

The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

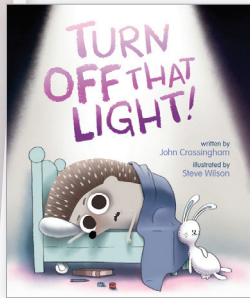
the
ins!de
track



Meet author John Crossingham

JOHN CROSSINGHAM has spent most of his life playing music and writing words. A veteran of numerous bands, including Broken

Social Scene and Raising the Fawn, he has toured much of the world and has released several albums and EPs. In addition to having edited with Owlkids Books, John is the author of *Learn to Speak Music*. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.



978-1-77147-101-5
\$18.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

Turn Off That Light! is a playful story in which a little hedgehog is fast asleep when, all of a sudden, the light clicks on. Suddenly the light turns off, then on, then off, then on... switching as the reader turns each page. Comics-style speech bubbles, wordplay, and humor abound in this interactive read.

When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?

Probably draw. Which, ironically and wisely, I leave to Steve Wilson in this book.

What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?

Eating raw tomatoes in a salad. It routinely filled me with absolute disgust and dread.

As a child, where did you dream of living?

Melbourne, Australia. I'm a dual citizen and visited family there fairly regularly. Even today, it's where I want to live most.

What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?

Again, drawing. It became a very immersive practice for me.

When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?

Someone who didn't beat me up.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I get the impression that this is a very clear thing for most people to recall, but I honestly can't say. I know I didn't want to be a lawyer like my dad, though.

What was your favorite book as a child?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, then *The Hobbit*.



The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

the
ins!de
track

What is your favorite pastime now?

Playing and writing music, followed closely by cooking, politics, and following sports.

What do you find an absolute chore?

Gardening. I am so awful at it and I loathe it — the backyard at my house is seemingly filled only with things that grow very quickly and have thorns and burrs. Also, I hate repairing drywall.

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

Melbourne. 100%. It's very reminiscent of Toronto in terms of its multicultural fabric and strong mix of sports, art, music, and so forth. But it's a far greener city, with a superior layout, a highly pedestrian-friendly downtown core, and better transit. Also, Aussie Rules footy is the greatest live sport on the planet, and Melbourne is its Mecca.

What is the one talent you wish you had?

Tennis skills. It's my favorite sport to play, but I'm really not very good.

What makes a good friend?

A love of sharing food.

If you weren't an author or illustrator, what job would you have?

I'd say musician, which actually was/is my other job. Just as long as I'm not expected to actually make money doing it.

What children's books have caught your attention lately?

The Princess and the Pony by Kate Beaton. I'm a huge fan of hers. In fact, *Turn Off That Light!* has a Beaton Easter egg of sorts hidden within.

If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

Probably something like "Don't hate the politician, hate the general ignorance of the electorate," only way snappier and somehow less judgmental.