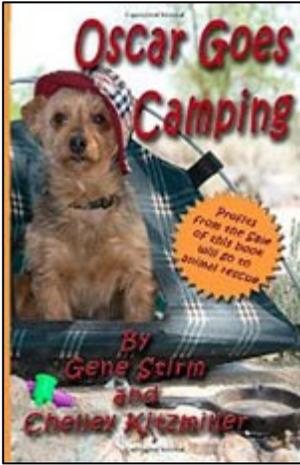


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- July 2011



My town has talent oozing out everywhere. There are artists of every description here, crafters, musicians, decorators and writers of all ages. These are good writers, including some who make their living writing for both TV and the big screen, journalists, business writers, nonfiction writers, writers for children and those who write fiction for both adults and children. There are those who are just beginning, and others who've been around for a while, including some who are returning after a hiatus.

The book I have chosen to review this month is written by one of the latter, Chelley Kitzmiller. Chelley wrote historical romances a few years ago and has had many articles published in regional papers and magazines. She is now stepping into a new market of gift and picture books.

Oscar Goes Camping by Chelley Kitzmiller and Gene Stirm is a delightful picture book for all ages. Oscar, by the way, is a Yorkshire terrier, and Mr. Personality Plus. While Chelley and Gene wrote the text and took the photos, Oscar is the star.

Camping myths, truths, foibles and near catastrophes make for fun reading, especially as the story is seen through Oscar's eyes. Anyone, who has ever gone camping, has experienced some of these same scenarios and has learned such camping truths as: you can quickly overroast a marshmallow, never build a fire near your tent, don't take food into your tent or you will wish you hadn't, and the bear box is where you store food,

not where you hide. The captions under the cute-as-can-be pictures make me laugh every time I read it.

This is the kind of book you read over and over and then start swapping tales of when you went camping. Your children will love both the book and your stories, even though they might not always be excited about the bugs, the lack of amenities and no cell phone reception sometimes associated with the camping experience. But it will give them good stories to tell their own children, when they are older.

All the profits from *Oscar Goes Camping* go to support animal rescue. Oscar found his forever home with Chelley and Ted Kitzmiller and hopes all dogs and cats are as lucky as he is.

I heartily recommend that this book be read aloud. And given away as gifts. And taken on all camping trips to be read around a campfire. *Oscar Goes Camping* is available at Books and Crannies, Radio Shack, many other retailers around Tehachapi, regional stores and on Amazon.com.

Happy reading, everyone. I hope you discover at least one new author this summer and find time to read some of those books you've been meaning to get around to reading. I have a stack of To-Be-Read books and I keep finding new ones. Read a book, share a book. You'll be glad you did.

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine