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SUSANE COLASANTI BIOGRAPHY



Susane Colasanti is the bestselling and acclaimed author of many books for teens including: *When It Happens* and *Take Me There*. Her own dire teen years of torment by bullies sealed a lifelong resolve to help other teens.

Equipped with a bachelor's degree in Astrophysics/Earth and Space Science from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in Science Education 7-12, Teachers of Physics from New York University, she went on to a privileged teaching position in New York City.

Later, sensing that her strengths could help students at greater risk, she transferred to one of the country's poorest congressional districts in the South Bronx where she did nothing short of the impossible. Obsessed with her students' success, Colasanti got creative. She jettisoned out-of-date textbooks and wrote materials from scratch. She instituted unprecedented afterschool lessons. And she designed fresh science labs that encouraged her students to take a hands-on, interactive approach to learning. By the time she left, not a single student was "left behind;" 100% of her students passed New York State's Earth Science Regents Exam, up from a measly 40% before her arrival.

Her unconventional teaching methods sparked interest and gained the trust of her students; former students and colleagues have called her another "real life" Louanne Johnson (Michelle Pfeiffer's character in the Hollywood movie *Dangerous Minds*). Some of her most memorable team activities include:

- Egg Drop – students create containers to protect an egg from breaking after being dropped off the roof
- Heat Dance – students select music and choreograph a dance to show the motions and density distributions of molecules while absorbing and losing heat
- Projectile Motion – students design and position a ramp such that a ball bearing will roll down the ramp and land directly in a small cup on the floor


You will even recognize some of her lessons in the pages of *Keep Holding On*.

Inspired by one great junior high science teacher of her own, Colasanti holds a firm belief that great teachers can and will make a difference in kids' lives. She has been especially moved to see some of her own students go on to be incredibly inspired teachers.

With a life mission of reaching out to teens, making them feel less alone, and improving their lives, leaving teaching to become a full-time author was a difficult decision. With the success of her books, Colasanti is realizing a dream by reaching more teens than she ever imagined. She is thrilled by the plethora of emails, Facebook messages, tweets and letters that she receives daily. Nothing makes her happier than being able to interact with readers in-person at events.

Now a full-time author, Susane Colasanti lives in New York City.

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