

# Story Monsters Ink



SEPTEMBER 2020

The Literary Resource for  
Teachers, Librarians, and Parents

**T.L. MCBETH**

HORSES AROUND WITH  
NEW PICTURE BOOK

**JAMIE SUMNER**

INSPIRES KIDS TO  
FIND THEIR VOICES

**STEPHEN WUNDERLI**

PENS A CONVERSATION-STARTER  
FOR FAMILIES

ONE TO READ:

**NIKKI SHANNON SMITH**

**PAUL ACAMPORA**

ECHOS THE HALLS  
OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

**LINDSAY PORTNOY**

BRINGS THE POWER OF PLAY  
TO THE CLASSROOM

**IVY CAYDEN**

STRIKES A CHORD  
WITH YA DEBUT

**JUDY NEWMAN**

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER  
VACATION (NOT!)

**TEACHING TOOLBOX**

BACK TO SCHOOL

Q&A WITH

**DANA SIMPSON**

**ALANE ADAMS**

FIFTY SHADES OF NO  
HOW TO DEAL WITH REJECTION

**RAVEN HOWELL**

THIS IS NO "CHICKEN  
OF THE SEA"

## K.J. KRUK

TAKES YOUNG READERS  
OUT OF THIS WORLD



# Ivy Cayden

## Strikes a Chord with YA Debut

by Melissa Fales

Ivy Cayden takes YA fiction to a whole new level in her debut novel, *Everything All At Once*, the first book in her *Chorduroys and Too Many Boys* series. *Everything All At Once*, about the heady and complex relationships teens create, comes with instructions for reading it as Cayden intended, while listening to its own carefully-curated soundtrack. “Although it seemed like a daunting task, I somehow knew if I could stitch songs into the book in a precise and purposeful manner, it would result in an exciting, immersive experience for the reader,” Cayden says.

When Cayden was twelve, her older brother introduced her to the world of alternative music. It was a life-changing experience. “I can remember many instances where we’d hit up the mall or local music shop on release days and listen to the new albums for hours while he drove us around,” she says. Since then, her passion for indie music has only grown stronger. “A few years ago, I fulfilled a longtime dream by launching *My Multi-Track Mind*, a blog where I post in-depth interviews with rising indie artists,” Cayden says. “It’s been an honor to share their stories and celebrate their music.”

Cayden has fond memories of her own teenage experiences. “I look back on those years and remember feeling like a nice, adventurous nerd,” she says. “While I took school seriously and earned excellent



grades, I didn’t let studying eclipse my life. Throughout high school, I worked at a coffee shop, where I enjoyed over-frosting the donuts and listening to the regulars tell

stories.” Cayden enjoyed hearing those stories and recalls entertaining her friends at slumber parties by making up tales about them, but it would be years before she even thought about writing anything down for publication. “It wasn’t until I was in my twenties and working in the corporate side of the film industry in LA that I found myself writing the first words to *Everything All At Once*,” she says. “I think I always had this story in me, waiting for the right moment to come out.”

*Everything All At Once* is about a very specific period of time in the lives of a group of teens. “There’s a moment in every teenager’s life where things morph from ordinary to enthralling,” says Cayden. “It captures that moment, as it unfolds a little differently for each of the main characters in the story on one life-altering, parentless weekend.”



The protagonist of the story is 15-year-old Kila Lorens. “She’s a caring sister and a trusted friend,” says Cayden. “While she may be prepared for everything in school, she certainly isn’t prepared for her feelings to suddenly split themselves between a few very different boys.”

Initially, Cayden wrote *Everything All At Once* with Kila’s older brother, Ethan—a drummer in an indie band—as the main character. “The plot focused mainly on Ethan and his friends with his younger sister Kila playing a minimal role,” she says. “However, as the pages multiplied, I felt magnetized to Kila’s world, and decided I also wanted the series to encompass her life—her dreams, troubles, and triumphs.”

Cayden accomplishes her goal of expressing the totality of Kila’s life through both her words and the music she recommends readers listen to while reading them. “The idea for the playlist existed before I had written any of the story,” she says. “In my mind, I had already associated certain songs with certain scenes. The music served as a gateway from my world into the story’s world, and I wanted readers to have access to that gateway, too.”

There’s a section in the front of the book called, All About the Playlist, which explains Cayden’s concept of suggested music to accompany the book. “All About the Playlist relays where to find the book’s elaborate, 67-song playlist and provides some easy-to-follow instructions for listening to the songs while you read along,” Cayden says. “Sometimes, I’d hear a song I liked and knew exactly where to put it. Other times, it took weeks or months to discover the



right song(s) for a scene. I kept reading the chapters over and over to find the ideal places to anchor the tracks.”

For Cayden, the music on the playlist is as vital to conveying the atmosphere of each scene and the feelings of the characters as the words she’s written. “Throughout the entire endeavor, right up until the final song fell into position, I listened to both older and newer music with the passion of someone mining for gold,” she says. In the case of *Everything All At Once*, the novel idea of adding suggested sounds to the story amplifies and enhances Kila’s world in a way that only music can.



"I wanted to honor and mimic the intense, kaleidoscopic emotional range of teenagers in the book's playlist," she says.

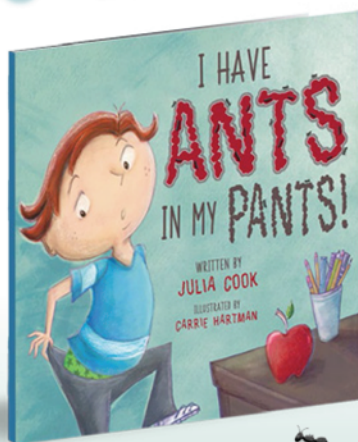
*Everything All At Once* is an award-winning finalist in the 2019 Best Book Awards in the Fiction: Young Adult category and an award-winning finalist in the 2020 International Book Awards in the Best New Fiction category. Cayden is currently wrapping up the second book of the *Chorduroys and Too Many Boys* series. "*Everything All At Once* ends in a cliff-hanger, and the second book will pick up right where the first left off," says Cayden. "I've envisioned the whole story as a vibrant saga that follows the tight-knit group of teens into adulthood."

Cayden says she hopes the combination of words and music will resonate with today's teens. "Two critical ideas come to mind whenever I sit down to write," says Cayden. "First, I want to remind young adults that no matter how appealing technology becomes, it can never replace friendship and love. And, second, despite the state of the world and the trials we currently face, that we must continue to dream."

For more information about Ivy Cayden, her *Chorduroys and Too Many Boys* series and her *My Multi-Track Mind* blog, visit her on Instagram @ivycayden and @mymultitrackmind, on Facebook @mymultitrackmind and @chorduroysandtoomanyboys or on her websites [chorduroys.com](http://chorduroys.com) and [mymultitrackmind.com](http://mymultitrackmind.com). ●

# Louis is back!

From award-winning children's author, **Julia Cook**, comes a new book featuring Louis . . .  
and the ants in his pants!



[IHaveAntsinMyPants.com](http://IHaveAntsinMyPants.com)

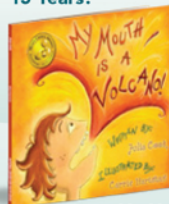
**Control your wiggles and be the BOSS of your ants.**

Some children just can't sit still—no matter how hard they try. And Louis is no exception. He accidentally kicks his friend during story time. He can't stand still in the lunch line. And he wiggles in his seat at the movie theater. With a little practice and a few helpful tools, Louis learns that he can calm his wiggles and become the boss of the ants in his pants!

## OTHER BEST-SELLING BOOKS FEATURING LOUIS

Nearing **One Million** Copies Sold!

Celebrating  
15 Years!



My Mouth  
Is A Volcano



Personal  
Space Camp



It's Hard To  
Be A Verb

NATIONAL CENTER for  
**YOUTH ISSUES**

[f @nationalcenterforyouthissues](https://www.facebook.com/nationalcenterforyouthissues) [@ncyi](https://www.instagram.com/nationalcenterforyouthissues)

[@nationalcenterforyouthissues](https://www.instagram.com/nationalcenterforyouthissues)

AVAILABLE AT

[amazon](http://amazon.com)

[TARGET](http://target.com)

[BARNES & NOBLE  
BOOKSELLERS](http://barnesandnoble.com)

[WAL-MART](http://walmart.com)





# Teenage life (with a playlist)



**2020 International Book Awards**  
Finalist, Best New Fiction



**2020 American Fiction Awards**  
Finalist, Coming of Age



**2019 Best Book Awards**  
Finalist, Fiction: Young Adult

Check out the  
**AUTHOR'S INTERVIEW**  
in this issue!



@ivycayden



@chorduroysandtoomanyboys



Ivy Cayden

[chorduroys.com](http://chorduroys.com)

Nearly sixteen, Kila Lorens showers herself in music, lives in plush corduroys, and always applies a double layer of lip gloss. She longs for the answers to this irritating trio of questions: When will she have her first kiss? Will Angus Lyr ever stop obsessi-texting Reese Seratine? And why did her former best friend, Brixton Kading, silently bow out of her life six months ago? The particulars of these unknowns—along with her mission to convince Maya Malta to share some sizeable news with a certain seventeen-year-old before he finds out from someone else—keep Kila's eyes open at night.

But one late hour delivers something worth hiding: a private Nektir message from Timothy Cardiff, the tall, inky-haired enigma who rarely speaks in school, yet somehow morphs into Salt for Swords-men's frontman on the weekends. Amidst tandem listening and dizzying revelations, the two form an unlikely attachment. When their covert communication spills into the halls of Cypress High, they both wonder if this will be a short-lived or long-lasting entanglement.

Ethan Lorens—Kila's cautious but optimistic older brother—mostly focuses on his new drums and his indie band's potential. An after-school visit to Casper's Music Underground presents some unexpected industry intel. Following years of hiatus, Emerald Rock plans to host another EmOpen. Casper encourages the boys to prepare for the contest, but Ethan, Brixton, and Angus wrestle with the group's shortcomings. Could the young French chef they meet at The Hidden Meridian be the band's missing link?

Sometimes dreams come out to play. Mixing Kila and Ethan's friends together on a parentless weekend induces irreversible crushes, late-night courtship, and stinging heartache. With an elaborate, 67-song playlist to embed you in every magnetic moment and missed connection, you'll experience the rush of *Everything All At Once*, the first book in the **CHORDUROYS AND TOO MANY BOYS™** series.