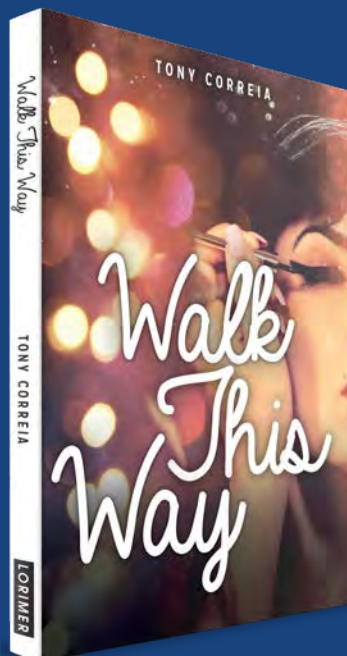
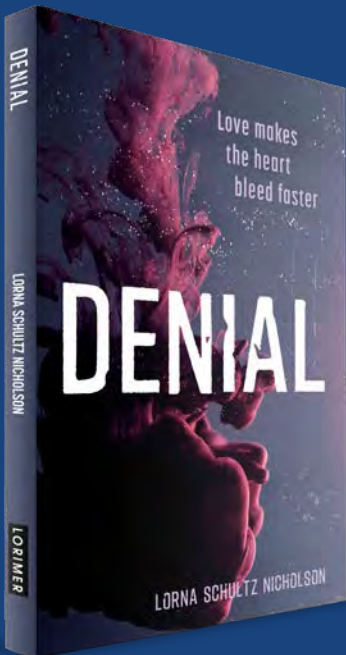


2026 Self-Awareness in stories

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



LORIMER
CHILDREN & TEENS



Self-Awareness in stories

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For more titles and information please visit
www.lorimersel.ca

Middle School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN:9781459414884

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Easy Out

(by Steven Sandor)

A young ballplayer in a small prairie town struggles to compete in a high-level league while stepping out of his legendary father's shadow and building stronger bonds with his teammates.

More about the book:

Westlock is an hour north of Edmonton, a prairie town with a long baseball history. But registrations are down, and there are only enough kids in town to fill one team. So Mo Montpetit's team is entered into the Baseball Alberta AA league. All the kids registered will be playing rep ball. No tryouts needed.

Mo's dad is a baseball legend in Westlock. And that's Mo's problem. Mo isn't very good. He can't hit a rep-level fastball. And as the season starts, the strikeouts and errors mount. The Westlock team loses game after game. How can these kids, not ready for rep ball, compete in a league well above their heads? And how can Mo step out of his dad's long shadow?

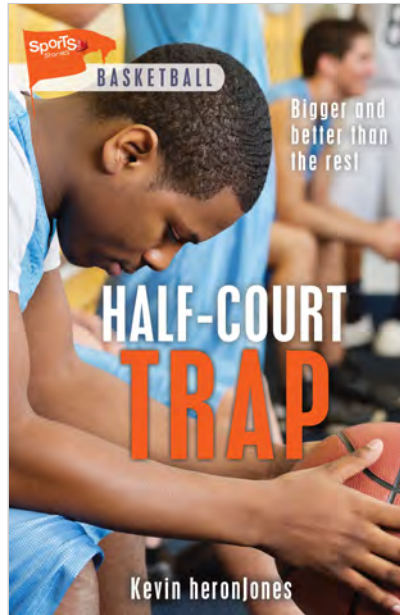


STEVEN SANDOR is an award winning magazine editor, author and sports broadcaster. He edits *Avenue Magazine* in Edmonton. He has written the five Lorimer Sports Stories novels *Called Up*, *Stick Pick*, *Trolled*, *Replay*, and *Playing for Keeps*, and the teen novels *Crack Coach* and *Spin Out*. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Praise

"... the in-depth game play will attract sports fans."

— School Library Journal



ISBN:9781459416444

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-08-24

Social Emotional Skill:

Self Awareness

Half-Court Trap

(by Kevin heronJones)

A thirteen-year-old basketball player struggling with body image and rivalry plots revenge on a teammate, but an unexpected friendship leads him to empathy and self-acceptance.

More about the book:

The issues of male body image and rivalry come together in *Half-Court Trap*. Thirteen-year-old Nigel is teased and belittled at home because of his weight, so an opposing player's trash talk enrages him and he vows revenge. When his enemy becomes a teammate, Nigel plots to make him look bad and get him off the team. As Nigel finds out more about his rival, he not only learns empathy but comes to a new perspective on himself and acceptance of his body shape.



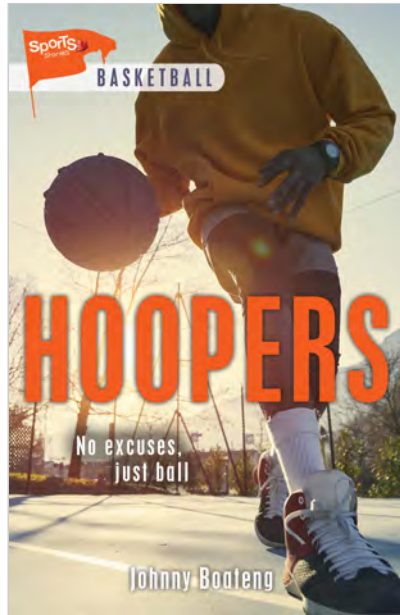
Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet.

He has numerous spoken word recordings and his poetry book titles include *Vision*, *I AM a Child of the SUN* and *Telephone Love*. He lives in Milton, Ontario.

Praise

"Explores boyhood challenges and the value of teamwork, thoughtfully delivering realism and hope for reluctant readers."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN:9781459416352

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-08-24

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

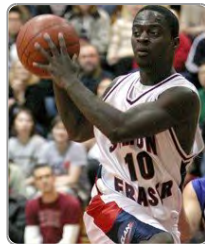
Hoopers

(by Johnny Boateng)

A Black teen in Toronto dreams of basketball glory but must overcome a strict coach's challenges, learning hard work and leadership to become a true team player.

More about the book:

Set in Toronto, *Hoopers* is about a Black youth who wants to live the basketball dream of fame and acclaim. Jojo and his friends know that once they make the Squad, their high-school team, they will have the time of their lives. But their no-nonsense coach is strict, even mean, and seems to repeatedly target Jojo. Emphasizing the real qualities of hard work and dedication, *Hoopers* shows how Jojo learns how to be a skilled player and leader for his team — a real Hooper.



Johnny Boateng played division basketball in Indiana and is the author of the award-winning sports novel *Hustle*. He grew up in North America and is of African descent.

Praise

"The overall themes and lessons of diligence and perseverance are clear and easy to grasp, and the plotlines, pacing, and length make this highly accessible to reluctant readers."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN:9781459415928

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-02-16

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Lone Runner

(by Dirk McLean)

A solitary runner from Scarborough, Michaela overcomes discouragement and rivalry to find confidence, connection, and belonging on her diverse school track team.

More about the book:

Set in a diverse neighbourhood in Scarborough, Ontario, this book follows Michaela as she goes from a solitary runner to an athlete who contributes to the success of her cross-country team. Discouraged by an incident at her mostly-white summer camp, Michaela comes into her own as part of her racially diverse school track team. Focusing on themes of persistence, friendship and overcoming rivalries, this book illuminates traits of connection, empathy and forgiveness.

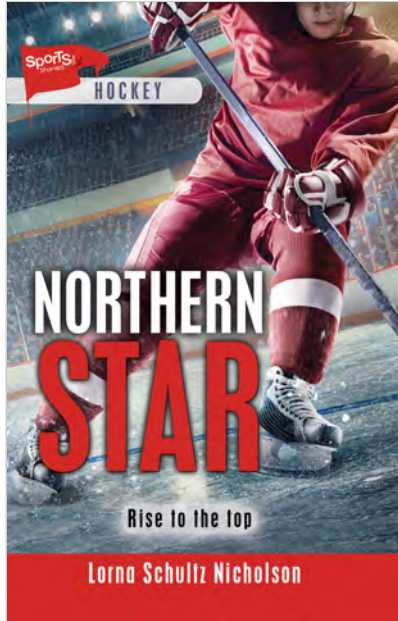


DIRK McLEAN is the author of children's picture books, the Lorimer Sports Stories novel *Not Out*, and *Team Fugee*. He has also written radio drama and stage plays which have toured southern Ontario elementary schools. Dirk was born in Trinidad & Tobago and now lives in Toronto.

Praise

"Middle schoolers at a second grade reading level will root for Michaela as she steps out of her shell."

— School Library Journal



ISBN:9781459414754

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Northern Star

(by Lorna Schultz Nicholson)

An Indigenous teen hockey star from the Northwest Territories rises to fame but struggles with losing his sense of self as others see only his talent, not the person behind it.

More about the book:

It seems Peter Kuiksak's star just keeps rising. The young hockey hero from the Northwest Territories is the top player in his league, being pursued by agents, and becoming something of a celebrity in his adopted city, Edmonton. But being the centre of attention isn't all it's cracked up to be. It seems no one sees Peter as just Peter anymore — least of all the star himself. Inspired by the career of NHL star Jordin Tootoo, is about one exceptional player's journey toward hockey greatness.

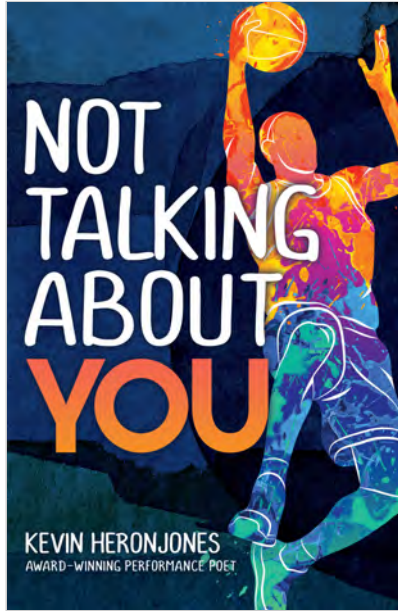


LORNA SCHULTZ NICHOLSON has written picture books, middle grade and YA fiction, and non-fiction. She has also written, produced, and hosted programs for television and radio, and is well known for her sports writing. She lives in Edmonton.

Praise

“Peter Kuiksak is a believable and sympathetic character...”

— CM: Canadian Review of Materials



ISBN:9781459417076

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2022-09- 02

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Not Talking About You

(by Kevin heronJones)

A Black teen navigating a mostly white school struggles with his friend's racist behavior and must decide whether to stay silent or stand up for what's right, confronting the reality of everyday racism.

More about the book:

Part of a well-off middle-class family living in suburban Toronto, Khalil moves for grade eight to a school that does not have many racialized students. He is befriended by school sports star Cameron, who convinces Khalil to play basketball. Khalil is uncomfortable with his friend's racist statements and behaviour, despite Cameron's professed admiration for Black culture. As his discomfort grows, Khalil is left with a choice: accept this as "reality" or take a stand for what's right, even if it costs him friendships.

Not talking About You portrays racism as it occurs amongst young Canadians today. It explores the impact on the target and on bystanders who have to decide how to react when they find a racist youth in their midst.



Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet. He has numerous spoken word recordings and his poetry book titles include *Vision*, *I AM a Child of the SUN* and *Telephone Love*. He lives in Milton, Ontario.

Praise

"A compelling read for basketball fans with a powerful message about the persistence of racial bigotry."

— School Library Journal



ISBN:9781459415348

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-02-16

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Open Ice

(by David Trifunov)

A teen girl facing sexism in co-ed hockey must navigate team tensions and sports-based pressures, ultimately learning to stand her ground through teamwork and communication.

More about the book:

Set in a co-ed environment, *Open Ice* follows Vancouver, British Columbia, teens Jillian and Jacob, who must attempt to deal with their problems through communication, problem-solving and teamwork, not unlike the typical methods kids see when dealing with challenges. Touching on the sports-based — as opposed to social — pressures that discourage girls from continuing in team sports as they get older, *Open Ice* handles the issue of sexism in sports in a positive way.

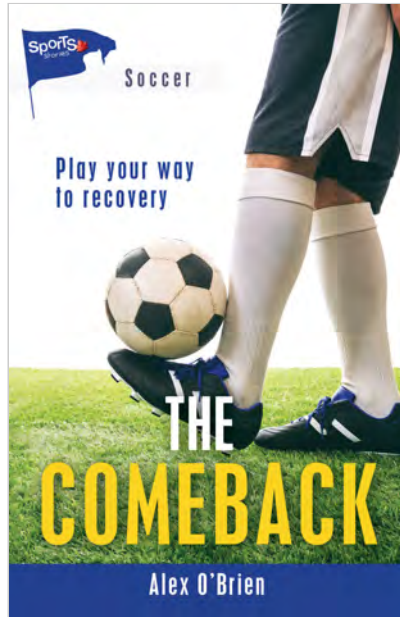


DAVID TRIFUNOV is an award-winning sportswriter whose previous titles for Lorimer Kids and Teens include *Ice Time*, *Snow Soccer* and *Free Runner*. He lives in Kelowna, B.C., with his wife and three daughters.

Praise

"An excellent addition to any school library and would certainly help with dialogue on fairness and equality in recreational sports."

— CM: Canadian Review of Materials



ISBN:9781459414808

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

The Comeback

(by Alex O'Brien)

A fourteen-year-old boy battling depression finds new motivation through soccer—but hiding his struggles from teammates risks derailing both his recovery and his sense of belonging.

More about the book:

On the surface, fourteen-year-old Chris is pretty average, playing hockey and having friends. But underneath it all, Chris is depressed, full of self-blame and negative thoughts. He quits his hockey team, feeling he has let them down, but his doctor suggests that he should pick up another sport. Chris starts playing soccer, and the positive benefits of sport start to take effect: he is motivated and has fewer self-doubts. But former hockey teammate Trent is on the team, and his suspicions about Chris and his emotional state threaten Chris's acceptance and recovery. When Chris and Trent are chosen for a team to play in a summer tournament, Chris decides to keep his depression a secret. But will rumour and stigma about his condition make him relapse and turn his own team against him?

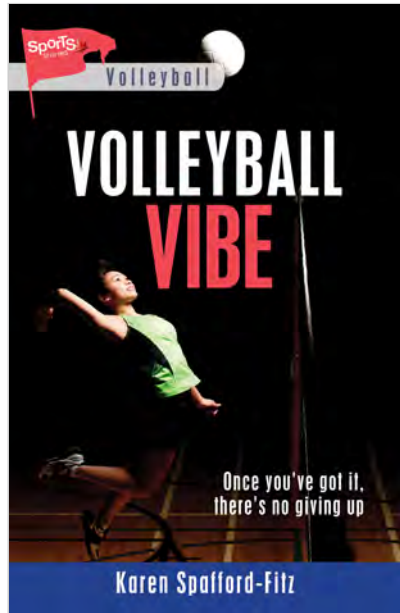


ALEX O'BRIEN left a career in human resources to write novels, scripts and songs. He has been a finalist and winner of several writing competitions. He is the author of the Lorimer sports story *The Playmaker*. Alex lives in Parry Sound, Ontario.

Praise

"A beautiful story that should be read by kids and those adults who work with kids."

— CM: Canadian Review of Materials



ISBN:9781459415508

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-09- 15

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Volleyball Vibe

(by Karen Spafford-Fitz)

A teen obsessed with beauty and fashion faces her mom's challenge to join a sport or get a job, discovering confidence and teamwork through volleyball.

More about the book:

Highlighting girls' volleyball, a sport that has overtaken girls' basketball in popularity, *Volleyball Vibe* shows how engagement in sports can boost self-esteem, confidence, and foster responsibility and teamwork. The main character, Ria, is a teen girl living in Edmonton, Alberta, whose obsession with beauty and fashion leads her mother to insist that she either get a job or join a team sport. At an age when too many girls stop competing athletically, Ria discovers her own capabilities as well as the rewards of challenging herself and connecting with others on a team.



KAREN SPAFFORD-FITZ is the author of five books for children and teens, including the Lorimer SideStreets novels *Push Back* and *Saving Grad*, both named Resource Links' Year's Best. An avid runner, Karen has coached elementary and junior-high students in cross-country running and in track and field. Recently, she participated in a marathon with a differently abled athlete in a pushcart. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

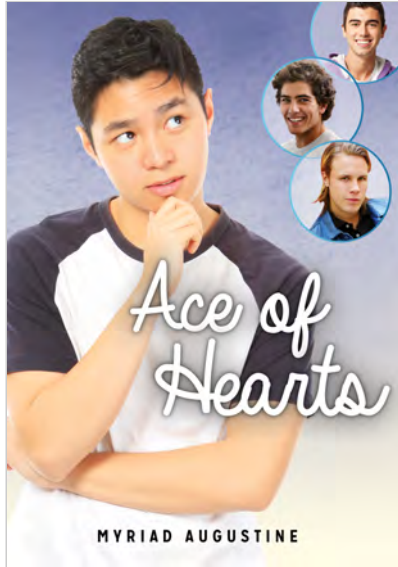
Praise

"An excellent story about growing up and the sport of volleyball."

— CM: Canadian Review of Materials

High School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN:9781459415003

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Ace of Hearts

(by Myriad Augustine)

A thoughtful queer teen, uneasy with the pressure around sex, begins exploring his homoromantic asexual identity while navigating friendships and learns to communicate his boundaries in romantic relationships.

More about the book:

Everyone around Alvin seems to be obsessed with one thing — sex. Alvin finds it uncomfortable to think and talk about it and he knows he isn't ready and may never be. His friends, however, think that all Alvin needs is to hook up with the right guy, so they identify three of the most eligible guys in school and start a plan to set Alvin up with each one. First there's Allistair, a boy with strong ambitions to become a gay leader in politics. Second is Rowan, a trans boy who mysteriously misses classes. Third is Jesse, the popular rich kid known for wild parties and breaking hearts. But the closer Alvin gets to being physical with someone, the more he's uncertain that this is for him and he begins to wonder if he's asexual. Can Alvin find the love that's right for him?

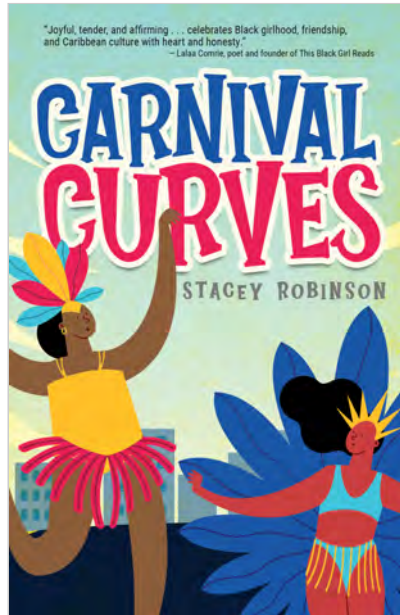


MYRIAD AUGUSTINE is a queer, non binary, intersectional feminist. They founded and co run the Wheelhouse, a nonprofit designed to be a supporting resource for people facing barriers of accessibility. This is their first teen novel. Myriad lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Praise

"A valuable and gentle introduction to the world of homoromantic asexuality and its place in queer culture and community."

— Booklist Online



ISBN:9781459420007

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2025-10-06

Social Emotional Skill:

Self Awareness

Carnival Curves

(by Stacey Robinson)

Two body-conscious black teens participate in their first Toronto Caribbean Carnival in their last summer of high school, learning to embrace themselves.

More about the book:

In this joyful YA novel about self-acceptance, friendship, and the power of cultural tradition, two teens experience their first Toronto Caribbean Carnival in their last summer of high school.

As the two best friends, one from a conservative Nigerian family and the other a Jamaican-Canadian, prepare costumes to dance for the first time in the Carnival parade, they confront questions of body image, relationships with young men, and the transition to the world beyond high school.

Shortlisted for 2025 Sanofka's Pen Peer Choice Favourite - Young Adult Books



STACEY MARIE ROBINSON is an editor and music enthusiast with a background in communications. Guided by her Jamaican heritage, her creative content showcases contemporary Black Canadian life and Caribbean culture across the diaspora.

Stacey is the author of *Dancehall Rebel* and *Carnival Curves* and lives in Scarborough, Ontario.

Praise

Carnival Curves ...skillfully intertwines themes of cultural pride, self-discovery, and friendship. Stacey Robinson's captivating narrative immerses readers into the experiences of playing mas, and the exhilarating joy, confidence and freedom that the Caribbean carnival offers, especially to women."



ISBN:9781459415584

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-09-15

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Confessions of a Teenage Drag King

(by Markus Harwood-Jones)

A 17-year-old navigating life as both a student and a drag king, faces the emotional challenge of balancing identity and romance while embracing their LGBTQ+ journey.

More about the book:

Full of colourful, authentic characters and set in Toronto, *Confessions of a Teenage Drag King* highlights diversity of race, gender, sexual orientation, and identity. Seventeen-year-old Lauren tries to navigate the tricky waters of teen romance that brings high school to the drag show and back, all while Lauren must keep up their two personas — Ren, a drag king, and Lauri, a typical student — and come to terms with their feelings both for mixed-race student Clover and for their own identity as an LGBTQ+ teen. *Confessions of a Teenage Drag King* is a realistic but light-hearted exploration of gender and identity, making it a fun and topical read for today's teen readers.



MARKUS HARWOOD-JONES is a writer, visual artist and documentary filmmaker. His feature film, *Mosaic*, tells the story of his journey across Canada and the United States to learn more about the trans community. He is author of the Lorimer Real Love teen romances, *Just Julian* and *Romeo for Real*. Markus lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Praise

"A fun and authentic queer teen romance."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN:9781459416789

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2022-02-15

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Creeboy

(by Teresa Wouters)

An Indigenous teen living on a reserve faces with pressure to join a gang, while his family challenges him to take another path. He finds ways to successfully navigate these challenges.

More about the book:

Set in the 2000s on the fictional reserve of Nune'chi'win, 16-year-old Josh "Creeboy" navigates the world of Indigenous gang life. Josh's family members are no strangers to gang life. His dad, the leader of one of the gangs on his reserve, is in jail, and his older brother Darion has taken his place. Josh is unsure whether gang life is for him — that is until Darion is killed during a run-in with a rival gang. Angry, hurt and frustrated by systemic racism against Indigenous peoples, Josh, now known as "Creeboy," starts down the path to becoming a full member. Can his family, and his community, save Josh before his fate becomes that of his father and brother?



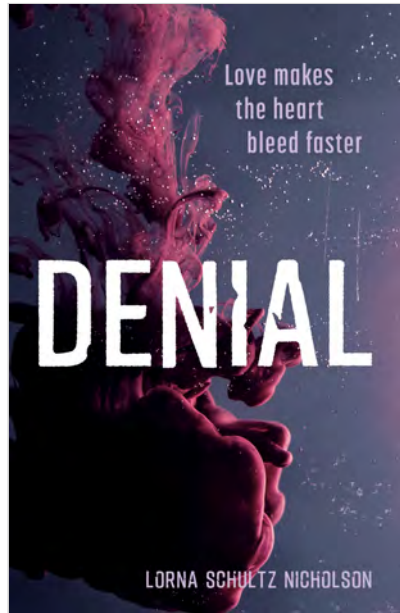
TERESA WOUTERS is a Métis teacher, musician, actress, TV personality, public speaker and writer. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies, a Bachelor of Education degree and a Master's in

Creative Writing (MFA). Teresa lives in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Praise

"...the resentment and redemption narrative is strong and the action consistent. Recommended."

— School Library Journal



ISBN:9781459416710

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2022-02-15

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Denial

(by Lorna Schultz Nicholson)

A high-achieving teen girl struggles with jealousy and emotional instability caused by a stealth pregnancy, and after a surprise labor, faces tough choices she ultimately meets with courage.

More about the book:

It's Nova's final year of high school and everything is on track for an amazing year. She's going to ace all her studies and go on to be a doctor. She's got a spot on the swim team. And she's in love for the first time — with Leo, the captain of the swim team.

But things don't turn out quite like Nova had planned. As her relationship with Leo intensifies, so does her obsession with him and her jealousy over his so-called friendship with another girl. The tighter she tries to hold on to him, the more he seems to pull away. The constant worry about the future of their relationship sends Nova spiralling into depression. Even she can't believe how badly she's handling things now. But could there be another reason for it, one she doesn't even want to admit to herself?



LORNA SCHULTZ NICHOLSON has written picture books, middle grade and YA fiction, and non-fiction. She has also written, produced, and hosted programs for television and radio, and is well known for her sports writing. She lives in Edmonton.

Praise

"...confronts significant contemporary issues in a narrative that never flags. Recommended for high school libraries."

— School Library Journal



ISBN:9781459416277

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-08-24

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

In a Heartbeat

(by Markus Harwood-Jones)

An LGBTQ+ teen leaves his supportive city life for a small town. At first, he struggles to fit in but eventually finds acceptance, romance, and self-love through a creative community.

More about the book:

Set in a small town, this is not a typical LGBTQ+ romance. Seventeen-year-old Lucien has a supportive family and community in Toronto but wants to make a new start somewhere nobody knows him. Going to stay with his aunt in Vernon presents challenges to fitting in — he is not comfortable with his hockey-watching, hard-partying cousins or the other kids at school. Eventually, Lucien finds a community of creative teens and meets the mysterious Alder. As Lucien finds out who Alder really is, he is able to find what is worthy of love in himself. Focusing on romance and speaking one's truth rather than issues of gender identity, this story is a tender, light-hearted tale of finding love in unexpected places.

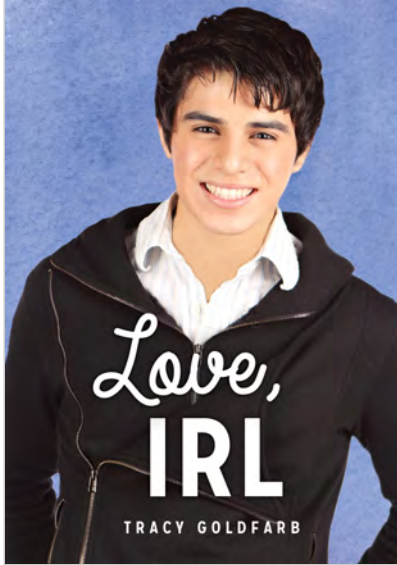


MARKUS HARWOOD-JONES is a writer, visual artist and documentary filmmaker. His feature film, *Mosaic*, tells the story of his journey across Canada and the United States to learn more about the trans community. He is author of the Lorimer Real Love teen romances, *Just Julian* and *Romeo for Real*. Markus lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Praise

This brief read with a simplified style intended for reluctant and struggling teen readers, provides much-needed queer representation for this format.

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN:9781459415621

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-09-15

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Love, IRL

(by Tracy Goldfarb)

A Latino, transgender teen in Hamilton juggles feelings for a classmate and an online crush—something that forces him to confront his identity and what love means.

More about the book:

Alex, a Latino transgender teen living in Hamilton, Ontario, struggles to reconcile his feelings with a real-life crush on a boy in his class from the relationship he has with a boy he knows online — only to find that the two were the same all along. Without overly graphic content, important issues youth face surrounding online messaging, social media and sexting are brought to light in a refreshing take on an LGBTQ+ relationship.

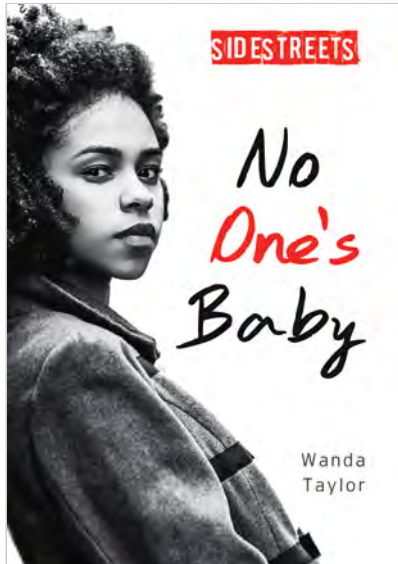


TRACY GOLDFARB is a writer and artist who is involved in the LGBTQ+ community. Tracy attended OCAD for sculpture and currently teaches fabrication skills at Humber College. Love IRL is their first YA novel. Tracy lives in Toronto with their husband and two cats.

Praise

"[An] extremely wholesome depiction of queer teen dialogue A light and fluffy queer romance."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN:9781459414969

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2020-02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

No One's Baby

(by Wanda Taylor)

A biracial teen adopted by white parents struggles with identity and loss, facing a pregnancy that forces her to confront her past and seek out her birth mother.

More about the book:

Adopted by Caucasian parents, biracial teen Lizzie feels like she never belonged. After the death of her father, Lizzie starts acting out — dating, staying away from home for days and giving up her plans to continue her education. When Lizzie discovers she is pregnant, she is faced with the difficult choice of having a child or getting an abortion. This leads Lizzie to want to find her own birth mother. After running away from home, Lizzie ends up in Kingston, where she tracks down an older woman named Ruth who sheds light on the circumstances surrounding Lizzie's birth.

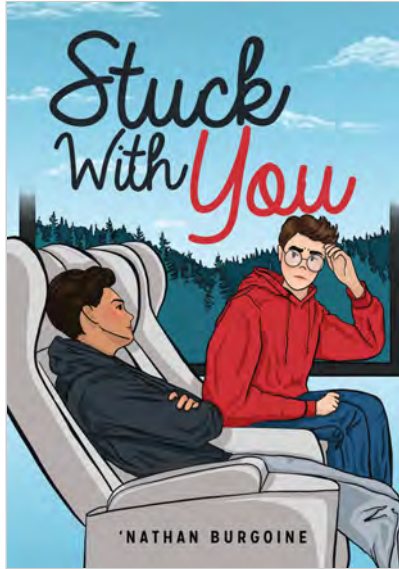


WANDA LAUREN TAYLOR is an author, filmmaker, editor and educator. She is a former CBC TV producer and author of books that include *Birchtown and the Black Loyalists*, which has been listed as one of the top Black history books for young readers by *Today's Parent Magazine* and by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, and the SideStreets novel *Ride or Die*. Wanda lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Praise

"With gritty themes like teen pregnancy, abuse, and discrimination, this title deals with important issues head-on."

— School Library Journal



ISBN:9781459417205

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2023-04-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Stuck with You

(by 'Nathan Burgoine)

A thoughtful teen uncertain about his future faces his feelings while stuck beside a flirty frenemy, discovering a deeper self-awareness and identity.

More about the book:

Stuck With You is a story of Queer joy and a playful teen romance, following two frenemies as they fall for each other while stuck in adjacent seats on a day-long train trip.

Ben is on a train back to Ottawa after a visit with his dad in Toronto when he runs into the last person he wanted to see: Caleb, the handsome, confident boy who recently and accidentally broke Ben's phone. Preoccupied by worrying about whether he should take a gap year, Ben has little time for Caleb's jibes.

But when the two start talking, not only does Ben find himself won over by Caleb's roguish charm, but he also learns his seatmate is also bisexual.



'NATHAN BURGOINE is the author of the queer young adult novel *Exit Plans for Teenage Freaks* (finalist for the Prix Aurora Award for YA Novel) and queer young adult novella *Hope Echoes*, included in the collection *Three Left Turns to Nowhere*. He, his husband, and their rescued husky live in Ottawa, Ontario.

Praise

"...*hilarious and an all-around enjoyable read... Highly recommended...*"

— School Library Journal, starred review



ISBN:9781459415843

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-02-16

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

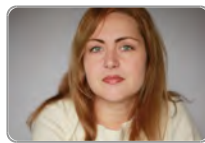
The Love Code

(by Mette Bach)

An LGBTQ+ Vancouver teen reeling from heartbreak and family upheaval joins a robotics club to rebuild her future — navigating emotional loss, personal growth, and unexpectedly discovering new love and direction through STEM.

More about the book:

Astrid is a teen who has lost everything: her girlfriend to a guy and her social status when her parents lose their jobs. Determined to make her way into university, she joins a robotics club hoping to make contacts and win a scholarship but also finds the love of her life. *The Love Code* tells the story of a relatable teen navigating the contemporary world of women working in STEM careers within a changing economy.

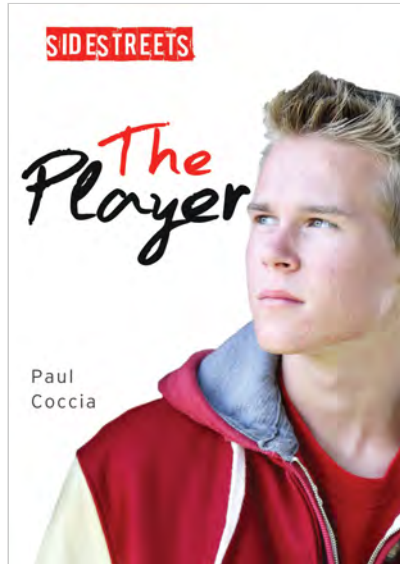


METTE BACH is the author of the Lorimer SideStreets novels *Femme* and *Killer Drop* (named a Best Book for Kids and Teens by the Canadian Children's Book Centre) and the Real Love titles *Love Is Love*, *You're You*, *Cinders* and *Charming*. She has taught ESL to high-school students and currently works at a drop-in resource centre. Mette lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Praise

"A sweet and uplifting novel for reluctant readers."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN:9781459415768

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-02-16

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

The Player

(by Paul Coccia)

A gay teen goalie in a homophobic hockey world is outed online by a closeted teammate and secret lover—but ultimately chooses honesty and self-respect over hiding who he is.

More about the book:

Set in the traditionally homophobic world of amateur hockey, this book follows gay goalie Cooper in his struggle with his feelings for a teammate and coming out to his team. Cooper has been hooking up with teammate Pesh in secret, and has to play along when Pesh dates a girl and even tolerate locker-room homophobic talk. When Pesh outs Cooper online, trying to better his own chances at playing pro, Cooper chooses self-esteem and honesty over sex. With a strong and relatable main character, this book is a realistic, positive look at teen relationships — gay or straight.



PAUL COCCIA has a specialist in English from U of T and a Masters in Creative Writing from UBC. He is the author of the YA novel *Cub*. Paul lives in Toronto.

Praise

"The realistic and engaging content, relatable characters and fast-moving plot will be of interest to reluctant readers, beginning readers, and strong readers looking for a quick, interesting read. Highly Recommended."

— CM: Canadian Review of Materials



ISBN:9781459416314

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-08-24

Social Emotional Skill:
Self Awareness

Walk This Way

(by Tony Correia)

A teen passionate about drag faces criticism from his boyfriend, who — like some in the gay community — rejects flamboyant identities. Ultimately, he learns to embrace his authentic self.

More about the book:

Drag has never been so popular, and this LGBTQ+ romance takes a look at how a teen embraces the drag queen dream. Sixteen-year-old Joshua does drag on social media but wants to have the full drag performance experience. Trouble is, he's attracted to guys who don't like drag and want nothing to do with gay men they think are too feminine or flamboyant. Joshua has the chance to live his dream, but only by keeping it secret from the guy he is dating. Grounded by what Joshua learns about how drag continues to be controversial in the gay community, this essential light-hearted story focuses on facing your emotions and finding your authentic self, even if it's by pretending to be someone else.



TONY CORREIA's newspaper column, "Queen's Logic", ran in *Xtra! West* for five years. He is the author of the Lorimer Real Love novels *Same Love* and *True to You*. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Praise

"The story's lighthearted energy and zinger lines create a sitcom-esque vibe where every character is a little larger than life. There are a few poignant moments that add pathos without ruining the over-the-top vivacity. Readers will have a ball and may learn a little about LGBTQ+ history along the way."

— Kirkus Reviews

2026 Social Emotional Learning Catalogue

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