



Herbert the Brave Sea Dog - Robyn Belton

Published by Walker Books, RRP \$18.99

Robyn Belton brings a true New Zealand story to life with her evocative art and storytelling.

Tim and his mother plan to drive from Nelson to a holiday cottage in the Marlborough Sounds. Tim's father prepares to go by boat through the dangerous waters of the French Pass.

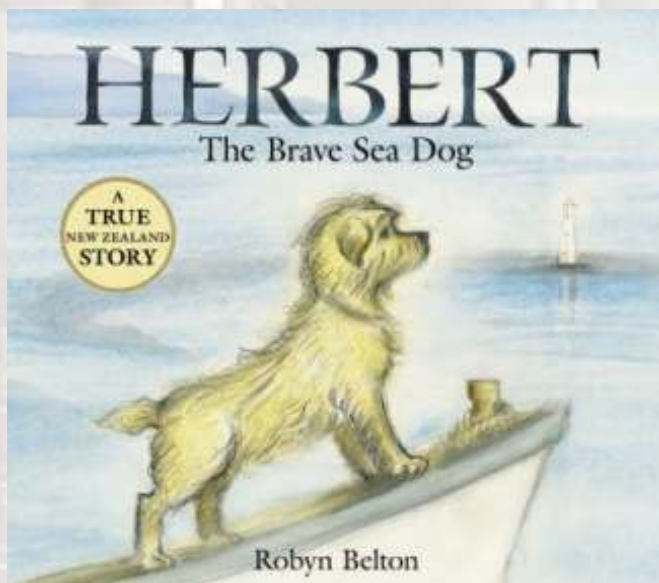
When Tim farewells his father at the jetty, his small dog Herbert hops onboard the boat. At first, the sea is calm and Herbert races excitedly from side to side of the boat. Then the weather becomes stormy and wind whips up the waves. Tim's father is anxious to make it through French Pass before the tide turns. He doesn't notice when Herbert loses his balance and falls into the sea.

Tim is distressed when his father tells him Herbert has been lost overboard. Nevertheless, he's convinced that Herbert is still alive and refuses to give up hope.

Robyn Belton captures the changing moods of the ocean with her pencil and watercolour illustrations. Softly-coloured washes background many pages and enhance the atmosphere. The expressive characters convey a family caring for each other at a time of anxiety. Detailed end papers add interest with photos of Tim and Herbert, newspaper articles, maps, and information about the treacherous French Pass.

A welcome reprint of the 2009 winner of the LIANZ Russell Clark Award.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.