



Lila and the Secret of Rain

By David Conway

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Lila and the Secret of Rain By David Conway

For months the sun has burned down on Lila's Kenyan village. It is too hot to gather firewood, too hot to weed the garden, even too hot to milk the cow. Without rain the well will run dry and the crops will fail. Lila is so worried that when her grandfather whispers to her the secret of rain, she decides to go and talk to the sky herself. How Lila saves the village by telling the sky the saddest thing she knows is told in David Conway's elegant and spare prose style, which is complemented perfectly by Jude Daly's beautiful and poignant illustrations.

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Lila and the Secret of Rain By David Conway Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #120260 in Books
- Brand: Frances Lincoln Children's Books
- Published on: 2011-04-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.63" h x .13" w x 9.00" l, .36 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 3—For weeks the burning sun has been beating down on a small village in Kenya. No one is gathering firewood and no one is milking the cows. The water well has dried up and the crops are perishing. One evening, Lila overhears her grandfather tell a story about a man who climbed to the top of a mountain and told the sky the saddest things he could think of. The sky began to cry and the much-needed rain fell. The next morning, she sets out to find a mountain and talk to the sky. The rain starts falling soon after she pours her heart out, and "each raindrop felt like one of her mama's kisses." Lila and her grandfather keep the secret of how it came to rain to themselves. This quiet story offers inspiration and hope. Readers will sigh with relief to see the rain and will cheer with the villagers as they celebrate. The illustrations are quite lovely. A huge orange sun in a brilliant blue sky dominates most pages. The prominence of the brown baked earth intensifies the unwanted result of the lack of rain. Villagers and animals alike are stick thin. This story will work well both as a read-aloud and for sharing one-on-one.—*Wendy Woodfill, Hennepin County Library, Minnetonka, MN*

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From [Booklist](#)

By following her grandfather's instructions (climb the highest mountain and tell the sky the saddest thing you know), a small girl hopes to end the devastating drought in her Kenyan village. When she reaches the mountain peak, she recounts her own sad memories, but nothing changes. It's only when she describes the loss the drought is bringing to her people that the "crying sky" lets loose a lightning storm and "tears of rain." Accompanying the spare poetic words, Daly's spacious acrylic folk art pictures the dry countryside, with the huge sun at the center of every illustration; the girl on her long journey up the silent mountain; and, finally, the dramatic flash of lightning, the touch of raindrops, and the village celebration. Using magic rooted in realism, the author tells the poignant story of one child who saves her world. Preschool-Grade 2. --Hazel Rochman

Review

This is a remarkably beautiful picture story book. The quietly poetic nature of the prose is magically enhanced by the brilliantly atmospheric and quietly moving illustrations. As with all the best of books for young children, it has the power to speak loudly to readers right across the human age range. --School Library Journal

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Doris Geer:

This *Lila and the Secret of Rain* are usually reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The key reason why of this *Lila and the Secret of Rain* can be among the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you with information that maybe will shock your prior knowledge. This book is handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed ones. Beside that this *Lila and the Secret of Rain* giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Leona Ferretti:

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Jose Enriquez:

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