

# Editor's Note One Lucky Weekend

By Sharon Verbeten

Once upon an October, a children's librarian in Wisconsin got lucky. *Very, very lucky.* 

When you live in Northeast Wisconsin, literary events are often few and far between. Sure, we have libraries and bookstores, but we're not exactly a hotbed of literary activity. But in October, the planets aligned, giving me one whirlwind weekend of pure children's librarian delight.

The Sheboygan Children's Book Festival is an annual weekend event, which brings some of the best names in the business to a small lakeshore town of 50,000. This year, I attended with great enthusiasm, eager to meet greats like author/illustrators Christian Robinson (pictured below), Lita Judge, Liz Garton Scanlon, and Ashley Wolff. My good friend author Miranda Paul was also there debuting her two new and buzzworthy non-fiction picturebooks. And, of course, no good book festival is complete without a few oversized book characters—my daughter especially loved Llama Llama!

Then as if that wasn't enough, the following Monday, Caldecottwinning author/illustrator Brian Selznick began his book tour for *The Marvels* in my hometown of Milwaukee. It was well worth the two-hour drive to see him and experience his MARVEL-ous presentation (you'll feel the same way after you read his Arbuthnot



lecture in this issue). And despite having a case of carpal tunnel syndrome (you couldn't miss his Swarovski crystal-studded arm brace), he was most gracious with the more than 200 people who waited in his signing line.

It took me awhile to come down from my high after meeting these "rock star" artists I so admire, respect, and marvel at on a daily basis. I found them all incredibly down to earth and gracious.

I'm sure those of you in more metropolitan areas get these opportunities far more often than I do, and I'm sure you're just as thrilled by them. I know our ALA conferences are ideal for these sort of experiences, but having them closer to home is an added bonus.

Now excuse me while I get back to reading all those autographed copies . . .

See you in Boston! &



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