



# The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend

*By Dan Santat*

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**The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend** By Dan Santat

**Winner of the 2015 Caldecott Medal**

This magical story begins on an island far away where an imaginary friend is born. He patiently waits his turn to be chosen by a real child, but when he is overlooked time and again, he sets off on an incredible journey to the bustling city, where he finally meets his perfect match and-at long last-is given his special name: Beekle.

*New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author and illustrator Dan Santat combines classic storytelling with breathtaking art, creating an unforgettable tale about friendship, imagination, and the courage to find one's place in the world.

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## **The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend By Dan Santat Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #7447 in Books
- Brand: Little Brown Books for Young Readers
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- Released on: 2014-04-08
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- 40 pages



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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 2—How long would you wait and how far a journey would you make to find your truest friend?

Born on an island for imaginary friends, Beekle waits to be "imagined by a real child." He waits and he waits, but his turn never comes. Filled with impetuous courage, Beekle does the unimaginable and heads out across deep waters until he reaches the real world. He finds that life there is so harried that no one notices him. Eventually, as he waits at the top of a star-leaved tree, a small girl with a friendly face calls out to him with a picture in her hand. They learn to be friends, share adventures and snacks, joke, "and together they did the unimaginable." Santat's attention to detail in the mixed-media illustrations shares a child's eye for laughter and movement on full-bleed spreads with strategically placed text. Gazes of wonderment, broad smiles, and changes in perspective ensure an easy transition from page to page. Beekle's round white visage and taped orange paper crown are immediately identifiable in each scene, a sharp contrast to his surroundings against variations of dark neutrals on a city street or the brightly colored dragons of a child's imagination. Like Beekle's new friend, there's something here that feels just right as an "unimaginary" friendship creates a joyous, recognizable bond. A terrific addition to any library.—Mary Elam, Learning Media Services, Plano ISD, TX

Review

**Caldecott Medal Winner**

***New York Times* Bestseller**

**#1 Indiebound Bestseller**

***Huffington Post* Best Overall Picture Book of 2014**

**PBS Parents Best Picture Book of the Year**

**NPR "Great Read"**

**ALSC Notable Book for Children**

**A Chicago Public Library Best Picture Book of the Year**

"How does an imaginary friend feel before he's been imagined? In Santat's **sweet, mind-bending gumdrop of a tale**, Beekle lives on a rainbow-hued island, 'hoping for his turn to be picked by a child.' Eventually, like Max in '**Where the Wild Things Are**,' he takes to the seas and soon lands in the real world - which looks a lot like Manhattan. Though this island seems awfully drab, Beekle and his friend find each other at last. She's everything he's ever dreamed of, and the feeling is mutual."

***The New York Times Book Review***

Dan Santat is one of the hardest working people in the industry today. **And while his immense talent was always evident, *Beekle* takes his artistry to a new level.** The story (which is just bursting at the seams with charm) begins on an island of colorful creatures, each waiting to be imagined by a special child and thus transported to the real world.... As with all great books, *Beekle* has an air of inevitability about it. As if somewhere out there is an island of perfect stories just waiting for the right person to come along and imagine it into being. **We should all be grateful that Santat, with his brilliant use of color and humor, was here to bring *Beekle* to life.**

***The Huffington Post***

\* "Santat's attention to detail in the mixed-media illustrations shares a child's eye for laughter and movement on full-bleed spreads with strategically placed text. Gazes of wonderment, broad smiles, and changes in

perspective ensure an easy transition from page to page...Like Beekle's new friend, there's something here that feels just right as an "unimaginary" friendship creates a joyous, recognizable bond. A terrific addition to any library."? *School Library Journal* (starred review)

"Beekle (a crowned white gumdrop of lovable cuteness) lives on a fantastic island with other creatures "waiting to be imagined by a real child." After seeing his companions leave, one by one, Beekle loses faith that he will ever "be picked and given a special name," and so he does "the unimaginable" and ventures forth to find his friend...Welcome, Beekle. It's nice to know you."? *Kirkus Reviews*

"This story would comfort children looking for new friends and would also encourage children to reach out to someone different."? *LMC*

#### About the Author

*New York Times* bestselling illustrator Dan Santat, a Society of Illustrators' The Original Art Silver Medal winner, is the author/illustrator of *Sidekicks* and the illustrator of *Crankenstein* by Samantha Berger. Dan lives in Southern California with his wife, two kids, and various pets. His website is [www.dantat.com](http://www.dantat.com).

### Users Review

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##### Belia Gillespie:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is certainly always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what type you should start with. This The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

##### Alejandro Jones:

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**Glenn Bail:**

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