

Megan E. Freeman

author • poet • presenter

"If you ever get a chance to see Megan present at a conference...always, always take an opportunity to see Megan talk." – Colby Sharp



Laura Carson Photography

Full Author Bio

Megan E. Freeman attended an elementary school where poets visited her classroom every week to teach poetry, and she has been a writer ever since. She is the author of the New York Times bestselling novels *AWAY* and *ALONE*, which won the Colorado Book Award, the California, Illinois, Indiana, Japan, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Vermont children's book awards, is an NCTE Notable Verse Novel, and is included on over two dozen "best of" and state reading lists. Megan is also a Pushcart Prize-nominated poet, and her poetry chapbook, *Lessons on Sleeping Alone*, was published by Liquid Light Press. Her debut young adult novel, *The Secret to Belonging*, comes out from Simon & Schuster in September of 2026.

An award-winning teacher with decades of classroom experience, Megan taught multiple subjects across the arts and humanities to students K-16, and she is nationally recognized for presenting workshops and speaking to audiences across the country. She studied theater and dramatic literature for many years, earning degrees from Occidental College and the Ohio State University.

Megan is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Northern Colorado Writers, Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, Columbine Poets of Colorado, and Lighthouse Writers Workshop. She is an Impact on Education Award winner, a fellow with the National Writing Project at Colorado State University, a Fund for Teachers fellow, and a member of the Colorado Poets Center. She used to live in northeast Los Angeles, central Ohio, northern Norway, and on Caribbean cruise ships. Now she divides her time between northern Colorado and the Texas Gulf Coast.

Literary Agent:

Deborah Warren, East West Literary
dwarren@eastwestliteraryagency.com

Film Agent:

Olivia Burgher, William Morris Endeavor
oburgher@wmeagency.com

Publicist:

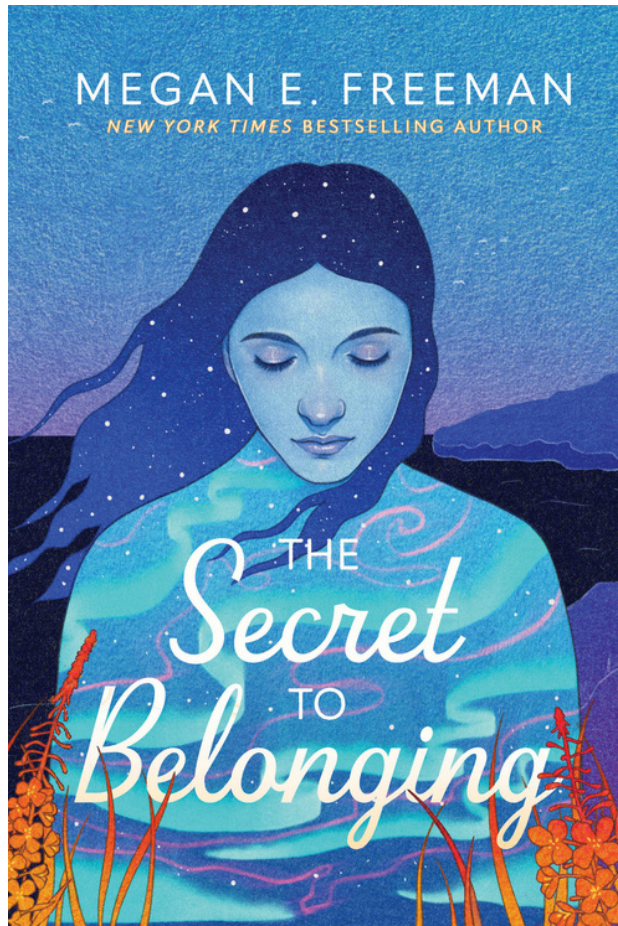
Nicole Russo, Simon & Schuster
nicole.russo@simonandschuster.com

School Visits & Events:

Jen Dausvardis
Jen@MeganEFreeman.com

Learn more at MeganEFreeman.com

The Secret to Belonging



Cover art by Natalie Foss

You are invisible in your own family. Your parents spend all their care and attention on your brother, who is addicted to drugs. Your dreams don't matter to anyone but you. Your only ticket out is a college fund left by your grandfather-until your parents use it to pay for your brother's drug rehab. Just when your future seems about to collapse, you're offered a lifeline: a scholarship to become an exchange student in a remote part of Norway. It's an invitation to begin a new life in a new place with new people...a place where you might finally feel like you belong.

Told in spare, powerful verse, Megan E. Freeman's stunning novel is a coming-of-age story of longing, love, and the courage to create joy from the ashes of despair.

"What a beautiful book! My heart broke several times in the span of its pages but was stitched back together and made stronger by the end. I feel like this book is a beacon of hope for anyone who feels alone, ignored, or pushed aside by the people who are supposed to support you the most. Your people are out there." --Kalli King, Rediscovered Books (Boise, ID)

"I am simply blown away. Oof, this really packs a punch in the best way. A moving testament of resilience, courage, and becoming whole despite the quiet battles waged within the depths of aloneness and addiction." --Jessica Spora, Dog-Eared Books (Ames, IA)

"It is so difficult to describe hope, but Megan has accomplished it by weaving together delicate details and intentions until they become a bold, breathtakingly beautiful story. This is a book I wish I had read when I was younger. I am glad it is in my life now, and I am looking forward to visiting it again. I will be putting this story in as many hands as possible." --Barrie Kenyon, Boulder Bookstore (Boulder, CO)



Simon & Schuster

Publisher: Atheneum

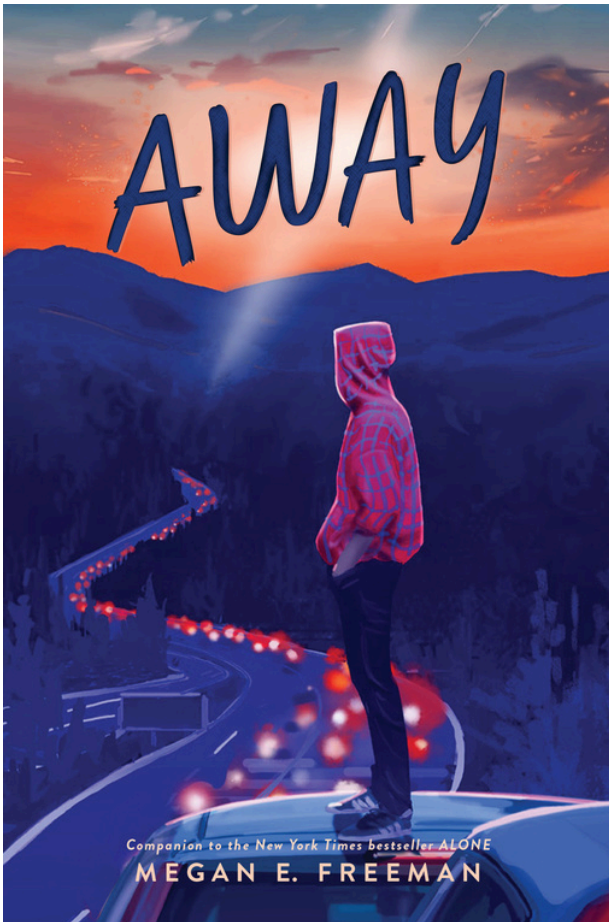
ISBN13: 9781665959728

Grades 7 and up


Ages 12 and up

Learn more at MeganEFreeman.com

The long-awaited companion to *ALONE* and instant New York Times Bestseller



Cover art by Pascal Campion

 Simon & Schuster

Publisher: Aladdin

ISBN13: 9781665959728

Grades 5 and up

Ages: 10 - 99

A group of children investigate the threat that prompted large-scale evacuations in this powerful and dramatic companion novel to the New York Times bestselling ALONE.

When an imminent threat alert causes a midnight evacuation in Colorado, four kids relocated to the same shelter become unlikely friends. After they stumble onto evidence casting doubt on the legitimacy of the evacuation, they begin an investigation that causes them to question everything and everyone around them.

Through a series of covert and courageous endeavors, the friends uncover the facts behind the “imminent threat” and must decide how—and if—they can expose the truth.

Set in the same universe as Freeman's bestselling novel ALONE and told in a variety of poetry and prose forms, AWAY is a companion novel sure to please fans of adventure and mystery stories alike.

Instant New York Times Bestseller

National Indie Bestseller

Barnes & Noble Best Book of 2025

Amazon Best Book of 2025

Barnes & Noble Children's Book Award Shortlist

Golden Kite Award Finalist

Reading the West Longlist

KNEA Reading Circle List

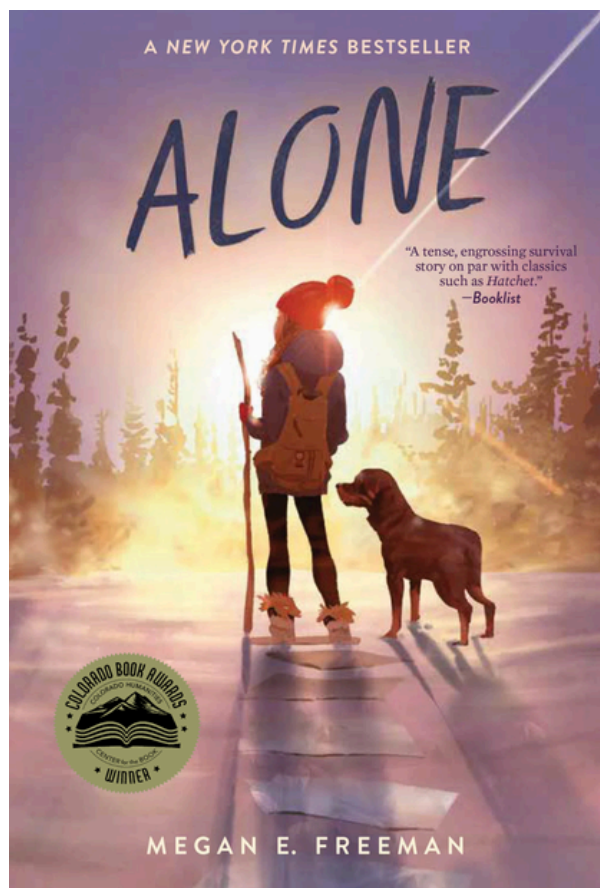
“Scary and satisfying” - Kirkus

"Wowza! I loved revisiting the world Megan E. Freeman created in Alone. This one was a wild ride." - Colby Sharp

Learn more at MeganEFreeman.com



"Hatchet for a new age." - Kirkus



Cover art by Pascal Campion

"The novel is gripping and the plot fast-paced... This is a tense, engrossing survival story on par with classics such as Hatchet." - Booklist

"This exciting story of tenacity, determination, and ingenuity is hard to put down, and thank heavens nothing happens to the dog." - NPR


"Realistic fiction fans will appreciate the thoughtful use of language that hints at Maddie's introspection and evolution, and survival buffs will appreciate her creativity as she resolutely addresses each new emergency."

- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Perfect for fans of *Hatchet* and the *I Survived* series, this harrowing middle grade novel-in-verse tells the story of a young girl who wakes up one day to find herself utterly alone in her small Colorado town.

New York Times Bestseller

A Mighty Girl's Best Book of the Year
ALA Best Book for Reluctant Readers
Bank Street Best Book of the Year
California Young Reader Medal
Colorado Book Award Winner
Colorado Children's Book Award List
Crystal Kite Award Finalist
Golden Cowbell Award
Golden Sower Meadowlark Award
Goodreads Choice Award Finalist
High Plains Book Award
Iowa Children's Choice Award List
Just One More Page List
Kentucky Bluegrass Award
Keystone to Reading Book Award List
Lone Star Reading List
Magnolia Book Award
Maine Student Book Award
Massachusetts Children's Book Award
Minnesota Maud Hart Lovelace Award
NCTE Notable Verse Novel
Nerdy Book Club Best Book of the Year
New York Times Bestseller List
Reading the West Book Award Finalist
Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award
Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Finalist
Sakura Medal
Sequoyah Masterlist
South Carolina Junior Book Award List
Surrey Book of the Year
Truman Readers Award List
Vermont Golden Dome Award
Volunteer State Book Award List
William Allen White Master List
Young Hoosier Award Winner

 Simon & Schuster

Publisher: Aladdin
Length: 416 pages)
Grades: 5 and up
Ages: 10 - 99

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

Lessons on Sleeping Alone

Poems by Megan E. Freeman



Lessons on Sleeping Alone

Poems by Megan E. Freeman



Publisher: Liquid Light Press (December 5, 2015)

Length: 56 pages

ISBN: 9780990926764

Cover art by Chuck Ceraso

Lessons on Sleeping Alone is a beautiful, vibrant saga of a woman caught between the perfection of mythology and the loneliness of one-night business-meeting hotels...a fulfilling sequence of poems exploring the sensual awareness of the individual trying to find "self" amidst the promise of "kitsch and kinship." It is filled with stark, sometimes shocking imagery that goes direct to the soul where, as Megan writes, "metaphor is fact and symbols are simply accessories we hang around our throats." I recommend it.

- Jared Smith, Poetry Editor of Turtle Island Quarterly

There is blood in these poems, and flesh as well. From conception to death, from LA to the Arctic to Colorado, Freeman finds the angles to deal with subjects from Greek tragedy, an email inbox, the operating room, and, yes, sleeping alone. Freeman fearlessly probes that life that sustains life for: "Our chemical selves in all our juicy mess leave trails of truth shimmery as any snail's."

- Robert King, Founder of the Colorado Poets Center

In Megan E. Freeman's passionate and intelligent collection of poems, Lessons on Sleeping Alone, the movement is that of coming into the open, of claiming space. Poem by poem, the poet's voice emerges as "individual, recognizable, distinct," words from poet Jane Hirshfield's essay on originality in Nine Gates. The insights that inform this collection come to a hard-won place that is, in an early poem, identified as "You Are Here." But here has become a more deeply owned and different place.

- Veronica Patterson, Colorado Book Award Winner for Poetry

A complete list of poetry publications is available at MeganEFreeman.com.

Honors & Awards

A Mighty Girl's Best Book of the Year
ALA Best Book for Reluctant Readers
Amazon Best Book of the Year
Bank Street Best Book of the Year
Barnes & Noble Best Book of the Year
Barnes & Noble Children's Book Award Shortlist
California Young Reader Medal
Colorado Book Award Winner
Colorado Children's Book Award List
Crystal Kite Award Finalist
Golden Cowbell Award
Golden Kite Award Finalist
Golden Sower Meadowlark Award
Goodreads Choice Award Finalist
High Plains Book Award
Iowa Children's Choice Award List
Just One More Page List
Kentucky Bluegrass Award
Keystone to Reading Book Award List
KNEA Reading Circle List
Lone Star Reading List
Magnolia Book Award
Maine Student Book Award
Massachusetts Children's Book Award
Minnesota Maud Hart Lovelace Award
National Indie Bestseller
NCTE Notable Verse Novel
Nerdy Book Club Best Book of the Year
New York Times Bestseller List
Reading the West Book Award Finalist
Reading the West Longlist
Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award
Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Finalist
Sakura Medal
Sequoyah Masterlist
South Carolina Junior Book Award List
Surrey Book of the Year
TOME Society Junior Book Award Winner
Truman Readers Award List
Vermont Golden Dome Award
Volunteer State Book Award List
William Allen White Master List
Young Hoosier Award Winner

Other Publications

Literary Journals

Anti-Heroin Chic
Ashé Journal
deLuge Literary and Art Journal
Déraciné Literary Magazine
Dying Dahlia Review
Every Day Poems
Five:2:One Magazine
Foliate Oak Literary Magazine
Listen: A Seeker's Resource
Literary Mama
Riggwelter
Scarlet Leaf Review
Sheila-Na-Gig
Stoneboat Literary Journal
The Manhattanville Review
The Rockford Review
The Sunlight Press
The Turnip Truck(s)
Turtle Island Quarterly
Visitant Literary Magazine
Visitant Literary Magazine
Wild Musette Journal

Anthologies

Splendor: An Anthology of Love
Exception/ALL: An Exploration of Normal
Chiaroscuro: An Anthology of Virtue and Vice
Fresh Starts
IMPROV An Anthology of Colorado Poets:
Ink: An Anthology
Paris and the Poetry Mermaid
Poems from the Back Forty
Rise: An Anthology of Change
Shortest Day, Longest Night
The Alphabet of the Night
Vine Leaves Literary Journal: A Collection of Vignettes
Walt Whitman, Your Beard Full of Butterflies
Weird Sisters: Lilac City Fairy Tales

Commissions & Collaborations

"Music's Music" - composition by Steven Sametz, commissioned by the Los Angeles Master Chorale
"crow pose"- composition by Thomas Edward Morgan, commissioned by Ars Nova Singers
Women Artists and Poets: A Collaboration - Lone Tree Arts Center
Encounters: How the Light Gets In - multi-media collaboration, Artworks Loveland
Muse and Music - poetry and music collaboration, Where the Books Go
Line Casting - multi-media collaboration, Artworks Loveland

Megan E. Freeman

author • poet • presenter

"If you ever get a chance to see Megan present at a conference...always, always take an opportunity to see Megan talk." - Colby Sharp

Author Visits

A National Writing Project teacher, Megan taught multiple subjects over a thirty year career in education, working with students K-16 and mentoring teachers at all phases of their careers. She loves doing author visits and speaking to audiences of all sizes, and she teaches workshops for children and adults.

- Assemblies
- Classroom Visits
- Virtual Visits
- Author Q&As
- Signed Bookplates
- Readings and Book Signings
- Custom Events & Presentations
- One Book, One School
- Book Club Visits
- Keynote Speeches
- Workshops for Students
- Workshops for Teachers
- Workshops for Writers
- Autographed Copies



Laura Carson Photography

Conferences & Festivals

1455 Literary Arts Summer Festival
American Association of School Librarians
American Booksellers Association
American Libraries Association
Artworks Loveland
Association of American University Women
Association of Illinois School Librarians
Bud Werner Memorial Library
California Association of Teachers of English
Colorado Council of the International Reading Association
Colorado Language Arts Society Regional Conferences
Colorado League of Charter Schools' Annual Conferences
Colorado Teen Literature Conference
Escondido Public Library
Florida Association of Media Educators
Indiana Library Conference
Michigan Reading Association
Mountain Words Literary Festival
National Council of Teachers of English
National Association of Gifted Children

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
North Texas Teen Book Festival
Ohio Young Authors' Conference
Rocky Mountain/Plains Social Studies Conference
San Diego Public Library
San Diego Union Tribune Festival of the Book
San Marcos Promise Future Fair
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
Steamboat Writers Conference
Sterling Correctional Facility
Texas Library Association
The Loveland Museum
The Tucson Festival of Books
Virginia State Literacy Association
Where the Books Go
Wilkinson Public Library
Writing Heights Conference
WORD Literary Arts Festival
World Read Aloud Day
WriteOnCon

Video clips and more information are available at MeganEFreeman.com.