

BOOKRAPT™

THE BAY OF PLENTY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION INC
www.bookrapt.org.nz info@bookrapt.org.nz



Dashing Dog by Margaret Mahy illustrated by Donovan Bixley

Publisher: HarperCollins

RRP \$29.99

There's sheer pleasure in Margaret Mahy's boisterous rhyming story. The family are proud of their primped and preened dog after he has visited the style salon. They take him on a walk by the seaside:

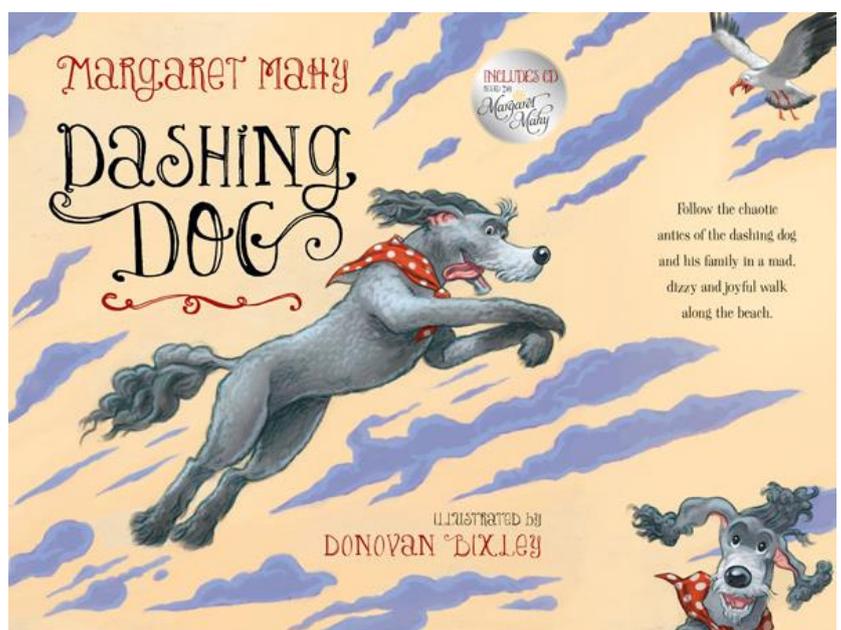
*Seen with a dog that is dapper and dandified
We'll appear glorious, gallant and grandified.
What a dog! What a dog! Fit to inspire us all.
Let us go walking, so folk can admire us all.*

But a dog will always follow his instincts and where there are seagulls, naturally, he will chase them. And the sea is irresistible! Of course a dog will bound into it.

*Stragglng and salty, and spotted and sandified.
Somehow our dog is no longer so dandified.*

The unnamed pooch lurches from one disaster to the next, causing consternation to others and embarrassment to his owners. But deep down, a dog is a loyal creature and will go to great lengths to protect the people he loves. When danger threatens little Betty his courageous behaviour wins approval.

Donovan Bixley's exuberant illustrations capture the madcap action of the family in hot pursuit of their errant dog. The progression of the smartly-dressed family morphing into an embarrassed, harried group is shown in hilarious, energetic scenes. As the drama increases, the action is highlighted in a tangle of dogs, a whirl of movement, and expressive, dismayed faces. The bedraggled dog is a delight to see as he resists his owners' attempts to rein him in.



This is a colourful, classy hardback edition of one of Mahy's joyful capers. Stylish end papers too. A CD of the author reading the story adds the perfect finishing touch.

Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett

Author information:

<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/margaretmahy>

Illustrator's website:

<http://www.donovanbixley.com/>