



## **Yak and Gnu by Juliette McIver illustrated by Cat Chapman**

**Publisher: Walker Books**

**RRP \$27.99**

Who would have paired *gorilla* with *flotilla*, *giraffes* with *hovercrafts*, and “*a rat and her clan on a catamaran*”? These amazing rhymes are just a few of many in this book that will delight readers and young listeners.

Juliette McIver writes with a sure sense of rhythm and a great sense of fun as she tells this tale of two friends who set out believing they are the only boaties on a river that leads to the sea - only to find that they are quite wrong. They meet many other creatures and types of boats along the way. But instead of being deflated by this knowledge, they change their opening song of how great they are to one of true friendship for each other as individuals: “*Who cares, my friend, when I have you.*”

*Yippee-ai, Yak!  
Woo hoo, Gnu!  
There's no other beast ...  
quite like you.*

Cat Chapman has taken each discovery along the animals' journey and, with her illustrations, both adds to the humour and shows Yak's and Gnu's reactions:

*A goat in a boat?  
That can't be true!”*

*... a nasty thingy  
on a rusty dinghy.*

This A4 hard cover book has double-page illustrations in a soft palette. The typeface is large and clear. Young readers might be challenged by the use of words such as *hoo*, *snazzy*, *gack*, but because these words support both rhyme and rhythm they shouldn't be major stumbling blocks. The book can be enjoyed by adults and pre-schoolers as a bedtime story, and as a fun read for 5-7 year olds.

**Author's website:**

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**Reviewed by Chris Wright, teacher and writer**

