

# OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

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Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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# OHIOana QUARTERLY

WINTER 2023

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# From the Director

Dear Friends,



One of my fondest memories from growing up is playing board games with my family. Our favorite was the murder mystery game *Clue*, in which you had to figure out not only who did it, but also where and with what weapon. Was it Miss Scarlett with the lead pipe in the library or Colonel Mustard with the candlestick in the dining room? What great fun it was.

Mysteries have long been popular in all sorts of media, especially books. There is something for every fan of mystery, from detective fiction and true crime to “cozies” and legal thrillers. These books take place across the globe and even in realms straight from the imagination. But it’s extra fun to read a mystery set in a place you know—like Ohio! Our cover story explores this subject with the inside scoop from seven popular Ohio mystery authors.

We also take a look at several organizations that are devoted to the art and craft of mystery. From meetings and workshops to grants and awards, these organizations have much to offer mystery writers, both professional and aspiring.

Now, we’re excited to clue you in to our big spring news: the Ohioana Book Festival is returning to a live in-person event! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 22, as we present the 2023 Ohioana Book Festival at the Columbus Metropolitan Library’s Main Library. Whether you love mystery or memoir, nonfiction or fantasy, or books for children and teens, there’s something for every reader of every age at the festival!

Also in this issue, we’re pleased to introduce the winner of the 2023 Floyd’s Pick Book Award and two Floyd’s Pick Honor Book titles. We know that Floyd Dickman, for whom the awards are named, would be delighted with this year’s choices of outstanding picture books for children.

With the new year underway, thank you once again for bearing with us during the past few challenging years of COVID. We feel optimistic that the light is at the end of the tunnel, and we look forward to seeing you in 2023!

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

The *Ohioana Quarterly* puts mysteries set in Ohio under the magnifying glass. Design and artwork by Kathryn Powers.

# EVERYONE LOVES (an Ohio) MYSTERY

by **DAVID WEAVER**



A good mystery—who doesn't love to read one? As a genre, mysteries in all their myriad forms are second only to romance novels in terms of their popularity with readers. I can vouch for that; each year at the Ohioana Book Festival, we present several panels on mystery—and audiences flock to every one.

Ohio has been home to great mystery writers going back a century. In the 1920s, authors like Earl Derr Biggers, W. R. Burnett, and Mildred Wirt Benson (the original “Carolyn Keene”) created stories and characters that captured the public’s imagination. Ohio mystery writers have been doing it ever since.

Recently, we talked to seven authors who are not only Ohioans themselves, but whose stories also take place in the Buckeye State. Some are set in the present and some in the past; the locations range from big cities to small towns and the countryside. We asked each author to share the creative inspiration and the writing process behind their work. Bios of each author can be found at the end of the article. We think you’ll agree—it’s no mystery why audiences love the books and series by these talented Ohioans!

**Q: What motivated you to set your books in Ohio, and how important is that setting to your stories?**

**Abby L. Vandiver, a.k.a Abby Collette**

Ohio is the heart of it all, isn't it? I love being from Ohio, but even more, I'm familiar with it and it's always easier to “write what you know.” I've lived near the top (Cleveland), in the middle (Columbus), and near the bottom (Cincinnati), and all of it is filled with great

stories and great people. With the changing of the seasons, there is always great setting material, which is so important to a story.

**Amanda Flower**

Most of my novels are set in Ohio, and the setting is one of the most important aspects of a book for me. Many times, I have the setting before I know the main character's name or any of the plot. Ohio, in particular, is a great setting for a novel because the state has small towns, big cities, and so many interesting landmarks.

**Andrew Welsh-Huggins**

Although I'm not a native Ohioan, I attended college here and after moving around a bit, have called the state home since 1996—first in Youngstown and then settling in Columbus in 1998. Setting my books in Ohio, and specifically in Columbus, felt both natural and mandatory. Natural, because I'd tried out cities in other states as the locale for a private eye series, but it wasn't until I'd lived in Columbus for a few years that I realized how much the city had to offer, both good and bad, and what a perfect setting it would make for mysteries. Mandatory, because Columbus, one of the country's fastest-growing and most dynamic metropolises, is a city that deserves its own niche in the mystery genre.

**Kristen Lepionka**

I think it's just a bit more fun to read fiction that is set in the area where you live. It gives much more context to locations. You can enjoy a book set anywhere (I certainly hope so, since I'm published in the UK as well!), but I've always enjoyed books set in Ohio; before I ever wrote a word of the Roxane Weary series, I knew that it was going to be set here in Columbus. I think it's human nature to get excited about a familiar setting. I remember



when the *Ready Player One* movie was getting ready to come out, I saw the preview at a movie theater. The first line of the trailer was, “I live in Columbus, Ohio,” and people in the audience were like “oooooh!” It was an audible reaction.

### **Meredith Doench**

Ohio is home to some of the most interesting people I’ve ever met. Granted, I’m biased in that I’ve lived in Ohio my whole life, except for a few years of study in Indiana and Texas. When I returned to Dayton after grad school, I knew I wanted to set my Luce Hansen Thriller series in Southeast Ohio. The hilly and rugged terrain was perfect for the books, and I needed a location where a character could move from a crowded city to a rural area in about an hour’s drive. Ohio’s landscape is so different from one part of the state to another, and that works really well for the mysteries I’m writing. I also enjoy working with the perceptions of Midwesterners. On the surface, Ohio is “Midwestern nice” and apple pie, but there’s another layer. I like to scrape into those layers to find what lies beneath. In my latest book, *Whereabouts Unknown*, I work with a startup militia. Parts of Ohio have certainly had their share of these groups, and it’s the perfect landscape for a thriller.

### **Robin Yocum**

They say you should write what you know, so I’m not sure I had many options. I was born and raised in Ohio, educated in Ohio, and have lived my entire professional life in Ohio. It was a natural fit. My books are largely set in the Ohio River Valley where I grew up. It was a time of great industrial strength in this country and “the Valley,” as it is known, exemplified that might. I refer to my Valley backdrop as “the grit and the grind.” In my novels, I try to capture the Valley of my youth, a time when 60,000 people worked in the steel mills and every man I knew went to work in the morning with a hardhat in one hand and a tin lunch pail in the other, including my father, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers. The Youngstown mob ran the rackets in the Valley—prostitution, gambling, and loan sharking—and it was all wide open. The industrial exhaust coated our snow in black soot. High school football was the biggest game in town and often played in the shadows of the mills. There

was nothing quaint about the Valley. Men with faces stained with grime supplied the nation with steel. We’ll never again see a time like it, so I think it’s important to capture it in my books.

### **Sharon Short, a.k.a Jess Montgomery**

I’m a native of Ohio and have lived in the state my whole life, except for a few years in Louisiana and California. So, Ohio feels very natural to me as a setting. Plus, Ohio offers such a great diversity of settings, from rural to small towns to large cities—and even coastal! I’ve written ten novels as Sharon Short, nine of them mysteries, all set in Ohio. For the Kinship historical mystery series, written under the pen name Jess Montgomery, it was imperative that I set the novels in Southeast Ohio because the series was inspired by Ohio’s true first female sheriff, Maude Collins of Vinton County in 1925. In my novels, Sheriff Lily Ross serves Bronwyn County—a county I created to include portions and attributes of Vinton, Hocking, and Athens counties. I wanted the diversity of hills and hollows, of coal mining and farming, and also the freedom to create stories that didn’t happen in real life in those settings, but that could have. The county seat of Bronwyn is Kinship, which is loosely created from Nelsonville and McArthur. Kinship serves not only as the county seat name, but also symbolizes the overarching thematic question of the series: What happens, whether for good or ill, in the quest to balance individuality with community?

**Q: Do you have to do a lot of research in preparation to write a mystery or crime novel? Have any of your stories been based on actual crimes?**

**Abby:** I do a lot of research for my stories, especially on the method used to kill the victim, but also for less twisted elements of my story like names, places, and occupation. It’s easy to go down the “rabbit hole” while doing research—getting lost and wasting time on nonessential matter—so I limit my research and just get to writing.

**Amanda:** It depends on the novel. About half of the forty-seven novels I’ve written are set in Ohio Amish



communities. When I started writing about the Amish, I did a lot of first-person research and learned from Amish and former Amish life experiences. However, in the case of *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*—my historical mystery and the first novel in the Emily Dickinson Mystery series—most of that research was in books, letters, and documents.

**Andrew:** Many of my Andy Hayes private eye books are based loosely on wrongdoings I covered as a reporter for The Associated Press, whether street violence, calculated criminal acts, or Statehouse shenanigans. I research topics and issues germane to plot development before and during the writing process. Most of the time, however, the “ripped-from-my-own-headlines” stories that I tap are the kernel of an idea that I use as a starting point, not an outline. For example, the Shamus Award-nominated *An Empty Grave* was inspired by the true story of a burglar who disappeared in plain sight for decades after shooting a Columbus police officer in 1972. But the reason my burglar was able to vanish sprang entirely from my own imagination.

**Kristen:** I think there are bits and pieces of actual crimes in all of my stories. Nothing that I would consider “based on,” but “inspired by”—yes! I think all crime writers choose to write mysteries because we find criminal behavior to be fascinating. I am always filing away interesting tidbits from true crime shows, which of course I’m obsessed with. The fun part starts when you take different bits and combine them to make something totally new. As far as research goes, I like to be as accurate as possible, so there’s a fair amount of me going, “But how does this work?” and trying to figure that out while I’m writing. Because my series character is a private investigator, she has a lot of leeway in terms of her process, so I don’t worry too much about that. I have been known to waste a bit of time, though, trying to Google things like, “Which side of the elevator are the buttons on at the Caesars Palace in Windsor, Canada?” Turns out, that is not particularly Google-able. But a gal can dream.

**Meredith:** I’m a writer that really loves to do research. I can go down those “rabbit holes” for days! In my latest book, *Whereabouts Unknown*, I found myself spiraling

through information on white supremacy groups and their methods of recruitment. While everything in my novels is fiction, I base the investigations on current practices of law enforcement. I spend a lot of time keeping up with current court cases and materials related to true crime. I’m very lucky to have a few colleagues and friends who help with my research. I’ve worked with an FBI agent regarding weapons in my books. I’ve also worked with an ex-cop from a sex crimes unit and a mortician at a university in my area. Both are very honest with me about details and hate it when I get anything wrong about dead bodies or the law. It’s important to me to get the facts correct. While I don’t base the crimes in my books solely on real cases, I do take elements from multiple true crimes and sometimes combine them in ways that will work best for my detective or special agent’s situation.

**Robin:** I do surprisingly little research. I was the crime reporter for the *Columbus Dispatch* for more than four years and spent another six on the investigative team, during which many of my stories were crime related. I had a lot of exposure to street cops, detectives, the justice system, and the penal system, so that affords me the luxury of understanding how criminals think (or don’t), cops investigate, and the judicial system prosecutes. I haven’t used any cases that I covered as a basis for my fiction. However, I will often base my bad guys on criminals I have known and interviewed. For writing dialogue or scenes, I often consult my notebook of interesting quotes and oddball situations from when I was a reporter. I assign people I know to play my characters in my head. Thus, I often assign criminals and cops I have known to play the roles for me. It helps me create characters because I know their mannerisms.

**Sharon/Jess:** As I mentioned, my protagonist, Lily Ross, is inspired by Ohio’s true first female sheriff, Maude Collins. What’s more, my novels include or are inspired by true history of the 1920s—from coal mining disasters and conflicts, to workers’ rights, to women’s rights, to Prohibition, moonshining, and bootlegging. In real life, Maude’s husband, Sheriff Fletcher Collins, was killed in the line of duty, but there was no mystery as to the killer; there were plenty of witnesses. In my first novel





in the series, *The Widows*, Lily's husband, Sheriff Daniel Ross, is also killed in the line of duty, but there are no witnesses and the central mystery is who killed him and why? Other crimes in *The Widows* and the ensuing titles are purely from my imagination.

### Q: How do you get inside the head of the sleuth versus the villains of the story?

**Abby:** It isn't hard once you create a character. They take on a life of their own and have their own thoughts. (Sometimes what they think even scares me!)

**Amanda:** I write almost exclusively in first person from the point of view of my sleuth. In that case, it's very easy to get into their head as we are solving the crime together. In the case of the villain, I spend a lot of time considering what their motivation is for committing a crime.

**Andrew:** Andy Hayes, my private eye protagonist, is basically my alter ego, so imagining how he works a case feels relatively easy. I mine my experiences as a reporter, inject my sense of humor, and most importantly, send him off to my favorite places to eat. Next, I have some fun with his and my differences—I was not, in fact, a college football star, and unlike the unlucky-in-love Hayes, I have been with my wife for more than forty years—and run with those concepts. Villains are a little harder, since it's tempting to paint them in uniform shades of black. I try to adopt the approach of Elmore Leonard, who talked about creating bad guys who were normal people who woke up, had breakfast, thought about calling their mother, and then robbed a bank.

**Kristen:** I think it's important to understand the motivations of all of your characters—sleuths and villains alike. Even if you are writing from first person or a close third and you aren't storytelling from the point of view of your villain, it's important to understand them. There's very common writing advice that every character needs to want something in every scene, but it's not a cliché just because it's common—it's true! Understanding what they want is key to understanding

who they are and where they're coming from. All of my novels have been from the POV of the sleuth only, although I've published two short stories that alternate between the main character and the villain. Ultimately, the question of which POVs to include is dictated by the story you are trying to tell.

**Meredith:** Honestly, I try to stay out of the heads of my villains! I'd much rather be in the heads of my protagonists or a periphery character. That's not always feasible, but I do try to limit the time I spend in those dark spaces. I'm much more interested in how my protagonists will outsmart the villain. One way I try to get inside my protagonist's head is through visiting the spaces they inhabit on a regular basis. I like to drive the same roads they take to work, visit their local grocery store or favorite restaurant, and walk a route I imagine they take with their dog. Seeing the regular sights of their day helps me to place them in a location and learn their daily patterns. Mysteries, in some ways, are about breaking those life patterns and upsetting the life of the protagonist (for a time). I also like to take in the same media my protagonist would—music, shows, podcasts, etc. It helps me to know what they are thinking about and how that might influence their behavior.

**Robin:** Once I decide who's going to play the role in my head, my characters talk to me. I can visualize them and hear their voices, like there's a movie playing in my brain. When it's really working, it's not so much writing as it is taking dictation. I write my stories in first person, so there's always a lot of my personality in my protagonists. The novel I just completed is a story about a mob hitman, so I'm not sure what that says about my psyche. Two things I learned from interviewing criminals is that they have a disdain for law enforcement, and they aren't nearly as smart as they believe . . . which is why so many of those interviews took place in prison. When creating a villain, I use those guidelines. Since my novels are not psychological thrillers, I largely rely on the personality of my protagonists. Hutch Van Buren has been in two novels—*Favorite Sons* and *The Sacrifice of Lester Yates*. I try not to make him look like Superman. Most of us live our lives in the vast gray area between black and white, right and wrong, good and evil. I want Hutch to seem



real to my readers, so I expose his flaws along with the strengths that make him a good lawman.

**Sharon/Jess:** I spend a lot of time before I begin plotting and writing on figuring out my cast of characters—thinking through their backstories, history, worldview, family tree, timeline of major life events, and motivations. What do they want (or think they want?) What do they need? How far will they go to achieve their goal? It’s amazing how much conflict naturally arises from planning out the characters in this way. It’s the same process for my sleuth, any sidekicks, and the villains. Where villains become challenging for me is trying to understand, or even find a glimmer of sympathy for, their motivations. Sometimes that’s really hard, especially if I’ve created a cruel villain whose motives and goals I don’t agree with. But I press myself to do so, because it helps me create a more believable, rather than a stereotyped, villain. My favorite villain of the Kinship series is Fiona from *The Stills*.

### Q: What is the hardest part about writing mysteries?

**Abby:** Clues! You have to give good clues without giving anything away. You don’t want your reader to discover the killer too early on. Sometimes I have to write the denouement to see how the killer was caught so that I know what clues to include.

**Amanda:** I don’t outline before I write, so the hardest part for me is not knowing who the killer is until the very end of the book. Not knowing can be good too—I learn a lot about the characters along the way.

**Andrew:** I don’t know about the hardest part, but one thing I focus on is always playing fair with readers by threading clues evenly throughout my books and stories. My cardinal rule is I must mention a key plot point at least three times to keep things honest. Related to that is the challenge of creating interesting characters, a solid puzzle, and a fast pace. As Mickey Spillane said, no one reads a mystery to get to the middle.

**Kristen:** I think the hardest part of writing anything is knowing where your story actually starts. It’s often not at what you think of as “the beginning.” Sometimes you have to write an entire book to figure out that your story actually begins one hundred pages into the manuscript. I also think a challenge with mysteries is making sure you “earn” your twists. As a reader, there is nothing worse than to have the big reveal be something out of the blue. It’s the author’s job to make sure all of the groundwork is in place, without making the conclusion obvious.

**Meredith:** By far, the hardest part for me is crafting the crime. I’ve learned that it’s almost impossible in the current day to commit the perfect crime given our access to phones, tracking systems, and electronics. On the flip side of that, I’ve learned to lean into the many twists and turns of a crime that allow for error. While these “snags” in the crime can be maddening in the drafting process, they undoubtedly become my favorite parts of the mystery. This is where secrets live and where characters reveal their true selves and motives. Readers expect very complex and detailed crimes that keep them guessing until the end. That’s what satisfies me, too, and this is why I take my time crafting a book’s crime.

**Robin:** I think it’s creating a balance between keeping the reader guessing and believability. We’ve all read mysteries where the big reveal is so preposterous that you want to throw the book across the room. I won’t put words on page one until I know what’s going to be on the last page. I have to know how the book ends before I start writing. If I’ve come up with a solid ending, I feel like I can draw the roadmap to get there. The twists and turns along the way seem to take care of themselves. There are times, for example, when I’ll be struggling to come up with a believable way to kill someone off. The solution can often come to me at night. It freaks my wife out a bit when I wake up in the morning and say, “I figured out how I’m going to kill off so-and-so.” She’ll say, “Great. That’s what you were thinking about while you were sleeping next to me?”

**Sharon/Jess:** For me, the trickiest part of writing mysteries is coming up with a crime that my villain could almost get away with—except for a detail or two that he or she didn’t take into account. I want my villains to be





smart, but not so perfect that my sleuth can't figure out who-dun-it. And I want my sleuth to be smart, too, and challenged by the mystery. As a reader, one of the many satisfying aspects of mysteries is trying to sort out what really happened along with the sleuth—but not before, or at least too much before, the sleuth does. I spend a lot of time reviewing, over and over, the clues I've seeded into my stories to be sure they're plausible and that I'm playing fair with the reader without making it too easy.

**Q: Are there any mystery writers or series who have inspired you? What are you reading right now?**

**Abby:** *All Her Little Secrets* by Wanda Morris is what I'm reading right now. I always aspire to be more like Agatha Christie. Who doesn't?

**Amanda:** There are so many mystery writers that inspire me. It would be difficult to list them all, but I've been reading a lot of historical mysteries lately by authors like Charles Todd, Anna Lee Huber, and Colleen Cambridge.

**Andrew:** I came of age devouring the private eye novels of Robert B. Parker (Boston PI Spenser), Loren Estleman (Detroit PI Amos Walker) and Stuart Kaminsky. Without question, though, it was my experience reading Les Roberts' Cleveland-set Milan Jacovich private eye novels that inspired me to position my own series in Columbus. Roberts gave me the confidence that a so-called "regional" mystery series could be just as good and exciting as one set in New York City or Los Angeles. Today I read a lot of mystery writers and subgenres, but I never miss a book by Laura Lippman, Karin Slaughter, or Michael Connelly, for starters. I also read a lot of short mystery fiction in multiple magazines and anthologies.

**Kristen:** I just finished *Intimacies* by Katie Kitamura and I'm still thinking about it. It's literary fiction and not crime at all, but it is still a masterclass in suspense and narrative tension. I think that is such an impressive feat—to create suspense without relying on any physical "danger" in the story. As far as inspiration goes, gosh, how much space do you have? There are SO many

writers who have inspired me. I love Sue Grafton's iconic series, Tracy Clark, Tana French, Gillian Flynn, and Joseph Hansen, to name a few. I also really like Stephen Markley's *Ohio* as a fantastic example of an Ohio-set story with narrative tension. It was recommended to me by Mindy McGinnis, another Ohio writer whose work is an inspiration because she writes such great complex women.

**Meredith:** There have been so many! I've been greatly inspired by J. M. Redmann's Mickey Knight series and Chelsea Cain's Heartsick series. Both of these writers were foundational in the development of my lesbian crime series about special agent Luce Hansen. Stephen King has also been a fantastic inspiration to me, as well as Cheryl Head's Charlie Mack series. Over the past year or so, I've been reading mysteries by Ohio writers, and I'm completely taken with Erin Flanagan's *Blackout*, as well as Jess Montgomery's Kinship historical mystery series. I've also been a longtime fan of Kristen Lepionka's Roxane Weary series and Andrew Welsh-Huggins' Andy Hayes private eye series.

**Robin:** James Lee Burke. I think he's one of the best writers alive. When I was first trying to get my fiction published, I listened to the audio version of *Purple Cane Road*. When I finished, I thought, *Okay, that's how it's supposed to be done*. He's a gifted writer and his characters, Dave Robicheaux and Clete Purcell, are two of the best in crime fiction. I have eclectic tastes in what I read. I probably read more history than anything else. I just finished Bill O'Reilly's book, *The Day the World Went Nuclear: Dropping the Atom Bomb and the End of World War II in the Pacific*, and I just started *Sea of Darkness* by Brian Hicks and the late Clive Cussler. It's an account of the search for, and recovery of, the Confederate submarine *H. L. Hunley*, which was the first submarine to sink an enemy ship in combat. I don't read as much as I would like. If I have time to read, I tell myself that I should be putting words on paper.

**Sharon/Jess:** In my early years, I read Sue Grafton and Tony Hillerman novels almost obsessively. Talk about smart mysteries! From clever crimes, to fascinating characters, to page-turning action, to sharp dialogue, to atmospheric setting—to me, these novels had it all.



I also had the pleasure of studying with Sue Grafton at the Antioch Writers' Workshop in Yellow Springs back in the 1990s. I've always applied her core teachings to my own writing, as well as how I've critiqued student work over the years. Now, I love so many writers—in the mystery, mainstream, speculative, and literary genres—that it's a challenge to name just a few. If I must pick two mystery writers, I'll go with Laura Lippman and William Kent Krueger. Currently, as I write this, I'm reading *The Disinvited Guest* by Carol Goodman and loving every page!

**Q: What is your latest book? Is it a continuation of an existing series, the start of a new one, or a standalone novel?**

**Abby:** It is the start of a new one. We'll see what happens, so stay tuned!

**Amanda:** I have two novels that came out close together. The first is *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*, and it is the first novel in the Emily Dickinson Mystery series set in 1855 Amherst, Massachusetts. Emily Dickinson is the sleuth. The second one is *Honeymoons Can Be Hazardous*, and it is the fourth novel in the Amish Matchmaker Mysteries set in Holmes County, Ohio. The sleuth is a sixty-something Amish matchmaker, and she solves crimes with her zany English best friend Lois.

**Andrew:** My crime novel, *The End of the Road*, coming in April 2023, is a standalone thriller set in and around Columbus. It tells the story of Penny, a young woman who sets out to avenge the shooting of her boyfriend without involving the police, who she believes won't be able to stop the criminal behind the attack. Along the way she teams up with J. P., a rural Ohio sheriff's deputy trying to overcome a personal tragedy that's held him back emotionally and professionally for several years. It's a departure from the Andy Hayes books because it's darker and written from multiple viewpoints, but should still appeal to anyone looking for an Ohio-set mystery.

**Kristen:** My latest book is *Once You Go This Far*, the fourth in the Roxane Weary series. I'm currently working

on a standalone mystery. I hope to write another Roxane mystery next.

**Meredith:** My latest novel, *Whereabouts Unknown*, is a standalone. It follows homicide detective Theodora Madsen of the Dayton Police Department in Ohio. She's in the prime of her life with a woman and a job she loves and a baby on the way, but when she's shot on a routine follow-up to a cold case of a missing teen, it's unclear if her injuries will be career-ending or not. As she works the case from her recovery desk, she receives news of a missing teen near Cleveland and becomes convinced the cases are related. Annabelle, the second missing girl and also a point of view character in the book, disappeared from Brecksville, Ohio, hoping to create a better life for her soon-to-be child. What starts off as a safe haven for her baby quickly devolves into danger. As Theodora recovers from her injury and her partner is put on bedrest for an at-risk pregnancy, Annabelle's situation becomes dire, complicated by lupus, her auto-immune disorder. As the clock ticks down, both new parents must decide what they'll do to safeguard the ones they love.

**Robin:** It is a standalone novel tentatively titled, *The Last Hitman*. It's set in Steubenville and is about an aging mob hitman who has outlived his usefulness to the family. My agent recently retired, so I'm working on finding new representation for the novel.

**Sharon/Jess:** My latest published novel is *The Echoes*, the fourth in my Kinship series, published by Minotaur Books, under my pen name Jess Montgomery. The novel takes place during the July 4 holiday in 1928. It explores themes of PTSD (or, as the characters would have called it, "shell shock"), the echoes of trauma years after the initial physical or emotional wounding, and how that can play out in families. It also touches on how we define and redefine family over time. It's an uplifting novel in many ways, showing the full arc of Sheriff Lily Ross finally coming to terms in a personal way with the loss of her husband in the first novel (*The Widows*). Currently, I'm writing a standalone historical suspense, set in the 1930s and mixing gangsters, bootlegging, secret identities, and more. It's early days on this project, but I'm very excited about it—and yes, it has a strong Ohio connection.



**Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring writers of mystery/crime/suspense stories?**

**Abby:** Yes, be sure to finish your story. So many times I hear, “I’m working on a story for this many years.” Don’t keep working on it. Just get it done.

**Amanda:** The biggest suggestion that I can give any writer is to read what you want to write. If you want to write mystery, read mystery. Reading is the best thing you can do for yourself as a writer.

**Andrew:** First and most important, give yourself permission to treat whatever project you undertake—short story, novella, or novel—as a serious endeavor that may take precedence over other things in your life. Next, read a lot, including as many contemporary authors as possible. (It’s amazing how many budding mystery writers inform me that their favorite authors are Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie and . . . no one else.) Then, identify a place and a time in your life to write—morning, noon, or night; office, kitchen table, or couch—and put in some time then and there most days of the week. Finally, play the long game—while publishing opportunities abound, plan to work for years to become established.

Also, did I mention reading a lot?

**Kristen:** Read everything. In the genre, outside the genre. You can go to school to get a writing degree, but you don’t need to do that to “learn” how to write these kinds of stories. You’ll figure out your own voice as a writer by honing your tastes as a reader.

**Meredith:** One of the most helpful things for me has been going to workshops. I went to (and continue to attend) all kinds of workshops at my local public libraries, as well as libraries or bookstores online. Zoom and other live feeds through social media have made these kinds of events easily available and affordable. I’ve learned so much from listening to other writers detail their own writing journeys and how they approach writing themselves. Along with reading widely in the mystery genre, it has also helped me to listen to true crime podcasts. These are full of interesting information

on crimes and how investigators have attempted to solve them. These podcasts are a treasure trove for mystery and thriller writers.

**Robin:** I just saw a meme the other day that said, *I received 48 rejection letters before I received my 49th*. It’s a tough business, and you need to have thick skin. The best advice I can give is to keep slugging away. You just have to find that one person out there—agent or editor—who believes in your work. Once you do that, life gets a lot easier.

**Sharon/Jess:** First, it’s important to read, read, read! Read in the mystery/crime/suspense genre and find the subgenres you love most. Ask yourself why they appeal so strongly to you. This will help you create a story that both fits the area of the genre that you love, and that is personal to you.

Second, be a part of the mystery community. Join one of the mystery writing organizations, such as Mystery Writers of America or Sisters in Crime. Organizations like these host conferences, as well as sponsor many online learning opportunities. It’s a great way to meet other writers and learn at the same time.

Third, to give a twist to the “always be closing” line from the movie *Glengarry Glen Ross*, “always be learning!” That includes reading and being a part of the mystery writing community, but also continually taking classes and reading craft books, both focused on mystery writing and on creative writing craft in general.

Finally, also be coachable. This is a concept from sports, but it certainly applies to any endeavor in life, including the creative arts. It’s one thing to find an agent or editor (or mentor or coach), but doing so won’t do you any good if you aren’t coachable—meaning, you know how to quietly take in advice, sit with it, learn from it, and discern when and how to act on that feedback.





## Meet the Authors

**Abby L. Vandiver** is a *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and internationally bestselling author of more than thirty books and short stories, including the Logan Dickerson Mysteries and Romaine Wilder Mysteries. As **Abby Collette**, she is the author of the Ice Cream Parlor Mystery series, about a millennial MBA-holding granddaughter running a family-owned ice cream shop in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Her new Books and Biscuits Mystery series is set in the Pacific Northwest. A native of Cleveland, Abby lives in South Euclid, Ohio. Visit her online at [www.abbycollette.com](http://www.abbycollette.com).

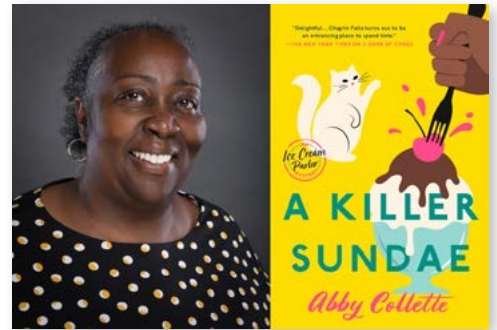


Photo by Duke Morris

**Amanda Flower** is a *USA Today*–bestselling and Agatha Award–winning author of over thirty-five mystery novels (including six written as **Isabella Alan**). Her novels have received starred reviews from *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Romantic Times*, and she has been featured in *USA Today*, *First for Women*, and *Woman’s World*. She currently writes for Penguin-Random House (Berkley), Kensington, and Sourcebooks. In addition to being a writer, she was a librarian for fifteen years. Today, Flower and her husband own a farm and recording studio, and they live in Northeast Ohio with their five adorable cats. Visit her online at [www.amandaflower.com](http://www.amandaflower.com).

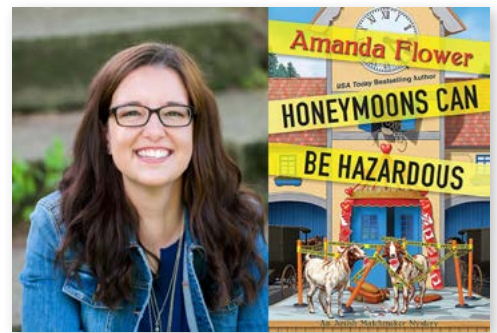


Photo courtesy of Amanda Flower

**Andrew Welsh-Huggins** is a Nero Award finalist and author of seven mysteries from Swallow Press featuring Andy Hayes, a former Ohio State and Cleveland Browns quarterback turned private eye. Welsh-Huggins is also the editor of *Columbus Noir* (Akashic Books) and his short fiction has appeared in publications including *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Mystery Weekly*, and *Mystery Tribune*. Formerly a reporter for The Associated Press in Columbus, Ohio, his nonfiction book *No Winners Here Tonight* (Ohio University Press) is the definitive history of the death penalty in Ohio. Visit him online at [www.andrewwelshhuggins.com](http://www.andrewwelshhuggins.com).

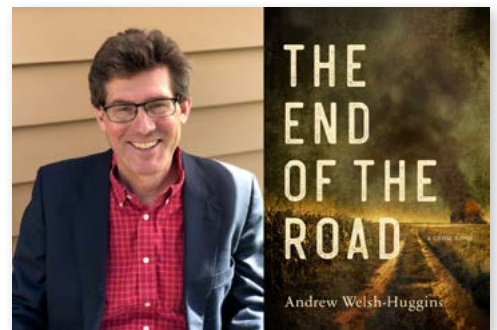


Photo courtesy of Andrew Welsh-Huggins

**Kristen Lepionka** is the Shamus Award–winning author of the Roxane Weary Mystery series. She grew up mostly in a public library and could often be found in the adult mystery section well before she was out of middle school. Kristen cohosts the podcast *Unlikeable Female Characters*, in which feminist thriller writers have conversations about women who don’t care if you like them. She lives in Columbus, Ohio, with her partner and two cats. Visit her online at [www.kristenlepcionka.com](http://www.kristenlepcionka.com).



Photo by Coley & Co

**Meredith Doench** is the author of the award-winning Luce Hansen Thriller series from Bold Strokes Books. Doench's works of short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in literary journals such as *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Lumina*, and *Gertrude*. A native Ohioan, Doench holds a PhD from Texas Tech University in English/creative writing and currently resides in Dayton, Ohio. She is a lecturer at the University of Dayton in composition, literature, and creative writing. Visit her online at [www.meredithdoench.com](http://www.meredithdoench.com).



Photo courtesy of Meredith Doench

**Robin Yocum** is the Edgar-nominated author known for his fiction set in the Ohio River Valley. His 2021 novel, *The Sacrifice of Lester Yates*, was a finalist for the Dashiell Hammett Award for excellence in crime writing. *Favorite Sons* was named the 2011 Book of the Year for Mystery/Suspense by USA Book News. *A Brilliant Death* was a Barnes & Noble No. 1 bestseller and a finalist for both the 2017 Edgar Award and the Silver Falchion Award for best adult mystery. As an investigative reporter, including eleven years with the *Columbus Dispatch*, Yocum won more than thirty local, state, and national journalism awards. Visit him online at [www.robinyocum.net](http://www.robinyocum.net).

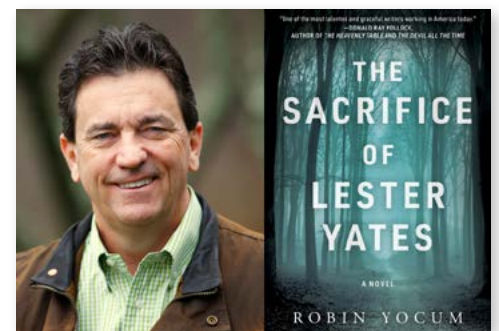


Photo courtesy of Robin Yocum

**Sharon Short** writes a *Writer's Digest* magazine column, "Level Up Your Writing (Life)," and was formerly the "Literary Life" columnist for the *Dayton Daily News*. She is also the author of the 2013 bestseller, *My One Square Inch of Alaska*. As **Jess Montgomery**, she writes the Kinship historical mystery series, inspired by a true-life 1920s female sheriff in Appalachia. Based on early chapters of the first book in the series, she was awarded an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Grant for literary arts and named the John E. Nance Writer-in-Residence at Thurber House in Columbus. Sharon/Jess lives in her native Ohio. Visit her online at [www.sharonshort.com](http://www.sharonshort.com) and [www.jessmontgomeryauthor.com](http://www.jessmontgomeryauthor.com).



Photo courtesy of Sharon Short

# Mystery Loves Company

by David Weaver

The people who write mystery and those who read it are truly a community of kindred spirits. You see it evident at events like the Ohioana Book Festival. It's no surprise there are a number of organizations—local, regional, and national—that foster this camaraderie. Through their activities, they not only promote mystery as a literary genre, but play an important role in helping both those who are professional writers and those who aspire to be.

Leading the way since 1945 has been the Mystery Writers of America (MWA). As its mission statement proclaims, MWA “is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime-writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre. MWA is dedicated to promoting higher regard for crime writing and recognition and respect for those who write within the genre.”

MWA offers many programs but is best known for the prestigious Edgar Awards, given annually to the most deserving works in the mystery field. While it is headquartered in New York, MWA also has eleven regional chapters. The Midwest chapter is the largest, consisting of thirteen states including Ohio.

Some organizations are specialized, such as the Private Eye Writers of America (PWA). As you can tell by its name, PWA focuses on fiction built around private eyes—those for-hire crime-solvers who represent some of mystery's most popular characters, from Sam Spade to Kinsey Milhone. Founded in 1981, PWA is open to fans, writers, and publishing professionals. PWA honors writers of the private eye genre with the annual Shamus Award, given for the best PI fiction of the prior year.

Sisters in Crime is another leading national organization. It was founded in 1986 by twenty-six women crime writers who sought to be treated as the equals of male writers and address the obstacles women faced in publishing. Today Sisters in Crime welcomes all genders, genres, writers, and readers, with more than 4,500 members nationwide. There are chapters in thirty-seven states including two chapters in Ohio: NEOSinC, based in Cleveland, and Buckeye Crime Writers, based in Columbus.

These organizations are an integral part of many literary events around the state. At the Ohioana Book Festival, members from each organization participate not only as authors, but also as moderators for mystery panels.

Most importantly, organizations like these provide a host of benefits to emerging mystery writers including networking, continuing education, and exposure opportunities. Such help is invaluable,

especially to writers starting out, as Amanda Flower recalled: “Sisters in Crime was an essential part of my success. I joined as a young writer who knew nothing about the publishing industry. Through Sisters in Crime and my local chapter, NeoSinC, I have learned so much about the craft of writing, the business of writing, and made dear friends along the way. I wouldn't be where I am without it.”

Flower's sentiments were echoed by Andrew Welsh-Huggins. Active in both Buckeye Crime Writers and the Midwest chapter of Mystery Writers of America,





Welsh-Huggins said: “Joining a mystery writing group and attending as many virtual and in-person events as possible has assisted me greatly over the years, especially given the solitary nature of our work. Chapter meetings provide valuable tips on the craft of writing and editing, available markets, and routes to publication. Above all, writing groups provide support and encouragement in doing something we love but which often takes years to find success in.”

All the organizations cited in this article are open to anyone, whether you’re a professional author, an aspiring writer, or someone who simply loves to read mystery books. Visit their websites to learn more about how you can get involved:

- Mystery Writers of America (national): <http://mysterywriters.org>
- Mystery Writers of America (Midwest): <https://www.mwamidwest.org>
- Private Eye Writers of America (national): <http://www.privateeyewriters.com>
- Sisters in Crime (national): <https://www.sistersincrime.org>
- Buckeye Crime Writers (Columbus): <https://buckeyecrimewriters.org>
- Northeast Ohio Sisters in Crime (NEOSinC): <http://neosinc.org/wordpress/>

Logos on page 14 courtesy of the organizations. Private Eye Writers of America illustration © Terry Beatty.



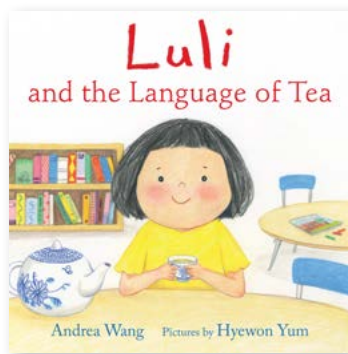
Mystery authors at the Ohioana Book Festival! Top: from 2022, Claudia Plumley hosts a virtual historical mystery panel with Erin Flanagan, Nancy Herriman, Anna Lee Huber, and Jess Montgomery. Middle: from 2019, Kandy Williams and Connie Berry at the Buckeye Crime Writers table. Bottom: from 2019, a cozy mystery panel with Olivia Matthews, Bree Baker, and Amanda Flower. (Photo credits: top photo by Kathryn Powers; middle and bottom photos by Mary Rathke)

# Announcing the 2023 Floyd's Pick

When children's literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman passed away in 2015, it was a loss felt throughout the library world. To honor his memory and carry on the legacy of his work, the Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) Advisory Council created an annual children's book award in his name. The award was launched in December 2015. Since then, the CTRO Advisory Council has selected one outstanding book of Ohio children's literature annually to be designated as Floyd's Pick. In 2019, Floyd's Pick Honor Books were added; there may be up to three titles awarded every year.

The 2023 Floyd's Pick Book Award winner is Andrea Wang's *Luli and the Language of Tea*.

Illustrated by Hyewon Yum (Neal Porter Books, 2022), it is a charming, affirming, quietly triumphant story about reaching across barriers and creating a community. Wang is the author of several notable books for children including *Watercress*, which was awarded the Caldecott Medal, a Newbery Honor, the Ohioana Book Award, and is a previous Floyd's Pick Honor Book. She lived in Yellow Springs for much of her childhood.

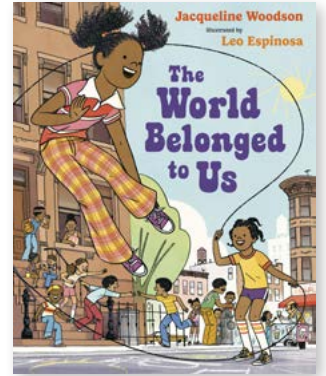


The Choose to Read Ohio Advisory Council also selected two 2023 Floyd's Pick Honor Books.

*Courage Hats*, written by Kate Hoefler and illustrated by Jessixa Bagley (Chronicle Books, 2022), is a whimsical, imaginative, and very relatable story of facing the unknown and finding a friend. Author Kate Hoefler lives in eastern Ohio. Her book *Rabbit and the Motorbike* was a 2020 Floyd's Pick Honor Book.



*The World Belonged to Us*, written by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Leo Espinosa (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2022), celebrates childhood, place, memory, and the expansiveness and elation of play. Woodson is the author of many acclaimed and beloved books for all ages, including *The Day You Begin*, winner of the 2019 Floyd's Pick Book Award, and *Brown Girl Dreaming*, winner of the 2014 National Book Award. A three-time Ohioana Book Award winner, she was born in Columbus.

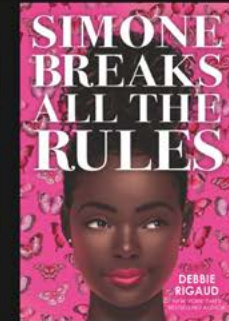
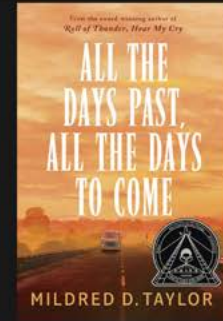
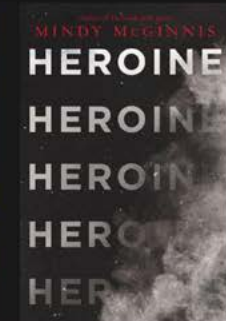
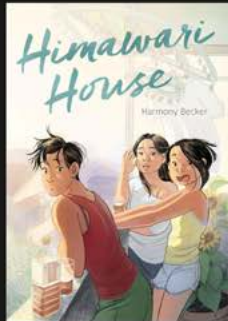
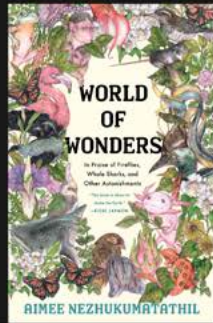
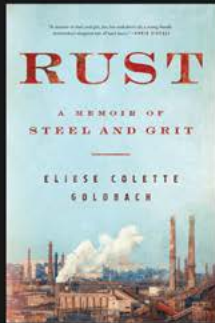


Choose to Read Ohio is a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book. With programs like Floyd's Pick and a biennial booklist of standout titles by Ohio authors and illustrators, Choose to Read Ohio encourages Ohioans of all ages to read and enjoy books together. The official poster featuring the CTRO titles for 2023 and 2024 is pictured on the next page.

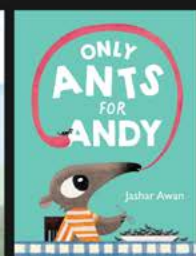
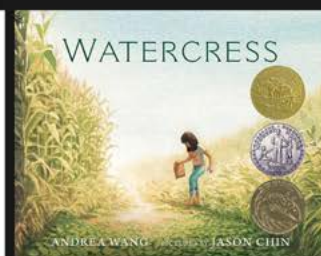
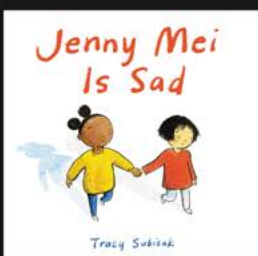
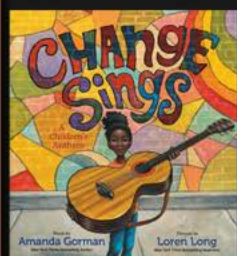
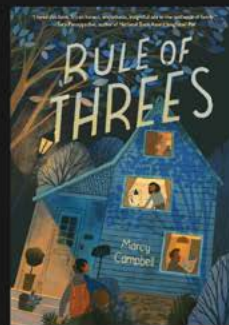
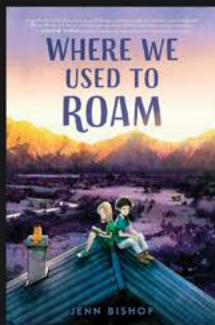
For more information on CTRO and Floyd's Pick, visit <https://library.ohio.gov/services-for-libraries/library-programs-development/ctro/>.

*Special thanks to the State Library of Ohio's Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Public Information Officer and Director, Marketing & Communications; and Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Library Consultant and CTRO Coordinator, for their help with this article.*





Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio.



CTRO is supported in-part with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services distributed to the State Library of Ohio.

The State Library of Ohio, Ohioana Library Association, and Ohio Center for the Book encourage Ohioans of all ages to read and enjoy books together.

[library.ohio.gov/ctro](http://library.ohio.gov/ctro)





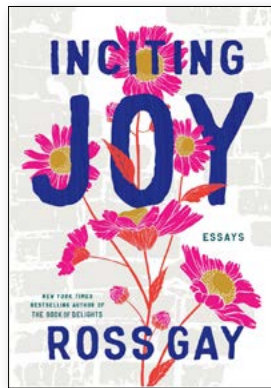
# Book Reviews

## NONFICTION

### **Gay, Ross. *Inciting Joy*.**

Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2022.

Early in this new book of essays, Youngstown native Ross Gay describes a signing event for one of his previous books. At this event, he met a woman who he estimated to be in her late sixties or early seventies. After hearing about the subject matter of Gay's book, she began to cry. She said, "I didn't know you could write about joy."



Gay goes on to describe several other exclamations of disbelief from other people at different times. "Why would you write about joy," one of them asks, making an expansive hand gesture, "when all of *this* is going on?"

In a world in which turning on the news brings dread, logging on to social media causes anxiety, and simply taking a break to read a book about being joyful can make you feel guilty for not doing something more "productive," this book feels remarkably important.

"What happens if joy is not separate from pain?" Gay asks. Why is it that we often see positive emotions like joy as being frivolous or unimportant, while negative emotions like grief are considered necessary to being a human? Why are bad experiences so often the universal experiences, when happy events affect us every bit as much?

That is the reason Ross Gay wrote this book. Whether it's a baseball game, a stirring piece of music, enjoying a hobby, finding someone you love, or even occasionally just making a complete fool of yourself, experiencing things that incite joy in your life should be important to all of us.

"It's why I think of joy, which gets us to love, as being a practice of survival," Gay says. "Survival" doesn't

just mean working to put food on your table, or going to the doctor when you're sick. "Survival" also means your emotional well-being—whether that's playing sports, cuddling with your pet, or cooking. Gay, who is an award-winning poet, uses his immense talent to examine things that make himself and others happy. His prose is gentle and his style is conversational. At the end of the book, you will feel almost like he is your friend, sharing happy stories with you.

This book is like a hug. It happened to come to me around Christmas time, which is an excellent time to read it. Though it does precisely what it says on the cover—incite joy—it also made me think about my own habits and the way I look at life. This is a profound little book. It is emotionally cathartic, warm, and empathetic. It's also funny, sweet, and occasionally poignant. Gay's stories, and the beautiful way he tells them, will stick with me for a very long time.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, OHIOANA LIBRARIAN

### **Kaudo, Negesti. *Ripe: Essays*.**

Columbus, OH: Mad Creek Books, 2022.

*Ripe* reads like a ready mango. The sturdy rind is impossible to peel without juice soaking your fingers and streaming to your elbows. The flesh can be so deliciously sweet, and arouses such insistent hunger, it is tempting to consume the entire enormous seed.

Negesti Kaudo knows who she is and freely shares her identity. The narrative flows from the outside in—from the protective rind to the vulnerable flesh to the seed that embodies her origin. *Ripe* is an unflinching exploration of Black life from a Black woman's perspective. Kaudo reveals her physicality—a dark skinned woman with natural hair. She reveals her emotional core—sensitive to the harsh realities of race and gender alongside her origins, parentage, and meaning of her name.



She explodes the myth of the angry Black woman, affirming the validity of such anger after a lifetime of rejection, dismissal, and disregard because of her appearance or her audacity to snub a white person. She writes, “I have made many a white person angry and usually it happens when I say the word, ‘no’ . . . I said, ‘no’ to a white man and it ended our entire friendship. He was shocked. I was not. After the third time of me repeating ‘no,’ he stared at me in disbelief, and said, ‘After everything I’ve done for you?’ As if he were my husband, my father, my master. As if I would answer his next request by falling to my knees and pleading, ‘Yes!’ As if I were docile, submissive.”

Kaudo articulates her struggles with weight, as her frame refuses to conform to the lithe and slender silhouette so worshipped by westerners. She writes about suitors who crave a unique experience with her body, with only a shallow interest in her agile mind and boundless soul.

She exposes such raw vulnerability, that it feels almost intrusive. Should we delve so deeply into another’s private self? The answer, of course, is yes. This level of openness invites understanding, empathy, and authentic connection—things we need now more than ever. Kaudo reveals the reasons for her grief, the errors of her thinking, and how she progressed from describing herself as “black” to embracing herself as “Black.”

After earning her BA from Elon University in North Carolina and her MFA from Columbia College Chicago, Kaudo returned to her hometown and is now an adjunct instructor at Columbus College of Art & Design, where she teaches writing and the arts. In 2015, she won the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant awarded to an Ohioan age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book. Kaudo’s distinctive Midwestern voice establishes its own soundscape. Her razor-sharp intellect chisels a singular worldview. She even imagines God as a Black woman—an invincible, sensual creator, so beautifully depicted that she comes alive like a screen idol in a Pixar animated feature, casting stars with each footstep across the heavens.

*Ripe* is rich with humor as Kaudo reflects on life’s ironies and humanity’s quirks, observed with keen insight and without unrighteous judgment. With mature, objective eyes, she surveys her parents’ lives.

Finally, she expounds upon her name—its regal origins, its unexpected presence in pop culture, and how to pronounce it. By the way, “. . . all the *E*’s are *I*’s. The *G* is hard.”

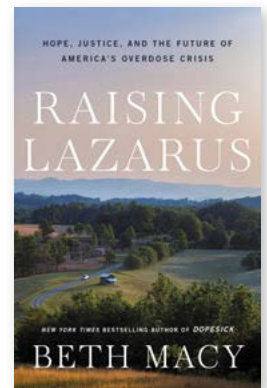
With *Ripe*, we reap a bountiful harvest from Negesti.

REVIEWED BY CHIQUITA MULLINS LEE, PERFORMER, POET, PLAYWRIGHT, AND OHIO ARTS COUNCIL ARTS LEARNING COORDINATOR

**Macy, Beth. *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America’s Overdose Crisis*.**

New York, NY: Little, Brown, and Company, 2022.

*Raising Lazarus* is a difficult journalistic exposé of the opioid crisis and how America is dealing with it today.



Subtitled *Hope, Justice, and the Future of America’s Overdose Crisis*, Beth Macy continues to examine and explain not only the opioid crisis, but more humane ways (a.k.a. harm reduction treatments) of helping addicts. In some ways, *Raising Lazarus* is a follow up to her 2018 book *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America*.

While Macy covers some of the same ground, she follows different people, doctors, nurses, and recovering addicts in *Raising Lazarus*, as well as those with substance use disorders (SUD).

This book describes the rise of Purdue Pharma, the development of OxyContin and other pharmaceutical opioids, and the current state of lawsuits against the company and its founders. Macy also discusses the rise in HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of sharing needles and drug addictions.

Readers will get a good idea of what’s happening, how this modern-day crisis came about, and the political and medical barriers facing society.

Interestingly, there’s little to no mention of how the rest of the world is handling this crisis. But if you read the news and watch TV cop shows, you’ll find that the

treatment and harm reduction programs discussed in *Raising Lazarus* are components of the European and Canadian treatment programs.

Macy’s writing style is plain and to the point. She tackles topics in a logical order, following the lives of her subjects—doctors, nurses, addicts, and social workers—and the politics and legal issues that revolve around the opioid crisis. Readers will get caught up in the stories, hoping for positive endings, even as they recognize that this battle is long and fraught with numerous obstacles and pitfalls.

Macy is the author of three previous works of non-fiction including *Dopesick*, *Truevine*, and *Factory Man*, as well as numerous stories and reports in journals.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

## FICTION

### **Black, Lisa. *Red Flags (A Locard Institute Thriller #1)*.**

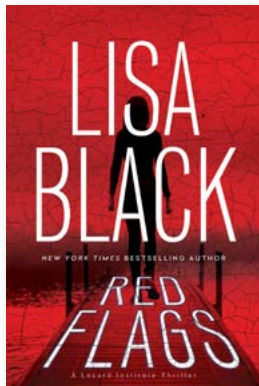
New York, NY: Kensington Books, 2022.

Lisa Black, forensic scientist, introduces a new series set in the Washington, DC, area starring Dr. Ellie Carr and Dr. Rachael Davies. When Ellie, a crime scene analyst, is called to the scene of a missing child, she realizes the mother is surprisingly her cousin, Rebecca Carlisle.

Orphaned early in life, Ellie lived with Rebecca and her family for a few years. She brings her insight to the missing child case as she works with the local police and the FBI.

Pathologist Dr. Rachael Davies works at the private Locard Forensic Institute, known for its talented scientists and the ability to identify trace evidence.

Ellie and Rachael team up to solve the crime of the missing child. Was the girl kidnapped? Did a friend hide her away? Or is it something equally puzzling? Clues point toward something strange happening at the Carlisle house . . .



Black crafts a thrilling mystery replete with clues, motives, and lots of forensics. *Red Flags* is a departure from her Cleveland-based Gardiner and Renner thriller books, but is equally enticing and engaging.

If you like mysteries filled with forensics (and who doesn’t?), then definitely dive into *Red Flags*!

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

### **Flower, Amanda. *Crimes and Covers (Magical Bookshop #5)*.**

New York, NY: Crooked Lane Books, 2022.

### **Flower, Amanda. *Peanut Butter Panic (An Amish Candy Shop Mystery #7)*.**

New York, NY: Kensington Books, 2022.

### **Flower, Amanda. “Try and Love Again.” In *Hotel California*, ed. Don Bruns.**

Ashland, OR: Blackstone Publishing, 2022.

*Peanut Butter Panic* continues Amanda Flower’s charming cozy mystery series set in Ohio’s Amish country. Bailey, the chief candy maker at Swissmen Sweets, along with her grandmother, are whipping up hundreds of delicious treats for Harvest’s first village-wide Thanksgiving celebration. Margot Rawlings, the event coordinator, is in a panic. Her terrifying mother, former judge Zara Bevan, is coming to the event, along with her mother’s much-younger boyfriend who is deathly allergic to peanuts. At the Thanksgiving festival, Bailey is careful to separate out all candies with peanuts. But somehow, Zara’s boyfriend dies from an allergic reaction to peanuts in his meal. Who put the peanuts in the food? Bailey will find out no matter what.



In *Crimes and Covers*, book five of the Magical Bookshop Mystery series, Flower shifts locale to Cascade Springs in western New York, just miles from Niagara Falls. Bookseller Violet Waverly and police chief David Rainwater are getting married. Only one thing can disrupt this important day: a murder. When the woman who wanted to sell Violet a first edition of Thoreau’s



*Walden* is found drowned in the river just minutes after the wedding, an investigation ensues. Complete with quotes from *Walden*, a host of quirky characters, and a magical tree and spring, this case is Violet's most confounding one yet.

In a charming twist, Flower changes gears to mystery-thriller in "Try and Love Again," a short story in the *Hotel California* anthology. Set in Put-in-Bay, this mystery revolves around the twenty-year-old murder of Janelle Rope—a case that haunts Arthur Kheeler, private investigator Jay-Jay, and a host of others in town. Following new clues and old threads, Jay-Jay turns over rocks and asks hard questions, slowly putting all the pieces together. After reading this short story, fans of Flower's work will find themselves hoping for more mysteries set in Put-in-Bay featuring the intrepid PI Jay-Jay. It would make a great series!

Whether you like cozy mysteries set in Ohio or places just out of state, you'll find Flower knows how to spin a yarn and craft a tale. Her mysteries, while soft-boiled, are always fun to read. It's wonderful to settle down with daring, nosy amateur detectives who always get the culprit.

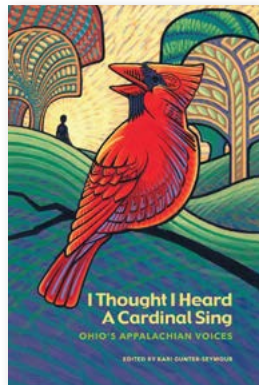
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

## POETRY

### Gunter-Seymour, Kari, ed. *I Thought I Heard A Cardinal Sing: Ohio's Appalachian Voices*.

Russell, KY: Sheila-Na-Gig Editions, 2022.

Kari Gunter-Seymour, Ohio's Poet Laureate and the editor of this anthology, often talks about the common mistake people make in stereotyping those from and living in Appalachian Ohio. However, *I Thought I Heard A Cardinal Sing* defies any kind of generalization. Each page surprises and inspires. Whether the poets are discussing the rolling hills, the hum of cicadas, a birdsong, or honoring the stories of grandparents and ancestors, a rich sense



of Appalachian community shines through. In every poem, I have found a little piece of myself.

As an English major in college, I was required to study many anthologies, but I have finally found my favorite one. I want to give everyone I know a copy of this book! Whether a reader is from the Appalachian area or not, I think this book can resonate with anyone. The many poems kept me transfixed for days on end, but the bios of the poets in the back of the book are just as illuminating. I found it truly captivating to read about the lives and histories of these poets' various connections to Appalachian Ohio. I am planning to re-read this anthology, and this time, I will be sure to read each poet's bio before reading their poems to more clearly associate each entry with its creator. For my first read through, I read all of the poems and then all of the bios, which was still an enriching experience.

Throughout the text, there is so much rich imagery that I found myself longing to be outside while reading. I definitely recommend taking the book on a walk, weather permitting. The imagery is so palpable, it feels like each poem is a movie playing in the mind's eye.

These poems offer a plurality of experiences and viewpoints to enjoy and savor, which may require reading the book in a few different sittings. This collection took me longer to read than I expected, and I think this is because of the lingering nature of each poet's unique offering.

This book is dense with heart and meaning; readers may need to pause before moving on to the next poem. For example, Terry Focht's poem "Big Turtle Creek" describes "a creek around every bend," and caused me to look back on my childhood, spending day after day in the creek behind my house digging in the clay, fishing, and searching for crawfish. Another poem vividly describes the act of gardening, and a flourish of memories gardening with my mom and aunt flooded my mind. These poems invite the audience to look to their roots in all senses of the word.

Many of the pieces included in this anthology seem as if they are meant to sit with the reader for a while, and this effect makes for an endearing experience. The vulnerability of these poems stems from the personal nature of exploring identity and place, and this motivates readers to reflect on their own personal

stories. Throughout the entirety of *I Thought I Heard A Cardinal Sing*, there is a commitment to being honest and sharing how one's life came to be. This can inspire readers to welcome the same honesty when reflecting on their own origins and memories.

These stories depict Appalachian Ohio as a beautiful place full of complex individuals, and there is also a pervading sense of truth and courage. These are stories of families, friends, honor, hardship, and perseverance. I am unbelievably grateful to Kari Gunter-Seymour and every single poet who contributed their words to make this incredibly important anthology possible.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM NORDINE, OHIOANA LIBRARY ASSISTANT

## YOUNG ADULT

### Rogerson, Margaret. *Vespertine*.

New York, NY: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2021.

Pray no one learns about your past. Pray you can use that secret to help control a powerful revenant spirit to fight a possessed army and its commander. Pray that happens before the revenant not only consumes you, but the world. Artemisia must pray for this and more when her path as a nun in training takes a grave turn in *Vespertine*.



As an apprentice Gray Sister, Artemisia is not squeamish about the dead. She actually prefers their silence and lack of curiosity about her scarred hands. She must help cleanse their bodies so each soul can pass into the next life. Unfortunately, not all bodies are cleansed by a Gray Sister. Those that die quiet, natural deaths return as roaming spirits more easily controlled. But those that befall a violent demise rise with a vengeance. The more violent the death, the more voracious their appetite for the living. Those souls must be bound to a relic by the sacrifices of a saint.

When Artemisia's convent is attacked, she fulfills the wish of a dying nun and unleashes a sinister spirit—a revenant—from its ancient relic. Her victory comes at

the cost of the revenant being trapped inside her body, threatening to possess her. The people of Loraille see her as a living saint, but to others, she is a threat.

To discover who is controlling the ravenous spirits possessing soldiers, Artemisia must dive into the darkness of the past. But most importantly, she will have to trust . . . trust in herself, and trust that the revenant will empower her, not betray her.

Although filled with spirits lurking in the shadows, the gothic world of Loraille that Rogerson builds feels palpable and real. The dank cloisters, creepy crypts, cold flagstone slabs, a cobblestone town square bustling with a festival, and spiraling finials of churches create a baroque setting carved with rich details for all five senses. Myths, such as the Raven King, and how speaking his name three times at midnight would summon the bringer of Sorrow, mirror those of our own world. Characters come to life with humor and complexity. For example, Artemisia's convent roommate, Marguerite, is so afraid of Artemisia's murky past and scarred hands that she says her bedtime prayers while staring straight at her. But ultimately, Marguerite risks her own safety and helps Artemisia despite those fears.

The power struggles of the ruling class, differing interpretations of religious history, and the mystery of who is controlling the dark forces behind the attacks are excellent, but the driving force behind *Vespertine* is the relationship between Artemisia and the revenant trapped inside her body. They bicker. They barter. They conceal. They desire. They both realize that one could undo the other. A perfect example is when the revenant tells Artemisia that if she dies, her soul will be tortured by being entangled with the spirit forever. Artemisia replies by asking the spirit if she could handle that. Their personalities and experiences weave together in a beautiful tapestry of the past, present, and future to tell the story of Loraille amidst their deep personal growth, accomplishing more together than they could apart.

Margaret Rogerson combines humor, coming-of-age, and dark fantasy that fans of Neil Gaiman and Leigh Bardugo, author of the *Shadow and Bone* trilogy, will thoroughly enjoy.

REVIEWED BY ANTHONY HOEHN, SCBWI MEMBER, FAN OF MYSTERY AND FANTASY

## Reviews by Young Readers

The middle grade and juvenile book reviews in this issue were written by the Form IV students at Columbus School for Girls. Ms. Dolce-Bun and Ms. Kessler led their classes in a special project where the students picked books to review across a variety of Ohio authors and illustrators. They learned to evaluate the books on themes, word choice, art, and age-group appropriateness, and practiced their critical thinking and writing skills. We thank Ms. Dolce-Bun, Ms. Kessler, and all the talented students for providing the *Ohioana Quarterly* with these wonderful reviews!

### **Alpine, Rachele. *Art with Heart (The Invincible Girls Club #2)*.** Illus. by Addy Rivera Sonda.

New York, NY: Aladdin, 2021.

*The Invincible Girls Club: Art with Heart* by Rachele Alpine is about kindness. It is also about being good and truthful. It takes place in a school. The teacher asked Emelyn to deliver a note to the principal. Emelyn was deep in a daydream and tripped while walking down the hall. She dropped the note, and it slipped into the janitor's room. Then someone popped it back out. Emelyn opened the janitor's door, and another student, Chelsea, was crying inside because someone was writing mean notes. They ripped the notes and told the principal. Afterward, Emelyn told her friends in the Invincible Girls Club about the mean notes. The Invincible Girls Club made a chalk kindness mural, but it got washed away by the rain. Next, they tried to secretly tape kind messages to the wall. They negotiated with the adults and were allowed to paint a kindness mural in the hallway. Everyone loved it, and it was beautiful.

This is a great book for all ages, especially school kids in fourth and fifth grade. I enjoyed the great story and fantastic charm, like when the girls got really excited about cupcakes. The exquisite personality of the book is absolutely amazing. I will never stop reading this book.

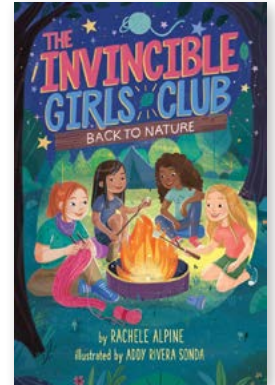
I'M ANNABEL LIPSCOMB-JACKSON IN FORM IV IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND WE ARE A SCHOOL OF READERS!



### **Alpine, Rachele. *Back to Nature (The Invincible Girls Club #3)*.** Illus. by Addy Rivera Sonda.

New York, NY: Aladdin, 2021.

*The Invincible Girls Club: Back to Nature* is an amazing book by Ohio author Rachele Alpine with beautiful illustrations by Addy Rivera Sonda. The book is about a girl named Ruby whose life gets turned upside down when she finds out she's getting a new baby brother or sister. Ruby, her friends, and her dad go on a camping trip to escape the new baby madness, but they get lost. Luckily, the camping trip gives Ruby a chance to talk with her dad and start to feel better about the baby.



This is a great book for kids ages seven to ten. The book shows you that your parents are always thinking about you because Ruby's dad works hard to make sure she is comfortable with the new baby. The book is about the importance of love, family, and friendships.

MY NAME IS MORGAN FILES AND I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY CROCHET, TENNIS, SWIMMING, AND READING. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS A TALE DARK AND GRIMM.

### **Alpine, Rachele. *Home Sweet Forever Home (The Invincible Girls Club #1)*.** Illus. by Addy Rivera Sonda.

New York, NY: Aladdin, 2021.

This book is called *The Invincible Girls Club: Home Sweet Forever Home*, and it is by Ohio author Rachele Alpine. The main character is Lauren. She loves dogs, but because of her stepdad's allergy, all she can get is non-furry animals. One day she goes to the animal shelter and sees thirty-six dogs without "forever" homes. The puppies get adopted fast, but the older dogs do not. Can Lauren save the day, or will the older dogs never get adopted?





## Reviews by Young Readers

I loved this book. It is for ages seven to twelve. It is heartwarming and will inspire you to take care of others.

I AM MAGGIE CHRISTINE, AND I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT READING. MY FAVORITE BOOKS ARE THE HUMPHREY SERIES.

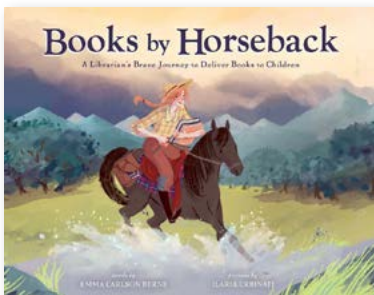
### **Berne, Emma Carlson. *Books by Horseback: A Librarian's Brave Journey to Deliver Books to Children.***

Illus. by Ilaria Urbinati.  
Brooklyn, NY: Little Bee, 2021.

The book called *Books by Horseback* is an exquisite book. It was written by Emma Carlson Berne and illustrated by Ilaria Urbinati. Edith, the main character, is fixing a torn book for a little boy named William Caudill.

She promised William that she would bring him an adventurous story. Edith works as a packhorse librarian in the Kentucky fields, delivering books to little kids far and wide. She laces her boots, slaps on her hat, and gets ready to ride horseback and deliver books!

As Edith hoists up a saddle on Dan, her horse, she realizes that there is thunder nearby. A storm is brewing in the air! Dan tries to trot down the slick slope of Tumblestone Creek. Once Edith reaches Penny Knob Ridge, memories flood through her head from when she was a little girl. She feels unsure that Dan can keep on going throughout their adventurous journey. Edith is right, and Dan can't go up the steep slope of Penny Knob Ridge with a rider on his back. She decides to walk on foot with Dan behind her. She climbs back on Dan when the Caudill house is in view. As Edith and Dan continue their journey, they see a flash of lightning. Dan gets spooked! As Edith slaps on her raincoat, a tree falls down in front of them. Dan makes a spectacular leap over the log! Edith comes down the Kentucky fields and up to the Caudills' house, and they scream in joy! She grabs her coffee and begins to read to the children. Afterward, Edith says her farewells to the Caudills, and she gallops on Dan to visit more children.



*Books by Horseback* is spectacular because you can really feel like you're in the book with Edith and Dan. The soft colored illustrations are beautiful because you can see the mountains in the distance. Emma Carlson Berne was the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library's 2018 Writer-in-Residence. She lives with her family in Cincinnati, Ohio. We thought Berne did a lovely job writing this book, using words such as *hoist*, *spectacular*, and *scrabbling*. This helps kids expand their reading vocabulary at any age. We liked how Berne added excitement to the book! For example, near the end of the story, there is a scene where a broken tree branch suddenly falls in front of Edith and Dan. We both liked how the author made a heartwarming and adventurous book. The themes in the story are: never give up, you can do anything when you put your mind to it, and be courageous.

WE ARE EVA WOOD AND VALENTINE MEHAS FROM MS. KESSLER'S CLASS. WE LOVED THIS BOOK! IT HAD SOFT BUT ELEGANT ILLUSTRATIONS AND WONDERFUL WORDS. WE THOUGHT THIS STORY WAS GREAT FOR FIRST AND SECOND GRADE READERS BECAUSE IT COULD HELP EXPAND THEIR VOCABULARY AND READING LEVEL. TEN-YEAR-OLD EVA HAS TWO SISTERS, TWO PARENTS, AND TWO DOGS (HOLLY AND BEN). HER FAVORITE COLOR IS PINK AND SHE LIVES IN COLUMBUS (BEXLEY). TEN-YEAR-OLD VALENTINE IS FROM NEW YORK AND MOVED TO COLUMBUS. VALENTINE HAS TWO SIBLINGS (AN OLDER SISTER AND A TWIN BROTHER), ONE MOM, ONE DAD, AND A DOG. VALENTINE'S FAVORITE COLOR IS PINK.

### **Campbell, Marcy. *Something Good.* Illus. by Corinna Luyken.**

New York, NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021.

*Something Good* by Marcy Campbell is a story about telling the truth and having trust in people. It is also about spreading love and the importance of being nice to people. This story involved a class of elementary students who were called into the principal's office because of something bad that was written on the wall of the girls' bathroom. Four girls snuck into the bathroom and saw it. Soon, everyone found out about the bad something, and the girls' bathroom was locked. Everyone was talking about what had been written on the bathroom wall, and



## Reviews by Young Readers

it caused everyone's mood and behavior to change from positive to negative. For example, a student went to sharpen his pencil and tripped, and everyone laughed at him. At a school assembly, the principal announced that the bad thing had no place in the school. One of the teachers, Mr. Gilbert, had an idea to cover up the bad thing by painting a mural over it. All the students in the school came together to create something good—an exquisite mural. Just because something bad happened, doesn't mean you can't make it better.

This book was really suspenseful and made us want to keep reading to find out what the bad something was. We passionately enjoyed how Ohio author, Marcy Campbell, created the heartwarming message that there is more good than bad in the world. She made the story relatable to our class because it is something that could happen in our own school, and we are the same age as the students in the story. Likewise, we attend an all-girls school, and the main characters were all girls while the setting was in the girls' bathroom. We were also impressed by the colorful illustrations created by Corinna Luyken. This illustrator used gouache (watercolors), colored pencil, and ink on paper to create pictures that added character, personality, and charm to the book. We were highly entertained by this story.

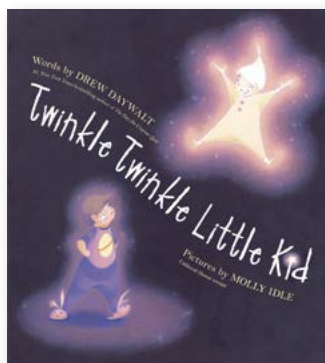
WE ARE MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS OF 2031 AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, WHICH IS LOCATED IN BEXLEY, OHIO. WE LOVE TO READ, AND THIS YEAR IS DEDICATED TO BECOMING A COMMUNITY OF READERS.

### **Daywalt, Drew. *Twinkle Twinkle Little Kid*. Illus. by Molly Idle.**

New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2021.

*Twinkle Twinkle Little Kid* by Ohio author Drew Daywalt might be for younger children, but we still think it's a great book! It's a book that a parent could read to their child at bedtime, or that a preschooler could read by themselves.

The book is a little bit like a dream you might have in your sleep. The characters are in their pajamas in the middle of the night, and the illustrations feel dreamy and



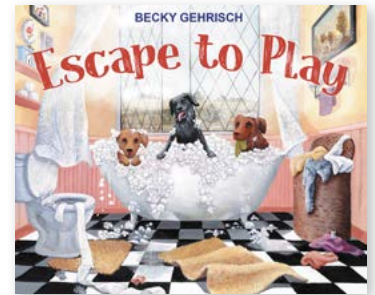
magical. One thing we didn't like about the book is that it takes place at nighttime, so the pictures don't have a lot of color. But the story made us feel warm inside, and it is a great book to read before you go to bed.

WE ARE EMME CHAPMAN AND FIONA CEBALLOS. WE GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND THIS YEAR WE ARE IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S CLASS. EMME ENJOYS SWIMMING AND READING. FIONA LIKES SOCCER AND SHE LIKES PRACTICING, BUT HER FAVORITE PART IS THE GAMES.

### **Gehrisch, Becky. *Escape to Play*.**

Delaware, OH: Bookling Media LLC, 2021.

The book *Escape to Play* is written and illustrated by Becky Gehrisch. One day while the farmer was away, these three bad dogs wanted to play. They rummaged through the house, messing up everything in sight until it



was night. Throughout the day, they had a lot of pit stops along the way. During the day, the dogs escaped to play. All the places they had gone were the kitchen, porch, backyard, pond, cornfield, barn, living room, bathroom, attic, camp spot, and the library. Then they scrambled back to their doggie fort. When the farmer came home to lay, he soon found out he had more chores for the day.

We were really fascinated about how this book rhymed the whole time (so we were inspired to rhyme our summary of the book). For example, "We bolt inside and grab a dish / of broken eggs, old jam, and fish." We really cherish the illustrations because they have bright and beautiful colors, and the pages are detailed and inspiring. We also like how in the back of the book there are famous, majestic paintings that you can try to find in the pages of the book. This book also teaches you a lesson. The lesson is if you make a mess, clean it up, or all day you will have bad luck.

The Ohio connection is that the author and illustrator, Becky Gehrisch, got an art degree at The Ohio State University! She also grew up in Ohio, and she still lives in Ohio. When she was a kid, she loved drawing dogs. That led her to writing and illustrating the book *Escape to Play*. Now, Mrs. Gehrisch goes to local libraries to meet kids. She also loves traveling the world to spend more time with her husband and kids in her RV.

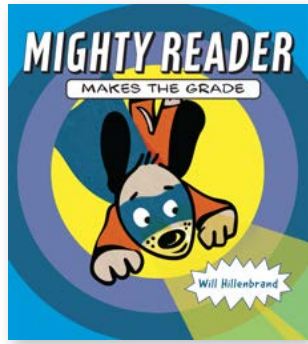
## Reviews by Young Readers

WE ATTEND COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, AND WE ARE IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. OUR NAMES ARE SLOANE HUTCHINGS AND JASMINE DAVIS. ONE OF THE SPORTS WE DO TOGETHER IS DANCE. WE ALSO LOVE TO HANG OUT WITH EACH OTHER. SOMETHING WE GO BY IS TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST!

### Hillenbrand, Will. *Mighty Reader Makes the Grade*.

New York, NY: Holiday House, 2022.

*Mighty Reader Makes the Grade* is a delightful book by Ohio author and illustrator Will Hillenbrand. In this book, it's the night before a big test at school and Lulu's worries come to life in a nightmare with discouraging minions. Luckily, super-dog Mighty Reader appears out of nowhere and reminds Lulu of how to stop her fears by reading together with the power of Partner Power!



I think this is an amazing book for all ages, but more for beginner readers. One thing I liked about *Mighty Reader Makes the Grade* is its bright, colorful, comic-like illustrations. Another thing I liked is how pretty much all of the characters are dogs, which makes the book very cute. I also liked how the book talks about how you should read with a partner sometimes. The last thing I liked about *Mighty Reader Makes the Grade* is how it encourages people to not be afraid of tests.

MY NAME IS AVA COLEMAN. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. THE THEME IN MY SCHOOL IS "COMMUNITY BY DESIGN." I ENJOY DOING BALLET AND A LOT OF READING. MY FAVORITE BOOKS ARE THE WARRIOR CATS SERIES.

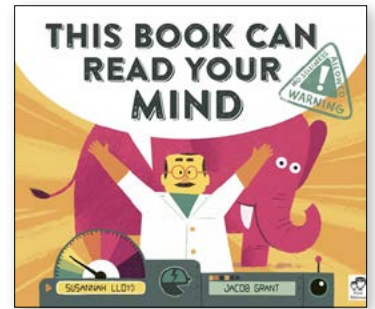
### Lloyd, Susannah. *This Book Can Read Your Mind*. Illus. by Jacob Grant.

London, UK: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2021.

*This Book Can Read Your Mind* is a silly story written by Susannah Lloyd and illustrated by Jacob Grant. It is told in second person, which means Lloyd uses "you" to talk directly to the reader. The scientist, also known as the protagonist, claims he can read the reader's mind, but he also makes sure to mention how delicate the lab machine is to humor. Along the way, you meet some elephants, and

lots of crazy things happen with those elephants.

When we first saw this cover, we knew what we wanted to do for our book review. We saw the scientist with the elephant and liked it so much! It grabbed our attention with its bright colors. We also liked how the machine had true emotions throughout the story. On the machine, you could see little words that made it look like it could talk. For example, at one point it spelled out 'OUCH.' Shoutout to Jacob Grant for the marvelous illustrations and Susannah Lloyd for all the incredible writing. The book is definitely for kids because of all the silliness. We feel that it's good for the pre-kindergarten age, and that silly things can grow their creativity. We wish the book included an author's note so we could learn even more about Susannah Lloyd and Jacob Grant. We hope you read the book, *This Book Can Read Your Mind*.



Jacob Grant is originally from Ohio but now lives in Chicago with his two very busy children. When Grant isn't making books, he enjoys sharing his books with young ones. His stories are best suited for the pre-k age group, but he's also happy to write for older kids.

Susannah Lloyd is the author of four books such as *This Book Can Read Your Mind*, *Oh Monty, Here Be Dragons*, and *The Terribly Friendly Fox*. Her favorite food is trifle. As a kid, her favorite book was *Trubloff, the Mouse Who Wanted to Play the Balalaika*.

REVIEWED BY AUDREY QUICK AND MALLORY SLECHTER. IF YOU ARE WONDERING, THE TWO OF US GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS. WE ARE IN THE FOURTH GRADE WITH AN AMAZING SET OF GIRLS AND INCREDIBLE TEACHERS. AUDREY'S FAVORITE THING IS RUNNING. AUDREY IS VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT HER RUNNING. SHE ALSO LIKES MONKEYS, DOLPHINS, AND TURTLES. HER FAVORITE FOODS ARE PASTA, BACON, AND PIZZA. AUDREY ALSO LIKES BLUE AND ENJOYS WRITING LONG STORIES. MALLORY'S FAVORITE THINGS ADD UP TO: CHEESE, SKUNKS, SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING, READING, PURPLE, MEAT IN GENERAL, AND WRITING. WATCHING TV IS NICE, TOO. HER DREAM PET WOULD BE A LAVENDER SKUNK BECAUSE THEY DON'T SMELL LIKE COMMON SKUNKS.



### Marks, Allison, and Wayne Marks. *The \$150,000 Rugelach*.

Brooklyn, NY: Yellow Jacket, 2021.

*The \$150,000 Rugelach* by Allison and Wayne Marks is an incredible story for ages eight to ten. The moral that stands above all others is about the importance of friendship. The main characters, Jack and Jillian, are complete opposites. Jack Fineman is an outgoing, rock 'n' roll-loving eleven-year-old. Jack thinks of this famous baker, Phineas Farnsworth III, as his idol. He has every single baking book full of winning recipes from the Bakerstown Bonanza. The Bakerstown Bonanza is a contest where two to three teams compete to make a winning recipe.



Jillian, on the other hand, is a quiet, easygoing, shy eleven-year-old. Her mother, Joan Mermelstein, passed away when she was ten. She and her mother loved to bake. The recipe most mentioned throughout the book is chocolate rugelach. Chocolate rugelach is a Jewish pastry with chocolate and a light sprinkle of powdered sugar. I am Jewish, and at my family gatherings there is usually chocolate rugelach, but it's sprinkled with brown sugar (I think). I, myself, have never tried it.

Farnsworth had a nanny, Miss Alexandra, when he was young. She passed away when he was ten. The loss made him bitter and mean, but he holds his emotions in. In the end, Jack and Jillian help Farnsworth figure out that loss can be hard, but to remember it and move on.

Last but not least, Jillian's Grandma Rita was not an ideal baker. It even says so in the book. When Jillian refused to make chocolate rugelach for her class, Grandma Rita got out a cheese grater and a bottle of soy sauce and said she would make it instead. Jillian finally made it for her class party.

Outgoing Jack Fineman and shy Jillian Mermelstein's paths intersect. They meet at the holiday class party where each of them brings food they made. Later, they both hear about the contest on TV. They both enter the contest separately and hope to get picked; they do! However, the school partners them up. At first, they don't really like each other. Jack thinks Jillian had cheated

by bringing a recipe her grandmother made to the class party. Jillian feels that Jack is a cocky contestant that people will not root for. They end up in some fights. One is about which recipe to make. They finally decide on the rugelach. By the end of the story, they become friends.

*The \$150,000 Rugelach* has three Ohio connections. The two authors are Ohioans, and Ohio is the book's setting.

I highly recommend this wonderful book. At points it will make you cry, at other points laugh, and sometimes both! It would be good for read-alouds, independent reading, or a perfect book to read to your child. If I could rate this book, it would certainly be five stars.

I AM BRINKLEY JANIS. YOU WILL MOST LIKELY FIND ME READING THE WARRIOR CATS BOOK SERIES BY ERIN HUNTER OR CUDDLING WITH MY FOUR CATS (ONYX, DOMINO, GIZMO, AND CLEO). I AM NOT A SPORTY KIND OF KID, BUT I AM PROUD TO BE A FORM IV STUDENT AT CSG IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS.

### Mixon, Dia. *One Whole Me*. Illus. by Natalia Jimenez Osorio.

Columbus, OH: El Mundo Mixon Books, 2021.

*One Whole Me* is a wonderful story for all kids! The main character is a little boy. He shares things that he likes to do from his two different cultures, like his favorite pastimes and the different foods his family eats. At the beginning of the book, he feels overwhelmed by being bicultural, but by the end, he really appreciates this part of his identity.



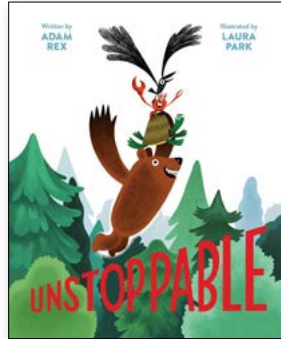
This is a very meaningful book meant for children in kindergarten to second grade. This book could be especially nice for bicultural kids because it shows how to be proud of your heritage. The author, Dia Mixon, is a Spanish teacher at the Wellington School in Columbus, Ohio, and the illustrator, Natalia Jimenez Osorio, lives in Colombia. We recommend *One Whole Me* for all kids!

WE ARE GABBY DELUCA AND MAREN EVERHART! WE ARE IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS, AND WE GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. GABBY IS PASSIONATE ABOUT DOING LACROSSE, TENNIS, AND DANCE. MAREN LOVES CATS, LACROSSE, AND READING. MAREN'S FAVORITE BOOKS ARE THE HARRY POTTER SERIES.

**Rex, Adam. *Unstoppable*.** Illus. by Laura Park.

San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2020.

The book *Unstoppable* is written by Adam Rex and illustrated by Laura Park. We love this book because it is about working together and shows friendship. This book is about four animals: a bird, a crab, a bear, and a turtle. The crab and the bird want features they do not have such as flying and pinching. They join together to share their abilities to make one awesome creature. Crab and bird join up first, flying and pinching a cat in the process. Along the way, they pick up more animals.



Then the animals discover construction trucks. The bear tells the others what the construction workers are doing: tearing down the forest to make a shopping mall. The animals come together as a team to stop the workers from ruining their home. They take the president of the United States (against her will) to their home, the forest. But the president says they need Congress to make a law to protect their home. Then, Congress takes a vote. The law passes, and almost everyone wanted it, except three congressmen. Their home is saved!

One thing Arden appreciated about the book is that the president is an African American woman. She wasn't expecting this, but it made her happy. On one page it shows Congress taking a vote. Arden noticed that there were 535 total votes on the page and found out that there are actually 535 people in Congress. She liked that it was precise and accurate. Another thing she enjoyed about this story is the moral, which is that you can work better as a team. Her favorite page in the book is the final page where the author writes, "And people say if the night is clear and your heart is true, you can still see the Congressbirdraburtlebear flying over this great land—passing laws and pinching noses that need to be pinched. Our national bird is an eagle because it's easier to draw." The characters are so happy and the illustrator, Laura Park, used vibrant colors that really stood out in the book. She used different kinds of materials to make the art including paints and crayons.

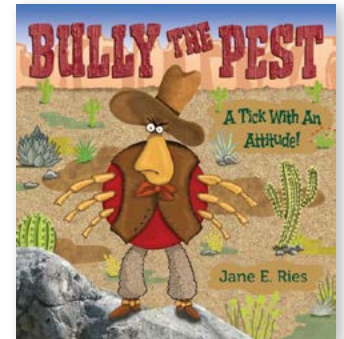
From Anais' point of view, she loved this book because she loves animals. Anais and Arden mentioned that the moral is that you work better as a team, but Anais also thinks another lesson is to not ruin animal habitats. Her favorite page is also the last page. She loved how this story showed that animals need a home as much as us humans. She also loved how the animals all become friends because friendship is important. If you like fun books about animals and want a good lesson from a book, then she recommends reading the book *Unstoppable*. She thinks the author, Adam Rex, wrote a great story and the illustrations by Laura Park (who made a few art exhibits during her three-week residency at the Columbus Museum of Art) are so gorgeous.

WE ARE ANAIS CABANAS AND ARDEN SKASKO. WE GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND OUR SCHOOL THEME IS "COMMUNITY BY DESIGN." WE ARE IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. ARDEN ENJOYS FIELD HOCKEY AND LACROSSE. ANAIS IS PASSIONATE ABOUT READING. THE VANDERBEEKERS SERIES ARE ANAIS' FAVORITE BOOKS.

**Ries, Jane E. *Bully the Pest*.**

Columbus, OH: Ries Design, 2021.

*Bully the Pest* is a story about learning how to be kind. At the start, Bully the Pest came to the Wild, Wild West ready to cause trouble. Instead, four absurd bugs grabbed him and took him to the fair. He went on a rollercoaster, the Whiplash Whirly Whirlwind, and the Haunted Hootenanny House. He saw himself in silly mirrors and slid down a swirly slide.



After a lot of fun activities like the Stage Coach Express, he played mini golf, won the Gold Rush rights contest, and rode the Rip Roaring River log ride. Best of all, he made some new friends with the bugs. Afterward, the four bugs, the town sheriff, Sheriff Roller, and Bully the Pest left the fair. They came across the meanest, dirtiest gang of bees who ever lived, the Buzzing McBee Gang! They came to the Wild, Wild West ready to rumble. Bully felt nervous and didn't know what to do. He ended up giving the Buzzing McBee Gang the dirtiest look he could. To the bees, they saw billions of eyes. It was the stinkiest stink-eye they had ever seen. It was so scary that the gang took three steps back, then ran out of there.

## Reviews by Young Readers

One thing I liked about *Bully the Pest* is how many “wow” words there are like *ruckus*, *locomotive*, *peculiar*, and *arachnid*. “Wow” words in our school are words that say things better than simple, common words. As an illustrator, Ries’ illustrations are wonderful. I liked the hat and vest on Bully. The colors are blended really well. One thing that confused me about *Bully the Pest* is the scene when the four bugs grab him and then they go to the fair. Why did they go to the fair? Other than that, the book is satisfactorily written.

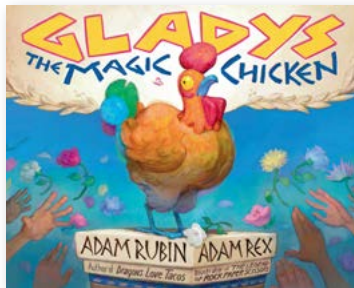
One thing the author-illustrator and I share is we both live in suburbs in Columbus, Ohio. Ries graduated with a degree in visual communications from The Ohio State University. Many of her characters are bugs and insects, just like Bully the Pest.

MY NAME IS LAUREN ANOSIKE. MY MOM IS A TEACHER, AND MY DAD IS A BUILDER. I HAVE TWO SISTERS. ONE IS IN SIXTH GRADE, AND ONE IS IN FIRST GRADE. I AM A MIDDLE CHILD WHO IS IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. KESSLER’S CLASS. I ALSO HAVE ONE DOG, AND HE IS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD. MY DREAM JOBS ARE BEING AN AUTHOR AND A LAWYER. I AM WORRIED I CAN’T DO BOTH, BUT I’LL SEE IN THE FUTURE. MY DREAM PLACE TO LIVE IS NEW YORK CITY. I WANT TO GO TO NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL AND LIVE WITH MY GRANDMA WHEN I’M IN COLLEGE. MY FAVORITE BOOK SERIES IS THE VANDERBEEKERS. MY SECOND FAVORITE BOOK SERIES IS THE PENDERWICKS.

### Rubin, Adam. *Gladys the Magic Chicken*. Illus. by Adam Rex.

New York, NY: G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers, 2021.

We loved the book *Gladys the Magic Chicken* by Adam Rubin and illustrated by Adam Rex. It is a story for ages three and up. The book is about a chicken named Gladys. The people in the story think that Gladys is magic, but really, she just has good luck! Gladys is just a regular chicken who lived on a farm and ended up going on adventures to a castle, a pirate ship, and then finally back home.



There should be more books like this one! It has mind-blowing illustrations, and the colors are bright and eye-catching. We loved following Gladys’ adventures, and we laughed at the funny words and songs throughout the book. The text in the book is unique and adds creativity

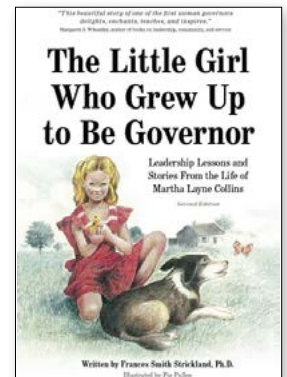
to each page. We recommend *Gladys the Magic Chicken* to everyone!

WE ARE JANE HAVENS AND FRANKIE MUNYAN. WE GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. THIS YEAR WE ARE IN MS. DOLCE-BUN’S FORM IV CLASS. JANE IS INTERESTED IN DRAWING AND READING. FRANKIE IS INTERESTED IN DRAWING AND CROCHETING.

### Strickland, Frances Smith. *The Little Girl Who Grew Up to be Governor: Leadership Lessons and Stories from the Life of Martha Layne Collins*. 2nd ed. Illus. by Pip Pullen.

Dublin, OH: The Compassionate Mind Collaborative, 2021.

We believe that *The Little Girl Who Grew Up to Be Governor* by Frances Smith Strickland, PhD, is a great book for ages nine and up. We love the book and the illustrations by Pip Pullen, and like the girl power theme and the enthusiasm in the story. We also enjoy Martha’s love for animals and nature because we can relate. Although this is an older book, it still teaches strong, contemporary lessons about leadership.



In the story, the problem is that Martha Layne, a young girl from Bagdad, Kentucky, is misjudged by others. As a child, she entertained herself (she did not have brothers and sisters). She was bold, enthusiastic, energetic, and fearless. For example, when she was three, she unlatched a tall gate in her yard, and her mom couldn’t find her. Later, her mother found her at the grocery store.

She was also creative. She made games and activities for herself and others. One hot day with her friends, Martha had an idea to make a swimming pool in her backyard. This is one example of how she was a natural persuasive leader. This experience also taught her to admit when she was wrong because the pool couldn’t be built after all. This story talks about experiences in Martha’s life that later made her a good governor.

After college, Martha Layne married a man named Bill Collins and became Martha Layne Collins. She was happy living with Bill and her four kids.



## Reviews by Young Readers

Martha first became lieutenant governor and did such a great job that people felt she should run as governor. She became the first woman elected as governor in Kentucky and served from 1983-1987. A good leader knows the importance of sharing. Martha wisely said, "I'm governor but that doesn't mean I have more power than you, it just means you need to find your voice and be proud of it, and that you can make a difference because I believe everybody is equal."

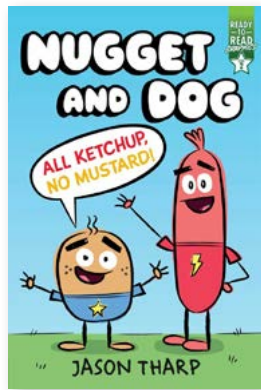
The author, Frances Smith Strickland, born in 1941, was the first lady of Ohio. She earned her doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Kentucky and grew up on a dairy farm in Simpsonville, Kentucky.

WE ARE VIVI LEE AND EMILY GUGLE IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT CSG. WE ARE IN THE CLASS OF 2031. EMILY CAN BE FOUND PLAYING OUTSIDE AND BEING ACTIVE OR READING AND RESEARCHING. VIVI CAN BE FOUND RIDING HORSES OR PLAYING WITH HER DOGS AND CATS.

### **Tharp, Jason. *All Ketchup, No Mustard!*: Ready-to-Read Graphics Level 2 (Nugget and Dog).**

New York, NY: Simon Spotlight, 2021.

*Nugget and Dog: All Ketchup, No Mustard!* is a goofy book about how Dijon Mustard, an evil mustard packet, wants to ruin the city of Gastropolis using a monster called Stomp. Nugget, a chicken nugget, and Dog, a hotdog, use a special superpower made of kindness to save the day. They use empathy to figure out that the monster Stomp is not so bad after all, and he just wants friends!



This book is a Level Two Book. We recommend it for younger children, but it is fun for all ages. The book has great illustrations by Ohio author and illustrator Jason Tharp, and the reader can tell exactly what's going on in the story just by following the drawings. The book is full of funny ideas like a city made out of food. *All Ketchup, No Mustard!* made us crack up and we think you'll love it too!

WE ARE GIADA FURCI AND LENA WEINBERG. WE GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND ARE BOTH IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. GIADA LOVES PLAYING SPORTS AND LENA LOVES MUSIC AND SWIMMING. WE BOTH ENJOY

READING AND WOULD LIKE TO SAY HOW MUCH WE LOVED WRITING THIS REVIEW.

### **Tharp, Jason. *Yum Fest is the Best!*: Ready-to-Read Graphics Level 2 (Nugget and Dog).**

New York, NY: Simon Spotlight, 2021.

*Nugget and Dog: Yum Fest is the Best!* is a wonderful graphic novel that encourages young children to love food and humor. It is a good book for children in kindergarten to second grade. It has shorter words and bigger text and around sixty-four pages, with about twenty to thirty words per page. It's a simple book, and it teaches the value of kindness.



In the book, Dijon (Dee-zhon) Mustard and Crouton are spreading mischief and meanness trying to ruin Yum Fest, a food festival. The festival is saved when Ginger tells her unicorn-puppy how much she loves her.

This book is written and illustrated by Jason Tharp who lives in Columbus, Ohio. He lives with his wife and kids, "plus one extremely fat kitty." Tharp had dreamed of being an author since he was a kid. He also designs clothes and other various products. We think his illustrations are wonderful, adorable, and descriptive. We recommend this book series to all kids!

WE ARE HARPER SIELOFF AND HELEN REIS. WE GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND OUR SCHOOL THEME IS "COMMUNITY BY DESIGN." WE ARE BOTH IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. HARPER LIKES TO DRAW, READ, PLAY SOCCER, AND SWIM. HELEN LIKES TO READ THE KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES SERIES AND HARRY POTTER SERIES. SHE ALSO ENJOYS PLAYING VOLLEYBALL AND LACROSSE.

### **Wyatt, Merrill. *Tangled Up in Luck*.**

New York, NY: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2021.

*Tangled Up in Luck* by Merrill Wyatt is a book set in Toledo, Ohio. It is about two girls who are partnered together to try to find the missing Hoäl jewels. The Hoäl jewels were stolen a very long time ago and are worth a lot of money. Someone tricks seventh grade teacher Mr. Roth to use his class to find the Hoäl jewels as a school project. At the time they are paired up, Sloane is considered popular and cool, and Amelia is considered

## Reviews by Young Readers

weird. But working together, Sloane and Ameila figure out where they need to go, and the person who tricked Mr. Roth follows them.

After solving some clues, they go to a graveyard where the mysterious person reveals his identity and then starts attacking Sloane and Amelia. Shortly after they arrive at the graveyard, Sloane's dad, Amelia's family, and the police arrive. The police take the bad guy away to prison. Then, Sloane and Amelia open the tombstone and grab the jewels from inside it.

I think the message of this book is that teamwork is helpful when trying to solve problems. This book is truly wonderful, intriguing, and made me want to read more! *Tangled Up in Luck* is also very well written because there are very few words that are repeated on the same page. A quality that I also loved was how it was very hard to predict what would happen next. If you tried, you would probably be wrong because there are a bunch of plot twists.

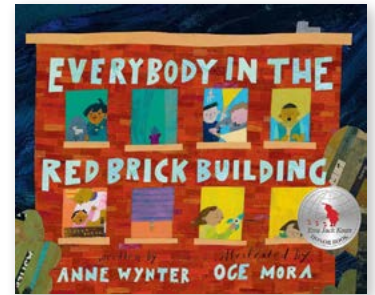
Merrill Wyatt lives in Toledo, Ohio, with her husband, three cats, and her guinea pig.

MY NAME IS KATHERINE MAITE, AND I ATTEND COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN THE CLASS OF 2031, AND I AM ALSO IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS. SOME OF MY FAVORITE ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS INCLUDE BASKETBALL, SOCCER, AND ART.



**Wynter, Anne. *Everybody in the Red Brick Building*.** Illus. by Oge Mora. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2021.

*Everybody in the Red Brick Building* is a picture book by Anne Wynter and illustrated by Oge Mora. The problem in this story is that all the people in the red brick building are making a lot of noise and keeping each other awake at night. The author uses onomatopoeia throughout the story to make all the noises and sounds in the building. This book is very meaningful and shows how when people work together, they can do anything.



We enjoyed the illustrations, even though the book is for ages four to eight. We liked how the pictures are beautifully collaged and thought the message of the book is meaningful. The person who collaged this beautiful story, Oge Mora, is a Nigerian American artist who grew up in Columbus, Ohio. We liked how the end of the book echoes the beginning to tie it together, and we really enjoyed this story.

WE ARE SIMONE SMYTH AND DYLAN MONEME. WE BOTH GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. SIMONE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT ART AND READING. DYLAN ENJOYS PLAYING SPORTS, AND HER FAVORITE IS SOCCER. WE ARE BOTH IN MS. DOLCEBUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS IN THE LOWER SCHOOL.



The Form IV students created a hallway display to share their book reviews with the school. Photo courtesy of Ms. Kessler.

# Book List

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

## NONFICTION

Boucher, Lisa. ***Pray. Trust. Ride: Lessons on Surrender from a Cowgirl and a King***. Berkeley, CA: She Writes Press, 2022.

*Pray. Trust. Ride:* encourages you to stay in the saddle and ride through life with a looser rein. We live more fully when we can let go—even when all looks bleak and our brains scream, *Hang on and do something! Do anything! Fix this! Stop that!* The truth is those problems that strangle our hearts are the sort of problems that we can't fix. King Jehoshaphat understood that when he was boxed in by his enemy; at his most vulnerable moment, he leaned on God and let go of the outcome. Using this approach as her guiding principle, Lisa Boucher shares in this helpful guide how to lean on spiritual principles to help people live with less anxiety and strife.

Brooks, Michael E., and Bob Fitrakis. ***A History of Hate in Ohio: Then and Now***. Columbus, OH: Trillium, 2022.

In *A History of Hate in Ohio: Then and Now*, historian Michael E. Brooks and political scientist and journalist Bob Fitrakis join forces to present the first comprehensive study of white supremacy and hate groups in the Buckeye State. Brooks analyzes the historical origins of white supremacy in Ohio and the emergence of the earliest hate

groups, covering the colonial period into the 1970s. Fitrakis then picks up the narrative to trace the evolution of hate activity into the present day, documenting the growing interconnections between the once-separate Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi groups, as well as the concurrent emergence of antiracist groups in Ohio.

Bryan, Lucy. ***In Between Places: A Memoir in Essays***. Pawcatuck, CT: Homebound Publications, 2022.

In her late twenties, writer and naturalist Lucy Bryan found herself in between places. Her marriage to her first love had crumbled. Her beloved father had died of cancer. Doubt had supplanted the faith that had guided her since childhood. Uprooted and adrift, she turned to the natural world in search of meaning, connection, and a renewed sense of self. This collection of essays—part travelogue, part memoir—pairs lyrical and intimate depictions of place with meditations on grief, acceptance, change, empowerment, and belonging.

Burtch, Donna, and William Burtch. ***W. G.: The Opium-addicted Pistol Toting Preacher Who Raised the First Federal African American Union Troops***. Boiling Springs, PA: Sunbury Press, Inc., 2022.

The United States in the mid-1800s boiled with conflict and promise as the bloody Civil War raged. William Gould Raymond ("W. G.") was as complicated as the times; his place in history stands as the initial commanding officer responsible for raising what would become the *1st United States Colored Troops* (USCT) of the District of Columbia.

This initiative was directly authorized by President Abraham Lincoln, with the goal of establishing the first federal regiments of African American Union soldiers. Much of this telling of W. G. Raymond's story is based on his meticulous autobiography *Life Sketches and Faith Work*. Other pieces are provided by Civil War scholars, particularly those dedicated to the story of African American participation in the Civil War in the Union Army through the USCT.

Contosta, David R., and Philip M. Hazelton. ***An American Childhood***. Place of Publication Not Identified. David R. Contosta, 2022.

In their memoir, *An American Childhood*, David Contosta and Philip Hazelton, cousins who grew up in the same hometown, recount both the joys and pains of growing up during the middle years of the twentieth century. Experiencing the comforts of middle-class family life, they recall bonfires and marching bands, hikes through woods ablaze with autumn foliage, and an amusement park by the lake. They also remember the racism, sexism, homophobia, class discrimination, religious prejudice, and conspiracy theories that marred those childhood years.

Cook, Renee Casteel. ***Ohio Ice Cream: A Scoop of History***. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2022.

Drawing on a rich dairy heritage, Ohio has whipped up an ice cream industry worthy of tourism. The state has legitimate claims as the birthplace of the ice cream cone and the banana split, and the Klondike



Bar and the Good Humor Man were created here. Ohio's storied legacy lives on today in the inventive new flavors at Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams and Mason's Creamery. From seasonal mom and pop stands to year-round, go-to scoop shops, author Renee Casteel Cook takes readers on a tour of tasty treats around the Buckeye State, sampling stories from the late 1800s to the present day.

Cox, Kevin R. *Boomtown Columbus: Ohio's Sunbelt City and How Developers Got Their Way*. Columbus, OH: Trillium, 2022. Columbus, Ohio, and its ample cloud cover may be on the eastern edge of the Midwest, but the city's unfettered suburbanization and rapid postwar expansion recall its Sunbelt peers. To understand why—and the social and economic stakes of this all-too-common model of urban growth—pioneering geographer Kevin R. Cox takes us through the postwar history of development in Columbus, a city that has often welcomed corporate influence at the expense of livability and equal opportunity for its residents.

Di Lallo, Raffaele. *Houseplant Warrior: 7 Keys to Unlocking the Mysteries of Houseplant Care*. Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 2022. As an engineer and plant parent for more than thirty years, Raffaele Di Lallo knows that the world of houseplants can be full of confusing myths and conflicting care advice. His surprisingly simple observational practices and an understanding of key habitat and care concepts will make any reader feel like a plant whisperer. From choosing the right plants

for your home and perfecting light and humidity levels to mastering watering, potting, and propagation, Di Lallo demystifies every aspect of plant parenting. Complete with profiles of favorite and lesser-known houseplants, this book is a veritable bible of houseplant care tips for all levels of green thumb.

Dyer, Joyce. *Pursuing John Brown: On the Trail of a Radical Abolitionist (Ohio History and Culture)*. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2022. The idea for *Pursuing John Brown* began in Hudson, Ohio, where John Brown grew up and where Joyce Dyer has lived for forty years. In this work of hybrid creative nonfiction, Dyer retraces John Brown's steps across the country, occasionally taking roads that lead to tangential sites. Along the way, intimate questions form about John Brown's personal life—his role as son, husband, father, and friend. Dyer's pursuit forces her to confront hard questions about slavery, race, violence, and American democracy, and brings her closer to understanding John Brown, herself, and us.

Engelking, Jennifer Boresz. *Lost Lake County Ohio*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2022. The past lies just under the surface in Lake County. Interurban trains once carried wealthy Clevelanders to idyllic summer homes and resorts along the shoreline and up to Little Mountain. Stories abound of rumrunning during Prohibition, enslaved people who were carried to freedom through the Underground Railroad, and stolen gold bars believed to be buried along a riverbank. Lake County was also once the site of a booming

shipbuilding industry and a secret plant that created chemical warfare during World War I. Join author Jennifer Boresz Engelking as she reveals the history behind some of the county's most intriguing people, places, and industries.

Fries-Gaither, Jessica. *Science Notebooks in Student-Centered Classrooms*. Arlington, VA: National Science Teaching Association (NSTA), 2022.

Thinking made visible: that's what happens when elementary students record their thoughts in science notebooks. Students can use their notebooks to pose questions, write down observations, work through puzzling data, or think through new ideas. Teachers can use them to ascertain each student's strengths and challenges in participating in the academic work of science. This practical guide shows how notebooks can become a tangible record of their emerging understanding of and proficiency in science.

Grabowski, John J., and Lauren R. Pacini. *Cleveland's Cultural Gardens: A Landscape of Diversity*. Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 2022.

From their beginnings as private farmland to their current form as monuments to cultural and ethnic diversity, the unique collection of landscaped, themed gardens that compose Cleveland's Cultural Gardens holds a rich history. John J. Grabowski guides readers through this story, using both archival images and Lauren R. Pacini's stunning contemporary photography to illustrate their development and importance. The effect is a comprehensive view of the factors that made the Cultural Gardens possible, from

Cleveland's geographical features to international conflicts.

Horvath, Edward P. *Good Medicine, Hard Times: Memoir 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 second 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. Enlisting in the Army as a fifty-nine-year-old physician, Dr. Horvath knew that he had a greater calling in life: to save the “neighbor’s kid”—no matter who that neighbor or the kid might be. In his clear-eyed, empathetic, and unforgettable account, he 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.

James, Judy Orr. *Akron Family Recipes: History and Traditions from Sauerkraut Balls to Sweet Potato Pie*. Charleston, SC: American Palate, 2022.

From the city’s founding in 1825 through the years following World War II, numerous ethnic and cultural groups made Akron home. With each new arrival, the city’s food changed and deepened to delicious effect. Compiling more than one hundred family recipes, founder of the Akron Recipe Project Judy Orr James serves up a history of home cooking in the Rubber City.

John, Jeffrey Alan. *Progressives and Prison Labor: Rebuilding Ohio’s National Road During World War I*. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2022.

During World War I, Ohio Governor James M. Cox accepted pleas from the federal government to initiate a road-building project that would make the National Road suitable for military vehicles. But a lack of workers threatened the plans. In a controversial move, hundreds of convicts, almost all African American, were pulled from Ohio’s prisons to comprise the labor corps. The multi-million-dollar undertaking, completed just as the war ended, created what was reputed to be the world’s longest stretch of continuous brick road. Today, the enterprise serves as an excellent example of how racism and old-fashioned politics permeated good intentions of one of the last Progressive Era endeavors.

Klips, Robert. *Common Mosses, Liverworts, and Lichens of Ohio: A Visual Guide*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2022.

This engaging illustrated guidebook reveals the fascinating mosses and lichens that homeowners, outdoorspeople, and nature lovers encounter every day in Ohio and the Midwest. Readers will find concise physical descriptions, facts about natural history and ecology, and tips to distinguish lookalike species, all presented in a friendly, conversational tone.

Kroeger, Robert. *Round Barns of America: 75 Icons of History*. Morley, MO: Acclaim Press, 2022.

Join the author as he documents these curious barns—from the east coast to the west coast—and enjoy

the colorful stories of each one. Together, these seventy-five round barns represent a cross section of American pioneers, dating from years before the American Revolution to the glory decades of round barns—the 1870s to 1920s. It’s quintessential Americana.

Kropf, John W. *Color Capital of the World: Growing Up with the Legacy of a Crayon Company (Series on Ohio History and Culture)*. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2022.

Following the Civil War, three entrepreneurial families took their innovative ideas for school chalk from the kitchen stove and transformed them into the American Crayon Company. *Color Capital of the World* tells this story through the eyes of one of the founding family’s descendants, tracing the cycle of build, boom, and bust. Readers will come away feeling a greater appreciation of the human story behind the crayon and the Ohio town that produced more crayons and paints than anywhere in the world.

Massullo, Brandon. *Haunted Medina Ohio (Haunted America Series)*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2022.

The dreadful howls of coyotes are common in the shadows surrounding Medina County, but perhaps something else—something entirely more fearsome—lurks in the night. In 1906, the specter now known as the Woman in Black so terrified residents in Medina Square that a curfew was imposed. Restless spirits, rattling chains, and nefarious deeds are rumored to have occurred in a farmhouse in Sharon Township. Legend has it that about one hundred years ago, a witch preyed on

the residents of Liverpool Township, and the ghost of a teenage boy is said to haunt the men's restroom at Plum Creek Park in Brunswick Hills. Join parapsychologist Brandon Massullo as he sheds light on the ghostly lore surrounding Medina County's restaurants, libraries, freeways, parks, and more.

McCullough, Nick, Allison McCullough, and Teresa Woodard. *American Roots: Lessons and Inspiration from the Designers Reimagining Our Home Gardens*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2022.

In recent years, bold designers have begun championing an American design aesthetic that embraces regional cultures, plants, and growing conditions. Nick McCullough, Allison McCullough, and Teresa Woodard highlight designers and creatives with exceptional home gardens, focused on those who push the boundaries, trial extraordinary plants, embrace a regional ethos, and express their talents in highly personal ways. Covering all the regions of the country, the profiles in *American Roots* dive into design influences, share the back stories of the gardens and their creators, and include design tips and plant suggestions.

Meacham, Jon. *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*. New York, NY: Random House, 2022.

This book tells the story of Lincoln from his birth on the Kentucky frontier in 1809 to his leadership during the Civil War to his tragic assassination in 1865: his rise, his self-education, his loves, his bouts of depression, his political failures, his deepening faith, and his persistent conviction that slavery

must end. Lincoln's story illustrates the ways and means of politics in a democracy, the roots and durability of racism, and the capacity of conscience to shape events.

Murphy, Brian Michael. *We the Dead: Preserving Data at the End of the World*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2022.

*We the Dead* traces the emergence of the data complex in the early twentieth century and guides readers through its expansion in a series of moments when Americans thought they were living just before the end of the world. Depression-era eugenicists feared racial contamination and the downfall of the white American family, while contemporary technologists seek ever denser and more durable materials for storing data, from micro-etched metal discs to cryptocurrency keys encoded in synthetic DNA. Artfully written and packed with provocative ideas, this haunting book illuminates the dark places of the data complex and the ways it increasingly blurs the lines between human and machine, biological body and data body, life and digital afterlife.

Niehoff, Buck. *Walking Ancient Ohio*. Wilmington, OH: Orange Frazer Press, 2022.

Walking 160 miles to eight ancient ceremonial Hopewell earthworks, former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft and Buck Niehoff, retired lawyer and author, explore some of the most beautiful architectural achievements ever created in Ohio. They follow in the footsteps of the ancient people, who, like them, made pilgrimages between these venerated sites. They discover that

the spaces between the earthworks' locations—where both ancient and modern pilgrims walked—may have been as important to the sacred experience as the earthworks themselves.

Petuchowski, Elizabeth. *Where From and Where To: One of the Last Self-Told German Jewish Life Stories*. Bloomington, IN: Archway Publishing, 2022.

What impact did the rise of Nazi dictatorship and mandatory antisemitism have on a Jewish child and young girl in Germany? How did her family live a Jewish life in Germany? How did she reach England and, during World War II, attend a London school evacuated to the provinces and a university department evacuated to a coastal town? In *Where From and Where To*, author Elizabeth Petuchowski narrates her story and answers these questions set against a background of contemporaneous events.

Posey, Sean T. *Hidden History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2022.

Beyond steel and rust, Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley share a rich but often overlooked past. During the late 1910s, the ever-present smoke blanketing the area could not hide the fires from the burning business district of East Youngstown or the city streets deserted from Spanish influenza. Over twenty years later, the Mahoning Valley lived under another dark cloud: the Great Depression. In changing times for the valley and the country, the men and women of the WPA busied themselves with building up the region and dreaming of better days.



Journalist and historian Sean Posey excavates the history behind familiar landmarks, forgotten institutions, and historic sites that connect Mahoning Valley history to the story of the evolution of industrial America.

Scudder, Jillian. *Astroquizzical: Solving the Cosmic Puzzles of Our Planets, Stars, and Galaxies: The Illustrated Edition*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2022.

Astrophysicist Jillian Scudder explores the family tree of the cosmos, from humans on Earth to stars and galaxies to the first atoms of the Big Bang. Striking color images illustrate astrophysical marvels as Scudder takes readers on a curiosity-driven journey through outer space.

Sheffield, Ric S. *We Got By: A Black Family's Journey in the Heartland*. Columbus, OH: Trillium, 2022.

Life along the color line in rural Ohio was hard. Being Black often meant feeling frightened and alone. For a family like Ric S. Sheffield's, examining this reality closely meant confronting challenges and tragedies that often felt overwhelming, even as their odyssey also included the joyful and inspiring. Navigating day-to-day existence in a world where trusting white neighbors required a careful mixture of caution and faith, Sheffield and his kin existed in a space where they were both seen and unseen. Spanning four generations and assessing the legacies of traumatic events (arrests, murders, and suicide) that are inextricable from the racial dynamics of the small community his family called home, this memoir is a chronicle of Black life in the rural Midwest.

Stahr, Walter. *Salmon P. Chase: Lincoln's Vital Rival*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2022.

Salmon P. Chase is best remembered as a rival of Lincoln's for the Republican nomination in 1860—but there would not have *been* a national Republican Party, and Lincoln could not have won the presidency, were it not for the groundwork Chase laid over the prior two decades. Drawing on previously overlooked sources, Walter Stahr offers a new look at the pivotal events of the Civil War and its aftermath, and an account of a complex, forgotten man at the center of the fight for racial justice in nineteenth-century America.

Totten, Stanley M. *The Brilliance of Charles Whittlesey: Geologist, Surveyor, Military Engineer, Civil War Strategist*. Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 2022.

Charles Whittlesey (1808-1886) advanced numerous fields including geology, archaeology, and military strategy. Drawing extensively from papers housed in the Western Reserve Historical Society, *The Brilliance of Charles Whittlesey* offers the first full-length biography of one of the most outstanding and influential Americans of the nineteenth century.

Williams, Gary S. *"No Man Knows This Country Better": The Frontier Life of John Gibson*. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2022.

John Gibson worked with seven Presidents, knew a dozen Continental Army generals, and served as an officer of increasing rank in every frontier conflict between 1758 and 1813. This detailed account of Gibson's life celebrates an unheralded hero among our nation's Founding Fathers.

Willis, James A. *Southern Ohio Legends & Lore (American Legends Series)*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2022.

Southern Ohio has long attracted its fair share of colorful characters and odd occurrences. Infamous bootlegger George Remus rose to power shortly after moving to Cincinnati. Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys, was born and raised in southern Ohio. Some even say that creatures not of this planet are drawn to the area, which has had numerous UFO sightings. In the same region, an unassuming university professor got away with murder, an eccentric built his version of a European castle using nearby river rocks, and a headless motorcycle ghost roams a rural roadway. Ride along with author James A. Willis as he ventures into southern Ohio in search of all things strange and spooky.

Wolfe, Jane. *Burl: Journalism Giant and Medical Trailblazer*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2022.

After being diagnosed with a fatal kidney disease as a child, Burl Osborne pioneered home dialysis treatment and underwent a live kidney transplant in 1966—then an unproven, high-risk operation. While managing his challenging illness, Burl distinguished himself early as a writer and reporter with The Associated Press, eventually rising to the top of the wire service's executive ranks. Then, against the advice of his colleagues and the newspaper's own doctors, he sought an even greater challenge: joining *The Dallas Morning News* to lead the fight in one of America's last great newspaper wars. *Burl* is the story of one man's unlikely rise from the coal

mines of Appalachia to the pinnacle of journalism.

## FICTION

Bartow, Karina. *Wrong Line, Right Connection*. New York, NY: The Wild Rose Press, 2022.

When switchboard operator Mabel Jennings reports to work in the summer of 1964, she doesn't have any interest in finding love again. Out-of-towner Roy Stentz rings up her station, however, and makes her reconsider. Mabel is intrigued by his deep yet kind voice, but her attraction frazzles her mind, causing her to transfer Roy to the wrong line. When he calls back to give her another try, she repeats the mistake, humiliating herself. The haphazard introduction sets an unexpected romance into motion. Though she falls quickly for him, Mabel's bittersweet past refrains her from giving Roy her full devotion. Can she overcome her memories of love lost to embrace the new one calling out to her?

Belko, Tamara. *Perchance to Dream*. Scipio, IN: Pen It! Publications, 2022.

The sudden and tragic death of her mother has transformed sixteen-year-old Grace, leaving her broken and longing for the days when her mother held their family together. Grace's own near-drowning accident has taken the life of the kind stranger who tried to save her. With her mother no longer there for Grace to turn to, her relationship with her father, a washed-up musician, becomes strained. A move to a new town brings Grace a new start, new love, and hope when she meets Xander, a high school musician

who brings music back into her and her father's broken lives. But when Xander's past emerges, Grace realizes some secrets shouldn't be kept, and maybe music won't be enough to save them.

Bentley, Cade. *Where Wild Peaches Grow*. Seattle, WA: Lake Union Publishing, 2022.

In a deeply emotional novel of family, cultural heritage, and forgiveness, estranged sisters Nona "Peaches" Davenport and Julia Curtis wrestle with the choices they've made and confront circumstances beyond their control.

Chansarkar, Sara Siddiqui. *Skin Over Milk*. New York, NY: Chestnut Review, 2022.

*Skin Over Milk* tells the story of young Chutki and her two sisters, who bear the weight of being unwanted daughters in 1990s India. Told over the course of twelve short chapters and through the collective point of view of the siblings, these evocative stories-within-a-story speak of rain and tears, of sisterhood and solidarity, of poverty, and growing up as girls under the lashes of patriarchy.

Chaon, Dan. *Sleepwalk*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Co., 2022.

Will Bear is a man with so many aliases that he simply thinks of himself as the Barely Blur. A good-natured henchman with a complicated and lonely past and a passion for LSD micro-dosing, he spends his time in his beloved camper van, running sometimes shady, often dangerous errands for a powerful and ruthless operation he's never troubled himself to learn too much about. Out of the blue, one of Will's many burner phones

heralds a call from a twenty-year-old woman claiming to be his biological daughter, and she needs his help. She's entrenched in a widespread and nefarious plot involving Will's employers, and for Will to continue to have any contact with her increasingly fuzzes the line between the people he is working for and the people he's running from. Gazing both back to the past and forward to an inevitable-enough-seeming future, *Sleepwalk* examines where we've been and where we're going and the connections that bind us, no matter how far we travel to dodge them or how cleverly we hide.

Flower, Amanda. *Because I Could Not Stop for Death (An Emily Dickinson Mystery)*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2022.

Emily Dickinson and her housemaid, Willa Noble, realize there is nothing poetic about murder in this first book in an all-new series from *USA Today*-bestselling and Agatha Award-winning author Amanda Flower.

Henry, Emily. *Book Lovers*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2022.

Nora Stephens' life is books—she's read them all—and she is not that type of heroine. Not the plucky one, not the laidback dream girl, and especially not the sweetheart. The only people Nora is a heroine for are her clients, for whom she lands enormous deals as a cutthroat literary agent, and her beloved little sister Libby. Which is why she agrees to go to Sunshine Falls, North Carolina, for the month of August when Libby begs her for a sisters' trip away—with visions of a smalltown transformation for Nora, who she's convinced needs to become the heroine in her own story.

But instead of picnics in meadows, or run-ins with a handsome country doctor or bulging-forearmed bartender, Nora keeps bumping into Charlie Lastra, a bookish, brooding editor from back in the city. It would be a meet-cute—if not for the fact that they’ve met many times and it’s never been cute. If Nora knows she’s not an ideal heroine, Charlie knows he’s nobody’s hero. But as they are thrown together again and again—in a series of coincidences no editor worth their salt would allow—what they discover might just unravel the carefully crafted stories they’ve written about themselves.

Huber, Anna Lee. *A Perilous Perspective (Lady Darby #10)*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2022.

Investigative team, and new parents, Lady Kiera Darby and her husband, Sebastian Gage, take on a new case, involving forged art and family secrets.

K-Horn, Sandra. *After the Tears Dry*. Columbus, OH: Charmel Publishing, 2022.

Marcie Reynolds has built her life around her family. She sacrificed her career to care for her two children and assist her husband with his political career. At their twenty-fifth anniversary dinner, her husband informs her that he needs a divorce. After a period of spiraling and spiking emotions, her three close friends encourage her to thrive, and she returns to her job as a local TV news producer. What happens afterward is a testament to a woman’s strength and determination to recapture her career and create new goals.

Kiste, Gwendolyn. *The Rust Maidens*. Carbondale, IL: Trepidatio Publishing, 2018.

Something is happening to the girls on Denton Street. It’s the summer of 1980 in Cleveland, Ohio, and Phoebe Shaw and her best friend Jacqueline have just graduated high school, but the girls they have grown up with are suddenly changing. It starts with footprints of dark water on the sidewalk. Then, one by one, the girls’ bodies wither away, their fingernails turning to broken glass and their bones exposed like corroded metal beneath their flesh. As rumors spread about the grotesque transformations, soon everyone from nosy tourists to clinic doctors and government men start arriving on Denton Street, eager to catch sight of “the Rust Maidens” in metamorphosis. Nobody can explain what’s happening or why—except perhaps the Rust Maidens themselves. Whispering in secret, they know more than they’re telling, and Phoebe realizes her former friends are quietly preparing for something that will tear their neighborhood apart. Alternating between past and present, Phoebe struggles to unravel the mystery of the Rust Maidens—and her own unwitting role in the transformations—before she loses everything she holds dear: her home, her best friend, and even perhaps her own body.

Knott, Kip. *Some Birds Nest in Broken Branches*. Phoenix, AZ: Alien Buddha Press, 2022.

The stories in *Some Birds Nest in Broken Branches* masterfully and poetically chart trauma, loss, and grief—the ways these things warp, bend, and break those they touch—while staying rooted in the heart. Kip

Knott is a virtuoso of the particular, and his hands are just as nimble with obsession and compulsion as they are with the strange and surreal. This book is a testament to brokenness, not as a flaw but as a facet; in the coal that lines many of Knott’s vivid settings, there are ample diamonds to be found.

Koboltdt, Dan. *Silver Queendom*. Nottingham, UK: Angry Robot, 2022.

Service at the Red Rooster Inn isn’t what you’d call “good,” or even “adequate.” Darin would be the first to say so, and he owns the place. Evie isn’t much of a barmaid; Kat’s home-brewed ale seems to grow less palatable with each new batch; and Seraphina’s service at the bar leaves much to be desired. As for the bouncer, Big Tom, well, everyone learns quickly to stay on his good side. They may be bad at running an inn, but they’re the best team of con artists in the Old Queendom. When a prospective client approaches Darin with a high-paying job, he knows he should refuse. But the job involves a shipment of priceless imperial dream wine—the most coveted and expensive drink in the world. And, thanks to a stretch of bad luck, Darin is in deep to the Dame, who oversees criminal enterprises in this part of the Queendom. If they fail, they’re as good as dead. But if they succeed, it might just be enough money to get square with the Dame *and* make all of their dreams come true.

Long, Kathryn. *Snowed Under Murder (A Sierra Pines B&B Mystery)*. Kenmore, WA: Camel Press, 2022.

The holiday season has arrived and all should be merry in Sierra Pines. A plea from her mother pushes Ali to offer her annoying cousin, Nathan,



and his even more annoying bride, Isadora, lodging at the B&B. But when Isadora is found dead at the bottom of a ski slope and fingers point to Nathan as suspect number one, the merry season turns into a scary season for the residents of Sierra Pines.

Madden, Hope. *Roost*. Place of Publication Not Identified. Off Limits Press, 2022.

One spring, the birth of the Murphy twins was considered an Easter miracle. Now, almost eighteen years later—Easter week, 1988—the girls approach their birthday, and busybodies around town get a little anxious. Every time their birthday falls on Easter Sunday, bad things seem to happen, and the neighbors have noticed. A babysitter goes missing. The little girl up the road meets a bad end. Maybe it's coincidence. Maybe living in a town dropped smack in the middle of farmland—with miles of corn in every direction—makes people feel isolated and paranoid. Or maybe this year, the devil has come home to roost.

Matthews, Olivia. *Murder Out of Character (Peach Coast Library Mystery #2)*. New York, NY: Hallmark Publishing, 2022.

Marvey, still adjusting to life in Peach Coast, Georgia, is at a library fundraising event when she comes across a list of four names. One is the name of someone who recently died—and who may have been murdered. Another is Spencer Holt, the handsome newspaper owner who's become one of Marvey's best friends. The four people appear to have nothing in common other than living in Peach Coast. Spencer dismisses the list at first, but before

long, he has to admit he may be in danger. As Marvey prepares for a visit from her parents, can she, Spencer, and their intrepid librarian friends stop a killer bent on long overdue revenge?

Montgomery, Jess. *The Echoes (The Kinship Series #4)*. New York, NY: Minotaur Books, 2022.

As July 4, 1928, approaches, Sheriff Lily Ross and her family look forward to the opening of an amusement park in a nearby town, created by Chalmer Fitzpatrick—a veteran and lumber mill owner. When Lily is alerted to the possible drowning of a girl, she goes to investigate. She discovers schisms going back several generations in an ongoing dispute over the land on which Fitzpatrick has built the park. Lily's family life is soon rattled, too, with the revelation that before he died, her brother had a daughter, Esme, with a woman in France, and arrangements have been made for Esme to immigrate to the US to live with them. But Esme never makes it to Kinship, and soon Lily discovers that she has been kidnapped. Not only that, but a young woman is indeed found murdered in the fishing pond on Fitzpatrick's property, at the same time that a baby is left on his doorstep. As the two crimes interweave, Lily must confront the question of what makes family: Can we trust those we love? What do we share, and what do we keep secret?

Parker, Eliot. *A Final Call (A Stacy Tavitt Thriller)*. Terra Alta, WV: Headline Books, 2021.

Cleveland Homicide Detective Stacy Tavitt is contacted by a former college classmate who asks for help in finding her missing son, Colton. Still reeling physically

and emotionally from her last investigation—which led to the disappearance of her brother—Stacy reluctantly agrees. At first, there is little reason to suspect foul play in his disappearance—until he becomes the primary suspect in the murder of an ex-girlfriend. It's a race against the clock as Stacy tries to find out what happened to her brother and clear his name, all while stopping a lethal killer who continues to target the friends and family connected to Colton.

Skovron, Kelley. *The Wizard of Eventide (The Goddess War #3)*. London, UK: Orbit, 2022.

In the thrilling conclusion to Skovron's epic fantasy trilogy that began with *The Ranger of Marzanna*, allies and enemies alike must band together to defeat an evil on a scale never before seen—and this time, the Gods are on the battlefield.

Smith, Jeff. *Tuki: Fight for Fire*. Columbus, OH: Cartoon Books, 2021. The ancient world was filled with restless spirits and powerful forces. Two million years ago, human evolution made its move. It chose Fire. At the dawn of humanity, during a period of tremendous change and drought, three lost children meet a mysterious traveler named Tuki. Together, their search for the Motherherd of all Buffalo leads them far north through the dangerous territory of a rival species called the Habiline. The Habiline hunt and kill anyone found using fire. Tuki's reputation precedes them, and soon they find themselves at the center of unwanted attention not only from Habiline warriors, but of tribal spirits and giants. This graphic novel by *New York Times*–bestselling author and illustrator Jeff Smith was

originally published as a Kickstarter project.

Stammen, Kelli Milligan. *For What It's Worth*. Illus. by Amanda Kolitsos. Columbus, OH: J. Merrill Publishing, Inc., 2022.

As an entry-level broadcast journalist in 1968, stubborn and strong-willed Becca Schmidt has been working behind the scenes to cover the war. When she meets Jesse Wanger, her immediate attraction to him rocks her to the core. Jesse is just as taken with the raven-haired beauty, but he's hiding a painful past that has taught him to keep those he cares about at arm's length. Despite a world full of uncertainty and the always complicated nature of romance, Jesse and Becca continue to be irresistibly drawn together. But they both must fight inner demons and real-world obstacles to find their way to each other.

Tassone, Don. *Collected Stories*. Place of Publication Not Identified. Toerner Press, 2022.

This special collection features fifty of Don Tassone's best short stories. The author has dedicated this book to his granddaughter Alice, who has Down syndrome. Proceeds of this book go to the National Down Syndrome Society.

Thompson, Carlene. *Such a Winter's Day*. London, UK: Severn House, 2022.

Nine-and-a-half years ago, Juliet's talented brother Fin should have returned home. He didn't make it. When Juliet set out to find him that snowy winter evening, she made a devastating discovery. Now, Juliet returns to the small town of Parrish, Ohio, to celebrate her twenty-fifth

birthday with her parents. But when she arrives, she receives the shocking news that her father appears to have committed suicide. Why was he so distant shortly before his death? And why was he suddenly asking questions about Fin? As Juliet tries to come to terms with another family tragedy, she finds herself at the center of a series of spine-tingling events. What chilling secrets did her father uncover? And can she stop an ice-cold killer who's determined to keep them hidden?

Vibbert, Marie. *The Gods Awoke*. San Diego, CA: Journey Press, 2022. Hitra, high priestess of Revestre, already has enough on her hands: political upheaval, a distractingly attractive male servant, and an upcoming harvest festival. But when a column of flame from the heavens sends a city into tumult, it upends more than just her schedule. Now, Hitra must deal with a religious schism, ethnic strife, and a God growing out of control.

Wexler, Robert Freeman. *The Silverberg Business*. Easthampton, MA: Small Beer Press, 2022. Shannon, a Chicago private detective, returns home to Galveston, Texas, for a wedding. Galveston's new rabbi asks Shannon to find Nathan Silverberg, who has gone missing along with a group of swindlers claiming to be soliciting money for a future colony of Romanian Jewish refugees. What seems to be a simple job soon pushes Shannon into stranger territory. His investigations lead him to a malevolent white-haired gambler, monstrous sand dune totems, and a group of skull-headed poker players trapped in an endless loop of cards

and alcohol, who may be his only means to survive the business.

White, Edmund. *A Previous Life*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022.

Sicilian aristocrat and musician, Ruggero, and his younger American wife, Constance, agree to break their marital silence and write their Confessions. Until now they had a ban on speaking about the past, since transparency had wrecked their previous marriages. As the two alternate reading the memoirs they've written about their lives, Constance reveals her multiple marriages to older men, and Ruggero details the affairs he's had with men and women across his lifetime—most importantly, his passionate affair with the author Edmund White. Sweeping outward from the isolated Swiss ski chalet where the couple reads to travel through Europe and the United States, White's novel pushes for a broader understanding of sexual orientation and pairs humor and truth. In this experimental new mode—one where the author has laid himself bare as a secondary character—White explores the themes of love and age through numerous eyes, hearts, and minds.

Zhu, Ticana. *Dynasty of Summer: Part Two*. Solon, OH: Space Tigers Publishing, 2022.

In order to save Zhenxun, Princess Summer travels to enemy territory, beseeches her sisters for help, and faces foes. She skirts danger every step of the way. Meanwhile, a power vacuum in Zhenxun calls her back. But she can't go back until she unearths what the Empress has been secretly plotting. As truths come to

light, war is finding itself upon the front steps of Zhenxun. Princess Summer faces inner battles as she prepares for outer ones. Which should rule her decisions: her heart, or vengeance?

## POETRY

Collins, Martha. *Casualty Reports*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022. Stylistically innovative, deeply moving, and carefully researched, Martha Collins' eleventh volume of poetry combines her well-known attention to social issues with the elegiac mode of her previous book. She focuses here on race, gun violence, recent wars, and, in an extended sequence, the history of coal—first as her ancestors mined it, then from its geological origins to our ecologically-threatened present. *Casualty Reports* is both indictment and lament, a work that speaks forcefully to our troubled history and our present times.

Donovan, Matt. *The Dug-Up Gun Museum*. Rochester, NY: BOA Editions, 2022. Traveling the nation, Matt Donovan examines the paradox of a country plagued by gun violence, yet consumed with protecting the right to bear arms. Donovan's poems are dynamic and constantly in motion as he explores the ways in which capitalism and its relentless stream of content have led to a collective desensitization in the face of violence.

Gay, Ross, and Aimee Nezhukumatathil. *Lace & Pyrite: Letters from Two Gardens*. Union, NJ: Get Fresh Books Publishing, 2021. Originally published by Organic Weapon Arts in 2014, *Lace & Pyrite: Letters from Two Gardens* captures seasonal changes and life unfolding from the perspective of two gardens: Ross Gay and Aimee Nezhukumatathil. What began as an unprompted poem correspondence between the two poets in the late July swelter of 2011 blossomed into a beautiful collection of epistolary poetry. This reprint by Get Fresh Books Publishing comprises all the original poetry and includes an interview published by *The Margins* titled, "Our Wholeness, Our Togetherness: A Conversation with Aimee Nezhukumatathil & Ross Gay."

Ginese, Stephanie. *Unto Dogs*. Cleveland, OH: Grieveland Press, 2022. Stephanie Ginese's *Unto Dogs* is a faithful pursuit of agency under imperial rule. With slick humor and radical honesty, she explores the violent and feminine history of a body and island seeking sovereignty from colonial powers. This collection is a searing revelation of confession, mythos, and truth.

Jones, Saeed. *Alive at the End of the World*. Minneapolis, MN: Coffee House Press, 2022. Drawing from memoir, fiction, and persona, Saeed Jones confronts the everyday perils of white supremacy with a finely tuned poetic ear, identifying moments that seem routine even as they open chasms of hurt. Viewing himself as an

unreliable narrator, Jones looks outward to understand what's within, bringing forth cultural icons like Little Richard, Paul Mooney, Aretha Franklin, and Diahann Carroll to illuminate how long and how perilously we've been living on top of fault lines. As these poems seek ways to love and survive through America's existential threats, Jones ushers his readers toward the realization that the end of the world is already here—and the apocalypse is a state of being.

Neville, Megan. *The Fallow*. Fernandina, FL: Trio House Press, 2022. Megan Neville's *The Fallow* traverses the nature of birth and death, past and present. Her poetry is hands-on, enveloping the senses with metaphorical exploration of the body and humanity's "refusal to swallow" with "hands around / their throats." Neville denounces societal expectations of sex, motherhood, and the female body, while delving into a nation's seemingly endless cycle of trauma.

Pagel, Caryl. *Free Clean Fill Dirt*. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2022. Caryl Pagel's third book of poetry is a study in disruption, interruption, and ruin, tracing geological and historical palimpsests via caesura, fragmentation, echo, and humor. Using a blend of ecopoetic, visual, and archival modes, *Free Clean Fill Dirt* is a collection of poems making intimacy of deep time and vanitas of vision.



Simpson, Darius. *Never Catch Me*. Minneapolis, MN: Button Poetry, 2022.

This debut collection by Darius Simpson centers on Black boyhood in the Midwest and familial disintegration over time. Simpson pulls back the curtain, exposing the violence enacted against and upon Black bodies. And yet, still, each poem is saturated in revolution and hope. *Never Catch Me* is the anthem necessary to organize a community that is committed to a better right now—one that can only be achieved with an intensity and action that goes far beyond the page.

Smith, Larry, and Barbara Sabol. *Connections*. Huron, OH: Bird Dog Publishing, 2022.

*Connections* is a dual book by two fine poets: *Morning Dew: Tanka* by Larry Smith and *core & all: haiku* by Barbara Sabol.

Wiley, Rachel. *Revenge Body*. Minneapolis, MN: Button Poetry, 2022.

*Revenge Body* is Rachel Wiley's third collection of poetry, full of the sharp wit and bold honesty we know and love. Wiley invites readers to join her on a journey filled with righteous anger, Black identity, magic, mental health, navigating maternal relationships, and the love and loss that comes from a breakup.

## MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Daigneau, Jean. *Ellis Island and Immigration for Kids: A History with 21 Activities*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2022.

*Ellis Island and Immigration for Kids* explores all angles of immigration and its history in the United States. Readers will broaden their understanding of issues that center on immigration with cross-curriculum activities such as poetry, letter writing, and graphing.

Eley, Larry T., and M. T. Eley. *Mifflin Drift*. St. Louis, MO: Reedy Press, 2022.

Fifteen-year-old Larry never wanted to leave the calm of his grandparent's farm, but now he's in Northglenn, Ohio, living in a snug home with his mom and boozy stepfather, E. A. Darnell. When E. A. comes home drunk one night and tells Larry to get out, he's half tempted to do it. But Larry is soon adopted by a gang of local toughs. *Mifflin Drift* is about eight friends in pre-Vietnam America and how they grew up—despite their best efforts not to.

Lady, Jason R. *Time Problems (A Magic Pen Adventure #3)*. Castroville, TX: Black Rose Writing, 2022.

Dreading the start of middle school, Rachel doodles characters inspired by her stuffed animals: Timeduck, a wizard who has the power to control time, and Attack Pig, a bodyguard to protect her. But Rachel has no idea she is drawing with a magic pen and the drawings come to life! As Timeduck works his magic, Rachel's problems multiply. She finds herself contending with repeating days, pastry-eating hedgehogs, and cracks in time. With the help of her best friend, dramatic theater kid Cooper, and her noble Attack Pig, Rachel must outwit Timeduck before irreparable harm is done to time itself.

Nelson, Marilyn. *Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life*. New York, NY: Christy Ottaviano Books, 2022.

Augusta Savage was arguably the most influential American artist of the 1930s. A gifted sculptor, Savage was commissioned to create a portrait bust of W. E. B. Du Bois for the New York Public Library. She flourished during the Harlem Renaissance and became a teacher to an entire generation of African American artists, including Jacob Lawrence, and would go on to be nationally recognized as one of the featured artists at the 1939 World's Fair. She was the first-ever recorded Black gallerist. After being denied an artists' fellowship abroad on the basis of race, Savage worked to advance equal rights in the arts. Yet popular history has forgotten her name. This is an important portrait of an exceptional artist who, despite the limitations she faced, was compelled to forge a life through art and creativity.

Nockowitz, Stacy. *The Prince of Steel Pier*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2022.

Joey Goodman is spending the summer at his grandparents' struggling hotel in Atlantic City, a tourist destination on the decline. Nobody in Joey's big Jewish family takes him seriously, so when Joey's Skee-Ball skills land him an unusual job offer from a local mobster, he's thrilled to be treated like "one of the guys," and develops a major crush on an older girl in the process. Eventually disillusioned by the mob's bravado, and ashamed of his own dishonesty, he recalls words of wisdom from his grandfather that finally resonate. Joey realizes where

he really belongs: with his family, who drive him crazy, but where no one fights a battle alone. All it takes to get by is one's wits . . . and a little help from one's brothers.

Sensel, Joni. *A Curse on the Wind*. New York, NY: The Wild Rose Press, 2022.

A would-be actress, a good-looking gravedigger, and a cemetery haunted by an invisible power collide with the unintended consequences of a curse. This YA historical fantasy features seventeen-year-old Gethsemane, who gives in during a weak moment and casts a dramatic curse against someone who wronged her. In 1909 Ohio, buzzing with modern machines and inventions, she never expects it to work. When the spirit of the Wind delivers her curse and expects her to marry it in return, she has to somehow escape its unwanted attention or give up the chance to ever be loved. Only by facing her own shadow and trusting an unlikely ally can she outsmart the Wind to find true love instead.

Shore, Jennifer Ann. *Just for You*. Seattle, WA: Jennifer Ann Shore, 2022.

Violet has a lot going on. School obligations, extracurriculars, friendship issues, and four chaotic siblings are enough to deal with, but then her biological father returns out of nowhere, wanting Violet to be part of his new family. When Penn Westbrook comes along, Violet isn't sure if she can handle any more complicated relationships in her life. But maybe Penn is just what she needs.

Skovron, Kelley. *GI Joe Classified: Book One*. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, 2022.

Saying goodbye to big-city life is only the first challenge Stan faces in moving to Springfield, a town that's eerily under the thumb of his mother's powerful employer. DeCobray has its hand in everything, including the Lyre XR augmented reality headsets that Stan and his fellow students at Springfield Academy are asked to beta test. At first Stan loves his headset—data on his classmates is at his fingertips, and the Lyre's custom filters make school sort of fun—but then he meets Scarlett, Ichi no Zoro-me, and Julien. His new friends show him there's a lot more going on behind DeCobray's flashy tech. When several kids go missing at school, Stan and his friends set out to uncover the truth behind the devices. But as they dig deeper, they discover a sinister conspiracy lurking under the town's innocent surface.

Slingerup, Erik Jon. *Molly and the Machine (Far Flung Falls #1)*. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2022.

It's the summer of 1983, and one by one, the kids of Far Flung Falls are disappearing. When Molly McQuirter's little brother is snatched up before her eyes by something big and metal, she has no choice but to follow. Sure, Wally tends to ruin everything, and his finger practically lives up his nose, but she isn't about to let him be abducted, especially since their mom ran off to Florida two years ago and their dad, who's slowly morphing into a couch potato, won't be any help. If Molly wants to protect the family she has left, Wally's rescue is going to be up to her. Aided by a crew

of unusually determined pets, Molly sets off on a chase through the hills of southern Ohio. Finding the robot culprit only creates more questions, however, and when the unlikely mastermind behind the machine is uncovered, a new story begins to unfold—one of lost love, family bonds, and some seriously weird science.

Van Vleet, Carmella. *Nothing is Little*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2022.

Eleven-year-old Felix likes being the smallest kid in school. At least he knows where he fits in. Plus his nickname, "Short-lock Holmes," is perfect for someone who's killing it in forensic science club. To Felix, growth hormone deficiency is no big deal. Then Felix learns that his biological dad was short, too. This one, tiny, itty-bitty piece of information opens up a massive hole in his life. Felix *must* find his father. He only has a few small clues to work from, but as Sherlock Holmes said, "To a great mind, nothing is little." But the further Felix gets in his investigation, the more he starts to wonder: What if his dad doesn't want to be found? And what if Felix's family—his mom, his stepdad, and the baby on the way—needs *him* right where he is?

Wealer, Sara Bennett. *Grave Things Like Love*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 2022.

Elaine's home is a bit . . . different. It's a funeral home that has been in her family since the 1800s—and it's why everyone calls her Funeral Girl. And even though she's lived there her whole life, there are still secrets to be found. When Xander, a cute new boy with a penchant for ghost

hunting, arrives in town, Elaine feels an instant spark. His daring and spontaneous ways could help her go from Funeral Girl to Fun Girl. After Xander convinces her to stage a seance one night, Elaine discovers that her home might be haunted by a kindred spirit—the daughter of the funeral home’s original owner. But who wants to be haunted by the dead when there are boys to spend time with? After all, you only live once . . .

Wilkoff, Brianna. *I’ll Be There for You*. New York, NY: Winding Road Stories, 2022.

Rae Ballester loves movie musicals and—thanks to her dad—1980s rock. Since he died a year ago, his favorite music helps keep his memory alive. Struggling to move on, Rae keeps her head down and earbuds in, but shunning the world has cost her even her closest friendships, leaving her the “Owner of a Lonely Heart.” When Rae meets Mac, a boy with a charming smile who thinks any problem can be solved with a show tune, she cautiously welcomes their easy banter. With his humor, enthusiasm, and well-curated Broadway playlists, Mac slowly edges his way into her heart. But when he proves “Every Rose Has Its Thorn,” Rae thinks about withdrawing to the comfort of hair metal and the silver screen.

## JUVENILE

Aldama, Frederick Luis. *Con Papá/With Papá*. Illus. by Nicky Rodriguez. Columbus, OH: Mad Creek, 2022.

With Papá, anything is possible! With playful illustrations and rich imagery, this gentle bilingual story

celebrates fathers, children, and Latinx identity as it takes readers on a childhood journey of growth and discovery. From delivery from the serpent god’s wings to Papá’s safe arms to witnessing the magical tapestry of stars, *Con Papá/With Papá* shows us the world through a child’s eyes, hand in hand with Papá, until they are ready to set off on their own adventures.

Campbell, Marcy. *The More You Give*. Illus. by Francesca Sanna. New York, NY: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2022.

A modern-day response to *The Giving Tree*, this lyrical picture book shows how a family passes down love from generation to generation, leaving a legacy of growing both trees and community.

Charlton-Trujillo, e. E., and Pat Zietlow Miller. *Lupe Lopez: Rock Star Rules!* Illus. by Joe Cepeda. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2022.

When Lupe Lopez struts through the doors of Hector P. Garcia Elementary in sunglasses with two taped-up Number 2 pencils—drumsticks, of course—poking from her pocket, her confidence is off the charts. All day, Lupe drums on desks, tables, and chairs while Ms. Quintanilla reminds her of school rules. Lupe has her own rules: 1) Don’t listen to anyone. 2) Make lots of noise. ¡Rataplán! 3) Have fans, not friends. But with her new teacher less than starstruck, and fans hard to come by, Lupe wonders if having friends is such a bad idea after all. Is true star power knowing when to share the spotlight?

Elasky, Kathy S. *Pudgy Possum the Brave: How Pudgy Got His Name*. Buchtel, OH: Monday Creek Publishing, 2022.

Ma Possum’s pouch is getting crowded. Her babies are getting cranky. Someone needs to do something! With little wiggle room left in Ma’s cozy pouch, who will be brave enough to make the first move?

Hopkinson, Deborah. *My Little Golden Book about Betty White*. Illus. by Margeaux Lucas. New York, NY: Golden Books, 2021.

This Little Golden Book about Betty White—television star, comedian, animal lover, and game show competitor—is a celebration of the beloved woman. A great read-aloud for young girls and boys, as well as their parents and grandparents who grew up watching Betty on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and *The Golden Girls*.

Mixon, Dia. *When I Feel at Home*. Illus. by Siara Torres. Columbus, OH: El Mundo Mixon Books, 2022.

Alucia, a bilingual Colombian-American child, teaches readers how to cope with all of the big feelings that come with being away from home. She shows readers how she uses her senses and daily habits to feel more comfortable wherever she may be!

Rainey, Merrill. *Oink! I’m a Pig*. New York, NY: HarperFestival, 2022.

Look through the eyeholes to become your favorite farm animal! This interactive, rhyming board book encourages imagination and playtime.



Rainey, Merrill. *Roar! I'm a Dinosaur*. New York, NY: HarperFestival, 2022.

Transform into epic dinosaurs with this interactive board book! What is it like to be a T. rex or pterodactyl? Hold this book up and look through the eyeholes to find out.

Rex, Adam. *Digestion! The Musical*. Illus. by Laura Park. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2022.

Candy has made it! She's finally here: the human body! This intrepid sweet treat meets each of the human body's organs as she approaches her "big break": being successfully digested! Here is the scientific process of digestion as you've never seen it before—told through a musical, with Candy in the role of the smalltown kid who wants to make it big, the baby carrots as the Greek chorus narrating all the action, and cameos from every body part that plays an important role in transforming food from ingredients to nutrition.

Russo, Blythe. *Sloth Sleeps Over*. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2022.

Sloth is invited to her first sleepover at her best friend Paloma's house, and even though she doesn't quite know what to expect, she's very confident in her sleep skills. Sloth is an expert when it comes to napping, dozing, or catching some Zs, so she's ready to excel at sleepovers, too. But when she arrives, she finds out that Paloma wants to stay up all night! Will Sloth be able to keep her eyes open or is their friendship in for a rude awakening?

Rylant, Cynthia. *Home is Where the Birds Sing*. Illus. by Katie Harnett. New York, NY: Beach Lane Books, 2022.

There are so many things, both big and small, that make a place feel like home. Home is where you might have a special nickname or a special toy. It's where you might have a snack or a nap or a bath—or all three! Whether home is a city apartment or a country cottage, it's a place you want to return to again and again. Celebrate all kinds of homes—and all kinds of families—in this cozy, lushly illustrated ode to the universal feeling of being at home.

Wang, Andrea. *Luli and the Language of Tea*. Illus. by Hyewon Yum. New York, NY: Neal Porter Books, 2022.

When five-year-old Luli joins her new English as a Second Language class, the playroom is quiet. Luli can't speak English, and neither can anyone else. That's when she has a brilliant idea to host a tea party and bring them all together. Luli removes her teapot, thermos, and teacups from her bag and calls out "Chá!" in her native Chinese. One by one, her classmates pipe up in recognition: in Russian, Hindi, Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, and Swahili. Tea is a tasty language they all know well, and it gives them a chance to share and enjoy each other's company. Additional material at the back of the book explores the rich and ancient history of tea drinking across cultures all around the world and contains maps, statistics, and fascinating details that will delight young readers.

## COMING SOON

### Virtual Author Event: Tiffany McDaniel

February 23, 2023

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Joseph Beth Booksellers  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Two-time Ohioana Book Award winner Tiffany McDaniel discusses *On the Savage Side*, her latest harrowing novel inspired by the true story of the unsolved murders of the Chillicothe Six. Free. To register for this virtual event, go to <https://www.josephbeth.com/event/tiffany-mcdaniel-discussing-savage-side>

### Ohioana Book Club

March 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. – noon

Ohioana Library  
274 East 1st Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio

The title for March is 2022 Ohioana Book Award finalist *To Rescue the Republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the Fragile Union, and the Crisis of 1876* by Bret Baier and Catherine Whitney. Free. If you would like to attend, please email us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org)

### Author Event: Andrew Welsh-Huggins

April 12, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Gramercy Books Bexley  
2424 E. Main St., Bexley, Ohio

Join freelance writer and novelist Andrew Welsh-Huggins to learn about *The End of the Road*, his fast-paced thriller about a woman's quest to avenge her boyfriend's shooting. Welsh-Huggins will be in conversation with acclaimed writer Lee Martin. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andrew-welsh-huggins-discusses-new-fast-paced-thriller-with-lee-martin-tickets-506763462157>

# 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 September 1, 2022, through November 30, 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

For me, Ohioana has for many years been the “Welcome Home” hug of strangers who became friends and then became family.

From the work Ohioana has done with schools, communities, and public libraries to the prestige that comes from its literary awards, this is an organization that is, like me, Buckeye to the Bone.

It feels so good to support an organization that is doing the true work of bringing literature to those who want and need it and by doing so, bringing communities together across lines of race and economic status. So proud to be a part of the journey.

*Jacqueline Woodson is the celebrated author of dozens of books for children, teens, and adults. She is best known for her National Book Award-winning memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, and her Newbery Honor-winning titles, *After Tupac and D Foster*, *Feathers*, and *Show Way*. After serving as the Young People’s Poet Laureate from 2015-2017, she was named by the Library of Congress as the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. In 2020, she was awarded the Hans Christian Anderson Medal. That same year, she was named a MacArthur Fellow.*

*A three-time Ohioana Book Award winner, past Floyd’s Pick recipient, and celebrated Choose to Read Ohio author, Jacqueline was born in Columbus, Ohio, and grew up in South Carolina and New York. She now lives with her family in Brooklyn. To learn more, visit [www.jacquelinewoodson.com](http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com).*



Photo by: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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