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The Red Shoes



Synopsis

Have you ever wished for something so hard that you could think of nothing else? When Karen becomes entranced by a pair of beautiful red dancing shoes in a shop window, they fill her every thought and dream. One fateful day, she is able to buy the shoes for herself, only to learn later, as the shopkeeper tells her, to "be careful what you wish for, because it may come true." The enthralling presentation of this Hans Christian Andersen classic will win readers over with its luminous illustrations and engaging text, and will remind them of the lessons of life and love.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (October 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1879085569

ISBN-13: 978-1879085565

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 8.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #748,323 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3. The only elements of Andersen's story that Bazilian retains here are the name of the heroine and the coveted red shoes. Karen saves her spending money to purchase the shoes, and the shoemaker warns her to be careful about what she wishes. She dances brilliantly in the shoes but is troubled that it is increasingly difficult to remove them. Finally, after the ball where she dances all night, she cannot remove them, and she cannot stop dancing. Exhausted and frightened, Karen approaches a cliff and wishes to become a bird. Her wish is granted, and when she returns to her grandmother, she repents her vanity and is restored. The character of the shoemaker is ambiguous: is he intended to be malevolent or is he an agent of punishment, a cautionary figure? Readers are given no reason why the girl's wish to become a bird would be granted but not her desire to stop dancing. The artwork is packed with significant details, such as a ribbon motif running through many of the illustrations and the background presence of the

shoemaker, who bears a disturbing resemblance to Andersen. Bazilian's tale bears so little resemblance to the original that one wonders why the reteller bothered to use it at all.?Donna L. Scanlon, Lancaster County Library, PA Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

highly recommended adaptation of a Hans Christian Anderson classic fairy tale will enchant a whole new generation of young readers. -- Children's Bookwatch, September 1997

This book is the written version of the great ballet film, THE RED SHOES. If you love the movie you'll love the book, and maybe even love it a little bit more than the movie (if that's possible) just because you get fuller character background and description of the stories of Vicky, Julian, etc. (Being able to know Vicky's thoughts during her first dance of 'The Red Shoes' ballet is great. When I went back and watched the movie, I was able to do so with a little more "inside knowledge" of what was going on in her head.) These characters and their conflicts seem very real -- which goes to show that Michael Powell and Emric Pressburger were excellent writers, as well as excellent filmmakers.

A childhood favorite, the watercolor pictures are beautiful. This book has sentimental value, but I think I understand now how I was scared silly into behaving well! It is a bit dark, old school, not a book that would nurture raising a strong woman. Much more encouraging works are recommended by the group: A Mighty Girl, and I think it is better to uplift young girls than instill guilt in them for such a thing as wearing red shoes, dancing, or skipping church. Still, there is an artistic value to it even in being dark, and maybe it helps also teach compassion and empathy.

After buying the movie first, I decided to get the book which was better than the film. Isn't that the way it is though. I found so many little facts that they left out of the movie since the book was written 30 years after the film production, Differences like: Boris asks Julian to stay with the company and Vicky totally ignores this marvelous act of grace given to them but goes off with her new lover to London leaving Boris flat with no Prima ballerina. If they had stayed in Monte Carlo with the Ballet Lermontov, maybe she would not have died in the end. But, then again, it is just a fictional story. I really liked the book. The story is pure fantasy with some reality mixed up in one great film with lovely ballets and sweet first love. Romance fills the air. Love blooms and dies. It is so like real life. Hardly a fair tale at all. It will always be my favorite film of all time. Thank you M. Powell and E. Pressburger. Our hats are off to you both!

Excellent

I read this book each year to my students (elementary aged) and they are not familiar with this story. They enjoyed the story and a good lesson is taught!

This was not the original story written by Hans Christian Andersen. The ending was changed and that is not what I wanted.

This is such a great tale with a great moral about how when we love something's so much that we idolize them, we only begin to suffer and feel miserable and that the true way and answer is to go back to god for mercy and love.

This book was always my favorite ballet story when I was younger. I had this exact book but then couldn't find it anywhere once I got older. I'm so glad that I found it and it came in excellent condition. I love it.

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