

Marla Frazee

In Every Life

Beach Lane Books • New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi

For my grandson, Arthur

In 1998, during a service at All Saints Church in Pasadena, California, I heard a call-and-response version of a Jewish baby-naming blessing and immediately felt its potential as a picture book. The original source of the poem is unknown, but it has been adapted and used widely in welcoming ceremonies of all kinds. I've revised and attempted to illustrate the blessing many times over the ensuing years, with no luck. It wasn't until the fall of 2020, when so many things about our world were upended, that I felt it was time to try again. I hoped to capture and honor what we all have in common, no matter who we are or where we live. And, during the time I was working on it, my first grandchild was born. —M. F.



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