

Molly Saw A BEAR

Written by **LETA SERAFIM**

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Red Robin Press



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Molly Saw A Bear
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To children everywhere,

Be brave always. You can do amazing things.

Acknowledgments:

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Jennifer McCord without whom this book
never could have been written.

Molly saw a bear outside her kindergarten class one day.







But Molly didn't tell the teacher.
Not a word did Molly say.

Seeing it scared her and
she gave a nervous little **squeak**.

But Molly didn't say a word.
She just sat, trembling in her seat.

Too shy to raise her hand,
she told no one it was there.

Never said out there on the playground
was a living, breathing bear.





Talking made her nervous
and she rarely spoke in school.

Other kids teased her about it
and sometimes they were cruel.



The bear rolled around in the dirt
and acted like it wanted to play.

Sniffing around the trashcans,
it kept glancing Molly's way.





Finding a rotten banana peel,
it swiftly gobbled it **down**.

Pawed through the juice boxes
and threw them on the ground.

A boy heard the noise
and he yelled, 'Teacher, **look** there!'

And licking the lid of the trash can
was the living, breathing bear.

The teacher's mouth fell open
and she looked a little worried.

"Leave the room," she said.
"And it would be best if you hurried."







Molly pretended not to hear
and stayed at her desk, sitting in her chair.

She knew the police were on their way
and that they were coming for the bear.

They'd give it a shot and when it slept,
they'd lock it up in a cage somewhere.

The bear hadn't done anything wrong.
To Molly, locking it up seemed **unfair**.

Wild animals should be free,
she exclaimed, and she leapt up from her chair.

Running over to the window, she stuck her head out
and shouted 'hello' to the bear.





The bear ambled over and
banged its black snout against the frame.

Lifting up its paw,
it put it up on the glass
and Molly did the **same**.

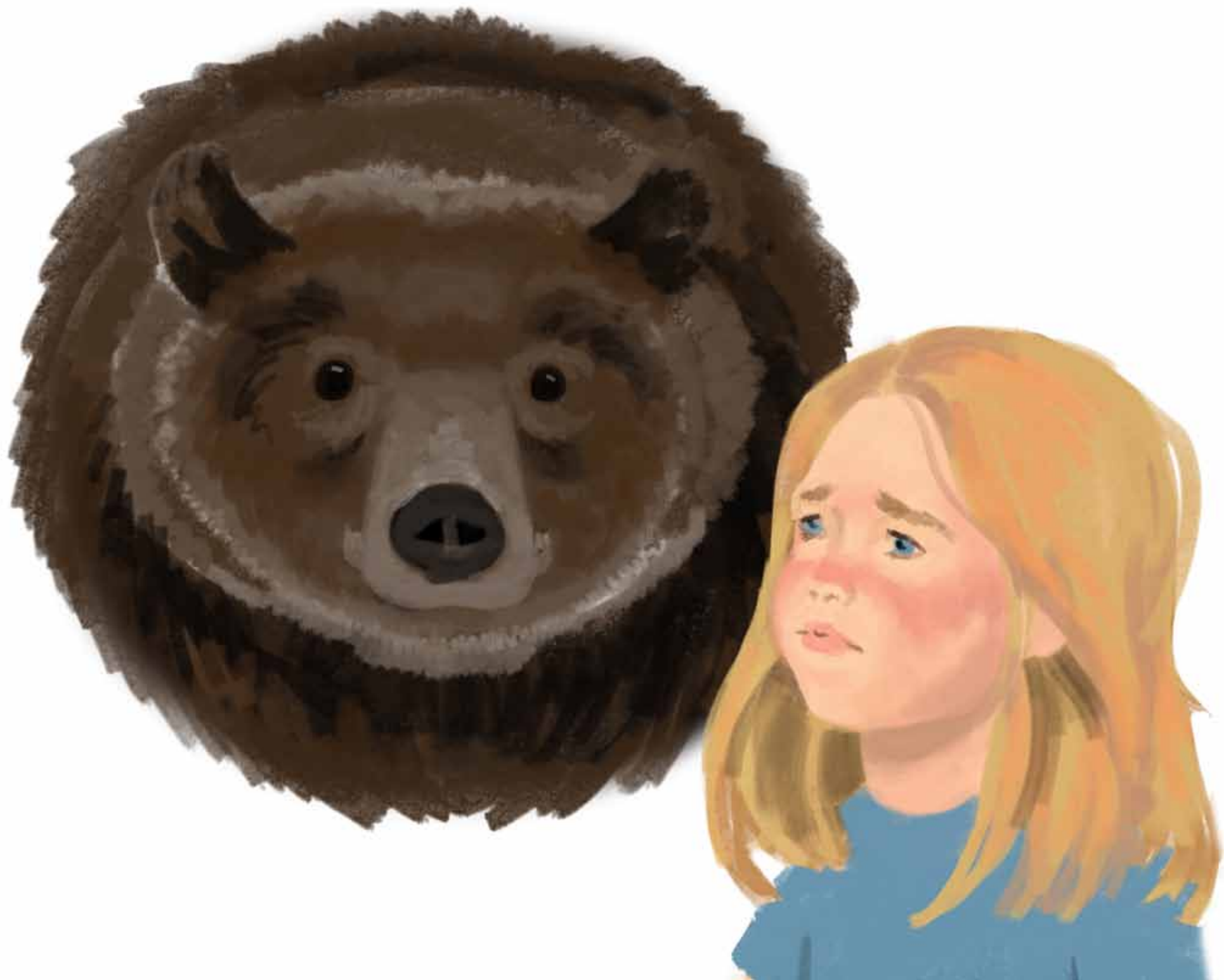


They stood there eyeing each other,
Molly and the beast.

Molly was so scared;
her heart kept skipping beats.

“I’m Molly,” she said,
thinking it’s **polite** to say your name.

“I’m a kid and you’re a bear.
You’re anything but tame.





Bears don't need an education.
Bears don't belong in school.

School is a very bad place
for a furry creature such as you.

Run as fast as you can.
Go on. Get out of here, shoo,

If you don't, they'll catch you
and drag you off to the zoo.

The bear growled.
That's how bears say, 'So long.'

Then it took off at high speed.
In a flash, it was gone.

Seeing it vanish over the hill,
Molly was greatly relieved.

Wild animals should be free,
she most truly believed.





To save another, that day
Molly found her voice.

If you asked her, she'd tell you.
'I just had no choice.

The bear was in trouble.
I just had to speak.
I couldn't keep silent.
I couldn't retreat.

When someone's in trouble,
you don't have a choice.
You have to speak up.
You must find your voice.

About the Author

Leta Serafim is a former journalist, who worked for the Washington Post and LA Times Washington Bureau for many years, initially as a librarian and eventually as a reporter. She spends her summers in Greece and has visited more than thirty islands there.

In addition to *Molly Saw A Bear*, she is the author of the Greek Island Mystery series, published by Coffeetown Press, as well as a work of historical fiction, *To Look on Death No More*, which is based on actual events in Greece during World War II.
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About the Illustrator

Casey Gerber is an illustrator working in colorful digital media. Her whimsical artwork focuses on the intersection between humans, nature, and technology. The artist's primary focus is entertainment media, and her work is published in books, games, and advertising.

A self-taught painter and life-long learner, Casey also holds a Bachelors of Design from the University of Washington. When not painting, Casey can be found gardening at her home in Bellevue, Washington, where she currently resides with her husband and their cats.
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