

Polly

Press
Packet



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This press packet contains this document, as well as other useful materials related to *Polly*.

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Other materials in the packet:

- cover image
- author photo
- 8.5x11" poster (color and b&w)
- flyers
- bookmarks
- coloring & activity sheets



If any of these materials appear to be missing, you may request another press packet from the author at drawkward@awkwardlabs.com or download one at www.awkwardlabs.com/polly

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Polly”, a children’s story about a curious horseshoe crab, released by Delaware author and artist W.J. Walton

Delaware area writer, artist, musician, and performer W.J. Walton has announced the release of his first children’s book, “Polly,” about a curious horseshoe crab on a journey of discovery.

“Polly is a story about self-discovery, the love of learning and exploration, and the quest for knowledge and wisdom,” Walton said. “My goal was to create a story that encourages readers to embrace learning, discovery, and the pursuit of knowledge.”

Walton said that the subject of his book was a major inspiration to the story. “Horseshoe crabs are a very common sight to most of us who live on the Eastern shore,” he said, “but they are still widely misunderstood by most people. My idea was to reverse these roles, and portray a curious horseshoe crab who hears terrible things about humans, and tries to learn as much as she can about them, rather than relying on the misconceptions of others.” Walton wrote and illustrated the book, which was funded as a Kickstarter project in the summer of 2012.

Mr. Walton is very active in the artistic community of central Delaware, where he has designed and painted sets for five different theatre groups, performed music for theatre productions, special events, and with Milford’s Downtown Dixieland Band, performed as a storyteller for Downtown Milford’s annual Halloween Spooktacular, and acted in several productions with Second Street Players in Milford, including a dozen children’s theatre shows.

“Polly” is available online and in several Delaware-area locations. For more information about “Polly,” visit Walton’s website at www.awkwardlabs.com/polly

Mr. Walton can be reached via email at drawkward@awkwardlabs.com or by phone at 302-430-6077

About *Polly*

Title: *Polly*

Contributors: Walton, William (author), Walton, William (illustrator)

Editing: Joy Henley, Inkstained Editing

ISBN: 0615798080X

EAN: 978-0615798080

Publisher: Awkward Labs

Distributors: Ingram, Baker & Taylor, and others

8.5x11" hardcover, matte cover, full color interior, 88 pages

\$20.00 retail

Polly is the story of a horseshoe crab who discovers a sky full of stars on the night that she hatches, and wants to know more about what she sees. Not satisfied with the answers she gets from the other creatures of the sea, she sets out on her own to discover as much as she can.

Her curiosity leads her to many amazing discoveries above the water, including the strange and enigmatic “two feet” that live there - but when one of those encounters leaves her with an unanswered question, her real journey of discovery begins.

Polly is a story about self-discovery, the love of learning and exploration, and the quest for knowledge and wisdom. It's a gentle story told through the eyes of one of the world's most gentle and yet misunderstood creatures.

During the production of *Polly*, the author consulted with marine biology experts to maintain scientific accuracy as much as possible. Even the stars in the night sky scenes are in their proper positions. The end of the book features a section on facts about horseshoe crabs, as well as a short bibliography of other books on the subject.

All of the illustrations were created by the author in colored pencil.



About the author/artist

William J. Walton is an artist, musician, writer, performer, and storyteller from central Delaware.

Mr. Walton is very active in the creative community of Delaware and beyond. He plays the guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, and lap dulcimer, and has performed with local bands including Milford's Downtown Dixieland Band and his own acoustic rock band Kroktaopus. He even gives lessons, occasionally.

He has designed and painted sets for stage performances with five different theatre groups, and occasionally performs on stage with the Second Street Players in Milford.

He has performed as a storyteller both for private events and as one of his characters, "Mister Moribund," for Downtown Milford's annual Halloween Spooktacular event.

Mr. Walton is also a very active advocate for roleplaying and storytelling games as an outlet for creativity, and a tool for teamwork, spatial reasoning, and education. His website "The Escapist" (www.theescapist.com) has been promoting the hobby for over 17 years.



Signing copies of Polly at a book signing event at Forney's Too in Dover (Photo: Gary A. Knox)



Talking about Polly on Good Morning Delmarva

Mr. Walton lives in central Delaware with his partner Paula, their two daughters Aylish and Nolah, and a cat named Boris Karloff. *Polly* is his first book.

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Reviews

Here are some of the things people are saying about *Polly*:

“This will have children chanting “What happens next?” as Polly the horseshoe crab discovers the world she lives in. I won’t give it away but the ending is truly beautiful. If you have children or not, you will love rediscovering the world through the eyes of Polly.”
- Sharon (Amazon reviewer)

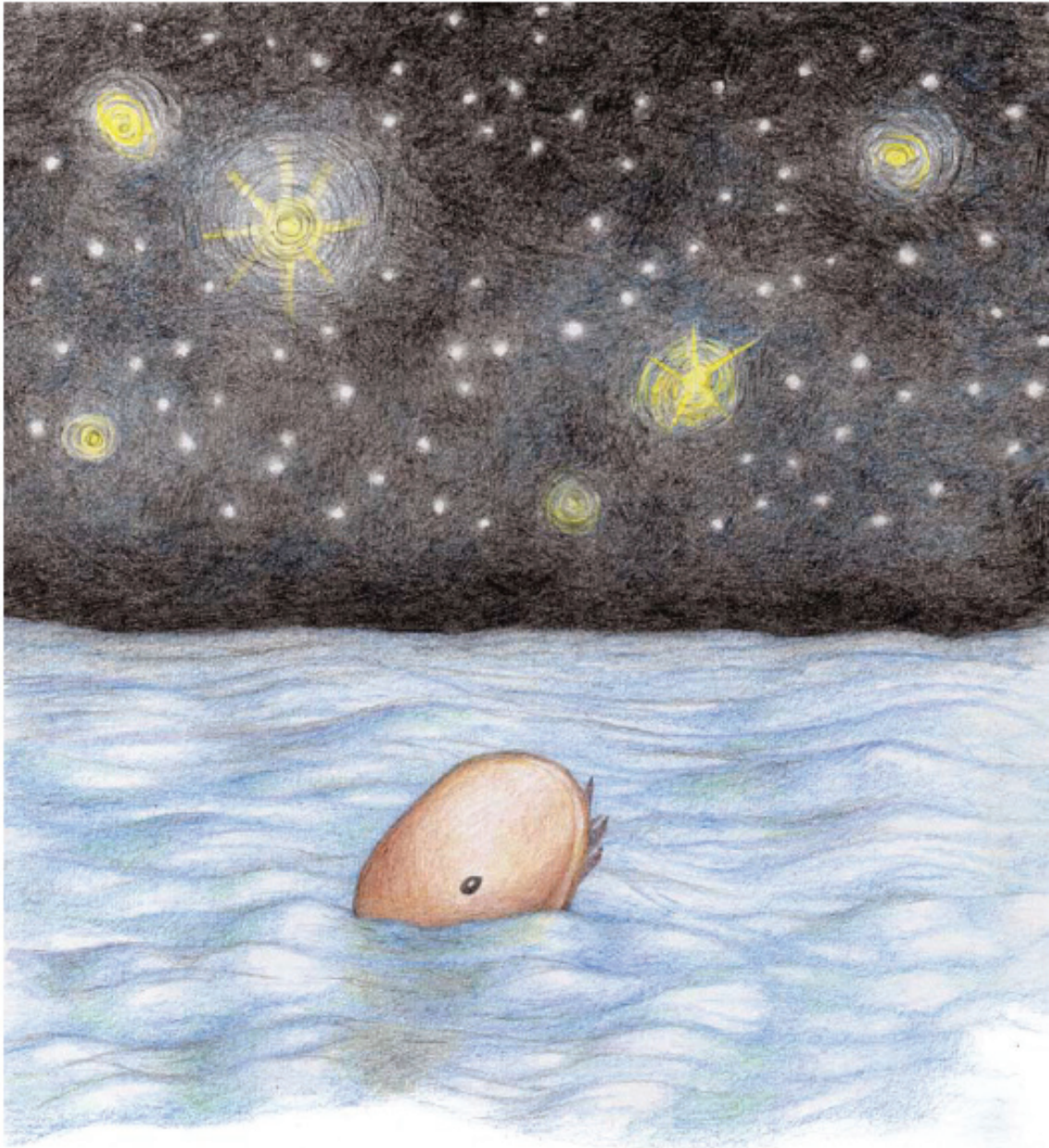
“The illustrations are beautiful; full of color, detail, and depth. The story inspires wonder as Polly travels around the world, and into the deepest part of the ocean to talk to the mysterious Wise One. This book easily ranks with my favorite storybooks from my childhood, and I can see this becoming another classic children’s book if enough people read it. I know I’ll be re-reading it for years to come.” - Lilli (Amazon reviewer)

“So many books either do well at the illustrations or the text but this author nailed both! The story is well told and can be enjoyed by both young and old. I love that the lessons interwoven in the story are subtle not preachy. As an educator I was thrilled that so many great facts were added in the back making this book both enjoyable and educational.” - Shawna (Amazon reviewer)

“Hooray!” - Mrs. Schlitt’s 3rd grade class (after hearing the surprise ending of the story)



Sample Pages



But Polly could not resist. Whenever she had the chance, she would swim to the surface to have a look at the lights in the sky. She never stayed long, for fear that she might get eaten. Sometimes she would stretch some of her legs into the air to see if she could reach them.



“Are you paying attention?” shouted Peg, who was tapping angrily on Polly’s shell. “I said you’re going to have to take them an offering!”

“What kind of an offering?” asked Polly.

“Something rare and precious. The Great Wise Ones don’t share their knowledge without an offering!”



After a long, long time, she came to a place where the water grew darker than she had ever seen it before, and shadowy shapes shifted all around her. Her legs and gills were very tired, and she hoped that she was nearly there.