

Thirteen-year-old nonbinary homeschooler Shai is an expert problem-solver. They've always been good at researching solutions and figuring everything out on their own. Well, almost everything. Shai still hasn't been able to logic their way through one thing: picking at the hair on their arms.

Since their mom lost her job, the two had to move in with family friends. Then the world went into lockdown, and Shai's been unable to control their picking. But now, as the difficult times recede and everyone begins to discover their "new normal," Shai's hoping the stress that caused their picking will end, too—especially if they can create a foolproof plan to completely change their life, like starting public school, making new friends, and diving deeper into their Jewish heritage.

But with each change, more surprises come, and Shai begins to realize that no plan is perfect—and that sometimes the best way forward is with the help of family and friends.

This heartfelt novel will help readers discover that successes and setbacks can go hand in hand and that no path is meant to be traveled alone.

A. J. SASS (he/they) is the author of the ALA Rainbow Book List Top Ten titles *Ellen Outside the Lines*, which was also a Sydney Taylor Honor Book, and *Ana on the Edge*, as well as *Camp QUILTBAG* (cowritten with Nicole Melleby). He grew up in the Midwest and South, spending many of his summers with his family enjoying the beautiful Northwoods lakes and scenery in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his husband and two cats who act like dogs. He invites you to visit him online at sassinsf.com.

READ BY P.J. MORGAN



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The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.



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