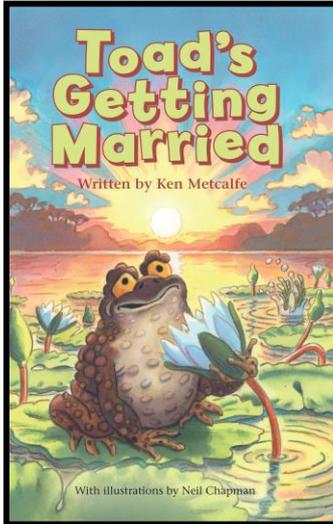


MEREO NEW BOOK: PRESS RELEASE
TOAD'S GETTING MARRIED
PUBLICATION DATE: 12 September 2016



TOAD'S GETTING MARRIED

A heart-warming adventure for readers of all ages

By Ken Metcalfe

Meet Toad. His real name is Syd Toad, but he hates his first name and never, ever uses it. So everyone in the part of Africa where he lives just calls him Toad

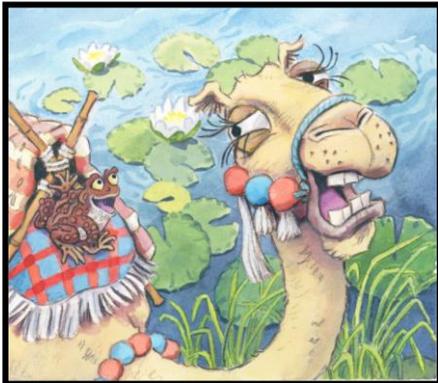


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www.mereobooks.com Mereo books are available through: Amazon.co.uk & other internet booksellers and all good bookshops (Also available as an ebook)

From Beatrix Potter's whimsical creatures to Judith Kerr's fabulous Tiger That Came to Tea, stories about talking animals have enchanted children for generations. Now Toad joins their number, and he invites you to accompany him on a thrilling African adventure...



Toad is about to get married, but his plans are thrown into disarray when he is snatched from the lake where he lives and taken far away. With the help of his new found camel friends and their keepers Toad must attempt to get back to Wellybelly Lake in time to say 'I do.' But his journey is a dangerous one. Can Toad hop to it and defeat hungry snakes and crocodiles and cruel humans? Will his leap of faith pay off? And will his epic trip make him a little less pompous and a more tolerant of those whose thinking might be a little slower than his own? With illustrations by Neil Chapman, this is a story that charms, thrills and amuses in equal measure.

How Toad began...

Having worked all his life in a family business supplying and repairing welding equipment, Ken Metcalfe retired early and moved to Cornwall. Recalling the stories he used to make up for his children when they were little, with time on his hands he found himself inventing new tales.

"I had attempted to write books when I was much younger, but because I was so busy I found it impossible; all my energies went into helping raise four young children and running a business. But I have always had stories running around in my head and wished I had written down some of the plots. I thought the opportunity to write had passed me by, but occasionally when going to sleep at night I would nod off into one of my stories and then wake with it vividly and fully-formed in my head. 'Toad' was a story that continued to develop in my head as the day went on, so this time I decided to write it down. I didn't stop writing for three months!"

Please see over for media opportunities and further information about the author >>>>

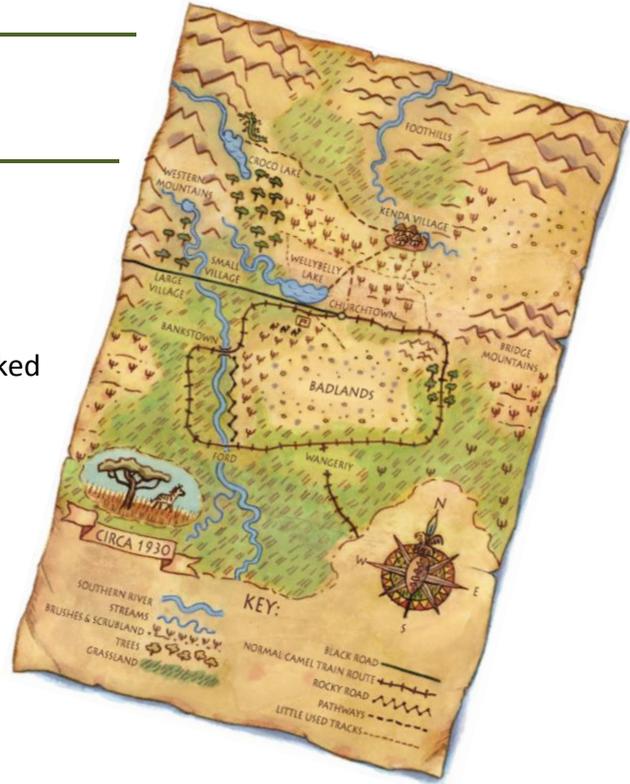
MEREO PRESS RELEASE CONTINUED

TOAD'S GETTING MARRIED



About the author:

Ken Metcalfe was born in Audenshaw, Manchester. Marrying in 1968, he worked all his life in the family engineering business (Droylsden). Taking early retirement he moved to Cornwall in 2000 where he now enjoys writing, telling stories to his grandchildren and the occasional round of golf.



Media opportunities:

Extracts/serialisation. The author is available for interviews

UK Local Interest:

Ken Metcalfe is based in **Cornwall**. He was born in **Audenshaw, Manchester** and began married life in **Ashton-Under-Lyne**. He also lived for a time in **Hyde, Cheshire**.

Feature suggestions:

- **Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication.** What stories do your readers/listeners remember being told as children?
- **Talking animals in literature date back hundreds of years.** Which do your readers/listeners recall most readily and why?
- **Reading to children is proven to be the most effective way to encourage literacy.** Is the traditional bedtime story still being widely told, or is 'screen time' taking over?
- **Toad's experiences change his attitudes.** How important is morality in children's stories?
- **Achieving a long-held dream in retirement:** The author was a grandfather before he realised his ambition to write. Is it ever too late to chase an ambition? What experiences have you readers/listeners had when it comes to reaching for, or realising, their goals?



To request a review copy of either book, further information or to be put in touch with the author, please contact **Vicky Edwards** vicky@ellydonovan.co.uk tel: 0777 189 0854 www.ellydonovan.co.uk