

BIO for WENDELIN VAN DRAANEN

Wendelin Van Draanen (pronounced Van Draw-nen) has written more than thirty novels for young readers and teens. She is the author of the 18-book [Edgar-winning Sammy Keyes](#) mystery series, and wrote *Flipped*, which SLJ named a *Top 100 Children's Novel for the 21st Century* and became a Warner Brothers feature film.

Van Draanen's latest novel is the YA thriller, *The Steps* (Holiday House 9/2025). "Secrets, lies, and danger abound in this clever, quirky thriller that explores the dark consequences of putting money before family or love."

Other stand-alone titles include: *The Peach Rebellion* which explores the lives and loves of three young women post-WWII who join forces to change their community; *The Secret Life of Lincoln Jones* (2017 winner of Bank Street College of Education's [Josette Frank Award](#)); *Runaway*; *Confessions of a Serial Kisser*; *Swear to Howdy*; *The Running Dream* (an [ALA Schneider Award](#) winner for its portrayal of the disability experience); and the ALA "Best Fiction for Young Adults" title, *Wild Bird*, the story of a teenaged girl who gets sent to wilderness therapy camp after falling in with the wrong crowd.

In addition to her humorous STEM picture book, *Gravity Is Bringing Me Down*, Van Draanen has also created two four-book series for younger readers:

- The *Shredderman* books became a Nickelodeon made-for-television movie and received the [Christopher Award](#) for "affirming the highest values of the human spirit."
- *The Gecko & Sticky* books—fun read-alouds, perfect for reluctant readers—a spinoff of the *Shredderman* series.

A high school teacher for fifteen years, Van Draanen is now a fulltime writer. She is married, has two sons, and lives on the central coast of California. Her first non-fiction book, *Hope in the Mail; Reflections on Writing and Life*, is part memoir, part writing guide, and part publishing insight, suitable for teen and adult readers, especially those who want to write.

For more information, visit WendelinVanD.com, go to Wendelin's YouTube channel, or follow her on TikTok, Twitter, and Instagram @WendelinVanD.