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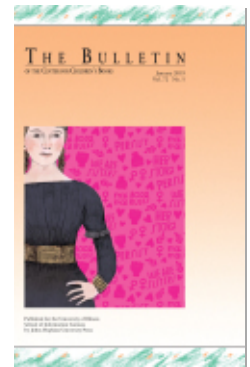
Bear Needs Help by Sarah S. Brannen (review)

Kate Quealy-Gainer

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Volume 72, Number 5, January 2019, p. 199 (Review)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/bcc.2019.0006>



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convey the character's histrionic emotions; extensive full-bleed washes of blue and red emphasize the strength of Monkey's guilt and Owl's anger and sadness over the lost balloon, and Monkey's eventual confession and apology are splayed urgently across the page in ragged font. The book doesn't offer magic solutions to the destruction of the animals' favorite items, but it does provide a lot of sympathy for a situation that kids will readily recognize. The tale thankfully avoids a preachy message about forgiveness or honesty about one's mistakes, but it implies that a guilty confession will come sooner or later, and it may be better to let it out sooner. NB

BRANNEN, SARAH S. *Bear Needs Help*; written and illus. by Sarah S. Brannen. Philomel, 2019 [32p]

Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-525-51650-7 \$16.99

E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-525-51651-4 \$9.99

Reviewed from galleys

R 3-6 yrs

Oh, dear. Our polar bear protagonist finds the shoelaces of one of his four snazzy red sneakers undone. He goes to the seals lounging nearby for help, but they all frantically dive into the sea upon his approach; similarly, the snow rabbits scamper off at his request for assistance, and the lemmings dash away as soon as they see him. Fortunately, some bird friends who are familiar with this apparently recurring problem come to the rescue ("Shoelaces again?")—but rather than tying his laces they loosen all of the other shoes, allowing bear to shake off his kicks and happily launch himself into the ocean. The twist may confound some more logic-based viewers (where the heck did those shoes come from? Why does this keep happening?), but the silliness will likely win the day and earn a few giggles, especially when kids double back to the first page and view the bear's expression in a new light. Forms are simple and distinct, with a crisply outlined, rotund bear lumbering through the icy background in his bright red shoes, and the text is minimal as well, allowing audiences to supply their own exclamations for the fleeing animals. Use this to bring some surprising goofiness to a bear-themed or winter-themed storytime. KQG

BURACH, ROSS *The Very Impatient Caterpillar*; written and illus. by Ross Burach. Scholastic, 2019 [32p]

Trade ed. ISBN 978-1-338-28941-1 \$17.99

E-book ed. ISBN 978-1-338-32873-8 \$6.99

Reviewed from galleys

R* 3-7 yrs

With an undoubted wink to Eric Carle's very iconic caterpillar, Burach presents a much rowdier take on metamorphosis. Our unnamed titular hero is the last one to get the message that it's time to join the crew and prepare to become a butterfly. He takes directions from a buddy who guides him up a tree and tells him to build his chrysalis: "WHAAAT? How did you DO that?" With a move somewhere between a twirl and a spin he gets himself encased and hanging properly upside down, but now comes the hard part: waiting. "Patience. Right. Right. I got this," he reassures himself, but like a kid on an endless road trip, he keeps pestering his neighbor ("Am I a butterfly yet?") and panicking to learn that this will go on for two weeks. No comic books. No pizza delivery. No games . . . and "What if I need the bathroom?" He even tries to break out early, with startlingly bad results, and talks himself off the ledge with motivational admonitions, deep breathing exercises, and a long nap. The good news is once emerged, he's got himself one beauteous