



The illustrations in this book were made with watercolor, gouache, and colored pencils.

Special thanks to Geoffrey Parker
at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
for sharing his expertise.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Gianfrani, Maria, author. | Sala, Felicità, Illustrator.

Title: Be a tree! / written by Maria Gianfrani ; illustrated by Felicità Sala. Description:
New York : Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references. |

Audience: Ages 4 to 8. | Summary: Compares the structures and functions of trees to
human bodies, shows the interconnectedness and dependence of trees in a forest, and urges
readers to communicate, share, and care for one another. Includes notes on the anatomy
of a tree, ways to help save trees, and how to help in one's community.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020013336 | ISBN 9781459941228 (hardcover)

Subjects: CSAC: Trees—Fiction. | Community life—Fiction.

Classification: LCC PZ23.H8028 Be 2021 | DDC [3]—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020013336>

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Book design by Jade Rector

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Printed and bound in China

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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*For all trees,
And in memory of Gracie Kling, lover of giraffes.*

—M. G.

*For Nina and Niccolò,
may your roots go deep and your branches reach high.*

With love,

—F. S.





Be a tree!

Stand tall.
Stretch your branches to the sun.

Let your roots curl,
coil in the soil to ground you.





Your spine is a trunk,
giving you shape,
holding your crown,
channeling your food.



Your skin is bark:
dead on the outside,
protecting what's within.

Beneath your bark
are layers,
such as sapwood,
carrying nutrients
to help you grow bigger
and taller;

and heartwood,
strong as bone,
to support you.

