



## Meeting Miss 405

A novel for young readers  
by Lois Peterson

Scheduled for fall 2008 publication by Orca Book Publishers in their Young Reader series (chapter books for ages 8-11). ISBN 978-1-55469-015-2.

Life is hard enough for nine-year-old Tansy with her mom away indefinitely and her dad making a mess of things at home. Then her dad sends her down the hall to a wrinkly old babysitter named Miss Stella. She doesn't even own a TV. Or a computer. Or a car. She eats brown spaghetti and Bird's custard. What kind of a babysitter is she?

*Sardines and wine gums **do not** go together. But I eat them all, and I drink the milk. Then I sit still for a bit until the sick feeling goes. When I tell Dad what I had for snack, he will not let Miss Stella babysit me any more.*

This novel touches on the topics of bullying, nut allergies, mindfulness and a child's painful separation from her mother. But at its heart is the story of resilient Tansy whose growing confidence in new skills help her learn to worry about only one thing at a time, and still have a good time with friends, family, and her new babysitter as she waits for mother to recover and for life to return to normal.

*I read Meeting Miss 405 with great pleasure. Lois Peterson handles important issues, like bullying, and delicate family matters, like depression, with deft grace, good humour and just enough gravity.*

*Tansy is a charmer. And I predict that the Miss 405 of the title (aka Miss Stella) will start a new boom of interest in calligraphy! This is a lovely, sad, and hopeful story, very well told.*

**Bill Richardson**, CBC broadcaster and author of *After Hamelin* and *The Bachelor Brothers Bed and Breakfast*

**Author bio:** Lois Peterson recently retired from Surrey Public Library where she worked for thirty years. During that time she spent seven years in children's services, presenting story times and programs, and helping children, parents and teachers select suitable recreational and educational materials.

A popular writing instructor and storyteller, she has designed and presented workshops and presentations for children, adults, prison inmates, seniors, small businesses and non profits.

**\*Fees:** \$250 per presentation / negotiable discounts available for multiple presentations for one library system/school district. *\*Plus expenses for presentations beyond the Fraser Valley area, and/or for multiple presentations on one day (meals).*

**To book a presentation, contact:**

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### **A note to teachers and parents:**

*I do use wine gums (and the occasional sardine!) in presentations when I am sharing **Meeting Miss 405** with children in schools and libraries. But wine gums do not— and never have since they were first produced in 1909 by Maynard's of England—contain wine.*



Lois Peterson tells King John's Christmas at SPL's Fireside Storytelling, Dec 2007  
Photo courtesy NOW Newspaper