



## The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender

by Leslye Walton

"Ava Lavender knew she wasn't going to have an ordinary life. She would have loved to be a normal 1950s teenager but her heritage—of love, loss, and magic—and her speckled wings prevented that. Walton's eloquent tale of a girl trying to fit in and a family trying to understand their fate has the feel of classics such as *Like Water for Chocolate* and *Chocolat*. This is a book that's timeless, beautiful, and perfect for lovers of magical realism."

—Melissa Fox, Watermark Books and Café, Wichita, KS

Find out more about this book and others at [WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG](http://WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG)



## Firefly July

A Year of Very Short Poems, selected by Paul B. Janeczko, Melissa Sweet (illus.)

"This collection of short poems for children takes your child's imagination on a journey through the seasons. The brevity of the poems is enhanced with bold and surrealistic scenes by illustrator Sweet and together they introduce children to masterful poets like Langston Hughes, Ted Kooser, William Carlos Williams, and Emily Dickinson. *Firefly July* reminds us that poetry and visual art are not mutually exclusive and may even inspire your children to create some art of their own."

—Julie Oliver, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA

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## Cress

The Lunar Chronicles, by Marissa Meyer

"I've been addicted to Meyer's dystopian fairy tales since I first read *Cinder*. With *Cress*, Meyer continues the stories of *Cinder* and *Scarlet* and adds another: a fractured version of *Rapunzel*. *Cress* is an expert hacker and has been trapped in a satellite orbiting Earth and her native Lunar since she was a little girl. Now she's a teenager and ready to break free by whatever means necessary. She is a damsel in distress, but where is her Prince Charming? I can't wait for the next volume in this great series!"

—Lauren Peugh, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

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## Grasshopper Jungle

by Andrew Smith

"Jonathan Safran Foer meets John Green meets *War of the Worlds* in this thoroughly original, completely engrossing novel. With a fresh and funny voice, Smith unleashes the mess and marvels of teen love, friendship, and other, unexpected terrors. *Grasshopper Jungle* is an emotional roller coaster, a goofy fun house, and a monstrous freak show all rolled up into one thrilling package."

—Tegan Tigani, Queen Anne Book Company, Seattle, WA

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## Spring '14 Top Ten Kids' Next

### **The Secret Box**

by Whitaker Ringwald

"Take one 12-year-old girl with insatiable curiosity and a talent for getting into trouble, give her a mysterious box from an estranged aunt that will only open in one location, throw in a couple of mismatched boy cousins, and stir. Ringwald's *The Secret Box* gives the middle school set their own smart and snazzy intellectual mystery series. With spot-on characters who are very much of this world—and are at times downright funny—and a story that threatens to transcend accepted reality, *The Secret Box* is an exciting and engaging read."

—Susan Petrone, Loganberry Books, Cleveland, OH



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## Spring '14 Top Ten Kids' Next

### **Following Papa's Song**

by Gianna Marino

"From the mystery of the sea comes this delightful tale of Little Blue, a curious young whale who ventures out a little too far alone, only to remember the wise words of his father. The vivid illustrations help us to visualize Little Blue's journey both with his father and when he goes out on his own. Children will love the serenity of this story."

—Kathy Taber, Kids Ink, Indianapolis, IN



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## Spring '14 Top Ten Kids' Next

### **The Boundless**

by Kenneth Oppel, Jim Tierney (Illus.)

"The Boundless is the most luxurious train of its time. Its passengers range from poor civilians to the rich to circus folks and one murderer whose eyes are set on a tightly guarded treasure that is in a tomb on board. Then there's William Everett, aspiring artist, son of the man who's driving the train, and the sole witness to a murder that sets off a chain of thrilling adventures. Oppel's newest novel is a wonderful mix of magic and mystery, with a couple Sasquatches thrown in for good measure!"

—Courtney Kane, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY



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## Spring '14 Top Ten Kids' Next

### **Sparky!**

by Jenny Offill, Chris Appelhans (Illus.)

"What happens when you want a pet and Mom says no to all the obvious options? You do some research and order a sloth online, of course. Sparky definitely isn't your usual pet. Tricks are a bit beyond him. He sleeps through most games and is really only good at playing statue. Still the bond between child and pet is there, and while his owner wishes he were a little more lively, Sparky is loved and accepted for what he is. This is a wonderful picture book for storytime with a timeless message."

—Janice Hunsche, Kaleidosaurus Books, Fishers, IN



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# Spring '14 Top Ten Kids' Next

## The Adventures of Beekle

The Unimaginary Friend, by Dan Santat

"On an island far away, an imaginary friend waits to be chosen by a child. Tired of waiting, he takes matters into his own hands and journeys to the real world, where life is not as he expected. Santat's signature illustrations enhance this tale of friendship, both real and imaginary."

—Cathy Berner, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

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# Spring '14 Top Ten Kids' Next

## A Snicker of Magic

by Natalie Lloyd

"This book begs to be read aloud just for the joy of Lloyd's way with words. Felicity Pickle is a collector of words but she can't seem to get them out of her mouth unscrambled. She wants a home, but her mother has a bad case of wanderlust. Felicity is hoping that there is a 'snicker of magic' left in Midnight Gulch to make her mother want to stay put."

—Diane Morse, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

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