



## Kraken Sky - Julianne DiBlasi '98

"I love the story *The Alchemist*. The idea that we live our lives building seemingly unrelated skills only to find out each little lesson becomes a kaleidoscope of perfect harmony, unlocking a larger, fateful goal in the end. This is so relevant to how I've built my career and how everything came together in the work I'm doing now.

My art career started with my degree in Fine Art at Flagler, where I learned the basics of compositions, color theory, textures, and art history. I then returned for degrees in multimedia skills, graphic design, desktop publishing, file sizes, resolutions, and fonts. I added additional degrees in 3D and animation, understanding the basics of wrapping textures, lighting, movie editing, and storytelling. Choosing print and online advertising jobs, I learned layout, visual communication, placement psychology, and image editing, which I turned into a thriving graphic design business, taking on clients like Sears, Campari, and Sotheby's. And then I had my daughter... My brain started sucking up all of these beautiful children's books, a full circle to the illustrations and stories of my childhood that inspired me to go into art in the first place; I also began writing for Story Monsters Ink Magazine at this time, interviewing authors and getting behind-the-scenes experience in that world. It was inevitable (via fate, calling, or alchemy) that I began blending all of my skills into creating published works.

I love creating children's stories with lush painted images and flowing text, activity books and downloads with fun and unusual layouts and original sketches, and journal and art books for travelers and writers. My business still provides commercial design and branding for companies worldwide, but my heart is in my book and educational content creation. One of my most recent creations is the St. Augustine Illustrated Journal, a complete full circle for me, capturing all the beautiful scenery and architecture that inspired the entire journey from the beginning!"

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