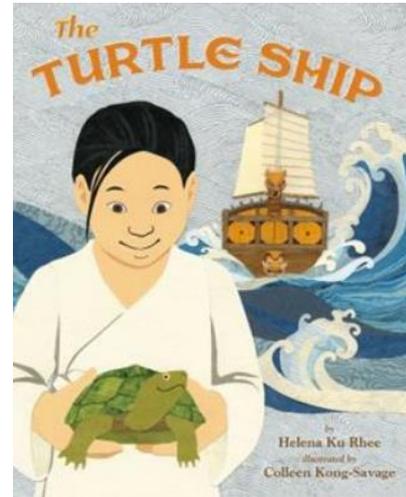


HELENA KU RHEE

AUTHOR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Helena Ku Rhee writes books for kids and the young at heart. Raised in Los Angeles in an immigrant family from South Korea, Helena draws story ideas from her childhood as well as her travels around the world. She majored in English at Yale and then attended U.C. Berkeley for law school. Writing has always been her true passion, so Helena has written everything from children's books to screenplays to articles for national publications such as the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times* and *Salon*. She works as a VP at Sony Pictures by day, and dreams up story ideas in her spare time. She is currently based in L.A., but has also lived in various parts of the U.S., Asia and Europe. Visit her online at helenakrhee.com or on Instagram (@helenakrhee).



Helena has several new books on the horizon: SORA'S SEASHELLS (2023) plus a project that will soon be announced. Subscribe to Helena's newsletter (at helenakrhee.com) for updates and a free Creativity Roadmap to help you achieve your own creative goals.

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For publicity inquiries: Lili Feinberg at Penguin Random House*

*Contact info is available at <http://helenakrhee.com/contact/>

SELECT ARTICLES & INTERVIEWS

NPR interview: <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/14/815250760/ behold-the-magic-of-take-your-child-to-work-night>

Articles for Salon.com:

<https://www.salon.com/2020/02/17/too-bad-you-were-born-a-girl/>

<https://www.salon.com/2022/06/14/making-sense-of-a-senseless-world-how-childrens-books-can-mitigate-the-horror-around-us/>

Op-Ed articles for the Los Angeles Times:

https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-02-28/op-ed-korean-american-culture-shopping?_amp=true

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-04-29/30th-anniversary-los-angeles-riots-korean-black>

ROSA'S SONG



ROSA'S SONG (Penguin Random House – forthcoming, June 7, 2022) is about a friendship between two kids of very different backgrounds. When Jae moves to a new building in an unfamiliar country, he is overcome with homesickness. Yet, making friends is the same wherever you go and he soon meets a girl with a colorful bird perched on her shoulder. Rosa knows just how Jae feels and the two become fast friends. They use their imaginations to go on wondrous adventures along with Pollito (Rosa's parrot). From the creators of the highly acclaimed *The Paper Kingdom*, comes a new book about the importance of community and demonstrates how a simple act of kindness can be passed along to others.

Booklist, Starred Review:

★ "Striking and raw.... Readers will share the sadness of Jae's loss, but only after seeing Rosa and Jae's joyful playing—a happiness that's distinct to childhood."

THE PAPER KINGDOM



THE PAPER KINGDOM (Penguin Random House 2020) is based on the author's childhood when her parents worked as night janitors and had to take her to work due to lack of childcare. In a deserted office building, they turned drudgery into magic for their young child (complete with dragons and a magnificent kingdom filled with paper). The story weaves subtle commentary about the haves and have-nots. Illustrations are by French-American artist Pascal Campion, who also does cover illustrations for *The New Yorker* as well as animation for movie studios.

- #1 Indie Bestseller
- "Best Children's Books of 2020" by NPR, Parents Magazine, Kirkus Reviews, Bookpage, Amazon, and the Los Angeles Public Library
- "Most Anticipated Children's Books" for 2020 by Bookpage
- Featured on NPR, Good Morning America, Entertainment Weekly, ABC-TV
- Listed on the American Booksellers Association's Spring 2020 "Indie Next" list
- Listed on the "45 Favorite Diverse Pictures Books" by Imagination Soup

SELECT REVIEWS FOR THE PAPER KINGDOM

Booklist, Starred Review:

★ "Parents in picture books are rarely seen at work, especially with jobs that are backbreaking and poorly paid. This picture book shows parents on the night shift doing janitorial work. Here a family of three lives

in an apartment so small that their little boy, Daniel, must sleep in a corner of the room. We see how fragile the social support is for them when the babysitter cancels, and the parents must take a very tired Daniel to work with them, driving their old, beat-up car. The ending delivers a socially conscious message, with the boy resolving to be nice to the dragons (aka workers) when he becomes the Paper King (boss) one day. **Enchanting and powerful.**”

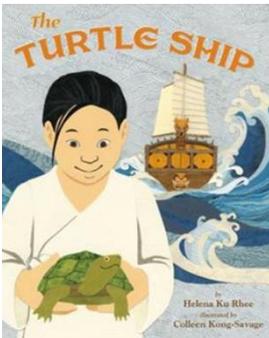
Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review:

★ “Highlights the struggles of working-class parents and the sacrifices they make for their families. **A beautiful, must-read tribute to hardworking families and the magic they create.**”

Shelf Awareness, Starred Review:

★ "In this **entrancing picture book**, a boy must join his parents at work when the babysitter cancels. Helena Ku Rhee crafts a **layered, loving picture book tribute to family** and the sacrifices parents make for their children's future."

THE TURTLE SHIP



THE TURTLE SHIP (Lee & Low 2018) is based loosely on true Korean history and tells the tale of Admiral Yi Sun-sin as a child. Inspired by his pet turtle, Sun-sin enters a battleship design competition, which leads to the creation of The Turtle Ship, the first ironclad ship in the world. The intricate illustrations were done entirely in paper collage by Chinese American artist Colleen Kong-Savage.

School Library Journal, Starred Review:

★ “The illustrations and the narrative work together wonderfully to tell this fascinating episode in Korean naval history. **A great mix of myth and history** for most picture book collections.”

