

book break

Victoria Diaz

Continued from Page 1... author of "A Week of Lacerations" and "The Secret Keeper" (highly acclaimed adult fiction), "A LONG WAY TO GO," one of

'Summer Spy' teen focus is right on target

By Liz Mulligan special writer... Spying on a cat lady is how first-time author Janice Jones opens "Secrets of a Summer Spy." Longtime friends Amy and Jimmy used to be inseparable with heroine Veronica. In summers past the three threesome, known as the "Clam-diggers," spent their time fishing, water-skiing and spying. But this summer Amy turns her attention to her appearance and Jimmy, Feeling

the first publications in Viking's Once Upon America historical series for young readers, tells the story of 8-year-old Lila during the days of the fight for women's suffrage... Anna Egan Smucker was recently lauded in the Horn Book for her first book, "No Star Nights." The nostalgic tale about growing up in a steel town during the '50s is slightly reminiscent of Judith Henderson's highly praised "In Coal Country." Artwork by Steve Johnson also received special praise. Popular children's writer Rosemary Wells will be at the Birmingham Bookstore 2-4 p.m. Saturday, May 5, to read from her work and autograph copies of her books, which include "Max's Chocolate

Chicken," "Sky Charles," "Noisy Nora" and "Forest of Dreams." She'll also be making appearances at 11 a.m. May 5 at Rochester's Halfway Down the Stairs bookstore, and 5-8 p.m. at the Elizabeth Stone Gallery in Birmingham. IN CASE you gave up on ever finding copies of "The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs," the book is generally available now. I searched for days during the Christmas season for this delightful tale by Flint native Jon Scieszka, before I finally discovered one lone copy at a small Livonia gift shop. The shortage occurred mainly because Viking, the publisher, simply did not foresee what was going to be the remarkable popularity of this zany, new version of the old pig tale! All these years, you see, the Big Bad Wolf has simply been the victim of "bad press." Why, he's not Big and Bad at all — never was, never will be. No matter what your age, read the book, which is now in its fourth printing, and get the real story behind the headlines.

teen focus is right on target

rejected, Veronica spies on and befriends Fern Peet. Fern is an eccentric cat lover who was once a concert pianist. She gives Veronica piano lessons and a place to go during her summer after the eighth grade. Set in a fictitious Michigan resort, the story is geared for young adults ages 10 to 14. "Secrets" reads quickly, hinting at the change from child to teenager without delving too deeply into an inner emotional struggle. Veronica wasn't prepared for her friends changing their interests

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