

Candlewick Press to publish the inspiring true story of basketball phenom TACKO FALL and his journey from West Africa to the NBA.

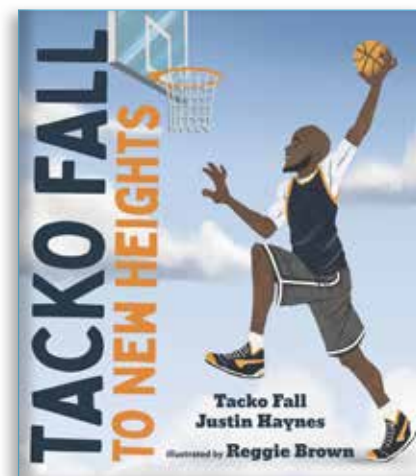
TACKO FALL TO NEW HEIGHTS

Tacko Fall & Justin Haynes
illustrated by **Reggie Brown**

Coming in September 2022, this picture book will inspire young people to dream and *do*.

Tacko Fall was always tall, even as a child, but he wasn't always a slam-dunk star. On his first official day of training as a boy in Senegal, running up and down the basketball court was exhausting. The first time he tried weight-lifting, he could barely lift the bar, even with no weights on it! The game had many rules that he didn't understand, but Tacko set aside frustration and found the courage to keep working. The more he practiced, the more his skills grew, and the more reachable his goals became. Touching on immigration, determination, hard work, and the long road to success, this picture-book biography of one rising NBA star will delight his many fans and introduce him to new ones.

Coauthored with his sports agent and paired with engaging illustrations by acclaimed artist Reggie Brown, Tacko Fall's relatable story will motivate readers to overcome obstacles and aim high—and higher still.



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\$17.99 (\$23.99 CAN)

Ages 5–8 • 32 pages

Also available as an e-book

**CANDLEWICK
ENTERTAINMENT**



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About the Creators



PHOTO BY BDA SPORTS + WME SPORTS

TACKO FALL emigrated from Senegal as a teenager to play basketball and rose to prominence when he was selected by the Boston Celtics and became a seven-foot-six ball-playing sensation. He has played for the Boston Celtics and the Cleveland Cavaliers and lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

“As a kid I was blessed to have a family and support system that instilled in me values of hard work, self-belief, and dedication that were fundamental to me achieving my dream of making it to the NBA, and impactful on my desire to become an author. It’s very special to make my debut, and I’m so excited to share our story, which hopefully inspires kids to believe in themselves, have courage, work hard, and dream big.”



JUSTIN HAYNES is a sports agent at BDA Sports Management, where he represents Tacko Fall and other players. He lives in New Jersey.

“I have so much respect and admiration for Tacko’s journey. As a father of three children, I wanted my daughters to learn about Tacko’s story so they could be inspired by all he overcame to achieve his dreams. I’m so proud to be a part of bringing Tacko’s story to life and to be a part of telling his story to children all around the world.”



PHOTO BY MARK LIN

REGGIE BROWN is the illustrator of several books for children, including the Magnificent Makers series by Theanne Griffith, *Santa in the City* by Tiffany D. Jackson, and *Baseball Baby* and *Soccer Baby* by Laura Gehl. He lives in San Diego.

“Illustrating Tacko’s journey from Africa to the NBA was wonderfully exciting. As an illustrator, I’m always drawn to new, genuine, and vibrant stories, and Tacko’s life is all of those. I couldn’t wait to illustrate his story.”

