Press Release

The Water Gift and the Pig
of the Pig
by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
illustrated by Linda Wingerter

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"Grandfather doesn't know how he finds the water. He just knows the stick turns down and can't be stopped. It's a mystery. Grandfather says it's the whole earth talking."

About the Book

Isabel's grandfather was a water man who went to sea at the age of ten and returned years later accompanied by a very special Pig who had sailed with him through the storms of Cape Horn. Isabel and her grandfather still have one of this beloved Pig's descendants, aptly named the Pig of the Pig That Went Around Cape Horn. Together, Isabel and the Pig of the Pig fish for haddock, watch birds and butterflies, and accompany Grandfather when he works the water gift.

Linda Wingerter's radiant, elegantly textured illustrations capture the very heart of this unusual story about a divining rod, a beloved pig, and a quiet granddaughter with gifts of her own to uncover. Together, word and image reveal that there is indeed much more to this world than what we see.
About the Authors

Jacqueline Briggs Martin is the author of *Snowflake Bentley*, winner of the 1999 Caldecott Medal, and *The Lamp, the Ice, and the Boat Called Fish*, an ALA Notable Book, a Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book, a Riverbank Review Finalist, a Notable Social Studies Trade book, and winner of the Golden Kite Award for Illustration. *The Water Gift and the Pig of the Pig* was inspired by her childhood home, a farm in Maine much like the one in this story, and by her fascination with water dowsers and the mysteries of the natural world. Ms. Martin now lives in a quiet town in Iowa with her husband.

Linda Wingerter, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, also grew up in rural Maine. "Coincidentally, the horse farm I grew up on was the 200-year-old Lovejoy farm in South Paris, Maine," she writes. "Now I live in the city, but what still inspires me most are the woods and fields of my childhood. I'm also fascinated by pigs." This is her first book with Houghton Mifflin.

Praise for *The Water Gift and the Pig of the Pig*

"This poignant story of the magical gift a girl shares with her grandfather is a gem . . . Martin's magnificent prose will draw the audience in and keep them there. Wingerter's acrylic illustrations are swathed in soothing, subdued blues, greens, and tans—the tranquil tones follow the story's gently sloping mood." — *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"As usual, Martin brings a grave wonderment to her storytelling, enlivening her dreamy tone with details of quietly brilliant originality and infusing her understated text with sympathetic emotion . . . As story of family, as story of bad luck surmounted, as a quietly effecting pig tale, and more, this is a nuanced and satisfying production." — *Bulletin*, starred review

"Martin elegantly unfurls a story filled with memorable characters and colorful details, as well as comforting images of loyalty and familial ties. Wingerter's lushly textured acrylic paintings set an almost timeless mood, striking a balance between folk art and nods to some of the American masters. This little piggy will likely be a storytime favorite." — *Publishers Weekly*

"Real-life magic is quite at home in Martin's magical text, rich with images and the slow cadence of yesteryear. Wingerter matches the nostalgic feel with her acrylics in an antique palette, showing a coastal idyll of farm and
sea, simple figures in a naive folk-art style standing out against the misty landscape." — *Horn Book*