

## Staff Picks: The Adventurers Guild by Zack Logan Clark and Nick Eliopoulos



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Ginny H.**

Best friends, Brock and Zed are anxious for their *Guildculling Day*, the day their futures are determined by what guild chooses them to train and work for the rest of their lives. They decide they'll be happy as long as it isn't the *Adventurer's Guild*, the guild tasked with venturing outside of the city walls to defend against the dangerous monsters outside. When the Adventurer's Guild unexpectedly steals the two friends for their guild, everything in Brock and Zed's world changes.

I loved this book! It'd be great for fans of Harry Potter with its mix of humor, adventure, mystery and friends who fight and stand up for what's good.

Posted by Alejandria G. on April 23, 2019

[The Adventurers Guild](#)

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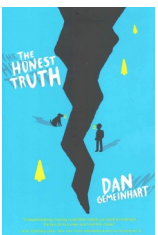
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## Staff Picks: The Honest Truth



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**Reviewed by Ginny H.**

Mark has been sick for a long time and after receiving bad news from the doctors, he's had enough. He's angry, scared, and just wants to disappear. So he does.

Mark sets out with his dog, Beau, to climb Mount Rainier. He encounters all kinds of people and obstacles along the way, all the while documenting his travels with his camera and writing haikus. While he misses his mom and dad and his best friend, Jess, he keeps going, even when he starts getting sicker.

This book was a really intense adventure novel. I found myself relating to the character in huge ways.

The bond between Mark and his dog, Beau, was so relatable and real. When they got into some of the more dramatic parts, I was literally holding my breath!

*If you like adventure and action, you'll love this book by Dan Gemeinhart.*

Posted by Alejandria G. on January 22, 2019

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## Staff Picks: Dactyl Hill Squad



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**Reviewed by Ellen A.**

Welcome to 1863 New York City, where dinosaurs roam the streets! Magdalys Roca and her fellow orphan friends are enjoying a field trip in the city when riots break out and a few of their group are kidnapped. It's up to Magdalys and the Dactyl Hill Squad to rescue their missing friends and defeat the evil magistrate, Riker.

This alternate history involving the U.S. Civil War, a diverse bunch of heroic orphans, and dinosaurs is quite a thrilling ride. The exciting adventure, written by Daniel José Older, also touches on deeper issues such as extreme racial injustice and fighting for what is right.

I'm looking forward to the second book in the series, Freedom Fire, to be released in May 2019.

Posted by Alejandria G. on January 17, 2019

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## Staff Picks: The Firefly Code



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**Reviewed by Ginny H.**

In this adventurous, science fiction story, Mori lives a perfect life in Old Harmonie. Their town is a utopian community where kids are genetically altered to super-enhance a powerful trait, like puzzle solving, physical agility, or photographic memory. But when a strangely perfect new girl named Ilana moves in, Mori and her friends begin to question the only world they have ever known.

Check out *The Firefly Code* by Megan Frazer Blakemore!

Posted by Alejandria G. on November 13, 2018

[The Firefly Code](#)

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[Children's](#)

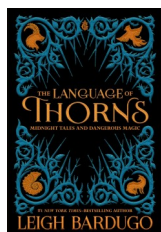
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## The Language of Thorns



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Leigh Bardugo returns to the Grishaverse with this collection of original fairy tales, where she creates a mythical history that adds breadth and depth to her world. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on October 19, 2017

[The Language of Thorns: Midnight Tales and Dangerous Magic](#)

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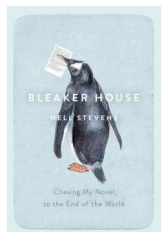
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## Bleaker House: Chasing My Novel to the End of the World



[view in catalog](#)

Say you've just finished your graduate degree in writing from Boston College, and a rich donor provides you with funds to travel anywhere in the world. Where do you pick? Tahiti, Paris, Buenos Aires? For British citizen Nell Stevens, it's none of the above. Instead, she chooses the remote Falklands Islands, where South America meets Antarctica?in June, which is winter there.

In Stanley, the Falklands' capital, Nell researches the archives for her first novel, and also meets some of the less-than-friendly Falklanders there. After a few weeks, Nell hops a plane for even more remote Bleaker Island, about which a writer friend quips, "Oh, you're writing *Bleaker House*." [Read more](#)  
Posted by Dory L. on August 2, 2017

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## Strong Female Protagonist by Brennan Lee Mulligan



[view in catalog](#)

Mega Girl was the best superhero around?until she gave up her lifestyle of punching bad guys and saving the world. Now, ex-Mega Girl Alison Green is trying to live a normal life, go to college, and figure everything out. As she works to save the world without a mask, finish her homework, and attempt to cope with the past, Alison learns that heroism can take many forms. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on May 18, 2017

[Strong Female Protagonist. Book 1](#)

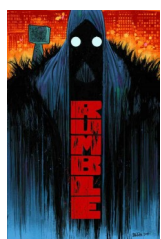
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[Graphic Novels](#)

[Teens](#)

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## Rumble, Vol. 1: What Color of Darkness by John Arcudi



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An ancient god of war out for vengeance, a lonely bartender, and an angry fire demon all walk into a bar. Sounds like the start of a joke, right? Well, that's almost correct.

*What Color of Darkness* imagines a world where ancient gods and monsters feud over thousands of years to decide the fate of humanity. Humans have a mighty champion in the war god Rathraq, who fights to

make sure humankind can flourish in safety?but he's betrayed and imprisoned for thousands of years. Now Rathraq's soul has been released and forced to inhabit a scarecrow, but this won't stop his quest for revenge. Aided by the bartender Bobby, who's just trying to get by in life, Rathraq hunts for the monster queen who stole his body, clashes with an outsized fire demon, and confronts a world starkly different than the one he remembers. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on May 18, 2017

[Color of Darkness](#)

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## Kubo and the Two Strings



[view in catalog](#)

*Kubo and the Two Strings* is a stunningly beautiful film that tells a deeply moving story of family, belonging, and adventure through the clever stop-motion. This Oscar-nominated film takes place in a medieval, mythologized Japan where our hero, Kubo, is forced to go on a quest to recover magical armor and weapons to stop the Moon King's sinister plans. Kubo is a very talented musician and uses a magical shamisen, a lute-like instrument, to control pieces of his environment and aid him in his quest in breathtakingly beautiful ways that are worth watching over and over.

On his journey, he is joined by a talking macaque, Monkey, and a samurai who was cursed to live as a giant beetle, Beetle, and their interactions provide a great deal of humor. Together they battle monsters, try to untangle the mystery of Kubo's family, become a team, and discover who they truly are. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on March 16, 2017

[Kubo and the Two Strings](#)

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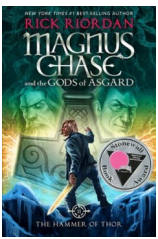
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## Magnus Chase and the Hammer of Thor by Rick Riordan



[view in catalog](#)

Winner of the 2017 Stonewall Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, *Magnus Chase and the Hammer of Thor* marks Rick Riordan's return to the world of Asgard. Picking up right after their triumph at the end of the previous story, Magnus Chase and company must now retrieve Thor's hammer, Mjolnir, before the giants invade and destroy Earth. So overall, just your average day really. Filled with Riordan's trademark research, interpretative genius, and wit, *The Hammer of Thor* will satisfy die-hard fans and likely make some new ones, as he tackles issues of race, religion, representation, and gender.

[Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on February 11, 2017

[The Hammer of Thor](#)

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