

# blue manatee children's bookstore

## Thar She Blows, Noah!

### Even More Bubbles, Whistles, Gurgles, and Such.

May, 2003

**Imagine:** Mother Nature passing on the family recipe for mud. "Okay, its one part minced dirt, one part rain... Whoa! Hey stop! Too much rain! Too much rain! Whoo-hooo!!!"

If the saying is true, *April showers bring May flowers*, a natural follow-up question is:

"And what, pray tell, do May showers bring?"

One hopes, of course, June flowers, a change of shoes, or a covered dish.

However, it is also possible that since April already brought showers, and thus we already have some, that May has kept the receipt, and thus we can exchange the May showers at the Gaia General Store for a little sunshine.

In the interim, what better time to read?

Apologies for my delinquency over the past few months, playing e-hooky while tending to my colicky novel, which is now, they tell me, in the hands of an agent in NYC. On my optimistic days, I imagine frenzied bidding wars, movie rights, dinners in trendy Soho cafes discussing things sublime; trends in neo-modernist literature, this season's turtleneck designs, tweed. The overall post-millennial gestalt given the demise of the Soviet bloc and emergence of the information age, and whatnot. On bad days, I am seized by horrific images of epic, teetering piles of manuscripts on an overworked agent's desk, four-hundred-thirty page doorstops, post-graduate interns reading aloud in sarcastic, nasal voices, chortling over choice paragraphs before feeding them into the shredder. The Prime Time Live investigation into NYC agent scams.

But this is my itchy shirt to wear, and none of your concern.

Here's what's going on. Variations on a theme of M.

M is for Many-thanks!

We appreciate your ongoing support, especially in the vicinity of Easter and Earth Day (for those who saw me on the ten o'clock Channel 19 news April 22, yes, I was confused).

M is for Moved!

Apologies for those of you who planned on meeting author-illustrator Todd Parr, who had to reschedule his Cincinnati visit due to travel snags. We have arranged to send him books for signing, which will be personalized, and sent back in a timely manner. Thus, if you would like to be included, let us know ASAP. Todd did pledge to try and visit us in the summer, so we will keep you posted.

M is for Mountains of books, Mama-Mia!

Spring titles abound in our store. Either we have an awesome selection, and/or the books are breeding, or the bookstore gremlins have absconded a printing press, and work around-the-clock in the basement. Whatever the case, it's great stuff.

M is for Mother's Day!

Katie's story time theme May 7-8, is Mother's Day. Thus, bring beloved Mom along, buy her a book or cute plush toy, sing to her, say thanks, offer her some tea.

M is for Margaret.

Margaret Kellar continues her increasingly popular Spanish story time on May 10, 10:30-11:30, and bimonthly thereafter. Come share stories and activities, all en espanol. FREE, tailored to ages in attendance. Ole'!

M is for Meander.

Katie's story time theme May 14-15, is "Let's Go For A Walk," and you just might.

M is for Molly Moon!

Thursday, May 15, 6-8PM. A Blue Manatee Exclusive. British author Georgia Byng will be with us to sign and discuss Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism, her hilarious, enchanting new novel, best for kids grade 3-4 and up. Buy the book, and get a free blue pug plush with curlicue, hyp-no-tized eyes. Proceeds of the event will be diverted to Ohio Pug Rescue. Several of the little lovelies will be in attendance, and can paw-print books, by request.

M is for My-What-A-Fine-Book-Mom!

Sunday, May 18, 1:30-4PM. Carolyn Daly continues her also increasingly popular Mother-Daughter Book Club, targeted (peacefully, of course), for girls 9-12. This month's title is Caddie Woodlawn, by Carol Brink. The event is free, but purchase(s) in our store is/are appreciated. Refreshments and activities served.

M is for Mud-dwellers!

Katie's Story-Time theme May 21-22, is Bugs. Come for music, good karma, and fun, hosted by the guitar-strumming Jerry Garcia of the story time set (albeit female, alive, vibrant, and sans beard).

M is for Music!

Sunday May 25, 3-4 PM. A FREE family concert with noted children's musician Justin Roberts, celebrating his newest CD, Not Naptime. If you are unfamiliar with his music, you will be impressed. Thoughtful, funny, dead-on lyrics, and a jangling, smooth voice reminiscent of James Taylor. After a month on the power rotation at the store, the staff still loves it - a precious vote of confidence for Barney-scarred parents prone to brain possession by play-it-again kids music. You'll love it.

M is for More Katie!

Story time May 28-29, is Teddy Bear Picnic. Bring marmalade, munchies, maybe a melon. No mackerel nor moldy mustard.

M is for More Music! J is for Jump, Jam, Joy!

Sunday, June 1, 1-3PM. A blue manatee exclusive. Join us at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Theater on Oakley Square for the long-awaited release of Cincinnati native ZAK MORGAN's new CD, WHEN BULLFORGS CROAK. Tickets are on-sale now in our store, or our online cyber-store, [www.blumanateebooks.com](http://www.blumanateebooks.com). The cost is a mere \$5, for an afternoon of fun and toe-tapping from a quickly rising star. Zak will be signing CD's after the event. Publisher's Weekly recently described his voice as "rich, sonorous, and versatile," yet we just think he's cool, and sounds like Cat Stevens. Spend the afternoon in Oakley, with Dewey's Pizza, Aglamesis Ice Cream, Skyline, King Arthur's Court, and us!

J is for Jockey-For-Position-In-Line!

June 21 looms; to some, like a valiant unicorn atop a hill, to others, like a sinister warlock in a dark grove.

(There was one person who thought it looked like Dobby the House-Elf painted chartreuse, but he hadn't slept in awhile.) We are still accepting pre-orders (secured by credit card, please), for Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, which we just found out had nothing to do with the seventies television show, Alice (she was a waitress, lived in Phoenix, took orders, get it?). Here's what we'll be doing: We will open the store at ten (or simply stay open all day), for FREE FREE FREE refreshments (cookies, cakes, likely no bangers and mash), games (HP Quiz Bowl, covering all four earlier books, and some other stuff we'll make up), door prizes (hinges, deadbolts, a knob or two), and a general mini-panic regarding the approach of midnight, when we will hand out the books and kids will start reading and mumbling to themselves. We will have a drawing of all secured pre-orders, and will bestow his-hers Magic Manatee Wands, bestowing the sage user with 20% off everything in our store (minimal exceptions, i.e. things we don't get at a discount) for a full year. Also, 10% of sales will be diverted to buying Harry Potter books for needy kids in the Cincinnati area. Altogether, it will be lovely. We will also open early (6 or so) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for a free English style breakfast (again, no bangers and mash). Again, FREE FREE FREE! By the way: Don't believe the mega-discount hype for this book - it is a spell cast by Voldemort!

Whew...

So. That's it. I glance out of my window, and see that the rain has stopped. There is a rim of cerulean sky, at peace with puffy, parting clouds. Or perhaps they are simply discussing their next performance piece.

Word for the month: **Pluvial**: rainy.

Etymology of the month: The term, **vaccination**, is derived from the practice of transferring crusted cowpox lesions from cow (**vaca**) udders to human skin, conferring protection against its more obnoxious cousin, smallpox.

Inspiring historical phrase of the month (paraphrased): "That Shakespeare kid shows potential."

A few selected titles: The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone (an earthy favorite, perfect for Spring), by \_\_\_\_\_. Casey at the Bat, autographed by local celebrity

illustrator C.F. Payne, The Key Collection, by local  
celebrity author, Andrea Cheng.

By popular demand, a HAIKU:  
How do I love thee?  
Let me count the ways: one, two,  
Three, four, five, six, sev'n.

And finally, remember: Without you, we at blue manatee  
would be but a cadre of borderline-loony cronies sitting in  
a circle on small blue stools playing with lift-the-flap  
books and puppets. With you, and only with you, we are  
fairly cool - guilt by association. We may have built the  
well, but you and the kids you love are the hope that flows  
from it.

Thank you for your attention, and we hope to see all of you  
several times incredibly soon.

John Hutton  
proprietor  
blue manatee children's bookstore  
Cincinnati  
513-731-2665  
[johnsandy@bluemanateebooks.com](mailto:johnsandy@bluemanateebooks.com)