

Snuggle Mountain Q&A

What was the inspiration behind Snuggle Mountain?

I love to tell this story at school visits. When my daughter was two years old, she climbed out of her crib very early in the morning and stood at the edge of my bed looking up at me. As I looked down at her, I thought, “I bet my bed looks like a mountain. I bet I look like a giant.” Boom. I still have the piece of paper where I captured the idea. I love to show it to the kids on school visits.

From idea to book, how long did it take?

Oh my, quite a while. I wrote down the idea in 1998. I sold the manuscript in 1999. It was published in 2003. Picture books require patience. And love. And finding just the right illustrator. Did I mention how beautiful [Melissa Iwai's](#) illustrations are?

From book to app, how long did it take?

That process was swipecy fast. Melissa Iwai and I got our rights back from [Clarion](#) in December 2010. We found [PicPocket Books](#) in March 2011, signed a contract that April and the app came out in June 2011. Whoosh. I want to say that everyone—from Clarion to PicPocket—was a dream to work with. Melissa and I couldn't be happier with both renditions of Snuggle Mountain.

Is the book available?

Yes, the book is still available through Amazon.

Is the app available?

No, it is not. When Apple changed its IOS in 2015, many of the apps became obsolete and required significant updates. Pickpocket Books chose to close its doors and their apps no longer functioned.

Why don't books in every format last forever?

The publishing industry has changed so much. I wrote a significant four-part series about book going out of print. [Part One](#) is the Overview. [Part Two](#) is from the Author & Illustrator Perspectives. [Part Three](#) is the Agent's Perspective. [Part Four](#) is the Editor's Perspective. Read it, you will understand how important it is as a writer to keep writing. Yes, we must promote our books but we must also keep writing. That is our job. Our next book stands on the pages of our last book.

For more insights about Snuggle Mountain, please see these posts:

- [Cynthia Leitich Smith's Blog on the SM Inspiration](#)
- [Cynthia Leitich Smith's Blog on the SM App](#)
- [Through The Wardrobe](#)