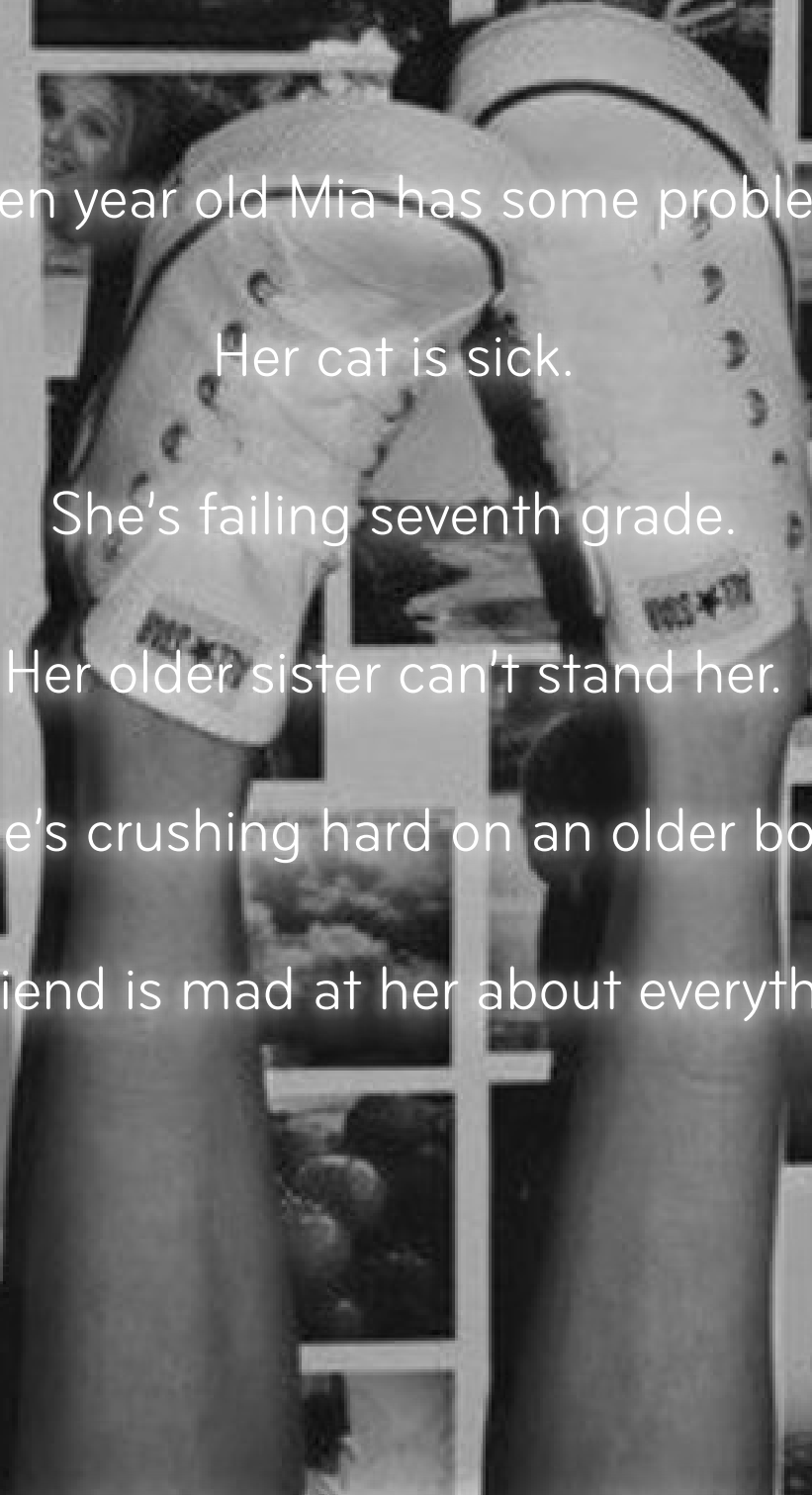




BOOK BY WENDY MASS

SCREENPLAY BY TAMAR HALPERN



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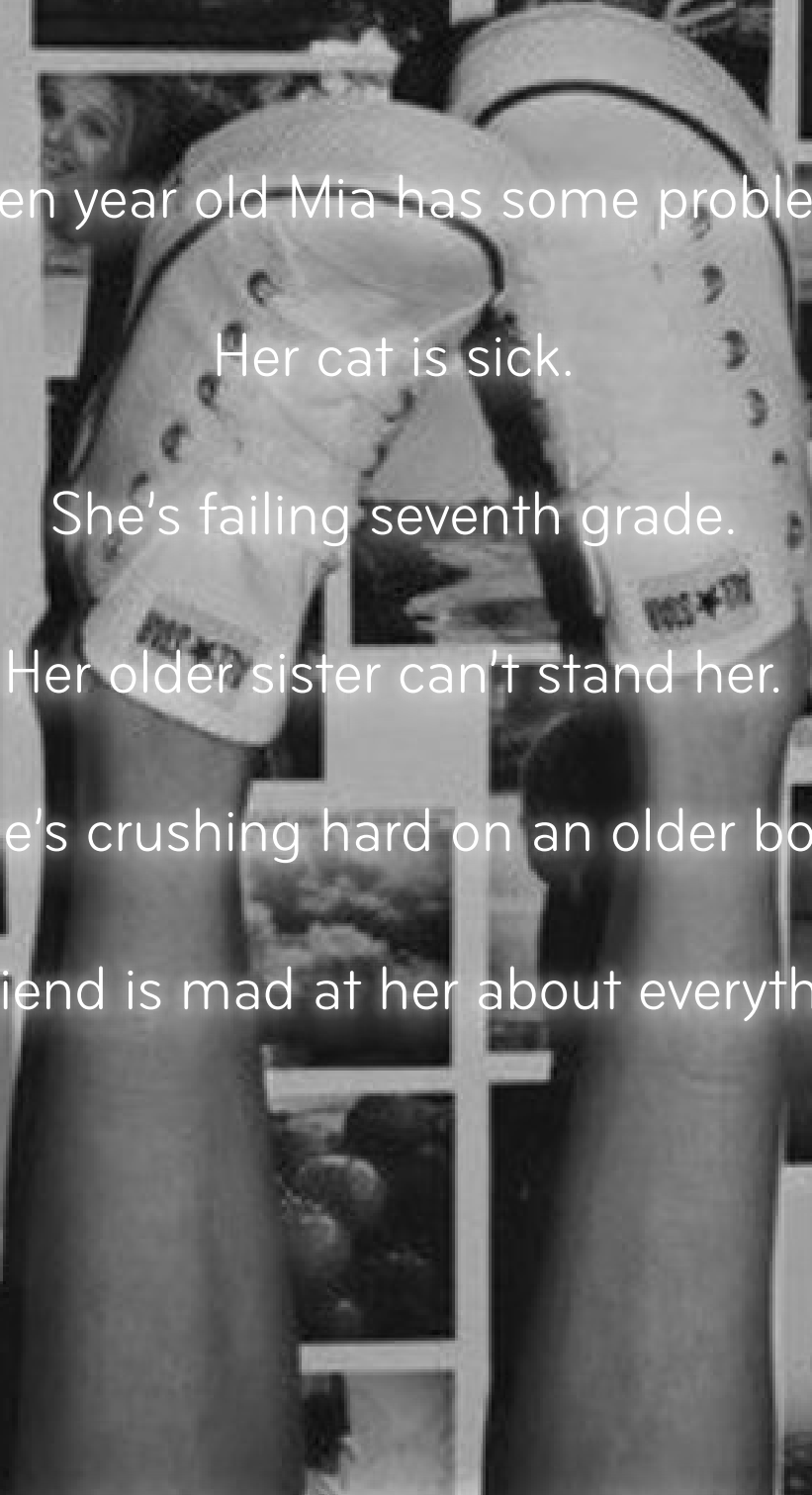
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She's failing seventh grade.

Her older sister can't stand her.

She's crushing hard on an older boy.

Her friend is mad at her about everything.



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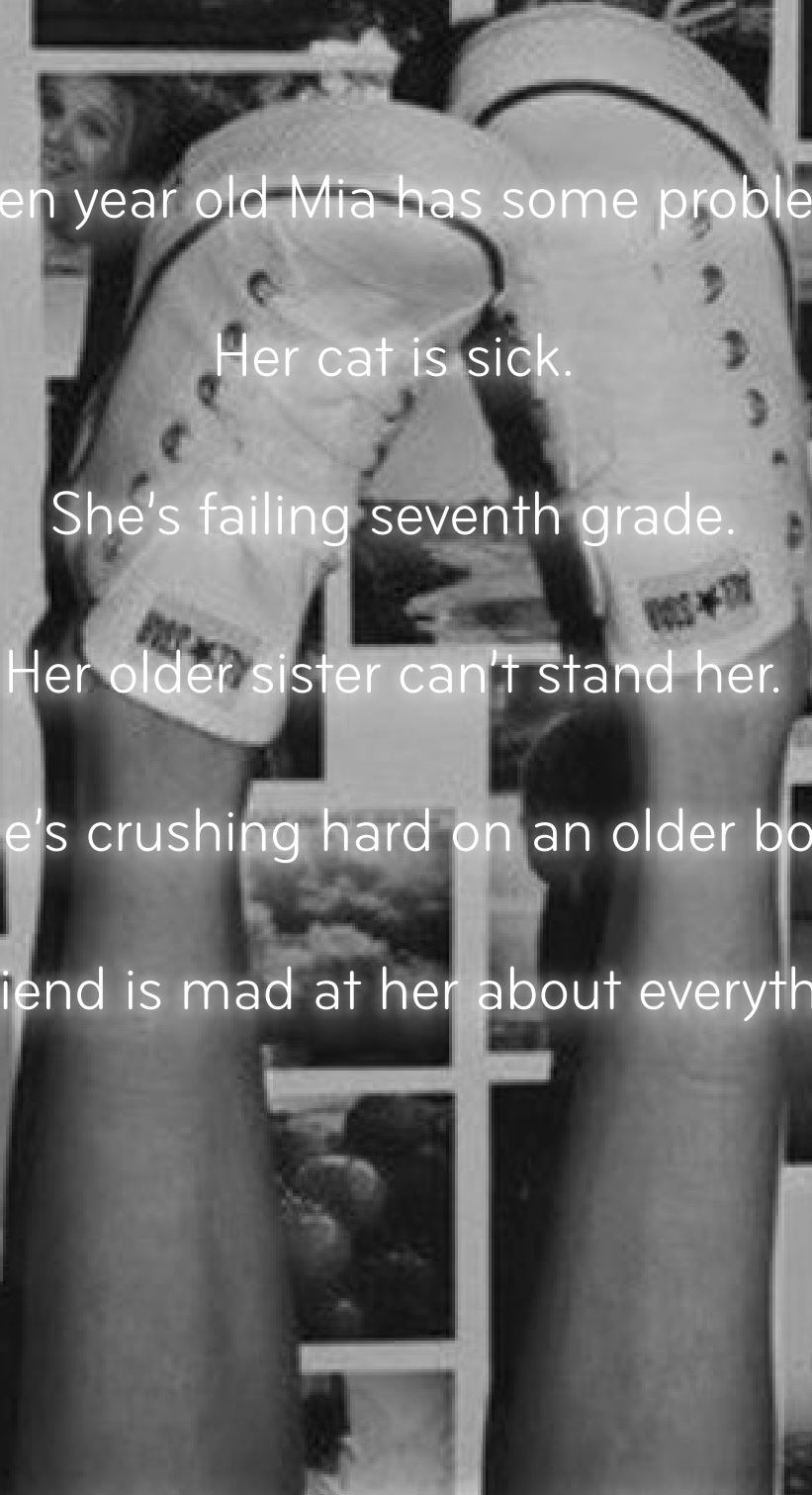
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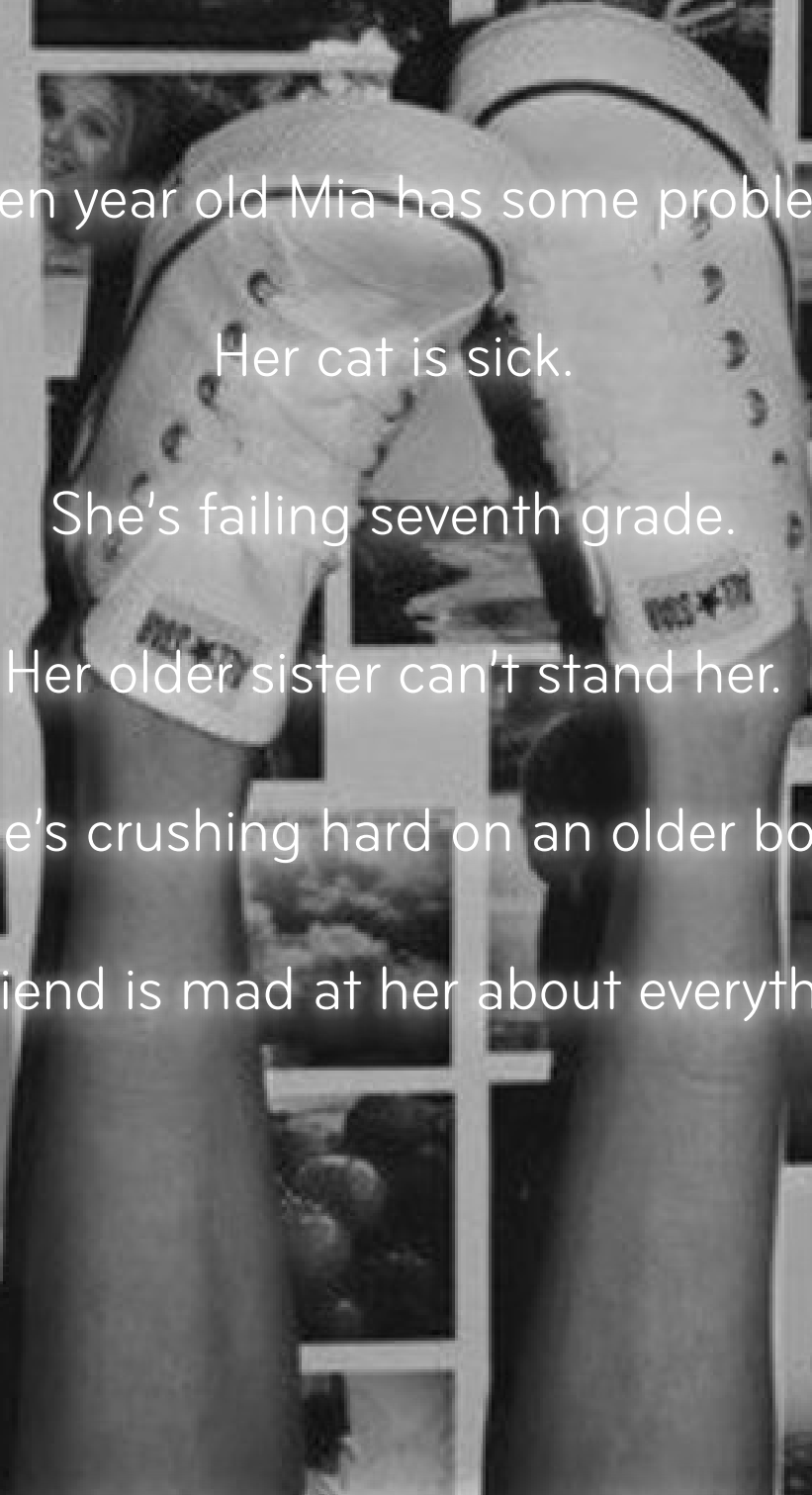
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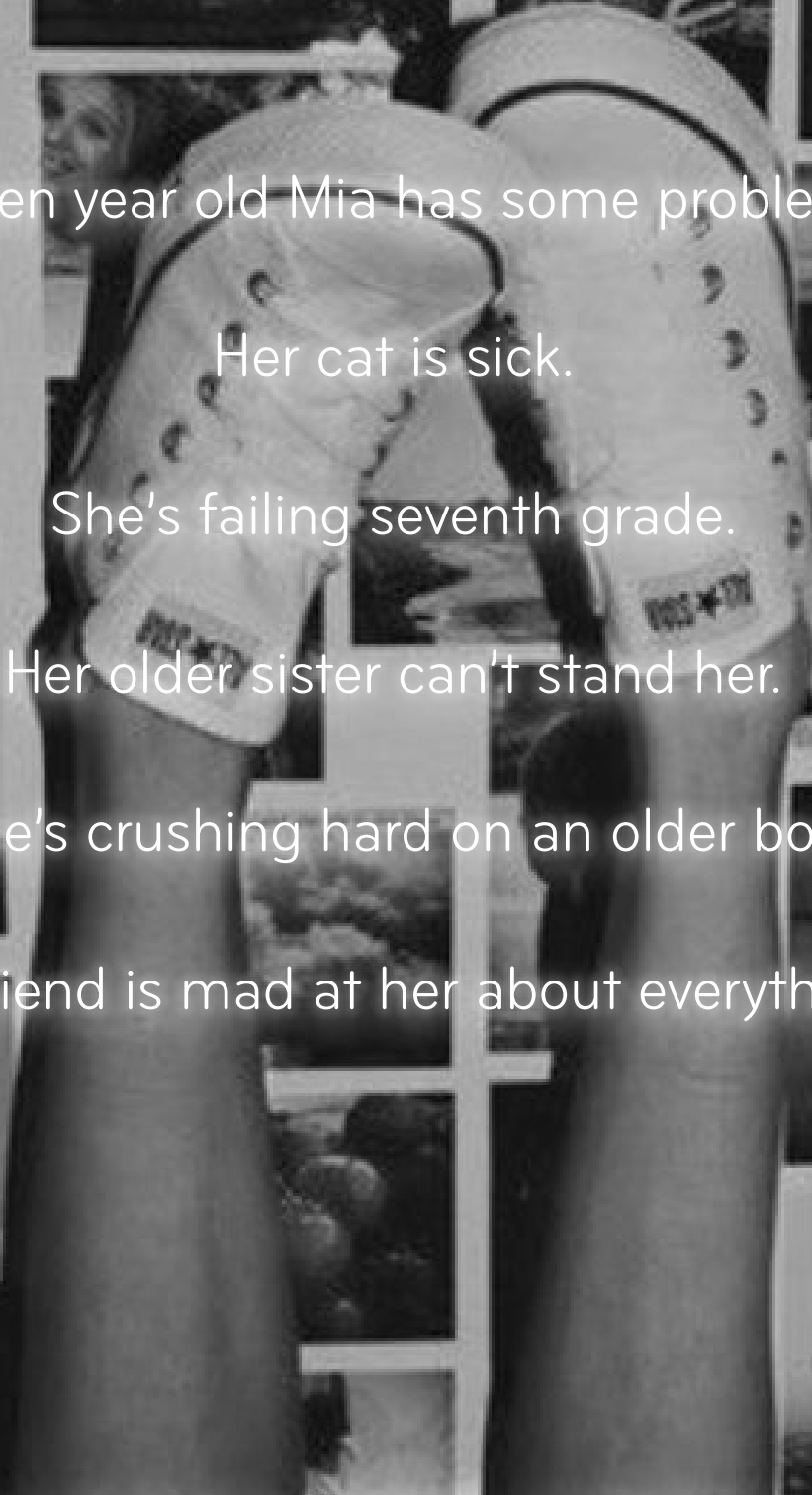
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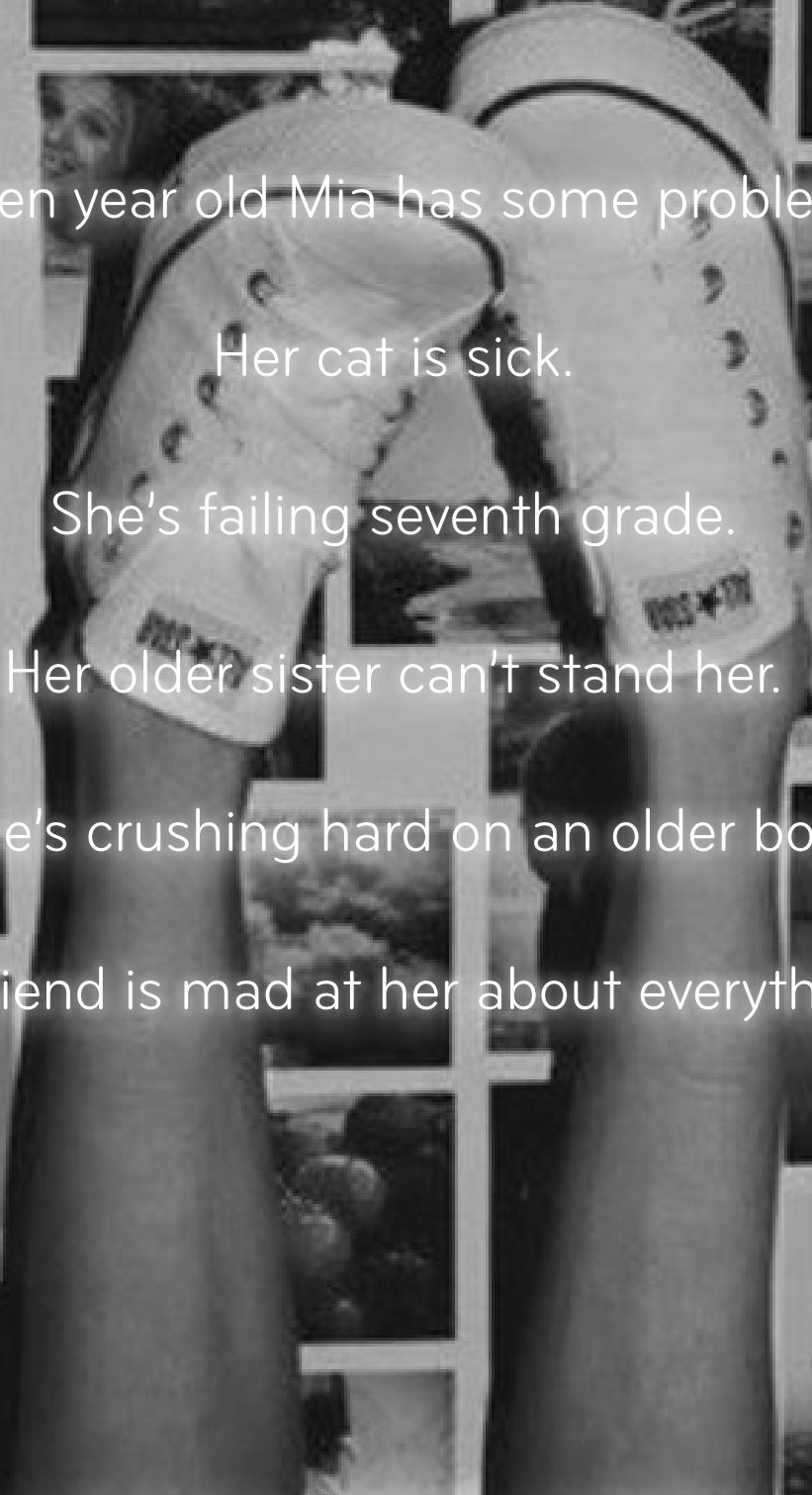
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She SEES music and sound.

(Shhh. It's a secret)



SEEING MUSIC

Thirteen year old Mia has a secret: she sees music and sound. She also sees colors in letters and numbers, turning reading and math into a confusing circus. When she finally tells her parents, they learn she's not crazy but instead has Synesthesia, a neurological condition where senses crossfire.

up the hill, and looked at the sky
the rosy trees reached upwards to
forever. I imagined the world in
suddenly, pain overtook her, and I
All the colors were gone from

What Mia sees when she reads

A soft-focus photograph of a woman's face, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. Her hair is blonde and pulled back. A large bouquet of colorful flowers, including red, purple, and pink blossoms, is placed on her head, partially obscuring her hair. The background is a light, neutral color.

TASTING SOUND

Originally considered rare, more people around the globe are discovering their unique forms of Synesthesia where sight, sound, smell, touch and taste converge.



HEARING COLOR

Based on the book by New York Times bestselling author Wendy Mass, this is the first film to depict the world of Synesthesia, a spectacular cinematic experience.

MIA'S VOICE

Hello...

An electric burst of ultramarine blue flickers like a brainstorm, moving in synch with her words.

MIA'S VOICE (CONT'D)

Whoever you are...

The electrical pulses come together to form the words she speaks next. Each letter has its own color and texture.

MIA'S VOICE (CONT'D)

Have you ever had a secret?

The words morph into a flock of birds that fly away.





“Wendy Mass is a writer to watch.” - Judy Blume

Characters: A Mango Shaped Space

MIA (13) Pragmatic and dry humored, Mia's secret weighs heavily as she tries to blend in and hide her strange view of the universe.

MIA'S MOM (late 40's) An iron hand in a velvet glove, she juggles the conflicting family personalities while staying true to her work as an astronomer.

JENNA (13) Mia's best friend, chirpy with an infectious personality.

Jenna has a lot of opinions about the way the world should work.

DR. WEISS (50-70's) A brilliant and eccentric neurologist who is thrilled to work with Synesthesia because it's the least worrisome thing that can happen to a brain.




BETH (16) Mia's older sister has a blue mohawk, does Transcendental Meditation, and is newly vegan. She also has a distinct dislike of Mia's introverted behavior.

MIA'S DAD (late 40's) A helicopter mechanic who worries about his kids and just wants to keep the peace. He's the kind of dad we all wish we had.

ZACH (10) A whiz-kid of useless facts and an avid online gamer of whatever he can find with 1997 dial up, when this story takes place.

ADAM (15) Cocky and charming, he meets Mia in a Synesthesia support group and briefly becomes her boyfriend, convincing her that Synesthesia makes her superior, like him.

ROGER (13) Shy and unassuming, his colorblindness brings him and Mia together in the most surprising of ways.



The rotors of the helicopter whir to life in the driving rain. Mia's Dad buckles in as Mia approaches, clutching her cat, Mango, tight in her arms.

MIA'S MOM
Everything's flooded.

MIA'S DAD
I'll find a place.

Mia's Mom helps Mia in, then steps back as Mia's Dad puts the copter in gear.

MIA
Oh, God. Hang on, Mango.

The helicopter lifts, splutters, then comes back down.

MIA (CONT'D)
Hurry dad, please!

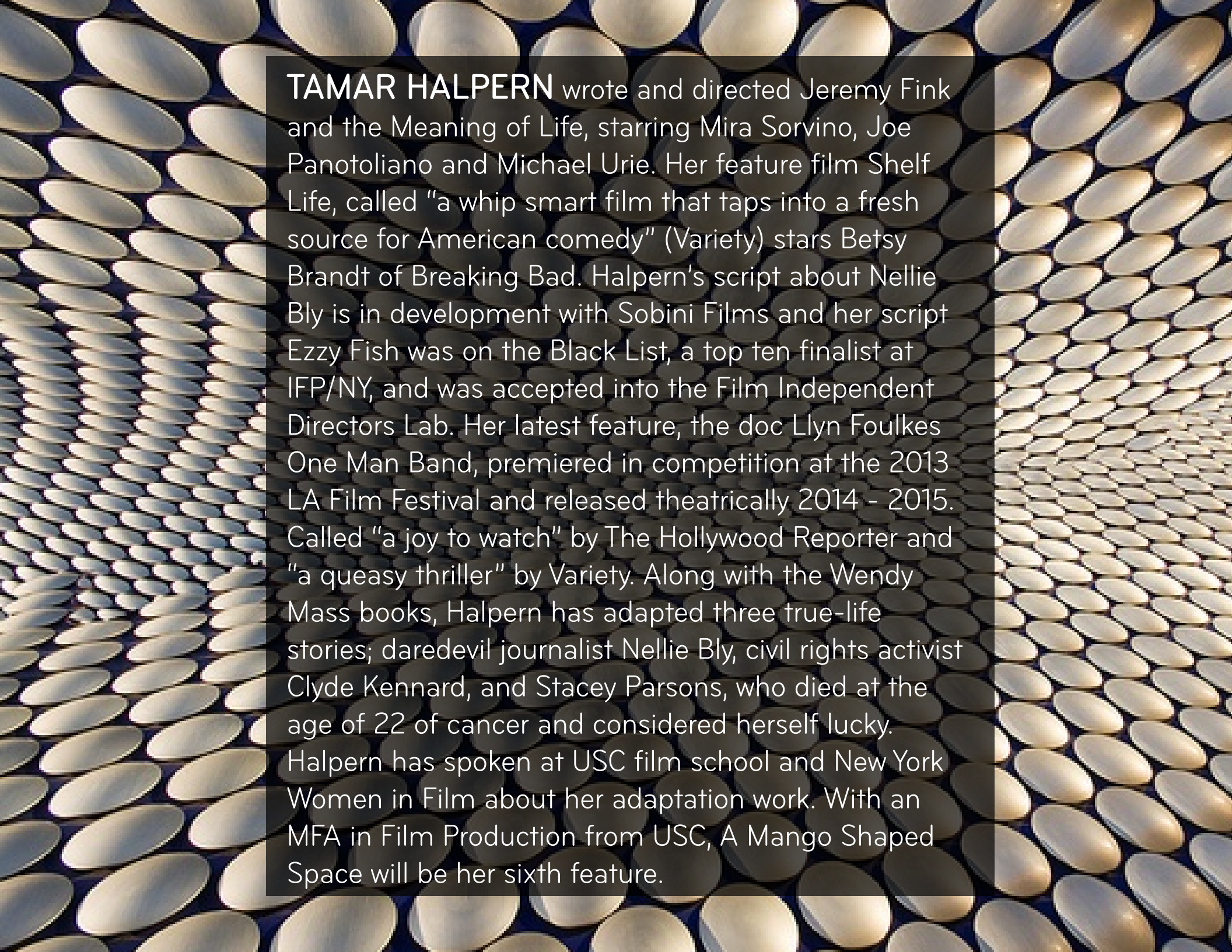
MIA'S DAD
I'm trying, Mia. Hold on.

He adjusts the instruments. The helicopter lifts. Mia looks down at Mango.

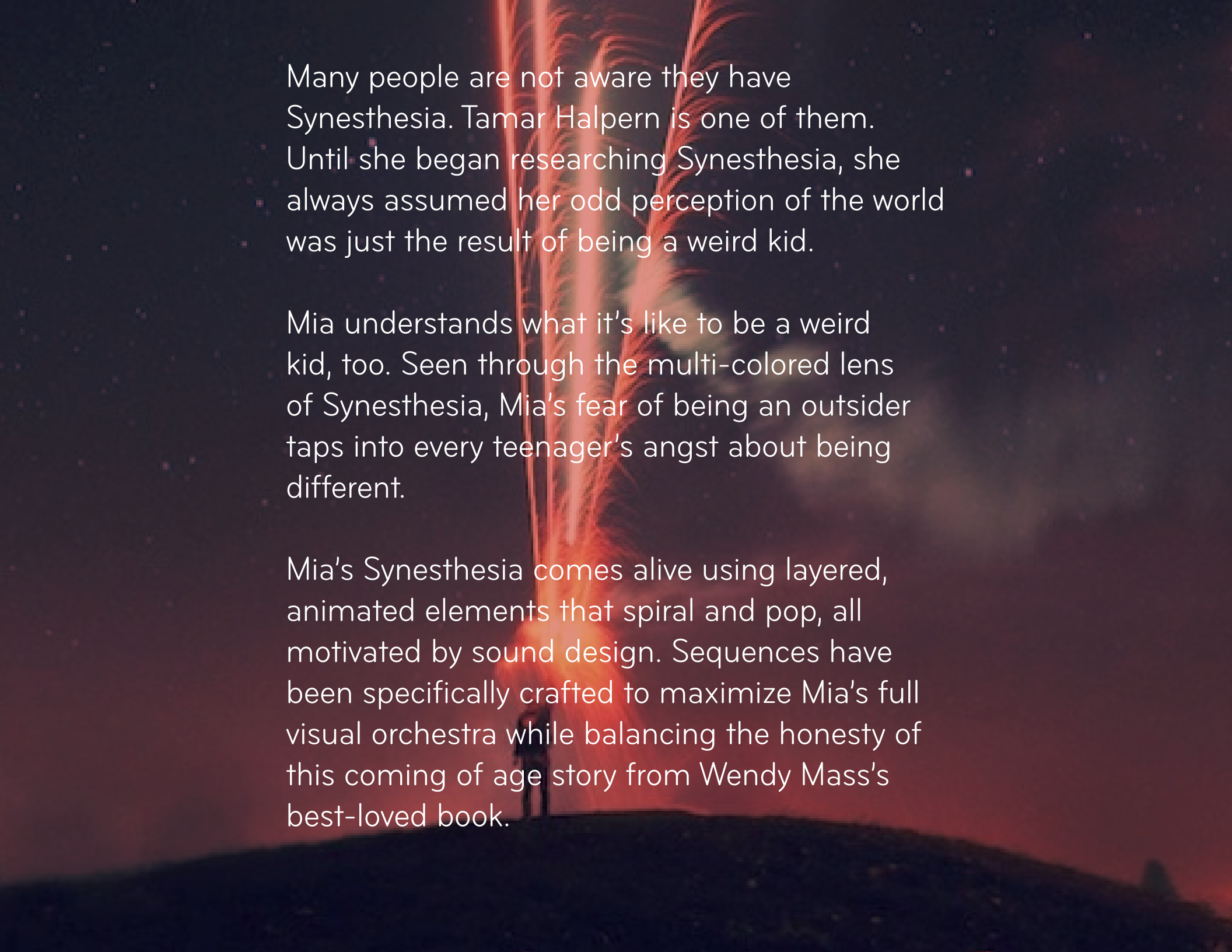
MIA
Dad! Stop! He's not moving! He's not breathing!



WENDY MASS is the New York Times best selling author of 16 novels for young adults. Her books have been translated into 15 languages and nominated for 75 book awards. Her first, *A Mango Shaped Space*, won the Schneider Family Book Award by the American Library Association and continues to be a top seller as the first children's book to explore the fascinating world of Synesthesia, a neurological condition where senses cross. Originally believed to be rare, estimates now place one in twenty people with symptoms of Synesthesia. *A Mango Shaped Space* has been published for twelve years, in multiple printings, both in the US and abroad. It's been translated into Korean, Japanese, Chinese (simple and complex), Indonesian, French and Portuguese and is owned by hundreds of elementary school libraries and used in school curriculums and Battle of the Books across the USA and Canada. Her novel *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* was made into a feature film starring Mira Sorvino, Michael Urie and Joe Pantoliano. It was written and directed by Tamar Halpern and released summer 2012.



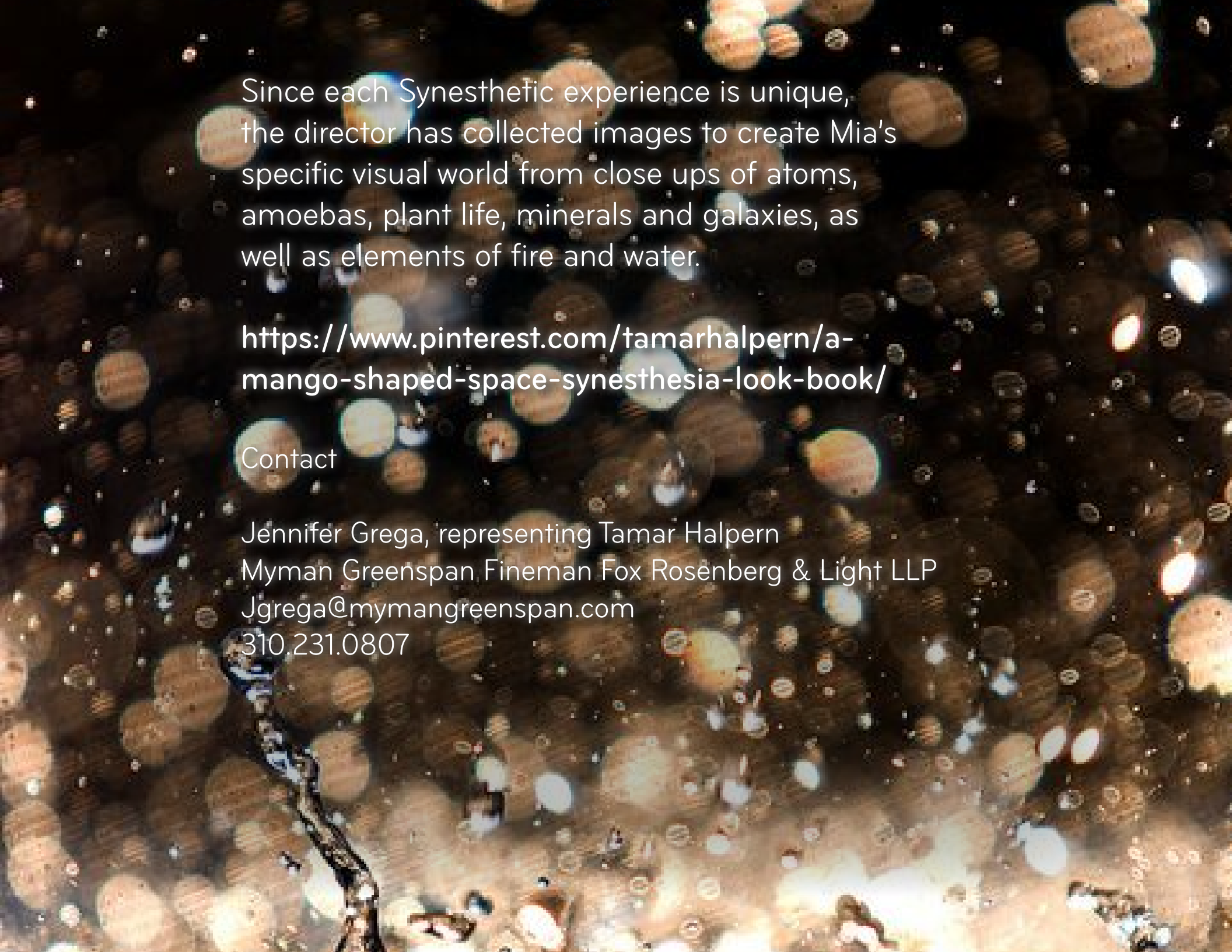
TAMAR HALPERN wrote and directed Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life, starring Mira Sorvino, Joe Panotoliano and Michael Urie. Her feature film Shelf Life, called "a whip smart film that taps into a fresh source for American comedy" (Variety) stars Betsy Brandt of Breaking Bad. Halpern's script about Nellie Bly is in development with Sobini Films and her script Ezzy Fish was on the Black List, a top ten finalist at IFP/NY, and was accepted into the Film Independent Directors Lab. Her latest feature, the doc Llyn Foulkes One Man Band, premiered in competition at the 2013 LA Film Festival and released theatrically 2014 - 2015. Called "a joy to watch" by The Hollywood Reporter and "a queasy thriller" by Variety. Along with the Wendy Mass books, Halpern has adapted three true-life stories; daredevil journalist Nellie Bly, civil rights activist Clyde Kennard, and Stacey Parsons, who died at the age of 22 of cancer and considered herself lucky. Halpern has spoken at USC film school and New York Women in Film about her adaptation work. With an MFA in Film Production from USC, A Mango Shaped Space will be her sixth feature.

A person is standing on a dark, silhouetted hill at night, looking up at a bright, multi-colored light display in the sky. The light display consists of several vertical, multi-colored streaks of light that appear to be part of a larger, more complex structure. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a gradient of colors from dark blue to a lighter, hazy orange near the horizon.

Many people are not aware they have Synesthesia. Tamar Halpern is one of them. Until she began researching Synesthesia, she always assumed her odd perception of the world was just the result of being a weird kid.

Mia understands what it's like to be a weird kid, too. Seen through the multi-colored lens of Synesthesia, Mia's fear of being an outsider taps into every teenager's angst about being different.

Mia's Synesthesia comes alive using layered, animated elements that spiral and pop, all motivated by sound design. Sequences have been specifically crafted to maximize Mia's full visual orchestra while balancing the honesty of this coming of age story from Wendy Mass's best-loved book.



Since each Synesthetic experience is unique,
the director has collected images to create Mia's
specific visual world from close ups of atoms,
amoebas, plant life, minerals and galaxies, as
well as elements of fire and water.

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mango-shaped-space-synesthesia-look-book/](https://www.pinterest.com/tamarhalpern/a-mango-shaped-space-synesthesia-look-book/)

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