How Now Booking

Mid-April 2024 Newsletter

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER:

We have BIG news! Our brand new, super slick, EXTREMELY USER FRIENDLY website, is just weeks away from launch! Be sure to swing by our existing website and sign up for our mailing list, so you'll be the first to experience it in all its glory!

In this issue:

- Awards
- New and upcoming book releases
- Where you can find our speakers in real life
- Author visit magic
- Educator Guides
- New programming

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

TOTAL GARBAGE by **Rebecca Donnelly** was selected for the Scripps National Spelling Bee book club! (We didn't know they had a book club, but it sure makes sense!) Click here to watch a video of Rebecca talking all about *TOTAL GARBAGE*!

PLAY LIKE A GIRL by **Misty Wilson**, is a Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award nominee for the 2024-2025 school year.

A TALE OF TWO WARS - PEARL HARBOR TO HIROSHIMA - A STORY BOOK FROM WAR TO PEACE by **Dorinda Nicholson,** was awarded a BIPOC scholarship from SCBWI

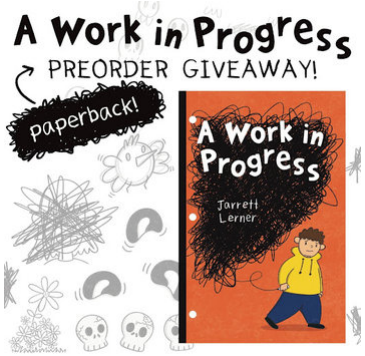
FRIENDS BEYOND MEASURE by **Lalena Fisher** won the 2024 Mathical Book Prize!

VIRGINIA WOULDN'T SLOW DOWN! THE UNSTOPPABLE DR. APGAR AND HER LIFE-SAVING INVENTION by **Carrie Pearson**, is a Children's Book Center (CCBC) Choices Book recognizing the best books of the year and is a Society of Midland Authors Awards finalist!

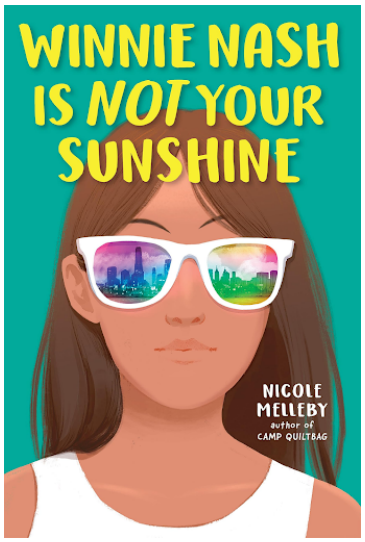
THE UPSIDE-DOWN BOOKS OF SLOTHS by **Elizabeth Shreeve** is a Junior Library Guild Selection!

GLITTER EVERYWHERE! by **Chris Barton**, was chosen to be on ALSC's summer 2024 reading List!

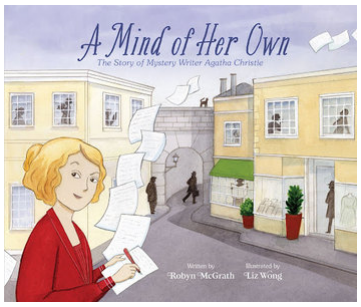
NEW AND UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES



A Work in Progress by **Jarrett Lerner** comes out in paperback on May 7th!
You will be eligible to win A CLASS SET OF PAPERBACKS if you pre-order a copy, and Send proof of pre-order to AWIPpreorder@gmail.com. There will be SEVERAL WINNERS!

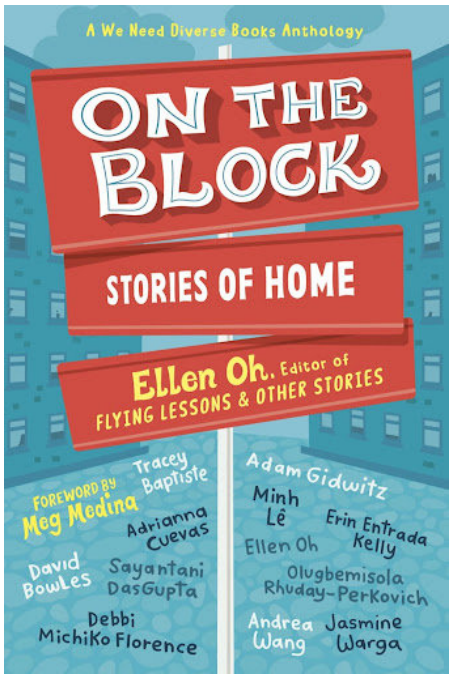


Middle grade novel, *WINNIE NASH IS NOT YOUR SUNSHINE*, by **Nicole Melleby** released on April 2nd!



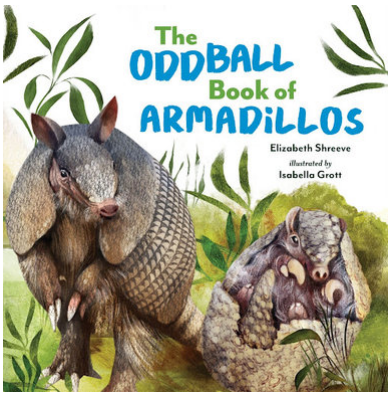
A Mind of Her Own, the Story of Mystery Writer Agatha Christie by **Robyn McGrath** (nonfiction picture book)
Publish date: May 28, 2024
Summary: Before Agatha Christie became the greatest mystery writer of all time, she was a girl who loved books, make-believe, and puzzling out problems. She was a keen observer, always noticing the secrets hiding in the shadows and the clues just waiting to be uncovered. More than anything, Agatha loved detective stories. She longed to write her own mysteries, but she struggled when she put pen to paper. The letters came out jumbled, the words twisting and snagging. Writing became a new puzzle for her to solve.

Her family and teachers chided her for being lost in her head, but Agatha wasn't lost…she had a mind of her own!



ON THE BLOCK: STORIES OF HOME, a We Need Diverse Books Anthology edited by Ellen Oh; featuring **Debbi Michiko Florence** and **Adrianna Cuevas**
Publish date: Oct 22 2024
Summary: From We Need Diverse Books, the organization behind *Flying Lessons & Other Stories*, comes an inspiring middle-grade anthology that follows the loosely interconnected lives of multigenerational immigrant families, the residents at the Entrada apartment building. Edited by Ellen Oh, a founding member of WNDB.

THE WRATH OF THE RAIN GOD (LEGENDARIOS BOOK #1), by **Karla Arenas Valenti** (chapter book)
Publish date: April 16, 2024
Summary: Twins coping with moving to a new city get swept back in time by a magical book in this first book in the Legendarios chapter book series that's Magic Tree House meets Heroes in Training!



THE ODDBALL BOOK OF ARMADILLOS, by **Elizabeth Shreeve** (nonfiction picture book)
Publish date: September 3, 2024
Summary: Armadillos are a hodgepodge of different animal parts and behaviors rarely seen together—in short, they're oddballs! In this companion to *The Upside-Down Book of Sloths*, Elizabeth Shreeve explores the evolutionary history of armadillos and how they became the burrowing, swimming, roly-poly, armored predators of today. She pairs modern species like the adorable pink fairy armadillo, the chilling screaming hairy armadillo, and the iconic nine-banded armadillo with their ancient counterparts, such as the glyptodont, which could be as large as a car, had a turtle-like dome of armor, and even a spiked tail club!

THE SEARCH FOR THE SHADOWSOUL, by **Callie C. Miller** (middle grade fantasy)
Publish date: September 17, 2024
Summary: A descendant of the great wizard Merlyn must atone for the harm he caused in this second adventure in the A Quest of Great Importance middle grade series that riffs on Arthurian legend in the vein of Adam Gidwitz and Amanda Foody!

THE HUNT FOR HOLLOWER by **Callie C. Miller**, comes out in paperback on June 2nd!

WHERE IN THE WORLD

April 20th - 21st - **Callie C. Miller** will be at the LA Times Festival of Books

April 27th - **Nadia Salomon** will be at Mrs. Dalloway's Bookstore in Berkeley, CA for Independent Bookstore Day

May 2nd - 3rd - **Keenan Jones** will be presenting at the MN Minnesota Council of Teachers of English Conference. *Empowering Voices: Identifying Effective Literacy Strategies for Black Boys in K - 12*

May 4th - **Jamie Michalak**, **Robin Newman**, **Nancy Castaldo**, **Natasha Tarpley**, and **Alan Katz** will ALL be at the Hudson Children's Book Festival.

May 4th - **Rebecca Balcarcel** will be inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters, a prestigious honor!

May 8th - Find **Jody Feldman** and **Ann Ingalls** at the Franklin County Literature Festival in Ottawa, KS

May 11th - If you're in NYC, be sure to catch **Robin Newman** at Books of Wonder for the WHO'S WRITING THIS STORY?! launch party

May 18th - Catch **Nicole Melleby** at Gaithersburg Book Festival in Gaithersburg, MD

May 18th - **Carrie Pearson** will present at the Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association Annual Conference in Marquette, Michigan.

LET'S TALK - SCHOOL VISIT MAGIC

The Ohio State School for the Blind had Braille stickers made for the cover of *PLAY LIKE A GIRL*, to be handed out to each one of their students! - **Misty Wilson**

I recently did a wonderful multi-day visit to Hudson, Ohio to be a featured author in their annual Right2Read celebration. At every school I visited, the walls, halls, and doors were decorated to welcome me and spotlight my books in all sorts of creative ways. Each day had a dress-up component that related to my work, and I got in the spirit as well (on Dress as Your Favorite Animal day, I crafted an owl hat out of recycled materials and rocked it!). It was wonderful to see how the school principals and educators embraced the opportunity to connect my visit with other themes - not just reading and writing, but community and kindness. I also visited The Learned Owl (the inspiration for my aforementioned hat!) and signed books there, so students could bring their families to meet me. And the Learned Owl partnered with the event organizers, so hundreds of books were ordered in advance and signed by me on site, making for some very happy readers! All in all - or should I say, owl in owl? - it was a wonderful visit. I am very grateful to the team at How Now for setting it up! - **Erica S. Perl**

I got to visit with students at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic School in Tucson Arizona as part of the Tucson Festival of Books in March. My favorite part of the visit is when a student held a joke for the very end of the presentation to tell me. - **Meghan P. Browne**

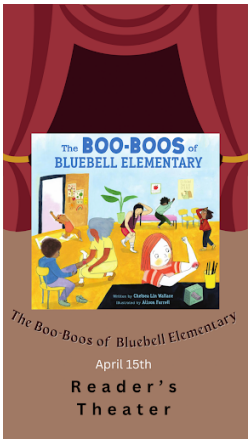
I had a great visit in New York City at a public school with library windows facing the Statue of Liberty. As a repeat visitor, I was happy to have another opportunity to share how we can all make a difference in the world. My visit included presentations with elementary and middle school students focused on my books Back from the Brink, Sniffer Dogs, and The Story of Seeds. My heart leapt when an eighth-grade student arrived with his own copy of The Story of Seeds for me to autograph. - **Nancy Castaldo**

WIth Jenni Guardino and Chris Gosselin at Mitchell Elementary in Needham, MA - **Chris Barton**

At Saint Mark Catholic School in Plano, Texas, many students created new covers for my books -- it was fascinating to see the different ways that these kids would have designed them, and exciting to see this terrific exercise for getting students to engage with my work before my visit. - **Chris Barton**

At Belmont Day School, students had read parts of THE UPSIDE-DOWN BOOK OF SLOTHS and came ready with questions for a fast-paced hour. We shared a visual presentation peppered with questions and answers, then unfolded a life-sized, 18-foot-long image of a giant ground sloth (the "sloth cloth") to compare the largest prehistoric sloth with a typical tree sloth of today. Kids loved the enormous fossil claw, too! - **Elizabeth Shreeve**

My visit to St. Mark's School was fantastic! The librarian had done an excellent job of talking up my book to the students. The kids were extremely engaged during my talk, and as someone who also writes for animation it was really rewarding to interact with fans of the television shows I've worked on. **- Callie C. Miller**



The Drama Club at St. Paul the Apostle performed *THE BOO-BOOS OF BLUEBELL ELEMENTARY*

Teachers, librarians, theater directors can access my RT for free on my website and book me for a $50 20-minute "break-a-leg" virtual visit to school who are performing it - **Chelsea Lin Wallace**

EDUCATOR GUIDES

The Early Math Project put together these excellent teaching guides for *FRIENDS BEYOND MEASURE* by **Lalena Fisher**

NEW SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMMING

Were your students energized by the recent solar eclipse? Author **Nell Cross Beckerman** can take your class on a “sky safari” to learn about all different beautiful skies in her book, WHEN THE SKY GLOWS, including auroras, meteor showers, full moons, and, yes, solar eclipses. She loves visiting schools virtually and provides a printable activity and draw-along video with illustrator David Litchfield as part of her visit.

When I do visits I talk about various mediums of writing and discuss the similarities/differences (animation, comics, video games, books) - **Callie C. Miller**

IN OTHER NEWS....

Karla Arenas Valenti is looking for advanced readers interested in diving into her new MG novel (*LOLA*) coming out in September. Details here --> https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/625694/lola-by-karla-arenas-valenti/. If interested, please contact me at karla.p.valenti@gmail.com

Co-authors of *GUT REACTION*, **Kirby Larson** and her daughter, Quinn Wyatt, have a guest blog post on A Novel Mind - check it out here!

Authors **Megan P. Browne**, **Kari Lavelle**, **Lindsay Leslie**, and **Robyn McGrath**, among others, have started a substack called The Logline - check it out here!

Chris Barton will be making his first-ever author trip to **Illinois in October** and would love to visit additional campuses while he's there.

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Conference, Denver (March 2024): I was honored to be keynote speaker for the Presidential Awards in Excellence annual gathering, speaking on the topic of "How to Grow a Scientist" using nonfiction books. - **Elizabeth Shreeve**

Click here to book a speaker today!

Check out our site

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