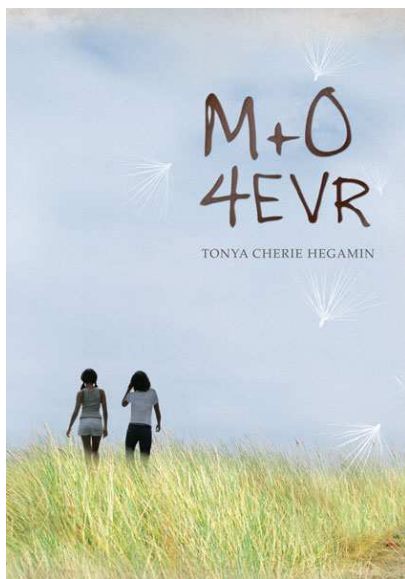


**For Immediate Release**

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# **M+O 4EVR**

By Tonya Cherie Hegamin



*I drifted off still in my clothes, the drone of Gran's TV like a lullaby. I slept heavily with no dreams, with only the vision of M leaning over me and looking into my eyes, humming, "She wants to lead the glamorous life. Without love. . ." I didn't even hear the knock at the door when Gran came to tell me that Marianne was dead.*

There are two constants in Opal's life: her dad's grungy green baseball cap, and her troubled pal, Marianne, whom Opal loves as a best friend . . . and even more. But nothing stays the same forever, and like so many other unpredictable, dangerous, wild, promising people, Marianne dies far too young.

Now Opal is faced with a reality she does not recognize, one in which she must make her decisions alone and try to accept her tragic loss with the help of her family.

*M+O 4EVR* is a poignant and daring story about growing up, realizing life's hard truths, and having the courage to move on. This beautifully written first novel is at once a modern coming-of-age tale and a look back into history, as Opal finds comfort and inspiration in the story of Hannah, a runaway slave who, like her, struggles to discover her own path in a world that suddenly seems so strange.



**Tonya Cherie Hegamin** decided she would be a writer when she was eight years old. Between then and now, she has also been a social worker, an educator, a vintage clothing vendor, a vegan soul food caterer, and the program director of a poetry retreat. Tonya is a graduate of Cave Canem and a native of Pennsylvania. *M+O 4EVR* is her first novel.

***M+O 4EVR* • May 2008 • Ages 14 and up • 192 pages • \$16.00 • Fiction**  
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