



Oliver's Adventure

story by
—Marjorie E. Masek—
with artwork by
—Parks Duffey—
and paper animals created by
—Sean Kelly—

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Oliver is a lucky kid. His family lives along the shore of Virginia's North River, and his backyard is home to a variety of wildlife—from baby rabbits to the majestic great blue heron. Oliver spends his days playing along the river's edge among the animals, paddling around in the cove's calm waters in his canoe, and helping his family take care of the cove's wild inhabitants.

But one day, storm winds push Oliver and his canoe into the dangerous waters of the North River! Will Oliver be able to make it back home safely? Or will he drift out into the ocean and be lost forever?

Oliver's Adventure is a grandmother's love letter to her grandson and the home they once shared. This isn't just a story about a boy's adventure; it's a story about home, family, and how the love we give to the world around us carries on long after we're gone.

About the Author

Marjorie Ellen Hayter Masek was born in San Diego, CA, in 1927. Following her education in fashion design, Marjorie met and married LTJG William (Bill) Masek, Jr., USN. Marjorie was a glamorous woman with gourmet cooking skills, a gusto for life, and a generous and gregarious nature. Upon her husband's retirement in 1975, the couple discovered Gloucester, VA, which they found to be "the land of the life worth living." She wrote *Oliver's Adventure* in 1993 and found an artist who captured her vision; however, the manuscript and art were kept secret from her family while awaiting publication. Unfortunately, Marjorie was unable to get her manuscript published before she died in 2018, when her children discovered the manuscript.

About the Illustrator

Self-taught artist **Parks Duffey** captures the world in a fanciful, colorful, primitive, and yet realistic style. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Parks is well known for his detailed and charming paintings of Virginia's prestigious colleges, universities, and secondary schools, as well as other architectural landmarks in Virginia, Washington, D.C., the Carolinas, the Caribbean, and Oklahoma City. His unique work is displayed in private and corporate collections around the world, including the White House Historical Association. Some are now available in jigsaw puzzle form.

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