

DOCUMENT ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

for Marilyn Wassmann's
What the Wind Blew In



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I. COMPREHENSIVE SYNOPSIS

In this collection of charming little stories, readers are swept away to a world where the ordinary becomes magical and the magical is just a flight of imagination away.

A grumpy imp learns how to make friends when he meets an injured dragonfly. A baby bird gets rescued by a plastic owl when he tries to have an adventure too soon. A smart cat saves his master and fellow pets when their house almost burns down. A wounded butterfly provides some important lessons on the value of time healing all wounds. A toy animal helps to prevent a pet bird from escaping. A group of naughty mice outwit a cat to steal some cheese. All these colorful characters and more come alive through the author's own illustrations.

II. DETAILED BOOK OUTLINE

Tiptoe Through the Toadstools

An imp falls asleep after drinking dewdrop tea and eating mushroom bread. He gets awakened by a dragonfly named Flonster. The imp thinks that Flonster can breathe fire and asks the dragonfly not to hurt him. Flonster asks the imp for help because he had hurt his wing and the imp, conscience-stricken, agrees to help him. The imp says his name is Momanderly Beselflen. Momanderly helps to set Flonster's wing and invites the dragonfly to stay with him while Flonster recovers. The two of them then become friends.

Ballad of the Birdhouse

There are three little birds in a birdhouse. One of them is calling out for their mother. He tries to awaken his brothers, but they're too deep in sleep and dreaming about their next meal. The baby bird looks out through the hole in their home and he is seen by a plastic owl who asks him where he's going. The owl questions if the baby bird is ready to fly. The baby bird laments to himself that he didn't pay more attention when his mother told them about flying. However, he tells the owl that he's restless and wants to have adventures of his own. The owl cautions him that his wings still look too small for flying and he'll probably fall. The baby bird leaves the birdhouse anyway and promptly falls to the ground. The owl then rescues the baby bird and takes him back to his nest. The mother bird arrives in time to see the rescue and she thanks the owl.

Tale of a Tigger

A cat named Tigger says it would be so nice if you could spend your day just chatting with others. He says that he misses his brothers and sisters, along with his mother. He talks about how he was fascinated by his tail as a kitten and goes on to describe some of his characteristics as a cat. He describes the home he lives in and reveals that there are four dogs in the house as well. He treats the dogs well because he knows the master of the house loves them. His favorite, though, is his mistress because she's always glad to see him. One day, a fire breaks out in the kitchen. The master is asleep at the time, so Tigger wakes him by popping a balloon. The master is so grateful that he starts treating Tigger better and he ends up in the newspaper as the cat who kept a house from burning down.

Why Cry Butterfly?

The author asks a butterfly why it's crying and begins to speculate as to the reasons why. She worries about the butterfly until she sees another one of its kind appear. The other butterfly seems very concerned for the wounded butterfly and waits until it's healed. Then the two butterflies start flying around the garden together. The author thinks that wounds inevitably heal and the butterfly will continue to enjoy life and have fun.

Flube-a-Dube

The author is tired when she gets home after work and she ignores Flube-a-Dube lying on the floor. He's a toy that the dog Duchess likes to carry around and play with. The author thinks about all the abuse the toy receives throughout the day and thinks that the toy is such an important part of their home. One night, the door to the cockatiel's cage is left ajar and before the bird could fly out, Flube falls off the couch, which causes one of the dogs to bark and alert the author's husband. The author likes to think Flube was looking out for the bird.

Mice Works

After tasting the cheese on the shelf, the mice want to have more of it. However, they are unsure if the cat above the shelf is made of porcelain or actually real, so they scurry away. At night, they come back through a crack in the wall and take some more of the cheese. However, one of the mice gets stuck in the crack. The other mice go back and rescue him. While some of the worked on freeing the stuck mice, the others tried to distract the cat. The mice are successful and they're all able to get away safely.

III. QUERY LETTER

Dear _____,

Nursery rhymes are part and parcel of a child's early years, and they are excellent ways for parents to read and bond with their children. The most common nursery rhymes are often short, but they include very memorable stories that children carry with them for many years to come. But what if the rhymes were a bit longer and the stories just a bit more complex? This is what I endeavored to do in my book *What the Wind Blew In*, which is a collection of tales written in poetic couplets.

The book is a collection of six colorful stories written and illustrated by me. The stories are about animals and nature, and they are entitled "Tiptoe through the Toadstools," "Ballad of the Birdhouse," "Tale of a Tigger," "Why Cry Butterfly?," "Flube-A-Dube," and "Mice Works." The poems are all very catchy and children will surely remember them easily. It's an enjoyable collection that parents and their children can really bond over.

It seems like I was destined to be a part of the library and art world. I was born on Feb. 29th during a leap year, and during my working career, I earned four degrees-two in art history, one in library science, and one in studio art. My passion for the arts led me to work as an art cataloger at the Library of Congress for 28 years. After retiring in 2011, I continued to pursue the arts by illustrating and contributing to anthologies for the Greenbelt Writers Group, as well as self-publishing two books with my husband's assistance. Besides drawing, needlework, and painting, I continue to write in my spare time. I live in Hyattsville, Maryland with my husband Paul, some fish, several cats, and one dog.

Thanks for your consideration.

Marilyn Wassmann



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