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## **Family, Friendship, and a Devastating Diagnosis:**

*Critically acclaimed author Linda Vigen Phillips uses fiction told in verse to shed light on struggling teens*

**New Orleans, LA, June 13, 2018**—Critically acclaimed author Linda Vigen Phillips takes her highly anticipated YA novel in verse, *Behind These Hands*, to ALA.

During the conference, Phillips will be signing free copies of her “**richly woven, unforgettable symphony of feelings and words**” (*Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review*). *Behind These Hands* is scheduled for release July 17, 2018 and is available now for pre-order.

In *Behind These Hands*, Phillips tells the story of piano prodigy Claire Fairchild, 14, who has always known music would be her life. So when she has the opportunity to enter a prestigious contest, she goes all in. But when Claire and her family receive the devastating news that her younger brothers have been diagnosed with fatal Batten disease, her world enters a tailspin.

*Behind These Hands* has been praised by *Foreword Reviews* as “a compelling story in whose heroine other struggling teens might see themselves.” And *Booklist* promises “this affecting portrait of a family in crisis will win hearts.”

Phillips finds passion in creating realistic fiction told in verse, to offer hope to teens and their families who face mental or physical health challenges. When she isn't writing, she is often advocating for better mental health through her involvement with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Find Phillips for signings on Saturday from 11:15am–12:15pm and on Sunday from 1:30pm–2:30pm at the Light Messages booth, #3549.

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**About Light Messages Publishing:** Light Messages Publishing, founded in 1998, is a family-run, general trade publisher located in Durham, North Carolina. We pride ourselves in bringing to light meaningful books by emerging and award-winning authors. For more information about Light Messages Publishing and its services, please visit [lightmessages.com](http://lightmessages.com).