

THE GERNERT COMPANY

**Middle Grade / Young Adult
Rights Guide**

Fall 2022

**OLIVER
and the
GREAT BIG
UNIVERSE**



By Jorge Cham

**Jorge Cham:
OLIVER AND THE GREAT
BIG UNIVERSE**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid meets *Cosmos* in an engaging, illustrated book about an eleven-year-old who wants to become an astrophysicist.

Abrams Books for Young Readers—Fall 2023
Material: Full manuscript
Middle Grade

**Sold in a 3-book deal, for a six-figure advance, at auction, North American rights only •
Sold in 10 foreign territories**

OLIVER AND THE GREAT BIG UNIVERSE by Jorge Cham is about an 11-year old boy (Oliver) who is constantly distracted in life but wants to become an astrophysicist. Through a series of funny comics, Oliver learns complex ideas (the Big Bang theory, black holes, supernovas) from his favorite teacher and then explains them to other kids using humorous and relatable analogies that make learning science fun and engaging.

Jorge Cham is the author (along with Daniel Whiteson) of WE HAVE NO IDEA (Riverhead, 2017) and FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNIVERSE, which is forthcoming from Riverhead. He is the creator of the popular web comic phdcomics.com and is also a co-creator of the PBS Kids show "Elinor Explains Why", which is one of the highest rated shows on PBS's Kids. He obtained his Ph.D. from Stanford University in Robotics and taught at Cal Tech.

Sold to: S&S (UK), Otwarte (Poland), Mirae N (Korea), Metaichmio (Greece), United Sky (China), MIF (Russia), Oceano (World Spanish), B. Wahlstroms (Sweden), Znanje (Croatia), Bookzone (Romania)

P. Djèlí Clark, ABENI'S SONG

A middle grade fantasy trilogy about a young girl trying to escape the evil that has taken over her land, by an up-and-coming star in the SciFi / Fantasy world who has won the Nebula, Locus and Alex awards.

Tor Teen – July 2023

Material: Manuscript

Middle Grade

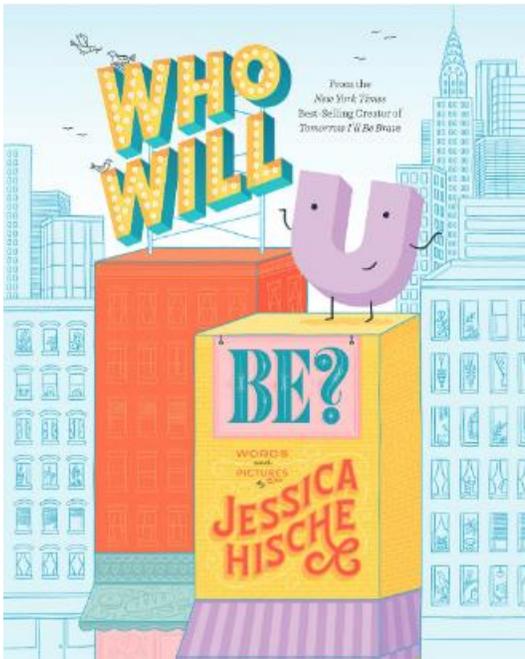
**Sold to Ali Fischer at Tor Teen in a 3-book deal, in a major deal,
North American rights only.**

Praise for **P. Djèlí Clark's RING SHOUT**:

- "A fantastical, brutal and thrilling triumph of the imagination."
—*New York Times Book Review*
- "Rousing, boisterous, and clever." —*Kirkus Reviews, starred review*
- "A meditation on the all-consuming power of hate and violence." —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*
- "A tale that honors the Black American experience in all its complexity, and yet also delivers in its Lovecraftian delight." —*Library Journal, starred review*
- "Steeped in historical detail and full of engaging characters, that asks the question, 'Who is to blame for the hate that hate made?'" —*Booklist, starred review*

Abeni's village was a small, intimate place of family and song, watched over and protected by the mysterious old lady who lived off in the woods nearby. But when the Storm Women come, and the Goat Man plays his alluring song to steal all the children, the old lady--a witch--can only save one: Abeni. Stuck, unable to help, forced to learn bizarre lessons, Abeni's one thought is to escape the witch and go find her family. And when she finally gets her chance to go, will she have learned enough to help or just disappear into the maw of the great evil in the land?

P. Djèlí Clark is the winner of the Nebula, Locus and Alex awards and the author of the novellas *The Black God's Drums*, *The Haunting of Tram Car 015* and *Ring Shout*. His forthcoming debut novel, *A Master of Djinn*, is out in 2021.



Jessica Hische, WHO WILL U BE?

A delightful picture book by *New York Times* bestselling author-illustrator Jessica Hische that follows an inquisitive little letter "u" as she goes on a class field trip.

Penguin Workshop – April 11, 2023
Material: Final pages
Picture Book

A new picture book from the *New York Times* bestselling author !

It's the annual "Find Yourself Field Trip" at Ms. Bracket's School of Little Letters, and "u" couldn't be more excited. She can't wait to see all the ways letters are used in the world -- they're on everything from books to boats, from sidewalks to spaceships! And it's starting to make her wonder one important question: Who will she be when she grows up?

With clever storytelling and vibrant, powerful illustrations, bestselling author Jessica Hische has created an enchanting picture book that is not only an accessible introduction to typography for kids, but also a wonderful reminder to embrace one's individuality and curiosity as they grow older.

Option publishers: Hachette Jeunesse (France), Loewe (Germany)

Yoon Ha Lee, WINTER'S AXIOM (Book 1 in the Lancers series)

A new YA SciFi trilogy by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dragon Pearl*.

Delacorte – Spring 2024

Material: Manuscript

Young Adult

**Sold to Delacorte in a 3-book deal, in a major deal,
NA rights only • Sold in the UK to Rebellion in a 3-book deal •
Yoon Ha Lee's middle grade novel *Dragon Pearl* was a NYT bestseller and sold more
than 150,000 copies in the US**

When Hwa Young's home is destroyed and her family is on the run from enemy forces, she faces an impossible choice. Stay with her family and likely perish or be adopted by a new family connected to the Empire, which is enforcing conformity across the galaxy. She chooses her own survival.

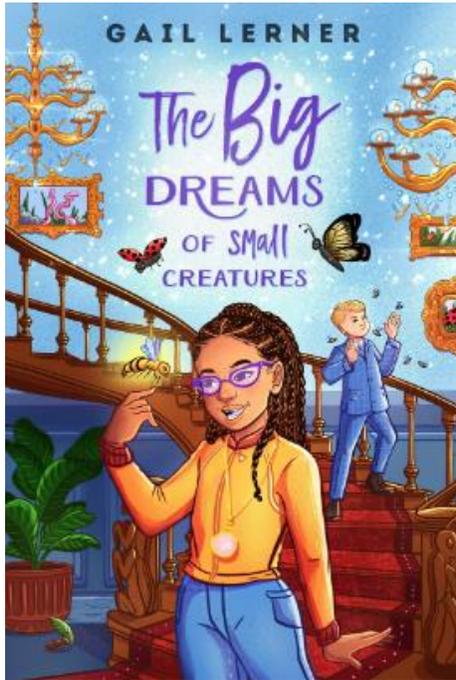
Several years later, Hwa is a talented lancer pilot, manning a mecha robot on missions to planets under the Empire's control, when she discovers the next mission is to destroy her home planet where her mother is still alive.

WINTER'S AXIOM is a novel about family, community, conformity, survival and about doing what's right.

Yoon Ha Lee (yoonhalee.com) is the author of several critically acclaimed short stories and the *Machineries of Empire* trilogy for adults: *NINEFOX GAMBIT*, *RAVEN STRATEGEM*, and *REVENANT GUN*. Yoon draws inspiration from a variety of sources including Korean history and mythology, fairy tales, higher mathematics, classic moral dilemmas, and genre fiction. Yoon's Twitter handle is @deuceofgears.

Sold to: Rebellion (UK & BC)

Foreign publishers of the *Dragon Pearl* series: Giunti Editore (Italy), Duomo Ediciones (Spain), Sakyejul (Korea), Galeria Ksiazki (Poland), Editura ART (Romania), Dogan Egmont (Turkey), Noura (Indonesia)



Gail Lerner, THE BIG DREAMS OF SMALL CREATURES

A heartwarming Middle Grade novel about a 12-year-old girl who can communicate with bugs and a 9-year-old boy who hates insects of all kinds, who square off in a spooky old mansion.

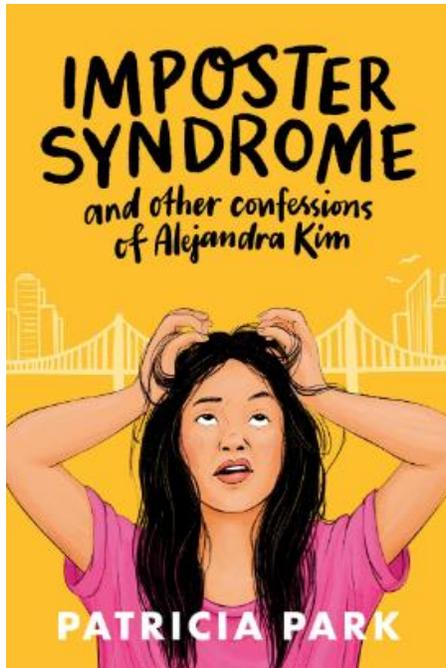
Nancy Paulsen Books (WE) –
October 4, 2022
Material: Final pages
Middle Grade

- “What an enchanting and wondrous book for young readers.” —**Jamie Lee Curtis, actress and bestselling children’s book author**
- “A whimsical adventure highlighting the wonders of the natural world and the importance of kindness, compassion, and seeing things through another’s eyes.”
—**Robert Beatty, author of the bestselling Serafina series and Willa series**
- “Hopeful, upbeat, and triumphant. Our world literally needs this story in it.” —**Lisa McMann, NYT bestselling author of The Forgotten Five: Map of Flames**

From Black-ish writer and director comes a whimsical and heartwarming tale where two unlikely allies band together to protect and defend the insect world from the worst enemy of all...humans. Ten-year-old Eden’s quiet life is upended when she saves a paper wasp nest from destruction and discovers, to her awe and amazement, that she and its haughty queen can talk to each other. Nine-year-old August, an aspiring actor and bullied fourth-grader, is looking for that very secret after a few disastrous encounters have left him wanting to squash every annoying bug into oblivion. After all insects are small—he is big. And if there is anything he’s learned from the bullies at school—it’s that being bigger is what counts. But in the world of the Institute where insects have a place of their own, both Eden and August discover being bigger isn’t necessarily better and sometimes the most courageous thing to do is to set out to make a new friend.

Gail Lerner has written and directed for black-ish, Happy Endings, Ugly Betty, Grace and Frankie, and Will & Grace. Her work has garnered her a Peabody Award, 6 NAACP Image Awards, and multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. This is her first novel.

Sold to: cbj (Germany)



**Patricia Park,
IMPOSTER SYNDROME AND
OTHER CONFESSIONS OF
ALEJANDRA KIM**

A smart and funny YA debut from an acclaimed Korean-American author about growing pains, grief, best friendship, and identity politics.

Crown Books for Young Readers – Feb 21, 2023

Material: 1st pass pages

Young Adult

Sold to Phoebe Yeh at Crown Books for Young Readers in a two-book deal, in a six-figure advance, at auction, NA rights only

- “A dazzling YA debut that is deep, real and scathingly funny.” —**Gayle Forman, *New York Times* best-selling author of *IF I STAY*.**
- “Brimming with insights while being un-put-downable and just plain fun. Simply brilliant!”-**David Yoon, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Frankly in Love***

Alejandra Kim doesn't feel like she belongs anywhere. At her wealthy Manhattan high school, her super Spanish name and super Korean face do not compute to her mostly white "woke" classmates and teachers. In her Jackson Heights neighborhood, she's not Latinx enough. Even at home, Ale feels unwelcome. And things at home have only gotten worse since Papi's body was discovered on the subway tracks. Ale wants nothing more than to escape the city for the wide-open spaces of the prestigious Wyder University. But when a microaggression at school thrusts Ale into the spotlight—and into a discussion she didn't ask for—Ale must discover what it means to carve out a space for yourself to belong. Patricia Park's coming-of-age novel about a multicultural teen caught between worlds, and the future she is building for herself, is an incisive, laugh-out-loud, provocative read.

Patricia Park is the author of the adult novel *RE JANE*. She received her BA in English Literature from Swarthmore College and her MFA in Fiction from Boston University.

More Opportunities . . .



Nathan Pyle, STRANGE PLANET: The Sneaking, Hiding, Vibrating Creature

The first picture book in the *New York Times* bestselling Strange Planet series.

HarperCollins Children's – June 1, 2021
Picture Book

**#1 *New York Times* bestseller ! • Sold as part of a 4-book deal to HarperCollins Children's for a six-figure advance, NA rights only •
UK deal with Wildfire / Headline • More than 750,000 copies sold of the Strange Planet series worldwide**

Based on his popular Instagram comics, Nathan W. Pyle presents a delightful, heartfelt, and clever picture book that young and old beings alike will enjoy reading together. When the nearest star rises, Lifegiver has an exciting quest planned for Offspring! Follow along as they observe a strange creature that sneaks, hides, and vibrates around their house. Hilarity ensues as the blue beings try to mimic this talented creature.

As always, Nathan W. Pyle draws humor from his unique perspective on human activity and delivers a colorful experience that is an ode to cats and humans alike. This book is a joy to read and share, no matter how many revolutions you've made around the nearest star.

Nathan W. Pyle is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Strange Planet*, *Stranger Planet*, *NYC Basic Tips and Etiquette*, and *99 Stories I Could Tell*. He is a former staff writer and illustrator for BuzzFeed.

Sold to: Wildfire/Headline (UK)

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