

HOLIDAY HOUSE

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7 Debut Novels. 7 New Voices. 7 Incredible Stories.

New York, NY—In this increasingly competitive marketplace, Holiday House is thrilled to publish an unprecedented *seven first-time novelists on one list* this spring. Their stories range from family relationships to historical adventures, from gritty tales of war and survival to hilarious coming-of-age experiences—this list has a book for every reader!

Julie Amper, Holiday House Editor, commented, “*The creators—authors and illustrators—are the life blood of publishing, and discovering bright new talents is an editor’s greatest thrill. I find first novelists are a joy to work with—eager, open, enthusiastic, and appreciative—and it’s so rewarding to help launch their careers.*” And Terry Borzumato-Greenberg, VP, Marketing, remarks, “*Introducing new voices is one of the most exciting parts of our job. Connecting a first-time novelist with a librarian, educator, or bookseller, and seeing their eyes light up when you press the book into their hands, is such a satisfying experience.*”

These seven stories and their authors span the globe, from North America to Africa—and the accolades they are already getting are just the beginning.

YOUR FRIEND IN FASHION, ABBY SHAPIRO by Amy Axelrod (April 2011, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2340-8, Ages 8–12, \$17.95). In this poignant, often hilarious coming-of-age historical novel, eleven-year-old Abby, an aspiring fashion designer, writes a series of letters to Jackie Kennedy, each with drawings of outfits she had designed. “Funny, lively, sensitive—a real winner.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

Amy Axelrod was born and raised in Brockton, Massachusetts. She is the author of the Pigs Will Be Pigs picture book math series. Amy lives in the Hudson Valley in New York State. This, her first novel, is a fictionalized account of her childhood and features reproductions of paper dolls she created as a child.

POSSUM SUMMER by Jen K. Blom (April 2011, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2331-6, Ages 8–12, \$17.95). In this touching first novel reminiscent of *The Yearling*, eleven-year-old Princess raises an orphaned possum and then must return it to the wild. Heartbreaking, sometimes humorous, always engrossing, *Possum Summer* is an engaging novel about a young girl’s love of animals and her struggle to find her place in the world.

Jen K. Blom grew up on a farm on the Oklahoma plains similar to the setting of *Possum Summer*. She works as a translator and commercial and business writer in Germany, where she has lived for the past seven years.

Omar Rayyan has illustrated several books for children. He lives in West Tisbury, Massachusetts.



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ALICE IN TIME by Penelope Bush (April 2011, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2329-3, Ages 12 up, \$17.95). Alice is spirited back in time and given a chance to fix her whole disastrous life. Upon her return, she faces the possibility that maybe it wasn't the people around her that needed to change; maybe it was Alice herself. "Immensely satisfying."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

Penelope Bush trained and worked as a tapestry weaver—but now, in an old trailer, she writes where she is only interrupted by the occasional pheasant walking past. She lives in England with her husband and an old cat.

THE PRICE OF LOYALTY by Mike Castan (April 2011, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2268-5, Ages 12 up, \$17.95). In this suspenseful debut novel, a Latino boy gives in to peer pressure before making a decisive move that cuts him free from gang life. This riveting novel about peer pressure and core values highlights a hot-button topic.

Mike Castan is a writer who has been an actor and a middle-grade substitute teacher. He lives in California.

THE END OF THE LINE by Angela Cerrito (April 2011, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2287-6, Ages 12 up, \$17.95) Robbie is convinced his life is over. He is sent to Great Oaks, a school for troubled youth that is run like a prison. To get home, he must follow the rules, face the past, and tell the truth. Otherwise, Great Oaks School will really be the end of the line. "[A] riveting debut." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Angela Cerrito is the assistant international adviser for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She lives in Germany and works as a pediatric physical therapist.

OUT OF SHADOWS by Jason Wallace (April 2011, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2342-2, Ages 15 up, \$17.95)

- **Winner of the UK's prestigious 2010 Costa Children's Book Award**
- **Short-listed for the 2011 Carnegie Medal**

★ "This taut drama is set at an elite boarding school in Zimbabwe during the 1980s, soon after the end of the brutal war between white colonialists and black Africans. . . . This thought-provoking narrative offers teens a window into a distinctive time and place in history." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Sometimes a book takes you somewhere and keeps you there. Honest, brave, and devastating—*Out of Shadows* is more than just memorable. It's impossible to look away." —Marcus Zusak, author of *The Book Thief*

Jason Wallace lived in England until, at age twelve, his family emigrated to Zimbabwe. It was his experience in a tough boarding school after the war for independence that forms the foundation of his debut novel. He now lives in London.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE: A Novel in Five Acts by Gretchen Woelfle, illustrated by Thomas Cox (April 2011, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2281-4, Ages 10–14, \$16.95). This coming-of-age story for tweens combines a Dickensian plot starring a young orphaned apprentice with a vivid picture of life behind the scenes at the Globe Theatre in London.

"Organizing the story through acts and scenes in lieu of chapters sets the stage nicely for a dramatic tale."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

Gretchen Woelfle received a BA in English from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College. She lives in Los Angeles. **Thomas Cox** makes his debut with his expert line drawings. A recent art school graduate, he lives in Cornwall, England.