

FRIZZY LIZZY

BY AUTHOR LIZ LEONARD

In the first book of the Frizzy Lizzy series, Lizzy and her sisters find themselves lost during a family hike. Faced with the daunting task of finding their way home, Lizzy steps up, using her sharp wit and trusty pocketbook to navigate the challenging situation. Targeted at young children, "Frizzy Lizzy" teaches valuable life lessons about preparation, trusting one's instincts, and learning from challenges. Paired with the captivating illustrations of Katherine Hillier, the stories inspire children to be proactive, creative problem-solvers, and most importantly, to become their own heroes.

The "Frizzy Lizzy" series is a testament to the power of resourcefulness and the magic of everyday adventures. It's sure to captivate young readers, encouraging them to engage their imaginations and teaching them that they can overcome anything with a little creativity and courage.

BOOK REVIEW

The enchanting cover of "Frizzy Lizzy" hinted at the greatness within, and it didn't disappoint. The captivating illustrations vividly portrayed the characters, infusing life and personality into them. The story's cuteness, seamless flow, and delightful rhyming made it a joy to read, captivating my young daughter with Frizzy Lizzy's unique charm. The book's essential message of celebrating individuality left a lasting impression. It's a heartwarming reminder that being different can be a source of strength and kindness.

As a parent, I was transported back to my own childhood, relishing the nostalgic feeling this fantastic children's book evoked. We eagerly anticipate diving deeper into Lizzy's world, as this book served as a charming introduction to her adventures. It's clear that the series promises more heartwarming lessons and captivating tales. "Frizzy Lizzy" is not just a great children's book; it's a treasure that instills valuable values and brings joy to both kids and parents. We can't wait to continue this enchanting journey.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'FRIZZY LIZZY' TODAY. AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE DELIVERY ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK FORMAT.



LIZ LEONARD

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

Liz Leonard's journey as a passionate storyteller and creative professional is a compelling narrative that adds depth and richness to the literary landscape. Residing in the vibrant state of New Jersey with her husband, daughter, and loyal dog, Liz's artistic foundation is rooted in her attainment of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University. This educational background serves as the springboard for her immersive exploration into the realms of animation, film, and television, where she skillfully draws inspiration from the well of her own childhood experiences.

Beyond her roles as an artist, Liz wears the hat of an executive at a global hotel brand, seamlessly blending her creative passion with her corporate pursuits. Her position not only enables her to contribute to the world of storytelling but also allows her to satisfy her love for travel, a thematic element that often finds its way into her narratives. Adding another layer to her diverse experiences, Liz has dedicated her time to volunteer work with a non-profit organization, leading her on multiple journeys to West Africa. This altruistic engagement not only underscores her commitment to making a positive impact

but also contributes to the tapestry of stories she weaves.

The intricacies of Liz's background, coupled with the complexities of her childhood and the transformative experience of parenthood, serve as the fertile ground from which her enchanting stories sprout. The "Frizzy Lizzy" series, a testament to her storytelling prowess, artfully blends early memories with recent adventures, creating a mosaic of tales that captivate and impart valuable life lessons to young readers.

Liz Leonard collaborates with illustrator Katherine Hillier, based in Northamptonshire, England. Katherine's academic journey shapes her unique illustration style, drawing from nature and urban chaos. Together, they form a dynamic duo seamlessly blending words and images, creating works that entertain and resonate across diverse readership, offering a delightful exploration into imaginative realms.

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THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR LIZ LEONARD

Q: Your children's book, "Frizzy Lizzy," is filled with heartwarming adventures for young readers. Can you tell us more about the inspiration behind the character Lizzy and the stories in the series?

Frizzy Lizzy was inspired by my childhood in the 90s and my personal experiences while growing up with a complicated family dynamic. The character is based on me but also embodies aspects of my frizzy-haired, daughter's personality. She is meant to be relatable and possesses characteristics that I hope resonate with all.

Q: "Frizzy Lizzy" teaches young children valuable life lessons about preparation, trusting instincts, and learning from challenges. Why do you think it's important to impart these lessons through storytelling?

Like Mary Poppins, Frizzy Lizzy always seems to have the right thing in her purse at the right time. This allows her to relax, thrive and be confident. Preparedness, trust of instincts and intuition are critical aspects of daily life that we must impart upon our children – especially in the complicated world of today. A teacher we recently worked with posted an amazing reel on Instagram sharing how she incorporated these items in her lesson plan. She explained that the theme of preparation resonated with her students and that she always tells them "It's better to have it and not need it, then to need it and not have it." I think that sums it up perfectly.

Q: As an author, how do your own childhood experiences and your journey into parenthood influence the stories you create for children?

All details and characters within the Frizzy Lizzy series are intricately and collaboratively developed based on my childhood. Yet, it is without a doubt that they will continue to evolve as I dive further into parenthood. As parents we always want our children have a better life than we did but that is becoming increasingly challenging as the analog world shifts further away. It is critical for our children to leverage technology, but it is also equally important to ensure that they can survive without it. This dichotomy has and continues to be a driver and influence in my books.

Q: "Frizzy Lizzy" is targeted at children aged 4-8. How do you approach writing for this specific age & keeping them engaged?

Well, that's the easy part – I use my daughter, nieces and nephew as my test subjects! I also collaborate with a lot of parents and teachers across the United States to gather feedback and to gauge their young readers interests.

Q: The stories in the "Frizzy Lizzy" series inspire children to be proactive and creative problem-solvers. Why is fostering these qualities in young readers important to you as an author?

Problem solving or what some may refer to as "street smarts," are extremely important to instill in our

children. I think these necessary skills help us succeed in all aspects of life whether it be in school, work, or in social situations.

Q: The book is beautifully illustrated by Katherine Hillier. Can you share your collaboration process with the illustrator and how it enhances the storytelling?

In terms of the illustrations, I chose to collaborate with the extremely talented, Katherine Hillier because her artistic style is very similar to mine... or what I wish mine was like! I wanted the book to be different, to have some edgy undertones, and many layers of content for discussion. As an avid storyteller who studied animation and film in college, the visuals in the book were the most important part. I created the storyboards and developed every detail with Katherine down to the character's footwear. There are also a lot of easter-eggs planted in the story that serve as an homage to things like my love of Italian combos or my pets, who've passed away. The writing was intentionally simple to allow the reader to dive into the imagery and to leave room for discussion. I know kids don't use pay phones or paper maps - but that's the point. I felt it was important for these items of the past to be discussed. The illustrations don't just enhance the book, they are very much the focus of the book and that was purely intentional.

Q: You have a diverse background that includes your work in the creative arts, as well as your executive role at a global hotel brand. How do these experiences contribute to your storytelling?

As mentioned, my stories are somewhat autobiographical, so my experiences naturally fold into my books. One of the many things I love about both creative arts and travel is that they can transform perspective. They make us more aware of the world around us and allow us to see beyond our preconceived notions. I hope that Frizzy Lizzy conveys this concept to young readers as the stories continue to unfold.

Q: What can young readers and their families expect from future instalments in the "Frizzy Lizzy" series? Can you provide a glimpse into the upcoming adventures and lessons you have in store for your audience?

The next book is about friendship, sharing and caring for others. Meet a new character in this book who is based on my husband (as a child) which has been fun to create. Katherine and I are hard at work and we cannot wait to share Frizzy Lizzy's next adventure!

Q: You're also a passionate traveller and have volunteered in West Africa. How do your travel experiences influence the cultural aspects and diversity in your stories?

Without spoiling things, Frizzy Lizzy will take her readers to many destinations around the world. Eager to explore my Ghana memories and see how they shape Frizzy Lizzy's adventures.