When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?
Here’s a surprise… drawing and writing stories!

What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?
Math and eating liver and onions. I’ve never tried doing math while eating liver and onions… maybe the two negatives would cancel each other out and it would become a positive. Hey! I just did some math!

As a child, where did you dream of living?
I love living in Canada, so I don’t think I ever dreamed of living anywhere else, especially when I was a kid. I enjoyed all the different seasons.

What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?
I had a feeling I was good at drawing because I could make people laugh with my cartoons.

When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?
Someone who I had a lot in common with. Sometimes you meet someone and it just clicks, not that I really understood that in school. I just knew it worked.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
I think I was born to be doing what I do now but I don’t think I realized then that you could actually do something you love for a living. I thought at some point in life, you had to get real serious, put on a tie, and go and work in an office somewhere.

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What was your favorite book as a child?
I had many but I was always drawn to Dr. Seuss books. I rediscovered them when I read them again to my own kids. If I had to pick one, it would be *Green Eggs and Ham*, but I was kind of creeped out by the main character. I even had a nightmare about him once when I was a kid.

What is your favorite pastime now?
Oddly enough, my job is my hobby, but I also love hockey, movies, and hiking.

What do you find an absolute chore?
I still don’t enjoy math, so when I have to do the accounting part of my business, I don’t exactly look forward to it.

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?
I have two places at opposite ends of the spectrum. I love New York: the busy crowds, the fast pace, the energy, and the architecture. I also love Maui. I love the slow place, the beautiful scenery... it feels like home to me. It’s almost like you’re in a really great dream when you’re there.

What is the one talent you wish you had?
I wish I was a great singer... oh, that’s right. I am a great singer! But I don’t always have an appreciative audience.

What makes a good friend?
A good friend is someone who shares in your joy but also shares in your pain. You trust them and stand by them and they do the same for you. I think having a similar sense of humor is important too. There is just a connection there... you know what they are thinking. You know you have a good friend when you start finishing each other’s... pasta.

If you weren’t an author or illustrator, what job would you have?
I would probably be a teacher or something creative. I am at my happiest when I come up with a good idea. I would also have my own business. I like the idea of building something from nothing and making it work.

What children’s books have caught your attention lately?
There are so many to choose from. I am usually drawn to a book by the style of illustration. For example, the book *Anything Is Possible* by Giulia Belloni and Marco Trevisan really caught my eye last time I was at the bookstore. I also love Oliver Jeffers’s work as well as David Shannon, Shaun Tan, Michael Martchenko, and Renata Liwska. There are so many good Canadian illustrators and authors that I have been fortunate to meet as well.

If you had to have a motto, what would it be?
I think Henry Ford said this: “There are two kinds of people: Those who think they can and those who think they can’t. And they are both right.” I think if you believe you can do something, you can do it. I’ve experienced it firsthand. There is nothing like having an idea in your head and seeing it come true.