

**There's A New Witch in Young Adult Publishing: *Maggie MacCormack and the Witches' Wheel* debuts May 2019**

*Maggie MacCormack and the Witches' Wheel* is a thrilling environmental fantasy about a young girl caught between forces that would destroy the woods she lives in and the ordeals she must face to protect them. In solidarity with organizations that protect people and our planet, author Kaja Blackley is donating 10.5% of his gross sales, in perpetuity, to environmental non-profits, a local food bank and a children's literacy organization.

Toronto, Canada – May 11, 2019

Kaja Blackley began to write *Maggie MacCormack* over a two-year period when he found himself partially paralyzed and unable to work. With only his two index fingers functioning, he set out to realize a story inspired by the birth of his daughter.

“It struck me that there were lots of boys’ adventures that girls enjoyed, like the story of the boy wizard with Coke-bottle glasses who took the world by broomstick; but there wasn’t a girl’s adventure story, especially one featuring a strong girl in a world that brings out that strength, that resonated *as universally*.”

Maggie is a ginger-haired, twelve-year-old orphan who has been passed from one foster family to the next all her life. She never knows where she’ll end up, so she’s become suspicious and very independent.

As the story begins, Maggie is placed yet again into foster care – this time into a much more welcoming family. But Maggie can't shake the feeling that something is a bit off about her new home. She slowly ends up having to toss everything she understood about herself and her life out the window. But by that time, things have gone awry – it’s too late for her to run from the approaching danger.

“*Maggie MacCormack and the Witches' Wheel* can often times be quite charming, while at other times nail-bitingly grim,” said Blackley. “It is a love letter to imagination and to the Earth and her ecosystems.”

*Maggie MacCormack*, though heavy on the magic, is based on a daunting reality: introducing toxins into the environment compromises or destroys entire ecological communities. And for that, there are no magic remedies.

10.5 % gross sales Of *Maggie MacCormack and the Witches' Wheel* will be donated as explained below. (Kaja is not affiliated with the beneficiaries.)

- 2.5% gross will be donated, in perpetuity, to <https://www.sealegacy.org>;
- 2.5% gross will be donated, in perpetuity, to <https://onetreepanted.org>;
- 2.5% gross will be donated, in perpetuity, to the <https://www.barriefoodbank.org>/ in Kaja's community.
- 3% gross will be donated, in perpetuity, to <http://www.childrensbookbank.com/>

Blackley explains why he has set up his own imprint, KB Editions, to publish *Maggie MacCormack and the Witches' Wheel*: "Acquisition editors are known to overlook quality material. Books like J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and The Philosopher Stone*, Frank Herbert's *Dune* and CS Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* were all initially rejected. I would rather put my trust in my prospective readership."

*Maggie MacCormack and the Witches' Wheel* was funded through a successful Indiegogo campaign and is set for release in May.

Help *Maggie* save the environment by purchasing your copy here:

<https://maggiemaccormack.com/>

About Kaja:

Kaja Blackley is a Canadian writer and illustrator. He was named one of the 100 Canadians to Watch by Maclean's. His previous work has been adapted for a Hollywood movie.

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