

# Stars in Their Eyes



A GRAPHIC NOVEL BY JESSICA WALTON AND AŚKA

Stars in  
Their Eyes



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An Imprint of

 SCHOLASTIC





To Annie Segarra, creator of  
The Future is Accessible shirts,  
and to all disabled activists, artists,  
and content creators who make  
the world a less ableist place.

JESSICA

To Tim and Lincoln — without your  
wise brains and eagle eyes,  
this project would have been lost.  
Along with my sanity. ;)

AŚKA

# NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

I have chosen to use identity-first language (“disabled person”) in this story, rather than person-first language (“person with a disability”), as I don’t use person first for any of my other identities (e.g., I use “nonbinary person,” not “person with nonbinary gender,” and “bisexual person,” not “person with bisexuality”).

My disability is an intrinsic part of who I am and how I experience the world. I am proud to be disabled and to use a word that is connected to not only my identity but also my community and a rights movement fighting for equality, inclusion, and access. *Disabled* is not a dirty word. It’s who I am.



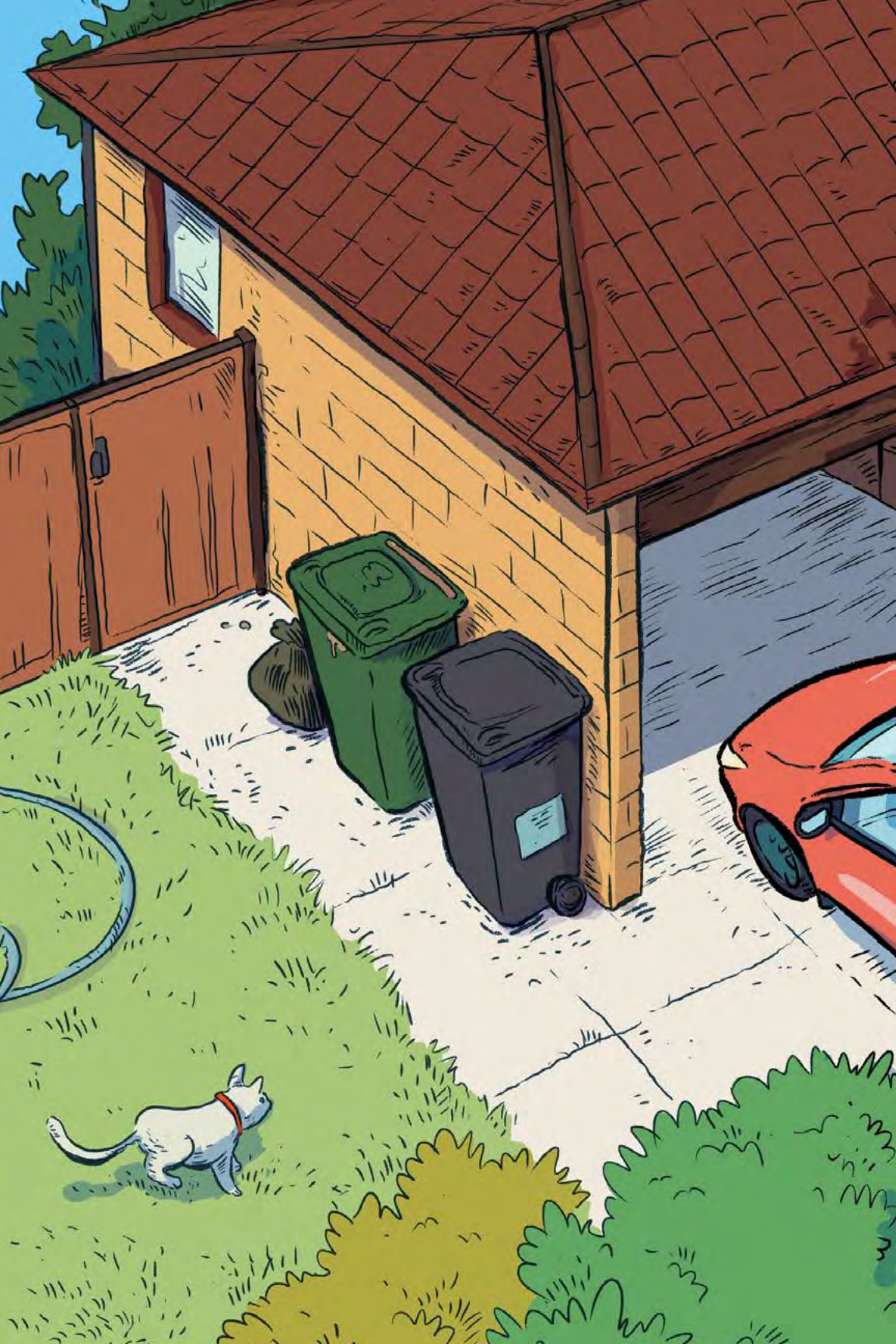
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# CHAPTER 1











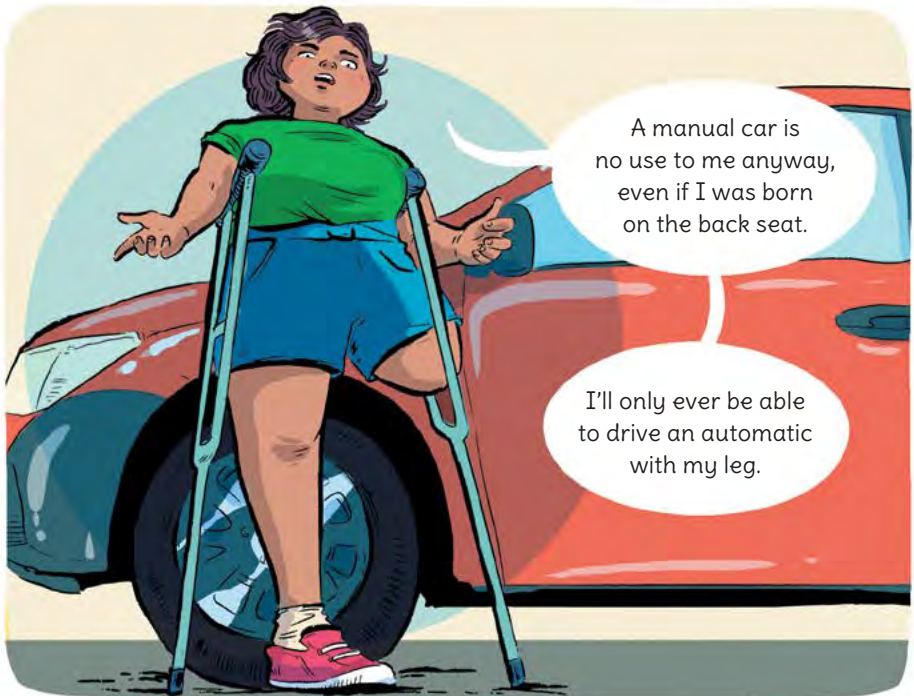
The car was  
deeply traumatized,  
I'm sure.

BWAAAAHH!!  
BWAAAAHH!!!

it's a  
girl!

You know, you  
were conceived on  
the back seat, too.

Mum! What?  
You've never told me that!  
Gross!






So, what are we  
calling this beautiful  
beast?



*The Falcon*  
was a hunk  
of junk.





A blue bunny is suspended from a seatbelt in the back of a car. The bunny is facing away from the viewer, with its ears pointing upwards. Motion lines around the bunny suggest it is swinging or vibrating. The car's interior, including the seat and seatbelt, is visible.

This is going to be so amazing. Think of all the **bonding** we can do!

We've already bonded plenty.



You know what I mean. I feel like we haven't talked properly in ages.







When you're a parent, you can order dinner.

I'll make sure I get preggers at the con, then.



One parent card, coming my way.

MUM    MAISIE



Fine, pho it is.

**MAISIE WINS!**

yes!



So who would you kiss: the heroine, the pilot, the mechanic, or the trooper?

Daydreaming about Sci-fi Wars is your hobby, not mine, Mum.





Who, then?  
Any show or movie.

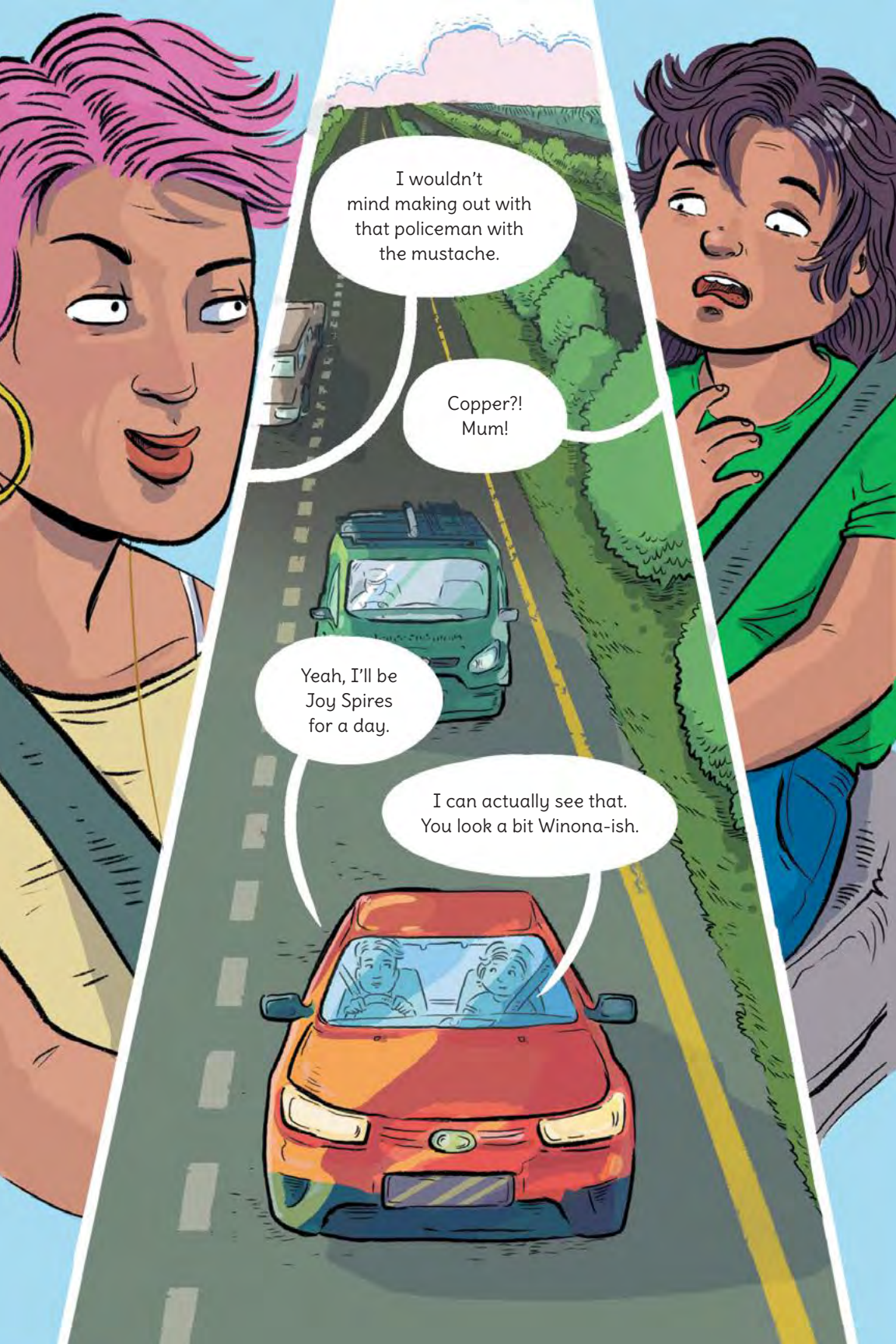


That's easy.  
Bard from *Danger Things!*



Nice. My daughter,  
saving Bard and  
then kissing her.





I wouldn't mind making out with that policeman with the mustache.

Copper?! Mum!

Yeah, I'll be Joy Spires for a day.

I can actually see that. You look a bit Winona-ish.

Maybe I could work in the ice cream shop with Stevie...



Until he falls wildly in love with me and kisses me.

I approve. He's got great hair. And he's good dad material.

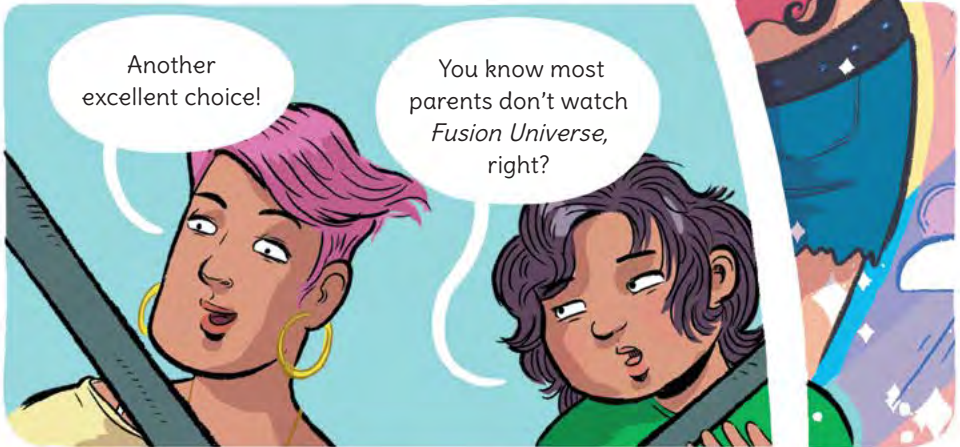


Because you're such a good judge of dad material.

OUCH!

Yeah, sorry. That was uncalled for.









Finally!

I need to stand up and stretch. Everything hurts so much.



I'll go and check in. You stay here and take your drugs.

What kind of parent says that to their teenager?









Your health was my job 24-7 for a while there.

We practically lived at the damn hospital.

Ugh, I know.

I hated that place.

Still, the nurses were nice.





And the movie theatre.



And the meerkat exhibit was the best thing ever.



Yes!

I used to promise we could go and see them if you'd stop thrashing around and let them do your blood tests.





I had so many tricks up my sleeve to convince you to get your shots. Do you remember the song I used to sing?



Oh my GOD!




Mr. Needle, he's your friend, he wants to make you well again! Let him do his job today, he'll make your cancer go away!



It's so BAD!


Hey, it worked! Don't knock Mr. Needle!



Now, you find room 13, and I'll get the bags.


Room 13? It's Friday! You wanna star in a horror movie?

I know! Perfect, right?




And this place has a pool.

Yes! I'm going for a swim before dinner.



Great idea -- it'll be good for your pain.

Or, you know, just fun.



Be careful. Remember Bard, sweetheart.

**MUM!**



If the Demogorgon gets me while I'm swimming...

I'm coming back from the dead to drag you to the Inside Out.



I'll order dinner.

Hey, say it before you go, Maisie.



Ugh, fine.

*I love you.*



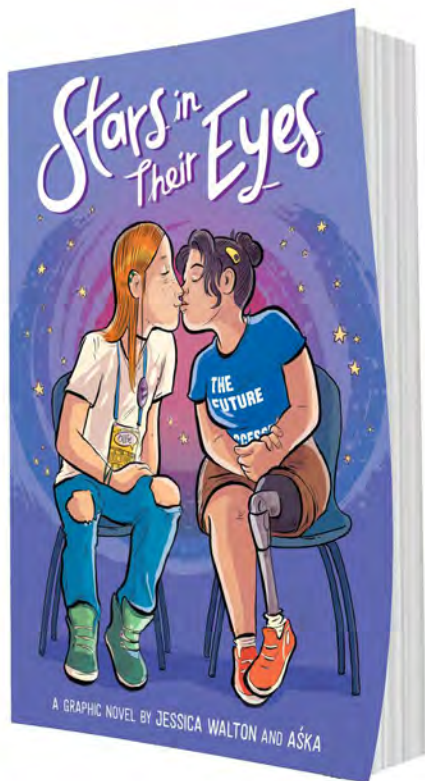
I know.

Gets funnier every time, Mum.



What a dork.

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