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## REVIEW: The Messy Monkey Tea Party

Tracy Walker

*Dawson County Public Library*

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illustrations in this book are very sweet, and, in true picture book fashion, tell much more of the story than is explicit in the text. The characters and the landscape show an Asian influence, which makes this book particularly appealing to librarians seeking to include more cultural diversity in their collections. As it ably explores the theme of helping others, *Elephant on My Roof* would also be a useful book for school librarians seeking to support character education. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Leslie R. G. Bullington**  
Augusta, Georgia

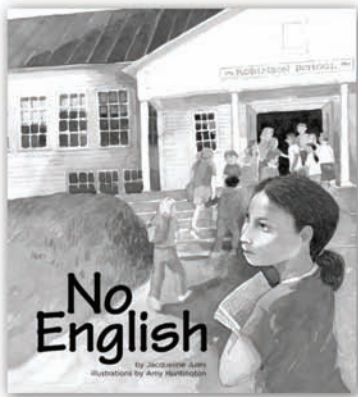
**The Messy Monkey Tea Party** by Cheri Bivin Deich, Illustrated by Christina Genth (Red Cygnet Press, 2007; ISBN: 978-1-60108-006-6, \$15.95).



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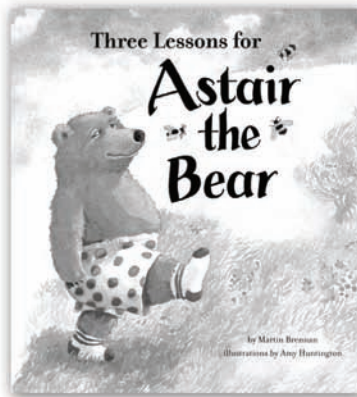
to be published. Savannah College of Art and Design graduate and illustrator Christina Genth makes her children's book debut with *The Messy Monkey Tea Party*. Genth's vibrant watercolor illustrations, coupled with first-time author Cheri Bivin Deich's whimsical verse, create a world where stuffed animals take on a life of their own. The opening illustration of a little girl's bedroom gives the reader gentle hints of what lies ahead when the heroine decides to throw a zoo animal tea party. Stuffed animals become – among other things – mire-lounging hippos, a shy ostrich and a band of mischievous monkeys, which all help the little girl's imagination run wild until it's time to clean up. "I pulled the ostrich's head from out of the sand, And sent him a packin' with the five-monkey band," our heroine tells us. After sweeping up sand and getting rid of some pesky alligators, the little girl is finally ready for bed and a well-deserved rest after a runaway tea party. And this is one tea party that lets the reader's imagination run a little wild, too. Recommended for most children's collections. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Tracy Walker**  
Dawson County Public Library



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