

A New Chapter for Changemakers

In honor of International Day of the Girl on October 11, we celebrate and support girls who are changemakers in their own lives and the lives of others around the globe. This month, Book Club shares an exciting inside scoop into the unique book creation process of “She Creates Change: 25 Stories of Courageous Young Women and Their Heroes.”

This newly published book is a collaboration between Room to Read and Rebel Girls, a global, multi-platform empowerment brand dedicated to helping raise the most inspired and confident generation of girls. This publication brings together creative international minds to showcase stories of our Girls’ Education Program participants alongside their personal role models and heroes. You can learn more about our Girls’ Education Program and our efforts to support girls as they define their own unique life paths as changemakers.

We asked three members of Room to Read’s Book Publishing team, Alisha Berger, Shannon Hesel and Janet Pagliuca, to share more insight into this one-of-a-kind book publication, and we can’t wait to share their responses with you below!

Q: What was the creation process like for the “She Creates Change” book?

A. Very collaborative! The girls were all nominated by our country teams and their social mobilizers, Room to Read’s local women mentors. We worked with four authors from various parts of the world (Nepal, Philippines, United States and South Africa) in partnership with our country teams who served as liaisons between the authors and the girls, and sometimes their heroes (if their heroes are still alive). Two of the authors were former Room to Read staff! The artists came from Room to Read and Rebel Girls, and we worked with a long-time Room to Read designer. The project was coordinated and edited at the global office, and of course we were in touch with the Rebel Girls team at every stage, ensuring the stories and the artwork also resonated with and celebrated their brand. The book is truly a two-organization, global collaboration!

Q: How did you tap into a network of 25 global women authors and illustrators?

A. We used a combination of Room to Read illustrators recommended by our country teams, as well as existing Rebel Girls artists. They are from all corners of the globe. Two of the artists are Venezuelan-American women who are also Room to Read staff — Janet Pagliuca and Kris Duran. We are blessed to have their talents to tap for this project, and to be able to offer them the opportunity to contribute to a Rebel Girls’ and Room to Read book, which is such a special kind of book in a fantastic series.

Q. What was the process for choosing authors and illustrators like?

A. Our wonderful design and production colleague, Janet, suggested illustrators for each of the girls, and made sure to pair their styles with the stories as well as balance the flow of the overall book so that no consecutive stories felt too similar.

Q. Which changemaker inspires you the most in this collection?

A. That’s an impossible question! They are all amazing. And I am endlessly impressed with the social mobilizers, who inspire girls every day, and who have moved through with many incredibly difficult circumstances themselves. It’s quite humbling to have these women as colleagues!

Download Your Free Digital "She Creates Change" Book Here

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