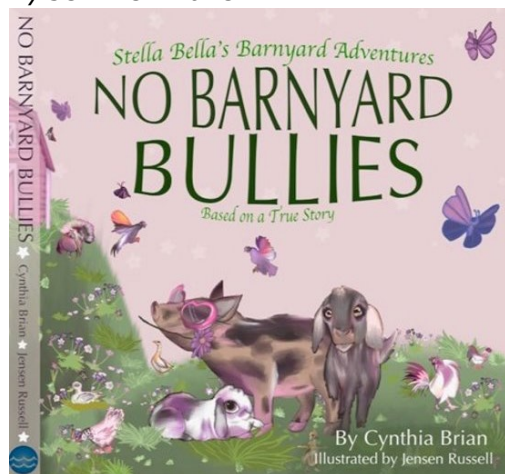


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New children's book addresses complex issues of kindness and inclusivity

By Jennifer Wake



Nobody likes a bully. Not even in the animal kingdom!

Lamorinda author and Lamorinda Weekly columnist, Cynthia Brian, debuts her first book in the children's picture book series, "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures," with her charming true-life cadre of characters and endearing illustrations by Jensen Russell in "No Barnyard Bullies," a colorful book about learning to be kind and inclusive.

"No Barnyard Bullies" follows a pampered piglet who lives in an apartment as she is re-homed to a barnyard filled with a variety of happy critters. Thinking that she is the Queen, she bullies the other animals until she is stopped by a tiny bunny who defends a three-legged goat from her attacks. Everyone is equal in Stella Bella's barnyard where bullies are not tolerated, and inclusivity is the paramount number one rule. Colorful, animated illustrations of the characters bring the prose and poetry dialog to life with timely and timeless tales that are relatable to humans.

The goal of "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures" is to instill in children wonder and awe of Mother Nature and her creatures as they participate in the escapades of the wild kingdom. Children are encouraged to love themselves exactly the way they are while living in peace and harmony with a barnyard of many colors and beliefs. Family is about whom you love and who loves you. In the series, the true tales will emerge from a variety of different animals, all with a prescription for living as better humans.

Brian will be selling and signing first editions of the book at the Be the Star You Are! booth at the Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Moraga Commons Park in Moraga.

Books are also available at these online stores: www.BetheStarYouAre.org and www.CynthiaBrian.com

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