



Victoria Piontek

WRITER. TEACHER. MENTOR.

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@VICTORIA PIONTEK



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Victoria first fell in love with books when she discovered a battered set of C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* in the family barn. By the time she finished the series, she believed real magic was found behind the cover of a book.

Her debut novel, *The Spirit of Cattail County*, was selected as a Bank Street College Best Book of the year and earned a spot on the coveted Oklahoma Library Association Children's Sequoyah Masterlist. She is also the author of short stories in *Wyvern Publications* and *Vine Leaves Literary Magazine*.

Prior to her current roles in publishing, Victoria was an English teacher, first as a Teach for America Corps Member for middle school students in New York City, then at Pace University. Victoria continues to work with middle grade students, both as a school volunteer and as a Girl Scout leader, helping kids to find their voice and passion. When she's not writing, you can find her reading, hiking the Bay Area, or wrangling her three children and a big fluffy dog.

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Debut Novel

SPIRIT OF CATTAIL COUNTY

A BANK STREET COLLEGE BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR
OKLAHOMA SEQUOYAH MASTERLIST SELECTION
AN OWL CRATE RECOMMENDED TITLE

"With gorgeous prose, an eerie historical undercurrent, and a lush, larger-than-life Florida backdrop, Piontek not only delivers a taut exploration of fractured small-town dynamics, but an entrancing, compulsively readable mystery. Sensitive readers with a yen for all things supernatural will hungrily sleuth their way through this atmospheric debut." –Booklist

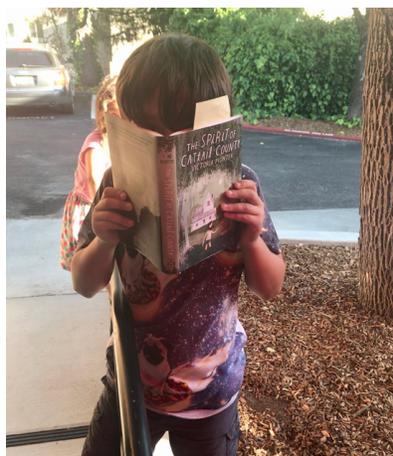
"A moving quest for comfort, understanding, and acceptance set in the marshes of Florida. Sparrow is not like other children, she has the gift, or curse, of seeing spirits. After her mother passes from illness, Sparrow asks her best friend—a ghost no one else can see—to send a message to her mom. Sparrow is in need of friends, family, and everything else she seems to lack. Her challenges throughout the book will resonate with pre-teens and those who have ever lost a loved one or felt they were completely alone. The author also delves deep into the roots of life in Florida, with descriptive sensory details throughout the story. Readers can feel the mud squish beneath their feet as characters walk through the marshes, and smell the salt in the air as the wind blows..." –School Library Journal

"Wrapped in prose as mysterious and lovely as a southern breeze lies a story about loss that haunts, and the ghosts that help us heal. This story is a treasure." –Natalie Lloyd, NYT bestselling author of A Snicker of Magic

"Teeming with a life as vibrant as the Florida marshes, *The Spirit of Cattail County* is rich with thought-provoking history, strong characters, and friendships that transcend lifetimes."
–PINE READS REVIEWS

35

SCHOOL
PRESENTATIONS



Promotional Highlights

FOUNDING MEMBER OF SPOOKY MG
GUEST HOST OF #MGBOOKCHAT
#KIDSNEEDMENTORS PARTICIPANT

Victoria is an avid promoter of her book and mentor in the children's literature community. She has cultivated a community of student, teachers, librarians, and fellow authors on social media and helped found a community called Spooky Middle Grade, which allows Spooky MG authors to connect with hundreds of young readers through virtual school visits, fostering a passion for reading and writing. She's guest hosted #MGBookChat—a weekly twitter chat that allows teachers, authors, parents and anyone interested in middle grade literature to discuss books and best practices for inspiring kids to love reading and writing. And she has been a mentor for #KidsNeedMentors, which helps foster relationships between creators and classrooms to inspire students to develop a love of reading and writing. Victoria participated in the 2018-2019 school year as a mentor for 2 teachers, and plans to continue participating in the program. Her book has also been featured on several on bookstagram accounts, reaching nearly 400,000 followers.

Victoria has also presented at numerous conferences including CSLA (California State Library Association), NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English), WRA (World Read Aloud Day), SF Writer's Conference, and the Big Sur Writer's Conference.

"I just want to tell you how much I LOVED your book. I finished it in hours. I could not put it down."

—J. BAXTER, SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

"I sat in your panel at CSLA...I loved [THE SPIRIT OF CATTAIL COUNTY]. I loved your unique storyline, spotlight on the south & history, lyrical-third person style, & challenging vocabulary that will help stretch out kiddos.

As the District Librarian, I ordered copies for all 9 sites!"

—JAMIE, DISTRICT LIBRARIAN



PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Pin Reads Review, "Interview with Victoria Piontek," June 2018
Writer's Grotto Podcast, "Episode 77: Victoria Piontek On Writing for Young Adults," August 2018
Roanoke Times, "Arts & Extras: Putting down the Hollins quill, almost," August 2018
Owl Crate, "February Wrap-Up," February 2018
Publishers Weekly, "Book Deals: Week of August 14, 2017," August 2017