

BACKGROUND INFO for BARBARA BROOKS WALLACE

Her name is synonymous with mysteries and the macabre. She weaves puzzling tales of nightmarish proportions... for kids. She is award-winning writer, Barbara Brooks Wallace. But you can call her Bobbie.

An American born and raised in China, Ms. Wallace moved to the mysterious city of San Francisco with her family, where the influence of Victorian architecture captured her imagination. After graduating UCLA and marrying U.S Navy man, James Wallace, she pursued a writing career and began collecting awards for her efforts.

A prime example of her pedigree, Bobbie's "Sparrows in the Scullery" won the coveted Mystery Writers of America EDGAR Award for best juvenile mystery, 1998, and became a Junior Library Guild selection, an Aladdin paperback, was translated into Korean and recorded as a Book-on-Tape offering.

She has authored seven Victorian-era novels, nine novels targeted at boys-and-girls relationships, and six fantasy novels. Additionally, she has penned a biography about her mother, her own autobiography and a host of picture books, short stories and diary-style tomes. Besides her work in the publishing world, she wrote the screenplay for her book, "Miss Switch to the Rescue" for ABC Television; and she's written two musicals, based on her books, "Perfect Acres" and "Peppermints in the Parlor."

Besides being an avid reader -- and writer -- Ms. Wallace enjoys knitting and enriches herself on the Internet. Her "Miss Switch Online" book has been transferred to the Kindle -- a platform she's embraced wholeheartedly.

Today, she continues to conceive, conjure and write. She is collaborating with the writing and development team at PANGEA Corporation, the creative sorcerers who have worked on sundry intellectual properties, including "The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," "DragonBall Z," "The Mummy," "Gormiti," "Zorro," "Speed Racer" and a host of others.

Ms. Wallace is excited to bring her magical touch and visionary fantasies into the 21st-century. She has mentored many authors and is always game to celebrate children with book signing parties, library readings and book store appearances. Once you meet Barbara, she becomes your friend for life and insists on being called Bobbie. But that doesn't mean she won't still try to spin a yarn that will scare the bejeebies out of you. Or touch you with emotional adventures, like the most recent offering, "Diary of a Little Devil," published by PANGEA and available on the Kindle and in paperback. bit.ly/LittleDevil.

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SELECTED BOOK CREDITS for BARBARA BROOKS WALLACE

THE CLAUDIA SERIES

CLAUDIA – Follett, 1969 – Scholastic Paperback and Book Club – German translation – Recorded Books audiotape – NLAPW Juvenile Book Award, 1970 – International Youth Library The Best of The Best, 1975.
“Eleven-year-old angst treated with humor and insight.” Kirkus Reviews

HELLO, CLAUDIA! – Follett, 1982 – Turned over by Follett to Modern Curriculum Press, where it was re-issued in hardback and paperback editions – Recorded Books audiotape.

CLAUDIA AND DUFFY – Follett, 1982 - Turned over by Follett to Modern Curriculum Press, where it was re-issued in hardback and paperback editions – Recorded Books audiotape.

“The simple story premises are bolstered by Wallace’s easy way with dialogue and sure instinct for capturing kids’ personalities. There is a Cleary-like ingenuousness to the stories.” ALA Booklist

“The books (HELLO CLAUDIA! And CLAUDIA AND DUFFY) capture the details of fourth- and sixth-grade life...Claudia and Duffy are fully realized characters who sound like the kids next door.” School Library Journal

ANDREW THE BIG DEAL – Follett, 1970 – My Weekly Reader Book Club – German and Spanish translations.

“Quipping his way through longish, rueful memoirs, Andrew delivers his ‘crummy old self’ with a spunk and a fluency that show what a wise kind of guy he is at twelve.” Kirkus Reviews

VICTORIA – Follett, 1973 – Dell Yearling paperback – German translation.

“A perceptive story, adroitly written...perhaps not since Harriet (the Spy) has there been a young heroine so self-centered, so complex, and so touching.” Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

THE MISS SWITCH SERIES

THE TROUBLE WITH MISS SWITCH – Abingdon, 1971 – Archway Paperback – ABC-TV Weekend Special – Recorded Books audiotape – Reissued by Aladdin Paperback, 2002.

MISS SWITCH TO THE RESCUE – Abingdon, 1981 – Archway Paperback - ABC-TV Weekend Special – Recorded Books audiotape – Reissued by Aladdin Paperback, 2002.

“Miss Switch, the witch with attributes like Mary Poppins, enthralled readers in THE TROUBLE WITH MISS SWITCH. She returns in Wallace’s fast, suspenseful and funny sequel...The escapades are dashing described by Rupert right up to the daffy end, with skirmished by the opponents on broomstick and on the decks of the Bide-A-Wee.” Publisher’s Weekly

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MISS SWITCH ONLINE – Atheneum, 2002 – Aladdin Paperback (2003) – Recorded Books audiotope (2003).

CAN DO, MISSY CHARLIE – Follett, 1974 – Junior Literary guild selection.

“The subtly changing, painful, joyful, maturing relationship between sisters of eleven and thirteen, told with humor and perception, and set against the unusual background, knowledgeably drawn, of an American business community in China during the 1930’s.”

Junior Literary Guild

THE SECRET SUMMER OF L.E.B. – Follett, 1974 – Dell Yearling Paperback – NLAPW Juvenile Book Award, 1973.

“The situation of a child who is a member of an elite social group but dubious about its values, and a situation of the child who discovers that a social pariah can become a friend...are combined quite deftly and perceptively.” School Library Journal

JULIA AND THE THIRD BAD THING – Follett, 1975. International Youth Library Choice Books of 1975.

“With its simple, leisurely plot and emphasis on the love that unifies and strengthens a poor family, this will appeal to many young readers.” School Library Journal

PALMER PATCH – Follett, 1976.

“For children who love animals, this has a sure appeal...the dialogue is brisk and funny.” Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

THE HAWKINS SERIES

HAWKINS – Abingdon, 1977 – Junior Literary Guild selection – Scholastic Arrow Book Club – ABC-TV Weekend Special – Reprinted by Peter Smith.

“This is just the sort of in-and-out-of-trouble slapstick humor beloved by middle graders.” Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

THE CONTEST KID STRIKES AGAIN – Abingdon, 1980 – ABC-TV Weekend Special.

“Fun on its own, this sequel to HAWKINS is all the better in conjunction with the earlier book.” School Library Journal

HAWKINS AND THE SOCCER SOLUTION – Abingdon, 1981.

“Wallace’s light touch is sure; dialogue flows naturally, and the humor is never strained. Her kids are winners in spirit, and it’s gratifying to see their problems neatly solved.”

ALA Booklist

PEPPERMINTS IN THE PARLOR – Atheneum, 1980 – Aladdin Paperback – Listening Library audiotope (read by Angela Lansbury) – THE NEW YORKER Christmas List, 1980 - William Allen White Award, 1983.

“Wallace evokes a sinister atmosphere that builds ominously with the pace and created a gothic-style story that shimmers with tension – and defies putting down.” ALA Booklist

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THE BARREL IN THE BASEMENT – Atheneum, 1985 – Junior Literary Guild selection – Aladdin Paperback.

“These endearing creatures, their habits of diet and speech, their pastimes of dancing and music are fully developed...readers may hope to hear further exploits of these newest denizens of Faerie.” The Hornbook Magazine

ARGYLE – Abingdon, 1987 – Boyds Mill Press, 1992. Re-issued, 2004

“The book has the brevity, simple style, and layered meanings of the classic fables.” School Library Journal (starred review)

PERFECT ACRES – Atheneum, 1988

“The book’s intriguing beginning will capture readers’ imaginations, and the extended fantasy elements should also appeal.” ALA Booklist

THE TWIN IN THE TAVERN – Atheneum, 1993 – Junior Library Guild selection – Book of the Month Club – Aladdin Paperback – Recorded Books audiotope – Booklist Editor’s Choice Book, 1993 – Scholastic Book Fair – Mystery Writers of America EDGAR Award for best juvenile mystery, 1994.

“A worthy successor to PEPPERMINTS IN THE PARLOR, filled with orphans, musty passage, mysterious relatives, and despicable villains...With a fine hand for Gothic embroidery and a nifty surprise conclusion that ties up all the loose ends, Wallace has delivered another very satisfying read.” School Library Journal (starred review)

COUSINS IN THE CASTLE – Atheneum, 1996 – Junior Library Guild selection – Aladdin Paperback – Recorded Books audiotope – Mystery Writers of America EDGAR Award nominee, 1997.

“The plot twists and turns at an alarming rate in this story of dastardly crimes and form friendships, and that’s exactly what makes it so much fun...Written in a lightly Dickensian style, this peach of a book will make an excellent read-aloud. But be prepared for shouts of, ‘One more chapter!’” ALA Booklist (starred review)

SPARROWS IN THE SCULLERY – Atheneum, 1997 – Junior Library Guild selection – Aladdin Paperback – Korean translation - Recorded Books audiotope – Mystery Writers of America EDGAR Award for best juvenile mystery, 1998.

“This is a suspenseful, nicely rendered piece of historical fiction. Wallace’s language is evocative and consistent, her sense of place is startlingly vivid, and her orphans deserve their own musical. Just booktalk the scene where Colley is tossed into the Hole and watch SPARROWS fly off the shelves.” Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

GHOSTS IN THE GALLERY – Atheneum, 2000 – Junior Library Guild selection – Scholastic Book Club – Aladdin Paperback – Mystery Writers of America EDGAR Award nominee, 2001.

“Descriptions of clothing and furnishings, as well as the minutia of daily life, draw the reader a picture of time and place atmosphere that is nearly perfect. Sure to be a hit.” Kirkus Reviews

“Guaranteed thrills and chills.” The Horn Book

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SECRET IN ST. SOMETHING – Atheneum, 2001 – Junior Library Guild selection – My Weekly Reader Book Club - Aladdin Paperback – William Allen White Children’s Book Award master list 2004 - ALA Booklist Top Ten Mysteries for Youth, 2001-2002.

“Fans of Wallace’s earlier novels will be lining up to read her latest mystery-adventure set in the dangerous streets and bleak tenements of late-nineteenth-century New York. It has all the elements they’ve come to expect from the Edgar Allan Poe award-winning author: a plucky main character who is repeatedly thrust into dangerous situations, cliff-hanging chapters, vicious enemies, and a period setting so well described readers will be able to smell the dank hallways and dirty streets.” ALA Booklist

THE PERILS OF PEPPERMINTS – Atheneum, 2003 - (Sequel to PEPPERMINTS IN THE PARLOR)- Recorded Books audiotape – Aladdin Paperback

“All the delicious gothic details are here: the evil headmistress with her vicious dog, the screeching cook, the gruel, and the horrid cupboard where our young orphan heroine is sent for punishment. All is not as it seems and it is the delightful task of the reader – and Emily – to sort out the details. Though this book stands on its own, it will likely send readers back to the first volume for further elucidation and adventure. Good fun.” Kirkus Reviews



Barbara Brooks Wallace spends time with a couple of fans and offers up her autograph.

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DIARY OF A LITTLE DEVIL – PANGEA, 2012 – Paperback and Kindle Editions

“Barbara Brooks Wallace’s DIARY OF A LITTLE DEVIL is a good example of a story that balances its narrator’s voice between positive and negative poles, encouraging late child and early teen readers to follow her main character, Andy Lillibeth, through her own challenges and observations.” Dave Paltin, PhD, Psychologist, Child Development Institute, Parenting Today

“Like any book of excellence, DIARY OF A LITTLE DEVIL shows the psychological changes in - and maturation of - a recognizable character, with whom children and adults will quickly identify: a classic Bildungsroman.” Mathias Hochwalt, German Scholar



American writer, Bobbie Wallace and sister Connie, along with Mum, riding a rickshaw in China, where she was born.



Bobbie Wallace visits a classroom, reads from her books and answers questions.



Bobbie at work on her next book: another installment in the MISS SWITCH SERIES, slated for publication by PANGEA in Summer 2012.