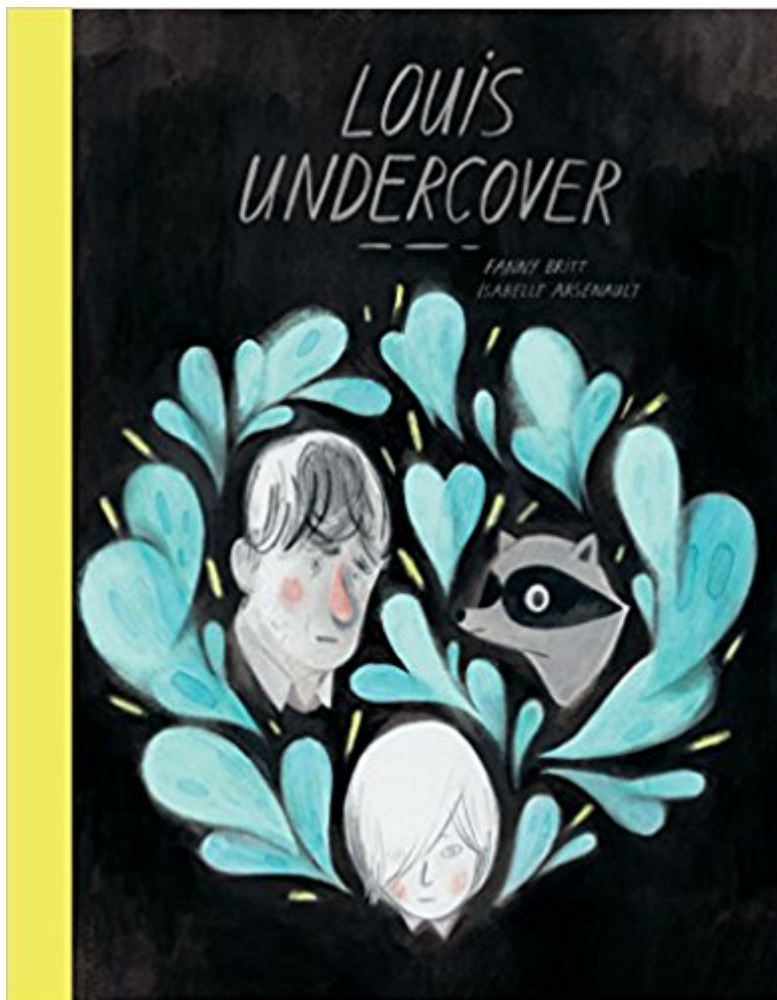


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# Louis Undercover



## Synopsis

In this powerful new graphic novel from Fanny Britt and Isabelle Arsenault, we meet Louis, a young boy who shuttles between his alcoholic dad and his worried mom, and who, with the help of his best friend, tries to summon up the courage to speak to his true love, Billie. Louis's dad cries "Ça va" but Louis knows this because he spies on him. His dad misses the happy times when their family was together, just as Louis does. But as it is, he and his little brother, Truffle, have to travel back and forth between their dad's country house and their mom's city apartment, where she tries to hide her own tears. Thankfully, Louis has Truffle for company. Truffle loves James Brown lyrics, and when he isn't singing, he's asking endless questions. Louis also has his friend Boris, with whom he spots ghost cop cars and spies on the "silent queen," the love of his life, Billie. When Louis and Truffle go to their dad's for two weeks during the summer, their father seems to have stopped drinking. And when Truffle has a close call from a bee sting, their mother turns up and the reunited foursome spend several wonderful days in New York City until they reach the end of the road, again. A beautifully illustrated, true-to-life portrayal of just how complex family relationships can be, seen through the eyes of a wise, sensitive boy who manages to find his own way forward.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (October 3, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554988594

ISBN-13: 978-1554988594

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.8 x 11.4 inches

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

"This nuanced tale of an observant, sensitive boy finding his own brand of strength is bittersweet

and beautifully composed." *Booklist*, starred review "Arsenault's symbolic use of color and animated illustrations breathe life into Britt's quirky, beautiful story, which emphasizes that love is the bravest act of all." *School Library Journal*, starred review "An unflinching, delicate portrait of a boy and his broken family." *Kirkus Reviews* "An engagingly thoughtful and thought-provoking read from beginning to end." *Children's Bookwatch*

Fanny Britt is a playwright, novelist and translator. Her play *Bienveillance* won the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama (French). Her first novel, *Les maisons*, was short-listed for the France-Québec prize and the Prix littéraire des collégiens. She has also translated and adapted some thirty plays and novels. Fanny Britt and Isabelle Arsenault first collaborated on the graphic novel *Jane, the Fox and Me*, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Illustration (French) and the Joe Shuster Awards for Best Writer and Best Artist. It was also named a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book. Isabelle Arsenault is an internationally renowned children's book illustrator whose work has won many awards. Her books include *Alpha*, *Virginia Wolf* by Kyo Maclear, *Cloth Lullaby* by Amy Novesky, *Once Upon a Northern Night* by Jean E. Pendziwol and *Migrant* by Maxine Trottier. Fanny Britt and Isabelle Arsenault first collaborated on the graphic novel *Jane, the Fox and Me*, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Illustration (French) and the Joe Shuster Awards for Best Writer and Best Artist. It was also named a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book.

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