



The Bear and the Piano

By David Litchfield

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The Bear and the Piano By David Litchfield

One day, a young bear stumbles upon something he has never seen before in the forest. As time passes, he teaches himself how to play the strange instrument, and eventually the beautiful sounds are heard by a father and son who are picnicking in the woods. The bear goes with them on an incredible journey to New York, where his piano playing makes him a huge star. He has fame, fortune and all the music in the world, but he misses the friends and family he has left behind. A moving tale of exploration and belonging from an exciting debut author-illustrator.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 2-A young bear finds a piano in the middle of the forest and begins to play. Initially turned off by the awful sound, he leaves but soon returns to try again. The bear continues to practice for years and years until he can play like a virtuoso. Not only does his playing give him immense pleasure but the other bears are enchanted as well. When a boy and a girl discover the bear's amazing talent, they convince him to move to the city. Sad to leave his friends but excited to explore another world, he ventures forth and becomes a sensation. After much fame and accolades, the bear realizes that he misses his friends and decides to return home. He is heartsick when he can't find his piano in the woods and assumes they have all forgotten him. Happiness is restored when he learns his friends have kept the piano in the shade to protect it and were eagerly awaiting his return. Litchfield's debut picture book is a visual feast. Using a variety of different techniques and then digitally assembling them, he has produced a story filled with verdant and luminous images that create an enchanting atmosphere. The story encourages young ones to follow their dreams and pursue their unique talents. **VERDICT** A wonderful addition for all collections.-Amy Nolan, St. Joseph Public Library, St. Joseph, MO(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

"A beautiful story about enduring friendship, accompanied by big, dramatic illustrations." -- Saffia Farr Juno
"Positively gushing with Litchfield's exceptional use of light and texture and provides an overwhelming sense of atmosphere... Litchfield's distinctive style and rich illustrations provide the perfect accompaniment to this tale of tenacity, exploration and belonging. We can't wait to see how he follows what is destined to be a most successful debut." Picture Book Blogger "One of the most distinctive and original book debuts of the autumn." Selected as Children's Special in the Picture Book category. -- Fiona Noble The Bookseller
Selected for Top 10 Top Children's Books to Get Excited About (for Children's Book Week): "We love the distinctive art style and the charming concept! Within the book, lessons about exploration and belonging are learned." The Reading Room 'One of the most impressive debuts of the autumn, this is a really stunning picture book with both critical and commercial appeal. A bear stumbles upon a piano in the forest which takes him on the most incredible of journeys.' Selected as a Highlight of the Season in the Children's Autumn Buyer's Guide. The Bookseller "... His vivid, atmospheric scenes of forest and city are imagined on a vast scale, but there is an accessible warmth and humanity to them." Selected as Editor's Choice for the Picture Book Category in the Children's Previews. -- Fiona Noble The Bookseller

About the Author

DAVID LITCHFIELD first started to draw when he was very young, creating Star Wars and Indiana Jones 'mash up' comics for his older brother and sister. His first picture book, *The Bear and the Piano*, won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize (Illustrated Book Category) and became a best-seller in the UK and US. It was shortlisted for 8 other awards in the UK including the Sheffield Children's Book Award and the Independent Bookshop Week Award, and has sold in over 20 languages. David has since illustrated *The Building Boy* by Ross Montgomery (Faber & Faber, 2016), and his second book, *Grandad's Secret Giant*, will publish in April 2017. David lives in Bedford with his family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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