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*Spenser Goes to Portland*  
by Spenser and Mom  
was a finalist for a Benjamin Franklin Award

SAVANNAH, GA – JUNE 28, 2009: Simple Fish Book Company is proud to announce that *Spenser Goes to Portland* by Spenser and Mom and illustrated by Amie Jacobsen was a finalist in the 2009 Benjamin Franklin Awards in the First Best Children's Book category. The Benjamin Franklin Awards are sponsored by the Independent Book Publishers Association and celebrate excellence in editorial and design for titles published in 2008. Judges for the Benjamin Franklin Awards come from all areas of the industry: major newspaper and trade media reviewers, bookstore and library buyers and reviewers, non-competing publishers, artists and writers who serve the industry.

*Spenser Goes to Portland*, published by Simple Fish Book Co. in 2008, follows Spenser, an almost human Yorkshire terrier, as he travels with Mom to learn about the history, culture and geography of one of America's great cities all while helping Oregon Food Bank. As one judge of the Benjamin Franklin Awards wrote about *Spenser Goes to Portland*:

"This book belongs in every school library and classroom in America. As an adult I still learned a few things from reading *Spenser Goes to Portland*, and I know our children will benefit too."

Mom travels the United States with Spenser, America's Favorite Traveling Dog, in the SpenserNation series. Their mission as they go is to learn about the cities they visit to include a lesson on how children can help protect the environment and volunteer time at the local Feeding America food bank. The first city Spenser visits is Portland, followed by St. Louis, Missouri (available) and Savannah, Georgia (fall, 2009). Other cities planned include El Paso, Texas and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Awards were presented on Thursday, May 28, 2009, on the eve of BookExpo America 2009, in New York City, at which time finalists were recognized for setting the standards and the pace for the publishing industry.

For more information, call Ben Brooks at 678-916-6375.

*Spenser Goes to Portland*

by Spenser and Mom

illustrations by Amie Jacobsen

32pp, case bound with dust jacket

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