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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

GENERAL:

Maria writes both fiction and nonfiction picture books from her sunny, book-lined study in northern Virginia, with dog, Becca as her muse. Maria's debut picture book, *Penny & Jelly: The School Show*, illustrated by Thyra Heder, will be released on July 7th, 2015 (HMH Books for Young Readers). A second Penny & Jelly book titled, *Penny & Jelly Slumber Under the Stars*, will be released in June 2016. Maria has five additional books forthcoming from Roaring Brook and Boyds Mills Presses as well as Aladdin Books for Young Readers in the coming years. To learn more about Maria, visit her website: mariagianferrari.com and on [Facebook](#).

And you can visit Penny & Jelly at their website: pennyandjelly.com, and on Instagram: [@pennyandjelly.com](https://www.instagram.com/pennyandjelly.com).

FROM PENNY & JELLY: THE SCHOOL SHOW (JACKET FLAP)

Maria can't juggle, ride a unicycle or yodel, but she's pretty good at pancake flipping and cookie baking. She's especially good at making cookies disappear. Maria lives in northern Virginia with her best friend/husband, Niko, her artist daughter, Anya, her beloved dog, Becca, and two pets rats, Lucia and Nera. This is her first book. To learn more about Maria, visit her website, mariagianferrari.com and on [Facebook](#).

FROM PENNY & JELLY SLUMBER UNDER THE STARS (JACKET FLAP)

Maria Gianferrari hasn't slumbered under the stars recently, but she has two favorite stars: the dog star, Sirius, like Penny and Jelly, and Betelgeuse—just because it's so fun to say! Maria stargazes from her backyard in Virginia with her husband, Niko, an amateur astrophotographer, her artist-daughter, Anya, the dog star of her household, Becca, and lone rat, Lucia. This is her second book for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. For more information about Maria, please visit her website, mariagianferrari.com.
(June 2016)

FROM COYOTE MOON (JACKET FLAP)

Maria Gianferrari was inspired to write *Coyote Moon* after her first coywolf sighting on a moonlit night in her own Massachusetts backyard. Maria now lives in Northern Virginia with her scientist husband, artist daughter, and rescue pets, Becca the dog and Lucia the rat. This is her first book for Roaring Brook Press. Visit her at mariagianferrari.com or on Facebook.
(July 2016)

FROM OFFICER KATZ & HOUNDINI (JACKET FLAP)

Hot diggity dog! Maria Gianferrari's a lucky dog—she gets to write stories about cats and dogs, and when she's dog-tired, she can catnap in her office. Maria lives in Northern Virginia with her cat's meow of a family: her scientist husband, artist daughter, top dog, Becca and lone rat, Lucia. To learn more about Maria, visit her website, mariagianferrari.com.
(October 2016)

AWARDS/REVIEWS/ACCOLADES:

[*Terrific Tongues*](#) was a winner of PEN New England's Susan Bloom Discovery Award.

Coyote Moon was the recipient of a Letter of Commendation from [SCBWI](#) for the Barbara Karlin grant in 2010.

Penny & Jelly: The School Show:

From [Kirkus Reviews](#):

Penny and Jelly are sure to warm the hearts of both future talent-show contestants and readers who have similarly close canine friends.

(Picture book. 4-8)

From [Booklist](#):

As Penny's list of potential talents gets longer (and each entry is crossed off as she fails to successfully pull off the routines), Heder's warm, comforting illustrations charmingly and vibrantly depict each disastrous attempt. Penny tries out exotic skills like magic, tuba playing, and dog fashion, all with Jelly's help. Though Penny's dogged determination and playful spirit could have easily led to a Pollyannaish conclusion, Gianferrari resists that impulse, and she realistically includes moments when Penny feels frustration and fear, something that will resonate with many kiddos trying something new. Little ones anxious about finding a talent will be reassured by this heartening tale with a cozy conclusion: sometimes the best talent is friendship.

(Picture book. 4-8)

Penny & Jelly Slumber Under the Stars:

From *Brightly*: 16 Awesome Picture Books to Read in 2016

Penny gets invited to a slumber party, but her dog Jelly can't come, so she tries to find a substitute to take instead. After several tries and a little creativity, Penny comes up with the perfect solution.

(Picture book. 4-8)

BOOK INFORMATION:

Penny & Jelly: The School Show

Release Date: July 7, 2015

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers

Illustrator: Thyra Heder

ISBN-10: 0544230140

ISBN-13: 978-0544230149

Format: Hardcover

Synopsis: This young and funny picture book showcases the soon-to-be star of her school talent show: Penny. With a little help from her dog Jelly, Penny realizes that she and Jelly have a unique talent to share--unlike any other in the show. Readers of *Pinkalicious* and *Ladybug Girl* will swoon over *Penny & Jelly*.

Penny & Jelly Slumber Under the Stars

Release Date: June 14, 2016

Illustrator: Thyra Heder

Publisher HMH Books for Young Readers

ISBN-10: 0544280059

ISBN-13: 978-0544280052

Format: Hardcover

Synopsis: In this picture-book companion to *Penny & Jelly: The School Show*, Penny is invited to a slumber-under-the-stars sleepover! But there's one small detail that derails the dynamic kid-dog duo: no pets allowed. Penny and Jelly have to think quick—if the real Jelly can't go, then maybe a pretend Jelly can! A paper Jelly? Too rough. A yarn Jelly? Too soft. Jelly after Jelly just doesn't work. But with a little creativity and a lot of heart, Penny figures out how to go to the sleepover—and bring Jelly along with her. Learn more about these best friends at www.pennyandjelly.com.

Coyote Moon

Release Date: July 19, 2016

Illustrator: Bagram Ibatoulline

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press

ISBN-10: 162672041X

ISBN-13: 978-1626720411

Format: Hardcover

Synopsis:

Officer Katz & Houndini: A Tale of Two Tails

Release Date: October 2016

Illustrator: Danny Chatzikonstantinou

Publisher: Aladdin Books for Young Readers

ISBN-10:

ISBN-13:

Format: Hardcover

Synopsis:

Hello Goodbye Dog

Forthcoming from Roaring Brook Press in winter 2017

Illustrator: Patrice Barton

ISBN-10:

ISBN-13:

Format: Hardcover

Synopsis:

Highway Hawks

Forthcoming from Roaring Brook Press in summer 2017

Illustrator: Brian Floca

ISBN-10:

ISBN-13:

Format: Hardcover

Synopsis:

Terrific Tongues

Forthcoming from Boyds Mills Press (release date to be determined)

Illustrator (to be determined)

ISBN-10:

ISBN-13:

Format: Hardcover

Synopsis:

INTERVIEW/BLOG POST LINKS:

Emu's Debuts:

[*Maria Gianferrari's Calls*](#) (October 2014)

[*The Art of Writing & Being the River*](#) (January 2015)

[*Zen & Pen: Are You Ready To Be A Student Again?*](#) (April 2015)

[*Top 10 Book Launch Dos, A Few Don'ts & The Power of Roberta*](#) (July 2015)

[Cover Reveal: Coyote Moon](#) (August 2015)

[Flying the Emu's Nest](#) (September 2015)

Mia Wenjen/Pragmatic Mom:

[Nature Is All Around Us: Nonfiction Picture Books For Kids](#) (July 2013)

Tara Lazar/Writing for Kids While Raising Them:

[Maria Gianferrari's Success Story: Agent And Two-Book Debut Deal!](#) (March 2013)

[PiBoIdMo Day 24: Maria Gianferrari Embraces Failure](#) (November 2013)

Penny & Jelly: The School Show Summer Blog Tour (June-July 2015):

- [Friday, June 26th](#): Kidlit411/Sylvia Liu & Elaine Kiely Kearns
- [Monday, June 29th](#): Miss Marple's Musings/Joanna Marple
- [Tuesday, June 30th](#): Pragmatic Mom/Mia Wenjen
- [Wednesday, July 1st](#): Watch Connect Read/John Schu
- [Thursday, July 2nd](#): Kidlitfrenzy/Alyson Beecher
- [Friday, July 3rd](#): Writing for Kids While Raising Them/Tara Lazar

- **Virtual Book Launch Week on Emu's Debuts:**
 - [Monday, July 6th](#): An Interview with Illustrator Thyra Heder
 - [Tuesday, July 7th](#): Weird, Wonderful, Wacky Talents
 - [Wednesday, July 8th](#): Literary Dogs
 - [Thursday, July 9th](#): Emus and Friends
 - [Friday, July 10th](#): An Interview with Editor Cynthia Platt

- [Monday, July 13th](#): Bildebok/Cathy Ballou Mealey

- **HMH Picture Book Parade:**
 - [Part I:](#) Behind the Scenes with Thyra Heder, Illustrator of Penny & Jelly
 - [Part II:](#) Q&A with Illustrator Thyra Heder
 - [Part III:](#) Q&A with Author Maria Gianferrari

Additional interviews:

- **Monday, July 20th:** Emu's Debuts: Top 10 Book Launch Dos, Plus a Few Don'ts & The Power of Roberta
- **Tuesday, July 21st:** Carrie On ... Together/Carrie Charley Brown: THINK QUICK Interview
- **Wednesday, September 16th:** The Little Crooked Cottage/Mr. Pig Interview
- **Wednesday, September 16th:** The Little Crooked Cottage/Literary Lunch by Mamabelly's Lunches with Love

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Maria Gianferrari

Website: mariagianferrari.com

Penny & Jelly website: pennyandjelly.com

Instagram: [@pennyandjelly](https://www.instagram.com/pennyandjelly)

Facebook: [Maria Gianferrari, Author](https://www.facebook.com/MariaGianferrariAuthor)

Publicist for *Penny & Jelly* books:

Elora Sullivan, Publicity Assistant

HMH Books for Young Readers

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

222 Berkeley Street

Boston, MA 02116

Phone: 617-351-3422

Email: elora.sullivan@hmhco.com

Publicist for *Coyote Moon*, *Hello Goodbye Dog* and *Highway Hawks*:

Brittany Pearlman, Associate Publicist

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

175 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10010

Phone: 646-307-5282

Email: brittany.pearlman@macmillan.com

Represented by:

[Ammi-Joan Paquette](#), Literary Agent

Erin Murphy Literary Agency, Inc.

2700 Woodlands Village #300-458

Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7127