Whether it is a dark forest filled with wild things, a late snowy night, or a garden home to a particularly mischievous rabbit, the illustrations from children’s books still remain imprinted on my mind years after they were read to me. Not only the beautiful images, but also the lovely yet poignant feelings have become a part of who I am, as well as a part of my art. It is no wonder that I decided to pursue a degree in illustration, aiming to write and illustrate children’s books. I believe children’s literature plays a big role in shaping a child’s life, and I want to contribute to this.

Good stories teach children understanding, values, acceptance, and morals. Perhaps the most important thing children can gain from books is knowledge about how the world works. Books hold important messages, they tell children about reality. They help children understand what life is really like, which is not always sweet and fluffy. Life can be painful, but at the same time immensely meaningful. Children need literature that goes beyond entertainment, literature that reflects the world around them and life as it is.
Children need truth. When I illustrate and write children’s books, truth is what I will give them. How can children know reality when so many voices are telling them stories about immoral fantasy worlds where personal gain is more important than being a good person? I want to give children real and meaningful stories, stories that continue to influence them as they grow.

One issue that I am particularly concerned about is equality, in particular, women’s equality. The media does not represent women realistically; instead it turns them into objects or second class human beings. In my books, women will be presented as real people. I want girls to know that there are no limits to what they can do, and I want boys to view girls as equals. If I can instill these values in people at a young age, it is likely that it will stick with them as they grow up.

By illustrating and writing children’s books, I want to make a difference in society. I want to offer children values and understanding, but also beautiful images and feelings. I want to help children see beauty and I want to help them gain understanding about the seemingly strange world around them. I need to share my stories with them; I need to give.