



Press Release

The Boy, The Mermaid, And The Storm

A modern fairytale about battling life's storms

By **Billy Baldwin** Illustrations by **Liesl Bell**

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49 Pages, 30 Illustrations

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10" x 10"

"Billy Baldwin is a thoughtful writer who has created a well-written and triumphant story steeped in endearing life lessons."

- The Children's Book Review



A Boy sets sail as he does each dawn, but this day is like no other: a storm has come. Battling the wind and waves he is overwhelmed. From the deep a mermaid carries the boy to The Island Of The Eye. The mermaid explains it's the boy's time to face the storm and her time to guide him through it. The only way home is for the boy to make it through the stormy darkness. Together, the boy and the mermaid sail into four overwhelming challenges, each one testing all the boy's strengths and beliefs.

"No storm is stronger than you", The mermaid tells the boy. Wedged between wind and wave the boy feels powerless, but faces the wall of water, nonetheless. Attacked by a Sea Dragon the boy battles physical and mental exhaustion. Tricked by the storm the boy must trust his will & spirit to survive. Finally, the storm declares its absolute power and tells the boy his futile attempts to survive are in vain. About to give up, the boy comes to understand the power and strength of the Mermaid's words and defiantly tells the storm: "You may claim my last breath, but you will not claim me."

BILLY BALDWIN is an award winning author and the creator of numerous stories for children & young adults. Creating fictional worlds and then building story structures to bring them to life is Billy's true passion. Diagnosed with dyslexia at an early age, Billy is often asked why he chooses to challenge himself with writing books. His response is always the same: his desire to create stories is far more rewarding and fulfilling than any of the struggles or frustrations he experiences due to dyslexia.

Story Glass is Billy's fourth children's book. *Wipeout the Wave*, *The Cookie That Saved Christmas* and *The Last Leaf*, which won the 2017 Silver Moonbeam Book Award, are his previous publications. Billy lives in the idyllic beachside town of Sag Harbor, NY.

LIESL BELL has been illustrating books with Billy Baldwin from halfway across the world. Illustrating *Story Glass* was an exciting journey of collaboration and creativity for Liesl. She spent hours discussing all aspects of the book with Billy on FaceTime. Together Liesl & Billy hashed out the illustrations for the characters of Jen, the quirky fairies, the beast, the evil wizard, and the variety of scenes and settings the book describes.

Liesl's mantra is simply: to create with a smile and a wink! The unfolding of Liesl's life's adventure takes place in Jeffreys Bay, South Africa where she lives with her son, Thomas. *Story Glass* is Liesl's fourth children's book in partnership with Billy.

For further information, please contact Billy Baldwin
Tel: 631-725-5875 or email: Info@decozenbooks.com

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