

HARVEY KLINGER, INC.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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MEGAN FRAZER BLAKEMORE

MIDDLE GRADE

THE FRIENDSHIP RIDDLE (May 2015)

Publishers: world *English:* Bloomsbury

For the answers you seek, look up.

Ruth Mudd-O’Flaherty has been a lone wolf at her new middle school ever since her best friend Charlotte, ditched her for “cooler” friends. Who needs friends when you have fantasy novels? Roaming the stacks of her town’s library is enough for Ruth. Until she finds a note in an old book... and in that note is a riddle, one that Ruth can’t solve alone. With a tantalizing set of clues before her, Ruth must admit she needs help. Lena and Coco, two kids in her class could be an option, but allowing them in will require courage, and Ruth must decide: Is embarking on this quest worth opening herself up again?

This surprising and emotionally- charged journey through the ups and downs of middle school proves that even the bravest heroes need true friends by their sides.

THE SPY CATCHERS OF MAPLE HILL (2014)

Publishers: world *English:* Bloomsbury

“It is no mystery that readers will come to love Hazel Kaplansky as she grows up and into becoming her own true self.”—Kirby Larson, Newbery Honor winning author of HATTIE BIG SKY

Hazel Kaplansky is a firm believer in the pursuit of knowledge and truth—and she also happens to love a good mystery. When suspicions swirl that a Russian spy has infiltrated her small town of Maple Hill, Vermont, amidst the fervor of Cold War era McCarthyism, Hazel knows it’s up to her to find a suspect... starting with Mr. Jones, the quietly suspicious grave digger. Plus she’s found a perfect sleuthing partner in Samuel Butler, the new boy in school with a few secrets of his own. But as Hazel and Samuel

piece together clues from the past and present, the truth is suddenly not what they expected, and what they find reveals more about themselves and the people of their cozy little town than they could ever have imagined.

THE WATER CASTLE (2013)

Publishers: world **English:** Bloomsbury

Germany: Carlsen

WASHINGTON POST

THE WATER CASTLE is full of adventure and mystery, but mostly it's about the importance of family, friendship and home.

STARRED REVIEW, *KIRKUS Weaving legacy and myth into science and magic, old into new and enemies into friends, Blakemore creates an exquisite mystery... This one is special.

YOUNG ADULT

VERY IN PIECES (fall 2015)

Publishers: world **English:** HarperCollins Children's Books

Very Sayles-Woodruff is steady. She gets straight As with a particular penchant for mathematics. She makes sure the groceries are bought, and the house in order. She gets her sister to school – whether she stays there is another issue entirely.

Very's family, not so much. They are a family of artists that has embraced all the free-spiritedness such a designation implies. Her mother, a frustrated painter, spends days daydreaming on a hammock or on the couch in the living room. Her father, a musicologist, chases the one big idea that will make him a professorial rock star. Her sister, Ramona, flits around the world on gossamer wings. And her grandmother, well, that's Imogene Woodruff, the poet. You know, the one who always writes about sex.

When a sculpture made of bottle caps and other refuse appears on the side of the house, everyone assumes it is in honor of Imogene, who is dying. Very, though,

suspects it might be someone else: Dominic Meyers, the closest thing her town has to a bad boy who has taken a sudden interest in her.

Imogene's illness reveals family secrets, and constructed histories, tests the bonds of the family, and leads Very to wonder if she really is who everyone thinks she is. If our personalities are only constructions, then who does she want to be?

ERIN BOWMAN

VENGEANCE ROAD (2015)

Publishers: North America: HMH

It's 1877, and life in Arizona Territory is not easy. Eighteen-year-old Kate Thompson lives with her father on their Prescott homestead, and so long as there's enough food for their table and no Apache on their land, Kate's content. But as she hauls water from the creek one morning, her father is attacked by the Rose Riders, a vicious outlaw gang notorious for robbing stagecoaches, and left swinging from a mesquite tree. Desperate for answers and justice, Kate pursues the men.

Exposed to Arizona's lawless, gritty plains for the first time in her life, Kate discovers she might be as ruthless and cunning as most outlaws. Plagued by untrustworthy strangers, dust storms, relentless heat, and a pair of pesky but harmless brothers who refuse to quit riding in her shadow, Kate's travels are a test on her patience and determination. After learning her father was killed for his journal, which held maps to a rich gold mine he'd discovered as a young man, Kate's appetite for vengeance only intensifies. But as she closes in on the Rose Riders a startling truth becomes clear—some men will spill endless amounts of blood to get their hands on gold, and Kate's quest for revenge just might cost her her life.

True Grit meets Blood Red Road, Vengeance Road is inspired by the very real legend of The Lost Dutchman Gold Mine in Arizona's Superstition Mountains, and brings to life the unpredictable and cutthroat days of the wild west.

FORGED (April 2015)

FROZEN (2014)

TAKEN (2013)

Publishers: North America: HarperTeen

Germany: Piper Italy: Sperling Spain: RH Mondadori

EDITH COHN

SPIRIT'S KEY (fall 2014)

Publishers: world English: FSG

"As compelling as it is inventive, Edith Cohn's SPIRIT'S KEY dangles magical charms before the reading mind. Surely a new classic."—Rita Williams-Garcia, author of ONE CRAZY SUMMER

"A delightfully original plot . . . The island setting is unique, and the people that inhabit it are well worth getting to know." - *School Library Journal*

"An inventive story with a fresh setting and an upstanding moral compass." - *Kirkus Reviews*

By now, twelve-year-old Spirit Holden should have inherited the family gift: the ability to see the future. But when she holds a house key in her hand like her dad does, she can't see anything. Maybe it's because all she wants to see is her dog Sky, who mysteriously died and washed ashore on a sand dune. Sky was Spirit's loyal companion, a wild dog, feared by the islanders in her community. Bald Island superstition says the wild dogs are cursed and dangerous. Spirit knows this isn't true, but then she hasn't heard the legends. Holding Sky's dog tag conjures his ghost and more mysteries to unravel. She must unlock the Holden family gift. Only Spirit can save the island's remaining wild dogs from extinction. To do so, she must learn the true meaning of a dog tag and teach the islanders to coexist with the animals who also call Bald Island home.

CARRIE FIRESTONE

THE LOOSE ENDS LIST (2016)

Publishers: world English: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Seventeen-year-old Maddie's grandmother has a sagging seahorse tattoo, a VHS porn collection and a sexy Jamaican boyfriend. But, Gram still manages to shock everyone when she announces that she has booked the entire family on a secret death-with-dignity ship called the Wishwell, because she is dying of terminal cancer and is determined to leave this world in her own way. Maddie was planning an important summer-- one where she would lose her virginity before college and tie other loose ends, but she would follow her Gram anywhere.

Soon Maddie is on the road trip at sea of a lifetime with her Mom, Dad, stoner brother Jeb, slutty cousin Janie, Uncle Billy and his husband Wes, demented great Aunt Rose and Gram's dreadlocked boyfriend.

Aboard the Wishwell, Maddie bonds with the other "Wishwellians", each one dealing with their own loss, and falls for Enzo, who proves a nice distraction, even though she knows she will have to let him go when the trip is over, too. The journey takes them to a Jamaican weed farm, a volcano in Iceland, a jazz club in Rome, and an island in the Pacific where scientists and faith healers collaborate to cure diseases, and the closeness of the ship quarters has a way of making family secrets rise to the surface.

LAURA MARX FITZGERALD

UNDER THE EGG (2014)

Publishers: world **English:** Dial

Czech & Slovak: Fortunta Libri **Italy:** Fabbri **Swedish:** Rabén & Sjögren

Film agent: Brandy Rivers, Gersh Agency

***A Spring 2014 Kids' Indie Next Pick**

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Young readers who enjoy more traditional mystery stories, particularly those set amid art and museums, are likely to find great satisfaction in Laura Marx Fitzgerald's UNDER THE EGG, which justly evokes comparisons with other art-sleuthy middle-grade novels, such as E.L. Konigsburg's "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler" (1967) and Blue Balliett's "Chasing Vermeer" (2004).

SLJ

Things could be better. A lot better. When Theodora's grandfather Jack was alive, the family didn't have a ton of money but at least they got by pretty well on his salary as a guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was after Jack died in a freak accident that things took a downward slide. With a mother incapable of dealing with reality (and addicted to pricey tea), Theo knows their money is coming to an end. Soon they won't have enough to live on. It's when things look particularly dire that Theo accidentally spills rubbing alcohol on one of her grandfather's favorite paintings. And as strange as it sounds, beneath his plain picture of an egg lies an incredibly old image of Madonna and Child. The more Theo starts to look into the painting and its history, the more determined she is to track down its story. Now with the help of the daughter of a pair of acting celebrities, a punk librarian, an Episcopalian priest, a guy selling nuts on the street, and more, Theo's about to peel away not just the mystery behind the painting, but also her own grandfather's role in one of the greatest WWII capers of all time.

... Uniquely readable, entirely charming, and a pleasure from start to finish. Debuts this good are meant to be discovered.

KIRKUS

"A fast-paced mystery... If Dan Brown of THE DA VINCI CODE wrote middle-grade novels, this would be the one."

JOHN C. FORD

THE CIPHER (February 2015)

Publishers: world **English:** Viking

Film agent: Jon Cassir, CAA

"Ford's The Cipher is a thrill-a-minute ride. You'll be rooting for Smiles from the first page. A very cool read." – David Baldacci

Smiles isn't what you'd call a genius, but he seems to be surrounded by them: his dad, the famous software mogul; his girlfriend, the straight arrow; and Ben, the 16-year-old math prodigy who makes his unlikely best friend. When Ben cracks a real-life, ancient math riddle central to modern encryption systems, he suddenly holds the power to unlock every electronic secret in the world—and Smiles, finally, has a chance to prove his own worth. Hatching a plan to keep Ben safe from government agents ready to kill for the discovery, joined by a free-spirited girl of unknown origin, Smiles comes to understand a long-hidden mystery of his own life, one that's far more puzzling than any algorithm. A thriller with shocking twists, *The Cipher* explores the damage done when we attempt to encrypt our personal histories.

THE MORGUE AND ME (2009)

Publishers: world **English:** Viking

France: La Martinière

EDGAR AWARD NOMINEE FOR BEST YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

STARRED REVIEW, *PW

Ford's dark and stellar debut, which nicely updates many classic mystery tropes, tells the story of high school valedictorian Christopher Newell, who takes a summer job at the hospital morgue before heading to college... Ford spins a tale that's complex but not confusing, never whitewashing some of the harsher crimes people commit. The result is a story that holds its own as a mainstream mystery as well as a teen novel.

NEW YORK POST

Fast-paced and full of red herrings, it'll keep you guessing.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A chance to get in on the ground floor of what appears to be a promising career in crime fiction

LAUREL GALE

DEAD BOY (fall 2015)

Publishers: **World English:** Crown Books for Young Readers

Crow Darlington's parents are separating, and despite their reassurances, he's pretty sure it's his fault. After all, having a living dead boy for a son can't be much easier than being one. Sneaking out at night only makes things worse, but he can't resist the chance at a real friendship with Melody Plympton, the new neighbor girl who loves mystery more than she minds the stink of his flesh or the maggots that sometimes crawl out of his nose.

Together they investigate the monster living in a nearby park. It can shape shift into any animal, from a deceptively cuddly kitten to a fierce dragon. Logic and fear tell Crow to stay away, but fuzzy memories lure him on. The monster killed him. The monster brought him back to life. If Crow is right, it can bring him back again, but right this time, without the maggots and rot. It can make him and his family whole.

The monster doesn't care much for humans, though. When Crow and Melody venture into its underground lair, Crow's not just risking the half-life he clings to. He's also risking the only friend he's had in years.

LEILA HOWLAND

MIDDLE GRADE

THE FORGET-ME-NOT SUMMER (summer 2015)

Publishers: **world English:** HarperCollins Children's Books

A delightful story for fans of *The Penderwicks* and *One Crazy Summer*, *The Forget-Me-Not Summer* is bursting with fun, sun, and sisterly love.

Sisters Marigold, Zinnia, and Lily Silver can't wait for summer vacation. Twelve-year-old Marigold is hoping to get her first kiss, while Zinnia, eleven, has plenty of time on her hands, and will most likely spend it in Marigold's shadow. And though five-year-old Lily may look like an angel, she has a knack for mischief.

But the sisters' summer plans crumble when their parents send them to visit their Aunt Sunny on Cape Cod. Small-town life is *not* what these L.A. girls had in mind, but they must adjust to sharing one room and living without a TV. Eventually, though, Aunt Sunny—along with her cheery attitude and delicious brownies—wins them over. Before they know it, the girls are cracking lobster shells at clambakes, making new friends, and even organizing a local talent show...all while learning how to band together as the strongest version of themselves: sisters.

YOUNG ADULT

THE DEBUT OF BECCA HARRINGTON (spring 2016)

Publishers: North America: Disney-Hyperion

When eighteen-year-old aspiring actress Becca Harrington is rejected from every college to which she applied, no one sees it coming. Though her artistic soul has always made her feel a little out of step in her traditional Boston suburb, she hardly seems like a candidate to be the cautionary tale of the prestigious Carter Academy. But a misstep sophomore year proves to have left a more significant mark on her record than anyone imagined. When June rolls around, and her adorable Stanford-bound boyfriend Alex dumps her to start college with a clean slate, Becca knows that taking a big risk is the only thing that can save her. Eager to prove to everyone that she's not a loser and that she does have what it takes to make it in this world, she moves to Los Angeles to pursue her dream of becoming an actress.

There she meets Raj, the pensive screenwriter down the hall whose off-center wit and love of movies is infectious; Harmony, the gorgeous model next door who proselytizes a space-age, star-studded religion; and Marisol, the adventurous actress with great haircut ideas, witty one liners, and a laugh capable of vanquishing sadness and doubt in two seconds flat.

When her first brush with real opportunity crashes and she discovers that Marisol might not be who claimed she was, Becca must decide if she's going to tuck tail and run back home, or stick it out in this land of relentless sunshine, birds of paradise, around the clock traffic jams, and the palpable sense that somehow, someday, her dream might come true.

NANTUCKET RED (May 2014)

NANTUCKET BLUE (2013)

Publisher: North America: Disney-Hyperion

"Utterly romantic and fun. I didn't want Nantucket Blue to end." – Jenny Han

***STARRED REVIEW, PW** Cricket Thompson is inseparable from her best friend Jules Clayton, so much so that she's practically a member of the Clayton family. When Jules's mother, Nina, dies unexpectedly, everything changes, including the friends' plans to spend the summer in Nantucket—it's "family only" now. Disappointed, 17-year-old Cricket heads to Nantucket anyway, becoming a chambermaid at a popular inn ("Would I be churning butter, cleaning chimneys, beating rugs with a broom? Who cared?"). As she tries to handle Nina's death and rejection by Jules, unexpected love awaits. Debut author Howland's descriptions for everything from a summer storm ("The grass in the back yard was rain-drunk") to the stirrings of first love ("There was this lightness that occasionally took me over, making me feel like I was made of balloons") are lush and moving. Readers should feel empowered by Cricket's efforts to grow up into a strong, honest, and emotionally intelligent young woman, even as they are enchanted by the romantic and exclusive island setting. This is a natural beach read, but will easily win Howland year-round fans, too.

NEW YORK TIMES

Howland evokes the Nantucket setting vividly, from the "quaint, preserved, one of a kind" streets to the ocean, "a million different shades at once, changing with the few clouds that floated above, darkening with depth, reflecting the deep canyons and sandbar stripes below the surface..."

CORDELIA JENSEN

SKYSCRAPING (June 2015)

Publishers: world **English:** Philomel

It's 1993 in New York City, and Mira is on the cusp: of senior year, of editing her high school yearbook, of a future filled with possibilities. But when she discovers the truth about her father, everything Mira thought she knew about her family instantly shatters.

Over the course of one tumultuous year, Mira begins to pull at the lies that have kept her family intact, to question everything that has come to define her sense of self, and to pull away from her loved ones. Until a shocking health scare forces Mira to figure out how to move forward—and how to forgive—before it's too late.

NINA LACOUR

EVERYTHING LEADS TO YOU (May 2014)

Publishers: North America: Dutton

Spain: Alfaguara

Film agent: Jon Cassir, CAA

***STARRED REVIEW, PW**

At age 18, Emi Price is making big strides toward a career in production design, with a rent-free Los Angeles apartment and an enviable and promising internship on a movie set. When Emi and her best friend Charlotte discover a letter written by a recently deceased film icon (think Clint Eastwood), it leads them to his unknown granddaughter, Ava. Emi is smitten, and as her life and career take ever more fortunate turns, her recently broken heart begins to heal with the hope of new love with Ava. LaCour (*The Disenchantments*) can write her way around a movie set (and L.A., too), and her descriptions of Emi's work raise Emi's character to another level and add fascinating depth to this story. Between Ava's troubled ingénue status, her claim to Hollywood royalty, and the way several characters are both charmed by unexpected fortune and grayed by tragedy, the story can feel like a Hollywood fairy tale. But underneath the privilege surges real pain, longing, and feeling in a way that makes it easy to imagine this novel as a film.

THE DISENCHANTMENTS (February 2012)

Publishers: North America: Dutton

Germany: Carlsen Italy: Edt Sweden: Rabén & Sjögren

STARRED REVIEW, *PW

LaCour skillfully draws connections between art and life as she delves into the heart of her characters, revealing their fears and celebrating the creative forces that inspire them to reach for the stars.

STARRED REVIEW, *KIRKUS

Each member of the band chronicles their trip in a unique way: journaling, taking photographs, drawing, even with a tattoo. Colby's continued devotion to the self-centered and dishonest Bev is at times irritating, but it is also completely real. Long-held secrets strain friendships and forge new bonds. The old friends quickly realize that dreams are a combination of holding on and letting go. Quirky characters, each with his or her own story, are woven into the narrative, creating a rich tapestry that will make readers confident that they are in the hands of a master storyteller. Hauntingly beautiful.

DIANNE SALERNI

THE INQUISITOR'S MARK (January 2015)

THE EIGHTH DAY (April 2014)

Publishers: world **English:** HarperCollins

Film agent: Dana Spector, Paradigm

STARRED REVIEW, *VOYA

Jax is an orphan without a clue that he is a Transitioner- someone with the ability to live in an eighth day between Wednesday and Thursday, called Grunsday. But this answers the question about why Jax is not living with relatives, instead being raised by eighteen-year-old Riley. So now that his powers have awakened after his thirteenth birthday and a tattoo is administered, he is ready to understand who Evangeline is, a mysterious girl next door with a powerful lineage making her a threat and a tool to overthrow the seven-day world.

What takes place in this fast-paced, magical adventure is the discovery of lineage to King Arthur and Merlin, and Jax's own talents and powers on his quest to stop the destruction while trying to save a girl. There is an unparalleled mix of evil villains, humor,

and background that set this up for a likeable trilogy to be recommended for fans of Percy Jackson and Harry Potter. The characters are vivid, and Jax is the star. The quest is action-packed, and the world that Salerni builds is unique and engaging. This series is absolutely necessary for middle grades, with a cover and title that will not fail in drawing a following.

KIM SAVAGE

AFTER THE WOODS (spring 2016)

Publishers: world *English:* FSG

AFTER THE WOODS is a psychological thriller about two friends in the aftermath of an abduction, where one risked her life to save the other and spent a terrifying night in the woods escaping a paroled sex offender. Nearly one year later, a woman's body is found, the perp dies in jail, and a media frenzy places the abduction under a spotlight. Who was the dead girl? And if she knew her killer, did the girls know him, too?

The story is told in the alternating voices of Julia and Liv. Julia, the analytical scientist's daughter, can't understand why Liv has avoided her since that day in the woods. Julia only wants to make things right with Liv, whose perfectly formed Miss Shiverton All-Around persona starting to crack.

Liv lives with her controlling mom, whose obsession with her physical perfection forces Liv to diet and bleach her hair, among other things. Liv cultivates the jealousy of violent new boyfriend Shane, just back from a stint in a psychiatric hospital for stabbing a teacher with a fork.

Convinced Ana Alvarez is the clue to Liv's behavior, Julia investigates with help from friend Alice, who has her own motivation for exposing Liv; old flame Kellan, who has a painful secret of his own; and ambitious reporter Paula, whose career is tanking. When Deborah hatches a new plan for Liv's ultimate makeover, and Shane's temper nears its boiling point, Julia finds herself losing a race against time.

In the end, Julia realizes real freedom comes at great cost. AFTER THE WOODS is about sacrifice, beauty, and personal freedom.

SUSAN SCHMID

ONE HUNDRED DRESSES (2016)

Publishers: **world:** Random House Books for Young Readers

Film agent: Dana Spector, Paradigm

A middle grade Upstairs, Downstairs, with a Magic Attic twist.

The first in a new three-book series. In a castle built by dragons, Darling Dimple scrubs pots in the castle under-cellar and daydreams about grand adventures unaware that she is surrounded by a very old magic. When Princess Mariposa fires her Under-presser for wrinkling her petticoats, Darling gets her job. Darling is thrilled by the chance to move upstairs near the Princess, but the job turns out to be more than Darling bargained for. The Princess has seven closets--six for her own clothes and a seventh full of her grandmother's one hundred dresses.

Delighted by the closet Darling begins to unravel the castle's magical secrets and discovers that when she tries one of these hundred dresses on she is transformed into someone else in the castle. Wearing someone else's identity is full of fun and fraught with the danger of being discovered. But Darling learns that once a dress is worn, that identity can never be assumed again. What begins as an Under-presser's adventure soon becomes something else entirely. Darling uncovers a fiendish plot to unleash the magic in the castle and release the dragons that built it. It's up to Darling Dimple Under-presser, armed only with the princess' dresses, to save the castle.

STEPHANIE TROMLY

TROUBLE IS A FRIEND OF MINE

Publishers: **world English:** Kathy Dawson Books/ Penguin

Brazil: Rocco **Germany:** Oetinger **UK:** Picadilly

Film agent: Matt Leipzig at Original Artists

Reminiscent of Sherlock, Juno, Say Anything, and The Breakfast Club—TROUBLE IS A FRIEND OF MINE is the story of 16-year-old Brooklynite Zoe, reluctantly transplanted upstate after her parents divorce, and the witty, brilliant, and weirdly compelling Digby who pulls her into one dangerous (and hilarious) situation after another.

As Digby is drawn deeper into the case of a missing high school girl whose disappearance bears striking similarities to his own sister's abduction years ago, he puts them both in the cross-hairs of high school drug dealers, a shotgun-wielding gynecologist pornographer, and a secretive cult that's even creepier than their prairie gothic outfits would imply, both of them searching for something they might only find in themselves.

DAN WELLS

BLUESCREEN (2015)

Publishers: world **English:** Balzer & Bray/ HarperCollins Children's Books

Germany: Piper

The first in a futuristic YA cyberpunk series about a teen hacker, whose friend's overdose on an illicit digital drug leads her to uncovering a dark mystery with roots deep in her LA neighborhood's crime syndicate.

Marisa's friend Anja uses a data drug that plugs into your djinni, overloading your sensory feeds to induce a hallucinogenic trip. Mari looks deeper and eventually uncovers a conspiracy of mind control, human slavery, and corporate intrigue: the drug actually plants a virus in your head, letting its controllers use your body like a puppet. She does what she can to stop them, but first she has to find them--and when she does, she realizes that the only way to hurt them is to orchestrate a turf war with one of LA's other dealers. This proves deadlier than she ever expected when the techno-druglords activate their entire army of puppets, turning thousands of innocent victims into zombie-like warriors hell bent on revenge--including Anja.

THE PARTIALS SEQUENCE

NYT BESTSELLING SERIES

RUINS (2014)

FRAGMENTS (2013)

PARTIALS (2012)

Publishers: World: Balzer & Bray/ HarperCollins Children's Books

Brazil: Editora Moderna **France:** Albin Michel **Germany:** Piper **Slovakia:** Ikar

Spain: V & R **Turkey:** Dogan Egmont **UK:** HarperCollins UK

RACHEL WILSON

DON'T TOUCH (September 2014)

Publishers: world **English:** HarperCollins Children's Books

Step on a crack, break your mother's back.

Touch another person's skin, and Dad's gone for good...

"Wilson writes from the rapidly beating heart of a girl living on the edge of everything, 'eager and terrified.' The book is fiercely compelling, darkly funny, and hums like a high tension wire." – Tim Wynne-Jones

Caddie has a history of magical thinking—of playing games in her head to cope with her surroundings—but it's never been this bad before.

When her parents split up, *don't touch* becomes Caddie's mantra. Maybe if she keeps from touching another person's skin, Dad will come home. She knows it doesn't make sense, but her games have never been logical. Soon, despite Alabama's humidity, she's covering every inch of skin and wearing evening gloves to school.

And that's where things get tricky. Even though Caddie's the new girl, it's hard to play off her compulsions as mysterious, artistic quirks. Friends notice things. Her drama class is all about interacting with her scene partners, especially Peter, who's auditioning for the role of Hamlet. Caddie desperately wants to play Ophelia, but if she does, she'll have to touch Peter...and kiss him. Part of Caddie would love nothing more than to kiss Peter—but the other part isn't sure she's brave enough to let herself fall.

From rising star Rachel Wilson comes a powerful, moving debut novel of the friendship and love that are there for us, if only we'll let them in.