



Saturn for my Birthday

By John McGranaghan

Illustrated by Wendy Edelson

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For Children Ages 4-8



2008 ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award Finalist

"I always say Arbordale Publishers have the best children's books, and *Saturn for my Birthday* is no exception. [The book makes] your heart sing, and the reader longs for the blazing fire, a soft sofa and your own Saturn wrapped in a blanket lounging with you (see the book for this scene). Perfect for the family library, and a must have for schools and public libraries." - *Armchair Interviews*

"What an excellent and innovative book!!! A must have for every library."
- *Pennsylvania School Library Association*

"This is a truly clever story. The author did a wonderful job overlaying science facts in a light-hearted, non-technical story. The illustrations are wonderful, and the two-page spread of father and son pointing to the stars is just beautiful. Kids will enjoy the humor and learn some great facts about the solar system in this picture book that plays on their favorite things: pets and birthdays."
- *The Reading Tub*



Jeffrey wants Saturn for his birthday,

and he wants the moons, too — all 47 of them! After all, they'll make great night-lights! But he's not selfish; he'll share the rings with some of his friends at school and with his teacher, Mrs. Cassini. Facts about Saturn are woven seamlessly throughout this funny story as Jeffrey explains just what he'll do with his present and how he'll take care of it. His dad better hurry with the order, though, because shipping might take a while....

Thanks to educators at NASA/JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book. **Free online resources and support for the book at www.ArbordalePublishing.com include:**

- For Creative Minds (FCM) as seen in the book:
 - Solar System Fun Facts
 - Saturn Fun Facts
 - Edible Rings Activity
- Interactive Quizzes: Text, FCM, & Math
- English and Spanish audio
- Related Websites
- Aligned to National and State Science and Math Standards



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About the Author and Illustrator



John McGranaghan has always been fascinated by outer space, but it was his young son, Kyle, who asked for the planet Saturn for his fourth birthday. That request became the inspiration for *Saturn for My Birthday*. John has also written stories and articles for *Boys' Quest Magazine*, *Pockets Magazine*, *Columbia Magazine* and local newspapers. He was the winner of the 2001 Pockets Fiction Contest. When John isn't writing, he enjoys sports and spending time with his wife and two boys. John is a school counselor in the Philadelphia suburbs. This is his first picture book.

What will your next book be about?

I'm not sure, but I have a couple of ideas floating around. If Saturn is well received perhaps there could be a follow up. There are many more planets and a whole host of other celestial bodies floating around in outer space. There is some interest in writing a young adult novel. Also this past July I hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. It was a once in a lifetime experience. I was amazed by the rock formations, the wildlife, the history and the actual hike itself. Something tells me there's a story in there somewhere.

Wendy Edelson illustrated the first of many books, *Whose Garden*, at the age of 18. Since then, she has divided her time between illustrating books and advertising or editorial projects. Wendy's illustrations begin with very detailed pencil drawings. She then paints mostly with watercolor with the addition of occasional bits of colored pencil and pastel. Wendy, her husband and four cats currently live on an island in the Pacific Northwest. A corgi puppy will hopefully be joining her family soon!



612 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite A2
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
877-243-3457 (toll-free),
843-216-3804 (fax)
www.ArbordalePublishing.com

Contact Information

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