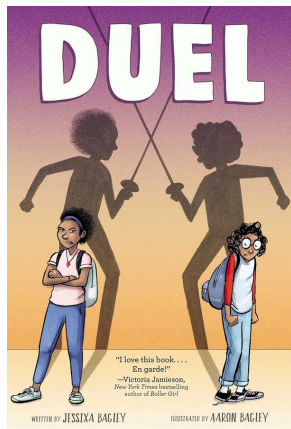


## 2026 SASQUATCH AWARD NOMINEE



### Duel

Written by  
Jessixa Bagley  
Illustrated by  
Aaron Bagley



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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## 2026 SASQUATCH AWARD NOMINEE



### Grounded

Written by  
Aisha Saeed,  
Huda Al-Marashi,  
Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow,  
S.K. Ali



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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## 2026 SASQUATCH AWARD NOMINEE



### The Legend of Lotus Island Book 1: The Guardian Test

Written by  
Christina Soontornvat  
Illustrated by  
Kevin Hong



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

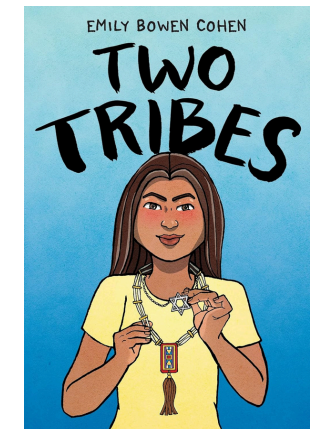
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## 2026 SASQUATCH AWARD NOMINEE



### Two Tribes

Written and  
Illustrated by  
Emily Bowen Cohen



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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## TWO TRIBES

Mia is still getting used to living with her mom and stepfather, and to the new role their Jewish identity plays in their home. Feeling out of place at home and at her Jewish day school, Mia finds herself thinking more and more about her Muscogee father, who lives with his new family in Oklahoma. Her mother doesn't want to talk about him, but Mia can't help but feel like she's missing a part of herself without him in her life.

Soon, Mia makes a plan to use the gifts from her bat mitzvah to take a bus to Oklahoma—without telling her mom—to visit her dad and find the connection to her Muscogee side she knows is just as important as her Jewish side.

## THE GUARDIAN TEST

Young Plum is shocked to discover that she's been accepted to the Guardian Academy on Lotus Island, an elite school where kids learn how to transform into Guardians, magical creatures who are sworn to protect the natural world. The Guardian masters teach Plum and her friends how to communicate with animals and how to use meditation to strengthen their minds and bodies. All the kids also learn to fight, so they can protect the defenseless if needed.

To her dismay, Plum struggles at school. While her classmates begin to transform into amazing creatures, Plum can't even seem to magic up a single feather! If she can't embrace her inner animal form soon, she'll have to leave school — and lose the first group of real friends she's ever known.

## GROUNDLED

When a thunderstorm grounds all flights following a huge Muslim convention, four unlikely kids are thrown together. Feek is stuck babysitting his younger sister, but he'd rather be writing a poem that's good enough for his dad, a famous poet and rapper. Hanna is intent on finding a lost cat in the airport—and also on avoiding a conversation with her dad about him possibly remarrying. Sami is struggling with his anxiety and worried that he'll miss the karate tournament that he's trained so hard for. And Nora has to deal with the pressure of being the daughter of a prominent congresswoman, when all she really wants to do is make fun of NokNok videos. These kids don't seem to have much in common—yet.

Told in alternating points of view, Grounded tells the story of one unexpected night that will change these kids forever.

## DUEL

Sixth grader Lucy loves fantasy novels and is brand-new to middle school. GiGi is the undisputed queen bee of eighth grade (as well as everything else she does). They've only got one thing in common: fencing. Oh, and they're sisters. They never got along super well, but ever since their dad died, it seems like they're always at each other's throats.

When GiGi humiliates Lucy in the cafeteria on the first day of school, Lucy snaps and challenges GiGi to a duel with high sisterly stakes. If GiGi wins, Lucy promises to stay out of GiGi's way; if Lucy wins, GiGi will stop teasing Lucy for good. But after their scene in the cafeteria, both girls are on thin ice with the principal and their mom. Lucy stopped practicing fencing after their fencer dad died and will have to get back to fighting form in secret or she'll be in big trouble. And GiGi must behave perfectly or risk getting kicked off the fencing team.

2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



**Rewind**

Written by  
Lisa Graff



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



**Operation  
Final Notice**

Written by  
Matthew Landis



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



**The Lost Library**

Written by  
Rebecca Stead,  
Wendy Mass



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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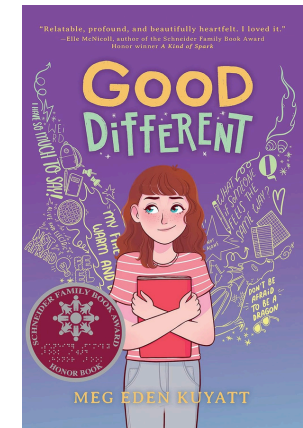
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2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



**Good Different**

Written and  
Meg Eden Kuyatt



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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## GOOD DIFFERENT

Selah knows her rules for being normal.

She always, always sticks to them. This means keeping her feelings locked tightly inside, despite the way they build up inside her as each school day goes on, so that she has to run to the bathroom and hide in the stall until she can calm down. So that she has to tear off her normal-person mask the second she gets home from school, and listen to her favorite pop song on repeat, trying to recharge. Selah feels like a dragon stuck in a world of humans, but she knows how to hide it.

Until the day she explodes and hits a fellow student.

Selah's friends pull away from her, her school threatens expulsion, and her comfortable, familiar world starts to crumble.

But as Selah starts to figure out more about who she is, she comes to understand that different doesn't mean damaged. Can she get her school to understand that, too, before it's too late?

## THE LOST LIBRARY

When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight in the small town of Martinville, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change.

Evan and his best friend Rafe quickly discover a link between one of the old books and a long-ago event that none of the grown-ups want to talk about. The two boys start asking questions whose answers will transform not only their own futures, but the town itself.

Told in turn by a ghost librarian named Al, an aging (but beautiful) cat named Mortimer, and Evan himself, *The Lost Library* is a timeless story from award-winning authors Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass. It's about owning your truth, choosing the life you want, and the power of a good book (and, of course, the librarian who gave it to you).

## OPERATION FINAL NOTICE

As Christmas and the new year inch closer, so do Ronny and Jo's anxieties. Because Ronny needs \$878 by January 4th to keep his family's only car from getting taken by the bank. Ever since a workplace injury disabled his dad and forced the family to move from their home into the apartment complex across the street, Ronny's had a crash course in repossession.

His best friend Josefina Ramos is also counting down until the start of January when her life could change forever—that's when she has her big cello audition at the prestigious music academy Maple Hill. Except she can't play a solo performance without something disastrous happening and no one seems to hear her when she talks about how nervous she is.

As the countdown to the new year rolls ahead, Ronny and Jo learn what can happen to best-laid plans and how to depend on one another and their community when things get tough.

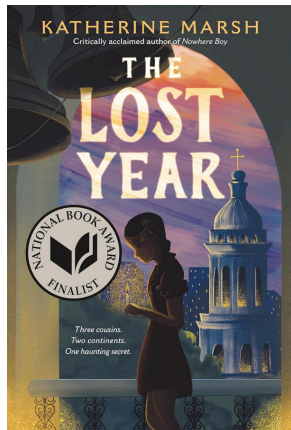
## REWIND

As far as twelve-year-old McKinley O'Dair is concerned, the best thing about living in Gap Bend, Pennsylvania, is the Time Hop—the giant party the town throws every June to celebrate a single year in history. That one day is enough to make the few things that aren't so fantastic about McKinley's life—like her crabby homeroom teacher or her super-scheduled father—worth suffering through. And when McKinley learns that this year's theme is 1993, she can't wait to enter the Time Hop fashion show with a killer '90s outfit she's designed and sewn all on her own. But when the Time Hop rolls around, nothing goes as planned. In fact, it's the biggest disaster of McKinley's life.

Before she knows what's hit her, McKinley somehow finds herself in the real 1993—and it's not all kitschy parachute pants and Jurassic Park. All McKinley wants is to return to the present, but before she can, she's going to have to make a big change—but which change is the right one?



2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



## The Lost Year

Written by  
Katherine Marsh



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



## Roll for Initiative

Written by  
Jaime Formato



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



## Just a Pinch of Magic

Written by  
Alechia Dow



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

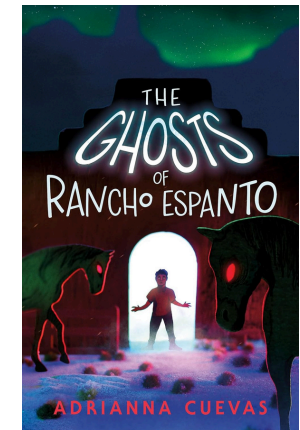
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2026 SASQUATCH  
AWARD NOMINEE



## The Ghosts of Rancho Espanto

Written by  
Adrianna Cuevas



- ☐ I Read It  
☐ I Loved It

My Favorite Part:

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## THE GHOSTS OF RANCHO ESPANTO

Rafa would rather live in the world of The Forgotten Age, his favorite fantasy role-playing game, than face his father's increasing restrictions and his mother's fading presence. But when Rafa and his friends decide to take the game out into the real world and steal their school cafeteria's slushie machine, his dad concocts a punishment Rafa never could've imagined—a month working on a ranch in New Mexico, far away from his friends, their game, and his mom's quesitos in Miami.

Life at Rancho Espanto isn't as bad as Rafa initially expected, mostly due to Jennie, a new friend with similarly strong opinions about Cuban and Korean snacks, and Marcus, the veteran barn manager who's not as gruff as he appears. But when Rafa's work at the ranch is inexplicably sabotaged by a man (or a ghost) who may not be what he seems, Rafa and Jennie explore what's behind the strange events at Rancho Espanto—and discover that the greatest mystery may have been with Rafa all along.

## JUST A PINCH OF MAGIC

Wini's family of enchanters runs a little bakery, but with the prices of magical ingredients skyrocketing, they're going under. Desperate to save her family's business, Wini takes a risk by casting a (sort of illegal) spell that would allow them to gather their own supply of their most needed magical ingredient: Love. But the spell doesn't work. And Wini soon discovers that it didn't just not work, it backfired. Badly. Now the whole town is in danger, and the Enchantment Agency is sniffing around for whoever cast the wayward spell.

It's just been Kal and her dad for as long as she can remember. They've weathered everything together, including Kal's mental health struggles. But just as they're about to move to a new town for a fresh start, Kal's grandfather—who mysteriously vanished years ago—has suddenly reentered their lives with a desire to make amends. He joins them in opening their bookstore in the new town, but Kal can't help but wonder if he has anything to do with the whispers around her new home about wicked magic. And it's not just the whispers of the magical books in their shop.

When Wini and Kal cross paths—both hoping for the chance to finally make a friend without worrying about their family histories following them—the girls bond over being fellow outcasts. Together they search for the solution to fixing the magic gone awry in their beloved town—and just maybe get their dads to go out on a date.

**Includes five recipes!**

## ROLL FOR INITIATIVE

Riley Henderson has never taken a bus to school in her entire life. Or made an afterschool snack, or finished her homework on her own, or—ewww—done her own laundry. That's what her older brother Devin was for.

But now Devin's gone. He's off in California attending a fancy college gaming program while Riley is stuck alone in Florida with her mom. That is, until a cool nerd named Lucy gives Riley no choice but to get over her shyness and fear of rejection and become friends. The best part is . . . both girls are into Dungeons & Dragons. In fact, playing D&D was something Riley and Devin used to do together, with Devin as the dungeon master, guiding Riley through his intricately planned campaigns. So, of course, Riley is more than a little nervous when Lucy suggests that she run a campaign for them. For the chance at a friend, though, she's willing to give it a shot. Soon, their party grows and with the help of her new D&D friends, Riley discovers that not only can she function without Devin, she kind of likes it. She figures out that bus thing, totes the clothes down to the laundry room and sets up her D&D campaigns right there on the slightly suspect folding table, makes her own snacks and dinner—the whole deal. But when Devin runs into trouble with his program and returns home, it's pretty clear, even to Riley, that since he can't navigate his own life, he's going to live Riley's for her. Now she has to help Devin go back to college and prove to her mom that she can take care of herself . . . all before the upcoming Winter-Con.

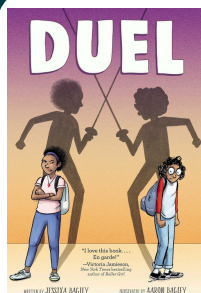
## THE LOST YEAR

Thirteen-year-old Matthew is miserable. His journalist dad is stuck overseas indefinitely, and his mom has moved in his one-hundred-year-old great-grandmother to ride out the pandemic, adding to his stress and isolation.

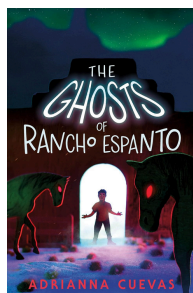
But when Matthew finds a tattered black-and-white photo in his great-grandmother's belongings, he discovers a clue to a hidden chapter of her past, one that will lead to a life-shattering family secret. Set in alternating timelines that connect the present-day to the 1930s and the US to the USSR, Katherine Marsh's latest novel sheds fresh light on the Holodomor – the horrific famine that killed millions of Ukrainians, and which the Soviet government covered up for decades.



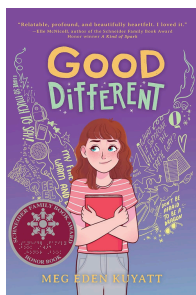
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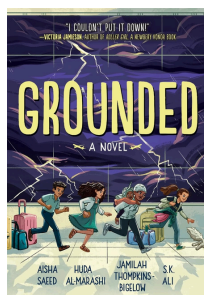
Duel  
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Aaron Bagley



The Ghosts of  
Rancho Espanto  
By Adrianna Cuevas



Good Different  
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Grounded  
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Huda Al-Marashi,  
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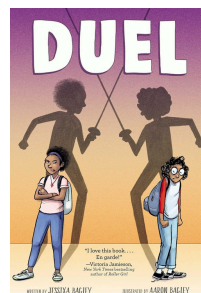
Legends of Lotus  
Island: The  
Guardian Test  
By Christina  
Soontornvat



Just a Pinch of Magic  
by Alechia Dow



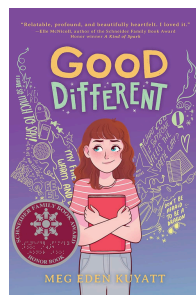
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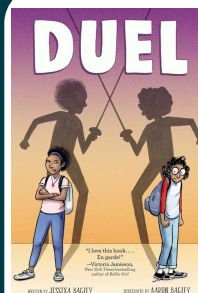
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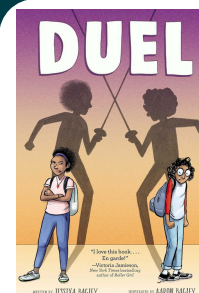
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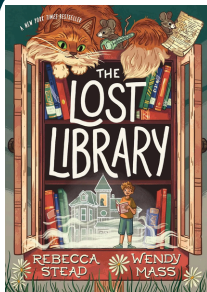


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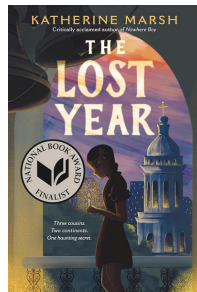




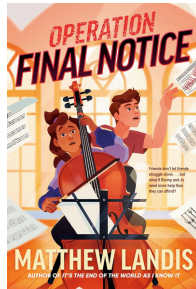
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Wendy Mass



The Lost Year  
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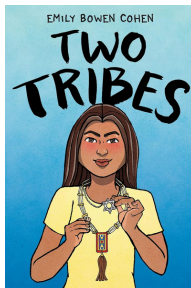
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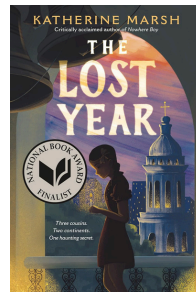
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Cohen



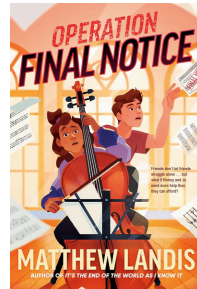
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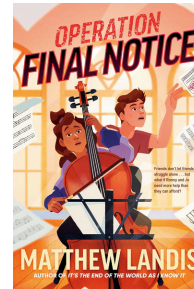
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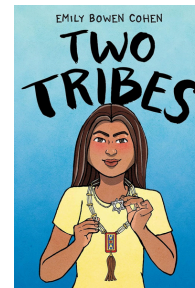
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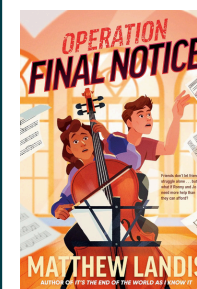
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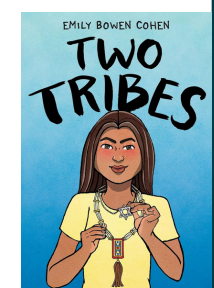
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