

# Clarion Books

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**Clarion** seems an appropriate and challenging name for our list. The word derives from the Latin *clarus*, meaning “**clear.**”

It was the name of a medieval trumpet with loud, clear tones, and as an adjective it means “**brillantly clear.**”

— FROM THE FIRST **CLARION BOOKS** CATALOG, 1974



**February**

Full-color illustrations

Ages 0–2

PreK

28 pages

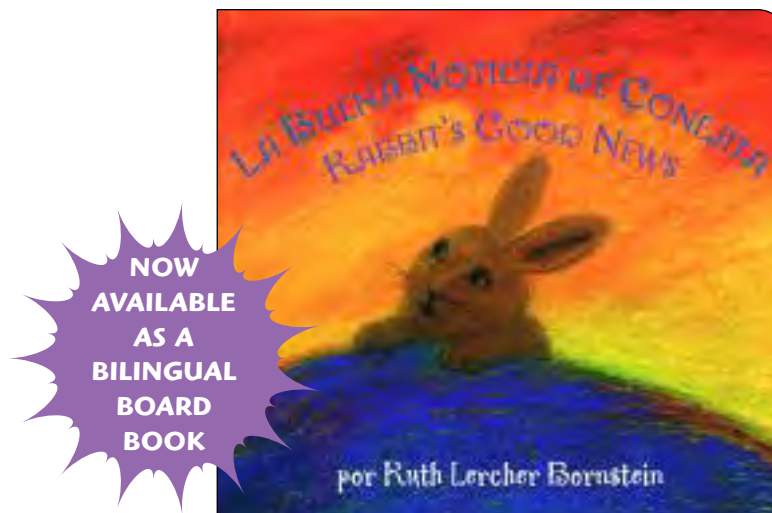
4 ¾ x 4 ¾

ctn qty: 50

Territory: US, C, O (A4)

B/T/A/ P/M/S: HMH

Board book

**\$5.95 BB / \$6.95 Canada****978-0-547-22330-8****A picture-book classic in English and Spanish.**

Also by Ruth Lercher Bornstein:

**Little Gorilla**

978-0-395-28773-6

\$15.00 RNF / \$16.95 Canada

978-0-89919-421-9

\$5.95 PA / \$6.95 Canada

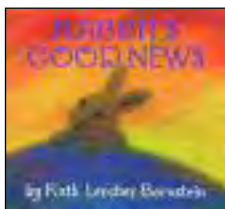
978-0-618-05158-8

\$4.95 BB / \$5.95 Canada

*Gorilita (Spanish Edition)*

978-0-618-44214-0

\$4.95 BB / \$5.95 Canada

**Rabbit's Good News**

978-0-395-84514-1

\$5.95 PA / \$6.95 Canada

**La Buena Noticia de Conejita /  
Rabbit's Good News****Ruth Lercher Bornstein**

“Smiling rabbits on uncluttered double-page spreads enhance the appeal of this natural for spring-themed story hours.”

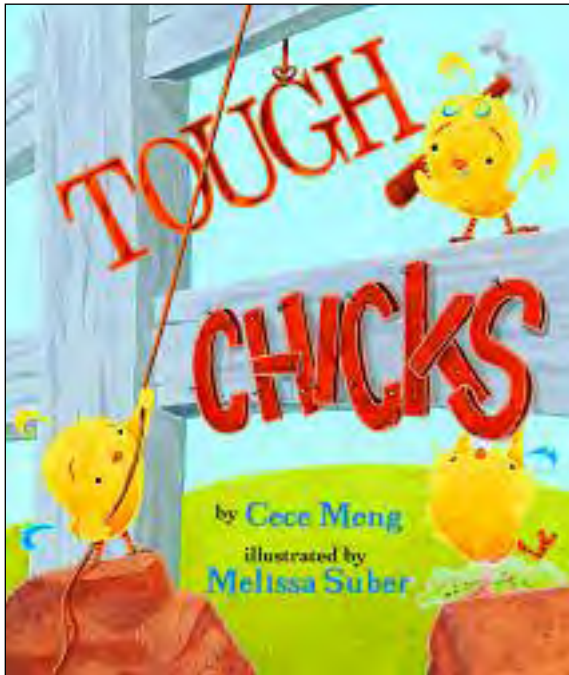
—*Booklist*

“Sweeps of warm glowing color invoke the burgeoning beauty of the season, and the round-faced, wide-eyed Rabbit has an expression of wondering sweetness as she investigates its little miracles.”

—*School Library Journal*

“Gently scumbled pastels saturate each spread with a rainbow of colors, with the blue tones of predawn giving way to the pink of sunrise and the vibrant yellow and orange of midday. This good news embraces not only Rabbit, but readers too.” —*Publishers Weekly*

**A smart, fearless trio of adorable chicks shows the other farm animals why it's good to be different.**



## Tough Chicks

Cece Meng Illustrated by Melissa Suber

From the moment Penny, Polly, and Molly hatch from their eggs, the whole farm knows they are truly tough chicks. They wrestle worms, rope roosters, and are often found under the hood of the tractor. All the other animals and even the farmer himself tell Mama Hen to make her chicks good. “They are good!” Mama Hen replies. But could her chicks be too loud, too independent, and too tough?

Lively language and bold illustrations capture all the fun and humor of this delightfully different farmyard romp that’s also a resounding endorsement for letting girls be girls (even if they’re loud and tough and like to play with tractors).

**Cece Meng**’s first book, *The Wonderful Thing About Hiccups*, was a National Parenting Publications Awards Honor Book. She lives with her family in Santa Cruz, California.

**Melissa Suber** has worked as a storyboard and visual development artist for Disney, DreamWorks, Universal Studios, and Nickelodeon, and she’s illustrated five other books, including *Milo the Really Big Bunny* by Stephen Krensky (Simon & Schuster). She lives in California.

### February

Full-color illustrations

Ages 4–8

Grades PreK–3

32 pages

9 x 11

ctn qty: 24

Territory: US, C, O (A4)

B/T/A: HMH; P/M/S: Andrea Brown

Picture book

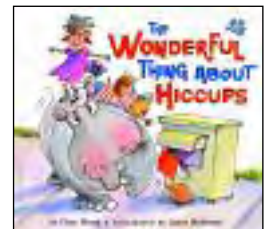
**\$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada**  
**978-0-618-82415-1**

### MARKETING

- Easter promotion
- Buttons



Also by Cece Meng:



*The Wonderful Thing About Hiccups*

Illustrated by Janet Pedersen

978-0-618-59544-0

\$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada

**January**

Full-color illustrations

Ages 4–8

PreK–Grade 3

48 pages

8 x 10

ctn qty: 40

Territory: US, C, O (A4)

B/T/A/P/M/S: HMH

Picture book

**\$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada****978-0-618-15836-2****MARKETING**

- Promotional postcard w/ recipe
- Publicity outreach to cooking/food media



**A story celebrating the country childhood of Edna Lewis, who became a pioneering and award-winning chef.**



## Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie

A Story About Edna Lewis

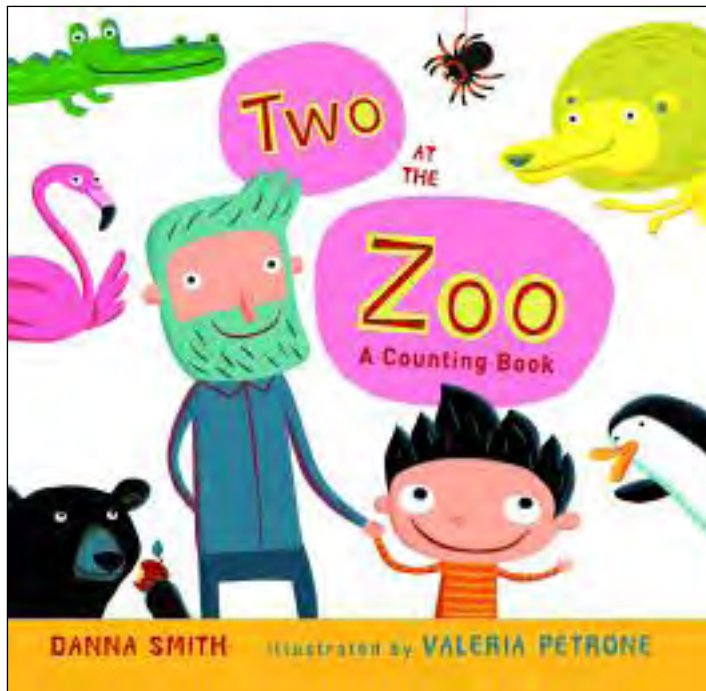
Robbin Gourley

Long before the natural-food movement gained popularity, before greenmarkets sprouted across the United States, Edna Lewis championed purity of ingredients, regional cuisine, and the importance of bringing food directly from the farm to the table. She was a chef when female chefs—let alone African American female chefs—were few and far between, and she received many awards for her work.

With lyrical text and glorious watercolor illustrations, author/illustrator Robbin Gourley lovingly traces the childhood roots of Edna's appreciation for the bounties of nature. The story follows Edna from early spring through the growing season to a family dinner celebrating a successful harvest. Folk rhymes, sayings, and songs about food are sprinkled throughout the text, and five kid-friendly recipes and an author's note about Edna's life are included at the end.

**Robbin Gourley** has written and illustrated two cookbooks and is the illustrator of many others. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and two children.

**A boy takes his grandpa to the zoo in this charming counting concept book.**



## Two at the Zoo

**Danna Smith** Illustrated by **Valeria Petrone**

Counting is always more fun when Grandpa helps! From one black bear to ten hairy warthogs, the young narrator and his grandpa count their way through a colorful and sometimes unusual zoo, encountering a wide assortment of friendly animals along the way. There are lions, zebras, and penguins, of course, but also chameleons and eagles . . . and even tarantulas! Playful, quirky illustrations put the loving relationship between the youthful grandfather and the grandson on proud display, while an upbeat, rhymed text full of sparkling verb sounds invites even the youngest readers and listeners to participate.

**Danna Smith** has authored two picture books published under the name Danna Kessimakis Smith. She lives in Northern California with her husband, two children, and a schnauzer named Cosmo.

**Valeria Petrone** has illustrated several picture books, and her work has been exhibited around the world. She lives in her native Italy.

### February

Full-color illustrations

Ages 3–6

PreK–Grade 1

32 pages

9 x 9

ctn qty: 26

Territory: US, C, O Literary (A4)

B/T/M/S: HMH; A/P: Text: Bookstop;

Art: HMH

Picture book

**\$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada**

**978-0-547-04982-3**



**February**

Full-color illustrations

Ages 6–10

Grades 1–5

48 pages

6 ½ x 10

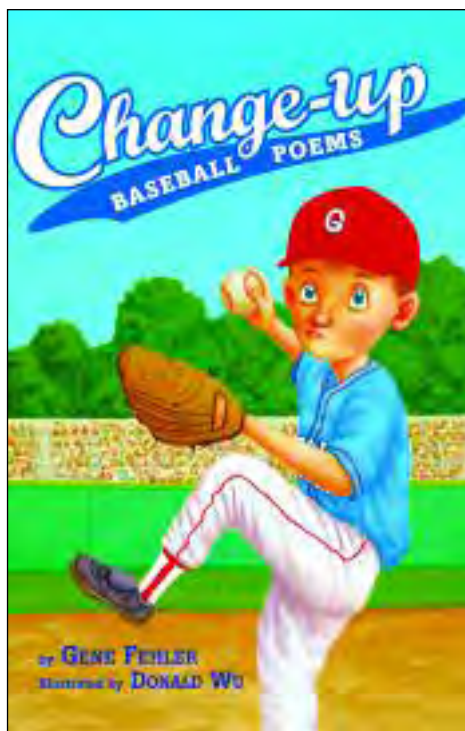
ctn qty: 28

Territory: US, C, O (A4)

B/T/A: HMH; P/M/S: Text: Andrea Brown;

Art: HMH

Picture book

**\$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada**  
**978-0-618-71962-4****A young baseball player's glorious (and inglorious) moments, captured in verse.**

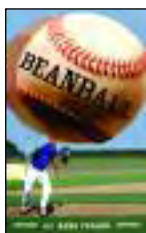
## Change-up Baseball Poems

Gene Fehler Illustrated by Donald Wu

Baseball season! For a kid who loves the sport, everything about it is important. Pitching, batting, sliding, winning, losing, Grandpa's knuckleballs, superstitious teammates, cheering spectators—even the infield dust . . . each has a place in the player's life. And all are captured here in Gene Fehler's perceptive, exuberant poetry and Donald Wu's lively illustrations.

Readers who play baseball will recognize a kindred spirit in the young narrator whose voice is heard in this book and will share his pleasure in every aspect of the game. Sports fans may even discover that they're poetry fans, too.

Also by Gene Fehler:



*Beanball*

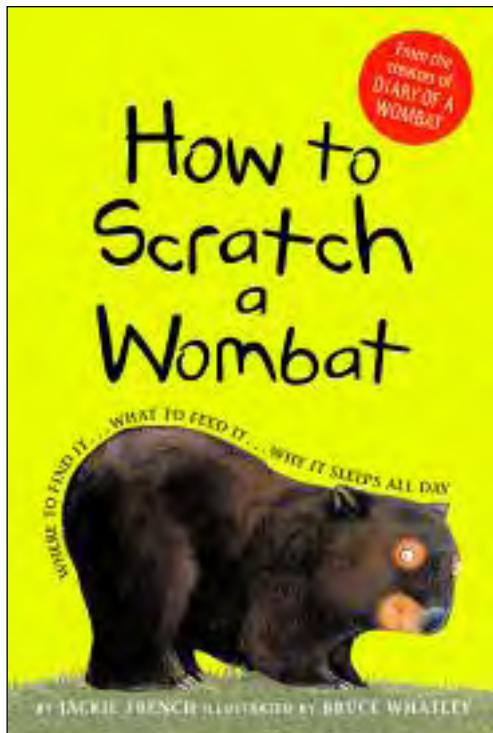
978-0-618-84348-0

\$16.00 CL / \$18.50 Canada

**Gene Fehler's** poems have appeared in many anthologies and magazines as well as in his own books for adults and for children. Mr. Fehler's previous book for Clarion was *Beanball*, of which *Kirkus Reviews* said, "In his debut novel, Fehler succeeds at every level." He lives in Seneca, South Carolina, with his wife.

**Donald Wu** was born in Hong Kong and grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he still lives. *Change-up: Baseball Poems* is his first picture book.

**From the creators of the wildly successful  
*Diary of a Wombat.***



**How to Scratch a Wombat**  
Jackie French Illustrated by Bruce Whatley

What's the best way to scratch a wombat? Well, if it's a wombat that's familiar with humans, says author Jackie French, you rub the bony ridge along its back or behind its ears. And the harder you scratch, the better the wombat likes it. For more than thirty years, Jackie French has lived in the Australian bush, coexisting with wild wombats.

In this cross between memoir and natural history, Jackie shares her often hilarious adventures with her wombats neighbors and describes their physiology, history, and habits. Bruce Whatley adds pencil drawings in both comic and realistic styles. It's a book that's perfect for the budding naturalist. It's an easy read. It's full of funny stories. It's science with a heart.

**Jackie French** has a writing career that spans 18 years, 48 wombats, 132 books in 23 languages, and over 50 awards in Australia and overseas. She and her husband live in the Araluen Valley in New South Wales.

**Bruce Whatley** has been writing and illustrating children's books for more than fifteen years. He was born in the U.K. and now lives in New South Wales with his wife, Rosie Smith, who has coauthored several books with him.

**February**

Black-and-white illustrations

Ages 6–10

Grades 1–5

96 pages

6 x 9

ctn qty: 40

Territory: US, C, O (B2)

B/T/A/P/M/S: HarperCollins

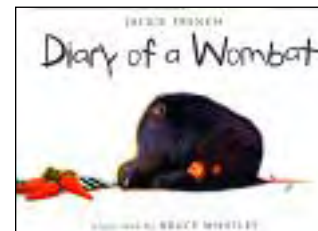
Nonfiction

**\$16.00 CL / \$18.50 Canada**  
**978-0-618-86864-3**

**MARKETING**

- Indie Bound promotion
- Bookmark

**Also by Jackie French and illustrated  
by Bruce Whatley:**



*Diary of a Wombat*

978-0-618-38136-4

\$14.00 Rnf.

978-0-547-07669-0

\$6.99 PA

**January**

Black-and-white illustrations

Ages 6–10

Grades 1–5

96 pages

5 ½ x 8 ¼

ctn qty: 40

Territory: US, C, O (A4)

B/T/A/P/M/S: HMH

Fiction

**\$15.00 CL / \$16.95 Canada****978-0-618-97787-1****MARKETING**

- Postcard
- Conference promotions

## Deja and Nikki have been planning the perfect



### Nikki and DeJa Birthday Blues

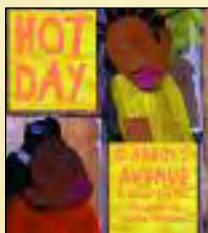
Karen English Illustrated by Laura Freeman

Deja's birthday is coming up, and she's been talking to Nikki about it for weeks. But just before the big day, Auntie Dee gets called away on a business trip, and Deja has to stay with old Miss Ida . . . who cooks turnips for dinner—and doesn't even have a color TV! Worse, a sneaky scheme hatched by Antonia, Deja's nemesis, threatens to ruin Deja's birthday party plans. Her loyal friend Nikki will be there, of course. But will anyone else show up?

Like the first story about Nikki and DeJa, this warm, easy-to-read chapter book shines with emotional depth and humor, perfectly capturing all the complexities and joys of elementary school girls' friendships.

**Karen English** is a Coretta Scott King Honor Award–winning author. Her first book for Clarion, *Hot Day on Abbott Avenue*, is an ALA Notable Book and a Jane Addams Peace Association Honor Book. She is an elementary school teacher and the mother of two girls, and lives in Los Angeles, California.

**Laura Freeman** has illustrated many books for young readers. She lives with her husband and two children in Manhattan.

**Also by Karen English:***Hot Day on Abbott Avenue*

Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe

978-0-395-98527-4

\$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada

## birthday party . . . and now it's about to be ruined!

© Ain Young



“While teaching a second-grade class that was largely African American, I decided to round out my classroom library with a few high-interest early readers that reflected the real lives of my African American students—nothing over the top or with too much of an emphasis on the usual cultural ‘markers,’ just everyday stuff. I had almost no luck finding such books. So I felt compelled to write something myself. I owed it to my future students.” —**Karen English**

“The illustrations for the Nikki and Deja books were inspired by my own childhood. Working on them brought back memories of summers with my aunts when I was a child, my best friend next door, jumping rope, hair disasters, playing jacks, and the inevitable drama that ensues whenever you put two or more eight-year-old girls together. For me, it was Nikki and Déjà vu!”

—**Laura Freeman**

© Karen Rosen



## Nikki and Deja

Karen English Illustrated by Laura Freeman

A Junior Library Guild Premier Selection

A Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year

A *Bulletin* recommended title

“Accessible writing, authentic characters, an easy-to-identify-with plot and Freeman’s appealing black-and-white illustrations come together smoothly in this straightforward friendship tale. English nicely fills an undeveloped area—this is a first chapter book featuring African-American girls, and race is presented as an attribute of the characters rather than as an issue.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“English, who has been an elementary school teacher, clearly knows her audience and understands the intricacies of their relationship dynamics. . . . The short chapters, quick pacing, and frequent black-and-white illustrations will both appeal to and assist young readers. Kids negotiating the sometimes treacherous waters of middle-grade friendship will find Nikki and Deja’s story both truthful and comforting.”

—*The Bulletin*

“Children will quickly connect with the distinctive characters and authentically drawn situations and emotions.” —*ALA Booklist*

“More probing than many chapter books, this title delivers the satisfaction of a full-length novel.” —*Publishers Weekly*



978-0-618-75238-6  
\$15.00 CL / \$16.95 Canada  
978-0-547-13362-1  
\$4.99 PA / \$5.99 Canada

See page 48 for information about the paperback edition of *Nikki and Deja*.

**February**

Full-color illustrations

Ages 9–12

Grades 4–7

48 pages

10 x 8

ctn qty: 46

Territory: (A4)

B/T/P/M/S: Barry Goldblatt;

A: HMH

Picture book

**\$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada**  
**978-0-618-90351-1**

## MARKETING

- Poster with poem

## Celebrating the world of work in verse.



## Steady Hands

### Poems About Work

Tracie Vaughn Zimmer

Illustrated by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy

#### Also by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer:



*42 Miles*

Illustrated by Elaine Clayton  
 978-0-618-61867-5  
 \$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada

*Sketches from a Spy Tree*

Illustrated by Andrew Glass  
 978-0-618-23479-0  
 \$16.00 Rnf. / \$18.50 Canada

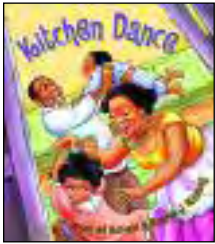
In this collection of free-verse poems, inspired by Walt Whitman's *I Hear America Singing*, Tracie Vaughn Zimmer celebrates workers and the doing of work. The poems are short and direct, with strong, fresh images, and readers can easily imagine themselves in the roles she portrays: welder, librarian, surgeon, retail clerk, camp counselor. The illustrations are as original as the text—amazing multilayered collages made of paper, found objects, ephemera, photographs, dried flowers, and archival images.

*Steady Hands* is sure to inspire discussion, creative writing, art projects, and new answers to the old question: What do you want to do when you grow up?

**Tracie Vaughn Zimmer** is a former language-arts teacher and the author of three previous books of free verse. She and her family live near Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Megan Halsey** has illustrated over forty books for children, several of which she also wrote. She lives with her husband in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Sean Addy has created illustrations for newspapers, magazines, and children's books. He and his family live in Port Jervis, New York.

## Clarion Books Fall 2008 Backlist



A loving Hispanic family comes together for an unexpected nighttime dance.

*Kitchen Dance*  
978-0-618-99110-5 • \$16.00 Rnf.



A historical novel with an unusual setting: a Shaker community in Kentucky during the Civil War.

*Imperfections*  
978-0-547-00357-3 • \$16.00 CL



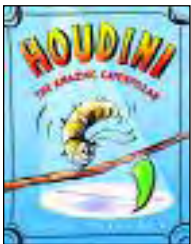
A little boy finds his voice—and his place in his boisterous family.

*Can Anybody Hear Me?*  
978-0-547-02834-7 • \$16.00 Rnf.



A powerful fantasy set in England during the reign of Elizabeth I.

*Out of the Shadows*  
978-0-618-92722-7 • \$16.00 CL



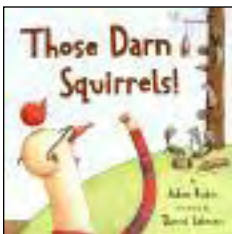
A classroom caterpillar who loves an audience performs his most amazing trick of all in this magical picture book.

*Houdini the Amazing Caterpillar*  
978-0-618-89332-4 • \$16.00 Rnf.



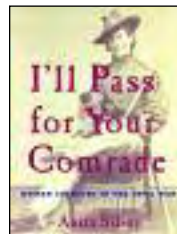
A stellar lineup of contributors weigh in about body image.

*Does This Book Make Me Look Fat?*  
978-0-547-01496-8 • \$16.00 CL



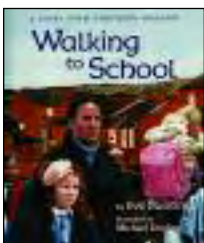
A hilarious contemporary picture book in which a grumpy old man matches his wits with a pack of clever squirrels.

*Those Darn Squirrels!*  
978-0-547-00703-8 • \$16.00 Rnf.



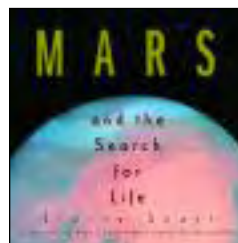
A fascinating aspect of the Civil War: the women who played a role in it, many in male disguise.

*I'll Pass for Your Comrade: Women Soldiers in the Civil War*  
978-0-618-57491-9 • \$17.00 CL



A moving story about religious conflict set in Northern Ireland.

*Walking to School*  
978-0-618-26144-4 • \$16.00 Rnf.



A definitive and timely book on the search for life on Mars, illustrated with stunning NASA photos, Mars kitsch, and other visuals.

*Mars and the Search for Life*  
978-0-618-76695-6 • \$17.00 Rnf.