

8-2018

# Escaping from Houdini

Maggie Mason Smith

Clemson University, [mason5@clemson.edu](mailto:mason5@clemson.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib\\_pubs](https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs)



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Mason Smith, Maggie, "Escaping from Houdini" (2018). *Publications*. 170.

[https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib\\_pubs/170](https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs/170)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact [kokeefe@clemson.edu](mailto:kokeefe@clemson.edu).

ble young fans are rabid for watching violent justice being served to death row criminals. In fact, they “ship” them, lust after them, and follow their moves—just like any other reality television stars. The latest addition to the island is Dee Guerrero, a 16-year-old who has been framed for the murder of her stepsister. Now Dee and the other innocent inmates must band together and fight for their lives if they are to find a way out. The fast-paced action will appeal to fans of *The Hunger Games*, though character development is often sacrificed to keep up the frantic pace. There are many graphic descriptions of blood, guts, and gore relating to the murders and lots of colorful language. Embedded in the novel are chat transcripts from the app, which have the potential to spark discussion and raise moral and ethical questions that relate to contemporary social psychology and use of social media. **VERDICT** A gory thriller that moves at breakneck speed, this book will be hard to put down for older teens with a penchant for horror.—*Shannon O'Connor, Unami Middle School, Chalfont, PA*

**MANISCALCO, Kerri.** *Escaping from Houdini.* 416p. Little, Brown/Jimmy Patterson. Sept. 2018. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9780316551700. **POP**

**Gr 9 Up**—Fresh from attending a forensics school housed in the castle once home to Vlad the Impaler, Audrey Rose Wadsworth and her soon-to-be betrothed, Thomas Cresswell, have set sail on a luxury cruise to America. The ship’s entertainment, the Moonlight Carnival, boasts illusions, acrobatics, fire-eating, swordplay, and more, and is led by a promising young escape artist. But when a pattern of deaths begins to emerge, each with a tarot card left at the scene, Audrey Rose and Cresswell start to wonder if the Ringmaster of the Carnival may be involved. The pair launches into an investigation, but the Ringmaster’s obvious interest in Audrey Rose, coupled with a midnight bargain, complicates that plan. Unlike the previous two works of the series, the cruise ship *Etruria* offers a more intimate setting. Period images of carnival life set the scene at the beginning of each chapter and vivid descriptions of the various parts of the vessel allow readers to easily imagine the different locations onboard. Displaying her usual fierce determination and progressive ideals, Audrey Rose is once again a compelling protagonist; her lingering distress over the previous cases of Jack the Ripper and Vlad the Impaler, along with her relationship with the Ringmaster muddling her formerly solid bond with Cresswell, serves to successfully develop her character arc across the three works of the series even further. **VERDICT** Another delightfully mysterious addition to the series. A strong choice for YA shelves.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University, SC*

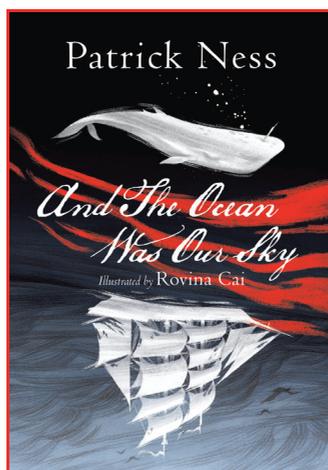
**MONTGOMERY, Candice.** *Home and Away.* 384p. Page Street. Oct. 2018. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781624145957.

**Gr 10 Up**—Tasia Quirk is a young Black woman who has everything that she could possibly want. A wealthy family, supportive friends, and a spot as the only girl on her football team at a private high school. Nothing could go wrong, until she catches her mom putting away a box that contains newspaper clippings, copies of her birth certificate, and a Polaroid of her mom and a white man. Her

mom confesses that Tasia is biracial and her biological father is white. The teen realizes that everything she knew about her childhood is a lie. She goes on a quest to find out the truth about the mysterious box and where she fits. Montgomery explores the challenges of being biracial. Throughout, readers will cheer for Tasia as she faces difficult situations and realizes how they don’t determine her end result. The consistently strong writing and overall story arc will engage teens. **VERDICT** Fans of *Everything,*

## SENSATIONAL YA COMING THIS FALL

from HarperTeen



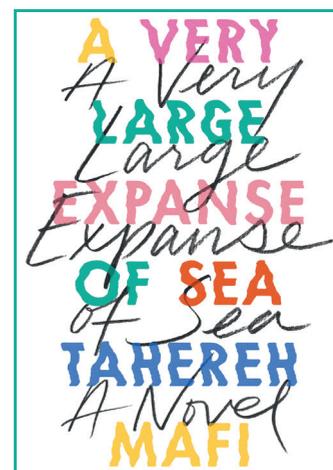
September  
**PATRICK NESS**  
ILLUSTRATED BY ROVINA CAI

A richly illustrated story inspired by *Moby Dick* about the war between whales and men—and the monsters that drive them both.

★ **“WRENCHING,  
DARK, AND  
POWERFUL.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

**HARPER TEEN**  
An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers



October  
**TAHEREH MAFI**

A powerful contemporary novel about a hijab-wearing Muslim teenager in a post-9/11 world who navigates fear, first love, and the devastating impact of prejudice.

**“A RAW YET ASTOUNDINGLY  
ELEGANT EXAMINATION  
OF IDENTITY, LONELINESS  
AND FAMILY.”**

—*Sabaa Tahir*, author of the *Ember in the Ashes* series

**HARPER**  
An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

Copyright of School Library Journal is the property of Media Source, Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.