

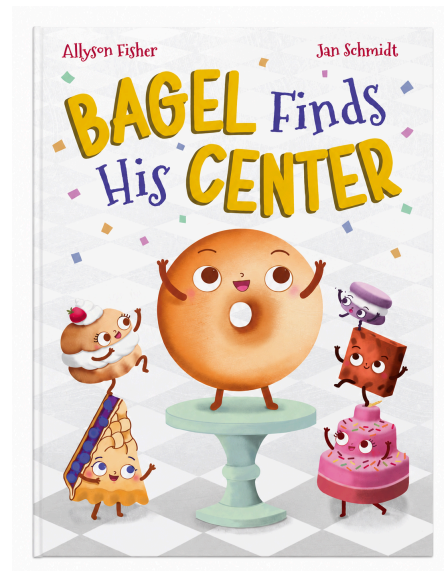
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press release date: July 31, 2026

Delightful New Picture Book Encourages Children to Embrace What Makes Them Unique

BROOKLYN, New York — Bryant House Books has announced the release of *Bagel Finds His Center*, a whimsical and heartwarming picture book that encourages young readers to see differences not as shortcomings, but as the very things that make them special. Written by Allyson Fisher and illustrated by veteran artist Jan Schmidt, the book pairs lyrical storytelling with charming, painterly artwork to deliver an uplifting message of self-acceptance.

In Fisher's playful yet poignant tale, Bagel arrives in the window display of the Corner Cafe and meets Birthday Cake, Cinnamon Bun, and Cookie. There's just one problem: while everyone else is decorated with frosting, swirls, or sprinkles, Bagel feels...*bare*. Worse yet, he believes something important is missing—his center! Determined to find it, Bagel and his friends search high and low, but their efforts leave him feeling more discouraged than ever. But Bagel soon realizes, with his friends' help, all the wonderful things that make him who he is and that his center has been with him all along.



Fisher's engaging meter makes *Bagel Finds His Center* a delightful read-aloud, while Schmidt's soft pastel illustrations create richly detailed scenes that invite children to linger over every delicious page. Together, text and art deliver a timeless story that celebrates individuality, self-worth, and the beauty of embracing what makes each person unique.

Beautifully produced, the offset-printed hardcover features decorative endpapers, a cover enhanced with gold foil and spot UV finishes, and thoughtfully designed interior typography. Its exceptional craftsmanship helps distinguish it in today's crowded picture book marketplace.

Bagel Finds His Center is the debut installment in the *Baked to Be* picture book series and is available now through major book retailers and wherever books are sold.

About the Author

Allyson Fisher is a pediatric nutritionist with a master's degree in food science and clinical nutrition from NYU. What began as writing for fun soon became a creative passion, with words and rhymes constantly dancing through her imagination. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her family and their quirky Westie puppy, Maisie, and enjoys escaping to her happy place out east whenever she can. Whole-grain bagels are her favorite.

About the Illustrator

Jan Schmidt lived, worked, and raised her family in Brooklyn for more than three decades, contributing to a variety of imaginative projects, including exhibits for the Chattanooga and Brooklyn Children's Museums and a mural for NYU Hospital's therapy garden. Now based in Connecticut, she creates art from a butter-yellow farmhouse she shares with her husband and dog, Pippy. Pumpernickel bagels are her favorite.

Book Details

Publication date: July 31, 2026

Title: Bagel Finds His Center

Audience: Ages 3-8

Category: Juvenile fiction

Formats: Hardcover with others following

For media inquiries, review copies, or interview requests, contact:

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