



Spring 2025 Titles

Children's Book Press

Roses for Isabella — paperback picture book
Rosas para Isabella — paperback Spanish picture book

Cinco Puntos Press

Cuando una mujer se levanta — paperback Spanish Adult novel
Los heroes gemelos y la magia de la canción — Spanish MG graphic novel
Olor a perfume de viejita — paperback Spanish YA novel
This Thing Called the Future — paperback YA novel
¡Tocamos! — hardcover picture book
Under Water — paperback YA novel

Lee & Low Books

A Sky That Sings — hardcover picture book
Edie for Equality — hardcover picture book

Tu Books

The Doomsday Detectives — hardcover MG hybrid nonfiction
Flying in Colors — hardcover MG novel
The Reel Wish — hardcover MG novel
El deseo de mi corazón — hardcover Spanish MG novel



Roses for Isabella

by Diana Cohn

illustrated by Amy Córdova Boone

Picture Book

Children's Book Press

April 8, 2025

Paperback

978-089239-485-2

\$12.95

E-book

978-089239-486-9

\$12.95

Page Count: 32

Trim Size: 8-3/4" x 9-3/4"

Ages: 5 to 10

Grades: K to 5

Carton Quantity: 100

BISAC Categories

JUV / People & Places / Caribbean & Latin America

JUV / Lifestyles / Farm & Ranch Life

JUV / Recycling & Green Living

Keynote

Stop and smell the roses of Ecuador with Isabella as she learns how treating farmworkers and Mother Earth fairly makes the world bloom! Tambien disponible en español.

Summary

Isabella loves to write, especially about the vibrant flowers her parents grow as farmworkers. When her teacher announces a school writing contest in honor of Pachamama, Mother Earth, Isabella decides to write about the rose farms where "pink, red, yellow, and orange roses grow in rows that go on forever."

In sweet poems and journal entries, Isabella notes how her parents feel much better working at a new Fair Trade farm. This new farm takes a lot of steps to keep both farmworkers and the environment safe, like avoiding dangerous pesticides that make people, especially farmworkers, sick. With clear, joyful text by acclaimed author Diana Cohn, and captivating illustrations, *Roses for Isabella* introduces readers to the cultural traditions of Ecuador and the importance of making choices that support farmworkers and the environment. Award-winning illustrator Amy Córdova Boone presents Isabella's world in artwork as vibrant as her beloved flowers. Join Isabella in this celebration of farmworkers and the beautiful gifts we receive from Mother Earth!

Key Selling Points

- Originally published in 2011 and celebrated for its important message and beautiful artwork, this joyful book is now available as a simultaneous English and Spanish edition with updated backmatter and a refreshed design.
- Appealing to children's strong sense of fairness, this vibrant book gives a simple explanation of the importance of labor rights.
- Vibrant depiction of Ecuador that weaves in elements of its traditional culture through the text and illustrations. A Spanish edition with text by an Ecuadorian translator is also available.
- Sweet story of a little girl taking pride in the agricultural work done by her parents, promoting appreciation of farmworkers.
- Isabella's love of writing, and the support from her teacher and parents, encourages readers to explore writing about their lives.
- Rare picture book that gives children a glimpse into the conditions of how flowers are harvested.
- Isabella's love for Pachamama opens the way for great discussions for how we can take care of and show our appreciation for the environment. A great title for Earth Day celebrations!
- An afterword, written with a Fair Trade USA™ activist, explains the organization's history and mission.

Reviews

"The strength of award-winning Córdova's illustrations is in her use of vivid, beautiful colors and expression. . . . Exposing children to this kind of book encourages a global awareness that can only serve them as they grow up in a world where issues such as Fair Trade become increasingly important." —*Foreword Reviews*

"Colorful folk-art–style drawings in marker and gouache add an authenticity to this South American tale . . . celebrating the benefits of fair trade and environmental consciousness." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Isabella, through the conceit of a school writing project, teaches readers about her Ecuadorian parents' fight against pesticides and for fair-trade status for their rose farm. . . . Córdova's fluid, vibrant-hued paintings enliven the presentation." —*School Library Journal*

Contributor Bios

Diana Cohn has worked on environmental, economic, and global justice issues as a teacher and a media activist, and an advisor, a program officer, and an executive director in philanthropic institutions. She is the award-winning author of seven children's books, including *¡Si Se Puede! / Yes We Can! Janitor Strike in L.A.*, *The Bee Tree*, and *Crane Boy*, all published by Cinco Puntos Press/Lee & Low Books. She lives with her husband on a houseboat in northern California.

Amy Córdova Boone is an artist, an arts educator, a conference presenter/lecturer, and a nationally recognized children's book illustrator and author. Córdova Boone has received the prestigious Pura Belpré Award Honor twice, as well as other national recognition for her vibrant art. Her delicious, saturated, colorful paintings are found in museums and private collections throughout the US and Europe. She lives in Oaxaca, México. Visit her at amycordova.com.

Comparison Titles

978-160060-367-9	Seeds of Change	\$19.95
978-178026-180-5	Juliana's Bananas: Where Do Your Bananas Come From?	\$9.95
978-089239-374-9	Rainbow Weaver/Tejedora del arcoíris	\$20.95
978-006122-781-3	Side By Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and César Chavez	\$17.99

Related Backlist

978-193595-514-6	The Bee Tree	\$11.95
978-164379-635-2	Dream Carver	\$12.95
978-093831-789-0	¡Si, Se Puede! / Yes We Can!	\$11.95
978-160060-655-7	The Blue Roses	\$11.95



Rosas para Isabella (Roses for Isabella)

by Diana Cohn; Claudia Oemer
illustrated by Amy Córdova Boone

Picture Book
Children's Book Press
April 8, 2025

Paperback

978-089239-487-6

\$12.95

E-book

978-089239-488-3

\$12.95

Page Count: 32

Trim Size: 8-3/4" x 9-3/4"

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JUV / Lifestyles / Farm & Ranch Life

JUV / Recycling & Green Living

Keynote

¡Detente y huele las rosas del Ecuador con Isabella, mientras ella aprende cómo tratar a los trabajadores agrícolas y a la Madre Tierra de una manera justa hace que el mundo florezca! Also available in English.

Stop and smell the roses of Ecuador with Isabella as she learns how treating farmworkers and Mother Earth fairly makes the world bloom!

Summary

A Isabela le encanta escribir, especialmente sobre las flores vibrantes que sus padres cultivan como trabajadores agrícolas. Cuando su profesora anuncia un concurso de escritura para una asamblea escolar en honor a la Pachamama, la Madre Tierra, Isabela decide escribir sobre las fincas de rosas en donde "rosas rosadas, rojas, amarillas y anaranjadas crecen en filas que no terminan nunca".

En dulces poemas y anotaciones en su diario, Isabella menciona cómo sus padres se sienten mucho mejor trabajando en una nueva finca de Comercio Justo. La finca toma varias medidas para mantener seguros tanto a los trabajadores agrícolas como al medio ambiente, como tratar de no usar pesticidas peligrosas que hacen que la gente, especialmente trabajadores agrícolas, se enfermen. Con un texto claro y alegre de la premiada autora Diana Cohn e ilustraciones cautivadoras, *Rosas para Isabela* presenta a los lectores las tradiciones culturales del Ecuador y la importancia de tomar decisiones que apoyen a los trabajadores agrícolas y al medio ambiente. La premiada ilustradora Amy Córdova Boone presenta el mundo de Isabela en obras de arte tan vibrantes como sus amadas flores. ¡Únete a Isabela en esta celebración de los trabajadores agrícolas y los hermosos regalos que recibimos de la Madre Tierra!

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Comparison Titles

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	Side by Side/Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores	
978-006122-781-3	Huerta and Cesar Chavez/La Historia de Dolores Huerta y Cesar Chavez	\$17.99
978-164379-741-0	Semillas de cambio	\$13.95
978-178026-180-5	Juliana's Bananas: Where Do Your Bananas Come From?	\$9.95

Related Backlist

978-193595-514-6	The Bee Tree	\$11.95
978-164379-635-2	Dream Carver	\$12.95
978-093831-789-0	¡Si, Se Puede! / Yes We Can!	\$11.95
978-160060-655-7	The Blue Roses	\$11.95



Quando una mujer se levanta

(When a Woman Rises)

by Christine Eber

Cinco Puntos Press

Originally Published May 4, 2021

Lee & Low Books March 25, 2025

Paperback

978-194762-740-6

\$18.95

E-book

978-164379-758-8

\$18.95

Page Count: 208

Trim Size: 6" x 9"

Ages: Adult

Carton Quantity: 30

BISAC Categories

FICTION / Hispanic & Latino / General

FICTION / Indigenous / Life Stories

FICTION / Women

Keynote

Magdalena, su mejor amiga Lucia, y su hija Veronica, tres mujeres zapatistas, manejan la pobreza y las expectativas sociales en los Altos de Chiapas. Un tributo al poder de las mujeres y la comunidad.

Magdalena, her best friend Lucia, and her daughter Veronica, three Zapatista women, navigate poverty and societal expectations in their small Chiapas town. A tribute to the power of women and community.

Summary

Magdalena y su hija Veronica estan unidas por las expectativas culturales en los Altos de Chiapas. Buscando liberacion dentro de ellas mismas y en la comunidad, Magdalena recuerda su amistad con Lucia, quien emigró al norte en busca de trabajo y desapareció. Magdalena le cuenta a su hija Verónica que ellas sonaban en ser maestras, y cómo la pobreza y los roles de género les robaron sus sueños. A traves de sus historias y experiencias compartidas, cada mujer se mantuvo fiel a sí misma: Lucía como líder zapatista y curandera; Magdalena como tejedora y organizadora comunitaria, y Veronica que encuentra su poder como entrevistadora y narradora, que recopila y lleva registro de las historias de las mujeres zapatistas.

Magdalena and her daughter Veronica are bound by cultural expectations in their highlands town of Chiapas. Searching for liberation within themselves and their community, Magdalena recalls her friendship with Lucia, who migrated north to find work and disappeared. Magdalena tells her daughter Veronica how they had once yearned to be teachers and how poverty and gender roles stole away their dreams. Through story and shared experience, each woman remains true to herself: Lucia as a Zapatista leader and curandera, Magdalena as a weaver and community organizer, and Veronica as an interviewer and storyteller, who compiles and keeps record of the stories of the many Zapatista women around her.

Key Selling Points

- **Uplifts Indigenous communities:** Illustrates the importance of community through the example of the Indigenous people in the Chiapas highlands.
- **Combats societal expectations and norms:** Magdalena, Lucia, and Veronica not only learn to break free of the expectations placed on them as women, they learn to love who they are and come to thrive in that identity.
- **Shines a spotlight on Zapatista women:** A beautiful insight into the lives of Zapatista women and how women have flourished in the Zapatista way of life.

Awards

International Latino Book Award Finalist - Empowering Latino Futures

Reviews

* "This is a wonderfully written coming-of-age novel with a great balance of anecdotes about the Chiapas culture and a central driving narrative about tragedy and the lives of women bound by culture and expectations." — *School Library Journal*, starred review

Contributor Bios

In 1987, **Christine Eber** lived for a year with a family in San Pedro Chenalhó, doing fieldwork for her PhD in Anthropology. She shared daily life with women and their families, witnessing the difficulties they faced. It changed her life. Now, as a respected anthropologist, she continues to work with the Indigenous women of Chiapas, visiting communities on a regular basis and supporting the woman-organized weaving collectives. Her most recent book is *The Journey of a Tzotzil-Maya Woman: Pass Well Over the Earth*, which she co-authored with Antonia. She lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico, with her husband, Mike, and dog Sami.

Comparison Titles

978-039955-549-7	Before We Were Free	\$11.99
978-059374-377-5	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store	\$16.99
978-156512-976-4	In the Time of Butterflies	\$18.99



Los héroes gemelos y la magia de la canción

(Leyendas de la serpiente
emplumada #2)

by David Bowles

illustrated by Charlene Bowles

Middle Grade Graphic Novel

Cinco Puntos Press

April 15, 2025

Paperback

978-194762-770-3

\$15.95

E-book

978-194762-772-7

\$15.95

Page Count: 80

Trim Size: 7" x 10-1/2"

Ages: 8 to 12

Grades: 3 to 8

Carton Quantity: 36

BISAC Categories

JUV / Comics & Graphic Novels / Fairy Tales, Folklore, Legends & Mythology

JUV / People & Places / Mexico

JUV / Comics & Graphic Novels / Fantasy

Keynote

En esta novela gráfica que reinventa un cuento indígena mexicano, los gemelos semidiosos usan la magia de la canción para rescatar a su padre y a su tío de la peligrosa tierra de los muertos. Una aventura suprema de grado medio!

In this graphic novel retelling of an Indigenous Mexican tale, demigod twins must use

their magic of song to rescue their father and uncle from the perilous Land of the Dead. A supreme middle-grade adventure!

Summary

En la época en que los semidioses mayas vivían entre nosotros, dos hermanos despreocupados, Uno Hunahpu y Siete Hunahpu, son atraídos a Xibalbá, la Tierra de los Muertos, para jugar. Desafortunadamente, fue un viaje sin regreso. Incapaces de regresar al mundo rodeado de mar, los hijos primogénitos de Uno Hunahpu deben ser criados por su abuela.

Sin embargo, no toda esperanza está perdida. En Xibalbá, Uno Hunahpu conoce a la rebelde Lady Blood, y su amor conduce a otro par de hijos gemelos, destinados a salvar a su padre y a su tío y restaurar el equilibrio del cosmos. ¡Pero no será fácil! Lady Blood es rechazada en el mundo de arriba, y los gemelos se burlan de las crueles bromas de sus medio hermanos. Si eligen usar un poco de magia engañosa, tal vez... sólo tal vez... puedan tener éxito.

Adaptada de los recuentos y traducciones del autor David Bowles de textos precolombinos esenciales como el *Popol Vuh*, la serie Cuentos de la serpiente emplumada da vida a las historias indígenas mesoamericanas para los lectores jóvenes.

In the age when Maya demigods lived among us, two carefree brothers, One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu, are lured to Xibalba, the Land of the Dead, to play a game. Unfortunately, it is a one-way trip. Unable to return to the sea-ringed world above, One Hunahpu's firstborn sons must be raised by their grandmother.

Yet all hope is not lost. Down in Xibalba, One Hunahpu meets the rebellious Lady Blood, and their love leads to another set of twin sons, destined to save their father and uncle and restore balance to the cosmos. But it won't be easy! Lady Blood is shunned in the world above, and the twins are taunted by their half-brothers' cruel pranks. If they choose to use a little trickster magic, maybe . . . just maybe . . . they might succeed.

Adapted from author David Bowles's retellings and translations of essential pre-Columbian texts like the *Popol Vuh*, the Tales of the Feathered Serpent series brings Indigenous Mesoamerican stories to life for young readers!

Key Selling Points

- **Perfect for fans of myth and legend:** Fans of Rick Riordan Presents' *Storm Runner* and the graphic-novel versions of *Aru Shah and the End of Time* and *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* will flock to this exciting and page-turning graphic-novel adventure.
- **A graphic novel teachers will love:** An invaluable tool for middle-school classrooms—a well-researched introduction to Indigenous pre-Columbian tales made accessible by an expert in Mesoamerican culture and juvenile literature.
- **The continuation of a series:** *The Hero Twins and the Magic of Song* is the next installment in the Tales of the Feathered Serpent series after *Rise of the Halfling King*. Each book in the series stands alone.
- **A companion to the original YA collection:** Bowles previously stitched together tales from Maya, Aztec, and other ancient mythology in the critically-acclaimed YA book *Feathered Serpent, Dark Heart of Sky*.
- **Engaging mythology for a growing Latine population:** These exciting stories that honor a rich pre-Columbian and Indigenous cultural heritage will resonate with young Latine readers in the US.

Contributor Bios

David Bowles is a Mexican American author and translator from South Texas, where he teaches literature and Nahuatl at the University of Texas Río Grande Valley. Among his thirty published books are the multiple-award-winning *They Call Me Güero*, as well as the series *Garza Twins*, *13th Street*, and *Clockwork Curandera*. He is the current vice president of the Texas Institute of Letters.

Charlene Bowles is a Mexican American comic artist and illustrator from South Texas. In addition to the Tales of the Feathered Serpent series, she has illustrated several readers for educational programs and designed the covers of multiple books, including the *Garza Twins* series. She is presently writing her first children's book and graphic novel.

Comparison Titles

978-162672-525-6	Hermes	\$10.99
978-136807-500-8	Rick Riordan Presents Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky, the Graphic Novel	\$12.99
978-136807-505-3	Rick Riordan Presents Aru Shah and the End of Time (Graphic Novel)	\$12.99
978-136802-360-3	The Storm Runner	\$7.99
978-144245-263-3	Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom	\$6.99

Related Backlist

978-194762-737-6	Rise of the Halfling King	\$14.95
978-162014-592-0	The Witch Owl Parliament	\$18.95
978-162014-786-3	El verano de las mariposas	\$16.95
978-194102-672-4	Feathered Serpent, Dark Heart of Sky	\$19.95
978-164379-514-0	El parlamento de lechuzas	\$17.95



Olor a perfume de viejita

(The Smell of Old Lady Perfume)

by Claudia Guadalupe Martínez

Translated by

Luis Humberto Crosthwaite

Middle Grade Novel

Cinco Puntos Press

Originally Published November 20, 2018

Lee & Low Books April 8, 2025

Paperback

978-194102-696-0

\$18.95

E-book

978-194102-699-1

\$18.95

Page Count: 288

Trim Size: 5" x 7"

Ages: 8 to 13

Grades: 3 to 8

Carton Quantity: 44

BISAC Categories

JUV / Family / Parents

JUV / Hispanic & Latino

JUV / Girls & Women

Keynote

En esta clásica historia sobre la mayoría de edad, Chela enfrenta los desafíos del sexto grado luego de perder a su padre, su mujer amigo.

In this classic coming-of-age story, Chela faces the challenges of sixth grade after losing her father, her very best friend.

Summary

La novela para jóvenes de Claudia Martínez es una historia agri dulce sobre la muerte, familia, y la resistencia de la fuerza emocional del corazón. Chela Gonzalez, la narradora del libro, es una nerd y futbolista que apenas puede contener su emoción de empezar el sexto grado. Pero nada es como se lo había imaginado—su mejor amiga la deja para juntarse con las niñas populares y ellas todas hacen como si no existe Chela. Ella se enfoca en tarea y el consuelo de su familia. Para Chela, su familia es como el sistema solar, con su papá el sol y su mamá, hermanos, y hermana como planetas rodeando alrededor de él. Es el único universo en el que ella encaja.

Pero ese universo es amenazado cuando su papá sufre de un derrame cerebral. La abuela de Chela se viene a vivir con ellos para ayudarles. El olor a perfume de viejita invade la casa. El olor es peor que los domingos. Los domingos eran tristes, pero siempre pasaban, la muerte es otra cosa completa. Chela no entiende lo que todos están esperando. Entre su tristeza, preocupación, y el olor a perfume de viejita, Chela empieza a descubrirse a sí misma, y encuentra su propia fuerza.

Chela Gonzalez is a nerd and a soccer player who can barely contain her excitement about beginning the sixth grade. But nothing is as she imagined. Her best friend turns on her to join the popular girls, and they all act like she doesn't exist. Chela buries herself in schoolwork and the warm comfort of her family. To Chela, her family is a solar system with her father the sun and her mother, brothers, and sister like planets rotating around him. It's the only universe in which she fits in.

But this universe is threatened when her father has a stroke. Chela's grandmother moves in to help the family, and the smell of her old lady perfume invades the house. The smell is like Sundays, sad, but sure to pass. Death, however, is a whole other thing, and Chela doesn't realize it's what everyone is waiting for. Can Chela find her strength amidst her grief and worry and the smell of old lady perfume?

A bittersweet story about death, family, and the resilient emotional strength of the human heart.

Key Selling Points

- **Deals with grief and healing:** Chela loses her father to a stroke, the only person she could confide in. The story shows Chela's grief and her journey to healing, by focusing on the memories and love of her father and accepting his passing. Life goes on, and it goes on with the memories of those we love most.
- **Latine family:** Chela's family is a true multi-generational Latinx family, especially with the inclusion of her grandmother and her awful smelling perfume. This story conveys the quirks and love expressed by a Latinx household.
- **Nerdy and sporty pre-teen girl:** Chela is an excellent student, and spends her time practicing for the school soccer tournament. Chela learns to take pride in and excels in both sides of herself.

Reviews

"Readers will also find the book's loving portrayal of Chela's family, its nicely realized setting, and its artful exploration of the problems of assimilation to be both engaging and heartfelt." —*Booklist*

"This is a sweet coming-of-age story, telling of the cruelties of children toward one another and dealing with the loss of a parent. The story should appeal to readers dealing with their own tween years." —*School Library Journal*

"*The Smell of Old Lady Perfume* is a touching story that will teach lessons on loss, family, loneliness, and the importance of being oneself. . . The novel's easy language reads like genuine narration from a sixth grader and complements the story's complex themes." —*Foreword Reviews*

Contributor Bios

Claudia Guadalupe Martínez has called Mexico and the US home. Her core childhood memories are set in El Paso, Texas. This dynamic of growing up between borders inspires her writing. She is the recipient of two Texas Institute of Letters Best Young Adult Book Awards, a Paterson Prize for Books for Young People, an Américas Award Commendation, a Junior Library Guild Award, and multiple starred reviews. She now lives with her family in Illinois. You can find her at claudiaguadalupe martinez.com.

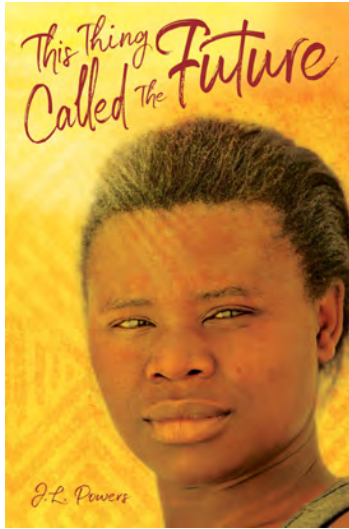
Luis Humberto Crosthwaite was born in Tijuana, Mexico. A journalist and jefe at a small press called Yoremito, he has also worked on a number of highly acclaimed translations such as *Still Dreaming/Seguimos Soñando*. Whoever looks into his heart would see the Pacific Ocean--ah, those beautiful sunsets! He lives with his family in the same town that he was born.

Comparison Titles

978-076369-049-6	Merci Suarez Changes Gears	\$18.99
978-059356-397-7	Ivalez Explains it All	\$16.99
978-145216-998-9	The Other Half of Happy	\$16.99

Related Backlist

978-158089-815-7	Not a Bean	\$16.99
978-193369-388-0	The Smell of Old Lady Perfume	\$14.98
978-193595-577-1	Pig Park	\$9.95



This Thing Called the Future

by J.L. Powers

Young Adult Novel

Cinco Puntos Press

Originally Published September 20, 2020

Lee & Low Books April 1, 2025

Paperback

978-194762-710-9

\$18.95

E-book

978-193595-510-8

\$18.95

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Trim Size: 6" x 9"

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Grades: 8 to 12

Carton Quantity: 34

BISAC Categories

YAF / Girls & Women

YAF / Places / Africa

YAF / Health & Daily Living / Diseases, Illnesses & Injuries

Keynote

Fourteen-year-old Khosi yearns for this thing called the future—something better than sickness and superstition in a shanty town. Does she want too much? A stunning YA coming-of-age story set in post-apartheid South Africa.

Summary

Khosi lives with her beloved grandmother, her little sister, and her weekend mother in a matchbox house on the outskirts of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. In this shantytown, it seems like somebody is dying all the time. Billboards everywhere warn of the disease

of the day. When Khosi's mother turns sick, she refuses any care. No traditional Zulu medicine. When Khosi tries to take her mother to a western doctor, her mother tells her not to bother and to stay in school. Only education will save Khosi and her sister from the poverty and ignorance of the old Zulu ways.

School, though, is not bad. There is a boy her own age there, Little Man Ncobo, and she loves his blue-black lips and the color of his skin, so much darker than her own. But he mocks her when a witch's curse and a neighbor's accusations send her scrambling off to the sangoma's hut in search of a healing potion. She doesn't know what it is that makes the blood come up from her choking lungs. Witchcraft? A curse? AIDS? What must she do to save her mother from wasting before their eyes?

Key Selling Points

- **Addresses how cultural superstitions affect a community's health:** This book highlights the interplay between traditional and western medicine among a Zulu community.
- **A great classroom resource for discussing HIV/AIDS:** Although medicine has reduced the crisis of HIV/AIDS within Africa today, this book opens a window to the fear and conversations around how a community deals with disease—a timeless topic for educators and readers to discuss.
- **Resilient young African protagonist:** Features the strength and tenacity of a young, Black African teen who wants nothing more than to protect her family and to live her life to the fullest.

Awards

Best Fiction for Young Adults - Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)

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

Best Teen Books - Kirkus Reviews

Jean Flynn Award for Best Young Adult Book - Texas Institute of Letters (TIL)

60 Years, 60 Great Books - Delta College

Paterson Prize for Books for Young People - Passaic County Community College

Social Justice in Children's / YA Reading List - St. Catherine University

Reviews

* "This is a fascinating glimpse into a worldview that, while foreign to many readers, is made plausible through Khosi's practical and conflicted perspective." – *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, starred review

"This novel takes a loving, clear-eyed look at the clash of old and new through the experience of one appealing teenager. . . A compassionate and moving window on a harsh world." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"A compelling, often harrowing portrait of a struggling country, where old beliefs and rituals still have power, but can't erase the problems of the present. Readers will be fully invested in Khosi's efforts to secure a better future." – *Publishers Weekly*

"Despite pervasive HIV and the specter of rape, as well as the restrictions on girls' freedom that are her society's only response, Khosi manages to find her power, refuse to be a victim, and carve out a future for herself that embraces both the modern and the traditional." – *The Horn Book*

"This is a powerfully gripping, eye-opening novel that doesn't pull any punches, and readers will long remember Khosi and the trials and tribulations facing South Africans as they venture forth into the modern world while desperately holding onto their heritage." – *School Library Journal*

"Captures the local conflicts as well as the universal coming-of-age themes. Teens will sympathize with Khosi's weariness at hearing about her parents' heroic role in the past 'struggle,' and the tense story builds skillfully to an anguished revelation readers will want to discuss." – *Booklist*

Contributor Bios

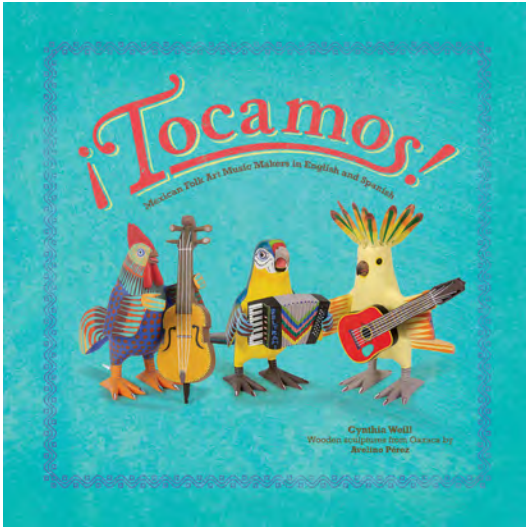
J.L. Powers is a novelist and scholar. She holds master's degrees in African History from State University of New York-Albany and Stanford University. After winning a Fulbright-Hayes to study Zulu in South Africa, she served as a visiting scholar in Stanford's African Studies Department. Today, she lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

Comparison Titles

978-031623-084-1	We Need New Names	\$17.99
978-140009-520-9	Half of a Yellow Sun	\$17.99
978-161620-241-5	Purple Hibiscus	\$18.99

Related Backlist

978-194762-704-8	Under Water	\$17.95
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¡Tocamos!

Mexican Folk Art Music Makers in English and Spanish

by Cynthia Weill

illustrated by Avelino Pérez

Picture Book

Cinco Puntos Press

February 25, 2025

Hardcover

978-194762-781-9

\$19.95

E-book

978-194762-784-0

\$19.95

Page Count: 32

Trim Size: 7-1/2" x 7-1/2"

Ages: 3 to 6

Grades: Pre-K to 2

Carton Quantity: 36

BISAC Categories

JNF / Music / Instruments

JNF / People & Places / Mexico

JNF / Art / Sculpture

Keynote

Young readers will delight in learning about a wide variety of musical instruments in English and Spanish through beautifully handcrafted sculptures from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Los lectores jóvenes se deleitarán aprendiendo sobre una amplia variedad de instrumentos musicales en inglés y español a través de bellas esculturas hechas a mano en Oaxaca, México.

Summary

Musical feathered friends gather to form an ensemble! A rooster brings a double bass, a crow totes a trombone, and a macaw carries an accordion. They are almost all together

but wait—someone is missing! Once the final member joins the group, the music begins!

Featuring vibrant wood carvings and rhythmic text that's fun to read aloud in both English and Spanish, *¡Tocamos!* introduces children to many orchestral instruments played at concerts in Mexican town squares. Each bird was lovingly hand carved and painted by master woodcarver Avelino Pérez who lives in Oaxaca, Mexico. Both Cynthia and Avelino are delighted to teach children the names of instrumentos musicales in Spanish and English.

¡Amigos musicales emplumados se reúnen para formar un conjunto! Un gallo trae un contrabajo, un cuervo lleva un trombón y una guacamaya lleva un acordeón. Están casi todos juntos pero espera, falta alguien. Una vez que el último miembro se une al grupo, ¡comienza la música!

Con vibrantes tallas de madera y texto rítmico que es divertido leer en voz alta tanto en inglés como en español, *¡Tocamos!* presenta a los niños muchos instrumentos orquestales que se tocan en conciertos en las plazas de las ciudades mexicanas. Cada pájaro fue cuidadosamente tallado y pintado a mano por el maestro tallador de madera Avelino Pérez, que vive en Oaxaca, México. Tanto Cynthia como Avelino están encantados de enseñar a los niños los nombres de instrumentos musicales en español e inglés.

Key Selling Points

- Introduces young readers to different types of musical instruments and members of an ensemble in English and Spanish.
- Colorful handmade woodcarvings bring the wide variety of birds and instruments featured on the pages to life, making each spread a visual treat.
- Young readers will be excited to turn each page and see the build up to the ensemble fully assembled and ready to perform.
- Encourages a love of reading and music in young readers.
- The eighth book in Cynthia Weill's critically acclaimed Mexican Folk Art series. The previous title in the series, *Vámonos*, received a starred review from *Kirkus Reviews*.
- The book's small size is ideal for little hands.

Contributor Bios

Cynthia Weill's fascination with the crafts of Oaxaca began while she was working in Mexico as a Fulbright exchange teacher. She has published several books in the Mexican Folk Art series, which features different folk art of Oaxaca. Many of the figures showcased in this series are now part of the permanent Mesoamerican Anthropology collections at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois. Cindy lives in New York City and can be found online at cynthiaweill.net.

Wood carving artisan **Avelino Pérez** loves his state's local concerts and enjoyed using his musical birds to represent these musicians and their instruments. It took him months to hand carve every single figure to help teach children about musicians and instruments in Spanish and English. Avelino lives in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Comparison Titles

978-059330-385-6	Hello, World! Music	\$8.99
978-163878-736-5	Let's Play an Instrument: A Music Book for Kids	\$7.99
979-883391-735-0	I Spy Music Instruments	\$6.99

Related Backlist

978-194762-768-0	Opuestos	\$11.95
978-164379-634-5	ABeCedarios	\$11.95
978-194762-760-4	Vámonos	\$19.95
978-164379-657-4	Animal Talk	\$11.95
978-164379-660-4	Colores de la vida	\$11.95
978-164379-658-1	Count Me In!	\$11.95



Under Water

by J.L. Powers

Young Adult Novel
Cinco Puntos Press
March 19, 2019

Paperback

978-194762-704-8

\$12.95

E-book

978-194762-705-5

\$17.95

Page Count: 208

Trim Size: 6" x 9"

Ages: 14 to 18

Grades: 9 to 12

Carton Quantity: 56

BISAC Categories

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

YAF / Places / Africa

YAF / Girls & Women

Keynote

Seventeen-year-old Khosi dreams of finishing school—but how can she chase dreams while navigating rising violence in her South African township and trying to provide for her sister? A moving sequel to the award-winning *This Thing Called the Future*.

Summary

It's been three years since Khosi and her family dealt with her mother's illness, and now her beloved grandmother has died. Khosi is left to survive on her own and take up the responsibilities of her household. She must care for her little sister, make a living as a traditional healer, and somehow, despite everything, finish school. When her urban township in South Africa flares up in violence, Khosi finds herself at the center of the

storm.

A taxi war threatens the safety of every person in town. Accusations of witchcraft swirl around her, despite her every effort to keep her healing practice aboveboard. And her boyfriend has taken another path, one without her in it. The pressure is on as Khosi learns to become the healing woman who her family, her community, and her ancestors need the most.

Key Selling Points

- **A celebration of sisterhood and familial responsibility:** A beautiful depiction of sisterly love and respect
- **Ground level view of political conflict:** Readers will understand how political turmoil affects families trying to survive and live everyday lives.
- **Showcases traditional healing practices without stereotype:** This novel avoids African stereotypes around traditional medicine and highlights the beauty of Zulu healing women.

Reviews

"Intriguing. . . This slowly building novel avoids stereotype, offering a captivating narrative with nuanced perceptions of death, love, and cathartic self-discovery." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"The treasures at the heart of this story are Khosi's relationships—with her sister, whom she would do anything to protect; and with the ancestors, whose interference in her life is at times helpful, at times exasperating." — *The Horn Book*

"Engaging. The depiction of life in Imbali is raw and honest, the struggles of the characters elicit sympathy, and Khosi's questions about what she's meant to do in life will ring familiar with young adult readers." — *Booklist*

"Powers has crafted an inspirational YA story filled with mystery, suspense, and drama. . . All readers will easily root for Khosi, who makes a way out of loss with love and faith; a strong choice for teen libraries." — *School Library Journal*

Contributor Bios

J.L. Powers is a novelist and scholar. Her recent novel *This Thing Called the Future* is a coming-of-age story set in post-Apartheid South Africa. Her previous anthology was *Labor Pains and Birth Stories*. She holds master's degrees in African History from State University of New York-Albany and Stanford University, and won a Fulbright-Hayes to study Zulu in South Africa, and served as a visiting scholar in Stanford's African Studies Department in 2008 and 2009. She lives in San Francisco's Bay area.

Comparison Titles

978-009958-188-8	We Need New Names	\$17.99
978-110197-106-2	Homegoing	\$17.99
978-152474-609-4	The Girl with the Louding Voice	\$16.99

Related Backlist

978-194762-704-8	Under Water	\$17.95
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A Sky That Sings

by Anita Sanchez; George Steele
illustrated by Emily Mendoza

Picture Book
Lee & Low Books
March 18, 2025

Hardcover

978-164379-537-9

\$20.95

E-book

978-164379-715-1

\$20.95

Page Count: 40

Trim Size: 8" x 10"

Ages: 5 to 10

Grades: K to 5

Carton Quantity: 36

BISAC Categories

JUV / Disabilities & Special Needs

JUV / Animals / Birds

JUV / Concepts / Senses & Sensation

Keynote

Mia, a blind girl who enjoys identifying birds by their distinct calls and songs, leads her aunt through the park on a bird-listening adventure!

Summary

Mia and her tía are spending a sunny afternoon at the park bird-listening! Some people enjoy bird-watching, but as a blind person, Mia uses her other senses to identify different birds by their unique calls and songs. She calls it *bird-listening*.

Mia loves naming each of the birds that she hears. *Sweet! Sweet! Sweet!* Is that the

chipper call of a yellow warbler? At first Mia's aunt doesn't know what to expect, but with Mia's guidance, she learns to listen and enjoy the bright melodies pouring from the sky. Their adventure will take them past a lively pond, through the hush of the quiet woods, and up a breezy hilltop for a soaring encounter with Mia's favorite bird of all!

Perfect for bird lovers of every feather, *A Sky That Sings* invites us to open our senses to life's everyday treasures—the delights of nature and spending time with loved ones.

Key Selling Points

- Showcases a blind child who navigates the world independently, whose disability is central to the story but not part of the story's conflict.
- Presents a loving niece-aunt relationship at the heart of the story.
- Highlights how we use our senses to understand and interpret the world.
- A warm and fun depiction of a family of color enjoying nature.
- Introduces readers to a wide variety of birds that are common to many areas in the United States.
- Backmatter includes an author's note with more information about bird-listening and details about each bird featured throughout the story.

Contributor Bios

Anita Sanchez is a writer who lives in the wilds of upstate New York, where she listens for red-tailed hawks in the backyard. Many years of teaching outdoor classes have equipped her with how to introduce students of different abilities to the wonders of nature. She is the author of *Hello, Puddle!* and *Leaflets Three, Let It Be!: The Story of Poison Ivy*. Visit her online at anitasanchez.com.

George Steele has been sharing the joys of nature with children since he was a teenage counselor. His love of birds includes working to reintroduce bald eagles in upstate New York and conducting as many Christmas Bird Counts as possible. He is well known for his ability to converse with owls. George is the coauthor, with Anita Sanchez, of *Wait Till It Gets Dark: A Kid's Guide to Exploring the Night*.

Emily Mendoza is a Mexican American illustrator from Southern California. She received her BFA in illustration from Pratt Institute and is now thriving in Queens, New York! Growing up, she was surrounded by Mexican culture and tradition, where she learned

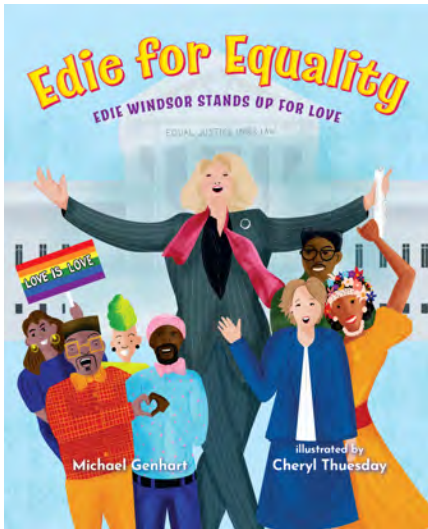
about her Latina roots through her family and illustration. She loves using bright colors and vivid textures to showcase diversity and bring out excitement in her work. Visit her online at emmillustrations.com.

Comparison Titles

978-198489-377-2	Bird Boy	\$18.99
978-145214-542-6	Over and Under the Pond	\$17.99
978-177164-473-0	Birdsong	\$17.95

Related Backlist

978-162014-801-3	If I Were a Tree	\$20.95
978-164379-422-8	A Morning with Grandpa	\$11.95
978-162014-958-4	Kiyoshi's Walk	\$19.95



Edie for Equality

Edie Windsor Stands Up for Love

by Michael Genhart

illustrated by Cheryl Thuesday

Picture Book

Lee & Low Books

May 20, 2025

Hardcover

978-164379-582-9

\$20.95

E-book

978-164379-583-6

\$20.95

Page Count: 40

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

Ages: 7 to 13

Grades: 2 to 8

Carton Quantity: 40

BISAC Categories

JNF / LGBTQ

JNF / Biography & Autobiography / Social Activists

JNF / Social Science / Politics & Government

Keynote

This is a story about a great injustice and how Edie Windsor boldly stood up for what was right and went up against the highest court in the United States.

Summary

Growing up in the 1930s, Edie Windsor hadn't always been bold. In fact, she was a girl who mostly played by the rules and loved math. Numbers added up right every time and equal meant equal. But when the US government refused to acknowledge the loving

relationship of over forty years between her and her spouse Thea Spyer, Edie made a bold move and sued the US government!

In this comprehensive picture book biography, acclaimed author Michael Genhart shares the story of LGBTQ icon Edie Windsor and the pivotal case that set the stage to take down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). In *United States v. Windsor*, Edie's tenacious spirit proved to the Supreme Court and the world that love is love and equal means equal.

Key Selling Points

- The first biography about this important activist in LGBTQ history written for children.
- Offers significant details about Edie's life--her early childhood and discrimination faced, her work as one of the few women computers in NYC, her loving relationship with Thea, and her tenacious fight for equal rights.
- Addresses the inequality gay people have faced in the U.S. and the civil rights cases fought for equal treatment.
- An unlikely hero story where Edie came to activism much later in life and proves it's never too late to stand up for what's right.
- Rich backmatter includes a timeline of LGBTQ civil rights cases, an overview of the US judicial system and process, and an author's note.

Contributor Bios

Michael Genhart, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist and author of several picture books including: *I See You, Love Is Love*, *Rainbow: A First Book of Pride*, and *Spanish Is the Language of My Family*. After being together for 22 years, Michael married the love of his life in 2008--when they could legally marry. He is thrilled to share Edie's and Thea's story about love, commitment, and courage with readers of all ages. You can learn more about him at michaelgenhart.com.

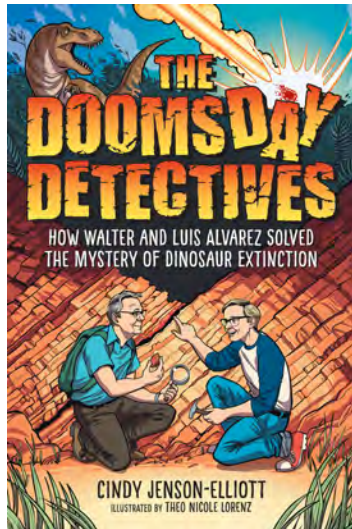
Cheryl "Ras" Tuesday is an illustrator originally from London and who grew up in New Jersey. Her art style and love of vibrant colors are heavily influenced by her Caribbean and Asian heritage. Her book publications include *Kind Like Marsha: Learning from LGBTQ+ Leaders* and *Willis Watson Is a Wannabe*. Ras lives in the tristate area. You can see more of her work at rasillustration.com.

Comparison Titles

978-152471-952-4	Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution	\$18.99
978-178775-530-7	Sylvia and Marsha Start a Revolution!: The Story of the Trans Women of Color Who Made LGBTQ+ History	\$17.95
978-178603-476-2	Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present!	\$22.95
978-076247-500-1	Kind Like Marsha: Learning from LGBTQ+ Leaders	\$17.95
978-143383-087-7	Rainbow: A First Book of Pride	\$14.99

Related Backlist

978-143383-087-7	Rainbow: A First Book of Pride	\$14.99
978-076247-500-1	Kind Like Marsha: Learning from LGBTQ+ Leaders	\$17.95



The Domsday Detectives

How Walter and Luis Alvarez
Solved the Mystery of Dinosaur
Extinction

by Cindy Jenson-Elliott

illustrated by Theo Nicole Lorenz

Middle Grade Nonfiction

Tu Books

March 11, 2025

Hardcover

978-164379-109-8

\$21.95

E-book

978-164379-111-1

\$21.95

Page Count: 224

Trim Size: 6" x 9"

Ages: 10 and Up

Grades: 5 to 8

Carton Quantity: 36

BISAC Categories

JNF / Science & Nature / Disasters

JNF / History / Prehistoric

JNF / Science & Nature / Earth Sciences / General

Keynote

Father-son scientists Luis and Walter Alvarez piece together one of the greatest mysteries of all time: What really happened to the dinosaurs? Dive into this fun and informative middle grade nonfiction book, which outlines the many important scientific discoveries that aided the Alverezes in their search for answers.

Summary

Cretaceous earth was known as the age of dinosaurs. But really, it was the age of LIFE—scaled and feathered, furry and leathered, budding, blooming, roaring, zooming, buzzing, glorious LIFE--until . . .

DOOMSDAY.

For 66 million years, the mystery of what happened to the dinosaurs lay hidden under layers of sand and silt, until scientists began to piece together the puzzle of what happened on the last day of the ancient world.

Follow the real-life adventures of father-son scientists Luis and Walter Alvarez--along with an army of science detectives—as they unlock the world's most intriguing mystery. Learn how the smallest particles in the universe helped explain what happened to the largest animals that ever walked the planet. Track the timelines of discoveries that had to happen in physics, paleontology, astronomy, and geology, before humans could understand how and why 75 percent of species suddenly went extinct.

This is the story of how scientists add to the sum total of human knowledge, one question at a time, and help us understand our beautiful, tragic, and magnificent world.

Key Selling Points

- **Hybrid nonfiction:** Combines graphic novel elements with narrative nonfiction and is accompanied by many historical photographs and illustrations.
- **Interdisciplinary:** Pulling from geology, astronomy, physics, and paleontology, the text explores how discoveries by scientists from different disciplines helped uncover the mystery of how the dinosaurs went extinct.
- **Great for science curriculums:** Exhaustively researched and presented in a fun, digestible format, this title is perfect as a primary or supplementary text on the subject of the extinction of the dinosaurs.
- **Educational back matter:** Features an extensive glossary as well as a bibliography organized by topic.

Contributor Bios

Cindy Jenson-Elliott is a science and writing teacher for children of all ages and adults, and is the author of 18 nonfiction books for children. She is an ocean swimmer, avid gardener, and explorer of the extraordinary ordinary world. Find her online at cindyjensonelliott.com.

Theo Nicole Lorenz is the illustrator behind several books, including *Dinosaurs with Jobs*, *Unicorns Are Jerks*, and *The Trans Self-Care Workbook*. They live in Saint Paul, Minnesota with their spouse and kid, a ball python, and a pile of cats. Find more of Theo's work at theonicole.com.

Comparison Titles

978-153622-293-7	Discovering Life's Story: Biology's Beginnings	\$22.99
978-069119-525-4	Great Adaptations: Star-Nosed Moles, Electric Eels, and Other Tales of Evolution's Mysteries Solved	\$27.95
978-080272-077-1	Poop Happened	\$18.99
978-162354-095-1	Troublemakers in Trousers	\$18.99
978-080273-422-8	Bugged! How Insects Changed History	\$18.99



Flying in Colors

by Padma Prasad Reddeppa

Middle Grade Novel

Tu Books

May 6, 2025

Hardcover

978-164379-675-8

\$21.95

E-book

978-164379-676-5

\$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

JUV / Family / Multigenerational

JUV / Places / Asia

JUV / Social Themes / Death, Grief, Bereavement

Keynote

Aunties tell nine-year-old Pavi that she's asking too many "big women" questions, but she's tired of grow-up secrets. How are babies born? And why do people die? A beautiful debut about family, tradition, and the healing that comes from finding the answers.

Summary

It's 1975, Tamil Nadu, South India, and nine-year-old Pavi is living a carefree life with her large intergenerational family. Everyday is an adventure. Why not steal 233 mangoes from the neighbor's tree? Or make up grand stories that take her to Jupiter? If only there

wasn't a sadness lingering over the family. You see, her uncle Selva died just five months after she was born.

Pavi may have been just a baby when Selva died, but she feels close to him, as if he's watching over her, helping her when she needs it. But she has so many questions about Selva's death. And why does anyone die when they do?

The grown-ups in Pavi's life are hiding something. They dismiss her questions. For instance, when Pavi and her cousins ask about babies, all anyone says is "Little women are asking big women questions." And when she asks about Selva, there are no answers either. Why is talking about life and death so hard? Pavi is tired of grown-up secrets!

But what if those answers can hurt, or bad things happen? Can prayers and traditions really protect those we love? Pavi is determined to find out.

Key Selling Points

- **Examines the effects of cultural superstitions:** A not-often-seen window into a few Indian superstitions surrounding death, and the effects those cultural beliefs have on children.
- **Age-appropriate handling of miscarriage :** A great book to initiate conversations with children about miscarriage and how to support families in their grief when it happens.
- **Features a complex, multi-generational family:** Captures the complex and dysfunctional aspects of large, close-knit families, and illustrates how we can love our family while setting good boundaries.
- **A fresh take on immigration:** Captures the difficult decisions families make when deciding to emigrate for better opportunities, and shows that the United States is not always the perfect solution for all opportunities.
- **A literary exploration of life's big questions through a child's eyes:** Through humor and authenticity, this book deftly captures a child's perspective as they navigate life's big questions: how we're born, die, and are remembered by those left behind.

Contributor Bios

Padma Prasad Reddeppa was born in Chennai, India, and is a poet, writer, and painter. Her Indian roots provide the material for her imagination. Several of her short stories have been published in various literary magazines in the US and in India. Padma has a postgraduate degree in English literature and was an English lecturer at Stella Maris College, Chennai, before she migrated to the US. Padma is based in Fairfax, Virginia, where she volunteers for the Fairfax Art League. *Flying in Colors* is her debut novel.

Comparison Titles

978-073522-851-1	The Night Diary	\$17.99
978-059335-439-1	Thirst	\$17.99
978-082345-365-8	I Am Kavi	\$18.99
978-076369-049-6	Merci Suarez Changes Gears	\$18.99
978-067973-477-2	The House on Mango Street	\$12.95
978-080372-518-8	A Year Down Yonder	\$18.99
978-080372-290-3	A Long Way from Chicago	\$18.99



The Reel Wish

by Yamile Saied Méndez

Middle Grade Novel

Tu Books

March 18, 2025

Hardcover

978-164379-643-7

\$22.95

E-book

978-164379-645-1

\$22.95

Page Count: 368

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

Ages: 8 to 12

Grades: 4 to 7

Carton Quantity: 36

BISAC Categories

JUV / Social Themes / Friendship

JUV / Performing Arts / Dance

JUV / Social Themes / Depression & Mental Illness

Keynote

After a panic attack prevents Florencia from performing as Clara in *The Nutcracker* and her best friend takes the lead, a new dance style helps her face her anxiety as well as a troubled friendship.

Summary

Ballet is Florencia del Lago's entire world. After years of hard work, she is chosen as Clara in the winter production of *The Nutcracker*. Not only is she the youngest dancer to receive such an honor but also the first Latina. She's on track to be recruited by the best

ballet companies.

Unfortunately, she suffers a panic attack on opening night—on stage, in front of everyone. And then Selena, Florencia's best friend, steps right into the role to replace her. Just like that, Florencia's whole world falls apart—the ballet studio expels her, and her best friend turns on her, tormenting her on social media and in real life.

But even though the one thing she was driven toward has come to an end, therapy and family support help Florencia open up to new experiences. She notices people at school she's never paid attention to before, and she even stumbles upon an Irish dance school and decides to give it a try. Can a new passion for Irish dance help Florencia find the joy of performing on the stage that she lost that fateful winter night?

Key Selling Points

- **Prioritizes mental health:** Features a protagonist who prioritizes her mental wellbeing to the benefit of her school and dance aspirations.
- **Illustrates the effects of cyberbullying:** Perfect for discussion in class or at home, this book portrays the realistic effects of bullying, both online and in real life, and the loss of a close friendship, showing readers the possibility of support and hope through new interests.
- **Celebrates Irish dance:** Introduces the beautiful world of Irish dance to a wider audience.
- **A different kind of Latine dancer:** Highlights Latine participation in the ballet and Irish dance communities, where Latine kids can express themselves outside of any box or restrictions placed on them.

Contributor Bios

Yamile Saied Méndez is the award-winning author of many books for young readers and adults, including *Furia*, *Where Are You From?*, the Horse Country series, and *On These Magic Shores*, among others. She was born and raised in Rosario, Argentina, but has lived most of her life in a lovely valley surrounded by mountains in Utah. She's a graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA Writing program, and a founding member of Las Musas, a marketing collective of Latine writers. Connect with her at yamilesmendez.com.

Comparison Titles

978-006269-178-1	So Done	\$16.99
978-145494-404-1	The Magic in Changing Your Stars	\$8.99
978-006287-205-0	The Sea in Winter	\$9.99
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El deseo de mi corazón

by Yamile Saied Méndez

Middle Grade Novel

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BISAC Categories

JUV / Social Themes / Friendship

JUV / Performing Arts / Dance

JUV / Social Themes / Depression & Mental Illness

Keynote

Cuando un ataque de pánico impide que Florencia actúe como Clara en El Cascanueces y su mejor amiga actúa como Clara en lugar de ella, un nuevo estilo de baile la ayuda a enfrentar su ansiedad y una amistad problemática.

After a panic attack prevents Florencia from performing as Clara in *The Nutcracker* and her best friends takes the lead, a new dance style helps her face her anxiety as well as a troubled friendship.

Summary

El ballet es lo todo para Florencia de Lago. Después de años de arduo trabajo, es elegida como Clara en la producción invernal de El Cascanueces. No sólo es la bailarina más joven en recibir tal honor sino también la primera latina. Está en camino de ser contratada por las mejores compañías de ballet.

Desgraciadamente, sufre un ataque de pánico la noche del estreno-- en el escenario, delante de todos. Y luego Selena, la mejor amiga de Florencia, asume el papel para reemplazarla. Así, todo el mundo de Florencia se desmorona-- el estudio de ballet la expulsa, y su mejor amiga se vuelve contra ella, atormentándola en las redes sociales y en la vida real.

Pero a pesar de que algo que la impulsaba llegó a su fin, la terapia y el apoyo familiar ayudan a Florencia a abrirse a nuevas experiencias. Se fija en gente en la escuela a la que nunca antes había prestado atención, e incluso se topa con una escuela de danza irlandesa y decide intentarlo. ¿Podrá una nueva pasión por la danza irlandesa ayudar a Florencia a encontrar la alegría de bailar en el escenario que perdió aquella noche de invierno?

Ballet is Florencia de Lago's entire world. After years of hard work, she is chosen as Clara in the winter production of *The Nutcracker*. Not only is she the youngest dancer to receive such honor but also the first Latina. She's on track to be recruited by the best ballet companies.

Unfortunately, she suffers a panic attack on opening night—on stage, in front of everyone. And then Selena, Florencia's best friend, steps right into the role to replace her. Just like that, Florencia's whole world falls apart—the ballet studio expels her, and her best friend turns on her, tormenting her on social media and in real life.

But even though the one thing she was driven toward has come to an end, therapy and family support help Florencia open up to new experiences. She notices people at school she's never paid attention to before, and she even stumbles upon an Irish dance school and decides to give it a try. Can a new passion for Irish dance help Florencia find the joy of performing on the stage that she lost that fateful winter night?

Key Selling Points

Prioritizes Mental Health: Features a protagonist who prioritizes her mental wellbeing to the benefit of her school and dance aspirations.

Illustrates the Effects of Cyberbullying: Perfect for discussion in class or at home, this book portrays the realistic effects of bullying, both online and in real life, and the loss of a close friendship, showing readers the possibility of support and hope through new interests.

Celebrates Irish Dance: Introduces the beautiful world of Irish dance to a wider audience.

A Different Kind of Latine Dancer: Highlights Latine participation in the ballet and Irish dance communities, where Latine kids can express themselves outside of any box or restrictions placed on them.

Contributor Bios

Yamile Saied Méndez is the award-winning author of many books for young readers and adults, including *Furia*, *Where Are You From?*, the Horse Country series, and *On These Magic Shores*, among others. She was born and raised in Rosario, Argentina, but has lived most of her life in a lovely valley surrounded by mountains in Utah. She's a graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA Writing program, and a founding member of Las Musas, a marketing collective of Latine writers. Connect with her at yamilesmendez.com.

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