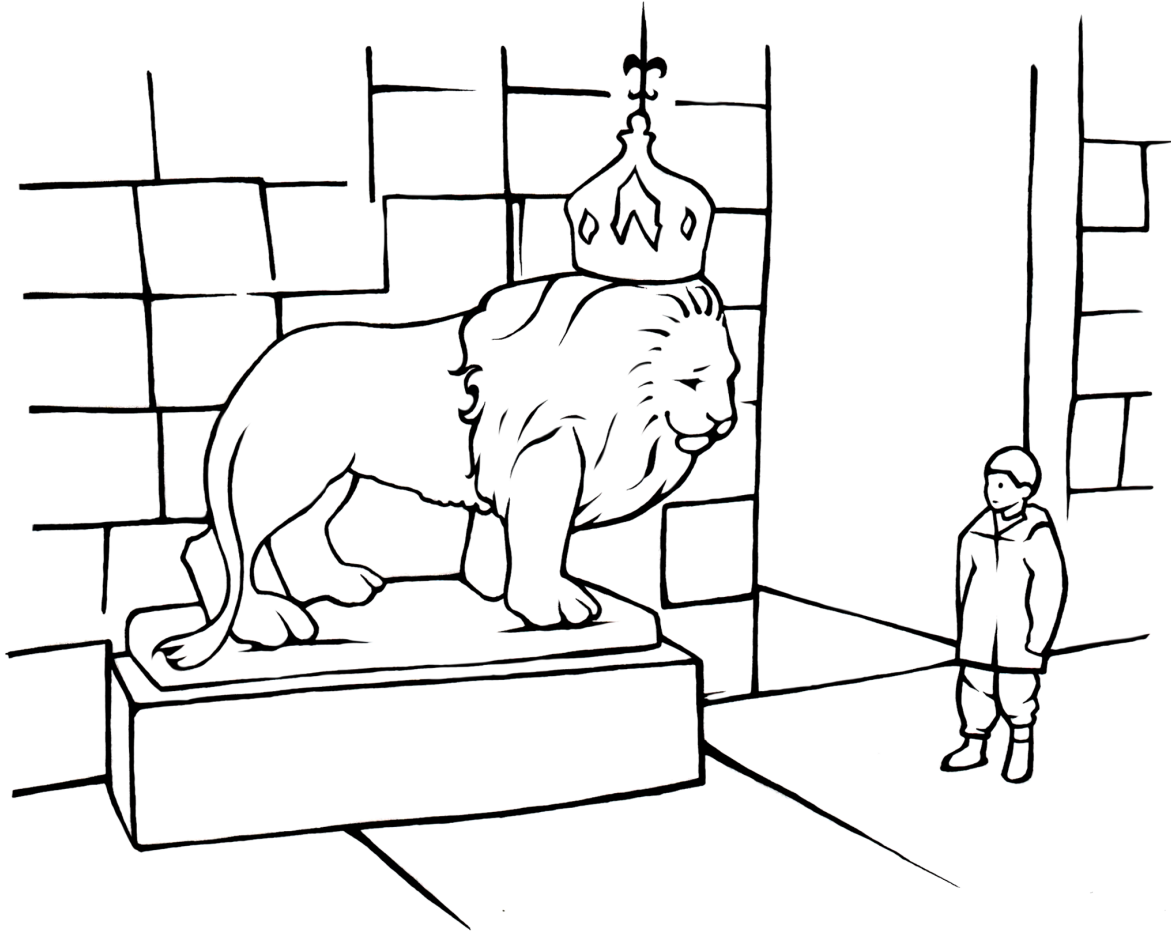


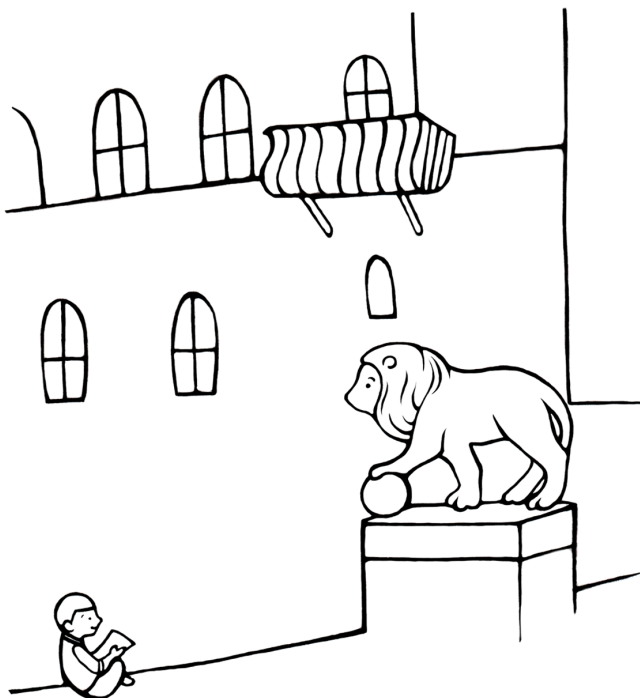
# RENATO AND THE LION

BY BARBARA DILORENZO

For more information, please visit:  
[www.renatoandthelion.com](http://www.renatoandthelion.com)



The idea for this book came to me while in the Bargello Museum, in Florence, Italy. My son was only three years old, and believed that the lion sculpture was alive. He was scared, and though he's now a teenager, he still remembers the feeling clearly. I took photos of him walking nervously toward the unnamed, crowned lion. Interestingly, there is a twin lion, but he didn't seem to notice it, or the other sculptures in the museum. It was this lion that seemed lifelike. His father and I encouraged him, and eventually he got close enough to realize that it was only stone.



When planning the story for *Renato and the Lion*, I felt that it was important to use a lion in a public space, so that readers would have easy access to the sculpture. Vacca's Lion, named after the artist Flaminio Vacca, seemed the perfect candidate. Very different in appearance from his friend across the steps, this lion guards and open-air courtyard of sculptures. He could easily step off his pedestal and roam through the city in the wee hours of the night.