

August

# DAYLAN AND THE RIVER OF SECRETS

BY: EDD TELLO

HC ed.: \$25.80 • 9781978597471

eBook: \$25.80 • 9781978597495

Pbk ed.: \$16.35 • 9781978597488

GRL: N • DEWEY: [F] • ©2025 • 5 1/4" x 7 1/8" • 160 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Twelve-year-old Daylan hasn't gone swimming in years, not since he had a frightening encounter in El Naci river with Cihuamichin—a legendary water woman with the power to bring either safety or destruction to his small Mexican community. Daylan often has nightmares about Cihuamichin. At school, he's bullied for his fears of swimming and his social anxiety. When a new kid named Eliam starts at Daylan's school, Daylan is forced to confront feelings that he has about himself, and maybe even get in the water again. But Eliam becomes part of a troublesome crew, joining them as they break the water woman's rules. When they threaten the safety that Daylan and his town desperately need, Daylan must find a way to overcome his fear of the river—and take the plunge.

## MONDAY AT SCHOOL

means wearing navy blue trousers, a uniform shirt, and well-cleaned shoes.

"I put your sandwich in your lunch box!" Mom yells as I walk to the school doors.

"I—I know," I stammer.

At least she's not blowing kisses at me anymore.

Mom is a counselor at a high school. She believes that's why she always says the "right words."

Brissia's eyes are glued to a page as I enter our classroom.

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Brissia is the town's star swimmer.

Before even saying hello, she says, with a smile that shows her braces, "Look, look!"

She hands me the page:

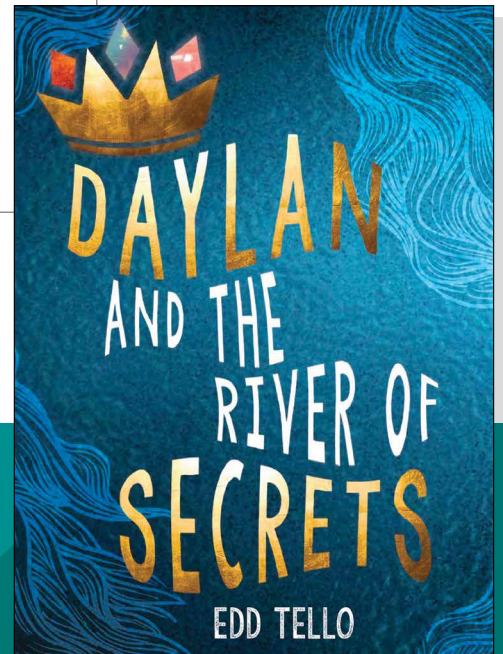
### THE SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO THE OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMPETITION

Another thing to stress about besides math.

Brissia thinks she can help me swim again. I'm not sure about that.



**Edd Tello** is the author of the young adult books *Only Pieces* (2022) and *No Place for Fairy Tales* (2023) from West 44 Books. Both titles are Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selections. Edd holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Seville. When he isn't reading or writing, you can find him drinking coffee or making his friends laugh with his unfortunate anecdotes and jokes. Edd currently lives in Vancouver, Canada. You can find him online at [eddtello.com](http://eddtello.com), and [@eddstello](https://twitter.com/eddstello) on socials.



October

# THE FABIAN FILE

BY: DAVID ARO

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Ace hates sharing a computer with his older sister, Nora. When Ace and Nora get into a fight over the computer, they're both grounded from using it. But Ace has a new idea he wants to work on—designing a magician character named Fabian who reminds him of learning magic tricks with his absent father. Ace sneaks onto his mom's top-secret work computer in the middle of the night. But when Ace saves the Fabian file, something strange happens. Fabian comes to life on the screen and starts deleting files. When Ace and Nora try to fix the issue, they're sucked into the computer world. Now the siblings have no choice but to work together before Fabian erases everything on the hard drive—including them.

NEW FALL 2024! FICTION

<p>☆☆☆</p> <h3>I Can't</h3> <p>sleep at night.</p> <p>I'm like a wide-eyed owl under the moon.</p> <p>Even when I do manage to squeeze in a few z's,</p> <p>all I can think about is tapping on the keys.</p> <p>By day three, it feels like I have bugs in my bed.</p> <p>I claw at my arms and legs.</p> <p>I'm ready to break free from my skin.</p>	<p>☆☆☆☆</p> <h3>Dream</h3> <p>Then it hits me.</p> <p>I wake with a magician glued to my brain.</p> <p>His name, Fabian.</p> <p>Tall. Slender. Purple top hat and matching suit.</p> <p>A deck of cards fanned out in his hands.</p> <p>I take a random card from him.</p> <p>It's the ace of diamonds, as if he's calling to me.</p>
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**David Aro** is the author of several stories for young readers, including the middle grade verse novel *My Own Spin*, the *Alton Heights All-Stars* hi/lo series, and the picture book *Slam Dunk Sammy*. He is a former Collegiate All-American basketball player, conference player of the year, and college coach. When he is not spending time with his family, coaching his kids, or playing table tennis, he follows his passion of writing children's books. You can visit him online at [www.davidaro.com](http://www.davidaro.com).

December

# LIAM AND THE GIANT EELS

BY: ANN MALASPINA

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Giant eels have invaded the Jersey Shore town where 12-year-old Liam is spending the summer at Gramps's cottage. The eels chew up postcards in mailboxes, get into Mom's paints, and cause traffic accidents. No one knows why the eels are so enormous, or how to stop them from crawling everywhere. Some answers could lie in the journals Gramps left behind before he died last fall. Does it have to do with the local power plant? Will the stubborn town leaders listen to a couple of kids? Liam and his new friend Ceila set out to crack the mystery of the giant eels, but one wrong step could get them into a world of trouble.

## SURPRISE

Liam braked his bike  
at Gramps's seashell driveway.

He reached  
into the mailbox  
like he did every day.

Something—

warm,  
slimy, alive

(and definitely not mail)—

jumped out  
like a birthday surprise.

Only Liam's  
12th birthday  
was a month ago.

"Whaaat!"

## SLIDE, SLITHER, SLIP

The animal climbed up  
Liam's right arm.

It crawled across his shoulders.

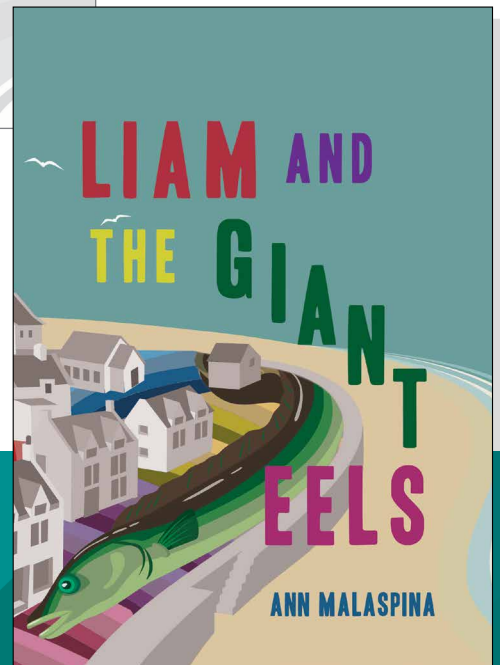
Slid to the ground.  
Slithered across the driveway.  
Slipped across the road.

Liam watched in shock  
as it  
DISAPPEARED  
into the storm gutter.

Was this the  
"something odd"  
Rosie was talking about?



**Ann Malaspina** is an award-winning author of books for young people. She often writes about social justice and civil rights. Ann has an MFA in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. When not writing, Ann likes to listen to spoken word poetry, visit art museums, and travel. She is also the author of the YA verse novel *Kiki in the Middle*. Check out her website at [www.annmalaspina.com](http://www.annmalaspina.com).



NEW FALL 2024!  
FICTION

August

# THE BRUJOS OF BORDERLAND HIGH

BY: GUME LAUREL III

HC ed.: \$25.80 • 9781978597358

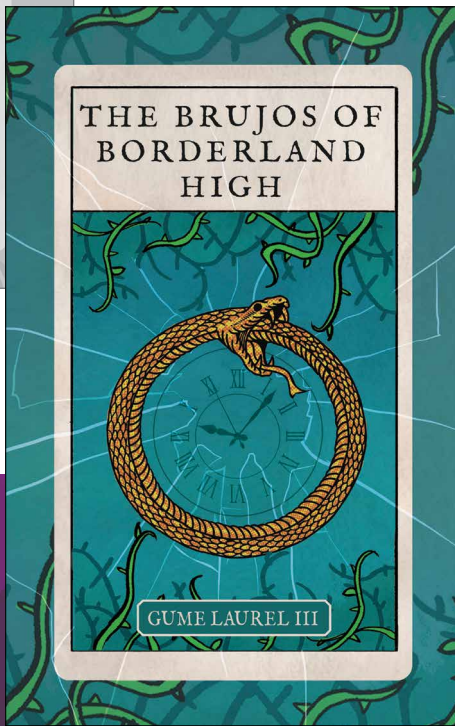
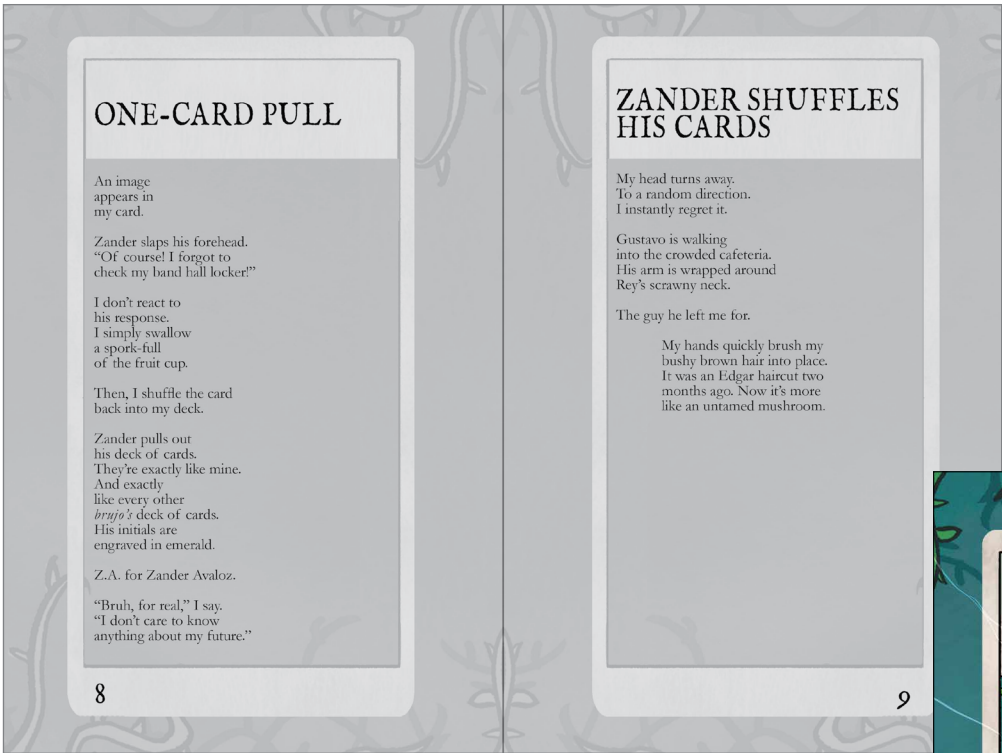
eBook: \$25.80 • 9781978597372

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GRL: N • DEWEY: [F] • ©2025 • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

High school is rough for a gay teen brujo going through his first breakup. And Alejandro's supernatural ability to see the past with the use of his tarot cards makes it so the past is all he ever really focuses on. Alejandro would like to pour his passion into piano to prepare for the upcoming winter recital, but bizarre supernatural forces seem out to get him. When a time-traveling demon arrives with a mission to stop the upcoming high school winter recital from taking place, Alejandro must focus on the future to slay the demon, save the recital, and maybe get a second chance at love.



**Gume Laurel III** is a Texan, native to the Rio Grande Valley on the southernmost border. For the past decade, he has dedicated himself to crafting literary works that promote inclusion and showcase diverse characters with intersectional identities, including his first YA verse novel, *Samson & Domingo*. The bulk of Gume's writings are focused on underrepresented groups, especially those from the communities he is a part of: Latine and queer. When he isn't writing, Gume can be found getting lost on a hiking trail with his dogs Blu and Mouse. For more info on what he's up to, check out [GumeLaurel.com](http://GumeLaurel.com) and [@TX.Author](https://www.instagram.com/TX.Author) on Instagram.

August

# THE KEY TO SURVIVING SUMMER

BY: SANDI VAN

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GRL: N • DEWEY: [F] • ©2025 • 5 ½" x 8 ¼" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

It's the summer before sophomore year, and Moe is stuck in the middle of Nowhere-ville, in a broken-down cottage on Lake Ontario with no one her age for miles. Her neighbor's grandson, Zeke, definitely doesn't count. He is only eight, but desperation and loneliness force Moe to follow Zeke on his adventures. After a nasty storm, Moe finds a strange key and begins having visions of a girl roller-skating at sunset and then disappearing into the lake. Moe and Zeke comb the shoreline looking for clues, but when his grandparents find out, they forbid Zeke from spending any more time with Moe. Faced with even more isolation and increasingly vivid visions, Moe must figure out what happened to the mysterious girl and why it forced her temporary hometown into silence.

## FIRST STOP

There's a park not far from our lane.  
It's a public park  
with walking trails  
and a boat launch.

At the entrance,  
there's a strange pile of rocks.

*Grams says this used to be a hotel.  
Do you think she's hiding here?*

For a minute,  
I forgot  
what we came here to do.

For a minute,  
I was just exploring and  
having fun.

But then Zeke touches my arm  
to get my attention.

I trip on a rock.

The key bounces against  
my chest.

I feel its heat  
like a flame.

## THE HOTEL

She's here.

I see her  
standing by the water.

Arm in arm with  
two other girls.

They are laughing.  
Her blonde hair sparkles in the  
setting sun.

She reaches into her pocket  
and pulls out three keys.

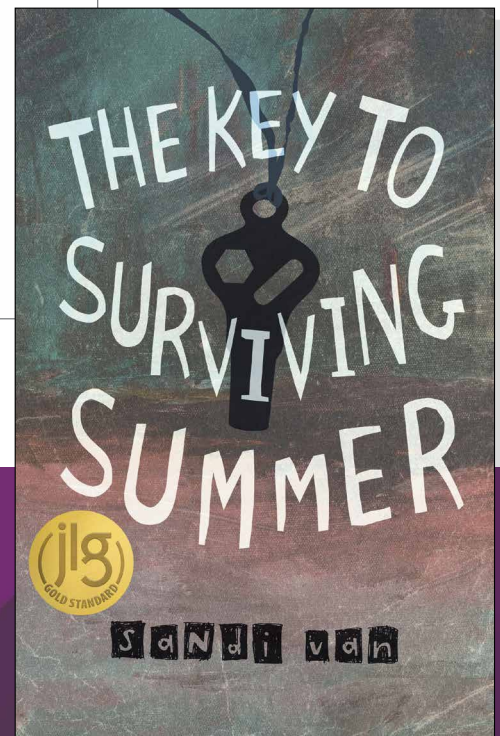
They look like the one on  
the chain.

*Papa stamped them for us,  
she says.*

*BEST FRIENDS FOREVER.*



**Sandi Van** is a writer and academic advisor from Buffalo, New York. She is the author of the young adult verse novels *Second in Command*, *Listen Up*, *Everything It Takes*, and *Caught in the Haze*. Her family spends summer weekends at their cottage on Lake Ontario, where sunsets truly are a mandatory nightly ritual. You can follow her on social media @sandivanwrites or visit her website at sandivan.com.



October

# REACHING FOR VENUS

BY: MAIJA BARNETT

HC ed.: \$25.80 • 9781978597327

eBook: \$25.80 • 9781978597341

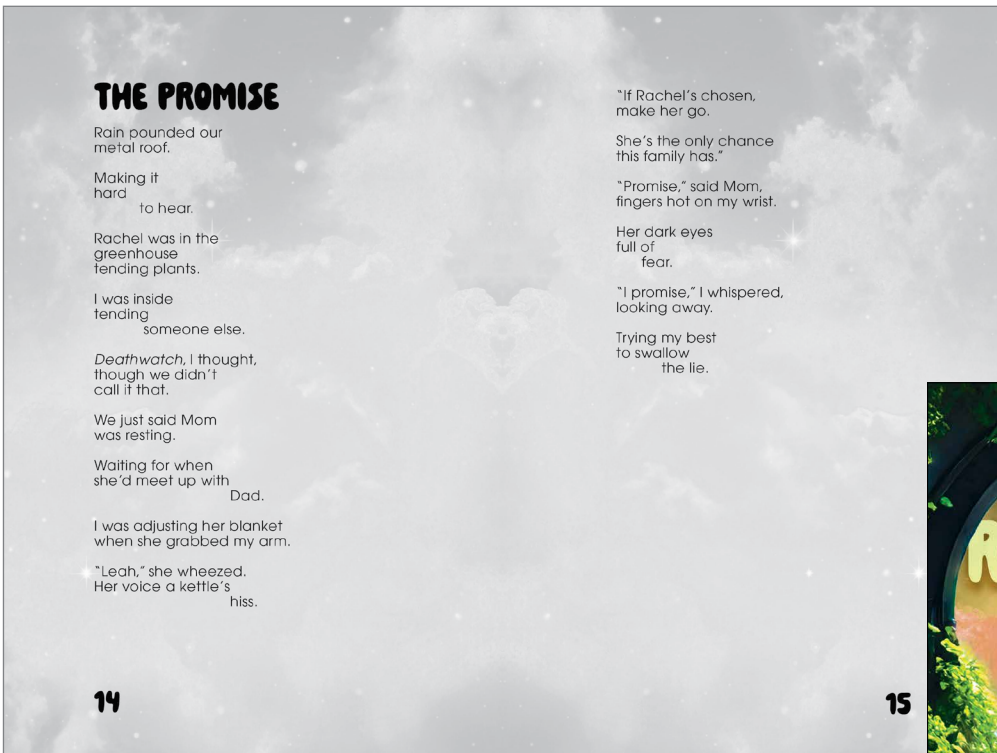
Pbk ed.: \$16.35 • 9781978597334

GRL: N • DEWEY: [F] • ©2025 • 5 ½" x 8 ¼" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Living in a dystopic future, Leah and her younger sister Rachel are fighting to survive in a world that's becoming increasingly unlivable. Earth's atmosphere has been poisoned by pollution, so each year the government—Terra—holds a contest for all eligible, healthy 16-year-olds. The winners, 100 teens who possess skills that will contribute to Venus's floating biosphere, are sent to the Floating City. Though both Leah and Rachel are talented gardeners, Leah's pollution-induced asthma makes her ineligible. After Rachel is selected for the Floating City, she tricks Terra's medical staff and sends Leah in her place to save Leah's life. Once on Venus, Leah continues to hide her true identity. She is assigned to work in the city's greenhouse where she meets Rose, who awakens something inside her she never knew existed. But when Leah's asthma returns, she's forced to find out whether true love can survive deceit, and if her sister's sacrifice was ultimately worth the price.

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## THE PROMISE

Rain pounded our metal roof.

Making it hard to hear.

Rachel was in the greenhouse tending plants.

I was inside tending someone else.

*Deathwatch*, I thought, though we didn't call it that.

We just said Mom was resting.

Waiting for when she'd meet up with Dad.

I was adjusting her blanket when she grabbed my arm.

"Leah," she wheezed. Her voice a kettle's hiss.

"If Rachel's chosen, make her go.

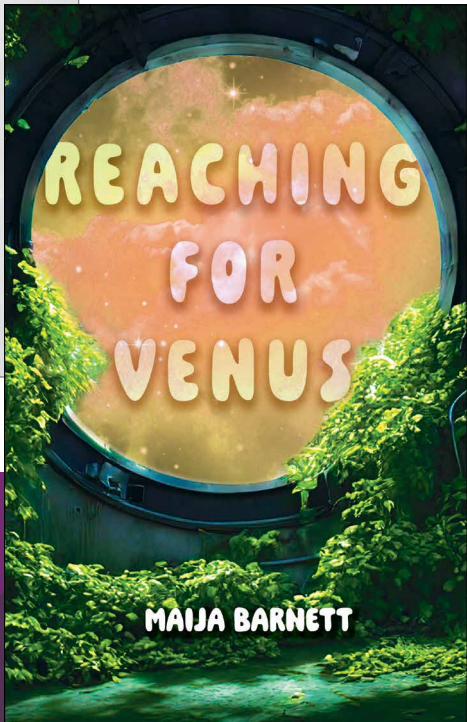
She's the only chance this family has."

"Promise," said Mom, fingers hot on my wrist.

Her dark eyes full of fear.

"I promise," I whispered, looking away.

Trying my best to swallow the lie.



**Maija Barnett** grew up in central Vermont and now lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two teenage daughters. She loves nature, poetry, hiking in the woods with her dogs, and finding ways to get kids excited about reading. Maija holds degrees in English and teaching and currently teaches at a school for students with learning differences. *Reaching for Venus* is her third novel.

October

## TAKE A SAD SONG

BY: ONA GRITZ

HC ed.: \$25.80 • 9781978597419

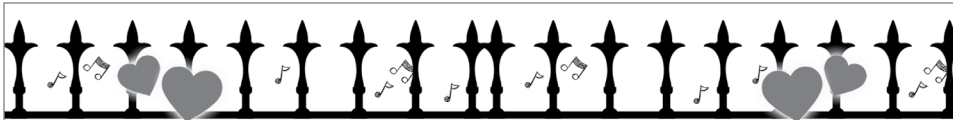
eBook: \$25.80 • 9781978597433

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GRL: N • DEWEY: [F] • ©2025 • 5 ½" x 8 ¼" • 200 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse,  
About the Author Section, High / Low Content

It's the summer of 1970, and 15-year-old Jane is still reeling from the death of her father. She starts partying to deal with her grief, but a frantic call from her mother leads to her arrest. Jane awaits her hearing with hope, but instead she is sentenced to a yearlong stay at the New York State Training School for Girls. She faces bullying and solitary confinement, and all seems lost. Then she's introduced to the Racket, an underground world of gender role-play, romantic relationships, and chosen families the inmates have created. She befriends and develops deep feelings for fellow inmate Jo-Jo, who shares her love of music. Jane comes to appreciate the complex lives of people she never would have gotten to know on the outside—but she knows that her new family can be taken away in an instant.



## The Only Music

we heard at Spofford  
was TV theme songs.  
And jingles  
from commercials.

Now, "Band of Gold" plays.  
And the lonely words  
touch me in a new  
bruised place.

Next, "Gimme Dat Ding,"  
which makes me think  
of bullies grabbing cookies.  
And that music  
might be ruined for me.

Then,  
"Signed, Sealed,  
Delivered" comes on.  
Kids sing along.  
And it strikes me  
that maybe  
we have more  
than just  
our terrible luck  
in common.

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## We Arrive

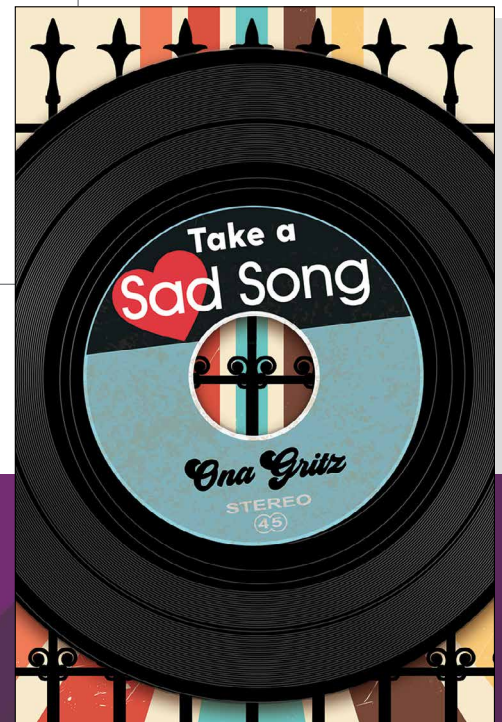
at a large,  
grassy campus.  
Catskill Mountains  
in the distance.  
Hudson River  
beside us.  
Buildings  
of matching  
red brick.

The New York State  
Training School for Girls.  
It might pass for  
a fancy boarding school.

Except the iron fence  
and stone walls  
aren't here to keep out  
thugs and thieves.  
They're here to keep us in.



**Ona Gritz** holds a master of arts in poetry from the creative writing program at New York University. She is the author of many books, most recently, *The Space You Left Behind*, a West 44 young adult novel in verse, and *Everywhere I Look*, a memoir about her sister Angie who was the inspiration for *Take a Sad Song*. Ona's writing has appeared widely, including in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *Brevity*, and *Salon*. She teaches creative writing to teenagers with disabilities through the Numberless Dreams Project. Learn more at [onagritz.com](http://onagritz.com).



December

# BLOOD GONE COLD

BY: KATY GRANT

HC ed.: \$25.80 • 9781978597389

eBook: \$25.80 • 9781978597402

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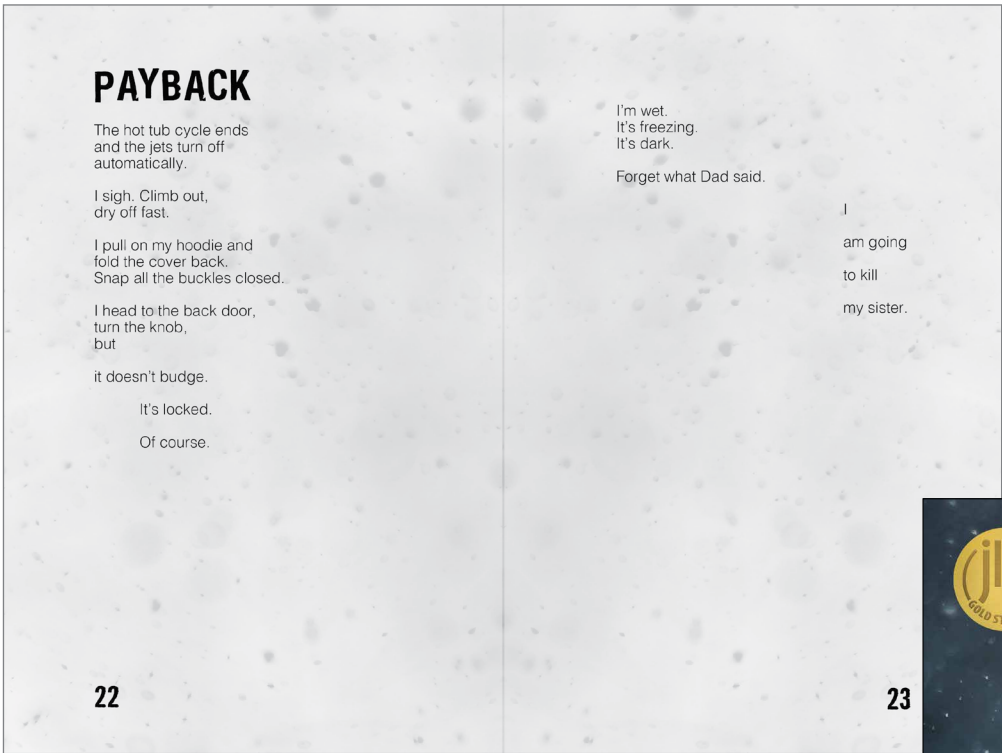
GRL: N • DEWEY: [F] • ©2025 • 5 ½" x 8 ¼" • 200 pp.

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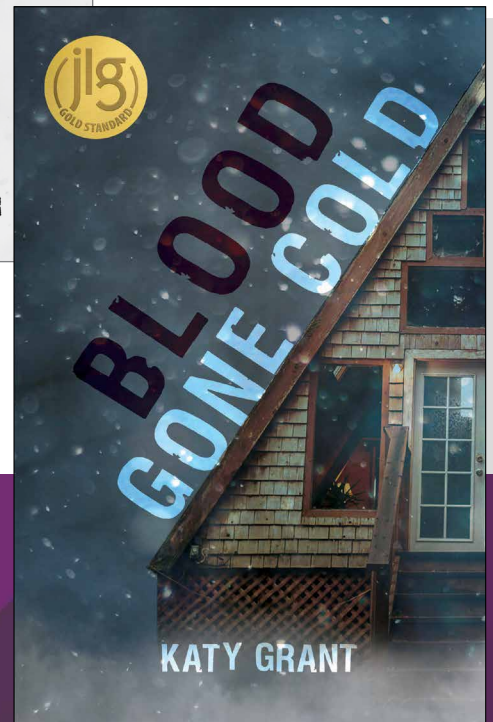
Abby used to be close to her older sister Natalie, but now they seem to have nothing in common. And their constant bickering is putting a strain on the family’s winter vacation. After a day on the slopes, their frustrated parents leave the girls alone in their cabin together. But when two suspicious men appear at the remote cabin where they’re staying, Natalie is in serious danger. It’s up to Abby to use her quick thinking to fend off the intruders. Though the sisters initially escape the intruders, they’re forced out into the elements—with the men in hot pursuit. Can the sisters put their differences aside to survive this blood-chilling night?

FICTION

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**Katy Grant** is the author of ten novels for young readers, including *Three Shots* and *Disaster Trail*. For many years, she taught creative writing and composition courses at the college level. A native of Tennessee, she now lives in northern Arizona with her husband. She enjoys travel, hiking, biking, and spending time with her two adult sons.





December

# SONGS FOR THE OFFSEASON

BY: RYAN WOLF

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

It's the summer before his senior year, and Dustin can't wait to take a special trip to Japan with his high school baseball team. His plans are quickly dashed by the sudden death of his similarly athletic cousin. As someone focused on fitness, Dustin is deeply shaken by this loss. While attending his very first funeral, Dustin meets Andrea, the new stepdaughter of a distant relative who seems to have a playlist for every occasion. At first, Dustin dislikes her. But as the summer continues, death seems to be stalking them both. More funerals crop up, one after another, challenging Dustin's sense of stability. Andrea is there at every gathering, each with its own flair and antics by quirky family members, trying to find meaning in the madness alongside Dustin. As they reflect on life, death, and music, they learn to embrace the weird ways people cope—and find a path forward.

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## RUNNING TO STAND STILL

My cousin Jack  
was 20 years old.

He played baseball  
at a university  
in Houston.

He was jogging  
laps around  
a local track  
when  
he fell.

Jack did  
that same routine  
four times  
a week.

There was  
nothing unusual  
about the day  
he died.  
Nothing  
off.



But when Jack  
tumbled down,  
he never  
got up.

Experts cut  
him open,  
looking for  
answers.

They dug  
into his  
broad chest.

His heart  
was large  
and inflamed.

*Cardiomyopathy*,  
they called it.

No one knew  
he was at risk.

There was  
no family history  
with the disease.  
Jack didn't drink  
or do drugs.

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**Ryan Wolf** is the author of books for young adults, middle graders, and children. His work has been recognized by the Junior Library Guild and nominated for the North Star YA Award. He has also published short stories, poems, essays, journalism, and music reviews. Wolf holds his master's degree from the University of Chicago and at one point lived within walking distance of Wrigley Field. He currently resides in Buffalo, New York. You can learn more about his work at [ryanswolf.com](http://ryanswolf.com).

