

could have used a few small vignettes to break up the white space under the words on some of the pages.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that my little boys (who don't hesitate to call it like it is) enjoyed this story. It would appear from the title and the focus on rug hooking that this would be a story geared to little girls, but the compelling story, the engaging pictures, and the vivid language kept them interested and wanting to hear it again. As a result, I can confidently recommend this charming book for both boys and girls.

Ingrid Masak Mida left the newspaper publishing industry to stay home with her two boys. In order to keep her Bachelor and Masters degrees from getting rusty, she is an avid reader and is working on having her own stories published.

Matthew and the Midnight Hospital. Allen Morgan. Illus. Michael Martchenko. Stoddart Kids, 1999. 32 pp. \$7.99 paper. ISBN 0-7737-6011-8.

Matthew, by now well known to readers through Morgan's series, embarks on another frenzied and frenetic adventure. One might suspect that the political situation in Ontario (cutbacks in health care) inspired this story. At the emergency room, when Matthew is advised to take a number and wait ... the nurses seem no more knowledgeable about what to expect next than does Matthew himself. The message about surviving a hospital visit without trauma is neither soft nor gently reassuring, as in some books, but wrapped in a package of wordy prose and zany, raucous humour. Bright art effectively moves the narrative forwards and will capture the attention of the very young, should their attention wander from the slightly long prose. The book's large format will also work well to engage attention.

Troon Harrison teaches creative writing and is the author of eight picture books and a YA novel.