



The Secret of Black Rock

Joe Todd-Stanton

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Erin loves to lie on the jetty, looking for the weirdest fish in the sea—the weirder, the better! And she knows the best ones must be further out, where her mum won't let her go . . .

Out there in the deepest sea lies the Black Rock: a huge, dark and spiky mass that is said to destroy any boats that come near it! Can Erin uncover the truth behind this mysterious legend?

The Secret of Black Rock Details

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Author : Joe Todd-Stanton

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From Reader Review The Secret of Black Rock for online ebook

Anna Redding says

Just a beautiful book, magical, whimsical. Perfect for curling up with next to a fire and talking about assumptions in our own lives. The illustrations and text will transport you to a far away place to be savored.

RhiannaH says

A lovely story which perfectly illustrates how things are not always as they are assumed to be.

Mathew says

It was with some trepidation that I picked up Todd-Stanton's next book since I had enjoyed Arthur and the Golden Rope so much but I have not been disappointed.

Sticking to the winning formula of an adventurous child living in a world fringed with fantasy (much like Pearson's Hilda series), Erin Pike is a young girl fascinated with the local legend around Black Rock. Although she often tries to seek it out by boarding her mother's fishing boat (yes, good to see a female fisherman!) she always found until one time her guile serves her well and she manages to stay on board. When she finally encounters Black Rock, she is surprised (I loved how Todd-Stanton forces the reader to shift perspective both by changing the way we read the book and challenging our view of Black Rock too). The rest of the story leaves us with a strong message about how we judge outsiders and a nice ecocritical commentary too. Plenty of potential in the classroom.

Ellie Labbett says

A gorgeous book about an intrepid girl named Erin, who unveils the truth behind the notorious Black Rock, famed for shifting shape and ominously blocking the paths of fishermen and fisherwomen. Mirroring our curious protagonist, Todd-Stanton's pictures are wonderfully inquisitive and teeming with life. I felt that it was the illustrations that carried the story, beautifully building up an atmosphere of anticipation, with the hushed and muted tones heightening the sense of caution and trepidation, to lift as the discovery furthers. A superb way to introduce mystery to KS1, with a hint of folklore being added in for extra measure.

Hilary says

I bought this book for my daughter for Christmas without seeing it first. Initially I was dissatisfied, from reviews I thought this was a graphic novel and from the cover and title I thought of it as a modern version of Tintin with a female lead role, so when I received it I was dissatisfied because it looks like a picture book for a very young child and although I agree with the sentiment, it looked like a 'save-the-ocean-stupid-adults' book.

The illustrations are beautiful and the sea life is carefully observed, I wish there could have been more text

and the ocean life and black rock could have been given voices so the message could have been given in a more subtle way. My daughter really liked it and said she was so glad I bought it anyway because she loved the story, illustrations and sea creatures.

Although the story is based around a fishing village, nothing is caught or killed and the book carries the message of preserving ocean life.

Karine Mon coin lecture says

Quel bel album! Une très belle façon de parler de l'environnement et de l'importance de le protéger. Le tout avec des personnages attachants et sans ton trop moralisateur pour les petits.

David Schaafsma says

Well, don't think you are going to hear the secret from me!

Cute textured production with lovely illustrations by Flying Eye Books and Joe Todd-Stanton.

Jennifer B. says

I really enjoyed this, the story and the illustrations. It's also interesting to note that the main character is a girl and her fisherwoman mother!

Figgy says

Review to come.

Cute and sweet and nice illustrations, but what's with the overabundance of exclamations?!

Stephanie says

Loved the illustrations, but the message that kids need to be change agents to save the world because adults are dumb is tiresome.

Andrew says

I love short adventure books like this. It reminds me a bit of the Hilda books by Luke Pearson. Very bold, beautiful artwork with a fun adventure. I felt like the prose was aimed for a little too young of an audience. I think the author could write for an older audience and still be readable by youngsters.

Jasmine from How Useful It Is says

About: The Secret of Black Rock is a children's picture book written and illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton. It will be published on 6/13/17 by Flying Eye Books, a children's imprint of NoBrow Press, hardcover, 40 pages. The genres are picture books, children, and fiction.

My Experience: I started reading The Secret of Black Rock on 5/25/17 as a story time for my 5 year-old son and we finished it on the same day. We read it again on 5/27/17 and 6/1/17 per my son's request. This book is truly an amazing read! The story grabbed both of our attention from beginning to end. The illustration is magnificent! Both my son and I loved it. My son refused me to read for him if he can't look at the illustrations. It's so beautiful and the pictures I took doesn't do its justice so I decided to use the images provided by the publisher via Edelweiss.

In this book, readers will follow Erin Pike and her dog Archie as they stare longingly to sea. She had heard of the legend of Black Rock, how it doesn't stay in one place, caused many wrecks, and it's as big as a mountain. She tried many times to sneak into her mom's fishing boat so that she can go out to sea to look for Black Rock but Archie always sniffed her out. One day, she thought of a clever idea and got passed Archie's nose. When her mom's boat were far out to sea and fog came down thick, the top of Black Rock appeared and Erin's mom turned the boat around quickly to avoid the crash, Erin went tumbling down into the deep sea. I love the suspense in this story, describing how Erin falls into the sea deeper and deeper.

I never knew children's picture books can be such fantastic read until I read this book! I love it when the main character is brave, curious, and can think up clever ideas. I like that Erin takes action to doing what she believes is right when others believe in the worst. My son loves this story because Erin choose to save rather than destroy. Another reason this book is great for kids is because it has a "subtle message about environmentally-friendly practices and the importance of protecting coral reefs." I highly recommend everyone to read this book, either for yourself, for your kids, or have your kids read it. It's definitely a re-read for my son and I and we have already read it 3 times!

Pro: illustration, brave, curiosity, nature, sea animals, actions & adventures, legend, mystery, suspense, fishing town

Con: none

I rate it 5 stars!

***Disclaimer: Many thanks to NoBrow for the opportunity to read and review. Please assure that my opinions are honest.

xoxo,

Jasmine at www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com for a detailed review

Donovan says

I hesitate to say anything negative about this book, because it's one of the more beautiful picture books I've seen in a while. The story.....has some holes. BUT! I love the setting and the context AND the sentiment. I

freaking ADORE the artwork. It's as pleasing as a good swim in the ocean. Much praise for JTS's talents.

Marie Soleil Cool-Cotte (Soquibouquine) says

Erine vit sur le bord de la mer, là où le vent du large vient ébouriffer le quotidien. Tous les matins, la maman d'Erine part pêcher loin de la côte. Tous les matins, Erine tente de se glisser en douce entre les cordages pour partir à l'aventure... mais son chien au nez fin fait toujours cafouiller ses plans. C'est qu'Erine voudrait tant voir de ses propres yeux le si mystérieux Rocher noir dont tous les pêcheurs parlent au village! Un rocher sombre, et grinçant, et malveillant. Or, voilà qu'un matin, Erine déjoue la bienveillante vigilance de son chien et part en mer. Ce qu'elle y découvrira chamboulera alors toutes ses certitudes...

D'une plume tout en finesse fleurant bon l'eau salée, et plongeant le lecteur dans un univers visuel aux textures évocatrices, Joe Todd-Staton tricote une histoire où l'improbable côtoie le possible, où le fantastique valse avec le réel. À mi-chemin entre album jeunesse et roman graphique, cet opuscule souligne que les apparences embrouillent parfois malicieusement la vérité.

Chance Lee says

Beautiful illustrations complement a somewhat basic fable about a girl who sees what adults cannot. The magical world drawn by Todd-Stanton deserves a more creative story to accompany it. The artwork is absolutely stunning, saving an otherwise trite tale.
