

ABRAMS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE AWARD-WINNING **ENCHANTED LION BOOKS**  
AND ITS **UNRULY IMPRINT**, WHICH PROPOSES PICTURE  
BOOKS AS A MEDIUM FOR READERS OF ALL AGES.



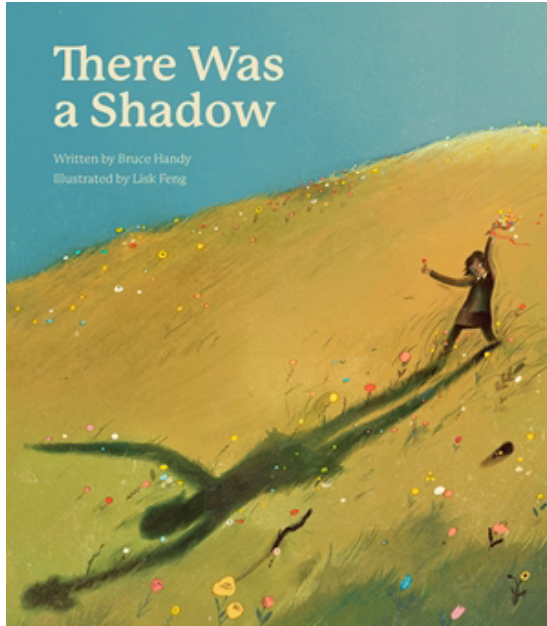
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La Martinière/Abrams  
Lucky Spool  
Familius

# There Was a Shadow

● WRITTEN BY BRUCE HANDY; ILLUSTRATED BY LISK FENG

From *NYT* Best Children's Book author Bruce Handy, a luminous picture book that invites careful observation of light and shadow in the natural world, as well as in our own emotional landscape

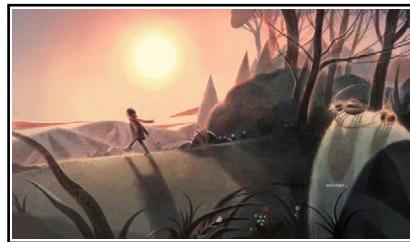


As the sun makes its daily journey across the sky, light comes down to illuminate our world. Moving and dancing along with this light come a variety of shadows—those cast by the sun and those cast by our feelings, minds, and memories. Here we follow a girl from dawn through dusk into night, as she and her friends play with their shadows, take refuge in the shade of a large tree, and set out again for home in the violet glow of twilight.

With a lyrical text from Bruce Handy and dramatic, sensitive art from Lisk Feng, this book invites readers to look up and down, in and out, to notice the position of the sun and the corresponding length or shortness of shadows, as well as the subtle ways in which light and shadow reveal and obscure things both in the world and in ourselves.

With images that swell and overflow with light, this picture book is sure to awe and delight.

**Bruce Handy** is a journalist, humorist, editor, and essayist. *The Happiness of a Dog with a Ball in Its Mouth*, his first book for kids, was named a Best Children's Book of 2021 by the *New York Times*. He is also the author of *Wild Things: The Joy of Reading Children's Literature as an Adult* and picture book *What If One Day...*, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin. He lives with his family in New York City. **Lisk Feng** is an award-winning illustrator (*Everest, A Hug Is for Holding Me, Our World*). In addition to receiving recognitions from the Society of Illustrators and Communication Arts, she was selected for the 2019 *Forbes* 30 under 30 list for Art and Style. Originally from China, she now lives in New York City.



RIGHTS: World English

## SELLING POINTS

### ART THAT INSPIRES

**OBSERVATION:** Accurately depicts how light changes with the sun's movement over a day, with vivid illustrations capturing the beauty of nature & the joy of interacting with it.

**GREAT READ-ALoud:** The simple, musical text will charm young readers, while its more conceptual themes will engage adults as well. Spanning from waking up to nighttime dreams, this is the perfect "good morning" or bedtime book!

### THOUGHT-PROVOKING TEXT:

Another philosophically creative text from two-time *Publishers Weekly* starred review recipient Handy unfolds like a prose poem alongside Feng's art. Multiple layers of meaning in all that shadows represent (shade, coolness, memories, worries, dreams).

### MASTERFULLY PRINTED BY A FAMILY-OWNED COMPANY:

Sustainably printed in Italy using beautiful materials.

### SPECIFICATIONS

\* Four-color illustrations throughout

\* 52 pages

\* WIDTH: 9 5/8" - 244mm

\* HEIGHT: 11" - 279mm

\* **Hardcover**

PUB MONTH: **MAY**

**AGES 5 to 7**

**ISBN 978-1-59270-406-4**

US \$18.95 CAN \$25.95 UK £13.99

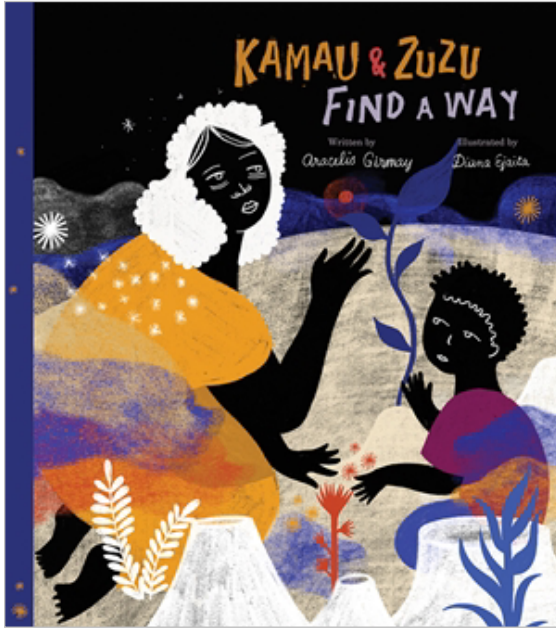


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# KAMAU & ZUZU Find a Way

● WRITTEN BY ARACELIS GIRMAY; ILLUSTRATED BY DIANA EJAITA

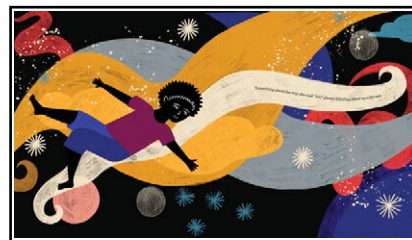
A stirring story of African diaspora, resourcefulness, and intergenerational love by renowned poet Aracelis Girmay and EJK finalist Diana Ejaita



One day, young Kamau and his grandmother ZuZu wake up to find themselves on the moon. Kamau doesn't remember Back Home, but Grandma ZuZu does, and she misses it terribly. Together, through cloth scraps and dance, letters and song, Kamau and ZuZu find a way to make a new life for themselves in this strange land: a new life which is not only rooted in the stories, memories, and traditions that ZuZu always carries with her, but which also lovingly reaches out across the vast expanse of space to connect and communicate with the family from which they've been separated.

Acclaimed poet Aracelis Girmay and Ezra Jack Keats Award finalist Diana Ejaita together weave a powerful story inspired by the African diaspora, in which—despite the shock of being uprooted into this alien world, without being given any choice or explanation, and the sorrow that comes from the unfathomable distance separating them from their beloved community—Kamau and Zuzu find a way to live, as people do.

**Aracelis Girmay** is the author of three books of poems and is the editor of *How to Carry Water: Selected Poems of Lucille Clifton*. For her poetry she was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Hurston/Wright Award, and the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. She is on the editorial board of the African Poetry Book Fund. **Diana Ejaita** (*Olu and Greta*) works as an illustrator and textile designer in Berlin. Her illustrations uniquely combine contrasting areas of black and white with soft patterns and textures, producing images that betray the strength of femininity. Born in Cremona, with Nigerian origins, her aesthetic pays homage to her lineage.



RIGHTS: World English

## SELLING POINTS

### INSPIRES HOPE & FORTITUDE:

With intimacy and intensity, this story captures the difficulties of transitioning between homes, cultures, and communities, while reassuring kids that they will “find a way” to carry their home with them.

### INTERGENERATIONAL

**RELATIONSHIP:** A beautiful depiction of how elders help to sustain family ties and histories across time and space.

### CELEBRATED BLACK

**CREATORS:** Girmay is one of the most prominent Black female poets in the US. Ejaita is the author-illustrator of *Olu and Greta* (EJK Award finalist, *Kirkus* Best Book of 2021, Bank Street College of Education Best Book of 2022).

### SPECIFICATIONS

\* Full-color illustrations throughout

\* 60 pages

\* WIDTH: 9 13/16" - 249mm

\* HEIGHT: 11" - 279mm

\* **Hardcover**

PUB MONTH: **MAY**

**AGES 6 to 9**

**PICTURE BOOK**

**ISBN 978-1-59270-389-0**

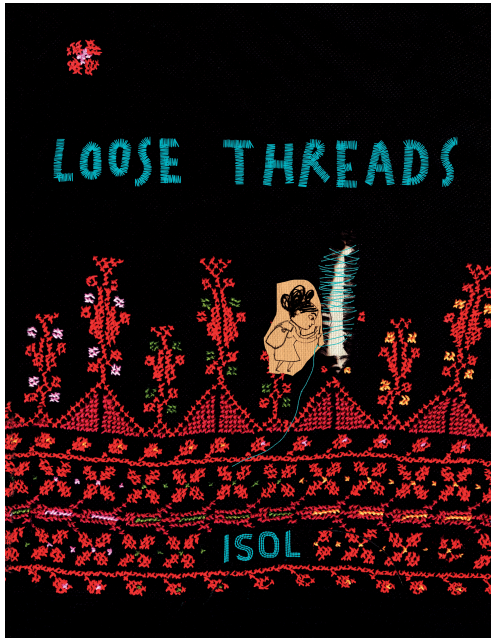
US \$18.95 CAN \$25.95 UK £13.99



# Loose Threads

- WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY ISOL; TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH BY LAWRENCE SCHIMEL

An intrepid girl discovers the value of the tangled, knotty side of life in this story, inspired by a Palestinian scarf, from Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award winner Isol

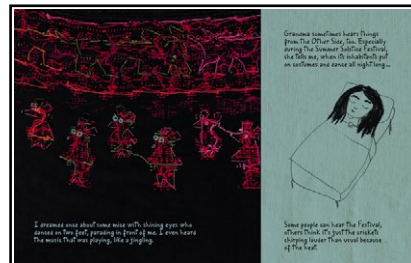


Leilah lives in an idyllic village, where everything has its place. It's as beautiful and perfect as the scenes in her grandmother's embroidery. But some believe that just on the flipside of this orderly village lies the Other Side—a messy and wild world, filled with merry inhabitants and strange beasts. Leilah often visits just such a place in her dreams.

Leilah is constantly losing things, and when her mom demands an explanation, Leilah decides that her lost possessions must be falling down into the Other Side. And so, Leilah declares that all she has to do to fix things is mend the holes between her world and the Other Side. It's a genius idea—nothing will ever go missing again! But as Leilah soon learns, some holes don't need sewing up, and mending can also mean a suffocating shutting out . . .

Inspired by one of her favorite scarves, here Isol spins a tale that celebrates the different worlds that are all part of life's rich tapestry.

**Isol** is an Argentinian children's author and illustrator who has won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, has twice been selected as a finalist for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, and has won a Golden Apple at the Biennial of Illustration, Bratislava. With over twenty titles published in various languages, her specialty is narration through the dialogue between image and word. **Lawrence Schimel** is a full-time author, writing in both Spanish and English, who has published over 120 books in a wide range of genres. He is also a prolific literary translator and currently lives in Madrid.



## SELLING POINTS

### APPRECIATES CREATIVE

**CHAOS:** Highlights the importance of mess, complexity, mystery, and dreams as inextricably linked to the beauty and health of the world.

### APPEALS TO READERS OF

**COMICS:** Perfect for independent readers, with much space given to humorous art and engaging dialogue. Children are sure to relate to and love plucky, larger-than-life Leilah!

### INSPIRED BY PALESTINIAN

**TEXTILE ART:** Unique art incorporates both front and back sides of a Palestinian textile, elevating the care, patience and artistry that go into the long tradition of embroidery and other underrecognized, often women-led folk arts.

### FROM AN AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S STORYTELLER:

The only Argentine to win the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in the past 20 years, Isol has a huge following around the world. *Loose Threads* was selected for the 2022 Bologna Ragazzi Award Amazing Bookshelf.

## SPECIFICATIONS

\* Full-color illustrations throughout

\* 76 pages

\* WIDTH: 7 1/2" - 191mm

\* HEIGHT: 9 3/4" - 248mm

\* **Hardcover**

PUB MONTH: **JUNE**

**AGES 6 to 9**

**PICTURE BOOK**

**ISBN 978-1-59270-392-0**

US \$18.95 CAN \$25.95 UK £13.99



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# Out of the Blue

- WRITTEN BY REBECCA BACH-LAURITSEN; ILLUSTRATED BY ANNA MARGRETHE KJÆRGAARD; TRANSLATED FROM DANISH BY MICHAEL FAVALA GOLDMAN

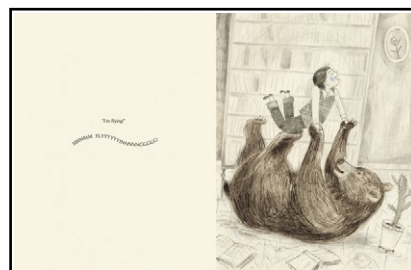
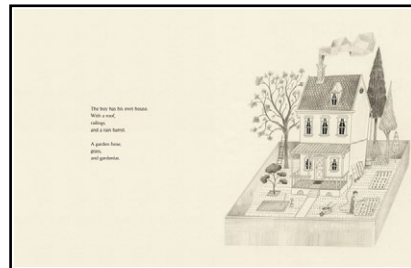
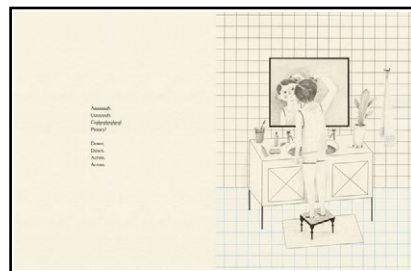
A boy's usual routine is shaken up by the sudden appearance of a bear in this award-winning Danish picture book about embracing surprise, adapting to change, and welcoming new friendships



In a house where everything is arranged just so, there lives a boy whose days are filled with peace, quiet, and solitude. Every morning, he wakes up and follows the exact same routine, without fail . . . until the day something new appears, out of the blue: a bear!

In this imaginative and empowering picture book, a meticulous child steps out of his comfort zone of control and opens himself up to unfamiliar and unexpected experiences. Thanks to author Bach-Lauritsen's poetic text, fluidly translated by Goldman from Danish to English, and the spare, highly communicative, and absorbing illustrations from Kirkus Prize for Young Readers finalist Kjærsgaard, this is a sensitive, encouraging story about how embracing change can lead to trust and friendship!

**Rebecca Bach-Lauritsen** is an acclaimed Danish writer who continuously explores the ways of words. She has received numerous awards for her artistic work in both literature and audio-visual storytelling. *Out of the Blue* is her first book to be published in the United States. **Anna Margrethe Kjærsgaard** is a well-established Danish illustrator. She has received numerous awards, including the Danish Ministry of Culture Illustrator Award. *Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost*, her first book to be published in the United States, received glowing reviews and was a 2022 finalist for the prestigious Kirkus Prize in the Young Readers' category, as well as a 2022 Batchelder Honor book. **Michael Favala Goldman** is a translator of Danish literature, poet, and jazz clarinetist. He has translated 17 books of Danish poetry and prose, including Tove Ditlevsen's *Dependency*, one of the *New York Times*'s Ten Best Books of 2021. Goldman's five books of original poetry include *Small Sovereign*, which won first prize at the 2022 Los Angeles Book Festival. He lives in Northampton, MA.



## SELLING POINTS

### EVERGREEN TOPIC—

#### ADAPTING TO CHANGE:

Showcases the positive aspects of embracing the unexpected in favor of trust and friendship, even with someone very different from yourself.

### NEURODIVERSE

**REPRESENTATION:** While no diagnosis is explicitly stated, the main character will resonate with children with OCD or anxiety, as well as the many readers who find comfort in predictable routines.

### INTERNATIONALLY AWARD-WINNING BOOK AND TEAM:

Original Danish edition made the 2020 dPictus 100 Outstanding Picture Books List and was nominated for the Nordic Council Children's & Youth Literature Prize.

### SPECIFICATIONS

\* Full-color illustrations throughout

\* 92 pages

\* WIDTH: 7 9/16" - 192mm

\* HEIGHT: 9 5/8" - 244mm

\* **Hardcover**

PUB MONTH: **MARCH**

**AGES 6 to 9**

**PICTURE BOOK**

**ISBN 978-1-59270-401-9**

US \$18.95 CAN \$25.95 UK £13.99



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# Johnny, the Sea, and Me

● WRITTEN BY MELBA ESCOBAR; ILLUSTRATED BY ELIZABETH BUILES; TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH BY SARA LISSA PAULSON

A timid ten-year-old boy meets Johnny, a gruff islander who will change his life, in this heartwarming middle-grade novel about finding yourself and your place in the world

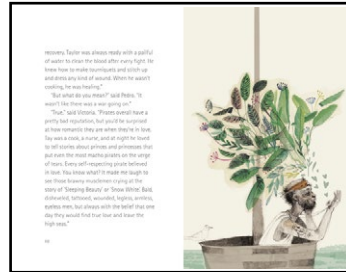
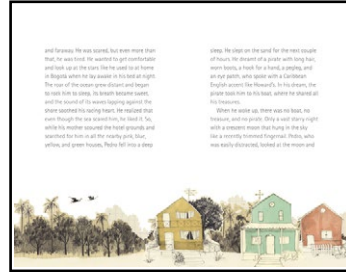


Pedro has always dreamed of going to the sea. So when his mom takes him on a special trip to a small island in the Caribbean, he's so happy that he grows an extra inch! But the troubles at home—bullying from classmates and an absent father—find a way to follow Pedro, even on vacation... Overwhelmed, the boy takes to the beach and runs away, hoping to leave his worries far behind.

That's when he meets Johnny, an islander descended from pirates. At first, Pedro is frightened by Johnny's imposing appearance and brusque manners. But Johnny, along with his chatty parrot Victoria, takes young Pedro under his wing and shares his island and his stories with him, thereby changing Pedro's life. Because sometimes, like Pedro, you have to lose yourself to find yourself.

**Melba Escobar** is a Colombian author and journalist. Her debut Spanish-language children's book, *Johnny, the Sea, and Me*, was selected for the 2015 White Ravens catalog as an outstanding international book by the International Youth Library. Escobar lives in Barcelona with her husband and two children, and writes for *El País* and Colombia's *El Tiempo*.

**Elizabeth Builes** is a Colombian illustrator who won the Tragaluz Illustration Award in 2013 and went on to receive worldwide recognition for the original Colombian edition of *Johnny, the Sea and Me* in 2015. **Sara Lissa Paulson** is a translator of Spanish and Latin American poetry, picture books, and middle grade fiction. Her first translation, *Book of Questions* (Enchanted Lion, 2022), was selected as a *New York Times* Best Children's Book of 2022.



## SELLING POINTS

**RELATABLE ISSUES FOR TEENS:** Pedro is dealing with low self-esteem, classroom bullies, his parents' separation and an absent father, and all the other growing pains that come with coming-of-age.

**SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH MALE MENTORSHIP AND NATURE:** Offers an unlikely male mentor/nontraditional father figure in Johnny, who introduces the boy to the natural world as a place in which to feel at home, rather than fearful.

**AN INTROSPECTIVE SUMMER READ:** An adventure featuring pirate legends and Caribbean island history, with themes of belonging and self-reliance that will resonate with readers.

**AWARD-WINNING TITLE FROM COLOMBIA:** Selected for the White Ravens List, which honors the most interesting and relevant children's books from around the world.

## SPECIFICATIONS

- \* 39 full-color illustrations
- \* 124 pages
- \* WIDTH: 5 1/2" - 140mm
- \* HEIGHT: 8 1/2" - 216mm
- \* **Hardcover**
- PUB MONTH: **JULY**
- AGES 8 to 12**

ISBN 978-1-59270-409-5

US \$16.95 CAN \$23.95 UK £11.99



# We Go to the Park

- WRITTEN BY SARA STRIDSBERG; ILLUSTRATED BY BEATRICE ALEMAGNA;  
TRANSLATED FROM SWEDISH BY B.J. WOODSTEIN

A beautiful meditation on going to the park to play—which extends into a reflection on life itself—from Booker–longlisted Sara Stridsberg and the inimitable Beatrice Alemagna



The park beckons us to leave our daily routines behind and enter its zone of endless possibility. In the park, the usual rules don't apply. In the park, what matters most is the moment, and losing track of time to the timelessness of imagination, invention, observation, and chance. In the park, there are risks, of course, but also the deepest rewards, to be found in the freedom experienced through play that is both embodied and participatory. It is not the lone "I," but the "we" that goes to the park, where chance encounters might suddenly become moments of deep connection—however fleeting—with others, nature, and ourselves.

Originally published in Sweden, this first English–language edition printed in Italy on thick cream paper offers an immersive experience of transformation, longing, and transcendence to readers of all ages, while reminding adult readers in particular of the everyday miracle contained in encountering another consciousness.

**Sara Stridsberg** is an acclaimed Swedish author and playwright. Her international breakthrough, *The Faculty of Dreams*, was nominated for the International Booker Prize in 2018. In 2021, she became a member of Sweden's Society of the Nine, which promotes Swedish literature, peace, and women's issues. She is also the author of *The Summer of Diving* (a *New York Times* Best Children's Book of 2022). **Beatrice Alemagna** (*You Can't Kill Snow White*, *Telling Stories Wrong*, *Child of Glass*, *On a Magical Do–Nothing Day*) has written and illustrated dozens of children's books. The recipient of three *New York Times* Best Illustrated Awards, she has also been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award seven times and shortlisted twice for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. **B.J. Woodstein** is a Swedish–to–English translator whose books include *The Summer of Diving* by Sara Stridsberg, illustrated by Sara Lundberg; and *The Book That Did Not Want to be Read* by David Sundin, illustrated by Alexis Holmqvist. She lives with her wife and daughters in Norwich, England.



## SELLING POINTS

**AN INSPIRING & TIMELESS MESSAGE:** The park becomes a metaphor for human life, in which there are few certainties but infinite possibilities to experience wonder, surprise, joy, connection, and awe.

**MILESTONES GIFT POTENTIAL:** The perfect gift for celebrating new graduates or anyone embarking on a new life adventure.

**INTERNATIONAL POWERHOUSE TEAM:** Booker–longlisted Stridsberg is one of Sweden's foremost authors & acclaimed internationally, while Alemagna's global fan base will flock to collect this gorgeous presentation of her art.

**HIGH PRODUCTION VALUE:** Part coffee–table book & part picture book, the wrap–around jacket and debossed case promise an immersive, tactile experience.

## SPECIFICATIONS

\* Full-color illustrations throughout

\* 68 pages

\* WIDTH: 9 1/2" - 241mm

\* HEIGHT: 10 3/4" - 273mm

\* **Hardcover**

PUB MONTH: **JULY**

**AGES 13 and up PICTURE BOOK**

**ISBN 978-1-59270-407-1**

US \$24.95 CAN \$32.95 UK £17.99

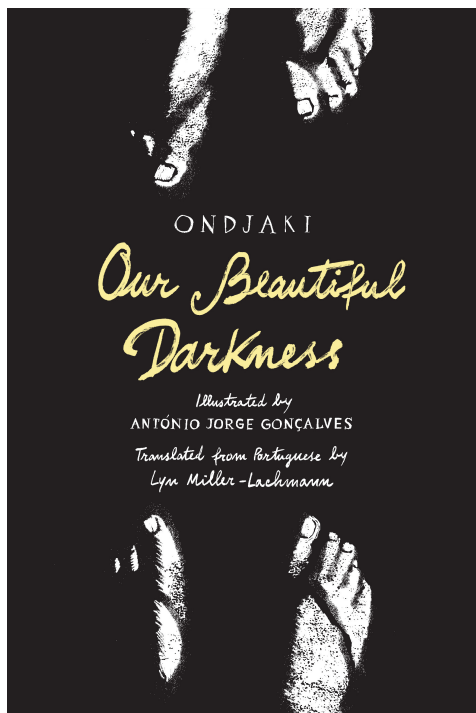


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# Our Beautiful Darkness

- WRITTEN BY ONDJAKI; ILLUSTRATED BY ANTÓNIO JORGE GONÇALVES; TRANSLATED FROM PORTUGUESE BY LYN MILLER-LACHMANN

A blackout leads two teens to discover the intimacy and vulnerability that can only be shared in darkness, in this fully illustrated YA novella from celebrated Angolan author Ondjaki



The light goes out suddenly. And in this absence of light, a pair of teenagers bare their souls. Into the warm silence of the night, they share a conversation filled with their stories and dreams . . . and maybe even a first kiss.

Set against the backdrop of the civil war that ravaged Angola in the 1990s, this book weaves the country's history with a teenage boy's family stories. But when a power outage shrouds the neighborhood in darkness, everyday realities fade away . . . As the boy and a girl sit talking in the backyard, memory gives way to imagination and vulnerability, and the space between them becomes charged with emotional electricity.

Their resulting conversation is both a meditation on the storytelling impulse and a gripping narrative of first love that, through its particulars, ascends to the universal.

**Ondjaki** was born in Luanda, Angola, in 1977. His novels, short stories, poetry, and children's books have received numerous prizes. He received the José Saramago Prize and Littérature-Monde Prize for his novel *Transparent City*, which was translated into seven languages and included in best-book roundups by *Vanity Fair*, *Vulture*, *Lit Hub*, *Globe and Mail*, *World Literature Today*, and more. **António Jorge Gonçalves** is a Portuguese creator of graphic novels and picture books. A long-time political cartoonist for the Portuguese newspaper *Público*, he has also published in *Courrier International* and *Le Monde*. He created a live digital drawing technique with which he has performed onstage with musicians, actors, and dancers worldwide. He received Portugal's National Illustration Prize for this book. **Lyn Miller-Lachmann** translates children's books from Portuguese to English, including award-winning picture book *The World in a Second* and YA graphic novel *Pardalita*. She is the author of *Torch*, winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for YA Literature, and co-author (with Zetta Elliott) of the middle grade verse novel *Moonwalking*.



RIGHTS: World English

## SELLING POINTS

**FIRST LOVE IN THE TIME OF BLACKOUT:** Relatable, endearing account of the intimacy that can arise between young people amid social disruption. Beauty & hope are at the core of this patient, poetic novella.

**CAPTIVATING WHITE-ON-BLACK ART THROUGHOUT:** Immersive spreads of white illustrations on a black background, including a gorgeous gatefold, highlight the beauty and potentiality of darkness, countering conventional associations of light and dark.

**ENGLISH YA DEBUT OF SUPERSTAR ANGOLAN AUTHOR:** One of the *Guardian's* top five African writers, Ondjaki has received wide international acclaim for his adult novels. This is his first children's/YA work to appear in English, and was selected for the International Youth Library's White Ravens list of outstanding children's books from around the world.

## SPECIFICATIONS

\* Black-and-white illustrations throughout

\* 126 pages

\* WIDTH: 5 1/3" - 135mm

\* HEIGHT: 8 1/2" - 216mm

\* Hardcover

PUB MONTH: JULY

ISBN 978-1-59270-410-1

US \$16.95 CAN \$23.95 UK £11.99



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