

# HAPPY MARDI GRAS



WRITTEN BY CORNELL P. LANDRY

ILLUSTRATED BY SEAN GAUTREAUX









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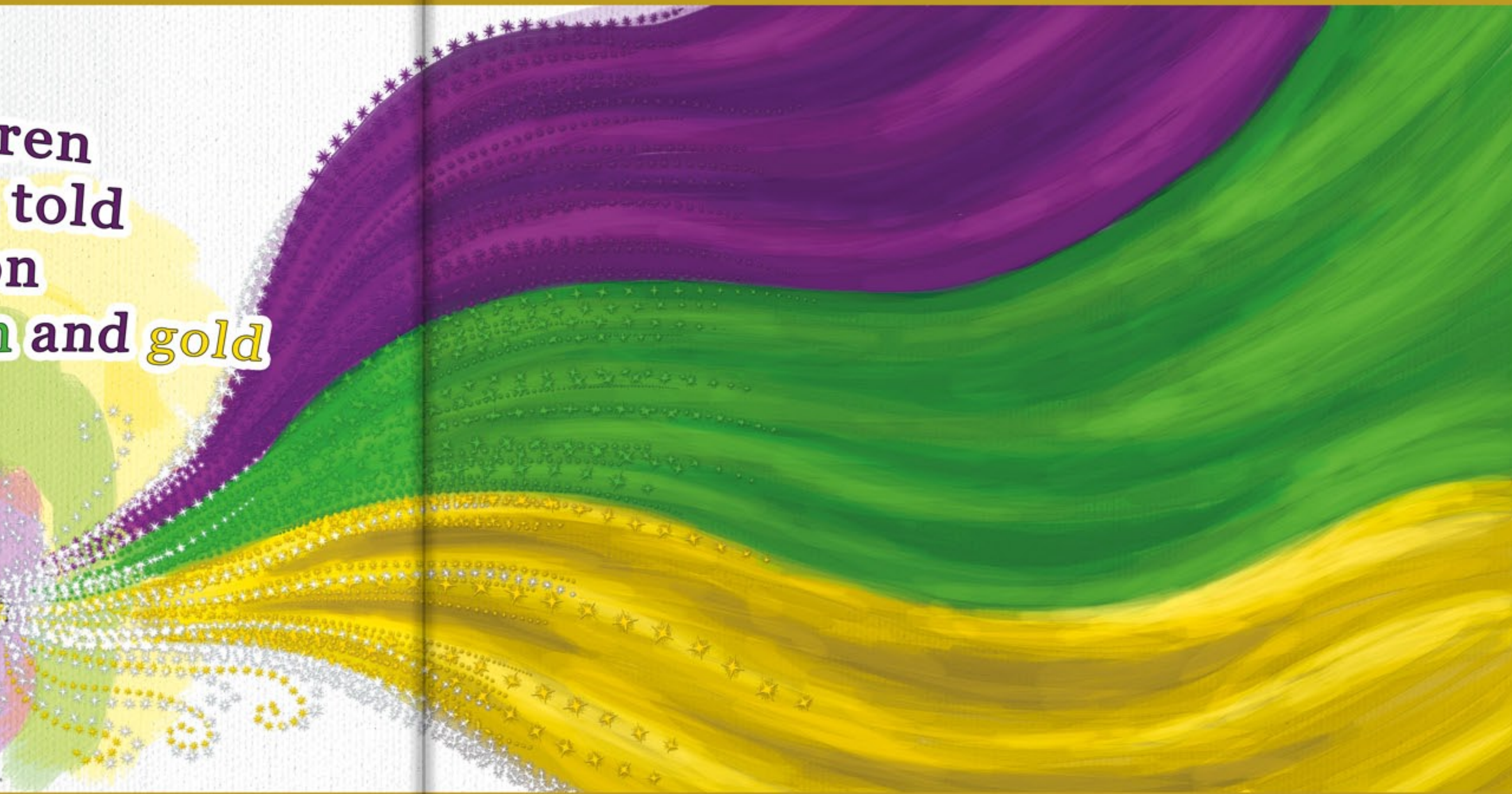
Sean Gautreaux and I have been collaborating since he illustrated my second book, *Happy Jazzfest*. We were at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, for the release of that book, when Sean told me his dream of illustrating a children's Mardi Gras book someday. That night, I went home and wrote the poem *Happy Mardi Gras*, which became the basis for this book. Shortly after writing the poem, Sean and I went from book signing to book signing, and at each signing people would ask "Do you have any plans to do a Mardi Gras book?". We told them that we did have plans to do one, but didn't know when it would be released. To say it got put on the back burner is an understatement. We ended up collaborating on three more books (*One Dat Two Dat are You Who Dat?*, *Monte the Lion*, and *Le Petit Bonhomme Janvier: The Little January Man*), before we had the chance to begin artwork on *Happy Mardi Gras*. This book is now the 5th book that Sean and I have worked on together. In my opinion, this is Sean's best work to date. Prior to meeting Sean, he used his impressive talent to create fabulous works of art for some of the most respected float builders in the New Orleans area. I am very proud that he has now created a fantastic piece of Mardi Gras art for me. For that reason, I am dedicating this book to him. I am proud to call him my friend. GREAT JOB, SEAN!

First, I need to thank Cornell for believing in me time and time again. I remember him pulling his notepad out of his pocket in the beverage line at Jazz Fest and showing me the script the very next day. And that is where this book began. Well, it's finally here and I have to say that I am surprised at how well it turned out. After moving back to NOLA in 2004, I took some good advice from Arthur Hardy and worked my way into the Mardi Gras industry. I began by painting Endymion floats during crunch time, but in the end it was rewarding. One of my goals in life has always been to have 1 million people see my work. Endymion draws that size of crowd. After learning a lot from people like Joe Ory, Jordan Ivanov and Richard Valadie, I worked my way up to painting some of the finest parades in Carnival, like Krewe D'Etat and Proteus. During the 2010 post-Mardi Gras season hiatus, I answered an online post requesting an illustrator for a book. After a meeting with Cornell at his Kingfish Grill and realizing I had two weeks to illustrate his book, the challenge was on and here we are. The style goal for this book was to illustrate it just as I would if I were painting a float, with canvas, paint, brushstrokes and all. Illustrating books has become even more rewarding in terms of personal goals. When I compare spending a week painting a float, only to have it enjoyed for three hours on a parade route, with spending time on a book that is reproduced by the thousands and enjoyed for years to come, there is a huge difference. Moreover, hearing some of the amazing feedback that we receive from kids and parents alike makes it all worthwhile. Let's keep 'em rolling, Cornell!





Listen my children  
And you will be told  
About a tradition  
Of purple, green and gold





It began years ago  
In the country of France  
Now we take to the streets  
To parade and to dance







Other cities do it  
But not quite like us  
You must come to New Orleans  
To see what's the fuss







Carnival starts  
On the Feast of Kings  
Let's take a look  
At what Mardi Gras brings







We take to the streets  
We make no excuses  
We go to parades  
Named for Greek gods and muses







Flambeaus light the way  
In front of the bands  
Then floats make a pass  
In front of grand stands





Parade routes are lined  
With kids upon ladders  
It's fun for the family  
And that's all that matters







So, Mom, Dad,  
Brother, and Sister  
Yell to the floats  
"THROW ME SOMETHING, MISTER"





Wave to King Zulu  
As he passes so grand  
Beg for a coconut  
To be dropped in your hand





When doubloons hit the ground  
People fall to their feet  
To pick up those coins  
Right off the street







To collect them all up  
Is no tiny measure  
It's Mardi Gras money  
They're a coveted treasure







Fat Tuesday ends  
At the stroke of midnight  
No more parades  
No floats in sight





No more balls  
No more bashes  
Wednesday is for Church  
To mark foreheads with ashes







We had lots of fun  
Now it's time to repent  
So we're forced to eat seafood  
Every Friday during Lent





40 days they shall pass  
It's the beginning of Spring  
Now it's time to see  
What the Easter Bunny brings!





So this ends the story  
Of Carnival time  
I hope you enjoyed  
This Mardi Gras rhyme





**HAPPY MARDI**

**SEE YOU**

**TWELFTH**

**GRAS TO ALL!**

**ALL NEXT**

**NIGHT!**



# **HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS IN THE NEW ORLEANS AREA**

**BY RAPHAEL MONZON**

**MARDI GRAS (FAT TUESDAY) IS THE END OF THE CARNIVAL SEASON WHICH STARTS WITH TWELFTH NIGHT (KING'S DAY - JANUARY 6TH. )**

**1699. FRENCH EXPLORER IBERVILLE NAMED POINT DU MARDI GRAS AFTER A FRENCH HOLIDAY.**

**1700s MASKED DANCES (BALLS) WERE HELD IN NEW ORLEANS.**

**1857. MEMBERS OF A MOBILE NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATING CLUB CALLED THE COWBELLIANs CAME TO NEW ORLEANS TO ORGANIZE THE FIRST MARDI GRAS CELEBRATING CLUB CALLED MYSTICK KREWE OF COMUS.**

**COMUS'S KREWE (CLUB) HELPED RETURN MARDI GRAS TO A GRAND AND SAFE CELEBRATION.**

**EARLY 1860s. MARDI GRAS CANCELED DUE TO THE CIVIL WAR.**

**1870. TWELFTH NIGHT REVELERS WAS FORMED.**

**1871. MARDI GRAS KING CAKE WAS INTRODUCED BY TWELFTH NIGHT REVELERS USING A GOLDEN BEAN INSTEAD OF A KING CAKE BABY.**

**1872. REX WAS FORMED TO CELEBRATE THE VISIT OF THE RUSSIAN GRAND DUKE ALEXIS. THE SONG "IF EVER I CEASE TO LOVE" WAS USED IN THE MARDI GRAS CELEBRATIONS, AND REX INTRODUCED PURPLE, GREEN AND GOLD TO MARDI GRAS.**

**1872 - 1899. MOMUS, PROTEUS, JEFFERSON CITY BUZZARDS, ORIGINAL ILLINOIS CLUB WERE FORMED.**

**1875. MARDI GRAS CANCELED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.**

**1892. REX GAVE MEANING TO THE MARDI GRAS COLORS.**

**1909. ZULU WAS INTRODUCED TO MARDI GRAS.**

**1918 - 1919 MARDI GRAS WAS CANCELED DUE TO WORLD WAR I.**

**1920 - 1930s MARDI GRAS BEADS WERE INTRODUCED TO MARDI GRAS.**

**MED 1940s. WORLD WAR II CANCELED MARDI GRAS.**

**1949. LOUIS ARMSTRONG WAS KING ZULU.**

**EARLY 1950s. KOREAN WAR CANCELED MARDI GRAS.**

**1960. H ALVIN SHARP AND REX INTRODUCED THE MODERN DAY DOUBLOON TO MARDI GRAS.**

**1967 KREWE OF ENDYMION AND 1969 BACCHUS - THE BIRTH OF NEW ORLEANS SUPER KREWES.**

**1979. MARDI GRAS CANCELED DUE TO POLICE STRIKE**

**1990s. MOMUS AND COMUS STOP PARADING, BUT CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE CARNIVAL WITH THEIR BALLS.**

**2009. MARDI GRAS FLOATS ARE USED TO CELEBRATE THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUPERBOWL WIN.**



***FUTURE DATES OF MARDI GRAS:***

***FEBRUARY 21, 2012***

***FEBRUARY 12, 2013***

***MARCH 4, 2014***

***FEBRUARY 17, 2015***

***FEBRUARY 9, 2016***

***FEBRUARY 28, 2017***

***FEBRUARY 13, 2018***

***MARCH 5, 2019***

***FEBRUARY 25, 2020***

***FEBRUARY 16, 2021***

***MARCH 1, 2022***

***FEBRUARY 21, 2023***

***FEBRUARY 13, 2024***

***MARCH 4, 2025***

***FEBRUARY 17, 2026***

***FEBRUARY 9, 2027***

***FEBRUARY 29, 2028***

***FEBRUARY 13, 2029***

***MARCH 5, 2030***

***FEBRUARY 25, 2031***

***FEBRUARY 10, 2032***

***MARCH 1, 2033***

***FEBRUARY 21, 2034***

***FEBRUARY 6, 2035***

***FEBRUARY 26, 2036***

***FEBRUARY 17, 2037***

***MARCH 9, 2038***

***FEBRUARY 22, 2039***

***FEBRUARY 14, 2040***

***MARCH 5, 2041***

***FEBRUARY 18, 2042***

***FEBRUARY 10, 2043***

***MARCH 1, 2044***

***FEBRUARY 21, 2045***

***FEBRUARY 6, 2046***

***FEBRUARY 26, 2047***

***FEBRUARY 18, 2048***

***MARCH 2, 2049***

***FEBRUARY 22, 2050***

***FEBRUARY 14, 2051***







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