



Before You Were You

story by David and Jonathan Shmidt Chapman
illustrations by Diane Nelson

David & Jonathan Shmidt Chapman met, fell in love, and decided to start a family. *Before You Were You* is the story of how a dedicated and loving community came together to provide and gestate an egg that in time, produced the couple's beloved first child. Written in verse directly to the child, the story outlines the many steps of gestation, pregnancy, and birth in rhythmical language and colorful descriptions that young children will want to read again and again—because what child doesn't love to hear his or her own birth story!

About the Author

David & Jonathan Shmidt Chapman met in an elevator in Times Square, married in 2013, and dreamed of starting a family. After an incredible adventure in egg donation and gestational surrogacy, and with the help of a loving community, the couple welcomed a child into the world in 2017. Trained as artists, educators, and community leaders, David and Jonathan are passionate about creating new stories in which all children see themselves represented within the pages of children's books.

About the Illustrator

Diane L. Nelson is a professional medical illustrator. She has been an artist as long as she can remember and loves to create engaging and fun images that help the reader identify with the story. Diane is the president and art director of BIOMEDIA Corporation, a company she founded, and sole practitioner and owner of DianeNelsonStudio.com, an illustration and visual arts studio. Diane is the proud Gramma of the child who inspired this story.

To Order

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