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Hi-res photos available upon request

'Jamie's Journey' Gives Siblings of Pediatric Cancer Patients a Voice

CHANDLER, AZ (July 2016) — When a child is diagnosed with cancer, his or her medical care becomes the family's primary concern and siblings often feel forgotten. *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling* (Little Five Star), by first-time author Sharon Wozny, is written specifically for the siblings of pediatric cancer patients.

"A perfect partnership was formed in the production of this book," shared Linda F. Radke, publisher and founder of Little Five Star, a division of Five Star Publications, Inc. "While Sharon Wozny beautifully reaches out to siblings of pediatric cancer patients with understanding, encouragement, and steps toward healing, Melissa Bailey magnificently conveys the feelings and emotions of the characters in each illustration." Radke also said, "With this book, Sharon provides a much-needed resource to give a voice to the siblings who are often lost in this maze."

For the last three years, Wozny has volunteered with Children's Cancer Network. The time she spent with families affected by cancer convinced her that siblings of pediatric cancer patients need more support. "They endure so much," she said. "They feel so much pain on so many levels."

Part story, part journal, the first half of *Jamie's Journey* introduces 13-year-old Jamie who feels a roller coaster of emotions when her younger sister is diagnosed with cancer. Jamie laments the loss of her "normal" life of sleepovers, shopping, and dance lessons and struggles to deal with feelings of confusion, guilt, and jealousy. "I want siblings to realize that they are not alone with these feelings," said Wozny. "They're very normal."

In the second half of the book, readers learn that Jamie finds solace expressing her feelings in a journal. The book then takes journal form, including helpful prompts, giving siblings a safe place to share their own experiences. "Journals allow healing to take place," said Wozny, encouraging readers to let their emotions loose. "Write it with love," she writes. "Scribble or doodle away your anger or frustration. It's all good! What matters on these pages are *your* feelings."

In time to honor Childhood Cancer Awareness month in September, *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling* (ISBN: 978-1-58985-234-1, softbound; eISBN: 978-1-58985-235-8, eBook;

\$14.95 US / \$15.95 CAN) is slated for national release on September 5, 2016 and will be distributed by Midpoint Trade Books, Ingram, Baker & Taylor and eStarPublish.com. For more information about *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from a Voice of a Sibling*, please visit www.SiblingCancerBook.com. To learn more about Five Star Publications, Inc. and its 30-year history of producing award-winning books for all ages, visit www.FiveStarPublications.com, email publisher@FiveStarPublications.com, or call 480-940-8182.

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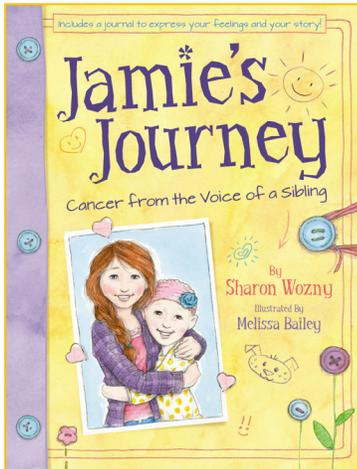
Jamie's Journey

Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling

by Sharon Wozny

Illustrations by Melissa Bailey

FACT SHEET



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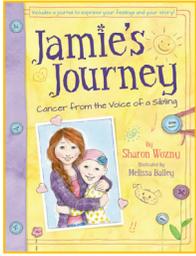
"Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart" — William Wordsworth

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, his or her siblings may struggle with complex emotions such as confusion, guilt, and fear. Part story, part journal, *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling* helps siblings of pediatric cancer patients cope with those intense feelings. The first half of the book is about 13-year-old Jamie who describes the roller coaster of emotions she experiences when her 10-year-old sister, Jordan, is diagnosed with cancer. Jamie laments the loss of her "normal" teenage life and describes feeling forgotten as her family focuses on Jordan's medical needs. Jamie finds solace through journaling about her experience, and encourages the reader to write about his or her own journey on the pages provided in the book.

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK UNIQUE?

Jamie's Journey is unique in that it's designed especially for the siblings of pediatric cancer patients. Author Sharon Wozny draws from her experience volunteering with Children's Cancer Network for the past three years. During the time she's spent with young cancer patients and their families, Wozny has discovered that the patients' siblings face unique challenges. "They endure so much," she said. "They feel so much pain on so many levels and need to know that they are heroes also..." Wozny has made the second half of the book an interactive journal, offering siblings of pediatric cancer patients a safe place to share their thoughts and feelings.



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THE CREATIVE TEAM

Sharon Wozny – Author



Inspired by her more than three years of volunteering with Children's Cancer Network (CCN), author Sharon Wozny has created a book designed for siblings of pediatric cancer patients. While working with families affected by cancer, Sharon discovered an untapped need among the young people whose entire lives are affected by a sibling's diagnosis. She set out to give these siblings a voice and offer a way for them to help manage the wide range of feelings they might be experiencing. *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling* is part-book, part-journal, giving young people a safe place to express their emotions. "Siblings of pediatric cancer patients often get lost or forgotten in the throes of the cancer diagnosis," says Wozny. "It's not out of intention, just out of the craziness of what cancer does to a family and the time constraints, worry, angst, and appointments."

Wozny grew up in Massapequa, Long Island and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Oswego State University. She later earned a Master's Degree in Counselor Education from Arizona State University. During her 30-year career in education, Sharon particularly enjoyed teaching her students how to write. As the author of *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling*, Wozny followed the advice she gave her pupils. "I always taught my students to write what you are passionate about," she said. "If you don't, it won't resonate with people as your true essence won't come through." Now retired, Wozny still enjoys volunteering in the classroom.

As a volunteer for CCN, Sharon coordinates the It's All about You Health and Wellness programs for patients on local hospital oncology floors and their families, as well as for families at CCN's resource center. She also helps with organizing the models for CCN's annual fashion show.

Sharon has two grown children, Hailey and Jordan, and lives in Arizona with her husband, Joe. This is her first book.

Short Bio: Inspired by her volunteer work with Children's Cancer Network, author Sharon Wozny has designed a book especially for siblings of pediatric cancer patients. Sharon discovered an untapped need within these young people whose entire lives are affected by a sibling's diagnosis. *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling* is part-book, part-journal, giving these siblings a safe place to express their emotions. Residing in Arizona, Sharon is retired after a 30-year career in education. This is her first book.

Melissa Bailey – Illustrator



As a child, Melissa Bailey often thought how cool it would be to illustrate children's books. Many years and 37 books later, her childhood dream is now her real-life job. Melissa felt a special connection to *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from a Voice of a Sibling* because while illustrating this book her grandma was going through cancer treatments (and happily is in remission now). Surrounded by family, friends, a poodle named Archie, and art supplies, Melissa lives on a dirt road near a small town in Michigan.

Conrad J. Storar – Editor

Photo by: Linda F. Radke



Conrad J. Storar is an award-winning author and editor of more than 50 science and nature books for children and young adults, including *Gator*, *Gator, Second Grader (Classroom Pet...or Not?)*, the "USA Best Book" *Rattlesnake Rules*, and the ONEBOOKAZ for Kids 2012 selection *Arizona Way Out West & Witty*. He holds an Undergraduate Degree in Mass Media Communication from the University of Akron and a Master's Degree in Mass Communication/Science Journalism from Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. He, along with his wife, Laurie, and their rescue dog, Frankie, share their time between Arizona and Ohio.

Jeff Luttrell – Inspiration for the character of Speckles



Imagination and creativity have been part of Jeff Luttrell's life since an early age. Initially through play and comics, then toy design and Comic Con and now graphic design, Jeff strives to share his creativity with those around him. Diagnosed with Leukemia on the second day of kindergarten, Jeff learned early on to focus his energy on healing through art. Now a 27-year-old survivor who has battled Leukemia and secondary cancers many times, Jeff continues that practice. Graduating with a Graphic Design Degree from the Art Institute of Phoenix in December of 2015, Jeff strives to bring smiles to the faces of those around him. He currently resides in Tempe, Arizona. Jeff's initial drawings of Speckles served as the inspiration for the lovable, plush toy that is featured in

Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling.

Little Five Star — Publisher



Helping authors of children's books shape the future with great reads for growing minds...

Shining brightly since 1985, [Five Star Publications, Inc.](#), the parent company of Little Five Star, is proud of its reputation for excellence in producing and marketing award-winning books for all ages. Little Five Star was established by Linda F. Radke to help authors of children's books shape the future with *great books for growing minds*. Designed to produce, market, and promote excellent literature for children, as well as provide young authors with publishing opportunities, Little Five Star has become an industry leader in showcasing educational and entertaining books that are engaging, enriching and fun! Many titles include classroom curriculum guides.

Little Five Star titles have earned numerous awards, including National Book Festival Kids & Teachers Resources "52 Great Reads", ONEBOOKAZ for Kids, Southwest Books of the Year, Moonbeam Children's Book Awards, and the Benjamin Franklin Award, among others.

Spurred by the success of Little Five Star's focus on publishing books that are "edu-taining," Five Star Publications launched [Story Monsters Ink](#) magazine in 2014. Published monthly, *Story Monsters Ink* is a subscription-based family magazine that provides parents, educators, and children with the latest book news, author profiles, kids' features, activities, and more, as a way to promote literacy.

In every aspect of the business, Little Five Star emphasizes educating and entertaining young thinkers. Little Five Star helps children to make better choices and to accept themselves and others.

www.LittleFiveStar.com

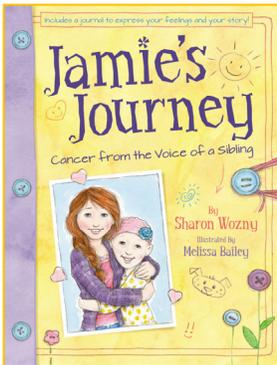
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BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

"I get it. I've ridden the emotional rollercoaster. One day you think you're fine. The next moment, feelings you never thought you could have, are threatening to explode!"



10 words: Jamie is overwhelmed with emotions following her sister's cancer diagnosis.

15 words: 13-year-old Jamie struggles with the complex emotions she feels following her 10-year-old sister's cancer diagnosis.

25 words: 13-year-old Jamie struggles with the complex emotions she feels following her 10-year-old sister's cancer diagnosis. She finds solace by expressing her feelings in a journal.

50 words: 13-year-old Jamie struggles with the complex emotions she feels after her 10-year-old sister, Jordan, is diagnosed with cancer. Jamie finds solace expressing her feelings in a journal. Drawing on her experience volunteering with the Children's Cancer Network, author Sharon Wozny has written this book especially for the siblings of pediatric cancer patients.

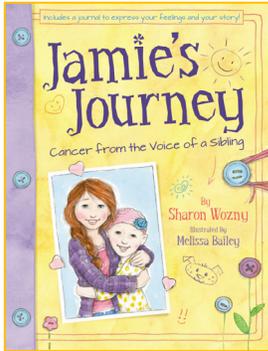
100 words: 13-year-old Jamie struggles with the complex emotions she feels after her 10-year-old sister, Jordan, is diagnosed with cancer. Jamie ultimately finds solace expressing her feelings in a journal. Drawing on her experience volunteering with the Children's Cancer Network, author Sharon Wozny has written this book especially for siblings of pediatric cancer patients who may feel forgotten and unimportant. Part-book, part-journal, *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling*, gives these siblings a safe place to record their own experiences. Wozny encourages readers to write and draw in their journal, telling them, "There are *no rules*" and "This is all about you!"

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SUGGESTED MEDIA QUESTIONS



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1. You've said that *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling* was inspired by your three years of volunteering with Children's Cancer Network. How did you come to do this type of volunteer work?
2. In your work with cancer patients, is there any one family or story that has particularly stuck with you?
3. Why did you decide to write this book specifically for siblings of cancer patients?
4. How long did it take you to write this book? Have you always wanted to be an author?
5. How did you come up with the idea of Speckles?
6. Do you keep a journal yourself?
7. You taught elementary school for 30 years. What advice did you give your students about writing?
8. Who were some of the authors and what were some of the books that you liked to share with your students when you were an elementary school teacher?
9. Cancer can be a difficult subject for people to talk about. Did you find it easy or challenging to write about?
10. Do you have plans to write a second book?