

Kirby Larson



Photo © 2006 Krystal Porter

“I often got in trouble with my teachers for reading instead of doing my schoolwork. Books were my best friends! But I never had any idea someone like me could actually become a writer.”

—Kirby Larson

Kirby Larson's first novel for young adults, *Hattie Big Sky*, was inspired by her great-grandmother's homesteading experience. *Hattie Big Sky* was named a Newbery Honor Book in 2007.

A Note from the Author

I was an ordinary kid who never broke any bones or world's records, but I did flunk Boy's PE in eighth grade. We moved around a lot—I attended five elementaries, two junior highs and two high schools. Those moves were always made easier by the friends I met in books.

Most of my jobs have involved writing, but I never considered writing children's books until I read Arnold Lobel's *Ming Lo Moves a Mountain*. I loved the characters, the clever way the story problem is solved, and the way the words and pictures enriched one another. When I turned the last page, a switch went off inside me. I wanted to learn how to write stories that would touch others the way this book had touched me.

Kirby Larson is the author of the 2007 Newbery Honor Book, and New York Times bestseller Hattie Big Sky, which was inspired by her great-grandmother who homesteaded by herself in eastern Montana as a young woman. Kirby has also written three books for younger children.

Kirby lives in Kenmore, Washington, with her husband, Neil. When she's not reading, writing, or teaching, she enjoys gardening, bird watching, traveling, or drinking lattes with friends.

For more information about Kirby Larson, visit her Web site at www.kirbylarson.com

Praise for:

HATTIE BIG SKY

★ "A masterful picture."

—*School Library Journal*, Starred

★ "Engaging . . . a richly textured novel full of memorable characters."—*Booklist*, Starred

"It's refreshing to bring the homestead experience into the twentieth century and meet a strong-willed woman who meets failure with dignity, shoulders her debts with good-natured resolve, and plans for her future with cautious optimism."—*The Bulletin*

"This fine offering may well inspire readers to find out more about their own family histories."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Hattie's strength and intelligence, her courage and loyal friendship make her a real hero . . . moving and inspiring."—*Kliatt*



HATTIE BIG SKY

Ages 12 up • Delacorte Press

978-0-385-73313-7 (0-385-73313-5)

GLB: 978-0-385-90332-5 (0-385-90332-4)

- A Newbery Honor Book
- An ALA YALSA Best Book for Young Adults
- An ALA Notable Book
- An NCSS—CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People
- A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age
- A Barnes & Noble Teen Discovery Selection
- A Border's Original Voice for Young Adults
- A Booklinks Lasting Connection
- A *Booklist* Editors' Choice
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year
- A Montana Book Award Winner
- A Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year