In conversation with

KARA LAREAU.

author of the Witchycakes series



RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

You are both an author and an editor. Which side of the publishing process do you prefer?

Hmm...I had a long career as an editor of children's books, and I enjoyed it most of the time. But I've come to realize I feel happiest and most myself when I'm writing. And I can always put on my editing hat when it's time to revise my own work!

Blue is a witch-in-training who works at a magical bakery. If you were a witch, what kind of magical powers would you like to have?

I wish I knew some magic that could do my chores. I'm not a huge fan of cleaning and doing laundry! But I'd also like the power to heal people who are hurt or sick or soothe people who are upset or afraid (including myself). And I'd LOVE the power to talk to animals. I have a feeling they'd have a lot to say to us.

Each book in the series features a recipe or magic spell that kids can replicate. Are you a baker in real life?

I love cooking and baking. It calms me and makes me use my brain in a different way. And I really enjoy reading books and watching TV shows about chefs. They're truly artists, and I'm

fascinated by how they communicate through food.

Also, in my family, food is a special kind of magic—it's a way of showing love and bringing people together.

Gully is Blue's familiar. What animal would you want to have as your familiar?

Actually, I already have two familiars: my cats, Ella and Lulu. Though they don't do my bidding. In fact, I usually do theirs. So maybe I'm THEIR familiar?

