

Short Biography for R.W. Alley:

First thing to know is that I'm an only child. I think that explains a lot. It certainly explains how important stories were to me growing up. My parents thought I should be a lawyer. I had other plans. I didn't go to art school (remember the lawyer part) , but I knew I wanted to tell stories with both words AND pictures. So, I started out writing my own stories and pestering publishers. It worked! My parents were shocked.

Since then, I have gone on to illustrate and/or write well over one hundred books. For the last almost-twenty years, I have illustrated the Paddington Bear picture books. I have also collaborated with my charming wife and clever author, Zoë B. Alley, on several wonderful books in a gigantic comic book format. Recently, we have both worked with novelist Garth Stein to bring his *The Art of Racing in the Rain* dog Enzo to picture books, and I have begun writing my own books about the fantastical adventures of four siblings, Gretchen, Clark, Mitchell and Annabelle, in a series of four books. For many years I have also illustrated both the adult and the kids Elf-Help series of self-help books that are available world-wide.

I live and work in Barrington, Rhode Island, a very small town in the smallest state. I very much like to visit schools, libraries, bookshops and any book-related festival or venue to talk about telling stories and making pictures for children.