

GEORGE



Dear Reader,

This is a very special, very important, very wonderful book.

I have been an editor now at Scholastic for over twenty years. And in those twenty years, I have never done what I did after finishing *George*. After taking a lot of deep breaths and wiping the happy tears from my eyes, I marched to my boss's office and said I needed her permission to do whatever it would take to bring the book to our list. I couldn't wait until the next meeting. I couldn't wait for an email chain of approvals. I couldn't even wait for her to read it. I had to act right away, because it would break my heart if I didn't get to be a part of its publication.

I am often asked what kind of books I am looking for. And this book – this very special, very important, very wonderful book – is the best answer to that question I have ever found.

I dropped everything to read it, and you should too.

Even if I wasn't its editor, this would be one of my favorite children's books of all time. I love it as an editor, yes, but I also love it as a writer, as a reader, as a queer person, and – most of all – as a human being. It is everything I want for the world, in book form.

I feel such deep gratitude to Alex Gino for bringing *George's* story into the world. I hope you will help me make Alex and *George* feel very, very welcome.

David Levithan
Publisher and Editorial Director
Scholastic