

Amy C. Shrodes is the co-author of the Penguin Random House children's book, "*Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey.*" The book (featured by the New York Times in August and Chicago Public Library system's "*Best Informational Books for Kids in 2017*") is a true story about one cat's journey toward reunion with his family after being separated while fleeing Mosul, Iraq in 2015. Readers of all ages around the world have been inspired by the power of community that brought Kunkush and his family back together.

Amy traveled to Lesbos island during a sabbatical from her career in the fall of 2015. She first traveled by train through much of the European Union, observing thousands of refugees attempting to navigate the complex multi-national systems. Through a Facebook Group called 'Third Wave Volunteer Network', she was able to reach an independent photojournalist named Doug Kuntz (who later became the co-author of "*Lost and Found Cat*"). Doug encouraged Amy to make the overnight ferry trip to Lesbos, helping her find a volunteer placement on the frontlines of the crisis with a solidarity group operating outside of a small fishing village called Skala Sikamineas. Skala Sikamineas is where Amy and other volunteers discovered Kunkush, shunned by the island cats, during a break from serving soup and tea at the solidarity camp's seaside kitchen.

Amy was born June 30, 1990 in Denver, Colorado. She discovered a deep love for nature and animals while growing up in Colorado, Idaho and Texas. She later spent ten years working in Oklahoma City, where she witnessed firsthand the power of love and working together. Prior to her work in the refugee crisis, she led marketing and development initiatives for the Central Oklahoma Humane Society (OK Humane). During the seven years she was on staff, Amy implemented a successful integrated marketing and fundraising plan, coordinated nearly one hundred annual events, trained thousands of volunteers, and served as OK Humane's communication leader in the reunification effort for displaced pets following the 2013 tornadoes in Moore, OK. During that time, Amy learned about effective collaboration while serving as the pet-related needs representative on the Long-Term Area Recovery Committee of Oklahoma County. This experience was her biggest asset arriving on Lesbos, making it possible for her to serve in many different capacities on the island in 2015. She is fueled by a passion to develop direct pathways, often utilizing technology in cooperation with face-to-face meetings, to connect resources with those in need. She lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan with three co-creator housemates, two feline companions, and one steadfast Boxer dog friend.

Social Media:

@amyshrodes (Twitter)

[www.linkedin.com/in/amyshrodes](http://www.linkedin.com/in/amyshrodes)