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## Author & Her Mother Create New Classic INTRODUCING: RED BEANS & RICE

Lousiana Farm to Table Lessons in a Kind & Inclusive Manner



LOUISIANA—"Do you ever wonder where it all comes from and how it is made?" Inspired by the true story of a young girl who did not know that peaches have fuzzy skin and grow on trees, Jeanette Weiland's **Red Beans & Rice** is a playful and polite farm visit where kids discover the earth to table connection. Author of acclaimed (2019) **Beignets for Breakfast**, this is Weiland's second rhyming and vividly illustrated children's book, and the first time she's teamed with her artist mother, Roberta Van Zandt Loflin, for the book's original water color illustrations. The 32 page 10x10 hard-cover book is distributed by Looziana Book Company and is available at retail and sold online at jeanetteweiland.com for \$19.95 (ISBN 978-1-7336341-4-4). **Red Beans & Rice** is leveled for by Read-Ability for children K - 5th grade and those young at heart.

While the farm to table backdrop is set in the colorful state of Louisiana, Weiland conveys timely social themes that affect people everywhere. *"Red Beans & Rice* is about helping all kids to have a deeper appreciation for the nature surrounding them through timeless principles: earth to table, respecting elders, speaking kindly, and working together to grow a brighter future," stated Weiland, whom by day, operates as an economic developer for the city of New Orleans. When Magnolia Rose and her friends visit Grandma Bee and Grandpa Pepper's farm, the journey begins.

This ideal gift for children is named after New Orleans' most beloved communal dish. Weiland loves that red beans and rice "...is accessible to everyone due to its low-cost ingredients, is a comfort and healthy food that can feed many people at large gatherings, and as an added bonus, can – and should – always be made with the Louisiana rice harvested in our own backyards!"

As Danielle Nierenberg, President and Founder of global food thinktank, <u>Food Tank</u>, puts it: "This book uses the beauty and joyfulness of food to teach kids not only about how and what to eat, but about the history and culture, and the importance of honoring the land, the sea, and the people who grow, harvest, and cook our food," Nierenberg's recent interview with Weiland about *Red Beans & Rice* is available on <u>facebook</u> and <u>twitter</u>. See more advance praise at <u>JeanetteWeiland.com/reviews</u>.

*Red Beans & Rice* is a lively read encompassing multiple voices, which the hand-drawn typography cleverly prompts. Young readers will enjoy spotting hidden treasures throughout the pages: the creatures and critters this delicious region shares as home. And aspiring chefs will appreciate the extras in the back of the book, including a kid-friendly red beans and rice recipe from restauranteur <u>Dickie Brennan</u>, a vegan version by Sweet Potato Soul author and blogger, <u>Jenne'</u> <u>Claiborne</u>, the Weiland Family's pancake recipe, and a strawberry planting activity.

"Creating this book alongside my own mother was a treasured experience, and I love the example our collaboration set for my kids as they watched us, about the importance of family, work, and creativity." Weiland added. Jeanette and her husband are the parents of two young children, and they relish the fact that their kids have the opportunity to grow up in a place unmatched in flavor and culture. Roberta Van Zandt Loflin is a mother, grandmother, avid gardener, vegan, and professional artist specializing in the watercolor medium. She lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with her husband.