instagram.com/oliverdominguezart).

### Comparison Titles

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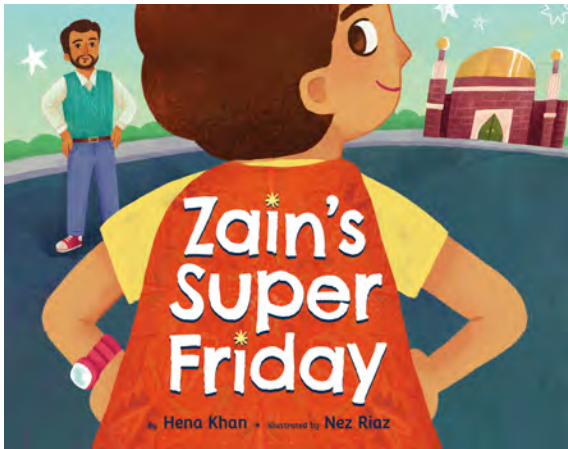
978-054431-961-5	The Hole Story of the Doughnut	\$17.99
978-160060-656-4	George Crum and the Saratoga Chip	\$10.95
978-149980-703-5	Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando	\$18.99

### Related Backlist

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978-168119-560-5	Pope Francis: Builder of Bridges	\$17.99
978-076367-978-1	Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World	\$17.99
978 0761380924	Miracle Mud: Lena Blackburne and the Secret Mud That Changed Baseball	\$18.99





# Zain's Super Friday

by Hena Khan

illustrated by Nez Riaz

Picture Book

Lee & Low Books

**October 10, 2023**

## Hardcover

978-164379-424-2

\$19.95

## E-book

978-164379-641-3

\$19.95

**Page Count:** 32

**Trim Size:** 11" x 8.5"

**Ages:** 5 to 8

**Grades:** K to 3

**Carton Quantity:** 36

## BISAC Categories

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JUV / Religious / Muslim

JUV / Social Themes / New Experience

JUV / Imagination & Play

## Keynote

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**Join Zain and his dad on a special visit to their local mosque to attend jumu'ah prayers in this heartwarming picture book from the author of *Under My Hijab*.**

## Summary

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Early Friday morning, Zain leaps out of bed ready to save the world from alien invaders! But his dad has other plans for Zain on this special day of the week. Dad takes Zain to the mosque and guides him through his first jumu'ah prayers. But Zain's quest for a superhero adventure leads to supersize distractions. Can Zain rein in his powerful impulses and appreciate this special experience with his dad and community?

With spirited text by award-winning author Hena Khan and dynamic illustrations by artist Nez Riaz, *Zain's Super Friday* is a celebration of Muslim traditions, imagination, and the joy of community.

### Key Selling Points

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- Offers an authentic depiction of an important Muslim tradition from a kid-friendly point of view.
- Young readers will connect with Zain's vibrant imagination as well as his enthusiasm for superheroes and alien invaders.
- For non-Muslim readers, the book serves as a friendly introduction to a Muslim practice that's observed all around the world. Everywhere it is held, jumu'ah prayers bring people together in a tradition that Muslims honor and cherish.
- The author's note elaborates on the customs that are featured in the book.
- Hena Khan is one of the foremost writers for children today, with titles including *Under My Hijab*--which is in its eleventh printing!

### Contributor Bios

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**Hena Khan** is the author of many award-winning children's books, including *Under My Hijab*, *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*, *Amina's Voice*, and the *Zara's Rules* series. She lives near Washington, DC, with her family. Please visit her online at [henakhan.com](http://henakhan.com) and follow her at [@henakhanbooks](https://twitter.com/henakhanbooks).

**Nez Riaz** is a Pakistani/Palestinian artist based in Boston, Massachusetts. She is the illustrator of the picture book memoir *My Name Is Bana* by Bana Alabed and enjoys storytelling, pineapple pizza, and monkeys. You can visit her online at [nezriaz.com](http://nezriaz.com).

**Comparison Titles**

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978-145218-272-8	One Sun and Countless Stars	\$17.99
978-031651-900-7	The Proudest Blue	\$17.99
978-006297-870-7	In My Mosque	\$17.99

**Related Backlist**

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978-162014-792-4	Under My Hijab	\$19.95
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# Confucius: Great Teacher of China

written and illustrated by Demi

Picture Book

Shen's Books

November 7, 2023

## Paperback

978-164379-685-7

\$13.95

## E-book

978-164379-203-3

\$21.00

**Page Count:** 48

**Trim Size:** 10" x 10"

**Ages:** 8 to 18

**Grades:** 3 to 12

**Carton Quantity:** 32

## BISAC Categories

---

JNF / Biography & Autobiography / Historical

JNF / Philosophy

JNF / People & Places / Asia

## Keynote

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**A beautifully illustrated biography of a man whose philosophy shaped the course of Chinese history: the great teacher Confucius.**

## Summary

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His sayings are repeated throughout the world. His teachings set the course of Chinese society for two and a half millennia. But Confucius (551 BCE–479 BCE) remains merely a name to many readers, rather than the central figure of world history that he deserves to be. Now award-winning author-illustrator Demi illuminates his life and influence in

this elegant biography that will appeal to readers of all ages.

Confucius loved books and learning, but he grew up during a time of great suffering and warfare in China. Troubled by the chaos he saw all around him, he devoted his life to reforming his society and government, with ideas about education and leadership that still resonate today. He encouraged everyone "especially rulers" to live moral lives, emphasizing the value of tradition and compassion. And five hundred years before Jesus set forth his Golden Rule, Confucius declared his Golden Mean: "Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself."

### **Key Selling Points**

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- This beautiful book is now available in an affordable paperback edition.
- The name Confucius is widely known; this book introduces contemporary children to the human side of one of history's most respected, influential, and larger-than-life figures.
- Presents rules of conduct and human kindness that still ring true today.
- Provides a timeless example for a moral, peaceful life guided by a love of learning and social responsibility.
- Addresses children's fascination with ancient China (and other ancient civilizations) and shows the powerful, long-lasting impact one individual can make on society, government, culture, and history.
- Weaves the dynamic narrative story of Confucius's life with passages of his original writings and sayings, the most famous of which is "Do not do unto others as you would not have them do unto you," a precursor of the Golden Rule principle of Jesus.
- Written and illustrated with exquisite detail by celebrated author-illustrator Demi.

### **Awards**

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Original Art Show, Society of Illustrators

## Reviews

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"This deftly illustrated picture book introduces Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher and teacher, to young readers... Demi incorporates her subject's own words, taken from various translations of his Analects, throughout her account. Hues of blue, red, and her signature gold pop from the flat, two-dimensional scenes, which are framed in auspicious colors of red and gold. The lack of depth and perspective and the inclusion of symbolic creatures recall traditional Chinese paintings. An appealing biography done in classic Demi tradition, suitable for readers interested in Confucianism and its impact on Chinese culture and values."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Illustrating in a delicate style that strongly evokes her ancient Chinese setting, Demi introduces the life and teachings of Confucius (known as Kongzi in China), blending facts and legends surrounding the educator and philosopher... [H]is true triumphs came through teaching, and Demi incorporates his philosophies throughout... giving readers a rich understanding of his beliefs and impact."—*Publishers Weekly*

## Contributor Bios

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**Demi** is the author and illustrator of more than one hundred fifty books for children. She is known for her perceptive texts and elegant illustrations with golden accents, and for her biographies of major historical figures from around the world, including religious figures like Buddha, Muhammad, Jesus, and Mary. Her books have been named New York Times Best Illustrated Books, recognized with ALA Notable Children's Books and Notable Books for a Global Society citations, and won the Christopher Award, which recognizes individuals whose work makes a positive difference in the world. Demi has traveled extensively and studied art in Mexico, India, and China. She lives in Yarrow Point, Washington.

## Comparison Titles

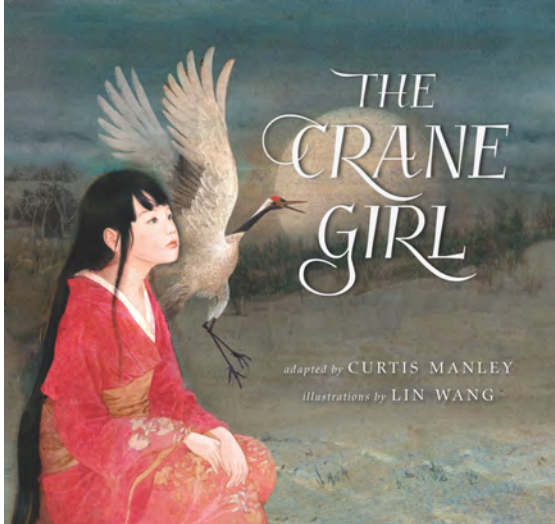
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978-153361-827-6	The King Without A Throne (Once Upon A Time In China)	\$10.99
978-154191-471-1	Who Was Confucius? Ancient China Book for Kids Children's Ancient History	\$16.99
978-152478-873-5	Who Was Confucius?	\$5.99

## Related Backlist

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978-188500-845-9	The Great Voyages of Zheng He	\$19.95
978-162014-232-5	Life of a Genius: Su Dongpo	\$13.95
978-162779-389-6	Marie Curie	\$19.99



# The Crane Girl

adapted by Curtis Manley  
illustrated by Lin Wang

Picture Book  
Shen's Books

**November 7, 2023**

## Paperback

978-164379-684-0

\$12.95

## E-book

978-162014-847-1

\$19.95

**Page Count:** 40

**Trim Size:** 10" x 8-1/2"

**Ages:** 6 to 10

**Grades:** 1 to 5

**Carton Quantity:** 36

## BISAC Categories

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JUV / Fairy Tales & Folklore / General

JUV / Legends, Myths, Fables / Asian

JUV / Social Themes / Homelessness & Poverty

## Keynote

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**In this magical retelling of a Japanese folktale, a mysterious girl weaves silk to help repay the kindness of a boy and his father until the father's greed finally exposes her secret.**

## Summary

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While gathering firewood, Yasuhiro comes upon an injured crane hidden in the snow. He rescues and comforts the bird, then watches as it flies away over the wintry hills.

The next night, a strange young girl arrives at Yasuhiro's home seeking shelter from the



cold. The boy and his father welcome the girl, named Hiroko, to stay with them. When Hiroko notices that Yasuhiro's father is struggling to earn money, she offers to weave silk for him to sell. After the fabric fetches a good price, the boy's father becomes impatient for more silk, and his greed has a life-changing effect on them all.

Lyrical storytelling deftly interwoven with original haiku create a magical adaptation of a popular Japanese folktale—an inspirational story of friendship and the power of kindness to transform lives.

### **Key Selling Points**

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- This highly acclaimed picture book is now available in an affordable paperback edition.
- Presents an adaptation of the popular crane story, which is based on several beloved folktales from Japan, where the concept of *on*—an obligation that must be repaid—is shown through a rescued animal that feels compelled to return the favor to the human who saved her life.
- Teaches young readers about empathy and the effects of greed and impatience.
- Folktales are known for their ability to speak to universal and timeless themes that can help young readers make sense of their existence or cope with the world in which they live.
- Introduces young readers to a diverse culture and may spark children's curiosity to ask about their own heritage and folktales.
- Includes dreamlike watercolor illustrations that encourage imaginative play and the fantasy that people can magically turn into animals or other beings, and vice versa.
- Explains several Japanese poetic forms, including haiku, which is popular among teachers and students.
- Comprehensive backmatter includes information about the tradition of Japanese folktales/storytelling, Japanese poetic forms, and red-crowned cranes.

## Awards

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Top 10 Favorites, New York Public Library  
101 Great Books for Kids, Evanston Public Library

## Reviews

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\* "The polished, full-color illustrations, strongly reminiscent of art by the fairy-tale illustrator Adrienne Segur, complement the lyrical text. Interspersed, color-coded haiku reveal the characters' unspoken thoughts, adding an excellent dimension with potential for drama-group presentations. . . More from this team would be a welcome addition to folk-tale collections."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"This well-crafted tale offers students an introduction to traditional Japanese culture and folklore and should be a welcome addition in public and school libraries."—*School Library Journal*

"The author has adapted several Japanese crane folktales to create a story of friendship, greed, and love. A young boy finds and releases a trapped crane, and it returns to him in the form of a girl. To repay the kindness shown to her, she offers to spin silk for the boy's father to sell under the condition that she be left alone while she works. When the father gets impatient and breaks into her workroom one day, they discover her secret and she decides to leave. The boy follows her, and the girl and her family welcome him into their world. The language is straightforward and the illustrations add authenticity to the words, conveying the plot beautifully."—*School Library Connection*

## Contributor Bios

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**Curtis Manley** is a full-time writer and a member of the Haiku Society of America. He enjoys watching the behaviors of birds and other animals—whether in his backyard or in the forests, deserts, and canyons of the western United States. In his travels, he always hopes to see a sandhill crane. Manley grew up in western Pennsylvania but now lives in the Seattle area with his wife and daughter. Visit him online at [curtismanley.com](http://curtismanley.com).

**Lin Wang** has illustrated several books for children, including *Shining Star: The Anna May Wong Story* and *The Crane Girl* for Lee & Low Books. She is a classically trained portrait

painter with an MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and her work has been recognized by the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show. Wang lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and their children.

### **Comparison Titles**

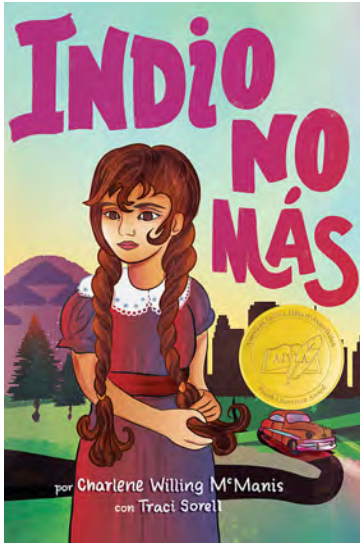
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978-031612-597-0	Starry River of the Sky	\$11.99
978-148143-518-5	The Storyteller	\$18.99
978-148148-890-7	The Cricket Warrior: A Chinese Tale	\$16.99

### **Related Backlist**

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978-162014-257-8	Shining Star: The Anna May Wong Story	\$10.95
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## Indio no más

by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell  
translated into Spanish by Luisana Duarte  
Armendáriz

Middle Grade Novel  
Tu Books

August 16, 2023

### Paperback

978-1-64379-652-9

\$15.95

### E-book

978-1-64379-691-8

\$15.95

**Page Count:** 240

**Trim Size:** 5" x 7 1/2"

**Ages:** 9 to 13

**Grades:** 4 to 8

**Carton Quantity:** 24

### BISAC Categories

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JUV / People & Places / United States / Native American

JUV / Historical / United States / 20th Century

JUV / Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings

### Keynote

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**Cuando la tribu Umpqua de Regina es terminada legalmente y su familia debe mudarse de Oregón a Los Ángeles, ella se embarca en una búsqueda para comprender su identidad como india a pesar de estar tan lejos de casa.**

**When Regina's Umpqua tribe is legally terminated and her family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles, she goes on a quest to understand her identity as an Indian despite being so far from home.**

## Summary

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La familia de Regina Petit siempre ha sido Umpqua, y vivir en la reserva de la tribu Grand Ronde es todo lo que Regina, de diez años, ha conocido. Su mayor preocupación es que Sasquatch pueda existir en el bosque. Pero cuando el gobierno federal promulga una ley que dice que la tribu de Regina ya no existe, Regina se convierte en "india no más" de la noche a la mañana, a pesar de que vive con su tribu y practica las costumbres tribales, y aunque sus antepasados fueron indígenas durante incontables generaciones.

Ahora que se han visto obligados a abandonar su tierra natal, el padre de Regina inscribe a la familia en el Programa federal de reubicación de indígenas y los traslada a Los Ángeles. Regina encuentra un mundo completamente nuevo en su vecindario en 58th Place. Nunca ha conocido a niños de otras razas, y ellos nunca han conocido a un indio de verdad. Por primera vez en su vida, Regina se enfrenta cara a cara con la crueldad del racismo, personalmente y hacia sus nuevos amigos.

Mientras tanto, su padre cree que si trabaja duro, su familia será tratada como estadounidenses blancos. Pero no es tan fácil. Es 1957, durante la era de los Derechos Civiles, y la familia lucha sin su comunidad tribal ni su tierra. Al menos Regina tiene a su abuela, Chich, y sus historias. Al menos están todos juntos.

En esta conmovedora novela de grado medio basada en la propia historia tribal de la autora de Umpqua, Charlene Willing McManis, Regina debe averiguar: ¿Quién es Regina Petit? ¿Es india, americana o ambas? ¿Y ella y su familia alguna vez estarán bien?

Regina Petit's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the Grand Ronde Tribe's reservation is all ten-year-old Regina has ever known. Her biggest worry is that Sasquatch may actually exist out in the forest. But when the federal government enacts a law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes "Indian no more" overnight—even though she lives with her tribe and practices tribal customs, and even though her ancestors were Indian for countless generations.

Now that they've been forced from their homeland, Regina's father signs the family up for the federal Indian Relocation Program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world in her neighborhood on 58th Place. She's never met kids of other

races, and they've never met a real Indian. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face-to-face with the viciousness of racism, personally and toward her new friends.

Meanwhile, her father believes that if he works hard, their family will be treated just like white Americans. But it's not that easy. It's 1957, during the Civil Rights era, and the family struggles without their tribal community and land. At least Regina has her grandmother, Chich, and her stories. At least they are all together.

In this moving middle-grade novel drawing upon Umpqua author Charlene Willing McManis's own tribal history, Regina must find out: Who is Regina Petit? Is she Indian, American, or both? And will she and her family ever be okay?

### **Key Selling Points**

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- An intimate Indigenous telling of the struggle that urban Native Americans experience when disconnected from their tribal community, based on author Charlene Willing McManis and her family's real-life experiences with tribal termination.
- The US government terminated more than one hundred tribes between 1954 and 1963. This is the first novel for young readers to address that shameful history.
- A heartwarming story of interracial friendships during the Civil Rights Movement.
- The first middle-grade novel to star a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, a group of tribes forced to relocate to one large Oregon reservation in the 1850s. The tribe was terminated in 1954 via the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act and restored in 1983.
- A perfect title for teachers and librarians looking for resources to discuss twentieth-century Native American history and events as well as social-emotional learning materials.

### **Awards**

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American Indian Youth Literature Award, American Indian Library Association  
Notable Children's Book, Association for Library Services to Children  
Editors' Choices for Books for Youth, *Booklist*  
Global Read-Aloud Choices, American Library Association

Notable Books for a Global Society, International Literacy Association  
Best of the Best Books, Chicago Public Library  
Best Books of 2019, American Indians in Children's Literature  
Amelia Bloomer Project - Feminist Task Force, American Library Association (ALA)

## Blurbs

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*Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell is a poignant look at the termination era and its devastating effects. Regina is a determined young girl who faces huge life changes with incredible strength. It's an important story, and a compelling debut." –Supriya Kelkar

"In this honest depiction of an Indian family's struggle to survive the termination of their tribe, we see how 'Indian stories speak truth' through the eyes of a gifted young narrator. Courageous and wise, Regina Petit navigates life away from home with a triumphant dignity that celebrates her heritage and everything she has to offer the world"  
–Guadalupe Garcia McCall

"I love *Indian No More*. It is a beautiful and important book, honest and moving. Regina's story faces a shocking injustice directly, creating a powerful historical novel that should be included in every school's curriculum." –Margarita Engle, Newbery Honor-winning author

## Reviews

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Readers will be moved as they become invested in Regina's predicament. Is she still Indian, American, or both--and what does that mean for her and her family? –*School Library Journal*, starred review

What begins as a story of displacement quickly turns into a story of childhood fun and antics colored by Umpqua culture and the racial tensions of the civil rights movement set in the lively and culturally diverse city of L.A. –*Booklist*, starred review

## Contributor Bios

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The late **Charlene Willing McManis** (1953–2018) was born in Portland, Oregon and

grew up in Los Angeles. She was of Umpqua tribal heritage and enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Charlene served in the U.S. Navy and later received her bachelor's degree in Native American Education. She lived with her family in Vermont and served on that state's Commission on Native American Affairs. In 2016, Charlene received a mentorship with award-winning poet and author Margarita Engle through We Need Diverse Books. That manuscript became this novel, which is based on her family's experiences after their tribe was terminated in 1954. She passed away in 2018, knowing that her friend Traci Sorell would complete the revisions Charlene was unable to finish.

**Traci Sorell** writes fiction and nonfiction books as well as poems for children. Her lyrical story in verse, *At the Mountain's Base*, illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre (Kokila, 2019), celebrates the bonds of family and history-making women pilots, including Millie Rexroat (Oglala Lakota). Her middle grade novel, *Indian No More*, with Charlene Willing McManis (Tu Books, 2019), explores the impact of federal termination and relocation policies on an Umpqua family in the 1950s. Traci's debut nonfiction picture book *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, illustrated by Frané Lessac (Charlesbridge, 2018), won a Sibert Honor, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Picture Book Honor and an Orbis Pictus Honor. It also received starred reviews from *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, *The Horn Book* and *Shelf Awareness*. A former federal Indian law attorney and policy advocate, she is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation and lives in northeastern Oklahoma where her tribe is located. For more about Traci and her other works, visit [tracisorell.com](http://tracisorell.com).

**Luisana Duarte Armendáriz** grew up on the Juárez, Mexico/El Paso, Texas border. An author and translator, Luisana earned her BA from the University of Texas at El Paso and her MA/MFA in Children's Literature and Writing for Children from Simmons University in Boston. She won the 2018 Lee & Low/Tu Books New Visions Award for her debut novel, *Julieta and the Diamond Enigma*. Find out more at [luisanaduarte.com](http://luisanaduarte.com).

### Comparison Titles

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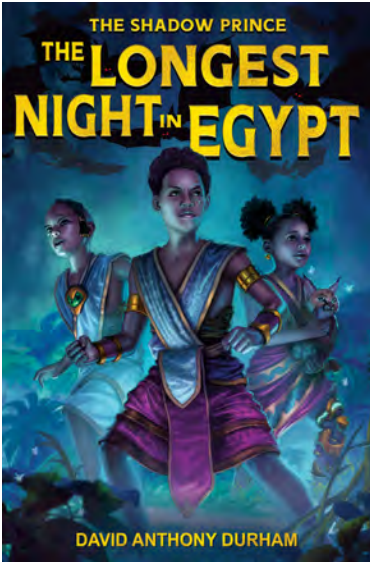
978-043912-042-5	Esperanza Rising	\$17.99
978-160060-874-2	Rattlesnake Mesa	\$17.95
978-039925-644-8	The Lions of Little Rock	\$18.97
978-006274-781-5	Other Words for Home	\$17.99



## Related Backlist

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978-162014-839-6	Indian No More	\$18.95
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# The Longest Night in Egypt (The Shadow Prince, Book 2)

by David Anthony Durham

Middle Grade Novel

Tu Books

**September 26, 2023**

## Hardcover

978-164379-609-3

\$21.95

## E-book

978-164379-613-0

\$21.95

**Page Count:** 400

**Trim Size:** 5" x 7 1/2"

**Ages:** 9 to 13

**Grades:** 4 to 8

**Carton Quantity:** 24

## BISAC Categories

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JUV / Legends, Myths, Fables / African

JUV / Monsters

JUV / Fantasy & Magic

## Keynote

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**The Shadow Prince saga continues as Ash and his heroic friends rush to save Lord Ra from the belly of Apep and bring light back to an Egypt that has been plunged into darkness.**

## Summary

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Back at his evil tricks, Set, the devious god of chaos, has rid Egypt of the sun god Ra and plunged the kingdom into never-ending night. He's even managed to trap the rest of the gods in a palace chamber without the use of their magic. Now demons run amok in the city, filling it with chaos and destruction.

The Longest Night in Egypt (The Shadow Prince, Book 2) | Fall 2023 | Lee & Low Books |

But hope is not lost! Ash, Prince Khufu, Seret, Gilli, and two new friends, Thea and Iset, must brave the depths of the Duat—the spooky, cavernous Egyptian underworld—to rescue Lord Ra. Numerous demons fly about them in the darkness. Deadly peril awaits them around every craggy corner. They must solve riddles and trick, sneak, and battle demons to pass through each successive gate. If Team Shadow Prince can manage to get through all that, they will still have to face a demon like none they’ve seen before: the fierce, wily, enormous, god-eating serpent, Apep.

Can Ash and his friends reunite Ra’s magic with the sun and bring power and light back to the kingdom? Or will Egypt remain in darkness forever?

### Key Selling Points

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- **AN ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE SERIES WITH A BLACK BOY AS THE STAR:** Readers who love *Black Panther* and Miles Morales in *Spiderman: Into the Spider-verse* will appreciate this book.
- **PERFECT READ-ALIKE FOR RICK RIORDAN PRESENTS:** High-energy diverse science fiction and fantasy stories currently being published by Rick Riordan Presents are being received with great acclaim in the school and library market as well as the commercial market. Readers who love the Tristan Strong series and *Aru Shah and the End of Time* will love The Shadow Prince series.
- **A NEW GENRE FOR A NEW GENERATION:** Solarpunk is a new speculative genre that features an optimistic future where innovation, craftsmanship, community, and technology—powered by renewable energy—are front and center. In this second book in the series, solar power and battery power take front and center.
- **ANCIENT EGYPT AND STEM CURRICULUM TIES:** This book and series provides curriculum ties not only for units in history and Ancient Egypt but also STEM connections with its use of solar energy and power.

### Blurbs

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"Durham is a master of the fantasy epic." —*The Washington Post*

"David Anthony Durham never disappoints. I can't wait to read whatever he writes next."  
—George R.R. Martin

## Contributor Bios

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**David Anthony Durham** is a Caribbean novelist born in New York and raised primarily in the Mid-Atlantic area. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Maryland, and has taught at the University of Maryland, the University of Massachusetts, The Colorado College, the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation, Cal State University, and Hampshire College. David has written seven books for grown-ups and The Shadow Prince series for middle grade readers. You can find him at [davidanthonydurham.com](http://davidanthonydurham.com)

## Comparison Titles

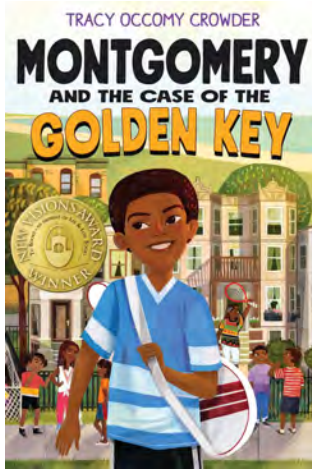
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978-1-42311-338-6	The Red Pyramid (The Kane Chronicles, Book 1)	\$17.99
978-1-36803-993-2	Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky (Tristan Strong, 1)	\$17.99
978-1-36801-335-2	Dragon Pearl (Rick Riordan Presents)	\$16.99
978-1-36801-235-5	Aru Shah and the End of Time (A Pandava Novel, Book 1)	\$16.99
978-1-33866-585-7	Last Gate of the Emperor	\$17.99

## Related Backlist

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978-1-64379-428-0	The Shadow Prince	\$21.95
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# Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key

by Tracy Oocomy Crowder  
Middle Grade Novel  
Tu Books

October 10, 2023

## Hardcover

978-1-64379-517-1

\$21.95

## E-book

978-1-64379-518-8

\$21.95

**Page Count:** 272

**Trim Size:** 5" x 7 1/2"

**Ages:** 9 to 13

**Grades:** 4 to 8

**Carton Quantity:** 24

## BISAC Categories

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JUV / Mysteries & Detective Stories

JUV / People & Places / United States / African American

JUV / Historical / United States / 21st Century

## Keynote

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It's summer in Chicago in 2008, and ten-year-old Montgomery "Monty" Carver is on the hunt to discover the origins of a golden key he found in Old Lady Jenkins's flower garden, because despite the rumors, he's not convinced it belongs to some pesky ghost—and it could be the "key" to helping his community.

## Summary

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In 2008 Chicago, in the South Side community of Washington Park, Montgomery "Monty" Carver finds a golden key in the flower garden of scary Old Lady Jenkins. Monty is struggling to prove he's old enough to be without adult supervision (and secure a perfectly round fro). That's why he *must* unravel the mystery of the key *all by himself*—not with friends, and definitely not with his parents, thank you very much. Besides, he's ten years old now.

Soon Monty's hunt to determine the origin of the key leads him to discover the rich history—like famous Black jockeys!—of his community, which is speculating about its future because one of its residents, Barack Obama, is running for president. Having that Obama around is fine for Monty. More than one girl his age has commented on how much he looks like him. Monty's community is also weighing the pros and cons of building an Olympic stadium for the 2016 games.

Adding to the roar of *big* things happening in Monty's world, there is a rumor going around that a ghost is playing pranks on his apartment building and that Monty's elementary school may close. *So much to solve!* Will his community's world change if his school closes, if the Olympic games come to town? Is there really a ghost? And where, oh where, did the key come from anyway? Monty is determined to find out.

## Key Selling Points

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- **CELEBRATES BLACK BOY JOY:** This book is a joyful, middle grade novel featuring an African American boy enjoying being the kid he is in the summer of 2008.
- **A NEW LOOK AT THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO:** A community should not be defined solely by its struggles, and the Washington Park community on the South Side of Chicago has a dynamic and interesting history ready to be shared.
- **BLACK JOCKEYS:** The book highlights the hidden history of horse racing in Washington Park and the Black jockeys who raced. It also reveals the current Black horsemen keeping that history alive.
- **STEM CONNECTIONS:** Monty, our ten-year-old protagonist, solves mysteries by his firm belief in the scientific method. The scientific method is featured often in the book.

## Contributor Bios

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**Tracy Occomy Crowder** is a community organizer who has worked to address issues of racial equity across Illinois for the past thirty years, particularly in housing and education. In this work, she brought recess back to Chicago Public Schools. As an author, she enjoys creating work steeped in African American history, culture, struggles, and human foibles as well as sharing unknown historical facts with humor and everyday experiences. This is Tracy's first middle grade novel. She can be found at [blackteacupmysteries.com](http://blackteacupmysteries.com)

## Comparison Titles

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978-1-64379-046-6	Julieta and the Diamond Enigma	\$19.95
978-0-54486-813-7	Rebound	\$16.99
978-0-39918-735-3	My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich	\$16.99
978-1-52471-595-3	The Season of Styx Malone	\$17.99
978-0-54595-278-1	The Parker Inheritance	\$18.99



# When a Brown Girl Flees

by Aamna Qureshi

Young Adult Novel  
Tu Books

September 19, 2023

## Hardcover

978-164379-505-8

\$24.95

## E-book

978-164379-506-5

\$24.95

**Page Count:** 384

**Trim Size:** 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

**Ages:** 12 to 18

**Grades:** 7 to 12

**Carton Quantity:** 24

## BISAC Categories

YAF / Social Themes / Mental Illness

YAF / Religious / Muslim

YAF / Family / Parents

## Keynote

**In this searing contemporary YA novel from new voice Aamna Qureshi, a Muslim teen runs away from home only to find herself on a breathtaking journey of healing, self-love, and hope.**

## Summary

After Zahra Paracha makes a decision at odds with her beliefs, her mother forces Zahra to make an impossible choice about her future. So Zahra runs away. A train and a plane ride later, she finds herself in New York, where she relinquishes her past in favor of a new future. There, she must learn who she is without the marionette strings of control in



her mother's hands. There, she must learn who she wishes to become.

On Long Island, Zahra stays at a bed & breakfast, unsure of her place in the world. Anxious, depressed, and grappling with guilt, she wanders aimlessly. She eventually visits the local masjid, where she is befriended by two sisters and drawn into the welcoming Muslim community there.

It is in this place of safety that Zahra's healing truly begins—but can she create a home for herself when the foundation is built on lies she's spun to protect her from the past? When a family friend recognizes her, will everything come crashing down? As Zahra tries to build a life for herself in this new place, the heart of the matter becomes clear: she can't run away forever. Can she close the rift in her family and truly, fully heal?

In this powerful novel from new voice Aamna Qureshi, a Muslim teen goes on a breathtaking journey to find her home and—more importantly—herself.

### Key Selling Points

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- A HOT NEW LITERARY AUTHOR: In the vein of Sabaa Tahir's award-winning *All My Rage*, the evocative prose of Aamna Qureshi will hook young adult readers.
- A STORY OF FAMILY: In the vein of Fatima Farheen Mirza's acclaimed *A Place for Us*, Aamna Qureshi's nuanced and intimate take on a complex immigrant Muslim Pakistani family who are learning, and sometimes failing, to understand one another's perspectives.
- WHAT IT MEANS TO BE MUSLIM: This emotionally moving novel focuses on what it means to be both American and Muslim, including the clash of religious and cultural tradition with modern ideas and the right to choose one's path.
- FINDING ONE'S PLACE: This profound novel focuses on the idea of finding one's place in life: literally, figuratively, emotionally, culturally, and on all levels—including a place within one's family, and even inside oneself.
- A CLASSIC BILDUNGSROMAN: With specific culture and circumstances but universal themes, *When a Brown Girl Flees* is a coming-of-age novel that navigates trauma, faith, self-love, and mental health.
- CHOOSING HOPE: A compelling story showcasing the vital message of hope for depressed, anxious, and other mentally ill young people struggling to find their place in the world, and how healing can be nonlinear; a riveting take on the ways in which loved ones hurt and heal each other.

## Contributor Bios

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**Aamna Qureshi** is a Muslim Pakistani American who adores words. She is the award-winning author of the YA fantasy novel *The Lady or the Lion*. She grew up on Long Island, New York, in a very loud household, surrounded by English (for school), Urdu (for conversation), and Punjabi (for emotion). Much of her childhood was spent being grounded for reading past her bedtime and writing stories in the backs of her notebooks. When she's not writing, she loves to travel to new places where she can explore different cultures, or to Pakistan where she can revitalize her roots. She also loves baking complicated desserts, drinking fancy teas and coffees, watching sappy rom-coms, and going for walks about the estate (her backyard). She currently lives in New York. Look for her at [aamnaqureshi.com](http://aamnaqureshi.com).

## Comparison Titles

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978-148149-925-5	Saints and Misfits	\$12.99
978-006297-241-5	An Emotion of Great Delight	\$19.99
978-125030-886-3	Not the Girls You're Looking For	\$14.99
978-148148-776-4	Summer Bird Blue	\$13.99
978-031635-137-9	As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow	\$18.99
978-133541-865-4	You Truly Assumed	\$18.99
978-193595-595-5	Gabi, A Girl in Pieces	\$12.95
978-152470-051-5	I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter	\$12.99

## Related Backlist

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978-074430-344-5	The Lady or the Lion	\$24.99
978-074430-557-9	The Man or the Monster	\$19.99