



## Wishworks, Inc.

By *Stephanie S. Tolan*

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**Wishworks, Inc.** By *Stephanie S. Tolan*

The best dog story you could wish for!

Max is handling his parents' divorce, his new home and school, and a big bully named Nick the only way he knows how: by running away in his head. Through his imagination, he and his wonderful dog King have thrilling adventures; they conquer aliens and slay dragons; they embarrass Nick so he never comes near Max again. If only King were real . . .

Then Max happens upon a store called Wishworks, Inc., which promises his wish will come true in real life, "guaranteed." He wishes for a real dog like King to fulfill all his dreams. And then a real dog named Goldie appears on his doorstep . . . but she may be a little more real than Max expects!

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-3-Third-grader Max is adjusting to his parents' divorce, which includes a new school and a new house without his dad (although the man has never been emotionally present). The boy relies on King, a regal and loyal, but imaginary, dog, to deal with these challenges. In fact, Max has created an entire fantasy existence for himself that he calls Adventure Time. In it, he performs heroic feats of daring with King by his side, thereby escaping the realities that trouble him. On one of these jaunts, the owner of a nifty little shop grants Max a wish that crosses over into the real world with consequences from which the dreamer learns and grows. Perhaps the most important change is Max's newfound willingness to accept the unpredictability and messiness of life, a change that is presented in a thoughtful twist in the evolution of his relationship with King. The shopkeeper, too, is an interesting manifestation of the troubled youngster's mental process of working out his conflicts. Tolan's vivid, clean writing is deceptively uncomplicated and the many issues touched upon are handled well. This book will resonate with kids while providing parents a great jumping-off point for conversations about how to overcome some of life's obstacles. —Alyson Low, Fayetteville Public Library, AR

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From [Booklist](#)

Bullied at his new school, Max takes refuge in daydreams featuring himself and King, a large, brave, devoted (and fictional) dog. When the mysterious shopkeeper at Wishworks Inc. offers Max a wish, he asks for "a real, live dog." Soon his mother gives him a dog so small and ugly that Max calls him Ratty. Max's second wish, for Ratty to go away, is quickly granted when the dog disappears. Max's third wish takes a little more time and thought. As one might expect, Max learns to be careful what he wishes for, but he also becomes a bit more reflective in general about himself and other people. Max's friendship with a classmate develops more slowly and realistically than in some comparable chapter books; meanwhile, engaging scenes and plot twists keep the story moving along in interesting directions. The many illustrations, though not seen in final form, have plenty of visual appeal. A lively, accessible chapter book. Grades 3-5. --Carolyn Phelan

Review

A lively, accessible chapter book.. -- Booklist

Quick pacing, large type, and frequent illustrations make this accessible for less experienced or more reluctant readers as well. . . . Give this to the dreamers and the dog-lovers. -- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

The book offers solace to children coping with trouble at home or school. -- OCFamily Magazine

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Lillian Carlucci:**

What do you concerning book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What

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**Jimmy Maiden:**

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**Deborah Wilkerson:**

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**Jeffery Chavis:**

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