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***Bicycling to the Moon* by Timo Parvela, illustrated by Virpi Talvitie, translated by Ruth Urbom**

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP \$19.99

This collection of short episodes features Purdy, a scheming, lazy cat and hard-working, long suffering Barker the dog. Together they live in a sky-blue house on top of a hill.

Classified as Junior Fiction, these stories will appeal to readers of all ages. They are great read aloud tales integrating humour, life lessons to be learned, coping with relationships, making decisions, as well as celebrating life's odd moments.

Timo Parvela is Finland's top children's author who has twice been shortlisted for the Astrid Lindgren Award. His mastery of 'catness' and 'dogness', selfishness and self-sacrifice, is delightful.

Virpi Talvitie's quirky full-colour illustrations on cream paper complement the stories. Her skill as an illustrator has resulted in two previous nominations for the Hans Christian Anderson Award.

Julia Marshall of Gecko Press describes this book as, "Curiously good".

**Reviewed by Pat Osman,
retired teacher/librarian**

