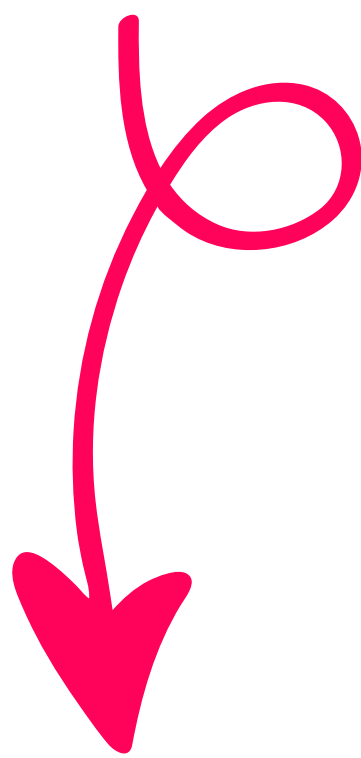




A Letter From Zibby



Dear Reader,

Alisha Fernandez Miranda is an absolute dynamo. I first read Alisha's work when she published an essay in our Medium publication *Moms Don't Have Time to Write* (now relaunched as *Zibby Mag*). Her essay made me laugh out loud while I reveled at her brilliance. It was so good, in fact, that I reached out to her out of the blue and said, "So I'm starting a publishing company. Do you have a book in you?!" Turns out, she did! Alisha took a risk signing on with Zibby Books when it was just an idea and has been an integral part of our growth. It's only fitting that this wonderful, heartfelt book is the one we're launching with. And after reading the book, I'm not at all surprised she dove right in.

MY WHAT IF YEAR has many parallels to my own life and to many others' — that feeling of "I should be fine with everything," yet feeling unfulfilled. As an anxious person, "what if?" swirls around my head constantly. What if I'd tried that? What if I were a fantastic architect? What if I was a gifted calligrapher? The fact that Alisha not only wondered the same but took the bull by the horns and just did it is inspiring. I ended up changing my own life, too, after staying home with my kids for 11 years and then diving headfirst into the literary world.

Women, in particular, need to hear stories like Alisha's (and even mine!). Our lives are never fully set. There is always

an opportunity to learn, explore, try things out, and expand who we are and who we can connect with. Alisha's experience is motivating in so many ways; that she had an idea and pursued it; that she did so without the burden of endless mom guilt; that she was willing to start from the bottom to pursue what she loved; that she handled all the obstacles and setbacks with a sense of humor and indefatigable wit; and that she wrote about it.

Alisha's memoir takes all of us along for the ride of her lifetime. We get a behind-the-scenes look at some glamorous (and some, less so) industries.

It's hard not to fall in love with Alisha after reading this. My hope is that after reading, you'll bravely ask yourself the same questions and decide to try something. Tag [#mywhatifyear](#) anytime you do something you wouldn't normally do because you're inspired by this tale. Scuba diving. Learning to speak Japanese. A soufflé making class. Volunteering at a local shelter. Tasting a hot sauce.

New experiences make us who we are... and it's never too late to figure out just who that might be. Enjoy the memoir. And get ready for your own What If Year.

Warmly,

Zibby



Zibby Owens is the CEO and
Co-Founder of Zibby Books.

As Founder of CEO of Zibby Media, Zibby has also launched Zibby Mag, a literary lifestyle destination, Zibby Audio, a podcast network that includes her award-winning podcast *Moms Don't Have Time to Read Books*, Zibby Classes, and the indie bookstore Zibby's Bookshop.

She's a monthly contributor to *Good Morning America* and an author herself. Her books include *BOOKENDS: A MEMOIR OF LOVE, LOSS, AND LITERATURE*, and children's book *PRINCESS CHARMING*.