

# Marcie Colleen

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**Marcie Colleen** is a former classroom teacher turned children’s book author. She is the award-winning author of THE SUPER HAPPY PARTY BEARS chapter book series with Macmillan/Imprint, as well as picture books, LOVE, TRIANGLE, illustrated by Bob Shea (Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins), PENGUINAUT!, illustrated by Emma Yarlett (Orchard Books/Scholastic) and THE BEAR'S GARDEN, illustrated by Alison Oliver (Macmillan/Imprint). Her latest book, SURVIVOR TREE, illustrated by Caldecott Honor Winner Aaron Becker (Little, Brown) celebrates the real life story of a pear tree who survived the September 11th attacks and received FOUR STARRED reviews!

In 2018 LOVE, TRIANGLE was named a Bank Street College of Education’s Best Children's Book. And PENGUINAUT! was voted One Book Colorado for 2019! Celebrations were planned throughout Colorado and 75,000 copies of the book were distributed to every four-year-old in the state!

THE BEAR’S GARDEN, illustrated by Alison Oliver (Macmillan) was called “a well-illustrated, beautifully written tale of encouragement” by Kirkus and given a starred review.

Marcie is an expert on creating highly acclaimed Teacher’s Guides that align picture books and middle grade novels with the Common Core and state mandated standards. She is a frequent presenter at conferences for the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, as well as a faculty member for the Writing Barn, Storyteller Academy, and the University of California San Diego Extension. Her educational work in children’s literature has been recognized by School Library Journal, Publisher’s Weekly, and the Children’s Book Council.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in Education of English and Language Arts from Oswego State University and a master’s degree in Educational Theater from New York University.

In August 2021, Marcie joined Epic! Originals as a Senior Writer/Editor, creating comics and other prose for their digital platform.

Although she will always be a Brooklynite at heart, Marcie lives in San Diego, California with her husband—artist Jonathan Lopes—and their mischievous sock monkey.

## Picture Books:

*Survivor Tree* illustrated by Aaron Becker, Little, Brown BYR, published August 31, 2021

*The Bear's Garden* illustrated by Alison Oliver, Imprint/Macmillan, published March 24, 2020

*Penguinaut!* illustrated by Emma Yarlett, Orchard/Scholastic, published October 30, 2018

*Love, Triangle* illustrated by Bob Shea, Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins, published October 3, 2017

## Chapter Book Series:

*My Pet Slime: DIY Diaries #1* (Epic! Originals January 10, 2022)

*The Super Happy Party Bears #1: Gnawing Around* (Imprint/Macmillan Sept 6, 2016)

*The Super Happy Party Bears #2: Knock Knock on Wood* (Imprint/Macmillan Sept 6, 2016)

*The Super Happy Party Bears #3: Staying a Hive* (Imprint/Macmillan March 14, 2017)

*The Super Happy Party Bears #4: Going Nuts* (Imprint/Macmillan March 14, 2017)

*The Super Happy Party Bears #5: Bat to the Bone* (Imprint/Macmillan Aug 15, 2017)

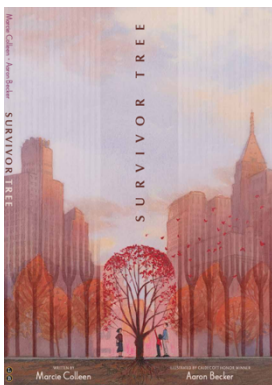
*The Super Happy Party Bears #6: The Jitterbug* (Imprint/Macmillan Aug 15, 2017)

*The Super Happy Party Bears #7: Tiny Prancer* (Imprint/Macmillan Sept 5, 2017)

*The Super Happy Party Bears #8: Cruising for a Snoozing* (Imprint/Macmillan March 13, 2018)

## Praise for Marcie's Books:

### *Survivor Tree*



Through simple, tender text, readers learn the life-affirming story of a Callery pear tree that grew and today still flourishes 'at the foot of the towers'...Hazy, delicate watercolor-and-colored pencil artwork powerfully traces the tree's existence...A lovely 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute to the towers and all who perished-and survived.

– **KIRKUS Starred Review**

A sensitive, accessible entry point into a relatively recent tragedy. –  
**Publisher's Weekly Starred Review**

Eloquent...a moving history and tribute to resilience – *Booklist Starred Review*

*Survivor Tree* which marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11, is like its subject; a stately monument to resilience. - *Shelf Awareness Review*

A story of history and hope, of tragedy and resilience. - *Midwest Book Review*

While there have been several books to date about the Survivor Tree, this one is particularly well suited to young audiences and perfectly reflects the book's dedication: "May peace and hope grow from the darkest of our days. - *The Horn Book Starred Review*

### ***The Bear's Garden***



A well-illustrated, beautifully written tale of encouragement...  
– *Kirkus Starred Review*

Seamlessly marrying truth and imagination, this charming story reminds readers of the importance of one person's care and as well as the power of community." – *Bookroo*

an affectionate ode to a community garden. - *Publishers Weekly*

This charming picture book celebrates the joy of working together to create beauty in surprising places. - *A Mighty Girl, (Making an Impact: 35 Mighty Girl Books About Charity and Community Service)*

Inspired by the real Pacific Street Brooklyn Bear's Community Garden, this story is a sweet reminder of how powerful communities can be when they come together to create something beautiful. - *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (BCCB)*

Colleen's text captures the hope, humor, and love of the protagonist. A great addition to the growing urban gardens genre, and a good general purchase. - *School Library Journal*

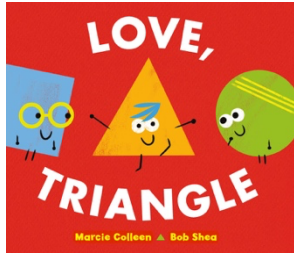
### ***Penguinaut!***



This empowering story is conveyed beautifully with simple text that's distinguished by gentle wordplay and remarkable mixed-media illustrations. A funny and sharp story with nuance. - *Kirkus Reviews*

A fun, unsentimental adventure in friendship and independence. - *Booklist*

## **Love, Triangle**



A happy marriage of funny (and almost nonstop) geometric wordplay (“Circle and Square’s friendship was bent out of shape”) and Shea’s freewheeling cartooning. - *Publisher's Weekly*

A cautionary tale for young readers, this book gives new insight into developing relationships while bringing new acquaintances into a friendship circle. A solid general purchase for all libraries. - *School Library Journal*

Sophisticated - *Kirkus*

A geometric romp full of word play and colorful pop art cartooning. - *Bank Street College of Education*

### **The Super Happy Party Bears series**



"Colleen has created a series that is funny, charming and upbeat. Bright, cartoon-style art adds to the humor and appeal. Short, fast-paced chapters will keep new readers engaged." - *School Library Journal*

"The pure delight of the story will easily draw youngsters in and probably turn a few grumpy frowns upside down." -*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (BCCB)*

### **Honors and Awards:**

*Survivor Tree* received a Nerdy Award from the Nerdy Book Club for Best Nonfiction Picture Book of 2021

Marcie Colleen named the 2019 APPLE Celebration of Reading Author, Henderson, Nevada

*Penguinaut!* named One Book Colorado 2019

*Love, Triangle* was a Bank Street College of Education Best Children’s Book of the Year (2018 edition) in the 5-9 Humor Category

*Love, Triangle* was a finalist for the 2018 Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrator’s Crystal Kite Award for the California/Hawaii Region

**Press:**

Listen to Marcie Colleen on the LB School & Library Podcast

<https://soundcloud.com/user-419678114-286926981/marcie-colleen-on-survivor-tree>

Five Questions for Marcie Colleen and Aaron Becker - The Horn Book

<https://www.hbook.com/story/five-questions-for-marcie-colleen-and-aaron-becker-2021>

The Children's Book Podcast interview (*The Bear's Garden*)

<https://www.matthewcwinner.com/post/marcie-colleen-581>

Kidlit TV's Storymakers episode with Marcie Colleen

<https://kidlit.tv/2018/03/storymakers-with-marcie-colleen/>

All the Wonders Podcast Interview with Matthew Winner

<http://www.allthewonders.com/podcasts/marcie-colleen-all-the-wonders-episode-320/>

Marcie Colleen Invites Young Readers to Her Super Happy World of Children's Books, Huffington Post article

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/marcie-colleen-invites-young-readers-to-her-super-happy\\_b\\_57b4b41fe4b07c799cb073d9](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/marcie-colleen-invites-young-readers-to-her-super-happy_b_57b4b41fe4b07c799cb073d9)

'Penguinaut' named 2019 One Book Colorado selection, The Denver Channel

<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/lifestyle/family/penguinaut-named-2019-one-book-colorado-selection>

**Presenter/Speaking Engagements**

Eat Dessert First! How Play Inspires New Inquiry in Young Writers, roundtable, NCTE National Convention, Baltimore, MD, November 2019

Apple Partnership Celebration of Reading, Henderson, NV, September/October, 2019

Seattle Children's Book Festival, Seattle, WA, September 2019

San Diego Festival of Books, San Diego, CA, August 2019

nErDcamp Event, Del Amo Barnes & Noble, Torrance, CA, July 2019

nErDcamp So Cal, Torrance, CA, July 2019

Tips for Creating a Satisfying Resolution (breakout session); Creating Educational Materials to Sell More Books (breakout session); and What Training for the NYC Marathon Taught Me About Writing (opening keynote), Writers Who Run Retreat, Dillard, GA, June 2019

The Traditional Path to Children's Book Publishing (panel), San Diego Writers Festival, San Diego, CA, April 2019

Kern County Young Authors' Fair, Kern County Reading Association, Bakersfield, CA, March 2019

Dreaming of Picture Books: Surefire Storytime Strategies, California School Library Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA, February, 2019

Writing Chapter Books (featured guest speaker), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, San Diego, CA, January 2020

Help! I'm on Draft 39! (breakout session); Party Bear Self-Care: How to Stay Positive and Productive on this Publishing Path (closing keynote), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Midsouth Conference, Franklin, TN, September 2018

The First Steps to Finding an Agent (presentation), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Madison, Wisconsin, June 2018

Picture Book Workshop (full day), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Central/Coastal California, Thousand Oaks, CA, June 2018

Authors' Panel, nErDcamp, Hesston, KS, June 2018

LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA, April 2018

Writing Picture Books (live panel), WriteOnCon, online, February 2018

Explore Imagination through Pretend Play (workshop), WNY Children's Book Expo, Buffalo, NY, November 2017

Unforgettable Characters (panel moderator), Brooklyn Book Festival, Brooklyn, NY, September 2017

Children's Book Panel, Fall for Writing Conference, San Diego Writers' Ink, San Diego, CA, September 2017