**Houston independent publisher celebrates second Kirkus star, “Best Indie” nod in advance of sophomore release**

January 2019, HOUSTON--In advance of its March publication, Houston-based independent press Drivel and Drool’s second Shakespeare book for young children has been named an Indie Best Book of the Month for March 2019 and received a designation of “exceptional merit” from *Kirkus Reviews*, an arbiter of quality in publishing since 1933.

*The Wild Waves Whist* uses text from Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* to weave a kid-friendly story of exploration and animals in what *Kirkus Reviews* calls a “triumph of poetry and approachability.” The starred review highlights “beautifully lyrical” words and a “gorgeous paradise” of a setting, while noting the joyful familiarity of the two young protagonists’ explorations.

Starred reviews are reserved for “books of exceptional merit,” the top tier of all books reviewed by Kirkus. There are 4-6 Indie Best Books chosen for each month of the publication. Kirkus evaluates more than 10,000 books a year, including traditionally published books in all genres and offerings from small presses.

*The Wild Waves Whist* is the second Shakespeare-for-babies book published by Drivel and Drool, following 2017’s *Behowl the Moon*, which excerpted text from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Kirkus placed *Behowl the Moon* on the end-of-year Best Indie Books of 2017 list. The debut title also earned praise from fellow industry stalwart *Publishers Weekly* and a Parent’s Choice Foundation Recommended designation.

Both *The Wild Waves Whist* and *Behowl the Moon* were wholly funded by Kickstarter campaigns, attracting nearly 700 pledges and collecting more than $30,000 in total to bring the concepts to life.

Shakespeare scholar Lindsey Row-Heyveld praises the way both books bring the beauty of the playwright’s work to both toddlers and their parents. "Shakespeare’s poetry has stood the test of time, enduring for over 400 years. *The Wild Waves Whist* stands the test of toddlers: You’ll still delight in its musicality and magic after a thousand readings. "

*The Wild Waves Whist* will be published in March 2019 and sells for $9.99. It is available for preorder at most bookstores and at drivelanddrool.com.

**BOOK:**

**The Wild Waves Whist**

Drivel and Drool 2019

$9.99

ISBN 0-9984397-3-8

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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