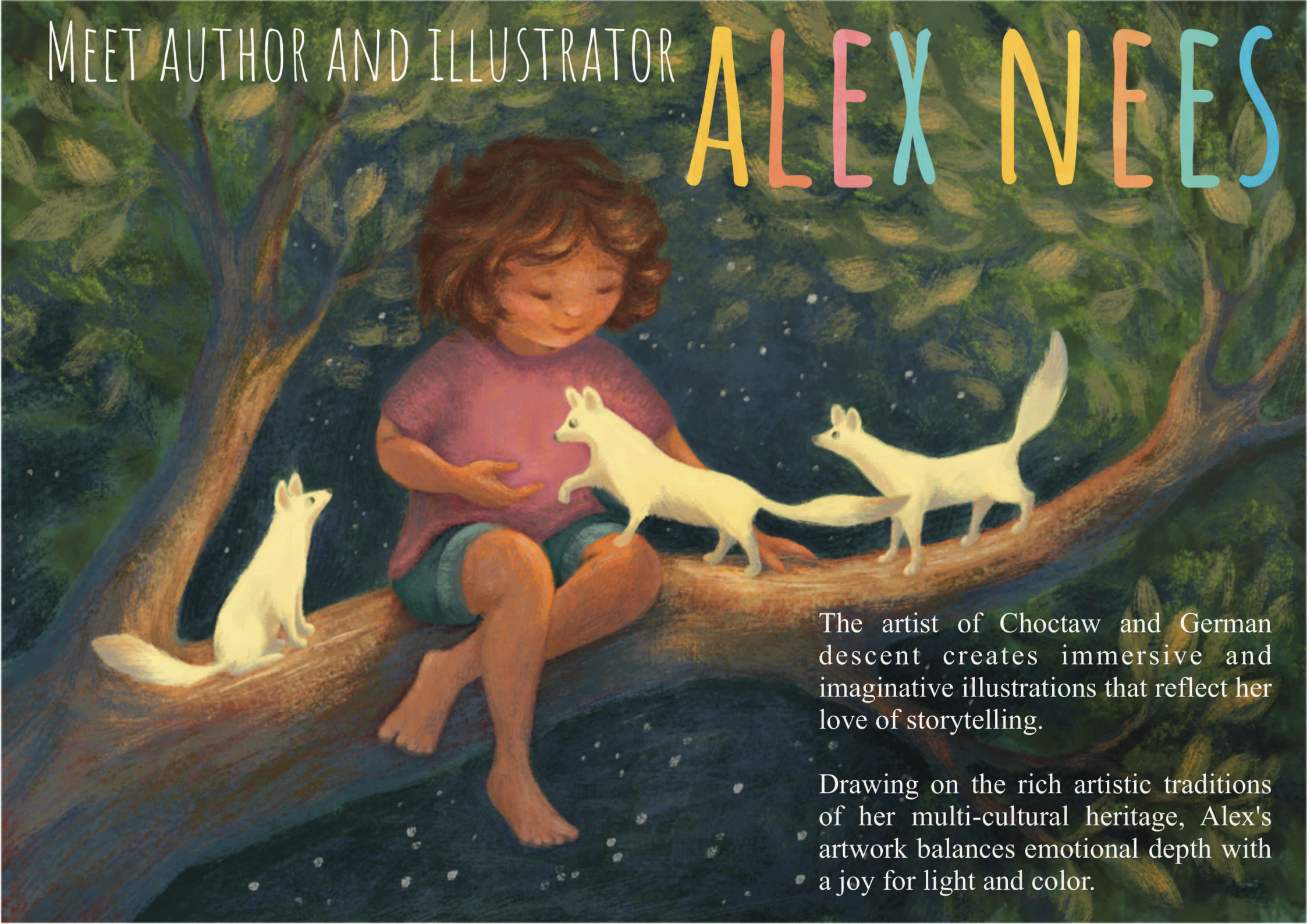


MEET AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

ALEX NEES



The artist of Choctaw and German descent creates immersive and imaginative illustrations that reflect her love of storytelling.

Drawing on the rich artistic traditions of her multi-cultural heritage, Alex's artwork balances emotional depth with a joy for light and color.



Alex spent her childhood both in the U.S. and in Germany, where she was confronted early on with questions of identity and belonging.

"I WENT FROM A HIPPIE VILLAGE NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO TO A SMALL BAVARIAN TOWN WITH 300-YEAR-OLD HOUSES, THE SMELL OF THE LOCAL BREWERY LINGERING IN THE COBBLESTONE STREETS. IT WAS A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD."

Picture books became a lifeline, particularly those from Native American authors and illustrators. Alex saw herself reflected in the artwork and the stories. Yet she also connected with the artwork in her German grandparents' home, especially after learning that this side of her family's history was filled with artists.

"ART AND STORIES CONNECT THE VARIOUS PARTS OF MY HERITAGE FOR ME, AND ALLOW ME TO DRAW UPON A DEEP WELL OF INSPIRATION."

"I LOVE TO CREATE ILLUSTRATIONS THAT MAKE YOU WONDER A LITTLE BIT ... WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT? HOW WILL THIS STORY CONTINUE?"

IT CAN BE VERY SUBTLE, LIKE THIS LITTLE PLANT WITH THE SHADOW OF A BIG TREE. IS THE GIRL DREAMING? OR THE PLANT? AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THERE'S A GIANT TREE GROWING IN HER BEDROOM?"





"MY OWN CHILDHOOD FELT SO STRANGE AND SURPRISING, LIKE ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE, ANYTHING COULD SUDDENLY BECOME A REALITY. THIS IDEA OF MAGIC WAITING JUST AROUND THE CORNER COMES UP AGAIN AND AGAIN IN MY WORK. I AM FOREVER WONDERING WHAT IF ...?"





"I LOVE SKETCHING AND DRAWING FROM LIFE, ESPECIALLY OUTDOORS, IN NATURE. IT REQUIRES ME TO REALLY LOOK AT A PLACE, TO NOTICE THE LIGHT, THE COLORS, WHAT THIS MOMENT FEELS LIKE. NATURE IS A GREAT INSPIRATION."



" I HAVE A RULE IN MY STUDIO: ANYTHING IS ALLOWED. WHILE MY CLIENT-WORK IS MOSTLY DIGITAL, I USE WATERCOLOR, PENCILS, AND ACRYLIC PAINT IN MY PERSONAL WORK. THE STUDIO IS A SPACE FOR EXPERIMENTATION, FOR NOT-PRETENDING, FOR IMPERFECTION. IT IS MY FAVORITE ROOM IN THE HOUSE, MY HAPPY PLACE."



"I REALLY LOVE STORIES THAT TAKE CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES AND THEIR IMAGINATION SERIOUSLY. CHILDREN EXPERIENCE ALL KINDS OF DIFFICULTIES, AND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE SHOULD REFLECT THAT. I BELIEVE STORIES CAN HAVE A GREAT HEALING POWER. AND SOMETIMES IT IS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND COMPLEX EMOTIONS AND IDEAS THROUGH ART."

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