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January 6, 1985

Ms. Margaret K. McElderry  
Atheneum Publishers  
115 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Margaret:

It's been a long time since I've written, and I send belated but warm greetings for the new year.

Many thanks for the copy of CATLORE. I was certainly interested and surprised to learn of an African version of "Two Foolish Cats", but think ours is better, don't you?!

I thought you might be interested to hear that my new internist finally diagnosed the condition I've had for the past 6 months (and probably for the last 10 years!) as Chronic Epstein-Barr Virus and Cytomegalia Virus. They're both in the Mono. family and like it, untreatable, but at least my illness is legitimized now and I know I must simply learn to live with it.

At any rate, my lessened activity has resulted in an outburst of poetry and I think I have enough now for a book. I'll try to send them to you in a week or so with the hope that you might want to publish them.

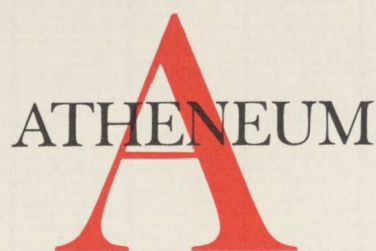
In the meantime, I'm sending you another nice review in one of our local papers. Actually The Voice is Berkeley's only newspaper now, so it is quite widely read.

Affectionately,

Enc:

P.S. I seem to recall your mentioning another move in January. When is it taking place?





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

17 January 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
No. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

This will be a quick note only in reply to your letter of January 6th, which was very welcome. I thought you'd be amused at the African version of "Two Foolish Cats" which Lisa happened to notice. I agree with you, though, that ours is better.

It is, I'm sure, a real relief to have what's been troubling you diagnosed by your new internist though I'm sorry that it is a combination, seemingly, of two untreatable things with such impressive names that I know I shall promptly forget them! At least you do feel legitimate and that is immensely important psychologically, I'm certain. It also means that you just have to allow more time for yourself to rest since, if I'm correct, that's the only way to treat mono and these as a cousin of that must respond in a rather similar fashion.

It's interesting that your lessened activity, as you put it, has turned you to poetry and I'll look forward to reading it. Poetry, as you know I'm sure, is a very tough thing to publish because the market for it is very small, no matter how much it is talked about and used here and there. I say this only so as not to get your hopes too high, but time will tell.

Thank you for the nice review that was in "The Voice". It certainly should reach a lot of interested people.

Yes, you're right and what a memory. We were to have moved in January. Now there is talk of April but I will not be at all surprised if the move fails to materialize then. Anyhow, we'll let you know when we "flit" as they say in the Highlands of Scotland.

I'm off tomorrow morning for ALA Midwinter in Chicago and I shan't be signing this, therefore, myself. Anyhow, I'm having to move fast so I'll sign off for now but with the very warmest possible good wishes to you for 1986--



Uchida, page 2

Affectionately,

*Margaret /lk*

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/lak  
(dictated but not signed)





ATHENEUM

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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

31 January 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

Some while ago, Margot Zemach mentioned in a letter that she had a few suggestions she'd like to make about the manuscript of THE TWO FOOLISH CATS, primarily from the illustrator's point of view. I may have mentioned this to you, but I'm not sure. In any event, I encouraged her to make the suggestions, they have now come in and I think they are good. She really is quite astute in saying that, for a picture story book, the fewer words used the better. She likes very much, of course, how you write but does note that you do it in a "writer's way, fully describing often that which might be left to the illustrator." Her point is surprisingly well taken and I am not a little astonished that I myself didn't catch some of this!

Anyhow, here are her suggestions which I hope you will go along with, in general at least, if not in toto.

Page 1 3rd line from end--omit "for dinner". We don't really need it and she says as well "I think animals eat when hungry--not sure I like wild animals eating 'dinner', 'breakfast' or 'afternoon tea' at all." ✓

Page 2 Line 2--omit "for afternoon tea" ✓

6th full para., line 2--omit "silly" as that word and "silleeee" come in later and are more effective not used too often. *find* *leave in*

8th full para.--cut "The thought. . .wonderful," and begin a new sentence with "The". She feels this rather slows the action and indeed it may. ✓

Page 3 5th full para., lines 1 & 2--omit "Neither did you!" Again, she feels the repetition slows the action. *leave in*

6th full para., line 2--omit "miserable". ✓ She says "having them 'miserable' should be saved for later--the end"; line 3--omit "and sulk. . .day,". It slows the action, and they're not thinking of it as sulking.



Uchida, page 2

Page 4      Para. 3, line 1--"screeched" instead of "yowled";  
line 2--omit "stubborn and" ✓

*leave in* ✓  
Para. 4--here she makes a comment without giving a solution. She feels that perhaps their quarreling could be more orchestrated to build it up more effectively, with fewer words such as "scowling", "snarling", "spitting", "clawing", "scratched", "hissed", "yowled". See what you think.

Para. 7, line 1--"down" instead of "from the trees" *leave*

○ Para. 8, line 2--"that" instead of "and stubborn,"

Page 5      Line 1--omit "You certainly woke me up," and put the phrase "the raccoon grumbled" after "anyway?"

Line 7--here she thinks the use of "silly" is very good

*leave*  
Para. 6, lines 1, 2 & 3--cut "for by. . . cakes". She comments that slows the pace and I think she's right. She will be able to show the cats eyeing their cakes hopefully.

*leave*  
Para. 7, lines 5 & 6--cut "They crossed. . . vines." I think she feels she can show how complicated <sup>the terrain</sup> through which they're going is.

Page 6      Line 2--omit "and up". She thinks it's perhaps smoother without it; lines 4 & 5--omit "or I. . . hunger". She feels this is rather stilted; omit "and up" if we have omitted it in line 2.

*ready*  
4th full para., lines 3, 4 & 5--omit "He wore. . . nose." She would like to give him "more interesting clothes". She feels he sounds too "organ grindery" and she's right. She will give him glasses. "The chance to have great clothes is too much to pass up" she says.

Next to last line on page--omit "quite"

Page 7      Lines 2 & 3--she asks that we cut one of the two sentences beginning with "We knew". ✓

Line 5--she suggests replacing "into his house" with something like "among the branches". She thinks monkeys sit on trees, not in them, like owls.

Last two lines on page--she suggests the last sentence read "Surely they are equal now".

Page 8      Lines 1 & 2--"paid no attention" instead of "did not. . . cats". She's quite right, I think, that these are more words than we need to make a simple direct statement. ✓



Uchida, page 3

Para. 2, line 4--omit "for you"

Para. 3, line 2--"among the branches" instead of  
"into his house"

✓ Paras. 4 & 5--here she has a question. She says "I  
don't know if this joke works--or is it too pat,  
stilted? Could one say 'I feel foolish', the other  
'I feel stupid'?" This is entirely up to you. I  
can go either way on it.

Para. 7, line 2--omit "held their stomachs and". She  
can make them holding their stomachs, she says, so  
there's no need to slow down the hilarity.

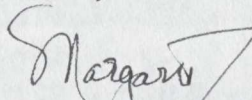
4th line from end of page--omit "in the meadow" 0

Page 9 1st two lines--she says "not sure 'sad' is right word.  
Maybe could be cut." We don't actually need it because  
two preceding lines show the glee of the mice.

That's it.

Actually, I've never had an artist be so articulate about a text  
and yet, because of the work she's done in the past, she has a real  
flair for this, so I hope you won't mind my passing it on to you  
and won't feel that she is stepping on the author's prerogative.  
She only means to be helpful. Incidentally, she says "It is fun  
to be trying out Japanese kinds of brush strokes. It doesn't  
seem so far away to me." She also had just seen a great show of  
Japanese helmets, fantastically made, one you may have seen yourself.  
Apparently they were in all kinds of animal and bird and flower shapes  
and very beautiful.

Ever,



Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/lak



February 3, 1966

Ms. Margarret K. McElderry  
Atheneum Publishers  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Margaret:

Margot has completed her other commitments and is now fully immersed in Japanese art books.

We got together recently to discuss THE TWO FOOLISH CATS, and she ~~suggested~~ that a shorter text would be of great help in giving her more freedom and space for the art.

I was glad to comply, of course, and have not only eliminated specific colors and descriptions that would be limiting to her, but have tightened up the entire text considerably. I've also changed a few words ~~and think the manuscript is~~ now improved. I do hope you will agree.

I thought it would be easier for everyone to work from a clean copy, so retyped the manuscript and am enclosing the revision.

It seems a little late to be making these changes, but I've reminded Margot of the deadlines, and since she's now focussed on our book, I think she will proceed without delay. I'll keep an eye on her and mother her along!

Just this quick note for today.

Affectionately,

Encl: Revised ms.



February 7, 1986

Dear Margaret:

I was just on my way to the post office last Monday with the enclosed letter of 2/3 and the revision, when I found your letter of 1/31 in my mailbox.

You can imagine how astounded I was to receive so many suggestions from Margot, as she didn't mention any of them or that she had written you when we got together on Jan. 28. She spoke then only of eliminating colors and some descriptive phrases and only in a very general way. I then came home, saw that I could cut a great deal, and typed up the enclosed revision, cutting 2 pages.

Since we get along very well, she called me when she realized I had received your letter and seemed rather embarrassed about her many suggestions. Her main concern was to shorten the text somehow, and she hadn't even kept a copy of the changes she'd sent to you.

I explained that I felt the nature of a folk tale is not to depict animals as they are in nature, but to depict them with human characteristics and foibles. Once we accept the premise that mice dance, cats talk and take advice from a badger and a monkey who owns a pair of scales, it becomes inconsistent to treat the cats as wild creatures as they might be depicted in a nature story.

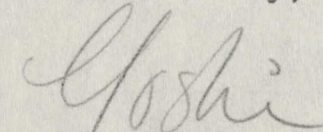
So I'm leaving in the breakfast and dinner and their general "human" qualities. We also discussed the monkey and his house, and while I did delete the descriptive phrase about him, I did ask her to consider using my description. A red vest is symbolic of age and wisdom in Japan, and one is often presented to a man when he turns 65. *She was also glad that I decided to delete the raccoon.*

Margot readily agreed to all the above, and I know we understand and respect one another's judgment.

I've now gone over my revision again and did incorporate some of her suggestions, but not all of them. I've also had to add a word or two here and there to maintain the interior rhythm and balance of a sentence. Most important, the text has been pared down by over 2 pages and Margot was delighted to hear this.

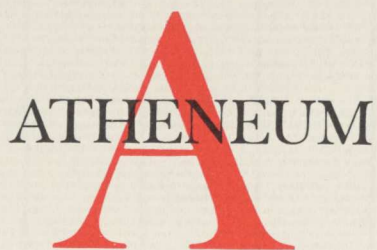
If you like the new revision, I would now like to let it stand as is. Margot has asked me to come see her preliminary sketches when they're ready and please rest assured we'll work together in a totally friendly and open way. I'm looking forward to a beautiful book!

Affectionately,

  
Yoshiko Uchida

Encl:





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

26 February 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

I've just had your note enclosing the letter from Patricia Abe' and the review of THE HAPPIEST ENDING from the Honolulu paper. I had not seen the latter and am delighted.

We had a copy of the Abe' letter here, as I think I have written you, and I'm so pleased that you are one of the three children's book writers being honored. More power to you.

Love,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/lak





ATHENEUM PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

February 27, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1885 Solano Ave. No. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

First came your February 3rd letter, telling of your meeting with Margot and the small changes you had agreed upon. Then came your February 12th letter, written after you'd received mine, telling of Margot's suggested (and quite extensive) text changes! It was odd that she hadn't mentioned any of them to you earlier. She must have known I would make no changes without consulting you. She probably really hadn't thought about it much one way or another. In any event, I'm so glad it led to another good talk between you (and it's such a help that you get on well together!) with the resultant revised text, which is shorter. That is a great help, for even picture storybooks, which this will be, benefit from short, crisp texts. Thank you very much for your thoughtful work.

Thank you, too, for saying you will "keep an eye" on her. You will do it most judiciously, I know, and I'll feel relieved, as Margot does have a reputation for being a bit vague about deadlines. Her finished art work is due by June 30th, and I've written her recently to suggest April 15th as the due date for her dummy, a date which we had left open as artists usually set their own. Not having had a date for the dummy from Margot, I felt I'd best set up one. She may want to change it, in which case I'll keep you posted, "on the side."

I do appreciate your assurance you'll work together in "a totally friendly and open way." This can be a tricky situation sometimes, with an artist feeling a bit hemmed in. However, you and Margot seem to have arrived at a modus vivendi.

It is endlessly fascinating to me how any change in a text, more especially a short one, produces the need for other changes and commands a fresh consideration of the whole.

That has certainly been true here for you -- and now for me! I've come up with various small thoughts and suggestions about this latest revision (which I like very much) as you'll now see. Certain things I might have noticed before and didn't have now popped out at me. Like you, I hope to get this settled quickly. Then, if Margot will send me one sample of her work so we may see what it will look like, we'll be able to pick a type face that is suitable, have the text set and send Margot galleys with which to dummy.

Here goes for my current (and last, I hope!) "bits and pieces:"

Page 1: do you want to have the reference to the folktale on the title page with this wording?

*yes  
unless you  
think it would  
be more  
appropriate  
elsewhere.*



*Question for page 1: yes, unless you think it would be more appropriate elsewhere.*

✓ Page 2, line 3: omit "Usually" It now seems to foreshadow their quarrel in an unnecessary way.

✓ Page 2, first full paragraph, line 4: to use only the phrase, "beyond the pine forest" seems not quite sensible. It sounds like a long journey, which they surely would not undertake before breakfast which, in turn, they are still confident of catching easily. Also, on page 4, next to the last paragraph, lines 1 and 2, they hurry "through the pine forest" which would seem confusing if we leave in this first reference to it. One then wonders if they're coming back through it. On page 2, I suggest we make it read simply, "...they went out to catch..."

✓ Page 2, 6th full paragraph, line 2: "a" instead of the first "the"; "was" instead of "were" It seems likely he would try to catch a particular fish.

✓ Page 2, 6th full paragraph, line 3: "It" instead of "They"; "slipped" <sup>away</sup> instead of "slithered" "Slither" is something done on gravel or ground, not in water.

✓ Page 3, paragraph 4, line 3: "nearby" instead of "beside the stream" We're told in line 1 of paragraph 4 that they're "at the edge of the stream" and we know they haven't moved away yet, so the reeds must be "beside the stream" without our being told. Also, it jars a bit on one's ear to have the phrase so nearly like the one in line 1.

✓ Page 3, paragraph 7, line 1: omit "But" and put "Oh no you don't!" before "Big Daizo hissed." It speeds up the action, I think, when we give his response immediately. *Add quotation marks before "I should ..."*

*yes* - Page 3, paragraph 10: are the rice cakes on the ground while the chase goes on? It need not be in the text, but we need to know for the illustrations.

✓ Page 4, line 1: "down" instead of "from the trees" Some of the birds may simply have been flying and not in the trees. Also, we've had the trees featured quite soon before in their chase.

Page 4, paragraph 8, lines 1 and 2: here they're hurrying "through the pine forest" (See suggestion for page 2) ✓

✓ Page 4, next to last line on page: I realize (belatedly!) that we should say "frog" instead of "toad." Toads, though amphibians, are generally terrestrial except in breeding season when they seek water (Webster). Also, I don't think toads croak in the way frogs do.

✓ Page 5, line 4: "toad" again

*2x discuss this with Margot*

— Page 5, paragraph 5, line 1: how have the rice cakes been carried during the journey? It becomes clear two paragraphs along and no change is needed in text, but we'll need to be sure Margot knows in doing her pictures.

— Page 5, paragraph 8, line 1: the second "ah hah" is an exact repetition of the first here, but in every instance following, it is always written as, "ha hah". Do you want to change here? — *No, I tho<sup>t</sup> the 1st time he would just say ah had twice*

✓ Page 5, paragraph 10, line 3: "they" instead of "it" With this shortened text I think "the cakes" are what one thinks of as not balancing; they are what one focuses on.

Page 6 - Last words on 5th + 6th line from bottom of page. What would you think of capitalizing "STUPID" + "at best". Emphasis on these 2 words might make these phrases clearer for children. I'll leave the decision up to you.



Ms. Yoshiko Uchida, February 27, 1986, page 3

✓ Page 7, last line of the mice's song, "fooled" should not be capitalized.

Page 7, last paragraph, line 1: what about adding "have" before "never"? It seems stronger to me, giving the fact more weight.

Page 7, last paragraph, line 2: "and have" instead of "but" Again, this seems stronger to me.

*I would prefer to leave as is. Inserting "have" seems to suggest the cats are still alive & real & I think this should be read as a folk tale of long ago.*

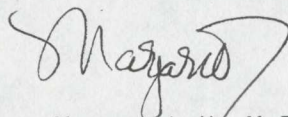
I'll be most interested in having your opinions on these last remaining points. Then I shall have to find out from Margot when she can supply us with a picture, finished enough so we can choose a type face.

I'll be leaving for Europe on March 20th and won't return until April 14th so there's a lot to get through before the 20th, as you can imagine.

This is going to be a beautiful book, and I'm very excited about it, too!

I hope you're feeling fairly well -- and keeping those odd demons you must live with under control.

Affectionately,



Margaret K. McElderry  
Director

MKMCE/kph



YOSHIKO UCHIDA

1685 SOLANO AVENUE, NO. 102  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94707

(415) 524-1152

March 7, 1986

Ms. Margaret K. McElderry  
Atheneum  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Margaret:

I must thank you for many things! First of all for your thoughtfulness in sending me the NY Times review so quickly. I was absolutely delighted with the nice write-up mentioning several of my books.

I was, of course, disappointed about the poetry collection, but do understand the difficulties of publishing poetry, and appreciated your taking the time to write me so fully about your thoughts. I've set it aside for now, may substitute some new poems (keeping in mind your comments), and may ask for your suggestions later about where I might try it next. Or if I have enough new poems may ask you to take another look later on.

I also appreciated your kind words about the Gale article. I'm glad you liked it, though I noticed that they too omitted the "McElderry Books", much to my chagrin.

Now your letter about THE TWO FOOLISH CATS has arrived and I agree with all but one or two of your suggestions, as you will see on the copy of your queries which I enclose.

Sunday, March 9th

Unexpectedly, I was able to go see Margot today and everything I wrote earlier on this letter became outdated. Forgive me for not retyping it, but this patched up version will help me conserve some energy.

I was absolutely delighted to see Margot's <sup>preliminary art</sup> ~~work~~, and surprised that she was already working with color. It looked beautiful and I'm relieved that she is now focussed on her painting and not requesting any more changes, as she did just last week! I think the book is going to look gorgeous and am sure Margot will meet the June 30th deadline for finished art without any problems. *The cats look fine, her monkey is magnificent & her background landscape just lovely!* You might be interested to know I was the featured author for a recent issue of CLASSMATE magazine. I'm inundated and overwhelmed with letters from children, but it's nice to know my books are being read so widely.

Do have a pleasant and safe journey to Europe.

Affectionately,

*P.S. I tho + Margot should share <sup>in</sup> the dedication so I'll get this page to you later on.*



✓ = OK

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida, February 27, 1986, page 2

*Question on page 16: yes, unless you think it would be more appropriate elsewhere*

✓ Page 2, line 3: omit "Usually" It now seems to foreshadow their quarrel in an unnecessary way.

✓ Page 2, first full paragraph, line 4: to use only the phrase, "beyond the pine forest" seems not quite sensible. It sounds like a long journey, which they surely would not undertake before breakfast which, in turn, they are still confident of catching easily. Also, on page 4, next to the last paragraph, lines 1 and 2, they hurry "through the pine forest" which would seem confusing if we leave in this first reference to it. One then wonders if they're coming back through it. On page 2, I suggest we make it read simply, "...they went out to catch..."

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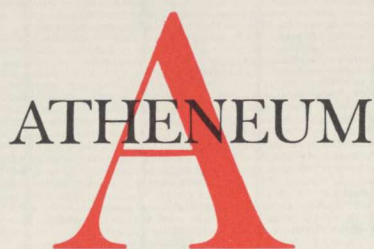
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Page 5, paragraph 10, line 3: "they" instead of "it" With this shortened text I think "the cakes" are what one thinks of as not balancing; they are what one focuses on.

Page 6 Last words on 5th & 6th lines from bottom of p. What would you think of capitalizing "STUPID" & "FOOLISH". Emphasis on these 2 words might make these phrases clearer for children. I'll leave the decision up to you.

*9 we decided  
to discuss  
this with  
Margot  
they'll have to  
carry them in their  
mouths which is  
awkward but it  
will only be for  
1 or 2  
illustrations  
since the only  
solution*





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

April 7, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

Just a quick note to send along a set of uncorrected galleys of TWO FOOLISH CATS. Can you please read these over for any typos or changes you'd like made, and then return them to me within the next few weeks, preferably by April 28. I've sent two sets to Margot Zemach to use in dummieing up the book.

All is well here, and it seems spring has finally arrived (including some April showers). I hope all is well with you --

Sincerely,

*Nachama*  
Nachama Halpern  
Managing Editor

/nh  
Encl.

*Good to hear from you  
Bill - please handle.  
my belated - John Ravi  
Proofs sent matter -  
- to John Ravi  
- copy to P.  
2/26 in "The"*



April 9, 1986

Ms. Margaret K. McElderry  
Athenaeum  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Margaret:

Welcome home! I hope your trip to Europe was a good one. I also hope my letter of March 7 reached you before you left and that Margot got her art to you in time.

This is just a quick note to let you know that I did win the BASRA Award for THE HAPPIEST ENDING and was able to get to the awards ceremony - a most pleasant occasion. (See enclosed clippings). This is a good award to win here & I've had many good repercussions.

It was a special delight to meet Eden Lipson of the NY Times Book Review who happened to be in town. I was able to tell her how pleased I was with the Times review and also to have a good talk with her about my niece, whom she knows. Apparently my niece is a very troubled person, and Eden was able to give me some new insights about her.

I'm still having ups and downs, but if my health permits, I'm hoping to visit my sister in Conn. May 17-June 7, and hope I'll have enough energy to get into NYC one day to see you. If you're free, I'm thinking tentatively of May 28, 29 (also maybe 27) or June 3.

I'm sure you must have an enormous amount of catching up to do, so perhaps Lisa or Nachama could just let me know about your schedule. I do hope things will work out. It would be lovely to see you.

Affectionately,

Lisa C  
May 27

Encl: Sun. Chron 3/16/86 original  
Examiner 3/24 - copy  
Pac. Ct. 4/4 - "  
Chron 3/22 - "



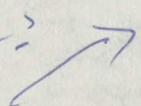
E. Little:

Galley

- ① Are we deleting "The" 2<sup>nd</sup> title?  
Nest - I haven't discussed this.  
but I <sup>think</sup> I'd prefer keeping the  
"The" 1<sup>st</sup> title, unless Nest  
feels strongly to delete it.

Galley ③ - Ah, <sup>ah?</sup> hah -

I had intended that  
monkey should say ah-hah  
twice the 1<sup>st</sup> time when he  
1<sup>st</sup> observes situation, but  
if Nest felt he is consistent  
throughout this is OK.

Jul 4 - <sup>on sense</sup> Can we line up caps  
here, so we don't have  
ragged look?   
Also above

- "fortes Dr S" I'd prefer ( )  
This in 2 lines as in Verse,  
but I guess there are  
space constraints -



2 Furry Cats

April 17, 1986

Nachama Halpern  
Athenum Pub.  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Nachama:

The galleys look fine and I'm returning them with only a few comments and questions.

Will you also send me proofs of the front matter when they come in, as we decided to put the Jpnse title on the copy-right page and I'd like to check the spelling?

I'm enclosing a dedication page. Margot still hasn't decided about her dedication, so we'll add that later. I called her the other day to see how she was doing and reminded her about the dummy deadline. I hope she'll get it in soon. I'm planning to go see her finished art toward the end of the month, so I think she's making good progress.

I received my 8 copies of THE HAPPIEST ENDING last week, but they've also sent me a bill. (see enclosed). Would you give them a call and remind them that this is to be charged to my royalty account? Many thanks.

I might see you late in May if I make it to NYC and Margaret is free to see me.

All the best,

Encl:

P.S. I guess pic bks don't have ad cards, but can the 3 Reiko books be listed on the back flap? Third graders (who would enjoy "2 Cats") are, I've discovered, reading my Reiko books!



Dedication page for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS

Yoshiko Uchida

For Gordon and Ruri

Y.U.

For Bobbi and Aviva

M.Z.

sent 5/5/86



MACMILLAN PUBLISHING COMPANY  
A DIVISION OF MACMILLAN, INC.  
115 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10003

COLLIER BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS  
ALADDIN BOOKS

April 21, 1986

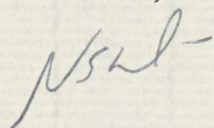
Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi:

Enclosed are advance copies of the Aladdin edition of The Best Bad Thing.  
I think it's quite handsome, and I hope you agree. Additional copies  
will be sent directly from our warehouse.

I look forward to seeing the fruits of your collaboration with Margot!

All best,



Neal Porter  
Publisher

NP/sdn

Enclosure

*✓ Neal I didn't know  
BBT was by Uchida - pb  
+ was deleted + suggested I see  
12 adv. copies + should I say  
let's 8/ have a long talk!  
One deleted of letters from me to  
as publisher!*





ATHENEUM PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

TELEX: 239532 CABLES: SCRIB UR

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

April 28, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, No. 102  
Berkeley, CA 14707

Dear Yoshi,

Thank you for returning the author galleys of THE TWO FOOLISH CATS so quickly. I've been out of the office for a few days, so I haven't been very quick in answering your letter! I'll take your questions one by one:

The title will be "THE TWO FOOLISH CATS." The printer simply used "TWO FOOLISH CATS" as an abbreviation to identify the ms. for his own purposes. ✓

Galley 3: The monkey should say "Ah hah, ah hah" that first time, as in the manuscript. The printer transposed the second "ah," but I've changed it back. This will be corrected at the next proof stage. ✓

Galley 4: The caps will be aligned in those few places where the text is set line for line (like poetry), to avoid the ragged look you noticed. Also, the line "The wise old monkey fooled Daizo and Suki" should have been broken up ("The wise old monkey / Fooled Daizo and Suki"). This was a printer's error, but I've marked the galleys so that this will be corrected at the next proof stage. ✓

OK  
The copyright page has not yet been set, but the spelling I have for the Japanese title (which will appear on the copyright page) is: "Saru No Nigirimeshi Saiban." Please let me know if that's correct.

sent via Mgt  
yes  
Thank you for sending along your dedication. I'll pass it on to our designer, telling her that Margot Zemach's dedication will follow shortly.

The back jacket flap will have blurbs about you and Margot Zemach. Would it be okay with you if we work the three Rinko books (and perhaps some of the awards they've won) into the blurb about you?

I'm sorry that the warehouse billed you directly for the 8 copies of THE HAPPIEST ENDING you ordered. Lisa has called the Credits and Collection Department, and they will have the order charged to your royalty account instead. However, it seems that this might not actually be accomplished for another few weeks. So, it's conceivable that in the meantime you will receive another bill from the warehouse, which you can disregard. ✓

I think that's it for now. Best wishes, as always --

Sincerely,

*Nachama*  
Nachama Halpern  
Managing Editor

/nh



May 6, 1986

Ms. Margaret K. McElderry  
Atheneum  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Margaret:

Thought you'd like to see how Margot's work looked on 4/27 when I saw her. (A magnifying glass helps!) She's changing the shape of the rice cakes which were too big, and she's trying to complete as much as possible before 5/8 when a PBS station is coming to do a tape on her work. *or earlier*

I'm rather discouraged by my continuing lack of energy and stamina, but still plan my trip east and hope I can get to NYC. I'll contact you the week of 5/29 to confirm in any case. Perhaps I could see Diane Siebert briefly to discuss a new bio.

How nice that HAPPIEST ENDING made Children's Choices and it was also a happy surprise to receive advance paperback copies of BEST BAD THING from Neal.

If you need to contact me, I'll be at the following address from 5/17, ~~5/17~~.

c/o Mrs. S. Kakutani  
32 Round Hill Rd.  
Hamden, Conn. 06518

(203)288-4792

Hope to see you soon!

Affectionately,

Encl:

*Oh. If I can retype it in time, I may send you my 2nd pic. to Mr. before I leave. G.*



May 9, 1986

Neal Porter  
Aladdin Books  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Neal:

I wasn't aware that THE BEST BAD THING was being issued in paperback and was surprised and delighted to receive the two advance copies. I'll look forward to receiving additional copies soon. Many thanks.

And my belated good wishes to you in your new role as publisher! I think that's great!

Margot is almost finished with her art work and pretty soon you'll be able to tell us what you think!

All the best,



May 15, 1985

Nachama HalpernAthene  
Atheneum Pub.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Nachama:

Thanks for all the info re the galleys. By now you've gotten Margot's dedication, the Japanese spelling is OK, and yes, re the jacket blurb.

I recently heard from my editor at Iwanami Publishers in Tokyo, (publishers of the Jpnse Edn of my adult book, DESERT EXILE), and he asked for reading copies of my Rinko books by airmail for their Childdren's Book Ed. to consider for possible Jpnse editions.

Since I don't know who handles subsidiary rights at Ath/Mac, and to save time, I simply airmailed one each of my personal copies of JAR OF DREAMS (paper), BEST BAD THING(paper) and THE HAPPIEST ENDING (hardcover).

Since these rights will have to be handled by Atheneum if they are requested by Iwanamai, I assume I can have these copies of my books replaced, and would appreciate it if you could arrange to have them sent so they reach me after June 8 when I'll be back. *Many thanks for your help.*

Also, I'd like to have the name of the subsidiary rights person. I'm hoping I can get in to see Margaret on 5/29 as planned, so perhaps you could give me the information then. If not, please send it to me.

Hope to see you soon.

Hastily,

*3rd  
Breed  
3 Bhs  
due.  
6/13*





ATHENEUM PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

TELEX: 239532 CABLES: SCRIB UR

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

17 June 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Ms. Uchida,

Thank you for your note of 4 June to Margaret. She wanted me to drop you a quick note to tell you that the editor at Iwanomi Publishers should get in touch with Tatsuko Nagasawa at the Japan Uni Agency in Tokyo rather than Pat Buckley, as Ms. Buckley handles only our domestic subsidiary rights. She also wanted me to pass along her regrets that she is not writing you herself, but she is swamped and will try to get a letter off to you soon.

It was a pleasure and an honor to meet you!

With best wishes--

Sincerely,

Lisa Kinney  
Assistant to  
Margaret K. McElderry





ATHENEUM PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

TELEX: 239532 CABLES: SCRIB UR

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

19 June 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Ms. Uchida,

This is just a quick note to remind you to send in your author's questionnaire. We need it in early July.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lisa Kinney  
Assistant to  
Margaret K. McElderry

*In envelope (reprints & flap copy) <sup>cats</sup> like, I'm sure  
so large as I completely forgot to. Sorry today  
& I'll send (or) Rev. Cop. to Diane later on, <sup>thankly</sup>  
It was just going to, but thanks for all me &  
info re. Ikyo agent*



June 20, 1986

Diane Siebert  
Atheneum Publishers  
115 5th Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Diane:

It was so nice to meet you and to see everyone when I was in NYC.

This is just a short note to enclose my revised bio, which we discussed when I saw you, and the photo (credit on back) which I'd like to use in place of the old one.

Since there were quite a few changes in the first part of paragraph 2, I retyped it on a separate sheet (enclosed.) I hope you can make out the other changes. Do call me if anything needs clarification or you have any suggestions.

When you print up the new photo, I'd appreciate receiving a dozen prints, as I sometimes need them when there isn't time to write your office.

Also, I'd appreciate a supply of the new bio as soon as they are available.

Hope you're having a good summer.

All the best,



Margaret K. McElderry Books  
by Yoshiko Uchida

JOURNEY HOME

A JAR OF DREAMS  
CA. Commonwealth Club Medal

THE BEST BAD THING  
ALA Notable Book

THE HAPPIEST ENDING  
BABRA Award  
Bay Area Book Reviewers Award

THE TWO FOOLISH CATS

# YOSHIKO UCHIDA



←  
new  
photo

ATHENEUM  
PUBLISHERS

115  
Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 100#03

1976 Athenaeum Pub.  
Copyright © 1983 by Yoshiko Uchida  
Printed in the U.S.A.  
BL-79

← new  
address?

I think it more  
appropriate for

Yoshiko Uchida was born in Alameda, California, and grew up in Berkeley, where she is now living. She was graduated with honors from the University of California with a BA in English, Philosophy and History and has a Masters in Education from Smith College, where she was awarded a graduate fellowship.

Like the child in her recent book, *A Jar of Dreams*, Yoshiko Uchida experienced the alienation and rejection felt by many Japanese Americans in an often hostile society, and during World War II she and her family were among thousands of Japanese uprooted from their homes and incarcerated by the government. They were sent

See attached #1.

The copyright to be in  
the name of Atheneum Pub.



~~first~~ to live in a horse stall at Tanforan Race Track and then to Topaz, a bleak concentration camp in a Utah desert. She has written of this experience in two books for young people, *Journey to Topaz* (an ALA Notable Book) and *Journey Home*, as well as in a short story entitled, "The Bracelet." Her first adult book on the subject, *Desert Exile*, was published in ~~April~~ 1982, by the University of Washington Press, and an excerpt from the book ~~that appeared~~ in the *Utah Historical Quarterly* won its best general interest article award for 1980.

Her interest in writing began early, and when she was ten years old, she was writing short stories in books she had made of brown wrapping paper. She is now the author of ~~over twenty~~ <sup>28</sup> published titles. Her first published book, *The Dancing Kettle*, was a collection of the favorite Japanese folk tales she had heard as a child. Later a Ford Foundation Foreign Study and Research Fellowship to Japan enabled her to collect additional folk tales for *The Magic Listening Cap* (a Herald Tribune Honor Book), one of two books she has illustrated herself. *The Sea of Gold* was her third collection of Japanese folk tales.

While in Japan she wrote a series of feature articles about craftsmen for the *Nippon Times*, as well as a ~~booklet~~ <sup>book</sup> about one of Japan's major potters ~~for the Folk Art Movement~~. On her return to the United States, she served as West Coast correspondent and wrote many articles for *Craft Horizons* magazine, and her continued interest ~~she~~ <sup>also</sup> in handicraft led her to study some weaving, pottery and jewelry-making herself.

In addition to articles, Ms. Uchida has written several adult short stories and ~~a still to be an~~ <sup>published</sup> adult novel. Her short stories for young people have appeared in several anthologies, and she recently wrote an Asian-oriented

PICTURE BRIDE (Northland Press, 1987).

TABI, based on the Japanese American experience,

has also written a

church school curriculum for fifth and sixth graders.

Although many of her earlier books dealt with the young people of Japan, with *Journey to Topaz* and *Samurai of Gold Hill* (winner of the Commonwealth Club of California ~~Juvenile Book Award~~ Medal), she turned to writing about the Japanese experience in the United States.

Of her recent work she says, "I hope to give young Asians a sense of their ~~past~~ <sup>own</sup> and to reinforce their self-esteem and self-knowledge. At the same time, I want to dispel the stereotypic image still held by many non-Asians about the Japanese and write about them as real people. I hope to convey as well the strength of spirit and the sense of hope and purpose I have ~~observed~~ <sup>seen</sup> in many of the first generation Japanese. Beyond that," she adds, "I write to celebrate our common humanity, for I feel the basic elements of humanity are present in all our strivings."

Among the honors she has received is the University of Oregon's Distinguished Service Award in 1981 for "having made a significant contribution to the cultural development of society...and...helped to bring about a greater understanding of the Japanese American culture."

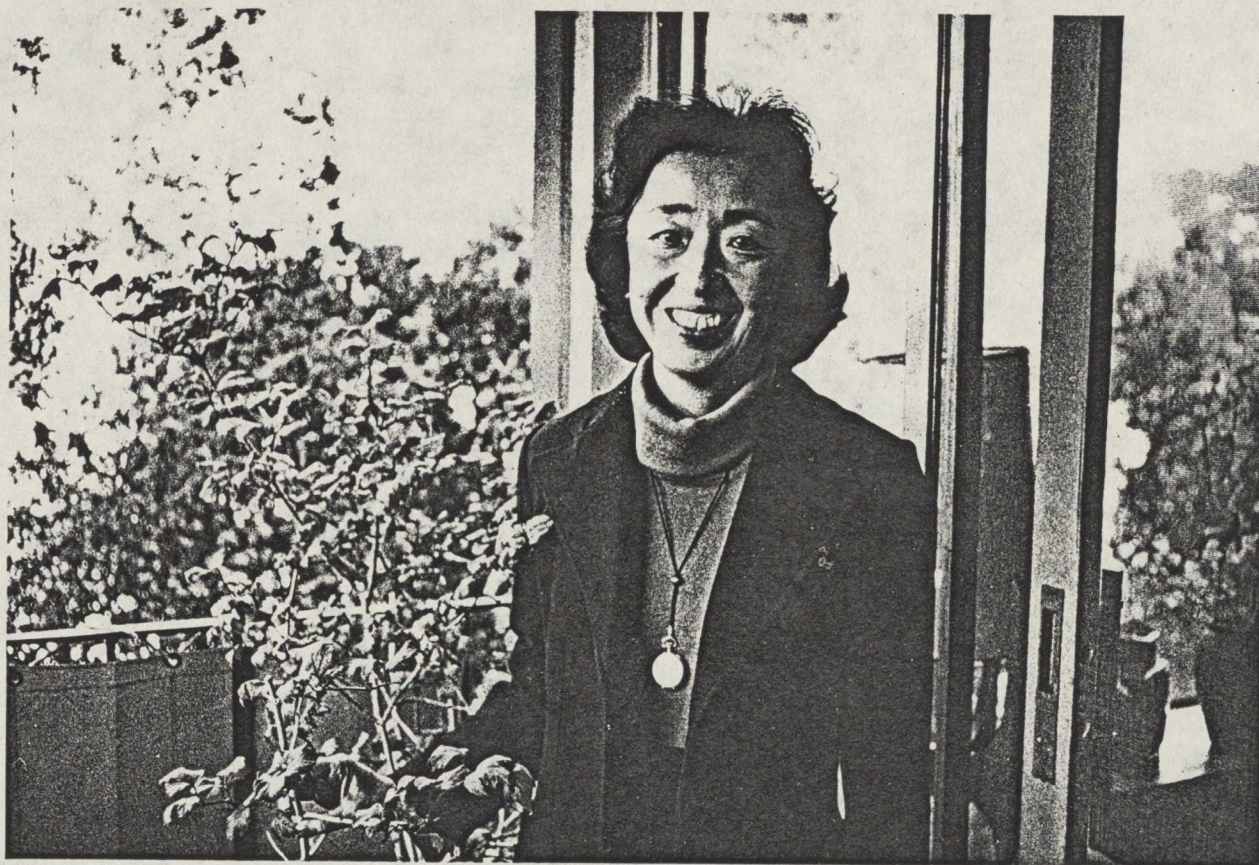
Although at one time she was a secretary in New York City and taught elementary school for a short time in Philadelphia, Yoshiko Uchida is now a full-time writer. She works near a window where she can see the flowers and *bonsai* on her patio, as well as the sky, trees and a variety of birds. "The view," she says, "is also nice for day-dreaming."

When she isn't working or speaking to children, she enjoys meeting friends for lunch, or going with them to the theater, museums and art exhibits. "Anything that isn't writing, I consider play," she says, concluding, "I seem to manage to play quite a lot!"

she also enjoys walking, which has led to a new interest in writing poetry about

(see back) =>







Revised 2nd paragraph for Yoshiko Uchida bio:

Like the child in her trilogy, A JAR OF DREAMS (Commonwealth Club of California medal), THE BEST BAD THING (ALA Notable Book) and THE HAPPIEST ENDING (Bay Area Book Reviewers Award), Yoshiko Uchida experienced the alienation and rejection felt by many young Japanese Americans who grew up in California. During World War II she and her family were among 120,000 West Coast Japanese Americans who were uprooted from their homes and imprisoned by the US government, simply because they looked like the enemy. (continue as is: "They were sent....")



# YOSHIKO UCHIDA



Yoshiko Uchida was born in Alameda, California, and grew up in Berkeley, where she is now living. She was graduated with honors from the University of California with a BA in English, Philosophy and History and has a Masters in Education from Smith College, where she was awarded a graduate fellowship.

Like the child in her recent book, *A Jar of Dreams*,<sup>trilogy</sup> Yoshiko Uchida experienced the alienation and rejection felt by many Japanese Americans in an often hostile society, and during World War II she and her family were among thousands of Japanese uprooted from their homes and incarcerated by the government. They were sent

(winner of Calif Commonwealth Club Medal) 19

~~BEST~~ BAD THING (ALA Notable Book)  
and THE HAPPIEST ENDING (BBYA Award)



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DE  
H.

first to live in a horse stall at Tanforan Race Track and then to Topaz, a bleak concentration camp in a Utah desert. She has written of this experience in two books for young people, *Journey to Topaz* (an ALA Notable Book) and *Journey Home*, as well as in a short story entitled, "The Bracelet." Her first adult book on the subject, *Desert Exile*, was published in April, 1982, by the University of Washington Press, and an excerpt from the book ~~that appeared~~ in the *Utah Historical Quarterly* won its best general interest article award for 1980.

Her interest in writing began early, and when she was ten years old, she was writing short stories in books she had made of brown wrapping paper. She is now the author of ~~over twenty~~ <sup>28</sup> published titles. Her first published book, *The Dancing Kettle*, was a collection of the favorite Japanese folk tales she had heard as a child. Later a Ford Foundation Foreign Study and Research Fellowship to Japan enabled her to collect additional folk tales for *The Magic Listening Cap* (a Herald Tribune Honor Book), one of two books she has illustrated herself. *The Sea of Gold* was her third collection of Japanese folk tales.

While in Japan she wrote a series of feature articles about craftsmen for the *Nippon Times*, as well as a booklet about one of Japan's major potters for the Folk Art Movement. On her return to the United States, she served as West Coast correspondent and wrote many articles for *Craft Horizons* magazine, and her continued interest in handcraft led her to study some weaving, pottery and jewelry-making herself.

In addition to articles, Ms. Uchida has written several adult short stories and ~~a still-to-be published adult novel~~. Her short stories for young people have appeared in several anthologies, and she recently wrote an Asian-oriented

~~has also written~~  
~~to be published in~~  
**PICTURE BRIDE** 1987 <sup>by</sup> ~~Antland~~ Press

church school curriculum for fifth and sixth graders, <sup>TABI,</sup> ~~based on~~ <sup>James An</sup> experience.

Although many of her earlier books dealt with the young people of Japan, with *Journey to Topaz* and *Samurai of Gold Hill* (~~winner of the~~ Commonwealth Club of California ~~Juvenile Book Award~~ Medal), she turned to writing about the Japanese experience in the United States.

Of her recent work she says, "I hope to give young Asians a sense of their past and to reinforce their self-esteem and self-knowledge. At the same time, I want to dispel the stereotypic image still held by many non-Asians about the Japanese and write about them as real people. I hope to convey as well the strength of spirit and the sense of hope and purpose I have observed in many of the first generation Japanese. Beyond that," she adds, "I write to celebrate our common humanity, for I feel the basic elements of humanity are present in all our strivings."

Among the honors she has received is the University of Oregon's Distinguished Service Award in 1981 for "having made a significant contribution to the cultural development of society...and...helped to bring about a greater understanding of the Japanese American culture."

Although at one time she was a secretary in New York City and taught elementary school for a short time in Philadelphia, Yoshiko Uchida is now a full-time writer. She works near a window where she can see the flowers and *bonsai* on her patio, as well as the sky, trees and a variety of birds. "The view," she says, "is also nice for day-dreaming."

When she isn't working or speaking to children, she enjoys meeting friends for lunch, or going with them to the theater, museums and art exhibits. "Anything that isn't writing, I consider play," she says, concluding, "I seem to manage to play quite a lot!"

~~Walking - an activity of her own interest - which has led to a new interest in writing poetry.~~  
she also enjoys walking, ~~an activity that~~ has led to a new interest in writing poetry.



Margaret K. McElderry Books  
by Yoshiko Uchida

JOURNEY HOME

A JAR OF DREAMS

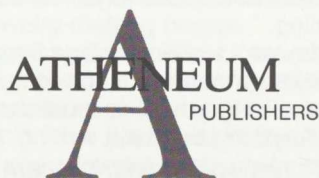
THE BEST BAD THING

ALA Notable Book

THE HAPPIEST ENDING

P

The Two Frolick Cats



597 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

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Printed in the U.S.A.  
BL-79



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A DIVISION OF MACMILLAN, INC.  
866 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022

23 June 86

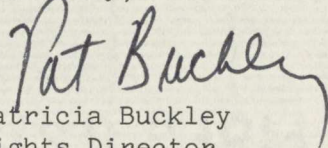
Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
No. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Ms. Uchida:

Thanks for your letter. I have passed a copy on to Margaret McElderry,  
as I handle only domestic rights.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia Buckley  
Rights Director  
Children's Book Group

PB/am



June 16, 1986

Pat Buckley  
Macmillan Pub. Co.  
866 Third Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Pat Buckley:

I believe we met briefly last May at the St. Francis luncheon in San Francisco.

This is just a quick note to let you know that I send copies of my trilogy, A JAR OF DREAMS, THE BEST BAD THING, and THE HAPPIEST ENDING (Atheneum/McElderry Bks) to Iwanami Shoten, Publishers, Tokyo, Japan, at the request of my editor, Ryozo Kato, with whom I worked on the Japanese edition of my adult book, DESERT EXILE.

I told them to contact you in the happy event that they might want to do Japanese editions of the above books. Their children's books editor is Ms. Tachibana, and I do hope you'll be hearing from her. Please let me know if you do!

All the best,



July 5, 1986

Dear Nachama:

It was lovely to see you when I was in NYC! This is just a quick note to thank you for getting my 3 books to me. They came in perfect condition.

Also, could you send me a few copies of the FOOLISH CATS jacket as soon as it's ready? If I can get a copy to the JACP by the end of August or Sept. 1 at the latest, they will include it in their Fall catalogue.

If the timing is close, please send one directly to Florence Hongo, JACP, 414 E. Third Ave. San Mateo, CA. 94401. Many thanks.

I mentioned this to Christine, but realize she said she was leaving, so whenever it's convenient, would you send me one of the large uncut sheets of the book, (I don't know the proper term for it, but it has both the final art and text). I imagine it won't be available for some time, but I'd like ~~want~~ to show at school talks.

I hope you're having a good summer. I've been seeing a lot of NY harbor this weekend with all the excitement over the Statue of Liberty!

All the best,

*Enc: Contra Costa San artful  
Please pass - enclosed in to Neph.*





ATHENEUM PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

TELEX: 239532 CABLES: SCRIB UR

July 9, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solana Avenue, #102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi:

Thank you for sending the update information for your bio to me so quickly. It was so nice to finally meet you when you were in New York and I hope you enjoyed your stay on the east coast.

Today is my last day at Atheneum and since we aren't quite ready to reprint your bio, I will not be the one handling it in the future. Michael Eisenberg, Marketing Manager, who I believe you met will be taking over much of my work until a replacement can be found. I've given him the corrected version and as soon as we are ready to go back to press he will be sure to make the necessary revisions.

Thank you so much for making my job at Atheneum so pleasurable and easy. Your books have always been so wonderful to promote and I appreciate all of your support and assistance.

Best wishes always,

Diane Siebert  
Publicity Manager  
Children's Books

cc: M. Eisenberg





ATHENEUM PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

TELEX: 239532 CABLES: SCRIB UR

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

July 22, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, #102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

How nice to have a chance to talk to you yesterday -- and it seems it was perfect timing, since you had been thinking of calling me with a couple of questions!

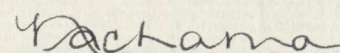
Enclosed you'll find the front flap copy we have evolved for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS. As always, feel free to make any changes you like, with the one limitation that the copy should not be made any longer. In order to keep things moving on schedule, I'll need to hear from you about this by Monday, August 11, and I hope that will be possible. Coming back to the JACP catalog, I've now checked with our Production Department, and I'm afraid the end of August or beginning of September would be cutting it too close. They do not yet have a date for the receipt of color proofs (jacket and interior), but I've told our designer that you will want a set when they come in.

I did check with Clare Costello's department about the manuscript you submitted at the beginning of July. Clare has the manuscript and will get back to you about it as soon as she can.

I also asked Margaret about THE LONELY RABBIT. She said to tell you the manuscript is very much on her mind, and she will be in touch with you about it before she leaves for Nantucket. She was also glad to see the write-up you sent about your school talk in April.

I think that covers everything, but of course if you have any further questions or problems, please let me know. Hoping your summer has been a good one so far, best wishes --

Sincerely,

  
Nachama Halpern  
Managing Editor

/nh  
Encl.



5-12-86

Margaret -

Here is my <sup>2nd</sup> pic book  
which I think would  
be a nice companion  
volume to "Irish Cats."

<sup>do</sup>  
I hope you'll  
like it - That we  
can discuss it when  
I see you -

Love, Go Shi





ATHENAEUM PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

TELEX: 239532 CABLES: SCRIB UR

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

July 29, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

I am sorry I've been dragging my heels on the matter of THE LONELY RABBIT STORY (I hope I have the title correct; I'm not stopping to double-check).

I've now tried to substantiate my feeling that the story has been done rather frequently as a separate picture book. In fact, it is not the rabbit story which does, of course, appear in many collections under varying titles like THE WHITE HARE AND THE CROCODILES and THE WHITE HARE OF INABA. What I apparently was thinking of is a very, very similar story, THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE. There are many separate picture books of this story and though the two tales differ in detail, they are basically the same story.

Because of this, I think it would be unwise for us to go ahead. If you do want to do another Japanese folk tale as a picture book, I think it would make great good sense to choose something that has not been done in one form or another like this so often.

Of course, I would rather you could be writing an original story of your own because the folk tale - picture book market is not the greatest, but I do understand that your present medical problems cut down greatly on your energy, on which creative writing makes great demands.

I hope you won't be too disappointed about this and, if that's the best course for you to follow presently, that you will seek out a less well-known but equally amusing story.

I am off next Thursday, August 8th, for my vacation -- and, at this point, can hardly wait. I hope the summer is going well for you on balance. With most affectionate greetings --

Ever,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKMce/jel



July 31, 1986

Dear Nachama:

Thanks so much for passing on my messages to Margaret and Clare's office. I appreciate your prompt help and look forward to hearing from them both.

I'm enclosing a revised Flap copy which I hope you'll like. I felt the former needed some tightening up and also thought the birds and mice should be mentioned again at the end. I believe my word count is 4 less.

Margaret will be interested to hear that all three Rinko books are now listed by name in the Calif. State Reading List. (It formerly read: A JAR OF DREAMS and other titles in the series.) Including JOURNEY HOME, we now have four of my titles on the list! I'm so pleased!

I hope all goes well with you. It was so nice to have a chat with you last week.

All the best,

encl:



Revised  
flap copy  
7-31-86

# The Two Foolish Cats

Suggested by a Japanese Folktale

Yoshiko Uchida

illustrated by Margot Zemach

Long ago, at the edge of a dark pine forest in Japan, there lived two cats. Daizo was big and fierce, but Suki was small and skinny. The two cats got on quite well, hunting together each day in the meadows and streams. However, the field mice and birds of the forest lived in fear of them, for the cats could swallow them up in a single gulp.

-68

One fine morning, Daizo and Suki set out to catch their breakfast. Unable to find any field mice, they try to catch some fish in the stream, but fail in that as well. As they set off for home, they discover two rice cakes in the tall reeds -- one big and plump, the other very small. The cats have a terrible fight, for each <sup>thinks</sup> ~~thought~~ he deserved the bigger rice cake. The old badger finally stops them and sends them to see the wise old monkey of the mountain to settle their quarrel. The monkey does indeed end the dispute, but in a way that totally surprises the cats and delights the mice and birds.

24

65

90

116

Yoshiko Uchida, whose ....

68  
+ 110

Total  
184



The Two Foolish Cats  
*suggested by a Japanese folktale*  
~~retold by~~ Yoshiko Uchida

illustrated by Margot Zemach

*continue*  
Long ago, at the edge of a dark pine forest in Japan, there lived two cats. Daizo was big and fierce. Suki was small and skinny. When the field mice saw Big Daizo, they hid, for he could swallow them in one gulp. The birds were afraid of Little Suki, for if he caught them, he would gobble them down in a minute. The two cats got on quite well and hunted together each day in the meadows and streams. -80

One fine spring morning, Daizo and Suki set out to catch their breakfast. *Unable to find any* When the field mice *(stayed hidden)*, the two cats *try to catch* *some fish* *thinking even that* go fishing. *are ready to go* Unlucky in that venture, too, they *set off for* home (--). *when they find* but spied two rice cakes in the tall reeds, one big and plump, and the other very small. *who of them* Who should get the big rice cake? Hungry, wet *(64)* and cross, they *began to* quarrel. *at once* At last the old badger told them to find the wise old monkey *up* on the mountain. *who* He would settle their quarrel. And the wise old monkey did -- though *in a fairly unexpected* (not in the) way the cats had expected! *(108) counting down*

Yoshiko Uchida, whose books for young readers have won her many fans, has written a splendid new version of this amusing Japanese ~~folk~~ tale. Margot Zemach, a Caldecott medalist, captures all the sly humor of the two cats and their world, and the wise old monkey's trickery in her full-color pictures, a perfect counterpoint to a story that will delight its young readers.

48;PS3

A Margaret K. McElderry Book

*80  
108  
188*



for flap copy  
Sent 6-25-86

## THE TWO FOOLISH CATS

Long ago, at the edge of a dark pine forest in Japan, there lived two cats named Daizo and Suki.

The two cats got along very well until one day they find two rice balls - one of them large, the other small.

Daizo thinks he should have the large one because he is bigger than Suki. But Suki thinks he should have the large one because he needs more food in order to grow.

The cats have a terrible fight, yowling and snarling, until the old badger of the forest tells them to stop the racket. "Go see the old monkey of the mountain," he advises. "He is clever and wise and will settle your quarrel."

And so the two cats set out on a journey through the forest to find the wise old monkey. When at last they find him, he does indeed settle their quarrel, but in a totally unexpected way.

What happens to Daizo and Suki delights the field mice and the birds who have long lived in fear of the cats, and will delight readers of the story as well.



August 5, 1986

Michael Eisenberg  
Atheneum  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Michael:

I was delighted to meet you when I was in NYC and so glad you told me about the Calif. State Reading List. I've since been in touch with Leonard Hull (Lang. Arts Div.) who coordinates the list and asked him to list all 3 Rinko books by title rather than as "Jar of Dreams and other books in the series". He was happy to make the correction, so now, with JOURNEY HOME, we have 4 of my Atheneum titles on the list. Isn't that great?

With Diane's departure, I'm wondering about the following:

- I hope my new bio (with new photo) will be available soon and definitely in time for the Little Rock Symposium 10/10-11. I believe Diane passed on to you the new copy for the bio.
- As soon as reprints are made of the new photo, I'd appreciate receiving about a dozen copies to have on hand when I need them in a hurry.
- Would you like to have the review copies list for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS now, or shall I hold it until after your move which I understand is scheduled now for 9/30 and/or until you have a replacement for Diane?
- When I was the featured author in the 3/86 issue of CLASSMATE mag. they also ran a short version of "The Two Foolish Cats". I've since received 100s of letters from children telling me how much they liked it. Maasha Smith of Classmate told me she'd try to tell her readers about my picture book, but an ad would be nice. Could we do this?

I guess that's it for now. Hope you're having a good summer.  
Greetings to Neal, Maureen, etc.  
All the best,





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

August 6, 1986

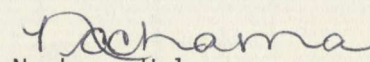
Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

This is simply to let you know that the revised front flap copy for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS has arrived, just in time for Margaret to look at it before leaving on vacation tomorrow. She has made two very small changes -- changes in tense -- in line 12 of the copy. That line now reads: "thinks he deserves..." instead of "thought he deserved..." I trust that will be okay with you.

Best wishes --

Sincerely,

  
Nachama Halpern  
Managing Editor

/nh





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

August 11, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

I received your August 3 letter and have now sent out your ms. to Dick Jackson, under plain cover. It was no problem at all, so please don't feel you were imposing.

Enclosed you'll find xeroxes of the front and back flap copy for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS. You did hear correctly that THE HAPPIEST ENDING was chosen as a Notable Book in the Field of Social Studies. Congratulations on yet another honor! Somehow I thought we had passed on this news to you, but it seems we were remiss.

In haste, but with best wishes --

Sincerely,

Nachama Halpern  
Managing Editor

/nh  
Encl.



The Two Foolish Cats  
Suggested by a Japanese Folktale

Yoshiko Uchida

illustrated by Margot Zemach

Front Flap Copy  
8/86

Long ago, at the edge of a dark pine forest in Japan, there lived two cats. Daizo was big and fierce, but Suki was small and skinny. The two cats got on quite well, hunting together each day in the meadows and streams. However, the field mice and birds of the forest lived in fear of them, for the cats could swallow them up in a single gulp.

One fine morning, Daizo and Suki set out to catch their breakfast. Unable to find any mice, they try to catch some fish in the stream, but fail in that as well. As they set off for home, they discover two rice cakes in the tall reeds -- one big and plump, the other very small. The cats have a terrible fight, for each thinks he deserves the bigger rice cake. The old badger finally stops them and sends them to see the wise old monkey of the mountain to settle their quarrel. The monkey does indeed end the dispute, but in a way that totally surprises the cats and delights the mice and birds.

Yoshiko Uchida, whose books for young readers have won her many fans, has written a splendid new version of this amusing Japanese tale. Margot Zemach, a Caldecott medalist, captures all the sly humor of the two cats and their world (and the wise old monkey's trickery) in her full-color pictures, a perfect counterpoint to a story that will delight its young readers.

48;PS3

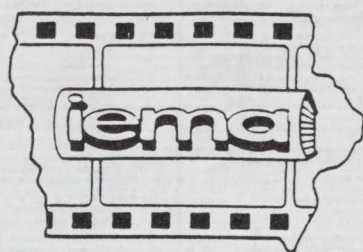
A Margaret K. McElderry Book



Yoshiko Uchida was born in Alameda, California, and grew up in Berkeley, where she is now living. Her interest in writing began early and she has twenty-five books to her credit. Among her recent titles are three books about young Rinko, a Japanese-American girl growing up in California during the Depression: A Jar of Dreams, winner of the 1982 Commonwealth Club of California Medal; The Best Bad Thing, a 1983 ALA Notable Children's Book; and The Happiest Ending, winner of the 1985 Bay Area Book Reviewers Association award for the best children's book of the year and a 1986 Notable Children's Book in the Field of Social Studies.

Margot Zemach has lived in Italy, Denmark and England; within the United States, she has lived in Boston and presently resides in Berkeley, California. She won the Caldecott Medal in 1974 for her illustrations in Duffy and the Devil by Harve Zemach. Two books illustrated by Ms. Zemach -- The Judge by Harve Zemach and her own It Could Always Be Worse -- were Caldecott Honor Books in 1970 and 1978. She has illustrated numerous other books, as well as writing and illustrating eight of her own.





progress,  
performance  
and promise

1987 Spring Conference

August 19, 1986

Atheneum Publishers  
597 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

The Iowa Educational Media Association has established the Iowa Children's Choice Award Program. During the school year, Iowa children in grades three through six have the opportunity to honor an author whose book they have enjoyed. Selection is made from a master reading list of 15-25 titles.

We are happy to announce that The Best Bad Thing, by Yohiko Uchida has been chosen for the 1987-88 reading list. If this title should win, we will extend an invitation to the author to appear at our annual conference to accept the award.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about the Iowa Children's Choice Award.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Andrea Rauer, Chair  
Iowa Children's Choice Award  
100 Cardiff Circle  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240  
work phone (319) 643-7211  
home phone (319) 337-2551





PUBLISHERS 115 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY 10003 TEL: (212) 614-1300

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

September 8, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Ms. Uchida,

When Ms. McElderry wrote to you concerning your story, *THE LONELY RABBIT*, we forgot to enclose your copy of the tale. We are enclosing it herewith.

We're sorry for this oversight, and hope it has in no way inconvenienced you.

With every good wish --

Sincerely,

Kathy Hurley  
Editorial Asst. to  
Margaret K. McElderry

KH/lm

Enclosure





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September 9, 1986

Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave., No. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi (if I may):

I, too, was delighted to meet you when you were in New York. I've been a fan of Rinko's for a while now, and it was great fun to meet her creator.

In response to some of your concerns:

- I have the corrections for your bio, and it will be ready for the Little Rock Symposium. As soon as we have them I'll send a couple of dozen off to you.
- If your review copy list for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS is complete, you can send it now and we will hold it until we have books.
- Diane's replacement started yesterday--what a relief! Her name is Sara Hoople, and I'm sure you'll be hearing from her when the bio is finished.
- I'm going to write to Marsha Smith at Classmate and ask her for a rate card. I'll let you know if we can advertise.

I can't believe the summer is over. Now that we have a full department, I want it to be June again. Will you be in New York this year? If not, we'll all see you in June for ALA.

All best,

Michael Eisenberg  
Marketing Manager  
Books for Young Readers

ME:jd

*See work. Pat  
Bookend 8/31/86  
BOST paperwork  
Ding 8/31/86 & Bill Oak  
Bos.*





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

September 12, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

Enclosed you'll find a xerox of the catalog copy the Marketing Department has written for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS. It's essential that we have your changes to this copy within the next two weeks -- by phone, if necessary -- before galleys for the catalog come in. The copy has already been sent out for setting, so we ask that changes be kept to a minimum. Many thanks in advance for your help on this, and best wishes --

Sincerely,

Nachama Halpern  
Managing Editor

/nh  
Encl.

*The catalog copy looks  
fine - I have no changes I suggest.  
When a 2nd pub date please  
let me know. I've already  
a bk signing, Sept. 19, 1986 (at BOB's)  
both cats + my novel of 2 (1)*



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Half-Page Copy

(55 typewriter characters per line; 21 lines maximum including author bio and line separating body copy from author bio.) Please type double-spaced, using line numbers as indicated.

Type to this margin for pica (10 characters per inch)

Type to this margin for elite (12 characters per inch)

1 A long time ago, at the edge of a dark pine forest in  
2 Japan, there lived two cats, Big Daizo and Little Suki.  
3 The two were good friends and every day they hunted  
4 together in the meadows and streams looking for food.  
5 One spring morning, their luck turned<sup>5</sup> bad. The mice  
6 hide, the fish slip away, and the two cats are left  
7 hungry and cross. When they find two rice cakes, one  
8 big and one little, their friendship turns into a fight  
9 for the big cake. Only the wise olf<sup>9</sup> monkey can resolve  
10 their dilemma--in a delightful and unexpected fashion.  
11 Charminglly retold and beautifully illustrated in full  
12 color, this is a welcome new version of a Japanese  
13 classic.

14  
15 YOSHIKO UCHIDA is the award-winning author of more than  
16 twenty children's books, including the popular Rinko  
17 novels.

18 MARGOT ZEMACH won the Caldecott Medal for Duffy and the  
19 Devil in 1974. Both Ms. Uchida and Ms. Zemach live in  
20 Berkeley, California.

21  
**IMPORTANT! Please include brief author bio with author's city and state of residence.**



September 19, 1986

Dear Nachama:

The catalog copy looks fine, and I have no changes to suggest.

When you know the pub date, please let me know. I've already arranged for a book signing next May at Black Oak Books when I hope to have both FOOLISH CATS and my new novel for adults, PICTURE BRIDE, available.

Hope all's well with you.

All the best,

P.S.

When do you move ??



September 19, 1986

Michael Eisenberg  
Athenaum Marketing  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Michael:

Many thanks for your good letter of the 9th. Enclosed are my lists for FOOLISH CATS. Diane and I had discussed a press release (instead of a review copy) for some of the Jpnese American papers and I'll be in touch with you or Sara about this next year. I'm hoping we can combine PR for CATS with my novel for adults due in April. I've already arranged for a combined book signing at Black Oak Books sometime in May.

Glad to know my new bio will be ready soon and look forward to seeing it.

Did you and Neal see the great review of BEST BAD THING (paperback) in the 8/31 Washington Post Book World? I was delighted!

I won't be in NYC again this year, so see you next June!

All the best,

Encl:



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*Charles Scribner's Sons*  
*Atheneum Publishers*  
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*115 Fifth Avenue*  
*New York City 10003*  
*(212) 614-1300*

September 23, 1986

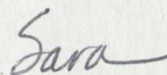
Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, Apt. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94701

Dear Ms. Uchida:

Greetings! I'm the new Marketing Associate here at Atheneum/Scribners and this first opportunity that I have to write to you is a happy one-- the Iowa Children's Choice Award Program reading list for 1987-88 includes THE BEST BAD THING.

Good news for your book and even better news for the Children of Iowa!

With all good wishes,



Sara Hoople  
Marketing Associate

SH/jl





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

September 25, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, No. 102  
Berkeley, California 94707

Dear Yoshi,

Thank you for your note clearing the catalog copy. Thank you also for letting me know about your author appearance next May. I assume Maureen Hayes is involved in this and that she'll see to it that copies of THE TWO FOOLISH CATS are available.-- we're planning for April publication. Just in case, I'll do a note to Maureen about this.

I want to add that tomorrow is my last day at Macmillan before leaving for a new job at E.P. Dutton. I've really enjoyed working with you in the time I've been here, and I've enjoyed reading your books as well. THE TWO FOOLISH CATS promises to be another wonderful book, and I'm sure many others will follow. I'll keep a watch out for them!

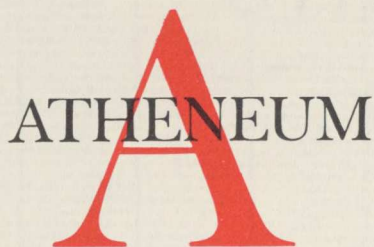
With all best wishes --

Sincerely,

*Nachama*  
Nachama Halpern  
Managing Editor

/nh





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

September 30, 1986

Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, Apt. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94701

Dear Ms. Uchida:

I'm pleased to send you a batch of the newly-finished updated bios for your personal use. If you need more, just call.

Maureen and Joyce are, of course, on top of who needs bios for your visits, and where; they'll be sending them directly from here.

Okay? My phone number is, by the way, the same as what Diane's was-- 614-1366.

With all good wishes,

*Sara*

Sara R. Hoople  
Marketing Associate

SRH/ms

Enclosures

*John, let's do  
Bios  
Donna's  
Choice  
Master list*





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

17 October 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

Just the quickest of notes to tell you that I've just heard from the Junior Literary Guild and they want to use THE TWO FOOLISH CATS for their picture book group. I am delighted and I'm sure you will be, too. They will take 6,500 copies, running them on with our edition. *(It's now gone up to 7100. They pay .50¢ a copy.)*

As usual, they will be getting in touch with you directly about biographical notes, etc.

I am writing to let Margot know as well.

In haste, but affectionately--

Ever,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/lak



\$308 due  
Rec'd  
11/18/86

October 21, 1986

Maureen Hayess  
Atheneum Pub.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Maureen:

Enclosed are my expenses for the Little Rock Symposium. It was somewhat exhausting, but I met some wonderful authors and was so glad to be able to participate, thanks to Atheneum and Ethel's TLC. I'll look forward to receiving reimbursement soon.

We didn't seem to do too well on the Rinko books, although I mentioned them in my talk and also in the radio interview. Everyone just seemed to hone in on DESERT EXILE (my adult book re my WWII experiences) and the latest reissue of THE DANCING KETTLE (folk tales). It was just one of those things over which I had no control, but we may get good results later, as everyone seemed to like my talk.

I'm sorry about the IRS, but May will be a terribly busy month for me with my adult novel coming out, and also I realized from this trip that these appearances can be most draining. Thanks for being so understanding.

At any rate, I hope I'll see you at the ALA, and in the meantime, do take care of yourself.

Affectionately,

P.S. My new bios arrived the other day and I'm pleased to have them. Will try to write Sara soon.



October 20, 1986

Maureen Hayes  
Atheneum Publishers  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Maureen:

Enclosed are my expenses for the Little Rock Symposium. Although it was rather exhausting, I met some wonderful authors and am so glad I was able to participate, thanks to Atheneum and Ebbel's TLC.

We didn't seem to do too well on the Rinko books, as everyone seemed to want my adult book, DESERT EXILE and the latest reissue of THE DANCING KETTLE, although I mentioned my trilogy <sup>books</sup> individually in my talk. It was just one of those uncontrollable things. I did <sup>also</sup> talk about the Rinko books on the radio interview, ~~now-~~ <sup>ever</sup>, and I hope we'll get some good results somewhere.

I was sorry about the IRA talk, but May is going to be such a busy month with my adult novel coming out and I realized from the Little Rock trip that these appearances can be most draining.

At any rate, I hope I'll be seeing you at the ALA.

Stay well, and I'll look forward to receiving a check for my expenses soon.

Affectionately,

*Goshu*

P.S. My new bios just came! I'll try to get a note off to Sara soon.



November 2, 1986

Ms. Margaret K. McElderry  
Atheneum Publishers  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Margaret:

I was delighted to learn that THE TWO FOOLISH CATS will be a Jr. Literary Guild selection, making every book we've done together at Atheneum a JLG book! That's a nice record!

I had a lovely time participating at the Little Rock Symposium, although I had to spend a good deal of time resting, and met some delightful authors including Jean Fritz, Betsy Byers and Elizabeth Winthrop. It was exhilarating, but quite exhausting!

I was so sorry to learn of Nachama's departure and do hope you've found someone nice to replace her.

I'm most anxious to see how Margot's art turned out and would appreciate seeing proofs and/or the jacket whenever they're available.

In the meantime, I hope all is well with you.

Affectionately,

*Enc. N.Y. Kislubei article.*



November 2, 1986

Sara R. Hoople  
Athenaeum Publishers  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Sara:

I was delighted to hear from you and to learn that  
THE BEST BAD THING was on the Master List for Iowa's  
Children's Choices.

- in BBT folder

Many thanks also, for the new bios which arrived a  
few weeks ago. They look fine and will be most useful.

I'd appreciate receiving about a half dozen prints  
of the new photo to have on hand when I need them in  
a hurry, as happens on occasion.

It's great to have you "on board" and I look forward  
to meeting you one day before too long.

All the best,



11.7.86

Dear Yoshi:

Thanks very much for the warm welcome -- the "new kid" on the block always needs a welcoming word! But it seems to be settling down around here...

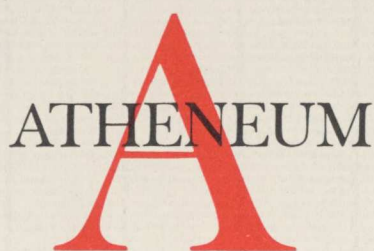
Here are the prints you requested, and should you need more, just drop a note.

Thanks again for your letter -- good words from an author make a publicist's day!

With good wishes,  
Sara

**Sara R. Hoople**





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

November 13, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, No. 102  
Berkeley, California 94707

Dear Yoshi:

Thank you so much for your November 2nd letter. I thought of you at the Little Rock Symposium and am glad that it was interesting and went well despite it being such a tax on your physical resources. Thank you for going.

Not only has Nachama left, but about two weeks ago, Lisa also left. She did not like living in New York and wanted to go to Washington where she found a job and a lovely apartment! I am without anyone at this point except a very good temporary helper, but you can imagine how difficult things are, so forgive me if this is brief.

Thanks for sending along the article that had appeared in the New York newspaper Nichibei. That's nice to see, and I've passed it on to Michael Eisenberg in Marketing.

We expect proofs of TWO FOOLISH CATS very shortly and will be sending a set to you and one to Margot as soon as they come in.

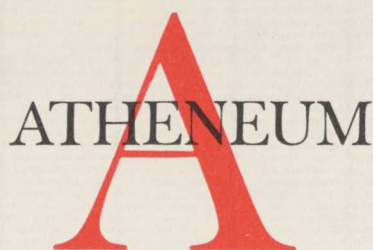
Do take care of yourself, and let me know how things go.

Affectionately,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/bg





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TELEX: 239532 CABLES: SCRIB UR

MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

November 18, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi:

Just a quick note to send along with a color proof of THE TWO FOOLISH CATS stapled together, copies of which we will give to each of our sales reps at conference the first week in December.

You may remember that Margot used aquamarine backgrounds in many places throughout the book. When the first color proof came in they had been unable to get that aquamarine, and instead the backgrounds have gone very purple. They had, however, managed to achieve the aquamarine on the jacket (the printer is Toppan at their Hong Kong plant), and when we queried them as to how they managed it there but had failed inside, they confessed they had used a fifth color on the jacket. It does look lovely. Now they are adding, at their own expense, a fifth color to the inside as well\*. I have only one flat sheet to show those results, and I am sending it to Margot telling her that I will tell you she has it.

You will note that the texts on pages 28 & 31 have been transposed. ~~incorrectly~~. This will, of course, be corrected in the final printing.

I do hope you will be pleased and that Margot will be too.

Affectionately,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/bg

Enclosure

\* It turns out they're using a different solution. They have mixed a special blue ink to get closer to the aquamarine instead of using the regular process blue.





720 KENSINGTON PLACE

AURORA, ILLINOIS 60506 (312) 897-3613

*Bist  
C.A. flegner  
1/3/87 ✓*

December 1, 1986

Yoshiko Uchida  
c/o Atheneum Publications  
Children's Books  
115 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10003

To whom it may concern:

I am interested in receiving a list of books  
by Yoshiko Uchida. Would you please send  
it to me at the above address.

Thank you.

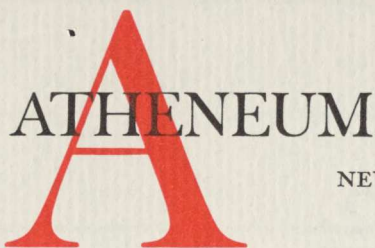
Sincerely,

*Marion T. Buldak*

Marion T. Buldak  
Librarian

MTB/





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

December 2, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshiko:

Just a quick note to tell you how very pleased I am about the FOCAL AWARD. I was not here to talk to Peggy Miller myself when she gave us the news, but I am writing her a note to say how pleased I am too.

There's no end to the awards you keep on garnering - and well deserved they are.

Affectionately,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/bg



December 10, 1986

Ms. Margaret K. McElderry  
Atheneum Publishers  
115 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Margeret:

Many thanks for your lovely note about the FOCAL award, and my belated thanks for your earlier letter with the color proofs of TWO FOOLISH CATS. I'm pleased to see the book coming along and hope all the necessary corrections for text and color were made without difficulty.

I'd appreciate learning the pub. date when it is firm, as Black Oak Books has tentatively scheduled a book signing for CATS and my adult novel, probably in May. They're a much better store than Grays, which did a terrible job with my last book-signing, so I'm pleased.

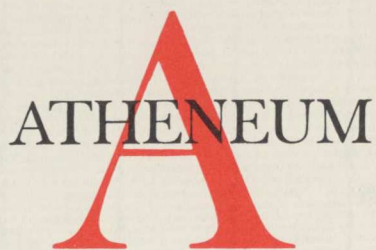
I've been trying to do a little work on the Joji book, but so far all I've been able to produce seems to be eight variations of Chapter I. The story keeps changing, and, I hope improving, so I suppose that's some progress. When and if I ever have more than 5 "good" hours a day perhaps I'll do better.

I've had to turn down some nice invitations to speak as well as two requests to review books for the NY Times Book Review, one from Eden and the other from the adult books people. *But I'm flattered to have been asked!*

How dreadful to have lost both Lisa and Nachama! It must be a difficult time for you, but do hope you will have happy holidays.

With affectionate greetings,





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

December 18, 1986

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, No. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

What a very nice letter was yours of December 10th.  
Thank you.

We've been in Puerto Rico last week for sales conference  
and now Christmas is practically upon us so this is  
going to be very quick.

Our proposed pub date for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS is April.  
Macmillan does not set a specific date but only a month  
of publication. However, we are supposed to have the  
books in the warehouse during the previous month so I  
would think that a book signing for this and for your  
adult novel in May should be safe, barring accidents.  
(I always keep my fingers crossed, especially on picture  
books!) I'm delighted that Black Oak Books is to give  
this party and that they are so much better than Grays.

I do wish that you could feel stronger and have more energy  
for your writing but, on the other hand, five "good" hours  
a day is not bad. I'm glad that you are working a little  
on the Joji book, and even though it's only eight passes  
at Chapter 1, it's obviously working inside you and that's  
all to the good.

It's a pity you couldn't review books for the New York Times,  
especially for Eden Lipson, but it is nice to have been  
asked and perhaps another time you'll be able to.

Just today (I'm dictating this on December 16th) my new  
assistant, Joan Filan, has begun, taking Lisa's place.  
Thank goodness the long search is over and I hope she'll  
be happy here.

I do hope that you will have a very happy and peaceful  
Christmastime, wherever you may spend it.

Affectionately,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher





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MARGARET K. McELDERRY BOOKS

February 23, 1987

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave.  
Berkeley CA 94707

Dear Yoshi,

Since ALA will be in San Francisco this June, I am of course counting on seeing you there. I hope you and I can have some time together without other people around, but meanwhile I'm now writing to invite you to be our guest at the Newbery-Caldecott Dinner, which will be on Sunday, June 28th. I do realize that you may not want to accept an evening engagement because of the problems of getting home, but if you feel you can, it would give me great pleasure. Margaret Mahy, our New Zealand author, will be our guest also.

I look forward to hearing from you about this as soon as is convenient for you.

With affectionate greetings--

Ever,

Margaret K. McElderry  
Publisher

MKM/jf  
enc



April 20, 1987

Sara Hoople  
Athenaeum  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sara:

I'm not sure whether you've also moved to Third Ave.,  
but hope this will reach you.

Please add the following name to my Review Copies list  
for THE TWO FOOLISH CATS which I sent to Michael last  
year:

Pat Howard  
The Bancroft Library  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA. 94720

Many thanks, and I'd appreciate knowing if you are  
moving.

All the best,



March 15, 1987

Ms. Margaret K. McElderry  
115 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10003

Dear Margaret:

How lovely it will be to see you again in June! And thank you so much for your invitation to the Newbery Dinner on June 28th. I'd be delighted to attend.

I'm scheduled to speak at a Panel that afternoon from 2:00 - 4:00, but Maureen has assured me that I can rest between the two events in her room or one of the other Athenaeum rooms, so I'm hoping I'll have enough energy to last through the evening.

I'm rather discouraged about my health at this point as a bad cold has aggravated not only my CERV, but other weak spots as well. However, I'm seeing my Dr. this week, and certainly hope I'll be stronger by June. I'm also counting on doing the booksigning May 9.

I hope this finds you well.

Affectionately,

*P.D. Just a note to cut'd - seeing  
the enclosed, with its nice words  
re my Reinko books.*

*Enc: Copy of FOCAL 1/27 etc  
from Karen Bogarsky.*