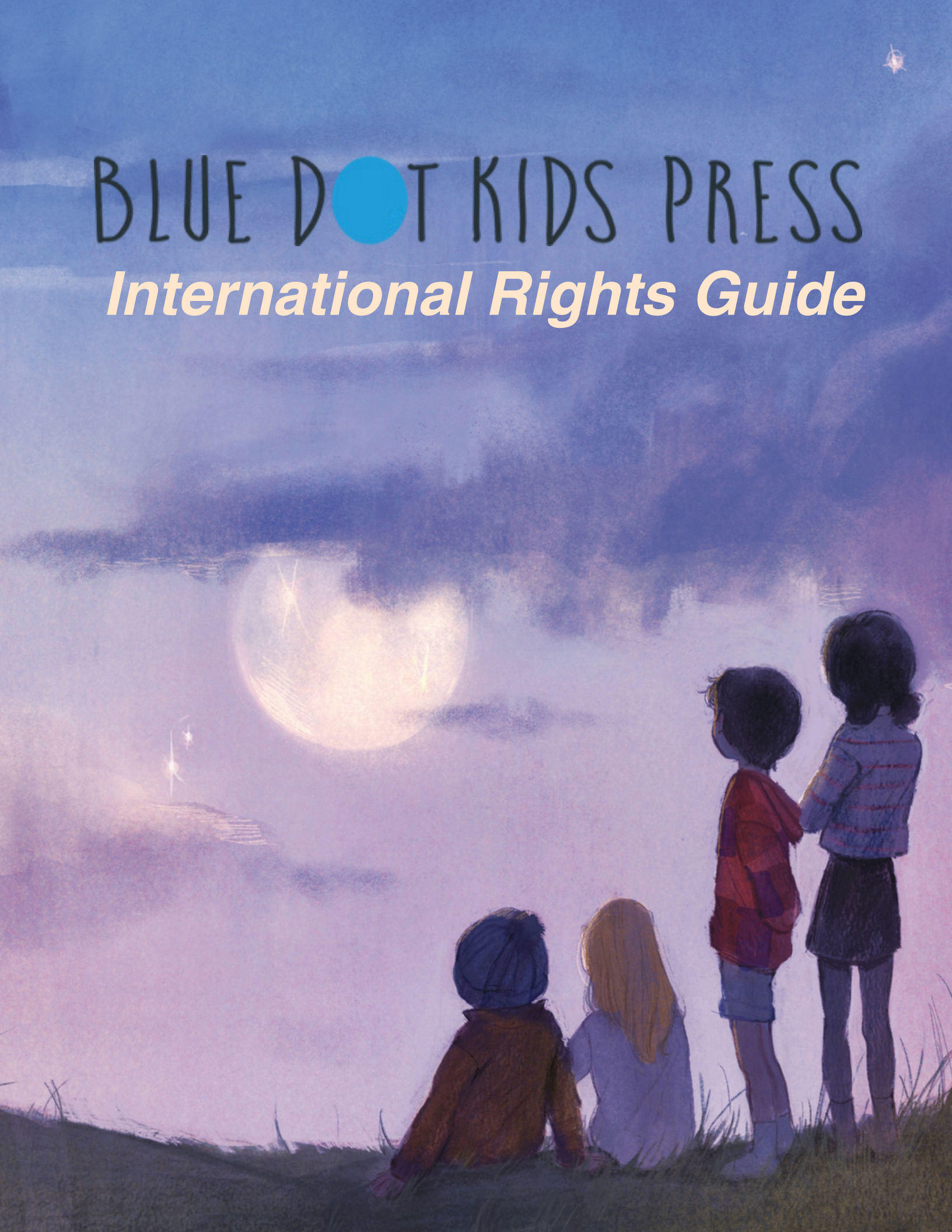


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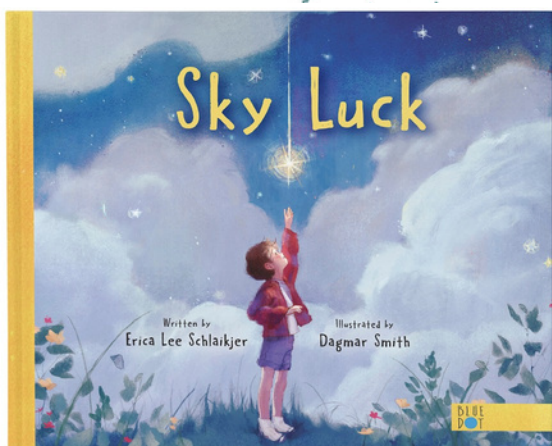
International Rights Guide



Sky Luck

Written by Erica Lee Schlaikjer | Illustrated by Dagmar Smith

A fresh way to
learn about abundant
thinking—and
nature's gifts—from
an Own Voices author.



Title: *Sky Luck*

Pub Date: September 30, 2025

Publisher: Blue Dot Kids Press

Themes: Meditation & Mindfulness,
Science & Nature, Values & Virtues,
Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance

Ages: 3 to 7 | **Grades:** Pre-K to Grade 2

Format: Hardcover Picture Book

Size: 9.44 x 10.62 inches | **Pages:** 32

ISBN: 9798989858866

For more information about
Blue Dot Kids Press, visit the website:
www.BlueDotKidsPress.com

Instagram: [@bluedotkidspress](https://www.instagram.com/bluedotkidspress)

Rights sold: Dutch and Danish



As friends gather to look for shooting stars, one boy discovers how to pay attention to what's here, not what's missing. From an Own Voices Award winner comes a magical picture book celebrating abundant thinking.

A dark night. Friends have gathered. One by one, they point out flames streaking across the sky. All but one boy. He sees an airplane, the Milky Way, a full moon, but no shooting stars. Frustrated by his bad luck, he gives up and goes inside.

His uncle sees things differently. He asks . . . What if we open our hearts to all the wonders in the sky? The bright and the quiet, the everyday and the once-in-a-lifetime. What if nature's gifts are all around, ready for us to recognize them? What if sky luck is infinite, and everywhere, for everyone?

Crisp, evocative text and lush, cinematic illustrations deliver an invitation to be mindful of our planet's never-ending treasures. A final spread reminds readers of the abundance of celestial surprises all of us are lucky to delight in.

"An inspiring picture book about gratitude and counting your lucky stars."

—*Booklist*

"[A] quietly lyrical invitation to understand how rewarding it can be to simply look up. A celestial insight, simple but profound."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

ABOUT AUTHOR

Erica Lee Schlaikjer grew up in cities around the world as a mixed-race "Third Culture Kid." She's lived in twelve cities on three continents—a true citizen of the world. She writes stories about the joy of belonging, the beauty of fleeting moments, and the wonders of nature. Her debut book, *Wild Greens, Beautiful Girl*, won the 2022 Own Voices, Own Stories Award. You can find her in Los Angeles with her husband, Nader, and their son, Dahoud.

ABOUT ILLUSTRATOR

Dagmar Smith is an illustrator based in Chicago, making her picture book debut with *Sky Luck*. She loved bringing this story to life, as her work explores themes such as finding beauty in the everyday and the love between family. When she's not doodling away in a café with a hot drink, Dagmar enjoys searching for her own luck with her calico cat, Penelope.



Books are printed on sustainably sourced FSC-certified paper with vegetable inks.
One percent of sales of all Blue Dot Kids Press books is donated to environmental causes.

Wide Open Spaces

Written by Robyn McGrath | Illustrated by Polina Gortman

BLUE
DOT

The power of
imagination and nature's
gifts shine in this funny
mindfulness STEAM
picture book.

Embark on a wild and whimsical road trip when a cramped family car transforms into a child's mindful, imaginative escape. With each mile, nature's wonders offer relief, turning restless moments into a journey of calm, curiosity, and learning the joys of paying attention to the present.

Gram's words echo in my ear, "Not long now."

So begins an epic journey to Grandma's house, squeezed in a car with four siblings, two parents, and one furry drooler named Daisy. Mile after mile, there are snack bags and bathroom breaks, curvy roads and upset stomachs, and "How much longer?" set on repeat.

I close my eyes and imagine . . .

What would it be like to dash like a roadrunner? Glide like an owl? Buzz like a bee? Stretch out wide in a natural, open space?

Focusing on the sights, sounds, and smells of the variety of environments outside the cramped car soothes the narrator's growing frustration. As they channel the calming power of mindfulness and the magnificence of nature, a tedious trip becomes sweet, silly, and even sublime.

Lyrical language and illustrations both hilarious and heartfelt tell the story of a journey made (nearly) as enjoyable as the destination. Along the way, readers will realize that a small shift in perspective can ease their own journey through the challenges and uncertainties that every day presents.

"McGrath's gracefully alliterative, child-friendly narration speaks to both the frustrations and joys of the family road trip; words and art meld for a spirited yet soothing tale of a youngster who acknowledges stress but still finds a way to appreciate nature."—*Kirkus Reviews*



Title: *Wide Open Spaces*

Pub Date: May 12, 2026

Publisher: Blue Dot Kids Press

Themes: Imagination & Play, Health & Daily Living, Meditation & Mindfulness, Multigenerational & Family, Science & Nature, Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance

Ages: 3 to 7 | **Grades:** Pre-K to Grade 2

Format: Hardcover Picture Book

Size: 10.5 x 9.0 inches | **Pages:** 32

ISBN: 9798989858842

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ABOUT AUTHOR

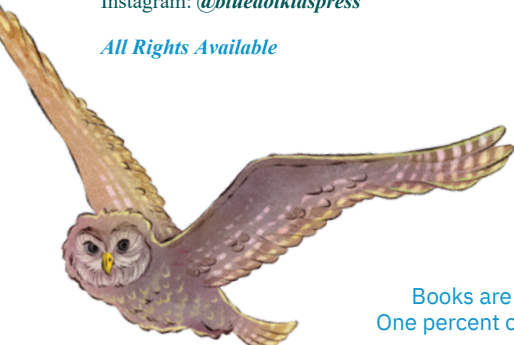
Robyn McGrath enjoys sleeping under the stars in her very own camper—Birdie! Her outdoor adventures spark her curiosity and inspire countless children's stories. When she is not camping, or writing, she works as a play therapist, helping children and parents regulate big emotions and find mindful moments. She lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, two children, a Labrador retriever, and a friendly cat they met camping. Visit her at robymcgrathwrites.com.

ABOUT ILLUSTRATOR

Polina Gortman is a children's book illustrator based near Seattle, Washington. Her artwork is an amalgam of digital watercolor, ink, and colored pencil. She enjoys drawing nature, kids, and animals. In her free time, she enjoys playing board games with her family and exploring the evergreen trails of the Pacific Northwest. Visit her at gortmanillustration.com.



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For Always Friends?

Written by Tootie Nienow | Illustrated by Katherine Ahmed

Speaks to every child who dreams of finding a best friend—and learning how to keep one.

When a new neighbor becomes a best friend, everything feels perfect—until a few hurtful words put that friendship at risk. *For Always Friends?* is a tender, relatable story about finding a best friend, making mistakes, and learning how true friendships grow stronger through kindness and forgiveness.

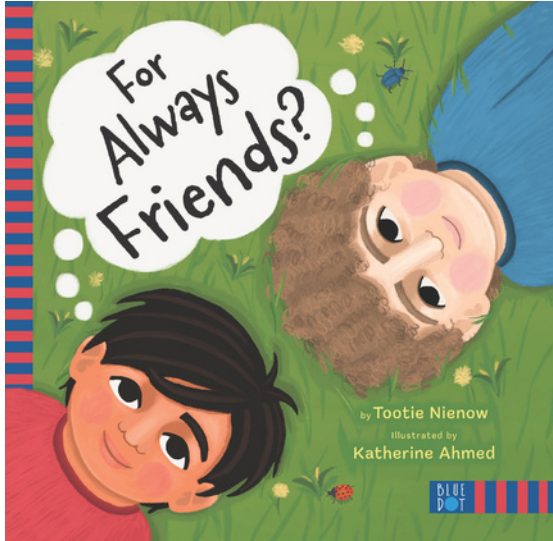
I watch your moving truck and dream.

I hope you're coming to meet me.

Two boys, both lonely, just *know* there's a new friend around the corner. In the moment it takes to knock on a door, the boys simultaneously imagine a bond to last forever. Back-and-forth dialogue brings to life a future full of bike rides, hideouts, secret codes, and handshakes. Time passes, the friends side-by-side, until . . .

Buddies make mistakes. Mean words can hurt. But best friends learn to navigate the ups and downs of a lasting friendship.

Poetic text and vibrant illustrations reveal how dreams can blossom into reality. Together, the boys manifest a friendship rooted in joy, kindness, and forgiveness . . . for always.



Title: *For Always Friends?*

Pub Date: September 29, 2026

Publisher: Blue Dot Kids Press

Themes: Friendship, Emotions & Feelings, Kindness, Moving

Ages: 3 to 7 | **Grades:** Pre-K to Grade 2

Format: Hardcover Picture Book

Size: 9.75 x 9.75 inches | **Pages:** 32

ISBN: 9798999567697

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ABOUT AUTHOR

Tootie Nienow has been a school librarian, teacher, photographer, mother, social worker, and soldier and is the author of *There Goes Patti McGee*, a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. She lives in Southern California and loves writing stories from her real-life experiences and things she totally makes up. Visit her online at www.tootienienow.com.

ABOUT ILLUSTRATOR

Katherine Ahmed was born and raised in New York and earned a BA degree in history and illustration at Eugene Lang College at The New School. In 2021, she was awarded the We Need Diverse Books Illustration Mentorship. She lives on the East Coast with her husband and two daughters. Visit her online at katherineahmedart.com.



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Roadside Garden

Written by Lola M. Schaefer | Illustrated by Amandine Thomas

*A fresh way to
see the beauty
blooming in
overlooked places
all around us.*

A picture book that invites children to pause and discover the beauty blooming in overlooked corners of everyday life. Through lyrical text and lush watercolors, *Roadside Garden* nurtures wonder and a lasting appreciation for nature's resilient gifts.

Along your road a garden grows. Step off and walk with us!
You may not have noticed them. Wildflowers are often overlooked and underappreciated. Some people even call them weeds! But stop a moment . . .

SEE the rainbow of petals.
HEAR the buzz of pollinators.
TOUCH the fluff of dandelion wishes.
SMELL the purple perfume of sweet peas.

There's a whole neighborhood of plants and animals to discover on the sidewalk, parking lot, playground, right outside your door. Once you've met these beautiful, resilient, unexpected creations by the artist we call Nature, you will wonder how anyone can consider them "unwanted."

Poetic text mixes with exuberant watercolors to create a read-aloud masterpiece. A sunshine dye activity at the back of the book invites you to join the roadside gardeners and make your own work of wild art.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Lola M. Schaefer is the author of more than 300 books for children. Awards include: The Children's Choice Book Award; Outstanding Science Trade Book; The Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book; and The Zena Sutherland Picture Book Award. She lives in the mountains of north Georgia where roadside gardens are in bloom March through October. When Lola is not at home researching her next book or writing, you might find her working with writers or students. www.lolaschaefer.com

ABOUT ILLUSTRATOR

Amandine Thomas is a French award-winning author and illustrator based in Melbourne, Australia. Through empowering stories illustrated in a playful style, she explores the themes she is passionate about, such as our environment—and the many ways in which it can inspire and amaze us—or the connections we foster with others, with ourselves and with the world around us. www.amandine-thomas.com

Title: *Roadside Garden*

Pub Date: April 20, 2027

Publisher: Blue Dot Kids Press

Themes: Science, Environment & Nature,
Flowers & Gardens, Plants & Rewilding,
Senses & Sensations, STEAM

Ages: 3 to 7 | **Grades:** Pre-K to Grade 2

Price: \$18.95 USD

Format: Hardcover Picture Book

Size: 10.5 x 9.0 inches | **Pages:** 32

ISBN: 9798999567666

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Lola M. Schaefer
Illustrated by
Amandine Thomas

ROADSIDE GARDEN



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