

TO:

FROM:

Because this
book found YOU.

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YOU
WILL
be
FOUND

BENJ PASEK • JUSTIN PAUL

ILLUSTRATED BY
SARAH J. COLEMAN



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
NEW YORK BOSTON

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A MESSAGE *from*
BENJ *and* JUSTIN

When we wrote “You Will Be Found” for our Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, it was to solve a problem: We needed a moment at the end of the first act for the main character, Evan, to decide to stand up—to literally pick himself up off the ground—and move forward. In the scene, Evan is in front of a crowd recalling a dark moment he experienced, and the pain and loneliness he felt drives him to reimagine his story, to consider how everything might have been different if he’d had someone he could reach out to. We wanted music and lyrics that felt propulsive and optimistic yet emotionally vulnerable. The song became one in which Evan opens himself up to the possibility of connecting with someone and feeling understood. The song

also sets in motion a moment that goes viral in the world of the show.

And then something fascinating happened. Beyond the context of the stage musical, the song did what Evan hoped to do with his story: It connected. And it went viral. We heard from so many people around the world who found comfort in being reminded that they are not alone. The message at the core of the song resonated, and reverberated—in our darkest moments and loneliest times, if we are willing to be vulnerable and reach out, we can find a support system and community waiting to help us.

The response we got—and witnessed online—is what led to the book you're holding. We were inspired to publish it by the fans of the show, and particularly of the song, who took ownership of the message and made these lyrics their own. Who recorded covers, posted videos online, started social media groups; a community connecting people who wanted

to be found with those who were there to find them. We wrote the song for a specific character on a particular journey, and now it's taken on a life of its own. So we've recreated it in this tangible form for anyone who needs to hear, or share, its message.

This book is for anyone on the edge of a new chapter in life—whether it's graduating from school, moving across the country, starting a new job, working through a tough time, or simply taking a chance on the unknown. It is a reminder that when you don't know where your past will lead you next, when your future is uncertain, or when you want to be seen or understood, you can reach out, call out, and discover that you are anything but alone. Because there is always someone there. Maybe it's someone sitting next to you, maybe it's somebody you haven't even met yet, or maybe it's the person who gave you this book. But as you read these words, remember that we are all connected and...you will be found.



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HAVE YOU
EVER
FELT
LIKE

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Nobody
was
there?



A person is standing on a dark, curved surface, possibly a hill or a path, under a blue sky. The person is silhouetted against the bright light source, which is visible as a bright spot in the sky. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a strong sense of isolation and contemplation. The person's shadow is cast on the surface they are standing on.

Have you ever
felt
FORGOTTEN

in the middle
of NOWHERE?



Have you
ever felt like
you could

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disappear?

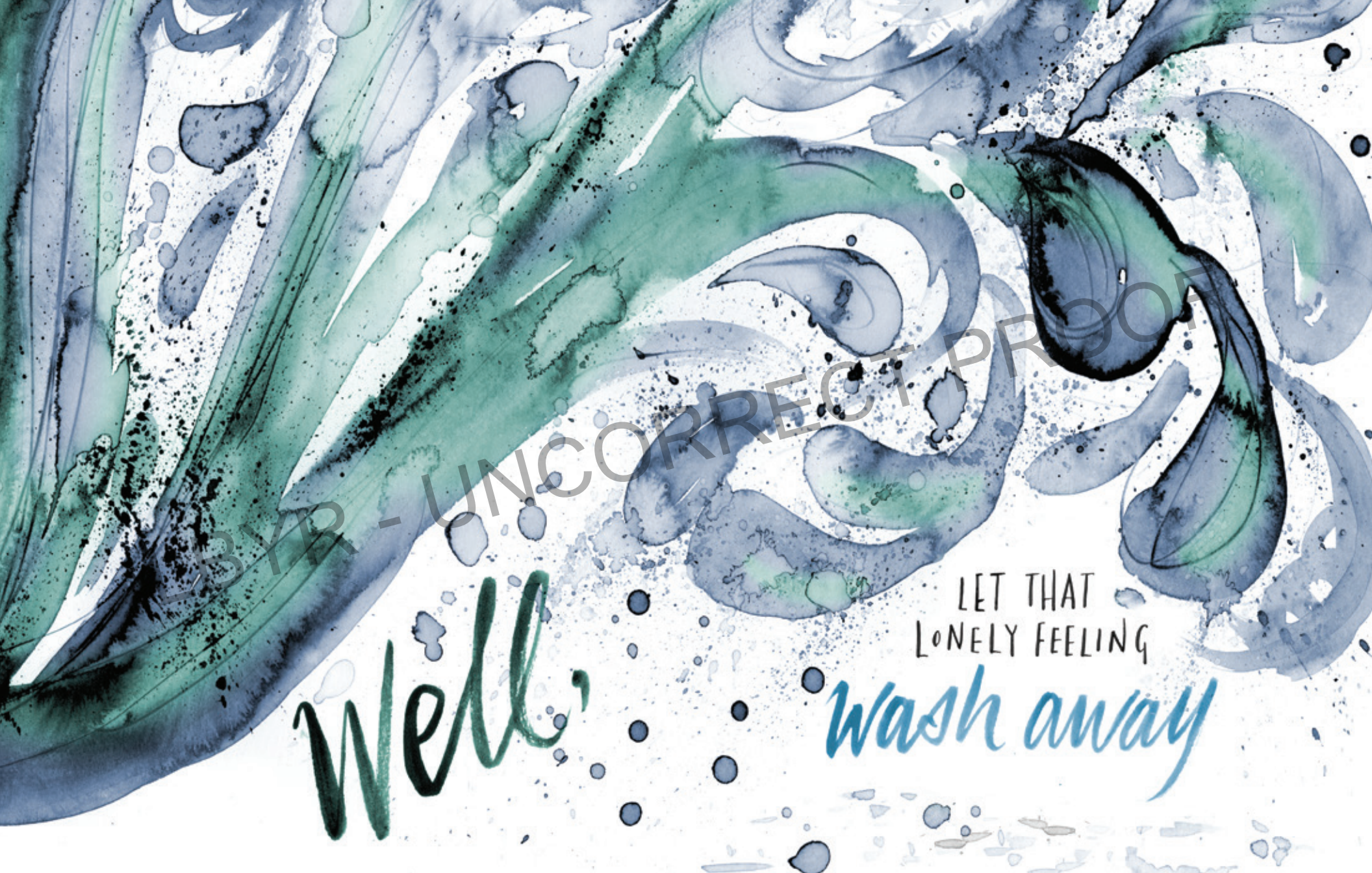
LIKE YOU
COULD
FALL



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and
no one
would
hear?



well,

LET THAT
LONELY FEELING

Wash away