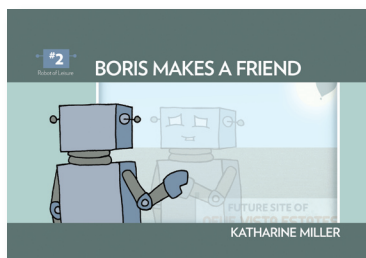


Robot of Leisure Offers Glimpse of What Happens When Robots Become Obsolete

For Immediate Release

Toronto, ON— Forget everything you know about robots. Meet Boris—the resident robot of leisure assigned to the Zükünfthaus model home. One event is about to change his life and challenge everything he’s been programmed to believe.



Robot of Leisure is an ongoing graphic novel series that blends retro-futuristic science fiction, mid-century cocktail culture, and silent comedy into a timely and surprisingly human story of one gentle robot’s pursuit of happiness and purpose. In the tradition of Monsieur Hulot and Mr. Bean, Boris wordlessly experiences life and finds delight in even the most mundane tasks. Readers of all ages will appreciate Boris’ innocence and curiosity about the things around him.



Through this six-part dialogue/narration-free series, Boris confronts and conquers obsolescence, solitude, and his own programming. This relic of an unrealized future must now adjust to his newfound freedom. Moments of internal and external conflict and mystery are tempered with plenty of dancing, cocktails, sock puppets, costumes, pillow fights, road trips, and surprises along the way.



Four parts of the series have been completed and are available in print and digital editions. The final two installments are slated for release in Summer and Fall 2012. Paperbacks are available for purchase at Amazon.com. The digital editions are available from all popular ebook retailers, including Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, Apple iBooks, Smashwords, and Kobo.

About the author:

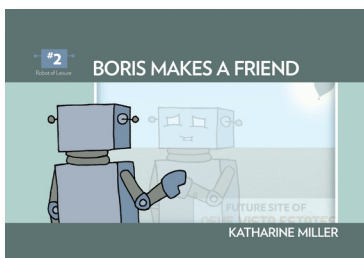
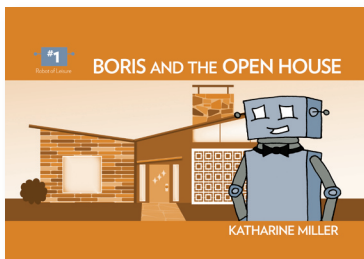
Katharine Miller is an American-Canadian writer and graphic designer. In 2009, she published her first book, *The Curable Romantic: Advice for the Romance-Impaired*—a collection of humorous essays on the topic of romantic relationships. Her second humor book, *30 Failures by Age 30* was released in 2011. Robot of Leisure is her first graphic novel series.

ROL #5: *Boris Meets His Maker*
(To be released Summer 2012)

ROL #6: *Boris vs. the Future*
(To be released Late Fall 2012)

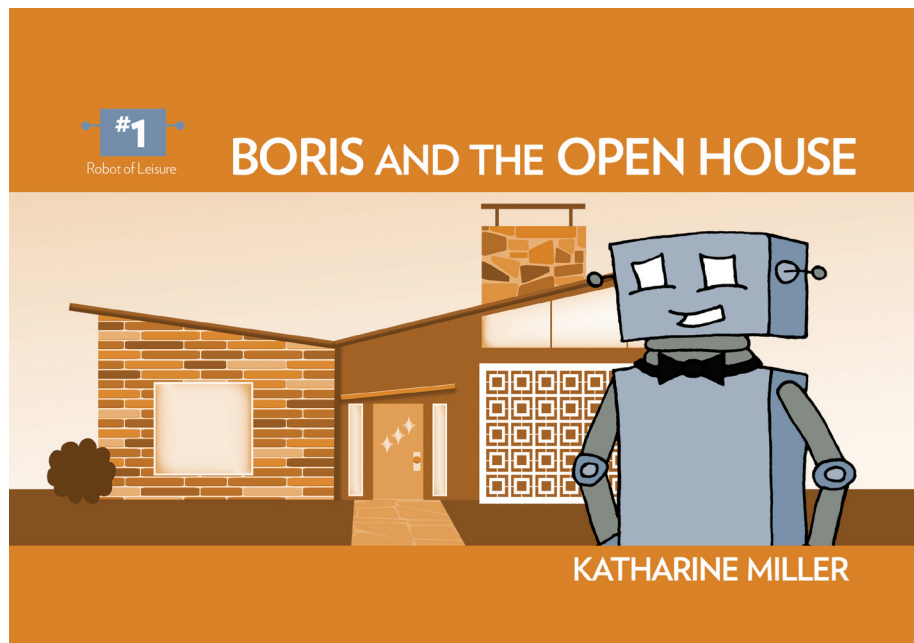
For interviews, contact Katharine Miller via email at katharsisjones@gmail.com.

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Robot of Leisure #1: Boris and the Open House

written and illustrated by Katharine Miller

Synopsis:

In *Boris and the Open House*, it is the first open house for Zükünfthaus and Boris gets the opportunity to show off his skills for hordes of potential homebuyers. As Boris prepares for the festivities, he is frequently distracted by his own enjoyment of his tasks. When the day doesn't go as planned, Boris copes with dashed expectations and uncertainty for the future.

Paperback edition:

ISBN: 9781452853154

Published May 4, 2010

Publisher: KLM Design

96 pages

8.2" x 6", Paperback, landscape, full color, soft-cover, perfect-bound

Retail: \$15.00

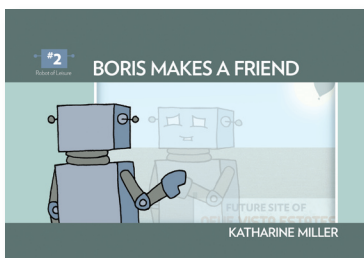
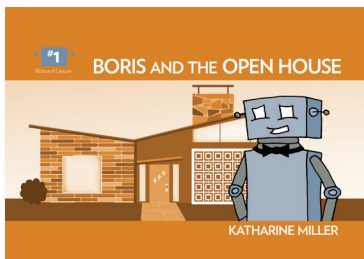
Digital edition:

ISBN: 9781458016201

available in .PDF, .epub, and .mobi

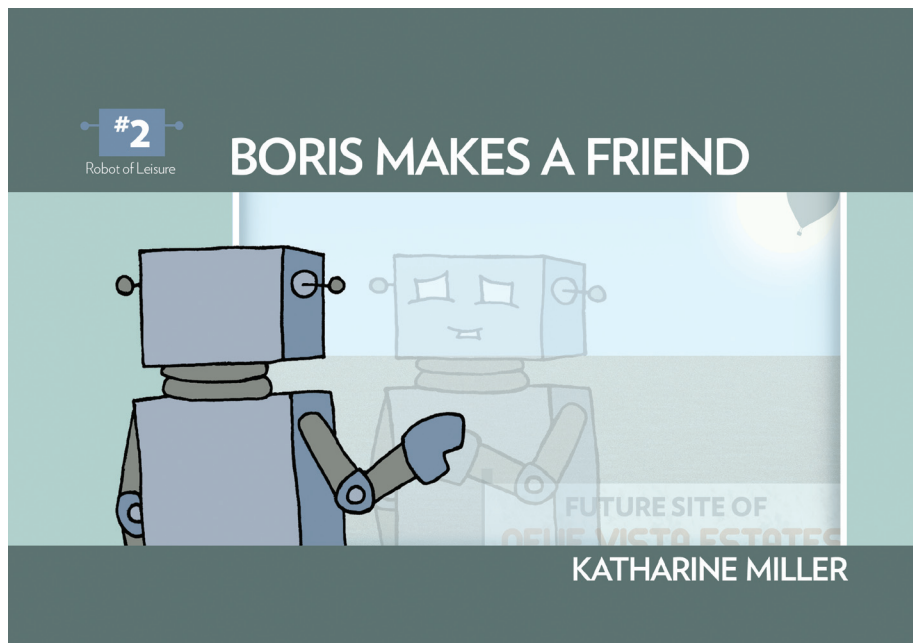
Retailers: Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, Apple iBooks, Sony eReader, Smashwords, Diesel, and Kobo

Retail: \$3.99



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Robot of Leisure #2: Boris Makes a Friend

written and illustrated by Katharine Miller

Synopsis:

Boris adjusts to his new life by indulging in the leisure activities available to him around Zükünfthaus. After days of swimming, dancing, and playing games, Boris finds there are only so much fun a robot can have by himself. He ventures out of the house in search of playmates and stumbles upon an unlikely kindred spirit during a rainstorm.

Paperback edition:

ISBN: 9781456403928

Published November 10, 2010

Publisher: KLM Design

114 pages

8.2" x 6", Paperback, landscape, full color, soft-cover, perfect-bound

Retail: \$15.00

Digital edition:

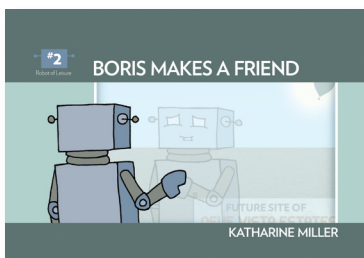
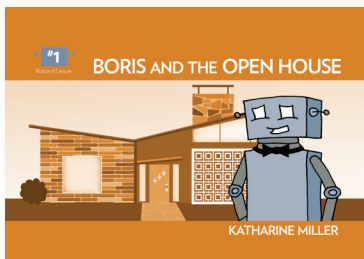
ISBN: 9781458100603

available in .PDF, .epub, and .mobi

Retailers: Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, Apple iBooks, Sony eReader,

Smashwords, Diesel, and Kobo

Retail: \$3.99



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(To be released Late Fall 2012)



Robot of Leisure #3: Boris Gets a Visitor

written and illustrated by Katharine Miller

Synopsis:

As Boris settles in with his sock puppet sidekick Beryl, the mysterious appearance of a parcel threatens to unsettle the peaceful atmosphere of Zükünfthaus. Boris is introduced to Nigel the automated butler, and with him comes confusion and misunderstanding. Will Boris compromise his freedom for friendship?

Paperback edition:

ISBN: 9781463527204

Published May 25, 2011

Publisher: KLM Design

106 pages

8.2" x 6", Paperback, landscape, full color, soft-cover, perfect-bound

Retail: \$15.00

Digital edition:

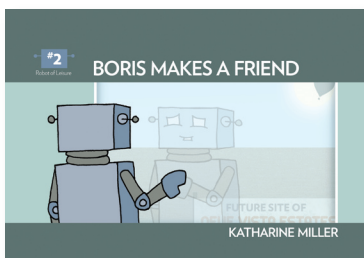
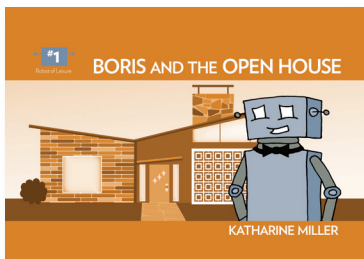
ISBN: 9781458011541

available in .PDF, .epub, and .mobi

Retailers: Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, Apple iBooks, Sony eReader,

Smashwords, Diesel, and Kobo

Retail: \$3.99



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(To be released Late Fall 2012)



Robot of Leisure #4: Boris Takes a Nap

written and illustrated by Katharine Miller

Synopsis:

When Boris gets restless with his life of leisure, he starts looking for a new purpose. He activates a dream sequence chock full of wacky costumes, vintage pop culture references, and potential new occupations.

Paperback edition:

ISBN: 9781475085945

Published September 25, 2011

Publisher: KLM Design

102 pages

8.2" x 6", Paperback, landscape, full color, soft-cover, perfect-bound

Retail: \$15.00

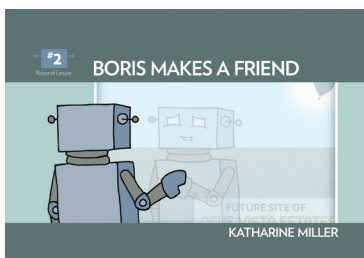
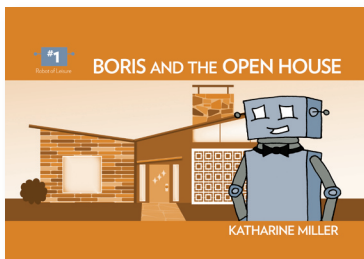
Digital edition:

ISBN: 9781466190368

available in .PDF, .epub, and .mobi

Retailers: Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, Apple iBooks, Sony eReader, Smashwords, Diesel, and Kobo

Retail: \$3.99



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About Robot of Leisure

In 2004–2005, WHiRR launched as a line of robot-themed paper goods and handmade crafts. The products were available via the WHiRR website as well as various online retailers. To date, the most popular design is Boris with his sock puppet titled “Robots Need Friends, Too.” WHiRR operated from a now-defunct website called “Blissfully Bitter.” WHiRR was originally known as BitterBots but the name was changed to better reflect the character. Boris may be lots of things; bitter he is not.

WHiRR continued from 2004–2007. Boris appeared at many craft fairs and art exhibits around Florida and in Toronto, Ontario. It was a great time for robots and robot artists. An attempt to keep up with a regular Robot of Leisure web comic proved too much. In 2007, life and hectic schedules put Boris on indefinite hiatus.

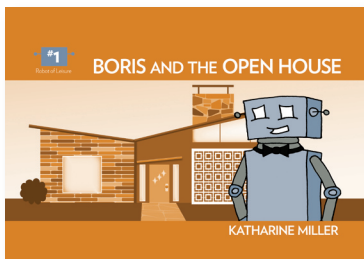
The WHiRR label was replaced by Robot of Leisure and inspired the idea for a graphic novel series. The series serves as an origin story for Boris, to give the audience a sense of where this silly little robot came from and why he wears silly hats. Creator Katharine Miller hopes to relaunch the Robot of Leisure product line in anticipation of Boris’s 10-year anniversary in 2013.

The Robot of Leisure graphic novel tells a story that will ring familiar to older readers. The series asks what happens when life passes us by? We get older, we lose jobs, we find that our skills are no longer relevant in the current workplace. We grieve. We get restless. We find our own little worlds to escape into. We make our own opportunities.

Boris finds that the world he was programmed for does not exist. He has to adjust to the idea that he won’t be serving cocktails and overseeing parties for humans. He has to adjust to the fact that he’s alone in the only place he’s ever known. He has to muster the courage to explore beyond the astroturf. As with human life, it’s a series of adjustments and readjustments, adapting to new situations and exercising free will. Does Boris have free will? Is he being manipulated by a mysterious figure in a control room? Can he become something other than what his original programming allows? Does he *want* to be something else?

The Robot of Leisure books explore all of that and more in a midcentury retro-futuristic setting in a style that blends vector and hand-rendered illustration. The dialogue-free narrative style makes quick, easy reading for all ages.

Robot of Leisure began as a short-lived web comic in 2006. The first installment of the current graphic novel series was published in mid-2010. The sixth installment is scheduled to be released in late 2012.

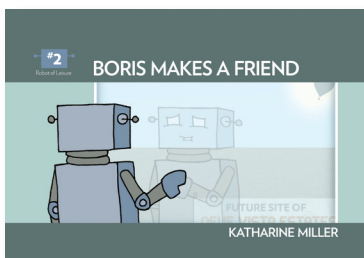


Robot of Leisure cast

Boris:

Boris is not your typical robot. He won't perform menial tasks for your amusement or convenience. He's not about to enslave the human race. Boris just wants to kick back with a martini and enjoy his retirement with a life of leisure. But it's not all fun and canned laughter for our favorite robot. While sipping his WD-40tinis, Boris reflects on his life and the sadness of being no longer needed.

Boris is the main character in the Robot of Leisure series. He was first created in 2003.



Beryl:

Beryl is a sock puppet and Boris' best friend. She is introduced towards the end of *Boris Makes a Friend*. She joins Boris in adventures and dress up games and is mildly disapproving of Nigel.

Beryl first appeared with Boris in 2004 in artwork titled "Robots Need Friends, Too."



Nigel:

Nigel is an English butler robot who shows up in *Boris Gets a Visitor*. He wears a bowler hat and moustache and faithfully adheres to his programming. Nigel and Boris engage in a series of misunderstandings initially as Nigel doesn't know that Boris is on his own in Zükünfthaus. Eventually the two robots settle into a mutual respect. It is unclear how consciously involved Nigel is in Dr. von Wrinkelbrau's activities.

Dr. Otto Ignatius von Wrinkelbrau:

Otto is the mastermind behind Boris, Nigel, Zükünfthaus, and Whirrtopia. He works for the Global Omnipresent Corporation (GLOMCO). He first appears in *Boris Takes a Nap* to assess Boris' situation and present him with possibilities for the future.



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