

Families come in every shape and size. And some of them are so awesome that it's impossible not to tell their stories. *Fabulous Families* tells the unexpected adventures of seven special animal families, all inspired by real events that took place in the animal world. We just collected them, added a little sugar and a touch of color so that readers can easily focus on their simple message: that every family is a family, regardless of the number of parents, race, or gender. If you believe that love is the only thing that a family needs to be called such, this book is for you!



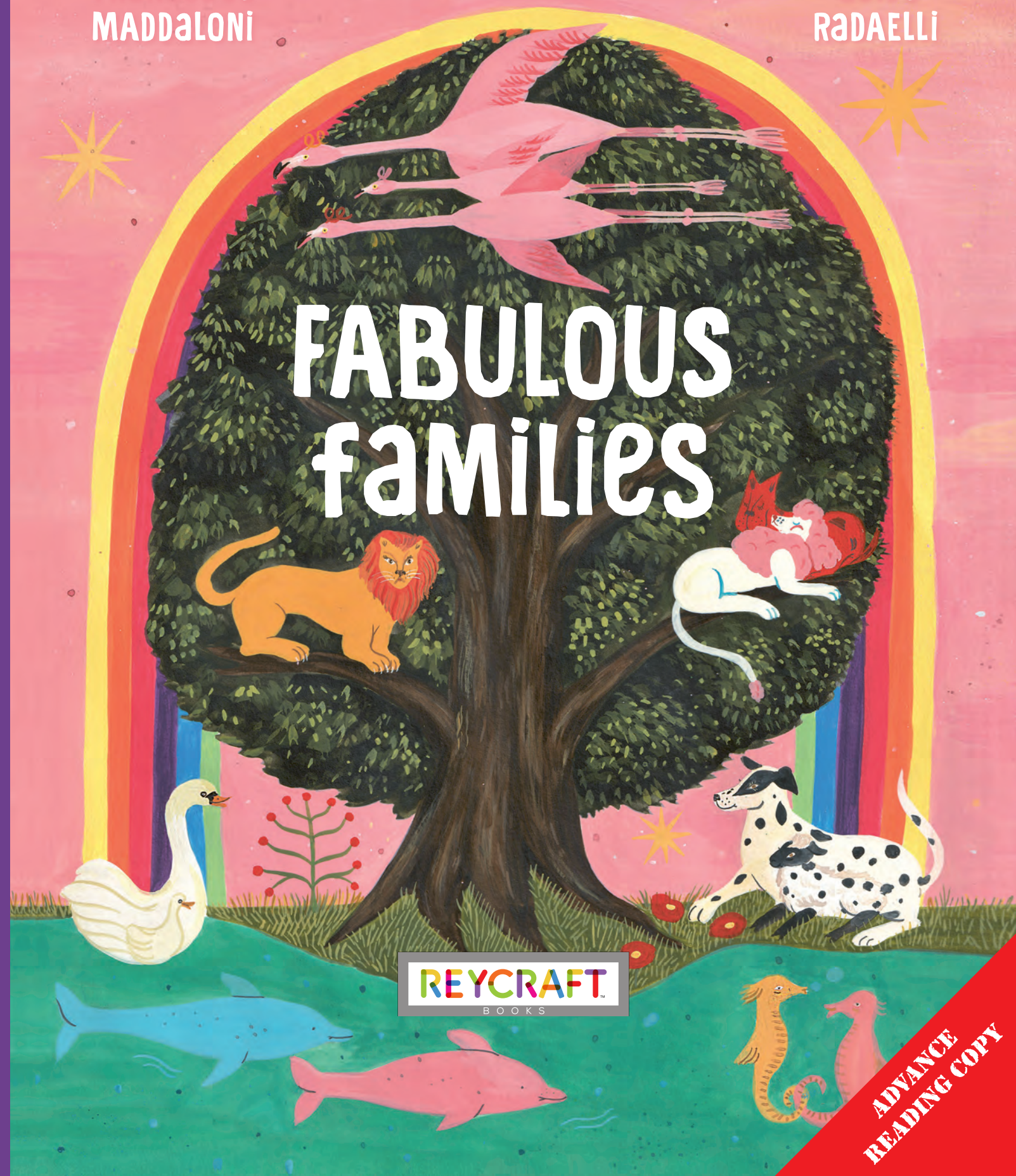
FRANCESCO MADDALONI
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FABULOUS families



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**Illustrations by Patrícia Pedro Afonso, Charles Bailey, Herikita,
Alice Piaggio, Mateo Rivano, Rosi Tooth, Daniela Tieni**

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Preface

Fabulous Families is an original collection of “modern fables” that reminds us of classics like those written by Aesop.

Fables have always contained a moral, or lesson about right versus wrong, taught through the actions of the characters—often animals. These stories also tickle the imagination and emotions of their readers—readers like you!

All seven stories that you are about to read touch on a modern-day topic—unconventional families. Families are diverse and sometimes complicated. But they all share one thing in common: LOVE.

So go ahead, open this book and start flipping through its pages, allowing yourself to be swept away by the marvelous illustrations, the bright colors, and the fascinating stories.

At first, read it alone. In silence. One story at a time. Close your eyes and immerse yourself in the emotions each story sparks, and then... share these stories with your fabulous friends and family, whatever you want that family to be!

BLUEBERRY



Inspired by the true story
of a lamb from an Australian farm

Illustrations by Herikita

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The farm where Blueberry lives is full of red flowers and sweet smells. Summer has just begun and today is a special day. Blueberry turns seven and her mom is throwing a big party for her. Her mom has busied herself for days baking mouthwatering pies and cakes, and she has even sewn Blueberry a gorgeous new dress for the occasion.



"I would like a new brush, a bowl with my name on it, and a bone to sharpen my teeth," Blueberry tells her mom.

"So many presents!" she answers, smiling. "But if you could have just one wish, what would it be?" asks her mom as she adds the finishing touches to Blueberry's dress.

🌼 "To become a shepherd dog," says Blueberry.

🌼 "A shepherd dog?" asks her mom, astonished. "But that's ridiculous, Blueberry! All your beautiful spots would be hidden by the dirt! Look at me. I'm a pet Dalmatian, and very happy. Believe me, life as a shepherd is not for you!"

Sulking over these words, Blueberry returns to her kennel, puffing and trailing the dress that her mom sewed for her—a beautiful sea-green outfit that makes all the black-and-white spots on her fur stand out. Reluctantly, she puts it on. When she looks at herself in the mirror, she realizes something horrible—the fur around her neck has grown. And on her tummy too! Blueberry suddenly realizes that she is covered in long, thick, shaggy curls.

