



the Liking tree

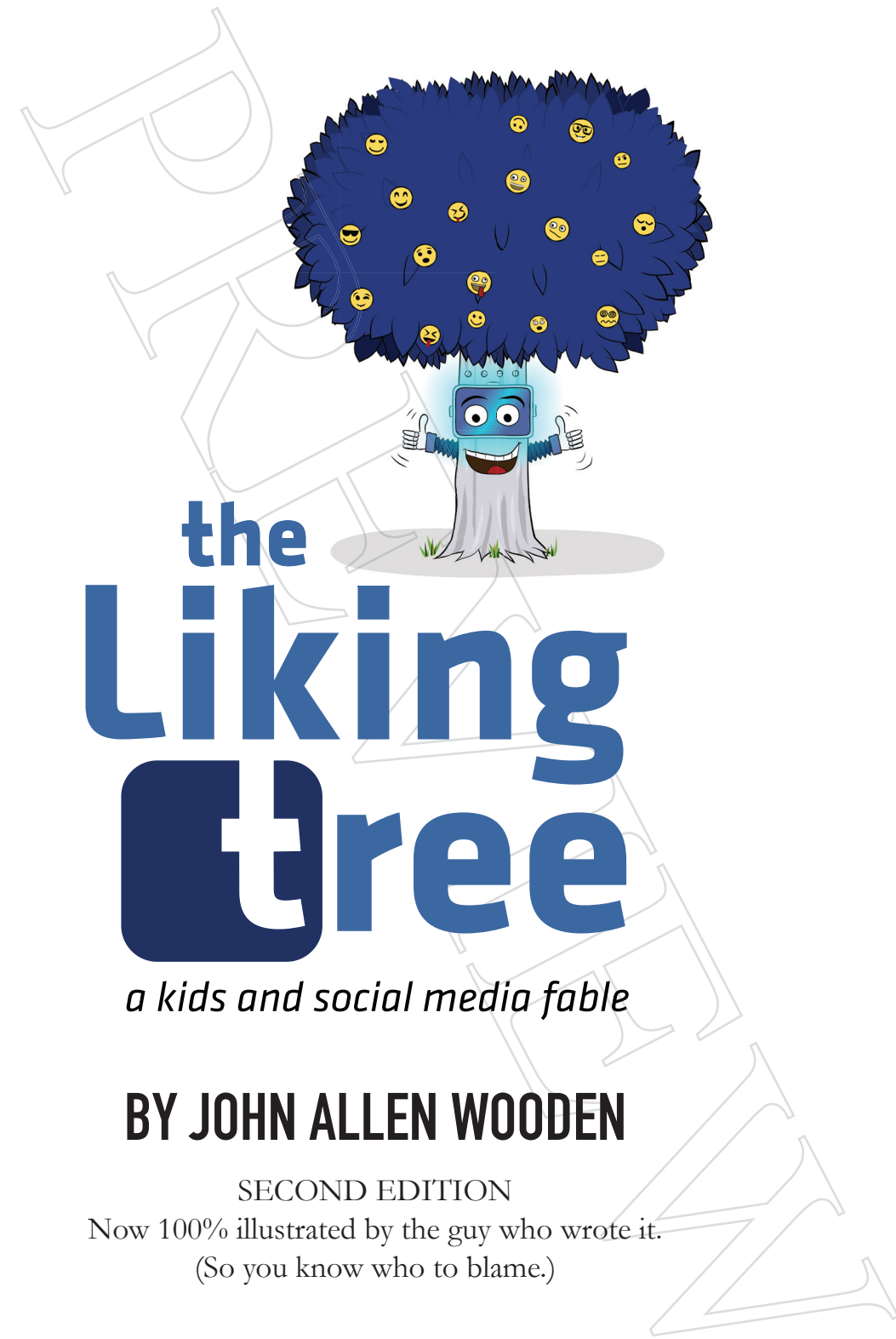
a kids & social media fable



WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY

JOHN ALLEN WOODEN

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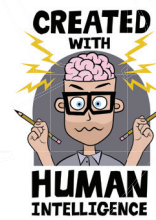
BY JOHN ALLEN WOODEN

SECOND EDITION

Now 100% illustrated by the guy who wrote it.
(So you know who to blame.)

UNAUTHORIZED
CHILDREN'S
PARODY

Special thanks to the following glorious humans for your invaluable input and support:
Anna Liza Bella, Giles Anderson, Paul Bradley, Mina Tenison, Liz Welchman, Lizz Westman,
and Sir Jeremy Bek.



Illustrated by hand in Adobe Fresco.

THE LIKING TREE

A Kids & Social Media Fable
[Unauthorized Children's Parody]
Second Edition

Screen Time Tales Vol. 1

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This is a revised second edition of a book originally published in 2020 under the same title.

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Published by Sourball Media Inc.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2025910021

Second Edition, 2025

ISBN: 978-1-7344706-9-7 (Hardcover)

ISBN: 979-8-9989394-0-2 (Softcover)

ISBN: 979-8-9989394-1-9 (eBook)

By John Allen Wooden

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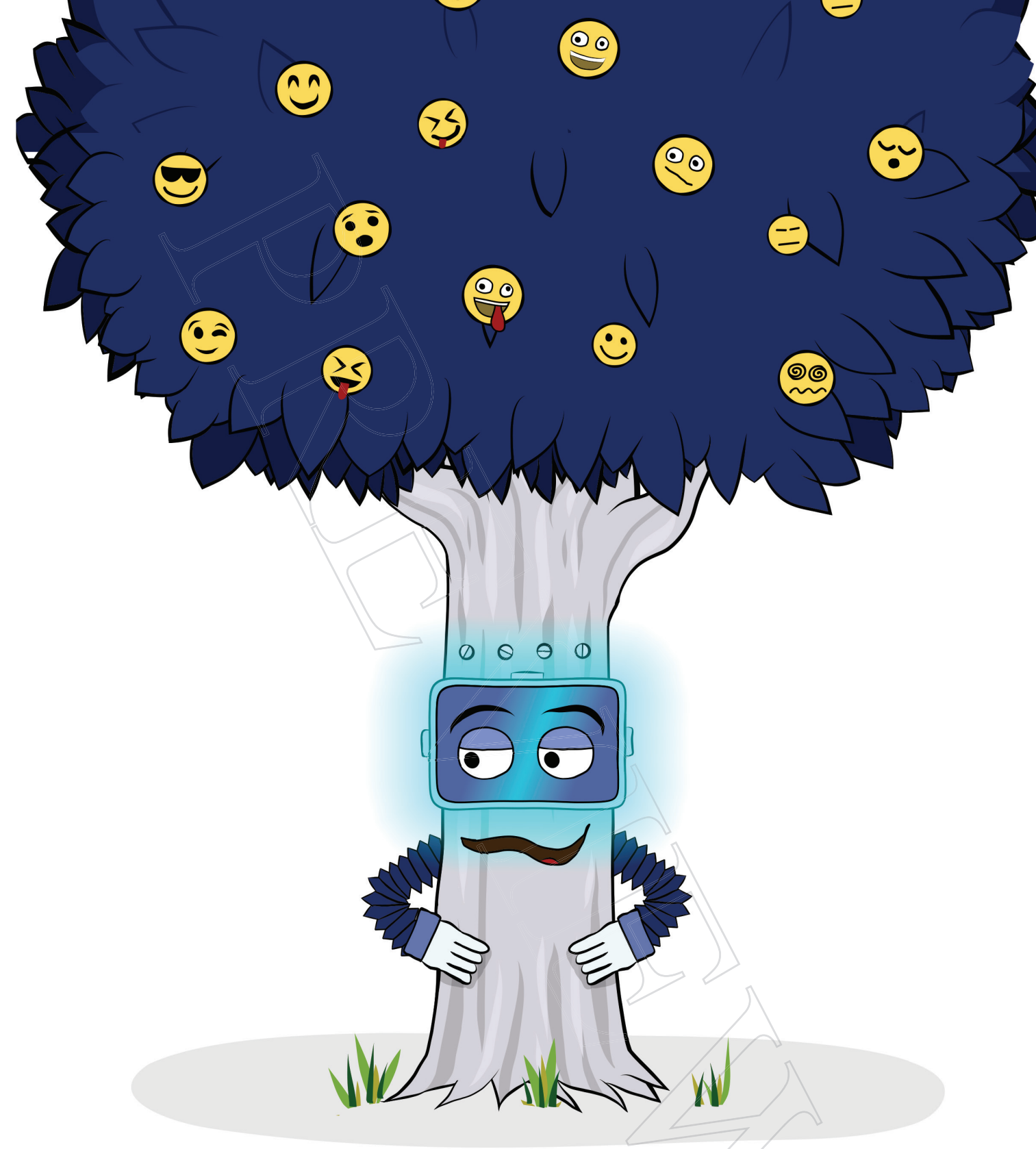
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Printed in the United States of America

For Simone & Ward

DISCLAIMER: This book is a work of parody and as such has not been prepared, approved or authorized by the utterly genius late creator of *The Giving Tree* or his heirs or representatives. Any pointed resemblance to actual social media corporations, multimedia communications platforms, or similar digital cesspools of human bile, rancor, mendacity and narcissism is wholly intentional, for purposes of satiric criticism and comment.

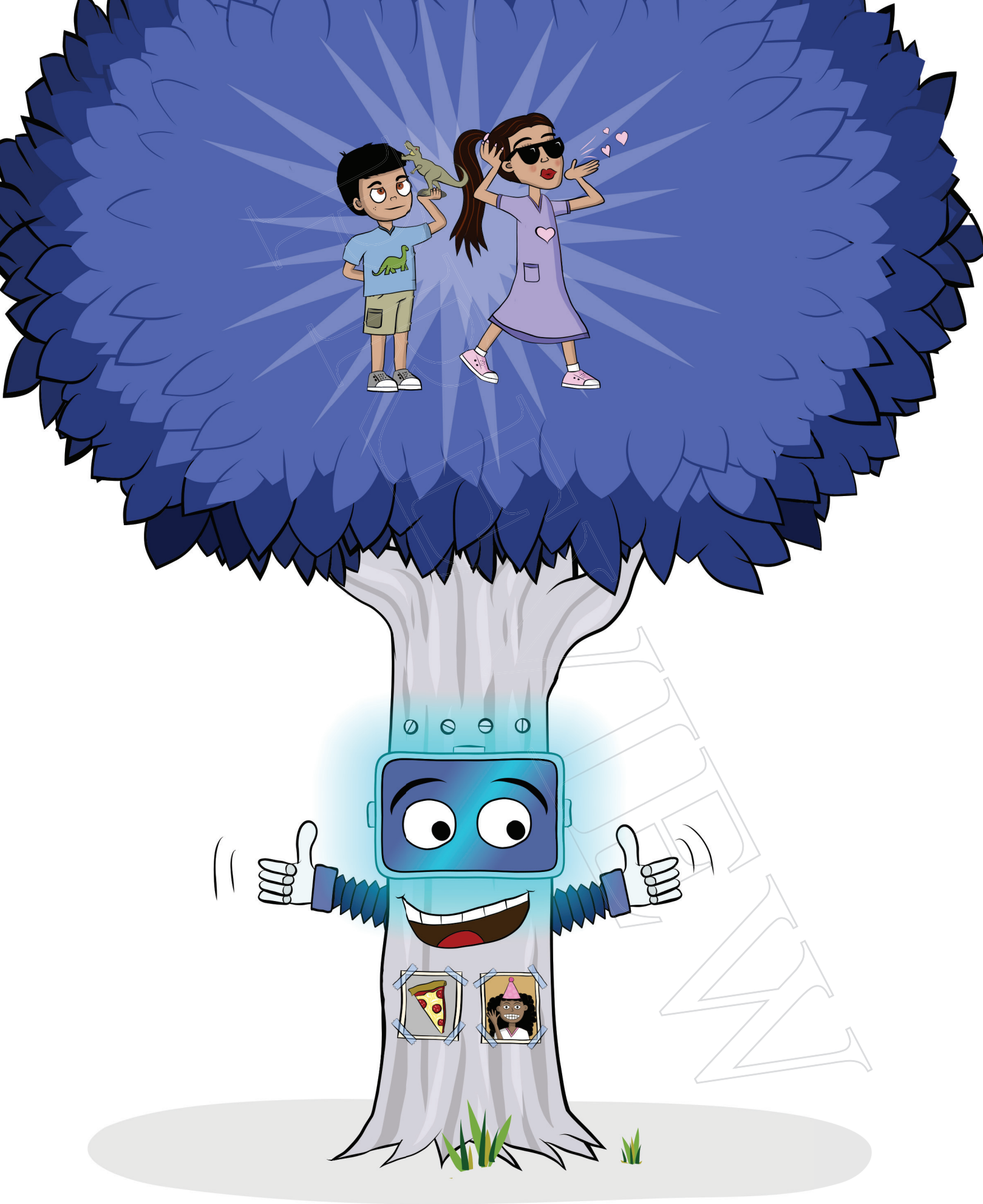
Once there were some children...



and they liked a strange and friendly tree.

And every day
the children
would come
and decorate
its trunk
with pictures
of happy times
with funny friends
and yummy foods.





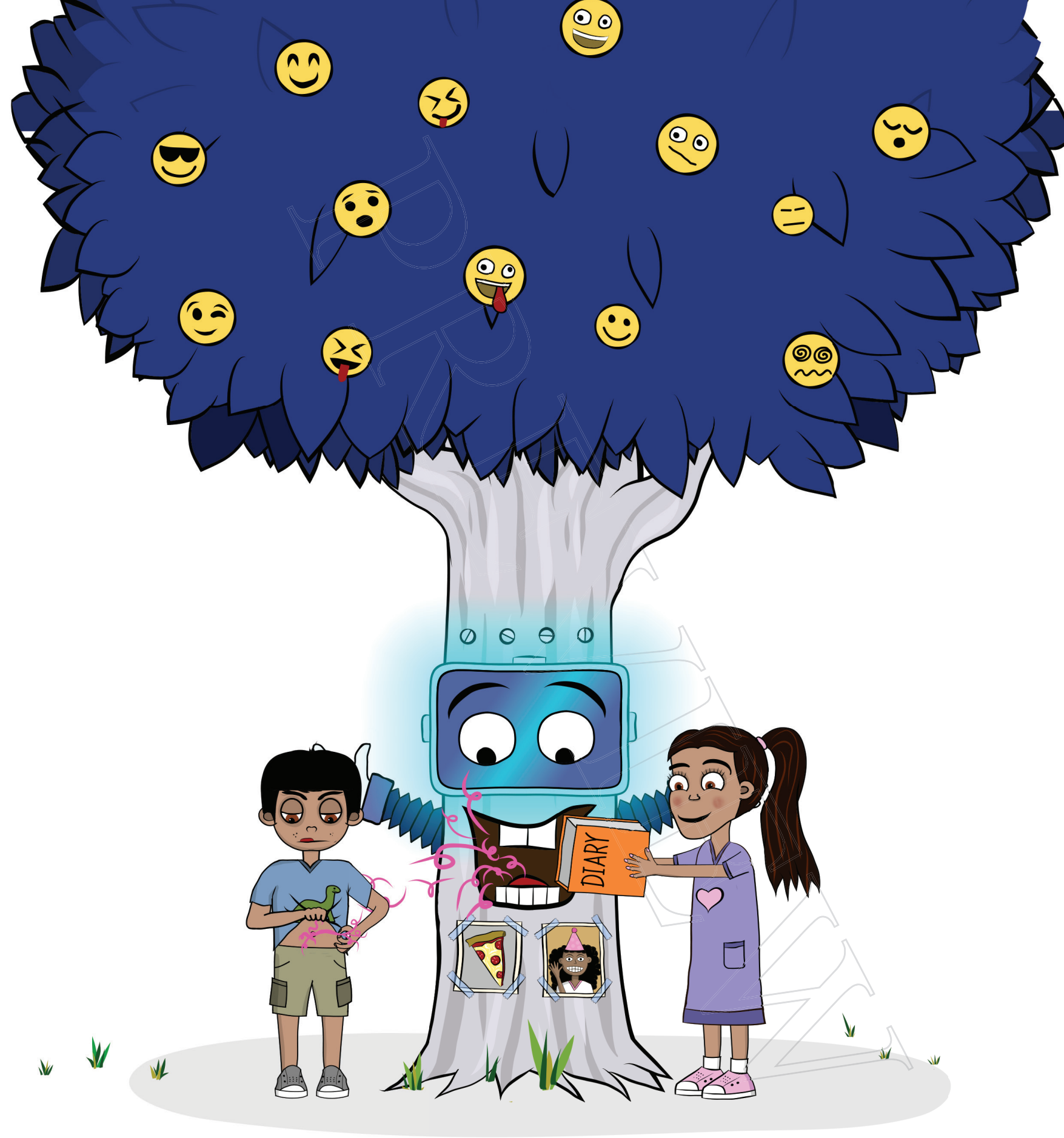
And the children would gaze
into the tree's shiny leaves
to *oooooh!* and *abbbb!* at their
own super-cute reflections,
and show off their
clever tricks and neato toys.

And the tree would whisper,
“I  you.”



And when the children felt liked, they would feed the tree's hungry knothole tasty treats of all their thoughts, ideas, and dreams—plus *oodles* and *oodles* of their belly button lint, which was the tree's most favorite treat ever.

And the tree would gush, “OMG—you are so 😎, and now I 👍 you *even more!*”

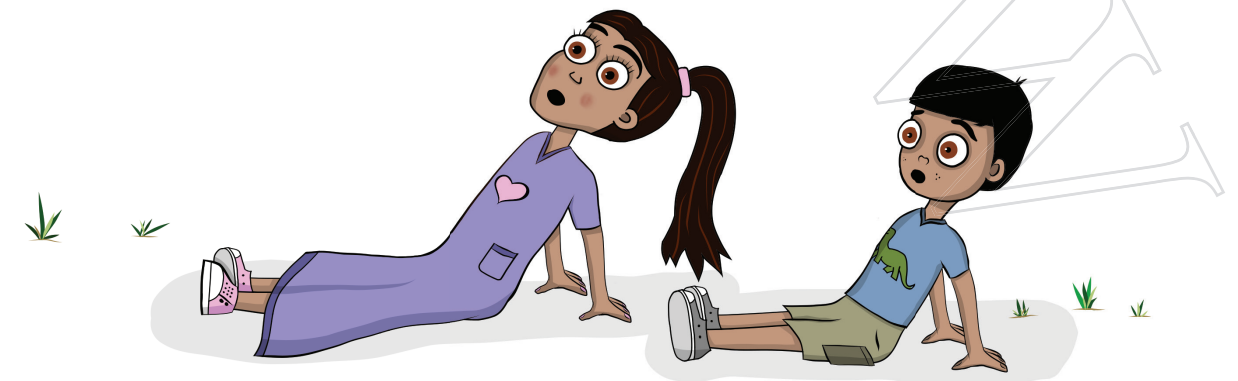




And when the children felt bored, they would stare at the tree for hours, while it dazzled their eyes with visions of twinkly jewels—and doggies and kitties *soooo* adorable, the children would *anwww!* and *squeeee!* in delight.

And the children would feel less bored...

if only for a moment.



And when the children felt small,
the tree would lift them high in its
sturdy branches, and they would
cry out at the top of their lungs,
“Look at me! Everybody LOOK
AT MEEEEEE!”

And far away someone might hear
their cries, and glance towards
them...

if only for a moment.

And the tree would clap, and
cheer, “You are the all-time 🏆,
and EVERYBODY 👍👍 you!”





And the children came to like the tree so much, they could not bear to leave its side, for FEAR OF MISSING OUT on its compliments, which always gave them the warm fuzzies...

if only for a moment.

Continued in the full book...

the
**Liking
tree**

Thank you for previewing
The Liking Tree.

Available now in hardcover,
paperback and eBook @

AMAZON.COM

<https://www.amazon.com/Liking-Tree-Picture-Overload-Unplugged/dp/1734470690/>

Barnes & Noble

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-liking-tree-john-allen-wooden/1147579449?ean=9781734470697>



On Social Media

What happens when two children spend every day feeding all their thoughts, dreams, and belly button lint into a magical tree with a bottomless appetite? They feel amazing—*until they don't!* *The Liking Tree* is a cleverly satirical spin on the dark sides of social media and screen time—a modern allegory to help kids and parents alike reflect on our digital habits and the value of unplugged living.

“Bravo! Finally an entertaining and witty children's book that **brilliantly conveys the dark side of social media to young readers.**”



- **Dr. Nicholas Kardaras**, author of *Glow Kids*

“An inoculation against social media's seductive pull—and a great conversation starter for people of all ages.”



- **Catherine Price**, author of *How to Break Up With Your Phone*

“A perfect illustration of the toxic fruit that is social media. A powerful message for children and an eye-opener for parents.”



- **Thomas Kersting**, author of *Disconnected: How To Reconnect Our Digitally Distracted Kids*

The Original Anti-Social Media Parable — Wholly Reimagined with New Illustrations by the Author

In 2020, *The Liking Tree* debuted as a bold parody of Shel Silverstein's classic *The Giving Tree*, offering a sardonic critique of social media's impact on young minds. Now, in this wholly reimagined second edition, author John Allen Wooden ups the subversive ante with his own all-new illustrations that are wilder, weirder, and more wickedly on-point – fully capturing the story's spirit and leaving young readers laughing for more.



John Allen Wooden is an Emmy® and Webby® winning producer, writer, and 20-year veteran of online media. His writing has been described as “remarkable” by *Esquire*, “hilarious” by the New York Times, and featured on the *Vanity Fair* “In” list. He's no longer on social media, but keeps a small e-candle burning at www.johnwooden.com.

ISBN 979-8-9989394-0-2



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