

Reading Rit



ROSALYN RANSAW

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Hello

I'M ROSALYN

My name is Rosalyn Ransaw. I write middle-grade mysteries with twisty plots and diverse main characters.

I have a B.A. from Columbia University in Political Science and currently live in Columbus, Ohio. When not writing, you can find me working my day job as a Marketing Manager, scrolling through social media, or brainstorming my next book idea!

SMOKE & MIRRORS is my first book.

AUTHOR BIOS

SHORT BIO:

Rosalyn Ransaw is a children's author of middle-grade mysteries with twisting plots and diverse main characters. She has a B.A. from Columbia University in Political Science and currently lives in Columbus, Ohio. When not writing, you can find her working her day job as a Marketing Manager, scrolling through TikTok, or brainstorming her next book idea. She is a member of SCBWI. SMOKE & MIRRORS is her debut novel.

LONG BIO:

Rosalyn Ransaw is a children's author of middle-grade mysteries with twisting plots and diverse main characters. Born and raised in Columbus, OH, she is a midwestern girl having survived a brief stint in NYC. She has a B.A. from Columbia University in Political Science.

At her day job as a Marketing Manager, she focuses on all things social media marketing and paid advertising. Her professional experience spans retail, travel and entertainment industries, including an internship at MTV. She is a member of SCBWI Central Ohio and was previously a contributor to Shutterstock's marketing blog. She loves to cry watching romantic comedies, eat her weight in buffalo chicken dip. Rosalyn currently lives in Central Ohio where she roots for The Ohio State University Buckeyes and writes her next novel.

SMOKE & MIRRORS is her debut novel.

SMOKE & MIRRORS

**THE GREATEST MAGIC TRICK OF ALL?
GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER.**

An exciting and twisty middle-grade debut mystery novel—perfect for fans of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* and *The Parker Inheritance*—about the disappearance of a famous magician, and one boy's quest to find the truth

A MISSING
MAGICIAN

TWISTY
MURDER
MYSTERY

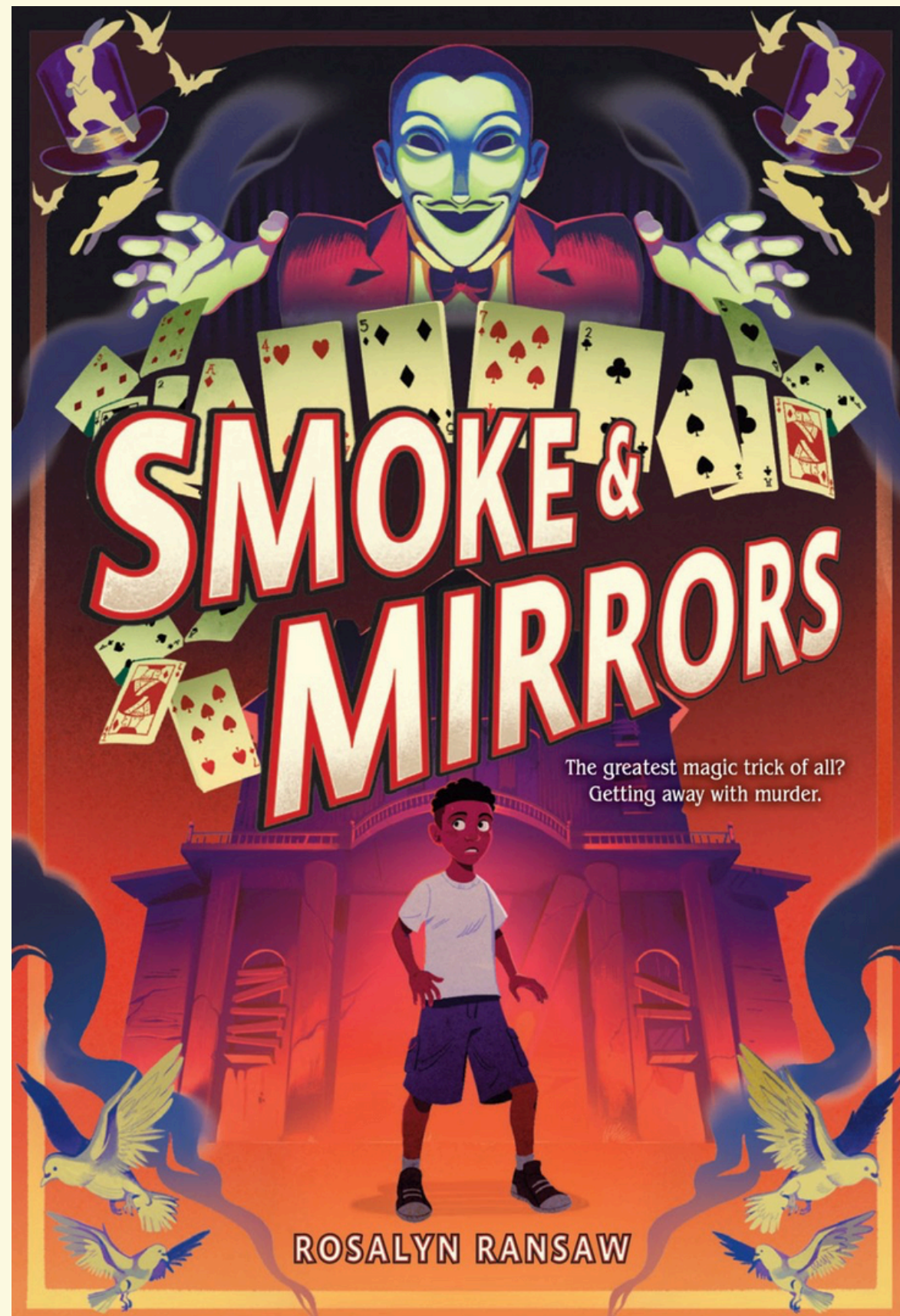
DIVERSE REP

TRUTH VS
OPINION

INTERGENERATIONAL
FRIENDSHIPS

UNLIKELY
FRIENDSHIPS





SMOKE & MIRRORS: A NOVEL

ON SALE JUNE 10, 2025

An exciting and twisty middle-grade debut mystery novel—perfect for fans of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* and *The Parker Inheritance*—about the disappearance of a famous magician, and one boy’s quest to find the truth

Spending the summer with his aunt as the only Black kid in a small Midwestern town was bad enough, but now Andy Carter’s summer has been effectively ruined. His dad’s parole hearing is postponed, he misses his friends, and—when an old barn burns down—he’s stuck taking the blame.

Andy is sentenced with helping the barn’s owner, a cantankerous old man, renovate his crumbling mansion—a mansion that hides a mystery. It was once owned by the famous magician the Red Knave. In 1954, the Knave was a wanted suspect in the town’s most infamous murder before disappearing without a trace.

The whole town is sure the Red Knave is guilty, but to Andy, things just don’t add up. Investigating a mystery from the ’50s isn’t the same as spending time with his dad, but Andy can’t help but be drawn into the Red Knave’s exciting world of magic and illusion. To solve the Knave’s final vanishing act, Andy teams up with another boy he doesn’t quite trust. Secret by secret, they try to uncover the Red Knave’s identity and learn why his last performance came to such a tragic end.

With a gripping combination of hidden doors, shocking twists, and deep emotional heart, *Smoke & Mirrors* asks the question: How much of the truth is what you can get people to believe?

Other Details:

- **Imprint:** Amulet Books
- **Available for sale in USA, CAN & UK.**
- **Price:** \$18.99 USD, \$23.99 CAD, £13.99 GBP
- **Formats:** Hardcover, eBook, Audiobook
- **Age Range:** 8 - 12
- **Trim Size:** 5 ½ x 8
- **ISBN:** 9781419770135
- **Page Count:** 288
- **Topics:** Juvenile Fiction / Mysteries & Detective Stories, Juvenile Fiction / Social Themes / Prejudice & Racism, Juvenile Fiction / Social Themes / Friendship

KEY TALKING POINTS FOR SMOKE & MIRRORS

COMPELLING MYSTERY

Packed to the brim with twists and turns, readers will fly through this book as they accompany Andy in solving this mystery.

COMBATING ASSUMPTIONS

This story encourages readers to stand up for the truth, even when others can't see it, and reminds us all that sometimes it's the kids in our lives who see things most clearly.

STRONG SOCIAL THEMES

Ransaw tackles delicate social topics such as bullying, prejudice, and the injustices of our justice system with a refreshing mix of realism and compassion.

INTERGENERATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

The heart of this story comes from the unlikely friendship formed between Andy and Mr. Gilbert, a curmudgeonly old man who gives Andy a second chance when no one else will.

≡ First paragraph ≡

Excerpt



EVERYONE AT THE EDGE OF MR. GILBERT'S BEAT-UP yard was asking themselves what kind of thug would burn down an old man's crumbling barn. Like it couldn't have been an accident. Like maybe I didn't mean for the firecracker to light it all up. Or at least, that's what my aunt was explaining to the cops.

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**LET'S GET
CONNECTED.**

*SMOKE & MIRRORS
ON SALE JUNE 10, 2025.*



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