

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. Her debut middle-grade novel, *ALONE*, won the Colorado Book Award, is an NCTE Notable Verse Novel and a Goodreads Choice Award Finalist, and was included on over a 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.

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 Colorado State University Writing Project, 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 lives in northern Colorado.

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Learn more at MeganEFreeman.com

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



Cover art by Pascal Campion



Simon & Schuster

Publisher: Aladdin (January 12, 2021)

Length: 416 pages

ISBN13: 9781534467569

Grades: 5 and up

Ages: 10 - 99

Perfect for fans of *Hatchet* and the *I Survived* series, this harrowing middle grade debut novel-in-verse from a Pushcart Prize-nominated poet tells the story of a young girl who wakes up one day to find herself utterly alone in her small Colorado town. As months pass, Maddie escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But her most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day. Can Maddie's stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life?

A Mighty Girl's Best Book of the Year
Bank Street College Best Book of the Year
Crystal Kite Award Finalist
Colorado Book Award
Colorado Children's Book Award List
Goodreads Choice Award Finalist
High Plains Book Award Finalist
Iowa Children's Choice Award List
Keystone to Reading Book Award List
Lone Star Reading List
Maine Student Book Award List
Massachusetts Children's Book Award List
NCTE Notable Verse Novel
Nerdy Book Club Best Book
Reading the West Book Award Finalist
Rhode Island Middle School Book Award List
Sequoyah Masterlist
South Carolina Junior Book Award List
Vermont Golden Dome Award List
YALSA Best Book for Reluctant Readers

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

"Freeman's middle-grade debut starts with a wallop and carries on from there...sweeping down spare pages in thin lines of verse in this *Hatchet* for a new age. Suspenseful, fast-paced, and brief enough to engage even reluctant readers." - Kirkus

"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

Learn more at 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.

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Anthologies

Chiaroscuro: An Anthology of Virtue and Vice
Fresh Starts
IMPROV An Anthology of Colorado Poets: Peace, War, Love
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

Honors & Awards

A Mighty Girl's Best Book - *ALONE*
Bank Street College Best Book of the Year - *ALONE*
Crystal Kite Award Finalist - *ALONE*
Colorado Book Award - *ALONE*
Colorado Book Award - *Rise, An Anthology of Change*
Goodreads Choice Award Finalist - *ALONE*
Goodreads Choice Award Finalist - *ALONE*
High Plains Book Award Finalist - *ALONE*
Multiple state reading lists - *ALONE*
NCTE Notable Verse Novel - *ALONE*
Nerdy Book Club Best Book - *ALONE*
Pushcart Prize nominee - (multiple)
Reading the West Book Award Finalist - *ALONE*
YALSA Best Book for Reluctant Readers - *ALONE*

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
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

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

See a complete list, including interviews and articles, at MeganEFreeman.com

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Author Visits

Megan E. Freeman is a nationally recognized presenter on writing and teaching. She loves speaking to audiences of all sizes, and she teaches workshops for children and adults.

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



Laura Carson Photography

Conferences & Festivals

Artworks Loveland
American Association of School Librarians Conference
Association of American University Women
Bud Werner Memorial Library
Ceraso Gallery & Studio
Charter-District Best Practices' National Conference
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
Glovinsky Art Gallery
Innisfree Poetry Bookstore
Michigan Reading Association Conference
National Association for Gifted Children's Conference
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools' Conferences

Northern Colorado Writers
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
SCBWI - Rocky Mountain Letters & Lines Conference
Sterling Correctional Facility
The Arts Hub
The Gathering Place
The Loveland Museum
Where the Books Go
Wilkinson Public Library
World Read Aloud Day
WriteOnCon
Ziggi's Poetry Festival

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