

Jonathan Ball Publishers

December 2022 Children's Highlights

2023 is around the corner and we're ending the year with a bang! We've got some out of this world fantasy, heartwarming family picture books and stories to enchant all ages.

Thank you for all your support and cooperation this year. It's been a pleasure getting to know this job and getting to know all of you! Here's to a fantastic 2023!

All the best,
Mieke Gottsche

December Spotlight

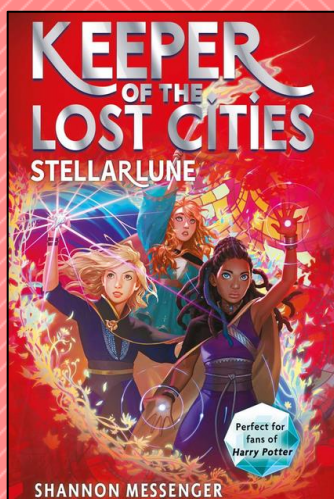
AS SEEN
ON
TIKTOK



Bloodmarked by Tracy Deonn

9781398516779 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R230

All Bree wanted was to uncover the truth behind her mother's death. So she infiltrated the Legendborn Order, a secret society descended from King Arthur's knights – only to discover her own ancestral power. Now, Bree has become someone new: A Medium. A Bloodcrafter. A Scion. But the ancient war between demons and the Order is rising to a deadly peak. And Nick, the Legendborn boy Bree fell in love with, has been kidnapped. If Bree has any hope of saving herself and the people she loves, she must learn to control her powers from the ancestors who wielded them first – without losing herself in the process.



Keeper of the Lost Cities: Stellarlune by Shannon Messenger

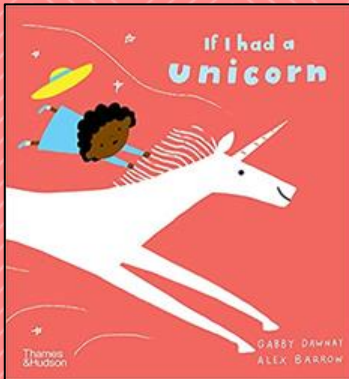
9781471189531 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R205

In this stunning ninth book in the New York Times bestselling Keeper of the Lost Cities series, Sophie and her friends discover the true meaning of power – and evil. Sophie Foster changed the game. Now she's facing impossible choices. Her friends are divided and scattered, and the Black Swan wants Sophie to focus on their projects. But her instincts are leading her somewhere else. Stellarlune – and the mysterious Elysian – might be the key to everything. But finding truth in the Lost Cities always requires sacrifice. And as the Neverseen's plans sharpen into terrifying focus, it appears that everyone has miscalculated. The Lost Cities' greatest lie could destroy everything. And in the battle that follows, only one thing is certain: nothing will ever be the same.

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0 – 5 years

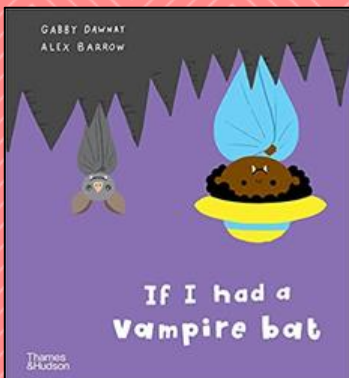


If I Had a Unicorn by Gabby Dawnay & Alex Barrow

9780500653166 / Thames & Hudson / BRD BK / R210

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to have a unicorn for a pet? Besides being much less angry than a troll and far more conveniently sized than a giant, unicorns only ever eat ice-cream for breakfast AND... every time you get upset, they feed you candyfloss!

In this humorous, energetically rhyming tale, a little girl experiences exactly what life would be like with a magical creature for a pet – from sprinkling stardust on grumpy parents to sliding into football practice on a rainbow. This book, the latest in the bestselling 'If I Had...' series, celebrates the magic of unicorns in a way that will appeal to children who are allergic to pink.



If I Had a Vampire by Gabby Dawnay & Alex Barrow

9780500652961 / Thames & Hudson / HB / R355

A laugh-out-loud bedtime story in which a little girl imagines what it would be like to have a vampire bat for a pet.

This charming addition to the popular If I had a... series is timed perfectly for Halloween, and features a sharp-toothed but adorable vampire bat as its main star. Taking inspiration from the Addams Family, it imagines what it would be like to live a nocturnal lifestyle and the funny scenarios one might encounter trick-or-treating or at the funfair with a vampire bat as your pal. Facts about vampire bats combine with seasonal spookiness and positive messages about dental hygiene in this brilliant book for bedtime.



Egg Must Hatch by Mariken Jongman & Marieke ten Berge

9781788070607 / Thames & Hudson / HB / R325

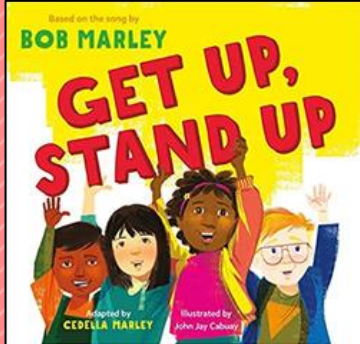
Mariken Jongman and Marieke ten Berge have created a lively and refreshing picture book story. The reader is carried along by the dreamily coloured landscapes created by Ten Berge, and by the child's increasingly desperate quest. A quest that is also very amusing, as when a snake would rather swallow the egg whole than hatch it, or a duck turns out to be much too small, or a whale just cannot sit on it, while an elephant could but had better not try, and so on. And as befits a picture book, the end is heart-warming. This book is the first that Jongman and Ten Berge made together, and it instantly makes one long for more.



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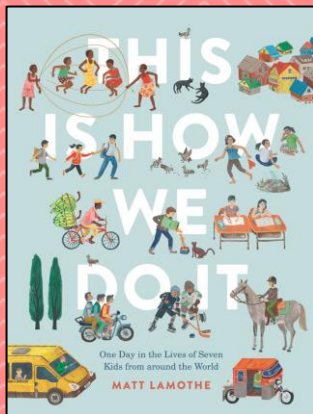
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Get Up, Stand Up by Cedella Marley, Bob Marley & John Jay Cabuay
9781797218700 / Chronicle / PB / R180

In this empowering adaptation of one of Bob Marley's most loved songs, a new generation can take heart from his joyful call to action, which shows that the way to counter injustice is to lift others up with kindness and courage. As a young girl and her friends go through the school day, they encounter several challenging situations. But by taking Marley's message and words to heart, the children are able to work through their conflicts. Adapted by Cedella Marley, Bob Marley's eldest child, and exuberantly illustrated by John Jay Cabuay, GET UP, STAND UP is a vibrant and encouraging testament to the power we all have to make a difference and stand up for what's right. Includes a letter to readers from Cedella Marley, talking about why the message of the song and the book is so important.



This Is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe
9781797218717 / Chronicle / PB / R180

In Japan, Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in Uganda, Daphine likes to jump rope. While the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days—and this one world we all share—unites them.

This genuine exchange provides a window into traditions that may be different from our own as well as mirrors reflecting our common experiences. Inspired by his own travels, Matt Lamothe transports readers across the globe and back with this luminous and thoughtful picture book.

Perfect for kids learning about new cultures and customs

Educates children on the importance of similarities and differences

Gives kids a unique look into the lives of others across the globe

If you enjoyed Carson Ellis' Home, you're sure to enjoy the window into the world provided by This is How We Do It.

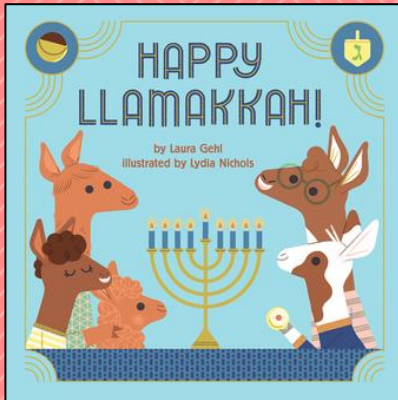


Welcome, Little One by Sophie Beer
9781761211331 / Hardie Grant / HB / R210

Beautifully and boldly illustrated, Welcome, Little One is all about introducing a new baby to their little world. There's the blanket to keep them warm, the family dog who will teach them friendship and the bedroom window as a gateway to wonder and adventure. Inspired by Sophie Beer's own experience of becoming a parent, Welcome, Little One delightfully weaves all the heartfelt dreams a parent hopes for their child into a sweet book for both to treasure.

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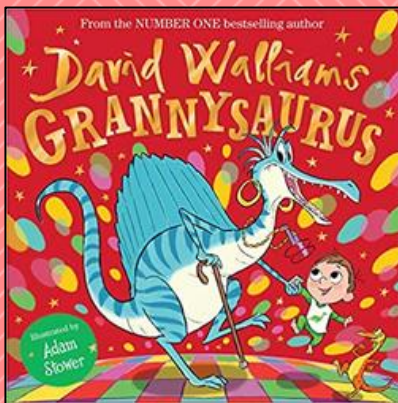
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Happy Llamakkah! by Laura Gehl & Lydia Nichols

9781419743153 / Abrams / BRD BK / R210

Celebrate Hanukkah with the Llama family in this joyful, rhyming picture book. Follow along with the Llama family's Hanukkah traditions as they light their menorah, spin the dreidel, fry latkes, and more. Laura Gehl's lively rhyming text and Lydia Nichols's vibrant illustrations make for a festive read. The book also features kid-friendly back matter, with expanded information on the holiday's history and traditions.



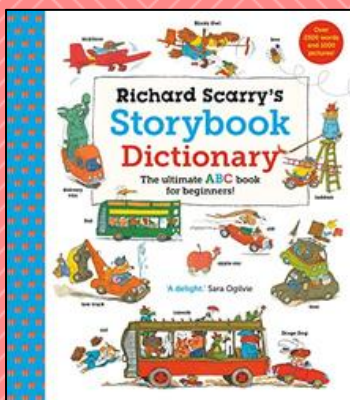
Grannysaurus by David Walliams

9780008305765 / HarperCollins / HB / R330

A boisterously funny new picture book from David Walliams and Adam Stower, perfect for young dinosaur fans! One night, Spike creeps downstairs in his pyjamas to find that his granny has turned into a dinosaur – GRANNYSAURUS!

There are dinosaurs BOOGYING in the living room. With Brontosaurus, Stegosaurus and Giganotosaurus, it's a DINO DISCO! Spike wants to stay up and party too! How will Grannysaurus ever get him back to bed? Perhaps her next guest, Tyrannosaurus Rex, can help?

Children will love to dance their way to bedtime with this exciting story full of spectacular surprises!



Richard Scarry's Storybook Dictionary by Richard Scarry

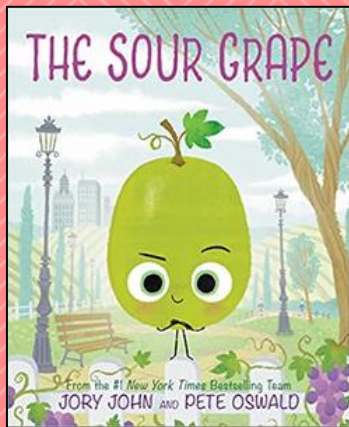
9780571375035 / Faber & Faber / HB / R385

Kids will have hours of fun and learning with Richard Scarry characters like Lowly Worm and Hilda Hippo as they go on an adventure of discovery from A to Z. With thousands of pictures in full colour and charming stories, this one-of-a-kind treasure is sure to be a favourite with parents and kids alike.



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The Sour Grape by Jory John & Pete Oswald

9780063283800 / HarperCollins / PB / R180

Don't miss the sixth picture book in the #1 New York Times bestselling Food Group series that's ripe with humor from Jory John and Pete Oswald!

The Sour Grape holds grudges for every reason under the sun. Lime never returned a scarf they borrowed? Grudge! Orange never called back? Grudge! But when a friend holds a grudge against the Sour Grape without listening to an explanation, the Sour Grape realizes how unfair grudges can be. Could a bunch of forgiveness and compassion be enough to turn a sour grape sweet?

Jory John and Pete Oswald serve up another heaping plate of laughs and lessons with this empowering, witty, and charming addition to their #1 New York Times bestselling series!

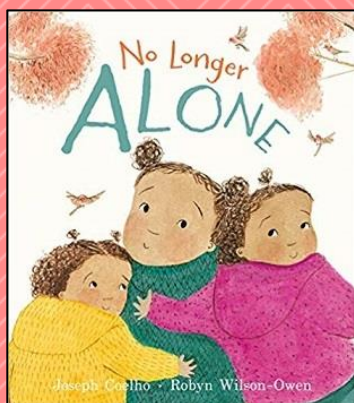


Dr. Seuss's Reading Ladder by Dr. Seuss

9780008555559 / HarperCollins / PB / R1050

Learn to read with Dr. Seuss's Reading Ladder, featuring twenty classic Dr. Seuss books!

Start at the bottom and climb up each rung, soon you'll find Dr. Seuss makes reading fun! Let the colours be your guide on the ladder of learning as you move from blue to green to yellow with twenty of Dr. Seuss's best known and loved books.



No Longer Alone by Joseph Coelho & Robyn Wilson-Owen

9780008598631 / Farshore / PB / R205

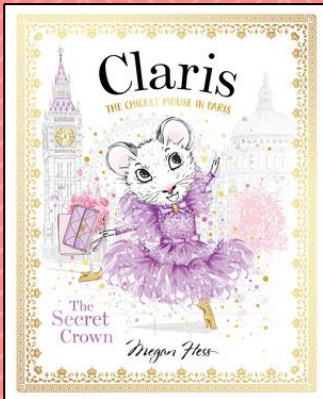
Told through the voice of a little girl who is labelled as quiet and shy, No Longer Alone follows her tumult of emotions as she navigates the world around her. But when she finally shares her feelings and tells her Dad all the things that are worrying her, she no longer feels so alone.

Joseph's warm, authentic voice offers an insightful take on the way children feel and how they perceive the world and it's perfectly complimented by gorgeous artwork from rising-star illustrator, Robyn Wilson-Owen.

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6 – 9 years



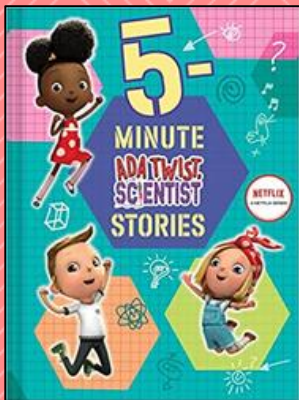
Clarice: The Secret Crown by Megan Hess

9781760507718 / Hardie Grant / HB / R270

Clarice: The Secret Crown is the sixth Clarice adventure from beloved children's author Megan Hess.

Clarice and her best friend, Monsieur, are in London to look for his long-lost family! But what will they discover once they start following the clues?

Clarice is the best-selling picture book series from acclaimed fashion illustrator Megan Hess and is destined to delight fashion-obsessed readers of all ages.

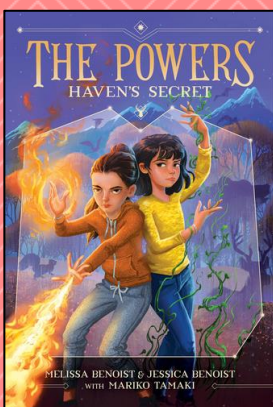


5-Minute Ada Twist Scientist Stories by Gabrielle Meyer

9781419762789 / Abrams / HB / R295

A charming storybook collection of sweet tales based on the Netflix series starring Ada Twist—perfect for read-alouds or bedtime! Revisit some of your favorite episodes of the Netflix series, in print for the first time, with this gifty storybook collection. Each of the 12 stories retells a beloved episode from the show, making it perfect for group read-alouds or when it's time to settle down for bed.

10 – 12 years



The Powers: Haven's Secret by Melissa & Jessica Benoist with Mariko Tamaki

9781419752629 / Abrams / PB / R210

Ellie McFadden has intuitive gifts. She can sense what other living things are feeling. She can even talk to animals! Too bad she can't connect with her twin sister, Parker. Parker McFadden has kinetic gifts. She can cause shocks to the earth and produce heat energy that explodes from her body like fire, especially when she is angry. The sisters aren't aware of the legacy they inherited from their mother until, on their thirteenth birthday, two mysterious relatives on the Power side whisk them off to an isolated sanctuary called Haven. Ellie immediately adapts to their new routine, but Parker has one impulse: to get back to her normal life of friends and sports, fast.

Unlocking Haven's secrets is just the beginning of what Ellie and Parker can do if they choose to work together to harness their abilities. But the sinister force that took their mother has other plans; and if the sisters' fragile relationship succumbs to The Danger, a terrible fate may befall the people they love.



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Wren by Lucy Hope

9781839947230 / Nosy Crow / PB / R205

A dark, gothic adventure set on the island of Anglesey in North Wales and featuring a very fantastical beast...

Wren lives in an ancient castle in the mountains near the sea. The wind whistles through it and the walls sing to her. Wren is busy inventing things, and her father is busy disapproving.

But the castle contains a mystery and as Wren is drawn further into it, she realises the answer lies in the very foundations of her home, foundations that are being shaken to their core...

The next fantastic novel from Lucy Hope, author of *Fledgling!*



The Unforgettable Logan Foster by Shawn Peters

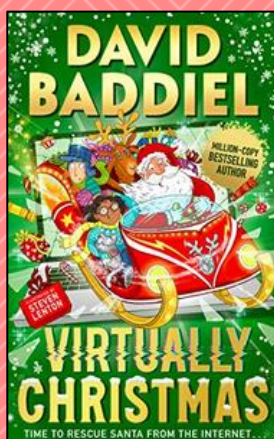
9780063047686 / HarperCollins / PB / R160

Logan Foster has pretty much given up on the idea of ever being adopted. It could have something to do with his awkward manner, his photographic memory, or his affection for reciting curious facts, but whatever the cause, Logan and his "PP's" (prospective parents) have never clicked.

Then everything changes when Gil and Margie arrive. Although they aren't exactly perfect themselves they genuinely seem to care.

But it doesn't take Logan long to notice some very odd things about them. They are out at all hours, they never seem to eat, and there's a part of the house that is protected by some pretty elaborate security.

No matter what Logan could have imagined, nothing prepared him for the truth: His PP's are actually superheroes, and they're being hunted down by dastardly forces. Logan's found himself caught in the middle in a massive battle and the very fate of the world may hang in the balance. Will Logan be able to find a way to save the day and his new family?



Virtually Christmas by David Baddiel

9780008334314 / HarperCollins / TPB / R280

It used to be the most WONDERFUL time of the year, but for years Christmas has been taken over by Winterzone.

All the things that made Christmas special are gone: the human connection, the baubles passed down through generations, even the rubbish cracker jokes.

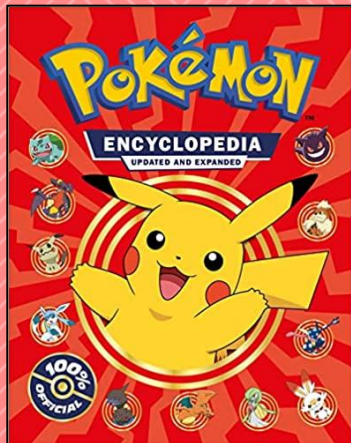
Instead, Christmas is run by robots, while 3D holograms of Santa Claus called Santavatars check if you've been naughty or nice – and on Christmas Eve, all of the presents are delivered by ZoneDrones instead of Santa's reindeer!

But when they stumble on a curious clue, eleven-year-old Etta and her friend Monty find themselves thrown into a fight to bring back Christmas. Racing against time and against the might of Winterzone, they must find the real Santa – before the true meaning of the festive season is lost forever . . .



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Pokémon Encyclopedia Updated & Expanded 2022 Edition

9780008535483 / Farshore / HB / R395

Find out everything there is to know about the world of Pokémon with this updated and expanded Encyclopedia. With information on the Galar Region, Galar Pokédex and content from recent series' Pokémon Journeys and Pokémon Master Journeys. An awesome book for every Pokémon fan's collection, packed with more characters and Trainers than ever before!

The indispensable reference for any Pokémon fan, containing Pokémon from all regions including the newly discovered Galar region.

This comprehensive Encyclopedia contains everything fans need to immerse themselves in the wonderful world of Pokémon.



Minecraft Epic Inventions by Mojang

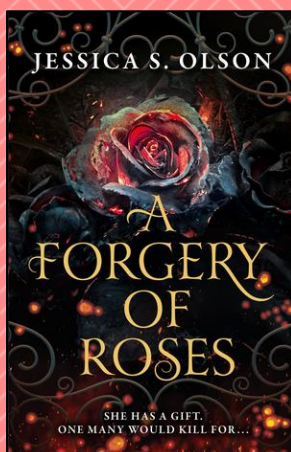
9780008496012 / Farshore / HB / R330

Looking for inspiration for your next epic build? Then look no further!

Epic Inventions contains twelve incredible builds to inspire you to construct the most inventive builds in Minecraft. There's an intergalactic space station, an ancient temple, a kawaii waterways course, a giant meeple bedroom, an animal sanctuary, plus many more.

Each build is presented to you by its builder – a construction expert eager to share their tips with you. As well as learning how to choose blocks and construct amazing builds, you'll also learn some excellent pro builder tips like how to build a creeper farm.

Young Adult



A Forgery of Roses by Jessica S. Olson

9780008592462 / HarperCollins / PB / R230

Myra has a gift many would kidnap, blackmail, and worse to control: she's a portrait artist whose paintings alter people's bodies. Guarding that secret is the only way to keep her younger sister safe now that their parents are gone. But one frigid night, the governor's wife discovers the truth and threatens to expose Myra if she does not complete a special portrait that would resurrect the governor's dead son.

Once she arrives at the legendary stone mansion, however, it becomes clear the boy's death was no accident. A killer stalks these halls – one disturbingly obsessed with portrait magic. Desperate to get out of the manor as quickly as possible, Myra turns to the governor's older son for help completing the painting before the secret she spent her life concealing makes her the killer's next victim.



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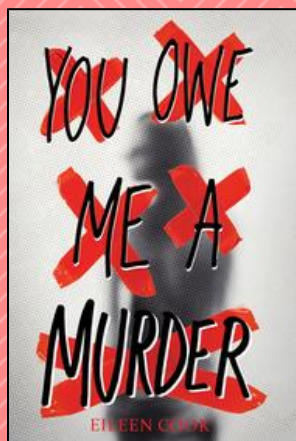
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By the Book by Amanda Sellet

9780358668084 / HarperCollins / PB / R240

Mary Porter-Malcolm has prepared for high school in the one way she knows how: an extensive review of classic literature to help navigate the friendships, romantic liaisons, and overall drama she has come to expect from such an “esteemed” institution. When some new friends seem in danger of falling for the same tricks employed since the days of Austen and Tolstoy, Mary swoops in to create the Scoundrel Survival Guide, using archetypes of literature’s debonair bad boys to signal red flags. But despite her best efforts, she soon finds herself unable to listen to her own good advice and falling for a supposed cad—the same one she warned her friends away from. Without a convenient rain-swept moor to flee to, Mary is forced to admit that real life doesn’t follow the same rules as fiction and that if she wants a happy ending, she’s going to have to write it herself.



You Owe Me a Murder by Eileen Cook

9780358732013 / HarperCollins / PB / R240

Kim never expected to plot a murder. But that was before her boyfriend dumped her for another girl. Now, Kim’s stuck on a class trip to London with him and his new soulmate and she can’t help wishing he was a little bit dead, even if she’d never really do that. But when Kim meets Nicki, a stranger on the plane who’s more than willing to listen to Kim’s woes, things start to look up. Nicki’s got a great sense of humor, and when she jokes about swapping murders, Kim plays along—that is, until Kim’s ex-boyfriend mysteriously dies. Blackmailed by Nicki to fulfill her end of the deal, Kim will have to commit a murder or take the fall for one.



Well, That Was Unexpected by Jesse Q. Sutanto

9780008501464 / Farshore / PB / R230

When Sharlot Citra is caught with her very hot (but very secret) boyfriend by her traditional mother, she finds herself whisked away from LA to Indonesia for a summer of ‘getting back to her roots’. Or so her mother thinks. Across the globe, George Clooney Tanuwijaya, tested with a name that is a daily embarrassment, is tested further when his father and sister, Eleanor Roosevelt, decide to take it upon themselves to find him a respectable girlfriend. His family—one of the wealthiest, most famed in Indonesia—has a reputation to uphold. Sharlot and George’s worlds collide when they discover that their parents have secretly been pretending to be them online. They agree to meet once, just to shut their parents up. But when the media gets wind of their date, things quickly spiral and the two families get swept up in a highly publicised stunt where everyone has a role to play. And a secret to keep.

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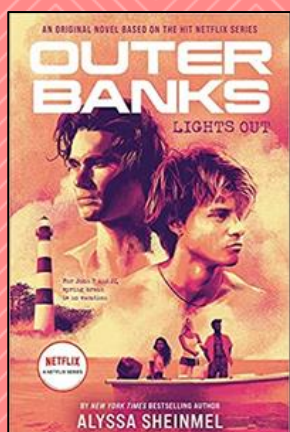
Whiteout by Various Authors

9780008493059 / Farshore / PB / R230

Atlanta is blanketed with snow just before Christmas, but the warmth of young love just might melt the ice in this novel of interwoven narratives, Black joy, and cozy, sparkling romance—by the same unbeatable team of authors who wrote the New York Times bestseller Blackout!

As the city grinds to a halt, twelve teens band together to help a friend pull off the most epic apology of her life. But will they be able to make it happen, in spite of the storm? No one is prepared for this whiteout. But then, we can't always prepare for the magical moments that change everything.

From the bestselling, award-winning, all-star authors who brought us Blackout—Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon—comes another novel of Black teen love, each relationship within as unique and sparkling as Southern snowflakes.

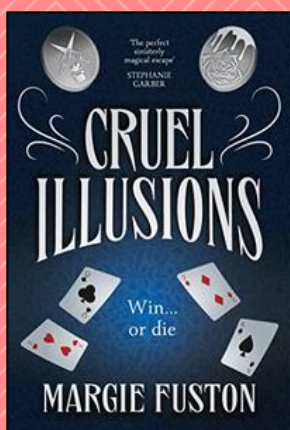


Outer Banks: Lights Out by Alyssa Sheinmel

9781419758072 / Abrams / PB / R210

It's spring break in the Outer Banks, and the islands are swarming with rich tourists. The last thing JJ and John B want to do is spend their week watching Kooks in action, so they plan a fishing getaway to the notoriously dangerous Frying Pan Shoals—nicknamed "Graveyard of the Atlantic" for good reason. Turns out they aren't the only adventure-seekers at sea. Soon after they set sail, the friends run into the captivating Savannah, who hitches a ride aboard the HMS Pogue when the weather worsens and her boyfriend leaves her stranded. As a violent storm sets in, the three realize the only place to safely ride out the squall is a creepy, abandoned hotel on the shoals' lighthouse platform. Or is it abandoned? It doesn't take long for the three teens to realize they may not be alone. . . .

Further complicating the life-or-death adventure is a mounting attraction between JJ and the secretive Savannah—the closer JJ gets to her, the more he realizes he's playing with fire. Even if they get out of the shoals alive, can a Pogue–Kook romance survive the high-stakes shores of the Outer Banks?



Cruel Illusions by Margie Fuston

9781399711357 / Hodderscape / TPB / R355

Ever since a vampire murdered her mother, Ava has been determined to get revenge. This all-encompassing drive has given her the fuel she needed to survive foster home after foster home.

But it's been ten years since anyone's seen a vampire, and Ava has lost hope that she'll ever find one . . . until she stumbles across a hidden magic show where she witnesses impossible illusions. The magicians reveal they're part of an ancient secret society with true magic, and Ava has the same power in her blood that they do. If she joins them, they promise to teach her the skills she needs to hunt vampires and avenge her mother. But there's a catch: if she wants to keep the power they offer, she needs to prove she's worthy of it. And to do so, she must put on the performance of her life in a sinister and dangerous competition where illusion and reality blur, and the stakes are deadly.

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AS SEEN
ON
TIKTOK



The Ones We Burn by Rebecca Mix

9781399706223 / Hodderscape / TPB / R355

Ranka is tired of death. All she wants now is to be left alone, living out her days in Witchik's wild north with the coven that raised her, attempting to forget the horrors of her past. But when she is named Bloodwinn, the next treaty bride to the human kingdom of Isodal, her coven sends her south with a single directive: kill him. Easy enough, for a blood-witch whose magic compels her to kill.

Except the prince is gentle, kind, and terrified of her. He doesn't want to marry Ranka; he doesn't want to be king at all. And it's his sister - the wickedly smart, infuriatingly beautiful Princess Aramis - who seems to be real threat.

But when witches start turning up dead, murdered by a mysterious, magical plague, Aramis makes Ranka an offer: help her develop a cure, and in return, she'll teach Ranka to contain her deadly magic. But as the coup draws nearer and the plague spreads, Ranka is forced to question everything she thought she knew about her power, her past, and who she's meant to fight for. Soon, she will have choose between the coven that raised her - and the princess who sees beyond the monster they shaped her to be. But as the bodies pile up, a monster may be exactly what they need.





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NB! Deadline for requests:

Friday 12 November 2022

Click [here](#) to get your wish lists in!

Thank You.

