

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# Macmillan Children's Publishing Group to Publish ACE OF SPADES by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

## International Buzz for Debut YA Thriller Billed As 'Gossip Girl meets Get Out'

**New York, NY** – Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, has acquired North American rights to *Ace of Spades*, a young adult thriller by 21-year-old debut author Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé, for seven figures in a highly competitive pre-empt. Molly Ker Hawn at the Bent Agency represented the author for this deal, which also includes a second untitled young adult novel. Foyinsi Adegbonmire and Liz Szabla will edit at Feiwel and Friends.

Pitched as *Gossip Girl* meets *Get Out*, *Ace of Spades* takes place at an elite private school where a mysterious source spreads rumors about two of the only Black students, who must not only fight for their reputations, but also for their lives. As they investigate the source of the rumors, they find themselves at the center of a disturbing and deadly game. But how can they win with the cards stacked against them? A high-octane YA thriller, *Ace of Spades* serves as a blistering exploration of the barriers that Black students face when they aspire to things that come easily to their white classmates.

"Through suspense and heart-pounding action, the brilliantly skilled Faridah weaves a thrilling story with relevant social commentary that will haunt your thoughts long after the last page is read," said Adegbonmire. "We are beyond excited to have the opportunity to be on this journey with Faridah, who has such a long career ahead of her."

"I'm so excited to be publishing *Ace of Spades* with Macmillan! Liz and Foyinsi immediately got the heart of my book, a love letter to queer Black teenagers who feel powerless and alone finally finding their voices," said Àbíké-Íyímídé. "I hope readers in the US see that Black people belong in stories like *Gossip Girl* and *Pretty Little Liars*, and that above everything else we deserve happy endings."

"It's wonderful to work with a team that grasps the power of this book, a rare combination of gripping suspense and biting social commentary," Ker Hawn said. "It couldn't be more timely."

*Ace of Spades* will be simultaneously published in the UK by Usborne Children's Books. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Macmillan and Usborne will coordinate a massive global marketing campaign to launch *Ace of Spades* as an international bestseller and introduce Àbíké-Íyímídé as a major player on the YA scene.

### **NOTE TO THE PRESS:**

**About Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé:**



Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé is a writer from South London who has dreamed of writing books about Black kids saving (or destroying) the world all her life. She currently studies English, Chinese and Anthropology at a university in the Scottish Highlands. Follow her on Twitter at @faridahlikestea.

**About Macmillan:**

Macmillan Publishers is a global trade book publishing company with prominent imprints around the world. Macmillan publishes a broad range of award-winning books for children and adults in all categories and formats. US publishers include Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Flatiron Books, Henry Holt and Company, Macmillan Audio, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, Picador, St. Martin's Press, and Tor/Forge. In the UK, Australia, India, and South Africa, Macmillan publishes under the Pan Macmillan name. The German company, Holtzbrinck Deutsche Buchverlage, includes among its imprints S. Fischer, Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Rowohlt, and Droemer Knaur. Macmillan Publishers is a division of the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, a large family-owned media company headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.

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