

HACKMATAACK

2006

Vicki Grant

author of
The Puppet Wrangler

Vicki always knew she wanted to be a writer. It just took her a while to figure out what type of writer she wanted to be.

After university (NSCAD, Dalhousie and Laval), she worked as an advertising copywriter in Toronto. It was a lot of fun and a good training ground for other styles of writing. She had to get used to deadlines, criticism and working within hard-and-fast parameters. The process, in other words, was interesting. The problem was with the product. She didn't want to spend the rest of her life selling beer, pop or new, X-tra-strength Toity-bol Flush.

Vicki fell into television scriptwriting after moving home to Halifax. She attended a "Writing for Children's TV" workshop and realized how much the process was like advertising. In television too, a writer has to produce to a set format for a set target audience by a set time. Vicki used her advertising skills to get script work on productions such as *Theodore Tugboat*, *Big Comfy Couch* and *Sesame Park*. She then created, wrote and co-produced a 65-episode pre-school comedy series for CBC called *Scoop and Doozie*. She won a Gemini in 2000 for her work on the show.

After a hectic seven years in television, Vicki decided to take some time off and write a novel. That's when she figured out what type of writer she wanted to be. She loved the freedom and non-collaborative nature of fiction writing and finished her first book in four very happy months.

She lives in Halifax with her husband and three children.



Selected Awards

The Puppet Wrangler, nominated for the Silver Birch Award, CLA Children's Book of the Year, Best Books of the Year OLA and Resource Links

Some Other Books by Vicki Grant

The Dreadful Truth about the Halifax Citadel, Formac, 2003

Dead End Job, Orca 2004

Quid Pro Quo, Orca 2005