



WORM AND CATERPILLAR ARE FRIENDS

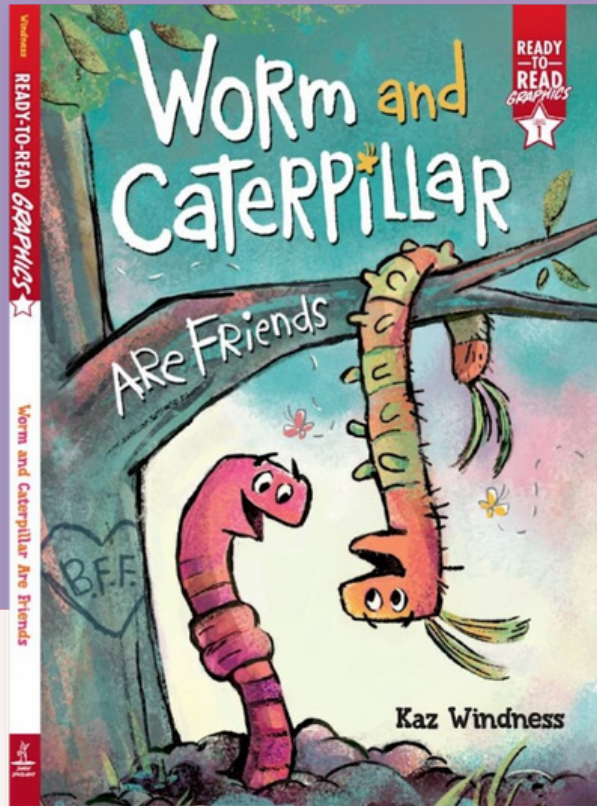
Media Kit

A Simon Spotlight Ready-to-Read
Graphics Level 1 Book for Ages 4-6



AVAILABLE IN
HARDCOVER
AND PAPERBACK
JANUARY 31, 2023

ABOUT



LENGTH: 64 PAGES
ISBN13: 9781665920001



Contact & Book Links

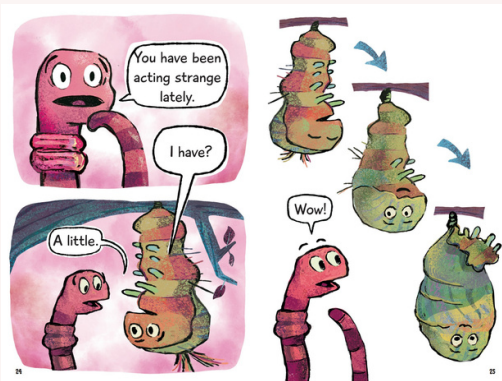
WORM AND CATERPILLAR ARE FRIENDS

celebrates the beauty of true friendship! Worm and Caterpillar are friends—best friends. Worm loves how they are just alike, but Caterpillar has a feeling there is a big change coming. Then Caterpillar disappears for a while and comes back as Butterfly. Will Butterfly and Worm still be friends?

Butterfly Lifecycle

Navigating Friendship Changes

Accepting Differences



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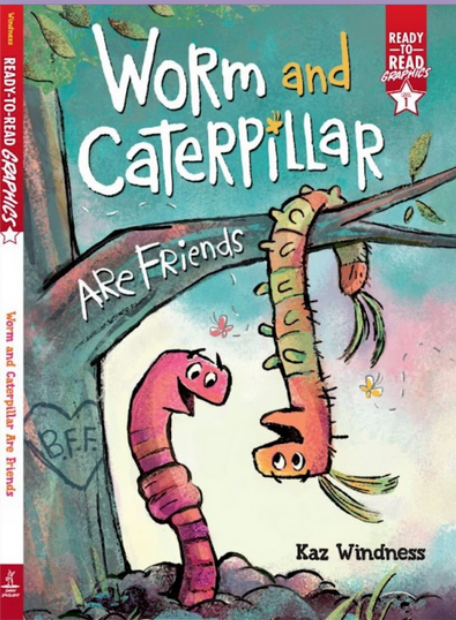
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Interview Questions



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WORM AND CATERPILLAR ARE FRIENDS

Simon Spotlight Ready-to-Read Graphics

WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA FOR THE BOOK?

In April of 2021, I was doodling a worm and a caterpillar and wondered what might happen if they fell in love. In the drawing, the worm expected the caterpillar never to change, and the caterpillar wanted the worm to grow with them. Everyone knows caterpillars change and worms don't, so I was sure the relationship was doomed from the start...unless these characters could find a way to love each other unconditionally.



THIS IS YOUR FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL. HOW WAS THE PROCESS DIFFERENT?

I started writing WORM AND CATERPILLAR in third person--the same way I wrote "Swim, Jim!" and "Bitsy Bat, School Star." I soon discovered that these characters wanted simple, direct communication, and I shifted from prose to script, knowing that the art would utilize speech bubbles and the illustrations would do the heavy lifting of explaining the story beyond the text. When Simon Spotlight asked for a graphic novel with panels, I was excited. I grew up on Garfield, Peanuts, and Calvin and Hobbes, so I used what I knew and loved about those comics to revisit this story as a graphic novel.

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART OF CREATING THIS BOOK?

The writing happened very quickly. That isn't usually the case for me, but these characters knew who they were and what they wanted to say right from the start. What was challenging was taking a 32-page picture book and expanding it into a 64-page graphic novel. That's twice the number of pages and a lot more illustrations because there are multiple panels on each page. Fortunately, the Simon Spotlight team had some great suggestions for where to expand the story and what pages could become double-page illustrations. A young graphic novel is the perfect format for this story.

THE BOOK IS ALREADY GETTING GREAT BUZZ. TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT.

Yes! WORM AND CATERPILLAR ARE FRIENDS isn't just my first graphic novel, it's my first Kirkus Star-Reviewed book! (That's a big deal in book circles!) It's also a Junior Library Guild Gold Star selection. I'm so very honored to be recognized by such respected voices in the kidlit world. I'm also hopeful that this will mean more kids will get access to the book at their schools and libraries. This book's message of friendship and acceptance is so very important, now more than ever.

2023

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Kaz Media Kit



Kaz Windness

≧AUTHOR-ARTIST-EDUCATOR-SPEAKER≦

ABOUT

Kaz is an award-winning, genre-crossing illustrator and author of 15 heart-warming and funny books for young readers. Proudly neurodiverse, Kaz specializes in character-driven books celebrating inclusivity, grit, and kindness. Kaz is celebrating 10 years of teaching and inspiring emerging writers and illustrators.

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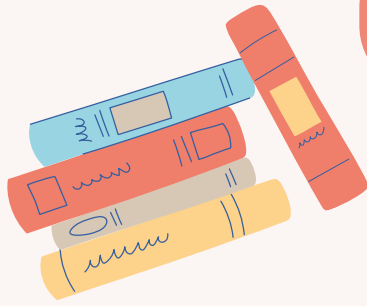


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Inspiring a new generation
of readers, writers, and
visual storytellers!



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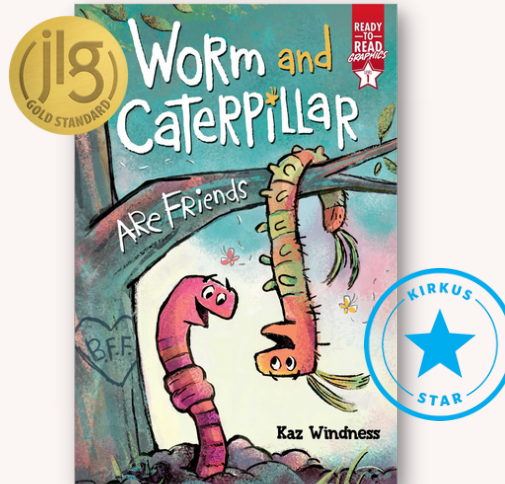


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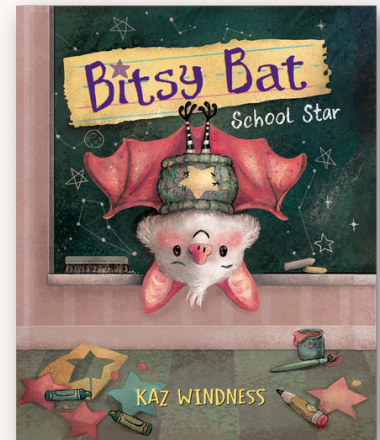
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JANUARY 2023

Kirkus Star Reviewed
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JUNE 2023

Autism Acceptance Book
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