

Novel Resource #1

Title: I Wanna Iguana
Copyright date: 2004

Author: Karen Kaufman
Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons

Annotation

This book is about a young boy's quest to own a pet iguana. Alex realizes that he must convince his mom that he is capable and ready to handle the responsibility. The notes written back and forth between mom and son bring the story to life without traditional dialogue. The illustrations have as much impact on the reader as do the words in the story.

Booktalk: Have you ever tried to convince your mom that you wanted something really bad? Alex decides to write notes back and forth to his mom, so that he can convince her that he wants an iguana. You'll love reading the hilarious things that they write to each other.

Characters in the story

Alex: A child (maybe 9 years old) that is determined to get the pet of his dreams.

Mom: A feisty woman, willing to stick up for her side of the argument.

Dad & brother: both are pictured, but don't have speaking parts.

Conflict: Alex really wants an iguana, but mom thinks they are ugly and grow to be too big.

Resolution: Alex writes convincing notes that persuade his mom to let him prove that he can raise an iguana responsibly..

Genre: humorous fiction

About the Author



Karen Orloff's first book for children is I Wanna Iguana. She started her career thinking that she would write adult fiction. She is happy to be writing children's books now. She lives in Hopewell Junction New York with her husband and two children.

Interesting Facts: She received many rejections before she had her work published. This story was based on the iguana that her son owns, which is now four feet long.

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Other books she wrote: The Little Book of Baby Names, & If Mom Had Three Arms.

She also writes articles for the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

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About the Illustrator:



David Catrow is an cartoonist, painter and commercial illustrator. He has illustrated over 30 children's books. He has received numerous awards for his work. David lives with his wife Deborah and their two children in Ohio.

Interesting Facts: . He majored in pre-med in college. David worked as a paramedic for ten years. He didn't realize his passion for art until he began freelance work for two newspapers.

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Books David has Written and Illustrated: We the Kids

Books David has Illustrated: Don't Say that Word!, Are You Quite Polite: Silly Manners Songs, Plantzilla Goes to Camp, Where Did They Hide My Presents: Silly Dilly Christmas Songs, Lu and the Swamp Ghost, I'm Still Here in the Bathtub: Brand New Silly Dilly Songs, Take me Out of the Bathtub..., Merry Un-Christmas, My School's A Zoo!, Attic Mice, Good Dogs, Bad Dogs, Good Cats, Bad Cats, Backstage with Clawdio, The Cataract of Lodore, Rhymes from A to Z, etc.