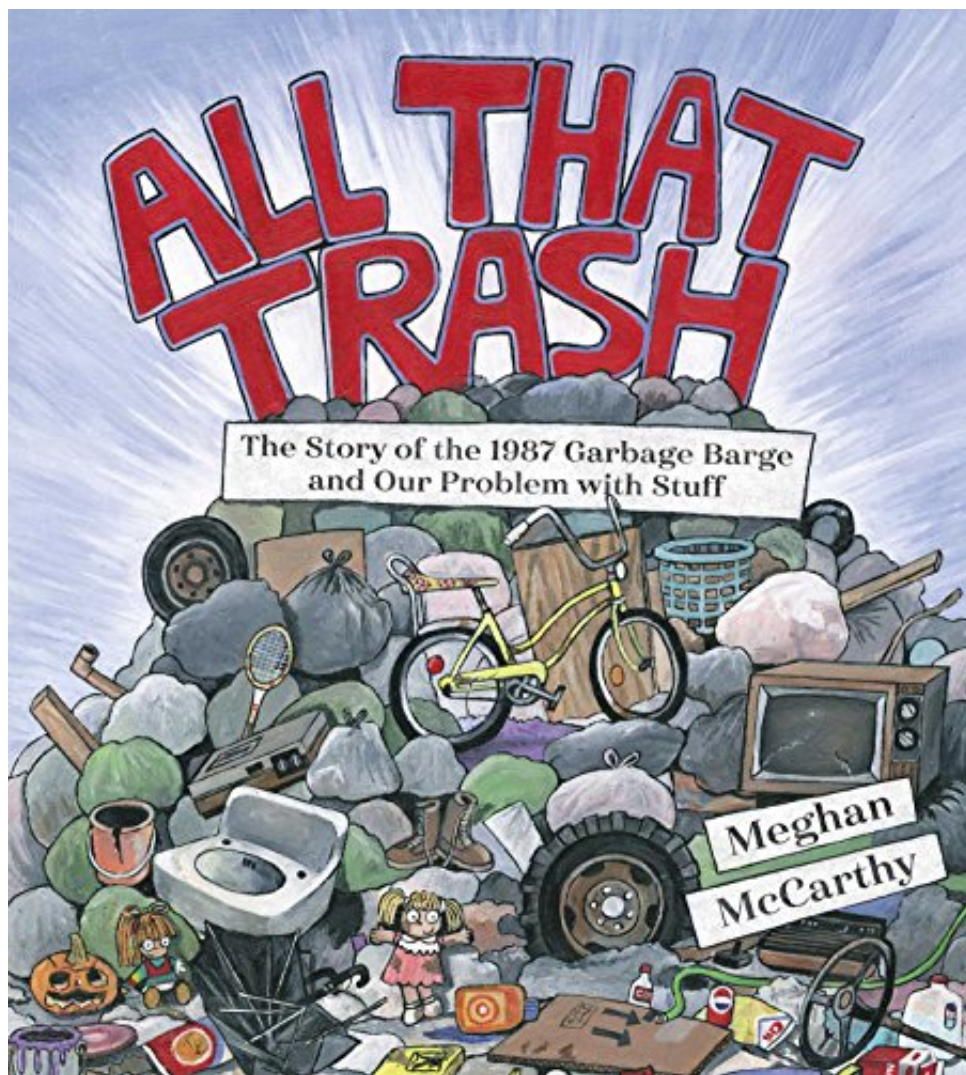


All That Trash: The Story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and Our Problem with Stuff

by

Meghan McCarthy



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Synopsis

An ALA Notable Book "The year was 1987 and a ship full of trash was about to become famous... The narrative is immensely readable...A fresh take on a story of old garbage guaranteed to spark conversations and a desire for actions among students. Highly recommended." —School Library Journal (starred review) A garbage barge that can't find a place to welcome it sparks a recycling movement in the United States in this smart and smelly picture book from the author of *Earmuffs for Everyone*. Lowell Harrelson wanted to turn trash into methane gas so he rented a barge called *Morbo 4000*. His plan was to ship the garbage from New York to North Carolina, but as the barge floated down the coast, no state would let him dock because of smelly waste on board! The barge became a mockery and the butt of many jokes in the media. What started as an attempted business venture turned into quite the predicament for Mr. Harrelson. *Morbo 4000* roamed the seas for forty-five days and traveled a distance of 6,000 miles. While awaiting its fate, the trash floated in New York's harbor, garnering much attention by onlookers. Green Peace activists put up a large banner across the barge that read, "NEXT TIME...TRY RECYCLING." Even though the garbage barge was a farce, the unintended consequence inspired America to find a new way to deal with its trash.

Sort review

"McCarthy again tackles an unusual subject: a garbage barge that traveled for over 6,000 miles....Backmatter includes recycling project photos and recycling facts....this book will be most useful for teachers to use in environmental projects." - Kirkus (Kirkus 12/15/17) "An entertaining true tale of a smelly saga in U.S. history....extensive backmatter, which includes details about the barge, the sensation it became, and the aftermath of the events described in the book, as well as information about America's history with refuse and recycling. " -- *Publishers Weekly* (*Publishers Weekly* December 4, 2017) "McCarthy (*Earmuffs for Everyone!*, 2015; *The Wildest Race Ever*, 2016) has spent her career detailing offradar topics that seem trivial, until you realize they're not. The story contains elements of adventure (the barge spends five months cruising the Atlantic), absurdity (a business owner in the Bahamas wants to build a resort atop the trash), and regret (a Greenpeace banner reads "Next Time . . . Try Recycling"). McCarthy's cartoon-style acrylic illustrations convey a myriad of details, particularly concerning the people and equipment involved. " -- *Booklist* (*Booklist* Jan 11, 2018) The year was 1987 and a ship full of trash was about to become famous. This is the engaging, humorous, and entirely true story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and its world-traveling adventure. When he discovered a New York landfill was almost full, Lowell Harrelson had a revolutionary idea. The owner of a waste management company wanted to take the trash to an alternate location and test a process that could create electricity from garbage. However, word leaked that an entire barge of trash was setting sail for parts unknown and suddenly no one would let him bring the trash ashore. A five

month-long saga ensued, taking the debris all the way to Central America and back in search of a final resting place. The narrative is immensely readable and is graced with comical illustrations that feature period correct facial hair and clothing styles. Readers will gain perspective from several points of view, including government officials, news anchors, and even the captain of the tugboat in this excellently sourced and presented tale. An exceptional addition to environment or Earth Day collections, this will have appeal as both an independent read and a mentor text for whole class studies. The supplementary material includes photos from the actual barge, facts about the barge, recycling, garbage, and ocean garbage, as well as ideas for reusing trash. VERDICT A fresh take on a story of old garbage guaranteed to spark conversations and a desire for actions among students. Highly recommended. (School Library Journal *STARRED* January 2018)

About the Author Meghan McCarthy is the award-winning author and illustrator of many books for children, including *Earmuffs for Everyone: How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs*; *Daredevil: The Daring Life of Betty Skelton*; *Pop!: The Invention of Bubble Gum*; *City Hawk: The Story of Pale Male*; *Seabiscuit the Wonder Horse*; and *All That Trash*. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, she lives in Brooklyn, New York. Visit her at Meghan-McCarthy.com.

From School Library Journal Gr 3-5—The year was 1987 and a ship full of trash was about to become famous. This is the engaging, humorous, and entirely true story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and its world-traveling adventure. When he discovered a New York landfill was almost full, Lowell Harrelson had a revolutionary idea. The owner of a waste management company wanted to take the trash to an alternate location and test a process that could create electricity from garbage. However, word leaked that an entire barge of trash was setting sail for parts unknown and suddenly no one would let him bring the trash ashore. A five month-long saga ensued, taking the debris all the way to Central America and back in search of a final resting place. The narrative is immensely readable and is graced with comical illustrations that feature period correct facial hair and clothing styles. Readers will gain perspective from several points of view, including government officials, news anchors, and even the captain of the tugboat in this excellently sourced and presented tale. An exceptional addition to environment or Earth Day collections, this will have appeal as both an independent read and a mentor text for whole class studies. The supplementary material includes photos from the actual barge, facts about the barge, recycling, garbage, and ocean garbage, as well as ideas for reusing trash. VERDICT A fresh take on a story of old garbage guaranteed to spark conversations and a desire for actions among students. Highly recommended.—Emily Beasley, Omaha Public Schools

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What people say about this book

Linda F., "Great historical picture book!. This is a wonderful book! We used this as a springboard for a writing exercise. The students (grades 2-4) were highly engaged!"

DJ Armstrong, "Why read this book:. Perfect to read around earth day or any day when you're learning about the path our garbage takes or who ends up taking it. (Smile)"

Holly Kuhlman, "Well Done!. As a school librarian, I knew this book would be great for our 2nd-5th grade students. The story is true and the pictures stay in the students' minds. Good going, Meghan McCarthy! Holly K"

Hummingbird, "tons of trash. What really got the recycling movement, moving forward? Great question! A 3,200 ton barge filled with garbage from Long Island and NYC. How, you ask? ALL THAT TRASH, THE STORY OF THE 1987 GARBAGE BARGE AND OUR PROBLEM WITH STUFF, written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy, will show you how. Hauling garbage was deemed a disgusting job, but McCarthy tackled it with humor, fun and finesse. A Paula Wiseman picture book by Simon & Schuster. #mustread #recycling #PB #NF"

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