

**Dear New Friend****Taraneh Matloob****Alida Massari, Illustrator**

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The intricate patterns and bold colors of Persian design are woven into the illustrations of this moving tale about crosscultural connection. A boy envisions what he and his new friend will do on his friend's first visit to his house; he looks forward to sharing elements of his Persian culture. Absent anxiety, this picture book provides an example of how new cultures and experiences should be approached: with respect and joy.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (March / April 2025)

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