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## O'Shae The Octopus By Brandee Bublé

## Down deep beneath the ocean, in a cozy coral reef... DELIGHTFUL NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK TEACHES THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES

"Turns out, O'Shae and I have a lot in common. With the love and support of our friends and family, we both learned that our differences don't make us strange, they make us special!"

— Michael Bublé

You may not fit the mold. But that doesn't mean you don't belong.

In *O'Shae The Octopus* [Simply Read Books], the heartwarming debut children's book from Brandee Bublé, we are introduced to one of the most delightful heroes to come out of children's books in years: O'Shae, an extra-special octopus who has ten arms instead of eight.

Vibrantly illustrated and exceptionally fun to read aloud, in a world where schoolyard bullying continues to make headlines, *O'Shae The Octopus* highlights one of the most important and enduring lessons a parent can teach their child: hard as it can be for others to accept your differences, embracing what sets you apart can truly make you sensational!

Inspired in equal part by Bublé's experiences as a special needs educator, stay-at-home mom, and with her own dyslexia diagnosis as a child, *O'Shae The Octopus* was, in her own words, "written as proof to my children and myself that a 'label' never stopped me from reaching the stars. Instead of dwelling on what makes you different, look at yourself and see how it can make you shine."

Sure to delight little ones and their reading companions alike, *O'Shae The Octopus* promotes:

 The value of family and friends: surrounding yourself with people who love you, support you and make you feel good

- Celebrating the things that set you apart: "As a kid, I discovered the music of my grandpa's generation," writes Brandee's older brother, Michael (yes, the Michael Bublé), in O'Shae's introduction. "Not the coolest thing to listen to in the 80's! I was afraid my friends would think I was weird. Turns out, O'Shae and I have a lot in common."
- Confidence: why if you stand tall, be positive and believe in yourself –
   quirks and all others will, too
- Finding your place in the world: no one is good at everything, but everyone's good at something!

## **About the Author:**

Brandee Bublé grew up in Burnaby, BC, with her big brother Michael and little sister Crystal. The daughter of a fisherman, as a child Brandee spent many summers aboard her father's boat, where she had plenty of time to let her imagination run wild about all the creatures that surrounded her. Brandee taught children with special needs for eight great years, where she discovered that she loved writing fun stories to keep her students engaged, often communicating with them through rhyme. Married to her high school sweetheart, Brandee is a stay-at-home mom to her two awesome kids, O'Shae and Jayde. She is crazy about her family, absolutely loves the ocean, and can be found most sunny days on her boat with her family and friends. O'Shae The Octopus is her first book.

O'Shae The Octopus is available for <u>pre-order via Amazon</u>, and will hit bookstore shelves around the world in June 2014.

Find Brandee on Twitter, Instagram and at BrandeeBuble.com

REVIEW COPIES OF O'SHAE THE OCTOPUS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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## Sister of Superstar Michael Bublé Pens Delightful New Children's Book SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATOR TURNED STAY-AT-HOME MOM SAYS "CELEBRATE THE THINGS THAT SET YOU APART!"

Born and raised by "the most supportive, loving parents ever" alongside her big brother Michael and little sister Crystal in Burnaby, British Columbia, Brandee Bublé has always been passionate about two things above all else: the ocean and family.

Having spent countless childhood summers aboard her father's boat, Brandee's imagination would run wild about the creatures of the Pacific. In spring 2014, Brandee's passions culminate with the release of *O'Shae The Octopus* – her debut children's book that puts the spotlight on the enduring lessons and power of inclusivity, acceptance and love in a vibrant underwater setting.

A former special needs educator (who taught herself how to read and write braille!), today Brandee is a proud stay-at-home mom of two and happy wife of her high school sweetheart. While her life has largely been charmed, it's not been without struggles: diagnosed with dyslexia as a child, last year she saw her 9-year-old daughter diagnosed with the same. Her resolve to help others "stand tall and never be ashamed of the things that make them different" – and joy for storytelling as a way to communicate with kids – has only grown stronger.

"Whether it's special needs or a learning disability, the color of our hair or the way we talk, we are all self-conscious about something and there will always be bullies," says Brandee. "But that doesn't mean you don't belong. I wrote *O'Shae The Octopus* as a reminder to believe in yourself, embrace your differences, see how they can make you shine, and as proof to my children and myself that a 'label' shouldn't stop you from reaching for the stars!"

Vivacious, thoughtful and infectiously warm-hearted, Brandee has select availability for in-studio and phone interviews around the June 2014 release of *O'Shae The Octopus* to talk about:

- The incredible lessons she's learned from working with special needs students and being a stay-at-home mom: why empowering children to embrace their differences can produce extraordinary results
- Her experience as a young woman diagnosed with and now a parent dealing with – dyslexia, and how to not let whatever it is you're insecure about define you or your dreams
- Finding the silver lining: how our differences are gifts in disguise

- Using her platform as a children's book author to help parents and educators better understand the impact of bullying, and to foster strong support systems
- What she's learned from her big brother pop music superstar Michael Bublé (who wrote the introduction to *O'Shae*!) about ignoring the "haters," doing your own thing, and taking pride in whatever it is you're passionate about
- Why a children's book, why now, and what's next for her and the *One Of A Kind Books* series

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