

PRESS KIT

The Mirror

A six-book portal fantasy for readers aged 8–12

Kateryn Cole · author

Phoenix House Books · publisher, Louisiana

Six books · October 2026 – May 2027

Review copies and cover art available on request

hello@kateryncole.com

Series at a glance

FACT	DETAIL
Series title	The Mirror — six books, complete
Author	Kateryn Cole
Publisher	Phoenix House Books, Louisiana — phoenixhousepress.com
Category	Juvenile Fiction · Fantasy & Magic · portal fantasy
Readership	Ages 8–12 · grades 3–7
Formats	Paperback and hardcover, each edition carrying its own ISBN
Publication window	5 October 2026 through 17 May 2027 — six titles in eight months
Distribution	Ingram · 55% discount · returnable . Order by ISBN.
Educator resources	Free discussion guide and librarian sell sheet — free to photocopy and distribute
Author visits	In person across Louisiana, or by video call anywhere
Author background	Homeschool parent — a natural fit for homeschool co-ops, families and conventions
Review copies	Electronic and print, on request, to reviewers, librarians and booksellers

The hook, in one line. Two twelve-year-olds are pulled through a bathroom mirror into a hallway of doors, each one a world with its own rules — and each one holding a child who got there first. All six books are written, and the seventh is not the end.

Why it suits this age band

High stakes and real peril with no gore. Short chapters and chapter-end hooks, written for reluctant readers as much as confident ones. Every world can be beaten by paying attention, which rewards the reader rather than the plot. And a standing cast of kids who ran out of chances before the heroes arrived gives the series a spine that keeps a nine-year-old turning pages.

About the series

There is a mirror over the sink in a small green-tiled bathroom in Cypress Hollow, Louisiana. It is older than the house. It has never once hung straight. On the night of his birthday sleepover, twelve-year-old Jr and his best friend Dakota Reyes find out why.

The hallway on the other side has six doors. Five of them are video game worlds — a ruined city, a painted sky, a racetrack, a dungeon, and one behind dark glass that neither boy wants to touch. Each one holds a key. The sixth door is three times too tall, has five slots cut into its face, and makes no sound at all.

The rules are simple, and nobody explains them kindly. Every world can be beaten if you are paying attention. Every world can beat you. And three failures in total, across all of it — and the hallway keeps you. Not kills you. *Keeps* you.

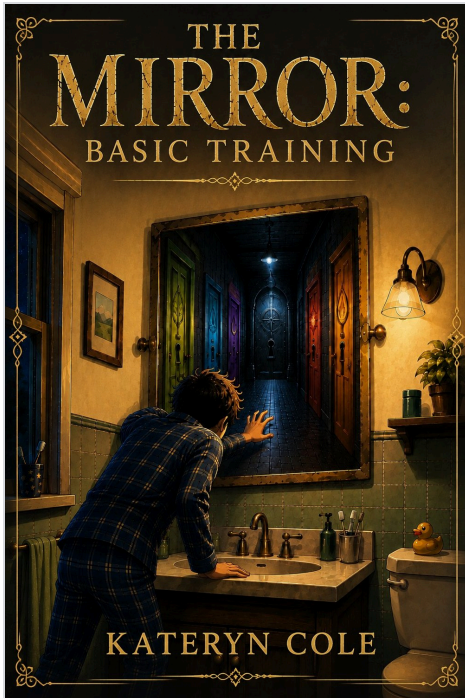
Because Jr and Dakota are not the first kids to come through that mirror. Behind every door is someone who ran out of chances.

Five doors. Five keys. And the one at the end that is waiting for all of them.

The publishing story

All six books in the series were written before the first was published, and the release schedule is deliberate: one title every six to eight weeks from October 2026 to May 2027, so a reader who finishes a book at midnight does not have long to wait for the next. A prequel trilogy is in progress.

Book One — Basic Training



The Mirror: Basic Training · Book One of six

Ages 8–12 · 5 October 2026

Paperback **\$11.99** · ISBN 979-8-953278-00-3

Hardcover **\$21.99** · ISBN 979-8-953278-06-5

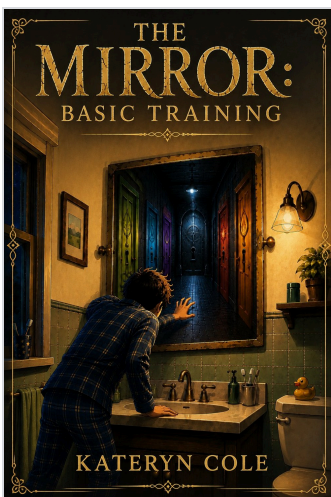
It is supposed to be a birthday sleepover. Then the bathroom mirror stops reflecting, and two boys come out in a long gray hallway with six doors and no way back.

A ruined city. A painted sky. A racetrack. A dungeon. And one door behind dark glass that neither boy wants to touch. Behind each one waits a key — and a kid who got there first and ran out of chances. Three failures, and the hallway keeps you.

At a glance

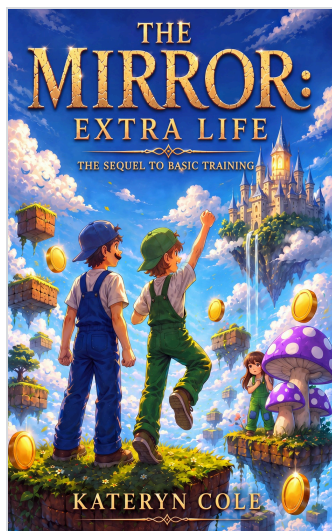
- **29,500 words** across **17 chapters**
- First book by Kateryn Cole · first title from Phoenix House Books
- Educator guide available: 26 discussion questions grouped by section, short and week-long activities, math and science extensions, and Common Core ELA anchor standards mapped to each question — with content notes up front so a teacher knows what is in the book before assigning it
- Order: [Amazon](#) · or through Ingram by ISBN at 55% trade discount, returnable

The six books



Basic Training

Book One
5 Oct 2026



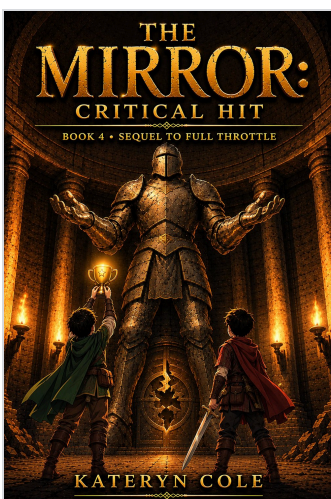
Extra Life

Book Two
16 Nov 2026



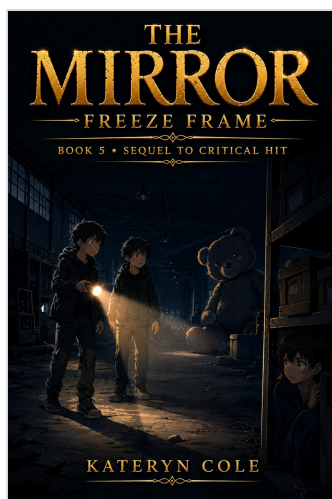
Full Throttle

Book Three
4 Jan 2027



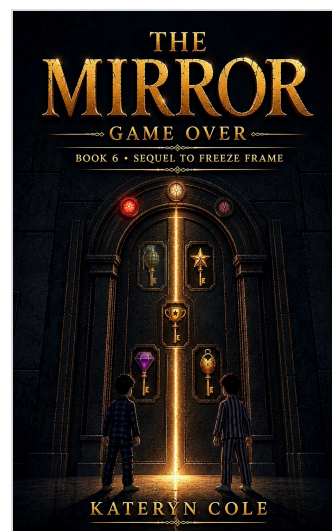
Critical Hit

Book Four
19 Feb 2027



Freeze Frame

Book Five
5 Apr 2027



Game Over

Book Six
17 May 2027

High-resolution cover art for all six titles is available on request — write to hello@kateryncole.com.

Titles, ISBNs and trade terms

Every title appears in two editions, each carrying its own ISBN. Available to the trade through Ingram at a 55% discount, returnable. Order by ISBN.

#	TITLE	PUBLICATION	PAPERBACK	HARDCOVER
1	Basic Training	5 Oct 2026	979-8-953278-00-3 · \$11.99	979-8-953278-06-5 · \$21.99
2	Extra Life	16 Nov 2026	979-8-953278-01-0 · \$13.99	979-8-953278-07-2 · \$24.99
3	Full Throttle	4 Jan 2027	979-8-953278-02-7 · \$13.99	979-8-953278-08-9
4	Critical Hit	19 Feb 2027	979-8-953278-03-4 · \$13.99	979-8-953278-09-6
5	Freeze Frame	5 Apr 2027	979-8-953278-04-1 · \$13.99	979-8-953278-10-2
6	Game Over	17 May 2027	979-8-953278-05-8 · \$13.99	979-8-953278-11-9

Hardcover pricing for Books Three through Six is confirmed when each page count is final. Full synopses for Books Two through Six are released with publication; advance electronic copies are available to reviewers on request.

Trade information: phoenixhousepress.com/trade.html

About the author

Kateryn Cole writes middle-grade adventure from Louisiana. She homeschooled her children — including the son whose question began this series.

The Mirror began with a question her twelve-year-old son asked in front of two facing mirrors — what if that is another world, and what if it pulled you in — and the two of them built the rest of it standing there. He is nineteen now and in the Marine Corps. Her daughter edits the drafts.

Basic Training is her first book.

Author links

- Author site — kateryncole.com
- Publisher site — phoenixhousepress.com
- Author page — phoenixhousepress.com/authors
- Enquiries — hello@kateryncole.com

Interview and event topics

- Where the series came from — a question asked by a twelve-year-old in a bathroom doorway, and what a decade of building it looked like
- Writing all six books before publishing the first, and why a staggered release schedule serves young readers
- Writing real peril for eight-to-twelves — high stakes, no gore, and the line a middle-grade author has to hold
- Choosing to publish through an independent imprint, and what a Louisiana small press does differently
- School visits: what a classroom of reluctant readers actually asks an author
- Writing for readers aged 8–12 as a homeschooling parent — and what that background changed about the books

For educators, librarians and booksellers

Everything below is free and ready to use. Guides for later titles go up as each book releases.

RESOURCE	WHAT IT IS
Educator's guide — Book One kateryncole.com/guides/The-Mirror-Book-One-Basic-Training-Educators-Guide.pdf	Twenty-six discussion questions grouped by section, short and week-long activities, math and science extensions, Common Core ELA anchor standards for each question, and content notes so you know what is in the book before you assign it. Grades 3–7.
Librarian sell sheet — Book One kateryncole.com/guides/The-Mirror-Book-One-Librarian-Sell-Sheet.pdf	One page, built for a collection-development decision: cover, description, ISBNs, formats, price, age range and distributor details.
Educator hub kateryncole.com/educators	All guides, the visit request form, and ordering routes for schools and libraries.
School and library visits	In person across Louisiana, or by video call anywhere. Request dates through the educator page — nothing is a commitment on either side, and a reply usually comes within a day or two.

Free to photocopy and distribute for classroom and library use.

Ordering for a school or library

Both editions of every title are available to the trade through Ingram at a **55% discount, returnable**. Order by ISBN — the full list is on the [trade page](#). For a single copy, order through [Amazon](#).

Press contact and assets

Contact

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Available on request

- High-resolution cover art for all six titles, individual or as a set
- Electronic and print review copies — tell us a little about your readers and we will send the right titles
- Author interview, in person or by phone or video
- Author photograph and short and long-form biographies
- Series fact sheet, and full synopses for Books Two through Six under embargo before publication
- Hi-res interior and cover flat images for print and web

One scheduling note for reviewers. Book Two releases six weeks after Book One, on 16 November 2026. If you are covering the series, both titles are available now — reviewing them together gives a far better picture of what the series becomes than Book One alone.

This press kit was prepared 28 September 2026. Publication dates, prices and ISBNs should be confirmed against phoenixhousepress.com/books before going to print.