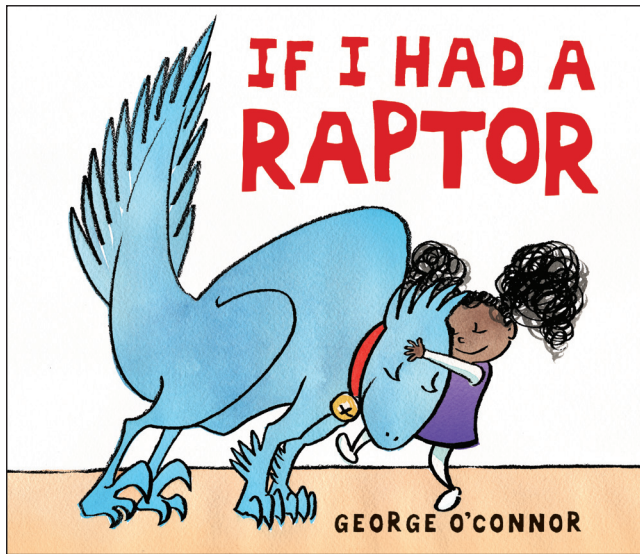


IF I HAD A RAPTOR

A Note from Author-Illustrator

George O'Connor



The idea behind *If I Had a Raptor* came when I observed that most of the “cute” behaviors of my own cat were related to her predatory nature: “Ooh, look, she’s stalking us,” or “Ow, she’s sharpening her claws on my pant leg!” or even “Why on God’s green earth is she tearing around the house at two in the morning?”

Someone smarter than me once remarked that if your cat was a little bit bigger and you were a little bit smaller, it would eat you. That comparison informed my dino-ization of the house cat.

My own cat, Birdie (I think it’s funny to name animals after something they might like to eat), has not yet successfully eaten me, but she does hunt me constantly from the dark corners of my home. In fact, pretty much everything you see in *If I Had a Raptor* is taken from my relationship with Birdie.

These days she’s not so teensy-tiny, funny-fluffy as she used to be. She has a bell on her collar so that I don’t have a heart attack when she leaps out and grabs my ankle when I go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

Ah, cats. It is hilarious now, but I imagine it would be a lot less funny if she were a dinosaur.



Illustration © 2013 by George O'Connor

GEORGE O'CONNOR is the creator of several children’s books, including the *New York Times* best-selling Olympians series, retellings of Greek myths in comic form. He lives (with his clawed and clever cat) in Brooklyn.