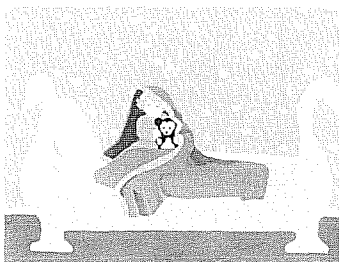


that Egoff does not address. She does however chronicle and compare a vast number of fantasies from many periods and many cultures. Her cyclopedic study is a thorough and sensible treatment of a universal but essentially non-sensible genre.

Elizabeth Waterston, retired Professor of English and co-editor of *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery*, is writing a guide to Canadian children's literature for the *Twayne World Author Series*.

DELICATE SOLIDITY AND WHIMSY . . . A WINNING MIX

Sleepers. Dayal Kaur Khalsa. Illus. author. Tundra, 1988. 24 pp., cloth \$8.95 ISBN 0-88776-212-3; **I want a dog.** Dayal Kaur Khalsa. Illus. author. Tundra, 1987. 24 pp., cloth \$14.95. ISBN 0-88776-196-8.



Sleepers by Dayal Kaur Khalsa is a small compact delight that puts the lie to the publisher's maxim that a rhymed story or poem does not have wide appeal. Khalsa's speaker is a blissfully chatty youngster (a preschooler?) whose gender is not significant, but whose tone of voice is so true to that age which knows it all because they drove everyone mad the previous year asking questions.

As author/illustrator, Khalsa has balanced her text and visuals with admirable simplicity. In her solid tempera and strong colours, Khalsa's illustrations shine on the page. The text is brief but steady, as the speaker pronounces upon the sleepers known in the family and neighbourhood. Within the rhymed itemization, is the repeated assertion, "I never sleep" which eventually creates an even lulling mood ideal for bedtime when capitulation seems acceptable and welcome.

Longer in text and with a more challenging vocabulary, *I want a dog* is a slightly off-centre little story of childish persistence (and apparent success) in the face of adult pragmatism. Wrapped in a cover that is surely a deliberate homage to Georges Seurat, the greater portion of this tale (if you'll pardon the pun) is devoted to May's pitch to her parents for a dog and her eventual disciplined (if eccentric) demonstration that she can care for one. The fact that she uses a roller skate as her canine stand-in adds a fillip of whimsy, which Khalsa's appreciative public has come to expect and enjoy.

Although the actual success of May's campaign is mentioned as if an afterthought within the last thirty words, the punch line gently matches an illustration which is a perfect example of how the humorous, visual completion of a tale can be the most illuminating one.



Any review of Khalsa's work would be remiss if a word was not said about her visual style. In *I want a dog* especially, there is an arresting mix of boldly coloured tempera and pastel or chalk. The views of May's world are right out of the 'forties and 'fifties by way of Khalsa's remarkable memory for detail. Anyone sympathetic to the tiny visual minutiae which identify our cultural history will enjoy themselves immensely as

they appreciate the cheap spotted kitchen lino, the vinyl and chrome dinette set, the frigidaire, the taxi interior as well as the other cars, the sparse "rec" room where May sets up her training course (the titles on her prop books are a hoot!), the decor in Sam's luncheonette--even the clothing style, fabric choice and colour combinations, speak of the corduroy and flannelette age before this poly-cotton era.

While only a cad would criticise Khalsa's flat, thick brush style of tempera, one might quibble with her renditions of the various dog breeds which seem to be too often in show-dog profile, as if an *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dogs* was too close to hand. Her natural poses are far more fun. Certainly her work overall is simply delightful.

Robin Baird Lewis is currently a full-time teacher in Art and English at Forest Heights C.I. in Kitchener, Ontario. During the "off-season" Ms Baird Lewis works on select commissions, free-lance assignments and paintings for exhibition.

THE CIRCLE, THE LINE AND THE THIRD MAGIC

The Third Magic. Welwyn Wilton Katz. Douglas & McIntyre, 1988. 204 pp., \$14.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88899-068-5.

The Third Magic, award-winner Welwyn Wilton Katz's most recent fantasy, combines the same elements that ensured the success of her earlier works: a deep interest in mythology, a careful attention to psychological characteriza-