

## Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site

By Sherri Duskey Rinker

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**Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site** By Sherri Duskey Rinker

As the sun sets behind the big construction site, all the hardworking trucks get ready to say goodnight. One by one, Crane Truck, Cement Mixer, Dump Truck, Bulldozer, and Excavator finish their work and lie down to rest—so they'll be ready for another day of rough and tough construction play! With irresistible artwork by best-selling illustrator Tom Lichtenheld and sweet, rhyming text, this book will have truck lovers of all ages begging for more. Plus, this is a fixed-format version of the book, which looks nearly identical to the print version.

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## Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site By Sherri Duskey Rinker Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

#### **Amazon.com Exclusive Essay: *From the Slush Pile to #1: Realizing My Vision. Or Not.***

*First-time author Sherri Duskey Rinker's Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site steadily climbed up the New York Times' Bestseller list throughout 2011, reaching #1 on January 29th, 2012. Here she shares the early inspiration that inspired a career in design, and how another artist brought her vision to life.*

I grew up loving picture books.

I can still hear my grandmother's voice over the sound of the pages turning, the old wind-up Westclox alarm clock ticking away and the sound of traffic rolling down Howard Street. I remember the smell of books mingling with the smell of freshly laundered sheets.

Virginia Lee Burton's *The Little House* was my favorite, and I obsessed over the whimsically sweet illustrations of that little pink house happily sitting upon a hill covered in daisies.

Inspired, I wanted to be an artist. I also wanted to be a poet, an art teacher, and a journalist. The ping-pong ball of art vs. words ended with a career as a graphic designer. It was a perfect fit: I took pictures and words and put them together in a pretty way.

I met an artist, a photographer. He also had grown up with Virginia Burton: *Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel*. It was a sign. So I married him. We had two boys and two good excuses for buying dozens (and dozens) of picture books.

Inspired by my youngest son's tireless (literally!) obsession with trucks, I wrote *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site* in stolen moments during the workday and late at night, after the boys were tucked in. And with the words emerged a vision (dare I say "obsession") for how the book and my trucks would look.

I could see it so clearly: realistic illustrations of trucks superimposed with facial expressions to convey the mood and create the characters. Strong, yet simple graphic elements to create the setting. A bit of realism. A bit of collage. A bit of a grunge to compliment the dirty work of the trucks. I included the concept illustration with my manuscript and sent it, unsolicited, to Chronicle Books.

When my editor contacted me, three months after I'd sent the manuscript, she was friendly, but also to-the-point: They loved the manuscript (!), and hated (though she used a nicer word) the illustration concept.

Hmm...

One of the reasons that Chronicle was the first (and ultimately only) publisher on my list was that I LOVE their picture books. I appreciate their beauty and high production values. So, I had a choice here: trust, or walk away. I chose trust--with a big dash of fear.

My editor asked if I had any ideas for illustrators. I sent her a dozen names and online portfolios. I'm pretty certain she ignored me. And, they chose Tom Lichtenheld. (Who?)

When I told my editor that I'd never heard of Tom, she quickly emailed a few examples. The first was from Tom's NYT best-selling book, *Duck! Rabbit!* I was stunned to see bold, simple shapes and thickly-outlined illustrations. I stared blankly at the screen, feeling my heart sink.

Could this guy even draw a truck?

I spent the next couple of months intently focused on the process of editing and developing the final manuscript. But it was always there, in the back of my mind: What would the book look like? What had I given up?

One evening I received an excited email from my editor with Tom's first pencil sketch attached.

I wrote back: "I'm scared. I'll pour a glass of wine and then look at it."

I held my breath and double-clicked. And there it was: classic, timeless and tender, with just a touch of whimsy. My crane truck, a distant, younger cousin to Mike Mulligan, perhaps? My heart melted. I was won over.

So there it was: nothing like I imagined. But it was better. I've come to learn that some of the best things in life--like marriage and motherhood--are like that.

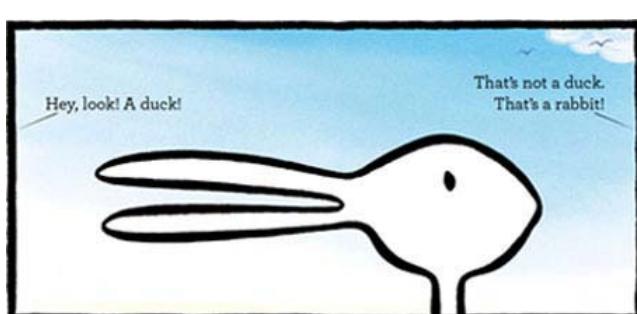
And I could almost feel Mrs. Burton smiling down.



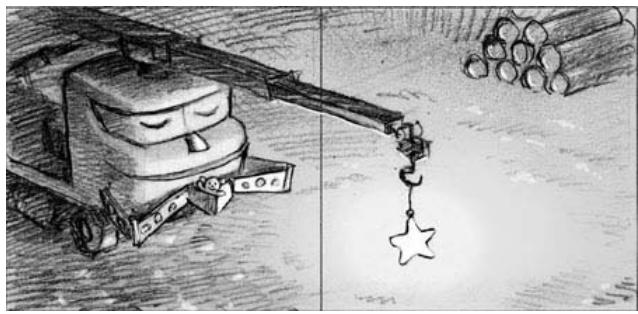
Virginia Lee Burton's *The Little House*

Virginia Lee Burton's *Mike Mulligan's steam shovel*

Rinker's original vision for *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*



Illustrator Tom Lichtenheld's *Duck! Rabbit!*



Lichtenheld's first sketch of *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*

## Review

"Truck-loving kids will respond to this take on settling down to sleep." - The Horn Book Guide

"This book is a treasure." - Testy Yet Trying blog

"Rinker's rhythmic verse reinforces the vehicles' love of their work (Dump Truck "moves the dirt/ from place to place,/ Then dumps it with a happy face") and, like Lichtenheld's art, deftly balances the story's boisterous and drowsy elements. Truck lovers will happily nod off to the strains of this read-aloud." - Publishers Weekly

"Perfect for sleepers who are more fascinated by the motorized and muddy than by the soft and fluffy. A certain subset of parents and grandparents will see this book and shout, "At last!" - Chicago Tribune

"Lichtenheld's detailed and textured illustrations, rendered in wax oil pastels on vellum paper, perfectly complement the fun, rhyming text, cleverly personifying each truck with expressive eyes and amusing details. ...Recommended for vehicle- and bedtime-themed storytimes, this is sure to be a hit with truck-loving preschoolers." - School Library Journal, starred review

"If your little reader is mad for trucks, you must get this gem of a book!" -SweetOnBooks.com

"Gentle rhymes and soft-colored pictures of favorite trucks are the perfect way to lull any child into sweet dreams." - Bookmarkable blog,

"For all those youngsters who feel coziest with a cement mixer jammed into an armpit and a dump truck wedged at their feet, Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site might be the best bedtime book ever." - Hampton Roads

"An ideal bedtime book for all those truck-loving toddlers and preschoolers! ...If there's a truck fan in your family, this is a great pick... Drive it to the top of your pile of story time truck reads as well." - Waking Brain Cells blog

"A great read-aloud story as you are settling your child in for the night." -About.com

"A delightful debut." - The New York Times

" A standout picture book, especially for those who like wheels with their dreams" - Booklist, starred review

#### About the Author

Sherri Rinker is a graphic designer and the mother of a three-year-old truck aficionado. She lives in Chicago. This is her first book.

Tom Lichtenheld is a best-selling children's book illustrator and author. His books include E-emergency, Duck!Rabbit!, Shark vs. Train, and What Are You So Grumpy About?.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Gerald Sosa:

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the concept Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site suitable to you? The particular book was written by renowned writer in this era. Often the book untitled Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Siteis one of several books this everyone read now. This specific book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimension that you ever know before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this publication. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world in this book.

**Rosalind Bowlin:**

The e-book untitled Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site is the e-book that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to a person. The language that publisher use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, and so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

**Alex Miller:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site it is quite good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

**Jeffrey Price:**

Precisely why? Because this Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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