



GRAND JUNCTION, Colorado
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SALLY & SAM SPARROW Press Release

A lusciously illustrated storybook brings the precious tale of Sally and Sam, two sparrows and their unwavering quest to achieve the impossible. The debut book in The Big Backyard picture book collection combines sweet storytelling with painterly watercolor renderings to affirm that with hard work, determination, and passion dreams really can come true.

Sally and Sam are two sparrows who are in search of the perfect location for the new home they plan to build for their growing bird brood. In Kellie Straub's precious rhyming tale, *Sally & Sam Sparrow*, the debut book in The Big Backyard collection, the two birds find that all of the best spots in the Big Backyard have already been claimed by others. This begins a journey of perseverance and ingenuity that will have even the youngest of readers rooting for their victory.

The Big Backyard collection follows the delightful adventures and exploits of the creatures of nature around us. In its first volume, *Sally & Sam Sparrow*, author Kellie Straub expertly weaves a whimsical story with important messages of dedication and hard work, brought to life by the gorgeously rendered watercolor illustrations by talented artist Svetlana Moroz.

*"The lizards and squirrels now celebrated their neighbors.
The hummingbirds buzzed and snakes cheered on their labors.
Birds, bees, and butterflies danced in delight.
Everyone knew they had made it just right."*

Families will delight in reading aloud the masterly written rhyme of this lovely story. The beauty of the natural world around us and the creatures that share it are vividly brought to life with the fresh brushwork and calm color palette of Svetlana's painterly illustrations.

"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 author Kellie Straub.

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.