



SIMON & SCHUSTER

C A N A D A

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Dear Reader,

This picture book, *Sleep, My Baby*, is based upon the lullaby by the same name, which my late mother, Dr. Lena Allen-Shore, composed for me when I was born.

Growing up in Montreal, Canada, my childhood was a very happy one; I knew that my parents loved me very much. My parents were both Holocaust survivors doing their best to make a life in Canada. My father was a businessman, and my mother focused on her career as a poet, songwriter, novelist, and journalist. Their days were hectic, but as dinner and bedtime approached, the mood at home would change. There was a calm, a serenity, and an exchange of love that could only have been experienced in a home environment where peace and tranquility existed. It was those hours I cherished most.

My mother wrote this lullaby for me when I was born. My eight-year-old brother, Michel, witnessed as the song's simple composition found its way from my mother's loving heart and lips. When she was 96 years old, my mother, who gave so much to others through her teachings, philosophy, music, and poetry, was in failing physical health. She asked, "What more can I do? What more can I write for others? I am not ready to go without one more book." I knew my mother's spirit was strong and that her heart, while weak, was fully committed to engage in "just one more project." She looked at me with a twinkle in her eye and in a persuading tone said, "What can we do together?" I knew that the lullaby *Sleep, My Baby* was the obvious choice—a bookend to my mother's creative career. Her life after the war was devoted to "building bridges" between people and ideas—to spread peace and promote universal harmony. This message could live on through the purity of a mother's loving words to her child at bedtime: a mother's prayer for a child.

Sadly, my mother did not live long enough to see Jessica Courtney-Tickle's beautiful illustrations and the magnificent way this book has been produced, but she knew *Sleep, My Baby* was being published. She was satisfied and grateful with this last message of her legacy. Her prayer was that each mother who cuddled her child to sleep with the words "sleep, my baby" would have this lullaby to protect both of them from fear, and be blessed with peace and freedom from all worries through the night and in the morning when they awoke.

For three generations, *Sleep, My Baby* has lulled my family's children to sleep. It is our hope that this lullaby will bring humanity—earth's global family—blessings for many generations to come. May the words of the lullaby cradle the universal child in the blanket of each and every culture with the maternal embrace of serenity for every day and night of life.

Jacques J. M. Shore
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