



# MARY AMATO

AS A CHILD, MARY READ *HARRIET THE SPY* AND KNEW SHE WANTED TO BECOME A WRITER.

Mary Amato grew up scribbling in her diaries in Libertyville, Illinois, and graduated from Indiana University with a teaching degree. She taught in public and private schools, worked as a dance teacher and choreographer, and wrote many magazine articles. As soon as she became a mother, she turned to her

first passion: writing for children. Mary attended the graduate writing program at Johns Hopkins University, where she received her MA in fiction.

*"I always wanted to be a writer, but it took me a long time to believe that I could actually become one. I started writing at the age of seven when my mother handed me a little spiral notebook and told me to keep a journal of our trip to California. I liked the fact that I could record something in my journal and then read it later. My favorite book as a child was Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh because Harriet was a terrific journal keeper."*

*"I love to write. Not all writers love to write. I wake up every morning and can't wait to sit at my dining room table and write. (I write on a laptop computer with a cup of tea nearby.) I especially love to write books for children. I think that's because I needed books when I was a kid. I turned to books when I was lonely or sad or confused or bored. It is extremely fun to think that kids are reading my books."*

Mary divides her time between writing children's books and teaching dance. She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with her husband, Ivan, and their two boys.

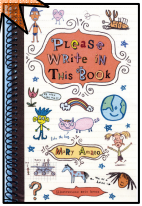
For more on Mary Amato, visit her website: [www.maryamato.com](http://www.maryamato.com).



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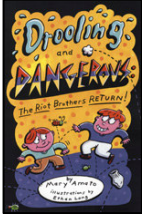
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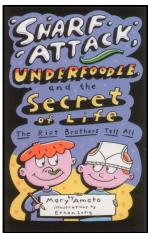
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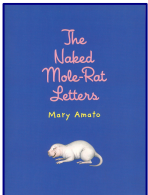


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