

July 2007

Dear Bookseller,

When I was thirteen, my college-aged brother rescued a runt farm piglet destined for death. He snuck it into his dorm room in a football helmet and a few days later, over holiday break, showed up at our house with a squirming pink piglet in his arms.

Dad wanted it out. Mom was sympathetic. My siblings and I rallied together on a mission to save her. The adventures we had over the next few months, as the tiny piglet grew into an 180 pound hog, have now become family legend. *The Columbus Dispatch* even wrote an article about our pig in 1994! This experience of bonding with a pet (the piglet was the first in a long line of ducks, hamsters, rabbits, dogs, fish, and a green iguana that joined our family of seven over the years) contributed to my life-long love for animals and the unique relationships we have with them.



my little sister with our pet pig



Early in my writing career I was a freelance wildlife journalist traveling around the world on assignment for Nat Geo Wild/The National Geographic Channel and other clients. At one point, I had the opportunity to write about my childhood pig to promote a show about pig intelligence. Did you know that there are about a *billion* pigs living on the planet, and they're so smart they've been known to complete tasks faster than dogs and even some chimpanzees? Pigs are amazing! As I wrote, the germ of a book idea began to grow...

THE UNLIKELY STORY OF A PIG IN THE CITY, my debut middle grade novel, evolved from my own experiences growing up in a big, chaotic family, caring for an adorable piglet, and worrying about finding her a forever home—as well as learning how to deal with growing pains in my own secret ways, and feeling like so many important things were out of my control. This is a story about unconditional love, belonging and acceptance, and getting bigger when you've always felt small.

If you'd like to learn more about me, coordinate an author visit, and discover bonus content about this book, please visit www.jodikendall.com. You can also follow me on Instagram @Jodi_Kendall and view social media content via #TheUnlikelyStoryOfAPigInTheCity.

I hope you enjoy the book!

Happy reading,

Jodi Kendall