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Printing	Full colour
Binding	Paperback
Format	212 x 244 mm (L)
Extent	32 pp
Age	3-7 years
Rights	World

Mark Sommerset is the author of a diverse range of best-loved picture books including the hilarious 'Baa Baa Smart Sheep' series. His books have been published in 13 languages across 16 countries, picking up a number of literary and design awards along the way, including the Children's Choice Award for *Baa Baa Smart Sheep* in the New Zealand Children's Book Awards, and Book of the Year in the New Zealand Book Design Awards for *Two Little Bugs*.

Mark lives in Wānaka in the South Island of New Zealand. This is his first book with Scholastic.

Dine

'Dine the Fox' is the artistic pseudonym of Amandine Riera, a French illustrator, tattoo artist and mother, based these days in Glenorchy in New Zealand's South Island.

Her work is deeply inspired by nature, legends, and whimsical tales, reflecting her passion for the natural world and storytelling. She specialises in children's book illustrations, murals, and tattoos, often featuring themes of flora and fauna.

Because You are You

Mark Sommerset
Illustrated by Dine

A heartwarming tale about creativity, self-worth, and unconditional love

In a cosy hay-bale house, a little brown mouse dreams of a future full of wonder and possibility. As Littlemouse's imagination takes flight—from painting masterpieces and baking grand cakes to sailing the high seas and pondering life's deepest thoughts—Mamamouse joins in with boundless encouragement. But when doubt creeps in and Littlemouse wonders, *What if I'm just me?*, Mamamouse's love remains unwavering.

- *Because You Are You* is popular children's author Mark Sommerset's first collaboration with Scholastic New Zealand.
- This heartwarming, uplifting story supports children to dream, create and explore their own possibilities.
- Illustrator Dine's warm and whimsical artwork enhances the story's charm with beautiful watercolour style.
- Gentle rhymes make for a soothing, lyrical read-aloud experience.
- Sommerset's *Baa Baa Smart Sheep* won the NZ Children's Choice Award and has been published in 13 languages.

Praise for Mark Sommerset and Dine

"Another tale of mischief told mostly in dialogue bubbles that is sure to make ... um ... wee ones double over with laughter" — *Kirkus Reviews* (USA) about *I Love Lemonade*

"A stunning book ... playful, clever – the design is absolutely superb." — National Radio about *Two Little Bugs*

"[Ruby's] life at home and at school is beautifully drawn, providing plenty of interesting details which enhance the narrative."

—Read NZ Te Pou Marama about Dine's *Ruby Loud Mouth*

