# Q&A WITH BESS KALB

**What was your favorite read-aloud book growing up? What is one of your favorite read-aloud books now?**



*Madeline*. It has a reputation as a prissy little French book but it's a story of a semi-abandoned child in a nunnery who gets emergency surgery and it had delightful rhymes in perfect cadence and she taunted tigers and walked on perilous ledges and wasn't afraid of anything. And the illustrations are so beautiful I'd paste them as wallpaper in my house. *Eloise* was her less supervised, worse mannered American cousin. Loved them both dearly and love reading them to my own rapscallions. I also loved *One Fish Two Fish* and consider it perfect slow-build deranged comedy.

**Was there a person or story you heard that inspired you to write (Buffalo Fluffalo Puffalo)?**

My children are my direct muses to the extent I worry they might sue me for life/buffalo rights. Everything I do is inspired by the works of the great poet Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss).

**If you could befriend a character from one of your books, who would you choose and why?**

Prairie dog. She's Eloise and Madeline's rodent cousin. She just wants to goof around and I get the feeling she throws insane parties in those tunnels.

**Tell us about something you love and love to share with others.**

Making beautiful meals for my wonderful children who reject it and demand butter noodles.

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