

Tiffany Shelton
Chimera Press
123 Main Street
Portland, Oregon 97124

Dear Ms. Shelton,

I would like to introduce you to “The Lady Beetle Army”, a middle grade reader of 230 pages.

In flight from her bullying older brother, Celia Madden finds herself lost in a maze of city streets and makes a startling discovery: an underground army of pink lady beetles, massing beneath the streets of London. Led by tart, round Mrs. Pixwell and her scouts, Dapper and Boone, a pair of standard black poodles, the army recruits Celia as a spy. As Celia is drawn into the battle preparations, she is shocked to find out that the target of the attack is her own brother and his gang of mean friends. Torn between family loyalty and a desire for justice, Celia must choose a side in the upcoming war.

The Lady Beetle Army is a romp through the vivid imagination of a young girl as she struggles to navigate a family (and a world) that holds both cruelty and love. It addresses the complicated issue of bullying in an imaginative and adventurous way that will help empower children to stand up for themselves and others.

As a grade school counselor and mother, I am committed to writing books that offer children positive life tools through the use of charming and engaging characters they can relate to. I believe this book would make an excellent resource for teachers, parents and counselors. It will engage young readers ages 8-12, but would also make an excellent family read-aloud for younger children. It will appeal to readers of *The Mysterious Benedict Society* and *Turtle Wexler*.

I have published four children’s picture books, including *Two Oak Trees*, winner of the Moonbeam Children’s Book Award in 2008. I have also published several articles on the problem of bullying in our schools.

Given your commitment to publish “children’s and young adult books that ignite a lifelong love of reading and feature characters that inspire our readers to achieve their full potential”, I believe *The Lady Beetle Army* would be a good fit for Chimera Press.

You can find a synopsis and sample chapters [here](#), and I would be delighted to send you a complete manuscript of *The Lady Beetle Army* upon request.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lucy B. Middleton
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(Kellelynn Riley)