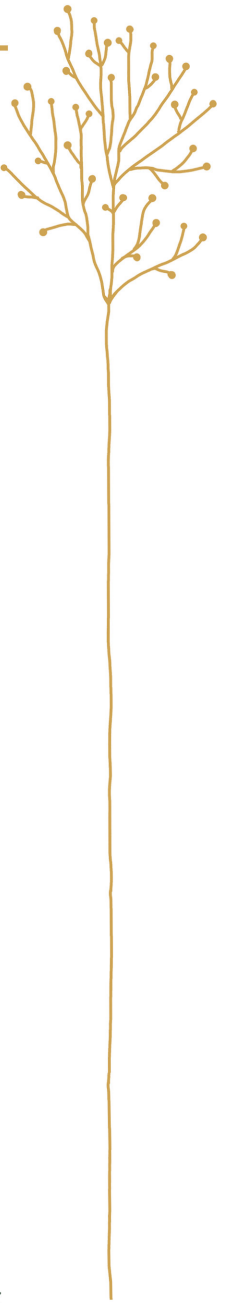
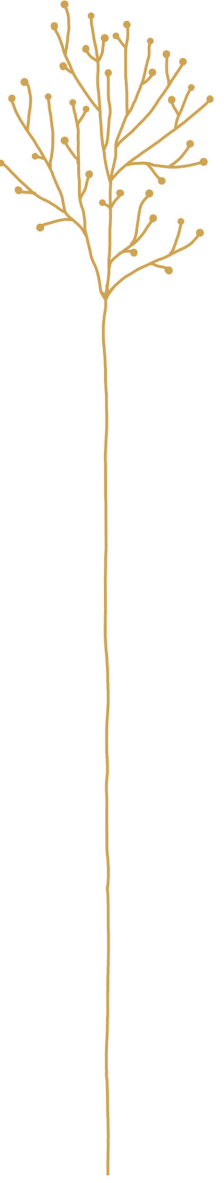


JILL GRINBERG LITERARY MANAGEMENT

FALL 2026 RIGHTS GUIDE



PICTURE BOOKS



JILL GRINBERG
LITERARY MANAGEMENT

SCHOOL SPIRITS

written by Charlotte Gunnufson; illustrated by Rebecca Crane

❖ This playful, gently spooky picture book about back-to-school jitters features a mischievous group of ghosts and is perfect for fans of *Gustavo the Shy Ghost* and *Little Ghost Makes a Friend*.

❖ Perfect for both Halloween and back-to-school

Praise for *School Spirits*

“Particularly fun to read aloud, this spooky tale encourages friendship and problem-solving within the paranormal context of a haunted school.” – *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“Channeling nervous energy into positive vibes, this offers a jolly relational game plan for tackling new-school-year jitters.” – *Publishers Weekly*

Rebecca Crane is an author, illustrator, and visual development artist specializing in dynamic character designs for books and animation. Over the years, she has illustrated a number of popular stories enjoyed by readers around the world, and she spends her spare time traveling and seeking out new inspiration in coffee shops. Visit her at RebeccaCraneIllustration.com.



It's time to go back to school, but...

*What if classes are too tough
with loads of tests and tricky stuff?*

The question troubling you the most . . .

What if—yikes!—your school's got ghosts?

What's a kid to do when a mischievous crew of ghosts starts hoarding hula hoops and levitating lunches? Be brave! And work with classmates to help the playful spirits understand how school works. As students model manners, they'll see these spooky newcomers might be just the thing to liven up the learning day. After all, every school needs a little spirit!

Charlotte Gunnufson went to an ordinary school that was not haunted. (She's pretty sure about that.) Now she puts ghosts in some of her stories. Her first book, *Halloween Hustle*, has one ghost. *School Spirits* has oodles of ghosts! *Dream Submarine*, *Hard Hat Hank and the Sky-High Solution*, and *Eight-Nine-Tengineers* have no ghosts. They're just ordinary b o o o o o oks. (Right?) Her website, BooksbyCharlotte.com, isn't haunted either.

US: Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, July 2026

Ages 4-8

Page Count: 40

UK & translation rights handled by Simon & Schuster



TRUMAN TOAD AND THE QUEST FOR THE PERFECT HUG

Written by Oren Lavie; illustrated by Anke Kuhl

- ❖ A self-important but good-hearted toad, with an ample amount of self-love, discovers his love for others in this entertaining, award-winning picture book originally published in Germany
- ❖ Nominated for the 2023 German Youth Literature Award in the Picture Book category!
- ❖ There will be a second Truman Toad book: *Truman Toad and the Perfect Snack*

Praise for *Truman Toad*

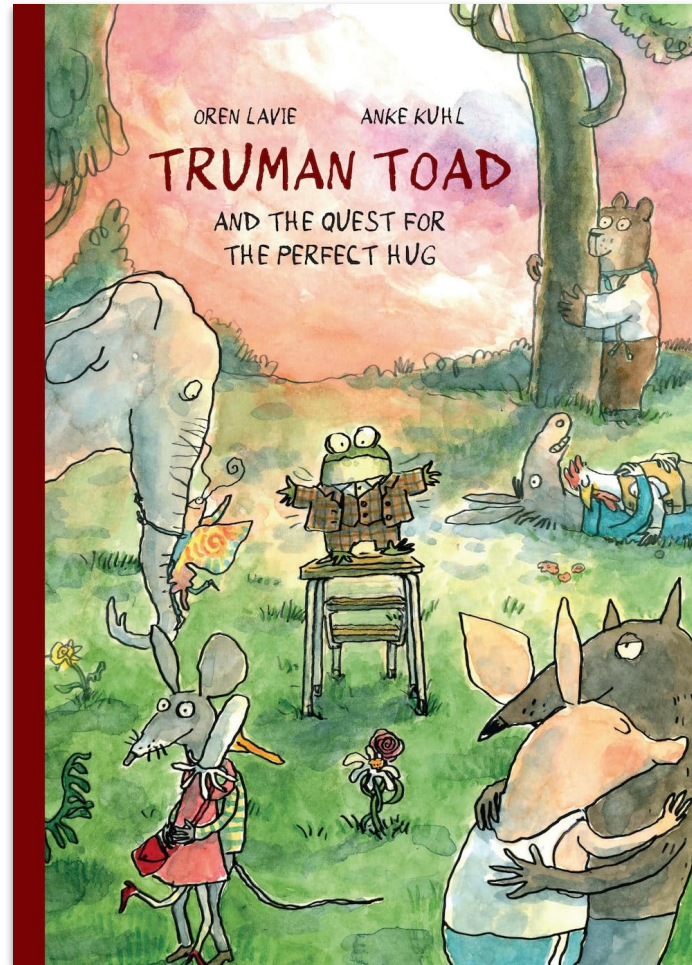
“A self-obsessed protagonist makes narcissism absolutely ribbiting in this gaily cantankerous picture book.” – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

“A warm embrace of both story and image, this lesson in appreciating what you have delights in every way.” – *Kirkus*, **starred review**

Anke Kuhl is one of Germany's leading children's book illustrators, whose awards include the German Youth Literature Award and the Max and Moritz Prize for best German-language comic for children. She lives with her husband and two children in Frankfurt, Germany

US: Enchanted Lion, April 2026
Ages 3-7
Page Count: 40

First published in German by Fischer Verlag, July 2022
Translation* rights sold: Bulgarian (Prozoretz), Catalan (Takatuka), Chinese – Simplified (Gingko), German (Fischer), Hebrew (Kinneret), Italian (Terre di Mezzo), Spanish (Takatuka)



*Fischer handles translation rights for Dutch, Scandinavian, Eastern European, and Asian; JGLM handles all other languages

Truman Toad lives in a cozy little apartment, all by himself. In fact, he loves his own company so much that he keeps a giant mirror nearby so that he's never too far from his reflection. After all, who better than himself to spend all his time with!

One day, Truman wakes up from the most wonderful dream about the most wonderful hug—and he's determined to make it come true. The quest for the perfect hug has begun... but nothing seems quite perfect enough to Truman: the hugs he gets from his animal friends are too long or too slippery, too soft or too hard, too wild or too gentle. Truman is discouraged. Will he ever find the perfect hug?

Charming, quirky, filled with heart and wholly one of a kind, Oren Lavie's story, coupled with Anke Kuhl's delightfully spirited illustrations, will make readers of all ages laugh—and make them think about letting go, letting others in, and the power of hugs!

Oren Lavie is a musician, director, playwright, and author of children's books. He has released a number of critically acclaimed albums, including *The Opposite Side of the Sea*. The music video for “Her Morning Elegance” was nominated for a Grammy, and received over 30 million views on YouTube and his song “A Dance ‘round The Memory Tree” was featured on the soundtrack for Disney's *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*. His picture books *The Bear Who Wasn't There*, *And the Fabulous Forest* and *Alexander Von-Biscuit and the Perfect Hug* have been published in a number of foreign languages. He lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.



It seemed like hugging was contagious because pretty soon everybody in the park began to hug; Parents hugged their children, friends hugged their friends, even complete strangers hugged their complete strangers.

But as the sun began to set Alexander Toad was starting to feel gloomier and gloomier.

23 DOGS AND 1 CAT: HOW ONE CLASS CAME TO THE RESCUE

Written by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery; illustrated by Thai My Phuong

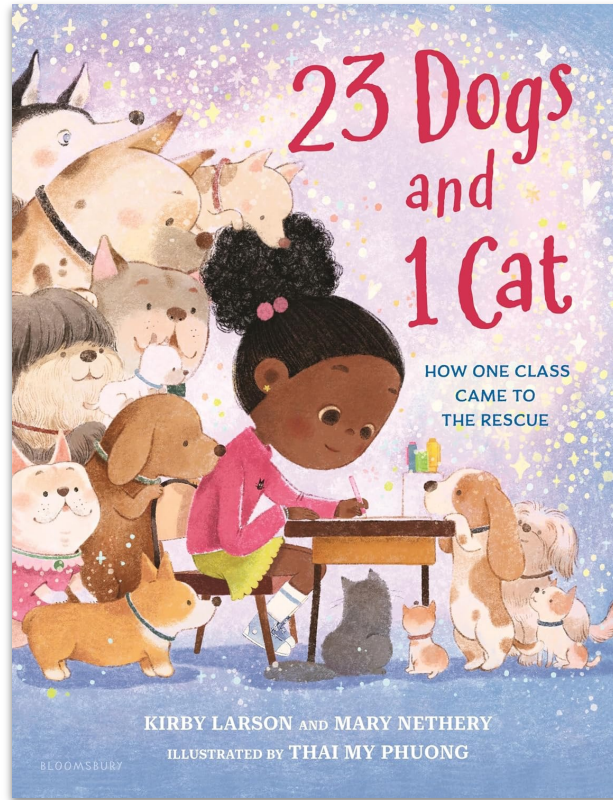
- ❖ Kids *can* make a difference in this heartwarming tale based on a true story about a class of second graders whose letter-writing campaign got all the animals in their local shelter adopted.
- ❖ Perfect for animal lovers, letter-writing curriculums, and young activists
- ❖ The latest picture book about interspecies friendships from the bestselling and award-winning authors of *Nubs* and *Two Bobbies*
- ❖ “A celebration of empathy and collaboration, inspired by a real-life elementary school writing project...A happy reminder that anyone can make a difference.” – *Kirkus*

Mary Nethery is the author of many picture books, including *Mary Veronica's Egg*, and *Hannah and Jack*. She lives in Eureka, California. The authors will be donating a portion of their proceeds to Best Friends Animal Society.

Thai My Phuong is a Vietnamese illustrator who resides in the USA with her husband and feisty cat, Smokey. In her free time, she loves drawing cards to send to friends, sketching on the go, and riding on her moped.

US: Bloomsbury Children's Books, February 2027
Ages 4-8
Page Count: 48

UK and translation rights handled by Bloomsbury
Children's Books



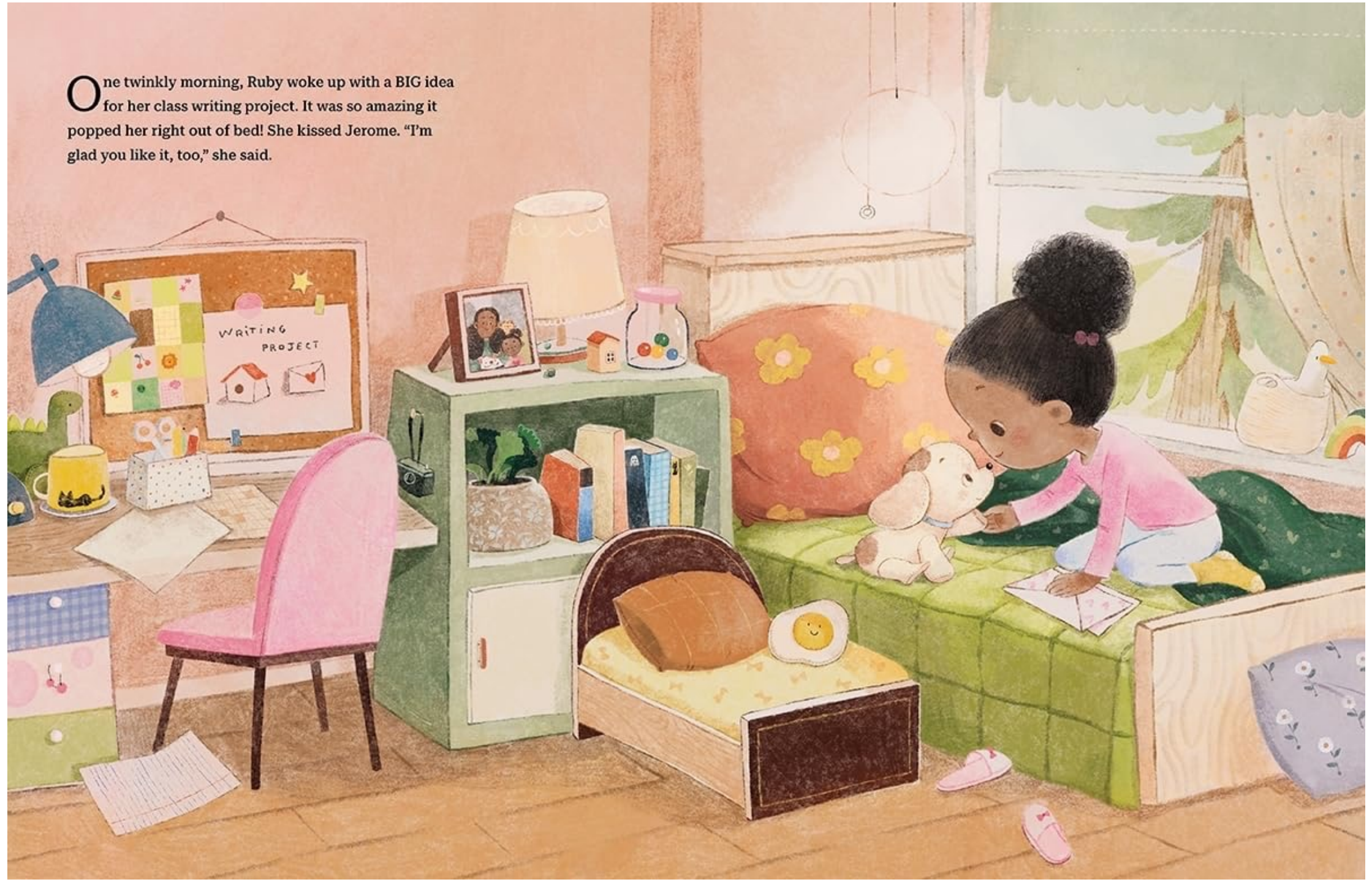
Please note that Thai My Phuong is represented by the CAT Agency and that Mary Nethery is represented by Eyebait Management

Ruby has a big idea for her class's letter writing project: They'll use persuasive letters to help find forever homes for the animals at their local rescue. But will anyone really listen to a bunch of kids? Getting twenty-three dogs and one cat adopted won't be easy, but to make a difference, the first thing you have to do is try.

Based on a true story, this inspiring and heartwarming picture book shows kids how they can create change by simply coming together and using their voice.

Kirby Larson is the award-winning and bestselling author of numerous books for young readers. Her debut novel *Hattie Big Sky* won the Newbery Honor and was a *New York Times* bestseller. With Mary Nethery, she is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling picture book *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle* (with Major Brian Dennis), *Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival*, and the forthcoming *23 Dogs and 1 Cat* (Bloomsbury, 2026). She written the acclaimed *Dogs of World War II* series — *Duke, Dash* (winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction), *Liberty*, and *Code Word Courage*; the Audacity Jones series, which received an Edgar nomination; the Shermy and Shake series of chapter books, illustrated by Shinji Fujioka; and *Gut Reaction*, a contemporary middle grade novel co-written with her daughter, Quinn Wyatt.

One twinkly morning, Ruby woke up with a BIG idea for her class writing project. It was so amazing it popped her right out of bed! She kissed Jerome. "I'm glad you like it, too," she said.



GHOST ARMY

written by Sarah Glenn Marsh; illustrated by Becca Stadtlander

- ❖ A fascinating and gorgeously illustrated non-fiction picture book about the troop of artists who helped win World War II
- ❖ Celebrates the power of art and creative thinking

Praise for *Ghost Army*

"The watercolor illustrations emphasize the cost of war by contrasting the bright colors of the U.S. with the browns, grays, and blacks of bombed-out French villages. A fascinating and inspiring read."

– *Booklist*, starred review

Becca Stadtlander is a freelance illustrator and fine artist inspired by the beauty of everyday objects, the comforts of home, and the lush colors and landscapes of far-off places. She attended the Maryland Institute College of Art, receiving her BFA in 2010, and currently lives and works in her hometown of Covington, Kentucky. Her work is featured on stationary, home décor products, editorial publications, and young adult and children's books. You can visit her at BeccaStadtlander.com

US: Penguin Young Readers/Viking Children's, June 2026
Ages 4-8
Page Count: 32

UK and translation rights handled by Penguin Young Readers

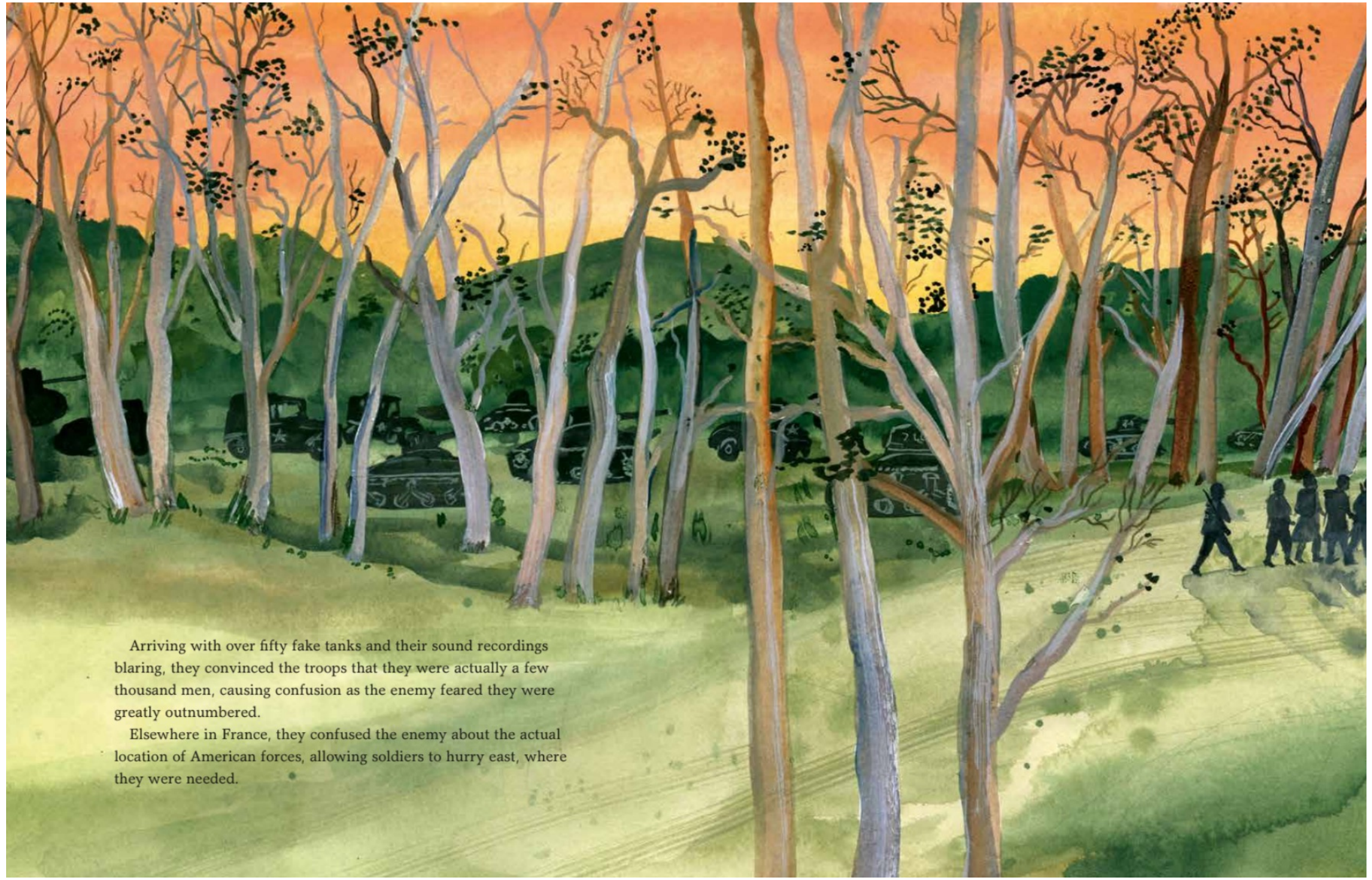


Please note that Becca Stadtlander is represented by the Bright Agency

During World War II, a 1,100-man unit known as the Ghost Army was sent to Europe with an important mission: mislead Hitler's forces as to the size and location of Allied troops so that those troops would have time to carry out urgent plans of their own.

This unit of artists, musicians, actors, architects, set designers, and engineers came together to construct "shadow soldiers" and put on a traveling show of deception for over twenty different campaigns throughout the war, using everything from fake radio transmissions to inflatable tanks to convince the enemy of their presence.

Sarah Glenn Marsh is an author of several young adult novels and picture books. Her young adult titles include *Fear the Drowning Deep*, *Dread the Harvest Moon*, the *Reign of the Fallen* series, and *The Girls Are Never Gone*. Her picture book titles include *Selfie Sebastian*, *Bigfoot's Big Heart*, *The Bug Girl: Maria Merian's Scientific Vision*, *Ellie's Crayon Adventure* and *The Mystery of the Love List*. She has also authored nonfiction middle grade titles, *Your Birthstone Book* and the *How to Spot* series, published by Running Press Kids.



Arriving with over fifty fake tanks and their sound recordings blaring, they convinced the troops that they were actually a few thousand men, causing confusion as the enemy feared they were greatly outnumbered.

Elsewhere in France, they confused the enemy about the actual location of American forces, allowing soldiers to hurry east, where they were needed.

SAM'S NEIGHBORHOOD

written by Patricia McCormick; illustrated by Ziyue Chen

- ❖ From award-winning author Patricia McCormick, comes a picture book based on the true story of how one little girl inspired everyone on her block to learn American Sign Language (ASL), and how it transformed the whole community in the process
- ❖ Perfect for fans of *I Walk with Vanessa* by Kerascoët, *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller, as well as readers looking for stories centering deaf protagonists

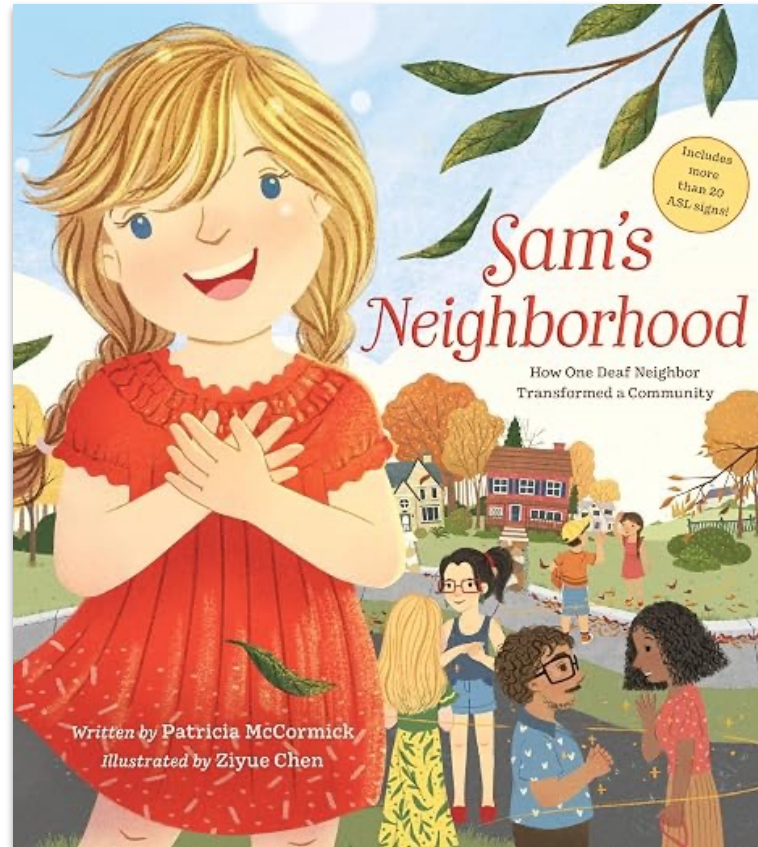
Praise for *Sam's Neighborhood*

"An uplifting heart melter without any treacle." – *Kirkus*

"This heartfelt story highlighting the power of inclusion and collective kindness will inspire empathy and action in readers. An essential purchase for all library collections."
– *School Library Journal*

"This engaging picture book shows how a few interested people can change a typical neighborhood into a caring community where people easily form friendships and help each other." – *Booklist*

Ziyue Chen is a Singapore based illustrator and graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design in U.S. She has illustrated some picture books, including *When I Carried You in My Belly*, *Just Right Family: An Adoption Story*, *Mela and the Elephant*, and *Enough! 20 Protesters Who Changed America*. Through her illustrations, she seeks to establish an emotional connection with those who view her work.



Please note that Ziyue Chen is represented by MB Artists

US: HarperCollins Children's, October 2026

Ages 4-8

Page Count: 32

UK and translation rights handled by HarperCollins Children's

Sam loves her neighborhood.

She recognizes her neighbors and wants to be friends. They want to be friends with her too.

But it can be hard for them to understand each other: Sam talks with her hands. Her neighbors talk with their words—though she notices, they rarely talk with each other.

Then one day, something wonderful happens that brings them all together.

With 21 ASL signs illustrated within and backmatter that goes into Sam's real childhood story that inspired the book.

Patricia McCormick is a two-time National Book Award finalist. She is the author of several critically acclaimed novels and picture books, including *Cut, Never Fall Down*, *The Plot to Kill Hitler*, *Sgt. Reckless*, *the True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero* and *Sold*, which was adapted into a feature film in 2016. She is also the co-author of *I am Malala*. According to the American Library Association, *Sold* was the number one most banned book in the U.S. in 2025. Her latest picture books are *The Bicycle*, a nonfiction picture book coauthored with Mevan Babakar, and *Sam's Neighborhood*, the story of how a little deaf girl taught her neighbors to sign. Her books have been named to the *New York Times* Notable Books list, *Publishers Weekly* Best Books list, NPR's Best Books list and iTunes Best Books lists.



This is Sam.

She loves her neighborhood.

Sam likes walking on the curb
like it's a balance beam, riding
her bike, and reading.

She always has her pink bunny with her.

THE FALAFEL WHO FELT AWFUL

Alan Silberberg

- ❖ Fans of Jory John will love this rollicking tale of a falafel who feels icky and will try ANYTHING to feel better!

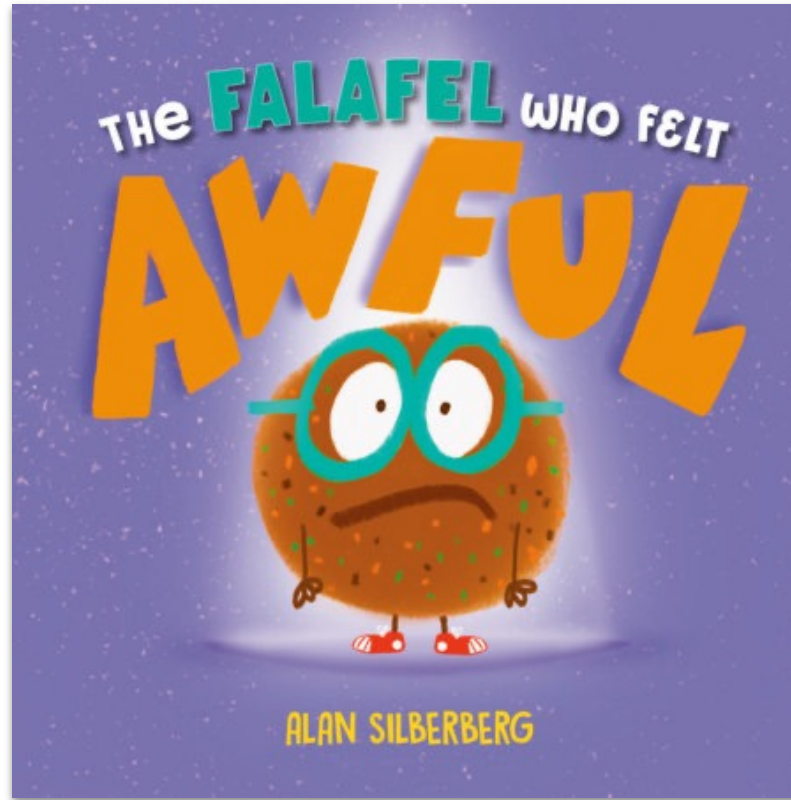
Praise for Alan Silberberg

“A full-blown kooky comedy.” – *The New York Times Book Review* on *Meet the Latkes*

“Readers who like their humor broad and goofy will lap this up, and Silberberg...makes it extra tasty with sprawling and genially messy cartooning that looks like it was created by someone hopped up on chocolate gelt.” – *Publishers Weekly* on *Meet the Latkes*

“Laugh-out-loud...A fun and silly purchase.” – *School Library Journal* on *Meet the Matzah*

“[Silberberg is] a regular bard of Jewish holiday foods.” – *Publishers Weekly* on *Latke’s First Hanukkah*



Do you ever have those days where everything is just awful? Falafel knows that feeling all too well. So the Grape Leaves suggest he go dancing. That always makes them feel better—maybe it will help him, too? No luck. What about zippy-dippy rides with the Pickles? Nope. Or even seeing a doctor, like the Pomegranates suggest! Nada. How will he ever stop feeling so awfully AWFUL?!

In this hilarious tale packed with very real emotions, young readers will learn that everyone has their own way to handle a case of the awfuls. And sometimes talking about those feelings is the first step to making even the ickiest, prickliest problem . . . a little less awful.

Alan Silberberg is an award-winning author, cartoonist, and children’s TV creator who has worked with Nickelodeon and Disney. He is the author of multiple Jewish holiday and food-themed books published by Viking: the picture books *Meet the Latkes*, *Meet the Matzah*, *Meet the Hamantaschen*, *The Bagel Who Wanted Everything*, and *The Falafel Who Felt Awful*; and the board books *Latke’s First Hanukkah* and *P is for Pastrami*. He will publish *Hanukkah Party Time*, a new original picture book with PJ Publishing, in 2027.

US: Penguin/Viking Books for Young Readers, January 2027
Ages 3-5
Page Count: 32

UK and translation rights handled by Penguin Young Readers

MEET THE TEAM



Jill Grinberg
President and
Literary Agent



Denise Page
Head of
Operations and
Assistant to Jill
Grinberg



Katelyn Detweiler
Literary Agent



Sam Farkas
Global Rights
Director and
Literary Agent