



Little Fox in the Forest

Stephanie Graegin

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A wordless picture book in which two friends follow a young fox deep into the woods and discover a wondrous and magical world.

When a young girl brings her beloved stuffed fox to the playground, much to her astonishment, a real fox takes off with it! The girl chases the fox into the woods with her friend, the boy, following close behind, but soon the two children lose track of the fox. Wandering deeper and deeper into the forest, they come across a tall hedge with an archway. What do they find on the other side? A marvelous village of miniature stone cottages, tiny treehouses, and, most extraordinary of all, woodland creatures of every shape and size. But where is the little fox? And how will they find him?

Little Fox in the Forest Details

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From Reader Review Little Fox in the Forest for online ebook

Earl says

A picture book about two friends on the hunt for the girl's missing stuffed fox. Following the culprit leads them into a charming forest village.

I didn't really like the resolution. And I couldn't help but think about The Golden Girl's episode where Rose's stuffed animal gets accidentally donated.

Donalyn says

Charming illustrations

Laura Harrison says

Extremely endearing picture book about a child fox who finds a little girl's stuffed toy fox. It immediately becomes his inseparable toy. The little girl searches all over and asks the woodland animals if any of them have seen it. Kindness and love prevail when the girl sees how much the little fox loves her toy. Yeah! Children will love this expertly illustrated, sweet book!

David Schaafsma says

This was my personal vote for Goodreads Picture book for 2017, though there were four or five I (and my family) loved, including The Book of Mistakes, A Different Pond (no longer in the running, but this was my actual favorite) and Over and Under the Pond.

Each year my family reads all the Goodreads-award-nominated picture books, and we have been doing this for years. Everyone rates each book and adds a comment and it may (or may not) affect my overall rating. This is book #18 of 2017.

Tara: 5 stars. Very sweet. Bright colors to draw attention to things. Not sure about the ending, though (see below).

Harry (12): 5 stars. Loved the art. Her favorite stuffed animal--treasured--was stolen.

Hank (11). 3 stars. I like how the girl was nice enough to (finally) give her favorite toy away [after it had been stolen by people who really needed it more than the girl did].

Jenn (adult family friend): 5 stars. So smart!! Sweet story, sweet artwork.

Dave: 5 stars. A great wordless picture book! A girl with a toy fox finds a real fox the woods, who seems curious, interested in the fox. She has her toy fox stolen by the real fox! A boy joins the search, and other animals, a weasel tries to steal it, too. The boy and the girl find a remote animal village (with a moose grocer,

raccoon families, fox families. . .), and sure enough, they find the toy fox in the real fox's home. And the girl decides the real fox family and real fox actually needs it more than she does. Wonder and imagination and great artwork. About the necessity of imaginary companions, and real ones, about sharing your most prized possession with others, about real friendship!

Michele Knott says

I am completely in love with this book. Gorgeous, timeless, heart warming, touching. This is a book I'll reread over and over.

karen says

oooh, goodreads choice awards semifinalist for best picture book! what will happen?

AAAAAHHHH this book is too damn adorable! many thanks to erica for bringing it to my attention.

this little girl is about to learn a lesson about what happens when you take your eyes off your treasured possessions when there's a fox lurking nearby:

but can you blame him?? it looks just like him, a ready-made friend! and he already has so many adventures planned for the two of them!

plus, you cannot say 'no' to this sad little foxen face.

although this girl certainly tries. she and her friend go in pursuit of the fox in a beautifully-illustrated, wordless chase through the forest, where the blah-colored human world slowly gets infiltrated by colorful accents as members of the animal-world peek out at the children,

(apparently "snitches get stitches" is not a maxim of the animal kingdom)

until we reach the full-color glory of where all the wild things are:

eventually, the children find the fox-bandit and his ill-gotten toy. but again - no heart can stand seeing such cute made so sad.

i'm certainly not thoughtless enough to ROON the ending of a children's picture book, but greg had some discomfort with the ending (cuz i made him read this, too) that must be addressed, so come with me to spoilertown:

(view spoiler)

i just realized i still have to review the read-long-ago and similarly-titled In Fox's Forest. oops. will i ever get caught up on anything?

i need a unicorn.

D'Iberville Library says

This is strictly a picture book. The entire story is told without words. The detail in the pictures makes this such a special little story.

A little girl takes her beloved stuffed fox to school for Show and Tell. Afterwards, she goes to play on the swing set. A little passer-by sees her little fox and scampers off with it! She chases down the culprit, but loses him in the forest. The whole adventure is beautifully illustrated with cute little touches throughout (keep your eyes peeled for the little red bird on each page).

Highly recommended!

KC says

I loved this no text book about a young girl who loses her favorite stuffed animal to a fox who happens to steals it.

Elizabeth? says

A story told in pictures. This is the story of a girl that has a beloved stuffed animal. On the day she takes it to show and tell, it gets taken. She and her friend venture into the forest to find the fox that took her stuffed animal. They stumble into a world of wonder.

My five year old like looking at each panel and noticing all of the detail. It is truly remarkable. A lovely story told with timeless art work.

Erica says

The cute! It hurts!

So here's an adorable story without words in which a young girl brings her beloved stuffed animal, a fox wearing a striped turtleneck, to school for show-and-tell. After school, she goes to the playground and her fox gets Swipered!

She runs off to reclaim her beloved friend and is soon joined by her best human friend. The two embark upon a colorful adventure and cuteness abounds.

In this story, the real world is monochromatic, all shades of blue. The animal world is all color.

I'm sure that means something but I'm not smart enough to figure it out.

However, here's what I did notice: If you're looking for a book about the importance of representation but need to showcase your message with a gentle touch, this is what you've been seeking because here's the thing: not only is the little girl not white, but the imagery of the fox who has stolen the stuffed fox that looks just like him is meaningful, though subtle. This little fox in his yellow stripey turtleneck is so happy to have found his representation that he takes it for his own. That's pretty powerful, if you look at it in just the right light. No, not the thievery light - though, as you might imagine, this story rang true to me what with my own history of foxen who steal toys - but the claiming one's image light.

But that's not the message being shared, here; it's just background and only if you want to see it. The point of this story is compassion, sharing, and understanding and it's delivered in such a sweet way that even I didn't roll my eyes.

Also in the background are many little treats. The illustrations are full of surprises, the kinds of things you only notice after looking at the pictures over and over again. It's awfully fun.

Barbara says

Illustrations created with pencil, watercolor and ink and then assembled and colored digitally tell a story filled with magic, love, friendship, and unexpected acts of kindness. A girl brings her cherished stuffed fox to school for show and tell, but a real fox swipes it while she is playing outdoors. She and her friend follow the fox, determined to get it back. As they race through the forest, they discover a magical land filled with animals wearing hats and clothing and living in small houses. When they gather all the animals together in a central meeting place to show what they're looking for, a bear realizes just where he's seen the stuffed fox. Although the two friends find the stuffed animal and the little fox reluctantly agrees to part with it, the girl can tell how much he loves it, and decides to let him keep it. The little fox gives her something in return, and everyone is happy. The lack of words does not cause problems in understanding the story since each illustration speaks volumes. I especially liked the images that showed animals hiding behind trees or a bird flying nearby or, near the end, perched right outside the girl's bedroom window. This one is perfect for sharing with young readers and helping them look closely at the images in order to understand what's happening.

Hilary says

4.5 stars for a very cute story told without words of a little girl who's favourite fox teddy gets stolen whilst she plays next to some woods by a young fox. Going deeper into the woods she follows the thief which leads her to a sylvanian style world of little animal families in clothes going about their daily life in their pretty tree trunk houses.

Lovely book for children to read to themselves, lots to look at, very cosy and comforting. We didn't agree with the little girls decision at the end of the story. Several much loved stuffed toys in the room gasped and looked away in disgust.

Tasha says

In this wordless graphic novel, a little girl brings her stuffed toy fox to school for show-and-tell and it is taken from the playground by a real fox! The girl and her friend chase after the fox, stopping to ask directions when they find a small door in a tree. The squirrel who lives there points them in the right direction. Meanwhile, a weasel tries to steal the toy from the little fox, but a bear steps in and sorts it out. The children arrive at a town where animals live together and they enlist the help of the entire area to search for the fox. Soon they discover the little fox and his stolen toy, but what will they do then?

Graegin tells a really wonderful story solely through images. Using white space to frame her images into a graphic novel format, the story is told with rich details. It clearly establishes the little girl's long attachment to the stuffed fox and her desire to share it with her class. Then the story becomes a chase sequence and a mystery of where the fox has gone. It then enters a lovely fantasy where the entire animal town comes to life, shown in a wide panorama that makes one want to wander the streets.

One special device used through the book is that the children are shown in black, grays and whites. The color enters the book subtly at first with the little fox and a red bird who watches from above. The children maintain their more somber color palette even as the world around them is vibrant color. Yet these worlds can touch and cross, much to the joy of the reader.

This genre bending graphic-novel picture book is beautiful, rich and worthy of journeying through time and again. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

Mary Ann says

Wonderful wordless picture book that celebrates friendship, imagination and a child's love of her stuffed animal. Perfect pacing, with excellent use of panels to move action along. Perfect gift along with a Calico Critters family. My full review: Great Kid Books

Charlotte says

the nicest sort of wordless picture book, where the magic of the story comes through vividly and beautifully and you want to turn the pages back the other way once you finished to find the details you missed the first time through, when focused on what happens to the little girl's fox-napped stuffed fox!
