

“This beautiful book brought tears to my eyes, in the best way possible. A true gift to any family who is experiencing loss, *The Magic Ticket* offers hope and healing with profound love and grace.”

—**Claire Bidwell Smith, author of *Conscious Grieving***

“The Magic Ticket is a beautiful, moving story of how the power of books can help us navigate grief so we come out stronger, closer to our loved ones, and able to find joy on the other side.”

—**Denise Vega, award-winning author of *If Your Monster Won't Go to Bed***

“David Hicks has written a heartfelt book about a difficult topic. Written with an honest, childlike voice, this warm and very personal story shares a child’s desire to fill the void of loss.”

—**Loretta Garbutt, author of *A Stopwatch from Grandpa***

“Stories have the power to reflect our own experiences, take us on fantastic journeys, and even heal us. David Hicks’s story has the power to inspire the magic of reading and empathy in children of all ages. All they need is a magic ticket.”

—**Jimmy Haver, Kids and Families Librarian, Jefferson County Libraries, Colorado**

“The Magic Ticket is a beautiful exploration of the power of books to be company when we feel lonely, a salve when we are hurting. It is a love letter to story, to books, and to libraries as a space to nourish both mind and heart.”

—**Maria Mayo, Anythink Libraries**

“David Hicks has written a wonderful children’s book about grief. Its story and illustrations will engage young readers and also will resonate with their own experiences of losing someone. Parents will appreciate the chance to discuss things too often left unsaid as well as the potential for using stories and storytelling as ways to understand and appreciate the “thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.”

—**Michael Karson, PhD, ABPP, Board Certified in Clinical Psychology, Blogger for *Psychology Today***

“In this heartwarming story, Dr. David Hicks reminds us that children’s books and literature are not just entertainment, they are guardian angels that accompany and shelter our young souls as we long to digest and understand the experiences and suffering that life throws at us. Like a good fairytale, this story reveals how a small but powerful spark of love can be given and tragically taken away, only to be found like a seed growing in the world around us, in books, in the corners of a library, and in our hearts, shaping and revealing why we are here. *The Magic Ticket* is a tale of devotion, a story of a boy whose seeds of love and sorrow are watered by the imagination of reading and its unfolding blessings.”

—**Steven Bennett, PhD, LPC, Clinical Member AAMFT, Professor | Regis University Division of Counseling and Family Therapy**

“This book is all about magic. Young children dwell in a magical world, not always served by logic or causality. A beloved baby sister disappears. Bereaved parents seem to disappear from each other and from the little boy. All is silence. The little boy turns to books for the companionship that makes sense of his world. They are his magic ticket to understanding. The library card becomes the magic ticket that provides access to all those companions, which he can now take home with him. Finally, the books themselves become the magic ticket that reunites him with his parents. David Hicks has provided us with our own magic ticket to love, loss, and reunion.”

— **Roy S. Lowenstein, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association**

“*The Magic Ticket* is a heartfelt and compassionate children’s book that gently addresses the topic of death and the experiences that go with it. Through sensitive storytelling and beautiful illustrations, this book can be used as an educational tool in schools, counseling, settings, and support groups. It facilitates discussions about grief, enhances emotional intelligence, and supports children’s emotional well-being. By reading *The Magic Ticket*, children develop empathy and understanding for others who are grieving.”

— **Lyn Paulet, Elementary Teacher, Mahopac Central School District, New York**

“As a librarian who aims to inspire a love of reading in children, I am always on the lookout for books that capture the magic of literature and its ability to foster and inspire that love. *The Magic Ticket* tells the story of a young boy coping with the unimaginable through his connection with and love of books. Join us on a journey through his childhood as he experiences love, sadness, and confusion, ultimately discovering his inspiration in his local library and within the pages of books.”

— **Dara Berkwits, School Librarian, Mahopac High School, Mahopac, New York**