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FROM THE BOOKLIST READER

[Diversity in Book Awards: A Conversation](#)

By Daniel Kraus

Shortly after the annual Youth Media Awards, novelist Ashley Hope Pérez (herself a fresh awardee: a Printz Honor for [Out of Darkness](#)) contacted me about helping facilitate a conversation she wished to have about diversity in kidlit—a hot topic these days, though Pérez specifically wanted to talk about it in terms of awards and best-of lists.

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[Epic Novel, Epic Theater: Roberto Bolaño's 2666](#)

By Donna Seaman

The set is minimal. Three bright green, wheeled chairs are parked behind two white, narrow tables on which stand four name plates. This is an easily overlooked detail, especially for audience members who are not familiar with Roberto Bolaño's enormous and complex novel, a dark, labyrinthine tale of ardor and hate adapted for the stage for the first time at Chicago's famed Goodman Theatre. But for those of us who have read the late Chilean expat's 2008 masterpiece (see my original review [here](#)), the missing chair reminds us that one of the four European critics, or academics, readers meet at the start of the book, Piero Morini, will arrive at this staging of a literary conference seated in a wheelchair.

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BOOKLIST ONLINE EXCLUSIVE REVIEWS



Adult - Nonfiction

Social Sciences

[**Anatomy of Love: A Natural History of Mating, Marriage, and Why We Stray**](#), by Helen Fisher

Health & Medicine

[**What You Must Know about Thyroid Disorders and What to Do about Them: Your Guide to Treating Autoimmune Dysfunction, Hypo- & Hyperthyroidism, Mood Swings, Cancer, Memory Loss, Weight Issues, Heart Problems & More**](#), by Pamela Wartian Smith

History

[**The Year of Indecision, 1946: A Tour through the Crucible of Harry Truman's America**](#), by Kenneth Weisbrode

Adult - Fiction

General Fiction

[**The Ramblers**](#), by Aidan Donnelley Rowley

Crime Fiction

[**The Dove's Necklace**](#), by Raja Alem

[**Zone**](#), by Jack Lance

Historical Fiction

[**Max Baer & the Star of David**](#), by Jay Neugeboren

"This fictionalized take on Baer's life and celebrity is told through the eyes of Horace Littlejohn, a black man who migrated to San Francisco from the Deep South."



Romance

[**The Art of Taming a Rake**](#), by Nicole Jordan

[A Gentleman's Game](#), by Theresa Romain

"In her latest engaging Regency romance, Romain neatly incorporates fascinating details about horse breeding and racing in the nineteenth century into her story line, while also gifting readers with an unusual romance seasoned with a generous dash of mystery and danger."



[On Lone Star Trail](#), by Amanda Cabot

[Spider Game](#), by Christine Feehan

SF/Fantasy

[Revisionary](#), by Jim C. Hines

Graphic Novels

Adult

[Black Rat](#), written and illustrated by Cole Closser

[A Bride's Story, v.7](#), written and illustrated by Kaoru Mori

[Class Photo](#), written and illustrated by Robert Triptow

[Drinking at the Movies](#), written and illustrated by Julia Wertz

"In a year full of ups and downs (and downs), most day-in-the-life-of vignettes provoke lots of laughs and end on light notes, but Wertz's childish faces and frames are deceptively simple."



[Jupiter's Circle](#), by Mark Millar and illustrated by Wilfredo Torres

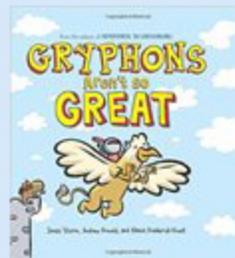
[Lady Killer](#), by Joelle Jones and Jamie S. Rich and illustrated by Joelle Jones

Young Adult

[Bunny vs. Monkey](#), written and illustrated by Jamie Smart

[Gryphons Aren't So Great](#), by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and others and illustrated by James Sturm

"Beginning readers new to comics can enjoy the simply drawn, colorful panels and the madcap antics, while parents and teachers can appreciate this story of friendship and loyalty."



[The Misadventures of Salem Hyde, v.5: Frozen Fiasco](#), written and illustrated by Frank Cammuso

[Teen Boat! The Race for Boatlantia](#), by Dave Roman and illustrated by John Green

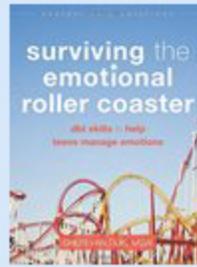
[Unicorn vs. Goblins: Another Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure](#), written and illustrated by Dana Simpson

Youth - Nonfiction

Feelings & Behavior

[Surviving the Emotional Roller Coaster: DBT Skills to Help Teens Manage Emotions](#), by Sheri Van Dijk

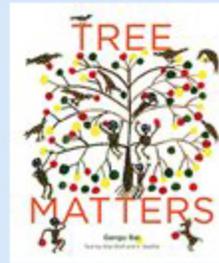
"The publisher, well-known for its patient guides aimed at assisting trauma sufferers in building sound coping skills, has presented this guide in a welcoming way, so teens can feel invited to participate in the mastery of their emotions rather than be overwhelmed by analytical details."



Social Science

[Tree Matters](#), by Gita Wolf, V. Geetha, and others and illustrated by Gangu Bai

"This unusual book does an amazing job of featuring the artistry of an indigenous Bhil artist from India, preserving in print the Bhil people's forest lifestyle before modernization changed it."



Science

[Outdoor Math: Fun Activities for Every Season](#), written and illustrated by Emma AdBage

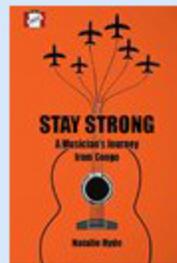
Cookery

[Edible Science: Experiments You Can Eat](#), by Jodi Wheeler-Toppen and Carol Tennant

Arts

[Stay Strong: A Musician's Journey from Congo](#), by Natalie Hyde

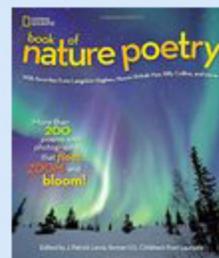
"The concise, straightforward journalistic style, along with a typeface that supports dyslexic reading efforts, marks this as an engaging and suitable title for youth with low to moderate reading skills, while the humanity and spark of the subject will engage readers looking for positive personal accounts of African refugees—a topic sorely underrepresented in the U.S."



Poetry

[Book of Nature Poetry: More than 200 Poems with Photographs That Float, Zoom, and Bloom!](#), by J. Patrick Lewis

"Nature in all of its colorful, vivid, stunning glory is presented here in full-page, beautifully reproduced color photographs (National Geographic's specialty, naturally) and spot-on accompanying poems."



History

[Elephant Man](#), by Mariangela Di Fiore and illustrated by Hilde Hodnefeld

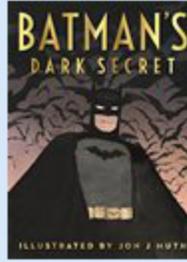
Youth - Fiction

General Fiction

[Bad Kitty Goes to the Vet](#), written and illustrated by Nick Bruel

★ **[Batman's Dark Secret](#)**, by Kelley Puckett and illustrated by Jon J. Muth

"The images, however, are beautifully tailored to this unusual take on the Dark Knight's origin, which begins with an impressionistic, fairy-tale-like depiction of his parents' murder: a bang, a flash in the dark, and they are gone."



[Bedtime Blastoff!](#), by Luke Reynolds and illustrated by Mike Yamada

[Big Cat](#), written and illustrated by Ethan Long

[Breaking Big](#), by Penny Draper

[Build, Beaver, Build!](#), by Sandra Markle and illustrated by Deborah Hocking

[Chick 'n' Pug: The Love Pug](#), written and illustrated by Jennifer Sattler

[Dewey Bob](#), written and illustrated by Judy Schachner

[Digging for Dinos](#), by Jessica Young and illustrated by James Burks

[Expecting](#), by Shannon Freeman

[Friends](#), written and illustrated by Aiko Ikegami

[Froggy Goes to the Library](#), by Jonathan London and illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz

[Good Night, Truck](#), by Sally Odgers and illustrated by Heath McKenzie

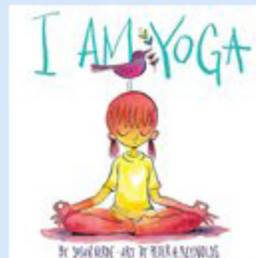
[Home Run](#), by Tim Green

[Hoot and Peep](#), written and illustrated by Lita Judge

[How to Outfox Your Friends When You Don't Have a Clue](#), by Jess Keating

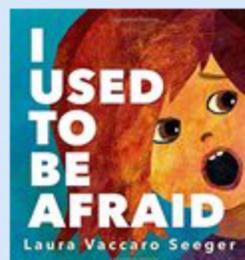
[I Am Yoga](#), by Susan Verde and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

"Spare, lyrical text and whimsically detailed, color-washed ink illustrations positively present yoga as a means for rejuvenation and inspiration, as well as the feelings yoga can evoke and encourage, playful to calm."



[I Used to Be Afraid](#), written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

"Closing on a courageous (and humorous) note, this is not only a great story of growth but a helpful tool to start discussions about fear and bravery with young children."



[I'm from Nowhere](#), by Suzanne Myers

[Lazy Dave](#), by Jarvis

[The Leaving Season](#), by Cat Jordan

[Let's Go to the Hardware Store](#), by Anne Rockwell and illustrated by Melissa Iwai

[Lottery Boy](#), by Michael Byrne

[Love Monster and the Last Chocolate](#), written and illustrated by Rachel Bright

[Maggie and Wendel](#), written and illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld

[Mutt's Promise](#), by Julie Salamon and illustrated by Jill Weber

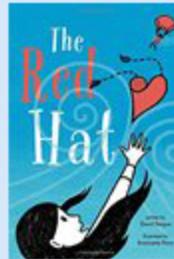
[The Not-So-Faraway Adventure](#), by Andrew Larsen and illustrated by Irene Luxbacher

[Puddle](#), written and illustrated by Hyewon Yum

[A Recipe for Bedtime](#), by Peter Bently and illustrated by Sarah Massini

[The Red Hat](#), by David Teague and illustrated by Antoinette Portis

"Beautifully designed two-page spreads feature pages textured with glossy raised waves to depict the movement of the wind, and muted tones of black, white, blue, and gray are highlighted by a splash of red in each illustration."



[Save Me, Kurt Cobain](#), by Jenny Manzer

[Scratch Scratch Scraww Plop](#), written and illustrated by Kitty Crowther

[Specs for Rex](#), written and illustrated by Yasmine Ismail

[Spirit Level](#), by Sarah N. Harvey

[Tiptoe Tapirs](#), written and illustrated by Hanmin Kim

"This translation of a picture book originally published in South Korea offers a hopeful *pourquoi* story made unusual by its setting, Southeast Asia, and its stars, Tapir and Little Tapir."



[Tufty](#), written and illustrated by Michael Foreman

[Under the Dusty Moon](#), by Suzanne Sutherland

[When Kacey Left](#), by Dawn Green

[You Were Here](#), by Cori McCarthy and illustrated by Sonia Liao

[Young Charlotte, Filmmaker](#), written and illustrated by Frank Viva

"Viva explores Charlotte's personality with great depth, acknowledging her anxiety as well as the supportive care of her parents, who fuel her creativity with trips to old movies and, of course, the MOMA."



Zoo Zoom!, by Candace Ryan and illustrated by Macky Pamintuan

Action/Adventure

Code of Honor, by Alan Gratz

"Government secret ops, terrorist infiltration, boyhood games featuring *Star Wars* tropes, and a rich description of Kamran's emotional experience combine into a brisk, eye-opening morality tale and satisfying suspense story."



The Defiant, by M. Quint and illustrated by Lily Padula

"With shades of *Lord of the Flies*, this well-written novel pits the Defiant's crew not only against nature but the other communities of survivors they encounter—comprised entirely of children."



Every Second Counts, by Sophie McKenzie

A Series of Small Maneuvers, by Eliot Treichel

The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor, by Said and illustrated by Rashin

The Tale of Rescue, by Michael J. Rosen and illustrated by Stan Fellows

The Vanishing Island, by Barry Wolverton

Romance

Did I Mention I Love You?, by Estelle Maskame

SF/Fantasy

Baker's Magic, by Diane Zahler

Bloodtraitor, by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

Burn, by Elissa Sussman

Burning Glass, by Kathryn Purdie

Dove Exiled, by Karen Bao

Feathers, Paws, Fins, and Claws: Fairy Tale Beasts, by Jennifer Schacker and Christine A. Jones and illustrated by Lina Kusaite

"Though this collection has a slightly more academic approach—including a somewhat scholarly introduction, with chapter notes—fairy-tale aficionados and

researchers will enjoy reading and learning more about these diverse tales as well as what the animal characters may reveal and represent about culture and human nature."



[The Hidden Twin](#), by Adi Rule

[Life of Zarf: The Troll Who Cried Wolf](#), by Rob Harrell

[Longbow Girl](#), by Linda Davies

[Marked](#), by Laura Williams McCaffrey and illustrated by Sally Cantirino

[On the Edge of Gone](#), by Corinne Duyvis

[One Wish](#), by Michelle Harrison

[Spaced Out](#), by Stuart Gibbs

[A Tangle of Gold](#), by Jaclyn Moriarty

"Readers may find themselves slowing down to savor Moriarty's distinctive language and humor in this final outing. This remains a series unlike any other, with frequent pockets of beautiful imagery and a unique rhythm all its own."



[Their Fractured Light](#), by Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner

[UnBound](#), by Neal Shusterman

[The Wisdom of Dead Men](#), by Oisín McGann

Scary Stories

[Dead Boy](#), by Laurel Gale and illustrated by Yoko Tanaka

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Adult

[The Drafter](#), by Kim Harrison and read by January LaVoy

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About *Booklist Online Exclusives*:

Bill Ott, Editor & Publisher bott@ala.org

Keir Graff, Editor kgraff@ala.org

Annie Bostrom, Marketing Associate abostrom@ala.org

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