



MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

## DOM RODI

I am a compulsive doodler! In fact, I've been a doodler since as far back as I can remember, constantly producing a stream of imaginary characters that tumbled randomly from my imagination and that filled the margins and spaces of countless school books, diaries, placemats and note books over many, many years. So, when my friend, Barbara Worton, asked me to actually illustrate *Too Tall Alice*, (as opposed to random doodling), I jumped at the chance, despite my feelings of trepidation!

After having read Barbara's magical words and having talked to her at length about her wonderful "friend," Alice, I began making my first tentative marks to form the image of a girl I have since grown to love. Alice's image developed instinctively, and the more I drew, the more I could "see" her, and the more she developed, the more I could "feel" how she would react to her emotions and ultimately where her imagination would lead her to.

Consider that I've been a graphic designer for ever, (well, since 1971), an Art Director in publishing for a substantial part of that time and also managed a leading illustrator's agency in London, and you can imagine that *Too Tall Alice* was a challenge I never ever expected to have, but it is one that I've been absolutely delighted to accept.

Have I stopped doodling? Well, no is the short answer. Alice's friends still come to life on menus, desk diaries, envelopes and odd scraps of paper, but now they're joined by an eclectic array of animals, birds and gizmos that may well be seen in further children's books in the future.

Dom Rodi is currently the Creative Director of Great Little Books, LLC. Together with his wife, Jan, (a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher), and their talking cat, Taffy, they currently enjoy a full and active life sandwiched between their "Lemon House" in Florida and visits to children and grandchildren across the globe.