

**TRADE REVIEWS FOR THE NOCTURNALS SERIES BY TRACEY HECHT
GROW & READ EARLY READERS & MIDDLE GRADE**

The Nocturnals: The Tasty Treat - Level 1

By Tracey Hecht with illustrations by Josie Yee
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-29-3 | Price: \$12.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-30-9 | Price: \$5.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-44-6 | Price: \$4.99

“Who comes out to play at night? The Nocturnals! Nighttime is the best time for these animals. Children will read about a red fox, a pangolin, and a sugar glider. One by one, they gather together and are happy to share a pomelo as a snack. The story is very basic and most of the information about the animals is in the back of the book. The illustrations are not elaborate but are suitable for the story....The last section of the book includes fun facts about nocturnal creatures, the animals in the story, and the treat they shared.

VERDICT: A good series for children who love reading, science, and want to learn more on their own.”
—School Library Journal September 20, 2019 Online

“Recommended List in Continuing Series.” —Kirkus September 15, 2019 - Print & Online

The Nocturnals: The Best Burp - Level 1

By Tracey Hecht with illustrations by Josie Yee
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-32-3 Price: \$12.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-31-6 Price: \$5.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-45-3 | Price: \$4.99

"This latest entry in the Nocturnals series pairs short, spaced outlines of very simply worded, mildly alliterative narrative to cartoon scenes of **hypercute wildlife with anthropomorphic features and oversized eyes in a multi-chapter episode that gently prods emergent readers to think outside the belch.**"

—Booklist May 2020 – Online"

The story is divided into three simple chapters. The text is gently repetitive with words occasionally enlarged to show emphasis...**The animals have charm...Recommended for collections where this growing series is already popular.** —School Library Journal, October 2020 - Online

The Nocturnals: The Moonlight Meeting - Level 2

By Tracey Hecht and Rumur Dowling with illustrations by Waymond Singleton
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-15-6 Price: \$12.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-14-9 Price: \$5.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-39-2 | Price: \$4.99

“This banter-filled early reader describes the initial meeting between shy Tobin the pangolin, brash Bismark the sugar glider, and kindhearted Dawn the fox...the pared-down narration and dialogue quickly establish their personalities, as does Singleton’s cartoon artwork, which shows the characters striking expressive poses midconflict....Hecht and Dowling successfully set the stage for more adventurous outings down the road...”

—Publishers Weekly September 25, 2017 - Print & Online

The Nocturnals: The Moonlight Meeting Continued.

“Physical characteristics, personality quirks, and the beginnings of their mutual trust and friendship are aptly portrayed through both words and pictures. A few “Nocturnals Fun Facts” at the end should help with any factual queries. Whether listening, reading along, or launching individual attempts, satisfied readers will be ready and waiting for the next installment.” —**Booklist September 14, 2017 - Online**

The Nocturnals: The Slithery Shakedown - Level 2

By Tracey Hecht with illustrations by Josie Yee
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-17-0 Price: \$12.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-16-3 Price: \$5.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-40-8 | Price: \$4.99

“A pangolin, a red fox, and a sugar glider are together again in their second nighttime adventure in the series... Short sentences and much repetition throughout assist early readers as they gain a sense of accomplishment on completing this six-chapter book... The vocabulary words likely to be new to readers are introduced, including *squatted*, *haunches*, *shimmery*, *slithered*, and *summoned*... **Beginning readers will enjoy this tale and will cheer on the threesome who defeat a bully by using their words.**”
—**School Library Journal Xpress Reviews May 2018 - Online**

“The Nocturnals does not disappoint. Designed for stage two readers—kids just learning to read independently—**this tale uses plenty of important vocabulary words, easily decipherable within context, while showing how friends who stick together can facedown even the meanest bully... Vivid illustrations pop off crisp white pages.** Brief sentences in an oversize font, separated by plenty of white space, won’t overwhelm nascent readers. This successful endeavor manages to maintain the spirit of the original series while showing respect for new devotees.” —**Booklist March 15, 2018 - Online**

The Nocturnals: The Peculiar Possum - Level 2

By Tracey Hecht with illustrations by Josie Yee
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-19-4 Price: \$12.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-20-0 Price: \$5.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-41-5 | Price: \$4.99

“Hecht’s playful narrative style livens the baldly delivered lesson, as do a handful of challenging words that are not only defined by context and in a glossary in the back, but matched to equivalents in five languages.”
—**Booklist November 29, 2018 - Online**

“The art, which is largely redundant of text, provides cues to help readers with decoding...”
—**Kirkus September 1, 2018 - Print & Online**

The Nocturnals: The Chestnut Challenge - Level 3

By Tracey Hecht with illustrations by Josie Yee
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-22-4 Price: \$12.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-23-1 Price: \$5.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-42-4 | Price: \$4.99

“Recommended List in Continuing Series. —**Kirkus April 15, 2019 - Print**

The Nocturnals: The Chestnut Challenge Continued.

“Back matter points readers to free content online as well as facts about nocturnal animals. **VERDICT: Fans of the series will find colorful illustrations interspersed with text to help young independent readers follow the story.** Additionally, the theme of an honest game will likely resonate with this intended audience.” —*School Library Journal* April 1, 2019 – Online

The Nocturnals: The Kooky Kinkajou - Level 3

By Tracey Hecht with illustrations by Josie Yee
 Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-25-5 Price: \$12.99
 Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-24-8 Price: \$5.99
 Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-43-9 | Price: \$4.99

“Bismark, a sugar glider, is bored. When his friends fail to convince him that there is always more to see and do, a new friend appears. Karina, a kinkajou, attempts to engage them all in some imaginative play and quickly wins over Bismark’s friends. Bismark, however, remains nonplussed and calls Karina “cuckoo” and “kooky.” It takes a hug and an explanation to persuade Bismark that it can be fun to be a little silly... **Illustrations are large with multiple spreads and a color palette that is well suited to a story about nocturnal animals...** **VERDICT Purchase where the series has a following.**”
 —*School Library Journal* September 20, 2019 – Online

“Backmatter includes factual information about each of the nocturnal animals and a glossary of “kooky words”...Imagination can surely overcome boredom.” —*Kirkus* June 15, 2019 - Print & Online

“Divided into five short chapters, this gentle adventure supports newly independent readers with **engaging color illustrations, textual repetition, and ample white space to cushion its sentences.** Helpful back matter includes “Fun Facts” about each of the characters, a glossary for new vocabulary, and information on the free resources available on the publisher’s website.” —*Booklist* November 15, 2019 – Online

The Nocturnals: The Weeping Wombat - Level 3

By Tracey Hecht with illustrations by Josie Yee
 Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-34-7 Price: \$12.99
 Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-33-0 Price: \$5.99
 Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-46-0 | Price: \$4.99

“The book is **aimed at readers just transitioning into more difficult books, while also teaching important social-emotional skills.** Yee’s comic illustrations show exactly how characters are feeling and what is being described, and are perfectly in step with the text, enabling an understanding of the featured players. **VERDICT Overall, Hecht and Yee have continued to create compelling characters** involved in lessons spotlighting life skills, while including the importance and fun of alliteration.”
 —*School Library Journal* June 19, 2020 – Online



The Nocturnals: The Mysterious Abductions - Book 1

By Tracey Hecht; spot illustrations by Kate Liebman
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-00-2 | Price: \$15.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-02-6 | Price: \$8.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-01-9 | Price: \$13.99

“This new series documents the exploits of the Nocturnals, an unlikely trio who protect their fellow jungle denizens from all sorts of calamities—in this adventure, kidnappers...The characters are humorous and well developed, and the fast-moving plot features intrigue, unexpected twists, and the innovative hybrid hockey game. Accessible to upper elementary while sufficiently sophisticated for middle school, **this new animal fantasy series should prove popular.**” —*Booklist* March 2016 - Print

“Readers interested in other, less-well-known members of the animal kingdom will appreciate the variety of critters in the book. The different animals’ particular characteristics enhance their personalities without pigeonholing their behavior, giving the author an opportunity to celebrate their strengths—happily without saturating the plot with a too obvious feel-good message...The genuine concern of the animals for one another, even the villain, underscores the value of compassion and camaraderie. Full-color chapter heads are but one feature of the pleasing design. **A delightful adventure about the power of uncommon traits and the joys of newfound friendship.** (Fantasy. 9-12)” —*Kirkus* February 2016 - Print & Online

“**Readers are taken on a journey with Australia’s mammals.** Each chapter opens with a color illustration. These delightful pictures help to ground a North American audience in a foreign environment.”
—*School Library Journal* April 2016 - Print

“**This is an adventure worth reading, filled with excitement, danger, suspense and surprise.** Each chapter begins with a small illustration and the language is clear and easy to understand. Recommended.”
—*School Library Connection* September 2016 - Print

The Nocturnals: The Ominous Eye – Book 2

By Tracey Hecht; spot illustrations by Kate Liebman
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-03-3 Price: \$15.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-10-1 Price: \$8.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-04-0 | Price: \$13.99

“**Hecht continues to charm readers with delightfully drawn characters and consistent suspense.** Bismark’s trademark, multilingual adulations fuel both Dawn’s eye-rolls and readers’ chuckles. Tobin remains cautiously adventurous. His quiet remarks and social perceptiveness ground Bismark’s slapstick and elicit warmth from Dawn’s cool leadership. **Each animal, from the common to the exotic, shines with quirky personalities and endearing traits. A welcome return of the colorful and curious trio—their next can’t arrive soon enough.** (Fantasy 9-12)”
—*Kirkus* August 2016 - Print

“**In this satisfying second installment,** our intrepid heroes Dawn, Bismark, and Tobin encounter a nasty adversary: Polyphema, a scheming tuatar. Once again the Nocturnal Brigade springs into action when their fellow jungle denizens are threatened by outside force... Luckily, our heroes are there to save the day, and, as in the first volume, when they uncover Polyphema’s underlying motives, learn about an important issue—this time, protecting endangered species. **Returning fans will be rewarded with the expected engaging plot twists, plenty of humor, Bismark’s unrequited mooning over Dawn, and reaffirmation of the trio’s mutual loyalty and friendship.**” —*Booklist* September 2016 - Print

The Nocturnals: The Fallen Star – Book 3

By Tracey Hecht; spot illustrations by Kate Liebman
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-05-7 Price: \$15.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-07-1 Price: \$8.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-06-4 | Price: \$13.99

“The third installment in this popular series has our stalwart Nocturnals Brigade attempting to find an anecdote for poisoned pomelo melons... Action abounds, and almost all of the short chapters end on cliff-hangers. Once again, the trio’s mutual loyalty and dependence on each other’s unique talents—be they what they are—save the day. **This is a worthy addition to the franchise.**” —*Booklist* May 2017 - Print

“**Hecht serves up both a curious adventure and interesting zoological facts in this volume.** Her descriptions of flora, fauna, and natural phenomena are vivid and immediate. The multilingual and loquacious Bismark fuels a few good laughs; Tobin balances his clumsiness with limitless kindness; and brave Dawn keeps the crew focused on their mission. Likewise, the villains of the story display great depth of character. They remind readers that many times bad deeds arise from pain and mistreatment in the past. **Fresh and fun: the brigade delights as it explores another forest mystery.** (Fantasy 9-12)” —*Kirkus* March 2017 - Print

The Nocturnals: The Hidden Kingdom – Book 4

By Tracey Hecht and Sarah Fieber; spot illustrations by Kate Liebman
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-944020-11-8 Price: \$15.99
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-944020-13-2 Price: \$8.99
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-944020-12-5 | Price: \$13.99

“As in every book, our stalwart trio interacts with unusual forest denizens (lyrebirds, a platypus), discover motivations behind seemingly hostile behaviors, and resolve to become more appreciative of all creatures, especially the insects that comprise the titular Hidden Kingdom. **Wacky illustrations and another plot that twists and turns and teeters with cliff-hangers will keep fans enthralled.** Check out the website (NocturnalsWorld.com) for extensive activities for kids and support materials for educators.”
—*Booklist* February 2018 - Print

