



***STARLA JEAN*** by Elana K. Arnold; illustrated by A. N. Kang

Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2023

ISBN: 9781250820419 (Trade Paperback)

\*Age Range: 4-7

Grade Range: 1-2 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Printz Honor winner and National Book Award Finalist Elana K. Arnold makes her chapter book debut with this charming story of a girl and her chicken, irresistibly illustrated by A. N. Kang.

### Introducing Starla Jean!

She's full of moxie, clever as a fox, and obsessed with catching a chicken she finds at the park.

When Starla first sees the scrawny bird wandering around, she just knows they're destined for one another. Her dad says, "If you can catch it, you can keep it," and Starla Jean is not one to back down from a challenge.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "This series starter features Starla Jean's exuberant first-person narration, liberally punctuated with dialogue with her family and neighbors. Readers transitioning to early chapter books will appreciate the four short chapters and the limited amount of text per page, wide margins, and ample space between lines of text. Mercy Watson fans will flock to this whimsical new series for developing readers."—[Kirkus Reviews](#), **starred review**

"Generous white space keeps the momentum rising as running text—a single thought, or sometimes even one word, including the chicken's initial squawk—stretches across spreads. A smattering of 'Fun Facts About Chickens' creates a humorously informative closing." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- A Junior Library Guild Selection

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Starla Jean Activity Guide](#)

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Contact Mary Van Akin [mary.vanakin@macmillan.com](mailto:mary.vanakin@macmillan.com)

- [Share this video of Elana K. Arnold on defending the right to read](#)
- [Read Aloud with Elana K. Arnold](#)
- [School Library Journal Chapter Book Series for Transitioning Readers](#)

### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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