

PAUL V. ALLEN

NONFICTION AUTHOR



Hello! Here's an update on the past couple of months in my writing life.

BEGINNER BOOKS

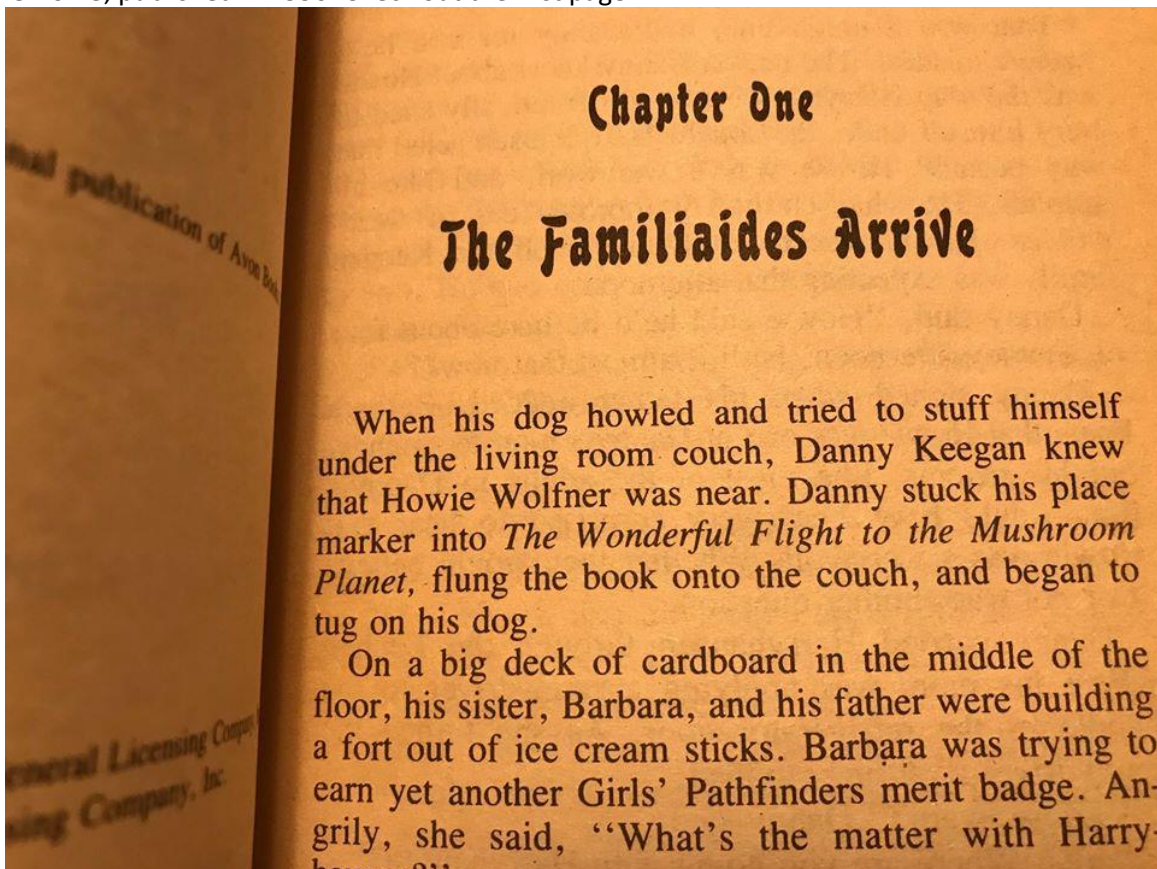
As of January 31, my manuscript has been safely delivered to the University Press of Mississippi! I still have some loose ends to take care of in terms of photo/illustration permissions, but for now the next step is just waiting.

They never tell you how much of writing and publishing a book is just waiting around.

ELEANOR CAMERON

When I was around 11 years old I had a brief but intense obsession with a series of books that reimagined the Universal Monsters as elementary school kids, Mel Gilden's *Fifth Grade Monsters*. I had the first four books but didn't follow as the series grew 15 books long.

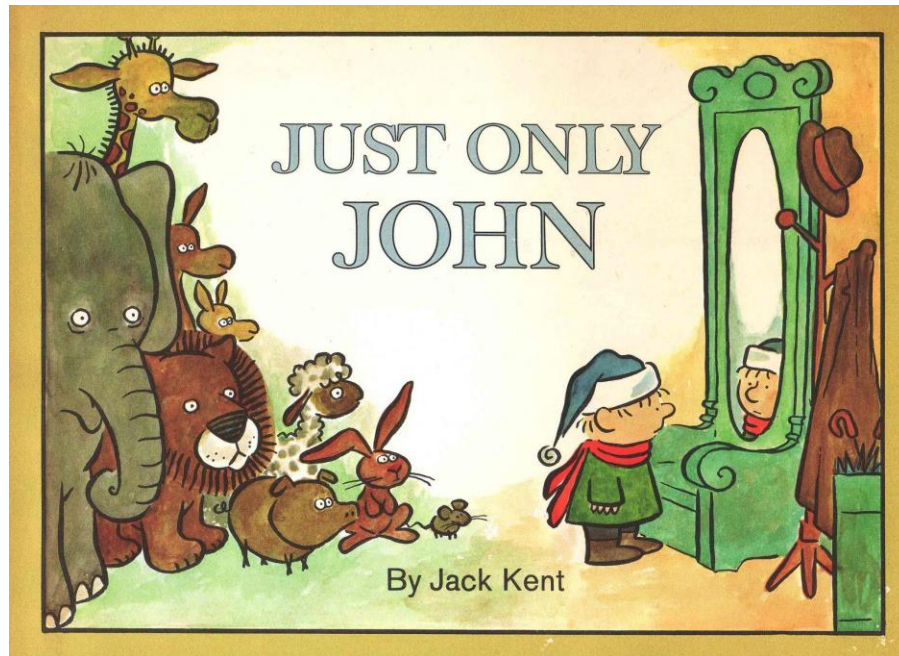
Sometime after college, I collected up the later books I'd missed, and now for the last year or so I've been reading them to my six-year-old son, Theo. About a month ago we started book #12, *Werewolf Come Home*, published in 1990. Check out the first page:



BOOK #4 SWITCHAROO

Speaking of Eleanor Cameron, she wrote often in her letters about books "presenting" themselves as ready to be written. She made herself sound like a passive participant in the process, as though she didn't have full control over book she decided to work on. Well, I've now experienced that firsthand. I was all set to start researching my history of 1990s superhero comics this month when a different project horned its way in.

In December I came across a children's book from 1968 called *Just Only John* at a thrift/antique shop for \$1. I was charmed by the story and its illustrations, which were done by a gentleman named Jack Kent.

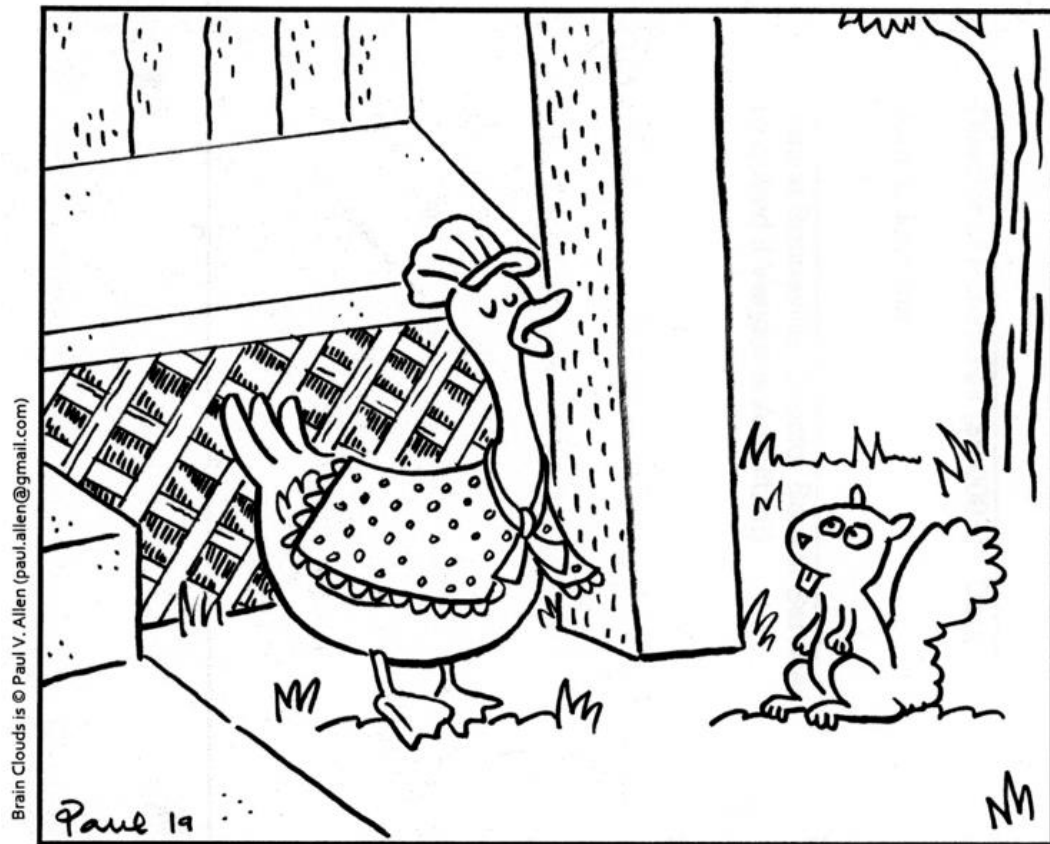


I began to look into his life and work, as I am wont to do, and discovered that he wrote and drew the nationally nationally syndicated comic strip *King Aroo* from 1950 - 1965. After a couple of years as a freelancer, he came out with *Just Only John*, and then followed that with 63 more books, over 40 of which he wrote himself. Everything about his work - his writing style, his drawings, his themes, his sense of humor - speaks to me. So I'm following that inspiration to its logical conclusion to pursue writing a biography of him.

I still plan to do my '90s comics history, and may just be insane enough to try to work on both projects simultaneously.



BRAIN CLOUDS



"Plainly, I'm a goose dressed in pioneer clothing."

Thanks, as always, for your support and interest. Love to you all!

Paul

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