

Walter the Farting Dog

By William Kotzwinkle, Glenn Murray

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Warning: This book may cause flatulence. Walter is a fine dog, except for one small problem: he has gas. He can't help it; it's just the way he is. Fortunately, the kids Billy and Betty love him regardless, but Father says he's got to go! Poor Walter, he's going to the dog pound tomorrow. And then, in the night, burglars strike. Walter has his chance to be a hero. A children's beloved classic, this story will have kids rolling on the floor with laughter. Adults are permitted to laugh too.

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Walter the Farting Dog By William Kotzwinkle, Glenn Murray Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

We hold this truth to be self-evident: farting makes kids laugh. Walter, an apologetic-looking dog adopted from the pound, passes gas morning, noon, and night, no matter what he eats, whether it's a 25-pound bag of low-fart dog biscuits, cat food, or fried chicken. On the bright side, "If Uncle Irv let one slip, he just went and stood near Walter." When Father reaches the limit of his patience with Walter's flatulence, he decides the pooch is once again pound-bound, despite Betty and Billy's pleading. Poor Walter knows his days are numbered and "He resolved to hold in his farts forever." That very night, two burglars break into Walter's family's house, and (you can see where this is going) Walter gasses the burglars with a "hideous cloud" that forces them to drop their loot and run into the clutches of the police officers, "choking and gasping for air." The next morning Father and Mother discover Walter has saved the day--or at least their silverware and VCR. "And so the family learned to live with Walter, the hero dog. And that is the end of our tail." (Or is it? Fans will be pleased to discover the next book *Walter the Farting Dog: Trouble at the Yard Sale*.) Audrey Colman's highly stylized illustrations, imbued with a surreal, Monty Pythonesque collage look, are as absurdly comical as this silly story that is purely powered by natural gas. (Ages 5 to 8) --Karin Snelson

A Q&A with Illustrator Audrey Colman

Q: How did you become interested in children's book illustration? Why did you decide to illustrate this particular book?

A: I didn't plan to do children's book illustration. As a freelance artist, I regularly sent out art samples to various businesses. I sent art to North Atlantic Books in hopes of doing book jackets, and approximately a year later they approached me with *Walter the Farting Dog* by William Kotzwinkle. I was very excited because I was a big fan of Kotzwinkle's (not-for-children) book, *Dr. Rat*, about the wretched reality of the lives of laboratory animals. I'd recommended this book to many over the years and I would never have passed up an opportunity to work on a project with Kotzwinkle. Of course, it wasn't exactly an animal rights-themed picture book, but I expected that we'd agree on how animals would be depicted.

Q: Many people think "potty humor" is inappropriate in literature. Do you think there's a benefit?

A: If it encourages reading and laughing, it's beneficial.

Q: Everyone is asking about the spider that shows up throughout the book. Is there a particular story you'd like to share about the spider?

A: I'm often asked where the spider is on the Fart-Free Biskwee page in *Walter the Farting Dog*. Sometimes I say that he's hiding in the cupboard on that page, but the truth is that I just forgot that one. I tried to be careful not to leave out the spider in subsequent books so I wouldn't have to apologize again. (Who knew that so many people would notice my goof?) In any case, sorry for my mistakes and any ensuing confusion!

Q: *Walter the Farting Dog* spent an incredible 75 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list after it was first released in 2001, and there is even a Walter plush toy--that farts when you squeeze it. Are you surprised with how well this book has been received by parents and kids alike?

A: Of course! It's been ten years and five Walter books in the series later, and I'm still not always sure which ingredients are responsible for a book's success or failure!

From Publishers Weekly

Here's a companion to Taro Gomi's *Everyone Poops*, albeit with less educational value. Walter, a fat gray dog with an apologetic look on his face, comes home from the pound with two children. He has incurable gas, and his family decides to take him back. The night before he is to go, Walter sadly devours "the 25-pound bag of low-fart dog biscuits the vet had prescribed for him, which had made him fart more.... A gigantic gas bubble began to build inside him." Wouldn't you know, two burglars break in, and Walter's liability becomes his asset. Predictable stuff, but Kotzwinkle (*Trouble in Bugland*) and education writer Murray know their audience. Their simple strategy just keep saying "fart" should have children rolling in the aisles during read-aloud. Newcomer Colman likewise fixates on one visual gag, Walter with steam blasting out his backside. Unlike Babette Cole, whose *Dr. Dog* takes a mock-scientific approach to digestion, Colman specializes in reaction shots; in her surreal collages of photos and patterns, people hold their noses and a cat glances at the culprit. Yes, this lowbrow endeavor could be a crowd-pleaser but, like its topic, its disruptive effects will tend to linger. Ages 4-8.

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 5-8. Has there ever been a more self-explanatory title? The family that brings Walter home from the pound quickly discovers his problem. Will a change of diet work? No. And, unfortunately, Walter doesn't seem to have much self-control when it comes to his failing: on the night before he is to be taken back to the pound, he eats a 25-pound bag of dog biscuits ("Even though he knew they made him fart more, he couldn't resist them . . . Very tasty"). When burglars break into the house, Walter puts his blasting ability to good use, and the family comes to value him just as he is. This is similar to Dav Pilkey's *Dog Breath* (1994), but centering on a more offensive orifice. Is there any reason to purchase this, besides the fact that kids will find it hysterical? The dialog is clever (though two writers--one of whom is veteran author Kotzwinkle--seems excessive), and the art is quite ingenious. Seemingly computer-conceived characters--including Walter complete with a permanently abashed expression--are unique efforts, as are the smoothly colored backgrounds. All in all, it's a gas. *Ilene Cooper*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Young:

The feeling that you get from *Walter the Farting Dog* will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but *Walter the Farting Dog* giving you thrill feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this specific *Walter the Farting Dog* instantly.

Heather Bencomo:

This book untitled Walter the Farting Dog to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, this is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book store or you can order it via online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to your account to past this publication from your list.

Rick Briones:

The actual book Walter the Farting Dog will bring one to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to learn, this book very suited to you. The book Walter the Farting Dog is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Willie Thacker:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the free time or they will get large amount of stress from both day to day life and work. So , once we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is usually Walter the Farting Dog.

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