Françoise Laurent has always had to rely on herself to get by. When her parents die suddenly from the smallpox ravishing New France (modern-day Montreal), she takes a job as a maid to the wife of a wealthy fur trader. The poverty-ridden world she knew transforms into a strange new one full of privilege, comfort, and fine things. But her employer, Mme Pommereau, is not an easy woman to work for.

When Françoise is caught stealing a pair of her mistress’s gloves, the consequences are dire: thrown into jail, she is sentenced to death by hanging. Is she cunning enough to convince the prisoner in the cell beside her to become the hangman and marry her, which, by law, is the only thing that could save her life?

Based on an actual story, and filled with illuminating historical detail, this gripping novel transports readers to the harsh landscape of 18th century North America, filled with even harsher class divisions and injustices.

**Kate Cayley** is currently the writer-in-residence at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. *The Hangman in the Mirror* is her first novel for young adults. Her poetry and short fiction have appeared in a variety of literary magazines.

“Dramatic in … a masterly way. Power and temperament give the tale conviction, far away from mere medieval setting and brave historical obligingness.”

—Die Zeit

See page 22.
Beyond Bullets
A Photo Journal of Afghanistan

by Rafal Gerszak with Dawn Hunter
photographs by Rafal Gerszak

Unforgettable photos reveal daily life in the Afghanistan we rarely see.

Award-winning photographer Rafal Gerszak spent a year embedded with the American troops in Afghanistan. There, he used his camera to document everyday life in the war-torn country. Along the way, he developed a deep affection for the land and its people, and later returned on his own. Despite the dangers, he continued taking photos, exposing the plight and revealing the pleasures of that besieged country.

Framed by journal entries that relate his experiences on two levels—as a foreigner looking for a deeper connection to a country that has stirred him, and as a journalist looking for another side of the story—Beyond Bullets addresses the volatile situation in Afghanistan with sensitivity and profound insight. Through Gerszak’s photos and accompanying text, we see the shattered aftermath of military attacks, dismal hospitals and refugee camps, but also the vibrant activity of life in the markets and at home.

RAFAL GERSZAK’s work has been published and exhibited internationally. His documentary work and short films have been recognized by The National Press Photographers Association and News Photographers Association of Canada. Visit his website at www.rafalgerszak.com.
Double or Nothing
Revised Edition

by Dennis Foon

Raise the stakes and feel the heat.

Dennis Foon’s believable portrait of a teen caught in a gambling addiction crackles with suspense and a foreboding sense of where Kip will land. Originally published in 2000, this highly acclaimed novel has been updated to reflect new technology and the rise of online gambling.

Praise for Double or Nothing:
★ New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age
★ “Our Choice” List, Canadian Children’s Book Centre
★ South Carolina Young Adult Book Award finalist

“… this edgy novel believably captures the nightmare of compulsive gambling.”
—Horn Book

“… compelling characters … a fast-moving plot with plenty of crisp, authentic dialog.”
—Booklist

“… a main character who will break your heart.”
—Kliatt

DENNIS FOON is the author of several novels for young readers, including The Dirt Eaters, and writes extensively for theater, television, and film. He lives in Vancouver, BC.
In the best story-telling tradition, this collection features true tales of trickery and deceit, including the infamous radio broadcast that had Americans convinced that Martians were invading, and the tours to the lost Tasaday tribe in the Philippines—one of the 20th century’s most elaborate scams, which fooled the world for nearly a decade.

The author’s fascination with the boldness of the swindlers, as well as their motives, inspired these stories, which evoke disbelief, amusement, and even grudging admiration for the ingenious scam artists who often (but not always) met a bad end.

Accompanied by graphic-style artwork, each tale offers a great escape for readers drawn to true stories presented in a lively fashion.

**ANDREAS SCHROEDER** was the resident “Scam-meister” for 12 years on a popular radio show where he uncovered ingenious frauds and hoaxes. He is also an award-winning author who has published more than 20 books.

**RÉMY SIMARD** is a cartoonist, commercial artist, and award-winning author and illustrator. His work has appeared in a wide variety of magazines and newspapers. He lives in Montreal, PQ.
The Lowdown on Denim

by Tanya Lloyd Kyi
illustrated by Clayton Hanmer

How a humble work pant took over the world.

The Lowdown on Denim takes readers on a trip through the history of jeans, demonstrating that whatever their style, jeans have always driven and reflected popular culture, from wartime to the era of rock and roll, from environmental concerns to the rodeo circuit.

When blue jeans were invented in the 1870s, they were utilitarian—baggy, with only a single pocket, and held up with suspenders. Through the decades, they have come bell-bottomed and embroidered, held together with safety pins, and acid-washed. Today, denim can be as personalized as an iPod playlist.

With humorous, comic-style illustrations throughout, this fun, fascinating social history will make readers look at their jeans in a whole new way.

TANYA LLOYD Kyi is the author of numerous books for young readers, including 50 Poisonous Questions and 50 Burning Questions. She lives in Vancouver, BC.

CLAYTON HANMER (aka CTON) is an award-winning illustrator, author, graphic artist, and interactive producer. His work has appeared in diverse publications, including the New York Times and National Geographic Kids. He lives in Toronto, ON.

By the same author:

“The... provides enough drama for readers who relish tales of disaster...” —Booklist

See page 33.
**A Stranger at Home**

A True Story

by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

illustrated by Liz Amini-Holmes

*Margaret can’t wait to return to her family—but her homecoming is not what she expected.*

Ten-year-old Margaret can hardly contain her excitement. It’s been two years since her parents delivered her to the far-away residential school run by dark-cloaked nuns. As she comes ashore, Margaret spots her family, but her mother barely recognizes her. “Not my girl!” she cries out.

Margaret realizes she has become an outsider: she has forgotten the language and stories of her people, and can’t even stomach the food her mother prepares. Margaret gradually relearns her family’s ways. She also discovers how important it is to remain true to her people—and to herself.

Highlighted by archival photos and striking artwork, this first-person account of a young girl’s struggle to find her place will both move and inspire readers of all ages.

**CHRISTY JORDAN-FENTON** is the author of *Fatty Legs*, which was named a 2011 USBBY Outstanding International Honor Book. She lives in Fort St. John, BC.

**MARGARET POKIAK-FENTON** spent her early years on Banks Island in the Arctic Ocean. She now lives in Fort St. John.

**LIZ AMINI-HOLMES**’s illustrations have appeared in children’s books, magazines, and newspapers. She lives near San Francisco.
Throughout history, our undies have revealed a lot about who we are (king or peasant), how we work (in fields or factories), or the shapes we value (manly calves or tiny waists).

The third book in Annick’s 50 Questions series tackles questions such as “What’s that smell?” (Medieval Europeans thought bathing made you sick) and “Did boxers arrive in the Nick of time?” (when blue jean model Nick Kamen stepped out of his denims to reveal his boxers, sales of the underwear soared).

Underwear has played a role in ancient crusades, city sieges, and even modern economic predictions. It’s now time to uncover the facts about everything from loincloths and t-shirts to bloomers and lingerie. You’ll laugh your pants off at the accompanying cartoons, and get the bare, but fascinating, facts about the history of our unmentionables.

**Tanya Lloyd Kyi** is the author of both fiction and non-fiction books for young readers, including *The Lowdown on Denim* and *50 Burning Questions: A Sizzling History of Fire*. She lives in Vancouver, BC.

**Ross Kinnaird** is an illustrator who has worked in London, Sydney, and Hong Kong. He currently lives in Auckland, New Zealand.
When Girl carts the three friends off to school one day, they aren’t sure what to think. Where is school, exactly, and what’s with all the noise there? Who are these people who look like Girl, but aren’t? And why is their new neighbor, Furface, trying to eat their barn? He must have gotten out of his cage—and now it’s time to help him get back in.

The adorable toy characters Chicken, Pig, and Cow once again rely on friendship and teamwork as they embark on their latest adventure in all-new surroundings.

As always, young readers will be charmed by Ruth Ohi’s witty, warm illustrations in this story about the excitement of discovering new places, learning new lessons, and making new friends.

RUTH OHI is not only a talented writer and illustrator, she is also a tireless presenter at schools and libraries, where she shares secrets of her trade with children. Ruth lives with her family in Toronto, ON. Check out Ruth’s website at www.ruthohi.com.
Dogs Don’t Eat Jam and Other Things Big Kids Know

by Sarah Tsiang

illustrated by Qin Leng

Congratulations! You’ve been born. Now what?

New babies have a lot to learn; lucky for them, older siblings, like the one in this delightful picture book, are more than happy to teach them the ropes.

Whether it’s advice on how to let your parents know that something’s wrong, learning how to go (and stop!), or memorizing the important words first (Mama! Dada! Up!), Dogs Don’t Eat Jam is filled with useful tips and lessons to help the new baby navigate the uncertainties that lie ahead.

Following on the heels of the much-praised A Flock of Shoes, Sarah Tsiang and Qin Leng team up for a second time in this playful new picture book—the ultimate guide for newborns, from an older, wiser sibling.

SARAH TSIANG is the author of A Flock of Shoes and of the poetry collection Sweet Devilry, to be published in 2011. She lives in Kingston, ON.

QIN LENG is an award-winning animator and illustrator. She lives in Toronto, ON.
Munsch at Play Act 2
Eight More Stage Adaptations

plays by Irene N. Watts
original stories by Robert Munsch
illustrated by Michael Martchenko

Raise the curtain on eight more plays adapted from favorite stories by Robert Munsch.

In this second collection of plays based on the stories of Robert Munsch, playwright Irene N. Watts has adapted eight more of his best-loved tales for the stage, classroom, or backyard. Complemented by the fun and energetic artwork of long-time Munsch collaborator Michael Martchenko, each story is presented in an accessible play format, making it easy for children to act out their own versions of Munsch’s familiar tales.

These lively, interactive adaptations include suggestions to encourage audience participation, as well as casting ideas that can involve the whole class. Innovative, uncomplicated (and inexpensive!) ideas for props and costumes can also be found. The stories included are:

- The Fire Station
- I Have to Go!
- Something Good
- David’s Father
- Show and Tell
- Pigs
- Jonathan Cleaned Up—Then He Heard a Sound
- From Far Away

IRENE N. WATTS is an award-winning playwright, children’s novelist, and educator. A life member of Playwrights Guild, she lives in Vancouver, BC.

“The students … thoroughly enjoyed reading the adaptations, and they had a great deal of fun working together to present the pieces.”

—CM Magazine

See page 15.
Thomas’ Snowsuit
Board Book

by Robert Munsch
illustrated by Michael Martchenko

All-time favorite now available as a board book.

The hilarious story of Thomas’ refusal to wear his snowsuit—despite pleas from his mother, his teacher, and even his principal—has been making readers laugh since its publication 25 years ago. This new, child-friendly board book edition, with revised text and including new artwork by Michael Martchenko, will make the familiar story even more appealing for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

Red is Best
Board Book

by Kathy Stinson
illustrated by Robin Baird Lewis

The modern classic that proves no color is finer, now available as a board book.

This timeless tale of one child’s stubborn preference for the color red has been marching its way into the hearts of readers around the world for almost 30 years. Now available as a toddler-friendly board book, Red is Best is sure to continue charming a whole new generation of readers.

“Red Is Best gets it right. This is a true children’s classic.” —Ken Setterington, author, storyteller, former Children and Youth Advocate for the Toronto Public Library

“Delightful.” —School Library Journal
Arctic Land
Arctic Sea
Arctic Sky

by Vladyana Krykorka

Three stunning board books—available in a beautifully designed boxed set.

With her signature illustration style, renowned artist Vladyana Krykorka brings the arctic world to life in these three lovely board books. Each one focuses on a particular aspect of arctic wildlife and pairs delicate watercolor paintings with simple language suited to toddlers and pre-schoolers. Arctic Land introduces them to mammals such as the musk ox and arctic hare; Arctic Sea to the narwhal, beluga whales, and others; and Arctic Sky to swooping owls and graceful, gliding swans. The scenes of baby animals with their mothers are particularly appealing.

Young readers will love the sturdy fold-out format, which allows the books to be read over and over, or to be hung on a wall as stand-alone pieces of art.

Vladyana Krykorka has illustrated over 20 picture books for children, including all the titles by acclaimed Inuit storyteller Michael Kusugak. She lives in Toronto, ON.

“This combination of recognizable characters and exotic locale will transport young readers effortlessly.”
—Booklist

978-1-55037-452-0 paper $7.95
978-1-55037-453-7 hardcover $19.95