

# Jeff Zentner

## Media Kit

### Bio

Jeff Zentner is the author of two New York Times Notable Books: *The Serpent King* and *In the Wild Light*, as well as *Goodbye Days* and *Rayne & Delilah's Midnite Matinee*. Among other honors, he has won the ALA's William C. Morris Award, the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award twice, the International Literacy Association Award, the Whippoorwill Award, the Muriel Becker Award, and been longlisted twice for the Carnegie Medal. He's a two-time Southern Book Prize finalist; and was a finalist for the Indies Choice Award. He was selected as a Publishers Weekly Flying Start and an Indies Introduce pick. His books have been translated into fifteen languages. Before becoming a writer, he was a musician who recorded with Iggy Pop, Nick Cave, and Debbie Harry. He lives in Nashville.



Photo credit: Jeff Zentner

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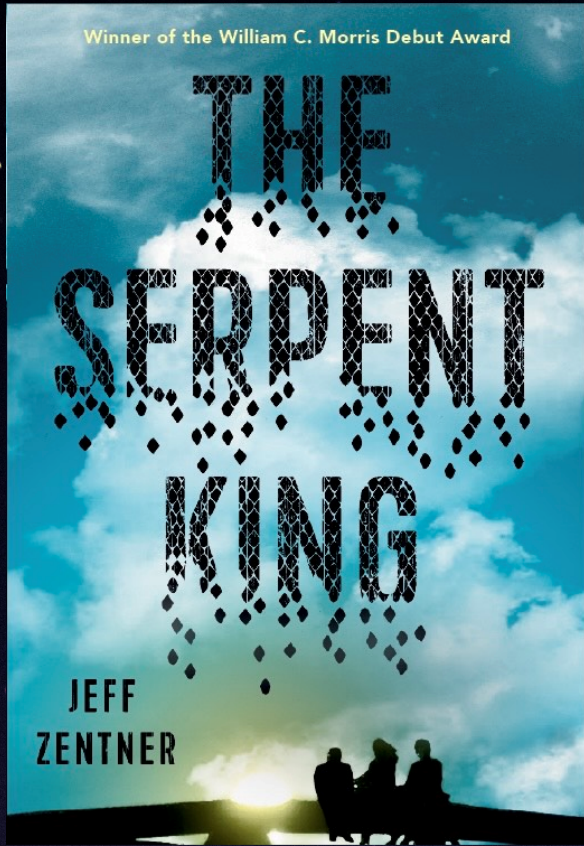
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# Books



## *The Serpent King*

Published March 8, 2016, by Crown Books for Young Readers

**Starred reviews:** Publishers Weekly, Kirkus, BCCB, and Shelf Awareness

**Awards:** *New York Times* Notable Book, ALA's William C. Morris Award, ALAN's Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, International Literacy Association Award, longlisted for the Carnegie Medal, Southern Book Prize finalist, Indies Choice Award finalist

Dill isn't the most popular kid at his rural Tennessee high school. After his father fell from grace in a public scandal that reverberated throughout their small town, Dill became a target. Fortunately, his two fellow misfits and best friends, Travis and Lydia, have his back.

But as they begin their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. His only escapes are music and his secret feelings for Lydia--neither of which he is brave enough to share. Graduation feels more like an ending to Dill than a beginning. But even before then, he must cope with another ending--one that will rock his life to the core.



# Books



## *Goodbye Days*

Published March 7, 2017, by Crown Books for Young Readers

**Starred reviews:** Publishers Weekly, Booklist, and Shelf Awareness

**Awards:** Winner of the Keystone State Book Award, nominated for the Carnegie Medal, longlisted for the UKLA Award, longlisted for the Southern Book Prize, an ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults Top Ten pick

Where are you guys? Text me back. That's the last message Carver Briggs will ever send his three best friends, Mars, Eli, and Blake. He never thought that it would lead to their death.

Now Carver can't stop blaming himself for the accident and even worse, a powerful judge is pressuring the district attorney to open up a criminal investigation.

Luckily, Carver has some unexpected allies: Eli's girlfriend, the only person to stand by him at school; Dr. Mendez, his new therapist; and Blake's grandmother, who asks Carver to spend a "goodbye day" together to share their memories and say a proper farewell.

Soon the other families are asking for their own goodbye day with Carver—but he's unsure of their motives. Will they all be able to make peace with their losses, or will these goodbye days bring Carver one step closer to a complete breakdown or—even worse—prison?



# Books



## *Rayne & Delilah's Midnite Matinee*

Published February 26, 2019, by Crown Books for Young Readers

**Starred reviews:** Publishers Weekly, Booklist, and Bookpage

**Awards:** A Southern Book Prize Finalist, a Georgia Peach Book Award Finalist, a Land of Enchantment Book Award Finalist, a YALSA Best YA Books of 2019 Pick

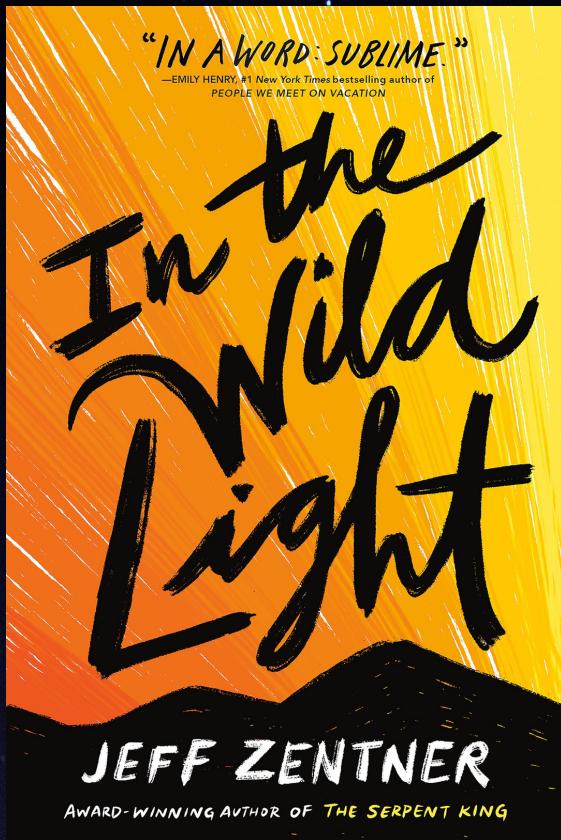
Every Friday night, best friends Delia and Josie become Rayne Ravenscroft and Delilah Darkwood, hosts of the campy creature feature show Midnite Matinee on the local cable station TV Six.

But with the end of senior year quickly approaching, the girls face tough decisions about their futures. Josie has been dreading graduation, as she tries to decide whether to leave for a big university and chase her dream career in mainstream TV. And Lawson, one of the show's guest performers, a talented MMA fighter with weaknesses for pancakes, fantasy novels, and Josie, is making her tough decision even harder.

Scary movies are the last connection Delia has to her dad, who abandoned the family years ago. If Midnite Matinee becomes a hit, maybe he'll see it and want to be a part of her life again. And maybe Josie will stay with the show instead of leaving her behind, too. As the tug-of-war between growing up and growing apart tests the bonds of their friendship, Josie and Delia start to realize that an uncertain future can be both monstrous...and momentous.



# Books



## ***In the Wild Light***

Published August 10, 2021, by Crown Books for Young Readers

**Starred reviews:** Publishers Weekly, Kirkus, Booklist, School Library Journal

**Awards:** ALAN's Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal, a Whippoorwill Award winner, a YALSA Top 10 Best Fiction for Young Adults selection, a Bank Street Best Book of 2022 (outstanding merit), a *New York Times* Best Book of 2021

Life in small-town Tennessee has never been easy. Cash already lost his mother to an opioid addiction and is losing his papaw, who raised him, one labored breath at a time. But loss has led him to Delaney Doyle, and she's been his salvation. The trouble is that canoeing on the river and hiking the East Tennessee mountains might be all he needs to fill his soul, but Delaney is meant for so much more.

So when Delaney makes a scientific discovery that gets them both full rides at an elite boarding school in Connecticut, Cash has to make the tough decision to leave behind his place of the heart to support his person of the heart. Will the decision to go to Middleford Academy be the thing that finally breaks Cash, or will it be the making of him?