My Diary from the Edge of the World.
By Jodi Lynn Anderson.
Gr. 4-7.

My Diary from the Edge of the World is an extraordinary adventure: her family embarking to save her sickly little brother, Sam. Gracie's world is strikingly similar to our own, except it is inhabited by dragons, poltergeists, sasquatch, and mermaids. When a Dark Cloud, a bringer of death, settles in the Lockwoods' backyard, the family decides to try to outrun it before it can take Sam. They pack up a Winnebago and, joined by Gracie's friend, set out across the country with plans to escape into the Extraordinary World. Gracie's thoughtful, fresh-eyed perspective is the perfect lens through which to view Anderson's alternate Earth, which tweaks history and familiar landscapes to accommodate its supernatural residents. Mentions of string theory and parallel universes serve as fleeting explanations for the existence of other worlds and endless possibility, yet the crux of the story lies in the closeness of the Lockwood family, which is challenged and strained along the journey and proves to be the most magical element of all. —Julia Smith

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: This author of the May Bird trilogy and Tiger Lily is bestselling and critically acclaimed, so have extra copies on hand.

Ninja Timmy.
By Henrik Tamm. Illus. by the author.
Gr. 4-7.

Four crime-fighting animal friends who dress as ninjas? No, these aren't those turtles named for famous artists—but Casper and Jasper (pigs), Simon (a mink), and Timmy (a cat) are sure to appeal to the same action-adventure fan base. After being rescued from a nighttime peccadillo by Albert, a kindly toy-maker-magician, Timmy joins the fight against a gang of bullies who are kidnapping kids and taking away their ability to laugh. Albert helps design magical devices that will help the four friends in their vigilante efforts as they patrol their city's streets, where they discover a soulless, blue rabbit at the center of the scheme. Teaming up with a pretty female who's an ace pilot (and whom Timmy stumblingly crushes on), the quartet attempts to foil the rabbit's plans. Tamm has illustrated his series starter (originally published in Sweden) with detailed creations like motorcycle-riding chameleons and glowing, balloon-lofted airships. Sure to have broad appeal, this adventure will leave readers eager for the next volume. —Karen Crowe

Auggie & Me.
By Sara Pennypacker. Illus. by Jon Klassen.

Auggie & Me is the story of the M ay Bird trilogy and Auggie Pullman, but a wonder in itself. —Kirkus Reviews, Starred

Fall in love again with three new stories about kindness, friendship, and the extraordinary face.

4 STARRED REVIEWS!
A Booklist Best Children's Book of the Year
A Kirkus Reviews
Best Children's Book of the Year
A Publisher's Weekly
Best Children's Book of the Year
A School Library Journal
Best Children's Book of the Year

Pax.
By Sara Pennypacker. Illus. by Jon Klassen.

Peter and Pax, his pet fox he found as a kit on the day of his mother's funeral, are inseparable. That is, until Peter's dad enlists in the military and Peter is forced to abandon Pax before moving to his grandfather's house. Almost as soon as he gets there, however, he slips out, determined to hike the hundreds of miles back to where he left his pet. Not long into his journey, he is injured and reluctantly taken in by Vola, a war veteran and amputee who stubbornly lives on her own. In chapters from the fox's point of view, Pax struggles in the wild until a grizzled old fox agrees to help him get home. Pennypacker alternates between Pax's and Peter's perspectives, while the simmering war between unnamed countries grows dangerously close to home. As she slowly reveals secrets about Peter's and Vola's pasts, she sensitively and engagingly explores questions about anger, wildness, isolation, and family. Meanwhile, both fox and boy grow in unexpected ways. While there's a lot of emotional complexity here, the focus is solidly on the earthy, tense wilderness adventure, which is likely what will draw young readers most. Pennypacker's expert, evenhanded storytelling reveals stun-
ning depth in a relatively small package. Final illustrations by Caldecott Medal winner Klassen not seen. —Sarah Hunter

HIGH DEMAND BACKSTORY: Penny-packer is no stranger to the New York Times best-seller list, and with award-winning Klassen in the mix, this adventure story should easily find a wildly enthusiastic audience.

Ticket to India.
By N. H. Senzai.
Sixth-grader Maya has already traveled from California to Karachi, Pakistan, nine times to visit her grandparents, but this trip will be different: her nanabba (grandfather) has passed away. After the funeral, her grandmother will be returning to California with them, but first Naniamma intends to go to India and retrieve valuables hidden by her family when they fled to Pakistan during Partition. Maya and her sister, Zara, persuade Naniamma to let them join her, but their trip is complicated when Naniamma requires hospitalization, and Maya is later kidnapped by men that run a criminal gang of orphans. What starts as a realistic exploration of grief and family history turns into an exciting action adventure, though one with some contrived turns. Senzai’s novel is packed with fascinating information about the complex history and culture of India and Pakistan, though it’s often forced into stiff dialogue or related through Maya’s didactic journal entries. The blend of emotional journey and fast-paced thriller may be uneven, but it still brings attention to an underrepresented culture in an appealing way. —Krista Hutley

Uprooted.
By Lynne Reid Banks.
The Ministry of Information slogan "Keep Calm and Carry On" describes the author’s family members as they evacuate to Canada as Britain goes to war in 1940. In this fictionalized memoir, Banks recounts the ordeal endured by her stalwart actress mother, her 10-year-old self (known as Lindy here), and her cousin as they travel to Liverpool by rail, Montreal by sea, and Saskatoon again by rail. There they are sponsored by donors who give them room and board and a new Canadian life while riding out the war as evacuees. Banks chronicles her family’s struggles, highlighting the differences between Canadian and British customs and climate. She effectively evokes the bittersweet emotions of safety and security against the backdrop of missing loved ones and feeling that pull of home regardless of the current challenges. Sympathetic readers will commiserate with both Lindy’s and her cousin’s muddled feelings as they are forced to mature beyond their years in order to do their part for the war effort. —Gail Bush

Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye.
The once-grand Warren Hotel has gone to seed since the death of Warren the thirteenth’s father five years ago. Though his uncle technically runs the place, young Warren is the hotel’s maintenance crew, housekeeping staff, and bellboy all rolled into one. Keeping eight floors tidy is no easy task, especially with his cruel aunt Anaconda tearing rooms apart to search for the hotel’s All-Seeing Eye—an object legend says is hidden somewhere on the grounds. An old journal, cryptic clues, and a mysterious guest soon usher in a full-blown hunt for the Eye (whatever it may be), with Warren desperate to save the hotel and his birthright by finding it first. This madcap Victorian gothic mystery is the first in a series that will delight fans of Lemony Snicket and Pseudonymous Bosch with its puzzles, magic, unusual characters, and bighearted protagonist. Its distinct black-and-red illustrations and two-column page design will grab readers’ attention, while the quirky, en-