

**Women's  
History  
Month  
Booklist!**



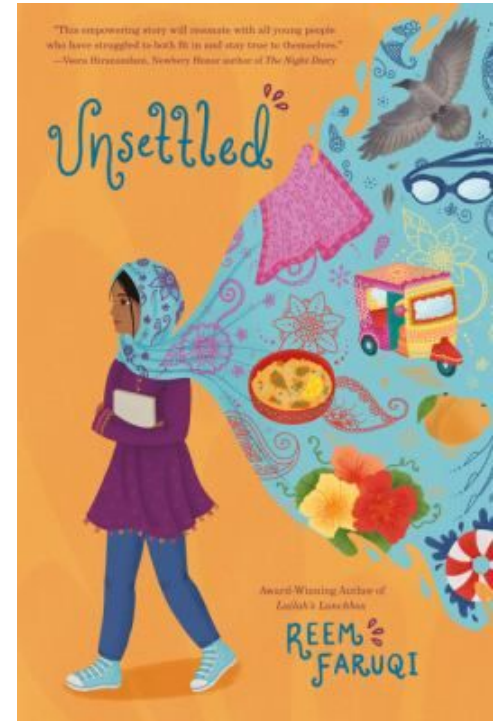
# Excerpt from *Unsettled*

By Reem Faruqi

“After a few waves  
guilt strikes.

We turn to tiptoe back,  
but my glasses fall  
and even though I try to grab them,  
the sea sucks them up  
never to return.”

Ages 8 and up



# *Unsettled*

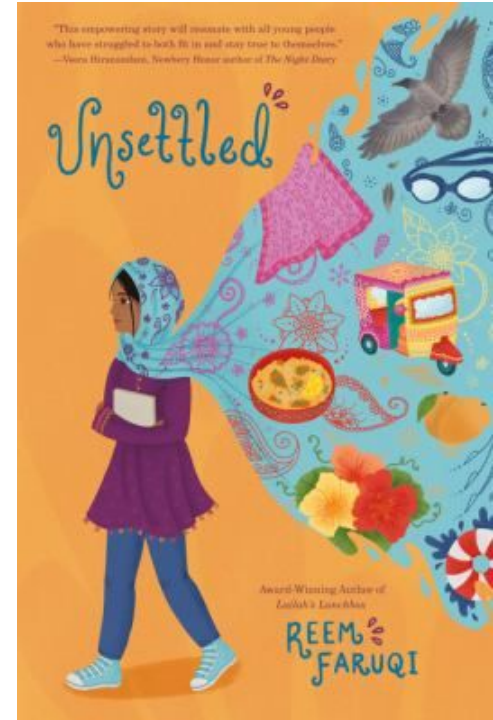
By Reem Faruqi

At home in Karachi, Pakistan, Nurah Haqq enjoys a life surrounded by family, friends, and visits to the ocean. A perfect day at the beach becomes the worst day when Nurah's father announces that he has accepted a job offer in America. Her immediate family--father, mother, and older brother Owais--will soon relocate to the United States. Uprooted, the family settles in Peachtree City, GA, where Nurah discovers a nation of unfamiliar sights, sounds, smells, and strange pronunciations. The challenges they face in America, including Nurah's complicity in an attack on her brother, will force the girl--whose name means "light"--to face her own weaknesses, reconnect with the light within, and blossom into someone she is proud of.

*Unsettled* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!

To hear the author's Nana read an excerpt aloud, click [here!](#)

Ages 8 and up



# About Reem Fauqi (she/her)

“When I doodle, whether it be swirls or figurines, I am transformed to a world in which my doodles live, and my thoughts become clear. Similarly, when I take a break from the world around me, and take photos, my mind breathes. Through my art medium of Photos, Pencils, Paint, and Potting soil, I thrive. I am a doodler and writer any chance I get, a seasonal [photographer](#), and a Stay-At-Home-Mom during the week to school aged girls Z, A, and baby H. I am also a teacher and have taught second grade for four years, but am taking a break to mother and explore my creative outlet via the aforementioned 4 P’s.”

“I also work with the [Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta](#) as a Scheduler and Communications Director. This [photoblog](#) is my stepping stone to making my dreams a reality, my happiest dream being my children’s books getting published!”



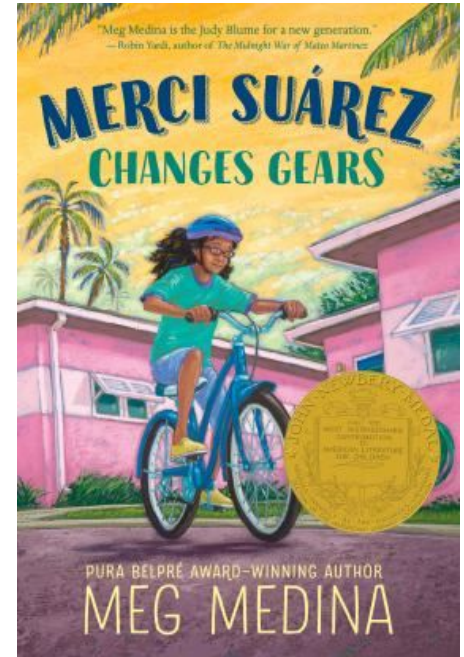
# Excerpt from *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*

By Meg Medina

Ages 9 and up

“This is sixth grade, so there won't be one of the PTA moms walking us down to the photographer. Last year, our escort pumped us up by gushing the whole way about how handsome and beautiful we all looked on the first day of school, which was a stretch since a few of us had mouthfuls of braces or big gaps between our front teeth.

But that's over now. Here at Seaward Pines Academy, sixth-graders don't have the same teacher all day, like Miss Miller in the fifth grade. Now we have homerooms and lockers. We switch classes. We can finally try out for sports teams. And we know how to get ourselves down to picture day just fine—or at least the rest of my class does.”



# *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*

By Meg Medina

Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately -- forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school.

*Merci Suarez Changes Gears* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!

Ages 9 and up



# About Meg Medina (she/her)

When she's not writing, Meg works on community projects that support girls, Latino youth, and/or literacy. She is a faculty member of Hamline University's Masters of Fine Arts in Children's Literature and lives with her family in Richmond, Virginia.



# Excerpt from *Strangeworld's Travel Agency*

By L.D. Lapinski

Ages 9 and up

“At the sound of the suitcase bursting open, Jonathan turned around, startled, his wood-and-leather swivel chair screeching on its casters. The suitcase lid flew back and a torrent of water splashed out of it.

“What’s happening?” the boy gasped, backing quickly away from the flood...”





# Excerpt from *Strangeworld's Travel Agency* Continued

“...Seconds later, a man climbed out of the suitcase as if it were a trapdoor. He was soaking wet and coughing. A collapsed telescope was hanging from his belt in a leather hoop. He quickly reached back down into the case and heaved until a woman half clambered, half tumbled out as well. She landed on her hands and knees, her many-layered dress dripping onto the floorboards. She had three pairs of spectacles hanging around her neck and thick black hair that was braided and decorated with little strips of ribbons and lace.”



# *Strangeworld's Travel Agency*

By L.D. Lapinski

Ages 9 and up

When twelve-year-old Flick Hudson accidentally ends up in the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, she uncovers a fantastic secret: there are hundreds of other worlds just steps away from hers. All you have to do to visit them is just jump into the right suitcase. Then Flick gets the invitation of a lifetime: join Strangeworlds's magical travel society and explore other worlds. But, unbeknownst to Flick, the world at the very center of it all, a city called Five Lights, is in danger. Buildings and even streets are mysteriously disappearing. And when Flick realizes what's going on, she must race against time, travelling through uncharted worlds, to find a way to fix Five Lights before it collapses into nothingness—and takes her world with it.

*Strangeworld's Travel Agency* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!



# About L.D. Lapinski (they/them)

L. D. Lapinski is the author of *The Strangeworlds Travel Agency* trilogy, and is published around the world in fifteen other languages. L. D. Lapinski lives just outside Sherwood Forest, England with their family, a lot of books, and a cat named Hector. L.D. first wrote a book at age seven; it was made of lined paper and sellotape, and it was about a frog who owned an airplane. When L.D. grows up, they want to be a free-range guinea pig farmer.



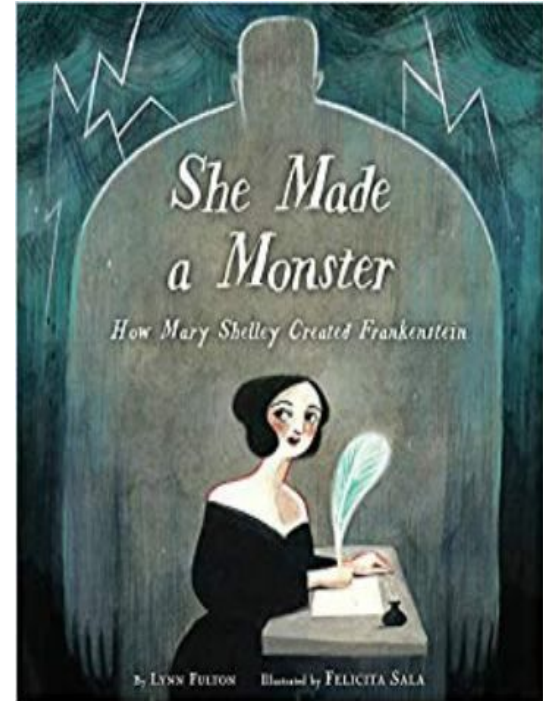
# Excerpt from *She Made a Monster*

By Lynn Fulton

Ages 6 and up

“A flash of light illuminated the room and Mary jumped as her reflection peered back at her from the mirror. Pale and strange, like something dead restored to life.

Wouldn't it be terrifying to see such a creature, she mused. Or perhaps more terrifying, to be such a creature.”



# *She Made a Monster*

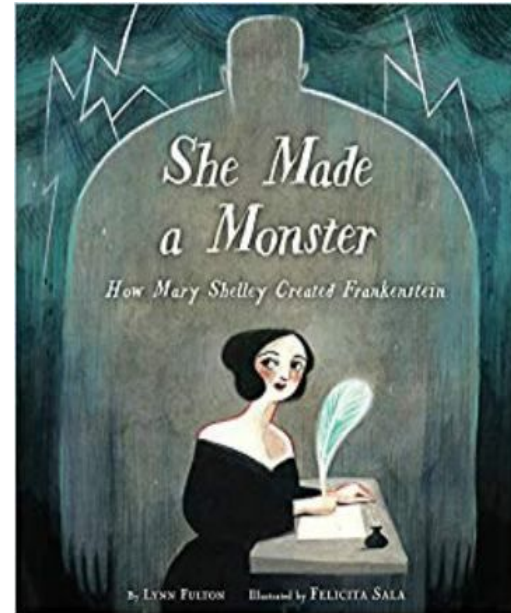
By Lynn Fulton

Ages 6 and up

On the bicentennial of Frankenstein, join Mary Shelley on the night she created the most frightening monster the world has ever seen.

*She Made a Monster* is available at the Boston Public Library!

To hear *She Made a Monster* read aloud, click [here!](#)



# About Lynn Fulton (she/her)

Lynn Fulton's hobbies as a child were reading, drawing pictures, reading, writing stories, reading, daydreaming about horses, and reading. So naturally she majored in English when she got to college. In graduate school, Fulton was disturbed by the lack of stories about horses, time travel, or magic, but she did enjoy teaching *Frankenstein* to her freshman composition students.

Lynn Fulton lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, son, dog, and cat. When she's not reading or writing, she loves to paint and draw—but illustrating books is something she leaves up to the experts, like the fabulously talented Felicita Sala!

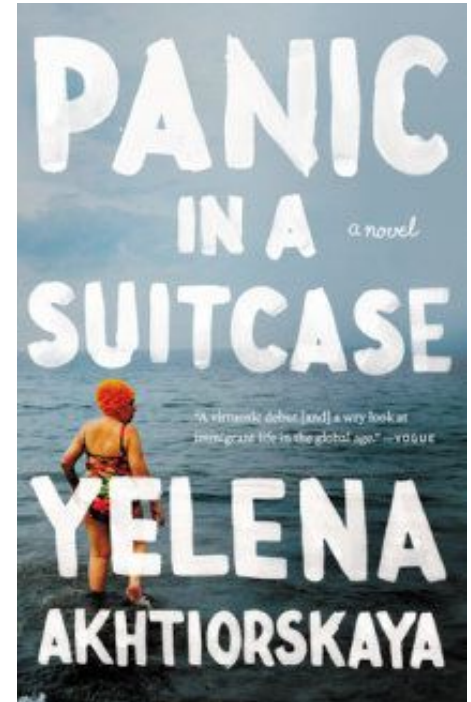


# Excerpt from *Panic in a Suitcase*

By Yelena Akhtiorskaya

Ages 14 and up

“The beach! Unable to coordinate a mass exodus, they left in spurts, Esther and Robert hauling supplies in the lead, and five minutes later Marina tugged Levik’s weight off the couch, instructing Frida to get ready quickly and not leave without her uncle, they’d be waiting in the usual spot, to the left of lifeguard Hercules. The door slammed shut, a reverberating silence spread through the apartment.”



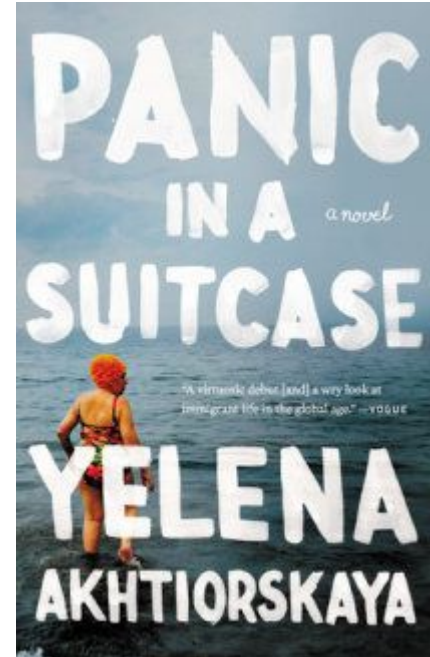
# *Panic in a Suitcase*

By Yelena Akhtiorskaya

Ages 14 and up

The Nasmertovs are a Russian immigrant family living in Brooklyn and their struggle to learn the new rules of the American Dream. In this account of two decades in the life of an immigrant household, the fall of communism and the rise of globalization are artfully reflected in the experience of a single family. Ironies, subtle and glaring, are revealed: the Nasmertovs left Odessa for Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, with a huge sense of finality, only to find that the divide between the old world and the new is not nearly as clear-cut as they thought.

*Panic in a Suitcase* is available at the Boston Public Library!





# About Yelena Akhtiorskaya

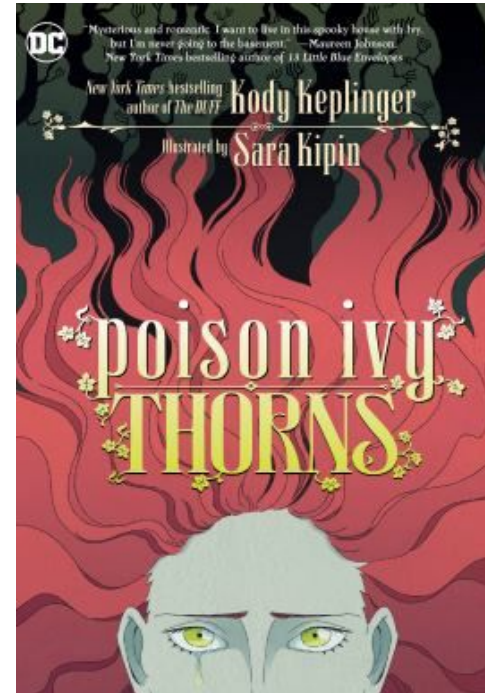
Yelena Akhtiorskaya transformed her own family's immigrant experience into her ambitious debut novel, *Panic in a Suitcase*. Akhtiorskaya immigrated to the US with her family in 1992 and settled in the expatriate community in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn otherwise known as "Little Odessa." As a young writer, she was hesitant to draw on her own experiences for fear of writing stories that were too esoteric for a mainstream audience. It was only while working towards her MFA that she found the confidence to use Russian and immigrant characters in her fiction. In 2014 she published her first novel, *Panic in a Suitcase*, which follows three generations of a family from Odessa to Brooklyn and back again in a complex modern tale of assimilation and individuality.



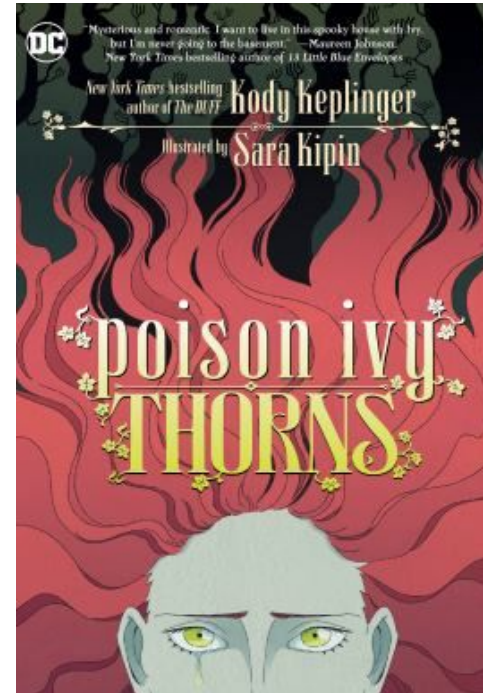
# Excerpt from *Poison Ivy Thorns*

By: Kody Keplinger

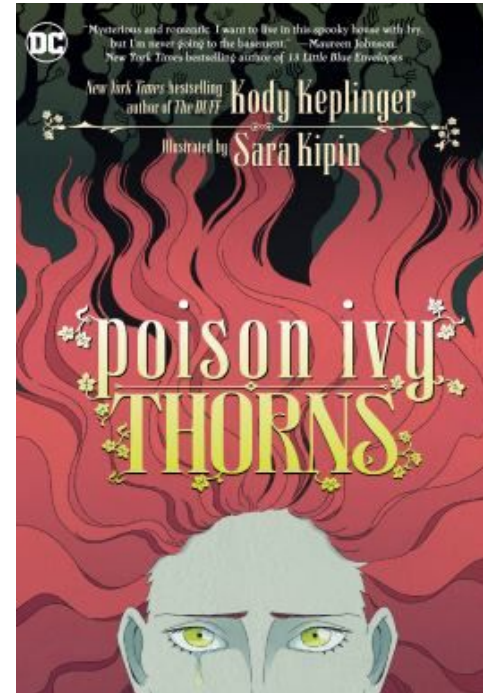
Ages 9 and up



# Excerpt from *Poison Ivy Thorns* Continued



# Excerpt from *Poison Ivy Thorns* Continued



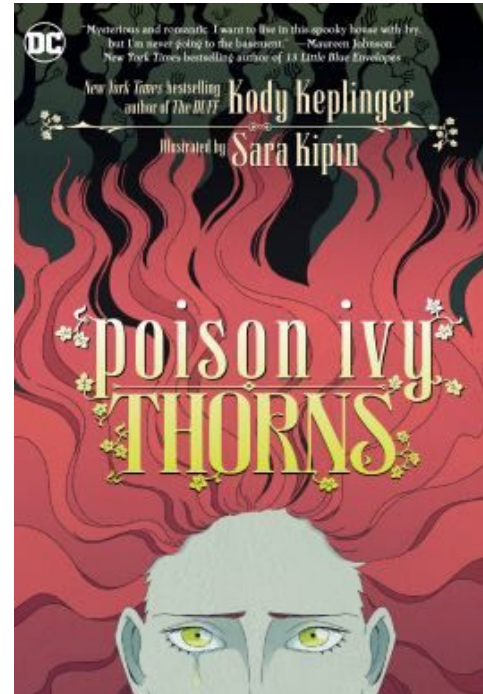
# *Poison Ivy Thorns*

By: Kody Keplinger

Even though Pamela Isley spends most of her time caring for a few small plants and does not trust other people, when cute goth girl Alice Oh comes into her life she starts to open up, but the dark secrets from home could destroy the one person who ever cared about Pamela, or as her mom called her, Ivy.

*Poison Ivy Thorns* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!

Ages 9 and up



# About Kody Kelplinger (she/her)

Kody Keplinger was born and raised in small town western Kentucky, where she began her writing career after penning the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller, ***The DUFF***, at age seventeen. When she isn't writing, Kody is posting about fashion and body positivity on her Instagram, chatting about her favorite TV shows on Twitter, or making videos for her YouTube account. Kody is also the co-founder of **Disability in KidLit** and a teacher at the Gotham Writers Workshops in NYC.



# Excerpt from *Rain Reign*

By Ann M. Martin

Ages 9 and up

“This is how you tell a story: First you introduce the main character. I'm writing this story about me, so I am the main character. My first name has a homonym, and I gave my dog a homonym name too. Her name is Rain, which is special because it has two homonyms--rein and reign. I will write more about Rain in Chapter Two. Chapter Two will be called "My Dog, Rain (Reign, Rein)." Something important about the word write is that it has three homonyms--right, rite, and wright. That's the only group of four homonyms I've thought of. If I ever think of another four-homonym group, it will be a red-letter day.”



# *Rain Reign*

By Ann M. martin

Ages 9 and up

Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose Howard shares a bond with her dog, Rain, but when the dog goes missing, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels to search for her pet.

*Rain Reign* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!





# About Ann M. Martin (she/her)

Ann Mathews Martin was born on August 12, 1955 in Princeton, New Jersey. She received a degree in elementary education and psychology from Smith College. She worked as a teacher, was an editor of children's books for both Bantam and Scholastic, and then became a full-time writer. She is the author of several series including the Baby-sitters Club series, Baby-Sitters Little Sister series, California Diaries series, and Main Street series. Her other works include Ten Kids No Pets, Here Today, On Christmas Eve, and Rain Reign.



# Content Warning

The next book featured discusses death. If you are not interested, please skip to slide 17.



# Excerpt from *Children of Blood and Bone*

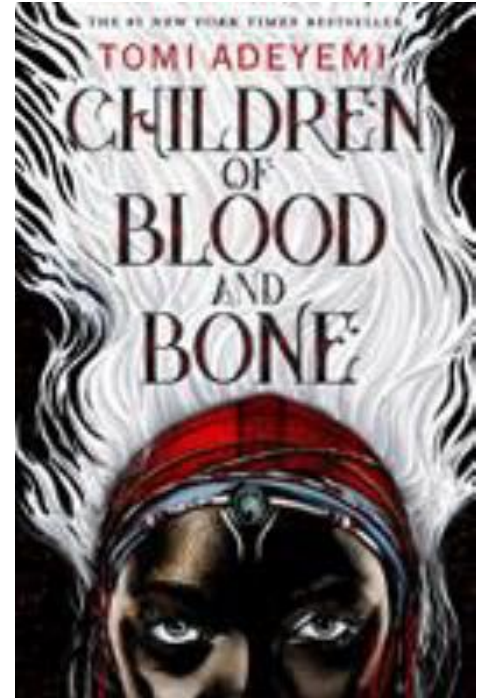
By Tomi Adeyemi

Ages 14 and up

*“Pick me.*

It’s all I can do not to scream. I dig my nails into the marula oak of my staff and squeeze to keep from fidgeting. Beads of sweat drip down my back, but I can’t tell if it’s from the morning heat or from my heart slamming against my chest. Moon after moon I’ve been passed over.

Today can’t be the same.”



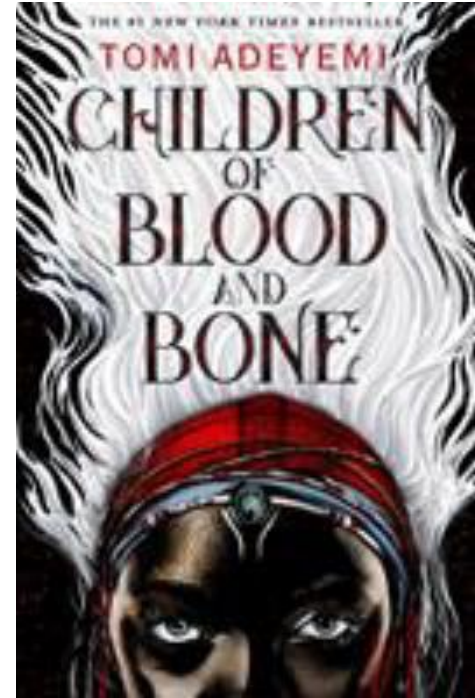
# *Children of Blood and Bone*

By Tomi Adeyemi

Ages 14 and up

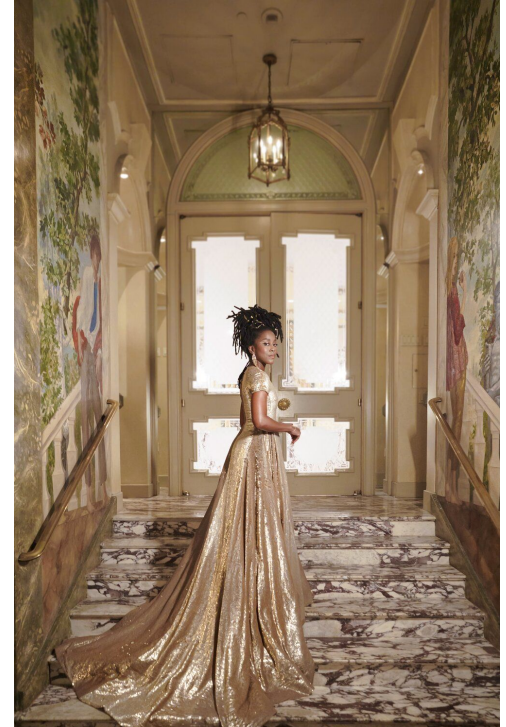
Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were targeted and killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now, Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is set on eradicating magic for good. Danger lurks in Orïsha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for the enemy.

*Children of Blood and Bone* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library



# About Tomi Adeyemi (she/her)

Named one of TIME magazine's 100 most influential people, Tomi Adeyemi is a Hugo and Nebula Award-winning Nigerian-American writer and storyteller based in Los Angeles, CA. Her first novel, *Children of Blood and Bone*, debuted at #1 on The New York Times Bestseller list and is being developed into a movie by Disney's Fox & Lucasfilm. Its highly anticipated sequel, *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*, also debuted at #1 on the New York Times Bestseller list. When she's not working or playing with puppies, Tomi can be found teaching creative writing at [thewritersroadmap.net](http://thewritersroadmap.net). In 2020, she was named one of Forbes 30 Under 30 in Media, and her website has been named one of the 101 best websites for writers by *Writer's Digest*.



# Excerpt from *A Phoenix Must First Burn*

By Patrice Caldwell

Ages 12 and up

“A vampire stands outside my window with a question on her lips.

I peer down at her. Her skin glows blackish-blue in the moonlight. She waits for my answer, hands in her jean pockets. Her backpack is thrown over her left shoulder.

...My tattered copy of *Dracula* is strewn across my bed. More books decorate the floor, all illuminated in the same moonlight that colors the vampire.”



# *A Phoenix Must First Burn*

By Patrice Caldwell

Ages 12 and up

*A Phoenix First Must Burn* will take you on a journey from folktales retold to futuristic societies and everything in between. Filled with stories of love and betrayal, strength and resistance, this collection contains an array of complex and true-to-life characters through which you cannot help but see yourself reflected. Witches and scientists, sisters and lovers, priestesses and rebels—the heroines of this anthology shine brightly. You will never forget them.

*A Phoenix First Must Burn* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!



# About Patrice Caldwell (she/her)

Author/editor

Patrice Caldwell is a graduate of Wellesley College and the founder of People of Color in Publishing—a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting, empowering, and uplifting racially and ethnically marginalized members of the book publishing industry. Born and raised in Texas, Patrice was a children’s book editor before becoming a literary agent. Patrice’s debut novel, *Where Shadows Reign*—the first in a YA fantasy duology—is out September 2022. She is also the author/editor of *A Phoenix First Must Burn*, 16 stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope (out now) and *Eternally Yours*, a YA Paranormal Romance anthology out in Fall 2022.





# Content Warning

The next slides features an excerpt that mentions a weapon. The next few slides also contain some mature themes. If you are not interested please skip to slide 24.

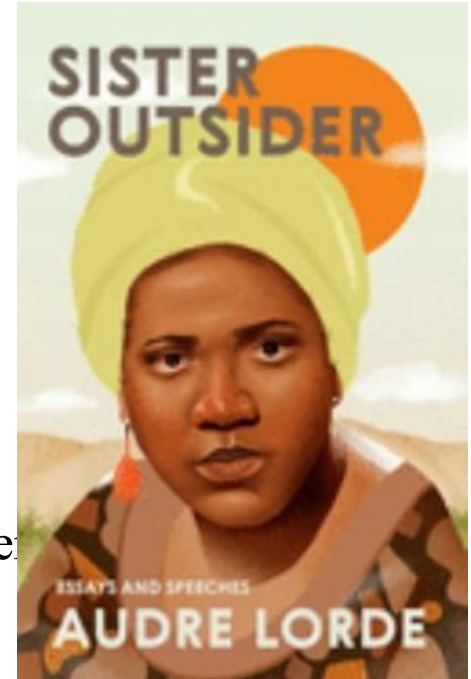


# Excerpt from *Sister Outsider*

By Audre Lorde

Ages 14 and up

“The development of self-defined Black women, ready to explore and pursue our power and interests within our communities, is a vital component in the war for Black liberation. The image of the Angolan woman with a baby on one arm and a gun in the other is neither romantic nor fanciful. When Black women in this country come together to examine our sources of strength and support, and to recognize our common social, cultural, emotional, and political interests, it is a development which can only contribute to the power of the Black community as a whole.”



# *Sister Outsider*

By Audre Lorde

Ages 14 and up

In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches including "Notes from a trip to Russia" and "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism", Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching, and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope.

*Sister Outsider* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!



# About Audre Lorde (she/her)

An African American lesbian feminist critic and writer, Lorde was born in Harlem and educated at National University of Mexico, Hunter College, and Columbia University. Her first poem was published in Seventeen magazine while she was in high school; it had been rejected by her high school newspaper because it was "too romantic" (Lorde considered her "mature" poetry, which focuses on her lesbian relationships, to be romantic also). Other early poems were published in many different journals, many of them under the pseudonym Rey Domini. Her first volume of poetry, "The First Cities," was published in 1968. Lorde then quit her job as head librarian at a school in New York City in order to devote her time to teaching and writing.



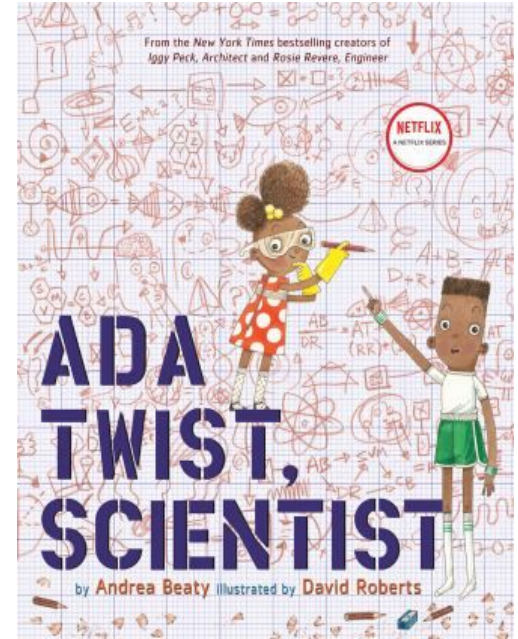
# Excerpt from *Ada Twist, Scientist*

By: Andrea Beaty

Ages 5 and up

“And so Ada sat and she sat and she sat and she thought about science and the stew and the cat and how her experiments made such a big mess. Does it have to be so? Is that part of success? Are messes a problem? And while she was thinking...what WAS the source of that terrible stinking?”

Ada Marie did what scientists do: She asked a small question and then she asked two. And each of those lead her to three questions more, and some of those questions resulted in four. As Ada got thinking, she really dug in. She scribbled her questions and tapped on her chin. She started to ask *Why?* And then *What? How? And When?* At the end of the hall she reached *Why?* Once again.”



# *Ada Twist, Scientist*

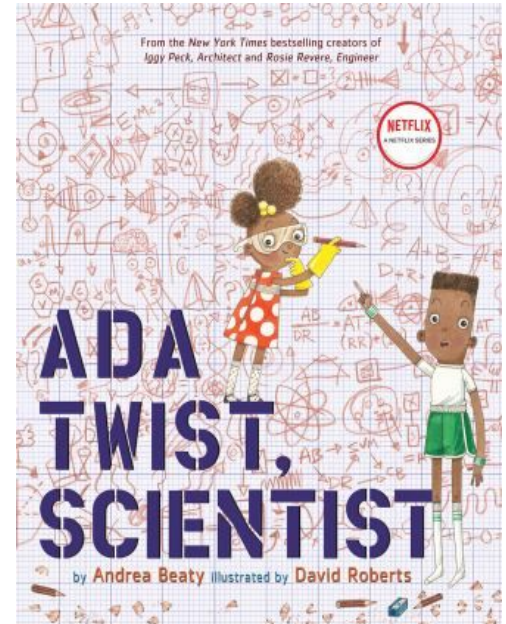
By: Andrea Beaty

Ages 5 and up

Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.

*Ada Twist, Scientist* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!

To hear *Ada Twist, Scientist* read aloud, click [here!](#)



# About Andrea Beaty (she/her)

Andrea Beaty was raised in southern Illinois in a town so small she knew everybody and their pets. And they all knew her. Beaty was one of six kids, she was a big reader as a kid and LOVED Nancy Drew and Trixie Beldon Mysteries. Then she moved on to Agatha Christie books and then the classics. Beaty attended Southern Illinois University and studied Biology and Computer Science. After that. Now, Beaty lives in Chicago with her family. She visits lots of schools each year to share her love of reading and her writing journey with kids and educators.



# Content Warning

The following slide contains intense and sensitive imagery. If you are not interested please skip to slide 7!



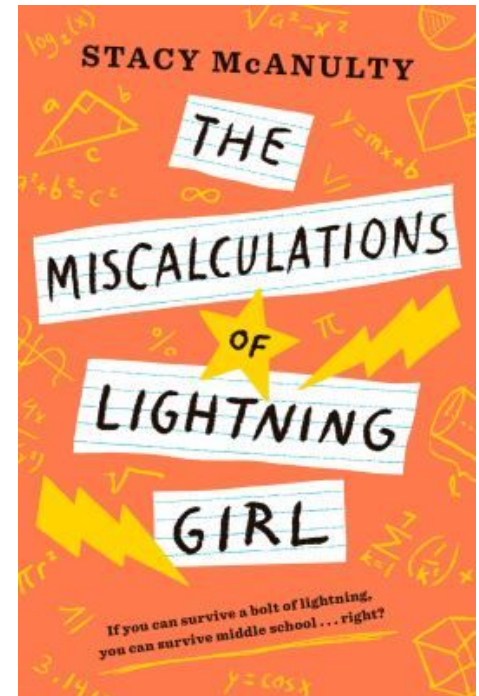


# Excerpt from *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*

By Stacy McAnulty

Ages 8 and up

“Lightning strikes the fence, and the electricity runs through the metal links and then through me. Some of the current even jumps from me to Cecelia. I’m knocked out. Cecelia is just knocked over. She runs and gets help. Joe, the maintenance man, uses a defibrillator on me because the electricity from the lightning stopped my heart. The electricity from the defibrillator starts it back up.”



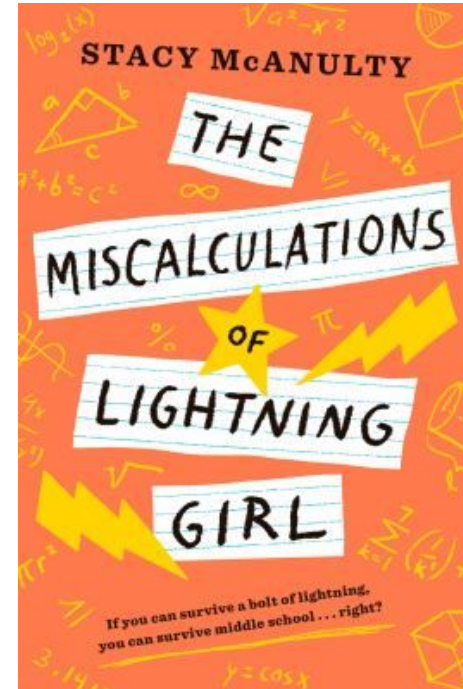
# *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*

By: Stacy McAnulty

Ages 8 and up

Lucy Callahan couldn't have predicted the lightning strike that would turn her into a math genius. Unfortunately, she also can't predict what middle school will be like, or why she even needs to go. Her grandmother encourages her give it a try: make one friend, join one activity, and read one book that's not about math. A deeply relatable read about self-discovery and friendship.

*The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* is available for checkout at the Boston Public Library!



# About Stacy McAnulty (she/her)

“In no particular order... I’m a wife, mother of 3 kids and 3 dogs, author, daughter, sister and stepsister, aunt, friend, Twitter addict, mechanical engineer (currently inactive), inconsistent blogger, Packers fan, two-finger typist, concerned citizen, book-buying enthusiast, reluctant volunteer, minivan driver, pancake flipper, snooze-button hitter, and coupon clipper.”

