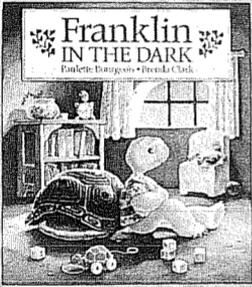


MINI-REVIEWS



Franklin in the dark, Paulette Bourgeois. Illus. Brenda Clark. Kids Can Press, 1986. Unpaginated. \$10.95 cloth. ISBN 0-919964-93-1.

Franklin is a turtle in a bit of bind because he is afraid of small dark places. This makes the thought of sleeping in his shell quite terrifying. He sets off to find a solution to his difficult and embarrassing problem only to discover that most creatures have secret fears. The duck, he finds, uses waterwings — when no one is looking. The bird uses a parachute to deal with his dizzying fear of heights — though only of course when no one is looking. After various encounters, Franklin returns home, goes to bed in his shell, and then when no one is looking he turns on his night light. It's not so embarrassing after all!

This warm and touching story is appealing to all ages. The illustrations are brilliant, colourful and detailed. Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark have created here a book that is bound to be a favourite with parents and children from a very early age.



The Bungalo boys II – Bushmen brouhaha, John Bianchi. Firefly Books, 1987. Unpag., \$12.95, \$4.95 cloth, paper. ISBN 0921285-10-8, 0-921285-08-6.

The Bungalo boys are a zany group of scientific researchers who drop from an airplane into the wilds of the African Serengeti, for reasons which are unclear, and begin spreading chaos from the moment they arrive. They track down the elusive Tanzanian elephant tree which saves the day by extinguishing a potentially disastrous brush fire.

A very entertaining book for adults, the Bungalo Boys II is quite unsuitable for children. Although the cartoons are marvelous, the story is vague and complex, and the language used is far above that of any young child.

Elizabeth Matthews is a part-time agricultural student and a mother of two.