

Short Bio – Niña Mata

Niña is an award winning illustrator and author known for books like the **New York Times** bestsellers *I Promise by LeBron James* and *Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson* the [Theodor Seuss Geisel Honored Ty's Travels series by Kelly Starling Lyons](#). Her work for *I Absolutely Positively Love My Spots* by Lid'Ya C Rivera was nominated for an [NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature](#). Nina's debut authorial middle grade book, *Girls to the Front*, received **starred reviews** from **Booklist** and [Publishers Weekly](#).

Born in the Philippines and raised in Queens, Niña believes everyone deserves to see themselves in stories. On days off she enjoys karaoke, dancing and beach days with her family. Visit her at www.ninamata.com

Longer Bio – Niña Mata

Niña is an award-winning illustrator and author known for creating books for kids, including **New York Times** bestsellers *I Promise by LeBron James* and *Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson* and the [Theodor Seuss Geisel Honored Ty's Travels series by Kelly Starling Lyons](#). Her work for *I Absolutely Positively Love My Spots* by Lid'Ya C. Rivera was nominated for an [55th NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature](#). Niña's **debut** author-illustrated middle-grade book, *Girls to the Front: 40 Asian American Women Who Blazed a Trail*, was released in January 2025 and **received starred reviews** from **Booklist** and [Publishers Weekly](#).

Born in the Philippines and raised in Queens, New York, Niña grew up as an only child. With her parents working and attending night school, she spent much of her time drawing. Her afterschool routine included watching *Bob Ross*, *Reading Rainbow*, and seeking adventures in the library—something she still loves today.

She attended the **High School of Art & Design in NYC** and studied illustration at the **Fashion Institute of Technology**. Inspired by the diverse community she was raised in; Niña's work reflects **her belief that everyone deserves to see themselves in stories and be celebrated**.

When not illustrating or writing, she enjoys singing karaoke, napping with her cats, dancing at hip-hop class, or people-watching at the beach with her husband and daughter.

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