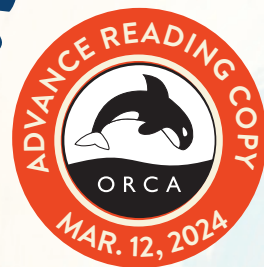


We're Happy You're Here

Julie
Wilkins

Illustrated by
Brady Sato



We wished. We hoped. We dreamed.

MANY SPECIAL PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN WELCOMING A NEW CHILD INTO A FAMILY:

parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, surrogates, midwives, doctors, doulas, therapists, social workers, financial planners, nutritionists, technicians and more. Everyone has their part to play, and it takes a lot of wishing, planning and training. But it's all worth it when we finally get to say, "We're happy you're here!"

With inclusive illustrations depicting diverse family journeys, including single parents, LGBTQ+ parents and a variety of family structures, this joy-filled picture book invites children and their special people to explore the meaning of family, community and the beautiful mix of science, wisdom and love that brought them together.

Julie Wilkins is a storyteller and entrepreneur. The owner of Little Bookshop, an independent bookstore where her passion for inclusive and diverse literature comes alive on the shelves, Julie is excited to be finding her own voice as an author. *We're Happy You're Here* is her first book. Julie lives in Squamish, British Columbia.

Brady Sato is a Japanese Canadian illustrator who specializes in digital illustration. They developed an appreciation for visual storytelling from watching TV shows and reading manga as a child in Japan. Brady studied visual narrative at TAD in Austin with Pixar artist Kelsey Mann. They are the creator of the popular webcomic *All That You Are* and the first picture book they illustrated, *Kunoichi Bunny*, was named one of New York Public Library's Best Books for Kids in 2022. Brady lives in Canmore, Alberta.

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We're Happy You're Here

Author: Julie Wilkins

Illustrator: Brady Sato

March 12, 2024

This inclusive picture book celebrates the joy of preparing to welcome a child, with contemporary illustrations depicting diverse families and their communities of support.

FORMAT

8.75 x 10.75"

32 pages

Hardcover

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\$21.95

PDF

9781459836495

EPUB

9781459836501

KEY SELLING POINTS

- There are many paths to becoming a family, and readers from a range of family experiences will find themselves represented in this inclusive picture book that gives nods to surrogacy, adoption, single parenting and alternative family structures.
- Thoughtful, simple text leaves room for readers to bring their own experiences and meaning to the story, while contemporary illustrations depict a variety of diverse families and the people who support them.
- Illustrator Brady Sato's first picture book, *Kunoichi Bunny*, was selected as one of NYPL's Best Books for Kids in 2022.

PHOTO CREDIT: ANGELA BLISS PHOTOGRAPHY



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

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

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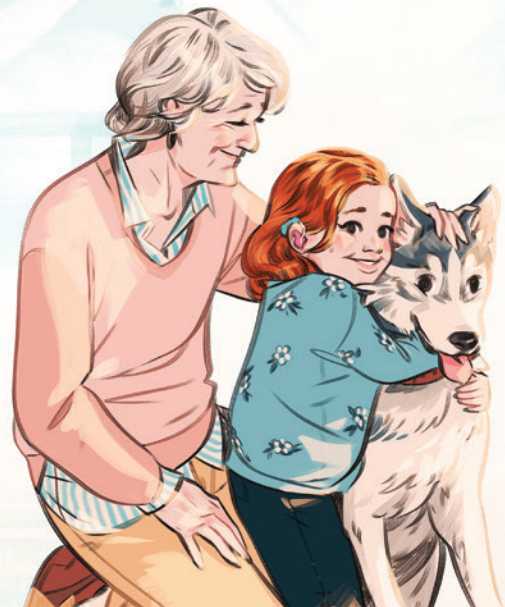
Julie Wilkins

Illustrated by
Brady Sato

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Dear Small Human,
Many special people did
many special things for you
to be here today.



We wished.



We hoped.



We dreamed.



We organized and planned.

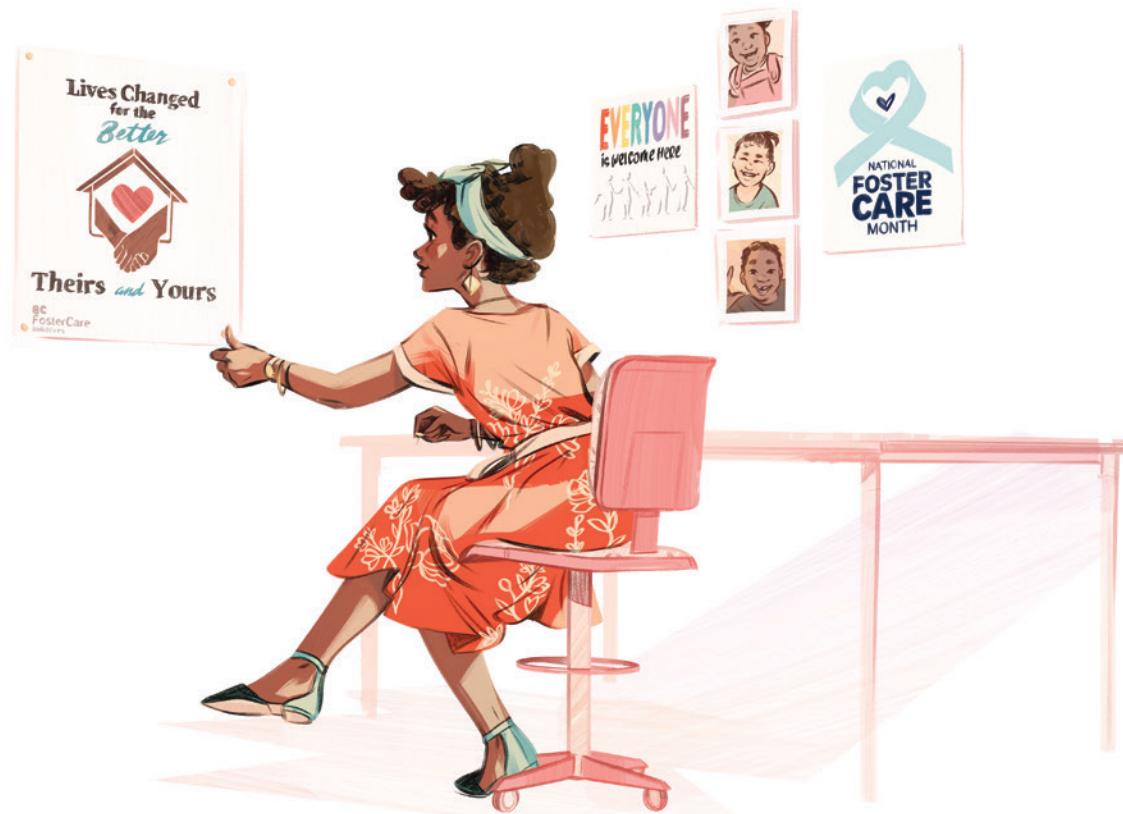




We prepared



for our big moment in your story.



We used our brains and hearts



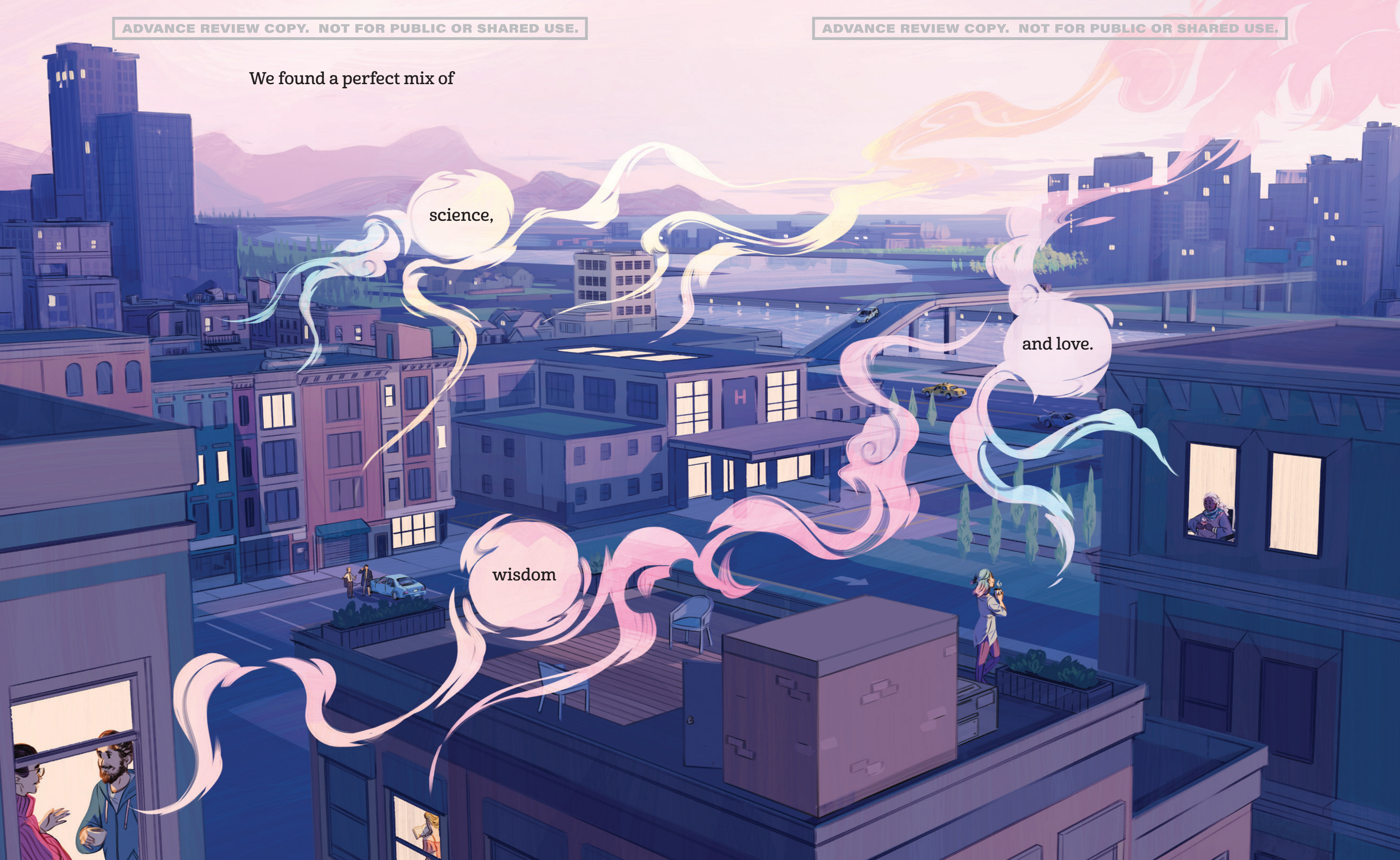
(and a few other parts).

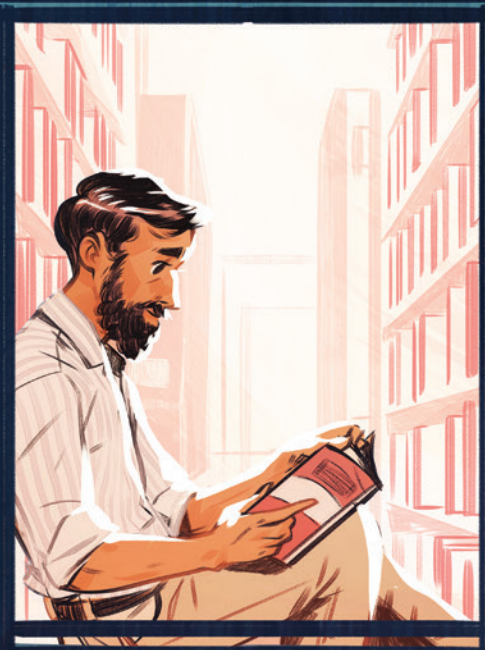
We found a perfect mix of

science,

and love.

wisdom





Everyone waited...



some more patiently than others.



Imagining,



counting



and caring.



Sharing our different strengths,
we all helped along your journey.



And we're oh so glad we did—
because YOU are a special person too.



Dear Small Human,

We're happy you're here.



It takes many special people to help a child grow, and every journey is unique! Let's talk about your story:

- Who are your many special people?
- Who helped before you were born? Who has helped since?
- What wisdom was shared along the way?
- What kinds of science were used?
- What makes YOU special?
- What special things do you do for the people you love?



This book is a nod to all littles, who are ultimately “a perfect mix of science, wisdom and love,” and the adults who help along the way.

Recently my best friend became a father to the most wonderful small human through a whole lot of wishing, planning and saving. Curt and Avery's journey involved friends, family, a surrogate, an egg donor, healthcare specialists, a financial adviser, doctors, nurses, lab technicians and many others. Their beautiful story continues within a community of shared wisdom and love.

The path to (and through) family life isn't always easy. And while I set out to create a book that shows the care, tenacity and expertise I witnessed along Curt and Avery's journey, I sure hope it resonates with small humans of all sorts—and their many special people.

—Julie Wilkins



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For Avery (and her many special people). —J.W.

Dedication to come. —B.S.



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Summary: This inclusive picture book celebrates the joy of preparing to welcome a child, with contemporary illustrations depicting diverse families and their communities of support.

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