

LADDERBIRD  
LITERARY  
AGENCY

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# RIGHTS GUIDE



Zig Zag Claybourne. Obsidian Sky Books . February '16

# THE BROTHERS JETSTREAM: LEVIATHAN

THE BROTHERS JETSTREAM: LEVIATHAN is not as much a book as it is a gonzo experience of the wildest nature.

Two brothers. Their crew. One planet. Way too many evils. Plus the whale that was poured into the seas when the world first cooled from creation.

Zig Zag Claybourne is the author of *The Brothers Jetstream: Leviathan* and its sequel *Afro Puffs Are the Antennae of the Universe*. His other works include *By All Our Violent Guides*, *Neon Lights*, *In the Quiet Spaces*, and the short story collection *Historical Inaccuracies*. His fiction and essays have appeared in *Apex*, *Galaxy's Edge*, *GigaNotosaurus*, *Strange Horizons*, and other venues.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: World Excluding NA English; Audio

Cody T. Luff . Apex Books . August '19

# RATION

An upmarket horror novel and an unflinching take on the ways society can both thrive and go wrong as food resources become scarce and the pressure to survive builds.

Years ago, a virus swept over the world, eliminating all of the men, animals, and plant life. The women survived, but in a dark world with little food, factions break out and compete for resources.

Cynthia is one of these women--just a girl, really--in one of these groups. She lives with others in 'The Apartments,' impenetrable towers that keep her community isolated from the rest of the terrifying world. When she's falsely accused of stealing food from the others, she's thrown out of the only home that she's ever known and into a world of even more scarcity than she ever imagined. It's a world filled with politics and intrigue which she must learn to navigate if she's to survive and get revenge on her enemies in The Apartments.

Luff's stories have appeared in Pilgrimage, Cirque, KYSO Flash, Menda City Review, Swamp Biscuits & Tea, and others. He is the fiction winner of the 2016 Montana Book Festival Regional Emerging Writers Contest, served as editor of an anthology of short fiction with twelve contributors titled Soul's Road, holds an MFA in Creative Writing, and works as a college professor and story editor.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: World Excluding NA English

Crystal Bird Farmer . New Society . October '20

# THE TOKEN

Common Sense Ideas for Increasing Diversity in Your Organization

In THE TOKEN, Crystal Byrd Farmer, acts as the bridge between majority organizations and "diverse" people in the community they want to recruit, ranging in identities of skin color, nationality, religion, LGBTQ, education, socioeconomic status, and disability. Not limited to just an American experience, Farmer's ideas translate to any society coming to terms with how to include these newcomers into their community, workplace, and organizations.

Farmer outlines how to help your organization make real transformative change toward diversity. Coverage includes:

- What marginalized people experience and what they need to feel safe and comfortable in order to succeed
- Doing "The Work" – how to have deep conversations with your membership about the reality of bias, privilege, and microaggressions
- Practical exercises and discussion questions
- How to choose appropriate meeting locations and establish ground rules, when to bring in outside help, and how to recruit support within your organization
- Strategies on how to talk to friends or colleagues who are resistant to progressive ideas.

THE TOKEN is for anyone in a workplace, political organization, or community group who wants to engage minorities and cannot figure out why they fail to attract any.

Crystal Byrd Farmer is an engineer turned educator, organizer, and speaker who focuses on cohousing, black, and polyamorous communities. She serves on the Editorial Review Board of Communities Magazine and is a contributor to Medium Magazine.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: World Excluding English



## A NIGHT at the SWEET GUM HEAD

Drag, Drugs, Disco, and Atlanta's Gay Revolution

MARTIN PADGETT

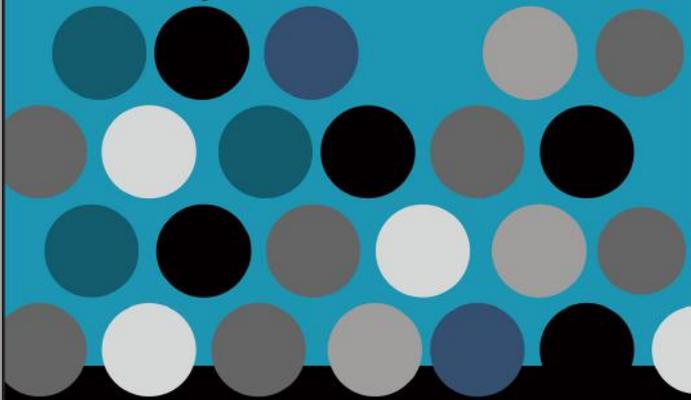


Crystal Byrd Farmer

# THE TOKEN



Common Sense Ideas  
for Increasing Diversity  
in Your Organization



Zig Zag Claybourne . Obsidian Sky Books . December '20

# AFRO PUFFS ARE THE ANTENNAE OF THE UNIVERSE

An uproarious space romp follow up to THE BROTHERS JETSTREAM:  
LEVIATHAN.

Four women. One machine goddess. And the baddest Pacific Octopus this side of  
Atlantis. Plus the future of humanity hanging in the balance.

Zig Zag Claybourne is the author of The Brothers Jetstream: Leviathan and its  
sequel Afro Puffs Are the Antennae of the Universe. His other works include By  
All Our Violent Guides, Neon Lights, In the Quiet Spaces, and the short story  
collection Historical Inaccuracies. His fiction and essays have appeared in in  
Apex, Galaxy's Edge, GigaNotosaurus, Strange Horizons, and other venues.

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Jamie Yourdon . GenZ Publishing . April '21

# THE SPACE BETWEEN TWO DEATHS

Written in a crisp, modern style, *THE SPACE BETWEEN TWO DEATHS* is a dark fable fever dream about finding your voice when the world tries to take it away.

In ancient Sumeria, only a thin veil separates the living from the dead. The lives of Ziz, her mother, Meshara, and her father, Temen, are disrupted when a mysterious crevasse rends the earth. Temen becomes obsessed with the mystery and, capturing a crow to guide him, he follows a path to the netherworld where he hopes to gain wisdom from his dead father. Yet he soon finds that ancestors don't always provide the answers we need. In his absence, a grisly accident occurs on their farm — Meshara and Ziz are forced to flee. Friendless and alone, they must find a way to survive despite the brutalities of their landlord and devotees of the religious nation-state. Will the women revel in their new companionship or seek to find freedom elsewhere?

Jamie Yourdon received his MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona. His short fiction has appeared in the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Underneath the Juniper Tree*, and *Chicago Literati*, and he has contributed essays and interviews to *Booktrib*.

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Martin Padgett . W.W. Norton . June '21

# A NIGHT AT THE SWEET GUM HEAD

Drag, Drugs, Disco, and Atlanta's Gay Revolution

Pulsing with a disco beat, the Sweet Gum Head was the club for achieving drag stardom. Author Martin Padgett explores the lives of two men who shaped and were shaped by this club:

John Greenwell, a runaway from a small, conservative town who found himself and his avocation performing in drag; and Bill Smith, who took to the streets and court rooms to change antigay laws. Against this optimism for visibility and rights, gay people lived with daily police harassment and drug dealing and murder in their discos and drag clubs. Conducting interviews with many of the major figures and reading through archives, Padgett expertly sets the scene from a time when a vibrant, new queer culture of drag and pride came into being.

Martin Padgett has an MFA from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and received a 2019 Lambda Literary Fellowship. He has written for Oxford American, Gravy, Details, and Business Week.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: World Excluding English

Emily Wolf . She Writes Press . August '22

# MY THIRTY-FIRST YEAR (AND OTHER CALAMITIES)

The unsentimental family drama of *How to Party with an Infant* meets the subtle feminist cry of *How to Build a Girl* delivered with the dry sass and 'tits-up' attitude of *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* in this story of reinvention.

Zoe Greene had her life figured out. Meet her soul mate as a teenager. Check. Attend university together. Check. Get married. Check. Have a baby. Check--Wait, scratch that.

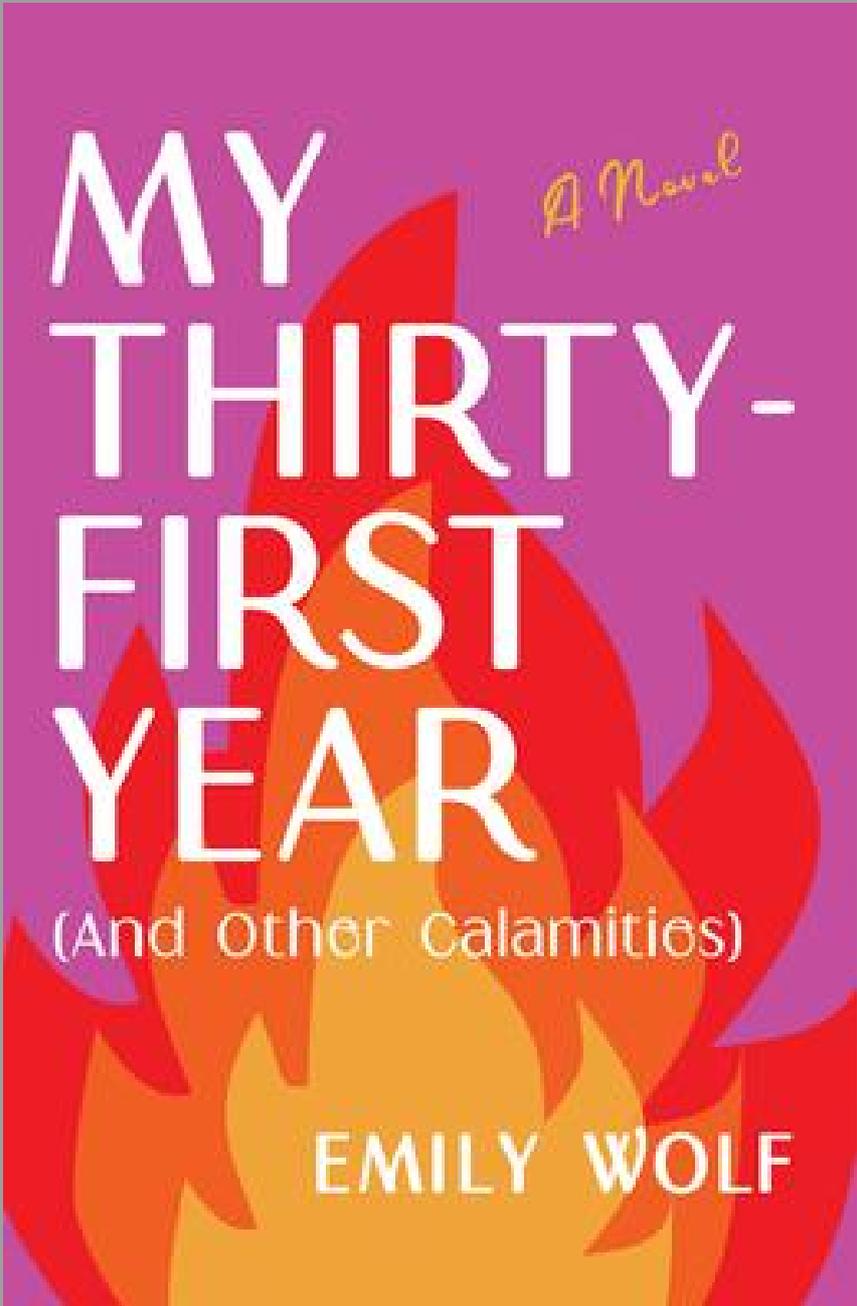
When Zoe tells her husband she's pregnant, he tells her he neither wants the baby nor the wife. Rather than becoming a family of three, she makes the decision to end the pregnancy and rebuild her life alone.

She goes to a therapist who sends her to a divorce lawyer. She goes to a Rabbi who sends her to a Mikveh. And she goes on what seems like a million terrible dates which mostly send her running.

After going to everyone else to help put her life back on track, Zoe begins to learn what it means to just let go.

Emily Wolf is a Harvard educated lawyer and essayist. This is her first novel.

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MY  
THIRTY-  
FIRST  
YEAR

*A Novel*

(And Other Calamities)

EMILY WOLF

Tessa Brunton . Graphic Universe . November '22

# NOTES FROM A SICKBED

An autobiographical graphic novel about a woman stuck inside her home with a maddening mystery illness who must use her humor and imagination to reckon with the helplessness, loneliness, bitterness, and fear she faces each day.

Tessa is stuck at home, sick for days, weeks, and sometimes months at a time, at the mercy of a disabling illness. She knows how “proper” sick people are supposed to act: They’re stoic; They’re hopeful; They’re happy for others who are doing well. But trapped at home day after day and struggling with nightmare symptoms, Tessa is neither stoic nor hopeful. Instead of feeling happy for healthy people, she is--as much as she hates to admit it--jealous of them.

Notes from a Sickbed is a collection of wry, observational, autobiographical comics that pays no mind to how “proper” sick people are supposed to act and instead delves into the emotional realities of chronic illness. Comic by comic, Tessa uses humor, frankness, and fantasy to turn these struggles into funny and relatable tales.

Tessa Brunton's comics have appeared in Bitch Magazine, Maisonneuve Magazine, The Comics Journal, and many anthologies. Her first comic book Passage was published by Sparkplug Comic Books in 2011 and was nominated for two Ignatz Awards: Outstanding Comic and Promising New Talent. Her mini-comic Second Banana is a Best American Comics 2014 notable comic, and Domestic Times, a faux-magazine she created about co-habitation, is a Best American Comics 2016 notable comic. She has also been the Charles M. Schulz Museum Cartoonist in Residence and the featured artist in the Cartoon Art Museum's Small Press Spotlight.

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Loretta Brady . Rowman & Littlefield . November '22

# TECHNOLOGY TOUCHPOINTS

## Policy Making and Parenting in the Digital Dystopia

In the age of technology and media swirling in a constant fix of screens, parents are grasping at straws to understand the intricacies of what the digital age really is, and how to successfully raise children through it.

A professor of psychology and parent of five, Loretta Brady explores the ways in which her own family and experiences with parenting are compounded and confounded by technology. We all know avoidance is futile, but constant questions plague parents: what is too much time on the screen? What sites should kids be allowed to visit? What is safety in an age where everything feels like a digital risk?

Through an approachable narrative guide, Brady explores these ubiquitous parental qualms, helping parents feel less alone in a constantly shifting world. Unlike comparable books, "Technology Touchpoints" uses own-voices experiences to demonstrate media's influence beyond the typical white affluent family. Brady's bring her experiences as an Afto-Latina mother as well as others for a project that is inclusive of diverse viewpoints and the intersectionality of gender and race opens a door for all parents of all backgrounds. "Technology Touchpoints" is an aggregation of personal narrations and scientific sources, providing parents with the information they need alongside the readability they seek.

Brady is a licensed clinical psychologist, professor of psychology at Saint Anselm College, and director of Requity Labs.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: World Excluding NA English; Audio

Jennifer Savran Kelly . Algonquin . February '23

# ENDPAPERS

Unable to fit into the body that New York in 2003 has prescribed for them, gender-fluid bookbinder Dawn Levit has nevertheless built a life that fits—with their boyfriend Lukas, who also defies gender norms, and a job conserving books at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Then Dawn encounters two intriguing messages: a love letter written by a lesbian on the back of an old queer pulp cover, hidden in the binding of a 1950s-era art book, and a transgender street artist's plea for acceptance, barely noticeable in the graffiti under a Manhattan bridge. As these discoveries inspire Dawn to venture out of the safe world they've built, they track down the author of the letter, looking to her for inspiration. But Dawn's best friend becomes a casualty of a homophobic attack and Dawn's life with Lukas begins to spiral downward. Now Dawn must confront whether they have the strength to press ahead, turning their fascination with the letter and graffiti into obsession. How did a lesbian in 1950s New York find the courage to risk revealing herself? And what if art could be the answer to living an authentic life? These questions propel Dawn on an unusual search for a path forward—looking to a stranger from the past and to the street artists of post-9/11 New York City.

Savran Kelly is a production editor at Cornell University Press and award recipient of the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund. Author of several works of short fiction, ENDPAPERS is Savran Kelly's debut novel.

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Emily Ettinger . Penguin Workshop . Summer '23

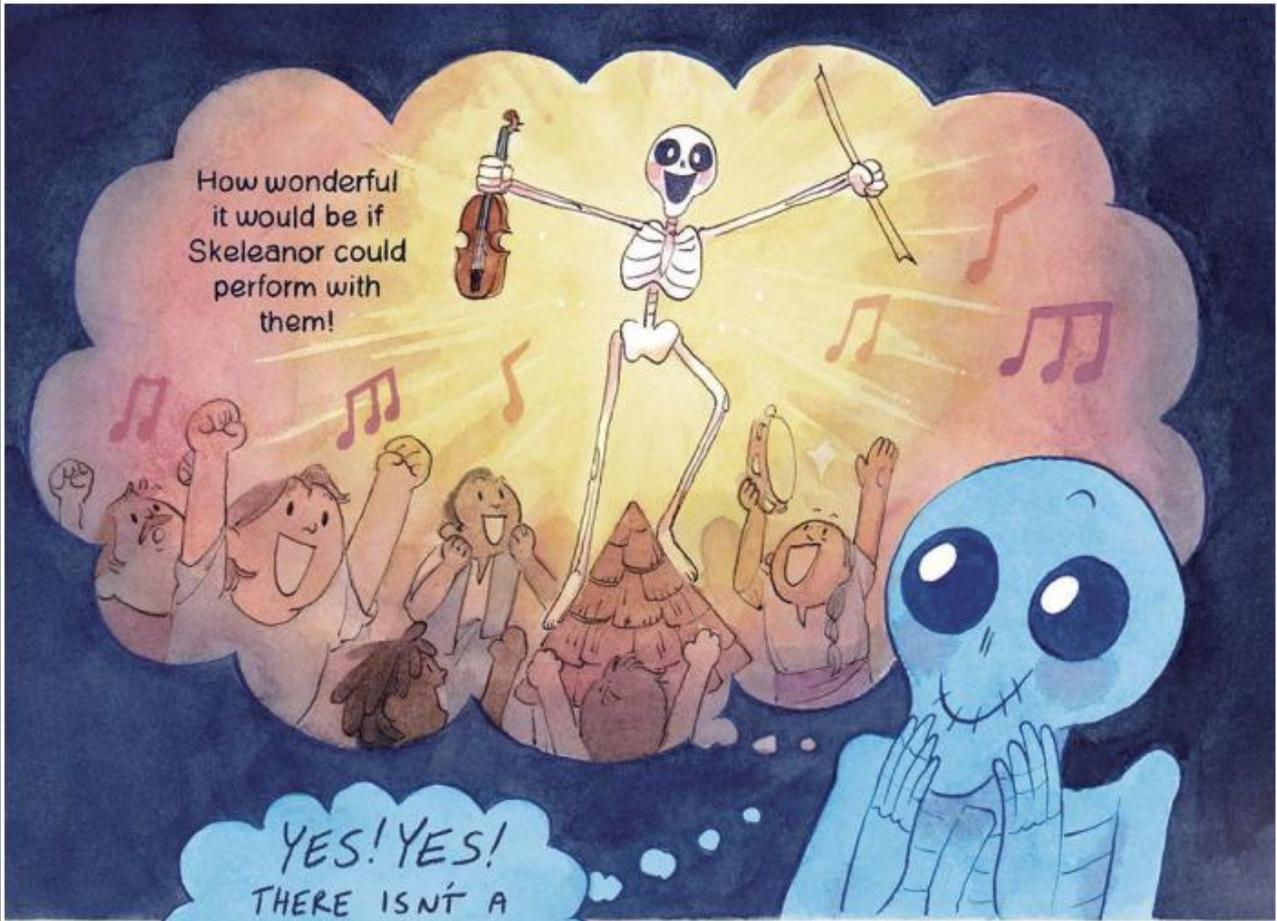
# SKELEANOR THE DECOMPOSER

Nightmare Before Christmas meets Lorena Alvarez Gomez's NIGHTLIGHTS in this graphic novel about fitting in, pursuing your passion, and never giving up.

Skeleanor is a friendly skeleton with big dreams and many out-of-tune instruments. With the town fair approaching, her winged-friend, Batima, encourages her to show the people what she can do. Practice makes perfect, but when Skeleanor tries to practice in the middle of the village square, the townspeople run away. They don't know what's scarier, a skeleton playing music or the screeching music the skeleton plays! A kindly music teacher hears Skeleanor and decides to help her realize her potential, giving Skeleanor more rhythm than rattle and making friends along the way.

Emily Ettliger is an illustrator, cartoonist, and product designer. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design

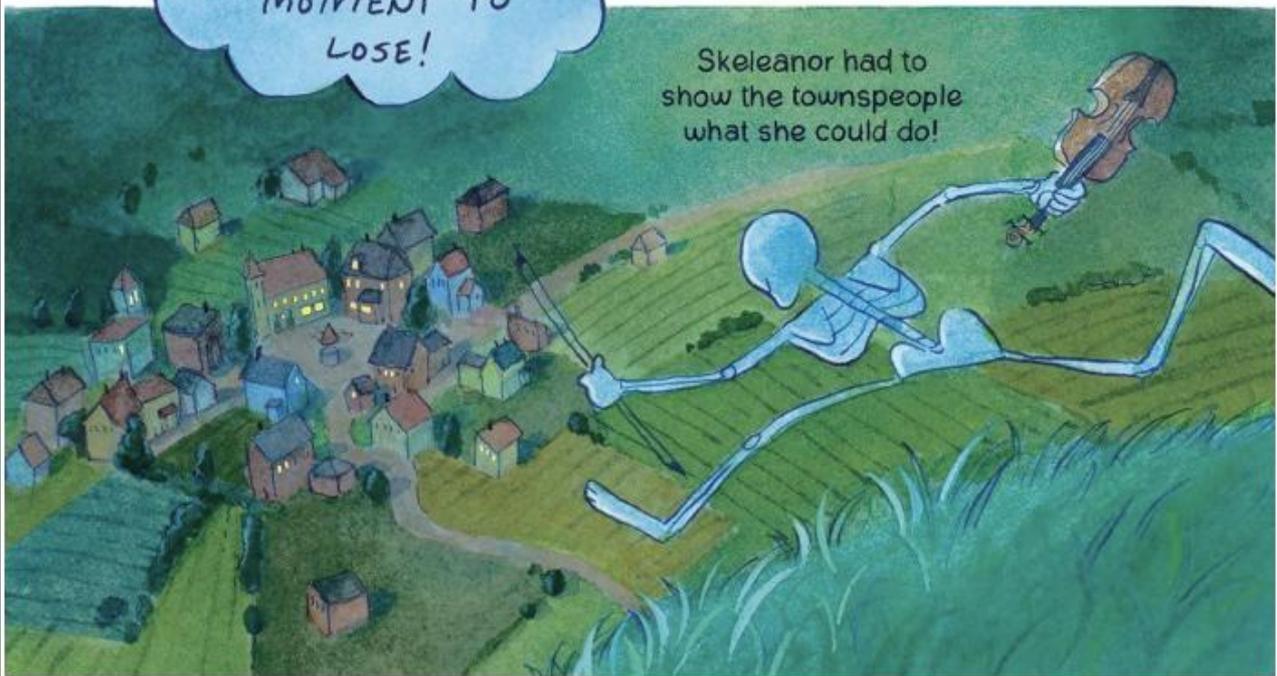
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How wonderful  
it would be if  
Skeleanor could  
perform with  
them!

YES! YES!  
THERE ISN'T A  
MOMENT TO  
LOSE!

Skeleanor had to  
show the townspeople  
what she could do!



H.D. Hunter . FSG Children's . Winter '24

# SOMETHING LIKE RIGHT

Xavier's mother always said his mouth would get him in trouble. Sure enough, it got him into his first and only fight. To graduate on time and stay out of trouble, he's forced to move in with his aunt hours away from his friends and transfer to an alternative school. There is one silver lining in all this—he doesn't have to deal with his estranged father who has suddenly returned after being released from prison.

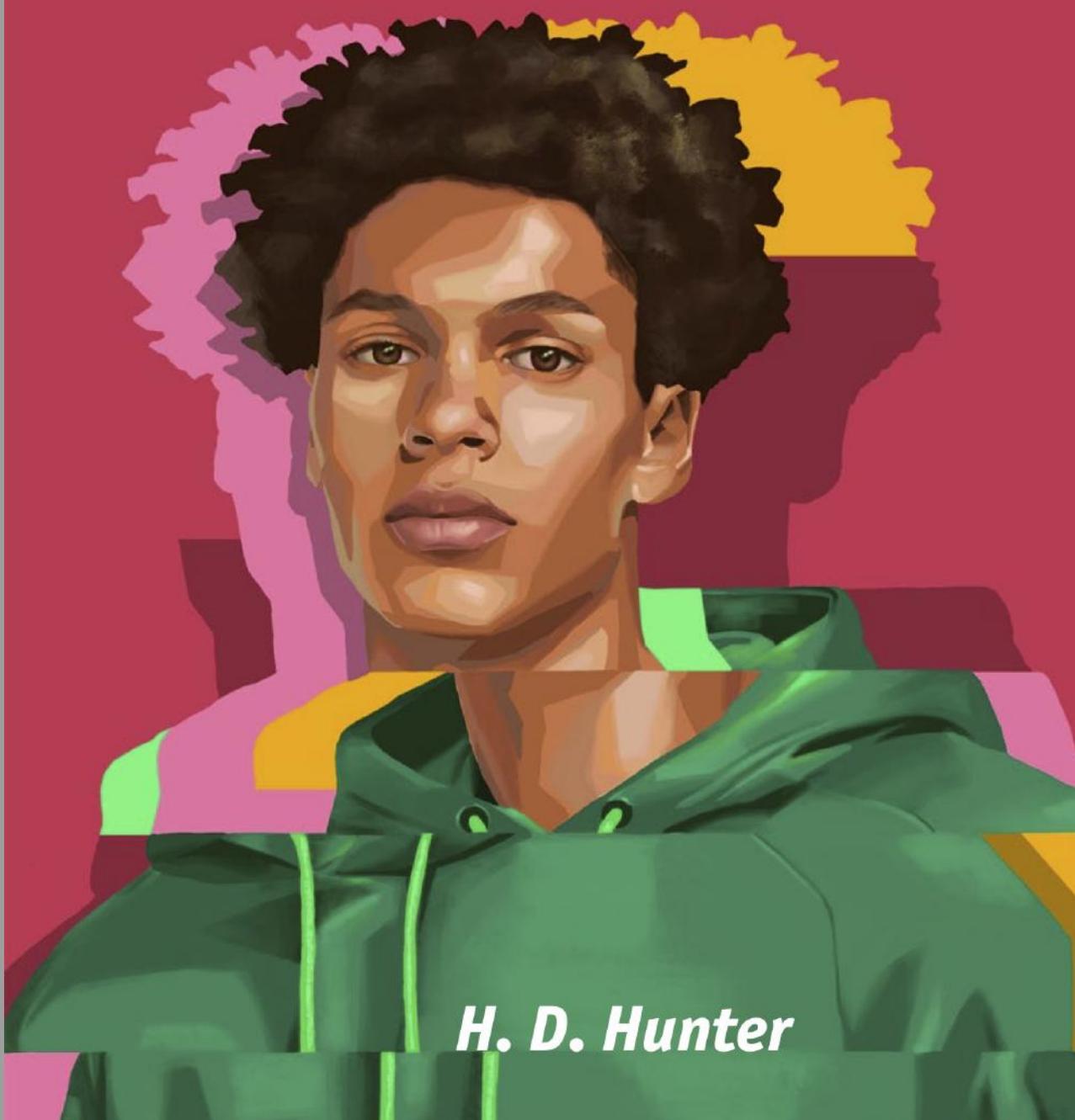
When "Zay" meets Feven, a first-generation Eritrean girl, it's not long before they get caught up in one another. Yet Feven is also struggling for her own identity as she tries to balance school, her cultural expectations, and now Zay. Zay doesn't notice he's getting only pieces of her until Feven no longer has pieces to give. Emotionally lost as everything falls apart, Zay finds comfort in the letters his mother started sending him as a part of her therapy and when the dust finally clears, everything is not all right, or what it used to be, but something like it starts to take shape from the debris. Zay learns that you may not end up with what or who you wanted but you'll always get what you were meant to have which for him was a chance to find his own path.

SOMETHING LIKE RIGHT is the complex relationship of Lamar Giles' NOT SO PURE AND SIMPLE subtly meeting the themes of PUNCHING THE AIR by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam. Readers will not only fall in love with Zay and Feven but the community around them which is filled with many other students who like Zay aren't given second chances and have nowhere else to go.

Hugh "H.D." Hunter is a storyteller and community organizer. He's the author of two self-published books and the upcoming middle-grade sci-fi adventure, FUTURELAND, sold to Penguin Random House (Fall 2022) in a seven-figure deal at auction, as well as the winner of several indie book awards for multicultural fiction. He's committed to #ownvoices stories about Black kids and their many expansive worlds. Hugh loves vegan snacks, basketball, and stories that make you cry—but make you smile after.

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# ***SOMETHING LIKE RIGHT***



***H. D. Hunter***

Ravynn Stringfield . Feiwel and Friends . Winter '25

# LOVE IN 280 CHARACTERS OR LESS

GROWNISH meets THE POET X in this story about what it means to come of age in the digital world and viral notoriety told exclusively through texts, tweets, posts, blog entries, and emails.

Sydney Ciara is your average college student—a Black girl on a predominately white campus. With her best friend, Malcolm, miles away, Sydney Ciara not only has to navigate through her first semester of college at Coastal Virginia University all by herself, but she has to do so while figuring out what it means to be #BlackAndCollegiate. When making friends and finding her path proves more difficult than she imagined, Sydney turns to the one place she’s always felt comfortable with: the Internet. On Twitter, she finds solace in sharing herself through her tweets and she ends up falling in love for the first time with the twitter handle, @YoungPrinceX.

As the semester wears on, Sydney’s real life and digital life are diverging, but as she gets closer to @YoungPrinceX and they continue to encourage her to find confidence in her words and in the power of her voice—she desperately wants them to converge. Everything finally does when she finds out about a racially motivated arrest on University of Virginia’s campus—Malcolm’s campus—and she decides to write about it. In the aftermath, as she gains more followers and trolls, she is forced to re-evaluate who she is, what she stands for, and who she is going to be—as a person and as a writer.

Ravynn K. Stringfield is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at William & Mary researching Black women and girls in new media narratives that are fantastic, futuristic and/or digital in nature by day and a YA novelist by night (and weekends and breaks). She has had her work featured on the Black Youth Project, ZORA, and Catapult. Previously a writer for the web magazine Literally, Darling, she now runs her own website, Black Girl Does Grad School.

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