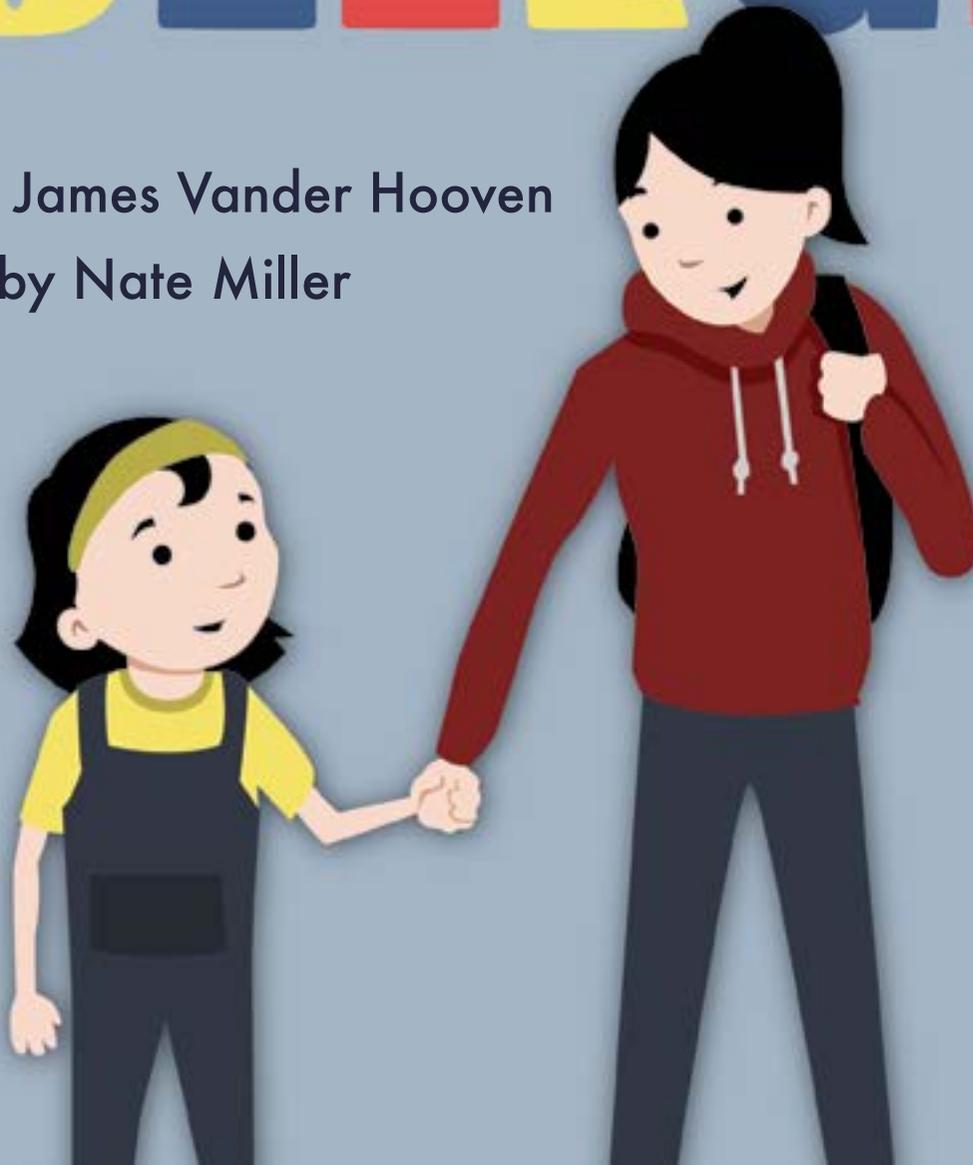


My Mommy Goes to COLLEGE

Written by James Vander Hooven

Illustrated by Nate Miller



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From the Author:

This book is dedicated to the countless people in my life who have taught me, by example, that serving others is the path to fulfillment and joy.

I also dedicate this book to every mother who strives to obtain her college degree. The road is filled with challenges and opportunities. I am constantly amazed by your commitment. I hope this book will help you teach your child or children what the journey is all about.

Finally, I dedicate this book to my wife, Jennie, who has been incessantly supportive of this project.

James Vander Hooven

From the Illustrator:

This book is dedicated to each and every teacher who pushed me to pursue art, challenged me to develop my technical skills, and helped me to discover my unique creative voice. I needed the help. Thank you for everything.

Nate Miller



My name is Jane. I am 7 years old and I am in the first grade. I love playing in my sand box and playing tag with my friend, Carly.

Carly's parents are always home for dinner. But my mom isn't home on Tuesday and Thursday night and sometimes on Saturday mornings. That's because, just like me, my mommy goes to school. She says it's called a college. It's where grown-ups go to learn things.





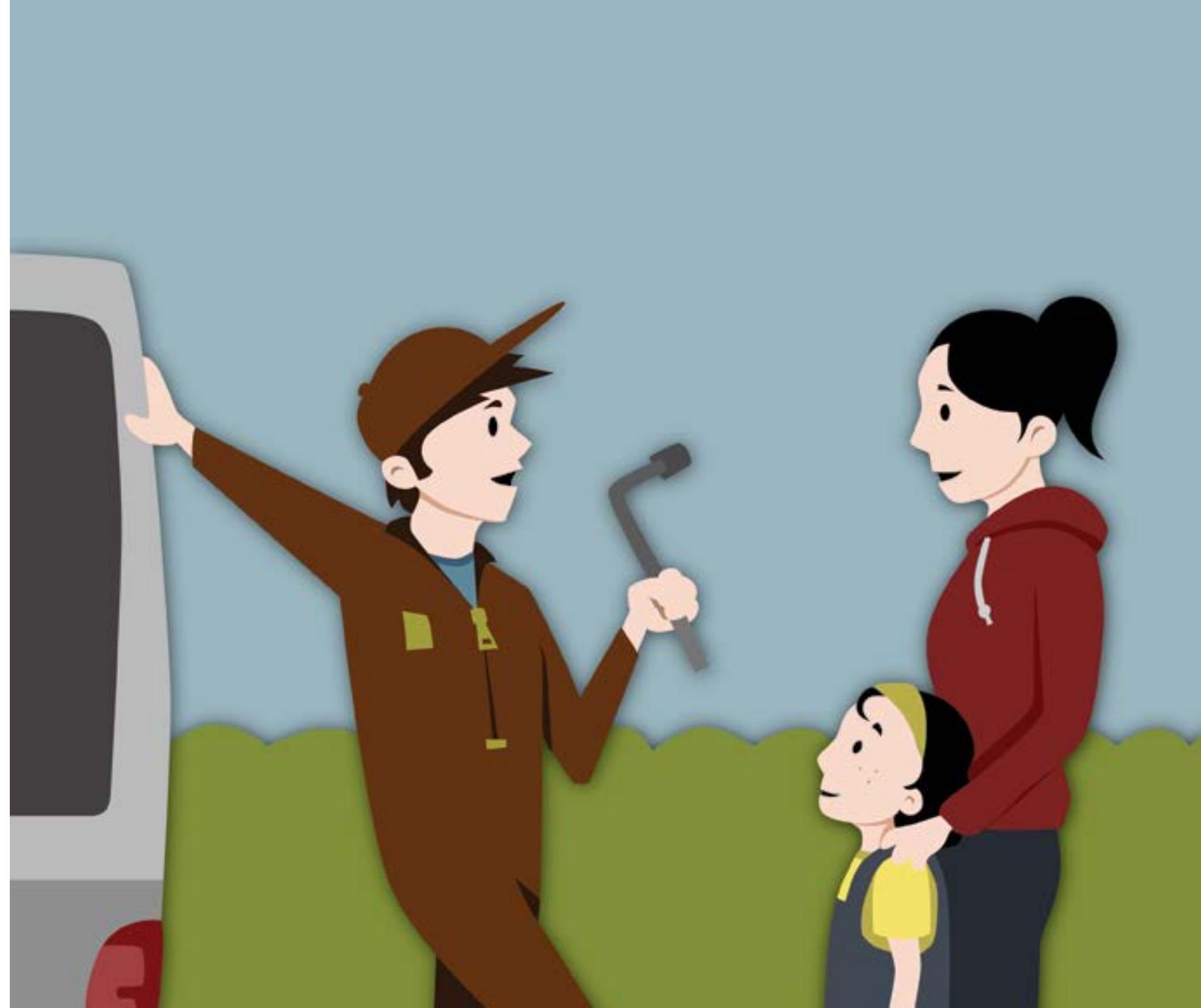
Her college has lots of big buildings. I don't know how she finds her classroom! All of the buildings look the same to me and there is a big field in the middle.

It's called a quad. It's bigger than the park near my home!

The classrooms don't look anything like my school. For one thing, there aren't many pictures on the walls. There are no numbers, alphabet letters, or pictures to look at. There are just a bunch of chairs and tables facing the teacher.



Mommy is going there to learn how to be a nurse. She said you can go to college to learn how to be anything. Just the other day, our car got a flat tire. The man who came to fix it goes to the same college as my mom. They started talking about a teacher that they both like a lot. My friends and I talk like that all the time!





Sometimes mom is too busy to play with me. It used to make me feel sad because I wanted her all to myself. But now we play this game called RACE TO THE FINISH. She gives me puzzles to put together and I see if I can finish the puzzle before she gets done with her homework.



She took me to her school one night and it was really neat! There were lots of grown-ups there just like my mom. I even met this one nice lady who looked like my grandma. And I thought school was for kids!

Mom's teacher was really nice but he was a little boring. He wrote a word on the chalkboard that had 18 letters! They didn't have any games and all the people in mom's class were so quiet—not like my class!



I had to be really quiet too. It's a good thing I took my favorite coloring book with me. I colored a whole picture of a mountain while I sat there. I think I fell asleep for a little while because when I woke up, the teacher was still talking. It all seemed so hard! My mom must be really smart.



One day, my mom brought me a Frisbee with the name of her college on it. It says "Anderson Community College Eagles" on the top with a silly looking Eagle on the bottom. It doesn't look much like an eagle but mom says it is the school mascot. We went to a volleyball game once and the same giant eagle was there. It came up to me and I got to give it a hug!





Someday I want to go to college just like my mom. She says going to college is the best because it helps you become anything you want to be. I didn't believe her at first.

"Can I learn how to fly a plane?"

"Yes," she said.

"Can I learn how to be a doctor?"

"You sure can!"

"Can I learn how to make ice cream?"

"YES!"

ICE CREAM!?!? Some colleges even teach you how to make ice cream. Wow! Someday I want to go to college to learn how to make ice cream. I'd go even if I was sick just to make and eat ice cream... chocolate, vanilla, and my favorite, cookies and cream!

I asked, "How many colleges are there?"
"There are lots of colleges," she said. "I go to Anderson Community College because it's close to home so I can spend more time with you. There are colleges all around the United States. My best friend Willem goes to Sunrise Community College in Colorado and Aunt Amy goes to the University of Virginia."
"I like that you go to Anderson Community College to be close to home!" I said.



One thing is for sure. Mom has to do a lot of homework. She sits on the couch or at the dinner table for what seems like forever just reading and reading. She colors her books with a yellow marker but says it's to help her learn the most important stuff.

When I wrote on her book with a marker, it was NOT okay. She was kind of mad so I haven't done that again!



I am really proud of my mom. I want to be just like her. She says if I work hard in school and do my homework that I'll be able to go to college too. I can't wait to go to college!



About the Author

James Vander Hooven has been working in community college and non-traditional higher education leadership for over 20 years. His dissertation, titled *Lessons from success: the experiences of women who completed an associate degree while parenting children*, was focused on the success strategies employed by this committed population of college students. It was his research on this topic that sparked his interest in writing this book. Vander Hooven obtained his B.A. at The Ohio State University, his M.A. at the University of Wyoming, and his Ed.D. at the University of Maine. He is currently the president of Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Massachusetts. He lives in Keene, New Hampshire with his wife, Jennie, and three children: Jude, Jonah, and Josephine.

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About the Illustrator

A Michigan native, Nate Miller grew up in the city of Chelsea. He attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette where he earned a B.F.A. in illustration. Nate enjoys imbuing his artwork with a spirit of playfulness and simplicity, believing that these elements can be powerful tools for the communication of serious ideas, as well as a means of spreading joy in the world. He lives with his wife, Kayla, and his kitten, May.

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