

OPERATION MARRIAGE

Cynthia Chin-Lee • Illustrations by Lea Lyon

Eight-year-old Alex has a fight with her best friend, Zach, who says he can no longer be her friend. Why? Because "her parents aren't married." Set in the San Francisco Bay Area months before the passage of Proposition 8 banning gay marriage in California, this picture book looks at the heartwarming and humorous actions of Alex and her younger brother, Nicky, to convince their parents to get married.

Though content with a commitment ceremony years earlier, the children's stubbornness prevails and the moms get legally married before Prop. 8 takes effect. Their love as a family is contagious as their neighbors begin to accept them for what they are: a normal, affectionate family.

Based on a true story, Cynthia Chin-Lee (author of *Amelia to Zora*) has written a splendid and touching story about a real family, and the real implications of the struggle for equality, with beautiful and captivating illustrations by Lea Lyon (*Say Something*).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cynthia Chin-Lee is the author of *A Is for Asia* (Orchard Books), which *Ruminator Review* called one of the "Best 100 American Children's Books of the Century," and *A Is for the Americas* (Orchard Books), which earned an award from the National Council for Social Studies and Children's Book Council (CBC/NCSS) as a Notable Children's Book in Social Studies. Her latest books are the award-winning *Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World*, and *Akira to Zoltan: Twenty-Six Men Who Changed the World*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

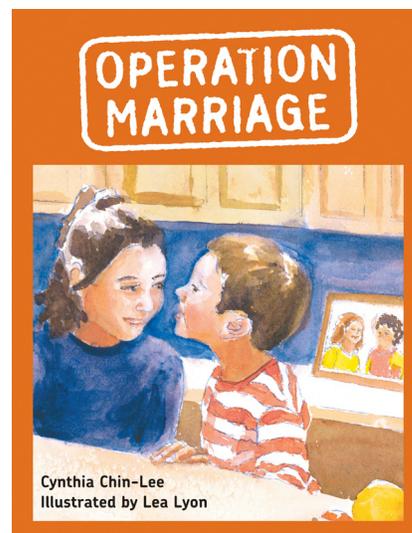
Lea Lyon is an award-winning children's book illustrator, painting teacher, and portrait artist based in Richmond, CA. Her books include *Say Something* with Peggy Moss (Tilbury House), a Notable Social Studies Book and winner of the Teachers' Choice Award from *Learning Magazine*; *Playing War* with Kathy Beck (Tilbury House), winner of the *Skipping Stones Magazine* Award as one of the "Best 25 Multicultural Picture Books of 2006;" *Keep Your Ear on the Ball* by Genevieve Petrillo (Tilbury House), winner of the Moonbeam Award in 2008 and runner up for the ALA Schneider Family Award in 2007.

ACCOLADES

"Cynthia Chin-Lee very sensitively deals with the subject of same sex marriage by telling the true story of one couple and their children. Children are very ready to start talking about the civil rights issues of our time and this book is a great jumping off point to get those conversations started." —Jacinta Bunnell, author of *Girls Are Not Chicks Coloring Book*



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