



ON THE WAY TO BIRDLAND

By Frank Morelli

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YA Fiction

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"On the Way to Birdland will remind readers that when you take a giant step into the unfamiliar, you might just find yourself."

— Joelle Charbonneau, *New York Times* Best Selling author of *Verify* and *Disclose*

"A must read for everyone trying to find their way back to what matters most."

— Adrienne Kisner, Author of *Dear Rachel Maddow* and *The Confusion of Laurel Graham*

Self-proclaimed teenage philosopher, Cordy Wheaton, lives in a sleepy, southern town where nothing ever happens; not since his hero, jazz musician John Coltrane, left some seventy years earlier to "follow the sound." Cordy's life has been unraveling since the night his father and his brother, Travis, exploded on each other. The night Travis's addiction transformed him from budding musician into something entirely different. The night Travis took his saxophone and disappeared.

When Cordy discovers that his father is seriously ill, the sixteen-year-old vows to reunite the Wheaton family before it's too late. He embarks on a modern-day odyssey with forty bucks in his pocket and a dream to find his brother and convince him to be Travis again—by taking him to a show at famed Birdland Jazz Club in New York City, and reminding him of the common bonds they share with their legendary hero.

Cordy's journey, punctuated by a fascinating cast of characters, is soon haunted by ghostly visions, traumatic dreams, and disembodied voices that echo through his mind. He starts to wonder if the voices are those of the fates, guiding him toward his destiny—or if he's starting to lose his grip on reality.

On the Way to Birdland features themes such as music, mythology, philosophy, addiction, PTSD, friendship—and the risks and rewards in taking the giant step to leave the safe confines of your hometown for the sake of your family.

We hope *On the Way to Birdland* will introduce the music and legacy of John Coltrane to a new generation of readers.

FRANK MORELLI

Frank Morelli's debut young adult novel, *No Sad Songs* (2018), was a YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers nominee, a VOX top Hopepunk title, and winner of a 2019 American Fiction Award for best coming-of-age story. His fiction and essays have been featured in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Cobalt Review*, *Philadelphia Stories*, *Boog City Review*, and *Highlights Magazine*. Morelli lives in High Point, NC with his best friend, their obnoxious alley cats, and two hundred pounds worth of dog. Connect with him on Twitter [@frankmoewriter](#), on Instagram [@frankmorelliauthor](#), or at his author website, [frankmorelliwrites.com](#).



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