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This Fall, Learn About What Happened *Before You Were You*

written by David and Jonathan Shmidt Chapman

illustrated by Diane Nelson

on sale September 23, 2022

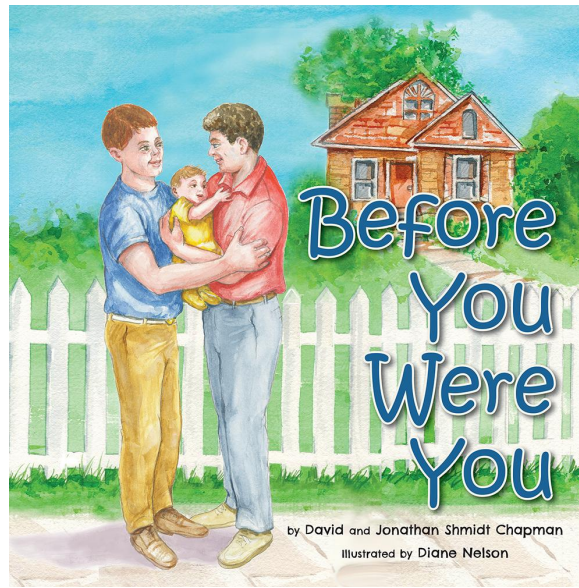
*Before you were you,
We watched you grow
From two tiny specks
Into one embryo.*

*And long before that,
You were merely a dream.
A wish and a hope—
In our eyes, a bright gleam.*

[Brandylane Publishers, Inc.](#) of Richmond, Virginia, is excited to announce the upcoming release of a new children's book, [Before You Were You](#), written by David and Jonathan Shmidt Chapman and illustrated by Diane Nelson.

Adding a new baby to the family can involve a lot of planning, no matter what kind of family you have—but for some families, that planning is a lot more complicated than it is for others! This book shares what happened before all of us were born—with a particular focus on the special people who help families achieve their dreams of having a baby.

Featuring gentle watercolor illustrations that beautifully convey the tenderness and hopes every loving parent has for their child, *Before You Were You* is scheduled for release on September 23, 2022.



How do you make a baby and grow a family, even when you don't have all the necessary ingredients? How did my two daddies make me? Before You Were You is the story of how some special babies are brought into the world: with the help of a whole community, and with a lot of love.

Before You Were You is the story of how a dedicated and loving community came together to provide and gestate the egg that produced a gay 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 Authors

[David and Jonathan Shmidt Chapman](#) met in an elevator in Times Square. They 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 can see themselves represented.

About the Illustrator

[Diane Nelson](#) is a professional medical illustrator; president and art director of BIOMEDIA Corporation, a company she founded; and sole owner of DianeNelsonStudio.com, an illustration and visual arts studio. 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. She is also the proud Gramma of the child who inspired this story.

Interviews available upon request.

[Brandylane Publishers, Inc.](#) is an independent press located in Richmond, Virginia, that has published books since 1985.

Before You Were You (hardcover, 32 pages, \$23.95 / paperback, 32 pages, \$13.95) is available for pre-order from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other fine booksellers.