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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW PICTURE BOOKS FROM KIDS CAN PRESS FOCUS ON THE JOY OF NEW EXPERIENCES, CREATIVITY, AND NATURE

New picture books from Kids Can Press offer humorous and beautifully-illustrated stories about both new and familiar characters, as well as curriculum-based nonfiction that encourages creativity and helps children learn more about the world around them. ***Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach***, for children 4 to 8, takes an amusing look at learning to enjoy life's challenges. In this third volume about Scaredy, his comically super-sized fears of everything from falling coconuts to pirates are cleverly depicted by award-winning author/illustrator Mélanie Watt. ***Rosie and Buttercup***, a new tale from Chieri Uegaki and Stephane Jorisch, the creators of the International Reading Association Notable Book, *Suki's Kimono*, is a charming story about two sisters for kids ages 3 to 7. With a dash of gentle humor and a pinch of spice, the book explores the rewards and trade-offs inherent in the sibling relationship. Indifferent to whether it's spicy or bland, a quest for food motivates Stanley and his pals to take a big risk in ***Stanley at Sea***, a rollicking follow-up to *Stanley's Party* and *Stanley's Wild Ride*, for kids 3 to 7. *Stanley at Sea* finds Stanley and his pals adrift in an adventure that will make sea-dogs out of them all.

Creatively-minded children will enjoy the seven appealingly doable projects that are featured in ***123 I Can Draw!*** and ***123 I Can Make Prints!*** The books encourage children to play and experiment with everyday art materials and tools while they discover the fundamentals of art. A visual glossary reminds readers of the key art terms they have learned, and a note to parents and teachers explains how to get the most out of each project.

Learning about natural science is fun with the help of several inviting picture books for readers ages 4 to 7. ***It's Moving Day!*** is an engaging

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and informative introduction to woodland animals and their habitat. The book focuses on one home, a cozy burrow in the woods, inhabited by a number of different animals as the seasons change. ***Looking Closely Through the Forest*** and ***Looking Closely Along the Shore***, immediately involve a child by asking them to describe what they see in a cross-section of a stunning photographic image from nature. The next pages show the entire photograph revealing what the “detail” actually is. ***Who Lives Here? Polar Animals*** and ***Who Lives Here? Rain Forest Animals*** are the first book in a new series about animals and how they have adapted to their habitats. The energetic and colorful illustrations appeal to younger children, while maintaining scientific accuracy.

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[Note to editors: Please use the enclosed checklist to order titles, or order online in the “What’s New” section of our web site, www.raabassociates.com.]



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**ONE HEN FROM KIDS CAN PRESS: AN INSPIRING STORY OF A CHILD'S
DETERMINATION TO ESCAPE POVERTY**

While children in Western countries usually don't worry about access to food, shelter, and the opportunity to attend school, three billion people worldwide struggle to live on less than \$2 a day. Kids Can Press, publishers of *Ryan and Jimmy*, *One Well*, and *If the World Were a Village*, is known for its books that raise kids' social consciousness. ***One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference***, written by Katie Smith Milway and illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes, encourages children ages 7 and up to think about the power we each have to initiate positive changes in the world. In addition, children can play online games to experience the impact a small loan has on a virtual village at www.onehen.org. The *One Hen* website also features video stories, links to microlending organizations, and special sections for parents, teachers, and librarians.

One Hen tells the story of Kojo, a boy from Ghana, who uses the proceeds from a small loan to build a thriving farm. Kojo's story demonstrates the impact that microloans--a lending system for people in developing countries who have no collateral and no access to conventional banking--can have on one boy and his community.

At the end of Milway's fictional tale, children learn the true story of Kwabena Darko, who is the inspiration for *One Hen*. Mr. Darko built the largest poultry operation in West Africa and now sits on the board of Opportunity International, one of the world's biggest microcredit lending organizations. The final pages of *One Hen* explain the microloan system and offer information about relevant organizations for families to explore.

Author Katie Smith Milway has lived in Africa and worked with village banking programs. "When I stumbled on Kwabena Darko's story, I knew I had found a way to tell children

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about the power that one small loan can have to change lives,” she says. Illustrator Eugenie Fernandes referenced an extensive collection of photographs of West Africa to make sure that her evocative and colorful illustrations reflect Ghana accurately.

For more information about *One Hen* and microlending, visit www.onehen.org.

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One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference

Written by Katie Smith Milway, Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes

Kids Can Press, March 2008

32 pages • \$18.95 • Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-55453-028-1



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**CHILDHOOD ANXIETIES TURN TO LAUGHTER
AS BEACH FEARS LOOM IN NEW SCAREDY SQUIRREL BOOK**

The neurotic, endearing character of *Scaredy Squirrel* and *Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend* returns for a highly anticipated third adventure in Mélanie Watt's picture book, ***Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach***, coming from Kids Can Press this spring. Kids ages 4-8 will go *nuts* for Scaredy, still the world's most lovable worry-wart despite stellar reviews, a slew of awards, and international attention.

Every child has fears—whether of summer travel, monsters under the bed, or green vegetables—and kids identify with Scaredy, whose fears and phobias are hilariously detailed in Watt's new book. Young children immediately understand Scaredy's anxieties, as well as his manic efforts to ward off danger. When those efforts reach ridiculous heights, readers can't help but laugh out loud.

In his latest adventure, Mr. **S**caredy **O**rville **S**quirrel is terrified of the beach. One could get captured by pirates! Knocked out by falling coconuts! Chased by a mob of lobsters! And so, armed with a bag of kitty litter and one pleasant pink flamingo, Scaredy builds his own private, safe beach. There, he happily sunbathes—until he realizes that the soothing sound of the ocean is missing. He decides to make a quick trip to the real beach to fetch a seashell, equipping himself with a passport, a map of potential beach hazards, and protective beach wear. But as every kid knows, no plan is fool-proof, and even the smartest of squirrels can't think of everything. "Mission Operation Seashell" soon goes awry.

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Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach is a fun visual treat for kids, adults, and forest animals of all kinds. Salutes to Scaredy include an ALA Notable, a Junior Library Guild Selection, a Cybils Award, an Independent Publisher Book Award, a National Council of Teachers of English Notable Children's Book in Language Arts, and many more.

Fans of Scaredy's previous books should be aware that readers of *Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach* are required to wear sunscreen (Scaredy himself never hits the beach without his 65 SPF in paw).

Mélanie Watt's most recent book for Kids Can Press is *Chester*. A resident of Montreal, Quebec, she has never been stranded on a beach. However, she has been stranded on an elevator, at a theme park, and in the airport. Learn more at www.scaredysquirrel.com.

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Note to editors: Mélanie Watt is available for interviews in Chicago and the Twin Cities in April, and nationally by phone or email.

Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach

Written and illustrated by Mélanie Watt

Kids Can Press, April

Ages 4 to 8 • 32 Pages

\$15.95 Hardcover

ISBN-13: 978-1-55453-225-4



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