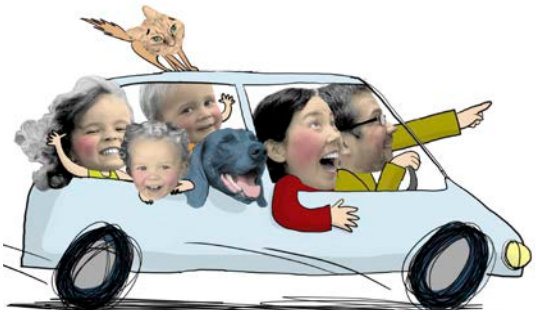
MATTHEW SWANSON AND ROBBI BEHR

AUTHOR and ILLUSTRATOR



ABOUT US

Author/illustrator, husband/wife duo Matthew Swanson and Robbi Behr run two small presses, Bobbledy Books (for kids) and Idiots'Books (for adults) out of the hayloft of an old barn in Chestertown, Maryland. Over the past eight years, they have self-published more than 50 illustrated books—including ten for children. In their work for (and with) children, Robbi and Matthew are interested in encouraging reading, writing, drawing, appreciation of music, and celebration of the creative spirit.

Robbi and Matthew have three kids of their own—Alden (5), Kato (3), and August (1).

PRESS

Matthew and Robbi's work has been praised by *The New York Times* arts blog, *New York* magazine, the *Washington Post, USA Today*'s Pop Candy Blog, WIRED.com's Geek Mom blog, Slate.com, *Utne Reader*'s Great Writing blog, *Publisher's Weekly,* and BoingBoing.net, among others.

Of their work for children, Pulitzer prize-winning book critic Michael Dirda has said:

> ***"Bobbledy Books is my favorite small press publisher for kids. Matthew Swanson writes the words, and his wife Robbi Behr creates the pictures, and together they are silly, poetic, surreal, and incredibly cool."***

COMMERCIAL PUBLISHING

In fall 2010, Matthew and Robbi published *The Super Hero Squad Flips Out* with LB Kids. In fall 2013, they published *Ten Thousand Stories* with Chronicle Books. Their book *Babies Ruin Everything* will be published by LB Kids in 2015.

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PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Equally comfortable presenting to children and adults, Matthew and Robbi have spoken at venues that range from the main stage at the international illustration conference ICON7 to the cafeteria at White Marsh Elementary school in Trappe, Maryland. Recent engagements include appearances at Maryland Institute College of Art, Phillips Academy (Andover), Rhode Island School of Design, New York University, Fordham University, Fashion Institute of Technology, Williams College, and West Des Moines High School.

FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING, WE OFFER:

- **Kid-friendly presentations** about the creative process, what it means to write and draw pictures for a living, and how we work together to make books
- **Readings from our work** supported by slideshows of images from the books
- **Hands-on workshops** in which kids get to write, illustrate, and go home with their very own mix-and-match books
- **Classroom visits** in which we talk to kids in small group settings about writing, drawing, publishing, and living a creative lifestyle
- **Presentations for parents** about the greater scope of what we do—entrepreneurship, publishing, collaboration, and raising kids in a creative context

Regardless of audience, Matthew and Robbi emphasize the benefits of collaboration, the joy of the creative process, and the idea that anyone who wants to can be an author, illustrator, or artist.

CONTACT

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