

# Adventure Begins

## with ebooks & audiobooks



Orange County  
Public Schools

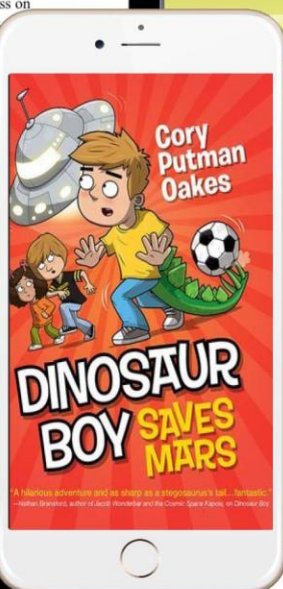


On the bus, everyone else has someone to talk to. Row after row of chattering kids, excited for their afternoons to start, for summer to start. I slip into the seat next to Joanie Engstrom, who is eating an apple from the top down, core and all. Joanie and I aren't friends, exactly, but we're allies—someone to pair up with in class on group projects, someone to sit next to on the bus when the other seats are full. She smiles at me, then leans down at her Bible open in her lap—well-worn and it—noted from a lifetime of use. I'm not sure what there is to glean from those pages after she's read them many times, but I'm not one to judge since I've read the available episodes of *Demon Heart* upward of a dozen times.

As Joanie reads, taking another bite of her apple, I look past her and watch Pine Bluff pass by out the windows, all six glorious stoplights.

Annoyingly, I can't stop thinking about what she said. Am I in love with the guys in *Demon Heart*? Maybe. Rico Quiroz and Forest Reed, who play soccer, and Smokey, are undeniably attractive people. I've spent more than a few afternoons gazing at pictures of them on the slope of their jawlines, the rough texture of their stubble, the swell of their lips.

Rico, the older one, has amazing dark curly hair, an open face, perfect soft brown skin, and an easy smile that comes off as approachable, kind, warm. I can see why his fans are always tweeting *Dad* at him—I want him to turn my back and tell me I'm doing a good job, I want



# Sora

The student reading app

