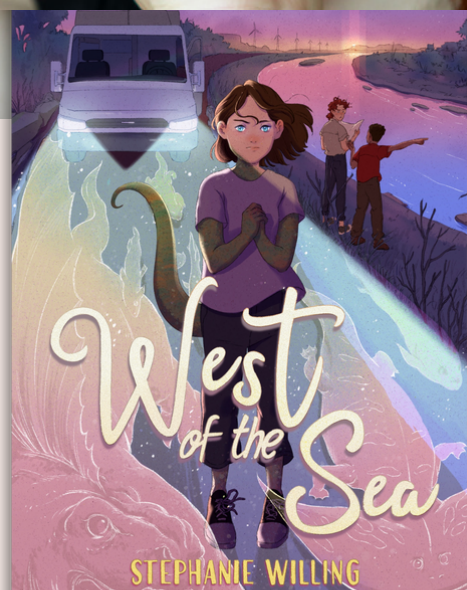




# Stephanie Willing

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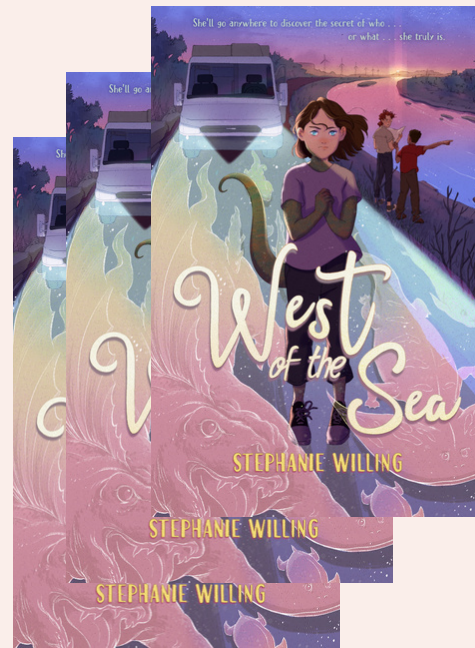
**MEDIA KIT & INTERVIEW PACKAGE**

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*West of the Sea* is a contemporary fantasy for kids ages 8-12. If *A Wrinkle in Time* took place on a highway in Texas, it would be this book.

Haven West is seeing dinosaurs in her backyard. And ever since she saw her mother looking reptilian, she has more questions than answers. When her mother disappears, Haven's search leads to her own transformation into something monstrous. Haven embarks on a trip across Texas with her big sister, Margie, and new friend Rye to find her mother--and the truth about her family.

Exploring themes of emotional honesty, parents with mental illness, and queerness, *West of the Sea* is a fantastical adventure for anyone who has ever felt they had to hide who they really are.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephanie Willing is a children's book author and audiobook narrator who has been crafting stories since she was old enough to hold a pencil. She loves to look for magic hidden in the everyday world, and she will never be able to choose a favorite between unicorns or science.

Stephanie is a mom to two young children, she loves Tex-Mex food, and she never skips a chance to visit the dinosaurs at the American Museum of Natural History. She lives in New Jersey with her family, and she identifies as bisexual.

She holds an MFA in Writing for Young People from Lesley University. She is represented by Alexandra Levick at Writers House.



*Maybe home was found moment by moment*

# BOOK SELL SHEET

West of the Sea by Stephanie Willing

Genre: Middle Grade

Price: \$18.99 USD (Hardcover)

Pages: 352

ISBN: 9780593465578

Publication Date: August 15, 2023



**Synopsis:** Paleontology-loving Haven West and her older sister, Margie, have hardly talked with their mom since she retreated into a deep depression. Each morning Haven wonders if it's going to be a "good" or "bad" day, and the only thing that seems to occupy her mom is collecting fossils for her bone garden.

But one night, after an ominous moonlight heart-to-heart, her mom disappears—right before Haven discovers she's inherited a monstrous family trait. It turns out that she is the latest in a long line of cryptids, a past her mom has been hiding. Suddenly, the Texas terrain is full of ghostly dinosaur silhouettes and Haven is breaking out in scales at all the wrong moments. Even worse, she doesn't know whom she can trust with this information.

Since the only person who could guide her through this has vanished, Haven sets off on the road trip of a lifetime with Margie and their new friend Rye in tow. Together, they're determined to find her mom and finally get some answers, hopefully before Haven's secret is revealed...



## Formats Available

- Hardcover
- eBook
- Audiobook

## Available on:

- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble
- IndieBound
- And other major retailers

## Worldwide distribution

For more information, please visit:  
[www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

## EDITORIAL REVIEWS

*"Willing's sparkling debut incorporates profound family dynamics, ghostly dinosaurs, a shape-shifting cryptid, and Celtic mythology, culminating in a suspenseful, innovative read."*—**Publishers Weekly**, starred review

*"Intriguing mythology with a prehistoric twist and an endearing family focus."*—**Kirkus Reviews**

*"Part road trip adventure, part family reckoning, Willing's debut ambitiously approaches loss, mental illness, identity, neurodivergence, and adolescence and executes them with compassion and depth."*—**Booklist**

*"This is a coming-of-age story for tweens who love mythology and fossils, that shows how growing up is always going to be awkward—but no one is alone in that transition. Willing gives clues to Haven's quest not only to find her mom, but to discover how she fits in her family."* —**School Library Journal**

*"In characters like Haven, readers discover a new, refreshing superheroine needed by readers of all ages and backgrounds."* —**Southern Review of Books**

## BLURBS

*"This book has a heart as big as the ocean. I chuckled. I cried. I ached in the best of ways. In her debut, Willing spins a gorgeous tale of the storms we weather in our families and ourselves. She is throwing you a rope—a rope you won't regret catching."* —Bree Barton, author of *Zia Erases the World*

*"There's a new cryptid in town! This wildly imaginative exploration of a troubled, loving family with a mysterious ancestry will have you rooting for anyone who has ever had to hide their true selves."* — Tracey Baptiste, best-selling author of *The Jumbies* and *Moko Magic: Carnival Chaos*

*"This story is a gift to all the kids who've ever felt strange or "monstrous" and alone. WEST OF THE SEA calls us to embrace and welcome the wonderfully weird parts of ourselves."*—Robin Gow, author of *Dear Mothman* and *A Million Quiet Revolutions*

*"An action-packed, heart-squeezing journey featuring charming characters and a sly sense of humor. Given all the fossils it digs up, WEST OF THE SEA is a fittingly timeless story about change, about growth, and about the search for self. Not to mention my favorite peacock in all of literary history."*  
— Nat Cassidy, author of *Nestlings* and *Mary*

## ■ SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What kind of research did you do for the paleontological elements of the book?
2. There's a cryptid in this book referred to as a "kitskara." Is that from an existing mythology, or did you invent it?
3. Haven's mother isn't just depressed--she's also not completely human! What are you exploring with that idea?
4. The concept of being honest about your feelings and who you are comes up a lot in your book. Is that always the best policy?
5. What do you want kids to take away from this book?



## For rights inquiries, contact:

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*And that's when I saw the dimetrodon in the vegetable garden.*



[www.stephaniewillingwrites.com](http://www.stephaniewillingwrites.com)



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