



**Laurie Morrison** is a bestselling American author of novels for teenagers. She has many wonderful memories as a student at Peck School, in Morristown, where her writing journey started. She remembers continuously feeling encouraged as a reader and a writer, especially as a reader who loved that her teachers were always willing to share books with her. Back then, she never thought of herself as a creative student or that she would end up writing as a profession. However, she credits the excellent foundation in reading and writing she received from her years at Peck as key to her success today.

Morrison recalls seventh-grade English class taught by her mom, including writing her own ending to a series of books. At Haverford College, she studied English, tutored in the writing center, and joined student search committees to help hire English writing professors, which helped shape her future career. After graduating, she pursued her dream of writing. During her PhD at the University of Arizona, she taught English and connected with students daily.

As she taught, Morrison grew close to her middle school self again—rediscovering the curiosity and empathy she once felt through Judy Blume’s *Just as Long as We’re Together* and Irene Berg’s *Up a Road Slowly*. Reading them repeatedly, she longed to see the world through others’ eyes and recognize shared secret feelings.

Morrison started writing her debut novel as a co-author of *Every Shiny Thing*, a middle-grade novel, told through prose and verse. Since then, she has written several more books. She writes contemporary realistic novels about complicated emotions and flawed, loving characters who mess up, bounce back, and grow in messy, beautiful ways. She is passionate about crafting upper middle-grade books for 10 to 14-year-old readers like the students she used to teach (“Laurie Morrison '95”).

“Laurie Morrison ‘95.” The Peck School. [www.peckschool.org/news-post-page/~board/alumni-stories/post/laurie-morrison-95](http://www.peckschool.org/news-post-page/~board/alumni-stories/post/laurie-morrison-95). Accessed 18 Dec. 2025.

### Library Collection (Secondary)



#### [Every Shiny Thing](#)

Call number: JF MOR

Grace loses the top scholar title to her rival, Jonah, leaving her adrift. She signs up for a half-marathon they once planned to run together. As they train, she begins questioning if winning truly matters more than genuine connection.



#### [Keeping Pace](#)

Call number: JF MOR

Two girls, Lauren and Sierra, each struggling with family challenges, form a deep bond. Lauren plans a Robin Hood scheme to help autistic children, but Sierra risks losing everything if their plan fails.