



Wish You Were Here (And I Wasn't): A Book of Poems and Pictures for Globe Trotters

By Colin McNaughton

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An illustrated collection of poems about traveling and vacations, including "I'm Off to Treasure Island," "If You're Traveling in Transylvania," and "Are We Nearly There Yet?"

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Wish You Were Here (And I Wasn't): A Book of Poems and Pictures for Globe Trotters By Colin McNaughton Bibliography

- Rank: #4349065 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Candlewick
- Published on: 2000-05-03
- Released on: 2000-05-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .46" h x 8.72" w x 10.46" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 64 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Colin McNaughton is madly popular, best known for his zany, offbeat humor and goofy puns. In his latest collection of poems and wordplay, he tackles world (and otherworld) travel. Grownups and children alike will spend uproarious hours with these deliciously ridiculous verses about traveling in Transylvania, row-row-rowing your bath, flying like Icarus, and disastrous alien vacations:

They hog the lounge chairs round the pool,
Splash other guests and play the fool.
They write with spray paint ALIENS RULE!
Aliens on vacation!

From carsickness, flying fear, and summer madness resulting in nakedly frolicking parents; to perfect beach days, beauty queens from the planet Flong ("She weighs 14 tons and she smells of old fish./ If you think that she's ugly--you're wrong!"), and swimming in your underpants, McNaughton covers the full range of travel wonders and woes. His pictures are chock full of nonsense, jungle beasts, and pleasantly slimy monsters. So spend an hour or six in sheer pleasure, discovering the power of words to make you laugh--and think. McNaughton has previously charmed the world with many award-winning titles, including *Making Friends with Frankenstein: A Book of Monstrous Poems and Pictures* and *Who's Been Sleeping in My Porridge? A Book of Wacky Poems and Pictures*. (Ages 6 and older) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

PW said of McNaughton's poetry, "No one can accuse McNaughton of not identifying with his audience or of failing to understand their taste for the rather gross." Ages 5-9. (June)
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From School Library Journal

Grade 3-5-A humorous collection of poems, many of which are about travel and foreign places. Others tell of silly monsters or situations based on puns such as "Fishing for Compliments." "Yet Another Poem to Send to Your Worst Enemy" is a series of insults, ending "Yours sincerely, toodle-oo." "I Feel Sick!" is about car sickness and "Are We Nearly There Yet?" is meant to be read "in a monotonous drone" at the onset of a car trip. "Aliens on Vacation" describes monstrous aliens who come to earth in a giant spaceship to see the sights and "look for souvenirs"-like the Eiffel Tower, the Wailing Wall, Mount Everest, the Empire State Building, Big Ben, and the Golden Gate Bridge-to take back to their planet. The book is illustrated with McNaughton's trademark exaggerated, cartoon-style artwork rendered in pen and ink and watercolor. One picture depicts an Egyptian pyramid drawn into the spaceship by powerful rays. Though the poetry and art are not of the highest quality, their quirky humor will appeal to readers.

Anne Parker, Milton Public Library, MA

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Users Review

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Cynthia Miller:

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