

Tracey Baptiste

Short bio (100 words)

Tracey Baptiste is a New York Times bestselling author, best known for the creepy Caribbean Jumbies trilogy. She is also the author of MINECRAFT: THE CRASH, AFRICAN ICONS: TEN PEOPLE WHO SHAPED HISTORY, and the graphic nonfiction ROSA PARKS AND CLAUDETTE COLVIN: CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES. Tracey writes fiction and nonfiction picture books, middle grade, young adult, and graphic novels. She is a former elementary school teacher, curriculum designer, and editor. She currently writes full time and teaches in the low residency creative writing program at [Lesley University](https://www.lesley.edu/). Tracey travels for school visits anywhere in the world. Contact her at www.traceybaptiste.com.

Longer bio (350 words)

Tracey Baptiste is a New Jersey based New York Times bestselling author, best known for the The Jumbies Trilogy: THE JUMBIES, RISE OF THE JUMBIES, and THE JUMBIE GOD'S REVENGE. The horror-tinged series draws on Caribbean folklore and mythology from Tracey's native Trinidad and Tobago. Tracey also writes non-fiction and historical books such as AFRICAN ICONS: TEN PEOPLE WHO SHAPED HISTORY and BECAUSE CLAUDETTE. Her popular novel MINECRAFT: THE CRASH debuted at #5 on the New York Times Bestseller list in July, 2018. She writes fiction and nonfiction picture books, middle grade, young adult, and graphic novels.

Tracey's books have received starred reviews from School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and Kirkus and have been named in best books of the year roundups for NPR, Kirkus, School Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly, the New York Public Library, Brightly, We Need Diverse Books, and Bank Street. They have also been on shortlists for several awards such as the Jane Adams Children's Book Award, the Massachusetts Book Award, and the Texas Topaz Reading List with a unanimous recommendation. Her debut novel, ANGEL'S GRACE, was named a Kansas NEA Reading Circle List Junior Title.

Tracey has wanted to write since she was three years old and received an oversized illustrated copy of GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES. She tried penning her first novel at age 12, but began writing in earnest after she moved to the United States at 15. Inspired by fellow Trinidadian Rosa Guy's young adult novel THE FRIENDS, she decided to write for children. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in English and Comparative Literature at New York University, she fell in love with teaching, earned her Master of Arts in Education from New York University, and worked in elementary schools for several years. She finally returned to writing during her years as an editor at McGraw-Hill. Her first novel, ANGEL'S GRACE was published in 2005. Tracey now writes full-time, though she satisfies her love of teaching as a mentor in the low residency MFA program at [Lesley University](https://www.lesley.edu/) and by doing school and library visits around the world. Contact her at www.traceybaptiste.com.

PUBLICATIONS

“Kiss Me Goodbye” in MAGIC HAS NO BORDERS, Short Story Anthology, *Harper Teen*, 2023

MERMAID AND PIRATE, Picture Book, *Algonquin Young Readers*, 2023

HISTORY HEROES: ROSA PARKS AND CLAUDETTE COLVIN: CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES, Graphic Novel, *First Second*, 2023

“Best Laid Plans” in JOYFUL JOYFUL: STORIES CELEBRATING BLACK VOICES, Short Story Anthology, *Two Hoots*, 2022

BECAUSE CLAUDETTE, Picture Book, *Dial*, 2022

MARLEY AND THE FAMILY BAND, Picture Book, *Random House*, 2022

AFRICAN ICONS: TEN PEOPLE WHO SHAPED HISTORY, Middle Grade nonfiction, *Algonquin*, 2021

LOOKING FOR A JUMBIE, Picture Book, *HarperCollins*, 2021

“Ten” in THE TALK, Short Story Anthology, *Crown Books for Young Readers*, 2020

THE JUMBIE GOD’S REVENGE, Middle Grade novel, *Algonquin*, 2019

“Gravity” in BLACK ENOUGH, Short Story Anthology, *Balzer + Bray*, 2019

MINECRAFT: THE CRASH, Middle Grade novel, *Penguin Random House*, 2018, A New York Times Bestseller

“The Portal to Anywhere” in THE CREATIVITY PROJECT, Educational Anthology, *Little, Brown*, 2018

IF YOU WERE A KID IN THE WILD WEST, Picture Book *Scholastic*, 2018

RISE OF THE JUMBIES, Middle Grade novel, *Algonquin*, 2017

“Ma Laja” in SYCORAX’S DAUGHTERS, Short Story Anthology, *Cedar Grove Publishing*, 2017

THE TOTALLY GROSS HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT, Nonfiction, *Rosen Publishing*, 2016

THE JUMBIES, Middle Grade novel, *Algonquin*, 2015

NELSON MANDELA, Biography, *Rosen Publishing*, 2015

SHARON CREECH, Biography, *Chelsea House Publishers*, 2011

AL GORE, Biography, *Chelsea House Publishers*, 2011

STEPHENIE MEYER, Biography, *Chelsea House Publishers*, 2010

MADELEINE L'ENGLE, Biography, *Chelsea House Publishers*, 2009

OVERCOMING PREJUDICE, Nonfiction, *Chelsea House Publishers*, 2009

BEING A LEADER AND MAKING DECISIONS, Nonfiction, *Chelsea House Publishers*, 2009

JERRY SPINELLI, Biography, *Chelsea House Publishers*, 2009

ANGEL'S GRACE, Young Adult novel, *Simon & Schuster*, 2005



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