



Good Things Come in Small Packages

Ben is short and his best friend, Zip, is even shorter. One day while they stroll along the boardwalk, a sudden summer shower blows in. There's a clap of thunder, and Zip runs off in fear!

Ben pushes through the crowd to find Zip, but being so short, all he sees are knees. Ben climbs onto a bench, but now all he sees are bellies. He clammers onto a picnic table, and all he sees is hair! Ben even climbs the lifeguard stand, the highest point on the beach, sure he'll glimpse his friend, but Zip is nowhere to be found.

Ben finally does find him, somewhere only a short little dachshund like Zip could be – hiding out *beneath* the boardwalk! The adventure ends as two short friends snuggle and munch popcorn while puddles dry and beachgoers emerge from under the awnings. "Ben and Zip beneath the boards, safe from stormy weather. A hug, a lick, a scratch, a yawn, two short friends together."

Ben & Zip is a lost-and-found tale with a surprise ending, when readers discover that Zip is, in fact, a dog. Little listeners will laugh at – and relate to! – all the funny knees and bellies seen from Ben's perspective. They'll cheer for brave Ben throughout the book, and they'll "waggle from end to end" like Zip when he is finally found.

Brimming with lively full-color pen and ink illustrations and punctuated with rhyming refrains that roll off the tongue, *Ben & Zip: Two Short Friends* is a rousing read-aloud for kids of all sizes.

A tribute to friendship, boardwalks, and summer at the beach, *Ben & Zip* will keep kids laughing, cheering, and guessing until the very end – when two short friends are reunited.

Joanne Linden is the author of three non-fiction children's books. She lives in Eau Claire, WI, and *Ben & Zip* is her first fiction picture book.

Tom Goldsmith has illustrated for the North American print market for more than twenty years. He lives in Coldwater, Ontario, Canada, and *Ben & Zip* is his second picture book.

