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“FIREFLIES AND SHOOTING STARS”

**AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN’S BOOK
INSPIRED BY PLAYGROUND FOR ALL KIDS**

***“...there's a light that shines in everyone. It may be different,
but that's OK. You've gotta know just who you are and what
you're good at so you can shine in your own way.”***

All kids want to be included and be able to do things like other kids. But what if you’re a firefly and your taillight doesn’t light up, and others keep asking questions? Ed Raarup’s book, [*Fireflies and Shooting Stars “The Tale of Enzo”*](#) (Moon Watch Productions), addresses this subject of being different and having the determination to fit in. Enzo the firefly sets out on a special journey to find his taillight and winds up discovering lots of things about himself and the world along the way. He meets friends and learns lessons that will make up for not being like everyone else. Endearing, lighthearted and engaging, both children and adults will relate to Enzo’s struggles and his triumphs.

Through Enzo’s travels, he meets other fireflies who question his missing light and want to know why he is different. Enzo navigates several scenarios that children and parents might also encounter in real life. The confidence and coping strategies he develops along the way will be helpful to employ in real life situations. In a game of hide and seek, Enzo’s parents are frightened because he has gone missing, and readers will share both his parent’s concerns and relief when they find their little firefly.

Enzo is told by his parents never to go near ponds because of the hungry frogs who like to eat fireflies. Enzo happens upon Tommy the tadpole, who he helps out of a situation and a friendship is born. Sometime later, Tommy returns the favor when Enzo needs help. *Fireflies and Shooting Stars* shows the value of friendship, individuality and the important lesson to “know just who you are.”

Edited by renowned author and editor [Emma Walton Hamilton](#), this beautifully illustrated 10 chapter storybook hits all the right notes as song lyrics are interspersed throughout the book. You can sing along with the 12 heartwarming songs on the included soundtrack CD featuring [Lynne Wintersteller](#) and other Broadway performers. Kids ages 5-10 will want to shine their flashlights as a taillight and sneak it under the covers to read!

Fireflies and Shooting Stars has won the prestigious [Mom's Choice Awards Silver Seal of Excellence](#), the [Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Gold Medal](#) and the [USA Best Book Award Winner in Child's Fiction](#).

Fireflies and Shooting Stars was inspired by [Firefly Field](#), an all-accessible playground for children in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, developed by Ronnie and Joe Biondo in association with the [Biondo Memorial Foundation](#). The park was conceived for the advancement of inclusion, self-determination and our children's future success by creating a place where all kids can play, share and learn in a joyful environment. The names for both the playground and book were inspired by the lovely song, *Fireflies and Shooting Stars*, written by [Michael Rice](#), a professional music director and composer whose work has taken him to theatres all across the country as well as on and off Broadway. He is best known as the original arranger and music director for the Off-Broadway hit, *Nunsense*.

[Ed Raarup](#) is originally from Ashland, Wisconsin. He has bachelor's degrees in vocal music, music education and theatre from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and he studied acting and musical theatre in the graduate program at the University of California, Irvine. He moved to New York City and began a television career in soap operas. He also performed in regional theatres and cabaret clubs. *Fireflies and Shooting Stars* is his debut work as author and composer. [Lindsay D. Nery](#) received an associate's degree in illustration at the Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, New York. She also attended the Career and Technical Education Center of Goshen, New York, for advertising design with a concentration in illustration. The scenic surroundings of the area in which she lives provided much inspiration for the illustrations in *Fireflies and Shooting Stars*.

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**For additional information, please visit:
www.firefliesandshootingstars.com**