

HOLIDAY HOUSE



Dear Reader,

Christina Uss's debut novel, *The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*, is the very first book I am publishing on my list at Holiday House—and I couldn't be happier about it.

There are many milestones in a child's life, including the first time they are allowed to walk alone to a friend's house, ride a bike on their own all over town, and the dreaded (from a parent's point of view) driver's license. One of the many things I love about this story is how it captures the unique relationship between 12-year-old Bicycle, who is an introvert and a loner, and her bicycle named Clunk, and all the freedom that entails.

When Bicycle sets off alone from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco to meet a famous cyclist who she just knows will be her one true friend, she cannot imagine what is in store—so many uphill and downhill and even a ghost who haunts Clunk and turns out to be a wonderful traveling companion. As she marks off the miles and states of her trip, she meets people who are willing to help her along the way and begins to understand that friendship can come in different forms. Even better, she finds her independence and her voice.

Christina Uss has cycled across the United States twice, once widthwise and once lengthwise, and has drawn in part upon these experiences to create a charming and quirky story.

Happy cycling!

xoxo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Margaret Ferguson

Publisher, Margaret Ferguson Books

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