

MY FULL OFFICIAL BIO

Bethany Hegedus' award-winning body of work includes four co-author titles, with Arun Gandhi, (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) include Grandfather Gandhi (S&S), Be the Change; A Grandfather Gandhi Story (S&S), You, Me, We: A Celebration of Peace and Community (Candlewick) and the forthcoming Yours, Mine, Ours: A Celebration of Service and Community (Candlewick). Her over twenty year collaboration and then friendship with Arun Gandhi, whom she approached to work with her, born out of her desire to bring something good into the world after surviving 9/11, is what helped catapult her career and together their four children's books, and Arun's The Gift of Anger, defined the last years of the peacekeepers life.

A deep believer in turning pain into action, Bethany has published numerous biographies on changemakers in the arts and social justice. These include: Alabama Spitfire: The Story of Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird (Balzer + Bray/Harper Collins), Rise!: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People: Dr. Maya Angelou (Lee & Low), Hard Work But It's Worth It: The Life of Jimmy Carter (Balzar + Bray/Harper Collins).

After the birth of her son, Taru, Bethany found inspiration in family fun, adding Huddle Up, Cuddle Up (Viking/PRH) --an ode to family, football and bedtime. and the forthcoming Batter Up for The First Day of School (Viking/PRH)--and ode to family, baseball and back to school transitions will release in June 2025.

Bethany's books have been included in numerous "best of" lists such as A Mighty Girl's Best Books of 2018 and Kirkus' Best Books of the Year, been reviewed in the New York Times, made the Bluebonnet list and more. Interviewed on local and the national news, Bethany has appeared on KXAN, KVUE, and News Nation Now, to discuss her books and the figures she writes about.

Coming later in 2025, is another co-authored title: No Bad Parts with Dick Schwartz, renowned therapist who created the Internal Family Systems therapy model, from Sounds True.

As a writing instructor, and founder/creative director of The Writing Barn, Bethany has ushered hundreds of writing students and personal mentees from pre-published to well-published. Amid her most well-known past students are: Christina Soontornvat, Jason June, Anne Wynter, Nicholas Solis, Michael Gephart, Gloria Amescua, Nanci Turner Steveson, Kim Rogers and more. She has created long lasting programs and communities, such as The Write. Submit. Support program, and the ever-growing Courage to Create community.

A former educator, Bethany holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from VCFA, and speaks nationally on the topics of creativity, resilience, and writing craft and career. She lives in the Austin, Texas area with her physicist husband, boisterous ten-year-old, and not-so-peaceful dog, Shanti.