

# Local Author And Illustrator Collaborate On Children's Picture Book

by Mark Smiley

Two Vail Valley residents have teamed up to create a unique children's picture book called *Read Island*. Slated for release on October 1, the story embodies the life-long passion for books and nature that brought these locals together.

Written by longtime bookstore owner Nicole Magistro and illustrated by acclaimed artist Alice Feagan, the clever and colorful story touches on many themes including outdoor adventure, the joy of reading, environmental stewardship, and the importance of meditation and mindfulness.

"Our mountain lifestyle influences and informs our work," says Magistro. "*Read Island* has been such an exciting project because it puts all of the things we love — books, nature, learning, and community — into one hopeful package. A picture book is a celebration on so many levels."

*Read Island* was inspired by the very real and remote place by the same name off the coast of British Columbia, where Magistro's family has been visiting for more than two decades. In the book, a brave girl sets sail on a reading adventure with her book-lov-

ing friends — a studious fox and a stowaway mouse. The trio head out to find a magical island made of books, populated with characters including a moose who loves to cook, an eccentric Kermode bear, a tattooed humpback whale, and a singing sea wolf.

Filled with innovative illustrations that incorporate fables and stories from over 20 classic children's books, nursery rhymes, and songs within the collage art, the book's imagery draws in the reader whether they are an adult or a child. Additionally, the lyrical, descriptive text seamlessly complements the timeless drawings, creating a clever and thoughtful journey into the world of *Read Island*.

"We love books and the connections that are made through these stories," says Fea-



**Dynamic Duo:** Illustrator Alice Feagan and author Nicole Magistro collaborated on a children's picture book called *Read Island* which is available in more than 50 independent retailers across North America.

gan. "They are there for us always and we want to pass that message along to as many young readers as we can."

In addition to her *Read Island* collaboration with Feagan, Magistro is a mentor, consultant, and community leader who was the proprietor of *The Bookworm* of Edwards, for 15 years. During her tenure, she was the recipient of the ABA's *Entrepreneurial Excellence Award*, WNBA's *Pannell Award*, and James Patterson indie bookseller grant. Known for her distinct cut-paper collage style in *The Collectors* and

*School Days Around the World*, Feagan also creates playful illustrations for magazines, apps, educational products, and games.

On October 5, Magistro and Feagan will be at *BookBar* for storytime at 4:30 p.m. on the patio. On November 8, they will be at *Second Star to the Right* for storytime at 10 a.m. The book *Read Island* adds to the product line of puzzles, apparel, and greeting cards, which are sold in more than 50 independent retailers across North America.

For more information visit [www.myreadisland.com](http://www.myreadisland.com).

## Colorado Collects 21 Medals At The Great American Beer Festival Competition

The *Great American Beer Festival* (GABF) competition drew in 9,680 entries from 2,192 breweries from across the United States, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. The *Colorado Brewers Guild* (CBG) is proudly honoring the 21 medals awarded to Colorado breweries, 20 of which are independent craft breweries, at the 2021 GABF competition.

"We continue to call ourselves the State of Craft Beer not only because of the outstanding beer our breweries make, but also for the number of beers and breweries that continue to be recognized at GABF awards," says Shawnee Adelson, Executive Director of the Colorado Brewers Guild. "Colorado showed up and proved that we are consistent and diverse. Breweries in Colorado won awards for beers that have been brewed for over 25 years, such as *Ska's True Blonde* and beers that have won multiple GABF and *World Beer Cup* awards, such as *Stick's* from *Bootstrap Brewing*, *Inner Light* from *Our Mutual Friend*, *Face Down Brown* from *Telluride Brewing*, and *Vladimer Brutin* from *Cannonball Creek*."

This year's awards ceremony took place on September 10, during the *Craft Brewers Conference*. Below is a list of notable wins from Colorado Brewers Guild member breweries:

- Since opening in 2013 *Cannonball Creek* has medaled at GABF. They continue their nine-year streak this year with a gold medal in the *Experimental India Pale Ale* category for *Vladimir Brutin*, a beer that won bronze last year. For Cannonball Creek media requests, contact: Brian @Cannonballcreekbrewing.com or Jason @cannonballcreekbrewing.com.
- *Our Mutual Friend* took home two medals, including a silver medal in the *Mixed-Culture Brett Beer* category for *Biere Ovale*, and a gold medal for *Inner Light* in the *Australian Pale Ale* category, which also took bronze in 2020. To date, OMF has medaled six times at GABF.
- *Strange Craft Beer Company* collected their fifth medal with a silver for *Silverbrick Norwegian Farmhouse* in the *Historical Beer* category.
- *Peak View Brewing Co.* out of Greenwood Village took home their first GABF medal with a silver for their *Blood Orange Wheat* in the *Fruit Wheat Beer* category.

"I am so proud of the quality and inno-



vation that's coming out of our Colorado craft brewing industry," says Adelson. "Congratulations to all of the winners."

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