



JESSICA SCOTT KERRIN – BIOGRAPHY

I'm a Canadian writer (Halifax) best known for my fiction books for children, including an eight-book series called *Martin Bridge*; a trilogy called *The Lobster Chronicles*; two mysteries called *The Spotted Dog Last Seen* and *The Missing Dog Is Spotted*; an adventure novel, *The Things Owen Write*; and, my new picture book, *The Better Tree Fort*.

SYNOPSIS

"Let's build a tree fort," Russell says to his dad, who doesn't know much about construction. Still, what he manages to build is perfect until Russell notices another tree fort three houses over.

In this subtle, humorous story, Jessica Scott Kerrin explores how gratitude can serve as an alternative to keeping up with the Joneses.

The Better Tree Fort was also released in French as *La plus chouette cabane*.

Genre: picture book Illustrated by Qin Leng
ISBN978-1-55498-864-8 Published 2018

REVIEWS

The story is simply and elegantly told, with an understated quality that renders it even more poignant. ***Atlantic Books Today***

A delightful story about the genuine love between a father and son. Quality time shared between two people is more important than possessions. ***Canadian Children's Booknews***

A witty tale about the dangers of keeping up with the Joneses, it's always fun and never preachy, grounded in relatable and lovable Russell. ***Open Book***

Kerrin's story of father-son love is endearing and warm-spirited. ***Kirkus Reviews***

PUBLICIST

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I didn't always want to be a writer. I wanted to be an astronaut. Then I had to get glasses when I was in grade two, and that put an end to those starry dreams. Happily, I grew up to be an author and I had an astronaut sign my first book which was about rockets! I've also written about monster lobsters, creepy cemeteries and giant tree forts. I've mentored many writers, toured hundreds of schools and libraries across Canada and the United States, and my books have been translated into six languages.

When not writing, I like to sail, make things, and walk off-leash with my dog, Ivy. New interests that will work their way into future novels include astronomy and birding. Anything seen with binoculars, really.

I was inspired to write *The Better Tree Fort* by a little boy I once sat across from on a bus in Halifax. He was with his grandfather. The little boy beamed at me, and he was holding a rather crudely carved model of a tugboat. The grandfather had made it from two-by-fours, and he had hammered in nails for a crooked railing. The port and starboard lights were wooden thread spools that had been painted red and green. He had also painted the eyes on the smokestack in shaky penmanship, giving the model a permanent look of surprise. The little boy asked me what I thought of it.

Clearly, woodworking was not the grandfather's forté. But his love for his grandson was all over that model, and I could tell that the little boy wouldn't have traded his tugboat for anything in the world. I told the little boy that his model was perfect.

Visit my website at JessicaScottKerrin.com