

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April, 2011  
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### **2011 MARION VANNETT RIDGWAY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED** **Two picture book author/illustrators recognized for debut work excellence**

A visually dynamic, quietly humorous tale of a lost-and-found owl, and an over-the-top exploration of “What happens when we lie?” have captured the first prize and honor award for the 2011 Marion Vannett Ridgway Awards.

#### **The Winners of the 2011 Marion Vannett Ridgway Award:**

- **First Prize: Chris Haughton** for *Little Owl Lost*, (Candlewick Press, 2010).  
The familiar tale of a lost young one searching the woods for its mother is revitalized through bold, richly colored digital media illustrations and a storyline that is spare, warm and humorous. Filled with a host of odd and helpful animals, Haughton creates a forest young readers will *want* to get lost in.
- **Honor Award: Darren Farrell**, for *Doug-Dennis and the Flyaway Fib*, (Dial, 2010). Farrell firmly resists a preachy tone as he describes the consequences of a lie, and imaginatively swoops Doug-Dennis (a hilarious and dramatic sheep) into a sky filled with other fib-practitioners – as though lies were powered by rising hot air. Readers will revel in the story’s busy comic detail as the woolly hero finally redeems his friendship with Ben-Bobby (a mellow, forgiving elephant.)

Each year the **Marion Vannett Ridgway Award** is given in honor of outstanding work by first-time children’s book illustrators or authors. Established in 1993, this unique award celebrates the memory of the artist’s representative Marion Vannett Ridgway, who felt a special respect for talented beginners. The Ridgway Award is given with the spirit of encouragement for those just making their way into the world of children’s book publishing.

Over twenty children’s book publishers participated in this year’s contest, and the judging panel included award-winning children’s book authors and illustrators Lauren Stringer, Antoinette Portis, Jim Averbeck and Yuyi Morales as well as the 2010 Marion Vannett Ridgway Award winner Lincoln Agnew. For more information about the award, visit the website: [www.marionvannettridgwayaward.com](http://www.marionvannettridgwayaward.com)

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