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Kaplan/DeFiore Children's Guide
Frankfurt Book Fair
2025

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SQUIRREL DRAWS BIG FEELINGS

Erin Dealey, illustrated by Luciana Navarro Powell

Beaming Books, April 2026

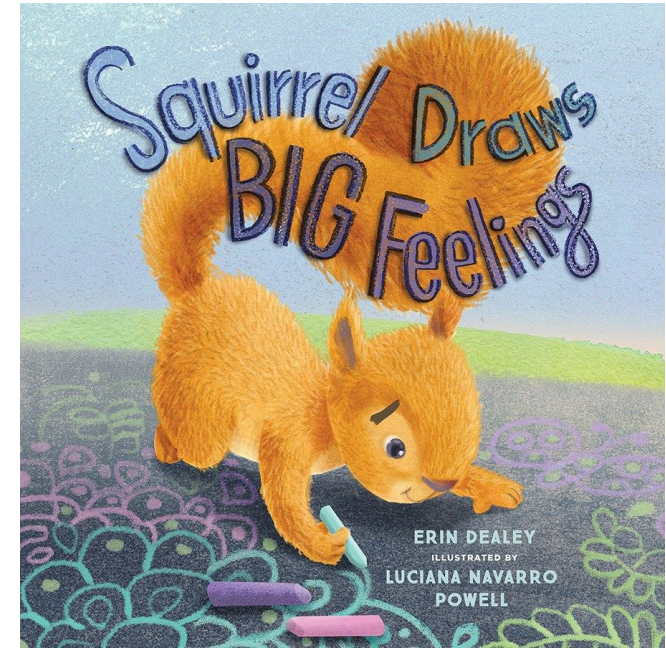
Adorable illustrations and an important message about the power of expression make *Squirrel Draws Big Feelings* a valuable addition to the toolbox of parents and educators.

"Uh oh! Sometimes, when Squirrel felt BIG feelings he couldn't stop racing around."

Squirrel feels squirrely all the time! Porcupine gets the pricklies when things don't go the way she expects them to. And Bear only knows how to express his feelings ROARfully.

When Squirrel is having a hard time controlling his emotions and his body, his squirrely behavior causes such a commotion that Porcupine gets all prickly and Bear has a ROARful day. No one is having fun and everyone is overwhelmed. Until Squirrel turns to chalk art to express his big feelings: "With each squiggly line, Squirrel felt better. Art felt like a quiet hug." After some initial hesitation and insecurity over whether they can make art too, Porcupine and Bear join Squirrel in drawing their hearts out. Turns out, friendship and sharing are coping skills too.

With rhyming text and dynamic, mixed-media illustrations, *Squirrel Draws Big Feelings* will help readers understand that even when we don't have the words to express how we feel, we don't need to get stuck there.



Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:	Translation	Format:	Hardcover
Rights Sold on Behalf of:	Beaming Books	Ages:	4-7
Materials:	Layouts		

Erin Dealey is an award-winning children's author and playwright. Erin has published dozens of books celebrating kindness and community, including *Dear Earth*. . . *From Your Friends in Room 5* (NYSRA Charlotte Award) and *Snow Globe Wishes* (Anna Dewdney Read Together Honor Book). With decades of experience as a language arts and theater teacher, she loves motivating kids to read, write, and make art. She lives in Northern California with her husband.

Luciana Navarro Powell grew up and started her illustration career in Brazil before moving to the United States in 2002. She worked as an art buyer for an educational publisher in the Chicago area, before moving to California and becoming a full-time illustrator. She now lives in Washington state and has illustrated more than 20 children's books. In her free time, she loves to go hiking with her family and paint en plein air.

FRIENDS ARE LIKE STARS

Kelly Swemba, illustrated by Adam Walker-Parker

Beaming Books, May 2026

The relatable topic of long-distance friendship and the curriculum tie-in of star maps make this a strong pick for both individuals and classroom read-alouds.

Vera and Grace were suddenly galaxies apart.

When Vera's best friend moves to the other side of the world, she feels adrift. She asks her special wishing star to bring her friend back, but then her star disappears too! Vera's journey through loneliness leads to surprising discoveries about new friends and the special way she is still connected to her best friend. Back matter supports children and parents when a friend moves away, while also exploring STEM connections through the making of a star map.



Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:

Translation

Format:

Hardcover

Rights Sold on Behalf of:

Beaming Books

Ages:

4-8

Materials:

Layouts

Kelly Swemba has been passionate about big feelings since she was little. She holds a master's degree in psychiatric nursing and has also worked as a preschool intervention aide for children with autism. She's a member of SCBWI, 12x12, and Children's Book Insider. Kelly lives with her family in Columbus, Ohio.

Adam Walker-Parker is a children's book illustrator and artist from the Cairngorm National Park in the Scottish Highlands. He started out his creative career as an artist, painting wildlife, as well as figurative and landscape art, before moving into children's picture book illustration. He loves long walks and time with his family.

THE BOY WITH BIG, BIG ENERGY

Britney Winn Lee, illustrated by Jacob Souva

Beaming Books, March 2026

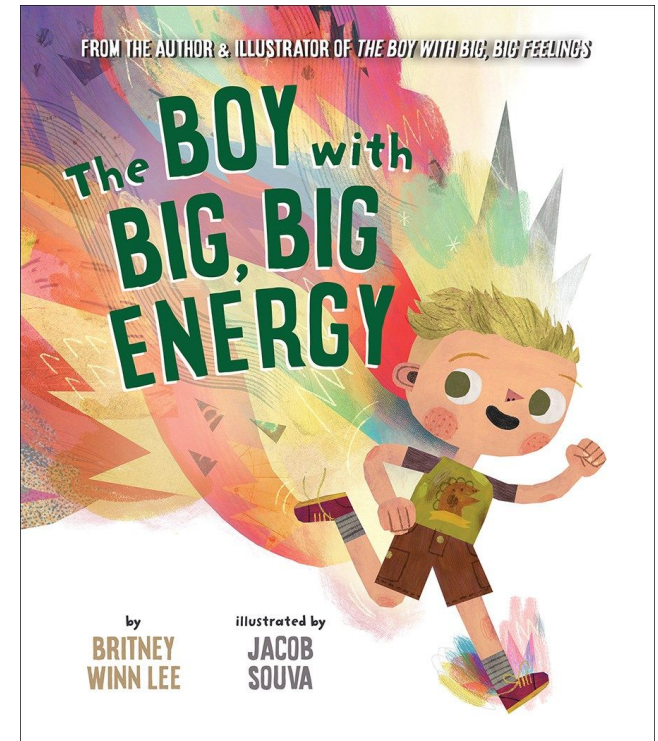
With its active, humorous cover and series brand recognition, parents and relatives of high-energy kids will be eager to pick up *The Boy with Big, Big Energy* to read to their loved ones.

From the creators of *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* comes a new story about a boy who's bursting with energy--moving, talking, bubbling excitement--and how he learns to channel it for good.

This is a story about a boy with so much energy, he struggles to contain it. He's bouncing off the walls--during school, at museums, while playing with friends. Everywhere he goes, he's moving, laughing, fidgeting, and climbing--and he always has something to say. In some places, he's supposed to be quiet and still, but that's HARD! What's a boy with so much energy to do?

Beautifully illustrated and written in rhyming verse, *The Boy with Big, Big Energy* explores how energetic, active kids can find healthy outlets. With the help of his patient dad, the boy learns how to focus his energy in the appropriate time and place by trying new sports and calm-down techniques. The boy discovers how his unique gifts equip him to leap into action when his friends need him most. There are lots of ways his big energy can shine!

Perfect for high-energy children, kids with ADHD, big talkers, and anyone who is constantly on the move.



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Britney Winn Lee is an author, editor, and United Methodist pastor living in Shreveport, Louisiana, with her creative husband and big-hearted son. Her books include *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings*; *The Girl with Big, Big Questions*; *The Kid with Big, Big Ideas*; *Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice*; *Deconstructed Do-Gooder: A Memoir about Learning Mercy the Hard Way*; and *Good Night, Body: Finding Calm from Head to Toe*. With a master's degree in nonprofit administration and her local pastor licensure, Lee has worked for over a decade in faith- and justice-based, creative community-building. She writes to make room for all people of all ages.

Jacob Souva is an illustrator who lives in Upstate New York with his wife and two boys. He's passionate about equipping kids with language to navigate their emotional well-being, laugh at silly things, and be inspired by big stories. Jacob works digitally and loves to experiment with texture and color.

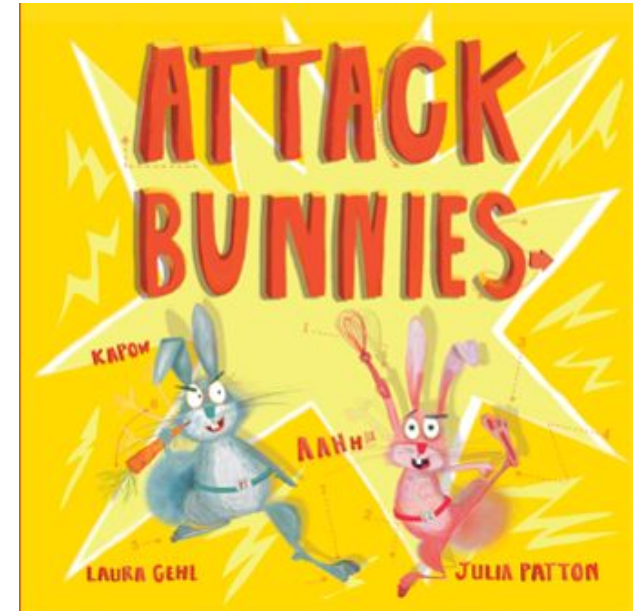
ATTACK BUNNIES

Laura Gehl, illustrated by Julia Patton

Beaming Books, February 2026

This story's message of kindness and love will appeal parents and its humor will leave children giggling and begging for another reading.

Carrot Cake and Pufftail are trained to protect their woodland friends. When troublemaking Renard Fox moves to the forest, Carrot Cake and Pufftail know exactly what to do. But when their initial impression turns out to be wrong, how will they make things right?



Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:

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Hardcover

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Beaming Books

Ages:

4-8

Materials:

Layouts

Laura Gehl is the award-winning author of many popular children's books, including *One Big Pair of Underwear*, *Delivery Bear*, *Except When They Don't*, and *Apple and Magnolia*. Laura lives in Maryland.

Julia Patton is an author and illustrator from a little fishing village in North East England who loves creating lovable characters and drawing impossible gadgets. She finds anything silly, especially bunnies, utterly charming.

ONE CAN BE

Pat Zietlow Miller

Beaming Books, September 2025

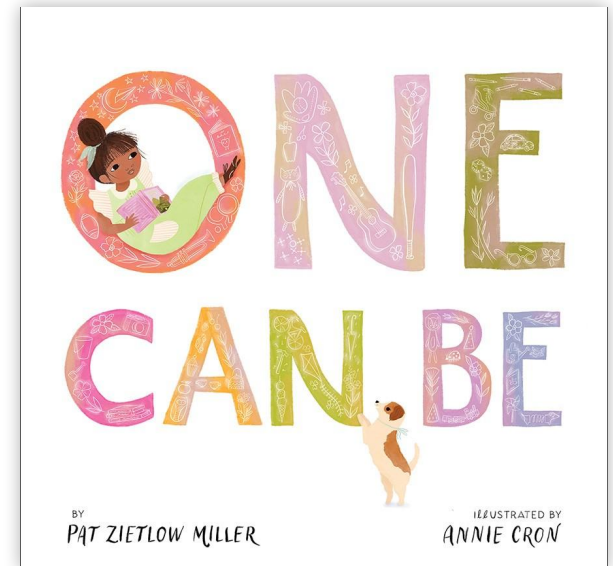
“A simple picture book about the beauty of being alone and the power that comes from depending on others and working together.” —*School Library Journal*

“An empathetic tale that proves anyone can make a difference.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

An ode to introverts and quiet leaders who love books, libraries, and creating community.

Sometimes you need to be alone--to think and breathe. Other times you need to be with friends--those you know and those you've only just met. And sometimes everyone works together to create something wonderful.

What can one person do all alone? Quite a lot, actually. Even so, there are times it helps to work with others. With spare, lyrical text, bestselling author Pat Zietlow Miller celebrates the power of being alone--and of coming together with others--centered on the love of reading and creating community around books. This is a book about trusting yourself and your ideas, seeing a need, and connecting with others to meet it.



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Materials:	PDFs		

Pat Zietlow Miller is the author of more than twenty picture books. *Sophie's Squash* won the Golden Kite Award, an Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor, and a Charlotte Zolotow Honor. *Be Kind* was a *New York Times* bestseller, and *In Our Garden* is a two-time Dolly Parton Imagination Library selection. Pat has one wonderful husband, two delightful daughters, and two pampered cats. She lives in Wisconsin.

GILBERT AND THE GHOST

Heather Pierce Stigall, illustrated by Jess Mason

Beaming Books, August 2025

“Overall, this tale is more sweet than scary and will be a surefire hit with readers looking for seasonal fun. Heartwarming proof that friends can show up in unexpected places.”

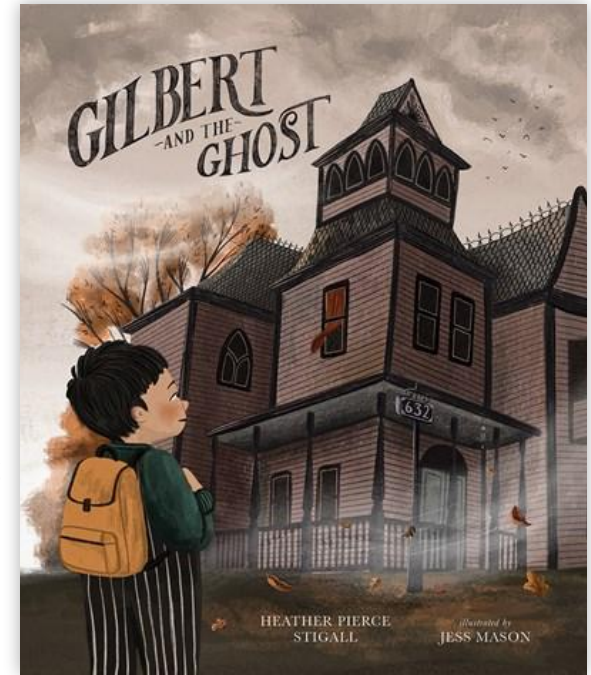
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A perennial ghost-next-door story that readers will enjoy any time they long for a bit of mystery.” —*School Library Journal*

This charming story will appeal to kids who identify with the shy protagonist and to kids who have "invisible friends."

Gilbert often feels invisible, just like the ghost living at 632 Savannah Street. Despite his family's disbelief, Gilbert leaves gifts for the ghost: a friendship bracelet, a plate of cookies, even a drawing with a note. When each disappears one by one, Gilbert finds that believing and friendship are worth the effort.

For kids who might often feel unseen, *Gilbert and the Ghost* is a ghostly tale of overcoming obstacles and finding friendship in mysterious places. Gothic, whimsical illustrations make this picture book perfect for spooky season, while its earnest themes make it worth a read all year round.



Kaplan/DeFiore Controls: Translation
Rights Sold on Behalf of: Beaming Books
Materials: PDFs

Format: Hardcover
Ages: 3-8

Heather Stigall uses her experience with children and her degrees in child development, psychology-based human relations, and social work to create stories that speak to kids. Heather is the Critique Group/Meet & Greet Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania chapter of SCBWI and the author of Paisley's Big Birthday (Clavis Publishing) and Gilbert and the Ghost (Beaming Books). Born and raised as a beach-loving, corn-and-tomato-snob Jersey girl, Heather now lives in southeastern Pennsylvania with her husband, pup, and five children. When she's not writing, you can find her reading, relaxing (hopefully at the beach), working out, eating chocolate, baking, or creating all sorts of treasures.

VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE VILLAGE

Phyllis Alsdurf

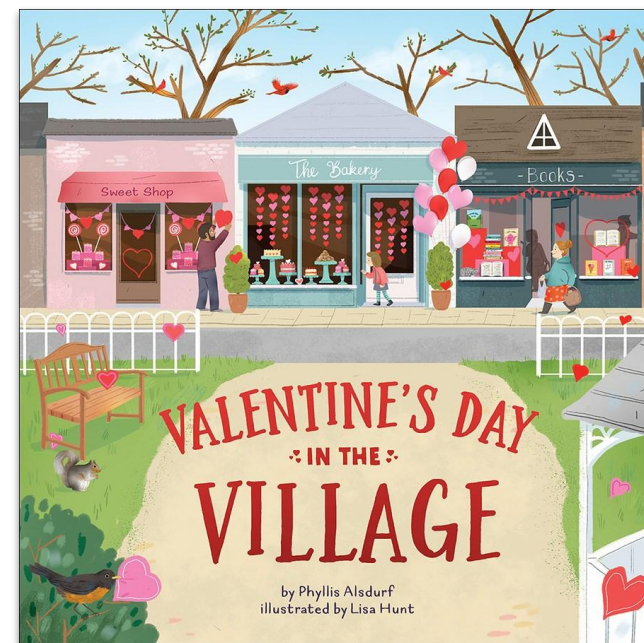
Beaming Books, December 2025

This charmingly rustic story celebrating small-town and village life makes for a perfect read in the lead-up to Valentine's Day.

A Valentine's Day story about community, belonging, and kindness, set in an idyllic small town.

From the author of *Thanksgiving in the Woods* and *A Simple Christmas on the Farm* comes a new countryside holiday tale for Valentine's Day about community, belonging, and kindness.

A girl notices that not everyone is looking forward to Valentine's Day. Some people are new to the community, some are lonely, others are missing loved ones. But then she comes up with a brilliant idea! With the support of her baker grandfather and her classmates, she organizes a hunt in the town square for valentine cards that people can exchange for a cookie. Soon everyone wants to help, and a new town festival is born. Food trucks, bingo, and live music bring it all together for a fabulous Valentine's Day in the village.



Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:

Translation

Format:

Hardcover

Rights Sold on Behalf of:

Beaming Books

Ages:

4-8

Materials:

PDFs

Phyllis Alsdurf is a former journalism and creative writing professor. She is the author of *It's Milking Time* and the Countryside Holiday series, which includes *Thanksgiving in the Woods* and *A Simple Christmas on the Farm*. Phyllis lives in Minnesota.

WILL AND KRILL

Stacey Byer

Beaming Books, June 2025

“A plucky tale in which bravery wins the day over size.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

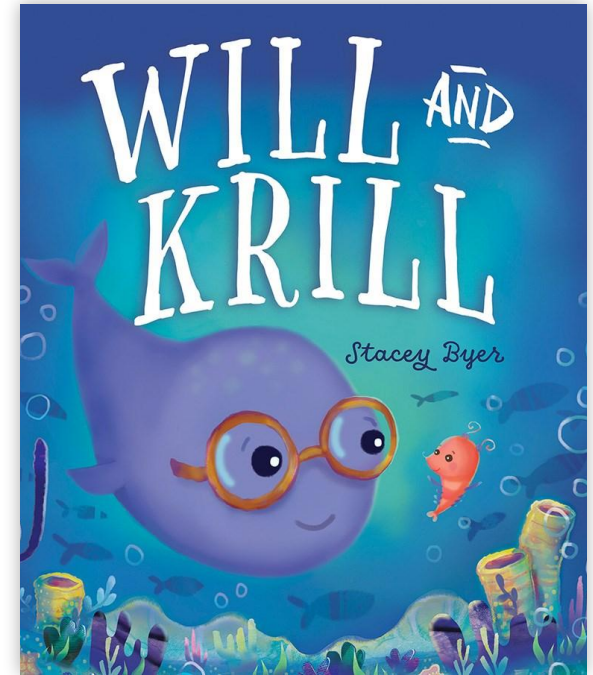
“Byer tackles a complicated topic with kindness and a resolute heart. A thoughtful book to share for story times and discussions about speaking up, intended for all children who need a sweet—pun-laden—lesson about being brave on behalf of others.” —*School Library Journal*

Discover the power of finding your voice in this enchanting undersea tale about a tiny, shy whale named Will searching for friendship.

Deep in the Caribbean Sea lived a tiny, timid whale named Will.

Will wants nothing more than a friend. But she is so teeny-tiny that no one ever seems to notice her. She is ignored at finball practice, never chosen to play in the orca-stra, and always forgotten in a game of shell-and-peek. After plucking up all her courage, she sets out to find a friend. But when she finally finds the friends she's been dreaming of, who will stick up for them?

Through enchanting, under-the-sea illustrations, *Will and Krill* tells a tale for shy and quiet kids, encouraging them to find where they belong--and use their voice when it really matters.



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Materials:	PDFs		

Stacey Byer grew up on a Caribbean island filled with folktales and adventure, feeding her imagination. She wrote stories about giant possums living in mango trees and drew many pictures of what lurked in bougainvillea hedges. After graduating from Ringier College of Art and Design with a degree in Illustration, Stacey used her skills to promote art education and literacy on her island and worked with organizations such as Room to Read, UNDP, and Harper Collins UK. Stacey's experiences working with children have inspired her to write and illustrate stories all kids can enjoy.

THE RAINBOW SHEEP

David Hayward

Beaming Books, May 2025

A delightfully humorous and heartwarming tale that celebrates the joy of being different, self-acceptance, and the power of friendship to challenge conformity.

A story about inclusion, self-acceptance, and the joy of being different.

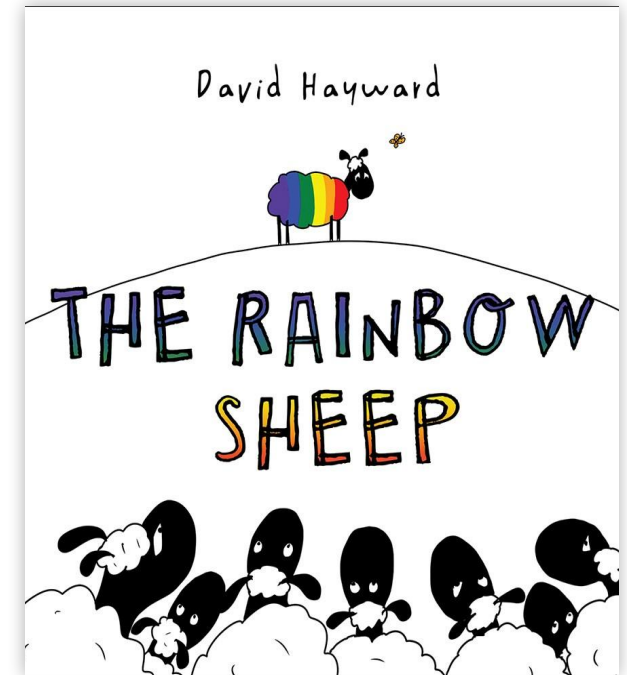
Ricky lives with a flock of sheep that prizes conformity. When one sleeps, they all sleep. When one eats, they all eat. When one ba-a-a-s, the all ba-a-a. And they all dress the same too. Every single day.

Until a rainbow sheep joins the flock and everything changes! Rainbow is so fun and so free! Ricky becomes friends with Rainbow and starts becoming her true self too. How will the rest of the flock react?"*The Rainbow Sheep* is a solid nod to encouraging children to embrace their own individualism and that of everyone." --**Books to Borrow...Books to Buy, The Reading Eagle**

"[A] whimsical picture book about delighting in differences." --**Foreword Reviews**

"*The Rainbow Sheep* is one of the most beautiful and hopeful picture books that I've ever read. Like the book's star, Rainbow, David Hayward is one of a kind, a pastor who uses his gifts to offer all of us a thoughtful, diverse, and inclusive glimpse of God and ourselves." --**Matthew Paul Turner**, #1 *New York Times* Bestselling author of *What Is God Like?*

"This book is the child-friendly rendition of the quote by Lilla Watson, which claims our liberation is bound together. Rainbow Sheep will set your child free to be themselves, and teach them their freedom sets others free." --**Cindy Wang Brandt**, author of *Parenting Forward* and *You Are Revolutionary*



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Beaming Books
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Hardcover
4-7

David Hayward, who draws and writes as @NakedPastor, reaches wide audiences with fanciful and hard-hitting cartoons about spiritual abuse, the church's exclusion of LGBTQ+ people, feminism, and faith and doubt. With degrees from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and McGill University in Montreal, Hayward served as a pastor for most of his career, but in 2010 he left the professional paid clergy to pursue his passion for spirituality, community, and art. His cartoons and artwork have found their way all around the world. David and his wife live near Saint John, New Brunswick.

PING'S PERFECT POT

Helen H. Wu, illustrated by Zihua Yang

Beaming Books, January 2025

"Her [Ping's] embrace of all aspects of the creative process makes for a delightful holiday tale. A charming story of encouragement, illustrated with life and movement."—*Kirkus*

"A gentle, relevant holiday story and a welcome addition to Lunar New Year collections."

—*School Library Journal*

An endearing tale about perseverance, the value of practice, and embracing cultural traditions as a young girl attempts to craft the perfect pot for Lunar New Year.

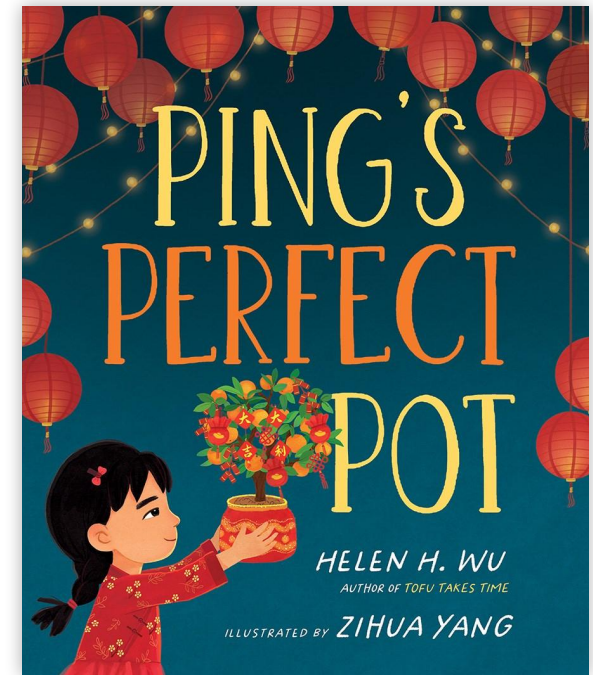
***KNEAD, MUSH, MASH.* Ping molds a pot for Lunar New Year.**

When Ping and Grandpa bring a tangerine tree home for Lunar New Year, Ping decides to make the perfect pot to go with it. But making a pot is hard. With Grandpa's encouragement, she tries again and again to get it just right. The first is too clumsy, the second crumbles, and the third is too flimsy. What if she can't make the perfect pot? Will it ruin the new year?

For anyone feeling discouraged over learning something new, *Ping's Perfect Pot* reminds them not to give up when something isn't immediately easy. Perfection takes practice, patience, and, in the end, the love and effort you put into it. Backmatter provides more context and the deeper meaning of Lunar New Year traditions and symbols found within the story, as well as around the world.

Tofu Takes Time was sold to:

Beijing Cheerful Century (**simplified Chinese**)



Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:	Translation	Format:	Hardcover
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Materials:	PDFs		

Helen H. Wu is a children's book author, illustrator, translator, and publisher. Helen is the author of *Tofu Takes Time* and *Long Goes to Dragon School*. Fascinated by the differences and similarities between cultures, Helen loves to share stories that empower children to understand the world and our connections. Helen was born and raised in Hefei, China, and now lives in Southern California with her family.

Zihua Yang is a New York-based artist specializing in illustration and storytelling. She started drawing when she was a little girl, always finding ways to express herself creatively. When she's not making art, she's finds inspiration in being with her children, family, and friends.

THE TIDE IS RISING, SO ARE WE!

Shoshana Meira Friedman, illustrated by Kiki Kita

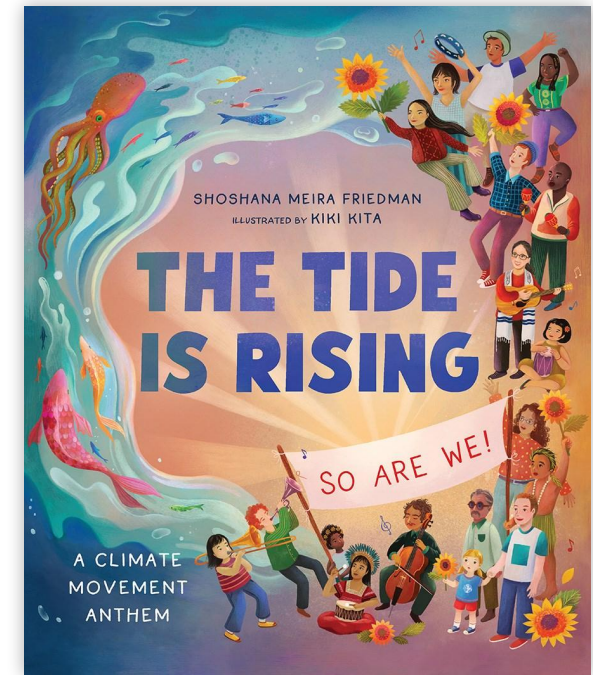
Beaming Books, March 2025

Discover hope and inspiration to join the vibrant climate justice movement through this uplifting picture book in verse with stunning illustrations and an empowering climate anthem.

The Tide Is Rising, So Are We! is an inspiring picture book in verse that invites readers into the sweeping story of the climate justice movement and offers a framework for hope and action. Written by climate activist Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman, this book speaks to readers' spiritual and emotional needs. How do we grieve, organize, and express our love for the world all at once? How do we find our own place in the climate movement at this late hour?

With climate anxiety at an all-time high, this book does not put the solution to the environmental crisis on the child-reader's shoulders. Instead, it tells the story of an already-vibrant movement the child can join in their own way. Readers will discover a sense of interconnection--with the natural world and the millions of people around the globe fighting for a livable planet. Friedman's uplifting text and Kiki Kita's lush illustrations will propel readers to move into action from a place of joy.

This book is an indispensable companion for new and seasoned activists of all ages, and for anyone concerned about the climate crisis. It is based on the song "The Tide Is Rising," a popular climate anthem Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman co-wrote with her husband, Yotam Schachter. Simple sheet music is included in the back matter so readers can learn to sing the original song too. "The Tide Is Rising" has been sung at countless protests, marches, religious conferences and congregations, and community gatherings. From Standing Rock to holding cells in police stations and across at least three continents, "Tide" spreads a message of radical empowerment, devotion, and active hope.



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Shoshana Meira Friedman is a rabbi, coach, writer, and climate activist whose writing has appeared in publications such as the *New York Times*, *YES! Magazine*, and *Rooted & Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019). Her song "The Tide Is Rising," which she co-wrote with her husband Yotam Schachter, has spread widely as a climate justice anthem, and she is recognized as a leading spiritual thinker, inspirational speaker, and activist in the Jewish climate movement. She lives in Boston with her husband and son

Kiki Kita is an illustrator and designer working primarily in editorial, children's books, and portrait illustration. Currently living in Brooklyn, New York, she grew up in Dallas, Texas, and Nagoya, Japan. Kiki is an avid podcast listener, an aspiring baker, and a bookworm. She studied illustration and art history at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Her work has been recognized by *American Illustration* and by the Society of Illustrators West.

PEG GETS PLUCKY

Jo Renfro

Beaming Books, March 2025

"The story serves as a fitting example of just how much little ones are capable of when they stick to it, especially those who struggle with doubt.... A meaningful journey featuring a relatable, adorable protagonist." —*Kirkus Reviews*

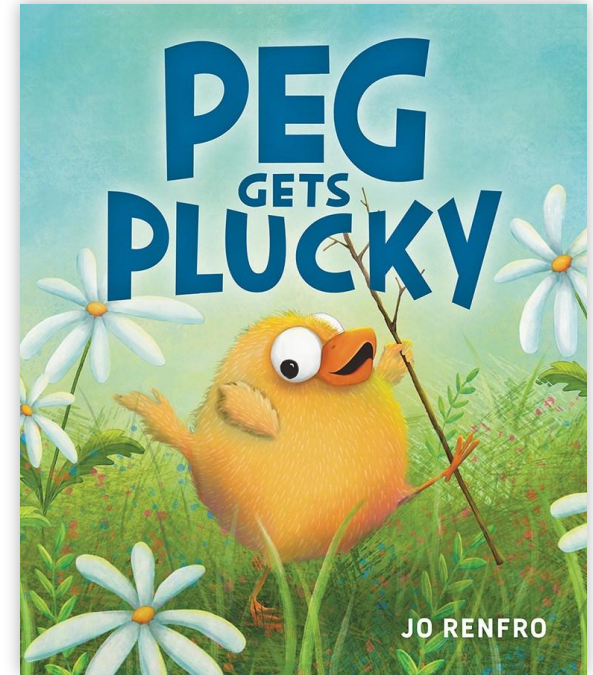
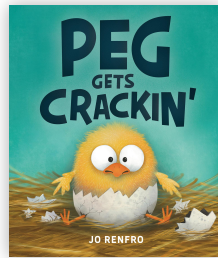
With hilarious barnyard humor and an inspiring "I think I can" message, *Peg Gets Plucky* is an adorable picture book that encourages kids to persevere and find their can-do spirit on any adventure.

"It's foo far! I'm too tired! I'm too smaaaaaallll!"

Peg the chick is bold and ready for adventure. But when she sets off on a hike with the other barnyard animals, she is quickly overwhelmed. Adventures are hard! "I can't do it!" Peg declares. Or can she?

In this follow-up to Jo Renfro's story *Peg Gets Crackin'*, Peg follows in the footsteps of every kid who has ever gone on a hike--or a walk around the block. With a hilarious storytelling voice and adorable illustrations, *Peg Gets Plucky* is perfect for any kid who's wondered if they have what it takes to keep going on an adventure.

Also available: **PEG GETS CRACKIN'**



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Hardcover
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Jo Renfro is an author and illustrator based in Colorado. She uses her sense of humor--cultivated from raising three kids, several dogs, numerous cats, and a potbellied pig named Matilda--to create stories that are lighthearted and inspirational. Her picture books include *Peg Gets Crackin'*

HUCK AND LOONA

Emily Kilgore, illustrated by Florence Weiser

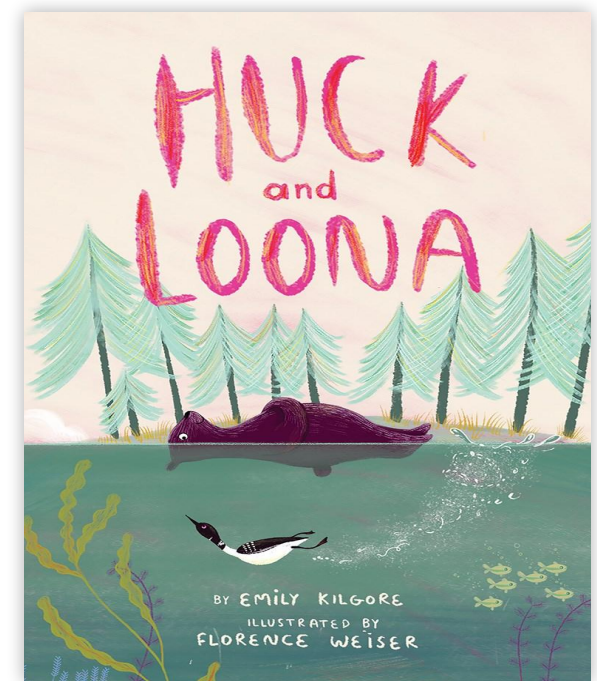
Beaming Books, October 2024

Best friends Huck the bear and Loona the loon do everything together--until they don't. Preserving their friendship will take creative thinking for this lovable pair in the Northwoods.

A story about friendship, conflict, and finding a path forward after disagreement.

Huck and Loona love spending time together in the Great Northwoods. From cloud-watching to fishing, the two want to do everything together. When they realize they sometimes want to do different things or that there are some activities the other simply cannot do, they worry that their friendship is over.

With themes of friendship, individuality, compromise, and grace, *Huck and Loona* equips children to embrace their uniqueness and communicate with others for healthy relationships that help them grow and thrive.



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Emily Kilgore is an educator and writer of picture books. She strives to share books that bring people together. She is also the author of *The Whatifs*, *The Iheards*, and *The Christmas Book Flood*. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband, their son, and their kitty.

Florence Weiser is a French illustrator based in Belgium. She grew up in Luxembourg and studied illustration in Brussels, followed by specialized studies in graphics and web design in Paris. She has illustrated numerous children's books for publishers around the world.

WE ARE A CLASS

Rob Sanders, illustrated by Hannah Abbo

Beaming Books, July 2024

“Offering warm, embracing assurance that the reader will feel comfortable and safe in a new classroom, it’s a welcoming title for first days and any day.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“An enthusiastically inclusive treatise for kids wondering—or worrying—about what to expect from school.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“A fitting book to set a positive tone for the first day of school, and a fabulous story for homes, classrooms, and libraries.” —*School Library Journal*

If every class read this inspiring poem celebrating teachers, students, and all the amazing experiences they will have together, the world would be a better place!

A celebratory declaration of what it means to be part of a diverse class of students.

We’re movers and shakers. Mammoth change makers. Friends. Learners. Achievement earners.

An icebreaker and friend-maker, *We Are a Class* is an inclusive, aspirational story to be read aloud responsively, collectively, or as spoken-word performance. In rhyming verse, *We Are a Class* is a pledge, a commitment, a promise among the members of a single class and every class.

Perfect for the first day, the 100th day, the final day, and any day of school.

Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:

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Materials:

Translation

Beaming Books

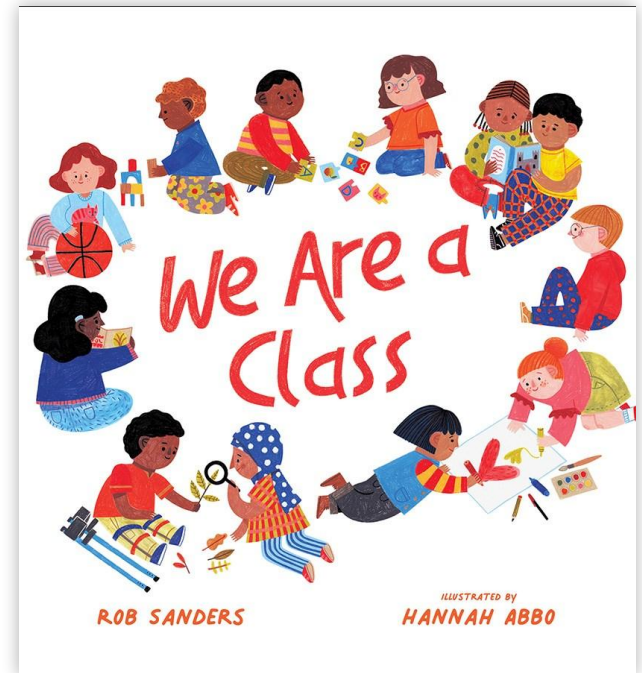
PDFs

Format:

Ages:

Hardcover

4-7



Rob Sanders is a teacher who writes and a writer who teaches. He is known for his funny and fierce fiction and nonfiction picture books and is recognized as a pioneer in the arena of LGBTQ+ literary nonfiction picture books. He is the author of dozens of picture books, including *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*, and *Stonewall: A Building An Uprising A Revolution*. *Blood Brothers*, his first middle-grade novel, was selected as a 2023 NCTE Notable Novel in Verse. A native of Springfield, Missouri, Rob has lived and worked in Texas, Alabama, and Tennessee. He now lives in Florida and writes books full-time.

Hannah Abbo is an illustrator from the United Kingdom, currently living and working in Lisbon, Portugal. She lives with her partner and child, and their cat. When she's not drawing, she loves making ceramics in a local studio, visiting the botanical gardens, and baking bread.

THE LITTLEST SOLSTICE TREE

Lisa Varchol Perron, illustrated by Ahya Kim

Beaming Books, September 2025

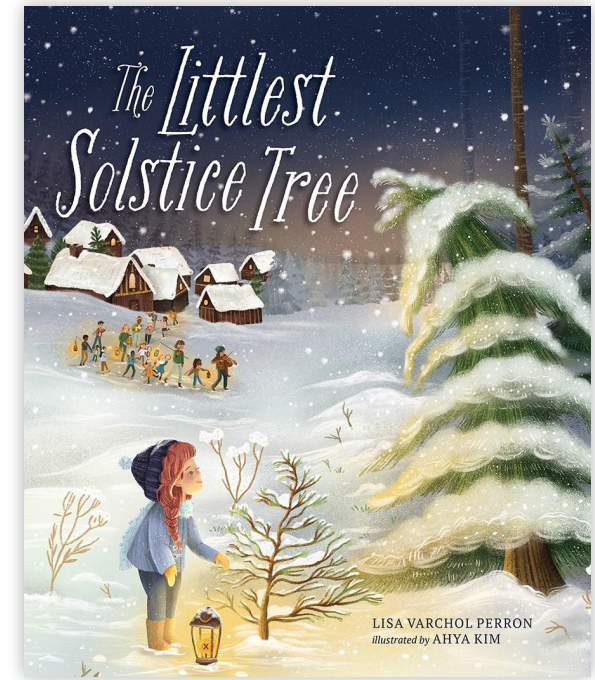
This cozy holiday story will appeal to those who celebrate the solstice and to readers looking for a non-holiday-specific tale.

Deep in the forest, where giant pines grow . . . Eager, young Sapling stood covered in snow.

Every winter solstice, one evergreen is crowned Tree of the Year, and this year, Sapling wants nothing more than to win. Her chances are as small as her stature, but when she befriends an overlooked neighbor, she wonders if they might reach new heights together.

Poetically told from the point of view of a small tree in the forest, *The Littlest Solstice Tree* brings together themes of intergenerational friendship, challenging the status quo, and youth bringing about change--all within a charming, cozy tale about holiday celebration.

An author's note brings more context to the story, highlighting how trees have been used in winter solstice--and Christmas--celebrations for centuries.



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Translation

Format:

Hardcover

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3-8

Materials:

PDFs

Lisa Varchol Perron is a children's author and poet based in Boston, Massachusetts. She is passionate about spending time outdoors, and many of her books reflect her interest in and appreciation of our natural world. She has written several books for children, including *My Love for You* and various nonfiction titles, such as *Wonder Why*, *All the Rocks We Love*, and *Patterns Everywhere*. When she is not writing, Lisa works as a psychotherapist. She is endlessly impressed and inspired by the curious kids she meets at storytimes and school visits, and is a big believer in asking questions.

SUMMER SOLSTICE WISH

Kate Allen Fox, illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

Beaming Books, September 2025

This beautiful follow-up to *Winter Solstice Wish* incorporates a similar spirit of communal celebration and will appeal to librarians and parents alike.

On the longest day of the year, during the summer solstice, flowers explode like tiny fireworks of joy.

A community comes together to savor the golden days of summer and celebrate the summer solstice, by gathering in a large community flower garden. Children pick flowers and weave flower crowns, symbolizing their friendship and connection to the earth, spreading happiness and kindness. *Summer Solstice Wish* is a joyful celebration of the glorious long days of summer that seem to pass all too quickly.

In the spirit of their picture book *Winter Solstice Wish*, author Kate Allen Fox and illustrator Elisa Paganelli have returned with another luminous solstice story. This gorgeous book is set in the Pacific Northwest and inspired by a Scandinavian tradition of making flower crowns to mark the summer solstice. Back matter includes information about what's happening, scientifically, during a summer solstice and suggestions for how to make a flower crown.



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Kate Allen Fox is an award-winning author of inspiring picture books about science and nature. Her works include: *Pando, A Living Wonder of Trees*, *A Few Beautiful Minutes: Experiencing a Solar Eclipse*, *Winter Solstice Wish*, *Scratching the Surface: Exploring Earth's Layers*, and *Summer Solstice Wish*. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times* and *McSweeney's*. She lives in California with her husband and two sons.

Elisa Paganelli was born in Italy. After completing artistic studies, she made a career in advertising and has been the founder of a small award-winning design/trade business. She now lives and works in the UK as an illustrator and creative designer, accompanied by her beloved pets. Elisa loves quietness and feels truly at home in nature.

WINTER SOLSTICE WISH

Kate Allen Fox, illustrated by Elisa Pagnelli

Beaming Books, October 2024

“A bright spot of hope on a day where darkness is dominant.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

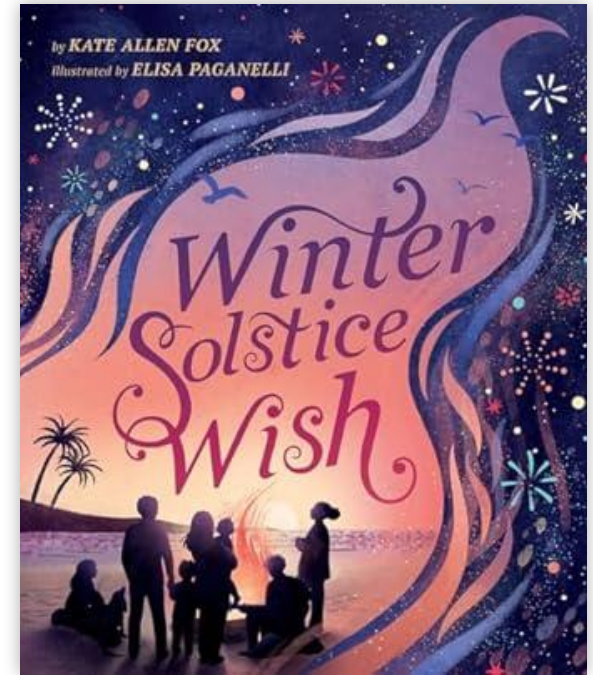
An ode to the shortest day of the year and the hope of renewal, *Winter Solstice Wish* weaves together lush art, scientific concepts, and the intangible longing for connection and togetherness.

On the shortest day of the year, people reach out for light--and one another--in this luminous, lyrical winter solstice story.

Today we stretch the daylight as much as we can, trying to make it last.

On the shortest day of the year, when daylight slips by like sand through one's fingers, people savor the light. As night falls, a community collects driftwood to build a bonfire of hope. *Winter Solstice Wish* is an ode to the winter solstice, human connectedness, and the hope of renewal.

Inspired by winter solstice bonfires built on a San Diego beach near the author's home, *Winter Solstice Wish* combines scientific concepts with the intangible longing for connection and togetherness that people all over the world reach for on the shortest day. Backmatter includes information about global winter solstice celebrations and a brief scientific explanation of what's happening on a solstice.



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Ages:

Hardcover

Kate Allen Fox is the author of *Pando: The Living Wonder of Trees* and *A Few Beautiful Minutes: Experiencing a Solar Eclipse*. After working in public health, she combined her passions for science and the written word and began writing inspiring nature-based picture books. She lives, hikes, and homeschools in California with her family.

Elisa Pagnelli was born in Italy. After completing artistic studies, she made a career in advertising and has been the founder of a small award-winning design/trade business. She now lives and works in the UK as an illustrator and creative designer, accompanied by her beloved pets. Elisa loves quietness and feels truly at home in nature.

EACH DAY IS A GIFT

Lisl H. Detlefsen, illustrated by Nadia Vasilica

Beaming Books, October 2024

“The tenderly reassuring text will help kids learn to weather storms, secure in the knowledge that better days are around the corner.... Gentle guidance for life’s inevitable ups and downs.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

Whether gifts are surprising or expected, thrilling or practical, or even something you never wanted at all, they all have value.

With a yawn and a stretch, another day is delivered to you.

Each day brings the possibility of new gifts. We welcome some gifts with delight. Others are the kind we'd rather return. Lyrical and explorative, *Each Day Is a Gift* gently reveals how gifts' purposes are not always clear immediately, and while we can't choose what gifts we receive, we can choose how to use them.



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Ages:

Hardcover
4-8

Lisl H. Detlefsen is the author of a growing number of picture books, including her most recent title, *Farm Boots*. She lives in a restored farmhouse on a family-owned cranberry marsh near Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, with her husband, two sons, and two cats.

As a child, **Natalia Vasilica** spent most of her time in the countryside, surrounded by fields and farms. She loved to draw the surroundings and capture nature's beauty. Natalia mixes traditional mediums with digital tools to create a unique feeling in her illustrations. Nature, animals, and children are her main inspiration.

SEARCHING FOR HOME

Chantal Bourgonje

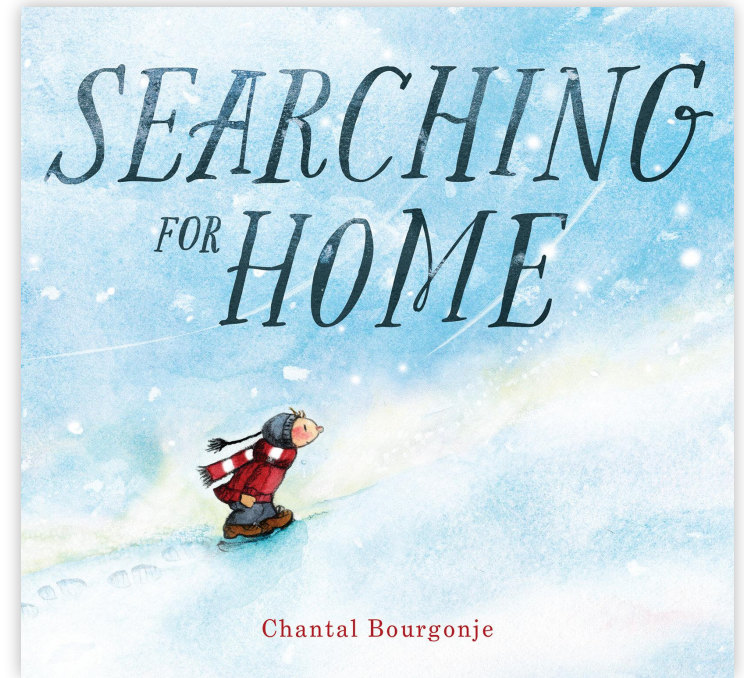
Beaming Books, January 2024

When Noa the wood sprite cannot find friends in his home, he embarks on an adventure to discover that home is being with those you care about and who care about you.

Noa is an excellent finder. But he can't seem to find any friends.

Noa the house-sprite likes his home . . . but it doesn't have any friends in it. Determined to change that, Noa sets out on an adventure to find a home with friends. Along the way, he meets Bear, Ferret, and Wolf. Together they face daunting dangers and witness breathtaking beauty, all in search of a new home . . . until they come to realize that maybe the real home is the friendships they made along the way.

The timeless message and whimsical art of *Searching for Home* make this the perfect gift book for folktale enthusiasts and fairy tale lovers. Young readers will resonate with Noa's hunt for true friendship and might just be inspired to go on an adventure or two of their own. Oftentimes, rich friendships are waiting just around the corner.



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Chantal Bourgonje is a Dutch creator of picture books, living in the United Kingdom. She illustrated two books in the Worzel Wooface series and three books in the Horace and Nim series, and is the creator of her own stories, including Fierce Grey Mouse.

THE KID WITH BIG, BIG IDEAS

Britney Winn Lee, illustrated by Jacob Souva

Beaming Books, August 2023

From the author of the bestselling *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* and *The Girl with Big, Big Questions* comes a new book designed to inspire kids to boldly use their voices to change the world.

"There once was a kid with glittery nails

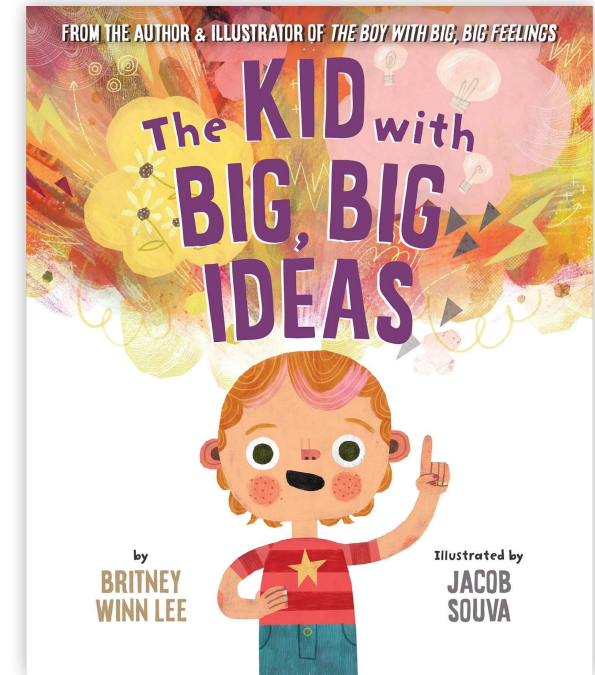
who always wore colorful socks,

and all around town, this child was known

for thinking outside of the box."

Following the bestselling *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* and *The Girl with Big, Big Questions* comes a new story about a nonbinary kid with ideas so big and wild that grown-ups often dismiss them. What if we could be mermaids and swim to school? What if we could teach pets to talk? What if we could make the world safe and inclusive for everyone?

This innovative kid doesn't stop there, and with the help of their supportive Gram, they come up with the biggest idea yet. In a world that so often dismisses and excludes kids from decision-making, this book boldly suggests that not only should kids have a voice, but that their ideas just might be the ticket to making progress.



Also available: THE BOY WITH BIG, BIG FEELINGS (Beaming Books, 2019)

Rights sold to Sola Publishing (Turkish) and THE GIRL WITH BIG, BIG QUESTIONS

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Beaming Books
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Ages:

Hardcover

Britney Winn Lee is a writer as well as a community arts director in Shreveport, LA where she lives with her husband and son. She writes primarily at the intersection of faith and justice, dedicated to good news and full life that are good and full for all.

Jacob Souva resides in a small countryside community in upstate New York. He received one of 3 honorable mentions in the portfolio showcase award at the 2020 SCBWI Winter Conference in NYC, and has illustrated 4 books including *Where Do Cowgirls Go Potty*.

MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

Christine Van Zandt, illustrated by Alejandra Barajas

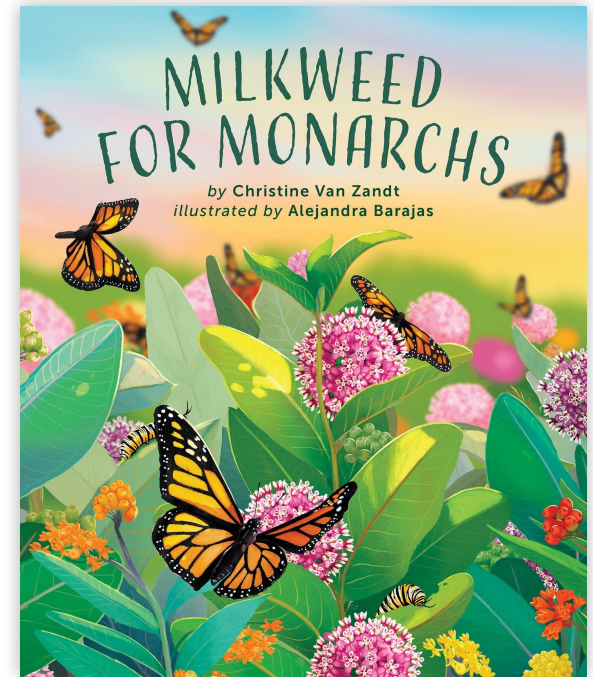
Beaming Books, February 2024

This stunning, lyrical nonfiction picture book offers a close look at the life cycle of the beloved, endangered monarch butterfly, as well as a call to action to care for our planet.

Bold, gold, the chrysalis gleams. And deep down inside . . . the butterfly dreams.

Every year, monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates for overwintering months. However, changing environments make it continually more difficult to find food and places to lay eggs. In this nonfiction picture book, the monarch's life cycle is detailed in lyrical verse as stunning art accompanies each stage in the butterfly's life.

The most recognizable butterfly, monarchs are classified as an endangered species by the IUCN, and face drastic challenges when it comes to locating food sources--milkweed. *Milkweed for Monarchs* is the perfect resource for young readers to learn more about these beautiful insects and how they can foster monarch-friendly environments in their own backyard. Backmatter includes actionable ways for readers to help this vulnerable species.



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Ages:

Hardcover
4-8

Christine Van Zandt is an editor, writer, and award-winning author. Her books include the funny nonfiction picture book *A Brief History of Underpants*. She lives in Los Angeles, California, with her family.

Alejandra Barajas was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. She completed her degree in fine arts at Guanajuato University and has been illustrating magazines and children's books ever since, including *A Costume for Charly*.

Beaming Books, April 2024

Dr. Lora-Ellen McKinney is a psychologist who has worked with, researched, and taught about children, families, and supportive or harmful systems. She worked in public health policy, conducting research and writing legislation. Dr. McKinney graduated from Vassar College, the University of Washington, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

Greek-born and Athens based **Sophia Touliaou** has studied Graphic Design and works as an illustrator, doing mostly children books, many of which have gained merits and awards.

FINDING CALM IN NATURE

Jennifer Grant, illustrated by Erin Brown

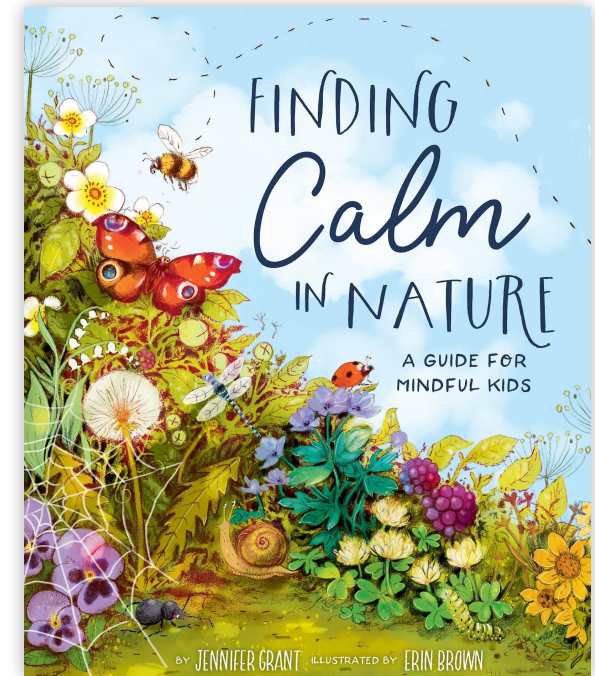
Beaming Books, March 2023

"Let nature be your teacher when your feelings are tangled up in knots."

One way to feel better when we are hurting is to spend time outside. Being in nature is good for both our bodies and our minds.

Each chapter of this practical guide explores a different element of nature and connects it with a mindfulness prompt designed to help kids manage their feelings. From dandelions to spider webs, children will uncover the lessons nature teaches about embracing a growth mindset, the benefits of living in community, and the transformative power of noticing the beauty around them. Breathing exercises, stretching, practicing mindfulness, and keeping a nature notebook are just some of the tools introduced to kids to equip them to navigate their feelings as they spend time outdoors.

Author Jennifer Grant's affirming, kind voice will inspire readers to see the world with fresh eyes--and discover the calm, joy, and wonder waiting just outside their door.



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Hardcover
8-12

Jennifer Grant is the award-winning author of picture books for children and books for adults. Her books include *Maybe God Is Like That Too*, *Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too*, and *Dimming the Day*. Grant holds a master's degree in English literature with concentrations in creative writing and critical theory from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. A mother of four, she lives in Chicago with her husband.

Erin Brown is a Northern Irish illustrator who lives on the beautiful island of Jersey. She combines her love for hand-drawn lines with the flexibility of adding color digitally. When she's not working, she can be found exploring the forests and cliff paths of Jersey or down at the seashore.

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