

Book club



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Nat Enough

By Maria Scrivan

(Graphix)

Natalie Mariano is sick of getting a trophy just for participating and ready to be more grown-up. But with middle school starting, what she's most bothered by is the growing rift with Lily, her best friend since second grade. Natalie was looking forward to wearing matching first-day-of-school outfits with Lily. Instead, Lily turns into a mean girl and joins the popular crowd. She even calls Natalie a nerd! Natalie tries to win Lily back, which just makes things worse. You'll love how Natalie's pets introduce each chapter, and you'll crack up at the funny situations, like a Jell-O frog experiment gone wrong. You'll also root for Natalie to make new friends who accept and encourage her. The story takes a turn when Natalie finds the courage to enter a school contest. She shows that the key to finding happiness and success is being true to yourself.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Maria Scrivan

The author of *Nat Enough* talks to us.



Did you always want to write books?

My dream was to be a cartoonist and a writer, so being a graphic novelist is the perfect mix. If a teacher gave me a creative project, there was a 100% chance I would turn in a comic.

Is Natalie based on you?

Yes. Just like Natalie, I got dumped by my best friends and I was bullied. But one of my biggest bullies was myself. I doubted myself when I was trying to figure out who I was. Now I realize

that when you decide to be your own person, that's when the magic happens.

How do you start a book?

I sketched and wrote this story at the same time. My first draft was handwritten in pencil because I work faster that way.

What do you do for fun?

I like to do yoga and play with my dog.

What's your favorite food?

Popcorn—I'm eating it right now.



4 mysteries to test your detective skills

Can you crack the case?



Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library

By Chris Grabenstein

(Random House Children's Books)

Mr. Lemoncello is like Willy Wonka, except he runs a library instead of a chocolate factory. When a group of kids find themselves in his high-tech library, they must compete in a scavenger hunt to earn back their freedom—and a magnificent prize. It will take more than a mastery of video games for the kids to understand the clues.



The Emperor's Riddle

By Kat Zhang (Aladdin Books)

On a trip to China with her family, Mia learns that her favorite aunt—the only adult who truly understands her—has vanished. Could Aunt Lin's disappearance have anything to do with her enemy from years earlier? Mia, armed with an old map, follows every clue to find her aunt—and perhaps uncover a fortune along the way.



Liar & Spy

By Rebecca Stead

(Yearling Books)

Twelve-year-old Safer asks Georges, who just moved into his Brooklyn apartment building, to join his Spy Club. The club's goal is to keep tabs on the mysterious Mr. X, a neighbor who may have a dark secret. As Georges' spying pushes him past his comfort level, he starts to wonder what Safer is really up to.



The Night Gardener

By Jonathan Auxier

(Amulet Books)

Orphans Kip and Molly work for a wealthy family in 19th century England. Their employers' mansion has a creepy feeling to it, and they soon understand why when they encounter its ancient ghost. They have no choice but to investigate what the ghost is saying if they want to live regular lives again.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Nat Enough*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with *Nat Enough* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on May 8. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

READER RECOMMENDS

Not If I Can Help It

By Carolyn Mackler

"This great book has a unique plot. Willa, the main character, is in fifth grade and has a sensory processing disorder. This means she is sensitive to certain things such as rough socks and slimy food. As if this isn't enough, she is in a tough situation with her parents' divorce. I stayed up late to read this book. I recommend it to all!" Gillian, 11, New York

