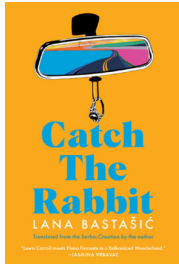




# ii INDIES Introduce

Outstanding debuts selected by independent booksellers.



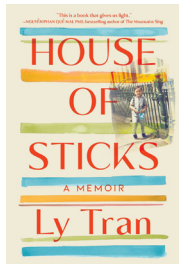
**Catch the Rabbit**  
by Lana Bastašić

Restless Books, 9781632062895, Paperback Fiction, \$18 On Sale: 6/1/21  
 "A compelling story about a complex female friendship. Two estranged friends go on a Thelma and Louise-style road trip across Bosnia in search of one friend's brother (presumed dead from the Bosnian War). For readers of Ferrante's Neapolitan Quartet and any who has had intense childhood friendships."  
 —Audrey Huang, Belmont Books, Belmont, MA



**Afterparties**  
by Anthony Veasna So

Ecco, 9780063049901, Hardcover Short Stories, \$27.99 On sale: 8/3/21  
 "BELIEVE THE HYPE. In fact, call *Afterparties* the *Goodbye, Columbus* of Californian Cambodian-American life. So's book is a glittering example of what the best story collections do – welcome you fully into a world and render it with diamond-cut detail and deep-well empathy."  
 —Chris Lee, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



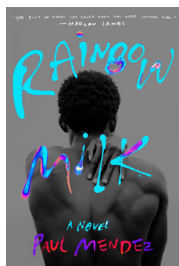
**House of Sticks**  
by Ly Tran

Scribner, 9781501118814, Hardcover Memoir, \$27 On Sale: 6/1/21  
 "This remarkable memoir documents Ly's journey from a young Vietnamese immigrant to a university graduate. Ly does not shy away from the rougher details of her childhood and the cultural clash she and her family experienced while trying to acclimate to America. This is a story of the American Dream, and the remarkable resilience it takes to achieve it."  
 —Olivia Edmunds-Diez, Boulder Book Store, Boulder, CO



**Mrs. March**  
by Virginia Feito

Liveright, 9781631498619, Hardcover Fiction, \$26 On sale: 8/10/21  
 "Mrs. March is one of the most indelible characters I've met in a long time, and what a ride she takes us on. This vivid and assured novel about the wife of a famous writer as she tries to uncover his secrets fully envelops one in its world. Don't even think about putting it down before the end!"  
 —Ariana Paliobagis, Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, MT



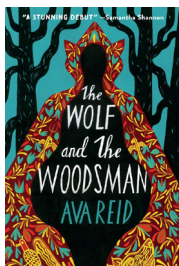
**Rainbow Milk**  
by Paul Mendez

Doubleday, 9780385547062, Hardcover Fiction, \$26.95 On sale: 6/8/21  
 "*Rainbow Milk* is a welcome addition to queer literature. Beautifully written, this is a debut novel full of sex, art, music, and hope."  
 —Sara Luce Look, Charis Books & More, Decatur, GA



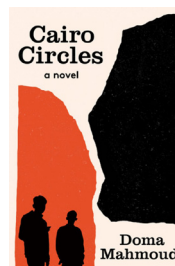
**My Monticello**  
by Jocelyn Nicole Johnson

Henry Holt and Co., 9781250807151, Hardcover Short Stories, \$26.99 On sale: 10/5/21  
 "A collection of stories that explore place, belonging, inheritance, and hope in ways that make it impossible not to find yourself amongst these pages. Despite the brevity of each story and the title novella, I still felt full from the astonishing prose and the lingering presence of each character's voice."  
 —Deidre Dumpson, WORD Bookstore, Jersey City, NJ



**The Wolf and the Woodsman**  
by Ava Reid

Harper Voyager, 9780062973122, Hardcover Fiction, \$27.99 On sale: 6/8/21  
 "I was deeply impressed with this fantasy novel and its connections with Hungarian and Jewish mythology and folklore. This book is dark, magical, and haunting as the characters face villains that are both fantastical and human. I could not put this down, and raced to the ending to learn what would happen next!"  
 —Olivia Edmunds-Diez, Boulder Book Store, Boulder, CO



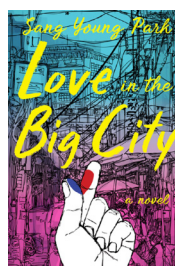
**Cairo Circles**  
by Doma Mahmoud

Unnamed Press, 9781951213367, Hardcover Fiction, \$28 On sale: 10/12/21  
 "Sheero, a lapsed Muslim in NYC, is living a hedonistic life when everything changes. He's taken in for questioning because his estranged cousin committed a terrorist act in the city. From there, the story spirals out in circles as Sheero, his friends and family, and all their lives intersect. I gobbled this up in two sittings."  
 —Audrey Huang, Belmont Books, Belmont, MA



**Fox & I: An Uncommon Friendship**  
by Catherine Raven

Spiegel & Grau, 9781954118003, Hardcover Memoir, \$28 On sale: 7/6/21  
 "How does one observe without objectifying? Systematize without soullessness? Empathize without sentimentality? Raven's elegantly self-deprecating struggle to synthesize the logical and the ludicrous is a gift to anyone who ever balked at assigning meaning to earth's sublimity."  
 —Amanda Qassar, Warwick's, La Jolla, CA



**Love in the Big City**  
by Sang Young Park, Anton Hur (transl.)

Grove Press, 9780802158789, Hardcover Fiction, \$25 On sale: 11/9/21  
 "A bold debut bringing refreshing honesty and candor to a young queer life in Seoul. This novel fills your head and makes you listen, reminds you to feel, and encourages you to look beyond the noise."  
 —Carrie Koepke, Skylark Bookshop, Columbia, MO



**ii INDIES**  
Introduce **KIDS**

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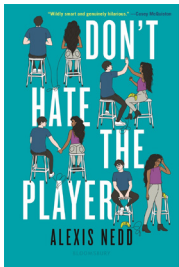
**The Passing Playbook**

by Isaac Fitzsimons

Dial Books, 9781984815408, Hardcover Young Adult, \$17.99  
On sale: 6/1/21

"Isaac Fitzsimons has scored a goal for Trans Boy Joy. This teen rom-com set amid high school halls and soccer fields was a delight from start to finish. Explorations of identity, faith, friendship, family, and competition give every character a chance to grow and to shine."

—Brein Lopez, Children's Book World, Los Angeles, CA



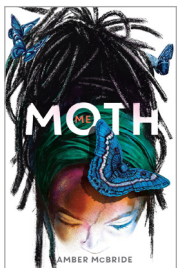
**Don't Hate the Player**

by Alexis Nedd

Bloomsbury YA, 9781547605026, Hardcover Young Adult, \$17.99  
On sale: 6/15/21

"Don't Hate the Player follows Emilia, a chronic overachiever who moonlights as a competitive gamer. The romance in this is sweet and realistic and charming, and everything about this incredible debut novel makes me wildly excited for Alexis Nedd's whole career."

—Abby Rauscher, Books Are Magic, Brooklyn, NY



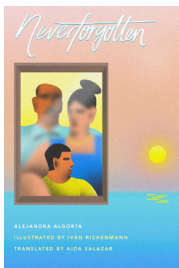
**Me (Moth)**

by Amber McBride

Feiwel & Friends, 9781250780362, Hardcover Young Adult, \$18.99  
On sale: 8/17/21

"Incredible. Poetic. Jaw dropping. It's hard to find the words to describe how amazing this book is. Two lost souls finding each other and themselves, paired with a heart-stopping ending you will never see coming. Just read this book."

—Kelsy April, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT and Savoy Bookshop & Cafe, Westerly, RI



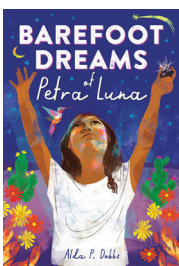
**Neverforgotten**

by Alejandra Algorta, Aida Salazar (Transl.)

Levine Querido, 9781646140947, Hardcover Middle Grade, \$17.99  
On sale: 8/31/21

"Neverforgotten is about a boy, a bicycle, a city. Movement. Growth. Transformation. It's a story that absorbs the reader, that through words and drawings carries us to Bogotá while at the same time brings us to our own thoughts and memories of moments when our lives shifted."

—Connie Griffin, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM



**Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna**

by Alda P. Dobbs

Sourcebooks Young Readers, 9781728234656, Hardcover Middle Grade, \$17.99 On sale: 9/14/21

"It is 1913. The revolution is burning through Mexico and 12-year-old Petra Luna's father has been arrested, her mother has died, and her grandmother has decided they need to leave their home for safety in the north. This stunning story of bravery and loss (based on the author's great-grandmother's early life) is exciting and inspiring and way too close to what we are seeing today."

—René Kirkpatrick, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



**When We Make It**

by Elisabet Velasquez

Dial Books, 9780593324486, Hardcover Young Adult, \$18.99  
On sale: 9/21/21

"Told with clarity of voice in poems that stand alone and hold together, Velasquez tells the story of Sarai, a Puerto Rican American eighth grader living in Brooklyn. Sarai is able to see herself, highlight the ways her neighborhood and loved ones save and fail her, and come to her own understanding of what 'making it' will mean."

—Hannah Amrollahi, Bookworm of Omaha, Omaha, NE



**The Keeper of Night**

by Kylie Lee Baker

Inkyard Press, 9781335405661, Hardcover Young Adult, \$18.99  
On sale: 10/12/21

"What a vivid and chilling story! For the first time in my life, I was thrilled to be creeped out. Kylie Lee Baker has created this world based on Japanese mythology and it is terrifyingly good. Grab a flashlight, a blanket, and dive into this haunting tale."

—Kim Brock, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH



**Barakah Beats**

by Maleeha Siddiqui

Scholastic Press, 9781338702064, Hardcover Middle Grade, \$17.99  
On sale: 10/19/21

"For the first time, Nimra and her friend Jenna will be going to the same school as Nimra leaves her private Islamic school and starts seventh grade at a public school. *Barakah Beats* is an upbeat take on maneuvering through middle school and remaining steady when life gets rocky."

—Connie Griffin, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM



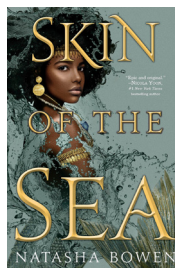
**Manu**

by Kelly Fernández

Graphix, 9781338264197/9781338264180, Hardcover/Paperback Middle Grade Graphic Novel, \$24.99/\$12.99 On sale: 10/19/21

"This adorable, vibrant, and fantastical graphic novel perfectly captures the power and magic of friendship. Despite her best intentions, Manu somehow manages to get into trouble a lot. Her magical powers are too much to handle, until one day, they disappear. Their friendship is strong, but are Manu and Josephina powerful enough to make things right?"

—Cat Chapman, The Oxford Exchange, Tampa, FL



**Skin of the Sea**

by Natasha Bowen

Random House Books for Young Readers, 9780593120941, Hardcover Young Adult, \$18.99 On sale: 11/9/21

"Natasha Bowen gives voice to the long established African and Caribbean folk legends about merbeings and the goddess Yemoja in her fantastic debut, *Skin of the Sea*. A riveting folklore-fantasy that is rooted in the historic reality of the Euro-American trade of enslaved Africans."

—Brein Lopez, Children's Book World, Los Angeles, CA