

The Masterpiece Adventures

BOOK
ONE

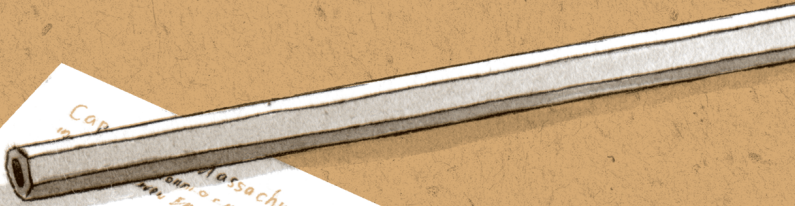
The Miniature World of
**MARVIN
& JAMES**

ELISE BROACH Illustrated by **KELLY MURPHY**

NEW YORK TIMES—BESTSELLING CREATORS OF MASTERPIECE

The **Miniature World** of
MARVIN
& **JAMES**





Cap
Massachusetts.
Cape Cod, Mass.
England's quiet and rich spot.

Dear,
The kids and I are
having a blast! We miss
you and will see you
soon.

Yours



The beach has been
so much fun. I've
collected so many shells.
See you soon.
James

William drew
this for you.

Mr. R. L.
216 E 7
New York,
100

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**MARVIN
& JAMES**

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BROACH

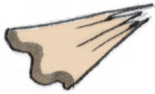


Dompaday
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Illustrated by
KELLY MURPHY

Christy Ottaviano Books

Henry Holt and Company • NEW YORK



Henry Holt and Company, LLC
Publishers since 1866
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10010
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Broach, Elise.

The miniature world of Marvin & James / Elise Broach ; illustrated by Kelly Murphy.

— First edition.

pages cm. — (The masterpiece adventures ; book 1)

“Christy Ottaviano Books.”

Summary: When his best friend, a human boy named James, goes away on vacation, Marvin the beetle worries that their friendship may end.

ISBN 978-0-8050-9190-8 (hardback)

[1. Friendship—Fiction. 2. Beetles—Fiction. 3. Human-animal relationships—Fiction.]

I. Murphy, Kelly, illustrator. II. Title. III. Title: The miniature world of Marvin and James.

PZ7.B78083Mg 2014 [Fic]—dc23 2013036081

First Edition—2014 / Designed by April Ward

The artist used pen and ink on Coventry Rag paper to create the illustrations for this book.

Printed in the United States of America by
R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company, Harrisonburg, Virginia

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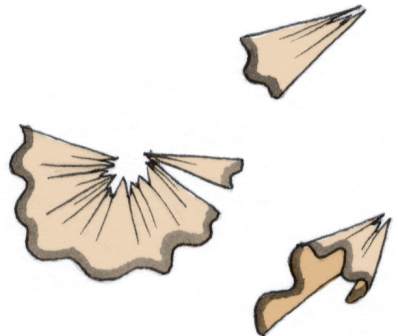


For Jane Kamensky,
with thanks for so many years
of rich friendship

—E. B.

To adventurous Anna

—K. M.



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CHAPTER ONE

James Says Good-bye



Marvin is sad.

James is going away.

“Just to the beach,” James tells him.

Mrs. Pompaday and William are going too.



Only Mr. Pompaday will stay.

Marvin does not like Mr. Pompaday.

James says, “I will be back in a week.”

That does not make Marvin feel better. A week is a long time! He will miss James.

He rolls into a ball, like this:



James leans close to Marvin. “Don’t be sad, little guy. When I come home, I’ll bring you a surprise!”

Even that does not make Marvin feel better. What will he do without James? James is his best friend.





“You can help me pack,” James says.
He lifts his suitcase onto the bed.

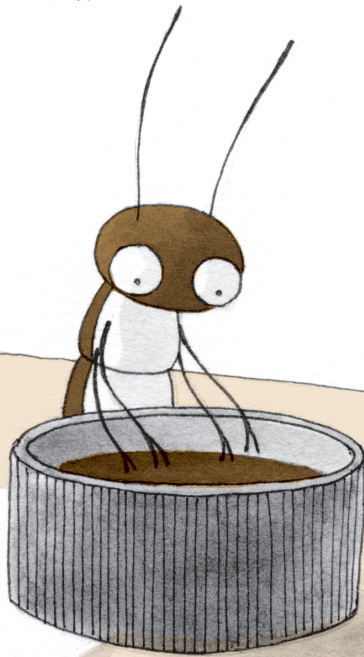
Marvin does not want to help James pack. But at least it is something they can do together.

James has a list of everything he needs to pack. He puts the list on his desk.



“Now, when I say something, cross it off,” James tells Marvin. He opens the bottle of ink on the desk. He puts the cap next to Marvin with a little ink in it.

Marvin can't read, but he is good at crossing things off. He dips his front legs in the ink.

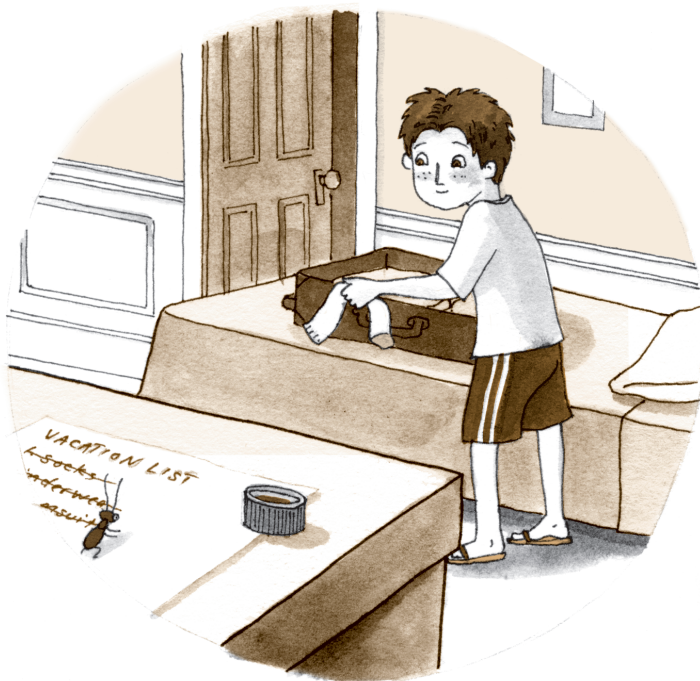


“One,” says James. “Socks.” He puts socks in the suitcase.

Marvin draws a line through the first word on the list.

“Two,” says James. “Underwear.” He puts underwear in the suitcase.

Marvin draws a line through the second word.





“Three . . . swimsuit.” James puts his swimsuit in the suitcase. It has dragonflies on it. Marvin thinks it would look nicer with beetles. He draws a line through the third word on the list.

“Four . . . pajamas.” James puts his pajamas in the suitcase.

Marvin draws a line through the fourth word.

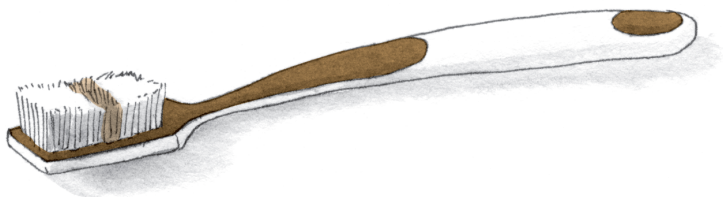
“See? You are really helping!” James tells him. “That is half my list. Five . . . shirts.” He puts shirts in the suitcase.



Oops! Marvin has no more ink on his legs. He dips them in the cap again. He draws a line through the fifth word on the list.

“Six . . . shorts. My suitcase is almost full.” James squeezes his shorts into the suitcase.

Marvin draws a line through the sixth word on the list.



“Seven . . . toothbrush. I always forget my toothbrush,” James tells Marvin. “That’s why I made a list in the first place.” He puts his toothbrush in the suitcase.

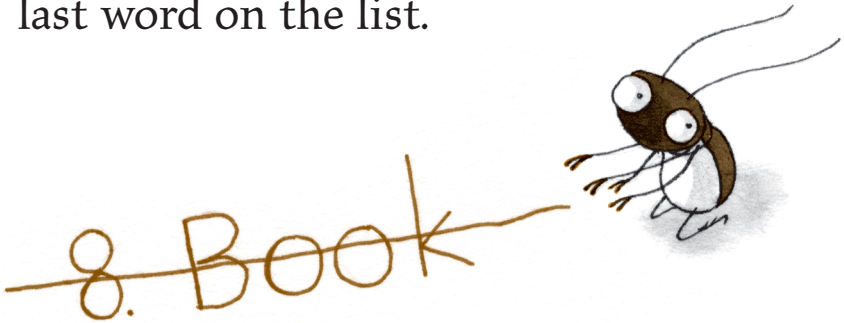
Marvin draws a line through the seventh word.

~~7. Toothbrush~~



There is only one word left.

“Eight . . . book! That’s everything,” says James. He takes a book from his shelf. Marvin draws a line through the last word on the list.



“There’s no room,” James says. He puts the book on the floor and moves things around in the suitcase.

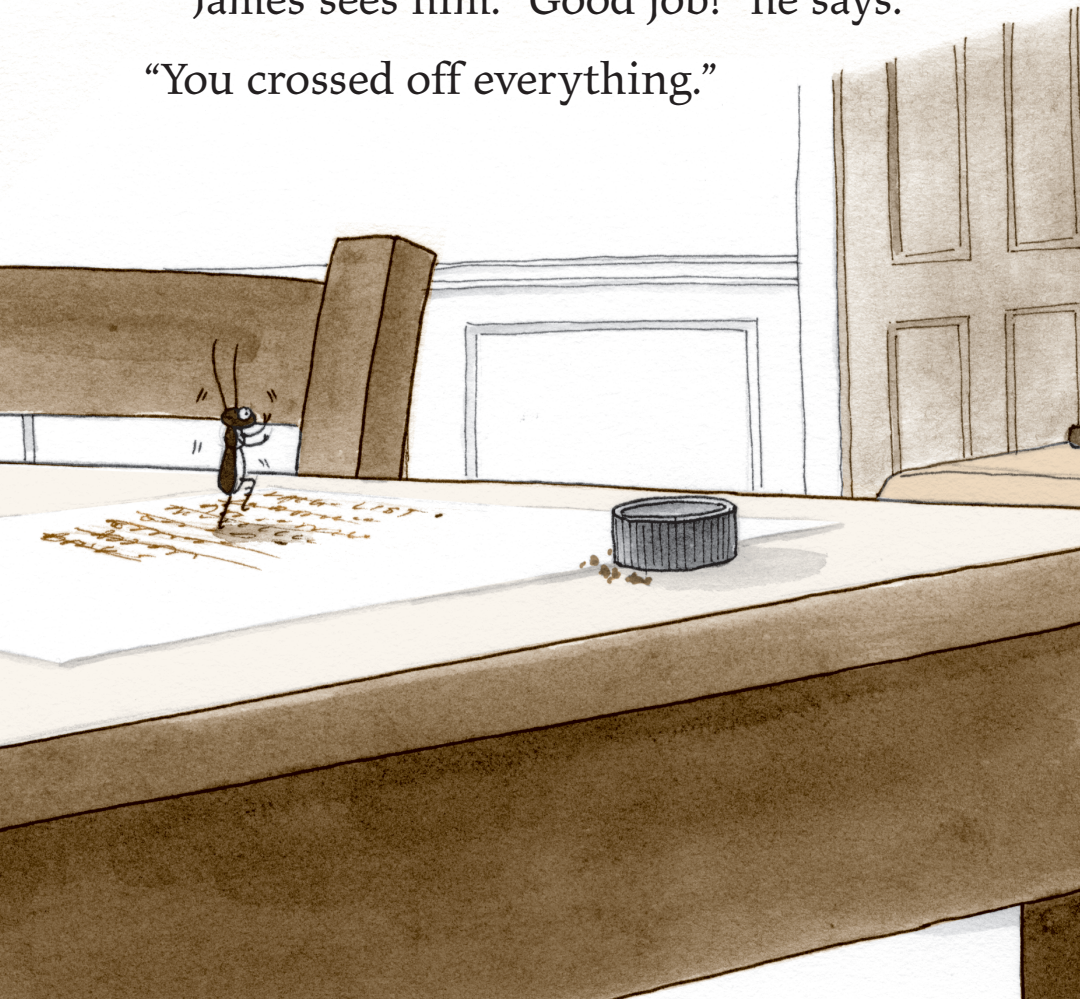
“James!” Mrs. Pompaday calls. “Are you ready? We can’t be late for the plane.”

“Coming, Mom,” James says. He zips his suitcase shut.



Uh-oh! The book is still on the floor. James will forget his book! Marvin runs over the list. All the words are crossed off. He taps his legs on number eight.

James sees him. “Good job!” he says. “You crossed off everything.”



Marvin keeps tapping.

James puts on his shoes.

Marvin runs around in circles.

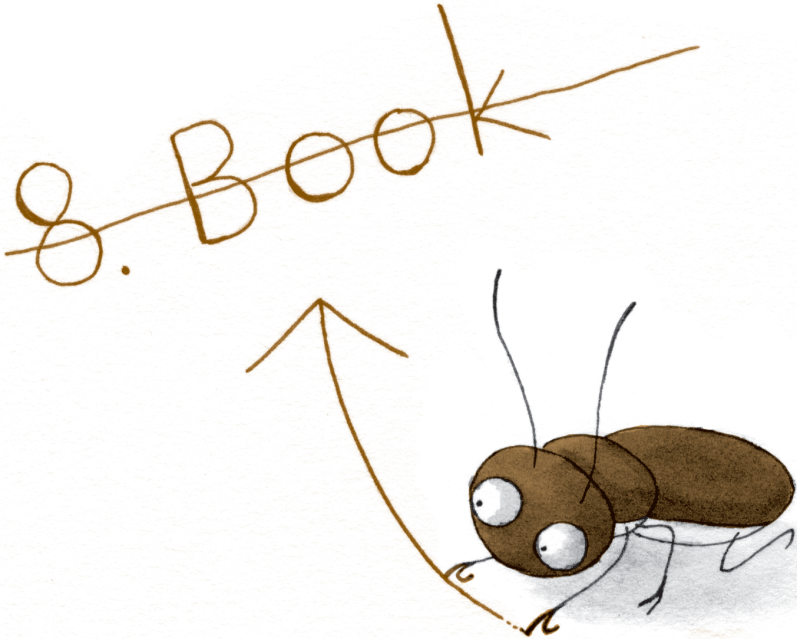
“Don’t worry,” James says. “I’ll be back soon.”



Marvin runs to the cap of ink and dips his legs in it.

James stands up. "Time to go."

Marvin runs back to the paper and draws this:



Finally, James understands. "Oh!" he says. "I forgot my book!"

He finds the book on the floor and puts it in his suitcase. Marvin sighs.

“Thanks, little guy!” James smiles at Marvin. “You are a big help.”

He pats Marvin’s shell. “Good-bye! See you in a week.”



Marvin lifts one leg and waves good-bye. He is still sad. But at least he helped James pack, and James did not forget his book.

