



FLUFFY AND THE STARS



T'ÁNCHÁY REDVERS

ILLUSTRATED BY
ROZA NOZARI

Fluffy and the Stars

Author: T'áncháy Redvers
Illustrator: Roza Nozari

August 15, 2023

In this heartfelt picture book imagining what happens when a beloved pet dies, a nonbinary child copes with grief and the loss of their best friend.

FORMAT

9 × 9"

32 pages

Hardcover

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PDF

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KEY SELLING POINTS

- The loss of a beloved pet is something many children and families experience. This story offers a gentle introduction to coping with grief.
- The story will resonate with readers of diverse beliefs and backgrounds.
- There is incidental representation through a nonbinary main character.
- T'áncháy Redvers has a master's degree in Indigenous social work and a background in mental health. They identify as two-spirit and Dene/Métis.
- In addition to her work as an artist, illustrator Roza Nozari is a registered social worker and therapist. She identifies as a queer, Muslim person of color.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN PAILLE

T'ÁNCHÁY REDVERS is a Dene/Métis two-spirit writer, creator, speaker, advocate and multidisciplinary performer belonging to Deninu K'ue First Nation in Treaty 8 territory. They have been nationally and internationally recognized for their work and advocacy across many forms. T'áncháy co-founded We Matter, a national Indigenous-led organization dedicated to Indigenous youth hope and life promotion. They have recently been enjoying screenwriting youth content for networks such as Apple TV+ and PBS Kids. T'áncháy can usually be found dreaming up diverse stories and cuddling on the couch with their partner and their dogs, Yákay and Mocha, in Tkaronto (Toronto).

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



PHOTO CREDIT: SARAH BODRI

ROZA NOZARI is a queer illustrator and writer of color. She is most known for her bold designs and diverse depictions of community and is a firm believer that we should all see ourselves meaningfully reflected in art. In her illustrations, she centers those often at the margins of the art world—BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ people, among others. Roza passionately illustrates on topics related to community, mental health and social justice. Through illustration, she envisions a world that is affirming, compassionate and uplifting to all. Roza lives in Tkaronto (Toronto) with her partner, her quirky dog named Bones and her bonus kid, Ollie.

PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

- Print and online advertising campaigns
- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca newsletters

BISACS

JUV039030 JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Death, Grief, Bereavement

JUV039060 JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Friendship

JUV002070 JUVENILE FICTION / Animals / Dogs

JUV060000 JUVENILE FICTION / LGBTQ+

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For more information or a review copy, please contact Kennedy Cullen at kennedy@orcabook.com

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AND
THE STARS

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ROZA NOZARI

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



Shay and Fluffy were *best* friends.
They did absolutely everything together.

They went for drives,



ran around the park,



played dress-up...



...and even brushed their teeth together!





Fluffy's favorite game was hide-and-seek.
Shay knew all of Fluffy's hiding spots.



Whenever Shay had a bad day,
Fluffy let Shay know that it's okay to be sad.



After Shay cried, Fluffy licked their salty face and then did something silly to make Shay laugh.



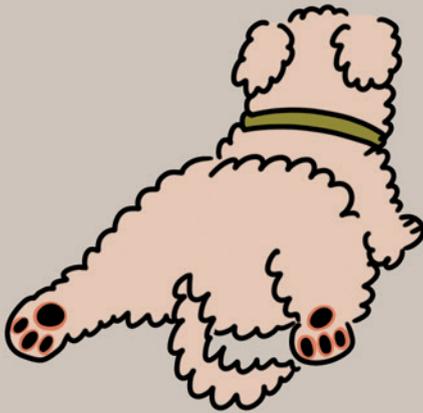
Even as they grew older, nighttime was scary for Shay because they were afraid of the dark. Fluffy had her own pillow next to Shay's and helped them feel safe.



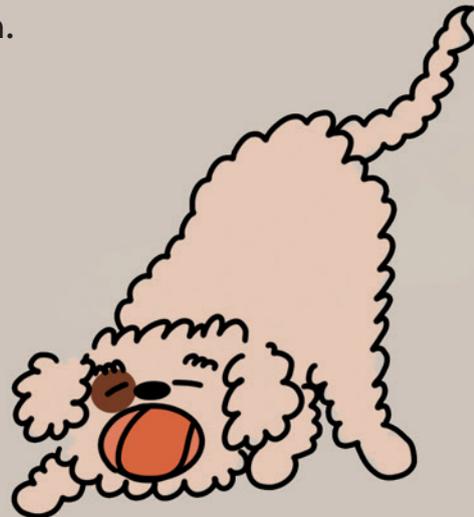
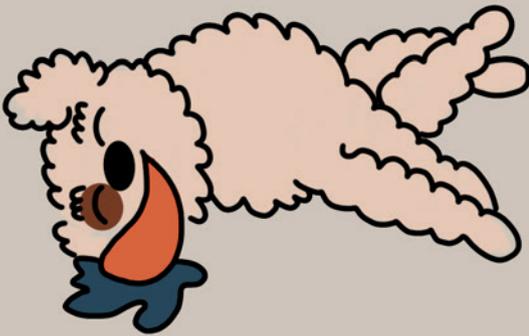
Fluffy didn't like thunderstorms because of the loud noises,
but Shay knew exactly how to comfort her.



With a lullaby and belly rubs! Fluffy never got tired of belly rubs.



When Shay went to school,
Fluffy waited patiently
for them to return.





And when Shay came home,
Fluffy always greeted them with
a toy and lots of excitement!



For years, Shay and Fluffy made each other very happy. Shay hoped they would be together forever.



But as Fluffy got older, she wasn't able to run as fast as she used to, or jump without Shay's help.





One day, after a visit to the veterinary clinic, Mom told Shay that Fluffy was sick. Shay would need to say goodbye to Fluffy.

Shay was very upset. It wasn't fair that Fluffy was sick! They wanted to take Fluffy far away from home so they could stay together.



Shay began to collect their things to run away.

But as they packed,
Fluffy sniffed her way
over to the backpack
and sat on top of it.



She put a paw on Shay's hand, and they looked each other in the eyes. Shay felt that Fluffy was trying to tell them something.



Shay realized how special their bond was. No matter what happened to Fluffy, Shay would always be able to remember the amazing times they had together.



Instead of saying goodbye, Shay thanked Fluffy for all the goofy fun, warm cuddles and treasured memories. In return Fluffy said “WOOF!” and gave Shay a sloppy kiss on the cheek.





The first morning when Shay woke up and Fluffy wasn't there, they felt heartbroken.





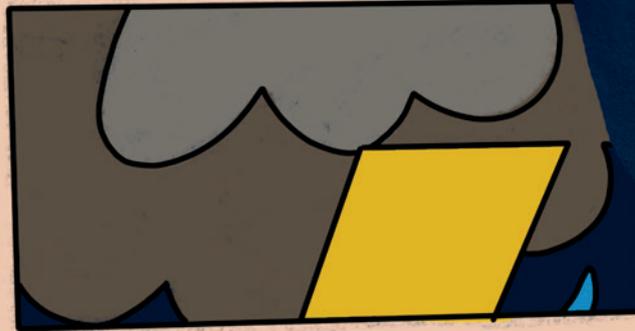
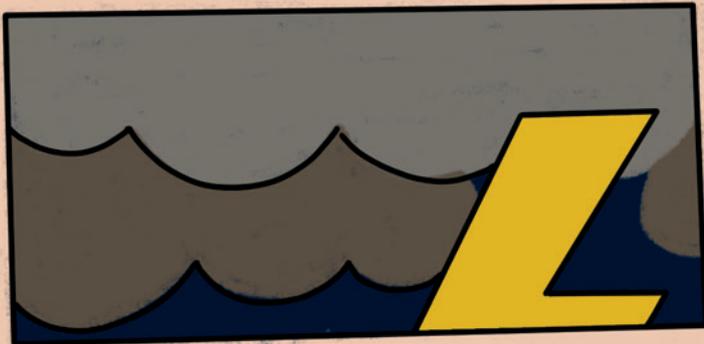
Mom reminded Shay that when you miss someone, it means you hold love for them in your heart. And that love stays with you forever.

As Shay and Mom gathered Fluffy's belongings, Shay decided to keep Fluffy's favorite toy.



Whenever Shay felt sad about missing their best friend, they gave the toy a squeeze and recalled a funny memory to lift their spirits. Like the time Fluffy ate all the cheese off Mom's slice of pizza!





Then one night during a thunderstorm, Shay had a dream that Fluffy was floating with the stars.



The stars were friends with Fluffy and sang her comforting lullabies. There were even planets that gave Fluffy endless belly rubs!



Fluffy had other friends with her too,
like Biscuit, Dixie, Scout and Prince!





They slept in comfy cloud beds,
played fetch with asteroids...



...and had the entire galaxy to play hide-and-seek in.



Most important, they all had each other.





Fluffy wagged her tail hello, and Shay woke up with the biggest smile. It made Shay feel good to know that Fluffy was safe and happy.



From then on, every night when stars
shone bright in the sky...





Shay looked up and thought of Fluffy and
her friends floating among the stars.

This book is dedicated to all the kids whose hearts have been touched by furry companions.
To my nieces, Chloe andayah, and their dearly departed Sammy.
To Tigger and my beloved Angel, who remain with me always.

—T.R.

For Bones, Lucky, Stella, Cali, Trinity, Sky, Coco, Buddy, Yàkay, Wee-Gee and Shadow.

—R.N.



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Summary: In this heartfelt picture book imagining what happens when a beloved pet dies, a nonbinary child copes with grief and the loss of their best friend.

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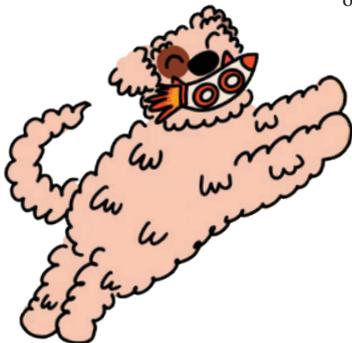
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Edited by Vanessa McCumber

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Even when you say goodbye, the love stays in your heart.

Shay and their dog Fluffy are best friends. Through the years they are each other's source of comfort and companionship in times of both sadness and joy. When Shay learns that Fluffy is sick and they must say goodbye, they feel angry and scared. But Fluffy offers a gentle reassurance—as she always has—and Shay reflects on the meaningful bond they have shared with their friend and the love for her that they will hold in their heart forever.

This heartfelt imagining of what happens when a beloved pet dies offers children a caring introduction to the emotions of grief and loss, from a perspective of love and healing.

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This is an advance reading copy of the uncorrected proofs and is not for sale. Changes may be made to the text before publication, so **all quotations for review must be checked against the final bound book.**

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