

OMA'S BAG

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE WANG & ILLUSTRATED BY SAM NUNEZ



AVAILABLE March 26, 2024
(USA April 2, 2024)

ISBN 978-1-55152-947-9

10 x 10 | 40 pp | hardcover

\$22.95 CAD / \$19.95 USD

Children's Picture Books (3–8)

Canadian sales by Ampersand
ampersandinc.ca

Distribution in Canada by UTP
utpdistribution.com

US sales & distribution by Consortium
cbsd.com

*“Tenderly portrayed by author Michelle Wang and warmly illustrated by Sam Nunez, *Oma’s Bag* is a book that should be on every family’s reading list and readily available in every doctor’s office, clinic site, and hospital waiting room.”*

—DR. K. JENNIFER INGRAM, dementia specialist and founder of Kawartha Centre

A gentle and loving book that helps children navigate an Alzheimer’s diagnosis in their family

The five Lim children—Jessica, Jocelyn, Jeffrey, Jacob, and Kenzie—are thrilled when their parents tell them that Oma and Opa, their beloved grandparents, are coming to town for a visit. But this time, things seem different—grandmother Oma’s cooking doesn’t taste the same, and she’s started asking the same questions over and over, even while talking about specific moments from her past. Then things around the house begin to go missing: keys, eyeglasses, the TV remote. When the items turn up in the oversized shopping bag that Oma carries around with her, the family comes to the sad realization that she’s in the early stages of Alzheimer’s. But the journey from the past to new shared experiences reminds the family that Oma is still Oma. And as Jeffrey watches his cherished grandmother dance about the house, he reassures his grandfather, “She’s still here.”

Accompanied by joyful illustrations, *Oma’s Bag* is a tender and touching book to help children navigate an Alzheimer’s diagnosis in their family and learn how to fully embrace their loved ones in new and unexpected ways.

Ages 3 to 8.



CANADIAN PUBLICITY: Daniel Shehori • EMAIL: dshehori@gmail.com TEL: 647-213-5151

US PUBLICITY: Cynara Geissler, Arsenal Pulp Press • EMAIL: cynara@arsenalpulp.com TEL: 604-687-4233

ARSENAL PULP PRESS • WEB: ArsenalPulp.com TWITTER/X: [@arsenalpulp](https://twitter.com/arsenalpulp) INSTAGRAM: [@arsenalpulp](https://www.instagram.com/arsenalpulp) FB: Arsenal Pulp Press



Michelle Wang (she/her) is the author of an award-winning series of picture books about a fun-loving family discovering the beauty of the changing seasons: *It Must Be Autumn* (winner of the 2021 Royal Dragonfly Book Award and the Southern California Book Festival Award), *It Must Be Winter* (2021 Wishing Shelf Book Awards finalist), *It Must Be Spring* (2023 Educators Choice Awards finalist), and *It Must Be Summer* (available December 2023).

Michelle lives in Toronto, Ontario, where she was born and raised on Saturday mornings at the library with her two sisters, borrowing ten books each. The rest of the week, she lived in the worlds of heroes whose names were spelled with an *e* and wore paper bags and ate alligator pies at Macdonald Hall, alongside chums aged two plus two plus two who owned the wrong hockey sweater and told tales of strange things done.

When Michelle grew up and got married, her mother-in-law came to stay one day. Things went missing, and the events that ensued inspired Michelle to write *Oma's Bag* as a love letter to her husband and their four children, as well as for all those families who have loved ones living with dementia.

Unlike Oma, Michelle doesn't usually carry around a purse or a bag, but please don't ask to look in her pockets.



Photo by Daniel Royer,
WeDo photography & video

Michelle Wang (she/her)

HEAR NAME:

namedrop.io/michellewang1

WEBSITE:

themichellewang.com

INSTAGRAM: [@itmustbebooks](https://www.instagram.com/itmustbebooks)

FACEBOOK.COM: [/mustbebooks](https://www.facebook.com/mustbebooks)



Illustrations by Sam Nunez

Sam Nunez (he/him) is an artist from Peterborough, Ontario. As a child, his love of illustration and storytelling came from reading cartoons in the weekly newspaper and works such as *Calvin and Hobbes* and *Peanuts*. This inspired him to create his own comics while in middle school that would be enjoyed by tens of people and would eventually lead him down the fortunate path of illustrating his first book, *Oma's Bag*. Some of his favourite things are crisp autumn days, apple pie, buy-one-get-one-free coupons, eight hours of sleep, and YOU! (Thank you for reading *Oma's Bag*!)

Sam Nunez (he/him)

HEAR NAME:

namedrop.io/samuelnunez

INSTAGRAM: [@samnunezart](https://www.instagram.com/samnunezart)



CANADIAN PUBLICITY: Daniel Shehori • EMAIL: dshehori@gmail.com TEL: 647-213-5151

US PUBLICITY: Cynara Geissler, Arsenal Pulp Press • EMAIL: cynara@arsenalpulp.com TEL: 604-687-4233

ARSENAL PULP PRESS • WEB: ArsenalPulp.com TWITTER/X: [@arsenalpulp](https://twitter.com/arsenalpulp) INSTAGRAM: [@arsenalpulp](https://www.instagram.com/arsenalpulp) FB: Arsenal Pulp Press

Advance Praise for *Oma's Bag*

“A lovely story that captures what it’s like to have aging grandparents—the love we feel for them and the love we need to find, even in loss.”

—LINDSAY MATTICK, author of *Finding Winnie*

“Books like *Oma's Bag* serve to reduce the stigma that surrounds memory loss. It discusses dementia in a way that children can understand while honouring the personhood and experiences of their loved one. An absolute pleasure to read.”

—DR. JO-ANNE CLARKE, medical director of North East Specialized Geriatric Centre at Health Sciences North

“This delightful story underscores the importance of accepting the aging process and honouring family ties. Perfect for all ages.”

—JENNIFER MARUNO, author of *While You Sleep*

“A beautiful story for young families with aging loved ones. As a health care professional of over twenty years, I have seen the profound sadness in the journey of those affected by the changes that dementia brings. But through making light of daily occurrences as the disease unfolds, *Oma's Bag* shares the story of the many meaningful and loving interactions that still happen along the family journey. There are still treasures of Oma's past and present selves to be found, if only we take the time to listen. Like many lessons in life, the wisdom of young children reminds us to connect with these precious moments while we still can.”

—LISA ALGUIRE, occupational therapist at Vancouver General Hospital and clinical instructor at University of British Columbia

“A truly entertaining, captivating, and authentic work.”

—KARL SUBBAN, author of *The Hockey Skates*

“Dementia is a condition that affects families, not individuals. Learning how to interact with the new normal of a loved one with dementia is a lesson many adults find very difficult. Adults can become overwhelmed by worry about tomorrow or regret about the past, but clinicians have long known that children do not have the same reservations—they accept everyone for how they are today, in the moment. Now we have a great story book to redress this in the youngest of readers.

Oma's Bag does not shy away from difficult topics, such as grieving loss and potential family discord, so common in dementia experiences. Lost items or untrue statements can create distress until the lessons of using diversion to live in the present while avoiding criticism or correction of alternate memories are learned. The story describes the grief of Oma's spouse, Opa, in palpable contrast to the children's engagement with his wife. Their enthusiastic and open involvement with Oma is the tonic he needs, to recognize that Oma is still very much a positive, vibrant contributor to their family life.

Tenderly portrayed by author Michelle Wang and warmly illustrated by Sam Nunez, *Oma's Bag* is a book that should be on every family's reading list and readily available in every doctor's office, clinic site, and hospital waiting room.”

—DR. K. JENNIFER INGRAM, dementia specialist and founder of Kawartha Centre

