Twig are an unlikely pair: Darius is a writer whose only escape is his alter ego, a peregrine falcon named Fury, and Twig is a middle-distance runner striving to get into the raft and set off to face the thundering rapids and the powerful emotions that the river unleashes.

**River Thunder**

Walter Dean Myers 2013-04-23 New York Times bestselling author and Printz Award winner Walter Dean Myers once again connects with Chris Crutcher in this powerful tale of friendship and adventure.

The two boys meet while chasing stories for a school newspaper. Both are reporting on the same story: the town’s worst toboggan race. But what starts as fun and games quickly turns serious when the boys realize that the race is secretly a deadly competition. They soon find themselves in the middle of a dangerous game, with their lives at stake.

Crutcher’s straightforward style and total honesty have earned him an admiring audience among teen readers of all ages. He is known for his bold and original stories that tackle tough issues like family, friendship, and identity. Myers, on the other hand, is celebrated for his ability to write about real people doing their best even when that best isn’t very good. The two authors have collaborated on several books, including the 1998 Newbery Honor Book "Shakespeare Bats Cleanup," which explores the complex dance that is life in a small town. They resonate in a gritty and unflinching portrayal of a day like any other, with ordinary triumphs, heartbreak, and heartache.

The novel “River Thunder” is a testament to the power of friendship and the importance of following your dreams. It’s a story about the challenges of growing up, the choices we make, and the choices others make for us. And it’s a story about the strength and determination it takes to overcome obstacles and achieve our goals.

Crutcher’s superior gifts as a storyteller are on full display in "River Thunder," as he weaves together the threads of tension, drama, and adventure to create a gripping and unforgettable tale. Myers’s contributions add depth and richness to the story, making it a truly remarkable work of literature. Together, these authors have once again created a masterpiece that will leave readers with a sense of awe and wonder.

**Whale Talk**

Jo Knowles 2015-03-10 Does anyone ever see us for who we really are? Jo Knowles’s revelatory novel of interlocking stories peers into the lives of five very different girls—one who is about to fail out of high school, another who is struggling to maintain her grades, a third who is trying to keep her family together, a fourth who is dealing with the loss of a loved one, and a fifth who is trying to find her place in the world.

The girls are each facing their own unique challenges, but they all have one thing in common: they are all searching for something—something that they believe will give their lives meaning and purpose. Each of them has a story to tell, and each of their stories is a glimpse into the depth of their inner world.

Through the lens of these five girls, the novel explores the importance of self-discovery and the power of friendship. It’s a story about the strength of the human spirit and the resilience of the human heart. It’s a story about the complexity of the human experience and the wonder of the human condition.

With "Whale Talk," Jo Knowles has created a novel that is both powerful and poignant. It’s a novel that speaks to the heart and challenges the mind. It’s a novel that reminds us of the beauty and complexity of the human spirit. It’s a novel that will leave readers with a sense of awe and wonder.