

Mini Reviews

Quincy Rumpel and the All-day Breakfast. Betty Waterton. Greenwood/Douglas & McIntyre, 1996. 120 pp. \$6.95 paper. ISBN 0-88899-225-4.

Quincy Rumpel and the All-day Breakfast is eighth in the series of adventures about Quincy Rumpel. This time the Rumpel family has decided to go into the Bed-and-Breakfast business. What with rearranging their house, renovating chicken coops and serving scrumptious and exotic foods, they realize that running a business is not as easy as they had perceived. It becomes even more of an adventure when they have guests that appear to be a little bit strange. Quincy, alongside her sister and brother, is determined to figure out who these people really are and why they all stare at the moose painting that Leah made for the dining room.

I am impressed by how the book follows the games the children devise in their minds while at the same time it presents factual information that encourages further investigation for young readers. Waterton uses a simple vocabulary yet challenges the reader by throwing in some words that need a dictionary for definition. She also challenges the reader's knowledge of Canadian geography, the French language and world history. She incorporates learning about different types of food — tofu, and ethnic dishes such as curries and poppadoms from India — as well as vegetarianism. Overall, the Quincy adventures are worth checking out.

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Mister Got to Go: The Cat That Wouldn't Leave. Lois Simmie. Illus. Cynthia Nugent. Red Deer College Press, 1995. 32 pp. \$16.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88995-127-6.

They say that cats choose their owners, and not vice versa. Lois Simmie seems to agree with this statement. Amusing and well-paced, *Mister Got to Go* tells the story of a stray grey cat who decides one rainy night that he doesn't want to be a stray anymore. He chooses the Sylvia Hotel for his home. Unfortunately the hotel manager does not think the hotel needs a cat, but he decides to let the cat stay until it stops raining. But then, Mr. Foster insists, "That cat's got to go."

Lois Simmie says "Mister Got to Go" was inspired by the very real cat she met during her stay at the very real Sylvia Hotel on Vancouver's English Bay. And for the most part, the cat acts like a real cat, getting into situations that seem plausible. Cynthia Nugent's brilliant (in both senses of the word) watercolour and ink illustrations are loaded with action, expression, and character, and add immensely to the enjoyment of this well-written story.

Joanne Robertson, author of Sea Witches and of the soon-to-be-released The Harvest Queen is also a teacher and a librarian.

