

# Laney Dances in the Rain



story by Ken Willard  
illustrated by Matthew Rivera

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in the **Rain**



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free spirit  
PUBLISHING®



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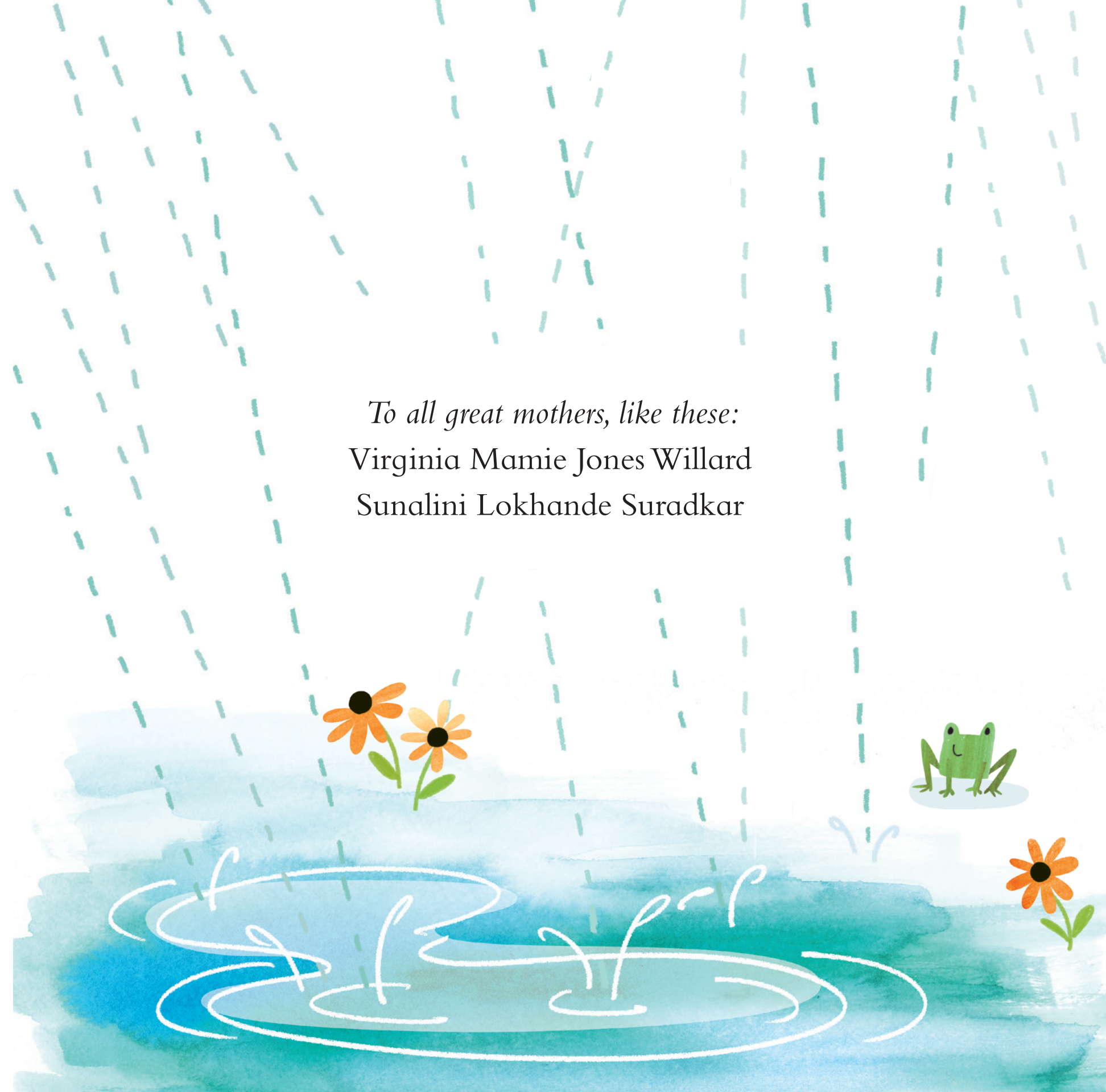
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*To all great mothers, like these:*  
Virginia Mamie Jones Willard  
Sunalini Lokhande Suradkar







## Some Questions for You

You can talk about these questions with a friend or a grown-up, or you can think about them on your own.

- What do you think it means to be true to yourself? Do you think it's important? Why or why not?
- Look at each picture in the story. What do you think is happening? How do you think the people feel in the picture?
- Laney loves to dance. What do you enjoy doing? Talk with a parent, teacher, or other grown-up you trust about things you like to do. These people can encourage you and support you like Laney's mother does.
- If someone is unkind to you, what could you do? Who would you talk to about it?
- When Laney sees the paint on her raincoat, how do you think she feels? Why do you think the boy did that to Laney's coat?
- After seeing her coat covered in paint, Laney puts it on and dances anyway. Why do you think she does that? Why might this be important?
- Do you think Laney and the boy could ever be friends? Why or why not? What could they say to each other to become friends?
- At the end of the story, all the neighbors watch Laney dance in the rain and clap for her! How would you feel about that if you were Laney? What if you were her mom? How about if you were one of the neighbors? Or the boy who painted her coat?
- If you see a friend dancing, singing, painting, swimming, biking, building, or doing any other activity they like, how could you encourage them?
- Give yourself a big hug. You are special and unique! What does that mean to you? How will you stay true to yourself?



## About the Author and Illustrator



**Ken Willard** is a lifelong writer with degrees in sociology and communications. He loved visiting his local library as a child, and spent his after-school hours absorbed in the towering shelves of books. It was then he knew he would be a writer. He currently resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with his spouse, Atul Suradkar, and their pet cat, Tuxie.

**Matthew Rivera** earned his bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Arizona. After many years as an art director for corporations and toy makers, he now writes and draws pictures for a living. He lives in Portland, Oregon, where he loves listening to the rain tap on his rooftop and is known to dance around in the occasional thunderstorm.

