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# INTRODUCTION

HAVE YOU EVER FELT LEFT OUT, MADE FUN OF, OR HURT BY SOMEONE ELSE'S WORDS OR ACTIONS? OR MAYBE YOU'VE WONDERED WHY SOME PEOPLE BULLY OTHERS? IF SO, YOU'RE NOT ALONE. BULLYING IS SOMETHING MANY OF US FACE, AND IT CAN MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH OR LIKE SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH YOU. BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT: THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU.

THIS BOOK, "THE BRAVE TALES", IS ALL ABOUT CHARACTERS WHO FACE BULLYING AND FIND A WAY TO OVERCOME IT. EACH STORY SHOWS THAT NO MATTER HOW TOUGH THINGS MIGHT SEEM, THERE IS ALWAYS A PATH TO VICTORY. WHETHER IT'S A STORK WHOSE STRANGE SOUND STIRS UP THE WHOLE PARK, A LITTLE SPROUT STRUGGLING TO GROW AMONG TALLER FLOWERS, OR A SURPRISING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN A GULL AND A GOLDFISH, EACH TALE IS FILLED WITH LESSONS ABOUT BRAVERY, KINDNESS, AND SELF-DISCOVERY.

I WROTE THIS BOOK BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE BULLIED. WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I FELT THE PAIN OF BEING BULLIED AND LEFT OUT. SOMETIMES, I EVEN BELIEVED THE MEAN THINGS PEOPLE SAID ABOUT ME. BUT OVER TIME, I LEARNED SOMETHING POWERFUL: THOSE WORDS DIDN'T DEFINE ME. I DISCOVERED MY STRENGTHS, AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU CAN TOO.

IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN BULLIED, THESE STORIES WILL REMIND YOU THAT YOU ARE STRONGER THAN YOU THINK AND THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE. IF YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO HAS EVER BULLIED OTHERS, I HOPE THIS BOOK INSPIRES YOU TO THINK DIFFERENTLY. NO ONE DESERVES TO BE BULLIED, AND CHOOSING KINDNESS MAKES THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE— FOR OTHERS AND FOR YOU TOO. THE CHARACTERS IN THESE STORIES GO ON INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS. THEY LEARN THAT THEY'RE NOT AS DUMB, WEAK, OR SMALL AS OTHERS MIGHT HAVE MADE THEM FEEL. THEY DISCOVER THEIR STRENGTHS AND SHOW THAT EVERYONE—YES, EVERYONE—CAN HAVE THEIR OWN BRAVE TALE.

SO AS YOU DIVE INTO THIS BOOK, REMEMBER: YOU ARE WORTHY, YOU ARE STRONG, AND YOU CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING. THESE STORIES ARE HERE TO INSPIRE YOU, MAKE YOU LAUGH, AND REMIND YOU THAT NO MATTER WHAT, THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE.

HAPPY READING,

ESTHER SUSANNE