

KAI CHENG THOM

## FOR LAIKA

THE DOG WHO LEARNED THE NAMES OF  
THE STARS

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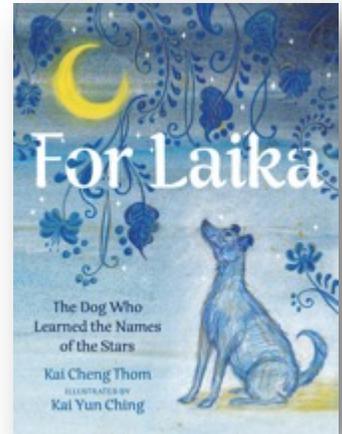
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**The heart-rending story of Laika, the brave canine space traveller.**

By two of the co-creators of the acclaimed children's book *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea*: the moving and beautifully told story of Laika, the dog who learned the names of the stars. Laika is an orphaned stray dog who lives in the streets of Moscow in the 1950s in the then Soviet Union. Although she is loved by her pack, Laika longs to one day learn the names of the stars, since she knows that all dogs become stars when they die - including her parents. One day, a Russian scientist named Vlad offers Laika the chance to travel to the stars by helping him with an important experiment, an event that will change the entire world.

Part fable, part dog story, part history lesson, the story of Laika's brave and loving heart will captivate young and older readers alike, offering important lessons about world peace, science, and the deep bonds between humans and every other creature with whom we share the planet.

### **Praise for FROM THE STARS IN THE SKY TO THE FISH IN THE SEA**

This book's themes can resonate with any child who feels excluded (or excludes others) and can also open up conversations about nonbinary gender identities. A relevant tale of love and acceptance that can find a home in any children's collection. -*Kirkus Reviews*

It's important for youngsters questioning their gender to see themselves in literature, and for other kids to see and more or less accept that fluidity. More generally, Mui Lan is always changing, and that sounds like the way all kids should be. -*Montreal Review of Books*

An exquisitely rendered picture book about gender and identity . . . The illustrations, by Wai-Yant Li and Kai Yun Ching, are saturated with colour and sparkling with invention, and Thom's gentle,

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rhythmic text resonates like a wise old fairy tale that has been told and retold, and like the mother's song, passed down from one generation to the next. *-Quill and Quire (STARRED REVIEW)*

**KAI CHENG THOM** is a writer, performer, community healer, lasagna lover, and wicked witch. She recently launched her advice column “Ask Kai: Advice for the Apocalypse” with *Xtra*. She lives and dreams from the unsundered Indigenous territories that make up colonial-era Canada. A prolific poet, fiction writer, and essayist, her published book-length works include the award-winning *Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars: A Dangerous Trans Girl's Confabulous Memoir* (Me- tonymy Press), *a place called No Homeland* (Arsenal Pulp Press), and *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* (Arsenal Pulp Press). She is the winner of the 2017 Dayne Ogilvie Prize for Emerging LGBT Writers and two-time Lambda Literary nominee. She has featured as a performer at such venues as Verses International Poetry Festival, the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word, Word on the Street Toronto, the Blue Metropolis Festival. She has also completed the Spoken Word Residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts and the ARISE Residency at Eventual Ashes Theatre and Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. She's been profiled in the *New York Times*, and her debut novel, *Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars*, was selected by Emma Watson for her Shared Shelf international feminist book club. Her essays and reviews have been published in *The Globe and Mail*, *Slate*, *GUTS* magazine, *Xtra*, *Autostraddle* and more.