



WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Dear Reader:

Welcome to my very first picture book!

A few years ago, both our neighbors in our New York City apartment building had baby girls. Annalise on the right; Devin on the left. I would go to events and festivals to promote my books for upper-elementary and middle-grade readers, and come home with a stack of autographed picture books to give to my newest, tiniest neighbors.

Since both girls had pretty unusual names, I started thinking that I might have to be the one to, someday, write a picture book with their names in it.

Well, one day, my wife (and coauthor of *Shine!*), J.J., was out walking our dog, Fred. She told me a very funny story about a girl in a stroller screaming “I don’t want to take a nap! I don’t want to take a nap!” She told the girl, “My dog loves to take naps. If you don’t want one, he’ll take it.” That inspired an elderly gentleman on a park bench to cry out, “I’ll take one of those naps, too!”

And that was the seed that grew into *No More Naps!* featuring Annalise Devin McFleece (neither of our neighbors are the McFleeces, but I couldn’t resist the rhyme).

Imagine my delight when Random House married the brilliant (and fun) Leo Espinosa’s pictures to my text. I’ve read this book at least ten dozen times, and I am always finding something new in his clever illustrations.

For instance, if you look closely, you will find a self-portrait of our artist, Leo, on two of the pages. And, if you look even closer, you might find an illustration of me. Hint: I did write a book called *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s LIBRARY!*

Thank you so much for looking at our new book.

I hope it makes you, and someone you love, very sleepy!

Chris Grabenstein



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