

DISASTER TRAIL

BY: KATY GRANT

HC ed.: \$25.80 • 9781978596887

eBook: \$25.80 • 9781978596900

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GRL: M • DEWEY: • ©2024 • 5 1/2"x 7 1/8" • 160 pp.

Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Oliver loves mountain biking on rocky, wooded trails. And he has an unlikely partner—his much older half sister Morgan. One summer evening while out with their dog Digby, Oliver tries to impress Morgan by leading her down a new trail he claims to know. They end up at the bottom of a canyon with no choice but to push their bikes up the steep trail. Then disaster strikes. Morgan slips and badly injures her ankle. With no cell service, it's up to Oliver to hike out and get help. But daylight is fading fast, and danger waits in the wilderness.

ROCKS, DIRT, SPEED

It's like flying.
Bouncing over a
rocky dirt trail.

It's like flying
but a lot bumpier.

Rise up out of
your seat.
Grip your handlebars
with your fingerless gloves.

Keep your fingertips
on your brakes ready
to squeeze.

Then point
your bike
downhill
and fly.



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SPEED DEMON

Speed demon.
That's what Morgan
calls me.

Me—Oliver Weiss.
I've actually got
a cool nickname.

When we're going uphill,
Morgan goes first.
She's a lot faster and stronger.

But when we're going downhill,
she lets me go first.
She says I'm faster.
She's just being nice.

Morgan is really good at sports.
All I ever played was
soccer and T-ball way back
in elementary school.

She knows a ton
of stuff about mountain biking.
Now she's teaching me.



Katy Grant is the author of nine novels for young readers. For many years, she taught creative writing and composition courses at the college level. A native of Tennessee, she now lives in Arizona with her husband. She enjoys travel, hiking, biking, and spending time with her two adult sons.



CROSSCAN

MOVING THROUGH WALLS

BY: RYAN WOLF

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Dennis feels out of place after moving to a gloomy town where his dad accepted work at a controversial chemical plant. He struggles to fit in and soon senses something may be very wrong with his new middle school. When he finds the journal of a student who went missing decades ago, he begins exploring the haunting truth behind the disappearance. Everything points to a dark and strange reality lurking behind the walls of the school itself. Dennis must uncover a long-buried secret if he hopes to make it through the year.

WEEKEND

Wish
I had
a better grip
on life.

I spend most
of the weekend
dreading school
on Monday.

With each box
I unpack,
it's like I'm giving up
a little of
who I was.

I find
old yearbooks.
Flip through
the faces
I knew.

I can try
to keep up
with everyone
online.

But things
will never be
the same.

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MONDAY

While
waiting
for the bus,
I see smoke
spewing
from
Gardenview Chemical.

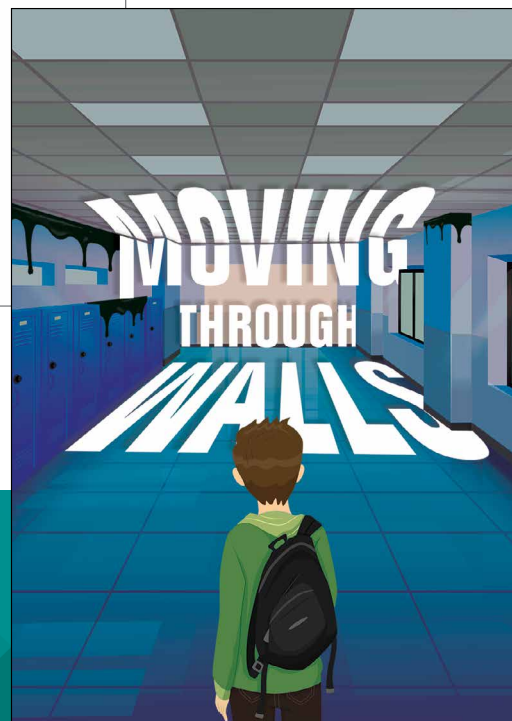
It's less than
a mile away.
Casting clouds
over this
wasteland
of a neighborhood.

I hope
my dad's job
is worth it.

Because
everything
feels
up in smoke
to me.



Ryan Wolf is the author of the young adult novels *Watches and Warnings* (2019) and *Control Room* (2020), as well as the *Creepy Critter Keepers* chapterbook series for children. He has published stories, poems, essays, reviews, and journalism. Ryan holds his BA from Canisius College and his MA in the humanities from the University of Chicago. He currently resides in Buffalo, NY, with his wife and daughter.



CROSSCAN

NORA WRIGHT AND THE SECRETS OF THE KNIGHT

BY: MAX HOWARD

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Twelve-year-old Nora's mom manages The Knight, a medieval theme restaurant on the verge of shutting down for good. When Nora and her new friend Mavis stop by The Knight to borrow costumes for their school play, a snowstorm hits. Nora and Mavis are trapped overnight with Diane, the restaurant's eccentric cook. Nora is familiar with Diane's many tall tales, so she doesn't pay much attention to her strange theory about hidden gold. But when they find evidence that Diane might be telling the truth, Nora starts to wonder if treasure really is hidden in the crumbling castle—and if it could save the restaurant.



Last year
in sixth grade
Ms. Simmons
asked me to
help with the
school play.

I ran the spotlight.

So I really was a light maker.

This year, Ms. Simmons asked me to be
Tech Director.

It's a big step up.

Now I can borrow
keys to the
light booth. Keys to the
workshop. Keys to the
power tool
cupboard. Keys to the
costume room.

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Last year
Liam Benes was the
tech director. Now he's at
Oso High.

I'm the
first seventh
grader to do this
job.

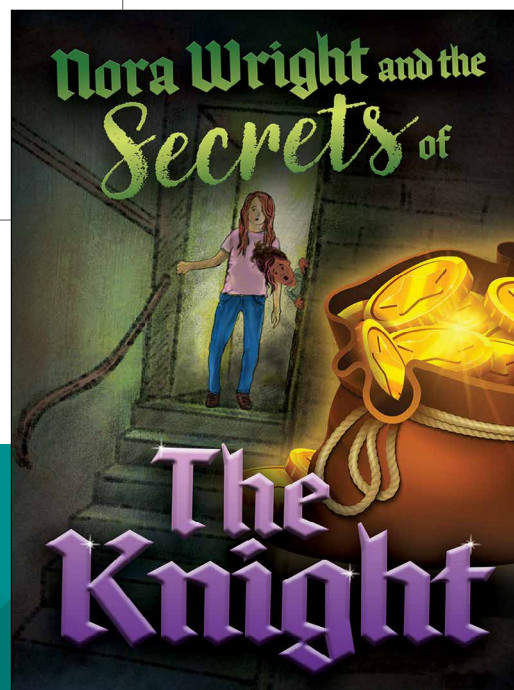
Last year my best friend
Britta did
stage crew, too.

She always forgot her cues.

But we got to throw
confetti
over the crowd.
We made it snow.



Max Howard is the author of *Everything in Its Path*, *Fifteen and Change*, *The Water Year*, and *Surviving American History*. Max's writing has received recognition from the American Library Association (YALSA), the Junior Library Guild, and the North Star YA Award committee.



CROSSCAN

THE ART OF BEING A VAMPIRE

BY: KATE KARYUS QUINN

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

With an addict mother and deadbeat dad, Shelby truly hopes that blood does not define her. She discovers a passion for photography, hoping to make something of herself through art. But when her mother dies of an overdose, Shelby finds herself in a dark place. Taken in by her aunt, she rebels in school and turns away from everyone, except a mysterious classmate named Brandt. Shelby doesn't realize that Brandt is a vampire—until it's too late. Now Shelby has no choice but to leave her life behind as she's overwhelmed by new cravings for blood. Shelby must decide whether to abandon her values to satisfy her hunger—or fight for the life she's always wanted.

We Ran Outta Money

And so we had
no choice
but to start
stealing
more than
just steaks
from the
grocery store.

At first,
it was
fun.

We'd get
ourselves
blooded up.
Then,
feeling like
we were
unstoppable,
we broke
windows
to a
jewelry store.
Sold the goods
to a
pawn shop.

The money
bought us
gas
and

blood soup
from this
weird
Polish
restaurant.

After that,
we set
our sights
on a
bigger
target.

A blood drive
at the
local Y.

I was meant to
cause a
distraction
while Brandt
got the goods.

"Just scream
and pretend
you're sick
or something,"
he'd told me.

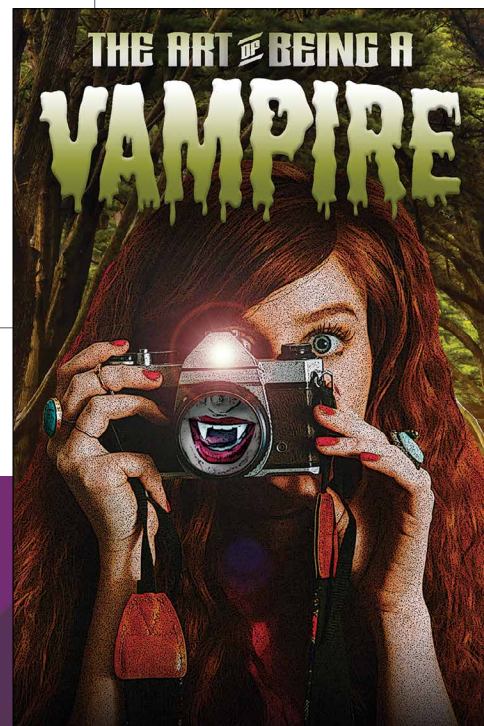
So that's what
I did.

Sick wasn't
hard to fake—

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Kate Karyus Quinn is an avid reader and menthol chapstick enthusiast. After living in both California and Tennessee, she returned to her hometown of Buffalo, New York, and now lives there with her husband, three children, and one enormous dog. She is the author of young adult novels *Always June*, *Not Hungry*, *Another Little Piece*, *(Don't You) Forget About Me*, and *Down with the Shine*.



CROSSCAN

EVERYTHING I KNOW

BY: CLAUDIA RECINOS SELDEEN

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Mia's world crumbles when she finds out she has to move across the country. Mia's autism makes it hard to handle new situations. She struggles to relate to strangers and to make new friends. Everyone at Mia's old school was familiar with her autism. But life at her new school is different. Kids don't understand Mia's behaviors and needs. All her life, Mia has coped by relying on the familiar. She's made routines that get her through each day. But in this new city, her routines fall apart. How can Mia survive when she's so far away from everything she knows?

Tonight

Chris usually stays
for dinner.

But
tonight,
Mom shakes her head.

Tonight,
it's just
Mom and Dad and me.

Just the three of us.
At our tiny
kitchen table.

News

Your mom
and I
have news.
Dad announces.

He takes a deep breath
and looks
at Mom.

She looks back at him
and nods.

I can tell
something big
is coming.
So I grip my fork tight.
Like I'm holding on
to a rope.

I got a new job,
Dad says.

In
Boston.

We're
moving
to Boston.

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Claudia Recinos Seldeen is a Miami native who currently resides in Western New York. She is the author of the young adult novels *To Be Maya* and *Catch Me If I Fall*. Her poetry has appeared in *The Amphibian Literary Journal* and *MONO*. Claudia is a first generation Guatemalan American. When not writing, she is either playing video games with her husband and son, or flying through the air on a trapeze. Find out more at www.recinosseldeed.com.

**CROSSCAN**

LETTERS FROM BED WORLD

BY: MEL MALLORY

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Living with an energy-limiting chronic illness, Val spends a lot of time in her bedroom. Her older sister Lia had always found ways to make "bed world" feel just as fun as the outside world. But all that changed after Lia died in a tragic accident—an accident Val feels partially responsible for. On an online peer support forum, she meets someone she can finally open up to—a voice hearer who's dealt with her own share of grief. Through a series of letters to her sister, Val confronts life after her sister's death as she tries to find a way to make "bed world"—and the rest of the world—livable again.

JULY 24TH

LIA,

Today, Max brought
plastic containers
for meal prep.

We're going
to make enough
honey sesame chicken
to last through
the weekend.

It was Max's idea.
So I won't have to
eat with Mom as often.

I never knew Max
liked to cook.
But I guess you
must have known, Lia.

I sat at the table
and sliced veggies.

Max sprinkled
red pepper flakes
into the saucepan.

He said he ate this all the time
during football season.

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Do you remember
when we went
to one of his games
last September?

You jumped
up and down.
Arms flying in the air.

Screaming,
GO MAX!!!
YOU GOT THIS!!!

While he ran
faster than I ever
ran in my entire life.

Even faster than
I could run
before I got sick.

Lightning
on the field.

In that moment,
I realized why
people like sports
so much.

I didn't care
about our home team.
But I wanted
Max to win.

I wanted to see him
leap in the air,



LETTERS
FROM BED
WORLD



Mel Mallory (she/her) works at a peer-led mental health organization. Her previous verse novels include *Survive and Keep Surviving* and *The Best Part Is at the End*. She also writes for *The Squeaky Wheel*, a satire publication written by and for disabled people. You can find her at melmallory.com.



CROSSCAN

THE REAL UNREAL

BY: RYAN WOLF

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Nate Reilly is having the worst summer of his life. His parents are never home, he lost his job, and his arts program was cancelled due to a virus outbreak. When Nate comes across an online "game" that promises forbidden knowledge, he is quick to click the link. Soon, he finds himself plunged down a rabbit hole of strange theories, dark plots, and fanatical believers. As he grows alienated from his family and friends, Nate is consumed by his newfound ideas. But can he unplug from a destructive alternate reality before he takes it too far?

VIRUS

The rest of the summer
was all about
sorting out
what came before.

I was arrested
and booked.
So strange
and unreal.
Wearing handcuffs.
Sitting in the back
of a cop car.
Getting my
picture taken.
Rolling my
fingerprints.

My life was
a movie
or a TV show.
It wasn't mine.
It was someone
else's.

I told the officers
everything.

I didn't lie.

They searched
my phone
and later my computer.

They found
the spray paint
in my backpack.

The Molotov cocktails
were still in
Jamie's van.
I heard both he and Pike
were charged for them.
Along with
a few other things.

In the end,
I was only charged
with a misdemeanor.
Criminal trespassing.

That wasn't as bad
as it could have been.

I was only in trouble
for going on
the Lodge's property
at night.

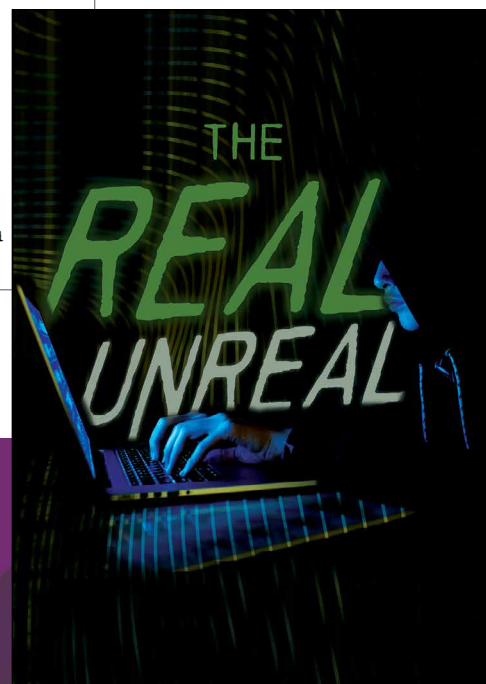
For my sentence,
I was given
100 hours of community service.

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Ryan Wolf is the author of the young adult novels *Watches and Warnings* (2019) and *Control Room* (2020), as well as the *Creepy Critter Keepers* chapter book series for children. He has published stories, poems, essays, reviews, and journalism. Ryan holds his BA from Canisius College and his MA in the humanities from the University of Chicago. He currently resides in Buffalo, NY, with his wife and daughter.



CROSSCAN

THE SONG I'M IN

BY: MAIJA BARNETT

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Despite crippling anxiety, Skyler Reeds has weathered her parents' divorce and, along with her twin sister Katy, has moved to her mom's boyfriend's house in Burlington, Vermont. Now Skyler has to deal with living in a new blended household and brave a new high school while dealing with worsening dermatillomania, a disorder that causes her to obsessively pick her skin. Skyler's only refuge is her singing voice, which she's silenced as her face fills with wounds and scars. But Skyler is given a chance to join the school's elite chorus—a dream come true. Skyler has tried so hard to be invisible, but this might be her one chance to shine.

ZOOM

"Hi Skyler,"
says Dr. Martin.

I try to smile.
Then I click off my filter
and wait to hear
what she'll say.

I'm not wearing any
makeup.

I want her
to see.

"Things were going better,"
I whisper.
"But now the concert is
coming up.
And I need help."

Dr. Martin nods,
and mentions upping
my medication.

I close my eyes.

I think about it.

Then I nod,
and say,
"Let's try."

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TALKING

It's night
and we're lying
in our room.

The blue-black darkness
like a bruise.

"Skyler," says Katy,
her voice thin.

Like it's echoing from
far away.

"I'm proud of what you're doing,"
she says.

"What?" I say.
"Upping my meds?"

"Yeah, I guess," says my sister.
"You're brave to try.
But that's not why
I'm proud.
You quit hiding yourself
from everyone.
When you get on that stage
at the holiday concert,
you'll finally show everyone
who you are."

"I'm still wearing makeup,"
I say.

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Maija Barnett grew up in Central Vermont and now lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two teenage daughters. She loves nature, poetry, hiking in the woods with her dog, and finding ways to get kids excited about reading. Maija holds degrees in English and teaching and currently teaches at a school for students with learning differences. She is also the author of *Heart Like a Broken Arrow*.



THE SONG I'M IN



THE SURPRISE PARTY RULES

BY: MAX HOWARD

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Excerpts from other Books within this Series, Written in Verse, About the Author Section, High / Low Content

Fun-loving troublemaker Ivy Sawyer is unjustly fired from her ice cream shop job, and now she's out for revenge. The owner of the shop is running to be reelected mayor of their small town and Ivy will do anything to keep him from winning. What she doesn't expect is being elected mayor herself as the candidate of the prankish "Surprise Party." Now Ivy has to deal with governing the town while juggling her senior year of high school and her activist friends' expectations. She has big problems to solve, from poverty to housing to flooding, and can't seem to win over the conservative city council. Knowing people's lives are on the line, Ivy sets out to govern creatively without losing who she is. But she'll have to figure out: what's the difference between a troublemaker and a leader?

GRIFFY PRINTS

Gigi's dad doesn't
wear wooden shoes.
He wears white
socks and red
Crocs. He runs
Griffy Prints and
hums while he
makes business cards.

When Gigi
complains about
banning books, her
dad smiles and says:

"Gigi, let your mom have her
hobby." His dimple is
just like Gigi's.

When Gigi's mom
tries to
destroy Gigi's social life,
Gigi's dad smiles and says:

"Gretel, let Gigi have her friends."

NOVEMBER

Our drone
hovers in the
crisp fall air.

The bell rings.
Kids rush out of
school.

The drone drops
copies of the
bad parts of
every book.

The drone drops
stickers, too.
Bright red.

They say:
Stop Reading!
These Words Are Banned!

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Max Howard is the author of *Everything in Its Path*, *Fifteen and Change*, *The Water Year*, and *Surviving American History*. Max's writing has received recognition from the American Library Association (YALSA), the Junior Library Guild, and the North Star YA Award committee.



CROSSCAN