

PRESS KIT

Mason Goes Mushrooming

by Melany Kahn

illustrated by Ellen Korbonski

“Mason Goes Mushrooming captures the wonderful experience of mushroom hunting, a magic that touches both children and adults.”

~Eugenia Bone, author of *Mycophilia* and

NONFICTION / PICTURE BOOK

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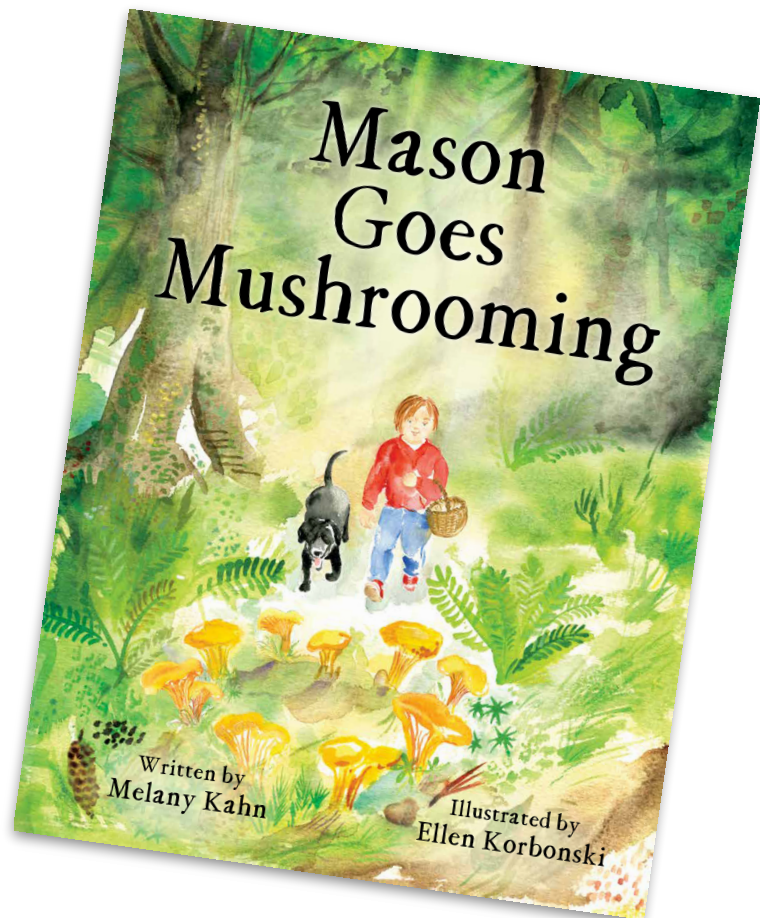
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“I wish I'd had this book when I was a kid – a real gift for anyone inclined towards the outdoors!”

~Bill McKibben, author of *We Are Better Together*

Mason Goes Mushrooming

ABOUT THE BOOK

There are treasures in the forest just behind Mason's house. In this first-of-its-kind foraging story told through the eyes of a third-generation mushroom hunter, Mason takes his cues from thunderstorms and apple blossoms to grab a basket and hit the woods. With his four-legged pal, Buddy, Mason hunts edible mushrooms through lush Vermont landscapes as he scores morels in springtime, chanterelles and lobsters in summer, and black trumpets in autumn.

The premise is simple: four seasons, four woodland adventures, four wild edible mushrooms, and four kid-friendly, forest-to-frying-pan recipes. Author (and Mason's mom) Melany Kahn quells common fears and puts the "us" in mushrooms, by weaving simple science and education through a playful, fungi-finding adventure. Mason teaches us it's never too early to learn, and never too late to start.

We discover what a summer rainstorm and spaghetti have in common, how to hear the gentle swells of ocean waves without leaving the forest, and why a dog can be a valuable partner on a foraging caper. We also learn that fairy rings are real. Future foragers are invited to accompany Mason and Buddy into the world of edible fungi while enjoying the escapades of their hunts.

PRAISE FOR *Mason Goes Mushrooming*

"If I had found *Mason Goes Mushrooming* in the library when I was a first-grader, my love for mushrooms would have blossomed before I was ten. What a delightful and unique book! Melany Kahn – whose love for teaching children about nature I've seen firsthand – proves that mushrooms are for kids, too. I can't wait to share this book with my young grandchildren."

~ **David William Fischer**, Mycologist, *American Mushrooms*[™],
author, *Edible Wild Mushrooms of North America*

"*Mason Goes Mushrooming* captures the wonderful experience of mushroom hunting, a magic that touches both children and adults."

– **Eugenia Bone**, author of *Mycophilia*,
and the *Fantastic Fungi Community Cookbook*

"I love *Mason Goes Mushrooming*, reminding me of the wonder of the forest, more importantly, my 2 and 4 year old sons love it too."

– **Eben Bayer**, CEO and Co-Founder of Ecovative, mycelium materials pioneer

"Mason's love of mushroom foraging is at the heart of mindfulness: expanding one's heart through deep connection to the natural world."

– **Lauren Alderfer**, author of *Mindful Monkey, Happy Panda*

"I wish I'd had this book when I was a kid – a real gift for anyone inclined towards the outdoors!"

– **Bill McKibben**, author of *We Are Better Together*

"Mason's enthusiasm for collecting mushrooms is palpable. After his mushrooming adventures, he's pictured with one adult inspecting the finds and then cooking: a morel omelet, pasta with chanterelles, lobster sauté, and crispy black trumpet chips. Korbonski's watercolor illustrations are evocative."

– **Mahnaz Dar**, Young Readers' Editor, *Kirkus Reviews*

"Melany Kahn has written the perfect introduction to foraging mushrooms – using skillful narrative she walks us through the seasons of foraging, with just the right amount of detail and caution. This is the perfect jump-off for families and educators, with exquisitely detailed watercolors that evoke warmth and also convey a sense of accuracy. This is a must-have for all bookshelves."

– **Bear Pond Books**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Melany Kahn started hunting for mushrooms in Vermont in 1968 when her family bought a farm in West Brattleboro. For the last 20 years she has taught children how to forage for wild mushrooms. She attended Wesleyan University, (BA, English/Creative Writing). She holds a Masters in Social Work from Boston College, and an MFA in Film from The Tisch School at NYU where she met her illustration collaborator, Ellen Korbonski. Melany lives in New Hampshire and Vermont with her husband and children, 3 cats and 17 chickens. They co-own [The Porch Cafe](#) in Brattleboro. You can find her leading mushroom walks or foraging at every opportunity. [Mason Goes Mushrooming](#) is her first book.

More Info: About the Author

Melany is a second generation forager who learned from her parents, the late abstract painter, Emily Mason and the late landscape painter, Wolf Kahn. Melany was a professor of film production and documentary short film at NYU before returning to New Hampshire/Vermont. She became a VT volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (court appointed advocate for children), and then established her own 12-year practice as a family court mediator. She is an active Board Member on the Emily Mason | Alice Trumbull Mason Foundation. She was a six-year Board Member at Hilltop Montessori School, Brattleboro, VT. In addition to continuing to teach film, since 2002 she has led school groups, mushroom clubs, and nature center groups on woodland walks to gather and identify edible mushrooms. As part of the curriculum, the culinary aspects were explained through recipes, cooking demonstrations, and tastings.

Melany and her husband Bo have four children (for Mel, two bio and two bonus) who all grew up foraging edible mushrooms. Mason is now attending college in Colorado where he continues his love of mushrooming.

Melany has presented a TEDx for the Boston Planetary Stewardship Event about the importance of foraging as a way to reconnect to nature. She has written for the *Provincetown Independent* and co-scripted a Christie's Auction video. She has been interviewed by *Vermont Public Radio*, *Brattleboro Reformer*, *Vermont Commons*, and *Vermont Digger*. Melany's next project is a collaboration with Ellen Korbonski on their second nature book featuring her daughter Ally.

Mason Goes Mushrooming had its debut on October 4th, the 95th birthday of Melany's father, the OG forager and landscape painter, Wolf Kahn. *Mason Goes Mushrooming* was selected for inclusion in the children's book category of the October, 2022 Brattleboro Literary Festival and Melany Kahn was a featured author at the 2022 Brooklyn Book Festival.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Ellen Korbonski, a native of Los Angeles, has lived and worked in New York City for over thirty years. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Ellen attended the NYU Tisch School of the Arts' MFA in Filmmaking. Ellen has worked for 25 years as a graphic designer. After the birth of her first child, Ellen landed a job at a children's picture book publisher. She fell in love with the genre and became an illustrator. This is her debut picture book. Ellen lives in Harlem with her jazz-pianist husband, Helio Alves, and two amazing daughters.

www.ellenkorbonski.com

PRESS RELEASE



Giving Voice to Writers & Artists Who will Make the World a Better Place

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREEN WRITERS PRESS — BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mason Goes Mushrooming by Melany Kahn and illustrated by Ellen Korbonski

Dear Editors, Producers, Reviewers,

Green Writers Press is thrilled to be the publisher of *Mason Goes Mushrooming*, a children's hardcover picture book that opens the world of edible mushroom foraging through the talents of Mason, a third-generation forager, and his trusty dog, Buddy.

The premise is simple: four seasons, four woodland adventures, four wild edible mushrooms, and four delicious recipes.

Future foragers are invited to accompany Mason and Buddy into the world of edible fungi while enjoying the escapades of their hunts.

There are treasures in the forest just behind Mason's house. In this first-of-its-kind foraging story told through the eyes of a third-generation mushroom hunter, Mason takes his cues from thunderstorms and apple blossoms to grab a basket and hit the woods. We join him on his forays with his four-legged pal, Buddy, to hunt edible mushrooms through lush Vermont landscapes as he scores morels in springtime, chanterelles in summer, and black trumpets in autumn.

Author (and Mason's mom) Melany Kahn quells common fears and puts the "us" in mushrooms, by weaving simple education through a playful, fungi-finding adventure. Mason teaches us it's never too early to learn, and never too late to start.

Mason Goes Mushrooming takes us on a woodland treasure hunt, crossing paths with plucky critters and nature's trickery. We discover what a summer rainstorm and spaghetti have in common, how to hear the gentle swells of ocean waves without leaving the forest, and why a dog can be a valuable partner on a foraging caper. We also learn that fairy rings are real.

Four kid-friendly, forest-to-frying-pan recipes highlight flavor notes. In the last pages, the featured mushrooms are demystified for newbie foragers. Illustrator Ellen Korbonski enchants with evocative watercolors capturing the beauty of the mushrooms, the thrill of the hunt, and Mason's fertile imagination, in a style that pings with the charm and timelessness of an enduring classic.

I would be thrilled to not only further discuss this pitch with you, but the possibility of a feature and/or a book review, or author interview as well. I can send a digital galley or a hardcopy media copy upon request.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Dede

Dede Cummings, *publisher*

Green Writers Press, an independent, Vermont-based publishing company, is dedicated to spreading environmental awareness and social justice by publishing authors who promulgate messages of hope and renewal through place-based writing and environmental activism. In the past five years, Green Writers Press has expanded significantly, publishing such authors as Julia Alvarez, John Elder, Dr. M Jackson, and former Vermont Governor, Madeleine Kunin. Our mission is to spread a message of hope and renewal through the words and images we publish. Throughout we will adhere to our commitment to preserving and protecting the natural resources of the earth. To that end, a percentage of our proceeds will be donated to environmental activist groups and social justice organizations. Read more at www.greenwriterspress.com.

A LOOK INSIDE THE BOOK



Early SUMMER

Mason loves the 4th of July parade in his tiny town in Vermont. When the moon rises, he watches fireworks burst in the sky. They remind him of thunderstorms that will soon rumble by and soak the forest, watering the thirsty mushrooms. Then, Mason will begin to hunt for chanterelles.



Buddy has chased a very fast squirrel into a perfect circle of bright yellow mushrooms. Chanterelles! Mason knew they could grow in the shape of a fairy ring, but he has never seen the pattern so clearly.

APPEARANCES & AWARDS

2023 National Media

January - CBS SUNDAY MORNING Airdate TBD

January - FUNGI, winter issue, national book review by Britt Bunyard

January - TOMORROW'S CHILD, Montessori Foundation Magazine

2022 National Media

Oct 1 - KIRKUS REVIEWS –[KIRKUS REVIEWS](#) magazine Issue, p. 83

Nov 14 - TEDxBoston –PLANETARY STEWARDSHIP to post on YouTube in December

Dec 1 - THE MYCOPHILE – (North American Mycological Association) [Book Review by Eva Gordon](#), p. 36

Nov 7 - WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ALUMI MAGAZINE, Fall Issue online and in print, "[Mushrooming with Melany and Ellen](#)"

Fall/Winter 2022 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

2022 Media

Aug 15 – Live Radio Interview, Mike Pomp, The Pulse of NH, WTSN-AM

Aug 15 – Live Radio Interview, Eric Schubring, Local Morning Edition / WOJB NPR,

Aug 24 – Live Radio Interview, Jeff Williams, [In The Author's Voice](#), WSIU NPR

Sep 23 - NY Mycological Society, [NEW AND NOTEWORTHY](#) by Ethan Crenson

Sep 27 – Brattleboro Reformer Newspaper, "[Children's book creates future mushroom foragers](#),"

Sep 27 – VT Digger Newspaper, "[A daughter of acclaimed VT artists finds her own creativity mushrooming](#)"

Oct 3 - Brattleboro Community TV broadcast, [HERE WE ARE](#), Wendy O'Connell, 30 minute interview.

Oct 4 – Radio Interview, [Local Morning Edition with host Mitch Wertlieb](#), Vermont Public Radio

Nov 1 – Manchester Journal, VT, [Families invited on 'fungi treasure hunt' to make Thanksgiving centerpieces](#)

Nov 7 - Live Radio Interview, [Peter St. James and Jeanne Lester](#), WNTK-FM & WUVR-AM

Nov 7 – Live Radio Interview, Anni Ellis, "[The Sustainable Show](#)" WMNF-FM

Nov 25 – Live Radio Interview, Patricia McDonald, "[Vermont Viewpoint](#)" WDEV-AM/FM

Dec 5 – Radio Interview, [Local All Things Considered](#) with host Julia Furukawa, NH Public Radio

Dec 5 - Live Radio Interview, [Peter St. James & Jeanne Lester](#), WNTK-FM & WUVR-AM (interview starts at 18:10)

Dec -Illinois Mycological Association, Chicago, review by Susan Kayser

2022 APPEARANCES:

Sep 11 – Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, VT, mushroom foraging and read-aloud

Sep 18 - Central Texas Mycological Society, Austin, mushroom foraging, read-aloud and mushroom cooking demo

Sep 19 - [North Texas Mycological Association](#), Dallas mushroom foraging, read-aloud and mushroom cooking demo

Oct 1 – Children’s Day / Brooklyn Book Festival - Mushroom ID table, children’s art with fungi and book signing

Oct 3 - Illinois Mycological Association, Chicago, [Mushrooming with Children Webinar](#)

Oct 4 – Book Publication Celebration - Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

Oct 15 - Brattleboro Literary Festival – Featured Author, read aloud and children’s art with fungi

Oct 23 - NY Mycological Society, [Fungus Festival](#), Randalls Island, Ellen Korbonski, Illustrator, children’s art with fungi

Nov 19 - [Taylor Farm](#), Londonderry, VT. Woodland foraging to create a Thanksgiving Centerpiece

2022 AWARDS

Nov 22 – MASON GOES MUSHROOMING - [Best Book Awards Finalist](#)

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Book website: <http://masongoesmushrooming.com>

Publisher Book Page: <http://greenwriterspress.com/book/mason-goes-mushrooming/>

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