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Grayslake Father and Son Write Kids' Book

Illustrating and writing a children's book was a team effort for Jay Truelove and his son Joshua, 8.

Posted by [Angela Sykora](#) (Editor) , September 02, 2012 at 05:44 PM

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Finding himself bored one night, Woodview student Joshua Truelove, 8, of , decided he wanted to write a book for kids based on a favorite stuffed animal and a few interesting household items, including the handy backscratcher he kept in his room.

"The backscratcher came to mind because I used it, so it's like a real life connection, like an autobiography."

The end result of his wonderfully creative mind is "Black-Eye Teddy & the Backscratcher."

"It's about made up characters who go on a lot of adventures and find friendship," said Joshua, who loves photography, reading and writing stories, like the 7-pager he wrote about a penguin for school that the other kids really liked.

Joshua's dad, Jay, said he created the drawings inspired by his son's story ideas.

"We printed 200 copies and have sold five," he said.

It's a start.

The Trueloves have set up a Web site where people can purchase the book, which sells for under \$5. [Go to www.thisbookrules.com](#).

It's also being sold at on downtown Center Street.

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kathleen August 30, 2012 at 03:24 PM
Wonderful!!! I can't wait to get a copy!!! Maybe this story will inspire my Woodview daughter to read and write more, tasks that she finds tedious. She probably knows the author.
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Tina P. Schwartz August 30, 2012 at 06:35 PM
I'm a literary agent in Grayslake and would love to get in touch with the family. Please help us connect! Thank you! Tina P. Schwartz, the Purcell Agency
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Angela Sykora (Editor) August 30, 2012 at 07:37 PM
Hi Tina. How exciting! Joshua's mom has posted on our Facebook, www.facebook.com/Grayslake.com. Perhaps you can leave her a message there, or try getting their number through Mike Pruitt at the Vine in Grayslake. Jay's band performs there.
Recommend

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Angela Sykora (Editor) August 30, 2012 at 07:39 PM
Jay and Joshua asked me to give a shout out "thank you" to Mike Pruitt, owner of the Vine, for allowing them to sell their book in front of their storefront during the Farmers Market, held 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays.
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Kristen Spina Foote August 30, 2012 at 08:02 PM
What a sweet story! I will have to buy that book - my kids would love it! Does anyone know when the website will be up? And I didn't know we had a literary agent so close to home :) As an aspiring children's author, I may have to pick your brain sometime, Tina!!!
Recommend

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Angela Sykora (Editor) August 30, 2012 at 08:06 PM
Hi Kristen. They're still working on the Web site, hoping to have it under www.thisbookrules.com, so just keep checking. In the meantime, check in with Grayslake Patch Facebook postings on this subject and maybe catch them at the market. Thanks for writing. It is cool we have a literary agent right here too!
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Kristen Spina Foote August 30, 2012 at 08:56 PM
Wonderful! I'll keep an eye out!
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Jay Truelove August 30, 2012 at 11:00 PM
Hey all. Thanks for the kind comments! It was a great father & son project and we're really proud of the published book. You can contact the authors at jaytruelove@gmail.com. Hope to see you at the Farmer's Market!
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Jay Truelove September 02, 2012 at 06:26 PM
The website is up and running! www.thisbookrules.com. Black-Eye Teddy and the backscratcher is now available in-store at Unique Gifts and Games on Center. Thanks neighbors :)
Recommend

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Angela Sykora (Editor) September 02, 2012 at 06:41 PM
Excellent news! Everyone go to www.thisbookrules.com and check it out! Or you can pick up a copy at Unique Gifts and Games on downtown Center Street in Grayslake.
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Scott Landy October 04, 2012 at 02:09 AM
Now also available at Mitch's Chicago Style Grill on Route 83 in Grayslake!
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Angela Sykora (Editor) October 04, 2012 at 02:31 AM
Thank you for the update Scott!
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Jay Truelove October 04, 2012 at 12:12 PM
Thanks to Mitch's for hosting Black-Eye Teddy and the backscratcher!!! Great food there and a great book :)
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Jay Truelove November 03, 2012 at 09:32 PM
Black-Eye Teddy & the backscratcher is now available on Amazon Kindle! Thanks for your support Grayslake!!! :-D
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