

New Picture Book Series Celebrates Autism Acceptance and Inclusive Storytelling

Inspired by his non-verbal autistic daughter, author Robbie Barnes launches heartfelt Kickstarter for children's series "Sofia & Cleo"



ROBBIE BARNES
- AUTHOR

Tyne and Wear, United Kingdom Jul 13, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Author Robbie Barnes has launched a Kickstarter campaign to bring *Sofia & Cleo*, a gentle and inclusive children's picture book series, to life. Rooted in real-life experiences with his daughters — one of whom is autistic and non-verbal — the books offer a powerful message of **autism acceptance, neurodivergent**

representation, and sibling love.

Each story follows the everyday adventures of Sofia, a non-verbal autistic girl, and her neurotypical little sister, Cleo. From sensory-friendly outings to quiet moments of emotional support, the books reflect the nuanced beauty of their relationship. With **own-voice autism stories** and a commitment to **non-verbal communication**, the series aims to fill a gap in early years literature.

“These books aren’t just about autism — they’re about connection,” Barnes says. “They’re about two sisters learning to understand one another without needing to change who they are.”

The *Sofia & Cleo* campaign highlights the need for **inclusive storytelling** that celebrates different ways of thinking, feeling, and communicating. Designed with young readers in mind, the books use soft language, repetition, and visual cues to support emotional growth and sensory needs.

The Kickstarter campaign is live now, with funds going toward production, illustration, and making the stories widely available to families, schools, and libraries. Backers can choose from a range of rewards, including early copies, thank-you bundles, and signed editions.

Support the campaign here:

???? <http://kck.st/3U5VGR9> (Kickstarter)

For families, educators, and advocates seeking meaningful books that reflect real neurodiverse experiences, *Sofia & Cleo* offers something truly special.

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