



A Note from **FLAVIA Z. DRAGO**



In 2016, just for fun, I wrote tweets about how my life would be if I were a monster. I imagined my monster-self going to work, throwing a party, buying groceries, having pets, and so on. One of those tweets was about the reason that ghosts wear sheets—it must be because they are quite shy, so they use their sheets to hide. And so the seed for a picture book was planted in my head.

As a child, I remember sitting by myself during lunch breaks and parties and, just like Gustavo, wondering how it was so easy for everyone to talk and play with one another. I would have loved for someone to tell me that being shy is OK and that, as scary as it might be, you can always find a way to make good friends.

In 2018, I received a master's degree in children's book illustration from Anglia Ruskin University, which led to the opportunity to meet the wonderful people of Walker Books and Candlewick Press. I was really trying to impress them by talking about my picture book ideas, and I mentioned the ghost story. To my surprise, they loved it! I never would have guessed that someone would want to publish a book in which ghosts, calaveritas (skulls), devils, witches, and other creatures happily live together. But it was even more surprising to me that they gave me total freedom and encouraged me to locate the story in Mexico during the Day of the Dead. I just couldn't believe it!

In short, this book is a mix of my own experiences and some of my absolute favorite things in the world: monsters and the Day of the Dead. I hope that you will enjoy it as much as I loved making it!



Photo by Flavia Z. Drago

Flavia Z. Drago was born and raised in Mexico City. As a child, she wanted to be a mermaid. When that didn't happen, she began her career as a graphic designer and a children's book illustrator. She loves color, texture, and shapes and enjoys creating them with different materials and a bit of digital sorcery. She lives in Mexico.

