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Contact Info | Bio | Headshot | Book Info | Select Reviews

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Bio

41 words

Roy Schwartz is the Diagram Prize-winning author of *The Darkness in Lee's Closet and the Others Waiting There* and *Is Superman Circumcised? The Complete Jewish History of the World's Greatest Hero*. He writes about pop culture for *The Forward* and *CNN.com*.

73 words

Roy Schwartz is the Diagram Prize-winning author of *Is Superman Circumcised? The Complete Jewish History of the World's Greatest Hero* and *The Darkness in Lee's Closet and the Others Waiting There*. He's written for a wide range of publications, including *New York Daily News*, *Jerusalem Post* and *Philosophy Now*. He writes about pop culture for *The Forward* and *CNN.com*. He can be found at royschwartz.com and on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) as @RealRoySchwartz.

135 words

Roy Schwartz is the author of *Is Superman Circumcised? The Complete Jewish History of the World's Greatest Hero* and *The Darkness in Lee's Closet and the Others Waiting There*. *Is Superman Circumcised?* won the 2021 international Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year.

Roy has written for a wide range of publications, including *New York Daily News*, *Jerusalem Post* and *Philosophy Now*. He currently writes about pop culture for *The Forward* and *CNN.com*.

He received his BA in English from the New School University and interdisciplinary MA in English and social thought from NYU. He has taught English and writing at the City University of New York and is a former writer-in-residence fellow at the New York Public Library.

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254 words

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His professional writing is similarly diverse, including educational organizations, law firms, tech companies, toy companies and production studios.

Roy has taught English and writing at the City University of New York and is a former writer-in-residence fellow at the New York Public Library.

He graduated magna cum laude from the New School University with a BA in English, majoring in creative writing with a minor in journalism, and cum laude from NYU with an interdisciplinary MA in English and social thought, focusing on 19th century British and 20th century American literature. He interned for Marvel Comics.

Originally from Tel Aviv, Israel, Roy grew up a voracious reader of everything from Israeli novels to British plays to American comic books. He taught himself English from comics and cartoons, which is why he's comfortable saying things like "swell."

Roy lives in Long Island, NY with his wife Kim, a bestselling author and editor, and their two children. He has a penchant for caffeine, candy and a quality-over-quantity wardrobe.

He can be found at royschwartz.com and on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) as [@RealRoySchwartz](#).

Headshot



The picture can be copied & pasted or clicked and saved as an image. For a higher resolution JPEG and other headshots, please visit royschwartz.com/presskit.

Book Info

Cover blurb

Lee just wants her dad back. But the land of the dead is a dangerous place.

When her father dies, Lee's life is torn apart. The only comfort she finds is in the complete darkness of her closet, where she sleeps at night.

When she discovers the darkness leads to the afterlife, she hatches a plan—to find her dad and bring him back home.

With the help of four very talkative, very dead companions she finds trapped in the darkness, she sets off on a quest through the afterworlds.

But a little live girl does not belong there. Lee will have to face frightening dangers and use all her courage and cunning if she wishes to save her father, her friends, and herself.

Details

The Darkness in Lee's Closet and the Others Waiting There

Publisher: Aelurus Publishing

Pub. date: September 4, 2018

Genre: fantasy fiction, illustrated chapter book, dark fantasy, macabre, action-adventure

Print: Paperback, 256 pages

ISBN: 978-1912775033

Retail price: \$11.95

eBook ISBN: 978-1912775026

Retail price: \$4.95

Publisher listing: <https://aeluruspublishing.com/the-darkness-in-lees-closet>

Target audience: middle graders age 8–12, mature young readers, children of all ages.

Teachers, librarians.

About the book

The Darkness in Lee's Closet and the Others Waiting There is a middle grade illustrated fantasy novel.

A macabre adventure set in the world of the dead, it's a thrill ride full of frights and frolics that can only be overcome with the strength of family, friendship, and faith in oneself.

A loving homage to classic children's literature, from *Gulliver's Travels* to *Oliver Twist* to *Alice in Wonderland* to *The Wizard of Oz*, the book is peppered with literary allusions, historical references and other "Easter eggs."

The cast of characters is a diverse motley crew from different countries and points in history, like sassy Spanish skeleton Óseo, French Revolution royal Madame Couronne, and Percy, the Victorian adventurer with an apt Shakespeare quote always at the ready.

Sometimes scary, sometimes funny, and always exciting, *The Darkness in Lee's Closet and the Others Waiting There* is a story for children of all ages.

Awards

Debuted as an Amazon #1 New Release, from Sep. 4, 2018 to Sep. 18, 2018, in two categories:

- Children's Coming of Age Fantasy Books
- Children's Paranormal, Occult & Supernatural Books

Nominee, 2018 TCK Publishing Reader's Choice Awards

Select Reviews

"A thrill ride full of frights and frolics."

"Perfect for middle school readers."

-- *Young Entertainment Magazine*

“A journey through life, love, family, friendship, and heart. Although the subject matter is sometimes serious and quite poignant, there are laughs to be had in this fantastical story. Elements of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and *The Secret Garden* combine with a fun ensemble cast akin to *The Wizard of Oz* or *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. A good choice for independent readers, this could also be a slightly spooky and thoroughly satisfying selection for a family read-aloud.”

-- CLCD (Children's Literature Comprehensive Database) Read & Shine book review

“[A] dark masterpiece.”

“Schwartz crafts a world of fantasy that a child of any age can immerse themselves in.”

“The book...finds a way to delight young readers and even make them laugh through the darkness.”

-- Long Islander News

“[A] message of courage, friendship, love and perseverance”

-- TBR News Media

“Share something more fun and cooler with your kids.”

-- Hey Do You blog

For more reviews, please visit royschwartz.com>Books>The Darkness in Lee's Closet

For other writings, please visit royschwartz.com/writing.

For select interviews, please visit royschwartz.com/interviews.

