Good morning. On behalf of Thames & Hudson, I am delighted to accept the 2019 Mildred L. Batchelder Award for *The Fox on the Swing* and to extend our congratulations to the Batchelder Honor winners: North-South Books, Enchanted Lion Books, Graphic Universe, and Yonder.

The Batchelder Award is given to the publisher, but I would like to acknowledge at this time author Evelina Daciūtė—here with us today—and illustrator Aušra Kiudulaitė—currently in Lithuania—who together created a beautifully illustrated tale that goes to the heart of the meaning of family, friendship, and happiness. It has been warmly embraced by reviewers for its originality and unpredictability, and this award, which cites the book’s outstanding writing for reflecting “a deep respect for childhood and the importance of adaptability and absurdity,” confirms the unique qualities of *The Fox on the Swing*.

While one of Thames & Hudson’s earliest children’s books successes dates back to 1978—the English translation of *The Rainbow Goblins*—our current children’s publishing program really took flight after editorial director Roger Thorp joined our London team from the Tate Museum’s publishing division in 2014. Under his and Anna Ridley’s editorship, Thames & Hudson publishes a wide variety of children’s books: informational and educational series that have become successful all over the world; reissues of European children’s classics; and supremely imaginative picture books, originating in English or translated from the French, German, Portuguese, Swedish, Finnish, Estonian, or, as is the case with *The Fox on the Swing*, Lithuanian. The books in this growing list provide hours of reading pleasure and learning for young readers, and offer them myriad perspectives on our world.

As the world’s leading art book publisher, Thames & Hudson prizes exceptional illustrations and compelling narratives, seeking them out on a global scale. In *The Fox on the Swing*, vibrant color collages and inspiring storytelling tell the story of a young boy, Paul, whose father pilots a helicopter and whose mother makes pottery. Paul befriends a philosophical fox he encounters on a swing in the park on his daily walk home from the bakery. Over time, their friendship deepens and Paul and the fox grow close enough to share their innermost feelings with each other. An unexpected move disrupts their friend-

For more information about the Batchelder Award, visit http://bit.ly/batchelder-award.

Thames & Hudson Inc. is the winner of the 2019 (Mildred L.) Batchelder Award for *The Fox on the Swing*, written by Evelina Daciūtė, illustrated by Aušra Kiudulaitė, and translated from the Lithuanian by The Translation Bureau. Harry Burton, publicity director at Thames & Hudson, delivered these acceptance remarks at the ALSC Book and Media Awards Program on Monday, June 24, 2019, during the American Library Association Annual Conference.
 Batchelder

AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

ship, but by the end of the story Paul and the fox learn an important lesson and arrive at a surprising resolution.

We wish to thank Tessa Michaelson Schmidt, who chaired the Batchelder committee for this award year, and the committee’s members for honoring Thames & Hudson by choosing The Fox on the Swing to receive this award; editors Roger Thorp, Rachel Dewhirst, Natalie Evans, and Elizabeth Keene, who shepherded the English-language publication; illustrator Aušra Kiudulaitė for the book’s transporting, colorful scenes; and author Evelina Daciūtė for this unexpected gift of a story. Thank you all, and remember . . . Happiness is a fox!


2019 BATCHELDER HONOR BOOKS

Run for Your Life
Silvana Gandolfi
Trans. from the Italian by Lynne Sharon Schwartz Yonder/Restless Books

My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder
Nie Jun
Illus. by the author
Originally published in Mandarin and trans. from the French by Edward Gauvin
Graphic Universe/Lerner

Edison: The Mystery of the Missing Mouse Treasure
Torben Kuhlmann
Illus. by the author
Trans. from the German by David Henry Wilson
NorthSouth

Jerome by Heart
Thomas Scotto
Illus. by Olivier Tallec
Trans. from the French by Claudia Zoe Bedrick and Karin Snelson
Enchanted Lion

2019 BATCHELDER AWARD COMMITTEE
Tessa Michaelson Schmidt, Chair, Wisconsin State Library, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, Madison, Wis.
Sandra Farag, Ingram Library Services, La Vergne, Tenn.
Lorrie Anne Hansen, Skokie (Ill.) Public Library
Madeleine Ildefonso, Los Angeles Public Library/Central Library
Kathy G. Short, University of Arizona, Tucson

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