



  
**ASTRA BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS**  
**RIGHTS GUIDE 2025-2026**



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Astra Books for Young Readers is the children's division of Astra Publishing House, comprising Astra Young Readers, Calkins Creek, Hippo Park, and TOON Books. We are committed to creating award-winning high-quality fiction and nonfiction books for children of all ages.

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Meet our imprints!

 **ASTRA YOUNG READERS**

  
CALKINS CREEK

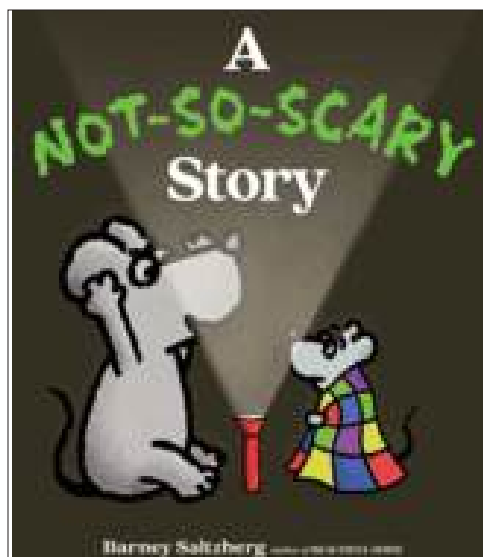
 *Hippo Park*

FOR VISUAL READERS  
**TOON BOOKS**<sup>®</sup>

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## A Not-So-Scary Story

by Barney Saltzberg



**Don't miss... *A Delicious Story***  
More than 10,000 copies sold



Two mice explore the thrills and chills of a scary story in this delightful light-hearted read-aloud picture book sequel--perfect for ages 3-6 at Halloween.

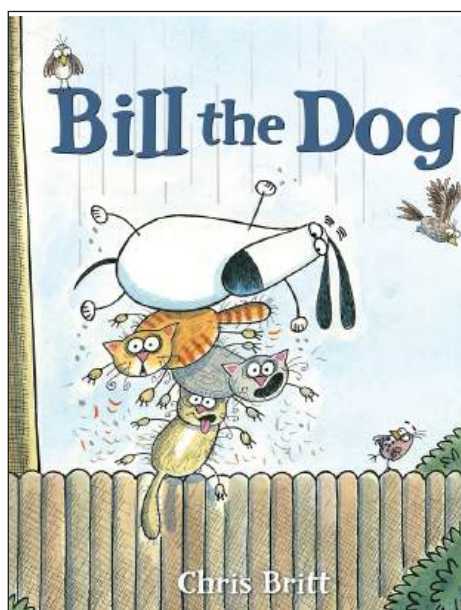
"I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE LIKED BEING SCARED!" Little Mouse says to Big Mouse. After Big Mouse eats the story in *A Delicious Story*, he and his sidekick are back, and Big Mouse finally tells a story--and this time it's going to be a scary one! The mice have woken up in the dark, and Little Mouse can't get back to sleep! So what's better than telling a scary story? But it turns out that Little Mouse doesn't like being scared and he didn't know anyone did! Now what? Soon Little Mouse joins in the storytelling, trying to lighten the scary bits of Big Mouse's tale. Maybe that way, the story will feel not-so-scary!

Barney Saltzberg reunites the two mouse pals in this charming follow-up to *A Delicious Story*. With witty back and forth between the mice--and a cameo from one particular colorful creature. Parents and children will laugh out loud at this new and exciting (but not-so-scary!) story within a story..

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Barney Saltzberg** is the author of more than 50 books for children, including the best-selling Touch and Feel Kisses series, *Beautiful Oops!*, *My Book of Beautiful Oops!*, and Hippo Park's *Rabbit's Feat* and *A Delicious Story*. Additionally, he's recorded four albums of songs for children.

**ON SALE September 2026**  
**Ages 3-6**  
**48 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



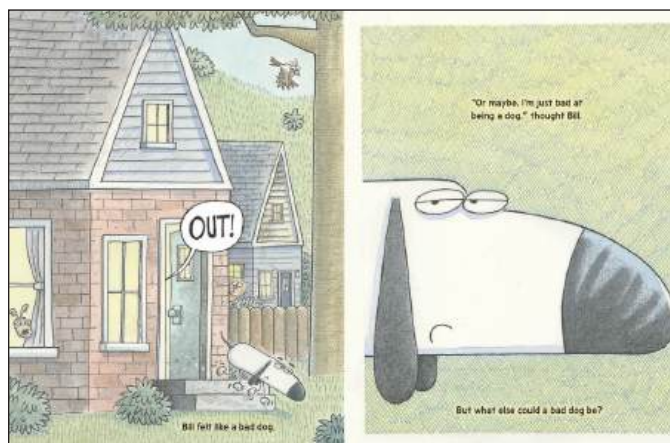
## Bill the Dog

by Chris Britt

Bill is a bad dog—his owner said so!—but what else can a bad dog be? In this whimsical picture book adventure, Bill the dog tries to tweet like a bird, meow like a cat, and growl like an alligator -- but soon discovers that being yourself is the best choice of all.

When Bill the dog and his doggy sidekick Fluffy take a romp through the house, everything is turned upside down. They wreck the living room, have a refreshing drink from the toilet, and then round out their romp with a lovely snooze on the bed... and that's when they hear the voice! WHO DID THIS? Fluffy acts innocent and Bill takes the blame, getting told he is a bad dog. Bill is sent outside and begins to wonder if he's actually bad at being a dog. And if he is, what else can a bad dog be? Bill tries being a bird. He tries being a cat. But neither of those work out well. What can Bill be if he's not a dog?

Kids will find a loveable pup in Bill. Here's a funny, sweet reminder that just because we get in trouble, it doesn't mean we aren't loved.

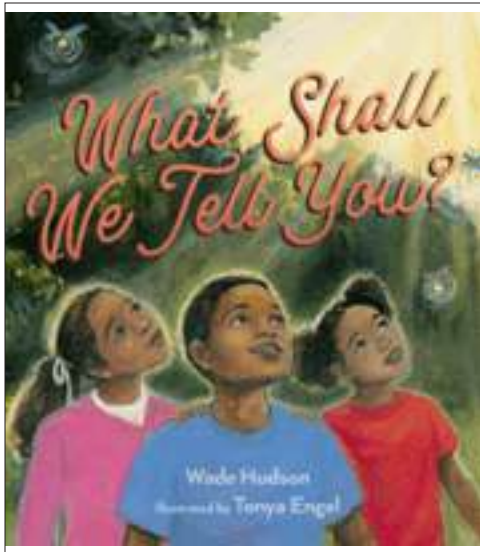


### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chris Britt is the author and illustrator of several children's books, including *Blabbering Bethany* and *The Most Perfect Snowman*. Chris's award-winning editorial cartoons offer commentary on national and international political events. Britt's comics have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *US News and World Report*, *Fox News*, and *MSNBC*.

**ON SALE: November 2026**  
**40pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**



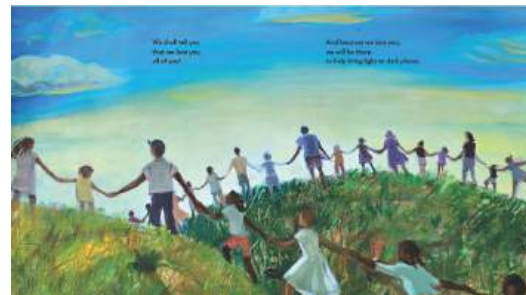
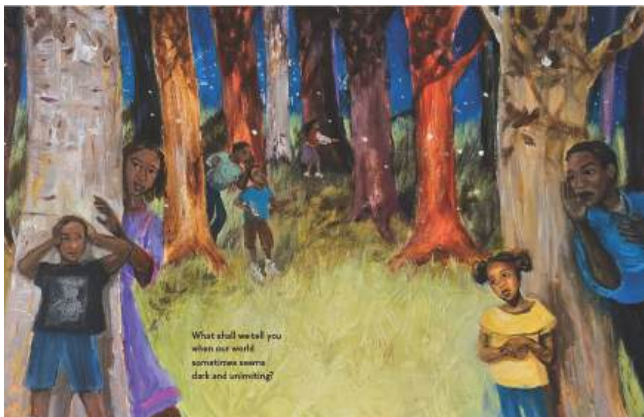
## What Shall We Tell You? by Wade Hudson; illustrated by Tonya Engel

This moving picture book from Black creators Wade Hudson and Tonya Engel empowers children ages 4-8 to face life's challenges with courage and confidence.

"What shall we tell you / when our world / sometimes seems / dark and uninviting?"

What do we say to children when they encounter exclusion, hatred, or cruelty? In this poem, Wade Hudson uses a series of questions and answers to reassure children that despite the very real problems we sometimes face, "love, like cream in milk, / will rise to the top."

Accompanied by Tonya Engel's lush illustrations, Hudson sensitively delivers his message of hope, love, and inclusivity. He affirms that every child belongs, can be themselves, and is strengthened by kindness.



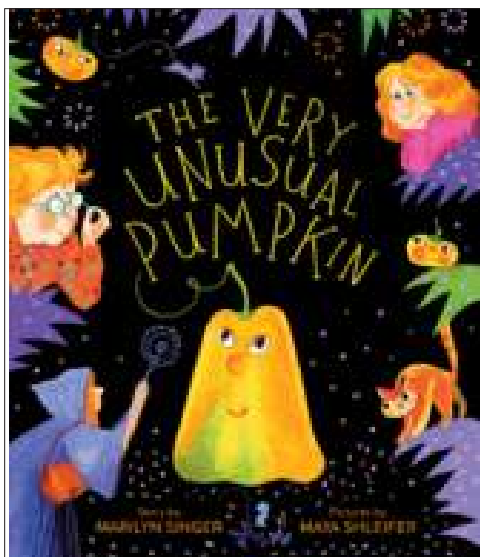
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Wade Hudson** is the author of numerous books for children, including the memoir *Defiant: Growing Up in the Jim Crow South*. He and his wife Cheryl are frequent co-authors and the co-founders and publishers of Just Us Books, a company dedicated to publishing books geared toward Black children. a company dedicated to publishing books geared toward Black children.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Tonya Engel** is an award-winning artist and illustrator of more than 30 children's books, many of which feature Black women in history. Tonya's art can also be found on prints, greeting cards, and textiles.

**ON SALE October 2026**  
**Ages 4-8**  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



Lulu teaches Grandma how to be a better storyteller in this sly, tenderhearted picture book about learning from each other through humor, imagination, and conversation. Perfect for young readers ages 4-8.

Everyone's grandma is good at telling stories...except for Lulu's, that is. So Lulu decides to step in and help! Lulu's method is asking questions. So when Grandma tells what seems like a mundane story of an ugly pumpkin sitting in a field, Lulu asks: "Why was the pumpkin ugly?" Grandma's answer sparks Lulu's imagination, and she tells Grandma: "That's not ugly! It's unusual!" And the two are off on a storytelling adventure! With a little creativity and improvisation, together Lulu and Grandma spin a full, refreshing narrative about a pumpkin and a fairy godmother—as well as the nature of storytelling itself. With its resonant theme that great stories are the result of genuine curiosity and dialogue, *The Very Unusual Pumpkin* is bound to become a bedtime staple.

## The Very Unusual Pumpkin

by Marilyn Singer; illustrated  
by Maya Shleifer



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Marilyn Singer** is the author of more than 120 for children and young adults, including *Mirror Mirror* (Dial), *I'm the Big One Now!* (Wordsong) and six picture books about Tallulah, a young ballet student (Clarion). Marilyn lives in Brooklyn, NY and Washington, CT with her husband, who's also her favorite dance partner, and several pets.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Maya Shleifer** is an illustrator, author, and designer who loves creating stories that bring laughter and joy to children. She has illustrated over 20 picture books, many of which have been translated and published internationally, reaching children in many countries. Her work has received international recognition and several awards.

**ON SALE: September 2026**  
**40pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**



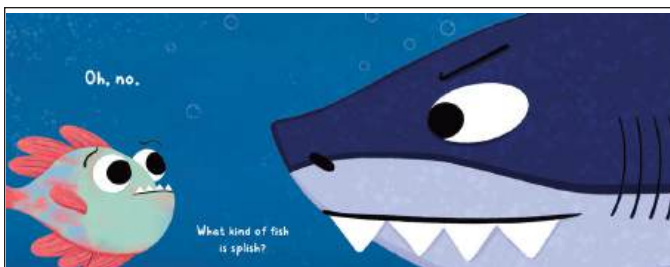
## Splish

by DK Ryland

In this hilarious picture book from the author of *Giraffe Is Too Tall For This Book*, a clever fish learns to outsmart their predators and wiggle their way out of tricky situations. This new instant favorite is a charming, unexpected, and hilarious adventure tale for readers ages 3–7.

Meet Splish: a determined, loveable fish who can't seem to keep themselves from getting in trouble! Here, Splish sets off on a quest for a delicious meal in their vibrant underwater world. Follow along as they flip, wiggle, and splash away from dangerous situations—both expected and unexpected—that lurk above and below the surface...

Kids ages 3–7 will cheer for this wily and resourceful fish in this action-packed picture book. Full of twists and turns and interactive elements, here's a story that will entertain young readers seeking a title that will keep them on the edges of their seats.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

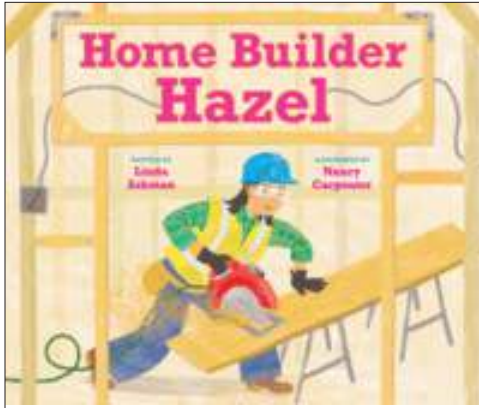
**Linda Ashman** is the author of more than 40 picture books and the creator of *The Nuts and Bolts Guide to Writing Picture Books*. Her books have been included on the “best of the year” lists of *The New York Times*, *Parenting and Child* magazines, the New York Public Library, Bank Street College of Education, and the International Reading Association.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Nancy Carpenter** is the celebrated illustrator of more than 40 books for children. Her unique multimedia approach to illustration has garnered numerous honors, including two Christopher Awards and the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award.

**ON SALE: November 2026**  
**40pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**



## Homebuilder Hazel

by Linda Ashman; illustrated by  
Nancy Carpenter

Perfect for fans of construction vehicles and visually engaging books on how things work, this rhyming picture book shows how a construction crew leader and her team build homes from the ground up.

If a family needs a dream home, Home Builder Hazel is ready to help! Featuring a strong female role model, her lively crew, and an active construction site, this read-aloud is a dynamic introduction to the daily life of a construction worker. Join Home Builder Hazel and her team as they work to build a new home from the ground up.

Linda Ashman's irresistible rhyming text and Nancy Carpenter's gorgeous illustrations celebrate the teamwork and dedication of the construction workers who build our communities. The book concludes with an author's note filled with interesting information about construction crews, their equipment, and more.



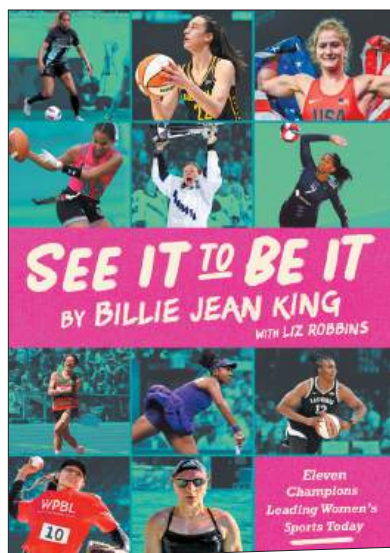
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**Linda Ashman** is the author of more than 40 picture books and the creator of *The Nuts and Bolts Guide to Writing Picture Books*. Her books have been included on the "best of the year" lists of The New York Times, Parenting and Child magazines, the New York Public Library, Bank Street College of Education, and the International Reading Association.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Nancy Carpenter** is the celebrated illustrator of more than 40 books for children. Her unique multimedia approach to illustration has garnered numerous honors, including two Christopher Awards and the Jane Addams Children's Book Award.

**ON SALE November  
2026  
Ages 4–8  
40 pp  
RIGHTS SOLD:  
TERRITORY: World,  
all languages**



## See it to Be It: Eleven Champions Leading Women's Sports Today

by Billie Jean King with Liz Robbins

Tennis legend Billie Jean King profiles 11 of today's pioneering women and nonbinary athletes in this inspiring nonfiction book that will empower athletes and sports fans ages 12 and up.

Billie Jean King made history in her 1973 “Battle of the Sexes” tennis match against Bobby Riggs. She proved women athletes were as capable, determined, and worth watching as men. Now, she highlights the trailblazing women and nonbinary athletes of today who are proving the same thing every time they play.

In SEE IT TO BE IT, readers will learn about well-known athletes like tennis star Naomi Osaka and WNBA superstar Caitlin Clark, as well as emerging talents who deserve to be better known, such as flag football player Diana Flores and Paralympic swimmer McKenzie Coan. Featuring exclusive photos from the athletes and their families, this electrifying book shares true stories that will energize young athletes and prove that legends aren't just born, they're made—both on and off the playing field.

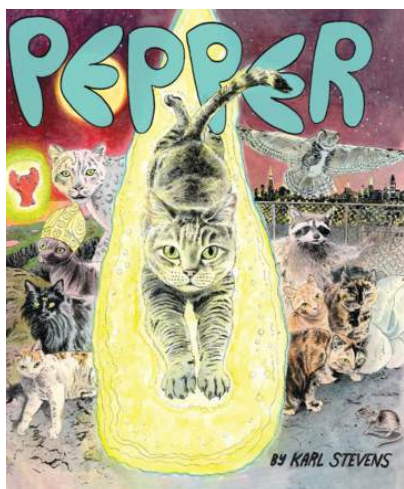
Athletes profiled include Midge Purce (soccer), Chelsea Gray (basketball), Amit Elor (wrestling), Nikki Hiltz (track), Kendall Coyne Schofield (hockey), Kelsie Whitmore (baseball), and Asjia O'Neal (volleyball).

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Billie Jean King** is a sports icon and best-selling author. She has dedicated her career to fighting for equality and advancing opportunities for women and other marginalized groups in sports. Her efforts, for which she received a Presidential Medal of Freedom, have increased education, access, and empowerment for all athletes,

**ON SALE August 2026**  
**Ages 12 up**

**196 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



This vivid graphic novel centers on housecat heroine Penny's relationship with her sister, Pepper—and the delicately solipsistic inner world they share with each other.

As she is prone to do, Penny the housecat spends her days lazing around the apartment and musing philosophically. However, her peace is rudely disturbed when she is forced to contend with the existence of her little sister, Pepper.

What follows is one part wry, immaculately watercolored cat gags, one part visionquest. Here, acclaimed graphic novelist Karl Stevens blends the quotidian life of a housecat with an epicly psychedelic journey of self-discovery and the profound art of making peace with yourself.

## Pepper

by Karl Stevens



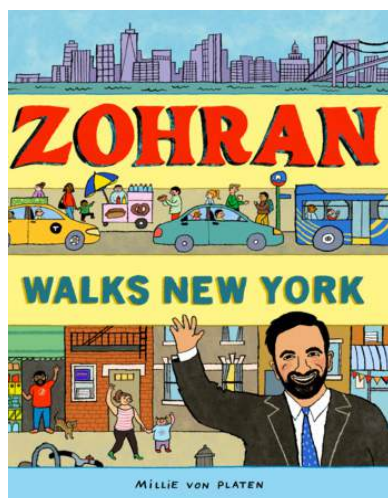
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Karl Stevens** is an award-winning graphic novelist whose titles include *Penny: A Graphic Memoir*, *The Winner*, and *Mother Nature* which was written by Jamie Lee Curtis and Russell Goldman. He is an Ignatz Award nominee, a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist, and has contributed comics to *The New Yorker*, *Village Voice*, and *Boston Phoenix*. He lives in Boston with his wife, Alex, and their two cats, Penny and Pepper.

**ON SALE: October 2026**  
**128 pp**

**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**

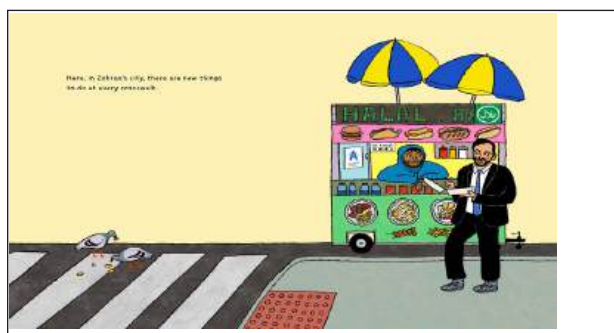


This love letter to New York City shows beloved new mayor Zohran Mamdani as he walks through all five boroughs and celebrates the people and places that make the city great.

Zohran Mamdani has walked through the streets of New York City since he was a child, and at every crosswalk, there's something new to celebrate. From a Mets game at Citi Field to a polar bear plunge at Coney Island, the city is filled with adventures waiting to be had. This joyful picture book for ages 4–8 is inspired by his noted thirteen-mile mayoral campaign walk.

## Zohran Walks New York

by Millie von Platen

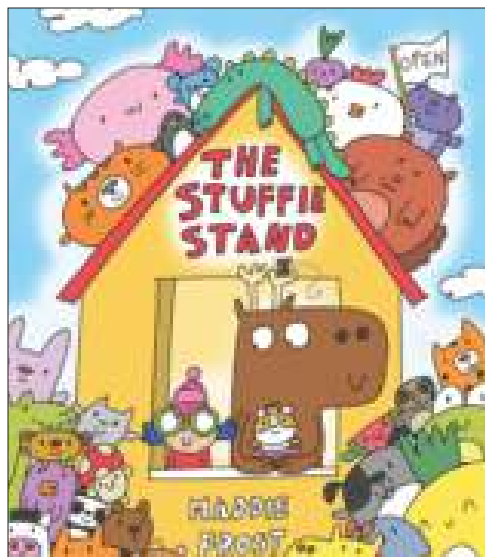


### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Millie von Platen** is a Swedish-Korean children's book author, illustrator, and editor. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, Bloomberg, New York Magazine, and New York City subway cars. In 2023, she was named a National Magazine Award Finalist for a story she wrote and illustrated for The New Yorker. Raised in London and Stockholm, she is currently based in Brooklyn, NY.

**ON SALE: September 2025**  
**32 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**



## The Stuffie Stand

by Maddie Frost

Entrepreneurship leads to friendship in this hilarious tale of stuffed-animal loving Moose, who starts a Stuffie Stand that's so successful, he's forced to partner with his annoying customer and competitor, Mabel.

Moose loves stuffies so much, he makes them himself. He's even turned his sewing shed into a shop, where he sells them to everyone in the neighborhood. They're cute and tasteful, with just the right amount of SQUISH! Everyone loves them, including Mabel, a neighborhood girl who also makes stuffies. Yet Mabel's stuffies are SO over the top—bedazzled, with hats, shoes, scarves, crowns. Truth be told, Moose is not a fan. But when his orders start to multiply and he can't keep up with the demand, Moose must do something very hard: ask for help...from Mabel!

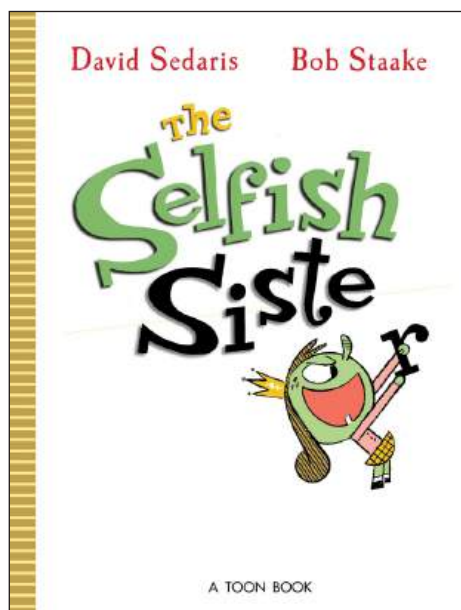
This entertaining and astute picture book from up-and-coming funny-girl creator Maddie Frost will have readers laughing while they realize that it's okay to need help—and that sometimes, the people we think we don't like can turn out to be our closest friends.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Maddie Frost** is an author-illustrator from Massachusetts. She has written and illustrated eleven picture books and graphic novels. She studied animation at Massachusetts College of Art and Design which further pushed her in the direction of children's media.

**ON SALE :May 2026**  
**Ages 4-8**  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**

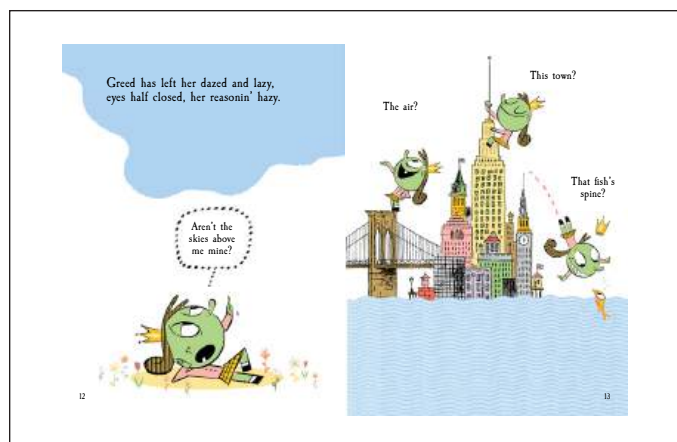


**New York Times** bestselling author David Sedaris joins forces with *New Yorker* cover artist Bob Staake for a hilarious and unflinching look at siblings.

This selfish sister only thinks of herself, and she wants it all—even her brother’s kidney! Everything must belong to her! But who can possibly tell her “no”? With rhymes and illustrations reminiscent of a dark Dr. Seuss, David Sedaris and Bob Staake have created a sickly hysterical and genuine but twisted romp of a read.

## Selfish Sister

by David Sedaris and Bob Staake



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

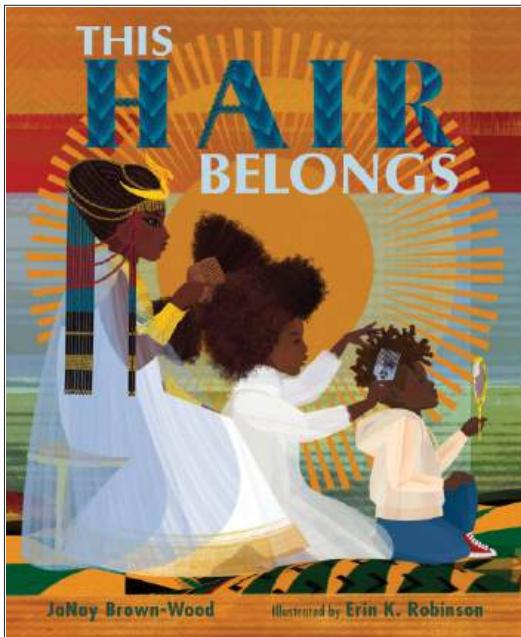
**David Sedaris** is the author of *Barrel Fever*, *Holidays on Ice*, *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, and *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*. Sedaris' pieces appear regularly in *The New Yorker* and have twice been included in "The Best American Essays." There are over ten million copies of his books in print and they have been translated into 25 languages.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

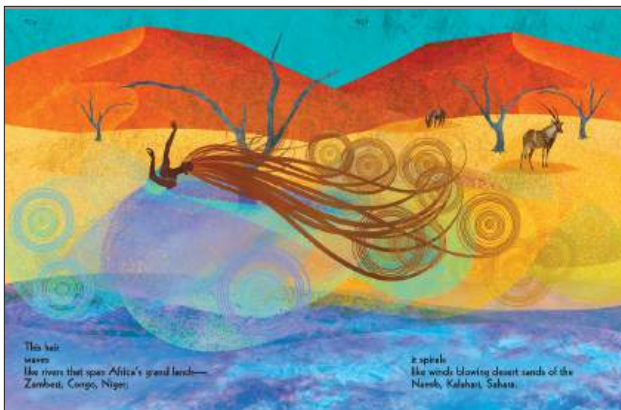
**Bob Staake** has authored/illustrated over 75 children's books, which have been translated into over 12 languages around the world. One of the nation's most prolific illustrators, Bob Staake's clients have included *The New Yorker*, *TIME*, McDonald's, *Vanity Fair*, Amtrak, Young & Rubicam, American Express, Sony, United Airlines, Nickelodeon, and countless others.

**ON SALE: March 2026**  
**40pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**



**This Hair Belongs**  
by JaNay Brown-Wood  
illustrated by Erin K. Robinson



With lyrical verse and dazzling illustrations, this joyful ode to Black hair will empower readers ages 4–8 to celebrate the historical, cultural, and emotional significance of their natural hair.

From the intricate coils of kings and queens to the crownworn maps to freedom of African Americans, *This Hair Belongs* is a heartfelt poetic tribute to Black hair throughout history. Told through powerful verse, stunning illustrations, and fascinating back matter, this Black history picture book pays tribute to the African origins of Black hairstyles and will remind young Black readers that their hair is magical and beautiful and belongs.

JaNay Brown-Wood and Erin K. Robinson deftly weave African and American history into this powerful children's picture book about Black hair, making it an essential nonfiction title honoring Black cultural heritage.



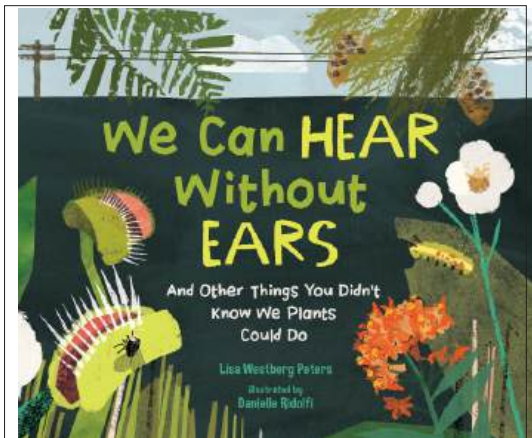
**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**JaNay Brown-Wood, PhD**, is an award-winning children's author, poet, educator, scholar, and a former professor of Early Childhood Education and Child Development. She is the author of *Imani's Moon*, which won the NAESP Children's Book of the Year Award, and *Grandma's Tiny House*. She currently lives in Sacramento, CA.

**ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR**

**Erin K. Robinson** is an Emmy-nominated illustrator in the category "Outstanding New Approaches: Documentary—Obama's Legacy" for her illustrations in the Washington Post. Trained at the Parsons School of Design and the Corcoran School of Art, Erin's illustrations have been featured in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, among others, and her picture books include *A Library* by Nikki Giovanni. In 2025, she is the living stamp

**ON SALE: January 2026**  
**Ages 4–8**  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



## We Can Hear Without Ears

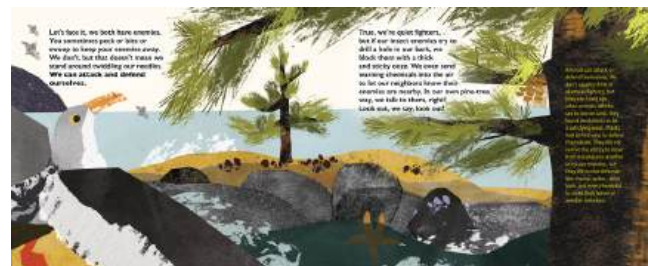
by Lisa Westberg Peters

Illustrated by Danielle Ridolfi

Plants have secret skills. They are water wizards, finding water in the driest landscapes. They are a community, sending underground messages—and even food and water!—to other plants. And yes, they can hear without ears.

Hey, creatures of the world! The plants would like to set a few things straight in this entertaining account of the astonishing skills they possess. Readers will be familiar with some of these abilities, such as photosynthesis, but others are likely to amaze children and adults alike, such as the fact that trees can communicate with—and send food and water to—one another through their roots with the help of fungi that connect them!

Bursting with fun facts and plants with attitude, *We Can Hear Without Ears* is an energetic account of the invisible ways plants defend, nourish, strengthen themselves, and communicate with others. It will awe budding botanists, nature lovers, and even those who may think plants are boring. These plants are anything but boring; in fact, they're thrilling, and as they share their secrets, they are sure to transform the way you think about flora.



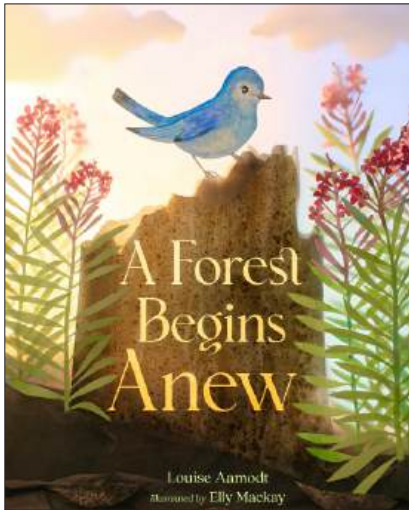
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lisa Westberg Peters is the author of 21 children's books including *Our Family Tree*, winner of the Minnesota Book Award, *Push-Pull Morning: Dog-Powered Poems about Matter and Energy*, and *Earthshake: Poems from the Ground Up*. She lives with her husband in St. Paul, Minnesota, and loves to spend time at their cabin in northwestern Wisconsin.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Danielle Ridolfi is a picture book illustrator, designer, visual culture scholar, and instructor in children's studies and illustration. She was the 2024 recipient of the Ezra Jack Keats/Kerlan Memorial Fellowship.

**ON SALE :April 2026**  
**Ages 4–8**  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



## A Forest Begins Anew

by Louise A. Aamodt

illustrated by Elly Mackay

Told through lyrical rhyme and stunning 3D cut-paper illustrations, this is the captivating story of a forest's renewal as it goes from ashes to new growth in the aftermath of a sweeping forest fire.

Set against the backdrop of a devastating forest fire, *A Forest Begins Anew* unfolds the life cycle of a particularly resilient ecosystem. As smoke jumpers leap from planes and pinecones eventually unseal from the heat of the fire, the story poetically weaves the effects of a forest fire into a vibrant tapestry that reveals a delicate balance between destruction and renewal.

Back matter containing fascinating facts and further reading portrays forest fires not just as destructive forces but as catalysts for growth and rebirth. With its lyrical rhyming text and breathtaking illustrations, *A Forest Begins Anew* honors nature's ability to survive against the odds.

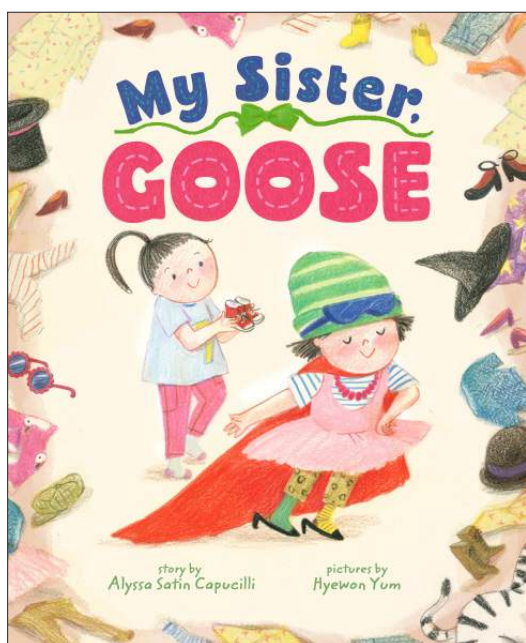


### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Louise Aamodt** is an ESL and science teacher, an active SCBWI member, and children's book author. *A Forest Begins Anew*, which won the Marvelous Midwest Conference manuscript contest, is her debut picture book.

**Elly MacKay** is an award-winning picture book maker whose titles include *Butterfly Park* (a 2015 Junior Library Guild Selection) and *Red Sky At Night* (a 2018 New York Public Library's Best Books for Kids Selection). She has been interviewed about her unique illustration process in CBC Arts and the Washington Post.

**ON SALE :May 2026**  
**Ages 4–8**  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



## My Sister, Goose

by Alyssa Capucilli  
illustrated by Hyewon Yum

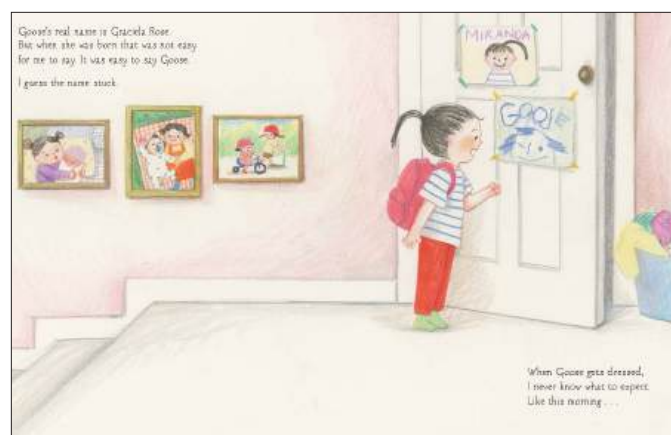


Big sister Miranda wisely counsels her effervescent little sister Goose (who would happily wear her tutu in the snow and sparkly dress-up shoes to the playground) in this tender, playful picture book about two popular themes: siblings and the getting-dressed battle.

Perfect for fans of Charlie and Lola, readers will smile at the unique choices Goose makes, and smile at her big sister's creative problem solving.

Dress-up shoes for the playground? A tutu in the snow? A wizard hat in the bathtub? Goose loves to show her big sister, Miranda, the imaginative, sparkly, and often unexpected outfits she put on. "TA-DA!" Goose says, and then she's ready for school in her bathing suit! "Oh, Goose!" says her sister Miranda. But Miranda is gentle and always offers Goose suggestions for making her choices work.

Written by Alyssa Capucilli, author of the Biscuit books, with adorable illustrations by award-winning illustrator Hyewon Yum, here is a delightful sibling book about how we help each become more flexible when we use kindness."



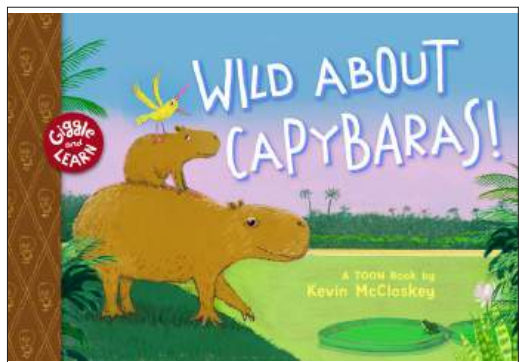
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Alyssa Satin Capucilli** is the award-winning creator and author of the Katy Duck series and the bestselling Biscuit series, which has sold over twenty-four million copies. A dancer as well as a writer, she lives with her family in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Hyewon Yum** is an author and illustrator of many picture books, including *Grandpa Across the Ocean* and *The Twins' Blanket*. Her book *Saturday Is Swimming Day* was named as a Charlotte Zolotow Award Honor and *Mom, It's My First Day of Kindergarten!* received the Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator award. She was born and grew up in Seoul, Korea. Now she lives in Brooklyn, New York with her family.

**ON SALE: April 2026**  
**Ages 4–8**  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World except China and Korea**

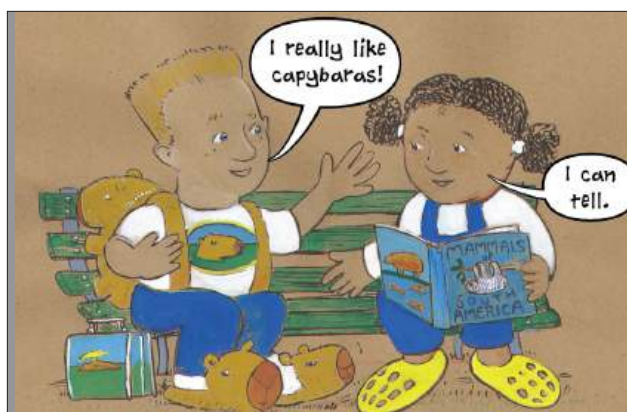


Capybaras are the world’s largest and trendiest rodent and beloved across the world (and the internet/social media)—but there’s so much more to know about them!

Did you know that capybaras can swim like seals? Or that they have fourteen toes? Young readers can learn more about these fascinating animals in this latest title in Kevin McCloskey’s Gigue and Learn series, graphic novels for kids ages 4–7 that blend science, art, and comedy. chock-full of interesting facts and illustrations.

## Wild about Capybaras

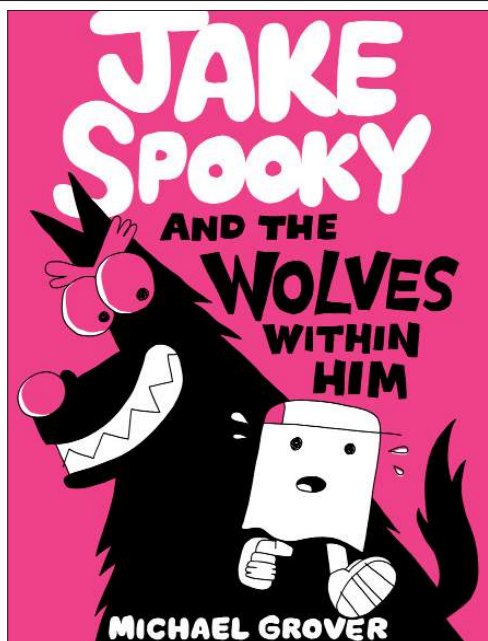
by Kevin McCloskey



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Kevin McCloskey** is the author of the critically acclaimed TOON Books Gigue and Learn series and a retired illustration professor at Pennsylvania’s Kutztown University. His first Gigue and Learn book, *We Dig Worms*, was described as “a winning combination of facts and gross-out fun” by the *New York Times*.

**ON SALE:** May 2026  
**Ages** 5–7  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:** Brazil  
 (Palavras)  
**TERRITORY:** World,  
 all languages



## Jake Spooky And the Wolves Within Him

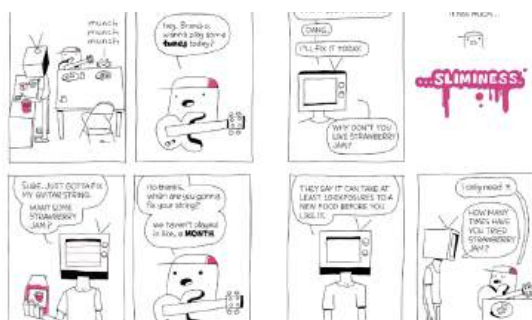
by Mike Grover

Jake Spooky keeps puking up wolves, and he has no idea why.

Meet Jake Spooky. He's a shy, punk-rockin' ghost who has some strange and mysterious powers bubbling just below the surface. Things can get a little bit... WEIRD in Jake's world. Luckily, his roommates, the TV-headed Brand-o and Quincy the cat, help keep things under control—most of the time. One day, as a massive hurricane approaches, Jake can't seem to stop puking up wolves, and their landlord has had enough! If any more wolves show up, the three friends are going to get kicked out of their house.

Jake just wants to chill out and have band practice. But first, he will need to look inside himself and unravel the mystery of the wolves within.

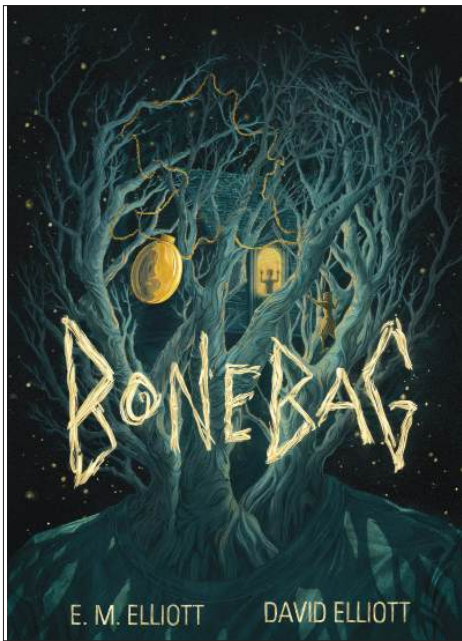
“Reading Jake Spooky is like taking a walk into Michael Grover’s delightfully bizarre brain, it literally made me hungry for more (and strawberry jam)”. – Jerusha Hess (Oscar-nominated co-creator of Napoleon Dynamite and Nacho Libre)



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Grover wants to make a lot of comics before he dies. Grover currently lives. He does this with his wife and kids. He grew up in a town very similar to the one where Jake Spooky takes place. You can read Jake Spooky (and lots of other comics by Grover) with looping animation and music at grovertoons.com.

**ON SALE: April 2026**  
**Ages 8–12**  
**96 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



## Bonebag

by E.M. Elliot and David Elliot

In this riveting middle-grade fantasy, *New York Times* bestselling author David Elliott and E.M. Elliott tell the story of a forest-dwelling boy forced to confront the mysteries of his life.

Trapped in a dark forest with his cold-hearted parents, Bonebag leads a cruel and isolated existence. However, he feels deep in his bones that things weren't always this way: he has known happiness before. Why does it feel like it was in a past life?

When Bonebag discovers a locket that burns him to the touch, and a ghostly girl beckons him into the deep woods, he must grapple with the riddle of where he came from and how he came to be. Only then can he begin to rewrite his fate.

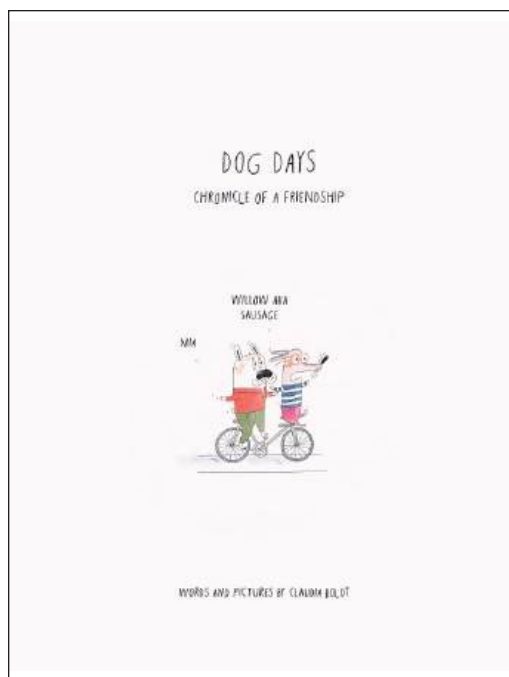
From *New York Times* bestselling author David Elliott and his son, E.M. Elliott, this powerful middle-grade fantasy will take readers on a quest that tackles the mystery of belonging with high-octane twists and turns along the way.”

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**David Elliott** is a *New York Times* bestselling author with over 35 published or soon-to-be published books to his name. These include his provocative novels-in-verse *Bull*, which received 6 starred reviews, and three picture books in the *This Orq* series, which was published in more than eight foreign editions.

**E. M. Elliott** studied film and creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College and Media Studies at The New School in New York. He previously worked as a script reader for two production houses in Los Angeles, and currently lives in Philadelphia with his wife, dog, and cat. This is his first book.

**ON SALE: October 2025**  
**Ages 10 and up**  
**288 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



## Dog Days

by Claudia Boldt

This novel-length comic in fourteen short chapters bursts with Claudia Boldt's charming pictures and bubbles over with the kind of real life quirks every kid has.

Selfish boys on skateboards, birthday-gift anxiety, adoption questions: life is never a bore for best pals, Sausage and Mia--two best friends in the same class in middle school. To begin, Mia's huge crush on a skateboarder is driving Sausage crazy! Why can't Mia see how selfish this cat is! And Sausage's birthday is coming up, so she begins obsessing on a birthday wish list. The truth is, she just wishes everyone would call her by her real name--Willow! Sausage and Mia's stories will easily find their way into readers' hearts. This is the first of two volumes about Sausage and Mia.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

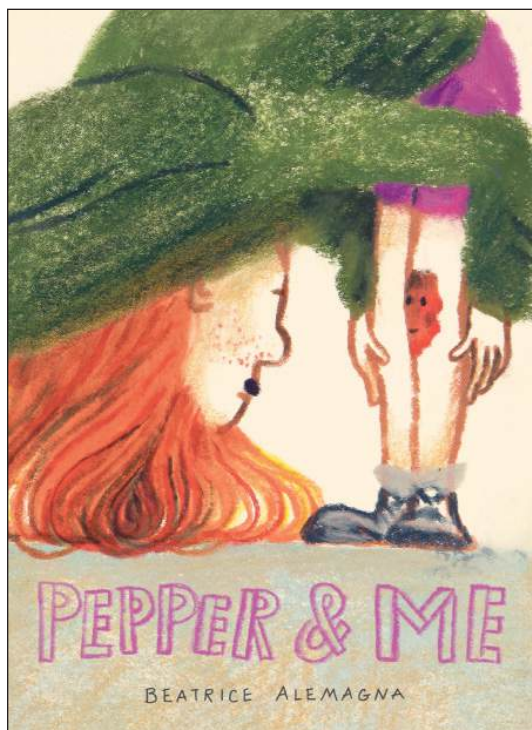
Claudia Boldt grew up drawing all the time; cycling around with her friends; and making long lists of the gifts she wished for. When she wasn't busy being obsessed with the wrong guys, she fell in love with sitcoms and sad funny films—which she used as inspiration for Dog Days. Although Claudia loves drawing dogs, Dog Days has nothing to do with them. She grew up in Germany and lives in California.

**ON SALE: August 2026**  
**Ages: 8–12**  
**120 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World**  
**excluding French and Korean**

# BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

Artwork from  
*Jump for Joy*,  
illustrated by  
Hadley Hooper





## Pepper & Me

by **Beatrice Alemagna**

**2024 SOCIETY OF ILLUSTRATORS GOLD MEDAL WINNER**

**A January/February 2024 Kids' Indie Next List pick**

**Beatrice Alemagna won the prestigious Grande Ours award in 2023**

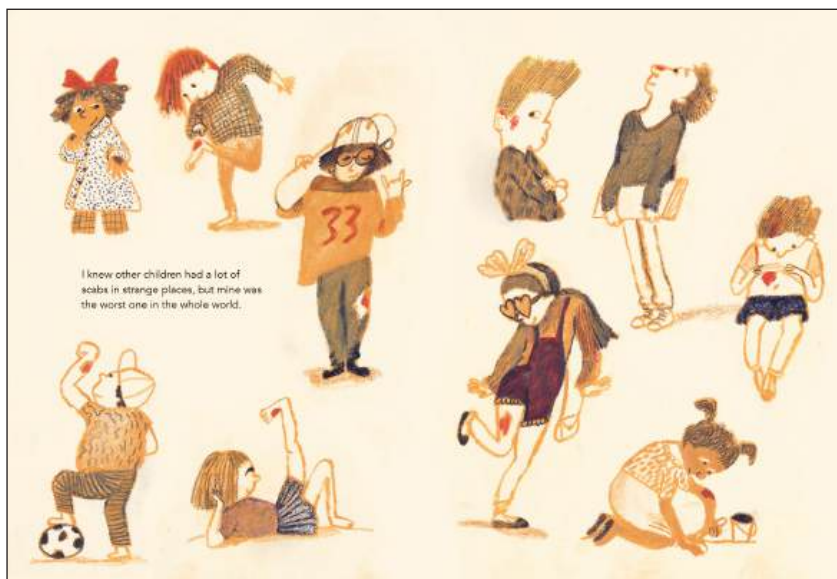


### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Beatrice Alemagna** was born in Italy in 1973. At the age of eight, she decided that whatever the cost she would become a “painter and writer of novels” when she grew up. Alemagna is the author-illustrator of more than 40 books that have been translated and published in 25 countries, and she has received numerous awards for her books, including three New York Times Best Illustrated Children’s Book Awards, and a special prize at the Bologna Book Fair this past year. She has been nominated numerous times for the Astrid Lindgren Prize.

From three-time *New York Times* Best Illustrated creator of *On a Magical Do-Nothing Day* comes a stunning picture book about a little girl, the scab on her knee, and the healing they do together.

In this utterly enchanting and unexpected tale from international picture book star Beatrice Alemagna, a childhood mishap is the occasion for growth and self-reflection. When a little girl falls on the street, scraping her knee, her father tells her not to worry, that “a beautiful scab will form.” But she does worry! The scab is not beautiful and it’s keeping her from bending her knee! When will it ever go away? By the time the scab—who she has named Pepper—falls off, something astonishing has happened: the girl has come to feel affection for the scab and has a hard time letting go. With an unerring understanding of a child’s emotional life and a dash of absurdist wit, this picture book will stand with classics from creators like Tomi Ungerer and William Steig, who explore the weird, funny essence of childhood.



**ON SALE: January 2024**

**Ages 4–8**

**48pp**

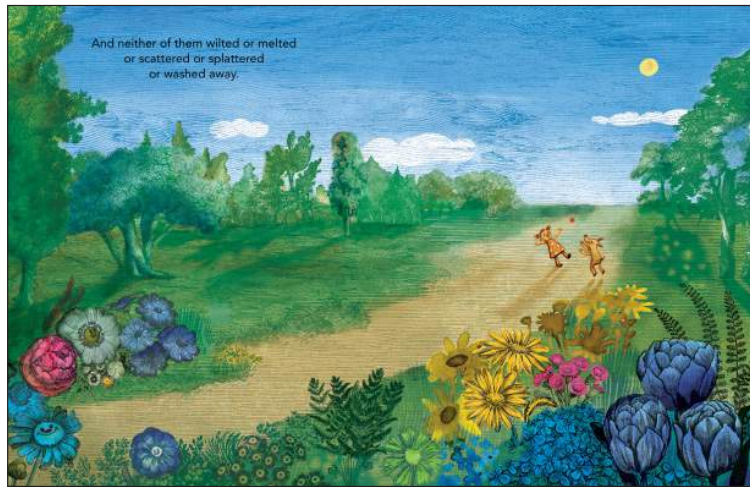
**RIGHTS SOLD: France (Ecole des Loisirs); Italy (Topipittori); English (UK & BC excl Can) (Thames & Hudson); South Korea (BIR Publishing); Taiwan (Linking Publishing); China (Ronshin); Greek (Ekdoseis Kokkino E.E.); Turkish (Can Publishing); Spanish and Catalan (Editorial Casals, S.A.); Indonesian (Badan Pengembangan); Russian (Lemonade Books); German (Thienemann-Esslinger at auction); Brazil (Companhia das Letrinhas); Thai (Jamsai Publishing Co., Ltd.); Poland (Levyz)**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**



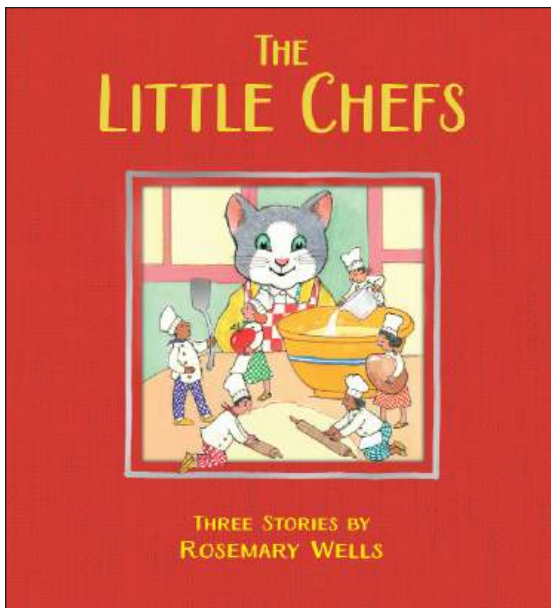
**Jump for Joy**  
 by Karen Gray Ruelle  
 illustrated by Hadley Hooper

Kid seeks dog. Dog seeks kid. In this charming and imaginative tale of friendship, picture book readers will delight in what it means to have a furry best friend.



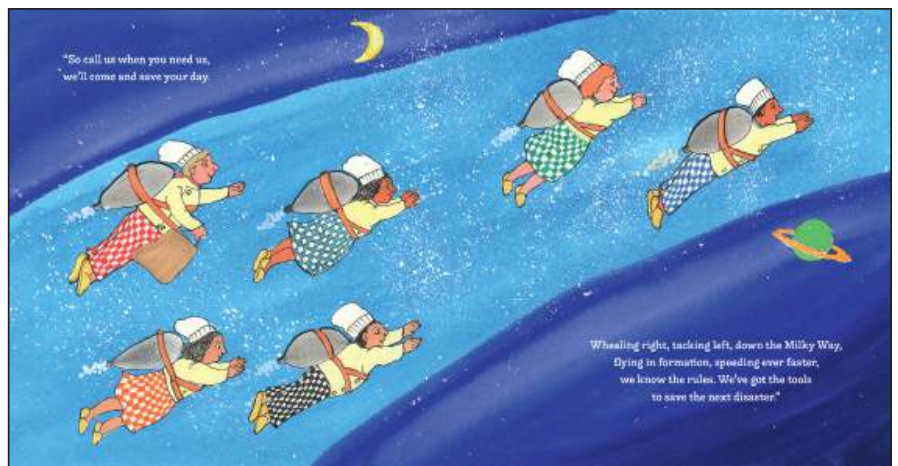
**ON SALE:** January 2024  
**Ages** 3–7  
**32pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:** Korean (Mirae)  
**TERRITORY:** World, all language

HIPPO PARK

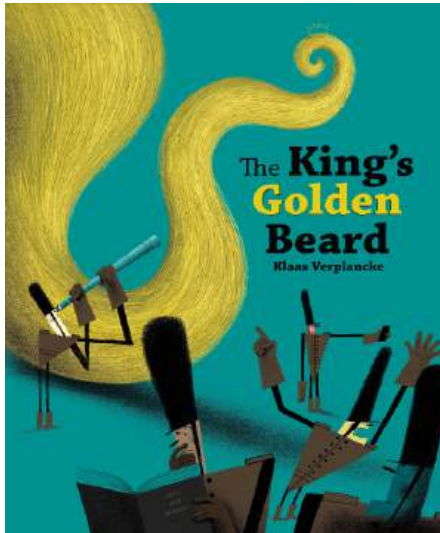


**The Little Chefs**  
 by Rosemary Wells

In three separate stories combined in one delightful 80-page book, Rosemary Wells introduces a small troupe of chefs who come to the rescue when kitchen disasters strike—just like elves would do for Santa.



**ON SALE:** October 2024  
**Ages** 4–8  
**80pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY:** World, all languages



## The King's Golden Beard

by Klaas Verplancke

Who's to blame when a vain, heedless king meets his comeuppance? He is, of course! Fans of Tomi Ungerer's mischievous humor and Jon Agee's sly morality tales will be delighted by this hilarious read-aloud about a long, long beard and its short-sighted royal owner, by a popular Belgian illustrator, designer, and animation whiz.

**ON SALE: 2021**

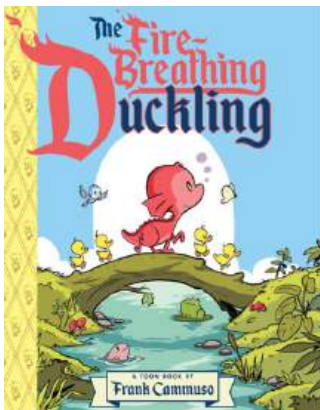
**Ages 4–8**

**48pp**

**RIGHTS SOLD:** Japanese: World (KAGAKU DOJIN); French: World (mineditionFr); Dutch: World (E.M. Querido's Uitgeverij BV); German: World (mineditionAG); Simplified Chinese: Mainland China, HK & Macau (Thinkingdom), Bosnian; Turkish ebook (KidzBOO); Sweden (Opal)

**TERRITORY:** World

TOON BOOKS



## The Fire-Breathing Duckling

by Frank Cammuso

It's the classic ugly duckling tale—but this time around, the little one turns out not to be a swan, but a dragon. And when their duckling siblings find themselves in trouble, it's our little fire-breathing friend who saves the day. Whereas Hans Christian Andersen's original is synonymous with inner beauty, Frank Cammuso's loving update turns it into a parable of inner strength.

**ON SALE: August 2025**

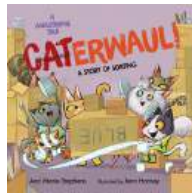
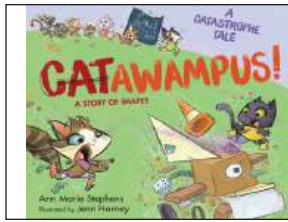
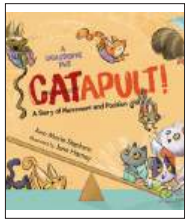
**Ages 4–8**

**40 pp**

**RIGHTS SOLD:** World Spanish & Catalan (Picarona)

**TERRITORY:** World, all languages

# CATastrophe



**Book 1: CATawampus  
A Story of Shapes**  
**Book 2: sCATtered!  
A Story of Estimation**  
**Book 3: CATerwaul: A  
Story of Sorting**  
**Book 4: CATapult: A  
Story of Movement**

## Math-loving kittens celebrate STEAM!

**Author Ann Marie Stephens draws upon more than 30 years of teaching experience to ensure that readers absorb math while having fun in the adventure-filled CATastrophe Tale series. And Jenn Harney’s hilarious and energetic illustrations capture the antics of these enthusiastic kittens.**

**CATampus:** It’s a wonderful day—because it’s STEM day! Kitties are challenged to build a robot and use the wind to make it move. With circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles, the kitties do their best to tape, glue, and paste—but oh no! The robot won’t move. How might these disorderly cats make sense of all these shapes and build a successful robot?

**sCATtered:** Nine kitties are purring with excitement for Grandma Cat’s upcoming visit. They’re going to throw her a party with cake, decorations, and a special gift. But when frantically cleaning cats misjudge how many toys they can hide in a closet, catastrophe looms. . . .

**CATerwaul:** Math-loving kittens help Grandma pack up her belongings for her move to the Catskill Mountains in this playful picture book that demonstrates the key math concept of sorting.

**CATapult:** Nine chaotic kittens can’t wait to perform their kitty-pop concert for their neighbors in this playful picture book that demonstrates the key math concepts of movement and position.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Ann Marie Stephens** is the author of the Arithmechicks series as well as a contributing writer for Kwame Alexander’s *The Write Thing*. She was an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Jenn Harney** is an illustrator and toy designer. She is the illustrator of *Probably a Narwhal*, “Smelly” *Kelly and His Super Senses: How James Kelly’s Nose Saved the New York City Subway*, and *George Washington’s Spectacular Spectacles*, among others. Her work has also been featured in *Highlights* magazine.

**ON SALE: June 2026**

**Ages 4--8**

**40pp**

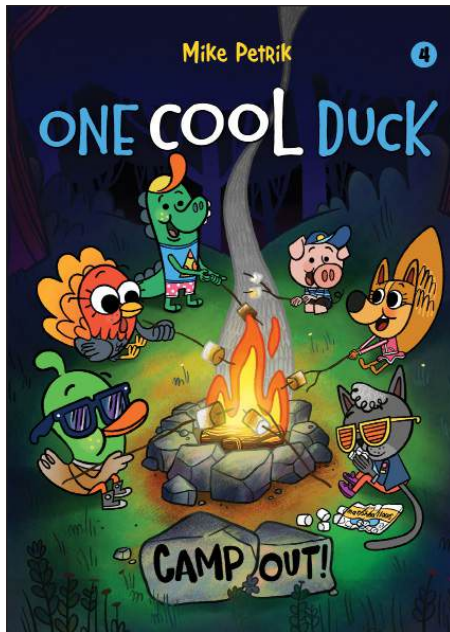
**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**

# One Cool Duck

A 4-book series

by Mike Petrik



One Cool Duck is an early graphic chapter book series that follows a group of animal friends as they explore friendship and what it means to be cool. With laugh-out-loud dialogue and vibrant illustrations, this fourth installment by Mike Petrik brings Duck, Cat, Jeff and friends back together for a **CAMP OUT!**

Readers of the first three books in the One Cool Duck series followed the gang as they made new friends, built the Far-Out Fort, and played a rousing game of capture the flag. Now, on the heels of their victory, the gang gathers flashlights, sleeping bags, chocolate, and marshmallows (but no fish—sorry, Cat!) as they prepare for a night of big fun.

Hippo Park graphic chapter books are ideal for beginner and newly independent readers, with approachable page counts, easy-to-follow paneling, and artwork that supports text comprehension.

## #4 Camp Out!

Don't miss One Cool Duck

#1: King of Cool

#2: The Far-Out Fort

#3: Summer Games



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Petrik grew up in the Chicago suburbs, shredding on his skateboard, hanging out at the arcade, and just being a cool dude. He spent most of his days drawing. Fast forward a few years, and Mike has illustrated seven picture books (one of which he wrote) and created two lift-the-flap board books. Mike lives with his wife and three kids in Oak Lawn, IL. *One Cool Duck* is his first graphic novel series.

**ON SALE: November 2024**

**Ages 6–9**

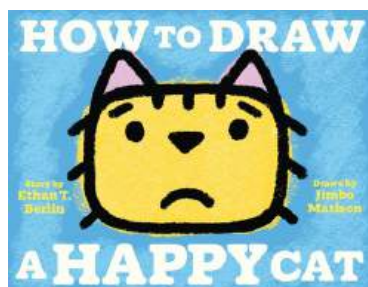
**64pp**

**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**

## How to Draw..

by Ethan Berlin, illustrated by Jimbo Matison



### How to draw lessons spin hilariously out of control!

Drawing a happy cat seems like such an easy thing to do. Just follow the instructions in this book! Wait a minute . . . why doesn't Cat look happy? We gave her a stuffy and a cool t-shirt! Uh-oh! Turns out drawing a happy cat is harder than it looks. Now it's the reader's job to find out why Cat isn't staying happy AND draw everything she wants! (That might include skateboards, friends, and yes—even a pizza-flinging catapult.) This clever, often tender, laugh-out-loud picture book breaks the fourth wall in charming ways; will have kids asking for repeat reads; and will definitely have parents nodding knowingly at the escalating cycle of demands. Can you draw a happy cat?

Follow these simple instructions for drawing a brave chicken: Draw an oval, two dots for eyes, triangles for the beak, lines for legs, and some wings. Easy enough. But wait . . . where is the chicken? Oh, she's hiding! Maybe she needs armor to feel brave . . . so let's draw her some shiny armor. Now she's feeling brave—and she wants to chase a dragon! Oh no, Chicken! Are you sure you want to do that?

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Ethan T. Berlin** is an Emmy Award-nominated television comedy writer. His numerous picture books have been called “giggleworthy” by Kirkus Reviews and “recommended for all libraries” by the School Library Journal. E. When he's not writing his own funny stuff, Ethan teaches comedy writing at NYU and Stony Brook University.

#### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Jimbo Matison** is a self-professed creativity addict and idea maven. He has written, directed, designed, and produced comedy shows, TV commercials, and video content and has worked on a variety of creative projects for everyone from Dreamworks TV and Starbucks to Colossal Pictures and Mondo Media.

**ON SALE: 2022**

**Ages 4–8**

**40 pp**

**RIGHTS SOLD:**

**TERRITORY: World, all languages**



## Itty Bitty Betty Blob Makes a Splash

by Constance Lombardo;  
Illustrated by Micah Player

**Don't miss...** *Itty Bitty Betty Blob*  
More than 10,000 copies sold



Perfect for back-to-school and Halloween, Itty Bitty Betty Blob is back! This time Betty has to try out for an afterschool activity. Will it be cooking? Drama? Diving? Sweet and sensitive, Betty is a heroine who reminds kids ages 4 - 8 that being yourself is more than enough.

When Itty Bitty Betty Blob tries out for the Devil Divers, Coach wants her to CRASH and FLOP and make a big splash like a fierce monster--but fierce is not Betty! Can she follow her heart and do the unique dives she loves? In this sequel to the adorable Itty Bitty Betty Blob, our favorite blob has another opportunity to discover what it means to be yourself and follow your heart. Here's another perfectly-pitched story about the importance of being exactly who you are.



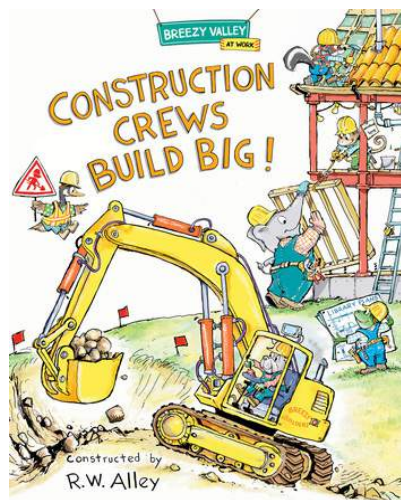
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Constance Lombardo** began drawing when she was 10 years old. She's the author/illustrator of the middle grade Mr. Puffball series (HarperCollins), the picture book, Everybody Says Meow, Hippo Park's hilarious Tiny Spoon vs. Little Fork, and the original Itty Bitty Betty Blob. She lives in Asheville, NC with her family.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

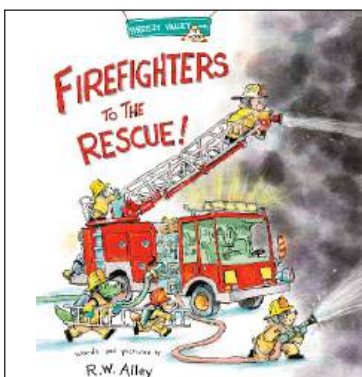
**Micah Player** began his illustration career designing and illustrating for Paul Frank Industries. He is the author-illustrator of *Chloe*, *Instead* and the Lately Lily series (Chronicle Books). He also illustrated two books by Lucky Diaz: *Paletero Man* and *La Guitarrista* (Harper). He lives in a little house beneath a giant tree in the Utah mountains.

**ON SALE: August 2025**  
**Ages 4-8**  
**40 pp**  
**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
**TERRITORY: World,**  
**all languages**



## Construction Crews Build Big

by R.W. Alley



**RIGHTS SOLD:** Simplified Chinese (Ginkgo); Norwegian (Bonnier Norsk Forlag AS); Dutch (Ploegsma); Greek (Key Books); Lithuanian (Alma Littera); Russian (Abrakazyabra Publishing LLC); Indonesian non-exclusive (Badan Pengembangan); Spanish and Catalan (EDITORIAL JUVENTUD S.A.); Hungarian (Pagony Kiadó Ltd); Polish (Wydawnictwo Sonia Draga); Complex Chinese (The Eastern Publishing Co., Ltd.); Danish (STRAARUP & CO); Ukraine (Vivat); Finland (Art House Oy)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**R.W. Alley** is the author and illustrator of many children's books. For more than 20 years, he has been the illustrator of the revived Paddington Bear series. He received the Rhode Island Mock Caldecott Award for *There's a Wolf at The Door*, and a Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book for *Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day*. His books have been selected by Junior Library Guild and included in lists such as ALA Notable Books for Children, Bank Street Best Book of the Year, Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts, among others.

The hard-working animals of Breezy Valley return as construction workers build a new town library, from foundation to finishing touches.

In this fun and detail-packed picture book for kids ages 3-6, the workers of Breezy Valley bring their tools and trucks to tackle the big job of building a new library. After site prep, digging and laying the foundation, and framing, the tradespeople come in to take care of wiring, piping, painting, and more. Constant action, informative labels, and cut-aways combine to give young readers the full story of how a building gets built.

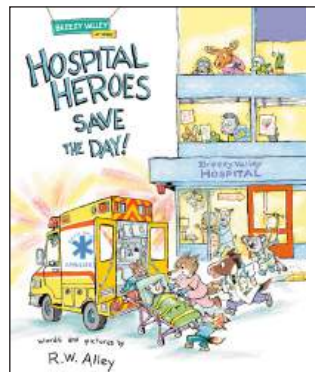
**ON SALE:** June 2026

**Ages** 3-7

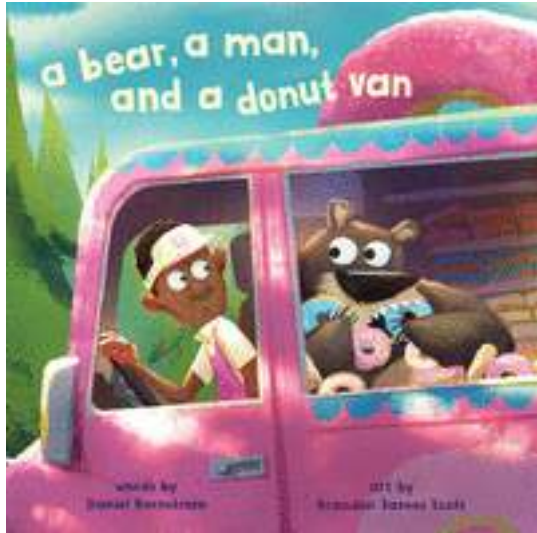
**40pp**

**RIGHTS SOLD:** RIGHTS SOLD: Denmark (Straarup & Co.), Slovenia (Zalozba Skrivnost), Hungary (Pagony), Finland (Art House Oy), Poland (Debit-Sonia Draga)

**TERRITORY:** World, all languages



**RIGHTS SOLD:** Simplified Chinese (Ginkgo, at auction); Poland (Debit-Sonia Draga); Hungary (Pagony), Ukraine (Vivat), Finland (Art House Oy), World Spanish & Catalan (Juventude), Denmark (Straarup & Co.), Slovenia (Zalozba Skrivnost)



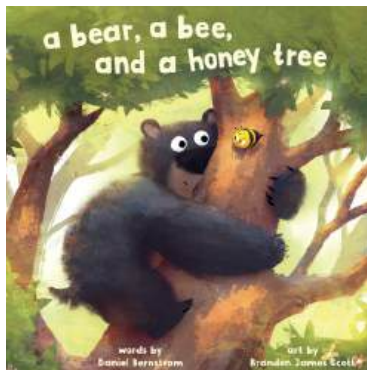
## A Bear, a Man and a Donut Van

by Daniel Bernstrom

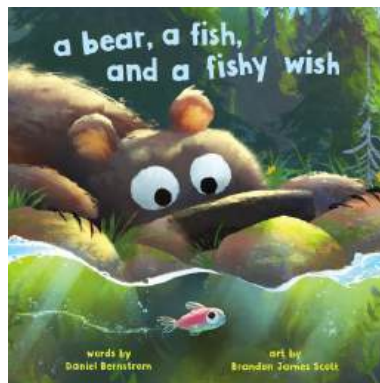
illustrated by

Brandon James Scott

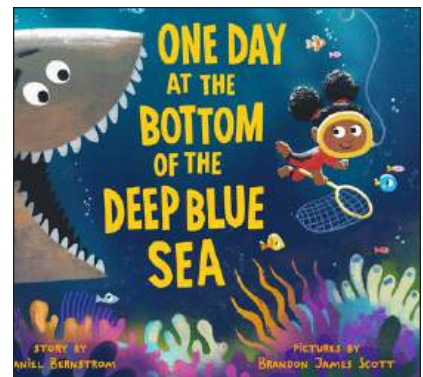
**Don't miss...** *A Bear, a Bee, and a Honey Tree!* Over 15,000 copies sold



RIGHTS SOLD: French (mineditionFr); German (mineditionAG), Indonesian: Indonesia non-exclusive (Badan Pengembangan)



RIGHTS SOLD: : German (minedition AG), French (minedition fr)



RIGHTS SOLD: : Spanish and Italian (Picarona)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Daniel Bernstrom** is a poet and the author of six picture books, including *One Day in the Eucalyptus*, *Eucalyptus Tree*, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel. His book *Big Papa and the Time Machine* won the Minnesota Book Award. Daniel lives in Worthington, Minnesota with his wife and five adorable children.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

By day **Brandon James Scott** is a Creative Director working in animation and by night he illustrates picture books. He has worked on a range of hit animated entertainment including his own creation, the award-winning series, *Justin Time*. He loves to make art that brings adventure, levity, heart, and curiosity for the fantastic and whimsical world around us.

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