

# BIOGRAPHIES

## NATASHA DONOVAN

Natasha Donovan is a Métis illustrator with a focus on comics and children's illustration. She has illustrated several award-winning children's books, including *The Sockeye Mother* by Brett Huson and the graphic novel *Surviving the City* by Tasha Spillett-Sumner. She has a degree in Anthropology from the University of British Columbia, and has worked in academic and magazine publishing. She currently lives in Bellingham, Washington.

## JESSIE SIMA

Jessie Sima is the author and illustrator of bestselling picture books, including *Not Quite Narwhal*; *Love, Z*; *Hardly Haunted*; and more. They grew up in a small town in southern New Jersey and now write and draw in a creaky house in New York state. When not making books, Jessie can be found reading graphic novels, watching scary movies, and playing outside with dogs. You can visit them online at [JessieSima.com](http://JessieSima.com).

## JOSE PIMIENTA

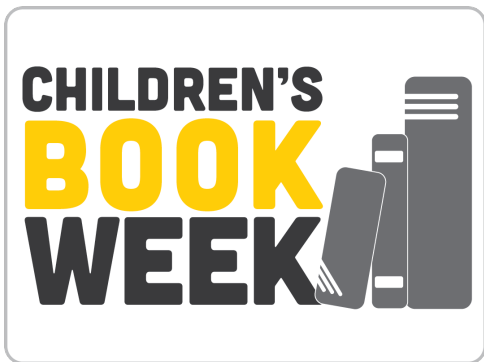
Jose Pimienta was raised in Mexicali, Baja California, and now resides in Los Angeles, CA, where they work on comics and storyboards for animation and film. *Suncatcher* was their debut YA graphic novel and ended on many 'Best of' lists. Their second graphic novel, *Twin Cities*, received four starred reviews, and Jose's work with students, in both English and Spanish, has made them a great guest at many schools across the US. In their stories, they focus on the importance of Latinx culture and the experience of growing up on the border.

## CHANTÉ TIMOTHY

Chanté Timothy is an illustrator who loves experimenting with movement, vibrant color, character design, and storytelling. Drawing for as long as she can remember, she's always been the kid who asked for paper and pen to entertain herself instead of playing with toys. Her debut graphic novel, *Supa Nova*, was named a Booklist Top 10 Debut Graphic Novel for Youth 2025 and winner of a Good Housekeeping 2025 Kids' Book Award.

## DR. JUDY STAVELEY

Dr. Judy Staveley is a scientist, educator, and children's book author committed to inspiring curiosity through storytelling. She is the author of *C Is for Crime Scene: A Forensics A to Z Book*, which introduces young readers to forensic science in a fun, accessible way. A former professor of anatomy, physiology, molecular biology, and forensic science, she is passionate about making complex subjects approachable. Through her writing and outreach, Dr. Staveley bridges literacy and hands-on learning, encouraging children from all backgrounds to see themselves as future scientists and innovators.



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## LAUREL SNYDER

Laurel Snyder is the author of many children's books, including *Endlessly Ever After*, *Orphan Island*, the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award winner *Charlie & Mouse*, and most recently *Shrinking Violet*. She lives with her family in Atlanta, GA.

## MEG EDEN KUYATT

Meg Eden Kuyatt is the neurodivergent author of the Schneider Family Book Award Honor-winning *Good Different*, and a creative writing instructor. When she isn't writing, she's probably playing Fire Emblem. If she could be a Pokémon, she'd be Charizard. Find her online at [megedenbooks.com](http://megedenbooks.com) or on Instagram at [@meden\\_author](https://www.instagram.com/meden_author).

## DIEGO VAISBERG

Diego Vaisberg is an illustrator and designer from Argentina. As art director at DGP Studio, he specializes in creating playful, imaginative visuals for books, toys, and games. Author of books like *Dino, a Pet Unlike Any Other* and *Amazing Insects Around the World*, Diego draws inspiration from his children to craft engaging stories that spark creativity and joy in young readers.

## MARIANA ALCÁNTARA

Mariana Alcántara Pedraza was born in Mexico City in 1991. She has won the 29th Illustrator's Catalog at the 2019 Encuentro Valladolid Ilustrado International Children's and Young Adult Book Fair in Spain, and 3rd Prize at the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival in 2018. Her work was included in *The White Ravens* Catalog in 2019. Her English-language publications include *Swimmers* and *Future*.

## LIAN CHO

Lian Cho is the award-winning author-illustrator of *Don't Eat Eustace*, *Pig Town Party* (recipient of the Society of Illustrators' Silver Medal), and *Oh, Olive!* Lian was born in Taiwan and spent a large part of her childhood in New Zealand. She has also illustrated other picture books, such as *100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli*, *Oh No, the Aunts Are Here*, and *It Began with Lemonade*. In her spare time, she likes to make funny comics about her life.

## TINI MALINA

Tini Malina engaged in a wide range of professional experiences before she finally found her way to picture book illustration. She loves creating small, unique worlds for equally small and unique creatures. Today she lives, writes, and illustrates in Saarland, Germany.