

# Dashka Slater

## MEDIA KIT



### Short Bio

Journalist, novelist, and children's book author Dashka Slater has been telling stories since she could talk. She is the author of fifteen books of fiction and nonfiction for children and adults, including the beloved *Escargot* picture book series, *The Feylawn Chronicles* middle grade fantasy series, and *The Antlered Ship*, which received four starred reviews and was named one of the best picture books of the year by Amazon.com. Her *New York Times* best-selling young-adult true crime narrative, *The 57 Bus*, has received numerous accolades, including the Stonewall Book Award, the California Book Award, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. Learn more at [dashkaslater.com](http://dashkaslater.com).

### ➤ Awards & Accolades ⚡

New York Times Bestseller ☆ Stonewall Book Award Winner ☆ YALSA-ALA Excellence for Nonfiction Award Finalist ☆ Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor ☆ California Library Association's Beatty Award Winner ☆ California Book Award Winner ☆ Los Angeles Times Book Award Finalist ☆ 3 Junior Library Guild Selections ☆ Winner of the Wanda Gág Read Aloud Award ☆ Finalist for the E.B. White Read Aloud Award ☆ Nerdy Book Club Award for Fiction Picture Books ☆ Nerdy Book Club Award for Long Form Nonfiction ☆ Gelett Burgess Children's Book Award Shortlist ☆ National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship Recipient ☆

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# Biography

*New York Times*-bestselling author Dashka Slater has been telling stories since she could talk. An award-winning journalist who writes for such publications as *The New York Times Magazine* and *Mother Jones*, she is also the author of fifteen books of fiction and non-fiction for children and adults. Her work has been translated into more than a dozen languages and has won many awards, including the Wanda Gág Read Aloud Award.

Dashka's true crime narrative, *The 57 Bus*, has received numerous accolades, including the 2018 Stonewall Book Award from the American Library Association, the 2018 Beatty Award from the California Library Association, the California Book Award Gold Award for Young Adult Literature, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. It was a YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award Finalist and an LA Times Book Award Finalist, in addition to receiving four starred reviews and being named to more than 20 separate lists of the year's best books, including ones compiled by the *Washington Post*, the New York Public Library, and *School Library Journal*. In 2021, *The 57 Bus* was named to *Time* magazine's list of the 100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time.

The recipient of a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, Dashka teaches at Hamline University's MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults program. She has spent most of her adult life in Oakland, California, where she is always working on far too many writing projects.

Learn more at [www.dashkaslater.com](http://www.dashkaslater.com).

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 @princessamanita

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### The Book of Fatal Errors

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020

Rufus doesn't just make mistakes – he makes fatal errors. Clumsy and awkward, he feels entrapped by his teasing classmates and their constant laughter. But now it is summer. Rufus is free. He roams the wildlands of his grandfather's mysterious homestead, blissfully unaware of the danger up ahead.

And there is much danger. Rufus and his snooty cousin Abigail soon become entangled in the tantalizing world of the feylings, mischievous fairy-like creatures desperate to find their way home. In helping the feylings, Rufus tumbles down a dark path rich with age-old secrets and difficult truths. Any move he makes might be his final fatal error.

Or perhaps, his most spectacular beginning.



### The Book of Stolen Time

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022

Rufus may have successfully sent the feylings home to the Green World, but he still has one pesky feyling under his wing: Nettle, onetime enemy, now mentor. Nettle is in charge of helping Rufus and his cousin Abigail protect Feylawn, their grandfather's magical and mysterious homestead.

But this difficult task becomes even more dangerous when a leopard appears in the woods without warning; strange, waterlogged women arrive to warn of impending doom; and a goblin begins digging his way back to Earth, hungry for revenge. Meanwhile, Rufus's father is intent on selling Feylawn to the highest bidder. Can Rufus and Abigail save Feylawn and its magic? Or will they have to say goodbye to the feylings forever?

In *The Book of Stolen Time*, our favorite heroes are back! And magic, mischief, and adventure abound.





## Escargot

**Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017**

Bonjour! Escargot is a beautiful French snail who wants only two things: 1. To be your favorite animal. 2. To get to the delicious salad at the end of the book. But when he gets to the salad, he discovers that there's a carrot in it. And Escargot hates carrots. But when he finally tries one—with a little help from you!—he discovers that it's not so bad after all!

A charming and interactive picture book ideal for picky eaters and animal lovers alike.

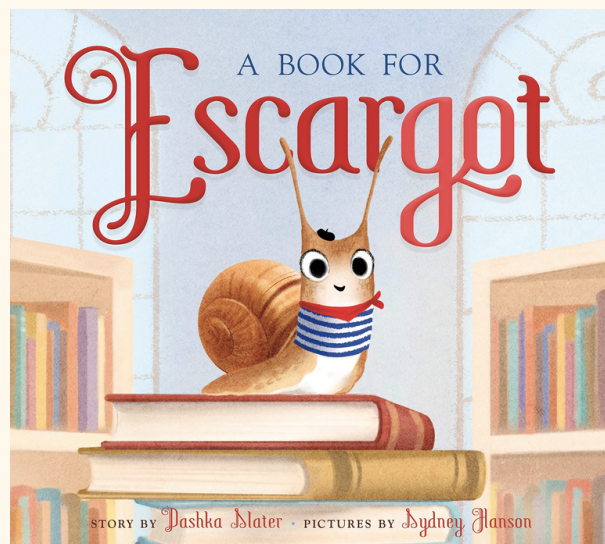


## A Book For Escargot

**Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020**

Bonjour! It is moi, Escargot, your favorite French snail. Today I am going on a trip to the library, where there are so many stories to choose from! Stories about dog superheroes...guinea pig detectives....and flamingo astronauts.

But sadly, none of these books is about a daring snail hero who saves the day. What is that you say? Perhaps *this* is the book about the snail hero? Ooh-la-la!

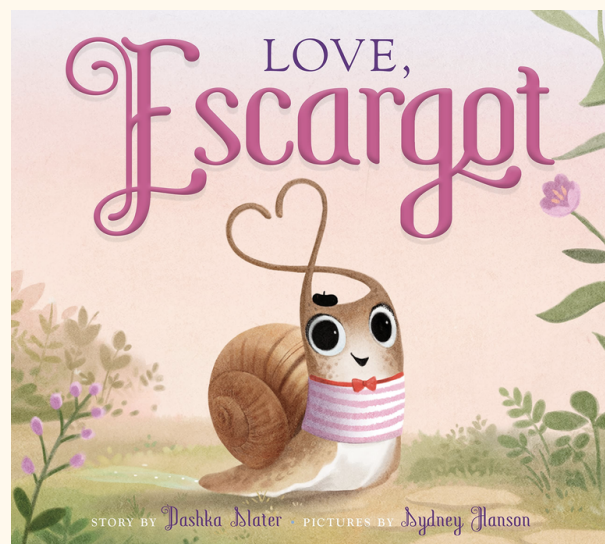


## Love, Escargot

**Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022**

Today is Snailentine's Day, and Escargot is on his way to a party. Will his Snailentine be there? Maybe he will find another snail who also likes to read books and eat salad with a light vinaigrette.

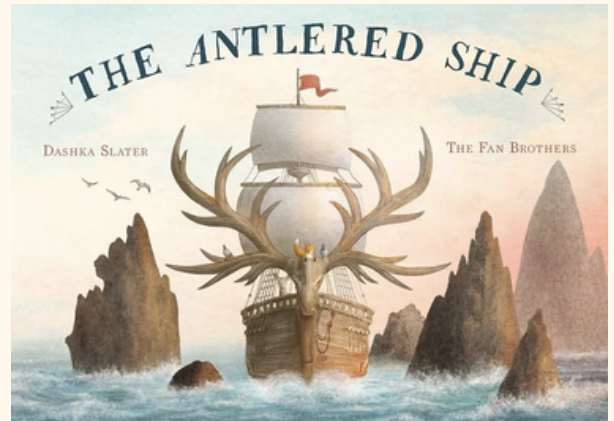
But when he arrives at the party, Escargot is greeted not by a snail, but by a vole. Mon dieu! This is not a Snailentine's Day party at all. It is at a Valentine's Day party! At first, Escargot wants to hide in his shell, but in the end, he finds a surprising new friend.



## *The Antlered Ship*

Beach Lane Books, 2017

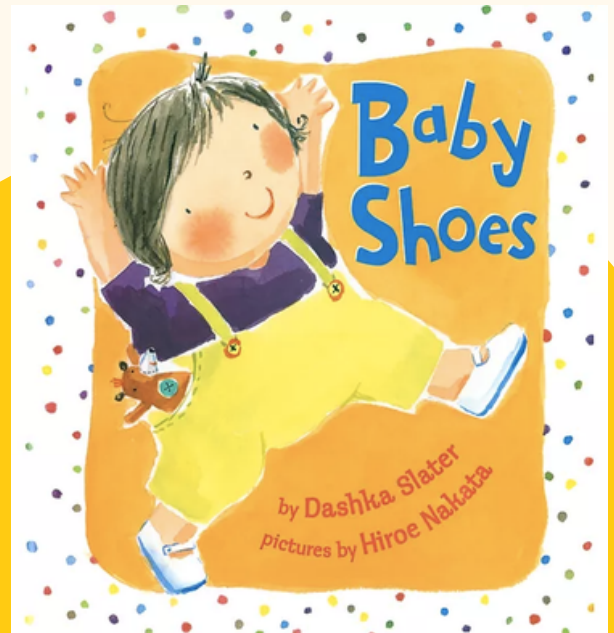
Marco the fox has a lot of questions, like: How deep does the sun go when it sinks into the sea? Why do some songs make you happy and others make you sad? And why don't trees ever talk? But none of the other foxes share his curiosity. So when a magnificent ship adorned with antlers and with a deer for a captain arrives at the dock looking for a crew, Marco volunteers, hoping to find foxes who are as inquisitive as he is that can answer his questions. The crew finds adventure and intrigue on their journey. And, at last, Marco finds the answer to his most important question of all: What's the best way to find a friend you can talk to?



## *Baby Shoes*

Bloomsbury, 2019

Baby loves his brand-new white shoes, taking them all over the neighborhood while his frantic mom chases behind him. But he just can't resist stomping through puddles, squishing fallen plums, and dancing in fresh paint. It isn't long before those white, high-jumping, fast-running shoes are speckled and spotted with every color of the rainbow. Dashka Slater's delightful, rhythmic text and Hiroe Nakata's sweet, jaunty illustrations are the perfect match for this playful tale of fun, sun, and fabulous shoes!



## *Wild Blue*

Candlewick, 2023

Kayla loves riding her pink pony, a three-wheeled bike, up and down the street, day after day. But then Daddy announces that it's time for a big-kid bike, one with just two wheels. At the store, Kayla selects her mount, but when she tries to ride it, she is thrown—again and again. Can she tame this intimidating set of wheels? Or is the new blue bike just too wild? Tender and relatable, *Wild Blue* captures the emotions of moving up in the world through an endearing character with a boundless imagination.

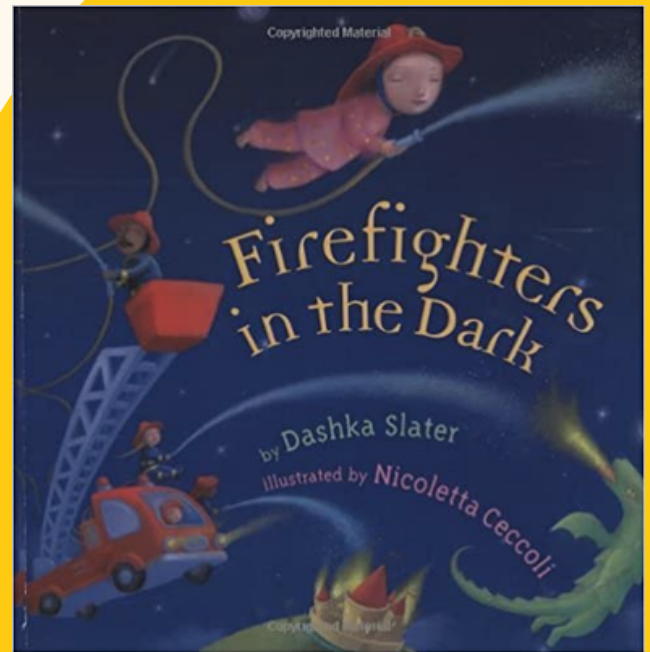




## Firefighters in the Dark

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006

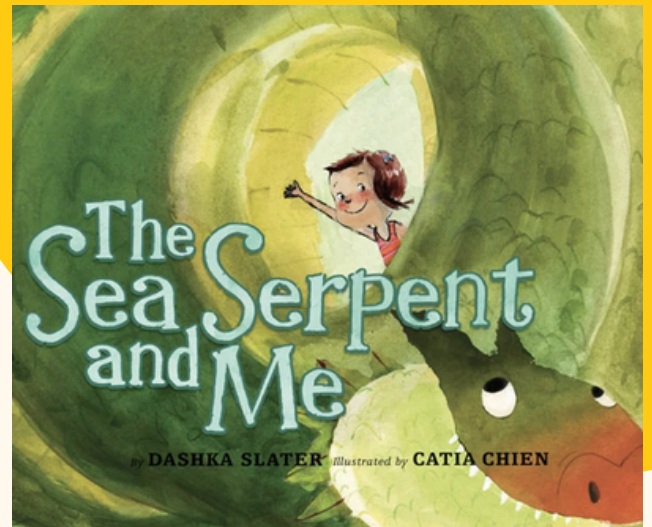
While in bed at night, an imaginative child hears sirens from the nearby fire station and creates fantastic stories about what the firefighters are going to do.



## The Sea Serpent and Me

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008

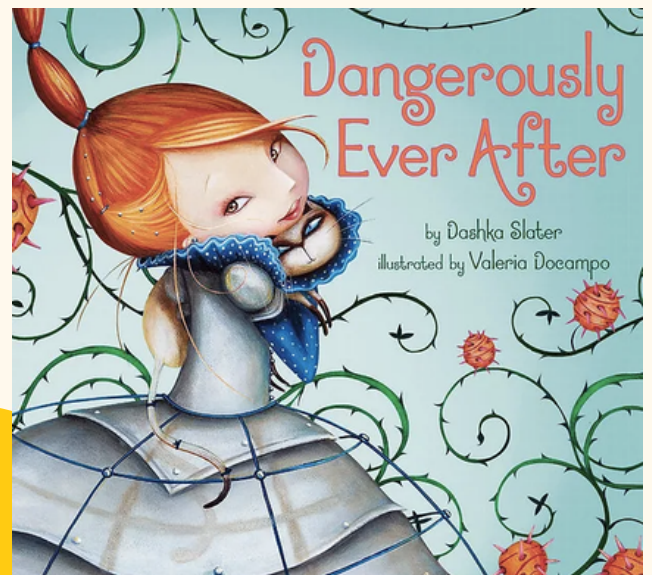
One day a small sea serpent falls from the faucet into the tub as a child is about to take a bath. As the days go by and the serpent grows, they both realize that he needs to go back to the sea.



## Dangerously Ever After

Dial Books, 2012

Princess Amanita laughs in the face of danger. Brakeless bicycles, pet scorpions, spiky plants—that's her thing. So when quiet Prince Florian gives her roses, Amanita is unimpressed . . . until she sees their glorious thorns! Now she must have rose seeds of her own. But when huge, honking noses grow instead, what is a princess with a taste for danger to do?



## BOOKS FOR ADULTS & TEENS

### The 57 Bus

**Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017**

One teenager in a skirt.  
One teenager with a lighter.  
One moment that changes both of their lives forever.

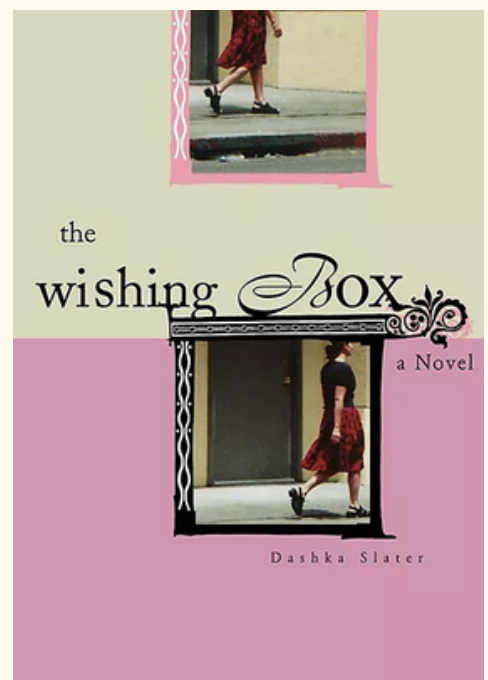
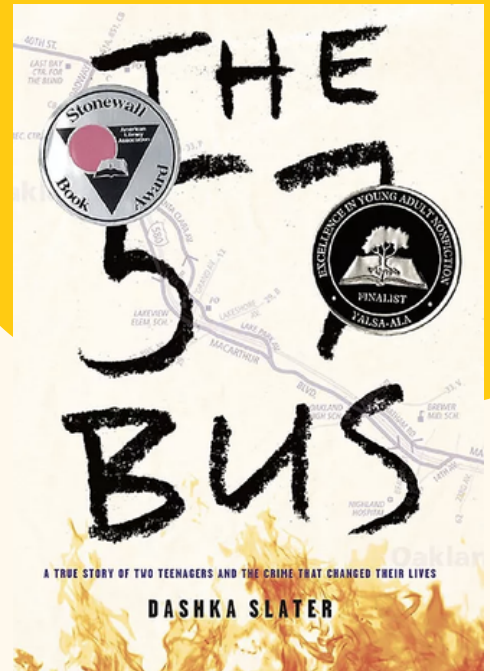
If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one.

Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

### The Wishing Box

**Chronicle Books, 2000**

A sometimes funny, sometimes magical first novel, *The Wishing Box* explores the surprising and unintended consequences of getting what you ask for. Julia, an almost-30 single mom whose life is mostly together, lives in Oakland with her seven-year-old son. Never suspecting it will actually work, she and her sister create a wishing box and half-seriously hold a ceremony for the return of the father who abandoned them as children. Astonishingly, he comes back, but Julia's life has already moved abruptly in a new direction, and she has taken off in much the same way her father had many years before. Julia and her unusual family are at the heart of this novel about appearances and disappearances, the desire to control the future and explain the past, and the legacies passed on from one generation to another.



# Selected Journalism

**Don't Say Gay or Climate Change**  
Sierra Magazine | September 2022

**Can You Talk Your Way Out of a Life Sentence?**  
The New York Times | January 1, 2020

**Can Phoenix Remain Habitable?**  
Sierra Magazine | January 2019

**North Dakota's Norway Experiment**  
Mother Jones | July 2017

**The Uncomfortable Truth About Children's Books**  
Mother Jones | September 2016

**The Fire on the 57 Bus in Oakland**  
The New York Times | January 2015



# Selected Press & Interviews

**Second Wave Media** | CommuniTeen read in Portage tackles complicated issues of criminal justice system, race, and gender (2022)

**East Bay Yesterday** | They're Scared of this Book (2022)

**Romper** | Dashka Slater Dons A Beret For Operation Storytime, & It's Amazing

**The HodgePodge podcast** | Interview with Dashka (2021)

**Nieman Storyboard** | Dashka Slater Reporting on The Criminal Justice System (2020)

**The Storyteller's Thread podcast** | Interview with Dashka (2020)

**Publishers Weekly** | How The 57 Bus Became a Bestseller (2019)

**All The Wonders Podcast** | Interview with Dashka and the Fan Brothers (2018)

**KALW** | On the 57 bus, a true-crime story of gender, race, class, and growing up (2018)

**BookPage** | Interview with Dashka About The 57 Bus (2017)

**Mother Jones** | This Book Will Challenge Everything You Thought You Knew About Hate Crimes (2017)

**Mr. Schu Reads** | Interview with Dashka about Escargot (2017)

**The Picture Book Buzz** | Interview with Dashka About Picture Book Writing (2017)

**KQED** | A Tale of Two Oaklands on the 57 Bus (2017)

**Kirkus Profiles** | Dashka Slater (2017)

**The Writers Grotto Podcast** | Turning News Into Inspiration: Dashka Slater (2017)

**Writers Unboxed** | Interview with Dashka Slater Part 1 & 2 (2009)