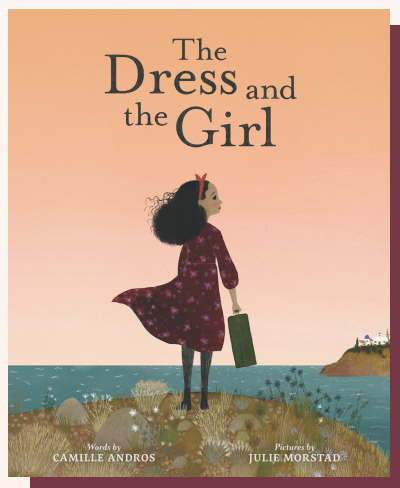


Dear Reader,

When I began working on *The Dress and the Girl* nearly ten years ago, it was sparked by a personal family story about the immigration of my husband's great-grandfather from a small Greek Village to the United States. Harry Androutsos was seventeen years old when he left his family, home, and everything he knew to start a new life in a new land. He never saw the rest of his family again. I'm sure many people reading this book have similar stories in their own families, whether they realize it, or not.



I had no idea at that time, or even once the book was published, that we would find ourselves in a worldwide refugee crisis, that immigration would become the issue it is today, and that children would be caught in the crossfire.

I hope *The Dress and the Girl* serves as a means to inspire conversation, so that a generation is raised with a reminder of the goodness of other people, so they have empathy and can do better than we have done to date. I want refugee and immigrant children to see themselves and know how extraordinary they are. I want them to feel seen and understood and know there is hope. Hope that they can start a new and extraordinary life in a new land. Hope that they are wanted and that people want to help.

Sharing our stories brings the humanity to difficult situations and circumstances, and keeps it there. I hope we continue to share our stories.

Camille Andros

