To Katherine —D. U.

For Mom, and in memory of Ann —M. H.

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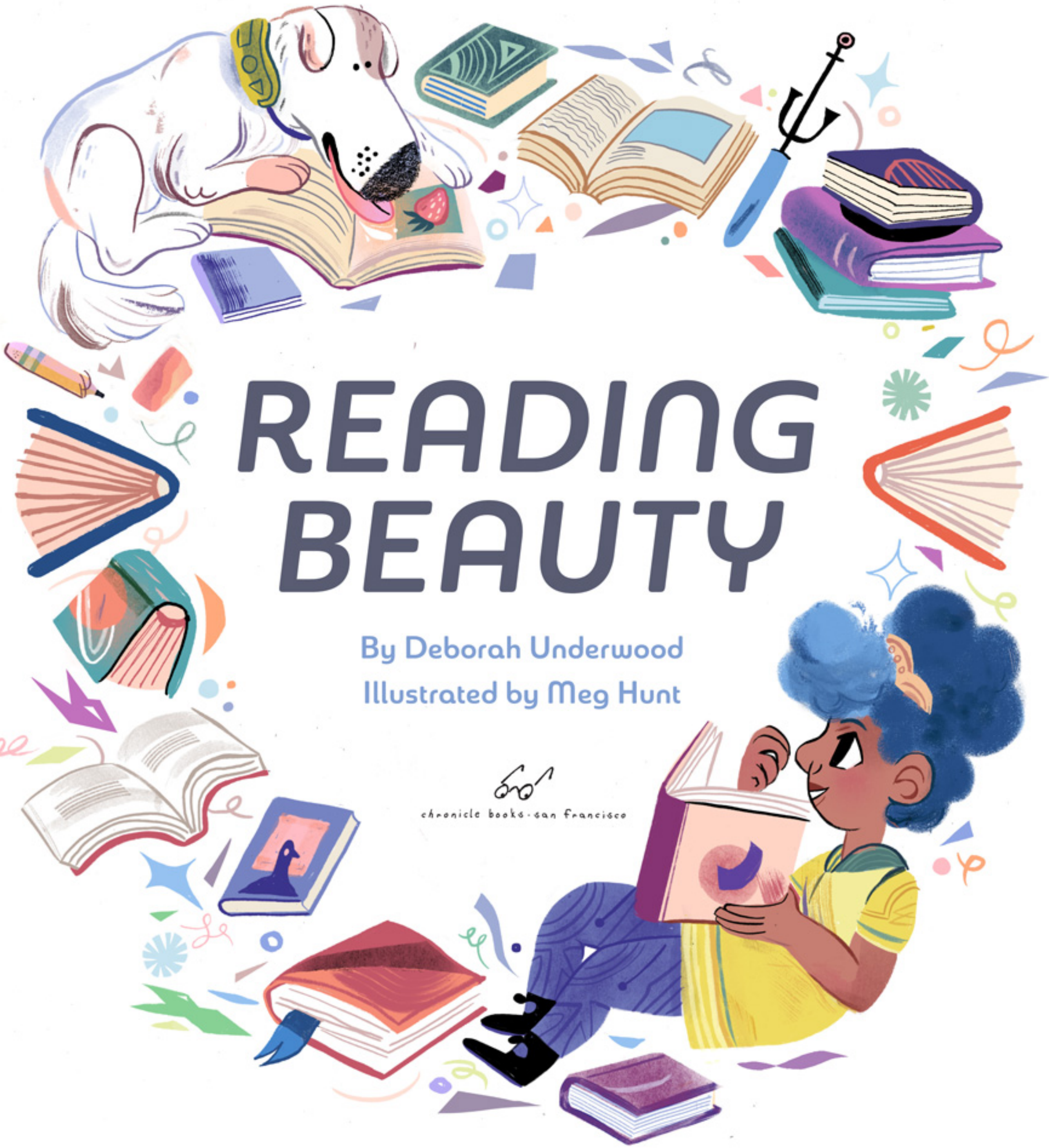
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READING BEAUTY

By Deborah Underwood

Illustrated by Meg Hunt

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Once upon a planetoid,
surrounded by book lovers,
a princess, Lex, read morning, noon,
and night (beneath her covers).

Lex's bedroom brimmed with books;
she read them at top speed.
She even trained her puppy, Prince,
to fetch her things to read.







But on her fifteenth birthday,
Lex awoke—her books were gone!

She raced to find her parents.
"Make them stop! What's going on?"

They answered with a story:
"Long ago when you were small,
we held a celebration
and invited one and all."



"But while the guests were toasting you,
we heard a muffled shout.
A fairy burst in, furious
that she had been left out."