



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

JILLIAN TAMAKI

Japanese and Egyptian Canadian

Illustrator and Author

CALDECOTT Honor Book (2015)

Born: April 17, 1980 (Ottawa, Ontario)

Jillian had a hard time growing up as the only mixed-heritage child in her school. Her father is Japanese Canadian and her mother is Egyptian American. She used that experience alongside her interest in the female experience to create diverse characters for her readers. With her cousin Mariko Tamaki, Jillian co-created a graphic novel about the awkwardness of youth and won the Caldecott Honor Book and Governor General's awards for *This One Summer* (2014). She grew up reading Archie comics and newspaper strips as a child.