



Kellie Ræ Straub Author Bio

Author Kellie Straub was inspired to write *Sally & Sam Sparrow* (the first book in The Big Backyard collection) during the pandemic of 2020 while she and her husband tended to their botanical backyard. In watching two young sparrows persevere to build a nest where one simply could not be built, she was moved by their determination, passion, and persistence—at a time when the rest of the world was in chaos. This heartwarming witnessing motivated Kellie to bring captivating characters and meaningful messages to life for kids of all ages; particularly with animals and creatures of the natural world around us.

“As humans, I believe we have much to learn from the creatures we share the world with. I also believe that we have a duty and a responsibility to care for our planet, nurture all of life, and protect the landscape for generations to come,” says Kellie.

Having grown up on a large farm and ranch in western Colorado, Kellie has an embedded appreciation for making “pets” out of the animals that live around and with us. The Big Backyard series exemplifies this belief. Kellie wants her stories to bring a smile to the hearts and faces of those who read them and for each person—young or old—to feel happy, peaceful, and inspired. She hopes to inspire a greater level of appreciation for nature and encourage readers to pay closer attention to what’s going on in their own backyard, no matter where they live or how big or small that backyard may be. And for those who don’t have a backyard of their own? Kellie hopes to open their eyes to the fact that the world itself is a backyard, and that there is always something there to see, appreciate, cherish, and love.

Kellie considers herself an entrepreneur at heart, and as such is always knee-deep in endless personal and professional projects. She believes writing is one of the greatest gifts an individual can give to the world and something that can live on and remain long after we’re gone. Bringing *Sally and Sam Sparrow*, and the entire Big Backyard series to life, has taught her many valuable personal and professional lessons.

In her downtime, Kellie enjoys reading, cooking, exercising, and anything outdoors: sitting in the backyard watching nature and the sun set, hiking, biking, walking, ATViing, and taking long road trips with her husband Marcus. They reside in Grand Junction, Colorado.