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THE WALKER BOOKS GROUP



JARVIS

Bear and Bird: The Picnic and Other Stories

Introducing Bear and Bird – two best friends!

The first of two Bear and Bird books, this title contains four warm, laugh-out-loud stories about a playful pair who have lots of small adventures – talking to a flower; going on a picnic (but forgetting the food!) and painting their own artistic masterpieces. (Well, trying to ...) Sometimes they fall out, sometimes they misunderstand one another. But both agree: all they want is to make the other happy.

64 pages • September 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

An award-winning and bestselling author-illustrator makes his fiction debut, perfect for children just graduating from picture books.

BOOK 2
JUNE
2023

AMY HEST

Billy and Rose

illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton

Billy the goat and Rose the pig are two friends who live on opposite sides of the farmyard. In these four gently funny stories, they take different approaches to doing their chores, compromise in a game of catch, try to sell ice cream in the snow, and meet in the middle about where to have a sleepover. Even though they don't always do things the same way, they always agree it's better to do things as friends.

48 pages • October 2022 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

Award-winning author Amy Hest and bestselling illustrator Kady MacDonald Denton pair up in this delightfully charming new early reader.

BOOK 2
SEPTEMBER
2023



LIZ KESSLER

The World of Emily Windsnap: Shona Finds Her Voice*illustrated by Joanie Stone*

Join Emily Windsnap in her second underwater adventure in this new series based on the best-selling novels. In this story, Shona is afraid to perform in her school talent show, but, with encouragement from her best friend Emily, she is able to find her voice and share her song with everyone.

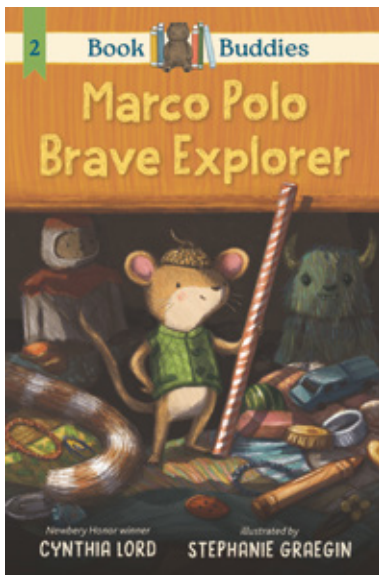
64 pages • September 2022 • Rights sold: Czech, German, Greek • Candlewick Press

The second book in an early reader series about the magic of mermaids and being true to oneself by a New York Times best-selling author.

BACKLIST



BOOK 3
MARCH
2023



CYNTHIA LORD

Book Buddies: Marco Polo Brave Explorer*illustrated by Stephanie Graegin*

Can an intrepid toy mouse help a child venture out of his comfort zone?

Marco Polo used to be a Christmas ornament, but now he is one of the Book Buddies, toys that can be checked out of the library just like books. Marco Polo may be small, but he's also a brave explorer looking for adventure – if only someone would borrow him. Seth is a boy who wishes he could be a little more brave, especially when he goes on his first sleepover. But maybe a small explorer like Marco Polo is just the kind of friend he needs.

80 pages • March 2022 • Rights sold: Simplified Chinese • Candlewick Press

From Newbery Honor-winning author Cynthia Lord, here is the second in an endearing illustrated series about friendly library toys and the children who borrow them.

BOOK 3
MARCH
2023

BACKLIST



ROB LLOYD JONES



High-energy comic fiction from the prize-winning author of the Wild Boy and Jake Atlas series, for fans of Dog Man and Pamela Butchart.

Me, My Brother and the Monster Meltdown

illustrated by Alex Patrick

Comedy chaos breaks loose when two brothers' imaginary monsters come to life – in the supermarket!

Monsters are smashing up supermarkets everywhere, and all the adults are freaking out! A colossal six-headed gingerbread man, a massive emoji poo, a gigantic bouncing bum . . . Scientists have no idea where they come from – but nine-year-old Otis does. The creatures are exactly the same as drawings by his little brother; Jago: has he somehow brought his crazy creations to life . . . ?

Someone has to sort this monster mess out!

128 pages • June 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

ELYS DOLAN



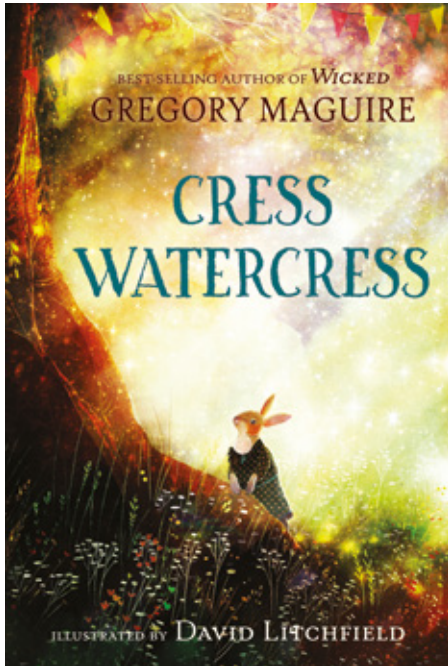
BOOK 2
FEBRUARY
2023

REX: Dinosaur in Disguise

The first book in a fantastically funny series from a Lollies Prize winner with stylish two-colour illustrations

Rex rules the prehistoric world, until a pesky ice age comes along and he finds himself frozen solid in a glacier. When he wakes up 65 million years later, things have changed – and to survive in the human world, he'll need a good disguise, the help of some other undercover creatures and . . . a job! Elys Dolan, creator of the internationally bestselling picture-book *Mr Bunny's Chocolate Factory*, has author-illustrated the first in an exciting new series, perfect for fans of Alex T. Smith's *Mr Penguin*.

240 pages • June 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books



GREGORY MAGUIRE

Cress Watercress

illustrated by David Litchfield

A lavishly illustrated woodland tale with a classic sensibility and modern flair – from the fertile imagination behind *Wicked*

Gregory Maguire, creator of *Wicked*, turns his trademark wit and wisdom to a tender coming-of-age story that invites us to flourish wherever we find ourselves. Timeless yet thoroughly of its time, personal yet universal, this read-aloud and read-alone gem for animal lovers of all ages features an unforgettable cast that leaps off the page in glowing illustrations by David Litchfield.

224 pages • March 2022 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

A modern classic with 45 full-color illustrations.

KAREN LAMB

The Mooncatcher's Rescue

A quirky, tender and imaginative adventure about searching for lost treasure and finding friendship along the way

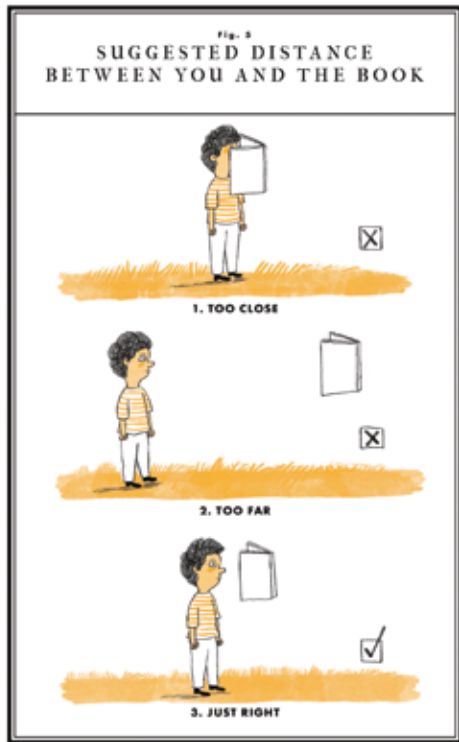
River likes to go mooncatching, sweeping his net across the reflection of the night sky in the village pond. But when he accidentally wakes the ghost of Mona Brightly, whose bones rest beneath the water, River must embark on a race to find Mona's lost treasure before the ghost of the dastardly pirate Dashbuckle gets there first. With delightful black-and-white illustrations, this is classic children's storytelling at its best – lively characters, laugh-out-loud humour, and a whole lot of heart.

192 pages • September 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

Perfect for fans of Harklights, The Shark Caller and The Wild Way Home.

ILLUSTRATOR
TO BE
ANNOUNCED





RICHARD AYOADE

The Book That No One Wanted to Read

illustrated by Tor Freeman

What makes you want to read a book? A story to get young readers howling with laughter at everything we thought we knew about books, stylishly illustrated in two-colour

Have you ever thought about how it feels to be a book? To be left under a pile of whiffy undies or shelved in a dusty corner? To have your pages bent backwards or your spine BROKEN? What if you don't have a sparkly unicorn adorning your cover – who will pick you out of the bookshop then? A hilariously subversive take on the nature of books and reading, and finding the courage to tell our own stories.

128 pages • October 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

Richard Ayode is a much-loved comedian, screenwriter, director, BAFTA-winning actor and TV presenter.

JOSEPH COELHO

Creeping Beauty: Fairy Tales Gone Bad

illustrated by Freya Hartas

A one-of-a-kind twist on *Sleeping Beauty* from the talented pair who brought us *Zombierella* and *Frankenstiltkin*

Eshe and her twelve sisters are Fairy Godmothers, honoured for the incredible gifts they can bestow. But Eshe's special abilities are a little different – she can glimpse into the future! And, one day, Eshe foresees something terrifying: a world blanketed in creeping vines and a girl covered in thorns. Eshe needs to stop her vision becoming true, but it will require old and powerful magic. And she won't be able to do it alone ...

208 pages • October 2022 • Rights sold: Italian, Spanish, Swedish • Walker Books



A subversive, funny – and deliciously prickly! – tale for the young reader looking for a book with bite.

NERIDAH McMULLIN



Neridah McMullin's touching narrative is complemented by stunning illustrations from award-winning illustrator and designer Astred Hicks.

Evie and Rhino

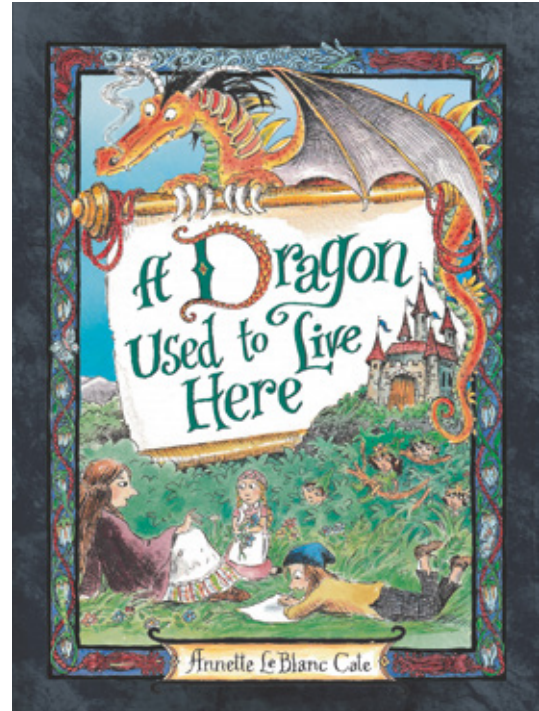
illustrated by Astred Hicks

A moving tale for middle-grade readers about love, connection and the healing powers of friendship

When Evie finds a fully-grown rhinoceros washed up on a beach, she feels an immediate connection and knows she has to help him. When Rhino wakes, he knows that the small, golden-haired child in front of him will save his life. Side-by-side, these unlikely friends form a bond capable of overcoming the tragedies that saw one in chains and the other lose her parents and unable to speak.

240 pages • October 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books Australia

ANNETTE LeBLANC CATE



A Dragon Used to Live Here

When two noble children encounter a cranky scribe that lives in the basement of their castle, they learn a remarkable tale about their mother's past adventures with a dragon and get caught up in a quest to reunite two onetime friends. Raise the drawbridge for a story-within-a-story melding classic fairy tale trappings with contemporary, tongue-in-cheek wit, abundantly illustrated in black-and-white – a perfect family read.

304 pages • April 2022 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

Kidnapping, fighting, a ferocious dragon, loyal elves, and true love . . . plus squabbling siblings, archery practice gone amiss, and ill-fated dives into the moat!



MARISSA MOSS

Talia's Codebook

From the author-illustrator of the internationally bestselling *Amelia's Notebook* series, this novel follows the adventures and travails of math-loving Talia as she navigates the confusing new world of middle school. With her full-color doodles, charts, and graphs, Talia is determined to break the social code of preteen life.

240 pages • September 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books US

A new series from the creator of *Amelia's Notebook*, a beloved classic that sold millions of copies worldwide and helped launch the illustrated diary format.

LYNNE REID BANKS

The Red Red Dragon

A humorous and warm-hearted story about a family of dragons in a world where humans have always been a myth

ILLUSTRATOR
TO BE
ANNOUNCED

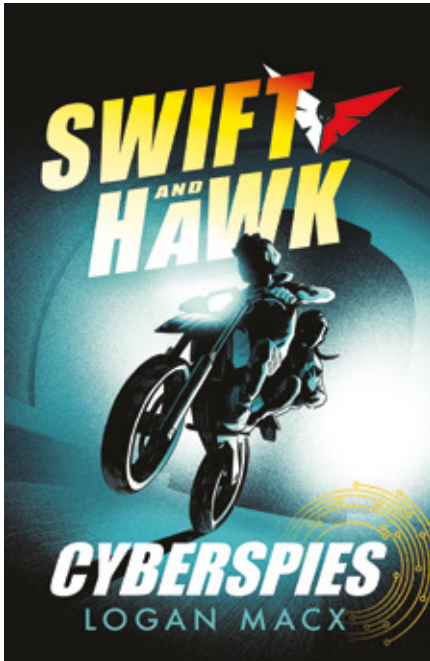
Red is a rare red dragon who lives with his Mag and Dag in a world where dragons and Uprights are sworn enemies. Then Red meets his first Upright, a girl called Lou, who is nothing like he had imagined: she's smart, and funny . . . and kind! As the pair become friends, Red learns that not only can the two species live in harmony – but it is his destiny to bring them back together.

240 pages • November 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

A brand-new novel from a long-established and multi-award-winning author of the 10-million-copy-selling *The Indian in the Cupboard*.



LOGAN MACX



BOOK 2
FEBRUARY
2023

Swift and Hawk: Cyberspies

An addictive new spy series for Alex Rider fans who love action-packed stories, cutting-edge tech and edge-of-your-seat adventure

When their families mysteriously disappear, Swift and Hawk, teen experts in AI and robotics, are recruited by the secretive Möbius Programme to crack an unbreakable code. They are immediately plunged into a life-and-death rescue mission, that will take them from hidden tunnels beneath the British Museum, to the remote island of Spøklestark, and straight into the hands of a dark and chilling enemy.

352 pages • March 2022 • Rights sold: French, German • Walker Books

Logan Macx is the pseudonym for Ed Docx, author of the bestselling Let Go My Hand, and Matthew Plampin, author of the acclaimed Mrs Whistler.

JAMIE RUSSELL



BOOK 3
MAY
2023



SkyWake Battlefield

The second in an exciting and original debut sci-fi adventure trilogy for the gaming generation

Casey and thousands of other SkyWakers are now stuck on a distant planet, forced by the Red Eyes to fight the strangely elusive Squids. Casey and her team, the Ghost Reapers, are determined to rescue the other gamers and return to Earth – but when the strangely compelling Squids enter Casey's mind, begging for help, she faces an impossible decision. With the team split in two and Casey's brother on the other side, home seems further away than ever . . .

288 pages • April 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

“Loved it! A brilliantly original, adrenaline-packed read for fans of Attack the Block and Tron.”

Liz Hyder, author of Bearmouth



M. G. LEONARD

Birder

A glorious celebration of friendship and nature in a thrilling mystery adventure from wildlife queen and internationally bestselling author of *Beetle Boy*

When the Twitchers discover that someone is hunting local pets with a pellet gun, they're determined to find the culprit. Then Twitch hears that a rare and endangered bearded vulture has been spotted heading for Briddvale – could the attacks be linked? Is the vulture in danger? The Twitchers soon find themselves in a desperate race against time to save this magnificent bird from an unknown deadly enemy . . .

304 pages • June 2022 • Rights sold: Dutch, German • Walker Books



**“Find your nest,
curl up and enjoy.”**

The Times, Children's Book of the Week

JUSTYN EDWARDS

The Great Fox Illusion

Secrets and illusions abound as a group of young magicians compete for the prize of a lifetime in this gripping middle-grade adventure

Thirteen-year-old Flick has won a place on a new TV show in which young people compete to win the legacy of The Great Fox, one of the world's most famous magicians. But Flick isn't interested in uncovering tired old magic tricks . . . she's after something much more important. The magician destroyed her family, and this is Flick's only chance to put things right – and discover a secret that will change the world of magic for ever:

240 pages • April 2022 • Rights sold: Dutch, French, Italian • Walker Books

Walker pre-empted this irresistible series from debut author Justyn Edwards in a six-figure deal.



BOOK 2
SPRING
2023

BOOK 3
SPRING
2024

JENNIFER BELL

Legendarium

Return to the world of Wonderscape in an explosive gaming adventure through the universe's greatest legends, from the bestselling author of *The Uncommons*

Arthur, Ren and Cecily are transported hundreds of years into the future once again, where a brand new in-reality adventure game, featuring famous legends from around the world, is the new gaming obsession. But the friends soon uncover a sinister plot by a mysterious raider called Deadlock, who wants to re-create dangerous time-way technology. Can the friends stop the evil Deadlock and play their way home before time runs out?

352 pages • May 2022 • Walker Books

“Wonderscape is an expertly crafted, breakneck speed adventure.”

BookTrust



Rights sold:
Danish, French,
German, Polish,
Russian,
Simplified Chinese,
Thai, Ukrainian



AMY SPARKES

The Tower at the End of Time

A quirky, funny and fast-paced fantasy adventure and second title in the *House at the Edge of Magic* trilogy

Nine and her friends have broken the curse on their marvellous, magical House, and are free to travel the worlds once more! Their first stop is the Wizarding Hopscotch Championships, where they find their way to the all-knowing Tower at the End of Time. Will they win the championships and find an answer to Nine's own question about who she really is, before their time runs out...?

240 pages • January 2022

Rights sold: German, Italian, Russian • Walker Books

“Wildly imaginative and relentlessly entertaining. It’s a story like no other and I absolutely adored it!”

David Walliams



BOOK 3
JANUARY
2023

KATHERINE PATERSON



Birdie's Bargain

In a poignant and unflinching new realistic novel from the Newbery Medal-winning author of *Bridge to Terabithia*, a ten-year-old girl makes a deal with God for her father's safe return from the Iraq War

Set in the years just after September 11, 2001, Katherine Paterson, the former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, explores one young girl's personal encounter with the Iraq war and complicated relationship with faith and family in this stirring and unflinching novel.

240 pages • October 2021 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

ANDY JONES



Wishes Come in Threes

An insightful and uplifting story about a girl who learns how to channel her hopes and fears into something wonderful

Eleven-year-old Phyll confides in her journal that she longs for a dog of her own and for her mum's depression to disappear. But wishing is easy – it's magic that's in short supply. At least, that's what Phyll thinks until she meets the elderly Mr Djinn. He's a firm believer in the power of wishes and his magical outlook on life soon starts to rub off on Phyll.

240 pages • July 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

A compassionate portrayal of dealing with anxiety, bullying and a parent's depression.

NANCY WERLIN



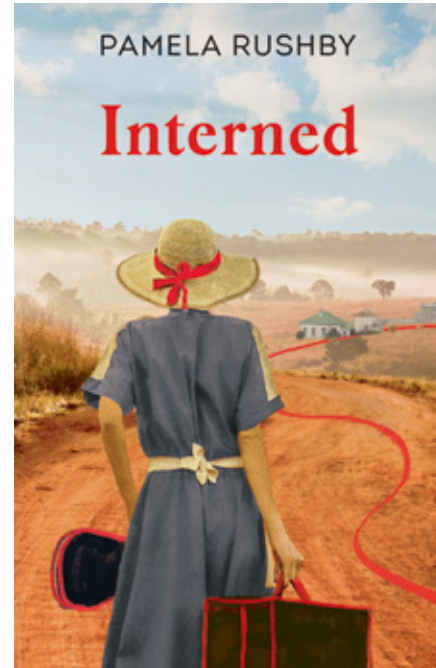
Healer and Witch

After eleven young-adult novels, this multi-award winning and *New York Times* author casts a brilliant new spell in her middle-grade historical fantasy debut for fans of classic fare

Can a young woman gifted with magic learn to manage her powers – and claim her strength – without violence? This classic-feeling, quietly powerful book tackles and transcends fantasy tropes as its heroine journeys through medieval France and discovers that there may be only one wise woman she can trust in a world that would define her limits: herself.

304 pages • March 2022 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

PAMELA RUSHBY



Interned

A moving and evocative historical fiction middle-grade novel

It's 1914. Gretta lives a privileged life in Singapore; Tilly lives a modest life in Brisbane. When war breaks out and both countries turn on their families for being German, the two girls find themselves taken from their homes, interned at a camp in rural New South Wales. Far away from everything they have ever known, Gretta and Tilly are forced to face prejudice, overcome adversity and to make their own community.

254 pages • March 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books Australia

C. J. HASLAM



Orla and the Magpie's Kiss

New-found witch and eco-warrior Orla is up against some seriously dark magic in this creepy and funny adventure, the second in the series

Whilst on holiday, Orla discovers the enchanting Anna's Wood, due to be bulldozed any minute for shale gas. The locals all believe in GasFrac's plan. But why doesn't anyone care about the destruction of the wood? This isn't just indifference – there's dark magic involved here. With help from a magpie and Dave the dog, Orla finds out who is behind GasFrac. And what he wants is seriously evil.

304 pages • April 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

“Orla and the Serpent's Curse is packed full of adventure, mystery, humour and thrills.”

James Nicol, author of The Apprentice Witch

ALLISON RUSHBY

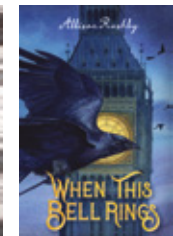


The Ghost Locket

A captivating supernatural mystery set in a house haunted by secrets from the past

Eleven-year-old Lolli must return to London and break a promise she made to herself – to never again enter the house in Spitalfields, an historic building managed by her family. There, Lolli must face up to what she saw in the house several years ago and make things right for two ghosts, one friendly and one decidedly not, and open her heart to people in both the living and twilight worlds.

238 pages • April 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books Australia



From the visionary and versatile author of two 2021 Newbery Honor Books comes a high-seas adventure set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world



CHRISTINA
SOONTORNVAT

The Last Mapmaker

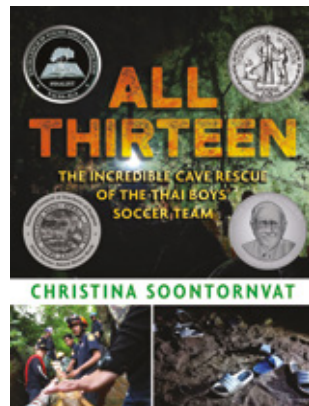
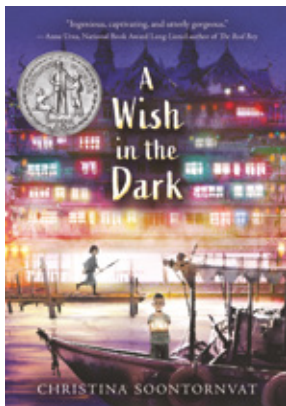
Twelve-year-old Sai is desperate to escape her conman father and to shape a new future for herself, so she seizes the opportunity to join an expedition to chart the Southern seas and plans never to return. When Sai learns that the ship might be heading for the fabled Sunderlands – a land of dragons, dangers, and riches beyond imagining – she must weigh the cost of her dreams.

368 pages • April 2022 • World rights available • Candlewick Press



A breathtaking adventure story that explores the choices we make to become the people we are.

NEWBERY HONOR BOOKS



The Rat Queen



PETE HAUTMAN

The Rat Queen

Annie is a descendant of Lithuanian royalty and heir to a morally-dubious inheritance that includes the opportunity to stay young at the cost of erasing one's guilt. But the loss of culpability also brings a lack of empathy. Set in a matriarchal society, this nontraditional coming-of-age story explores the idea of conscience through magical realism.

320 pages • October 2022 • World rights available
Candlewick Press

A masterful modern-day fairytale that explores the emotional and moral responsibility that's part of growing up.

EARLY PREVIEW

AYA DE LEÓN

Undercover Latina

A smart and fast-paced contemporary novel from an exciting new middle-grade voice about a Latina teenage spy who has to go undercover as a white girl to befriend the estranged son of a white nationalist. But hiding who you really are can be tough, especially when she develops a crush on her target's Latino best friend. Can she outwit the terrorist and stop the attack ... all while remembering not to blow her family's cover by speaking Spanish?

304 pages • January 2023 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

Smart, entertaining, and politically astute, this is fast-paced upper-middle-grade fare from an established author of commercial heist and espionage novels for adults.

ANN SEI LIN



BOOK 2
MAY
2023

BOOK 3
MAY
2024

Rebel Skies

The first in a lyrical yet pacy teen fantasy trilogy set in a world of flying ships, sky cities and powerful paper spirits

Kurara has lived her whole life as a servant, but when her party trick of making paper come to life turns out to be a power treasured across the empire, she joins an airship and its motley crew to become a Crafter. Taught by the gruff but wise Himura, Kurara learns to hunt shikigami – wild paper spirits sought after by the Princess. But are these creatures just powerful origami slaves, or are they beings with their own souls? And can a teenage girl be the one to help them find their voice – and change the course of an empire?

368 pages • May 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books

Inspired by Japanese culture and exploring themes of empire, slavery and freedom through excellent world-building and an array of deep and believable characters.

LOUISE BASSETT



The Hidden Girl

Mel has everything to lose – but how can she stand back when she knows something's not right?

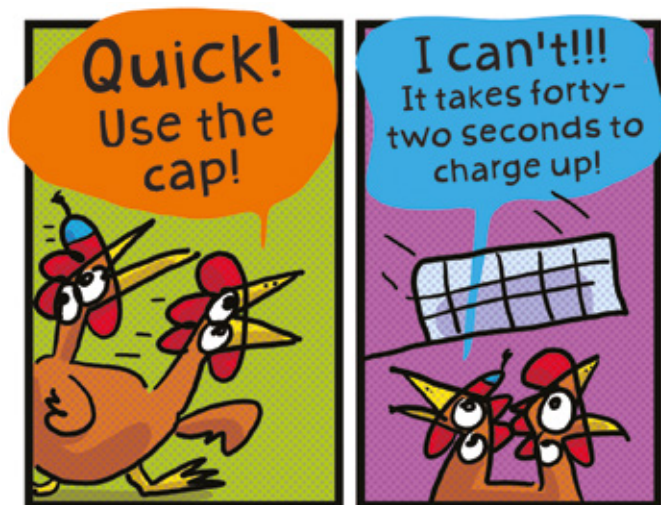
Within the pages of a stolen diary, Melati discovers a coded cry for help – the diary belongs to Devi, an Indonesian teenager who is being held by traffickers. Mel races across the island of Java and against the clock to work out Devi's identity and where she's being held. Before long the pieces fall into place and Mel must put her own life on the line to save a girl she's never met.

336 pages • August 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books Australia

A gripping and original YA novel that delves into issues of ethics, privilege and responsibility.

TOM ANGLEBERGER

TWO-HEADED CHICKEN



Two-Headed Chicken

New York Times bestseller Tom Angleberger, in his original graphic novel debut, follows a brother and sister who are two heads of the same chicken as they flee an enraged moose across the multiverse. This hilarious, absurdist romp, packed with jokes and quizzes and games, will remind readers of such favorites as the Dog Man and CatStronaut series.

208 pages • September 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books US

For fans of Dog Man, a hilarious sci-fi graphic novel series from the creator of the bestselling Origami Yoda books.

BOOK 2
2024

MATT TAVARES



Hoops

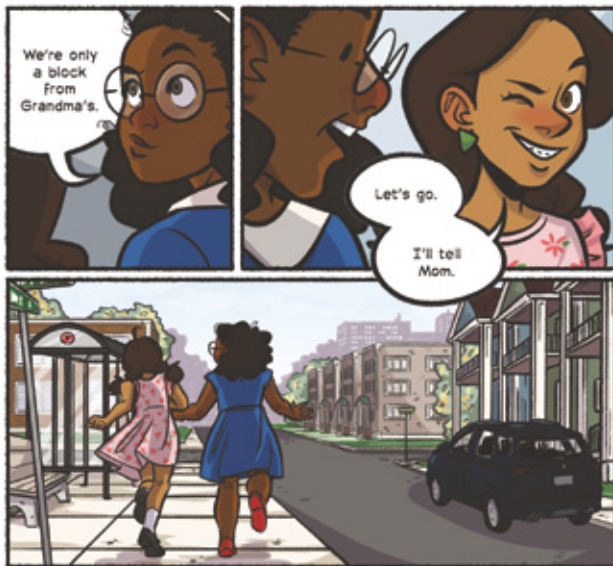
In 1975, Indiana's Wilkins High School girls' basketball team is in their rookie season and, despite being undefeated, practiced nights in the elementary school and played to empty bleachers. Unlike the boys team, the Lady Bears had no buses to deliver them away games and no uniforms, much less a laundry service. They numbered their T-shirts with electrical tape. When the girls team demands equal treatment, they are told: "When you can fill the gym, you can share it." With help from a committed female coach, they do just that, pushing through to win state championship. Packed with clean, full-color illustrations, this well-paced contribution is a timely offering about the ongoing battle of women striving for equality in sports.

224 pages • September 2022 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

Inspired by a true story, Matt Tavares's debut graphic novel dramatizes the historic struggle for gender equality in high school sports.

KEKLA MAGOON &
CYNTHIA LEITCH SMITH

Blue Stars



Mission One: The Vice-Principal Problem

illustrated by Molly Murakami

Riley Halfmoon and Maya Dawn are just two cousins with a job to do. They're on the front lines in a tug-of-war between kids who want to change the world and the nefarious, powerful grownups standing in their way. Can they save their school, their community, and maybe even the whole world? Award-winning authors Kekla Magoon and Cynthia Leitch Smith join forces with debut illustrator Molly Murakami to present the first book in a middle-grade graphic novel series bursting with hope, family unity, and girl power!

176 pages • October 2022 • World rights available • Candlewick Press

In the Blue Stars series, two everyday superheroes set out to save the world – starting with their school.

BOOK 2
MARCH
2024
BOOK 3
SEPTEMBER
2025

SEAN E AVERY



Friendly Bee and Friends

Friendly Bee wants to be friends with every bug he meets, whether they like it or not

Meet Friendly Bee: he's a bug who puts himself out there, a bug who sees the best in other bugs. Sometimes, Friendly Bee's cheerful attitude gets him into trouble – like almost being squashed by an excessively large shoe; or becoming a delicious meal for the mildly homicidal Enormous Hairy Spider: Luckily, Friendly Bee's reluctant best friend Angry Wasp is there to save this buzzing buffoon from certain doom – if he *really* has to.

168 pages • September 2022 • World rights available • Walker Books Australia

This graphic novel collection of four laugh-out-loud stories from talented author-illustrator Sean E Avery is sure to bee-witch young readers.