

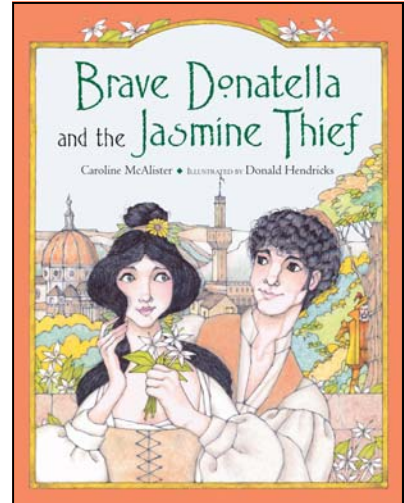


For Immediate Release

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Brave Donatella and the Jasmine Thief

Caroline McAlister • Illustrated by Donald Hendricks



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Ages 5–8 • 8 ½ x 11 • 32 pages

Full-color illustrations

All's fair in love and gardening.

Duke Cosimo de' Medici loved beautiful and exotic things, particularly flowers and plants from far-off lands. So when an explorer delivers the magnificent jasmine plant all the way from India as a present to the duke, Cosimo guards it jealously, forbidding anyone to remove even one leaf for themselves. When the foolish gardener Antonio, determined to prove his love for Donatella, clips a sprig of the forbidden jasmine, he is sent to Volterra prison. Now brave Donatella is his only hope for freedom.

The story of *Brave Donatella and the Jasmine Thief* is based on a legend about Duke Cosimo de' Medici and the origins of the Italian bridal tradition of wearing a sprig of jasmine on one's wedding dress. Back matter describes Renaissance Florence and the rise of the Medici family. With links to art, history, and science, this book will please readers of all interests.

Caroline McAlister is the author of Holy Molé (August House/Little Folk). She holds a Ph.D. in British literature and teaches writing at Guilford College. When she's not teaching or writing, she can be found quilting, cooking, and of course, gardening. She lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with her husband and two daughters. Visit her at www.carolinemcalister.com.

Donald Hendricks studied at the Art Students League in New York. His art has appeared in magazines and books for adults and has been exhibited around the world, including at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Donald lives in Laguna Beach, California. Visit him at www.paperdolls.com.

To receive a review copy or to arrange an interview with Caroline or Donald, please contact Donna Spurlock at (617) 926-0329, ext. 122, or via email at dspurlock@charlesbridge.com.