



A Peyton and Chance Chapter Book

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

Peyton's Pages of Possibility
A New Year of Possibilities

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Dedication

For every child who has ever stood at the beginning of a
new year and wondered,

**“What could I become? What could I try? What could
I change?”**

May you always remember that a new year does not
require a brand-new you.

It only asks you to notice the possibilities already waiting
inside you

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A Time to Reflect and Plan

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Chapter 1

The First Page



Peyton stared at the blank page in her journal.

January 4, 2027.

A new year.

A new page.

A new grade-level hallway.

Well... not a new grade. She was still in third grade, and Mrs. Kennedy was still her teacher. But January always felt like a tiny doorway. You could stand on one side and look back. Or you could step through and see what might happen next.

Chance, her orange-and-white cat, was sitting beside her notebook like he was waiting for instructions.

"You're staring at that page awfully seriously," Lucy said from the doorway.

Lucy was a teenager, which meant she was very good at noticing things while pretending not to.

"I need a goal," Peyton said.

"A goal?"

"For the new year."

Lucy smiled. "Maybe don't make it something huge. Pick something you can actually grow into."

The next morning, Peyton walked into Room 3B with that sentence still in her mind.

Mrs. Kennedy stood at the front with a globe.

"Welcome to 2027," she said. "This month we're going to explore a question: How do people around the world welcome a new year?"

Peyton's eyes widened.

Around the world?

She looked at the blank page in her journal.

Maybe her first possibility had just arrived.

Chapter 2

A World of New Years



Mrs. Kennedy spread maps across the tables.

“New Year's celebrations are not the same everywhere,” she explained. “Different places have different foods, sounds, traditions, and hopes for the year ahead.”

The class would research a country, record a tradition, locate the country on a map, and teach the class something they learned.

Peyton worked with Mateo.

They discovered that in Spain, many people traditionally eat twelve grapes at midnight—one for each chime of the clock and each month of the coming year.

“Twelve grapes,” Mateo said. “I think I could handle that.”

Peyton laughed. “I think you'd eat all twelve before midnight.”

At another table, classmates researched traditions in the Philippines, where making noise is associated with welcoming the new year.

Soon the room buzzed with discoveries.

Peyton wrote in her journal:

Maybe traditions are like stories. They tell us what people value, hope for, and remember.

That afternoon, she told Chance about the project.

Chance blinked.

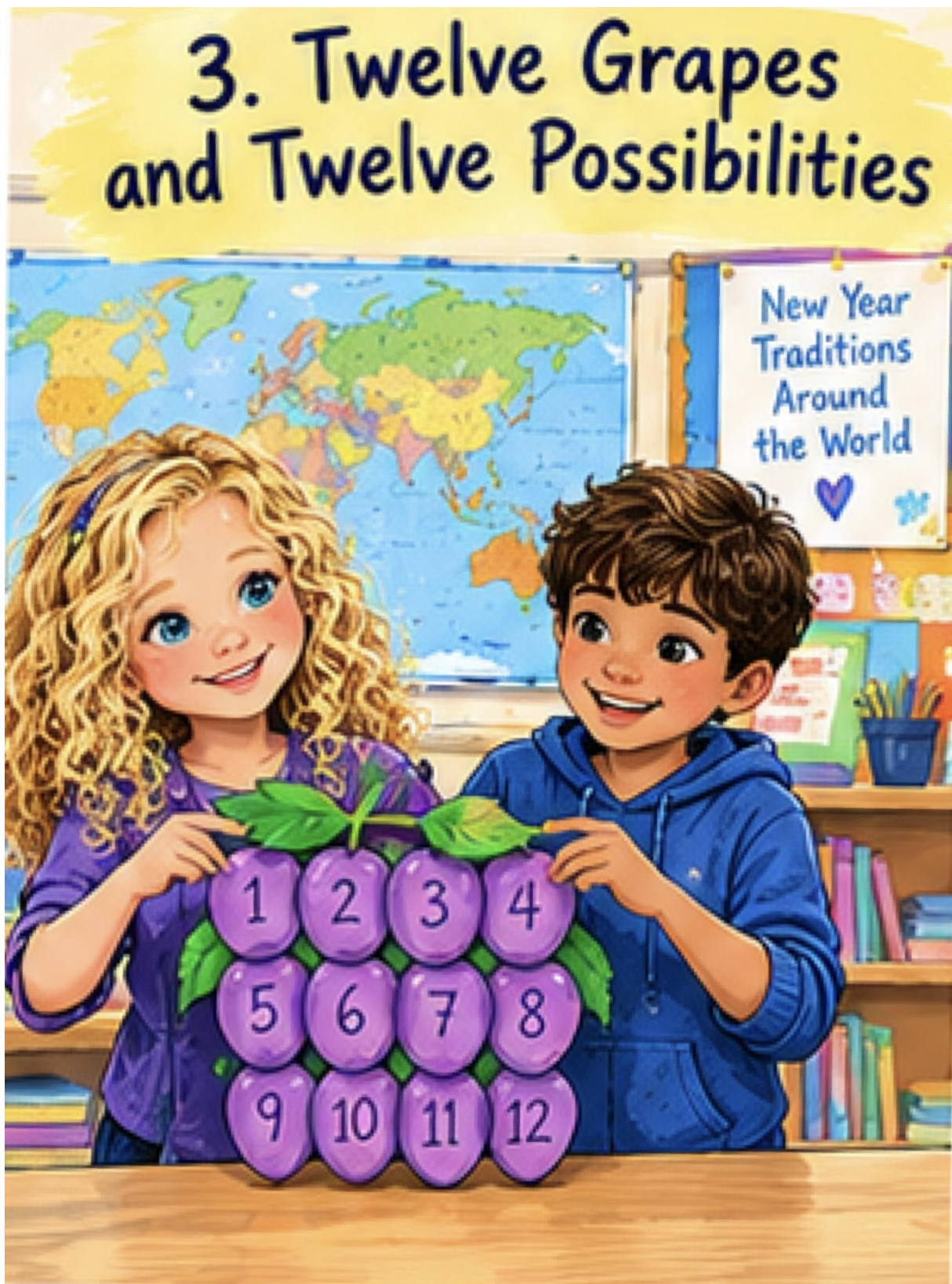
“I know,” Peyton said. “You probably think every country should celebrate with tuna.”

Chance purred.

"I'll take that as a yes."

Chapter 3

Twelve Grapes and Twelve Possibilities



Peyton's group presented Spain.

She held up twelve paper grapes.

“One grape can represent each month,” she explained. “It made me wonder—what if I had twelve possibilities for the year?”

She began writing.

Read more.

Be kinder to myself.

Try something hard.

Help someone.

Spend less time worrying.

Write more.

Learn something new.

Listen better.

Be brave.

Take care of my things.

Notice good moments.

And...

She stopped.

“What?” Mateo asked.

“I don't know the last one yet.”

Mrs. Kennedy smiled. “A goal doesn't have to arrive fully formed.”

That sentence stayed with Peyton.

At home, Dylan was building a tower from blocks.

“Peyton! Look!”

His tower collapsed.

He frowned.

“It's okay,” Peyton said. “You can try again.”

Dylan looked at her. “That's a goal?”

“Maybe.”

That night, Peyton wrote:

Sometimes a possibility is not something you plan. Sometimes it is something you practice

Chapter 4

Chance Has a Plan



Chance had a strange habit.

Whenever Peyton worked at her desk, he wanted to sit directly on whatever she was writing.

That afternoon, he stepped onto her journal.

“Chance!”

He looked innocent.

“You are not helping.”

He sat down.

Peyton sighed and moved her journal.

Then she noticed something.

Chance had left one tiny paw print beside her list.

She laughed.

“Okay. Maybe you can help.”

Peyton made a “Chance's Possibility List.”

1. Explore.
2. Be curious.
3. Don't give up on a cardboard box.
4. Take naps.

She showed it to Lucy.

“That last one is very on-brand,” Lucy said.

Peyton realized something important: Chance never seemed embarrassed when something didn't work. If a box collapsed, he

investigated. If a toy rolled under the couch, he found another way to reach it.

Maybe goals weren't supposed to be perfect.

Maybe they were supposed to help you keep moving.

Chapter 5

The Map on the Wall



By Friday, the classroom map was covered with colorful notes.

Spain.

The Philippines.

Scotland.

Japan.

Brazil.

South Africa.

Denmark.

And many more.

Each group had added a tradition and a hope.

Mrs. Kennedy asked, "What do you notice?"

Peyton raised her hand.

"People celebrate differently, but a lot of traditions are about the same things—family, hope, good luck, friendship, or starting fresh."

Mrs. Kennedy nodded.

Peyton looked at the map.

The world suddenly felt both enormous and connected.

That evening, she told her family about it over dinner.

Dylan asked, "Do they all make resolutions?"

"Not exactly," Peyton said.

Lucy said, "Maybe the bigger idea is that people everywhere find ways to mark a beginning."

Peyton wrote that down.

She was beginning to understand that January wasn't really about becoming a different person.

It was about paying attention to the person you wanted to keep becoming.

Chapter 6

A Sky Full of Salt



Mrs. Kennedy announced the next project.

“Today we're making fireworks.”

The class cheered.

“On paper,” she added.

They drew dark night skies. Then they used glue to create firework bursts—curving lines, spirals, stars, and exploding patterns.

Next came salt.

They sprinkled it over the glue and gently shook off the extra.

Finally, they touched watercolor to the salt.

The colors traveled along the glue lines.

Peyton stared.

“It looks like the paint is moving!”

Mrs. Kennedy explained that the salt absorbed water, helping the watercolor spread along the raised glue-and-salt lines.

Science and art had become fireworks on paper.

Peyton painted one huge burst in the center.

Inside it, she wrote one word:

GROW.

At the bottom she wrote:

A goal can be colorful.

A goal can change shape.

A goal can begin small.

She carried her picture home carefully.

Chance sniffed it.

“No,” Peyton said. “Definitely no paw prints this time.”

Chapter 7

When Goals Go Sideways



The following week, Peyton's goal suddenly felt much harder.

She had decided she would read every night.

But one night she had homework.

Another night Dylan needed help.

One night she was tired.

By Thursday, she had missed three nights.

"I failed," Peyton told Mrs. Kennedy.

Mrs. Kennedy shook her head.

"You didn't fail. You learned something."

"What?"

"That your first plan didn't fit your real life."

Peyton frowned.

"So I change the plan?"

"Exactly."

Peyton thought about the world map.

Different places had different traditions.

Maybe different people needed different ways to reach a goal, too.

She revised her goal:

I will read for at least fifteen minutes on four nights each week.

That felt possible.

That afternoon, Peyton wrote:

Flexibility isn't giving up.

Sometimes flexibility is how you keep going.

Chapter 8

The Possibility Jar



Mrs. Kennedy placed a large empty jar on the classroom shelf.

"This is our Possibility Jar," she announced.

Whenever someone noticed a small success, they could write it on a slip of paper.

I helped someone.

I tried again.

I asked a question.

I read a new book.

I included someone.

I fixed a mistake.

I was brave.

Soon the jar filled.

Peyton loved reading the slips.

One said, I finally understood fractions.

Another said, I invited someone to play.

Another said, I kept practicing even though I wanted to quit.

Peyton added her own.

I changed my goal instead of giving up.

That night, she told Lucy about the jar.

"I like that," Lucy said. "People usually celebrate the finish line. But the little steps are the story."

Peyton smiled.

Maybe that was what she wanted her journal to remember most.

Chapter 9

A Goal Worth Growing



Peyton finally chose her big goal.

She wanted to become a stronger writer.

Not because Mrs. Kennedy told her to.

Not because she wanted the best paper.

Because she loved making ideas come alive.

Her plan was simple.

Write in her journal three times a week.

Read books that inspired her.

Ask for feedback.

Revise instead of erasing everything.

And keep a list of ideas.

She showed Mrs. Kennedy.

"This is a strong goal," her teacher said. "But remember: growth isn't always visible right away."

Peyton thought about the salt painting.

The watercolor had traveled slowly along the salt.

Maybe growth did too.

At home, she wrote a story about a cat who believed every cardboard box was a portal to another world.

Chance jumped onto the page.

Peyton laughed.

"Fine. You can be the main character."

Chapter 10

One Small Step



January seemed to be moving faster.

Peyton's class had learned about traditions, mapped the world, painted fireworks, and filled the Possibility Jar.

But Peyton still worried about her goal.

“What if I don't become a better writer?” she asked Mateo.

Mateo shrugged. “Then you'll keep writing.”

It was such a simple answer.

Peyton realized she had been treating her goal like a test she had to pass.

Instead, she could treat it like a path.

One step.

Then another.

That night, she opened her journal.

She wrote one paragraph.

Then she revised it.

Then she wrote another.

Chance curled beside her.

Peyton whispered, “One small step.”

Chance purred.

It sounded almost like he agreed.

Chapter 11

The Firework Night



At the end of the month, Mrs. Kennedy displayed the class salt paintings.

The room looked like a midnight sky full of possibility.

Peyton's painting hung in the center.

GROW.

Parents and families came to see the artwork.

Dylan pointed at Peyton's.

"That's yours!"

Lucy stood beside him.

"I love it," she said.

Peyton looked around the room.

Every painting was different.

Some had giant fireworks.

Some had tiny ones.

Some had stars.

Some had swirls.

None were exactly the same.

Mrs. Kennedy gathered the class.

"Tell me one thing you learned this month."

Peyton raised her hand.

"New beginnings don't have to be big."

She looked at her classmates.

“They can be one small choice. And then another.”

Mrs. Kennedy smiled.

Peyton glanced at the Possibility Jar.

It was almost full.

Chapter 12

The Next Page



On the last Friday of January, Peyton opened her journal.

She wrote:

January taught me that the world is full of different ways to begin.

Some people eat grapes.

Some make noise.

Some gather with family.

Some celebrate quietly.

But everyone can hope.

Everyone can learn.

Everyone can choose a next step.

Chance climbed into her lap.

Peyton smiled.

"I think I know what the next page says."

She wrote:

My possibility is not to be perfect.

My possibility is to keep growing.

Then she closed her journal.

Dylan was calling from downstairs.

Lucy was laughing.

Chance was purring.

And somewhere inside Peyton, a tiny new idea was already beginning.

Not a resolution.

Not a promise that everything would be easy.

A possibility.

And that was enough.

THE END.

A Message from Peyton & Chance

Hi, friends!

If you are reading this at the beginning of a new year, remember something: you do not have to become a completely different person. You can simply choose one little thing you want to learn, practice, notice, or improve.

Maybe your possibility is reading more. Maybe it is being kinder. Maybe it is trying something that feels hard. Maybe it is asking for help. And if your first plan doesn't work, that's okay. You can change it and try again.

Chance says the best goals include snacks and naps. I told him that is not exactly how goal-setting works.

Keep wondering. Keep trying. Keep growing.

Love,

Peyton & Chance



Peyton and Chance

A time to reflect...
a time to plan...



Grades:
K-5



♥ What was the best thing that happened to you last year?



Is there anything you would change or do differently?



Think of at least one "hope" or "wish" that you have for the New Year. ♥



What will you do to have a successful year? ♥



♥ New Year... More Possibilities! ♥



About the Author

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci is an educator, author, and creator who believes that learning begins with connection, curiosity, and kindness.

With nearly three decades of experience in education, Jennifer has worked as a classroom teacher, elementary school principal, and instructional leader. She holds a Master's degree in School Leadership and is certified in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Throughout her career, Jennifer has seen the power of helping children feel valued, heard, and capable. She believes that when children know they matter, they are more willing to learn, take risks, and discover their own possibilities.

Jennifer created the **Peyton's Pages of Possibility** series to inspire children to believe in themselves, embrace kindness, and recognize that everyday moments can become meaningful stories.

Through Peyton's adventures, young readers discover that:

- their ideas matter,
- their kindness makes a difference,
- their curiosity can lead them to amazing discoveries,
- and every child has the ability to create positive change.

Jennifer is also the author of **Educate the Heart: Screen-Free Activities to Inspire Authentic Learning**, a resource designed to encourage meaningful connections, creativity, and authentic learning experiences for children.

When she is not writing, Jennifer enjoys teaching, spending time with her family, exploring new places, reading, and finding inspiration in the everyday moments that remind us all that life is full of possibilities.

She hopes every child who reads Peyton's stories remembers:

“You are capable.

You are important.

You have a story to tell.

And every day is a new page of possibility.”



Connect With Jennifer

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