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# CELEBRATING NEAL PORTER BOOKS

When I think about Roaring Brook, many of the books that come to mind have a second imprint on the title page—that of Neal Porter Books: *DOG AND BEAR*, *ACTION JACKSON*, *POLO*, *BAD KITTY*, *EMIL AND KARL*.... These books are so much a part of who we are that it's impossible to imagine an us without them.

Neal and I began working together when the company—not yet named—was just an exciting idea. Since then, Neal Porter Books have made a defining contribution. So this season we're celebrating Neal and inviting you to get to know him.

Simon Boughton, *Publisher*



## You've published such a wide variety of books. How do you pick 'em?

Kind of selfishly. I pick projects that challenge and excite me. I've always loved words and language, but I'm also a frustrated artist. I can still remember the note from my elementary school art teacher on my report card: "Not one of my better students, but at least he tries..." Of course, working on picture books allows me to satisfy both of my passions.

## You have published several ABC books at Roaring Brook, and have a couple of more signed up. Tell us about this alphabet thing...

I have a jones for typography and letterforms; I collect the latter; my apartment is littered with them. For me there's nothing more beautiful than letters; think what you can make with them!

## No, no, go deeper. What is it about the ABCs?

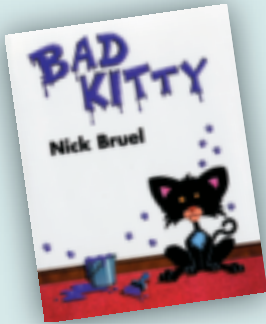
I see the alphabet book as a platform for exploring other things. An

example of this is Laura Vaccaro Seeger's *THE HIDDEN ALPHABET*: yes, it contains words that begin with each letter of the alphabet, but it's also about the concept of negative space—the image completely changes once one lifts the die-cut flap. Another is Nick Bruel's *BAD KITTY*, which takes the reader through the alphabet four times as it depicts the actions of one very petulant cat. Two others I published elsewhere: Robert Sabuda's *THE CHRISTMAS ALPHABET* and David Pelletier's *THE GRAPHIC ALPHABET*. I do worry that I'm getting stuck in a rut—and figured my last alphabet book would be *THE ALPHABET OF ALPHABETS*, which is about 26 written languages from Arabic to Zapotec and will be published in '09. However, I've since signed up two more!

## How about your interest in international publishing? Tell us about that.

I got that, first, from working with Margaret McElderry and then from my two years at Walker in the UK. I'm continually fascinated by why certain books from other cultures succeed brilliantly here, and others don't.





### Favorite book from abroad?

THE BOY, THE BEAR, THE BARON, THE BARD

**Talk about your history—in publishing at least. Did you always know it was going to be children's books?**

Not at all. I graduated college with degrees in theater, history, and journalism. But I needed a job, and through a friend landed an assistant's position in a college textbook department. It took me about three days to realize I disliked textbook publishing (too rigid) and about six months to get out. Two jobs later, I accepted a position in library marketing at Farrar, Straus without realizing that I'd be marketing children's books! I'd like to think that my early years in marketing inform my publishing decisions today.

### Biggest challenge?

Presenting at my first sales conference. I was completely terrified, tied to a script, and garbled everything. My knees were literally knocking against each other under the table. But once I threw away the script, I was fine, and really enjoyed it.

### Easiest book ever?

Two come to mind: Laura Seeger's *DOG AND BEAR* came together extra-ordinarily quickly. I'd really wanted her to do a narrative story book, and once we had the characters nailed, the stories simply flowed out of her. The second *DOG AND BEAR* book comes out this season, and we've started work on the third. The second just happened a couple of weeks ago. Ed Briant came to see me with an idea for a wordless picture book in graphic form with an ecological theme. I made some suggestions, and he sent me a PDF yesterday. He'd absolutely nailed it! It will come out in '09 and is called *IF YOU LIVED HERE YOU'D BE HOME NOW*.

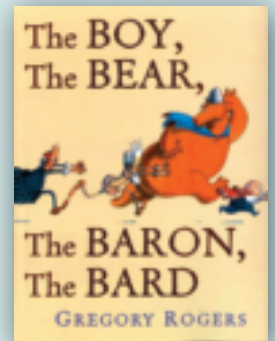
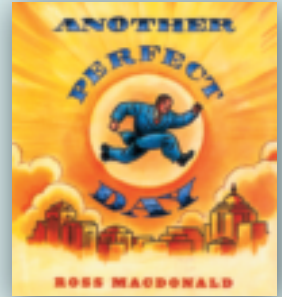
### Favorite books from your own childhood and adolescence:

Off the top of my head: *THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH*, *NARNIA*, and *A WRINKLE IN TIME*. I was given a copy of the latter the year it won the Newbery and must have read it 50 times. Years later I worked with Madeleine L'Engle at Farrar, Straus, and she kindly signed that copy, just below my childish scrawl.

### What are you reading now?

HARRY POTTER. Isn't everybody?

*(interview continued on page 4)*



(interview continued from page 3)

**We know you love the theater. Over the years, what have been your most memorable theater experiences? One or two.**

When I was in high school in Philadelphia, a friend and I took dates to New York to see the original production of Stephen Sondheim’s FOLLIES during the first week of its run. The dates were bored silly, but I was mesmerized. There’s a moment near the end when a character goes up on his lines intentionally, and I literally fell out of my seat. Brilliant, tragic, and beautiful. Sirs John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson in Harold Pinter’s NO MAN’S LAND.

**QUICKIES:**

**Favorite color?**

BLUE. DEFINITELY BLUE.

**Favorite ice cream flavor?**

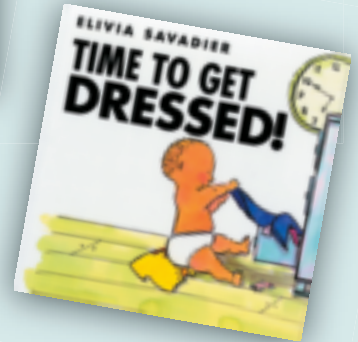
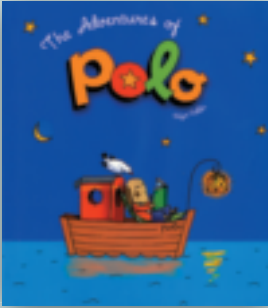
A toss-up: pistachio and mocha chip.

**Favorite kind of music?**

Eclectic. Everything from Steve Reich to Broadway show tunes to Ravel to Susanne Vega.

**Favorite TWO movies of all time?**

Terry Gilliam’s BRAZIL; Bertolucci’s THE CONFORMIST.



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# WILL SHEILA SHARE?

Written and illustrated by **ELIVIA SAVADIER**

**No, Sheila will not share.**



**SHEILA WON'T! BUT YOU WILL WANT TO SHARE** this charmer with your favorite three, four, or five year old...

Curly-headed, round-bellied little Sheila, sweet in her overalls and t-shirt is not one for sharing, unless you want green beans. It takes a very loved and loving Nana who shares a hug and kiss to change Sheila's ways. Utterly simple, completely disarming, and absolutely true.

As she did in **NO HAIRCUT TODAY** ("pitch perfect language ...and spiky drawings that blend funny and fond."—*The Washington Post*) and **TIME TO GET DRESSED** ("captures the complex relationship between parent and child with both wacky humor and exquisite tenderness."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review), **ELIVIA SAVADIER** proves again that she is a master of economy, able to suggest more in a single line than others do in an entire book. Ms. Savadier lives in Massachusetts.

A NEAL PORTER BOOK

Reinforced binding

2-6 years

9 x 9 inches

24 pages

Territory: World

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Agent: Jane Feder Agency

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# SILENT MUSIC

## A STORY OF BAGHDAD

Written and illustrated by **JAMES RUMFORD**



**WHEN BOMBS BEGIN TO FALL,** Ali drowns out the sounds of war with a pen.

Like other children living in Baghdad, Ali loves soccer, music, and dancing, but most of all, he loves the ancient art of calligraphy. When bombs begin to fall on his city, Ali turns to his pen, writing sweeping and gliding words to the silent music that drowns out the war all around him. Gorgeously illustrated with collage, pencil, charcoal drawings and, of course, exquisite calligraphy, this timely and yet universal story not only celebrates art and history but also offers young children a way to understand all they see and hear on the news.

**JAMES RUMFORD** is the author of *SEQUOYAH*, which won a 2005 Sibert Honor and the Sugarman Award for American Biography. He lives in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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4-8 years

11 x 8 ½ inches

32 pages

Territory: World

Roaring Brook Press: Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, British, Translation, Audio, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Jeff Dwyer/Dwyer & O'Grady

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# DOG AND BEAR: TWO'S COMPANY

Written and illustrated by  
**LAURA VACCARO SEEGER**



Also by **LAURA VACCARO SEEGER**:

## **DOG AND BEAR: TWO FRIENDS, THREE STORIES**

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## **WHAT'S BETTER THAN ONE DOG AND BEAR BOOK? TWO!**

In three new stories, the two dearest of friends celebrate Bear's birthday, have their first falling out, and take care of each other when Dog is under the weather.

### **PRAISE FOR DOG AND BEAR:**

★ Winner, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award

★ "The eye-catching artwork shines with humor and warmth."—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Perfectly paced for new readers, who will love the dose of humor at each story's close."—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "Utterly charming... After turning the last page, young readers will beg [Read to me again!] for this enchanting trio of tales."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "The enduring richness found in Lobel's Frog and Toad tales."—*Horn Book*, starred review

★ "A happy crossover between early readers and read-alouds."—*Kirkus*, starred review

**LAURA VACCARO SEEGER** has raised the bar for simple, surprising, revealing, and satisfying books—bringing concepts, stories, humor, and a new way of looking at the world to younger readers. Ms. Seeger lives on Long Island, New York.

### **A NEAL PORTER BOOK**

Reinforced binding

3-7 years

8 x 10 inches

32 pages

Territory: World

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, British, Translation, Audio, E-book, Electronic versions

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# TWENTY HEARTBEATS

By **DENNIS HASELEY**  
Illustrated by **ED YOUNG**

**A SIMPLE STORY LAYERED WITH MEANING**; stunning layered artwork by an acknowledged master.



A wealthy Chinese man dreamed of a painting of his favorite horse. He sought out a man named Homan, known as a great painter of horses, and commissioned the portrait. Then he waited...and waited...and waited. As the years passed, his hair grew gray, and he grew furious. What was taking so long? Dennis Haseley's simple story about the nature of art and the value of time is subtly amplified in stunning layered collages by Caldecott medalist Ed Young.

**DENNIS HASELEY** has written many books for children, including *THE INVISIBLE MOOSE*, *A STORY FOR BEAR*, and *KITE FLIER*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

**ED YOUNG** has illustrated more than eighty books for children, including the Caldecott winning *LON PO PO* and two Caldecott Honor Books: *SEVEN BLIND MICE* and *THE EMPEROR AND THE KITE*. Born in China, he now lives in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.



**A NEAL PORTER BOOK**

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8 ½ x 11 inches

32 pages

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Agent (Illustrator): Edward Necalsumer/McIntosh & Otis

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\$16.95 (\$19.75 Canada)

# UNCLE BIGFOOT

Written and illustrated by **GEORGE O'CONNOR**



Also by **GEORGE O'CONNOR**:

**SALLY AND THE SOME-THING**

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-141-6

Hardcover ISBN-10: 1-59643-141-5

\$16.95 (\$19.75 Canada)

**WHAT'S TEN FEET TALL**, completely covered in hair, hard to photograph, and has the largest feet in the world? Your uncle!

When a spunky kid meets his long-lost Uncle Bernie, he's positive that his uncle isn't so much a Bernie as he is a **BIGFOOT**. But as he sets out to prove it, he realizes that maybe Bernie's just different, and different can be a very great thing. With its **HUGE** Uncle Bernie fold-out and illustrations filled with hidden jokes and references to other mythological characters, this is sure to make a **BIG** hit with kids.

**GEORGE O'CONNOR** is the author and illustrator of *The New York Times* bestselling book **KAPOW!**, its sequel **KER-SPLASH!**, **SALLY AND THE SOME-THING** (an **IRA-CBC** Children's Choice), and illustrator of the graphic novel, **JOURNEY INTO MOHAWK COUNTRY**. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

**A NEAL PORTER BOOK**

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7 ½ x 11 inches

32 pages with gatefold

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Agent: Roaring Brook Press

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\$15.95 (\$18.50 Canada)

# LITTLE RED BIRD

Written and illustrated by **NICK BRUEL**



**SOMETHING NEW AND UNEXPECTED**  
—sweet and gentle—from the creator of **BAD KITTY** and **POOR PUPPY**.

Sweetly enchanting paintings and a gently rhyming text tell the tale of the little red bird who is quite content in her cage, but curious.... When the cage door is left open, she sees her chance and bravely hops out into the world. It's all so magnificent and thrilling for the little red bird—and for readers. In the end, Nick Bruel leaves both with a question. When the bird sees a familiar house and window and golden cage, will she return to it? Would you?

**NICK BRUEL** is the author and illustrator of **BAD KITTY**, **POOR PUPPY**, **WHO IS MELVIN BUBBLE?**, and **BOING!** He also illustrated his father's story, **BOB AND OTTO**. He lives with his wife Carina in Tarrytown, New York.

A NEAL PORTER BOOK

Jacketed reinforced binding

3-6 years

9 x 9 inches

32 pages

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Agent: Jennie Dunham/Dunham Literary Inc.

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-339-7**

**ISBN-10: 1-59643-339-6**

**\$16.95 (\$19.75 Canada)**

Also by **NICK BRUEL**:

## **POOR PUPPY**

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[www.roaringbrookpress.com](http://www.roaringbrookpress.com)



# HOGWOOD STEPS OUT

## A GOOD, GOOD PIG STORY

By **HOWARD MANSFIELD**  
Illustrated by **BARRY MOSER**

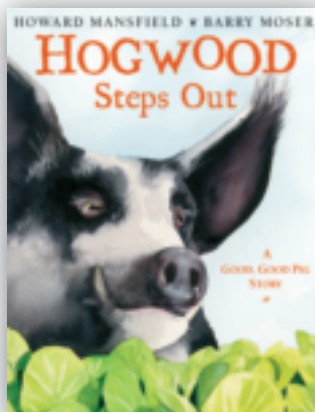


### THE GOOD, GOOD PIG GETS HIS OWN PICTURE BOOK, PERFECT FOR YOUNG READERS.

Christopher Hogwood is definitely a pig with personality! He's bright, curious, and has just a slight infatuation with rich, inviting mud. **HOGWOOD STEPS OUT** is Howard Mansfield's fictionalized account of his own pig's behavior on a fine spring day, a pig made famous in his wife Sy Montgomery's book, **THE GOOD GOOD PIG**. Barry Moser's luminescent paintings give Hogwood a personality that is all his own, allowing him to remind us to notice all the little wonderful things that surround us every day.

**HOWARD MANSFIELD** is a New Hampshire journalist who has written several books relating to New England. This is his first picture book.

**BARRY MOSER** is a National Book Award-winning artist and the illustrator of more than 200 books for adults and children. His works have been on display in such auspicious places as the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the National Gallery of Art. He lives in Massachusetts.



A NEAL PORTER BOOK  
Jacketed reinforced binding  
4-8 years  
8 ½ x 11 inches  
32 pages

Territory: World

Roaring Brook Press: Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, British, Translation, Audio, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Jeff Dwyer/Dwyer & O'Grady Inc.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-269-7

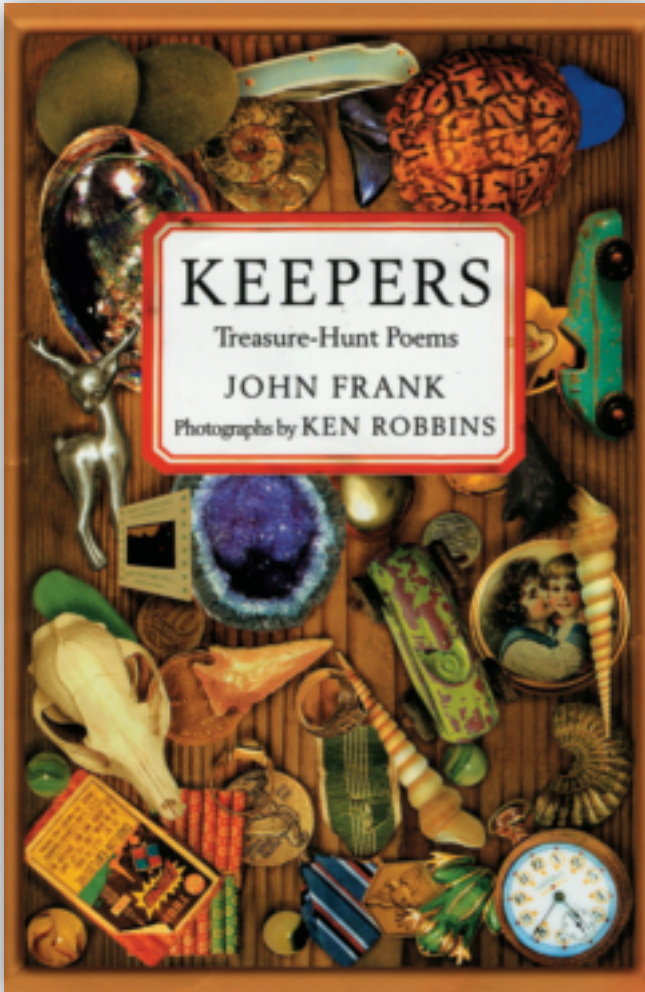
ISBN-10: 1-59643-269-1

\$16.95 (\$19.75 Canada)

# KEEPERS TREASURE-HUNT POEMS

By **JOHN FRANK**

Photographs by **KEN ROBBINS**



**THE GLEAM OF A GOLD NUGGET...**  
the fire in a precious gem...the geometry  
of a seashell...a fossil, a baseball card.  
Treasures all.

John Frank's poetry about the things we collect—at the beach, in the attic, in the mountains and desert, at flea markets—is a treasure itself. With handsome, alluring photographs of collections and collectibles, this is a rare find—a keeper—to read and rediscover again and again.

**JOHN FRANK** is the author of several children's books, including the award-winning *THE TOUGHEST COWBOY* and *HOW TO CATCH A FISH*, which *Booklist* praised as “resonating poetic vignettes that spawn a glinting, striking catch,” in a starred review. He lives in Redmond, Washington.

**KEN ROBBINS** is an author and photographer of many children's books. Of his *PUMPKINS*, *School Library Journal* wrote: “The color photos equal any painting for artistry of composition and sensitivity.” Ken Robbins lives on Long Island, New York.

**A NEAL PORTER BOOK**

Jacketed reinforced binding

7+ years

6 x 9 inches

64 pages

Territory: World

Roaring Brook Press: Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions,

Reprint, Book Club, British, Translation, Audio, E-book

Agent (Author): George Nicholson/Sterling Lord Literistic

Agent (Illustrator): Susan Cohen/Writers House

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-197-3**

**ISBN-10: 1-59643-197-0**

**\$17.95 (\$20.95 Canada)**

Also by **JOHN FRANK**:

**HOW TO CATCH A FISH**

Hardcover **ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-163-8**

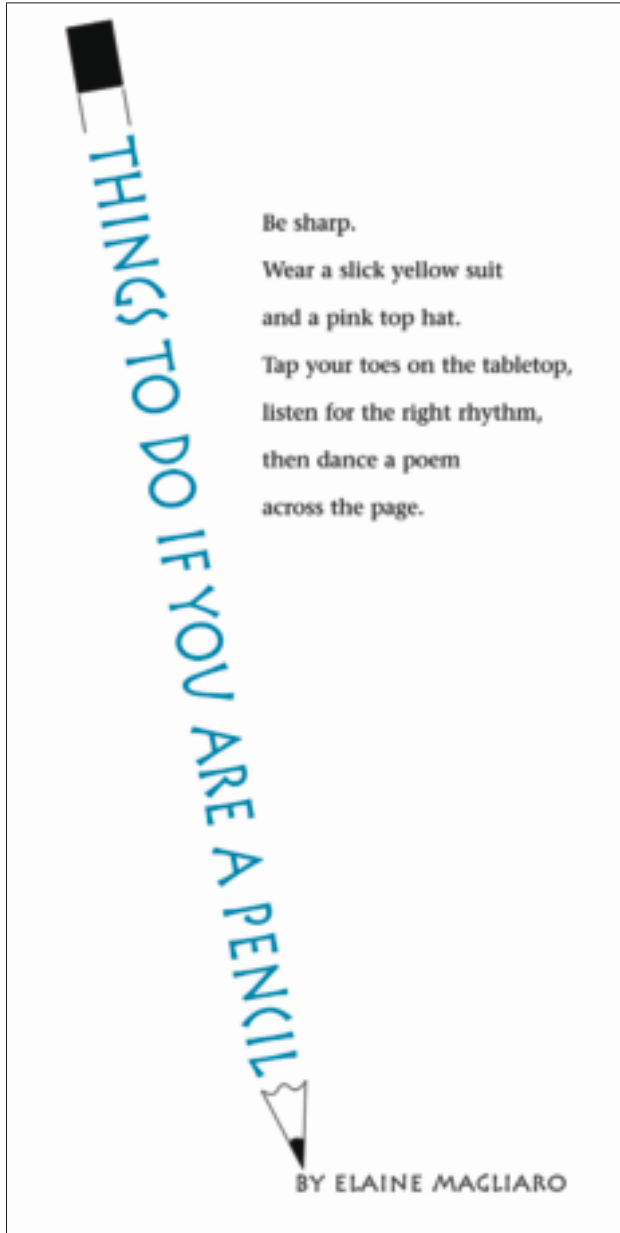
Hardcover **ISBN-10: 1-59643-163-6**

**\$17.95 (\$21.95 Canada)**

[www.roaringbrookpress.com](http://www.roaringbrookpress.com)

# FALLING DOWN THE PAGE

Edited by **GEORGIA HEARD**



**TRY THIS AT HOME.** Poems to inspire young readers.

From Eileen Spinelli's many goodbyes to summer at the shore, to Avis Harley's catalog of ways to say hello across the globe, to a close look at the birds and animals outside Valiska Gregory's window in winter, Georgia Heard has collected list poems from contemporary poets. Each list is gathered with a poet's eye—carefully selected details beautifully presented—so that readers see the extraordinary in the ordinary. And so readers are encouraged to be writers. The simplicity of each poem and Georgia Heard's introduction will inspire young poets to write their own.

**GEORGIA HEARD** is a poet, writer, and teacher who travels widely, speaking and giving workshops for children and adults. She lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Jacketed reinforced binding

8-12 years

5 x 10 inches

48 pages

Territory: USPC/OM

Roaring Brook Press: Second Serial, Reprint, Book Club, Audio, E-book

Agent: Elizabeth Harding, Curtis Brown Ltd.

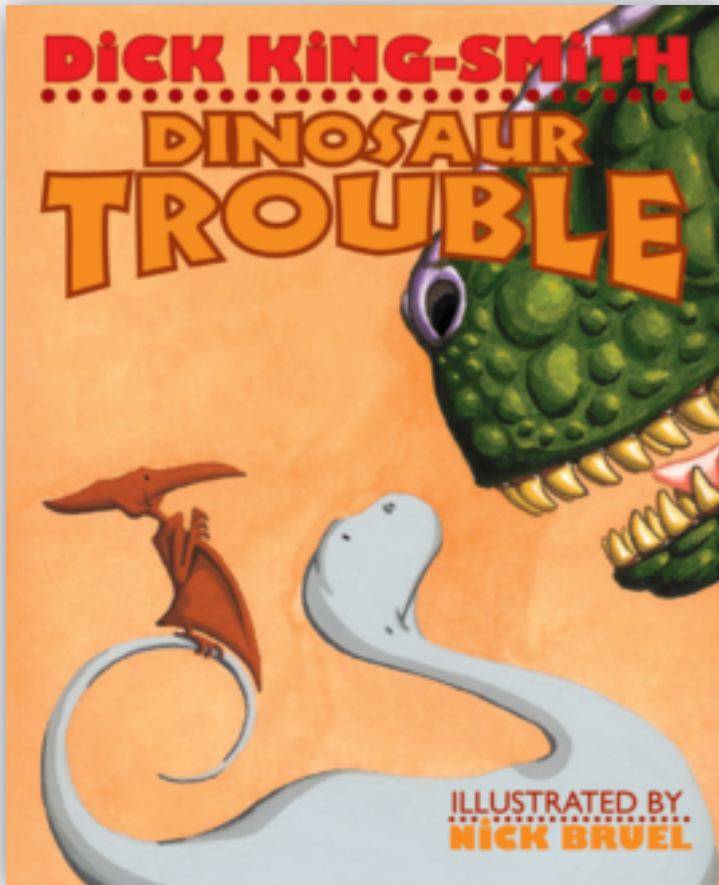
**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-220-8**

ISBN-10: 1-59643-220-9

\$16.95 (\$19.75 Canada)

# DINOSAUR TROUBLE

By **DICK KING-SMITH**  
Illustrated by **NICK BRUEL**



## SOMETIMES THE MOST UNLIKELY PAIRS MAKE THE BEST OF FRIENDS.

A hilarious prehistoric yarn for newly-independent readers from a master of children's animal stories.

All pterodactyls know that flying dinosaurs are superior, and all apatosauruses know that any dinosaur with only two legs is surely second-class. Nosy, a pterodactyl, and Banty, an apatosaurus, become great friends even though their parents have forbidden them to play together. With Nosy's fast flying and Banty's smarts, the two take on the biggest predator on the Great Plain, and conquer their parents' prejudices in one great adventure.

**DICK KING-SMITH** is the author of dozens of popular books for young readers, including *BABE: THE GALLANT PIG*, *THE WATER HORSE*, and last season's *HAIRY HEZEKIAH*. He lives in the west of England.

**NICK BRUEL** is the creator of this season's *LITTLE RED BIRD* (see page 10). He lives in Tarrytown, New York.

Jacketed reinforced binding

7-10 years

5 7/8 x 7 1/4 inches

128 pages

Territory: USP/DM

Roaring Brook Press: Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions,

Reprint, Book Club, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Elinor Cooper/A.P. Watt

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-324-3**

ISBN-10: 1-59643-324-8

\$14.95 (NCR)

Also by **DICK KING-SMITH**:

### **HAIRY HEZEKIAH**

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-318-2

Hardcover ISBN-10: 1-59643-318-3

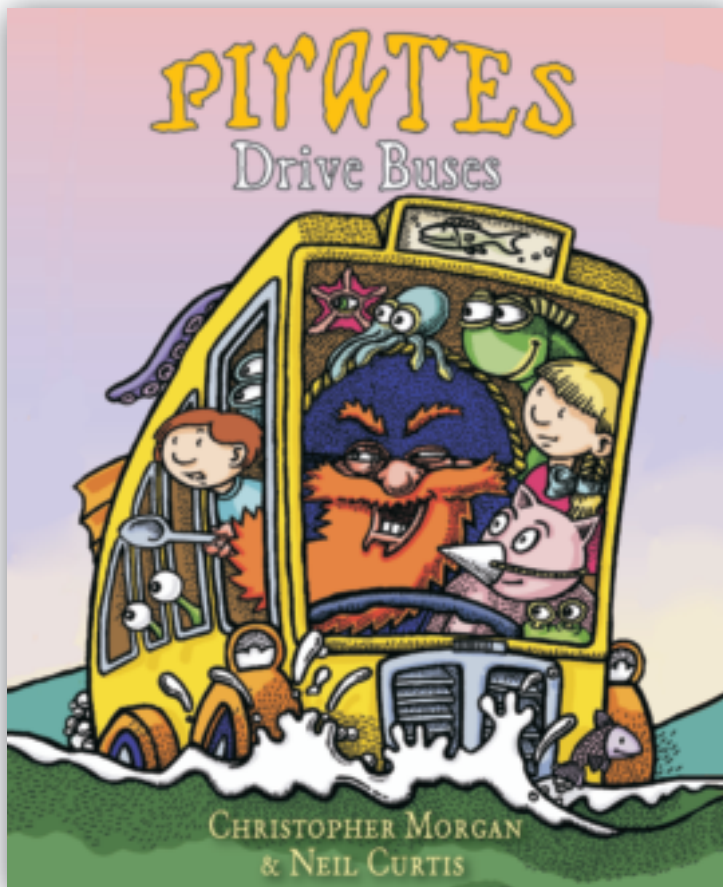
\$12.95 (NCR)

[www.roaringbrookpress.com](http://www.roaringbrookpress.com)

# PIRATES DRIVE BUSES

By **CHRISTOPHER MORGAN**

Illustrated by **NEIL CURTIS**



Also by **CHRISTOPHER MORGAN**:

## **PIRATES EAT PORRIDGE**

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-304-5

Hardcover ISBN-10: 1-59643-304-3

\$14.95 (\$18.50 Canada)

**“OH, NO,” SAID HEIDI. “IT’S THAT PIRATE AGAIN.” IT SURE IS.** Newly-independent readers will welcome the pirate’s return.

Billy and Heidi were walking to school when they heard the strangest sound. An odd bus stopped beside them, the door clattered open, and out leaped the pirate. “Great claws of crab! Didn’t you get my letter? I told you I was coming.” “A letter?” said Billy. “When did you send it?” “Ten minutes ago,” said the pirate. “Not to worry—you’re here now. And so am I. Now HURRY up!” In the pirate’s second visit (a follow up to *PIRATES EAT PORRIDGE*, about which *Kirkus Reviews* said: “Fans of Lane Smith and Jon Scieszka will find lots to laugh at here.”), readers will happily jump in and join this outrageous bus tour.

**CHRISTOPHER MORGAN** has worked as a musician, a furniture maker, and a public servant. He lives in Melbourne, Australia.

**NEIL CURTIS** was an acclaimed, internationally exhibited artist. He illustrated many children’s books including *CAT AND FISH*, which won the 2004 Children’s Book Council of Australia’s Picture Book of the Year Award. Curtis died in 2006.

### A NEAL PORTER BOOK

Jacketed reinforced binding

7-10 years

5 ½ x 7 ¼ inches

80 pages

Territory: USPC

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, E-book  
Agent: Allen & Unwin, Australia

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-313-7

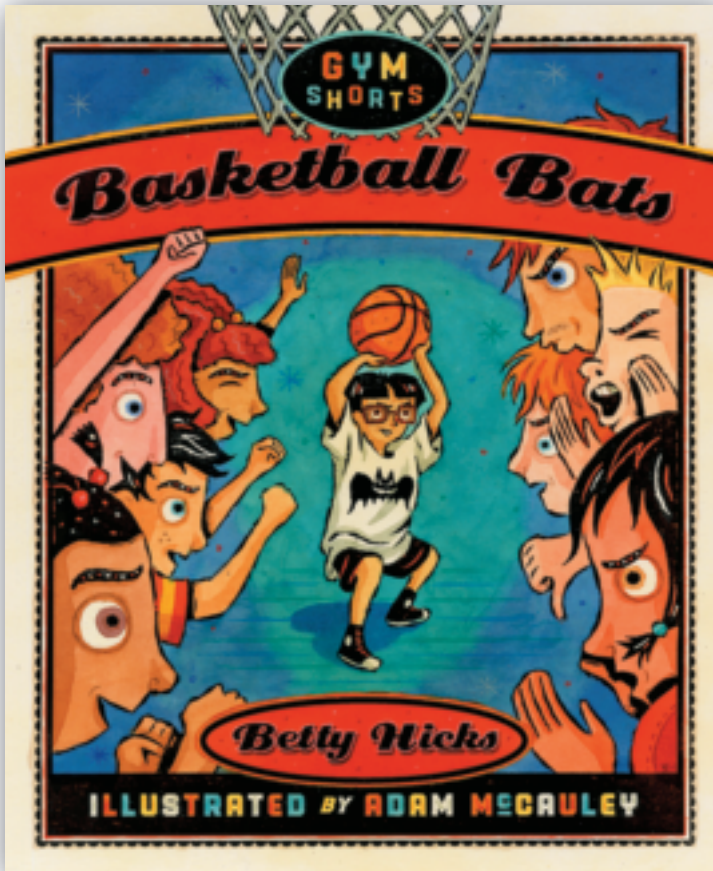
ISBN-10: 1-59643-313-2

\$14.95 (\$17.25 Canada)

# BASKETBALL BATS

By **BETTY HICKS**

Illustrated by **ADAM MCCAULEY**



Also by **BETTY HICKS**:

## GET REAL

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-089-1

Hardcover ISBN-10: 1-59643-089-3

\$16.95 (\$22.95 Canada)

## OUT OF ORDER

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-061-7

Hardcover ISBN-10: 1-59643-061-3

\$16.95 (\$21.95 Canada)

[www.roaringbrookpress.com](http://www.roaringbrookpress.com)

**UNBEATABLE TEAM—MAYBE. UNBEATABLE READING—FOR SURE!** The first book in Betty Hick's **GYM SHORTS** series is a slam-dunk for newly-independent readers.

Henry and his friends on Rockford Road are a basketball team unstoppable on their driveway court. But without team t-shirts or an official name, can they take on The Tigers, a team that plays at the huge YWCA and has a player old enough to shave? Young readers will cheer as The Bats take on a name and stick together to beat the odds.

**BETTY HICKS**, highly regarded for her books for middle grade and older readers, turns her attention to children just beginning to read **REAL** novels, in this first book in her **GYM SHORTS** series of humorous sports stories, filled with friendship and action. Betty Hicks lives in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**ADAM MCCAULEY** is the illustrator of the successful middle-grade fiction series, **TIME WARP TRIO** by Jon Scieszka, as well as Louis Sachar's **WAYSIDE SCHOOL** books. He lives in San Francisco, California.

Reinforced binding

7-10 years

5 3/8 x 7 1/4 inches

64 pages

Territory: USPC/OM

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial,

Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, Audio, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Tracey Adams/Adams Literary

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-243-7**

ISBN-10: 1-59643-243-8

\$14.95 (\$17.25 Canada)

# UNDER THE MISHMASH TREES

By **DICK KING-SMITH**  
Illustrated by **NICK BRUEL**



## **NONSENSE IS THE BEST SENSE!**

A silly starter novel!

"Thank you, madam, thank you from the bottom of my heart and the bottom of my stomach and the bottom of my bottom!" Wollycobble, a slobbadunk, has been a martyr to indigestion for as long as he can remember. So when Ut, a compassionate gombrazil, cures him of his burps and belches, she makes a lifelong friend. Dick King-Smith, master of animal stories, creates a wonderfully silly nonsense world filled with memorable animals of his own creation.

**DICK KING-SMITH** is the author of this season's **DINOSAUR TROUBLE** (see page 14). He lives in the west of England.

Reinforced binding

7-10 years

5 ¼ x 7 ¼ inches

96 pages

Territory: USP/OM

Roaring Brook Press: Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Elinor Cooper/A.P. Watt

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-325-0

ISBN-10: 1-59643-325-6

\$14.95 (NCR)

Also by **DICK KING-SMITH**:

**HAIRY HEZEKIAH**

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-318-2

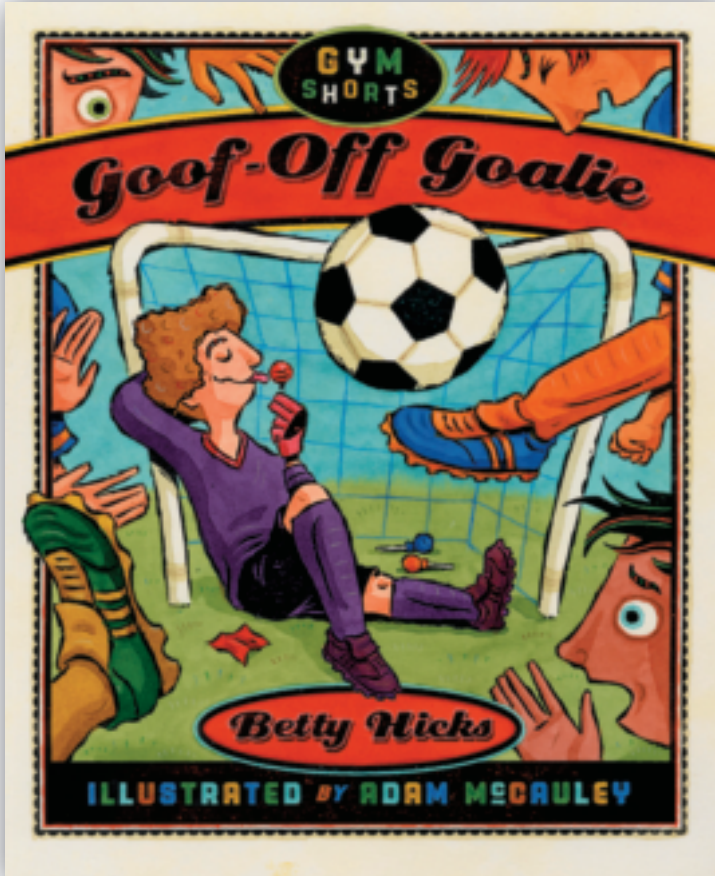
Hardcover ISBN-10: 1-59643-318-3

\$12.95 (NCR)

# GOOF-OFF GOALIE

By **BETTY HICKS**

Illustrated by **ADAM MCCAULEY**



**SOCCER DREAMS AND PLENTY OF ACTION** this second book in the GYM SHORTS series scores high with new readers.

There's nothing Goose wants more than to play goalie for his soccer team. It looks like such fun—and so easy!—on TV. But to say Goose has a little trouble focusing is a bit of an understatement. Luckily, his friend Henry agrees to train him. Just as Goose starts to improve, Henry gets grounded for slipping grades. Can Goose make it to goalie? Can he help Henry, who has helped him so much already?

**BETTY HICKS** is the author of this season's **BASKETBALL BATS** (see page 16) and several sports novels for older readers, including **BUSTED!** (see page 28) and **I SMELL LIKE HAM**. She lives in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**ADAM MCCAULEY** is the illustrator of this season's **BASKETBALL BATS** (see page 16). He lives in San Francisco, California.

Reinforced binding

7-10 years

5 ½ x 7 ¼ inches

64 pages

Territory: USPC/DM

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, Audio, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Tracey Adams/Adams Literary

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-244-4**

**ISBN-10: 1-59643-244-6**

**\$14.95 (\$17.25 Canada)**

Also by **BETTY HICKS**:

## GET REAL

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Hardcover **ISBN-10: 1-59643-089-3**

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Hardcover **ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-061-7**

Hardcover **ISBN-10: 1-59643-061-3**

**\$16.95 (\$21.95 Canada)**

[www.roaringbrookpress.com](http://www.roaringbrookpress.com)

# KAPUT AND ZÖSKY

Written and Illustrated by **LEWIS TRONDHEIM**



**THEY MIGHT TAKE OVER THE WORLD**  
...if we could stop laughing at them.

Would-be world conquerors Kaput and Zösky are at the pinnacle of their careers. So why does victory always slip from their grasp? On one planet, the natives surrender to Kaput and Zösky without a fight—where's the fun in that? On another, Kaput finds that he's won the lottery—and the prize is invested by well-meaning people against his will until he learns he now rules their planet. He doesn't even have to shoot anyone first! Mayhem and hilarity abound in these thirteen stories told with bright, cartoony art by Lewis Trondheim.

**LEWIS TRONDHEIM** is the author and illustrator of *A.L.I.E.E.N.* He lives in the South of France.



Deluxe Paperback

10+ years

7½ x 10 inches

80 pages

Territory: World English

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Reprint,

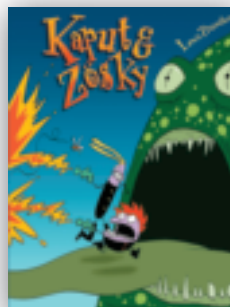
Book Club, British

Agent: Guy Delcourt

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-132-4

ISBN-10: 1-59643-132-6

\$13.95 (\$16.25 Canada)



Also by **LEWIS TRONDHEIM**:

**TINY TYRANT**

Paperback ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-094-5

Paperback ISBN-10: 1-59643-094-X

\$12.95 (\$15.95 Canada)

# LITTLE VAMPIRE

Written and illustrated by **JOANN SFAR**



**BEING DEAD CAN BE VERY LONELY.** Three stories—including a *New York Times* Bestseller.

Little Vampire is so lonely that he's even willing to go to school if that's what it takes to find friends. Unfortunately, school seems to be filled with children who are still alive! Little Vampire finds friendship with a boy named Michael, and they embark on adventures in the three stories in this collection. Included in this book are *LITTLE VAMPIRE GOES TO SCHOOL* (a *New York Times* Bestseller), *LITTLE VAMPIRE DOES KUNG FU*, and *LITTLE VAMPIRE AND THE SOCIETY OF CANINE DEFENDERS* (now published in the United States for the first time). Insightful and inventive, Joann Sfar brings Little Vampire and Michael's fantastical world to young readers in stories that both feed the imagination and resonate with emotional truth.

**JOANN SFAR'S** other works include the popular *SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE* series. He lives in Paris, France.



Deluxe Paperback

9-12 years

7 ½ x 10 inches

96 pages

Territory: USPC/OM

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Reprint

Agent: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Delcourt Jeunesse

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-233-8**

ISBN-10: 1-59643-233-0

\$13.95 (\$16.25 Canada)



# SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE 5

By **EMMANUEL GUIBERT**



Also in the **SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE** series:

## **SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE**

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-126-3/ Paperback

ISBN-10: 1-59643-126-1 \$12.95 (\$15.95 Canada)

## **SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE 2**

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-127-0/ Paperback

ISBN-10: 1-59643-127-X \$12.95 (\$15.95 Canada)

## **SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE 3**

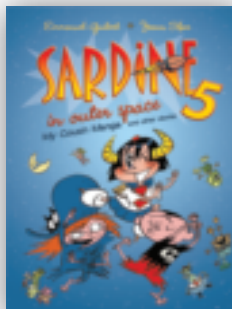
ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-128-7/ Paperback

ISBN-10: 1-59643-128-8 \$12.95 (\$15.95 Canada)

## **SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE 4**

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-129-4/ Paperback

ISBN-10: 1-59643-129-6 \$13.95 (\$16.95 Canada)



**“IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO PICK UP THIS SERIES.”** —*BOOKLIST*

She’s a girl.

She’s a space pirate.

She’s Sardine—and she’s back!

With four Sardine books now published in the U.S., our favorite redheaded space pirate (about whom *Kirkus Reviews* said: “Resistance is futile” in a starred review) has a growing number of young fans. Eleanor in Brooklyn told us, “I like it that they live on a spaceship.” Toby, age seven, wrote to say: “I like all the tricks Sardine thinks up.” And Sarah in California demanded, “More, please!”

Now appearing in her fifth collection of ten sidesplitting space adventures is Sardine—her stories told in engaging, scribbly artwork by Emmanuel Guibert.

**EMMANUEL GUIBERT** is one of the most talented comics creators in France today. As well as **SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE**, his works include **ALAN’S WAR**, an extraordinary biography of Alan Cope, an American WWII veteran, and **THE PHOTOGRAPHER** (with Didier Lefevre), a graphic novel about the war in Afghanistan.

**:01**

First Serial

Deluxe Paperback

6-10 years

6 x 8 ½ inches

112 pages

Territory: World English

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Reprint,

Book Club, British, Audio, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Bayard Editions

ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-380-9

ISBN-10: 1-59643-380-9

\$14.95 (\$17.25 Canada)

# ALIEN FEAST

By **MICHAEL SIMMONS**

Illustrated by **GEORGE O'CONNOR**



Also by **MICHAEL SIMMONS**:

## VANDAL

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-070-9

Hardcover ISBN-10: 1-59643-070-2

\$16.95 (\$22.95 Canada)

## POOL BOY

Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-0-7613-1885-9

Hardcover ISBN-10: 0-7613-1885-2

\$15.95 (\$22.95 Canada)

[www.roaringbrookpress.com](http://www.roaringbrookpress.com)

**THE WAR OF THE WORLDS MEETS DOUGLAS ADAMS** as two kids and one old man prepare to save the world.

Things are getting better with the alien invasion. Sure it's still not uncommon to come home and find your step-parents reduced to a pile of unsavory feet—but at least now that the disease is killing the aliens off, you have a relatively decent chance of making it through a day without getting mostly eaten. William knows this first-hand, having lost both his step-parents, but when the aliens kidnap his long-time crush Sophie's scientist parents (and the government won't help), it's up to William, Sophie, and William's bizarre Uncle Maynard to save them...and perhaps the rest of the world while they are at it. A hysterically twisted adventure that will knock your feet off!

**MICHAEL SIMMONS** is the author of four previous novels: *POOL BOY*, *VANDAL* (both Roaring Brook titles), *FINDING LUBCHENKO*, and *THE RISE OF LUBCHENKO*. He lives in New York, New York.

**GEORGE O'CONNOR** is the author and illustrator of this season's *UNCLE BIGFOOT* (see page 9). He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

A NEAL PORTER BOOK

Reinforced binding

9-12 years

5 ½ x 8 ¼ inches

240 pages

Territory: USPC/DM

Roaring Brook Press: Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, E-book

Agent: George Nicholson/Sterling Lord Literistic

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-281-9**

ISBN-10: 1-59643-281-0

\$9.95 (\$11.95 Canada)

# BLUE LIKE FRIDAY

By **SIOBHÁN PARKINSON**



**NOT EVERYONE SEES THE WORLD THROUGH THE SAME LENS.** From the author of *SOMETHING INVISIBLE* comes this funny and poignant novel about the hues of friendship.

Spunky Olivia and eccentric Hal are an unlikely pair. While Hal suffers from a neurological condition called synesthesia that causes him to associate things with colors, Olivia tends to see the world in black and white. Still, these two are friends through thick and thin, through rose-colored days and blue days, even when Hal's plan to get rid of his mother's boyfriend backfires by driving his mother away. Olivia's honest, funny and always-opinionated voice tells this story with colorful perception.

**SIOBHÁN PARKINSON** is the author of *SOMETHING INVISIBLE* and *SECOND FIDDLE*. She lives in Dublin, Ireland.

Jacketed reinforced binding

11-14 years

5 ½ x 8 ¼ inches

160 pages

Territory: USPC/OM

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Reprint, Book Club, E-book, Electronic versions

Agent: Sophie Hicks/Ed Victor Ltd.

**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-340-3**

**ISBN-10: 1-59643-340-X**

\$16.95 (\$19.75 Canada)

Also by **SIOBHÁN PARKINSON**:

## **SECOND FIDDLE**

Hardcover **ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-122-5**

Hardcover **ISBN-10: 1-59643-122-9**

\$16.95 (\$21.00 Canada)

## **SOMETHING INVISIBLE**

Hardcover **ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-123-2**

Hardcover **ISBN-10: 1-59643-123-7**

\$16.95 (\$19.75 Canada)

# THE GIRL WHO SAW LIONS

By **BERLIE DOHERTY**



**“BE STRONG, MY ABELA.”** Orphaned by AIDS in Africa, Abela has a long journey ahead.

When Abela’s mother dies of AIDS in their African village, she is left to face the lions of the world. Lions like her Uncle Thomas, who has plans to sell her in Europe. Lions like his bitter white wife, whom he abandons along with Abela. Abela is forced to stay indoors in a sunless London apartment, cooking and cleaning, and hopelessly dreaming of her African homeland. Meanwhile, in a London suburb, Rosa is distraught when her mother tells her she wants to adopt a child. Rosa doesn’t want a sister or brother. Things are so good, why do they have to change?

Berlie Doherty tells parallel stories, each separate and compelling in their own right, but stories that eventually tangle together bringing a message of hope and what it means to be a family.

**BERLIE DOHERTY**, twice-winner of the Carnegie Medal, lives in England. Her books have sold over 700,000 copies and been translated into 21 languages.

A NEAL PORTER BOOK

Jacketed reinforced binding

11+ years

5 ½ x 8 ¼ inches

208 pages

Territory: USP

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, E-book, Electronic versions, Performance, Commercial and Merchandising

Agent: Andersen Press

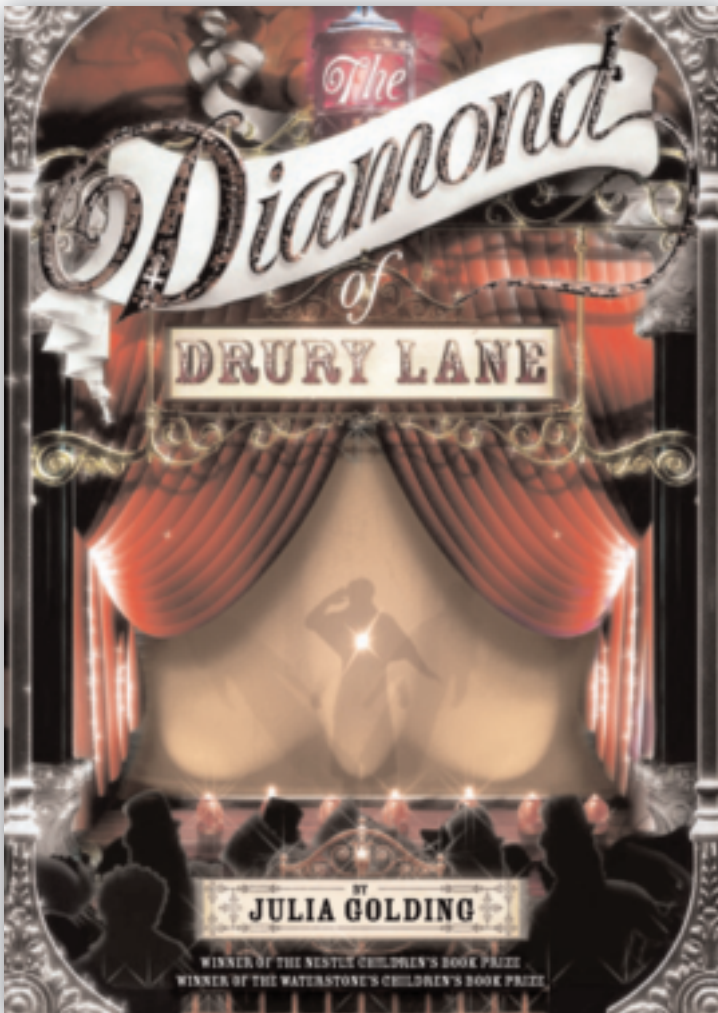
**ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-377-9**

**ISBN-10: 1-59643-377-9**

**\$16.95 (NCR)**

# THE DIAMOND OF DRURY LANE

By **JULIA GOLDING**



**MYSTERY, TREASURE, AND A LIFE ON THE STAGE.** The first episode of the adventures of Cat Royal is a big, fat juicy read.

She's Cat Royal—four foot four, with long red hair, green eyes and not a penny she can call her own. But she does know a secret—where a treasure is hidden in the theater that is her home. The problem is, she isn't the only one looking for it. One adventure leads into the next, taking Cat—and readers—through the colorful streets of late 18th-century London. The exciting mystery—filled with fascinating characters, lots of incident, theatrical spectacles, and even a bit of political intrigue—will thrill readers.

**JULIA GOLDING'S** first book—the first in the Cat Royal Quartet—won the 2006 Smarties Prize. She lives in Oxford, England.

Reinforced binding

10-14 years

5 x 7 inches

432 pages

Territory: USP/DM

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial,  
Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, Audio, E-book,  
Electronic versions

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# ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

By **MAUREEN MCCARTHY**



**DON'TCHA JUST HATE THE WAY YOU GET CAUGHT UP IN STUFF** without really wanting to? Then it goes a bit further, and suddenly you're one of those jerks you hate...

Rose wants nothing more than to get away. Last year she had it all: pre-law in the fall, a budding romance, her best friend, Zoe. Now Zoe will never forgive her, her family is crumbling, and the secret that's been boiling up inside of her for a year is bubbling too close to the surface. All Rose needs to escape is an old van, her surfboard, the road, the ocean, and...mom? When Rose's mother jumps in the passenger seat right as Rose is about to set off, her trip takes an unexpected turn. A twisting plot that keeps you guessing, told from the viewpoint of a realistically flawed yet snarky main character, makes this a book that just can't be put down.

**MAUREEN MCCARTHY** is one of Australia's most popular young adult authors. Her novels have been short listed for numerous awards, and include the bestselling book *QUEEN KAT*, *CARMEL AND ST. JUDE GET A LIFE*, which was made into a highly successful Australian mini-series. This is her American debut.

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# NEWES FROM THE DEAD

By **MARY HOOPER**



## WRONGED. HANGED. ALIVE? (AND TRUE!)

Anne can't move a muscle, can't open her eyes, can't scream. She lies immobile in the darkness, unsure if she's dead, terrified she's buried alive, haunted by her final memory—of being hanged. A maidservant falsely accused of infanticide in 1650 England and sent to the scaffold, Anne Green is left with her racing thoughts, and her burning need to revisit the events—and the man—that led her to the gallows. Meanwhile, a shy 18-year-old medical student attends his first dissection, and notices something strange as the doctors prepare their tools...did her eyelids just flutter? Could this corpse be alive?

Beautifully written, impossible to put down, and meticulously researched, *NEWES FROM THE DEAD* is based on the true story of the real Anne Green, who survived a hanging to awake on the dissection table, creating a medical phenomenon in her day.

**MARY HOOPER** has written more than 60 books for children and young adults, earning high praise as well as the North East Book Award for her YA novel, *MEGAN*. She and her husband reside in a cottage in Oxfordshire, England, the same area Anne Green came from.

Jacketed reinforced binding

14+ years

5 ½ x 8 ¼ inches

256 pages

Territory: USPC/OM

Roaring Brook Press: First Serial, Second Serial, Anthology/Permissions, Reprint, Book Club, Audio, E-book

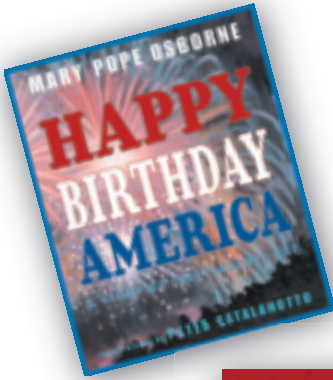
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- FALLING DOWN THE PAGE**
- KEEPERS**
- PIRATES DRIVE BUSES**
- ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME**
- SILENT MUSIC**
- WILL SHEILA SHARE?**

### APRIL

- BASKETBALL BATS**
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- THE GIRL WHO SAW LIONS**
- KAPUT AND ZÖSKY**
- KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE KID**
- TWENTY HEARTBEATS**
- UNCLE BIGFOOT**

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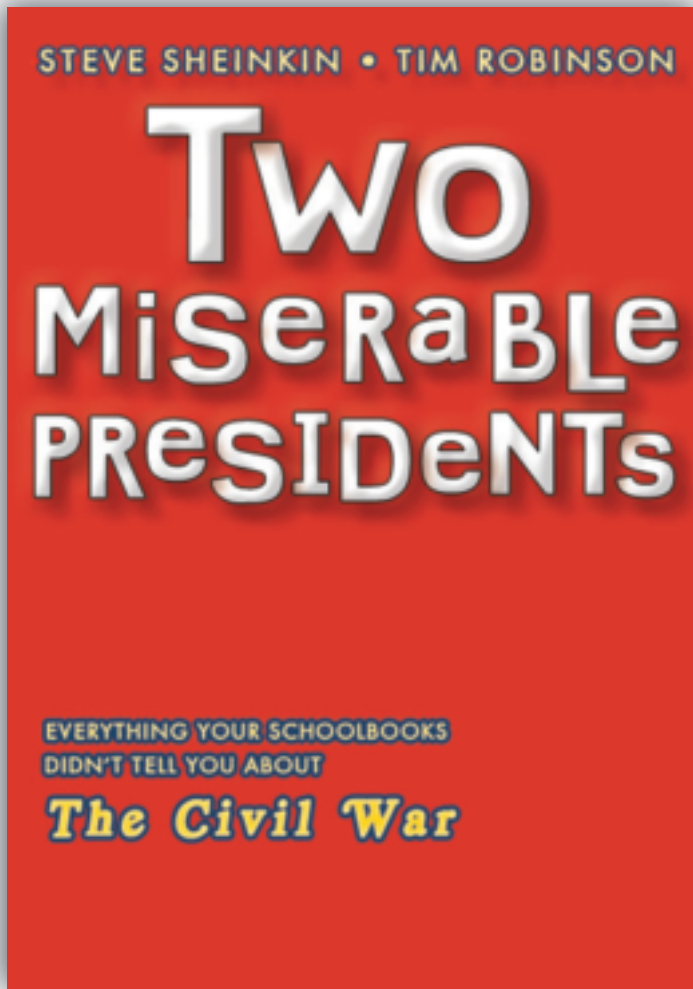
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- LITTLE VAMPIRE**
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- UNDER THE MISHMASH TREES**

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- GOOF-OFF GOALIE**
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- KIDCHAT EXTREME!**
- KING GEORGE**
- SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE 5**
- TWO MISERABLE PRESIDENTS**

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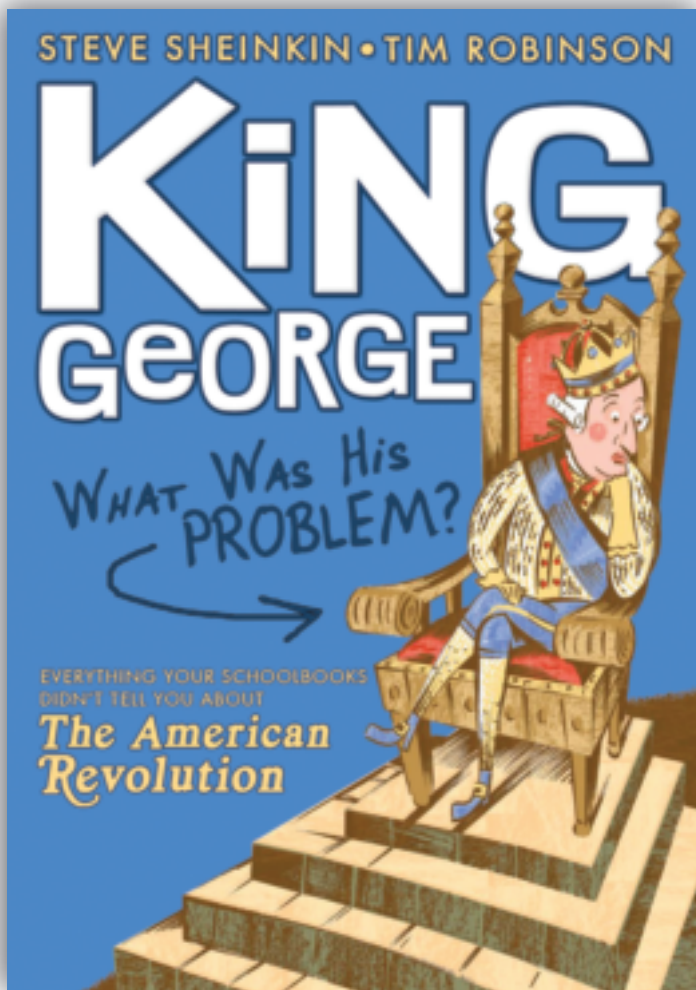
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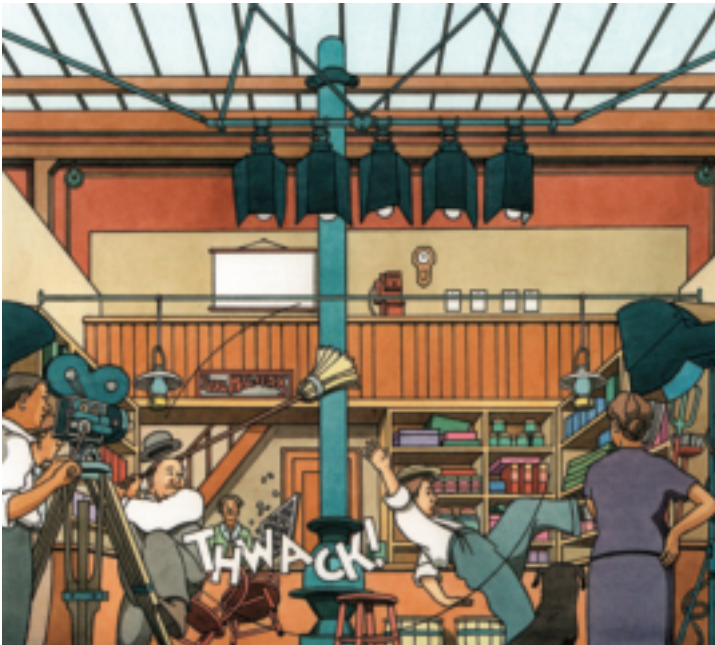
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**CATHERINE BRIGHTON** has written and illustrated many successful children’s books, most recently, *FOSSIL GIRL: THE STORY OF MARY ANNING*, which was named one of the Best Books of the Year by *School Library Journal*. Ms. Brighton lives in London, England.

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With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Deirdre'.

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