

THE GERNERT COMPANY

**Middle Grade / Young Adult
Rights Guide**

Spring 2021

P. Djèlí Clark, ABENI'S SONG

A middle grade fantasy trilogy about a young girl trying to escape the evil that has taken over her land, by an up-and-coming star in the SciFi / Fantasy world who has won the Nebula, Locus and Alex awards.

Tor Teen – September 2022

Middle Grade

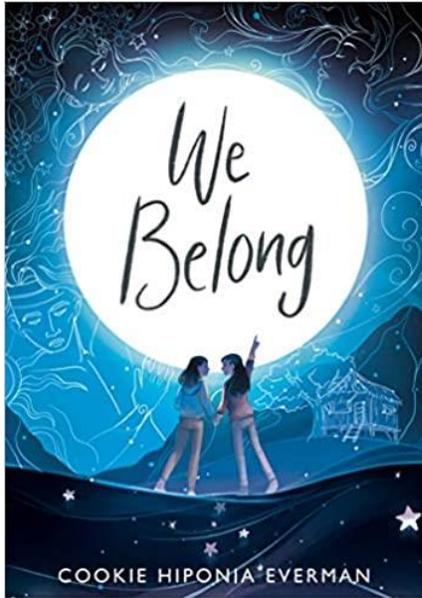
**Sold to Ali Fischer at Tor Teen in a 3-book deal, in a major deal,
North American rights only.**

Praise for **P. Djèlí Clark's RING SHOUT**:

- "A fantastical, brutal and thrilling triumph of the imagination."
—*New York Times Book Review*
- "Rousing, boisterous, and clever." —*Kirkus Reviews, starred review*
- "A meditation on the all-consuming power of hate and violence." —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*
- "A tale that honors the Black American experience in all its complexity, and yet also delivers in its Lovecraftian delight." —*Library Journal, starred review*
- "Steeped in historical detail and full of engaging characters, that asks the question, 'Who is to blame for the hate that hate made?'" —*Booklist, starred review.*

Abeni's village was a small, intimate place of family and song, watched over and protected by the mysterious old lady who lived off in the woods nearby. But when the Storm Women come, and the Goat Man plays his alluring song to steal all the children, the old lady--a witch--can only save one: Abeni. Stuck, unable to help, forced to learn bizarre lessons, Abeni's one thought is to escape the witch and go find her family. And when she finally gets her chance to go, will she have learned enough to help or just disappear into the maw of the great evil in the land?

P. Djèlí Clark is the winner of the Nebula, Locus and Alex awards and the author of the novellas *The Black God's Drums*, *The Haunting of Tram Car 015* and *Ring Shout*. His forthcoming debut novel, *A Master of Djinn*, is out in 2021.



Cookie Hiponia Everman, **WE BELONG**

A crystal clear novel-in-verse that weaves Tagalog mythology (which originated in the Philippine islands) with a dramatic immigrant story to create something wholly new – a bedtime story for the ages.

Dial Books (WE deal) – March 30, 2021
Middle Grade

**Starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *Publishers Weekly* •
Sold to Lauri Hornik at Dial in a two-book deal in a
pre-empt for six-figures (World English rights)**

★ "Sometimes raw and traumatic, other times hopeful and inspiring, Elsie's bedtime story rings true, encapsulating the heart of Pilipino culture. A beautiful and poignant tale of immigration fused with Tagalog myth." —*Kirkus*, **starred review**

★ "Deeply poignant . . . Infusing the heart of Pinoy culture into a moving, accessible bedtime narrative, this "story of outsiders" will resonate with anyone who has felt estranged in the place they call home." —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

Stella and Luna know that their mama, Elsie, came from the Philippines when she was a child, but they don't know much else. So one night they ask her to tell them her story. As they get ready for bed, their mama spins two tales: that of her youth as a strong-willed middle child and immigrant; and that of the young life of Mayari, the mythical daughter of a god. Both are tales of sisterhood and motherhood, and of the difficult experience of trying to fit into a new culture, and having to fight for a home and acceptance. Glorious and layered, this is a portrait of family and strength for the ages.

Cookie Hiponia Everman was born in the Philippines and immigrated to America when she was nine years old. Previously a video game editor, she is now a full-time writer whose poems have been published in several literary journals. She lives near Seattle with her family. *We Belong* is her debut novel and reflects her family's experiences.

Gail Lerner, THE BIG DREAMS OF SMALL CREATURES

A heartwarming Middle Grade novel about a 12-year-old girl who can communicate with bugs and a 9-year-old boy who hates insects of all kinds, who square off in a spooky old mansion.

Putnam's Books for Young Readers (WE) – future
Middle Grade

Sold to Stacey Barney at Putnam's in a two-book deal, in a six-figure advance, at auction, World English rights • German deal with cbj

Twelve-year-old Eden has always felt drawn to bugs. One day in the park, after rescuing a paper wasp's nest, she hears a small voice emanating, incredibly, from one of the buzzing creatures: "Freeze." A budding scientist, Eden has always longed to learn the secrets of the insect world. Nine-year-old August, on the other hand, detests insects. After a painful run-in with a bee and an embarrassing incident with a fly in his school lunch, all in front of the school bully, the last straw is his mom siding against him and with a spider that obviously has it in for him. The bugs have gone too far. August makes it his mission to wipe out every last insect on the face of the earth.

And where will these two fierce opponents naturally meet? In glamorous Newport, Rhode Island, where eccentric, one-hundred-and-twenty-year-old Tillie Wannaberger has literally turned her elegant, turn-of-the-century mansion upside down to create the subterranean Institute for Lower Learning, a fantastical palace devoted to teaching "humans and insects to intersect."

With a director's keen eye, a love of classics like JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH and ALICE IN WONDERLAND, and enough bug knowledge to impress even a kid, Gail Lerner mixes equal parts adventure, humor, and heart as she asks us: how far do the reaches of our community extend?

Gail Lerner has been television writer, director, and producer for twenty-three years, and is the writer/director/producer for the first six seasons of black-ish. Her work has garnered her a Peabody Award, 6 NAACP Image Awards, and multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. Her short film, Seraglio was nominated for a 2001 Academy Award.

Sold to: cbj (Germany)



Nathan Pyle, STRANGE PLANET: The Sneaking, Hiding, Vibrating Creature

The first picture book in the *New York Times* bestselling Strange Planet series.

HarperCollins Children's – June 1, 2021
Picture Book

**Sold as part of a 4-book deal to HarperCollins Children's for a six-figure advance, North American rights only • UK deal with Wildfire / Headline •
More than 500,000 copies sold of the Strange Planet series worldwide**

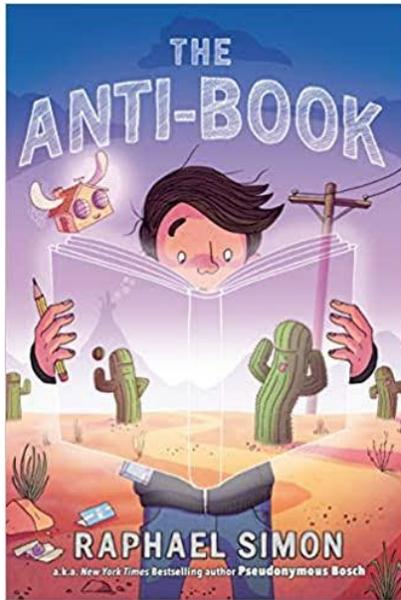
Based on his popular Instagram comics, Nathan W. Pyle presents a delightful, heartfelt, and clever picture book that young and old beings alike will enjoy reading together. When the nearest star rises, Lifegiver has an exciting quest planned for Offspring! Follow along as they observe a strange creature that sneaks, hides, and vibrates around their house. Hilarity ensues as the blue beings try to mimic this talented creature.

As always, Nathan W. Pyle draws humor from his unique perspective on human activity and delivers a colorful experience that is an ode to cats and humans alike. This book is a joy to read and share, no matter how many revolutions you've made around the nearest star.

Nathan W. Pyle is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Strange Planet*, *Stranger Planet*, *NYC Basic Tips and Etiquette*, and *99 Stories I Could Tell*. He is a former staff writer and illustrator for BuzzFeed. He is based in New York City but travels the country speaking about creativity and storytelling.

Sold to: Wildfire/Headline (UK)

Option publishers: Planeta (Brazil), Shanghai Insight (China), Euromedia (Czech Republic), BBNC (Netherlands), Editions Kero (France), Riva Verlag (Germany), Maggazzini Salani (Italy), Sigongsa (Korea), Eksmo (Russia), Tatran (Slovak Republic), Duomo (Spain), Epsilon (Turkey), Mal'Opus (Ukraine)



Raphael Simon, THE ANTI-BOOK

A darkly funny fantasy and classic-in-the-making--the story of a boy who wants the world to disappear . . . and what happens when it does.

Dial Books (WE deal) – April 6, 2021
Middle Grade

A slyly brilliant middle grade novel - with humor that catches in your throat - by the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Secret Series.

- “This book will move you, make you laugh, and change the way you think. A mind-bending experience, unlike anything you've ever read before.”
—**Adam Gidwitz, author of *The Inquisitor’s Tale***
- “This exciting, clever, and ultimately moving book deserves a place on the same shelf as our most beloved children’s fantasies.”
—**Trenton Lee Stewart, author of *The Mysterious Benedict Society***

Mickey is angry all the time: at his divorced parents, at his sister, and at his two new stepmoms, both named Charlie. And so he can't resist the ad inside his pack of gum: "Do you ever wish everyone would go away? Buy *The Anti-Book*! Satisfaction guaranteed." He orders the book, but when it arrives, it's blank--except for one line of instruction: *To erase it, write it.* He fills the pages with all the things and people he dislikes . . .

Next thing he knows, he's wandering an anti-world, one in which everything and everyone familiar is gone. Or are they? Full of humor and surprise, and slyly meaningful, this is a *Wizard of Oz* for today's generation--a fantastical quest for comfort and belonging that will resonate with many, many readers.

Raphael Simon is an author who lives in Pasadena, CA, with his husband and twin daughters. He is definitely not the alter ego of infamously anonymous author Pseudonymous Bosch, writer of the *New York Times* bestselling Secret Series and the Bad Books.

Option publishers: Anaya Infantil y Juvenil (Spain), PT Elexmedia (Indonesia)

More Opportunities . . .



Lee Bacon, **THE LAST HUMAN**

A major lead title from Abrams - a poignant, funny and affecting novel about what it means to be human in a world ruled by machines.

Abrams (World English) – October 8, 2019
Middle Grade

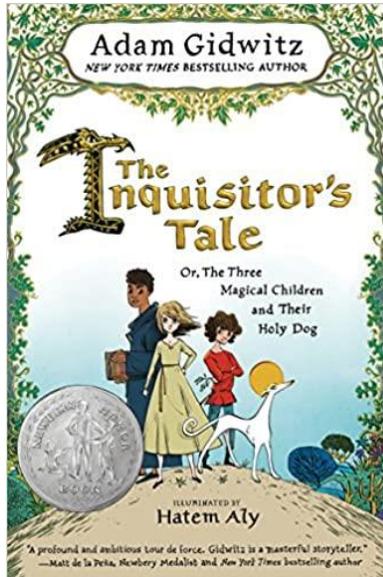
Sony bought the film option in an 8-figure deal with the writer/director team of the *Lego* movies and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* attached! • Sony plan on making THE LAST HUMAN a tentpole animation production • 22 foreign deals including auctions in Germany and Poland

- "Against a timely backdrop, Bacon explores messages of friendship, tolerance, and cooperation with wit and thoughtfulness."-*Publishers Weekly*

In the future, robots have eliminated humans, and 12-year-old robot XR_935 is just fine with that. Without humans around, there is no war, no pollution, no crime. Every member of society has a purpose. Everything runs smoothly and efficiently. Until the day XR discovers something impossible: a human girl named Emma. Now, Emma must embark on a dangerous voyage with XR and two other robots in search of a mysterious point on a map. But how will they survive in a place where rules are never broken and humans aren't supposed to exist? And what will they find at the end of their journey?

Lee Bacon is the author of the Legendtopia series and the Joshua Dread series. The Joshua Dread series was an ABA Fall 2012 New Voices Pick and a 2014 Spirit of Texas Reading Program Selection.
www.leebaconbooks.com.

Sold to: Urano (Spain), La Martiniere (France), Van Holkema & Warendorf (Netherlands), Random House Korea (Korea), Mondadori (Italy), Loewe (Germany), Tindur (Iceland), Publicat (Poland), Atticus-Azbooka (Russia), Vivat (Ukraine), V&R Editoras (Brazil), B. Wahlstroms (Sweden), DreamLitt (Denmark), Grup 62 (Catalan), Jota (Czech), WSOY (Finland), Patakis (Greece), Keter (Israel), Maxim (Hungary), Hayakawa (Japan), Kagge (Norway), Kirmizi Kedi (Turkey)



Adam Gidwitz, THE INQUISITOR'S TALE

The bestselling author of *A Tale Dark and Grimm* takes on medieval times in an exciting and hilarious new adventure about history, religion . . . and farting dragons.

Dutton Books for Young Readers – Sept 27, 2016
Middle Grade

New York Times bestseller • Newbury Honor Book

One of the most celebrated children's books of 2016:

- **An *Entertainment Weekly* Best Middle Grade Book of 2016**
- **A *New York Times* Notable Book of 2016**
- **A *Wall Street Journal* Best Book of 2016**
- **A *Washington Post* Best Book of 2016**
- **A *School Library Journal* Best Book of 2016**
- **A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2016**
- **A *Booklist* Best Book of 2016**
- **A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of 2016**
- **An Amazon Top 20 Children's Book of 2016**

1242. On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children: William, an oblate on a mission from his monastery; Jacob, a Jewish boy who has fled his burning village; and Jeanne, a peasant girl who hides her prophetic visions. They are accompanied by Jeanne's loyal greyhound, Gwenforte . . . recently brought back from the dead. Their adventures take them on a chase through France to escape prejudice and persecution and save precious and holy texts from being burned. They're taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. And as their quest drives them forward to a final showdown at Mont Saint-Michel, all will come to question if these children can perform the miracles of saints.

Adam Gidwitz grew up in Baltimore, Maryland and taught at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn. He is the bestselling author of *A TALE DARK AND GRIMM*, *IN A GLASS GRIMMLY* and *THE GRIMM CONCLUSION*.
www.adamgidwitz.com

Sold to: TB Publishing (China), Art Grup (Romania), Kariera (Russia), Mirae (Korea)

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