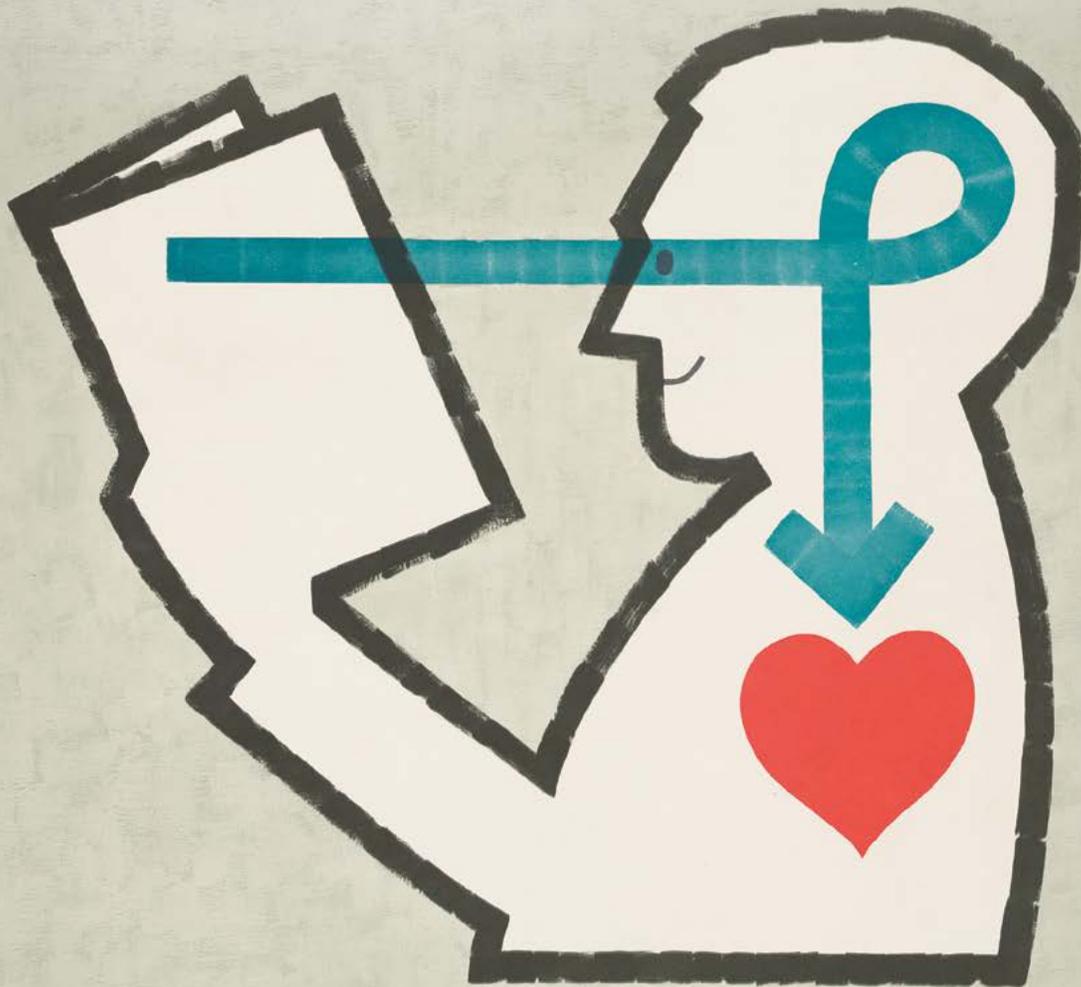


# OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

SPRING 2020 | VOL. 63 NO. 2

for a richer, fuller life



**WAKE UP  
AND  
READ**

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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# OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2020

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# From the Director

Dear Friends,



*“I cannot live without books”—Thomas Jefferson, 1815*

Our third president (under whose administration Ohio became a state in 1803) was a man of many interests and talents—architect, musician, astronomer, and inventor. But as he once told Abigail Adams, reading was “my greatest of all amusements.” I’m sure we can agree with Jefferson’s sentiment. But in a challenging time such as we are in today, reading can be more than just a source of amusement. It can provide solace, inspiration, strength, and encouragement. And yes, it can provide us with a much-needed break from the news, and give us just a few hours to relax and enjoy ourselves.

This issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly* is dedicated to readers and reading. Which may sound superfluous, since that is exactly what this publication has been all about since it was first launched in 1958. But in light of what we’ve been going through—books and reading have never seemed more important.

If you’re looking for some good books to delve into, have we got a suggestion for you: the Choose to Read Ohio list for 2021 and 2022. Twenty great titles, each one by an Ohio author or illustrator, offering something for every reader of every age. You’ll find even more books in this issue, with a number of new reviews and a list of titles received by Ohioana in recent months.

Normally, the spring *Quarterly* would be all about the upcoming Ohioana Book Festival. The event, scheduled for April 25, had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis, a step we took for the health and safety of everyone. We’ve set a new date for the festival—August 29. I know we all hope this crisis will be behind us by then. We’d certainly love to see you there!

In the meantime, don’t forget to check out our website and social media. We’ve got some fun and interesting ways to stay connected with you, even in this period of social distancing!

It’s times like these that make us thankful for our many blessings. *Thank you* for sharing our love of reading and books. I am sure Mr. Jefferson would heartily approve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Weaver  
Executive Director

## ON THE COVER

This issue’s cover art is adapted from a poster created for National Library Week, April 16-22, 1961, and part of the Artists Posters (American Posters 1960-1970) collection at the Library of Congress. To view this and other posters in the collection, visit [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov). (Image courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-DIG-ppmsca-43001.)

# Choose to Read Ohio: Celebrating Ohio Authors and Illustrators

By David Weaver

The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce the 2021 & 2022 list of books for “Choose to Read Ohio.” A joint project of the State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association, in collaboration with the Ohio Center for the Book and Ohio’s libraries, Choose to Read Ohio promotes reading across Ohio through a biennial booklist of twenty representative titles for all ages. CTRO encourages libraries, schools, families, book clubs, and others to “Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life.”

Since Choose to Read Ohio was first launched in 2009, the State Library of Ohio has announced each new biennial list in conjunction with spring’s Ohioana Book Festival. With this year’s event postponed until late August due to the COVID-19 crisis, we are delighted to share the 2021 & 2022 CTRO announcement in the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

As you can imagine, selecting twenty books every two years from the many thousands of possible titles by Ohio authors and illustrators is a daunting task. Thankfully, the CTRO project, almost since its inception, has been in the capable hands of Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Library Consultant for the State Library of Ohio. It is Janet who coordinates the people and planning that makes Choose to Read Ohio work, involving nearly sixty volunteers from across the state.

“There’s some art and some magic in the CTRO selection process,” said Dwyer. “The Advisory Council develops longlists in all four age categories, then sends the lists to several dozen Ohio librarians and educators to review and vote for their top selections. They vote individually, they do not confer. And from one program cycle to the next, the resulting booklist is beautiful, compelling,

balanced and representative in genre, geography, reading interest, and reading level.”

Since 2009, more than half of all the authors and illustrators who have been selected for Choose to Read Ohio lists have been featured at the Ohioana Book Festival. They have included established authors like National Book Award-winning children’s writer Jacqueline Woodson and rising stars like novelist Celeste Ng. The State Library of Ohio, through its LSTA grant program, has made many of these author appearances possible.

“The opportunity to meet an author at the Ohioana Book Festival or at a school visit, or simply learning that an author is from one’s hometown or region, is so exciting and significant for young readers—and not-so-young readers,” says Dwyer. “It makes the author more

real, more human—and perhaps makes becoming an author, or illustrator, something that a child or teen realizes they can aspire to themselves.”

Choose to Read Ohio has spawned its own unique award: the Floyd’s Pick Book Award. Selected by the CTRO Advisory Council, Floyd’s Pick is an annual award that honors a book written by an Ohio author or a book illustrated by an Ohio illustrator that is representative of high-quality literature created for children. The award is given in memory of children’s literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman, who was one of the founding advisory council members for Choose to Read Ohio.

Last year, Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine joined a capacity crowd at the State Library of Ohio to mark CTRO’s 10th



anniversary and present the 2019 Floyd's Pick Award to Jacqueline Woodson for *The Day You Begin*. The 2020 Floyd's Pick Award winner is Oge Mora for the book *Thank You, Omu!*

The 2021 & 2022 list of Choose to Read Ohio titles is, like every list preceding it, rich in diversity and wide in appeal, offering something for everyone who loves to read.

In the coming months, the CTRO Advisory Council and volunteers from around the state will be preparing a readers' toolkit for each 2021 and 2022 title. These toolkits, which include discussion questions, related projects and activities, and links to entertaining, educational texts and websites, will be available for free download on the State Library of Ohio website, as are toolkits for every CTRO title since its inception in 2009.

As Dwyer puts it, "Choose to Read Ohio exists to connect readers with Ohio's breathtaking array of wonderful literature for all ages, reading levels, and interests. Every book on the biennial CTRO booklist is written or illustrated by a creator with an Ohio connection, whether birth or residence, so the entire booklist is a celebration of Ohio's authors and illustrators. And a delight for Ohio readers!"

To learn more about Choose to Read Ohio, visit <https://library.ohio.gov/services-for-libraries/library-programs-development/ctro/>



Choose to Read Ohio coordinator Janet Ingraham Dwyer at the 2013 Ohioana Book Festival with the "Library Mouse," based on the beloved children's book by Daniel Kirk that was a 2013 & 2014 Choose to Read Ohio title. (Photo by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney)

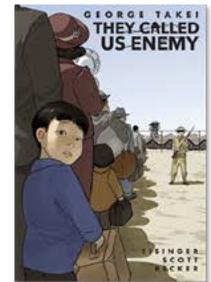
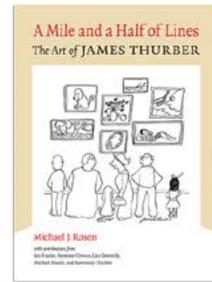
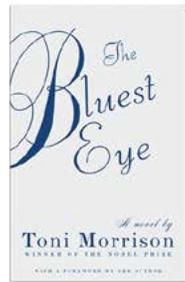
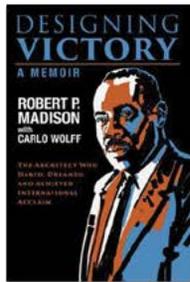
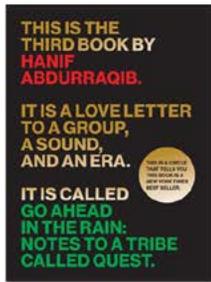
In 2019, Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine joined a group of Ohio authors to celebrate Choose to Read Ohio's 10th anniversary at the State Library of Ohio. Pictured (l to r) are Trudy Krisher, Fran DeWine, Jennifer Maschari, Carmella Van Vleet, Brandon Marie Miller, Tricia Springstubb, Louise Borden, Mary Kay Carson, Jacqueline Woodson, Margaret Peterson Haddix, and Tim Bowers.



Photo by Janet Ingraham Dwyer

# Choose to Read Ohio 2021 & 2022

## Books for Adults



Hanif Abdurraqib, *Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to A Tribe Called Quest* (University of Texas Press, 2019)  
Ostensibly a biography of the seminal rap group A Tribe Called Quest, this book by Columbus native Hanif Abdurraqib is also a love letter to the 1990s, a warm history of a time, place, and people dear to the author's heart, whose impact on music and pop culture is still being felt two decades later.

Robert P. Madison, with Carlo Wolff\*, *Designing Victory: A Memoir: The Architect Who Dared, Dreamed, and Achieved International Acclaim* (Act 3, 2019)

This is a compelling memoir by Robert P. Madison: an architect, entrepreneur, and civic leader, and the first black person to be admitted to the School of Architecture at Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Born the grandson of slaves in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1923, he studied architecture at Howard University before serving in Italy in World War II. Co-written by Cleveland journalist Carlo Wolff.

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (Penguin Random House, 1970)

The first novel by Nobel Prize-winning Lorain native Toni Morrison is a powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity. It asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with subtlety and grace, and the masterful command of language that is Morrison's trademark.

Michael J. Rosen, *A Mile and a Half of Lines: The Art of James Thurber* (Trillium, 2019)

Including nearly 260 drawings, this collection is the first comprehensive focus on humorist James Thurber's work as an artist, a cartoonist, and an illustrator. Written by celebrated author and illustrator Michael J. Rosen, who was the founding literary director of the Thurber House and has edited six volumes of Thurber's work.

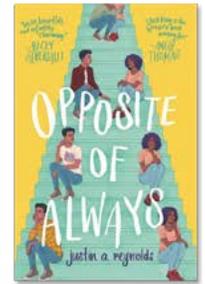
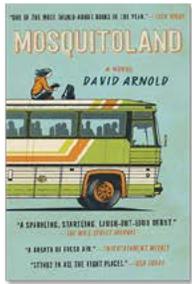
George Takei, Justin Eisinger\*, Steven Scott\*, and Harmony Becker\*, *They Called Us Enemy* (Top Shelf Productions, 2019)

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II, co-written by Akron native Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott, and lushly illustrated by Columbus resident Harmony Becker.

\*Asterisk denotes Ohio creator of co-created book.

# Choose to Read Ohio 2021 & 2022

## Books for Teens



David Arnold, *Mosquitoland* (Speak, 2016)

The first novel by Arnold, who grew up in Ohio, is the story of Mim Malone, who undertakes a thousand-mile journey to her sick mother in Cleveland. Along the way, she confronts her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

Christopher Barzak, *The Gone Away Place* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2018)

*The Gone Away Place* is Stonewall Honor author and Ohio native Christopher Barzak's haunting novel of love and loss, in which a series of tornadoes rips through a small Midwest town, forever altering the lives of those who live there.

Ronni Davis, *When the Stars Lead to You* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019)

This debut novel from Ronni Davis, who grew up in Cleveland, is a heated first-love romance about two teens who are torn apart one summer by prejudice and mental illness, and find each other once again.

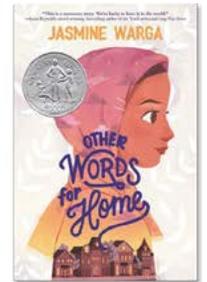
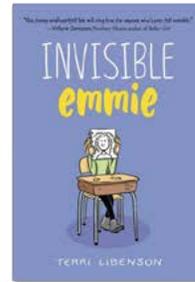
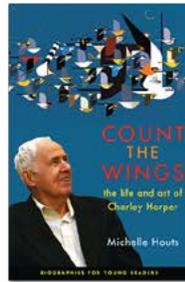
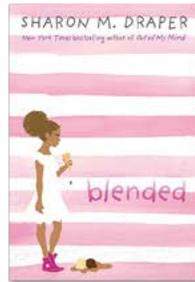
Erin McCahan, *The Lake Effect* (Dial Books, 2017)

This coming-of-age novel tells the story of Briggs' summer after high school graduation, when he learns he must take risks in order to find out who he truly is. A funny, poignant story written by Bexley native Erin McCahan.

Justin A. Reynolds, *Opposite of Always* (Katherine Tegen Books, 2019)

This debut novel by Northeast Ohio's Justin A. Reynolds is a razor-sharp, hilarious, and heartfelt novel about the choices we make, the people we choose, and the moments that make a life worth reliving.

# Choose to Read Ohio 2021 & 2022 Books for Tweens/Middle Grades



Mary Kay Carson, *The Tornado Scientist: Seeing Inside Severe Storms* (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2019)  
This educational and informative non-fiction book follows scientist and storm chaser Robin Tanamachi as she researches the genesis of tornadoes and tornadic behavior. The book is part of the Scientists in the Field series by Cincinnati's Mary Kay Carson, and includes charts and graphics to help young readers understand the technical aspects of tornadoes.

Sharon M. Draper, *Blended* (Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2018)  
After eleven-year-old Isabella's parents divorce, she feels pulled between two worlds—life with her father and his new family in a mostly-white neighborhood, and life with her mother and brother in their small house. In this current and uplifting story about finding where you belong, Cincinnati's Sharon Draper creates a relatable cast of characters and a deeply moving story.

Michelle Houts, *Count the Wings: The Life and Art of Charley Harper* (Ohio University Press, 2018)  
Artist Charley Harper became one of America's most recognized mid-century painters by reducing subjects to their simplest forms, representing them in simple shapes and blocks of color. Cincinnati's Michelle Houts worked closely with the Harper estate to create this engaging middle-grade biography of the iconic artist.

Terri Libenson, *Invisible Emmie* (Balzer + Bray, 2017)  
The first book in the Emmie & Friends series, *Invisible Emmie* focuses on two very different girls—shy and artistic Emmie and popular and athletic Katie—and the ways in which their lives intersect over a single day. Terri Libenson lives in Cleveland with her husband and two daughters.

Jasmine Warga, *Other Words for Home* (Balzer + Bray, 2019)  
In this free-verse novel, the first from Cincinnati native Jasmine Warga, a young girl must leave her family in Syria behind to move to the U.S. As she struggles to find a place for herself in her new surroundings, she also begins to develop new friendships and passions.

# Choose to Read Ohio 2021 & 2022 Books for Young Children



Skila Brown, *Clackety Track: Poems About Trains*; illustrated by Jamey Christoph\* (Candlewick, 2019)  
Trains of all kinds are featured in this charming and lively book of poems—underground trains, zoo trains, sleeper trains, and more. Cleveland Heights’ Jamey Christoph provides lush and colorfully authentic illustrations to delightfully highlight the feature of each new train.

Matt de la Peña, *Love*; illustrated by Loren Long\* (G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers, 2018)  
In this poignant celebration of connection, Matt de la Peña weaves a tender tale of the many unique ways that we experience the feel of love. Accompanied by Cincinnati Loren Long’s gentle illustrations, this heartfelt picture book is an instant classic.

Rukhsana Guidroz, *Leila in Saffron*; illustrated by Dinara Mirtalipova\* (Salaam Reads, 2019)  
This sweet picture book, illustrated by Dinara Mirtalipova from Sagamore Hills, Ohio, follows a young girl on a journey of identity and self-discovery. During a visit to her grandmother, she uses her senses of sight, smell, taste, and touch to connect with her Pakistani heritage.

Rita Lorraine Hubbard, *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*; illustrated by Oge Mora\* (Schwartz & Wade, 2020)  
In 1848, Mary Walker was born into slavery, and throughout her life she raised a family and held a variety of jobs. At the age of 116, she became the oldest person to learn to read. This picture book, illustrated by Columbus’ Oge Mora, tells the incredible and inspirational tale of a woman who proves that there is always time to learn.

Sandra Markle\*, *Hush Up and Hibernate!*; illustrated by Howard McWilliam (Persnickety Press, 2018)  
As winter approaches, it’s time for black bears to hibernate—unless you’re Baby Bear, determined to find a reason to stay awake through the cold months. This story of a headstrong bear by Sandra Markle of Fostoria, Ohio, will entertain and delight young readers.

\*Asterisk denotes Ohio creator of co-created book.

# Book Reviews

## NONFICTION

### Brown, Sherrod. *Desk 88: Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America*.

Farrar, Strauss and Giroux (New York, NY) 2019.  
HC \$28.00.

As our deeply divided nation hurtles toward the Nov. 3 presidential election, conservative and progressive leaders will debate their differences in ways both intellectual and demagogic.

Among progressives, few could fashion a more logical, persuasive argument than Ohio's Sherrod Brown, a three-term U.S. senator who grew up in Mansfield and now resides in Cleveland.

Brown's father was a family physician and conservative Republican; his mother was a teacher and liberal Democrat. Both taught their three sons the role of government was to "help the little guy; the big guys can take care of themselves."

Throughout a 45-year political career in state and federal offices, Brown has championed that ethic in ways both highbrow and plainspoken, both deadly serious and hilarious. His political success in no small way derives from such cross-cultural comfort and fluency. He combines professor-like knowledge of the history of U.S. public policy with a storytelling style everyone can understand and appreciate.

That is the appeal of *Desk 88: Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America*. It's why this book will be widely discussed, excerpted, and shared in the dash to Nov. 3.

Since his election to the Senate in 2006, Brown has occupied Desk 88. He traces a century of progressive gains and setbacks through the careers of eight senators seated there before him. "The greatness of these

senators," Brown writes, "was most evident when they spoke out and fought against the special interests that have always had too much influence in our government."

Some of Brown's progressive heroes occupied Desk 88 for decades; some for only one term. Among the short-termers was Glen Taylor, a singing cowboy from Kooskia, Idaho, who served from 1945 through 1950. Taylor makes the list because of his fearless championing of civil rights in the 1940s, even though his home state was (and still is) nearly all white. In 1948, Taylor was the vice-presidential candidate on the Progressive Party ticket with Henry Wallace.

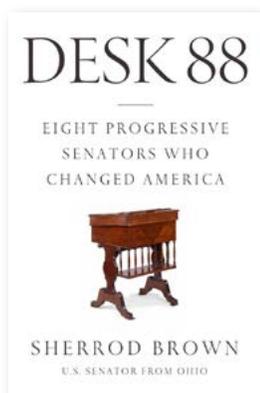
In April of that year, while Martin Luther King Jr. was still in high school, Taylor visited Birmingham, Alabama, to speak to a gathering of whites and blacks at the Southern Negro Youth Congress. Taylor was arrested and jailed because his visit violated a Birmingham law prohibiting integrated gatherings.

Taylor then lost his Senate seat in Idaho's 1950 Democratic primary. Some might view Taylor's actions in his era as self-defeating, but Brown points out the Wallace-Taylor ticket's advocacy of civil rights set the stage for President Truman to end segregation of the military.

"The fight for equality is what defines a progressive," Brown writes.

In the fight for economic justice, Brown credits Al Gore Sr., who occupied Desk 88 from 1953 to 1971, for helping preserve the gains of FDR's New Deal in the face of massive opposition from big business. The National Association of Manufacturers widely proclaimed a minimum wage and mandated overtime pay would "take us in the direction of Communism, Bolshevism, fascism, and Nazism."

George McGovern of South Dakota, who occupied Desk 88 from 1963 through 1980, survived as a fearless progressive in a conservative state by reminding voters, "Virtually every step forward in our history has been a liberal initiative taken over conservative opposition: civil rights, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid,



rural electrification, the minimum wage, collective bargaining, the Pure Food and Drug Act, and federal aid to education, including land-grant colleges.”

Brown’s other Desk 88 champions are Hugo Black of Alabama, Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island, Herbert H. Lehman of New York, William Proxmire of Wisconsin, and Robert F. Kennedy of New York.

Interspersed throughout the book are quotes from artistic, literary, and political icons whose teachings support progressive ideals. From Tolstoy: Progressives share “the fundamental religious feeling that recognizes the equality and brotherhood of man.” From Thomas Hart Benton: “There has never been but two parties, founded on the radical question whether people or property shall govern. Democracy implies government by the people. Aristocracy implies government of the rich.”

The key to a progressive victory in 2020, Brown believes, is an all-out, unapologetic embrace of this unifying message.

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL F. CURTIN, FORMER EDITOR AND ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER OF *THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH*

## Goldbach, Eliese Colette. *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit*.

Flatiron Books (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$27.99.

Eliese Goldbach is the last person one would expect to be a steelworker. Raised by strict Republican, Catholic parents, all she wanted, upon her high school graduation, was to escape Cleveland and achieve her dream of becoming a nun. One night of violence derails her plans, and she is forced to return to her hometown, her dreams and plans stifled by the trauma of her assault and a bipolar diagnosis that sends her mental health into a spiral.

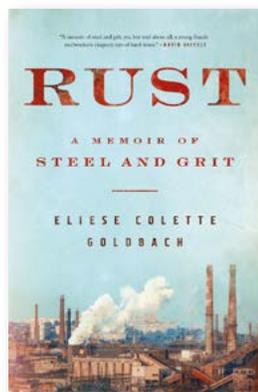
After collecting odd jobs for a few years, in late 2015 she was working as a house painter when a friend of hers let her know about job openings at the steel mill where he

worked. Eliese had grown up driving past the giant mill with her father, marveling over the enormous, 950-acre facility with the giant flame that never went out. Her friend told her about the benefits of the job, namely, the very good salary. Given that she had yet to complete her MFA, though she had racked up a mountain of student loan debt, and was living in a vermin-laden apartment, she jumped at the chance.

Eliese had always heard horror stories about the dangers of working in the mill: being boiled alive in hot steel, falling from great heights, being cut in half, being burned to death, and even worse. Once she is hired, she quickly discovers that the horror stories are not exaggerated, as the men and women she meets in the mill all seem to know someone who died or was maimed. Despite the danger, she manages to meet and make friends among her fellow “Orange Hats” (the nickname for the newly hired, non-unionized steel workers, which comes from the orange hard hats they must wear). Many of the “old-timers” who work at the mill are almost like characters in a novel. There is “Sleepy Bear,” who can take a nap anytime, anyplace. “Dynamo” paints an incredibly detailed purple flame on his minivan. Jeremy is the corporate stooge who manages them all via fax and has the respect of exactly zero of his employees. Eliese too, earns a nickname: “Joe Schmo,” from her ordinariness.

It is this ordinariness which snaps her back to reality and from the complacency she has fallen into while working at the mill. The hard physical labor, the grueling hours, and the scant time she has with her family and her boyfriend begin to take a toll on her. After she left her college program, her faith had eroded, and with it her staunch Republican beliefs. Behind the story of Eliese’s time at the mill is the 2016 election. Like many of us, Eliese simply could not fathom the idea of a reality TV star becoming president, but with the election of Donald Trump, she began to feel a distancing from her family, especially her father, who defended the president-elect’s disparaging comments about sexually assaulting women, even though his own daughter had been sexually assaulted. When her boyfriend breaks up with her, she reaches rock bottom, and falls into a mixed bipolar episode, resulting in hospitalization.

While Eliese is hospitalized, she realizes that she needs to make a change. Without giving away everything that



happens, it is safe to say she does so. At the close of the book, she reflects on her time at the mill: at what she has learned, how her politics have changed, and how different she is as a person.

This book is the story of one woman’s journey. This reviewer found it fascinating; I come from Belmont and Jefferson counties, where steel was a way of life as it is in Cleveland. I too heard these same horror stories from family members who had worked in mills. I found Eliese’s story to be unique; I never knew any women who worked in a steel mill. The sexism she experiences there is sadly entirely too common across all professions, and it is not a wonder that there are not more female steel workers.

Eliese’s frankness about her sexual assault and her bipolar disorder are both heartbreaking and uplifting. Following her emerging strength and her decision to leave the mill after she had finally earned enough hours to become a “Yellow Hat,” a unionized worker, was as absorbing as a film. The friends and foes she encounters among her co-workers and the drama of her relationship as she ultimately gets back with and later marries her boyfriend could absolutely be a multiple-season TV show. But Eliese is a real person. Her writing is raw and very sensitive. Her description of her rape and its aftermath left this reviewer emotionally exhausted, but also feeling an enormous well of empathy and familiarity. It will be triggering for some readers, but her story needs to be told. It is not only the story of a woman triumphing over personal adversity, but also the tale of a tumultuous period in both America’s and Ohio’s history. It’s a very real look at blue-collar work in a blue-collar town, a true glimpse into the everyday lives of millions of Ohioans, and it will resonate with many people, no matter what their personal religious or political beliefs.

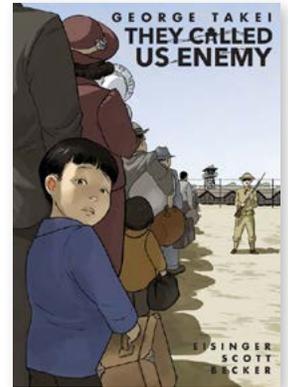
Eliese Colette Goldbach was born and raised in Cleveland. In 2016, she was awarded the Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a prize given to Ohio writers under 30 who have not yet published a book. The essays she submitted for the Marvin Grant planted the seeds for what eventually became *Rust*.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, OHIOANA’S LIBRARY SPECIALIST

Takei, George, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott. Illus. by Harmony Becker. *They Called Us Enemy*.

Top Shelf Productions (Marietta, GA) 2019. PB \$19.99.

During World War II, over 100,000 Japanese American citizens were imprisoned by the government in concentration camps across the western part of the United States. Though people today remember WWII for the many atrocities that took place worldwide, the memory of these concentration camps has often been lost to history. One of the American citizens who lived through these concentration camps was George Takei, who would later become most well known as Mr. Sulu on *Star Trek*.



In *They Called Us Enemy*, Takei revisits his childhood spent within the camps with his mother, father, and younger siblings in the form of a graphic novel memoir. When he was four years old, Takei and his family were given only minutes to prepare when armed U.S. military soldiers visited their Los Angeles home and forcibly removed them. They were taken to a camp outside the city, where the entire family was assigned a stall at a horse race track in which to live.

Because Takei was very young when his family moved into the camp, his experiences there were colored by childhood. He recognizes that in many ways this acted as a benefit for him, masking his understanding of the true horror that his parents and their peers experienced. Takei’s parents were owners of a lucrative dry cleaning business in Los Angeles—his father was a Japanese immigrant who moved to California as a teenager, and his mother was a first generation Japanese American. In being removed to the camps, they were robbed of their home and their business as well as their dignity.

Takei’s memoir recalls a dark and serious time in our history. Yet the writing, done by Takei and coauthors Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott (both Ohioans), and the art by Harmony Becker (also an Ohioan), often glimmer with humor and hope. Among the fear, uncertainty, and horror of Takei’s experiences, there

were also moments of triumph and normalcy. Life has extraordinary resilience and this is illustrated as Takei continues to create friendships and experience some of the milestones of childhood. Meanwhile, his parents continue to develop their own skills and offer their entrepreneurial and leadership expertise for the good of the community.

Though *They Called Us Enemy* exemplifies some of the worst features of human nature, it also highlights some of the best. Through everything, Takei and his family and the rest of the 120,000 Japanese Americans confined to concentration camps between 1942-1946 were able to find a way to carry on and thrive however they were able. Today, Takei remains outspoken in educating the population about his many experiences in the prejudice, xenophobia, and bigotry he has encountered both for his ethnicity and his sexuality. *They Called Us Enemy* is beautifully illustrated and written, and highly accessible to readers of many ages.

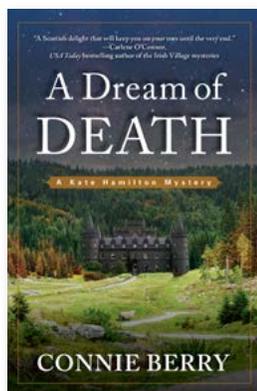
REVIEWED BY MORGAN PETERS, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, OHIOANA LIBRARY

## FICTION

Berry, Connie. *A Dream of Death: A Kate Hamilton Mystery*.

Crooked Lane Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

Connie Berry presents a mystery of place and time in *A Dream of Death*, set on the Isle of Glenroth in the Hebrides. As befits an engaging mystery, there are clues in the first chapter, and so the tale evolves. Ties to Bonnie Prince Charlie, a mysterious Lord from the West Indies, and a series of murders set the stage for the contemporary deaths.



The island holds a mix of memories for Kate Hamilton. She met her husband, Bill, there. He and his sister, Elenor, grew up in the island's mansion. During the few visits she and Bill made, Kate met his friends and boyhood companions, especially Bo Duff. Bill died on the island three years ago and now Kate is returning at the request of her sister-in-law.

As you can imagine, nothing goes right from the very first day Kate arrives, except for meeting Tom Mallory, Detective Inspector, CID, out of Suffolk. (Think potential love interest here for the widow and, surprise, widower.) Thus, begins Kate's stay at the Glenroth House Hotel, Elenor Spurgeon, Proprietor.

When Elenor is found dead on the morning after the tenth annual Tartan Ball, Kate's suspicions are aroused. The murder echoes that of Flora Arnott, committed in 1812 at this very place and in the same manner.

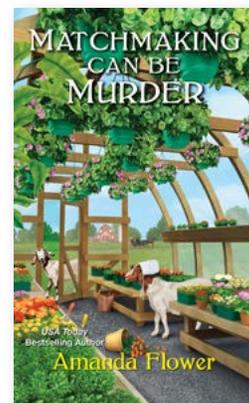
Berry weaves past and present together. The present holding the action and the contemporary murders. Of course, there are lots of suspects and a few "red herrings." The ending is quite thrilling, pulling all the threads together. With a second book already in print, Berry has the beginnings of a robust series!

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

Flower, Amanda. *Matchmaking Can Be Murder: An Amish Matchmaker Mystery*.

Kensington (New York, NY) 2020. PB \$7.99.

Edy's Greenhouse in the Amish town of Harvest, Ohio, is the scene of Zeke Miller's murder in the first installment of Amanda Flower's newest series, the Amish Matchmaker Mysteries. When the book opens, matchmaker Millie Fisher finds her niece Edith "Edy" standing numbly over Zeke's body. Did her niece kill her former fiancé? Who else would wield a rock and kill Zeke in cold blood? It's time for Millie to take charge.



In true cozy mystery fashion, Millie and her closest friends ask questions, poke their noses into everyone's business, and dig up clues. Her path intersects with Deputy Aiden Brody who is determined to arrest the correct person for this crime. Deputy Brody respects the Amish way of life. He's determined to find the killer, Amish or *Englischer*.

Between horses and buggies, two rambunctious goats, and some well-intentioned quilter friends, Millie gets

herself into all kinds of trouble. It wouldn't be a cozy without a few chuckles and lots of eccentric, well-meaning helpers to frustrate the law enforcement officers.

Amanda Flower's mysteries are often set in Amish country where she lives and works. The main characters have gentle personalities and are not very good at keeping secrets. Flower's lighthearted writing style enchants readers and has gained her a loyal following in Ohio and beyond.

The Amish Matchmaker Mystery series, beginning with *Matchmaking Can Be Murder*, overlaps with Flower's Amish Candy Shop Mysteries, which begins with *Assaulted Caramel*. Flower also writes under the name Isabella Alan, with a five-book Amish Quilt Shop Mystery series that begins with *Murder, Plain and Simple*.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

**Harper, Karen. *The Queen's Secret: A Novel of England's World War II Queen.***

William Morrow (New York, NY) 2020. PB \$16.99.

Ohio author Karen Harper brings us another engaging piece of historical fiction. This time she focuses on the Queen Mum, Elizabeth, wife of King George VI, who reigned from 1936-1952. Queen Elizabeth was born Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon (August 4, 1900 – March 30, 2002). She and George, affectionately called "Bertie," never expected to rule, never planned to be in the public eye. They and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, anticipated a quiet life performing duties assigned to the royal family.



Told as a flashback from 2000 to the beginning of WWII (1939) and earlier, Elizabeth describes her life to her grandson, Charles, Prince of Wales. On the hundredth anniversary of her birth, she wants the prince to know what her life was like, seventy-five years in the public eye, and what she hid from all eyes.

Throughout this novel, Elizabeth struggles with her role as the wife of newly crowned King George VI, and with her former attraction to his brother Edward VIII, who abdicated to marry Mrs. Wallace Simpson. Elizabeth is haunted by her secrets, by her passions, and her love for her husband. Most of all, she fears that someone, anyone, might uncover her deeply held secret, revealed to the reader at the very end of this tale.

In Harper's latest tale, readers are immersed in life in the royal court. They experience the ups and downs of public life and of the queen's private fears. As always, Harper masterfully brings historical subjects to life through careful research and an innate sense of what draws readers to her fictionalized biographies. *The Queen's Secret* is no exception. Here we are treated to a memoir of public and private life of the royal family. The queen shares her thoughts which are filled with passion, fears, and the complicated role of international politics during WWII and in the peace that follows.

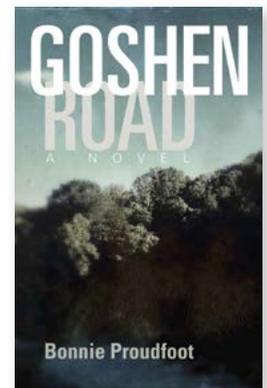
If you haven't read Karen Harper's historical fiction, *The Queen's Secret* is a great place to start. In each work, fiction or mystery, you'll learn about the past and what makes people tick.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

**Proudfoot, Bonnie. *Goshen Road.***

Swallow Press (Athens, Ohio) 2020. PB \$19.95.

Bonnie Proudfoot's debut novel invites the reader on a journey through the lives of two families, recounting the triumphs and struggles of their intertwined stories. The novel begins as seventeen-year-old Lux Cranfield loses an eye to a logging accident. The misfortune impels him to propose to sixteen-year-old Dessie Price, thus joining the families and their friends in a saga of the Appalachian mountain community of Fairchance, from 1967 to 1992. Readers familiar with the landscapes of Ohio and West Virginia will recognize the towns and homesites of the region Proudfoot describes with honesty and respect, as well as the deep faith that binds



the characters to the land and each other. When Lux escapes death, he recalls his mother's statement that "the Lord was keeping an eye on him" and resolves to turn his life in a new direction. It is this belief that sets the events in motion.

At times *Goshen Road* is more reminiscent of interconnected short stories than a novel. The narrative shifts from third to various first-person accounts as the protagonists advance the story from their distinct vantage points. We hear from Dessie and her sister Billie in alternating sections. We follow the men in the family as they experience setbacks and seek out the hard work that ages them before their time. The story progresses in a linear fashion, spooling through scene after scene. However, not all secrets are revealed until the final chapters, when Dessie speaks of episodes in her marriage previously kept hidden. While the men are alternately admirable or weak, the women of Fairchance remain the backbone of the story, their strength and endurance a constant.

An admirable first publication, *Goshen Road* resonates with those of us who know and love the people and the land where it is set. The title road is not well-maintained over the years. The rutted roadway winds up a mountain to a home site developed and abandoned multiple times over the years. When Lux and Dessie decide to build their home on this spot, they encounter difficulties that eventually cause them to return to the bottom of the hill. This symbolic desire to rise above only to be struck down again infuses the novel with the wider fate of the inhabitants of the region. Before she marries, Dessie expresses the aspirations of youth when she accepts Lux's invitation to skinny dip in a mountain pool. He demonstrates how to use a rope to swing out over the water, emphasizing the need to let go in time to avoid the rocks.

*That is the secret that people who sit around and watch others do not know anything about. I know that I have been lucky sometimes, unlucky other times, and the Lord might have had something to do with that, although He works in mysterious ways and His lessons are not always clear. Don't tell me you love me so much you do not want me to jump. Show me what to do and give me the rope.* (p. 80)

From this point, the novel chronicles the financial difficulties, the medical issues, the hidden abuse

between husbands and wives as that youthful enthusiasm falters beneath the weight of reality: lost or low-paying jobs, alcoholism, domestic abuse, death. There is no one cataclysmic disaster, only the slow drip of struggle against the odds. Proudfoot reveals the strength, nobility, and despair of those who want to climb out of the hollow yet find themselves at the bottom of a long, unkempt, winding road.

REVIEWED BY JANET E. IRVIN, CAREER EDUCATOR AND AUTHOR OF *THE HOPEWELL MYSTERY SERIES*

## YOUNG ADULT & MIDDLE GRADE

Bundy, Tamara. *Pixie Pushes On*.

Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$16.99.

I read *Pixie Pushes On* by Tamara Bundy from Cincinnati, Ohio. The book has 227 pages. It is historical fiction and takes place in the 1940s. The two main characters are Prudence, or for people that know her nickname, Pixie, and her big sissy, Charlotte.

Pixie has barely started feeling normal after moving to her grandparent's farm. Then her sissy gets polio, a disease that messes with your bones and spine. Charlotte has to go to a hospital far away from their new home. Pixie gets very sad. To her, life is totally horrible. Pixie has no friends except her sissy. Worse, she believes that she gave her best and perfect friend, her sister, the polio. Worst of all, none of the kids at school, like "Rotten" Ricky, will go near her because they think she will make them sick, too.

One day, Pixie gets a lamb to care for because he's a runt. She calls him Buster. This is a great name for the lamb. He is a big, big troublemaker. Jars of pickles, tomatoes, and peaches fly off the shelf after he headbutts it. He busts through the clothesline—no more fresh laundry. Wait until you see what happens when he meets Molly, the cow. Buster helps cheer Pixie up, but not quite. Farm life happens. Soon, she has to sell Buster at the market. That makes Pixie even sadder. So sad that she chases her grandfather as he drives away in his truck. She keeps up until she trips, and the truck rolls out of sight.



On her way home, she meets “Bigmouth” Berta who wants to swim in the creek. Pixie argues and says not to go in the water. Berta doesn’t want to be told what to do, so they quarrel. After the war of words, they both end up in the water and finally Pixie realizes that she didn’t give her sister polio. This helps, but she still feels gloomy.

When she wakes up to the smell of hotcakes, Pixie thinks her grandma is only trying to cheer her up. It can’t be anything special because she still has to do her chores. Then her dad pulls into the driveway and she realizes that somebody is in the passenger seat. It is her sissy! There is much rejoicing. Finally, the whole family is together!

I would recommend reading this book because even though it is serious, the way Pixie tells her story can be funny. Also, Pixie learns to support her family and friends in times of hardships. I got to learn about polio and the iron lung and how brave people had to be to fight this disease.

Also, this book has two morals. First, treat the people around you kindly. Second, don’t let your fear get the best of you. So, these are the reasons I think you should read this awesome book!

REVIEWED BY LARISA M. HOEHN, SLATE RUN HISTORICAL FARM FAN AND 4TH GRADER AT GRACE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**Farquhar, Polly. *Itch*.**

Holiday House (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$17.99.

A best friend accepts you for who you are. They forgive or even celebrate your flaws. But when a lunch swap balloons into a medical emergency for your best friend, how do they forgive that?

In the middle grade novel *Itch* by Polly Farquhar, Isaac “Itch” Fitch can handle escaping a school-wrecking tornado, trouble with fractions, his mom being in China on business, being teased for not being a diehard Buckeye football fan, and the condition that gave him his unfortunate nickname. Why? Because of his best friend, Sydney. She’s been there since he

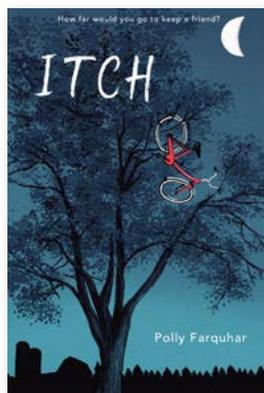
moved to Ohio. He doesn’t have to think about being anything but himself around her and he treasures it. But at the beginning of sixth grade, a new student in their class challenges Isaac’s concept of friendship.

Homeschooled “Homer” plants the seed of thought that Isaac is really only taking the path of least resistance when it comes to making friends. By allowing Nate, Daniel, and the other kids to continue calling him “Itch,” Isaac wonders if the new kid is right. But he can’t be right. Itch hasn’t given in to his friend Nate’s pressure to be a buddy and bring him a pheasant from Mr. Epple’s farm where Itch works. What does a homeschooled kid know about dealing with friends and classmates anyway?

Itch finds out the hard way when he trades his sandwich at lunch to Nate and it winds up in Sydney’s hands—his best friend with food allergies. Suddenly, Itch is in a tornado of self-inflicted blame and doubt, and he can barely speak a complete sentence to Sydney. How can anyone ever be his friend again? Itch hatches a plan that has wings. It might win him some sixth-grade fame, but it might also open his eyes to what is most important in friendship.

Farquhar creates a believable, quirky cast of characters in *Itch* that a reader can root for and against. Although three characters have medical conditions, two with food allergies, and Isaac with idiomatic angioedema, the story never feels preachy. Readers who have experience with these challenges may recognize themselves in the story. Those who don’t may see some of the same misconceptions that they have—such as when Homer beans Nate in gym class with one of those bouncy, red, rubber balls used for kickball and knocks Nate out. There are kids who want Homer to use his allergy medicine on Nate, but he knows that’s not its intended purpose.

Additionally, Farquhar allows eleven-year-old Itch to make decisions that have consequences. Told in first-person point of view, the reader rides along with all of Itch’s thoughts about fitting in, right and wrong, forgiveness, and friendship. He shows you his emotions and frustrations in ways that many middle grade readers will connect with. His hesitation to have his dad—who is a super math-smart engineer—help him learn fractions is a wonderful example of that frustration. Itch feels inadequate when he does what many children do and



compare themselves to their parent(s). The growth that comes in their relationship when Itch communicates with his dad is palpable. Likewise, the scene at Mr. Epple's farm while Itch is helping clean up the mess that he caused is beautifully executed. Itch's guilt and Mr. Epple's reaction are truly powerful.

*Itch* begins with an actual tornado. Then Farquhar builds the storm inside Isaac's heart and head. The whirlwind that breaks his world apart allows him to rebuild, renovate, and reinvent himself with a newfound hope for the kind of friendship that when you look at each other, you laugh and say, "Remember the day my bike flew into a tree?"

REVIEWED BY ANTHONY J. HOEHN, SCBWI MEMBER

Landers, Melissa. *Blastaway*.

Disney-Hyperion (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$16.99.

Dreams launch us into galaxies of wonder. In Melissa Landers' *Blastaway*, Kyler Centaurus awakens wondering how he's literally hurtling through galaxies.

Kyler is the misfit in his family, a nerd amongst jocks. He has four brothers, plus Dad, and even his Mom, who is smart, is still very much athletic. When Kyler tries to sway his parents into taking him on his dream vacation to witness the birth of a man-made star at the Fasti Sun Festival, he is miserably shot down. So he runs away, with the family spaceship, on accident, mostly.

The joy of cruising toward the Sun Festival quickly sinks when a pair of pirates latches onto Kyler's ship. With the help of his robot pal, Cabe, some slick-as-snot grease, and some of his brother's best pranks, they send the space buccaneers reeling. When Kyler arrives at the festival, he meets Figerella Jammeslot, a Wanderer. He is shocked by her "ghostly" appearance, her banshee sharp tongue, and her laser aim. Good thing for him that she's around, though, as the pirates haven't given up yet and Fig's got skills. Those skills alert the space guards and Kyler and Fig flee the festival. Once safe, they discover someone launched a successful plot to

steal the baby star. As Kyler deciphers clues to who and why, fellow runaway Fig and her asteroid-blasting laser cannon begin to look more like a set up than a happy coincidence. Now he must calculate how much Fig really knows if they have any chance of saving their new friendship and, more importantly, Earth.

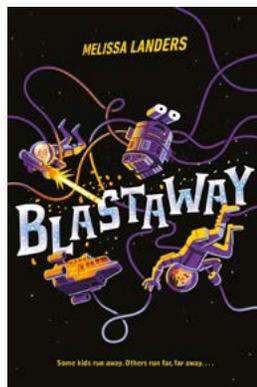
Melissa Landers, from Milford, Ohio, tells this space adventure chock full of humor and wit from two different first-person points of view, Kyler's and Fig's. This allows the reader to not only understand motivations for the characters' actions, but also the opportunity to choose who to root for. Kyler feels left out and misunderstood in his family. Fig has no family. Kyler is trustworthy and naïve. Fig is "space" smart because of how the Wanderers are treated and the tougher situations her life presents. Both make bold and bone-headed moves.

The story goes beyond pranks and bathroom humor. Kyler's father is an active protestor against a power-hungry and greedy corporation and its owner. Fig and Kyler struggle with their beliefs and personal experiences, with the politics of discrimination and its real effects on lives, and how those experiences can create certain rationales to explain poor and hurtful choices.

Characters like Kyler's astrophysicist, celestology hero, Dr. Nesbit, operate in the relatively gray shades of right and wrong. Dr. Nesbit is forced to make a hard choice that Kyler can't believe. Through the actions of Captain Holyoake and his crew, the reader sees how cruel life can be. Through these lenses, both Kyler and Fig grow to understand each other.

*Blastaway* is a boisterous romp that zooms you through galaxies and lands close to home. Boys and girls alike will be sure to find plenty of fun in this *Lost in Space* meets *Home Alone* hijinks middle grade novel.

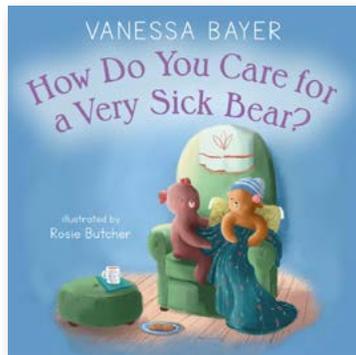
REVIEWED BY ANTHONY J. HOEHN, SCIENCE GEEK AND SCBWI MEMBER



CHILDREN'S

Bayer, Vanessa. Illus. by Rosie Butcher.  
***How Do You Care for a Very Sick Bear?***  
 Feiwel and Friends (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$16.99.

What does one do when their best friend becomes seriously ill? *How Do You Care for a Very Sick Bear* answers this difficult, delicate question. This debut book by Cleveland native Vanessa Bayer—an actress known for her work on *Saturday Night Live*—takes her first-hand experience with childhood leukemia to create a story that guides readers through the many ways they can support a sick friend.



Written in the second-person perspective, “You” are the main character and your friend, Bear, is ill. You can’t do all the things that you love to do together, from playing outside to going to school. Bear might act different and even look different. You are scared for her. But the gentle text and illustrations show the reader that there are still lots of things you can do for Bear: you can bring cards, snacks, and games to pass the time. You can lend an ear and a shoulder to cry on. You can be patient and understanding when she is tired, or sad, or needs some time alone. You can even find new, imaginative ways to include her in the things you used to do together. Most importantly, Bayer reminds the reader that Bear is scared, too, but just seeing you and having you near helps her feel better. (And it may help you feel better, too.)

Rosie Butcher’s soft illustrations accentuate the tenderness of Bayer’s text, also adding sweet details for readers to discover. It’s particularly uplifting to see how Bear is included in a favorite activity at the beginning of the book when she is healthy and again at the end when she is healing, encouraging the reader to think with creativity and kindness. Combined, the text and illustrations tell a heartwarming story and help take the edge off a tough topic. This is the perfect book for anyone facing illness in a loved one.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS, OHIOANA LIBRARY OFFICE  
 MANAGER AND SCBWI REGIONAL ADVISOR

# Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between January and March, 2020. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## NONFICTION

Bilocerkowycz, Sonya. *On Our Way Home from the Revolution: Reflections on Ukraine*. Mad Creek Books (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$19.95.

In 2014 Sonya Bilocerkowycz is a tourist at a deadly revolution. At first she is enamored with the Ukrainians' idealism, which reminds her of her own patriotic family. But when the romantic revolution melts into a war with Russia, she becomes disillusioned, prompting a return home to the US and the diaspora community that raised her. As the daughter of a man who studies Ukrainian dissidents for a living, the granddaughter of war refugees, and the great-granddaughter of a gulag victim, Bilocerkowycz has inherited a legacy of political oppression. But what does it mean when she discovers a missing page from her family's survival story—one that raises questions about her own guilt? In these linked essays, Bilocerkowycz invites readers to meet a swirling cast of post-Soviet characters, including a Russian intelligence officer who finds Osama bin Laden a few weeks after 9/11; a Ukrainian poet whose nose gets broken by Russian separatists; and a long-lost relative who drives a bus into the heart of Chernobyl. *On Our Way Home from the Revolution* muddles our easy distinctions between innocence and complicity.

Bosse, Diana. Illus. by Steve Wallace. *The Perks of Having Cancer: An Inspirational, Positive, and Humorous View of a Not-So-Inspirational, Positive, or Humorous Situation*. Chilidog Press (Loveland, OH) 2019. PB \$20.00.

When Diana Bosse was diagnosed, she promised herself that she would stay positive throughout her journey to improve her chances of survival. Humor has always been her default setting, so laughing her way through lymphoma came naturally. She began posting daily "Perks of Having Cancer" on Facebook. Soon others were inspired and encouraged by her dauntless optimism and good-natured, make-the-best-of-it attitude. She soon realized "The Perks" might make a great book. By sharing her own experiences, she resolved to also lift the spirits of others dealing with cancer or helping a loved one fight the disease.

Cacares-Schumick, Doris. *Public School Teaching Sucks, Period.: A Memoir of a Special Education/ESL Teacher*. Doris Cacares-Schumick (Etna, OH) 2019. PB \$10.99.

According to studies made by Richard Ingersoll, University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education, and the National Commission on Teaching & America's Future, between 40 and 50 percent of teachers pack up their desks and leave the classroom within the first five years of teaching. The reasons include a lack of respect by administrators, overwhelming amounts of after-hours work, and poor working conditions, to name a few. *Public School Teaching Sucks,*

*Period.: A Memoir of a Special Education/ESL Teacher* takes you inside the world of a public-school teacher who packs her desk and leaves the classroom for good.

Chute, Tamar. *Time and Change: 150 Years of the Ohio State University*. Trillium (Columbus, OH) 2019. HC \$34.95.

This photographic retrospective of The Ohio State University showcases its rich history and decades of growth, from its earliest years as the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College to the prominent land-grant institution it is today. The book includes more than three hundred rarely seen photographs from the collections of the University Archives and contemporary university photographers. Gain a visually stunning new perspective on iconic landmarks such as Mirror Lake, the Oval, Ohio Stadium, and the neighborhoods surrounding the Columbus and regional campuses. From beloved teams, symbols, and traditions to scenes from academic and campus life, reflect on time and change and rediscover the extraordinary connection that unites generations of Buckeyes.

Darden, Mark. *IT'S GAME TIME FOLKS! Quest for 30*. Buckeye Muscle Media (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$10.00.

In 2017, Mark Darden had one ambitious goal: Visit all 30 Major League Baseball ballparks in a single season. *IT'S GAME TIME FOLKS! Quest for 30* is Mark's memoir of that eventful season: the games he attended, the people he met, and the life lessons he learned during his Quest for 30. Whether

you're a baseball fan, a travel enthusiast, or just in the mood for a great adventure story, you'll find something to love in *IT'S GAME TIME FOLKS! Quest for 30*.

Diggs, Nancy Brown. *In Search of Appalachia*. Hamilton Books (Lanham, MD) 2020. PB \$24.99. After writing extensively about different cultures, Nancy Brown Diggs chose to focus on one closer to her own, the Appalachian, and was surprised to learn that it *is* her own—and quite different from the image conveyed by the media. Rich in anecdotes and interviews that bring her research to life, this book offers a study of Appalachians today and explores what they are truly like, and why, concluding that it is a culture to be celebrated, not denigrated.

Divine, Jr., Lloyd E. (dárahqk). *On the Back of a Turtle: A Narrative of the Huron-Wyandot People*. Trillium (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$29.95. *On the Back of a Turtle* is an all-inclusive history of the Huron-Wyandot people—from before the creation of the Great Island, now called North America, to the present day. No other full-length history of the Huron-Wyandot people exists. Presented in a conversational, easy-to-read style, the book is a compelling and informative telling of the story of the Huron-Wyandot people as told by a tribal historian. As characters and tribes emerge in the Huron-Wyandot's oral tradition of creation, and take their respective places upon the Great Island, the author reveals the most difficult element of the Huron-Wyandot's history: how the tribal name was obtained. With the knowledge of how both Huron and Wyandot are relevant names for one tribe of

people, the author then shares his tribe's amazing history. The reader will be fascinated to learn how one of the smallest tribes, birthed amid the Iroquois Wars, rose to become one of the most respected and influential tribes of North America.

Fitzgerald, Pia. *WOWW! I CAN Lose Weight! Essential Tools for a Lifestyle of Wellness*. Xulon Press (Maitland, FL) 2019. PB \$13.99. Ready to lose weight and activate your WOWW! Factor? It's time to Work On your Wellness Wish and lose weight for good! Feel confident and energized before losing 50lbs with *WOWW! I CAN Lose Weight!* This interactive text (with journal) gives REAL SOLUTIONS for permanent weight loss, allowing you to feel amazing while working on your wellness wish. Using her WOWW! Factor Power Tools of Wellness™ weight loss system, Pia Fitzgerald offers a fresh and revelatory approach to WHY you keep riding the weight gain roller coaster and HOW to finally get off and lose weight for good.

Giles, Robert. *When Truth Mattered: The Kent State Shootings 50 Years Later*. Mission Point Press (Traverse City, MI) 2020. HC \$28.95. *When Truth Mattered* is a gripping, authoritative account of a young editor and his staff painstakingly pursuing the truth of the Kent State shootings on May 4, 1970—a tragedy that has haunted the nation for 50 years and significantly changed the debate about the Vietnam War. The editor, Robert Giles, takes you inside the turmoil of the *Akron Beacon Journal* newsroom on that fateful day, and on campus at Kent State University, a Midwestern college under siege. The heart-pounding

story captures the flash of National Guard rifles, the bloody aftermath of four students killed and nine wounded, and the stress of reporters hurrying to sort fact from fiction for a horrified world wanting to know “what” and “why.” The *Beacon Journal's* Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage created a truthful narrative that has stood unchallenged and unchanged for five decades. It also provides an urgent lesson for today: What is the role of truth in media? Can you trust the news that you're hearing and seeing? If not, how do you equip yourself? *When Truth Mattered* shows how journalism was done right...and how those standards must still be applied today.

Goldbach, Eliese Colette. *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit*. Flatiron Books (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$27.99. To ArcelorMittal Steel, Eliese is known as #6691: Utility Worker, but this was never her dream. Fresh out of college, eager to leave behind her conservative hometown and come to terms with her Christian roots, Eliese found herself applying for a job at the local steel mill. The mill is everything she was trying to escape, but it's also her only shot at financial security in an economically devastated and forgotten part of America. In *Rust*, Eliese brings the reader inside the belly of the mill and the middle American upbringing that brought her there in the first place. She takes a long and intimate look at her Rust Belt childhood and struggles to reconcile her desire to leave without turning her back on the people she's come to love. The people she sees as the unsung backbone of our nation. Faced with the financial promise of a steelworker's paycheck, and the very real danger of working in

an environment where a steel coil could crush you at any moment or a vat of molten iron could explode because of a single drop of water, Eliese finds unexpected warmth and camaraderie among the gruff men she labors beside each day.

Gurvis, Sandra. *Photographs by Mitch Geiser. 111 Places in Columbus That You Must Not Miss*. Emons (Cologne, Germany) 2019. PB \$19.99.

From ‘Cowtown’ to the biggest town in Ohio, Columbus has always been an incubator for new ideas and products. There’s always something to do and something for everyone, whether attending one of the many professional and amateur sporting events; experiencing fine dining or experimenting with exotic cuisine; or participating in the city’s vivid, nonstop arts and cultural scene. A hidden gem that stands on its own, Columbus keeps people coming back for more.

Heyman, Stephen. *The Planter of Modern Life: Louis Bromfield and the Seeds of a Food Revolution*. W.W. Norton and Company (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$26.95.

Louis Bromfield was a World War I ambulance driver, a Paris expat, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist as famous in the 1920s as Hemingway or Fitzgerald. But he cashed in his literary success to finance a wild agrarian dream in his native Ohio. The ideas he planted at his utopian experimental farm, Malabar, would inspire America’s first generation of organic farmers and popularize the tenets of environmentalism years before Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*. A lanky Midwestern farm boy dressed up like a Left Bank bohemian, Bromfield stood out in literary Paris for his lavish

hospitality and his green thumb. He built a magnificent garden outside the city where he entertained aristocrats, movie stars, flower breeders, and writers of all stripes. Gertrude Stein enjoyed his food, Edith Wharton admired his roses, Ernest Hemingway boiled with jealousy over his critical acclaim. Millions savored his novels, which were turned into Broadway plays and Hollywood blockbusters, yet Bromfield’s greatest passion was the soil. In 1938, Bromfield returned to Ohio to transform 600 badly eroded acres into a thriving cooperative farm, which became a mecca for agricultural pioneers and a country retreat for celebrities like Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall (who were married there in 1945). This sweeping biography unearths a lost icon of American culture, a fascinating, hilarious, and unclassifiable character who—between writing and plowing—also dabbled in global politics and high society. Through it all, he fought for an agriculture that would enrich the soil and protect the planet. While Bromfield’s name has faded into obscurity, his mission seems more critical today than ever before.

Hirt, Jen. *Hear Me Ohio*. The University of Akron Press (Akron, OH) 2020. PB \$22.00.

*Hear Me Ohio* is a collection of essays about leaving Ohio while always looking back at it from places as far and different as Idaho, to the familiar forest of an arboretum in Kentucky, to the Pennsylvania riverbanks of the Susquehanna River. Hirt writes about loss and discovery, but also horseradish and hold-ups, unicorns and spiders, chestnuts and dobsonflies, dogs and kayaks. Readers will find nature

writing, meditations, literary journalism, and memoir—a range of approaches for covering the miles and years since a childhood spent growing up in Hirt’s Greenhouse in Strongsville, Ohio, which was the subject of her first book.

Irvine, William B. *The Stoic Challenge: A Philosopher’s Guide to Becoming Tougher, Calmer, and More Resilient*. W.W. Norton and Company (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$25.95.

Some people bounce back in response to setbacks; others break. We often think that these responses are hardwired, but fortunately this is not the case. Stoicism offers us an alternative approach. Plumbing the wisdom of one of the most popular and successful schools of thought from ancient Rome, philosopher William B. Irvine teaches us to turn any challenge on its head. *The Stoic Challenge*, then, is the ultimate guide to improving your quality of life through tactics developed by ancient Stoics, from Marcus Aurelius and Seneca to Epictetus. This book uniquely combines ancient Stoic insights with techniques discovered by contemporary psychological research, such as anchoring and framing. The result is a surprisingly simple strategy for dealing with life’s unpleasant and unexpected challenges—from minor setbacks like being caught in a traffic jam or having a flight cancelled to major setbacks like those experienced by physicist Stephen Hawking, who slowly lost the ability to move, and writer Jean-Dominique Bauby, who suffered from locked-in syndrome. The Stoics discovered that thinking of challenges as tests of character can dramatically alter our emotional response to them. Irvine’s updated

“Stoic test strategy” teaches us how to transform life’s stumbling blocks into opportunities for becoming calmer, tougher, and more resilient. Not only can we overcome everyday obstacles—we can benefit from them.

Jones, Saeed. *How We Fight For Our Lives: A Memoir*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.00.

“People don’t just happen,” writes Saeed Jones. “We sacrifice former versions of ourselves. We sacrifice the people who dared to raise us. The ‘I’ it seems doesn’t exist until we are able to say, ‘I am no longer yours.’” Haunted and haunting, *How We Fight for Our Lives* is a stunning coming-of-age memoir. Jones tells the story of a young, black, gay man from the South as he fights to carve out a place for himself, within his family, within his country, within his own hopes, desires, and fears. Through a series of vignettes that chart a course across the American landscape, Jones draws readers into his boyhood and adolescence—into tumultuous relationships with his family, into passing flings with lovers, friends, and strangers. Each piece builds into a larger examination of race and queerness, power and vulnerability, love and grief: a portrait of what we all do *for* one another—and *to* one another—as we fight to become ourselves. An award-winning poet, Jones has developed a style that’s as beautiful as it is powerful—a voice that’s by turns a river, a blues, and a nightscape set ablaze. *How We Fight for Our Lives* is a one-of-a-kind memoir and a book that cements Saeed Jones as an essential writer for our time.

Kluge, P.F. *Keepers: Home & Away*. XOXOX Press (Gambier, OH) 2019. PB \$15.00.

A collection of nonfiction—personal essays, travel writing, thoughts on contemporary education—by Paul Frederick Kluge, award-winning novelist and professor.

Meyers, David, and Elise Meyers Walker. *Columbus State Community College: An Informal History*. Exploding Stove Media (Columbus, OH) 2013. PB \$11.95. For half a century, the mission of Columbus State Community College has remained essentially unchanged—to provide skilled men and women to meet the workforce needs of Central Ohio employers. What has changed, however, is the way it goes about fulfilling that mission. *Columbus State Community College* is the story of how this remarkable institution grew from a handful of classes in a high school basement into the largest two-year college in Ohio. It is also the story of the community it replaced and the community it is helping to create by action and example. Profusely illustrated and packed with fascinating facts, this highly readable book provides an entertaining introduction to the development of higher education in the Buckeye State.

Millsap, Adam A. *Dayton: The Rise, Decline, and Transition of an Industrial City*. Trillium (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$24.95. The Rust Belt was once the crown of American manufacturing, a symbol of the country’s economic prowess. But now it is named for what it has become: a deteriorating stretch of industrial cities left behind by a post-industrial world. In *Dayton: The Rise, Decline, and Transition of*

*an Industrial City*, Adam A. Millsap turns his focus to his hometown, an archetypal Rust Belt city, to examine its history and discuss its future. From early twentieth-century optimism, through the Great Depression and post-WWII manufacturing decline, to Dayton now, with its labor-force problems and opioid crisis, Millsap tracks the underlying forces driving the city’s trajectory. Race relations, interstates, suburbanization, climate, crime, geography, and government policies all come into play as Millsap develops a picture of the city, past and present. By examining the past, Millsap proposes a plan for the future, claiming that there is hope for Dayton to thrive again. And if Dayton can rise from its industrial ashes, then perhaps the Rust Belt can shed its stigma and once again become the backbone of American innovation.

Quick, Sandra H. *Our History Awakens: Creating Your Living History Avatar*. Our History Awakens (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$20.00.

Bringing history to life is about more than showcasing extraordinary people and events. It’s about remembering and recording the details of everyday life, details of our families and friends, to preserve our own history and to inform us about the history of others. Meet Bessie Stringfield, a motorcycle dispatch courier during World War II, stunt rider, nurse, and independent traveler. Discover the research process and tools I used to learn about Bessie and how I wrote, rewrote, and continue to rewrite the script for my first-person narrative performance, *Bessie Stringfield: Motorcycle Queen of Miami*.

*Our History Awakens: Creating Your Living History Avatar* is an instructional guide for how to bring history to life. In clear, detailed steps, you learn how to record stories and events of family members, shed light on historical figures, and implement activities that connect people, past and present. For those interested in creating a living-history avatar, you'll learn about the importance of using costumes and props to establish time and place and enhance your performance. Remembering and celebrating events and achievements inspires and empowers us all.

Rensch, Adam Theron-Lee. *No Home for You Here: A Memoir of Class and Culture*. Reaktion Books (London, UK) 2020. HC \$20.00.

*No Home for You Here* is a memoir of a life lived in the shadow of Ronald Reagan. Raised in rural Ohio, Adam Theron-Lee Rensch tells the story of a millennial trying—and failing—to leave behind the shame of growing up poor in the middle of nowhere. Interweaving personal narrative and political criticism with recent social and political history, *No Home for You Here* shows how the interrelationship of class, culture, and identity stifles working-class solidarity by constructing an imagined cultural divide that those in power use to maintain the status quo. With one foot on each side of this division, Rensch moves between the flat horizon of the Midwest and the densely populated streets of the city, bearing witness to the tragic effects of a precarious free-market economy on family and friends. Rather than wallowing in despair, however, *No Home for You Here* is a timely, passionate call for class consciousness in an era of economic crisis and staggering inequality.

Saunt, Claudio. *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*. W.W. Norton and Company (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$26.95.

In May 1830, the United States formally launched a policy to expel Native Americans from the East to territories west of the Mississippi River. Justified as a humanitarian enterprise, the undertaking was to be systematic and rational, overseen by Washington's small but growing bureaucracy. But as the policy unfolded over the next decade, thousands of Native Americans died under the federal government's auspices, and thousands of others lost their possessions and homelands in an orgy of fraud, intimidation, and violence. *Unworthy Republic* reveals how expulsion became national policy and describes the chaotic and deadly results of the operation to deport 80,000 men, women, and children. Drawing on firsthand accounts and the voluminous records produced by the federal government, Saunt's deeply researched book argues that Indian Removal, as advocates called it, was not an inevitable chapter in U.S. expansion across the continent. Rather, it was a fiercely contested political act designed to secure new lands for the expansion of slavery and to consolidate the power of the southern states. Indigenous peoples fought relentlessly against the policy, while many U.S. citizens insisted that it was a betrayal of the nation's values. When Congress passed the act by a razor-thin margin, it authorized one of the first state-sponsored mass deportations in the modern era, marking a turning point for native peoples and for the United States. In telling this gripping story,

Saunt shows how the politics and economics of white supremacy lay at the heart of the expulsion of Native Americans; how corruption, greed, and administrative indifference contributed to the debacle of its implementation; and how the consequences still resonate today.

Takei, George, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott. Illus. by Harmony Becker. *They Called Us Enemy*. Top Shelf Productions (Marietta, GA) 2019. PB \$19.99.

In a stunning graphic memoir, actor/author/activist George Takei revisits his haunting childhood in American concentration camps as one of 120,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned by the U.S. government during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon—and America itself—in this tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

## FICTION

Castillo, Linda. *Shamed: A Kate Burkholder Novel*. Minotaur (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

The peaceful town of Painters Mill is shattered when an Amish grandmother is brutally murdered on an abandoned farm. When Chief of Police Kate Burkholder arrives on the scene, she learns that the woman's seven-year-old granddaughter is gone, abducted in plain sight. Kate knows time is against her—the longer the girl is missing, the less likely her safe return becomes. The girl's family is a pillar of the Amish community, well-respected by all. But Kate soon realizes they're keeping secrets—and the sins of their past may be coming back to haunt them. What are they hiding and why? Kate's investigation

brings her to an isolated Old Order Amish settlement along the river, a community where family is everything and tradition is upheld with an iron fist. But the killer is close behind, drawing more victims into a twisted game of revenge. Left behind at each new crime scene are cryptic notes that lead Kate to a haunting and tragic secret. What she uncovers threatens to change everything she thought she knew about the family she's fighting for, the Amish community as a whole—and her own beliefs. As time to find the missing girl runs out, Kate faces a harrowing choice that will test her convictions and leave one family forever changed.

Erickson, Alex. *Death by Café Mocha*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$7.99.

Krissy Hancock and her pals are taking a coffee break—leaving their bookstore-café in Pine Hills, Ohio, and heading to a convention. But this road trip will be more dangerous than they expected. Coffee lovers are gathering from far and wide at the hotel, and Krissy, Rita, and Vicki are excited. But some of the attendees may need to switch to decaf, as a public argument breaks out soon after they check in and then a flavor competition leads to bitter feelings. When the winner of the contest is beamed with a carafe full of café mocha, suspicions swirl—along with accusations of bribery. Was the dead man offering perks to the judges—or was something sinister going on in his personal life? This case is going to keep Krissy up all night long.

Flower, Amanda. *Marshmallow Malice (Amish Candy Shop Book 5)*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2020. PB \$7.99.

With Juliet Brody and Reverend Brook tying the knot in Ohio's Amish Country's most anticipated nuptials of the year, Bailey King is determined to do everything in her power to make the event a sweet success. Except midsummer heat waves and outdoor ceremonies don't mix, and an exasperated Bailey soon finds herself struggling to fulfill bridesmaid duties and keep her stunning marshmallow-frosted wedding cake from becoming a gooey disaster. Then much to everyone's shock, the entire ceremony crumbles when a guest drops dead, and the cause isn't sunstroke... Turns out, the uninvited victim came equipped with lots of dirt on the devout reverend's hidden past. As Reverend Brook tops the murder suspect list on what should have been the happiest day of his life, Bailey and her sheriff's deputy boyfriend vow to clear his name. Can the duo boil down a series of baffling clues before Juliet considers her marriage a bad mistake—or the killer whips up another deadly surprise?

Goble, Steve. *A Bottle of Rum (Spider John Mystery #3)*. Seventh Street Books (Jersey City, NJ) 2019. PB \$15.95.

August, 1723—Spider John Rush believes he has escaped piracy forever. Enjoying rum and chess in a dark Lymington tavern, he dreams of finding passage to Nantucket to reunite with his beloved Em and to finally get to know the son he remembers only as a babe in his arms, though the lad must be dreaming of going to sea himself by now. But when a lazy taverner is stabbed to death, one glance at the victim tells Spider the pirate life has followed him ashore and he cannot possibly ignore this bloody crime.

The wise maneuver would be to run before authorities arrive, but Spider is denied that choice because he's already deeply connected to the crime—he fashioned the murder weapon with his own hands.

Harper, Karen. *The Queen's Secret: A Novel of England's World War II Queen*. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2020. PB \$16.99.

1939. As the wife of King George VI and the mother of the future queen, Elizabeth—"the queen mother"—shows a warm, smiling face to the world. But it's no surprise that Hitler himself calls her the "Most Dangerous Woman in Europe." For behind that soft voice and kindly demeanor is a will of steel. Two years earlier, George was thrust onto the throne when his brother Edward abdicated, determined to marry his divorced, American mistress Mrs. Simpson. Vowing to do whatever it takes to make her husband's reign a success, Elizabeth endears herself to the British people, and prevents the former king and his brazen bride from ever again setting foot in Buckingham Palace. Elizabeth holds many powerful cards, but she's also hiding damaging secrets about her past and her provenance that could prove to be her undoing.

Hieber, Leanna Renee. *A Sanctuary of Spirits (The Spectral City Book 2)*. RebelBase (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$15.95.

New York City, 1899. The NYPD's Ghost Precinct, an all-female team of psychics and spiritualists led by gifted young medium Eve Whitby, is unconventional to say the least. And now they're stepping even further outside the bounds of normal police work—into an otherworldly realm known as the Ghost Sanctuary. It's a place where the dead can provide

answers. But will Eve and her colleagues pay a price for venturing beyond the land of the living? Investigating a mortician's sudden disappearance, Eve encounters a charismatic magician and mesmerist whose abilities are unlike any she's seen before. Is he connected to the mysterious deaths around the city—or a link to the Ghost Sanctuary? Torn between the bonds of her team and her growing relationship with the dashing Detective Horowitz, Eve must discern truth from illusion and friend from foe before another soul vanishes into the ether.

Hurley, Kameron. *The Light Brigade*. Saga (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

*They said the war would turn us into light.* The Light Brigade: it's what soldiers fighting the war against Mars call the ones who come back... different. Grunts in the corporate corps get busted down into light to travel to and from interplanetary battlefronts. Everyone is changed by what the corps must do in order to break them down into light. Those who survive learn to stick to the mission brief—no matter what actually happens during combat. Dietz, a fresh recruit in the infantry, begins to experience combat drops that don't sync up with the platoon's. And Dietz's bad drops tell a story of the war that's not at all what the corporate brass want the soldiers to think it is. Is Dietz really experiencing the war differently, or is it combat madness? Trying to untangle memory from mission brief and survive with sanity intact, Dietz is ready to become a hero—or maybe a villain; in war it's hard to tell the difference. A worthy successor to classic stories like *Downbelow Station*, *Starship Troopers*, and *The*

*Forever War*, *The Light Brigade* is award-winning author Kameron Hurley's gritty time-bending take on the future of war.

Leonard, Crissie Ann. *Letters to My Father*. Westbow Press (Bloomington, IN) 2019. PB \$16.99. Forty-three-year-old Wiletta Jayne is a God-loving woman in the midst of a spiritual drought. Her strong relationship with God has been disrupted by her chaotic lifestyle, and she feels lonely and lost. She decides to take some time off from work and visit the beach, where she hopes to reconnect with God's voice. On the way, Wiletta feels a strong pull to visit a garage sale, where she finds a small stack of letters for sale. Knowing they are meant for her, she buys them and begins reading through them while on her vacation. In the letters, Wiletta discovers personal stories of despair, loneliness, joy, and more. God then instructs her to find the authors of the letters, so she reaches out to her best friend, Faith, who is a private investigator. Together, Wiletta and Faith set out to find these people, help them to know God's love, and heal their hearts so they can seek him again.

Lowery, Mark R. *Wilfred's Dream*. Black Opal Books (Parkdale, OR) 2019. PB \$13.99.

Decades after migrating north to Cleveland, Ohio, from rural Louisiana, Tobias Winslow has made an uneasy peace with the past, including his own mistakes that led to a prison stint, and has found a way to thrive in the inner city. News of a murdered son, and the daughter that son left behind, forces Tobias to reassess his past and restructure his plans for the

future. Christian Taylor and Joey Breaux, meanwhile, are students at a Cleveland-area historically black university who have vastly different worldviews, but are drawn together by an appreciation of family and, ultimately, a senseless, violent act. All three—Tobias, Christian, and Joey—are unknowingly tied together by a racially motivated killing in Louisiana decades earlier.

Montgomery, Jess. *The Hollows*. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$27.99.

Ohio, 1926: For many years, the railroad track in Moonvale Tunnel has been used as a shortcut through the Appalachian hills. When an elderly woman is killed walking along the tracks, the brakeman tells tales of seeing a ghostly female figure dressed all in white. Newly elected Sheriff Lily Ross is called on to the case to dispel the myths. With the help of her friends Marvena Whitcomb and Hildy Cooper, Lily follows the woman's trail to The Hollows—a notorious asylum—and they begin to expose dark secrets long-hidden by time.

Proudfoot, Bonnie. *Goshen Road*. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2020. PB \$19.95.

*Goshen Road* opens in 1967 with a logging accident and the teenaged Lux Cranfield's headlong plunge into the courtship of Dessie—a leap he takes not only in the wake of his near-death experience but to exchange his bitter home life for a future with the Prices, a family that appears to have the stability and peace that his own lacks. Within the year, Lux and Dessie marry. Meanwhile, Dessie's rebellious younger sister, Billie, fights her way through adolescence with an

eye toward an escape of her own, only to land with Lux's friend Alan Ray Munn and settle into a life of hardship. Ultimately, the voices and passions of Dessie, Billie, Lux, Alan Ray, and the Cranfield children build on one another to create an unforgettable chorus about the promises and betrayals of love—and what it takes to preserve a family when everything else is uncertain.

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew, ed. ***Columbus Noir***: Akashic Books (New York, NY) 2020. PB \$15.95. Akashic Books continues its award-winning series of original noir anthologies, launched in 2004 with *Brooklyn Noir*. Each book comprises all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city. Brand-new stories by: Lee Martin, Robin Yocum, Kristen Lepionka, Craig McDonald, Chris Bournea, Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Tom Barlow, Mercedes King, Daniel Best, Laura Bickle, Yolonda Tonette Sanders, Julia Keller, Khalid Moalim, and Nancy Zafris.

## POETRY

Abdurraqib, Hanif. ***A Fortune for Your Disaster: Poems***. Tin House Books (Portland, OR) 2019. PB \$15.95.

In his much-anticipated follow-up to *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, poet, essayist, biographer, and music critic Hanif Abdurraqib has written a book of poems about how one rebuilds oneself after a heartbreak, the kind that renders them a different version of themselves than the one they knew. It's a book about a mother's death, and admitting that Michael

Jordan pushed off, about forgiveness, and how none of the author's black friends wanted to listen to "Don't Stop Believin'." It's about wrestling with histories, personal and shared. Abdurraqib uses touchstones from the world outside—from Marvin Gaye to Nikola Tesla to his neighbor's dogs—to create a mirror, inside of which every angle presents a new possibility.

Alexander, Francis Wesley. ***I Reckon: Haiku & Haibun***. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2019. PB \$16.00. *I Reckon* is an honest, poignant look at the Past, from within the medium of poetry. From Alexander's experimental "forbidden haibun," where the prose sections are supported with haiku-like verse, to his unapologetic and insightful haiku, this book tells the story of growing up in Sandusky, Ohio, and other interesting locales. Part of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Series.

Atkins, Russell. Edited by Kevin Prufer and Robert E. McDonough. ***World'd Too Much: The Selected Poetry of Russell Atkins***. Cleveland State University Poetry Center (Cleveland, OH) 2019. PB \$18.00. Russell Atkins is a poet, playwright, composer, and editor from Cleveland. In 2017 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cleveland Arts Prize at age 91. The CSU Poetry Center is honored to once again contribute to his oeuvre with *World'd Too Much*, a comprehensive collection of Atkins's work including 100+ poems, two poetry dramas, a manifesto, and a foreword by Janice A. Lowe.

Bogen, Don. ***Immediate Song: Poems***. Milkweed Editions (Minneapolis, MN) 2019. PB \$16.00.

Called "the poet of things" by Richard Howard, Don Bogen understands the ways objects hold history, even if they've grown obsolescent, even when they've been forgotten. So objects—rendered in cinematic detail—fill these poems. A desk, a mailbox, a house delivering its own autobiography. *Hospitals*: the patients who have passed through, the buildings that have crumbled. And, in a longer view, the people who survive in what they left behind: Thom Gunn, Charles Dickens, and the pre-Columbian architects who designed the great earthworks of Ohio two thousand years ago. Songs, ephemeral by nature but infinitely repeatable, run throughout the collection. "What did they tell me, all those years?" Bogen writes. *Immediate Song* offers us a retrospective glance that is at once contemplative and joyous, carefully shaped but flush with sensuous observation: a paean to what is both universal and fleeting.

Gibans, Nina Freedlander, and Abby Star. ***In the Garden of Old Age***. ATBOSH Media (Cleveland, OH) 2019. PB \$19.99.

*In the Garden of Old Age* is a series of poems about memory—collected ideas from a rich life with continuous interactions—ideas and people, spaces and inner thoughts colliding daily in these summary years which pile up and tumble to the pages like leaves in fall.

Habel, Jennifer. ***The Book of Jane***. University of Iowa Press (Iowa City, IO) 2020. PB \$19.95.

*The Book of Jane* is a perceptive, tenacious investigation of gender, authority, and art. Jennifer Habel draws a contrast between the archetype of the lone male genius

and the circumscribed, relational lives of women. Habel points repeatedly to discrepancies of scale: the grand arenas of Balanchine, Einstein, and Matisse are set against the female miniature—the dancer's stockings, the anonymous needlepoint, the diary entry, the inventory of a purse. Winner of the 2019 Iowa Poetry Prize.

Heath, William. *Leaving Seville: Poems*. Presa Press (Rockford, MI) 2019. PB \$8.00.

*Leaving Seville* is based on the two years when Heath was a Fulbright Professor at the University of Seville and the time he spent in Catalonia with his wife Roser, a native of Barcelona. Although the author may have left Seville, these memorable poems will take you there.

Lemmon, Amy. *The Miracles*. C&R Press (Roanoke, VA) 2019. PB \$16.00.

With lyricism and grace, Amy Lemmon gives us a worldview to live by. The all-too-familiar “wear of sorrow's rub” is presented alongside the world's miracles, including the author's two children. Through the disintegration of her marriage and the tragic death of her children's father, she tells us, “We can believe something is always growing.” With a mix of wonder and trepidation, Lemmon chronicles the blossoming of a son and daughter, each exceptional in their own way, into ever more complex beings. She names other miracles as well: “This light,/wan blue sky and unforgiving sun,/the sound of crushing asphalt beneath/strong metal, the grinding of gears.” The broken world is made whole by the stately yet playful lines of these masterful poems, whether wrought in received forms

like sonnet, sestina, and villanelle, invented/indented forms, riffs on famous forbears, or musically crafted free verse. Fearlessly bridging the gap between tradition and artistic innovation, the author moves us forward with her into the unknown, to entertain new relationships with herself, her children, and the world.

Renaë, Kiya. *It's Okay to Be Broken: Highs, Lows, and Happy Mediums*. CreateSpace/Kiya Renaë (Cincinnati, OH) 2019. PB \$10.95.

Within us all, change is something that we all want; we crave it, we think about it, we plan for it. But in all our craving, thinking and planning, we don't stop to consider whether or not we possess the willingness to and ability to execute the process to change. Often we think, one small decision is going to get the ball rolling and the change that we are looking for is just going to magically appear and everything will go “right” from there, but—No. Change takes constant work, constant effort, constant self-reminding of the why you're doing this and the end goal. Change takes the support we don't want to ask for, the late nights we don't want to sacrifice, the love we struggle to receive but often are required to give; change is all those things and more. Kiya Renaë takes you on a personal journey of self-awareness, self-accountability, and the struggle in realizing that change has no timeline nor contained dimensions. Every aspect of self at some point needs some tweaking, some intervening, some change to take place in order for one's best self to be revealed.

Rihn, Andrew. *Revelation: An Apocalypse in Fifty-Eight Fights*. Press 53 (Winston-Salem, NC) 2020. PB \$14.95.

*Revelation: An Apocalypse in Fifty-Eight Fights* by Andrew Rihn uses 100-word prose poems to immerse us into the fifty-eight professional fights of Mike Tyson. The voice of an Old Testament prophet shines through the fight commentary, and relates Tyson to a modern-day Elijah—climbing the mountain to do battle, and climbing back down to a world of depression, anxiety, and alienating silence.

Rotterman, Eliza. *Dirt Eaters*. Tupelo Press (North Adams, MA) 2018. PB \$11.95.

This poetry chapbook was a finalist for the 2019 Oregon Book Award Stafford/Hall Award for Poetry and the Winner of the Snowbound Chapbook Award.

Selcer, Anne Lesley. *Sun Cycle*. Cleveland State University Poetry Center (Cleveland, OH) 2019. PB \$16.00.

Written from inside its own formal conundrum, *Sun Cycle* deals with representation, value, power, and gender. Influenced by 80's film theory updated for 24-hour access screen time, it is obsessed with images and is named for the star that makes vision possible. These poems shift deftly from treatise to entreaty, casting form and finance as corollary particulates in the air surrounding art-making. Selcer's work creates a complicated critique of appearance and visibility, claiming: “You are carefully surviving what needs to be destroyed. I need you to language otherwise.” Winner of the 2018 CSU Poetry Center First Book Competition.

## CHILDREN'S

Stiverson, Charlotte L. Illus. by Kati Aitken. *A Bird's Eye View of the Hopewell*. Wrinkled Rock Publishing (Bainbridge, OH) 2019. PB \$9.99.

Travel with Owl and her friends as she uses her knowledge and observations to offer insights into how early Ohioans, known in today's world as the Hopewell Culture, may have lived. Geared for elementary school-aged children, *A Bird's Eye View of the Hopewell* shares ideas about life in prehistoric times over 2,000 years ago. A glossary, resource list, and maps are included to extend the information and provide opportunities for further research and discussion. Illustrations by Kati Aitken are done in pen and ink and woodblock prints. This is a perfect book for classrooms and students studying Ohio history and for visitors to the prehistoric Hopewell sites who are looking for a concise and entertaining summary.

Ward, Lindsay. *This Book is Gray*. Two Lions (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.95.

Gray just wants to be included. But the other colors are *always* leaving him out. So he decides to create his own project: an all-gray book. *Once upon a time, there lived a wolf, a kitten, and a hippo...* Gray just knows it's going to be perfect. But as he adds page after page, the Primary and Secondary colors show up...and they aren't quite so complimentary. A book within a book, this colorful tale explores the ideas of fitting in, appreciating others, and looking at things from another perspective and also uses personality and wit to introduce basic color concepts.

Weyler, Carrie, and Katie Weyler. Illus. by Rachel Novel. *Charlie Tractor and the Garden*. Mascot Books (Herndon, VA) 2019. HC \$14.95.

When a squirrel-chasing adventure takes a turn, Pickles winds up getting into the neighbor's garden and digs up some of the plants. Now, Charlie must learn how to clean up his dog's mess.

## MIDDLE GRADE &amp; YOUNG ADULT

Bobulski, Chelsea. *Remember Me*. Feiwel and Friends (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.99.

Nell Martin is moving again, this time to the Winslow Grand Hotel, built in 1878. As Nell is settling in, strange things begin to happen. Doors lock of their own accord, writing appears on bathroom walls—and most horrifying of all—visions of a dead boy permeate her waking life. Thinking her mind is playing tricks on her, she soon finds the past and the present colliding as she learns details of a murder that happened at the hotel in 1907 involving a girl named Lea. Nell and a mysterious bellboy must relive that day in hopes of finally breaking a curse that imprisons them both. And Nell discovers what truly links her to the history of the Winslow Grand Hotel.

Hager, Krysten Lindsay. *In Over Her Head: Lights, Camera, Anxiety*. Clean Reads (Athens, AL) 2019. PB \$15.99.

Cecily feels like she has it all: great best friends, the beginnings of a career as a model/actress, and she's dating her favorite singer, Andrew Holiday. Then Cecily's best friend Lila begins to ditch her every time

Lila's boyfriend calls. Cecily feels lost, but she and Andrew begin connecting more and she's never been in a relationship where she felt so understood. Andrew even begins to confide in her about his anxiety. Soon Cecily experiences her own anxiety on a magazine photo shoot, but she manages to impress the magazine staff. Just when it seems like all her dreams are coming true, everything comes crashing down when a photo of Andrew with another girl appears online. He swears nothing happened, but Cecily is crushed. She feels like she's lost two of the people closest to her. Was her perfect relationship real or was she in over her head?

Liebenson, Terri. *Just Jaime (Emmie and Friends)*. Balzar + Bray (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$22.99.

*Friends. Frenemies. Middle school...* The last day of seventh grade has Jaime and Maya wondering who their real friends are. Jaime knows something is off with her friend group. They've started to exclude her and make fun of the way she dresses and the things she likes. At least she can count on her BFF, Maya, to have her back...right? Maya feels more and more annoyed with Jaime, who seems babyish compared to the other girls in their popular group. It's like she has nothing in common with Jai anymore. Are their days as BFFs numbered?

Meyer, Eileen R. Illus. by Dave Szalay. *The Superlative A. Lincoln: Poems About Our 16<sup>th</sup> President*. Charlesbridge (Cambridge, MA) 2019. HC \$16.99.

Get to know the personal side of Honest Abe (his LEAST FAVORITE nickname) through fresh and funny poems expressing his superlative

nature. Lincoln is famous for many extremes: he was the TALLEST president, who gave the GREATEST SPEECH and had the STRONGEST conviction. But did you know that he was also the MOST DISTRACTED farmer and the CRAFTIEST storyteller? Nineteen poems share fascinating stories about events in Lincoln's life, while history notes go even deeper into how he excelled. Don't forget to think of all the ways you, too, are superlative!

Pearsall, Shelley. *Things Seen from Above*. Alfred A. Knopf (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$16.99.

April is looking for an escape from the sixth-grade lunch hour, which has become a social-scene nightmare, so she signs up to be a "buddy bench monitor" for the fourth graders' recess. Joey Byrd is a boy on the fringes, who wanders the playground alone, dragging his foot through the dirt. But over time, April realizes that Joey isn't just making random circles. When you look at his designs from above, a story emerges... Joey's "bird's eye" drawings reveal what he observes and thinks about every day. Told in alternating viewpoints—April's in text and Joey's mostly in art—the story gives the "whole picture" of what happens as these two outsiders find their rightful places.

Pilkey, Dav. *Fetch-22: Dog Man #8*. Graphix/Scholastic (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$9.99.

Petey the Cat is out of jail, and he has a brand-new lease on life. While Petey's reevaluated what matters most, Li'l Petey is struggling to find the good in the world. Can Petey and Dog Man stop fighting like cats and dogs long enough to put their paws together and work as a team? They

need each other now more than ever—Li'l Petey (and the world) is counting on them!

Pilkey, Dav. *For Whom the Ball Rolls: Dog Man #7*. Graphix/Scholastic (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$9.99.

The Supa Buddies have been working hard to help Dog Man overcome his bad habits. But when his obsessions turn to fears, Dog Man finds himself the target of an all-new supervillain! Meanwhile, Petey the Cat has been released from jail and starts a new life with Li'l Petey. But when Petey's own father arrives, Petey must face his past and fight for who he loves.

Simmons, Kristen. *The Deceivers (Vale Hall #1)*. Tor Teen (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.99.

Welcome to Vale Hall, the school for aspiring con artists. When Brynn Hilder is recruited to Vale, it seems like the elite academy is her chance to start over, away from her mom's loser boyfriend and her rundown neighborhood. But she soon learns that Vale chooses students not so much for their scholastic talent as for their extracurricular activities, such as her time spent conning rich North Shore kids out of their extravagant allowances. At first, Brynn jumps at the chance to help the school in its mission to rid the city of corrupt officials—because what could be better than giving entitled jerks what they deserve? But that's before she meets her mark—a senator's son—and before she discovers the school's headmaster has secrets he'll stop at nothing to protect. As the lines between right and wrong blur, Brynn begins to realize she's in way over head.

Simmons, Kristen. *Scammed (Vale Hall #2)*. Tor Teen (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$17.99.

Brynn Hilder is living a life she never dreamed possible: She lives in a mansion, getting a top-rate education at Vale Hall. She has friends and an almost-boyfriend. Anything she wants, she can have. The only catch? To stay in this life, she has to help the director of Vale Hall take down the bad guys of Sikawa City by collecting secrets and running cons. Getting everything she wants and fighting evil doesn't seem like such a bad deal. The thing is, she's not so convinced anymore that Dr. Odin is really going after bad people after all. And the friends and almost-boyfriend are all liars and con artists—so can she trust that any of it is real?

# Thank You!

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# The Book Loft of German Village Supports Ohioana

You may have heard about our place. You may have shopped in our store, or come to one of our events. We've been around for quite a long time now—since 1977.

In the succeeding 43 years, the Book Loft of German Village, with its 32 rooms of books, puzzles, games, and other assorted hobby items has become, we're proud to say, a Columbus and even an Ohio landmark. We're even more proud to say that we are the official bookseller for the Ohioana Book Festival. It's a blast working with the great Ohioana Library staff and volunteers and the 150 fantastic Ohio authors who take part in the festival each year. And it's been gratifying to see how the event has boomed in attendance, last year drawing 4,500 readers of all ages.

Our involvement with the Ohioana Book Festival is one way in which we can give back to the community and support something that is very important to us—the love of reading and promoting Ohio authors and books. It's why we're pleased to contribute a percentage of all our sales at the Ohioana Book Festival—so we can help the Ohioana Library keep the event free and open to the public.



Columbus' largest independent bookstore and a popular tourist attraction, The Book Loft of German Village has been the official bookseller of the Ohioana Book Festival since 2017, contributing more than \$20,000 to support Ohioana's mission and programming. Visit them on the web: [www.bookloft.com](http://www.bookloft.com).

The 2020 festival may have had to be postponed from its original date. But we are thrilled that it's been rescheduled to August 29. The Book Loft of German Village will be there—and we hope to see you there, too!

*Carl Jacobsma and Russ Iler*

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**Save the  
Date!  
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Join us for the 14th annual Ohioana Book Festival, taking place Saturday, August 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library at 96 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215.

The festival will feature a book fair and book signings, panel discussions with your favorite authors, children's and teen activities, food trucks, and more. We hope to see you there!