

# NILANKA MALDENIYA

## Children's Books Author

### BIO



Nilanka Maldeniya is the author of *When Rover Lost His Woolf*, *Klaus the Mouse*, and the two series *My Favorite* and *Riana's Adventures*, picture books that resonate with children everywhere because of their detailed and joyful illustrations, relatable stories and diverse characters. Nilanka is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and speaks at schools, libraries, and conferences.

By day Nilanka is a lawyer and is qualified to practice law in Toronto, Canada (where she is from) and California, USA. She currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her family.

When she's not reading or writing picture books, Nilanka is having fun with her two daughters who inspire many of her stories.

### TITLES

#### My Favorite Series

My Favorite Place

My Favorite Dance

My Favorite Birthday

#### Riana's Adventures Series

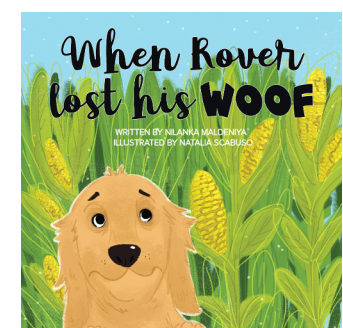
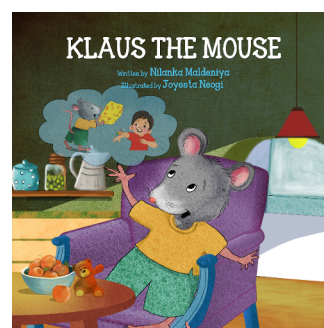
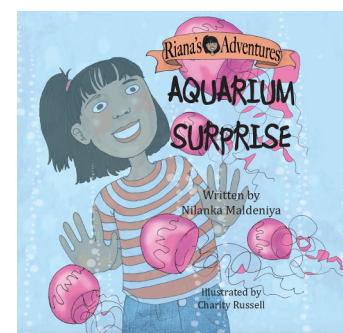
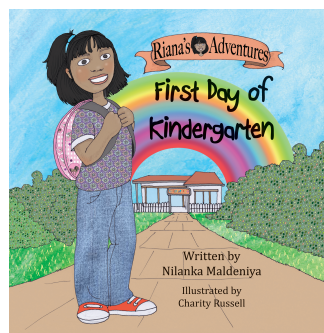
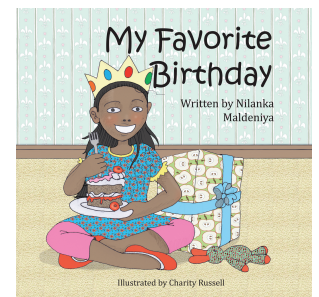
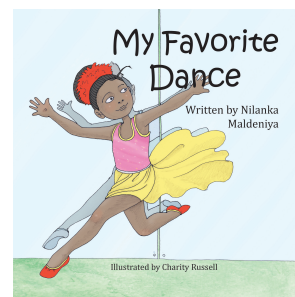
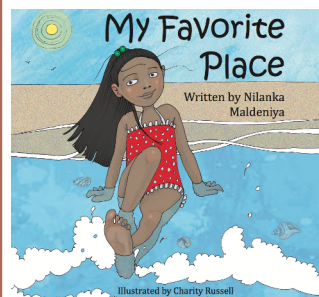
First Day of Kindergarten

Aquarium Surprise

#### Other Titles

When Rover Lost His Woolf

Klaus the Mouse



# BOOKS

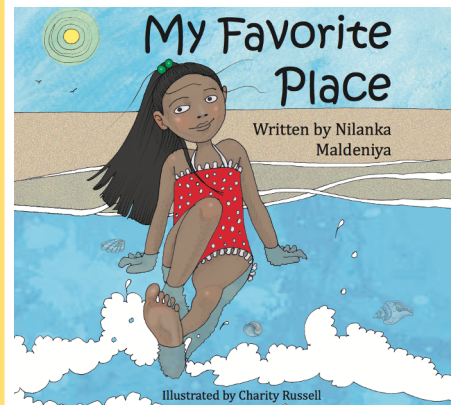
## My Favorite Place

ISBN: 978-1-948778-13-8 (hardcover) ;978-1-948778-00-8 (paperback); 978-1-948778-01-5 (ebook)

Publication: June 2018; Price: US\$16.99 (hardcover); US\$6.99 (paperback) & US\$2.99 (ebook)

Ages 4-8 yrs

Who doesn't love a day at the beach?! With its soothing rhythm and detailed illustrations set in a familiar and much-loved natural environment, this book will make readers of all ages feel like they're splashing in the waves! A wonderful before or after



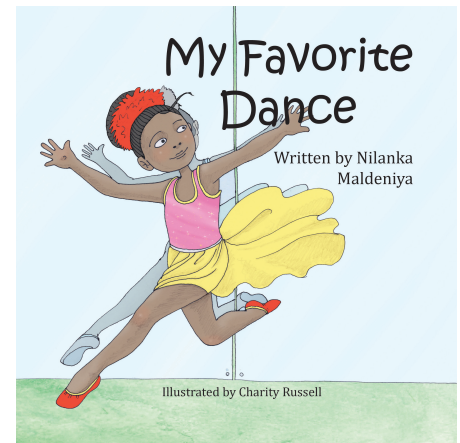
## My Favorite Dance

ISBN: 978-1-948778-15-2 (hardcover); 13: 978-1-948778-04-6 (paperback); 978-1-948778-05-3 (ebook)

Publication: June 2018; Price: US\$16.99 (hardcover); US\$6.99 (paperback) & US\$2.99 (ebook)

Ages 4-8 yrs

Through joyful illustrations that leap off the pages and capture the spirit of dancing, readers are introduced to the most popular dance forms. Sure to be a hit with dancers and would-be dancers of all ages! Makes for a beautiful memento or gift for your special little dancer right after a big show or recital! Or go one \*dance\* step further and treat it like a yearbook - have all the



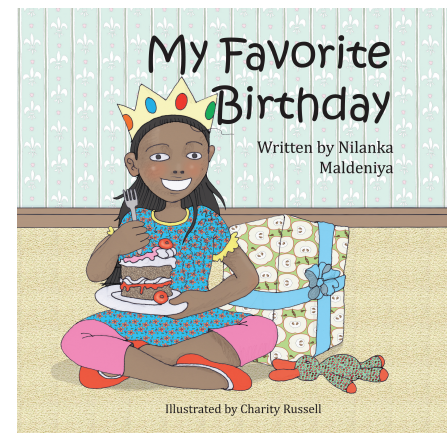
## My Favorite Birthday

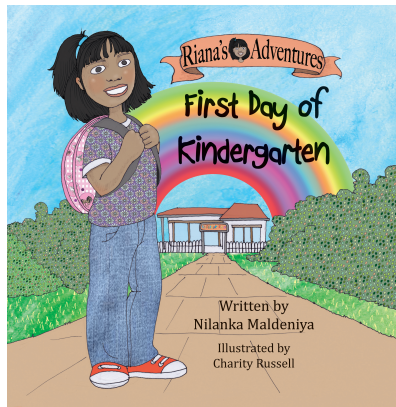
ISBN: 978-1-948778-14-5 (hardcover); 13: 978-1-948778-08-4 (paperback); 978-1-948778-09-1 (ebook)

Publication: June 2018; Price: US\$16.99 (hardcover); US\$6.99 (paperback) & US\$2.99 (ebook)

Ages 4-8 yrs

There's one day every year that's more special than all the rest! Experience the magic of birthdays with this charming story that makes you want to celebrate over and over again! A great present for a birthday boy or girl. Would also make a memorable thank-you gift for each party guest, especially if signed by the birthday star! Or add it to the classroom library and bring it out to celebrate student birthdays!





**Riana's Adventures  
First Day of Kindergarten**

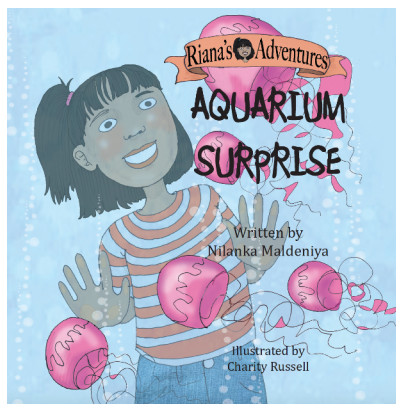
ISBN: 978-1-948778-16-9 (hardcover); 978-1-948778-10-7 (paperback); 978-1-948778-21-3 (ebook)

Format: 32 pages, 8.5"x8.5 for print and ePUB/MOBI

Publication: June 2018; Price: US\$16.99 (hardcover); US\$6.99 (paperback) & US\$2.99 (ebook)

Ages 4-8 yrs

Riana loves rainbows more than castles, princesses or ballerinas. Some people call her Rainbow Riana! She's excited but also a little scared about starting Kindergarten and making new friends. Join Riana on her first day of "big kid school" and find out how she feels about Kindergarten when it's time to go home.



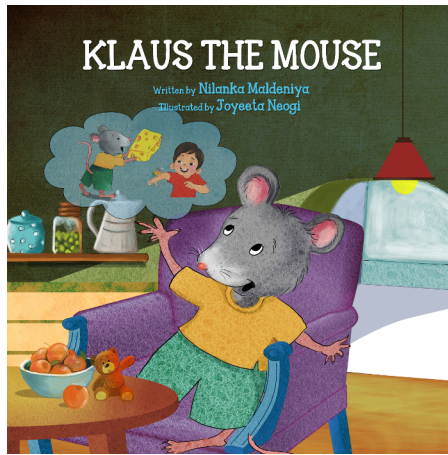
**Riana's Adventures  
Aquarium Surprise**

ISBN: 978-1-948778-17-6 (hardcover); 978-1-948778-11-4 (paperback); 978-1-948778-12-1 (ebook)

Publication: June 2018; Price: US\$16.99 (hardcover); US\$6.99 (paperback) & US\$2.99 (ebook)

Ages 4-8 yrs

Spend the day with Riana and her family as they explore the wonders of the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. From magical kelp forests to dreamlike jellyfish to playful otters, the Aquarium is full of incredible sights. There's also a special surprise in store to top off Riana's spectacular adventure!



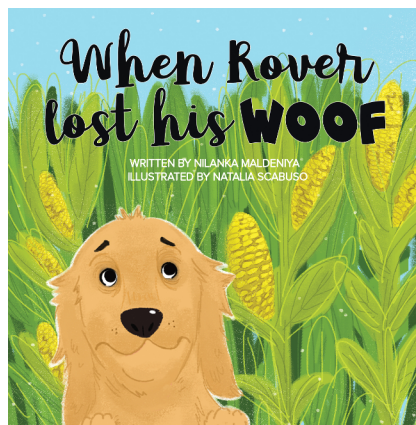
### **Klaus the Mouse**

ISBN: 978-1-948778-19-0 (hardcover); 978-1-948778-06-0 (paperback); 978-1-948778-07-7 (ebook)

Publication: June 2018; Price: US\$16.99 (hardcover); US\$6.99 (paperback) & US\$2.99 (ebook)

Ages 1-4 yrs

Klaus is the tiniest in his large family but has big dreams. He desperately wants to make friends with a little boy but faces some challenges. Can he make his dream come true? A delightful picture book that introduces concepts of courage, acceptance, kindness and optimism.



### **When Rover Lost His Woof**

ISBN: 978-1-948778-18-3 (hardcover); 978-1-948778-02-2 (paperback); 978-1-948778-03-9 (ebook)

Publication: June 2018; Price: US\$16.99 (hardcover); US\$6.99 (paperback) & US\$2.99 (ebook)

Ages 1-4 yrs

Rover is a very happy dog until he wakes up one day to find that he has lost his voice. With his concerned friends by his side, he searches for his Woof all over the farm. Can he find it? A charming story to get toddlers laughing and learning about farm animals and their homes. Be ready to visit a farm soon after!

## Q & A

### How and why did you start writing picture books?

I rediscovered picture books when I had my own children and started reading to them at bedtime. There's something magical about watching a child absorb and relate to a story. I also love the rhythm and cadence you find in most picture books and think that they are the very first step in showing children the beauty and versatility of words. Since I'm surrounded by picture books these days, it was inevitable that I would pick up the pen to write some of my own.

### Where do you get your story ideas?

My two little girls are my inspiration. Something they might say or do, or even a facial expression, will often trigger a sentence or word that I scribble down and that doodle then turns into a book. Some of my stories are born out of my own daydreams!

### Your two series *My Favorite* and *Riana's Adventures* are noticeably diverse, with main characters who are South Asian. Can you comment on that?

It was very important to me to represent dark-skinned South Asian girls as my main characters. The more picture books I read to my own daughters, the more I couldn't help but notice that non-Caucasian characters were ancillary, if there were any at all. I strongly believe that art and literature should reflect the world we actually live in, and I want my own girls to feel and know that they can be central characters too. I admire artists like Mindy Kaling who challenge the status quo, and whose work promotes gender and race diversity in the media. Children may think that they have to look a certain way to be successful if that is all they see in the mainstream. Also, "diverse books" shouldn't just include books where the character handles a "diversity issue" like a language barrier or a specific cultural practice. Those books are obviously important and teach valuable lessons, but it is just as important to have books that have no diversity specific issues - where the only difference is the race of various characters while their day to day lives, hopes, dreams, and challenges are the same. That is reflective of the lives of most visible minority children who grow up in North America, Australia, UK, or Europe as 2nd generation (or later) immigrants.

### How can I use your books to teach in classrooms and at home?

Teaching guides for my books are available on [www.nilankamaldeniya.com](http://www.nilankamaldeniya.com).

### Do you have other materials for parents and teachers to engage children?

Mazes, coloring pages, word match/scramble games are also on my website!

### What book(s) are you working on right now?

*My Favorite Sport* and *Riana's Fun Fair Day* (targeting 2019 release)

### How do I schedule an author visit and get news of events and appearances?

To schedule a visit, and to get updates and news, visit my website [www.nilankamaldeniya.com](http://www.nilankamaldeniya.com) or email me at the address shown on the side.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT ME

### Lives in:

San Anselmo, California

### Favorite Junk Food:

Flamin' Hot Cheetos

### Top Bucket List Item:

African Safari

### Favorite City to Visit:

London, England

### Favorite Movie:

Sound of Music

### Sweet or Sour?:

Sour

### Favorite Author:

Roald Dahl

### Favorite Book Series:

Harry Potter

### Favorite Color:

Purple

### Most scared of:

Snakes

### Hobbies:

Reading, Writing, Yoga

### Favorite Family Time:

Movie night

## CONTACT INFO

### Website:

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### Instagram:

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Twitter: @NilankaDM