News Release

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Los Angeles Author Ryane Nicole Granados Debuts "The Aves"

A New Middle Grade Novel Celebrates the Hidden Neighborhoods of L.A.

Winner of the 2023 Leapfrog Global Fiction Prize

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, September 10, 2024 — Inspired by a childhood in South Central Los Angeles, award-winning author Ryane Nicole Granados has released a new middle grade novel, *The Aves*, to bring the avenues of Los Angeles to life through the fictional chronicles of a young Black girl.

"I feel like Los Angeles is often defined by media stereotypes," says Granados. "The parts of L.A. that are often overlooked are the simpler narratives happening on numbered streets where the Hollywood sign is nothing more than distant lettering in the sky."

With her coming-of-age story, Granados hopes to depict Los Angeles in a new sense of smallness and fragility through the perspective of Zora Neale Rebecca Hunter.

Plenty of things in Zora's life would seem strange to others, but they're perfectly normal to her. Her mother's peculiar behaviors around germs, or parties, or names. Her father, who Zora rarely sees, disappearing among the stars when he's not with them. Her role in explaining things to her younger sister, like how to behave at the hair salon or whether Santa is real. Her neighborhood, which is often a one-way street with an entrance but no exit. But Zora doesn't want normal. She wants more: to do more, to see more, and to be more.

Zora's growing up, and as she's getting older, she's seen how her world is transformed by the residents of the Aves, the U-shaped borough that is her neighborhood in South Los Angeles. In the creatively charged era of the late 1980s, she learns to navigate life the same way she navigates the intertwined streets – by telling stories, avenue by avenue, of the things she's learned. About her dreams for the future. About girlhood, about sisterhood, and most importantly, about her neighborhood, the Aves.

To local author Ryane Nicole Granados, the city of L.A. is not just a gridlock.

"It's tiny flowers breaking through hard cement, it's ice cream trucks in November, and it's neighborhoods like the Aves that more closely resemble small towns made up of dynamic characters," she says.

The Aves is now available for order as an eBook and paperback on Amazon.

About Ryane Nicole Granados:

Ryane Nicole Granados is a Los Angeles native whose writing finds its roots in her love of community. She is inspired to write stories of survival that magnify the marginalized while also unearthing the splendor of second chances.

Ryane earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University, Los Angeles and she was named the 2021 Established Writer and Individual Arts Fellow by the California Arts Council. Her work has been featured in various publications including Pangyrus, The Manifest-Station, High Country News, The Atticus Review, and LA Parent Magazine. Her storytelling has also been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and showcased in KPCC's live series Unheard LA.

In addition to her longstanding commitment to writing and teaching, Ryane has served as the Chapters Director for the literary non-profit, Women Who Submit (WWS): an organization empowering women and non-binary writers to submit their work for publication. Currently, she is also the co-managing editor for the forthcoming WWS anthology, *Transformation*. Previous WWS anthologies have been featured on the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses Year End List of Hybrid Works, Anthologies & Children's Books.

When not writing or teaching, Ryane can be found transporting her children to school, sports fields, band practices, or playdates. As a mother of five, she views preserving the aspirations of adolescents as an act of social justice. Connect with Ryane Nicole Granados at ryanenicolegranados.com.

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