

**Grey, Mini**

illus:

\$16.99

**EGG DROP**

ISBN# 978-0-375-84260-3

Knopf Books

Series:

2009

E

**AD**

K - 3

Perhaps this could be thought of as a variation on Humpty Dumpty, but the connection is oblique. Egg wants to fly, and he won't listen to those that counsel him to wait. After all, he is young and he doesn't understand the physics of flying. However, his egg dreams won't wait and so he climbs to the top of a tower and jumps. He enjoys the sensation of flying, but he is actually falling and breaks his shell badly. Others try to mend him in many ways but they don't work. Instead, he ends as a sunny side up egg on a plate. There's not much to this tale, and I had to wonder how the eggs yolk wasn't broken in the terrible fall. However, Mini Grey's art work is witty as usual, and fans of her other stories might enjoy this as well, though I was disappointed.

Paula Wittmann (Seattle) – O

**Haarsma, P. J.**

illus:

\$7.99

**BETRAYAL ON ORBIS 2**

ISBN# 978-0-7636-4269-3

Candlewick Press

Series: The Softwire

2009

FIC

**M**

4 - 5

The middle book in the Softwire trilogy, this volume cannot stand alone. While the premise of a "softwire" – a child who can interface with machines using only his mind – is interesting, as is the cruel yet beautiful caste culture of Orbis, this book fails to offer any thorough exploration of either. Johnny Turnbull spends most of the book attempting to learn about his past and the parents whose death resulted in his enslavement, but reaches no satisfactory conclusion. Though secondary adventures are resolved, none of the most pivotal questions about Johnny's character are answered. Furthermore, any information which may have been revealed in the first book is entirely omitted; characters and even whole cultures appear with almost no introduction, leaving the reader adrift. The book is deficient at both ends, with only a minor reprieve in the middle. Since the world itself is a solid creative foundation for the story, this volume might be worth reading in conjunction with the other two.

Audrey Kentor (UW ISchool) – W

**Hailstone, Ruth**

illus: Burr, Dan

\$17.95

**THE WHITE OX: BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF EMILY SWAIN SQUIRES**

ISBN# 978-1-59078-555-3

Calkins Creek

Series:

2009

289.3

**AD-**

K - 3

The illustrations in this book are truly remarkable: full color, extremely detailed, and incredibly realistic. However, the story itself is not nearly as well done. The plot lacks in continuity from one page to the next, making the reader wonder if they missed something in the text. Based on the true story of the author's great-great-grandmother's journey from England to Salt Lake City Utah, this book had the potential to be great, but sadly, it missed the mark.

Anne Dame (UW ISchool) – O

**Halliday, Ayun**

illus: Santat, Dan

\$15.99

**ALWAYS LOTS OF HEINIES AT THE ZOO**

ISBN# 978-1-4231-1352-2

Hyperion Press

Series:

2009

E

**AD+**

K - 3

Ayun Halliday has written humor for adults, but shows she has a light hand for children, too, in this funny fanny book. You know what every animal at the zoo has? Think back...side. Yep, every animal has a heinie, a tush, a butt, glutes... She manages to use nearly every euphemism for rears. Bouncy rhymes work nicely with the concept, as do the expressive detailed (but not TOO detailed) illustrations by Dan Santat. As the author points out at the end, only humans cover their heinies and if you check the end pages and back cover you see the young boy from the book dropping trou and running free. Is this a "must purchase?" Nope. Is it fun? Yep. This is right on target for kid humor. And when parents complain I guess you just need to turn the other cheek.

Teresa Bateman (Federal Way) – W

**Hargreaves, Roger**

illus:

\$3.99

**LITTLE MISS SCARY**

ISBN# 978-0-8431-3568-8

Price Stern Sloan

Series: Mr. Men & Little Miss

2009

N/A

**AD**

K - 2

This flimsy, small, 32 page book tells the story of Little Miss Scary who likes to pop out and shout "BOO!" thus scaring people. She does this for fun. When Mr. Noisy found his friend, Mr. Nervous, shaking in his shoes because of an encounter with Little Miss Scary he decided to turn the tables by scaring the scarer. This is a simple humorous story with a fair amount of text in a small space and simply-drawn characters. It's cute, but more of a home book than a library book.

Teresa Bateman (Federal Way) – W

**Hargreaves, Roger**

illus:

\$3.99

**MR. RUDE**

ISBN# 978-0-8431-3569-5

Price Stern Sloan

Series: Mr. Men & Little Miss

2009

N/A

**AD**

K - 2

Mr. Rude is just that, rude. When he offends Mr. Happy's friend, Mr. Happy decides it's time to take matters into his own hands. He shows up at Mr. Rude's doorstep and makes himself into an unwelcome houseguest. Still, over time, Mr. Rude mellows and discovers that friendship and manners go hand in hand. This flimsy, small, 32-page book is cute, but not really for library circulation.

Teresa Bateman (Federal Way) – W