

Josephine Cameron Johnson

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Local Children’s Book Authors Collaborate to Celebrate Community, Books, and Dogs

Five Midcoast children’s book authors team up to celebrate the release of Josephine Cameron’s newest novel, *The Department of Lost Dogs*, and to raise awareness for a local pet rescue organization.

March 27, 2023 (BRUNSWICK, ME) – Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick will host a party at the Curtis Memorial Library on Saturday, April 15 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. to celebrate the release of Josephine Cameron’s latest novel, *The Department of Lost Dogs* (Macmillan/FSG Books for Young Readers). A panel of five local authors (Josephine Cameron, Charlotte Agell, Betty Culley, Deva Fagan, and Diane Magras) will discuss their favorite dogs in life and literature, followed by a Q&A and puppy slideshow from Brunswick’s Passion for Pets Rescue. The event is open to the public. More details at: josephinecameron.com.

In *The Department of Lost Dogs*, a stand-alone novel set in the same world as *A Dog-Friendly Town* (released in 2020), Josephine Cameron delivers a mystery full of canine actors, Houdini-inspired whodunits, and a reminder that puzzles are best solved with a little teamwork. The fictional dog-friendly community of Carmelito, CA provides a supportive foundation for the kid detectives and pups alike.

Cameron says she wanted to use her first in-person book launch in four years to celebrate her own community. “My last two books were released during the pandemic, so we had to celebrate online,” she says. “I feel incredibly grateful to live in Brunswick where we have a thriving, supportive independent bookstore like Gulf of Maine, and a welcoming, innovative library like Curtis Memorial. And we have so many amazing children’s book authors in this area! I’m excited to have the chance to chat with Betty, Charlotte, Deva, and Diane—who have written some of my favorite books for kids.”

Cameron also wanted to highlight and raise awareness for the work of a local organization, Passion for Pets Rescue. PPR is a non-profit, insured and state-licensed rescue, run by volunteers who describe themselves as “like-minded folks with big hearts.” PPR does not have a physical shelter—all of their rescue dogs are in foster homes in Maine or with their Southern and Midwestern partners.

Cameron says she heard about Passion for Pets when she met a newly-adopted pup who was out for a walk in her neighborhood. “I was immediately curious about what the dogs had been through, and the logistics of rescuing, fostering, and adopting them,” she says. “In my *Dog-Friendly* series, the theme is ‘Follow Your Curiosity,’ so I decided to invite PPR to do a Q&A at the book launch. I can’t wait to find out more, and of course, who doesn’t want to see a puppy slideshow?”

JOSEPHINE CAMERON is the author of *Not All Heroes*, a Junior Library Guild Gold Star Selection and a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year. Her critically-acclaimed debut, *Maybe a Mermaid*, was an Amazon Best Book of the Month, and her mystery novel, *A Dog-Friendly Town*, received three starred reviews and was a Parents magazine Storytime Pick.

PRAISE FOR *THE DEPARTMENT OF LOST DOGS* by Josephine Cameron; ISBN 978-0374389758 (Ages 8-12; Release date: 4/11/23)

"A tight time frame of less than a week, an observant first-person narrator, and a large cast of family members and suspects make for an entertaining whodunit perfect for animal lovers... A fun, fast-paced mystery." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"The hilarious whodunit works splendidly on its own, and fans of *A Dog-Friendly Town* (2020) will be thrilled to reunite with familiar characters from a different child’s perspective. Brisk pacing, interspersed podcast transcripts, and dog puns aplenty keep the proceedings compelling for younger readers. Supersleuths and dog lovers will lap up this clever caper." —*Booklist*

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