

Quiet as Mud



by Jane Yolen

illustrated by
Nicole Wong



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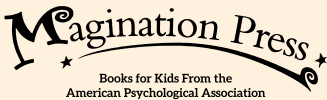
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For Kristine and her son—JY

For I.A.U.—NW

Quiet As Mud is inspired by a quote from Margaret Wise Brown in *The Radical Woman Behind "Goodnight Moon"*, an article in *The New Yorker* by Anna Holmes, published January 31, 2022.



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"Here, perhaps, is the stage of rhyme and reason. . .

'Big as the whole world,'

'Deep as a giant,'

'Quiet as electricity rushing about the world,'

'Quiet as mud.'

All these are five-year-old similes.

Let the grown-up writer for children

equal or better them if he can."

—Margaret Wise Brown





My little sister says I'm quiet as the stars.



Mama says I'm silent as a stone.

My big brother says I whisper like the forest.





But I'm quiet as mud when I'm alone.