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Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers

July 2018

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 OHIOANA AWARD WINNERS!



The Ohioana Library has announced the winners of the 2018 Ohioana Awards, including six juried book awards, the third annual Readers' Choice Award, and the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant. First given in 1942, the Ohioana Book Awards are the second oldest, and among the most prestigious, state literary prizes in the nation. Nearly every major writer from Ohio in the past seventy-six years has been honored. The 2018 winners, and their home counties, are:

Fiction

Celeste Ng (Cuyahoga), *Little Fires Everywhere*, Penguin Press
 Celeste Ng is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novels *Everything I Never Told You* and *Little Fires Everywhere*. Her writing has been awarded the Pushcart Prize, the Massachusetts Book Award, and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, among other honors. She earned an MFA from the University of Michigan and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. To learn more about her and her work, visit celesteng.com or follow her on Twitter (@pronounced_ing).

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

It's always exciting for us when we announce the winners of the Ohioana Book Awards. It's hard to think of a great writer who has come from Ohio or written about Ohio who has not been honored in the past seventy-six years.

This year nearly 400 books were eligible for the awards. From this huge number, our jurors selected thirty finalists, representing the year's outstanding titles in six categories. To make this short list is, in itself, recognition of excellence. Our congratulations to ALL the finalists.

Of course, in addition to the juried prizes, we now have the Readers' Choice Book Award where the fans get to pick their favorite – nearly 1,400 cast their votes in our third annual poll in June!

As for the winners – you can see that it is truly a stellar list. We look forward to honoring them at the 2018 Ohioana Awards reception and ceremony on October 18 at the Ohio Statehouse.

Nonfiction

Deanne Stillman (Cuyahoga), *Blood Brothers*, Simon and Schuster

Deanne Stillman's books include *Blood Brothers* (starred review in *Kirkus*, "best of the year" – *True West*), *Desert Reckoning* (Spur Award winner, praised in *Newsweek*), and *Mustang*, an *LA Times* "best book of the year" available in audio with Anjelica Huston. She also wrote the cult classic, *Twentynine Palms*, a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller that Hunter Thompson called "a strange and brilliant story by an important American writer." She writes the "Letter from the West" column for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and is a member of the core faculty at the UC Riverside-Palm Desert MFA Low Residency Creative Writing Program.

About Ohio or an Ohioan

Brian Alexander (Fairfield), *Glass House*, St. Martin's Press

An award-winning journalist, Brian Alexander has written about American culture for decades. He's a regular contributor to national magazines and news organizations and is a two-time finalist for the National Magazine Award. He has also been recognized by Medill School of Journalism's John Bartlow Martin awards for public interest journalism, the Association of Healthcare Journalists, and other organizations. He has been a columnist for NBC News.

Poetry

Ruth Awad (Franklin), *Set to Music a Wildfire*, University of Southern Indiana Press

Ruth Awad is a Lebanese-American poet whose debut poetry collection, *Set to Music a Wildfire*, won the 2016 Michael Waters Poetry Prize from SIR Press. She is the recipient of a 2016 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, the 2012 and 2013 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, and the 2011 Copper Nickel Poetry Prize. Her work has appeared in *New Republic*, *The Missouri Review*, *CALYX*, *Nashville Review*, *The Adroit Journal*, and elsewhere.

Juvenile Literature

Sally Derby (Montgomery/Hamilton), *A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices*, Charlesbridge

Sally Derby is the author of many books for children, including *Kyle's Island* (Charlesbridge), *Sunday Shopping* (Lee & Low), *Jump Back, Paul: The Life and Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* (Candlewick), and *No Mush Today* (Lee & Low). Her picture book, *A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices* (Charlesbridge), was named "Floyd's Pick" by Choose to Read Ohio. Sally was born and raised in Dayton and now lives in Cincinnati.

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature and Readers' Choice

Tamara Bundy (Hamilton), *Walking with Miss Millie*, Nancy Paulsen Books

Tamara Bundy is a high school English teacher with a master's degree in writing and is a former columnist for the Cincinnati *Post*. Her regular column on being a mom also appeared on EWTN global Catholic radio. *Walking with Miss Millie* is her debut novel.

In addition to the book awards, we are also pleased to present the 29th Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant. This award, established by the family of Ohioana's second director, is given to a writer age 30 or younger who has not yet published a book. This year's Marvin Grant recipient is Christopher Alexander Gellert of Cleveland. We'll feature an excerpt from his prize-winning entry in this fall's *Ohioana Quarterly*.

This fall's awards event will mark the kickoff of Ohioana's 90th anniversary year – truly a milestone! When we observed our 85th anniversary in 2014, Governor John Kasich hailed Ohioana as "one of our state's cultural treasures" and recognized us "for promoting and celebrating Ohio literature, and for collecting and preserving for future generations the rich literary heritage of our State."

On October 18, we will celebrate Ohio literature once again with the presentation of the 2018 Ohioana Awards at the Ohio Statehouse. We hope you will join us.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

CALLING ALL OHIO AUTHORS!

Ohioana is now taking applications for Ohio authors interested in participating in the 2019 Ohioana Book Festival. For details and an application, visit www.ohioana.org.

Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

In addition to the book awards, Ohioana will present the 29th Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a competitive prize for an Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book. This year's recipient is Christopher Alexander Gellert of Cleveland, who recently completed a master's in *lettres modernes, pensée contemporaine* at Paris Diderot. Since September 2016 he has been gathering testimonies of the influence of literature on readers in France, from conversations they have over dinners he cooks in their homes. His verse has appeared in *Belleville Park Pages* & *FORH Magazine*, and is forthcoming in *parentheses*, a new Barcelona-based journal. He will be pursuing

a doctorate in the fall on the investigation as an artistic practice with Vincent Broqua at Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis.

The 2018 Ohioana Awards will be presented Thursday, October 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the atrium of Ohio's historic statehouse in Columbus.

Tickets for the event, which include a pre-awards reception, will go on sale September 15.



COMING SOON

Thurber House Summer Literary Picnics July 25 – August 22, 2018, Thurber House, Columbus
The thirty-third summer season of outdoor picnics continues with Jessica Strawser (July 25), Dan Gearino (August 8), and Michael Henson (August 22). For more information and tickets, visit the Thurber House website at www.thurberhouse.org.

Ohioana Book Club August 15, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus
The book for August is *Dreamland* by Sam Quinones. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

An Evening with Jacqueline Woodson September 5, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Bexley High School
Gramercy Books Bexley presents National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and past Ohioana and National Book Award winning author Jacqueline Woodson in a special event launching her new books for young readers, *Harbor Me* and *The Day You Begin*. For more information, visit www.gramercybooksbexley.com.

Cleveland Book Week September 22–29, 2018, Cleveland
The third annual literary celebration presents events at venues throughout the city, including the 2018 Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards ceremony on September 27 at Playhouse Square. For more information, visit <https://www.clevelandfoundation.org/news/book-week>.

Wil Haygood Author Event & Book Launch September 23, 2018, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Bexley High School
The Bexley Community Author Series presents two-time Ohioana Award winner Wil Haygood in a discussion of his latest book, *Tigerland: 1968-1969: A City Divided, a Nation Torn Apart, and a Magical Season of Healing*. The event is free, but registration is required. For more information, visit <https://www.bexleylibrary.org>.

Ohioana Book Awards October 18, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus
Join us as we celebrate the winners of the 2018 Ohioana Book Awards. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a reception followed by the awards presentations and book signing. Tickets go on sale in September. For more information, visit www.ohioana.org.

NEW BOOKS

The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in June and July. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

Nonfiction

Beschloss, Michael. *Presidents of War*. Crown (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$35.00.

Ten years in the research and writing, *Presidents of War* is a fresh, magisterial, intimate look at a procession of American leaders as they took the nation into conflict and mobilized their country for victory. It brings us into the room as they make the most difficult decisions that face any president, at times sending hundreds of thousands of American men and women to their deaths. From James Madison and the War of 1812 to recent times, we see them struggling with Congress, the courts, the press, their own advisors, and antiwar protesters; seeking comfort from their spouses, families and friends; and dropping to their knees in prayer. We come to understand how these presidents were able to withstand the pressures of war—both physically and emotionally—or were broken by them. Beschloss's interviews with surviving participants in the drama and his findings in original letters, diaries, once-classified national security documents, and other sources help him to tell this story in a way it has not been told before. *Presidents of War* combines the sense of being there with the overarching context of two centuries of American history. This important book shows how far we have traveled from the time of our founders, who tried to constrain presidential power, to our

modern day, when a single leader has the potential to launch nuclear weapons that can destroy much of the human race.

Bristow, David L. *Flight to the Top of the World: The Adventures of Walter Wellman*. University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, NE) 2018. HC \$29.95.

In his day, Walter Wellman (1858–1934) was one of America's most famous men. To his contemporaries, he seemed like a character from a Jules Verne novel. He led five expeditions in search of the North Pole, two by dogsled and three by dirigible airship, and in 1910 made the first attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean by air—which the self-styled expert on aerial warfare saw as a mission of world peace. He endured hardships, cheated death on more than one occasion, and surrounded himself with a team of assistants as eccentric and audacious as he was. In addition to his daring adventures, Wellman became a nationally known political reporter and unofficial spokesman for the McKinley and Roosevelt administrations. He was not the first newspaper-sponsored adventurer, but more than any of his predecessors he turned exploration into a real-time media event, and his reputation both flourished and suffered because of it. Wellman lived during a time of rapid social and technological change, when explorers were racing to fill in the last remaining blank spots on the map and aviation promised to fulfill humanity's greatest hopes and darkest fears. *Flight to the Top of the World* is a window into Wellman's time and illuminates many of its dreams and contradictions.

Dawidziak, Mark. *Theodore Roosevelt for Nature Lovers: Adventures with America's Great Outdoorsman*. Lyons Press (Guilford, CT) 2017. HC \$17.95.

In addition to being a politician, frontiersman, and rancher, Roosevelt was an enthusiastic hunter who fought passionately for conservation. He played a significant role in setting aside land for the national parks. He participated in expeditions to benefit the New York Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian, and while in the White House, his children enjoyed the company of a menagerie of ponies, cats, dogs, lizards, rabbits, a macaw, snakes, and guinea pigs. *Theodore Roosevelt for Nature Lovers* is a collection of delightful anecdotes—including the famous story about the “Teddy” bear—that reveal the Bull Moose's ongoing fascination with the natural world.

Johnston, Christopher. *Shattering Silences: Strategies to Prevent Sexual Assault, Heal Survivors, and Bring Assailants to Justice*. Skyhorse Publishing (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$24.99.

Every two minutes someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted, and each year there are nearly 300,000 victims of sexual assault. But victims are no longer silent, and new practices by police, prosecutors, nurses, and rape crisis professionals are resulting in more humane and compassionate treatment of victims and more aggressive pursuit and prosecution of perpetrators. *Shattering Silences* is the first book to cover these new approaches and partnerships. Christopher Johnston shows how the people and organizations implementing these new

approaches are having far-reaching impacts by helping victims heal and making it more likely that predators will be arrested and sentenced. His in-depth portrayals of the altruistic and hard-working people behind these radical approaches—based on seven years of interviews—provide a template of best practices for other organizations and communities to follow. With sexual assault taking center stage these days, this book is more important than ever.

Prichard, Skip. *The Book of Mistakes: 9 Secrets to Creating a Successful Future*. Center Street (Nashville, TN) 2018. HC \$25.00. What if the world's most accomplished people are so successful because they avoid nine pitfalls in life that the rest of us are not aware of? In this self-help-wrapped-in-fiction tale, Skip Prichard introduces a young man named David who is becoming more disheartened and stressed with each passing day. His life isn't turning out the way he thought it would. Despite having a decent job, apartment, and friends, his life just feels hollow...until one day he meets a mysterious young woman and everything starts to change. David will meet nine people who have each discovered a core truth of achieving a successful and satisfying life by recognizing a key mistake they were making. Like David, most of us are repeating the same mistakes, and while we may learn from them, it is often too late, and the lesson comes with a good dose of pain. But what if we could identify the mistakes before we made them? This little parable is packed with wisdom that will help you discover and follow your personal purpose, push

beyond your perceived capabilities, and achieve more than you ever dreamed possible.

Thoresen, Timothy H.H. *River, Reaper, Rail: Agriculture and Identity in Ohio's Mad River Valley, 1795-1885*. University of Akron Press (Akron, OH) 2018. PB \$59.95. *River, Reaper, Rail: Agriculture and Identity in Ohio's Mad River Valley, 1795-1885* tells the story of farmers and technology in Ohio's Champaign County and its Mad River Valley from the beginnings of white settlement in 1795 through the decades after the Civil War. This is a story of land-hungry migrants who brought a market-oriented farm ethos across the Appalachians into the Ohio Valley. There, they adapted their traditional farm practices to opportunities and big changes brought by the railroad, the mechanization of the harvesting process, and the development of state-sponsored farmer organizations. For a few decades in the middle of the nineteenth century, this part of America's heartland was the center of the nation geographically, agriculturally, and industrially. With the coming of the Civil War and the nation's further industrialization and westward expansion, the representative centrality of west central Ohio diminished. The shared conviction that "we are an agricultural people" did not. This book presents their embrace of that view as a process of innovation, adjustment, challenge, and conservative acceptance spanning two or three generations.

Fiction

Betts, Matt. *The Boogeyman's Intern*. Dog Star Books (Bowie, MD) 2017. PB \$15.95.

Not everyone lands their dream job. Take Abe: he's bottomed out as an Imaginary Friend and has to find a new job before his bosses assign him a truly crappy one. Just as he's about to resign himself to a life of making toys in a workshop, he's given a reprieve—of sorts. Now he has the opportunity to be the first policeman on the Hill and solve an impossible murder. For assistance he ropes in his career counselor, a Bigfoot, and his best friend, a Boogeyman. The job requires him to talk to Tooth Fairies, Leprechauns, Yetis, and everything else humanity has dreamt up over the years. None of them offer any clues, but since Abe's supervisors are Mother Nature, Father Time, and Death, he can't just give up and walk away. Dream job? Dream on.

Betts, Matt. *Shadow Beneath the Waves*. Severed Press (Hobart, Tasmania) 2018. PB \$12.95.

A group of treasure-hunters hits the high seas chasing a tip from a mysterious source. If it's true, it could be their biggest score yet (literally)—a massive robot the size of a skyscraper, lost since the last war and worth a sizable reward as well as bragging rights. But in trying to raise the Cudgel, the crew of the *Adamant* accidentally unleashes a beast trapped by the battle machine years ago. The giant monster awakens to complete its wartime mission to destroy the Pacific Northwest. Using their wits, their experience, and a few contacts in the government, the crew sets out to fix their mistake and stop the menace. Can a handful of eccentric sailors resurrect the gigantic robot

in time to stop the vicious creature's imminent assault?

Black, Lisa. *Suffer the Children*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.00.

The body of fifteen-year-old Rachael Donahue—abandoned by society, raised in foster homes, and violently unapproachable—has been discovered at the bottom of a stairwell at Firebird, the secure facility for juvenile offenders in Cleveland. For Maggie and Jack, Rachael's death comes with a disturbing twist—the girl may have been involved with a much older man. But Rachael's not the only resident at the center to come to a dead end. Firebird's ten-year-old "wild child" has overdosed in the infirmary—back-to-back tragedies that appear to be terrible accidents. As a forensic investigator, Maggie knows appearances can be deceiving. And Jack knows all about deceit. That's why they both suspect a cold-blooded murderer is carrying out a deadly agenda. As Maggie's ex-husband gets nearer to uncovering the secrets that Maggie and Jack must hide, it becomes harder for them to protect a new and vulnerable victim from a killer with unfathomable demons.

Ellis, Mary. *Hiding in Plain Sight*. Severn House (London, UK) 2018. HC \$28.99.

On the run from a troubled past, Kate Weller, the newest member of Price Investigations, covers her tracks, changes her name, and takes a case in Charleston, South Carolina, where she can hide in plain sight. Renting a charming room with a waterfront view, Kate sets about trying to locate her adopted client's natural siblings, only to find more questions than

answers when she eventually tracks down a long-lost sister. Meanwhile, her new landlord won't stop sticking his nose into her case. As far as Kate's concerned, Eric Manfredi should focus on whatever competitor is bent on ruining his family business. But when petty vandalism turns lethal and Eric's father is arrested for murder, Kate determines to prove his innocence. Can she find the real culprit before a killer from her own past tracks her down?

Ford, Jeffrey. *Ahab's Return or, the Last Voyage*. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99. At the end of a long journey, Captain Ahab returns to the mainland to confront the true author of the novel *Moby-Dick*, his former shipmate, Ishmael. For Ahab was not pulled into the ocean's depths by a harpoon line, and the greatly exaggerated rumors of his untimely death have caused him grievous harm—after hearing about Ahab's demise, his wife and child left Nantucket for New York, and now Ahab is on a desperate quest to find them. Ahab's pursuit leads him to *The Gorgon's Mirror*, the sensationalist tabloid newspaper that employed Ishmael as a copy editor while he wrote the harrowing story of the ill-fated *Pequod*. In the penny press's office, Ahab meets George Harrow, who makes a deal with the captain: the newspaperman will help Ahab navigate the city in exchange for the exclusive story of his salvation from the mouth of the great white whale. But their investigation—like Ahab's own story—will take unexpected, dangerous, and tragic turns.

Henson, Michael. *Maggie Boylan*. Ohio University Press/Swallow

Press (Athens, OH) 2018. PB \$18.95.

Set in Appalachian Ohio amid an epidemic of prescription opiate abuse, Michael Henson's linked collection tells of a woman's search for her own peculiar kind of redemption and brings the novel-in-stories form to new heights. Maggie Boylan is an addict, thief, liar, and hustler. But she is also a woman of deep compassion and resilience. The stories follow Maggie as she spirals through her addictive process, through the court system and treatment, and into a shaky new beginning. In these masterful stories, we rarely occupy Maggie's perspective, but instead gain a multilayered portrait of a community as we see other people's lives bump up against hers—and we witness her inserting herself into their spheres, refusing to be rebuffed. The result is a prismatic view of a community fighting to stay upright against the headwinds of a drug epidemic: always on edge, always human.

Mayo, Wendell. *Survival House: Stories*. Stephen F. Austin State University Press (Nacogdoches, TX) 2018. PB \$18.00.

The ten stories in *Survival House* not only look back to the collective mind of doom in the atomic age of the 1950s and 1960s, but also address its legacy in our time—the emergence of new nuclear powers, polarizing politics, and the ever-tightening grip of corporations. In contemporary stories, such as "Doom Town," a festival annually celebrates the survival of the human race by conducting riotous air raids. In "The Trans-Siberian Railway Comes to Whitehouse," a bar owner desperately clings to a new all-things-Russian theme to

save himself from financial ruin. Other stories, set in the 1960s, recast the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy assassination, and Space Race in personal histories of the human heart that remind us what it takes to endure—both then and now.

Umrigar, Thrity. *Everybody's Son*. Harper Perennial (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$15.99.

During a terrible heat wave in 1991—the worst in a decade—ten-year-old Anton has been locked in an apartment in the projects, alone, for seven days, without air conditioning or a fan. With no electricity, the refrigerator and lights do not work. Hot, hungry, and desperate, Anton shatters a window and climbs out. Cutting his leg on the broken glass, he is covered in blood when the police find him. Juanita, his mother, is discovered in a crack house less than three blocks away, nearly unconscious and half-naked. When she comes to, she repeatedly asks for her baby boy. She never meant to leave Anton—she went out for a quick hit and was headed right back, until her drug dealer raped her and kept her high. Though the bond between mother and son is extremely strong, Anton is placed with child services while Juanita goes to jail. The Harvard-educated son of a U.S. senator, Judge David Coleman is a scion of northeastern white privilege. Desperate to have a child in the house again after the tragic death of his teenage son, David uses his power and connections to keep his new foster son, Anton, with him and his wife, Delores—actions that will have devastating consequences in the years to come. Following in his adopted family's footsteps, Anton,

too, rises within the establishment. But when he discovers the truth about his life, his birth mother, and his adopted parents, this man of the law must come to terms with the moral complexities of crimes committed by the people he loves.

Waggoner, Tim. *The Mouth of the Dark*. Flame Tree Press (London, UK) 2018. HC \$24.95.

Jayce's twenty-year-old daughter, Emory, is missing, lost in a dark, dangerous realm called Shadow that exists alongside our own reality. An enigmatic woman named Nicola guides Jayce through this bizarre world, and together they search for Emory, facing deadly dog-eaters, crazed killers, homicidal sex toys, and—worst of all—a monstrous being known as the Harvest Man. But no matter what Shadow throws at him, Jayce won't stop. He'll do whatever it takes to find his daughter, even if it means becoming a monster worse than the things that are trying to stop him.

White, Nick. *Sweet & Low: Stories*. Blue Rider Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$25.00.

At first glance, the stories in *Sweet & Low* seem grounded in the everyday: they paint pictures of idyllic Southern landscapes, characters fulfilling their roles as students, wives, boyfriends, sons. But all is not as it seems. In these stories, Nick White deconstructs the core qualities of Southern fiction, exposing deeply flawed and fascinating characters—promiscuous academics, aging podcasters, woodpecker assassins, and lawnmower enthusiasts, among others—all on wildly compelling quests. From finding an elusive bear to locating a prized timepiece

to making love on the grave of an iconic writer, each story is an adventure with unexpected turns.

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew. *The Third Brother: An Andy Hayes Mystery*. Ohio University Press/Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2018. HC \$26.95.

It's a violent encounter that private investigator Andy Hayes could have done without. One minute he's finishing up some grocery shopping ahead of a custody visit with his sons. The next, he must come to the rescue of a Somali-American mother and her young children as anti-immigrant bullies torment them. Grateful for his intervention, the Somali community hires Andy to find a missing teenager who vanished without a trace and is now accused of plotting a terror attack in his adopted hometown of Columbus, Ohio. The government is certain that nineteen-year-old Abdi Mohamed followed in the footsteps of his brother, who died in Syria a few months earlier in a jihadi assault. But Mohamed's family isn't convinced, describing a soccer-loving American kid who renounced his brother's actions and planned to attend college in the fall and become a diplomat someday. Soon Andy is fending off fed-up FBI agents and dueling with a mysterious foe with links to the white supremacist movement. As he draws ever closer to the truth behind Mohamed's disappearance, Hayes stumbles onto a conspiracy that could put hundreds of lives in danger, including his own two boys.

Poetry

Charlton, Phillitia. *The Death of a Lie*. Charlton Publishing (Dayton, OH) 2017. PB \$14.95.

A lie is a lie even if you only tell it to yourself. *The Death of a Lie* is a poetic diary that exposes the lies women tell themselves in search of happiness. In her debut title, Phillitia Charlton boldly expresses her experiences with love, pain, heartache, and worthiness. From childhood to college, her unadulterated, primitive, yet complex words take you through her transformational journey to discover and embrace self-love. This memoir conveys the important message that making mistakes does not make you a mistake.

Chew, Abby. *A Bear Approaches From the Sky: Poems*. The Word Works (Washington, DC) 2018. PB \$17.00.

Poems that pull the reader into a family saga that becomes archetypal in its occupation of loneliness. At the same time, the poems generate a connection to our shared life on this planet and our many diverse and struggling families of origin.

Matambo, Bernard Farai. *Stray*. University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, NE) 2018. PB \$17.95. Winner of the Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant and the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, Zimbabwean writer Bernard Farai Matambo's poems in *Stray* favor a prose-shaped line as they uncover the contradictory impulses in search of emotional and intellectual truth. *Stray* not only captures the essence of identity, but also eloquently articulates the pain of displacement and speaks to the vulnerability of Africans who have left their native continent. This collection delicately examines the theme of migration—migration in a literal, geographic sense; migration of language from

one lexicon to another; migration of a poem toward prose—and the instability of the creative experience in the broader sense.

Young Adult & Middle Grade
Adrian, Emily. *The Forseeable Future*. Dial Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Audrey's life has been planned out for her since she was born, and now she's supposed to attend Whedon College in the fall, where both of her parents work. But Audrey has a different plan in mind: She's not going to attend college at all. She's going to earn some money and move to Seattle, the city she's loved since she was a child. And the best way to earn that money is by working the night shift at the local nursing home. Seth O'Malley works there, too, and a romance quickly blossoms between them. But things get complicated when Audrey saves the life of Cameron Suzuki, Seth's ex. A video of her performing CPR at the beach goes viral, and suddenly, Audrey's wanted for TV interviews and newspaper articles. And just when Audrey starts to love life at the nursing home—and life with Seth—Seattle comes knocking. Does she follow the path she set out for herself, even when it means leaving behind Seth and the cast of quirky patients she's come to care for? Or does she embrace a future with Seth—at least for the foreseeable future—at the cost of abandoning her dreams?

Arnold, David. *The Strange Fascinations of Noah Hypnotik*. Viking (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

No matter how organized I get my room, my records, my books, no matter how precisely

I communicate a thing, or how many arrows point to how many objects, in the end I'm floating through space in a most peculiar way. This is Noah Oakman: sixteen, Bowie believer, concise historian, disillusioned swimmer, son, brother, friend. Then Noah gets hypnotized. Now Noah sees changes: his mother has a scar on her face that wasn't there before; his old dog, who once walked with a limp, is suddenly lithe; his best friend, a lifelong DC Comics disciple, now rotates in the Marvel universe. Subtle behaviors, bits of history, plans for the future—everything in Noah's world has been rewritten. Everything except his Strange Fascinations.

Barlow, Cassie B., and Sue Hill Norrod. *Saluting Our Grandmas: Women of World War II*. Pelican Publishing (Gretna, LA) 2017. PB \$18.95.

The stories of female World War II veterans, as told by the families of these women and those dedicated to preserving their history.

Buckley, Michael. *Raging Sea: Book Two in the Undertow Trilogy*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$18.99.

In the first book of Michael Buckley's *Undertow* trilogy, the Alpha arrived and the world was never the same. At the start of the second book, most of south Brooklyn is in ruins and the nation is terrified. Nearly everyone that Lyric Walker loves is either missing or presumed dead, including the mesmerizing prince Fathom. It's up to Lyric to unite the Alpha before the second wave of a cataclysmic invasion wipes out mankind.

Klages, Ellen. *Out of Left Field*. Viking (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.99.

It's 1957 and every boy in the neighborhood knows Katy Gordon is their best pitcher, even though she's a girl. But when she tries out for Little League, it's a whole different story. Girls are not eligible, period. It is a boy's game and always has been. It's not fair, and Katy's going to fight back. Inspired by what she's learning about civil rights in school, she sets out to prove that she's not the only girl who plays baseball. With the help of friendly librarians and some tenacious research skills, Katy discovers the forgotten history of female ball players. Why does no one know about them? Where are they now? And how can one ten-year-old change people's minds about what girls can do?

McGinnis, Mindy. *Given to the Earth*. G.P. Putnam's Sons (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99. Although she was born to save the kingdom by sacrificing herself to the rising sea, Khosa's marriage to King Vincent has redeemed her. As the Queen of Stille, she's untouchable. But being Queen hasn't stopped her heart from longing for the King's stepbrother, Donil. And it hasn't stopped her body from longing for the sea itself, which still calls for her. While Khosa is made to choose between loyalty and love, Dara is on a mission for vengeance. Years ago, the Pietra slaughtered the entire Indiri race, leaving only Dara and her twin, Donil, alive. Now, spurned by King Vincent, Dara has embarked on a mission to spill the blood of Pietra's leader, Witt, and will stop at nothing to show his people the wrath of the last Indiri.

As the waves crash ever closer to Stille, secrets are revealed, hearts are won and lost, and allegiances change like the shifting sand.

Children's

de la Peña, Matt. Illus. by Loren Long. *Love*. G.P. Putnam's Sons (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99. In this heartfelt celebration of love, Newbery Medal-winning author Matt de la Peña and bestselling illustrator Loren Long depict the many ways we experience this universal bond, which carries us from the day we are born throughout the years of our childhood and beyond.

Genshaft, Carole Miller. *Aminah's World: An Activity Book and Children's Guide About Artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson*. Columbus Museum of Art (Columbus, OH) 2017. HC \$24.95. An activity book and children's guide about Columbus artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson.

Ikegami, Aiko. *Seed Man*. Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2018. HC \$16.99.

When a mysterious stranger carrying a bag of seeds comes to town, magical things start to happen. After Seed Man plants the seeds, a wonderful tree grows, bearing special "fruit" such as toys, musical instruments, and even a puppy! With assistance from some helpful fairies, Seed Man's gifts are delivered all over town. Each gift is perfectly suited to its recipient. And even if someone didn't know they needed a special gift, Seed Man and the fairies knew. But not all the gifts are welcome at first, especially to someone with a broken heart.

Katz, Alan. Illus. by David Catrow. *I'm Still Here in the Bathtub: Brand New Silly Dilly Songs*. Margaret K. McElderry Books (New York, NY) 2003. HC \$17.99.

If you fear you might go on a rampage if you hear the lyrics to "Wheels on the Bus" even one more time, take heart: These reimagined, "silly dilly" lyrics can breathe new life into kid favorites like "Wheels," "Itsy Bitsy Spider," and even "Bingo." Just as they did with *Take Me Out of the Bathtub*, Alan Katz and David Catrow lampoon the classics with rowdy humor and fun-to-sing rhymes. "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"? Nope. Try "He's Got the Whole Beach in His Pants." "Frere Jacques" becomes "I'm a menace" and you can forget about old McDonald and his farm—that tune now tells the story of "My friend Donald's catfish parm."

Ward, Lindsay. *It's Show and Tell, Dexter!* Two Lions (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Tomorrow is the biggest event ever in Dexter's life: his best friend, Jack, is taking him to school for Show and Tell Day! Dexter has been getting ready for weeks. But now he's a little nervous. What if the other kids don't like him? So Dexter decides to come up with a plan. He'll wear a costume. Dinosaurs in bunny ears look good, right? He'll recite state capitals starting with... uh... ah... er. Then he realizes something. He can't dance. He can't recite things. He doesn't have ANY skills. What's a dino to do?