

# The Deborah Harris Agency

Books for Young Readers

Spring 2025



**Middle Grade**

# Broken Dolls

By Ally Malinenko

A spooky middle grade novel about a girl learning to grieve her grandfather and the creepy antique dolls in his house that seem to come alive, perfect for fans of *The Doll in the Garden*.

One. Two. Three. Are you ready to play?

Ever since Kaye's grandfather died, she's been obsessed with counting things: the steps to her bedroom, the dolls on her sister's bed, even the threads on her favorite blanket. It's arithmomania, and with the selective mutism that sometimes prevents her from speaking, she can't find the words to talk about how she feels now that Grampa is gone. When they take the summer to clean out and renovate his old house, Kaye finds herself counting the days.

That is, until her younger sister, Holly, starts finding dolls. She finds them buried in the backyard, stuffed in the walls, crammed into the closets. From the first one, Kaye knows they aren't normal dolls. They smile at her like they know something, and sometimes their eyes open and close on their own. Kaye hears her sister talking to them constantly—and she swears she's heard the dolls whispering back.

Everyone assumes that Holly's just a kid with a good imagination. Kaye doesn't think it's a game, because she knows that Holly—and the dolls—are going to make her play with them. Forever.



**Ally Malinenko** is a poet, novelist, and librarian living in Brooklyn, New York, where she pens her tales in a secret writing closet before dawn each day. She is the author of *Ghost Girl*, Bram Stoker Finalist *This Appearing House*, and *The Other March Sisters*.



"Creepy dolls! Creepy puppets! Creepy magicians! If that were all this book had, it would still be a delight—but *Broken Dolls* reaches further. This is a story about grief and guilt, and is both tender and terrifying in equal measure. Ally Malinenko's work knows that scary stories can do so much more than just scare us (though scare you, this will)."

— **Chuck Wendig**

HarperCollins, September 2025 (North American)

# Spark

By Chris Baron

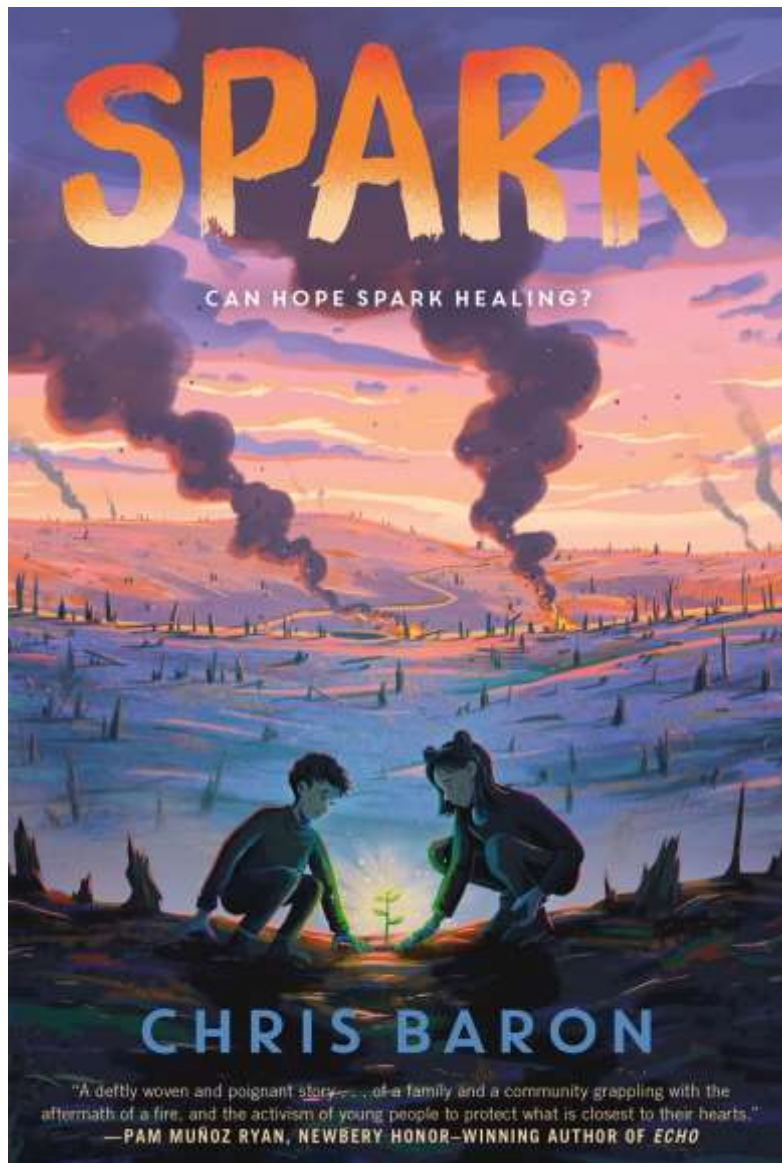
As a community recovers from a devastating wildfire, two friends find their way back to each other and their homes, by award-winning author Chris Baron. Perfect for fans of Alan Gratz and Lauren Tarshis.

Finn and his friend, nicknamed Rabbit, live in a rural area that's been hit hard by wildfires. Families were displaced and school was interrupted. Moreover, their beloved forest is suffering -- animals and plants haven't been able to come back, and the two friends wonder if there's anything they can do to help. Rabbit's uncle, a science teacher, is part of a study that may help bring the forest back to life, but Finn and Rabbit wonder if the forest can wait. And what if another fire comes in the meantime? They believe a small part of the forest -- the forest heart -- that survived the wildfire may hold the key to regrowth, but first, they have to find it and then convince the adults around them to listen.

For any young person who's ever felt powerless against the world, here is a story about two kids doing all they can to understand their natural world, and preserve it.



**Chris Baron** is a professor of English at San Diego City College. He's also the author of *All of Me*, *The Magical Imperfect*, *The Gray*, *The Secret of the Dragon Gems* and one of the editors of *On All Other Nights*. He lives in San Diego, California, with his wife and their three children.



**School Library Journal** Most Anticipated Middle Grade Book of 2025

"A compelling and timely story that burns bright with heart and hope."  
- Ernesto Cisneros, Pura Belpré Award-winning author of *Efrén Divided*

# The Unforgettable Leta “Lightning” Laurel

By R.L. Toalson

**A determined athlete deals with food insecurity and a new rivalry challenging her feminist ideals in this upper middle grade coming-of-age story.**

Eighth-grader Leta “Lightning” Laurel is a big sister, a problem solver, and the star of her track team. Her dad’s been out of the picture for more than a year, and food’s gotten scarce at home.

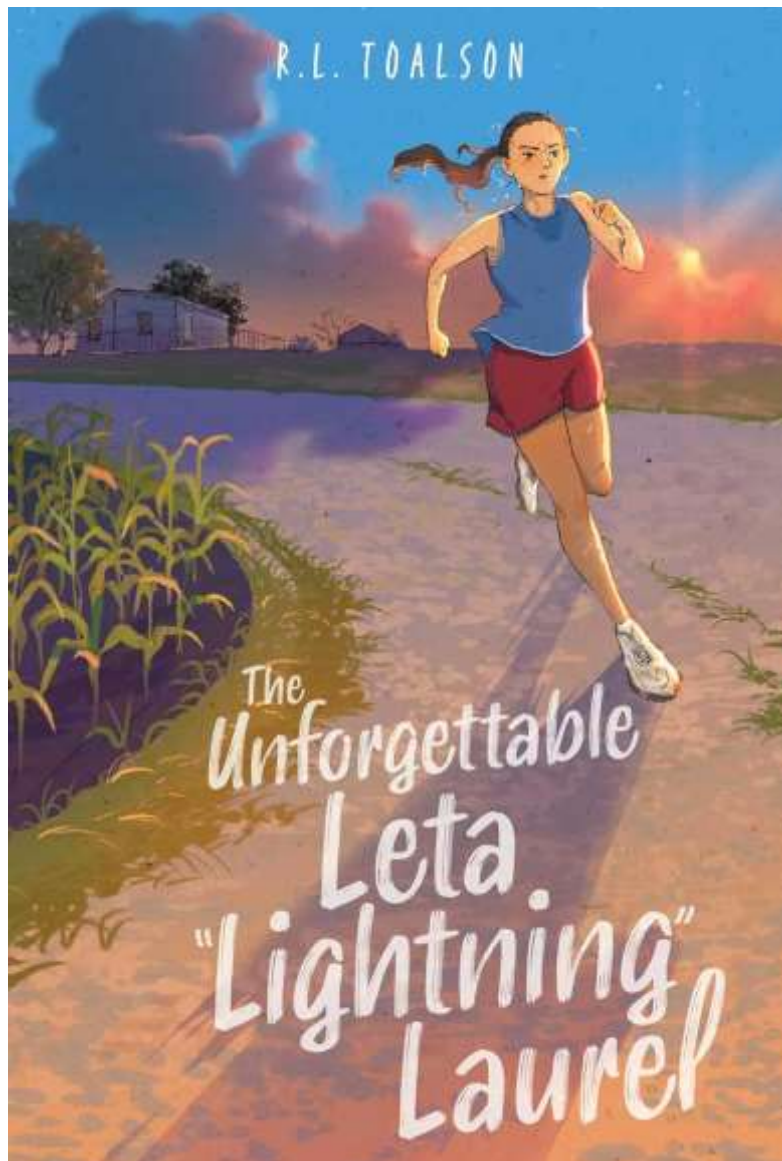
When Leta learns her mom’s financial struggles are even worse than she’d thought, she hatches a plan to bring her dad home: she’ll win the district championship in the 400-meter dash, the newspaper will write about her, her mom will send the clipping to her dad, and her dad will remember he has daughters who need him. Because she’ll be unforgettable.

It should be easy; no one can beat her in the 400. But a new runner shows up, threatening Leta’s top spot and her budding feminist beliefs about sisterhood. She works harder and harder in practice, trying to ensure the new girl won’t ruin her perfect plan... until an injury sidelines her.

How will she ever prove to her dad and the world that she’s unforgettable? How will she prove it to herself?



R.L. Toalson grew up running wild through corn-rows and cow-grazing fields while recording true and wildly exaggerated tales to entertain her friends, family members, and anyone who would listen. She still does so, in San Antonio, Texas, with her husband, six children, and two arrogant cats.



**A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection!**

“In the underwritten genre that is girl sports, Toalson has crafted a novel that can be handed to anyone. Leta is a character that every reader will connect with and root for...a story that will reach every reader...A must-buy for all middle grade collections.” - **School Library Journal Starred Review!**

# The Book of Curses

By Sarah Blake

*A Series of Unfortunate Events* meets *Jujutsu Kaisen* in this creepy Middle Grade debut!

Imogen Lott and her twin brother, Oliver were separated at birth and raised separately. Ten years later, their aunt, Ava Pennyweather, shows up. She brings Imogen from the USA to London and reunites her with the twin brother she never knew she had. But it's unclear exactly what took Ava so long to find her niece and nephew, what she wants from them, and what exactly happened to their mother and father.

Ava Pennyweather is one of the only people in the world who can remove a curse from an object. There's one catch—when the curse is removed it transfers to the person removing it, sometimes in dark and dangerous ways. Lately, the curses seem to be occurring more frequently, and always near London. Ava wants to train Imogen and Oliver to dispel curses, too.

What the twins don't know is that their mother, Rebekah, is alive and well, but she has a different idea of how curses should be handled. And someone is clearly out there, zeroing in on where Ava and Rebekah live, perhaps even creating the curses in order to target them. To save themselves and the city of London, this fractured family will need to band together and use all their powers to defeat her.

Just like *Yo-kai Watch* made the scary stories of Japanese *yōkai* enjoyable for young viewers, Blake hopes to do the same here in an original new hit series.



**Sarah Blake's** debut novel, *Naamah* won the National Jewish Book Award for Debut Fiction. Her most recent novel, *Clean Air*, was selected as an Apple Books Best Book of the Month, an Editors' Pick at Amazon, and Oprah Daily called it "a cli-fi novel for our times." Blake is also the author of three collections of poetry and is the recipient of a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She holds her MFA from Penn State. She currently lives in the U.K.



# The Curse of Scuttle Island

By Maura Jortner

**A dual POV tale of a unlikely friendship, curses, exotic lizards, and evil magic from long ago.**

Louisa (Lou) has spent the last six months living with her Papa in a hut they share with some exotic lizards. Her Papa brought her there six months ago, and she hasn't talked to her Mama since. Then Papa leaves—motoring away in his boat with a promise to bring back chicken nuggets and food for the lizards—but he hasn't returned.

Emilia (aka Spooky) is staying with her grandparents while her mom and dad are away. Her grandma seems to hate her, and she has no idea how she will survive. Spooky explores the island—but at the sound of a bell, she must return back for dinner. Worse: she keeps getting blamed for food that disappears from the fridge.

Lou gets hungry and desperate and steals food from the big house. But then she cuts herself badly and needs help. Meanwhile, Spooky has discovered that she isn't the only girl her age on the island—but there's something strange about the girl she meets who wears the same outfit every time.

When Spooky and Moe meet Lou, they discover a curse that connects them to Jonathan Zakowski, who cursed the island and the descendants of Wagner Smith. His own anger and the curse turned Jonathan into a sea devil. Spooky is Wagner's great-great-great-great-great-grandchild, and she needs both Moe and Lou's help if she's going to survive.



**Maura Jortner** is the author of *102 Days of Lying About Lauren*, which was a Shelf Awareness Best Book of the Year and a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, and *Keepers of the Marsh* (Holiday House, 2025). She teaches creative writing and literature at Baylor University and lives in Texas with her husband, two daughters, and a cat that can do tricks.



# The Prime Summer of Sophie Germain

By Rhonda Doran

Sophie Germain was one of the world's greatest mathematicians, but in 1789, she was thirteen, living in Paris, and her obsession with prime numbers may have helped start the French Revolution. *The Prime Summer of Sophie Germain* reads like *The Da Vinci Code* for middle schoolers: an ode to freedom, equality, sisterhood—and math.

In the summer of 1789, Sophie Germain is mind-meltingly bored. She steals candles from her Maman and books from her Papa to teach herself mathematics in an upstairs closet while everyone sleeps. No one in her bourgeois life understands why a young lady would prefer “those silly sums” to embroidery or fine tea.

Then Sophie meets Rémi, a trouser-wearing daring young woman who aspires to become an architect and moonlights as a message interceptor for Les Bas-Bleus (“The Blue Stockings”), a dissident society of brilliant women. Adept at solving puzzles and breaking codes, Sophie joins Les Bas-Bleus in their fight for equality. That leads her on a whirlwind adventure which includes breaking into a hall of mirrors at the Palace of Versailles, taking a ride on a hot air balloon with one of Marie Antoinette’s pugs, running away from a blood-thirsty Musketeer through catacombs filled with bones, and, eventually, storming the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

*The Prime Summer of Sophie Germain* features doodles, graphs, charts, and Sophie’s letters to very famous (and very dead) mathematicians whom she turns to for advice, and is tailored to the math curriculum. It’s inspired by the life of a very important female historical figure and a story about friendship, early feminism and why math is so awesome.



**Rhonda Doran** is a middle school math teacher, originally from Atlanta, GA, who has taught in international schools in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Colombia and Hungary. She wants to use the power of stories to make math come alive. Rhonda currently resides in Mexico, where she spends her time hiking with her two children, cooking tasty vegetarian food, reading historical fiction, and asking her science teacher husband to explain quantum physics (again). *The Prime Summer of Sophie Germain* is her first book.



Portrait of Sophie Germain © Women & Girls in Tech



## Impossible Is Not An Answer

By Elie Pritz and Kirsten Penner Krymusa

**The Global Peace Heroes Project** began in 2013, when Elie Pritz, who grew up in Jerusalem to a Christian family, was hired by a Palestinian school in East Jerusalem to create an experimental curriculum that would challenge militaristic concepts of heroism. **In a region where "hero" traditionally means warrior, she introduced narratives that redefined heroism through the lens of nonviolence, empathy, and creative action.** Educator and author Kirsten Krymusa joined the project, bringing 15 years of classroom experience to adapt these stories for young audiences. **The Global Peace Heroes Project operates in Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Kenya, Burundi, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, China, Canada, and the USA, with over 600 members (schools, universities, youth empowerment and religious organizations) from over 70 countries.**

*Impossible Is Not An Answer* is a collection of ten stories that reveal the many paths to peace. For example: how a skinny priest built an "impossible" village where former enemies learned to live as neighbors, how a young woman in Kenya sparked an environmental revolution with a handful of seedlings, how a quiet Buddhist monk in war-torn Vietnam transformed inner stillness into social action, how an indigenous girl from Guatemala's mountains gave voice to her silenced people. For young readers grappling with increasingly complex global challenges, these stories offer something essential: hope grounded in reality, courage tempered by wisdom, and the understanding that every person can become an agent of extraordinary change.



**Elie Pritz** is a peace education specialist whose work bridges storytelling and conflict transformation. Growing up between Jewish and Palestinian communities in Jerusalem shaped her understanding of division and commitment to building peace. She holds an M.Phil in Reconciliation Studies from Trinity College Dublin & an MA in Literature/Creative Writing from Trinity Western University.



**Kirsten Penner Krymusa** is an educator, author, and peace education specialist. With two decades of experience living and working in Kenya, she brings a uniquely global perspective to peace education and youth empowerment. Originally from Canada, Krymusa's work is deeply informed by her years of cross-cultural experience and her commitment to using storytelling as a tool for building bridges between communities.

# Picture Books

# Traveler

By Vesper Stamper

A young child sets out on an adventure—one of challenge, but also wonder—and eventually, with a little help, Traveler manages to find his way home. Perfect for fans of Felicita Sala's *If You Run Out Of Words* and Mac Barnett and Isabelle Arsenault's *Just Because*.

Moved by the plight of refugee children in the Middle East and South America, Vesper Stamper crafted this picture book to give children a gift that helps them build containers for difficulty, wonder and hope.

The text is inspired by the book of Job. After Job loses everything, God tells Job to stand on his feet and ponder a series of questions which are challenging, but also a beckoning back into wonder, with a similar ring to the type of cosmic, unanswerable questions that children ask—the kind that cause adults to think deeper.

“Have you ever woken the morning?”  
“Does rain have a father?”  
“Is someone in charge of all the lightning bolts?”

Each one of us will face hardship in our lives. Will we choose to go on the adventure, no matter what we encounter, trusting that help will arrive to bring us home?

### As wise people have said:

“Here is the world. Great and terrible things will happen. Do not be afraid.” - **Frederick Buchner**  
“In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart: I have overcome the world.” - **Jesus**



**Vesper Stamper** has been an author and illustrator for over 20 years. *What the Night Sings*, was a National Book Award Nominee, a National Jewish Book Award Finalist, a Morris Award Finalist, Sydney Taylor Winner, and more. She has a BFA in Illustration from Parsons, and an MFA in Illustration as Visual Essay from School of Visual Arts. Born in Germany and raised in New York, she now lives with her husband & two teenagers in the Northeast.



# traveler

by vesper stamper



# Alex the Mouse

By Ekaterina Royz

A finalist of the 2025 Bologna Children's Book Fair showcase for illustration!

A tender tale about choice, freedom – and the great adventures that await us when we are brave enough to venture out into the world

Little Alex the Mouse lived in a cozy cage-house. Alex loved everything about it: the ladders, the running wheel, the sleeping nook, and the feeding bowl. His owner had worked hard to make the cage perfect for his pet!

The only thing Alex was missing was company. His owner left early in the morning and came back late in the evening, and Alex's only friends were an old turtle, Clara, and a canary called Maya. But Clara was always grumbling, and the mouse couldn't even see Maya most of the time because the bird's cage hung too high.

Alex really wanted to see the world around him and dreamed about leaving his cage to explore the great unknown beyond. And then, one day, Alex's owner forgot to lock the cage...

Will the little mouse find the courage to leave his cozy home and set off on the adventure of his life?



**Ekaterina Royz** is a Siberian-born Israel-based artist and children's book illustrator. Royz illustrated American author Patricia Black-Gould's award-winning *The Crystal Beads*, *Lalka's Journey*, while Royz's own picture book *Alex The Mouse* was named the finalist of 2025 Bologna Children's Book Fair showcase.



# Moona

By Chaim Peri  
Illustrated by Ofra Eyal

One evening, as Grandpa and Ella are taking a stroll around their neighbourhood, Ella realizes that the moon is nowhere to be found! Once they are back home and Ella is tucked into bed, Grandpa tells her the story of the shy Moon, Moon's mother the Sun, and the important task the two share – lighting up the sky.

Written by artist and peace activist Chaim Peri and accompanied by wondrous illustrations by Ofra Eyal, *Moona* is a heartwarming story of the special bond between a grandparent and their grandchild. It is also a magical tale about the cycle of life we go through every day, all of us, together.

Chaim Peri wrote this poetic tale – which takes place along the paths of his beloved kibbutz Nir Oz and in the landscapes of his imagination – before he was abducted by Hamas on October 7. It was his dream to see its publication. The book was then published as planned on occasion of Chaim's 80th birthday in April 2024, while the family still held hope that he would return home alive. Tragically, in June the family learned that Chaim was murdered in captivity. His body was retrieved from a tunnel in Gaza in late August 2024.

Peri is survived by his wife Osnat – the chairwoman of kibbutz Nir Oz who was saved by her husband on October 7 and is still managing the life of the community that was devastated that day – as well as his 5 children and 13 grandchildren.



**Chaim Peri** (1944-2024) was a self-taught artist who sketched, sculpted, filmed, and wrote screenplays and children's books. Having fought in four wars, he was a staunch believer in the peace process. Peri volunteered with The Road to Recovery, a non-profit group of Israeli volunteers driving and accompanying Palestinians from checkpoints in Gaza and the West Bank to receive medical care in Israel.



# Unpicked

By Andy Harkness

Gordy was the only pumpkin in the patch that wasn't picked for a porch. And he's not happy about it, not one little bit.

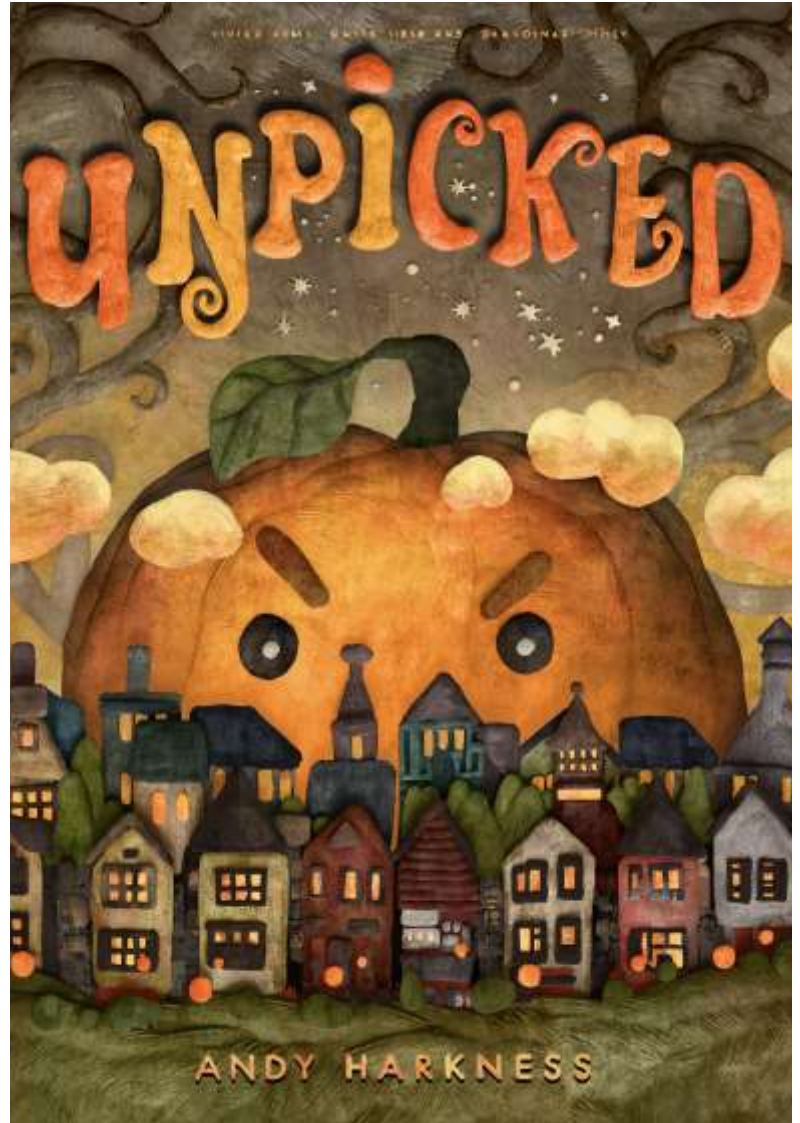
As he watches pumpkin after pumpkin get picked, he gets angry, then angrier, and he grows big, then bigger, until he stomps into town to "pick back" all the perfect pumpkins. But when a little girl shows Gordy what true empathy is, her kind act brings Gordy back to size, and ultimately. . . to be picked.

*Gordy sat in his patch and waited to be picked.*

*"When I'm picked, I'll be the scariest pumpkin of them all," he said.*



Andy Harkness' most recent solo works, *Wolfboy*, and its sequel, *Wolfboy is Scared*, were published by Bloomsbury, and *Kisses from Space* (Random House), which he illustrated, was co-authored by Keri Vasek and Astronaut Anna Menon, who read the book **from space** on a Polaris Dawn mission. An accomplished animation production designer, he spent 25 years at Walt Disney, on films from *The Lion King* to *Moana*. Today, he works at Skydance Animation Studios.



# Little Reader

by Nataša Jovanić

Learning the alphabet isn't easy, but just imagine what you will be able to do once you've learned it! Take a look, for instance, at the animals in this book: they have already learned the letters and can now read about all the different fascinating things that exist in their – and our – world.

Each page of Nataša Jovanić's fully illustrated *Little Reader* introduces a letter of the alphabet with stunning artwork and highlights a particular animal as well as the book they are reading.

Quirky, charming and educational, *Little Reader* is perfect for the little readers-to-be – and their bookish parents and carers.

*Q is for Quokka, quick to learn about flowers.*

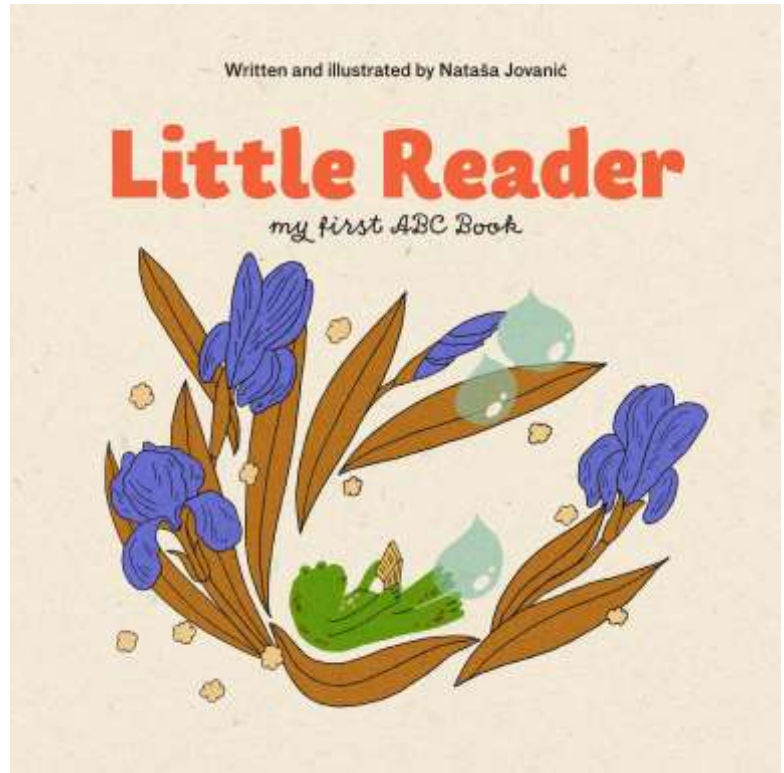
*R is for Rabbit, reading a bedtime story.*

*S is for Sloth, snoozing with a book about bugs.*

*T is for Turtle, enjoying hibernation theories.*



**Nataša Jovanić** is an artist and illustrator from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Graduate of the Academy of Arts, Banja Luka, and the University of the Arts, Berlin, she has worked on magazine illustration (Bloom, UK; Honest History, USA), winning the Ilustrofest's First Prize. She has also illustrated books for children, including Patrick Kellegher's *A Witch and a Wizard Live Here* and *It's Okay To Be Prickly* by Nastya Ryabtseva, now sold to 5 territories.



# Couldn't Love You More

By Cory Leonardo

A perfectly icky picture book told in a jaunty, laugh-out-loud rhyme—*I Love You, Stinky Face* meets *Dad By My Side*.

Dad's on his own for a day at the beach with three rascally kids, and everything that can go wrong does. Sunburn, stinky feet, sloppy kisses—nothing seems to bother this crew.

It's just another chance for Dad to tell his kids how much he loves them (as only a silly Dad can do)! Doesn't matter if you're burp-y as your breakfast or bouncy as a flea . . . your Dad just couldn't love you more.

*I love you . . .  
...squirmy as a lizard,  
love you squishy as a cuddle.  
Love you splashy as a bath,  
and love you muddy as a puddle.*

*Love you burp-y as your breakfast.  
Love you slurpy as your drink.  
Love you even though you're leaving  
all that toothpaste in the sink.*



**Cory Leonardo** grew up believing she'd replace Vanna White on Wheel of Fortune, but when that didn't work out, she decided she'd turn letters and phrases in a different way (but minus the glittery dresses, sadly). A born and bred upstate New Yorker, she currently lives in the Syracuse area with her husband and three children. Cory is the author of *The Simple Art of Flying* (S&S/Aladdin, 2019) and *The Hedgehog of Oz* (S&S/Aladdin, 2021)



**Young Adult**

1989

By Vesper Stamper

**1989 is the story of four teens in divided Berlin who risk everything to form a punk band at the apex of a euphoric, music-soaked cultural revolution that brings down the Berlin Wall and ends the Cold War. The *Breakfast Club* meets *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys, set in 1980's Germany.**

Late stage Cold War: everything feels possible and apocalyptic at the same time. Music is spun from pure gold and you can fall in love without limits. Four teens—sisters Katja and Anya from East Berlin; exchange student David from Tel Aviv; and student activist Wil from West Berlin—meet by chance in the East Berlin underground art scene and realize they have something in common: a passion for music. So they start a band. Meet *Paradise*, the best post-punk band you've never heard of. The real obstacle to their rock and roll dreams—as real as concrete and barbed wire—is the Berlin Wall and the surveillance they must dodge to be together.

As the band's following grows, so does an aching love story between Katja and David, who seem destined to be separated by the arbitrary wall. Growing, too, are protests and persecutions by authorities who can't understand the will to be free. But victory against the regime is right around the corner...as is the most important concert *Paradise* will ever play. That is, if all of them can figure out how to be in the same place at the same time—long enough for the revolution to begin.



**Vesper Stamper** has been an author and illustrator for over 20 years. *What the Night Sings*, was a National Book Award Nominee, a National Jewish Book Award Finalist, a Morris Award Finalist, Sydney Taylor Winner, and more. She has a BFA in Illustration from Parsons, and an MFA in Illustration as Visual Essay from School of Visual Arts. Born in Germany and raised in New York, she now lives with her husband & two teenagers in the Northeast.



**Vesper Stamper's previous Young Adult books have been:**

- ◆ A Morris Award Finalist
- ◆ Longlisted for the National Book Award
- ◆ A Wall Street Journal best children's book of 2018
- ◆ A Kirkus Reviews best book of 2018
- ◆ National Jewish Book Award Finalist
- ◆ Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner
- ◆ Best YA Book of 2018/9 by YALSA

On Submission

## Dirty Windows Don't Open

By R.L. Toalson

A YA contemporary novel that combines the hard-hitting truth of Stephanie Land's *Maid* with the edginess of A.S. King's *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*.

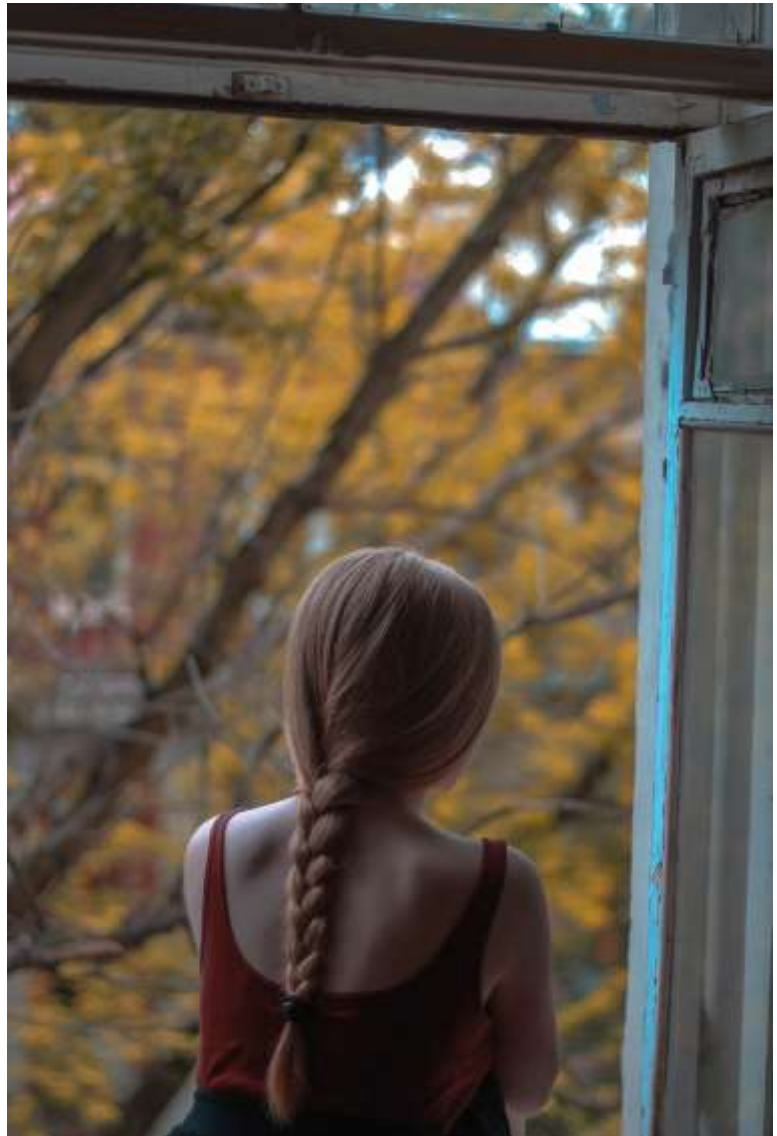
Harper Kelly works a minimum wage job at Subway. She had a dream once, but the world knocked it out of her with its loud opinions about the poor, and that was before her brother Jett disappeared. She feels responsible for her family—her mom, who struggles with depression; her younger sister, Peyton; and Jett, who disappeared after his medical disaster left their family even more impoverished than they were before.

The guidance counselor at Harper's high school says that Harper's grades put her at the top of her graduating class, good enough to get her into a college, with a scholarship. But Harper doesn't think that she can leave her mom and sister. Certainly not with Jett still missing.

A school project with Jett's best friend Asa gives voice to the Coyote, a sacred character from the stories of Harper's Choctaw grandmother, and Harper begins to battle within herself: Should she stay or could she go? Asa is one of the nicest, most hopeful people she's ever met, despite the fact that he's currently living in his truck, and now she can't imagine leaving him either. But when her missing brother is found and Harper pays him a visit, she vows to write her application essay and get out of her small Texas town for good.



**R.L. Toalson** is the author of the Middle Grade novels: *The Colors of the Rain*, (2018), *The Woods* (2019), *The First Magnificent Summer* (2023), *Something Maybe Magnificent* (2024), and *The Unforgettable Leta "Lightning" Laurel* (2025), and the YA novel *Love, Sivvy*, (2026). She lives in Texas with her husband, and is the mother of 6 boys.



Simon & Schuster, 2026 (North American)

# The Blue In Our Eyes

By Yulia Tseytlin

**This YA novel is inspired by the story of the author's relatives' escape from Irpin as well as the reports of Ukrainian refugees facing trafficking in host countries, and will appeal to fans of *Girl, Missing* by Sophie McKenzie.**

When Ukrainian war refugees arrive at fifteen-year-old Lora's house, she's too upset by her parents' divorce to be hospitable. All Lora wants is to spend time with her Dad, but he's travelling on business, while her Mum cares only about the guests – a young woman and her daughter who escaped from Irpin.

Fortunately, Lora has Emma. For some reason, the most popular girl in the school wants to be Lora's friend and listen to her as she complains about the issues at home and yearns for a first kiss and a boyfriend. But the more the refugees stay, the more Lora starts to worry— why do they have Lora's blue eyes, Lora's hair—even Lora's square fingernails.

Desperate for answers, Lora finds her late grandmother's diary and discovers contradicting facts about her birth. She overhears an unsettling phone call, and soon afterwards the refugees disappear. Lora suspects that they were kidnapped, but only Emma believes her. With Emma's help, Lora sets out to rescue them and uncover the truth about her origins... but perhaps she isn't ready to learn who her father really is—and that her first kiss might not be with a boy after all.



**Dr. Yulia Tseytlin** was born in USSR in 1981 to a Ukrainian father and a Russian mother and has been living in Germany for the past ten years. She holds a doctorate in economics. Her short stories and poems have appeared in literary magazines and in an anthology released by Dandelion Revolution Press. Tseytlin was a finalist in the César Egado Serrano Foundation micro fiction contest.



# They Watch From Below

By Katya de Becerra

A deeply unsettling and engrossing mystery horror, perfect for fans of *The Secret History* and *Ninth House*.

When Addie Velde receives an invitation to attend an early orientation program at the University of the Arches, she eagerly accepts. After all, the Arches—with its idyllic beachside campus—is her mom’s beloved alma mater, and there’s nothing Addie wants more than to leave her own mark. But from the moment she arrives on campus and moves into her gloomy dorm, nicknamed The Crypt, Addie realizes there are more sinister secrets to uncover than sandy days in her future.

Addie's search for answers launches her straight into the heart of an old campus mystery which to this day keeps students and faculty wary of the shadowy “Buried Ones”, believed to be omens of death. A vanished professor, an occult society, and the chance her family was involved pushes her investigation into dangerous territory.

Will she lose herself to the Buried Ones or end their sinister reign once and for all?



**Katya de Becerra** is the Aurealis and Shadows winning author of *When Ghosts Call Us Home*, *What The Woods Keep*, *Oasis*, and *They Watch From Below*. She is also the Ditmar-nominated co-editor of *This Fresh Hell*. She was born in Russia, studied in California, lived in Peru, then stayed in Australia. She has a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and works at a university, teaching, researching and supervising postgrad students in Anthropology, Creative Writing and Education.



“Clever and complex, gripping and ghoulish; this is the kind of book you’ll want to sink your teeth into. Addie’s story will give you all the chills you seek and then some, and keep you turning pages for answers even in the dead of night.” —**Sarah Glenn Marsh**, author of *The Girls Are Never Gone*

# The Judgment of Yoyo Gold

## By Isaac Blum

A smart and powerful story set in the Orthodox Jewish community about what it means to fit in, break out, and find your own way, by the award-winning author of *The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen*. This book is *Gossip Girl* + *My Name Is Asher Lev* + *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*.

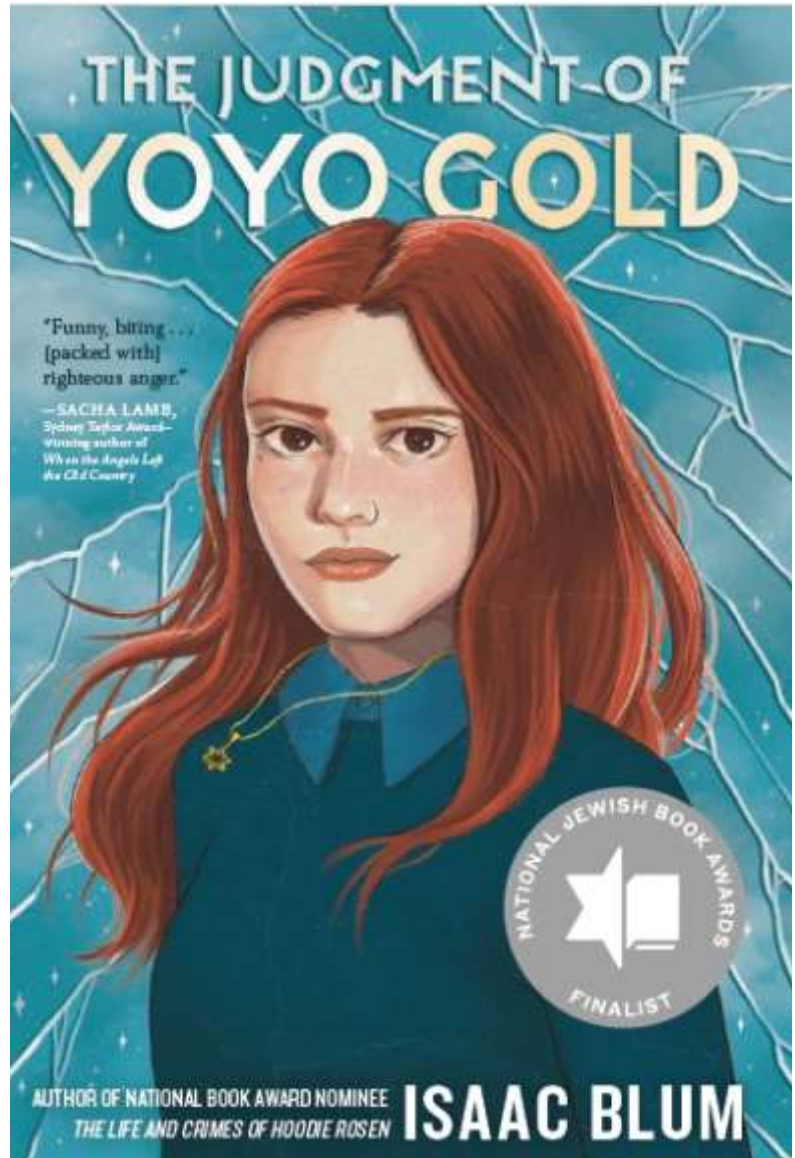
Yoyo Gold has always played the role of the perfect Jewish daughter. She keeps kosher, looks after her siblings, and volunteers at the local food bank. She respects the decisions of her rabbi father and encourages her friends to observe the rules of their Orthodox faith. But when she sees her best friend cast out of the community over a seemingly innocent transgression, Yoyo's eyes are opened to the truth of her neighbors' hypocrisies for the first time.

As Yoyo's frustration builds, so does the pressure to speak out, even if she can only do so anonymously on TikTok, an app that's forbidden to her. But when one of her videos goes viral and her decisions wind up impacting not only her own life but also her relationship with the boy she's falling for, Yoyo's world is thrown into chaos. She is forced to choose which path to take, for her community, for her family, and for herself.

Award-winning author Isaac Blum returns with a new novel that asks what it really means to be part of a community—and what it means to break free.



**Isaac Blum** is the National Book Award-longlisted and Morris Award-winning author of *The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen*. He's taught English at several colleges and universities, and at Orthodox Jewish and public schools. He lives with his wife in Philadelphia, where he watches sports and reads books that make him laugh while showing him something true about the world.



- ◆ National Jewish Book Award finalist!
- ◆ NPR Books We Love
- ◆ Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year
- ◆ Horn Book Best Book of the Year
- ◆ ALA's Rise: A Feminist Book Project Top Ten Title
- ◆ Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books of the Year
- ◆ New York Public Library Best Books for Teens

Penguin/Philomel, October 2024 (North American)

# The Forbidden Book

By Sacha Lamb

**Dybbuks. Illegal printing. A genderqueer lesbian with a knife. Set against a backdrop of literary censorship and growing Jewish political consciousness, Sydney Taylor and Stonewall award-winning Sacha Lamb's sophomore novel is a soaring exploration of identity, survival, and ultimately, hope.**

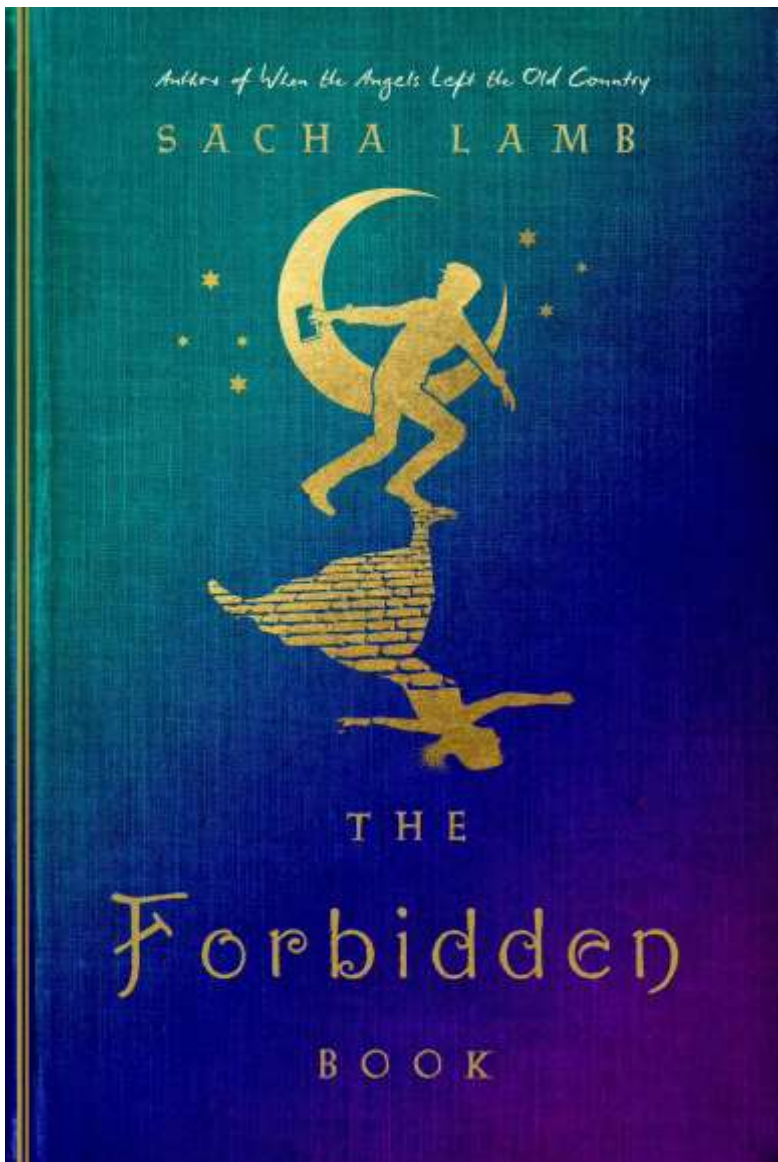
On the night before her wedding, 17-year-old Sorel leaps from a window and runs away from her life. To keep from being discovered, she takes on the male identity of Isser Jacobs — but it soon becomes clear that there is a real Isser Jacobs, and people want him dead. Her mistaken identity takes Sorel into the dark underworld of her small city in the Pale of Settlement, where smugglers, forgers, and wicked angels fight for control of the Jewish community. In order to make it out, Sorel must discover who Isser Jacobs really is — and who she wants to be.

"Lamb packs their swift sophomore effort with adventure, folklore, and Jewish mysticism: Sorel and her companions must not only confront people who wish them ill but also face existential questions regarding angels and the future." — **Publishers Weekly**

"Full of magic, mystery, passion, and friendship, it's a story that readers of all ages will appreciate... There is nothing missing from this master stroke of literature." — **Jewish Book Council**



**Sacha Lamb** is a 2018 Lambda Literary Fellow in YA fiction, and graduated in Library and Information Science and History from Simmons University. Sacha lives in New England with a miniature dachshund mix named Anzu Bean. Their debut novel, *When The Angels Left The Old Country*, was a Printz Honor Book, a Sydney Taylor Award winner and a Stonewall Book Award winner.



"There are many gripping twists and turns...questions of faith and orthodoxy, friendship, identity (gender and otherwise)—and a stolen book that was 'written by an angel, with its own hand.'" — **Horn Book (starred)**

"A precise and deliberate storyteller... Lamb creates a historical fantasy world that is both deeply lived-in and immersive. This is a story that will undoubtedly possess more advanced readers from beginning to end." — **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred)**

Levine Querido, October 2024 (World English)

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