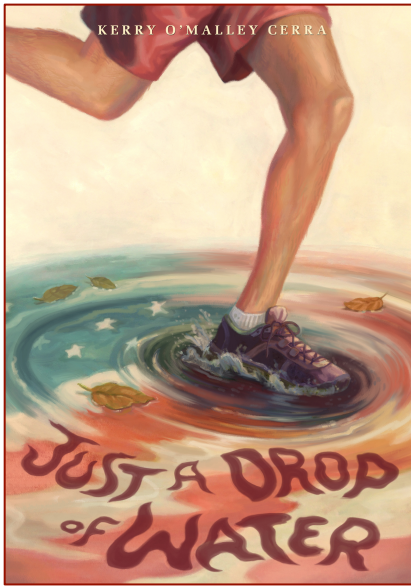


# *Just a Drop of Water*

By Kerry O'Malley Cerra



Ever since he was little, Jake Green has longed to be a soldier and a hero like his grandpa, who died serving his country. Right now, though, he just wants to outsmart—and outrun—the rival cross country team, the Palmetto Bugs. But then the tragedy of September 11 happens. It's quickly discovered that one of the hijackers lived nearby, making Jake's Florida town an FBI hot spot. Two days later, the tragedy becomes even more personal when Jake's best friend, Sam Madina, is pummeled for being an Arab Muslim by their bully classmate, Bobby.

According to Jake's personal code of conduct, anyone who beats up your best friend is due for a butt kicking, and so Jake goes after Bobby. But soon after, Sam's father is detained by the FBI and Jake's mom doubts the innocence of Sam's family, forcing Jake to choose between his best friend and his parents. When Jake finds out that Sam's been keeping secrets, too, he doesn't know who his allies are anymore. But the final blow comes when his grandpa's real past is revealed to Jake. Suddenly, everything he ever knew to be true feels like one big lie. In the end, he must decide: either walk away from Sam and the revenge that Bobby has planned, or become the hero he's always aspired to be.

A gripping and intensely touching debut middle grade novel by Kerry O'Malley Cerra, *Just a Drop of Water* brings the events of September 11, which shook the world, into the lens of a young boy who is desperately trying to understand the ramifications of this life-altering event.

Available September 2, 2014 from Sky Pony Press

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## Reviews for this book:

"...Just the supplemental material middle-grade history teachers are looking for." And, "A perceptive exploration of an event its audience already sees as history."—Kirkus Review

"Tackling a difficult topic, Kerry O'Malley Cerra captures the mood of the country right after September 11 in a way that's not frightening or sensationalized. This well-told, poignant novel about prejudice, school bullying, and best friends should spark discussion and capture the hearts of young readers for a very long time." —Augusta Scattergood, author of *Glory Be*

"9/11 reverberates in a middle-school boy's life, thrusting him into a bigger and more threatening world. This is history tensely told for readers too young to remember the moment when this century truly began." —Richard Peck, author of *On The Wings of Heroes*

## Product Details

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## About the Author:

**Kerry O'Malley Cerra** is a former high school history teacher who often enhanced textbooks with historical fiction to bring time periods to life. *Just a Drop of Water*, her first novel, was inspired by a deeply personal experience following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. You can find out more by visiting [www.kerryomalleycerra.com](http://www.kerryomalleycerra.com) Contact her at [KerryOCerra@gmail.com](mailto:KerryOCerra@gmail.com)

