

Looking for some good summer 2020 reads? IMS recommends...

Note: To access these books using Sora, our online book collection, please view [this document](#).

Book Suggestion

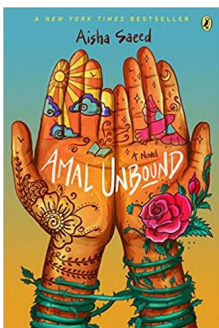


The Lunar Chronicles are futuristic retellings of classic fairy tales. In *Cinder*, a teenage cyborg (half human, half machine) must deal with a wicked stepmother, start a rebellion against the evil Queen Levana, and decide how she feels about a handsome prince. As the series continues, Cinder forges alliances with Scarlet, a spaceship pilot who is determined to solve the mystery of a missing loved one—with the help of a magnetic street fighter named Wolf; Cress, a computer hacker who is imprisoned by Queen Levana; and Winter, a princess who's in love with a commoner, and who discovers that Cinder, Scarlet, and Cress may hold the key to saving her kingdom—and the world.

Recommended by Ms. Tessler (French): "The mashed up fairy tales combine aspects of so many different genres, and I love books with strong female characters."

[The Lunar Chronicles \(Cinder, Scarlet, Cress, Fairest, Stars Above, Winter\) by Marissa Meyer](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

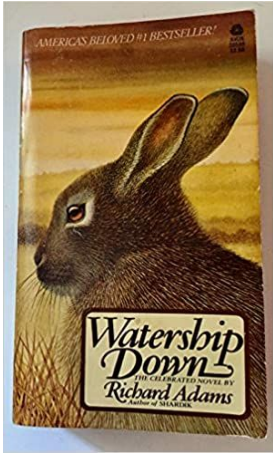


Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment for her behavior, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate.

Recommended by Ms. Rust (Instructional Coach): "This book features a strong cast of characters, especially the female protagonist. Amal is an inspiration!"

[Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

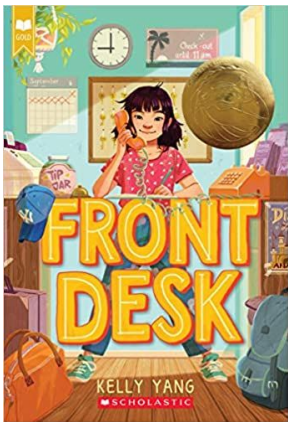


Watership Down is the compelling tale of a group of wild rabbits struggling to hold onto their place in the world. A phenomenal worldwide bestseller for more than forty years, Richard Adams's Watership Down is a timeless classic and one of the most beloved novels of all time. Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

Recommended by Ms. Condit (Math): "I love this book because it's about animals, in particular rabbits, but it is so much more - it reflects many challenges we encounter in our human existence; it's a mix of adventure, friendship, folklore, and it even has some pretty scary parts. My grandmother from England gave it to me when I was in middle school and I read it with my mom... great memories :)"

[Watership Down by Richard Adams](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (audiobook)



Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests.

Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed.

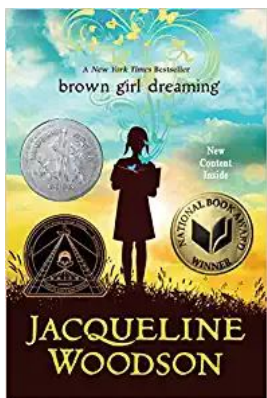
Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language?

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

Recommended by Ms. Meiseles (ELA): "This book is based on the real life story of the author who immigrated to California with her parents from China. From reading this realistic fiction book, the reader will get first hand knowledge of the trials and tribulations that many Chinese immigrants continue to endure. It will also teach tolerance and hopefully empathy."

[Front Desk by Kelly Yang](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

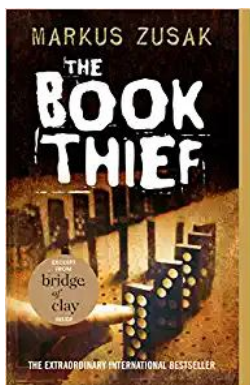


Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

Recommended by Ms. Meiseles (ELA)

[Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

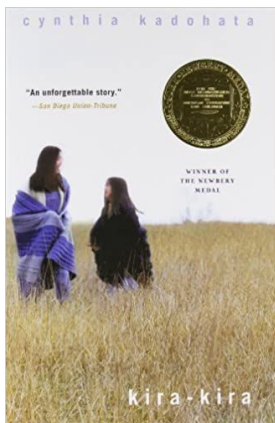


It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

Recommended by Ms. Schmertz (Art): "The last line of this book will always stay with me."

[The Book Thief by Markus Zusak](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



kira-kira (kee ra kee ra): glittering; shining Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is *kira-kira* because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is *kira-kira* for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering – *kira-kira* – in the future.

Recommended by Ms. Kennedy (ENL): "This is a story about a Japanese-American family who live in Georgia. The daughters face prejudices at school and watch their parents endure hardships to make ends meet in a predominantly white culture."

[Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

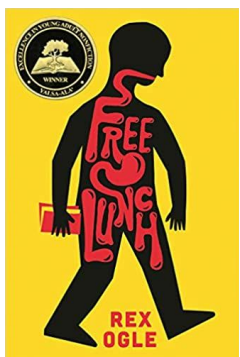


Before landing a spot on the megahit Netflix show *Orange is the New Black*; before wow-ing audiences as Lina on *Jane the Virgin*; and before her incredible activism and work on immigration reform, Diane Guerrero was a young girl living in Boston. One day, while Guerrero was at school, her undocumented immigrant parents were taken from their home, detained, and deported. Guerrero's life, which had been full of the support of a loving family, was turned upside down.

Recommended by Ms. Nadler (ELA): "With so much uncertainty continuing in our world today, this is a thoughtful and timely memoir about a young girl who is put into an extremely difficult situation where she is forced to grow up, her parents are deported, and take on responsibilities for herself at a very young age."

[My Family Divided by Diane Guerrero](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)



Free Lunch is the story of Rex Ogle's first semester in sixth grade. Rex and his baby brother often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and were short of school supplies, and Rex was on his school's free lunch program. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and the humiliation of having to announce it every day in the school lunch line, Rex's is a compelling story of a more profound hunger—that of a child for his parents' love and care. Compulsively readable, beautifully crafted, and authentically told with the voice and point of view of a 6th-grade kid, *Free Lunch* is a remarkable debut by a gifted storyteller.

Recommended by Dr. James (Librarian)

[Free Lunch by Rex Ogle](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)



Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In just a few weeks she'll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent ugly into a stunning pretty. And as a pretty, she'll be catapulted into a high-tech paradise where her only job is to have fun. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to become a pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world— and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. Tally's choice will change her world forever...

Recommended by Ms. Chillemi (ELA)

[The Uglies by Scott Westerfeld](#) (first in a series)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)



Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own.

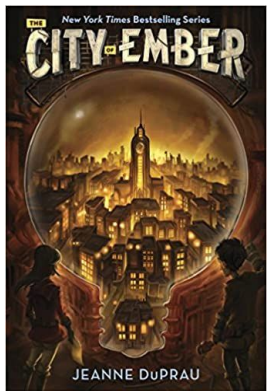
To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction.

One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.

Recommended by Ms. Evanko (ELA): "Dystopian novel meets fantasy fiction. Action-packed and hard to put down!"

[Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard](#) (first in a series)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

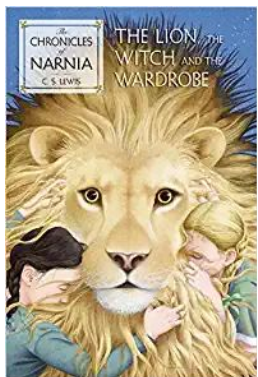


The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to dim. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. Now, she and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues to keep the lights on. If they succeed, they will have to convince everyone to follow them into danger. But if they fail? The lights will burn out and the darkness will close in forever.

Recommended by Mr. Oates: "Ember is surrounded in darkness except for the city lights that line the streets and outskirts. Something is wrong though as blackouts are becoming more frequent. Lina and Doon plan to save the City of Ember."

[The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau](#) (first in a series)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

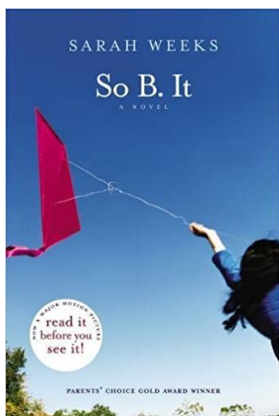


Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice. Open the door and enter a new world! *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is the second book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, which has been captivating readers of all ages with a magical land and unforgettable characters for over sixty years.

Recommended by Ms. Cassidy: "It's my all-time favorite book. It is a great story that you can just lose yourself in!"

[The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis](#) (part of the Chronicles of Narnia)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

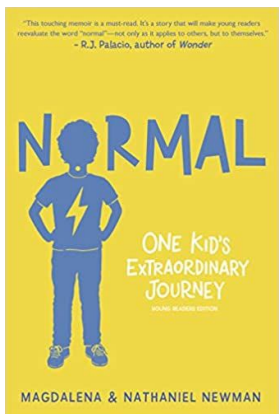


From acclaimed author Sarah Weeks comes a touching coming-of-age story about a young girl who goes on a cross-country journey to discover the truth about her parents, which the *New York Times* called "a remarkable novel." Perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead's *When You Reach Me* and Ali Benjamin's *The Thing About Jellyfish*. She doesn't know when her birthday is or who her father is. In fact, everything about Heidi and her mentally disabled mother's past is a mystery. When a strange word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi sets out on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past. Far away from home, pieces of her puzzling history come together. But it isn't until she learns to accept not knowing that Heidi truly arrives.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "Had a mini book club with my 7th grade niece Madyson (a voracious reader) and we both loved it!"

[So B. It by Sarah Weeks](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

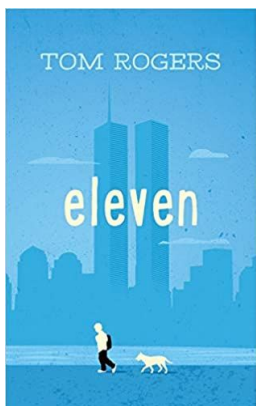


Normal. Who is to say what this word means? For Magda Newman, it was a goal. She wanted her son Nathaniel to be able to play on the playground, swim at the beach, enjoy the moments his friends took for granted. But Nathaniel's severe Treacher Collins syndrome—a craniofacial condition—meant that other concerns came first. Could he eat without the aid of a gastrointestinal tube? Could he hear? Would he ever be able to breathe effortlessly? But Nathaniel looks at "normal" from a completely different perspective. In this uplifting and humorous memoir that includes black-and-white comic illustrations, mother and son tell the story of his growing up—from facing sixty-seven surgeries before the age of fifteen, to making friends, moving across the country, and persevering through hardships. How they tackle extraordinary circumstances with love and resilience is a true testament to Magda and Nathaniel's family, and to families everywhere who quietly but courageously persist.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "If you loved Wonder this is a must-read!"

[Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey by Magdalena and Nathaniel Newman](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



Alex Douglas always wanted to be a hero. But nothing heroic ever happened to Alex. Nothing, that is, until his eleventh birthday. When Alex rescues a stray dog as a birthday gift to himself, he doesn't think his life can get much better. Radar, his new dog, pretty much feels the same way. But this day has bigger things in store for both of them. This is a story about bullies and heroes. About tragedy and hope. About enemies with two legs and friends with four, and pesky little sisters and cranky old men, and an unexpected lesson in kindness delivered with a slice of pizza. This is *Eleven*: the journey of a boy turning eleven on 9/11. A best-seller at the 9/11 Memorial Museum, a Kirkus "Best Books" selection, and winner of Writer's Digest and Moonbeam Children's Book awards.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal)

[Eleven by Tom Rogers](#)

Not available on Sora

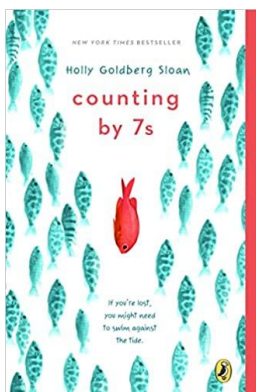


When Cassie comes to Vancouver from Australia for an intensive summer program at a prestigious ballet school, she finds it hard to fit in. A clique of girls who have been at the school a long time don't want the newcomers to get any attention. At first Cassie tries to go along to get along, but when she realizes that some of the visiting summer students are being bullied and threatened, and that she herself is being sabotaged, she finally speaks out—and finds out how far some girls will go to succeed.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "For all the dancers out there!"

[Attitude by Robin Stevenson](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)

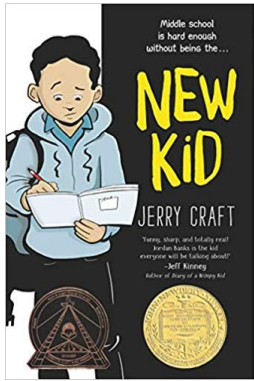


Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

Recommended by Ms. Kozak (ELA): "It's a great story about dealing with loss, being an outsider, and finding a perfect place in this world."

[Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

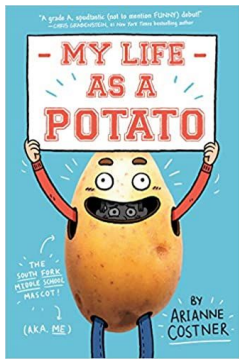


Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

Recommended by Mr. Sandler (ELA)

[New Kid by Jerry Craft](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

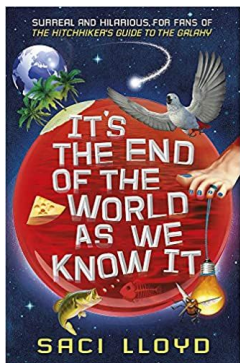


Ben Hardy believes he's cursed by potatoes. And now he's moved to Idaho, where the school's mascot is Steve the Spud! Yeah, this cannot be good. After accidentally causing the mascot to sprain an ankle, Ben is sentenced to Spud duty for the final basketball games of the year. But if the other kids know he's the Spud, his plans for popularity are likely to be a big dud! Ben doesn't want to let the team down, so he lies to his friends to keep it a secret. No one will know it's him under the potato suit . . . right? Life as a potato is all about not getting mashed! With laugh-out-loud illustrations throughout, hand to fans of James Patterson, Gordan Korman, Jeff Kinney, and Chris Grabenstein!

Recommended by Mr. Sandler (ELA)

[My Life as a Potato by Arianne Costner](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

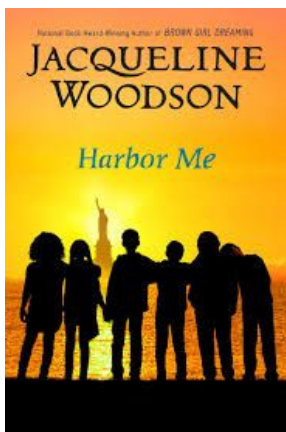


Welcome to a world controlled by a megalomaniac Lolcat. A world where data pirates, zombies and infobots on surfboards roam free. A world at war over cheese. When teenager Mikey Malone gets sucked through a wormhole into this parallel world, he discovers a power-crazed corporation is planning to use Earth as a dumping ground for an uncontrollable poisonous algae. It's a race against time for Mikey and his rebel friends to stop the ruthless tyrants from getting their way.

Recommended by Mr. Sandler (ELA)

[It's the End of the World As We Know It by Saci Lloyd](#)

Not available on Sora

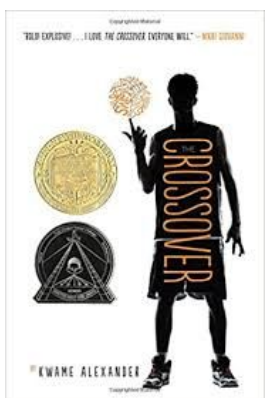


It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.

Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian)

[Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

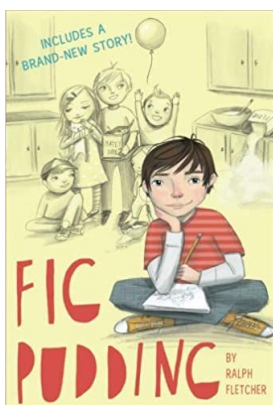


Josh and his twin brother Jordan are amazing on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood. He has rhythm, too, beats that tell his family's story in verse. But both brothers must come to grips with growing up, on and off the court, as they realize breaking the rules can come at a terrible price, resulting in a game-changer for their entire family. Winner of the 2015 Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Book Award

Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian)

[The Crossover by Kwame Alexander](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

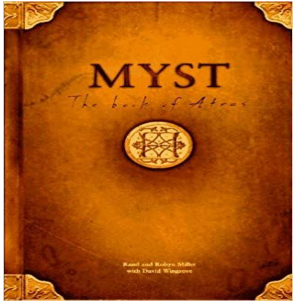


Clifford Allyn Abernathy III (just Cliff, for short) is the oldest of six kids in a family that does everything--fighting, laughing, playing, eating, telling stories, and celebrating the holidays--in a big, often outlandish, and sometimes poignant way. Taking the family from Christmas to Christmas, the chapters of *Fig Pudding*, narrated by eleven-year-old Cliff, are complete short stories in themselves--full of quick-paced, hilarious action and the warmth and love of a close-knit family. This new edition includes an original story.

Recommended by Ms. LaBella (Social Studies): "Fig Pudding' captures the ups and downs of life over one year in a large family. Ralph Fletcher has been a frequent guest author at IMS."

[Fig Pudding by Ralph Fletcher](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)



Based on the best-selling CD-ROM game on the market, a novel fills out the lives of the game's characters, tracing the strange apprenticeship of Atrus to his father, Gehn, who wields the power to create worlds.

Recommended by Mr. Calvaresi (Orchestra): "This book was a game-changer for me. It's a fantasy novel based on the #1 selling CD-Rom game of the same title. This was the title which inspired me to love books, as they became portals to other worlds, inside the story!"

[Myst: The Book of Atrus by Rand and Robyn Miller](#)

Not available on Sora