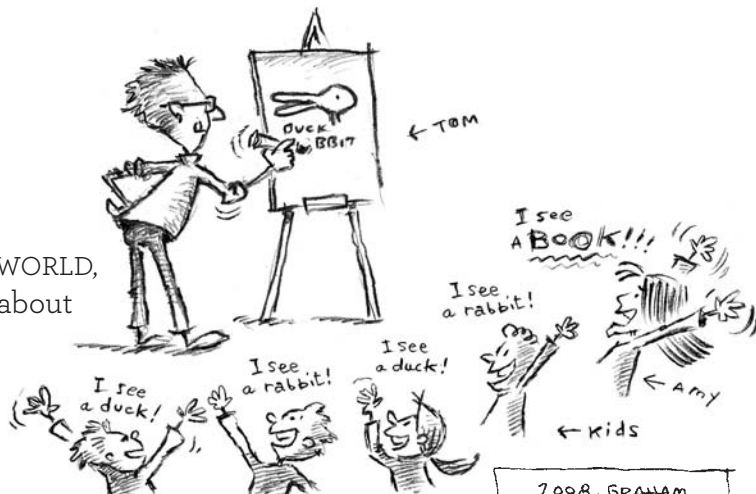




AS WE RELEASE OUR "BABY" INTO THE WORLD,
we wanted to briefly tell you a bit about
how this book was conceived.

Last June, we (Tom and I, Amy) were speaking at an elementary school together. A big part of our presentation has to do with our love of word play, palindromes, looking at the alphabet in new and fun ways, visual puns, etc. We were drawing stuff for the kids on an easel. And it was then that Tom ad libbed something on the spot: he drew the duckrabbit image and asked the kids (and me) what it looked like. There was a brief pause as everyone deciphered the image...and then... AN ENORMOUS BURST OF OOHS AND AHHS AND "COOOOOL!" FROM THE KIDS...and from me.



2008, GRAHAM
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
Naperville, Illinois

I could hardly contain my excitement about this little creature called DuckRabbit. I waited until we were done with the kids and then pulled Tom aside. *"Why haven't you ever talked about this before? That is the coolest thing ever! TOM, THAT'S A BOOK!!!"*

Right then and there I heard the "voice" of the book: I could just hear the two kids in my head debating, each one certain that he/she was right. *"It's a duck. Are you crazy? It's a rabbit!"*

Tom went on to tell me how he had been introduced to DuckRabbit in a college class exactly 30 years ago. Here's Tom:

"It was drawn by the professor in a class called Zen and Freud. It turned out to be the most lasting bit of information of my college career. I went on to draw DuckRabbit in public at every opportunity: doodling it in business meetings, on sidewalks, etc. I loved the simplicity and message of that little critter, but I never dreamt it could be a book."



1978, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON

I went home to write the first draft of the book. We met at a downtown Starbucks a week or so later to work on it together. It was a memorable creative jam session for us. Tom returned to his studio to sketch out the book, and then we promptly sent it off to our agent...who promptly sent it on to Victoria Rock at Chronicle Books. Much to our surprise and immense delight, we received a thumbs up verdict within a few hours!



2008, STARBUCKS,
Chicago

And to play out the conception/gestation theme, here you are *exactly nine months later* holding Duck!Rabbit! in your hands. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did making it.

with best wishes,
Amy and Tom