



Enchanted Lion Books is the winner of the 2020 (Mildred L.) Batchelder Award for *Brown*, written by Håkon Øvreås, illustrated by Øyvind Torseter, and translated from the Norwegian by Kari Dickson. Claudia Zoe Bedrick, publisher at Enchanted Lion, delivered these acceptance remarks during the ALA Book Award Celebration held Sunday, June 28, 2020, on YouTube.

For more information about the Batchelder Award, visit <http://bit.ly/batchelder-award>.

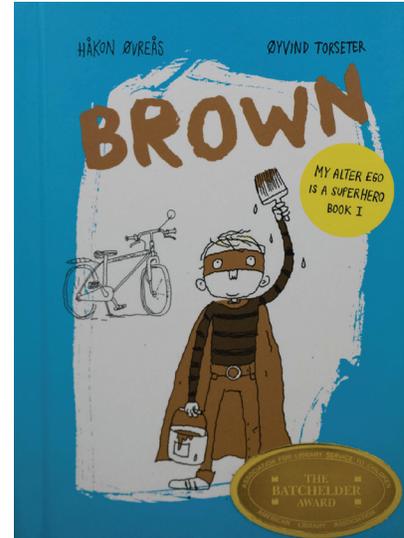


Batchelder

AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Hello to all of you from South Brooklyn. My name is Claudia Bedrick, and I'm the publisher of Enchanted Lion Books. One of the things that publishing books in translation asserts and then reveals is that, as human beings on a spiritual journey of finding and making meaning, we all share a bigger, broader, deeper, richer common language than we might initially assume or expect, and that human liberation with its journey into selfhood and towards finding a home in the world is of course dreamed, seen, and valued across all boundaries and borders. As one society sharing the planet with many others, it's important for us to understand the extent to which we need for our own health and well-being, and that of our world in general, to find culturally diverse, perhaps even unfamiliar, yet kindred and collectively valuable stories and visions. The Norwegian book *Brune*, *Brown* in English, honored with this year's Batchelder Award, is a book of short, dry, wry sentences that yet run very deep. It's a story about agency, family, friendship, loss, and standing up for what is right. It's a terrific, beautifully translated book, and I hope you all read it and share it.

But today in face of what has come upon us planetarily over the last several months with COVID-19, and given the many forms of violence endemic to the US and the resistance that has finally risen up, I would like to share some words from Black woman lesbian poet and human being Audre Lorde, whose words are somehow always relevant. She says, "I believe in



societies that do not use members of that society for the profit of other parts of that society. I believe passionately in societies that define the good in terms of human needs as opposed to terms of profit. I believe that it is possible to have societies that do not categorize, reject, trivialize, objectify other human beings because of their differences. That we can be different and use those differences not to destroy each other, but to move. These are the things I believe and everything I breathe, say, do is a part of that. The way I eat, the way I raise my children, the way I teach, the way I write. And it gives me joy in the doing." I love individuals. I love human beings.

The work of culture that we do through books is only as good as the books themselves and the space and support we give to those books to live and find voice in the world. Books in translation, as well as books from

Enchanted Lion Books, based in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, is an independent publisher of illustrated books and fiction for readers of all ages. They have published books in translation from around the world and have created many books with authors and illustrators as well.



Batchelder

AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

many communities, such as by and about people of color, have not historically been given as much commercial, or even library shelf, space as they should have for us as people and readers to do the deepest possible transformative work of culture. And it is precisely these books for which we should be making and holding space. Especially at a time when our own society defines far too much in terms of corporate profit, and far too little in terms of human needs and the ancient question of what makes for a good human life. Often it takes books

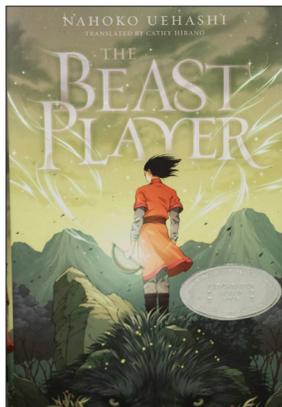
from other cultures and countries for us to be reminded that there is such a thing as a social contract, that community might count more than our American individualism, and that shared human happiness could maybe, just maybe, be the greatest treasure of all.

I would like to thank Dr. Lauren Liang, who chaired the Batchelder committee for this award year, and the committee members for honoring *Enchanted Lion*, translator Kari Dickson, author Håkon Øvreås, and illustrator Øyvind Torseter by choos-

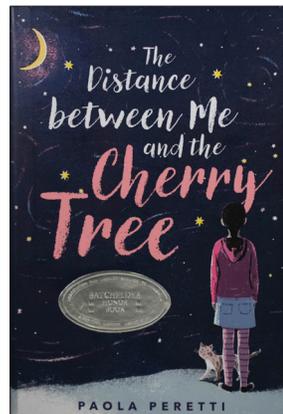
ing *Brown*. I would also like to thank ALSC in its entirety for its continued support of the global richness of children's literature. And, finally, I would like to thank USBBY and the many librarians across the country who work tirelessly in support of diversity broadly defined and books in translation for young readers. Thank you. I wish you all a good day.

© Claudia Bedrick, 2020. Used by permission.

2020 BATCHELDER HONOR BOOKS



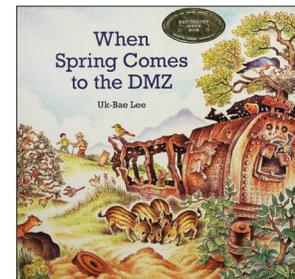
The Beast Player
Nahoko Uehashi
Trans. from the Japanese
by Cathy Hirano
Godwin Books/Holt/
Macmillan



The Distance between Me and the Cherry Tree
Paola Peretti
Illus. by Carolina Rabei
Trans. from the Italian by
Denise Muir
Atheneum/Simon &
Schuster



Do Fish Sleep?
Jens Raschke
Illus. by Jens Rasmus
Trans. from the German
by Belinda Cooper
Enchanted Lion Books



When Spring Comes to the DMZ
Uk-Bae Lee
Illus. by the author
Trans. from the Korean
by Chungyon Won and
Aileen Won
Plough Publishing House



For more information about the Batchelder Award, visit <http://bit.ly/batchelder-award>.

2020 BATCHELDER AWARD COMMITTEE

Dr. Lauren Aimonette Liang, Chair, University of Utah, Salt Lake City
Dr. Danilo M. Baylen, University of West Georgia, Carrollton
Dr. Marianne Martens, Kent (Ohio) State University (iSchool)
Jan Watkins, Southern Shores, North Carolina
Pam Werre, Minnesota State University, Moorhead