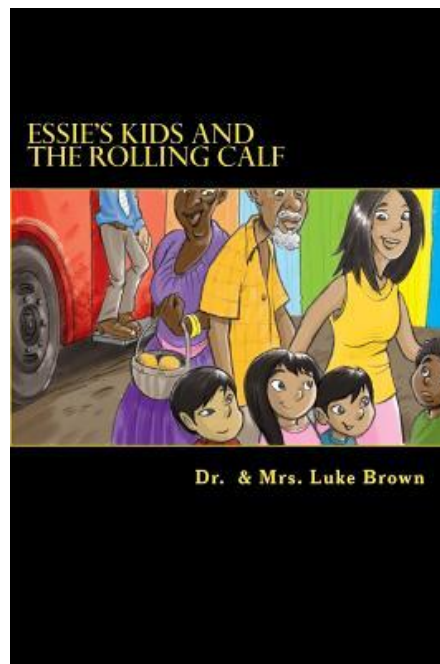




Essie's Kids and the Rolling Calf: Island Style Story

Luke A.M. Brown , Berthallia Fonseca-Brown

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A "rolling calf" is a ghost that often appears in the form of an animal. Most people who had close encounters reported that they first heard or detected the rolling calves by their loud chiming and rather unnerving clanking noise. This familiar sound was made by the long chain that they dragged along behind them. They have large red eyes like a dragon's. Some even said that they could breathe fire through their mouths. Some said that the rolling calves were the spirits of evil butchers who had been cruel and mean when they were alive. The best way, they said, to get away from these monstrous beasts was to drop various things on the ground. This storybook was written in an exciting island-style manner. It is about Essie's kids on the island of Jamaica and their unusual encounter with a rolling calf. This is the first of a five part series. The story is continuous. The whole series should be read in order to truly see and understand the full picture that the authors are trying to illustrate. Along with the ability of this black and white picture-book to be used as a coloring-book, there is also a drawing/note pad at the end of each book that allows the reader to draw or demonstrate their own personal illustration of the story after completing the book. Finally, these books also end uniquely always with a strong moral story. 'When it dawned on Karl that his pursuer was most likely to be a rolling calf, he really started running as if he hadn't been running before. He forgot about his damaged toe. He forgot about running and hopping. He was now running full, top speed, Carl Lewis or Asafa Powell style. He was all-out straight sprinting. He shifted into sixth gear and took off blazing the trail for his dear life. Neither Usain Bolt nor Michael Johnson nor any other athlete or track and field star could have kept up with Karl that night. He was sure that he must have broken some kind of world record. He was seriously on the verge of flying as he could feel the wind rushing by him like a turbulent storm.' Chapter 5, page 26 of Essie's Kids and the Rolling Calf. For more info please see www.EssiesKids.com Clarion Review

JUVENILE FICTION Mystery stories for kids have changed dramatically in the last few decades. Characters like Encyclopedia Brown and The Boxcar Children have been replaced by wizards, vampires, werewolves, and zombies. Innocent sleuthing of creepy houses has been replaced by elaborate battles with powerful supernatural figures. That's what makes a ghost series like Essie's Kids & The Rolling Calf stand apart from other children's series. Husband and wife authors Luke Brown and Berthalia Fonseca-Brown have created a collection of books that lets kids be ... well ... kids facing ghostly circumstances. Katerie Prior.

Essie's Kids and the Rolling Calf: Island Style Story Details

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Author : Luke A.M. Brown , Berthalia Fonseca-Brown

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Brown , Berthalia Fonseca-Brown

From Reader Review Essie's Kids and the Rolling Calf: Island Style Story for online ebook

Ariannafisher says

it is a nice story

Anna says

Boring

Luke Brown says

This storybook was written in an exciting island style manner. It is about Essie's kids on the island of Jamaica and their third unusual encounter with a rolling calf. This is number one of a five part series. It is targeted for children ages six and upwards.

FOREWORD REVIEWS

Written by Norson Harris

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Essie's Kids and the Rolling Calf---3

Luke Brown

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

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Three Stars (out of Five)

Mystery stories for kids have changed dramatically in the last few decades. Characters like Encyclopedia Brown and The Boxcar Children have been replaced by wizards, vampires, werewolves, and zombies. Innocent sleuthing of creepy houses has been replaced by elaborate battles with powerful supernatural figures. That's what makes a ghost series like Essie's Kids & The Rolling Calf stand apart from other children's series. Husband and wife authors Luke Brown and Berthalia Fonseca-Brown have created a collection of books that lets kids be ... well ... kids facing ghostly circumstances.

In this, the third installment, Essie's children—Gena, Betty, Myrtle, Junior, Leonard, and Karl—are enjoying a wonderful vacation and making friends with neighboring kids in the countryside around Clear Mount, Jamaica. But behind the idyllic background, a ghost roams the land—something called a “rolling calf,” an unnerving, clanking ghost with red eyes. Karl can't shake the feeling that the rolling calf is after him in particular. After a terrible nightmare, he knows nothing will change until he faces that ghost himself.

Essie's Kids is refreshing in that it has a spooky premise, but feels more like The Hardy Boys than Harry Potter. Even while Karl knows he must face an unknown and possibly dangerous adversary, he is surrounded by a family that cares for him. This is a world where kids go five miles to the perfect place to swim or girls spend the day jumping rope. When the adventure does get going, the characters never lose the camaraderie of friends, the touchstone of solid parents, or the importance of a lesson learned.

Karl's world is such a pleasant one that many readers may long to see more. While we read about squeaky floors as Karl walks and girls playing hopscotch on squares drawn in dirt roads, the Browns do not provide enough description of the setting. Essie's Kids has many opportunities to show us Jamaica from a child's eyes—the homey bungalow where the family stays, the green and rolling countryside, or the clear, sun-freckled waters of the nearby river. These opportunities to give readers vivid images are longingly missed.

The lack of description may be by design. The text is laid out with no illustrations and includes an area at the back for children to cultivate their imagination by drawing their own images. It's a nice touch in a book that's written with a simplicity that will appeal to younger readers, but that has the length to attract older kids.

Nonetheless, in some places, it feels like Essie's Kids is trying to capture too broad of an audience. For instance, when Karl faces the rolling calf, the authors describe his nervousness as, "His hands shook like a geriatric patient with Parkinson's disease." This example might be fine with older readers, but it may leave younger members of the audience grasping for appropriate imagery.

Essie's Kids is personal and heartfelt, and each book in the series contains a moral. In this installment, Essie tells her kids to be positive in the face of adversity. This kind of message shows that it doesn't matter if you're facing down a rolling calf, He-Who-Shall-Not-Be-Named, or a bully in a school yard. Being positive is a universal lesson that can improve the lives of children—and maybe even that of some adults.

Katerie Prior

Vanessa Thompson says

***** 5 stars I enjoyed Essie's Kids & the Rolling Calf written by Luke ..., August 31, 2014

This review is from: Essie's Kids & the Rolling Calf - 4: Island Style Storybook (Essie's Kids and the Rolling Calf) (Kindle Edition)

I enjoyed Essie's Kids & the Rolling Calf written by Luke Brown.

This book gave me a sense of Jamaican life. I loved the illustrations and story line. The book goes along smooth and easy to read and follow.

Dr. Brown and his wife does an excellent job in capturing the essences of story.

Well done and looking forward to reading more of your work.
