



## Yawns: The Sleepy Bear

**Margaret Kim**

**Kathy O'Malley, Illustrator**

CreateSpace

Unknown (pp)

978-1-4392-5729-6

This charming bedtime picture book may be the perfect tool to lull the most reluctant toddlers (and even their parents) into sleep. Margaret Kim's simple tale involves a teddy bear named Yawns, who has an important nightly task: to help his friends go to sleep.

Kim masterfully uses proven storytelling techniques. The text is gently repetitive, which young readers enjoy, and peppered with just enough alliteration to be fun.

The sleepy bear, with his backpack containing his personal teddy, calls on his friends: a playful puppy on the porch, curious cat, mischievous mouse, and so forth. With each encounter, Kim writes, " 'Good night, (insert friend's name),' yawns the sleepy bear with a smile and a good-night kiss. The (friend's name) yawns back, 'Good night, Yawns,' and falls fast asleep."

Not surprisingly, the helpful bear ultimately succumbs to his own magical yawning powers.

*Yawns* is beautifully illustrated by Kathy O'Malley, who has several other book titles to her artistic credit.

Her watercolors provide the fuzzy texture of a stuffed bear, watery transparency of a fish bowl including the swirling fins of tropical fish, a furry cat and a dog, and the toothy innocence of children. One mysterious little cricket appears in each illustration, giving readers something special to search for as they fight sleep. O'Malley's illustrated yawns are convincing enough to momentarily pause the story, as adult readers are likely to respond in kind.

*Yawns* will delight its yawning readers. Kim and O'Malley are to be commended for a sweet story and tender illustrations.

LINDA SALISBURY (November 9, 2010)

*Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The author of this book provided free copies of the book and paid a small fee to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. Foreword Reviews and Clarion Reviews make no guarantee that the author will receive a positive review. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.*