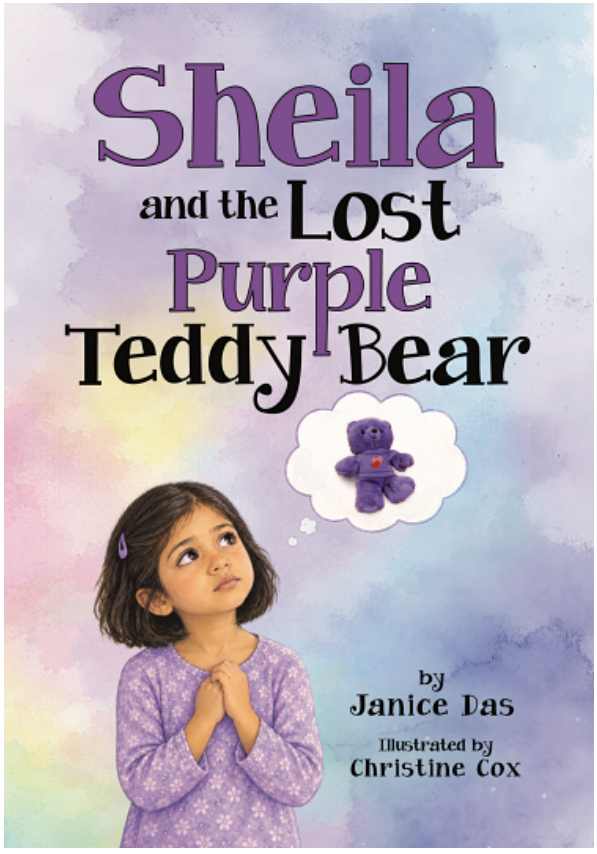


In America, five-year-old Sheila loses her beloved purple teddy bear, which ends up in an orphanage outside Kolkata, India. She discovers it a year later near her aunt's house in nearby Barrackpore, but it now belongs to someone else.

Sheila and the Lost Purple Teddy Bear

By Janice Das

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Illustrated by
Christine Cox

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After getting ready for bed, Sheila stood looking tearfully up at her mother.

“Where is Papu?” the five-year-old asked, as she frantically began to search for her purple teddy bear--under the bed, behind the door, in the closet.





He certainly was not on the shelf where she always kept him when he wasn't sleeping with her at night. She stared miserably at the unwelcome, empty space in her bedroom. Papu was nowhere to be found.

They had not thought to look for him outside. That morning, they had taken a lively walk with him around the block, but now it did not occur to them to retrace their steps.



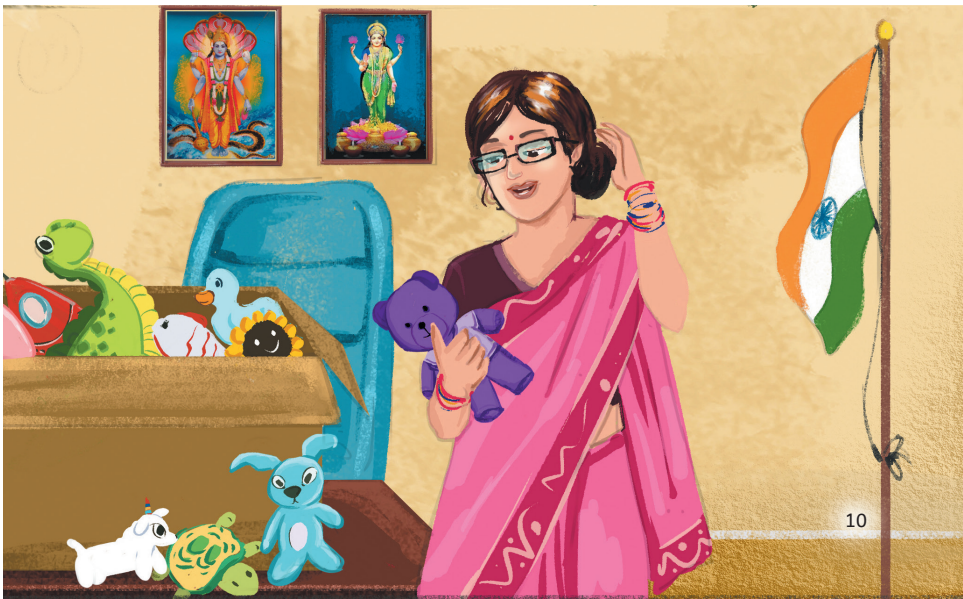
The next day, just around the corner, a kind lady spotted a small purple teddy bear on the sidewalk in front of her house as she stepped down her walkway to get the morning newspaper. "What a dear little thing! Some child must have dropped it. What a shame!"


“I will put it with the other toys I’ve collected for a charity package. It will surely make a little child somewhere very happy.”



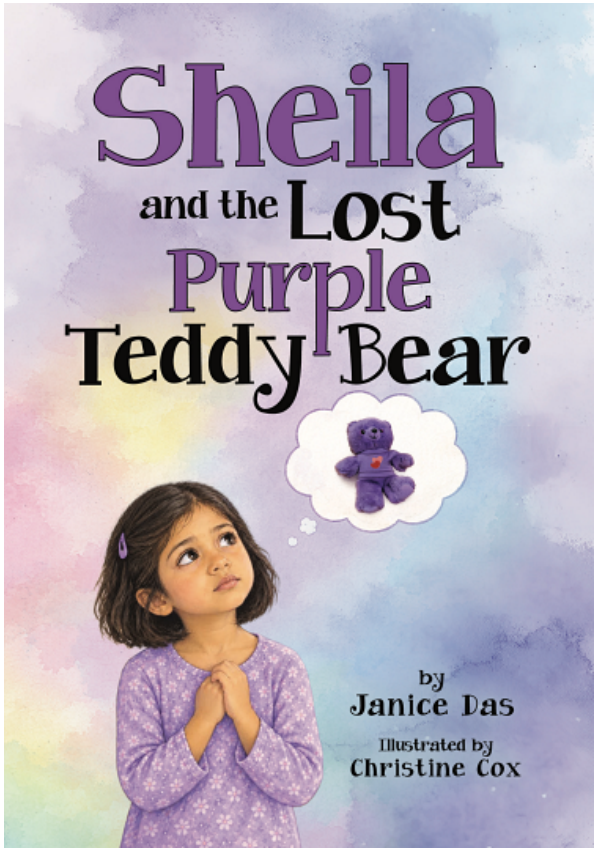
The box was shipped to faraway India, to an orphanage in a town near Kolkata called Barrackpore.

When the secretary at the orphanage opened the box and saw the small purple teddy, she exclaimed, “How sweet! This will be perfect for little Anju.”



About the Author

Janice Das is a former music and audio-visual catalog librarian from the Chicago area. She worked in Germany from 1972 to 1976. Since 2021, she has been given the privilege of proofreading the American Beethoven Society Newsletter and the recent novels of Alessandra Comini, noted retired art history professor and music historian. Janice has been fascinated by India since grade school. Married to a Bengali and having visited family and friends in India multiple times in the past 48 years, she is well acquainted with many cultural aspects of the country. This is her first book.



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