Anna Kang, a native New Yorker, graduated with honors from Tufts University with a degree in International Relations and Asian Studies. She went on to work as a research associate at the Council on Foreign Relations, a foreign policy think tank in Manhattan. Anna returned to school and received an M.F.A. from University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. While at USC, she won a scholarship for excellence in screenwriting. You Are (Not) Small is her first children's book.

For more information about the Geisel Award, visit http://bit.ly/geisel-award.
I remember shopping with my aunt and discovering racks and racks of clothes that were exactly my size in every store we entered, as if they were custom-made specifically for me. These clothes weren’t in a special “petite” section or in a younger, more “junior” section. They were just clothes.

For the first time in my life, my size—along with my skin color, hair, and eyes—was unremarkable. Everywhere I looked, I saw my image reflected back at me, on billboards, on TV, and in books. As a child, this was a powerful feeling. I saw that I was not strange or in desperate need of tailoring. I was just me. And I belonged to this world as much as the next person.

This was a huge revelation for me: that our perspective is subjective and not necessarily the whole truth. It’s the message I hope children will take away from reading our book.

Thank you, Holly McGhee, our agent, our mentor, and our friend. This book, and everything good that has come out of it, would not have been possible without you. Thank you for believing in us, and for your love.

I also want to thank our editors, Margery Cuyler and Kelsey Skea, for their wisdom and their kindness, and all the amazing people at Two Lions who helped bring our third child into this world with so much care and devotion.

Finally, thank you to my parents and my brother for their constant support, and to my daughters, Kate and Lily, who, like their father, elevate my work and my life, every day.

Thank you.

Christopher Weyant, a native of New Jersey, graduated from Gettysburg College with a B.A. in Political Science and Economics and planned to become a lawyer. Instead, he became a cartoonist. His cartoons regularly appear in The New Yorker, are syndicated worldwide, and have been highlighted on The Today Show, Meet the Press, and CNN. You Are (Not) Small is Christopher’s first illustrated children’s book. His second, That Is (Not) Mine, also written by his wife, Anna Kang, is due out this fall.

FUN FACT: In 2014, the Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard University selected Weyant to be a Nieman Fellow, only the second cartoonist to receive that honor in Nieman Foundation’s seventy-five year history.
and as my wife filmed it, I thought…
“Eh?” Honestly, it looked like the begin-
ing of a lot more work for me and Anna.

What I didn’t know then was that I would
get to experience that kind of big, joyous
moment. But for me, it would happen a
few years later. One night, as we got ready
for bed, my daughter held one of our fa-
vorite picture books and started to read
for the first time. Watching her chubby
finger hop from word to word, trailing
down a sentence and listening to her as
she sat on the floor of her room, softly
reading in her own voice and with her
own intonation; it was profound. I con-
sider it one of the most transcendent mo-
ments of my life.

Whether she was reading a street sign, or
a menu, or a book, she was now more a
part of our world, the world of literacy.
And with that, I knew, for the first time,
that my girls would be OK. Because
reading doesn’t just open the doors to
a world of imagination, but also to a life
of knowledge and education. Through
books, she would gain greater empathy
and compassion towards others. And
with the thousands upon thousands of
unforgettable characters in great literature,
I knew she would never be alone.

This I owe to books; these simple, beau-
tiful picture books that started all of us
down this wonderful path. And so, to
know that a book I helped create may
some day sit on a child’s bookshelf next to
a Cynthia Rylant or an Arthur Howard or a
Mo Willems, that in some small way may
help bring a new reader into our world, is
more than I could ever have hoped for.

When people ask what the Geisel Award
means to me, I say, as an artist and as a
father, I can think of no higher honor.

So I’d like to thank the Geisel Committee,
for your dedication and for giving me this
wonderful gift. I love that there are people
like you, and the members of the Ameri-
can Library Association, who celebrate
these beginning books that help us take
our first steps.

I’d like to thank my editors, Margery
Cuyler and Kelsey Skea, and the good
people at Two Lions, for your vision and
unflagging support.

Thank you to Katrina Damkoehler, my
wonderful art director, who somehow
made my art shine brightly.

Holly McGhee, my agent and friend, I
remember the first time I spoke with you
on the phone was like finding a long lost
sister. Thank you. For everything.

I want to thank my daughters, Kate and
Lily, for being the best continuity editors
and comedy testers anyone could ask for.
And lastly, I’d like to thank my talented
wife and partner, Anna. Full disclosure:
this book would never have happened
if it weren’t for her. For years, Anna tried
to convince me to create a children’s
book. Luckily for me, she never stopped
“encouraging” me to do so. But in the
end, it was her beautiful writing that got
me to do it. And I’m so grateful to have
been able to share her words, and this
moment, together.

Thank you.