



Jack and Jim: Picture Book

By Kitty Crowther

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Longing for adventure, Jack the blackbird decides one day to venture out from his forest home to seek the excitement of the sea. There he encounters a dashing seagull named Jim, who welcomes Jack into his life and shows him the wonders of his seaside village. Unfortunately, the other (white) gulls aren't so hospitable. "Who's that funny bird," old Captain Seagull asks. In spite of Jim's efforts to defend his friend, the villagers can't seem to get beyond Jack's differences. Until, that is, they learn that he has a skill none of them do. Jack's ability to read funny stories from an old washed-up box of books wins the friendship of the crusty gulls, and interspecies harmony abounds at last. Though the story has an innocent sweetness to it and the plot line is pleasantly meandering, the denouement seems forced as lessons about the importance of tolerance and the value of literacy are blurred. No question, the book's shining glory is in its illustrations. Kitty Crowther's ink and watercolor pictures are quirky and appealing, with the seagulls dressed in jaunty stripes and Jack the blackbird in a handsome red shirt. The seagulls in the village have a mean, quarrelsome look about them, while Jack's and Jim's open expressions reflect their unbiased hearts. (Ages 4 to 7) -- Emilie Coulter

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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From Publishers Weekly

Diversity looms large in this understated, provocative look at the friendship between a blackbird and a seagull. Jack, a forest bird with dark feathers and a bright-red T-shirt, yearns to explore the ocean. He ventures to a pebbly beach where he meets Jim, a white-feathered bird wearing a sailor's blue-and-white stripes. Jim invites Jack home to his port, but Jack grows uncomfortable at the other gulls' stares. "It must be the first time they've ever seen a blackbird," said Jim. "I guess they're curious about you." In fact, the gulls dislike Jack for reasons they don't quite articulate ("Who's that funny bird?" asks one). Jack endures their scowls and upturned beaks out of loyalty to his friend, and ultimately gains acceptance by demonstrating a skill the gulls lack: an ability to read. Although sensitive to Jack and Jim's dilemma, Belgian author Crowther doesn't cover all the bases. When Jim visits Jack's forest home, no blackbirds appear to welcome (or reject) him. Nevertheless, Crowther's childlike ink-and-watercolor sketches presented as six-to-a-spread miniatures and full-page illustrations powerfully convey the volatile situation and wordlessly show a child-seagull learning from the loaded interactions. This gentle, allusive tale might be a parable about race, immigration, friendship or romance, and that rich ambiguity is its strongest suit. Ages 4-8. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

About the Author

Kitty Crowther has written several books for children. She lives in Belgium with her husband, Maximilien, and her two sons, Théodore and Elias. This is her first book published in the United States.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henry Robinson:

This Jack and Jim: Picture Book book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book will be information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This Jack and Jim: Picture Book without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in thinking and

analyzing. Don't be worry Jack and Jim: Picture Book can bring if you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Jack and Jim: Picture Book having fine arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Donald Davisson:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Jack and Jim: Picture Book it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

Karen Schanz:

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