Please visit us at www.fivequills.co.uk Prepared by Five Quills Illustrations by Loretta Schauer © Five Quills 2017, 2018

ILLUSTRATOR "CREATOR" STUDY

Some quirky facts about the illustrator of the SKY PRIVATE EYE series:

★ LORETTA SCHAUER

About Loretta: Loretta originally trained as a dancer and worked for many years in conservation, while practicing her drawing skills at night. She won the 2011 Waterstones *Picture This* competition, which led to the publication of *Beauty and the Beast* by Michael Morpurgo. She has illustrated about twelve

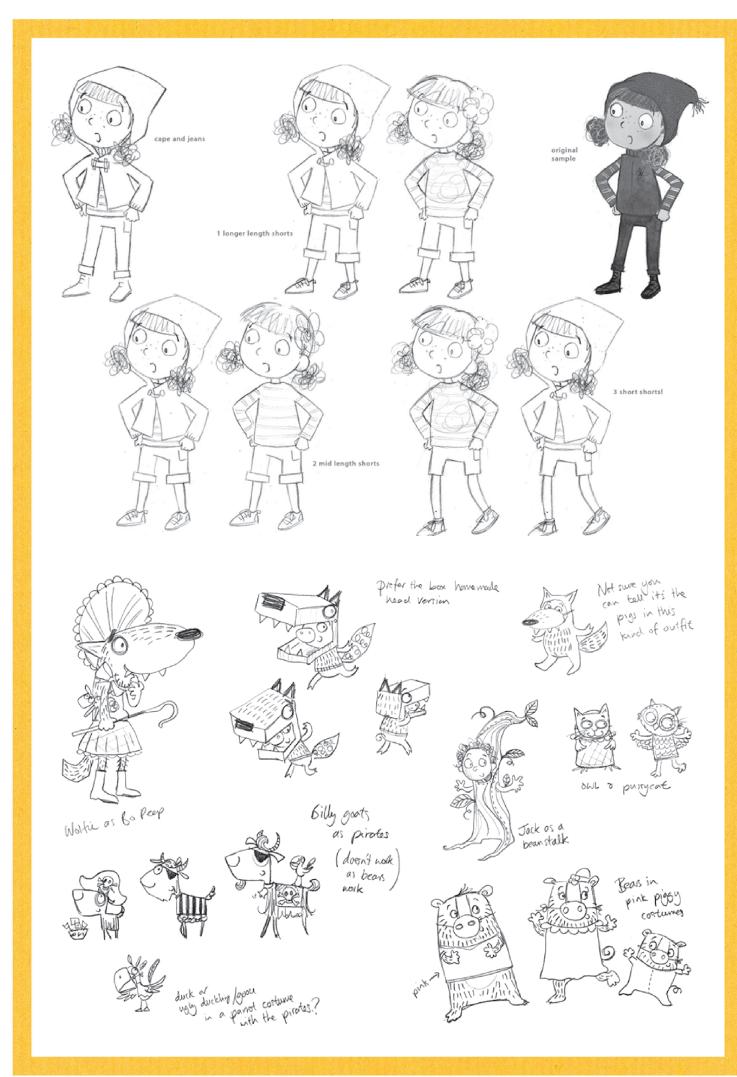
children's books, including *Rumpelstiltskin* and *The Good Little Bad Little Pig* by Margaret Wise Brown. She lives in London at the top of a tall grey building with her husband and pet hamster Nanook, and occasionally escapes to go galloping around the Heath, or noodling for fossils. Find out more here: www.fivequills.co.uk/five-quills-authors-illustrators/

What does Loretta do? Loretta is the *illustrator* of the **SKY PRIVATE EYE** series. She has been involved in creating and drawing the characters and the setting from the beginning.

She usually starts by creating the main characters for the story. This is a bit like assembling a cast for a play or film. She draws them in lots of different poses, showing a range of emotions and doing lots of activities.

To design Sky, Loretta first thought about her character: she is an ace detective. She is also creative and designs cupcakes. She is always ready to jump in and solve problems. Loretta illustrated her as a friendly character, always ready to help.

She also thought about Sky's gadgets. Sky is smart so it made sense that she would use the latest magical Fairytale gadgets to help her solve each case. Loretta had fun inventing what these would look like.







Sky's biggest helper is her best friend Snuffle the dog, and he was great fun to draw.

For each new book in the series, Loretta designed the fairytale characters, giving them a fresh, new look.

Once she had designed the characters, the designer helped Loretta work out what bits of text should go on each spread.

Loretta first roughed out the main scenes in pencil. She carefully worked out what is going on in each spread and experimented with different camera angles. It's important to make sure that the text and images work together to tell the story in a fun way, with exciting page turns. There are often many roughs at this stage!



Next, Loretta does the final artwork in colour. She draws and paints most of it by hand, then changes it on the computer to create the final artwork. The designer puts it together with the text to make the picture book.



10 COOL FACTS ABOUT LORETTA SCHAUER:

- ★ As a child, she loved to collect colourful shells and pebbles on the beach. She still loves fossil hunting and beachcombing.
- ★ Loretta works from home with her hamster for company. Sometimes she draws outside in the park near her house.
- ★ Loretta likes to make her artwork using a 2mm mechanical pencil, plus watercolour paints in tubes. She also uses the computer. (The picture on the next page shows what her studio looks like!)
- ★ She likes history a lot, and is interested in nature and science too.
- ★ Loretta's favourite fairy tale character is The Big Bad Wolf because he's the best villain.
- ★ In her books, Loretta has fun including extra characters that have their own little stories aside from the main plot.
- ★ Loretta's favourite kind of cupcake is vanilla with chocolate chips.
- ★ If Loretta could be in the Fairytale Olympics, she would choose gymnastics.





Loretta's studio where she works

- ★ If the Prince invited Loretta to the Fancy Dress Ball, she would dress-up as a deep-sea explorer.
- ★ Loretta's motto is: keep practising, listen to feedback, and see if it can help make your work better.

