

Bonnie Kelso

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Bonnie Kelso is a RISD graduate and former Smithsonian exhibit designer turned children's book author and illustrator. Her stories often tackle themes of nature conservation and stewardship in a non-preachy way. *NUDI GILL* features a curious snorkeler who almost steps on a nudibranch, sparking a lively conversation about the fascinating life of these colorful but fierce sea creatures. *SEA SMILES* is the first in a three book series that combines childhood milestones with fun facts about sea animals. *WONDER OF THE WOODS* indulges the senses as a young girl explores her wooded backyard. *QUAIL TRAIL* takes readers on a desert adventure with a brood of quails while touching on hiking safety protocols. Bonnie lives in Las Vegas with her family where she enjoys the comforts of human life amidst vast stretches of wilderness.

Picture Books:

- *Quinn's Closet Monsters*, contributor and selected for cover illustration. An anthology published by Make-A-Wish Foundation, ©2021.
- *Nudi Gill*, author and illustrator. Gnome Road Publishing, April 4, 2023.
- *In A Cave*, illustrator. Written by Heather Ferranti Kinser. Gnome Road Publishing, October 3, 2023.
- *Gnomes and UnGnomes: Poems of Hidden Creatures*, contributing illustrator. The Writers Loft Press. November 2023.
- *Sea Smiles*, author and illustrator. Gnome Road Publishing, February 13, 2024.
- *Wonder of the Woods*, author and illustrator. Little Press / One Little Earth, September 17, 2024.
- *Quail Trail*, author and illustrator. Muddy Boots, November 5, 2024.

Awards and Honors:

2023 Library of Congress Center for the Book Award, "Nudi Gill: Poison Powerhouse of the Sea."

