

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

On the very first page of *Ghost Boys*, we meet 12-year-old Jerome, who is standing looking down on his own dead body. Jerome has just been murdered by a police officer. First, a little bit about Jerome. He is black. He lives in a neighborhood in Chicago with high rates of crime and violence. He and his little sister walk 8 blocks to get to school every day. During those 8 blocks, they must pass an exploded meth lab and cross the street to avoid drug dealers. When they get to school, Jerome does his best to avoid the bullies who make his life miserable. He eats lunch alone in the bathroom every day. Then one day, a new kid starts school. Jerome can tell right away that Carlos is a target for bullying. He takes Carlos under his wing, even defending him against the bullies when they pick a fight. In gratitude, Carlos lends Jerome a toy and says he can return it tomorrow. It is a toy gun.

Jerome's story alternates between the events leading up to his death and the events afterward. As a ghost, he watches his family grieve for him, and even watches the hearing of the police officer who shot him. *Read excerpt pg 50-51.* He also begins to see the ghost of another black kid, who turns out to be Emmett Till. Emmett Till is an actual historical figure. He was 14 years old when he was lynched by white men in Mississippi in the 1950s. The men who murdered him were found not guilty, and his death was a major inciting factor for the Civil Rights Movement. Emmett helps Jerome understand that he is now one of the ghost boys, black boys who have been unjustly killed because of prejudice and fear. While Jerome can communicate with Emmett, he cannot communicate with any living people. Until he looks up during the hearing one day and sees Sarah, the daughter of the police officer who killed him, watching him.

Rachel Rausch
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Be Prepared -- Vera Brosgol (graphic novel)

All Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp.

Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the "cool girl" drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!

Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier, Cece Bell, and Victoria Jamieson, Vera Brosgol's *Be Prepared* is a funny and relatable middle-grade graphic novel about navigating your own culture, struggling to belong, and the value of true friendship.

Slay by Brittney Morris

Kiera Johnson is a game developer, creator of a game that hundreds of thousands of black gamers play from all over the world. Not that anyone knows, including her family and friends, that she is so involved in it. The virtual reality card fighting game inspires many, but when a murder occurs over a dispute involving the game, attention on her game explodes and she has to figure out how to deal with the fallout of creating a game for black people, by black people, while still maintaining her anonymity.



BOOK TALK—Christina Getrost, Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library

The Starlight Claim by Tim Wynne-Jones

ISBN 978-1536202649 c. 2019

Nate misses his best friend, Dodge. Nate and Dodge used to do everything together; they especially loved camping every year at their families' remote cabins in the Canadian wilderness. But Dodge is dead—he died four months ago and his body was never found. Now Nate is having nightmares—Dodge calling out to him, Dodge needs him, needs his help, come find him, NOW! How can Nate make the nightmares end? How can he find peace for himself, and Dodge? Maybe if he goes to their camp in the woods, even though it's still winter, he'll be able to find some sign of Dodge and make the nightmares go away. But after a long trek alone through deep snow, what Nate finds at the cabin are strangers: mean men, hardened men, dangerous, escaped convicts—and they are not pleased to see him. Will Nate's survival skills be enough to help him survive both the elements and the deadly interlopers?

13 TALES OF FOOD & LOVE

Hungry Hearts



EDITED BY
CAROLINE TUNG RICHMOND
AND ELSIE CHAPMAN

Hungry Hearts: 13 Tales of Food & Love

By: Elsie Chapman (Editor), Caroline Tung Richmond (Editor), Sara Farizan, Sandhya Menon, Sangu Mandanna, Rebecca Roanhorse, Adi Alsaid, Phoebe North, Anna-Marie McLemore, Jay Coles, Rin Chupeco, S.K. Ali, Karuna Riazi

- Multicultural
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Multiple Genres
- Mental Illness
- Love/Romance
- LGBTQA+

In *Hungry Hearts Row*, food is king. Add a dash of magic and love and you have this anthology filled to the brim with flavor and warmth.

Follow along as a shy teenager expresses her feelings through the confections she creates, a tourist continues their quest for a magic soup dumpling, and a chef-to-be learns the secret ingredients he needs to win a cooking competition and save his mother's life. These 13 tales will take readers through multiple genres and ways of life. Romantic comedies, borderline horror stories, and dealing with mental illness are all present. The extra seasoning comes with the inclusiveness of the stories. A diverse cast of characters who make cameos in each other's stories are from different cultures, have different sexualities, and different socio-economic backgrounds.

These interconnected short stories weave tales full of the many meanings food can take. Showcasing how it can symbolize love, family, culture, and friendship.

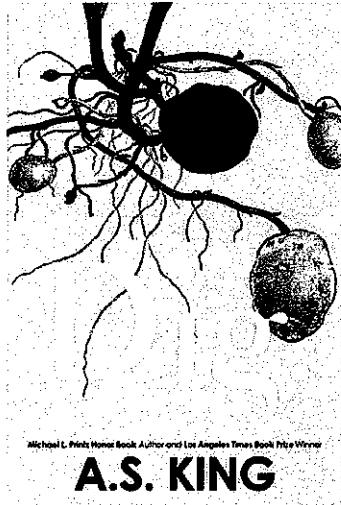
Book Talk by Casey Binik-Thomas of MidPointe Library System

Throw Like A Girl by Sarah Henning

It's the bottom of the seventh, bases are loaded and there are two outs. Olive "Liv" Rodinsky, third baseman of the Windsor Prep softball team, is up to bat. The opposing pitcher releases the ball and WHAAAAAAAAAM! A fastball going sixty-miles-per-hour hits Liv in the back and she goes down. Liv slowly gets up and makes it to first base. Stacey Sanderson, Northland High's first baseman, hits Liv in another way – by making homophobic slurs against her sister, who is also Windsor Prep's coach. Infuriated, Liv punches Stacey in the nose. Due to the zero-tolerance policy to violence, Liv loses her scholarship to Windsor Prep and must enroll at Northland High public school.

Liv approaches Coach Kitt about joining Northland's softball team and isn't given the answer she was hoping for. Coach Kitt knows she has the talent but wants her to prove she can also be a good teammate. The coach challenges her to join other sports teams in the off season, like cross-country or basketball. Determined, Liv goes to the track for a practice run and ends up throwing a football around with her brother. That's when she's approached by Grey Worthington – star quarterback of Northland High's football team. "I'm Grey. I'm here for your arm." They strike up a bargain – Liv will join the football team as a backup quarterback in exchange for Gray putting in a good word with Coach Kitt, his mom. And that's how a girl ends up playing on the Northland High's football team!

If you love a little romance and you love football this is the book for you. This was a fun, fast paced sports story with a strong female character who was successful in a male dominated sport. There are ups and downs, of course, like when Liv doesn't tell her parents she joined the football team or when she finds out about Grey's past. Liv comes through it all with dignity and determination. She works hard and achieves success – on and off the field.



Dig by A.S. King

The Shoveler, The Freak, CanIHelpYou?, The Ring Mistress, and Malcolm all have one thing in common; family secrets stemming from a rotten seed of greed, hate, and supremacy. Can these five dig their way out in order to change who and what they are becoming?

ROYAL

10/31/19

Shawn Frauenberger

TITLE: I Love You So Mochi

AUTHOR: Sarah Kuhn

PUBLISHER: Scholastic Press 2019

ISBN: 9781338302882

REVIEW:



High school senior, Kimi. Has been accepted to a prestigious art school, to her mother's delight. But now she's having second thoughts about becoming a painter. What she really loves is designing clothing. Her Mother thinks it is a frivolous hobby and wants Kimi to follow in her footsteps to be a great Asian artist. When her parents find out she dropped her art class, there is a big fight. An invitation comes to visit her grandparents in Japan for spring break, and she goes, thinking it will give her time to concentrate on her future plans. When she gets to Kyoto, she meets Akira who welcomes her and shows her the city. Mixed generation relationships, exploring a charming city, discovering her family's Japanese traditions, and a cute boy to show her around make this a sweet romantic story. Her Grandmother warms to her when they discover they both love sewing and designing and she gives Kimi great advice: "But how do I get him to tell me if he likes me-one way or the other?" I say, laughing. "You don't," my Grandmother says. "You tell him. After all, you just told me, 'I like a boy.' Why are you trying so hard to figure out what he wants when you already know what you want? If you want something, you have to say it out loud and to the correct person." I would recommend to someone who likes romantic comedies with a touch of international flair and loveable characters.

December 19, 2019

ROYAL

Shawn Frauenberger

TITLE: Maybe This Time

AUTHOR: Kasie West

PUBLISHER: Scholastic 2019 PRICE: \$17.99

ISBN: 9781338210088

REVIEW: ****

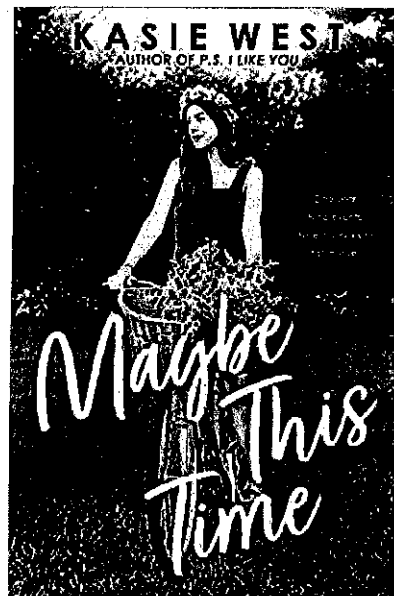
Sophie wants to leave her small Alabama town for an exciting career in fashion in New York City. Her senior year, she works at the local florist who provides flowers for all the town's special events. Best friend Micah works for her father's catering company, so their jobs coincide. Grouchy celebrity chef, Jett Hart picks this company to be in his small business mentorship program, and brings his teenage son Andrew who takes publicity pictures. Sophie and Andrew do not hit it off, trading barbs and insults. Eventually, over the course of the events of the year they begin to listen to, respect, and the like each other.

Literary Merit: This is a light, frothy romance. Even though the characters do have some family problems and future-planning worries, nothing is too deep and dark. The main characters only see each other nine times in a year (at the various events) and they seem to mature and grow into understanding each other and themselves. The romance is slow and only involves a few kisses.

Characterization: Standard characters who can't stand each other at first, then warm up as they see each other in different scenarios. Faithful black best friend with a smaller role. I'm glad Sophie didn't drop everything for the boy. Even though her dreams changed through the story, her future was still important to her.

Audience: Teen rom-com fans. If you are watching Hallmark Christmas movies right now...you'll love this book.

Recommended: Yes



February 27, 2020

ROYAL-Troy

Shawn Frauenberger

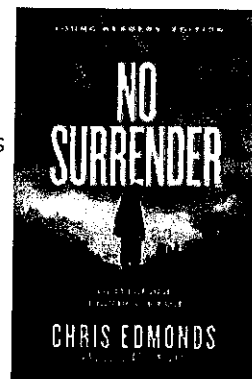
TITLE: No Surrender A Father, a Son, and an Extraordinary Act of Heroism (Young Readers

AUTHOR: Chris Edmonds

PUBLISHER: Harper 2019 PRICE: \$16.99

ISBN: 9780062966179

REVIEW: ****



The author, Roddie Edmonds' son, pieces together a story of the heroism of his father from his journals and interviews with other survivors of the Battle of the Bulge during WWII and as prisoners of war. Quiet, unassuming, and good natured Roddie never told his family what horrors he witnessed during the war. As the highest ranking soldier in the camp he twice defied the Germans and saved over one thousand men-many of them Jewish. He has been honored by Yad Vashem, and was awarded the Medal of Valor. This is a fast read for people who like history and inspirational books. Although the fighting, deprivation, and cruelty are described. It's not too horrific for kids in 5th or 6th grade, teens, and adults.

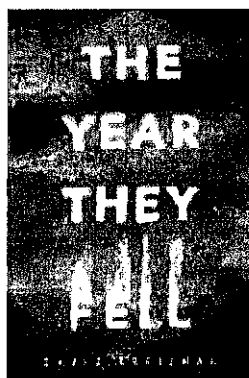
TITLE: The Year They Fell

AUTHOR: David Kreizman

PUBLISHER: Imprint 2019 PRICE: \$17.99

ISBN: 9781250179876

REVIEW: ****



Dayana, Archie, Harrison, and twins Josie and Jack were best friends in preschool. Now in high school they have drifted apart. Their parents remained friends and vacationed together. On their way to Anguilla in the Caribbean, their plane crashes and all are killed. Dayana's parents at the last minute didn't go because her father didn't renew his passport. Now, coming to terms with the tragedy and finding out some of their parents secrets they discover romance and friendship they thought they lost. Some heavy topics that occurred in the book are sexual assault (of Josie by a trusted teacher and coach), racism (Archie is black-adopted by a white family), and the usual high school angst of social status, pressure for achievement, and how their lives will go forward. I recommend this great story of growth and friendship.

***On A Sunbeam* by Tillie Walden.**

When you read *On A Sunbeam*, you step into a beautiful, mysterious world of unstoppable women, found family, and space travel, and you witness the strength of all kinds of love. A young woman named Mia joins a crew of building restorers, who painstakingly rebuild beautiful ruined structures. As the tight-knit group welcomes her into their family, Mia flashes back to her boarding school days when she fell in love with the enigmatic newcomer. Eventually, Mia and her new family take a risky journey to try and reunite her with her lost love.

This book, originally published as a web comic, is not only moving, funny, and hopeful, it's beautiful to read. The images are simplistic but graceful, taking full advantage of the page. Though almost all the characters identify as female, they all look different, showing a wide range of body types, styles, and personalities.

You'll root for each of these well-rounded characters as you get to know them, and you'll be inspired by the themes of hope, restoration, and love. It's a thick book, but a fast read. Great for getting out of a reading slump.

10/10, would recommend.

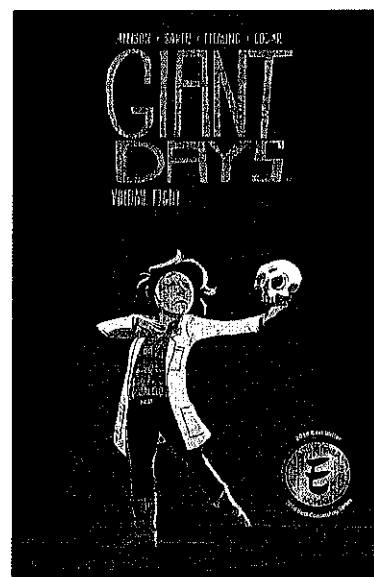
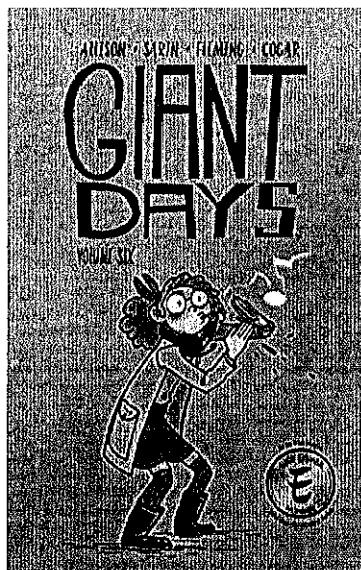
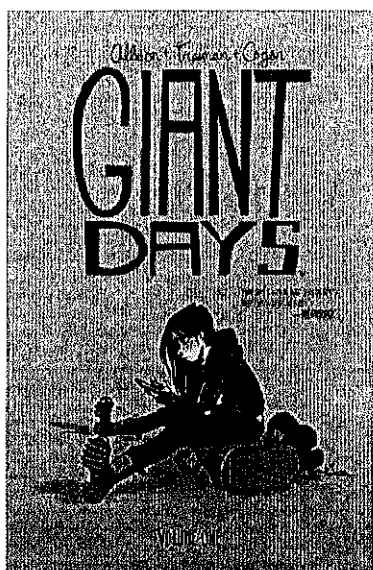
Book Talk: *Heroine* by Mindy McGinnis

“When I wake up, all my friends are dead.”

From the very first line, *Heroine* by Mindy McGinnis is a heart-stopping ride from start to finish.

After an accident leaves high school softball star Mickey Catalan injured, she will do whatever it takes to get back on the field. As Mickey pushes her body in physical therapy, she needs to take more and more of her prescription pills to keep the pain at bay. Mickey discovers that the pills not only take away the sharp pain, but they also take away the pressure and anxiety she feels. Mickey spirals out of control, but can she keep it together to lead her team to the championship game?

Mindy McGinnis is the queen of hard-hitting YA contemporary. She is not afraid to tackle the hard topics like the opioid crisis. *Heroine* is raw, gritty, and deeply unsettling. This book is not only important for teens to read, but should be read by adults as well.



Title: Giant Days

Author: John Allison

Illustrator: Max Sarin

Genre: Graphic Novel-Realistic Fiction

Volumes: 14

Recommended: for ages 14 and up

If you haven't read the graphic novel series, "Giant Days" by John Allison yet....you need to start immediately! Susan, Esther, Daisy, Ed and McGraw will become your new book BFFs. The story takes place in England where the three girls meet in their first semester of college and eventually become roommates and best friends despite their very different personalities. The story continues on until their graduation. The series is hilarious, dramatic, over the top and relatable. I recommend this graphic novel series for teens and adults ages 14 and up. This is easily one of my favorite graphic novel series. The series is up to volume 12, which was just published... so you've got a lot of catching up to do!

For more graphic novel recommendations contact me!

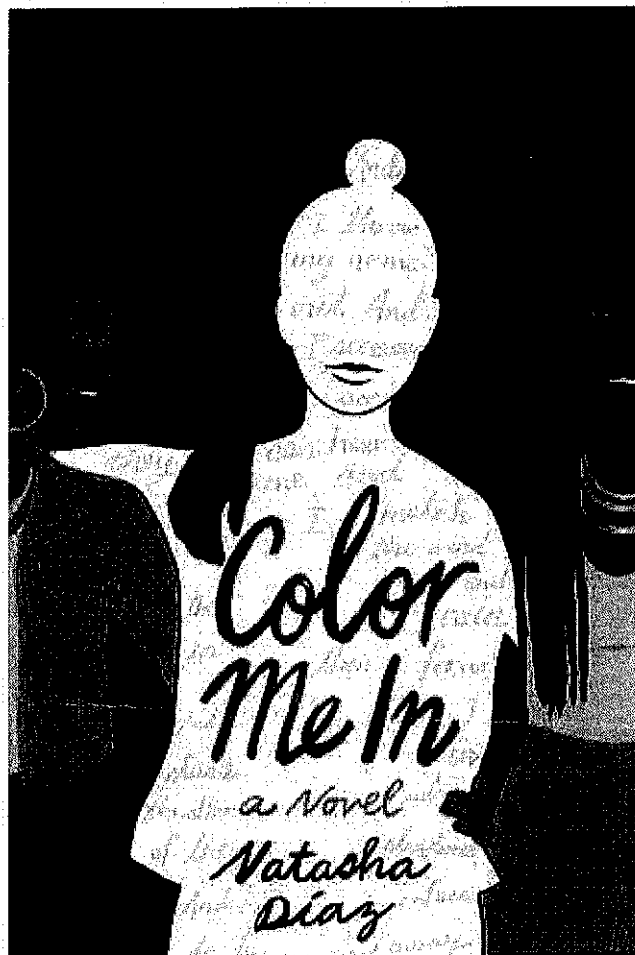
Kate Gibson – Teen Services Librarian

Lake County Public Library: Lake Station-New Chicago Branch (Lake Station, IN)

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***Color Me In* by Natasha Diaz**

Neveah Levitz has never really felt like she belongs. With her white, Jewish father, and her black, Baptist mother, the two sides of her family never spent much time together. But when her parents get divorced and Neveah is forced to spend half her time in the large house in the suburbs where she grew up and half her time in the home her mother grew up in in Harlem, her whole life seems to feel like it's falling apart. Being so light skinned that she "passes" as white, she feels out of place with her black family, but being dark enough that she stands out at her almost all white private school, Neveah doesn't know who she really is. In a spiteful attempt to keep her mother from having custody time with Neveah, her father decides that Neveah needs to embrace her Jewish heritage and have a Bat Mitzvah three years late. On top of her parents' nasty divorce, Neveah must deal with falling in love for the first time, dealing with a horrible school bully, and possibly losing her best friend to a dance academy in Europe. The last thing she needs is the added stress of preparing for her "betta late than Neva" Bat Mitzvah. Readers will find themselves engrossed in Neveah's story as she navigates her new life and really discovers who she is and where she came from.



Ally Doerman
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Book talk for:

The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow

By Katherine Woodfine

Sophie is excited and proud to be a staff member of Sinclair's, the newest and most spectacular store in all of London in 1909. She is a shop girl in the Millinery Department who spends her days helping the wealthy women find the perfect hat to go with their latest outfits. There was a time when working for a living would have been the last thing Sophie would have ever expected to find herself doing. However, after her dear Papa suddenly died she found herself orphaned, penniless, and in desperate need of a job. Sinclair's is a Godsend and she is thrilled to have both an income and the privilege of working in such a magical store. She quickly befriends Billy, a young porter, and Lil, who is one of the "living mannequins", who does daily fashion shows in the store. Things are going well until the priceless Clockwork Sparrow, which was on display in the art gallery, disappears and Sophie becomes the prime suspect! Sophie suddenly finds herself in a race against the clock to clear her name and figure out what really happened to the Clockwork Sparrow. As she and her new friends dig deeper, they uncover a sinister plot that reaches far beyond the walls of Sinclair's Department Store. They quickly find themselves risking life and limb in an attempt to solve the mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow!

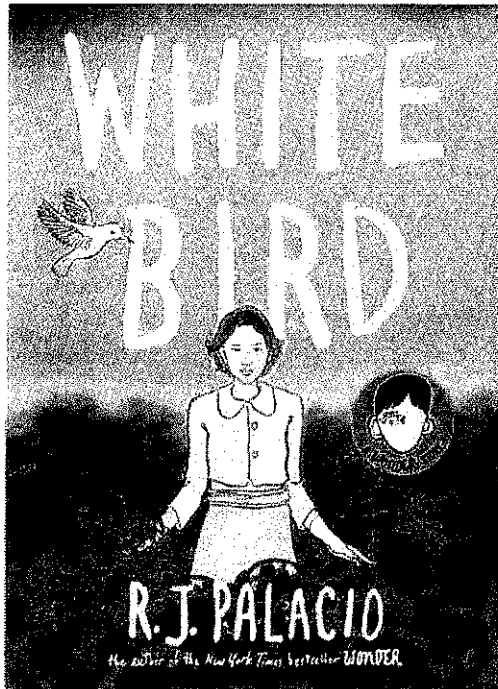
If you enjoy historical fiction and mysteries, then you should read The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow! It does a great job of creating the feel of London in 1909 and the mystery will keep you guessing right up until the end. It is the first in a series of four and I ended up reading all of them in a week. I highly recommend this book!

Who enjoys a scary story?

Then you'll want to hear about *Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden.

On her way home from middle school, Ollie happens upon an old book. As she begins to read, she discovers a chilling story about two brothers and a peculiar deal made with "the smiling man," a sinister specter who grants your most tightly held wish, but only for the ultimate price.

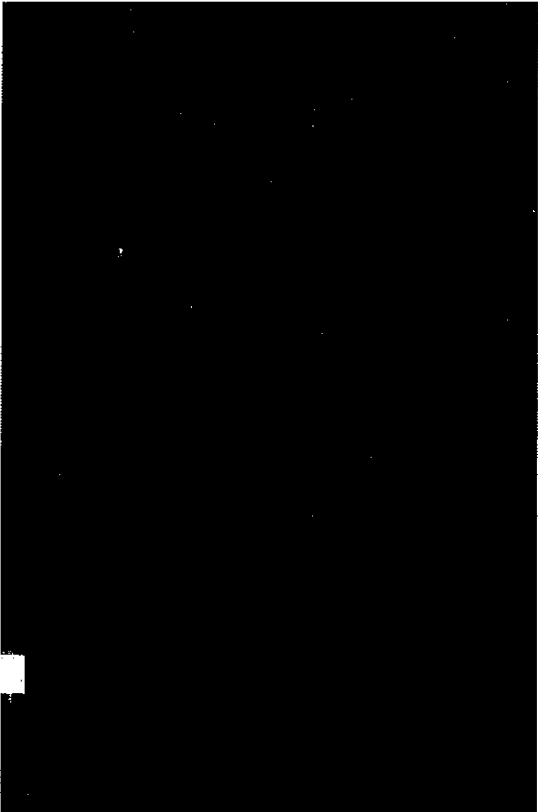
The next day on a field trip to a local farm, Ollie stumbles upon the graves of the very people she's been reading about. Could the story of the smiling man be true? When the school bus breaks down on the way home, Ollie's previously broken wristwatch begins to count down and delivers a terrifying message: RUN.



R.J. Palacio has done it again! If you were a fan of her book, *Wonder*, then you will certainly love her latest work, *White Bird*. This story will make you feel happy, then sad, then happy again, followed by fear and more sadness, and then conclude with eternal kindness. The first graphic novel by R.J. Palacio, takes us on a journey that illustrates “the enormous value of kindness, and how in the worst of times it becomes a beacon of light that saves us and preserves our humanity.”* Read it. Just read it.

*Common Sense Media

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/white-bird-a-wonder-story>



Musical theatre meets Dante's *Inferno* with
a heavy dose of comedy in this series!

Curse of the Evil Librarian

Michelle Knudsen

9780763694272

Candlewick

Curse of the Evil Librarian is the third (and final?) darkly funny installment of the Evil Librarian series. Cynthia Rothschild thought she had done away with the demon Mr. Gabriel at summer theatre camp once and for all. She's really trying to enjoy her senior year of high school and the upcoming musical *Les Miserables* in which her boyfriend - dreamy Ryan Halsey - is sure to get the part of Javert. However, she has a terrible feeling stirring inside her which she calls the "panic beetles." Soon she

discovers that Mr. Gabriel's spirit has escaped its prison and she and her friends are in danger again. She immediately runs to help her friends with her special "roach talent" (her skill that allows her to protect her friends from demon interference) but gets to Ryan too late. Mr. Gabriel curses him and he will die if she does not go to the demon world and find out what she needs to do to break it. Of course, Mr. Gabriel is trying to regain his body so that he can kill Cynthia and take her best friend Annie to be his bride/demon consort for all eternity. Cynthia calls for aid from her 'good' demon friend, Peter, and teams up with Mr. Gabriel's little brother to try and defeat Mr. Gabriel. Her friends and boyfriend also feel they have to interfere and Annie and Ryan get sucked along for the ride to the demon world, much to Cyn's dismay. Knudsen's imaginative demon world paired with the lighthearted reality of teens rehearsing for audition callbacks makes this just as good of a read as the first two books in the series. The author leaves a tiny window of opportunity for a sequel, so we will see if this is truly the end. grades 7 and up.