

The Everybody Club

By Nancy Loewen and Linda Hayen
Illustrated by Yana Zyбина

Ages 2–7 | 26 pages | 8.5 x 11

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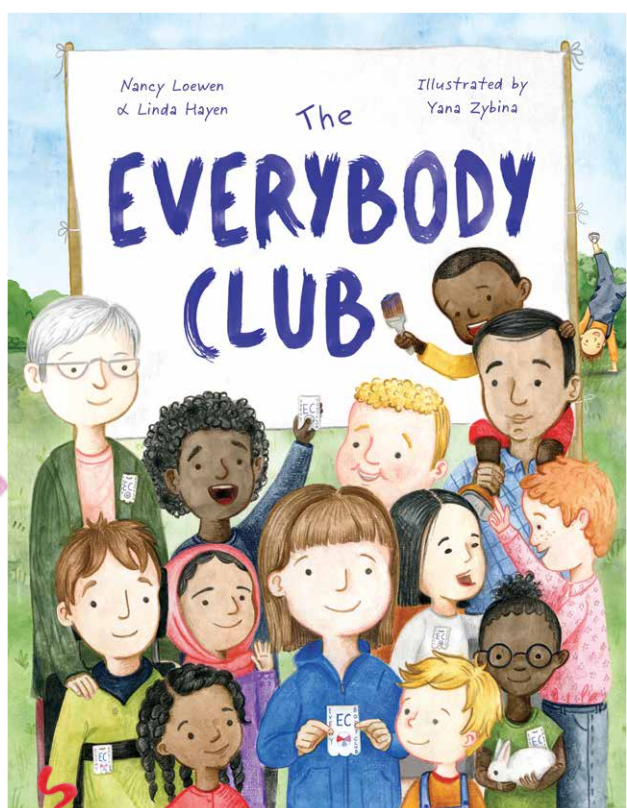
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Purchasing options

- [Ingram](#)
- [Amazon](#)
- geni.us/EverybodyClubBook

everybodyclub.com

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The Everybody Club is a feel-good rhyming read-aloud. It's a book with plenty of heart and a powerful message: We belong. Every one of us. Join in the fun and see what the Everybody Club is up to in this catchy, joyful romp for young readers!

The Everybody Club was inspired by Linda's daughter, Carissa, when she was a child. Carissa had a vision for a world in which everyone would feel welcomed and valued. The first members were her toys and dolls, any friends who happened to be around, the family cat, and her brothers, one of whom had severe disabilities and was unable to walk or speak. Everyone was a member of the club!

In 2000, Carissa died in a car accident at the age of 16. This book is Linda's way of honoring Carissa's memory and sharing her generous spirit with the world.

Everybody Club Extras

- [Carissa's story \(video\) \(1:19\)](#)
- [Book trailer \(0:46\)](#)
- [Printable activities for kids](#)
- [Photos and book images](#)
- [PDF of book \(watermarked\)](#)





Nancy Loewen

Nancy Loewen grew up on a farm in southwestern Minnesota, surrounded by library books and cats. She's published more than 140 books for children. Four to the Pole (co-authored with polar explorer Ann Bancroft) and The LAST Day of Kindergarten were Minnesota Book Award finalists. Her Writer's Toolbox series received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Association of Educational Publishers. Nancy lives in Saint Paul and has an MFA in Creative Writing from Hamline University. She has two young adult children and a cat who sometimes bites her knees under the table as she writes.

Linda Hayen

Linda Hayen loves stories and plays and connecting with people. She has an MS in Community Health Education from the University of Illinois and worked with seniors in the healthcare field for many years. Her other passion is community theater, and you may see her onstage or behind the scenes at various locations around the Twin Cities. She has led and participated in numerous support groups and believes strongly in including everyone, always. Her two living children, Philip and Todd, are proud members of The Everybody Club. This is her first experience in collaborating on a children's book, and it has been wonderful in every way.



Yana Zybina

Yana Zybina is an illustrator from southwestern Russia. She has always loved to draw. Originally a designer, she was inspired to become an illustrator when her son was born and she found herself painting pictures of him in all his daily activities. Yana creates her pictures traditionally, using paper and watercolors; her titles include Mommy Goes to Yoga and The Quarantine Kid. She hopes that her illustrations will help kids understand the world around them—and make them smile.

Heather Homa

designer

Heather Homa is an artist living in Minneapolis. She immerses herself equally in design, illustration, gardening, and roasting marshmallows.



Reviews



A youngster finds a club that aims to include everyone in Loewen and Hayen's picture book.

An unnamed girl invites some friends (and the reader) to join her Everybody Club. She gives them all a simple badge and encourages them to invite others. "Tell them all: / You're a member. / It's official. / The Everybody Club is beneficial!" There are images of a boy using a motorized wheelchair, several girls wearing headscarves, and another boy wearing a kufi cap. Multiple same-sex couples are shown, some with their kids. (The narrator is depicted as White, and other characters have a variety of skin tones.) The group gathers to build a float, which they enter in a parade. Finally, everyone in town joins the procession in a spread showcasing Zybina's soft, warm, and appealing pastel illustrations. The story, based on a real club started by Hayen's late daughter, presents rhymes that are simple, engaging, and fun—"A parade of everybodies! / A jolly jamboree! / The Everybody Club / turns THEY to WE"—and the overall message of how great it feels to be inclusive is sweet without ever feeling cloying.

A well-illustrated work with a wonderful moral about finding joy in accepting others.

Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

This picture book paints the world we all want to live in. Written in delightful rhythm and rhyme, the sweet illustrations mirror the universal tone we are all searching for today—one of acceptance. The inspiration for *The Everybody Club* came from a young girl who cared for...well, everybody.

Mary Bleckwehl, author of *Claire's Hair* (Midwest Book Award winner),
Henry You're Late AGAIN! and *Henry You're Hungry AGAIN?*

In less than 200 rhythmical words and a multitude of engaging water-color illustrations, *The Everybody Club* is the story of a girl who comes up with a plan to grow an inclusive club in her community; and everyone is invited to join. No rules, no exceptions. The unnamed narrator's quest to make a difference in the lives of others shows that positive action results in fun (and smiles) for all. The last line of the book is profound in its simplicity: "The Everybody Club turns THEY to WE." Inspired by author Linda Hayen's daughter, Clarissa, this tender and inspiring story will delight and challenge young readers to find ways to earn the badge of friendship and acceptance in their own families, schools, and communities.

Eileen Beha, author of *The Secrets of Eastcliff-by-the-Sea*
and *Tango: The Tale of an Island Dog*

"An energetic, optimistic campaign to turn "they" into "we." Active illustrations and verbs compel the reader to get involved and join the parade!"

Esther Harder, author of *Quarantine Kids*

This brightly illustrated story will appeal to young readers, helping them to see the world as one union, without disparity, inequalities, and violence. The story begins with a list of questions, asking the reader to define some of their unique qualities: "Are you big? Are you small? ... Do you smile? Do you dream?" Told mostly in rhyming verse, the story then leads the reader through the process of sharing the positive benefits of *The Everybody Club*: "The Everybody Club is BENEFICIAL!" and how we can all participate and spread the word.

This is definitely a feel-good type of book, one with a powerful message about acceptance and working together with everyone, not just a chosen few. Absolutely beautiful and touching! Loved it!

Emily-Jane Hills Orford, Readers' Favorite

[Customer Reviews on Amazon](#)



Media Coverage

GMA3

"Minnesota Mom writes book in honor of deceased daughter" (2:39)

Taped segment on Good Morning America: What You Need to Know

Air date: January 18, 2022

Star Tribune

"Minnesota mom turns deceased daughter's kindness into children's book"

Feature article by Richard Chin

November 27, 2021

Gillette Children's Hospital

"Welcome to the Everybody Club"

February 14, 2022

Talk to the Author with Nadia Giordana

Interview (20:23)

April 9, 2022

The Sheletta Show

20:15-28:35

WCCO Radio

December 4, 2021



Sample Question and Answer

Transcribed and adapted from "Talk to the Author" with Nadia Giordana
[Full Interview \(20:23\)](#)
April 9, 2022

NADIA GIORDANA: Linda, talk to us about what was the inspiration for this book.

LINDA HAYEN: My daughter, Carissa, when she was about 10 years old started a little club, like kids will do. And she put all of her dolls and all of her stuffed animals in a big circle and invited her two brothers to the club. One of her brothers has severe disabilities and uses a wheelchair, and I think that inspired her to name the club the Everybody Club, because her brother was often excluded from things as you can imagine. He doesn't talk, but he was part of the club and was completely involved in everything they did. Mostly the meetings consisted of making little badges and putting their names on them, but she did have a club song and a club motto and it was all about making sure everybody was included. So fast forward about six years. When she was sixteen unfortunately she passed away in a car accident. As time went on, one of my memories was of her having this little club and I always thought it would make a good story.

NADIA GIORDANA: That is an absolutely heartwarming story. I'm so glad you shared that with us. That is a perfect inspiration for this book.

LINDA HAYEN: I think I also want to backtrack a little bit and talk about how Nancy and I met and decided to work together. I met Nancy at church and got to know her and found out that she was a professional children's book author. I'd had this idea for quite a long time but I didn't know how to make a book, so I wanted to ask Nancy if she would help me with it. But I was afraid to ask her because I was afraid she'd say no. The story is that on Mother's Day 2013 I was at church and I was really sad because Mother's Day is a really hard day for people who have children who have died. I saw Nancy in the hall and she actually approached me because she had another friend of hers who had lost her daughter. She asked me for some suggestions on how she could help her friend. We were both just really, really sad and I thought I can't be any sadder than I am right now so I'm just going to ask her. I asked her if she thought that this was a good idea and I was so happy that she said yes. So that's kind of how we began our collaboration.

NADIA GIORDANA: Nancy, tell us what sets this book apart from your other books?

NANCY LOEWEN: This is the first book that I have directed from start to finish. I have published a lot of books traditionally, so I had familiarity with the whole process, but only on a shallow level. This was very eye-opening. We were both kind of amazed at how many decisions there are to make!

NADIA GIORDANA: Linda and Nancy, what can you tell me were some of the most notable highlights in this entire process?

NANCY LOEWEN: It is very gratifying to see children respond to the book. That's always meaningful—that's why we did it and it's great to see Carissa's message out there. The other thing for me is that Linda's friendship has meant so much. We knew each other a little bit before we started the project, but in the years that we've been working on this book it's been great getting together with Linda. Everything took a long time because we had to talk so much, you know! For me, too, during the pandemic this book was really kind of a beacon of light and hope. I was pretty isolated during that time and it just meant so much to be able to work on this with a friend and also with Heather and Yana. It has been one of the most meaningful projects that I've ever worked on.

LINDA HAYEN: For me there was another added benefit that I had no idea was going to happen. You know, losing a child is very huge loss and what I discovered—and it only has been recently that I've figured this out—is that the process of writing this book was very healing for me personally. It's changed my entire outlook on life, to be honest. I feel like I finally am happy to be alive again. I can finally feel true joy. There's just something about this book that has opened up my heart and made me see the world as something happy.