

Meet Amanda Yoshida, Author of 'The Greatest Wish'

VISIT: www.amandayoshida.com

Art and creativity has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. As a child I cherished my stacks of colorfully illustrated children's books and drew endlessly on every napkin or piece of paper that I could find. I attended every art class that I could and began selling paintings at my family's art gallery when I was 14 years old. As an adult, I attended Gnomon School of Visual Effects in Los Angeles, where I learned my way around the digital canvas. After graduating, I worked for several years in Los Angeles as a 2D and 3D artist on video games and apps. In 2013, I returned to my beloved hometown of Portland, Oregon where I built a career as a graphic designer.

A year ago my husband and I learned that we were expecting our first child, a baby boy, and I felt inspired to create an original children's book for him like the colorful ones that had once captured my imagination.

The result was the birth of the Ever-changing Story Books, a decision-driven book series that encourages early language and reading skills while promoting a strong moral lesson. The first book of the series, titled *The Greatest Wish*, follows a boy who dreams of becoming something other than himself, something truly incredible like a rocket ship or a rainbow, but ultimately realizes that being happy with himself is the most amazing thing of all.

This past November, Mascot Books published my debut children's book and the local community received it with generosity and open arms. Last month, I was given the opportunity to introduce *The Greatest Wish* at the grand opening of the new Happy Valley Fred Meyers. The event was a great success and a wonderful experience to say the least. Fred Meyers has been kind enough to invite me back for another book signing on December 17th, 10am-1pm, and this time I'll be in the company of Mr. Claus himself.

