



For immediate Release...

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Sonrieta Will Free You from Grimness

Come journey to Grimly Valley, a world so severe it is forbidden to smile and people see colors three shades paler than they really are. Here two young parents struggle to prevent their daughter Sonrieta from smiling but to no avail. Sonrieta is sent to the Frowning Tower of Grim to learn proper grimness but instead becomes friends with the artistic misfits residing there, like Antoine, the painter, Oscar, the frustrated musician, Pablo the poet and Grace, the dancer. Together they discover the magic of smiles, music, painting, dance and poetry. Then one day Sonrieta leads her new friends back to the Town of Grim and not even the Great Grim himself nor his Guards of the Grimmiest Way can stop her from freeing her parents and the other town's people from their grimness.

Author

Robert Brooks has been writing stories and poetry since he was a child. Sonrieta, his first children's book, "came to him" during a lunch break while living in Mexico City. In addition to writing, he also teaches music and is a jazz musician and composer. He grew up in Michigan but has lived in several areas of the US including Los Angeles where he attended music school, and New Orleans where he graduated from the University of New Orleans. He currently resides with his wife in Maryland.

Illustrator

Helle Urban has been an illustrator for over 25 years. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA. Helle has illustrated numerous children's books, painted portraits and was a background artist in the animation industry. Helle is always exploring new challenges for creative growth. "It's so exciting to see a story come to life with illustrations. Illustrating the book, "Sonrieta" has been an especially enjoyable". Helle makes her home in Colorado with her husband, one daughter and a dog.

\$17.95 hard cover, 40 pgs. 13 illustrations ISBN: 978-0-9792294-0-4 For ages 6 and up. Publication May 2008

MYSTIC JAGUAR PUBLISHING

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Advanced Praise for Sonrieta

Anyone who appreciates the arts will be inspired by this charming book. Sonrieta demonstrates the power of positive attitude and friendship. The author's pacing and intriguing plot will keep readers spellbound until the end.

Cathy Kiefer / Children's Librarian, Washington, DC

The story is wonderful for teaching tolerance and many of the literary elements. It is filled with beautiful descriptions and rich vocabulary. Most young children are looking for the happy ending and this story surely delivers.

Malissia Turner / Children's Librarian, Virginia

This is a charming story with an underlying moral that simple beautiful things such as music, poems, flowers, dance and special friends can make us smile, fill our hearts with happiness and turn away grimness.

Sandy Rathbun / Children's Librarian, Michigan

Unique and entertaining.

Cassie Veselovsky / Youth Services Librarian, Michigan

Reading Sonrieta I actually was transported to the Grimly Valley and by way of your precise descriptions, felt myself becoming a member of their unfortunate society as well. You have also done a wonderful job of creating a narrative arc that really carries the reader from an intriguing start to a satisfying finish. When I completed Sonrieta, I found both my mood and my spirit lifted.

Lauren Turnowski / Grosset & Dunlap