

Newbery Honor-winning author



Cynthia Lord

When Cynthia Lord sat down to write her first children's book, she knew it would be a middle-grade novel. As she recalls, "I grew up next to a lake in New Hampshire and I remember being ten years old, lying on our pier, listening to the seagulls calling, and daydreaming about *Borrowers* and *Chocolate Factories* and *Secret Gardens*."

In her debut novel *Rules*, twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life, which is near impossible with a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. Filled with humor and warmth, *Rules* takes a candid and sensitive look at feeling different and finding acceptance—beyond the rules.

In Cynthia's second novel, *Touch Blue*, eleven-year-old Tess is faced with a new foster brother and the threat of losing the island home that she loves. Set among the lobster boats and rocky coast of Maine, *Touch Blue* is a thoughtful, funny look at what it means to belong—and how lucky we feel when we do.

The idea for her first picture book, *Hot Rod Hamster*, came from the experience of reading to her daughter. "She would cuddle close to me," says Cynthia, "and whenever she saw an array of fun things in the illustrations, she'd stop me from turning that page. 'What would you pick, Mama?' she'd ask. Then with great joy and purpose, she'd point to something else on the page. It was always a special moment between us, and I wanted to recreate that for other families." In *Hot Rod Hamster*, the reader helps a little hamster make his big racing dreams come true.

A former teacher and bookseller, Cynthia still enjoys lying on a pier, reading a good book. And she hears plenty of seagulls at her home near the ocean in Maine, where she lives with her husband and their two children.



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Newbery Honor Medal
Schneider Family Award
ALA Notable Children's Book

RULES

"A heartwarming first novel."—*Booklist*

"Catherine is an endearing narrator who tells her story with both humor and heartbreak. A lovely, warm read, and a great discussion starter."—*School Library Journal*

"The appealing, credible narrator at the heart of Lord's debut novel will draw in readers, as she struggles to find order and balance in her life. A rewarding story that may well inspire readers to think about others' points of view."—*Publishers Weekly*

Ages 9–12 • 208 pages
Hardcover • 978-0-439-44382-1 • \$15.99
Paperback • 978-0-439-44383-8 • \$6.99

Novels



TOUCH BLUE

An exquisite second novel from the Newbery Honor author of *Rules!* *Touch Blue*, sure as certain, will touch your heart.

"Why take chances?" says eleven-year-old Tess Brooks. "Especially when it's so easy to let the universe know what you want by touching blue or turning around three times or crossing your fingers."

But Tess begins to realize that it's not always that simple.

Ages 9–12 • 192 pages
Hardcover • 978-0-545-03531-6 • \$16.99



HOT ROD HAMSTER

Vroom, vroom, beep, beep, a call-and-response read-aloud coming through!

Cynthia Lord and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Derek Anderson put the pedal to the metal in this endearing, rhythmic, rip-roaring race to the finish line.

"The action builds up even before the engines start, and young readers will love helping the irrepressible hamster build his dream car. Their hands will dart up immediately when they hear the refrain, Which one would you choose?"
—*School Library Journal*

"Newbery Honor author Lord's picture-book debut is a rollicking, roaring read. Young car enthusiasts won't be the only ones enamored of this hot-rodding rodent and his big canine buddy."—*Kirkus Reviews*

Ages 2–6 • 40 pages
Hardcover • 978-0-545-03530-9 • \$16.99

Picture Books

