

I Am who I Am



written and illustrated by

REILLY BROWN



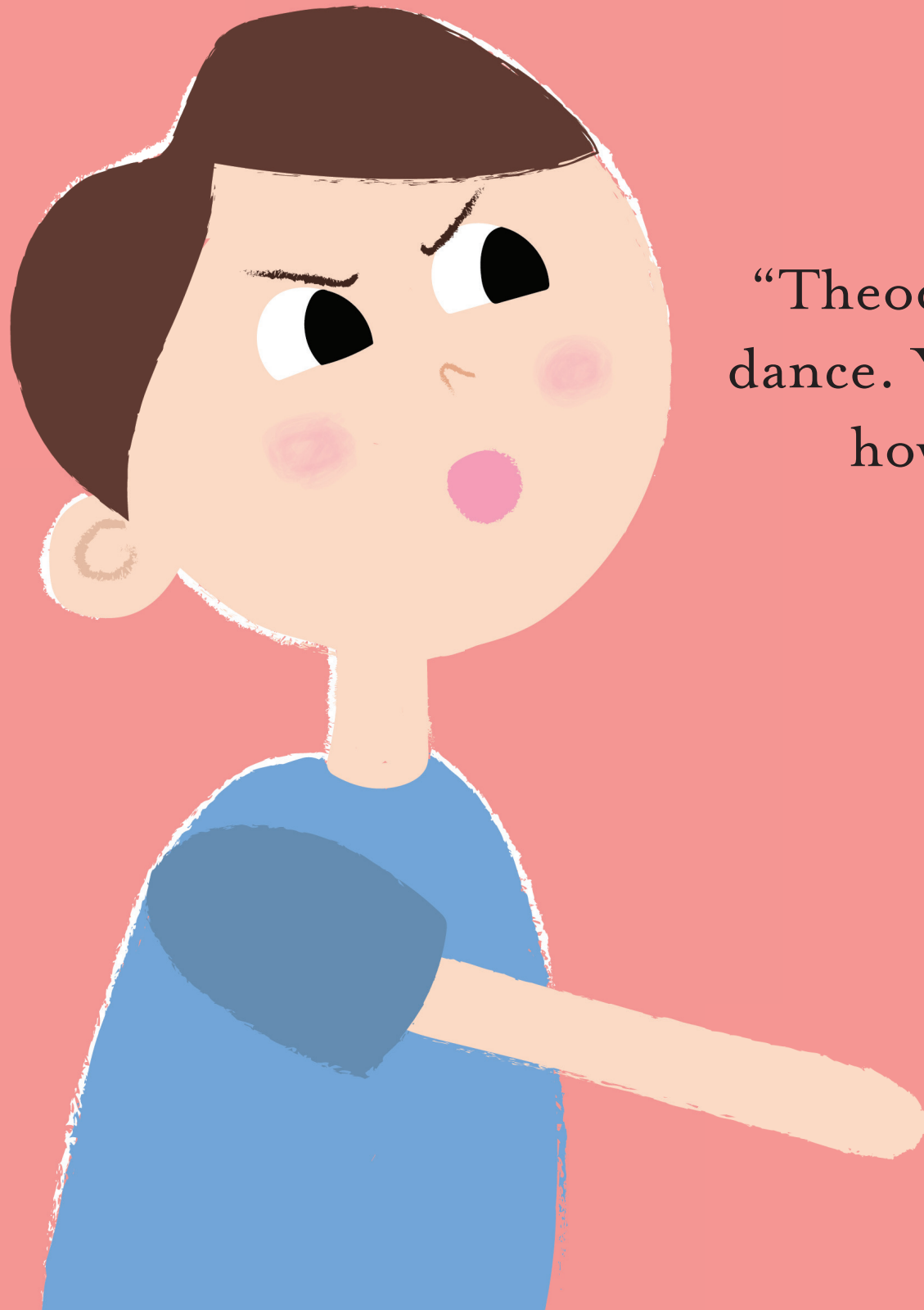




Theodore loves performing — to dance and to sing.

But kids don't
understand his hobby.
Their words often sting!





“Theodore, boys don’t
dance. You should learn
how to throw.”



“Oh yeah, dancing is definitely
for girls, I know.”



“Why are they being mean to me,” he cried, cheeks turning red.



“Don’t listen to them!
Do what you love,” his
friend Piper said.

Me, I like to race my shiny toy cars.



Olive would rather daydream
and look at the stars.



Kai likes
to wear his
favorite
polka-dot
dress.





Eleanor loves the mud -
oh what a mess!



Jacob likes to bake a strawberry cream cake.

Charlie would rather splash and swim
in the lake.





Luca is risky.
He likes taking a
chance.



Eli has daydreams of traveling to France.



Finn likes to try
on his mommy's
makeup.





Ivy loves to frolic with Murphy,
her pup.



Evelyn is
a whiz at
hide-and-
go-seek.

Hats



Carter likes to shop -
his hats are so chic!



“See, all of our friends
follow their dreams, no
matter what others
may say.”

“You’re right! I
am me and I get to
choose how I act
and how I play.”





So, next time someone tells you that you shouldn't be who you are...

Remind them that their words can often leave scars.



Treat others the
way you want
to be treated



People are all different. Stand up and be proud!



The world would be boring if we followed the crowd!







More About the Author



Reilly Brown is a graduating design student at the University of San Francisco who chose to write and illustrate this book as her Senior Thesis Project. Reilly was born and raised in Encinitas, a small beach town, in San Diego, California. When she moved to San Francisco -- a city rich with art, architecture, culture and a strong social justice presence -- she was afforded a new perspective that allowed her to explore her strengths as a designer and as an activist. Thus, she wrote this book, touching on non-traditional gender roles, in order to make space for young children to absorb lessons about the joy and the freedom of non-conformity and self-acceptance regardless of peer critique. Her hope is that this book sparks inspiration and conversation about the importance of self-love and the bravery it sometimes takes for children -- and all of us for that matter -- to dare to live outside the dictates of society and instead forge a path that fosters personal fulfillment.