



JAMALA MURRAY ARLAND

Jamala is an infertility, congenital heart defect (CHD), child loss and grief advocate. In February 2020, after many years of fertility treatment and IVF, her first child, Jasper, died in her arms 30 hours after he was born. Coping with the grief of child loss at the onset of a global pandemic has made Jamala passionate about supporting the community for bereaved mothers and normalizing grief through writing and speaking engagements. Organizations Jamala has partnered with include Mended Little Hearts, Hayden's House of Healing and the Children's Hospital of Richmond. Putting this work into the world and becoming a first-time author is how she parents her son still. Jamala is from Barbados and lives in Richmond Virginia.

Jamala is available for support circles, one-on-one grief support, and speaking engagements around topics of child loss, CHD and infertility.



Just Beyond Imagination

A tale of love, child loss, and friendship

🦋 ABOUT

Just Beyond Imagination, A Tale of Love, Child Loss, and Friendship is a gift book for parents who have lost a child. It is a compassionate fairy tale capturing the unimaginable grief surrounding the death of a child, with breathtaking watercolor illustrations and beautiful prose a bereaved parent can return to time and again.

In this story, a woman's vision of motherhood is irrevocably changed when her son dies. Through the unbreakable connection between mother and child, the power of friendship, and visits from a little yellow butterfly, she discovers a conduit to the other side.

This book is not for profit. All proceeds above production costs will be donated to causes, charities, and institutions supporting bereaved parents and medically fragile children.

🦋 SUMMARY

Publisher: Wise Ink Creative Publishing

Author: Jamala Murray Arland

Illustrator: Kristin van Lieshout

Release Date: May 2022

Retail Price: \$19.95

Format: Hardcover

Of Pages: 40

ISBN: 13: 978-1-63489-526-2





THE INSPIRATION

Many bereaved parents find symbols in the natural world that connect them to their child. The little yellow butterfly throughout the story comes from a personal experience my husband, Nathan, and I had just weeks after our baby, Jasper, died. We flew a kite on the beach of the Outer Banks of North Carolina, our respite in early grief. As we let down our guard to enjoy the beauty and peace of the moment, a little yellow butterfly appeared and danced with our kite. We consider this our first sign from Jasper that he was okay, at peace and at play.

Just Beyond Imagination explores how companionship heals. I met Samantha, Reed's mommy, the inspiration for the second bereaved mother in the story, in an online grief writing group the same week we saw the little yellow butterfly. I knew we would be friends with a certainty I had never experienced before. It wasn't just the parallels in our infertility journey, the deaths of our sons, or the fact that we were broken in the same ways. The only thing that makes sense is that Jasper and Reed connected us in much the same way other moms meet when their children become friends.

ENDORSEMENTS

"A beautiful story of persistent love in the face of loss."

— *Nora McInerney, author of No Happy Endings and host of Terrible, Thanks for Asking podcast*

"A gentle hope-bringer of a book for anyone who has lost a child. Jamala Arland lovingly reassures that you are not disconnected from your child who died, but inextricably and forever connected in extraordinary ways. It is a reminder that you continue to be companioned in your grief by those who have gone before in death and those who continue to walk beside you in life."

— *Shelby Forsythia, author of Your Grief, Your Way*

"Jamala has found a way to pull the reader into every emotion of motherhood and loss. As a grief expert, my heart ached and soared; wept and smiled; and broke and healed while reading this book. This book is for every mother who has lost a child and for every friendship that has birthed from joint heartache."

— *Candice DeLeeuw, Author of HOPE (Amidst the Story I Told Myself): How to Find Hope in Love and Loss, President/Founder of Hope in Healing Hearts*

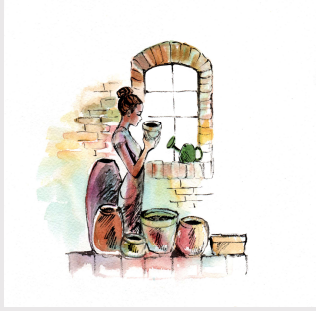
FUNDRAISING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Raised over \$50,000 to purchase a Cuddle Cot and to support the new inpatient Wonder Tower of Children's Hospital of Richmond, opening spring 2023

Raised over \$20,000 and made other donations to Mended Little Hearts of Central Virginia

Received Emerging Philanthropic Leader Award in 2021 (AFP Central Virginia Chapter)





Book excerpt: “She had heard tales of butterflies being wish carriers; so just in case, she whispered the wish dearest to her heart. The woman wished to be a mother.”



Book excerpt: “Swirls of waves assaulted her from all directions, and this woman, this mother, was brought to her knees. She hunched to brace herself, cradling her son protectively. Her efforts were to no avail, the next surge of waves pulled her under, and although she tried to hold on, they tore her son away.”



Book excerpt: “When little children become friends in the place just beyond imagination, they create a powerful connection. It is a connection as strong as the love of a mother and as pure as the friendship of children.”

🦋 SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Why did you write the book, *Just Beyond Imagination, A Tale of Love, Child Loss, and Friendship*?

How long have you been fundraising?

What resources do you recommend for someone who has lost a pregnancy or child?

How can I support a friend who has lost a pregnancy or child?

How have you found companionship for your grief?

What is the inspiration and symbolism for the butterfly in the story?

🦋 IN THE MEDIA

The Lucky Anchor Project podcast, episode 25, May 2022

Sisters in Loss podcast, episode 240, February 2022

What A Butterfly Release Taught Me About Grief After Losing My Son

Published by [scarymommy.com](https://www.scarymommy.com), October 2020

<https://www.scarymommy.com/butterfly-release-grief-after-losing-my-son>

An Open Letter To Grieving Parents, From A Fellow Child Loss Mom

Published by [scarymommy.com](https://www.scarymommy.com), May 2020

<https://www.scarymommy.com/dear-parent-who-just-lost-their-child>