

HOPE

A COVID-19 Story



Written by Katie Setterberg
Illustrated by Morgan Thomason

Dedication

For children across the globe and for the child inside each of us. May this book be a compassionate companion and a courier of hope.

Text copyright 2020 by Katie Setterberg
Pictures copyright 2020 by Morgan Thomason

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner without express written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations in book reviews. Created in the United States of America.

Author Information at www.westsidestorybooks.com and @westsidestorybooks
Illustrator Information at www.etsy.com/shop/WinsomePaperGoods and @winsomepaper

Squirrel had been in his tree for many, many days. He knew that staying there was the best way to stay safe. COVID-19 had come to the woods, and he had to shelter in place.



But Squirrel was sad. He missed his friends. He missed getting to play. He wished there was something he could do to make this pandemic go away.



He knew that doctors were working hard to create a vaccine, and he knew he could do his part by keeping his hands clean.



Still, he wanted something more that he could do right now. He wondered what might help a little to ease the pain somehow.

Squirrel thought long and hard in search of a way.
Suddenly, a lightbulb! Squirrel had something to say.



He grabbed his pen and paper and scribbled down a word, a word that lasts forever. A word he would send to Bird.



Bird was his best friend and he wanted her to know that no matter what happens with COVID-19, there is always hope.

So he put hope in an envelope and sent it on to Bird. Bird opened it and knew at once, she must pass on this word.



She sent it out to Badger and it made him feel less blue.
Sharing hope this way was something he could do.



So he mailed it on to Hedgehog.



And she sent it out to Fox.



Fox could hardly wait for Bear to wake and check his box!



Bear was so delighted to receive this hope filled note, that he sent it on to Rabbit.



And she mailed it on to Toad.



Soon hope was spreading everywhere, it seemed it couldn't be stopped. Hope seemed to be more powerful than even squirrel had thought. Soon hope was in more places, than the places it was not.





One day COVID-19 would end, squirrel knew that in his heart. But he hoped that hope would always win, and it was off to a good start.

The End.



A conversation for parents and kids:



- You are safe at home
- Sheltering in place and keeping distance from other people helps keep others safe, too
- Doctor's are working hard to create a vaccine to help Covid-19 go away
- You can do your part by keeping your hands clean - washing with soap and water while you sing your favorite song, beginning to end.
- It's normal to feel upset that this pandemic is happening
- We all miss our friends
- There are creative ways to stay connected
- Your thoughts and feelings are important
- Hope wins