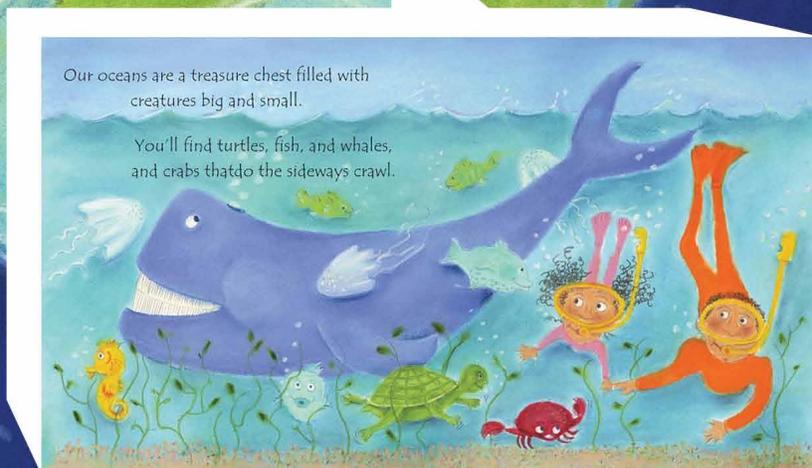
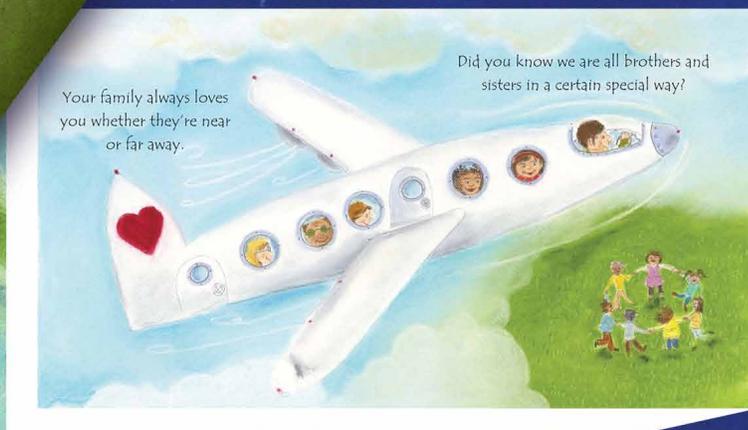


You Are a Gift to the World

The World is a Gift to You



From the *New York Times* Bestselling author of *I Love You More*

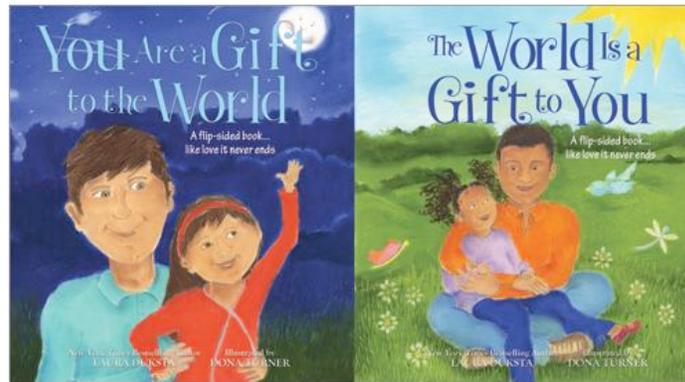


PRESSRELEASE

Sourcebooks 1935 Brookdale Rd, Suite 139 Naperville, IL 60563
390 Fifth Ave, Suite 907 New York, NY 10018

You Are a Gift to the World

New Picture Book by *New York Times* Bestselling Author, Laura Duksta Generates the Conversation of Love and Shares Powerful Message of Appreciating One Another and the World Around Us



“This book is as much for parents, grandparents and teachers as it is for the children they’ll share it with. What a beautiful reminder of the opportunities we are given every moment to ‘Love for No Reason.’”

—Marci Shimoff, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Love for No Reason*, *Happy for No Reason*, and *Chicken Soup for the Woman’s Soul*

The conversation of love continues with another never-ending story from **Laura Duksta, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *I Love You More*.**



Laura Duksta brings beautiful lyricism to a new dual idea: *You Are a Gift to the World* reminds us of the many ways that life itself is a continuous unwrapping of magical moments. Flip the book over and *The World Is a Gift to You* shows how many of the biggest gifts are provided to us by the very planet we call home (just in time for Earth Day 2011 on April 22!).

Inspirational as well as gorgeously written, both thoughts reach the same moving conclusion: a child in the world is the greatest gift of all.

ON-SALE: April 19, 2011; Sourcebooks Jabberwocky; Dona Turner, illustrator
ISBN: 9781402219542; \$16.99 U.S.; Hardcover; Juvenile Fiction/Picture Book

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About the Author:

Laura Duksta believes that when people know they are loved, anything is possible. Laura lost all her hair to a condition called, Alopecia Areata at the age of eleven. It took her many years to learn to love herself and allow others to love her.

Laura felt from a young age that she was meant to travel the world, meet her brothers and sisters and spread the message of love. What she didn't realize, is that along her own personal journey back to love, she would develop a profound sense of understanding, compassion and love for humanity. She is now fulfilling her mission of "generating the conversation of love around the world" through her books, school programs and inspirational talks. Laura resides in Fort Lauderdale, FL.



Laura's not the only champion for the power of love...

Warren Buffet recently said in an interview with Yahoo! News:

"There is no power on earth like unconditional love. And I think that if you offered that to your child, I mean, you're 90 percent of the way home. ...And I would say that every parent out there that can extend that to their child at an early age, it's going to make for a better human being."

In a letter to Laura Duksta, Warren Buffet said:

"Laura, I admire what you have done and are doing. Good Luck!"

Topics Laura can speak to:

- Listening to your inner voice, Laura's inner voice saved her life and delivered her first book
- Bullying: how life is often like a sling shot, the further you're pulled back the greater your opportunity to soar. Our biggest challenges have the ability to become our biggest gifts
- The power, freedom and self-expression that comes from learning to embrace the simple though not always easy lesson: Be Yourself
- Laura's journey from challenging childhood, to South Beach bartender, to self-published sensation, to *New York Times* Bestselling author
- Partnering with Aspen based company Plant Trees 4 Life, teaching our children to love themselves, one another and the planet we call home. www.PlantTrees4Life.com

About the Illustrator:

Dona Turner is an illustrator and abstract painter. Her work, inspired by a joyful universe, uses rich texture and playful color. She lives in Oakland, California with her husband Robert Mazingo, and architect and winemaker, and their little dog ZZ-belle. She teaches Graphic Design at UC Berkeley Extension and has recently started making short videos. When she's not making art, Dona likes to wander around the world finding odd and interesting things to add to her many collections.

Dear Reader,

Having lost my hair at age eleven, I experienced being bullied, teased and feeling ashamed throughout my teenage and college years. Even today, I remember so clearly when someone at a party grabbed my wig and tossed it across a dance floor. As a result, I became introverted and depressed, and I tried to fill the void caused by feeling like a misfit in unhealthy ways. It wasn't until my thirtieth birthday, and after the idea for my first book, *I Love You More*, that I was finally able to accept myself, and my bald head, and began to open myself up to love.

One thing I realized was that when I closed myself off and believed that something was wrong with me, others saw me the same way. As I learned to accept and love myself, people around me did too. I believe we get back what we reflect to others, and most often it is through these challenges that we become stronger. The tough times I had as a child have led me down the path of creating books that teach people to express and accept love.

I have become a champion for our children, writing books like *I Love You More* and *You Are a Gift to the World* to spread a message of love, appreciation and acceptance. *I Love You More* was originally written for my nephew, so that he—and all children—might know that no matter what's going on in their lives or the world around them, they are loved. Only recently did I realize that writing *I Love You More* was also a healing experience for me.

You Are a Gift to the World has a powerful message for children and adults about appreciating one another and the world around us. It also continues to generate the conversation of love amongst people everywhere.

I feel so blessed to be an author of children's books. I have met thousands of parents, children, grandparents, and educators over the years, and everyone I meet reminds me why I write books—to touch hearts, open hearts, and heal hearts; helping people expand their ability and capacity to harness the power of love.

Love On!

Laura Duksta

Praise for *You Are a Gift to the World*:

“This book is as much for parents, grandparents and teachers as it is for the children they’ll share it with. What a beautiful reminder of the opportunities we are given every moment to ‘Love for No Reason.’”

—Marci Shimoff, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Love for No Reason*, *Happy for No Reason*, and *Chicken Soup for the Woman’s Soul*

“*I Love You More* has become a family favorite. Now with her second book, *You Are a Gift to the World*, Laura is helping to expand the conversation of love. Her message is a gift to our children, our families and our planet.”

—Lyss Stern, founder of Divalysscious Moms, www.divamoms.com

“Laura Duksta has done it again! *You Are a Gift to the World* is a beautiful progression from her *New York Times* bestseller *I Love You More*. This book is itself a gift to children and the grownups who love them. Its message of the magnificence of our world fills my heart with hope for our world.”

—Peggy McColl, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Your Destiny Switch*

“Brilliant! This wonderful book is filled with lessons that should be shared with all of the world’s children... both young and old. A great reminder of how much we already have to be grateful for.”

--Barry Gottlieb, author of *Everyday is a Gift*, www.TGIT.org

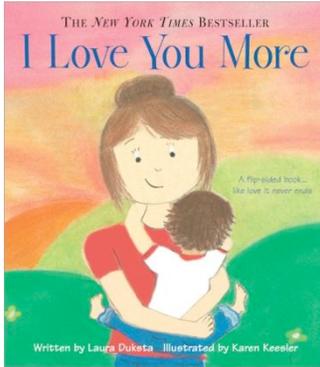
“Laura Duksta is a gift to the world and so is this book. Parents and children alike will delight in flipping the book over and over, sharing the love in *You are A Gift to The World*. I love this book.”

—Debbie Milam, author of *I Love Being Me* and founder of www.bestyoucanbe.org

“Laura writes for the children of OUR world from a deep place. It is as if she has found a direct line to the powers up above to speak through her, to reach out to the children and teach our world of LOVE and ONENESS.”

—Pamela Hart, mom and founder of www.PlantTrees4Life.com

Praise and Honors for *I Love You More*:



New York Times Bestseller!

Winter 2007–2008 Children’s Book Sense Picks list!

iParenting Media Awards 2007 Greatest Product!

“I can just see an adult and a kid giggling away, flipping the book over and taking turns reading to get to the middle and a big fat hug...**Sweet, simple examples that a little one with a big heart will understand.**”
—Alyne Ellis, AARP Radio Network

“A great flip-story book with an appealing message! The colorful pictures are simple but elegant, and the large font is appealing to kids. Parents will enjoy the book’s sentiments, and teachers will find it useful in the classroom. **A must-have for the holidays, and a great way to say ‘I love you!’**”—Diane Van Tassell, Bay Books, San Ramon, CA

“**A gorgeous and touching combination of heartfelt message, rhyme and rhythm, with childlike illustrations.** Its cleverly conceived flip story, which ends in the middle and starts from either side, will show you what love looks like from both a parent and a child’s perspective.”—Dann Gershon, *The Sarasota Herald-Tribune*

“There are many, many books that feature a mother telling her child how much she loves him or her. That’s what happens here, too. But after reading about how much a mother loves her son, children can flip the book over and be treated to the boy addressing the same topic...**the boy’s observations have a sweet kidlike quality** (‘I love you longer than the longest lollipop ever lasted’), and the artwork has the look of a child’s own brightly colored drawing, with figures slightly out-of-proportion, eyes wide, mouths a slash of a line. Cheeriness is the overarching feeling from the art, as both mother and child stretch to explain how much the other is loved.”—Ilene Cooper, *Booklist*

“The day we received *I Love You More* my wife read it over the phone to our youngest child. **The conversation of love it sparked was magical.**”—Jack Canfield, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul*

“**In my entire life I’ve never read a children’s book that has touched me so deeply.** *I Love You More* is simply, elegant and moving. It’s impossible for anyone to read this book without their hearts opening with tears of gratitude and love.”—Dr. John F. Demartini, author of *Count Your Blessings*, featured in the movie phenomenon *The Secret*

(over)