

THE GERNERT COMPANY

Middle Grade / Young Adult Rights Guide

Winter 2018

Lee Bacon, THE LAST HUMAN

A poignant, funny novel about what it means to be human in a world ruled by machines.

Abrams (World English) – Fall 2019
Middle Grade

A story about friendship, technology, and challenging the status quo, from the acclaimed author of the *Joshua Dread* and *Legendtopia* series.

Humans went extinct thirty years ago. Now the world is ruled by machines. And twelve-year-old robot XR_935 is just fine with that. Without humans around, there is no war, no pollution, no crime. Every member of society has a purpose. Everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

Until the day XR discovers something impossible. Until the day XR discovers a human.

Emma is also twelve years old. She has spent her entire life inside an underground bunker, hidden away from machines. Forced to leave the bunker, she finds herself in a strange new world. A world ruled by robots. When their paths cross, Emma and XR form an unlikely friendship. They are joined by two other robotic companions: the gentle metal giant Ceeron and SkD, who only “talks” with emojis. Together the group embarks on a dangerous voyage in search of a mysterious point on a map. But how will they survive in a place where rules are never broken and humans aren’t even supposed to exist. And what will they find at the end of their journey?

Lee Bacon is the author of the JOSHUA DREAD and LEGENDTOPIA series (Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books). His books have been published in Germany, France, Spain, Brazil, Latin America, China, Australia, New Zealand and Israel. Film and TV rights to JOSHUA DREAD were recently optioned by Paul Weitz. In addition to being an ABA New Voices Pick, JOSHUA DREAD was selected for the Spirit of Texas Reading Program, the Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award List and the Oregon Battle of the Books. Lee grew up in Texas and now lives in New Jersey. Visit him online at www.leebaconbooks.com.

Option publishers: Fischer KJB (Germany), V&R Editoras (Spain), V&R Editoras (Brazil)

- Target Audience: Middle Grade
- Editor: Maggie Lehrman
- Film: Please contact Sarah Burnes at the Gernert Company
- Material: Manuscript



Armand Baltazar, *TIMELESS: Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic*

A major new illustrated SciFi adventure series by a former Pixar art director.

Katherine Tegen Books/HC – October 3, 2017
Middle Grade series

Sold to HC Children's in a three-book deal, for six figures, World English • Film deal, for six figures, with Fox, with Ridley Scott producing • Pre-empts in Germany and Italy; 16 foreign deals

- "Like a midsummer action movie, the scope (and budget) of the book is dazzling. ... The world of *Timeless* is rich with diversity and its challenges, both new and familiar."--***The New York Times***
- "The stunning artwork is the real star here. Sure to be popular with middle school fantasy readers."--***School Library Journal***
- "Baltazar's story is a captivating adventure lavishly illustrated with beautiful full-color paintings worth lingering over."--***Kirkus***

The world did not end. At least not permanently. The Time Collision came from beyond the stars, a cosmic event that fractured time and space, tearing apart the earth and reshaping it into something entirely new. This is the world Diego Ribera was born into. The past, present, and future coexisting together. *Timeless*. With stunning illustrations, Armand Baltazar delivers an epic and imaginative new series, a cinematic tour de force about a boy and his friends embarking on a journey to save their world, and about the unshakeable bond of family.

Armand Baltazar has had a long career in visual storytelling in feature animation as a background artist, visual development artist, and art director for DreamWorks Studios, Walt Disney, and Pixar Animation. www.armandbaltazar.com

Sold to: HC Children's UK (UK & BC), cbj Verlag (Germany), Bayard (France), Editorial Hidra (Spain), Jieli (China), Il Castoro (Italy), Egmont (Bulgaria), Albatros (Czech), Noura (Indonesia), Blue Wing (Korea), HC Polska (Poland), Gelengi (Turkey), Kariera (Russia), Egmont (Bulgaria), DarkSide (Brazil), Yediot (Israel)

- Target Audience: Middle Grade
- Editor: Ben Rosenthal
- Film: Sold to Fox
- Material: Finished books

Kathryn Barker, WAKING ROMEO

A wildly inventive, time-traveling love story inspired by *Romeo and Juliet* and *Wuthering Heights*.

Flatiron (US) / Allen & Unwin (ANZ) - 2019
Young Adult

**A time-traveling love story by the acclaimed author of
In the Skin of a Monster (winner of Australia's Aurealis Award
for Best Young Adult Novel 2016)**

Heathcliff Ellis is a Deadender – part of a secret group of time-travellers who are trying to save humanity, one small “adjustment” to history at a time. Jules Capulet lives in the distant future, where an epic romance with her classmate Romeo left him in a coma and her a complete social outcast. Now, Jules spends her days writing *Romeo & Juliet*, a romanticized version of what *really* happened. She’s set her story in the past – the 1500s – complete with old-fashioned language, because the truth is just too painful. When Ellis is sent on a mission to “Wake Romeo,” Ellis and Jules are thrown together in the futuristic ruins of London, met with cryptic puzzles and deceptions... and secrets that go back hundreds of years. Because Emily Bronte, Shakespeare, and the Deadenders? Somehow they’re all connected...and Ellis and Jules are at the *heart* of everything.

As wildly inventive as it is sweepingly romantic, WAKING ROMEO combines two of literature’s most iconic love stories into a riveting and deeply moving narrative: the greatest love story of all times.

Kathryn Barker is a former attorney, trained film producer, and was the inaugural winner of Australia’s most lucrative TV award for Exceptional New Talent. Her debut novel *In the Skin of a Monster* received numerous accolades, including a national award for Best Young Adult Novel. *Waking Romeo* is her second novel. She lives in Sydney, Australia, with her family. <http://kathrynbarker.com/>

Sold to: Allen & Unwin (ANZ rights only)

- Target Audience: Young Adult
- Editor: Sarah Barley
- Film: Please contact Sarah Burnes at the Gernert Company
- Material: Manuscript



Elizabeth Byrne, **THE GRAVE KEEPERS**

Two teenage sisters must deal with the world outside their insular family in this imaginative coming-of-age novel.

HarperCollins – Sept 12, 2017
Young Adult

First in a two-book deal with HarperCollins

- “At times deeply atmospheric and darkly haunting, **THE GRAVE KEEPERS** takes us on a spine-tingling journey into a world much like our own, where more lies beneath than above.” –**Mindy McGinnis, Edgar Award-winning author of *A Madness So Discreet***

Lately, sixteen-year-old Athena Windham has been spending all her spare time in her grave. Her parents—owners of a cemetery in Upstate New York—are proud of her devoutness, but her thirteen-year-old sister, Laurel, can’t understand it. Laurel hates her own grave. It’s so boring and chilly down there. She’d rather spend her time exploring the acres and acres of state forest that surround the Windhams’ property. The Windham girls lead pretty secluded lives—their older sister died in a tragic accident the year before Laurel was born, and their parents’ protectiveness has made the family semi-infamous in their small town. As the new school year begins, the outside world comes creeping in. Athena—a professional high school loner—grapples with a newfound enemy and, even more surprising, her first best friend. And homeschooled Laurel, sheltered and shy, finds herself face-to-face with a runaway boy who’s hiding out in an abandoned grave. All the while, a ghost hangs around the Windham house and cemetery—the only grave keeper never to cross over, as far as she knows—messing with people’s graves, turning the Windhams’ lights off and on, spying on the sisters, and plotting how to keep the girls close to home and close to her . . . forever.

Elizabeth Byrne grew up in New Jersey and earned her MFA at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She lives in Northampton, Massachusetts. *The Grave Keepers* is her first novel.

Sold to: Planeta Mexico (Mexico)

- Target Audience: Young Adult
- Editor: Jessica MacLeish
- Film: Please contact Seth Fishman at the Gernert Company
- Material: Finished books



Will McIntosh, THE FUTURE WILL BE BS-FREE

A timely dystopian YA novel about a group of friends on the run after using a genius lie detector to expose their corrupt government.

Delacorte / PRH - July 24, 2018
Young Adult

Five Teenagers will bring the truth, one revolution at a time, in this terrifyingly relevant tale for fans of *The Eye of Minds*.

In a Putin-esque near-future America, the gifted and talented high school has just been eliminated, and Sam and his friends have been using their unexpected free time to work on a tiny, undetectable, utterly reliable lie detector. They're all in it for the money--except Theo, their visionary. For Theo, it's about creating a better world. A BS-free world, where no one can lie, and the honest will thrive.

Just when they finish the prototype and turn down an offer to sell their brainchild to a huge corporation, Theo is found dead. Greedy companies, corrupt privatized police, and even the president herself will stop at nothing to steal the Truth App. Sam sets his sights on exposing all lies and holding everyone accountable. But he and his friends quickly realize the costs of a BS-free world: the lives of loved ones, and political and economic stability. They now face a difficult question: Is the world capable of operating without lies, or are lies what hold it together?

Will McIntosh is the winner of a Hugo Award and his first young adult novel, *Burning Midnight*, was a Locus Award finalist and an ALA-YALSA Teen Top Ten Book. He is also the author of the Middle Grade novel *Watchdog* and several adult SciFi novels. He lives with his wife and twin children in Williamsburg, Virginia. *The Future Will Be BS-Free* is his second novel for young adults. Visit him online at willmcintosh.net and follow @WillMcIntoshSF on Twitter.

Option publishers: Macmillan (UK & BC), Pegasus (Turkey), Tsinghua University (China)

- Target Audience: Young Adult
- Editor: Kate Sullivan
- Film: Please contact Seth Fishman at The Gernert Company
- Material: Manuscript



Margaret Stohl and Lewis Peterson, *CATS VS. ROBOTS: This is War*

A funny, family adventure featuring a cat-hating techie girl and her artist twin brother, from #1 NYT Bestseller Margaret Stohl.

Katherine Tegen Books / HC – September 4, 2018
Middle Grade

A Middle Grade adventure novel, with a SciFi twist, in the vein of *Captain Underpants* and *The Terrible Two*.

When their father goes missing during a mysterious trip to China, the Wengrod family struggles to cope. Twelve-year-old artist and loner Max adopts two rescue cats, while his cat-hating techie twin sister Min flips out, recruiting the robots she builds with her programmer father into an escalating battle for home turf dominion. The two sides square off, and when things reach a breaking point, Max and Min find they have no choice but to collaborate: as they develop an ear for the languages of robots and cats, the Wengrod children discover the war between the two species is not only real, but also that it's why their father has gone missing. This war of extinction threatens an entire galaxy. Unless Max and Min and the cats and the robots can work together, they'll be annihilated. They must stop the war before their own family of pets and parents becomes collateral damage.

Margaret Stohl is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Beautiful Creatures* series as well as *Icons* and *Royce Rolls*. She has been published in over forty countries and thirty-two languages and sold millions of books worldwide.

Lewis Peterson made video games for seventeen years, including multiples bestselling titles for Activision/Blizzard, Westwood Studios, and ultimately 7 Studios, the independent game development studio he co-founded with Margaret Stohl, which operated out of Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and Taiwan for more than a decade.

- Target Audience: Middle Grade
- Editor: Katherine Tegen
- Film: Please contact Sarah Burnes at The Gernert Company
- Material: Manuscript

More Opportunities . . .



Adam Gidwitz, THE INQUISITOR'S TALE

The bestselling author of *A Tale Dark and Grimm* takes on medieval times in an exciting and hilarious new adventure about history, religion . . . and farting dragons.

Dutton Books for Young Readers – Sept 27, 2016
Middle Grade

***New York Times* bestseller • Newbury Honor Book**

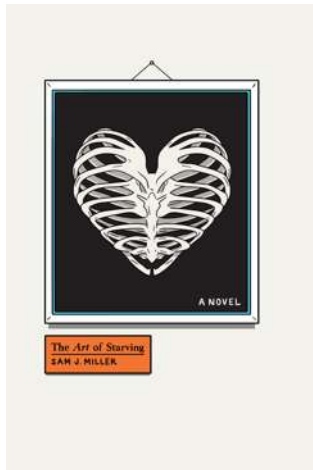
One of the most celebrated children's books of 2016:

- An *Entertainment Weekly* Best Middle Grade Book of 2016
- A *New York Times* Notable Book of 2016
- A *Wall Street Journal* Best Book of 2016
- A *Washington Post* Best Book of 2016
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of 2016
- A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2016
- A *Booklist* Best Book of 2016
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of 2016
- An Amazon Top 20 Children's Book of 2016

1242. On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children: William, an oblate on a mission from his monastery; Jacob, a Jewish boy who has fled his burning village; and Jeanne, a peasant girl who hides her prophetic visions. They are accompanied by Jeanne's loyal greyhound, Gwenforte . . . recently brought back from the dead. Their adventures take them on a chase through France to escape prejudice and persecution and save precious and holy texts from being burned. They're taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. And as their quest drives them forward to a final showdown at Mont Saint-Michel, all will come to question if these children can perform the miracles of saints.

Adam Gidwitz grew up in Baltimore, Maryland and taught at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn. He is the bestselling author of *A TALE DARK AND GRIMM*, *IN A GLASS GRIMMLY* and *THE GRIMM CONCLUSION*.
www.adamgidwitz.com

Sold to: TB Publishing (China), Art Grup (Romania), Kariera (Russia), Mirae (Korea)



Sam J. Miller, **THE ART OF STARVING**

A darkly funny, heartrending story of body image, addiction, friendship and love.

HarperTeen – July 11, 2017

Young Adult

The first in a two-book deal with HarperTeen

- “Beautiful rendered. This novel will break your heart and heal it again. I found myself leaning forward as I read it, barely aware of myself turning pages. So excited for Sam’s voice in the world.”—**Jacqueline Woodson, National Book Award winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming***
- “This book is an ache, a bruise, a slaughterhouse of a love story; every word is a blow, but every blow is an anthem. This is what truth feels and smells and tastes like, and it’s one magnificent monster.” —**Margaret Stohl, bestselling author of the *Beautiful Creatures* series**
- “Funny, haunting, beautiful, relentless and powerful, *The Art of Starving* is a classic in the making.”—**Book Riot**

Matt hasn’t eaten in days. His stomach stabs and twists inside, pleading for a meal. But Matt won’t give in. The hunger clears his mind, keeps him sharp—and he needs to be as sharp as possible if he’s going to find out just how Tariq and his band of high school bullies drove his sister, Maya, away—what they did to make her steal off in the middle of the night without a word, a clue to where she was going, or even a good-bye.

Matt’s hardworking mom keeps the kitchen crammed with food, but Matt can resist the siren call of casseroles and cookies because he has discovered something: the less he eats the more he seems to have . . . powers. The ability to see things he shouldn’t be able to see. The skill of tuning in to thoughts right out of people’s heads. Maybe even the authority to bend time and space. So what is lunch, really, compared to finding out the secrets of the universe?

Sam J. Miller’s fiction has been nominated for the Nebula Award and the Theodore Sturgeon Award, was long-listed for the Hugo Award, and has won the Shirley Jackson Award. He’s a graduate of the Clarion Writers Workshop. You can visit him online at www.samjmilller.com.

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