

JANET S. WONG

Me and Rolly Maloo



Illustrated by
ELIZABETH BUTTLER

 Charlesbridge

To Judy O'Malley—J. S. W.

For Tom & Tyler—E. B.

Text copyright © 2010 by Janet S. Wong
Illustrations copyright © 2010 by Elizabeth Buttler
All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form. Charlesbridge and colophon are registered trademarks of Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc.

Published by Charlesbridge
85 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 926-0329
www.charlesbridge.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Wong, Janet S.

Me and Rolly Maloo / Janet Wong ; illustrated by Elizabeth Buttler.
p. cm.

Summary: An unpopular girl cheats on a math test when the most popular girl in school asks her to give her answers.

ISBN 978-1-58089-158-5 (reinforced for library use)

[1. Cheating—Fiction. 2. Mathematics—Fiction. 3. Popularity—Fiction. 4. Schools—Fiction.] I. Buttler, Elizabeth, ill. II. Title.

PZ7.W842115Me 2010

[Fic]—dc22

2009026883

Printed in The United States of America
(hc) 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Illustrations were created in in pencil and Adobe Photoshop
Display type set in Monotype Knock Out, and Mister Earl,
dialog type set in Blambot, designed by Nate Piekos,
and text type set in Century Schoolbook

Printed and bound February 2010 by Lake Book Manufacturing, Inc.,
in Melrose Park, Illinois, USA

Production supervision by Brian G. Walker

Designed by Susan Mallory Sherman and Sindy Limin

Table of Contents

Cast of Characters	iv
1 Rolly Maloo and Me	4
2 Mrs. Pie and I	16
3 The Math Test	22
4 Cheating—or Not?	36
5 Confession Time	50
6 Rumors	56
7 The Bad News	68
8 Detective Loop	76
9 Me and Shorn L.	96
10 Momma’s Pies	100
11 The Math Test, Round Two	113
12 The Results	120

Cast of Characters



Jenna Lee

Nelly Lee
(Jenna's mom)



Rolly Maloo

Kath Maloo
(Rolly's mom)



Patty Parker

Annabee Parker
(Patty's mom)





Shorn L. Loop



Diane Loop
(Shorn L.'s mom)



Dolores Pie
(the teacher)



Hugo Johns



Michelle Young
(the principal)

I wonder if anyone
has ever called up Jenna.
Not that she's not nice. But like Mom says,
she's odd. The way she plays in the mud with
Shorn L., and how she doesn't care about pretty
things. Mom says Jenna wears dead people's
clothes. She saw Mrs. Ford's hat on Jenna
one week after Mrs. Ford's funeral.

Can you imagine wearing
a dead woman's hat?

But Patty and I might need
some help on the math test tomorrow,
so, like Patty says, what's the big deal about
a dead woman's hat between friends?





What does Jenna do to get so dirty? Brand-new school clothes. I shouldn't have bought them, but Jenna hasn't had anything new for years, and I wanted her to feel special for Mrs. Pie.

So what does she do, sit in the mud?



1 Rolly Maloo and Me

Ring, ring! Ring, ring! Ring, ring—

The third day of fourth grade, Rolly Maloo called me up at home. Out of the blue, for no reason at all, she asked me if I wanted to come to her house to play. Rolly Maloo has air conditioning, I bet. But even if her house were ten times hotter than ours, I would go in an Appaloosa minute.

Rolly Maloo is the most popular anybody (girl or boy) in fourth grade and maybe even the history of the whole school, except for her older sister. Marissa Maloo left Edison last year for fifth grade at Hilltop, the fancy private school downtown.

Rolly Maloo spends every recess in the middle

of a crowd of kids who let her say everything she wants. I spend every recess sitting under a tree, digging holes in the mud with Shorn L.

Rolly Maloo, what on earth has you calling me, Jenna P. Lee, for no plain reason at all?

No one had ever called me up special to ask if I wanted to come to their house to play. Never. Except Shorn L. did once, but that doesn't count for much around school, because I am the only one who likes Shorn L. And even though I do like Shorn L., I won't go back to her house, because nobody wants to be fooled by a bunch of Shorn L.'s brothers dropping ground-up bugs in your pop.

When I heard Rolly Maloo say her own beautiful name, I



couldn't believe my good luck. I felt so special. I felt chosen. Then I wondered if she had called the wrong number. She said my name three times in a row. I guess she thought she had the wrong number because I couldn't talk with my mouth hanging open. When I finally croaked out my hello, Rolly asked, "Jenna, you want to come over?"



I twirled and twirled until I tied myself up in the telephone cord like a rope-tied cow at the rodeo.



While I was busy untwirling, I didn't hear what Rolly was saying. I realized later on that she was saying something about the math test, but if you asked me then, I'd say she was talking about lunch. This is because I was busy thinking of us sitting together at lunch. I would share my everyday apple and she would share her cafeteria cake. While she was chewing, everyone would listen to everything I had to say for once. Shorn L. could come sit at our table, too. Maybe not the first week, but later on, once I got the okay from Rolly.


I said, "You know, Rolly, I could bring my special spinner toy to your house, you'll really like it. And my gray Arabian horse, the one with the red leather saddle." I was so excited I said "leather," even though it's really made of plastic. As soon as I made the mistake, I started to worry that Rolly Maloo would consider me a liar. "Sheesh-O-Mighty, light the liar on fire!" is what Shorn L. would say, except she says "liar" like

“lawyer,” and no one would ever accuse me of being one of those.

Again Rolly said something-something about math and something, but math was the last thing on my mind. Then I heard Rolly’s mother remind her to remind me to ask my mother if it was okay. I said, “I’m sure it’s okay.” I pressed the phone against my chest and shouted out to Momma in the laundry room. Momma shouted back that she couldn’t hear me. I left Rolly hanging on, and I ran over to the laundry room to ask.

Momma did not even stop to think. She said, “No, not today.” How about tomorrow, I started to ask, but she put on that four o’clock frown of hers, and she said, “Don’t give me that. You know you have your chores.”



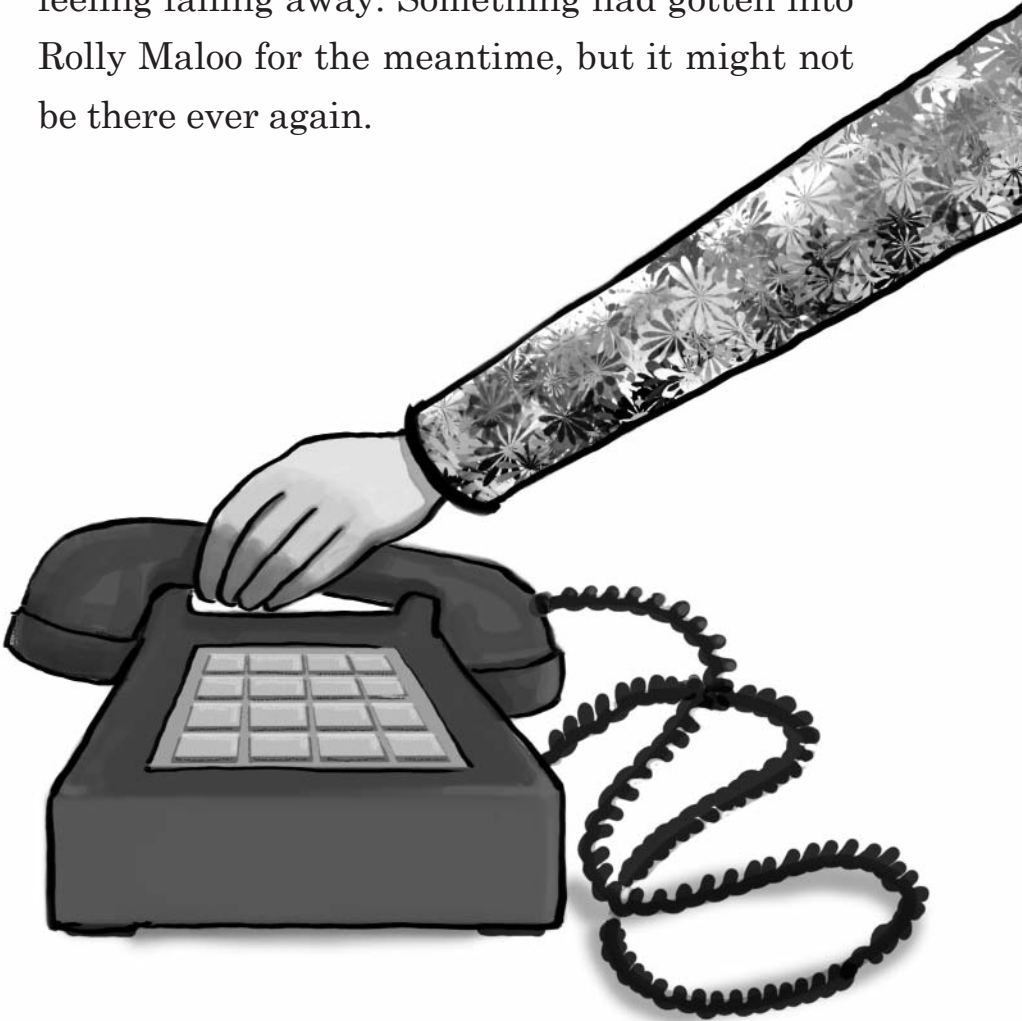


What does Rolly Maloo want with us?
Jenna can't afford to have Friends.
Girls love to drink pop. How much will
it cost in pop and cookies?

What will they think of our
house, and our old ripped
sofa, and the paint peeling
off the toilet seat?

I lied to Rolly. “Maybe tomorrow,” I said. Rolly did not say “Maybe tomorrow” back. We hung up, and I knew I had missed my chance.

Every once in a while you get a chance, and it’s there, and then it’s gone. I felt my chosen feeling falling away. Something had gotten into Rolly Maloo for the meantime, but it might not be there ever again.



Good morning, Mrs. Pie!

You'll find pastries and juice in the staff room, compliments of the PTA!

Did you hear that Kath Maloo has agreed to be the PTA president again? And Annabee Parker is going to be VP. Goodness knows, they're here practically every day with all they do. So, how is your class, Mrs. Pie?

Rolly Maloo looks to be even smarter than Marissa.

And Patty Parker is such a darling—

Very good, Mrs. Young. This class has such bright children.

Rolly is quite an impressive girl—





Mrs. Pie Grade 4



Date: Friday, September 7, 7:05 a.m.
To: All Teachers
From: Michelle Young
Subject: New Math Program

Dear Teachers:

The tests you are giving today will be used in a different way this year. In the past we have used these tests to identify our top students for the district math competition. Unfortunately the competition has been discontinued. We will use these tests instead to identify students in need of extra help. "Extra Help Students" will take two hours of math each day (and will skip art, music, and PE). Please do not explain this to your students in advance. We want them to do their best, without having to worry!

DOG
FOOD!!

I ♥ π

school meeting
mon 4:00

TA calls



Hello,
Shorn L?
This is
Mrs. Pie.

You live just
down the block,
right? I'd like
you to come
to school now.

No, you're not in trouble. No, not your
brothers, just you. I want to do some math
with you and Hugo, to get you ready for
the test today. I'll have breakfast here!

