



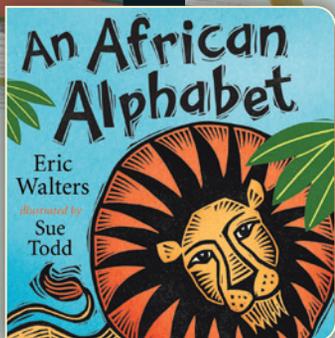
ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS

Reaching More Readers

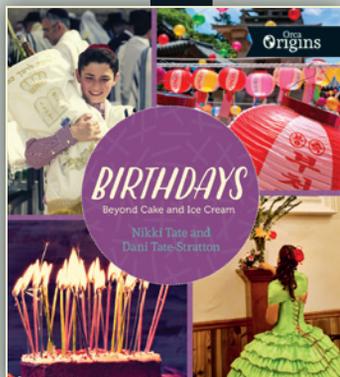
SPRING 2017



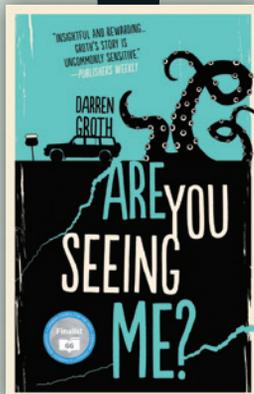
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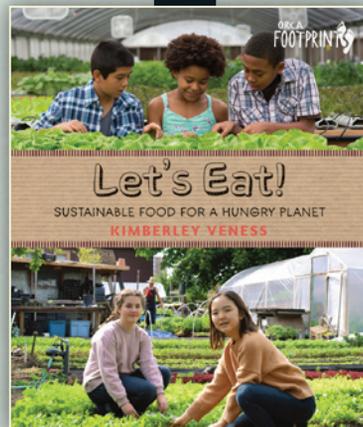
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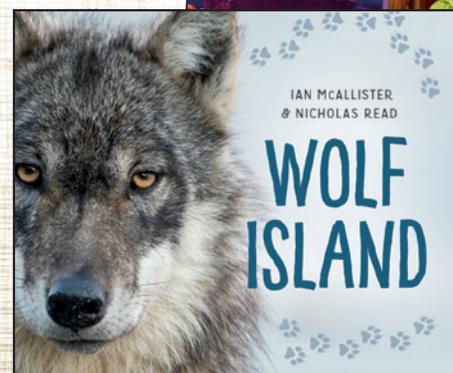
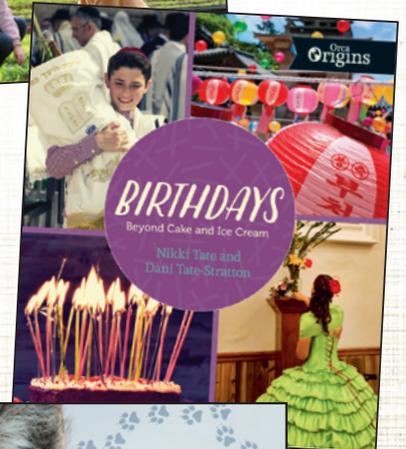
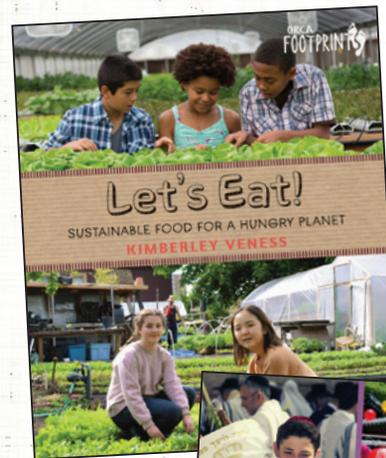
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**Orca makes
great nonfiction!**

Our amazing Footprints series is back with *Let's Eat: Sustainable Food for a Hungry Planet* (page 26). And our latest addition to our Origins series is *Birthdays: Beyond Cake and Ice Cream* (page 29). For a slightly younger crowd, we are pleased to be releasing the first of four books from Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read aimed at readers 5 to 8. These books feature Ian's amazing photography and the story of individual animals that live in the Great Bear Rainforest (page 5).

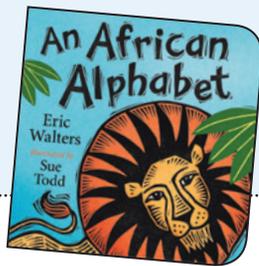
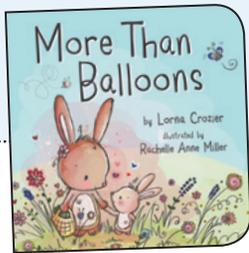




Spring 2017

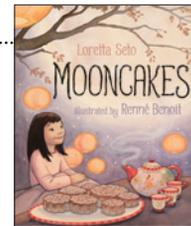
So Many Board Books!

These adorable new board books are sure to catch the attention of babies and toddlers! See pages 2 to 3.



Difficult Topics Made Easy

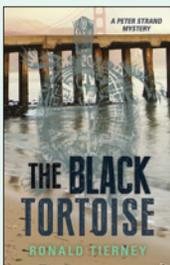
Explore the topics of divorce and separation with *Why Do Families Change?* (page 6), the latest in the bestselling Just Enough series. Previous books are *Where Do Babies Come From?*, *What Happens When A Loved One Dies?* and *What Makes Us Unique?*



Helaine Becker's new picture book is aptly titled *You Can Read*. We love Mark Hoffmann's quirky illustrations. As well, we have new editions of some well-loved classics. See pages 4 to 13.

Rapid Reads

Sometimes a quick, easy read is just what you need.



Experience the great storytelling of:
Ronald Tierney
Vicki Delany
Melodie Campbell
 and many more
 See page 40.

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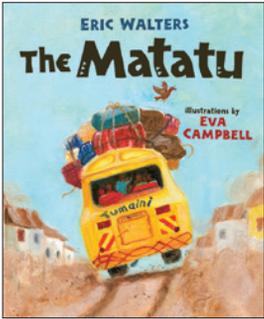
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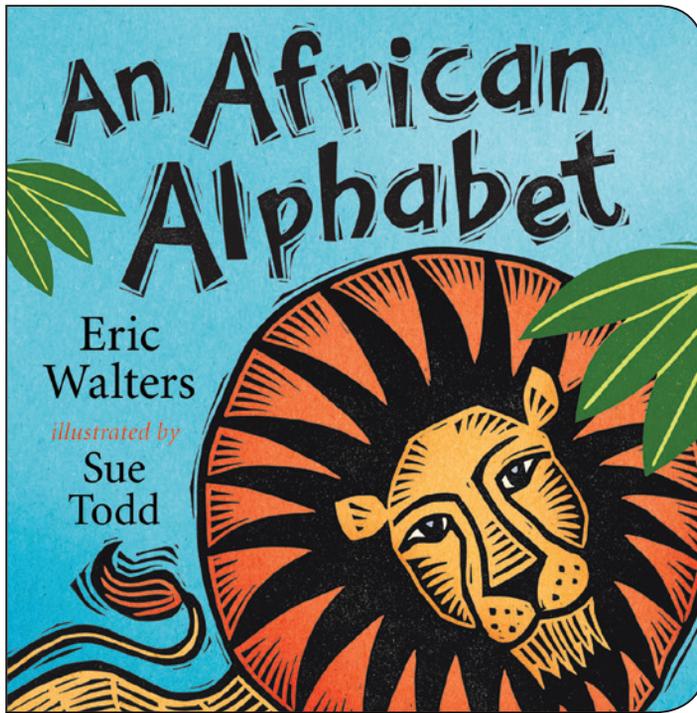
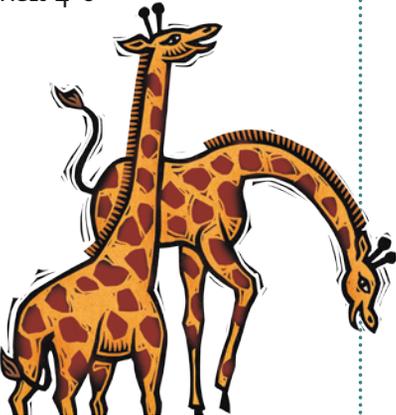
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9781554693016 • \$19.95 HC

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9781459806252 EPUB

AGES 4-8



An African Alphabet

Eric Walters

Illustrated by Sue Todd

The animals of Africa, from aardvark to zebra.

An African Alphabet is a vibrant ABC book that introduces babies and toddlers to the unique variety of animals found in Africa. An alphabet for all ages, the stunning linocut artwork brings an uncommon selection of critters to life in this lively concept book.

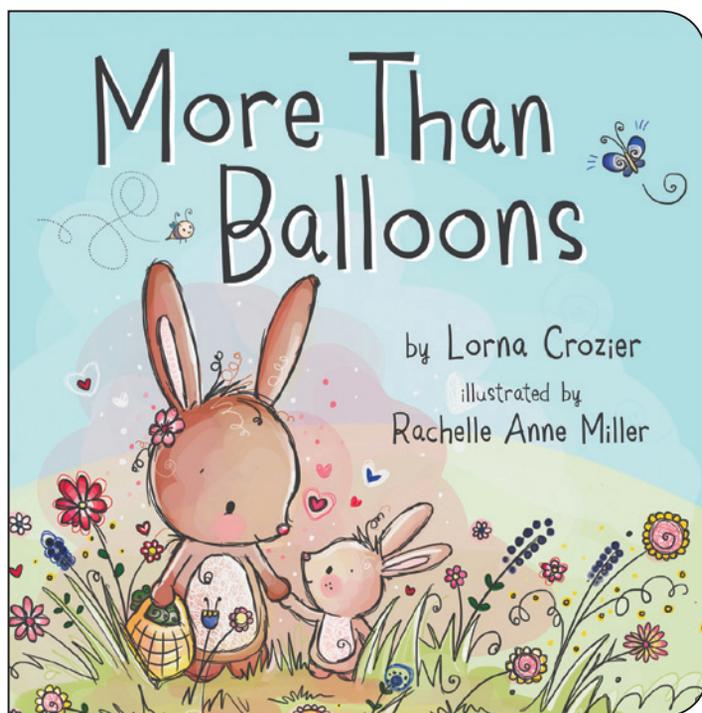
From aardvark to zebra and all that's in between, little ones will love learning their alphabet with these colorful creatures.

Recently named a member of the Order of Canada, **Eric Walters** began writing in 1993 as a way to entice his grade-five students to be more interested in reading and writing. Eric has published over ninety novels and picture books. He is a tireless presenter, speaking to over 100,000 students per year in schools across the country. He lives in Guelph, Ontario, and divides his time between writing, school visits and running an organization that services the needs of orphans in Kenya (www.creationofhope.com). For more information, visit www.ericwalters.net.

Sue Todd is an award-winning illustrator living in Toronto, Ontario. She is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art, now OCADU. Sue began her career as a freelance designer in retail advertising. For a more creative outlet, she took up linoleum carving, an ancient printmaking technique similar to woodcut, and developed a unique style of art that led to a career in illustration. Sue has created images for a wide range of clients, from advertising and corporate to editorial and publishing. For more information, visit www.suetodd.com.

Keywords: toddlers, early learning, ABC primer, animals





More Than Balloons

Lorna Crozier
Illustrated by Rachelle Anne Miller

I love you more than balloons love the moon.

Award-winning poet Lorna Crozier uses evocative rhyme, complemented by Rachelle Anne Miller's whimsical imagery, to provide babies and toddlers with common concepts that explain just how great love is.

Lorna Crozier has authored numerous books of poetry and received many awards for her writing, including a Governor General's Award, the Canadian Authors Association Poetry Award, the National Magazine Award (Gold Medal) and first prize in the National CBC Literary Competition. An Officer of the Order of Canada, Crozier has read her poetry on every continent except Antarctica, and in 2005 she recited a poem for Queen Elizabeth II as part of Saskatchewan's centennial celebration. This is Lorna's third board book with Orca, following *So Many Babies* (2015) and *Lots of Kisses* (2014). For more information, visit www.lornacrozier.ca.

Rachelle Anne Miller is a mother of two adventurous boys and a sweet little girl and works part time as an illustrator and designer. She studied at NSCAD University, where she earned her Bachelor of Design in 2002. She worked as a graphic designer for several years before deciding to venture out as a freelance illustrator. Rachelle's art has been featured in various international magazines and websites. For more information, visit www.rachelleannemiller.com.

Keywords: toddlers, early learning, rhyme, mother, father

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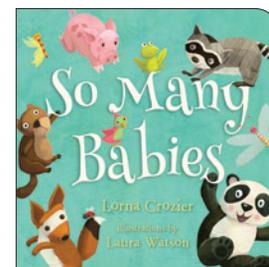
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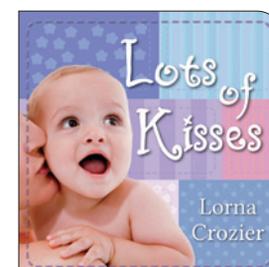
So Many Babies

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Lots of Kisses

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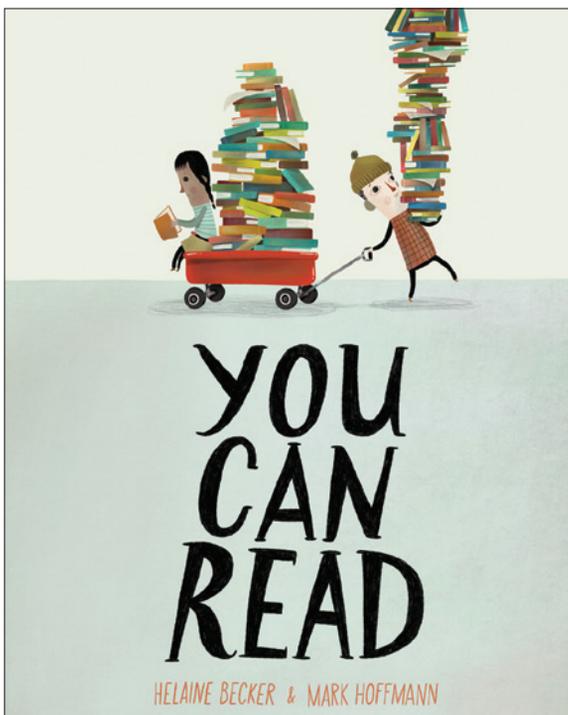
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AGES 4-8

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You Can Read

Helaine Becker

Illustrated by Mark Hoffmann



*Books are awesome.
And so are the people who read them.*

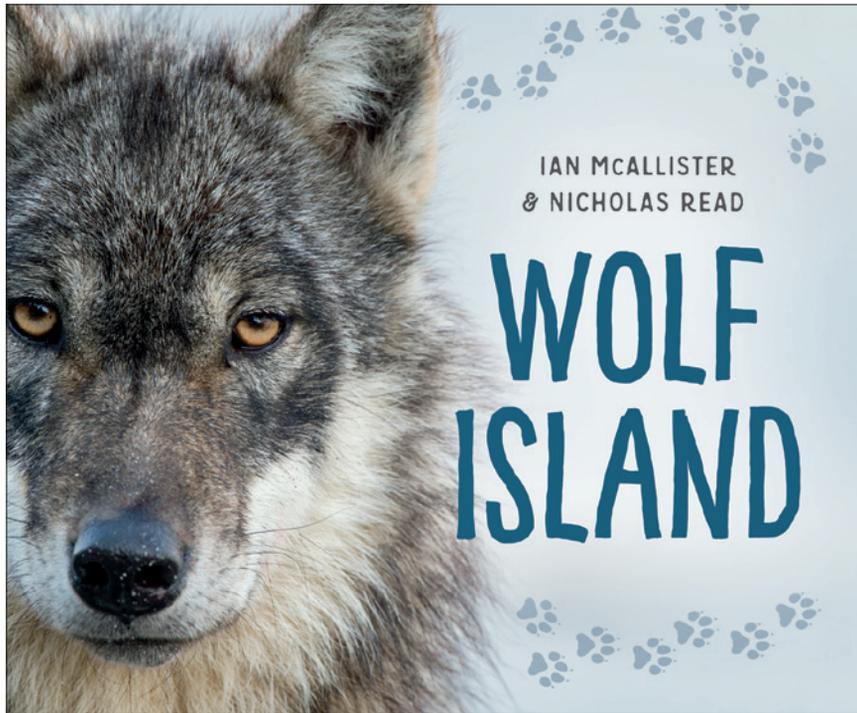
In this fun and funny celebration of literacy, kids of all ages will discover that the act of reading is a daring adventure that can take you anywhere. You can read at the playground, under the sea, at the opera and even in outer space. It turns out you can read everywhere! And when you do, you open yourself up to a universe of adventure.

With light-hearted ribtickling verse, *You Can Read* is perfect for reading aloud.

Helaine Becker is the bestselling author of more than seventy books for children and young adults, including the middle grade novel *Dirk Daring, Secret Agent* and its sequel, *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: Dirk Daring, Secret Agent*. She's a multi-time winner of the Silver Birch Award and a two-time winner of the Lane Anderson Award for Science Writing for Children; she has received the Sydney Taylor Notable Book award and two Junior Library Guild nods. She is also a certified pyrotechnician, so expect fireworks at any time. For more information, visit www.helainebecker.com.

Mark Hoffmann is a freelance editorial illustrator, children's-book illustrator, fine artist and professor in the illustration department at Monserrat College of Art in Massachusetts. He lives with his wife and son in the New England area. For more information, visit www.studiohoffmann.com.

Keywords: literacy, reading, humor, spelling, adventure



Wolf Island

Ian McAllister & Nicholas Read

Everything a wolf needs can be found on one small island.

The Great Bear Rainforest is a majestic place full of tall trees, huge bears and endless schools of salmon. Award-winning photographer and author Ian McAllister's luminous photographs illustrate the story of a lone wolf who swims to one of the small islands that dot the rainforest's coast. The island provides him with everything he needs—deer, salmon, fresh water—everything, that is, but a mate. When a female wolf arrives on the island's rocky shores, the two wolves start a family and introduce their pups to the island's bounty.

Ian McAllister is an award-winning photographer and author of six books, including *The Salmon Bears*, *The Sea Wolves* and *The Great Bear Sea* (all with Nicholas Read). He is the founding director of Pacific Wild, a Canadian nonprofit wildlife conservation group. Ian's photo of a sea wolf was among *National Geographic's* top pictures of 2015. He and his wife, Karen, were named by *Time* magazine as "environmental leaders of the 21st century" for their efforts to protect British Columbia's endangered rainforest. He lives with his family on an island in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. For more information, visit www.pacificwild.org.

Nicholas Read is a journalism instructor at Langara College in Vancouver, British Columbia. He collaborated with Ian McAllister on *The Salmon Bears*, *The Sea Wolves* and *The Great Bear Sea* and wrote *City Critters*, about urban wildlife.

Keywords: animal stories, coastal animals, wilderness, nature photography, ravens, ocean, pups



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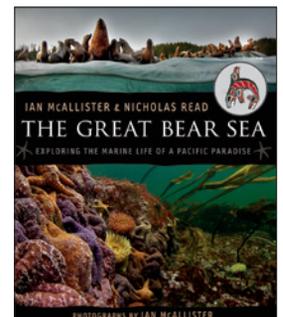
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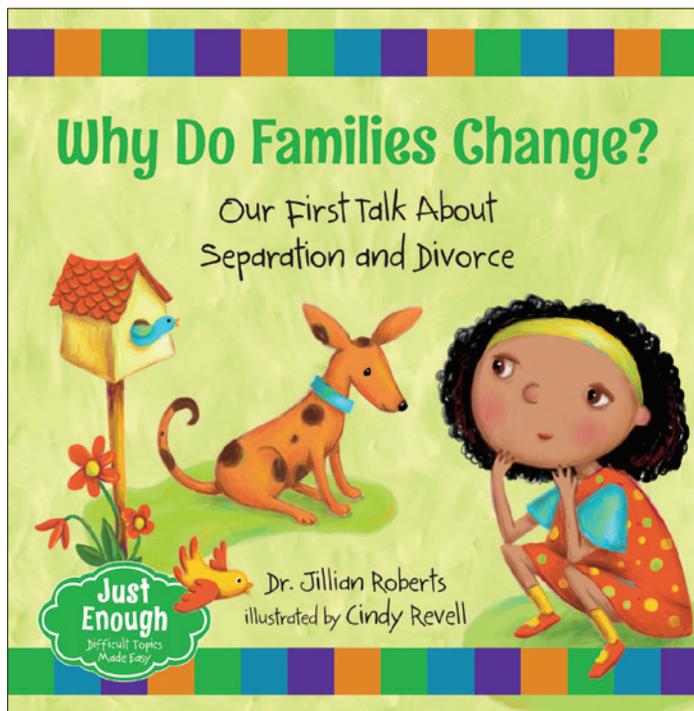
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AGES 3-6

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www.justenoughseries.com



Why Do Families Change?

Our First Talk About Separation and Divorce

Dr. Jillian Roberts

Illustrated by Cindy Revell



A reassuring and straightforward explanation of separation and divorce.

Separation and divorce are difficult on the entire family. Often young children blame themselves or are unsure of their place in the family if these events occur. Child psychologist Dr. Jillian Roberts designed the Just Enough series to empower parents/caregivers to start conversations with young ones about difficult or challenging subject matter.

Why Do Families Change? is part of the Just Enough series. Other topics in the series include birth, death, and diversity. For more information, visit www.justenoughseries.com.

Dr. Jillian Roberts has been working with children for more than twenty years, first as a primary schoolteacher, then as a child psychologist and an associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Victoria. She has published numerous scholarly articles and given presentations around the world in the areas of educational and health psychology. Jillian is a wife and mother of three children and lives in Victoria, British Columbia. For more information, visit www.drjillianroberts.com. Follow her on Twitter @DrJillRoberts.

Cindy Revell has illustrated a number of picture books with Orca, including *Clever Rachel*, *Room Enough for Daisy* and *A Sack Full of Feathers*. In 2001 Cindy was nominated for a Governor General's Award for children's book illustration. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta. For more information, visit www.cindyrevell.com. Follow her on Twitter @cindyrev.

Keywords: change, parents, children, family structure, family dynamics, custody, single parent

Just Enough

Difficult Topics
Made Easy

Where do babies come from?

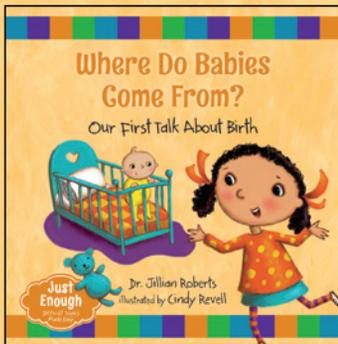
What makes people different?

Why is our family changing?

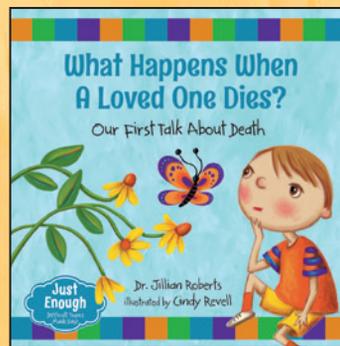
When kids start asking tough questions.

What happens when we die?

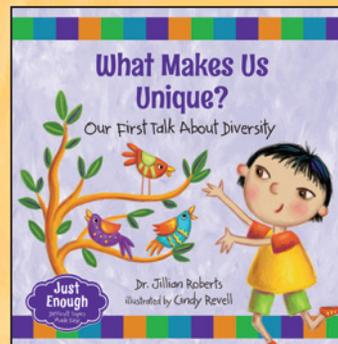
From child psychologist Dr. Jillian Roberts comes a new series to help caregivers broach challenging or uncomfortable subjects with little ones.



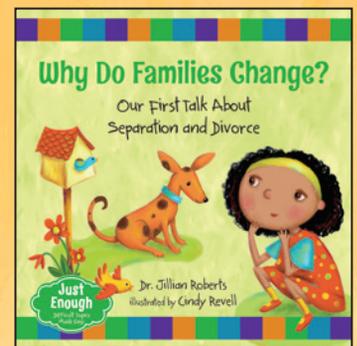
Where Do Babies Come From?
Our First Talk About Birth



What Happens When A Loved One Dies?
Our First Talk About Death



What Makes Us Unique?
Our First Talk About Diversity



Why Do Families Change?
Our First Talk About Separation and Divorce



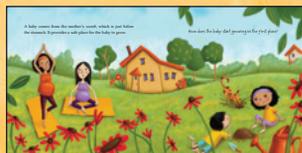
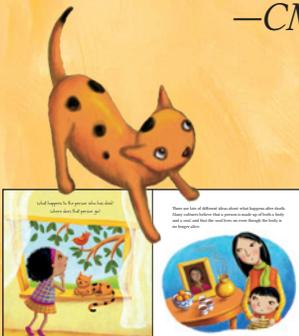
“This no-nonsense guide is here to save the day with straightforward, age-appropriate information.”

—Booklist for *Where Do Babies Come From?*



“Kudos to Dr. Jillian Roberts for tackling a serious issue in such an accessible way.”

—CM Magazine for *What Happens When A Loved One Dies?*



For ages 3-6

To find out more about the series visit www.justenoughseries.com

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SHERYL MCFARLANE



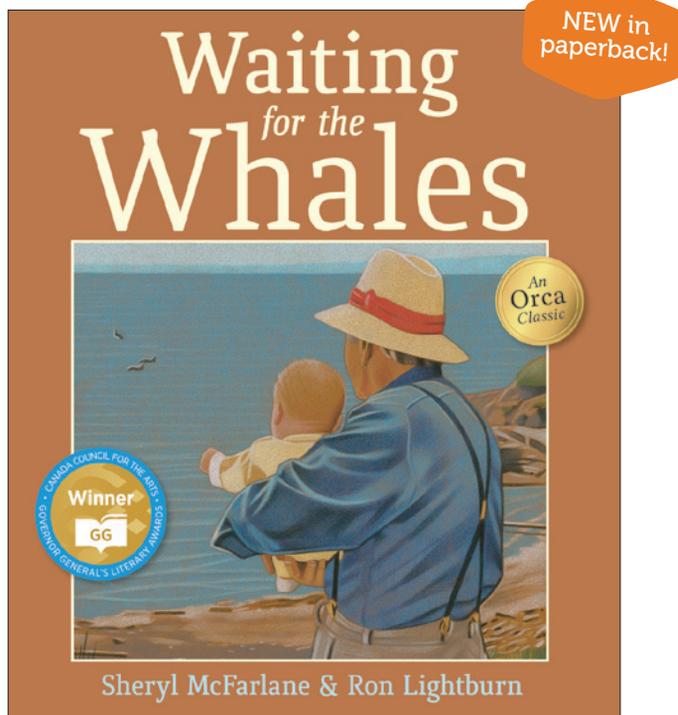
Jessie's Island

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AGES 4–8



Waiting for the Whales

Sheryl McFarlane

Illustrated by Ron Lightburn

Reissue of a much-loved Orca classic.

In this timeless classic set on the West Coast, an old man lives alone on a bluff overlooking the sea, tends his garden and waits. Only when the whales return each year to the bay in front of his cottage is his loneliness eased. One day his daughter and her baby return home to live with the old man, bringing a renewed sense of purpose to his life. As his granddaughter grows, the old man passes on a wealth of knowledge and wisdom as well as his passion for the whales. And each year they wait together for the whales to appear.

Waiting for the Whales illuminates the unique friendship between grandparent and child and celebrates the restorative power of the natural world. Originally published twenty-five years ago, this award-winning picture book is sure to enchant a whole new generation of readers.

Sheryl McFarlane is the author of several award-winning books for young readers. A former teacher, Sheryl lives on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. For more information, visit www.sherylmcfarlane.ca.

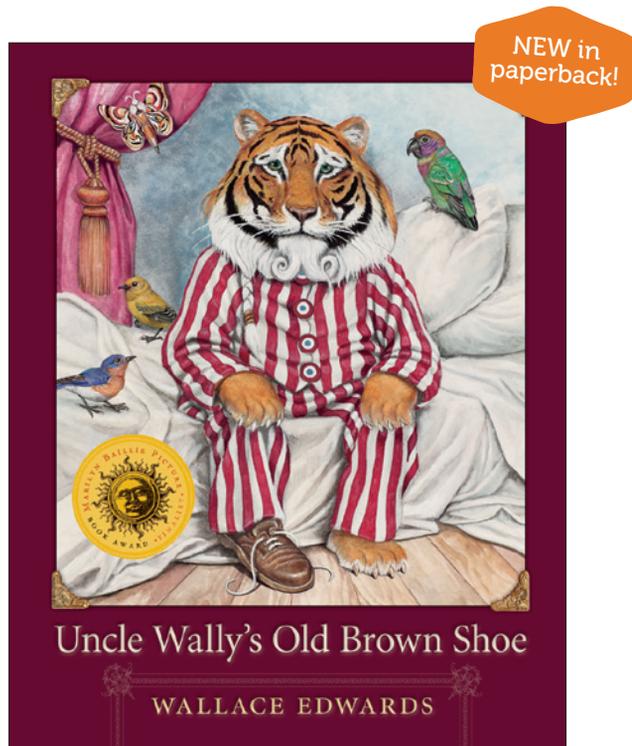
Ron Lightburn's career as a children's book illustrator was launched with his Governor General's Award-winning artwork for *Waiting for the Whales* in 1991. Since then he has illustrated numerous other bestselling picture books and has become internationally renowned for his sensitive storytelling skills and range of illustration styles. For more information, visit www.thelightburns.com.

Keywords: nature, environment, sea life, wild animals, grandparent, grandchild, family, generations

"Poetic and comforting."—Kirkus Reviews

Governor General's Literary Award winner

Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award winner



Uncle Wally's Old Brown Shoe

Wallace Edwards

Join Uncle Wally's old brown shoe on an entertaining journey of hidden surprises and delights.

Uncle Wally's *Old Brown Shoe*, inspired by the familiar nursery rhyme *The House that Jack Built*, follows the course of one very unusual shoe as it travels through a fascinating, imaginative world to encounter an assortment of quirky characters. The inventive text and cumulative story are sure to enthrall young readers, as will the detailed illustrations. Children and adults will delight in finding the whimsical objects and hidden meanings in the layered, colorful artwork, reminiscent of Wallace Edwards's first book, *Alphabeasts*.

This is a new paperback edition of a beloved Orca title.

Wallace Edwards is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and an award-winning author and illustrator. His paintings and illustrations are found in public and private collections, books and magazines and on public display in Canada and the United States. Wallace has been the guest speaker at many conferences, literary events, schools and libraries. He finds visiting with students from kindergarten to grade six especially enjoyable, where his presentations consist of reading, discussions and drawing. For more information, visit www.wallace-edwards-art.com.

Keywords: imagination, seek-and-find, nursery rhymes

"A delightful fantastical romp."—Kirkus Reviews



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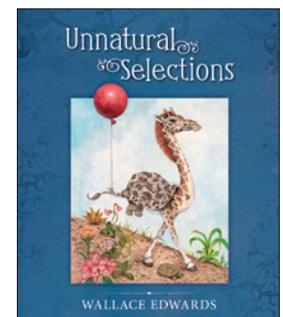
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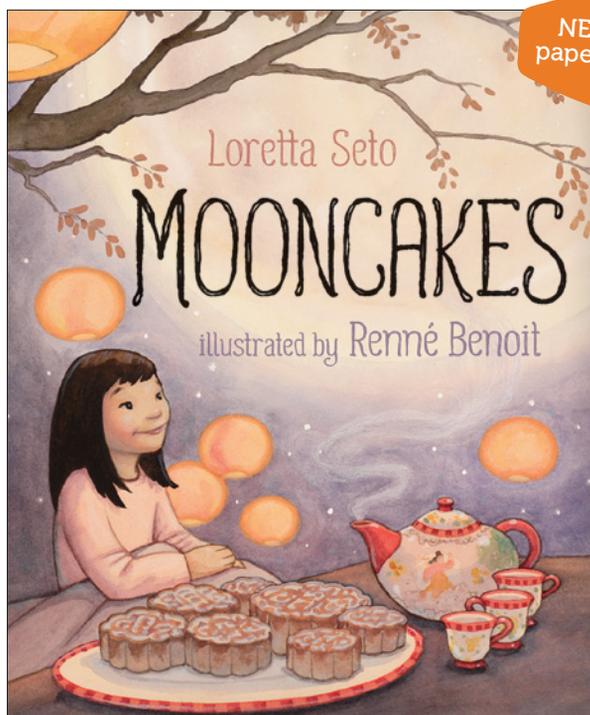
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Mooncakes

Loretta Seto

Illustrated by Renné Benoit



Come share in the special celebration of the Chinese Moon Festival.

Mooncakes is the lyrical story of a young girl who shares the special celebration of the Chinese Moon Festival with her parents. As they eat mooncakes, drink tea and watch the night sky together, Mama and Baba tell ancient tales of a magical tree that can never be cut down, the Jade Rabbit who came to live on the moon and one brave woman's journey to eternal life. With a gentle focus on the importance of family, *Mooncakes* is both a perfect book for parent and child to read together and an ideal choice for schools and libraries.

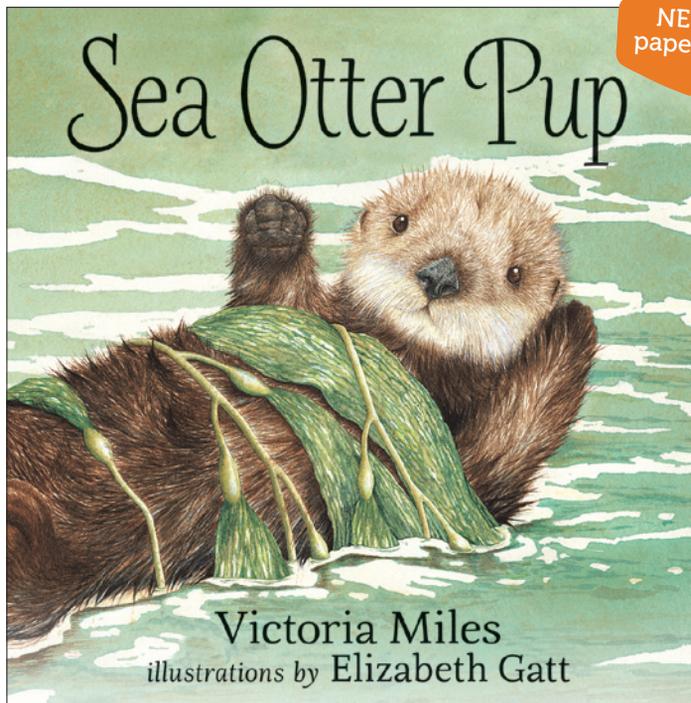
This is a paperback edition of a beloved and bestselling Orca title.

Loretta Seto is a fiction writer, screenwriter and playwright. She has been published in *Ricepaper* magazine and the anthology *Strike the Wok*. Loretta completed her MFA in creative writing at UBC. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information, visit www.lorettaseto.com.

Renné Benoit is an award-winning illustrator of many books for children, including *Goodbye to Griffith Street* (Orca), which won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize. In 2012, *Big City Bees* (Greystone) was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award in the Children's Literature Illustration category. Renné currently works out of her home studio in St. Thomas, Ontario. For more information, visit www.rennebenoit.ca.

Keywords: cultural celebrations, family traditions, Chang-E, Wu-Gang

"A cozy family story rooted in tradition."—Booklist



Sea Otter Pup

Victoria Miles
Illustrated by Elizabeth Gatt

Pup may be little, but he has big lessons to learn.

Follow along as Pup learns how to eat spiky sea urchins, somersault beneath the waves and groom himself. He still needs a lot of help from Mother, but one day Pup will be old enough to dive down below the waves and search for food on his own.

Accompanied by beautiful illustrations and set in the North Pacific, this heartwarming tale is perfect for little ones who still have lots to learn themselves.

This new format is perfect for a preschooler's small hands.

Victoria Miles is the author of numerous award-winning books for children, including *Old Mother Bear*, which received a Henry Bergh Award from the American Society for the Protection of Animals. Victoria lives in North Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband and two daughters.

Elizabeth Gatt was born in London, England, and has an MA in graphic design from the Central School of Art and Design. She worked for a number of years at the Natural History Museum in London and began illustrating children's books after her two children were born. In 1990 she moved with her family to Vancouver Island. Her lifelong interest in and respect for wildlife is evident in her detailed illustrations of animals. Elizabeth now lives in Burlington, Ontario.

Keywords: preschool readers, sea life, nature, animal families



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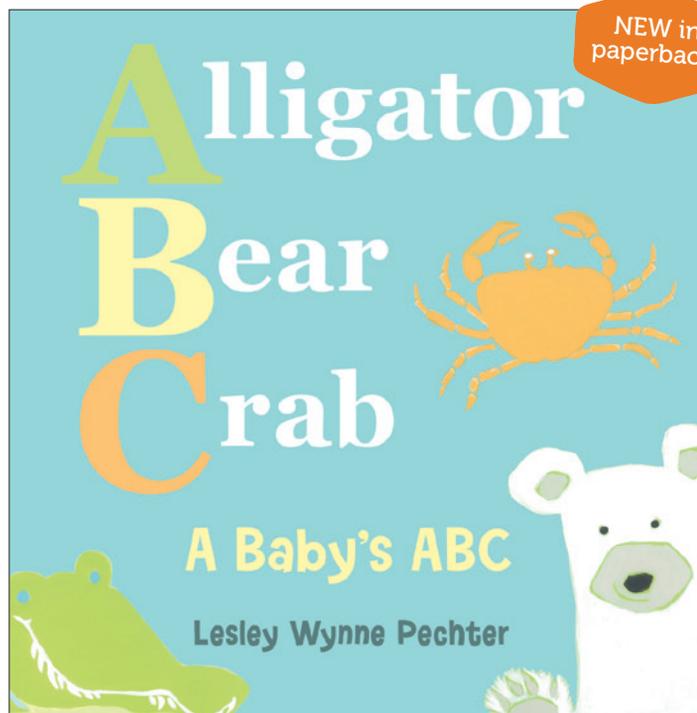
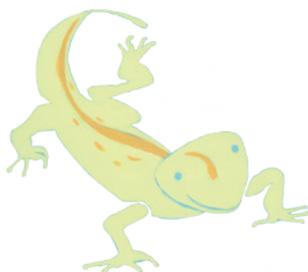
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Alligator, Bear, Crab

A Baby's ABC

Lesley Wynne Pechter

An ABC of colorful critters.

Alligator, Bear, Crab is an ABC book for babies and toddlers alike that introduces the shapes and sounds of the alphabet amid a colorful collection of critters. The bright colors and playful images make for a unique picture book.

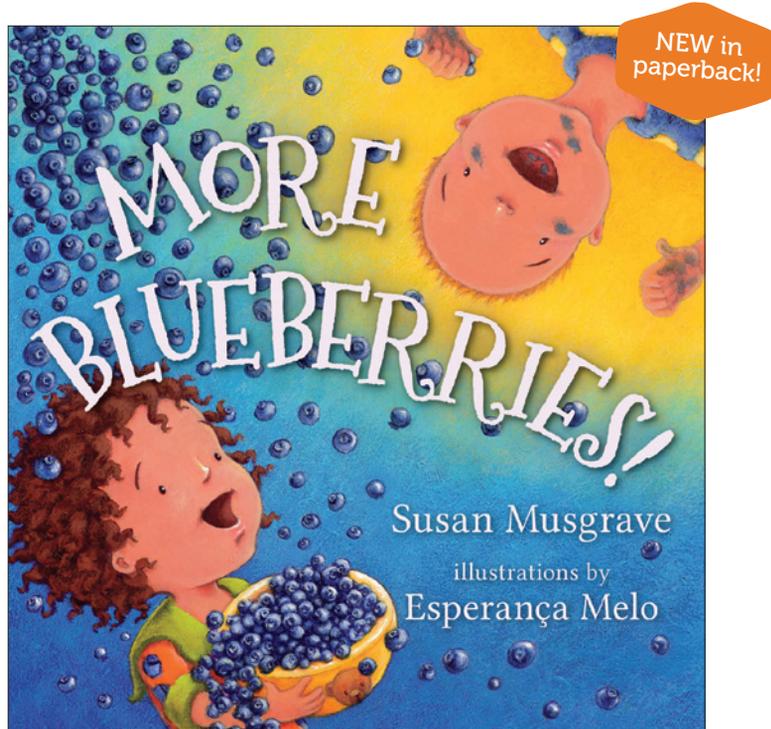
This new format is perfect for a preschooler's small hands.

Lesley Wynne Pechter was born in England. She studied at Concordia University in Montreal, where she received her BFA in graphic design. Lesley lives in Victoria, British Columbia, where the sea and island weather are a constant source of inspiration. For more information, visit www.lesleypechter.com.

Keywords: preschool readers, ABC primer, early learning, animals

"These dreamlike creatures alphabetically enchant."—Kirkus Reviews





More Blueberries!

Susan Musgrave
Illustrated by Esperança Melo

*From playtime to bedtime, blueberries
make everything oh-so-sweet!*

These young twins can't get enough of their favorite snack, and they aren't the only ones! With playful rhyming text from award-winning poet Susan Musgrave and gorgeous illustrations by Esperança Melo, this exuberant book will delight little ones and have everyone happily shouting, "More blueberries!"

This new format is perfect for a preschooler's small hands.

Susan Musgrave has been nominated for and has received awards in five different categories of writing—poetry, fiction, nonfiction, personal essay and children's writing—and for her work as an editor. She has published over twenty-seven books. Susan lives on Haida Gwaii and teaches poetry in the Optional-Residency MFA in Creative Writing Program at the University of British Columbia. For more information, visit www.susanmusgrave.com.

Esperança Melo is a graduate of Sheridan College's Animation Program and has completed an honors degree in graphic design from George Brown College. She has illustrated and designed several children's books. Esperança was born in the Azores and now lives in Millbrook, Ontario. For more information, visit www.esperancamelo.blogspot.ca.

Keywords: preschool readers, fruit, mealtime, bathtime, bedtime, playtime, parts of the body

"The sheer joyfulness of the text and the vibrant acrylic paintings (appropriately smeared with bright blue) is infectious."—School Library Journal

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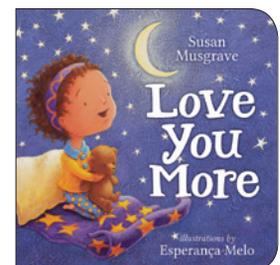
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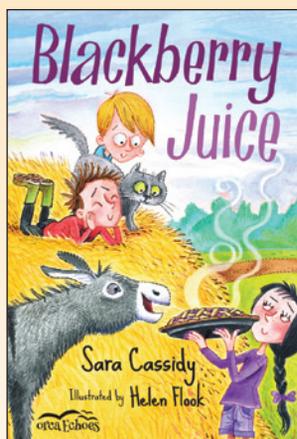
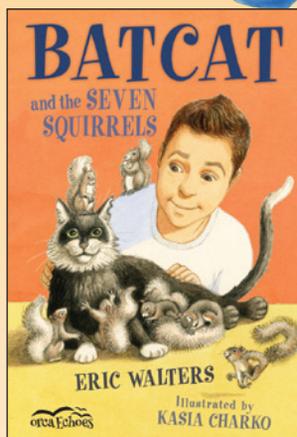
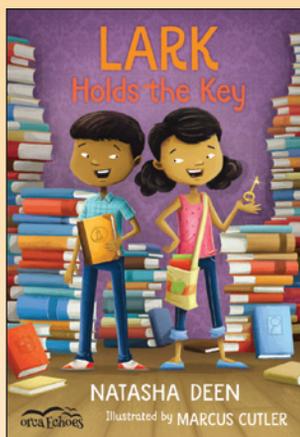
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AGES 0–3

Orca Echoes

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“Short chapters...with accessible text provide a useful bridge between controlled vocabulary readers and longer chapter books as well as an effective read aloud opportunity.”

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



Wild Cards

Jeff Szpirglas

Illustrated by Dave Whamond

Can a superhero solution solve a super-big problem?

Matt loves *Monster Zap* cards. No, no, Matt **LOVES** *Monster Zap* cards. He has *Monster Zap* toys, reads *Monster Zap* books and wears *Monster Zap* underwear. Matt and his friends like to trade the cards at school, as the schoolyard is so empty and dirty, there isn't much else for them to do at recess. But when kids start acting wild and fighting over *Monster Zap* and the cards are banned, Matt realizes that the school has big problems, maybe even bigger problems than the fights the cards caused. With the help of their teacher, and a superhero in disguise, Matt and his classmates set out to save *Monster Zap* and end up doing a lot more than that.

Jeff Szpirglas has written several award-nominated non-fiction books and two terrifying novels for middle-grade readers. With his wife, Danielle Saint-Onge, he is the co-author of the Orca Echoes *Something's Fishy* and *Messy Miranda*. He has twin children and two cats (the cats are not twins). In his spare time, he teaches second grade.

Keywords: censorship, leadership, teamwork, card games, problem solving, facing adversity

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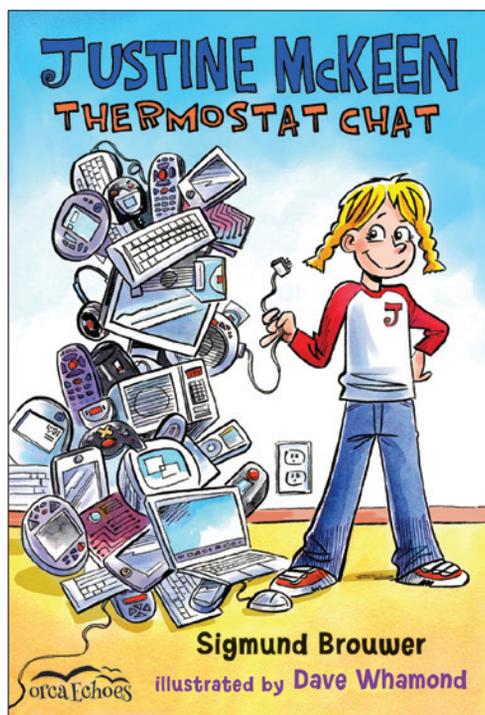
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Justine McKeen, Thermostat Chat

Sigmund Brouwer
Illustrated by Dave Whamond

Saving the rainforest one degree at a time!

Justine McKeen is on another mission, this time to rid homes and schools of energy vampires. Justine and her friends, with the help of Principal Proctor, are working to reduce the energy consumption of electronics that suck power from the school when they aren't being used. By cutting down on the miscellaneous electrical load of these electronics, the team is also saving money, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting global warming. Too bad they didn't warn Grandpa Blatzo before they started slaying the vampires!

Justine McKeen, Thermostat Chat is part of the Justine McKeen series featuring the Queen of Green.

Sigmund Brouwer is the bestselling author of many books for children and young adults, including the popular Justine McKeen, Queen of Green series. *Justine McKeen, Thermostat Chat* is the eighth book in the series. Sigmund lives in Red Deer, Alberta, and Nashville, Tennessee. For more information, visit www.sigmundbrouwer.com.

Keywords: environmental stewardship, climate change, student activism, sustainability, conservation, teamwork

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Bottle Throttle**

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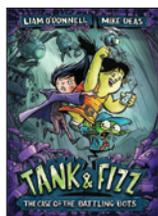
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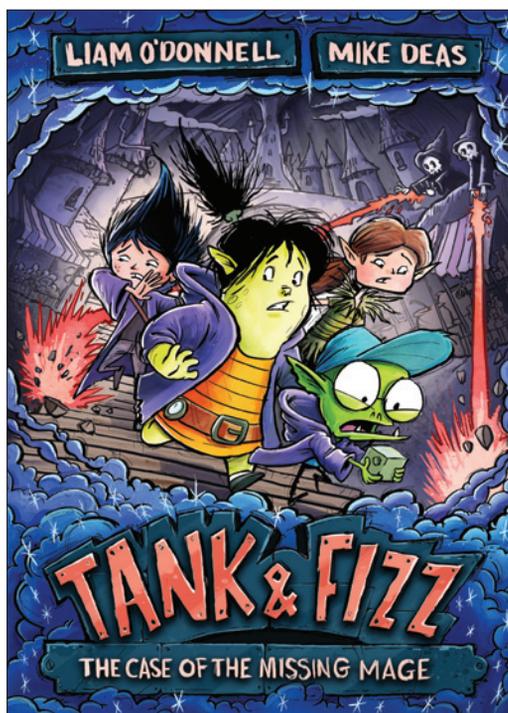
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Tank & Fizz

The Case of the Missing Mage

Liam O'Donnell

Illustrated by Mike Deas

Who is meddling with the magic?

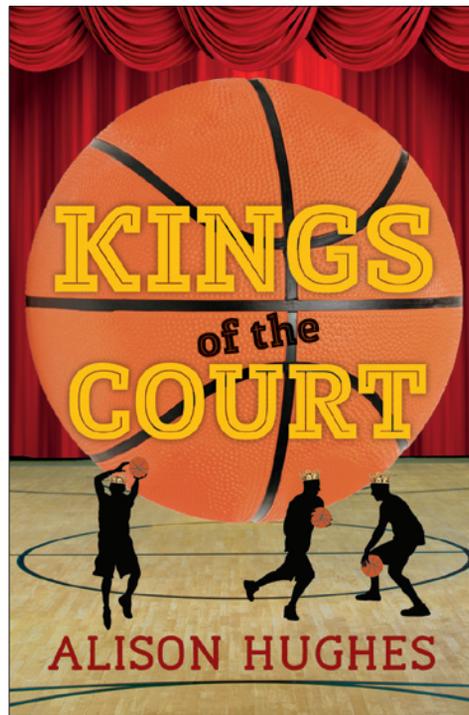
As the eve of the great Wizards' Summit approaches, wizards from all over Rockfall Mountain descend on the school at Shadow Tower to refine their craft. When professors start disappearing, it's up to magic-fearing monster sleuths Tank and Fizz to solve this spell-packed mystery. Using their detective skills, a pinch of magic and a trickle of technology, the friends stumble into a battle that's been brewing for decades. And what starts as a simple missing-persons case turns into a clash of light versus dark magic.

The Case of the Missing Mage is the third book in the Tank & Fizz series about two crime-solving monsters living under a mountain, following *The Case of the Slime Stampede* and *The Case of the Battling Bots*. Stay tuned for book four, coming Spring 2018.

Liam O'Donnell is an award-winning children's author, gamer and educator. He's created over thirty books for young readers, including the Max Finder Mystery and Graphic Guide Adventure series of graphic novels. Liam lives in Toronto, Ontario, where he divides his time between the computer and the coffeemaker. For more information, visit www.liamodonnell.com or follow him on Twitter @liamodonnell.

Mike Deas is an author/illustrator of graphic novels, including *Dalen and Gole* and the Graphic Guide Adventure series. While he grew up with a love of illustrative storytelling, Capilano College's Commercial Animation Program helped Mike fine-tune his drawing skills and imagination. Mike and his wife, Nancy, currently live on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. For more information, visit www.deasillustration.com or follow him on Twitter @deasillos.

Keywords: goblins, trolls, sleuth, robots, technology, fantasy, dieselpunk, steampunk, cartoon novel



Kings of the Court

Alison Hughes

*Once more unto the breach—or in this case,
the basketball court.*

When the Gladiators basketball team's nasty coach gets turfed midseason, things couldn't possibly be worse. The team hasn't won a game yet, and morale is at rock bottom. Sameer, who announces the games and keeps score, and Vijay, the team mascot, have their hands full keeping the team's spirits up. When they get promoted to assistant coach and manager, can they help a small, unathletic, Shakespeare-quoting drama teacher coach the team to victory, or at least to dignity? Or will the courtside drama eclipse even the school play?

Alison Hughes writes for children of all ages, and looks forward to publishing her first young adult novel in 2017. Alison's highly acclaimed picture book *Spare Dog Parts* was followed up with *What Matters* (Orca, September 2016). One of her other novels for middle readers, *Lost in the Backyard* has been nominated for a number of awards, including the Silver Birch, the Diamond Willow and the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award.

Alison spent a lot of time in university studying English literature (a whole year of Shakespeare!) and then law. She's played and coached soccer, volleyball and basketball, and has spent countless hours in school gyms, watching her son's basketball team. Alison also volunteers at the Centre for Family Literacy and does frequent presentations at schools, libraries and young-writer conferences. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with her husband and three children. For more information, visit www.alisonhughesbooks.com.

Keywords: compromise, diversity, teamwork, loyalty, competition, acceptance, acting, coaching

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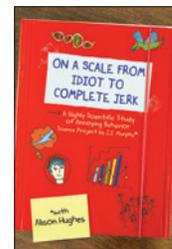
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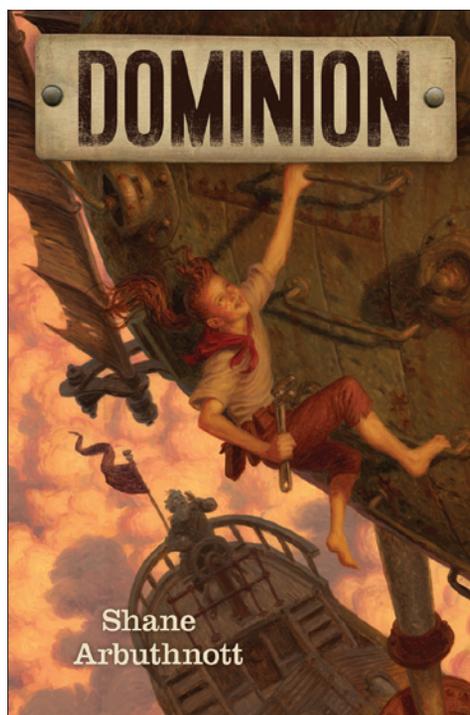
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Dominion

Shane Arbuthnott

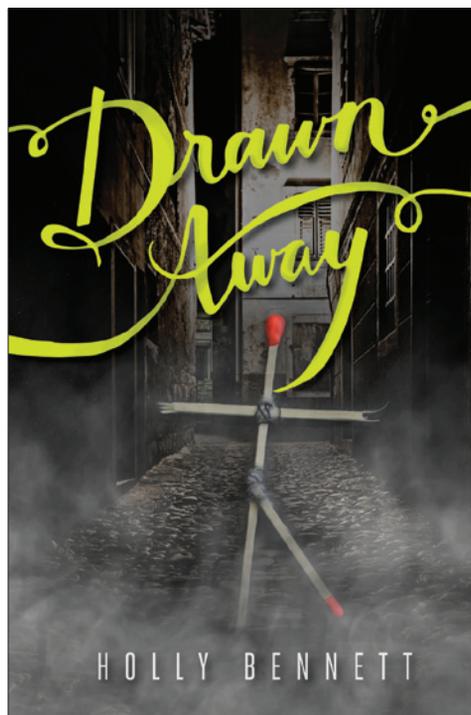
What if the spirits aren't dangerous after all?

Molly grew up hearing the tales of Haviland Stout, her ancestor who discovered the dangerous magical spirits that inhabit the far corners of the world. Now, on the edge of the New World, in the British Dominion of Terra Nova, Molly and her family collect spirits aboard their airship, the *Legerdemain*.

But when Molly captures a spirit that can speak and claims to have been Haviland's friend, her entire life is upended. What if everything she knows about the spirits, and her own history, is a lie? In her hunt for the truth, Molly will have to challenge the most powerful company in Terra Nova and find the courage to reshape her world. The story in this compelling fantasy novel will be continued in *Terra Nova* due out in 2018.

Shane Arbuthnott grew up in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and now lives in Guelph, Ontario, with his family. When he is not writing, he can be seen chasing his three adventurous children, trying to convince them to occasionally eat green things. His short fiction has previously appeared in *On Spec* and *Open Spaces*. *Dominion* is his first novel about Molly Stout. The sequel will be published in 2018. For more information, visit www.shanearbuthnott.com or follow him on Twitter @SMArbuthnott.

Keywords: airships, family, rebellion, fantasy, female main character



Drawn Away

Holly Bennett

Fairy tales can come true. And not in a good way.

One minute Jack's in math class. The next, he's on a dark, cobblestoned, empty street. Empty, that is, except for a skinny girl wrapped in a threadbare shawl. "Matches, mister?" she asks, and just like that, Jack's life collides with one of Hans Christian Andersen's grimmest tales. And as soon as he has almost convinced himself it was merely a weird dream, it happens again.

Suddenly, Jack's ideas about what is "real" or "possible" no longer apply. While he and his new girlfriend, Lucy, struggle to understand who or what the Match Girl is, they come to realize they must also find a way to keep Jack away from her. The Match Girl is not just a sad, lonely soul; she's dangerous. And each time Jack is drawn into her gray, solitary world, she becomes stronger, more alive...and more attached to Jack.

She wants to keep Jack for her very own, even if that means he will die.

Holly Bennett is the author of numerous young adult novels, all published by Orca. Her writing draws from fantasy and mythology but is always grounded in the characters and relationships in the stories. Holly worked for many years as an editor with *Today's Parent* magazine and is now the editor of *Education Canada*, as well as a freelance writer and editor. For more information, visit www.hollybennett.ca.

Keywords: paranormal, grief, romance, death, family, fairy tales, diabetes

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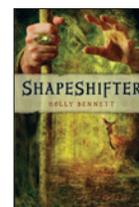
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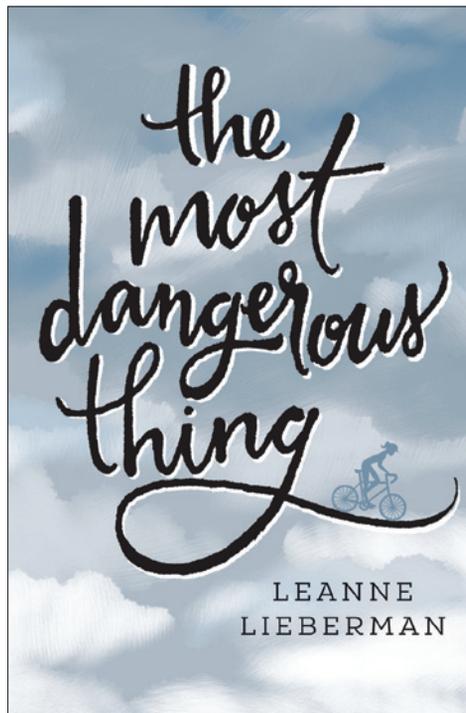
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The Most Dangerous Thing

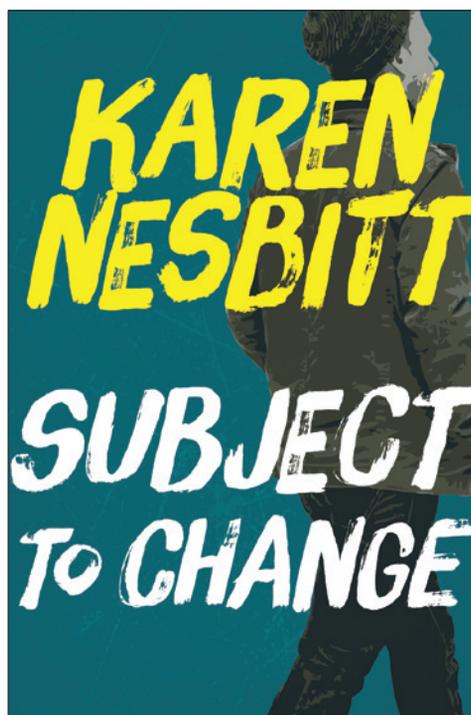
Leanne Lieberman

Syd wonders where desire fits into depression.

Sixteen-year-old Sydney hates to talk (or even think) about sex. She's also fighting a secret battle against depression, and she's sure she'll never have a boyfriend. When her classmate Paul starts texting and sending her nature photos, she is caught off guard by his interest. Always uncomfortable with any talk about sex, Sydney is shocked when her extroverted sister, Abby, announces that she is going to put on *The Vagina Monologues* at school. Despite her discomfort, Sydney starts to reexamine her relationship with her body, and with Paul. But her depression worsens, and with the help of her friends, her family, a therapist and some medication, she grapples with what she calls the most dangerous thing about sex: female desire.

Leanne Lieberman is the author of four acclaimed YA novels, including *Gravity* (a Sydney Taylor Notable book) and *Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust*. Her adult fiction has been published in *Descant*, *Grain*, *The New Quarterly*, *The Antigone Review* and other magazines. Leanne lives with her family in Kingston, Ontario, where she teaches elementary school (including sex ed). For more information, visit www.leannelieberman.com.

Keywords: coming of age, female main character, anxiety, Judaism, friendship, grandfather, Passover, cycling, therapy, sisters, shame, sex education



Subject to Change

Karen Nesbitt

Declan thinks he knows the truth, but does he?

Declan's life in small-town Quebec is defined by his parents' divorce, his older brother's delinquency and his own lackluster performance at school, which lands him with a tutor he calls Little Miss Perfect. He likes his job at the local ice rink, and he has a couple of good buddies, but his father's five-year absence is a constant source of pain and anger. When he finds out the truth about his parents' divorce, he is forced to reconsider everything he has believed about his family and himself.

Karen Nesbitt works as a school counselor at the senior campus of Westwood High School and at Horizon High School near Montreal, Quebec, and teaches creative writing at the Thomas More Institute in Montreal. The mother of two teenagers, Karen spends most of her days immersed in teen culture and has been writing since she was a teenager herself. She lives with her husband and children in Pierrefonds, Quebec. *Subject to Change* is Karen's debut novel.

Keywords: friendship, high school, delinquency, alcohol abuse, brothers, the Holocaust, homosexuality, homophobia, poverty, loyalty

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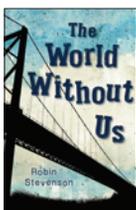
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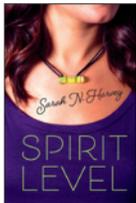
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Blood on the Beach

Sarah N. Harvey & Robin Stevenson

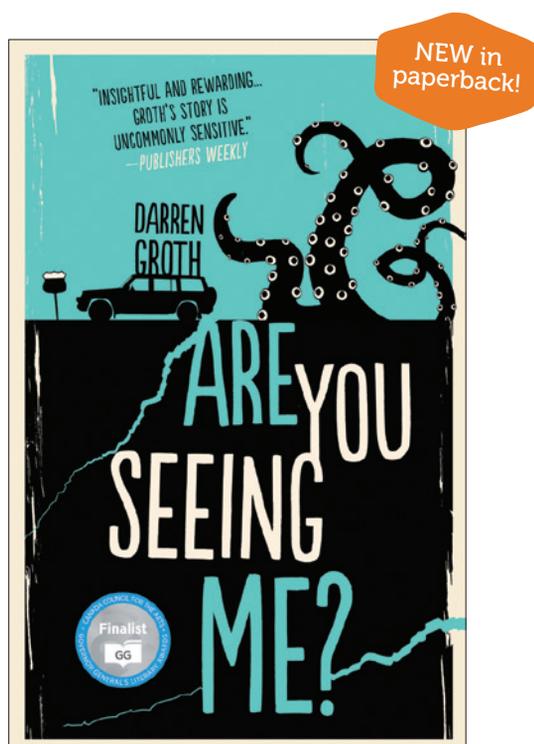
Eight teens stranded on an island take matters into their own hands.

Eight teens are dropped off on a remote west-coast island for a week-long treatment program called INTRO (Into Nature to Renew Ourselves). The story is told by two of them: Alice, whose police-officer mother believes Alice might have a substance-abuse problem, and Caleb, who assaulted his abusive stepfather. They are joined by six other miscreants and three staff: a psychologist, a social worker and an ex-cop. On the first night, one of the girls disappears from her cabin. There is a panicked search of the island, but she is nowhere to be found. The adults seem oddly ineffectual in dealing with the crisis—and then the ex-cop gets sick and dies. The radio has been sabotaged, and there is no way to call for help. When the social worker also becomes ill, the kids decide to take matters into their own hands and track down the killer.

Sarah N. Harvey has written for both children and young adults. Some of her books have been translated into Korean, German and Slovenian. She lives in Victoria, British Columbia, where she works as a children's-book editor. For more information, visit www.sarahnharvey.com.

Robin Stevenson is the author of twenty books for kids and teens. Her novels include *The World Without Us* and *The Summer We Saved the Bees*, as well as the Silver Birch Award-winner *Record Breaker* and the Governor General's Award finalist *A Thousand Shades of Blue*. She lives in Victoria, British Columbia. For more information, visit www.robinstevenson.com.

Keywords: juvenile delinquents, friendship, counseling, coming of age, thriller, wilderness training, dual narrator



Are You Seeing Me?

Darren Groth

We cannot live in a world of one.

Twins Justine and Perry have left their home in Australia and embarked on the road trip of a lifetime in the Pacific Northwest.

It's been a year since their dad lost his battle with cancer and Justine became the sole caregiver for her autistic brother, Perry. Now Perry has been accepted into an assisted-living residence in their hometown, Brisbane, Australia, but before he takes up residence, they're seeking to create the perfect memory.

For Perry, the trip is a glorious celebration of some of his favorite things: Ogopogo, Jackie Chan movies and earthquakes. For Justine, it's an opportunity to learn how to let go of Perry and of her boyfriend, Marc. Justine also wants to offer their estranged mother the chance to atone for past wrongs.

But the instability that has shaped their lives will not subside, and the seismic event that Perry forewarned threatens to reduce their worlds to rubble...

Originally from Brisbane, Australia, **Darren Groth** now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with his Canadian wife and fourteen-year-old twins. *Are You Seeing Me?* was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award and the Sheila Egoff Children's Literature Prize in Canada and won the Adelaide Festival Award for Young Adult Literature in Australia. Darren's new novel, *Living for Martel Maddux*, will be published by Orca in fall 2017. For more information, visit www.darrengroth.com.

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder, different abilities, sea monsters, orphans, earthquakes, Seattle, Washington, Okanagan Lake, Vancouver, British Columbia, parents

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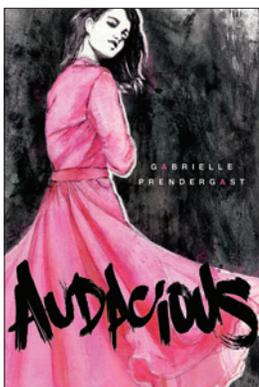
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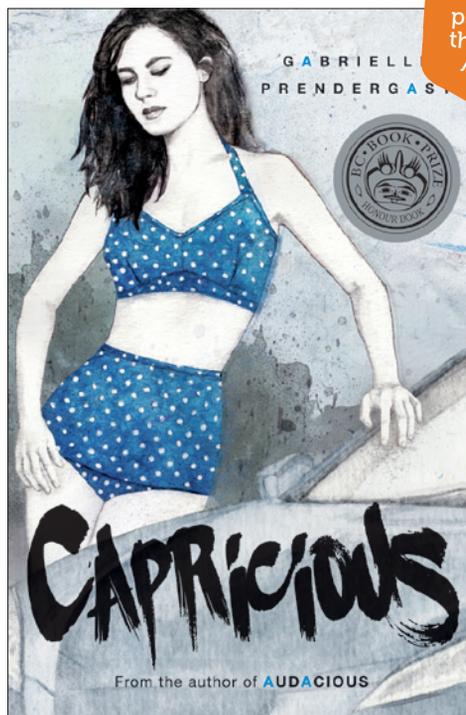
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Capricious

Gabrielle Prendergast

Time can't be undone. Mistakes can't be unmade.

The first half of Ella's eleventh-grade year went far worse than she could have ever dreamed. But as summer approaches, things are looking up. She's back together with her brooding boyfriend, Samir, although they both want to keep that a secret. She's best buddies with hockey hottie David and is interested in making him boyfriend number two. Though part of her wants to conform to high school norms, for rebellious Ella, the temptation to be radical is just too great. And what better way than to challenge the expectations of teenage L.O.V.E.?

Managing two secret boyfriends proves harder than Ella expected, especially with everything else going on. When Samir and David face separate family crises, Ella finds herself at the center of an emotional maelstrom she doesn't know how to handle. Someone will get hurt. Someone risks losing the one they truly love. Someone might finally learn that self-serving actions can have public consequences.

And, big surprise, that someone is Ella.

Gabrielle Prendergast wrote her first book in crayon at the age of about four and has seldom stopped making up stories since. She is the author of the acclaimed YA verse novel *Audacious*, as well as *The Frail Days* in the Orca Limelights series and the middle-grade novel *Pandas on the Eastside*. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband and daughter. For more information, visit www.angelhorn.com or www.versenovels.com.

Keywords: fidelity, trust, friendship, relationships, high-school sweetheart, sex, family

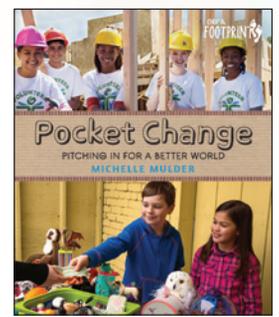
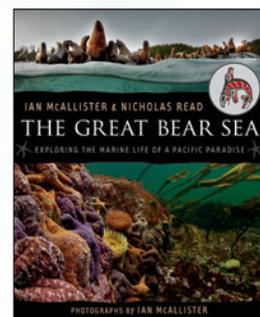
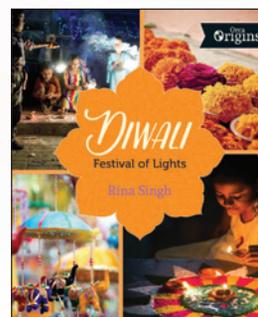
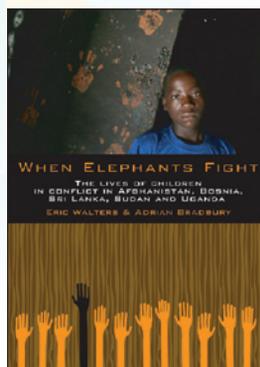
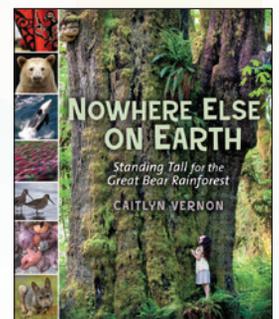
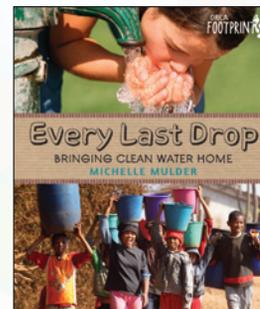
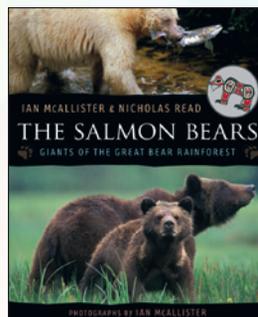
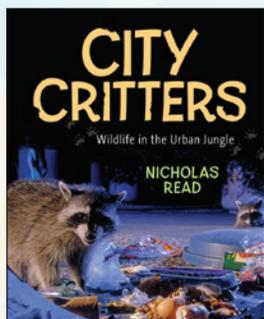
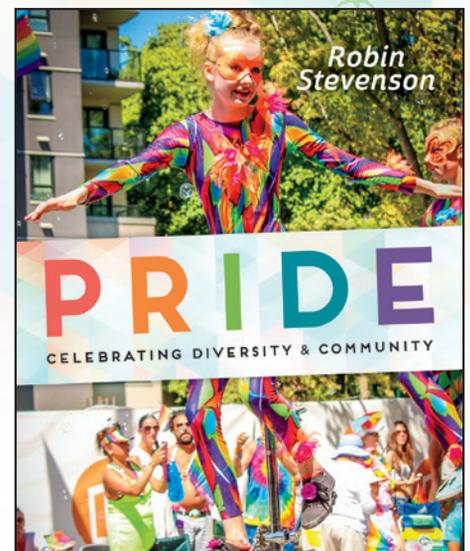
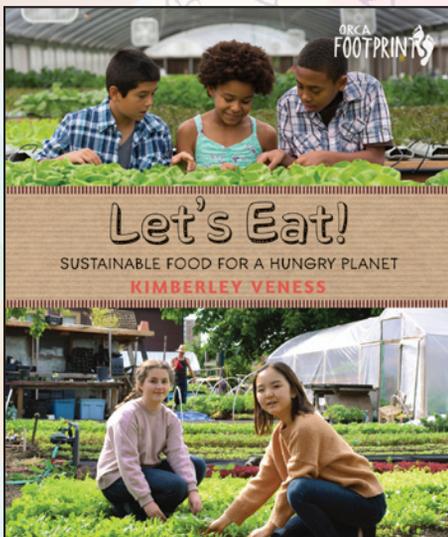
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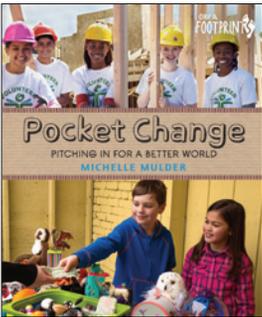
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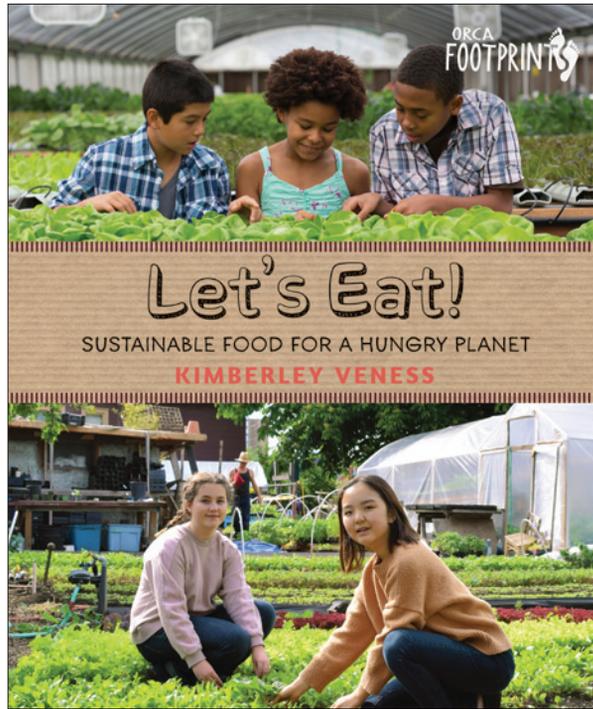
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Let's Eat!

Sustainable Food for a Hungry Planet

Kimberley Veness

What would your groceries say if they could talk?

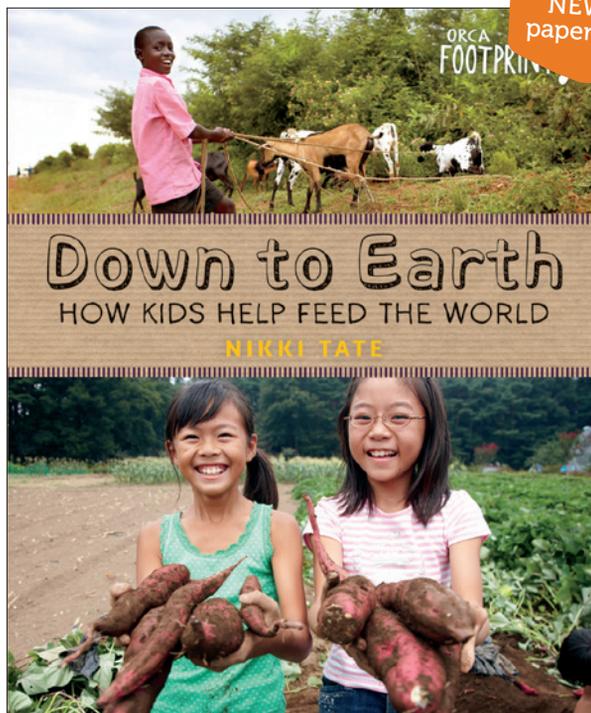
All the food you eat, whether it's an apple or a steak or a chocolate-coated cricket, has a story. *Let's Eat* uncovers the secret lives of our groceries, exploring alternative—and sometimes bizarre—farm technology and touring gardens up high on corporate rooftops and down low in military-style bunkers beneath city streets.

Packed with interesting and sometimes startling facts on agriculture around the world, *Let's Eat* reveals everything from the size of the biggest farm in the world to how many pesticides are in a single grape.

Kimberley Veness spent four years of her childhood on a ninety-acre farm in Saskatchewan, and many years later the smell of manure still brings her back to those crisp autumn mornings spent mucking out the barn with her mom. She didn't know it then, but she had fallen in love with farming—the land, the animals and the food. Kimberley lives in Adams Lake, British Columbia, with her partner and two children. *Let's Eat* is her first book. For more information, visit www.kimberleybveness.com.

Keywords: locavore, organic, green living, eat local, food, deserts, monoculture, urban farms, bees, groceries, diversity, hydroponics, permaculture





Down To Earth

How Kids Help Feed the World

Nikki Tate

Fun facts, fresh off the farm.

Kids all over the world help collect seeds, weed gardens, milk goats and herd ducks. From a balcony garden with pots of lettuce to a farm with hundreds of cows, kids can pitch in to bring the best and freshest products to their families' tables—and to market. Loaded with accessible information about the many facets of farming, *Down to Earth* takes a close look at everything from what an egg carton tells you to why genetic diversity matters—even to kids.

Born in England, **Nikki Tate** traveled the world with her family before eventually settling in Canada. The author of more than two dozen books and hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles, Tate lives on a small farm on Vancouver Island. Tate also performs as a storyteller, spoken-word artist, audiobook narrator and occasional contributor to CBC Radio. She has always loved climbing trees and building tree forts. For more information, visit www.nikkitate.com.

Keywords: agriculture, sustainability, farm animals, birds, farm-to-table

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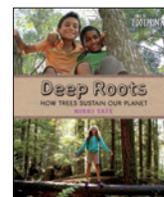
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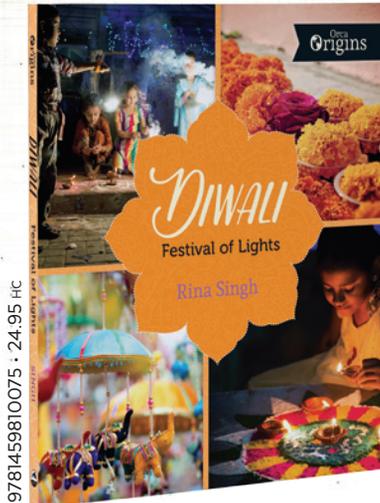
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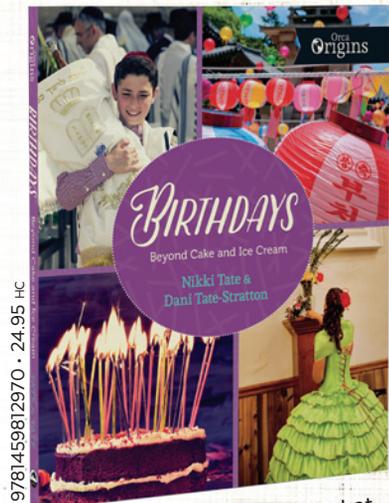
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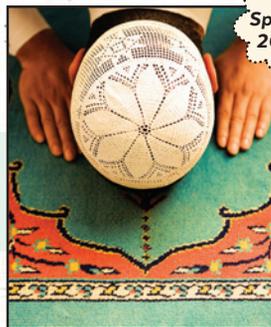


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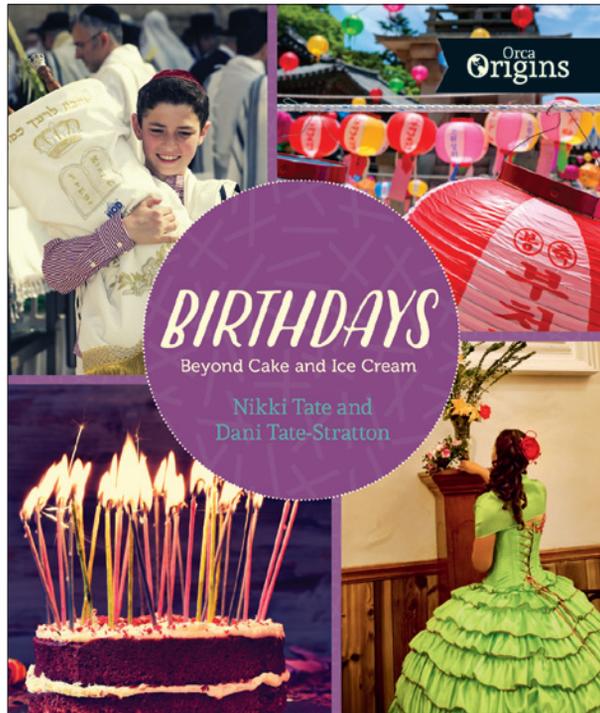
Christmas
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Birthdays Beyond Cake and Ice Cream

Nikki Tate & Dani Tate-Stratton

How will you celebrate the start of your next year on Earth?

Inspired by memories of fantastic family birthday parties, mother-and-daughter team Nikki Tate and Dani Tate-Stratton researched the history of birthdays in order to answer such questions as, how much does where you grow up influence the way you celebrate getting a year older? Have people always celebrated birthdays? The more they investigated, the more they realized that there's a lot more to birthdays than cake, presents, a few games and perhaps a goody bag. They discovered there are as many ways to observe birthdays as there are places in which to do it.

Nikki Tate is the author of more than thirty books, most of which are for children and teenagers. She splits her time between Canmore, Alberta, and Victoria, British Columbia, so that she can indulge two of her passions: climbing and sailing. Born in England, Nikki has traveled all over the world and spent time in Australia, the Caribbean, Europe, Iceland, Canada, the US and Japan. The two constants in her life have been travel and reading. For more information, visit www.nikkitate.com.

Dani Tate-Stratton was born on Salt Spring Island and set off on her first journey when she was just a toddler. After living in Florida, Toronto, Tokyo and Vancouver, she is back in Victoria, British Columbia, where she now works as a graphic designer, writer and editor and also keeps pretty busy with SKOG, a company she and her husband started that makes cool things out of wood. She owns an old Greyhound bus that's slowly becoming a home, and while she waits for the house on wheels to be ready, she travels as much as possible. This is her second collaboration on a book with her mom. The first was *Take Shelter*, in the Orca Footprints series. For more information, visit www.danitatestratton.com.

Keywords: history, food, ceremonies, family traditions, recipes, gifts, games, growing up, elders, grandparents

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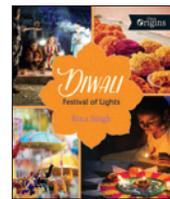
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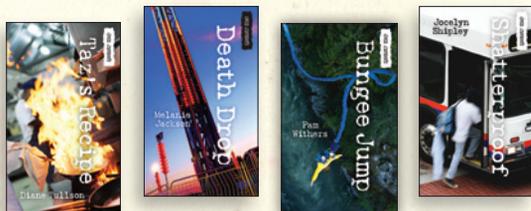
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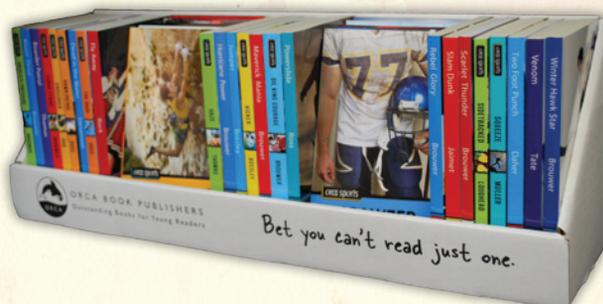
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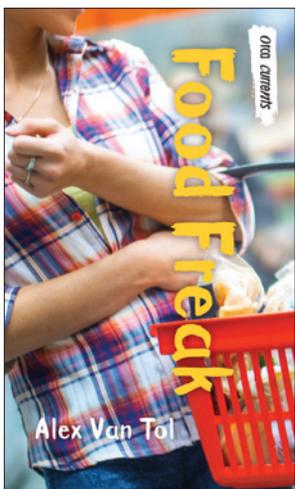


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Food Freak

Alex Van Tol

What do you do when the local doomsayer is your father?

Ever since Dani's mother died of cancer, all her dad does is stand around on street corners with his crazy signs, proclaiming that processed foods mean the end of the world. But it's a new year, and Dani is at a new school in a different part of town. Maybe things will be better now. Dani just needs to keep her head down and avoid making any friends. That way, nobody will realize her dad is the Food Freak. The plan seems to be working until one day Dani meets a boy who helps her see things in a different light.

Alex Van Tol is the author of thirteen books, including the Orca Currents titles *Chick: Lister* and *Oracle*. A former middle school teacher, Alex loves shopping at the local market and cooking delicious meals from scratch. She lives in Victoria, British Columbia, with her two young sons. For more information, visit www.alexvantol.com.

Keywords: grieving, food safety, processed foods, environmental impact, mental health, single parenting, protesting

January 24, 2017

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Quiz Queens

K.L. Denman

How do you know if he's the one?

Jane has no interest in boys. Her mom, Sherry, has brought home so many creeps over the years that Jane has decided to focus on her studies. Her best friend, the boy-crazy Kiara, is obsessed with online quizzes and convinces Jane to help her create a questionnaire that will determine whether muscular Liam or Omar with the cute eyes is her true soul-mate. Their friendship is tested when the answers come back with a surprising third option, the quiet and awkward Javier. Jane fails to reveal the results, which leads to long-held resentments (and possible secret crushes) being revealed. One of the besties will have to swallow her pride to make the first move and try to repair the damage.

K.L. Denman has written many novels for youth, including the Orca Currents titles *Destination Human* and *Agent Angus*. She lives in Delta, British Columbia. For more information, visit www.kldenman.com.

Keywords: competition, teen romance, single parenting, social media, friendship

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Bullies Rule

Monique Polak

What do you do when you realize that YOU are the bully?

Daniel is surprised when, instead of being punished for “pantsing” another eighth-grader, he is invited to become an ambassador at his school’s upcoming open house. What Daniel doesn’t realize is that he is part of a social experiment on bullying being conducted by the local university.

He is a little nervous to learn he will be working with Jeff, a tenth-grader with a reputation for being the biggest bully in the school. Daniel has never thought of himself as a bully. He just likes kidding around. But hanging out with Jeff will change Daniel’s perspective on bullying and force him to examine his own behavior.

Monique Polak has written many novels for youth, including the Orca Currents titles *Hate Mail* and *Leggings Revolt*. When not writing award-winning books, Monique Polak teaches English and Humanities in Montreal, Quebec, where she also works as a freelance journalist. For more information, visit www.moniquepolak.com.

Keywords: pranks, high school, behavioral study, students, school ambassador, school culture, soft-bullying

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Jungle Jitters

Lisa Dalrymple

Sometimes you just have to jump in with both feet.

Even though Tate is secretly terrified of deep water, and all the scary things that swim below, he agrees to travel with his class up the Amazon River to help build a village school. He has his fingers and toes crossed that he won’t see any giant snakes or hungry piranhas.

But there are even scarier things than anacondas lurking in the jungles of South America. Tate soon learns of the legend of El Tunchi, a vengeful spirit that terrorizes those who harm the rainforest. When creepy things start happening Tate is sure the group must have angered El Tunchi. He and his friends need to figure out a way to make amends and get out of the jungle alive.

Lisa Dalrymple is the author of the picture books *A Moose Goes A-Mummers* and *Skink on the Brink*, winner of the 2014 Crystal Kite Award. She lives in Fergus, Ontario, with her husband and their three children. For more information, visit www.lisadalrymple.com.

Keywords: coming of age, Amazon Rainforest, diversity, conservation, Peru, legends, cultural tourism

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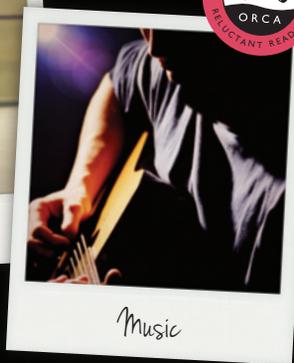
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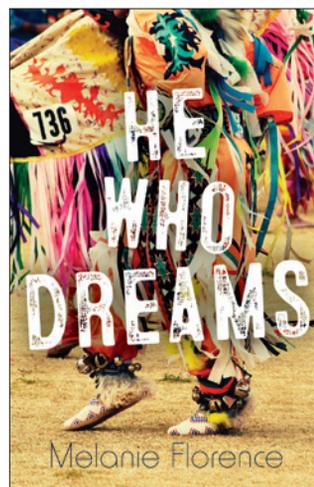


“Readers will be treated to lots of action while gaining insight into **the world of teenaged performers with big dreams**...They are short, fast-paced and well executed—a strong effort from Orca, and worth recommending to reluctant or struggling readers looking for a more contemporary read.”

—Canadian Children's Book News

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He Who Dreams

Melanie Florence

The sound of drumbeats changes everything.

Juggling soccer, school, friends and family leaves John with little time for anything else. But one day at the local community center, following the sound of drums, he discovers an Indigenous dance class. Soon John finds himself stumbling through beginner classes, skipping soccer practice and letting his other responsibilities slide. When he attends a pow wow and witnesses a powerful performance, he realizes that he wants to be a dancer more than anything. But he still hasn't told his family or friends about his new passion. If he wants to dance, he will have to stop hiding. Despite the mocking of his teammates and the hostility of the boys in his dance class, John must find a way to balance and embrace both the Irish and Cree sides of his heritage.

Melanie Florence is of Cree and Scottish descent. She is the author of the award-winning *Righting Canada's Wrongs: Residential Schools* and *Missing Nimama*. Melanie lives in Toronto, Ontario, with her family. For more information, visit www.melanieflorence.com.

Keywords: Indigenous, Métis, men's fancy dance, bi-racial, friendship, identity, racism

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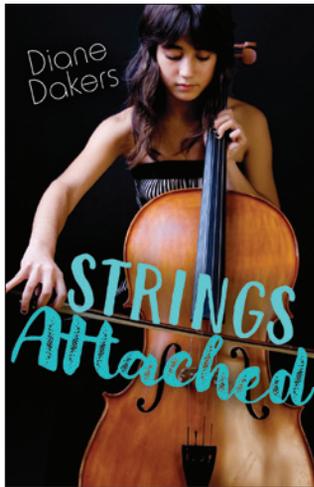
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Diane Dakers

Is being successful worth losing a friend?

Brielle and Tawni have played cello side by side in orchestras. But when Tawni is injured, Brielle suddenly finds herself principal cellist. Not only does that mean she'll be thrust into the spotlight, but she is now leader of the cello section. Brielle is terrified. Is she good enough? Will the other musicians accept her? What if she screws up?

Despite her fears, Brielle rises to the occasion. Her cello skills, and her leadership skills, improve as she grows into her new role. But just as Brielle is beginning to feel confident, Tawni returns. And she wants her job back. If Brielle steps down now, she'll lose her place in the spotlight. If she doesn't, her friendship could be in jeopardy.

Diane Dakers played cello for eight years, until her high school strings program was canceled. She has written many books for young readers, including the Orca titles *Bad Business* and *Homecoming*. For more information, visit www.dianedakers.com.

Keywords: competition, strings, orchestra, friendship, loyalty

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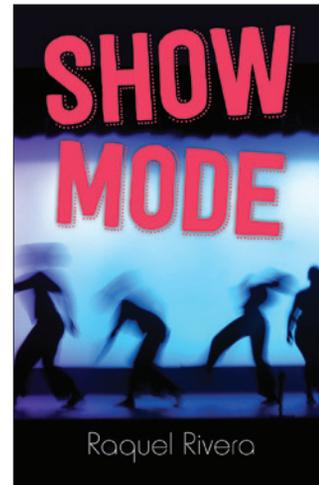
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Show Mode

Raquel Rivera

Life isn't perfect, but your outfit can be.

Adina has always wanted to be a part of the annual showcase at her school for the arts. She knows her group's act could be perfect. They've got great music, gorgeous costumes and wicked dance moves. But Willow is being her usual flaky self, and Sandra's getting touchy. Maybe even a bit mean. Luckily, Seth is steady and reliable. Their biggest competition are the annoyingly perfect Prima Donnas, who are doing everything they can to undermine Adina and her friends.

Adina is used to working hard at everything she does, including her violin, art, drama and singing classes. But her friends are getting sick of her ordering them around. They just don't get what a huge deal this is. When one of the Prima Donnas gets injured during their audition, minutes after Sandra storms off in a huff, the two groups realize that in order to succeed, they may have to work together.

Raquel Rivera is the author of four books for children, including *Orphan Ahwak*. She lives in Montreal with her family. For more information, visit www.raquelriverawashere.com.

Keywords: teamwork, competition, bullying, relationships, social skills, costume design, working together

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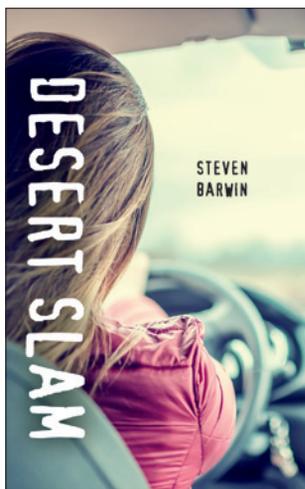
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Desert Slam

Steven Barwin

There's no such thing as coincidence.

Sixteen-year-old Maya travels to Palm Springs to visit her grandparents, soak up the sun and play some tennis. But on the way back from a tennis match they get into a fender bender. The other driver suggests not involving the police or insurance companies. That seems odd to Maya, especially since the passenger of the other vehicle is visibly pregnant. But her grandfather is worried about repercussions and agrees to the deal. Later, Maya and her new friend Ruby discover that similar incidents have happened to others in her grandparents' gated community. They start to investigate, and when they spot the woman from the crash working in a clothing store, and clearly *not* pregnant, they know they are onto something.

Steven Barwin is the author of a number of sport-themed books, including Orca Sports titles *Hardball* and *Hurricane Heat*. He lives in Toronto with his family. For more information, visit www.stevenbarwin.com.

Keywords: insurance scams, young drivers, tennis, snowbirds, California, spring break

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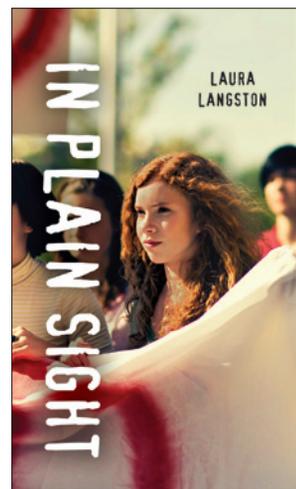
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In Plain Sight

Laura Langston

Does DNA determine your destiny?

After the protest she organized on the Las Vegas Strip takes an unexpected turn, fifteen-year-old Megan “Cause Queen” Caliente is wishing she could disappear. When her mother comes to pick her up at the police station, Megan learns that her whole life has been a lie. Her father is a convicted terrorist, responsible for the deaths of more than 200 people, and her mother has been living under an assumed name for 15 years. After her mom is arrested, cruel accusations and gossip, as well as persistent reporters, follow her everywhere. Worried that she is destined to follow in her father’s footsteps, Megan, with the help of the charismatic Matt Mendez, the only person at school who hasn’t turned on her, decides to track down the father she thought was dead and get some answers.

Laura Langston is the award-winning author of twenty books for young people, including the Orca Limelights titles *Hot New Thing* and *Stepping Out*. Laura lives in Victoria, British Columbia. For more information, visit www.lauralangston.com.

Keywords: terrorism, secrets, racism, protesting, false identity, bullying, estranged father

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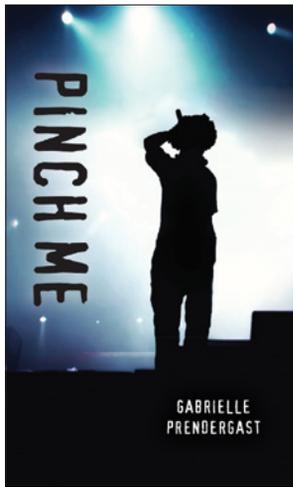
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Pinch Me

Gabrielle Prendergast

Living the dream is not all it's cracked up to be.

After another night of girls, music and booze, seventeen-year-old pop star Darius Zaire falls out of bed and lands on the cruddy floor of his old bedroom. No mansion, no luxury cars, no platinum records. Now he's just ordinary Darren Zegers. Some kind of nightmare has erased everything that happened to change Darren the dweeb into Darius the multimillionaire.

Now Darius has to face an ordinary day in the twelfth grade, suffering through remedial English and wondering what happened to the last three years, let alone all his fans and money. He desperately wants to return to his old life, but he is starting to worry that maybe *this* is reality, and it was his other life that was the dream.

Gabrielle Prendergast has written a number of books for young people, including *Audacious*, *Capricious* and *Pandas on the Eastside*. She lives in Vancouver, with her husband and daughter. For more information, visit www.angelhorn.com.

Keywords: stardom, fame, identity, learning disabilities, loyalty, addiction

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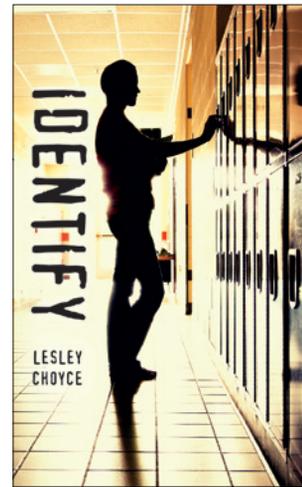
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Identify

Lesley Choyce

Sometimes it takes courage to be who you really are.

Ethan is an anxiety-ridden loner who relies on medication to get through his day. During one of his fairly frequent panic attacks, a girl from school named Gabriella comes to his rescue. Gabe, as she prefers to be known, is facing her own inner turmoil. The more pressure she faces to act and dress “like a girl,” the more she wonders just who she really is.

When he learns that Gabe is being constantly harassed at school, Ethan discovers he is able to overcome his own fears in order to stand up for his new friend. Then the threats begin to escalate. Ethan confronts the person responsible, but then he is questioned by police, accused of assault. With a dose of courage and a surprising ally, the two friends come up with a plan to set things right and end up discovering who they are along the way.

Lesley Choyce has written dozens of award-winning books, including Orca Soundings titles *Scam* and *Off the Grid*. For more information, visit www.lesleychoyce.com.

Keywords: gender identity, sexuality, anxiety, drug use, mental health

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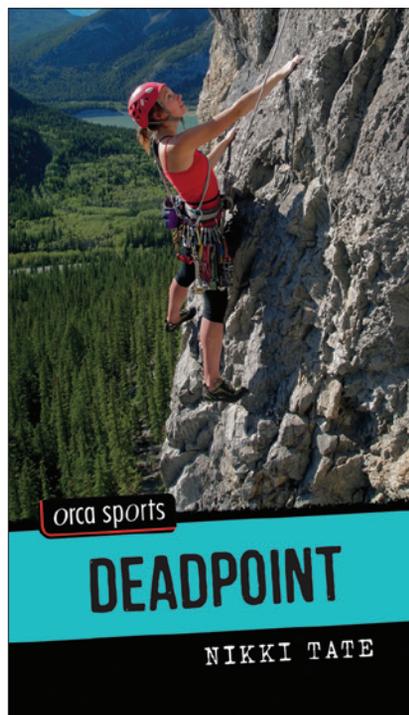
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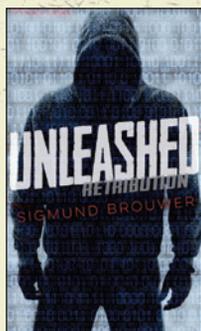
Nikki Tate

Fear is not an option.

Ayla loves climbing. But she prefers to climb indoors, with all her safety harnesses in place and soft mats to land on. Her climbing partner and best friend, Lissy, is much more adventurous and loves the outdoors. When Lissy starts hanging out with Carlos, the new thrill-seeking guy in town, Ayla wants to keep an eye on her friend and finds herself tagging along on a weekend climbing trip up Black Dog Mountain. But things go very wrong when Lissy and her dad, the only adult in the group, are badly injured high on the side of the mountain. Suddenly the risks of climbing become very real. Ayla and Carlos need to figure out how to get help, and every decision they make could have catastrophic consequences.

Nikki Tate lives on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, but spends as much time traveling as she does at home. The author of nearly thirty books, Nikki loves the fact that she can take her laptop with her when she's off exploring the world and looking for cool places to climb. For more information, visit www.nikkitate.com.

Keywords: rock-climbing, accidents, bravery, teamwork, mountains, family



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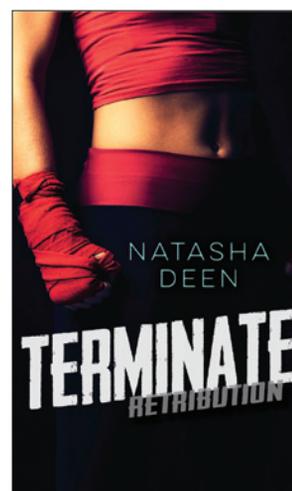
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The next three books in the Retribution series are coming! *Terminate* by Natasha Deen will be released in April 2017 and Judith Grave's *Infiltrate* in October 2017. Sigmund Brouwer's *Escalate* will be released in Spring 2018.

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Terminate

Natasha Deen

It's a fight to the death.

Josie's friend Amanda is missing. But because she's a runaway with a history of drug use and other risky behavior, no one seems to care. Then a young man whose friend is also missing asks Josie for help. That's when she learns that she, along with the other teens who helped bring down the cop responsible for the death of Josie's entire family, is becoming known on the street as a person who makes sure justice is done.

When the battered bodies of homeless teens start filling the city's morgue, Josie and Team Retribution suspect a connection to the missing teens and begin investigating. They discover an underground fight club where at-risk youth are being forced to fight and even kill each other for sport.

Natasha Deen's books include *Burned* from Orca's Retribution series, *Sleight of Hand* and *Across the Floor*. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with her family. For more information, visit www.natashadeen.com.

Keywords: social justice, underground fighting, vigilantism, independence, poverty, female main character

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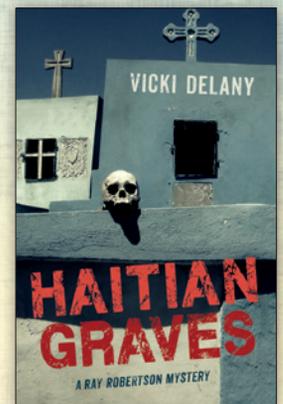
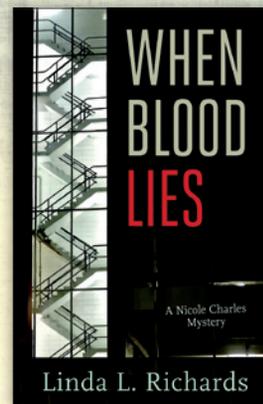
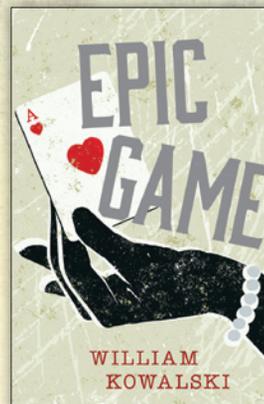
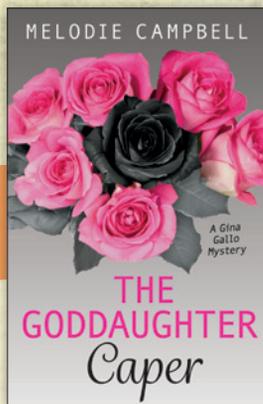
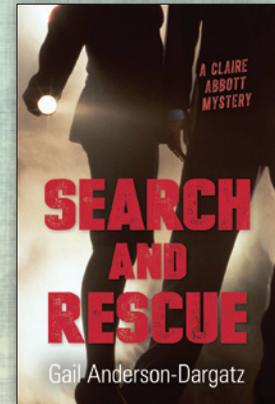
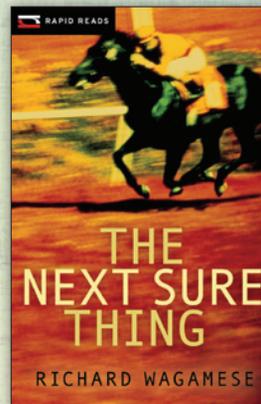
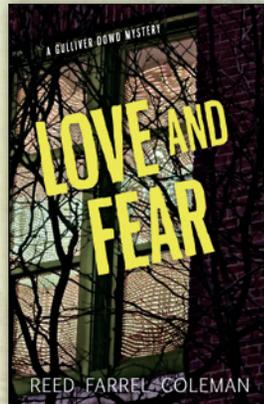
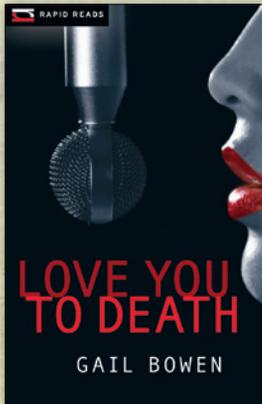
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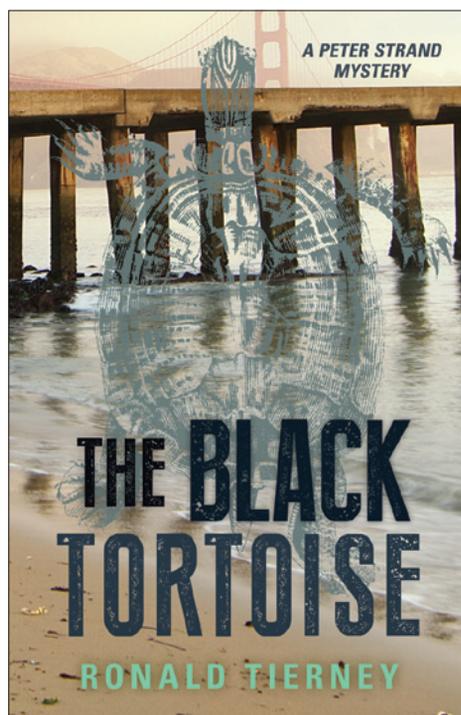
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The Black Tortoise

A Peter Strand Mystery

Ronald Tierney

Follow the money.

Peter Strand is half Chinese and half Cherokee and was adopted by an elderly white couple from Phoenix. Now he's a forensic accountant in San Francisco, where he's struggling with his identity.

When his employer asks him to investigate a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization, Strand meets a cast of quirky characters who all seem to be hiding a secret. Peter soon finds evidence of a probable fraud, but when fraud leads to murder, he's drawn deeper into a murky mystery.

The Black Tortoise is the second book in the Peter Strand Mystery series.

After years as a writer, newspaper editor and communications director, **Ronald Tierney** began writing mysteries in the late 1980s. *The Stone Veil* introduced semi-retired, Indianapolis-based private investigator "Deets" Shanahan. The book was a finalist in St. Martin's Press's Best First Private Eye Novel competition. It was also nominated for the Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Award for Best First Novel. Tierney lives in Palm Springs, California. He is a member of the Authors Guild, Mystery Writers of America and the Private Eye Writers of America. Tierney's novels have been published by the UK's Severn House, St. Martin's Press, Orca Book Publishers and Dutton (Penguin Group). For more information, visit www.ronaldtierney.com.

Keywords: financial investigation, Chinese American, Native American, bi-racial, identity, crime fiction

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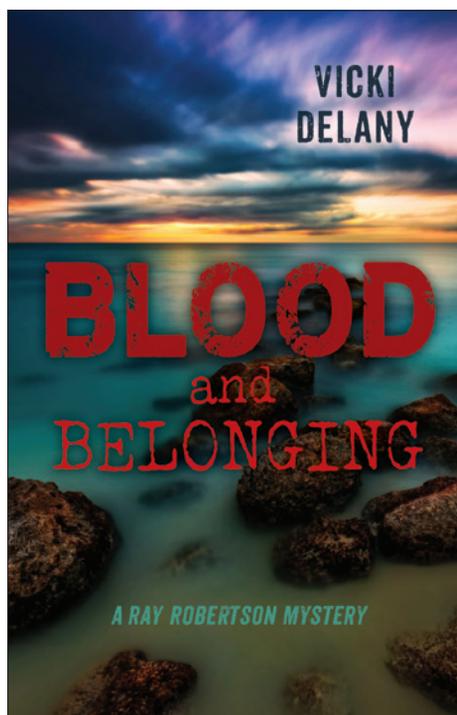
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Blood and Belonging

A Ray Robertson Mystery

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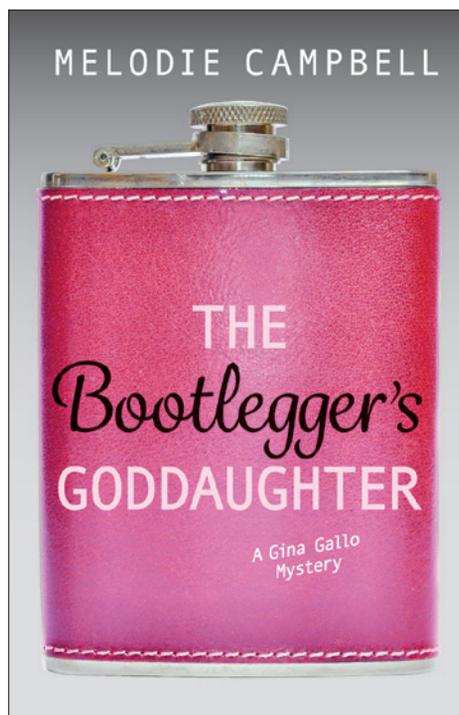
Once a cop, always a cop.

RMP Sergeant Ray Robertson is in the Turks and Caicos Islands, enjoying two weeks of leave from his job training police in Haiti with the UN. On an early-morning jog along famed Grace Bay Beach he discovers a dead man in the surf. Ray is shocked to recognize the body as that of one of his Haitian police recruits. To his wife's increasing dismay, Ray is compelled to follow the dead man's trail and finds himself plunged into the world of human trafficking and the problems of a tiny country struggling to cope with a desperate wave washing up on its shores.

This timely story is the third in the Sergeant Ray Robertson series.

Vicki Delany is one of Canada's most prolific and varied crime writers. The first book in her Sergeant Ray Robertson series for Rapid Reads, *Juba Good*, was nominated for a Derringer Award, an Arthur Ellis Award and the Ontario Library Association's Golden Oak Award. She is the author of more than twenty published crime novels, including standalone Gothic thrillers, the Constable Molly Smith series and the Year-Round Christmas Mysteries. Under the pen name Eva Gates, she is the national bestselling author of the Lighthouse Library cozy series set in a historic lighthouse. Vicki lives in Prince Edward County, Ontario. For more information, visit www.vickidelany.com.

Keywords: murder, the United Nations, human smuggling, immigration, Caribbean, crime fiction, police procedural



The Bootlegger's Goddaughter

A Gina Gallo Mystery

Melodie Campbell

Do mobsters ever retire?

As Gina gets ready for her Christmas wedding, all is quiet in Steeltown. Then she's robbed, cousin Jimmy has a heart attack, and someone in the city has hijacked a transport truck full of booze. But who? And why? Gina knows bootlegging used to be a family business, but they stopped that in the thirties. Didn't they?

Gina and Nico work feverishly to keep the latest bungled family matter under wraps, but the police are closing in. And, once again, everything points to the Holy Cannoli Retirement Home.

The Bootlegger's Goddaughter is the fifth book in the Gina Gallo Mystery series.

Melodie Campbell got her start writing stand-up. The *Toronto Sun* called Campbell Canada's "Queen of Comedy." *Library Journal* compared her to Janet Evanovich. She has also been a bank manager, college instructor, association executive, comedy writer and possibly the worst runway model ever. Melodie has won the Derringer, the Arthur Ellis and eight other awards for fiction. She has over two hundred publication credits, including forty short stories and ten novels. Last year, she made the Amazon Top 50 bestseller list, sandwiched between Tom Clancy and Nora Roberts. Melodie lives in Oakville, Ontario, where she is hopelessly addicted to fast cars. She is married with two kids and a giant Frankenpoodle. For more information, visit www.melodiecampbell.com.

Keywords: murder, the mob, organized crime, reluctant sleuth, hijinks, moonshine, retirement home

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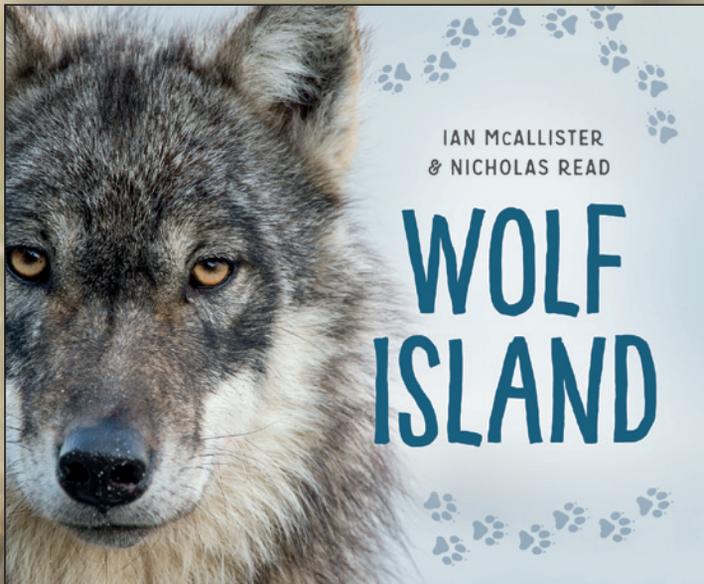
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