



Everyday
Adventures
with **Molly**
& dyslexia

MOLLY Finds a Way



free spirit
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by Krista Weltner

MOLLY Finds a Way

A Book About Dyslexia
and Personal Strengths



by Krista Weltner

free spirit
PUBLISHING®

The logo for Free Spirit Publishing, featuring a yellow gift box with a red ribbon and a red swirl.

Special thanks to the entire team at Free Spirit Publishing, my Fabulous Critique Group, Christopher Miller, Fernette and Brock Eide, and the Oregon and Dallas branches of the International Dyslexia Association for all your support and help in making my dream a reality.



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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Weltner, Krista, author, illustrator.

Title: Molly finds a way : a book about dyslexia and personal strengths / by Krista Weltner.

Description: Huntington Beach : Free Spirit Publishing, 2024. | Series: Everyday adventures with Molly & dyslexia ; book 3 | Audience: Ages 4–8.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023022105 (print) | LCCN 2023022106 (ebook) | ISBN 9798885540315 (hardback) | ISBN 9798885540322 (ebook) | ISBN 9798885540339 (epub)

Subjects: CYAC: Dyslexia—Fiction. | Friendship—Fiction. | Problem-solving—Fiction. | BISAC: JUVENILE FICTION / Neurodiversity | JUVENILE FICTION / Imagination & Play | LCGFT: Picture books.

Classification: LCC PZ7.1.W43563 Mo 2024 (print) | LCC PZ7.1.W43563 (ebook) | DDC [E]—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023022105>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023022106>

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Edited by Cassie Sitzman

Cover and interior design by Colleen Pidel

Free Spirit Publishing

An imprint of Teacher Created Materials

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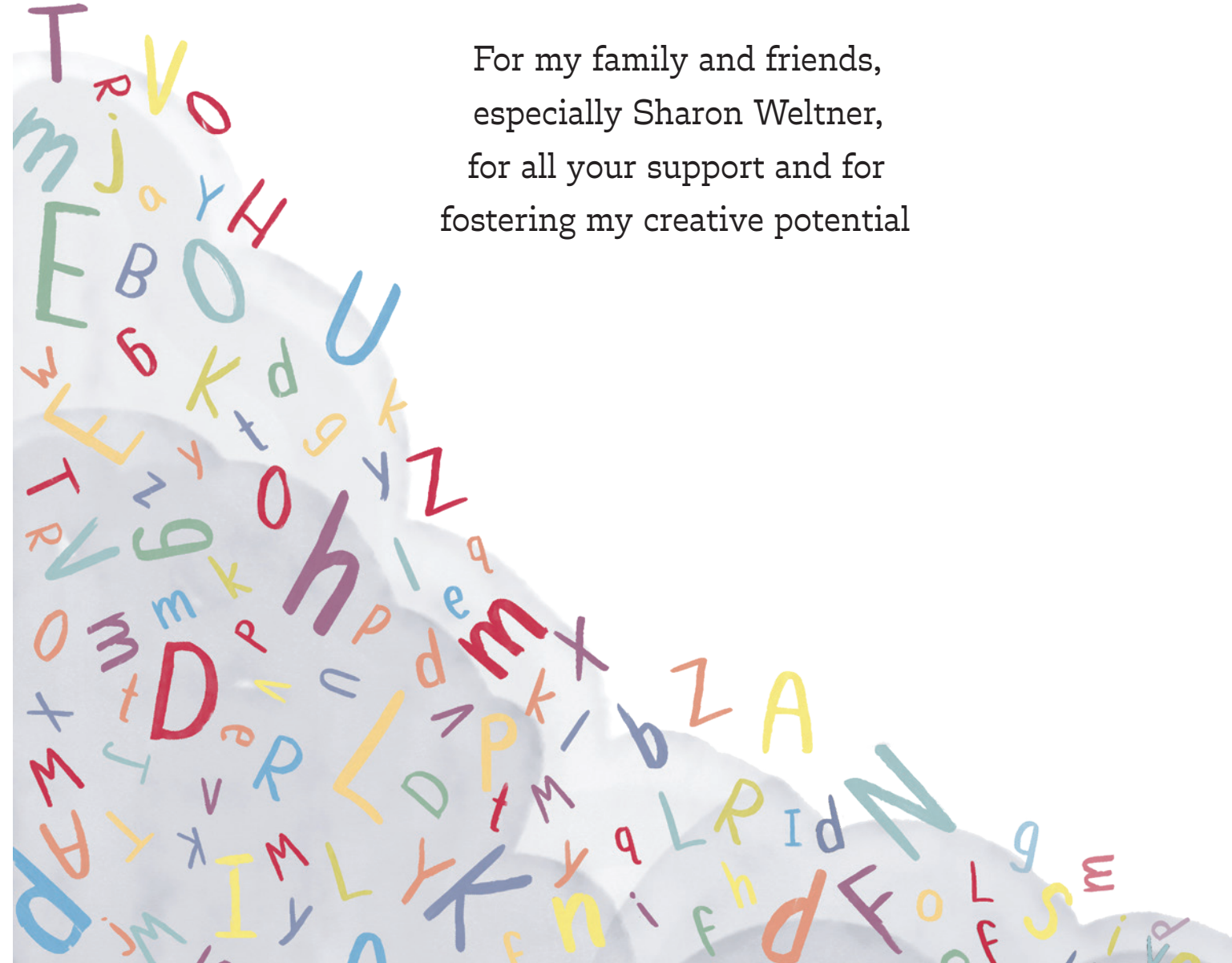
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For my family and friends,
especially Sharon Weltner,
for all your support and for
fostering my creative potential



Molly's friend Leeann is coming to play.

"Yay! Leeann brought Izzy!" Lexi exclaims.

"Leeann doesn't go anywhere without Izzy," Molly says, "just like I don't go anywhere without you."



Molly and Leeann have something big in common. They both have dyslexia and get extra help at school learning to read, write, and spell.



But dyslexia also helps Molly and Leeann be extra creative and smart.



Leeann is curious and loves to learn about bugs, insects, and science.

Molly is inventive and is fascinated by art and the colorful drawings in her picture books.

A Note to Readers

A friend once challenged me to draw my dyslexia as a character for an illustration contest. I drew an image of a girl, squished into a desk, happily working with her dyslexia—a purple cloud of alphabet letters with a face and big glasses. I began to imagine my dyslexia with a personality and spirit. What would I say to her? This became the inspiration for the characters Molly and Lexi. I wanted to create a series that could help you explore how you feel about your own differences, especially if you are dyslexic.

Today, I would tell my dyslexia how much I love and appreciate her. I would thank her for making me strong, creative, and intelligent, and for being such a big part of my life. But I didn't always appreciate being dyslexic.

Seven-year-old me would have had a much different conversation with her learning difference. I would have told my dyslexia how frustrated she made me. I might have even told her to go away and leave me alone and that I wished she didn't exist. But dyslexia isn't a temporary condition or something that can be wished away. Dyslexia is a huge part of who I am. I now know how important it has been in my success as an author and artist, and how much better life is when you love all the parts of yourself. I wish I had felt kinder toward my learning difference as a kid. I hope you enjoy this series and learn to love all your wonderful differences, whether you're dyslexic or not. I hope you learn to appreciate the many ways you and your friends and classmates learn and see the world. I hope you celebrate your triumphs and your challenges. And I hope you know how brilliant you are and how your differences are part of what makes you wonderfully you.

—Krista

A Word About Terms

You may have heard dyslexia referred to in a variety of ways. In this series, I use terms like *dyslexic*, *dyslexia*, *learning difference*, *invisible difference*, and *learning disability*. All people have a right to choose how they want to talk about their differences and the words they are comfortable with. The terms in this series may not work for everyone, and people's preferences can vary based on where they live and the communities they are part of. I chose to describe Molly as “being dyslexic” as well as “having dyslexia.” For me, it is essential to include identity-first language because it emphasizes how Molly's dyslexia is a core part of her. These terms reflect how I speak about my own dyslexia as well.



Learn More About Dyslexia

The International Dyslexia Association (dyslexiaida.org)

Dyslexic Advantage (dyslexicadvantage.org)

The Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity (dyslexia.yale.edu)