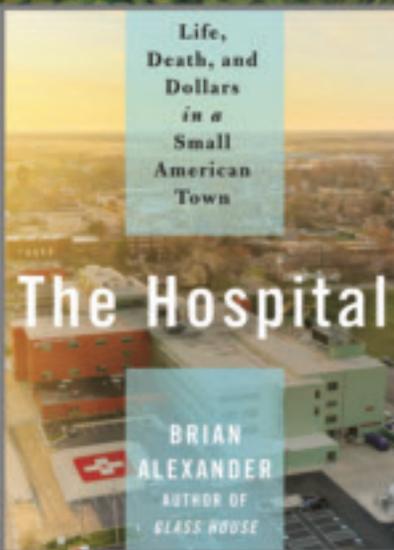
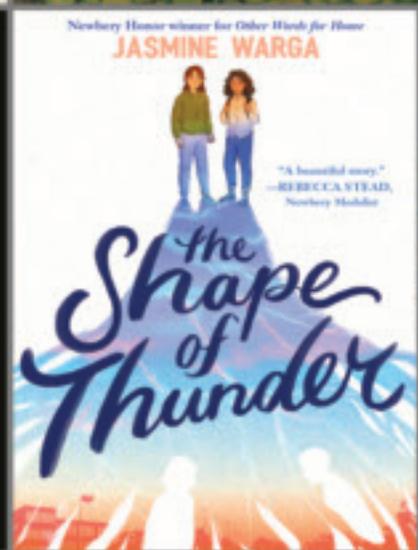
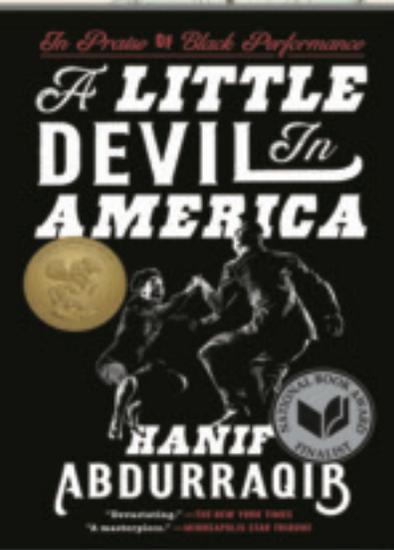
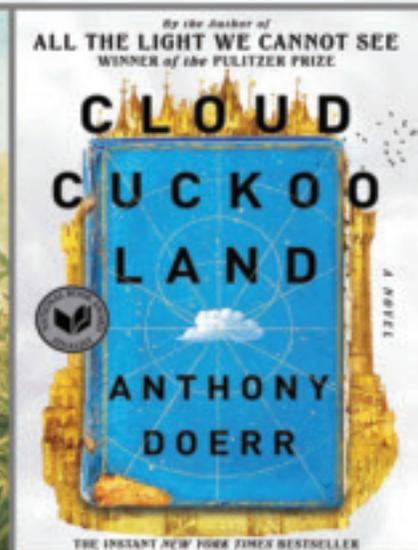
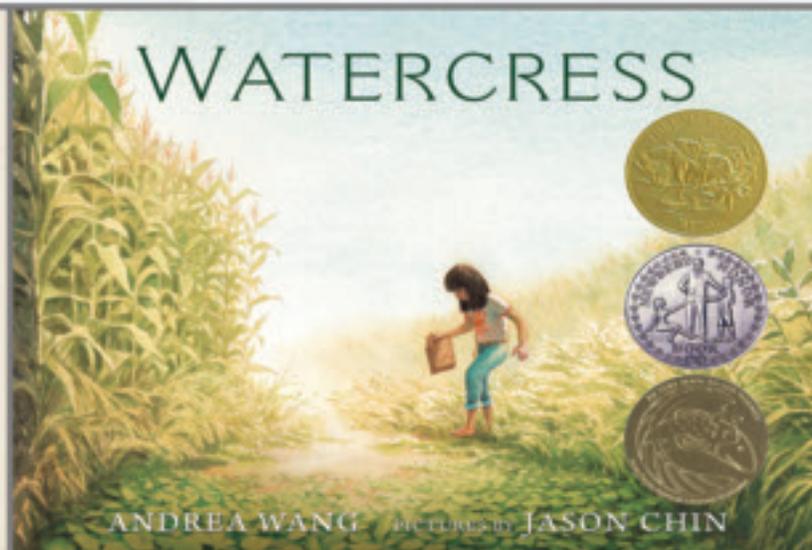
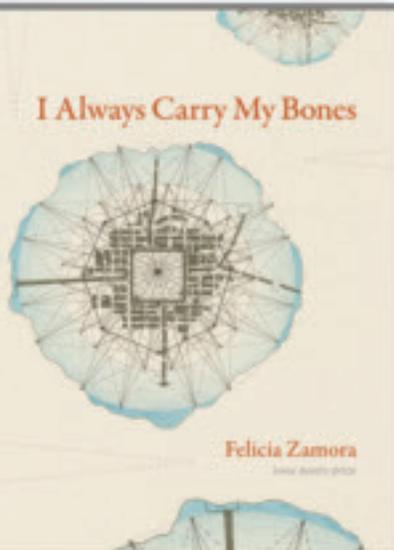


OHIOana QUARTERLY

FALL 2022 | VOL. 65 NO. 4

OHIOANA BOOK AWARDS



Eighty-First Annual

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

FALL 2022

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The *Ohioana Quarterly* (ISSN 0030-1248) is currently published four times a year by the Ohioana Library Association, 274 East First Avenue, Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Individual subscriptions to the *Ohioana Quarterly* are available through membership in the Association; \$50 of membership dues pays the required subscription. Single copy \$6.50. U.S. postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. Send address changes to Ohioana Quarterly, 274 E. First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio, 43201. Copyright © 2022 by the Ohioana Library Association. All rights reserved. Printed by PXPOHIO.

From the Director

Dear Friends,



College stadiums filled with cheering football fans on a Saturday afternoon. Mother Nature putting on a spectacular show of color, stretching from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. Pumpkin spice-flavored everything, from coffee to corn flakes. Yes, it's fall again in the Buckeye State.

For this fall season, one especially welcome sign is the return of several literary events that have been on hiatus due to COVID. In Columbus, fans of Thurber House are flocking once again to its popular Evenings with Authors series. In Cincinnati, Books by the Banks is coming back to the delight of readers and writers alike.

While the Ohioana Book Awards haven't exactly been away—we presented them virtually the past two years—I'm thrilled to say they're back once again as a live event. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, October 26, at the Ohio Statehouse as we celebrate this year's stellar lineup of winners. You'll meet them in this issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

You'll also meet Louise Ling Edwards, the winner of the 2022 Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, our special prize awarded to an emerging Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Marvin Grant. We're pleased to introduce our readers to Louise and share an excerpt from her prize-winning entry.

Speaking of anniversaries, this issue officially wraps up our celebration of the *Ohioana Quarterly's* 65th year of publication. It has been wonderful to hear from people who tell us how much they enjoy reading the *Quarterly*, from the cover stories and interviews with authors to the book reviews and special features.

The arrival of fall also means the holidays are not far off. My favorite is Thanksgiving. As we look forward to getting back to live events, starting with the Ohioana Book Awards, we thank you again for hanging in there with us throughout the pandemic. Your friendship and support have truly made a difference. ***Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season.***

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

Designed by Kathryn Powers, our cover celebrates the 2022 Ohioana Book Award winners. To learn more, see the article on the next page.

2022 Ohioana Book Awards

Celebrating Eighty-One Years

by David Weaver

The Ohioana Book Awards are the second-oldest state literary prizes in the nation and one of the most prestigious. First given in 1942, the awards recognize outstanding books by Ohioans or about Ohio. Nearly every major Ohio writer of the past eighty-one years has been honored with an Ohioana Book Award. Juried awards are given in six categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Juvenile Literature, Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature, and About Ohio or an Ohioan. A seventh prize, the Readers' Choice Award, is selected from among all the finalists by readers in an online poll.

FICTION

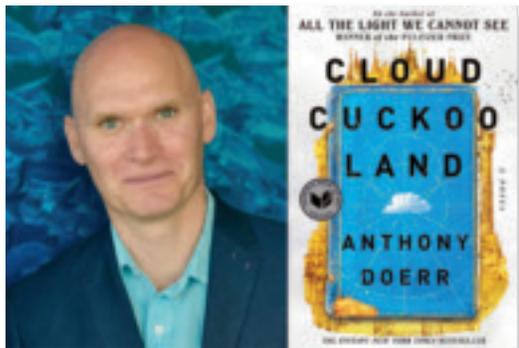


Photo by Ulf Andersen

Anthony Doerr, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Scribner

Anthony Doerr is the author of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, and *All the Light We Cannot See*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Carnegie Medal, the Alex Award, and a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the author of the story collections *Memory Wall* and *The Shell Collector*, the novel *About Grace*, and the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. He has won five Ohioana Book Awards, five

O. Henry Prizes, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award, the National Magazine Award for Fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Story Prize. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Doerr lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife and two sons.

Cloud Cuckoo Land brings together an unforgettable cast of dreamers and outsiders from the past, present, and future to offer a vision of survival against all odds.

Constantinople, Mid-1400s:

An orphaned seamstress and a cursed boy with a love for animals risk everything on opposite sides of a city wall to protect the people they love.

Idaho, Mid-1900s:

An orphaned boy in post-World War II America grows up to enlist in the Korean war. When he becomes a POW, his imprisonment sets him free in unexpected ways.

Idaho, Present Day:

An impoverished, idealistic kid seeks revenge on a world that's crumbling around him. Can he go through with it when a gentle old man stands between him and his plans?

Unknown, Sometime in the Future:

With her tiny community in peril, Konstance is the last hope for the human race. To find a way forward, she must look to the oldest stories of all for guidance.

Bound together by a single ancient text, these tales interweave to form a tapestry of human connection and a celebration of storytelling itself.

NONFICTION

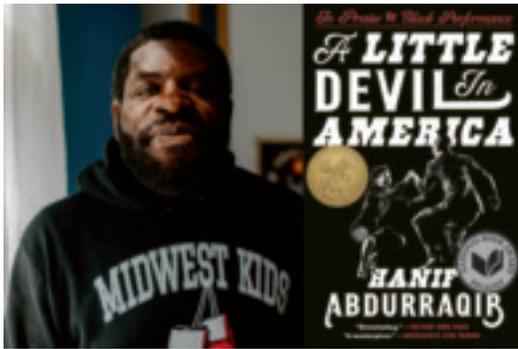


Photo by Megan Leigh Barnard

Hanif Abdurraqib, *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*, Random House

Hanif Abdurraqib is a poet, essayist, and cultural critic from Columbus, Ohio. His poetry has been published in *Muzzle*, *Vinyl*, *PEN American*, and various other journals. *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, his first poetry collection, was named a finalist for the Eric Hoffer book award and nominated for a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. His first collection of essays, *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*, was named a book of the year by NPR, *Esquire*, *BuzzFeed*, and *O: The Oprah Magazine*, among others. *Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to a Tribe Called Quest* was a *New York Times* bestseller, a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, and longlisted for the National Book Award. His second poetry collection, *A Fortune for Your Disaster*, won the Ohioana Book Award and the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. In 2021, he was named a MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellow.

“I was a devil in other countries, and I was a little devil in America, too.” Inspired by these few words, spoken by Josephine Baker at the 1963 March on Washington, *A Little Devil in America* is a profound and lasting reflection on how Black performance is inextricably woven into the fabric of American culture. Touching on Michael Jackson, Patti LaBelle, Billy Dee Williams, the Wu-Tang Clan, Dave Chappelle, and more, Abdurraqib writes prose brimming with jubilation and pain. He explains the poignancy of performances big and small, both timeless and desperately urgent. Filled with sharp insight, humor, and heart, *A Little Devil in America* exalts the Black performance that unfolds in specific moments in time and space—from midcentury Paris to the moon, and back down again to a cramped living room in Columbus, Ohio.

ABOUT OHIO OR AN OHIOAN

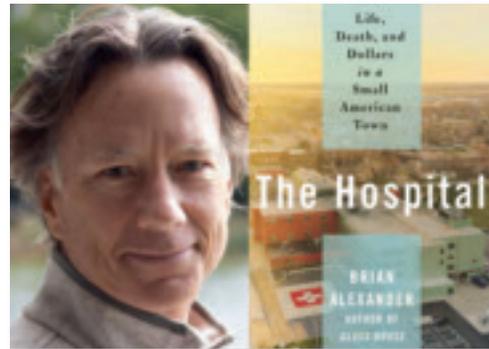


Photo courtesy of Brian Alexander

Brian Alexander, *The Hospital: Life, Death, and Dollars in a Small American Town*, St. Martin's Press

Brian Alexander has written about American culture for decades. A former contributing editor to *Wired* magazine, he has been recognized by the John Bartlow Martin Award for public interest journalism and was a finalist for the National Magazine Award. His *Glass House* won the 2018 Ohioana Book Award for Book About Ohio or an Ohioan. Alexander grew up in Lancaster, Ohio, and now lives in California.

By following the struggle for survival of one small-town hospital and the patients who walk—or are carried—through its doors, *The Hospital* takes readers into the world of the American medical industry in a way no book has done before.

The hospital in Bryan, Ohio, is losing money, making it vulnerable to big health systems seeking domination. Phil Ennen, the hospital's CEO, has been fighting to preserve its independence. Meanwhile, Bryan—a town of 8,500 people in Ohio's northwest corner—is still trying to recover from the Great Recession. As local leaders strive to address the town's problems, and the hospital fights for its life amid a rapidly consolidating medical and hospital industry, a thirty-nine-year-old diabetic literally fights for his limbs, and a fifty-five-year-old contractor lies dying in the emergency room. With these and other stories, Alexander reveals Americans' struggle for health against a powerful system that's stacked against them, yet so fragile it blows apart when the pandemic hits. Culminating with COVID-19, this book offers a blueprint for how we created the crisis we're in.

POETRY

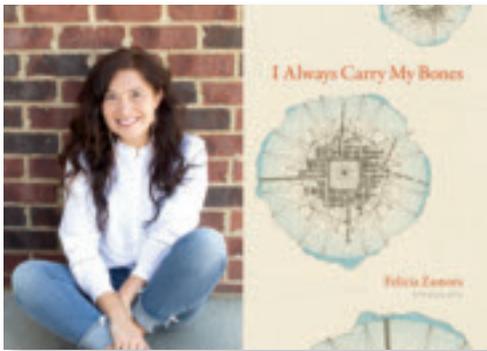


Photo courtesy of Felicia Zamora

**Felicia Zamora, *I Always Carry My Bones*,
University of Iowa Press**

Felicia Zamora is a poet, educator, and editor. Her accolades include the 2020 Iowa Poetry Prize for *I Always Carry My Bones*, the 2018 Benjamin Saltman Award for *Body of Render*, and the 2016 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize for *Of Form & Gather*. She has received fellowships and residencies from CantoMundo, Tin House, Ragdale Foundation, PLAYA, *Moth Magazine*, and Noepe Center at Martha's Vineyard. She won the 2020 C. P. Cavafy Prize from Poetry International, the Wabash Prize for Poetry, the Tomáš Šalamun Prize, a 2022 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, and was the Poet Laureate of Fort Collins, CO. Her poems and essays are found or forthcoming in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Guernica*, *Literary Hub*, *Orion*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Poetry Daily*, and *Poetry International*, among many others. She is an assistant professor of poetry at the University of Cincinnati and is the associate poetry editor for the *Colorado Review*.

The poems in *I Always Carry My Bones* tackle the complex ideation of home—the place where horrid and beautiful intertwine and carve a being into existence—for marginalized and migrant peoples. Zamora explores how familial history echoes inside a person and the ghosts of lineage dwell in a body. Pierced by an estranged relationship to Mexican culture, the ethereal ache of an unknown father, the weight of racism and poverty in this country, the indentations of abuse, and a mind/physicality affected by doubt, these poems root in the search for belonging. This collection is a message of longing for a sanctuary of self, the dwelling of initial energy needed for the collective fight for human rights.

MIDDLE GRADE/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE



Photo by Lillian Nour Warga

Jasmine Warga, *The Shape of Thunder*, Balzer + Bray

Jasmine Warga is a *New York Times* bestselling author of books for young readers. Her first middle grade novel, *Other Words for Home*, earned multiple awards including a John Newbery Honor, a Walter Honor for Young Readers, a Charlotte Huck Honor, and the 2020 Ohioana Book Award for Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature. *The Shape of Thunder* was a *School Library Journal* and Bank Street best book of the year, a finalist for the Barnes & Noble Children's and YA Book Award, and has been named to several state award reading lists. Her books for teens, *My Heart and Other Black Holes* and *Here We Are Now*, have been translated into more than twenty languages. Warga teaches in the MFA program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Originally from Cincinnati, she now lives in Chicago.

Told from dual perspectives, *The Shape of Thunder* is a story about friendship and loss. Former best friends Cora and Quinn haven't spoken to each other in a year. Grief-stricken Cora is still grappling with the death of her beloved sister in a school shooting, and Quinn is carrying the guilt of what her brother did. But on the day of Cora's twelfth birthday, Quinn leaves a box on her doorstep with a note that if they work together, they can go back in time to the moment before her brother changed their lives forever—and stop him.

Despite her scientific skepticism, Cora wants to believe. Balancing hope and hesitation, the two former friends begin working together to open a wormhole in the fabric of the universe. But as they attempt to unravel the mysteries of time travel to save their siblings, they learn that the magic of their friendship may actually be the key to saving themselves.

JUVENILE LITERATURE



Photo by Elaine Freitas

Andrea Wang, *Watercress* (illus. by Jason Chin), Neal Porter Books

Andrea Wang is an acclaimed author of children's books. Her book *Watercress* was awarded the Caldecott Medal, a Newbery Honor, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, a New England Book Award, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. Her other books, *The Many Meanings of Meilan*, *Magic Ramen*, and *The Nian Monster*, have also received awards and starred reviews. Her work explores culture, creative thinking, and identity. Additionally, she is the author of seven nonfiction titles for the library and school market. Wang holds an MS in environmental science and an MFA in creative writing for young people. She lives in Colorado with her family.

Inspired by Wang's childhood memories, *Watercress* tells a moving story of a child of immigrants discovering and connecting with her heritage, illustrated by award-winning author and artist Jason Chin. Driving through Ohio in an old Pontiac, a young girl's parents stop suddenly when they spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. Grabbing an old paper bag and some rusty scissors, the whole family wades into the muck to collect as much of the muddy, snail covered watercress as they can.

At first, she's embarrassed. Why can't her family get food from the grocery store? But when her mother shares a story of her family's time in China, the girl learns to appreciate the fresh food they foraged. Together, they make a new memory of watercress.

READERS' CHOICE



Photo by Angie Lipscomb

Manuel Iris, *The Parting Present/Lo que se irá*, Dos Madres Press

Manuel Iris is a Mexican-born American poet. He received the "Merida" National Award of Poetry for his book *Notebook of Dreams* and the Rodolfo Figueroa Regional Award of Poetry for his book *The Disguises of Fire*. In 2018 his first bilingual anthology of poems, *Traducir el silencio/Translating Silence*, won two awards at the International Latino Book Awards. In 2021, he became a member of the prestigious System of Art Creators of Mexico (Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte). He currently lives in Cincinnati and was the Poet Laureate of Cincinnati from 2018-2020.

"In 2017 I made the resolution of protesting against the idea of a 'book project' by writing a book of poems derived from vital impulses, from present moments. I wanted, in a nutshell, to abandon what I had done until then and write without a plan: make poems without pursuing a theme, and then put them together in a volume that could find its own coherence. However, the birth of my daughter in early 2018 readjusted my impulses. The world seen from my newfound fatherhood became the center of my creative interest. Thereby, *The Parting Present* is not a book of poems about fatherhood, but a book written about various life experiences, both private and shared, from the perspective of an individual who is interested in, and worries differently about, reality and poetry after such a transformative event. It is also the declaration of a poetic belief that is not new, but that I think is important to reiterate at this time: the structure of a poetry book can—and perhaps should—emerge organically, as a result of the poems themselves, of experience, or intuition." - *Manuel Iris*

Congratulations also to the 2022 Ohioana Book Award Finalists! These books have appeared on numerous bestseller lists, and the writers have won many prestigious literary awards. All have made an impact on the literary life of Ohio, and we are proud to support their work. Look for these titles at your local library or bookstore.

FICTION

Bethea, Jesse. *Fellow Travellers*
 Gornichec, Genevieve. *The Witch's Heart*
 Stine, Alison. *Trashlands*
 Walter, Laura Maylene. *Body of Stars*



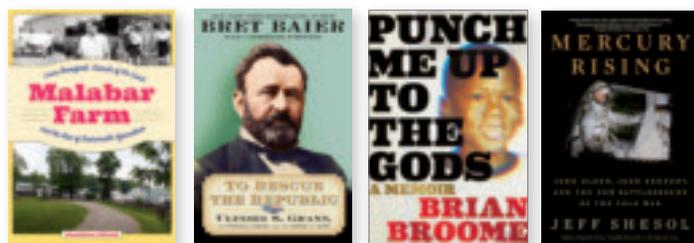
NONFICTION

Butcher, Amy. *Mothertrucker: Finding Joy on the Loneliest Road in America*
 Haygood, Wil. *Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World*
 Orlean, Susan. *On Animals*
 Schillace, Brandy. *Mr. Humble & Dr. Butcher: A Monkey's Head, the Pope's Neuroscientist, and the Quest to Transplant the Soul*



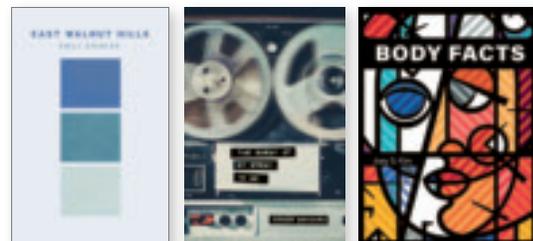
ABOUT OHIO OR AN OHIOAN

Abbott, Anneliese. *Malabar Farm: Louis Bromfield, Friends of the Land, and the Rise of Sustainable Agriculture*
 Baier, Bret, and Catherine Whitney. *To Rescue the Republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the Fragile Union, and the Crisis of 1876*
 Broome, Brian. *Punch Me Up to the Gods: A Memoir*
 Shesol, Jeff. *Mercury Rising: John Glenn, John Kennedy, and the New Battleground of the Cold War*



POETRY

Ahn, E. Yetunde, née Emily Spencer. *East Walnut Hills*
 Bracken, Conor. *The Enemy of My Enemy Is Me*
 Kim, Joey S. *Body Facts*



MIDDLE GRADE/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Carson, Rae. *Any Sign of Life*
 Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Heart*
 Kiely, Brendan. *The Other Talk: Reckoning with Our White Privilege*
 Wang, Andrea. *The Many Meanings of Meilan*



JUVENILE LITERATURE

Campbell, Marcy. Illus. by Corinna Luyken. *Something Good*
 Dawson, Keila V. Illus. by Alleanna Harris. *Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book*
 Gorman, Amanda. Illus. by Loren Long. *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*
 Wynter, Anne. Illus. by Oge Mora. *Everybody in the Red Brick Building*



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Holding Hands

Louise Ling Edwards, 2022 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant Winner

In China, women who I barely know hold my hand. My first day in Beijing, my Chinese roommate grasps my hand as we walk down the street. We zigzag through traffic hand in hand, walk into a restaurant, leave holding hands. She pulls me onto the curb as a motorbike zooms past. I'm alarmed and at ease at the same time. We don't know each other well enough to be doing this. Holding hands after exchanging names feels subversive to me, but no one else blinks an eye. These touches are ordinary here. Every time it happens with someone new, I feel a moment of shock before easing into this everyday warmth. We don't know each other, but we're close.

It's these moments that comfort me throughout my two months in Beijing. Everything else feels intangible. From my dorm window, I watch the television tower emerge and fade, swallowed by billows of smog. Cars blare their horns throughout the night, a constant white noise.

I drift up the stairs to class. We have a test today, like every day. My head aches from communicating in a language I've just begun to learn. I scribble furiously on my paper, trying to capture the characters before they escape my memory. After class, I drift down the stairs to the cafeteria. I don't know the names for things, just *this and this and this*. For lunch, I'll have *this and this and this*.

I can also say, *Hello, my Chinese name is Ài Àihuá. What's your name? How are you? I'm good.* All my conversations go: *Hello, my Chinese name is Ài Àihuá. What's your name? How are you? I'm good.* *Hello, my Chinese name is Ài Àihuá. What's your name? How are you? I'm good.* *Hello, my Chinese name is Ài Àihuá. What's your name? How are you? I'm good.*

I want to say, not good. I want to say my stomach hurts from cafeteria food, and I might have a fever. I want to say I miss home. I miss my college queer community—skinny dipping in ponds, talking about sex without shame, wandering the arboretum arm in arm, buzzed and singing. I miss the nights we'd drag every pillow and blanket from our dorm rooms into the lounge, put on a movie, wrap each other in fleece, cuddles, warmth. I miss Emily, my girlfriend who lives in New York. I call her but

the internet connection cuts out. I go for walks in a park to clear my mind. I meet a friend there—a man who walks around the lake, pushing his dad in a wheelchair. He asks me where I am from, and I understand. I say *America* and ask him questions I know. *What is your last name? Have you eaten? Do you drink coffee or tea?* The next day he is there, and I ask all the new questions I learned. And the next day, and the next day, until we are sitting on a park bench. He tries to kiss me, and I run.

I have no words for this. I have no words.

I want to say, I'm glad I'm learning Mandarin because I've wanted to learn my grandmother's language for a long time, but I'm also exhausted.

My Chinese roommate says, "My boyfriend will drive us to Olympic Park if you'd like to come see sunflowers."

We use Mandarin for words I know in Mandarin, English for words I don't, drawings for words we can't communicate.

I say, "Dùì." Yes.

We walk sweating in the summer afternoon. As we round the last bend before the sunflower field, my roommate takes my hand. Nerves quiver from my fingers up my arm, sweat beads in my palm. Her boyfriend is already holding her other hand. I feel shocked.

All the sunflowers are dead.

We stand gazing at curved stems, heads bowed down toward the earth, and seeds scattered dark and tearlike. All three of us, fingers intertwined.

My roommate says, "I'm sorry we came all this way only to find them dead. I thought they'd be in bloom."

"It's okay," I say. I feel warmth ease from my chest down my arm. "This has been such a nice day."

Lights on the television tower glow soft in smog, diffuse beams among particles. Emily's image on Skype glitches, her body freezing and jerking. Then it disappears altogether, leaving a green telephone icon. The connection is unstable. Her voice distorts. Static crackles.

Can you hear me, Emily?

I ca-an kinda hear yo-ou.

How are you?

Not so go-od.

What's up?

Just the normal stu-uff.
I feel frustrat-ated and tired.

What's been happening?

Emily?

Are you there?

Summer in Beijing is both long and short. I spend tedious hours studying, but I feel I don't have enough time to learn. My lips don't move much. My hand scurries across the page, memorizing words in my muscles. I crave conversation so much, I think I might be becoming extroverted. It's draining to be with myself.

Yet, when I finally have conversation, it's riddled with pauses. I run out of things I know how to say. The weeks stretch long and muggy, but when August comes, I can't believe I'm already leaving.

This is just the beginning. This is the summer language training program before I start teaching English for two years in Shanxi Province at an agricultural university. I'm ready to leave Beijing and its chaos for what I imagine to be a more pastoral lifestyle—green pastures and cows.

I can now order food, take a taxi, ask for help. But I still don't know the words for bisexual, queer. I've read articles online like "Conversion Therapy Against LGBT People in China" and "How Gay Chinese Hide Their Relationships Behind 'Sham Marriages,'" but I don't actually know how people I've met will react to my sexuality—not in Beijing and definitely not in Shanxi where I've been told people are more "traditional."

The cues of queerness I'm used to understanding in the US don't necessarily apply. It surprises me that women who hold my hands aren't nervous—there don't seem to be worries about this being perceived as queer. I realize I'm carrying the baggage of America's manifestation of homophobia with me. The breath of hesitation that comes before I reach for Emily's hand in public. The nervousness that shoots through my veins, head turning, eyes swiveling, hypervigilant. The sweat that weeps between our fingers. The casualness of hand holding in China destabilizes my sense of what queerness is, yet I'm also comforted. This hand holding is not electrified by fear.

On the day I leave Beijing, my roommate and her boyfriend take me to the airport. My roommate's boyfriend says, "Come back to Beijing and visit." My roommate squeezes my hand tight.

When she does this, I'm reminded of my mom squeezing my hand as a child when we crossed the street. I'd say, "Why are you squeezing my hand so tight?" She'd say, "That means I love you."

When I arrive in Shanxi it's already night. I can't see anything out the windows of the taxi—just lights illuminating the street and shadows of looming mountains. I can't see what home looks like.

My first day in Shanxi, I eat lunch at a restaurant with two other foreign teachers—Liam and Justin. The restaurant is made from white ceramic brick and has entryways hung with plastic strips to keep out dust. I order disānxiān gàifàn—three fresh vegetables with rice.

I go to this restaurant again and again. I order the same dish until I learn the names of other dishes. I order other dishes, but nothing is as good as *dìsānxiān*. I go back to just ordering that. I find home in potatoes peppered with chili, tender green peppers, bright purple eggplants gleaming with oil.

I find home in the red brick house I share with Justin. I have my own bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen—more space than I’ve ever had to myself. Justin has his own space too. We share the living room. In the evenings, I spend hours laying on the couch watching Justin play video games. When Justin needs a break he smokes outside, placing his cigarette butts in a neat pile on our porch’s wall—a small memorial to his lungs.

The landscape is gorgeous in summer—long grasses fill our yard and roses flower over the porch. The Thinking Lake is quiet and calm. Most students aren’t back on campus yet.

Sometimes things feel too quiet. I feel too quiet, at least on the outside. Inside, I find my emotions brewing, loneliness and desire compressed in hollows of my body. I don’t know how to express them, how to feel free and myself in this place.

Hi Emily.

How’s it going?

Okay, I guess. How are you?

I’m in Shanxi, just settling in.

What’s it like?

I’ve only been to Beijing and Fujian.
That was to visit my parents’ Chinese families.

It’s greener than Beijing.
But there’s still a lot of smog.
I think the internet might work better here.

Maybe we can actually have longer conversations.

I hope so. I miss you a lot.

I miss you too.
I feel like we haven’t talked in a while.

Yeah, I just needed time to adjust.

Okay.

Maisy, another foreign teacher, is the first person in China to talk to me about someone who is queer and Chinese. She tells me about 任航/Ren Hang—a queer photographer and poet.

“His poetry is pretty vulgar,” she says. “For example, he writes lines like, ‘The train looks like / a big dick.’ But he’s more famous for his photography. The Chinese government considers his art porn, and he’s been arrested for it. It’s actually just nude portraits of his friends. He works on incorporating bodies into landscape.”

After the conversation, I look him up online.

He is 29 years old and lives in Beijing. He studied advertising and notes, “We were living in cramped dorm rooms of four people, so I would frequently see my roommates in the nude.” The roommates became his close friends, his close friends became his models. His photography has been featured in international exhibitions in Asia, Europe, and the US, but in China an exhibition was shut down on “suspicion of sex.” He got in trouble with police for shooting nude photos outdoors. He’s a long-time sufferer of depression.

I flip through his photography.

In one photo, a nude woman swims in black water. Her head and shoulder rise just above the surface, her wet hair curves into the water like reeds. Everything is dark except her face, illuminated, reflecting.

Next, shirtless men lean out windows of a white car. Each holds a cigarette to another man’s mouth. Their arms zigzag in valleys, bent at the elbow. Blue mountains peak in the background.

Ren Hang's Mum in her black bra kisses the snout of a dead pig's head. Just the head, no body. Hands offer it to her. She holds its face with red fingernails.

A circle of women lay on the ground forming a star. Their black hair pools in the middle, breasts bare, arms extending out, spiraling over one another, reaching to cup each other's faces.

Ren Hang's images are bizarre, and I feel connected to them. I feel the loneliness in the inky pool, white expanse of car, dead kiss. Yet, the images are alive. The photos depict people he cares about, and I can feel it. Soft fat of his mom's arm, intimate gaze in the men's eyes. People I know are in these photos—people I love. I see Emily with her face just above the water, and the constellation of women who keep holding my hand. Ren Hang knows this queer Chinese life I'm living, we're both living. Sometimes it feels like he's the only one who knows. There is comfort in his strange images.

Maisy also helps me find a Chinese tutor—her student, Victoria. In our first lesson, Victoria prepares a PowerPoint and vocabulary list about Chinese art.

艺术 (yìshù)— art
草书 (cǎoshū) — grass script
楷书 (kǎishū) — regular script
行书 (xíngshū) — running hand script
笔画 (bǐhuà) — stroke
连绵 (liánmián) — without stopping
代表 (dàibiǎo) — typical
辨认 (biànrèn) — identify, recognize
人物画 (rénwùhuà) — figure painting
山水画 (shānshuǐhuà) — landscape painting

花鸟画 (huāniǎohuà) — flowerbird painting
剪纸 (jiǎnzhǐ) — paper-cut
剪刀 (jiǎndāo) — scissors
花纹 (huāwén) — decorative pattern
配合 (pèihe) — harmoniously combine
对联 (duìlián) — antithetical couplet

Victoria shows me slides of different types of Chinese calligraphy. The regular script is clear and crisp, the grass script squiggles in incomprehensible patterns, the running hand script lies somewhere in between. I can pick out a few of the flowing characters here and there. I don't know enough to understand the meaning, but I can appreciate the beauty, the intimacy of hand movement in strokes.

After the lesson, Victoria asks, “Do you want to get lunch together?”

We head outside and she weaves her fingers through mine.

I have a moment of panic, tremors in my clammy hands. But this time, it doesn't spring up my arm.

“How do you say ‘holding hands’?” I ask.

“*Qiānshǒu*,” she offers.

I repeat: “*Qiānshǒu, qiānshǒu, qiānshǒu.*”

It feels good to name things. It makes them feel more understandable, ordinary.

The trembling ebbs away. Our arms sway gently in between us.

Louise Ling Edwards, an essayist and poet living in central Ohio, received her undergraduate degree from Oberlin College in creative writing and neuroscience, and holds an MFA in creative writing from The Ohio State University. During her MFA, she worked for OSU's literary magazine *The Journal* and received the Helen Earnhart Harley Creative Writing Fellowship Award in creative nonfiction and poetry. Her writing focuses on the joys and paradoxes of living as a biracial and bisexual woman by exploring tensions between hunger and abundance, loneliness and belonging. Her in-progress collection of essays, *Paper House*, reflects on her experiences living in China's Shanxi Province for two years and moves through both haunted and tranquil spaces of a homeland from which she has long been separated.



Book Reviews

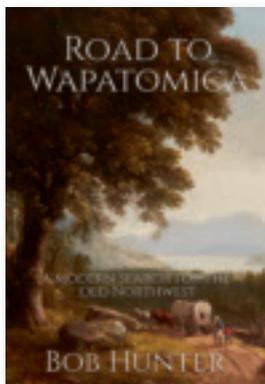
NONFICTION

Hunter, Bob. *Road to Wapatomica: A Modern Search for the Old Northwest*.

Columbus, OH: Culloden Books, 2021.

You can't believe historical markers according to author Bob Hunter, who acquired this skepticism while searching for vestiges of the Northwest Territory (1787-1803) during a road trip through the five states that once comprised it (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Northeast Minnesota). Hunter discovered that inscriptions on memorial markers are often incomplete and inaccurate, especially in the way Native Americans are remembered. "For much of the first two centuries of our nation's existence, history treated Native Americans as conquered foes who stood in the way of our manifest destiny . . . The stories told by many historical markers and plaques, particularly those erected or dedicated decades ago, are written from the perspective of European explorers and white soldiers and settlers." In *Road to Wapatomica*, Hunter tells the fascinating and often troubling backstories of the people, places, and events of the era, complaining that, "a few granite plaques in a narrow strip of grass cannot begin to convey the sorrow and heartache" of the tribes that contended with white encroachment upon their ancestral lands.

This book makes an important contribution to the national memory in poetic prose descriptions of what places erased by time or development would have looked like in the eighteenth century. "The Native Americans who migrated to the Ohio Country in the eighteenth century found a land of rugged hills, dense forest, and open prairie. Above all, however, the forest dominated the landscape, and it spread with both grandeur and foreboding across Ohio like a heavy green blanket." Unfortunately, the placid beauty of the Ohio Country exploded into a cauldron of ruthless antagonists after the



Land Ordinance of 1785 allowed the sale of land in the region to private citizens.

Hunter writes about places like Wapatomica, "a once-great Shawnee capital now choked by weeds, trees, and brush," located near Zanesville, Ohio. Several important intertribal councils took place there, but only a flagpole and two stone monuments erected by the Shawnee mark the circle where ceremonial dances were held. Although the site is obscure and relegated historically unimportant, Hunter, like a cinematographer, lights up the scene with action accounts of the execution of captured soldiers, the massacre of Shawnee women and children, and the "wild escape" of one John Slover.

The author reveals his bias against the white interlopers into the Northwest Territory with derisive descriptions of vengeful, mutinous soldiers, duplicitous traders, inept vigilantes, rapacious land grabbers, and nervous settlers, often referring to settlers as squatters or intruders. He characterizes the farmers who were killed by the Delaware and Wyandot tribes at the Big Bottom massacre near Marietta, Ohio, as "fearless, reckless, and stupid" people who tempted fate because of their rapacious appetite for fertile land. He quotes a local historian who said that the French immigrants who founded Gallipolis, Ohio, weren't noble pioneers, but pantywaist rich people fleeing the horrors of the French Revolution who wound up becoming gullible victims of a land speculator's swindle.

Hunter unleashes his sarcastic wit especially over the loss of historical sites by commercial development. In his account of the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, he scoffs at the misidentification of the actual site of the battle that resulted in the erection of a monument in the wrong place and the building of a shopping mall on part of the actual battlefield.

The best example of the author's claim that you can't trust historical landmarks is the case of the Yellow Creek Massacre that occurred near Circleville, Ohio, where the family and tribesmen of the Mingo Chief Logan, an avowed friend of the white man, were ambushed and slaughtered by a vigilante group of Virginia settlers led by one Col. Michael Cresap. Another plaque at the site

contradicts the text of Logan’s monument claiming that Col. Cresap was a Revolutionary War hero and wasn’t responsible for the attack on the innocent Mingo tribe during which atrocities were committed. The landmark says that Logan wrote an eloquent speech damning Cresap, which the monument claims the chief delivered under a sprawling elm tree at the site . . . which Logan, personally, did not.

Like an investigative journalist, Hunter uncovers the truth about Chief Logan, Col. Cresap, the massacre, the dueling landmarks, and the speech called Logan’s Lament. He notes that the likeness of Logan on the monument may or may not resemble the great Chief. Indicting the commissioners for their errors, he adds that “Michael Cresap was cleared of any role in the ambush two hundred years ago, and reducing Logan’s eloquent speech under Logan’s Elm to three words doesn’t give the monument provider an ‘A’ for credibility.”

The object of Hunter’s book is not simply to correct the misinformation on landmarks, though. Describing himself as a modern time traveler, he gives detailed driving instructions on how to find little-known, obscure places linked to frontier history by legend, lore, or landmark. He seeks to unlock the reader’s imagination by envisioning the people, battles, settlements, forts, cabins, ferries, trails, and traces of the old Northwest. For example, he writes that visitors to the Fort Laurens State Memorial near Canton, Ohio, can now “do a quick mental leap to the eighteenth century” where the “imaginary moans of the sick, hungry soldiers during the harsh winter of 1778-79 merge with the whines of speeding semis on I-77.”

In this 438-page book, Hunter reports on incidents in the old Northwest Territory with entertaining sarcasm, anecdotal storytelling, and dedicated historicism. *Road to Wapatomica* includes an index, bibliography, and fifty black & white illustrations.

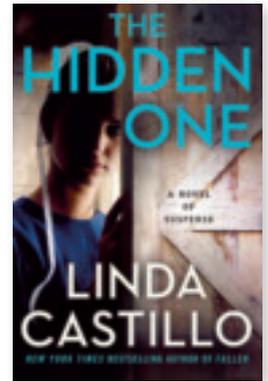
REVIEWED BY CARROLL MCCUNE, FREELANCE WRITER,
HASKINS, OH

FICTION

Castillo, Linda. *The Hidden One: A Kate Burkholder Novel #14*.

New York, NY: Minotaur Books, 2022.

Police Chief Kate Burkholder is busy dealing with crime in Ohio Amish country when she’s visited by three men from Pennsylvania’s Kishacoquillas Valley Amish community near Lewistown. They ask her to investigate the murder of Bishop Ananias Stoltzfus, whose remains have been found after eighteen years. Unexpectedly, Kate learns she has a personal connection to the crime: the murder suspect is Jonas Bowman, her first love from her teenage years.



Jonas now lives outside of Lewistown, but he has a past with the bishop. Eighteen years ago, Stoltzfus excommunicated Jonas’ father, Elias. His father died within weeks of the excommunication, and Jonas blamed Stoltzfus. Not long after, Stoltzfus completely disappeared. Now the bishop’s body has been found, and all evidence of foul play points to Jonas.

Kate dives into the investigation, digs into details, and interviews everyone involved. She looks at history, the setting, and all the evidence, not just clues pointing to Bowman’s guilt. Of course, no one really wants her snooping, and Kate discovers the beloved bishop may have had a darker side. As she turns over rocks and asks lots of questions, her life is threatened. Will she figure out this eighteen-year-old puzzle of who killed Bishop Stoltzfus, or will her personal connection compromise the case?

As always, Linda Castillo crafts a breathless tale of crime, detective work, and hidden motives. The investigation in this book is particularly complex as Kate works without her usual safety net. It also includes many sequences about Kate’s past, particularly her years growing up as an Amish teen. Fans will love these details, and readers new to the series will still be able to jump right in.

The Hidden One is Kate Burkholder’s fourteenth investigation. Readers can start the series at any point as Castillo always provides enough backstory to follow the overarching series arc. This gripping series now spans over a decade, beginning in 2009 with *Sworn to Silence*.

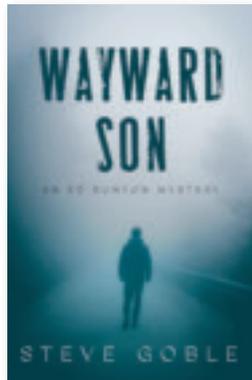
Castillo sets the Kate Burkholder series in Holmes County, Ohio, in the heart of Amish country. Born in Dayton, Castillo makes her home in Texas where she’s written twenty-six full-length novels and received numerous awards for her riveting mystery/thrillers.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

Goble, Steve. ***Wayward Son: An Ed Runyon Mystery #2.***

Sarasota, FL: Oceanview Publishing, 2022.

What do you do when you’re fifteen, don’t fit in, and your parents don’t understand you? On the surface, Jimmy Zachman is smart, has a few friends, and is in the chess club. But he also has a secret—and it’s finally caught up to him.



After days of threatening text messages, Jimmy runs away. He turns off his phone and drops off the face of the earth. Jimmy’s parents contact the police, but when he isn’t found, they reach out to Private Investigator Ed Runyon.

Book one in the series saw Runyon relocating from NYC to Mifflin County, Ohio—an imaginary county near Mansfield—and taking a job at the Sheriff’s Office. Now, Runyon has followed his calling to become a PI specializing in finding missing kids. He’s good at it, and as a PI, he can focus on the cases that are important to him rather than the ones that he’s assigned. As such, Runyon readily takes on the Zachmans’ case.

Readers will find Ed Runyon to be an overall likeable guy. He’s a little rough around the edges, has a troubled past, and likes to live in the woods, but he’s also got a great heart and a soft spot for kids.

Steve Goble writes a gritty detective story loaded with lots of action, a gun fight, a stalker, and more. The pace

drives the action and the case forward, and Runyon never gives up. He’s determined to find and help Jimmy, no matter what.

Ohio is fortunate to be home to many talented mystery writers. With Ed Runyon, Steve Goble has created a detective who rivals Andrew Welsh-Huggins’ Andy Hayes and Linda Castillo’s Kate Burkholder. If you want Runyon’s full backstory (although you don’t really need it to enjoy *Wayward Son*), be sure to check out the first book in the series, *City Problems*.

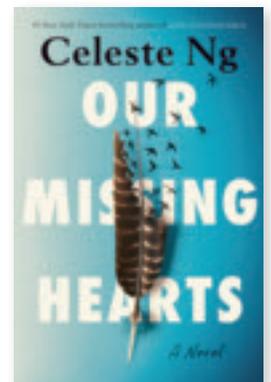
For other exciting books by Goble, read his Spider John Mysteries beginning with *The Bloody Black Flag*.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

Ng, Celeste. ***Our Missing Hearts.***

New York, NY: Penguin, 2022.

Award-winning author Celeste Ng, originally from Shaker Heights, is beloved by readers for her stories about complicated families and relationships. Her newest protagonist, twelve-year-old Noah “Bird” Gardner, lives quietly with his father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. Bird knows to not ask too many questions or stand out too much. For ten years, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve “American culture” in the wake of a crisis that caused years of economic instability and violence. To keep peace and restore prosperity, authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin. These children are forcibly—and sometimes violently—removed from their parents and placed into foster homes.



Additionally, libraries have been forced to remove books that are seen as unpatriotic, including the work of Bird’s mother, Margaret—a Chinese American poet who left when he was nine years old. Bird has grown up denying his mother and her poetry; he doesn’t know her work or what happened to her, and he knows it’s dangerous to think about her. When he receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing of cats, and graffiti begins to appear speaking of the taken children (“our

missing hearts”), he finds himself pulled into a quest to find her. His journey will take him back to the many folktales she told him as a child, through an underground network of librarians, into the lives of the children who have been taken, and finally to New York City, where a new act of defiance may be the beginning of much-needed change.

Upon first glance, *Our Missing Hearts* seems to be a departure from Ng’s first two books, *Everything I Never Told You* and *Little Fires Everywhere*. This book has been called a dystopian novel in reviews. While that is true, it is also a very realistic novel in a quiet, disturbing way. The censored books Bird finds at the beginning of his quest are reminiscent of recent real-life book banning. The violence against Asian American people in the story—which has skyrocketed in the US during the real-life pandemic—is unfortunately very believable, and devastating.

Our Missing Hearts is a hard book to read, but an important one. Ng’s most common themes shine through: family legacies, finding one’s place both between and among cultures, and the power of art to change the world. The role of librarians, poets, and artists particularly resonated. Ng makes the stylistic choice in this book to not use any punctuation for her dialogue, which some readers might find confusing. In a way, this choice makes the book feel a lot like Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*, which is presented as an academic study of the aftermath of the collapse of a dystopian civilization. Like Atwood’s book, Ng’s reads like a history—a cautionary tale that readers would do well to heed.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, OHIOANA LIBRARIAN

Rothman-Zecher, Moriel. *Before All the World*.

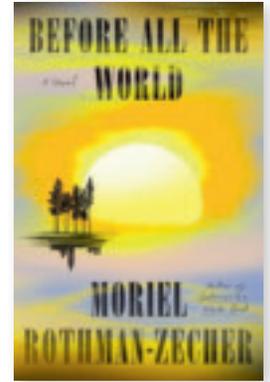
New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022.

Moriel Rothman-Zecher’s first novel, *Sadness is a White Bird*, won the Ohioana Book Award for Fiction in 2019. His new novel is a departure from his previous work in a wholly inventive form.

The story opens with Gittl and Leyb, survivors of a 1920s massacre at a fictional Zatelesk shtetl: “When the clan of death came, they took everyone to the forest except for Gittl and one other jew. The other jew was called Leyb.”

Gittl loses her siblings and pulls Leyb from a pile of people who’ve died in the forest.

Leyb makes his way to the United States and a decade later meets Charles at a gay-friendly speakeasy in Philadelphia. Charles, a Black man from the Seventh Ward—the heart of the city’s Black community—is a writer and a communist. He befriends Leyb, who he renames Lion. Years later, Gittl makes her way to America and ends up in Philadelphia where she tracks down Leyb. He’s now living with Charles, so the three spend time together talking, writing, and sharing memories.



When Charles learns that Gittl is working on a Yiddish manuscript that tells the tale of the massacre she and Leyb survived, he asks to translate their stories. The result is a combination of regional colloquialisms, English, and Yiddish. Footnotes throughout the text explain words and phrases of this hybrid language.

This experimental book will not be every reader’s cup of tea. It requires a patient reader for the innovative blend of English/Yiddish:

“And so he walked by foot over the schuykill river toward the citypart in what he knew lived mostly blacks and he passed by underawnish gathersome crowds, not liking to speak to many at once in american or at all until he beheld two yingelakh what were his own age or more young even ledgesitting and smoking near the rain and one was bladescraping the edges of an apple what were freefalling into a pile on the wetness below and the other said something and both laughed and so Leyb did not stop to ask them anything, yoh, he just headbent and onwalked and there were no streetlights and no sidewalks and the streets were puddlish and around the puddles Leyb beheld walking an altishke dressed in nicely clothes and umbrellagrapping and she was moving directionishly toward him, so Leyb?”

While challenging, the unique writing rewards readers with an unforgettable experience and a wrenching story about survival, hope, friendship, and love.

REVIEWED BY ROBIN NESBITT, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

POETRY

Chatti, Leila. *Deluge*.

Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2020.

I told a poet friend recently that perhaps poets choose wildly different line lengths in order to make me, or readers like me, uncomfortable on purpose. Those moments where one line is so very brief compared to the rest, or another line extends past the end of the alphabet? Those make me cringe. Line length is a choice, of course, though the reason for the choice differs from piece to piece. But what if the goal is to make me sit in discomfort? To not breeze through a work that a poet poured their hope and pain and soul into? Then I read *Deluge*. And I knew that was true.



The discomfort started on the cover for me—wondering if this would be a book about ghosts or death or life or peace or modesty or exposure. And it was all of that.

The Cleveland-based author, Leila Chatti, explores many styles of poetry in *Deluge*—all free verse and all very different. One reads more like prose. The next is in neat couplets. Flip three pages and you're confronted with a piece of shape poetry.

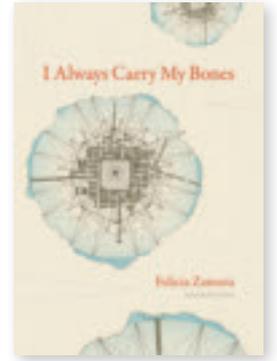
Deluge is an effort at reclaiming past pain, and making a reader see the beauty within often taboo conversations about female bodies and the bleeding, pain, and infertility they so often experience. Through Chatti's poems, we have insight into the trauma she has endured, from both the medical and religious perspective.

Chatti confronts what the medical field, various religions, and several cultures were telling her to feel and do. And instead of mindlessly agreeing, she asks them questions. She speaks directly to medicine and religion and culture as if they are people standing in the room in front of her. This book of poetry is defiant and combative, but no less reverent; it challenges the thought that resistance and reverence cannot exist simultaneously.

REVIEWED BY RAINA BRADFORD-JENNINGS, CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE ENTHUSIAST AND PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATE

Zamora, Felicia. *I Always Carry My Bones*.
Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 2021.

I Always Carry My Bones is a reclamation of the body and self. The title phrase honors the aching depth of human experience with respect and exultation while acknowledging how children are given so much to carry emotionally—never asked if the burdens are too heavy. Kids often have no choice but to carry on, and as adults, we may explore the results of our upbringing. There is much to be gained from honoring our past selves, which Felicia Zamora highlights, yet this is just one of the lenses through which this incredible poetry book can be read.



Zamora is a poet who believes in the power of acknowledging and naming a thing out loud. “Because we must gather voice. Because a tired soul / is only one yet many souls hold galaxies’ weight. Because / words might. Because voice.” In these lines, I found both solace and a call for action. The speaker is demonstrating self-empowerment and what it means to speak up after being continually silenced.

The poet also invites the reader to be more inquisitive: about what we say; what’s been said to us; what’s happening inside our bodies; and about how we disregard the bodies of others. As Zamora maps her body and history, the poems emphasize how our bodies mirror nature: “Even the most minute parts of us, mimic creation over & / over until you, dear bone, believe any birth is possible.” While manifesting the body as a medium for her voice, the poet creates larger than life imagery. Bodies remember, and these poems want to get the word out. In the poem “& In the Body Keeping,” the poet asks “How do we empty / anything from memory? / An imprint depends on flesh / on tremors of electrical impulses, / depends on nervous – how idea / of system leaks in & out of / pores.” The speaker points out that we do not get to pick and choose our memories. Oftentimes, our strongest childhood memories may be negative, yet understanding the neuroscience of our brains might change our current experience. The reader is encouraged to reckon with their most human qualities, even if this means recognizing and addressing trauma.

The author utilizes a great deal of anatomical vocabulary, but the repetition of jaw imagery particularly stood out to me. In “Labels & Cadavers & Superimposed Fathers,” the speaker demands “the owners of words that claw, that gnaw, / that sting, to take them back. Chew words in your jaws / until your molars grind down to dust.” This poem caused me to think of the times that careless words have hurt me personally, but I also paused to think about the instances when I have done the same to someone else. Here the jaw is a weapon.

This collection is steeped in metaphor, but Zamora also describes the body concretely. In the poem “On the Legalization of Concentration Camps in America,” the poet writes “Indefinite detainment curdles in my eardrums & my jaws, my jaws remain in a perpetual state of clench.” As these lines exemplify, our bodies often match the state of our minds. While mourning for the lives of children who died of the flu in detainment, the poet speaks of a haunting in this country with a deep understanding of how the body reacts to tragic injustices like the inhumane treatment of people in immigration detention centers. Here the jaw is a storehouse to emotion.

The speaker points to what can be uncovered when we choose to listen and pay attention to physical messages from our bodies. If the body is a boundary, what can be learned when we honor and notice our bodies’ signals? The answers the author alludes to are revolutionary.

I Always Carry My Bones, winner of the Iowa Poetry Prize and Ohioana Book Award, is a collection of personal histories and a recognition of loss and omission. This book gently guides the reader to acknowledge the weight of one’s experiences and to grapple with the weight of the words we spew at others.

Whether she’s writing about coyotes, organ systems, cellular biology, or tactile sensations, this poet’s careful attention to detail will captivate you. The speaker seizes the opportunity to reimagine the past, transforming her losses. Felicia Zamora infuses her language with such fervor that I believe she could write nearly anything into existence—and that’s just what she does with this book.

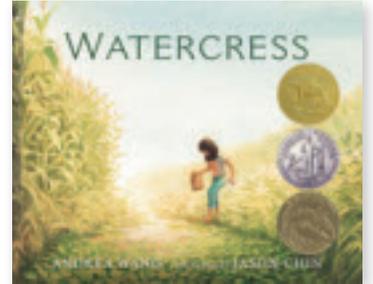
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM NORDINE, OHIOANA LIBRARY ASSISTANT

JUVENILE

Wang, Andrea. *Watercress*. Illus. by Jason Chin.

New York, NY: Neal Porter Books, 2021.

From beautiful cover to beautiful cover, the award-winning book *Watercress* is a story to treasure. It follows a young Chinese American girl as she tries to understand the hardships her parents have faced immigrating to the



United States. She feels embarrassed by the free hand-me-down clothes and furniture her family has, and now her parents have pulled over to the side of the road to forage watercress from muddy water. Her mom explains that the watercress reminds her of home and starts to share stories with her about the famine and hunger they faced in China long ago. The young girl slowly begins to appreciate her family, their background, and learns to be proud of who she is.

Author Andrea Wang and illustrator Jason Chin take a simple but poignant story and turn it into a book for everyone to love. Parents, teachers, and librarians will appreciate the notes from Wang and Chin in the back of the book.

In addition to receiving the 2022 Floyd’s Pick Honor Book Award, *Watercress* is a 2022 Newbery Honor winner, 2022 Caldecott winner, 2022 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature winner, and the recipient of the 2022 Ohioana Book Award in Juvenile Literature. More information about Floyd’s Pick and Choose to Read Ohio, as well as toolkits for classroom discussion of *Watercress* and other Choose to Read Ohio titles, can be found online at: <https://library.ohio.gov/services-for-libraries/library-programs-development/ctro/>.

REVIEWED BY KELLY SILWANI, SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, MEMBER OF THE CHOOSE TO READ OHIO ADVISORY COUNCIL, BOOK REVIEWER FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY CONNECTION, AND OELMA PAST PRESIDENT

Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between June and August 2022. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

NONFICTION

Baier, Bret, and Catherine Whitney. ***To Rescue the Republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the Fragile Union, and the Crisis of 1876***. New York, NY: Custom House, 2021.

An epic history spanning the battlegrounds of the Civil War and the violent turmoil of Reconstruction to the forgotten electoral crisis that nearly fractured a reunited nation, Bret Baier's *To Rescue the Republic* dramatically reveals Ulysses S. Grant's essential yet underappreciated role in preserving the United States during an unprecedented period of division.

Boehner, John. ***On the House: A Washington Memoir***. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2021. Former Speaker of the House John Boehner shares colorful tales from the halls of power, the smoke-filled rooms around the halls of power, and his fabled tour bus. In addition to his own stories of life in the swamp city and of his comeback after getting knocked off the leadership ladder, Boehner offers his impressions of leaders he's met and what made them successes or failures, from Ford and Reagan to Obama, Trump, and Biden. He shares his views on how the Republican Party has become unrecognizable today; the advice—some harsh, some fatherly—he dished out to members of his own party, the opposition, the media, and

others; and, of course, talks about golfing with five presidents.

Cynowa, Linda Osborne. ***Lighthouses and Lifesaving on the Great Lakes (Postcard History)***.

Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2022. *Lighthouses and Lifesaving on the Great Lakes* explores many of the lighthouses and pier, reef, and breakwater lights in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. These lights, both beautiful and important, were photographed at the turn of the century for use as postcards. Many of these important navigational aids are still in existence and can be visited thanks to the historical societies and associations that maintain them.

Eppelin, Luke. ***Our Team: The Epic Story of Four Men and the World Series That Changed Baseball***. New York, NY: Flatiron Books, 2021. The riveting story of four men—Larry Doby, Bill Veeck, Bob Feller, and Satchel Paige—whose improbable union on the Cleveland Indians in the late 1940s would shape the immediate postwar era of Major League Baseball and beyond.

Farkas, Andrew. ***The Great Indoorsman: Essays***. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2022. Many authors have traveled and explored the out-of-doors, both in life and in their books, proving themselves stalwart, audacious, and even heroic; Andrew Farkas is not among them. Instead, these essays report on Farkas' bold encounters

with the in-of-doors. Join the Great Indoorsman on his adventures exploring waiting rooms, kitchens, malls, bars, theaters, roadside motel rooms, and other places that feature temperature control, protection from rampaging predators, and a high degree of comfort, where he makes fun of pretty much everything—most of all himself.

Fishpaw, Michelle. ***Claire's Voice***. Hanover, OH: Proving Press, 2021. Imagine a mother's horror when she finds her eleven-month-old daughter suffering on the floor after being shaken by a babysitter. Against the odds, Claire Fishpaw survived and continually amazed her doctors. This book is the story of a mother and father's inspirational quest to provide their daughter with a beautiful life filled with hope.

Fowler, Scott E. ***LeSourdsville Lake and Americana Amusement Park***. Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2022.

For over seventy-five years, generations of children and their parents called LeSourdsville Lake and Americana Amusement Park their home for the summer. Despite the popularity of Kings Island, one of the largest amusement parks in the country located about twenty miles away, LeSourdsville Lake thrived because of its family atmosphere, the tradition of receiving a great value for the money, and the attention paid to detail by the management. From the Screechin' Eagle roller coaster to the country's wettest log flume, readers will relive the iconic park's past, then look ahead to plans for the area's future.

Friedman, Lester D. *Citizen Spielberg, Second Edition*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2022.

Steven Spielberg's extraordinary career redefined Hollywood, but his achievement goes far beyond shattered box office records. Lester D. Friedman presents the filmmaker as a major artist who pairs an ongoing willingness to challenge himself with a widely recognized technical mastery. This new edition of *Citizen Spielberg* expands Friedman's original analysis to include films of the 2010s like *Lincoln* and *Ready Player One*.

Harder, John D., and Guy N. Cameron. *Mammals of Ohio*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2022.

An updated, informative review of the status and biology of the fifty-five species of mammals living wild in Ohio, richly illustrated with photographs, maps, drawings, and original artwork.

Horvath, Edward P. *Good Medicine, Hard Times: Memoirs of a Combat Physician in Iraq*. Columbus, OH: Trillium, 2022.

Good Medicine, Hard Times is the moving memoir of one of the most senior-ranking combat physicians to have served on the battlefields of the Iraq war. Former US Army Colonel Edward P. Horvath, MD, brings readers through the intricacies of war as he relates stories of working to save the lives of soldiers, enemies, and civilians alike and shares the moral dilemmas faced by medical professionals during war. In his clear-eyed, empathetic, and unforgettable account, Dr. Horvath shows what it means to provide compassionate care in the most

trying of circumstances, always keeping in mind that every person he cares for is someone's child.

Krejci, William G. *Lost Put-In-Bay*. Mount Pleasant, SC: The History Press, 2022.

An island vacation getaway on Lake Erie, Put-in-Bay is known today for its family fun, cocktail culture, dining, and live entertainment, but a deep-rooted history lies beyond. Grand hotels like the Hotel Victory and Put-in-Bay House were reduced to embers and ash and exist today solely in stories and song. Roller coasters, carousels, and an electric railroad now rumble and sing only in memory. The many steamboats that brought visitors to the island run no more. Join author and investigative historian William G. Krejci on this journey to an island of yesterday.

Lehr, Leslie. *A Boob's Life: How America's Obsession Shaped Me—And You*. New York, NY: Pegasus Books, 2021.

A Boob's Life explores the surprising truth about women's most popular body part with vulnerable, witty frankness and true nuggets of American culture that will resonate with everyone who has breasts—or loves them.

Lindsey, Treva B. *America, Goddam: Violence, Black Women, and the Struggle for Justice*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2022.

Echoing the energy of Nina Simone's searing protest song that inspired the title, this book is a call to action in our collective journey toward just futures. *America, Goddam* explores the combined force of anti-Blackness, misogyny, patriarchy, and capitalism in the lives of Black

women and girls in the United States today. Through personal accounts and hard-hitting analysis, Black feminist historian Treva B. Lindsey starkly assesses the forms and legacies of violence against Black women and girls, as well as their demands for justice for themselves and their communities.

Macy, Beth. *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis*. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Company, 2022.

Nearly a decade into the second wave of America's overdose crisis, pharmaceutical companies have yet to answer for the harms they created. As pending court battles against opioid makers, distributors, and retailers drag on, addiction rates have soared to record-breaking levels during the COVID pandemic. Distilling this massive, unprecedented national health crisis down to its character-driven emotional core as only she can, Beth Macy takes readers into the country's hardest hit places to witness the devastating personal costs that one-third of America's families are now being forced to shoulder.

Millard, Candice. *River of the Gods: Genius, Courage, and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 2022.

For millennia the location of the Nile River's headwaters was shrouded in mystery. In the 19th century, European powers sent off waves of explorations intended to map the unknown corners of the globe—and extend their colonial empires. Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke were sent to Egypt by the

Royal Geographical Society to claim the prize for England. But there was a third man who led, carried, and protected the expedition, his name obscured by imperial annals. This was Sidi Mubarak Bombay, an enslaved man shipped from his home village in East Africa to India, whose exploits were more extraordinary than Burton's or Speke's. *River of the Gods* is the harrowing story of one of the greatest feats of exploration of all time and its complicated legacy.

Mufleh, Luma. *Learning America: One Woman's Fight for Educational Justice for Refugee Children*. Boston, MA: Mariner Books, 2022.

When Luma Mufleh—a Muslim, gay, refugee woman from hyper-conservative Jordan—stumbled upon a pick-up game of soccer in Clarkston, Georgia, something compelled her to join. *Learning America* traces the story of how Mufleh grew a group of kids into a soccer team, and then into a nationally acclaimed network of schools for refugee children. The journey is inspiring and hard-won: Fugees schools accept only those most in need; no student passes a grade without earning it; the failure of any student is the responsibility of all. Soccer as a part of every school day is a powerful catalyst to heal trauma, create belonging, and accelerate learning. This gifted storyteller delivers provocative, indelible portraits of student after student making leaps in learning that aren't supposed to be possible for children born into trauma—stories that shine powerful light on the path to educational justice for all of America's most left-behind.

Ricca, Brad, and Nellie Bly. *Ten Days in a Mad-House: A Graphic Adaptation*. Illus. by Courtney Sieh. New York, NY: Gallery 13, 2022. While working for Joseph Pulitzer's newspaper in 1887, Nellie Bly began an undercover investigation into the local Women's Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell Island. Intent on seeing what life was like on the inside, Bly fooled physicians into thinking she was insane—a task too easily achieved—and had herself committed. In her ten days at the asylum, Bly witnessed horrifying conditions: inedible food, women forced into labor for the staff, cruel nurses and doctors, and many patients who had no mental disorder of any kind. Her fearless investigation into the living conditions at the Blackwell Asylum forever changed the field of journalism. Now adapted into graphic novel form by Brad Ricca and rendered with illustrations by Courtney Sieh, Bly's bold venture is given new life and meaning.

Schwartzman, Nancy, and Nora Zelevansky. *Roll Red Roll: Rape, Power, and Football in the American Heartland*. New York, NY: Hachette Books, 2022. In football-obsessed Steubenville, Ohio, on a summer night in 2012, an incapacitated sixteen-year-old girl was repeatedly assaulted by members of the "Big Red" high school football team. They took turns documenting the crime and sharing on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The victim, Jane Doe, learned the details via social media at a time when teens didn't yet understand the lasting trail of their digital breadcrumbs. Crime blogger Alexandria Goddard, along with hacker collective Anonymous,

exposed the photos, Tweets, and videos, making this the first rape case ever to go viral. Filmmaker Nancy Schwartzman spent four years documenting the case and its reverberations. Ten years after the assault, *Roll Red Roll* is the culmination of that research, weaving in new interviews and personal reflections to take readers beyond Steubenville to examine rape culture in everything from sports to teen dynamics.

Sefner, Steve. *The Golden Dream: The Story of the 2001-2002 Kent State Men's Basketball Elite Eight Season*. Grove City, OH: Gatekeeper Press, 2022.

2022 is the twentieth anniversary of the 2001-2002 Kent State Men's Basketball Team's great run to the NCAA Tournament Elite Eight—one of the greatest runs in NCAA College Basketball History by a Mid-Major School. This team put Kent State on the College Basketball Map. *The Golden Dream* explores that magical season, capturing how the team was built, how it rallied after a bumpy start to the season, and how it brought the entire community together.

Shakur, Prince. *When They Tell You to Be Good*. Portland, OR: Tin House, 2022.

Prince Shakur's debut memoir mines his radicalization and self-realization through examinations of place, childhood, queer identity, and a history of uprisings. Examining a tangled web of race, trauma, and memory, *When They Tell You to Be Good* is a powerful interrogation of what we all must ask of ourselves to be more than what America envisions for the oppressed. Shakur compels readers to take a closer,

deeper look at the political world of young, Black, queer, and radical millennials today.

Shesol, Jeff. *Mercury Rising: John Glenn, John Kennedy, and the New Battleground of the Cold War.*

New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021.

If the United States couldn't catch up to the Soviets in space, how could it compete with them on Earth? That was the question facing John F. Kennedy at the height of the Cold War—a perilous time when the Soviet Union built the wall in Berlin, tested nuclear bombs more destructive than any in history, and beat the United States to every major milestone in space. The race to the heavens seemed a race for survival—and America was losing. On February 20, 1962, when John Glenn blasted into orbit aboard Friendship 7, his mission was not only to circle the planet; it was to calm the fears of the free world and renew America's sense of self-belief. Drawing on new archival sources, interviews, and previously unpublished notes by Glenn himself, *Mercury Rising* reveals how the astronaut lifted the nation's hopes in what Kennedy called the “hour of maximum danger.”

Steinhoff, Dorri. *Red Bird Against the Snow: Restoration of a Modern Landmark.* Cleveland, OH: Parafine Press, 2021.

In 1939 Ted van Fossen received a commission to design and build a house for a young Bohemian couple, Rob and Mary Gunning, on a wooded lot on the edge of a ravine. With Tony Smith and Laurence Cuneo, van Fossen adopted Frank Lloyd Wright's principles of organic design for the Gunning House,

which the trio named Glenbrow. By 2013 the house had been abandoned for nearly a decade with virtually no maintenance. *Red Bird Against the Snow* tells the rich history surrounding the house, the people involved in its creation, and the several year transition from ruin to restored.

Stiles, Nova. *Ghosts & Legends of Licking County.* Mount Pleasant, SC: The History Press, 2022.

Many things go bump in the night in Licking County, and not all of them are rowdy undergraduates. Some are the restless spirits of the dead. Nova Stiles, author and paranormal investigator with the Tri-C Ghost Hunters, leads a bone-chilling tour through the haunted history of Licking County.

Torry, Jack. *The Last One Out: Yates McDaniel, World War II's Most Daring Reporter.* Atglen, PA: Schiffer Military, 2022.

When Yates McDaniel died in Florida in 1983, few outside his family paid much attention. The only hint of his fame came in a brief obituary buried on the inside pages of the New York Times. The obit suggested bravery . . . and a past far more exciting than almost anyone knew. Even those who worked alongside him in the 1960s at the Associated Press were startled to learn what McDaniel had done when he was a young man during World War II. Yet, this remarkable reporter covered more of the Asian war than anyone else—from the Japanese assault on Nanking in 1937 to the fall of Singapore in 1942 to landing with US Marines on New Britain in 1943. *The Last One Out* shines a light on this overlooked man and forgotten part of World War II history.

Tramonte, Lynn, ed. *Far From Their Eyes: Ohio Migration Anthology, Volume 1.* Cleveland, OH: Anacaona LLC, 2021.

Far From Their Eyes is a collection of essays, short stories, poems, interviews, and artwork from people with connections to Ohio and to migration. The anthology provokes connections across cultures, borders, languages, and time.

Turzillo, Jane Ann. *Wicked Cleveland.* Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2022.

From world-class museums and popular sports teams to peaceful parks and charming neighborhoods, Cleveland has a lot to offer. But it also has a wilder, darker side. Award-winning true crime author Jane Turzillo brings together the strippers, gangsters, robbers, shady politicians, and more from Cleveland's rough and rowdy past.

Verdelle, A. J. *Miss Chloe: A Memoir of a Literary Friendship with Toni Morrison.* New York, NY: Amistad Books, 2022.

Toni Morrison, born Chloe Anthony Wofford, was a towering figure in the world of literature when she entered A. J. Verdelle's life. Their literary friendship was a young writer's dream—simultaneously exhilarating, intimidating, fulfilling, and challenging. The relationship crossed generations, spanned several cycles in life, exhibited high and low notes, reached and dipped, and found its way. Verdelle chronicles her grief at Morrison's passing, and finds comfort in Morrison's astute advice—wisdom Verdelle didn't always recognize at the time. She honors Morrison among the cultural greats, while illuminating and celebrating the

power of language, legacy, and genius.

Wilder, John G. *Wagons, Gold, and Conflict: Captain Alfred Davenport's Adventures in the Trans Mississippi West*. Bloomington, IN: Xlibris US, 2022.

Alfred Davenport—his parents gone and elder siblings married with families—followed a dream to see Oregon in May 1844. Visiting California in 1846, Davenport dropped into the conflict between settlers and the Mexican government. In the years that followed, Davenport fought in the Bear Flag Revolt and with John Charles Fremont's California Mounted Battalion. Then 1849 came along and Davenport was swept into the frenzy of the California gold rush. This narrative recounts Davenport's life in a rapidly-changing country, giving readers a detailed portrayal of this period in American history.

Wong, Margaret M. *The Immigrant's Way*. New York, NY: Immigration Law Worldwide, 2010. *The Immigrant's Way* will be of interest to American readers seeking to become better informed about US immigration law and history, but its primary audience is fellow immigrants. From in-depth immigration histories of different groups to simple tips to real-life stories and scenarios, foreign-born readers will learn about the immigration process from start to finish. Among other topics, Wong includes information about adoption, asylum, deportation, different visa types, and who can apply for them (e.g., students, workers, family members, etc.). Wong's firm successfully handles more than 4,000 cases annually, with offices in five US cities.

Zurcher, Neil. *Ten Ohio Disasters: Stories of Tragedy and Courage That Should Not Be Forgotten*.

Cleveland, OH: Grey & Company, 2022.

Tragedy and courage walk hand-in-hand in notorious disasters from Ohio history. These ten events from Ohio's past are worth remembering for both their tragic lessons and their inspiring examples of heroism.

FICTION

Berry, Connie. *The Shadow of Memory (Kate Hamilton #4)*. New York, NY: Crooked Lane Books, 2022. In Connie Berry's fourth Kate Hamilton mystery, American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton uncovers a dark secret buried in Victorian England.

Black, Lisa. *Red Flags (A Locard Institute Thriller #1)*. New York, NY: Kensington Books, 2022. *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Black weaves her own professional expertise as a crime scene analyst into the first book of a tantalizingly taut new forensic thriller series featuring Dr. Ellie Carr and Dr. Rachael Davies, Washington DC forensic scientists untangling a political scandal involving kidnapped children.

Braunbeck, Gary A. *There Comes a Midnight Hour*. Bowie, MD: Raw Dog Screaming Press, 2021. This collection brings together some of the author's most hard-hitting stories published over his celebrated career. *There Comes a Midnight Hour* illustrates not only how profound an impact genre fiction can have on a reader, but also why

Braunbeck's work has influenced the next generation of horror authors.

Castillo, Linda. *The Hidden One (Kate Burkholder #14)*. New York, NY: Minotaur Books, 2022.

The discovery of an Amish bishop's remains leads chief of police Kate Burkholder to unearth a chilling secret in *The Hidden One*, a new thriller from bestselling author Linda Castillo.

Chiaverini, Jennifer. *Switchboard Soldiers*. New York, NY: William Morrow, 2022.

From *New York Times* bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini, *Switchboard Soldiers* is a novel about one of the great untold stories of World War I—the women of the US Army Signal Corps, who broke down gender barriers in the military, smashed the workplace glass ceiling, and battled a pandemic as they helped lead the Allies to victory.

Flanagan, Erin. *Blackout: A Thriller*. Seattle, WA: Thomas & Mercer, 2022.

Seven hard-won months into her sobriety, sociology professor Maris Heilman has her first blackout. She chalks it up to exhaustion, though she fears that her husband and daughter will suspect she's drinking again. Whatever their cause, the glitches start becoming more frequent. Sometimes minutes, sometimes longer, but always leaving Maris with the same disorienting question: *Where have I been?* Then another blackout lands Maris in the ER, where she makes an alarming discovery. A network of women is battling the same inexplicable malady. Is it a bizarre coincidence or something more sinister?

Flower, Amanda. *Crimes and Covers (Magical Bookshop #5)*. New York, NY: Crooked Lane Books, 2022.

Charming Books proprietor and bride-to-be Violet Waverly faces her biggest challenge yet when the owner of a rare first edition of Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* is murdered on the day of her wedding in this exciting conclusion to Amanda Flower's *Magical Bookshop* series.

Flower, Amanda. *Peanut Butter Panic (An Amish Candy Shop Mystery #7)*. New York, NY: Kensington Books, 2022.

In the seventh of fan-favorite Amanda Flower's bestselling *Amish Candy Shop Mysteries*, Thanksgiving has come to Harvest, Ohio. But between whipping up hundreds of delicious treats for the village festivities, dealing with boyfriend issues, and investigating a suspicious death-by-peanut allergy, chocolatier Bailey King won't have much time to count her blessings!

Foster, Lori. *The Honeymoon Cottage*. Toronto, Canada: HQN, 2022.

When it comes to creating the perfect happily-ever-after, Yardley Belanger is a bona fide miracle worker. From bridal bouquets to matching cowboy boots, the quirky wedding planner's country-chic affairs have caused quite a stir in the small town of Cemetery. But when it comes to her own love life? She's *completely* clueless. The thirty-one-year-old has poured her heart and soul into her business and doesn't have time for anything—or anyone—else. And that's something not even the gorgeous older brother of her newest client can change . . . right?

Hlad, Alan. *A Light Beyond the Trenches: A WWI Novel of Betrayal and Resistance*. New York, NY: John Scognamiglio Books, 2022.

From the *USA Today* bestselling author of *Churchill's Secret Messenger* comes a World War I novel based on little-known history, as four very different lives intertwine across Europe from Germany to France—a German Red Cross nurse, a Jewish pianist blinded on the battlefield, a soldier tortured by deadly secrets of his own, and his tormented French mistress.

Holmes, Linda. *Flying Solo*. New York, NY: Ballantine Books, 2022. Smarting from her recently canceled wedding and about to turn forty, Laurie Sassalyn returns to her Maine hometown of Calcasset to handle the estate of her great-aunt Dot, a spirited adventurer who lived to be ninety-three. Alongside old boxes of Polaroids and pottery, a mysterious wooden duck shows up at the bottom of a cedar chest. Laurie's curiosity is piqued, especially after she finds a love letter to the never-married Dot that ends with the line, "And anyway, if you're ever desperate, there are always ducks, darling." Laurie is told that the duck has no financial value. But after it disappears under suspicious circumstances, she feels compelled to figure out why anyone would steal a wooden duck—and why Dot kept it hidden away in the first place. Suddenly Laurie finds herself swept up in a caper that has her negotiating with antiques dealers and con artists, going on after-hours dates at the local library, and reconnecting with her oldest friend and her first love. But in order to uncover Dot's

secrets, Laurie must reckon with her own past and her future—and ultimately embrace her own vision of flying solo.

Jacobs, Simon. *String Follow*. New York, NY: MCD x FSG Originals, 2022.

A darkly comic suburban Gothic novel about a malevolent force that targets a group of Ohio misfits, harnessing their angst for its sinister designs.

Keyse-Walker, John. *Havana Highwire*. London, UK: Severn House, 2022.

World-weary American Henry Gore was born in the cold Midwest. But a lucky connection—and a hundred-peso bribe—scores him a license to operate as a private investigator in Havana, a place where he can finally get warm. Soon, he's trailing after cheating husbands to finance his permanent vacation in the land of sun, cigars, and señoritas. But when he snaps the wrong man's photo at a fancy casino, he receives a fist in the face for his troubles—and a dark warning from the Mob.

Keyse-Walker, John. *Palms, Paradise, Poison (Teddy Creque Mystery #3)*. London, UK: Severn House, 2022.

Sea, storm, superstition . . . Constable Teddy Creque investigates a death with seemingly supernatural causes in this witty, atmospheric mystery set on a Caribbean island paradise.

Kirby, Gwen E. *Shit Cassandra Saw: Stories*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2022.

Cassandra may have seen the future, but it doesn't mean she's resigned to telling the Trojans

everything she knows. In this collection, virgins escape from being sacrificed, witches refuse to be burned, whores aren't ashamed, and every woman gets a chance to be a radioactive cockroach warrior who snaps back at catcallers. Gwen E. Kirby experiments with found structures—a Yelp review, a WikiHow article—which her narrators push against, showing how creativity within an enclosed space undermines and deconstructs the constraints themselves.

Kussow, Barbara. *Portrait of Annie*. Columbus, OH: Marie Sheets Publishing, 2021.

Ann Elizabeth Richards, born in rural Ohio to a family of limited means, wins an art scholarship to attend The Ohio State University in the 1960s. Her academic career begins as America is dominated by controversy over the Vietnam War, the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and civil rights struggles. Annie bears witness as a protest on the OSU campus reaches anarchic proportions and the Ohio National Guard is called in to quell the violence with tear gas and billy clubs. The situation culminates with the closing of the University for a two-week period to prevent rioting after the Ohio National Guard opens fire on student protestors at Kent State University. At its heart, *Portrait of Annie* is about coping with loss, enduring, and eventually finding a measure of contentment.

Moore, Christopher. *Razzmatazz*. New York, NY: William Morrow, 2022.

San Francisco, 1947. Bartender Sammy “Two Toes” Tiffin and the rest of the Cookie’s Coffee

Irregulars—a ragtag bunch last seen in *Noir*—are on the hustle. They’re trying to open a driving school, outwit an abusive Swedish stevedore, and get the local madam and her girls to a Christmas party at the State Hospital. Meanwhile, Sammy’s girlfriend, Stilton, and her gal pals are using their wartime shipbuilding skills on a secret project that might be attracting the attention of some government Men in Black. And, oh yeah, someone is murdering the city’s drag kings. Club owner Jimmy Vasco is sure she’s next on the list and enlists Sammy to find the killer. Strap yourselves in for another raucous and hilarious ride from *New York Times* bestselling author Christopher Moore.

Morrison, Toni. *Recitatif: A Story*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2022.

In this 1983 short story—the only short story Morrison ever wrote—we meet Twyla and Roberta, who have known each other since they were eight years old and spent four months together as roommates in St. Bonaventure shelter. Inseparable then, they lose touch as they grow older, only later to find each other again at a diner, a grocery store, and again at a protest. Seemingly at opposite ends of every problem, and at each other’s throats each time they meet, the two women still cannot deny the deep bond their shared experience has forged between them. Another work of genius by this masterly writer, *Recitatif* keeps Twyla’s and Roberta’s races ambiguous throughout the story. Morrison herself described *Recitatif* as a story which will keep readers thinking and discussing for years to come, “an experiment in the removal of all

racial codes from a narrative about two characters of different races for whom racial identity is crucial.” *Recitatif* is a look into what keeps us together and what keeps us apart, and how perceptions are made tangible by reality.

Ng, Celeste. *Our Missing Hearts*. New York, NY: Penguin, 2022.

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. Bird knows to not ask too many questions, stand out too much, or stray too far. In the wake of years of economic instability and violence, their lives are governed by laws written to preserve “American culture.” Authorities are allowed to relocate children of dissidents—especially those of Asian origin—and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic, including the work of Bird’s estranged mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old. But when Bird receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, he is pulled into a quest to find her. His journey will take him back to the many folktales she poured into his head as a child, through the ranks of an underground network of librarians, into the lives of the children who have been taken, and finally to New York City, where a new act of defiance may be the beginning of much-needed change.

Rosa, Emilia. *Finding Cristina*. Huron, OH: Emilia Rosa, 2021.

After her father’s death, young Cristina is left with a large house in one of the most beautiful places in the world—Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. But his illness left large debts that must be

paid. To make matters worse, her mother's health starts to decline. With the support of a maid that is more a family member, Cristina, an accomplished pianist, finds work and keeps the creditors at bay. She is undaunted by adversity and faces the mounting problems with resolution and good heart. Love is the last thing on her mind, but destiny will bring a stranger into her path who will unveil a secret from her past. His love will change her life forever. But before this denouement, they must reckon with two men: one would do anything to keep Cristina to himself; the other will stop at nothing to keep the secret.

Rothman-Zecher, Moriel. *Before All the World*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022.

In the swirl of Philadelphia at the end of Prohibition, Leyb meets Charles. Leyb is startled; fourteen years in America has taught him that his native tongue is not known beyond his people. And yet here is suave Charles, a Black man from the Seventh Ward, speaking Jewish to a young man he will come to call Lion. Lion is haunted by memories of his past. The people in his village were taken to the forest and killed, leaving only a few survivors: ten non-Jews, a young poet named Gittl, and Leyb himself. And then, miraculously, Gittl herself is in Philadelphia, thanks to a poem she wrote and the intervention of a shadowy character known only as the Baroness of Philadelphia. These souls seize new life, while still haunted by the old.

Scalzi, John. *The Kaiju Preservation Society*. New York, NY: Tor Books, 2022.

When COVID-19 sweeps through New York City, Jamie Gray is

stuck as a driver for food delivery apps. That is, until Jamie makes a delivery to an old acquaintance, Tom, who works at what he calls "an animal rights organization." Tom's team needs a last-minute grunt to handle things on their next field visit. Jamie, eager to do anything, immediately signs on. What Tom doesn't tell Jamie is that the animals his team cares for are not here on Earth. Not our Earth, at least. In an alternate dimension, massive dinosaur-like creatures named Kaiju roam a warm, human-free world—and they're in trouble. It's not just the Kaiju Preservation Society who have found their way to the alternate world. Others have, too. And their carelessness could cause millions back on our Earth to die.

Strawser, Jessica. *The Next Thing You Know*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2022.

As an end-of-life doula, Nova Huston's job—her calling, her purpose, her life—is to help terminally ill people make peace with their impending death. Free-spirited Nova doesn't shy away from difficult clients: the ones who are heartbreakingly young, or prickly, or desperate for a caregiver or companion. When Mason Shaylor shows up at her door, Nova doesn't recognize him as the indie-favorite singer-songwriter who recently vanished from the public eye. His deteriorating condition makes playing his guitar physically impossible. As far as Mason is concerned, he might as well be dead already. Helping him is Nova's biggest challenge yet. She knows she should keep clients at arm's length. But she and Mason have more in common than anyone could guess, and meeting him might turn out to

be the hardest, best thing that's ever happened to them both.

Thomas, Annabel. *Choices: Three Novellas*. Huron, OH: Bottom Dog Press, 2022.

A young woman lusts for a beautiful but seemingly unreachable man. The sexual life ebbs between a loving geriatric couple. A lone woman wanders an airport on a fateful day in American history. While seemingly disparate, Annabel Thomas weaves these three stories together into a cohesive tale through memory, religion, humor, hope, literature, and passion.

Turner-Yamamoto, Judith. *Loving the Dead and Gone*. Raleigh, NC: Regal House Publishing, 2022.

The death of Donald Ray in a freak car accident becomes the catalyst for the release of passions, needs, and hurts. Clayton's discovery of dead Donald Ray upends his longtime emotional numbness. Darlene, the seventeen-year-old widow, struggles to reconnect with her late husband while proving herself still alive. Soon Clayton and Darlene's bond of loss and death works its magic, drawing them into an affair that brings the loneliness in Clayton's marriage to a crisis. When Aurilla Cutter, Clayton's mother-in-law, learns about the affair, her own memories of longing and infidelity are set loose. Like Darlene's passions—unappeased and clung to—Aurilla's possess an intensity that denies life to the present. As Aurilla's own forbidden and tragic story of love, death, and repeated loss alternates with Darlene's and Clayton's, the divide of generations narrows and collapses, building to the unlikely collision.

POETRY

Abdurraqib, Hanif, Franny Choi, Peter Kahn, and Dan “Sully” Sullivan, eds. ***Respect the Mic: Celebrating 20 Years of Poetry from a Chicagoland High School***. New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2022.

An expansive, moving poetry anthology, representing twenty years of poetry from students and alumni of Chicago’s Oak Park River Forest High School Spoken Word Club.

Bilotserkivets, Natalka. ***Eccentric Days of Hope and Sorrow***. Translated by Ali Kinsella and Dzvinia Orłowsky. Liberty Lake, WA: Lost Horse Press, 2021.

The eighth volume of poetry in the Lost Horse Press Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry Series, *Eccentric Days of Hope and Sorrow* brings together a selection of poetry written over the last four decades. Natalka Bilotserkivets was an active participant in Ukraine’s Renaissance of the late-Soviet and early independence period. Thirty years on, much has changed in the land of her birth, but the lyricism and urgency in her poetry remain. This book endeavors to shed light on the missing history of Ukraine.

Hansel, Pauletta. ***Heartbreak Tree***. Lake Dallas, TX: Madville Publishing, 2022.

Heartbreak Tree is a poetic exploration of the intersection of gender and place in Appalachia. “There is a road, but the road is still inside you,” the mature Hansel tells the girl she was, encouraging her: “You are trying. Remember.” This book does the work of that remembering, honoring the responsibility of the poet to speak

the forbidden stories of her own and other women’s lives.

Heath, William R. ***Steel Valley Elegy***. American Fork, UT: Kelsay Books, 2022.

Steel Valley Elegy includes poems from *Night Moves in Ohio* as well as many others. Some depict the civil rights movement in the Deep South and civil disturbances in northern cities. Others present Heath’s wry and ironic look at life in the United States. A final sequence evokes the world of nature while raising philosophical questions. Heath maintains that poetry is written in musical lines about things that matter. His love of language, wide range of interests, and uncanny eye for details are always on display.

Santer, Rikki. ***Drop Jaw***. Elyria, OH: NightBallet Press, 2020.

An homage to the carnivalesque world of ventriloquism, where the dummies are smarter than we think, expressing our hidden ids with “twisted talk / in twisted mouth.”

Santer, Rikki. ***Fishing for Rabbits***. Cleveland, OH: Kattywompus Press, 2013.

In searching for the rabbit in the magician’s top hat, Rikki Santer tumbles down into another world where everything we know is tilted, transformed by fresh language. The magic is in seeing through the prism of her poetry. *Fishing for Rabbits* is a brimful miscellany, ‘clothesline logic’ in an imaginative windstorm, with surprises at every turn.

Santer, Rikki. ***Head to Toe of It***. American Fork, UT: Kelsay Books, 2021.

A chapbook of poems exploring the complicated notions of fashion.

Santer, Rikki. ***Stopover***. Big Tuna, TX: Luchador Press, 2021.

In her *Twilight Zone*-inspired collection, *Stopover*, Rikki Santer meets Rod Serling in “the dimension of imagination.”

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Amstutz, Lisa. ***Mammal Mania: 30 Activities and Observations for Exploring the World of Mammals***. New York, NY: Time for Kids, 2021.

Readers will learn all about different mammals in this delightful nonfiction title—from primates to marsupials, and rabbits to whales, even omnivores and herbivores. Featuring vivid photos and charts, clear text, and stimulating facts, this book will have children eager to learn all they can about mammals.

Barone, Rebecca E. F. ***Race to the Bottom of the Earth: Surviving Antarctica***. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Co., 2021.

Equal parts adventure and STEM, Rebecca E. F. Barone’s *Race to the Bottom of the Earth: Surviving Antarctica* is a thrilling nonfiction book for young readers chronicling two treacherous, groundbreaking expeditions to the South Pole—and includes eye-catching photos of the Antarctic landscape.

Bobulski, Chelsea. ***All I Want for Christmas is the Boy I Can’t Have: A YA Holiday Romance***. Las Vegas, NV: Wise Wolf Books, 2021.

Isla Riddle has been obsessed with True Love for as long as she can remember, which is why she loves working for her mother’s wedding planning business. But things get complicated when she falls

for August Harker, the brother of their first high-society bride with a million-dollar budget. August seems to be falling for Isla, too, but with a controlling father dictating his every move, can August find the courage to walk away from the path his father has chosen for him?

Bobulski, Chelsea. *All I Want for Christmas is the Girl in Charge: A YA Holiday Romance*. Las Vegas, NV: Wise Wolf Books, 2021. Former child prodigy and recent juvenile delinquent Beckett Hawthorne has arrived in Christmas, Virginia, to spend his community service hours working at his uncle's Christmas tree farm. But when his high school's production of *A Pride and Prejudice Christmas* suddenly needs a new Darcy, Beckett finds himself starring opposite Evelyn Waverly—who has a way of melting the permafrost around his heart and making him wish for things he never thought possible. If only his past would stop coming back to haunt him . . .

Bobulski, Chelsea. *All I Want for Christmas is the Girl Who Can't Love: A YA Holiday Romance*. Las Vegas, NV: Wise Wolf Books, 2021. College freshman Savannah Mason comes from a family of women unlucky in love. In fact, all of them have ended up heartbroken, blaming a mysterious, vengeful curse. As far as Savannah is concerned, she's never going to fall in love. Jordan Merrick is a junior at William & Mary and more concerned with his life's goal than love: becoming the next Ron Chernow. When their worlds collide, Savannah and Jordan end up investigating the Mason family curse, leading to a collection of love letters between

a revolutionary soldier and the girl he left behind. Can they both let go of their cynicism and give love a chance?

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *The School for Whatnots*. New York, NY: Katherine Tegen Books, 2022. *No matter what anyone tells you, I'm real*. That's what the note says that Max finds under his keyboard. He knows that his best friend, Josie, wrote it. But why she wrote it—and what it means—remains a mystery. Ever since they met in kindergarten, Max and Josie have been inseparable. Until the summer after fifth grade, when Josie disappears, leaving only a note, and whispering something about “whatnot rules.” But why would Max ever think that Josie wasn't real? And what are whatnots? As Max sets out to uncover what happened to Josie—and what she is or isn't—little does he know that she's fighting to find him, too. But there are forces trying to keep Max and Josie from ever seeing each other again. Because Josie wasn't supposed to be real. This middle grade thriller from Margaret Peterson Haddix delves into the power of privilege, the importance of true friendship, and the question of humanity and identity. Because when anyone could be a whatnot, what makes a person a real friend—or real at all?

Lewis, Leigh. *Pirate Queens*. Illus. by Sara Woolley. New York, NY: National Geographic Kids, 2022. *Pirate Queens* proves that women have been making their mark in all aspects of history—even the high seas. Meet Ching Shih, a Chinese pirate who presided over a fleet of 80,000 men (by contrast, Blackbeard had some 300). Get the scoop on

Anne Bonny who famously ran away from an arranged marriage to don trousers and brandish a pistol in the Bahamas. Each pirate profile includes a dramatic original poem presented against a backdrop of gorgeous full-color art, followed by fascinating information about the real life and times of these daring women, vetted by the world's leading pirate experts and historians.

McCarthy, Cory. *Man o' War*. New York, NY: Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2022.

River McIntyre, a competitive swimmer and closeted Arab American, grew up in cultural captivity down the street from SeaPlanet of Ohio—an infamous marine life theme park. When a queer encounter on the annual field trip lands River literally in the shark tank, they embark on a journey to release themselves: from internalized homophobia and gender dysphoria, to affirmation surgery and true love.

Pilkey, Dav. *Cat Kid Comic Club: On Purpose (Cat Kid Comic Club #3)*. New York, NY: Graphix, 2022.

The twenty-one baby frogs are each trying to find their purpose in the third Cat Kid Comic Club graphic novel by Dav Pilkey, worldwide bestselling author and illustrator of the Captain Underpants and Dog Man series.

Reynolds, Justin A. *It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2022.

A hilarious new middle grade novel from Justin A. Reynolds that asks: What happens when five unsupervised kids face the apocalypse under outrageously silly circumstances?

Romasco-Moore, Mar. *I Am the Ghost in Your House*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 2022.

Pie is the ghost in your house. She is not dead, she is invisible. The way she looks changes depending on what is behind her. A girl of glass. A girl who is a window. If she stands in front of floral wallpaper, she is full of roses. For Pie's entire life, it's been Pie and her mother. Just the two of them, traveling across America. But Pie is lonely. Now, at seventeen, her mother has given her a gift: the choice of the next city they will go to. Pie immediately knows she wants to go to Pittsburgh—where she fell in love with a girl who she plans to find once again. And this time she will reveal herself. There's just one problem . . . how can anyone love an invisible girl?

Rylant, Cynthia. *Rosetown Summer*. New York, NY: Beach Lane Books, 2021.

From Newbery Medalist Cynthia Rylant comes the sweet and resonant follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Rosetown*, continuing the story of nine-year-old Flora Smallwood's life in quiet Rosetown, Indiana.

Snider, Brandon T. *Rube Goldberg and His Amazing Machines*. Illus. by Ed Steckley. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, 2021.

The hilarious first book in an all-new illustrated middle grade series starring young inventor Rube Goldberg.

Stamper, Phil. *Golden Boys*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury YA, 2022. It's the summer before senior year. Gabriel, Reese, Sal, and Heath are best friends, bonded in their small, rural town by their queerness, their

good grades, and their big dreams. But they have plans for the summer, each about to embark on a new adventure. Gabriel is volunteering at an environmental nonprofit in Boston. Reese is attending design school in Paris. Sal is interning on Capitol Hill for a senator. Heath is heading to Florida, to help out at his aunt's boardwalk arcade. What will this season of world-expanding travel and life-changing experiences mean for each of them—and for their friendship?

Stamper, Phil. *Small Town Pride*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2022.

Jake is just starting to enjoy life as his school's first openly gay kid. While his family and friends are accepting and supportive, the same can't be said about everyone in their small town of Barton Springs, Ohio. When Jake's dad hangs a huge pride flag in their front yard in an overblown show of love, the mayor begins to receive complaints. A few people are even concerned the flag will lead to something truly outlandish: a pride parade. But the idea isn't outlandish to Jake, and soon he and his friends are planning the town's first-ever pride parade—resulting in both support and opposition from the community. This poignant, coming-of-age middle grade novel is about finding your place, using your voice, and the true meaning of pride.

Taylor, Sam. *We Are the Fire*. New York, NY: Swoon Reads, 2021. In the cold, treacherous land of Vesimaa, children are stolen from their families by a cruel emperor, forced to undergo a horrific transformative procedure, and serve in the army as magical fire-wielding soldiers. Pran and Oksana—both

taken from their homeland at a young age—only have each other to hold onto in this heartless place. Pran dreams of one day rebelling against their oppressors and destroying the empire; Oksana only dreams of returning home and creating a peaceful life for them both. When they discover the emperor has a new, more terrible mission than ever for their kind, Pran and Oksana vow to escape his tyranny once and for all. But their methods and ideals differ drastically, driving a wedge between them. Worse still, they both soon find that the only way to defeat the monsters that subjugated them may be to become monsters themselves . . .

JUVENILE

Abdurraqib, Hanif. *Sing, Aretha, Sing! Aretha Franklin, "Respect," and the Civil Rights Movement*. Illus. by Ashley Evans. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2022.

A young Aretha Franklin captivates her community with the song "Respect" during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. This striking picture book biography will embolden today's young readers to sing their own truth.

Buchet, Nelly. *How to Train Your Pet Brain*. Illus. by Amy Jindra. Minneapolis, MN: Beaming Books, 2022.

How to Train Your Pet Brain invites kids to explore how their bodies and minds work together to process emotions. Told from the perspective of a child, this unexpectedly funny take on the tricky topic of mental health follows two characters learning to train their pet brains.

Lighthearted illustrations paired with grounded language help kids understand why their brain does what it does, teaches that big feelings are okay, and guides kids through a simple practice to help them feel calm.

Duncan, Alice Faye. *Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth*. Illus. by Keturah A. Bobo. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2022.

Black activist Opal Lee had a vision of Juneteenth as a holiday for everyone. This true story celebrates Black joy and inspires children to see their dreams blossom. Growing up in Texas, Opal knew the history of Juneteenth, but she soon discovered that many Americans had never heard of the holiday. Join Opal on her historic journey to recognize and celebrate “freedom for all.”

Cotter, Bill. *Don't Push the Button: Let's Say Good Night*. New York, NY: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2021.

Larry the monster is up to his usual shenanigans in this bedtime spinoff from *USA Today* bestselling author Bill Cotter. A great read-aloud and interactive board book that kids will go back to time and again.

Gerber, Carole. *How You Came to Be*. Illus. by Sawsan Chalabi. New York, NY: Rise x Penguin Workshop, 2022.

This love letter written from mother to child invites readers to experience a baby's month-by-month development in the womb as compared to familiar fruits and vegetables. A mother lovingly describes the sizes and stages of her baby's month-by-month

development inside the womb, and the amazement of experiencing it from the outside.

Gott, Barry. *Moon Camp*. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021.

Summer is here! But Jake doesn't want to go to summer camp. Even if camp is on the moon. Sure enough, he gets lost during the nature hike, his air canoe springs a leak, there are scary noises at night, and he's pretty sure he's allergic to moon dust. The worst part? He misses home. But then Sam arrives, and Jake begins to see Moon Camp in a new light. Full of out-of-this-world humor, *Moon Camp* is a celebration of new adventures and the unexpected friends you make along the way.

Hale, Shannon. *This Book is Not for You!* Illus. by Tracy Subisak. New York, NY: Dial Books, 2022.

Stanley is thrilled for bookmobile day—until the man at the window refuses to lend him the story he wants, all because it features a girl. “Girl books” are only for girls, the book man insists, just like cat books are only for cats and robot books are only for robots. But when a dinosaur arrives at the bookmobile and successfully demands a book about ponies, Stanley musters the courage to ask for the tale he really wants—about a girl adventurer fighting pirates on the open seas. By speaking up, Stanley inspires the people, cats, robots, and goats around him to read more stories outside their experiences and enjoy the pleasure of a good book of their choosing.

Hoefler, Kate. *Courage Hats*. Illus. by Jessixa Bagley. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2022. Courage is something that comes

from your heart. But if you can't find it there, you can wear it on your head at first. Mae is a girl. Bear is a bear. But over the course of one life-changing, slightly nerve-racking train ride, they find out that this might be the only thing they don't have in common. With courage, determination, and a dash of friendship, Mae and Bear discover all the humor, warmth, and beauty found in togetherness and in the unknown.

Huntley, Ryan, and Gretchen Hirsch. *In the Meadow*. Illus. by Elizabeth Myers-Bandy. Galena, OH: NovaPaws Press, 2021.

A maple tree and a pine tree become friends while learning about kindness, differences, beauty, and loss in their shared meadow.

Kuo, Julia. *Let's Do Everything and Nothing*. New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press, 2022.

Let's Do Everything and Nothing is a lush and lyrical picture book from author-illustrator Julia Kuo celebrating special moments—big and small—shared with a child.

Lainez, René Colato. *We Play Soccer/Jugamos al fútbol*. Illus. by Nomar Perez. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2022.

Joe speaks English. He loves soccer. José habla español. A José le gusta el fútbol. This fun, bilingual friendship story engages children, while simple words, short sentences, and a glossary reinforce learning. Perfect for preschoolers, kindergarteners, and first and second graders who are learning to speak or read English and Spanish.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. *A Child's First Bedtime Prayers: 25 Heart-to-Heart Talks with Jesus*. Illus. by Cee Biscoe. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Kids, 2022.

A Child's First Bedtime Prayers draws little ones into cozy bedtime talks with Jesus through twenty-five prayer conversations. Each prayer focuses on a different topic with answers from Jesus.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. *A Child's First Bible: Psalms for Little Hearts: 25 Psalms for Joy, Hope, and Praise*. Illus. by Cee Biscoe. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Kids, 2019.

This rhyming paraphrase of twenty-five of the best-loved Psalms is both playful and tender, perfect for soothing your child before they sleep or for encouraging them in morning devotions. Instill a lifelong love of the Psalms in your child as you teach them that God's Word was written for them.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. *Sleepyhead Prayer: A Heart-to-Heart Talk with Jesus*. Illus. by Cee Biscoe. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Kids, 2022.

This board book includes a sweet, rhyming prayer for sleepy children to pray before bed. It is a perfect way for families with young children to end the day. Jesus reminds the child that he is always with them—both when they go to bed and when they wake up. The simple language is accessible for young children and will help them relax and prepare for a good night's rest. Jesus responds to the child's prayer with Scripture-based encouragement.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. *Thanks for Little Things: A Heart-to-Heart Talk with Jesus*. Illus. by Cee Biscoe. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Kids, 2022.

Being thankful changes our hearts, and there are so many things to be thankful for. This rhyming board book leads little hearts into a prayer of thankfulness for wonderfully ordinary things. The simple language is accessible for young children and will spark their imagination as they think of all the little things they can thank God for. Jesus responds to the child's prayer with Scripture-based encouragement.

Rusch, Elizabeth. *Zee Grows a Tree*. Illus. by Will Hillenbrand. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2021.

A fact-filled story about a little girl and an evergreen tree that grow up side by side. Combining interesting details about how trees are grown and cared for on a farm with the sweet story of a friendship between a girl and her special tree, *Zee Grows a Tree* offers a blend of fiction and nonfiction that will draw the interest of young nature lovers everywhere.

Scheele, Kyle. *A Pizza with Everything on It*. Illus. by Andy J. Pizza. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2021.

One father-son duo makes a pizza so delicious—and so over-the-top with toppings—that it destroys the universe. Like warm mozzarella, this book will surely melt readers' minds and hearts.

Ward, Lindsay. *Pink is Not a Color*. Seattle, WA: Two Lions, 2022. Featuring the world of colors introduced in *This Book Is Gray*—and a few new color concepts—this is a tale about appreciating who you are and realizing that only *you* can decide what makes you happy.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The World Belonged to Us*. Illus. by Leo Espinosa. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2022.

Two children's book superstars—#1 *New York Times* bestseller Jacqueline Woodson, the author of *The Day You Begin*, and Leo Espinosa, the illustrator of *Islandborn*—join forces to celebrate the joy and freedom of summer in the city, which is captured in their rhythmic text and art.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Year We Learned to Fly*. Illus. by Rafael López. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2022.

On a dreary, stuck-inside kind of day, a brother and sister heed their grandmother's advice: "*Use those beautiful and brilliant minds of yours. Lift your arms, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and believe in a thing. Somebody somewhere at some point was just as bored as you are now.*" And before they know it, their imaginations lift them up and out of their boredom. Then, on a day full of quarrels, it's time for a trip outside their minds again, and they are able to leave their anger behind. This precious skill, their grandmother tells them, harkens back to the days long before they were born, when their ancestors showed the world the strength and resilience of *their* beautiful and brilliant minds.

Coming Soon

Ohioana Book Awards

October 26, 2022
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Ohio Statehouse Atrium
Columbus, Ohio

Join us for a reception and ceremony to celebrate the winners of the 81st annual Ohioana Book Awards, presented live for the first time since 2019. To make your reservation, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-ohioana-book-awards-tickets-421376457327>.

Author Event:

Celeste Ng

October 28, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Presented by Gramercy Books Bexley
CCAD – Canzani Auditorium
Columbus, Ohio

Gramercy Books Bexley presents Celeste Ng, the number one bestselling author of the Ohioana Award-winning *Little Fires Everywhere*, as she launches *Our Missing Hearts*, a deeply suspenseful and heartrending novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear. Ng will be in conversation with acclaimed poet and essayist Maggie Smith. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-1-bestselling-author-celeste-ng-maggie-smith-moderates-tickets-387128861847>.

Author Event: Hanif Abdurraqib

November 1, 2022
Presented by Thurber House
Columbus Museum of Art
Columbus, Ohio

Thurber House's fall Evenings with Authors series concludes with poet, essayist, and cultural critic Hanif Abdurraqib, a MacArthur "Genius Grant" fellow, National Book Award finalist, Carnegie Medalist, and two-time winner of the Ohioana Book Award. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.thurberhouse.org/fall-2022-events/hanif-abdurraqib>.

Buckeye Book Fair

November 5, 2022
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Greystone Event Center
Wooster, Ohio

The 35th anniversary Buckeye Book Fair features speakers, literary activities for all ages, and Ohio authors and illustrators who will meet readers and sign copies of their latest books. For more information, visit www.buckeyebookfair.org.

Author Event: Moriel Rothman-Zecher

November 9, 2022
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Gramercy Books Bexley
Bexley, Ohio

Join Jerusalem-born novelist and poet Moriel Rothman-Zecher as he launches *Before All the World*, a mesmerizing, inventive story of three souls in 1930s Philadelphia. Winner of the 2018 Ohioana Book Award for his debut novel, *Sadness is a White Bird*, Rothman-Zecher will be in conversation with Ohioana's Executive Director, David Weaver. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-acclaimed-novelist-and-poet-moriel-rothman-zecher-tickets-387095291437>.

Books by the Banks

November 19, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Duke Energy Convention Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

The popular day-long festival features national, regional, and local authors and illustrators; book signings; panel discussions; and activities for the entire family to enjoy. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://booksbythebanks.org>.

Thank You!

The Ohioana Library wouldn't be the unique organization it is without our many generous supporters. Listed below are those who have given from June 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022. Special thanks to Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

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Why I Support Ohioana

A string of individuals led me to Ohioana. Susan Halpern invited me to serve on the CHRIS Awards' social documentary committee chaired by Charlie Cole, former head of Ohio Humanities. Charlie introduced me to Linda Hengst, Ohioana's then-Executive Director. Linda invited me to the Ohioana Awards, and later to the Ohioana Library with its temperature-controlled shelves filled with files on Ohio writers, preserving their voices and legacies. They even had a file on me. I've been a supporter ever since. I've moderated Ohioana Book Festival poetry panels, notably one that included Ohio's first Poet Laureate, Amit Majmudar. I've retrieved Jacqueline Woodson from the airport, and shared kind words with Rita Dove, Wil Haygood, and Hanif Abdurraqib.

I was assembling a Black History Month display for the OSU Libraries when Nena Couch, curator of the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute, introduced me to David Weaver, who was writing *Black Diva of the Thirties: The Life of Ruby Elzy*. David offered items for the display.

David became executive director of Ohioana, and I became the Ohio *Poetry Out Loud* state coordinator, and then Arts Learning Coordinator for the Ohio Arts Council! Ohioana is an ongoing partner for *Poetry Out Loud*, and the Ohio Arts Council supports the Ohioana Book Award for Poetry.

As a juror for the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, I have read the work of many talented early-career writers: the young woman growing up on her family-owned golf course; a young man bicycling across America; another preparing dinner for friends in France and discussing the delights of literature; and 2015's Marvin winner, who recently published a book of essays on Black womanhood.

The Ohioana Library advances the global impact of Ohio writers, and I'm proud to be part of that endeavor. It's been an amazing journey of mutual support on behalf of literature nurtured in Ohio!

Chiquita Mullins Lee



Chiquita Mullins Lee is an Arts Learning Coordinator for the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). She is also a performer, poet, and playwright (*Pierce to the Soul*). At New Covenant Believers Church, Chiquita leads *Word Warriors* creative writing ministry.

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