

Diary of a Spider

Doreen Cronin

2005

Joanna Cotler Books

Author:

Doreen Cronin

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She actually wrote *Diary of a Worm* while in law school (two of her brothers are Secret Service agents, so that gave her lots of fodder for the book). She loves to collect antic typewriters.

I was born and raised in New York. I lived with my mom, dad, two brothers and sister in a red house on a busy street in Merrick, Long Island. My dad was a police officer and he was very, very funny. Even though being a police officer is dangerous work, my dad always had a hilarious story to tell. After listening to my father's wild tales, I decided I wanted to be a police officer or an FBI agent.

Even though Doreen is an attorney, she hasn't practiced lately. For many years she was both writing books and practicing law, because she had student loans to pay off. She actually wrote *Diary of a Worm* while in law school (two of her brothers are Secret Service agents, so that gave her lots of fodder for the book). A happy coincidence changed her life after her book *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* won a Caldecott Honor. She found that she couldn't do school visits, conferences and the like and keep her full time job as an attorney. So she took the plunge, which she describes as a "leap of faith and decided to go for it." As far as she is concerned, there couldn't be anything

better than visiting schools and speaking at children's literature conferences and making it a full time job.

Other books include:

*Click Clack Moo, Cows that Type, Giggle Giggle Quack, Duck for President, Click Clack Quackity Quack, Click Clack Splish Splash, Dooby Dooby Moo, Diary of a Worm, Diary of a Fly* , and Wiggle

Illustrator:

Harry Bliss



Harry Bliss is a cartoonist and cover artist for the New Yorker Magazine. He grew up in Upstate New York. His parents were successful painters and Illustrators. He went to Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Illustrations at the University of Arts and Syracuse University.

Harry Bliss recently won two awards from The One Show for Excellence in New Media Advertising for his work with ad agency Butler, Shine, and Stern. Bliss' Converse spots ran in 2005/2006

Bliss has illustrated many books and produces cartoons and covers for *The New Yorker*. His first book for children, *A Fine, Fine School* by Sharon Creech was a *New York Times* bestseller, as was *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin.

E-mail

Use this address

[http://www.harrybliss.com/store/contact\\_us.php](http://www.harrybliss.com/store/contact_us.php)

Other Books:

- *A Fine, Fine School* by Sharon Creech,
- *Countdown To Kindergarten* by Alison McGhee,
- *Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin
- *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin
- *Don't Forget To Come Back* by Robie H. Harris
- *Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth* by Alison McGhee

- *Which Would You Rather Be?* by William Steig,

Award for this book:

Book Sense Honor Book  
Book Sense Pick

Publishers Weekly Best Book  
Amazon.com Editors' Pick

Annotation:

Diary of a Spider shows that spiders are a lot like other students. He goes to school and has a family. He has drills that he has to practice at school. Life for a spider is difficult just like life human students. They both have things that scare them and things that they scare. He is friends with a fly and the play together. The pictures show how the a spider does things in a human world.

Book talk:

Have you ever wondered what life is like for a spider? Then you should read Diary of a Spider. Spider goes to school just like you do and has some of the same problems that you face. No matter if you are a spider or a child there are things that scare you.

Characters:

Main- Spider 6 years old- just you average spider trying to survive a normal life

Grampa- Tell how things use to be between spiders and flies

Fly- Spider's friend

Daddy Long Legs- bully

Worm- Spider's friend

Conflict:

Spider faces normal everyday changes. This is an internal conflict.

Conflict Resolution:

Spider does his best to meet every change.

Art Medium:

The illustrator uses a cartoon style of drawings for the book. He uses bright colors to keep a happy feeling to this funny story. It helps to show kids that spiders don't have to be scary.

Genre:

Animal Fiction

Setting:

Spider's house, his friends' house, and school

Present day

Point of View:

First Person

Theme:

This is the diary ... of a spider. But don't be worried -- he's more scared of you and your gigantic shoe! Actually, he's a lot like you.

If you like Diary of a Spider, you'll love: A royal wedding by Mark Kimball Moulton, Miss Spider's Tea Party, by David Kirk, Itsy Bitsy, the smart spider, by Charise Mericle Harper, and The bugliest bug by Carol Diggory Shields, Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin, Diary of a Fly by Doreen Cronin, and Wiggle by Doreen Cronin

Reading Level:2.5

Interest Level p-3

Discussion Questions:

Before-What do you think a spider would have to write about? Have you ever kept a diary?

During-Where do you think a spider could play during recess? How would you get fly out of her house? What type of safety day do we have at school?

After-What do you think spider will write about next? What do you think fly and spider will do together? How is spider's life like yours?

Language:

Awesome-great

Dangerous-Harmful

Delicious-good tasting

Indiana Academic Standards

Kindergarten

Art K.7.1 Social Studies K.1.2, K.1.4, K.5.2 Math K.5.2

Science K.3.2, K.4.1, K.4.2 Language K.2.1, K.2.2, K.3.2

First Grade

Social Studies 1.1.1, 1.1.4 Science 1.2.7, 1.4.1

Language 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.6, 1.2.7, 1.3.1, 1.3.3, 1.3.5, 1.3.4, 1.7.1

Second Grade

Social Studies 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.5.1 Science 2.4.2, 2.4.4

Language 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6, 2.2.9, 2.2.10, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7

Third Grade

Social Studies 3.1.5 Science 3.4.6

Language 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.2.8, 3.3.1, 3.3.4, 3.3.6, 3.3.8

Biography

Answer.com

<http://www.answers.com/topic/harry-bliss>

Children's Lit.

[http://www.childrenslit.com/th\\_doreencronin.html](http://www.childrenslit.com/th_doreencronin.html)

Doreen Cronin

<http://www.doreencronin.com/>

Harry Bliss

[http://www.harrybliss.com/main\\_content.html](http://www.harrybliss.com/main_content.html)

Pippin Properties

<http://www.pippinproperties.com/authill/cronin/>

Visiting authors.com

[http://www.visitingauthors.com/authors/bliss\\_harry/bliss\\_harry\\_bio.html](http://www.visitingauthors.com/authors/bliss_harry/bliss_harry_bio.html)