

Stories featuring Black Canadians

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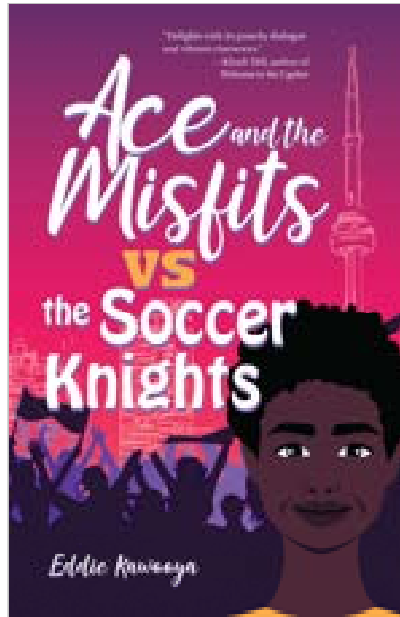
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Middle School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN: 9781459420342

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 19.95CAD,
16.99USD, 16.99USD

Publication Date: 2025-
10-02

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Ace and the Misfits vs. the Soccer Knights

(by: Eddie Kawooya)

A recently arrived Ugandan immigrant is desperate to prove himself on the soccer field, at all costs, until his friends and a coach remind him of the value of team play and supporting each other.

More about the book:

When Ace, a recently arrived Ugandan immigrant, joins up with “the Misfits” — other kids at school who share the challenges of life in a new country — to play soccer, the group soon find themselves trying to qualify for a high-stakes tournament. With themes of friendship, self-worth, and finding balance in a new culture, *Ace and the Misfits vs. the Soccer Knights* explores the power and challenges in finding community through sport.



EDDIE KAWOoya was born in Uganda and raised on three different continents before settling in Canada. His love for writing was inspired by his grandmother's oral stories and folklore ancestral past. As an immigrant to Canada, he is passionate about issues related to race, inclusion and diversity. He lives in Toronto.

Praise

"Delights with its punchy dialogue and vibrant characters."

— Khodi Dill, author of *Welcome to the Cypher*



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Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2025-
05-20

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Hacking Heartbreak

(by: Kevin heronJones)

After hacking the social media accounts of his crush, Baron is in a race against the clock to fix the mess he made and save her from serious consequences.

More about the book:

A Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book for Kids & Teens, starred selection

Baron is a computer whiz with a passion for hacking and when the girl of his dreams starts taking an interest in him, he all but short circuits. Keyanna sees their dates as more casual than the love-struck Baron, but everything seems to be going well. When he sees her on a date with another guy, Baron hacks her school and social media accounts, angry and hurt.

As jealousy fades and reality sets in, Baron realizes the seriousness of his action. Knowing regret will never be enough, Baron races against the clock to fix his mess. Set in Brampton, *Hacking Heartbreak* is a story about the intensity of first love and learning to live with the consequences of your actions.

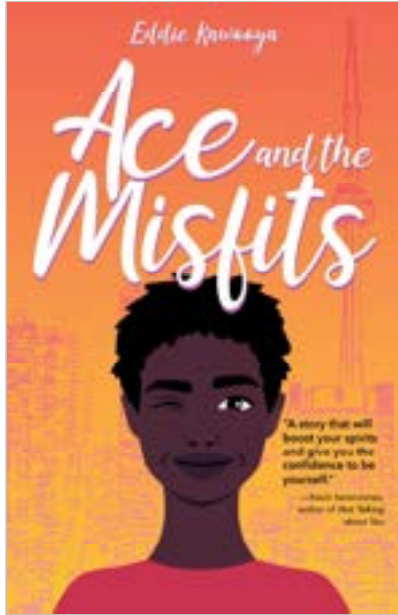


Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet.

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 contemporary and thought-provoking teenage love story, whose dynamic characters provide a refreshing take on love, heartbreak, and redemption for today's modern audience." —Eddie Kawooya, author of Ace and the Misfits



ISBN: 9781459417519

Imprint: Lorimer

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Prices: 19.95CAD,
16.99USD, 16.99USD

Publication Date: 2024-
02-13

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Ace and the Misfits

(by: Eddie Kawooya)

A recently arrived Ugandan immigrant feels isolated and struggles with school and self-worth—until finding friendship with fellow outsiders helps him rebuild his confidence and sense of belonging.

More about the book:

In his debut novel, Eddie Kawooya presents a fish-out-of-water story of immigration and the pains and joys of integration into a new and sometimes frightening environment.

Arriving in Canada, Ace finds himself living in a basement apartment, having to integrate into a new community where he is the “African.” Struggling with his grades and his self worth, he finds ignorance and bullying at school until he falls in with a crew of international misfits who understand what he’s going through.

With their support, Ace starts to regain the confidence he lost in the move and his subsequent troubles.

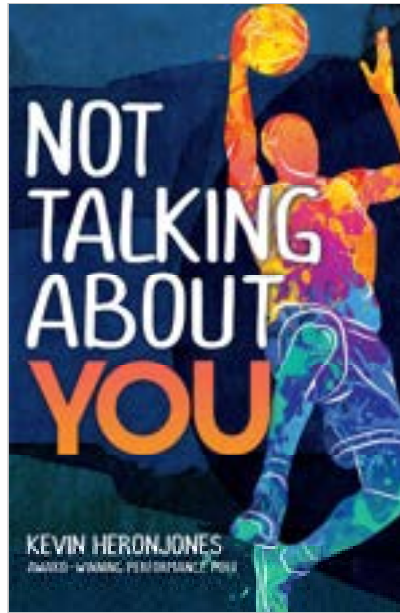


EDDIE KAWOoya was born in Uganda and raised on three different continents before settling in Canada. His love for writing was inspired by his grandmother's oral stories and folklore ancestral past. As an immigrant to Canada, he is passionate about issues related to race, inclusion and diversity. He lives in Toronto.

Praise

“...full of charming personalities... A heartwarming journey.”

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459417076

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 14.95CAD,
9.99USD, 9.99USD

Publication Date: 2022-
09-02

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

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.

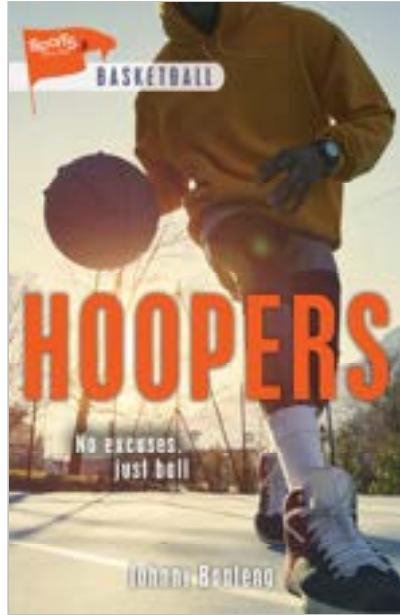


Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet. He has numerous spoken word recordings and his poetry book titles include *Vision*, *I AM a Child of the SUN* and *Telephone Love*. He lives in Milton, Ontario.

Praise

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

— School Library Journal



ISBN: 9781459416352

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2021-
08-24

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

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.

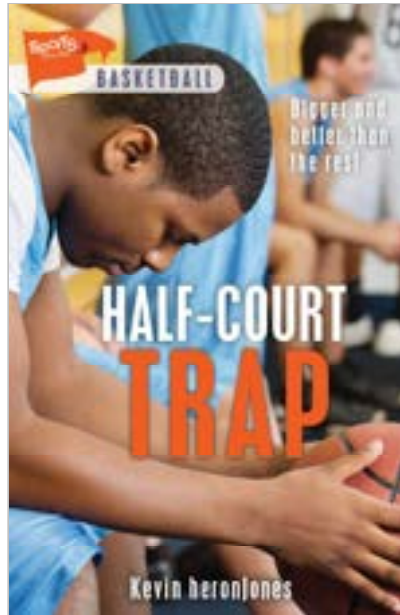


Johnny Boateng played division basketball in Indiana and is the author of the award-winning sports novel *Hustle*. He grew up in North America and is of African descent.

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: 9781459416444

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2021-
08-24

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

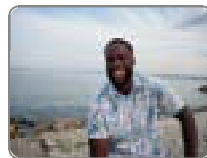
Half-Court Trap

(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.

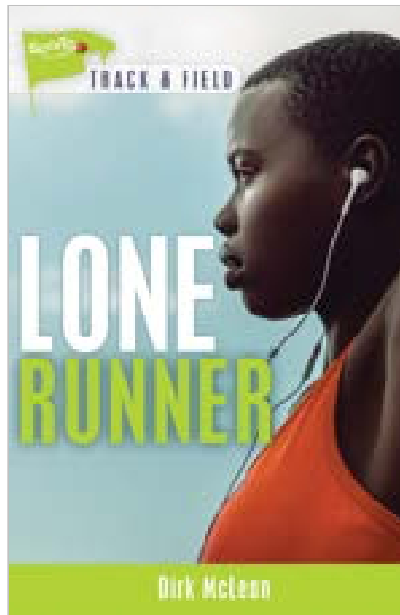


Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet. He has numerous spoken word recordings and his poetry book titles include *Vision*, *I AM a Child of the SUN* and *Telephone Love*. He lives in Milton, Ontario.

Praise

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

— Kirkus Reviews



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Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2021-
02-16

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

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.

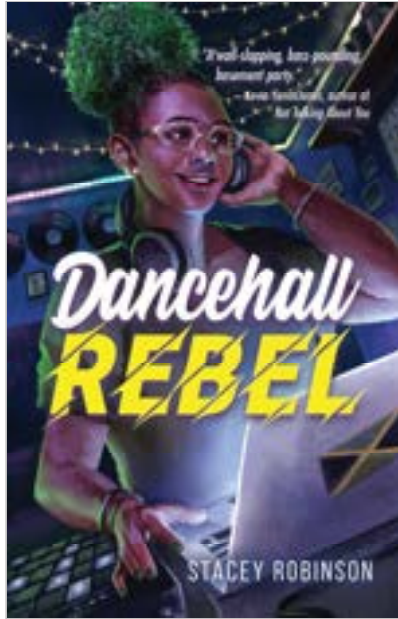
Praise

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

— School Library Journal

High School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN: 9781459418141

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 19.95CAD,
16.99USD, 16.99USD

Publication Date: 2024-
02-13

Social Emotional Skill:

Relationship Skills

Dancehall Rebel

(by: Stacey Robinson)

A queer Caribbean Canadian teen raised on dancehall music struggles with her family's and culture's homophobia—until a new community helps her find the courage to embrace both her identity and her passion.

More about the book:

Dancehall DJ portrays a Caribbean Canadian teen challenging the ongoing legacy of homophobia in her musical and cultural community.

Denise is a Toronto teen who was raised on Jamaican dancehall music by her dad, a leading local DJ. Denise has aspirations to follow in her dad's footsteps, but there's a problem: Denise identifies as queer, and the music she loves, and her family, are often homophobic. But when she moves to Ottawa for first year university school, she finds a community of like-minded kids who love and cherish both music and diversity.

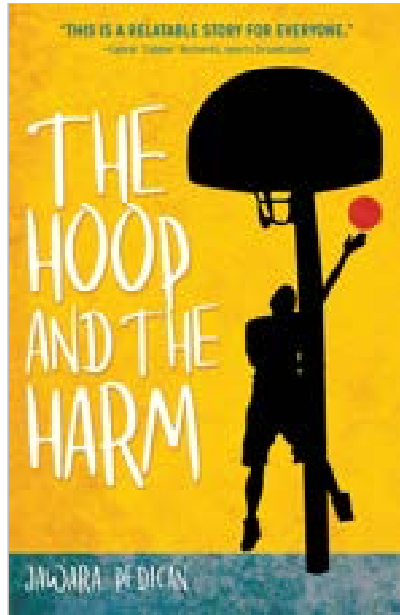


STACEY MARIE ROBINSON is an editor and music enthusiast with a background in communications. Guided by her Jamaican heritage, her creative content showcases Black Canadian life and Caribbean culture across the diaspora. Stacey is the author of *Dancehall Rebel* and *Carnival Curves* and lives in Scarborough, Ontario.

Praise

Robinson's language and descriptions of the dual worlds Denise navigates as a first-generation Canadian are authentic ... An accessible, realistic cross-cultural coming-of-age novel about seeking a balance between tradition and change.

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459417151

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Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2023-
04-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

The Hoop and the Harm

(by: Jawara Pedican)

A student athlete has to navigate the pressures of family expectations, manage his mental health, and search for his true passion through the transformative power of basketball.

More about the book:

Udoka Clendon is a first-year university student and a product of basketball systems that have produced professional players.

From very young, he's been pushed relentlessly by his family on a troubling pursuit for an athletic scholarship. He is burdened by expectations and self-doubt. Udoka tries to reignite his passion for the game. Now, he's been given a final opportunity at the city-wide tournament to rediscover his confidence and his sense of purpose—all of which he fears he has lost forever.

With clarity and poetic style, drawing on his own time as an elite sports prospect, Jawara Pedican shows the trials and traumas of becoming fixated on a dream of sports stardom.

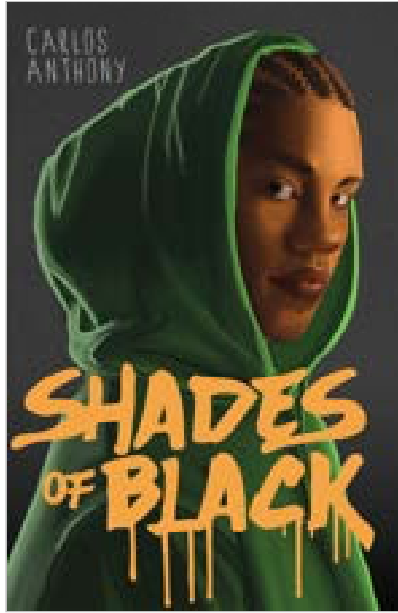


JAWARA PEDICAN played on various university varsity basketball teams in Canada. He is a kinesiologist and more recently a medical editor for a life sciences marketing agency in Toronto. He lives in Alliston, ON.

Praise

"A sincere, inspiring look at dealing with and overcoming self-doubt..."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459417199

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2023-
04-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Shades of Black

(by: Carlos Anthony)

A sensitive Black teen in Toronto's Etobicoke neighborhood faces suspicion and police scrutiny after a school shooting, navigating the challenges of vulnerability, racial bias, and belonging in an urban school.

More about the book:

Romero, a Guyanese Canadian, is a sensitive kid who is just starting to attend an inner-city-style school with a large racialized population. Romero falls in with a friendly crew but finds himself in trouble when a shot is fired in the school cafeteria — and he gets stuck with the gun. Meanwhile, the police, often using brutal tactics and targeting young Black males, try to find out who the shooter was.

To humanize and critique the Black male experience and dispel the myth that vulnerability and empathy equal weakness, Carlos Anthony draws on his own recent experiences as a teen in school in Etobicoke.

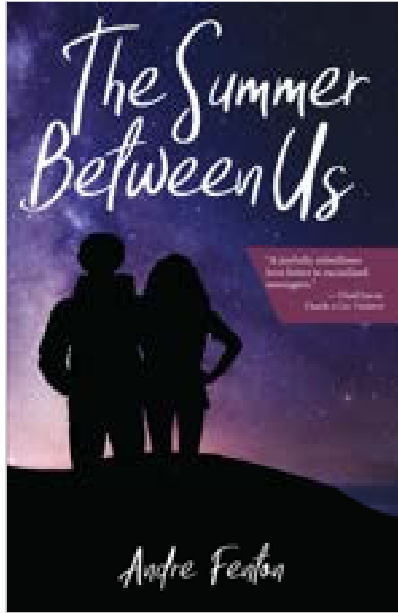


CARLOS ANTHONY is a filmmaker and author who writes about the experiences that Black men have historically avoided talking about. He has been recognized for his video web series, short story series, published essays, and short films. With his wife and children, Carlos lives in Windsor, Ontario.

Praise

"Anthony has crafted a fast paced, multifaceted story that brings many heavy issues to the surface including the difficulties with maneuvering adolescence, being Black, school shootings ... Highly Recommended."

— CM: Review of Materials



ISBN: 9781459506817

Imprint: Formac

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 14.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2022-
04-19

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

The Summer Between Us

(by: Andre Fenton)

A biracial teen faces pressure to meet others' expectations as he graduates high school, deals with identity and body image issues, family tensions, and discovers his own path and passion during a pivotal summer.

More about the book:

This coming-of-age story follows 18-year-old Adrian Carter as he graduates from high school and confronts difficult decisions about his future. As Adrian navigates the emotional highs and lows of the summer between graduation and his post-secondary future, he gains awareness of the way his Blackness impacts the way he moves through majority-white spaces and negotiates the difficulties of forging a path in life against others' expectations.

Despite his wish to follow his longtime girlfriend Mel on her cross-country trip and find common ground with his emotionally distant father, Adrian comes to understand that his own passion is grounded in a desire to support a community he's forged on his own.

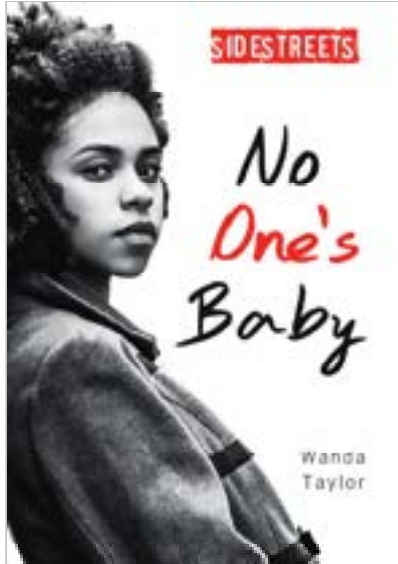


ANDRE FENTON is an award-winning author, spoken word artist and arts educator. He has represented Halifax at seven national poetry festivals across Canada and has written three novels: *Worthy of Love* (2018), *ANNAKA* (2020) and *The Summer Between Us* (2022). He lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Praise

"An empowering journey of self-actualization and a look at the intimate bonds that shape a person."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459414969

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2020-
02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

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

2026 Social Emotional Learning Catalogue

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