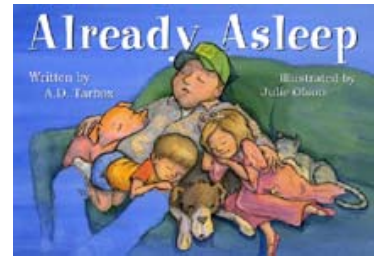


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Mother Goose Inspires Bedtime Story

Warwick, NY – Publisher Keene Books of Warwick, NY announces the publication of *Already Asleep*, a picture book for ages 3 & up, by A. D. Tarbox and illustrated by Julie Olson. Tarbox recalls that her favorite Mother Goose story has always been a four verse rhyme called *Diddle Diddle Dumpling*. When she sat down to write this picture book she tried to imagine what if John, from that centuries old verse, lived in the 21st century. As she considered other characters to use in the story she thought of all the animals on her parent’s ranch in Texas as well as the animals from the farm she lived on in Florida. *Already Asleep* is a product of her own sentimentality: childhood memories of Mother Goose rhymes, growing up around animals, a love for reading goodnight stories to her own children, as well as being read to when she was a child.

Already Asleep provides parents with the quintessential bedtime story. The book opens showing young John already asleep on his bed, still in his baseball uniform, exhausted from the day’s events. Readers then learn all that John did that day, which is why John is already asleep. The narrator, Mom, goes next to check on her daughter, only to see that she too is already asleep, a crown on her head, wand on her dress, dreaming of her day’s activities. As the story continues, readers learn what everyone in the family did that day, including the pets, their horse, and even the pig! An equally exhausted Mom finds Dad on the couch, already asleep, and slumps into her easy chair. In the end, the narrator asks the reader, “shouldn’t you be already asleep?”



Tarbox tells this wonderful story in less than 300 words, quite a feat in a children’s bedtime story. The remainder of the story is told by the artwork. Illustrated by the award-winning artist, Julie Olson, *Already Asleep* comes to life under her skill in vivid watercolors that bring the reader into the story. As a special treat, Olson, has hidden a grey tabby cat and a white mouse in every scene of the book, which will make it fun for children to find.

For copies of press kits, to request a visit from A. D. Tarbox or Julie Olson, or to order books, please visit www.KeeneBooks.com or contact Diane Tinney at dtinney@keenebooks.com.

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About the Author



Author A.D. Tarbox adores animals. When she isn't out in the fields, woods, or water studying them, she is writing about them. Tarbox was born in south Florida and spent some of her youth on a farm there, where she helped raise orphaned raccoons and other critters. She later lived in Germany, where she learned to horseback ride, and then lived in Japan, where she learned how to scuba dive. She got the idea for *Already Asleep* from her favorite Mother Goose four verse rhyme, *Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling* and because of her affection for animals she knew she wanted to include some as characters in the story. Her first degree is in History from the University of Maryland and she is working on a second degree in Ecology and Environmental Biology. Always working on a book, A. D. is presently writing a pirate novel. She lives in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Barrington, New Hampshire

and travels somewhere in the world every chance she gets.

About the Illustrator

Olson was born in Maryland, the 6th of 9 (that's right, 9) kids. From day one she vowed to be different than the bunch. From her dad's nickname for her, Jujubee, to her love of the arts...she stood out from the pack (as much as a short girl can do).

After graduating with a BFA in illustration from Brigham Young University, she's pursued and realized her dream of illustrating children's books. She's also illustrated games, magazines, and educational books.

Olson's other passion is her family. As crazy as it gets with 3 kids running around the studio, the kitchen, the yard, the grocery store (or wherever she happens to be), she loves being a mom and loves sharing books with her kids and husband. She only wishes she could often be "already asleep" after her long days.



Julie is also a member of Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, and Picture Book Artists Association, along with being listed on the Children's Book Council's Web site. *Already Asleep* is Olson's fourth illustrated children's book for the retail market and she looks forward to illustrating many more.

Julie currently lives in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Reviews & Testimonials

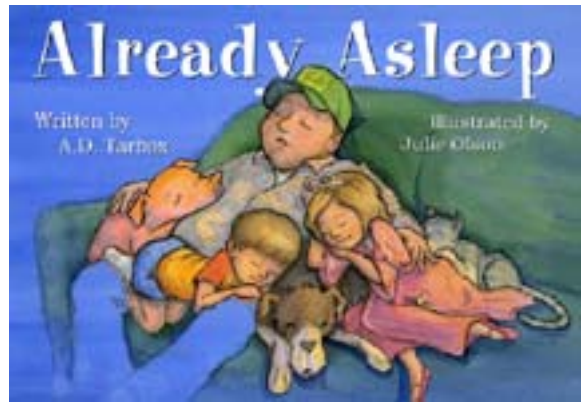
As we wait for published reviews to come in, here are some early comments from independent sources:

What a great book! This sleepy time tale brings the energy of a busy day to every child's bedside. Kids will enjoy the whimsical illustrations as much as parents like the calming message."

—Kami Noel, Newspaper Editor, Gettysburg Times

Heart warming...adorable text...children can relate to the feelings and experiences this family is going through. Sets the mood for calming the child down [to go to sleep at night].

—Nancy Smith, Teacher, Rolling Acres Elementary School, Littlestown, PA



Olson's darling illustrations brightly capture the day's busy rhythm as each character plays, works, and tires themselves out.

—Kim Bryant, Orem Public Library

ISBN-10: 0-9766805-6-4
ISBN-13: 978-0-9766805-6-7
Hardcover ♦ 8 ½ x 5 ¾ ♦ Picture Book
32 pages ♦ US \$12.95/\$21 CAN
Ages 3 & up

A simply adorable bedtime story... sure to be a favorite storytime book for children as they unwind from their busy day.

—Kimberly Garver, Manager of Gallery 30 Bookstore, Gettysburg, PA

What a worthy addition to the venerable tradition of children's bedtime books... Warm and touching, especially the critters in the family. Sure to be a favorite. The illustrations are adorable...

—Nancy Springer, two time winner of the Edgar Allen Poe Award, James Tiptree, Jr. Award, and author of over 45 books

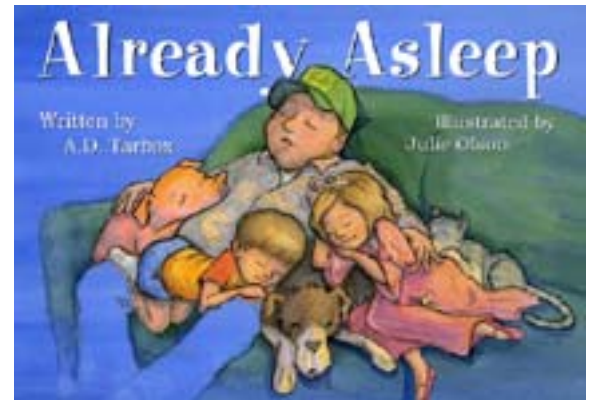
Sample Interview Questions



Already Asleep

Written by A. D. Tarbox

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In A Glance Author Quote:

There are so many stories inside me, both true and imagined. I write nearly every day, and read too. But I don't spend all day reading and writing. That's why I think I have so many writing ideas. I like to get out as much as possible and meet new people, explore nature, and travel. Every person, every amazing creature, from insect to shark, it might be a mountain I have climbed, or a building I have gone inside (who someone says is haunted), it all inspires some new book idea. At least a thousand years I would have to live, to get all my book ideas written, and then I would probably think of some more. I know I look at the world, and all the things in it, with child-like curiosity. I hope I never stop. —A. D. Tarbox

What is your book about?

Already Asleep tells the story of a mother going to put her son to bed only to find him “already asleep” with one muddy cleat on and still dressed in his dirty clothes. As the mother goes to check on her daughter she finds her “already asleep” dressed as a princess. The dog, pig, pony, Dad; they are all asleep! As the mother thinks about what each of them did that day, she understands why, and she starts to feel very sleepy too. In the end, she, as the narrator, asks the reader, “shouldn't you be already asleep?”

Why did you want to write the book?

My favorite Mother Goose story has always been a four verse rhyme called *Diddle Diddle Dumpling*. When I sat down to write this picture book I tried to imagine what if John, from that centuries old verse, lived in the 21st century. As I considered other characters to use in the story I thought of all the animals on my parent's ranch in Texas as well as the animals from the farm I lived on in Florida. I knew I wanted to include some of them in my book. *Already Asleep* is really a product of my own sentimentality: childhood memories of Mother Goose rhymes, growing up around animals, a love for reading goodnight stories to my own children, as well as being read to as kid.

Who is the audience for your book?

Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, and Uncles charged with that precious task of putting the kids to sleep, and reading them their bedtime story. The story appeals to all ages, but I'd guess from age eight on, the child would be the reader to the younger child. The rhythm and rhyme should be fun for kids to hear and the illustrator, Julie Olson, hid a grey tabby cat and white mouse in every scene of the book, which will make it great fun for children to find.

Did you have any pitfalls or difficult times in the writing process?

I always do. Since I wanted this to be a rhyming book, I didn't want my rhymes to sound forced, so I was constantly thinking of what nouns and verbs to use to tell the story, with as few words as possible. Working with poetry books, and rhyming guides, I would struggle to keep the meter correct. I would count and re-count how many syllables each verse had and try to decide how much repetition to use.

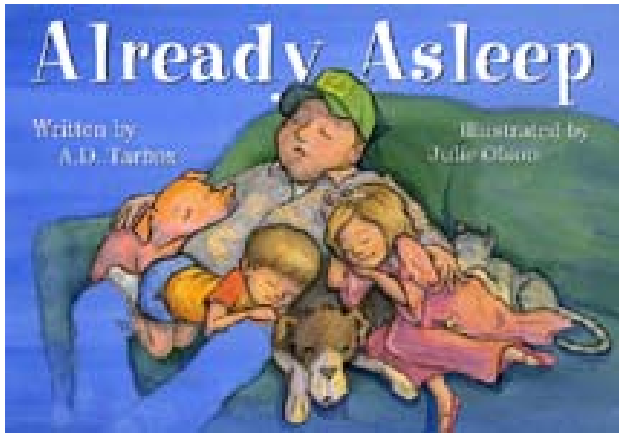
Which books or authors have most influenced you?

There have been many great authors and books which have influenced me over the years. But for this book, it was the old stories and rhymes of Mother Goose. I love the rhythm of *Tiki Tiki Tembo* retold by Arlene Mosel, the rhyme of Dr. Seuss, P.D. Eastman and Theo LeSieg.

Is there a message in your book?

Yes, besides the obvious message of "it is time for bed," I hoped my book started a short conversation after the story, while the adult tucked in their child. Like the mom in the book, when she remembered why her kids were probably already asleep because of all they did earlier in the day, I hoped parents would share what they did, and then the child could share what happened to them. If the child and adult spent the day together they could reminisce about what was fun. I intended *Already Asleep* to be a calming down book before bedtime, a time for the readers to think about how they spent their day. After they went to bed I hoped *Already Asleep* would help them have sweet dreams.

Fact Sheet



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