HELLO EVERYONE!

I'M HAYLEY DIEP!



EVERY DAY FICTION

BITE-SIZED STORIES FOR A BUSY WORLD

HOME / SUBMIT A STORY / TOP STORIES / ARCHIVES INDEX

TREASURE HUNTING • BY HAYLEY DIEP

AUGUST 9, 2020 / EVERY DAY FICTION / 12 COMMENTS

I'm not scared of the dark like other kids. Daddy and I used to go treasure hunting in the dark all the time.

The two kids who share a room with me always cry at night. I tell them that there's nothing to be afraid of, but they never listen.

It's Wednesday night. Daddy and I went treasure hunting last Wednesday. I remember. I have a good memory.

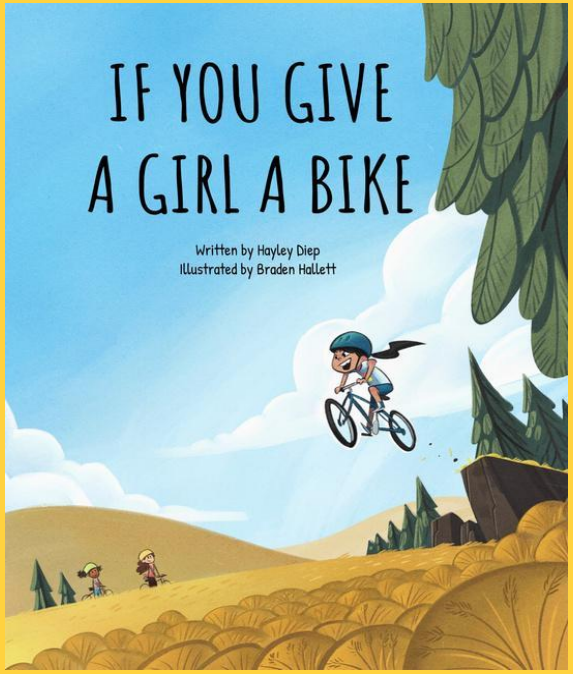
Daddy parked the van on the street. It was dark, but I wasn't scared. We walked around the back of an apartment building. It was one I'd never visited before. The apartments here had lights in the back — the yellow kinds that made everything glow funny. Daddy frowned at them, but he kept walking until we found the recycling bins, our treasure chests, in the parking lot.

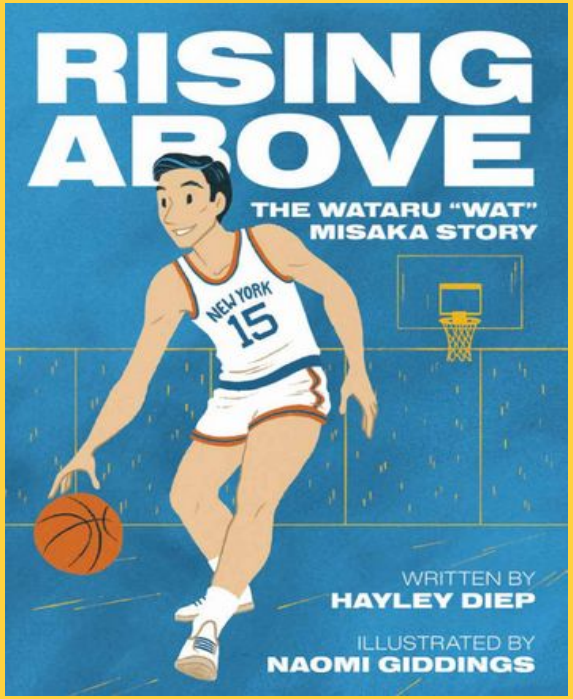
Daddy opened the lid of one and lifted me inside. He rummaged through the bin next to mine. I was careful to not make too much noise. Be considerate, Daddy always says.

I tossed plastic bottles and soda cans out of the bin. Daddy collected them. I was careful to not touch anything sharp. One time, I got a big gash on my hand from the lid of a can. There was lots of blood, but I didn't make a peep. Even if the cut *really* stung. Remember, it's important to not get noticed.

Daddy had picked me up and took me to someone who stitched up my hand and made sure it wouldn't get infected. No doctors if we can help it, Daddy always says. I got a lollipop afterwards.

We filled our garbage bags with treasure, but we didn't stay long because there was light. Light makes it too easy for us to be noticed.





My Writing Journey

Elementary Made-up stories with super-powered, magical characters.

Middle school Dragons, elves, Star Wars and Batman fanfiction. Writing was my escape.

High school Joined writing forums, wrote 3 manuscripts (40,000–70,000 words). Not great, but I began researching publishing. Wrote for the school newspaper.

College Wrote when I had time, plus articles for the school paper.

Post-college Rediscovered my love of writing: short stories, published flash fiction, a short-lived food blog.

2019 onward

Pursued picture books; drafted If You Give a Girl a Bike

2021

Self-published If You Give a Girl a Bike

2022

Signed with Triumph Books for Rising Above

2023

Rising Above: The Wataru Wat Misaka Story published

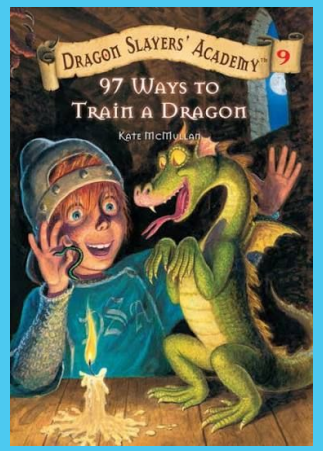
2024

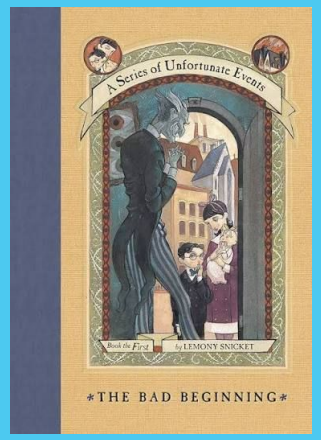
Offer of representation from agent Sandra Proudman from Galt and Zacker

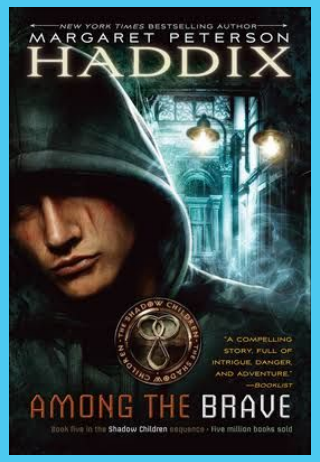


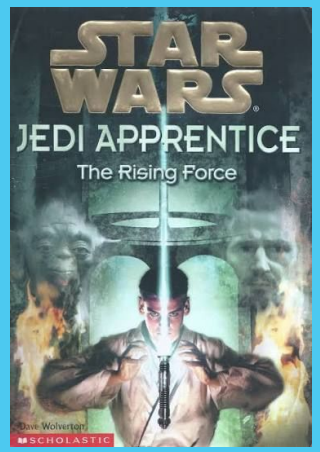
Books I Grew Up Reading

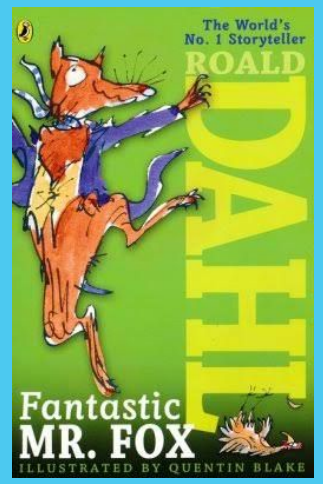
I was an avid reader. Getting lost in other worlds and rereading my favorites felt like visiting old friends.

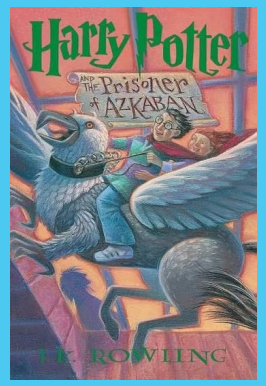


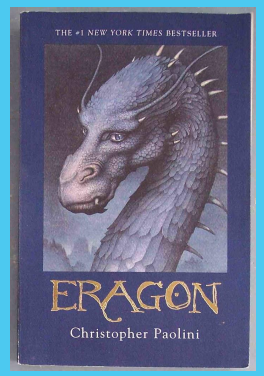


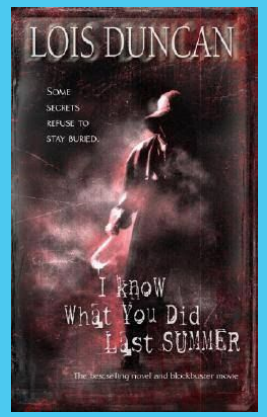


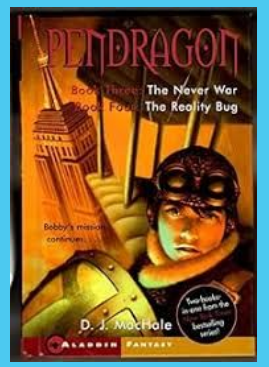


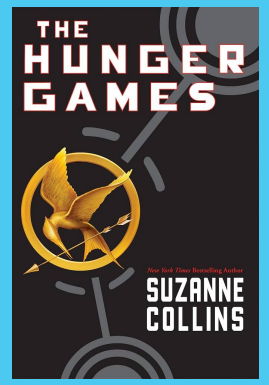






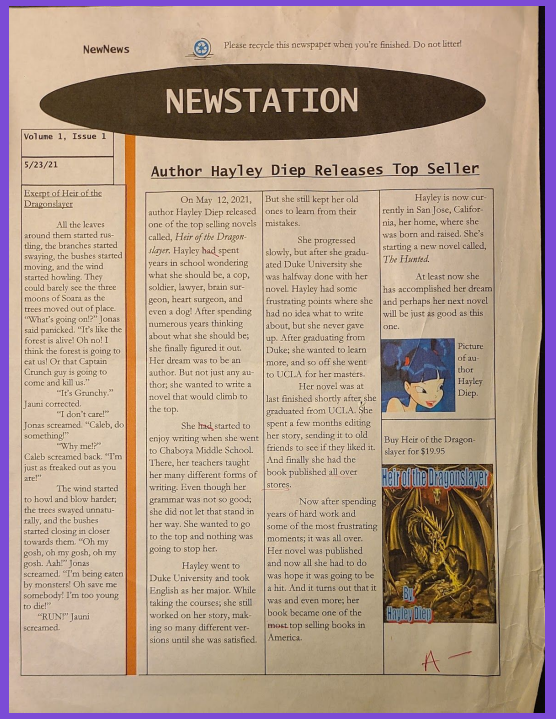






MY DREAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO...

WRITE BOOKS!!!



NewNews

Please recycle this newspaper when you're finished. Do not litter!

NEWSTATION

Volume 1, Issue 1

5/23/21

Exerpt of Heir of the Dragonslayer

All the leaves around them started rustling, the branches started swaying, the bushes started moving, and the wind started howling. They could barely see the three moons of Soara as the trees moved out of place. "What's going on!?" Jonas said panicked. "It's like the forest is alive! Oh no! I think the forest is going to eat us! Or that Captain Crunch guy is going to come and kill us."

"It's Grunchy." Jauni corrected.

"I don't care!" Jonas screamed. "Caleb, do something!"

"Why me!?" Caleb screamed back. "I'm just as freaked out as you are!"

The wind started to howl and blow harder, the trees swayed unnaturally, and the bushes started closing in closer towards them. "Oh my gosh, oh my gosh, oh my gosh. Aah!" Jonas screamed. "I'm being eaten by monsters! Oh save me somebody! I'm too young to die!"

"RUN!" Jauni screamed.

Author Hayley Diep Releases Top Seller

On May 12, 2021, author Hayley Diep released one of the top selling novels called, *Heir of the Dragonslayer*. Hayley had spent years in school wondering what she should be, a cop, soldier, lawyer, brain surgeon, heart surgeon, and even a dog! After spending numerous years thinking about what she should be, she finally figured it out. Her dream was to be an author. But not just any author; she wanted to write a novel that would climb to the top.

She had started to enjoy writing when she went to Chaboya Middle School. There, her teachers taught her many different forms of writing. Even though her grammar was not so good; she did not let that stand in her way. She wanted to go to the top and nothing was going to stop her.

Hayley went to Duke University and took English as her major. While taking the courses; she still worked on her story, making so many different versions until she was satisfied. But she still kept her old ones to learn from their mistakes.

She progressed slowly, but after she graduated Duke University she was halfway done with her novel. Hayley had some frustrating points where she had no idea what to write about, but she never gave up. After graduating from Duke; she wanted to learn more, and so off she went to UCLA for her masters.

Her novel was at last finished shortly after she graduated from UCLA. She spent a few months editing her story, sending it to old friends to see if they liked it. And finally she had the book published all over stores.

Now after spending years of hard work and some of the most frustrating moments; it was all over. Her novel was published and now all she had to do was hope it was going to be a hit. And it turns out that it was and even more; her book became one of the most top selling books in America.

Hayley is now currently in San Jose, California, her home, where she was born and raised. She's starting a new novel called, *The Hunted*.

At least now she has accomplished her dream and perhaps her next novel will be just as good as this one.

Picture of author Hayley Diep.

Buy Heir of the Dragonslayer for $19.95

A—

Writing Process

1

Draft

Get the whole story down. Be okay with writing badly.

A bad first draft is better than no draft.

2

Research

Check facts, dates and details.

Sometimes this is step 1.

3

Revise & edit

Make the writing better. Clean it up.

You might have to kill your darlings.

4

Share

Ask critique partners for feedback.

Don't take anything personally. Keep an open mind.

5

Repeat!

Revise and edit based on the feedback you received.

Ask for feedback again and revise and edit again.

Self-Publishing vs. Traditional Publishing

Self-publishing

- You have full creative control
- Faster publishing time
- You keep more of each sale
- You pay upfront costs (editing, art, printing)
- You handle marketing and distribution

VS

Traditional

- Publisher shares creative decisions
- Publisher covers production costs
- Publisher provides editors and distribution
- Slower publishing time, often years
- Usually need an agent to help you submit
- Typically reaches a larger audience
- Can feel more “official”

Querying for Traditional Publishing

1. Polish your writing
Finish and revise the manuscript from the feedback of your critique partners

2. Research literary agents
Find agents who represent your genre and read their guidelines

3. Query
Send a short letter and sample pages, then track every response.

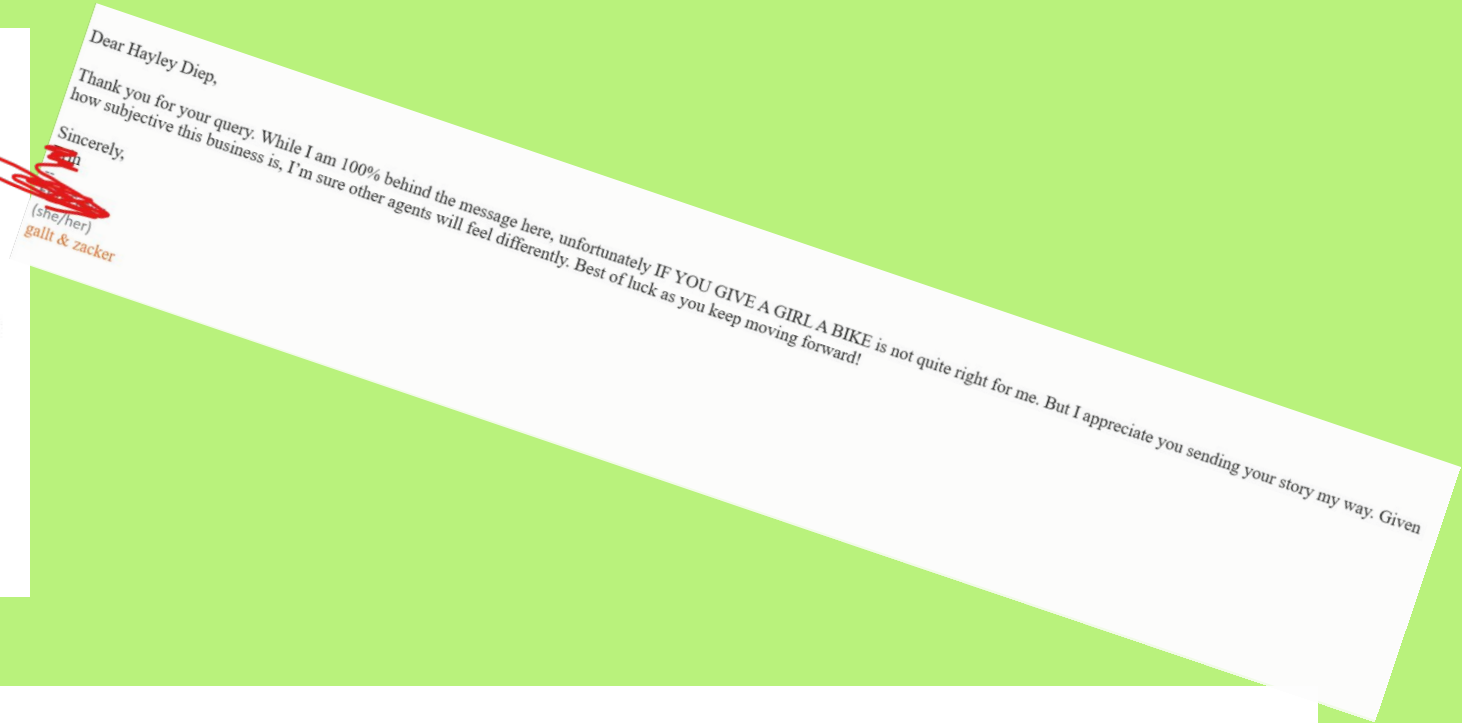
4. Persist
Rejections are normal.

Some of my Rejections for If You Give a Girl a Bike

Dear Hayley,

Thank you so much for allowing me and BookEnds the opportunity to consider the manuscript for IF YOU GIVE A GIRL A BIKE, and for your patience while I did so. I had the chance to read through it, and unfortunately I don't feel I'm the right fit for this project. I really enjoyed these. I think they're timely and necessary and really fun. But unfortunately, I felt things were a bit slight and I hoped for more of a narrative arc throughout. For this reason, I've decided to pass.

Please know that this is entirely subjective, and another agent might feel differently. Thank you again for the opportunity to review your work and good luck with other agents.



Dear Hayley Diep,

Thank you for your query. While I am 100% behind the message here, unfortunately IF YOU GIVE A GIRL A BIKE is not quite right for me. But I appreciate you sending your story my way. Given how subjective this business is, I'm sure other agents will feel differently. Best of luck as you keep moving forward!

Sincerely,

(she/her)
gallt & zacker

Hello,

Thank you for reaching out. I'm grateful for the opportunity to consider your work. Unfortunately I don't believe this is a perfect match for my list. I wish you much success.

My best,

Decision to Self-Publish “If You Give a Girl a Bike”

Why I chose it

Traditionally publishing felt like it was taking too long.

What I wanted

I really believed in this book. No picture book like this existed yet. I wanted it out in the world and to have full creative control.

What I learned

It was the right decision for this manuscript. In the first year I sold over 5,000 copies. It has become fairly well known in the mountain biking community.



Finding an Illustrator

Set a budget
Illustrators can cost thousands of dollars, set a budget that makes sense for you

Where to look
Portfolio sites, social media, illustrator directories, recommendations

What to look for
A style that fits your story





Working with an Illustrator

Clear communication
Explain your vision for your manuscript

Move in stages
Sketches, feedback, color, then final art

Agree in writing
Write and sign a contract



If you give a girl some climbing shoes, she will climb…



and climb...

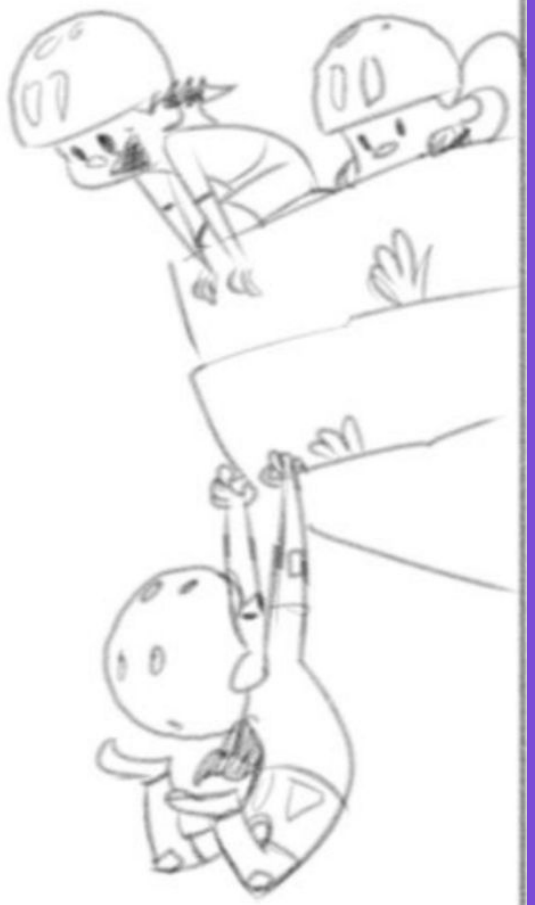
and climb.

If you give a girl a pair of climbing shoes, she will climb...

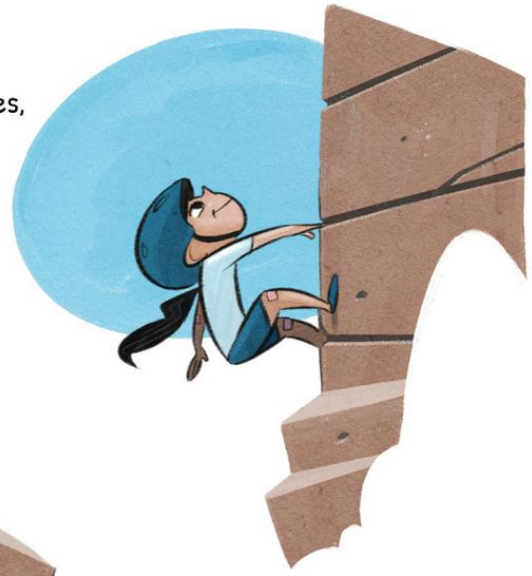
and climb...

and climb.

She will want to conquer overhangs,
master dynos, and solve cruxes.



She will want to solve cruxes,





conquer overhangs,

and master dynos.



If you give a girl a
surfboard, she will surf...



and surf...

and surf.

If you give a girl a surfboard,
she will surf...

and surf...

and surf.

How to Self-Publish

Purchase ISBNS
I bought mine from Bowker

Choose where to self-publish
Beware of agencies that offer hybrid or support with self-publishing and charge you a high fee

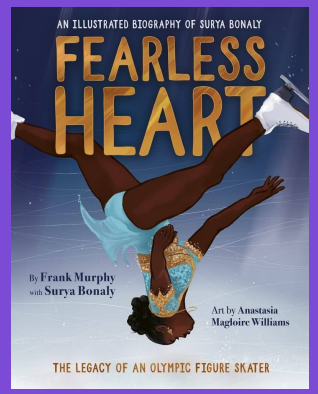
Set up your marketing and timeline
Choose a publishing date, set up your marketing plan, order a book dummy

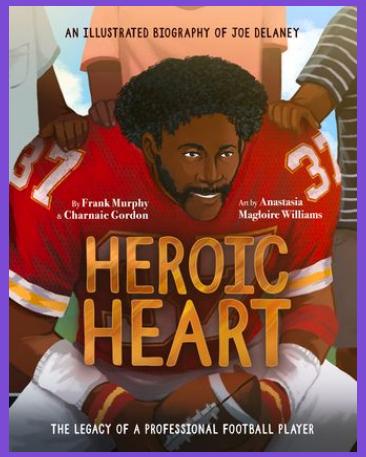
IngramSpark

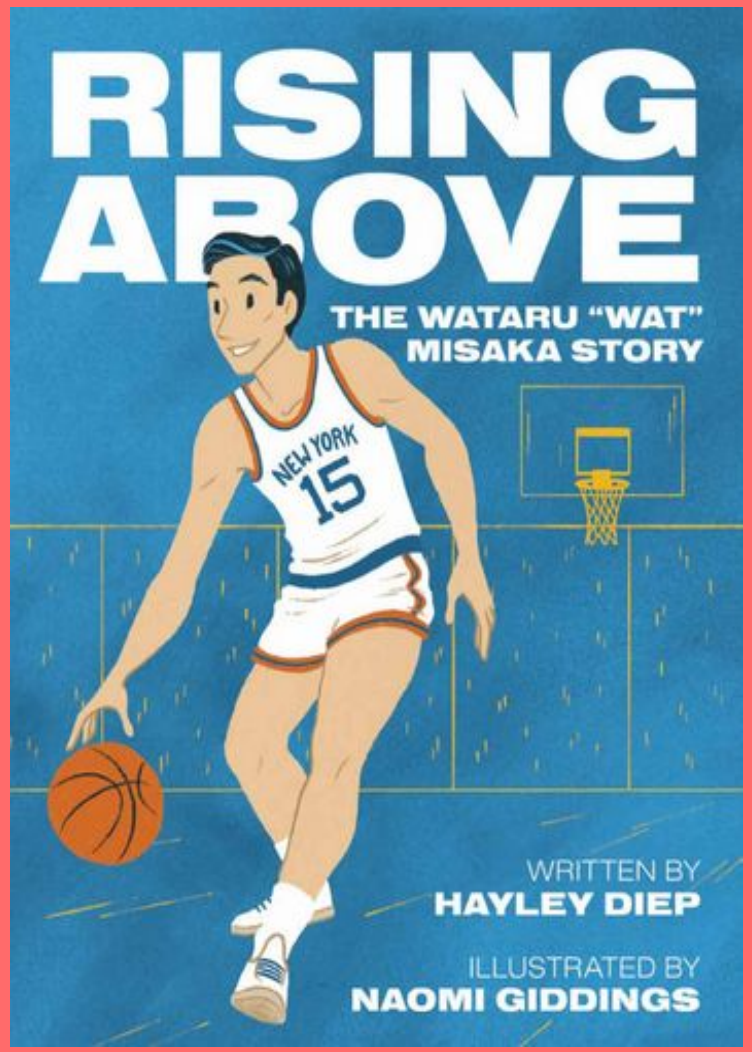
kindle direct publishing

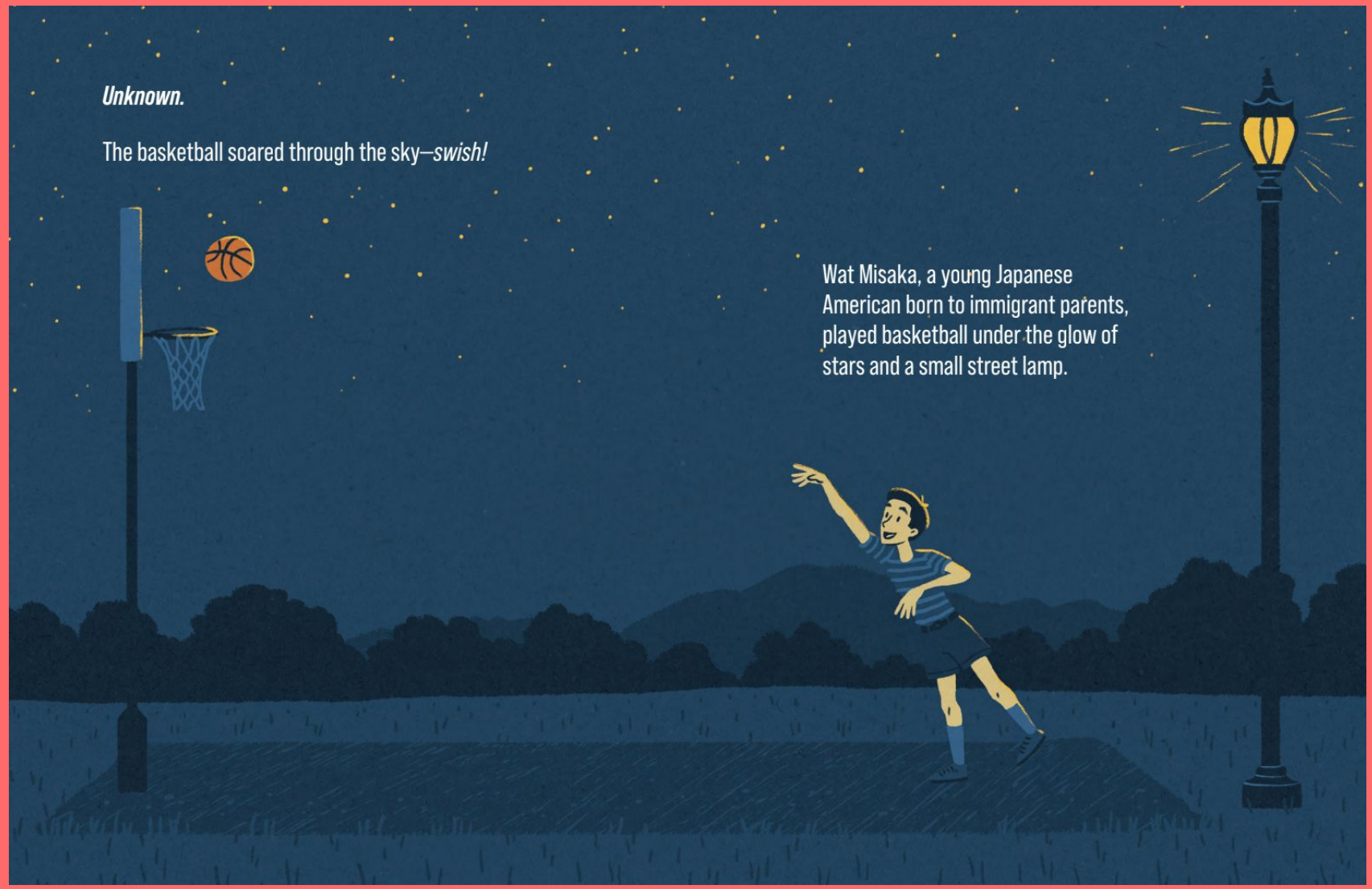
You can also query small publishing houses directly if they are open to queries from authors.

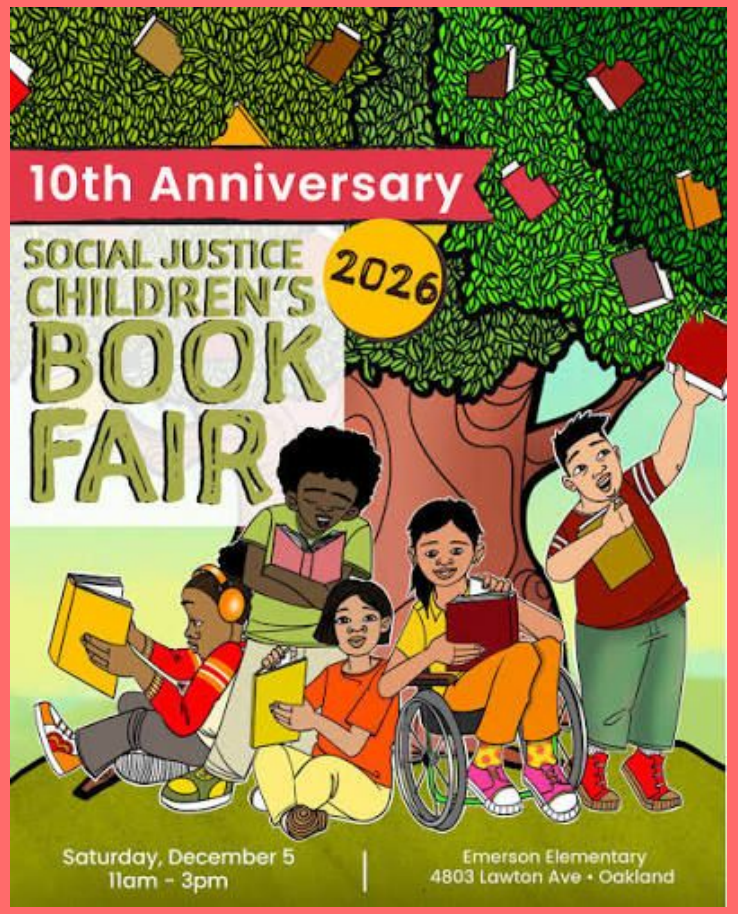
TRIUMPH BOOKS
CHICAGO






RISING ABOVE
THE WATARU "WAT" MISAKA STORY
NEW YORK
15
WRITTEN BY
HAYLEY DIEP
ILLUSTRATED BY
NAOMI GIDDINGS


Unknown.
The basketball soared through the sky—*swish!*
Wat Misaka, a young Japanese American born to immigrant parents, played basketball under the glow of stars and a small street lamp.



gallt & zacker
LITERARY AGENCY



Proudly represented by
Sandra Proudman

Writing takes time, patience, and resilience.

Enjoy the process!

Have fun.

Only you can tell your stories.

Keep an open mind.

Persist.

Persist.

Persist.

Learn the craft. Don’t give up.

Thank you!

You can find me:

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