



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Barnes & Noble to present Dr. J. Steve Rios, Author of *Oly & Opi: The Curious Octopus Twins*

Hollywood, Florida - August 17, 2022 - Author Dr. Steve J. Rios of South Florida will hold a book signing for his new work, “*Oly & Opi: The Curious Octopus Twins*,” from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, September 3rd, at Pembroke Gardens Barnes & Noble, 14572 SW 5th St. Suite 10140, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027.

Dr. Rios has worked in the foster care field for 30 years. After earning his doctoral degree in education from Florida International University, Rios was instrumental in securing funding for the development of the Extra Mile Learning Center, a foster care tutoring program in Miami-Dade County. He is currently the senior director of Positive Pathways, a program of the Florida Department of Children and Families that is dedicated to helping foster youth succeed academically.

Recognizing a need to help foster youth early on build the confidence and motivation to succeed academically, Rios developed a series of whimsical, sea-themed books, which include a picture board book for very young foster youth as well as his latest work. Described as a gentle book for a sensitive topic, “[Oly and Opi: The Curious Octopus Twins](#)” is a 14-page fully-illustrated book that introduces a set of twin dumbo octopuses as they navigate their journey within the foster care system under the sea.

Rios said he was inspired to create the book as a way to break down some of the barriers he has recognized over the years in his work that hinder academic success for many children in foster care. His goal is to encourage healthy discussions between foster youth and adults to turn curiosity into answers and build confidence and motivation.

It is his hope that the adventures of Oly and Opi will play an important role in helping foster youth succeed academically.

Besides his first book which was released late last year, Rios also has written:

[Oly and Opi: The Curious Octopus Twins Board Book](#) (ages 1-3), [Oly and Opi: Numbers and Colors](#) (ages 1-3), [Oly and Opi: Please Let Me Talk!](#) (English and Spanish, ages 6-11), [Sometimes a Mom](#) (a non-octopus book)

“I would never have expected to write a children’s book, much less one about deep sea octopuses,” Rios said. “Since these cute octopuses are in ‘foster care,’ I am able to stick with a subject matter I know while diving deep into a new arena.”

Rios’ books are available on [Amazon](#) as well as [Barnes & Noble’s](#) online store and in the Pembroke Gardens Barnes and Noble. Anyone who buys a book on the BN website can have the book signed by the author on September 3, 2022.

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