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Author's Recent Loss Inspires Poignant Children's Picture Book That Explores the Tangled Emotions Surrounding Grief

[LORAIN, Ohio] – Drops of Joy Publishing announces the release of *Big, Hairy and Kind of Scary: A Monster-Sized Tale of Loss and Love*, a heartfelt and imaginative story created to help children understand and process grief.



Written by Michael Cioffi, a graduate of Ohio University and a longtime marketing copywriter, the picture book tells a deeply personal story that gently explores the complex emotions children experience when they lose someone they love. The author hopes his book can be a resource that families, counselors and educators reach for to invite meaningful conversation about a topic that can be difficult to broach.

In Cioffi's story, young Louie loves spending Saturdays with his Grandma Ruby, a weekly routine he thought would last forever. So when he is told the devastating news of her passing, Louie is heartbroken and confused. As Louie grapples with understanding the wave of emotions swirling inside him, he is visited late one night by a group of strange creatures—Harry Scary, Justin Denial, Audrey Anger and other uninvited guests. Louie learns that they all come from the messy, murky world of grief. He ultimately realizes that the emotions he is feeling are a natural part of the healing journey that begins when you lose a loved one.



Cioffi says about his book, “There’s no instruction manual for how to feel or heal after losing someone you love. Grief truly is a journey—one that doesn’t have a clear path forward. But with faith, love and support, the trek can be a little less bumpy.”

With enchanting illustrations and engaging rhyming dialogue, each encounter with the story’s cast of characters will unveil a relatable lesson to young readers as they navigate their own healing journey. Michael Cioffi’s *Big, Hairy and Kind of Scary* is available now on Amazon.com.

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For more information about the author or book, or to request a review copy, contact Michael Cioffi at mikecioffi70@gmail.com or visit michaelcioffi.com.