

A Fairy Went a-Marketing

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At a market, a fairy purchases riches found in nature. Then releases them for their own good or the good of others. A different season plays out with each stanza of Fyleman's verse. Visually exquisite, this is a story to be savored by both parents and children, and is a great book to be shared in preschool story time.

"The artist has created a fairy-world of beauty with animals, plants, reptiles and small details making each double-page spread a breathtaking scene. . . luminous." -Publishers Weekly

"What makes this picture book exceptional are the exquisite illustrations." -School Library Journal

Rose Fyleman was an English writer and poet. Fyleman's best known for her writings about whimsical fairies which were aimed at children of all ages. Her poem There are fairies at the bottom of our garden was set to music by Liza Lehmann and was received with great acclaim and adoration. Her Christmas carol Lift your hidden faces, was included in the hymnal Songs of Praise, as well as in the Hutterian Brotherhood's Songs of Light. PreSchool-Grade 3 A gentle fairy purchases nature's treasures but keeps them for her own pleasure only briefly before she releases them or gives them away. The four stanzas of Fyleman's verse, originally published in 1918, are pleasant but not particularly memorable in themselves. What makes this picture book exceptional are the exquisite illustrations. The dainty fairy with butterfly wings moves gracefully among nature's small creatures. Using a different season as the backdrop for each short narrative stanza, Henterly creates a panorama of the year. Rich colors and exquisite detail help children see the natural beauty that surrounds them. Children and adults will savor such touches as the fairy's wasp nest letter holder and her caterpillar boots. This is a book for unhurried gazing and quiet sharing. Kathy Piehl, Mankato State University, Minn.

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Other Books

Catastrophic Happiness. A comic and heartwarming memoir about childhood's second act from Real Simple journalist Catherine Newman. Much is written about a child's infancy and toddler years, which is good since children will never remember it themselves. It is ages 4-14 that make up the second act, as Catherine Newman puts it in this delightfully candid, outlandishly funny new memoir about the years that "your children will remember as childhood." Following Newman's son and daughter as they blossom from preschoolers into teenagers, Catastrophic Happiness is about the bittersweet joy of raising children -- and the ever-evolving landscape of issues parents traverse. In a laugh-out-loud, heart-wrenching, relatable voice, Newman narrates events as momentous as grief and as quietly moving as the moonlit face of a sleeping child. From tantrums and friendship to fear and even sex, Newman's fresh take will appeal to any parent riding this same roller coaster of laughter and heartbreak.

❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ . Instead, say, irrelevantly, "Would you like to read Fairy Went a-Marketing?" and Birdy stomps away. Such a bald-faced distraction will not, at this point, be dignified with a response. The thing about tantrums is that sometimes there is ..."