

Vinca Press, Buckinghamshire

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## ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET No 1

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Give us a Chance!</b> Poems of creatures that we love to hate or may not yet appreciate
<b>PRICE</b>	£4.99PB ISBN 978-0-9549093-1-4
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Jane Mann ILLUSTRATED by Bonnie Baker
<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Vinca Press, Buckinghamshire
<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	April 30th 2009
<b>CATEGORY</b>	children's poetry for children 8+; animals: YF, YFH, YDP
<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>	198 x 130mm, 64 pages, paperback
<b>WHO WILL BUY THIS BOOK?</b>	children 8+, teachers, parents, environmental and animal welfare groups

*Give us a Chance* is an entertaining collection of poems written from the view of creatures that we love to hate or do not always appreciate like the spider, snake, magpie and shark. They are fun poems with a rich use of rhythm and rhyme to give them an energy and humour. At the same time they are thought-provoking and offer fresh insights and new angles as the twenty-six creatures challenge our preconceptions and assert their value and use, their contribution to the web of life. They all have their own unique character and style of living from the slow, relaxed climb of the snail to the nervous fears of the rabbit with "dangers snapping all the way". They have their own special skills, whether the crocodile's for sheer survival, the worm's for transforming soil or the pigeon's for stamina and speed. And behind the scenes, so many of them useful in clearing away our waste!

Though intended essentially for children aged eight and above, the poems will also be enjoyed by adults, both parents and teachers, and those interested in animal life. They are very relevant in touching on environmental issues beneath the fun and teachers could use them as a way of linking poetry with the facts and interests of science.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** Jane Mann has won a number of poetry prizes, including the Literary Review and Mail on Sunday Grand Poetry Prize for 2007 and the Writers' News Annual Open Poetry Competition for 2006. She has had her poems published in magazines including *Writing Magazine*, *Blinking Eye* and *Literary Review* and in *Read me out Loud*, an anthology for children.

After gaining a degree and teaching qualification, she went out to Hong Kong, where she worked as an Education Officer, teaching English to Chinese students. While in Hong Kong, she wrote an adventure story, *Chang Fook and the Viper*, published by OUP and used as a reader in schools there. Returning to England, she got married and settled in a rural community in Buckinghamshire where she raised her family, two daughters and a son. Her work continued as a lecturer in further education and later as an examiner for three exam boards. She is now retired and has five grandchildren.

Concerned for many years about pollution and the way we treat other species, she is particularly interested in environmental issues. Her novel, *The Cause*, published in 2005 dealt with the issue of vivisection. She is now focussing on poems for children.



This Vinca Press production is managed by Amolibros - Jane Tatam tel/fax 01823 401527

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