



The Pig  
&  
the Dumpling

by Bonnie Johnstone

illustrated by

Veselina Tomova

ADVANCE READING COPY



March 19/2024



# The Pig & the Dumpling

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Ignatius is a pig with a big appetite and very little patience. When someone tosses a fresh dumpling his way, he grabs it in mid-air and swallows. That dumpling is big and it is hot, and very quickly it is stuck—right in Ignatius’s throat!

Desperate for relief, the poor pig races through his little community to reach the cooling water of the ocean. And careening on his way to the sea, he has plenty of near misses, and a few collisions, with local village folk. How much trouble can one pig cause?

A playful story with a “you-can’t-catch-me” spirit that celebrates small rural communities, simple living, and silly pigs.

A former teacher and a craftsperson, BONNIE JOHNSTONE is originally from Quebec and now makes her home in Witless Bay, NL, the seaside community in this story. She lives with her husband on a small farm, where they have gardens and two sheep, but no pigs. *The Pig and the Dumpling* is loosely inspired by an anecdote Bonnie discovered when researching *Bygone Days of Witless Bay*, an award-winning community history which she compiled with Maureen Walsh, on behalf of the Witless Bay Heritage Committee. It is her first children's book.

Born in Sofia, Bulgaria, VESELINA TOMOVA graduated from Leipzig's School of Graphic Art and Book Design before moving to Newfoundland and Labrador. A graphic designer and award-winning artist, she has illustrated several books for Running the Goat, including *PB's Comet*, *Daphne's Bees*, and *The Wall & the Wind*, which she also wrote. Veselina divides her time between St. John's, Newfoundland, where she lives in a small house overlooking the harbour, and Rusalya, Bulgaria, a village chockful of memorable characters, where she tends her family's huge vegetable garden and enjoys the antics of Bucky the dog and Ginger the cat.

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#### KEY SELLING POINTS

- A playful tale of the unanticipated consequences of gobbling your food!
- The story features an endearing piggy whose adventures are happily resolved.
- The book offers a lively snapshot of a rural community by the sea long ago, with echoes of the story of the runaway gingerbread man.
- The book is illustrated by Veselina Tomova, an award-winning artist, who collaborated on *Daphne's Bees* (recipient of the Next Generation Indie Book Awards' Children's Educational Picture Book Award for 2022), and whose other work has often been longlisted and/or shortlisted for honours.
- Tomova's *The Wall & the Wind* was included in the Globe & Mail's top 100 books of 2020.

## **PROMOTIONAL PLANS**

- **Print advertising campaigns**
- **Extensive ARC distribution**
- **Extensive social media promotion**

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The Pig & the Dumpling



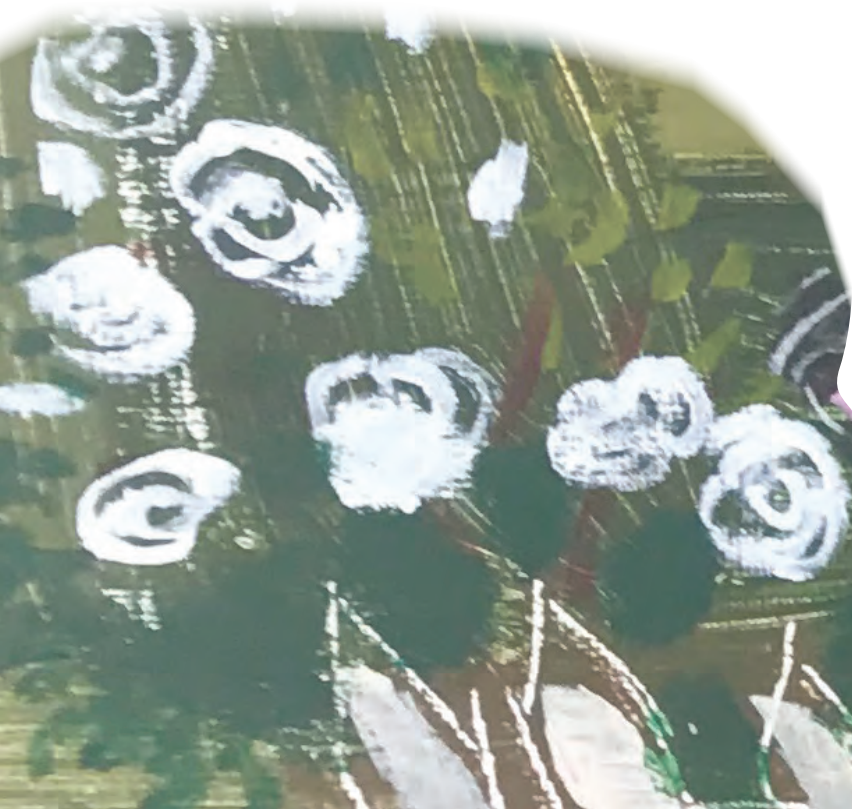


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**M**any years ago, in a small Newfoundland outpost, there was a beautiful church with a busy convent next door. And, one fine day, there happened to be three fishermen digging up the vegetable garden for the sisters.





After a hard morning's work, the three fishermen laid down their spades and washed up at the pump, looking forward to the lovely dinner the sisters had prepared for them.



How their mouths watered when they caught sight of the plates of steaming stew! And perched on top of each one was a piping hot dumpling!

With hearty appetites and high spirits, the men set to their meals, while next to them, in equally high spirits, were Ignatius, Tulip, and assorted piglets, impatiently awaiting the scraps bound to come their way.

And they didn't have long to wait, for it seems that Leo, one of the workers, was not fond of dumplings. So, without a thought, he flicked the offensive pat up, up, up into the air, towards the pigs.

With eager eyes, Ignatius spied it coming. In gleeful expectation, he opened his snout wide, wider, and wider still, to snare his prize.



But, my-oh-my, what a terrible surprise!

The scalding hot lump  
of gluey dough  
plopped down  
into his throat  
like  
a cork  
in  
a  
bottle.

Delight turned to horror as he gasped for air  
and relief from the burning.



In soundless terror, he threw himself wildly about his pen, until finally the old gate gave way. With the dim hope of cooling his throat in the icy cold ocean, Ignatius headed towards the twisty little path to the beach.



But, as luck would have it,  
he immediately came upon Gussie and  
Tommy struggling to untangle their kite,  
which was wedged in Father McGettigan's  
prized rose bush.

Oh oh, the boys were in trouble now,  
but Ignatius left them behind  
as he went galloping off,  
at top speed,  
towards  
the icy  
cold  
ocean.






And, as he tore around the first bend, he encountered Father McGettigan and Reeni Puddicombe lumbering up the path carrying berry pies for the church supper. Now, ordinarily, Ignatius would have been thrilled to be involved in a pie catastrophe, but today was different. After twirling about in confusion at least five times, he slithered off down the hill shedding berries as he went.



At this point, Ignatius plowed straight into Lizzie Carey's laundry line, and, for a few tumbly moments, managed to look quite smart—before resuming his flight.



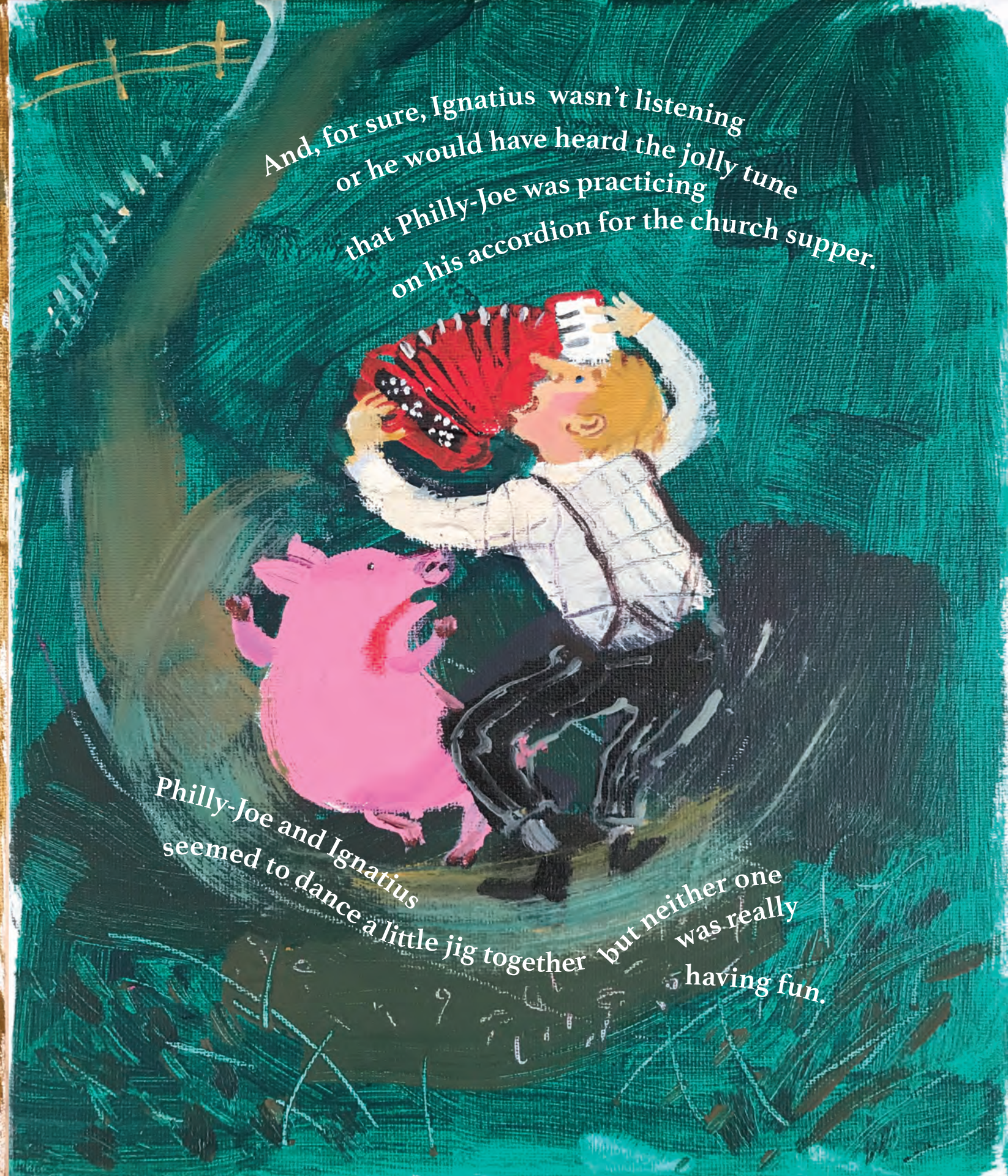
A painting depicting a scene from a story. In the foreground, an elderly woman with white hair, wearing a dark dress and a white apron, stands in a green field. She holds a long wooden staff in her right hand and waves with her left. To her right, a large pink pig is running. In the background, several cows of various colors (black, brown, white) are grazing or standing in a field. The sky is a mix of yellow, white, and blue, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The painting style is expressive with visible brushstrokes.

And, wouldn't you know, over the next rise,  
he somehow avoided knocking over  
wobbly old Mrs. Maddigan  
and her wobbly  
old cow Maude.  
Ignatius never even  
saw them!






But sad to say,  
he smacked right  
into Nellis the Peddler, just as he was  
setting off with his carefully packed roll of goods  
to sell. The goods rained down upon him, but Ignatius  
stampeded on down the path, once more leaving chaos  
behind him!



And, for sure, Ignatius wasn't listening  
or he would have heard the jolly tune  
that Philly-Joe was practicing  
on his accordion for the church supper.

Philly-Joe and Ignatius  
seemed to dance a little jig together but neither one  
was really  
having fun.



Now, you'd think that Ignatius would be starting to slow down, but you'd be wrong—all he knew was that he had to make it down to that icy cold ocean. So he sped on, his feet whirling like bicycle wheels. And then it was that he came upon Gertie and Alf spreading out their fish to dry.

What a mess!

But Ignatius sensed  
he was getting closer  
to the icy cold ocean  
so he plunged around  
the last bend.

Oh, you will say, what else could go wrong!  
Well, it was just at this moment that Ignatius, to his  
numb surprise, met Ambrose and Lar dumping their  
load of freshly gathered kelp onto their cart.

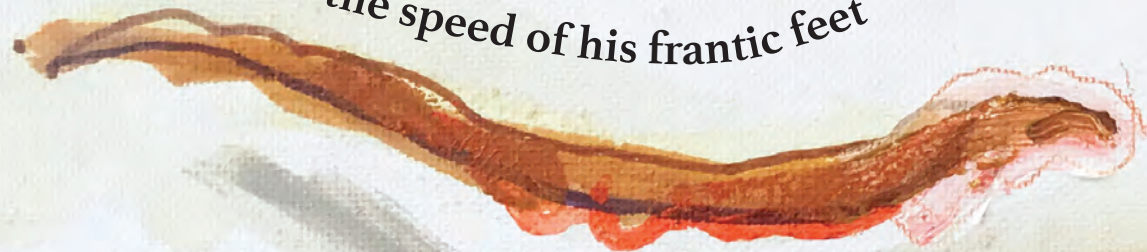




The slippery kelp



and the speed of his frantic feet



propelled Ignatius up, up, up into the air

and down, down, down  
onto the beach,

where he landed on his back with a tremendous  
whomp! And guess what?

That mischievous  
dumpling shot out of his mouth like  
a cannonball!





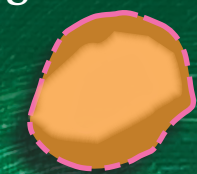
Ignatius lay,  
gulping in great gobs of icy cold  
soothing ocean air,

perfectly happy now,  
only a bit bruised  
and sore of throat.



Layer 2

The cheery rescue party wended its way back up towards the convent, examining the various accident sites, marvelling at the speed and agility of Ignatius, and discussing the dangers of dumplings.



## NOTES

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