



WHEN KIDS TAKE OVER NASA

Exclusive interview with author Carole Marsh



Interviewer: I know from your biography that you were fascinated by books from quite an early age, and frequented the public library as a young child to devour everything you could get your hands on. What did you enjoy reading later on, as a pre-teen and teenager?



Carole Marsh: Anything and everything! I liked all the James Michener books because of the history, all the big, thick cold war mysteries, anything about the sea, space fiction and non-fiction, novels, and more. Right now I'm reading War and Peace, Bonk, a Civil War book, and a book on education, among other things.



Interviewer: You have been writing children's books for more than thirty years now. What makes this the time for you to transition to a different audience?



Carole Marsh: I think I'm sneaking my way up the ladder to adult fiction. Maybe to keep up with what my "aging" grandchildren are reading? And just to delve into a new writing experience. Also, my publisher likes to nix some of my ideas because they are "too old" for my current 7 to 14-year-old audience. I don't take no well, so I'm creating some new series.



Interviewer: Can you tell me about your book, *WHEN KIDS TAKE OVER NASA*? Could kids really take over *NASA*?



Carole Marsh: Why wouldn't kids take over NASA? They shut down the space shuttle program, let go of gobs of talented and experienced scientists, and seem to no longer have a good plan to keep America not just at the forefront of space but headed into deep space sooner rather than later. If I were a kid (of any age), I'd say move over and let me try! Space belongs to kids if it belongs to anyone. This is a very adventuresome story in which I include some friendly, futuristic science. But it could happen? Seems real to me! That's how we transcend from childhood to adulthood sometimes, just start taking over. Why not?



Interviewer: What are the challenges of writing for a slightly older audience after such a long career successfully communicating with younger children?



Carole Marsh: No challenge, just a change in point of view: more characters, more characterization, more internalization, more character growth, more intricate plot, more words, more revision, more spelling to look up...just more.



Interviewer: What project will you be working on next? Are the kids from *NASA* coming back?



Carole Marsh: I think we're all waiting for *WHEN KIDS TAKE OVER CONGRESS*...oh, no: Kids have taken over Congress! I always have a sequel up my sleeve, or I would probably never write a book in the first place.