

# BEST WISHES

Dear Reader,

I've written over forty novels and all of them, in a way, have been about wish fulfillment. What if you could travel into fairy tales? What if you could attend a school for upside-down magic? But *Best Wishes* is my first middle-grade novel that is actually about a character making a wish and having it come true, and learning that sometimes what we wish for isn't always what's best for us. It's also a story about the power of human connection—a reminder that true magic is found in true friendship.

The idea for *Best Wishes* came to me when I was making up bedtime stories for my daughter Anabelle. Her favorite story was about a girl getting something magical in the mail. Kids love mail—and who can blame them? They don't get healthcare bills or IRS reminders! For kids, mail holds the promise of surprise, fun, and adventure. At Anabelle's urging, I wrote the story of Becca, a girl in New York City who receives a mysterious package that contains a magical, wish-granting bracelet. When Becca's best friend dumps her (a painful, relatable experience drawn from my own childhood), Becca wishes to have lots of friends—but the magic goes haywire. Becca has to manage the chaos of her wish coming true . . . and learn that she's brave enough and strong enough to make her own magic.

But I didn't want the story to end with Becca; I loved the idea of the wish-granting bracelet being mailed off to different girls around the country—think *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* for younger readers. I mapped out a general outline—a *Best Wishes* universe, if you will—that involved each subsequent book following a new girl who receives the bracelet and makes her own wish. And, best of all, I could partner with writer friends to coauthor the subsequent books in the series. Book Two, which sees the bracelet traveling to Columbus, Ohio, will be co-written by me and New York Times bestselling author Debbie Rigaud, and Book Three, which takes the bracelet to Austin, Texas, will be co-written by me and Newbery Honor author Christina Soontornvat.

Magic (and mail) will link the characters across the series, empowering them to respond to their problems with creativity and gumption, just as Debbie, Christina, and I are inspiring and cheering one another on across the country as we write. Now more than ever, friendship is so important, and I hope this series gives readers the magical sense of connection and joy I've had while creating it.

I'm thrilled, honored, and grateful to be launching this new series—and my wish is that you'll love this first book, and want to pass it on.

Best wishes,

Sarah Mlynowski



 **SCHOLASTIC**

TM & © SCHOLASTIC INC.

On Sale: 9/6/22  
HC: 9781338628258