

Issue #3

Winter 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Welcome 2026!

We hope you had a beautiful holiday season with the ones you love!

It's hard to believe but April is just around the corner, and we hope you will join us in making Disability Book Week, April 19-25, our BIGGEST year yet!

If you are wondering how to get involved or participate, we have many ways!

- Submit a proclamation to your city mayor or state governor to make DBW "Official" in your city/state! (More information in this newsletter!)
- Select and read some disability-inclusive books now so you're ready to recommend, review, and share them during DBW!
- Purchase a disability-inclusive book for a school or classroom library to help expand access to authentic representation!

✓ Connect with your local library, school, or independent bookstore to plan a book display, event, or collaboration for Disability Book Week!

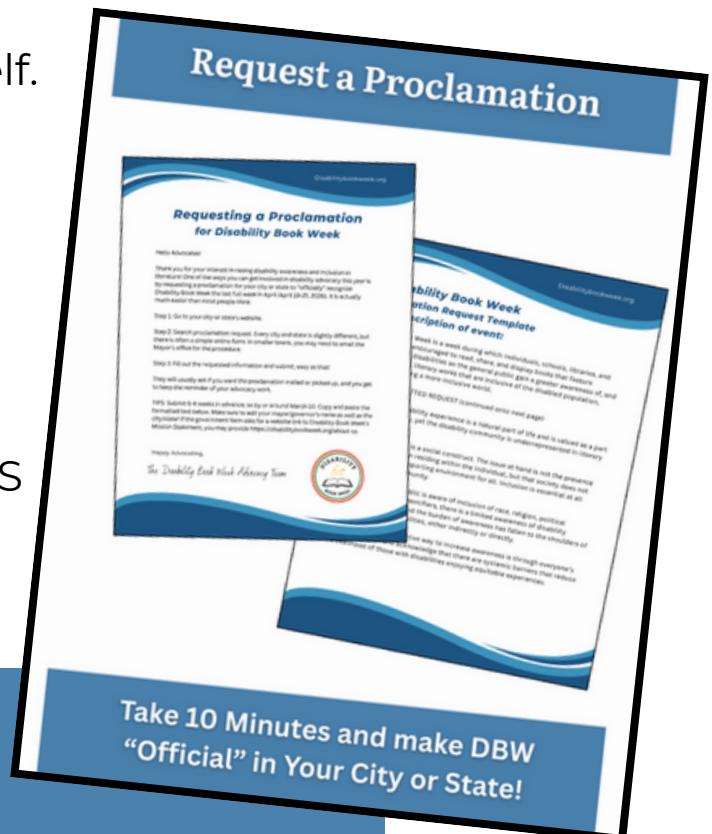
- ◆ Visit the [Disabilitybookweek.org](https://disabilitybookweek.org) and check out our DBW Resources and Educator Resources Pages for ideas and free materials!
- ◆ Coordinate for an author whose book is showcased on DBW to do a book reading (A list of authors will be available on disabilitybookweek.org soon!!!)

Taking these steps now helps ensure Disability Book Week is a meaningful, joyful celebration of stories that belong on every shelf.

Thank you for your participation and helping to make a more inclusive world!

Sincerely,
Lindsey Larsen, OTD, OTR/L, ASDCS

Download the PDF on how to request a proclamation in under 10 minutes at
<https://disabilitybookweek.org/dbwresources>

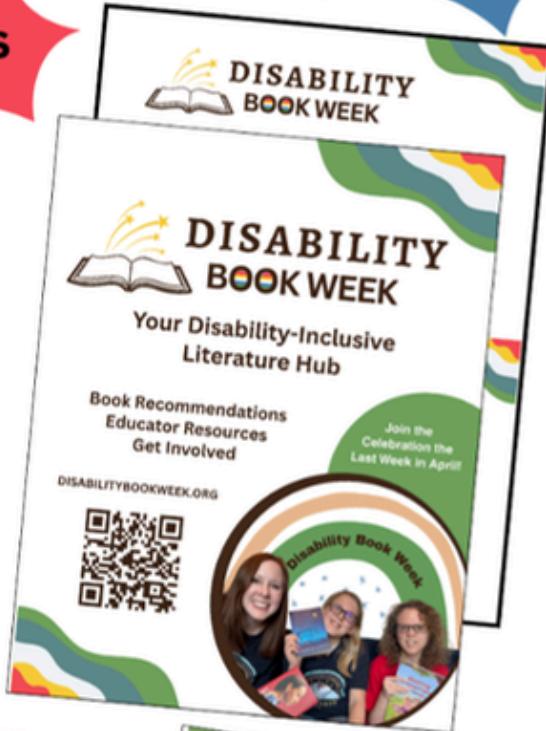


Promote DBW in Your Community

Flyers



Signs



Letters



Bookmarks

Coloring
Pages



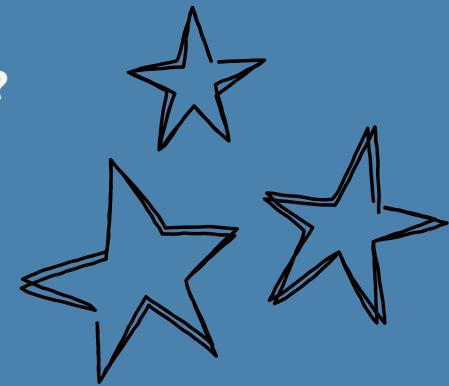
<https://disabilitybookweek.org/dbw-resources>

GET THESE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS AND MORE AT
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AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: MELISSA MCPHERSON

What prompted you to write about disability?

The reason I chose to write about disability is because I've never read a story that had a disabled character in which the disability wasn't a primary focus of the story. I wanted to write a story with disabled characters in which the characters just happened to be disabled and everything that was happening to them really had nothing to do with their disability at all. Because isn't that how most of us actually live? Our disabilities are a part of us, yes, but they are not the central part of our existence there are so many other things that are important that happen in our lives.



What is your experience with disability and how has it shaped you as an author?

I was born with Cerebral Palsy. I did a lot of reading growing up. It took the place of some of the physical activity I couldn't do. As a result of all this reading, I fell in love with writing, and it turned out I was pretty good at it. In high school, I started to get more recognition for my writing and it was nice to be known for something other than having a disability.

What are you hoping your readers will take away/learn from your story?

That people with disabilities are not just people who need saving, they are capable of being heroes too.

Have you or do you plan to write other books with a disability focus?

Yes, the sequel to *The Lesser Remain, Better off Dead*, will hopefully be released in March of 2026.

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: MELISSA MCPHERSON

What other books about disability would you recommend to your readers?

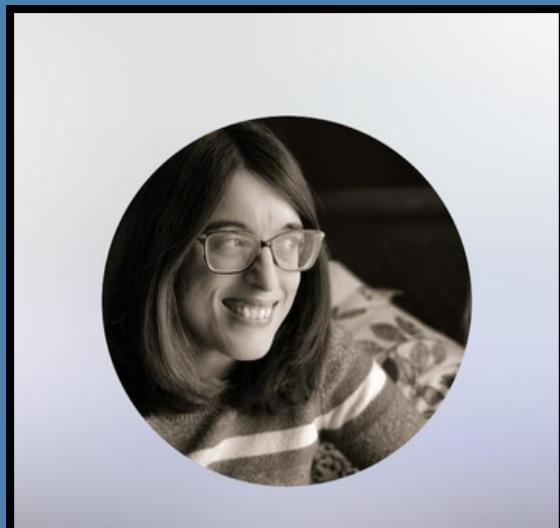
I really liked *See Me as I Am* by Cheryl Wanner. It's a completely different genre but I really liked the way disability was portrayed in it. If you want something about zombies, *The Last Night in Amsterdam* by Melanie Atkinson was also good.

What was the hardest part of writing your book?

I always feel like my work could be better, but at some point you have to say "good enough." Otherwise, no one will ever get to read it.

What has your experience writing a book been like? What were the challenges?

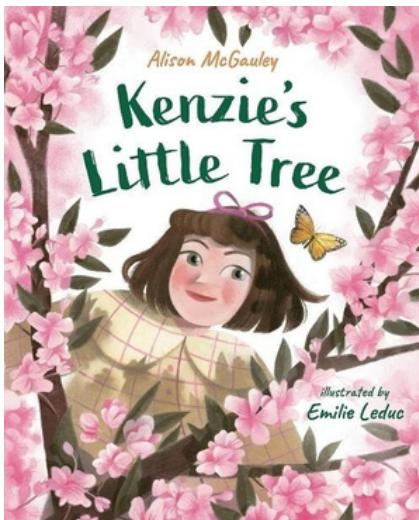
I self-published because I was worried I wouldn't find anyone willing to take a risk on a story that doesn't really fit in any one box. The whole process was a challenge, and I guess the surprise was and continues to be that not only have people read it, but most of them also seem to really like it. That probably sounds bad, like I think the book is terrible, haha. But I guess what blows my mind is that people I'll never meet, have read something that at one point, only existed in my head. That's wild!



To learn more about Melissa, connect with her on Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/melissa_mcpherson/

SEVERAL NEW ADDITIONS TO DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK



MIDDLE GRADE BOOK



What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "Beautiful imagery and touches on a child's feelings as her parent struggles with health issues."

YOUNG ADULT



What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "A beautiful story about a girl with ADHD who bonds with another girl who has communication challenges and is deaf."

ADULT



What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "The twists and turns of this women's fiction novel following a neurodivergent woman kept me turning pages."

What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "This book does such a good job of merging coming of age with the struggles of being a disabled teen."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUTHORS & PUBLISHERS

Attention authors! Do you offer classroom readings or school assemblies?

If so, let DBW help promote your work! We are creating a list of authors who provide these services for schools on our Educator Resources page. To be included, your book must be listed on disabilitybookweek.org.

Please fill out the form at

<https://disabilitybookweek.org/authors-%26-publishers>



Bigfoot Books is a new nonprofit in search of more disability inclusion books and amazing authors to partner with!

Bigfoot Books supports authors who spread the message of inclusion and diversity through children's books. We are looking for donations of books to give to Title 1 schools and families in need of creating an inclusive library. Every author who partners with us gets all the perks! Our monthly newsletters have interviews with our authors, social media collaboration posts, and when the school requests your books, we will purchase more directly through you!

Ready to connect?

Reach out to bigfootbooksproject@gmail.com

Follow [@bigfootbooksproject](#)

Mark your calendars for March 9! Why? If you are in the US, this is the perfect time to request a proclamation from your mayor or governor to proclaim April 19-25, 2026 as Disability Book Week! Download the PDF on how to request a proclamation in under 10 minutes at <https://disabilitybookweek.org/dbw-resources>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUTHORS & PUBLISHERS

Attention NJ, NY, PA, CT, and surrounding area kids book authors... Join our Community Partner, Tom Tracy, and Printed Word Reviews at the annual BookCamp Event to advance diverse kids' books and give back to the community! Author tables are offered at a 30% discount plus additional bonuses through this promotion. See <https://www.ipabookcamp.com/> for more information.

To reserve a table, please contact Tom Tracy:
[tomtracybooks@gmail.com.](mailto:tomtracybooks@gmail.com)



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- PRESS RELEASE INCLUSION
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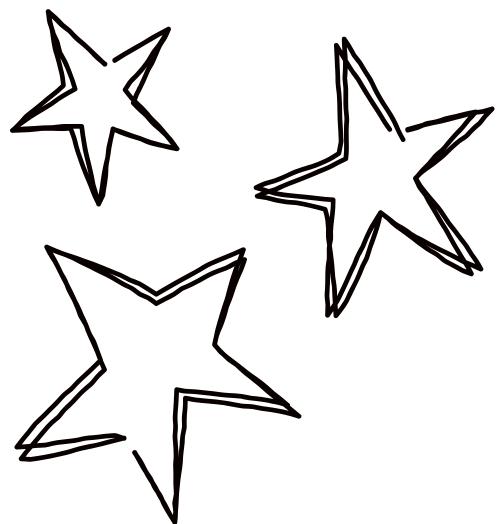


VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jo Moore works in education, and her children's book series about differences features characters with disabilities, celebrating uniqueness, inclusion, and self-belief.

Jo is a Sensitivity Reader for Disability Book Week and helps select the amazing books showcased on [Disabilitybookweek.org!](https://Disabilitybookweek.org)

Jo Moore



THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generous support of Disability Book Week showcased authors and publishers, we were able to share disability-inclusive books at several recent events! These donations help expand access to authentic, affirming stories and make a meaningful impact in our communities. If you are interested in donating books to support Disability Book Week, please email Lindsey at lindsey.disabilitybookweek@gmail.com.



DISABILITY BOOK WEEK IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING AND PROMOTING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE LITERATURE THAT AUTHENTICALLY REPRESENTS THE DIVERSE EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. DISABILITY BOOK WEEK AMPLIFIES VOICES, CHALLENGES STEREOTYPES, EDUCATES, AND FOSTERS A CULTURE OF UNDERSTANDING AND INCLUSION THROUGH THE POWER OF STORYTELLING.

WWW.DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG

