THE SECRET WINNERS CLUB

BY DONNA GALANTI

1st Rule
of
The Secret Winners Club:
Do whatever it takes.

13-year-old Sunny Whitlock has alopecia; an autoimmune condition that's made her lose her hair—and she's desperate to be seen as more than just the bald kid. But how? By setting an epic goal: win her school's junkbot club competition. And if she's #1, then other kids will have to see beyond her disease … and she'll finally fit in.

Sunny's immune-deficient best friends are also tired of looking different and achieving second place in their school competitions. With a bold plan, Sunny bands with them to create The Secret Winners Club, a club devised to win—at any cost—and push them outside their comfort zones.

They promise to trust no one else. It's all classified! And in total secrecy they aim to help one another become #1 before this middle school year is over. But as they start to succeed, they quickly discover that crossing the line and hurting others can make them even more visible *and* even more an outsider.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Donna Galanti is the author of the middle-grade books *Unicorn Island* series, *Joshua and the Lightning Road* series, and *Loon Cove Summer*. She's lived in fun locations including England, her family-owned campground in New Hampshire, and in Hawaii as a U.S. Navy photographer. Donna is an avid outdoor adventurer and nature lover. She volunteers for the Old-Growth Forest Network and the National Audubon Society. For details on her books, events, and school programs, visit donnagalanti.com.

PRAISE FOR THE SECRET WINNERS CLUB:

"An inspiring and heartfelt story about courage, friendship, and the power of self-acceptance. The story flows with energy and emotion, blending humor, tension, and heartfelt moments in perfect rhythm."*—Suzie Housley, Midwest Book Review*

"The Secret Winners Club amplifies the voices of kids who struggle to be seen beyond their medical conditions with those who judge by appearance alone. A fine weaving of heartache, grit, humor, and the ethics of what it means to get even."
—Joan Bauer, New York Times Best-selling author

KEY SELLING POINTS:

- A powerful story rich in identity, friendship, and second chances.
- For readers yearning to belong through creative, new adventures.
- A cast of characters struggling with skin conditions.
- Full of challenges, human connection, and sweet encounters.
- Tween club settings with STEAM and autoimmune themes.

info@wildtrailpress.com • www.donnagalanti.com

Wild Trail Press

Publisher: Wild Trail Press
Pub Date: March 3, 2026
Hardcover: $24.99
ISBN 13: 978-1-7363162-9-0
Paperback: $15.99
ISBN 13: 979-8-9991384-0-8
eBook: $5.99
ISBN 13: 979-8-9991384-1-5
Trim: 5.5" x 8.5", 286 pages
Middle Grade: Ages: 8-13

Keywords:
friendship, family, coming-of-age, theater, autoimmune, STEM, swim team, bullying, junkbot, vitiligo, alopecia, psoriasis, school clubs, identity, LGBTQIA+, new experiences, self-acceptance, inventions, technology

Audience:

- Tech, theater & swim lovers
- Kids seeking self-acceptance
- Fans of friendship stories
- Those with skin conditions

BISAC Categories Juvenile Fiction:
Health & Daily Living/Diseases, Illnesses & Injuries
Health & Daily Living/Mindfulness & Meditation
Performing Arts/Theater & Musicals
Technology/Inventions
Social Themes/Bullying
Social Themes/Adolescence & Coming of Age
Social Themes/Friendship
Sports & Recreation/Water Sports
Social Themes/New Experience