

Dear Reader,

*Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* is ultimately a story about love. It is the story of the love shared between generations, the love we must develop for ourselves, and the love that we use to create change in the world.

It is also a personal story. I, like many Asian children around the world, grew up wishing for bigger eyes and longer eyelashes. For too many years, I wanted to fit standards of beauty that did not reflect me, my family, or my culture. I didn't realize that wishing for different eyes was also a rejection of so much more. My outlook began to change one evening while I stood in line at a convenience store in Taiwan. I flipped through a magazine and was amazed at all the beautiful people on its pages—people who looked like me and had eyes like mine. In that moment, I began to realize that I could be—that I was—beautiful too.

The lyrical prose of *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* flows with the narrator through sweet snuggles with her mother, inspiring talks with her Amah, and playful romps with her little sister. Each moment helps the narrator develop a stronger sense of identity, a greater pride in her heritage, and a deeper connection with family.

For those of us who are marginalized and made invisible by dominant definitions of beauty (and who isn't?), learning to recognize our own beauty requires confronting, disrupting and changing beliefs that have been ingrained in our cores. It requires loving and lifting ourselves and others.

Learning to recognize our own beauty is an act of revolution.

I hope that *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* helps to build a world in which all children recognize their own beauty. I hope it inspires revolution.

Thank you for picking up *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners*. This is a book that celebrates family relationships while disrupting definitions of beauty that render most of the world invisible.

With love,

Joanna Ho

