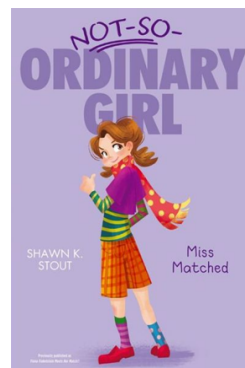
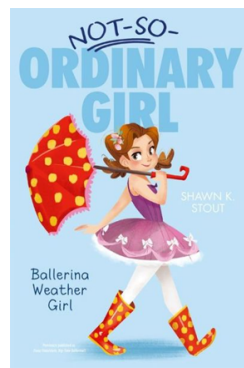
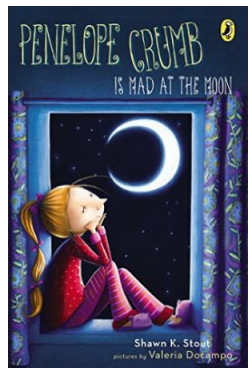
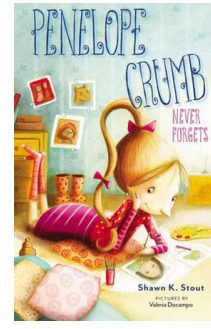
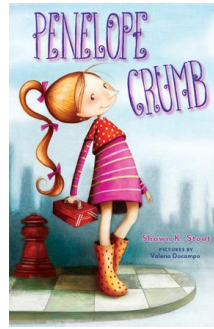
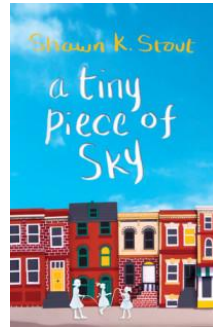


# Shawn K. Stout, Author of middle-grade books for young readers

## Media Kit

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### All middle-grade book titles by Shawn K. Stout:

***The Impossible Destiny of Cutie Grackle.*** Peachtree Books, 2022. Hardcover  
ISBN: 978-1682633205

***A Tiny Piece of Sky.*** Philomel, 2016. Hardcover ISBN: 978-0399173431

***Penelope Crumb.*** Philomel, 2012. Hardcover: ISBN: 978-0142424780; Paperback  
ISBN: 978-0142424780

***Penelope Crumb Never Forgets.*** Philomel, 2013. Hardcover ISBN: 978-0399257292;  
Paperback ISBN: 978-0147510099

***Penelope Crumb Finds Her Luck.*** Philomel, 2013. Hardcover ISBN: 978-0399162541;  
Paperback ISBN: 978-0142426371

***Penelope Crumb Is Mad at the Moon.*** Philomel, 2015. Hardcover ISBN: 978-0399162558; Paperback ISBN: 978-0142426388

***Ballerina Weathergirl.*** (Not-So-Ordinary Girl series, book#1). Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2013. ISBN: 978-1442474024

***Miss Matched.*** (Not-So-Ordinary Girl series, book#2). Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2013. ISBN: 978-1442474048

***Don't Chicken Out.*** (Not-So-Ordinary Girl series, book#3). Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2013. ISBN: 978-1416971115

## Author Bios



### Long Bio

Shawn K. Stout (she/her) is the author of several acclaimed books for young readers, including the Penelope Crumb series (named a Bank Street College Best Children's Book and named in list of Top 50 Books for Children by [Ireland's Independent newspaper](#)), the Not-So-Ordinary Girl books, and the historical novel, *A Tiny Piece of Sky*, which was named a Bank Street College Best Children's Book of 2016. Her new middle grade novel, *The Impossible Destiny of Cutie Grackle*, was released in May 2022. Her next middle-grade novel, *Anatomy of Lost Things*, is slated to be released in Fall 2024. Shawn is a science writer at the National Institutes of Health and holds an M.F.A. in writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives with her family in Maryland. Visit her at [www.shawkstout.com](http://www.shawkstout.com).

### Shorter Bio

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### Very Short Bio

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High-resolution image. (300 dpi) Photo credit: Kap2ure Creative Co.

## Shawn K. Stout – Contact Information

### Publicity Inquiries

For *The Impossible Destiny of Cutie Grackle*, email Sara DiSalvo, Senior Publicist, Holiday House/Peachtree Publishing Company at [sdisalvo@holidayhouse.com](mailto:sdisalvo@holidayhouse.com).

For all other inquiries, email Shawn at [shawn@shawnkstout.com](mailto:shawn@shawnkstout.com).

### Website and Social Media

Website: [www.shawnkstout.com](http://www.shawnkstout.com)

Twitter: @shawnkstout

Instagram: @shawnkstout

## Books

### *The Impossible Destiny of Cutie Grackle*



By Shawn K. Stout

Illustrations/Cover artwork by Alona Millgram

Peachtree Publishing Co, 2022

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1682633205

Ages 9-12

Ten-year-old Cutie Grackle knows almost nothing about her family history, but she has no trouble believing it includes a curse. It isn't until five ravens start following her that she worries much about it, though. She's too busy trying to trick her stomach into feeling full and keeping tabs on the bewildered uncle she lives with. But when those ravens bring her a trinket that pulls Cutie into a vision from her family's past, the truth is impossible to deny. As other trinkets and memories follow, Cutie learns not just that the curse exists, but that it's her destiny to do what her long-lost mother could not: break it.

#### **Praise for Cutie:**

"A compelling hybrid tale of realistic survival and supernatural adventure; fans of Kate DiCamillo will enjoy the style of writing in this unique middle grade novel."—**School Library Journal**

"Told primarily through Cutie's unsparing point of view (with occasional asides from the ravens) and fully at home in its Appalachian setting, the novel treats poverty, loss, and the magical with matter-of-fact acceptance. . . . An intriguing story from an author who deserves more acclaim."—**Kirkus**

#### **Reviews**

"Navigating sensitive topics like unequal food access, disabilities, and the loss of one's parents, the approachable adventure novel *The Impossible Destiny of Cutie Grackle* conveys empathy for both people and nature."**—Foreword Reviews**

"Cutie is a practical and intuitive narrator, picking up on clues the ravens leave her and making astute observations about her life in poverty and the factors that keep her there. Stout depicts the tumultuous circumstances of Cutie's life sensitively. . . ."—**The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

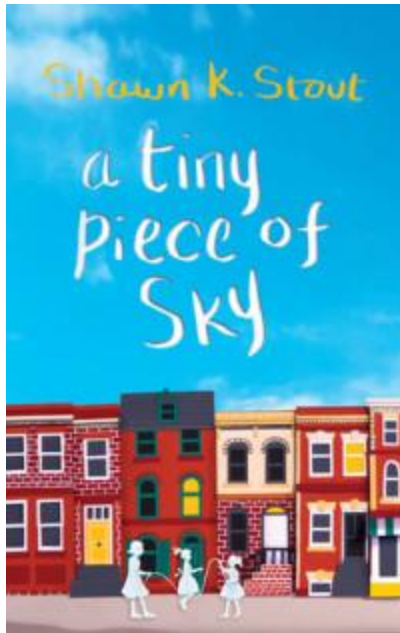
"Cutie Grackle is an authentic, enchanting, big-hearted character brave enough to believe in the impossible. She'll make you believe in it too." – **NATALIE LLOYD, New York Times bestselling author of *A Snicker of Magic* and *Over the Moon***



High-Resolution Image (300 dpi).



## *A Tiny Piece of Sky*



**By Shawn K. Stout**

**Philomel/Penguin Random House, 2016**

**ISBN: 978-0399173431**

**Ages 9-12**

World War II is coming in Europe. At least that's what Frankie Baum heard on the radio. But from her small town in Maryland, in the wilting summer heat of 1939, the war is a world away.

Besides, there are too many other things to think about: first that Frankie's father up and bought a restaurant without telling anyone and now she has to help in the kitchen, peeling potatoes and washing dishes, when she'd rather be racing to Wexler's Five and Dime on her skates. Plus her favorite sister, Joanie Baloney, is away for the summer and hasn't been answering any of Frankie's letters.

But when some people in town start accusing her father of being a German spy, suddenly the war arrives at Frankie's feet and she can think of nothing else.

Could the rumors be true? Frankie must do some spying of her own to try to figure out her father's secrets and clear his good name. What she discovers about him surprises everyone but is nothing compared to what she discovers about the world.

In a heartfelt, charming, and insightful novel that is based on true events, Shawn K. Stout weaves a story about family secrets, intolerance, and coming of age that will keep readers guessing until the end.

### **Praise for A Tiny Piece of Sky:**

“Through warm, funny characters, Shawn Stout builds a riveting bridge from the past that sheds light on today. Wholly memorable.”—**Rita Williams-Garcia, Coretta Scott King Author Award winner for *P.S. Be Eleven***

“Shawn Stout's Frankie Baum is that rare creation: a character so real, so true, we don't just feel we know her—we are her. Irrepressible Frankie meets issues like prejudice and loyalty head on, in a story both highly entertaining and deeply thought-provoking. She may be #3 in her family, but she'll be #1 in the hearts of all who read this book.”—**Tricia Springstubb, author of *What Happened on Fox Street***

“At turns hilarious, at turns heartbreaking, Shawn Stout’s story shows us the damage that a whisper campaign can do to a family and a community, and at the same time shows us, each of us, a way to find our hearts. Frankie Baum is a hero from a distant time and yet a hero for all times, the kind of hero who never gets old. I loved this book from the very beginning to the very end.”—**Kathi Appelt, author of the National Book Award finalist & Newbery Honor book *The Underneath***

"Stout uses an archly chummy direct address at several points, successfully and humorously breaking up tension in this clear-eyed look at bad behavior by society....Successfully warmhearted and child-centered."—**Kirkus Reviews**

"Through Frankie's thoughtful insights, Stout addresses injustices such as racism and xenophobia without turning didactic...the conclusion is a realistic mix of bittersweet and heartwarming."—**Publishers Weekly**

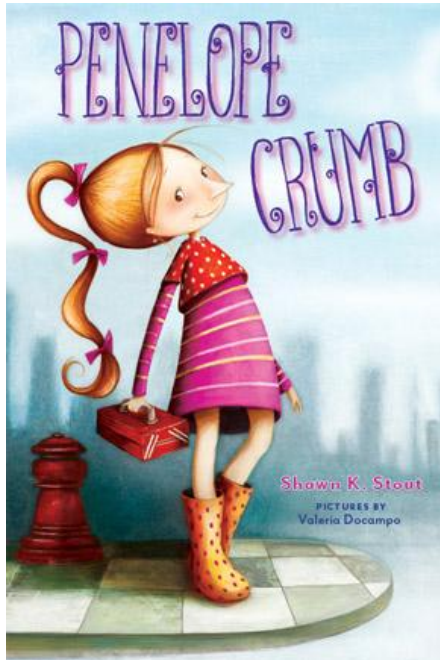
"Fans of Augusta Scattergood’s *Glory Be* as well as those of Jeanne Birdsall’s *Penderwicks* series will enjoy this slice of history. A solid piece of historical fiction to add to middle grade collections."—**School Library Journal**

"Tackling race, social justice, and even death, this well-paced novel will find the right audience among readers wanting fairness with their historical fiction."—**BCCB**

"Young teens will enjoy Frankie’s spirit and humor while learning a little bit about people and prejudice along the way."—**VOYA**

"In this coming-of-age story, Frankie sees people for who they really are, despite skin color or nationality. Readers who enjoy historical fiction will gravitate to this story."—**School Library Connection**

## Penelope Crumb (Book 1)



By **Shawn K. Stout**

Illustrations by **Valeria Docampo**

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0142424780

Paperback ISBN: 978-0142424780

Ages 6-10

Penelope Crumb is no ordinary fourth grader. And when she discovers that she \*gasp\* has a big nose, she's initially devastated. But when her mother lets her know that she has the same nose as her Grandpa, Penelope perks up. And then she perks up even more when she finds out that Grandpa isn't dead like she expected—he's just gone. And she decides that it's her job to find him. A sweet and funny story with tons of heart and hijinx about Penelope using her big nose to bring her family together.

### **Praise for Penelope Crumb:**

Chosen as a **Bankstreet Best Book** of 2013!

"In this auspicious series launch...Stout (the Fiona Finkelstein books) deals with serious topics, such as the hole left in Penelope's life by her father's

death, with a light touch, giving Penelope a memorable narrative voice full of quirks.” - **Publisher’s Weekly**

“Told in a fresh, amusing first-person voice, Penelope is part adventurer, part private investigator and part therapist as she tries to piece together the missing parts of her family’s story. Fans of Clementine and Ramona will cheer as new friend Penelope finds what she is looking for.” - **Kirkus**

“...readers who enjoy this genre will be pleased to make her [Penelope’s] acquaintance.” - **The Horn Book**

“Stout tackles surprisingly serious family problems from the honest viewpoint of a child...Penelope will delight children and parents alike.” -**Shelf Awareness (starred review)**

“Stout handles Penelope, her nose, and her relationships with friends and family with sensitivity and humor.” - **Booklist**

“Penelope is an intrepid heroine with a unique and frequently amusing narrative voice...her longing for a connection to her dad’s family is poignantly believable, and her relationship with her teenaged brother is also both credible and humorous. This would be a natural tie-in with a unit on family history or a satisfying readaloud selection, and kids who have outgrown the Junie B. Jones series will enjoy Penelope’s equally comical narrative style.” - **Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books (Recommended)**

“Readers will enjoy meeting self-assured Penelope...It’s refreshing to find a protagonist who doesn’t define herself through the remarks of her classmates...Filled with heart-felt sentiments about family dynamics, the book also contains snippets of humor through the descriptions of the behavior of Penelope’s teacher and her mother.” - **International Reading Association, Reading Today**

“...a sweet and wacky romp...Author Shawn Stout mines Penelope’s sass without making her too precocious or tween, sketching a natural heir apparent to tweens like Judy Moody or Ramona.” - **Austin American-Statesman**

“Fans of Ramona and Judy Moody are sure to find a kinship with Penelope.” - **Library Media Connection (Recommended)**

“This light-hearted, cleverly crafted novel is underpinned by tender, heart-wrenching truths about family, loss, and forgiveness—a ‘must read’ indeed.” – **ReaderKidz**

## Penelope Crumb Never Forgets (Book 2)



By **Shawn K. Stout**

Illustrations by **Valeria Docampo**

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0399257292

Paperback ISBN: 978-0147510099

Ages 6-10

Penelope Crumb’s best friend Patsy Cline Roberta Watson is becoming best friends with another girl in class, so Penelope decides she needs to win her back. Compliments and presents fail—and Penelope is afraid she’ll lose Patsy Cline forever, so she decides to swipe Patsy’s necklace and start a secret museum to remember all the people she cares about, in case they leave her too. But stealing turns out not to be the best plan, when Grandpa Felix calls the police about his missing camera, forcing Penelope to confess. Now she’s lost both Patsy Cline AND her museum. But in the end she makes a huge personal sacrifice to repair her friendship with Patsy and finds out that drawing pictures—what she likes to do best!—is a way to make a personal museum that doesn’t involve any sort of stealing.

**Praise for Penelope Crumb Never Forgets (Book 2):**

Chosen as a **Bankstreet Best Book** of 2014!

“Penelope Crumb is back with the same spunk and quirky narration that won readers over in her eponymous debut...Readers will root for and relate to this fresh-voiced young heroine who joins the likes of Ramona, Judy Moody, and Clementine.” – **Kirkus**

“Penelope comes more into her own as a character in this breezy, first-person chapter book...” –**Horn Book**

“The warmth and humor of the characters make this an enjoyable read.” –  
**Children’s Literature**

### Penelope Crumb Finds Her Luck (Book 3)



By Shawn K. Stout

Illustrations by Valeria Docampo

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0399162541

Paperback ISBN: 978-0142426371

Ages 6-10

In the third book in this series, all Penelope Crumb wants is to be someone’s “Favorite.” She’d thought she was her Grandpa Felix’s Favorite, and her mom’s Favorite, and her friend Patsy Cline’s Favorite, but she’s starting to realize that maybe she’s not. And it’s all The Bad Luck’s fault. So since Penelope’s a superb artist, she comes up with a plan—she’s going to be the boss of the mural her school is making at the Portwaller’s Blessed Home for the Aged, which will make her into everyone’s Favorite. And maybe it’ll frighten The Bad Luck away. But things don’t quite go as planned there either. And when an old woman named Nila promises to help Penelope find her luck so everyone will like her again, things get even worse! In the end, Penelope finds out that

friendships aren't about luck—and that it doesn't matter if you're anyone's Favorite when there are tons of people who love you.

**Praise for Penelope Crumb Finds Her Luck (Book 3):**

Named among the **Horn Book's 2012–2013 Yearbook Superlatives!**

“In the third book in this charming series...Black-and-white line drawings help bring out Penelope Crumb's quirky and endearing personality. Fans of Clementine and Ramona Quimby will feel right at home with her.” – **School Library Journal**

“The first-person narrative magnifies the wacky humor of Penelope's unique observations and phrasings, and readers can compare her (not-always-reliable) perspective with that shown in the occasional spot art.” – **Horn Book**

“Stout populates her story with appealing characters who shine in both snappy dialogue and Penelope's wry yet winsome first-person narration...Although full of candies and melting Popsicles, this sweet tale is refreshing rather than cloying.” – **Kirkus**

“...Stout skillfully shows how people recover from misunderstandings, disagreements, and even a run of bad luck. Docampo's illustrations provide a sweet counterpoint to Penelope's amusingly prickly personality.” – **Booklist**

## Penelope Crumb Is Mad at the Moon (Book 4)



**By Shawn K. Stout**

**Illustrations by Valeria Docampo**

**Hardcover ISBN: 978-0399162558**

**Paperback ISBN: 978-0142426388**

**Ages 6-10**

Penelope Crumb is not having a very good week. First she accidentally comes to school dressed as an elephant (dress like an animal day is next week), and then in gym class she's forced to square dance. With a boy who is known as Lippy Gordon because of how sweaty his lip is. All the time. Penelope is mortified. And then is extra mortified when she discovers that Lippy doesn't want to dance with her either!

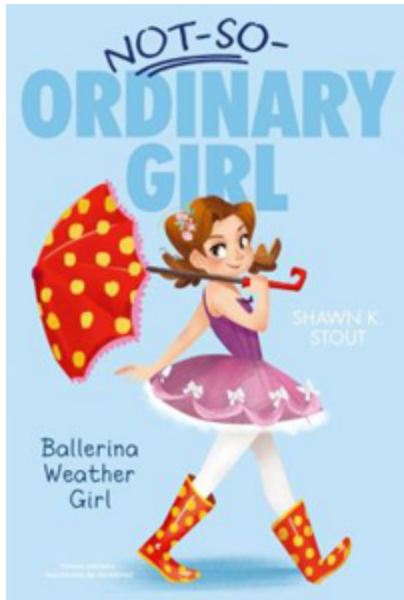
When Grandpa tells Penelope that he sings to the moon when he's having trouble, Penelope grabs onto this plan. But sometimes you need more than the moon to fix things.

### **Praise for Penelope Crumb Is Mad at the Moon (Book 4):**

“Stout’s series about this tween’s worries, insecurities, quirkiness and wit deserves a space in library collections looking for precocious, independent girl characters who might not be perfect but are something else: realistic.”—**School Library Journal**



## Ballerina Weathergirl (Not-so-Ordinary Girl Series Book 1)



By Shawn K. Stout

ISBN: 978-1442474024

Ages 6-10

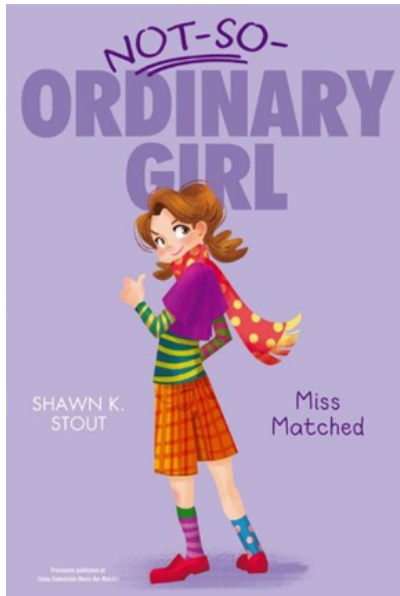
In this first book of the series, nine-year-old Fiona has a chance to become a big-time ballerina—to dance on a real stage with a real curtain—and the only thing standing in her way is a flat out awful case of stage fright.

### **Praise for Ballerina Weathergirl (Book 1):**

“Stout gives her heroine’s story an abundance of gentle humor and friendship...middle grade girls who dream of dancing on stage in sparkling costumes will happily embrace Fiona and her adventures.” – **Kirkus**

“Fiona is an enjoyable, lively character, and Stout’s peppy, engaging narrative relates her challenges and successes with humor and sympathy...readers will appreciate Fiona’s experiences, and the abundant ballet details will appeal to aspiring dancers.” – **Booklist**

## Miss Matched (Not-so-Ordinary Girl Series Book 2)



By Shawn K. Stout

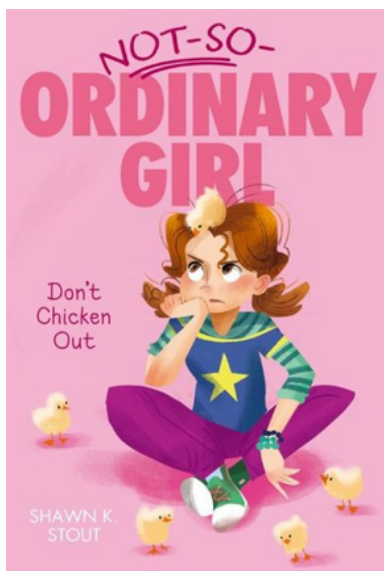
*Miss Matched.*

ISBN: 978-1442474048

Ages 6-10

In addition to ballet, Fiona Finkelstein is out to prove she has other talents. It's a flat-out fact that the world needs more love, and Fiona is just the person to make some excellent romantic matches—or so she thinks. Fiona sets out to start a club with her friends and classmates to pair up pals and even teachers...but in the end, learns that she is much better at match-BREAKING.

## Don't Chicken Out (Not-so-Ordinary Girl Series Book 3)



By Shawn K. Stout

ISBN: 978-1416971115

Ages 6-10

Fiona lands herself in a fairground fluster in this conclusion to the mischievous and charming Not-So-Ordinary Girl trilogy.

Fiona is tired of hearing “no” from everyone. Especially when it is followed by: “You’re not old enough.” Can she go all the way to California by herself to visit her mom? “Not on your life,” says Dad. Can she do something more exciting than handing out maps at the Great Ordinary Fair along with the rest of Mr. Bland’s class? “Not until next year, when you’re in fifth grade,” answers Mr. Bland.

Fiona sets out to prove that she is, in fact, old enough to do things on her own—and ends up babysitting chickens in the fair’s poultry pavilion. It’s not easy being trustworthy and mature, especially when nobody is paying attention. But when the feathers start to fly at the Great Ordinary Fair, Fiona sticks her neck out for a new friend (and a bunch of chickens) and learns a few things about herself and what it means to take responsibility, even when things go really wrong.

## School and Library Programs

You can find a complete list of program descriptions and presentations, as well as speaking fees, on my website at: <https://shawnkstout.com/for-teachers/>

### **For all ages: Meet the Author**

An engaging, interactive presentation highlighting one of my books.

### **For all ages: The Writing Process “Road Trip”**

This presentation is perfect for individual or multiple classrooms, or entire schools, and focuses on the “road trip” of the writing process—starting from a messy idea and arriving at the destination of a finished book.

### **For adults: Workshops and Webinars**

#### **The Great and Terrible First Draft (or The First Pancakes Never Turn Out Right)**

Description: Let’s face it, for most of us, the first draft is ugly. In this session, you’ll learn to embrace your first draft and dig deep to uncover the story you intended to tell. You’ll learn the secrets of how successful authors deal with their own first drafts, and you’ll get the practical tools you need to help you revise and transform your early draft into a thing of beauty.

#### **The Writing Circus: Juggling Work, Family, Deadlines, and Four Running Chainsaws**

Description: Squeezing writing into an already busy life may seem at best a circus routine, and at worst, impossible. In this session, you’ll learn some guilt-free tips to help you find time for writing each day while balancing everything else.