

Vanessa Chen

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Hi-res photos available upon request

New Magical Tale for Middle-Readers Written by 14-Year-old Aspiring Author Portrays How the Power of Friendship Triumphs Over Evil

CHANDLER, AZ (February 2020)—After three years of dedicated work, 14-year-old Vanessa Chen will release her first novel from Star Moonstone Books early next year. *A Butterfly Universe* (forthcoming Jun. 2020) tells the story of two best friends in their quest to save Butterfly Universe from certain evil.

Middle-grade readers are introduced to best friends, Amber and Amethyst, two seemingly normal girls—that is, until the earth opens up beneath their feet, transforming them into butterflies and transporting them to a new world. The world is Butterfly Universe, a place where butterflies feast on delicious honey pizza and have special Light Powers that allow them to move things, shine light, and control time and space. But, as the girls begin to uncover a dark history between the butterflies and moths, they soon learn that Butterfly Universe isn't all fun and games.

Like all good fantasy novels, Amber and Amethyst come to realize their true purpose, and readers discover that even those who seem evil sometimes have a “hidden goodness” within them. A remarkable story of the power of friendship, *A Butterfly Universe* is likely to appeal to a wide audience, and especially those with an affinity for tales of the magical and fantastic.

Chen began writing stories at a young age. She barely spoke before the age of five and would often compile pictures and letters, creating small “books” only she could understand. In the years since, Chen has spent her time honing her craft and dreaming up new stories drawing from her own experiences and surroundings. *A Butterfly Universe* was inspired by a tree outside her bedroom window and has evolved through several iterations to make it ready for publication.

“The best storytellers use words to transport readers to amazing new worlds populated by interesting characters, good and evil,” says editor and award-winning children’s author, Conrad J. Storad. “Vanessa Chen is a storyteller.”

In addition to her writing aspirations, Vanessa is also a talented pianist and recreational figure skater.

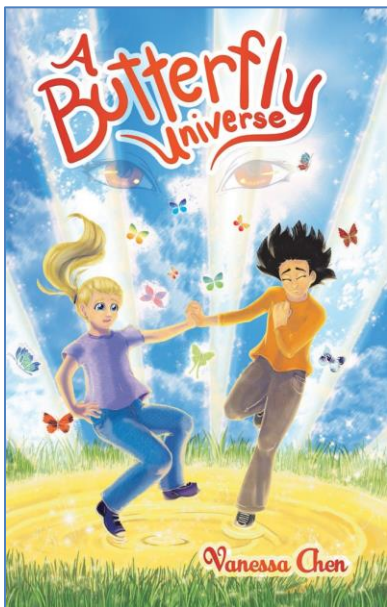
Produced by Story Monsters LLC, *A Butterfly Universe* (ISBN: 978-1-7333954-0-3, Paperback; e-ISBN: 978-1-7333954-1-0, e-book; \$8.95 US) is slated for release in Jun. 2020 and will be available for purchase on Amazon. For more information about *A Butterfly Universe* or to connect with the author, please visit www.starmoonstonebooks.com.

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FACT SHEET

A Butterfly Universe

by Vanessa Chen



Author: Vanessa Chen

Publisher: Star Moonstone Books, LLC

Contact: starmoonstonebooks@gmail.com / (978) 206-1623

Price: \$8.95 US

Format: Paperback, perfect-bound and eBook

Trim: 5.25" x 8.25"

Publication Date: June 22, 2020

ISBN: 978-1-7333954-0-3; **eISBN:** 978-1-7333954-1-0

Interest Level: Children's fiction

Website: www.starmoonstonebooks.com

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—Conrad J. Storad, Award-winning children's author and science editor

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

A Butterfly Universe is a classic tale of good and evil. One seemingly normal afternoon for best friends Amber and Amethyst is quickly transformed into the adventure of a lifetime when they are transported to Butterfly Universe and introduced to Headmistress Morpholtina of the Blossom Light International Crystal Butterfly Academy. While at the BLIC Academy, the girls soon learn of a dark and secret history between the butterflies and moths. Together, the girls must stop at nothing to reunite a family torn apart by evil moth forces and save the universe from certain evil.

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK UNIQUE?

Though the themes in this book are familiar, the story is distinctly unique—the product of a gifted writer, talented pianist and ice skater, 14-year-old Vanessa Chen. Vanessa began writing *A Butterfly Universe* when she was just 10 years old and has developed an array of interesting characters, from the noble and beautiful Headmistress Morpholtina to the evil moth king. In this quick-paced adventure novel, readers discover that even those who seem evil sometimes have a "hidden goodness" within and it's always possible to change. A remarkable story of the power of friendship, this book is likely to appeal to a wide audience of young adults, but especially those with an affinity for tales of the magical and fantastic.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



A Butterfly Universe by Vanessa Chen

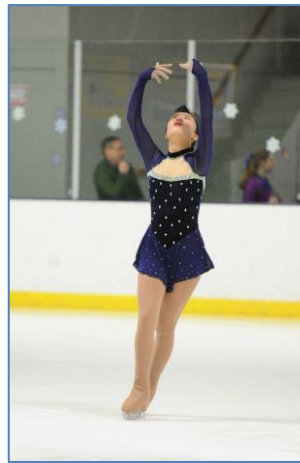
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Vanessa Chen – Author

Vanessa Chen is a 14-year-old, Chinese American writer. *A Butterfly Universe* is her first full-length book. She began writing it in 2016 when she was just 10 years old and credits an especially creative winter break from school for much of its development. She also enjoys writing poetry and short stories and has a few other works in progress. In addition to her writing, Vanessa is a prolific reader, and she can often be found curled up on the couch with a book, “feeding her imagination.” She also enjoys recreational figure skating and playing the piano, and currently listens to a variety of pop and rock. She lives with her parents, brother, and hamster in eastern Massachusetts.



Conrad J. Storad – Editor



Conrad J. Storad is an award-winning author and editor of more than 50 science and nature books for children and young adults, including *Monster in the Rocks*, *Gator, Gator*, *Second Grader (Classroom Pet...or Not?)*, the “USA Best Book” *Rattlesnake Rules*, and the ONEBOOKAZ for Kids 2012 selection *Arizona Way Out West & Witty*. He holds an undergraduate degree in mass media communication from the University of Akron and a master’s degree in mass communication/science journalism from Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. Storad resides in

Ohio with his wife, Laurie, and their rescue wiener dog, Frankie. Learn more at

www.conradstorad.com.

Sarah Laroche – Illustrator



Sarah Laroche is an illustrator and graphic designer living in the rural woods of Eastern Connecticut. Her passion for art and all things fantasy stems from a childhood of enjoying animated movies and television shows. An avid writer herself, Sarah loves being able to create artwork for stories and books for herself and others by using the skills she has learned in her years in the creative field.

A Butterfly Universe is marketed and produced by:



Story Monsters LLC is home to the award-winning Story Monsters Ink® magazine and supports authors and publishers of all genres through a host of publishing and marketing programs and services.

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS



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“To this day, I’m not sure what would’ve happened if I hadn’t taken a moment to enjoy nature. Would I live a life without magic, never knowing why I saw so many butterflies and moths around me? Would I not have to fight evil? Of course, I wouldn’t trade my life for another.”

—Chapter 1, *A Butterfly Universe*

10-word description:

Two friends fight to save the universe from evil moths.

15-word description:

Best friends Amber and Amethyst must fight to save Butterfly Universe from evil moth forces.

25-word description:

In a classic tale of good and evil, best friends Amber and Amethyst must stop at nothing to save Butterfly Universe from evil moth forces.

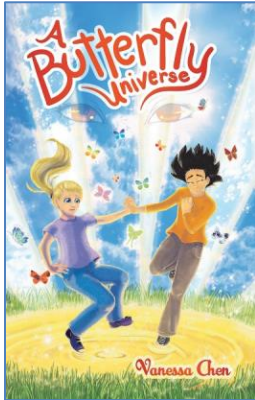
50-word description:

It was a day like any other, until the earth opened up, transporting best friends Amber and Amethyst to Butterfly Universe. Once there, the girls quickly unravel a series of dark secrets and learn that certain evil is upon them. Together, they must save the universe from evil moth forces!

100-word description:

It was a day like any other—that is, until the earth opened up, transporting best friends Amber and Amethyst to Butterfly Universe, where they are transformed into beautiful butterflies. In this new and magical world, the girls meet Headmistress Morpholtina of the Blossom Light International Crystal Butterfly Academy, so beginning a strange and fascinating butterfly adventure. But it isn’t long before the girls unravel a history of dark secrets between the butterflies and moths. Together, Amber and Amethyst must fight to reunite a family torn apart by one moth’s thirst for power and save the universe from certain evil.

SUGGESTED MEDIA QUESTIONS



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1. You said that this book started as a “practice” exercise for you in writing books. Do you have any other stories that you are currently working on that might one day become books?
2. Are there any characters in the book that remind you of yourself, or are inspired by real people?
3. What do you hope readers will take away from reading *A Butterfly Universe*?
4. The character names are very creative. Where did you come up with the names for the characters in the book, and which is your favorite?
5. Now that you know what it takes to write a book, what advice would you offer to aspiring writers who are just getting started?
6. Who are some of your favorite authors?
7. Are there any books you read and used as inspiration for this story?
8. What is your writing process like? Do you prefer to write all at once and edit later, or do you prefer to edit as you go?
9. Where do you record ideas for stories? Do you keep a journal?
10. What are your future writing plans? Do you plan to write a second book?