



The Bremen-town Musicians (Easy-to-Read Folktales)

By Ruth Belov Gross

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A retelling of the Grimm tale in which an old donkey, dog, cat, and rooster, no longer wanted by their masters, set out for Bremen to become musicians.

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The Bremen-town Musicians (Easy-to-Read Folktales) By Ruth Belov Gross Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

One may question the need for yet another rendering of this Brothers Grimm tale of the four aging animals who set out for Bremen to start life anew as musicians, yet who end up residing happily in a cottage whose inhabitants--three robbers--they ingeniously manage to scare away. Stevens (who also adapted and illustrated *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* and *The Tortoise and the Hare*, among others) offers a traditional retelling, with a chipper pace and punchy dialogue. But it is her large-scale, rather dark-toned illustrations--rendered in gouache, pastels and ink and originally created on paper made from rice straw and Russian hemp--that give this volume its distinction. The pictures' unusual texture and dimension, together with the decidedly droll expressions on the faces of the bedraggled animals and the scruffy robbers, earn this version a welcome place on bookshelves. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2-- An unembellished version of the traditional tale, told with a simplicity that is nicely underscored by Watts's warm, understated pictures. Her palette of softly muted earth tones gives the book an overall feeling of gentleness and is quite effective in creating the dusty, late summer scenes and the warmth of red brick and lamplit interiors. Her typical, slightly scratchy line is a perfect medium for capturing the animal characters--scruffy, but still scrappy survivors. They are at their best as they burst through the window with suitably fierce facial expressions. Unfortunately, the drama and humor inherent in the story's climax are weakened by the stiffness of the human figures, giving several illustrations a frozen, static quality. Nevertheless, libraries in the market for picture book editions of classic folktales will find this is a solid, highly serviceable addition. --Linda Boyles, Alachua County Library District, Gainesville, FL

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From Kirkus Reviews

Watts's soft, more traditional illustrations don't have the rambunctious zest of Wilhelm's (below), but they are appealingly pretty (in the best sense), representing the animals with sympathy, their defeat of the robbers with some humor, and the setting with a pleasant nostalgia. Bell's expert translation is more complete and richer in descriptive detail than Wilhelm's retelling, yet still lively and accessible. Both deserve a place in library collections. (Folklore/Picture book. 4-8) -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Robert Bryant:

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Roy Rogers:

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