



Kim Brooks

Topics

Culture and Society, Journalism, Lifestyle, Women's Interests

Travels From

Illinois

Bio

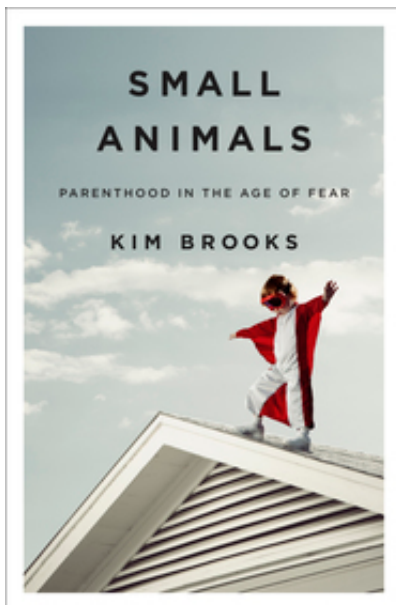
Kim Brooks is the author of *Small Animals: Parenthood in the Age of Fear*, described by the *National Book Review* as "an impassioned, smart work of social criticism and a call for support and empathy," and by *Publishers Weekly* as, "A disturbingly, ultimately affirming look at why parenting in the contemporary United States is defined by fear." A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and recipient of numerous fellowships, her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Salon*, *Buzzfeed*, and other publications. She has spoken as a guest on *CBS This Morning*, *PBS Newshour*, *20/20*, NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Good Morning America*, the *Brian Lehr Show*, and many other radio shows and podcasts such as *Note to Self*, *Mom and Dad Are Fighting*, *Femsplainer*, and *Matt Lewis' The News*. Her novel, *The Houseguest*, was published in 2016. She lives in Chicago. You can follow Kim on [Twitter](#).

SPEECHES

Small Animals: Parenting in the Age of Fear 24-hour-news cycle-spawned social panics, changing patterns in family structure, and rampant consumerism have transformed child-rearing from an inherently private relationship into an all-consuming, competitive sport. Brooks reveals how expectations of parents have changed in the course of a single generation, and how these expectations—fueled by fear rather than reality—leave working mothers and low-income families with few options, and pressure mothers to report to one another. Children are left with little opportunity to learn about the world on their own, to develop their self-efficacy and control, or to connect with their communities.

The Cinderella Paradox: Feminism, Domestic Labor, and the New Cult of Domesticity Just as Cinderella is told by her evil stepsisters that she can go to the ball just as soon as she's swept all the chimneys and scrubbed all the floors (without any compensation), American mothers today are told that they can have careers and take part in public life as full and equal citizens just as soon as they've fulfilled the ever-expanding duties and responsibilities of intensive motherhood. In this speech dubbed *The Cinderella Paradox*, Brooks examines the set of double standards, impossible expectations, and anti-family policies that continues to disempower women in the twenty-first century.

BOOKS



Hardcover

[Small Animals](#) Parenthood in the Age of Fear

Flatiron Books

One morning, Kim Brooks made a split-second decision to leave her four-year old son in the car while she ran into a store. What happened would consume the next several years of her life and spur her to investigate the broader role America's culture of fear plays in parenthood. In *Small Animals*, Brooks asks, Of all the emotions inherent in parenting, is there any more universal or profound than fear? Why have our notions of what it means to be a good parent changed so radically? In what ways do these changes impact the lives of parents, children, and the structure of society at large? And what, in the end, does the rise of fearful parenting tell us about ourselves?

REVIEWS: Praise for *Small Animals*: "Parents will flock to read the first nonfiction book from Brooks...Her engaging account of life as a modern-day parent blends memoir and her research from interviews with other parents, psychiatrists, and parenting experts to provide a deeper understanding of the ways fear and judgement affect the limits and freedoms we give ourselves and our children."

– *Booklist* starred review

"SMALL ANIMALS by Kim Brooks, came at me like a giant exhalation, a release of so much of the stress I've carried around since becoming a mother. I forced my advance copy on someone within an hour of finishing it, telling her it would change her life. It's already changed mine."

– ?Rebecca Makkai, ?*Condé Nast Traveler*

"An engaging, enlightening story that reveals the potential harm parents and society can do to children when they don't allow them any freedoms at all."

– *Kirkus*

"?SMALL ANIMALS is more than a memoir: It is a call to action? for all of us to quit the judgmental parenting Olympics."

– *Booklist*

"This thoughtful, thought-provoking book is part memoir, part examination about our modern American parenting culture, which is often fueled by anxiety and judgment. While I am not a particularly anxious parent, I did find Kim's personal story moving, and her research enlightening. ?I want to talk about it with every parent I know?."

? Edan Lepucki, ?*New York Times*? bestselling author of ?*California*

**Ann. M. Martin**

Topics

Best Selling and Award Winning Authors, Children and Young Adult Authors

Travels From

New York

Bio

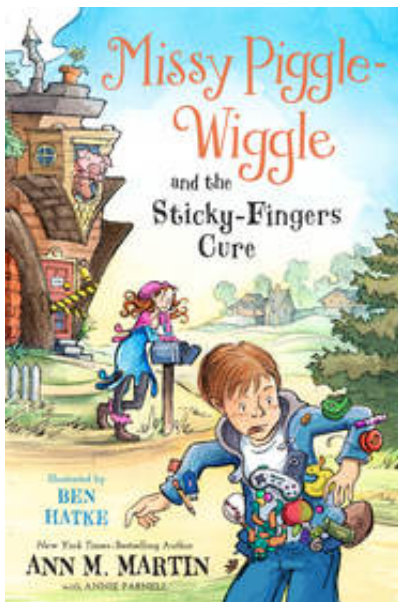
Ann M. Martin is the bestselling author of the momentous series *The Baby-sitters Club*, as well as the Main Street series. Her other acclaimed novels include *Ten Rules for Living with My Sister*, *Ten Good and Bad Things About My Life*, *Everything for a Dog*, *Missy Piggie-Wiggle and the Whatever Cure*, *A Dog's Life*, *Belle Teal*, *Here Today*, and the Newbery Honor Book *A Corner of the Universe*. Ann M. Martin grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, and always enjoyed writing even before she was old enough to write. She would dictate stories to her mother to write them down for her. After graduating from Smith College, she became a teacher, and then an editor of children's books before becoming a full-time writer. With 176 million copies sold to date, *The Baby-sitters Club* made her a household name. By the time the series ended in 2000, there were over 176,000,000 books in print from the original *Baby-sitters Club* and spinoff series, *The Baby-sitter's Little Sister*. In addition to *The Baby-sitters Club*, Ann wrote the acclaimed novels-in-letters, *P.S. Longer Letter Later* and *Snail Mail No More*, with author Paula Danziger. She also co-wrote *The Doll People* books with Laura Godwin, illustrated by Brian Selznick. Her novel *A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray* was a winner of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award. Ann divides her time between New York City and upstate New York. She

currently spends most of her time in her home in the Hudson Valley where she likes to write, go on long walks with her dog Sadie, watch old episodes of "I Love Lucy," and make clothes for children, her favorite hobby.

SPEECHES

An Evening with Ann M. Martin Ann talks about her seminal series, *The Baby-sitters Club*, the writer's life, and her passion for children's literature.

BOOKS



Hardcover

[Missy Piggle-Wiggle and the Sticky-Fingers Cure](#)

Feiwel & Friends

Once in a generation, the Effluvia strikes and it affects everyone differently. Missy wakes one morning to find the upside-down house is . . . right-side up? It's not long before Missy has to quarantine the house. Meanwhile she's still fielding calls from worried parents, and Louie can't keep his sticky fingers from taking other people's things! But Missy's magic cure might just do the trick, and even

teach some valuable lessons along the way.



Hardcover

[Rain Reign](#)

Square Fish

Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different—not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search.