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# No Ballet Shoes In Syria

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*Following Frankenstein*  
Electric Monkey  
The Caldecott Honor-  
winning true story of  
Mohammad Alaa  
Aljaleel, who in the

midst of the Syrian  
Civil War courageously  
offered safe haven to  
Aleppo's abandoned  
cats. Aleppo's city  
center no longer  
echoes with the rich,  
exciting sounds of  
copper-pot pounding  
and traditional sword  
sharpening. His  
neighborhood is  
empty--except for the  
many cats left behind.  
Alaa loves Aleppo, but

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when war comes his neighbors flee to safety, leaving their many pets behind. Alaa decides to stay--he can make a difference by driving an ambulance, carrying the sick and wounded to safety. One day he hears hungry cats calling out to him on his way home. They are lonely and scared, just like him. He feeds and pets them to let them know they are loved. The next day more cats come, and then even more! There are too many for Alaa to take care of on his own. Alaa has a big heart, but he will need help from others if he wants to keep all of his new friends safe.

Tiny Pretty Things Penguin

Relates the fortunes of three adopted sisters who take dancing and stage training, one to become an actress, the second a ballerina,

and the third an aviatrix.

**The Boy with the Butterfly Mind** Scholastic Inc.

With determination and help from her new friends, a ten-year-old New York City girl overcomes obstacles while pursuing her dream of becoming a prima ballerina.

The Pain and the Great One Go Places Atria Books

Jake ('The Pain') and Abigail ('The Great One') may be brother and sister, but they don't always see eye to eye. Abigail thinks that Jake is a massive pain while Jake thinks that Abigail thinks she is sooo great. Whether they are going on holiday, visiting family or enjoying a snow day, there's always something to argue about. But despite these little disagreements, this pair are always there for each other, sharing in the fun! In thirteen hilarious and heart-warming young-fiction stories Judy Blume perfectly captures what it's like to grow up with a brother or a sister.

Red Stars Delacorte Press

All Andy wants is to dress

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like everyone else, but her mum's the owner of a run-down kooky vintage boutique, so she's bound to look - well - different. But when Andy finds a gorgeous bag full of designer goodies in the storeroom, everything changes

### **The Polka Dot Shop**

Macmillan Children's Books

“Heart-twisting and hopeful, bursting with big feelings and gentle magic.” —Jessica Townsend, New York Times bestselling author of the Nevermoor series  
A moving coming-of-age story about one girl’s bravery and imagination in the face of the unknown. Perfect for fans of Front Desk and Mañanaland. Meixing Lim and her family have arrived at the New House

in the New Land. Her parents inherited the home from First Uncle who died tragically and unexpectedly while picking oranges in the backyard. Her mama likes to remind Meixing the family never could have afforded to move here otherwise, so she should be thankful for this opportunity. Everything is vast and unknown to Meixing in this supposedly wonderful place. She is embarrassed by her secondhand clothing, has trouble understanding her peers, and is finding it hard to make new friends. Meixing’s only solace is a rundown greenhouse, that her uncle called his glasshouse, at the far end of her backyard that inexplicably holds the sun and the moon and the

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secrets of her memory and decide if she wants to imagination. When her fragile universe is rocked by tragedy, it will take all of Meixing's resilience and bravery to finally find her place of belonging in this new world.

*Saving the Butterfly*

Annick Press

On-stage beauty.

Backstage drama. As a dancer with the ultra-prestigious Manhattan Ballet Company, nineteen-year-old Hannah Ward juggles intense rehearsals, dazzling performances and complicated backstage relationships. Up until now, Hannah has happily devoted her entire life to ballet. But when she meets a handsome musician named Jacob, Hannah's universe begins to change, and she must

compete against the other "bunheads" in the company for a star soloist spot or strike out on her own in the real world.

Does she dare give up the gilded confines of the ballet for the freedoms of everyday life?

The Boy at the Back of the Class Alfred a Knopf Incorporated

Daniel's grandmother has never told him much about what happened to her during the war. He knows she came to England on the Kindertransport to escape the Nazis but he doesn't know about her time as an emigree in rural Sussex or her role in capturing a German spy sent to kill Winston Churchill. This is her story. I walked back to

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the barn. We had left the door slightly ajar, and I slipped through the gap. My plimsolls made no sound on the dirt floor. I heard sounds from the loft, as though the injured man was rummaging in his haversack. He was muttering to himself. My stomach turned over. I stopped dead still. No. It couldn't be. I must have heard wrong. I stayed completely still, listening, my heart thumping. He was still rummaging, but he had stopped muttering. Something rolled across the loft and dropped over the edge on to the barn floor. The man swore. My blood froze in my veins. He had sworn in German. *Dance or Die Orchard Books*  
Think you know the tale of Snow White inside and

out? Know all about the Seven Dwarfs, the mirror, the joyful woodland creatures? How about the ruined carpets, the ghastly genie and the to-die-for macaroons? No, that bit not familiar? Possibly not, because this is The queen's tale  
Crater Lake: Evolution  
Henry Holt and Company (BYR)  
An extraordinary retelling of the Baba Yaga myth, this debut novel will wrap itself around your heart and never let go. All 12-year-old Marinka wants is a friend. A real friend. Not like her house with chicken legs. Sure, the house can play games like tag and hide-and-see, but Marinka longs for a human companion. Someone she can talk to and share secrets with. But that's tough when your

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grandmother is a Yaga, a guardian who guides the dead into the afterlife. It's even harder when you live in a house that wanders all over the world . . . carrying you with it. Even worse, Marinka is being trained to be a Yaga. That means no school, no parties -- and no playmates that stick around for more than a day. So when Marinka stumbles across the chance to make a real friend, she breaks all the rules . . . with devastating consequences. Her beloved grandmother mysteriously disappears, and it's up to Marinka to find her -- even if it means making a dangerous journey to the afterlife. With a mix of whimsy, humor, and adventure, this debut novel will wrap itself around your heart and never let go.

**The Queen's Tale** Nosy

Crow

A Syria-born dancer

offers his deeply personal story of war, statelessness, and the pursuit of the art of dance in this inspirational memoir. **DANCE OR DIE** is an autobiographical coming-of-age account of Ahmad Joudeh, a young refugee who grows up in Damascus with dreams of becoming a dancer. When he is recruited by one of Syria's top dance companies, neither bombs nor family opposition can keep him from taking classes, practicing hard, and becoming a Middle Eastern celebrity on a Lebanese reality show. Despite death threats if Ahmad continues to dance, his father kicking him out of the house, and the war around him intensifying, he persists and even gets a tattoo on

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his neck right where the executioner's blade would fall that says, "Dance or Die." A powerful look at refugee life in Syria, DANCE OR DIE tells of the pursuit of personal expression in the most dangerous of circumstances and of the power of art to transcend war and suffering. It follows Ahmad from Damascus to Beirut to Amsterdam, where he finds a home with one of Europe's top ballet troupes, and from where he continues to fight for the human rights of refugees everywhere through his art, his activism, and his commitment to justice. [A House Without Walls](#)  
Nosy Crow  
Newcomer Salma and friends cook up a

heartwarming dish to cheer up Mama. All Salma wants is to make her mama smile again. Between English classes, job interviews, and missing Papa back in Syria, Mama always seems busy or sad. A homemade Syrian meal might cheer her up, but Salma doesn't know the recipe, or what to call the vegetables in English, or where to find the right spices! Luckily, the staff and other newcomers at the Welcome Center are happy to lend a hand—and a sprinkle of sumac. With creativity, determination, and charm, Salma brings her new friends together to show Mama that even though things aren't perfect, there is cause for hope and celebration. Syrian culture is

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beautifully represented through the meal Salma prepares and Anna Bron's vibrant illustrations, while the diverse cast of characters speaks to the power of cultivating community in challenging circumstances.

The Children of Castle Rock

Scholastic

Told with humor and heart, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* offers a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense. There used to be an empty chair at the back of Mrs. Khan's classroom, but on the third Tuesday of the school year a new kid fills it: nine-year-old Ahmet, a Syrian refugee. The whole class is curious about this new boy--he doesn't seem to smile, and he doesn't talk much. But after learning that

Ahmet fled a Very Real War and was separated from his family along the way, a determined group of his classmates bands together to concoct the Greatest Idea in the World--a magnificent plan to reunite Ahmet with his loved ones. This accessible, kid-friendly story about the refugee crisis highlights the community-changing potential of standing as an ally and reminds readers that everyone deserves a place to call home. "This moving and timely debut novel tells an enlightening, empowering, and ultimately hopeful story about how compassion and a willingness to speak out can change the world." --School Library Journal, Starred Review  
Overall Winner of the 2019 UK Waterstones Children's Book Prize  
Winner of the 2019 UK Blue Peter Book Award  
A CLIP Carnegie Medal Children's Book Award Nominee

*The Middler* HarperCollins UK

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"When the rescuers meet the boat, there are only two people left: a little one and a bigger one. The bigger one remembers the uncertainty of the trip across the ocean, but the little one has stopped thinking about all that. Can the little one and a very special butterfly help the big one move forward?"--

Rosa and the Three Wishes (Magic Ballerina, Book 12) Faber & Faber  
Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship. But at the

same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves, and to find Aya's father - separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria. With beautiful, captivating writing, wonderfully authentic ballet detail, and an important message championing the rights of refugees, this is classic storytelling - filled with warmth, hope and humanity.

*The Girl Who Talked to Trees* Nosy Crow  
When shy Ivy's troublemaking twin Scarlet vanishes from Rookwood boarding school, Ivy is invited to "take her place." But when Ivy arrives, she discovers the school's true intention; she has to pretend to be Scarlet. Ivy

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must think like Scarlet, act like Scarlet, become Scarlet. What on earth happened to the real Scarlet, and why is the school trying to keep it a secret? Luckily for Ivy, Scarlet isn't about to disappear without a fight. She's left pieces of her journal carefully hidden all over the school for Ivy to find. Ivy's going to figure out what happened to Scarlet. She's got to. But the staff of Rookwood is always watching, and they'll do anything to keep their secrets buried... Scarlet and Ivy Series: The Lost Twin (Book 1) The Whispers in the Walls (Book 2) The Dance in the Dark (Book 3)

### **Katarina Ballerina**

Delacorte Press

"The memoir of Michaela DePrince, who lived the first few years of her life in war-torn Sierra Leone

until being adopted by an American Family. Now seventeen, she is one of the premiere ballerinas in the United States"--

*The Lost Twin* Delacorte Press

Now a Netflix TV show! Black Swan meets Pretty Little Liars in this soapy, drama-packed novel featuring diverse characters who will do anything to be the prima at their elite ballet school. From the New York Times-bestselling author of *The Belles*, Dhonielle Clayton, and the author of the acclaimed *Symptoms of a Heartbreak*, Sona Charaipotra. Gigi, Bette, and June, three top students at an exclusive Manhattan ballet school, have seen their fair share of drama. Free-spirited new girl Gigi just wants to

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dance—but the very act might kill her. Privileged New Yorker Bette's desire to escape the shadow of her ballet-star sister brings out a dangerous edge in her. And perfectionist June needs to land a lead role this year or her controlling mother will put an end to her dancing dreams forever. When every dancer is both friend and foe, the girls will sacrifice, manipulate, and backstab to be the best of the best. Don't miss the gossip, lies, and scandal that continues in *Tiny Pretty Things'* gripping sequel, *Shiny Broken Pieces!*  
*Salma the Syrian Chef*  
Firefly Press  
"It's been a year since everything happened, but I still have bad dreams.  
*Dreams of me and Tokes*

and Little Pea, racing through burning streets on the night the city was in flames..."--Page 4 of cover.

**The Unexpected Find**

Usborne Publishing Ltd  
Return to the magical world of Enchantia in the captivating second series of *Magic Ballerina* by Darcey Bussell!