



In conversation with **MUCHAL THREETS,** author of *I'm So Happy You're Here*

You're a self-proclaimed library kid. What is your earliest memory of the library?

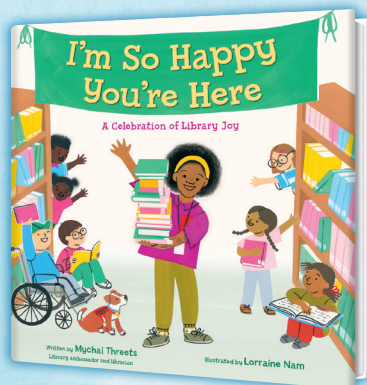
My earliest memory is of the pet parade! I've always loved animals and the library. I told my pet cat, Jewel, how amazing the library is and that I would take her one day. My parents had their doubts, but the local library announced they were holding a pet parade. My first remembered moment of library joy. We went to the library and . . . Jewel got a yellow ribbon.

In your author note you ask readers to share their favorite page or illustration from the book. What's yours?

My favorite is probably quite subtle. There is a library kid who is unhoused. But you may not really be able to tell! They are off to the side; their jeans are torn and dirty. It is such a great representation of children being unhoused illustrated by Lorraine Nam's exceptional creativity. I love her interpretation depicting this request of mine.

What's something you wish more people knew about libraries?

I wish more people realized that the library is relevant! So many people haven't been to a library in years. There really is an item, program, book for everyone. Libraries are always evolving, always adapting. We exist to serve everyone, and we are improving day by day. I wish people knew the library exists for them, and the library changes, for the better, for them.



I'm So Happy You're Here is all about library joy. What are some other things that bring you joy?

What a fun question! Tattoos bring me joy; I've lost count of how many I have. I'm a huge fan of basketball—I probably love books as much as I love basketball (Go, Valkyries and Lakers!). Learning new things brings me joy. Most of all, though, I would say that the little things are starting to bring me joy. I've been noticing how much little victories are so powerful. I've probably noticed such things ever since loving the library, because of the joy of book worlds, but lately it's something I've been very much aware of and looking forward to. Little victories are big joy.



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