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Please Bring Balloons



Synopsis

Every day can be an adventure. Especially if you bring balloons. Ever wondered what it would be like to ride a carousel right off its platform? As Emma discovers, all it takes is a handful of balloons and a very kind polar bear to show you the way. This soaring story of friendship, between a carousel bear and the little girl who noticed him, will take readers to the arctic and back—in time for bedtime, of course—and remind them anything is possible. Even flying.

Book Information

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Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1 The opening lines of this story will grab the attention of anyone who has ever felt the thrill of finding a hidden note. Emma is suspicious of a carousel polar bear's ability to write a note, let alone ask for a balloon, but she plays along, "just in case." What happens next requires even more balloons and a trip into Emma's imagination as she and the polar bear are lifted into the night sky toward the North Star. When they land, Emma is grateful that she is wearing her red snow boots. She and the bear scale icy mountains, trudge through deep snow, and (on a double gatefold) encounter polar bears partying. Ward combines prints of maps and colorful paper to lend a whimsical and jaunty air to the pair's nighttime escapade. Finally, the two travelers sail home and Emma gets tucked into bed, only to wake up and find "everything as it always

was. When she returns to the carousel, she finds another note, asking for something even more surprising. While the story line labors over the dream/reality transition, readers will appreciate the ending. Emma's adventure would make an interesting prompt for imaginative writing.

Jenna Boles, Greene County Public Library, OH (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

The adventure begins with a scrap of paper peeking out from under a polar bear's saddle on the carousel. It instructs Emma to "Please bring" and there's a drawing of a balloon. After tying a red polka-dotted balloon to his saddle, she leaves for school, before returning to find yet another note, this one telling her to "Please bring MORE!" Once two dozen or so balloons are secured, Emma sits on the polar bear, who begins to float upward "toward the North Star." When they finally arrive at their snowy destination, a gatefold reveals an all-out "polar bear rumpus!" After dancing till midnight, they say their good-byes and float back down to earth. It's a rather anticlimactic ending, but the story's atmosphere is what makes this one work. Cut-paper collage illustrations, which include maps and algebraic equations, play against a starry night sky, creating a beautiful backdrop for a flight of fancy. Little kids, balloon and carousel lovers one and all, will enjoy this magical romp from the creator of *When Blue Met Egg* (2012). Preschool-Grade 1. --Ann Kelley

Fun story line and gorgeous, classic illustrations. Leaves room for imagination, wonder, and mystery.

We first rented these from the library and they were such beautiful illustrations we had to buy them.

Excellent book! The writing is fabulous, and the illustrations are gorgeous and fun. My two year old daughter and five year old neice LOVE this book, as do I. I am always happy when my daughter pulls it out for bedtime reading! This is my new go to gift for kids as well, since it's such a lovely book, but unlikely to be in their library already.

This is my toddler daughter's favorite book. We did her birthday party around this book and created a whole wintery themed party.

Our son is obsessed with polar bears...and balloons. This book was a winner (not his favorite but a

top pick.) In short: this is perfect for a 2 year old. The middle fold out pages are a little cumbersome but the story and illustrations are exquisite.

The artwork is beautiful and my two year old loves the story. It has all kinds of things she likes: animals, balloons, bicycles, and adventure.

I bought this book for my 3 year old daughter after checking it out from our local library. It's a beautiful story about a girl who goes on a magical adventure with a carousel polar bear. The book has colorful, whimsical illustrations and would be a great addition to your little one's bookshelf!

Fun, well produced, innovative book with a story that children will love and ask for

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