

ans au maximum.

La traduction est correcte et soignée mais malheureusement un peu trop guindée. On passe aussi par des sauts assez bizarres dans le niveau de style, du français le plus littéraire au style le plus familier.

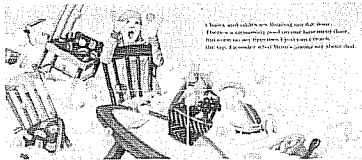
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MINI-REVIEW: LOTS OF LITTLE BOOKS



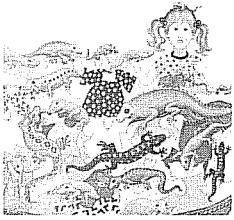
My Grandma the monster, Ascher Davis. Illus. Ann Powell. Women's Press, 1985. Unpaginated \$3.95 paper. ISBN 0-88961-099-1.

The generation gap is spanned when the eight-year-old narrator discovers that her live-in grandmother used to enjoy playing monsters too when she was young. Lacking in action except for the grandmother's reminiscences of childhood, the book does express the commendable message of love and tolerance for the elderly. Economical line drawings are limited in their attempt the simple text and to enliven a well-intentioned but didactic story for school-aged children.



Please don't interrupt, Joanne Brisson Murphy. Illus. Maureen Paxton. Black Moss Press, 1986. Unpaginated \$5.95 paper. ISBN 0-88753-143-1.

An impatient mother does everything but listen to her little daughter. Interrupting is the toddler's tool for gaining attention. Finally, a kitchen disaster makes the mother change her ways. Lacking any true plot structure, the book is made up of a series of events held together by the book's theme. Its awkward style fails to express well its didactic theme.



Those green things, Kathy Stinson. Illus. Mary McLoughlin. Annick Press, 1985. Unpaginated \$12.95, \$4.95 cloth paper. ISBN 0-920303-40-4, 0-920303-41-2.

Posing the question, “What are those green things?” to her unsuspecting mother, a little girl turns her parent’s mundane replies into fanciful images.

Slithering snakes, lumpy, bumpy monsters and giant frogs replace ordinary objects, such as, pyjamas, garbage bags and garden hoses. The predominately green illustrations may appeal to school-aged children who enjoy a touch of the ghoulish. The book’s message of bonding between parent and child is captured through a playful use of dialogue and picture rather than through a decided plot structure.



That's my baby, Andrea von Königslöw. Annick Press, 1986. Illus. author. Unpaginated \$12.95 cloth, \$4.95 paper. ISBN 0-920303-560, 0-920303-57-9.

The popular theme of a new baby’s anticipated and final arrival home is disappointingly handled here by the author-illustrator of *Toilet tales*. Designed for toddlers, it misses its intended readership because of an overly wordy and confusing text. Having a toy dinosaur called Teddy does not help matters, especially when a stuffed Teddybear appears in several illustrations. The flat, one-dimensional illustrations fail to aid or extend the story.



Aunt Armadillo, Robin Baird Lewis. Annick Press, 1985. Unpaginated \$12.95, \$4.95 cloth, paper. ISBN 0-920303-38-2, 0920303-39-1.

Here is a rather dull account of a little girl’s stay with her eccentric Auntie along with Auntie’s strange menagerie of pets and her large collection of children’s books. The book lacks any storyline and is simply a statement of events. Auntie reads aloud in the park. Auntie takes her guest to the zoo and on and on. Illustrations, though colorful and well integrated with the text, fail in aiding a lifeless plot or evoking any sense of mood.

The witch who was afraid of witches, Alice Low. Illus. Karen Gundersheimer. Scholastic-TAB, 1985. Unpaginated \$2.95 paper. ISBN 0-590-71600-X.

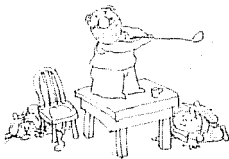
A tale of sibling rivalry is thinly disguised in this story of three witches. Only when the youngest, Wendy, meets humans and through them gains confidence is she able to fly on her broomstick, cast spells and finally teach her proud sisters a lesson. The lengthy text makes this a book for older children. Illustrations, although colorful and realistic, are scattered across each page, competing with the text for reader's attention. As an addition to a holiday collection it is recommended with reservations, for older children.

Dudley and the Birdman, George Swede. Illus. Mary McLoughlin. Three Trees Press, 1985. Unpaginated \$11.95, \$4.95 cloth paper ISBN 0-88823-101-6, 0-88823-102-4.

On his birthday young Dudley befriends "The Birdman", a lonely old man who traps birds in order to hear them sing in the winter. Wishing to gain the bird's freedom, the inventive lad comes up with a solution using his tape recorder, a gift received from his grandparents. This happy exchange brings about a satisfying ending. The book's secondary bonding theme is well handled.

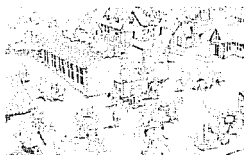
Unfortunately, the illustrator has portrayed the kindly old man as a most unattractive, strange-looking character, not easily acceptable by readers.

ILLUSTRATION BY ...



Benji's daddy was a golfer, W.J. Illerbrun. Illus. Al Sens. Oolichan Books, 1985. Unpaginated \$7.95 paper. ISBN 0-88982-570.

A toddler after much practice surpasses his father in golf. Written from the adult perspective, the book's language (including golfing terms coupled with some slang) is unsuitable for children. Amateurish cartoon drawings only emphasize the book's lack of appeal. This book certainly does not qualify as children's literature.



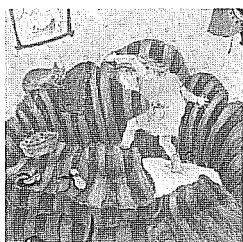
Fire in Mouse Hamlet, R. Brian Mackey. Illus. S. Alexander Clarke. Watershed, 1977. Unpaginated \$2.95 paper. ISBN 09691496-1-1.

Introducing Cricket Fieldmouse, retired

Fire Chief of the District of Mouse Hamlet, this brief tale relates his ingenious saving of the village and the library by organizing his fellow field mice into a fire brigade. Hand written in keeping with its diary format, the text is illustrated in warm sepia colour. With its moral overtones (Tinker Rat was playing with matches near the library) the book has a happy ending to satisfy very young children reading their first mystery.

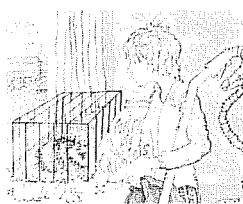
Mystery in Mouse Hamlet, R. Brian Mackey. Illus. S. Alexander Clarke. Watershed, 1984. Unpaginated \$2.95 paper. ISBN 09691496-2-X.

This is the second title in the “mouse Hamlet Series”. It tells further adventures of the hero, Cricket Fieldmouse and the mischievous rat, Tinker who is accused of stealing the village sign. As a mouse-detective, Cricket solves the mystery and adds a moral to the tale; namely not to prejudge and “doing a bad thing is not the same as being bad.” Stylistically similar to *Fire in Mouse Hamlet*, it lacks its predecessor’s more imaginative and lively text.



Leanna builds a genie trap, Hazel J. Hutchins. Illus. Catherine O’Neill. Annick Press, 1986. Unpaginated \$12.95, 4.95 cloth, paper. ISBN 0-920303-54-4, 0-920303-55-2.

Anyone who has found lost objects down the side of a sofa will understand this humorous story. The young heroine thinks the culprit is a genie until she finally makes friends with the sofaculprit who talks. A good tale for young children is marred by a text in need of some editing. The ill-defined illustrations fail to create that important atmosphere blending reality and fantasy.



Gynn, Mary Jane Muir. North Winds Press, 1985. Unpaginated \$9.95 cloth. ISBN 0-590-71546-1.

When a young boy neglects his pet guinea pig, the boy’s mother gives the animal to another family who cares for it until its death. The book fails to resolve the initial problem of pet care with its ending appearing as an anti-climax. Children will miss the book’s lack of a good resolution. The lengthy text accompanied by amateurish illustrations fails to aid this misdirected story.



Matthew and the midnight turkeys, Allen Morgen. Illus. Michael Martchenko. Annick Press, 1985. Unpaginated \$12.95, \$4.95 cloth, paper. ISBN 0-920303-36-6, 0-920303-37-4.

This is the second of "Matthew's midnight adventure" books. Here the dauntless young hero (a "turkey" to his mom) constructs a trap for his dream-turkeys. As friends, they all play cards together, phone out for pizza and celebrate over a breakfast made up of every child's dream-breakfast, including cereal sandwiches and much more. The real and the fantasy world of the child are captured and extended in lively, colorful and funny illustrations which will appeal to young and older children.

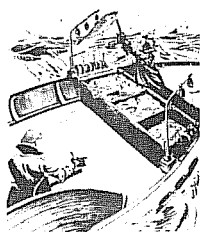
Mr. John Bertrand Nijinsky and Charlie, Budge Wilson. Illus Terry Roscoe Boucher. Nimbus, 1986. Unpaginated \$5.95 paper. ISBN 0920852-57-2.

Sixty-five-year-old Mr. Nijinsky hates everything and everyone. But the man's personality improves after he reluctantly befriends a stray cat named Charlie. Here is a good story presenting the positive effects of pet ownership on the elderly. Unfortunately, the lengthy text is in need of editing and some of the flat, black and white illustrations are redundant. However, older children may enjoy this longer story.



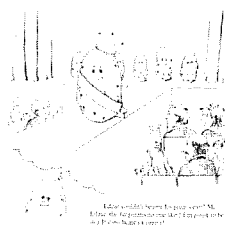
My blue chair, Hans Zander. Annick Press, 1985. Unpaginated. \$12.95, \$4.95 cloth, paper. ISBN 0-920303-16-1, 0-920303-15-3.

Passing from use to disuse and from family, to family a child's chair is finally discovered by its original owner in a museum exhibit of children's chairs from around the world. A potentially good story is marred by a wordy text in need of editing. Shifts of viewpoint will only confuse young readers who will not respond to the adult touches of nostalgia nor to the static illustrations.



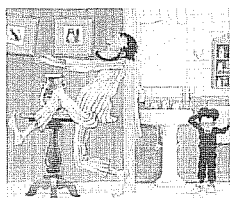
My dad was a fisherman, Sonja Hansen. Illus. by Raphael J. MacLaughlin. R.J. Watts, 1983. 36 pp. \$6.95 paper. ISBN 0920072-11-9.

Narrated by ten-year-old Kristine, this is an illustrated story of life in a B.C. fishing village and the girl's experience helping aboard her father's commercial fishing troller. The book includes a brief glossary of nautical terms. Unappealing brown ink illustrations accompany the lengthy text directed at children older than the usual picture book set.



Edgar Potato, Don Oickle. Illus. Sue Skaalen. Ragweed Press, 1985. 31 pp. \$5.95 paper. ISBN 0-920304-49-4.

A poor P.E.I. potato grows so large he becomes an underground outcast. Ridiculed by fellow potatoes he finally wins fame at a local fair. Endowing potatoes with feelings, thoughts and hopes is asking intended preschooler and school aged readers to suspend reality and to accept with humour these anthropomorphic vegetables. Keeping this fact in mind, the book may be enjoyed by some young readers. Black and white drawings are simple and one-dimensional.



50 below zero, Robert Munsch. Illus. Michael Martchenko. Annick Press, 1986. Unpaginated \$12.95, \$4.95 cloth, paper. ISBN 0920236-86-3, 0-9202036-91-X.

This read-aloud or read-aloud picture book for preschoolers and older children contains a zany situation and humorous role reversals, all mirrored in colorful, lively illustrations. When young Jason's father sleepwalks, the child-hero comes to the rescue, proving to be more than the adult's equal. The book's repetitious style and musical cadences accompanied by humorous illustrations will be successful in a storytelling setting. As in many Munsch books a surprise ending will leave readers smiling.

Joan Weller, Head of West Branch, Ottawa Public Library, is the current convenor of the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award Committee.