

Reading Rit



ROSALYN RANSAW

@rosalynransawbooks



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

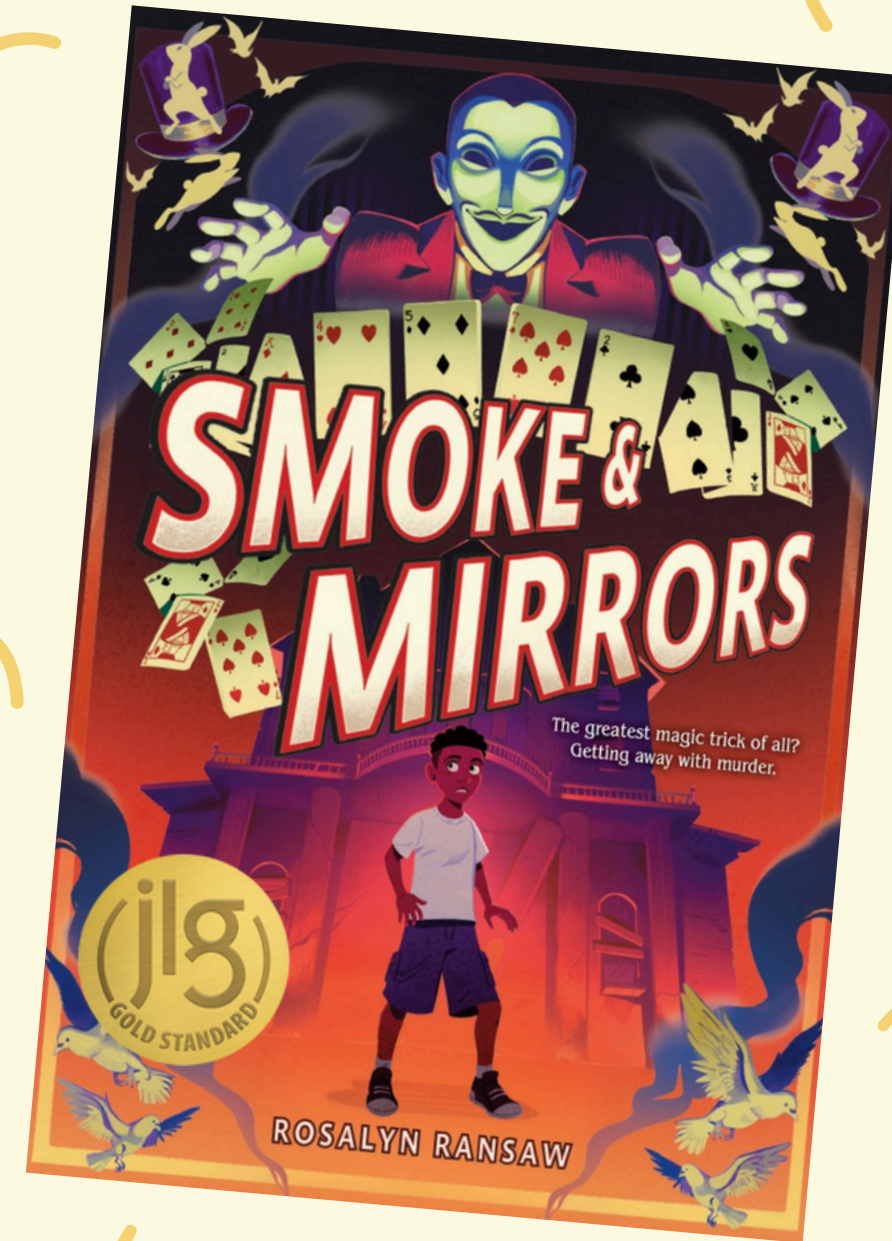
TWISTY
MURDER
MYSTERY

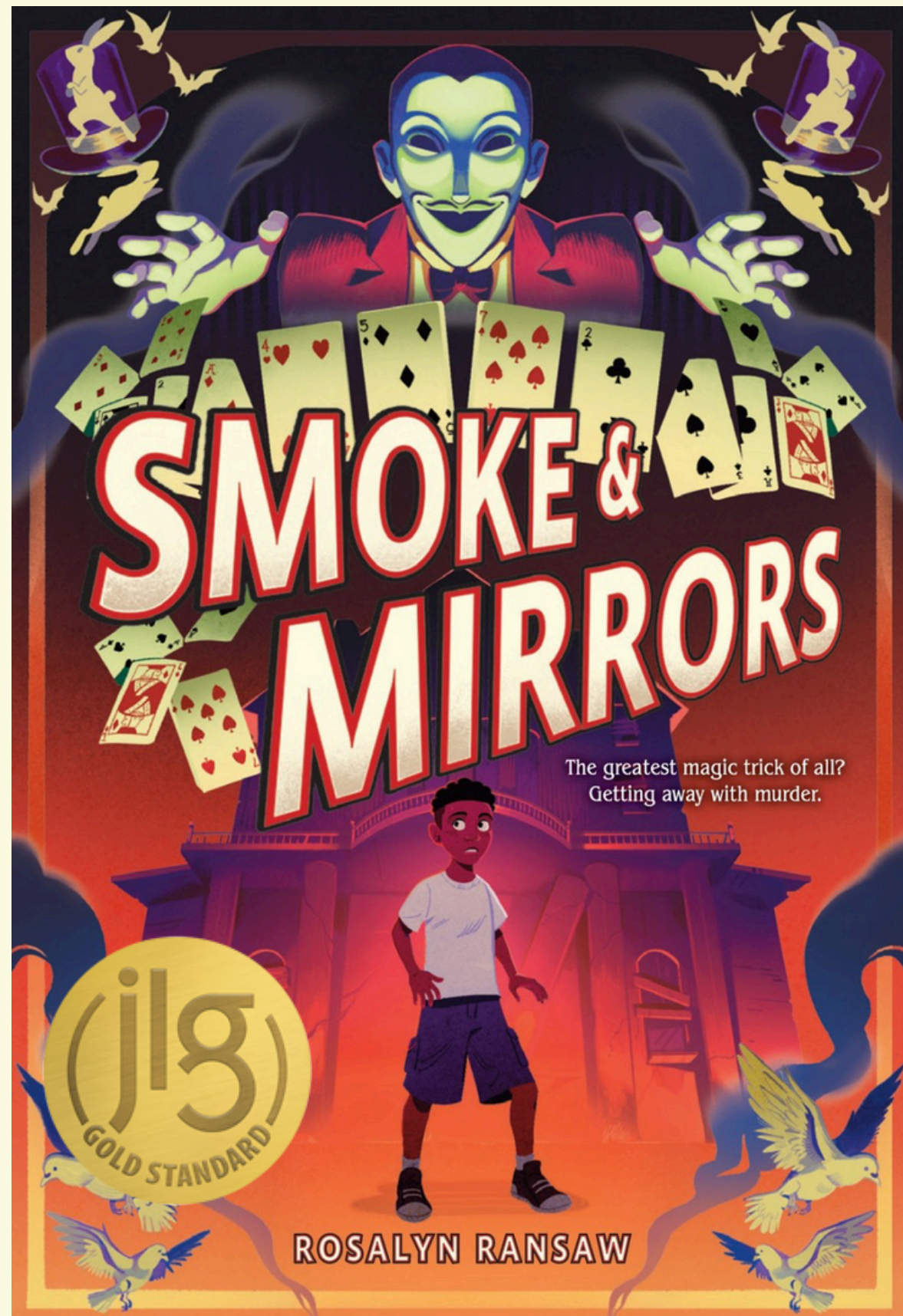
DIVERSE REP

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.



— “ —
“A fast-paced, adventurous journey in search of the truth.”

**KIRKUS, STARRED
EDITORS PICK**



— “ —
"Debut author Ransaw has done something extraordinary here in building a mystery that is as satisfying to adults as it will be to middle-school readers."

BOOKLIST, STARRED

**NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
BEST BOOK OF 2025**

— “ —
"[A] thoughtful debut about second chances. "

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

— “ —
**PRAISE FOR
SMOKE & MIRRORS**

— “ —
“A fast-paced, multilayered mystery that will encourage readers to question preconceived notions and search for the truth in their own lives.

SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

— “ —
"A thrilling adventure full of twists, deception, and self-discovery [...] Ideal for anyone who believes that truth, like magic, is all about perspective."

**BULLETIN OF THE CENTER
FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

— “ —
""First impressions often hide the full story in 'Smoke & Mirrors,' a debut mystery novel for middle-grade readers...Ransaw focuses instead on Andy's private, more nuanced motives for solving the mystery of the Red Knave: curiosity, yes, but also a keen sense of injustice."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
BEST BOOK OF 2025**

**SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL
BEST BOOK OF 2025**

≡ 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.

Bonus Content

Downloadable Detective Kit

The Detective Kit comes with two downloadable files designed to enhance your reading experience.

Inside, you'll find a **fill-as-you-go case file** featuring a welcome letter to the mystery, suspect profile sheets, a clue tracker, a case summary, and a culprit profile.

You'll also receive **printable clue files** to reveal as you reach key milestones in the story—bringing the mystery to life as you read.

GET THE KIT



SCAN OR CLICK HERE


NO. 6271964
THE MYSTERY OF THE RED KNAVE

CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED
TOP SECRET
CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED

YOUR NAME
HERE

CASE FILE

USE THIS CASE FILE TO KEEP TRACK OF CLUES
AND HELP SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE RED KNAVE



WRITE WHAT HAPPENED THE
NIGHT OF THE MURDER

CASE SUMMARY:

SUSPECT:

MOTIVE:

THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER:

ALIBI:

DEAR READER,

I'M SO EXCITED YOU'VE DECIDED TO READ *SHANE & MIRRORS* AND SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE RED KNAVE! THIS STORY IS FULL OF TWISTS, TURNS, AND SECRETS WAITING TO BE UNCOVERED—AND YOU'RE THE PERFECT PERSON TO SOLVE IT.

TO HELP YOU CRACK THE CASE, I'VE INCLUDED SOME IMPORTANT TOOLS IN YOUR DETECTIVE KIT!

- CASE SUMMARY PAGE: AS YOU LEARN THE DETAILS OF THE MYSTERY, KEEP A CAREFUL SUMMARY OF WHAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER.
- SUSPECT SHEETS: USE THESE TO KEEP TRACK OF EVERYONE INVOLVED. PRINT AS MANY AS YOU NEED AND WRITE IT ALL DOWN—YOU'LL NEED THESE NOTES LATER!
- CLUE PAGES: AS YOU READ, JOT DOWN ANY HINTS OR SUSPICIOUS DETAILS YOU COME ACROSS. SOMETIMES THE SMALLEST DETAIL CAN UNLOCK THE BIGGEST SECRET.
- CONFIDENTIAL PACKET OF CLUES: THESE SPECIAL CLUES ARE SEALED FOR A REASON! OPEN THEM ONLY WHEN YOU REACH THE PAGES MARKED—THEY'RE TIMED PERFECTLY TO HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY.
- CULPRIT PROFILE: WHEN YOU DISCOVER WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME, FILL OUT THIS SHEET. WERE YOU RIGHT?

YOUR MISSION:

AS YOU DIVE INTO THE BOOK, KEEP YOUR DETECTIVE KIT CLOSE. WATCH THE CHARACTERS CAREFULLY, STUDY EVERY CLUE, AND TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.

I WROTE THIS BOOK WITH THE HOPES SOMEONE AS SMART AND CURIOUS AS YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY ALONGSIDE ANY UNTIL THE FINAL PAGE.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING YOUR DETECTIVE SKILLS TO THIS STORY. I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR HOW YOU SOLVED THE CASE!

P.S., DON'T PEEK AT THE CLUES EARLY! SOLVING THE MYSTERY IS ALL ABOUT TIMING—AND THE SURPRISES ARE WORTH THE WAIT.

SIGN HERE
TO ACCEPT
MISSION

CLUE SHEET

PUT YOUR
CLUES HERE

GUILTY:

THE CULPRIT

AT END OF BOOK TO FINALIZE ☐

CONFIDENTIAL

SPOILERS AHEAD!

PRINT THESE CLUES AS
YOU READ THE BOOK

EVIDENCE NO. 192

EVIDENCE NO. 201

EVIDENCE NO. 12

EVIDENCE NO. 208

EVIDENCE NO. 174

EVIDENCE NO. 209

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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**LET'S GET
CONNECTED.**

**SMOKE & MIRRORS
AVAILABLE NOW**



CONTACT ME:

www.rosalynransawbooks.com
rosalynransawbooks@gmail.com

FOLLOW ME:

tiktok: @rosalynransawbooks
twitter/x: @rosalynransaw
instagram: @rosalynransawbooks

REPRESENTATION:

Paige Terlip
Starling Literary Agency
paige@starlingliterary.com