



LORA FOUNTAIN & ASSOCIATES LITERARY AGENCY

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THE BOOK GROUP

Spring 2019

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Dayna Lorentz, RUFUS AND REENIE

(to be published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, World English; **Italian rights** sold in a preempt to De Agostini)

RUFUS & REENIE by Dayna Lorentz is a gorgeous younger middle grade novel about a fledgling Great Horned owl and an eleven-year-old girl who must learn to trust in each other—and in themselves. Readers who loved Barbara O'Connor's WISH and Wendy Mass and Rebecca's Stead's BOB will be drawn to the similar open-hearted rendering of true friendship that Reenie and Rufus experience.

Rufus's ears must be broken, because he's eight months old and still can't hunt in the dark. When his mother is hit by a car and taken by a human, he discovers just how dangerous the unforgiving forest can be.

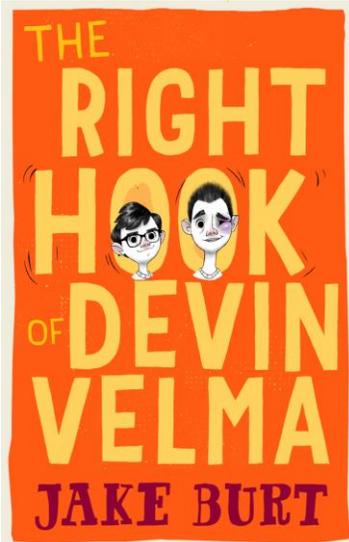
Reenie has given up on adults and learned how to care for herself, which is a good thing, since she's sent to live with a stranger—an alleged aunt she's never even heard of—while her mom is in the hospital. Yet this aunt, Beatrice, has a wonderful secret: she's a master falconer with a hawk named Red. Reenie is enchanted by Red, and even more so by the prospect of catching an injured passage hawk in the wild and rehabilitating it.

But instead of catching a passage hawk, Reenie traps poor, bedraggled Rufus, whose great, golden eyes lock onto her heart. Even though it's against the rules, Aunt Bea reluctantly agrees to help Reenie train the owl for falconry. Together, Rufus and Reenie learn that partnership is more powerful than going it alone, though the time inevitably comes when Rufus must trust that he can return to the forest and survive on his own in the wild, and Reenie must believe that by opening her heart, she too can soar.

Dayna Lorentz is the author of the middle grade trilogy *Dogs of the Drowned City* and the young adult trilogy *No Safety in Numbers*, which was an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers. She has worked in and around the foster care system for years, most recently as a law clerk in the Vermont family courts, but she only just started exploring the awesome sport of falconry. Dayna lives in Vermont with her husband and two children, and always scans the skies for hawks and the trees for owls.

Jake Burt, **THE RIGHT HOOK OF DEVIN VELMA**

(Feiwel & Friends, 2018, World English, 240 p.)



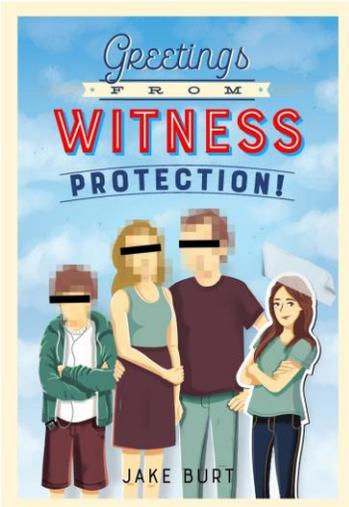
When Addison Gerhardt's best friend, Devin Velma, suggests that they try to achieve social media fame by pulling a stunt at a national basketball game, Addi knows he's doomed. Doing anything in front of anybody except Devin and their families is difficult for Addison, an introvert who suffers from anxiety. Devin, on the other hand, can't resist an opportunity to become a viral sensation.

Addi's not sure why Devin is bent on pulling off this feat. Maybe it has something to do with Devin's dad's hospital bills. Maybe it all goes back to the Double-Barreled Monkey Bar Backflip of Doom. Or maybe it's something else entirely. No matter what, though, it's risky for both of them, and when the big day finally comes, Devin's plan threatens more than just their friendship.

[Read an excerpt](#)

Jake Burt, **GREETINGS FROM WITNESS PROTECTION!**

(Feiwel & Friends, 2017, World English, 288 p.)



Nicki Demere is an orphan and a pickpocket. She is also the U.S. Marshals' best bet to keep a family alive. The marshals are looking for the perfect girl to join a mother, father, and son on the run from the nation's most notorious criminals. After all, the bad guys are searching for a family with one kid, not two, and a streetwise girl who knows a little something about hiding things may be just what the marshals need.

Nicki swears she can keep the Trevor family safe, but to do so she'll have to dodge hit men, cyberbullies, and the specter of standardized testing, all while maintaining her marshal-mandated B-minus average. As she barely balances the responsibilities of her new identity, Nicki learns that the biggest threats to her family's security might lurk not on the road from New York City to North Carolina, but rather in her own past.

[Read an excerpt](#)

Selected as a BookExpo 2017 Editors' Buzz title, a fall 2017 *Indies Introduce* title, and a fall 2017 *Indie Next* title.

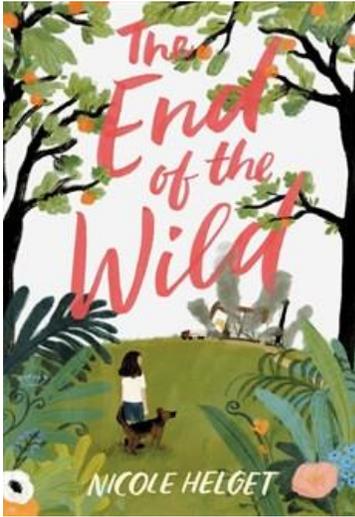
"Jake Burt is a storytelling magician. Part coming of age tale and part spy thriller, Greetings from Witness Protection could be a collaboration between Judy Blume and Ian Fleming."

Ann M. Martin, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Rain Reign* and the *Baby-Sitters Club* series

"The biggest complaint that readers may have about Burt's debut novel is that it ends."

Publishers Weekly, starred review

Nicole Helget, THE END OF THE WILD
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2017, 272 p.)



A modern, beautifully written story set against the backdrop of the controversial issue of fracking that explores the timely themes of poverty, environmental protection, what makes a family, and finding your place in the world. Eleven-year-old Fern's rundown home borders a pristine forest, where her impoverished family hunts and forages for food. It's also her refuge from the crushing responsibility of caring for her wild younger brothers and PTSD-stricken stepfather. But when a fracking company rolls into town, Fern realizes that her special grove could be ripped away, and no one else seems to care. Her stepfather thinks a job with the frackers could help pull the family out of poverty. Her wealthy grandfather--who wants to take custody of Fern and her brothers--likes the business it brings to his manufacturing company. Facing adversity from all sides, can one young girl make a difference in the fate of her family and their way of life?

THE END OF THE WILD was selected as 2017 Parents' Choice Award winner for silver medal honor; Selected as a 2017 Kirkus Best Book of the Year; 2017 Charlotte Huck Award honor book; Selected for the New York Public Library's Best Books for Kids 2017; Selected by the National Science Teachers Association as an Outstanding Science Trade Book and as an Outstanding STEM Trade Book.

"Helget sets her plot in motion carefully and with so much attention to real-world detail, you can almost hear the difficult discussions it will provoke in our current polarized landscape."

—*New York Times Book Review*, starred review

"This nuanced take on a pressing issue is an important one. Middle-grade readers will find much to think about in this beautifully written story."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Helget confronts substantial subjects like poverty, environmentalism, and mental illness, injecting humor and hope to provide balance. Without lecturing, she encourages readers to be thoughtful and curious...."

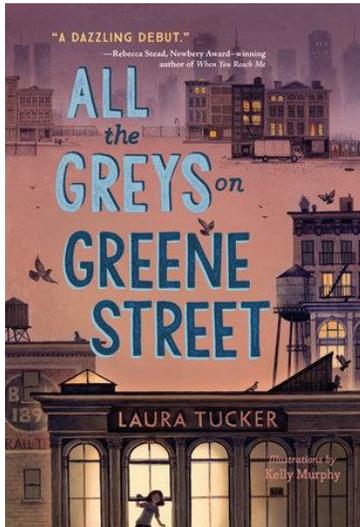
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Helget has penned a rich narrative, laced with astute observations on poverty, grief, forgiveness, and environmental concerns.... An uncommonly fine account of perseverance and understanding in the face of adversity."

—*Booklist*, starred review

Nicole Helget is the acclaimed author of the middle grade novel *Wonder at the Edge of the World* and *The End of the Wild*, as well as three adult novels, *The Turtle Catcher*, *The Summer of Ordinary Ways*, and *Stillwater*. She has also co-authored a middle grade novel, *Horse Camp*. She lives in St. Peter, Minnesota.

Laura Tucker, ALL THE GREYS ON GREENE STREET
(Viking, Summer 2019)



Twelve-year old Olympia is good at lots of things. Drawing, for one. Navigating the streets of downtown Manhattan by herself. And holding it together when everything else is falling apart.

It's May 1st, 1981. Ollie's dad has run off to France with a woman she and her mom call *Vouley Voo*. Her mom has gone to bed, and she's not getting up. Her friend Apollo is nobody's idea of a responsible grownup, but at least he's still around—for now. Ollie's got lots to keep her busy: being a friend, making art, and figuring out whether she's a dog or cat person, all while keeping her mom's depression a secret. But something's got to give, and when it does, Olympia eventually finds herself inside a happy ending she could never have predicted.

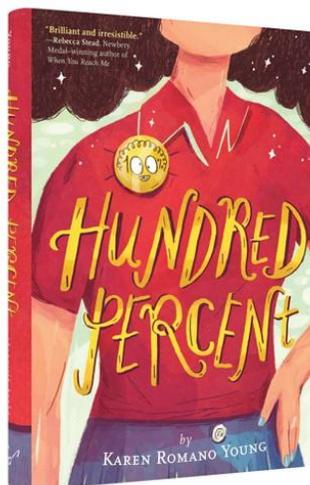
Laura Tucker is a *New York Times*-bestselling ghostwriter of adult nonfiction and the owner of two Brooklyn restaurants. *Sold at auction with seven houses bidding*

Karen Romano Young, (illustrations Jessixa Bagley), A GIRL, A RACCOON AND THE MIDNIGHT MOON (Chronicle Books, Fall 2019, World English)

11-year-old Pearl is the daughter of the head librarian at a New York City public library that's struggling to keep its doors open. Pearl isn't the well-behaved, hushed daughter you'd expect, but instead a budding activist with a very loud cry for help. She rallies the library staff, the cops, local shopkeepers, homeless people, opportunistic real estate barons — and new friends — some with two feet, some with four — to help save the library. It turns out that the story Pearl's mother has been telling her for years, the one about the reading and writing raccoons who live in the library basement and publish their own newspaper for a nocturnal readership, is true!

Pearl joins forces with a young raccoon, an up-and-coming reporter named Mary Ann, and together they create a drama and performance that change their neighbors' thinking about books, their homes, and what it means to be an individual, unique part of a city. The result is a rollicking coming-of-age comedy with a gentle heart and a strong point of view about who you have to be in order to fully become yourself.

Karen Romano Young, HUNDRED PERCENT (Chronicle Books, Fall 2016, 304 p.)



It's Tink's last year of elementary school, and this nickname she's always had, Tink, just isn't feeling right anymore. She's too tall for it now, or too big, or too old. Too...something. So—who is she, then?

Every single thing is coming up trouble for Tink: the picture day outfit gone wrong, the sleepover with the girl she hasn't even hung out with before, the boy she likes saying all kinds of things she doesn't, the best friend she knows better than anyone but suddenly feels different with. Tink struggles to find the formula for fifth grade success: what percentage of her has to fit the equation of what others expect her to be? And what will it take for Tink to get to the point where she feels a hundred percent herself?

Praise for Karen Romano Young's **HUNDRED PERCENT**:

- **2016 Parents' Choice Silver Award Winner**
- **2016 Amazon Best Book**
- **2016 Kirkus Reviews Best Book**

"Karen Romano Young must be twelve. There's no other way she can possibly know what she knows about sixth grade in all its weirdness and glory. Seen and felt and conveyed with unbelievable freshness and acuity..."

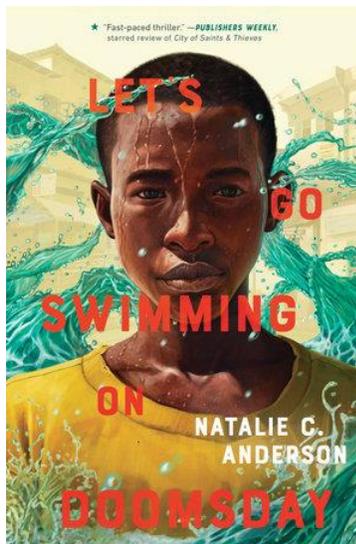
--Annie Barrows, New York Times bestselling author of the Ivy & Bean series

"Hundred Percent is a brilliant and irresistible book about the sharp pains and joys of real life. Karen Romano Young is a writer like no other. She always finds the truest, most interesting paths to the heart."

--Rebecca Stead, Newbery Award-winning author of When You Reach Me

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Natalie C. Anderson, LET'S GO SWIMMING ON DOOMSDAY
(Putnam, January 2019, 464 p.)

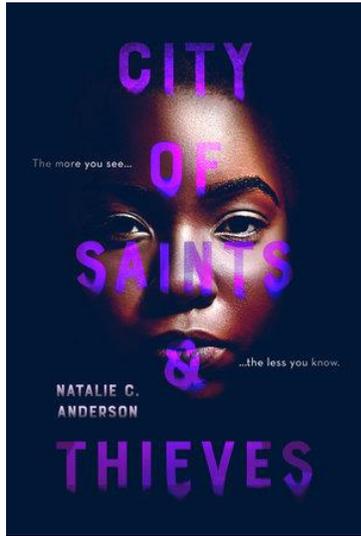


When Abdi's family is kidnapped by US forces in Somalia, he's forced to do the unthinkable: infiltrate ruthless jihadi group Al Shabaab and embed himself as a spy within their ranks, gathering information on the next planned attack. The members of Al Shabaab trust Abdi immediately because his older brother, Dahir, is already one of them, protégé to General Idris, aka the Butcher. If Abdi's duplicity is discovered, he will be killed.

For weeks, Abdi trains with them, witnessing atrocity after atrocity, becoming a monster himself, wondering if he's even pretending anymore. He only escapes after taking part in an attack that leaves him missing two fingers and his brother near death. Eventually, he finds himself on the streets of Sangui City, Kenya, stealing what he can find to get by, sleeping nights in empty alleyways, wondering what's become of the family that was stolen from him. But everything changes when Abdi's picked up for a petty theft, which sets into motion a chain reaction that forces him to reckon with a past he's been trying to forget.

A haunting, thrilling tale of loss and redemption for fans of *A LONG WAY GONE*, in this riveting, unflinching tale of sacrifice and hope, critically-acclaimed author Natalie C. Anderson delivers another tour-de-force that will leave readers at the edge of their seats.

Natalie C. Anderson, CITY OF SAINTS AND THIEVES
(Putnam, 2017, 432 p.)



In the shadows of Sangui City, there lives a girl who doesn't exist. After fleeing the Congo as refugees, Tina and her mother arrived in Kenya looking for the chance to build a new life and home. Her mother quickly found work as a maid for a prominent family, headed by Roland Greyhill, one of the city's most respected business leaders. But Tina soon learns that the Greyhill fortune was made from a life of corruption and crime so when her mother is found shot to death in Mr. Greyhill's personal study, she knows exactly who's behind it. With revenge always on her mind, Tina spends the next four years surviving on the streets alone, working as a master thief for the Goondas, Sangui City's local gang. It's a job for the Goondas that finally brings Tina back to the Greyhill estate, giving her the chance for vengeance she's been waiting for but instead sets into motion a dangerous cascade of events that could, at any moment, cost Tina her life. But finally uncovering the incredible truth about who killed her mother—and why—keeps her holding on in this fast-paced nail-biting thriller.

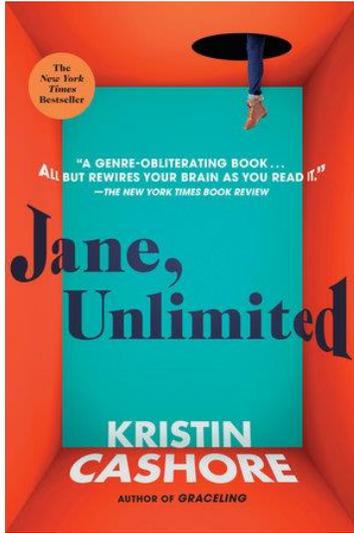
Selected as an Indies Introduce 2017 title, Selected for Kids Indie Next List Spring 2017, Selected as a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick for Winter/Spring 2017; Selected by Amazon for their Best Books of the Year So Far 2017 list; Selected by Seventeen.com as a Best YA Book of 2017.

Foreign rights sold to: dtv (Germany – at auction); Pocket Jeunesse (France); INITIUM Patryk Lubas (Poland); Albatros Media (Czech Republic); Penguin Kitap (Turkey); OneWorld (UK); Planeta (Spain for Spanish and Catalan); Vulkan (Serbia) Film deal with Universal Pictures.

Praise for CITY OF SAINTS AND THIEVES: Amazon Best Book of the Month, January 2017; Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers; Barnes & Noble Most Anticipated YA Debut of 2017; Apple iBooks Best Book January 2017; Kids' Indie Next Winter 2016-2017; Indies Introduce Winter/Spring 2017; *Teen Vogue* Best New Young Adult Book, January 2017; *Bustle* Best YA Book, January 2017; Chicago Public Library Best Teen Fiction list 2017; *Seventeen Magazine* Best Books 2017; B&N Best Young Adult Book, 2017; NPR Best Books of 2017.

Natalie C. Anderson is an American writer and international development professional living in Geneva, Switzerland. She has spent the last decade working with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations on refugee relief and development, mainly in Africa. She was selected as the 2014–2015 Associates of the Boston Public Library Children's Writer-in-Residence, where she wrote her debut novel, *City of Saints and Thieves*.

Kristin Cashore, JANE, UNLIMITED
(Kathy Dawson Books/Penguin, 2017, 480 p.)



One house. Five choices. *Limitless* possibilities.

Jane has lived a mostly ordinary life, raised by her recently deceased aunt Magnolia, whom she counted on to turn life into an adventure. Without Aunt Magnolia, Jane is lost. So she's easily swept away when a glamorous, capricious, and wealthy acquaintance from years ago asks Jane to accompany her to a gala at the extravagant island mansion called Tu Reviens. Jane remembers her aunt telling her: "If anyone ever invites you to Tu Reviens, promise me that you'll go."

What Jane doesn't know is that the house will offer her five choices that could ultimately determine the course of her life. One choice leads Jane into a heist mystery. Another takes her into a spy thriller. She finds herself in a gothic horror story, a space opera, and an extraordinary fantasy realm. She might fall in love, she might lose her life, she might come face-to-face with herself. Every choice comes with a price. But together, all the choices will lead her to the truth.

Foreign rights sold to: Semic (Sweden); AZBOOKA-ATTICUS Publishing Group (Russia); V&R Editoras (Spanish language in Latin America); Wydawnictwo Jaguar (Poland); V&R Brazil (Portuguese language in Brazil)

*****An instant *New York Times* bestseller*****

*****An IndieNext Top Ten Pick*****

Chicago Public Library for Best Teen Fiction 2017

Brooklyn Public Library Best Book of 2017

Barnes & Noble Teen Blog Best YA Book 2017

"A genre-obbliterating book...all but rewires your brain as you read it,"

—The New York Times Book Review

"Absolutely addictive and fascinating, *Jane, Unlimited* is storytelling at its best. Filled with spies, stolen artwork, new worlds, and delicious romance, this book is everything you could hope for and more than you can imagine."

*—Marie Rutkoski, author of *The Winner's Curse**

Kristin Cashore is the author of the bestselling GRACELING series, rights sold in 30+ territories.

Graceling, Fire, and Bitterblue, three epic fantasy novels set in the Graceling Realm, have won many awards and much high praise, including picks as ALA Best Books for Young Adults, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Booklist Editors' Choice, and Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year. In addition, Graceling was shortlisted for the William C. Morris YA Debut Award and Fire received the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award.

Jennifer De Leon, DON'T ASK ME WHERE I'M FROM

(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Simon & Schuster, January 2020)

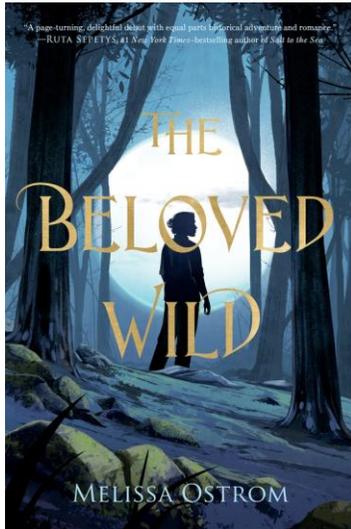
Fifteen-year-old Liliana Cruz moves between worlds and constantly crosses over walls, some she puts up for herself and some built by others. Her father has disappeared—gone one night without any warning—and her mother's depression is growing worse. From her family's apartment in Boston to her fancy high school in the suburbs, and from speaking Spanish with her family to honors French at school, Lili is pulled in many directions and begins to find some barriers unscalable.

When racial tensions at Lili's high school force people to choose sides, she must figure out how to stay true to her identity and finds herself more involved in issues of social justice than ever before. Her struggle comes to a head when Lili realizes that her father's absence isn't a voluntary one, but that he has been deported and is struggling to get back to his family. When the news spreads she decides to push through walls, translating her words into action. What Liliana does—or doesn't do—could alter the fate of her community, her family, and her future.

Foreign rights sold to: Il Castoro (Italy – in a preempt); Lectura Collaborativa (Spanish language in North America)

Melissa Ostrom, THE BELOVED WILD

(Feiwei & Friends, March 2018; World English)



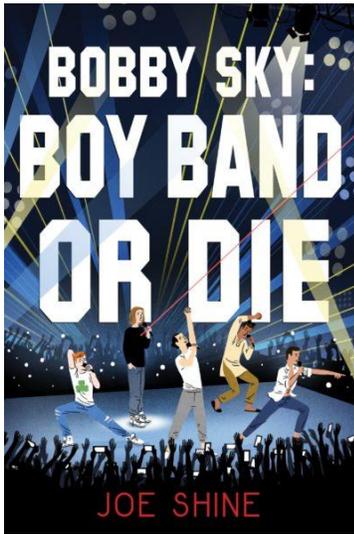
In the spring of 1807, sixteen-year-old Harriet Winter is exactly the girl everyone expects her to be: the capable eldest daughter in a farming family, soon to be the wife of Daniel Long, a nice-enough neighbor whose initials, whittled on nearly everything he possesses, spell D.U.L. But Harriet has grown up with one eye on the cemetery, where her mother and grandmother lie, both dead before the age of twenty after giving birth to their daughters. When her brother Gideon confides his plan to leave their beloved farm and strike out for the Genesee Valley, Harriet decides to go with him – disguised as a boy.

As “Freddy,” a foundling recently escaped from a cruel apprenticeship to an “evil silversmith,” Harriet makes her way west by wagon with Gideon while trying to ignore painful thoughts of Daniel, about whom she's lately had second (and third) thoughts, finally arriving at the thick, wet wilderness that Gideon has purchased for his future farm. And it is here, amid sickness, temptation, unexpected guests, and a never-ending battle to create a clearing in the woods, that Harriet finally understands what it is she really wants, from her life and from herself. A vivid, sharply funny and surprising story of adventure and love, *The Beloved Wild* reminds us that, when it comes to building a life, pants are comfortable, but friends are bedrock.

“A page-turning, delightful debut with equal parts historical adventure and romance.”

Ruta Sepetys, #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Salt to the Sea*.

Joe Shine, BOBBY SKY: BOY BAND OR DIE
(Soho Teen, 2018, 228 p.)



At fourteen, Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson is out of luck. His charm and singing voice – and penchant for bursting into song at all the wrong times – can’t keep him out of trouble anymore. When he’s arrested (again), he’s given a choice: die in juvie or become a Shadow, the fearless, unstoppable and top-secret guardian of a Future Important Person, or FIP.

With nothing to lose, Hutch accepts. After two grueling years at the Future Affairs Training and Education (FATE) Center, Hutch can barely remember the boy he once was. His entire existence has been erased. Ready for anything, he expects to be plunged into a battle zone. Instead he learns that his FIP is someone named Ryo Enomoto. Yes, the Ryo Enomoto: front man of world-famous boy-band International. Worse, Hutch has to put his old talents to use. He must join the band and change his name to Bobby Sky. Is this for real? Has he really turned himself into a lethal killing machine...only to become a teen pop sensation?

Joe Shine, I BECOME SHADOW (Soho Teen, 2015, 352 p.)



With a "headstrong heroine on par with Katniss Everdeen and Tris Prior" (*Kirkus*) this debut thriller combines a pulse-pounding scifi thriller with a new adult coming-of-age story set at Texas A&M University.

When Ren Sharpe was fourteen, she was kidnapped by a shadowy organization called FATE and trained to be a human weapon. Now, four years later, she receives her assignment: protect Gareth Young at all costs. Currently a student at Texas A&M, Gareth will someday change the world. FATE calls people like Gareth “FIPs”—future important people—and they’re everywhere, each with a FATE-trained shadow.

But when disaster strikes, Ren will have to turn on her maker. Together with Junie, a fellow abductee and the one person she trusts, Ren takes Gareth on the run.

Because whatever else happens, failure is not an option.

[Read an excerpt](#)

Joe Shine grew up in Austin, TX (the greatest city ever) and is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He has a MFA from the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California, and after brief stints in Los Angeles and Washington DC Joe returned home to Austin (repeat: the greatest city ever). Joe has a normal human job like most everyone else but hopes to become a full time writer one day, and this is where you, the reader, must do him a really big solid and love *I Become Shadow*, his debut novel

I BECOME SHADOW was ranked #2 out of 10 on the YALSA official 2015 Teens' Top Ten titles and was also selected for the 2016 Texas Lone Star Reading List.

"The greatest strength is Ren's jokey, snark-a-minute narration; that alone puts it in the same ballpark as Michelle Gagnon's *Persefone* trilogy or Anthony Horowitz's *Alex Rider* thrillers." —**VOYA**

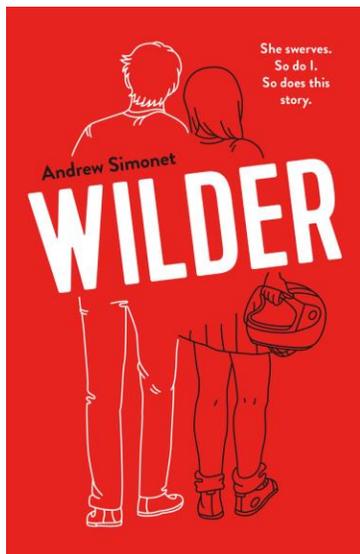
"A fast, funny, sharp debut." —**Kiersten White, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Paranormalcy***

"With a love triangle, vivid training sessions, and ample action, Shine's debut introduces a new kick-butt, funny heroine who could hold her own in a ring full of tough, independent girls like Katniss Everdeen, Tris Prior, and Lela Santos." —**Booklist**

"In his debut, Shine delivers a thrilling plot and a headstrong heroine on par with Katniss Everdeen and Tris Prior." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"Brimming with wisecracks and jokes, which turn an interesting concept into a very light read . . . plenty of excitement and humor." —**School Library Journal**

Andrew Simonet, WILDER
(FSG, 2018, 320 p.)



Jason Wilder, a senior at Unionville High, is broke and isolated after a town feud has flared into something serious, and he desperately needs to tell you his story.

I was in the Rubber Room for my own protection. Meili got there by breaking Laura Fenton's middle finger.

The high school's "Rubber Room" is delinquent-proof: plastic windows, stubby pencils, and near-constant supervision. When Meili – or Melissa, as she calls herself - walks in, Jason's life is dramatically altered. As Jason and Meili pass notes and steal moments of conversation, he learns fragments of her past: her father, a witness in a corruption case in Hong Kong, sent her to hide in rural Unionville. Jason shares his own secrets - he is on probation for arson, and his alcoholic mother has taken off to Florida with her boyfriend. No one is supposed to know he lives alone.

Jason falls for Meili warily, then fiercely. When her identity is exposed, Jason hides her at his rundown house. As she plots a dangerous path back to her family and her affluent life abroad, Jason dreams of leaving, too, escaping his enemies, his past, his poverty and his crushing loneliness. But when menacing people from Meili's world come looking for her, Jason is forced to confront his true self and the limits of violence.

Twisty, authentic, and flawlessly written, **WILDER** combines the palpable longing of *ELEANOR & PARK* with the razor-sharp focus of *GONE GIRL*. This novel is, ultimately, a blow to the heart.

[Read an excerpt](#)