

the savage by david almond

The Savage by David Almond: A Deep Dive into a Poignant Tale of Loss and Imagination

the savage by david almond is a captivating novel that explores themes of grief, friendship, and the power of imagination. Known for his lyrical writing and deep emotional insight, David Almond crafts a story that resonates with readers of all ages. The Savage is not just a children's book; it's a profound narrative that invites readers to reflect on life's challenges and the ways in which we cope with trauma.

Understanding The Savage by David Almond

David Almond has long been celebrated for his ability to weave magical realism with real-world emotions, and *The Savage* is no exception. At its heart, the book tells the story of Blue, a young boy struggling to come to terms with the tragic loss of his brother. The arrival of the Savage, a wild and mysterious character, introduces Blue to a world where imagination blurs with reality, offering him a path toward healing.

Who is David Almond?

Before delving deeper into *The Savage*, it's worth noting who David Almond is. He is an award-winning British author best known for his novel *Skellig*, which has also received critical acclaim. Almond's writing is characterized by poetic prose, often blending the fantastical with the ordinary, and his stories frequently explore themes of childhood, identity, and transformation.

Exploring the Themes in The Savage by David Almond

One of the reasons *The Savage* by David Almond stands out is its nuanced handling of complex themes that are accessible yet profound.

Grief and Healing

The Savage deals head-on with grief. Blue's journey is a poignant portrait of a child grappling with the death of his older brother. Rather than presenting grief as a straightforward process, Almond acknowledges its messiness and unpredictability. The Savage character becomes a metaphor for Blue's inner turmoil and his way of processing pain.

Imagination and Reality

Almond's use of a wild, untamed character known as the Savage highlights the blurred lines between imagination and reality. For Blue, the Savage is both a friend and a symbol of his struggle to understand the world around him after loss. This theme resonates with readers who appreciate stories where fantasy provides a lens for exploring real emotions.

Friendship and Support

The relationship between Blue and the Savage also underscores the importance of companionship during difficult times. The novel suggests that through connection and understanding, even the most challenging experiences can be navigated.

Narrative Style and Language

David Almond's prose in *The Savage* is lyrical and evocative, drawing readers into Blue's world with vivid descriptions and emotional depth. The narrative often feels like a poem, emphasizing the sensory experience of the characters and the environment around them.

The Role of Poetry

Poetry plays a subtle role in *The Savage*, with Almond's writing style reflecting poetic devices such as repetition, rhythm, and imagery. This approach enhances the emotional impact and helps readers connect with Blue's inner life.

The Savage: Characters and Symbolism

Blue: The Protagonist

Blue is a relatable and complex protagonist. His feelings of confusion, anger, and sadness are portrayed with honesty, making him a character many readers can empathize with. Blue's development throughout the story reflects a journey from isolation toward acceptance.

The Savage: More Than Just a Character

The Savage himself is a richly symbolic figure. Representing both wildness and freedom, he challenges Blue's perceptions and encourages him to confront his fears. The Savage can be interpreted as a manifestation of Blue's subconscious or a guardian figure guiding him through grief.

Why *The Savage* by David Almond is Important for Young Readers

Books that handle difficult emotions with sensitivity are invaluable, especially for younger audiences.

- ****Encourages Emotional Literacy:**** *The Savage* helps children understand and articulate feelings of loss and confusion.
- ****Promotes Imagination:**** The novel illustrates how creativity can be a tool for healing.
- ****Offers Comfort:**** Readers who have experienced grief may find solace in Blue's story.
- ****Stimulates Discussion:**** The book provides a platform for conversations about death, friendship, and coping mechanisms.

Tips for Teaching The Savage in the Classroom

Educators looking to incorporate *The Savage* by David Almond into their curriculum can approach it in several meaningful ways.

Creating a Safe Space for Discussion

Due to the book's themes, it's essential to foster an environment where students feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and emotions.

Integrating Creative Activities

Encourage students to express their understanding through art, poetry, or storytelling. This can deepen their connection to the material.

Exploring Symbolism

Guide students to analyze the symbolic roles of characters, especially the Savage, to enhance critical thinking skills.

The Savage by David Almond in the Context of Contemporary Children's Literature

The Savage fits within a broader trend of children's books that do not shy away from difficult topics. David Almond's work is part of a literary movement that respects young readers' capacity to engage with complex issues.

- **Blending Reality and Fantasy:** Like authors such as Neil Gaiman and Patrick Ness, Almond uses elements of fantasy to explore real emotions.
- **Emphasis on Mental Health:** The novel contributes to ongoing conversations about emotional wellbeing in children's literature.
- **Encouraging Empathy:** Stories like *The Savage* foster empathy by allowing readers to live vicariously through the characters' experiences.

Where to Find The Savage by David Almond and Related Resources

For those interested in reading or teaching *The Savage*, here are some helpful pointers:

- **Libraries and Bookstores:** Most libraries carry Almond's works, and independent bookstores often stock them due to their popularity.
- **Audiobooks:** Available for those who prefer listening, which can add an extra layer of emotional depth through narration.
- **Study Guides:** Many educational websites offer detailed analyses and lesson plans related to *The Savage*.
- **Author Events:** David Almond occasionally participates in readings and workshops, which can

offer additional insights into his writing.

Connecting with David Almond's Broader Literary Universe

If you find *The Savage* by David Almond compelling, you might also explore his other works, which often share thematic and stylistic elements.

- **Skellig:** A novel that similarly blends magical realism with themes of family and healing.
- **My Name is Mina:** A poetic, diary-style book about a young girl's inner world.
- **Counting Stars:** A story about friendship, change, and the power of art.

Each of these titles offers a unique perspective on childhood and the complexities of growing up.

The Savage by David Almond remains a standout work that artfully balances the tender emotions of loss with the hopeful possibilities of imagination. Whether you're a parent, educator, or reader interested in children's literature that goes beyond the surface, this novel provides a rich, moving experience that lingers long after the last page is turned.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Savage' by David Almond?

'The Savage' explores themes of childhood imagination, friendship, and the blurred lines between reality and fantasy. It delves into how children cope with loss and trauma through storytelling.

Who is the protagonist in 'The Savage' and what challenges does he face?

The protagonist is Blue, a young boy who struggles with the loss of his father and the complexities of growing up. He creates an imaginary friend called the Savage to help him navigate his emotions and fears.

How does David Almond use language and style in 'The Savage'?

David Almond employs poetic and lyrical language, combining vivid imagery with a conversational tone. His style captures the innocence and intensity of childhood experiences, making the narrative both engaging and emotionally resonant.

What role does the character 'The Savage' play in the story?

'The Savage' is an imaginary figure who represents Blue's inner strength and primal instincts. He helps Blue confront his fears and understand his feelings, acting as a protector and guide throughout the story.

How does 'The Savage' address the topic of grief and healing?

The story portrays grief through Blue's journey of coping with his father's death. Through his interactions with the Savage and his own imagination, Blue gradually learns to accept his loss and find healing, illustrating the therapeutic power of storytelling.

Additional Resources

The Savage by David Almond: An In-Depth Exploration of a Modern Classic

the savage by david almond stands as a compelling and evocative work that delves into themes of childhood, imagination, and the blurred boundaries between reality and fantasy. Published in 2008, this novel captures the essence of youth through the eyes of its protagonist, Blue, a boy navigating the complexities of family life, grief, and self-discovery. Known for his poetic prose and profound storytelling, David Almond crafts a narrative that resonates deeply with readers across age groups, making *The Savage* a significant addition to contemporary children's literature and young adult fiction.

Understanding the Narrative and Themes in The Savage by David Almond

At its core, *The Savage* by David Almond is a story about transformation and the power of storytelling. The protagonist, Blue, finds himself drawn to an enigmatic figure he calls "The Savage," a mysterious and wild boy who embodies both danger and freedom. This relationship becomes a catalyst for Blue's emotional growth, allowing him to confront his fears and the harsh realities of his life, including neglect and loss.

Almond's narrative is layered with symbolism and metaphor, inviting readers to interpret the story on multiple levels. The Savage represents not only a literal character but also the untamed aspects of human nature and the instinctual drive for survival. Through this lens, the novel explores the tension between societal expectations and primal impulses, a theme that is particularly poignant in adolescent literature.

Exploration of Childhood and Imagination

One of the most striking aspects of *The Savage* by David Almond is its portrayal of childhood as a complex and multifaceted experience. Almond eschews simplistic depictions of youth, instead presenting Blue's world as one filled with contradictions—hope and despair, innocence and brutality, reality and fantasy. The author's rich, poetic language enhances this duality, blurring the lines between the real and the imagined.

Imagination functions as both a refuge and a source of empowerment for Blue. The interactions with The Savage symbolize the child's struggle to find identity and autonomy amidst external chaos. Almond's treatment of imagination aligns with contemporary psychological understandings of child development, where fantasy is recognized as a vital mechanism for coping and learning.

Stylistic Features and Literary Techniques

David Almond's signature style is evident throughout *The Savage*, characterized by lyrical prose and a narrative voice that captures the immediacy of a child's perspective. The novel's structure is deliberately fragmented, mirroring the disjointed and often tumultuous inner world of its protagonist. This stylistic choice enhances the emotional impact and invites readers to engage actively with the text.

The use of symbolism is pervasive, with natural imagery and motifs recurring throughout the story. For instance, wild animals and untamed landscapes parallel Blue's internal journey. Almond's blending of realism with elements of magical realism situates *The Savage* within a tradition of literary works that challenge conventional genre boundaries.

Comparative Perspectives: The Savage within David Almond's Oeuvre and Children's Literature

When placed alongside Almond's other acclaimed works, such as *Skellig* and *Kit's Wilderness*, *The Savage* continues the author's exploration of liminality—spaces where the ordinary meets the extraordinary. Unlike *Skellig*, which incorporates a more explicit supernatural element, *The Savage* is grounded more firmly in psychological reality, making its themes accessible yet profound.

In the broader context of children's and young adult literature, *The Savage* distinguishes itself by tackling darker themes with sensitivity and nuance. While many contemporary novels focus on external adventures or social issues, Almond's work delves into the internal landscapes of his characters. This approach aligns with a growing trend in literature that prioritizes emotional authenticity and mental health awareness.

Pros and Cons of The Savage by David Almond

- **Pros:**

- Poetic and evocative prose that appeals to both young readers and adults.
- Complex character development offering deep psychological insight.
- Thematic richness addressing imagination, identity, and resilience.
- Flexible narrative structure that encourages interpretative engagement.

- **Cons:**

- Fragmented storytelling may challenge readers accustomed to linear narratives.

- Ambiguity in the plot and symbolism could be confusing for some younger audiences.
- The novel's darker themes might require guidance for sensitive readers.

Reception and Impact of The Savage in Educational and Literary Circles

Since its publication, *The Savage* by David Almond has received critical acclaim and has been incorporated into various educational curricula. Its layered narrative and thematic depth make it an excellent text for classroom discussions around topics such as grief, resilience, and the role of imagination in personal development.

Literary critics have praised Almond's ability to evoke strong emotional responses while maintaining literary sophistication. The novel's reception highlights a growing recognition of children's literature as a serious artistic and pedagogical field, capable of addressing complex human experiences.

Furthermore, *The Savage* has contributed to broader conversations about mental health in young readers, offering a narrative that validates feelings of confusion and alienation. Its impact extends beyond the literary world, influencing how educators and parents approach storytelling as a tool for empathy and understanding.

The Savage in Adaptations and Multimedia

While *The Savage* by David Almond has not yet seen widespread adaptation into film or theater, its vivid imagery and dramatic themes present rich possibilities for multimedia interpretation. The novel's emphasis on atmosphere and internal experience aligns well with visual storytelling techniques, suggesting potential for future adaptations that could bring Almond's vision to broader audiences.

In the digital age, discussions around *The Savage* also occur in online literary communities and educational platforms, where readers analyze and reinterpret the text. These conversations contribute to the novel's ongoing relevance and demonstrate the enduring appeal of Almond's work.

The Savage by David Almond remains a vital contribution to contemporary literature, a work that challenges readers to reconsider the boundaries of childhood and the power of narrative. Its nuanced portrayal of a young boy's journey through hardship and imagination continues to inspire reflection and dialogue among readers, educators, and critics alike.

The Savage By David Almond

the savage by david almond: *The Savage* David Almond, 2008-10-14 Mysterious and utterly mesmerizing, this graphic-novel-within-a-novel pairs the extraordinary prose of David Almond with the visual genius of Dave McKean. Blue Baker is writing a story — not all that stuff about wizards and fairies and happily ever after — a real story, about blood and guts and adventures, because that's what life's really like. At least it is for Blue, since his dad died and Hopper, the town bully, started knocking him and the other kids around. But Blue's story has a life of its own — weird and wild and magic and dark — and when the savage pays a nighttime visit to Hopper, Blue starts to wonder where he ends and his creation begins.

the savage by david almond: *David Almond* Rosemary Johnston, 2017-12-15 David Almond is one of the most exciting and innovative authors writing for children and young people today. Since the publication of his award-winning first book, *Skellig* (1998), his novels have pushed the boundaries of children's literature and magical realism. This vibrant collection of original essays by leading international children's literature scholars and researchers provides a theoretically-informed overview of Almond's novels and fresh analysis of individual texts. Exploring broad themes such as philosophy, theology and cognitive science, the volume also introduces new concepts such as mystical realism, literary Catholicism and radical landscape.

the savage by david almond: Age in David Almond's Oeuvre Vanessa Joosen, Michelle Anya Anjirbag, Leander Duthoy, Lindsey Geybels, Frauke Pauwels, Emma-Louise Silva, 2023-07-28 In recent decades, age studies has started to emerge as a new approach to study children's literature. This book builds on that scholarship but also significantly extends it by exploring age in various aspects of children's literature: the age of the author, the characters, the writing style, the intended readership and the real reader. Moreover, the authors explore what different theories and methods can be used to study age in children's literature, and what their affordances and limits are. The analyses combine age studies with life writing studies, cognitive narratology, digital humanities, comparative literary studies, reader-response research and media studies. To ensure coherence, the book offers an in-depth exploration of the oeuvre of a single author, David Almond. The aesthetic and thematic richness of Almond's works has been widely recognised. This book adds to the understanding of his oeuvre by offering a multi-faceted analysis of age. In addition to discussing the film adaptation of his best-known novel *Skellig*, this book also offers analyses of works that have received less attention, such as *Counting Stars*, *Clay* and *Bone Music*. Readers will also get a fuller understanding of Almond as a crosswriter of literature for children, adolescents and adults.

the savage by david almond: Handbook of Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature Shelby Wolf, Karen Coats, Patricia Enciso, Christine Jenkins, 2011-04-27 This landmark volume is the first to bring together leading scholarship on children's and young adult literature from three intersecting disciplines: Education, English, and Library and Information Science. Distinguished by its multidisciplinary approach, it describes and analyzes the different aspects of literary reading, texts, and contexts to illuminate how the book is transformed within and across different academic figurations of reading and interpreting children's literature. Part one considers perspectives on readers and reading literature in home, school, library, and community settings. Part two introduces analytic frames for studying young adult novels, picturebooks, indigenous literature, graphic novels, and other genres. Chapters include commentary on literary experiences and creative production from renowned authors and illustrators. Part three focuses on the social contexts of literary study, with chapters on censorship, awards, marketing, and literary museums. The singular contribution of this Handbook is to lay the groundwork for colleagues across disciplines to redraw the map of their separately figured worlds, thus to enlarge the scope of scholarship and dialogue as well as push ahead into uncharted territory.

the savage by david almond: *The Institution of English Literature* Barbara Schaff, Johannes Schlegel, Carola Surkamp, 2016-11-07 The contributions investigate the ways in which numerous

institutions of English literature shape the literary field. While they cover an extensive historical field, ranging from the Early Modern period to the 18th century to the contemporary, they focus not only on literary texts, but also on extra-literary ones, including literary prizes, literary histories and anthologies, and highlight the various ways in which these negotiate the processes that constitute the literary field. All contributions assert that there is no such thing as literature outside of institutions. Great emphasis is therefore put on different acts of mediation.

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the savage by david almond: *Harriet Martineau Dreams of Dancing* Shelagh Stephenson, 2017-01-19 What you haven't realised is that I sew to aid my thought processes. Look - needle - stab - stitch - thought. Needle - stab - stitch - thought. So next time you see a woman demurely sewing a sampler, be very, very wary. God knows what she may be planning. Harriet Martineau (1802-1876) was a social theorist who is often credited as being the first female sociologist. In *Harriet Martineau Dreams of Dancing*, Shelagh Stephenson depicts the great writer in a period of convalescence, living as an invalid by the sea in Tynemouth. Shut off from her usual society, Harriet is visited by women of the locale; Impie, a recent widow who is using her new-found marital freedom to paint murals on the ceilings of her family home; Beulah, the daughter of a woman who'd been sold into slavery and escaped; and Jane, the housemaid, whose unfeted and unexpected gifts lift her out of domestic servitude and could help Harriet out of illness. *Harriet Martineau* is a play about female self-reliance in a time of patriarchal dominance. Written by Shelagh Stephenson, it premiered at Live Theatre, Newcastle, in winter 2016.

the savage by david almond: *Prizing Children's Literature* Kenneth Kidd, Joseph Thomas Jr., 2016-11-10 Children's book awards have mushroomed since the early twentieth-century and especially since the 1960s, when literary prizing became a favored strategy for both commercial promotion and canon-making. There are over 300 awards for English-language titles alone, but despite the profound impact of children's book awards, scholars have paid relatively little attention to them. This book is the first scholarly volume devoted to the analysis of Anglophone children's book awards in historical and cultural context. With attention to both political and aesthetic concerns, the book offers original and diverse scholarship on prizing practices and their consequences in Australia, Canada, and especially the United States. Contributors offer both case studies of particular awards and analysis of broader trends in literary evaluation and elevation, drawing on theoretical work on canonization and cultural capital. Sections interrogate the complex and often unconscious ideological work of prizing, the ongoing tension between formalist awards and so-called identity-based awards — all the more urgent in light of the We Need Diverse Books campaign — the ever-morphing forms and parameters of prizing, and scholarly practices of prizing. Among the many awards discussed are the Pura Belpré Medal, the Inky Awards, the Canada Governor General Literary Award, the Printz Award, the Best Animated Feature Oscar, the Phoenix Award, and the John Newbery Medal, giving due attention to prizes for fiction as well as for non-fiction, poetry, and film. This volume will interest scholars in literary and cultural studies, social history, book history, sociology, education, library and information science, and anyone concerned with children's literature.

the savage by david almond: *Representations of Working-Class Masculinities in Post-War British Culture* Matthew Crowley, 2020-02-06 This book presents an analysis of representations of white, heterosexual, working-class masculinities in British culture between 1945 and 1989 to trace the development of the sociocultural and material conditions that shaped the masculinities which are

helping to shape contemporary culture. This book seeks to fan the 'spark of hope' in the past that informs our present. The period which saw the establishment of the welfare state and the construction and breakdown of the post-war consensus in British politics was of great significance in the formation and maintenance of working-class masculinities and their correspondent representations. The author engages with a variety of cultural texts across various modes and media including films (Alfie), plays (Don't Look Back in Anger), television (Boys from the Blackstuff), and music (The Beatles), and employs the analysis of the representation of working-class masculinities as a lens through which to examine a range of historical and cultural moments. This book reinstates class as a central precept in the study of British cultural representations and offers a timely intervention in ongoing debates around class and gender identities in Britain. The book will be key reading for students and researchers with interests in twentieth-century social and cultural British history, masculinities and gender studies, twentieth-century British literature, British television, and cultural studies more broadly.

the savage by david almond: The Oxford Companion to Children's Literature Daniel Hahn, 2015-03-26 The last thirty years have witnessed one of the most fertile periods in the history of children's books: the flowering of imaginative illustration and writing, the Harry Potter phenomenon, the rise of young adult and crossover fiction, and books that tackle extraordinarily difficult subjects. The Oxford Companion to Children's Literature provides an indispensable and fascinating reference guide to the world of children's literature. Its 3,500 entries cover every genre from fairy tales to chapbooks; school stories to science fiction; comics to children's hymns. Originally published in 1983, the Companion has been comprehensively revised and updated by Daniel Hahn. Over 900 new entries bring the book right up to date. A whole generation of new authors and illustrators are showcased, with books like *Dogger*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Twilight* making their first appearance. There are articles on developments such as manga, fan fiction, and non-print publishing, and there is additional information on prizes and prizewinners. This accessible A to Z is the first place to look for information about the authors, illustrators, printers, publishers, educationalists, and others who have influenced the development of children's literature, as well as the stories and characters at their centre. Written both to entertain and to instruct, the highly acclaimed Oxford Companion to Children's Literature is a reference work that no one interested in the world of children's books should be without.

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the savage by david almond: The Really Useful Drama Book Roger McDonald, 2017-07-14 The Really Useful Drama Book offers busy primary school teachers a collection of step-by-step drama sessions, inspired by high-quality picturebooks, that will engage children and promote enjoyable learning across the curriculum. Lively and thoughtful, the interactive drama sessions are structured around a wide range of texts, including wordless picturebooks, postmodern picturebooks, short stories, well-known texts by recognisable authors and some you may not have come across before, all chosen for their power to foster curiosity. The step-by-step sessions can also be adapted to incorporate your own ideas and passions, allowing you to structure them for the topics you're exploring with your class. Each session is structured around two texts and offers a guide to the drama strategies used, teaching objectives, ideas for writing opportunities, problems, emotions and challenges to explore, and a clear guide to exploring each text. Ten key themes are explored: Suspense Prejudice Friendship Rhyme and rhythm War and conflict Nature Overcoming fear

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the savage by david almond: The Primary English Encyclopedia Margaret Mallett, 2017-02-24 This newly updated, user friendly Primary English Encyclopedia addresses all aspects of the primary English curriculum and is an invaluable reference for all training and practising teachers. Now in its fifth edition, entries have been revised to take account of new research and thinking. The approach is supportive of the reflective practitioner in meeting National Curriculum requirements in England and developing sound subject knowledge and good classroom practice. While the book is scholarly, the author writes in a conversational style and includes reproductions of covers of recommended children's books and examples of children's writing and drawing to add interest. The encyclopedia includes: over 600 entries, many expanded and entirely new for this edition, including entries on apps, blogging and computing; short definitions of key concepts; input

on the initial teaching of reading including the teaching of phonics and the other cue-systems; extended entries on major topics such as speaking and listening, reading, writing, drama, poetry, non-fiction, bilingualism and children's literature; information on new literacies and new kinds of texts for children; discussion of current issues and input on the history of English teaching in the primary years; extended entries on gender and literacy; important references for each topic, advice on further reading and accounts of recent research findings; and a Who's Who of Primary English and lists of essential texts, updated for this new edition. This encyclopedia will be ideal for student teachers on BA and PGCE courses preparing for work in primary schools and primary school teachers. Anyone concerned with bringing about the informed and imaginative teaching of primary school English will find this book helpful and interesting.

the savage by david almond: Landscape in Children's Literature Jane Carroll, 2012-08-06 This book provides a new critical methodology for the study of landscapes in children's literature. Treating landscape as the integration of unchanging and irreducible physical elements, or topoi, Carroll identifies and analyses four kinds of space — sacred spaces, green spaces, roadways, and lapsed spaces — that are the component elements of the physical environments of canonical British children's fantasy. Using Susan Cooper's *The Dark Is Rising Sequence* as the test-case for this methodology, the book traces the development of the physical features and symbolic functions of landscape topoi from their earliest inception in medieval vernacular texts through to contemporary children's literature. The identification and analysis of landscape topoi synthesizes recent theories about interstitial space together with earlier morphological and topoanalytical studies, enabling the study of fictional landscapes in terms of their physical characteristics as well as in terms of their relationship with contemporary texts and historical precedents. Ultimately, by providing topoanalytical studies of other children's texts, Carroll proposes topoanalysis as a rich critical method for the study and understanding of children's literature and indicates how the findings of this approach may be expanded upon. In offering both transferable methodologies and detailed case-studies, this book outlines a new approach to literary landscapes as geographical places within socio-historical contexts.

the savage by david almond: What the Birds See Sonya Hartnett, 2019-12-10 Hartnett again captures the ineffable fragility of childhood in this keenly observed tale. — Publishers Weekly (starred review) Nine-year-old Adrian watches his world closely, but there is much he cannot understand. He does not, for instance, know why three neighborhood children might set out to buy ice cream one summer's day and never be seen again...In a suburb that is no longer safe and innocent, in a broken family of self-absorbed souls, Sonya Hartnett sets the story of a lone little boy — unwanted, unloved, and intensely curious — a story as achingly beautiful as it is shattering. A Children's Literature Choice List Title Two starred reviews (Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews)

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