

Author from page 44

the *Pink Dolphins*, *Spell of the Tiger*, and *Search for the Golden Moon Bear*.

She has made four trips to Peru and Brazil to study the pink dolphins of the Amazon; and on other expeditions, she was chased by an angry silverback gorilla in Zaire; bitten by a vampire bat in Costa Rica; undressed by an orangutan in Borneo; and hunted by a tiger in India.

She also worked in a pit crawling with 18,000 snakes in Manitoba; handled a wild tarantula in French Guiana; and swam with piranhas, electric eels, and dolphins in the Amazon. She lives in Hancock, New Hampshire.

Montgomery's newest, nationally bestselling book for adult readers is a love story – a true one – about home, about family, and particularly, about a pig. *The Good Good Pig: The Extraordinary Life of Christopher Hogwood* is a memoir of 14 years of comfort and joy shared with a 750-pound Buddha Master, who happened to have a flexible nose disk and a curly tail.

Since his adoption as a piglet deemed too small and sickly to live, Christopher's is a runt-to-riches story: in his new home, Christopher gains not weight, but fans and fame. Local children flock to brush and wash him at "Pig Spa"; he commands a vast slops empire; he even gets write-in votes in local elections.

Montgomery's newest children's

book is set on the opposite side of the Earth. *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea* chronicles the previous year's three-week expedition with tree kangaroo expert Dr. Lisa Dabek and her multinational team of scientists, artists and teachers.

From the remote village of Yawan, 44 people trekked for three days to 10,000 feet, up into the moss-clad cloud forest realm of one of the world's most beautiful and mysterious creatures: the Matchie's tree kangaroo. Illuminated by Dr. Nic Bishop's stunning photos, it's the story of how love, strength, science, partnership, and willpower combine to protect a habitat unlike any other on Earth and uncover the secrets of a little-known animal.

Montgomery writes for adults and children, for print and broadcast, in America and overseas in an effort to reach as wide an audience as possible at what she considers a critical turning point in human history. "We are on the cusp of either destroying this sweet, green Earth – or revolutionizing the way we understand the rest of animate creation," she says. "It's an important time to be writing about the connections we share with our fellow creatures. It's a great time to be alive."

Montgomery's previous children's book, *Search for the Golden Moon Bear* was a kid's version of the adult book of the same title. For these books,

Montgomery traveled through the sometimes land-mined forest of Southeast Asia with Field Museum evolutionary biologist Dr. Gary Galbreath to report on the discovery of a beautiful golden bear previously unknown to science. Amid a roller-coaster of hope and humor, beauty and horror, she writes of astonishing new opportunities for conserving endangered species at a crucial crossroads in the area's often-tragic history.

Montgomery met Dr. Galbreath while researching *Journey of the Pink Dolphins: An Amazon Quest*. It is the true story of the author's quest to follow an enigmatic, little-studied species of freshwater dolphin into the heart of the Amazon. Each of her four research expeditions was a journey not only into the world's greatest jungle, but also a trip back into time, and a foray into a mythical, enchanted world where people say the dolphins can turn into people and dance with the men and women on land.

At AE/MS, Montgomery will visit individual classrooms and do a school-wide presentation sharing a Powerpoint presentation with students on her life as an author and how her work illustrates the Buddhist saying, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear."

Montgomery says that her teachers are still appearing to her, though they don't come to the classroom. She now finds her teachers in jungles, deserts, and cloud forests. They may appear to

her in the form of gorillas, in the Amazonian shamans, wild bears, or man-eating tigers. Montgomery's life's work is to recognize these teachers and to learn to listen for their truths.

In September, Montgomery plans to have a new book out: *Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards of Mongolia* and will bring a copy to show the Andover students. This book is targeted for grades four through eight.

The AE/MS library already owns all of Sy Montgomery's books. Students and teachers were encouraged to read them last spring and over the summer. The AE/MS PTO will have Montgomery's books available to purchase on September 18, and students can get them signed by the author.

Sy Montgomery's visit is financed through CLiF – Children's Literacy Foundation. CLiF is partnered with more than 50 accomplished and inspiring children's book authors, children's book illustrators, and poets who give presentations to children across New Hampshire and Vermont.

CLiF works only with presenters who live in New Hampshire or Vermont and always strives to have them visit children in a community near their home. When children meet an accomplished writer or artist who lives nearby, they begin to understand there is nothing preventing them from following a similar path.



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