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The Adventures Of Tom Thumb



Synopsis

A tiny boy has adventures in a cow's mouth, a fish's belly, and the stomach of a giant. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Age Range: 1 - 12 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 7

Customer Reviews

In this collaboration from the creators of Pegasus, Mayer's animated retelling of Tom Thumb's adventures and Craft's affectionate portrayal of the cherubic yet impish hero make for an enjoyable, if disjointed, read. In the time of King Arthur, Merlin uses his magic to grant Tim and Kate a son no bigger than Tim's thumb. In spite of the boy's protection by his fairy godmother, Tom Thumb endures a number of mishaps because of his size (he is swallowed three times) but survives to vanquish the fierce giant Gembo from the land. For this King Arthur knights him: "Sir Tom Thumb evermore the smallest and the boldest of the crown's protectors." Craft's renderings of architecture, dress and border art, inspired by 12th-century manuscripts and illustrations, capture both the grand and comic elements of the story. Scenes of a humiliated knight returning to the Round Table with the giant's bites taken out of his sword and shield or of Tom escaping down Gembo's mountainous shoulder will tickle the funny bones of many readers, while the diminutive fellow's reunion with his parents ends the volume on a note of happy recognition. Mayer's effort to form one coherent story out of a number of different episodes is not always smooth; still, this charming rendition does a nice

job of introducing a classic character. Ages 5-8. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

K-Gr 3-Mayer introduces the little hero who comes of a wish granted by Merlin to a childless farm couple and who eventually becomes the darling of King Arthur's court. In quick succession, Tom is swallowed by a cow and tickles his way out, and is snatched by a raven that drops him down the chimney of none other than the giant who has been plaguing the countryside. The protagonist offers his services around the house, but eventually the huge man's evil nature overtakes him and he eats Tom. Having already dealt with the cow, Tom gives Gembo such a case of intestinal distress that the giant coughs him into the moat, where he is eaten by an enormous salmon, which a fisherman catches and takes to King Arthur. Since Gembo has left the country in shame, Tom is knighted and feted by the court, and when he begins to miss his parents, he returns to their farm with a bag of gold coins. Mayer's fine retelling is sure to capture the fancy of young readers as happily as she's captured the spirit of the little fellow's adventures. Less wordy than older retellings, this luscious edition will find a ready audience, and the source notes will aid and satisfy teachers and researchers. Craft's opulent oil-over-watercolor illustrations will draw in even the most reluctant reader. The impish Tom, with curly red hair and freckles, is dressed in elfin finery with a tiny, magic sword strapped at his side. An appealing choice for even the youngest reader to embrace. Jeanne Clancy Watkins, Chester County Library, Exton, PA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

This book is just I remembered it! It was one of my faves and couldn't wait to read it to my son! The book was in great condition for being used, I totally trust the seller!

Great Item! Seller is 10 out of 10!

The retelling of Tom Thumb by Marianna Mayer is very well done. One adventure flows into the next seamlessly. The story has been around forever it seems with references back as far as 1579. It has been told and retold. What really adds to this retelling is the illustrations by Kinuko Craft. Whenever I get a chance to purchase a book with his illustrations, I do it. I know that I'm in for a treat as I read the stories to my grandchildren just because of the pictures. Well, they are very plentiful in this edition, as colorful and detailed as all his work. When the script calls for magic there is no one like Craft to layer the scene with mystical, masterful strokes.

This is a beautiful rendition of the traditional fairy tale, faithfully told, with an endnote telling a little about the folkloric history of the story. Tom Thumb overcomes tremendous odds and defeats enemies much larger than himself through courage and intelligence, endearing himself to small listeners for generations. The gorgeous illustrations are "loosely based on those of twelfth-century England, and the borders and ornamentation are inspired by manuscripts of the same era." Craft's unique paintings are lush and full of movement, and they add a significant aesthetic quality to an already pleasing story. One quibble is that the queen of the fairies is depicted at the baby's christening leaning over the baby in an off-the-shoulder gown that is just this side of modesty. Still, the book makes an excellent addition to a fairy tale collection.

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(Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary (Thumb Index Version))
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Tom Jones: The History of
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Tommy's Honor: The Story of Old Tom Morris and Young Tom Morris,
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Uncle Tom's Story of His Life: An Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah
Henson (Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom") from 1789 to 1876.
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