

# Holly Flatam

*Author & Illustrator*

## **Media Kit & Interview Package**

"The moon's soft glow tells a story of love, joining hearts in the night sky, reminding us that no matter how far apart, parents and children are always connected."

# Emmy Nominated Actress and #1 NYT Bestselling Illustrator

*Roma Downey & Holly Hatam announce a new picture book  
inspired by strong family connections.*

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In today's world, where kids and adults often feel anxious, isolated, and alone, Emmy-nominated actress and bestselling author Roma Downey and acclaimed illustrator Holly Hatam join forces to deliver an emotionally resonant story that brings comfort and reminds readers of the power of connection.

A Message in the Moon addresses the emotions that children and parents frequently encounter, such as separation, new experiences, and feelings of longing. Inspired by Roma Downey's personal story of losing her mother at the tender age of ten, the book captures the comforting presence her father provided during difficult times. When Downey left for college, her father shared a profound message: "Whenever you feel alone, always look into the night sky, and you'll be reminded of how much I love you. I'll leave a message for you in the moon." This heartfelt sentiment remains with Downey today as she passes it on to parents and children alike, fostering a bond that transcends distance and time.

Renowned illustrator Holly Hatam, a three-time #1 New York Times bestselling artist, has brought her talent to A Message in the Moon. Known for her ability to capture the raw beauty and pain of life, Hatam's illustrations exude a sense of wonder and awe. The moon and stars, a recurring theme in her art, take center stage in this book, symbolizing spirituality and the indescribable feeling of connection that unites us all. Hatam's deep personal connection with the moon and stars is woven into every illustration, evoking a sense of magic.

A Message in the Moon is not only a source of comfort but also a valuable tool for parents to navigate complex emotions with their children. It speaks directly to anxieties faced by the illustrator. Hatam shares, "As a kid, I used to find so much peace in watching Touched by an Angel. I've never been religious, but the show had this magical way of touching my heart and reminding me of the power of something bigger than myself. And now, working with Roma Downey feels like stepping into a beautiful, serendipitous journey." The book resonates with their personal experiences, addressing the fear of separation and the weight of contemplating the unknown, while tenderly reminding readers that they are never really alone.

In today's fast-paced and often disconnected world, A Message in the Moon offers a timely reminder of the universal need for reassurance, love, and connection. It speaks to readers of all backgrounds, fostering emotional well-being and nurturing relationships. With its sweet storytelling and magical illustrations, this book is set to become a treasured addition to families' libraries, classrooms, and bedtime routines.

**A Message in the Moon will be released on October 10, 2023,  
and can be pre-ordered today on Amazon where it is  
already a #1 New Release.**



## About the Book

A Message in the Moon was inspired by Downey's own story of losing her mother when she was just ten years old and the comfort her father brought her. Years later, when Downey left home for college, her father pointed to the full moon and told her,

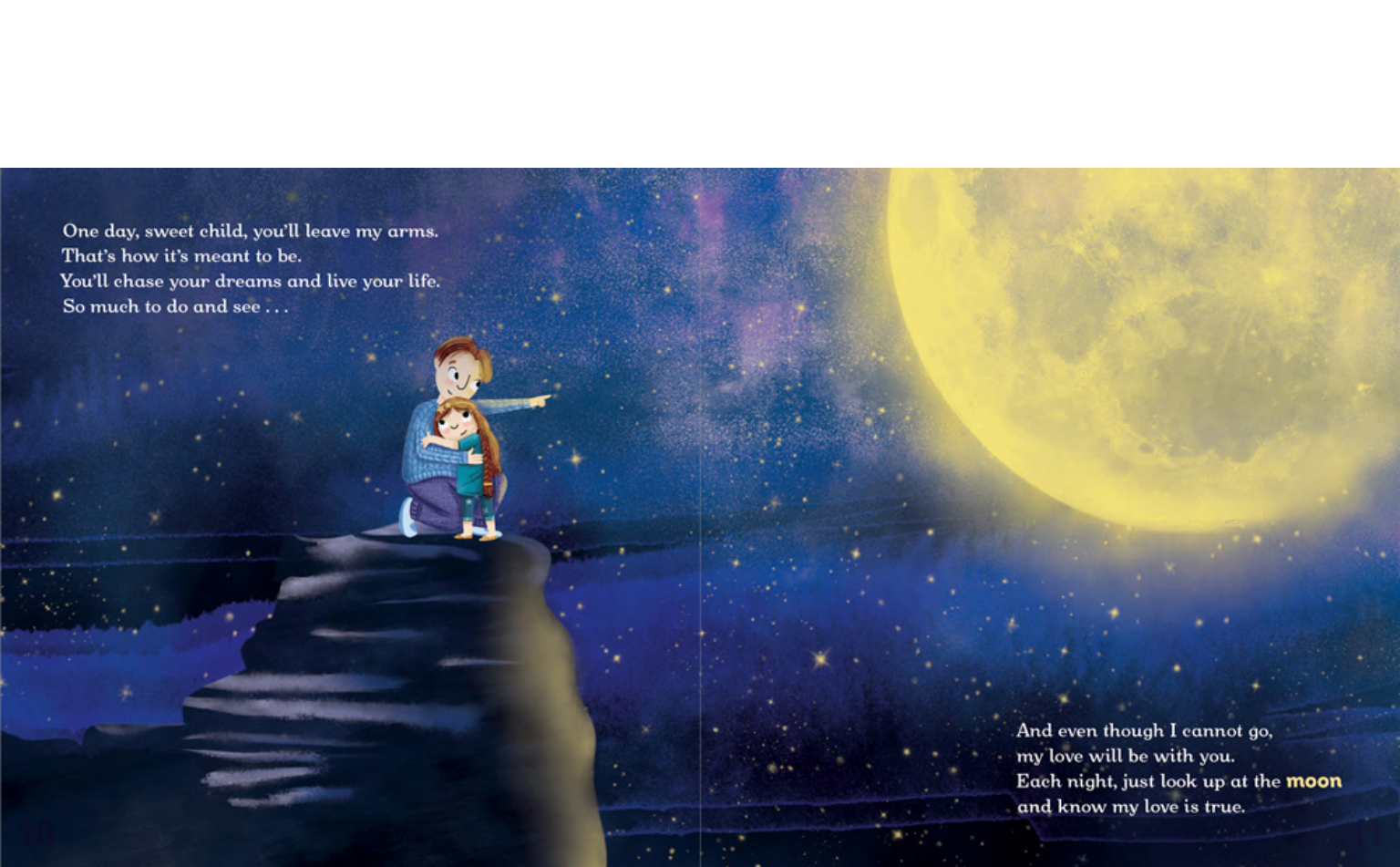
“Whenever you feel alone, always look into the night sky, and you'll be reminded of how much I love you. I'll leave a message for you in the moon.”

That simple comfort remains with Downey today, and now she is passing it on to parents and children alike.




Whether your child is going to their first sleepover, their first day of school, or their favorite stuffed animal is inexplicably gone, whether they are experiencing the loss of a goldfish, or a sibling has left for college, A Message in the Moon helps parents to explain the feeling of longing to their little ones.





One day, sweet child, you'll leave my arms.  
That's how it's meant to be.  
You'll chase your dreams and live your life.  
So much to do and see . . .

And even though I cannot go,  
my love will be with you.  
Each night, just look up at the **moon**  
and know my love is true.



I know you're missing me right now.  
But don't be sad, okay?  
I need you to be strong for me.  
I'll be back home someday.



## Book Sell Sheet

**Title:** A Message in the Moon  
**Genre:** Children's Religious Fiction,  
Children's Emotions and Feelings,  
Children's Family Life  
**Publisher:** Convergent Books - an imprint  
of Random House

**Language:** English  
**Formats:** Hardcover, E-Book and Audiobook  
**Pages:** 40  
**ISBN-10:** 0593235177  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0593235171  
**Reading age:** 3 - 7 years



## About the Illustrator

Holly Hatam is an illustrator, author and a believer in the power of connection and kindness. Through her art, she creates a world where hearts are touched, minds are inspired, and magic is brought to life. Her mission is to create art that spreads love, inspires kindness, and celebrates diversity.

Holly's journey as an artist began at a young age, hosting art gallery openings in her bedroom and charging her family a whopping 25 cents admission fee! Since then, she has published over 30 books and is best known for her #1 New York Times Bestselling books, *Dear Girl* and *Dear Boy*, which has touched the hearts of readers worldwide.

Inspired by her own struggles with anxiety as well as a mother to a son with deep rooted anxiety, she understands the importance of addressing fears and nurturing emotional well-being. Her art aims to provide solace and comfort to children and adults facing similar struggles, reminding them that they are not alone.

Holly's art is also inspired by her strong spiritual connection to the Earth and her belief in the interconnectedness of all people. She weaves a sense of wonder and magic in her illustrations, inspiring others to find magic in themselves. As a symbol of her beliefs, she wears a tattoo that reads "The stars on your side."

Holly, a person of colour and a mother to a biracial son, brings diversity to her books. Having experienced feelings of loneliness and inadequacy due to the lack of representation in the books and movies she consumed, she is determined to create a world where no child or adult ever feels the way she did. She aims to bring diverse characters to her books to inspire a sense of belonging and self acceptance to every person, regardless of their background or culture.

When Holly isn't illustrating books, she can be found hugging trees, drinking tea, sniffing books, and dreaming of unicorns.



## Sample Interview Questions:

**Q: Can you share some of the specific techniques or artistic choices you used to visually convey the emotions and messages in the book? How did you use colors, composition, and other visual elements to enhance the storytelling?**

**A:** In the book *A Message in the Moon*, I used different colors and art techniques to show the feelings and ideas in the story. But the most important element I focused on was the use of colors.

For moments of loneliness, sadness, and anxiety, I chose dark shades of blue to create a sense of longing and sadness. The absence of light and hidden stars represented their feelings of disconnection and hopelessness. On the other hand, when the moon served as the connecting force, I used brighter and more vibrant colours. The sky was sprinkled with sparkling stars, radiating a sense of joy and comfort. The moon itself gave off a soft glow that made everything it touched look magical.

**Q: What drew you to collaborate on this particular project? How did you connect with the story and the message it conveys?**

**A:** Collaborating on this book has been a truly special and meaningful experience for me. As a kid, I used to find so much peace in watching *Touched by an Angel*. I've never been religious, but the show had this magical way of touching my heart and reminding me of the power of love and connection. And now, working with Roma Downey, feels like stepping into a beautiful, serendipitous journey.

**A Message in the Moon** resonated with me on multiple levels. I've always had a profound connection with the moon and stars, and a lot of my art is inspired by their magic. The pages of this book have allowed me to weave that sense of wonder and awe into every illustration.

But it's not just about the stars and the moon; it's about something bigger. It's about spirituality and that indescribable feeling of connection that binds us all. This book carries that message, reminding us that we are never alone and that love knows no boundaries.

Another reason why this book means so much to me is because it speaks directly to the anxieties I personally experience, as well as those that my son faces. The fear of separation and the weight of contemplating the unknown, especially the thought of losing a loved one. It's a story that addresses those feelings with tenderness, reminding readers that we are never alone.



## Sample Interview Questions: (cont)

**Q: What do you hope children and parents will take away from your illustrations in A Message in the Moon?**

**A:** Through my illustrations I hope to convey a sense of comfort. I want children to look at the pages and feel understood, knowing that their emotions and experiences are valid. I hope they see themselves in the characters and find peace in knowing that they are not alone in their feelings of loneliness, sadness, or anxiety.

Ultimately, my hope is that both children and parents will take away a sense of hope, resilience, and the understanding that love can bridge any distance. I want them to feel a renewed sense of connection and the knowledge that they are never alone, even when it may seem that way.

**Q: Were there any particular scenes or illustrations in the book that resonated with you personally? If so, could you share why they had a special significance for you?**

**A:** The spread in A Message in the Moon that resonated with me on a personal level is the scene where the mom is dropping off her child for a sleepover. This illustration holds a special significance for me because it mirrors the anxieties and emotions that my own son experiences when leaving home, even for something as simple as a sleepover at his grandparents' house.

Seeing my son struggle with separation anxiety has been a challenging journey, and this particular scene captures the essence of that experience. It reflects the heartache and inner turmoil that both children and parents can feel during such moments of separation. The illustration reminds me of the love, understanding, and reassurance that is needed to help our little ones navigate through these feelings.





## Sample Interview Questions: (cont)

**Q: A Message in the Moon aims to help parents explain the feeling of longing to their children. How did you ensure that your illustrations were accessible and relatable to both children and adults?**

**A:** First and foremost, I wanted to make sure that readers from all backgrounds could see themselves in the pages of the book. By illustrating a variety of races, ethnicities, and cultures, I aimed to create a sense of inclusivity and representation that would resonate with readers from different backgrounds.

Additionally, I paid careful attention to the expressions on the characters' faces. Emotions are universal, and I wanted to capture a range of feelings that both children and adults could relate to. Whether it was sadness, joy, or a sense of longing, I wanted to convey these emotions through the characters' facial expressions, making it easier for readers to connect with their experiences.

Keeping the problems and anxieties depicted in the book true to real-life situations was another crucial aspect. I wanted the challenges faced by the characters to be relatable and relevant to the experiences of real children. These include separation anxiety, the experience of missing a loved one, and the challenges of dealing with moving to a new place. This helps to create a safe space for readers to explore and discuss their own feelings of longing.

**Q: How was your experience collaborating with Roma Downey as the author of A Message in the Moon? Can you share any highlights or memorable moments from your working relationship?**

**A:** Working with Roma Downey was a wonderful experience filled with kindness and inspiration.

Right from the start, Roma was incredibly kind and supportive. We had fun brainstorming ideas together and she was always open to exploring different creative possibilities. Her enthusiasm for the story and its message was truly infectious and it motivated me to bring my best to the illustrations.

Roma really valued my art and constantly cheered me on. Her support and appreciation for my work meant the world to me and gave me a huge boost of confidence as an artist.

But it wasn't just her artistic input that made the collaboration so special. Roma's warm and positive presence made every moment enjoyable. She always had a smile on her face and radiated positivity, which created such a warm working atmosphere. I truly felt like I was touched by an angel.



# 5 Important Ideas/Themes of Book

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## 1. **The Power of Love and Connection:**

The book explores the profound impact of love and connection, emphasizing that we are never alone. It reminds readers of the strong bonds that exist between family and friends.

## 2. **Overcoming Loneliness and Anxiety:**

The book addresses the feelings of loneliness, sadness, and anxiety that both children and adults may experience. It offers reassurance and guidance on navigating these emotions, showing that there is always hope and support available.

## 3. **Finding Comfort in Nature:**

The moon and stars serve as symbols of hope, guidance, and comfort throughout the book. Nature, particularly the night sky, becomes a source of peace and a reminder of the beauty and interconnectedness of the world.

## 4. **Exploring Themes of Separation:**

The book touches on themes of separation, and the fear of being apart from loved ones.

## 5. **Embracing Resilience:**

A Message in the Moon encourages resilience and the ability to overcome challenges.



## More Resources:



### News:

[Fox News](#)

[Belfast Telegraph](#)

[Derry Daily](#)

### Past Podcast Interviews

[Modern Minorities](#)

[The Guady Insights](#)

[Picturebooking 1](#)

[Picturebooking 2](#)

[Your Joyologist](#)

### Past TV Interviews:

[CTV:](#)

[Rogers TV](#)

[New Books Network](#)

[Let's Talk Kids' Books!](#)

[Picture Books Are for Grown  
Ups too!](#)

[On Purpose with Alex Beadon](#)

### Social Media

[Instagram:](#)

[YouTube:](#)

[Amazon Author Page:](#)

[Women With Cool Jobs](#)

[The Self Employed Life](#)

[Dream Gardens](#)

[Moms Don't Have Time  
to Read Books](#)

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