

"In the comforting, truth-filled bildungsroman *A Boy's Guide to Outer Space*, a boy is more than where he is from. Outer space may be just outside his door, if he looks with the right eyes."—Foreword Reviews

1963. Hattertown, Connecticut.

Leo "Half" Napoli mourns his hat factory worker father while daydreaming of being the first man on the moon and "partaking of something of the infinite." Meanwhile he and his fellow Back Shop Boys (their fathers all worked in the mercury-fume-laden back shops of hat factories) seek to uncover the identity of the mysterious Man in Blue who wanders the town collecting items in his rucksack. Elected to spy on him, Half instead enters an odd friendship during the course of which Half learns not only what "Jack Thomas" has been collecting in his rucksack, but the extraordinary circumstances that led to his fugitive existence, an odyssey extending from WWII Bohemia to a German Prisoner of War Camp and beyond.

A novel about the places on earth where the mundane and the miraculous meet, and one boy's re-discovery of his lost sense of wonder.



"PETER SELGIN has gifted us a confident, audacious novel delivered in beautiful, miraculous prose." —Chika Unigwe, author of *The Middle Daughter*



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