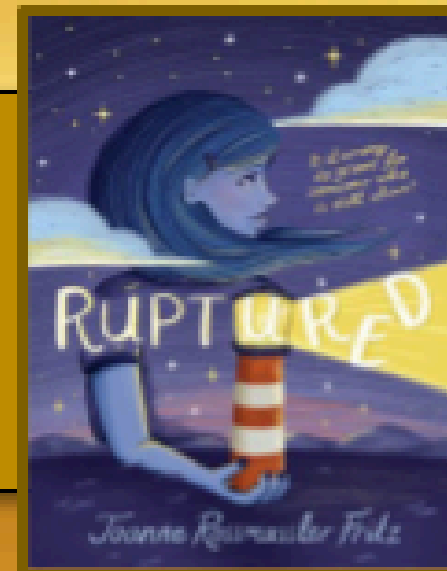
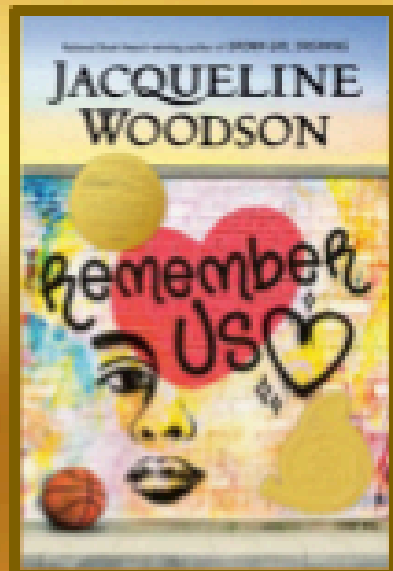
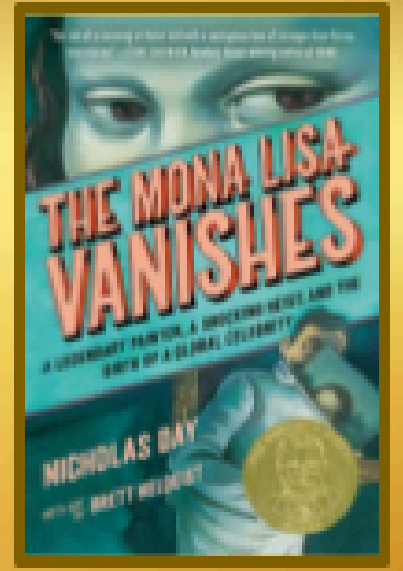
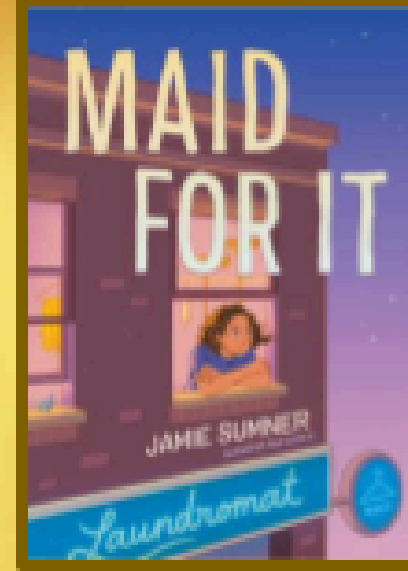
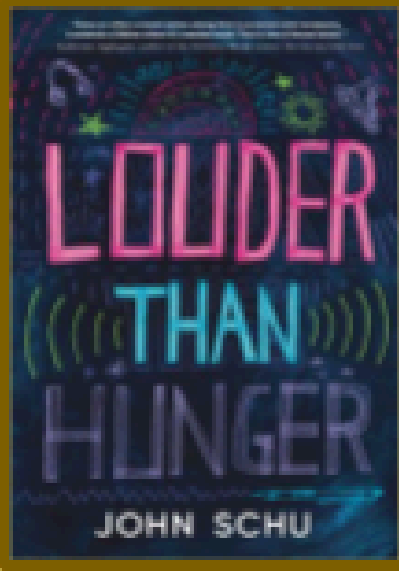
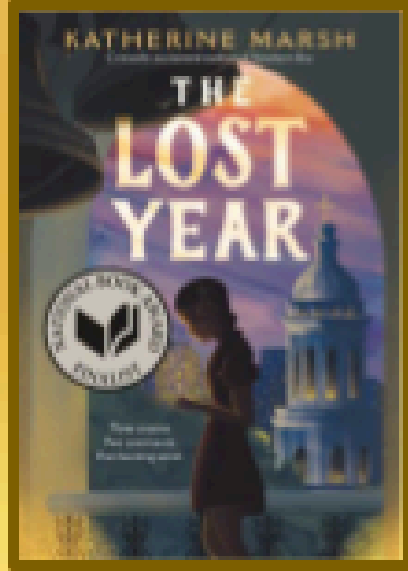
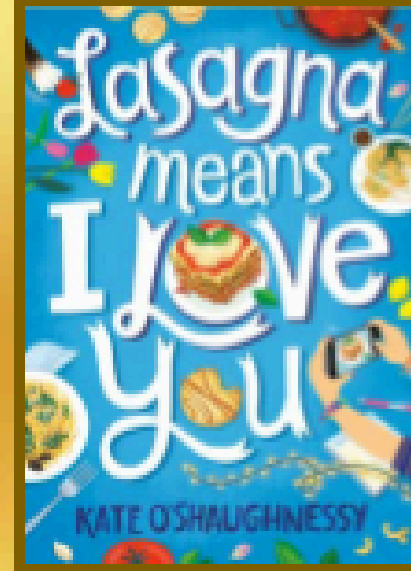
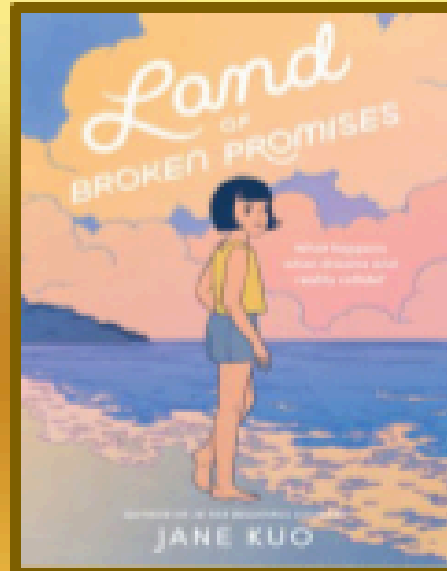
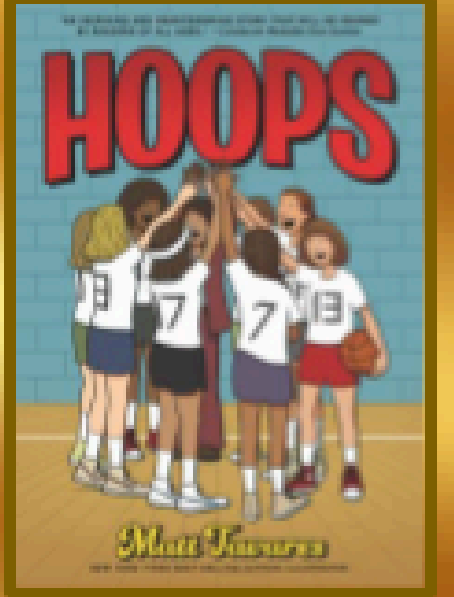
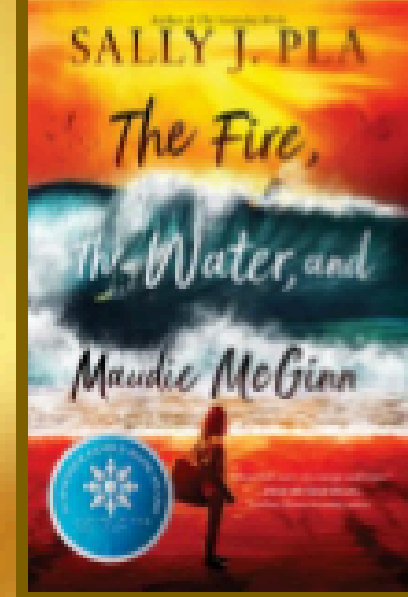
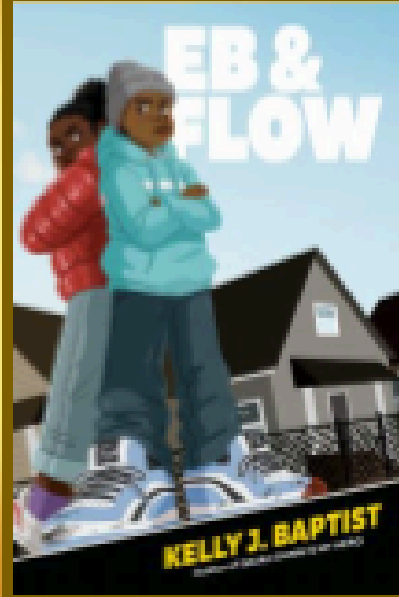
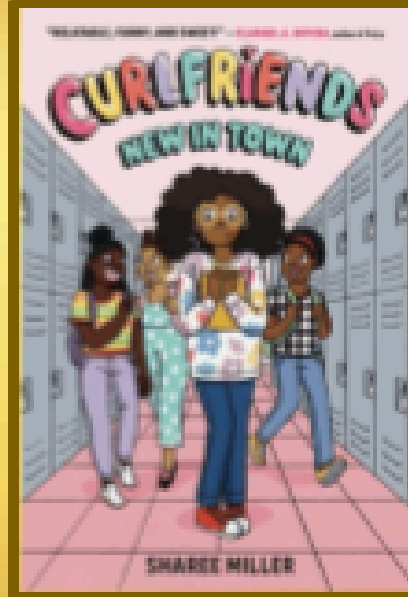
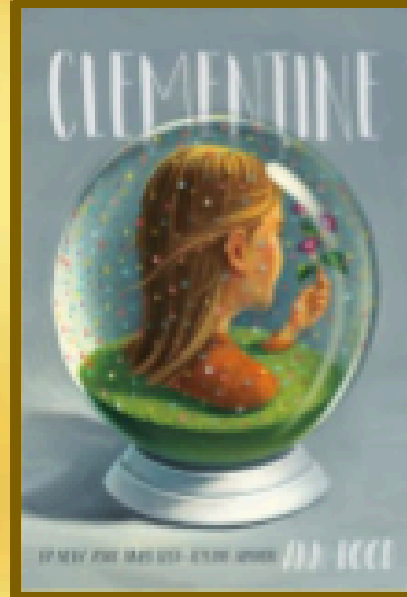
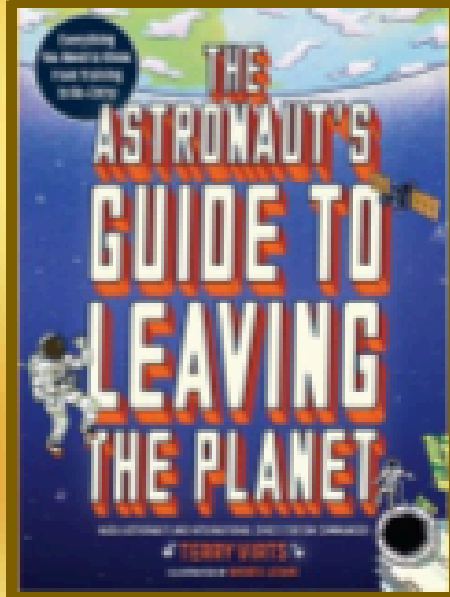
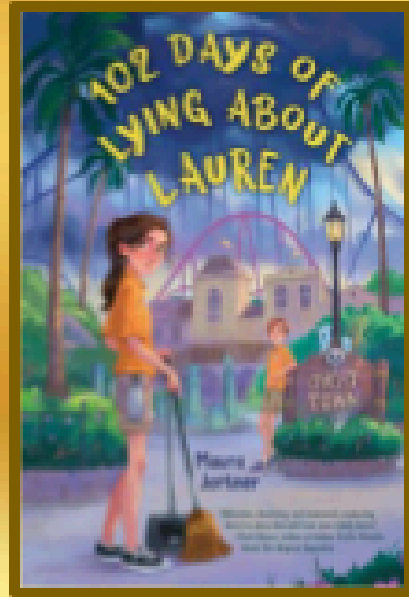
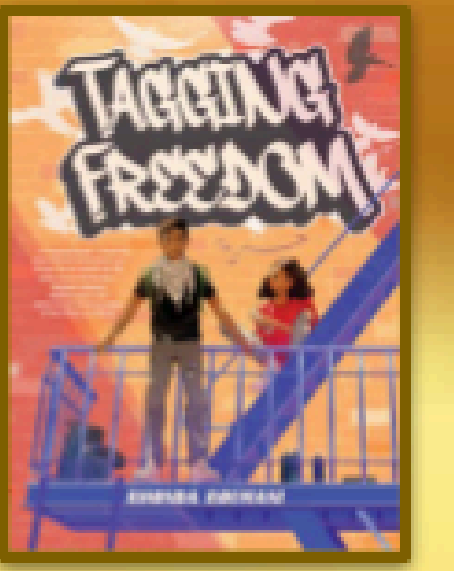
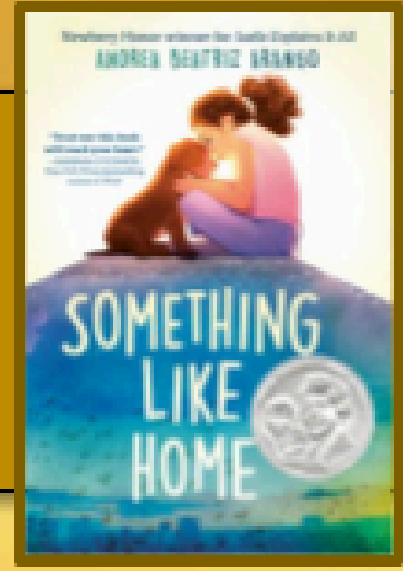


2025-26 SOUTH CAROLINA JUNIOR BOOK AWARD NOMINEES



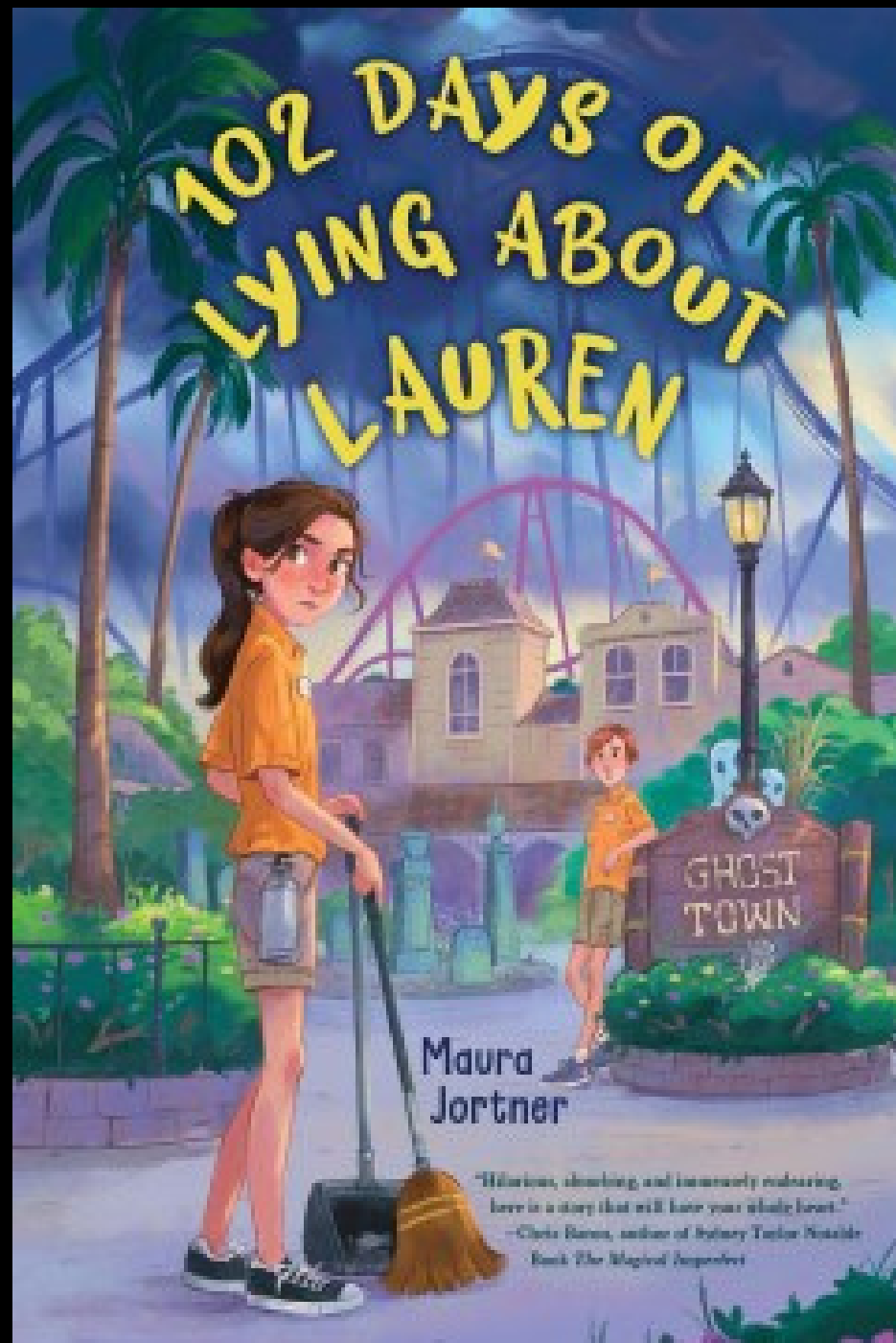


2025-26 South Carolina Junior Book Award Nominees



102 Days of Lying About Lauren

by Moira Joiner

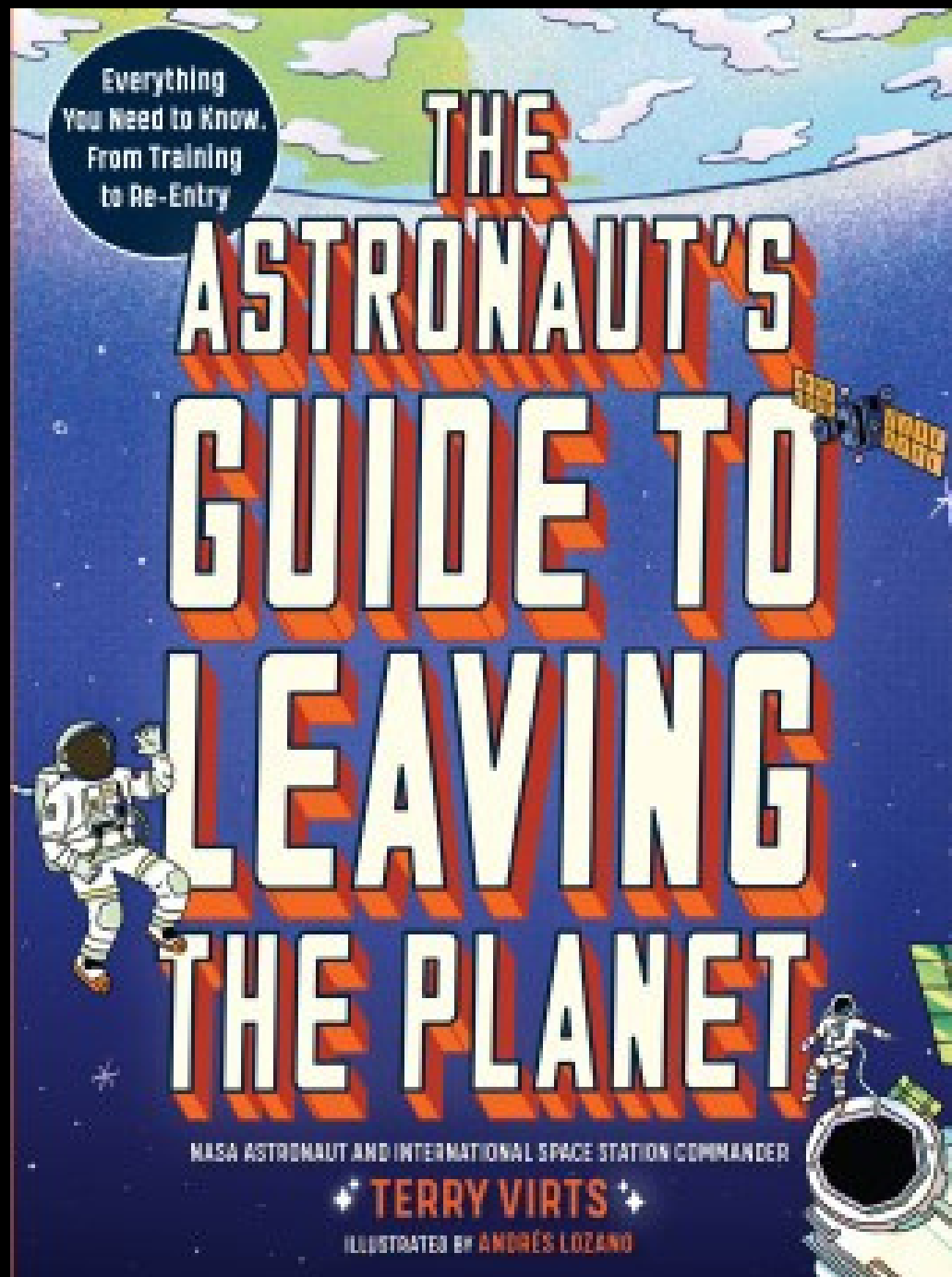


After being abandoned by her mother in a most unusual place, a defiant heroine sticks to her plan for staying hidden—even though getting caught could mean saving her life.

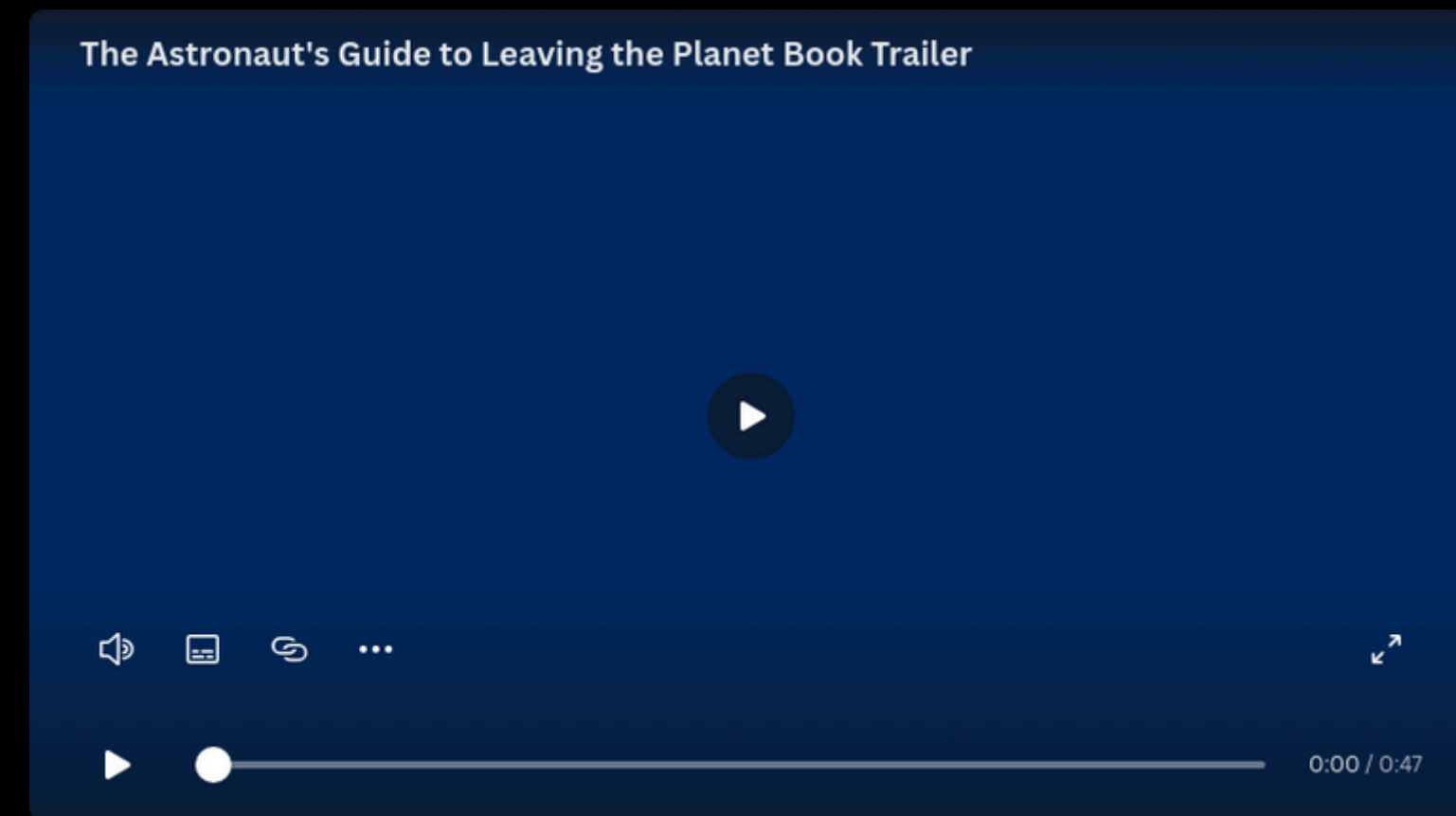


The Astronaut's Guide To Leaving the Planet

by Terry Virts

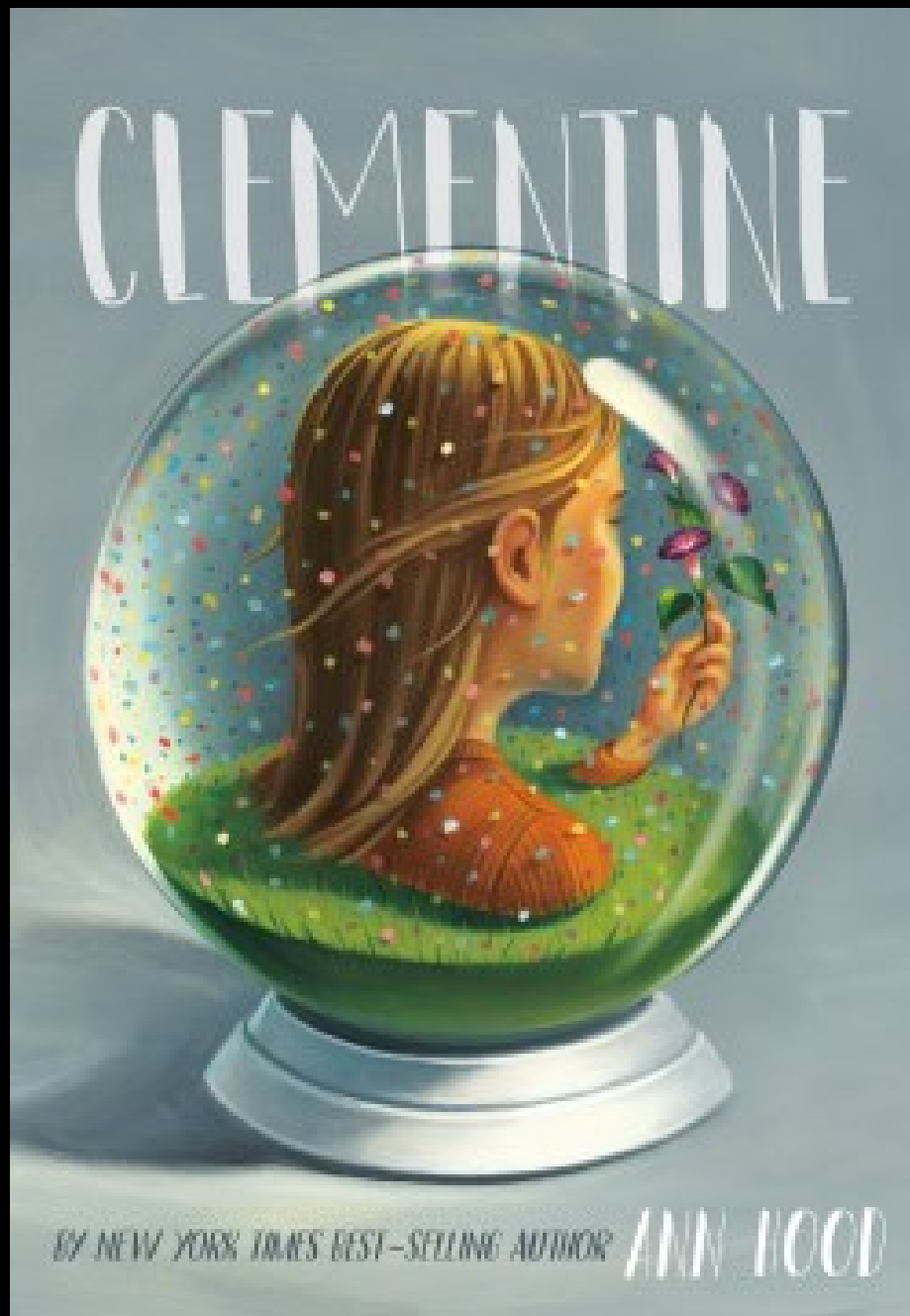


A kid's guide to leaving the planet from someone who's done it! Former astronaut Terry Virts guides readers through the practical elements of becoming an astronaut, along with the wonders (and challenges!) of space travel.

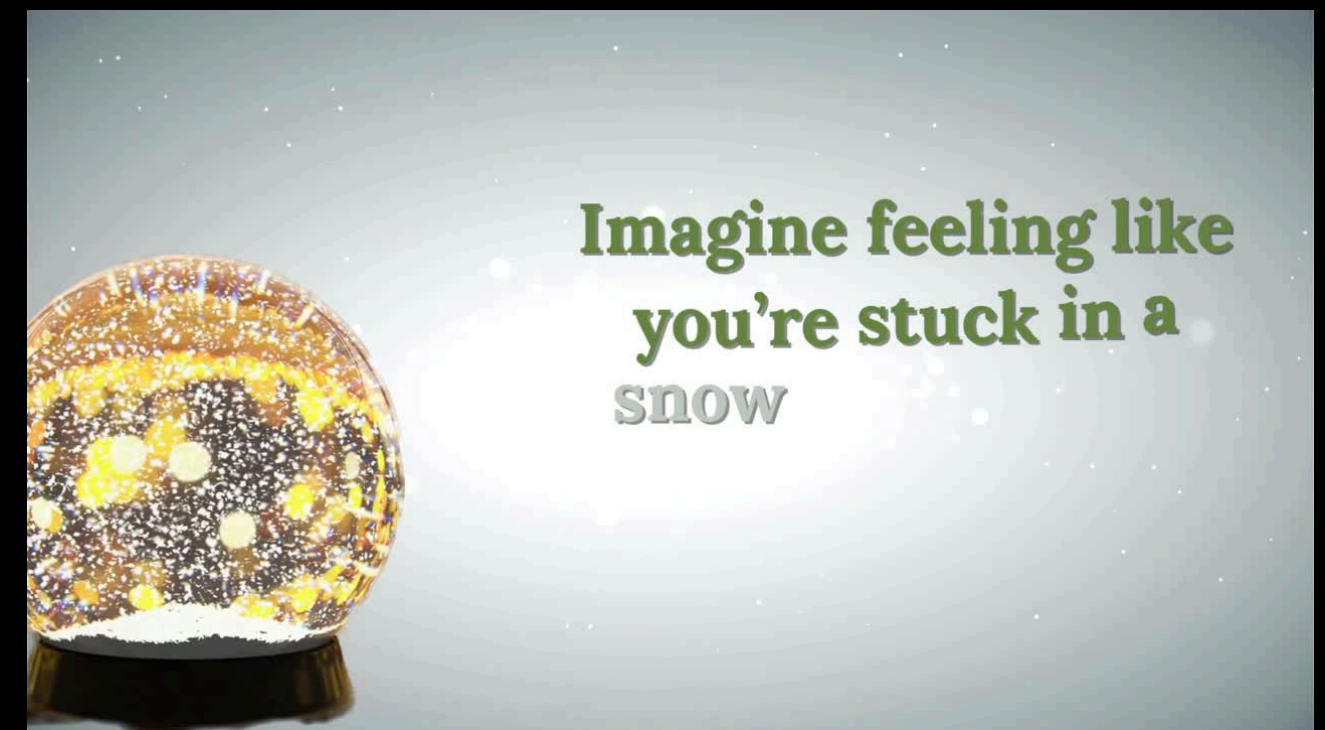


Clementine

by Ann Hood

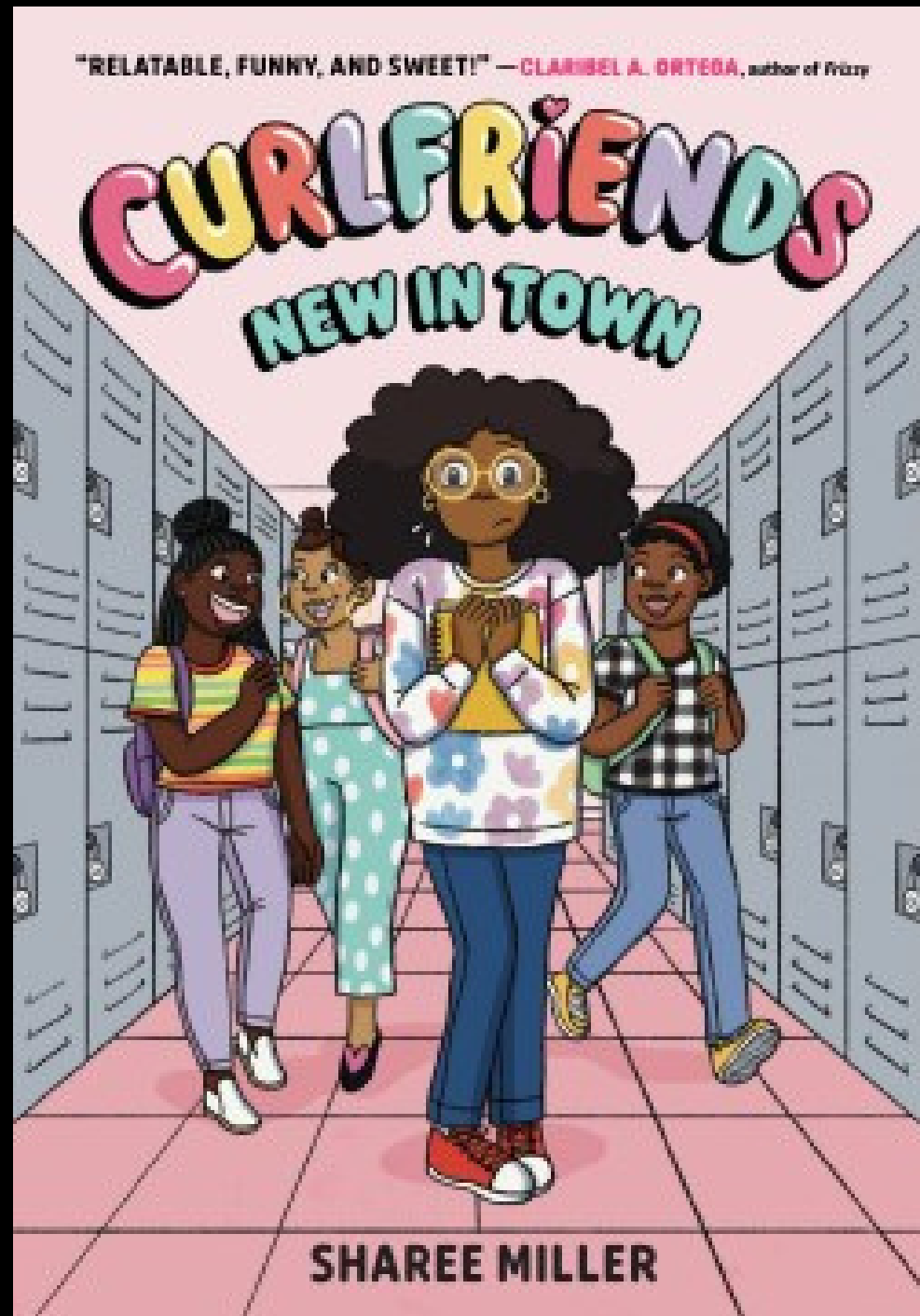


Two years after her sister's tragic death, fourteen-year-old Clementine still struggles with overwhelming guilt and grief and feels disconnected from the world around her

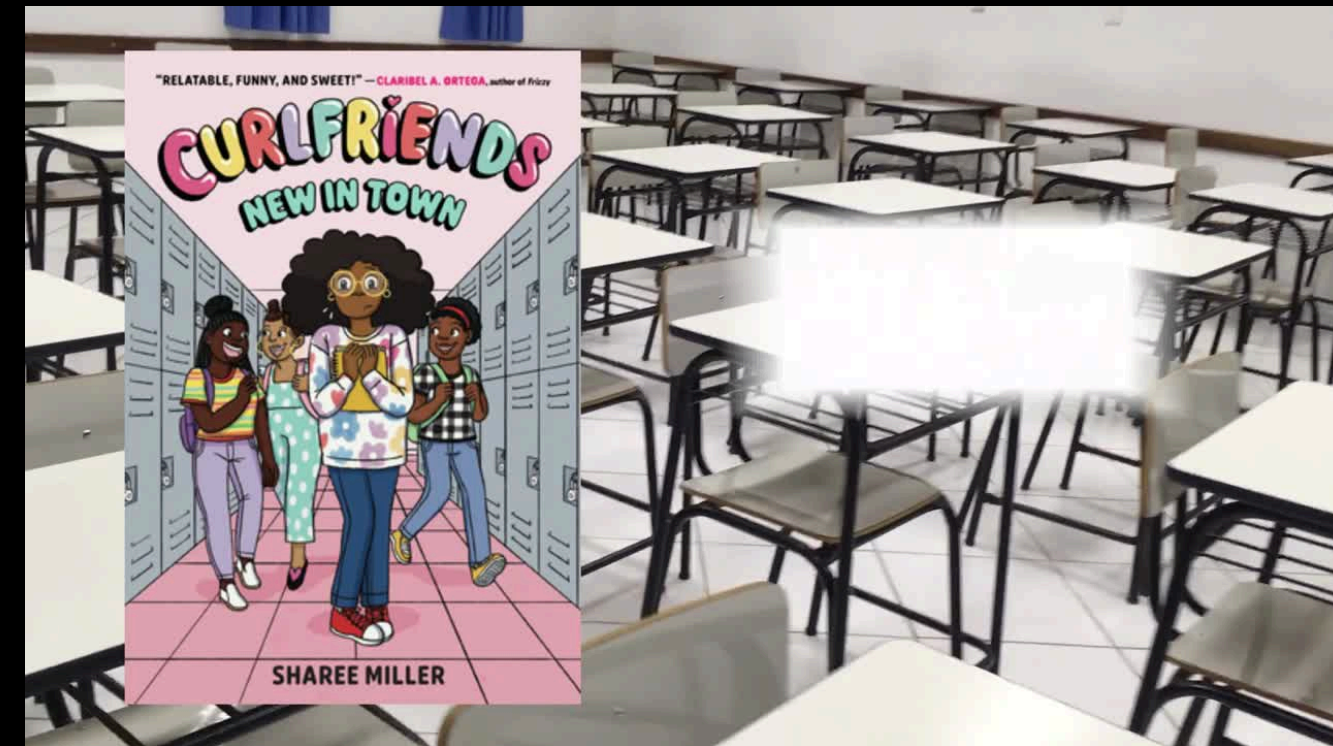


Curlfriends

by Sharee Miller

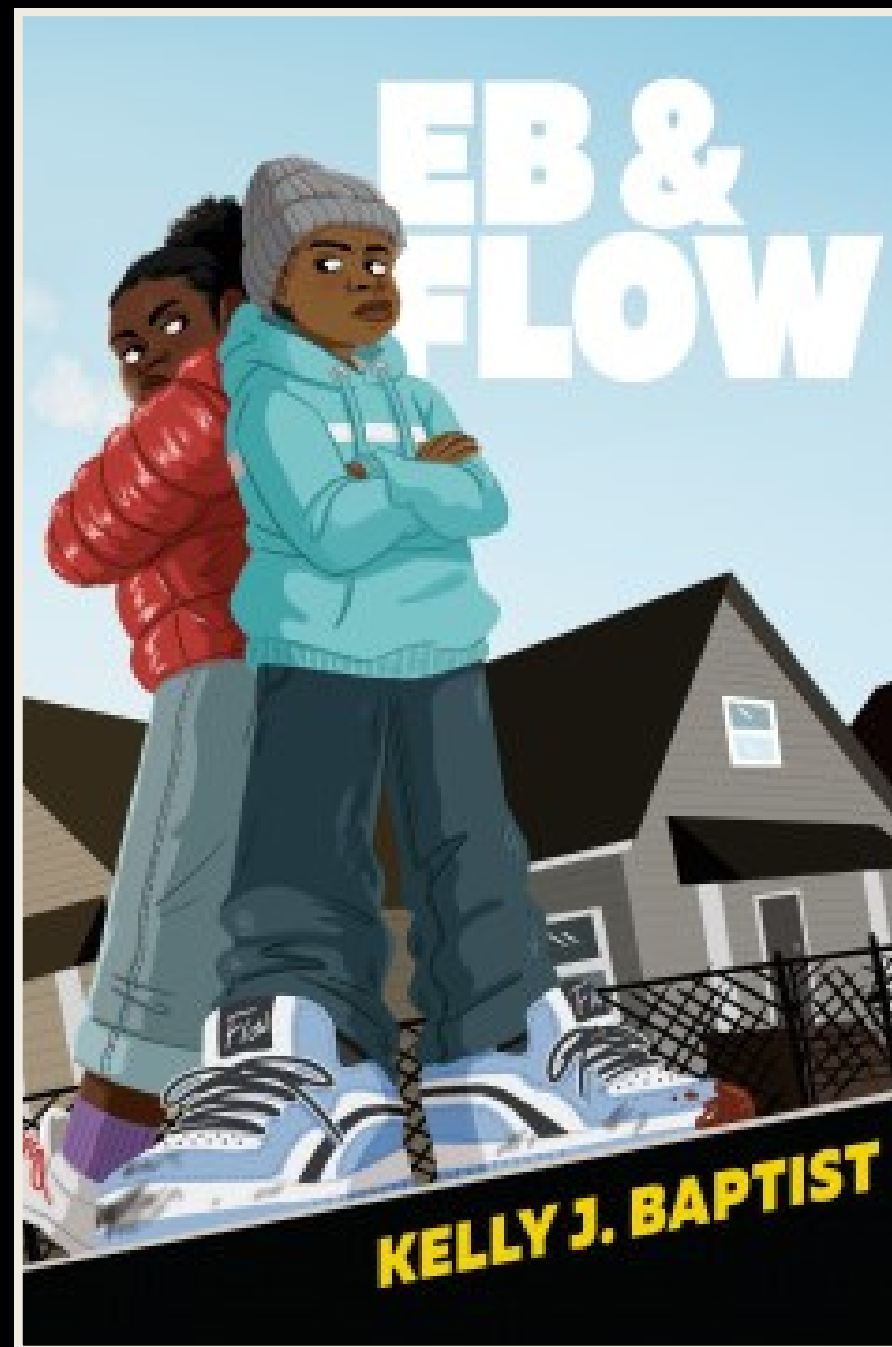


Starting a new middle school, Charlie learns that being her true self is the best way to make lasting friendships when she meets the Curlfriends, a group of Black girls who couldn't be more different from each other.



Eb & Flow

by Kelly J. Baptiste

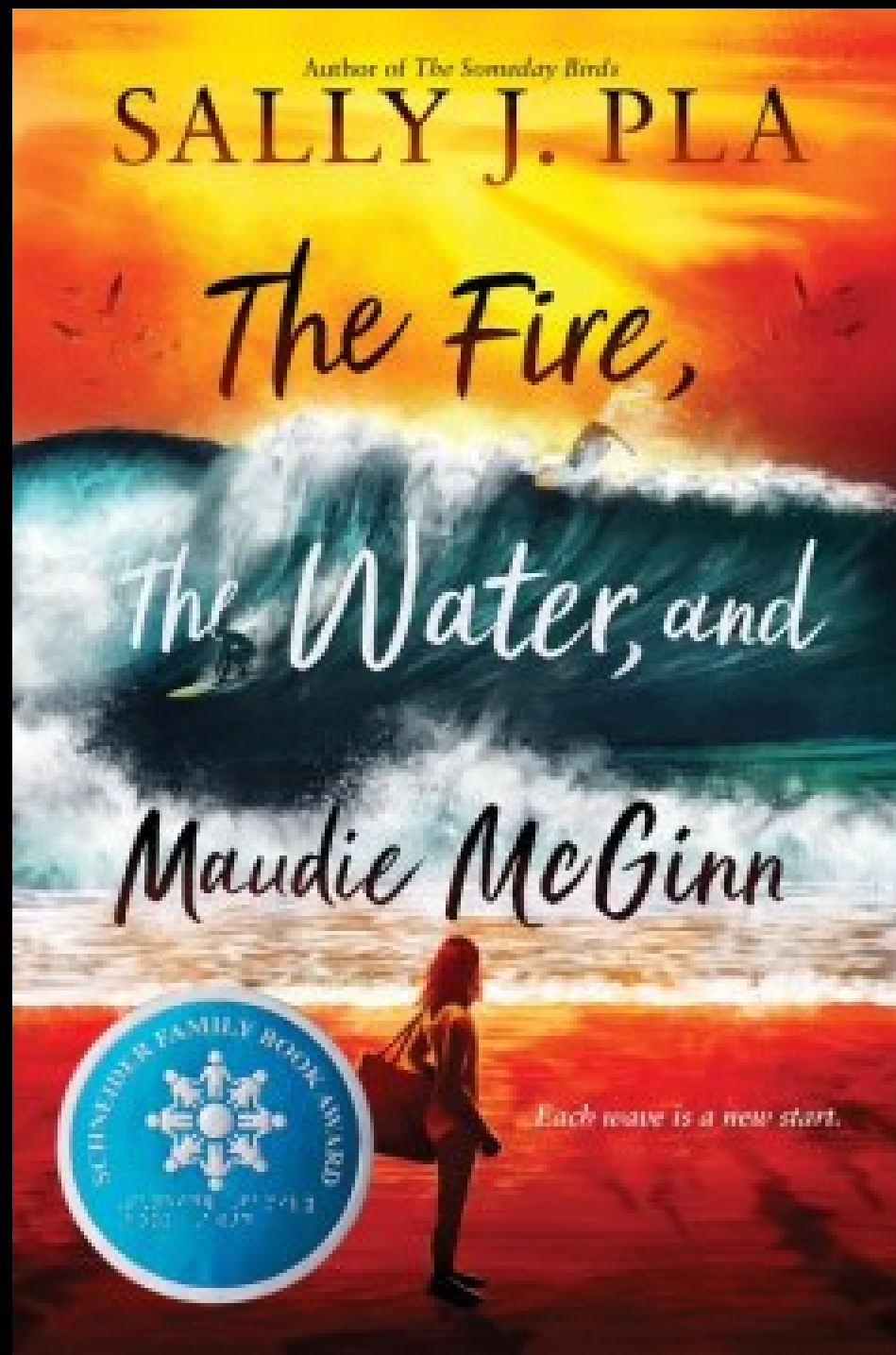


In this emotional novel-in-verse, tweens De’Kari and Ebony are suspended after a fight for ten days, during which they learn to see the world with a fresh perspective.



The Fire, The Water, and Maudie McGinn

by Sally J. Pla



Follows thirteen-year-old neurodivergent Maudie during an eventful summer in California with her father, where she struggles with whether to share a terrible secret about life with her mom and stepdad.

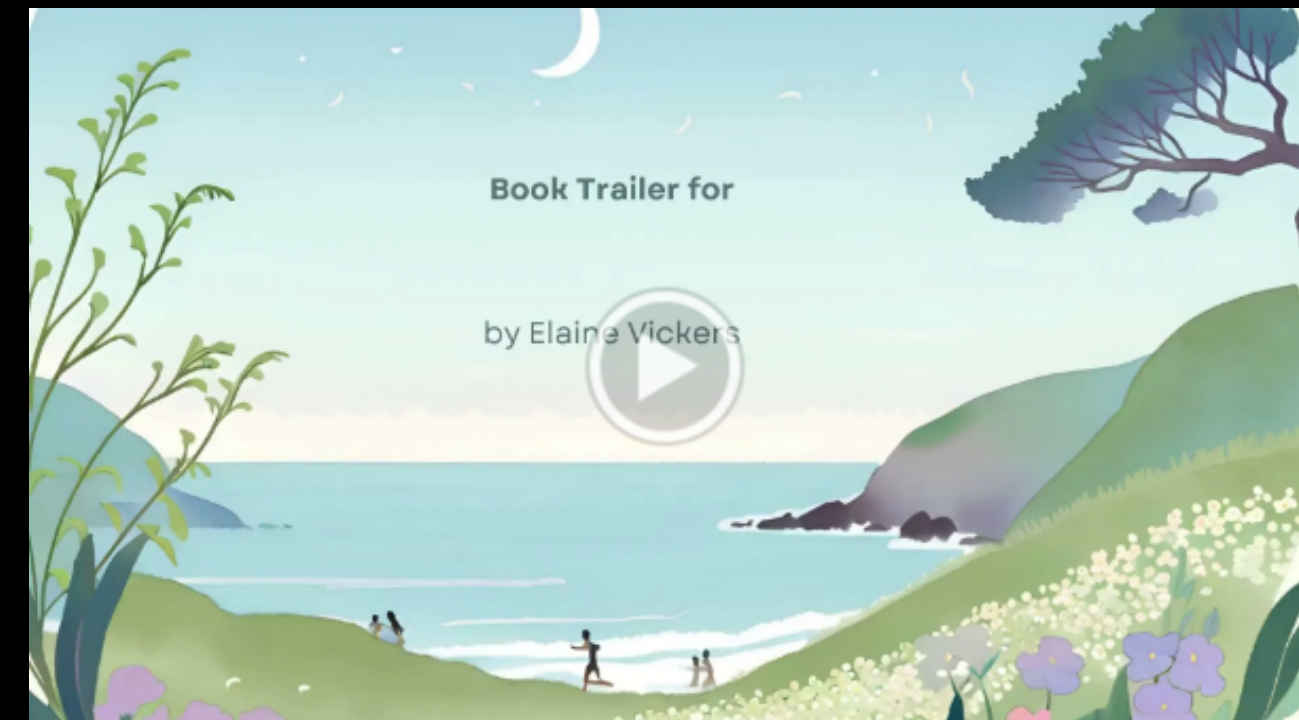


Half Moon Summer

by Elaine Vickers



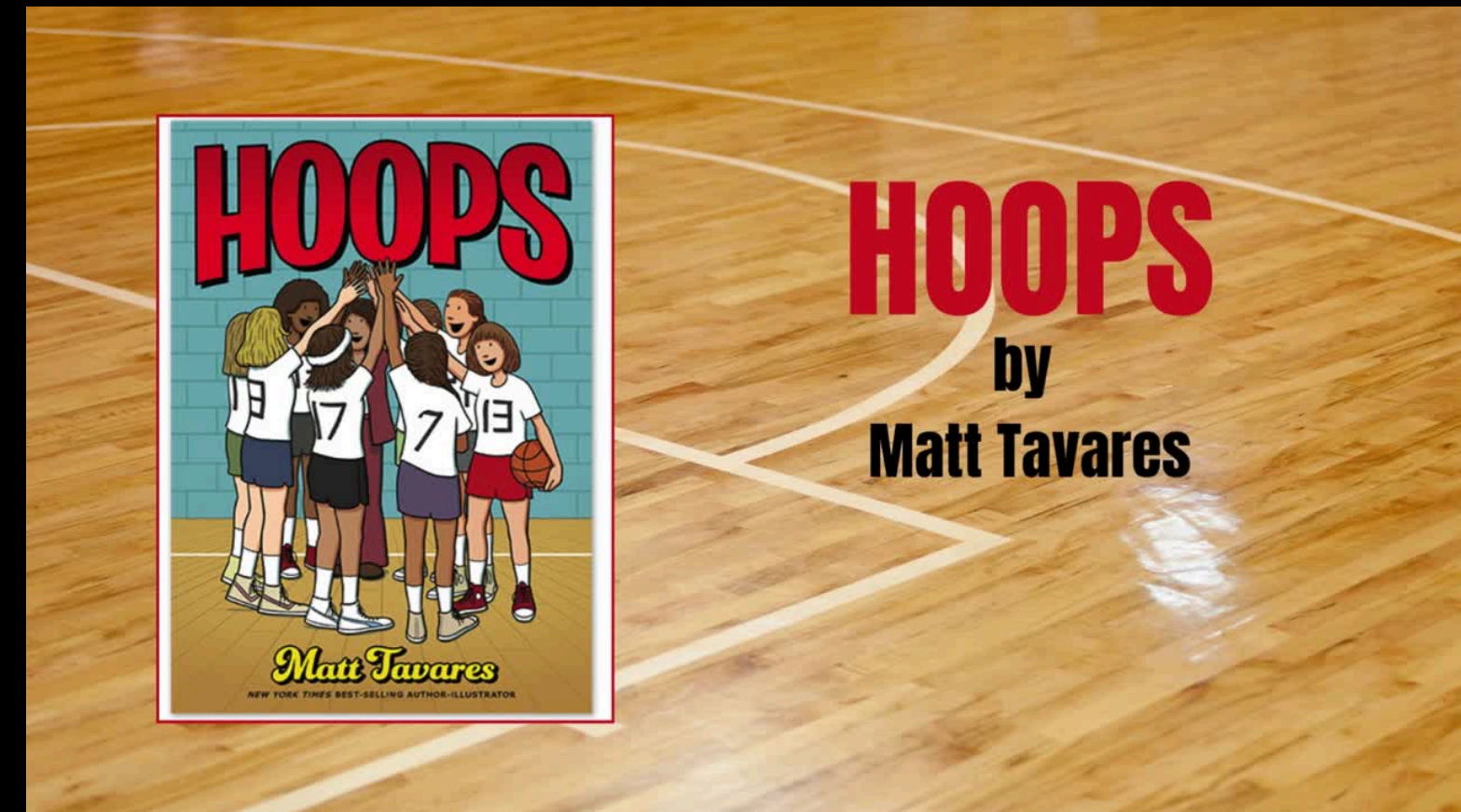
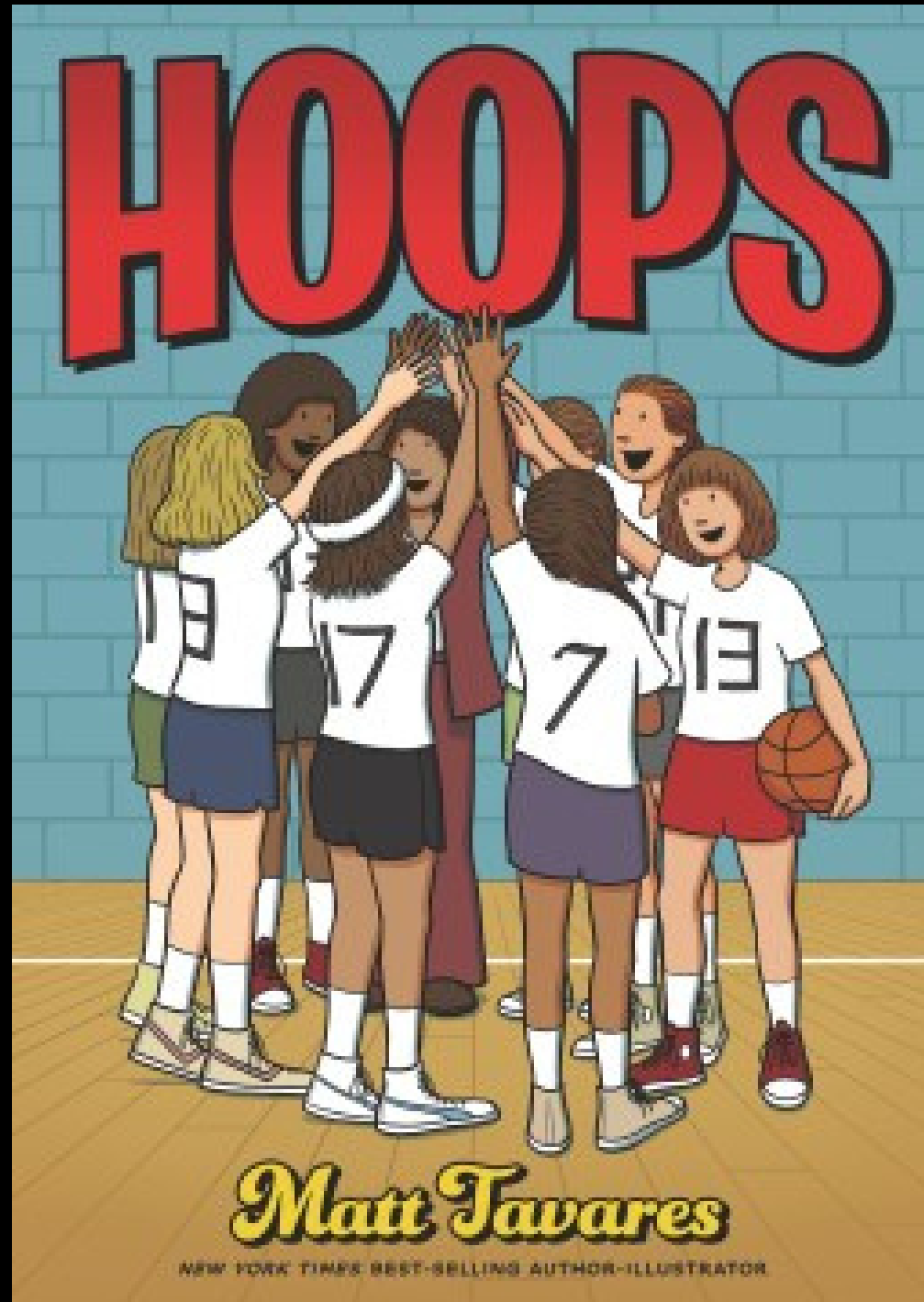
Deciding to spend their entire summer training for a half-marathon, 12-year-olds Drew and Mia, who have very different reasons for running, discover they have one crucial thing in common: hope for the future, for their families and for each other.



Hoops

by Matt Tavares

Inspired by a true story, this graphic novel about the ongoing battle of women striving for equality in sports follows the Wilkins Regional High School girls' basketball team in 1975 Indiana, as they push through to improbable victory after improbable victory despite their disadvantages.

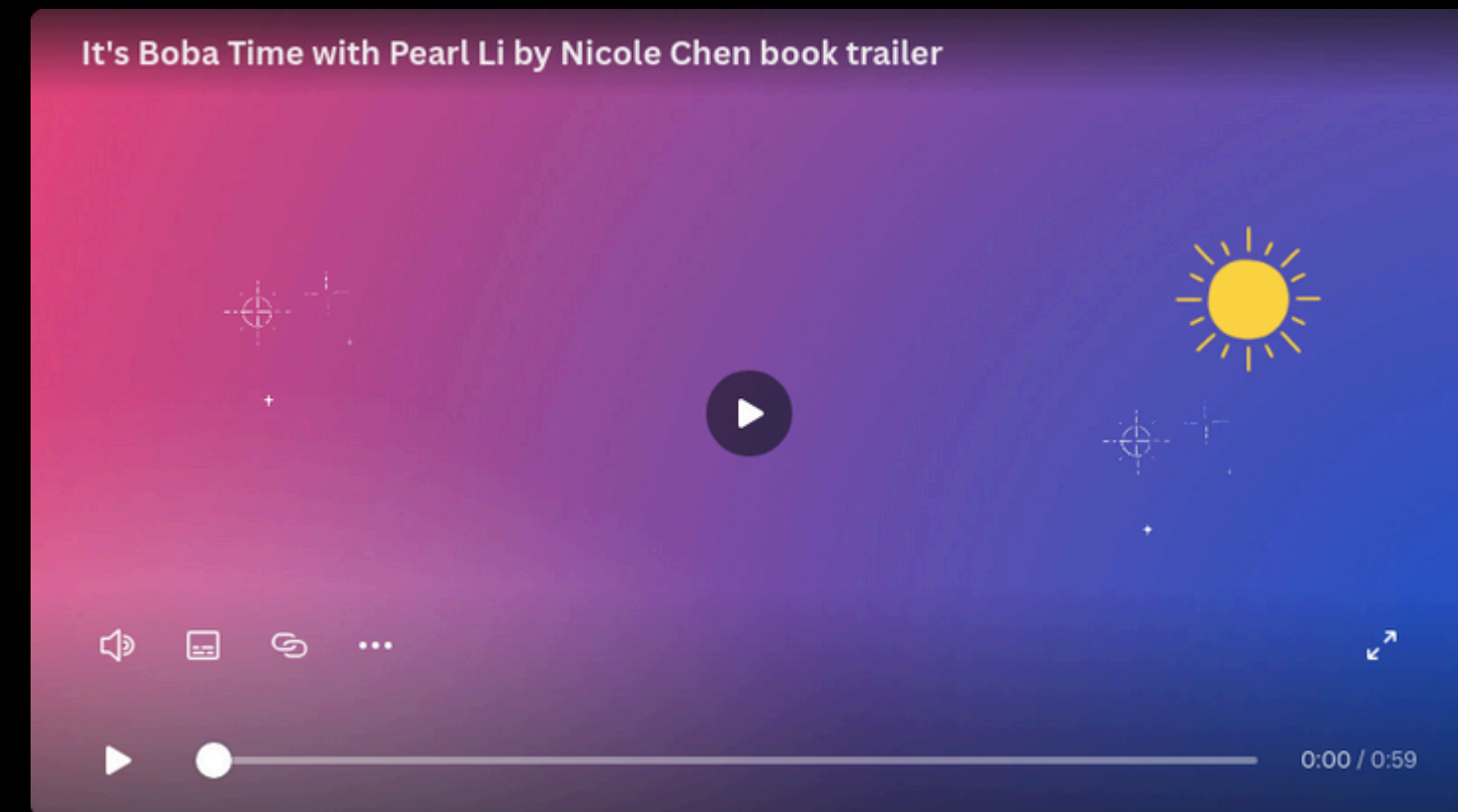


It's Bob Time For Pearl Li

by Nicole Chen

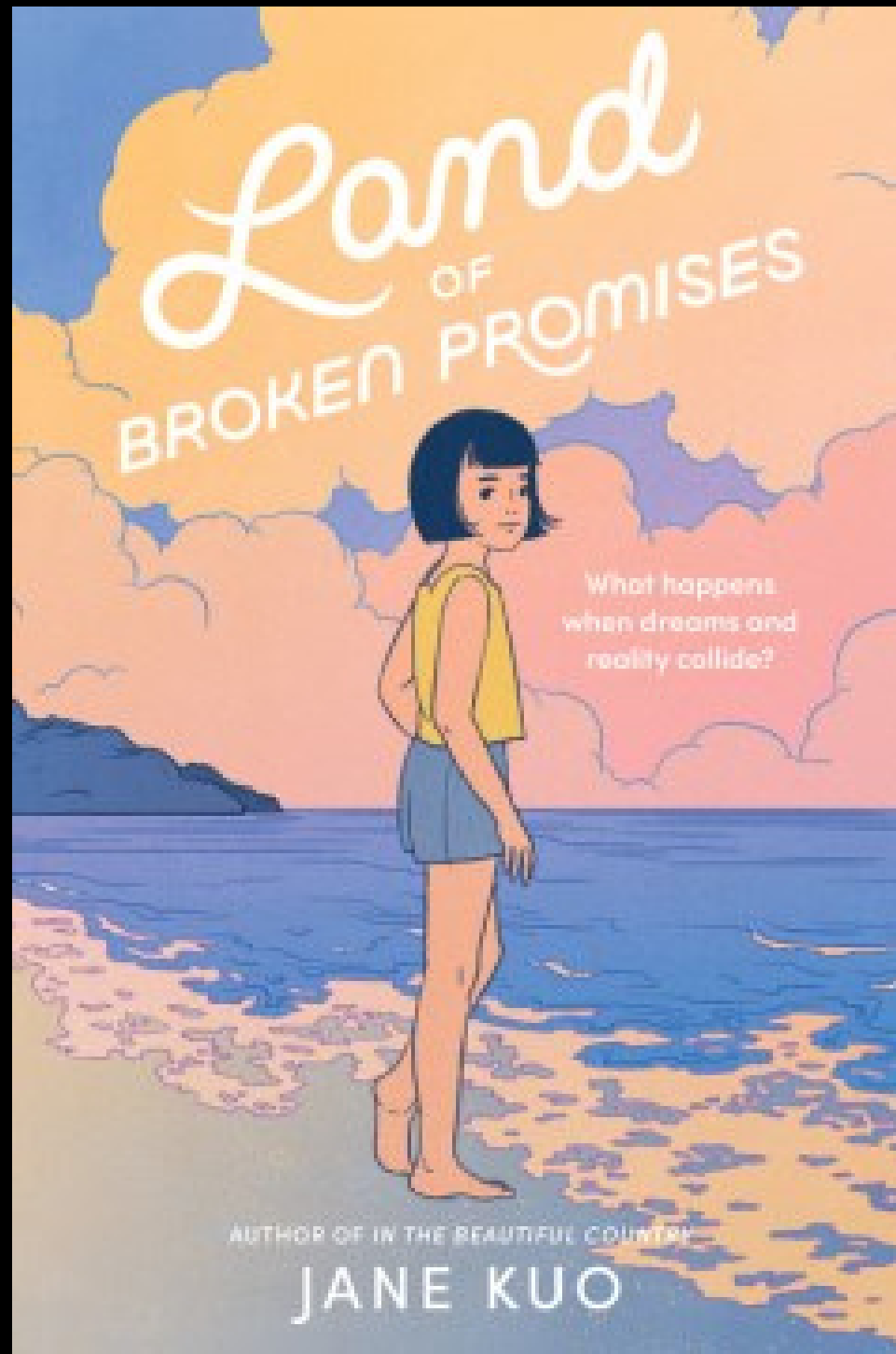


To save her favorite tea shop from closing, a big-hearted Taiwanese American girl with a passion for crochet decides to sell her amigurumi creations to raise money for the shop, which becomes more complicated than she could have ever imagined.



Land of Broken Promises

by Jane Kuo

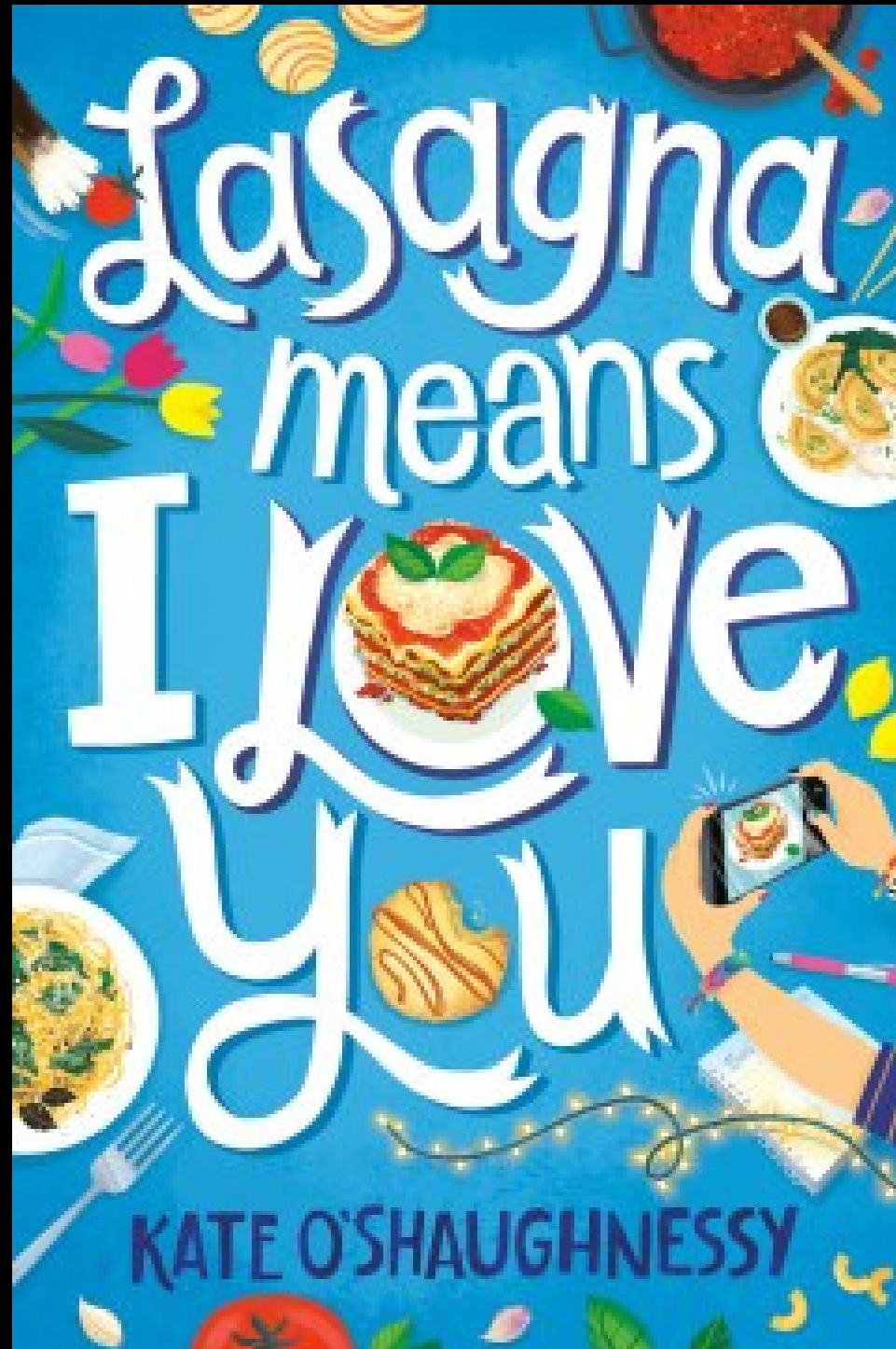


After a rocky first year, Anna's family have settled into life in California--their small restaurant is even turning a profit. Then her parents make a shattering discovery: their visas have expired. Anna's world is quickly overwhelmed by unfamiliar words like "undocumented" and "inequality."



Lasagna Means I Love You

by Kate O'Shaughnessy

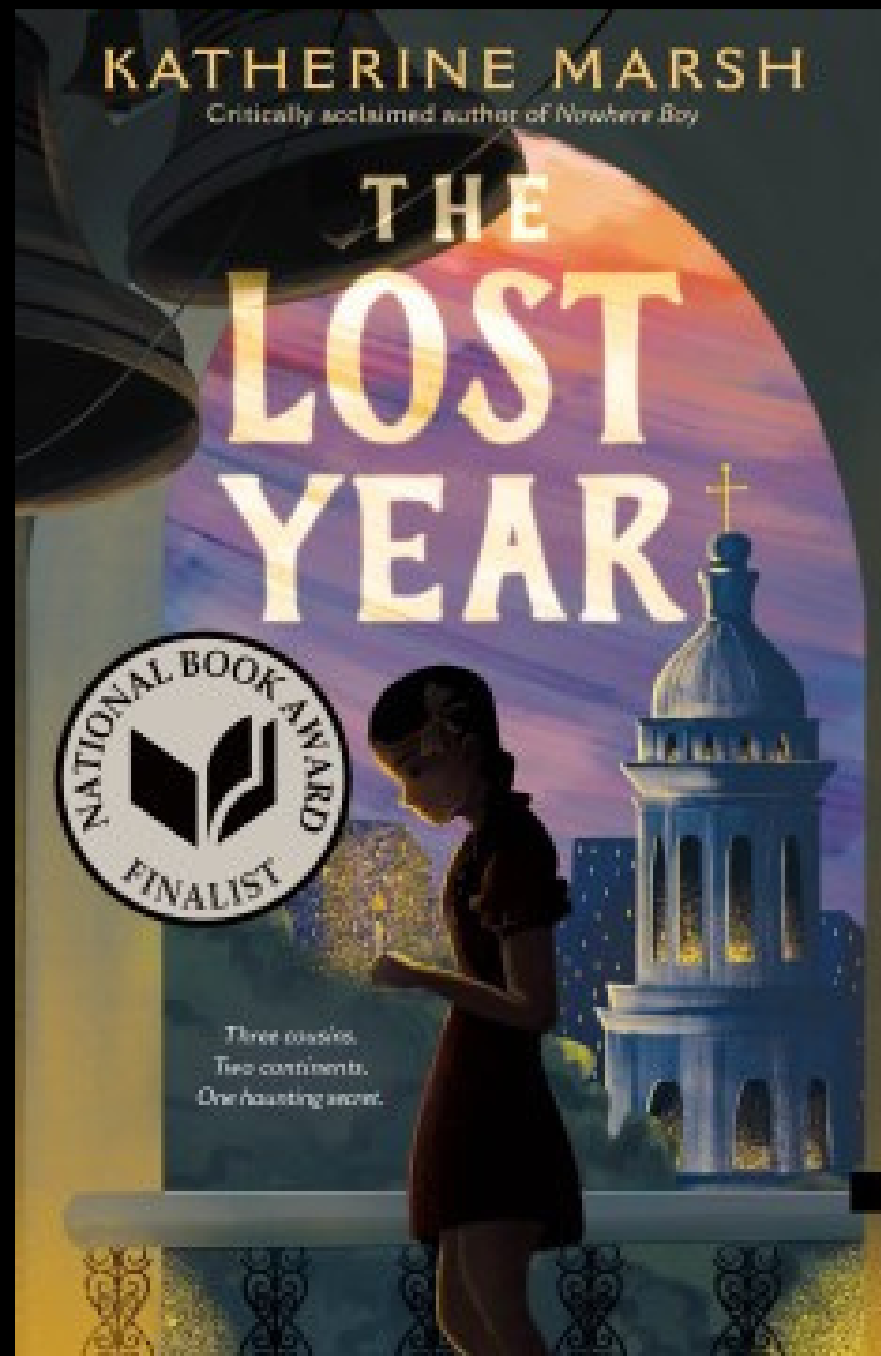


When 11-year-old foster kid Mo finds a handmade cookbook filled with someone else's family recipes, she collects the stories behind them and builds a website to share them, secretly hoping a long-lost relative will find her and give her a family recipe all her own.



The Lost Year

by Katherine Marsh



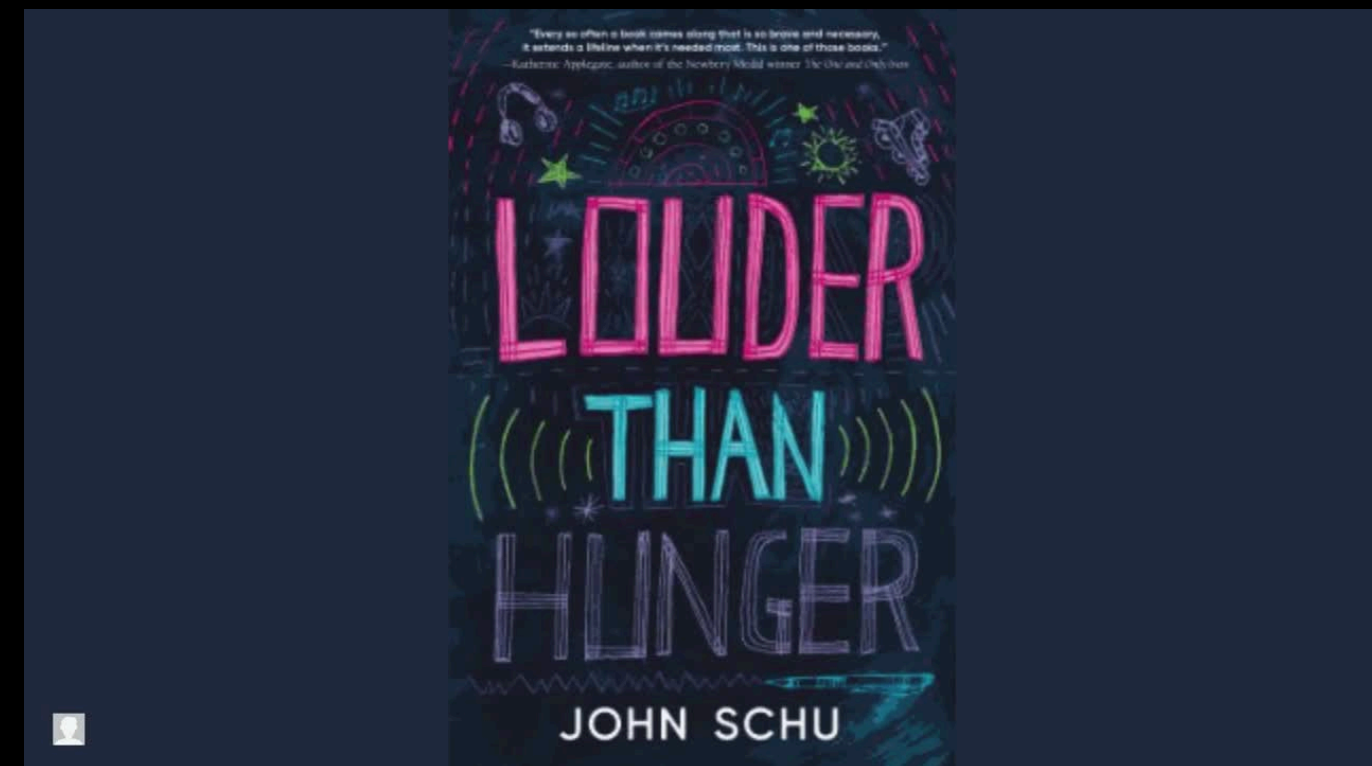
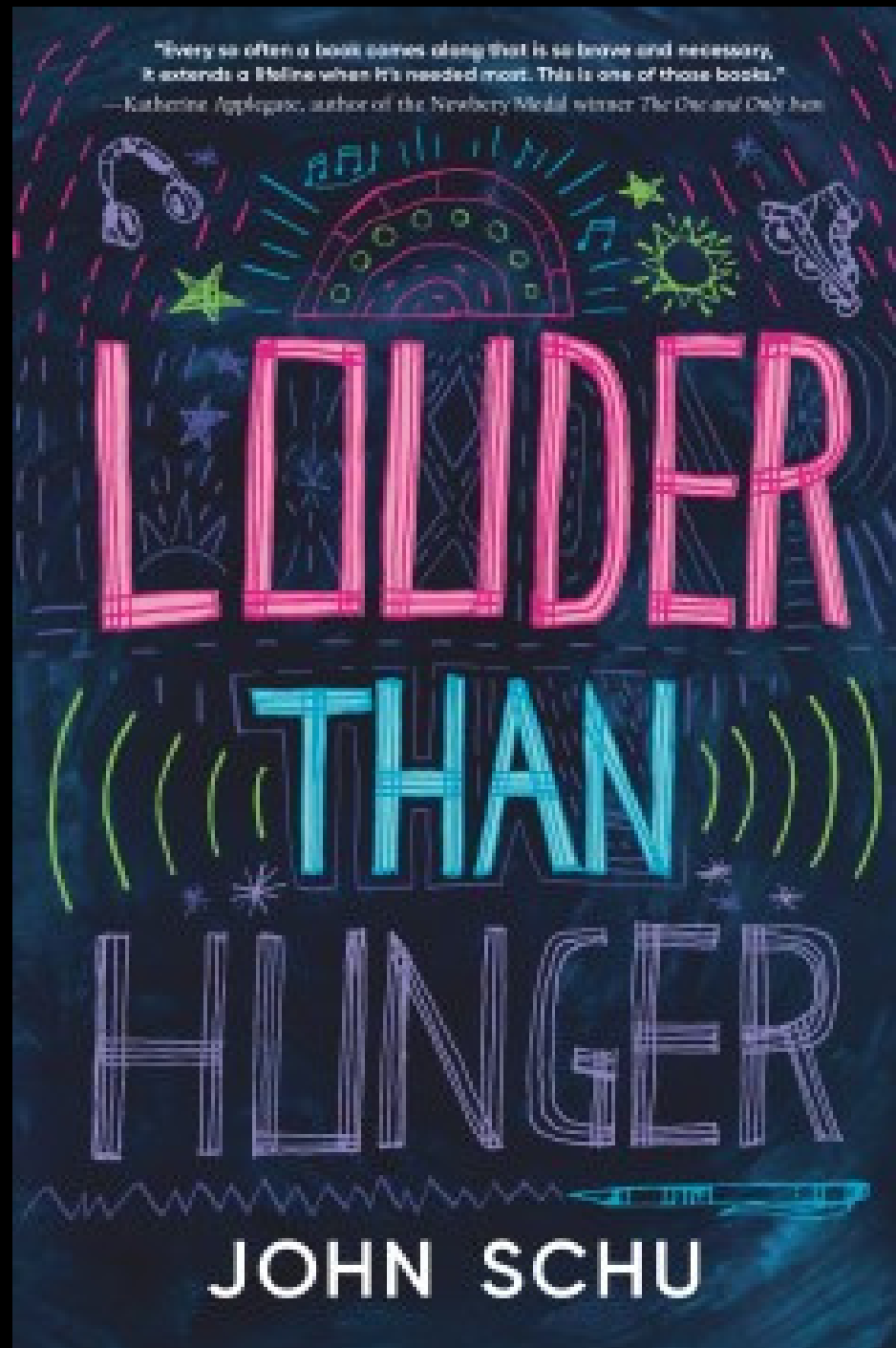
When his great-grandmother comes to stay with them during the pandemic, 13-year-old Matthew discovers a photo in her belongings that reveals a life-shattering family secret, in this brilliant survival story set in alternating timelines that connects the present day to 1930s Soviet Ukraine.



Louder Than Hunger

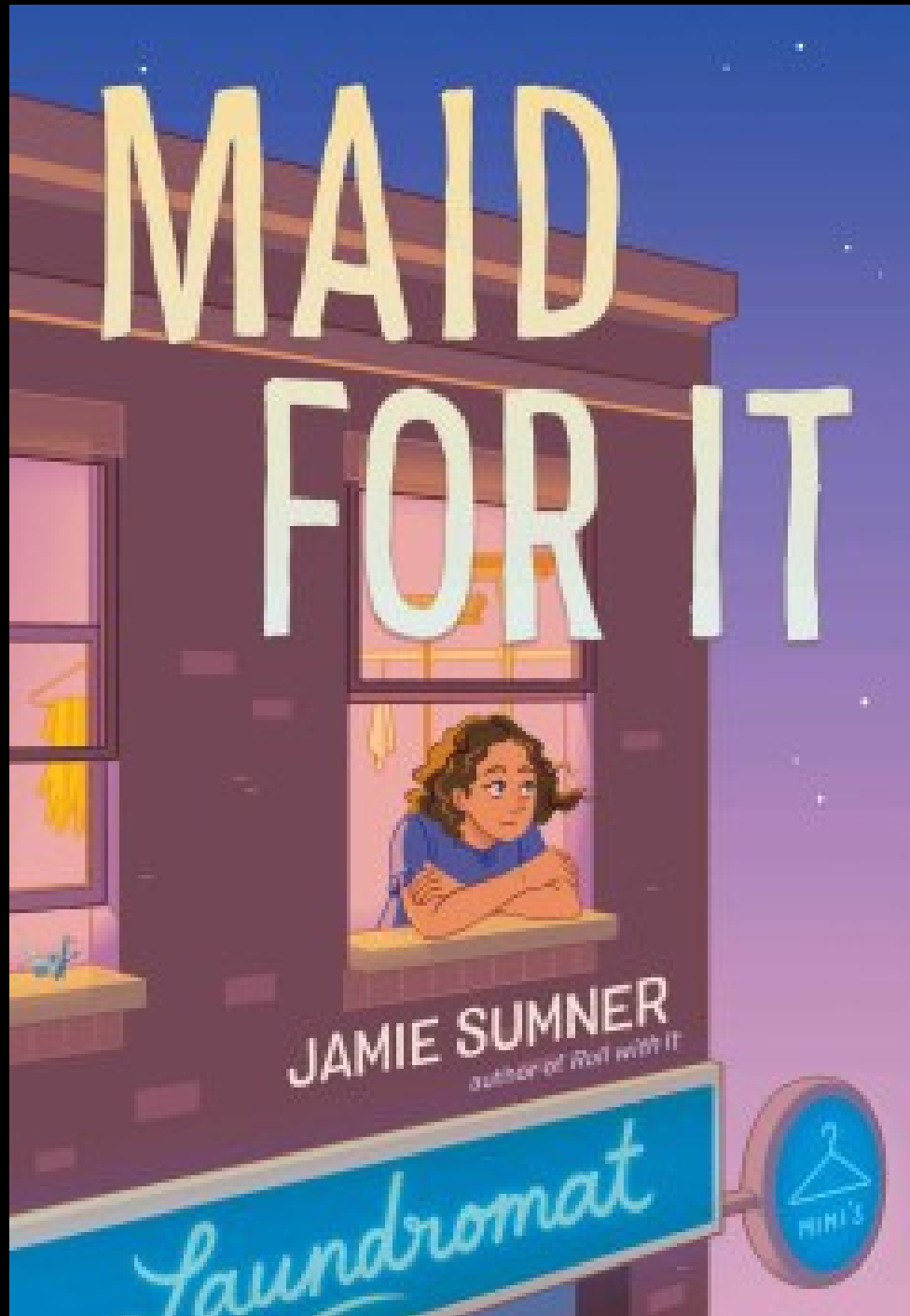
by John Schu

Even though he likes helping people, Jake, who avoids kids his own age, mirrors and food, must help himself when the destructive voices inside get to be too much, in this raw and transformative novel-in-verse about managing and articulating pain, and embracing self-acceptance, support and love.



Maid for It

by Jamie Sumner

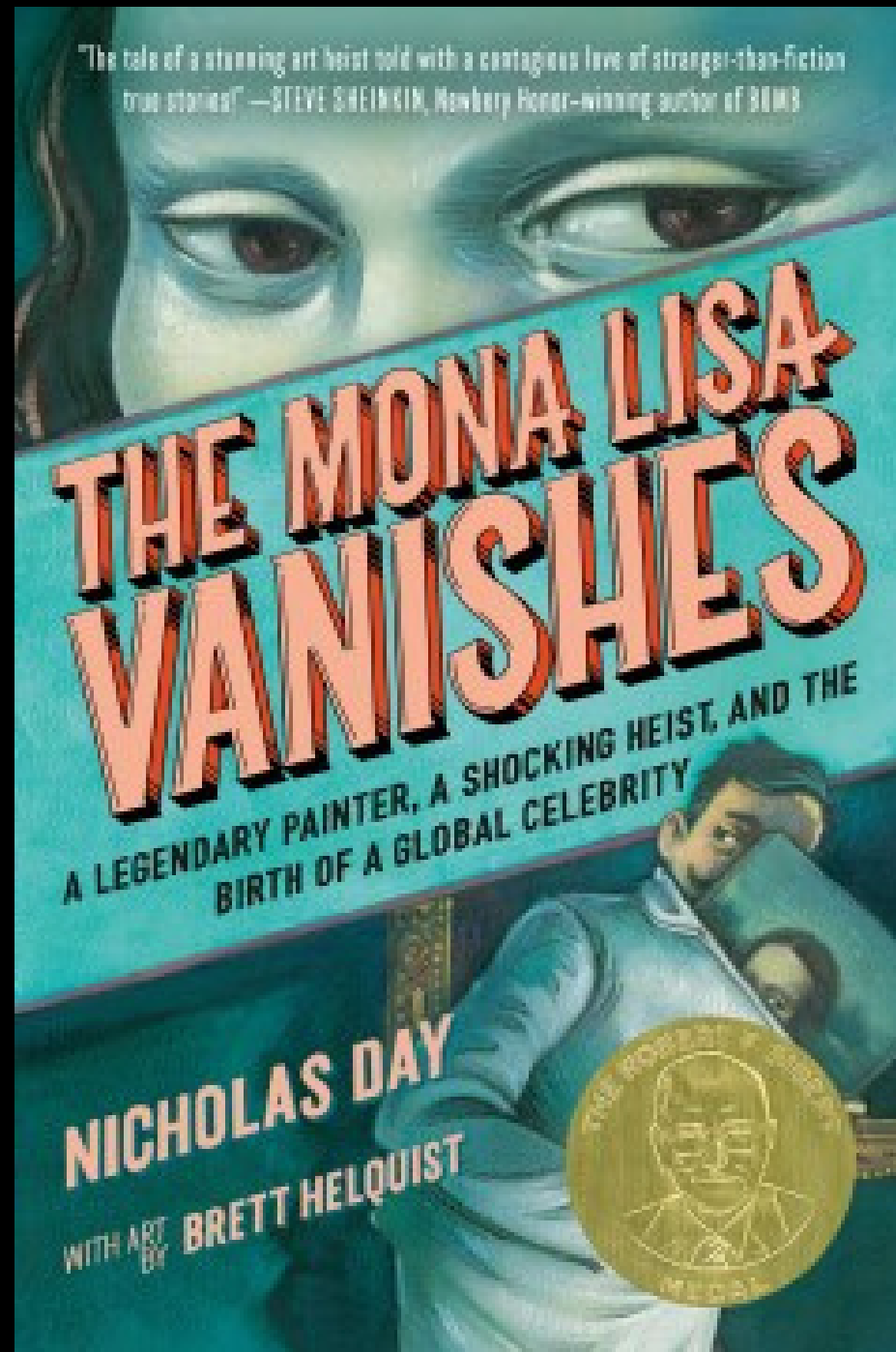


When her newly sober mom gets injured in a car accident and is unable to work, Franny, determined not to let addiction win again, blackmails a school rival to help her clean houses to pay the bills and keep her family afloat.

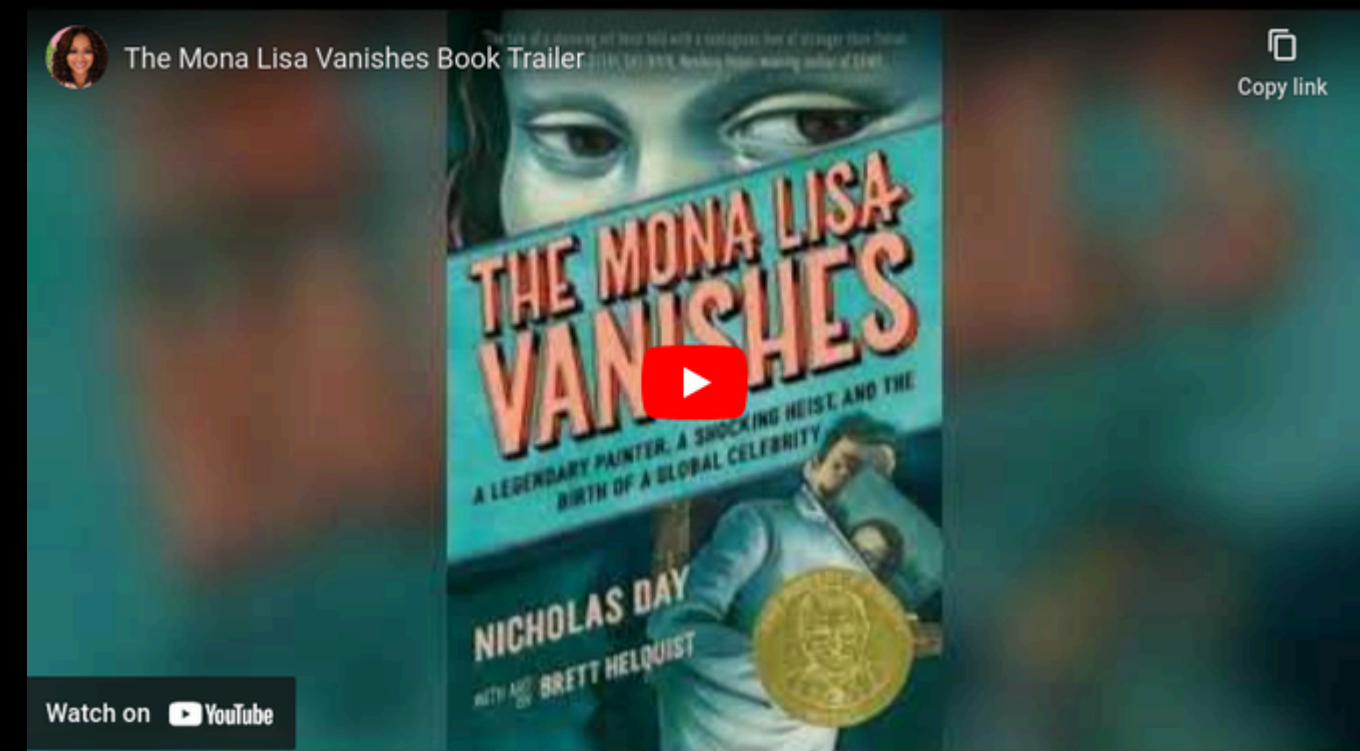


The Mona Lisa Vanishes

by Nicholas Day

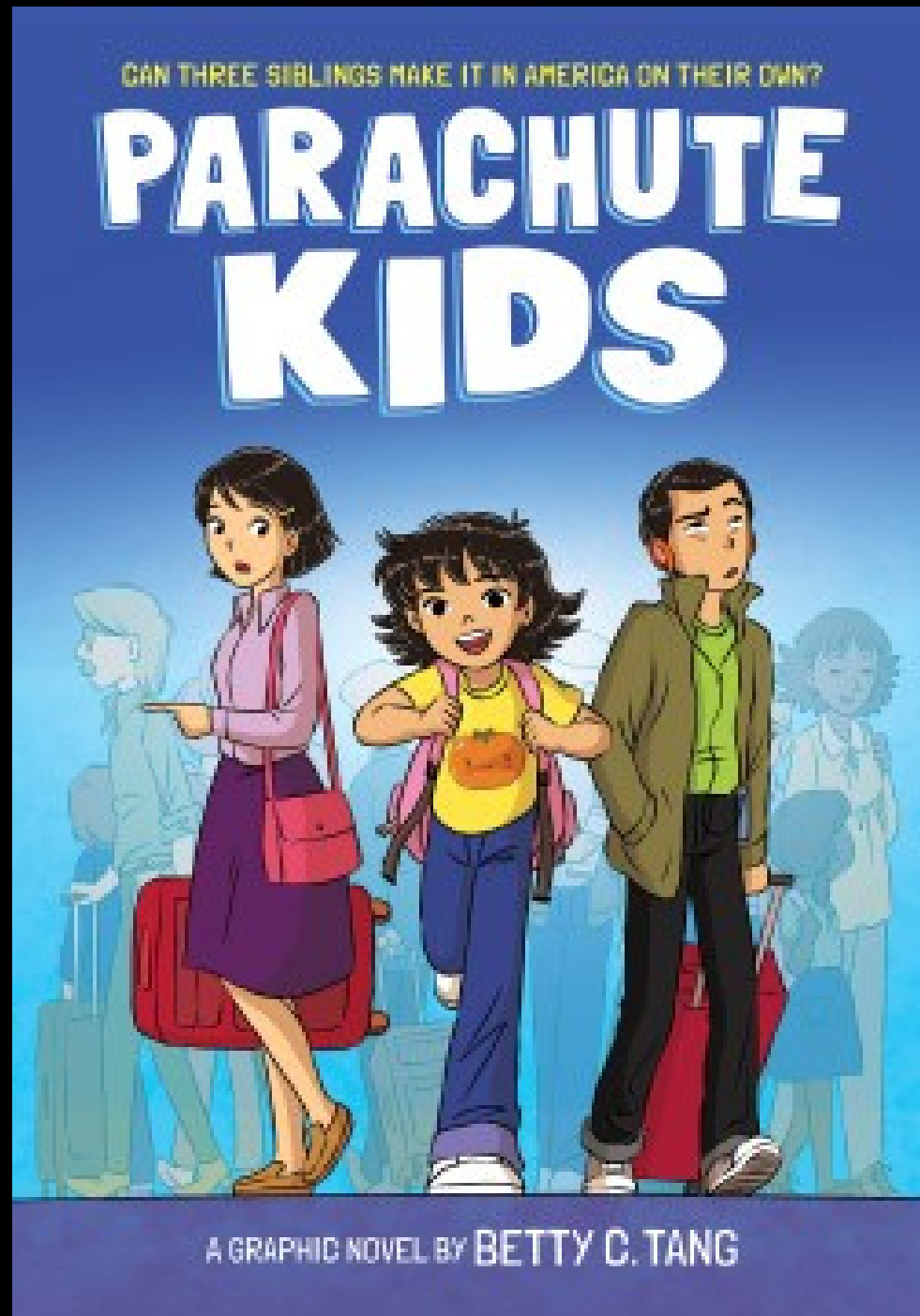


Description: Transporting readers back to turn-of-the-century Paris where they will bear witness to the heist of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre, which made it the most famous artwork in the world, this nonfiction thriller is shot through with stories of crime and celebrity, genius and beauty.



Parachute Kids

by Betty C. Tang

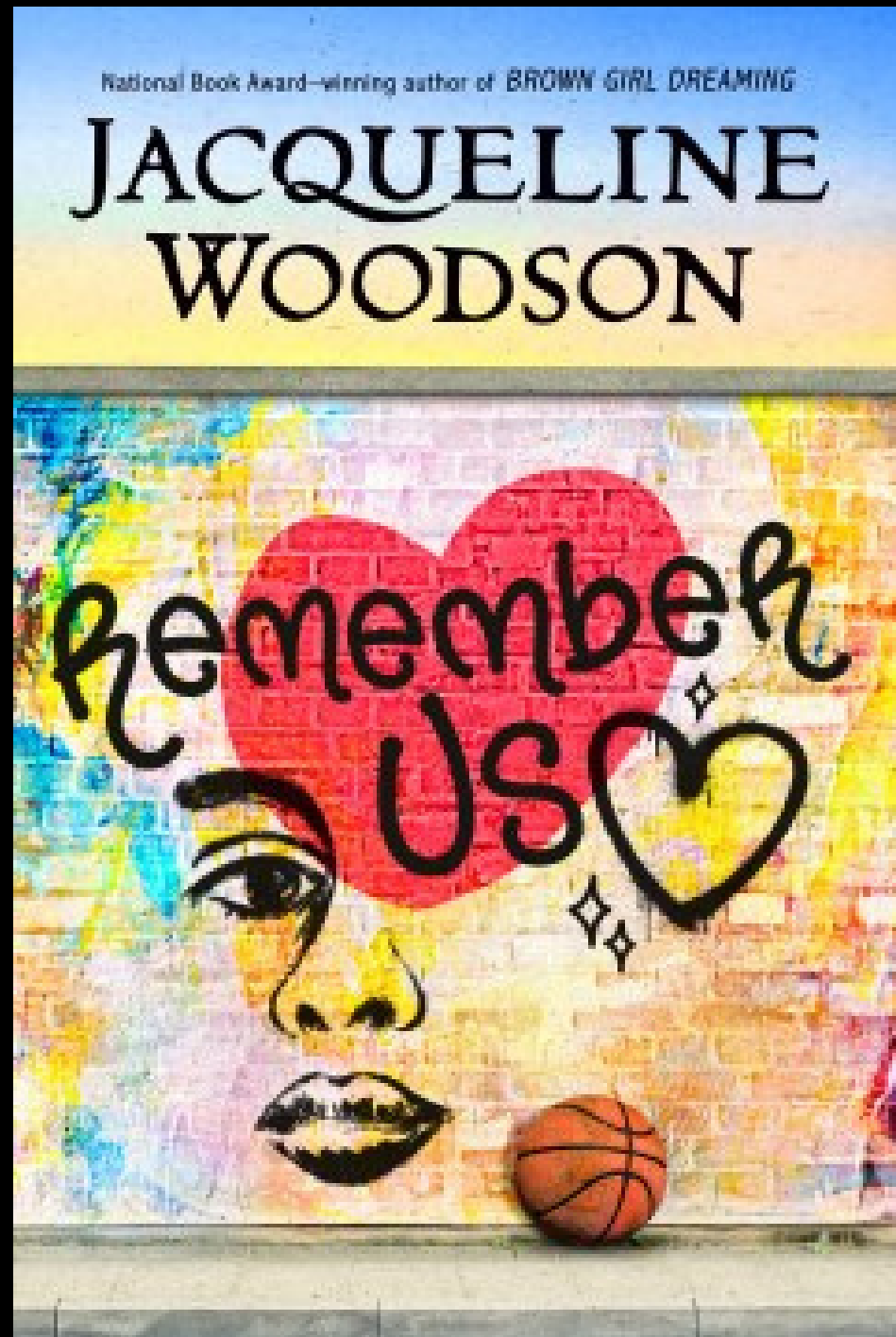


After their two-week family tour of Los Angeles, ten-year-old Feng Li Lin and her older brother and sister learn they will remain in California while their parents return to Taiwan, forcing them to navigate a new school, a new language, bullies, racism, and the pressures of running a household.



Remember Us

by Jacqueline Woodson

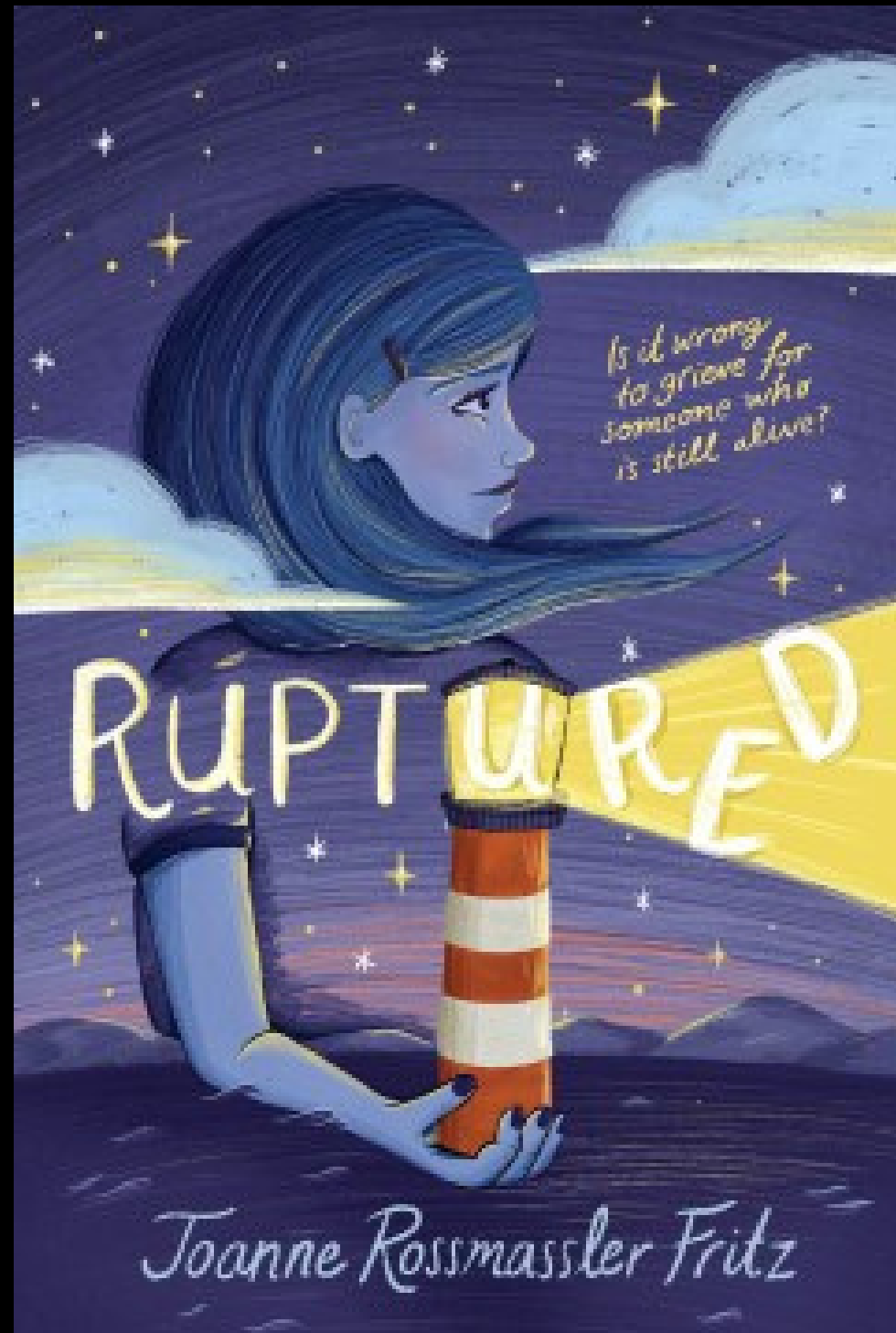


The summer before seventh grade, as the constant threat of housefires looms over her Brooklyn neighborhood, basketball-loving Sage is trying to figure out her place in her circle of friends, when a new kid named Freddy moves in.



Ruptured

by Joanne Rossmassler Fritz

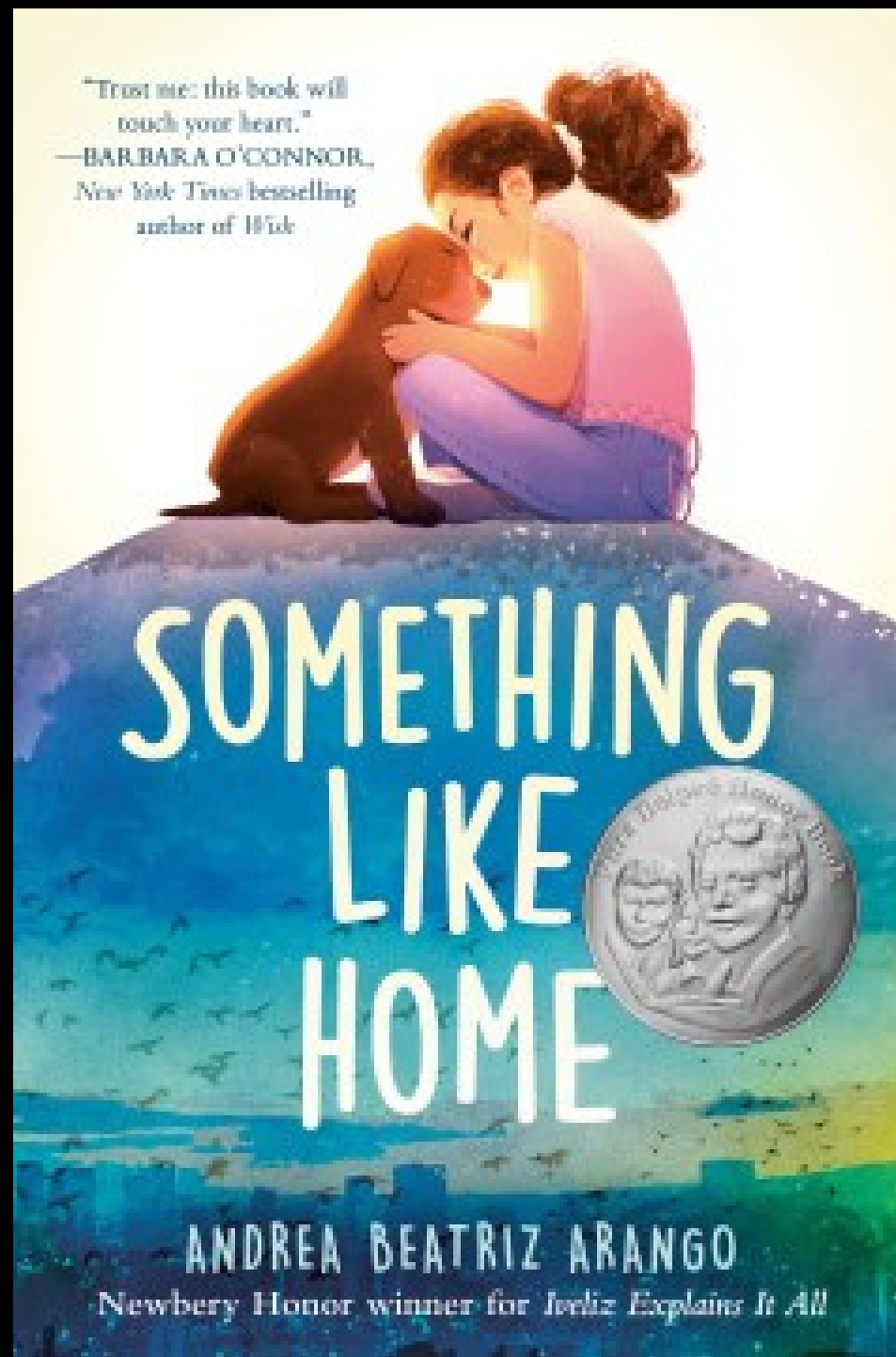


When her mom has a ruptured brain aneurysm right after revealing a huge secret, 13-year-old Claire must navigate fear and grief with the weight of her mom's confession on her shoulders and find a way to live with what she knows while dealing with her mom's prospects for recovery.

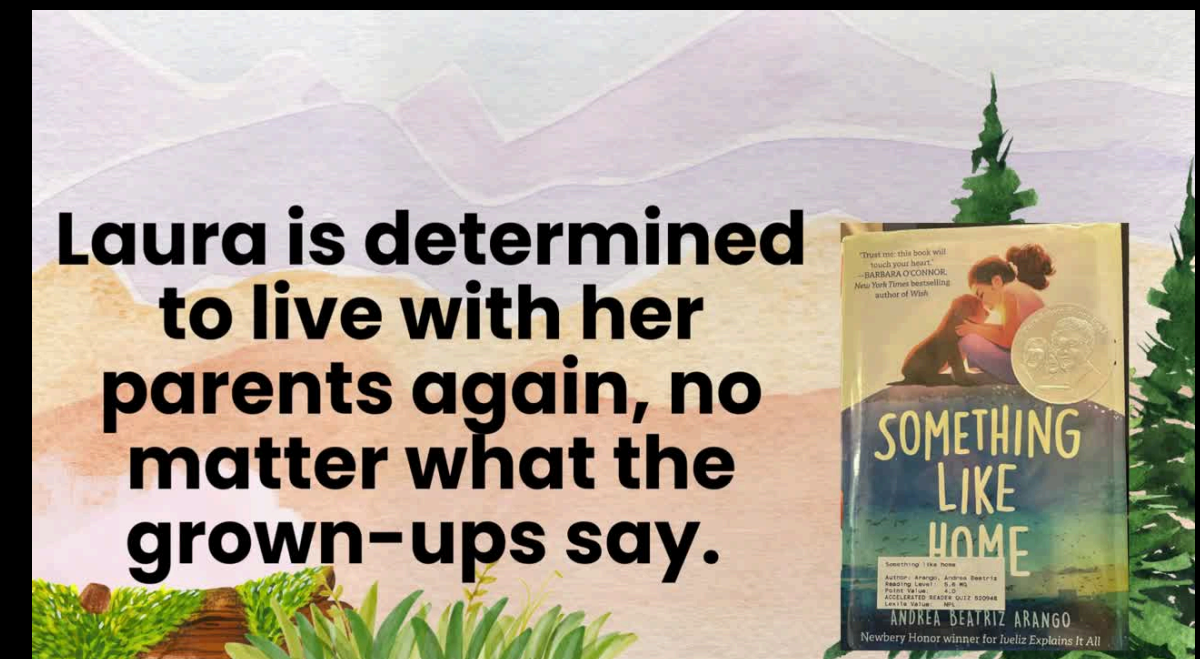


Something Like Home

by Andrea Beatriz Arango

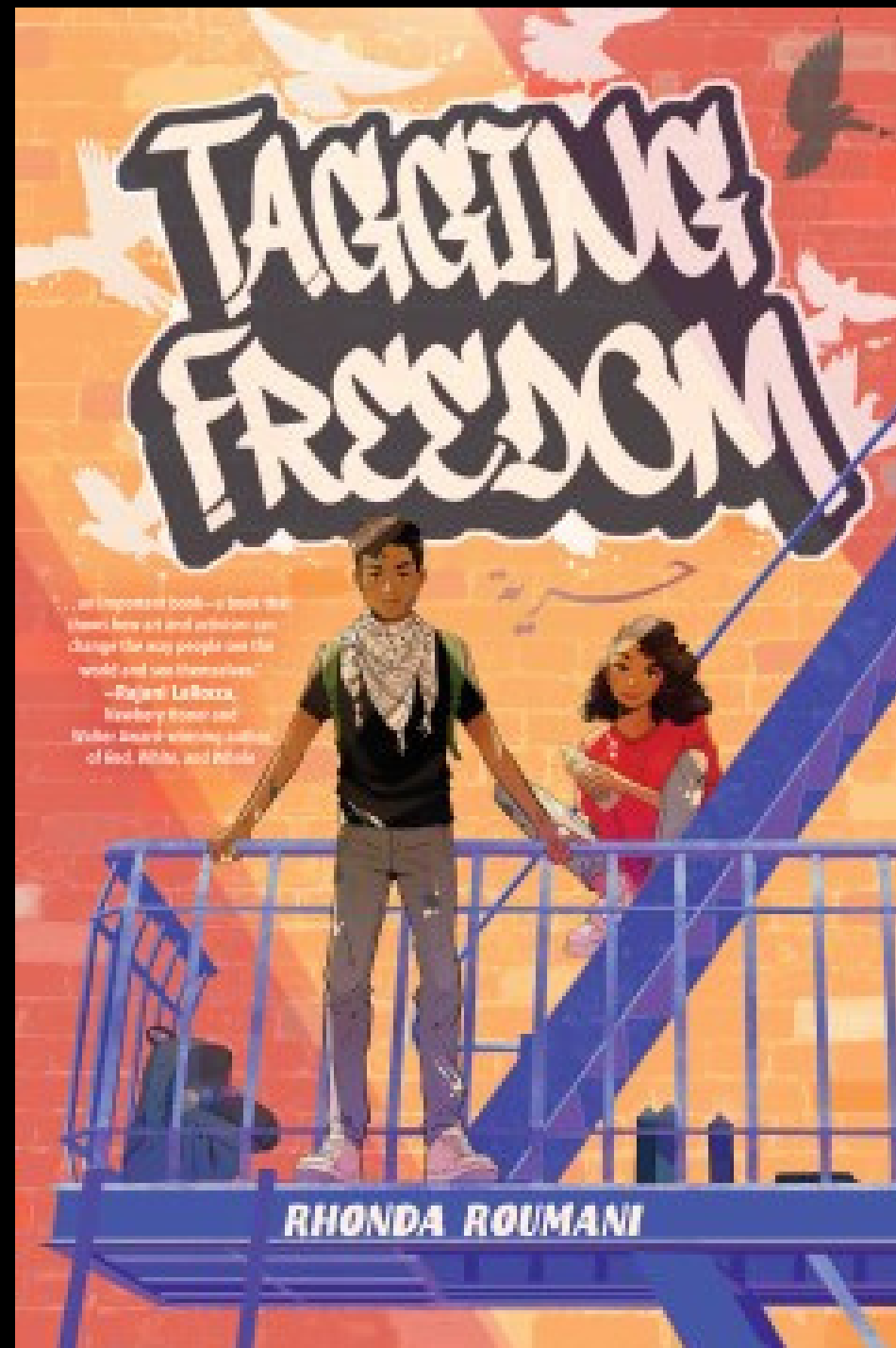


Desperate to return home while staying with her aunt, Laura finds a puppy and decides that if she can train the puppy to become a therapy dog, she might be allowed to visit her parents - and then maybe things will go back to the way they should be.

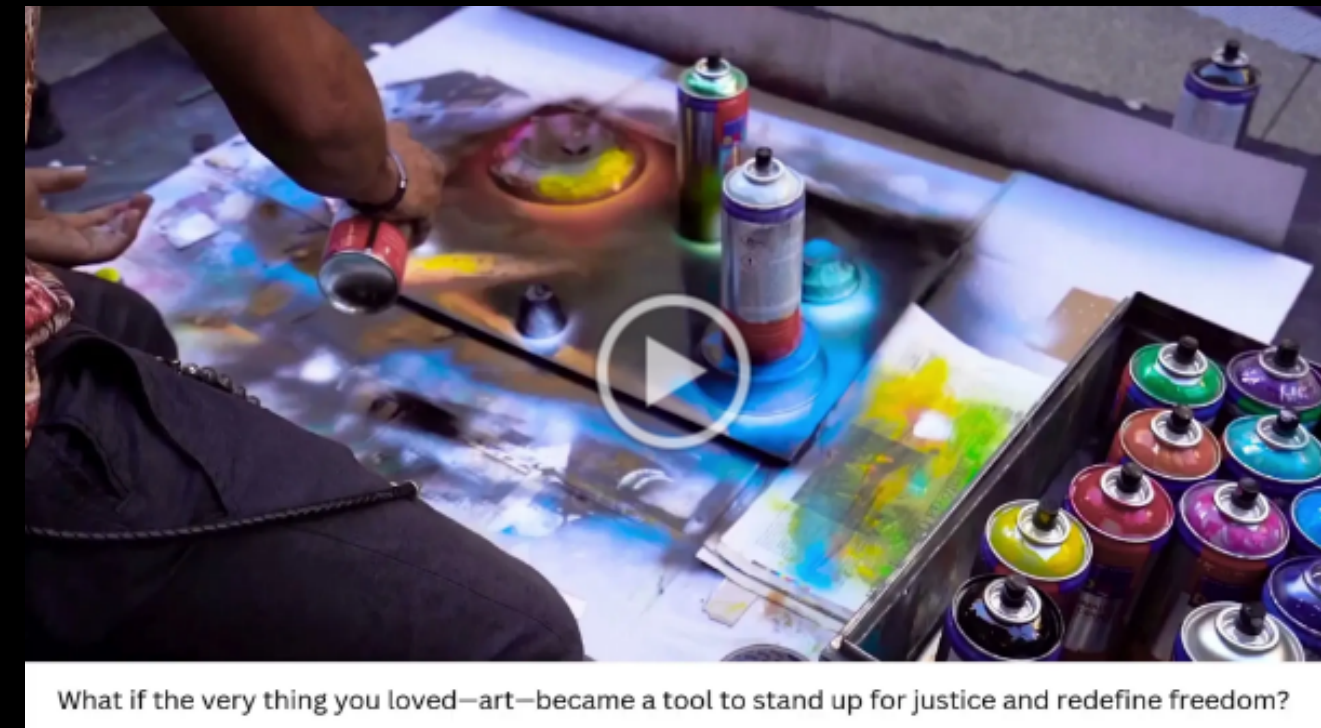


Tagging Freedom

by Rhonda Roumani



Set in the early days of the Syrian Civil War, cousins Kareem and Samira living in Massachusetts navigate the growing conflict in Syria, new friendships, and the use of art to express themselves.

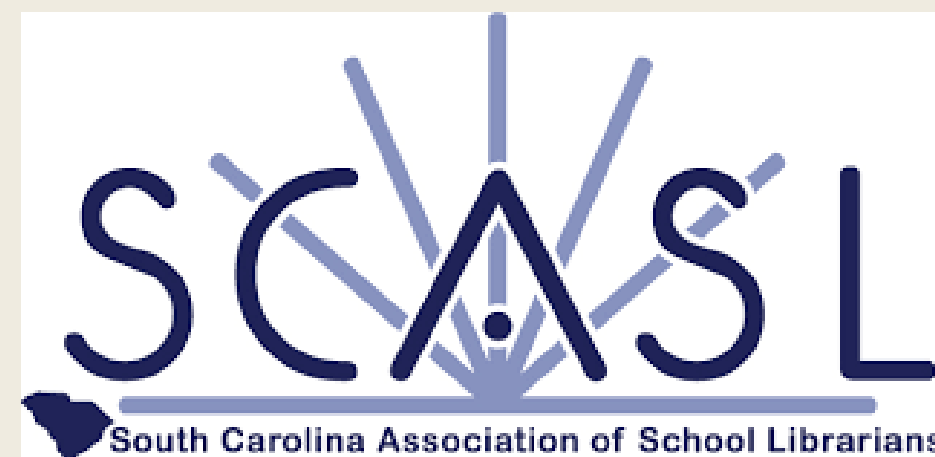


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THANK

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YOU



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