

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Sabeth Ryan Albert, Publicity Manager, 212-206-5367 /
sabeth.albert@fsgee.com

MADLENKA'S DOG

by Peter Sís

Madlenka's Dog (Farrar, Straus and Giroux / Frances Foster Books/ April 2002 / \$17.00) by Peter Sís brings readers back to Madlenka's magical world of her city block. Sís first introduced readers to Madlenka as she made her way around her block, showing her multicultural neighbors her loose tooth, in *Madlenka* (October 2000). This time, Madlenka wants a dog, but her parents say "no," so she decides to let her imagination take over.

As she explores her city block with her imaginary dog in tow, Madlenka finds joy in the stories of her neighbors. Through the use of lift-up flaps, each of the neighbors that Madlenka meets and greets reminiscences about his or her own dog from childhood. With her friend Cleopatra at her side, Madlenka discovers a collective story of companionship and caring, through the eyes of her many neighbors. As *Booklist* declared in a starred review, *Madlenka's Dog* evokes "memories in the old and imagination in the young" in this "inspired choice for sharing."

Peter Sís is an internationally renowned illustrator and author. He was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in 1949 and soon after began his artistic career. While in kindergarten, Peter made his first picture book, which he stitched together himself with needle and thread. He then moved on to painting chairs, light switches, or just about anything he could get his paintbrush on in his family home. He later attended the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and the Royal College of Art in London, where he studied with Quentin Blake, the first Children's Laureate of the United Kingdom. Upon his arrival in the United States, Peter left behind the places of his youth and started searching for a new direction. He wrote to Maurice Sendak, and their correspondence eventually, and successfully, led him to New York City.

Although Peter was initially faced with rejection—he took his first picture book to almost twenty publishers—he continued undaunted. In the meantime, he started creating editorial illustrations for *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and many other magazines in the United States and abroad. He has published nearly a thousand drawings in *The New York Times Book Review*.

After seeing an elaborately decorated egg Peter created, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis contacted him, saying, “We will do books together.” She helped him bring to life the personal story about the city of Prague and its legends in *The Three Golden Keys*, the last book she edited for Doubleday before her death in 1994.

Today Peter Sís has more than twenty books to his credit, including *A Small Tall Tale from the Far Far North*, a *Boston Globe–Horn Book* Award Honor Book; *The Three Golden Keys*, a Society of Illustrators Silver Medal winner; the *Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei* and *Tibet Through the Red Box*, both Caldecott Honor Books—all inspired by traditions, legends, and meaningful events in his life.

Peter Sís lives in the New York City area with his wife, Terry, their daughter, Madeleine, and their son, Matej.

#

Madlenka’s Dog

by Peter Sís

April 2002

Ages 4-8

\$17.00

0-374-34699-2