

## SHORT BIO

Joy McCullough's debut young adult novel *Blood Water Paint* won the Washington State and Pacific Northwest books awards, as well as honors such as the National Book Award longlist, finalist for the ALA Morris Award, a Publishers Weekly Flying Start and four starred reviews. She has since written picture books, middle grade and young adult novels that have been Junior Library Guild Selections, Indie Next Selections, finalists for the Washington State Book Award, and a New York Time bestseller. She writes books and plays from her home in the Seattle area, where she lives with her husband and two children. She studied theater at Northwestern University, fell in love with her husband atop a Guatemalan volcano, and now spends her days surrounded by books and kids and chocolate.

## LONGER BIO

Joy McCullough grew up in the San Diego area. She went to college at Northwestern University, where she studied theater and women's studies. Her first full-length play, *fifty cents in the dark*, won the Agnes Nixon Playwriting Award at Northwestern. After college, she spent a year traveling through Latin America, teaching workshops on using theater and improv with kids in Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru, and Chile.

Upon return from Latin America, Joy continued writing plays and began working as a teaching artist for regional theaters in San Diego and then Seattle, where she currently lives. She has taught playwriting for San Diego's Old Globe Theater and La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle's ACT Theater, and Seattle Pacific University. As a playwright, her work has been developed and produced in San Diego, Chicago, New York, and Seattle.

Joy's young adult novel *Blood Water Paint* is an adaptation of her own original play. It was published in 2018 and won the Washington State and Pacific Northwest books awards, as well as such honors as the National Book Award longlist, finalist for the ALA Morris Award, a Publishers Weekly Flying Start and four starred reviews. Her debut middle grade novel, *A Field Guide to Getting Lost* (Simon & Schuster) released in 2020 as a Junior Library Guild Selection.

Her debut picture book, *Champ & Major: First Dogs*, illustrated by Sheyda Abvabi Best, released in 2021 as a New York Times Bestseller.

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