

We live in a world of many. So many channels, so many websites, so many blogs, so many things to do and eat and see and remember. And so many books. As a writer, I work hard not to think about publishing while I'm working. I try to ignore the very existence of editors and readers and (I'm sorry, but I have to do it) librarians, because if I think about those people, I picture them simply surrounded by books and I think, "How can my book possibly exist among all of those others? I should probably quit now and eat a bunch of chocolate instead."

Even after *Wonder Show* was finished and safe in the hands of my wonderful editor, Kate O'Sullivan, I worried about it getting lost in the fray. Even when I saw the beautiful jacket art by Evan B. Harris, I worried that no one would notice it. Even when the very kind Laini Taylor and Daniel Wallace and Tim Wynne-Jones offered words of praise in the early days, I worried that other readers would disagree. I am, apparently, the worrisome sort. When my book was published, it felt like I had taken something very fragile—a baby, perhaps, or an extremely young puppy—and wrapped it gently in blankets and set it, ever so carefully, in the middle of a six-lane freeway. I held my breath for the longest time.

And what an utterly joyful thing it is to find out that I didn't need to worry at all, to hear that the Morris committee chose *Wonder Show* as one of the fine finalists for this year's award. I am so honored, and so intensely grateful to Kate and Evan and Laini and Daniel and Tim, and also to everyone at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt who took such care with my book and helped me bring it to life. I'd like to extend my congratulations, as well, to my

fellow nominees—to be among such a gifted group of writers is both heady and humbling stuff.

Thank you to the Associates of the Boston Public Library, who enabled the creation of the first draft of *Wonder Show*. Thank you to my family, who let me work around them to get the book finished. And thank you especially to those on the Morris committee, to everyone at YALSA, and to librarians everywhere who work so tirelessly to give books to readers, and readers to books.