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KPL Children's Books April 2017

Legendary Miss Lena Horne

by Carole Boston Weatherford

Published 2017 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781481468244

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

Celebrate the life of Lena Horne, the pioneering African American actress and civil rights activist, with this inspiring and powerful picture book from award-winning author Carole Boston Weatherford.

You have to be taught to be second class; you're not born that way.

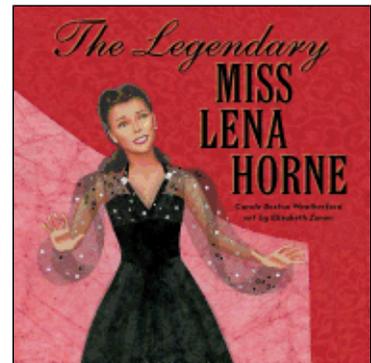
Lena Horne was born into the freedom struggle, to a family of teachers and activists. Her mother dreamed of being an actress, so Lena followed in her footsteps as she chased small parts in vaudeville, living out of a suitcase until MGM offered Lena something more--the first ever studio contract for a black actress.

But the roles she was considered for were maids and mammies, stereotypes that Lena refused to play. Still, she never gave up. "Stormy Weather" became her theme song, and when she sang "This Little Light of Mine" at a civil rights rally, she found not only her voice, but her calling.

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Publishers Weekly 12/12/2016

Weatherford (*Freedom in Congo Square* and *Zunon (Donat Call Me Grandma*) vibrantly capture the setbacks and triumphs of African-American performer Lena Horne, tracing her rise from a Brooklyn childhood to a singer and actress who faced persistent racism. Quotations from Horne and others provide sharp insight into her struggles (aThey donat give us a chance very often, and when they do, we have to take it, a Count Basie told her), and Zunonas warm-hued, multi-textured oil-and-collage images emphasize the determination of a woman who found her voice on stage as singer, actor, and activist. Ages 4a 8. Authoras agent: Rubin Pfeffer, Rubin Pfeffer Content. Illustratoras agent: Lori Nowicki, Painted Words. (Jan.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.



Unbound: A Novel in Verse

by Ann E Burg
Published 2016 by Scholastic Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780545934275

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

The day Grace is called from the slave cabins to work in the Big House, Mama makes her promise to keep her eyes down. Uncle Jim warns her to keep her thoughts tucked private in her mind or they could bring a whole lot of trouble and pain.

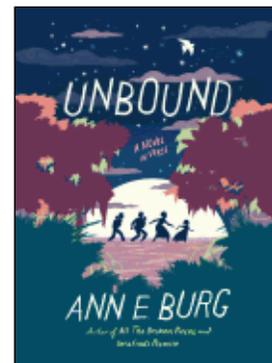
But the more Grace sees of the heartless Master and hateful Missus, the more a rightness voice clamors in her head-asking how come white folks can own other people, sell them on the auction block, and separate families forever. When that voice escapes without warning, it sets off a terrible chain of events that prove Uncle Jim's words true. Suddenly, Grace and her family must flee deep into the woods, where they brave deadly animals, slave patrollers, and the uncertainty of ever finding freedom.

With candor and compassion, Ann E. Burg sheds light on a startling chapter of American history--the remarkable story of runaways who sought sanctuary in the Great Dismal Swamp--and creates a powerful testament to the right of every human to be free.

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Publishers Weekly 07/18/2016

Written in clipped verse, Burg's third novel, after "All the Broken Pieces" and "Serafina's Promise" follows nine-year-old Grace, who is called up from the slave cabins to work in the Big House. Grace's mother warns her to keep her eyes down and her mouth shut, but her youth and strong sense of morality and fairness make it difficult to bite her tongue: aI wonder why/ Master n the Missus/ get to eat right early/ in the morning/ n them whatas been workin/ got to wait till/ the midday bell.a When Grace talks back to the Missus, causing her mother and younger brothers to be sent to the auction block, Grace and her family flee the plantation and go deep, seeking refuge in the Great Dismal Swamp. Based on historical events and an actual refuge for escaped slaves, the family's journey through the swamp is harrowing, yet Burg's colloquial verse gives Grace a strong, distinct voice, allowing her emotion and determination to shine. Grace's story of familial love, community, and hope is a moving, sensitive read. Ages 9a 12. "Agent: Jodi Reamer, Writers House. (Sept.)" Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.



Stone Warriors (Fourth book in the Tombquest series)

by Michael Northrop
Published 2015 by Scholastic Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780545723411

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

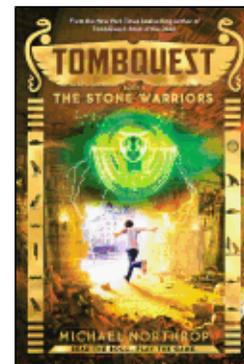
From the "New York Times" bestselling author of TombQuest: "Book of the Dead," comes book 4 in an epic adventure filled with the magic of ancient Egypt!

It's a race for the Spells!

Alex and Ren are on a desperate hunt, and time's running out. They've discovered that The Order is on the brink of creating an army of indestructible stone warriors with a dark purpose, and the Lost Spells is the one thing that can put an end to the evil scheme.

Following a trail of clues that only Alex can piece together, their chase takes them through magical portals, across Egypt, and deep into Alex's past. But the closer they get to the Spells, the more afraid Alex becomes. He begins to realize that undoing the powerful magic that has created so much chaos might mean ending the very thing the magic was intended to save: his own life.

In the tradition of The 39 Clues and Spirit Animals, the TombQuest adventure doesn't end with the books. An epic online game allows you to build an



Egyptian tomb of your own, hide treasure and protect it with traps, then challenge your friends to play through!

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Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Reveal'd

by Mary Losure

Published 2017 by Candlewick Press (MA)

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780763670634

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

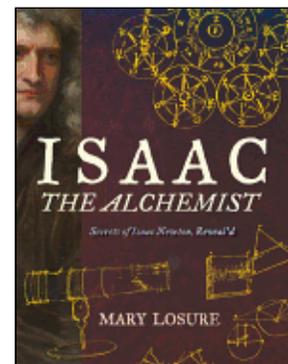
A surprising true story of Isaac Newton's boyhood suggests an intellectual development owing as much to magic as science.

Before Isaac Newton became the father of physics, an accomplished mathematician, or a leader of the scientific revolution, he was a boy living in an apothecary's house, observing and experimenting, recording his observations of the world in a tiny notebook. As a young genius living in a time before science as we know it existed, Isaac studied the few books he could get his hands on, built handmade machines, and experimented with alchemy--a process of chemical reactions that seemed, at the time, to be magical. Mary Losure's riveting narrative nonfiction account of Isaac's early life traces his development as a thinker from his childhood, in friendly prose that will capture the attention of today's budding scientists--as if by magic. Back matter includes an afterword, an author's note, source notes, a bibliography, and an index.

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Publishers Weekly 12/05/2016

In this charming biography of Isaac Newton (1642a 1727), Losure (*Wild Boy*) posits that at his last sorcerer this greatest of all alchemists was the same man who banished magic from the scientific world. Portrayed as an uncommonly inquisitive, albeit reclusive, thinker with a secret addiction to alchemy (not an unusual preoccupation in a period when the borders between science and magic were uncertain), Newton may have written as many as a million words regarding alchemy, papers he kept while destroying many related to his revolutionary work in other fields: mathematics, optics, and what is now called physics. Interspersing engrossing chapters about alchemy (but largely ignoring the last third of Newton's life), Losure uses a light touch to trace his childhood endeavors, his rise from student to professor at Cambridge's Trinity College, his prickly relationship with other scientists in the Royal Society (Newton became a member in 1672), and the publication of his masterpiece, *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* in 1687. Period images and afterwords with curiosity-spiking headings such as *Stinks, Bangs & More Chymical Secrets* bring additional depth and interest to this study of Newton's surprising pursuits. Ages 10a up. (Feb.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.



Rudas: Nino's Horrendous Hermanitas

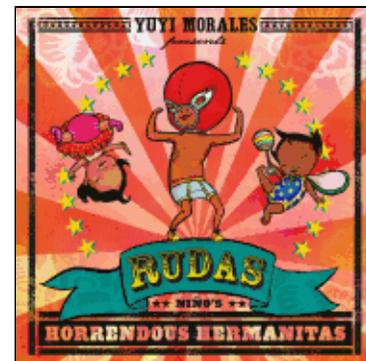
by Yuyi Morales

Published 2016 by Roaring Brook Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781626722408

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



Senoras y senores, ninos y ninas, the time has come to welcome the spectacular, two-of-a-kind . . . LAS HERMANITAS!

No opponent is too big a challenge for the cunning skills of Las Hermanitas, Lucha Queens! Their Poopy Bomb Blowout will knock em' down! Their Tag-Team Teething will gnaw opponents down to a pulp! Their Pampered Plunder Diversion will fell even the most determined competitor!

But what happens when Nino comes after them with a move of his own? Watch the tables turn in this wild, exciting wrestling adventure from Caldecott Honor author Yuyi Morales, *Rudas: Nino's Horrendous Hermanitas*.

A Neal Porter Book

"

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Publishers Weekly 10/24/2016

Luchadores beware: Nino's younger sisters, Las Hermanitas, step into the ring in this wildly rambunctious sequel to *Nino Wrestles the World* (2014), and as *rudas* they don't play by the rules. Channeling an announcer's bravado (a *Madre!* ill anyone be spared from their Pampered Plunder?), Morales shows the girls taking down such rivals as El Extraterrestre and El Chamuco with moves like the aPoopy Bomb Blowout and aTag Team Teething, accompanied by sound effects scattered across the pages in explosive, graffiti-like bursts. The energy in Morales's punchy artwork is dialed up to the max, and the finale demonstrates that a good book can pacify even the most ferocious of opponents. Ages 4-8. Agent: Charlotte Sheedy, Charlotte Sheedy Literary. (Oct.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly. Used with permission.

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