



# The Walls Around Us

*Nova Ren Suma*

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**“With evocative language, a shifting timeline and more than one unreliable narrator, Suma subtly explores the balance of power between the talented and the mediocre, the rich and the poor, the brave and the cowardly . . . To reveal more would be to uncover the bloody heart that beats beneath the floorboards of this urban-legend-tinged tale.” —*The New York Times***

*The Walls Around Us* is a ghostly story of suspense told in two voices—one still living and one dead. On the outside, there’s Violet, an eighteen-year-old ballerina days away from the life of her dreams when something threatens to expose the shocking truth of her achievement. On the inside, within the walls of a girls’ juvenile detention center, there’s Amber, locked up for so long she can’t imagine freedom. Tying these two worlds together is Orianna, who holds the key to unlocking all the girls’ darkest mysteries: What really happened on the night Orianna stepped between Violet and her tormentors? What really happened on two strange nights at Aurora Hills? Will Amber and Violet and Orianna ever get the justice they deserve—in this life or in another one?

PRAISE FOR *THE WALLS AROUND US*:

“A gorgeously written, spellbinding ghost story.” —*Chicago Tribune*

“Unputdownable . . . the well-paced plot reveals guilt, innocence, and dark truths that will not stay hidden.” —*The Boston Globe*

“Suma excels in creating surreal, unsettling stories with vivid language, and this psychological thriller is no exception. Along the way, Suma also makes a powerful statement about the ease with which guilt can be assumed and innocence awarded, not only in the criminal justice system, but in our hearts—in the stories we tell ourselves. A fabulous, frightening read.” —*Booklist*, **starred review**

“The wholly realistic view of adolescents meeting the criminal justice system is touched at first with the slimmest twist of an otherworldly creepiness, escalating finally to the truly hair-raising and macabre. Eerie, painful and beautifully spine-chilling.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

“This haunting and evocative tale of magical realism immerses readers in two settings that seem worlds apart . . . Suma’s unflinchingly honest depiction of the potentially destructive force of female friendship and skillful blending of gritty realism with supernatural elements is reminiscent of Laurie Halse Anderson’s *Wintergirls*, and the eerie mood she evokes is unnervingly potent.” —*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“In lyrical, authoritative prose, Suma weaves the disparate lives of [the] three girls into a single, spellbinding narrative that explores guilt, privilege, and complicity with fearless acuity. . . The twisting, ghostly tale of Ori’s life, death, and redemption is unsettling and entirely engrossing.” —*The Horn Book Magazine*, **starred review**

“Gratifyingly disturbing . . . Suma craftily sets the two stories against one another, moving between Violet’s fiercely grounded account and Amber’s hauntingly destabilized one, enticing readers to figure out how the

pieces go together.” —*Bulletin for the Center for Children’s Books*, starred review

“Powerful . . . The compelling narrative, written in scintillating prose and featuring incredibly real characters, brings the two stories together in an explosive finale with a supernatural twist that results in a satisfying resolution.” —*VOYA*, starred review

“Gripping . . . Just try to put this down.” —*Shelf Awareness for Readers*, starred review

“A suspenseful tour de force, a ghost story of the best sort, the kind that creeps into your soul and haunts you.” —**Libba Bray**, author of *The Diviners* and *A Great and Terrible Beauty*

“Fearlessly imagined and deliciously sinister, *The Walls Around Us* is hypnotic, luring the reader deeper and deeper into its original, shocking narrative.” —**Michelle Hodkin**, author of the *Mara Dyer Trilogy*

“Written in luscious and deliciously creepy prose not easy to forget . . . This is a story about guilt and innocence, about secrets and how deep we let people into those places within us, and it’s a story about how the past can define our present, even if we try desperately to keep that past under wraps. Put it on your radars now; this is an outstanding literary young adult novel more than worth the wait.” —*Book Riot*

**#1 Spring 2015 Kids’ Indie Next List Pick**  
**A Junior Library Guild Selection**

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#### **Edward Cottrell:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled The Walls Around Us your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get just before. The The Walls Around Us giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful facts for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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