

PERFECTLY BROKEN

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Picture Book (Ages 3-6)

Twitter (234)	A colorful crash sends Kira, a handcrafted bowl and perfectionist, into pieces. She hides the damage until one day she just falls apart. With a little help from her friends and the ancient art of kintsugi, she learns perfection can take many forms. #PBpitch
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[Art note: home is set in Japan]

Kira had no chips, no cracks, and no stains. She wanted everything and everyone just as spotless.

[Art note: Kira is a handcrafted bowl]

Bun was chipped, cracked, and stained all over. She wanted to paint a masterpiece.

[Art note: Bun is a paintbrush]

Just before sunrise, Kira used her checklist to make sure everyone and everything was perfectly in place.

The bonsai trees. “Perfect!”

The spools of thread. “Perfect!”

The napkins. “Perfect!”

Bun was always last and always a mess. “Not quite perfect,” Kira said with a sigh.

Under Kira’s watchful eye, everything and everyone stayed perfect—well, almost everyone.

Until Bun explored a new painting style.

[Art note: imagine a splash effect where you throw paint at the canvas]

Colors flew everywhere.

On the bonsai!

On the spools of thread!

On the napkins!

“Oh no!” Kira shouted as she tried to catch the colors.

She dashed.

She dove.

She scrambled.

She...

slipped! CRASH!

[Art note: Kira broken into several pieces, covered in paint.]

“Oh no! I’m chipped, cracked, and stained all over,” Kira cried.

“It’s not as bad as it looks,” said the bonsai trees.

“I can patch you up,” offered a spool of thread.

“I can cover you up,” said a napkin.

“You can be in three places at once!” said Bun.

“But I don’t want there to be three of me,” Kira said. “I want to be perfect.”

Bun’s heart sank.

“Maybe I can hide the cracks,” Kira whispered to herself as she pulled herself together.

It was hard, but at first, her plan worked.

She kept the rice milk from dripping through her cracks at breakfast.

She struggled holding the hot curry, but she kept it together.

She shivered as she kept the green tea ice cream inside.

Until one day, she fell apart.

“I’ll never be the same again,” she said, her voice shaking.

A small chopstick heard her and said, “I’m broken too. Now I fit little hands instead of big ones.”

The bonsai trees showed their branches. “We’ve got cracks of our own.”

Bun twirled for her and said, “Look at me, I’m every color there is!”

Kira teared up. She wasn’t the same anymore.

Behind her, a thick book said deeply, “kintsugi.” as it slowly rolled its pages open.

Kira read the glimmering text and had an idea.

“What if we turn each crack into a piece of art?” she asked.

They mixed some glue.

They sprinkled in some gold.

The gently filled each and every crack

with the shimmering golden paste.

And in the morning, just as the sun began to rise, Kira set her checklist aside and settled in perfectly next to her friend.

“What do you think?” asked Bun.

“I’m not the same,” said Kira. “But, I’m just as perfect.”

-THE END

Back Matter

Kintsugi is a Japanese art form all about taking something broken and making it even more beautiful. How cool is that? Instead of hiding the cracks and imperfections, kintsugi embraces them by highlighting them with gold or other metallic materials. The idea is that the object becomes even more unique and special because of its history and its "scar." Can you imagine a shattered vase transformed into a stunning work of art? That's kintsugi! It's not just about the physical repair, though. It's also about celebrating flaws and finding beauty in imperfection. So the next time something of yours breaks, don't just throw it away. Give kintsugi a try and turn that flaw into something beautiful.