Meet the Co-Authors

Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook



During a casual conversation about New Year's resolutions, Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook discovered they shared a common dream—writing for children. A writing partnership evolved from those chance remarks. Both living and working in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area, they began meeting to see if they could make their dream come true. Years later and with several successful publications under their belts, the two co-conspirators still get together every week to brainstorm and polish their current works-in-progress. Always coming up with new ideas and trying out new ways of getting the words just right, they look forward to collaborating for a long time to come.

Their first books, *Mouse Makes Words* and *Mouse Makes Magic* (both Random House 2002) are early phonics readers for young children. Their third book, *Mouse's Hide and Seek Words* (Random House 2003) is a Level 1 early reader and was named a 2004 Oppenheim Toy Portfolio gold award book.

As is true for most writers, Kathryn and Deborah get their ideas from their day-to-day lives, which include lots and lots of children. Kathryn is an elementary school psychologist and when she's not writing she can be found cooking, sewing, or golfing. Deborah is a kindergarten teacher, a volunteer at the Humane Society, and an avid Harley motorcyclist. The stories in the "I Wish" series are the fruit of their first collaborative picture book efforts.

Contact Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.

I Wish I Had Freckles Like Abby written by Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook / illustrated by Bonnie Adamson
Quisiera tener pecas como Abby escrito por Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook / ilustrado por Bonnie Adamson
©2007, ISBN 0-9724973-8-2
I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa written by Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook / illustrated by Bonnie Adamson
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Questions for the Co-Authors

Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook



1. Who or what inspires you to write?
Kathryn and Deborah (Katie and Debbie) get many of their ideas from the children they work with every day. Katie is a school psychologist and Debbie is a kindergarten teacher so they pay close attention to how kids think, what they say, and what they love about the world around them.

2. What is your favorite writing environment? Describe your workspace.
When Katie and Debbie are writing together, they are usually at Katie's house in a small room with a desk, a computer and a big, round table. The table gives them room to spread out papers, books and files. They keep a collection of stuffed mice in the computer alcove which reminds them of their first published books.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for writing?
Most of Katie and Debbie's stories start off handwritten instead of on the computer so they have lots of paper and pencils with erasers on hand. The dictionary and thesaurus are also kept nearby.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
In the early days of writing together, a big bowl of popcorn with cheese crackers and peanuts mixed in used to be the main staple of Katie and Debbie's writing sessions. Then malted milk balls and various other sweets joined the party. These days, chocolate is brought out for celebrations and sometimes a music CD adds to the atmosphere of a writing session.

5. Who are your favorite authors? What influence have they had on your work?
Joy Cowley is Debbie's favorite author because of the rhymes and humor in her books. Eric Carle is her favorite illustrator. Debbie has her kindergartners try to make their own paper, just like Eric Carle does.

Katie loves Margaret Wise Brown and is carrying on the tradition she had with her son of reading *Goodnight Moon*. Now she is reading it to her grandson.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?

Katie and Debbie want kids to know that they are each so wonderful in their own special way. They work with kids all the time so they know this is true! They want kids to like themselves "just the way they are!"

Questions for the Co-Authors (continued)

Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Debbie likes to design and make jewelry and she LOVES to dance. Katie likes to cook and bake. When they aren't writing, they both read, read, read every chance they get.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Where did your ideas come from?
These books were first 'born' in 1997, but it took a long time to get them just right. The "I Wish" books are a true story about two friends in Debbie's kindergarten class. One girl had glasses and the other girl had freckles. They each wanted to be just like the other. Does this sound familiar?

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Not really—Debbie lived the story. It was just a matter of getting it down on paper and making it ring true.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Katie and Debbie love visiting schools and talking to children about their books. They like to act out Rosa and Abby's story—Katie wearing big glasses and Debbie taping big freckles on her face. Kids think it's hilarious!

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Meet the Illustrator

Bonnie Adamson



Bonnie Adamson majored in English in college the first time around. She then went back and got a second degree in art from the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. She works as a freelance illustrator. Her office is in her home–a studio cubbyhole wedged in next to the children's playroom–in South Carolina. Her daughters, even though they are 'all grown up now', provide inspiration and every drawing looks a little bit like one or the other of them. Bonnie credits her husband as being the kind of man who'll interrupt a Braves game to help chase all over town looking for the last FedEx drop to help her make a deadline. Mollie, their beloved Golden Retriever, sees to it that Bonnie doesn't work too hard–especially during thunderstorms.

She chose to illustrate the two books in the "I Wish" series because the characters immediately drew her in. When she first read *I Wish I Had Freckles Like Abby / Quisiera tener pecas como Abby* and *I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa / Quisiera tener lentes como Rosa* she envisioned both girls and was already drawing them in her head. The various situations the girls found themselves in appealed to Bonnie's funnybone and she created a world that children can relate to through the antics of Rosa and Abby.

She has plans to continue illustrating for the children's picture book market and looks forward to creating the fantasy worlds and quirky characters that are needed for this genre.

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Questions for the Illustrator

Bonnie Adamson



1. Who or what inspires you to write?
Bonnie sees the challenge of 'getting it right' as inspiration in and of itself.

2. What is your favorite illustrating environment? Describe your workspace.
Bonnie has a small studio in her home with a drafting table and a computer with an oversize screen nearby. There's good light (two windows and two rows of track lighting) and lots of storage for paper and reference material. But she writes and sketches on the sofa where she has staked out a corner just for herself.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for illustrating?
The drafting table Bonnie uses dates back to art school, as do many of her brushes and paints. The only recent purchase is a light box.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
Everything in the creative process for Bonnie starts with sketches done with 2B lead on Bienfang parchment. She says she always has plenty of kneaded erasers on hand. Also on hand—a mug of tea spiked with lemon and sugar. When she is painting, James Taylor sings to her from a CD. For a break, Bonnie plays Free Cell obsessively on the computer. She can relax without leaving her work environment.

5. Who are your favorite illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
Great draftsmen like Mercer Mayer and Maurice Sendak impress Bonnie. Stylistically, she'd like to recreate the look of some of the old color plates in children's books published in the '30's. On a more modern note, she also appreciates the visual whimsy of Sandra Boynton and the clean-edged style and color palette of Cartoon Network's *Samurai Jack*.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Bonnie would like to make it clear that each of the girls in the "I Wish" stories has a special beauty and charm of her own. Although the desire to be 'just like' a friend is almost universal at this age, Bonnie hopes that, by the end of the story, readers won't find it too much of a stretch to "imagine that!"

Questions for the Illustrator (continued)

Bonnie Adamson



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that other may be interested in?
Needlework keeps Bonnie busy during the evenings of winter. She enjoys experimenting with variations on knitting and crochet patterns and is always surprising her family with these 'inspired' pieces.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you illustrate it? Where did your ideas come from?
The "I Wish" illustrations took about a year to complete including cover art, page layout and revisions along the way. Bonnie liked the universal theme of these stories and used her own daughters for reference. She also says that she can remember her own various moods as an eight-year-old girl.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Watching her own daughters navigate the fine line between admiring the attributes and achievements of others while maintaining a healthy respect for their own, has been helpful to Bonnie in creating the illustrations for these books.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Bonnie looks forward to book signings and other illustrator events when the books are released. Her family and friends are excited for her and that is always fun and good for the self-esteem.

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About the Book

I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa / Quisiera tener lentes como Rosa



Do you remember wanting to be taller when you were young? Or maybe you wanted to be able to dance or sing like your best friend. Many of us want to do something or look just like someone else when we are kids. This is the way it is with Abby. Her best friend Rosa has glasses. Abby just loves Rosa's glasses and wants some of her own. How far will she go to get them?

In this hilarious story, the first book in the "I Wish" series, Abby goes to elaborate and comical lengths to get glasses. In her quest to have glasses, Abby invents a multitude of ingenious ways of getting what she wants. She creates glasses from clay only to have them droop. She wears goggles when she swims and does woodworking all the while pretending they are real glasses. Her father's crazy eyeball glasses don't work either. These attempts have hilarious, often disappointing results. In the end the realization comes that what one person might dislike about themselves may be just the thing that someone else envies. Just like Rosa in *I Wish I Had Freckles Like Abby / Quisiera tener pecas como Abby*, Abby finds out it's not always best to want what someone else has. Sometimes the things that make you an individual are things that you'd just as soon not have—curly hair, long legs, or a crooked smile. Abby grows to appreciate her own special beauty.

Rosa and Abby's friendship is brought to life in illustrator Bonnie Adamson's soft watercolor depiction. Animated expressions and funny details capture the many moods of Abby's enthusiastic yearning and invention. Abby's innovative solutions will lead to discussions of the reader's own, as well as their friend's, best attributes. What do you wish for?

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Tip Sheet for I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa / Quisiera tener lentes como Rosa

I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa / Quisiera tener lentes como Rosa
Co-Written by Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook
Illustrated by Bonnie Adamson
32 pg. / Hardcover / Jacketed / 1st Edition / Trade Cloth
Children's Bilingual (English/Spanish full text translations in both languages)
ISBN 0-9724973-7-4 Reading Level—2.8
Publication Date– Spring 2007 9 x 11
Retail Price $16.95 USD Ages 4-8 Accelerated Reader® Quiz # pending

Description: Abby concocts comical and innovative strategies to get glasses. She learns that what someone might dislike about themselves may be just the thing someone else envies. Imagine that! Abby gains appreciation of her own uniqueness.

Selling Points:
- Kids always want to be just like their friends, even wishing to wear glasses!
- Humorous situations and drawings
- Positive reinforcement of self-appreciation message

Selling Sentence: Abby concocts comical and innovative strategies to get glasses.

Author Bio: Kathryn Heling is an elementary school psychologist and when she's not writing she can be found cooking, sewing, or golfing. Deborah Hembrook is a kindergarten teacher, a volunteer at the Humane Society, and an avid Harley motorcyclist.

Illustrator Bio: Bonnie Adamson majored in English in college the first time around then went back and got a second degree in art from the University of Tennessee—Knoxville. She works at home—in a studio cubbyhole wedged in next to the children's playroom—in South Carolina.

Advertising & Promotion Plans:
- Direct marketing to booksellers, schools and libraries
- Electronic advertising to e-lists
- Introduction at local, national and international trade shows including BEA and ALA
- Catalog and galley mailings to all major book reviewers



Pre-Publication Comments and Special Sales:
- Award winning co-authors

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