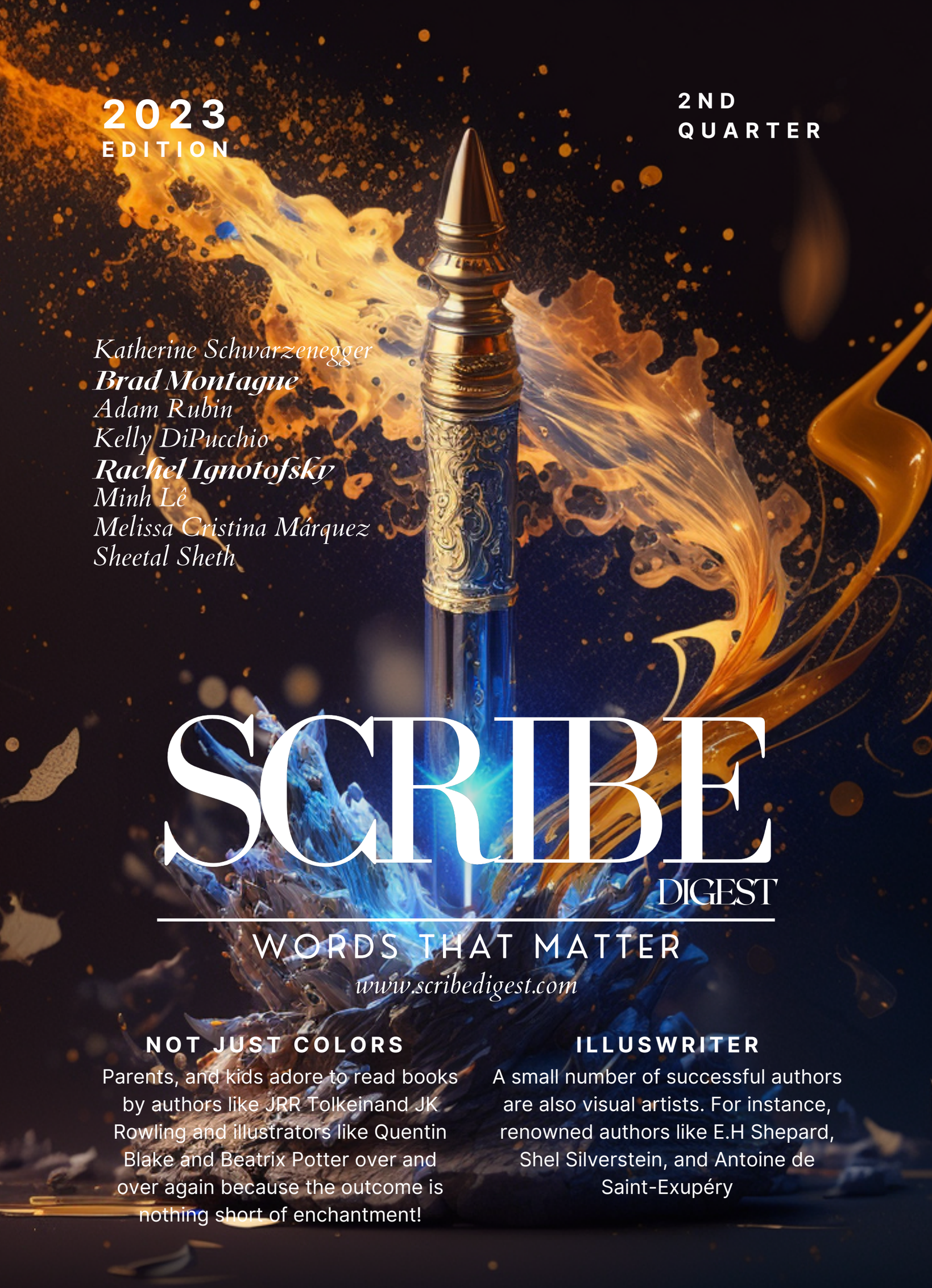

2023
EDITION

2ND
QUARTER

*Katherine Schwarzenegger*
***Brad Montague***
*Adam Rubin*
*Kelly DiPucchio*
***Rachel Ignotofsky***
*Minh Lê*
*Melissa Cristina Márquez*
*Sheetal Sheth*

# SCRIBE
DIGEST

WORDS THAT MATTER

*www.scribedigest.com*

## NOT JUST COLORS

Parents, and kids adore to read books by authors like JRR Tolkeinand JK Rowling and illustrators like Quentin Blake and Beatrix Potter over and over again because the outcome is nothing short of enchantment!

## ILLUSWRITER

A small number of successful authors are also visual artists. For instance, renowned authors like E.H Shepard, Shel Silverstein, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry







Kat, excited to sleep in her big girl room, plans to give her younger sister Tina her stuffed animals to remind her of bravery, creativity, love, and imagination. However, a storm outside their windows makes the big girl room feel lonely, and Kat might need extra support. Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt's gentle prose illuminates the bonds sisters share and the many ways they are there for one another, making the story a comforting bedtime tale.

https://www.katherineschwarzenegger.com/

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IN THE FOCUS




Author Spotlight

# Joy Harjo

## Get to know

Joy Harjo, a renowned performer and writer from the Mvskoke Nation, has received numerous honors from the American Poets, including the Ruth Lily Prize from the Poetry Foundation. She is also a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and chair of the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation.

Michaela Goade, a Tlingit artist, has created a picture book adaptation of Harjo, a poem from the Mvskoke Nation, which encourages young readers to reflect on family, nature, and heritage. Drawing from her Tlingit culture, Goade's vivid illustrations bring the words to life, making the book a true celebration of life and our human role within it. Harjo's simple language and Tlingit culture make the book engaging and accessible.

https://www.joyharjo.com/

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Editor's Note

# A HOMAGE TO THE VIBRANT STROKES AND CAPTIVATING DETAILS



Welcome to the Scribe Digest's summer issue of 2023, where we delve into the captivating world of book illustration and literary inspiration. In this issue, we celebrate the artistry of renowned book illustrators of 2023, whose works bring stories to life with vibrant strokes and captivating details.

We also pay homage to the timeless brilliance of famous book illustrators throughout history, whose artistry has transcended generations.

In addition, we explore the fascinating world of authors who have also graced their own works with illustrations, blurring the lines between writer and artist. We uncover the secrets of inspiring authors to unleash their creative genius, examining the techniques and strategies that spark literary masterpieces. Finally, we embark on a journey into the minds of renowned authors, unraveling the sources of inspiration that ignite their imaginations and fuel their storytelling prowess.

Prepare to be captivated by the artistry, imagination, and inspiration that permeate the pages of this issue. Let Scribe Digest be your guide as we celebrate the transformative power of books and the boundless creativity of the written word.

Sincerely,

The Editorial Team
Scribe Digest

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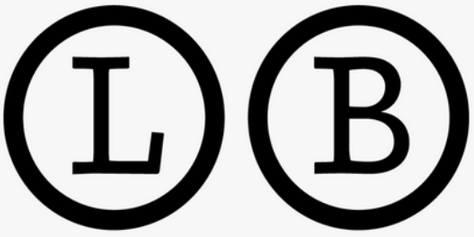
# Featured Publishers



Roaring Brook Press































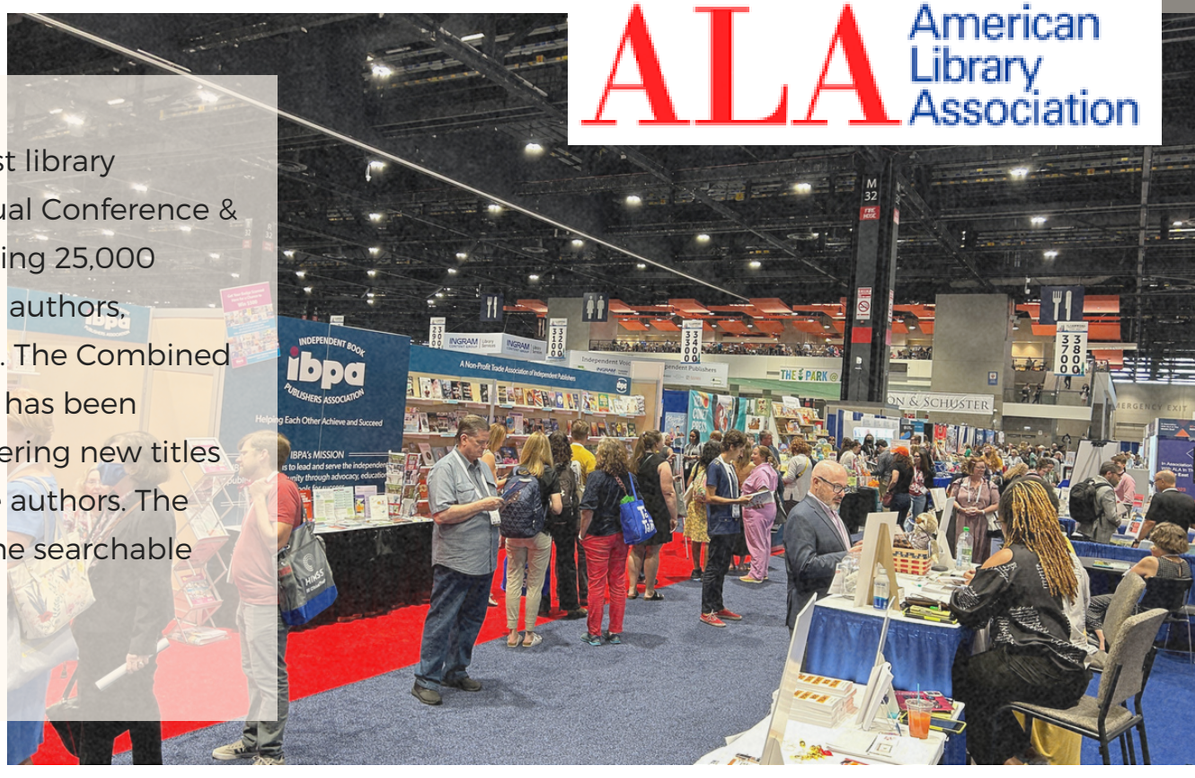







# Exhibitions

International, National and Local




ALA, the oldest and largest library association, hosts its Annual Conference & Exhibition in June, attracting 25,000 librarians, staff, educators, authors, publishers, and exhibitors. The Combined Book Exhibit, a key event, has been attending for 89 years, offering new titles from traditional and indie authors. The NTS also includes an online searchable catalog for two years.

June 23-27, 2023




The Frankfurt Book Fair, held in Germany, is the world's largest book fair, attracting thousands of international companies and visitors. The five-day event, held in mid-October, features the USA Pavilion and the Combined Book Exhibit New Title Showcase, attracting thousands of attendees to negotiate publishing rights and licenses. Space is limited, so register early.

October 18-20, 2023

# 100 MIGHTY DRAGONS ALL NAMED BROCCOLI

By David LaRochelle



David LaRochelle, a renowned author, has been creating children's books for over thirty years. His titles include The Best Pet of All, How Martha Saved Her Parents from Green Beans, and See the Cat: Three Stories about a Dog. LaRochelle has won numerous awards, including Theodor Seuss Geisel, Sid Fleischman Humor, multiple children's choice awards, and the Minnesota Book Award. He also enjoys reading, playing board games, and carving unique jack-o'-lanterns.

https://davidlarochelle.com/

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High on a mountain live 100 mighty dragons all named Broccoli. When a tremendous wind blows half the dragons away, ten others sail off to become professional surfers in Hawaii. The oldest and youngest dragons take a train to New York City to start their own heavy metal band. And a mysterious wizard turns four more into a unicorn, a werewolf, a zombie, and a tiny pink poodle. Now how many dragons are left? Young readers will delight in following each and every dragon as they leave their home for marvelous adventures, until there is but one dragon remaining. That's when this final dragon named Broccoli retreats to a cave for the winter and reappears in the spring with a surprise that will thrill and delight. Prepare to read again!

"A nonstop dragon party . . . Irresistible." —Publishers Weekly

**"Plenty of giggles . . . This is one entertaining and silly way to do math."** *—Kirkus*
**"A hilarious, charming and extremely silly book. . . . A great addition to any child's bookshelf."** *—The Minneapolis StarTribune*
**"Colorful . . . Countable . . . Humorous . . . Lively."** *—Booklist*

# THE FANTASTIC BUREAU OF IMAGINATION

Every day, special figment agent Sparky delivers all the mail the FBI receives to the proper department, like the Office of the Unexplainable or the Department of Dreams. It's a big job, but Sparky keeps everything running smoothly . . . until disaster strikes when the Cave of Untold Stories overflows and threatens to topple the whole bureau. It turns out too many people have been holding in their big ideas, and now Sparky must recruit more agents to share their dreams, songs, and stories with the world.




From New York Times bestselling author Brad Montague comes a top-secret, behind-the-scenes peek at the official agency that keeps the world's creativity flowing.

***Amazon Best Book of the Year***

★ "The colorful illustrations are delightful and invite the reader to explore. Pages with pictures of each of the figments and a map of the bureau departments are especially engaging. This book would be a great addition to any STEAM collection." —***School Library Connection, starred review***

"The delightful, detailed illustrations provide a lot of interesting moments for a small audience to pore over." —***Kirkus***

# BRAD MONTAGUE

"The Montagues fill their worldbuilding fantasy, rendered in digitally colored pencil drawings, with gentle humor and rich details, including an elaborate schematic of the bureau's many departments. Their pages should reward repeated looks while nudging readers to get out of their own way." —***Publishers Weekly***

"It is a profound message handled competently by Montague, and in narrowing the overwhelming scope of the story to a mail carrier with a penchant for poetry, the narrative emphasizes the power of a single voice . . . the muted color palette establishes an appealing dreamlike atmosphere that complements the story's themes. Offer this book to any young person in need of a reminder about the importance of sharing their voice." —***BCCB***



Brad Montague is creator of the hit web series Kid President, and Kid Congress, and author of Becoming Better Grownups, and the New York Times best sellers Kid President's Guide to Being Awesome and The Circles All Around Us. As an illustrator his work is regularly featured in Joanna Gaines's The Magnolia Journal. He lives in Tennessee with his wife and kids.

Kristi Montague is a designer, maker and jack-of-all-trades who owns and operates Montague Workshop, a creative studio, with her husband, Brad. From Kid President to books and birds and more, their studio aims to joyfully rebel against the world that is to create the world that could be. She's also a mama to two kids and lives in a 117-year-old house in rural Tennessee.

https://montagueworkshop.com/

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**Brad Montague** and **Kristi Montague** are New York Times bestselling author/illustrators. Their work is designed to connect with the hearts of children young and old.

We are agents of imagination who love creating stories and experiences for kids and grownups. From our smalltown in Tennessee, we've created work that's found its way all over the world — and we're just getting started. Let's dream up something good for people! Together.






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Tanya Rosie and Chuck Groenink's picture book, Mum, Me, and the Mulberry Tree, follows Grandpa's visit with a suitcase smelling Persian spices, walnuts, and saffron. Grandpa and granddaughter share their favorite things, such as mountaintops, tunnels, and horses. The book explores the magical bonds between families, even those spread across the world, and the importance of time together. The story highlights the sweeter and more special moments when time together is limited.



# TANYA ROSIE

# LYDIA LUKIDIS








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Deep, deep down, at the very bottom of the ocean, lies a secret world. Through lyrical narration, this spare-text STEM picture book takes readers on a journey to a place very few humans have ever been--the Mariana Trench.

The imagined voyage debunks scary myths about this mysterious place with surprising and beautiful truths about life at Earth's deepest point. Deep, Deep Down shows a vibrant world far below, and teaches readers how interconnected our lives are to every place on the planet.




**CREATIVE DIRECTOR, PUZZLE COLLECTOR AND MAGIC TRICK AFICIONADO**

# Adam Rubin

Author of the New York Times Best Selling book Dragons Love Tacos and the critically-acclaimed Those Darn Squirrels trilogy

https://www.dragonslovetacos.com/



Daniel Salmieri

Illustrator

Adam Rubin, the talented writer behind the beloved Dragons Love Tacos and the highly praised Those Darn Squirrels trilogy, has captivated readers with his imaginative storytelling.

By day, Adam showcases his creativity as the Creative Director at a prestigious digital advertising agency in the vibrant city of New York. However, when the sun sets, Adam immerses himself in his passions as a puzzle collector and a devoted fan of magic tricks.

His diverse interests also include improv comedy and camping, which add excitement and joy to his life. Currently, Adam resides in the enchanting city of Barcelona, Spain, where he continues to inspire and entertain with his incredible talents.

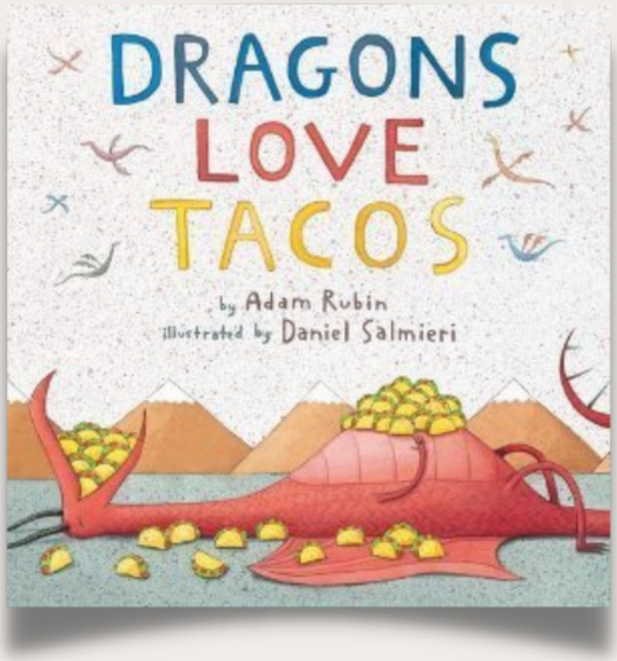
# DRAGONS LOVE TACOS

Dragons have an insatiable love for tacos. They have a fondness for all kinds of tacos, whether it's chicken, beef, large or small. If you're planning to attract a group of dragons to your party, tacos should definitely be on the menu. In fact, you should prepare an abundance of tacos to satisfy their appetite.

However, there is a slight drawback when it comes to serving tacos – salsa. Dragons need to be cautious because if they accidentally consume spicy salsa, things can quickly escalate into a fiery predicament.

Starred review. ""Off-kilter fun for those who like their picture books (and salsa) zesty and fresh."" - **Publishers Weekly**

""The perfect book for kids who love dragons and mild tacos."" - **Kirkus Reviews**

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# DRAGONS LOVE TACOS 2

Breaking news! A shocking revelation has emerged - there is an unfortunate scarcity of tacos worldwide. This poses a significant predicament since dragons have an insatiable fondness for these delectable treats. If only there existed a means for these majestic creatures to journey back in time, to a period before tacos faced extinction.

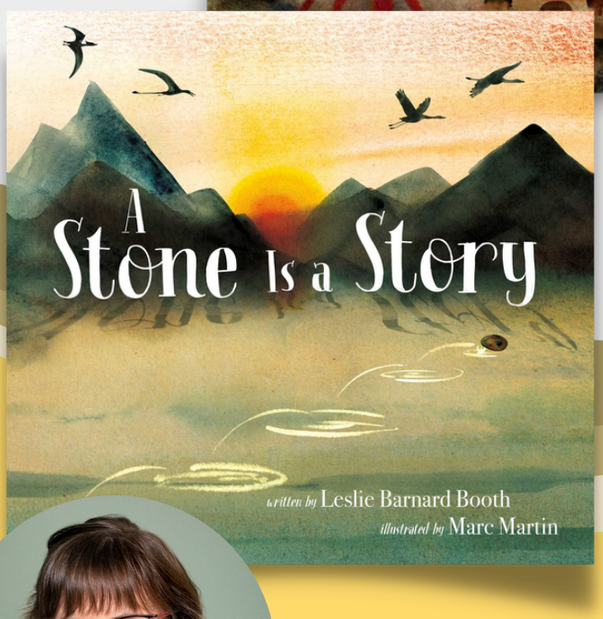
In doing so, they could procure an abundance of tacos and return triumphantly! This strategy appears flawless, provided there is an absence of fiery salsa. We mustn't forget the calamity that ensued during the previous encounter...

"This zany companion promises to be as gut-bustingly ridiculous and yes-I'll-gladly-read-it-again-and-again entertaining as the first." — **PopSugar**

# A Stone is a Story

by: Leslie Barnard Booth






The answer may be more incredible than you think! After all, a stone is not just a stone: a stone is a story. Embark on a journey across time to see how one stone can change and transform, from magma under Earth's crust to the sand swept up by a rushing river to the very heart of the tallest mountain. Watch what happens when rain, ice, and wind mold this rock into something new, something you might even hold in your hand—something full of endless possibility.

Complete with additional information about geology and the rock cycle, this lyrical and captivating story invites readers to experience the wonder of the natural world around us, and to see—in every cliff, pebble, and stone—a window into Earth's deep past.

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# Carina Felina

by: Carmen Agra Deedy

The trouble started when Pepe the parrot fell in love with . . . a CAT!

Hoping to win her paw, he invited her to his house for dinner.

But within moments of arriving--with a gobble and a gulp--Carina swallowed that love-sick parrot whole!
And he was just the appetizer!

In this Cuban retelling of a classic folktale, Carmen Agra Deedy and Henry Cole merge their talents to create a wickedly funny and inspiring picture book that proves the smallest of creatures can sometimes possess the most surprising strength!

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# KELLY DiPUCCHIO

Kelly DiPucchio is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of over 30 stories for children. Her books have been translated into multiple languages and have sold more than one million copies worldwide. Kelly's titles include Grace For President, Gaston, and The Sandwich Swap – a picture book she co-authored for Queen Rania of Jordan. Her books have appeared on Good Morning America, The Oprah Show and The View and have received numerous starred reviews and awards.

Kelly travels the country speaking to kids about the importance of kindness, overcoming adversity and personal empowerment. She lives in southeastern Michigan with her growing family which includes three crazy dogs and three perfect grandchildren.

https://www.kellydipucchio.com/






Oona and her best friend Otto love to search for treasure...and often find trouble instead.
Messy trouble.
Tricky trouble.
Even shark-related trouble.
That's never stopped them before, though!
After all, no proper treasure hunt is without some adventure. But when the grandest treasure yet is stuck in a deep, dark rift, Oona's not sure if she can dive right in. What might be waiting for her in those unknown waters?

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Stanley the shark, a squeaky unicorn, doesn't seem to enjoy Oona's company or her inventions. Despite her LOUD and bold friends, Stanley is too busy for the Sea Horse Carousel. Oona's latest inventions, like hopping, chopping, and popping, make him angry. Oona knows what Stanley doesn't like, but she knows what he doesn't. Despite Stanley's disapproval, Oona's inventions make him happy, as mermaids never stop trying.

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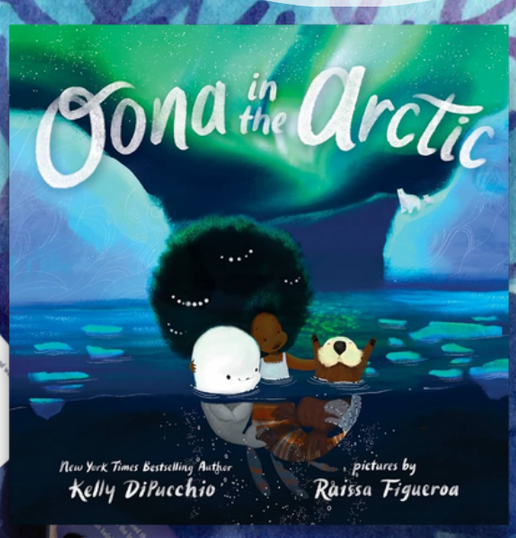




Oona, a mermaid, embarks on a mission to rescue a baby whale who has lost her way from her family. Despite having never traveled from their warm ocean waters, Oona and her best friend Otto are determined to navigate the dangerous storms ahead. With bravery and the help of new friends, they aim to reunite the baby whale with her pod and return to her icy arctic home.

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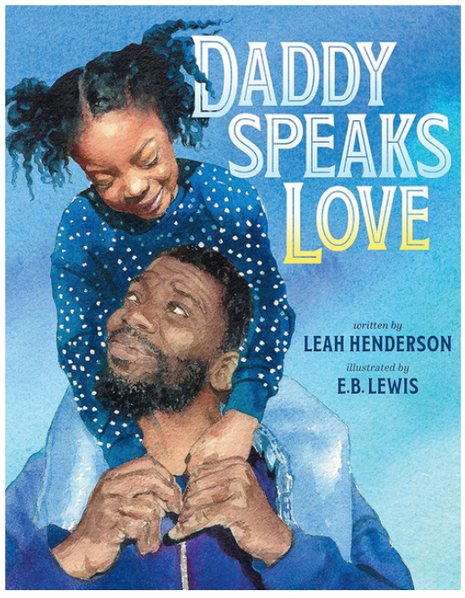
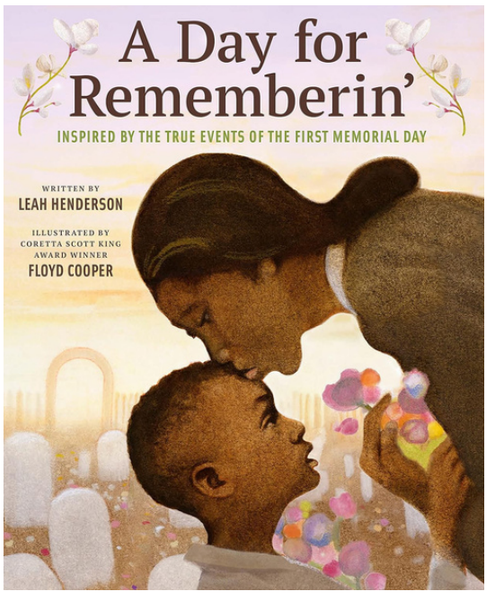
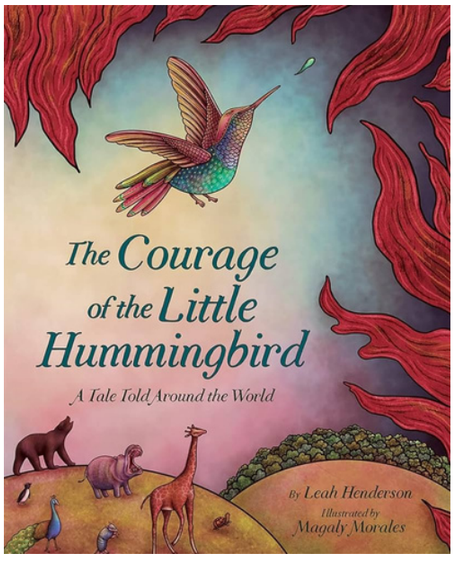



Courage of the Little Hummingbird is a freshly retold animal fable about heroism, hope, and community, from award-winning creators Leah Henderson and Magaly Morales.

Leah Henderson's picture book *A Day for Rememberin'* is a moving tribute to the little-known history behind the first Memorial Day, illustrated by Coretta Scott King Award winner Floyd Cooper.







**Praise for *The Magic in Changing Your Stars***

"Black excellence, Black fantastic, and Black family combine for a transformational story of passion and persistence."

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)



# Leah Henderson

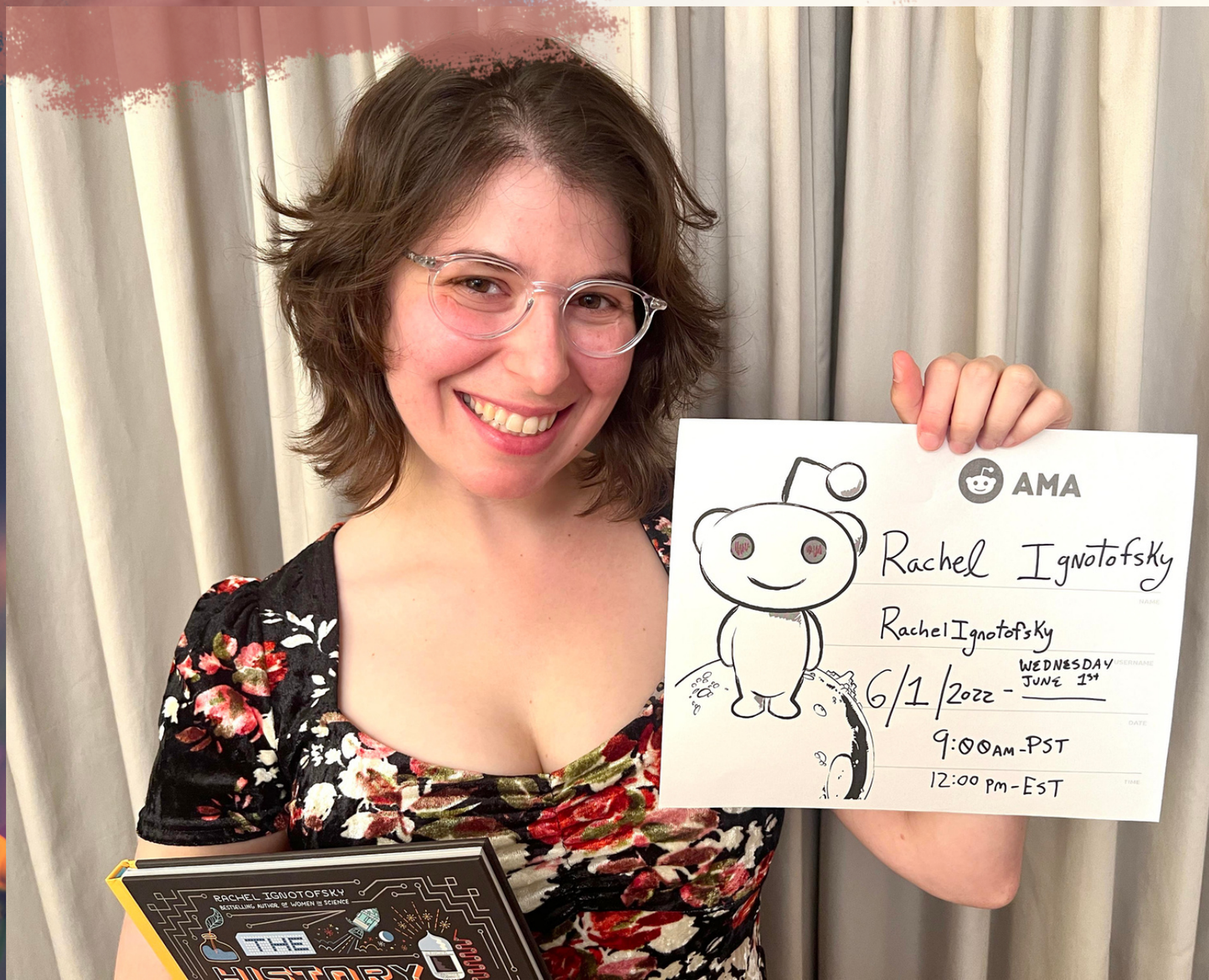
Leah Henderson is the author of A Day for Rememberin', Together We March, Daddy Speaks Love, and Your Voice, Your Vote. Her middle-grade novels include The Magic in Changing Your Stars, a SCBWI Golden Kite Awards finalist, and One Shadow on the Wall, a Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year.

Henderson holds an MFA in writing and is on faculty in Spalding University's School of Creative and Professional Writing. She resides in Washington, D.C.

# RACHEL IGNOTOFSKY

Rachel Ignotofsky is a New York Times Best Selling author and illustrator, based in California. She grew up in New Jersey on a healthy diet of Star Trek and pudding and graduated from Tyler School of Art in 2011 with a BFA in Graphic Design. Rachel's career as a scientific communicator started by nurturing her own curiosity. Out of college, she created art and infographics about topics she found interesting and important- with a focus in science literacy. She had many friends starting their careers in teaching, and Rachel wanted to create resources to help them with their lessons. Soon Rachel's online store was selling her posters to schools, labs and science enthusiasts across the country and her work was scooped up to be featured on the likes of Scientific American, Fast Company, PRI and PBS.

https://rachelignotofskydesign.com/






Rachel Ignotofsky's stunning introduction to flowers and seeds offers a comprehensive guide for young scientists to explore their world. The nonfiction picture book series, featuring engaging, informative text, provides a foundation for understanding the fascinating world of flowers, fostering curiosity and inquiry.

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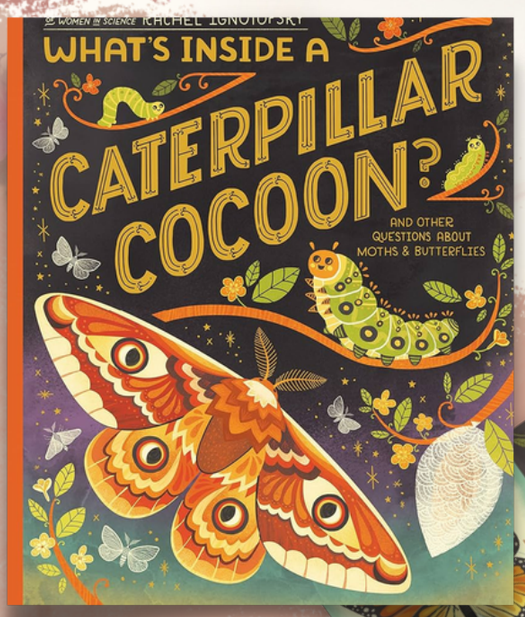


Rachel Ignotofsky's nonfiction picture book series explores the awestrucking metamorphosis of butterflies and moths, highlighting their similarities and differences. The engaging text and distinctive art style answer questions about these majestic insects, providing a comprehensive understanding of their fascinating lives.

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Rachel Ignotofsky's nonfiction picture book series explores the fascinating world of birds with wings in the sky. With a touch of humor and compassion, readers can learn about the hatching process and their creation of homes. The book offers a detailed and engaging exploration of birds, eggs, and nests, making it a perfect springtime read.

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# Balint Zsako

**Balint Zsako** was born in Budapest, Hungary to a textile artist mother and a sculptor father. His family immigrated to Canada when he was ten years old. At university, he studied photography, but for the last 20 years, he has been exhibiting paintings and collages. *Take This Waltz*, a film by Sarah Polley, features his drawings, and his illustrations have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's* and *The New York Times Magazine*. *Bunny & Tree* is his first picture book. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

His artistic language is a curious blend of psychological, mythical, spiritual and sexual narratives that express his devoted exploration of emotional complexities and somatic configurations.

**https://balintzsako.com/**

***Please tell us about your background as an artist and how you started making art.***

I was born in Hungary and both of my parents are artists. My mother Anna Torma is a textile artist, but she is more in the fine art world than the craft world, and my father Istvan Zsako is a sculptor. Both my parents were successful visual artists in Hungary but my father wanted to leave Eastern Europe because he didn't know how the communist experiment was going to end. We left before the wall came down, so we ended up in West Germany for about two years and then from there we went to Canada. I grew up in Canada.

I have been making art and building things from a young age, and I was surrounded by my parents' artist friends, so a life in the arts seemed natural. I was good at math in school so I was seriously considering studying Industrial Design but instead I started studying new media in college and finished with a fine arts degree in photography.

***Most of what I know about your work is your watercolors on paper. Do you still work in a variety of mediums these days or mostly drawing?***

During college I was making these thick journals that contained everything I did-drawings, paintings, photography, writing-like Peter Beard sketchbooks, you know, just cram everything in them. The journals stopped after college but I have worked a lot with photography, I have built my own cameras. The last photographic series I did were cyanotypes, and I have done series where I draw or collage the negatives and then print them in a traditional c-print enlarger. I have always loved the medium of photography but most of my time now is spent drawing and making collages. I like to rotate the mediums I work with to make it exciting to come back to after a break.

***Your drawings often exhibit gorgeous and sumptuous color combinations.***

I figured out the way I like to paint watercolors isn't in washes of colors combined but more in glazes, painting thin layers on top of each other. If you paint a red on top of a green, the kind of rich brown you get is not a color you can get with any single pigment. I lean toward saturated bright color instinctively, so sometimes I have to stop myself and tone things down or try and pick unpredictable color combinations instead of easily likeable ones.

***The figures in your works seem to either agree in their actions or struggle for control through open-ended narratives. I am curious about your influences or ideas for the stories in your work.***

The open-ended part of it is important. People are complicated, you never know someone's motivations in either love or war. Somebody's heroic action is somebody else's war crime. I don't like to make illustrative or declarative works, where it's airtight and where it's like 'I am saying this' and if you don't see that then the work dies. Most successful artwork is like that. If you look at a Caravaggio you are not excited by the religious content, you are looking at it because of the humanism and the humanism is always complicated. And that is why the question of political art is really interesting to me, because you want to be engaged with things that are going on, but it's difficult to make something-especially with ink and watercolor on paper-that will change somebody's mind. So what you do is show what people are and show who people are and that goes a lot further in opening someone's minds than sloganeering.



***Your recent body of work, Blood Orange exhibited at Foley Gallery in New York, those pieces are notably absent of landscapes or objects. The sole focus is figurative, so the isolated realms in your work seem wholly devoted to the complexity of the human being. Please elaborate on those figures.***

I find that by focusing on the figure it makes you look at interactions and the subtleties of those interactions. The last series at Foley Gallery was the most concentrated in terms of just paring down: there are no objects, there is no landscape, there is no ground, and there is no sky. It just makes you look at the figure. This is the first time I have worked like this-in previous works I would add a bottle or add a tree to make the painting work compositionally or thematically.

***Those works suggest a kind of pleasure, power and negotiation among men and women. Figures often share an organ or other bodily part, such as two figures who divide one eye. Is this merging of bodies psychological, physical or sexual? Is it a combination of all that?***

These paintings show physical metaphors for personal interactions. Are the figures working together or working against each other, being in love or having hate-how do you show that with just the physical body, how do you show that with just color? Possession of a body seems like a direct way of representing who has control over a sexual relationship or emotional trajectory. Are they trying to get away from each other or closer to each other? I want that to be unclear.

***I am really intrigued by that sexual element in your work, this idea about overlapping bodies that suggest poly-amorous or non-monogamous behavior. Is that an accurate interpretation or is there something else that you are saying with that?***

I think the world is amazing in the spectrum of genders and in the spectrum of desires and in how people relate to each other. People are complex and not binary, they always have been, going back to the Romans and to the cave men. This makes its way into my work.

***We're a huge fan of that 'open-ended complication' in your work. There are so many sensual moments in your work where men and women or figures of the same sex melt into each other in erotic ways, yet there is also an underlying tension in some of these assemblages. For example, one of your works from the recent Foley exhibition in NYC included a piece with two men whose penis' becomes one. The work is explicit without being pornographic. Please describe what you think viewers of your work might experience in a moment such as this. What do you want them to feel?***

I have several sketches for that work in which I incorporated the arms into the touch, like thinking about the fingers touching the face or the hands being linked. But once I painted the bottom part with just the penis' being linked it was such a strong and gentle gesture at the same time, it didn't need anything else. You can look at it as a metaphor for sexual desire but not desiring any other part of that person. But it can also be read as the figures pulling apart, where they used to share a lot of things but those things are no longer relevant and all that has left is that single touch. Or it could be like soldiers in war where conflict makes camaraderie in a very specific way. It represents strength and brotherliness without being sexual, an intention to move forward with strength and power to victory.

There is a multiplicity of directions in painting and I find it satisfying when the viewer comes to a conclusion or a reading of it that is personal. What happens to me during a day is completely different from what happens to you. When I look at that picture, it might make me happy but its probably different than what it does to you. That reaction is what the artwork is, and that requires the viewer to bring a lot of their own life to it. It's not telling you 'this is a fact'-it's telling you the world is complicated. Is it war, or is it sex, or what is it?

***We really delight in your mysterious, hidden storylines. They are truly captivating and curious and even strange. There are some very beautiful moments in your work that I think are, as you were saying before, these universalisms. The raw elements of your work-just watercolor and paper-it's not trying to be anything more than that.***

It's also that I want to surprise myself. When I start working, I usually start with painting a figure, often sourced from an old master painting or from a vintage photograph. I will use that as a starting point and add objects and other figures later. It's like writing a short story-you have a character and you see where they take you, and they tell you what they are going to do in the world. I don't want to take the same direction twice. If it feels like something too familiar then I want to change directions and surprise myself.



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**I love your ideas and I love your work! Your work truly speaks on its own terms. Thank you so much.**

Thank you, it's always a pleasure to hear somebody else's take on what I do. Having to articulate what I think about is a good thing.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A Petite Librairie Drawn & Quarterly (Montréal, QC) Best Children's Book of 2023!**

**★ A Wall Street Journal Best Children's Book of 2023! ★**

"An enchanting wordless tale of friendship... Unfurling across 11 short sections, Balint Zsako's elegant, richly colored story-pictures are full of gratifying surprises for readers ages 7 and older... [Bunny and Tree] embark on a long-distance odyssey that ought to be impossible but, in this glorious and uplifting adventure, makes perfect practical and emotional sense." —Wall Street Journal

**★ A New York Times/New York Public Library Best Illustrated Children's Book of 2023! ★**

"This gorgeous, wordless picture book features 184 pages of stunning hand-painted watercolor illustrations... The perfect addition to any collector's library! And not just your young readers' but for any art connoisseur!" **—Books of Wonder (New York, NY)**

**A Greenlight Bookstore Holiday Pick!** "A beautifully drawn folktale... Told without a single word on the page, this is a great gift for any age, from your 3-year-old niece in desperate need of a new bedtime story to your 33-year-old best friend looking for something impressive and aesthetically pleasing to display on their coffee table. Imaginative, interpretative, and downright stunning, you can't go wrong." **—Ashli, Greenlight Bookstore (Brooklyn, NY)**

"Though I adore the written word, there is a magic in the ability of a wordless picture book to take our imaginations to a place of connection and meaning of our own interpretation... A fantastical journey of discovery and transformation... The visual storytelling reminds us that everything in the world is connected and that together we can find our way." **—Interabang Books (Dallas, TX)**

"We're just going to say it: *Bunny & Tree* is a masterpiece of children's storytelling... Tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a bunny and a tree through illustrations alone, enveloping the reader in a rich world of narrative imagery. We love it!" **—Oblong Books (Hudson Valley, NY)**

"We are enamored with this gorgeous all-ages storybook... Absolutely enchanting." **—Spectator Books (Oakland, CA)**

**The Shelf Editions Pick for September!** "A wonderful wordless piece of art and an epic tale of friendship and adventure... This book is a wild ride of friendship and adventure, full of imagination and emotion. It's really a feast for the eyes and soul, one to pore over." **—Shelf Editions (Lincoln, UK)**

"Oh, what a magnificent book! *Bunny & Tree* is a wordless book by Balint Zsako, with the most stunning atmospheric illustrations that are imbued with such sensitivity, and which tell the tale beauitfully! ... This sweet and tender story about friendship and adventure will warm the hearts of readers of all ages." **—Tales for Tadpoles (Dublin, Ireland)**


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# Laurie Wallmark

Award-winning author ***Laurie Wallmark*** writes picture book biographies of women in STEM. Her titles include Code Breaker, Spy Hunter: How Elizebeth Friedman Changed the Course of Two World Wars; Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine, which received four starred reviews and a Cook Prize Honor; Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code; Hedy Lamarr's Double Life, a Crystal Kite Winner and Cook Prize Honor recipient; and others.Laurie has an MFA in Writing from VCFA and is a former software engineer and computer science professor.

https://www.lauriewallmark.com/

***Tell us a little about yourself. (Where/when do you write? How long have you been writing? What is your favorite type of book to write?)***

I usually write on my computer or scribble ideas on post-it notes when I'm lying in bed and can't get to sleep. I started writing about 20 years ago (I'm a late bloomer). Picture books are by far my favorite category of books to write, although I'm presently working on a biography in verse for older children. I usually write books about scientists and mathematicians because I love science and math. Maybe my books will excite children about these fields. And if they learn a little bit about STEM, all the better.

**We've really enjoyed your biographies about female scientists and mathematicians. What is something no one (or few) knows about you?**

People may know that I'm a former computer science professor. What they may not know is that in addition to teaching students on campus, I also taught students in maximum security prisons—both men and women. My course, Computer Literacy, is required to earn an associate's degree. Having a degree will help my students in prison get jobs when they're released. Some of them have been incarcerated so long they've never used the Internet!

**Who was your favorite author, illustrator, and/or favorite book as a child?**

I was a big science fiction fan as a kid, and still am. My favorite books were written by the classic authors in the field at the time: Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, and Arthur C. Clarke.

***I think it's cool that you wrote a fiction picture book just because it was fun! Since titles can be tricky; how many tries did it take to arrive at this title?***

The original title was *Dinos Rock*, but the editor wanted to emphasize it was a bedtime book. Coincidentally, my two daughters were visiting when I got that email, so at dinner we brainstormed titles. As soon as someone suggested *Dino Pajama Party*, we knew that was the winner.

***Best title story, yet! When you first got to see Michael Robertson's illustrations, did anything surprise you? Which is your favorite spread?***

I love Michael's bold illustrations. They really bring the book to life. My biggest surprise, which I think was brilliant, is that one of the dinosaurs on the cover is wearing bunny slippers. My favorite spread is, "No more rocking out today. Sleepy dinos trudge away." These dinos are so exhausted. One is cleaning up a bit of mess. Another is carrying his teddy bear.

***That cover is adorable; I also loved the bunny slippers and the T-rex with his teddy bear! Are there any projects you are working on now that you can share a tidbit with us?***



***I*** have four more books coming out in the next few years. Three of them are #WomenInSTEM books, but they haven't been announced yet. I also have another fiction picture book. Rivka's Presents, coming out in 2023. This is an historical fiction book about a girl in 1918 who wants to go to school but can't because she must take care of her baby sister, so she trades chores for lessons with her neighbors.

***That sounds interesting. We'll have to keep our eyes out. What has been the most frustrating aspect or period of time as a children's writer for you? Any advice for unpublished authors?***

If you want to be a published writer, you have to learn patience. Everything takes longer than you like. But if you keep working on your craft (I'm taking a craft workshop next month), you'll eventually get there.

***How are, or have you been, staying creative during these times? Have you found anything that helps you "prime the well"?***

I've never believed in writer's block. I used to be a software engineer, and you could just as easily say there was programmer's block. No matter the field, you're not always in the mood or the headset to do the work. To me, the best way to stay creative is to keep writing, no matter what. What you produce won't always be book-worthy, but it's still exercising your writing muscles.

***Last question, what is your favorite animal? Or one that you are enamored with right now. Why?***

I'm definitely a cat person. At one point we had three, because a cat decided our garage rafters would be a good place to hang out. We couldn't find its owner, so it joined our menagerie.

***Thank you, Laurie for stopping by and sharing with us. It was wonderful to chat with you.***

***OTHER INTERVIEW for ANOTHER BOOK***

***Did you intend to write a series of picture book biographies about historic women in STEM, or was it a consequence of Ada's success?***

I truly never thought of writing a book series. As an unpublished author, my main focus was on getting someone to buy any of my manuscripts—fiction or nonfiction, picture book or middle grade. I knew it was important to try different categories and genres of writing to see what was best for me. What if it turned out that picture book biographies weren't my strong suit? But I couldn't help myself. Even before Ada sold, I had already started on Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code. As a computer scientist, I so wanted to share the stories of these two important people in the field and maybe inspire a child in becoming a software engineer.

**I can fully understand that goal of having your work published, particularly considering the amount of time and effort that you invested in researching and writing the nonfiction titles.**

**The depth and breadth of your research is impressive to me as a writer and educator, but even more so as a reader. Your thorough knowledge forms a seamless scaffold for your narratives so that the subjects of the biographies come to life on the page as fully formed humans, living and achieving within the societies of their times. The research details never bog down the page-turning quality of your storytelling. I complete your books feeling as if I knew these women. How familiar were you with any of them before you begin your research?**

At this point, I'm so familiar with both Ada and Grace, it's hard to remember this wasn't always the case. Because of my interest in math and computers, I certainly knew their names and the basics of their achievements. But that was it. I knew nothing about their lives—the part that draws children into a book. Having the opportunity to dig deep into their stories—their failures and successes, challenges and victories—was a gift.

***Back to your picture book which is, in my opinion, highly accessible for curious young readers, but equally intriguing for middle grade and teen readers, as well as for adults. In part that's due to the illustrations of Brooke Smart, and to the art designer for effective page layout, including that continuous reel of coded messaging. The visual excitement and suspense surrounding your compelling text supports the emotional content, high stakes, and pace of the developments in the field of cryptography. Curious readers will examine every inch of coded tape weaving throughout the book. In a story spanning two wars and using extensive technical terminology, as well as both Elizebeth's family and professional lives, were you concerned that this complexity could confuse young readers? Would you share your reactions to and involvement with the visual side of Elizabeth's story?***




**AVAILABLE AT**

I've had the benefit of being paired with the most amazing illustrators and art directors (not to mention editors) for my books. I was involved in the illustration and layout process from the beginning, starting with the rough sketches. I gave feedback—some that was taken, some that wasn't—but all my suggestions were seriously considered. I had the privilege of seeing Brooke's illustrations come to life step-by-step.

My biggest contribution to the illustrations, other than supplying the quotations, was figuring out the codes that are in the artwork. I gave Brooke streams of seemingly random letters, and she had the hard task of hand-illustrating them. I'm sure it was a lot of hard work. Once she was done, the codes came back to me to check. My biggest fear is that a ten-year-old reader will find a mistake I made.

***Please tell us something about your approach to back matter, in terms of what and how you choose to include material, and how you decide what has to hit the cutting room floor.***

I adore back matter. When you research a picture book biography, there's so much information that you can't include in the main text. Sometimes it's because it would interrupt the flow of the story. Other times, the concept is complicated and needs a more extensive explanation. And of course, there's that limited word count in picture books. Very often what ends up in the back matter I had originally included in text.

In Code Breaker, Spy Hunter, one piece of back matter came as a suggestion from the publisher. In Elizebeth's time, most code breaking was still done by hand or by dedicated machines like Enigma. The publisher thought educators would want students to know more about cryptography today. I agreed. Now, I had to research and understand how computers code and decode messages, so I could explain it to kids. Luckily for me, I love doing research, especially when it involves math and computers.

One of my books, Numbers in Motion: Sophie Kowalevski, Queen of Mathematics, has a piece of back matter that's unrelated to STEM. It's about why Sophie's name is written so many different ways (Sofie, Sofya, Sophia, Sophie—along with variations of her surname). I talk about how her name was transliterated from the original Cyrillic alphabet and the common way Russians assigned surnames. The nerd in me found this fascinating, so I thought kids might, too.











# Jolene Gutiérrez

***Jolene Gutiérrez*** is an award-winning teacher-librarian who has been working with diverse learners at Denver Academy for the past 28 years. When she was little, she would squint to protect her eyes from bright lights and cover her ears to protect herself from loud noises. Now, she wears sunglasses when she's outside and brings earplugs if she thinks she'll need them. She didn't immediately recognize her own kids' sensory processing issues because their struggles looked different from her own. She hopes Too Much! will help caregivers and educators recognize and support sensory processing challenges.

https://www.jolenegutierrez.com/

***First off, please tell us a little bit about your story.***

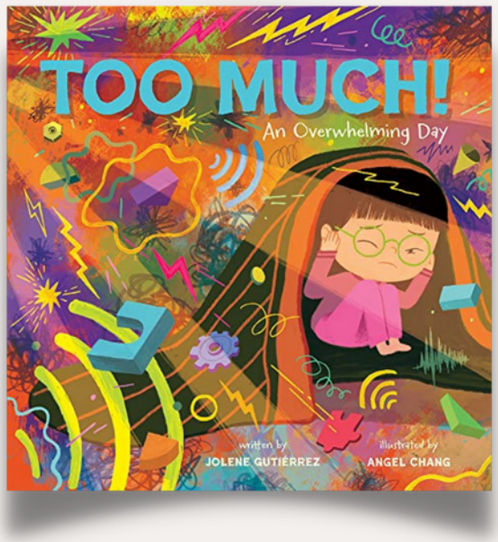
Too Much! An Overwhelming Day is about a little girl, Birdy, whose day starts poorly with a loud, annoying alarm clock and bright sunshine hurting her eyes. More and more things overstimulate Birdy until she becomes fully overwhelmed and shuts down on the playground. Will Birdy find a way to advocate for herself and soothe herself? (Spoiler alert: yes, she will!) And the book includes extensive back matter about sensory systems, sensory overload, and developing a sensory diet.

***Jolene this sounds incredible! I know in our school we are having an increased awareness about sensory processing and how to best meet our students' varied needs. What a great resource you and Angel have created here. I am sure so many parents, teachers, and counselors will use your book as an irreplaceable tool to help young children understand this concept and begin to find what is right for each of them.***

***What's the story behind the story? What was your inspiration? Where did the idea come from?***

I don't usually write in rhyme, but when the words "Too loud! Too bright! Too itchy! Too tight!" came to me as I was thinking about being sensorily overwhelmed, I jotted them down. I'm sensitive to loud noise, bright lights, and certain textures of things like food and fabric. My children have their own sensitivities, especially my daughter. Because some of her sensitivities are different from my own, I didn't initially recognize that she was sometimes overwhelmed by things like touch and movement. After years of feeling like a bad parent who couldn't quite understand her child's needs, we finally found a play therapist who recommended she be tested for Sensory Processing Disorder. That testing and the subsequent diagnosis and occupational therapy changed our lives for the better as I finally learned why my daughter was so overwhelmed and how to best support her. This story was originally titled "OVERWHELMED," and it's the book I needed when my daughter was little.

***How did you approach going from this seed of an idea to what is now TOO MUCH! AN OVERWHELMING DAY? Was it something undeniable you had to write immediately or did you need to sit with this idea and let it grow for a while before it found its way to the page?***




**AVAILABLE AT**

As our brains do, my brain kept turning "Too loud! Too bright! Too itchy! Too tight!" over and over. I brainstormed overwhelming situations, drawing on my own experiences and my memories of my kids' sensory struggles. The only part that I had to write immediately was the initial phrase, and everything else eventually fell into place, bit by bit. I tried to think of situations that could be overwhelming in different ways but that most families could relate to.

***Did TOO MUCH! AN OVERWHELMING DAY undergo any major changes/revisions from the original version? If so, what led you to make these changes?***

This manuscript originally started as a board book manuscript. At that time, three editors were interested. Two of the editors asked for revisions, so I ended up with three versions: the original version, a version with a problem/solution format (one stanza introduced a problem and the following stanza introduced a solution), and a version with more caregiver dialog. Each of the editors was so thoughtful and kind, but Meredith Mundy at Abrams Appleseed is the editor who connected most strongly with this manuscript, and I'm so honored and happy to work with her! I saw Meredith present at our local Rocky Mountain SCBWI conference in 2019 and I wanted to submit to her so much that I started writing board book manuscripts (she primarily works with board books). So this project is a dream come true!

***Are there any books/authors that you feel influenced your work on TOO MUCH! AN OVERWHELMING DAY?***

Hmmm. . .there aren't any specific books that influenced my work, but recently, I read Prasha Sooful and Geeta Ladi's book *My Brain is Magic: A Sensory-Seeking Celebration*, and I think it pairs well with my book *Too Much! An Overwhelming* Day.

And authors who have influenced my work? I know this is more literal than you mean, but some of my agency mates helped check the rhythm and rhyme of each version of the manuscript. Huge thanks to Rebecca Gardyn Levington, David McMullin, and Heather Bell. Rebecca is an amazing author and David and Heather are both wonderful authors and illustrators.

***As writers there are so many amazing resources available from books to webinars to orginizations. What kidlit resources have been the most beneficial to you?***

There are SO many amazing resources out there! The Rocky Mountain branch of SCBWI has been an amazing support since I joined in 2008. Other helpful groups that have been influential on my journey are 12 x 12, Children's Book Academy, The Highlights Foundation, and The Writing Barn. And the most helpful resource has been our KidLit community—the connections I've made with contest participants, critique partners, promo group members, and agency mates have led to lifelong friendships.

***Do you have any upcoming projects or news you would like to share with us?***

Yes! In Fall of 2024, my daughter Shaian and I have a picture book, *The Ofrenda That We Built*, coming out with Chronicle, illustrated by Gabby Zapata. It's a cumulative story based on the "This is the House that Jack Built" structure about a family creating an ofrenda. Also in Fall of 2024, my son Dakota and I have a picture book, *Mamiachi and Me*, coming out with Abrams Appleseed, illustrated by Mirelle Ortega. It's a story about an all-female mariachi group. And in Fall of 2025, I have an unannounced book, also co-authored with another person. I'm so excited about all of these group projects!

***OTHER INTERVIEW***

***Why did you write TOO MUCH: AN OVERWHELMING DAY about a child overwhelmed by her senses?***

Because I *was* that child, and my kids were, too. That's the simple answer. As a child, I didn't understand why other people seemed at ease in the world and why I struggled so much with certain things. My daughter was my first child, and some of her sensory sensitivities were different from mine, so I didn't recognize them. I made sure she had sunglasses, soft clothes, and choice in food because even though I didn't know I had Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), I knew some of the things that made me more comfortable. But sound, touch, and movement were some of my daughter's other sensitivities, and I didn't initially recognize that.

We would go to storytimes or the playground, and she would have a meltdown. I felt like such a horrible mom because I saw all of these parents who looked successful, and my daughter was vomiting on the library carpet or screaming by the slides.

This book is the book I needed then because I might have put the pieces together when she was three instead of seven. It's my hope that this story will help kids feel seen and help caregivers and teachers recognize how it feels to live as someone with sensory sensitivities.

***I can relate to everything you just said! You and I have spoken about parenting kids with sensory processing issues. I know your book will make kids like ours feel seen! Can you share something parents can do to understand or support their children with sensory processing issues?***

I would encourage parents and caregivers to give children some choice and voice. I hated some of the clothes my parents dressed me in when I was little because they were itchy. I didn't like some of the foods I was served because I have a hard time with some textures and smells. If I could've chosen my own clothes and food, my parents probably wouldn't have labeled me "high-maintenance" or "picky."

***What do you wish that readers understand after reading this book? Especially readers who don't have sensory issues?***

I hope that by walking through the day with our main character (named Birdy by brilliant illustrator Angel Chang), readers will understand how simple daily activities like waking up, eating, getting dressed, etc. each contain elements that can be overwhelming to some people. I'm hopeful that by seeing how these experiences build to a point of overload, readers will better understand how sensory overwhelm happens.

My wish is that this book will allow kids and the adults in their lives to see themselves within the pages, to understand that they're not alone, and possibly learn some strategies that can help with sensory overwhelm. I'm also hopeful that readers who haven't experienced that "too much" feeling will become more compassionate and understanding after seeing the world through Birdy's eyes.

***What are some of your other books for children?***

I've also written the picture book *Mac and Cheese and the Personal Space Invader*, iillustrated by Heather Beall and published by Clear Fork/Spork, the middle grade nonfiction book *Bionic Beasts: Saving Animal Lives with Artificial Flippers, Legs, and* Beaks, published by Lerner, and the middle grade nonfiction bilingual series *Stars of Latin Pop: Shakira, J Balvín, Ozuna, and Sofía Reyes*, published by Rourke.







***How has your experience as a librarian influenced your writing?***

I've been surrounded by books and get to see how students respond to books. As I research lessons I want to teach, I sometimes find information and think, "I wish a book about this existed." I am also able to use my librarian researching skills to help write manuscripts.

***What are some interesting ways to frame nonfiction? Do you have favorites or ways that you've seen other authors frame their nonfiction that you especially liked?***

I love verse novels, so I love that format for fiction or nonfiction. Because I work with kids who are often reluctant readers, I love graphic novels, or books written in varying styles like letters. Choose Your Own Adventure nonfiction books are great, too. I love sidebars in nonfiction books, and I love adding hands-on activities in nonfiction books, too—my editor challenged me to do that in Bionic Beasts, and I'm so glad she did!

***How do you get in the mood to start writing?***

First, I need to get physically organized: I usually need a place to spread out my notes, notebook, and computer. Then I need to get mentally organized: I need to be able to focus my brain, so I usually turn on nature sounds or classical music so I won't be distracted by other sounds. And then I need to feel like I'm motivated to work on something. Sometimes that motivation is a deadline from my editor, and sometimes that motivation is from me just really wanting to get into that specific project.

***What's a highlight in your life as a writer?***

My parents being able to hold a book published by me in their hands! Another highlight is being able to write books with my own kids (my daughter and I have a Día de Muertos picture book, The Ofrenda That We Built, coming out in 2024, and my son and I have a still unannounced picture book coming out in 2025).


CREATIVE SECRETS
BEHIND THEIR GREATEST BOOKS
DISCOVER THE HIDDEN GEMS OF LITERARY BRILLIANCE AS RENOWNED AUTHORS UNVEIL THE UNTOLD STORIES AND SOURCES OF INSPIRATION THAT BIRTHED THEIR MOST BELOVED MASTERPIECES.



## JK Rowling

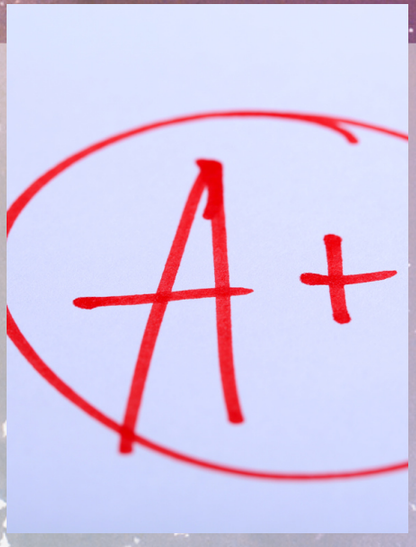
**JK Rowling came up with the idea for Harry Potter while travelling on a train:**

***"I was travelling back to London on my own on a crowded train, and the idea for Harry Potter simply fell into my head. I had been writing almost continuously since the age of six but I had never been so excited about an idea before."***

## JRR Tolkien

**IInspiration struck for The Hobbit author when he was marking exam papers:**

***"[I remember] the actual flashpoint. I can still see the corner in my house in 20 Northmoor Road where it happened. I'd got an enormous pile of exam papers there and was marking school examinations in the summer time, which was very laborious, and unfortunately also boring."***






## Stephenie Meyer

**A vivid dream inspired Stephenie Meyer to pen her smash hit Twilight series:**

***"I woke up (on that June 2nd) from a very vivid dream. In my dream, two people were having an intense conversation in a meadow in the woods. One of these people was just your average girl. The other person was fantastically beautiful, sparkly, and a vampire."***



## Suzanne Collins

**A war report on TV fuelled Suzanne Collins' smash hit series The Hunger Games:**

***"One night, I was lying in bed, and I was channel surfing between reality TV programs and actual war coverage. On one channel, there's a group of young people competing for I don't even know; and on the next, there's a group of young people fighting in an actual war. I was really tired, and the lines between these stories started to blur in a very unsettling way. That's the moment when Katniss's story came to me."***

## Margaret Atwood

**Margaret Atwood came up with the idea of one after dining one evening with a friend in West Berlin:**

**According to Atwood's own report the two women discussed 'various things as we usually do, including some of the more absolutist pronouncements of right-wing religious fundamentalism. 'No one thinks about what it would be like to actually act it out,' said I (or someone).' Atwood took this very task upon herself."**



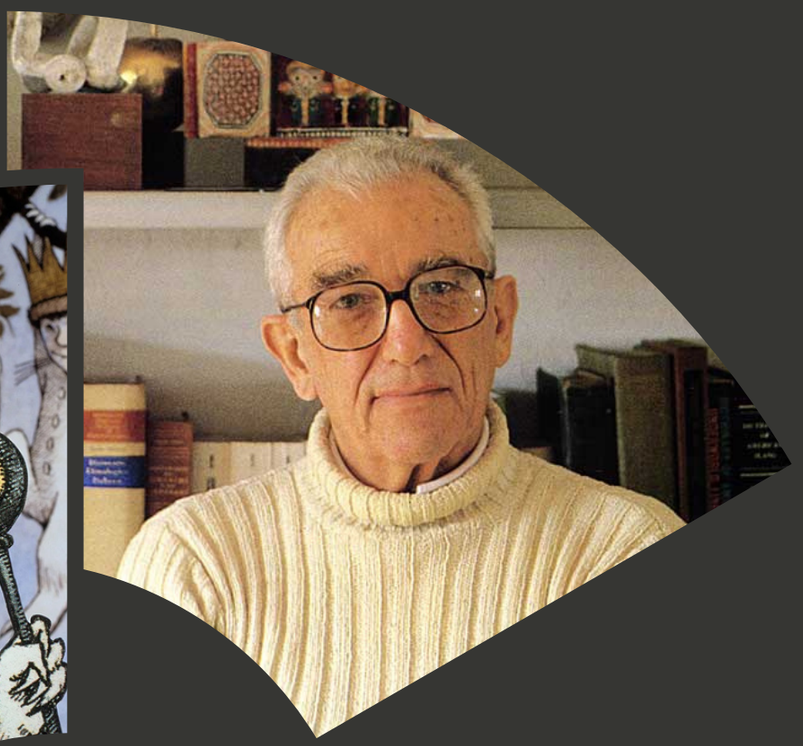


## John Green

**John Green was driven to write The Fault In Our Stars after meeting Esther Earl, a teen cancer sufferer whose YouTube videos and blogs inspired millions before her death aged 16:**

**"I could never have written this if I hadn't known Esther. She introduced me to a lot of the ideas in the book, especially hope in a world that is indifferent to individuals, and empathy. She redefined the process of dying young for me. "**



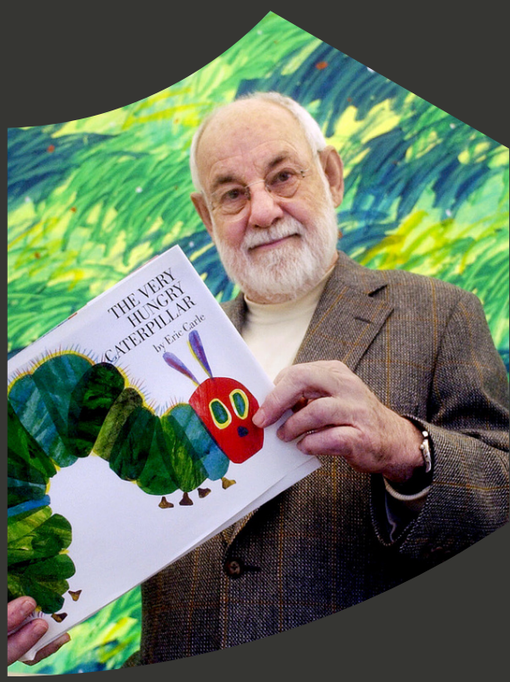





# FIVE

## FAMOUS
BOOK ILLUSTRATORS





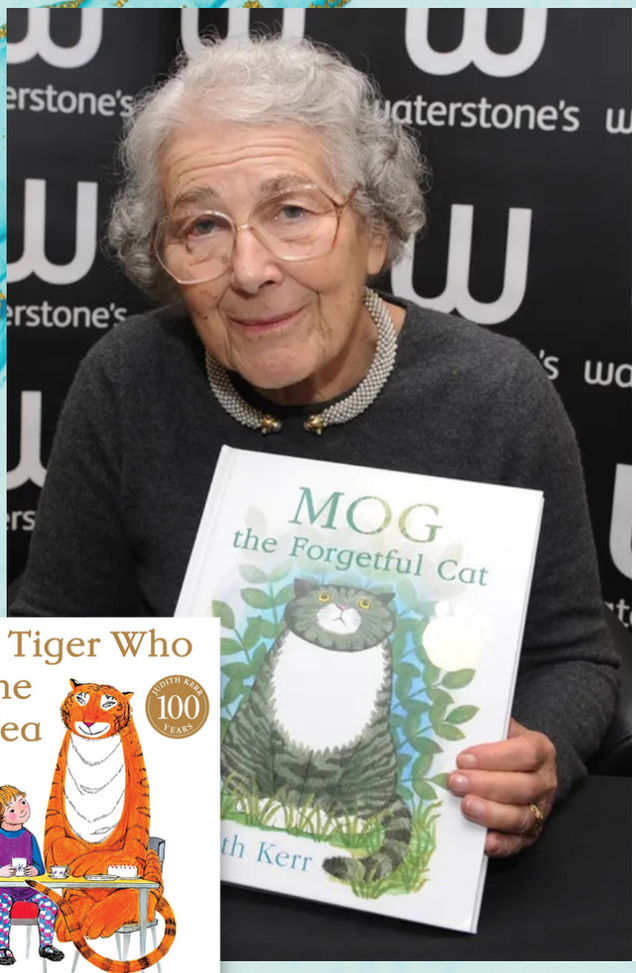

WE EXPLORE THE FASCINATING WORLD OF AUTHORS WHO HAVE ALSO GRACED THEIR OWN WORKS WITH ILLUSTRATIONS, BLURRING THE LINES BETWEEN WRITER AND ARTIST. WE UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF INSPIRING AUTHORS TO UNLEASH THEIR CREATIVE GENIUS, EXAMINING THE TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES THAT SPARK LITERARY MASTERPIECES.

# Tomie dePaola

The American illustrator and author Tomie dePaola, who has died aged 85, was best known for his book Strega Nona (1975), which tells the story of a wise old woman who can do magic, and her assistant, Big Anthony. Big Anthony secretly learns half the trick to controlling Strega Nona's magic pasta pot, but then everything goes wrong. DePaola wrote 10 further picture books about Strega Nona and Big Anthony, including some in which Big Anthony has the starring role. The books and the characters have remained hugely popular in any number of formats.

He is survived by his sisters, Maureen and Judie.







# Judith Kerr

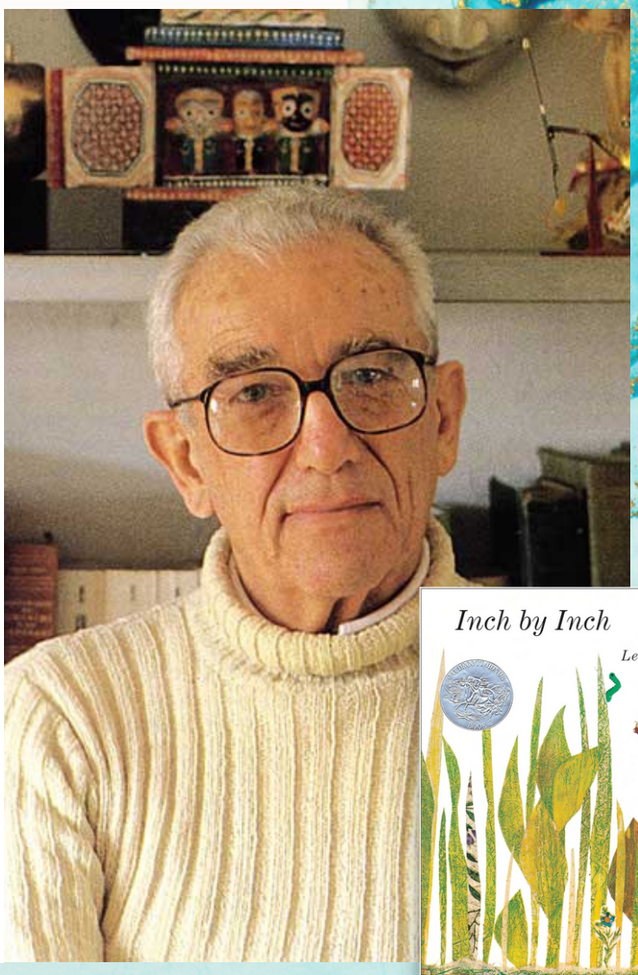
'Judith Kerr ' was born on 14 June 1923 in Berlin but escaped from Hitler's Germany with her parents and brother in 1933 when she was nine years old. The family passed through Switzerland and France before arriving finally in England in 1936. Judith went to eleven different schools, worked in the Red Cross during the war, and won a scholarship to the Central School of Arts and Crafts in 1945. She worked as an artist, a BBC television scriptwriter and as author and illustrator of children's books.

In 2012 Judith was awarded an OBE for her services to children's literature and holocaust education, and in 2019 she was named Illustrator of the Year at the British Book Awards.

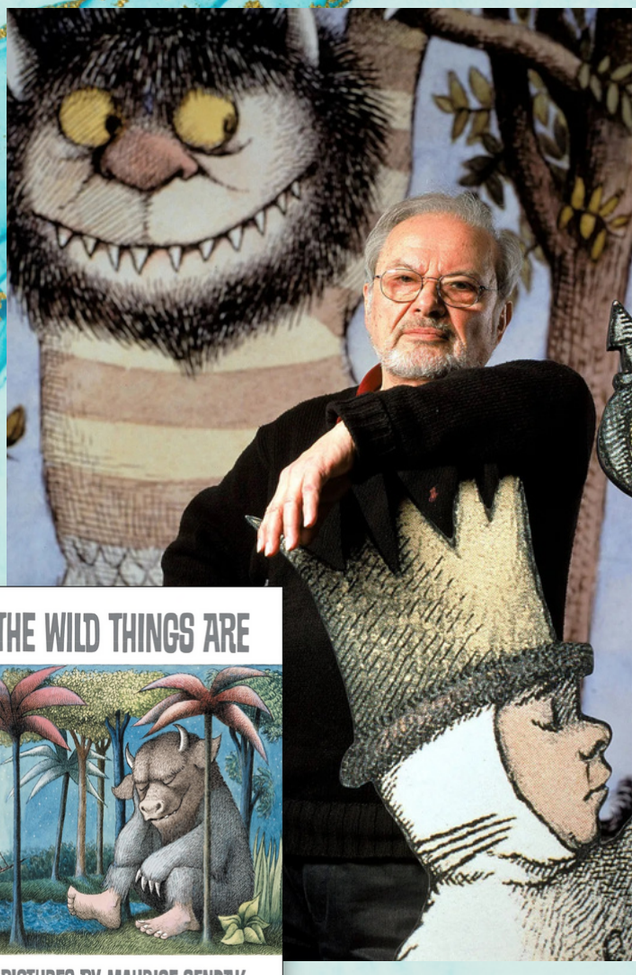
# Leo Lionni

Leo Lionni was born into a family that appreciated art, and, from a very young age, he knew he wanted to be an artist. He loved nature and started keeping small creatures—minnows, birds, fish, and more - in his attic room in Amsterdam. He also created terrariums, and many of these natural details found their way into his later work. Like so many successful children's authors, Leo Lionni was able to remember and tap into the things that were important to him when he was a child.

He got into writing and illustrating children's books almost by accident. He was trying to entertain his young grandchildren on a trip when he created a story about a blue dot and a yellow dot that got together by accident and then needed to come apart again.








# Maurice Sendak

Best known for his children's books, WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE and IN THE NIGHT KITCHEN, Maurice Sendak has spent the past fifty years bringing to life a world of fantasy and imagination. His unique vision is loved around the globe by both young and old. Beyond his award-winning work as a writer and illustrator of children's books, Sendak has produced both operas and ballets for television and the stage.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, to Polish-Jewish immigrant parents, Sendak was a frail and sickly child. Spending much of his young life indoors, he turned to books at an early age. His view of the outside world was often limited to the family that came to visit him and the little that he could see from his window.

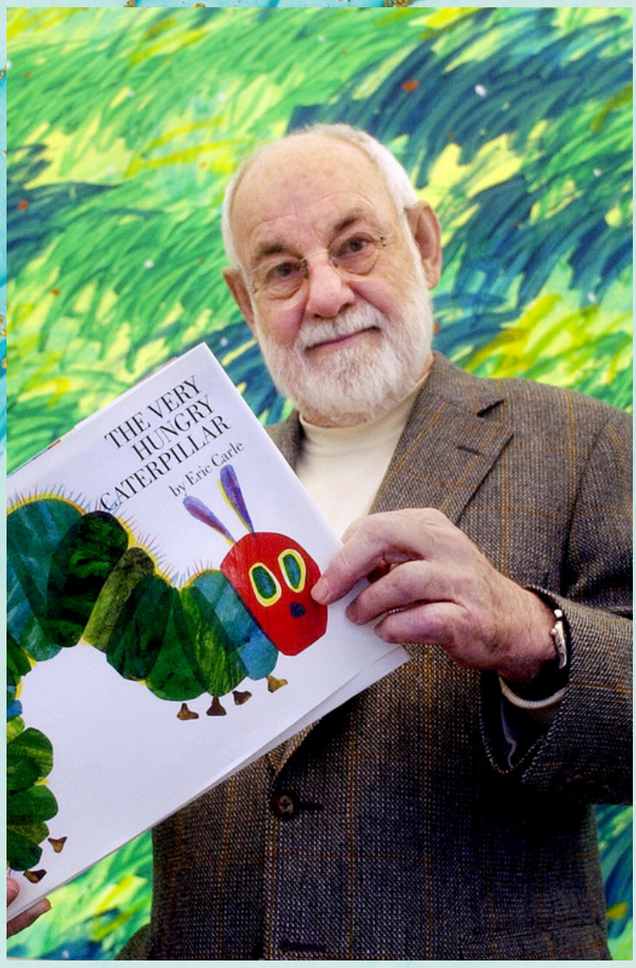
# Eric Carle

Born in the United States, **Eric Carle** was taken as a six-year-old child by his parents back to their native country, Germany. Later, he studied at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste (Academy of Applied Arts) in Stuttgart, and returned to New York in his early twenties as a graphic designer and artist. His many picture books are now known and loved by children around the world.

In 2002, Eric and his late wife, Barbara, opened The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, in Amherst, Massachusetts, where the works of distinguished picture book artists, nationally and internationally acclaimed, are exhibited in three spacious galleries.




**AVAILABLE AT**




by Donna Jo Napoli

From microscopic organisms to giant cats, it's surprising who you'll find awake in the middle of the night! Dinoflagellates guzzle floating bacteria, bumblebee bats loop and swoop, racer snakes slither, weasels sneak and circle, and spot-bellied eagle owls leap and sweep. One by one, the animals of the food chain find their next scrumptious treat.

For children whose curiosity abounds, and restless sleepers greedy for one more story or one more goodnight kiss, this distinctive picture book with a science focus gives a peek at the animals that come alive at night. The striking words of Donna Jo Napoli join the electric and wild illustrations of acclaimed artist Felicita Sala to make this the perfect picture book to help young readers get out all their wiggles and giggles before bed.



# THE ILLUSTRATORS BEHIND YOUR *Favorite* Children's Books

Quentin Blake
Ernest Howard Shepard
Shel Silverstein
Beatrix Potter
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



# 01.
# Quentin Blake

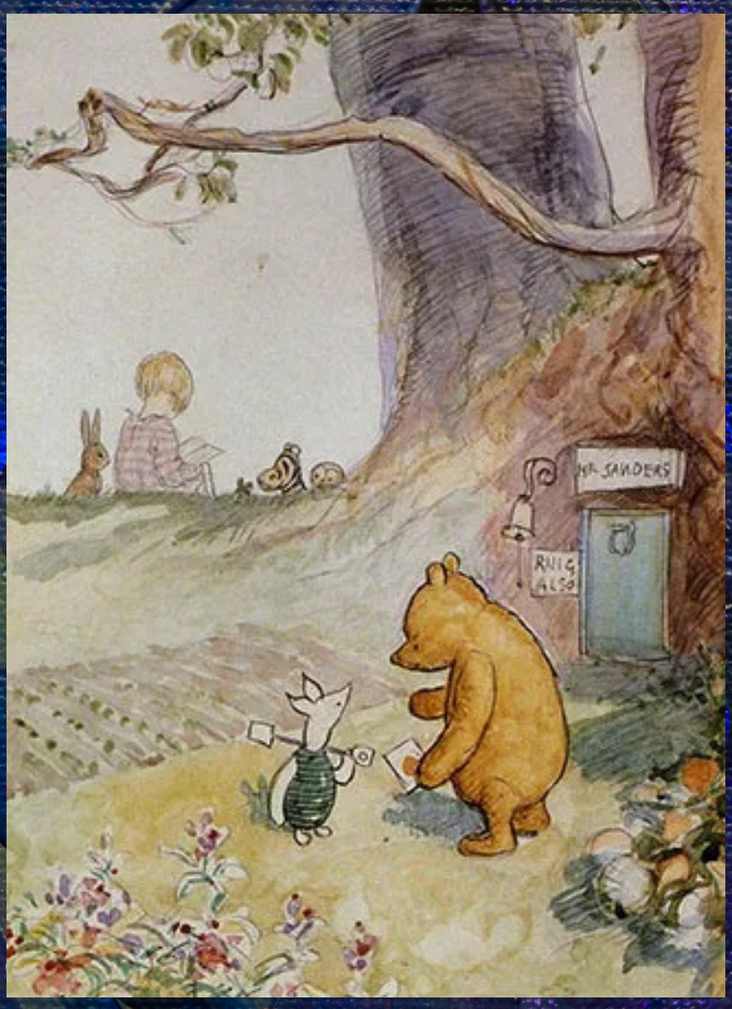
He is known for his collaboration with writers such as Russell Hoban, Joan Aiken, Michael Rosen, John Yeoman and, most famously, Roald Dahl. He has also illustrated classic books, including A Christmas Carol and Candide and created much-loved characters of his own, including Mister Magnolia and Mrs Armitage.

Blake describes his own style as a freewheeling sort of drawing meant to look as if it was done in the spur of a moment. However, he does not actually do them in the spur of the moment, and he plans his drawings out before beginning them.

# 02.
# E. H. Shepard

E. H. Shepard is inevitably best known for, and defined by, his iconic illustrations for the children's books The Wind in the Willows and Winnie-the-Pooh, but he had many more artistic strings to his bow, as cartoonist, magazine and periodical illustrator, drawer of book jackets and covers, and author.

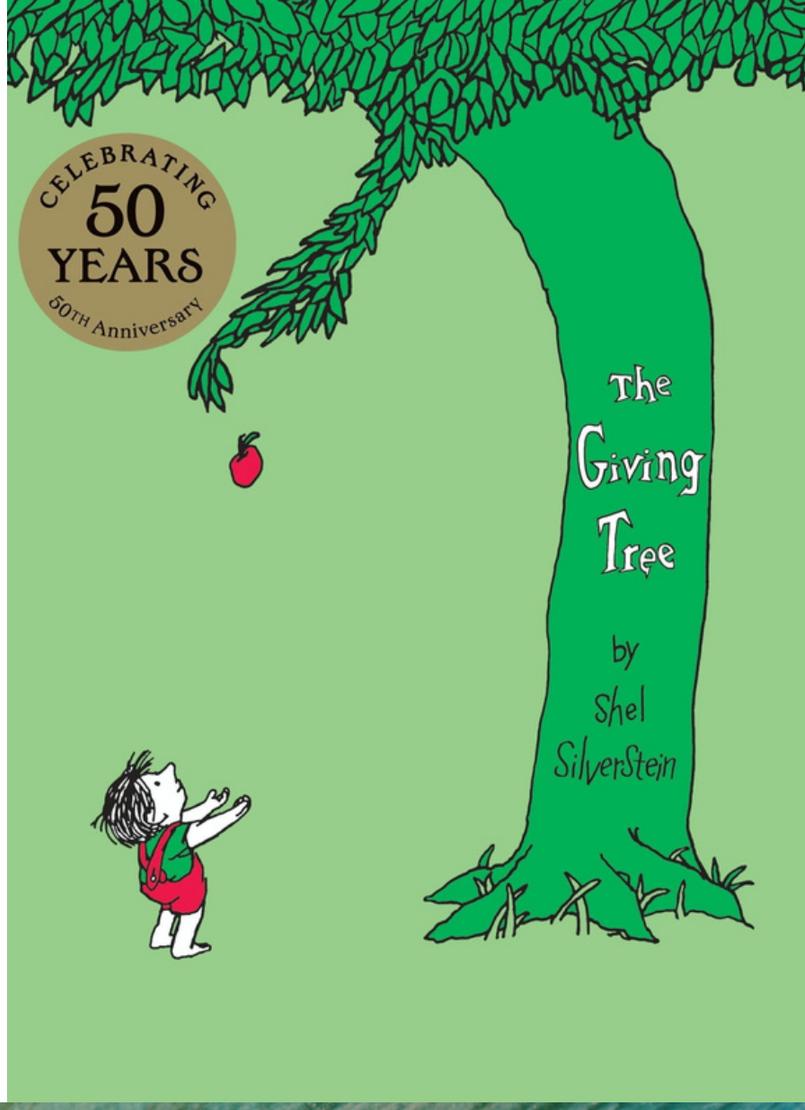
His work, often created through a combination of watercolor and pen-and-ink, is characterized by light washes of color and graphic, black outlines.



# 03.
# Shel Silverstein

SerHis greatest hit was The Giving Tree (1964), perhaps the most controversial children's book of all time. Whether the story chronicles an evolving friendship between a little boy and a tree, or provides a troubling look into the innate selfishness of humankind, is still hotly debated.

Silverstein's illustrations include **drawing techniques of contour drawing, shading techniques (cross-hatching, hatching, scribble, dots, etc.), and movement lines (diagonals, spirals, dotted lines, etc.)**






# 04.
# Beatrix Potter

Beatrix Potter is famous for her enchanting tales of naughty animals such as Tom Kitten and Peter Rabbit. A prolific writer and illustrator, she created stories that would entertain and engage generations of children.

Into her twenties Beatrix developed a meticulous watercolour dry brush technique and this coincided with her growing interest in fairy tales and inventing imaginary images featuring anthropomorphic animals.




# 05. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, world-renowned **author of The Little Prince and other important works of literature**, also was an aviation pioneer who lost his life under mysterious circumstances during World War II.

Despite its style as a children's book, The Little Prince **makes observations about life, adults, and human nature**.

Author's writing style of the work is discussed and successfully using stylistic devices including **climax, foreshadowing, imagery, paradox, parallelism, metonymy and synecdoche, personification** are reviewed during the analysis.




## The Skull

by: Jon Klassen

A #1 New York Times bestseller!
A Kirkus Book Prize Finalist!
A New York Times Best Children's Chapter Book the Year
A Wall Street Journal Best Children's Book of the Year

Jon Klassen's signature wry humor takes a turn for the ghostly in this thrilling retelling of a traditional Tyrolean folktale. In a big abandoned house, on a barren hill, lives a skull. A brave girl named Otilla has escaped from terrible danger and run away, and when she finds herself lost in the dark forest, the lonely house beckons. Her host, the skull, is afraid of something too, something that comes every night. Can brave Otilla save them both? Steeped in shadows and threaded with subtle wit—with rich, monochromatic artwork and an illuminating author's note—*The Skull* is as empowering as it is mysterious and foreboding.

AVAILABLE AT

# MINH LÊ

Minh Lê is the author of the picture books Lift (Eisner Award nominee) and Drawn Together (winner of the 2019 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature) illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat, Let Me Finish! (named an NPR Best Book of 2016) illustrated by Isabel Roxas, and The Perfect Seat illustrated by Gus Gordon (all published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). He also wrote Green Lantern: Legacy, a middle grade graphic novel (illustrated by Andie Tong) for DC Comics. In addition to writing books, he serves on the Board of We Need Diverse Books, is on the faculty of the Hamline MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults, and has written for a variety of publications, including the New York Times, The Horn Book, NPR, and HuffPost.

Outside of spending time with his wonderful wife and children at their home in San Diego, his favorite place to be is in the middle of a good book.

https://minhlebooks.com/



## DAN SANTAT

Illustrator






Iris, a lover of pushing elevator buttons in her apartment building, finds sharing these experiences wonderful. When a mysterious new button appears, she discovers new possibilities for exploration. Choosing between alone or with her little brother, Iris discovers that sharing a discovery with loved ones can be the most wonderful experience.

**AVAILABLE AT**




Tai Pham, a 13-year-old superhero, inherits his grandmother's jade ring and is inducted into the Green Lanterns. As a superhero, Tai must prove his willpower and imagination to uphold his father's legacy and protect the world from evil forces. His journey will test his ability to harness his imagination and protect his family.

**AVAILABLE AT**




When a young boy visits his grandfather, their lack of a common language leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But as they sit down to draw together, something magical happens—with a shared love of art and storytelling, the two form a bond that goes beyond words.

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# MOTHER OF SHARKS

By Melissa Cristina Márquez



Melissa Cristina Márquez (she/her) is a fiercely proud Hispanic marine biologist, wildlife educator, professional speaker, and presenter. She has given two TEDx talk on sharks and female scientists, and her work has been highlighted in NPR, Allure, Disney+, BBC, National Geographic, Good Morning America, and more. In 2021, Melissa was featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30: Science list and the InStyle “50 Badass Women” list. Melissa holds a BA in Marine Ecology and Conservation from New College of Florida and an MSc in Marine Biology from Victoria University. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Mexico, Melissa aims to bring attention to the importance of diversity and inclusion with her writing.




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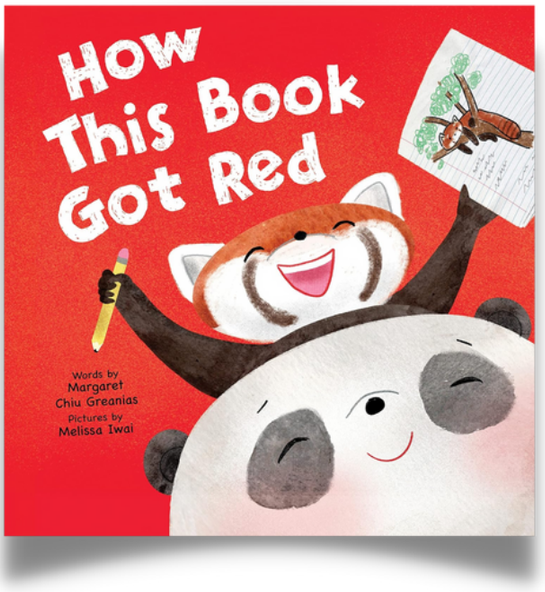
As the sun sets over another gorgeous day at la Playita Del Condado in Puerto Rico, Meli doesn't want to go home. She loves the ocean more than anything, and with only five minutes left at the beach, she knows exactly where her last stop should be: the tidal pools. They are small universes of their own teeming with critters and creatures of the ocean. While looking into the pools, she meets a crab, Jaiba, who takes her on a dreamlike underwater adventure, teaches her about the importance of shark conservation, and reveals Meli's ultimate destiny: to become the Mother of Sharks.

Blending the autobiographical with the fantastical, Melissa Cristina Márquez shares her incredible story not only to dispel myths about these misunderstood creatures but also to pave the way for Latinas in STEM. Paired with Devin Elle Kurtz's vibrant, emotive illustrations, this picture book is an irresistible journey through the wonders of the ocean and, above all, a rallying cry for marine conservation.

# HOW THIS BOOK GOT RED

None of the panda books are ever about red pandas!

Red is going to do something about that. When Red discovers a new book about pandas, she can't wait to read it! Except it's about only one kind of panda, and red pandas are completely left out. Red never gets to read stories about pandas like herself! So she decides to take matters into her own paws and write her own book.

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But sometimes Red wonders if the only kind of pandas the world sees are the black and white kind. What if nobody wants to read her book? Red must find the courage to finish her story.

***Reviews***

"Recommended for those who doubt themselves or could use a confidence booster, 4.5/5 stars" **— *Youth Services Book Review***

"Greanias illustrates perfectly, in a way that children will intuitively understand, why it's so crucial for everyone to see themselves depicted in media... astute and adorable." **— *Kirkus Reviews, STARRED review***

"Sweet and clever." **— *Book Riot***

"The timeless, valued theme of friends helping each other drives much of this story... very engaging." **— *Children's Literature Comprehensive Database***

# MARGARET CHIU GREANIAS

""How This Book Got Red is a deceptively gentle tale; it's actually a powerful story of healing that comes from finding the courage to take on righting a wrong." **— *New York Review of Books***

"[How This Book Got Red] excels at breaking down the simplicity of wanting to be included into a charming friendship story...heartwarming." **— *School Library Journal***

***Margaret Greanias*** is a children's book author who writes books to delight children, including MAXIMILLIAN VILLAINOUS (Running Press Kids, 2018), AMAH FARAWAY (Bloomsbury Kids, 2022), HOOKED ON BOOKS (Peachtree Publishing, 2023), and HOW THIS BOOK GOT RED (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2023). The daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, three children, and a fluffle of dust bunnies.




Margaret wrote her first terrifically terrible book in fourth grade. From grade school through college, she struggled through her English classes. Then, during her very last quarter of her very last year of college, she took a creative writing class and discovered she loved writing. She is the author of MAXIMILLIAN VILLAINOUS (Running Press Kids, 2018), AMAH FARAWAY (Bloomsbury Kids, 2022), HOOKED ON BOOKS (Peachtree Publishing, 2023), and HOW THIS BOOK GOT RED (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2023). The daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, she currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, three children, and a fluffle of dust bunnies.

https://margaretgreanias.com/








Melissa Iwai
Illustrator

Margaret Chiu Greanias
Author

A book that portrays the importance of there being a book for everyone. Poor Red the Red Panda doesn't see herself in any books; all of the books are about Giant Pandas. So, she decides to write her own book about Red Pandas ***—Mandy Harris, Angel Wings Bookstore, Stem, NC***

**** AMAZON BEST BOOKS AGES 3 – 5***

"Strong positive messages of inclusion, representation, courage, and communication are featured in this story that also includes a supporting and encouraging good friend who models excellent ally behaviors." ***— COMMON SENSE MEDIA***



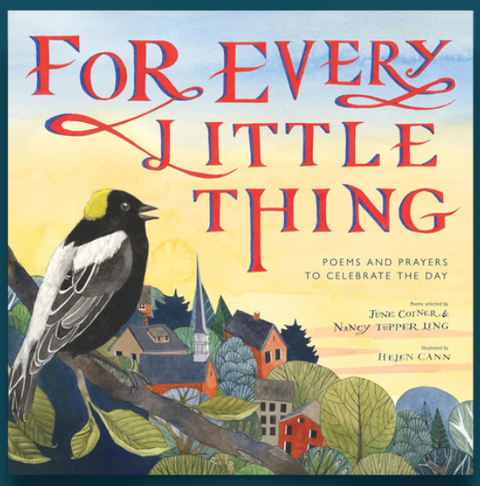
# Nancy TUPPER LING

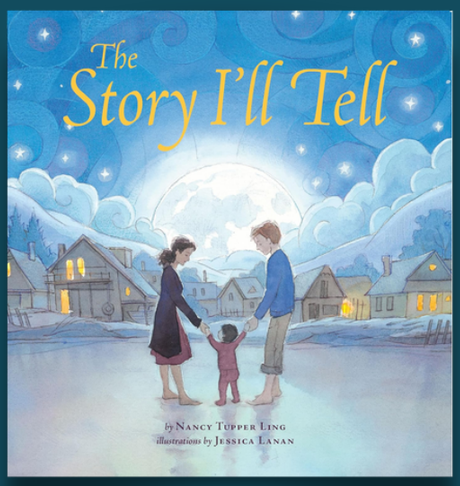


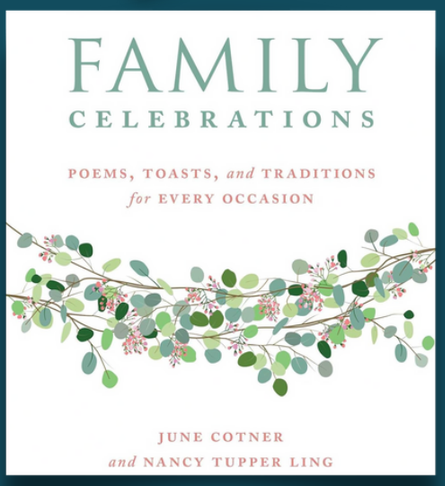
Nancy Tupper Ling is a children's author, poet, bookseller, and librarian. Basically, she surrounds herself with books! She is the author of My Sister, Alicia May; Double Happiness; The Story I'll Tell; and For Every Little Thing, co-written with June Cotner. Nancy lives in Massachusetts with her husband, Vincent, and their two girls.

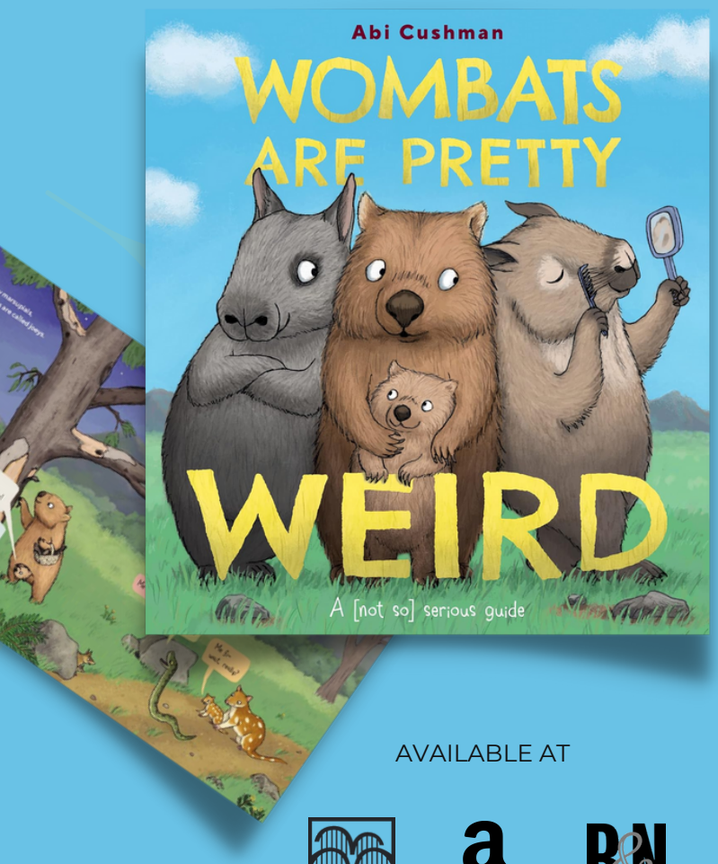



Begin with ancient tales from the Old Testament such as Adam and Eve, Noah, and Daniel, then move on to the timeless stories from the New Testament like the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus. By reading these stories aloud, families can delve into God's plan for redemption and uncover the hope of a fresh start in Christ. This captivating and enlightening experience is ideal for bedtime, snack time, or daily reflection.



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Wombats Are Pretty Weird is a nonfiction debut by Abi Cushman, featuring a fascinating account of wombats, elusive marsupials with ever-growing teeth, backward-facing pouches, and cube-shaped poop. The book, which is kid-friendly and informative, also features sidebars, comic panels, extensive backmatter, and a map. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in wombats.



# ABI CUSHMAN

# LENNY WEN




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When Lintang finally gets to taste her nenek's yummy, mouthwatering sambal, she's delighted! But when she takes a bite it's . . . SPICY!

Her lips burn, her mouth feels like it's on fire, and her taste buds are crying for help. Desperate to fit in with her family, Lintang tries many different types of sambal, but they're . . . HOT!

With a little help from Nenek, will Lintang find a way to beat the heat and connect with her Indonesian heritage?




**ANISHINAABE, AUTHOR, BOOK GEEK**

# Carole Lindstrom

She is Anishinabe/Métis and is a proud member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe Indians.

https://carolelindstrom.com/



Michaela Goade

Illustrator

Carole Lindstrom is a New York Times bestselling and award-winning author of literature for young people, including the Caldecott Medal-winning WE ARE WATER PROTECTORS. She is Anishinaabe/Metis and an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe. She is honored to write books that allow her to shine a light on her beautiful people and their strength and resilience. Her tribal homelands are in Belcourt, North Dakota, but she was born and raised in Nebraska and currently makes her home in Maryland.

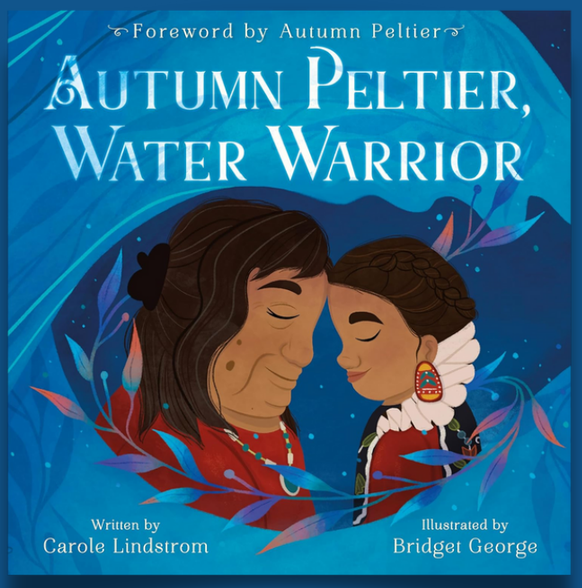
Carole has been a voracious reader and library geek ever since she was growing up in Nebraska. On weekends you could usually find her at the library lost in the book stacks or holed up in her bedroom with a good book. It wasn't until she had her son, that she discovered her love of writing for children and began to work seriously on her writing.

# Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior

Indigenous women have long cared for the land and water, which in turn sustains all life on Earth—honoring their ancestors and providing for generations to come. Yet there was a time when their voices and teachings were nearly drowned out, leaving entire communities and environments in danger and without clean water.

But then came Grandma Josephine and her great-niece, Autumn Peltier.

Featuring a foreword from water advocate and Indigenous Rights Activist Autumn Peltier herself, this stunning picture book from New York Times-bestselling author Carole Lindstrom and illustrator Bridget George gives voice to the water and asks young readers to join the tidal wave of change.

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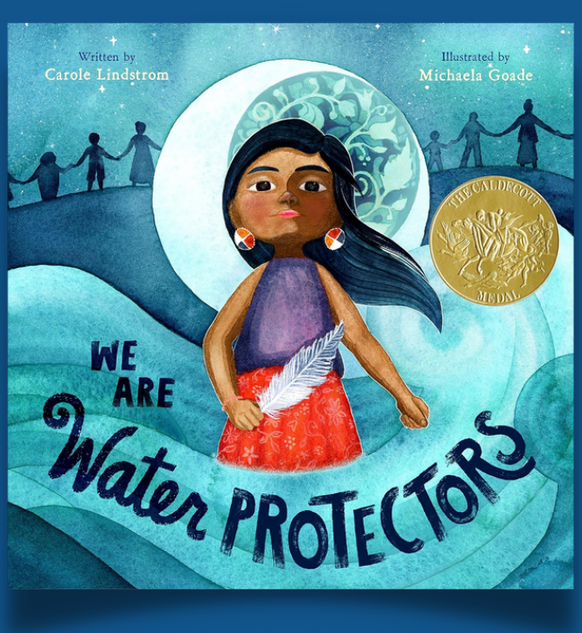
# We Are Water Protectors




Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, We Are Water Protectors issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption—a bold and lyrical picture book written by Carole Lindstrom and vibrantly illustrated by Michaela Goade.

Water is the first medicine.
It affects and connects us all . . .

When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth
And poison her people's water, one young water protector
Takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.

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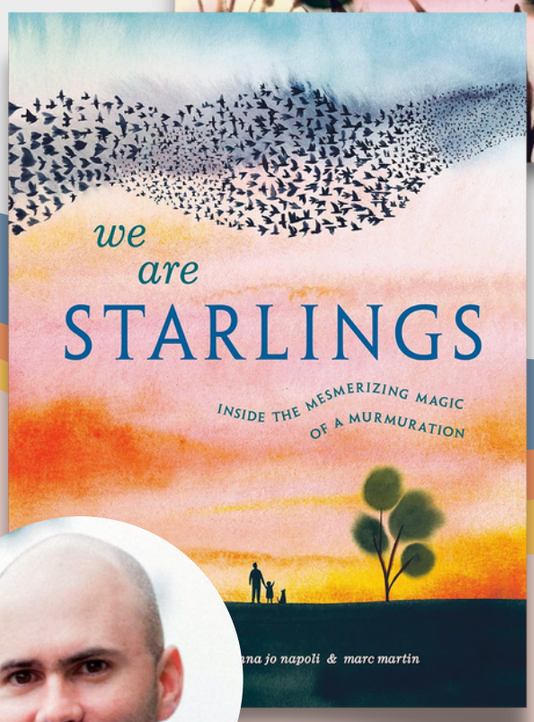
# We Are Starlings

by: Robert Furrow




Sweeping, diving, twisting, turning. To look up at a murmuration of starlings is an experience like no other. Hundreds, thousands, and sometimes millions of starlings fly together as one flock. The group ripples, whirls, and waves as each bird stays close to its neighbors in a harmonious synchronicity of movement.

The story is told from the point of view of the flock, which gives the reader an inside look at what is happening, and the breathtaking illustrations perfectly capture the ebb and flow of a murmuration. Young readers will witness and fully appreciate the extraordinary communication and collaboration abilities of these birds and may be able to apply these lessons to their own lives.

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# Dim Sum Palace

by: X. Fang

Liddy is so excited about going to the Dim Sum Palace tomorrow with her family that she can't sleep. So when a delicious smell wafts into her room, she hops out of bed, opens her door and steps into . . . an actual palace of dim sum! There are dumplings, baos, buns and more delicious treats than one girl can possibly eat. Liddy just has to take a bite, but she slips and falls . . . into a bowl of dumpling filling.

The chefs are so busy rolling, folding and pinching dough that they don't notice they've prepared a most unusual dumpling for the Empress — a Liddy dumpling! Worst of all, she looks good enough to eat . . .

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**ACTRESS, AUTHOR AND PRODUCER**

# Sheetal Sheth

She continues to tackle a wide range of roles and has developed an impressive body of work with an array of memorable characters in film, television, and theater.

https://sheetalsheth.com/



Lucia Soto

Illustrator

Sheetal Sheth is an acclaimed actress, producer, author, and activist. She has starred in 20+ feature films and TV shows. Sheetal supports marginalized communities through her work as an actor and by appearing at workshops and panels to speak directly to issues facing those communities.

She is an outspoken advocate, and has delivered talks and keynotes at festivals and charity galas. She has had op-eds published on CNN, the Daily Beast, and Thrive Global.

She served in President Clinton's AmeriCorps and is currently on the advisory board of Equality Now and an ambassador for the Representation Project, founded by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the First Partner of California. Sheetal is the author of ALWAYS ANJALI and MAKING HAPPY.

# Bravo, Anjali!

For Anjali, playing the tabla is something that comes naturally--she loves feeling the drum beneath her fingers and getting lost in the music. She doesn't care that some people say it's an instrument for boys. But she does care when her skills make others treat her differently.

Anjali starts downplaying her talent, and even messes up on purpose. When her teacher announces a music contest, Anjali can't deny her dreams of playing the tabla.

From actor, author, and activist Sheetal Sheth, this second book in the Anjali series is an important message about never dimming your light.




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# Always Anjali

Meet Anjali! She's the spunky star of this picture book with a timeless message about appreciating what makes us special and honoring our different identities.

Anjali and her friends are excited to buy matching personalized license plates for their bikes--but Anjali can't find a plate with her name. She is often teased about her "different" name, and this is the last straw. Anjali is so upset that she demands her parents let her pick a new name! When they refuse, Anjali decides to take a closer look at who she is--beyond her name--and why being different means being marvelous.

Actress and activist Sheetal Sheth has penned a deeply personal picture book about the experience of feeling othered and the journey toward embracing yourself.

# Holy Night and Little Star

by: Robert Furrow

Little Star likes her usual spot in the night sky over Bethlehem. Every night, she twinkles above the hills and hopes that nothing will change. But one night, Maker gathers the galaxy! Holy Night is coming, and Maker wants the planets, Moon, and the stars to all take part.

As Maker doles out jobs, Little Star holds back, each new role sounding too hard or too scary. But when Maker eventually calls on her to shine, Little Star discovers she is ready and able to welcome the Child and joins the other stars and planets in celebration.






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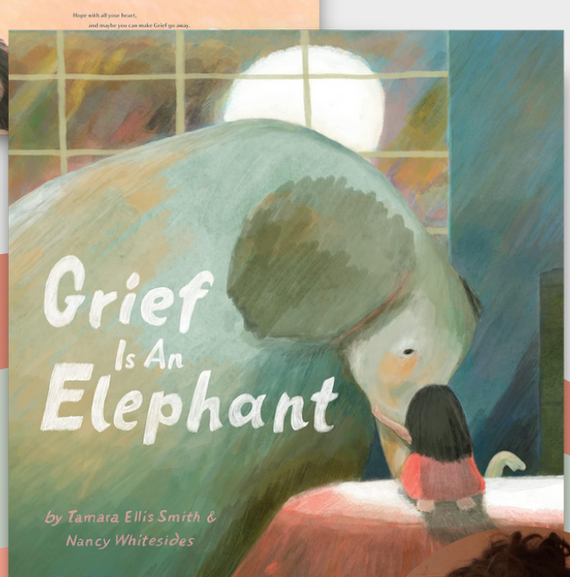




# Grief is an Elephant

by: Tamara Ellis Smith

When Grief first arrives, it is like an elephant—so big that there is hardly room for anything else. But over time, Grief can become smaller and smaller—first a deer, then a fox, a mouse, and finally a flickering firefly in the darkness leading us down a path of loving remembrance.

This lyrical work is an empathetic and comforting balm for anyone who is experiencing grief, be it grieving the loss of a loved one or losses in the world around us.

Perfect for:

- Parents and grandparents seeking grief books for kids
- Teachers and librarians seeking children's books about emotions to recommend or read aloud
- Grief resource for social workers and other caregivers
- Anyone looking for books about grief
- A thoughtful gift for a grieving child, loved one, or friend

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**A 2023 Good Housekeeping Kids Book Award Winner**
**A Science Friday 2023 Best Book Pick**
**A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Picture Book of 2023**
**A *School Library Journal* Best Book of 2023**
**2024 NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor Book**
**Four Starred Reviews!**

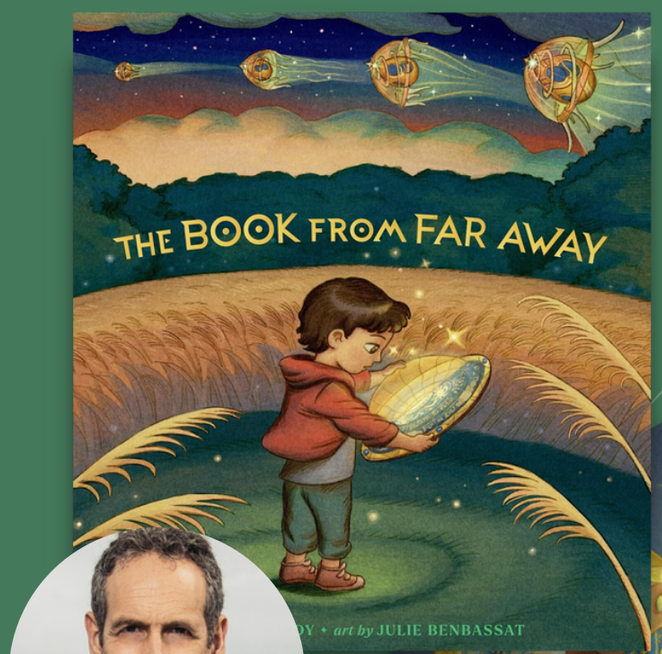
Cecilia Payne, a groundbreaking scientist, was initially a curious girl who aspired to unlock the mysteries of the universe.

Her scientific career was marked by the discovery of the burning at the heart of stars. Kirsten W. Larson's lyrical text and Katherine Roy's extraordinary illustrations provide a moving biography that parallels the birth of a star, from mere possibility to a breathtaking explosion of light.



KIRSTEN W. LARSON

# BRUCE HANDY





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A cosmic celebration of the joy of sharing books and having new experiences awaits readers in this captivating wordless picture book for ages 4 to 8. A child busy reading in a treehouse spots a family who seems to have just arrived on Earth for a picnic. The youngest member of the alien family holds a mind-bendingly strange object. Could it be a book from outer space? At the end of this gorgeously illustrated tale, each child returns home with a book from far away to remember a kind stranger. Sure to take its place among gently fantastical favorites like Sophie Blackall's If You Come to Earth and Carson Ellis's Du Iz Tak?, this picture book will enchant and delight curious kids and book lovers everywhere.




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