Imagine walking to the same place everyday to meet your best friend. Imagine watching hundreds of people pass by every morning and every afternoon. Imagine waiting, and waiting, and waiting. For ten years. That is what Hachiko did.

Hachiko was a real dog who lived in Tokyo, a dog who faithfully waited for his owner at the Shibuya train station long after his owner could not come to meet him. He became famous for his loyalty and was adored by scores of people who passed through the station every day. This is Hachiko’s story as seen through the eyes of Kentaro, a young boy whose life is changed forever by his friendship with this very special dog.

Simply told, and illustrated with Yan Nascimbene’s lush watercolors, the legend of Hachiko will touch your heart and inspire you, as it has inspired thousands all over the world.

Additional praise for Hachiko

“This touching tale of a dog’s devotion to his master is a well-known story in Japan, told here in the first person through the eyes of a fictional boy named Kentaro. The boy and many others care for the dog, who becomes a celebrity due to his faithful nature, with a statue of the dog erected in the station even before the dog’s death from old age. The story is told gently, in a thoughtful, restrained way that makes the reader admire the faithful dog rather than pity him. Watercolor illustrations using a variety of perspectives are also executed in a thoughtful, restrained style, with full-page illustrations alternating with small, square views of the dog waiting patiently in different seasons.”—Kirkus Reviews

(over)
One of author Pamela S. Turner’s first memories is grabbing her grandfather’s puppy by the ears and trying to pull it into her playpen: “My love of animals has never lessened, but my dog-handling skills have improved.” *Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog*, was inspired by a large bronze statue that stands outside Shibuya Station in Tokyo, Japan. When Ms. Turner and her family moved to Tokyo in 1990, “Shibuya was the closest major train station to our home. If you arranged to meet someone there, they would always say, ‘Let’s meet at Hachiko.’ My two older children were attending a Japanese preschool, and I finally asked one of the Japanese mothers, ‘So why is there a dog statue at the train station? Who was Hachiko?’ She told me his story, and I thought it was wonderful.”

Growing up in Riverside, California, Ms. Turner spent her childhood reading and drawing. Animals were always her favorite subjects. “My first ambition was to write and illustrate children’s books, and my first job at sixteen was working in the local public library,” says Ms. Turner.

While an undergraduate at the University of California, Irvine, Ms. Turner studied for a year at the University of Nairobi, Kenya (“At the time I didn’t know much about Africa, but I knew they had wildlife”) where she met her husband, Robert Townsend, also an exchange student. Their experiences in Africa sparked a keen mutual interest in international issues. Since then, they’ve lived and worked in South Africa, the Marshall Islands, the Philippines, and, of course, Japan. Each of their three children—Travis, Kelsey, and Connor—was born in a different country.

“I had always wanted to write, but somehow moving around and mothering always took priority. When we returned to the U.S. my children were older and I had no excuses left. Naturally, I wanted to write about animals. I remembered Hachiko and was amazed to discover there were no books about him in English. I decided to tell Hachiko’s story through the eyes of a fictional Japanese boy named Kentaro, who is named after my youngest son’s best friend in Japan.”

Ms. Turner is currently working on a non-fiction science book about the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. She returned to Africa to research the book and had several close encounters with large silverback gorillas: “They have the same massive grace as Japanese sumo wrestlers.”

Pamela Turner lives in Orinda, California with her husband, three children, and two dogs, Genki and Tux. “They are the Will Rogers of beasts,” she says. “They’ve never met anybody they didn’t like.”

**Yan Nascimbene** has illustrated more than thirty books as well as more than three hundred book covers. His work has been widely exhibited in the United States, Europe, and Japan. He is the recipient of many awards, including two Bologna International Graphic Awards and the Society of Illustrators’ Silver Medal. Yan lives with his family in California. *Hachiko* is the second book he has illustrated for Houghton Mifflin.

Please visit www.pamelasturner.com to find out more about the author and Hachiko.

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