

***“BEFORE YOU ARRIVED” AUTHOR ADRIENNE LANCE
FEATURED IN HOMETOWN MINNESOTA PAPER
THE WAYZATA SUN SAILOR***



Wayzata native writes first children's book

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"Mommy, what was it like when I was in your belly?"

The question is not uncommon for mothers to face once their children comprehend that they were once actually inside of their mother's stomach. The answer to that question, and others, is tackled by first-time children's author and Wayzata native Adrienne Lance Lucas in "Before You Arrived."

"I wanted my son and other kids to know that they were loved before they ever arrived," she says. "And also that their mothers were doing the same things, singing, talking to them, while they were still inside mommy's belly."

By the time her son was five, he was posing that very question and wanting her to share her stories of what life was like before he arrived.

"Every parent tells bedtime stories," she said. "And kids will call you on it if you leave out a detail."

So she set out to write down the story, with the intention it would be a very personal story that could be used as a reference for her son's bedtime stories.

After the project began taking form, she enlisted illustrator Tracy McCutcheon. Lucas gave McCutcheon photos of her mother, grandmother, friends and other people she had deemed her "angels on earth," the people that were there for her during her pregnancy.

"My earthly angels became real angels in the book," Lance Lucas said.

Lance Lucas believes that because of how the message of the book is delivered, with colorful illustrations and a rhyming narrative, it is easy for children to follow along with the story and understand they were important to their mothers long before they were even born.

"Before You Arrived" also allows Lance Lucas to follow another of her dreams, inspiring children to follow their dreams. She is focussed on making children see they can be entrepreneurs.

"[My son] thinks he can be an author now, and he's learning a lot about the publishing business already," she added.

Lance Lucas' parents still live in Wayzata and she makes it back three or four times a year to visit. While back for Thanksgiving, she did a brief book tour and signing throughout the area, which allowed her to connect with teachers and classmates from Wayzata High School.

"It was exciting to see old teachers and friends come out to support me and meet my son," she said.

- Compiled by Jared Huizenga

Author's name: Adrienne Lance Lucas

Latest title: "Before You Arrived"

Community of residence: Atlanta, GA, native of Wayzata

Publisher: Self-published

Where available: Order from www.beforeyouarrived.com

Price: \$15.99

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