

Ballad of the Rag Man

Written by *Cynthia Blomquist Gustavson*
Illustrated by *Kristina Tasic*



In *Ballad of the Rag Man*, written entirely in rhyming verse, the Rag Man, clothed in beautiful rags, collects cast-off items that others don't find valuable, and he collects them in heaps outside his home, walking through the streets of his little town with a cart. Nothing escapes his attention. To him, nothing is junk. A little girl watches the Rag Man from a distance as he takes her old, cast-off teddy bear, and she follows him to his mysterious shop, and wonders what will happen with her well-worn toy. Much to her surprise, the Rag Man repairs her teddy bear, and brings it back to her . . .

The colorful, deep and remarkable artwork in this collection is both real and imaginative – children will step into another world, but still root themselves firmly on the ground. They will, like the little girl, be watching the Rag Man. And they will learn an important lesson about judging others before they get to know them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

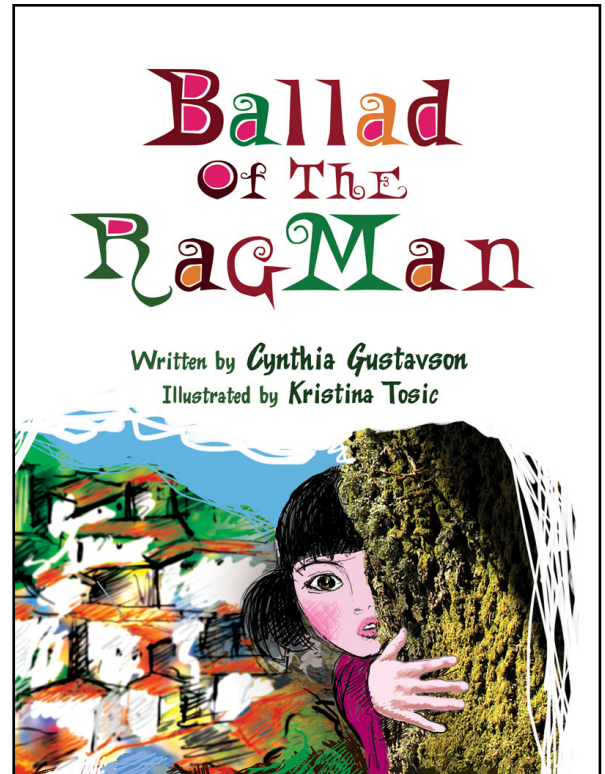
Cynthia Blomquist Gustavson is the award-winning author of five poetry collections and several workbooks for therapists, and has been published in numerous journals. She has a family therapy practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she resides with her husband of 40 years, a pediatrician who all too frequently takes care of neglected children. She was educated at Gustavus Adolphus College, Boston University, Louisiana State University, United Seminary of the Twin Cities, and Oklahoma State University, and has Taught at Northeastern State University in Tallequah, Oklahoma, and Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana.

MARKETING CAMPAIGN

- Rag Man Project to help the forgotten and unnoticed in society
- Rag Man events in bookstores, libraries, schools, etc., around the country
- YouTube contest for inspiring stories about outcasts in society
- Social Media/Ning promotion
- Marketing campaign to print, radio and television media

THE RAG MAN PROJECT

This book supports the Rag Man Project. The Rag Man Project brings college students and young adults into bookstores, libraries, schools, and hospitals, among other places, to teach children about those in society who might be different, whether they have disabilities, they are homeless, or they simply don't act like everyone else.



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