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DeFiore and Company  
Children's Titles  
Bologna Book Fair  
2026

**Linda Kaplan**

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# VIDA BEATS THE ODDS

David Getz

Holt, January 2027

Vida is only thirteen years old, but do not let that fool you—

She works twice as hard as most adults. She helps her overextended mother prepare for her speeches; she helps her lab partner, Julianna, control her impulses; and, most importantly, she is a calming influence on her twin brother, Ollie when he experiences violent episodes they call "the Tumult". But sometimes, Vida doesn't want to be the one in charge. Sometimes, she just wants a chance to breathe.

*Vida Beats the Odds* is a propulsive, funny, and emotionally charged coming of age novel that has both whip-smart humor and aching humanity. It will be relatable to anyone who has loved and been leaned on and then leaned on a bit too hard. This book will appeal to fans of Louis Sachar for whip-smart humor and aching humanity and *Wonder* and *Fish in a Tree* for its uplifting and honest perspective on growing up and fitting in.

*Category:* Middle Grade  
*Editor:* Laura Godwin  
*Agent:* Miriam Altshuler

*DeFiore & Co Controls:* UK & Translation

**David Getz** was the principal of a middle school on the Upper East Side in Manhattan until his retirement in 2023. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Jacqui, who is also retired from the NYC public schools. They have three adult daughters and are all avid New York Mets fans.

# THE NIGHT MOTHER

*Volume Two*

**Jeremy Lambert and Alexa Sharpe**

Oni Press, April 2026

The moon is stuck. Sunlight is a distant memory. And the Night Mother, who once represented harmony between the living and the dead, has been thwarted by the girl who lives in the graveyard, Madeline Tock.

But after their daring escape to the Moon, Maddy and her new friend, Nura, have accidentally shattered the Night Mother's lantern and the stolen souls within it have escaped, including the soul of Maddy's father. Maddy and Nura follow the souls into the cavernous city spiraling down into the Moon's largest crater. There, Maddy and Nura will face nightfire, the dreaded Sleep Ensemble, and the many crooked corridors of the Night Mother's Lunar Mansion. If they survive, they just might be able to right the wrongs of the Night Mother and free the souls she took from the living. But their journey will bring everything to bear on Maddy, who has an impossible choice to make: become the next Night Mother and rescue her father's soul . . . or stay true to herself and risk everything.



*Category:* Middle Grade Graphic Novel  
*Editor:* Sierra Hahn  
*Agent:* Tamara Kawar

*DeFiore & Co Controls:* Translation  
*Material:* PDF

**Jeremy Lambert** is a writer and filmmaker from Bowie, Maryland. He's known for his comics work on *Doom Patrol*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Hellmouth*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Goosebumps*, *The Hollywood Special*, and his stories for *Warhammer*, among others. As a film producer, his productions for Breakwater Studios, Ltd. have won an Academy Award and James Beard Award. This is the first volume in the Night Mother trilogy by Alexa Sharpe and Jeremy, with Volumes II and III to follow. He believes there are few things in life better than a nice pair of socks.

**Alexa Sharpe** is a Los Angeles-based book illustrator, who has worked on *Lumberjanes*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Rolled & Told*, and *Uncanny Magazine*. Her art is a window into dreamlike worlds that frighten and delight in equal measure.

# THE NIGHT MOTHER

Volume One

Jeremy Lambert and Alexa Sharpe

Oni Press, October 2024

**A Publisher's Weekly Top 10 Most Anticipated Middle Grade Graphic Novel for Fall 2024**

**A BookRiot Best Graphic Novel of 2024**

**"Giving off vibes of a gothic version of Ponyo crossed with A Wrinkle in Time"**—Publishers Weekly

**"Myth-making with a majestic monster at its heart, laced with style and suspense."**  
—*Kirkus*

**"This gothic graphic novel will appeal to young readers who want to branch out from the popular tropes of middle grade stories."** —*SLJ*

**Endless night befalls a sleepy seaside town, leaving it to young Madeline Tock to save her community from a threat known only as the Night Mother . . .**

The moon is stuck like a broken clock in the midnight sky, the sun a distant memory. No one in this quiet seaside town can remember how long this unnatural darkness has lasted. No one, that is, except for the curious girl who lives in the graveyard, caring for the dead: twelve-year-old Madeline Tock. In gratitude, the departed whisper their worries to her: beware this endless night and she who causes it.

Because there's someone else who can hear the whispers, too. Someone whose gown is a map of the cosmos, hair a tangled constellation, eyes like the lights of faraway stars.

The Night Mother. Her elemental duty is to gather the souls of the dead in her lantern, then send them to their eternal rest as beautiful moonlight. But when her hunger for power drives her to take souls from the living, Madeline bravely stands up to defend her town and those she loves. Can Madeline help bring back the sun, or will she be lured by the starry promises of this mysterious woman?

Written by Jeremy Lambert (*Doom Patrol*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Goosebumps*) and richly illustrated by Alexa Sharpe (*Lumberjanes*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Uncanny Magazine*), THE NIGHT MOTHER is a lush gothic tale perfect for readers of all ages who relish in the wonder of the night sky.

*Category:* Middle Grade Graphic Novel  
*Editor:* Sierra Hahn  
*Agent:* Tamara Kawar

*DeFiore & Co Controls:* Translation  
*Material:* PDF, 90 pages



**Jeremy Lambert** is a writer and filmmaker from Bowie, Maryland. He's known for his comics work on *Doom Patrol*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Hellmouth*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Goosebumps*, *The Hollywood Special*, and his stories for *Warhammer*, among others. As a film producer, his productions for Breakwater Studios, Ltd. have won an Academy Award and James Beard Award. This is the first volume in the Night Mother trilogy by Alexa Sharpe and Jeremy, with Volumes II and III to follow. He believes there are few things in life better than a nice pair of socks.

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# THE HOUSE OF FOUND OBJECTS

**\*\*NEW\*\***

*Bea Bellerose Book 1*

**Jo Beckett-King**

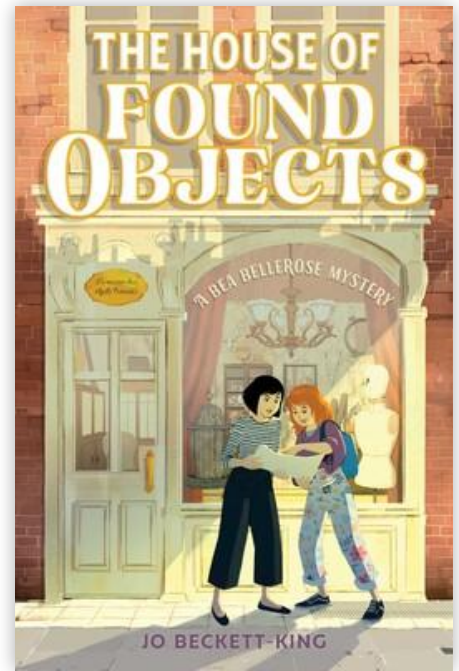
S&S Books for Young Readers, August 2025, paperback July 2026

**For fans of *The Swifts* and *The Strangers* comes an exciting mystery filled with cryptic clues and wonderful word puzzles as Bea and her cousin Celine must locate their grandmother's precious painting and the mysterious individual leading them from clue to clue.**

*The House of Found Objects* introduces a great new middle-grade detective, in the tradition of Enola Holmes and Flavia DeLuce but entirely contemporary. Twelve-year-old Bea is visiting family in Paris for the summer when her grandmother's most precious heirloom—a drawing by Henri Matisse—goes missing. After a clue arrives on Bea's doorstep suggesting its whereabouts, Bea is determined to pursue the lead. From the first page, readers are immersed in the quaint and cozy Parisian setting and her grandmother's quirky antique store.

Without the French skills to navigate her way around the landmarks of Paris, she teams up with her cousin, Céline, whose clear-eyed French directness makes her a perfect partner for curious, problem-solving Bea. The girls embark on a city-wide search, deciphering riddles, solving puzzles, and cracking codes as they try to locate the Matisse and catch a thief.

In Book Two, *THE LOST JEWELS OF ROOM 713*, the cousins will reunite in New York to catch a thief whose celebrity jewel heist has cast suspicion on the girls' aunt Juliette.



*Category:* Middle Grade  
*Editor:* Krista Vitola  
*Agent:* Elise Howard

*DeFiore & Co Controls:* UK & Translation

Originally from the North East of England, **Jo Beckett-King** studied Art History at the University of York before moving to Paris, where she worked for several years, honing her skills as a translator. Her writing for children and adults has been longlisted for the Bath Children's Novel Award and the Bristol Short Story Prize, and shortlisted for the Bridport Prize. She currently lives in San Francisco.

# PRAISE FOR THE HOUSE OF FOUND OBJECTS

Codebreakers and mystery fans will want to read this fun adventure, tout de suite. (*Mystery*. 9-13)  
– **Kirkus**

Beckett-King fills this fun mystery with the sights and sounds of Paris, as well as brain teasers readers can solve along with Céline and Bea. The girls are fantastic foils, each bringing skills and qualities the other needs. This first installment in the Bea Bellerose Mystery series is delightful, charming, and full of unexpected twists. —**Kyla Paterno, freelance reviewer for Shelf Awareness**

The story is lighthearted and entertaining, with the sweetness of self-discovery sprinkled throughout as Bea becomes more confident and more proud of the person she's becoming. Readers with an eye for puzzles and a knack for code-cracking will enjoy this first entry in a projected new mystery series.

–**Hornbook**

Young readers will sympathize with Bea and her convincingly tween-age dilemmas...readers who know a little French will enjoy the occasional use of common phrases, which are explained within the text.

– **Booklist**

Kids interested in developing their sleuthing and French skills will benefit from encountering Bea's journey in this series debut.

– **School Library Journal**

# SO OVER SHARING

**\*\*NEW\*\***

**Elissa Weissman**

Dial Books for Young Readers, May 2025, paperback May 2026

“A timely and provocative exploration of the impact of social media on teens, families, and society.” —*Kirkus*

“[A] thoughtful, gripping, and heart-wrenching exploration of the perils of social media and fraught friendships... a must-read for every kid who has dreamed of being an influencer and a great discussion starter about privacy and sharing online.” —*Booklist*

**In this timely contemporary middle grade novel from award-winning author Elissa Brent Weissman, two girls find their private struggles against their influencer mothers going very public.**

Quiet, introverted Hadley and rough-around-the-edges Willow have one big main thing in common: both their moms have gained a huge online following sharing every detail of their lives. Hadley’s mom—Phoebe of @PhoebeAndJay fame—loves to share all the terrible, down and dirty bits about raising kids while Willow’s mom, Rosalind, basks in the glow of motherhood as @MoonbeamsAndMarigolds.

If getting all her life’s moments (including an almost decade old viral potty training video) shared online isn’t enough, Hadley’s starting a new school in a new neighborhood and desperately trying to keep her mom’s identity a secret. Meantime Willow is struggling with a recent life-changing announcement from her mom who, it turns out, is not getting out of the influencer world anytime soon.

As the two girls build a friendship on a private Instagram page and share the pains of having a momfluencer, they come up against the same question—how long will they have to share their lives with everyone?



*Category:* Middle Grade  
*Editor:* Michelle Lee  
*Agent:* Elise Howard

*DeFiore & Co Controls:* UK & Translation

**Elissa Brent Weissman** is an award-winning author of novels for young readers. Best known for the popular Nerd Camp series (Atheneum Books for Young Readers), she and her books have been featured in Entertainment Weekly, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Huffington Post, NPR’s “Here and Now,” and more.

Originally from Long Island, New York, Elissa spent many years in Baltimore City, where she taught creative writing to children, college students, and adults. She currently lives in Christchurch, New Zealand, with her husband and their two super cool nerds-in-training.

# NOT QUITE A GHOST

*A Novel*

**Anne Ursu**

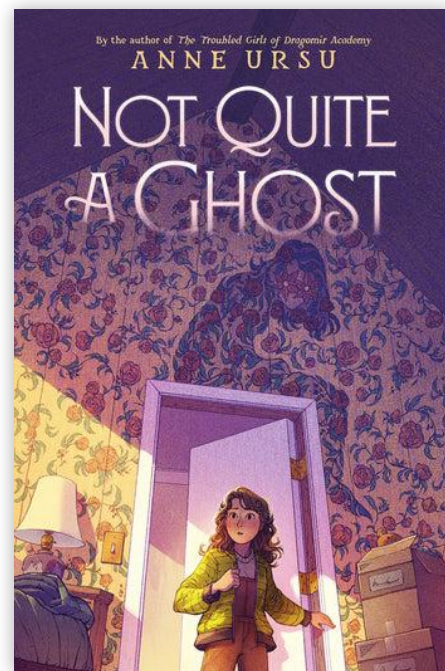
Walden Pond Press, January 2024, paperback February 2025

## A January/February Indie Next Pick

★“Ursu maintains a light but decidedly eerie touch as she weaves her “not quite a ghost” story, in which the house itself becomes a character and slowly reveals its secrets. She simultaneously writes in a compelling way about difficult-to-diagnose, recurring illnesses. And just as with such conditions, there is no neat and facile wrap-up to the haunting narrative. —*Horn Book*, starred review

“Loosely based on Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s 1892 short story “The Yellow Wallpaper,” this is a story about a haunted house—but it’s also a fresh, modern look at unexplained health issues, COVID-19 anxiety, changing friendships, and blended families. VERDICT Compulsively readable and relatable, Ursu’s twisty middle grade novel is highly recommended.” —*School Library Journal*, starred review

“Ursu perceptively incorporates middle school drama into a page-turning tale about the difficulties of managing an invisible illness and any accompanying skepticism from friends and healthcare providers.” —*Publishers Weekly*



The house on Katydid Street seems to sit apart from the others, silent and alone, like it doesn't fit among them. For Violet Hart—whose family moves into the house—little feels like it fits anymore. Like her old home, too small since her mother remarried and the new baby arrived. Or her friend group, which since middle school began is no longer enough for Violet's best friend, Paige. But maybe, Violet tells herself, change is sometimes okay. Then Violet sees her new room.

The attic bedroom is shadowy, creaky, and wrapped in faded wallpaper covered with twisting vines and sickly flowers. After moving in, Violet falls ill, and days turn into weeks without any improvement. Her family grows more confused and her friends wonder if she's really sick at all.

Violet finds herself more and more alone in the room with the yellow wallpaper, the shadows moving in the corners, wrapping themselves around her at night. But soon, she starts to suspect that she might not be alone in the room at all...

From award-winning author Anne Ursu comes a dark, deeply-felt story of illness, of growing up, and of the ghosts that lurk just beyond our sight—as well as the ones we carry with us.

*Category:* Middle Grade  
*Editor:* Jordan Brown  
*Agent:* Elise Howard

*DeFiore & Co Controls:* Translation  
*Material:* PDF, 288 pages

**Anne Ursu** is the author of the acclaimed novels *The Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy*, *The Lost Girl*, *Breadcrumbs*, and *The Real Boy*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award. The recipient of a McKnight Fellowship Award in Children's Literature, Anne lives in Minneapolis with her family and an ever-growing number of cats.

# A VAISAKHI TO REMEMBER

**Simran Jeet Singh, illustrated by Japneet Kaur**

Kokila, March 2025

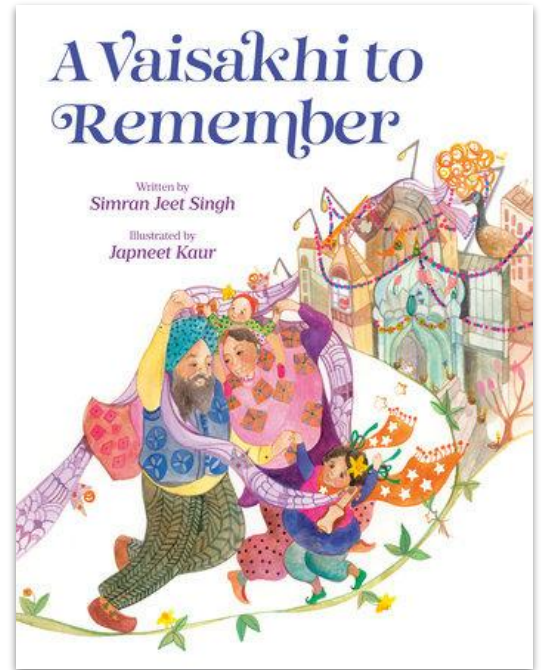
**A new picture book from Simran Jeet Singh, *A Vaisakhi to Remember* celebrates community and heritage as a young girl looks for points of connection in a new country through the joyous Sikh spring harvest holiday of Vaisakhi.**

*In our village, the best day of all was Vaisakhi, the spring harvest festival...*

When a Sikh family moves from their village in India to a faraway city on the other side of the world, a girl yearns for her grandmother's hugs, her goat Ramu, and the lush fields filled with yellow flowers and wheat. How will they celebrate Vaisakhi in her new and unfamiliar surroundings?

But the girl soon discovers soothing touchstones—a special outfit, a trip to gurdwara, delicious food, and new friends—that make gathering for Vaisakhi *still* the best day of all.

With gorgeous, intricate illustrations by debut children's book illustrator Japneet Kaur, this touching story from Simran Jeet Singh shows us that while life changes, home is where we build community and carry traditions forward.



**Category:** Picture Book  
**Editor:** Zareen Jeffrey  
**Agent:** Tanusri Prasanna

**DeFiore & Co Controls:** Translation

**Simran Jeet Singh, Ph.D** is Executive Director for the Religion & Society Program at the Aspen Institute and a visiting professor of history and religion at Union Theological Seminary. He is a Soros Equality Fellow with the Open Society Foundations, and in 2020 TIME magazine recognized him among sixteen people fighting for a more equal America. He is a columnist for the Religion News Service, and his work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and on CNN. Singh is the author of the award-winning children's book *Fauja Singh Keeps Going*. He lives in New York City with his family.

# Praise for NOT QUITE A GHOST

"Inspired by Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," this month's Big Picture, *Not Quite a Ghost*, homes in on the insidious currents of disbelief that surround both topics, focusing on a sick middle school girl (who, frankly, is already part of a group that is easily dismissed based on age and gender) separately dealing with a supernatural entity." —**Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books** (December 2023 issue)

"Ursu cultivates dread on several fronts as Violet battles insecurities and the dark presence in her room, is beset by her mysterious illness's symptoms, and navigates middle school's bewildering social landscape. Less a haunted-house story than an empathetic examination of one girl's fight to regain normalcy, the narrative validates the reality of the unseen." —**Booklist**

"Not Quite a Ghost is not quite like anything I've read. Insightful and creepy, surprising and tense, this ghost story is wonderfully and exuberantly human." -**Eliot Schrefer**, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Darkness Outside Us*

"Not Quite a Ghost is that rare book that manages to deeply satisfy on several levels: it's a delightfully creepy haunting; an authentically tender middle school friendship drama; and an all-too-realistic portrait of a girl whose undiagnosed illness is the scariest specter of all. I loved it." -**Elana K. Arnold**, award-winning author of *A Boy Called Bat*

"Anne Ursu hooks the reader through realistic, engaging characters and builds the suspense until it's unbearable. What exactly is haunting Violet? You'll get paper cuts on your fingertips turning the pages fast enough to find out." -**J.A. White**, author of *Nightbooks*

## Author's previous titles sold to:

### **Cronus Chronicles series (Simon & Schuster):**

Editorial Everest (**Spanish**), Wydawnictwo Dolnoslaskie (**Polish**)

### **Breadcrumbs (Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins, 2011):**

Seuil Jeunesse (**French**), Aladin Verlag (**German**), Beijing Juvenile and Children's House (**simplified Chinese**)

### **The Real Boy (Walden Pond, 2015):**

Beijing Juvenile and Children's House (**simplified Chinese**)

### **The Lost Girl (Walden Pond, 2020):**

Art Grup (**Romanian**)

# WHITE HOUSE HOUSE UNDERCOVER

**\*\*NEW\*\***

*White House Club House #3*

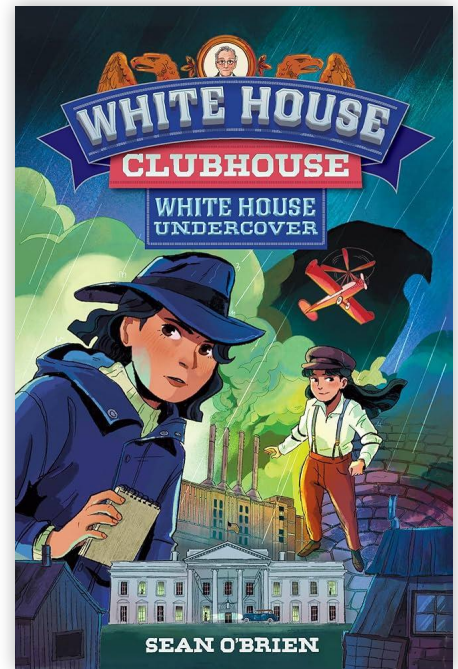
**Sean O'Brien**

Norton Young Readers, October 2025

**First Daughters Marissa and Clara journey back to Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency to solve a mystery at the heart of Great Depression-era Washington, DC, in this new entry in the White House Clubhouse series.**

White House kids Clara and Marissa Suarez find themselves on the hunt for a stolen eagle sculpture and on the front lines of the labor movement in this noir-style mystery that takes them through the streets of Great Depression-era Washington, DC. Along with Roosevelt grandchildren Buzzie and Sistie, the chase takes Clara and Marissa from the factory floor to the skies with Amelia Earhart, through encounters with historical figures—and keeps readers guessing up to its dramatic end on a river cruise with Franklin and Eleanor.

Funny, fast-paced, and filled with action, *White House Undercover* continues Sean O'Brien's exciting middle grade series that “masterfully weaves together history, adventure, and purpose” (Ruby Shamir).



Also available:

**WHITE HOUSE CLUBHOUSE and WHITE HOUSE ON FIRE!**

"In his debut novel, Sean O'Brien creates a wildly unique club every kid will want to join. With a blend of suspenseful action, laugh-aloud humor, solid history, and a White House insider's knowledge, *White House Clubhouse* is a page-turning time-travel romp. It's deft, fun, and full of surprises."

– **Peter Lerangis**, *New York Times*-bestselling author of the *Seven Wonders* and *Throwback* series

*Category:* Middle Grade  
*Editor:* Simon Boughton  
*Agent:* Reiko Davis

*DeFiore & Co Controls:* Translation  
*Material:* PDF

**SEAN O'BRIEN** is a former White House speechwriter who now teaches at Georgetown University. He served as Director of Speechwriting to Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden, and Special Assistant to President Barack Obama. He lives in Washington, DC.

# JUST BECAUSE

Matthew McConaughey, illustrated by Renée Kurilla

Viking Children's Books, September 12, 2023

**"I wrote *Just Because* for your kids, for my kids, and for the kid in all of us. We're all as young as we're ever gonna be, so let's just keep learning."**

After selling millions of copies of *Greenlights* worldwide since its launch in 2020, Matthew McConaughey is known no longer just as an Oscar winner, but as an accomplished and unique storyteller. And as a father of three, he's now turned his talents to a new book born from watching his children first make sense of the world in simple terms, and then maturing into understanding the more subtle realities of life—the innuendos, context, and poetry in people's actions and feelings.

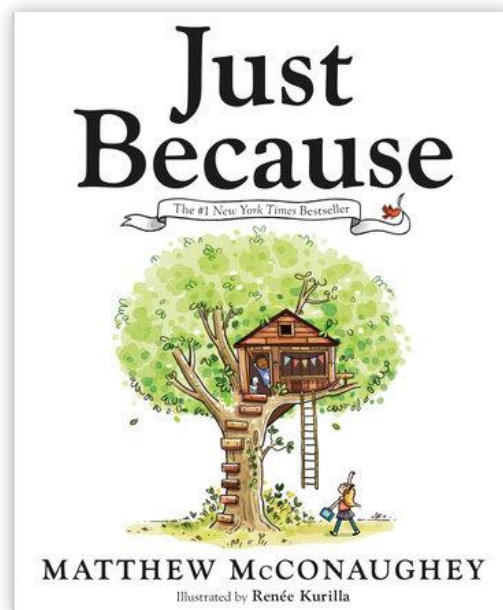
JUST BECAUSE explores life's little complexities and contradictions through the eyes of children and encourages the spirit of fun, imagination, adventure and discovery that brings out the best in kids—and in all of us.

*Just because I'm in the race,  
doesn't mean I'm fully ready.  
Just because I'm shaking,  
doesn't mean that I'm not steady.*

*Have you ever felt worried and excited at the same time?  
Have you ever had your feelings hurt but forgiven someone anyway?  
Have you ever thought there was more than one right answer to a question?  
That's because contradictions are all around us. And they make us who we are*

Filled with his trademark humor and wisdom, *Just Because* is a soulful and irreverent children's picture book that serves as a "guidebook" for life. Through a series of rhyming couplets, McConaughey dismantles assumptions and candidly expresses how we are capable of experiencing a broad spectrum of emotions. Revealing that our contradictions are what make us our most honest selves, *Just Because* empowers readers of all ages and celebrates how we are full of possibility.

- Ages 4-8
- Trim Size: 8.5 inches x 10.5 inches
- 32 pages
- Interior paper is matte and jacket is matte with spot UV gloss



Category:	Picture Book	DeFiore & Co Controls:	Translation
Editor:	Tamar Brazis	Material:	PDF
Agent:	Matthew Elblonk		
Sold to:	Penguin Random House Australia, Sextante ( <b>Brazilian Portuguese</b> ), Helikon ( <b>Bulgarian</b> ), Grimm Press ( <b>Complex Chinese</b> ), Skolska Knjiznica ( <b>Croatian</b> ), Adrian Verlag ( <b>German</b> ) Pedio ( <b>Greek</b> ), XXI. SZÁZAD ( <b>Hungarian</b> ), La Nave di Teseo ( <b>Italian</b> ), Sam & Parkers ( <b>Korean</b> ), Marginesy Sp. z.o.o. ( <b>Polish</b> ), Lua de Papel ( <b>Portuguese</b> ), Tatran ( <b>Slovak</b> ), Planeta ( <b>Spanish and Catalan</b> ), Pegasus ( <b>Turkish</b> )		

**Matthew McConaughey** is the Academy Award–winning actor and #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Greenlights*. He also created *Greenlights: Your Journal, Your Journey*, a guided companion that inspires readers to write down and reflect on their feelings, adventures, and dreams.

Matthew and his wife, Camila, founded the just keep livin Foundation, which is dedicated to empowering high school students by providing them with the tools to lead active lives and make healthy choices for a better future. He is a professor of practice and a Minister of Culture for the University of Texas at Austin, where he lives with his wife and three children. Matthew is a storyteller, a tree house builder, and a pickle expert. You can visit Matthew on Instagram @OfficiallyMcConaughey or on Twitter @McConaughey.

**Renée Kurilla** is the author and illustrator of many books for young readers. She has a BFA in illustration and a minor in graphic design from Lesley University College of Art and Design. She lives outside of Boston with her husband, daughter, and a fish named Yoshi. You can visit Renée at Kurillastration.com or on Instagram and Twitter @ReneeKurilla.

**GREENLIGHTS sold to:** Living Publishing House(**Albania**), Bard Publishing House (**Bulgaria**), Infotress Publishing (**Complex Chinese**), Beijing Xiron Culture Group (**Simplified Chinese**),Skolska Kniga (**Croatia**) Media Rey (**Czech Republic**), Tanapaev (**Estonia**), Werner Soderstrom (**Finland**),Editions du Seuil(**France**),Ullstein (**Germany**), Pedio (**Greece**), XXI Szazad (**Hungary**), La Nave di Teseo (**Italy**), Outsight Publication (**Korea**), Helios Kirjastus (**Latvia**), Alma Littera (**Lithuania**), Marginesy (**Poland**), RAO (**Romania**), Azbooka-Atticus (**Russia**), Motyl (**Slovakia**), PRH Grupo Editorial(**Spanish**), FORS Ukraine (**Ukraine**)

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