



WELCOME TO LIZARD MOTEL

PROTECTING THE IMAGINATIVE
LIVES OF CHILDREN

A Personal Story
BARBARA FEINBERG



"Only a reader as attuned to realism as Feinberg could have puzzled out so nuanced a defense of imagination in children's lives."

—Laura Miller, *New York Times Book Review*

Welcome To Lizard Motel Protecting The Imaginative Lives Of Children

L. Hambleton



Welcome To Lizard Motel Protecting The Imaginative Lives Of Children:

Welcome to Lizard Motel Barbara Feinberg, 2004 Unsettled by the fact that her twelve year old son an ardent reader hated most of the books assigned to him in school Barbara Feinberg set out to discover just what kids are reading these days Much to her dismay she found that novels about abandonment kidnapping abuse and more have become standard fare in many middle school classrooms Pre adolescents these novels seem to suggest ought to be confronted in fiction with real life problems straight on with no magical dimension and limited imaginative scope In fact the child characters in these books often must face their stark circumstances nearly alone without adult shelter You have only yourself these novels seem to say Adults cannot help you they are often the source of your troubles Weaving literary analysis with memoir told in a playful elegiacal style *Welcome to Lizard Motel* sets its inquiry into books and stories in the context of an unfolding narrative of family life And as the narrative takes on a novel like velocity of its own stories become the lens through which Feinberg reflects on our own notions of childhood both observed and remembered our cultures rendering of childhood and the surprising disconnect between the two

Welcome to Lizard Motel Barbara Feinberg, 2005-09-07 *Welcome to Lizard Motel* is one of the most surprising books about reading and writing to come along in years Not only does this rich and wonderfully readable memoir explore the world of children and stories it also asks us to look at how our children are growing up Barbara Feinberg suggests that we have lost touch with the organic unfolding of childhood with that mysterious time when making things up helps deepen a child's understanding of the world This book will reacquaint readers with the special nature of children's imaginations and why they need to be protected and fostered

Welcome to Lizard Motel Barbara Feinberg, 2004-08-01 *Welcome to Lizard Motel* is a completely original memoir about the place of stories in children's lives It began when Barbara Feinberg noticed that her twelve year old son Alex who otherwise loved to read hated reading many of the novels assigned to him in school These stories of abandonment kidnapping abuse and more called problem novels were standard fare in his middle school classroom Alex and his friends hated to read these books As one of them said They give me a headache in my stomach So Feinberg set out to discover just what these kids were talking about She started to read the books steeping herself in novels like *Chasing Redbird* *Bridge to Terabithia* *The Pigman* and more She consulted librarians children's literature experts and others trying to get a handle on why young adult novels had become so dark and gloomy and to her mind contrived What she found both troubled and surprised her In the middle of the 1960s observed one children's literature expert political and social changes leaned hard on the crystal cage that had surrounded children's literature for ages It cracked and the world flowed in *Welcome to Lizard Motel* documents this dramatic change in the content of young adult novels but does so in a uniquely touching memoir about one family's life with books stories and writing Feinberg's examination of the problem novel opens her eyes to other issues that affect children today such as how they learn to write how much reality is too much for a young child's mind and the role of the imagination in children's experience Quirky moving

serious and witty *Welcome to Lizard Motel* is one of the most surprising books about reading and writing to come along in years. Not only does it explore the world of children and stories but it also asks us to look at how our children are growing up. Feinberg wonders if as a society we have lost touch with the organic unfolding of childhood with that mysterious time when making things up helps deepen a child's understanding of the world. This memoir will acquaint readers with the special nature of children's imaginations.

Children's Play, Pretense, and Story Susan Douglas, Lesley Stirling, 2015-12-21 At the heart of this volume is the recognition that children's engagement with play and story are intrinsically and intricately linked. The contributing authors share a passionate interest in the development and well-being of children in particular through their use of imagination and adaptation of the everyday into play and stories. Following these principles, the volume explores the connections between play, story, and pretense with regard to many cultural and contextual factors that influence the way these elements vary in children's lives. In a departure from earlier collections on play and story, the authors take a particular focus on normative as compared with atypical development. This collection begins with an approach to understanding the developmental relationship between play and story which recognizes their similarities while acknowledging their differences. Much of the collection addresses pretend play and story in children with autism spectrum disorder, an understudied but important group for consideration as these dimensions of their lives and development have often been considered problematic. The volume also includes sections on play and story in classroom settings and play and story across cultures including non-English speaking environments such as Israel, Romania, China, and Mexico. It concludes with a discussion of how play differs across sociocultural and economic contexts, making a unifying claim for the importance of play in children's lives but also calling for an understanding of what play means to very different groups of children.

Young Adult Literature, Libraries, and Conservative Activism Loretta M. Gaffney, 2017-02-01 This incisive study analyzes young adult (YA) literature as a cultural phenomenon, explaining why this explosion of books written for and marketed to teen readers has important consequences for how we understand reading in America. As visible and volatile shorthand for competing views of teen reading, YA literature has become a lightning rod for a variety of aesthetic, pedagogical, and popular literature controversies. Noted scholar Loretta Gaffney not only examines how YA literature is defended and critiqued within the context of rapid cultural and technological changes but also highlights how struggles about teen reading matter to and matter in the future of librarianship and education. The work bridges divides between literary criticism, professional practices, canon building, literature appreciation, genre classifications, and recommendations, standard histories, and commentary. It will be useful in YA literature course settings in Library and Information Science, Education, and English departments. It will also be of interest to those who study right-wing culture and movements in media studies, cultural studies, American studies, sociology, political science, and history. It is of additional interest to those who study print culture, publishing, and the book histories of teenagers and research on teen reading. Finally, it will offer those interested in teenagers' literature, libraries, technology, and politics a

fresh way to look at book challenges and controversies over YA literature The Publishers Weekly ,2005 *The Writers Directory* ,2013 **Welcome to Lizard Lounge** L. Hambleton,2004-08-15 Lizard thinks that he is just an ordinary lizard until he visits the Lizard Lounge **Children Welcome!.** ,1957*

Immerse yourself in heartwarming tales of love and emotion with is touching creation, Tender Moments: **Welcome To Lizard Motel Protecting The Imaginative Lives Of Children** . This emotionally charged ebook, available for download in a PDF format (*), is a celebration of love in all its forms. Download now and let the warmth of these stories envelop your heart.

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