



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Forest Fire to Inspiration: How the Fourmile Tragedy Spurred Creativity in a Mountain Town Near Boulder

Local Artist and Writer Amy Fortunato, Announces Debut of New Children's Book: Horsing Around in the Town of Gold Hill: A Story to Stirrup the Imagination

BOULDER, CO (January 31, 2023) – Shortly after the Fourmile Fire ravaged the foothills outside of Boulder in the mountain town of Gold Hill in 2010, local jewelry designer Amy Fortunato was touched by the community's resiliency. That unity set the stage and inspired her book, *Horsing Around in the Town of Gold Hill: A Story to Stirrup the Imagination and Spur Creativity*.

Even though the book is for children of all ages, with rhyming and sensory lessons, it's also a book geared toward adults. Set in nature, the reader follows the adventures of a disgruntled horse and a group of clever animal characters whose quest begins with a simple search for an answer. Together, the reader and the animals learn a lesson more valuable than gold.

"This book is a lighthearted celebration of the wonder and beauty of where we live, work, and play," said Amy Fortunato, Author. "I was moved to write this book to advocate for positive relationships and help others overcome the restrictions we put on our inner selves. Most self-limiting beliefs arise during the developmental stages of childhood, and I want to inspire kids to view new challenges as exciting rather than intimidating, allowing them to be kind and supportive of other children who are struggling."

One of the motifs in the book is a fence - a recurring element with symbolic significance. It draws the reader's attention to the story's main character, a horse, who struggles to figure out what is possible, achievable, and practical relating to ambitions and future goals.

Fortunato adds, "All children at one time or another struggle with confidence, worth, discipline, and low self-esteem. With help from caring friends, they can recognize how they hold themselves back from reaching their full potential. I hope this book offers a glimmer of hope for everyone."

About The Book

Horsing Around In The Town Of Gold Hill: A Story to Stirrup the Imagination and Spur Creativity was written and self-published by Amy Fortunato and illustrated by Sidney Meireles. The book is available online and at local bookstores along the Front Range. For more information on how to purchase the book or about the Author visit, cowboys-sweetheart.com/horsing-around-gold-hill/

About Amy Fortunato, Author

Jewelry designer Amy Fortunato has written her first children's book, *Horsing Around in the Town of Gold Hill*. As an art teacher and educator, Amy has worked closely with children and young adults nurturing their creativity and imagination. She has poured her efforts into creating a light-hearted, rhyming book with an uplifting lesson focused on environmental stewardship. By weaving together themes such as climate change and personal responsibility - both difficult and heavy conversations in the

eyes of youngsters - Amy brings principles and answers to life through her book's clever characters
To view Amy's jewelry designs, visit cowboys-sweetheart.com.

About Sidney Meireles, Illustrator

Sidney Meireles is the illustrator of *Horsing Around in the Town of Gold Hill*. Born and raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Sidney is a talented artist and illustrator whose art career began at a young age. Sidney's illustrations and art have been featured in books and by acclaimed publishing houses in Brazil and the United States. He lives in Mogi das Cruzes and divides his time between Giz de Cera, where he also teaches illustration and watercolor to art students. For more information on Sidney, visit sidmeireles.com.

Media Contact: Amy Fortunato, amy@cowboys-sweetheart.com