

For Immediate Release

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Sally Davis Local Author of Children's Books will be Featured in the Prestigious Kirkus Reviews April 1, 2020

Albuquerque, New Mexico – Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – The review for Jimmy: Toughest Times Ever was selected by the Indie Editors to be featured in **Kirkus Reviews**, for the April 1, 2020 Issue. The review will appear as one of the 35 reviews in the Indie section of the magazine. Less than 10% of Indie reviews are chosen for this honor.

Davis said, *"In New Mexico, about one in every ten children will lose a parent or sibling before the age of 18. I wrote Jimmy: Toughest Times Ever to give children who are grieving a story and language that could connect them to others and help them understand themselves in such a difficult time. A discussion guide on my website helps parents and therapists springboard from the book into conversations with children who have experienced loss. The concepts of change, permanence, friendship and growth are all explored."*

Kirkus Reviews (or **Kirkus Media**) is an American book **review magazine** founded in 1933 by Virginia **Kirkus** (1893–1980). The **magazine** is published on the first and 15th of each month, giving a preview of books prior to their publication. **Kirkus reviews** over 7,500 titles per year and is sent out to over 5,000 industry professionals e.g. librarians, publishers, agents and bookstores. The magazine publishes book reviews, recommendations, and the latest literary news from the most trusted voice in book discovery, **Kirkus Reviews**.

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About the Author

Sally Hill Mills learned to write children's books with children, as a creative writing teacher in elementary schools. She learned what keeps children interested in a story (relatable characters, obstacles, action) and how laughter can season a story so that big ideas can be digested.

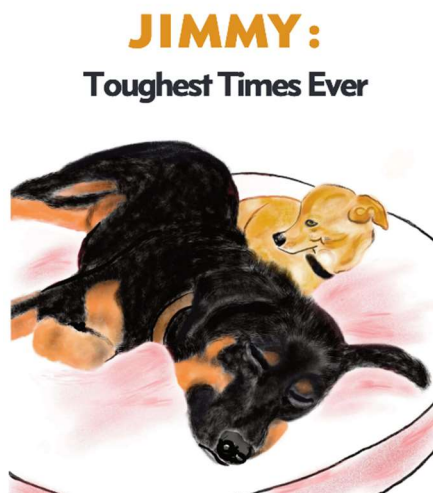
Her first book, Jimmy: Toughest Dog Ever, grew out of Mills' experience as a special education teacher. She saw that kids who left the room for "special" classes or who had visible disabilities feared being labeled and not fully belonging to the larger group. The book takes on bullying head on, as Jimmy's big brother, Arrow, struggles with how others will perceive his little brother with the gimpy right leg.

When the real-life Arrow died Mills realized that, as hard as it would be, her beloved dog's death offered an opportunity to take the character Jimmy on another, even more difficult journey: through grief, solitude and loss into recovery, reconnection and a broadened outlook on life. Mills drew upon her own experiences as a child to write the book.

Kirkus calls Jimmy: Toughest Times Ever "a touching sequel targeting a wider range of readers" and says, "its graceful treatment of love and loss will resonate with many adults, too.... A lovely, resonant, child-appropriate tale about loss and the cycle of grief and healing."

About the Book

It's tough when you lose your friend. It's tougher still when you feel like a newcomer is trying to push his memory right out of the house. But a heart can hold so much more than a little dog could imagine.



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