

# DRUTHERS

## A Note from Matt Phelan

*Druthers* is a book about make-believe and play. While I was writing the book, I found myself stuck at one point. So I turned to the resident expert on play, my then-four-year-old daughter.

“What would you rather do,” I began as she splashed in the tub, “be a pirate or go to a land of dinosaurs?”

Without even a split-second’s worth of contemplation, she answered, “Pirates *and* dinosaurs.”

And that answer was the key to *Druthers*, and maybe the key to make-believe. When you have a choice between pirates or dinosaurs, the answer is always pirates *and* dinosaurs.

**MATT PHELAN** is the author-illustrator of the highly acclaimed and award-winning graphic novels *The Storm in the Barn*, *Around the World*, and *Bluffton*. He is also the illustrator of many books for young readers, including *Always* and *I’ll Be There* by Ann Stott and *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron, which won the 2007 Newbery Medal. He lives in Philadelphia.



CANDLEWICK PRESS

[www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)

Illustration copyright © 2014 by Matt Phelan