

# DUSTI BOWLING . AUTHOR APPEARANCES

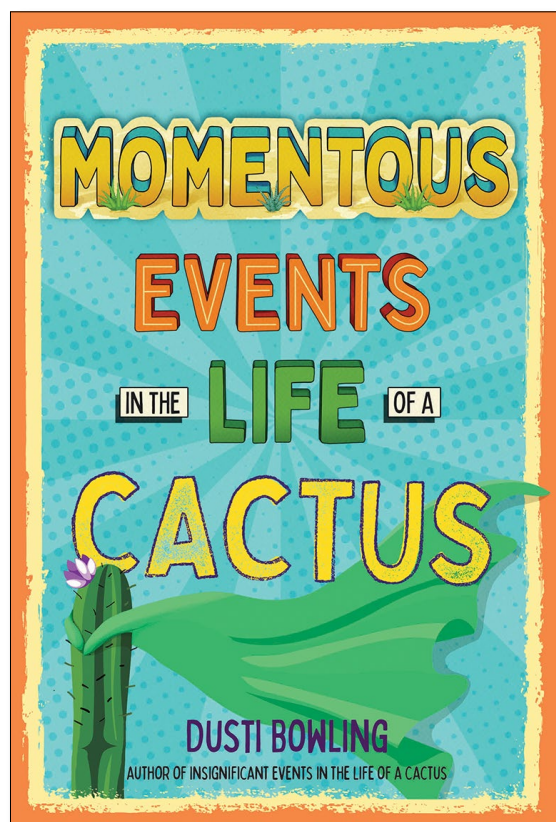
**DUSTI BOWLING** has worked as both a preschool and an elementary school teacher. Her teaching background makes her comfortable interacting with children of all ages.

Schools, libraries, and bookstores are ideal locations for Dusti's presentation—which runs approximately 40 minutes. She shares a colorful PowerPoint presentation full of interesting pictures, video, and information. (For the presentation, Dusti requires a projector, and would appreciate a microphone, if available.)

A 20-minute question-and-answer period with book signing immediately follows the multimedia presentation.

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Dusti speaks a little about herself and her lifelong love of reading. Writing tips are shared with the students and she discusses her path to becoming a published author. She also recommends her favorite middle-grade books—both current and classic.
- Students learn about Dusti's inspiration for writing *Momentous Events in the Life of a Cactus*, *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*, and *24 Hours in Nowhere*. The amazing people of her desert community are profiled, including the young lady who inspired the character of Aven. The interesting Arizona locations that inspire her settings, such as Kartchner Caverns, Colossal Cave, Rawhide, and Goldfield Ghost Town, are given the spotlight as well.
- The fascinating Sonoran desert is where Dusti lives and also where her stories are set. She delights young minds with wild and fun desert stories and information. Pictures and video of the animals that live near her home and make appearances in her books—such as tarantulas, rattlesnakes, bobcats, scorpions, javelinas, coyotes, and desert toads—are featured.



## MOMENTOUS EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS

(9781454933298)

The sequel to the critically acclaimed *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* follows Aven Green as she confronts yet another challenge: high school.

Just as Aven starts to feel comfortable in Stagecoach Pass, with her friends and schoolmates accustomed to her lack of “armage,” everything changes once again. She’s about to begin high school . . . with 2,300 new kids to stare at her. And no matter how much Aven tries to play it cool, nothing prepares her for the reality. In a year filled with confusion, humiliation, fears, loss, and just maybe love, can Aven manage to stay true to herself?

### *Praise for* MOMENTOUS EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS

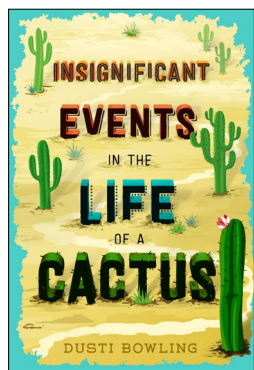
“Readers will welcome back this most able of protagonists.”

—BOOKLIST

“In the sequel to *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* (2017), Aven Green confronts her biggest challenge yet: surviving high school without arms.... Aven’s honest, witty voice shines.... Those preparing to “slay the sucktastic beast known as high school” will particularly appreciate this spirited read.”

—KIRKUS REVIEWS ★ Starred Review

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## INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS (9781454923459)

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again.

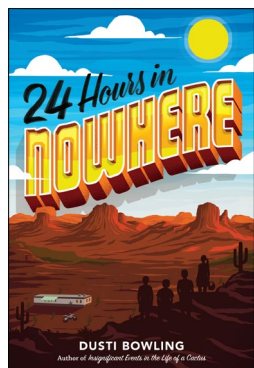
Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.

### *Praise for* INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS

*"Bowling...spins it into gold with a skein of terrific twists...Following poignant revelations about Aven's birth family, the author lets warm but not gooey sentiment wash over the close to a tale that is not about having differences, but accepting them in oneself and others."* —BOOKLIST ★ Starred Review

*"She is a perky, hilarious, and inspiring protagonist whose attitude and humor will linger even after the last page has turned. The tale of Stagecoach Pass is just as compelling as the story of Aven, and the setting, like the many colorful characters who people this novel, is so vivid and quirky that it's practically cinematic. VERDICT Charming and memorable. An excellent choice for middle grade collections and classrooms."* —SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL ★ Starred Review

*"Connor's Tourette's support-group meetings and Aven's witty, increasingly honest discussions of the pros and cons of 'lack of armage' give the book excellent educational potential. . . . its portrayal of characters with rarely depicted disabilities is informative, funny, and supportive."* —KIRKUS



## 24 HOURS IN NOWHERE (9781454929246)

Welcome to Nowhere, Arizona, the least livable town in the United States. For Gus, a bright 13-year-old with dreams of getting out and going to college, life there is made even worse by Bo Taylor, Nowhere's biggest, baddest bully. When Bo tries to force Gus to eat a dangerously spiny cactus, Rossi Scott, one of the best racers in Nowhere, comes to his rescue—but in return she has to give Bo her prized dirt bike. Determined to buy it back, Gus agrees to go searching for gold in Dead Frenchman Mine, joined by an old friend, one of Bo's cronies, and Rossi herself. As they race to find the treasure before the most important biking Nowhere has ever had, they bond over shared stories of how hard life in Nowhere is—and they realize this adventure just may be their way out.

### *Praise for* 24 HOURS IN NOWHERE

*"Reminiscent of Louis Sachar's Holes . . . this is a middle-grade read that will easily transport readers somewhere special."* —SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL ★ Starred Review

*"In this funny, moving novel, four teens explore an abandoned gold mine in order to placate their town's resident bully, making discoveries about the past—and themselves—along the way."* —SHELF AWARENESS ★ Starred Review

*"A blend of taut suspense and laugh-out-loud humor . . . proves a winning combination in this 24-hour escapade set in Nowhere . . . With playful elements reminiscent of Richard Peck, this slightly larger-than-life adventure offers plentiful surprises and a lovable antihero."* —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY ★ Starred Review

*"The ragtag band of misfits that join him calls to mind the gang from The Goonies, and their underground escapades vacillate among genuinely creepy, hilarious, and thrilling. . . . an enjoyable adventure with a wellbalanced and diverse supporting cast of characters. Sure to resonate with any kid who's felt misplaced in their inherited surroundings."* —BOOKLIST

DUSTI BOWLING currently lives in New River, Arizona, with her husband and three daughters.



Teaching resources can be found at [www.dustibowling.com](http://www.dustibowling.com)

### CONNECT WITH DUSTI



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Author Dusti Bowling



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