

The Petit Proust Questionnaire

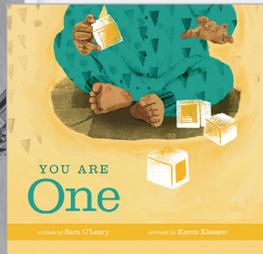
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Meet illustrator Karen Klassen

KAREN KLASSEN is an award-winning freelance illustrator and painter, specializing in fashion, lifestyle, and portrait illustration. Her international clients have included *Rolling Stone*, *LA Weekly*, *The National Post*, *Maisonneuve*, and *The Sunday Times Magazine*. She lives in Calgary, Alberta.



978-1-77147-072-8
\$15.95 CDN / \$14.95 US

You Are One looks back on a baby's first full year of memorable milestones like learning to crawl, taking first steps, and tasting new foods. Supersaturated ink-and-wash illustrations play with pattern and perspective and lend an artistic feel to this book celebrating new parents and their little ones.

When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?

Make things—especially clothes for my dolls! And I loved to draw.

What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?

Going to school.

As a child, where did you dream of living?

I didn't dream of anywhere specific... what does this say about me?

What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?

The adults in my life praised my art skills, and since adults knew everything, I believed them.

When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?

Kindness. And good fashion sense.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

An artist!

What was your favorite book as a child?

I loved everything by Richard Scarry—so much to look at! Never boring.

What is your favorite pastime now?

I have a few, depending on my mood: sewing, baking, painting.

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What do you find an absolute chore?

Filing my taxes.

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

Southern France. I've never been, but from what I've seen and heard it seems like my idea of heaven. Plus I've always wanted to live somewhere where French is the main language, since my French is quickly slipping (my grandma would be so disappointed).

What is the one talent you wish you had?

To be able to sing really well.

What makes a good friend?

Loyalty, openness, self-awareness, and a good sense of humor.

If you weren't an author or illustrator, what job would you have?

I would be a pastry chef.

What children's books have caught your attention lately?

I love looking at anything Jon Klassen has done, plus his last name is terrific.

If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

Life is short, don't wait.

