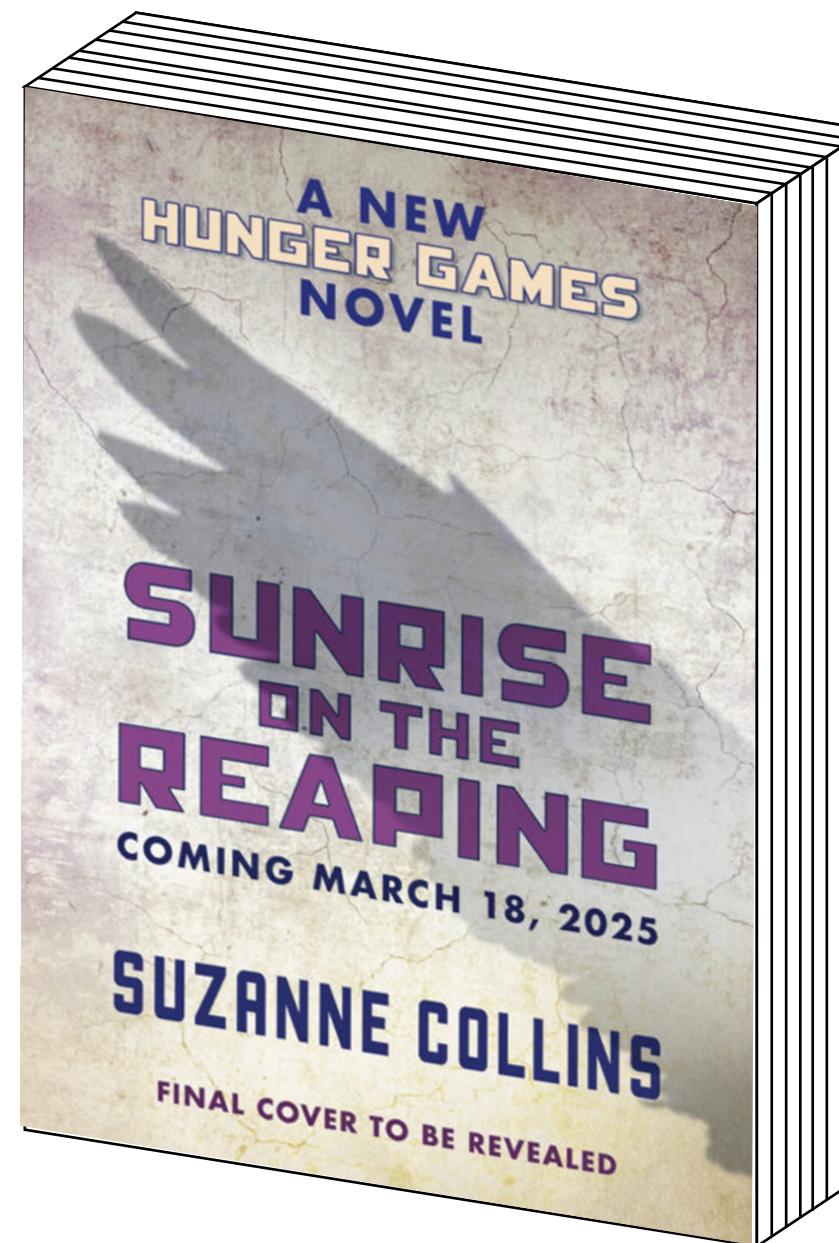


Sunrise on the Reaping

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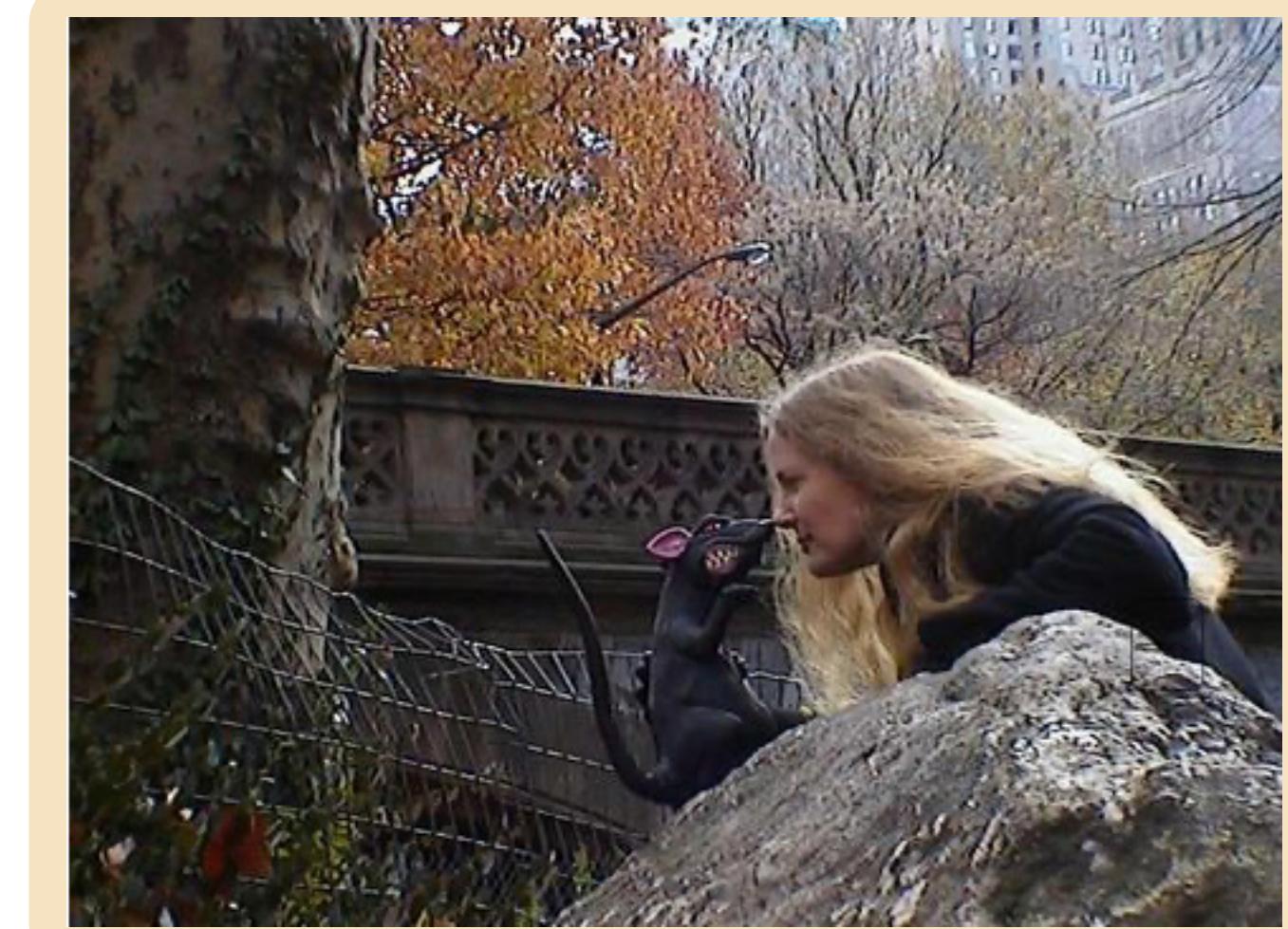


Welcome

Hi! Thanks for visiting my website. Here's a picture of me with a rat in Central Park. If you've read my fantasy series, The Underland Chronicles, you will have a clue as to why I chose this photo. If not, and you'd like to learn more, please explore my site.

In 2005, Gregor the Overlander was chosen by the wonderful librarian/author Nancy Pearl for the NPR piece, "Adventures to Read All Through the Summer." I was thrilled to be included on this amazing list!

[Click here to listen to the interview.](#)



About Suzanne Collins

[Click here to read and listen
to my interviews.](#)



"In 1991, Suzanne Collins began her professional career writing for children's television. She worked on the staffs of several Nickelodeon shows, including the Emmy-nominated hit *Clarissa Explains it All* and *The Mystery Files of Shelby Woo*. For preschool viewers, she penned multiple stories for the Emmy-nominated *Little Bear and Oswald*. She also co-wrote the Rankin/Bass Christmas special, *Santa, Baby!* with her friend, Peter Bakalian, which was nominated for a WGA Award in Animation. Most recently she was the Head Writer for Scholastic Entertainment's *Clifford's Puppy Days*, and a freelancer on *Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!* While working on a Kids WB show called *Generation O!* she met children's author and illustrator James Proimos, who talked her into giving children's books a try.

Thinking one day about *Alice in Wonderland*, she was struck by how pastoral the setting must seem to kids who, like her own, lived in urban surroundings. In New York City, you're much more likely to fall down a manhole than a rabbit hole and, if you do, you're not going to find a tea party. What you might find...? Well, that's the story of **GREGOR THE OVERLANDER**, the first book in her five-part fantasy/war series, **THE UNDERLAND CHRONICLES**, which became a New York Times bestseller. It has been sold into 21 foreign territories.

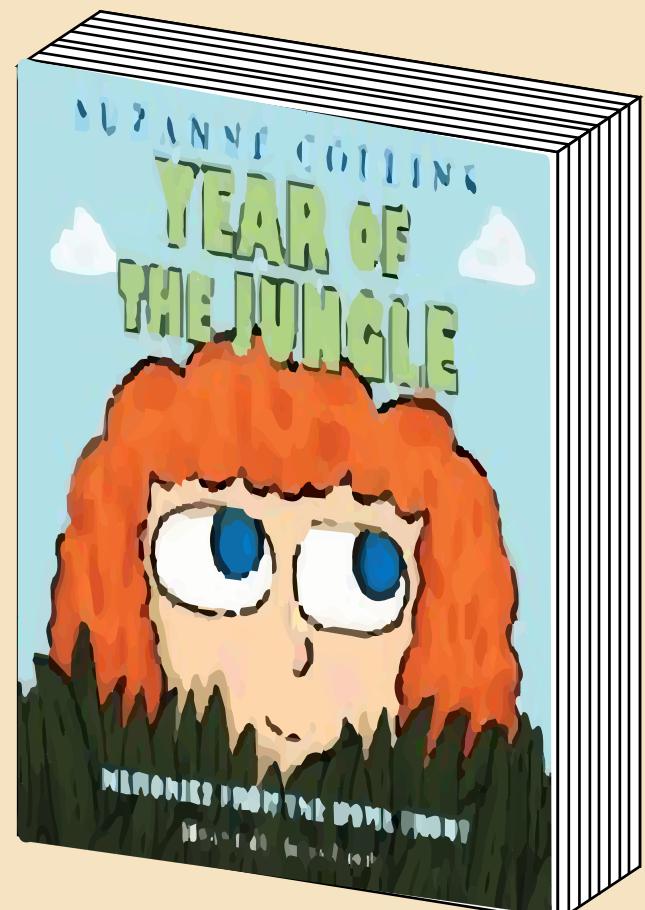
Her next series, **THE HUNGER GAMES TRILOGY**, is an international bestseller. **THE HUNGER GAMES** has spent over six years to date on The New York Times bestseller list since publication in September 2008, and has also appeared consistently on USA Today and Publishers Weekly bestseller lists. It has been sold into 54 territories in 52 languages. In 2010 Suzanne was named to the TIME 100 list as well as the Entertainment Weekly Entertainers of the Year list. In 2016, she was presented the 2016 Authors Guild Award for Distinguished Service to the Literary Community for exemplifying the unique power of young people's literature to change lives and create lifelong book lovers. It was the first time the Guild presented the award to a YA author.

Lionsgate released a film adaptation of **THE HUNGER GAMES** on March 23, 2012, directed by Gary Ross who also shared screenplay credit with Suzanne and Billy Ray. It broke multiple box office records and went on to become the 14th highest-grossing North American release of all time on its way to generating nearly \$700 million at the worldwide box office. Lionsgate released the second installment **THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE** worldwide on November 22, 2013, directed by Francis Lawrence from a screenplay by Simon Beaufoy and Michael DeBruyn and bringing back stars Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Willow Shields, Paula Malcomson, Donald Sutherland, Stanley Tucci and Lenny Kravitz along with new cast members Philip Seymour Hoffman, Sam Claflin, Jena Malone and Jeffrey Wright. It was the highest-grossing domestic box office release of 2013 and the 10th highest-grossing domestic release of all time. Lionsgate released **THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 1** on November 21, 2014 and **THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2** on November 20, 2015, also directed by Lawrence and welcoming Julianne Moore, Mahershala Ali, Natalie Dormer, and Patina Miller to the cast. Both screenplays were by Peter Craig and Danny Strong from an adaptation by Suzanne Collins. All four films were produced by Nina Jacobson of Color Force and Jon Kilik. The worldwide box for the entire franchise was nearly 3 billion.

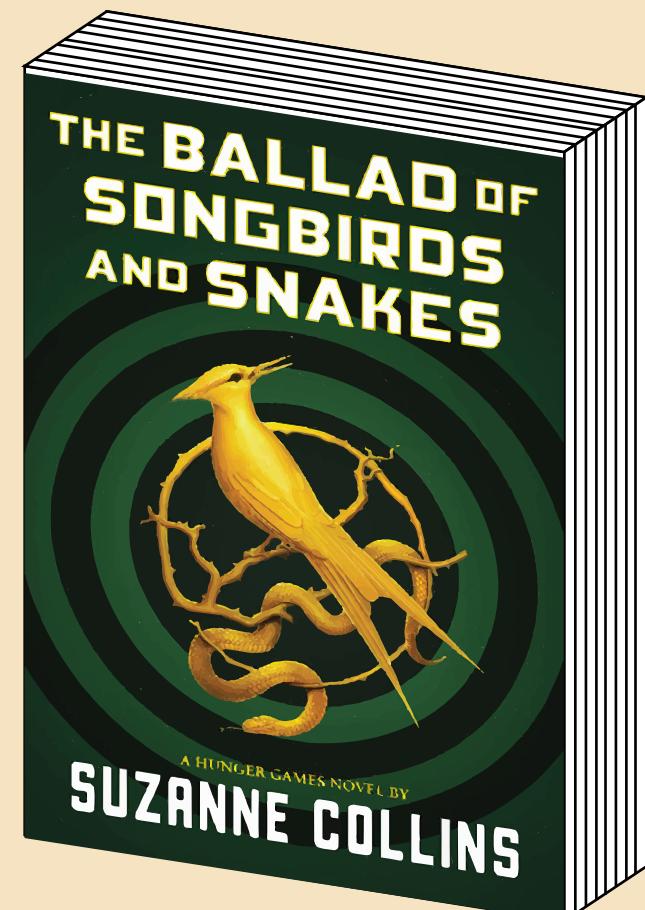
In September 2013, Suzanne released a critically acclaimed autobiographical picture book, **YEAR OF THE JUNGLE**, illustrated by James Proimos. It deals with the year she was six and her father was deployed to Viet Nam. It has been sold into 12 territories in 11 languages. Her first picture book, **WHEN CHARLIE MCBUTTON LOST POWER**, about a boy obsessed with computer games, was illustrated by Mike Lester and came out in 2005. It has been sold into 4 foreign territories.

Her books have sold over 100 million copies worldwide."

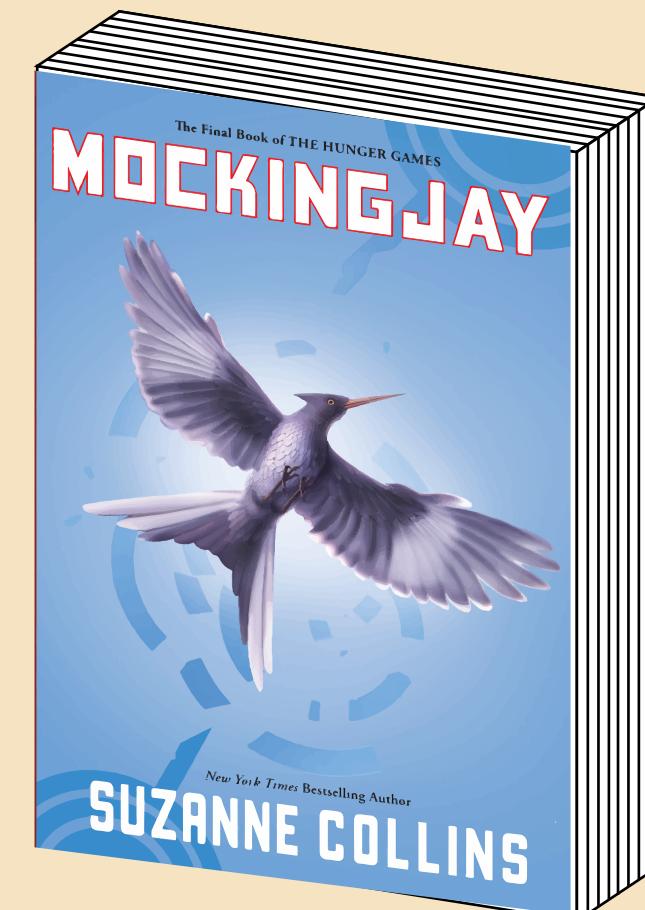
Works by Suzanne Collins

[The Hunger Games](#)[The Underland Chronicles](#)[Childrens' Books](#)

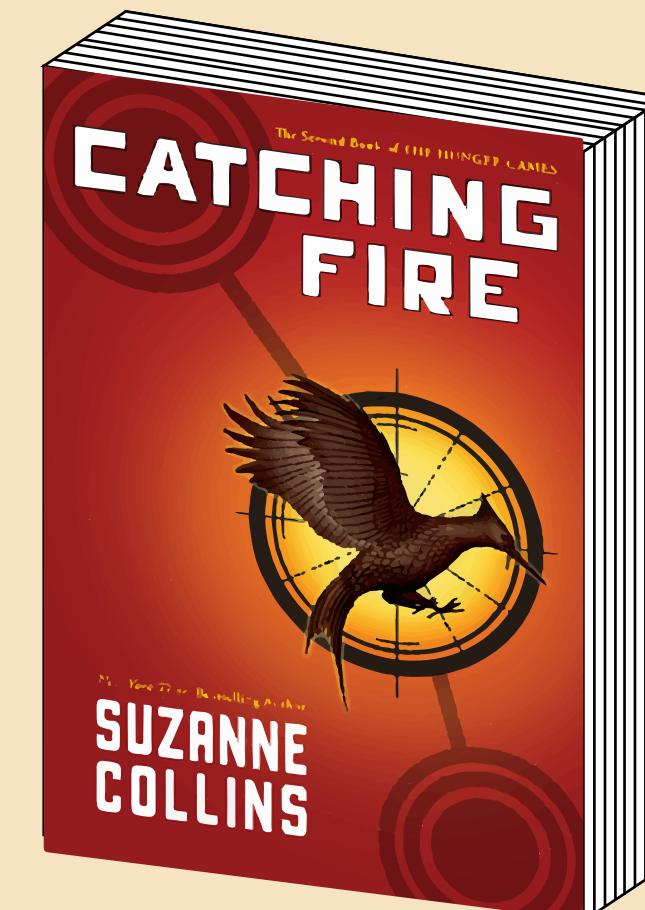
Year of the Jungle
(2013)



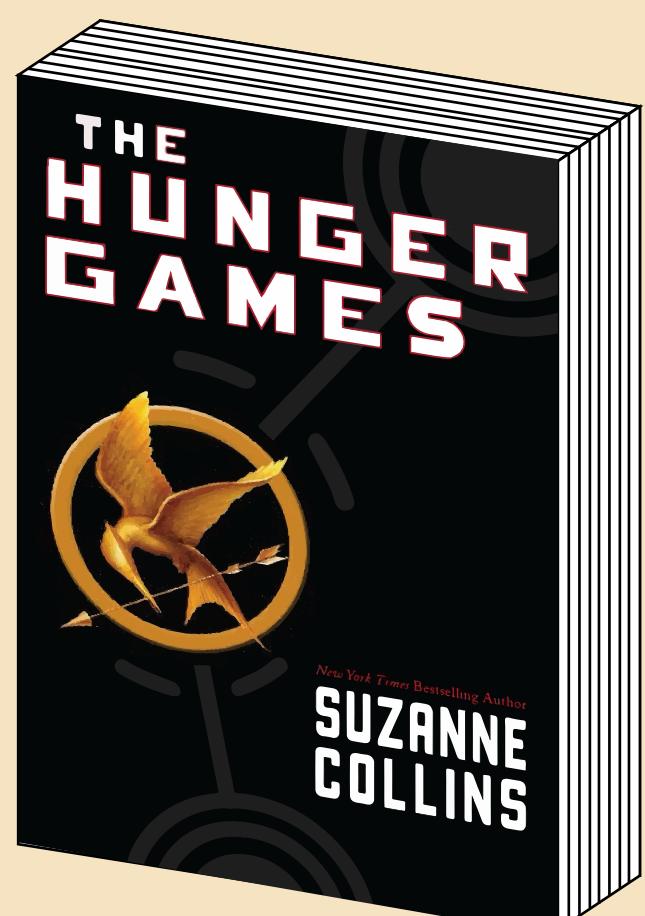
**The Ballad of Songbirds
and Snakes**
(2020)



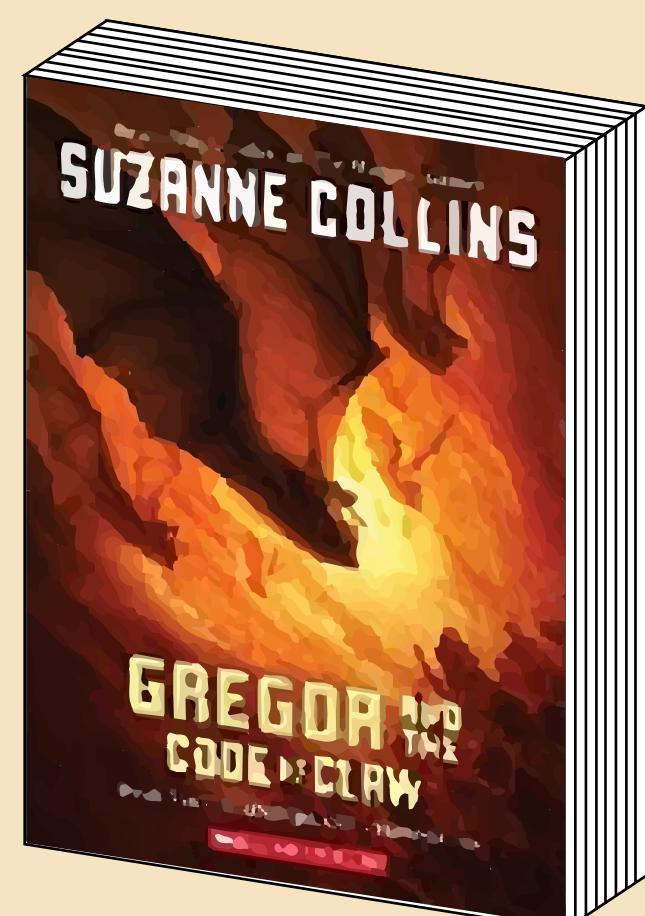
Mockingjay
(2010)



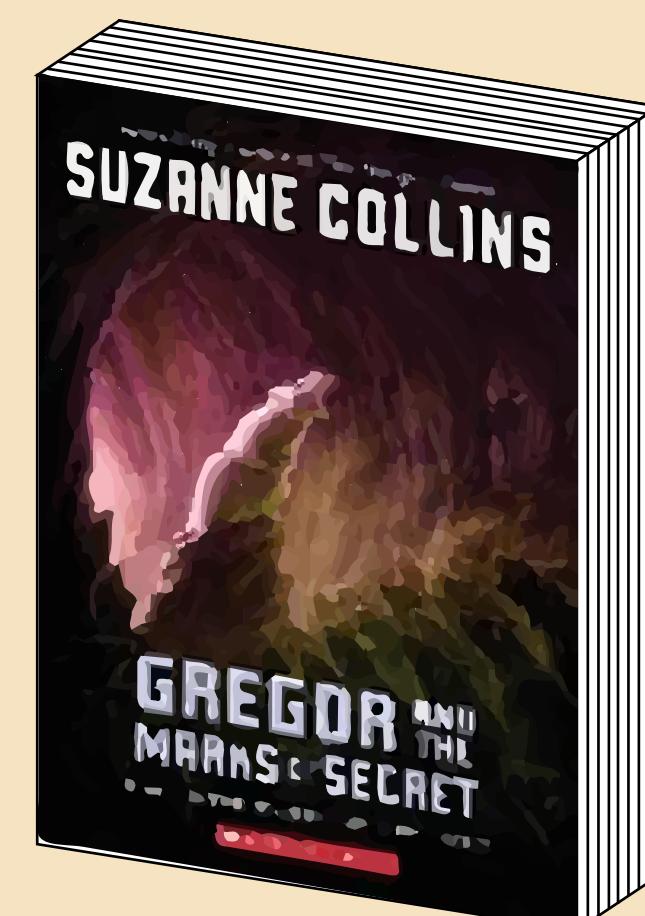
Catching Fire
(2009)



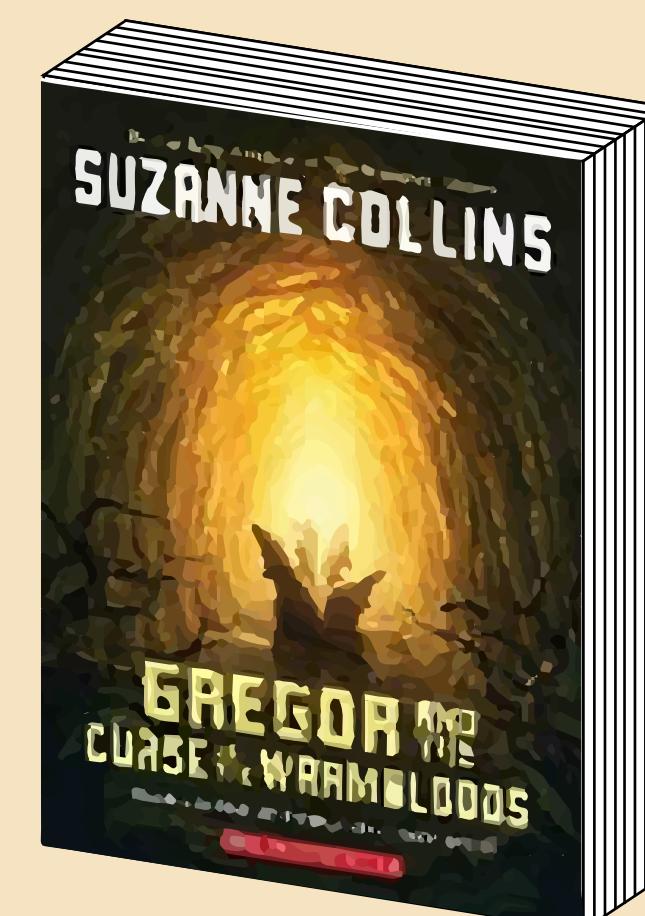
The Hunger Games
(2008)



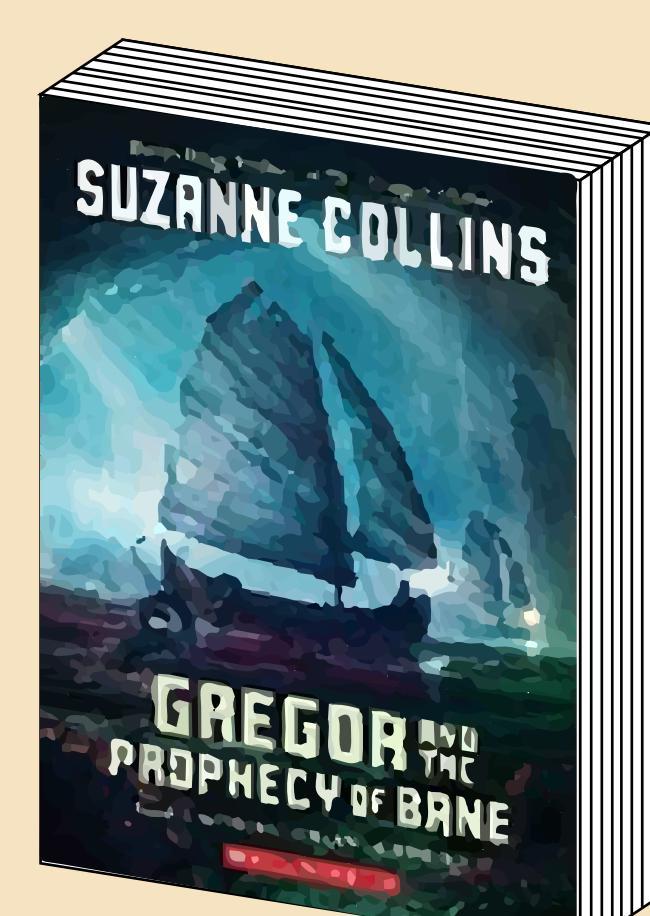
**Gregor and the
Code of Claw**
(2007)



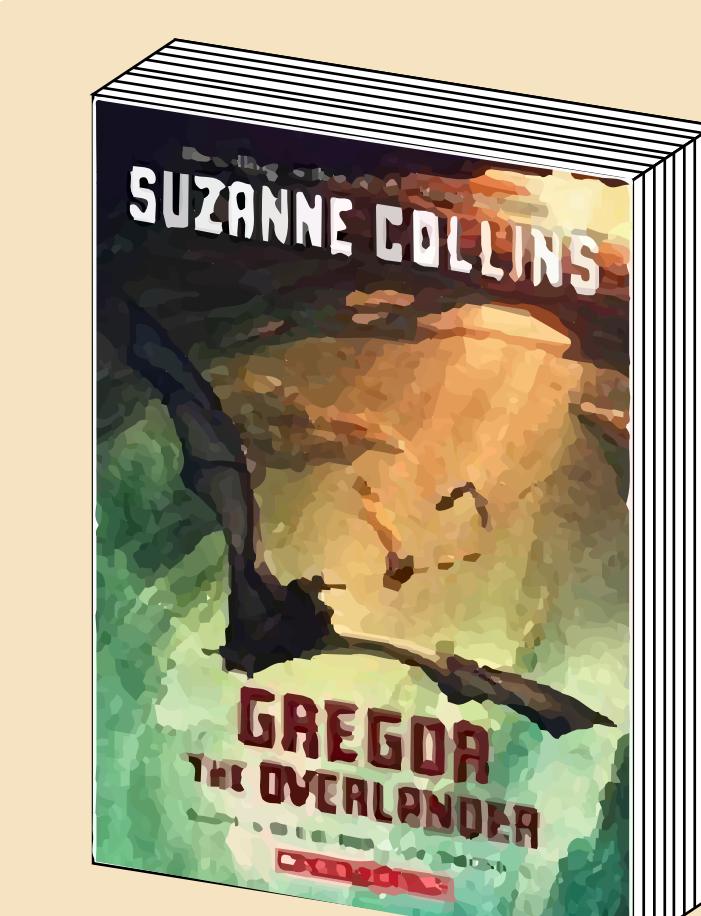
**Gregor and the
Marks of Secret**
(2007)



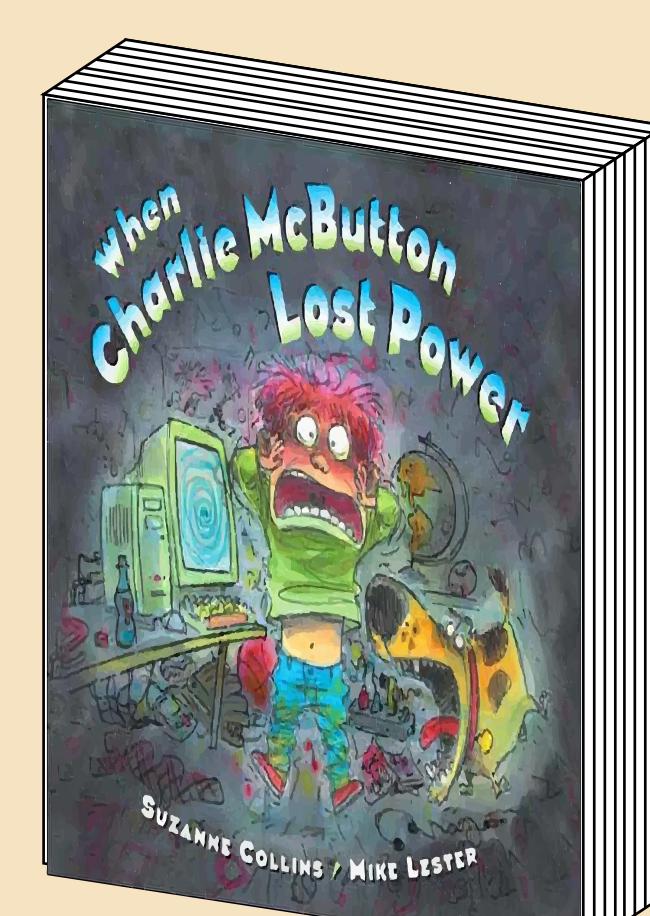
**Gregor and the Curse
of the Warmbloods**
(2005)



**Gregor and the
Prophecy of Bane**
(2004)



Gregor the Overlander
(2003)



**When Charlie McButton
Lost Power**
(2005)

Interviews and Reviews

[Click here to listen to NPR's Nancy Pearl on *Gregor the Overlander*](#)

Interview with Jen Reese at Scholastic Press

1. Of all the places Gregor could have traveled to, why the Underland?

I liked the fact that this world was teeming under New York City and nobody was aware of it. That you could be going along preoccupied with your own problems and then whoosh! You take a wrong turn in your laundry room and suddenly a giant cockroach is right in your face. No magic, no space or time travel, there's just a ticket to another world behind your clothes dryer.



2. Is there anything you find/found difficult or challenging in writing from the perspective of an 11-year-old boy?

I remember being eleven very clearly and I had a lot of friends who were boys so it felt pretty natural being in Gregor's head.

3. Are you anything like Gregor?

I think I'm like Gregor because we both want to do the right thing but sometimes have trouble figuring out what it is. Also, neither of us likes to ride roller coasters and we've both changed a lot of diapers. But Gregor is much braver than I am...if I even see a regular sized rat in New York City I immediately cross the street.

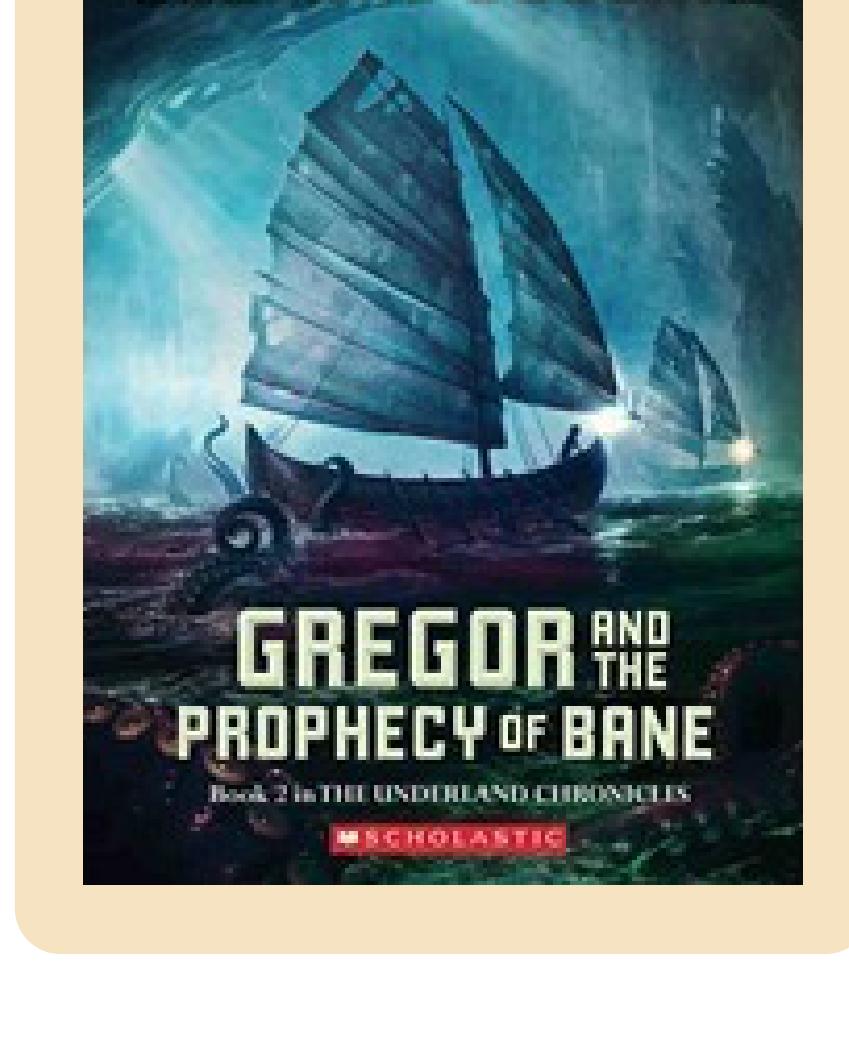


4. What kinds of things did you enjoy doing when you were 11?

Gymnastics, like Luxa. Reading. Running around in the woods with my friends.

5. Many people think bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders are creepy! Did you have to get over your fear of any (or all!) of them to write this story?

I wish I could say that after I researched the creepy animals I was no longer at all afraid of them...but that would be a big fib! Cockroaches aren't really scary, just a little germy, so I don't mind them much. I love bats...except these really loud ones that get in my attic in the summer and hold some kind of party all night long. Spiders still scare me some, although I'm also fascinated by them and I can happily watch them from a distance. But rats...not pet rats but the wild kind...I will always have what I consider to be a healthy fear of rats. You should, too.



6. Are you kinder to cockroaches, bats, rats, and/or spiders nowadays?

I don't think I was ever particularly unkind to them...but I do have more of a connection with them now. I'm more aware of their similarities to humans. And I'm sympathetic to their desire to survive, which all creatures share.

7. Did you have a sibling who, like Boots, got you into a world of trouble?

I have two older sisters and one older brother and hold them largely responsible for the trouble I got into growing up. I believe as the youngest child, that is my right.

8. Have you ever lived in New York City?

I lived in New York City for 16 years, from 1987 to 2003. But when I was growing up we moved all the time because my dad was in the Air Force. We were mostly on the eastern half of the U.S. and in Europe but, like Gregor, I definitely know what it feels like to be a stranger somewhere.

9. If you had to go to the Underland, what items would you take along with you? And who would you take with you?

I'd take all the flashlights and batteries I could find. I'd also take a couple of bottles of water and chocolate, because I don't like traveling without either of these things. I would wear very comfortable clothes and sneakers...in case I had to run. My husband, Cap, would be great to have in the Underland, since he is very good in an emergency, but I'd want him to be with our kids up in the Overland so I'd know they were in safe hands. (Note: Cap says he would not take me to the Underland because I am not good in an emergency and I would constantly make him stop and ask for directions. Both of these things are true.) So I think I would take my good friend Christopher Santos with me, because he is very diplomatic and travels a lot and he seems at ease in foreign places. Also, he would never make loud, mean remarks about the creatures which could get a person in all kinds of trouble. In the Underland, I would make it my first order of business to hook up with a couple of bats because, let's face it, without a bat you're probably going to end up as someone's lunch.

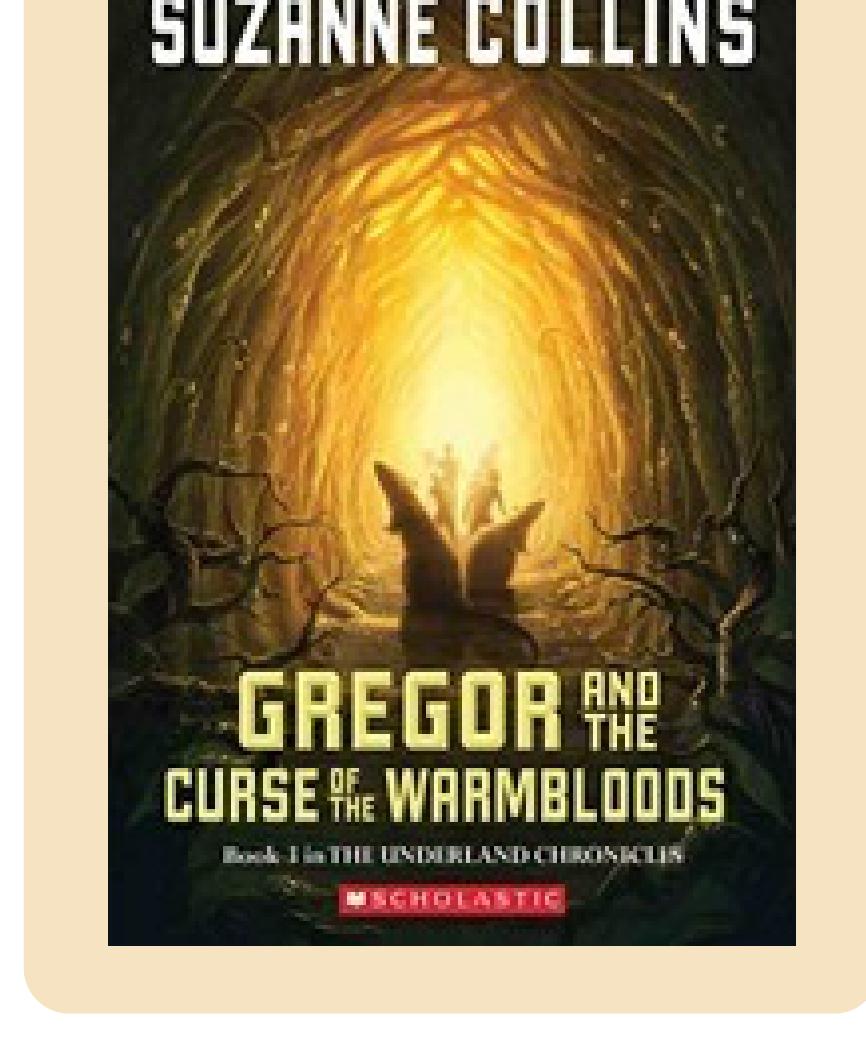


10. Have you ever been lost and wanted to find your way home?

All the time. I have a terrible sense of direction. I get lost practically every time I leave my house. Fortunately, people are usually very kind about giving you directions if you ask politely.

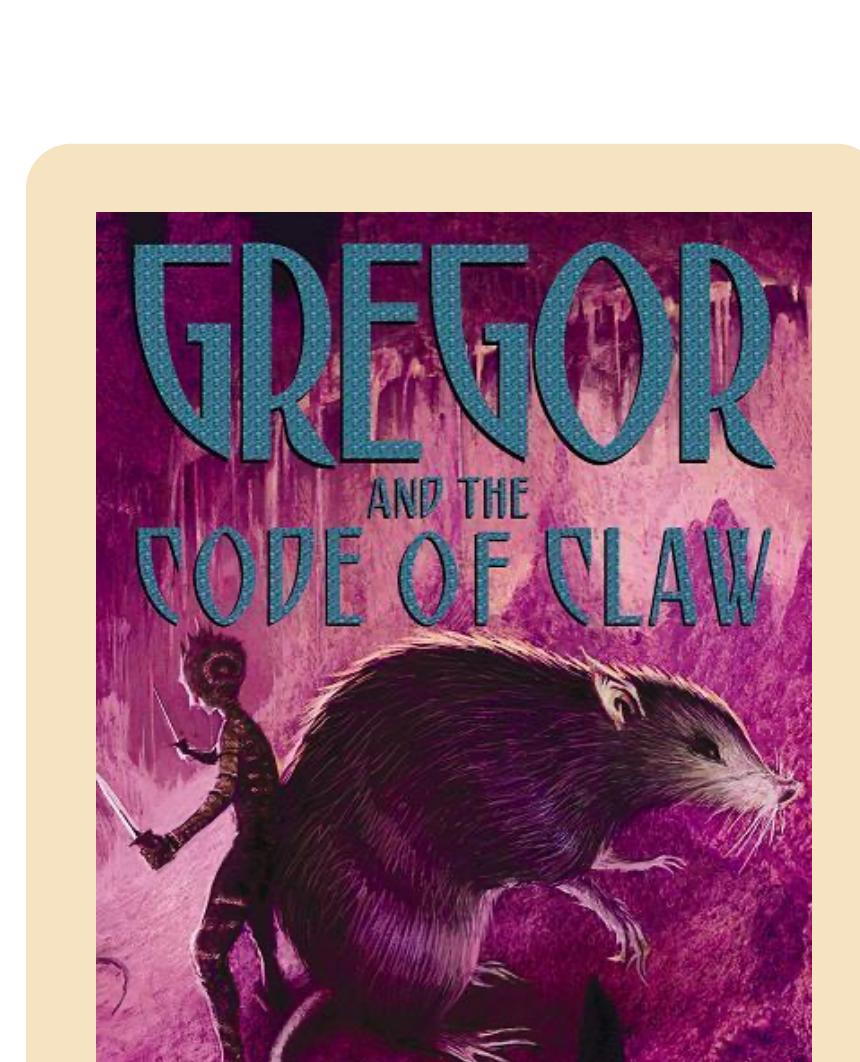
11. Do you think you were destined to be a writer? (or is there some free will involved?!)

I...have no idea how to answer this. I would have to go to a cave and meditate on it or something, and then I probably still wouldn't know.



12. If you could invite one of the characters to have dinner with your family, who would it be? What might you cook for them?! What questions would you ask them?

I would invite Ripred to dinner because I think he would tell the most interesting stories. We would have to serve shrimp in cream sauce because this is his favorite dish of all. Just to irritate him, I would tell him he has to use a napkin—or he won't get dessert. He would use the napkin, because dessert would be a fabulous chocolate cake and he loves food, but I bet he would glare at me the whole time. I would ask all kinds of questions about being a rat, and living alone in the Dead Land, and about his family. Ripred sometimes sneaks up to the Overland, so I would ask him his opinion of New York City, too. After dinner, we'd play Scrabble.



13. All fun aside for a moment, Gregor is also about war and battling forces and survival. Can you tell us a little bit about this?

Gregor falls into a fantastical world, but he's really acting out the main role in a war story. Almost as soon as he arrives in the Underland, he's recognized as the "warrior" of the prophecies and he's called upon to undertake what are essentially a series of military missions. For instance, in Book 1 he goes into enemy territory to rescue a prisoner of war who also happens to be his dad. It's never described as such, but that's what's really happening. As the series continues, Gregor is faced with increasingly difficult quests and choices as the Underland breaks into a massive global war. His struggle to survive—both physically and spiritually—forms the arc of The Underland Chronicles.

