Jessica Lanan Author and Illustrator

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Jessica Lanan is the Sibert and Golden Kite Honor winning author and illustrator of Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider and The Fisherman and the Whale, a Colorado Book Award finalist and winner of the Bull-Bransom Award for wildlife art. She has illustrated many other books including In The World of Whales by Michelle Cusolito, The Lost Package by Richard Ho, and Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet by Curtis Manley.

Jessica grew up in the Rocky Mountains where she developed an early love of nature and exploration. She earned a BA in sculpture from Scripps College and after graduation traveled solo for a year through Asia on a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to study folk tales. She brought a set of travel watercolors on that trip and has been a devoted painter and storyteller ever since. Today Jessica is still following her sketchbook wherever her curiosity leads her. She is passionate about helping young readers discover the beauty and wonder of their world, and aims to create picture books that are just as inspiring and memorable as the world around them. She lives in Boulder, Colorado.