



## MEDIA ALERT

**January 30, 2007**

*Please note: Now through April 15<sup>th</sup> Fairyland operates on its winter schedule Friday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

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## **Chick Lit: Children's Fairyland's "Dr. Doolittle" to Release Storybook for Children**

### *Animal Caregiver's Book Based on True Chicken Love Story*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

"The Adventures of Penny, the Rhode Island Red," is a new children's book about a plucky chicken born in a factory farm whose incredible journey brings her to Oakland's celebrated storybook theme park. Written by Fairyland animal caregiver, Yvonne Backman, and illustrated by Fairyland employee Annie Wong, this new book about two abandoned chicks that fall in love is a Valentine's delight.

The story is based on actual events at the park after chicks Henry and Penny mysteriously arrived at Fairyland. Henry was left at the park's entrance in a box on the hottest day of the year. Penny was found with a string attached to her leg, and a beak that had been cut. Backman often mused about what their lives were like before they came to Fairyland and ultimately fell in love.

Backman wrote the book with help and inspiration from the Fairyland staff. Annie Wong, a graduate of the California College of the Arts, provided the illustrations of Penny and her animal friends, and Berkeley children's librarian Debbie Carton, whose daughter volunteers in Fairyland's animal department, assisted with editing.

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**Children's Book Release at Fairyland**

"The Adventures of Penny, the Rhode Island Red," may be read as a chapter book for kids aged 8-12 and also read aloud to younger children.

**WHAT:** Book signing, readings and meet & greet with children and families  
Media availability and photo opportunities (including the book's subjects, Penny the hen and Henry the rooster) available upon request

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 17 & Sunday, February 18, 2007  
2 and 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Children's Fairyland: 699 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610  
(510) 452-2259

**ABOUT:**

A non-profit organization, Children's Fairyland is the oldest storybook theme park in America. Since 1950, Fairyland is renowned for stimulating children's imaginations, creativity and desire to learn through multi-cultural and multi-lingual programs, including fairytales, sets, play-acting, storytelling, reading and animals.

A jewel in the East Bay, Fairyland is located on the shores of Lake Merritt, off Grand Avenue in Oakland.

Backman has worked for five years at the park, playing the role of Dr. Doolittle in interactive animal programs with Fairyland guests, summer campers, and field trips.

*November 3rd through April 15<sup>th</sup> Fairyland operates on winter hours: Friday through Sunday and National Holidays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. All open days are weather permitting. Admission to Children's Fairyland is \$6 per person, including rides and entertainment. Infants under one year are free. For safety reasons, no adult admitted without a child, and no child admitted without an adult.*

For more information, visit [www.fairyland.org](http://www.fairyland.org) or call (510) 452-2259.

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