



Barefoot Books

step inside a story

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Award-winning children's publisher to release new title celebrating banned books and children who change the world

"Books are dangerous! I don't trust them. They act like seeds, which grow into ideas, and ideas turn into questions. I will tell you what you need to know."
—from *The Book Tree*

Barefoot Books, an independent children's publisher and 2017 Forbes Small Giants honoree, will release the new picture book, *The Book Tree*, in September 2018. Powerful yet playful text by *Monster & Me* author Paul Czajak pairs with quirky, modern illustrations by multi-award-winning artist Rashin Kheiriyeh to create an engrossing tale about child activism and the power of the written word. With its timely, inspiring message to children, *The Book Tree* aligns beautifully with #BannedBooksWeek and movements led by Marley Dias, Little Miss Flint and other youth activists, celebrating the power of children everywhere to make an impact.

When the Mayor bans all the books in town, *The Book Tree's* central character, Arlo, watches as the town changes. Without books, schools close, restaurants close, theaters close. But as the bookless town withers around him, Arlo has an idea — and, thanks to Arlo's creative thinking, the Mayor soon finds that suppressing stories cannot stop them from blossoming more beautifully than ever. *The Book Tree* offers parents and educators a useful tool for starting conversations with children about the importance of critical thinking and standing up for what they believe in, whether by challenging injustice like Arlo — or by simply being kind.

"This timely, hopeful story embodies so many of the values that have been at the heart of our mission since we started publishing 25 years ago," says Nancy Traversy, CEO and Co-founder of Barefoot Books. "We've always believed in the transformative power of storytelling. Whoever they are, wherever they are, every child has a voice and a story to tell — and that story can change the world."

Barefoot Books Senior Editor Lisa Rosinsky acquired the manuscript from Uwe Stender, who represents New Jersey-based author and former scientist Paul Czajak. The tale comes to vivid life thanks to the unique vision of artist, animator and painter Rashin Kheiriyeh, winner of 50+ awards and 6-time winner of the Bologna Book Fair Artists' Competition. Born in Iran, she is now based in Washington, D.C., and lectures at the University of Maryland.

"This delicious and subversive little parable of a book, with its lyrical text and anarchic pictures, is just what we need in today's world," says award-winning children's author Jane Yolen of *The Book Tree*. "It reminds us that books matter, stories matter, words matter."

To learn more about *The Book Tree* and request a digital review copy, visit barefootbooks.com/booktree. To receive an advance reader copy or schedule an author or publisher interview, please contact Elaine Stone at publicity@barefootbooks.com.





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About *The Book Tree*

Published by Barefoot Books, September 2018

Written by Paul Czajak | Illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh

Hardcover | 9781782854050 | 8½ x 10¾ in. | \$17.99 USD / \$22.99 CAD

About Barefoot Books

Founded by two young mothers in England in 1992 and based in Cambridge, MA, Barefoot has published 600+ children's books that encourage discovery, compassion, creativity and global awareness. Their first app, Barefoot World Atlas, has 4 million downloads and their YouTube Channel has over 120 million views. Most importantly, for more than 25 years, Barefoot has put over 20 million books into the hands of children around the world. With a mission to "Share Stories, Connect Families, and Inspire Children," Barefoot is now leveraging its family brand to empower women entrepreneurs and raise a new generation of empathetic global citizens.

