

TAMEKA FRYER BROWN

Children's Book

A U T H O R

Dear Fellow Booklover,

BROWN BABY LULLABY is more than a bedtime story.

It was birthed during a moment of reflection about my own children, who are now young adults. I found myself contemplating the type of love we'd shared when they were little, how immensely pure and uncomplicated it was. Stirred by feelings of nostalgia, I decided to capture my emotions and memories on paper. The result was a contemporary story about a young family and their beloved, spirited, brown-skinned baby.

However, once New York Times Bestselling Illustrator AG Ford gave visual form to my words, I realized we'd created something more than a lyrical love poem with evocative art. At this moment in history, BROWN BABY LULLABY is an opportunity to sow seeds.

It's an opportunity to sow seeds of self-love and pride in Black and brown babies; to have their existences affirmed as cherished and necessary—not just to their families, but to a vast community of book creators, booksellers, and literary gatekeepers, all of whom believe their lives matter enough to be depicted *joyfully* in the pages of a book, without the cultural burden of "educating" or "overcoming" that is usually present.

BROWN BABY LULLABY is also an opportunity to sow seeds of inclusion and connectivity in non-brown babies. Reading contemporary stories of loving Black and brown families to white children, for example, can help shape the perceptions and attitudes of the next generation of white adults. It can lay the groundwork for fewer fear-based assumptions in the future, and it can foster stronger intercultural relationships of genuine depth. The earlier such intentionality takes place in a child's life, the more lasting its impact will be.

My greatest hope is that the words and images of BROWN BABY LULLABY will sow themselves into the hearts and minds of our little ones—*all of our little ones*—blossoming into a visceral belief in the value, humanity, and belovedness of every brown-skinned baby. And child. And human being.

Such an impact would mean the world.

Sincerely,



Tameka Fryer Brown

