

# ***Author Perseveres Through Illness***

*Judith S Ortiz*



**Lauryn Wendus** is a good example of how positive thinking can help us to deal with major life obstacles. When faced with a debilitating illness in her mid-twenties, Lauryn seized opportunities as they arose to redefine her life. While she could not control the symptoms of her illness, she found ways to work with her condition and launched her own business in the process.

Lauryn lived in Columbia for most of her life. After college, she moved to Glastonbury where she now resides. The past couple of years for Lauryn have been full of twists and turns. While pursuing a career in finance and feeling like her life was on track, she contracted a debilitating case of Lyme disease. Due to the systemic nature and severity of her illness, Lauryn has been unable to meet the demands of a conventional work schedule for the past two and a half years.

As difficult as this has been for Lauryn, she found a way to make the most of the situation. In small spurts over the past two years, Lauryn taught herself the skills necessary to launch a business and publish a children's book. She has been able to utilize her strengths and a positive mindset to overcome

challenges and has decided to pass this message on to others.

While recovering from Lyme disease, Lauryn had many neurological symptoms and one day began to unexpectedly write with her non-dominant hand. Lauryn chose to embrace this odd symptom and found herself starting to doodle sketches and write rhyme for a series of children's stories. Lauryn's recently published children's book, *Oliver Poons and* ►

*the Bright Yellow Hat*, was written during this time. The story is silly, lighthearted, and whimsical and geared toward young children. The book's main character, Oliver Poons, was inspired by Lauryn's lovable, rescue cat, Oliver. Oliver offered Lauryn unconditional positive support throughout her illness and was her light in each day, consistently bringing a smile to her face. Lauryn hopes the character Oliver Poons will now be able to bring a smile and a little sunshine to others.

Lauryn is still dealing with the residuals of the Lyme disease, but continues to find ways to persevere through lingering bouts of symptoms. She chooses to focus her attention on life's positive elements and is grateful for the

# Oliver Poons and the Bright Yellow Hat

Written By  
Lauryn Alyssa Wendus

Illustrated by  
Lois Wendus

simple blessings in her life – stretches of good health, the experience of launching a business, and of course, her cat, Oliver. We cannot always make an illness disappear, but positive energy can make life happier and more fulfilling.

I would encourage everyone to investigate Lauryn's website, [www.oliverpoons.com](http://www.oliverpoons.com). *Oliver Poons and the Bright Yellow Hat* is available for purchase through a link on the website, on Amazon, or at Nana's Infant and Children's Boutique in Glastonbury. More information on Lauryn and her recovery from Lyme disease can also be found on her business's website, [www.nextdoorcreations.com](http://www.nextdoorcreations.com). ●

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