

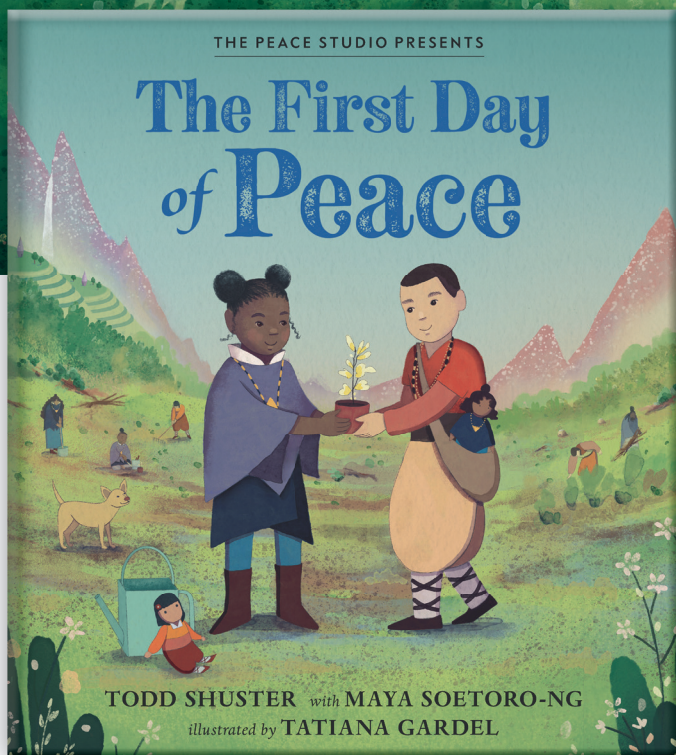
The First Day of Peace

TODD SHUSTER

with afterword by MAYA SOETORO-NG

illustrated by

TATIANA GARDEL



ON SALE AUGUST 8, 2023

HC: 978-1-5362-0759-0

\$18.99 (\$24.99 CAN) • Ages 4–8 • 32 pages

Also available as an e-book

“A beautiful and inspiring parable of kindness, sharing, and the power every child has to make the world a better place. A must-read for children everywhere.”

—Grace Byers, actress, children’s advocate, and author of the #1 *New York Times* best-selling picture book *I Am Enough*

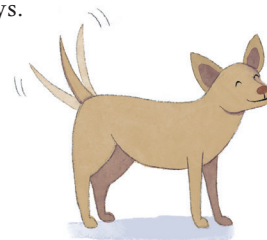


CANDLEWICK PRESS

In a new picture book presented by the Peace Studio and its cofounder Maya Soetoro-Ng, author Todd Shuster and illustrator Tatiana Gardel offer a moving modern parable highlighting the wondrous power of kindness and sharing.

Season after season, the mountain people give life to their crops with water from the river, while the valley people use water from a nearby lake to nourish their fields. Despite their similarities, neither allows the other to seek water on their land—instead they exchange harsh words, and when drought descends, they come to blows. But when the hottest summer yet brings torrential downpours, the waters overflow and trap the valley people. A wise mountain girl sees their plight and says, “We need to help.”

Featuring an afterword by Maya Soetoro-Ng, *The First Day of Peace* is a fable for a time when many parents and children are deeply worried about our warming planet. At once timeless and timely, it sheds light on the importance of protecting the environment and of sharing rather than fighting over the earth’s precious natural resources. Todd Shuster’s lyrical writing is brought to vivid life by Tatiana Gardel’s rich and luminous illustrations in a story for everyone who hopes for love, justice, and peace across *all* mountains and valleys.





THE PEACE STUDIO

THE PEACE STUDIO is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to promote peace through art and story in order to heal divides, build mutual respect and dignity, and show a path to living together in harmony.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE SHUSTER

TODD SHUSTER is an author, literary agent, and film producer. He is a co-CEO of Aevitas Creative Management and a cofounder of the Peace Studio, which seeks to assist a global community of artists and journalists in building a culture of peace. *The First Day of Peace* is his picture book debut. He lives in New York City.



MAYA SOETORO-NG works as a peace educator at the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Hawai'i. She also helps to develop Asia-Pacific leadership and global girls' education programs with the Obama Foundation. Inspired by her two delightful daughters, Maya Soetoro-Ng is the author of the picture book *Ladder to the Moon* and of the forthcoming young adult novel *Yellowwood*. She is a cofounder of the nonprofits Ceeds of Peace, the Institute for Climate and Peace, and the Peace Studio.



TATIANA GARDEL is a Brazilian-born illustrator whose work has been recognized by the Society of Illustrators in New York and *American Illustration*. Her art is inspired by her culture, by her love for nature, and by mythology and childhood memories. She is a cofounder of #LatinxPitch and lives in New York City with her family.

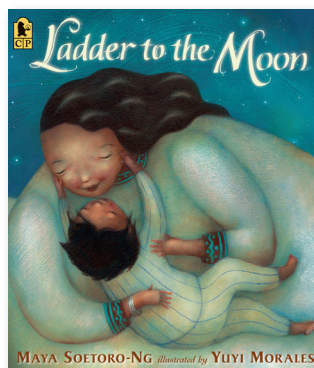
FOR YOUNG READERS BY MAYA SOETORO-NG

★ "A vision of divine love, a love incarnated in a warm, round, brown-skinned grandmother. . . . Nontraditional spiritual literature for children often falters in the execution; this work fulfills its promise."

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ "A lush, haunting story that brings together a grandmother and her grandchild. . . . Morales captures the luminosity of both the sky and the people on earth striving and straining to make the world a better place. The endnotes by author and artist add insight into a book meant to be discussed."

—*Booklist* (starred review)



by Maya Soetoro-Ng
illustrated by Yuyi Morales
HC: 978-0-7636-4570-0
PB: 978-0-7636-9343-5
Also available as an e-book
Ages 5-9 • 48 pages



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Also available as an e-book and in audio