



KIDLIT

SPRING 2020



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# PICTURE BOOK

# ANOTHER COUNTRY

## CLAIRE AUDHUY & SUZY VERGEZ



Kidido learns that war has come to his homeland, and Poppy-Mom can't stop crying. They will have to leave and look for another country to call home. What should he take with him? Will the war follow them? And what will Kidido find on his long and perilous journey?

*Another Country* (originally, *Un Nôtre Pays*) is a captivating and beautifully poignant look at the experience of a child refugee searching for safety, security, and a new life in another place. Fleeing his war-torn country with his mother, Kidido embarks on an uncertain path, but amidst his fear he finds allies, and finally belonging.

In poetic prose, Claire Audhuy deftly tackles the difficult subject of displaced peoples, many of whom are children. Striking art by Suzy Vergez (winner of the BIBF Ananas New Talent award, 2019) illustrates Kidido's struggles and triumphs with sensitivity and compassion. A story of loss and

discovery, incredible danger and ultimately survival, *Another Country* is a timely and essential narrative for international young readers.

ILLUSTRATOR: Suzy Vergez RIGHTS SOLD: Rodéo d'âme (World)  
LANGUAGE: French (English translation available) PUB DATE: March 2018 GENRE: Fiction

Claire Audhuy holds a PhD in Performing Arts from the University of Strasbourg, France. She wrote her thesis on theatre when performed in extreme conditions (such as in concentration camps). In 2004, she co-created (with her husband Baptiste Cogitore), theatre company and publishing house Rodéo d'âme. In 2021, *Another Country* will be performed as a play with award-winning illustrator Suzy Vergez drawing live. Claire has received several French awards for her activism through arts such as the Véronique Dutriez award or the European Citizen award granted by the European Parliament.

Suzy Vergez graduated in 2015 from the prestigious Arts Déco in Strasbourg, France. She has illustrated ten picture books, including *Le dragon du Jour de l'An* (Circonflexe, 2016), *Anaïs* (Kilowatt, 2018), *Ballons* (Kilowatt, 2019), and *Okavango* (Circonflexe, 2019). Her unique style involves composing stamp prints to give life to the characters and setting. She collaborates with theatre company and publishing house Rodéo d'âme doing live illustration in dramatic productions, including *Les Migrantes* (2016-2020) and upcoming *Another Country* (2021). In 2019, she was invited by the French association of Illustrators to attend the Bologna Book Fair and she recently won the Ananas New Talent illustration award at the Beijing International Book Fair.



AGENT: LIZA DEMAISON (FOR RODÉO D'ÂME)



# MIDDLE GRADE

# JEANNE AND THE ARGONAUTS

DANNA STAAF



Have you ever visited a public aquarium, or enjoyed the fish tank in a waiting room? Perhaps you’ve even kept aquatic pets in your own home! For these pleasures, we have 19th-century female scientist Jeanne Villepreux-Power to thank, designer of the first modern aquarium!

In this narrative biography of the French naturalist, readers follow Jeanne Villepreux-Power’s invention of the aquarium as the key to solving the two-thousand-year-old mystery of the argonaut octopus’s shell: Do they make it themselves? Or steal it from other from other animals?

With her innovative aquariums and hours of careful observation, Jeanne identified for the first time how the argonaut octopus comes by its delicate and exquisite shell. But as a woman, would the male-dominated field of science take her seriously? In her struggle for recognition, Villepreux-Power became the first female member of numerous scientific societies, published the first observations of octopuses using tools, and made suggestions for sustainably farming fish that were many years ahead of her time.

Including entertaining and thought-provoking sidebars—from “French fashion” to “the ethics of experimenting on animals”—and closing with information on how young readers can get involved with marine biology and conservation today, *Jeanne and the Argonauts* will appeal to aspiring young scientists all over the world.

RIGHTS SOLD: Lerner Publishing (World English)    PUB DATE: Fall 2021  
GENRE: Non-Fiction, Science

Danna Staaf is a freelance writer and science communicator with special expertise in cephalopods. Her writing has appeared in *Science*, *KQED*, *Earther*, and *Atlas Obscura*, and her first book, *Squid Empire: The Rise and Fall of the Cephalopods*, was named one of the best science books of 2017 by NPR. Like Jeanne, Danna is obsessed with octopuses and aquariums. It began at age ten with a visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where she saw her first giant octopus. Back home in L.A., Danna set up a saltwater aquarium to keep eight-armed pets in her bedroom, then learned to scuba dive, and eventually earned a Ph.D. in marine biology from Stanford University.

Danna has created several science outreach programs for schools, including the popular biology program Squids4Kids. She has spoken at dozens of venues, including the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, public libraries, universities and schools at every grade level. She lives in San Jose with her husband and an unruly collection of kids, cats, and plants—and sadly, at the moment, no aquariums.



AGENT: STACEY KONDLA

# GREETINGS FROM ROBOT C.A.M.P.

PAT GILES



A summer camp filled with robots would be the dream of a lifetime for Kobe Morrison, except for the strange, robotic counselors, and the suspicious and dubious owners, and the fact that, five minutes after he arrived with a group of three other kids, one of them went missing.

In fact, nothing about Robot C.A.M.P. seems right at all.

After their fellow camper Trish goes missing, Kobe, Kimmy, and Zach confront Doctors Pappas and Bashkow (who definitely don't act like real doctors), but they insist she never existed, despite the fact that all three of them clearly remember the sarcastic, pink-haired girl.

The trio decide to escape their pods and find her, but as they explore the strange world of Robot C.A.M.P., they discover that everything is definitely NOT as it seems, and their counselors might not be planning campfires and s'mores, but world domination.

GREETINGS FROM ROBOT C.A.M.P. is an illustrated middle grade novel filled with adventure, sarcastic kids, 40-foot robot counselors, and remnants of Kobe's letters to his parents as he and his friends try to escape the nefarious plot of robot world domination. Interspersed with fantastic and funny comic panels are letters home, narrative, and highlights of various robotic terms like Artificial Intelligence and Asimov's Laws of Robotics, which all tie in to the exciting revelations that not everyone is who they say they are—not even among the kids.

RIGHTS SOLD: Available    GENRE: Contemporary Science Fiction (Graphic novel)

Pat Giles is a cartoonist with a long career in animation, on seven hit shows including MTV's *Daria* and Disney's *Stanley*, several award winning-web series and hundreds of commercials for major marketers like General Mills and Hasbro. Giles is currently working on an animated stage show, *The Bizarre World of Frank Zappa*.



AGENT: LINDSAY LEGGETT



# YOUNG ADULT



# THE HILL

ALI BRYAN



**T**he *Hill* is a coming-of-age adventure set on a reclaimed garbage dump inhabited solely by girls.

After a Departure Ceremony releases eleven of them, Wren becomes the new leader. Less than a day on the job, she discovers one of the girls has gone missing. Challenging the society's longstanding rules as documented by the Manual, Wren makes the fateful decision to leave the Hill in search of the missing girl, only to encounter—for the first time—boys.

When she returns, she finds out that the Hill has been attacked. She must sort fact from fiction, ally from enemy, opportunity from threat. When there is little left of the world, how important is it to assign fault for its demise? And more importantly how can those left behind work to salvage what remains?

With a rich cast of flawed, diverse, and human characters, *The Hill* is a near-future feminist story that explores gender, power, and the search for the truth in a world defined by scarcity, distrust, and gender politics. While consequences of consumerism and environmental neglect are implied, this is ultimately a gritty and compassionate story about the female experience, of friendship, and what it really means to be a girl.

RIGHTS SOLD: Dottir Press (World English)    PUB DATE: Fall 2020  
GENRE: Speculative Fiction

**A**li Bryan's first novel, *Roost* (Freehand, 2013), won the Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction and was the official selection of One Book Nova Scotia (2014). Her second novel, *The Figgs* (Freehand Books, 2018), has been optioned for TV by Sony. Her non-fiction has been shortlisted for the Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Prize, and longlisted for the CBC Creative Non-Fiction Prize. She is a 2018 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards Emerging Artist recipient. She lives with her family in Calgary, Alberta, where she divides her time between writing and mastering the flying armbar.



AGENT: STACEY KONDLA

# I HEART ROBOT

XAN VAN ROOYEN



Sixteen-year-old Tyri wants to be a musician and wants to be with someone who gets her musical aspirations.

Q-I-99, aka ‘Quinn,’ lives in a scrap metal sanctuary with other rogue droids. While some use violence to make their voices heard, demanding equal rights for AI enhanced robots, Quinn just wants a moment on stage with his violin to show the humans that androids like him have more to offer than their processing power.

Tyri and Quinn’s worlds collide when they’re accepted by the Baldur Junior Philharmonic Orchestra. As the rift between robots and humans deepens, Tyri and Quinn’s love of music draws them closer together, forcing Tyri to question where her loyalties lie and Quinn to question his place in the world. With the city on the brink of civil war, will Tyri’s and Quinn’s passion for music be enough to hold them together while everything else crumbles down around them,

or will the truth of who they are tear them apart?

RIGHTS SOLD: Zhejiang Publishing House (Mainland China) COPIES SOLD: 105K  
PUB DATE: April 2018 GENRE: Science Fiction Romance

“The tension between the groups, the obvious attraction between the main characters, the ticking time bomb of Quinn’s real identity and the secrets surrounding Tyri’s birth makes for compelling reading. The world building was exceptional and the characters well developed.”

—*The Australia Times*

Suzanne ‘Xan’ van Rooyen is a genderqueer, tattooed storyteller from South Africa. She currently lives in Finland where she finds the heavy metal soothing and the cold, dark forests inspiring. Although she has a Master’s degree in music, Suzanne prefers conjuring strange worlds and creating quirky characters. When she grows up, she wants to be an elf—until then, she spends her time (when not writing) climbing, buying far too many books, and entertaining her shiba inu, Lego.

Pronouns: she/her; they/them.



AGENT: LINDSAY LEGGETT

# BY THE BLOOD OF ROWANS

XAN VAN ROOYEN



The Sheehy witches are the most feared and detested family on the small island of Inisliath, and none moreso than eighteen-year-old Rowan. Rowan is a deathwalker, and not only ferries the souls of those who die on the island to the Otherworld, but also experiences their deaths, cursed with carrying the memories of their lives with him. When the magic on the island begins to seep away from the other families, leaving the Sheehys more powerful than ever, the blame settles on Rowan's family—especially when people start getting murdered.

Seventeen-year-old Ash is sick of pretending their bruises are from climbing accidents and not from their father's fists, sick of being a habitual fuck-up, and for constantly apologizing for who they are. Life on their ancestral island home might be the fresh start Ash and their Mum need, and Ash is cautiously optimistic, especially when they meet the soft-spoken, curly-haired Rowan. Ash learns what it

means to belong to Inisliath, and how the complicated web of the island's families has created deep wounds of discrimination and hate.

When Ash's Mum becomes the lead detective of a series of brutal, ritualistic murders, Rowan is quickly labeled as the main suspect, but Ash can't imagine the kind and gentle boy they have come to love being capable of killing. Ash decides to investigate on their own, digging up secret island history that reveals Rowan is more likely to be the next victim. Then, Ash's abusive father arrives, giving them an ultimatum of living the life they've always dreamed of—free of him—but also of the boy they love. At the same time, Rowan begins to learn the truth of what his magical power means, and what he will need to sacrifice to save Ash and his family from the darkness about to be unleashed from the island.



RIGHTS SOLD: Available

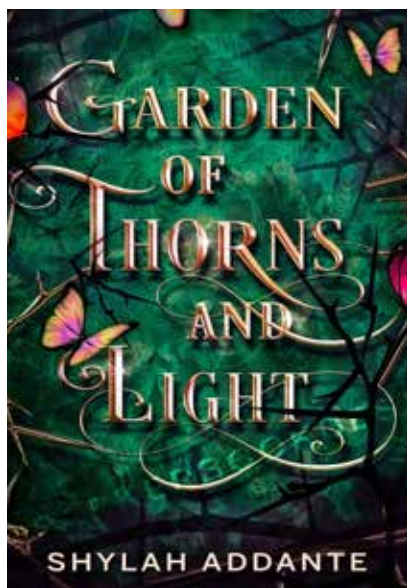
GENRE: Fantasy (#ownvoices Genderqueer Rep)



AGENT: LINDSAY LEGGETT

# GARDEN OF THORNS AND LIGHT

SHYLAH ADDANTE



When Amethyst Faye was six years old, she was almost stolen by a monster in the woods on the same night her mother mysteriously disappeared. Ten years, half a dozen psychiatrists, and a bunch of diagnoses haven't been enough. She is still plagued by nightmares, ridiculed at school, and misunderstood by everyone from her teachers to her father. And lately she's been sprouting thick green thorns out of her skin.

When the paranoia doesn't end and the treatment options run out, she's faced with a choice between being committed to a psychiatric hospital or spending the summer with a grandmother she hasn't heard from in a decade.

Summer at Gran's in Morgan Springs wins out, just barely, and only because a backwater town sounds marginally more interesting than a mental institution. There, she draws the attention of Ben, the boy of her dreams, and Absynth, the creature from her nightmares. Although neither of them is what she expected, Amethyst realizes that both Ben and Absynth are exactly what she needs to heal her heart and harness the fairy magic she's inherited.

Unfortunately for Amethyst, love and magic always come with a cost.

RIGHTS SOLD: Month9Books (World English); Blackstone (Audio) PUB DATE: Spring 2020  
GENRE: Fantasy Romance

Shylah Addante has an M.S.E. in Literacy Education and enjoys Netflix, crocheting, and just generally being awesome. She lives in Albany, New York, with her husband, David, her two daughters, Hazel and Holly, and her dog, Andy.

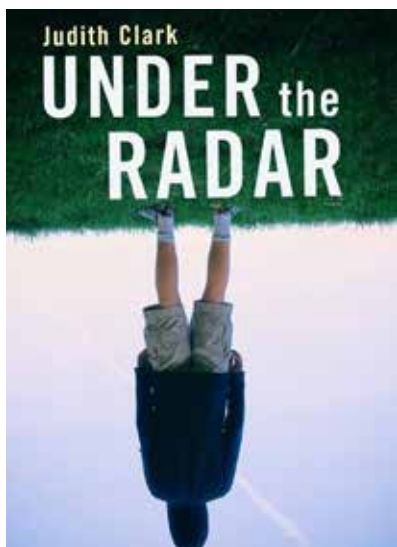


AGENT: STACEY KONDLA

# UNDER THE RADAR

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## JUDITH CLARK



One more year. That's all Gunnar has to wait until graduation. More importantly, it's one more year until he'll feel safe to come out.

Gunnar has kept his sexuality a secret—only his twin sister knows he's gay. Coming out now would make him the target of homophobic bullies at his school. But a year is a long time, especially when life starts moving at its own pace, and Gunnar meets guys he wants to date.

Set in rural Alberta, *Under the Radar* is the uplifting story of a teen who dreams of a life in which he can be himself.

RIGHTS SOLD: DCB (North America & World French) PUB DATE: June 2020  
GENRE: Contemporary LGBTQ+

Judith Clark is a former librarian with a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Texas and a Master of Arts from the University of Arkansas. Clark was born in Arkansas and moved to Alberta in 1997. *Under the Radar* is her first young adult novel.



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AGENT: STACEY KONDLA

# THE NIGHT WHEN NO ONE HAD SEX

KALENA MILLER



It's the night of senior prom, and eighteen-year-old Julia has made a pact with her friends. (Yes, that kind of pact.) They have secured a secluded cabin in the woods, one night without parental supervision, and plenty of condoms. What they don't have is luck. As soon as the friends depart from the dance, the sex pact begins to unravel.

When Alex receives the devastating news that his grandmother is undergoing emergency surgery, he and his date (a stranger before tonight) speed to the hospital. When Madison's chronic illness flares, she must grapple with the unfair reality that physical intercourse may have to wait. When Zoe gets off the waitlist at her dream college, she and her girlfriend argue about whether to prioritize teenage romance or Ivy League ambition. And when Julia's fantasy-themed role play gets her locked in a closet...well...

There is questionable cabin decor, Cheetos, an excess of green body makeup, and a cat named Bulldog.

THE NIGHT WHEN NO ONE HAD SEX is a sex-positive all-in-one-night romp about a group of friends navigating the tenuous transition into adulthood and embracing the uncertainty of life after high school.

RIGHTS SOLD: Available GENRE: Contemporary Romance

**Kalena Miller** grew up in College Station, TX with her mom, dad, and the most photographed hamster in history. After high school, she moved a thousand miles north to attend Carleton College, where she graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelors in Religious Studies. After a brief stint working as a behavior technician in Seattle, Kalena decided she missed school too much, so she spent the next two years pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing at Hamline University.

Now that she is finally done with educational things (at least for the time being), Kalena lives in Hopkins, Minnesota with her husband, Kenny, and Toy Australian Shepherd, Toshley. She mostly writes middle grade and young adult contemporary fiction, though she could be bribed to produce some sub-par poetry. She loves books that will make her laugh and make her cry (preferably at the same time), and she firmly believes that all quality novels should feature a cat.

When she is not writing, Kalena enjoys tap dancing, scrapbooking, and watching an embarrassing amount of reality television.



AGENT: STACEY KONDLA

## AUDREY FRANCIS-PLANTE



Six years after the death of her cousin, Devonna Moreau still carries the numbing weight of guilt on her soul. Her best friend, Jimmy D, insists that it wasn't her fault. But deep down, she knows she might have been able to save her cousin: if it wasn't for her condition and biggest secret—she cannot physically feel anything.

Neither a breeze, nor a kiss, nor a punch.

Until one day, when her skin finally reacts to the touch of a shy and reserved young man called Bram Hanaghan. Which could be the greatest news for her, if Bram was alive. But he's actually a ghost.

Soon, other ghosts in Napa Valley will discover Devonna's ability to communicate with the dead, including the annoying and self-absorbed Kian Luvan. He'll keep steering her away from trying to find her cousin, just to use her to fulfill his vengeful ambitions.

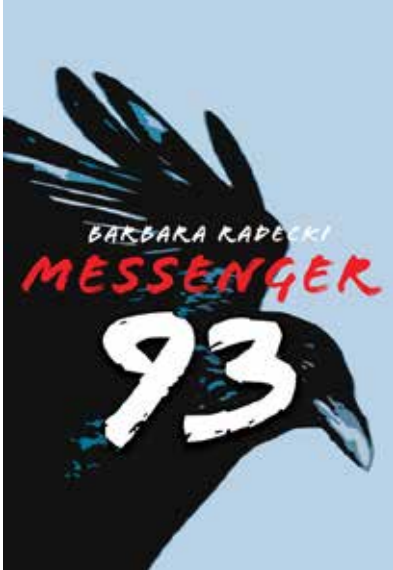
In Bram, she'll find a surprisingly devoted friend willing to help her in her search. But what will it cost him to protect the feeling-less girl, and how deep into the ghost world is Devonna ready to dive in order to find her cousin?

RIGHTS SOLD: Evernight Teen (World English)    PUB DATE: Spring 2020  
GENRE: Paranormal Romance

**A**udrey Francis-Plante is a part-time traveller and part-time writer. She completed the Certificate in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies, and won the 2017, Penguin Random House Canada Student Award for Fiction for her final project, *Devonna*. She blogs ([audreywritesabroad.com](http://audreywritesabroad.com)), reads (mostly YA), and is still waiting for a letter (Hogwarts). She lives in Québec, Canada.



AGENT: STACEY KONDLA



Sixteen-year-old M has been erased by her high school peers. Then one night a crow arrives in her bedroom and delivers a message: “You must find her. She will fall in seven days.” What does the message mean? Who will fall? M soon finds out that Krista—her nemesis, the catalyst behind her shunning—has run away. If M is supposed to save her high school enemy, she has only seven days to do it.

More cryptic messages and mysterious birds lead M through the city and eventually to Gray, a Cree boy with his own hopes of saving a missing girl. They join forces and go on a wild journey in search of answers. Grasping for the true meaning behind the crow’s messages, M pushes deeper and deeper into worlds she doesn’t know or understand, holding fast to a questionable dream that she might be a modern-day Joan of Arc.

RIGHTS SOLD: DCB/Cormorant Books (North America)  
GENRE: Contemporary Realistic

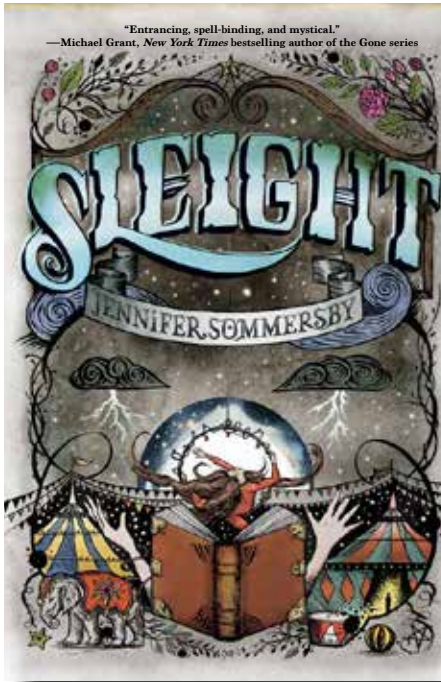
PUB DATE: Spring 2020

Barbara Radecki started her career as an actor, and is probably best known for voicing Sailor Neptune in the original English dub of the popular *Sailor Moon* series. She has since transitioned to writing, with a focus on fiction and screenplays. Several of her screenplays have been optioned or sold, including a modern adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*, which is currently in post-production and due out Winter 2020. Her debut novel, *The Darkhouse* (DCB, 2017), came out to acclaim, including a Kirkus star, and was shortlisted for the 2017 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. Her second novel, *Messenger 93*, will come out Spring 2020.



AGENT: SAM HIYATE





The greatest treasure, a most dangerous magic.

Growing up in the Cinzio Traveling Players Company, Genevieve Flannery is accustomed to a life most teenagers could never imagine: daily workouts of extravagant acrobatics; wild animals for pets; and her mother, Delia, whose mind has always been tortured by visions—but whose love Geni never questions. In a world of performers who mystify and amaze on a daily basis, Delia's ghostly hallucinations never seemed all that strange... until the evening Geni and her mother are performing an aerial routine they've done hundreds of times, and Delia falls to her death.

That night, a dark curtain in Geni's life opens. Everything has changed.

As they reel from the tragedy, the Cinzio Players are also grappling with the circus's new owner: a generous, mysterious man whose connection to the circus—Geni suspects—has a dark history. And with the discovery of an otherworldly inheritance and her perilous mission to protect it, Geni is suddenly stumbling into a new reality of her own, her life interrupted daily by the terrors only Delia used to see. As the visions around her grow stronger,

and her magical legacy becomes even more menacing, Geni is not sure who she should trust or love. Worst of all, she's starting to question whether she can trust her own mind.

RIGHTS SOLD: HarperCollins (Canada); Sky Pony (US & Philippines); Prószyński i S-ka (Poland)  
PUB DATE: Fall 2018 GENRE: Fantasy Adventure

**Jennifer Sommersby** writes young adult and middle grade fiction (as well as romantic comedies and women's fiction for grownups under the pen name, Eliza Gordon). Her young adult fantasy/adventure novel, *Sleight*, from HarperCollins Canada, Sky Pony (US), and Prószyński i S-ka (Poland), was a Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book for Kids and Teens, Fall 2018. Its sequel, *The Undoing* (titled *Scheme* in the US), is due out in Spring 2020.

As a recipient of a 2019 British Columbia Arts Council Creative Writers Grant, Jenn is currently working on her next YA project, an eco/climate fantasy adventure focused on water scarcity. She is also the author and co-creator of the YA novel, *Fish Out of Water: A Little Mermaid Story*, in conjunction with the Young Actors Project (YAP), a popular YouTube Channel with over 1.6 million subscribers.

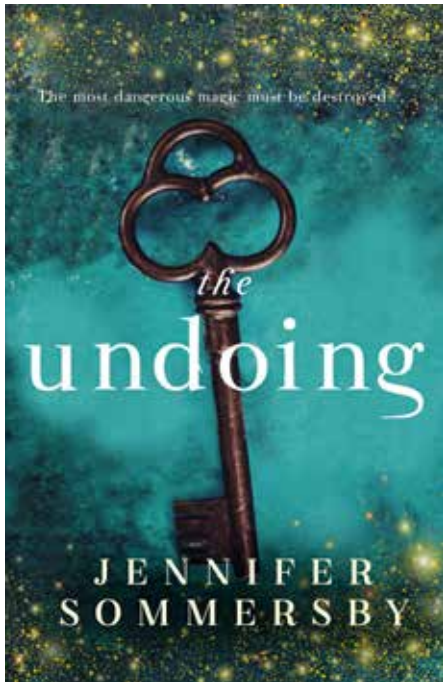
An eighteen-year resident of Coquitlam, BC, Jenn is mom to three kids and two very spoiled tuxedo cats. She's also a committed bibliophile, a fan of fierce females (Jo March and Joan of Arc, for the win!), and a Superman freak. When not head down in a book project, she's probably either at the bookstore or her very favourite place in the whole world, the movies.



AGENT: STACEY KONDLA

# THE UNDOING/SCHEME

JENNIFER SOMMERSBY



The most dangerous magic must be destroyed

Genevieve Flannery's family inheritance is both an invaluable gift and an unspeakable curse: Genevieve is one of the heirs of the Avrakedavra, a trio of ancient texts capable of preserving everlasting life—or eroding it completely. Burdened with the power of untold magic and tormented by those who would seek to exploit it, Genevieve knows that the three Avrakedavra texts must be destroyed.

If only the road ahead were easy. Genevieve is grateful to have her fellow heir, the irresistible Henry, by her side, but when the father she never knew she had becomes their guide, all bets are off. Together, this new team must rely on unexpected allies as they embark on a harrowing global search to acquire the pieces necessary to destroy this ancient magic and complete the Undoing.

But loyalties among the magical community are fragile. Genevieve, grieving the loss of her mother, struggles to control her new Avrakedavra-bestowed gifts, and with mounting threats to her psyche and body, she clings mightily to the promise of a brighter future once

this quest is over—if she can survive it. And Henry, broken by his father's treachery but entranced by the heartwarming connection his family's text has granted him, grapples with the fact that once they succeed in destroying the books, he'll lose the only family he has left.

Forced to question all that they hold dear, the young heirs must remember Genevieve's mother's greatest lesson: the key to good is found in truth.

RIGHTS SOLD: HarperCollins (Canada); Sky Pony (US & Philippines); Prószyński i S-ka (Poland)  
PUB DATE: Spring 2020 GENRE: Fantasy Adventure

AGENT: STACEY KONDLA

# THE STORY OF MY LIFE ONGOING, BY C.S.COBB

CANDAS JANE DORSEY



Corey Cobb was born intersex. Corey’s parents didn’t make a big deal of it, but when Corey’s dad dies unexpectedly, their mother forces them to make a gender choice—like that is even possible. Corey is Corey.

Now legally old enough to refuse medical intervention, but not old enough to prevent “choosing not to choose” being considered a psychiatric condition, Corey’s mother has them committed. While in the youth psych ward, Corey meets Kim, diagnosed as anorexic but really a victim of her mother’s Munchausen’s Syndrome-by-Proxy. Together, the teens try to prove the legitimate cause of Kim’s ailment, and in the process discover important—perhaps catastrophic—truths about their pasts.

RIGHTS SOLD: Inanna (World English) PUB DATE: Spring 2021  
GENRE: Contemporary LGBTQ+

Candas Jane Dorsey is the internationally-renowned, award-winning author of science fiction, mystery, and young adult novels; short story and poetry collections; and anthologies, reviews, and critical essays. For fourteen years, she was an editor, and later publisher, of literary press The Books Collective, including River Books and, for a time, Tesseract Books. She teaches creative writing to adults and youth, and professional communications at MacEwan University, and speaks widely on science fiction and other topics. As a community activist, advocate and leader, Jane has won two human rights awards and has served on many community boards and committees supporting neighbourhood, heritage, social planning, and human rights advocacy.



AGENT: STACEY KONDLA



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