

Leo Landry

Leo grew up in Waltham, Massachusetts, with a love for the Red Sox, making up stories, and drawing. While studying architecture at Rhode Island School of Design, Leo rediscovered the world of children's books and knew that this was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life!

He started working at The Children's Book Shop in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1986 and learned a lot about writing and illustrating from reading many of the thousands of books that came into the shop each year. In 2006, after 20 years, Leo left the book shop to write and illustrate books full time.

The first book that Leo illustrated, published in 1998, was Larry Dane Brimner's *What Good Is A Tree?* Since then he has written and illustrated six books of his own: *Oh, Baby! A Celebration of Babies, The Snow Ghosts, Eat Your Peas, Ivy Louise!, Sea Surprise, Fat Bat and Swoop,* and *Space Boy.* He has also been the illustrator of four more books by other terrific authors: *Let's Sign!* by Kelly Ault, *Emily's Magic Words* and *Emily's Sharing and Caring Book,* by Cindy Post Senning and Peggy Post, and *Friends and Pals and Brothers, Too* by Sarah Wilson.

Leo is inspired every day by the work of other authors and illustrators. His favorites include: Melissa Sweet, M.B. Goffstein, Helen Oxenbury, John Burningham, Kady MacDonald Denton, Erik Blegvad, Peter Sis, Lucy Cousins, Charlotte Voake, Satoshi Kitamura, Emma Chichester Clark, Olof and Lena Landstrom, Richard Scarry, Edward Ardizzone, Simon James, and William Steig. Leo has been lucky to have met many of them!

Now Leo spends most of his days reading, making up stories, and drawing, just like he did when he was little. He lives in Easton, Massachusetts, with his daughter, Sophie, and his wife, Mary. Not to mention, a dog named Rosie and a cat named Uma, and soon, perhaps, even chickens!

By Leo Landry -



978-1-57091-745-5 HC \$12.95 978-1-57091-746-2 PB \$5.95

"Everyone—Bear, friends and readers—will laugh in the end."
—Kirkus Reviews

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"A honey of a book."

—The Horn Book Magazine

Bear dreams of making his friends laugh. He wants to tell his jokes on Woodland Stage. But Bear has a problem. He has stage fright.