



★ **The Dream Keeper**

Anna Walker

Candlewick (Jun 16, 2026)

Hardcover \$18.99 (40pp)

978-1-5362-4746-6

In this soothing, ethereal tale-within-a-tale, a girl draws and plays before bed. Though she's smiling, she also worries about her animal toys, some of whom, she thinks, may be afraid of the dark. It's a fear she sympathizes with, and that she eases their and her way through by imagining a caretaker of dreams who mixes up special concoctions for everyone, bringing shareable light to shadowed areas. The illustrations, appearing in side-by-side panels, capture the magic of the girl's imagination in sometimes translucent watercolor splashes, illuminating a hopeful path through the frightening night.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (May / June 2026)

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