



The Letterpress Project

An Interview With

Bárður Oskarsson

Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?

I never read much. My time was mostly spent drawing, but Jan Loofs “The story of the Red Apple” had quite an impact on me. There was something quietly mysterious about it and I still think it's a pretty sad story.

Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?

At the age of 17 I was already working as an illustrator. In school they couldn't get me to do anything but draw, so the school librarian hired me to do some illustrations at the publishing house of the Teachers Association. As an illustrator I just thought it might be fun to write the stories as well and it was. You could say it is coincidental and not an inspired choice.

Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?

I don't know. I don't see any connection between the books or illustrations I enjoy. Some work, some don't.

Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?

The books I make are made for the purpose of being read out loud to a child. I try to write to both of them so the reader does not get bored when reading the bloody

book for the 117 time.

Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?

The ebook market is a very exciting media and is still in its early stages. It is a completely different media and will only make people read more. If it does have an impact on the book as a medium, no problem, as long as people read. But you can't smell an ebook...yet.

Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?

I had a collection of favourite books. Back in 97' I moved from one apartment to another and in the turmoil of boxes and furniture up and down the staircase, the boxes with the books were left on the ground floor of the staircase. I thought to myself I'd get them the next day but then they were gone with all my records. Do I want them back? Not really, it's much easier moving when you don't have books and records to carry.