

in a button

picture book by Melissa A. Butler and Nicholas Hohman

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Photo credit: Katie Long

Book bio: Melissa A. Butler has been noticing buttons her whole life, sometimes with children, sometimes with her cat Willow, and sometimes by herself. She believes that everything that matters can be found in small things. She currently lives in Pittsburgh, PA.



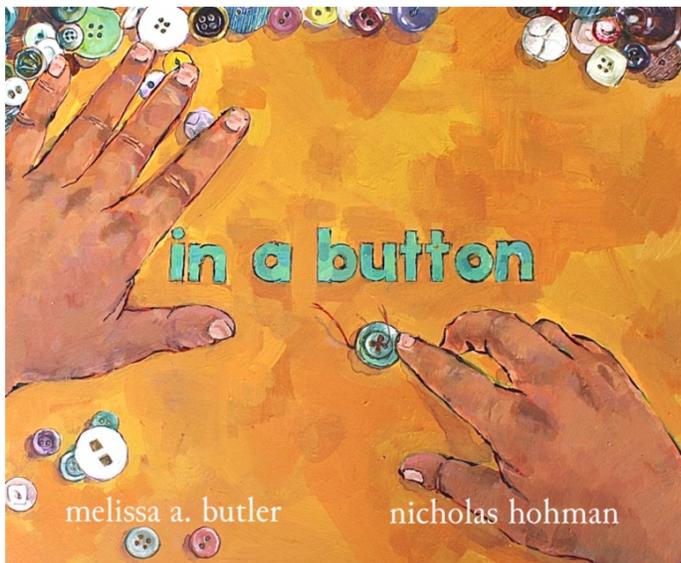
Book bio: Nicholas Hohman paints and draws. He cooks, he cleans (more cooking than cleaning) and cares for his children and his gardens. If he's not drawing or deep in the throes of the domestic and parental arts, you'll likely find him wandering in the woods or riding a bicycle far and slowly, stopping often to inspect a mushroom, inhale deeply of the prairie wildflowers, or wonder at the flight of a spirited bird.

Longer bios:

Author and educator, **Melissa A. Butler**, specializes in the art of noticing and holistic learning design. She has been appreciating small things since she was a child and has built a career full of diverse projects embedded in practices of noticing. She writes for both children and adults. Her academic background in curriculum, poetics, and pedagogy (M.Ed. in Curriculum Theory from Penn State University, M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Cape Town, National Board Certification as an Early Childhood Generalist) merges with her studied practice of energy, meditation, and relaxation to inform her writing, speaking, teaching, and collaborative projects. Butler is founder of *reimagining project*, LLC and has presented at 80+ regional/national conferences and events over the past decade. Whether writing books, facilitating workshops, supporting families, designing for learning, or working collaboratively with organizations, her expressions are guided by beautiful questions around slowness, silence, not-knowing, boredom, perspective-taking, intrinsic motivation, curiosity, play, freedom, trust, and love.

Nicholas Hohman paints and draws. He designs and crafts. He cooks and he cleans (more cooking than cleaning.) He wanders in the woods and rides a bicycle far and slowly, stopping often to inspect a mushroom, inhale deeply of the prairie wildflowers, or wonder at the flight of a spirited bird. He’s been doing these things for quite some time, as a child in wooded suburbs of Western Pennsylvania, as an art student in rural Western New York, as the father of young children in the northside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He studied fine art at Alfred University, Alfred NY, and later art education at Carlow University in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. He spent about a decade channeling these interests and educations into developing and fabricating exhibits at the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh. These days, in addition to painting, drawing, crafting, wandering, wondering, he cares for his children, fairly well, and gardens, somewhat poorly, in the greater Chicagoland area, a place for which he is developing something of a fondness.

Product information:



Publication date: 30 November 2021
(Pre-orders available mid-October)

LOC Control Number: 2021917809
 ISBN 9781737257820 (hardcover)
 ISBN 9781737257837 (ebook)
 Publisher: Notice-to-Wonder Books
 Retail price: \$24.99 (US)
 11 x 8.5 (landscape)
 40 pages
 22 illustrations
 205 words
 Backmatter

Genre: Juvenile Fiction / Picture Book

Subgenres: Imagination & Play / Concepts-General / Visionary & Metaphysical

Keywords: Early Learning Concepts, Picture Storybook, Interactive & Activity, Curiosity, Wonder, Mindfulness, Discovery, Creativity, Quiet, Lyrical

Promotional material:

Look closely. Even closer. There's always more to find.

IN A BUTTON invites a wondrous space of curiosity for readers to notice, wonder, imagine, create, delight, and *be* with a single button.

IN A BUTTON opens a wondrous space of curiosity and joy as readers are invited on a quiet, beautifully illustrated journey to ... **notice, wonder, imagine, create, delight**, and *be* with a single button.

Debut author and illustrator team, Melissa A. Butler and Nicholas Hohman, have created a book not only about a button, but also about the awe and delight of wonder itself.

This is a book about a button. It is also a book about noticing, wondering, and imagining. Mostly it's a book about *you*... the button you will find... and what might happen next.

The artwork holds weight and energy that feels like a button itself, and slowly, with each page turn, you begin to hold your own expansiveness like a button in your hand.

IN A BUTTON has a light narrative structure that opens with a child who makes a discovery, builds to involve readers in making their own imaginative discoveries, and returns to the quiet, creative self-sufficiency of the child.

Inside this story is a uniquely nuanced concept book. The illustrations shift in perspective, balance, and scale as they move between exacting realism and impressionistic brush work to mirror the fluidity of how a wandering mind notices size, shape, color, texture, and orientation alongside and overlapping with introspection, invention, memory, and dream.

This is a book...

- to read again and again
- of play, invention, and discovery
- for families, educators, librarians, artists, meditators, and makers
- to help you remember that *a button is enough as it is*, and *you are enough as you are*.

Short quotes:

“What a treat!”

“Magical illustrations.”

“A picture book to savor.”

“A mindful exploration.”

“Discover a new world.”

“Soothing, thoughtful text.”

“Beautifully paced, with engaging illustrations.”

“A delightful book, illustrated magnificently.”

A book for “all of us – young and maybe not-so young.”

“A starting point for fostering curiosity and imagination.”

“A beautiful reminder that there is *always* something more to notice.”

“An engaging, charming and soothing introduction to contemplation.”

“This book will deepen curiosity and excite exploration for its readers.”

A book “to highlight the beauty and potential in what exists in our every day.”

Reviews:

“With each turn of the page, I felt my breath and body relax, my heart and mind grow quiet. Butler’s soothing, thoughtful text pairs with Hohman’s magical illustrations to create a mindful exploration of all we can notice when we pause to consider small, ordinary things – like buttons!” (Dianne White, author of *GREEN on GREEN* and other books for children)

"By book’s end we find that a button is not just a button in the same way our story is not just a story, but a starting point for fostering curiosity and imagination.” (L. Esser, Parent)

“IN A BUTTON leads you into a whole new way of noticing and treasuring the small, beautiful things around you, as if the universe left them intentionally – just for you. (Junlei Li, Saul Zaentz Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education)

“As I read IN A BUTTON, I wanted to pull my young listeners closer to my lap. It's that kind of book. The mindful, poetic text and richly detailed illustrations make an experience meant to be shared again and again.” (Miss Cindy, Early Childhood Educator, Grandmother)

“Melissa Butler is a master educator who inspired her students to notice and wonder, about everything – including buttons! In this delightful book, illustrated magnificently by Nicholas Hohman, the magical Ms. Butler is at it again – plainly showing how we might take a simple thing and make it something marvelous.” (Gregg Behr, co-author, *When You Wonder, You’re Learning: Mister Rogers’ Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids*)

“IN A BUTTON is an engaging, charming and soothing introduction to contemplation.” (Joan Riordan, Author, Educator)

“IN A BUTTON is a beautiful book that encourages all of us – young and maybe not-so young – to give time to the simplicity of noticing, the depth of wondering, and the vastness of imagination.” (Dana Winters, PhD, Rita McGinley Chair of Early Learning and Children’s Media, Saint Vincent College)

“Readers of all ages will be inspired to find a quiet moment and a button of their own to explore.” (Renata Capozzoli, Kindergarten teacher)

“IN A BUTTON is a beautiful reminder that there is *always* something more to notice.” (Katie Koffler, Artist, Educator, and button collector)

“Beautifully paced, with engaging illustrations, this book will deepen curiosity and excite exploration for its readers.” (Sally Rushford, Former Principal)

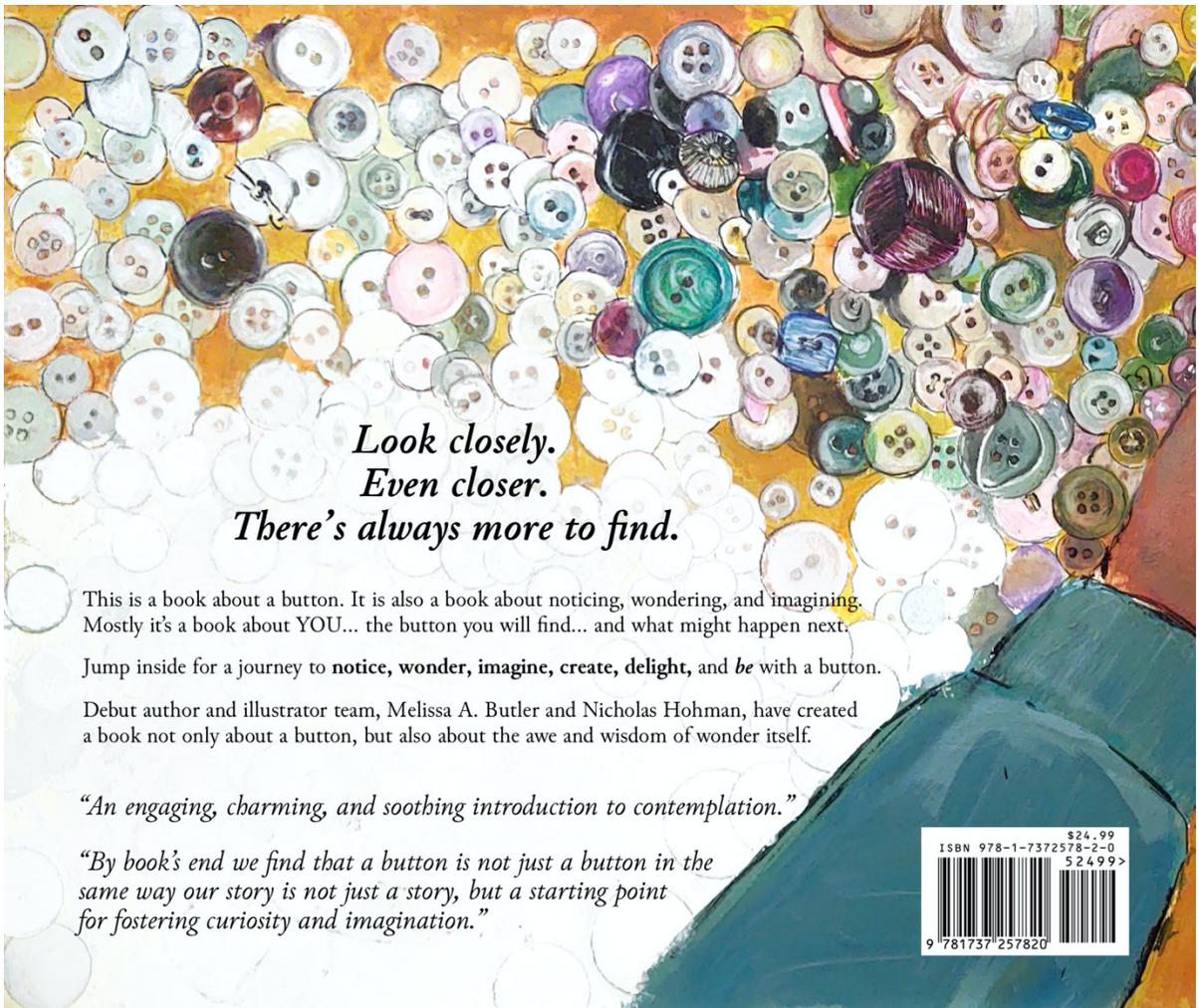
“The illustrations make me feel as though I could pluck a button straight from the page.” (Jon David Russell, Artist)

A peek inside:





Back cover:



*Look closely.
Even closer.
There's always more to find.*

This is a book about a button. It is also a book about noticing, wondering, and imagining. Mostly it's a book about YOU... the button you will find... and what might happen next.

Jump inside for a journey to **notice, wonder, imagine, create, delight, and be** with a button.

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