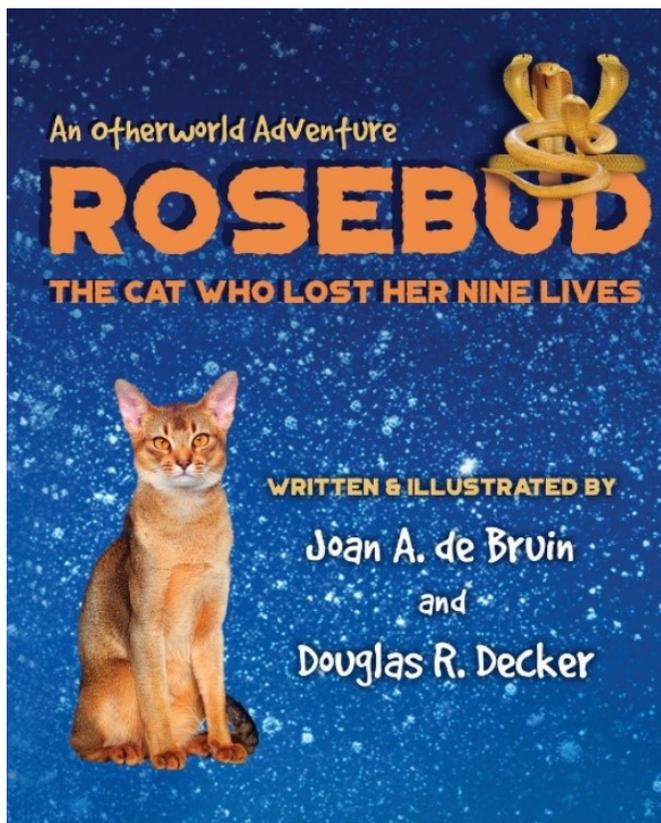


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For Immediate Release



An allegorical fantasy for parents and children coping with the pervasive problems of bullying

Rosebud is a large, two-year-old reddish-brown bully who beats up smaller cats and recklessly squanders her nine lives. To replenish her lost lives, she must travel with her younger siblings on “the path only cats know” to the mythical Otherworld and return stolen treasure to the Cat Lady of the East. Rosebud’s encounters with bullies and their victims evokes an empathy that transforms her journey into a quest for self-understanding and redemption.

Written and illustrated by Joan A. De Bruin and Douglas R. Decker, *Rosebud: The Cat Who Lost Her Nine Lives* is a fantasy inspired by Joseph Campbell’s archetypal mythic structure and Grimm’s “learning” fairy tales. The story is illustrated with 40 exhibition quality original collages with an overlay of detailed pencil drawings.

“Doug and I wrote our book because we wanted to help young children and their parents confront and resolve the problems of bullying,” says author/illustrator Joan de Bruin, a resident of Alhambra, CA. “Rosebud’s encounters with bullies and their victims leads to an awareness of the pain bullying inflicts on others — an awareness that in turn sparks empathy, a known cure for bullying. Her journey to the Otherworld thus becomes a heroic quest for self-understanding and repentance. Hopefully, the young children who read our book will share in Rosebud’s discovery.

The 2nd edition of *Rosebud: The Cat Who Lost Her Nine Lives* will be published by Mediacs on June 15, 2020, with full bleed color images in a 6 x 9-inch format. “We decided to republish *Rosebud* because Joan and Doug’s beautifully-written and illustrated fantasy has proven to be a wonderfully effective tool for families dealing with the pervasive problem of childhood bullying” says Jim Bergman, Mediacs’ co-founder and president. “Although parents and educators are certainly more aware of bullying today than ever before, bullying still afflicts an estimated 28 percent of 6th-to-12th grade children.”



Title: Rosebud: The Cat Who Lost Her Nine Lives
Publication Date (2nd Ed.): June 15, 2020
ISBN: 978-0-999464-7-6
Trim: 6 x 9
Page Count: 144 pages
Price: \$14.95 (paperback); \$9.95 (eBook)

REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS

In this children's fantasy by author/illustrators de Bruin (*Losing David*, 2018, etc.) and Decker, an arrogant cat goes on a journey of self-discovery, hoping to regain her lost nine lives.

Feline narrator Rosebud is a reckless bully who has used up all of her lives by her second birthday. Her only hope is to seek out the Cat Lady Goddess and ask that they be restored. The Goddess agrees to do so only if Rosebud finds and recovers some precious treasures that were stolen by the Supreme Golden Cobra Empress. This means a trip to an action-packed "Otherworld." With a benign, winged dog as her guide, Rosebud, her sisters, and brother embark on a perilous odyssey, variously threatened and befriended by the authors' unusual pantheon of strange beings--among them, a giant, fire-spouting, prayer-offering mantis; and a tusked ogre with a sentient rowboat. Along the way, Rosebud (and readers) receives didactic character-building lessons: An ugly toad is poisoning the Otherworld with his Rumor Mill, churning out and posting gossip; a kindly Bigfoot-type character points out that the world would be boring if everyone was alike ("We've been given the perfect bodies to suit who we are and what we need."); Rosebud discovers she can feel empathy and love and learns not to "judge someone...because they remind you of someone who did something bad to you."

A work of juvenile fiction with heavy-handed messaging mitigated by intriguing artwork and imaginative modern and mythological elements.

-Kirkus Review

This is a mystical journey overflowing with suspenseful surprises taken by Rosebud to retrieve her nine lives already lost by her way-too-adventuresome risks. The authors' use of language is whimsically enchanting. Through the authors mythical-literal story Rosebud's dream-like escapade is realized through masterfully detailed illustrations that remind one of the most esteemed storybooks of yesteryear. Rosebud is a gripping fantasy

--Carol Soucek King, MFA, PhD

Fresh and inventive, the fantastic places, fabulous creatures, and beautiful illustrations transport the reader into an exciting story that is an authentic page turner. All ages will want to go on Rosebud's trip to the Otherworld.

--Carol Bishop, Ph.D, artist & author

Author de Bruin weaves a complex psycho-spiritual environment full of mythical animal-like and other-worldly characters synthesized to fit a heroine's journey of the soul. Decker's unique artistry mingles and playfully transports Bruin's writing style, further bringing to life the essence of mythical realms and the imaginal characters.

Narandja Eagleson, Voice Dialogue Facilitator



Joan A. de Bruin and Douglas R. Decker

Joan A. de Bruin is the former Director of the Los Angeles Craft & Folk Art Museum, Founder of Creative Art Bridges, fiction writer, studio artist and art educator. She was recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Dept. for the creation and implementation of the "Living Roots" Folk and Traditional Arts Conference.

Ms. de Bruin's art has been exhibited at the Downey Museum of Art, Charles Bowers Museum of Art, California State University, Long Beach, and in the California Governor's offices. She has worked with New York artist Red Grooms on his Egyptian sculpto-pictorama, and on educational programs with the artists Christo, Luis Jimenez and David Hockney.

Douglas R. Decker is a multi-talented artiste, Legendary Recording Engineer/Producer, musician, composer and President of Ivasi, an interactive video method for teaching classical music. He is also a student of world belief systems and mythology.

Joan A. de Bruin's other two published books are *Losing David: a Heroine's Journey*, a fantasy about a girl whose grief over the loss of her younger brother sends her on a heroine's quest into a magically exciting world, and *Yoda: the Daring, Dauntless, Darling Cat*, a story about a loving cat with a learning disorder. Both are available in paperback and electronic formats.

Currently, Joan is writing and illustrating *Clyde Upside-Down Pangborn: or the fall of a Hero*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Chip Cookies*, a duet of enchanting stories about fathers and sons. She is also working with Douglas R. Decker on *The Last of the Golden Dragons*, a mythical Otherworld fantasy from another time and space.

For more information about Joan de Bruin, please visit her [Author's Page](#). She and Douglas R. Decker are available for telephone and video interviews and online bookstore readings.

Rosebud: The Cat Who Lost Her Nine Lives will be available in bookstores and online in both paperback and electronic formats. Educational and volume discounts are available by ordering directly from the publisher's website: (mediacs.com).

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