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Muskoka artist illustrates book

A new children's book illustrated by local artist AJ Specht will be available in Muskoka this summer.

"It was probably the biggest challenge of my life," says Specht. "I learned a lot about commitment."

Specht illustrated the book *Jolo's Two Bedrooms*, which was written by Teresa de Grosbois and her two children Rae and Fiona Fox. The book is written to help children deal with divorce and separation. "It helps children to articulate difficult emotions," explains Specht.

She says that even though the author lives in Calgary they work well together communicating by e-mail and phone. "We are planning to do a lot of books together." Both are donating 50 per cent of their royalties to the Canadian Foundation of Youth Relations and Education that specializes in children's education programs in developing countries.



Photograph: Sandy Lockhart

AJ Specht illustrated her first children's book.

The book will be launched in July during Child Centered Divorce Month. It is available online and there are plans for more locations in the future. A book launch, arranged with the support of the Arts Council of Muskoka, is planned for July 2 at the new 6 Degrees studio on Manitoba Street in Bracebridge.