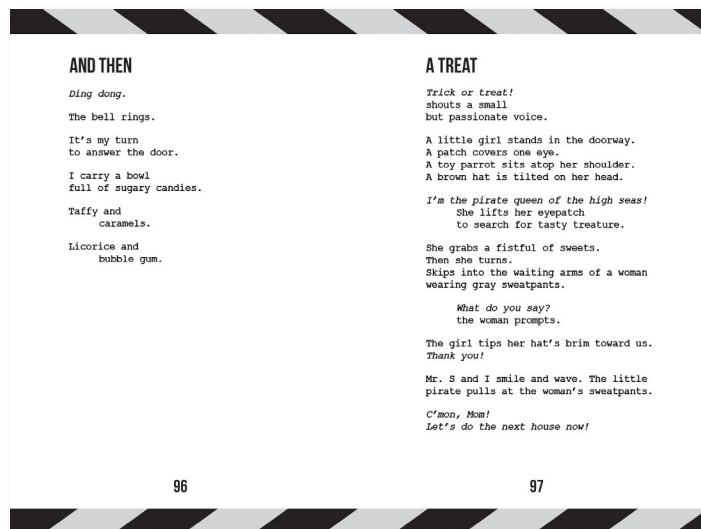


West 44 Fiction Titles

by Enslow Publishing



Features of West 44 Fiction

- 200 pages
- White space helps reader move through the book
- Diverse topics so every reader finds themselves in a story
- Reading guides available
- QR code for eBook available

- Hi/Lo books in verse
- Powerful language that goes above reading level reaching all readers
- Covers that grab the reader's attention
- Free eBook also available

About West 44 Fiction

West 44 Books™, the new hi-lo young adult fiction imprint of Enslow Publishing, is an exciting platform for new, authentic voices and gripping stories. With West 44 Books, struggling readers, especially those from at-risk populations, no longer have to sacrifice page-turning fiction. Young adult books tackle tough topics for readers ages 14 and up, from social justice to drug abuse to gender identity. West 44 Books offers young adult novels in verse, which combine the rhythmic, powerful language of poetry with a riveting storyline. Subject matter is diverse and able to readers from all backgrounds. West 44 Books™ ensures that every reader is able to both get lost in a book and find themselves on its pages.



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Caught in the Haze | ENS05595 | 9 | FIC | 2/22 | 22 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Tae has moved twice in his life. First, from South Korea to the United States when he was adopted as a baby and then to a new town before he starts high school. In Tae's new school, he's one of the youngest players and the only person of color, trying out for the Varsity soccer team—a team known for its violent hazing practices. Tae wants more than anything to be part of the team, but worries about fitting in. Then, he sees a familiar face. Luke is a soccer star on his way to scoring a role as the team captain and a full ride to college, but no one knows his secret—that he was adopted too. Tae and Luke met in an adoption group years before and Luke's first instinct is to help Tae fit in. But tradition is tradition and Luke might not be able to save Tae from being hurt in the hazing rituals without risking his own reputation.

***"A fast-paced sports novel for reluctant readers."* —Kirkus**



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Chiara in the Dark | ENS05596 | 9 | FIC | 2/22 | 22 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Chiara is gliding through her senior year with ease, with a great babysitting job, a loyal best friend, a loving Indian-Italian immigrant family and a shot at the summer ice-skating camp of her dreams. Then, out of nowhere, she starts having violent and unwanted thoughts and obsessions. The thoughts won't leave Chiara alone, making her wonder if she's a bad, violent person. Chiara's parents urge her to get help through therapy, but the idea of talking about her disturbing thoughts out loud is unthinkable. As Chiara opens up to therapy, she sees a glimmer of hope that she can have her life back. But her dark thoughts lie just beneath the surface, threatening to take it all away.

***"Mental health and wellness lie at the core of this novel in verse that follows high school senior Chiara as she lives an ideal life Through verse, Chhabra weaves a complex story of the fears and stigma associated with mental health and mental illness, and though readers should be prepared to encounter trauma and violent thoughts, it is a privilege to watch Chiara grow and take control of her life."* —Booklist**

***"A sympathetic and ultimately hopeful story of strength."* —Kirkus Starred Review**



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
|------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Code Name Komiko | ENS05864 | 6 | FIC | 8/22 | 14 | \$50.34 | \$37.76 |

On the surface, sixteen-year-old Lian is a serious student and dutiful daughter, destined for a fine career as a concert violinist, but Lian has a secret identity. She is part of 06/04, a band of cyber-investigators who work to expose injustice and corruption. In this virtual world, Lian goes by the code name, "Komiko." Lian has no trouble keeping her daily life separate from her secret one, until a dead body washes up in Big Wave Bay. Lian investigates, with help from 06/04. Soon, she meets Matt Harrison, the new kid at her school. She learns that Matt's dad, Rand Harrison, is a corporate goon, whose clothing company exploits its workforce. And she finds a connection between the dead girl and Mr. Harrison. Lian and the 06/04 team are thrust into their most dangerous investigation ever and Lian will learn that no one is ever quite who they seem to be...



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Dandelion Travels | ENS05730 | 9 | FIC | 8/22 | 23 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Eric Wallace is sick of secrets. As a Black queer teen, Eric's efforts to conform to fit his parents' and classmates' expectations have left him exhausted by the summer after senior year. When Eric finds out his pastor father has been cheating on his mother, his picture-perfect family crumbles. Eric rages at the double standards he's been held to. He travels to Los Angeles with his best friends to escape his home life and finally start to live on his own terms—and with his own style.

***"Over the course of a summer spent away from home, a gay Black teen is able to stop hiding his truths. At school, Eric Wallace has been perceived as 'the Angry Black Man' ever since he defended another queer student from a bully. When he is enraged, he feels overwhelmed and out of control. Around Andrea and Xavier, his friends who are very much in love with each other, Eric is haunted by a longing for Xavier that is fed by a memory of the night when they kissed. At home, Eric hides his emotions, sexuality, desire for dresses, and uncertainty about God from his preacher father and interior designer mother and tries to be 'man enough / to be their son.' But all his efforts to hide and pretend fall apart when he witnesses his father's infidelity. With Andrea and Xavier, Eric flies to Los Angeles, where he finds healing in the ocean, the possibility of new love, reckoning with himself, and unleashing his anger toward his father. This verse novel uses spare text in a large font with plenty of white space surrounding it to convey heavy, nuanced thoughts and emotions concerning identity, relationships, and coming of age. What the verse lacks in lyricism and rhythm, it makes up for in authentic and surprising content: The sparsely drawn characters feel alive on the page despite the simplicity of the poems. A strong, emotionally complex choice for reluctant readers."* —Kirkus**



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
|--------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Dragons Club | ENS05733 | 9 | FIC | 8/22 | 23 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Faith Navarro has landed a scholarship to an arts high school for violin. But her struggles at home threaten to take away everything she's ever worked for. Her older sister's drug addiction has caused Faith to miss school one too many times. Her school offers her one more chance to keep her scholarship—enrollment in a teen support group called the Dragons Club. The last thing Faith wants to do is talk to other teens about her sister's addiction and how it affects her, but soon she forms a deep connection to the other members and finds herself and her music, coming alive again. However, the teens are all in this club for a reason and tragedies seem inevitable. As her sister's addiction escalates, Faith has to choose between her sister and the life she's built for herself.

***"As her sister's addiction worsens, Faith learns hard lessons about boundaries while finding strength and companionship through talk therapy. When cancer took their father, Faith and Emma Navarro's mother started working a lot more. Faith is a talented violinist attending a special arts school on a scholarship, but while she was practicing, older sister Emma was partying and is now struggling with a meth addiction. Faith tries to take care of Emma, but missing too much school lands her in the Dragons Club Teen-Speak Support Group. Participation is mandatory for her to remain enrolled. Though Emma is worsening, Faith begins to feel less alone and invisible as she develops the detachment and boundaries she needs. The sessions are therapeutic even for readers; calm, wise teacher Mr. Padilla, or Boots to the kids, threads coping mechanisms, comfort, and advice organically into the dialogue. Razor-thin verse spotlights a quick chain of moments, never landing too long in one place or lingering on the pain, though Emma's situation is portrayed realistically and with clarity. Faith's on-page struggles with anxiety are also no less powerful for their brevity. Any reader who loves a person with an addiction will feel seen, and others will gain much in terms of insight and perspective. Faith's family and Boots read Latine. Sharp, tender, carefully crafted; highly recommended for both strong and striving readers."*—Kirkus Starred Review**



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Kiki in the Middle | ENS05731 | 9 | FIC | 8/22 | 23 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Kiki is a teen artist living with her Greek-American family in Queens. After a man with mental illness is killed by police, protests fill the streets. Kiki's into art, not activism and would rather observe from the sidelines than participate, but she reluctantly joins her friends on a march. She is shocked when a protestor lifts up a photograph of her brother, Stavros and one word—#Murderer. Stavros, a police rookie in his first week on the job, says he was just defending himself. But Kiki's friends and thousands of protesters, news reporters and politicians, say he should be in jail. Kiki must decide who to believe and what to do about it. Even artists can't stand on the sidelines forever.

***"After her rookie cop brother shoots an unarmed man in Queens, rising 10th grader Kiki investigates. Aspiring Greek American artist Kiki Pantazis goes with her friends to a protest. There, she sees someone holding a photo of her brother, Stavros, labeled #MURDERER. She learns that he fatally shot Ray Brennan, an unarmed schizophrenic man who is cued as white, claiming that he was acting in self-defense. Her friends want Kiki to join the protest against police violence, but Kiki is reluctant out of loyalty to her family even though she knows that Stavros isn't always a good guy. Kiki decides to find out for herself what happened, learning about the dangers often faced by mentally ill people and seeking out Ray's parents for their side of the story. Meanwhile, she decides to work through her feelings by painting a mural on the wall of her mother's bakery—of Stavros and Ray, with the identical bikes they both owned and loved—with help from other students in her summer art class. Kiki's shift from only drawing in black and white to incorporating color into her art mirrors her growing recognition of real-world complexities. This novel in verse may appeal to teens interested in the social commentary and therapeutic aspects of art, though some may find the messaging heavy-handed and question the tastefulness of the mural's content. An entry point for reluctant readers to explore the personal side of social justice issues."*—Kirkus**



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Lost Republic | ENS05862 | 6 | FIC | 8/22 | 15 | \$28.46 | \$21.34 |

It began on a sunlit day in Cherbourg, France. In 2055, the future has arrived and the past is departing as the last steamship in the world prepares to cross the Atlantic on its final voyage. Alongside, a great, glittering solar powered vessel sails, too, a beautiful ship filled with beautiful people. On board the steamer are eight teens, some dreamers, some desperate, for whom the last voyage of the S.S. Sir Guy Carlton is only a step on a longer journey. Soon the ship is far out at sea and every layer of modern technology fails. Each teen must rely on their own special skills to survive, but where? What is the strange island in the Atlantic, where no island exists? Who are the men, speaking in an ancient tongue, who capture the survivors of the stricken ship? With every breath a new mystery appears and the desperate dreamers of the Carlton must find a way to escape the Lost Republic.



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| Only Pieces | ENS05597 | 9 | FIC | 2/22 | 22 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Edgar wants nothing more than to live his life out loud. But telling the truth about his sexuality isn't so easy in his traditional Mexican-American family and his Amá has made it clear she won't accept who he is. Things get even harder when Edgar's macho father returns home after months away and the house erupts into fighting and simmering tension. Edgar worries what would happen if he told his father the truth about who he is and feels he'll never fit in anywhere. Then Edgar runs into Alex, a popular football player at school. With Alex, Edgar feels happy and free, believing he might finally pick up all the broken pieces of his heart. But falling in love is more complicated than Edgar can ever imagine—and coming out might destroy the only life he's ever known.

“The author infuses some lovely imagery and Mexican folklore into this overall pleasing offering. An appealing coming-of-age story that will engage reluctant readers.” —Kirkus



| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
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| Paint Me a Monster | ENS05863 | 6 | FIC | 8/22 | 14 | \$50.34 | \$37.76 |

Rinnie Gardener’s life looks like a perfect painting from the outside, a loving family and a beautiful house, but when the paint is stripped away, this dream dissolves to dust. Her parents divorce. Her father treats her like a stranger. Her mother, looming like a black cloud, treats her worse. Painful words become painful bruises. Rinnie’s own body becomes a source of self-punishment. As her life seemingly falls apart, Rinnie struggles to find the courage to pick up the pieces. In a brilliantly unique style and voice, Rinnie tells her story, a search for identity, love and healing. She must look in the darkest places to repaint the canvas of her life. She must face the monster.



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|--------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Right on Cue | ENS05732 | 9 | FIC | 8/22 | 23 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Things are looking up for Alex. Years after being taken away from her alcoholic mother and placed in a foster home, Alex is finally taking hold of her future and applying to film schools. But right on cue, her birth mother comes back into her life. Alex is not about to let her mother derail her life again. Then she learns her mother is very sick. She agrees to meet with her currently-sober mother, promising to guard her heart and prepare for disappointment. But closing her heart isn’t as easy as stopping a reel and Alex wonders if she should reconcile or move on before it’s too late.

“A high school senior dreaming of a filmmaking career gets sidetracked when her newly sober mother reenters her life. Five years with stable, loving foster parents have enabled Alex to leave her chaotic childhood behind and envision a future studying film at a New York college to which her art teacher, a former foster kid herself, encourages her to apply. Each applicant must submit a short documentary. Alex has procrastinated and further loses focus when she learns that her birth mom, Marie, now sober but gravely ill, wants to see her. Fearing a reprise of Marie’s humiliating drunken behavior in public two years earlier, Alex visits reluctantly. Aware that frail Marie is eager for her companionship and love, Alex holds back, unwilling to trust her continued sobriety—they’ve been here before. But witnessing Marie’s illness firsthand dissolves Alex’s resistance; she begins to let go of past pain and, with awakening compassion, to forgive. Ignoring college application deadlines, Alex embraces this all-consuming reconnection. Then Marie starts pulling away and suddenly disappears. The short, evocative poems bring Alex to passionate life, sustaining readers’ interest. Selectively omitting granular details, Bradley keeps readers’ attention on the universalities of Alex’s journey to acknowledge and heal the emotional scars she bears, accept the support she needs, and, despite everything, find a place for Marie in her heart. Characters are racially ambiguous. A compact, emotionally resonant tale ideal for reluctant readers.” —Kirkus



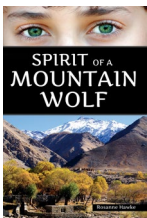
| Title | Item # | Grade Level | Dewey | Release Date | © | List Price | Our Price |
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| Same Beat | ENS05598 | 9 | FIC | 2/22 | 22 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Words matter to Teegan. Best Friend. Forever. Future. But nothing seems clear this summer when her best friend leaves for a college road trip and her future plans after high school are nonexistent. Teegan takes an opportunity to go to New York City for journalism camp, where she is assigned to work the same beat as brilliant, complex Marcy. As Teegan starts to fall in love with Marcy, she realizes the need to discover her own voice. Can she find the right words to say how she feels and the courage to figure out what she wants before their summer is over?



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| Shoot the Storm | ENS05599 | 9 | FIC | 2/22 | 22 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Aaliyah saw her father Boogie-G killed on the park basketball courts. For a while, Aaliyah stopped talking, but after finding videos of her father rapping on stage, Aaliyah begins to rap. Two years later, she’s at the top of her game on the basketball court and finding her rhythm with rap, until she sees her father’s killer again. Aaliyah considers joining her father’s old gang to avenge his death, but what will it cost her?



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| Spirit of a Mountain Wolf | ENS05866 | 9 | FIC | 8/22 | 14 | \$48.69 | \$36.52 |

Fourteen-year-old Razaq Khan lives in the Pakistani tribal area of Kala Dhaka, Black Mountain. When an earthquake devastates his family home, Razaq’s dying father tells him to travel to his uncle Javid. A man preying on orphans lures Razaq to the city with the promise of finding his uncle, but it is not long before Razaq realizes he has not been helped at all, he has been sold into slavery. Losing hope while in captivity, Razaq meets Tahira, a young girl suffering just like him. Razaq feels a surge of something new—love. Author Rosanne Hawke delivers a heart-wrenching story about friendship and sacrifice and the power of the human spirit, a mountain wolf’s spirit, to overcome sexual exploitation, the most harrowing of circumstances.



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|----------------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Survive and Keep Surviving | ENS05600 | 9 | FIC | 2/22 | 22 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

After being sexually assaulted at a party, Mara started experiencing paranoia and delusional thoughts which resulted in a public psychotic episode freshman year. Now a senior in high school, Mara feels like an outcast who would rather keep to herself than risk being judged. However, the only way she'll graduate is if she can pass her least favorite class: public speaking. Mara is ready to publicly reclaim her own story—but will she find acceptance this time around?

"This slim novel works both as a high/low pick and a selection for those seeking a realistic, emotionally intelligent read. -- NetGalley -- Stunning, heartbreaking, and completely amazing. If you like novels in verse, add this one to your TBR as soon as possible. -- NetGalley -- The writing is perfect. The emotions are raw, the expressions quite personal and heartbreaking. Pick up this book. It is one of the best when it comes to understanding mental health."—Booklist

"This brief, realistic novel is accessibly written in free verse by Mallory, who offers the firsthand perspective of a person living with psychosis. It focuses on Maras recovery, achieved through hard work with Dr. Lewis, who helps shore up her independence and self-confidence and wisely tells her that 'Recovery is always a process.' Characters are cued as white. A novel for reluctant readers that explores a young womans courage in finding her voice."—Kirkus



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|------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| Things That Burn | ENS05734 | 9 | FIC | 8/22 | 23 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

It's a hot, dry summer in Harper's hometown in Southern California. Things are heating up at home, too. Harper lives full-time with firefighter father. But he's expecting a new baby with his new wife and Harper feels like the odd person out. The only time Harper feels okay is when she's on stage—pretending to be anyone but herself. When a wildfire breaks out nearby, everything shuts down. Now Harper's stuck with her stepmom at home, waiting for her father to return home alive. As her world starts to burn, Harper has to decide how to act—and hope it makes a difference.

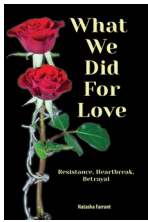
"High school student Harper wishes that she still lived in Los Angeles where there are more opportunities for acting, which is her passion. She is inspired by actress and humanitarian Audrey Hepburn and has just made a new friend, Dakota, who is nonbinary and cued as Black and who speaks out about climate change. Harper is trying to get used to the California town that she and her father have moved to with Ara, Harper's new stepmother; Harper's mom has moved to Atlanta. Harper and her dad are white, while Ara is from Morocco—and very pregnant. Harper has always been close with her dad, but she misses her mom and is ambivalent about becoming an older sister. When wildfires blaze, her firefighter dad must leave them to go do his job. Harper and Ara are thrown together uncomfortably as they wait to find out whether and where the fire will spread; fortunately, they escape when it threatens to engulf their home. The situation stresses everyone out, but luckily, Dakota and their capable mom are at the emergency shelter and step in to assist Harper and Ara at a critical time. This novel for reluctant readers in first-person free verse strongly and realistically portrays a young woman who experiences family problems and larger dangers. Emotional turmoil and environmental threats are skillfully handled in this accessible novel in verse."—Kirkus



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| To Be Maya | ENS05735 | 9 | FIC | 8/22 | 23 | \$31.99 | \$24.06 |

Maya loves her mother, but she's also embarrassed by her. Maya's mother immigrated from Guatemala years before Maya was born. Still, she clings tightly to her roots and traditions. When lacrosse star Josh Williams suddenly expresses interest in Maya, she's excited to go on a real date. But Maya's mother isn't on board. Can Maya make her mother see she's ready to grow up and have more freedom? And can she do it before Josh loses interest and moves on to someone who isn't held down by their Guatemalan heritage?

"A fast-paced novel in verse touches on relatable teen struggles. Maya was born in the United States after her parents emigrated from Guatemala. Now a sophomore in high school, she and her mom live alone, without the father who left years ago and whom she can't remember. Gemma, Maya's wealthy Cuban American best friend, left their high school to attend a private school, and now Maya struggles to navigate her absence in the face of casual racism from classmates. The third friend in their trio, Andres, has Peruvian and Mexican parents and is grappling with a same-sex crush. Maya is so engrossed in her own romantic interest in a white boy that she overlooks the difficulties her two friends are facing. Friction with her mom comes to a head when Maya is caught lying. Maya is able to recognize and apologize for her shortcomings while also standing up for herself. She voices her frustration with the racism and classism she experiences as well as the ways that Gemma is treated differently because of her light complexion. The three friends each face very different challenges and offer different perspectives, highlighting the diversity of both Latin American diaspora and individual experiences. The brief page count and attractive spot art should encourage reluctant readers. Spanish words are italicized, something that may support non-Spanish-speaking struggling readers. A strong voice and lyrical prose center the experiences of a Guatemalan American teen."—Kirkus



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|----------------------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|----|------------|-----------|
| What We Did for Love | ENS05865 | 6 | FIC | 8/22 | 14 | \$48.69 | \$36.52 |

Arianne knew Luc before he went away, of course she did. Everyone in Samaroux knows each other. When he returns after five years, the spark between them reignites and becomes something more, but will the war let them be together? As the two teens fall deeply in love, their world starts to crumble around them. German forces, reeling from defeats in the east, are closing in and Luc, desperate to atone for his family's past, wants to join the resistance. Arianne will do anything to keep him safe, but in such a small village, Luc is not alone in his love for Arianne. And Luc's rival just might be a traitor. How far will they go to protect what they believe in? And what will they do for love?