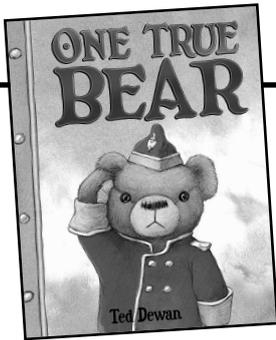


Ted Dewan has been an artist and writer since he was a kid. Along the way to becoming a full-time author/illustrator and creator of picture books, he has been a camp counselor, an institutional kitchen worker, a lifeguard, an engineering student, an organist, a leader of a rock band, a high-school physics teacher, a jingle writer, and a cabaret performer. He was born in America and

lived in London for 14 years before moving to Oxford with his best friend and wife, author/illustrator Helen Cooper (*Pumpkin Soup*) and their lovely daughter Pandora who is clearly smarter than both her parents.



ONE TRUE BEAR

When did you start drawing?

At two years old, I woke up early, found a ball-point pen, and drew all over the wallpaper in the hallway. For some reason, I didn't get punished. I enjoyed it so I kept at it. I got my first job at 16 illustrating a daycare handbook.

How old were you when you started writing?

When I was about three, my mum prompted me and illustrated a little story I told her about a fat boy falling into some alphabet soup. I still have the notebook with mum's illustrations and my story.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A rock keyboardist or an engineer. Being an artist seemed unrealistic so I didn't want to hope to become one and then end up disappointed. Adults were always encouraging me to go into art or architecture but I had too many other interests besides just art. I loved being a teacher for five years after I finished university.

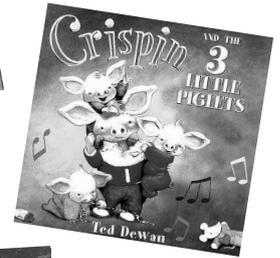
Which of your books is your favourite?

My most recent book, whichever that is, is often my favourite, simply because I keep learning more about drawing and writing so hopefully the latest book represents the best I can do. However, the Bing Bunny books are probably the best ones because kids and their parents have sent me hundreds of emails telling me how much they all love them and read them over and over again loads of times.



CRISPIN THE PIG WHO HAD IT ALL

CRISPIN AND THE 3 LITTLE PIGLETS



CRISPIN AND THE BEST BIRTHDAY SURPRISE EVER

Do you have any pets?

No, but I used to have rabbits when I was growing up. My old car was sort of my pet anyhow, and it made just as big a mess (I sold it recently). I'm afraid I'm not much of a fan of dogs, or maybe it's some of the owners I'm not so crazy about. My daughter was sort of like a pet chimpanzee when she was very little and that was like having an ultra-pet. Now she has become much more human and useful around the house (like helping think up picbook ideas).

Why did you decide to write kid's books?

I think kids are the best reading audience anyone could have. They read books over and over again and remember them forever. Adults usually read books once and forget most of what they've read soon afterwards. Some of them even buy books and never read them, they put them on the shelves to impress visitors. At least they read my books to their kids sometimes; maybe that will smarten them up.

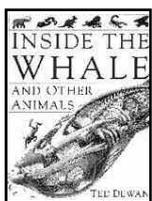
What's the best part about being an author?

Creating children's books for a living is a lot of work, and generally very difficult to earn enough to support a family. But it is immensely rewarding work when you find out how much people like the books and how they sometimes enter family life, with parents and kids quoting the books or doing drawings of the characters.

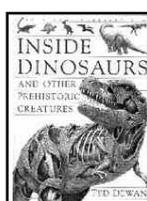
There's more about Ted Dewan (including an email link) on www.wormworks.com



BING BUNNY BOOKS



INSIDE THE WHALE



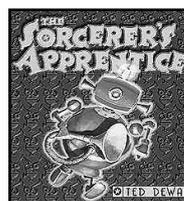
INSIDE DINOSAURS



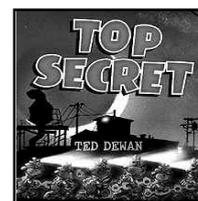
THE WEATHERBIRDS



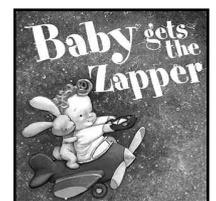
3 BILLY GOATS GRUFF



SORCERER'S APPRENTICE



TOP SECRET



BABY GETS THE ZAPPER