



Young Adults

FICTION

Hide with Me

By Sorboni Banerjee, Razorbill, 2018, 362 pp., ISBN 978-0-4514-7835-1, \$17.99.

When Tanner, Texas's, seventeen-year-old star quarterback Cade stumbles upon a severely wounded teenager in his corn field, his first instinct is to call 911, but the girl, with barely any voice left, convinces him to hide her instead. Somehow Cade and this young lady seem to have much in common, although she remains secretive about how she received her wounds and even of her name. Cade begins to refer to her simply as Jane. With the help of his friend Mateo, who happens to have assisted his veterinarian father in his practice, Jane's wounds are stitched back together and she begins to heal. Slowly the boys earn her trust and she begins to confide bits and pieces of her past to them. A former foster child who ran away with a boy and lived in Mexico, the boy became entangled in the cartels and through him Jane became the target of two rival drug cartels once the boy was killed, which was how Jane ended up in Texas. She was running from the cartels. Border town Tanner is no stranger to drug-related crimes and cartel-induced violence. Jane knows that if she goes to the authorities, she will be returned to foster care, since she is only seventeen. Cade lives with his alcoholic and abusive father on a farm, which has been failing miserably due to recent droughts. Because his mother ran off with a crooked cop involved with the drug cartels, Cade distrusts the police force, with the exception of a teammate's mother, who is the sheriff. Together Cade, Mateo, and Jane hatch a plan to pass Jane off as Cade's cousin who came to stay with him and his father. The plan seems to work out well until the cartels up the violence. Jane fears she brought trouble to the small town, but in the end more of the town is twisted up in the rival cartels than anyone would have expected. Both Cade and Jane have trust issues, but feel comfortable confiding in each other. This leads to some displays of affection,

which tend toward a PG-13 rating, but the incidents are brief. The violence that Jane has witnessed is quite realistic, resulting in some graphic depictions. It is an excellently written story and highly recommended for high school and public libraries.

Shirley J. Martyn

Tight

By Torrey Maldonado, Nancy Paulsen, 2018, 186 pp., ISBN 978-1-5247-4055-9, \$16.99.

Kudos to Torrey Maldonado, who has mined his teaching experience to give us Bryan, a middle school student who shares his first-person account of what is it like growing up in the projects with a father in prison. As he pilots through the perils of the wrong friend, his desire to be liked, his older sister's scorn, and his mother's constant worry about him, Bryan experiences and then absorbs life lessons.

Remember what it was like to be easily moved by the whirl of information and sensation that infused our youth? With Bryan's love for comic book heroes, especially Luke Cage, as well as his discovery of real friends who help him, he begins to grow into himself. His urban experiences may not match those of middle schoolers outside of the cities, but his willing exploration, his fears, his reluctant daring, and his reflections are universal. His relationships to his family, including his newly released father, are emotional—sometimes distressing and sometimes rewarding. At one point he tells us, "Ma is my heart." He knows there are things he's done that will distress her, and that there are things he's done that will make her proud. How does he grow up to be a good man?

Bryan's unique voice is one that I will remember for a long time. The events in this book are not so much adventures as life experiences that could lead Bryan down several different roads. As he examines his choices both before and after events, we cheer him on, hoping he will make the right choice. The vocabulary is real, and made me work to get the context. This is an important book.

Barbara S. Wurtzel

NONFICTION

Cyrus Field's Big Dream: The Daring Effort to Lay the First Transatlantic Telegraph Cable

By Mary Morton Cowan, Calkins Creek, 2018, 224 pp., ISBN 987-1-62979-556-0, \$19.95.

Cyrus Field's Big Dream presents a thorough telling of the laying of the first transatlantic telegraph cable (attempts ran from 1856 to 1866). It provides a detailed background on Cyrus Field's childhood, family life, education, and his innate organizational skills. It gives a fine explanation of working conditions and the events of the time period.

Biographical details of his life illustrate Field's strong ethics of honesty and hard work, as well as his fortitude, perseverance, and commitment to peace through communication. Negative character traits include a lack of balance in his life, impatience, and a failure to research the logistics involved in the project. The book covers many of the details of his business career, marriage, travels, attainment of wealth, and the development of the idea of a transatlantic telegraph.

The second half of the book gives a complete overview of the many attempts made to complete the successful laying of the transatlantic cable—including a competing route from the newly purchased Russian America (Alaska) to Siberia and the rest of Europe. Field was very persistent in his intention of laying his cable and through that achieved success.

The text is accompanied by blue-toned period prints and illustrations. The book includes a timeline and additional resources for more information. Endpages show the route the cable took in linking North America to Ireland. The book does not promote any particular virtues; this is a history/biography with lots of scientific details. However, Cyrus's life illustrated many personal virtues. It would be an appropriate book for a motivated twelve-year-old, but, because of the amount of detail provided, would probably suit ages fourteen and up. It is recommended for personal, school, and public libraries.

Jane Braun